



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

2004 BIRTH OUTCOMES FACT SHEET  
COMPARING ORANGE COUNTY WITH CALIFORNIA AND THE UNITED STATES

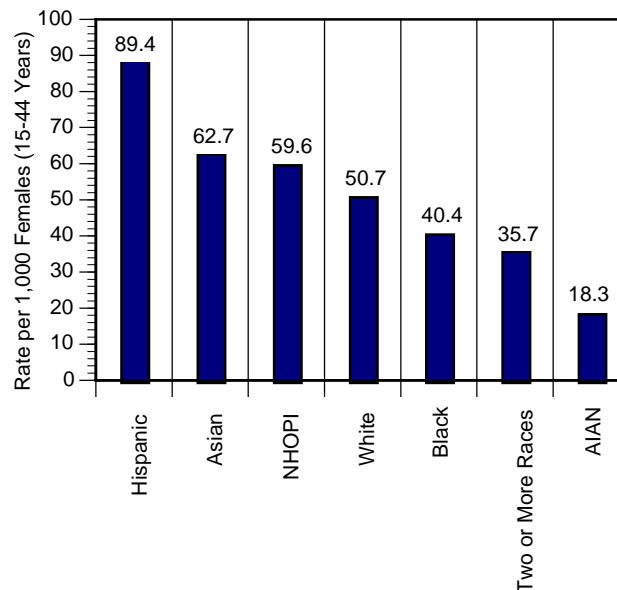
BIRTH FREQUENCIES AND RATES

- There were 45,049 births to Orange County residents in 2004, a decline of 296 births from the 45,345 births in 2003.
- The crude birth rate per 1,000 Orange County population was 14.8, slightly lower than the 2003 rate of 15.1.
- The Orange County rate was slightly lower than the California rate of 15.0 but 5.9% higher than the United States rate of 14.0 in 2004.
- Orange County recorded the lowest crude birth rate in 16 years; in 2004, the California rate was the second lowest in nearly 30 years.
- In 2004, there were 43,581 single births, representing 96.7 % of all births to Orange County residents. There were 1,349 twin births (3.0% of all births), and 111 triplet births (0.2% of all births). There were 8 quadruplet births in 2004.
- As a percentage of all live births, Orange County had similar percentages of twin and triplet births as the United States and a similar percentage of twin births but a higher percentage of triplet births compared to California.

FERTILITY RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY

- The fertility rate (number of births per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years) among Orange County residents in 2004 was 67.3, 1.2% lower than the rate of 68.1 in 2003.
- The Orange County fertility rate was 2.9% lower than the California rate of 69.3, and 1.5% higher than the United States rate of 66.3.
- Among Orange County residents, 49.7% of births were to Hispanics, followed by Whites (31.6%), Asians (15.3%), and Blacks (1.0%).
- In Orange County, the fertility rate differed markedly among racial/ethnic groups as shown in Figure 1.

Figure1. Fertility Rates by Race/Ethnicity of the Mother, Orange County Residents, 2004



Note: NHOPI is Native Hawaiiin or Other Pacific Islander.

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

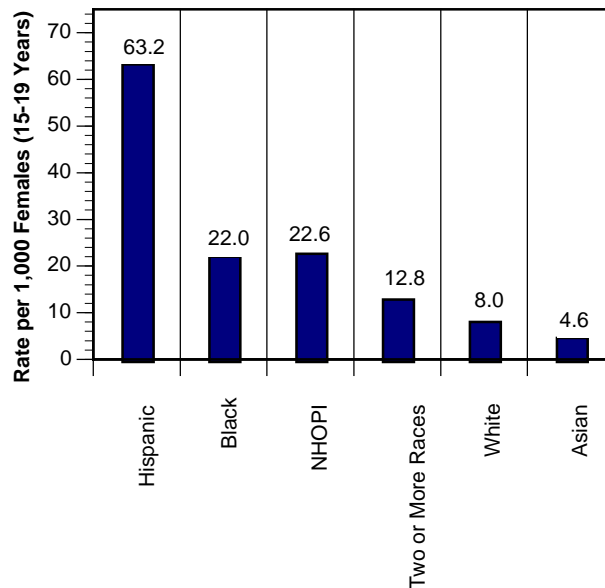
Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

## 2004 BIRTH OUTCOMES FACT SHEET

### BIRTHS TO TEENS

- In 2004, teenagers (15-19 years) gave birth to 3,079 infants, resulting in a rate of 30.0 per 1,000; this is a decrease of 2.6% from the 2003 rate of 30.8 per 1,000.
- The Orange County rate was 21.3 % lower than the California rate of 38.1 and 27.0% lower than the United States rate of 41.1.
- Among Orange County teens, the majority of births to females aged 15-19 years were to Hispanic females (83.1%).
- The teen birth rate among Orange County Hispanic females in 2004 was 63.2, which was 1.7% lower than the California rate of 64.3, and 23.5% lower than the U.S. rate of 82.6.
- 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, 2004**



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 2004, the infant mortality rate was 4.0 per 1,000 live births to Orange County residents, a decline of 9.1% from the 2003 rate of 4.4.
- The Orange County rate was 23.1% lower than the California rate of 5.2 and 41.2% lower than the United States rate of 6.8.
- In 2003 and 2004, Orange County met the Healthy People 2010 target rate of 4.5 per 1,000 live births.
- Among the four largest race/ethnicity categories, only the infant mortality rate for Asians and Whites met the Healthy People 2010 goal in 2004 (as the rate for Asians has done since 1999).
- In 2004, the Orange County infant mortality rate was the lowest ever.
- The number and rate of infant deaths among Orange County residents by racial/ethnic group during 2004 is shown in Table 1.

## 2004 BIRTH OUTCOMES FACT SHEET

**Table 1. Number and Rate of Infant Mortality by Race/Ethnicity, Orange County Residents, 2004**

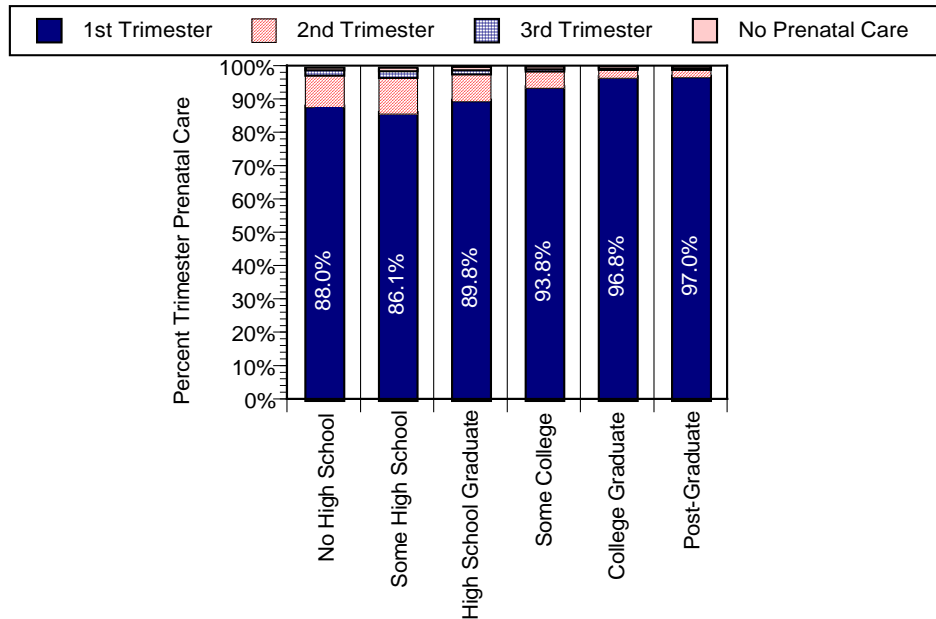
Race/Ethnicity	Infant Deaths	Rate /1,000 Live Births
Hispanic	102	4.6
White	57	4.0
Asian	16	2.3
Black	3	--
NHOPI	1	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Healthy People 2010 Infant Mortality Goal per 1,000 Live Births		4.5

Note: Infant deaths are based on 2004 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 2004, 91.7% of Orange County mothers reported initiating prenatal care in the first trimester.
- This was slightly higher than 2003, when 91.6% 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 85.6% and 83.9%, respectively.
- Orange County met the Healthy People 2010 goal of 90% of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester.
- In 2004, of the four largest racial/ethnic groups, more than 90% of White and Asian mothers initiated prenatal care in the first trimester (95.1% and 94.4%, respectively), while 89.0% of both Hispanic and Black mothers did so.
- The principal sources of payment for prenatal care among Orange County residents in 2004 were HMO or Private Insurance (56.0%) and Medi-Cal (40.8%).
- Trimester prenatal care initiated by mother's education and age, respectively, are shown in Figures 3, 4 & 5.

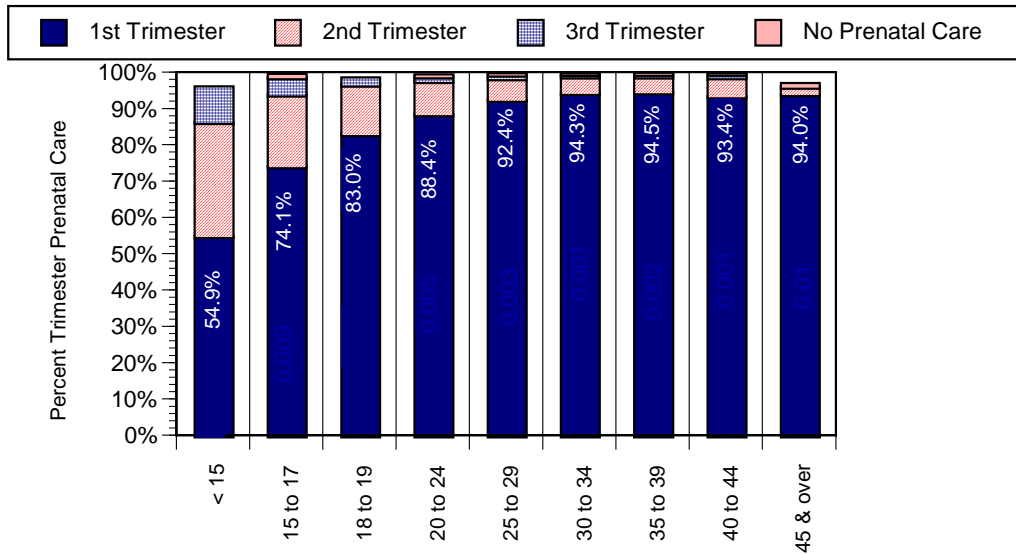
**Figure 3. Trimester Prenatal Care Initiated by Mother's Education, Orange County Residents, 2004**



Note: Unknown for mother's education level (n=587) and no education (n=111) are excluded from analysis.  
 Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

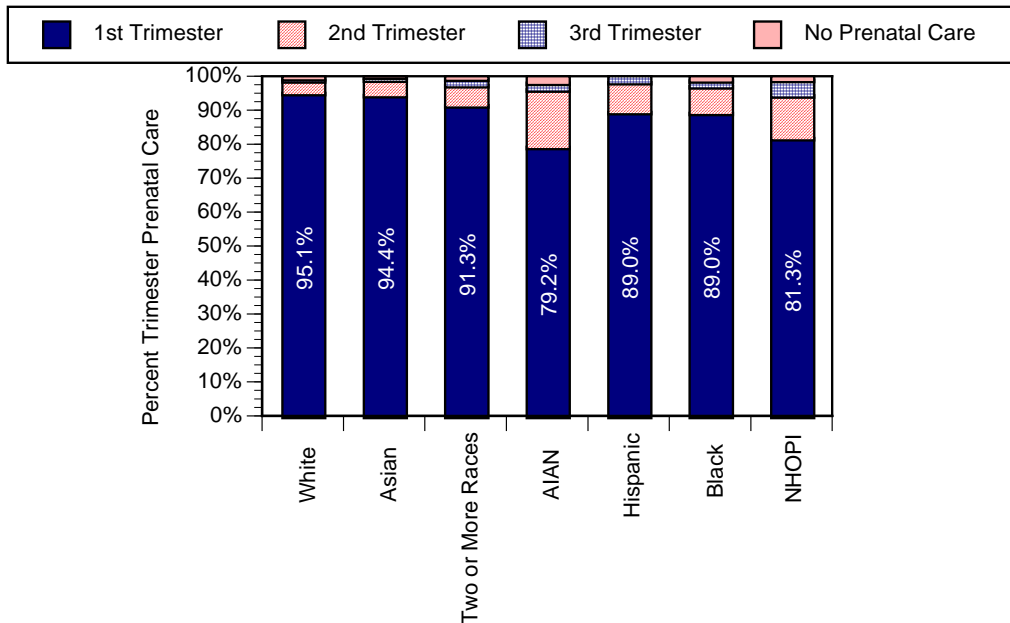
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**Figure 4. Trimester Prenatal Care Initiated by Mother's Age (Years) Orange County Residents, 2004**



Note: Unknown prenatal care (n=185) is not shown in the chart.  
 Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

**Figure 5. Trimester Prenatal Care Initiated by Mother's Race/Ethnicity Orange County Residents, 2004**



Note: Rates are not calculated for fewer than five events.  
 Unknown for prenatal care (n=185) is excluded.  
 NHOPI is Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.  
 Asian includes Other Asian & Southeast Asian.  
 Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

### METHODS OF DELIVERY AND SOURCES OF PAYMENT

- In 2004, Cesarean sections were performed in 31.1% of Orange County births. This percentage was higher than that for California (29.3%) and the United States (29.1%).
- First Cesarean deliveries accounted for 17.9% of Orange County births, compared to 17.1% of California births and 20.6% of United States births.

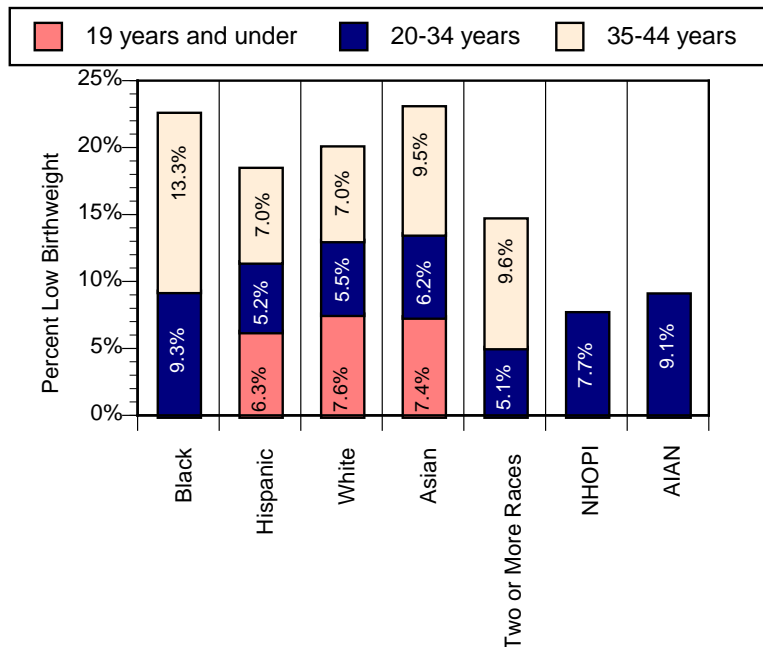
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- The Healthy People 2010 goal for first Cesarean deliveries is 15.0%.
- Repeat Cesarean deliveries accounted for 13.2% of Orange County births, compared to 12.2% of California births and 10.9 % of United States births.
- The principal sources of payment for delivery among Orange County mothers were HMO/Private Insurance (56.1%) and Medi-Cal (41.1%).
- The proportion of Medi-Cal funded deliveries for Orange County (41.1%) was 10.1% lower than the Medi-Cal funded deliveries for California (45.7%).
- In Orange County, the percent of Medi-Cal funded deliveries differed markedly among the major racial/ethnic groups. The highest percentage of deliveries funded by Medi-Cal was among Hispanic mothers (81.1%), and the lowest percentage was among AIAN mothers (0.2%).

### LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

- In 2004, the Orange County low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds, 8 ounces) rate was 61.8 per 1,000 live births, a 3.2% increase from the rate of 59.9 per 1,000 live births in 2003.
- The Orange County rate was 7.8% lower than the California rate of 67.0 and 23.7% lower than the United States rate of 81.0.
- 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.
- Recent research suggests that singletons conceived with assisted-reproductive technology, which account for an increasing number of births, are at greater risk of low birthweight than those conceived spontaneously. (<http://www.cdc.gov/MMWR/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5236a3.htm>)
- 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 Mother's Race/Ethnicity  
Orange County Residents, 2004**



Note: Rates are not calculated for fewer than five events.  
 NHOPI is Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  
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 Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

Sources:

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Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Sutton PD, et al. Births: Final data for 2004. National vital statistics reports; vol 55 no 1. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2006.

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