

**INDICATOR:** Low birthweight

**DEFINITION:** The percent of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams

**NUMERATOR:** The number of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams, by place of residence, in a calendar year

**DENOMINATOR:** The total number of live births, by place of residence, in a calendar year

**HEALTHY PEOPLE 2000 OBJECTIVE:**

Reduce low birthweight to an incidence of no more than 5 percent of live births. (Baseline: 6.9 percent in 1987) (Objective 14.5)

**RISK FACTORS:**

Young or old maternal age; low income; low maternal education level; race/ethnicity (African American, Puerto Rican, Southeast Asian); high parity; short interpregnancy interval; multiple gestation; unintended pregnancy; history of low birthweight; poor reproductive history; intrauterine growth retardation; preterm birth; prior preterm birth; late entry into prenatal care; lack of comprehensive prenatal care; low pre-pregnancy weight; tobacco use during pregnancy; alcohol/substance abuse during pregnancy; low pregnancy weight gain; placenta previa; premature rupture of the membrane; stress during pregnancy; strenuous exertion during pregnancy

Year	California				County			
	Low Birthweight		95% Confidence Interval		Low Birthweight		95% Confidence Interval	
	Number	Percent	Lower	Upper	Number	Percent	Lower	Upper
1990	35,474	5.80%	5.74%	5.86%	12,283	6.02%	5.91%	6.12%
1991	35,359	5.80%	5.75%	5.86%	12,234	6.03%	5.93%	6.14%
1992	35,608	5.93%	5.87%	5.99%	12,127	6.14%	6.04%	6.25%
1993	35,116	6.01%	5.95%	6.07%	11,698	6.17%	6.06%	6.27%
1994	34,876	6.15%	6.09%	6.21%	11,474	6.36%	6.25%	6.47%
1995	33,588	6.09%	6.03%	6.16%	11,270	6.45%	6.33%	6.56%
1996	32,649	6.06%	6.00%	6.13%	10,761	6.37%	6.25%	6.48%
1997	32,232	6.15%	6.08%	6.21%	10,487	6.47%	6.35%	6.59%

DENOMINATOR: Live Births	
State	County
611,666	204,124
609,228	202,737
600,838	197,415
584,483	189,706
567,034	180,394
551,226	174,862
538,628	168,973
524,174	162,036

**Source:** 1990-1997 birth records from California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics

