

Table 12. Low-birthweight live births, according to mother's detailed race, Hispanic origin, and smoking status: United States, selected years 1970–2001

[Data are based on birth certificates]

<i>Birthweight, race, Hispanic origin of mother, and smoking status of mother</i>	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams)							Percent of live births ¹					
All races	7.93	7.38	6.84	6.75	6.97	7.32	7.39	7.51	7.57	7.62	7.57	7.68
White	6.85	6.27	5.72	5.65	5.70	6.22	6.34	6.46	6.52	6.57	6.55	6.68
Black or African American	13.90	13.19	12.69	12.65	13.25	13.13	13.01	13.01	13.05	13.11	12.99	12.95
American Indian or Alaska Native	7.97	6.41	6.44	5.86	6.11	6.61	6.49	6.75	6.81	7.15	6.76	7.33
Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	6.68	6.16	6.45	6.90	7.07	7.23	7.42	7.45	7.31	7.51
Chinese	6.67	5.29	5.21	4.98	4.69	5.29	5.03	5.06	5.34	5.19	5.10	5.33
Japanese	9.03	7.47	6.60	6.21	6.16	7.26	7.27	6.82	7.50	7.95	7.14	7.28
Filipino	10.02	8.08	7.40	6.95	7.30	7.83	7.92	8.33	8.23	8.30	8.46	8.66
Hawaiian	---	---	7.23	6.49	7.24	6.84	6.77	7.20	7.15	7.69	6.76	7.91
Other Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	6.83	6.19	6.65	7.05	7.42	7.54	7.76	7.76	7.67	7.76
Hispanic or Latino ²	---	---	6.12	6.16	6.06	6.29	6.28	6.42	6.44	6.38	6.41	6.47
Mexican	---	---	5.62	5.77	5.55	5.81	5.86	5.97	5.97	5.94	6.01	6.08
Puerto Rican	---	---	8.95	8.69	8.99	9.41	9.24	9.39	9.68	9.30	9.30	9.34
Cuban	---	---	5.62	6.02	5.67	6.50	6.46	6.78	6.50	6.80	6.49	6.49
Central and South American	---	---	5.76	5.68	5.84	6.20	6.03	6.26	6.47	6.38	6.34	6.49
Other and unknown Hispanic or Latino	---	---	6.96	6.83	6.87	7.55	7.68	7.93	7.59	7.63	7.84	7.96
Not Hispanic or Latino: ²												
White	---	---	5.67	5.60	5.61	6.20	6.36	6.47	6.55	6.64	6.60	6.76
Black or African American	---	---	12.71	12.61	13.32	13.21	13.12	13.11	13.17	13.23	13.13	13.07
Cigarette smoker ³	---	---	---	---	11.25	12.18	12.13	12.06	12.01	12.06	11.88	11.90
Nonsmoker ³	---	---	---	---	6.14	6.79	6.91	7.07	7.18	7.21	7.19	7.32
Very low birthweight (less than 1,500 grams)												
All races	1.17	1.16	1.15	1.21	1.27	1.35	1.37	1.42	1.45	1.45	1.43	1.44
White	0.95	0.92	0.90	0.94	0.95	1.06	1.09	1.13	1.15	1.15	1.14	1.16
Black or African American	2.40	2.40	2.48	2.71	2.92	2.97	2.99	3.04	3.08	3.14	3.07	3.04
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.98	0.95	0.92	1.01	1.01	1.10	1.21	1.19	1.24	1.26	1.16	1.26
Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	0.92	0.85	0.87	0.91	0.99	1.05	1.10	1.08	1.05	1.03
Chinese	0.80	0.52	0.66	0.57	0.51	0.67	0.64	0.74	0.75	0.68	0.77	0.69
Japanese	1.48	0.89	0.94	0.84	0.73	0.87	0.81	0.78	0.84	0.86	0.75	0.71
Filipino	1.08	0.93	0.99	0.86	1.05	1.13	1.20	1.29	1.35	1.41	1.38	1.23
Hawaiian	---	---	1.05	1.03	0.97	0.94	0.97	1.41	1.53	1.41	1.39	1.50
Other Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	0.96	0.91	0.92	0.91	1.04	1.07	1.12	1.09	1.04	1.06
Hispanic or Latino ²	---	---	0.98	1.01	1.03	1.11	1.12	1.13	1.15	1.14	1.14	1.14
Mexican	---	---	0.92	0.97	0.92	1.01	1.01	1.02	1.02	1.04	1.03	1.05
Puerto Rican	---	---	1.29	1.30	1.62	1.79	1.70	1.85	1.86	1.86	1.93	1.85
Cuban	---	---	1.02	1.18	1.20	1.19	1.35	1.36	1.33	1.49	1.21	1.27
Central and South American	---	---	0.99	1.01	1.05	1.13	1.14	1.17	1.23	1.15	1.20	1.19
Other and unknown Hispanic or Latino	---	---	1.01	0.96	1.09	1.28	1.48	1.35	1.38	1.32	1.42	1.27
Not Hispanic or Latino: ²												
White	---	---	0.86	0.90	0.93	1.04	1.08	1.12	1.15	1.15	1.14	1.17
Black or African American	---	---	2.46	2.66	2.93	2.98	3.02	3.05	3.11	3.18	3.10	3.08
Cigarette smoker ³	---	---	---	---	1.73	1.85	1.85	1.83	1.87	1.91	1.91	1.88
Nonsmoker ³	---	---	---	---	1.18	1.31	1.35	1.40	1.44	1.43	1.40	1.42

--- Data not available.

¹Excludes live births with unknown birthweight. Percent based on live births with known birthweight.

²Prior to 1993, data from States lacking an Hispanic-origin item on the birth certificate were excluded (see Appendix II, Hispanic origin).

³Percent based on live births with known smoking status of mother and known birthweight. Data from States that did not require the reporting of mother's tobacco use during pregnancy on the birth certificate are not included. Reporting area for tobacco use increased from 43 States and the District of Columbia (DC) in 1989 to 49 States and DC in 2000–01 (see Appendix II, Tobacco use).

NOTES: The race groups, white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Interpretation of trend data should take into consideration expansion of reporting areas and immigration. Data for additional years are available (see Appendix III).

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Birth File. Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Ventura SJ, Menacker F, Park MM, Sutton PD. Births: Final Data for 2001. National vital statistics reports; vol 51, no 2. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 2002; Births: Final data for each data year 1997–2000. National vital statistics reports. Hyattsville, Maryland; Final natality statistics for each data year 1970–96. Monthly vital statistics report. Hyattsville, Maryland.