

# 1997 Birth Statistics Summary

*An update from the Vital Statistics Unit*

*The Health Statistics Section is pleased to present a summary of the 1997 Colorado birth data prior to the release of the comprehensive set of birth statistics published annually in the Colorado Vital Statistics report. Birth data are presented for the state overall and by county for all 1997 Colorado resident births regardless of whether births occurred within the state.*

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## **BRIEF**

### **Age of Mother**

The youngest mothers, aged 10-14, experienced a decrease in fertility rates from .9 births per 1,000 in 1996 to .7 in 1997. Decreases in the past two years were the first since 1988. Fertility rates for teens aged 15-17 remained at 30.9 births per 1,000 females for the second straight year, the lowest rate reported since 1989. The fertility rate for teens aged 18-19 decreased from 71.7 in 1996 to 70.0 in 1997. Rates for all mothers under 25 have been declining since 1992. Women between 25 and 44 experienced higher fertility rates in 1997 than in 1996. Fertility rates for women age 25-29 increased to 120.7 in 1997, up from 118.9 in 1996, and rates for mothers age 30-34 increased from 83.3 in 1996 to 85.2 in 1997. (For additional data, see table on page 2.)

### **Race/Ethnicity of Mother**

White/Hispanics continued to experience the highest general fertility rate at 103.4 births per 1,000 white/Hispanic females age 15-44 in 1997. White/non-Hispanics had the lowest general fertility rate at 54.1. See page 2 for fertility rates by other race/ethnicity groups.

Among white/non-Hispanic and Asian females the highest fertility rates were experienced by those aged 20-29. Among white/Hispanics, blacks, and American Indians the highest fertility rates were reported for those aged 18-19.

### **Birth Weight**

Low weight birth has been associated with infant morbidity and infant mortality<sup>1</sup>. In 1997, there were 5,014 low-weight births (<2,500 grams) or 8.9 percent of total Colorado resident births. This percentage is the same as reported in 1996, representing for the second year the highest proportion of low weight births since

### **Trends**

The number of Colorado resident births increased from 55,779 in 1996 to 56,505 in 1997. The Colorado birth rate continued declining in Colorado to 14.4 births per 1,000 resident population, slightly lower than the rate of 14.5 reported in 1996. Colorado's general fertility rate (the number of live births per 1,000 women age 15-44) increased only slightly in 1997 to 61.9, compared to 61.8 in 1996.

1975. The percentage of very low weight births (<1500 grams) was 1.3 percent in 1997, the same as in 1996.

### **Prenatal Care**

The Healthy People 2000 Objectives set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services define late prenatal care as care that begins after the first trimester. In 1997, 17.1 percent of Colorado mothers began care after the first trimester (or not at all), down from the 18.6 percent reported in 1996.

### **Gestational Age**

Preterm birth (<37 weeks gestation) is the leading cause of infant mortality in the U.S. In 1997, 8.6 percent of Colorado births were preterm, a decrease from 9.0 percent in 1996. Mothers in the age groups 10-17 and 18-19 experienced the highest percentage of preterm births, at 10.7 and 9.3 respectively.

### **Cigarette Smoking**

Smoking cigarettes during pregnancy has been associated with various unwanted birth outcomes including low weight and preterm birth<sup>1</sup>. Of the Colorado resident births in 1997, 10.6 percent of the mothers reported smoking during pregnancy, down from the 12.1 percent in 1996. Reports of smoking during pregnancy decreased across all age groups.

### **Education of Mother**

There were 10,570, or 18.9 percent of births in 1997, to mothers with fewer than 12 years of education. This percentage is slightly higher than the 18.7 percent reported in 1996.

### **Marital Status**

The percent of all Colorado resident births to unmarried mothers increased from 24.8 percent in 1996 to 25.2 percent in 1997.

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 1990. Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

## Live Births and Fertility Rates by Age Group of Mother: Colorado Residents, 1990-1997

YEAR	TOTAL BIRTHS	13-14	15-17	18-19	13-19	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
<b>NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS:</b>													
1990	53,491	89	2,060	3,915	6,064	91	5,975	13,118	16,352	12,444	4,772	717	15
1991	53,786	102	2,234	4,028	6,364	106	6,262	13,361	15,582	12,550	5,130	757	21
1992	54,525	124	2,423	3,977	6,524	125	6,400	13,628	15,088	12,994	5,392	864	32
1993	54,013	128	2,430	3,892	6,450	129	6,322	13,481	14,582	13,020	5,449	984	37
1994	54,050	128	2,513	4,008	6,649	129	6,521	13,027	14,227	13,082	5,930	1,065	47
1995	54,310	132	2,509	3,953	6,594	134	6,462	12,935	14,286	13,186	6,184	1,071	38
1996	55,779	120	2,428	4,101	6,649	120	6,529	12,993	14,971	13,261	6,606	1,206	67
1997	56,505	103	2,516	4,124	6,743	103	6,640	13,228	15,276	13,156	6,689	1,301	85
<b>AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATE:</b>													
1990	65.6	2.1	33.0	82.7	39.9	0.8	54.4	112.8	112.5	77.2	31.5	5.5	0.2
1991	65.2	2.3	34.5	82.3	40.4	0.9	55.1	115.9	112.0	77.3	32.9	5.5	0.2
1992	64.8	2.7	36.3	77.3	39.8	1.0	54.2	116.3	111.2	79.1	33.3	6.0	0.3
1993	62.8	2.7	35.0	73.2	37.8	1.0	51.6	110.7	109.8	78.5	32.5	6.6	0.3
1994	61.6	2.5	34.9	73.7	37.5	1.0	51.6	102.8	109.9	78.9	34.4	6.8	0.4
1995	60.9	2.5	33.3	70.9	35.9	1.0	49.3	98.7	112.4	80.6	35.1	6.6	0.3
1996	61.8	2.2	30.9	71.7	35.1	0.9	48.1	96.5	118.9	83.3	36.9	7.2	0.5
1997	61.9	1.9	30.9	70.0	34.5	0.7	47.4	95.8	120.7	85.2	37.1	7.5	0.6

Sums may not add to total due to cases in which the age of mother is unknown or the rare occurrence of births to mothers age 50 or older. Age-specific fertility rates are births per 1,000 women for each age group. Fertility rates for the "Total" category are total live births per 1,000 women age 15-44.

## Selected Birth Characteristics by Age Group of Mother: Colorado Residents, 1997

CHARACTERISTIC	ALL AGES		AGES 10-17		AGES 18-19		AGES 20-29		AGES 30-49	
	N	RATE*	N	RATE	N	RATE	N	RATE	N	RATE
<b>Race/Ethnicity of Mother:</b>										
All Races	56,505	61.9	2,619	11.8	4,124	70.0	28,504	107.7	21,231	32.2
White/Non-Hispanic	38,729	54.1	1,032	6.2	2,169	46.5	18,458	93.1	17,051	31.8
White/Hispanic	12,951	103.4	1,302	36.4	1,494	185.9	7,482	173.3	2,670	35.5
Black	2,582	64.2	199	18.2	312	128.5	1,429	110.7	640	24.9
Asian	1,643	78.7	30	6.2	81	74.6	805	118.2	724	49.9
American Indian	591	56.6	54	19.7	68	105.1	328	93.5	141	21.0
<b>Birth Characteristics:</b>										
Low Weight Births	5,014	8.9	307	11.7	455	11.0	2,390	8.4	1,860	8.8
Very Low Weight Births	756	1.3	56	2.1	75	1.8	339	1.2	286	1.3
5-Minute Apgar score <7	752	1.3	47	1.8	67	1.6	365	1.3	273	1.3
Prenatal Care Later than 1st Trimester	9,594	17.1	959	36.9	1,267	30.9	5,224	18.5	2,138	10.1
No Care/Care at Delivery Only	486	0.9	59	2.3	74	1.8	243	0.9	108	0.5
Gestational Age <37 Weeks	4,847	8.6	281	10.7	382	9.3	2,334	8.2	1,848	8.7
Smoking during Pregnancy	5,949	10.6	363	14.0	684	16.7	3,321	11.7	1,580	7.5
Congenital Anomalies	747	1.3	45	1.7	74	1.8	381	1.3	247	1.2
Mother's Education <12 Years	10,570	18.9	2,269	88.4	1,848	45.5	5,106	18.1	1,345	6.4
Births to Unmarried Women	14,252	25.2	2,253	86.0	2,675	64.9	7,369	25.9	1,948	9.2

\*Age-specific fertility rates are live births per 1,000 women for each age group. Fertility rates for the "All Ages" category are total live births per 1,000 women age 15-44. Fertility rates were calculated using 1997-based preliminary estimates from the Demography Section, Colorado Division of Local Government. Percentages are of total births of each age group, excluding cases with specific characteristics unknown. Sums may not add to total due to cases with age or race/ethnicity of mother unknown or not presented. Low-weight births are <2,500 grams. Very low weight births are <1,500 grams. Prenatal care later than first trimester include births with no care or care at delivery only.

# Vital Statistics Summary for Births by County: Colorado Residents, 1997

COUNTY	TOTAL		TEEN MOTHERS AGE 10-17		LOW WEIGHT BIRTHS		CARE AFTER 1ST TRIMESTER		BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED WOMEN		MOTHER'S EDUCATION <12 YEARS	
	N	RATE	N	RATE	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Colorado	56,505	14.4	2,619	11.8	5,014	8.9	9,594	17.1	14,252	25.2	10,570	18.9
Adams	4,992	15.9	248	12.9	444	8.9	903	18.2	1,329	26.6	1,139	23.1
Alamosa	250	15.9	24	23.1	33	13.2	40	16.1	79	31.6	70	28.5
Arapahoe	6,175	13.3	171	6.5	571	9.2	631	10.3	1,265	20.5	729	12.0
Archuleta	97	11.4	4	7.9	8	8.2	20	20.8	22	22.7	9	9.8
Baca	46	10.0	*	*	4	8.7	13	28.3	8	17.4	7	15.2
Bent	63	10.8	6	18.1	9	14.3	9	14.3	21	33.3	12	19.0
Boulder	3,254	12.3	85	6.3	242	7.4	520	16.0	634	19.5	420	13.1
Chaffee	131	8.3	4	5.0	16	12.2	18	14.0	26	19.8	19	14.5
Cheyenne	26	10.8	*	*	3	11.5	3	11.5	3	11.5	3	11.5
Clear Creek	74	8.3	*	*	6	8.1	8	11.4	15	20.3	8	11.1
Conejos	129	16.4	11	18.4	7	5.4	19	14.8	40	31.0	23	18.0
Costilla	40	11.4	*	*	3	7.5	15	37.5	11	27.5	10	26.3
Crowley	46	10.2	5	21.6	3	6.5	12	26.1	15	32.6	8	17.4
Custer	32	9.9	*	*	4	12.5	10	31.3	7	21.9	4	12.9
Delta	306	11.8	22	15.2	21	6.9	68	22.4	75	24.5	72	23.7
Denver	9,280	18.4	642	26.4	928	10.0	2,170	23.6	3,416	36.8	3,272	36.0
Dolores	16	9.3	*	*	*	*	3	18.8	3	18.8	*	*
Douglas	2,360	18.1	16	2.1	178	7.5	86	3.7	113	4.8	49	2.1
Eagle	600	18.7	21	11.5	57	9.5	154	25.9	82	13.7	162	27.3
Elbert	200	11.4	3	2.7	14	7.0	16	8.2	16	8.0	7	3.5
El Paso	7,700	16.0	319	12.0	713	9.3	1,209	15.7	1,894	24.6	864	11.3
Fremont	410	9.7	27	12.9	44	10.7	68	16.6	147	35.9	75	18.5
Garfield	595	15.6	25	10.4	48	8.1	191	32.3	127	21.3	154	25.9
Gilpin	39	9.6	*	*	7	17.9	5	12.8	9	23.1	6	15.4
Grand	111	11.2	*	*	14	12.6	13	11.8	21	18.9	6	5.6
Gunnison	121	9.8	4	5.2	8	6.6	8	6.7	21	17.4	9	7.4
Hinsdale	5	7.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Huerfano	61	8.1	7	16.2	8	13.1	20	32.8	26	42.6	18	29.5
Jackson	21	11.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Jefferson	6,386	12.7	194	6.8	517	8.1	586	9.2	1,191	18.7	662	10.5
Kiowa	20	11.2	*	*	*	*	3	15.0	3	15.0	3	15.0
Kit Carson	73	9.8	3	6.3	5	6.8	9	12.3	12	16.4	13	17.8
Lake	100	12.0	6	11.1	13	13.0	37	37.0	37	37.0	30	30.0
La Plata	413	10.1	24	9.7	33	8.0	65	15.8	109	26.4	51	12.7
Larimer	2,807	12.4	97	7.6	203	7.2	534	19.3	523	18.6	290	10.5
Las Animas	150	9.5	11	12.5	15	10.0	32	21.3	55	36.7	22	14.7
Lincoln	54	8.2	3	8.2	*	*	6	11.1	16	29.6	10	18.9
Logan	252	13.4	13	11.6	20	7.9	77	30.8	62	24.6	43	17.1
Mesa	1,396	12.6	94	14.0	110	7.9	195	14.1	379	27.1	300	21.5
Mineral	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Moffat	159	12.8	9	10.0	21	13.2	29	18.2	43	27.0	30	18.9
Montezuma	275	12.1	15	10.0	29	10.5	81	29.6	103	37.5	54	19.7
Montrose	431	13.9	21	11.0	30	7.0	113	26.4	110	25.5	109	25.8
Morgan	473	17.7	35	19.9	42	8.9	111	23.5	190	40.2	212	45.0
Otero	281	13.1	26	19.3	19	6.8	60	21.4	112	39.9	60	21.4
Ouray	26	8.0	*	*	5	19.2	6	23.1	3	11.5	*	*
Park	134	10.7	*	*	17	12.7	12	9.0	14	10.4	6	4.5
Phillips	60	12.9	3	10.5	*	*	15	25.0	10	16.7	17	28.3
Pitkin	145	10.1	*	*	11	7.6	28	19.4	29	20.0	20	14.2
Prowers	214	15.4	18	18.0	25	11.7	65	30.4	65	30.4	72	33.6
Pueblo	1,774	13.3	158	20.4	180	10.1	299	16.9	810	45.7	451	25.5
Rio Blanco	61	8.6	4	8.1	8	13.1	14	24.1	14	23.0	10	16.7
Rio Grande	137	11.4	13	16.8	6	4.4	29	21.2	48	35.0	39	29.1
Routt	175	10.1	*	*	19	10.9	8	4.7	27	15.4	8	4.6
Saguache	91	15.4	12	32.5	6	6.6	26	28.6	23	25.3	44	52.4
San Juan	3	5.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
San Miguel	55	9.9	*	*	5	9.1	13	24.1	8	14.5	*	*
Sedgwick	29	10.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	8	27.6	6	20.7
Summit	220	11.7	4	4.3	30	13.6	25	11.4	28	12.7	21	9.5
Teller	220	11.1	7	5.6	21	9.5	22	10.0	39	17.7	25	11.4
Washington	44	8.2	*	*	6	13.6	8	18.2	11	25.0	8	18.2
Weld	2,531	16.2	182	19.2	210	8.3	826	32.8	716	28.3	771	30.6
Yuma	132	13.7	*	*	7	5.3	22	16.7	26	19.7	22	16.7

Birth rates are per 1,000 total population. Fertility rates for teen mothers age 10-17 are the number of births per 1,000 women in this age group. Low weight births are <2,500 grams. The "Care after 1st Trimester" category includes births with no prenatal care or care at delivery only. Percentages are calculated using total births for each county as the denominator, excluding cases where specific information is unknown. Sums may not add up to total due to cases where county of residence is unknown. \* indicates fewer than three events in the category.

# Most Popular Baby Names in Colorado for 1997

The Health Statistics Section of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has compiled the list of the top 50 baby names for 1997 (see accompanying list). For baby boys, there were no changes in the top two names from 1996. Jacob remains in the top spot, followed by Michael. For baby girls, Hannah moved from number two to number one, switching places with Emily.

For girls, the names Jessica and Sarah remained in third and fourth place respectively. For baby boys, Matthew moved up from fourth position to third, and Joshua moved from fifth to fourth position .

Compared with the 1996 list, Kaitlyn, Allison, Marissa, and Mackenzie are new to the top 50 list of girls' names. For boys, the new names are Adam, Jack, Cole, Trevor, Ethan, and Ian.

Compared with 1987, there have been significant changes to the 50 most popular names for girls. Over the last decade, popular names like Christina/e, Heather, Amy, Melissa, and Michelle were replaced with Madison, Taylor, Alyssa, Alexis, and Emma. For 1997, 26 of the 50 names were different from the 1987 list. Traditional names like Mary, Lisa, and Andrea were on the list in 1987, but in 1997, they were replaced by Sierra, Gabrielle, and Savannah.

For boys, the changes were not as dramatic. Compared with 1987, 15 of the 50 most popular names changed in 1997. Brian, Steven, Timothy, Jeremy, and Jeffrey were replaced by Dylan, Christian, Connor, Cameron, and Noah. Mark, Patrick, and Paul were among the top 50 names in 1987, while Caleb, Logan, and Ian were popular in 1997.

Favorite baby names varied for different race/ethnicity groups in Colorado. White/non-Hispanics chose Hannah and Jacob as the top names in 1997. Jessica and Jose were the most common names for Hispanics, and Jasmine and Isaiah were the number one choices among blacks.

Names that didn't make the top fifty included Elway, Jamaica, and Mars for baby boys, and October, November, Paradise, and Rejoice for baby girls. □

## Top 50 Baby Names for 1997

Rank	Girls	Boys
1	Hannah	Jacob
2	Emily	Michael
3	Jessica	Matthew
4	Sarah	Joshua
5	Madison	Austin
6	Samantha	Tyler
7	Taylor	Andrew
8	Alexandra	Christopher
9	Ashley	Nicholas
10	Megan	Brandon
11	Elizabeth	Daniel
12	Rachel	Ryan
13	Alyssa	Joseph
14	Alexis	Zachary
15	Lauren	David
16	Emma	Alexander
17	Kayla	Anthony
18	Morgan	John
19	Amanda	James
20	Brianna	Benjamin
21	Jennifer	Kyle
22	Jordan	Samuel
23	Abigail	William
24	Victoria	Justin
25	Nicole	Jonathan
26	Brittany	Dylan
27	Rebecca	Christian
28	Danielle	Jordan
29	Katherine	Cody
30	Sierra	Robert
31	Anna	Nathan
32	Mariah	Aaron
33	Olivia	Thomas
34	Amber	Eric
35	Sydney	Connor
36	Stephanie	Cameron
37	Jasmine	Jose
38	Brooke	Noah
39	Haley	Adam
40	Maria	Logan
41	Kaitlyn	Isaiah
42	Gabrielle	Sean
43	Savannah	Gabriel
44	Allison	Caleb
45	Marissa	Jack
46	Bailey	Cole
47	Courtney	Kevin
48	Sara	Trevor
49	Erin	Ethan
50	Mackenzie	Ian