

Report: LI births fall

Downward trend worries regional business group

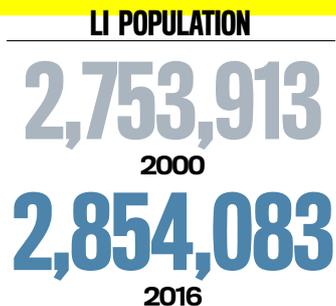
BY VÍCTOR MANUEL RAMOS
victor.ramos@newsday.com

Fewer babies are being born on Long Island, driving a slowdown in population growth for more than a decade, according to a new analysis of government data to be issued Wednesday.

The Long Island Association's study says the total number of births decreased by nearly 20 percent between 2000 and 2016. Nassau and Suffolk counties registered a sharper decline in women's general fertility rates than the state and the nation did, says the report by the association, a regional nonprofit representing businesses.

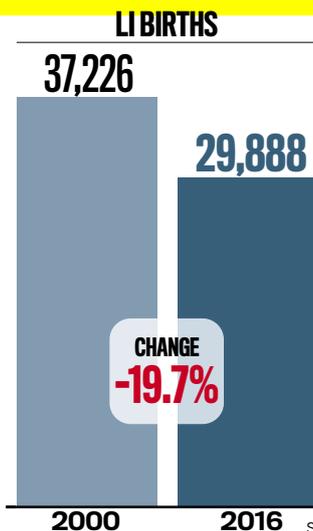
The decline has put the total fertility rate of Long Island at 1.8 births per woman in her lifetime, below what demographers consider a natural replacement level of 2.08 children. The region slid below that threshold since a recession hit in 2008, the report says.

It's a situation that should concern policymakers, as decreased births affect economic prospects, leaving fewer stu-



LI BIRTHS OVER DEATHS

Year	Births over Deaths
2002-06	64,778
2007-11	48,902
2012-16	23,578



SOURCE: LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

FERTILITY RATES

	Births per 1,000 women (2016)	Change from 2000
Long Island	57.7	-11%
New York State	58.6	-4.4%
United States	62	-5.9%

increase in the population, seen as the balance between births and deaths.

The number of births per 1,000 women on Long Island fell to 57.7 births in 2016, compared with 58.6 births per 1,000 women in New York and 62 births per 1,000 women in the United States.

Long Island's decline comes as the national birthrate is "as low as it's been ever" as measured by 2016 figures, said William H. Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution, a research nonprofit in Washington. "Women are putting off having kids," Frey said, as they pursue studies and career advancement but also as "a consequence of millennials and the Great Recession, because they are still waiting to put their lives back in order" from the economic downturn.

Lawrence Levy, Hofstra's executive dean at the National Center for Suburban Studies, said Long Island needed to adapt.

"You want a region that is attractive to people of all age cohorts," Levy said. "We are doing more to keep the elderly happy with everything from capping property taxes to building more over-55 communities. We are not quite doing enough yet on a broad scale to create the kind of communities and amenities that attract young people."

dents and future workers and taxpayers in the population pipeline, said Kevin S. Law, the association's president and chief executive officer.

"Having a child is a very personal decision . . . but what we need to look at as a region is, well, are there other things that might be impacting the amount of births and the birthrate?" Law said.

"Long Island is a very expensive place to live," he added.

Key factors to keep the region viable for younger residents who may start families and feed workforce needs are increasing the diversity of the

housing supply, offering more affordable child care, sprucing up downtowns, and maintaining and expanding public transportation, Law said.

Shanequa Levin, director of Every Child Matters, a Jericho-based nonprofit, agreed that many women and families "are having to make such crucial decisions" about whether to settle here and have a family, weighing the cost of living and raising children.

"The people that live and work on Long Island aren't able to even be able to afford to stay here, so I could see that decreasing the opportunity to want to

start family on Long Island, when places like Georgia and North Carolina are calling to you . . . where you can have these big houses and nice neighborhoods" and still be able to afford to send children to after-school programs, Levin said.

The association's analysis combined data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Census Bureau and the health and labor departments in New York State.

Overall, Long Island women gave birth to 29,888 children in 2016, down 19.7 percent from 37,226 children in 2000. The trend has reduced the natural

FEDS ARREST 225 IMMIGRANTS IN REGION

BY DEBORAH S. MORRIS
deborah.morris@newsday.com

Federal agents arrested 225 immigrants on Long Island and in New York City and the Hudson Valley over six days for violating U.S. immigration laws, officials said Tuesday.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said they arrested 21 people in Suffolk and 16 in Nassau over the period that ended Saturday.

Of the 225 arrested, more than 180 were convicted criminals or had criminal charges pending. Also of the 225, more than 80 were issued a final order of removal and failed to depart the United States, or had been removed and returned illegally, ICE said in a news release Tuesday.

"ICE continues to face significant obstacles with policies created by local officials which hinder cooperation between ICE and local law enforcement," Thomas R. Decker, field office director for ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations in New York, said in the news release. "Yet, with the tireless efforts of the men and women of ICE, this operation was a great success."

Several of those arrested had felony convictions for child sex crimes, weapons charges and assault, officials said. Others had past convictions for significant or multiple misdemeanors.

The arrests lead to detention and deportation proceedings for all those arrested, with federal prosecution in some cases.

Walter Barrientos, Long Is-

land organizer for Make The Road New York in Brentwood, said his immigrant-advocacy group noticed increased arrests in the area in recent weeks.

"We continue to see clearly how this administration is committed to painting immigrants as criminals and excusing very inhumane practices," he said. "When you look below the surface, as we are seeing with so many youth here on Long Island, they are getting charged as gang members with faulty evidence."

Those arrested include people from Albania, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Trinidad, and Uzbekistan, federal officials said.

Among those apprehended



ICE officers arrest an immigrant in Bushwick, Brooklyn, last week.

was a 35-year-old Guatemalan in Brentwood who had been deported five times and has convictions for driving while intoxicated, aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and illegal re-entry after removal.

In Hempstead, federal agents

apprehended a Salvadoran, 40, who had previously been deported and has convictions for assault, burglary of a vehicle, attempted forcible touching, criminal possession of a controlled substance, and sexual abuse.

With Víctor Manuel Ramos