

California Vital Data (Cal-ViDa) Technical Notes: Birth

Data Source

Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS):

- Electronic Birth Registration System (CA-EBRS), 2018 – Ongoing
- Automated Vital Statistics System (AVSS), 2018 – 2019

Suggested Citation

State of California, Department of Public Health, *California Vital Data (Cal-ViDa)*, Birth Query, <https://cal-vida.cdph.ca.gov/>, Last Modified <Last Modified Date>.

Example:

State of California, Department of Public Health, *California Vital Data (Cal-ViDa)*, Birth Query, <https://cal-vida.cdph.ca.gov/>, Last modified September 21, 2020

Limitations of Birth Data

Birth data is refreshed monthly. Counts may change as new data is added.

Custom birth reports in Cal-ViDa use data derived from information entered on birth certificates. The birth data is then loaded into the Cal-ViDa application using a data file generated by the Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). Although some data fields within the birth file are standardized, these variables may still contain missing or erroneous data entries. Transformations have been applied to the data in Cal-ViDa to make the reports as meaningful as possible; however, discrepancies between different reports may be found and different queries may not total.

Demographic birth information in Cal-ViDa is based on the parent giving birth. Information for the parent not giving birth, or the genetic father, is not included in Cal-ViDa due to data completeness issues.

There may be a delay of up to one year for out-of-hospital births (e.g., home births) to be registered. As these records are registered, they will be uploaded to Cal-ViDa on a monthly basis. New records will continue to be added to the system for up to 14 months following the date of birth.

Records for births to California residents out-of-state are added to Cal-ViDa on an annual basis.

Data Transformations

All Birth Queries:

The following types of records are excluded from counts produced by all Cal-ViDa birth queries:

- Records with missing State File Numbers (SFNs).
- Records with duplicate State File Numbers (SFNs).
- Records where the child's sex is listed as nonbinary or unknown.

Race/Ethnicity:

The multi-race status and the Hispanic ancestry/origin of the parent giving birth are both used to determine the race/ethnicity category of the parent giving birth. All individuals with Hispanic ancestry/origin are categorized as Hispanic in Cal-ViDa. For example, multi-race individuals with Hispanic ancestry or origin are categorized as Hispanic in Cal-ViDa, while multi-race individuals without Hispanic ancestry or origin are categorized as Non-Hispanic Multi-Race.

City of Residence:

The Cal-ViDa city list available for query on the Place of Residence page is limited to cities with a population of 20,000 or greater. City population is based on California Department of Finance population estimates: [Tables of January 2019 City Population Ranked by Size, Numeric, and Percent Change](#).

Note: Because the city reference list in VRBIS is based on the 2010 Census, the city of Jurupa Valley is not included in the code list and is unavailable to be queried at this time. Selecting the city of Jurupa Valley will return zero results.

Birth Facility:

The list of birth facilities available for query in Cal-ViDa is based on the maternity hospital codes provided in Appendix I of the [California Comprehensive Birth File Data Dictionary](#).

Residence ZIP Codes:

The list of ZIP Codes available for query on the Place of Residence page is based on a 2016 reference file from the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Statistics of Income (SOI) tax statistics. The reference file and additional information can be found here: [SOI Tax Stats – Individual Income Tax Statistics – 2016 ZIP Code Data \(SOI\)](#).

Variable Descriptions

Time Period:

Year:

Year selections on the Time Period page generate results based on the year when the birth occurred.

Residence/Place of Occurrence:

Place of Residence:

Selecting Place of Residence produces counts of births to Californians – even if the birth did not place in California.

Place of Birth:

Selecting Place of Birth produces counts of births that occurred in California.

Place of Residence:

Statewide:

Selecting Statewide on the Place of Residence page produces reports with statewide counts of births to Californians.

County:

Selecting County on the Place of Residence page produces reports with counts by county where the parent giving birth resides.

City:

Selecting City on the Place of Residence page produces reports with counts by city where the parent giving birth resides.

ZIP Code:

Selecting ZIP Code on the Place of Residence page produces reports with counts by the ZIP Code of where the parent giving birth resides.

Place of Birth:

Statewide:

Selecting Statewide on the Place of Birth page produces reports with statewide counts of births that occurred in California.

County:

Selecting County on the Place of Birth page produces reports with counts by county where the birth occurred.

Birth Facility:

Selecting Birth Facility on the Place of Birth page produces reports with counts by the birth facility (e.g., the name of the hospital or birthing center) where the birth occurred. Births that occurred outside of a licensed birth facility or in a facility not included in the code list are excluded. To search by the name of the city where the birth facility is located type “-(a hyphen) before the name of the city in the search bar, as in “- Oakland.” To search by the name of the county where the birth facility is located, use parenthesis around the name of the county, as in “(Alameda).”

Demographics and Pregnancy Outcomes:

Parent Giving Birth’s Age (Years) Pre-defined Age Group:

Age of the parent giving birth includes the following categories, “15 years and under,” “16-17 years,” “18-19 years,” “20-24 years,” “25-29 years,” “30-34 years,” “35-39 years,” “40-44 years,” “45-49 years,” “50 years and over/Unknown.”

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Parent Giving Birth's Age (Year) Custom Age Group:

When selecting the custom age group of the parent giving birth, users can select individual ages between 16 through 49 years along with two pre-defined groupings, "15 years and under" and "50 years and over/Unknown". If multiple ages are selected at once, then users will receive grouped or aggregated results for the selected ages.

Parent Giving Birth's Race/Ethnicity:

Describes the Race/Ethnicity of the parent giving birth. Includes the following categories: "Non-Hispanic White," "Non-Hispanic Black/African-American," "Non-Hispanic Native American/Alaskan Native," "Non-Hispanic Asian," "Non-Hispanic Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian," "Non-Hispanic Other," "Non-Hispanic Multi-Race," "Hispanic," and "Unknown or Not Stated."

Parent Giving Birth's Education:

Education represents the highest level obtained by the parent giving birth. Includes the following categories: "No High School Diploma," "High School Graduate or GED Completed," "Some College Credit, No 4-Year Degree," "Bachelor's Degree," "Graduate Degree," and "Unknown."

Parent Giving Birth's Country of Birth:

Country of Birth includes the following categories: "United States," "Foreign Born," and "Unknown."

Estimated Gestational Age (Weeks) Pre-defined Age Group:

Estimated Gestational Age (Weeks) includes the following categories: "20-24 weeks," "25-27 weeks," "28-31 weeks," "32-33 weeks," "34-35 weeks," "36 weeks," "37 weeks," "38 weeks," "39 weeks," "40 weeks," "41 weeks," "42-43 weeks," and "Unknown/Unreliable."

The "Unknown/Unreliable" group contains records where the estimated gestational age was listed as less than 20 weeks, greater than 43 weeks, or unknown.

Estimated Gestational Age (Weeks) Custom Age Group:

When selecting the custom estimated gestational age (weeks) option, users can select individual weeks between 20 to 44 weeks along with the pre-defined "Unknown/Unreliable" group.

The "Unknown/Unreliable" group contains records where the estimated gestational age was listed as less than 20 weeks, greater than 43 weeks, or unknown.

Delivery Method:

Delivery method contains the following categories: "Vaginal," "Cesarean," and "Unknown."

Trimester Prenatal Care Began:

The trimester prenatal care began is based on the first month that the parent giving birth received prenatal care. This variable includes the following categories: "First Trimester," "Second Trimester," "Third Trimester," "No Prenatal Care," and "Unknown."

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Birthweight:

Birthweight includes the following categories: “500-999 grams,” “1000-1499 grams,” “1500-1999 grams,” “2000-2499 grams,” “2500-2999 grams,” “3000-3499 grams,” “3500-3999 grams,” “4000-5999 grams,” “Unreliable/Unknown.”

The category “Unreliable/Unknown” contains records where the birthweight was recorded as less than 500 grams, greater than 5999 grams, or Unknown.

Type of Birth (Plurality):

Type of Birth (Plurality) specifies the birth as single or multiple. The following categories are included: “Single,” “Twin,” “Three or more,” and “Unknown.”

Sex of Child:

Sex of Child includes the following categories: “Male,” “Female.”

Note: records listed as “Nonbinary” or “Unknown” are excluded due to small counts.

Place of Birth Type:

Place of Birth Type represents the type of facility/location where a birth occurred and includes the following categories: “Hospital,” “Freestanding Birth Center,” “Home,” “Clinic/Doctor’s Office,” “Other,” “Unknown.”