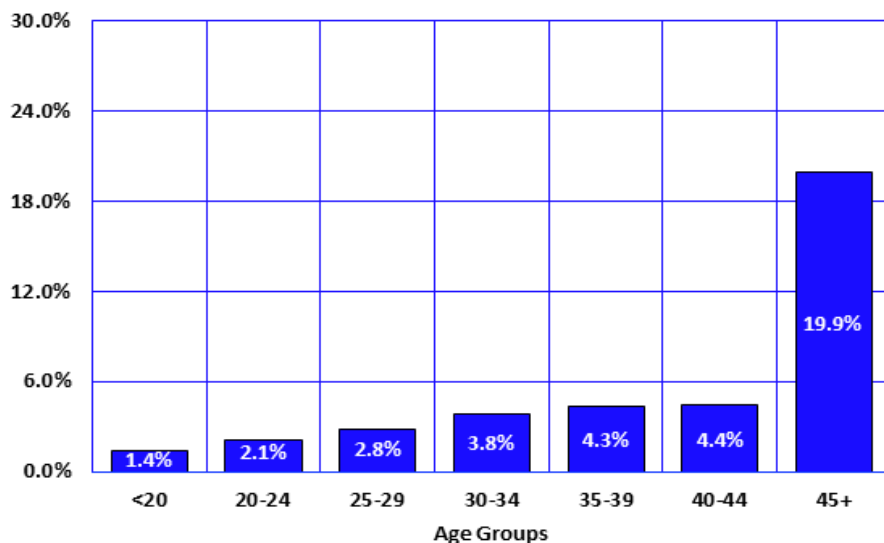


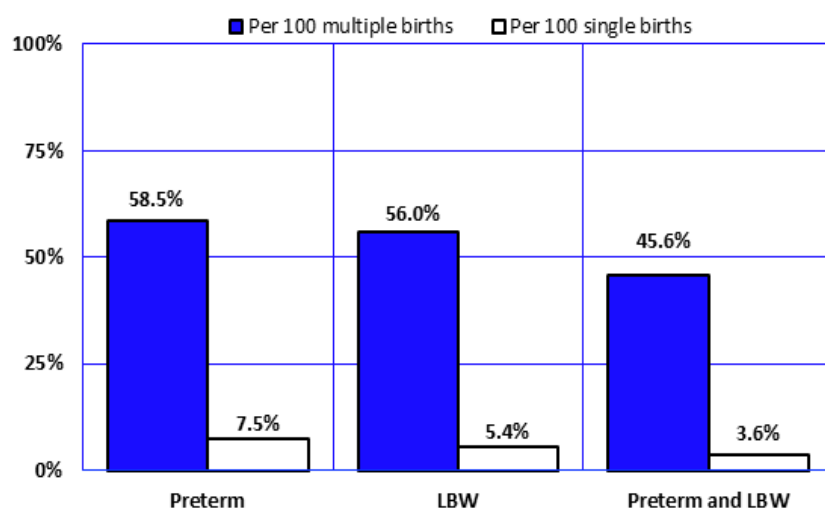
## 1B. NATALITY: MATERNAL CHARACTERISTICS AND NEWBORN'S HEALTH

**Figure 1B-9**  
**Risk for Multiple Births by Mother's Age Group, Arizona, 2013**



In 2013, the proportion of multiple births gradually increased with maternal age among mothers below 45 years of age and sharply increased among mothers age 45 years and older. Among women aged 45 years and older, 19.9 percent of all births were twins, triplets, or quadruplets (**Figure 1B-9**). The percent of all births that were multiple births to women age 45 and over decreased from 25 percent in 2010, to 16.8 percent in 2011, and dropped to 6.2 percent in 2012. Continued monitoring of multiple births among older mothers will help better understand the recent variation that has been found in this measure.

**Figure 1B-10**  
**Infants Born too Early (Preterm)<sup>a</sup> and Infants Born too Small (LBW)<sup>b</sup> among Multiple and Single Births, Arizona, 2013**



Infants born in multiple deliveries tend to be born at shorter gestations and smaller than those born in singleton deliveries (**Figure 1B-10**). In 2013, infants born in multiple deliveries were 12.7 times more likely (45.6 vs. 3.6 percent) to be born earlier than expected (at less than 37 completed weeks of gestation) and smaller (at less than 2,500 grams) than singleton births.

Preterm birth is a leading cause of infant morbidity and mortality, accounting for almost two-thirds of infant deaths (59.0 percent; **Figure 2C-4** in section 2C on Age-Specific Mortality). The weight of the newborn also is an important predictor of future morbidity and mortality. Infants born at low birth weight (< 1,500 grams) account for 47.9 percent of all infant deaths (**Figure 2C-3**).

Notes: <sup>a</sup> Preterm is < 37 weeks of gestation; <sup>b</sup> Low birthweight is less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds 8 ounces.