

Annual Wisconsin Birth and Infant Death Report, 2018

Executive Summary

Births



There were 64,143 births in 2018.

The general fertility rate has decreased by 4.1 live births per 1,000 women of reproductive age since 2009. Births among women under 30 are declining but are increasing among women over 30. This is partly due to women waiting longer to have children (the average age of first-time mothers increased from 25.4 in 2009 to 27.2 in 2018), and a growing number of mothers having four or more children. The teen birth rate is half of what it was 10 years ago.

Health Care



79% of mothers received an adequate amount of prenatal care in 2018.

Women with more education and women who live in low poverty areas were more likely to receive adequate prenatal care than women with less education or those who live in high poverty areas. See the technical notes for a definition of adequate prenatal care. Both urban and rural parts of the state had lower prenatal care utilization than suburban or medium metro areas. Medical factors for poor birth outcomes, such as previous preterm birth or previous Cesarean delivery, affected 43% of Wisconsin births.

Birth Outcomes



The proportion of low birthweight infants has increased among Black, American Indian, and Hispanic mothers.

Large inequities in poor birth outcomes by race or ethnicity and education persist. Statewide, 9.9% of births are born premature, but prematurity occurs more frequently for Black mothers (15.6%) and less frequently for Laotian or Hmong mothers (7.7%). Compared to 2017, there were increases in low birthweight among mothers of all races except white indicating a growing disparity in low birthweight.

Infant Mortality



Wisconsin's Black infant death rate is 3 times that of the white rate.

In 2018, there were 389 deaths to infants less than 1 year old. The infant mortality rate is 6.1 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to 6.3 in 2017. There were 315 fetal deaths in 2018. Preterm birth (birth before 37 weeks gestation) is a leading driver of neonatal death, and the rate of neonatal deaths due to preterm birth is 21% higher in Wisconsin than the nation.

The death rate for infants born to Black mothers is one of the highest in the nation. Wisconsin has a long history of health inequities in infant mortality with no consistent improvement over the past few decades.

For the full report, please visit <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01161-22.pdf>

Questions or concerns?

Please email dhshealthstats@dhs.wisconsin.gov

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