

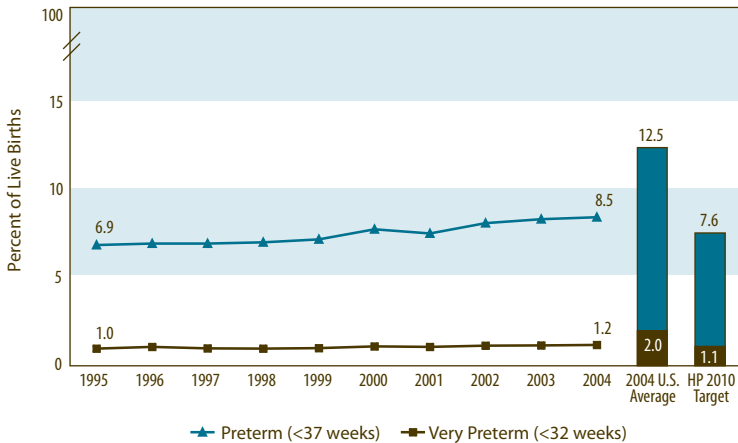
PRETERM & VERY PRETERM BIRTHS

In the U.S., preterm birth is the leading cause of neonatal deaths not associated with birth defects. Nationally, the preterm rate among singletons rose 11 percent between 1990 and 2004 (9.7 to 10.8 percent); nearly all of the increase was among infants delivered at 34-36 weeks gestation.¹ The majority of low and very low birth weight infants are born preterm. Risk factors associated with preterm birth include: multiple birth, previous preterm delivery, stress, infection, vaginal bleeding, smoking, illicit drug use, low pre-pregnancy weight and maternal age extremes.^{2,3}

- In 2004, Oregon's preterm and very preterm birth rates were significantly lower than the U.S.¹ (8.5 versus 12.5 percent and 1.2 versus 2.0 percent, respectively).
- In 2004, both of these measures for Oregon were higher than the Healthy People 2010 goals of 7.6 percent and 1.1 percent for preterm and very preterm births, respectively.
- From 1995-2004, rates of preterm and very preterm births in Oregon increased significantly. Preterm births increased from 6.9 percent in 1995 to 8.5 percent in 2004. Very preterm births increased from 1.0 percent in 1995 to 1.2 percent in 2004.
- From 1995-2004, very preterm birth rates among infants born to white mothers significantly increased. Increases among other race/ethnic groups were not statistically significant. (Data in Appendix D)
- During 2002-2004, infants born to black/African American and American Indian/Alaska Native mothers had the highest rates of preterm (11.0 and 10.8 percent, respectively) and very preterm birth (2.0 and 1.6 percent, respectively). These rates were significantly higher than those of all other race/ethnic groups.

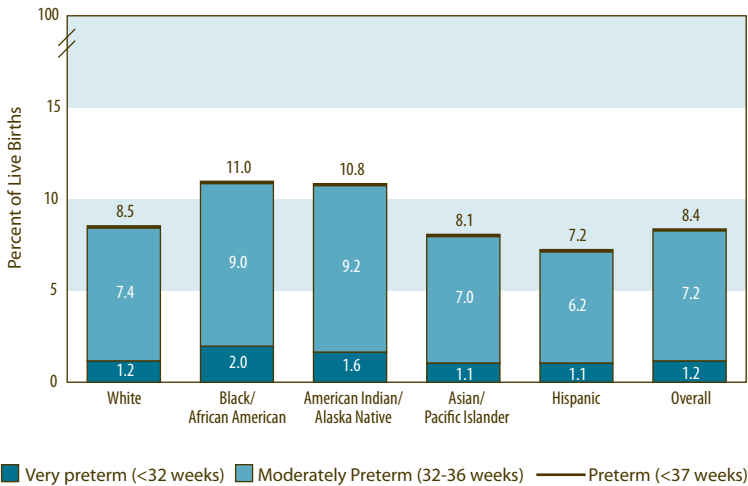
CHAPTER 2: BIRTH OUTCOMES

Preterm & Very Preterm Births by Year, Oregon, 1995-2004



Data Source: Oregon Vital Statistics

Preterm, Moderately Preterm & Very Preterm by Race/Ethnicity, Three-Year Average, Oregon, 2002-2004



Preterm = Very Preterm + Moderately Preterm
 Data Source: Oregon Vital Statistics