

[Percentages of premature births, low birth-weight babies, and congenital abnormalities or anomalies]

Percentages of premature births, low birth-weight babies, and congenital abnormalities or anomalies obtained through the Pregnancy and Birth Survey were almost the same as the general level and those obtained through nationwide surveys.

(%)

	Percentage of premature births		Percentage of low birth-weight babies		Percentage of congenital abnormalities or anomalies	
	Main survey	Nationwide survey	Main survey	Nationwide survey	Main survey	General level
FY2011	4.8	5.7	8.9	9.6	2.85	
FY2012	5.7	5.7	9.6	9.6	2.39	
FY2013	5.4	5.8	9.9	9.6	2.35	3 to 5 (based on the 2014 Obstetric Care Guidelines)
FY2014	5.4	5.7	10.1	9.5	2.30	
FY2015	5.8	5.6	9.8	9.5	2.24	

Nationwide surveys: Percentages based on the Vital Statistics
 Premature births: Babies born at a gestational age from 22 weeks to less than 37 weeks
 Low birth-weight babies: Babies born smaller than 2500g

Prepared based on the material for the 26th Prefectural Oversight Committee Meeting for Fukushima Health Management Survey

The number of babies born in Fukushima Prefecture decreased temporarily after the earthquake, but the number increased in FY2013 and FY2014 compared with FY2012.

Radiation effects on newborn babies had been worried about, but percentages of premature births, low birth-weight babies, and congenital abnormalities or anomalies in Fukushima Prefecture after the earthquake were found to be almost the same as generally available data, including Vital Statistics collected nationally.

A report of a FY2013 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) Grant Research, "Research on the Incidence of Congenital Anomalies in Japan and Effect Factors (Including Effects of Radiation Exposure and Prenatal Diagnoses) through Monitoring Analysis," states that the incidence of congenital anomalies detected among 17,773 babies born at 36 maternity hospitals in Fukushima Prefecture after the earthquake shows similar outcomes to nationwide surveys, with no notably higher outlying events when compared with other prefectures.

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