

San Diego, CA

The yearly number of births in San Diego declined from 22,082 in 1990 to 18,513 in 1998. This drop was evident among whites, blacks, and Hispanics. In 1998, 35 percent of births were to whites and 40 percent were to Hispanics.*

During the 1990s, San Diego saw a dramatic drop in the proportion of births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care (see figure). Two other noteworthy changes in measures of a healthy start to life include a decrease in the percentage of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education and a reduction in the already small share of births to teens.

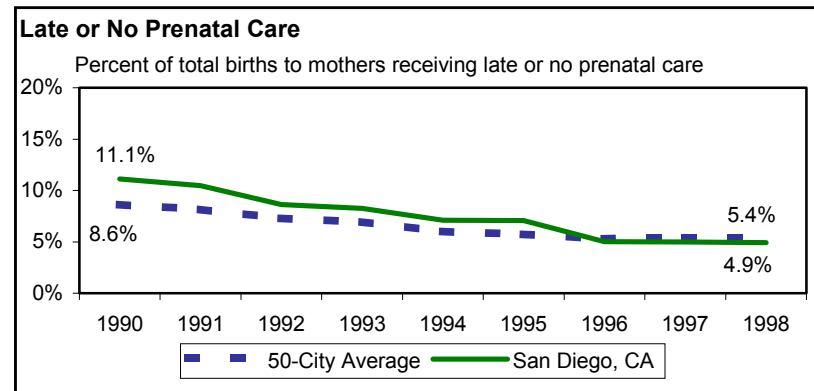
More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The percentage of births to teen mothers remained relatively stable at around 11 percent in 1990 through 1996 and then decreased slightly to 10 percent in 1997 and 1998. Throughout this time, teen births were substantially less common in San Diego than in the 50 largest cities as a group.
- **Repeat teen births.** Teen births to young women who were already mothers accounted for a relatively constant share of San Diego teen births during the 1990s. The city was below the 50-city average throughout this time. In 1998, repeat teen births accounted for 21 percent of teen births in San Diego, compared with 24 percent in the 50 largest cities overall.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The trends in the proportion of births to unmarried women in the 1990s reflect, at least in part, changes in coding practices in the state of California.** In 1998, births to unmarried women accounted for 29 percent of San Diego births, compared with 43 percent of births in the 50 largest cities overall.
- **Low maternal education.** San Diego experienced a decline in the proportion of births to women with less than 12 years of education over the 1990-1998 period, from a high of 31 percent in 1991 and 1992 to less than 26 percent in 1998. This decrease brought San Diego below the 50-city average in the late 1990s.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care in San Diego fell from 11 percent in

1990 to 5 percent in 1996 through 1998, outpacing a similar downward trend in the 50 largest cities as a whole.

- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Data on smoking during pregnancy were not available for California births.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, the share of San Diego births that were low-birthweight remained relatively stable and below the average for the 50 largest cities overall. Throughout this time, low-birthweight babies accounted for about 6 percent of births in San Diego, compared with 9 percent in the 50 largest cities overall.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births were less common in San Diego than in the 50 largest cities overall during the 1990s. Throughout this period, 10 percent of San Diego births were preterm, compared with 13 percent of births in the 50 largest cities overall.

In summary, when compared with the 50-city average, the children of San Diego got off to a healthier start to life on all seven available indicators in 1998. In addition, the city witnessed a striking reduction in the percentage of births to women who received late or no prenatal care, as well as notable decreases in the proportions of teen births and births to mothers with less than 12 years of education.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** In 1995 California changed the method by which it inferred marital status to take into account naming conventions of Hispanics. In 1997, California began asking for mother's marital status directly. For more details, see Appendix 2.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	
Percent of total births to teens	San Diego, CA	11.3	11.4	11.1	10.8	11.1	10.5	10.6	9.5	9.6	
	50-City Average	15.4	15.5	15.4	15.4	15.6	15.3	15.1	14.9	14.7	
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	San Diego, CA	22.3	21.6	23.3	23.6	21.2	20.5	20.9	22.0	21.3	
	50-City Average	27.0	27.8	27.7	26.5	24.5	23.4	23.7	23.6	23.7	
Percent of total births to unmarried women	San Diego, CA**	30.5	34.1	33.3	33.7	31.0	27.0	25.3	30.2	29.3	
	50-City Average	40.8	42.8	43.5	44.6	43.9	42.8	42.7	43.0	43.3	
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	San Diego, CA	28.7	30.5	30.5	29.9	29.4	27.9	27.1	26.4	25.6	
	50-City Average	28.9	29.6	29.2	28.9	28.6	28.1	28.0	27.7	27.4	
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	San Diego, CA	11.1	10.5	8.6	8.2	7.1	7.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	
	50-City Average	8.6	8.1	7.3	6.9	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.4	5.4	
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	San Diego, CA***	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	
	50-City Average	17.7	17.0	16.0	14.9	13.9	12.7	11.9	11.2	10.8	
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	San Diego, CA	6.1	5.8	6.0	6.5	6.2	5.9	6.3	5.9	6.1	
	50-City Average	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.8	
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	San Diego, CA	10.1	9.8	10.0	10.3	10.5	10.1	10.1	9.8	10.3	
	50-City Average	12.7	12.8	12.6	12.9	12.8	12.5	12.3	12.6	12.9	
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	San Diego, CA****	White non-Hispanic	8,803	8,168	8,116	7,127	7,273	7,276	6,961	6,433	6,436
		Black non-Hispanic	2,337	2,303	2,310	2,065	2,277	1,989	1,917	1,826	1,763
		Hispanic	8,283	8,671	8,915	8,317	8,369	7,845	7,855	7,491	7,493
		Other	2,659	2,755	2,842	4,034	3,189	2,914	2,903	2,934	2,821
		Total	22,082	21,897	22,183	21,543	21,108	20,024	19,636	18,684	18,513

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**See text, footnote ** in text, and Appendix 2.

***N.A. = Not Available. See Appendix 2 for more details.

****The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.