BIRTHS IN NEW JERSEY, 2017
PRELIMINARY DATA FROM CDC WONDER

SUMMARY

This report presents selected highlights from 2017 preliminary birth data on key demographic, health care utilization, and infant health indicators.

All 2017 data in this report are preliminary and subject to change when final data are released.

There were 101,250 births to New Jersey residents in 2017, down 1.2% from 2016 and continuing a nearly three decade long downward trend. The birth rate per 1,000 residents was 11.2 in 2017, down 2.6% from 2016 and the general fertility of 59.0 was down 1.7% from 2016.

The New Jersey general fertility rate (births per 1,000 females aged 15–44) declined 1.7% between 2016 and 2017.

The teen birth rate declined to 10.8 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19, which is well below the U.S. rate of 18.8.

First trimester prenatal care was obtained for three-quarters of births.

New Jersey’s cesarean delivery rate of 35.9% was the fourth highest in the U.S.

The preterm birth rate was 9.5% and 7.9% of births were of low birth weight in 2017.
In 2017, as in 2016, 30-34 years was the age group with the highest number of births (34,451) and highest fertility rate per 1,000 age-specific female population (118.8).

Teen births continued to decline both nationally and in New Jersey. The rate per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years in New Jersey remains highest among Hispanics, followed by Blacks.
Among all ages combined, the fertility rate was also highest among Hispanics, but the second highest rate was among Asians and Pacific Islanders.

The proportion of births with other key maternal characteristics and risk factors are shown below.
The onset of prenatal care for three-quarters of New Jersey births in 2017 was in the first trimester of pregnancy. This does not indicate the number or adequacy of prenatal care visits.

Over 99% of births occurred in a hospital in 2017 and 91% of births were attended by a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Osteopathy (DO), while nearly 8% were attended by a Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM).
New Jersey continues to have one of the highest cesarean delivery rates (35.9%) in the nation, behind only Mississippi (37.8%), Louisiana (37.4%), and Florida (37.1%). The U.S. rate was 31.9% in 2017.

In 2017, 90.5% of New Jersey births occurred after 36 weeks of gestation (based on the obstetric estimate) and 92.0% weighted 2500 grams or more at births.
More than 96.3% of 2017 New Jersey births were singletons, 3.6% were twins, and 0.1% were triplets. There were no higher order births.

**Definitions**

*Teen birth rate:* Number of births per 1,000 females aged 15–19.

*General fertility rate:* Number of births per 1,000 females aged 15–44.

*Unmarried:* Not married at birth, conception, or any time between.

*Cesarean rate:* Births delivered via cesarean section per 100 live births.

*Preterm birth rate:* Births delivered prior to 37 completed weeks of gestation per 100 live births. Gestational age is based on the obstetric estimate of gestation.

*Early preterm birth rate:* Births delivered prior to 34 completed weeks of gestation per 100 live births.

*Late preterm birth rate:* Births delivered between 34–36 completed weeks of gestation per 100 live births.

*Low birth weight rate:* Births weighing less than 2500 grams per 100 live births.

*Very low birth weight:* Births weighing less than 1500 grams per 100 live births.

**Data Sources:**


**Suggested Citation:**