

BIRTHS



"The Embrace"
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In 2006...

- Alaskan mothers gave birth to 10,997 babies.
- August had the most births (1,044), while January had the fewest births (821).
- The median age of mothers was 26 years old and the median age of fathers was 29.
- The youngest mother was 14 years old, while the youngest father was 15 years old.
- The oldest mother was 49 years old and the oldest father was 76 years old.
- Emma was the most popular girl's name and James was the most popular boy's name.

Birth Summary

For the fifth consecutive year, the number of births to Alaskan mothers has risen. The overall level has risen 10.4 percent since 1997. 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 8.8 percent since 1997.

Table 1: Births By Race (1997-2006)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Asian/PI	513	480	457	633	634	686	701	755	760	871
Black	455	395	429	462	439	427	393	384	407	427
Native	2,395	2,410	2,427	2,454	2,496	2,399	2,460	2,577	2,704	2,699
White	6,572	6,603	6,475	6,299	6,312	6,270	6,385	6,480	6,430	6,786
Total	9,963	9,926	9,962	9,978	10,005	9,946	10,086	10,336	10,452	10,997

Table 2: Crude Birth Rates By Race (1997-2006)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Asian/PI	74.8	66.7	62.4	74.1	75.8	83.0	87.4	95.9	92.2	106.6
Black	69.5	60.1	65.0	76.6	73.0	71.0	67.1	67.7	61.9	63.7
Native	105.4	104.7	104.3	98.5	101.3	96.9	97.4	100.5	103.7	102.9
White	63.6	64.7	64.2	61.7	62.2	61.7	63.0	63.6	64.0	67.7
Total	71.4	71.4	72.1	70.5	71.2	70.7	71.8	73.2	73.9	77.8

Table 3: Fertility Rates By Race (1997-2006)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Asian/PI	18.1	16.0	14.8	18.1	18.5	19.9	20.3	21.7	20.6	23.4
Black	16.8	14.4	15.5	18.1	16.7	16.0	15.1	15.0	13.9	14.4
Native	23.5	23.3	23.2	22.1	22.6	21.5	21.6	22.2	22.9	22.5
White	14.5	14.5	14.1	13.8	13.7	13.4	13.5	13.5	13.4	14.0
Total	16.3	16.1	16.0	15.9	15.8	15.5	15.6	15.7	15.7	16.4

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 18.7 percent since 1997.

As the two predominant races in Alaska, births to Native and white teens comprise most of these teen births. In 2006, Native 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 2006, for every 1,000 Native teen females, 77 of them gave birth.

Table 4: Age-Specific Fertility Rates (1997-2006)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
15-19	50.2	48.4	47.8	49.2	42.7	41.7	40.7	40.9	38.9	40.8
20-24	160.4	156.8	156.2	144.6	150.3	150.3	148.4	147.9	142.4	145.2
25-29	145.3	151.5	158.9	130.3	132.3	130.1	131.9	134.5	142.9	150.6
30-34	88.7	91.3	89.7	91.0	92.4	91.5	92.0	94.0	92.6	95.7
35-39	38.2	36.8	39.6	39.1	43.6	41.8	43.7	46.3	45.1	49.8
40-44	7.7	8.9	8.7	9.7	9.6	10.5	10.7	9.4	11.3	10.5
Total	71.4	71.4	72.1	70.5	71.2	70.7	71.8	73.2	73.9	77.8

Table 5: Teen (15-19) Birth Numbers by Race (1997-2006)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Asian/PI	58	46	51	60	56	60	60	73	80	90
Black	68	53	71	84	64	56	57	41	50	61
Native	379	413	422	444	449	416	414	449	429	470
White	593	587	558	561	478	515	506	503	471	467
Total	1,099	1,102	1,122	1,159	1,055	1,066	1,049	1,075	1,038	1,102

Table 6: Teen (15-19) Birth Rates By Race (1997-2006)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Asian/PI	63.7	47.5	49.1	44.1	37.0	39.5	39.9	47.7	49.5	55.1
Black	68.8	50.4	65.7	83.6	62.3	53.5	55.9	40.2	42.8	51.0
Native	83.5	85.6	83.3	86.6	85.4	76.4	73.9	77.5	71.9	77.2
White	38.4	36.9	34.3	34.9	28.2	29.3	28.6	28.1	26.3	25.8
Total	50.2	48.4	47.8	49.2	42.7	41.7	40.7	40.9	38.9	40.8

Medical Services Utilization

In 2006, the overall level of mothers receiving first trimester care increased from 78.6 to 79.0. 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 1997, this index in Alaska has declined 15.3 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 1997, these rates have risen 36.7 percent. White mothers are twice as likely to have a c-section birth than Native mothers.

Table 7: First Trimester Prenatal Care By Race (1997-2006)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Asian/PI	72.5	77.3	72.6	72.7	73.8	71.0	67.6	66.4	67.9	72.9
Black	80.2	81.3	83.2	78.4	78.4	78.7	74.6	77.9	78.1	82.0
Native	75.5	74.9	71.2	68.6	68.8	67.5	68.5	68.0	70.5	70.7
White	81.8	82.8	81.4	82.9	82.3	81.5	80.8	81.7	83.5	82.9
Total	79.6	80.5	78.4	78.1	77.9	76.9	76.3	76.7	78.6	79.0

Table 8: Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization (1997-2006)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Asian/PI	59.8	65.2	60.4	57.3	54.3	52.5	51.4	50.5	56.1	51.3
Black	74.7	74.4	79.7	67.3	64.9	60.0	55.2	52.9	58.2	59.3
Native	51.0	48.3	46.9	49.4	47.7	43.9	45.9	39.7	46.0	43.9
White	74.4	73.2	74.6	70.6	66.8	64.4	64.0	63.2	66.2	63.6
Total	67.9	66.7	67.1	63.9	60.9	58.1	58.1	55.8	59.7	57.6

Table 9: C-Section Rates By Race (1997-2006)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Asian/PI	18.9	17.3	14.9	18.5	20.7	23.6	25.8	19.9	27.9	25.1
Black	22.9	18.2	16.3	23.2	22.3	21.8	27.0	26.3	28.7	26.9
Native	8.2	8.9	9.2	10.3	11.5	11.1	11.6	12.8	11.7	12.6
White	19.5	16.5	16.8	19.0	21.2	21.8	24.3	24.0	25.0	26.5
Total	16.9	14.8	14.9	17.0	18.8	19.4	21.4	20.9	21.9	23.1

Infant Health Characteristics

A low birth weight birth is one in which the infant weighs less than 2500 grams (approximately 5.5 pounds). Since 1997, the overall percentage of low birth weight births has remained within a narrow band. In 2006, black mothers had the highest percentage at 9.1 percent.

likely to carry their child to term than the other three races within Alaska. In 2006, Asian/Pacific Islander mothers had the highest percent of preterm births.

A preterm birth is one in which the delivery occurs before 37 weeks of gestation. Since 1997, this rate has increased 9.7 percent. White mothers remain consistently more

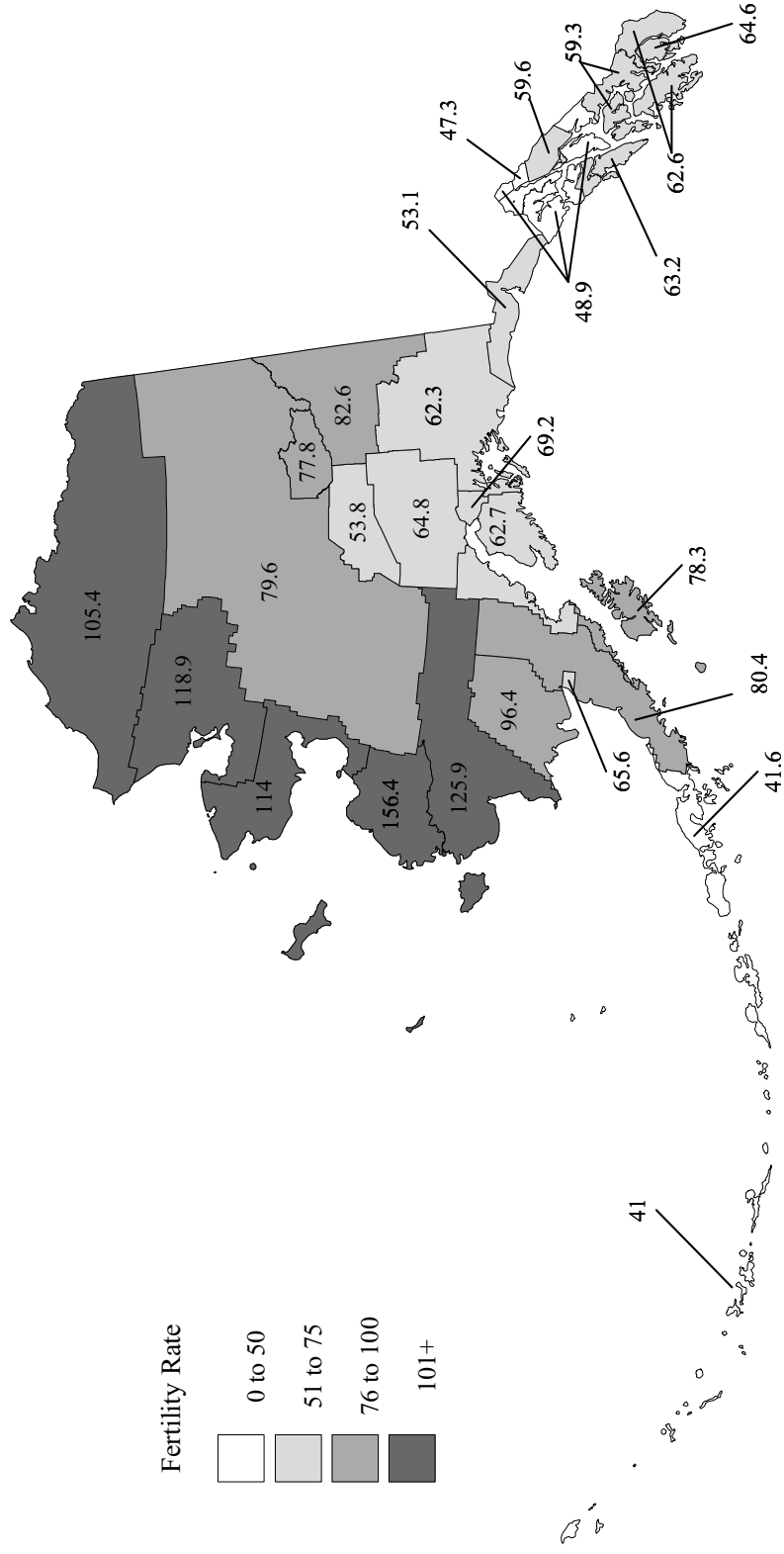
Table 10: Low Birth Weight Percentages By Race (1997-2006)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Asian/PI	6.4	7.3	7.7	7.7	6.3	8.2	5.6	6.8	7.0	6.7
Black	12.1	10.4	10.3	11.5	10.9	11.0	9.4	10.4	14.3	9.1
Native	5.8	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.1	5.0	5.0
White	5.4	5.6	5.2	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.9
Total	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.9

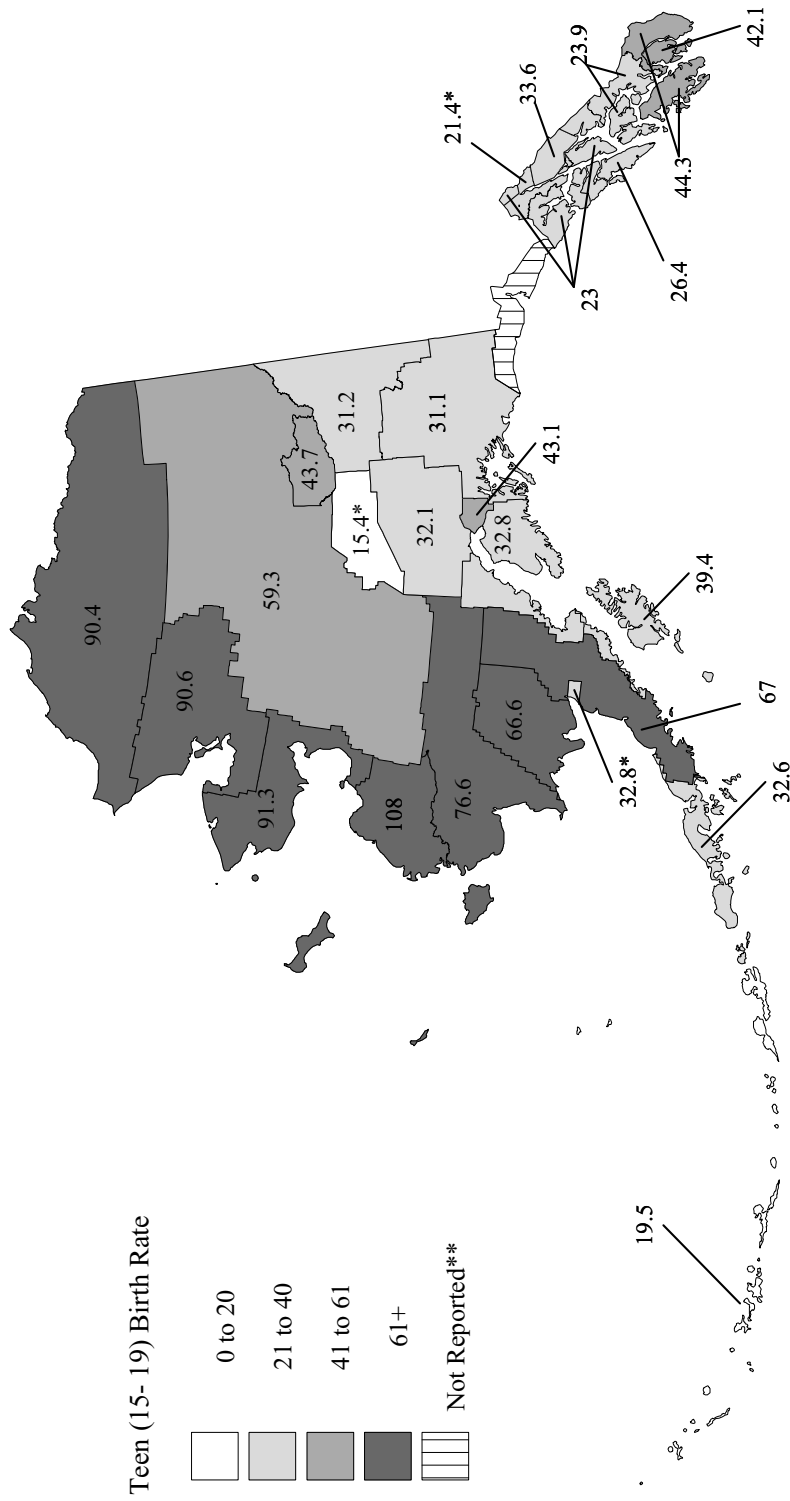
Table 11: Preterm Birth Percentages By Race (1997-2006)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Asian/PI	8.6	9.4	14.7	10.0	10.4	12.1	11.1	10.9	11.8	13.0
Black	15.8	11.1	14.2	16.2	15.5	12.9	16.3	14.1	15.2	12.6
Native	13.7	13.9	12.4	11.9	13.3	12.5	12.4	11.6	11.9	12.0
White	8.8	8.7	9.6	9.0	8.4	8.2	10.0	9.7	9.7	10.4
Total	10.2	10.1	10.8	10.1	10.1	9.8	11.0	10.5	10.7	11.2

Fertility Rates By Census Area 1997- 2006



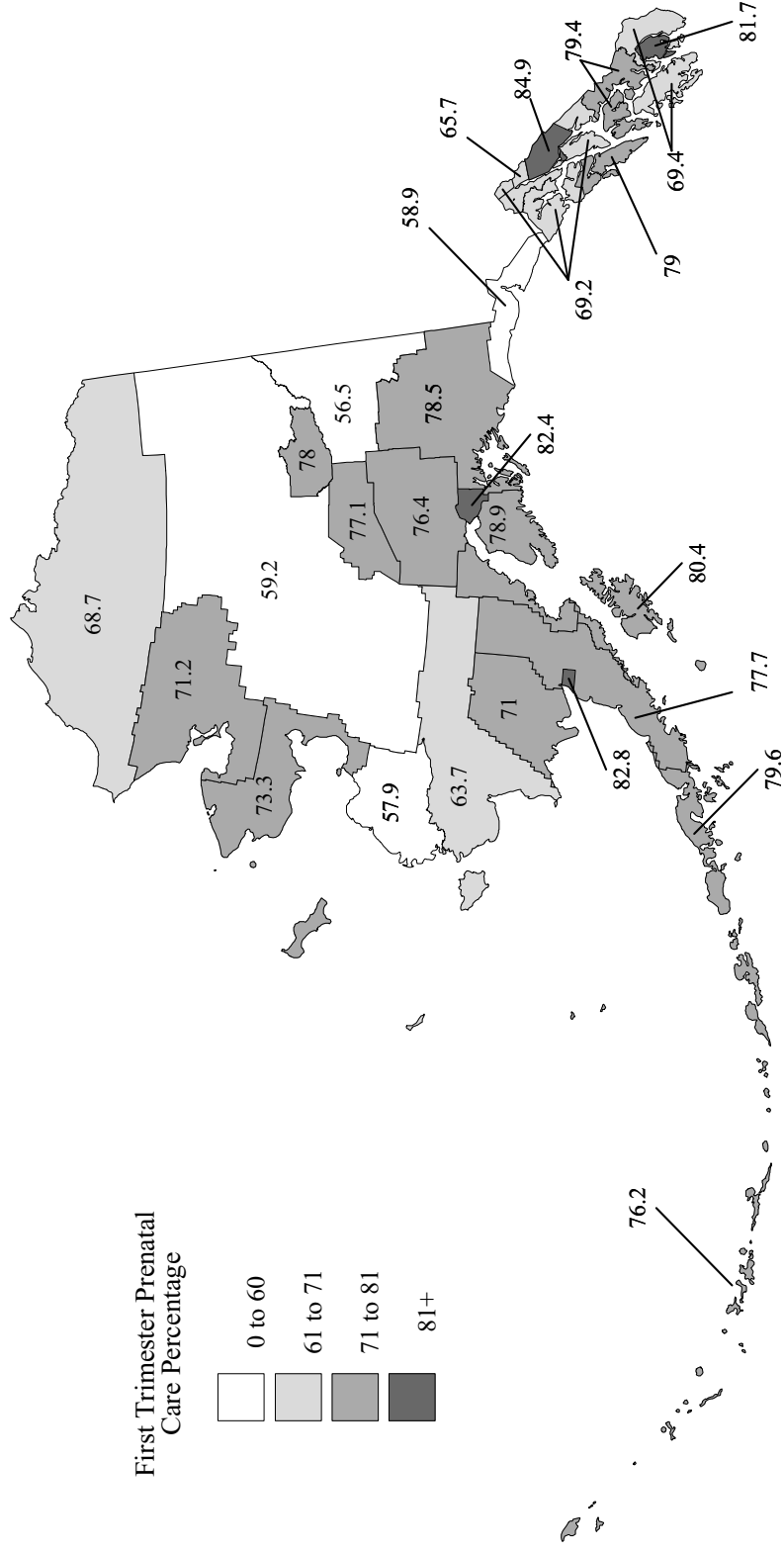
Teen (15- 19) Birth Rates By Census Area 1997- 2006



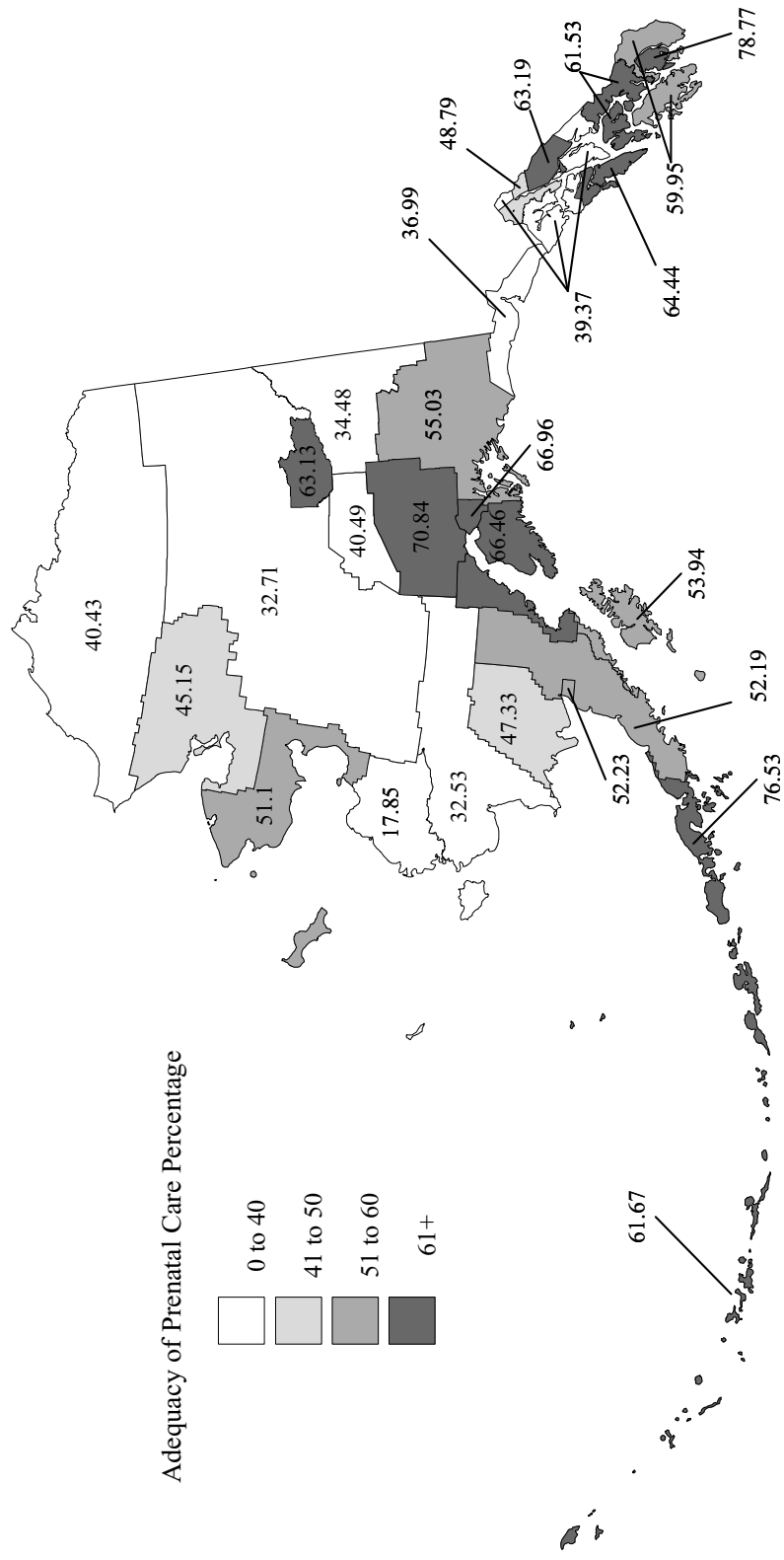
*Rates based on fewer than 20 occurrences are statistically unreliable and should be used with caution.

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

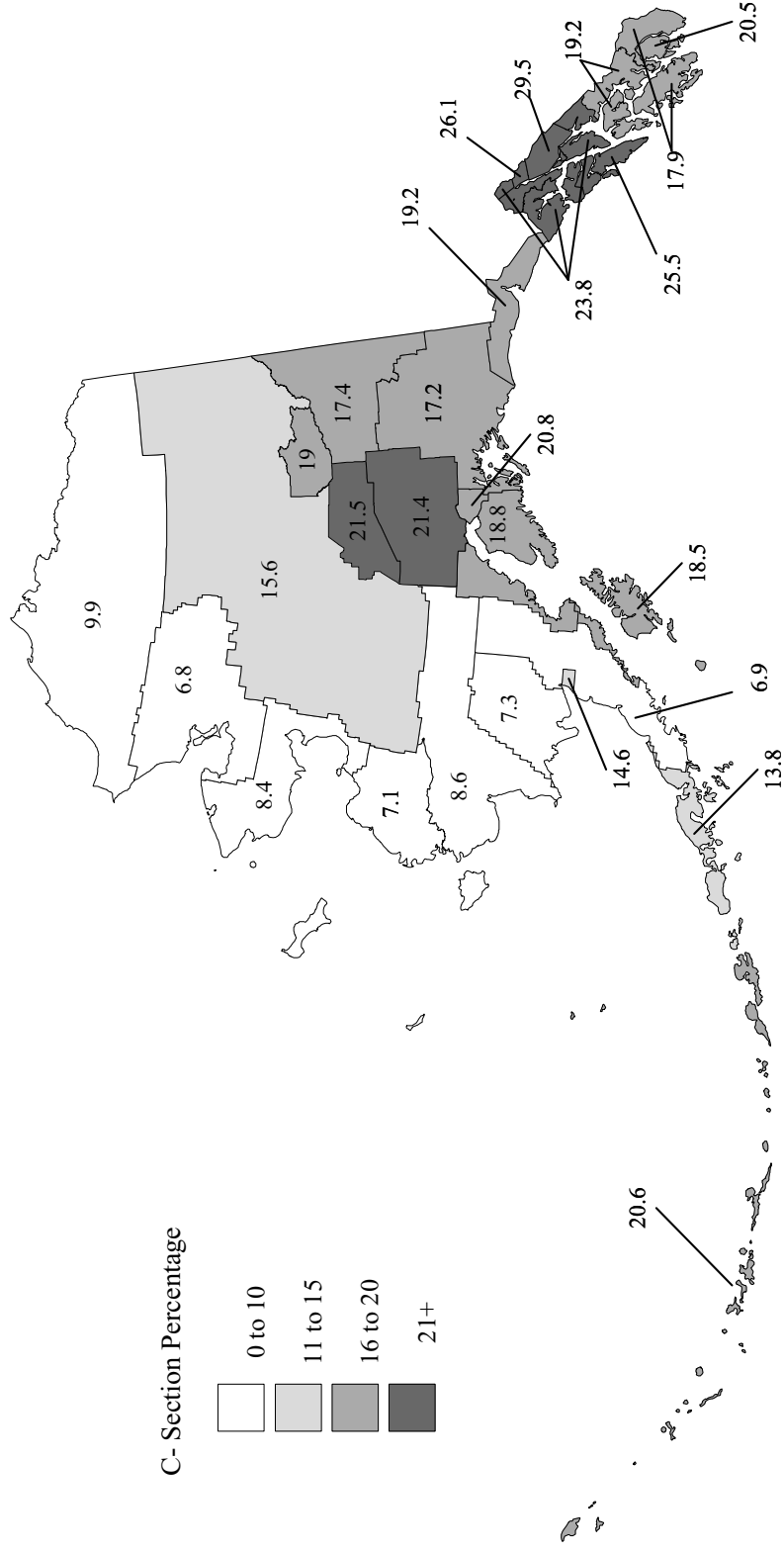
First Trimester Prenatal Care By Census Area 1997- 2006



Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization By Census Area 1997- 2006



C- Section Percentages By Census Area 1997- 2006



Low Birth Weight Percentages By Census Area 1997- 2006

