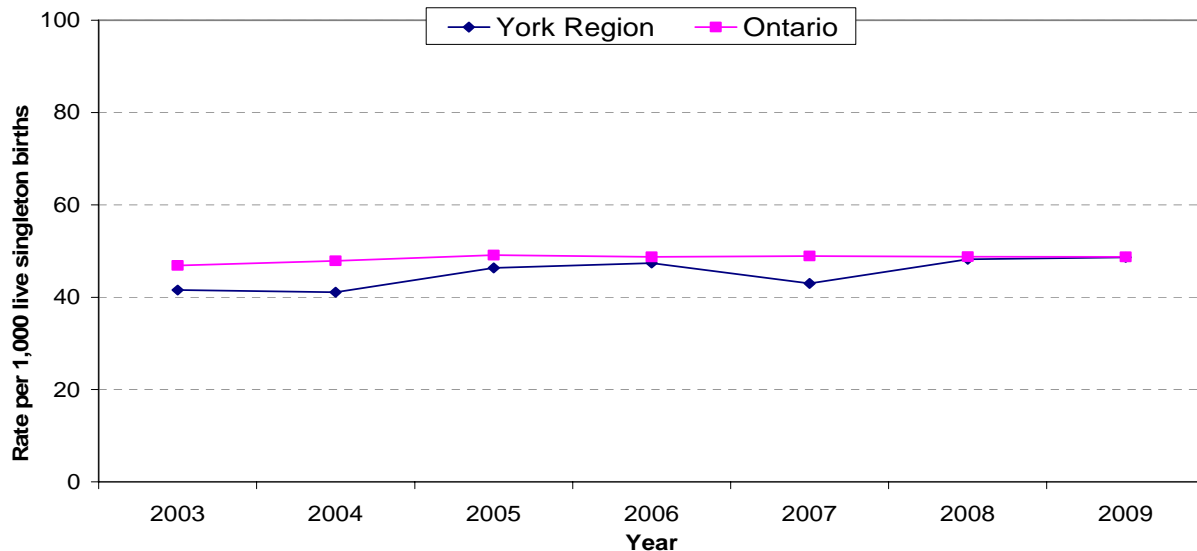


Low Birth Weight

This summary focuses on the low birth weight rate for singletons in York Region and Ontario. A singleton weighing less than 2,500 g (5.5 lbs) at the time of delivery is considered to be low birth weight.

Ontario Public Health Standards, Family Health Program Standards, Reproductive Health – Req 1.

Low Birth Weight Rate, York Region and Ontario, 2003-2009



Data Sources: Inpatient Discharges All Tables, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHEALTH ONTARIO [Dec/2010]. Rates were calculated using population estimates from Statistics Canada. Table 051-0052 - Estimates of population by census division, sex and age group for July 1, based on the Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) 2006, annual (persons) (table), CANSIM (database).

Interpretation:

- In 2009, the rate of low birth weight (LBW) for singleton births in York Region was 48.6 per 1,000 births, which was similar to the LBW rate in Ontario in 2009 (48.7 per 1,000 singleton births).
- The low birth weight rate appears to have slightly increased in recent years, from a low of 41.1 per 1,000 in 2004 in York Region.
- In three of the seven most recent years (2003, 2004 and 2007), the LBW rate in York Region was significantly lower than the provincial rate. In the other four remaining years, the LBW rates were similar between York Region and Ontario.

Data Notes:

The LBW rate is the number of births weighing less than 2,500 g relative to the total number of births. It is limited to singleton births (e.g., twins, triplets, etc., are not included).

Data are analyzed by the residence of the mother, not where the birth occurred.

Only births that occurred in Ontario are included, regardless of the residence of the mother.

The birth data is based on hospital delivery records, which are thought to include almost 99% of births in Ontario.

Statistical significance was examined using Computer Programs for Epidemiologists: WINPEPI (PEPI-for-Windows). Version 1.31. Salt Lake City, Utah: Sagebrush Press; 2004.