

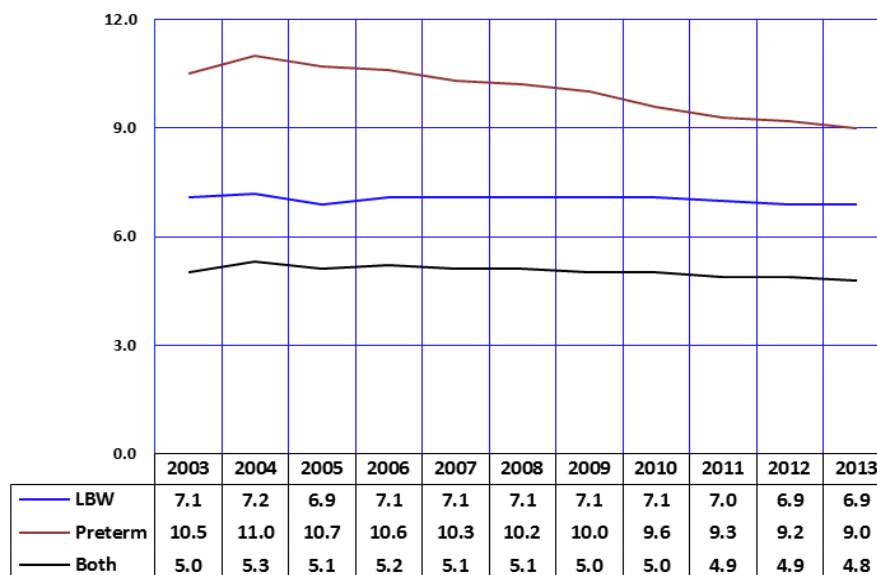
1B. NATALITY: MATERNAL CHARACTERISTICS AND NEWBORN'S HEALTH

The proportion of preterm births decreased from 9.2 percent of all births in 2012 to 9.0 percent in 2013.

The proportion of infants born earlier than expected who were also low birth weight (LBW; at less than 2,500 grams) was 4.8/100 births in 2013 (**Figure 1B-11**).

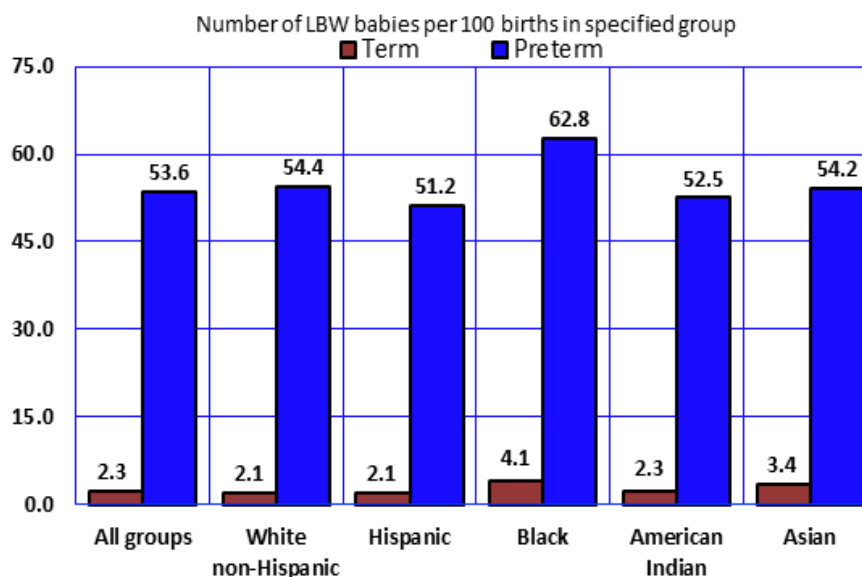
Detailed characteristics of births by birthweight and gestational age are provided in **Table 1B-33**. Comparative data by county of residence are available in **Table 5B-16** – **Table 5B-24**.

Figure 1B-11
Preterm^a and Low Birthweight (LBW)^b Births by Year, Arizona, 2003-2013



Notes: ^a Preterm: < 37 weeks of gestation; ^b Low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds 8 ounces); In this report, the primary measure used to determine the gestational age is the clinical estimate of gestation as reported on the birth certificate.

Figure 1B-12
Low-Birthweight (LBW) Births by Length of Gestation and Mother's Race/Ethnicity, Arizona, 2013



Notes: Number of LBW babies per 100 births in specified group; Preterm: < 37 weeks of gestation; Low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds 8 ounces).

From 2003 to 2013, between 6.8 and 7.2 percent of all babies were born at low birthweight (LBW), or at less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds 8 ounces). Preterm delivery is the strongest risk factor for LBW. Infants born at less than 37 completed weeks of gestation were 23.3 times (53.6 vs. 2.3 percent) more likely to be LBW than infants born at term (**Figure 1B-12**). Seven out of ten (70.2 percent) LBW babies born in 2013 were preterm (**Table 1B-3**).

County-level data for LBW newborns are available in **Tables 5B-16** – **5B-23**. Community-level information is in **Table 9A**.