

BIRTHS



"The Embrace"
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In 2007...

- Alaskan mothers gave birth to 11,054 babies.
- August had the most births (1,001), while February had the fewest births (816).
- The median age of mothers was 26 years old and the median age of fathers was 29.
- The youngest mother was 13 years old, while the youngest father was 15 years old.
- The oldest mother was 53 years old and the oldest father was 72 years old.
- Isabella was the most popular girl's name and Aiden was the most popular boy's name.

Birth Summary

For the sixth consecutive year, the number of births to Alaskan mothers has risen. The overall level has risen 11.4 percent since 1998. Births to Native and white mothers continue to comprise the majority of Alaska's births.

Crude birth rates measure how many births occur per 1,000 population. Crude rates have increased 5.8 percent from their 10-year low of 15.5 in 2002.

Fertility rates measure how many births occur per 1,000 female population between the ages 15 and 44. As this measure only takes into account the portion of the population that typically bears children, fertility rates are a more meaningful measure of birth patterns. The overall fertility rate of Alaskan mothers has increased 9.9 percent since 1998.

Table 1: Number of Births by Race (1998-2007)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asian/PI	480	457	633	634	686	701	755	760	871	845
Black	395	429	462	439	427	393	384	407	427	451
Native	2,410	2,427	2,454	2,496	2,399	2,460	2,577	2,704	2,699	2,775
White	6,603	6,475	6,299	6,312	6,270	6,385	6,480	6,430	6,786	6,744
Total	9,926	9,962	9,978	10,005	9,946	10,086	10,336	10,452	10,997	11,054

Table 2: Crude Birth Rates by Race (1998-2007)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asian/PI	16.0	14.8	18.1	18.6	19.9	20.3	21.7	20.7	23.4	22.5
Black	14.4	15.5	18.1	16.7	16.0	15.1	15.0	13.9	14.4	15.1
Native	23.3	23.2	22.1	22.6	21.5	21.6	22.3	23.0	22.6	22.8
White	14.5	14.1	13.8	13.7	13.4	13.5	13.5	13.4	14.0	13.9
Total	16.1	16.0	15.9	15.8	15.5	15.6	15.7	15.8	16.4	16.4

Table 3: Fertility Rates by Race (1998-2007)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asian/PI	66.7	62.4	74.1	75.9	83.0	87.4	96.0	92.5	106.9	106.2
Black	60.1	65.0	76.6	72.9	71.0	67.2	67.8	62.1	63.9	67.0
Native	104.7	104.3	98.5	101.3	97.0	97.5	100.6	103.9	103.1	104.8
White	64.7	64.2	61.7	62.2	61.7	63.1	63.6	64.0	67.7	67.7
Total	71.4	72.1	70.5	71.2	70.8	71.8	73.3	74.0	77.9	78.5

Births by Age Group

Fertility rates by age group or age-specific fertility rates vary substantially. Alaskan mothers between the ages of 20 and 29 continue to have the highest fertility rates by age group.

While total numbers have remained steady, teen (15-19) birth rates have declined 16.9 percent since 1998.

As the two predominant races in Alaska, births to Native and white teens comprise most of these teen births. In 2007, white teen mothers gave birth more frequently than any other race of teen mothers.

Despite their decline, Native teen birth rates still remain approximately three times higher than white teen birth rates. In 2007, for every 1,000 Native teen females, about 74 of them gave birth.

Table 4: Age-Specific Fertility Rates (1998-2007)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
15-19	48.4	47.8	49.2	42.7	41.7	40.7	41.0	39.1	41.0	41.4
20-24	156.8	156.2	144.6	150.3	150.4	148.6	148.3	143.1	146.3	145.8
25-29	151.5	158.9	130.3	132.3	130.3	132.0	134.4	142.5	149.9	154.1
30-34	91.3	89.7	91.0	92.5	91.6	92.1	94.0	92.5	95.4	94.3
35-39	36.8	39.6	39.1	43.6	41.8	43.8	46.4	45.2	49.8	45.2
40-44	8.9	8.7	9.7	9.6	10.5	10.8	9.4	11.4	10.5	10.7
Total	71.4	72.1	70.5	71.2	70.8	71.8	73.3	74.0	77.9	78.5

Table 5: Teen (15-19) Birth Numbers by Race (1998-2007)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asian/PI	46	51	60	56	60	60	73	80	90	81
Black	53	71	84	64	56	57	41	50	61	70
Native	413	422	444	449	416	414	448	429	470	454
White	587	558	561	478	515	506	503	471	467	484
Total	1,102	1,122	1,159	1,055	1,066	1,049	1,074	1,038	1,102	1,116

Table 6: Teen (15-19) Birth Rates by Race (1998-2007)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asian/PI	47.5	49.1	44.1	37.0	39.5	39.9	47.7	49.6	55.1	50.5
Black	50.4	65.7	83.6	62.3	53.5	55.9	40.2	43.0	51.3	57.7
Native	85.6	83.3	86.6	85.5	76.5	74.0	77.3	72.0	77.2	73.7
White	36.9	34.3	34.9	28.2	29.3	28.7	28.2	26.4	26.0	27.0
Total	48.4	47.8	49.2	42.7	41.7	40.7	41.0	39.1	41.0	41.4

Medical Services Utilization

In 2007, the overall level of mothers receiving first trimester care increased from 79.0 to 77.7. Native and Asian/Pacific Islanders remain less likely to initiate prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy.

The adequacy of prenatal care utilization (APNCU) index compares the number of prenatal visits with the expected number of visits for the period when

care began and the delivery date. Since 1998, this index in Alaska has declined 16.6 percent. Native mothers remain less likely to receive an adequate amount of prenatal care than any other race.

Like the national trends, c-sections rates within Alaska continue to rise. Since 1998, these rates have risen 52.7 percent. White mothers are twice as likely to have a c-section birth than Native mothers.

Table 7: First Trimester Prenatal Care by Race (1998-2007)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asian/PI	77.3	72.6	72.7	73.8	71.0	67.6	66.4	67.9	72.9	69.8
Black	81.3	83.2	78.4	78.4	78.7	74.6	77.9	78.1	82.0	77.6
Native	74.9	71.2	68.6	68.8	67.5	68.5	68.0	70.5	70.7	68.0
White	82.8	81.4	82.9	82.3	81.5	80.8	81.7	83.5	82.9	83.0
Total	80.5	78.4	78.1	77.9	76.9	76.3	76.7	78.6	79.0	77.7

Table 8: Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization (1998-2007)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asian/PI	65.2	60.4	57.3	54.3	52.5	51.4	50.5	56.1	51.3	51.8
Black	74.4	79.7	67.3	64.9	60.0	55.2	52.9	58.2	59.3	53.7
Native	48.3	46.9	49.4	47.7	43.9	45.9	39.7	46.0	43.9	38.9
White	73.2	74.6	70.6	66.8	64.4	64.0	63.2	66.2	63.6	63.3
Total	66.7	67.1	63.9	60.9	58.1	58.1	55.8	59.7	57.6	55.6

Table 9: C-Section Rates by Race (1998-2007)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asian/PI	17.3	14.9	18.5	20.7	23.6	25.8	19.9	27.9	25.1	23.7
Black	18.2	16.3	23.2	22.3	21.8	27.0	26.3	28.7	26.9	26.8
Native	8.9	9.2	10.3	11.5	11.1	11.6	12.8	11.7	12.6	11.3
White	16.5	16.8	19.0	21.2	21.8	24.3	24.0	25.0	26.5	26.7
Total	14.8	14.9	17.0	18.8	19.4	21.4	20.9	21.9	23.1	22.6

Infant Health Characteristics

A low birth weight birth is one in which the infant weighs less than 2500 grams (approximately 5.5 pounds). Since 1998, the overall percentage of low birth weight births has remained within a narrow band. In 2007, black mothers had the highest percentage at 11.1 percent.

more likely to carry their child to term than the other three races within Alaska. In 2007, Black mothers had the highest percent of preterm births.

A preterm birth is one in which the delivery occurs before 37 weeks of gestation. Since 1998, this rate has increased 3.0 percent. White mothers remain consistently

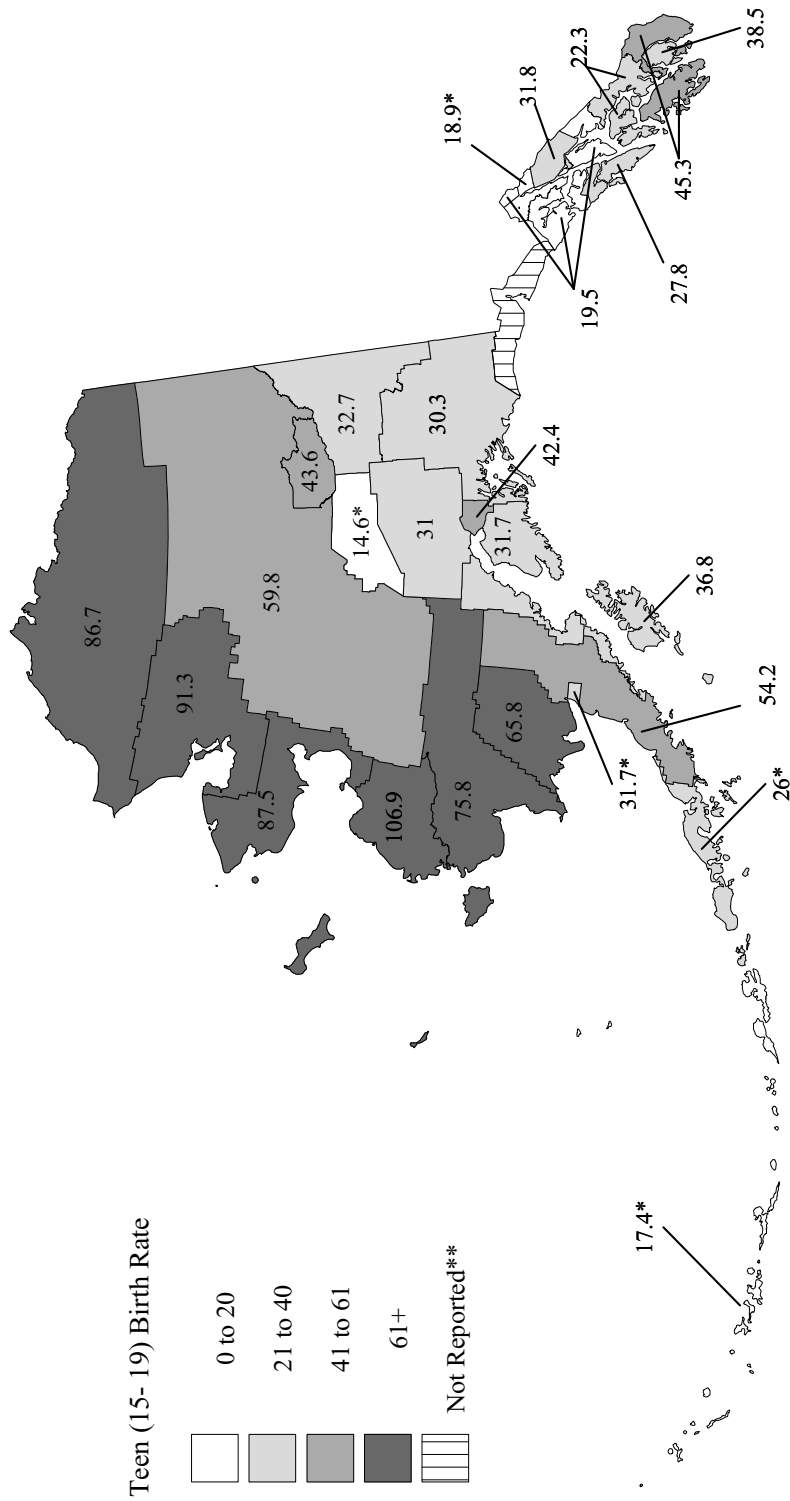
Table 10: Low Birth Weight Percentages by Race (1998-2007)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asian/PI	7.3	7.7	7.7	6.3	8.2	5.6	6.8	7.0	6.7	5.3
Black	10.4	10.3	11.5	10.9	11.0	9.4	10.4	14.3	9.1	11.1
Native	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.1	5.0	5.0	4.8
White	5.6	5.2	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.7
Total	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.6

Table 11: Preterm Birth Percentages by Race (1998-2007)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asian/PI	9.4	14.7	10.0	10.4	12.1	11.1	10.9	11.8	13.0	12.3
Black	11.1	14.2	16.2	15.5	12.9	16.3	14.1	15.2	12.6	14.0
Native	13.9	12.4	11.9	13.3	12.5	12.4	11.6	11.9	12.0	11.7
White	8.7	9.6	9.0	8.4	8.2	10.0	9.7	9.7	10.4	9.4
Total	10.1	10.8	10.1	10.1	9.8	11.0	10.5	10.7	11.2	10.4

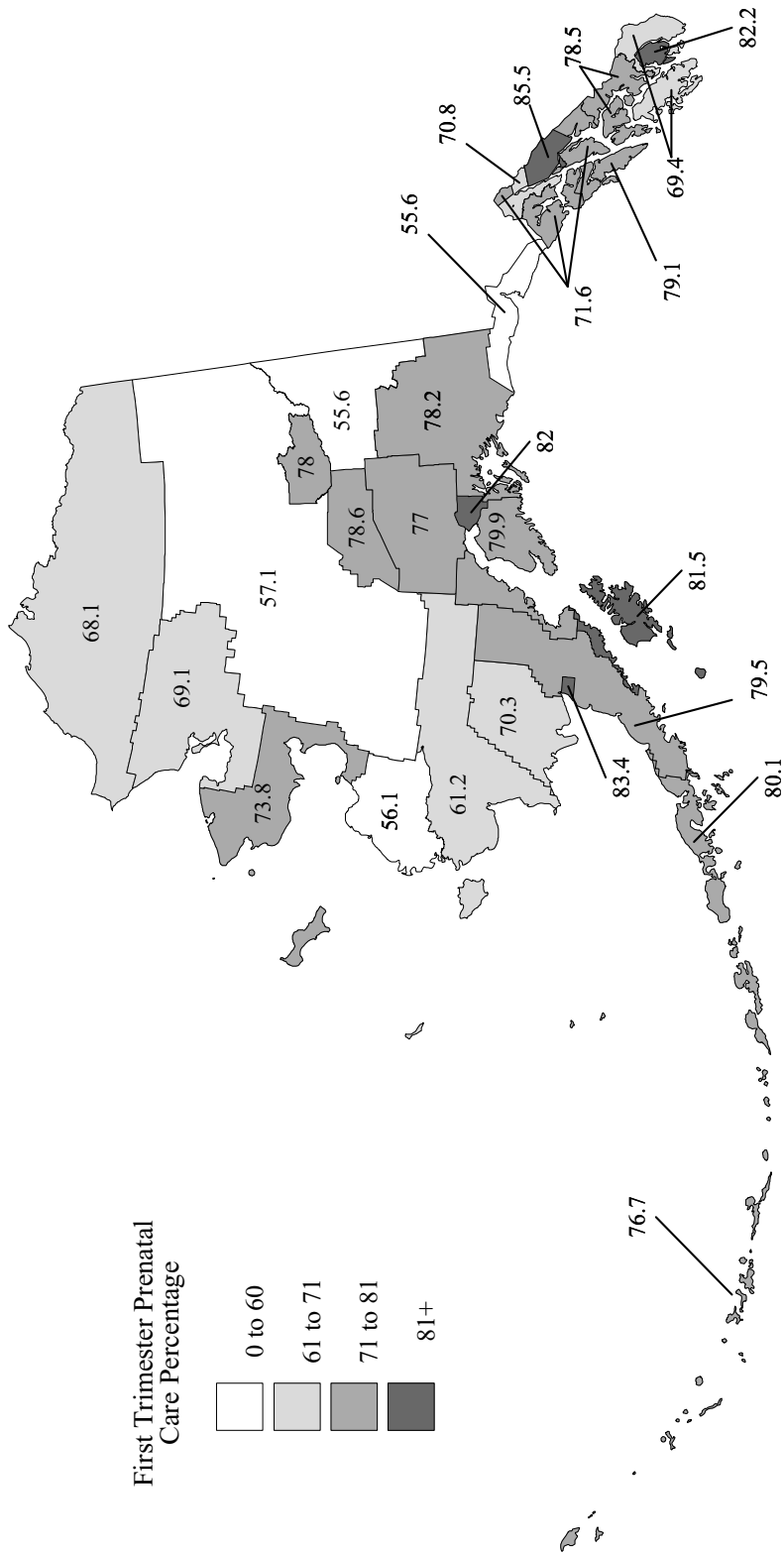
Teen (15- 19) Birth Rates by Census Area or Borough 1998- 2007



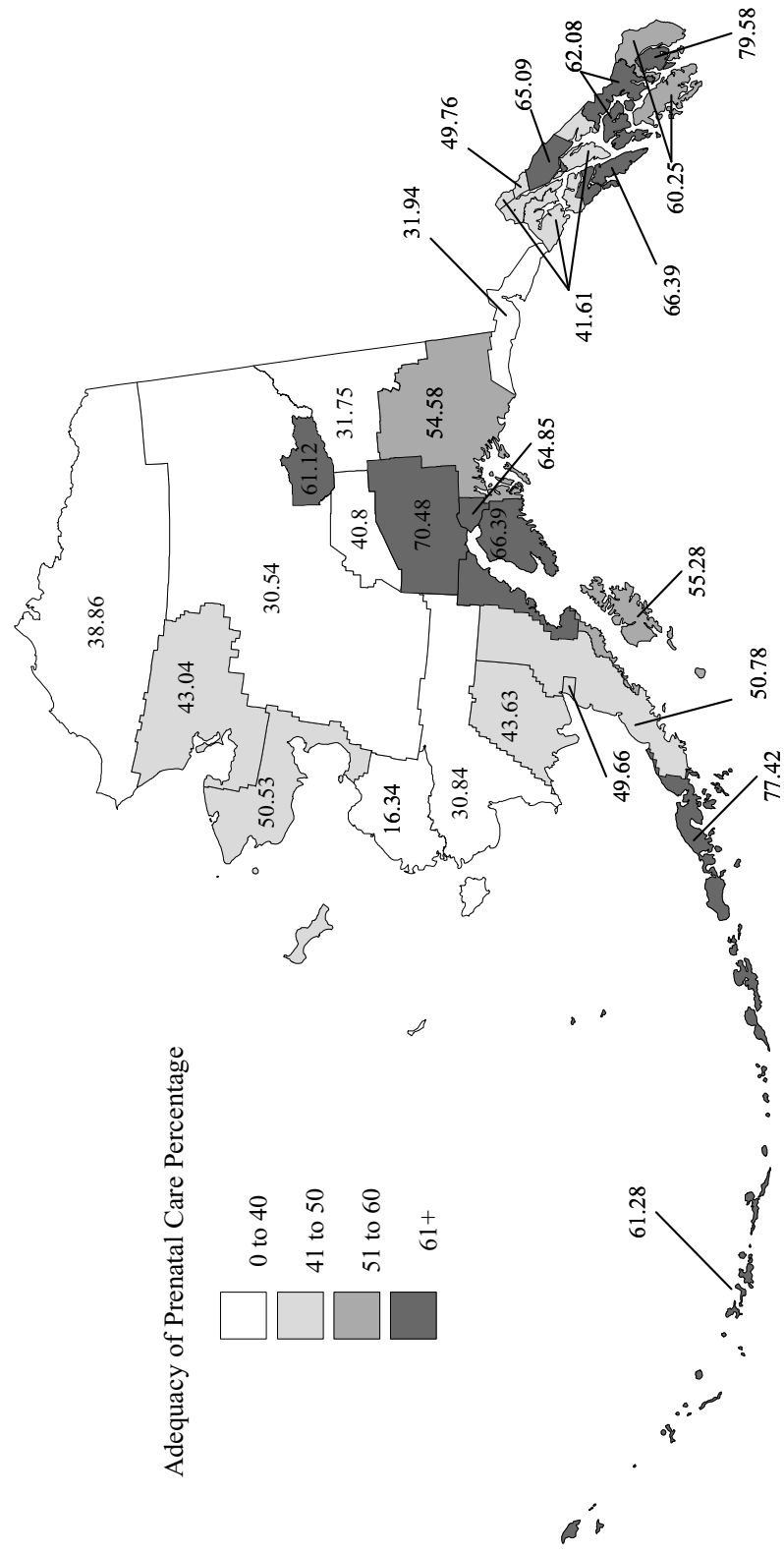
*Rates based on fewer than 20 occurrences are statistically unreliable and should be used with caution.

**Rates based on fewer than 6 occurrences are not reported.

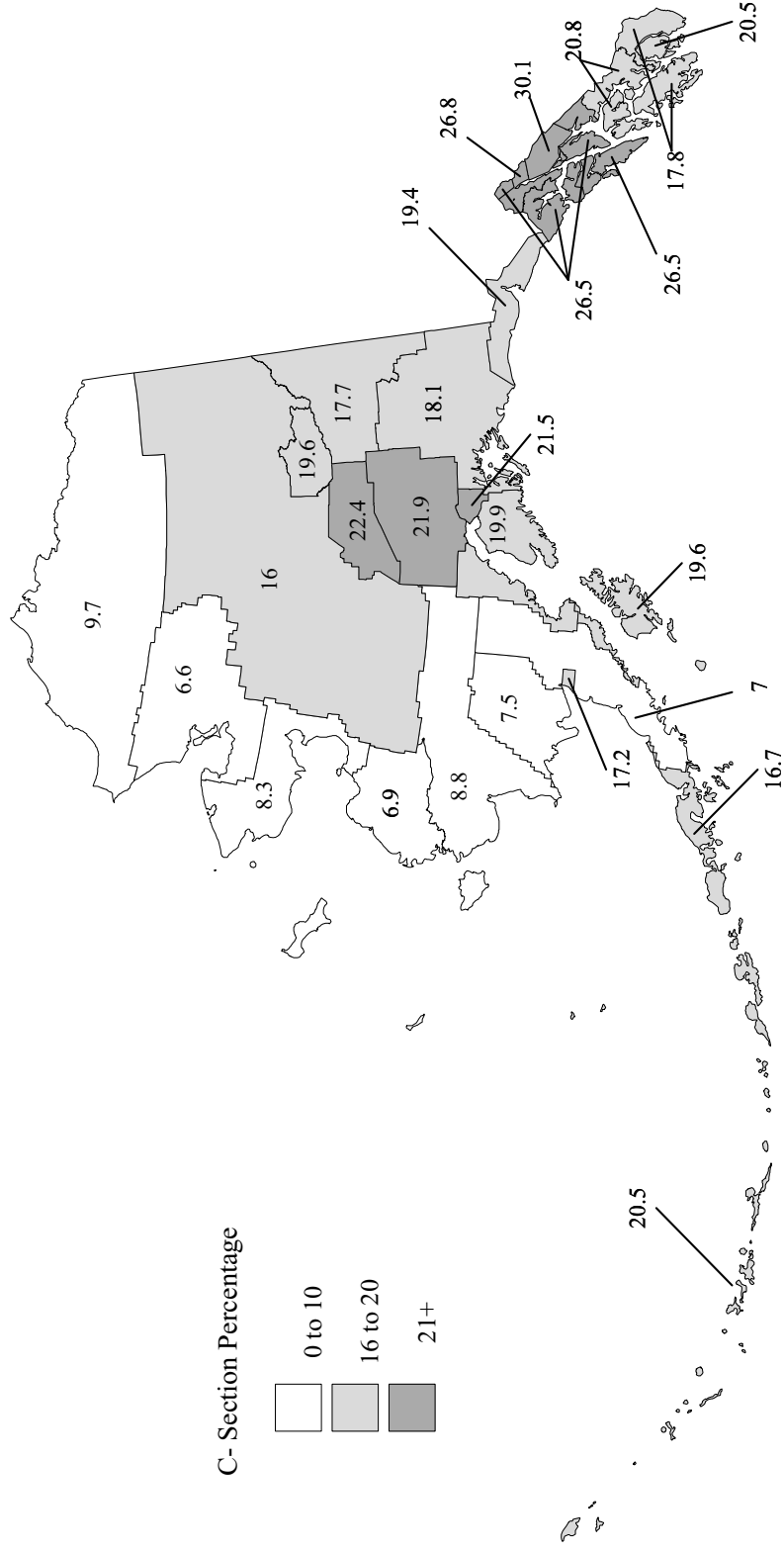
First Trimester Prenatal Care by Census Area or Borough 1998-2007



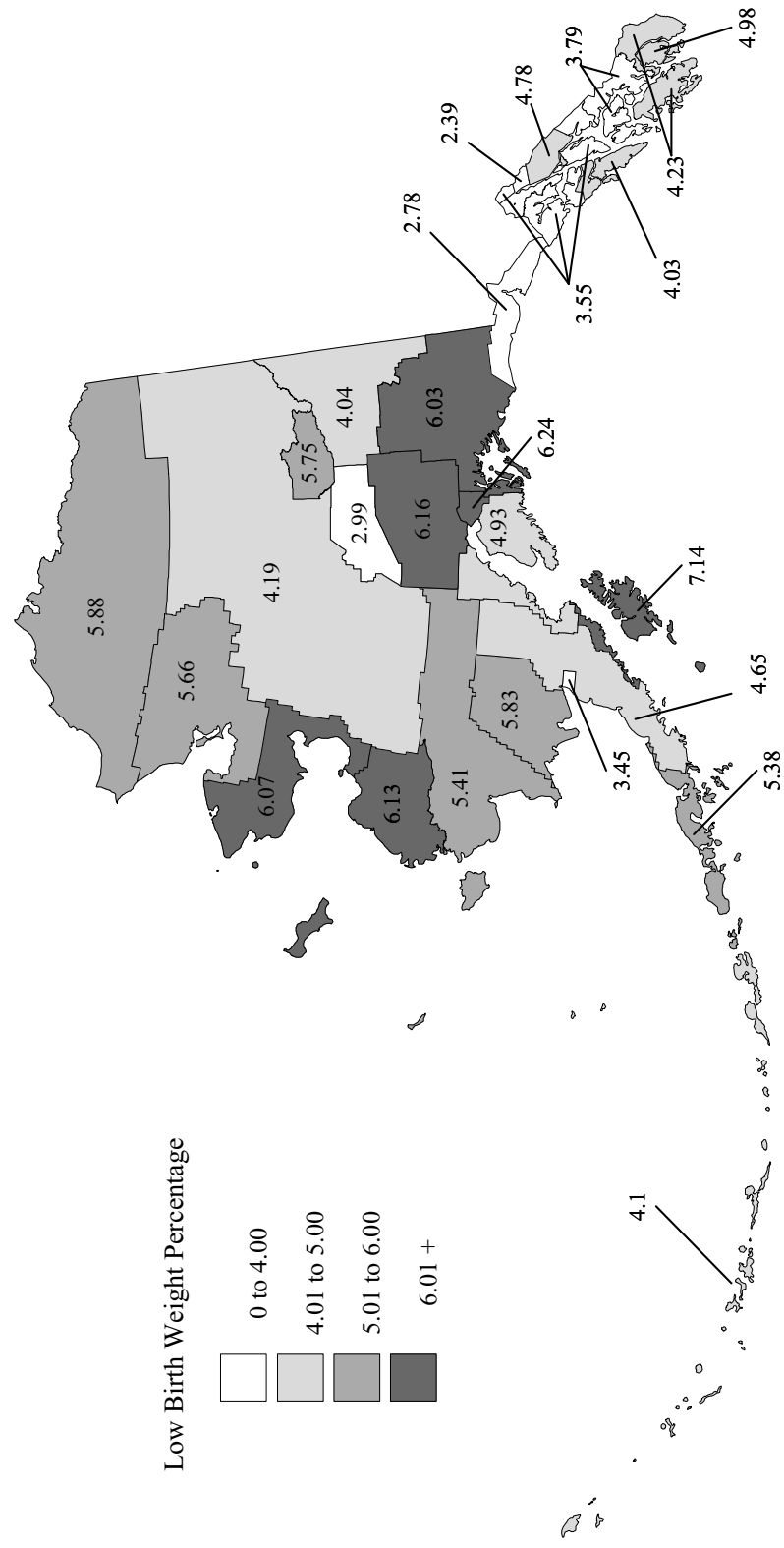
Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization by Census Area or Borough 1998- 2007



C- Section Percentages by Census Area or Borough 1998- 2007



Low Birth Weight Percentages by Census Area or Borough 1998-2007



Preterm Birth Percentages by Census Area or Borough 1998-2007

