

MULTIPLE BIRTHS IN IDAHO

The number of infants born in multiple birth deliveries (twin, triplet, quadruplet and other higher order multiple birth deliveries) has increased in the United States and Idaho from 1984 to 2003. Important indicators, such as low birth weight and infant mortality rates, are largely influenced by multiple birth deliveries.

HIGHLIGHTS

From 2001 to 2003:

- 63,453 live births
- 1,730 twins
- 114 triplets/+

Almost 90 percent of infants who were born in triplet/+ deliveries were low birth weight.

Less than 5 percent of singleton infants were low birth weight.

Less than 1 percent of singleton infants were very low birth weight, compared with almost 25 percent of all triplet/+ births.

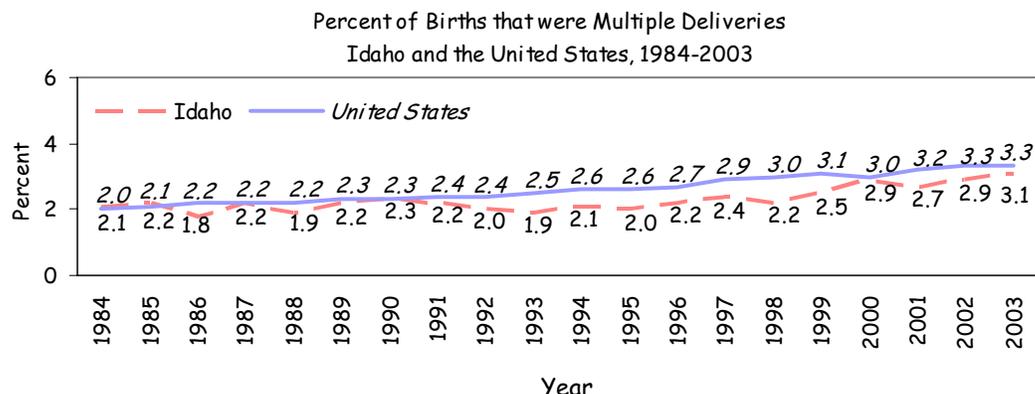
18.0 percent of the twin deliveries were to mothers 35 and over.

29.0 percent of the triplet/+ deliveries were to mothers 35 and older.

Percent of Multiple Births

The percentage of babies born in twin and triplet/+ (triplets, quadruplet and other higher order multiple births) deliveries has escalated since 1984 in Idaho and the United States. The number of live births in twin deliveries between 1984 and 2003 rose 74 percent in Idaho and 76 percent in the United States. The number of live births in triplet/+ deliveries rose in Idaho and the United States by 167 and 364 percent, respectively.

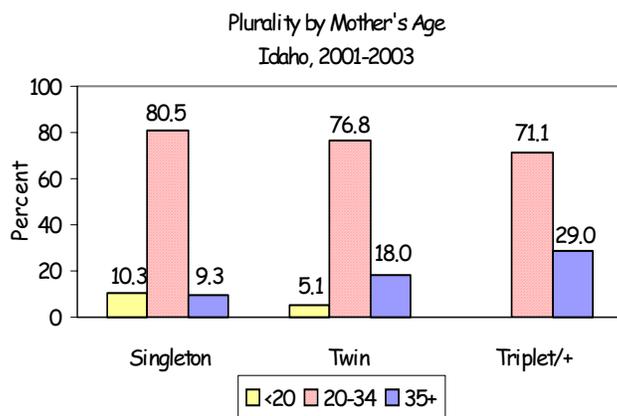
In 1984, there were 379 infants born in multiple deliveries compared with 674 in 2003. From 1984 to 2003, there were a total of 8,110 twins, 313 triplets and 24 quadruplets born to Idaho mothers. Over 35 percent of triplets were born in the last three years.



Age of Mother

Although only 9.5 percent of all births in Idaho from 2001 to 2003 were to women aged 35 and older, this age group had 18.0 percent of all twin deliveries, and 29.0 percent of the triplet/+ deliveries.

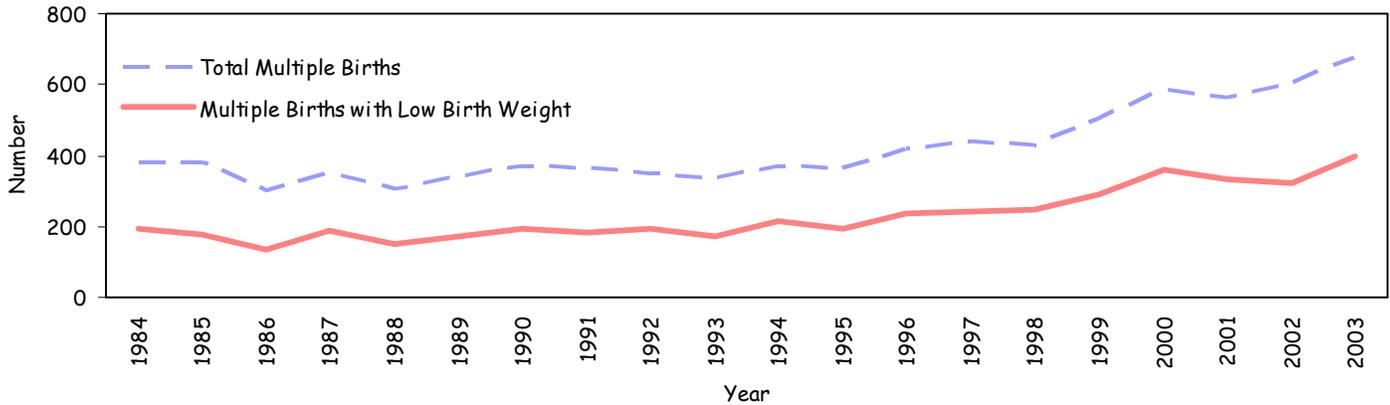
While mothers younger than 20 had over 10 percent of all the singleton births from 2001 to 2003, they did not have any triplet/+ births.



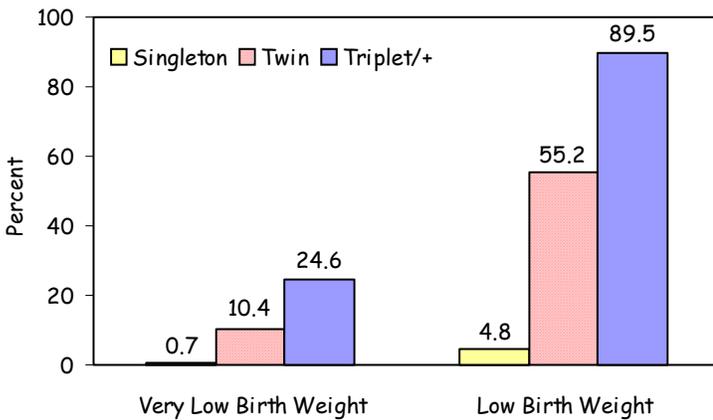
Note: Charts are not based on same scale.

Birth Weight

Number of Multiple Birth Deliveries
Number of Multiple Birth Deliveries With Low Birth Weight
Idaho, 1984-2003



Percent Very Low and Low Birth Weight by Plurality
Idaho, 2001-2003



Almost ninety percent of triplets and other higher order births (triplet/+) and over one-half of twins were born low birth weight (LBW) (less than 2,500 grams). Less than five percent of all singletons were born LBW.

Although less than a percent of all singletons were born very low birth weight (VLBW) (less than 1,500 grams), nearly a quarter of triplets/+ and over ten percent of twins were VLBW.

Note: The categories low birth weight and very low birth weight are not mutually exclusive.

From 2001 to 2003, 6.4 percent of infants were born low birth weight. A total of 57.2 percent of all infant deaths occurred among low birth weight infants. The overall infant mortality rate for all births during 2001 to 2003 was 6.1 per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate was higher for multiple birth deliveries (24.9) than for singleton births (5.6).

The risk of having a twin or triplet/+ born low birth weight is significantly higher for mothers younger than 18 or older than 44, when compared with mothers that are between the ages of 18 and 44. For multiple birth deliveries, infants born to mothers who are less than 18 years old or over age 44 are 1.4 times as likely to weigh less than 2,500 grams at birth as an infant whose mother is between the ages of 18 and 44.

Percent Low Birth Weight by Plurality and Mother's Age
Idaho, 2001-2003

Plurality	Age of Mother								Total
	<18	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	
Singleton	7.2	6.9	5.2	4.0	4.1	4.9	7.7	13.5	4.8
Multiple	81.8	65.8	58.6	53.8	54.9	61.7	55.7	76.9	57.2
Total	7.7	7.9	6.3	5.3	6.2	7.9	10.9	26.2	6.4

Interpretation: 81.8 percent of all multiple birth deliveries to mothers under the age of 18 were born low birth weight.

