

2012

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# Wisconsin Births and Infant Deaths



Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
Division of Public Health  
Office of Health Informatics

## Foreword

The Department of Health Services is mandated by section 69.03 (9), Wisconsin Statutes, to prepare an annual report on vital statistics. This report summarizes data collected from the confidential portion of the birth record and related infant death information compiled from resident death certificates.

The Department of Health Services produced this publication, which was prepared in the Office of Health Informatics, Division of Public Health.

In the Office of Health Informatics, staff of the Vital Records Section, Registration and Statistics Unit, collected and compiled the birth, infant death, and fetal death records. Laura Ninneman, Audrey Nohel, Karl Pearson, and Yiwu Zhang prepared the report and updated the narrative. Patricia Nametz in the Bureau of Operations edited the report. Draft review and comments were provided by staff in the Bureau of Community Health Promotion, Division of Public Health. The report was prepared under the supervision of Oskar Anderson, State Registrar, Vital Records Section, and Director of the Office of Health Informatics; and Milda Aksamitauskas, Section Chief, Health Analytics Section.

Beginning with the 2011 data year, individual tables and other components of the report are posted as they become available. Wisconsin Births and Infant Deaths, 2012 will also be posted as a single large document after all its components have been released.

Additional health-related statistical information for Wisconsin is available through the Internet on the Department of Health Services website, at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/stats/>. Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) is a data query system that allows users to obtain birth and other data tailored to their specifications, at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/>.

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## Introduction

This report presents information about births that occurred in 2012 to Wisconsin residents. Information from previous years is also presented to show changes over time. Information is included on the number and rate of live births; demographic characteristics of the mother, such as age, race/ethnicity, marital status, education and number of previous births; characteristics of the pregnancy and delivery, including the trimester that prenatal care began, number of visits, and whether the mother smoked during pregnancy; and characteristics of the newborn. Also included is information about infants who died before their first birthday and fetuses of more than 20 weeks of gestation who were stillborn.

Beginning January 1, 2011, Wisconsin began collecting birth data using a new web-based data entry system for hospitals. The new system adopted the 2003 U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth. Previously, Wisconsin had been collecting data based on the 1989 U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth. Many changes have been made to the data collection process for Wisconsin births. Some information is no longer collected, new information has been added, and some information is still collected but using a different definition. Comparisons between 2012 data and data from years prior to 2011 should be made only with great caution. Please refer to the Technical Notes for a more complete description of changes.

All data in this report refer to Wisconsin residents unless otherwise noted. In most tables, events have been assigned to the place where the person lives (usually legal residence), regardless of the place of the event. For births, the reference is to the residence of the mother. For deaths, the reference is to the residence of the infant.

The data files used are the Wisconsin resident birth certificate file, the matched birth-death file, and the fetal death file. Most tables include the frequencies of events or conditions, along with percentages or rates.

Chapter 69 of the Wisconsin Statutes mandates the Department of Health Services to supervise and direct the collection of birth data from hospitals and birth attendants. State law also requires the Department to protect the confidentiality of birth data, and to ensure that statistical information based on the data (such as that contained in this report) does not identify any individual. The Office of Health Informatics in the Department of Health Services scrupulously follows written procedures to protect the confidential data entrusted to it.

The National Center for Health Statistics works with representatives of all 50 states to select the specific data items collected on the birth record. Data items are chosen for their usefulness in understanding and improving maternal and child health outcomes.

The Office of Health Informatics acknowledges and thanks the Wisconsin hospitals and birth attendants who reported birth information, and their counterparts in neighboring states who submitted out-of-state birth data for Wisconsin residents.

## Key Findings

- In 2012, there were 67,229 live births to Wisconsin residents, 512 fewer than in 2011 (67,741).
- The 2012 crude birth rate in Wisconsin was 11.8 births per 1,000 total population, compared to 11.9 in 2011. The United States crude birth rate for 2011 was 12.6 per 1,000 population. (The crude birth rate is the number of live births per 1,000 total population.)
- The 2012 general fertility rate of 61.9 births per 1,000 Wisconsin females aged 15-44 was lower than the 2012 United States general fertility rate of 63.0. (See Technical Notes for source of U.S. data.)
- In 2012, the fertility rate for Wisconsin teens aged 15-19 was 21.9 births per 1,000 females in this age group, compared to 23.2 in 2011. In 2011, the U.S. teen fertility rate was 29.4.
- In 2012, non-Hispanic white women accounted for 73 percent of Wisconsin resident births, Hispanic/Latina women for 10 percent, and non-Hispanic black/African American women for 9 percent. (See Technical Notes for explanation of race/ethnicity categories.)
- In 2012, 13 percent of Wisconsin women who gave birth had not finished high school. Forty-three percent of women who gave birth in 2012 had earned an associate degree or higher. Twenty percent attended some college but had not yet earned a degree.
- The overall proportion of women who received first-trimester prenatal care was 77 percent in 2012, compared to 76 percent in 2011.
- Births to unmarried women constituted 36.5 percent of births in 2012 compared to 36 percent in 2011. The national percent of nonmarital births in 2012 was 40.7 percent.
- The proportion of Wisconsin women giving birth who reported smoking was 19 percent in 2012. (This is not comparable to data from years prior to 2011.) If we excluded mothers who quit smoking when they realized they were pregnant, the 2012 percent would be 14.1.
- Cesarean sections as a percent of all births increased from 25.7 percent in 2011 to 26.3 percent in 2012.
- In 2012, 4,810 Wisconsin infants were low birthweight; that is, they weighed less than 2,500 grams (about 5.5 pounds) at birth. This total represented 7.2 percent of all births (7.2 in 2011). In comparison, 8.0 percent of all infants born in the United States in 2012 weighed less than 2,500 grams.
- Among low birthweight infants, 863 (1.3 percent of all births) were born at *very* low birthweight (less than 1,500 grams or about 3.3 pounds) and were thus at the highest risk for health problems. The very low birthweight percentage was 1.1 percent of births to whites, 2.7 percent of births to blacks/African Americans, 1.8 percent of births to American Indians/Alaska Natives, 1.3 percent of births to Hispanics/Latinas, 1.3 percent of births to Laotians or Hmong, 0.7 percent of births to Other Asians/Pacific Islanders, 1.7 percent of births to mothers of other races, and 2.0 percent of births to mothers who reported two or more races. (See Technical Notes for explanation of race/ethnicity categories.)

- In 2012, 6,828 Wisconsin infants were born prematurely (with a gestation of less than 37 weeks). This total represented 10.2 percent of all births, compared to 10.1 in 2011. (See Technical Notes for full definition of prematurity.)
- In Wisconsin, 385 infants under the age of one year died in 2012. The 2012 infant mortality rate was 5.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to 6.3 in 2011 and 6.9 in 2002. The 2010 U.S. infant mortality rate (the latest available) was 6.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
- The black/African American infant mortality rate for 2012 was 13.2 deaths per 1,000 live births to black/African American women, compared to 13.9 in 2011. (The comparable rate in 2002 was 18.3.) The 2012 white infant mortality rate was 4.7 deaths per 1,000 births to white women, compared to 5.3 in 2011 and 5.5 in 2002. The Hispanic/Latino infant mortality rate for 2012 was 4.6 deaths per 1,000 births to Hispanic/Latina women, compared to 6.3 in 2011 and 6.6 in 2002.
- Based on three-year rolling average infant mortality rates, the American Indian infant mortality rate was 10.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990-1992 and 8.1 per 1,000 in 2010-2012. The black/African American infant mortality rate has remained much higher than the rate for other populations in Wisconsin for at least two decades. The black/African American rate was 15.9 per 1,000 live births in 1990-1992 and 13.6 in 2010-2012. The Hispanic/Latino infant mortality rate was 7.9 per 1,000 live births in 1990-1992 and 5.1 per 1,000 in 2010-2012. Total infant mortality and white infant mortality declined gradually over the 1990-2012 period.
- The disparity ratio between the black/African American infant mortality rate and the white infant mortality rate was 2.7 in 2010-2012. The disparity ratio in 2009-2011 was 2.8. The disparity ratio is the black/African American rate divided by the white rate, and is one measure of the difference in magnitude between the two rates.

## 25 Most Popular First Names for Newborns, Wisconsin, 2012

Females		Males	
1.	EMMA	1.	MASON
2.	SOPHIA	2.	LIAM
3.	AVA	3.	ETHAN
4.	OLIVIA	4.	JACKSON
5.	ISABELLA	5.	OWEN
6.	EMILY	6.	WILLIAM
7.	GRACE	7.	LOGAN
8.	ELLA	8.	NOAH
9.	AMELIA	9.	CARTER
10.	EVELYN	10.	HENRY
11.	ABIGAIL	11.	JACOB
12.	HARPER	12.	BENJAMIN
13.	NATALIE	13.	ALEXANDER
14.	ADDISON	14.	WYATT
15.	AUBREY	15.	SAMUEL
16.	CHARLOTTE	16.	ELIJAH
17.	LILLIAN	17.	JACK
18.	LILY	18.	ISAAC
19.	ELIZABETH	19.	LUCAS
20.	CLAIRE	20.	CALEB
21.	BROOKLYN	21.	AIDEN
22.	CHLOE	22.	LANDON
23.	AVERY	23.	LEVI
24.	MIA	24.	NOLAN
25.	ZOEY	25.	JOSEPH