

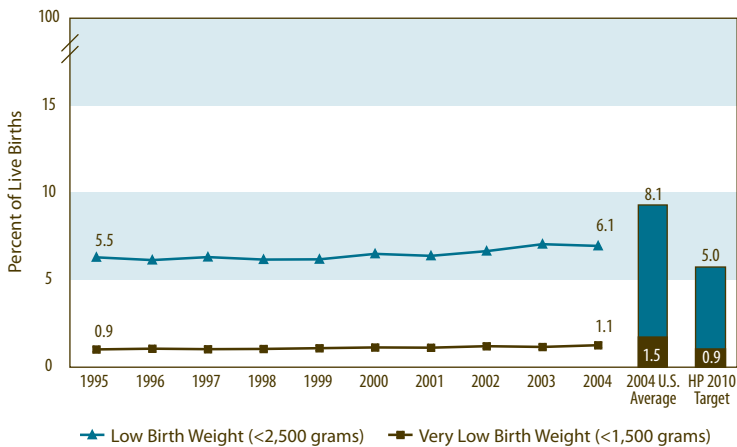
LOW & VERY LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BIRTHS

Compared to infants of normal weight, low birth weight (LBW) and very low birth weight (VLBW) infants are at increased risk for impaired development and infant death.^{4,5} VLBW infants' risk of dying in the first year of life is 100 times that of normal birth weight infants.⁶ LBW infants who survive are more likely to suffer from long-term disabilities such as cerebral palsy, blindness or other chronic conditions.⁴ Risk factors associated with LBW include: cigarette smoking; multiple birth; poor nutrition; maternal age extremes; and short inter-pregnancy interval.⁷

- In 2004, 6.1 percent of Oregon infants were LBW and 1.1 percent were VLBW compared to 8.1 percent and 1.5 percent for the U.S.⁸ Although Oregon is consistently below the U.S. average for these measures, both rates are above the Healthy People 2010 targets of 5 percent for LBW and 0.9 percent for VLBW.
- From 1995-2004, Oregon's rates of LBW and VLBW births have significantly increased.
- From 1995-2004, rates of LBW significantly increased for infants born to white, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander mothers, while the LBW rate among Hispanic infants significantly decreased. (Data in Appendix D)
- There was no significant change in the LBW rate for black/African American infants from 1995-2004. (Data in Appendix D)
- During 2002-2004, infants born to black/African American mothers were almost twice as likely to be LBW as those born to white or Hispanic mothers (10.7 versus 5.9 and 5.3 percent, respectively).

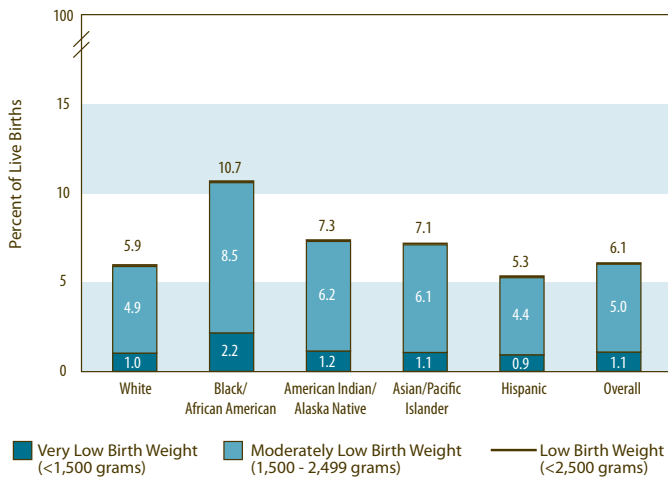
CHAPTER 2: BIRTH OUTCOMES

Low & Very Low Birth Weight Births by Year, Oregon, 1995-2004



Data Source: Oregon Vital Statistics

Low, Moderately Low & Very Low Birth Weight by Race/Ethnicity, Oregon, 2002-2004



Low Birth Weight = Very Low Birth Weight + Moderately Low Birth Weight

Data Source: Oregon Vital Statistics