

GOAL 1: Ready to Learn

State Indicator 3. Low Birthweight

Have states¹ reduced the percentages of infants born at low birthweight (less than 5.5 pounds)?

↑	Better	2 states
↔	No Change	17 states and the U.S.
↓	Worse	36 states

Update

Improvement over time

Between 1990 and 1997, 2 states (out of 55) significantly reduced the percentages of infants born at low birthweight (less than 5.5 pounds):

1. District of Columbia
2. Virgin Islands

Highest-performing states*

States with the lowest percentages of infants born at low birthweight (less than 5.5 pounds):

	(1997)
Oregon	5%
Alaska	6%
California	6%
Idaho	6%
Iowa	6%
Maine	6%
Minnesota	6%
Montana	6%
New Hampshire	6%
North Dakota	6%
South Dakota	6%
Vermont	6%
Washington	6%
Wisconsin	6%
U.S.	8%

* Top 14 states (out of 55).

Most-improved states

States that made the greatest reductions in the percentages of infants born at low birthweight (less than 5.5 pounds):

	(1990)	(1997)	Change*
District of Columbia	15%	13%	-2
Virgin Islands	9%	8%	-1

* Differences between the first two columns may differ slightly from the figures reported in the "change" column due to rounding.

¹ The term "state" is used to refer to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the outlying areas.