

Definition/Description:

The number of live born infants prior to 37 weeks gestation expressed as a proportion of all live births.

Babies born prematurely often have many health problems, some of which persist into adult life. Preterm birth (gestational age prior to 37 completed weeks) has been identified as one of the most important perinatal health problems in industrialized nations and is an important determinant of neonatal and infant morbidity, including neurodevelopmental handicaps, chronic respiratory problems, infections and ophthalmologic problems¹.

Information is presented at the regional and neighbourhood cluster levels for the two time periods, 1991-1995 and 1996-2000.

Source:

Need to Know Project, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, University of Manitoba, 2003.

¹ Berkowitz GS, Papiernik E. Epidemiology of preterm birth. *Epidemiol Rev* 1993;15:414-43.

Findings:

Pre-term Birth Rate in the Winnipeg Health Region by Neighbourhood Cluster, 1991-1995 and 1996-2000

Community Area	Neighbourhood Cluster	Preterm births per 1000 Liveborn Infants 1991-95	Preterm births per 1000 Liveborn Infants 1996-00
St. James-Assiniboia	01A	56.4	71.3
	01B	61.3	78.3
Assiniboine South	002	64	71
Fort Garry	03A	64.7	77.1
	03B	52	79.9
St. Vital	04A	70.1	68.8
	04B	61.6	62.1
St. Boniface	05A	64.5	69.4
	05B	57.4	69.3
Transcona	006	64.3	66.2
River East	07A	65.9	83.8
	07B	65.6	70.6
	07C	69.8	73.1
	07D	41.9	65
Seven Oaks	08A	65.1	70.5
	08B	69	80
	08C	59.4	92.7
Inkster	09A	80.3	81.2
	09B	60	87.4
Point Douglas	10A	53.5	74.8
	10B	84.6	99.4
Downtown	11A	72.2	80.3
	11B	77.4	85.7
River Heights	12A	58.3	63.9
	12B	71.4	72
Winnipeg Health Region		65.6	75.3

Highlights:

- The pre-term birth rate for the Winnipeg Health Region has increased by 15% between the five year periods 1991-1995 and 1996-2000.