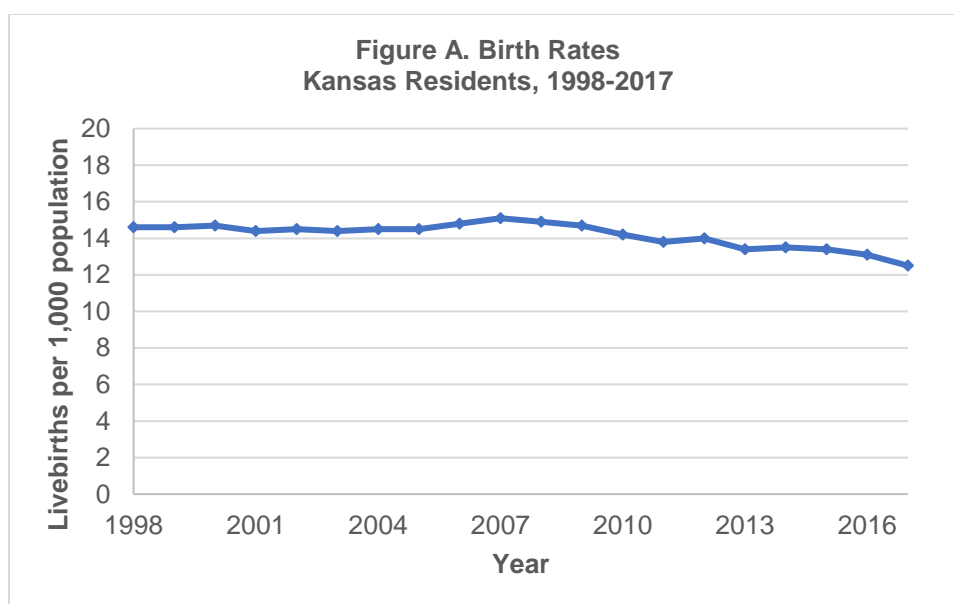


Live Births and Fertility

During 2017, there were 36,464 live births to residents of Kansas. This was a decrease of 4.2 percent from the 38,048 births reported in 2016. The birth rate decreased 4.6 percent, from 13.1 births per 1,000 population in 2016 to 12.5 births per 1,000 population in 2017 (Table C10).

The 2017 birth rate (12.5) is the lowest Kansas birth rate 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 (1998-2017), 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 (reported in 2017) (Figure A). Recent low birth rates continue a sustained decline that began in 2008 (Table C1, Figure C1).



Population Group Statistics

In 2017, there were 25,431 births to resident White non-Hispanic mothers, a decrease of 5.1 percent from the 26,786 births reported in 2016. The birth rate for White non-Hispanic mothers decreased 5.0 percent, from 12.1 births per 1,000 population in 2016 to 11.5 births per 1,000 population in 2017 (Table A3, Table C20).

There were 5,945 births to Hispanic mothers in 2017, a decrease of 5.6 percent from the 6,300 births reported in 2016. The birth rate for Hispanic mothers decreased 8.1 percent, from 18.6 births per 1,000 population in 2016 to 17.1 births per 1,000 population in 2017.

There were 2,463 births to Black non-Hispanic mothers in 2017, a decrease of 1.2 percent from the 2,494 births reported in 2016. The birth rate for Black non-Hispanic mothers decreased 1.4 percent, from 14.8 births per 1,000 population in 2016 to 14.6 births per 1,000 population in 2017 (Table A3, Table C20).

Fertility Rates

The number of Kansas females in the main child-bearing age bracket (ages 15-44) was 558,606 in 2017, down 2.8 percent from 574,617 in 1999 (the peak in the 1998–2017 period). The Kansas fertility rate in 2017 was 65.3 livebirths per female population in the 15-44 age bracket, 13.5 percent below the period high (75.5 in 2007), and the lowest rate for the 1998–2017 period (Table C2, Figure C2).

Of the 36,464 resident births in 2017, there were 18,860 males and 17,604 females, for a natal sex ratio of 107.1 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 [1] (Table C3).

Low Birth Weight

During 2017, low birth weight (under 2,500 grams) infants accounted for 2,697 or 7.4 percent of births to Kansas resident mothers. Low birth weights were more common for Black non-Hispanic mothers (14.3%) than for White non-Hispanic (6.7%) or Hispanic (6.9%) mothers. High birth weight (4,000 grams and over) infants accounted for 3,175, or 8.7 percent of births to Kansas resident mothers. High birth weights were more common for White non-Hispanic mothers (9.6%) than for Hispanic (7.6%) or Black non-Hispanic (4.8%) 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 2017 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 36,464 resident births in 2017, 5.7 percent (2,066) were to mothers under the age of 20; 53.4 percent (19,480) were to mothers 20-29 years of age; 38.8 percent (14,162) were to mothers 30-39 years of age; and 2.1 percent (755) were to mothers aged 40 or over (Table C6).

Of the 25,431 resident births to White non-Hispanic mothers, 1,110 (4.4%) were to mothers under the age of twenty. Of the 2,463 births to Black non-Hispanic mothers, 227 (9.2%) were to mothers under the age of 20. Of the 5,945 births to Hispanic mothers, 586 (9.9%) births were to mothers under the age of 20 (Table A3).

First Trimester Care

Prenatal care data was provided for 35,965 out of 36,464 (99.1%) live births in 2017. Prenatal care began in the first trimester for 29,473 live births (81.2 percent of live births where prenatal care data was available), in the second trimester for 5,379 live births (14.8%), and in the third trimester for 1,113 live births (3.1%). No prenatal care was indicated for 342 live births (0.9%).

White non-Hispanic mothers started prenatal care in the first trimester in 85.0 percent of live births (21,532). Black non-Hispanic mothers started prenatal care in the first trimester in 72.1

1. 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

percent of live births (1,767). Hispanic mothers started prenatal care in the first trimester in 70.5 percent of live births (4,170) (Table C7).

Prenatal Care Status

Of the 35,999 Kansas resident live births in 2017 for which the adequacy of prenatal care utilization (APNCU) category could be determined, 83.4 percent received adequate or better prenatal care, including 31.4 percent with adequate-plus care. Seventeen percent (16.7) received less than adequate prenatal care, including 10.6 percent with inadequate care (Table C14).

Mother's Weight Gain

Among singleton Kansas live births, 21.2 percent of mothers gained less than the recommended weight during pregnancy, 32.0 percent gained the recommended weight, and 46.9 percent gained more than the recommended amount (Table C19).

Marital Status

During 2017, 12,990 (35.6%) of the 36,464 resident live births in Kansas were to unmarried mothers. There were 7,481 (29.4%) births to unmarried White non-Hispanic mothers; 1,680 (68.2%) to unmarried Black non-Hispanic mothers; and 3,018 (50.8%) to unmarried Hispanic mothers (Table C22).

The percentage of births to unmarried mothers in Kansas decreased from 36.0 percent in 2016 to 35.6 percent in 2017. However, these births were 28.1 percent higher than the 27.8 percent of live births reported in 1998 (Figure C7).

Delivery Method

Vaginal delivery was the most common final route of delivery for most Kansas resident live births in 2017 (25,539 live births, or 70.0% 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 (24,565 deliveries, or 67.4% of live births for which the final route was stated). Other vaginal deliveries (forceps assisted or vacuum extraction) accounted for 974 live births (2.7%). Cesarean deliveries accounted for 10,922 live births (30.0%). White non-Hispanic mothers delivered via cesarean section in 7,680 live births (30.2%), Black non-Hispanic mothers in 855 live births (34.7%), and Hispanic mothers in 1,632 live births (27.5%). There were three deliveries for which the final route of delivery was not recorded (Table C9).

Tobacco Use

Tobacco use at any time during pregnancy was reported for 3,680 births in 2017, amounting to 10.1 percent of births for which tobacco usage was reported. Tobacco use was known for 36,3741 of the 36,464 births (99.8%) in 2017.

Reported tobacco usage was highest in the three months immediately prior to pregnancy (4,221, or 11.6%) and decreased gradually with each trimester: to 3,632, or 10.0 percent in the first trimester; then to 3,259, or 9.0 percent in the second trimester; and finally to 3,129, or 8.6 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 2017 was 2,469, down 1.9 percent from 2,518 pregnancies in 2016. The pregnancy rate for mothers under 20 years of age in 2017 was 12.7 pregnancies per 1,000 female age-group population, a decline of 1.6 percent from a rate of 12.9 pregnancies per 1,000 female age-group population in 2016. This was the lowest pregnancy rate for this age-group in the past twenty years (1998-2017), down from a peak of 32.4 pregnancies per 1,000 female age-group population in 1998 (Table C23, Figure C8).

The pregnancy rate for females aged 15-17 years in 2017 was 9.5 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 2017 was 48.9 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 2017 was 21.2 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.