

# BIRTHS



*"The Embrace"*  
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## In 2008...

- Alaskan mothers gave birth to 11,437 babies.
- July had the most births (1,016), while November had the fewest births (864).
- The median age of mothers was 26 years old and the median age of fathers was 29.
- The youngest mother was 12 years old, while the youngest father was 14 years old.
- The oldest mother was 61 years old and the oldest father was 74 years old.
- Emma was the most popular girl's name and James 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 14.8 percent since 1999. 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 8.3 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 12.9 percent since 1999.

**Table 1: Number of Births by Race (1999-2008)**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Asian/PI	457	633	634	686	701	755	760	871	845	941
Black	429	462	439	427	393	384	407	427	451	423
Native	2,427	2,454	2,496	2,399	2,460	2,577	2,704	2,699	2,775	2,890
White	6,475	6,299	6,312	6,270	6,385	6,480	6,430	6,786	6,744	7,058
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>9,962</b>	<b>9,978</b>	<b>10,005</b>	<b>9,946</b>	<b>10,086</b>	<b>10,336</b>	<b>10,452</b>	<b>10,997</b>	<b>11,054</b>	<b>11,437</b>

**Table 2: Crude Birth Rates by Race (1999-2008)**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Asian/PI	14.8	18.1	18.6	19.9	20.3	21.7	20.7	23.4	22.5	24.8
Black	15.5	18.1	16.7	16.0	15.1	15.0	13.9	14.4	15.1	13.9
Native	23.2	22.1	22.6	21.5	21.6	22.3	23.0	22.6	22.8	23.7
White	14.1	13.8	13.7	13.4	13.5	13.5	13.4	14.0	13.9	14.4
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>16.8</b>

**Table 3: Fertility Rates by Race (1999-2008)**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Asian/PI	62.4	74.1	75.9	83.0	87.4	96.0	92.5	106.9	106.2	120.6
Black	65.0	76.6	72.9	71.0	67.2	67.8	62.1	63.9	67.0	61.8
Native	104.3	98.5	101.3	97.0	97.5	100.5	103.9	103.1	104.8	110.2
White	64.2	61.7	62.2	61.7	63.1	63.6	64.0	67.7	67.7	70.9
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>71.2</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>81.4</b>

## 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 11.4 percent since 1999.

As the two predominant races in Alaska, births to Native and white teens comprise most of these teen births. In 2008, Native teen mothers gave birth more frequently than any other race of teen mothers.

Native teen birth rates remain approximately three times higher than white teen birth rates. In 2008, for every 1,000 Native teen females, about 83 of them gave birth.

**Table 4: Age-Specific Fertility Rates (1999-2008)**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
15-19	47.8	49.2	42.7	41.7	40.7	41.0	39.1	41.0	41.4	42.3
20-24	156.2	144.6	150.3	150.4	148.5	148.3	143.0	146.2	145.8	146.9
25-29	158.9	130.2	132.3	130.3	132.0	134.4	142.5	149.8	154.1	158.0
30-34	89.7	91.0	92.5	91.6	92.1	94.0	92.5	95.4	94.3	98.2
35-39	39.6	39.1	43.6	41.8	43.8	46.3	45.2	49.8	45.2	46.6
40-44	8.7	9.7	9.6	10.5	10.8	9.4	11.4	10.6	10.7	11.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>71.2</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>81.4</b>

**Table 5: Teen (15-19) Birth Numbers by Race (1999-2008)**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Asian/PI	51	60	56	60	60	73	80	90	81	84
Black	71	84	64	56	57	41	50	61	70	53
Native	422	444	449	416	414	448	429	470	453	500
White	558	561	478	515	506	503	471	467	484	487
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>1,049</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>1,134</b>

**Table 6: Teen (15-19) Birth Rates by Race (1999-2008)**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Asian/PI	49.1	44.1	37.0	39.5	39.9	47.7	49.6	55.1	50.5	52.8
Black	65.7	83.6	62.3	53.5	55.9	40.2	43.0	51.3	57.7	42.2
Native	83.3	86.6	85.5	76.5	74.0	77.3	72.0	77.2	73.5	82.8
White	34.3	34.9	28.2	29.3	28.7	28.2	26.4	26.0	27.0	27.2
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>42.3</b>

## Medical Services Utilization

In 2008, the overall level of mothers receiving first trimester care decreased from 77.7 to 76.2. 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 1999, this index in Alaska has declined 29.1 percent. Native and Asian/PI mothers remain the least likely to receive an adequate amount of prenatal care.

Like the national trends, c-sections rates within Alaska continue to rise. Since 1999, these rates have risen 34.2 percent. White mothers are twice as likely to have a c-section birth than Native mothers.

**Table 7: First Trimester Prenatal Care by Race (1999-2008)**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Asian/PI	72.6	72.7	73.8	71.0	67.6	66.4	67.9	72.9	69.8	65.7
Black	83.2	78.4	78.4	78.7	74.6	77.9	78.1	82.0	77.6	73.3
Native	71.2	68.6	68.8	67.5	68.5	68.0	70.5	70.7	68.0	66.1
White	81.4	82.9	82.3	81.5	80.8	81.7	83.5	82.9	83.0	82.0
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>76.9</b>	<b>76.3</b>	<b>76.7</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>79.0</b>	<b>77.7</b>	<b>76.2</b>

**Table 8: Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization (1999-2008)**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Asian/PI	60.4	57.3	54.3	52.5	51.4	50.5	56.1	51.3	51.8	46.5
Black	79.7	67.3	64.9	60.0	55.2	52.9	58.2	59.3	53.7	44.0
Native	46.9	49.4	47.7	43.9	45.9	39.7	46.0	43.9	38.9	39.0
White	74.6	70.6	66.8	64.4	64.0	63.2	66.2	63.6	63.3	58.5
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>59.7</b>	<b>57.6</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>52.0</b>

**Table 9: C-Section Rates by Race (1999-2008)**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Asian/PI	14.9	18.5	20.7	23.6	25.8	19.9	27.9	25.1	23.7	28.8
Black	16.3	23.2	22.3	21.8	27.0	26.3	28.7	26.9	26.8	27.9
Native	9.2	10.3	11.5	11.1	11.6	12.8	11.7	12.6	11.3	13.0
White	16.8	19.0	21.2	21.8	24.3	24.0	25.0	26.5	26.7	25.3
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>22.6</b>

## Infant Health Characteristics

A low birth weight birth is one in which the infant weighs less than 2500 grams (approximately 5.5 pounds). Since 1999, the overall percentage of low birth weight births has remained within a narrow band. In 2008, black mothers had the highest percentage at 11.8 percent.

consistently more likely to carry their child to term than the other three races within Alaska. In 2008, 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 1999, this rate has decreased 3.9 percent. White mothers remain

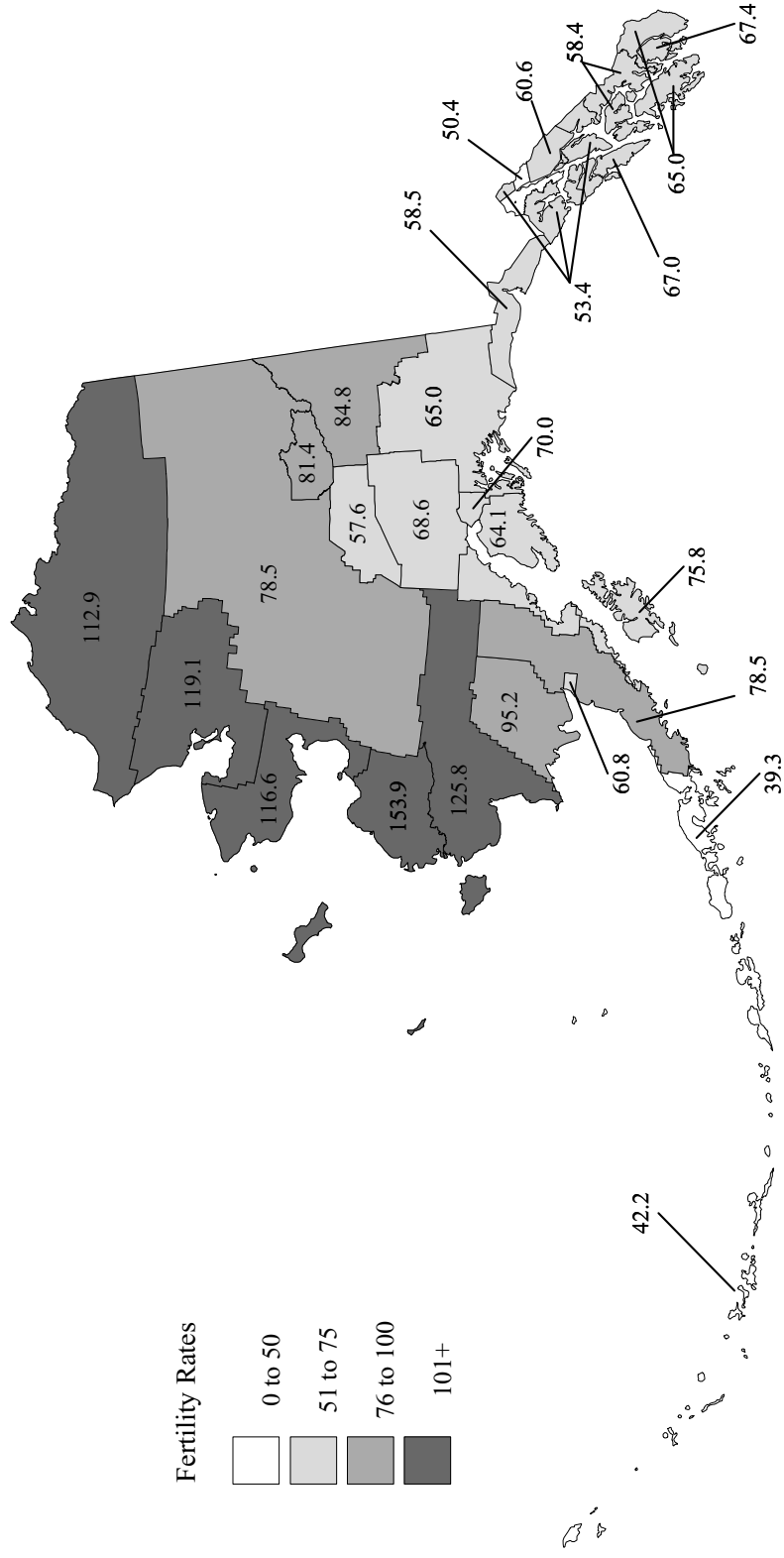
**Table 10: Low Birth Weight Percentages by Race (1999-2008)**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Asian/PI	7.7	7.7	6.3	8.2	5.6	6.8	7.0	6.7	5.3	6.7
Black	10.3	11.5	10.9	11.0	9.4	10.4	14.3	9.1	11.1	11.8
Native	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.1	5.0	5.0	4.8	6.6
White	5.2	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.3
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>

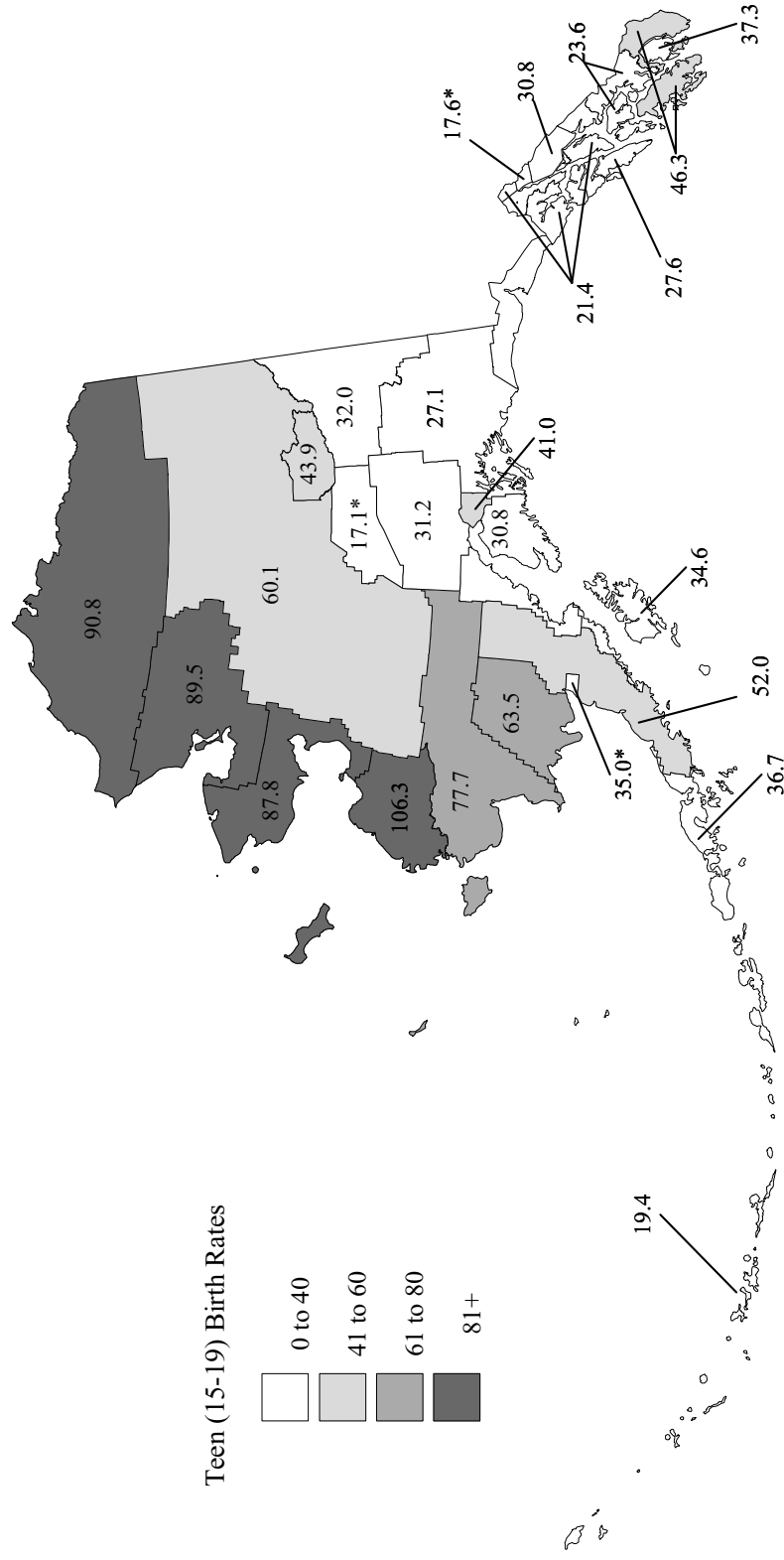
**Table 11: Preterm Birth Percentages by Race (1999-2008)**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Asian/PI	14.7	10.0	10.4	12.1	11.1	10.9	11.8	13.0	12.3	12.1
Black	14.2	16.2	15.5	12.9	16.3	14.1	15.2	12.6	14.0	13.7
Native	12.4	11.9	13.3	12.5	12.4	11.6	11.9	12.0	11.7	13.0
White	9.6	9.0	8.4	8.2	10.0	9.7	9.7	10.4	9.4	8.9
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>10.3</b>

### Fertility Rates by Census Area or Borough 1999-2008



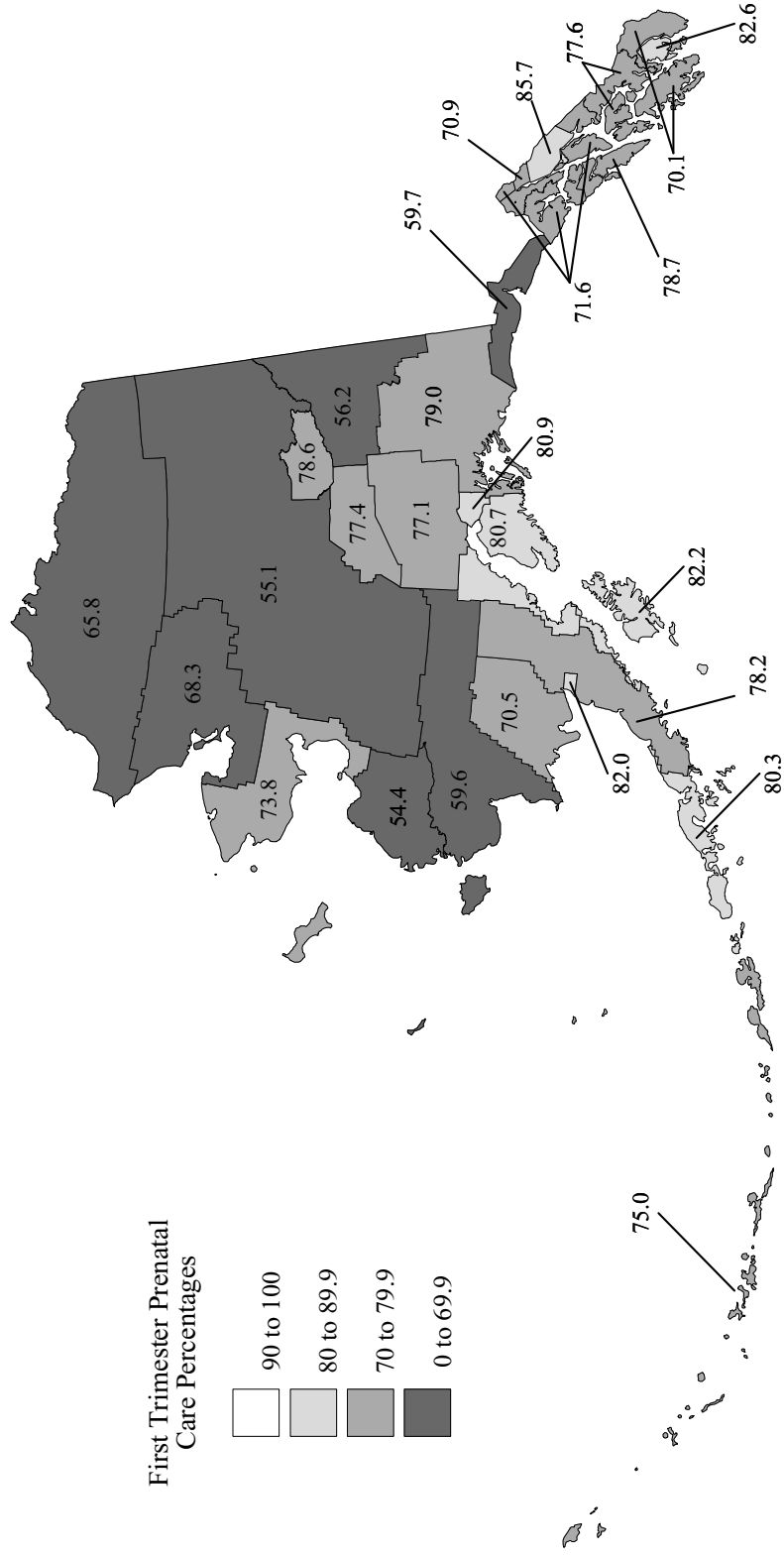
### Teen (15-19) Birth Rates by Census Area or Borough 1999-2008



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

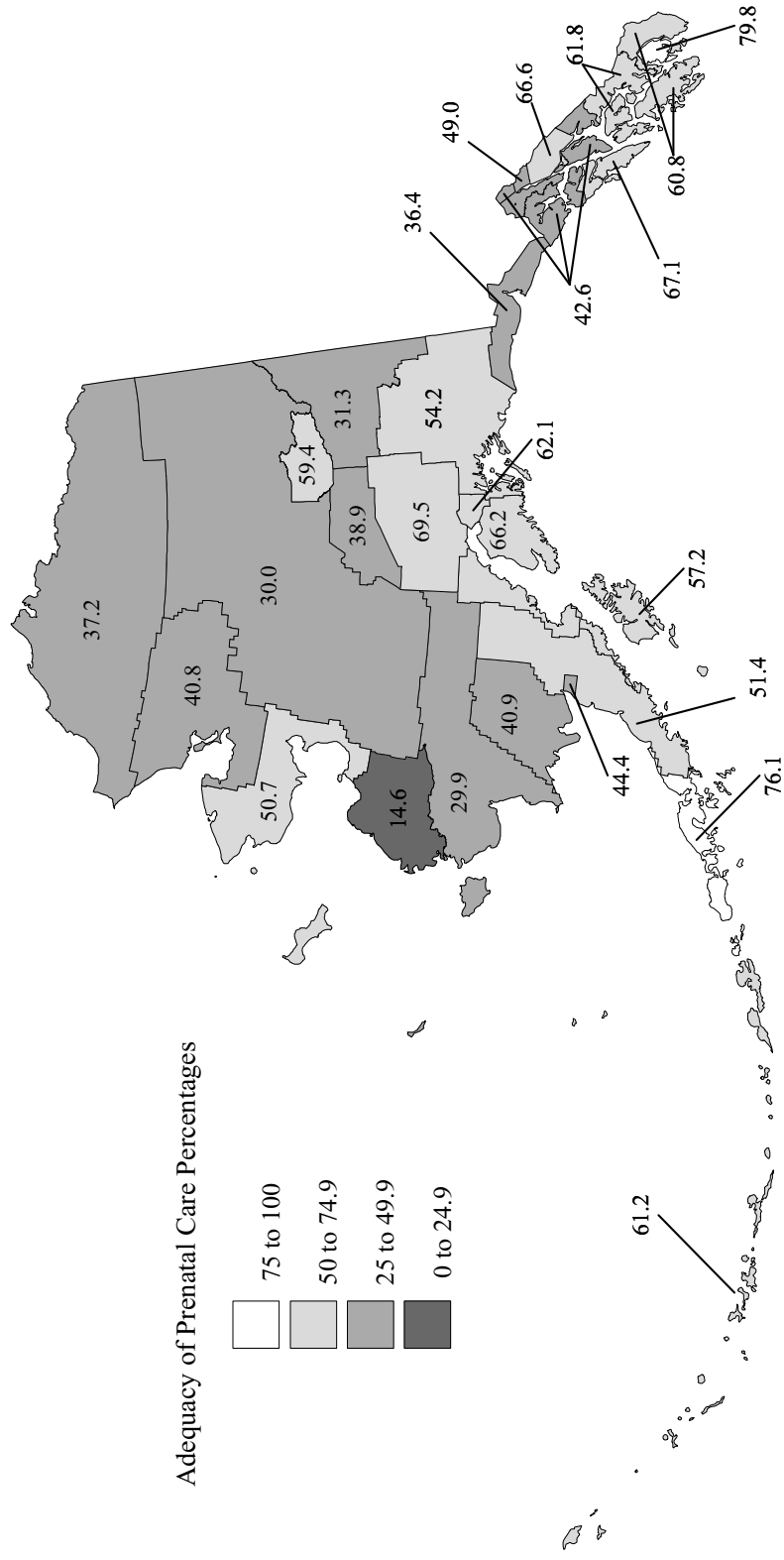
\*\*Rates based on fewer than 6 occurrences are not reported.

### First Trimester Prenatal Care by Census Area or Borough 1999-2008

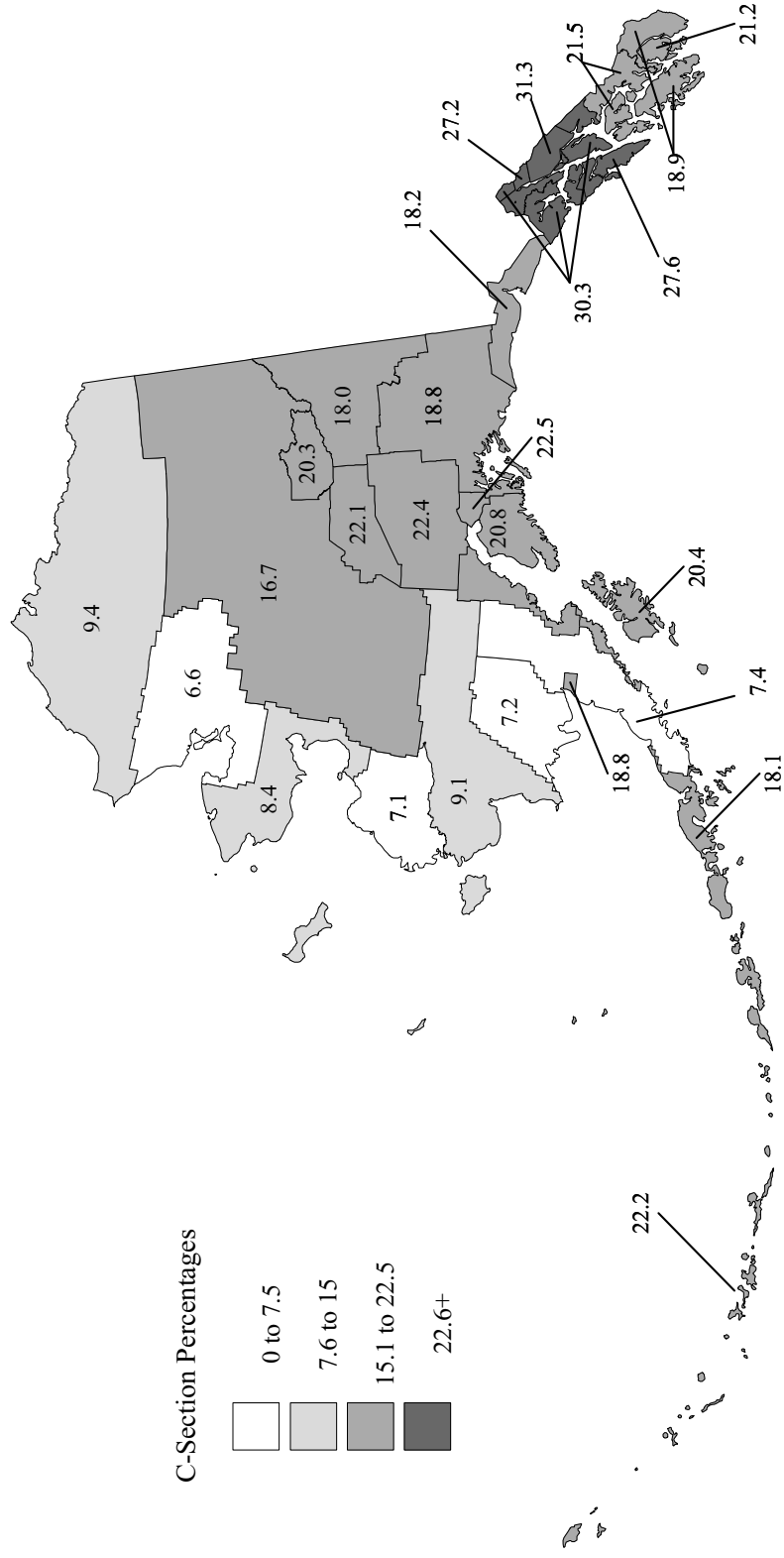




## Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization by Census Area or Borough 1999-2008



### C-Section Percentages by Census Area or Borough 1999-2008



### Low Birth Weight Percentages by Census Area or Borough 1999-2008

