

Prematurity in Kansas Births - 2012

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 2012, there were 40,304 live births. Twenty-two births did not have gestation reported. Births with gestation less than 37 weeks totaled 3,629. This amounts to 9.0 percent of all babies born or about one out of every 11 births.

In Kansas in 2012, there were 254 infant deaths. This is almost five (4.9) 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 13.0 percent in 2012. The White-non-Hispanic and Hispanic population groups were the lowest at 8.6 percent.

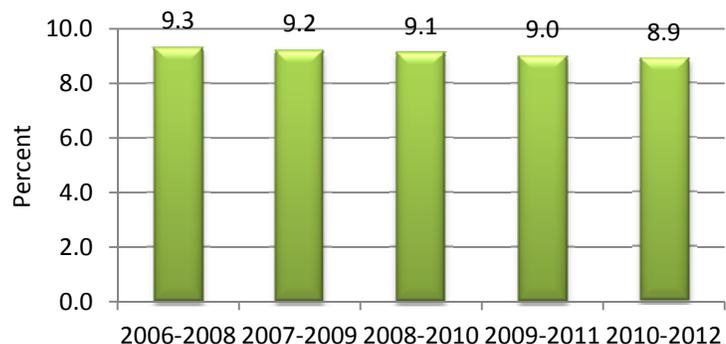
Table 1. Resident Preterm Birth Rates, Kansas, 2012

Population Group	Total Births	Preterm Births	Percent
White non-Hispanic	28,995	2,499	8.6
Black non-Hispanic	2,682	350	13.0
Native American non-Hispanic	196	22	11.2
Asian/Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	1,207	120	9.9
Other non-Hispanic	916	96	10.5
Hispanic any Race	6,286	542	8.6

Trends

- In Kansas, the percent preterm was 1.1 percent lower in 2012 (9.0 %) compared to 2011 (9.1 %).
- Based on three-year rolling average percentages, the state is trending downward for prematurity (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Percent of Resident Births Delivered Preterm, by Rolling Three-year Average, Kansas, 2006-2012



More Kansas Health Statistics and Publications

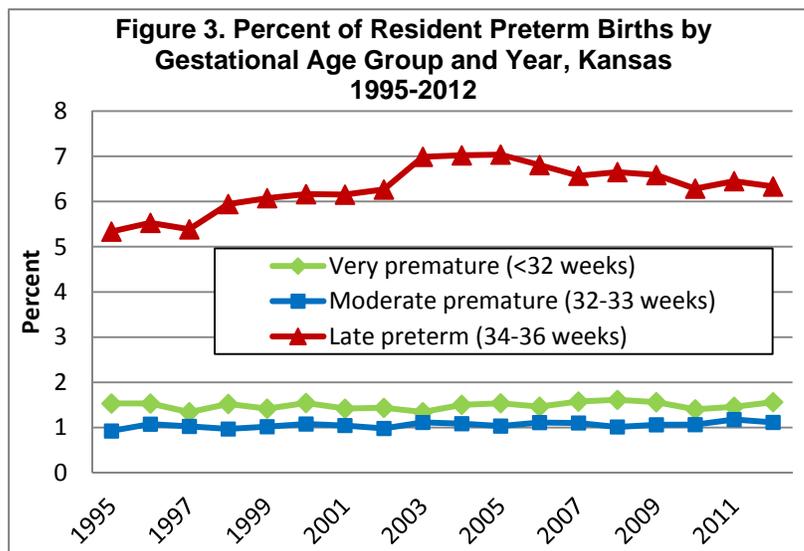
- For a list of all publications issued by KDHE go to http://www.kdheks.gov/data_reports_stats.htm.
- Visit Kansas Information for Communities (KIC) the department’s online data query tool at <http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/index.html>.
- Community Health Needs Assessment information at <http://www.kansashealthmatters.org/>.

Breakouts

- Late preterm births, after peaking at 7.0 percent of all births, have been decreasing since 2005 (Figure 3).

State and National Comparison

The 2012 Kansas rate (9.0%) compares favorably to the Healthy People 2020 target of 11.4% [3]. Direct comparison between state and federal rates is problematic due to different methods for calculation. Prematurity determination is based on obstetric estimate of gestation. While Kansas uses the unaltered estimate, federal rates are based on an imputation method that compares the obstetric estimate to the difference between the date of last menses and the date of birth.



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.

Authored by: Carol Moyer, David Oakley

References:

- (1) ZIPS Newsletter [Internet]. Kansas Department of Health and Environment. March 2011. Available at <http://www.kdheks.gov/cf/zips/2011/mar/03-2011-Full-ZIPS.pdf>
- (2) Buck GM, Msall ME, Schisterman EF, Lyon NR, Rogers BT. Extreme Prematurity and School Outcomes. *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*. 2000 Oct; 14(4):324-331.
- (3) HealthyPeople.gov [Internet]. Washington. Department of Health and Human Services. [updated 2013 Aug 28, cited 2013 Sep 16] Available from <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/objectiveslist.aspx?topicid=26>