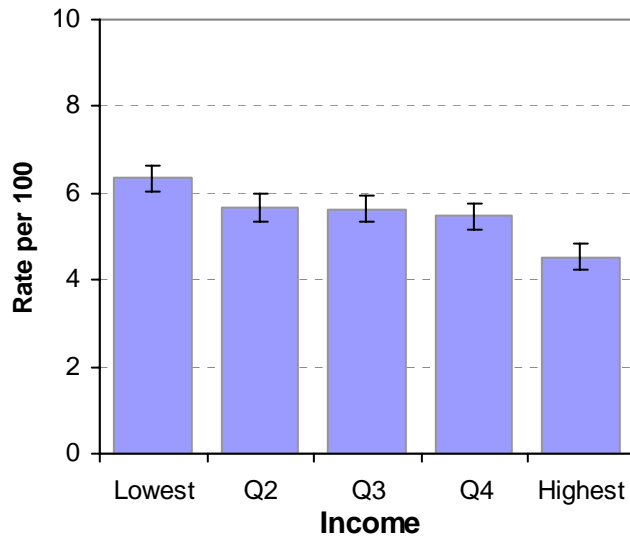


Singleton Low Birth Weight Rate

Figure 5: Singleton Low Birth Weight¹ Rate², by Income³, Toronto, 2004-2007



¹ Singleton low birth weight includes singleton infants born with a birth weight of less than 2,500 grams.

² Rate is per 100 singleton live births per year.

³ Income is the population quintile by proportion of the population below the LICO in census tracts.

Error bars (I) denote 95% confidence intervals.

Source: Niday Perinatal Database, 2004-2007.

Singleton low birth weight is defined as a birth weight of less than 2,500 grams and excludes multiple births (e.g. twins or triplets). Birth weight is an important determinant of infant health with impacts that extend through childhood and beyond. The overall singleton low birth weight rate for Toronto was 5.6 per 100 singleton births per year.

There was a gradient in the singleton low birth weight rate across income quintiles in Toronto. The difference in the singleton low birth weight rates was significant with the highest rate (6.3 per 100) in the lowest income quintile and a step-wise decrease in rates to 4.5 per 100 in the highest income quintile (Q5).

The absolute difference in rate of singleton low birth weight babies was 1.8 per 100 singleton live births in the lowest income quintile compared to the highest income quintile. In relative terms, the singleton low birth weight rate in quintile 1 was 1.4 times the rate in quintile 5.

If all babies in Toronto were born with the low birth weight rate of the highest income quintile (Q5) there would be 1,300 or 20% fewer singleton low birth weight babies born per year.

Toronto's singleton low birth weight rates for all income quintiles were higher compared to the overall rate for the rest of Ontario. The rate in the lowest income quintile was 50% higher than the rate for the rest of the province.