

About the Los Angeles Mommy and Baby Survey

The Los Angeles Mommy and Baby (LAMB) Survey is a public health surveillance project developed by the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Programs of Los Angeles County in 2005. The LAMB Survey collects countywide population-based data on the attitudes and experiences of women before, during, and shortly after their most recent pregnancy.

The LAMB Survey was first piloted in 2004 in Antelope Valley to address a high rate of infant mortality observed in this region of Los Angeles County. The LAMB Survey provided information on the risk factors and potential causes of infant mortality for women in the Antelope Valley. Since 2005, the project has been expanded to cover all of Los Angeles County, collecting data every other year.

Purpose

The purpose of LAMB is to improve the health of mothers and infants by reducing adverse birth outcomes and the risk factors that lead to high rates of low birth weight, pre-term births, and infant and maternal mortality and morbidity. LAMB provides data for county health officials and community partners to use in order to make decisions designed to improve the health of mothers and infants.

LAMB allows the Department of Public Health of Los Angeles County to monitor trends over time and examine changes in maternal and child health indicators, including rates of unintended pregnancy, prenatal care, smoking and drinking during pregnancy, breastfeeding, well-baby checkups, infant illnesses, baby's sleep position, and exposure to secondhand smoke. LAMB data provides a context in which to better interpret the information from birth certificates used to plan state and local maternal, child, and infant health programs.

Using the 2012 LAMB Surveillance Report

The surveillance report presents findings from the 2012 LAMB Survey. The 2012 LAMB surveyed 6,843 eligible respondents which represent 131,697 live births in Los Angeles County during 2012. The data are weighted by the respondents' selection probability which allows the percentage (prevalence) reported in this document to represent the entire population of live births in Los Angeles County in the year 2012.

Research has indicated that various maternal behaviors and experiences before, during, and after pregnancy influence birth outcomes. Through the release of this report, the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Programs hope that these data can be used to monitor and assess trends, to plan and evaluate programs, and to direct policy decisions, with the ultimate goal of improving the health of mothers and infants in Los Angeles County. The LAMB Survey recommends readers to review the Technical Notes section of this report, which includes the methodology and details of the sampling, data weighting, response rate, strengths and limitations of the data, and a glossary of maternal and infant health terms.

The 2012 LAMB Surveillance Report presented here covers a wide range of health topics, including:

- Preconception health (health before pregnancy)
- Prenatal care and maternal medical conditions during pregnancy
- Psychosocial conditions during pregnancy
- Behavioral risk factors
- Postpartum care and infant health

This report is supplemental to the 2012 LAMB Data Book and contains a more comprehensive analysis for each health indicator, displaying estimates by race/ethnicity, Service Planning Area (SPA), maternal age, household income, marital status, education, and birth outcome. In every table, county-level estimates are provided so that comparisons may be made between subpopulations and the county total.

To address uncertainty about each estimate, the Relative Standardized Error (RSE) was calculated to determine the stability of each estimate. An asterisk (*) next to an estimate cautions the reader that the estimate is statistically unstable and therefore may not be appropriate to use for planning or policy purposes.