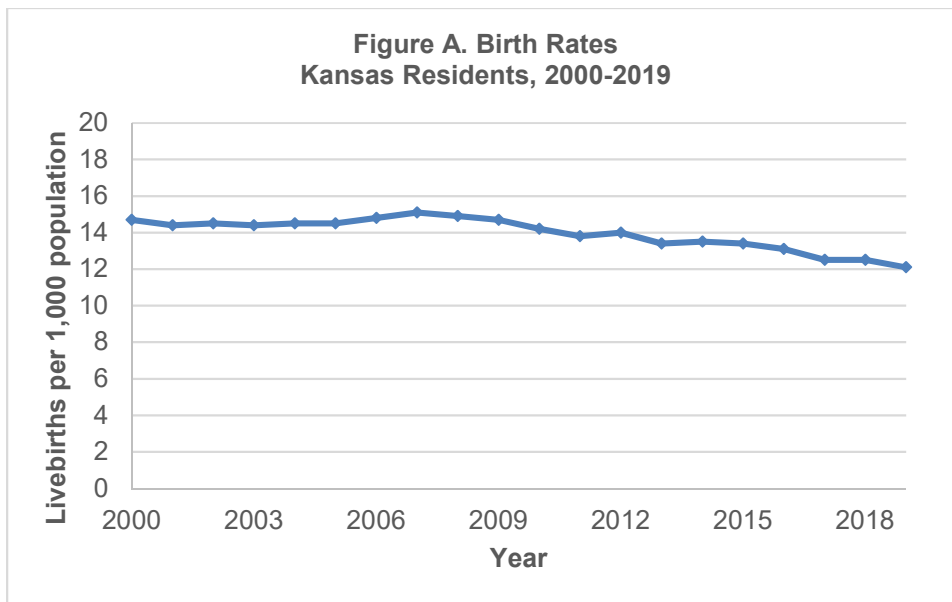


Live Births and Fertility

During 2019, there were 35,395 live births to residents of Kansas. This was a decrease of 2.4 percent from the 36,268 births reported in 2018. The birth rate in 2019 was 12.1 births per 1,000 population, a decrease of 3.2 percent from 12.5 births per 1,000 population in 2018 (Table C10).

The 2019 birth rate (12.1 per 1,000 population) was the lowest Kansas birth rate in the period from 1912 to date (the entire period in which KDHE and its predecessors have maintained the Kansas Vital Records System). The only years with comparable birth rates were 2017 and 2018 (12.5 per 1,000 population in both years) (Figure C1).

Over the past 20 years (2000-2019), the Kansas birth rate has fluctuated between a peak of 15.1 births per 1,000 population (reported in 2007) and a low of 12.1 births per 1,000 population (reported in 2019) (Figure A). Recent low birth rates continue a sustained decline that began in 2008 (Table C1, Figure C1).



Population Group Statistics

In 2019, there were 24,400 births to resident White non-Hispanic mothers, a decrease of 3.2 percent from the 25,196 births reported in 2018. The birth rate for White non-Hispanic mothers decreased 2.6 percent, from 11.4 births per 1,000 population in 2018 to 11.1 births per 1,000 population in 2019 (Table A3, Table C20).

There were 6,069 births to Hispanic mothers in 2019, an increase of 1.6 percent from the 5,976 births reported in 2018. The birth rate for Hispanic mothers was 17.0 births per 1,000 population in 2019, unchanged from 2018.

There were 2,419 births to Black non-Hispanic mothers in 2019, a decrease of 3.2 percent from the 2,499 births reported in 2018. The birth rate for Black non-Hispanic mothers decreased 2.7 percent, from 14.9 births per 1,000 population in 2018 to 14.5 births per 1,000 population in 2019 (Table A3, Table C20).

Fertility Rates

The number of Kansas females in the main child-bearing age bracket (ages 15-44) was 561,891 in 2019, down 2.1 percent from 573,959 in 2001 (the peak in the 2000–2019 period). The Kansas fertility rate in 2019 was 63.0 livebirths per female population in the 15-44 age bracket, 16.6 percent below the period high (75.5 in 2007), and the lowest rate for the 2000–2019 period (Table C2, Figure C2).

Of the 35,395 resident births in 2019, there were 18,036 males and 17,358 females and one infant of undetermined sex, for a natal sex ratio of 103.9 male births to 100.0 female births. In most populations, this ratio is in the range of 104-106, although some populations experience ratios as low as 103 or as high as 107, even in the absence of deliberate sex selection³ (Table C3).

Low Birth Weight

During 2019, low birth weight (under 2,500 grams) infants accounted for 2,689 or 7.6 percent of births to Kansas resident mothers. Low birth weights were more common for Black non-Hispanic mothers (14.9%) than for White non-Hispanic (6.9%) or Hispanic (7.4%) mothers. High birth weight (4,000 grams and over) infants accounted for 3,026, or 8.5 percent of births to Kansas resident mothers. High birth weights were more common for White non-Hispanic mothers (9.7%) than for Hispanic (7.1%) or Black non-Hispanic (3.6%) mothers (Table C8).

Small for Gestational Age

Infants born at birth weights less than the 10th percentile of all other infants at the same gestational age (lowest 9.9 percent) are considered small for gestational age (SGA). Table C18 uses birth weights from 2019 births for the state of Kansas as a whole as the reference in establishing the cutoff point. The table enables a county to compare its SGA rate to that of the state. While a number of counties have high SGA rates, they are based on a relatively low number of births.

Mother's Age

Of the 35,395 resident births in 2019, 5.3 percent (1,876) were to mothers under the age of 20; 52.5 percent (18,594) were to mothers 20-29 years of age; 39.8 percent (14,079) were to mothers 30-39 years of age; and 2.4 percent (845) were to mothers aged 40 or over (Table C6).

Of the 24,400 resident births to White non-Hispanic mothers, 928 (3.8%) were to mothers under the age of twenty. Of the 2,419 births to Black non-Hispanic mothers, 214 (8.8%) were to mothers under the age of 20. Of the 6,069 births to Hispanic mothers, 590 (9.7%) births were to mothers under the age of 20 (Table A3).

First Trimester Care

Prenatal care data was provided for 34,646 out of 35,395 (97.9%) live births in 2019. Prenatal care began in the first trimester for 28,281 live births (80.9 percent of live births where prenatal care data was available), in the second trimester for 5,193 live births (14.8%), and in the third trimester for 1,172 live births (3.4%). No prenatal care was indicated for 324 live births (0.9%).

White non-Hispanic mothers started prenatal care in the first trimester in 84.8 percent of live births (20,522). Black non-Hispanic mothers started prenatal care in the first trimester in 69.6 percent of live births (1,663). Hispanic mothers started prenatal care in the first trimester in 71.6 percent of live births (4,225) (Table C7).

Prenatal Care Status

³ United Nations Population Fund [Internet] UNFPA Guidance Note on Prenatal Sex Selection, p. 11; [cited 2017 Aug 16]. Available from: http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/guidenote_prenatal_sex-selection.pdf

Of the 34,935 Kansas resident live births in 2019 for which the adequacy of prenatal care utilization (APNCU) category could be determined, 83.8 percent received adequate or better prenatal care, including 30.4 percent with adequate-plus care. Sixteen percent (16.2) received less than adequate prenatal care, including 11.2 percent with inadequate care (Table C14).

Mother's Weight Gain

Among singleton Kansas live births, 21.7 percent of mothers gained less than the recommended weight during pregnancy, 31.1 percent gained the recommended weight, and 47.2 percent gained more than the recommended amount (Table C19).

Marital Status

During 2019, 12,883 (36.4%) of the 35,395 resident live births in Kansas were to unmarried mothers. There were 7,171 (29.4%) births to unmarried White non-Hispanic mothers; 1,676 (69.3%) to unmarried Black non-Hispanic mothers; and 3,209 (52.9%) to unmarried Hispanic mothers (Table C22).

The percentage of births to unmarried mothers in Kansas in 2019 remained unchanged from 36.4 percent in 2018. However, the 2019 percentage rate was 25.5 percent higher than the 2000 rate of 29.0 percent of births to unmarried mothers (Figure C7).

Delivery Method

Vaginal delivery was the most common final route of delivery for most Kansas resident live births in 2019 (24,890 live births, or 70.3% of all live births for which the final route of delivery was known). Most vaginal deliveries were “spontaneous,” meaning no mechanical procedures like forceps or vacuum extraction were required (23,922 deliveries, or 67.6% of live births for which the final route was stated). Other vaginal deliveries (forceps assisted or vacuum extraction) accounted for 968 live births (2.7%). Cesarean deliveries accounted for 10,504 live births (29.7%). White non-Hispanic mothers delivered via cesarean section in 7,355 live births (30.1%), Black non-Hispanic mothers in 779 live births (32.2%), and Hispanic mothers in 1,626 live births (26.8%). There was one delivery for which the final route of delivery was not recorded (Table C9).

Tobacco Use

Tobacco use at any time during pregnancy was reported for 2,994 births in 2019, amounting to 8.5 percent of births for which tobacco usage was reported. Tobacco use was known for 35,280 of the 35,395 births (99.7%) in 2019.

Reported tobacco usage was highest in the three months immediately prior to pregnancy (3,607, or 10.2%) and decreased gradually with each trimester: to 2,944, or 8.3 percent in the first trimester; then to 2,618, or 7.4 percent in the second trimester; and finally to 2,514, or 7.1 percent in the third trimester (Table C17).

Teen Pregnancy

It is important to look at all reported pregnancies to analyze fertility. The number of pregnancies is the sum of live births, reported stillbirths, and reported induced abortions. The total number of pregnancies for mothers under 20 years of age in 2019 was 2,236, down 3.8 percent from 2,324 pregnancies in 2018. The pregnancy rate for mothers under 20 years of age in 2019 was 11.5 pregnancies per 1,000 female age-group population, a decline of 3.4 percent from a rate of 11.9 pregnancies per 1,000 female age-group population in 2018. This was the lowest pregnancy rate for this age-group in the past twenty years (2000–2019), down from a peak of 30.3 pregnancies per 1,000 female age-group population in 2000 (Table C23, Figure C8).

The pregnancy rate for females aged 15-17 years in 2019 was 8.7 per 1,000 female age-group population. This surpasses the Healthy People 2020 target (FP 8.1) of 36.2 pregnancies per 1,000 adolescent females aged 15 to 17 years by 2020.

The pregnancy rate for females aged 18-19 years in 2019 was 43.9 per 1,000 female age-group population. This surpasses the Healthy People 2020 target (FP 8.2) of 105.9 pregnancies per 1,000 females ages 18-19 years by 2020.

The birth rate for females aged 15-19 years in 2019 was 19.2 per 1,000 female age group population (Table C25).