



County of Orange Health Care Agency  
Public Health Services  
Disease Control and Epidemiology  
Epidemiology & Assessment

2003 BIRTH OUTCOMES FACT SHEET  
COMPARING ORANGE COUNTY WITH CALIFORNIA AND THE UNITED STATES

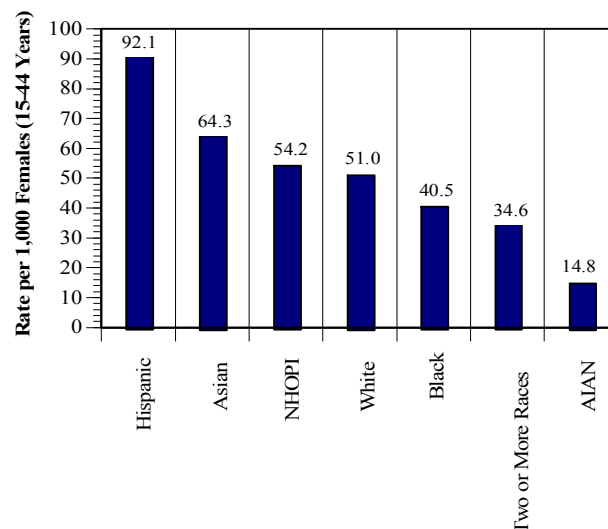
**BIRTH FREQUENCIES AND RATES**

- There were 45,345 births to Orange County residents in 2003, an increase of 1.3% from the 44,760 births in 2002.
- The crude birth rate per 1,000 Orange County population was 15.1, equal to the 2002 rate.
- The Orange County rate was similar to the California rate of 15.1 but 7.1% higher than the United States rate of 14.1 in 2003.
- In 2002 and 2003, Orange County recorded its lowest crude birth rate in 15 years; in 2003, the California rate was the second lowest in nearly 30 years; the United States rate was the second lowest rate ever recorded.
- In 2003, there were 43,850 single births, representing 96.7 % of all births to Orange County residents. There were 1,385 twin births (3.1% of all births), and 94 triplet births (0.2% of all births). There were 16 quadruplet births in 2003.
- As a percentage of all live births, Orange County had a similar percentage of twin births and a higher percentage of triplet births than California and the United States.

**FERTILITY RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

- The fertility rate (number of births per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years) among Orange County residents was 68.1, 0.7% higher than the rate of 67.6 in 2002.
- The Orange County fertility rate was 2.0% lower than the California rate of 69.5, and 3.0% higher than the United States rate of 66.1.
- Among Orange County residents, 49.4% of births were to Hispanics, followed by Whites (32.3%), Asians (15.3%), and Blacks (1.0%).
- In Orange County, the fertility rate differed markedly among racial/ethnic groups as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Fertility Rates by Race/Ethnicity of the Mother, Orange County Residents, 2003



Note: NHOPI is Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

AIAN is American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian includes Other Asian & Southeast Asian.

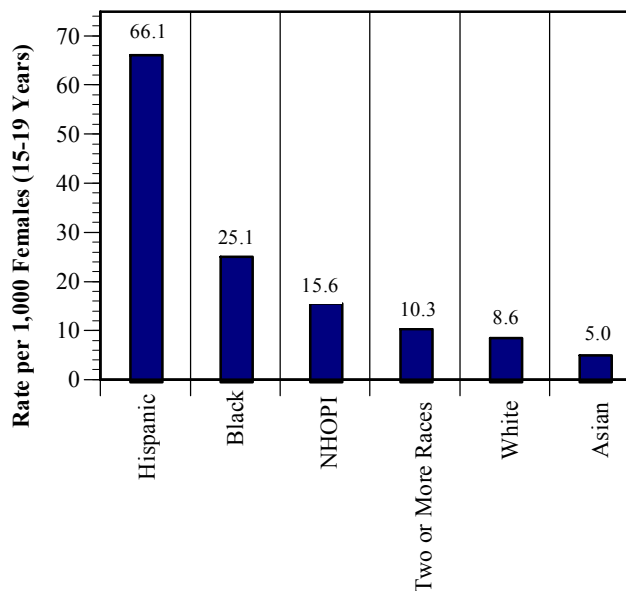
Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

## 2003 BIRTH OUTCOMES FACT SHEET

### BIRTHS TO TEENS

- In 2003, teenagers (15-19 years) gave birth to 3,068 infants, resulting in a rate of 30.8 per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years; this is a decrease of 5.2% from the 2002 rate of 32.5 per 1,000.
- The Orange County rate was 20.8% lower than the California rate of 38.9 and 26.0% lower than the United States rate of 41.6.
- Among Orange County teens, the majority of births to females aged 15-19 years were to Hispanic females (82.9%).
- The teen birth rate among Orange County Hispanic females in 2003 was 66.1, which was slightly higher than the California rate of 65.2 but lower than the U.S. rate of 82.3.
- In Orange County, the teen birth rate differed markedly among racial/ethnic groups as shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2. Teen Birth Rates by Race/Ethnicity of the Mother, Orange County Residents, 2003**



Note: Rates are not calculated for fewer than five events.

NHOPI is Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

Asian includes Other Asian & Southeast Asian.

Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

### INFANT MORTALITY

- In 2003, the infant mortality rate was 4.4 per 1,000 live births to Orange County residents, a decline of 8.3% from the 2002 rate of 4.8.
- The Orange County rate was 15.4% lower than the California rate of 5.2 and 36.2% lower than the United States rate of 6.9.
- In 2003, Orange County met the Healthy People 2000 target rate of 7.0 per 1,000 live births and the Healthy People 2010 rate of 4.5.
- Among the four largest race/ethnicity categories, only the infant mortality rate for Asians and Whites met the Healthy People 2010 goal in 2003 (as the rate for Asians has done since 1999).
- U.S. infant mortality increased in 2002 and remained unchanged in 2003.
- The number and rate of infant deaths among Orange County residents by racial/ethnic group during 2003 is shown in Table 1.

## 2003 BIRTH OUTCOMES FACT SHEET

**Table 1. Number and Rate of Infant Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, Orange County Residents, 2003**

Race/Ethnicity	Infant Deaths	Rate /1,000 Live Births
Black	6	13.5
Hispanic	102	4.6
White	65	4.4
Asian	24	3.5
NHOPI	3	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Healthy People 2000 Infant Mortality Goal per 1,000 Live Births		7.0
Healthy People 2010 Infant Mortality Goal per 1,000 Live Births		4.5

Note: Infant deaths are based on 2003 Orange County Death Statistical Master File.

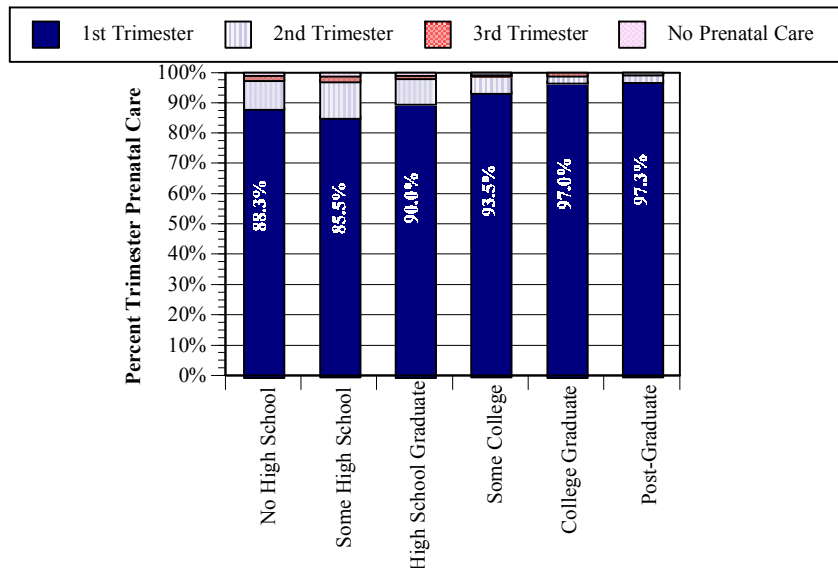
--Rates are not calculated for fewer than five events; Asian includes Other Asian & Southeast Asian.

Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

### PRENATAL CARE

- In 2003, 91.6% of Orange County mothers reported initiating prenatal care in the first trimester.
- This is an increase of 0.9% over 2002, when 90.8% of mothers reported beginning prenatal care in the first trimester.
- The percentage of Orange County mothers who initiated prenatal care in the first trimester was higher than both the California and United States percentages of 85.8% and 84.1%, respectively.
- Orange County met the Healthy People 2000 and 2010 goal of 90% of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester.
- In 2003, of the four largest racial/ethnic groups, more than 90% of White and Asian mothers initiated prenatal care in the first trimester (95.0% and 94.8%, respectively), while 88.6% of Hispanic and 85.9% of Black mothers did so.
- The principal sources of payment for prenatal care among Orange County residents in 2003 were HMO or Private Insurance (57.3%) and Medi-Cal (39.6%).
- Trimester prenatal care initiated by mother's education, age, and race/ethnicity respectively, are shown in Figures 3, 4, and 5.

**Figure 3. Trimester Prenatal Care Initiated by Mother's Education, Orange County Residents, 2003**

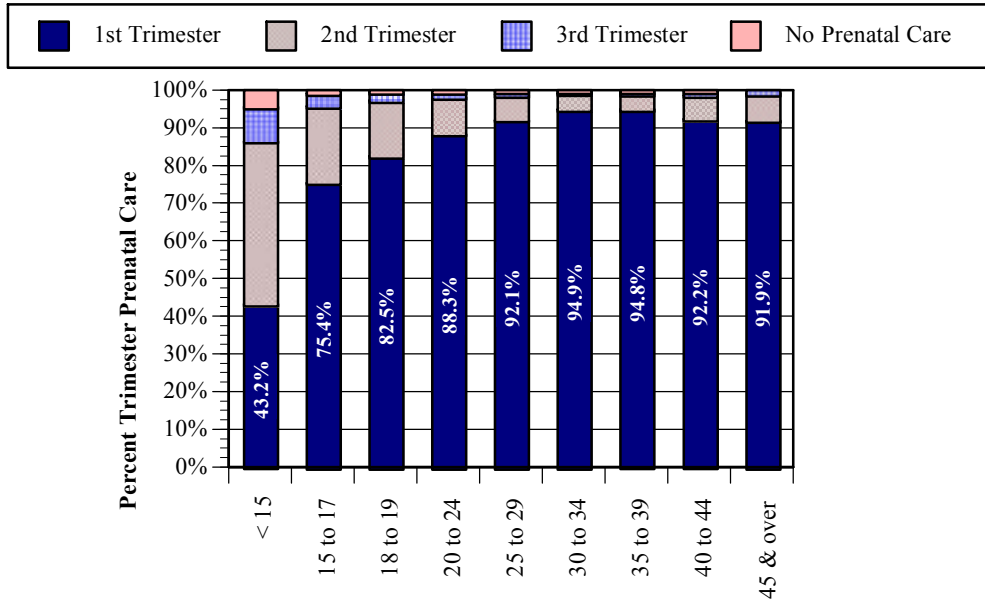


Note: Unknown for mother's education level (n=468) and prenatal care (n=58) are excluded from analysis.

Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

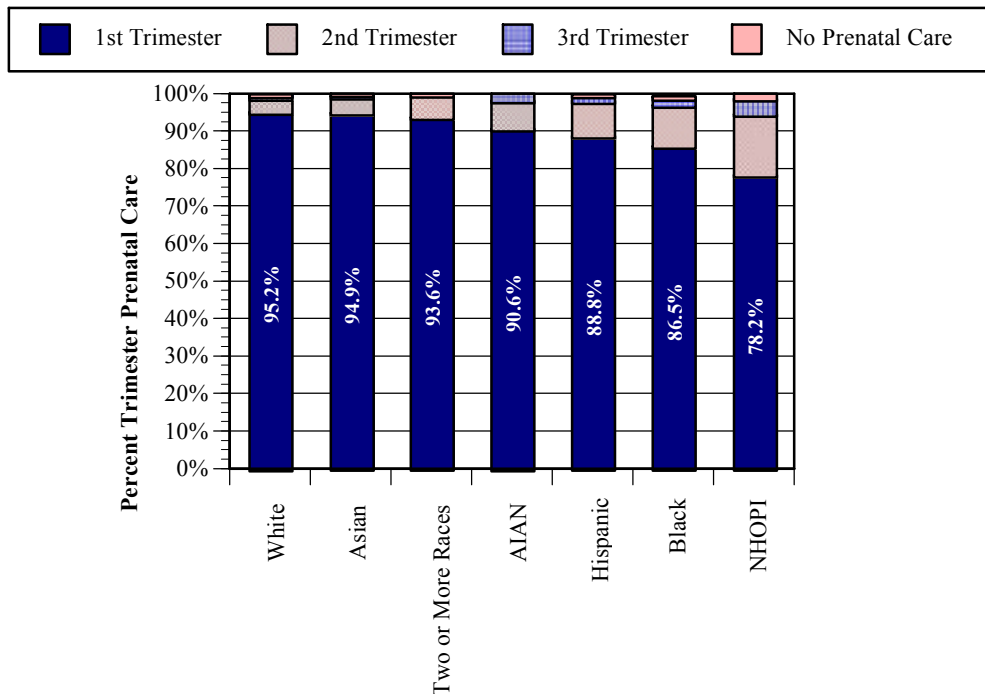
2003 BIRTH OUTCOMES FACT SHEET

Figure 4. Trimester Prenatal Care Initiated by Mother's Age (Years), Orange County Residents, 2003



Note: Unknown for mother's age (n=3) and prenatal care (n=100) are excluded from analysis.  
 Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

Figure 5. Trimester Prenatal Care Initiated by Mother's Race/Ethnicity, Orange County Residents, 2003



Note: NHOPI is Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  
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 Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

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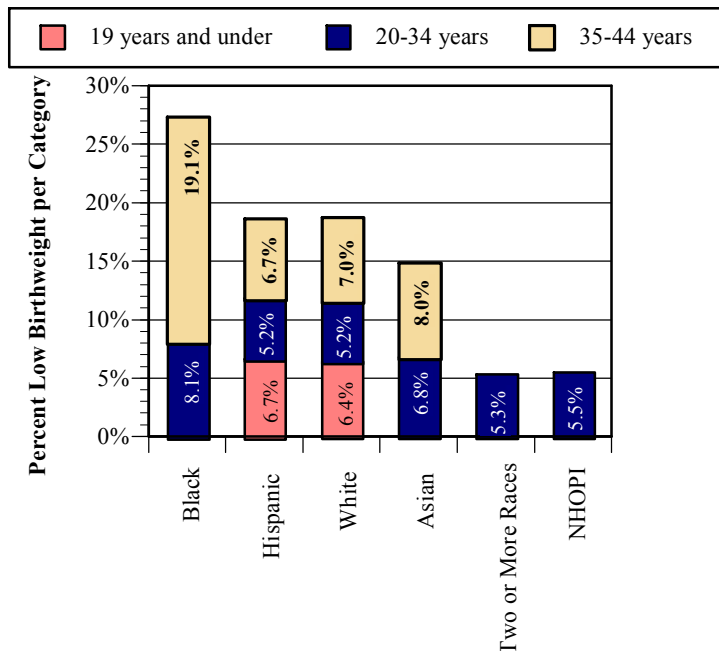
### METHODS OF DELIVERY AND SOURCES OF PAYMENT

- In 2003, Cesarean sections were performed in 29.0% of Orange County births. This percentage was higher than that for California (27.9%) and the United States (27.5%).
- First Cesarean deliveries accounted for 17.4% of Orange County births, compared to 26.1% of California births and 19.1% of United States births.
- The Healthy People 2010 goal for first Cesarean deliveries is 15.0%.
- Repeat Cesarean deliveries accounted for 11.6% of Orange County births, compared to 11.5% of California births and 10.6 % of United States births.
- The principal sources of payment for delivery among Orange County mothers were HMO/Private Insurance (57.4%) and Medi-Cal (40.1%).
- The Medi-Cal funded deliveries for Orange County (40.1%) were 10.9% lower relative to the Medi-Cal funded deliveries for California (45.0%).
- In Orange County, the percent of Medi-Cal funded deliveries differed markedly among the major racial/ethnic groups; 65.7% of Hispanic deliveries were funded by Medi-Cal, compared to 36.2% of Black, 21.7% of Asian, and 11.0% of White deliveries.

### LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

- In 2003, the Orange County low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds, 8 ounces) rate was 59.9 per 1,000 live births (a 1.2% decrease from the rate of 60.6 per 1,000 live births in 2002).
- The Orange County rate was 9.2% lower than the California rate of 66.0 and 24.2% lower than the United States rate of 79.0.
- The United States rate represents the highest percentage of low birthweight births reported in more than 30 years.
- These levels exceed the Healthy People 2010 goal of 50.0 per 1,000 live births.
- The percent of low birthweight Orange County infants by age and race/ethnicity of the mother is shown in Figure 6.

**Figure 6. Percent Low Birthweight by Age and Race/Ethnicity of Mother, Orange County Residents, 2003**



Note: Rates are not calculated for fewer than five events.

NHOPI is Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Asian includes Other Asian & Southeast Asian.

Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

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Sources:

Orange County Birth Outcomes, 2003, County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 2007.  
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