

Definition/Description:

Low birth weight (LBW), defined as birth weight of less than 2,500 g (approximately five and one half pounds), is one of the most common health status indicators and is reported globally. “Low birth weight is a key determinant of infant survival, health, and development. LBW infants are at a greater risk of having a disability and for diseases such as cerebral palsy, visual problems, learning disabilities and respiratory problems” (Canadian Institute of Health Information, 2002).

Calculation:

$$\frac{\text{Number of births in low weight group (1 - 2499 grams)} \times 1000}{\text{Total number of live births in fiscal year}}$$

Source:

The data used in this report was obtained from the Manitoba Health Hospital Abstract Database, Decisions Support Services, Manitoba Health. All numerical values, tables, and figures (including spatial analyses) were generated by the Population Health and Health System Analysis Unit, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

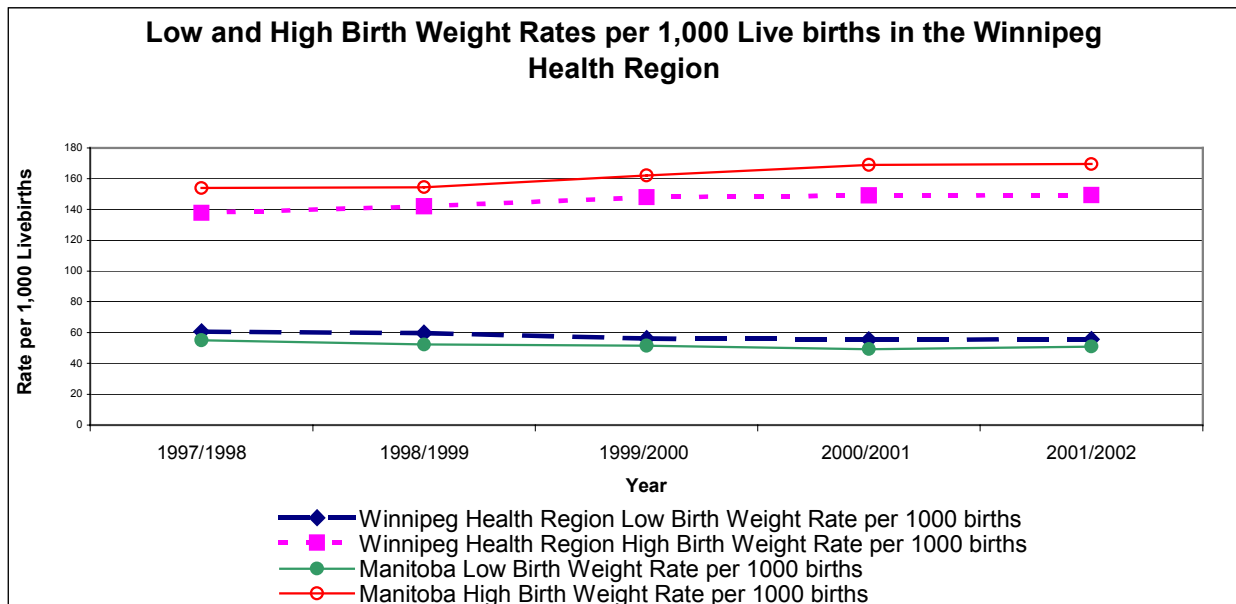
Findings:

Low Birth Weight Rate per 1000 Livebirths by Community Area

Community Area	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Unknown	18.9	87.7	-	-	-
St. James-Assiniboia	60.5	57.6	35.1	61.5	52.2
Assiniboine South	67.3	32.5	62.1	39.5	35
Fort Garry	62	61.6	55.9	60.9	42.4
St. Vital	52.9	66.6	39.3	40.8	47.5
St. Boniface	46.8	50.3	43.4	35.8	44.4
Transcona	56.4	28.7	66.5	50.8	75.5
River East	61.1	64.1	50.6	69.3	53.1
Seven Oaks	63.9	55.9	73.5	47.9	54
Inkster	73	70.9	69.8	60.7	75.5
Point Douglas	61.3	56.5	66.8	59.4	70.3
Downtown	65.7	72.8	62.1	67.7	65
River Heights	59.3	54.1	58.3	40.3	49.8
Winnipeg Health Region	60.6	59.6	56.2	55.4	55.6

Low Birth Weight Counts by Community Area

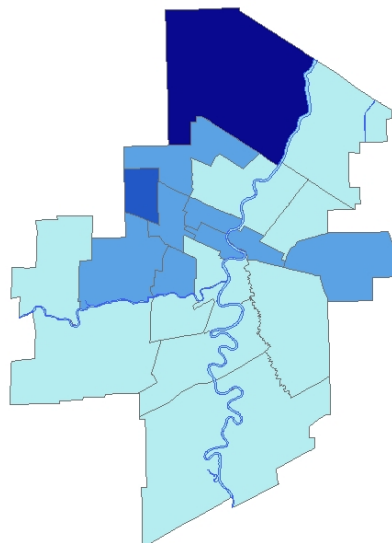
Community Area	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Unknown	1	5	-	-	-
St. James-Assiniboia	37	33	21	34	31
Assiniboine South	20	9	18	12	10
Fort Garry	43	42	39	41	29
St. Vital	36	49	26	25	30
St. Boniface	23	26	22	18	23
Transcona	22	10	27	19	29
River East	67	65	53	71	52
Seven Oaks	39	33	43	28	31
Inkster	33	29	31	25	32
Point Douglas	39	35	42	37	41
Downtown	68	79	64	71	68
River Heights	37	32	36	24	30
Winnipeg Health Region	465	447	422	405	406



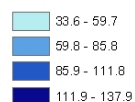
Proportion of Livebirths by Birthweight for the Winnipeg Health Region

	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
% of livebirths classified as low birthweight (1-2499 grams)	6.1	6.0	5.6	5.5	5.6
% of livebirths classified as average birthweight (2500-3999 grams)	79.2	79.1	78.9	79.0	78.8
% of livebirths classified as high birthweight (4000+ grams)	13.8	14.2	14.8	14.9	14.9
% of livebirths classified as unknown birthweight	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Low Birth Weight Rates per 1000 Livebirths in the Winnipeg Health Region by Neighbourhood Cluster; 2001/2002



Rate per 1,000 Livebirths



Highlights:

- Low Birth Weight rates have varied between 55 and 61 per 1,000 live births over the period from 1997/1998 to 2001/2002. The WHR has higher low birth weight rates than the rest of the province over the past five years. In addition, there are areas within the Winnipeg Health Region that have substantially higher LBW rates compared to the Winnipeg Health Region value. Low birth weight rates by Neighbourhood Cluster also vary substantially from 34 per 1,000 live births to 138 per 1,000 live births in 2001/2002.