

Teen pregnancy rates decreased 17 percent between 1997-2001 and 2003-2007; both black and white teens and each of the three counties demonstrated an overall decline, though most recently, Sussex county's rates rose for both white and black teens.

Highlights of Live Birth and Reported Pregnancy Statistics

Highlights of the data include:

- The birth rate in 2003-2007 continued to rise, and the number of live births reached 12,097, representing a 9.5 percent increase since 2000.
- For the first time in 10 years, there was no increase in the number of live births to Hispanic mothers.
- Teen (15-19) birth rates declined 21 percent between 93-97 and 03-07, though most recently the rates' decrease has been very slight.
 - The 15-17 teen birth rate continued its decrease; since 93-97 the rate has dropped by 43 percent.
 - During the same time period the 18-19 teen birth rate did not demonstrate a single clear trend, fluctuating slightly lower and then slightly higher than the 93-97 rate.
 - White Delaware teen birth rates were unchanged from 2002-2006 to 2003-2007, while black Delaware teen rates continued their decrease; even so, live birth rates for black teens were 93 percent higher than rates for white teens (67.4 vs. 35).
- From 1989-1993 to 2003-2007, the proportion of infants born at low birthweight (<2500 grams) increased 21 percent, though most recently the trend appears to have stabilized with the proportion fluctuating between 9.4 and 9.3.
- During the same time period, the proportion of infants born prematurely rose 24 percent, from 11.1 in 1989-1993 to 13.8 in 2003-2007.
- In 2007, the cesarean section rate rose to 32 per 100 live births, an increase of 52 percent since 1997.
- First trimester prenatal care attainment dropped for the third consecutive time, to our lowest level since 1988-1992.
 - Prenatal care attainment declined in all geographic areas; Sussex county had the lowest numbers regardless of mother's race or Hispanic origin.
- Between 1989-1993 and 2003-2007, the rate of plural births grew by 37 percent, though it decreased slightly between 2002-2006 and 2003-2007.
 - The magnitude of change differed substantially when examined by race. The rate of white plural births rose 31 percent, to 35 per 1000 births, while the black plural birth rate grew 61 percent, to 40 per 1000 births.