

BIRTHS



"The Embrace"
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In 2009...

- Alaskan mothers gave birth to 11,315 babies.
- July had the most births (1,041), while December 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 14 years old, while the youngest father was also 14 years old.
- The oldest mother was 50 years old and the oldest father was 74 years old.
- Isabella was the most popular girl's name and Michael was the most popular boy's name.

Birth Summary

For the first time in seven years, the number of live births to Alaskan residents has fallen. This is a decrease of 1.1% since last year, while the overall level has risen 13.4 percent since 2000. 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

5.2 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 2000.

Table 1: Number of Births by Race (2000-2009)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Asian/PI	633	634	686	701	755	760	871	845	941	939
Black	462	439	427	393	384	407	427	451	423	466
Native	2,454	2,496	2,399	2,460	2,577	2,704	2,699	2,774	2,890	2,956
White	6,299	6,312	6,270	6,385	6,480	6,430	6,786	6,744	7,058	6,808
Alaska	9,978	10,005	9,946	10,086	10,336	10,452	10,997	11,053	11,438	11,315

Table 2: Crude Birth Rates by Race (2000-2009)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Asian/PI	18.1	18.1	19.2	19.5	20.5	20.2	22.8	21.9	24.1	23.4
Black	18.1	16.3	15.3	13.9	13.0	13.9	14.4	15.3	14.3	15.2
Native	22.1	22.5	21.3	21.7	22.5	23.0	22.6	22.8	23.5	23.6
White	13.8	13.7	13.5	13.6	13.6	13.4	14.0	13.9	14.4	13.7
Alaska	15.9	15.8	15.5	15.6	15.7	15.7	16.4	16.3	16.8	16.3

Table 3: Fertility Rates by Race (2000-2009)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Asian/PI	74.1	75.7	81.8	85.4	91.3	92.2	106.7	105.8	120.2	118.7
Black	76.6	71.0	69.8	61.1	57.6	61.7	63.5	67.8	63.1	67.4
Native	98.5	100.9	96.1	97.6	101.6	104.3	103.4	104.6	109.1	110.9
White	61.7	62.3	62.1	63.4	64.2	63.8	67.4	67.5	70.6	67.7
Alaska	70.5	71.2	70.7	71.8	73.2	73.8	77.6	78.3	81.1	79.6

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.

Since 2000, the overall teen (15-19) birth rate has declined 16.2 %, with the black teen birth rate seeing a decrease of 46.6 percent.

As the two predominant races in Alaska, births to Native and white teens comprise most of these teen births.

Native teen birth rates remain approximately three times higher than white teen birth rates. In 2009, for every 1,000 Native teen females, about 81 of them gave birth.

Table 4: Age-Specific Fertility Rates (2000-2009)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
15-19	49.2	42.6	41.6	40.7	40.9	39.0	40.9	41.3	42.2	41.2
20-24	144.6	150.2	150.2	148.3	148.0	142.6	145.8	145.3	146.2	134.8
25-29	130.2	132.2	130.2	131.8	134.2	142.1	149.4	153.6	157.2	152.1
30-34	91.0	92.4	91.5	92.0	93.8	92.3	95.2	94.0	97.9	100.0
35-39	39.1	43.5	41.8	43.8	46.2	45.1	49.7	45.1	46.5	48.1
40-44	9.8	9.6	10.5	10.7	9.4	11.3	10.5	10.7	11.5	10.4
Total	70.5	71.2	70.7	71.8	73.2	73.8	77.6	78.3	81.1	79.6

Table 5: Teen (15-19) Birth Numbers by Race (2000-2009)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Asian/PI	60	56	60	60	73	80	90	81	84	105
Black	84	64	56	57	41	50	61	70	53	55
Native	444	449	415	414	448	429	469	453	500	473
White	561	478	515	506	503	471	467	484	487	466
Alaska	1,159	1,055	1,065	1,049	1,074	1,038	1,101	1,115	1,134	1,106

Table 6: Teen (15-19) Birth Rates by Race (2000-2009)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Asian/PI	44.1	37.0	39.3	39.2	46.1	49.7	55.4	49.8	52.3	63.6
Black	83.6	61.2	65.7	52.6	36.2	43.1	51.0	57.7	42.8	44.6
Native	86.6	85.3	76.0	74.0	77.6	72.1	77.2	73.6	82.7	80.9
White	34.9	28.2	29.4	28.8	28.3	26.3	25.9	26.9	27.1	25.8
Alaska	49.2	42.6	41.6	40.7	40.9	39.0	40.9	41.3	42.2	41.2

Medical Services Utilization

In 2009, the overall level of mothers receiving first trimester care decreased from 76.2 to 73.3. Asian/Pacific Islanders remain the least 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 2000, this index in Alaska has declined 23 percent.

*The number of birth records with missing or unknown prenatal care

visits and timing increased between 2000 and 2009. Calculations for first trimester care and APNCU percentages include unknown/missing responses and therefore may not accurately reflect the level of prenatal care that Alaskan women receive.

Like the national trends, C-Section rates within Alaska continue to rise. Since 2000, these rates have risen 38.2 percent. White mothers are twice as likely to have a C-Section birth than Native mothers.

Table 7: First Trimester Prenatal Care by Race (2000-2009)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Asian/PI	72.7	73.8	71.0	67.6	66.4	67.9	72.9	69.8	65.7	63.0
Black	78.4	78.4	78.7	74.6	77.9	78.1	82.0	77.6	73.3	67.4
Native	68.6	68.8	67.5	68.5	68.0	70.5	70.7	68.0	66.1	70.7
White	82.9	82.3	81.5	80.8	81.7	83.5	82.9	83.0	82.0	76.8
Alaska	78.1	77.9	76.9	76.3	76.7	78.6	79.0	77.7	76.2	73.3

Table 8: Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization (2000-2009)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Asian/PI	57.3	54.3	52.5	51.4	50.5	56.1	51.3	51.8	46.5	45.5
Black	67.3	64.9	60.0	55.2	52.9	58.2	59.3	53.7	44.0	38.8
Native	49.4	47.7	43.9	45.9	39.7	46.0	43.9	38.9	39.0	42.4
White	70.6	66.8	64.4	64.0	63.2	66.2	63.6	63.3	58.5	53.9
Alaska	63.9	60.9	58.1	58.1	55.8	59.7	57.6	55.6	52.0	49.2

Table 9: C-Section Rates by Race (2000-2009)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Asian/PI	18.5	20.7	23.6	25.8	19.9	27.9	25.1	23.7	28.8	24.6
Black	23.2	22.3	21.8	27.0	26.3	28.7	26.9	26.8	27.9	30.5
Native	10.3	11.5	11.1	11.6	12.8	11.7	12.6	11.3	13.0	13.8
White	19.0	21.2	21.8	24.3	24.0	25.0	26.5	26.7	25.3	27.0
Alaska	17.0	18.8	19.4	21.4	20.9	21.9	23.1	22.6	22.6	23.5

Infant Health Characteristics

A low birth weight birth is one in which the infant weighs less than 2500 grams (approximately 5.5 pounds). Since 2000, the overall percentage of low birth weight births has remained within a narrow band. In 2009, black mothers had the highest percentage at 13.1 percent.

likely to carry their child to term than the other three races within Alaska.

A preterm birth is one in which the delivery occurs before 37 weeks of gestation. Since 2000, this rate has increased 8.9 percent. White mothers remain consistently more

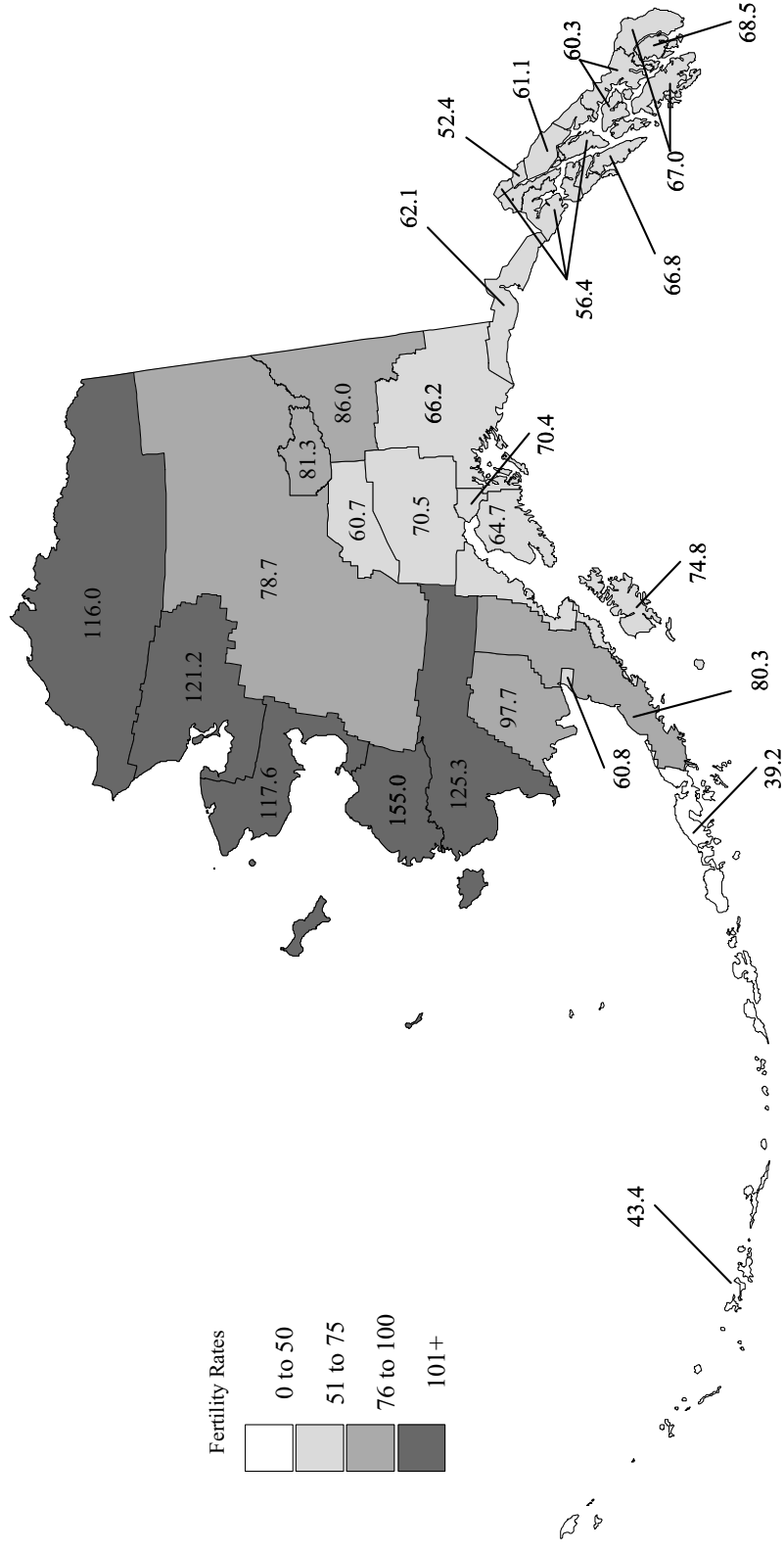
Table 10: Low Birth Weight Percentages by Race (2000-2009)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Asian/PI	7.7	6.3	8.2	5.6	6.8	7.0	6.7	5.3	6.7	5.8
Black	11.5	10.9	11.0	9.4	10.4	14.3	9.1	11.1	11.8	13.1
Native	5.7	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.1	5.0	5.0	4.8	6.6	6.3
White	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.3	5.2
Alaska	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.6	6.0	5.9

Table 11: Preterm Birth Percentages by Race (2000-2009)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Asian/PI	10.0	10.4	12.1	11.1	10.9	11.8	13.0	12.3	12.1	11.9
Black	16.2	15.5	12.9	16.3	14.1	15.2	12.6	14.0	13.7	18.2
Native	11.9	13.3	12.5	12.4	11.6	11.9	12.0	11.7	13.0	13.8
White	9.0	8.4	8.2	10.0	9.7	9.7	10.4	9.4	8.9	9.1
Alaska	10.1	10.1	9.8	11.0	10.5	10.7	11.2	10.4	10.3	11.0

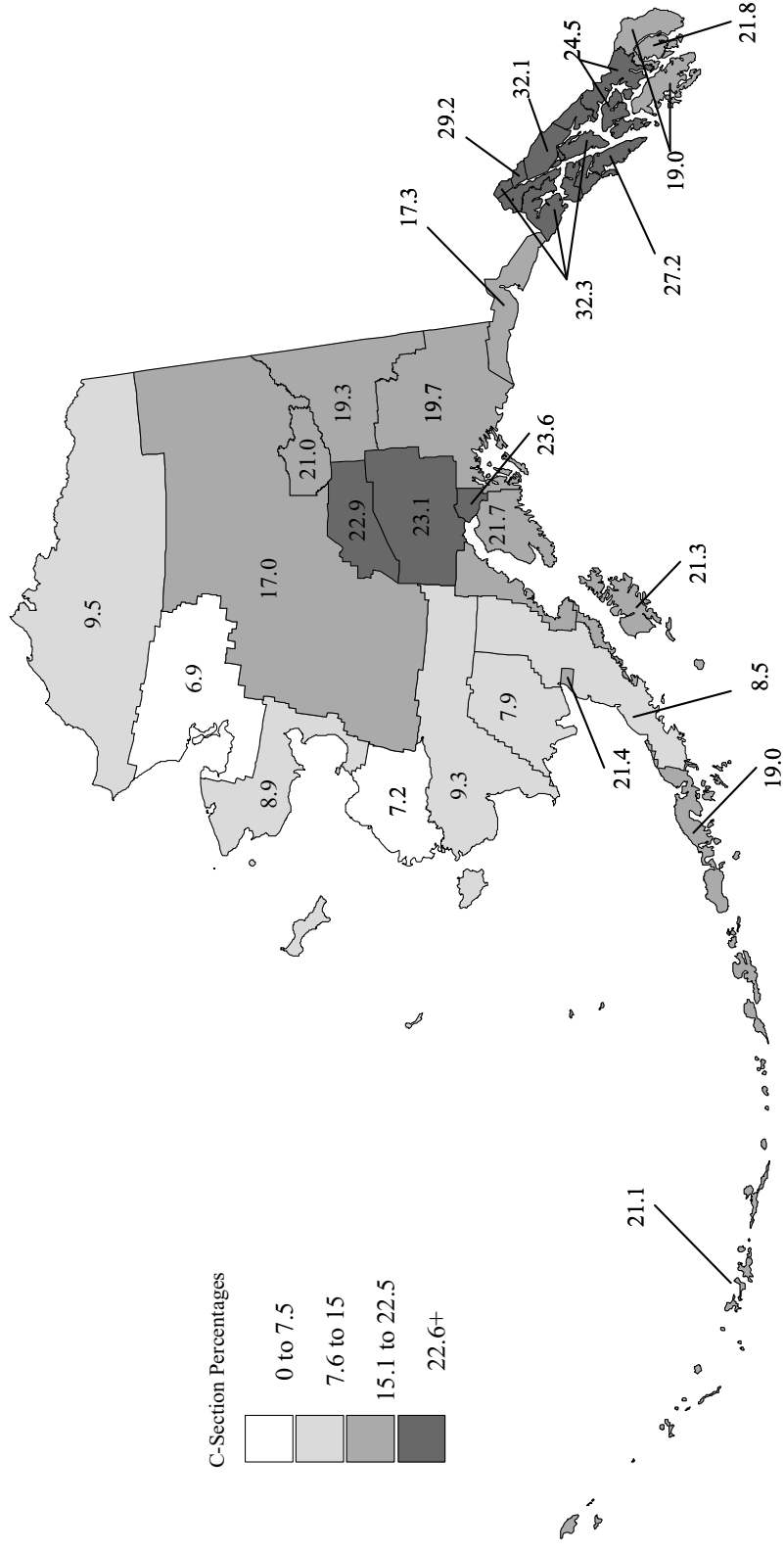
Fertility Rates by Census Area or Borough 2000-2009



First Trimester Prenatal Care by Census Area or Borough 2000-2009



C-Section Percentages by Census Area or Borough 2000-2009



Low Birth Weight Percentages by Census Area or Borough 2000-2009

