

Statistics Canada

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Low birth weight babies (500 to less than 2,500 grams), by sex, five-year average, Canada and Inuit regions every 5 years

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Data table

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Geography ³	Sex	Characteristics	1994-1998	1999-2003	2004-2008
Canada ⁴	Both sexes	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	103,700	92,541	106,874
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	5.7	5.6	6.0
	Males	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	49,808	44,641	51,326
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	5.3	5.2	5.6
	Females	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	53,892	47,900	55,548
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	6.1	5.9	6.4
Inuit Nunangat ⁵	Both sexes	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	408	412	418
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	6.9	7.0	7.0
	Males	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	194	208	205
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	6.4	6.9	6.6
	Females	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	214	204	213
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	7.5	7.1	7.3
Inuvialuit Region	Both sexes	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	27	25	21
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	4.4	4.9	3.9
	Males	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	13	9	x
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	4.0	3.6	x
	Females	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	14	16	x
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	4.7	6.1	x
Nunavut	Both sexes	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	272	276	288
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	7.5	7.6	7.6
	Males	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	130	143	150
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	7.0	7.6	7.6
	Females	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	142	133	138
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	8.1	7.6	7.6
Nunavik	Both sexes	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	85	93	96
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	6.3	6.8	6.6
	Males	Number of low birth weight babies ⁵	39	47	44
			5.6	6.7	5.8

Geography ³	Sex	Characteristics	1994-1998	1999-2003	2004-2008
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²			
	Females	Number of low birth weight babies ⁶	46	46	52
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	7.0	6.9	7.4
Nunatsiavut ¹⁰	Both sexes	Number of low birth weight babies ⁶	24	18	13
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	8.4	5.1	5.7
	Males	Number of low birth weight babies ⁶	12	9	x
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	8.3	4.9	x
	Females	Number of low birth weight babies ⁶	12	9	x
		Proportion of low birth weight babies (percent) ²	8.5	5.4	x

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Symbol legend:

x Suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

Footnotes:

1. Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Vital Statistics, Birth Database
2. Counts and rates on this table are based on the summation of five consecutive years of data.
3. The geographic distribution of live births in this table is based on the mother's usual place of residence.
4. Numbers and rates for Canada include births for Inuit Nunangat.
5. Inuit Nunangat is comprised of four regions created through the signing of land claims agreements and from west to east includes the Inuvialuit Region in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik north of the 55th parallel in Quebec and Nunatsiavut in northern Labrador (Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, 2008).
6. Low birthweight counts are adjusted to show only viable low birthweight births. In this table they are calculated by subtracting the number of live births with a birth weight of less than 500 grams from the standard low birth weight birth counts in the same year and divide by (live birth counts for the same year with a known birth weight greater than 499 grams).
7. Low birthweight rates are adjusted to show only the rate of viable low birthweights. In this table they are calculated as follows: (subtract the number of live births with a birth weight of less than 500 grams from the standard low birth weight birth counts in the same year) and divide by (live birth counts for the same year with a known birth weight greater than 499 grams).
8. The confidence intervals were produced via the Fleiss method (Fleiss JL, Statistical Methods for Rates and Proportions, 2nd Ed, Wiley and Sons, NY, 1981, page 14, Formula (1.26) and (1.27)).
9. The 95% confidence interval (CI) illustrates the degree of variability associated with a number or a rate. Wide confidence intervals indicate high variability and thus the rates associated with them should be interpreted and compared with caution.
10. In 2006, new Census geography identified the reserve of Natuashish, within the unorganized territory of Division No. 10, Subd. E. As a result, the latest data for Nunatsiavut are based on different boundaries excluding this reserve, which contained 706 people as of 2006 Census, and represent about 23% of the Nunatsiavut population.

Source: Statistics Canada. *Table 102-0701 - Low birth weight babies (500 to less than 2,500 grams), by sex, five-year average, Canada and Inuit regions, every 5 years*, CANSIM (database). (accessed: 2015-05-04)
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