

OREGON PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

WHAT'S NEW WITH BIRTHS IN OREGON?

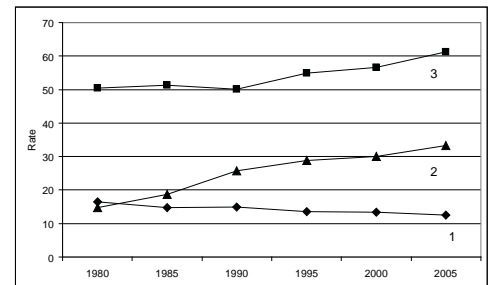
The April 15, 2008 issue of the *CD Summary* was devoted to death; lest readers think that epidemiologists only focus on disease and dying, we devote this *CD Summary* to the beginning of life in Oregon. What follows is another quiz, this one covering birth registration, the new electronic birth certificate system, and statistics on births to Oregonians.

By law, every birth in Oregon (48,684 in 2006) must be registered with the Oregon Vital Records Office (aka Center for Health Statistics). The birth certificate serves at least two purposes: to provide a legal record of the fact of birth, and to collect natality data for health statistics.

- Who can fill out the Oregon birth certificate?
 - birth clerk;
 - Naturopathic Doctor;
 - the father;
 - Licensed Direct Entry Midwife (LDM);
 - all of the above
- Within what timeframe after birth must the birth certificate be completed, signed, and registered?
 - 5 days;
 - 7 days;
 - the calendar year;
 - 12 months
- Where does the completed birth certificate go?
 - to the parent(s);
 - to the County Registrar;
 - to the State Registrar;
 - to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- Pre-adoption birth certificates can't be accessed, even with a court order.
 - true;
 - false
- What is EBR5/OVERS?
 - legislation recognizing the needs of Oregon's citizens: Every Body Requires Sustenance;
 - new federal requirement: Obligation to Validate Every Record Systematically;
 - the Oregon Vital Events Registration System of which the Electronic Birth Registration System (EBRS) is one module
- Who can access the statistical portion of the birth certificate?
 - the parents;
 - the pediatrician;
 - Oregon public health epidemiologists;
 - the National Center for Health Statistics;
 - c & d

- Which of the following are reportable to the Oregon Center for Health Statistics?
 - when the fetus is stillborn;
 - when the infant survives less than 24 hours;
 - an induced termination of pregnancy;
 - all of the above
- Match the following:

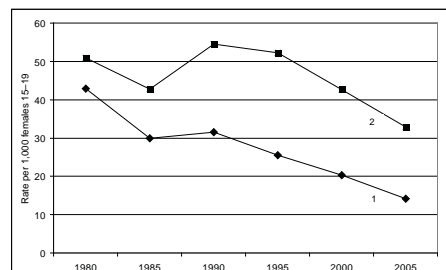
1. Youngest mother so far in 2008	a. 11
2. Oldest mother so far in 2008	b. 15
3. Number of triplets born in 2007	c. 30
4. Highest parity during 2007	d. 44
5. Median weight gain so far in 2008	e. 55
- How many questions on tobacco use appear on the new Oregon birth certificate (statistical portion)?
 - 2;
 - 4;
 - 6;
 - 8
- Out-of-hospital births, and births delivered by midwives (LDMs) from 1990 to 2007 have:
 - increased appreciably;
 - decreased appreciably;
 - remained fairly constant
- From 1990 to 2007, the percentage of total births delivered by primary C-section has increased by approximately how much?
 - 10%;
 - 25%;
 - 40%;
 - 50%



- In the above graph, which line (1, 2, or 3) corresponds to the following: births per 1,000 population, percent unwed mothers, and low birth weight per 1,000 births?
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
- Which was the most frequently used baby name for boys in 2007?
 - Anthony;
 - Pirate;
 - Jacob;
 - Elvis
- The following were all baby names for girls in 2007 except?
 - Chevy;
 - ESPN;
 - Logger;
 - God
- Which birth attendant first name delivered the most babies in 2007?
 - Mary;
 - Robert;
 - Nancy;
 - Michael
- Which Oregon hospital delivered the most babies during 2007?
 - OHSU, Portland;
 - Holy Rosary, Ontario;
 - Sacred Heart, Eugene;
 - St. Vincent, Portland

ANSWERS

- e) All of the above. For hospital births, the birth clerk fills out the birth certificate; for attended out-of-facility births, the medical attendant fills it out; for unattended home births, the parents fill it out.
- a) The completed birth certificate should be electronically signed and sent to the State Registrar within 5 days of the birth.
- c) The completed birth certificate is sent to the State Registrar. Until 2008, the birth certificate went to the County Registrar who then sent it to the state. With the new EBR5 system (see below), the birth certificate goes directly to the State Registrar.



- In the above graph, which line represents the teen birth rate? The teen abortion rate?
- Compared to nationally, Oregon's low birth weight rate is:
 - lower;
 - higher;
 - similar



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4. b) False. The 1998 Ballot Measure 58 (effective May 31, 2000) provided that an adoptee could get his/her original birth certificate at 21.
5. c) The new Oregon Vital Events Registration System's Electronic Birth Registration System went "live" on January 1, 2008, and is being used in all hospitals, birthing centers, and by many midwives throughout the state. For more information on EBRs, see: <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs/>
6. e) Oregon Public Health analysts use the statistics portion of the birth certificate for public health purposes. NCHS receives the statistical portion of the birth certificate, but not the names of the individuals. Other researchers may be granted access by the State Registrar after a review process to ensure confidentiality. Parents and physicians do not have access to this information, even with a court order or subpoena.
7. d) all of the above. All fetuses that die whose weight is at least 350 grams or, if birth weight is unknown, after 20 weeks gestation are required to be reported to the Center for Health Statistics with a fetal death certificate. Likewise, infants who are born alive are required to have a birth certificate; if they die, a death certificate is also required. All induced terminations of pregnancy are required to be reported to the Center for Health Statistics. Reportable data include demographics, medical information (complications, procedure(s) used, etc.), facility, as well as follow-up information. No identifying data are included.
8. 1a) This ties for the previous youngest mothers in our electronic database (1989–present), who delivered in 1991 and 2005.
2e) This ties for the previous oldest mother who delivered in 2005.
3d) The most triplets recorded was 72 in 2001.
4b) The highest parity was 18 in 1989 and 2000.
5c) The median weight gain for 1989–2007 was 30 pounds.
9. b) The new birth certificate asks 4 tobacco related questions: the number of cigarettes smoked during each trimester separately, and during the three months before pregnancy. Quantities can be identified in either cigarettes or packs of cigarettes.
10. c) In 1990, the number of out-of-hospital births was 1,077, representing 2.4% of births (44,464); in 2007, it was 1,264 or 2.5% of births (49,869). In 1990, 536 babies (1.2%) were delivered by midwives; in 2007, 698 (1.4%) were.
11. c) In 1990, 12% of births were delivered by primary C-section; in 2007, 17% were, an increase of 39%.
12. Line 1 represents abortions to teens; and line 2, births. The rate of births to 15–19 year olds has been approximately twice the rate of abortions during the past decade.
13. a) In 2006, (last available national data) Oregon's rate was 27% lower than the national rate (61.0 vs. 83.0 per 1,000 births).
14. Line 1 represents the birth rate, which has been decreasing for the past 25 years. Line 2 represents the percent of mothers who are unwed, which has doubled since 1980. Line 3 represents low birth weight births, which have been increasing; this may be due in part to increased use of fertility drugs and multiple fetus pregnancies.
15. c) In 2007, 257 babies were named Jacob. Anthony was the tenth most frequently used boy's name (184 babies). Four babies were named Elvis and only one, Pirate.
16. c) No baby in Oregon has ever been named Logger. The name Chevy has been chosen for females seven times during the past 46 years, ESPN and God only once.
17. b) Robert was the most common attendant name, delivering 588 babies. Mary (530 babies), Michael (497 babies) and Nancy (421 babies) were also common.
18. d) St. Vincent Hospital delivered 6,555 babies during 2007; Sacred Heart 2,847; OHSU 2,617; and Holy Rosary 694.

SCORE

If you got 16–18 correct, you have a genius level birth IQ and have a future as a natality statistician with the State Center for Health Statistics; 11–15 correct, you have an above-average birth IQ and great potential for an exciting career in public health; 5–10 correct, you have an average birth IQ and should spend more time reading *CD Summaries*. (N.B.: we can't believe that anyone would get fewer than 4 correct.)