

FACTS AND STATS



Multiple Births in Canada (2017 Update)

12,773 Number of multiple births in Canada in 2013¹

2.1% & 3.3% Proportion of all births in Canada that were multiple births in 1991 and 2013, respectively²

4.2% & 1.9% Highest and lowest multiple birth rates in Canada in 2013, recorded in Prince Edward Island and Nunavut, respectively³

5x Amount by which mothers of multiples are more likely to experience postpartum depression compared with mothers of singletons⁴

15%-17% Estimated share of all multiple births that are the result of fertility treatments. The share increases among higher order multiple births with fertility treatments accounting for 60% of triplets, 90% of quadruplets and 99% of quintuplets⁵

400x Estimated amount by which mothers are more likely to have triplets or quadruplets if they undergo fertility treatments⁶

39, 35 & 31 weeks Average gestational age for *all* babies, *twin* babies and *higher order* multiples, respectively, in Canada⁷

28% Proportion of Canada's low birth weight infant population that are multiple births⁸

55% Proportion of multiple births that are low birth weight^{9, 10}

4.8x Estimated amount by which the hospital costs of each baby in a multiple pregnancy are more expensive than their singleton counterparts¹¹

¹ Statistics Canada, *Live Births and Fetal Deaths (Stillbirths), by Type (Single or Multiple), Canada, Provinces and Territories* (CANSIM Table 102-4515), page last updated December 13, 2016, <http://bit.ly/1f3GCWu>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Multiple Births Canada, *Postpartum Depression and Mothers of Multiples* (2011), accessed May 15, 2017, <http://bit.ly/1edTDwL>.

⁵ Multiple Births Canada, *Higher Order Multiples - Triplets, Quadruplets and More* (2015), accessed May 15, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2pOqrtC>.

⁶ Health Canada, *Canadian Perinatal Health Report, 2008 Edition* (2008), accessed May 15, 2017, <http://bit.ly/1cy0Gq2>.

⁷ Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), *Too Early, Too Small: A Profile of Small Babies Across Canada* (2009), accessed May 15, 2017, <http://bit.ly/1comapi>.

⁸ Multiple Births Canada, *Multiple Births Facts & Figures* (2011), accessed May 15, 2017, <http://bit.ly/1cygDdq>.

⁹ Multiple Births Canada, *Preterm, Low Birth Weight and Multiple Births: An Information Guide for Parents* (2005), accessed May 15, 2017, <http://bit.ly/1cFf2PI>.

¹⁰ A baby born with "low birth weight" weighs less than 2,500 grams (5.5 lb.).

¹¹ CIHI, 2009.