Maternal and Child Health

Low birth weight infants

Compared to infants of normal birth weight, low birth weight (LBW) infants are at increased risk for impaired development and infant death. LBW infants who survive are more likely to suffer from long-term disabilities such as cerebral palsy, blindness or other chronic conditions. Risk factors associated with LBW include: cigarette smoking; multiple birth; poor nutrition; maternal age extremes; and short inter-pregnancy interval.

The rate of low birth weight infants in Oregon rose from 56.6 infants per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 63.0 infants per 1,000 live births in 2013, an 11.1% increase. Nationwide, the rate of low birth weight infants has increased.
Additional Resources: [Child Health USA 2011; Oregon Perinatal Data Book], pp.12-13

About the Data: Data source is Oregon Birth Certificate Data. Low birth weight is defined as a newborn infant weighing less than 2,500 grams (about 5 pounds, 5 ounces).

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