



BEPHI Data Brief

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Prematurity in Kansas Births 2014

Each year in the United States, about 500,000 babies are born too soon. Premature or preterm births are those that occur when gestation is less than 37 weeks.

One of the items on Governor Sam Brownback’s “Roadmap for Healthy Kansas Families” is to excel in education [1]. Children born about three months prematurely are 3 - 4 times more likely to struggle in school than children born full term. Compared with children born full term, students born prematurely were more likely to repeat a grade of school (33% versus 18%); receive special education (20% versus 5%); and require extra help with reading, spelling, math, handwriting, speech/language and require occupational or physical therapy (16% versus 6%) [2].

Kansas Highlights

In 2014, there were 39,193 live births. Fourteen births did not have gestation reported. Births with gestation less than 37 weeks totaled 3,419. This amounts to 8.7 percent of all babies born or about one out of every 11.5 births.

In Kansas, there were 246 infant deaths in 2014. This is almost five (4.7) deaths per week. Prematurity is one of the leading factors causing infant mortality.

The population group with the highest percent of preterm births was Black non-Hispanic at 12.8 percent in 2014. The Hispanic population group was the lowest at 8.2 percent [Table 1].

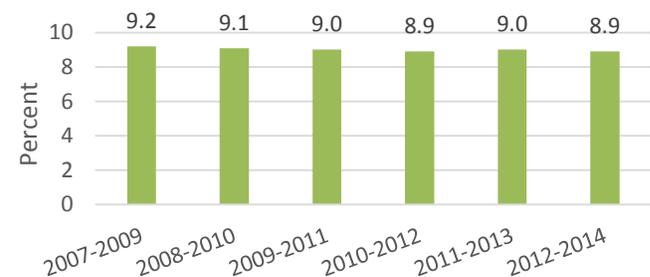
Table 1. Resident Preterm Birth Rates, Kansas, 2014

Population Group	Total Births	Preterm Births	Percent
White non-Hispanic	28,009	2,357	8.4
Black non-Hispanic	2,629	337	12.8
Native American non-Hispanic	237	25	10.5
Asian/Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	1,148	95	8.3
Other non-Hispanic	1,017	102	10.0
Hispanic any Race	6,129	501	8.2

Trends

- In Kansas, the percent preterm was 3.3 percent lower in 2014 (8.7 %) compared to 2013 (9.0 %).
- Based on three-year rolling average percentages, the state trend is stable for prematurity [Figure 1].

Figure 1. Percent of Resident Births Delivered Preterm, by Rolling Three-year Average, Kansas, 2007-2014



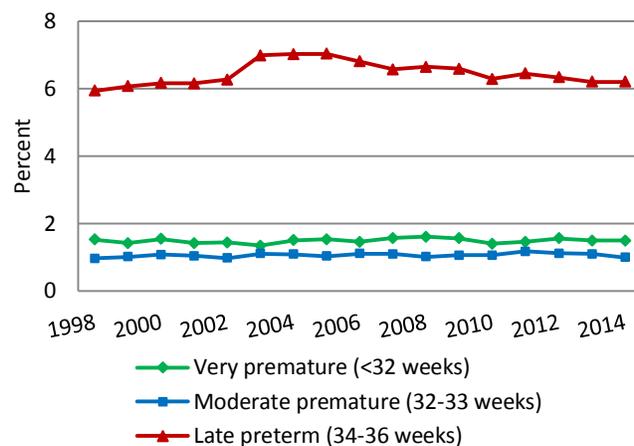
More Kansas Health Statistics and Publications

- For a list of all publications issued by KDHE go to http://www.kdheks.gov/data_reports_stats.htm.
- Visit Kansas Information for Communities (KIC) the department’s online data query tool at <http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/index.html>.
- Community Health Needs Assessment information at <http://www.kansashealthmatters.org/>.

Breakouts

- The percentage of late preterm births have been declining since peaking in 2005 [Figure 3].
- Very premature births have had consistently higher percentage rates than moderate premature births since 1998. Both groups' percentage rates have remained stable (no trends) across time.

Figure 2. Percent of Resident Preterm Births by Gestational Age Group and Year, Kansas, 1998-2014



State and National Comparison

The national prematurity rate was higher (9.6%) than the Kansas rate of 8.7 percent in 2014 [3].

Want to Know More About Prematurity?

For community ideas to reduce prematurity, visit Kansas Health Matters Promising Practices, and search on “preterm” or “premature” (<http://www.kansashealthmatters.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=PromisePractice&file=index>). Promising Practices contains hundreds of tested approaches to solving public health issues.

The March of Dimes is conducting a national effort to reduce prematurity. Visit <http://www.marchofdimes.com/kansas/> to learn more.

Resources can also be found at the Kansas Resource Guide at <http://www.ksresourceguide.org/>, maintained by the KDHE Bureau of Family Health.

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References:

- (1) ZIPS Newsletter [Internet]. Kansas Department of Health and Environment. March 2011. Available at <http://www.kdheks.gov/c-f/zips/2011/mar/03-2011-Full-ZIPS.pdf>
- (2) Buck GM, Msall ME, Schisterman EF, Lyon NR, Rogers BT. Extreme Prematurity and School Outcomes. *Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*. 2000 Oct; 14(4):324-331.
- (3)