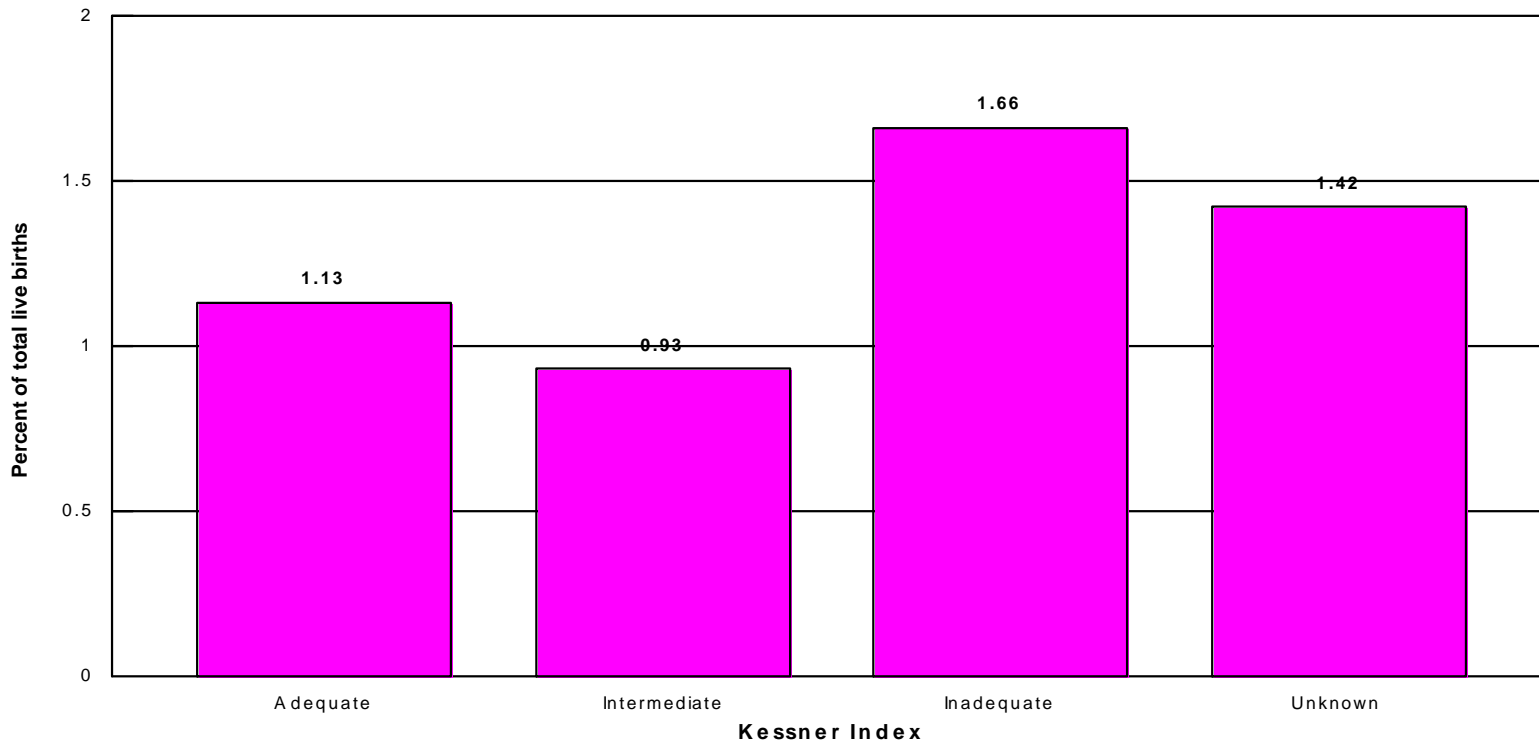


**Very Low Birthweight Live Births, as Percent of Total Live Births, by Kessner Index**  
 Los Angeles County, 1997



	Kessner Index							
	Inadequate		Intermediate		Adequate		Unknown	
Live Births	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<1,500 grams	61	1.34	171	0.90	1418	1.13	262	2.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,542</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>18,987</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>125,510</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>12,997</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Year 2000 Objective: Reduce very low birthweight to an incidence of no more than 1 percent of live births.

Note: Very low birthweight is defined as weight less than 1,500 grams at birth.

The Kessner Index takes into account three factors: month in which prenatal care began, number of prenatal visits, and length of gestation. This measure excludes the prenatal care experiences of all women whose pregnancies did not result in a live birth.

Source: 1997 birth records from the California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics