

FACTS AND STATS



Multiple Births in Canada

12,543 Number of multiple births in Canada in 2011¹

2.1% & 3.3% Proportion of all births in Canada that were multiple births in 1991 and 2011, respectively²

4.1% & 2.0% Highest and lowest multiple birth rates in Canada in 2011, recorded in Yukon and Northwest Territories, respectively^{3,4}

5x Amount by which mothers of multiples are more likely to experience postpartum depression compared to mothers of singletons⁵

36% & 77% Estimated proportion of twin births and triplet/higher-order births, respectively, between 1998 and 2011 that resulted from conception assisted by fertility treatments in the United States⁶

400x Estimated amount by which mothers are more likely to have triplets or quadruplets if they undergo fertility treatments⁷

39, 35 & 31 weeks Average gestational age for *all* babies, *twin* babies and *higher-order* multiples, respectively, in Canada⁸

28% Proportion of Canada's low birth weight infant population that are multiple births⁹

55% Proportion of multiple births that are of low birth weight^{10,11}

4.8x Estimated amount by which the hospital costs of each baby in a multiple pregnancy are more expensive than their singleton counterparts¹²

¹ Statistics Canada, *Live Births and Fetal Deaths (Stillbirths), by Type (Single or Multiple), Canada, Provinces and Territories* (CANSIM table 102-4515), accessed February 25, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1f3GCWu>.

² Ibid.

³ Northwest Territories excluding Nunavut.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Multiple Births Canada, *Postpartum Depression and Mothers of Multiples* (2011), accessed February 25, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1edTDwL>.

⁶ Kulkarni et al., "Fertility Treatments and Multiple Births in the United States," *New England Journal of Medicine* (December 2013) 369:2218-2225, accessed February 25, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1berIPE>.

⁷ Health Canada, *Canadian Perinatal Health Report, 2008 Edition* (2008), accessed March 4, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1cyOGq2>.

⁸ Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), *Too Early, Too Small: A Profile of Small Babies Across Canada* (2009), accessed February 20, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1comapi>.

⁹ Multiple Births Canada, *Multiple Births Facts & Figures* (2011), accessed February 25, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1cygDdq>.

¹⁰ Multiple Births Canada, *Preterm, Low Birth Weight and Multiple Births: An Information Guide for Parents* (2005), accessed March 6, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1cFf2Pl>.

¹¹ A baby born with "low birth weight" weighs less than 2,500 grams (5.5 lb.).

¹² CIHI, 2009.