

**INDICATOR:** Very low birthweight

**DEFINITION:** The percent of live births weighing less than 1,500 grams

**NUMERATOR:** The number of live births weighing less than 1,500 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 very low birthweight to an incidence of no more than 1 percent of live births. (Baseline: 1.2 percent in 1987) (Objective 14.5)

**RISK FACTORS:** Preterm birth; prior preterm birth; race/ethnicity (African American, Puerto Rican); substance use/abuse (e.g. illicit drug use)

See also risk factors for low birth weight.

Year	California				County			
	Very Low Birthweight		95% Confidence Interval		Very Low Birthweight		95% Confidence Interval	
	Number	Percent	Lower	Upper	Number	Percent	Lower	Upper
1990	6,152	1.01%	0.98%	1.03%	2,182	1.07%	1.02%	1.11%
1991	6,223	1.02%	1.00%	1.05%	2,205	1.09%	1.04%	1.13%
1992	6,209	1.03%	1.01%	1.06%	2,204	1.12%	1.07%	1.16%
1993	6,099	1.04%	1.02%	1.07%	2,145	1.13%	1.08%	1.18%
1994	6,282	1.11%	1.08%	1.14%	2,109	1.17%	1.12%	1.22%
1995	5,877	1.07%	1.04%	1.09%	2,057	1.18%	1.13%	1.23%
1996	5,812	1.08%	1.05%	1.11%	1,933	1.14%	1.09%	1.19%
1997	5,869	1.12%	1.09%	1.15%	1,912	1.18%	1.13%	1.23%

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

