

Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Low Birth Weight Births*

One of the most significant factors associated with infant mortality is the birth weight of the infant. Infants born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) are considered to be low birth weight and are at increased risk for many poor birth outcomes.

Figure 11 shows Stanislaus County and California's percentage for low birth weight births. There was a slight incline over the past decade. There is one possible factor at work on this issue. There is better fertility treatment for infertile couples, which has increased the number of multiple births and has resulted in a higher number of low birth weight babies. It is not possible to eliminate all low birth weight births, but the national objective for the year 2010 (HP2010) is to have only 5% of all births weighing less than 2500 grams.

Figure 11: Low Birth Weight Births*, Stanislaus County and California

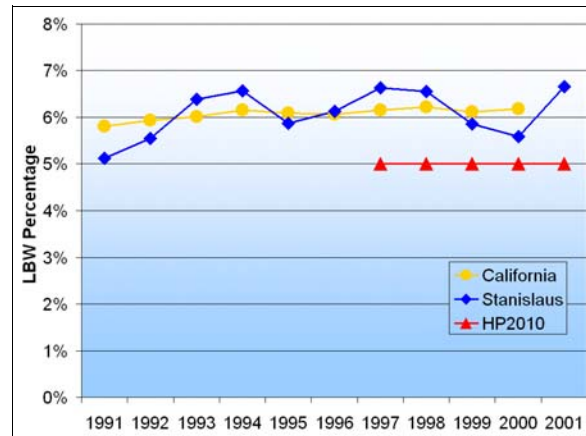


Figure 12: Low Birth Weight Births* by Race/Ethnicity, Stanislaus County

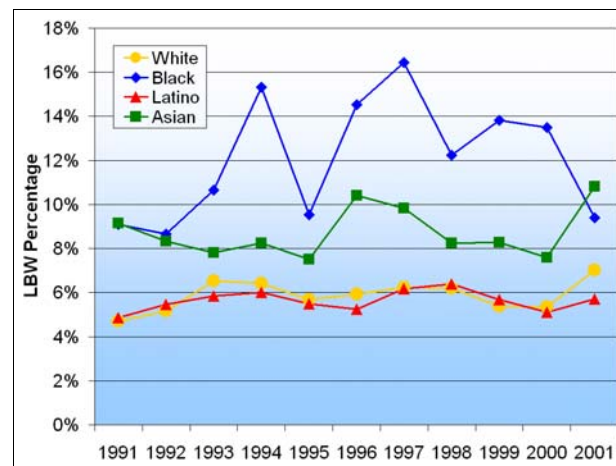
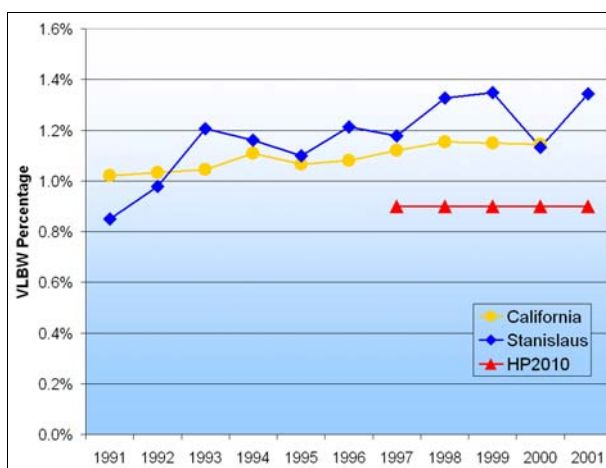


Figure 13: Very Low Birth Weight Births** by Race/Ethnicity, Stanislaus County

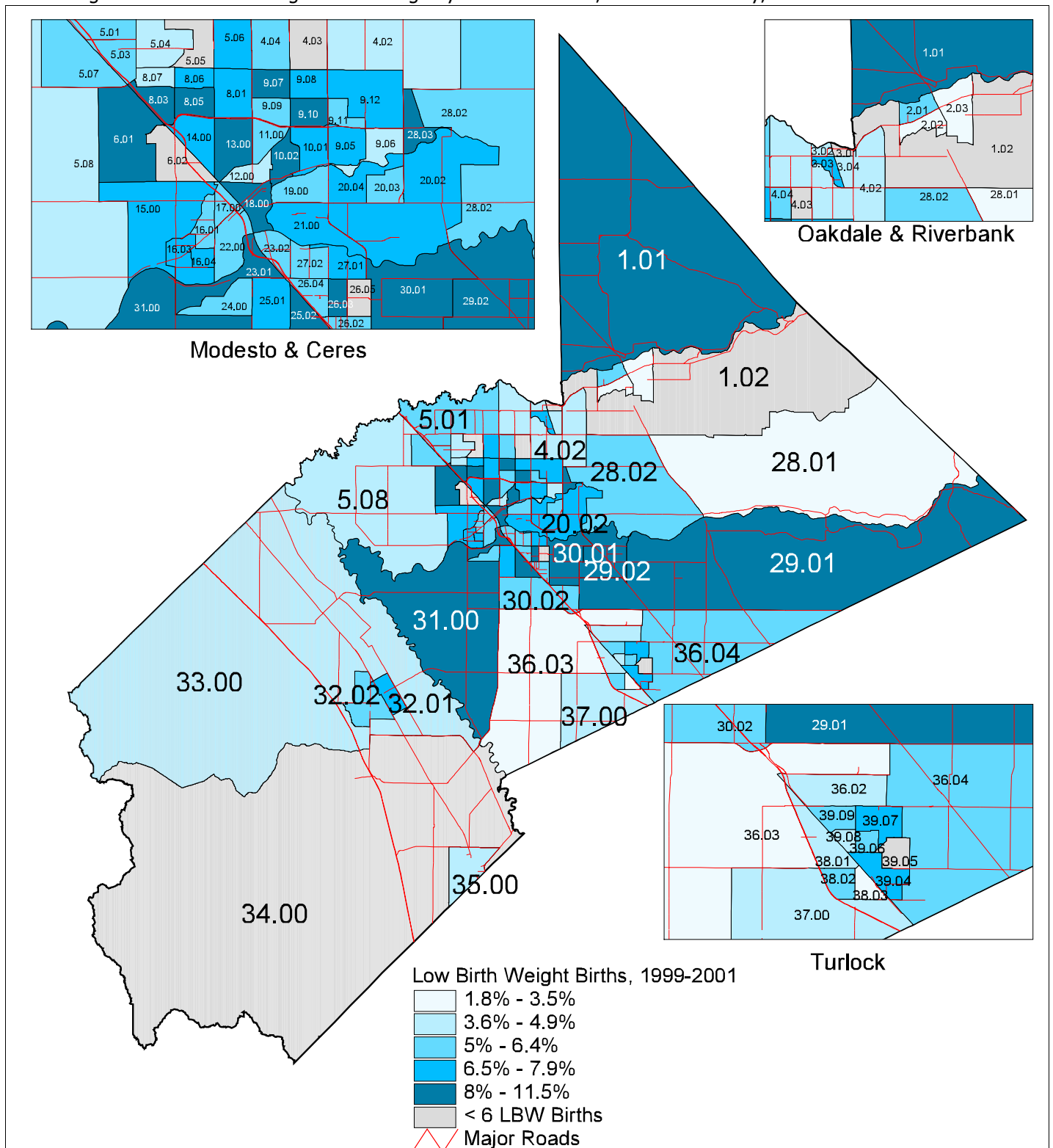


*Low Birth Weight is less than 2500 grams (5.5 pounds) at birth. Source: CA, DHS, Center for Health Statistics (1)

**Very Low Birth Weight is less than 1500 grams at birth.

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Figure 14: Low Birth Weight* Percentage by Census Tract**, Stanislaus County, 1999-2001



*Low Birth Weight is less than 2500 grams (5.5 pounds) at birth.
Source: Stanislaus County, HSA, Vital Statistics (20)

** The numbers on the map are the Census Tract labels.