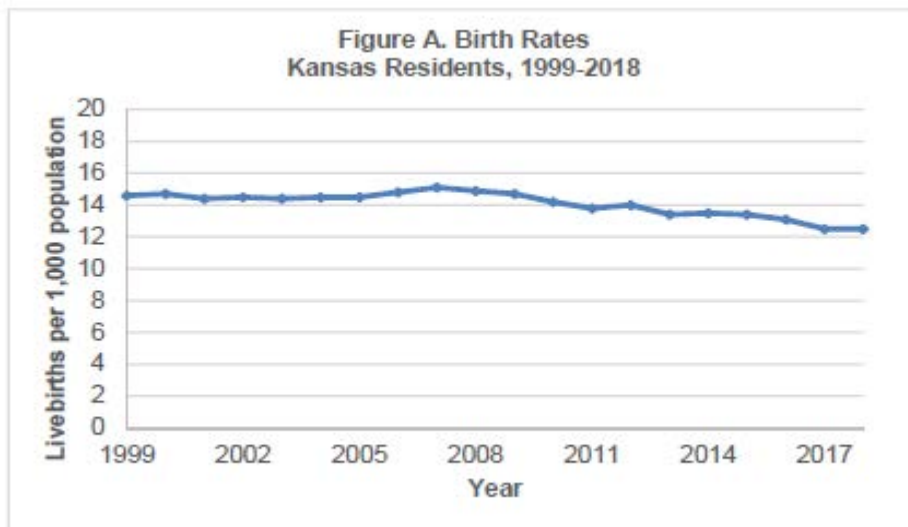


## Live Births and Fertility

During 2018, there were 36,268 live births to residents of Kansas. This was a decrease of 0.5 per- cent from the 36,464 births reported in 2017. The birth rate in 2018 was unchanged from 2017, at 12.5 births per 1,000 population (Table C10).

The 2017 and 2018 birth rates (12.5) were the lowest Kansas birth rates in the period from 1912 to date (the entire period in which KDHE and its predecessors have maintained the Kansas Vital Records System). The only years with comparable birth rates were 2016 (13.1), 2013 and 2015 (13.4), and 2014 (13.5) (Figure C1).

Over the past 20 years (1999-2018), the Kansas birth rate has fluctuated between a peak of 15.1 births per 1,000 population (reported in 2007) and a low of 12.5 births per 1,000 population (re-ported in 2017 and 2018) (Figure A). Recent low birth rates continue a sustained decline that began in 2008 (Table C1, Figure C1).



## Population Group Statistics

In 2018, there were 25,196 births to resident White non-Hispanic mothers, a decrease of 0.9 per- cent from the 25,431 births reported in 2017. The birth rate for White non-Hispanic mothers de- creased 0.9 percent, from 11.5 births per 1,000 population in 2017 to 11.4 births per 1,000 population in 2018 (Table A3, Table C20).

There were 5,976 births to Hispanic mothers in 2018, an increase of 0.5 percent from the 5,945 births reported in 2017. The birth rate for Hispanic mothers decreased 0.6 percent, from 17.1 births per 1,000 population in 2017 to 17.0 births per 1,000 population in 2018.

There were 2,499 births to Black non-Hispanic mothers in 2018, an increase of 1.5 percent from the 2,463 births reported in 2017. The birth rate for Black non-Hispanic mothers increased 2.1 per- cent, from 14.6 births per 1,000 population in 2017 to 14.9 births per 1,000 population in 2018 (Table A3, Table C20).

## Fertility Rates

The number of Kansas females in the main child-bearing age bracket (ages 15-44) was 560,121 in 2018, down 2.5 percent from 574,617 in 1999 (the peak in the 1999–2018 period). The Kansas fertility rate in 2018 was 64.8 livebirths per female population in the 15-44 age bracket, 14.2 per- cent below the period high (75.5 in 2007), and the lowest rate for the 1999–2018 period (Table C2, Figure C2).

Of the 36,268 resident births in 2018, there were 18,590 males and 17,678 females, for a natal sex ratio of 105.2 male births to 100.0 female births. In most populations, this ratio is in the range of 104-106, although some populations experience ratios as low as 103 or as high as 107, even in the absence of deliberate sex selection [3] (Table C3).

### **Low Birth Weight**

During 2018, low birth weight (under 2,500 grams) infants accounted for 2,696 or 7.4 percent of births to Kansas resident mothers. Low birth weights were more common for Black non-Hispanic mothers (13.6%) than for White non-Hispanic (6.8%) or Hispanic (7.2%) mothers. High birth weight (4,000 grams and over) infants accounted for 3,067, or 8.5 percent of births to Kansas resident mothers. High birth weights were more common for White non-Hispanic mothers (8.5%) than for Hispanic (6.4%) or Black non-Hispanic (4.1%) mothers (Table C8).

### **Small for Gestational Age**

Infants born at birth weights less than the 10th percentile of all other infants at the same gestational age (lowest 9.9 percent) are considered small for gestational age (SGA). Table C18 uses birth weights from 2018 births for the state of Kansas as a whole as the reference in establishing the cutoff point. The table enables a county to compare its SGA rate to that of the state. While a number of counties have high SGA rates, they are based on a relatively low number of births.

### **Mother's Age**

Of the 36,268 resident births in 2018, 5.4 percent (1,945) were to mothers under the age of 20; 53.0 percent (19,229) were to mothers 20-29 years of age; 39.5 percent (14,317) were to mothers 30-39 years of age; and 2.1 percent (775) were to mothers aged 40 or over (Table C6).

Of the 25,196 resident births to White non-Hispanic mothers, 1,000 (4.0%) were to mothers under the age of twenty. Of the 2,499 births to Black non-Hispanic mothers, 234 (9.4%) were to mothers under the age of 20. Of the 5,976 births to Hispanic mothers, 577 (9.7%) births were to mothers under the age of 20 (Table A3).

### **First Trimester Care**

Prenatal care data was provided for 35,847 out of 36,268 (98.8%) live births in 2018. Prenatal care began in the first trimester for 29,021 live births (81.0 percent of live births where prenatal care data was available), in the second trimester for 5,260 live births (14.7%), and in the third trimester for 1,207 live births (3.4%). No prenatal care was indicated for 359 live births (1.0%).

White non-Hispanic mothers started prenatal care in the first trimester in 84.4 percent of live births (21,069). Black non-Hispanic mothers started prenatal care in the first trimester in 72.4 percent of live births (1,784). Hispanic mothers started prenatal care in the first trimester in 71.7 percent of live births (4,190) (Table C7).

### **Prenatal Care Status**

Of the 35,767 Kansas resident live births in 2018 for which the adequacy of prenatal care utilization (APNCU) category could be determined, 83.4 percent received adequate or better prenatal care, including 30.7 percent with adequate-plus care. Seventeen percent (16.6) received less than adequate prenatal care, including 11.1 percent with inadequate care (Table C14).

### **Mother's Weight Gain**

Among singleton Kansas live births, 21.8 percent of mothers gained less than the recommended weight during pregnancy, 31.3 percent gained the recommended weight, and 46.9 percent gained more than the recommended amount (Table C19).

## **Marital Status**

During 2018, 13,181 (36.4%) of the 36,268 resident live births in Kansas were to unmarried mothers. There were 7,501 (29.8%) births to unmarried White non-Hispanic mothers; 1,743 (69.7%) to unmarried Black non-Hispanic mothers; and 3,103 (51.9%) to unmarried Hispanic mothers (Table C22).

The percentage of births to unmarried mothers in Kansas increased from 35.6 percent in 2017 to 36.4 percent in 2018. However, 2018 percentage rate was 27.3 percent higher than the 1999 rate of 28.6 percent of births to unmarried mothers (Figure C7).

## **Delivery Method**

Vaginal delivery was the most common final route of delivery for most Kansas resident live births in 2018 (25,479 live births, or 70.3% of all live births for which the final route of delivery was known). Most vaginal deliveries were “spontaneous,” meaning no mechanical procedures like forceps or vacuum extraction were required (24,506 deliveries, or 67.6% of live births for which the final route was stated). Other vaginal deliveries (forceps assisted or vacuum extraction) accounted for 973 live births (2.7%). Cesarean deliveries accounted for 10,788 live births (29.7%). White non-Hispanic mothers delivered via cesarean section in 7,591 live births (30.1%), Black non-Hispanic mothers in 793 live births (31.7%), and Hispanic mothers in 1,608 live births (26.9%). There was one delivery for which the final route of delivery was not recorded (Table C9).

## **Tobacco Use**

Tobacco use at any time during pregnancy was reported for 3,438 births in 2018, amounting to 9.5 percent of births for which tobacco usage was reported. Tobacco use was known for 36,161 of the 36,268 births (99.7%) in 2018.

Reported tobacco usage was highest in the three months immediately prior to pregnancy (4,029, or 11.1%) and decreased gradually with each trimester: to 3,397, or 9.4 percent in the first trimester; then to 3,051, or 8.4 percent in the second trimester; and finally, to 2,907, or 8.0 percent in the third trimester (Table C17).

## **Teen Pregnancy**

It is important to look at all reported pregnancies to analyze fertility. The number of pregnancies is the sum of live births, reported stillbirths, and reported induced abortions. The total number of pregnancies for mothers under 20 years of age in 2018 was 2,324, down 5.9 percent from 2,469 pregnancies in 2017. The pregnancy rate for mothers under 20 years of age in 2018 was 11.9 pregnancies per 1,000 female age-group population, a decline of 6.3 percent from a rate of 12.7 pregnancies per 1,000 female age-group population in 2017. This was the lowest pregnancy rate for this age-group in the past twenty years (1999-2018), down from a peak of 31.9 pregnancies per 1,000 female age-group population in 1999 (Table C23, Figure C8).

The pregnancy rate for females aged 15-17 years in 2018 was 9.8 per 1,000 female age-group population. This surpasses the Healthy People 2020 target (FP 8.1) of 36.2 pregnancies per 1,000 adolescent females aged 15 to 17 years by 2020.

The pregnancy rate for females aged 18-19 years in 2018 was 44.6 per 1,000 female age-group population. This surpasses the Healthy People 2020 target (FP 8.2) of 105.9 pregnancies per 1,000 females ages 18-19 years by 2020.

The birth rate for females aged 15-19 years in 2018 was 20.0 per 1,000 female age group population (Table C25). This surpasses the CDC Winnable Battles target for 2015 of 30.3 births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 years.

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3. United Nations Population Fund [Internet] UNFPA Guidance Note on Prenatal Sex Selection, p. 11; [cited 2017 Aug 16]. Available from: [http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/guidenote\\_prenatal\\_sexselection.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/guidenote_prenatal_sexselection.pdf)