

Overview of Local Births

Between 2002 and 2004 there were 39,804 births to women residing in Contra Costa. This is an average of 13,268 births per year.

White women in the county have the largest number (15,796) and percentage (39.7%) of all births, followed by Latinas (12,469, 31.3%), Asian/Pacific Islanders (5,196, 13.1%), African Americans (3,498, 8.8%) and Others (2,845, 7.1%). The vast majority of births to residents (60.3%) are to non-White mothers.

Latina women have the highest crude birth rate (20.8 per 1,000 residents) of any race/ethnic group, which is higher than the county overall (13.2 per 1,000 residents). Asian/Pacific Islanders also have a higher birth rate (14.3 per 1,000 residents) compared to the county overall and to African Americans and Whites. White women have the greatest number of births, but the lowest birth rate (9.3 per 1,000) – lower than the county and any other race/ethnic group.

Concord, Richmond and Antioch – the county’s three largest cities – have the largest number of births -- Concord (5,291) Richmond (5,013) and Antioch (4,667).

- Latinas have the highest birth rate.
- The majority of births are to non-White mothers.
- Residents of San Pablo have the highest birth rate.
- On average, there are 13,268 live births each year.
- The number of births to residents did not change significantly between 2002-2004.

San Pablo residents have the highest crude birth rate (25.3 per 1,000 residents) – higher than the county overall and higher than any of selected cities. Several additional cities have higher birth rates than the county rate overall: Bay Point/Pittsburg (17.6 per 1,000 residents), Brentwood (17.4 per 1,000 residents), Richmond (16.4 per 1,000 residents), Antioch (15.5 per 1,000 residents), Oakley (15.2 per 1,000 residents), and Concord (14.1 per 1,000 residents). Walnut Creek (11.3 per 1,000 residents) and Pinole (9.8 per 1,000 residents) have lower birth rates than the county overall.

Select Characteristics of Live Births in Contra Costa, 2002–2004

		# of Live Births	% of Total Live Births	Crude Birth Rate
Birth Rate by Year	2002	13,315	na	13.5
	2003	13,210	na	13.2
	2004	13,279	na	13.1
	Total	39,804	na	13.2
Race/Ethnicity of Mother (2002–2004)	White	15,796	39.7%	**9.3
	Latina	12,469	31.3%	*20.8
	Asian/PI	5,196	13.1%	*14.3
	African American	3,498	8.8%	13.2
	Other	2,845	7.1%	
Selected Cities (2002–2004)	Concord	5,291	13.3%	*14.1
	Richmond	5,013	12.6%	*16.4
	Antioch	4,667	11.7%	*15.5
	Bay Point&Pittsburg	4,467	11.2%	*17.6
	San Pablo	2,350	5.9%	*25.3
	Walnut Creek	2,249	5.7%	**11.3
	Brentwood	1,890	4.7%	*17.4
	Martinez	1,470	3.7%	13.3
	Oakley	1,249	3.1%	*15.2
Pinole	579	1.5%	**9.8	
Age of Mother (Years) (2002–2004)	14 and younger	34	0.1%	0.1
	15–19 years	2,510	6.3%	**11.5
	20–34 years	28,462	71.5%	*50.7
	35 years and older	8,798	22.1%	**5.5
Mother >= 12 yrs education (2002–2004)		16,184	40.7%	na
Medi-Cal Delivery (2002–2004)		9,669	24.3%	na

These are crude rates per 1,000 residents.

*Significantly higher rate than county rate overall.

**Significantly lower rate.

In Contra Costa, women 20-34 years have the greatest number of births (28,462) and the highest birth rate (50.7 per 1,000 residents) compared to other age groups. Less than 7% of births are to teens 15-19 years, while 22.1% of births are to residents 35 years and older.

Forty-one percent (40.7%) of women who give birth in the county have 12 years or more of education, and nearly a quarter of women who give birth (24.3%) are covered by Medi-Cal.

Tables

Table 1: Birth data from the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), Birth Statistical Master Files, 2002-2004. Any analyses, interpretations or conclusions of the data have been reached by CHAPE and are not from the CDHS. These tables include total live births to women who are residents of Contra Costa and average crude birth rates for 2002 through 2004. Data was not available for all Contra Costa communities.

Crude birth rate = number of births for a particular group of interest divided by the total population for that particular group multiplied by 1,000

Percent of Total Live Births = number of births in a particular group divided by the number of total live births for 2002-2004 multiplied by 100

Population data from:

California Department of Finance (April 2006). *Estimated Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail 2000-2004*. Sacramento, CA.

California Department of Finance (May 2006). E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State 2001-2006, with DRU Benchmark. Sacramento, CA. Available online at: <http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/Druhpar.htm>

Note: City level denominators were extrapolated from the E-4 file to approximate the mid-year population estimates that are needed to calculate city-level rates. For more information, see our section on statistical methods.