



BEPHI Data Brief

Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics

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Prematurity in Kansas Births 2017

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.

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%) [1].

Kansas Highlights

In 2017, there were 36,464 live births. Twenty births did not have gestation reported. Births with gestation less than 37 weeks totaled 3,492. This amounts to 9.6 percent of all babies born or almost one out of every 10 births [2].

In Kansas, there were 217 infant deaths in 2017. This is about four (4.2) 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-Hispanics at 14.3 percent in 2017. The White Non-Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander population group were the lowest at 9.1 percent [Table 1].

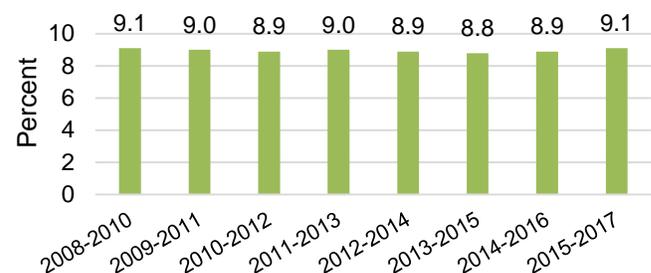
Table 1. Resident Preterm Birth Rates, Kansas.

Population Group	Total Births	Preterm Births	Percent
White non-Hispanic	25,431	2,320	9.1
Black non-Hispanic	2,463	352	14.3
Native American non-Hispanic	168	19	11.3
Asian/Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	1,255	114	9.1
Other non-Hispanic	1,177	132	11.2
Hispanic any Race	5,945	554	9.3

Trends

- In Kansas, the percentage change in preterm births was 2.2 percent higher on average in 2015-2017 (9.1%) compared to 2014-2016 (8.9%).
- 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 Averages, Kansas, 2008-2010 through 2015-2017.

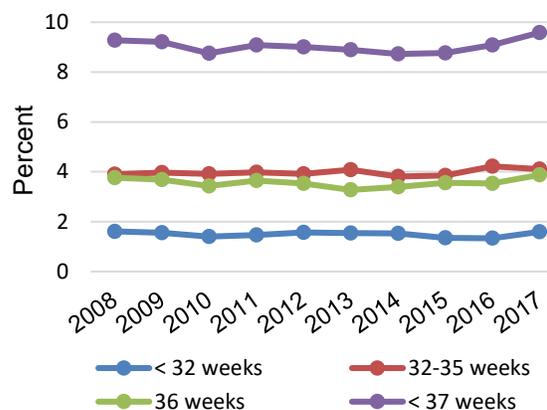


More Kansas Health Statistics and Publications

- 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/>.

- The percentage of all preterm births has been stable across 2007-2017, i.e., no increasing or decreasing trends [Figure 2].
- Births occurring at less than 32 weeks have the lowest percentage across all years followed by births at 36 weeks.
- The percentage of infants born at 32-35 weeks gestation was slightly higher than for those born at 36 weeks.

Figure 2. Percent of Resident Preterm Births by Gestational Age Group and Year, Kansas 2008-2017



State and National Comparison

The national prematurity rate was higher (9.9%) than the Kansas rate of 9.6 percent in 2017 [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.org> 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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- (1) 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.
- (2) Annual Summary of Vital Statistics, 2013-2017. Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Epidemiology and public Health Informatics.
- (3) Preterm birth rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics, 2017 final natality data. Grades assigned by March of Dimes Perinatal Data Center. <https://www.marchofdimes.org/mission/prematurity-reportcard-tv.aspx>.