

# Birth Data San Francisco 2014

This Data Brief summarizes characteristics of mothers in San Francisco who gave birth to a live infant in 2014. To highlight opportunities for improving perinatal health in San Francisco, it describes local inequalities in the socio-economic conditions of mothers, gaps in access to prenatal care, and related preterm birth disparities.

**In 2014, San Francisco residents had 9,102 total births and 559 singleton preterm births**

## Characteristics of Mothers

- **Age.** The average age of women at delivery was 33 years, higher than state and national averages. 75% of mothers were age 30 or older. 38% of mothers were age 35 or older. Less than 1% were under age 18.<sup>Table 1</sup>
- **Race/Ethnicity.** No ethnic group composed the majority of births. 40% of the mothers were White, 31% were Asian, 17% were Latina, 4% were Black, and 5% were Multi-ethnic. Less than 1% of births were Hawaiian/Pacific Islander or Native American.<sup>Table 2</sup> There were 3,674 White, 2,863 Asian, 1,503 Latino, 394 Black, 446 Multi-ethnic, 58 Pacific Islander, and 17 Native American births.
- **Family Size.** Family size in San Francisco was small. 55% of births were to first-time mothers. 32% of births were to mothers who had one other child. 4% of births were to mothers who had previously given birth 3 or more times.<sup>Table 3</sup>

## Socio-Economic Conditions

- **Education.** Maternal education varied. 35% of mothers did not have a college degree.<sup>Table 4</sup> 8% did not have a high school degree.
- **Paternity.** Few (5%) mothers did not list a father on the birth certificate.<sup>Table 4</sup>
- **Poverty.** A disproportionate number of women who gave birth lived in poverty. Based on Medi-Cal or other public insurance coverage for prenatal care, 26% of women who gave birth in 2014 lived in poverty.<sup>Table 4</sup> According to the census, 13% of all San Francisco residents lived in poverty. There were 1,111 births in the 5 lowest income zip codes\*, where the median income was below \$50,000.
- **Prenatal Insurance.** The majority (71%) of mothers had private health insurance for prenatal care.<sup>Table 5</sup> Less than 1% of mothers did not have insurance or coverage or plans to self-pay for prenatal care.
- **Zip Code.** Births were unevenly distributed across San Francisco. 20% of births were to mothers who lived in two zip codes in South/East San Francisco: 94110 (Mission, Bernal Heights) and 94112 (Excelsior, Ocean View, Ingelside).<sup>Table 6</sup>

## Inequalities in Socio-Economic Conditions

- **Age.** A greater proportion of Black (58%), Latina (45%), and Asian (24%) women giving birth were under age 30 than White (12%) women giving birth.<sup>Table 1</sup> Women giving birth under the age of 30 were more likely to not have a college degree (68% vs 24%), not list a father on the birth certificate (9% vs 3%), have Medi-Cal or other public insurance (57% vs 16%), and live in one of the 5 lowest income zip codes (24% vs 8%) than older women.<sup>Table 4</sup>
- **Race-Ethnicity.** Compared to White women who gave birth, Black and Latina women who gave birth were more likely to not have a college degree (85%, 75% vs 10%), not list a father on the birth certificate (21%, 8% vs 2%), have Medi-Cal or other public insurance (67%, 63% vs 6%), and live in one of the 5 lowest income zip codes (43%, 22% vs 5%).<sup>Table 4</sup>
- **Family Size.** A greater proportion of Black (28%) and Latina (25%) women were having their third or fourth live birth, than White (8%) women.<sup>Table 3</sup> Compared to women having their first child, women with 4 or more children were more likely to not have a college degree (81% vs 25%), not list a father on the birth certificate (11% vs 4%), have Medi-Cal or other public insurance (64% vs 19%), and live in one of the 5 lowest income zip codes (29% vs 10%).<sup>Table 4</sup>

## Gaps in Access to Prenatal Care

- **Age.** Younger women were more likely to miss first trimester prenatal care than older women. 43% of women under age 18 and 22% of women under age 30 were late to care vs 9% of women age 30 or older.<sup>Table 7</sup>
- **Race-Ethnicity.** Black and Latina women were more likely to miss first trimester prenatal care than Asian and White women (Black: 33%, Latina: 21%, Asian: 10%, White: 6%).<sup>Table 7</sup>
- **Family Size.** Women having their third or fourth child were more likely to miss first trimester prenatal care than women having their first child (17%, 31% vs 10%).<sup>Table 7</sup>
- **Education.** Women who did not have a college degree were more likely to miss first trimester prenatal care than women who had a college degree (22% vs. 7%).<sup>Table 8</sup>
- **Paternity.** Women who did not list a father on the birth certificate were more likely to miss first trimester prenatal care than women who did list a father (37% vs 11%).<sup>Table 8</sup>
- **Poverty.** Women with Medi-Cal or other public insurance for prenatal care were more likely to miss first trimester prenatal care than women with private insurance (22%, 41% vs. 6%).<sup>Table 9</sup>
- **Prenatal Insurance.** 100% of women without health insurance or coverage missed first trimester prenatal care, compared to 12% of women with health insurance or coverage.
- **Zip Code.** One in 4 women (24%) who lived in the 5 lowest income zip codes\* missed prenatal care in the first trimester, compared to 10% of women living in all other higher income zip codes.<sup>Table 10</sup>
- **Delivery Hospital.** 42% of mothers who delivered at ZSFG Hospital missed first trimester prenatal care. Fewer than 12% of mothers delivering at other hospitals located in San Francisco missed first trimester prenatal care.<sup>Table 9</sup> Birth demographics varied significantly by hospital.<sup>Table 11</sup> CPMC, Kaiser, UCSF, ZSFG, and St Lukes delivered 3,479 (38%), 1,628 (18%), 1,549 (17%), 1,084 (12%), and 708 (8%) births, respectively.

## Singleton Preterm Birth Disparities<sup>Table 12</sup>

- **Age.** Women under age 18 were 2.9 times more likely to have a preterm birth than older women.
- **Race-Ethnicity.** Black women were 2.7 times more likely to have a preterm birth than White women.
- **Family Size.** Women having their fourth child were 60% more likely to have a preterm birth than women having their first child.
- **Education.** Women without a college degree were 40% more likely to have a preterm birth than women with a college degree.
- **Paternity.** Women who did not list a father on the birth certificate were 80% more likely to have a preterm birth than women who did list a father.
- **Poverty.** Women with public insurance or coverage for prenatal care were 30% more likely to have a singleton preterm birth than women who had private insurance.
- **Prenatal Insurance.** 41% of women without insurance had a preterm birth, compared to 6% of women with insurance.
- **Zip Code.** The relative odds of preterm birth was 51% greater in the 5 lowest income zip codes vs higher income zip codes.<sup>Table 12</sup>
- **Delivery Hospital.** Rates of preterm birth varied by hospital. 10%, 9%, 8%, 7%, and 3% of births were delivered preterm at ZSFGH, Kaiser, UCSF, CPMC, and St Lukes Hospitals, respectively.<sup>Table 12</sup>

## References

The San Francisco Department of Public Health regularly monitors birth data to assess the health of women, infants, and families, and guide program planning and policy development. Birth Data Tables 1-12 for San Francisco are available at:

<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/oprograms/MCH/Epi.asp>

California statewide data tables are available at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Pages/StatewideBirthStatisticalDataTables.aspx>

Birth registration data are available for all live births. Preterm birth is defined as a birth occurring before 37 completed weeks of gestation. \*The 5 lowest income zip codes in San Francisco were: Tenderloin (94102), Chinatown (94108), Treasure Island (94130), South of Market (94103) or Bayview Hunters Point (94124). The 5 highest income zipcodes were: South Beach (94105), St. Francis Woods (94118) or Inner Richmond, Presidio (94127), Mission Bay (94107) and Noe Valley (94114) neighborhoods.

Jodi Stookey, PhD  
Senior Epidemiologist  
[First.lastname@sfdph.org](mailto:First.lastname@sfdph.org)

Curtis Chan, MD, MPH  
Medical Director of Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health  
[First.lastname@sfdph.org](mailto:First.lastname@sfdph.org)