

Low-Birthweight Babies

Nevada

The percent of low-birthweight (LBW) babies in Nevada for 2000-2002 was 7.4. Of the 93,850 babies born during this period, 6,977 weighed less than 5.5 pounds.

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the percent of low-birthweight babies ranged from a low of 0 in Esmeralda County to a high of 9.1 in Lincoln County. Five counties had a percent of low-birthweight babies that was higher than the state rate of 7.4.

Significant Factors

Previous research has established a link between marital status and a mother giving birth to a low-birthweight baby, that is, nonmarried mothers are more likely to do so than married mothers. A recent study showed a link between mother-father relationships among unwed parents and giving birth to a low-birthweight baby. Using Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing data, researchers concluded that “mothers who are in a non-cohabiting romantic relationship with the father have significantly higher odds of low birthweight compared to mothers who cohabit with the father of their babies.”¹

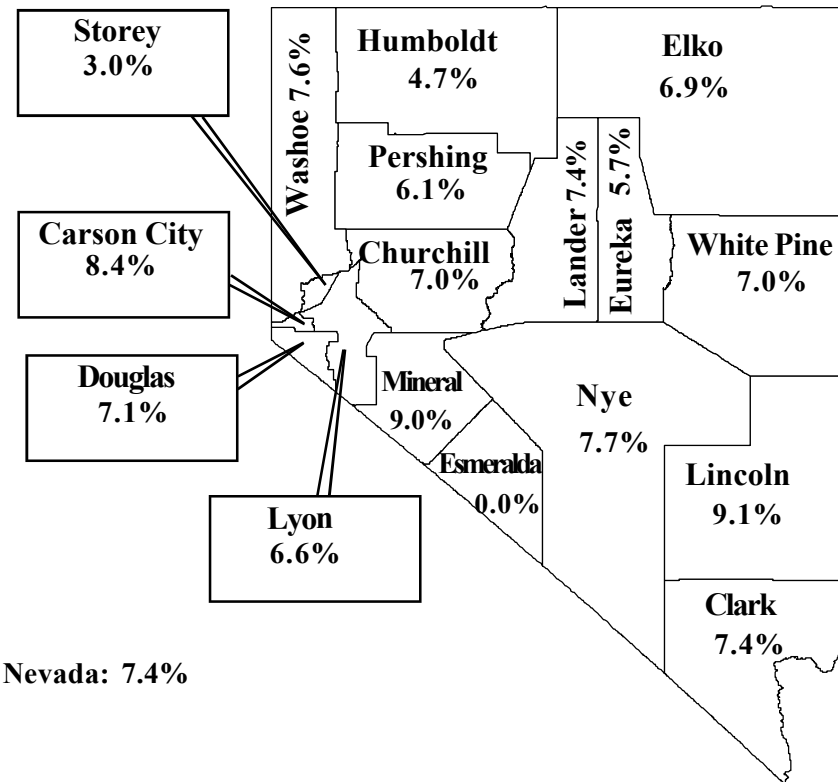
In an indicator brief, Shore for the Annie E. Casey Foundation suggests five strategies which low-birthweight reduction plans should entail:

- “• Promote and Support Research on the Causes of LBW
 - Expand Access to Health Care
 - Focus Intensively on Smoking Prevention and Cessation
 - Ensure that Pregnant Women Get Adequate Nutrition
 - Address Social and Demographic Risk Factors”²

Definition

Low-Birthweight Babies are those weighing less than 2,500 grams (about 5.5 pounds) at birth. Low-birthweight data, reported by mother’s county of residence rather than infant’s place of birth, measure the percentage of live births in which babies weigh less than 2,500 grams.

**Percent of Low-Birthweight Babies in Nevada:
2000-2002**



Source: CBER calculations from Nevada Department of Human Resources data, Health Division, Bureau of Health Planning and Statistics, 2000-2002.

Low-Birthweight Babies Continued

Nevada Births by Birthweight and Mother's Age: 2002

Mother's Age	Very Low Birthweight (Less Than 1,500 Grams)		Low Birthweight (Less Than 2,500 Grams)		Total Births
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
0-14	2	---	6	---	47
15-17	23	2.0	111	9.5	1,174
18-19	27	1.1	193	7.8	2,464
20-24	100	1.1	595	6.8	8,768
25-29	84	1.0	557	6.3	8,826
30-34	84	1.2	523	7.4	7,084
35-39	66	2.0	337	10.3	3,284
40-44	22	3.1	100	13.9	719
45+	3	---	12	32.4	37
Unknown	0	---	2	---	20
NEVADA	411	1.3	2,436	7.5	32,423

Note: The low-birthweight category includes those births of very low birthweight. The percentages for those categories where the number of births was less than 10 are not shown.

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Bureau of Health Planning and Statistics, 2002.

Nevada Births by Birthweight and Mother's Race/Ethnicity: 2002

Birthweight Category	White	Black (African American)	Native American	Asian	Hispanic	Other/ Unknown	Total
Very low birthweight (<1,500 grams)	167	75	4	24	127	14	411
Adjusted number	173	78	4	25	131	---	411
Percent	1.1%	3.1%	---	1.1%	1.1%	---	1.3%
Low birthweight (<2,500 grams)	1,061	367	25	187	737	59	2,436
Adjusted number	1,087	376	26	192	755	---	2,436
Percent	7.0%	14.8%	6.1%	8.1%	6.6%	---	7.5%
Live births	15,337	2,512	419	2,339	11,340	476	32,423
Adjusted number	15,566	2,549	425	2,374	11,509	---	32,423

Note: The low-birthweight category includes those births of very low birthweight. Percentages are adjusted for unknown race/ethnicity. The percentages for those categories where the number of births was less than 10 are not shown.

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Bureau of Health Planning and Statistics, 2002.

Low-Birthweight Babies Continued

Low-Birthweight Percent for Teen (Ages 19 and under) Births by Race/Ethnicity for Nevada Residents: 2002

<i>Birthweight Category</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Black (African American)</i>	<i>Native American</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>Other/ Unknown</i>	<i>Total</i>
Very low birthweight (<1,500 grams)	14	15	1	0	19	3	52
Adjusted number	15	16	1	0	20	—	52
Percent	1.2%	3.3%	—	0.0%	1.2%	—	1.4%
Low birthweight (<2,500 grams)	90	72	1	10	130	7	310
Adjusted number	92	74	1	10	133	—	310
Percent	7.2%	15.2%	—	6.8%	7.8%	—	8.4%
Live births	1,266	479	62	145	1,678	54	3,684
Adjusted number	1,285	486	63	147	1,703	—	3,684

Note: The low-birthweight category includes those births of very low birthweight. Percentages are adjusted for unknown race/ethnicity. The percentages for those categories where the number of births was less than 10 are not shown.

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Bureau of Health Planning and Statistics, 2002.