

NeoData/Cubs

- 15.3 live births/1000
- 10% of the live births were low birth weight (<2500 gm.) compared to national average of 7.6%
- Third highest percentage of low birth weight babies in US, only outranked by Mississippi and Washington, D.C.
- Blacks gave birth to infants of low birth weight more than twice as frequently as white women did, at 14.5% compared with 6.9% of live births
- Infants weighing <1500 GM. (3 lbs. 5 oz) are considered very low birth weight
 - Much greater risk of mortality and long-term disability
 - 2.1% of infants born in Louisiana weighed less than 1500 gm.
 - Blacks had three times the number of very low birth weight babies

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