

Births: Preliminary Data for 2006

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Abstract

Objectives—This report presents preliminary data for 2006 on births in the United States. U.S. data on births are shown by age, live-birth order, race, and Hispanic origin of mother. Data on marital status, cesarean delivery, preterm births, and low birthweight are also presented.

Methods—Data in this report are based on 99.9 percent of births for 2006. The records are weighted to independent control counts of all births received in state vital statistics offices in 2006. Comparisons are made with 2005 data.

Results—The preliminary estimate of births in 2006 was 4,265,996, an increase of 3 percent from 2005, the largest single-year increase in the number of births since 1989, and the largest number of births since 1961. The general fertility rate increased by 3 percent between 2005 and 2006, to 68.5 births per 1,000 women age 15–44 years, the highest level since 1991. The preliminary birth rate for U.S. teenagers 15–19 years rose 3 percent to 41.9 births per 1,000 females in 2006, the first increase reported since 1991. The birth rate for teenagers 15–17 years rose 3 percent to 22.0 per 1,000 in 2006, whereas the birth rate for teenagers 18–19 years increased 4 percent to 73.0 per 1,000. The youngest teenagers, age 10–14 years, were the only age group under 20 years whose birth rate did not increase in 2006. Birth rates also increased for women in their twenties, thirties, and early forties between 2005 and 2006. The total fertility rate in 2006 was 2,101.0 births per 1,000 women, the highest rate since 1971. Childbearing by unmarried women rose substantially in 2006, reaching record high levels. The birth rate rose 7 percent in 2006 to 50.6 per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years; the number of births to unmarried women increased by nearly 8 percent in 2006 to 1,641,700. The cesarean delivery rate rose to 31.1 percent of all births in 2006, another record high. The rate has climbed 50 percent over the last decade. The preterm birth rate rose slightly in 2006 (to 12.8 percent), as did the low birthweight rate (to 8.3 percent); the preterm rate has risen 21 percent and the low birthweight rate by 19 percent since 1990.

Keywords: births • birth rates • maternal and infant health • vital statistics

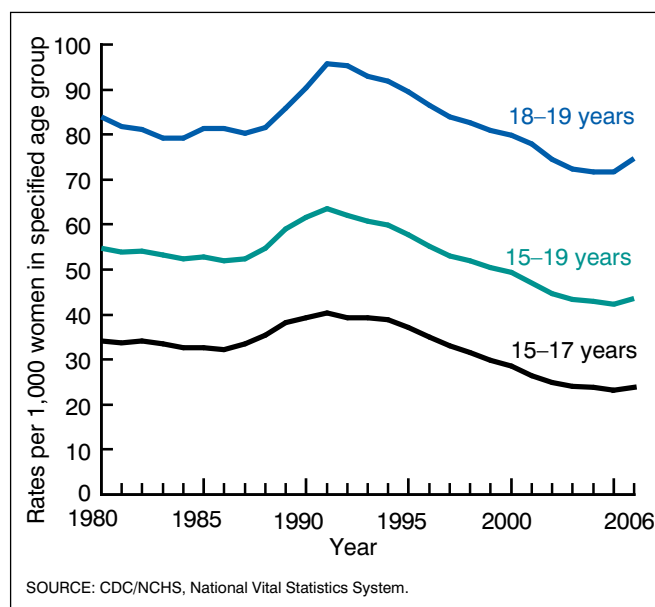


Figure 1. Birth rates for teenagers by age: United States, final 1980–2005 and preliminary 2006

Introduction

This report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) presents preliminary data on births and birth rates as well as selected maternal and infant health characteristics for the United States in 2006. The findings are based on 99.9 percent of registered vital records occurring in calendar year 2006, which were received and processed by NCHS as of July 26, 2007 (see "Technical Notes"). Trends in the preliminary reports for 1995–2005 births were confirmed by the final vital statistics for each year (1,2).

State-specific detailed tables for 2006 births that are based on preliminary data by maternal age under 20 years, marital status, cesarean delivery, preterm delivery, and low birthweight are available

on the NCHS website (see “State-specific detailed tables” at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_07_tables.pdf).

Results

Births and birth rates

Key findings, which are illustrated in [Tables 1–7](#) and [Figures 1–3](#), show:

- The preliminary **estimate of births** in 2006 was 4,265,996, an increase of 3 percent, or 127,647 births, from 2005 ([Tables 1–2](#) and [Figure 2](#)) (1). This is the largest single-year increase in the number of births since 1989 and the largest number of births since 1961. Births rose for each race and Hispanic origin group with increases ranging from 1 percent for non-Hispanic white women to 6 percent for non-Hispanic black women and American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) women. More than one million births (1,039,051) were reported for Hispanic women in 2006—a record high.
- The preliminary **crude birth rate (CBR)** increased by 1 percent between 2005 and 2006 to 14.2 births per 1,000 total population ([Table 1](#)). The **general fertility rate (GFR)** also increased in 2006 by 3 percent to 68.5 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, the highest level since 1991 ([Figure 2](#)) (1). The GFR rose for each race and Hispanic origin group as well, with increases ranging from 1 percent for Asian or Pacific Islander (API) women to 5 percent for non-Hispanic black and AIAN women. The rates for non-Hispanic white and Hispanic women, the two largest population groups, increased 2 percent each.
- The preliminary **birth rates for U.S. teenagers aged 15–19 years** rose considerably in 2006, the first increase reported since 1991 ([Tables 2–5](#) and [Figure 1](#)). Rates for teenagers have been

declining steadily since the 1991 peak and fell 34 percent between 1991 and 2005, before the trend reversed in 2006. The overall birth rate for teenagers rose 3 percent to 41.9 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19 years.

- The only age group under 20 years of age not experiencing an increase in birth rates was the youngest teenagers, aged 10–14 years. Their rate declined slightly from 0.7 to 0.6 births per 1,000, matching the recent low point reported in 2003.
- The birth rate for teenagers 15–17 years rose 3 percent to 22.0 births per 1,000 in 2006, about the same as reported in 2004. There was a 4 percent increase in the birth rate for older teenagers aged 18–19 years to 73.0 births per 1,000, about the same as reported in 2002.
- Trends in rates by race and Hispanic origin varied somewhat. The largest single-year increase was reported for non-Hispanic black teenagers, whose overall rate rose 5 percent to 63.7 births per 1,000. Increases for other groups were 2 percent for Hispanic teenagers (to 83.0), 3 percent for non-Hispanic white teenagers (to 26.6), and 4 percent for AIAN teenagers (to 54.7). The birth rate for API teenagers was essentially unchanged.
- The preliminary **birth rate for women aged 20–24 years** increased 4 percent in 2006, to 105.9 births per 1,000 women from 102.2 births in 2005 ([Tables 2](#) and [5](#)). The *number of births* to women aged 20–24 years also rose 4 percent between 2005 and 2006 as the population of women in this age group increased slightly (less than 1 percent) ([Table 4](#)). The **birth rate for women aged 25–29 years** increased 1 percent, to 116.8 births per 1,000 women from 115.5 births in 2005. The number of births to women aged 25–29 years also increased 4 percent in 2006, primarily reflecting the 3 percent increase in the population of women in this age group.
- The preliminary **birth rate for women aged 30–34 years** increased by 2 percent between 2005 and 2006 to 97.7 births per 1,000 women, the highest rate reported since 1964. Nonetheless, the number of births to women aged 30–34 years was essentially unchanged in 2006, reflecting the 2 percent decline in the population of women in this age group. The **birth rate for women aged 35–39 years** also increased by 2 percent to 47.3 births per 1,000 women, the highest rate since 1964 (1–3). The number of births to women aged 35–39 years increased 3 percent between 2005 and 2006. The **birth rate for women 40–44 years** increased by 3 percent to 9.4 births per 1,000 women, the highest rate since 1968, whereas the **rate for women aged 45–49 years** was unchanged at 0.6 births per 1,000 in 2006 ([Tables 2, 4, and 5](#)). The number of births increased 1 percent for women aged 40–44 years and 6 percent for women aged 45–49 years.
- The preliminary estimate of the **total fertility rate (TFR)** in 2006 was 2,101.0 births per 1,000 women, a 2 percent increase compared with the rate in 2005 (2,053.5 births) and the highest rate since 1971 (2,266.5 births) ([Table 1](#)) (1,3). The TFR summarizes the potential effect of current fertility patterns on completed family size by estimating the average number of births that a hypothetical group of 1,000 women would have during their lifetimes based on the age-specific birth rates observed in the given year.

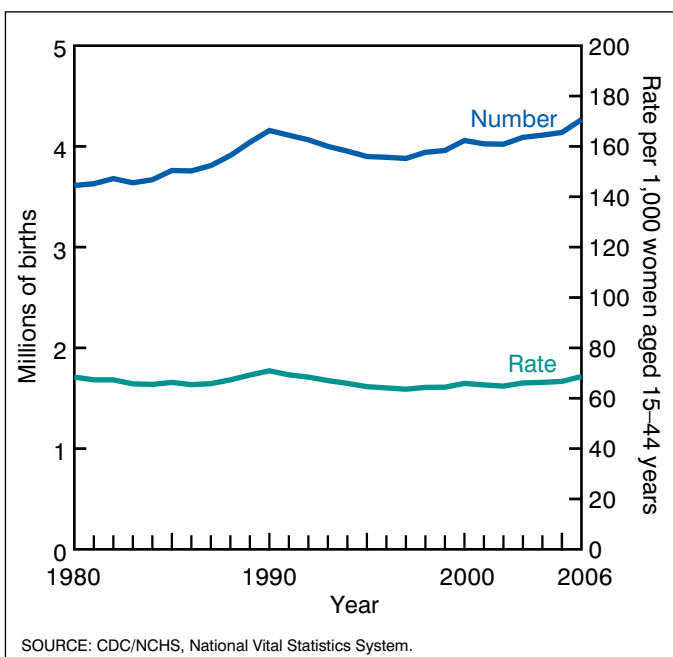


Figure 2. Live births and fertility rates: United States, final 1980–2005 and preliminary 2006

The year 2006 marks the first year since 1971 in which the U.S. TFR was above replacement. A replacement rate is the rate at which a given generation can exactly replace itself, generally considered to be 2,100 births per 1,000 women. The TFR by race and Hispanic origin rose significantly in 2006 for all groups, with increases ranging from 1 percent for API women to 5 percent for non-Hispanic black women. For the two largest groups, the rates increased 1 percent for non-Hispanic white women and 3 percent for Hispanic women. The rate for AIAN women increased 4 percent (Table 1).

- The preliminary **first birth rate** for women aged 15–44 years was 27.4 births per 1,000 women, a 3 percent increase over the rate in 2005 (26.5 births) (Table 5). First birth rates for women in age groups 15–39 and 45–49 years increased between 2005 and 2006, with the rates increasing 4 percent for women aged 15–19 years, 5 percent for women aged 20–24 years, and 1 percent for women aged 25–39 years; the rates for women aged 40–44 years were unchanged. Between 2005 and 2006, the rates for births to women aged 15–44 years also increased for second-order births (2 percent), third-order births (3 percent), and fourth and higher-order births (4 percent).
- Preliminary **CBRs for states** varied considerably in 2006, ranging from 10.4 births for 1,000 total population in Vermont to 21.0 births in Utah (Table 6). Birth rates for most states increased significantly

between 2005 and 2006; however, rates for 15 states and the District of Columbia were essentially unchanged (i.e., not statistically different). The 15 states are Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, and West Virginia.

GFRs for states also varied considerably in 2006, ranging from 52.2 births per 1,000 women age 15–44 years in Vermont to 94.1 births in Utah (see Table 6). Like the CBR, fertility rates for most states also increased significantly between 2005 and 2006; however, rates for only nine states and the District of Columbia were essentially unchanged (the nine states were Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and West Virginia) (Figure 3).

- **Childbearing by unmarried women rose substantially in 2006** according to preliminary data, and reached record high levels (1.4). The **total number of births** to unmarried women rose nearly 8 percent to 1,641,700 births, compared with 1,527,034 births in 2005 (Table 7). The 2006 total is 20 percent higher than that in 2002, when the recent upswing in births to unmarried women began. For each age group age 15 years and over and for each race and Hispanic origin subgroup, the increases in *nonmarital* births sharply outpace increases in *total* births.

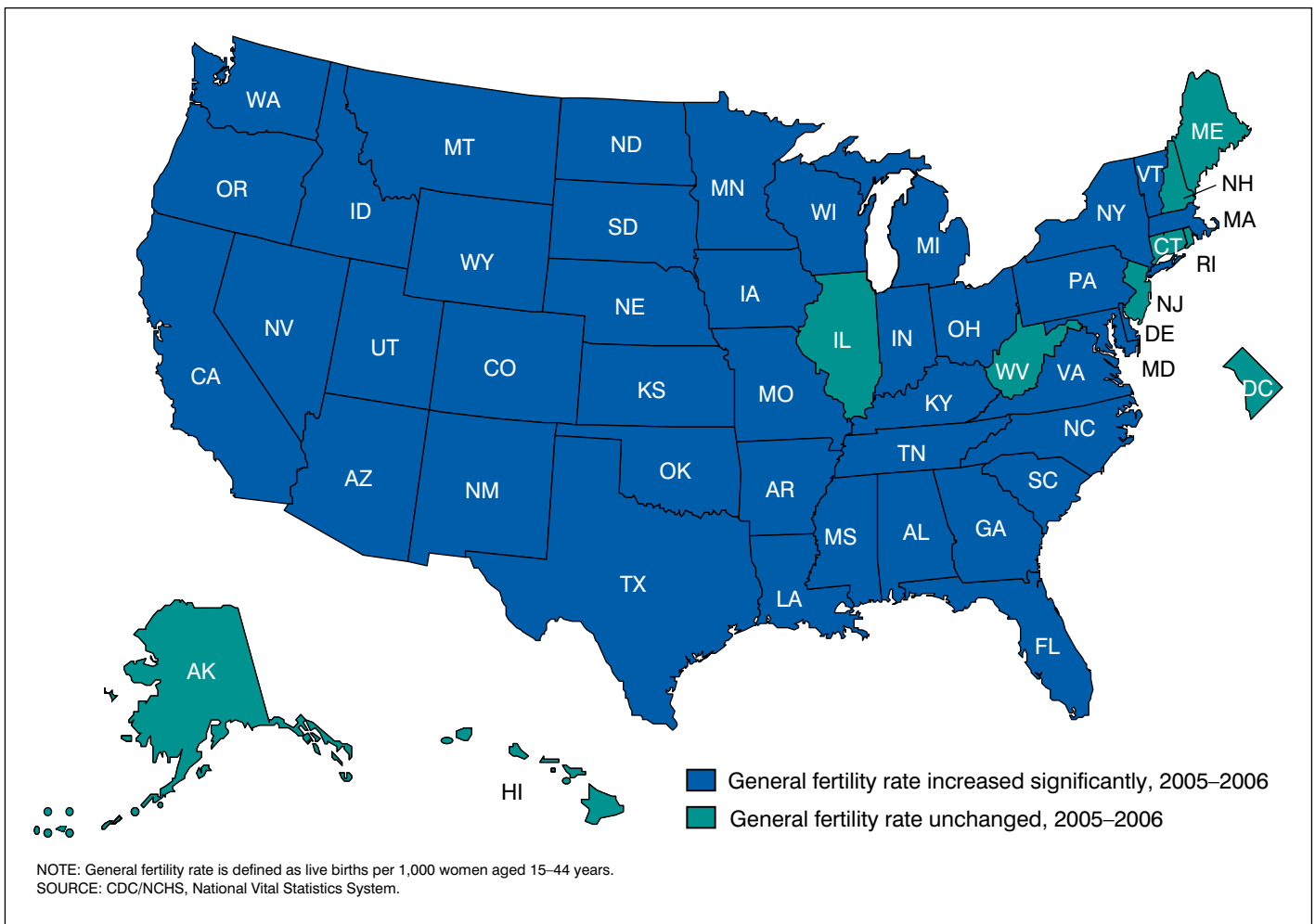


Figure 3. Increase in general fertility rate, final 2005 and preliminary 2006: Each state

- The **nonmarital birth rate** rose 7 percent in 2006 to 50.6 births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years, up from 47.5 births in 2005 and 16 percent above the recent low point in 2002 (43.7 births) (1).
- The **proportion of births to unmarried women** increased in 2006 to 38.5 percent, compared with 36.9 percent in 2005. The proportions increased for most population subgroups by race and Hispanic origin (Table 1).
- The increases in 2006 in the number, rate, and proportion of births to unmarried women were the largest single-year increases reported in these measures since 1988–1989 (1,2,4).
- The number of births to unmarried women aged 25–29 years rose 10 percent, the greatest increase by age (Table 7). Increases for other age groups among women aged 15–44 years ranged from 4 percent to 8 percent; the number for those under 15 years of age declined 4 percent.
- In 2006, more than 4 in 5 births to teenagers were nonmarital. Nearly 60 percent of births to women aged 20–24 years and nearly 3 in 10 births to women aged 25–29 years were to unmarried women (Table 7).

Maternal and infant health birth characteristics

Key findings, which are illustrated in Tables 8–9 and Figure 4, show:

- The **cesarean delivery** rate rose to 31.1 percent of all births in 2006, a 3 percent increase over the 2005 rate and another record high. The percentage of all births delivered by cesarean has

climbed 50 percent over the last decade, from 20.7 percent in 1996 (Figure 4). Increases during the decade and between 2005 and 2006 occurred for each age group and for each of the race and Hispanic origin groups.

- The **preterm birth rate** rose slightly in 2006 to 12.8 percent from 12.7 percent in 2005. The percentage of births delivered preterm—that is, before 37 weeks of gestation—has risen 21 percent since 1990. Small increases were observed between 2005 and 2006 in the percentages of infants delivered at less than 34 weeks (3.63 percent to 3.66 percent) and at 34–36 weeks (9.09 percent to 9.14 percent) (Tables 8–9). Since 1990, births delivered at less than 34 weeks have risen from 3.32 percent, and late preterm births (those delivered at 34–36 weeks) have risen from 7.30 percent. Although the increase in preterm birth rates in recent years is influenced by the upturn in multiple births (which tend to be born earlier than singletons), rates have also been on the rise among singletons (1).

Between 2005 and 2006, preterm birth rates were essentially unchanged among non-Hispanic white births (11.7 percent) and non-Hispanic black births (18.4 percent) but increased slightly among Hispanic births (from 12.1 percent to 12.2 percent). Since 1990, preterm rates have risen 38 percent among non-Hispanic white births and 11 percent among Hispanic births. The rate for non-Hispanic black births declined modestly during the 1990s, but it has risen 6 percent since 2000 (1).

- The **low birthweight (LBW) rate** also rose slightly between 2005 and 2006, from 8.2 percent to 8.3 percent. The percentage of infants born LBW (less than 2,500 grams) has risen fairly

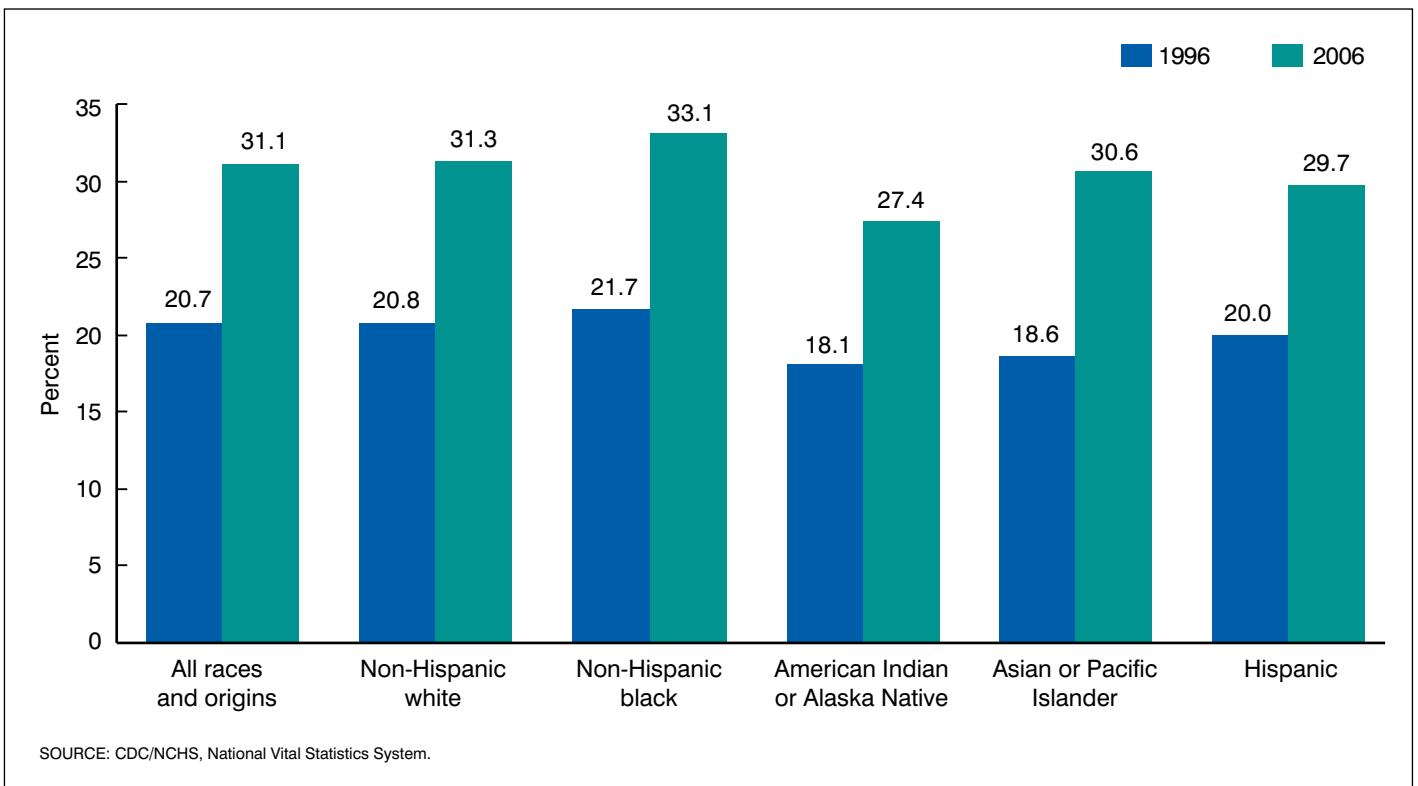


Figure 4. Total cesarean delivery rates by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 1996 and preliminary 2006

consistently in recent years; the 2006 level is 19 percent higher than that for 1990 (7.0 percent). The elevation in LBW has also been associated with increases in multiple deliveries; however, low birthweight among singletons has also risen during this period (1). The percentage of infants born very low birthweight (less than 1,500 grams) did not change significantly between 2005 and 2006 (1.48 percent in 2006), but moderately low birthweight (1,500 to 2,499 grams) rose from 6.70 percent to 6.78 percent. LBW increased among Hispanics but was essentially unchanged for non-Hispanic white or non-Hispanic black newborns between 2005 and 2006.

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Table 1. Total births and percentage of births with selected demographic characteristics, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2005 and preliminary 2006

[Data for 2006 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Birth rates are live births per 1,000 population in the specified group. Fertility rates are live births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years in the specified group. Total fertility rates are sums of birth rates for 5-year age groups in the specified group, multiplied by 5]

Race and Hispanic origin of mother	Number		Birth rate		Fertility rate		Total fertility rate		Percent of births to unmarried women	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
All races and origins ¹	4,265,996	4,138,349	14.2	14.0	68.5	66.7	2,101.0	2,053.5	38.5	36.9
Non-Hispanic white ²	2,309,833	2,279,768	11.6	11.5	59.5	58.3	1,864.0	1,839.5	26.6	25.3
Non-Hispanic black ²	617,220	583,759	16.5	15.7	70.6	67.2	2,114.5	2,019.0	70.7	69.9
American Indian or Alaska Native total ^{2,3}	47,494	44,813	14.8	14.2	62.8	59.9	1,819.5	1,750.0	64.6	63.5
Asian or Pacific Islander total ^{2,3}	239,829	231,108	16.5	16.5	67.2	66.6	1,908.0	1,889.0	16.3	16.2
Hispanic ⁴	1,039,051	985,505	23.4	23.1	101.5	99.4	2,958.5	2,885.0	49.9	48.0

¹Includes Hispanic origin not stated.

²Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Twenty-three states reported multiple-race data for 2006. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see "Technical Notes."

³Data for persons of Hispanic origin are included in the data for each race group according to the person's reported race; see "Technical Notes."

⁴Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see "Technical Notes."

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and for further discussion, see reference 2.

Table 2. Births and birth rates, by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2005 and preliminary 2006

[Data for 2006 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures for 2006 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals. Rates per 1,000 women in specified age and race and Hispanic origin group]

Age and race and Hispanic origin of mother	2006		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
All races and origins¹				
Total ²	4,265,996	68.5	4,138,349	66.7
10–14 years	6,405	0.6	6,722	0.7
15–19 years	435,427	41.9	414,593	40.5
15–17 years	138,920	22.0	133,191	21.4
18–19 years	296,507	73.0	281,402	69.9
20–24 years	1,080,507	105.9	1,040,388	102.2
25–29 years	1,182,187	116.8	1,131,596	115.5
30–34 years	950,472	97.7	950,691	95.8
35–39 years	498,566	47.3	483,156	46.3
40–44 years	105,476	9.4	104,667	9.1
45–54 years ³	6,956	0.6	6,536	0.6
Non-Hispanic white				
Total ²	2,309,833	59.5	2,279,768	58.3
10–14 years	1,270	0.2	1,331	0.2
15–19 years	169,837	26.6	165,005	25.9
15–17 years	45,307	11.8	43,864	11.5
18–19 years	124,530	49.3	121,141	48.0
20–24 years	528,596	83.4	515,518	81.4
25–29 years	665,889	109.2	642,553	109.1
30–34 years	567,103	98.1	581,645	96.9
35–39 years	309,130	46.3	305,142	45.6
40–44 years	63,546	8.4	64,352	8.3
45–54 years ³	4,461	0.6	4,222	0.5
Non-Hispanic black				
Total ²	617,220	70.6	583,759	67.2
10–14 years	2,470	1.6	2,697	1.7
15–19 years	103,692	63.7	96,813	60.9
15–17 years	36,331	36.1	34,178	34.9
18–19 years	67,361	108.4	62,635	103.0
20–24 years	198,718	133.1	188,673	126.8
25–29 years	153,639	107.1	142,885	103.0
30–34 years	95,804	72.6	92,336	68.4
35–39 years	49,893	36.0	47,411	34.3
40–44 years	12,270	8.3	12,256	8.2
45–54 years ³	733	0.5	688	0.5
American Indian or Alaska Native total⁴				
Total ²	47,494	62.8	44,813	59.9
10–14 years	122	0.9	136	0.9
15–19 years	8,222	54.7	7,807	52.7
15–17 years	2,795	30.5	2,755	30.5
18–19 years	5,427	92.8	5,052	87.6
20–24 years	16,388	114.9	15,333	109.2
25–29 years	12,127	97.2	11,189	93.8
30–34 years	6,752	61.5	6,619	60.1
35–39 years	3,120	28.2	2,969	27.0
40–44 years	722	6.1	722	6.0
45–54 years ³	41	0.4	38	0.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Births and birth rates, by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2005 and preliminary 2006—Con.

[Data for 2006 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures for 2006 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals. Rates per 1,000 women in specified age and race and Hispanic origin group]

Age and race and Hispanic origin of mother	2006		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Asian or Pacific Islander total⁴				
Total ²	239,829	67.2	231,108	66.6
10–14 years	71	0.2	104	0.2
15–19 years	7,672	16.7	7,616	17.0
15–17 years	2,396	8.7	2,229	8.2
18–19 years	5,276	28.9	5,387	30.1
20–24 years	31,535	62.5	30,894	61.1
25–29 years	66,562	107.8	64,840	107.9
30–34 years	82,614	116.5	79,750	115.0
35–39 years	42,290	62.8	39,262	61.8
40–44 years	8,525	14.1	8,106	13.8
45–54 years ³	560	1.0	536	1.0
Hispanic⁵				
Total ²	1,039,051	101.5	985,505	99.4
10–14 years	2,455	1.3	2,466	1.3
15–19 years	145,651	83.0	136,906	81.7
15–17 years	51,982	47.9	50,046	48.5
18–19 years	93,669	139.7	86,860	134.6
20–24 years	303,443	177.0	287,896	170.0
25–29 years	280,630	152.4	266,590	149.2
30–34 years	194,590	108.4	186,398	106.8
35–39 years	91,562	55.6	85,739	54.2
40–44 years	19,697	13.3	18,597	13.0
45–54 years ³	1,022	0.8	913	0.8

¹Includes Hispanic origin not stated.

²The total number includes births to women of all ages, 10–54 years. The rate shown for all ages is the fertility rate, which is defined as the total number of births (regardless of the age of the mother) per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years.

³The number of births shown is the total for women aged 45–54 years. The birth rate is computed by relating the births to women aged 45–54 years to women aged 45–49 years, because most of the births in this group are to women aged 45–49.

⁴Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Twenty-three states reported multiple-race data for 2006. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see "Technical Notes." Data for persons of Hispanic origin are included in the data for each race group according to the mother's reported race; see "Technical Notes."

⁵Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see "Technical Notes."

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and for further discussion, see reference 2.

Table 3. Birth rates for women aged 15–19 years, by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 1991, 2004, and 2005, and preliminary 2006; and percent change in rates, 1991–2005 and 2005–2006

[Data for 2006 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Rates per 1,000 women in the specified group]

Age and race and Hispanic origin of mother	Year				Percent change, 2005–2006	Percent change, 1991–2005
	2006	2005	2004	1991		
10–14 years						
All races and origins ¹	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.4	-14	-50
Non-Hispanic white ²	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	†0	-60
Non-Hispanic black ²	1.6	1.7	1.6	4.9	-6	-65
American Indian or Alaska Native total ^{2,3}	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.6	†0	-44
Asian or Pacific Islander total ^{2,3}	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8	†0	-75
Hispanic ⁴	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.4	†0	-46
15–19 years						
All races and origins ¹	41.9	40.5	41.1	61.8	3	-34
Non-Hispanic white ²	26.6	25.9	26.7	43.4	3	-40
Non-Hispanic black ²	63.7	60.9	63.1	118.2	5	-48
American Indian or Alaska Native total ^{2,3}	54.7	52.7	52.5	84.1	4	-37
Asian or Pacific Islander total ^{2,3}	16.7	17.0	17.3	27.3	-2	-38
Hispanic ⁴	83.0	81.7	82.6	104.6	2	-22
15–17 years						
All races and origins ¹	22.0	21.4	22.1	38.6	3	-45
Non-Hispanic white ²	11.8	11.5	12.0	23.6	3	-51
Non-Hispanic black ²	36.1	34.9	37.1	86.1	3	-59
American Indian or Alaska Native total ^{2,3}	30.5	30.5	30.0	51.9	†0	-41
Asian or Pacific Islander total ^{2,3}	8.7	8.2	8.9	16.3	6	-50
Hispanic ⁴	47.9	48.5	49.7	69.2	-1	-30
18–19 years						
All races and origins ¹	73.0	69.9	70.0	94.0	4	-26
Non-Hispanic white ²	49.3	48.0	48.7	70.6	3	-32
Non-Hispanic black ²	108.4	103.0	103.9	162.2	5	-36
American Indian or Alaska Native total ^{2,3}	92.8	87.6	87.0	134.2	6	-35
Asian or Pacific Islander total ^{2,3}	28.9	30.1	29.6	42.2	-4	-29
Hispanic ⁴	139.7	134.6	133.5	155.5	4	-13

† Zero percent change.

¹Includes Hispanic origin not stated.²Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Twenty-three states reported multiple-race data for 2006. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see "Technical Notes."³Data for persons of Hispanic origin are included in the data for each race group according to the person's reported race; see "Technical Notes."⁴Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see "Technical Notes."

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and for further discussion, see reference 2.

Table 4. Live births by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, preliminary 2006

[Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals]

Live-birth order and race and Hispanic origin of mother	All ages	Age of mother							
		Under 15 years	15–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years	45–54 years
All races and origins ¹	4,265,996	6,405	435,427	1,080,507	1,182,187	950,472	498,566	105,476	6,956
1st child	1,697,281	6,253	348,469	518,608	419,023	267,253	113,390	22,557	1,727
2d child	1,354,637	101	72,537	359,749	394,403	332,794	163,456	29,855	1,741
3d child	716,756	5	10,921	143,515	225,457	198,189	115,339	22,147	1,183
4th child and over	473,685	–	1,430	53,014	136,931	146,715	103,182	30,161	2,252
Not stated	23,638	46	2,069	5,621	6,373	5,521	3,198	756	54
Non-Hispanic white	2,309,833	1,270	169,837	528,596	665,889	567,103	309,130	63,546	4,461
1st child	957,979	1,250	142,032	276,424	269,785	175,400	76,721	15,176	1,192
2d child	763,648	14	23,896	172,106	226,482	211,960	108,663	19,311	1,216
3d child	367,119	–	2,938	59,929	110,792	109,727	69,948	13,044	741
4th child and over	209,020	–	335	17,746	55,524	66,751	51,821	15,563	1,281
Not stated	12,067	6	636	2,392	3,307	3,266	1,977	452	32
Non-Hispanic black	617,220	2,470	103,692	198,718	153,639	95,804	49,893	12,270	733
1st child	237,818	2,395	80,720	84,164	38,702	20,058	9,376	2,243	161
2d child	175,184	42	18,242	64,610	47,355	28,062	13,763	2,960	148
3d child	106,509	2	3,281	31,851	34,803	22,055	11,712	2,677	128
4th child and over	91,316	–	500	16,072	31,140	24,577	14,502	4,242	284
Not stated	6,392	31	949	2,022	1,638	1,052	540	149	11
American Indian or Alaska Native total ²	47,494	122	8,222	16,388	12,127	6,752	3,120	722	41
1st child	16,677	119	6,291	6,321	2,447	1,027	396	72	4
2d child	12,901	–	1,584	5,648	3,413	1,507	619	120	9
3d child	8,674	–	283	3,010	3,099	1,517	639	119	8
4th child and over	9,001	–	39	1,339	3,109	2,652	1,439	404	20
Not stated	240	3	25	71	59	48	28	6	–
Asian or Pacific Islander total ²	239,829	71	7,672	31,535	66,562	82,614	42,290	8,525	560
1st child	109,881	69	6,237	18,994	36,245	33,401	12,529	2,226	180
2d child	83,988	1	1,164	8,512	20,225	33,568	17,225	3,151	142
3d child	29,398	1	190	2,781	6,339	10,332	7,966	1,691	98
4th child and over	15,480	–	26	1,109	3,447	4,949	4,395	1,419	135
Not stated	1,081	–	55	139	306	362	175	38	5
Hispanic ³	1,039,051	2,455	145,651	303,443	280,630	194,590	91,562	19,697	1,022
1st child	370,153	2,404	112,916	131,813	70,405	36,045	13,735	2,672	163
2d child	315,302	42	27,636	108,373	96,048	56,516	22,356	4,128	202
3d child	203,288	2	4,226	45,751	69,991	54,067	24,572	4,502	178
4th child and over	147,424	–	522	16,692	43,389	47,372	30,642	8,331	476
Not stated	2,884	7	350	814	797	591	257	63	3

–Quantity zero.

¹Includes Hispanic origin not stated.²Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Twenty-three states reported multiple-race data for 2006. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see "Technical Notes." Data for persons of Hispanic origin are included in the data for each race group according to the mother's reported race; see "Technical Notes."³Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see "Technical Notes."

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and for further discussion, see reference 2.

Table 5. Birth rates by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, preliminary 2006

[Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Rates are per 1,000 women in the specified age and race and Hispanic origin group]

Live-birth order and race and Hispanic origin of mother	15–44 years ¹	Age of mother							
		10–14 years	15–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years	45–49 years ²
All races and origins ³	68.5	0.6	41.9	105.9	116.8	97.7	47.3	9.4	0.6
1st child	27.4	0.6	33.7	51.1	41.6	27.6	10.8	2.0	0.2
2d child	21.9	0.0	7.0	35.4	39.2	34.4	15.6	2.7	0.2
3d child	11.6	*	1.1	14.1	22.4	20.5	11.0	2.0	0.1
4th child and over	7.7	*	0.1	5.2	13.6	15.2	9.9	2.7	0.2
Non-Hispanic white	59.5	0.2	26.6	83.4	109.2	98.1	46.3	8.4	0.6
1st child	24.8	0.2	22.3	43.8	44.4	30.5	11.6	2.0	0.1
2d child	19.8	*	3.8	27.3	37.3	36.9	16.4	2.6	0.2
3d child	9.5	*	0.5	9.5	18.3	19.1	10.5	1.7	0.1
4th child and over	5.4	*	0.1	2.8	9.2	11.6	7.8	2.1	0.2
Non-Hispanic black	70.6	1.6	63.7	133.1	107.1	72.6	36.0	8.3	0.5
1st child	27.5	1.5	50.1	57.0	27.3	15.4	6.8	1.5	0.1
2d child	20.2	0.0	11.3	43.7	33.3	21.5	10.0	2.0	0.1
3d child	12.3	*	2.0	21.6	24.5	16.9	8.5	1.8	0.1
4th child and over	10.6	*	0.3	10.9	22.0	18.8	10.6	2.9	0.2
American Indian or Alaska Native total ⁴	62.8	0.9	54.7	114.9	97.2	61.5	28.2	6.1	0.4
1st child	22.2	0.9	42.0	44.5	19.7	9.4	3.6	0.6	*
2d child	17.2	*	10.6	39.8	27.5	13.8	5.7	1.0	*
3d child	11.5	*	1.9	21.2	25.0	13.9	5.8	1.0	*
4th child and over	12.0	*	0.3	9.4	25.0	24.3	13.1	3.4	0.2
Asian or Pacific Islander total ⁴	67.2	0.2	16.7	62.5	107.8	116.5	62.8	14.1	1.0
1st child	30.9	0.1	13.7	37.8	59.0	47.3	18.7	3.7	0.3
2d child	23.6	*	2.6	17.0	32.9	47.5	25.7	5.2	0.3
3d child	8.3	*	0.4	5.5	10.3	14.6	11.9	2.8	0.2
4th child and over	4.4	*	0.1	2.2	5.6	7.0	6.6	2.4	0.2
Hispanic ⁵	101.5	1.3	83.0	177.0	152.4	108.4	55.6	13.3	0.8
1st child	36.3	1.3	64.5	77.1	38.3	20.1	8.4	1.8	0.1
2d child	30.9	0.0	15.8	63.4	52.3	31.6	13.6	2.8	0.2
3d child	19.9	*	2.4	26.8	38.1	30.2	15.0	3.0	0.1
4th child and over	14.4	*	0.3	9.8	23.6	26.5	18.7	5.6	0.4

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision; based on fewer than 20 births in the numerator.

¹The rate shown is the fertility rate, which is defined as the total number of births, regardless of age of mother, per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years.²The birth rate for ages 45–49 years is computed by relating births to women aged 45–54 years to women aged 45–49 years, because most of the births in this group are to women aged 45–49.³Includes Hispanic origin not stated.⁴Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Twenty-three states reported multiple-race data for 2006. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see "Technical Notes." Data for persons of Hispanic origin are included in the data for each race group according to the mother's reported race; see "Technical Notes."⁵Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see "Technical Notes."

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and for further discussion, see reference 2.

Table 6. Live births by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States and each state and territory, and birth and fertility rates, preliminary 2006

[By place of residence. Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Birth rates are total births per 1,000 total population; fertility rates are total births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years. Figures are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals]

Area	Number					Birth rate	Fertility rate
	All races and origins ¹	Non-Hispanic white	American Indian or Alaska Native total ²	Asian or Pacific Islander total ²	Hispanic ³	All races	All races
United States ⁴	4,265,996	2,309,833	47,494	239,829	1,039,051	14.2	68.5
Alabama	63,235	38,144	192	829	4,695	13.7	67.0
Alaska	10,991	6,285	2,716	897	752	16.4	76.7
Arizona	102,475	43,378	6,605	3,221	45,534	16.6	81.6
Arkansas	40,973	27,686	272	647	4,400	14.6	72.3
California	562,431	158,424	3,425	70,812	293,320	15.4	71.8
Colorado	70,750	42,127	612	2,421	22,813	14.9	70.2
Connecticut	41,807	25,648	227	2,223	8,482	11.9	58.8
Delaware	11,988	6,579	30	489	1,882	14.0	67.3
District of Columbia	8,529	2,142	7	184	1,327	14.7	58.5
Florida	236,882	107,503	789	7,531	70,060	13.1	67.3
Georgia	148,619	69,491	319	5,129	23,675	15.9	72.4
Hawaii	18,982	4,585	75	12,764	3,039	14.8	73.9
Idaho	24,184	19,496	416	349	3,792	16.5	80.9
Illinois	180,583	95,327	309	9,315	44,341	14.1	66.8
Indiana	88,674	67,983	152	1,561	8,458	14.0	68.3
Iowa	40,610	34,516	240	962	3,227	13.6	69.1
Kansas	40,964	29,670	400	1,364	6,586	14.8	73.3
Kentucky	58,291	49,256	87	980	2,777	13.9	67.2
Louisiana	63,399	35,544	426	996	2,233	14.8	70.6
Maine	14,151	13,298	84	241	218	10.7	54.5
Maryland	77,478	37,000	176	4,735	10,086	13.8	64.2
Massachusetts	77,769	53,712	173	5,654	10,755	12.1	57.0
Michigan	127,476	87,151	722	4,656	8,682	12.6	61.7
Minnesota	73,559	54,075	1,732	5,036	6,038	14.2	68.7
Mississippi	46,069	22,628	323	439	1,555	15.8	75.8
Missouri	81,388	62,116	402	1,915	4,556	13.9	67.9
Montana	12,506	9,820	1,620	121	401	13.2	69.5
Nebraska	26,733	19,980	574	699	4,000	15.1	75.1
Nevada	40,085	17,284	435	2,954	15,621	16.1	78.0
New Hampshire	14,380	12,835	18	536	585	10.9	53.4
New Jersey	115,006	56,943	192	11,151	29,202	13.2	64.4
New Mexico	29,937	8,590	3,974	548	16,514	15.3	74.7
New York	250,091	125,297	636	22,036	59,331	13.0	61.1
North Carolina	127,841	71,361	1,731	3,737	21,214	14.4	69.0
North Dakota	8,622	7,110	1,026	105	249	13.6	68.7
Ohio	150,590	115,912	329	3,216	6,736	13.1	64.7
Oklahoma	54,018	34,911	6,054	1,105	7,065	15.1	74.7
Oregon	48,717	33,876	922	2,720	9,947	13.2	65.5
Pennsylvania	149,082	107,610	457	5,953	13,294	12.0	60.6
Rhode Island	12,379	6,123	154	576	2,558	11.6	54.6
South Carolina	62,271	34,492	256	1,278	5,888	14.4	69.7
South Dakota	11,917	9,169	2,048	141	401	15.2	78.4
Tennessee	84,345	57,166	270	2,012	7,938	14.0	67.5
Texas	399,612	139,913	1,134	14,748	198,291	17.0	78.8
Utah	53,499	42,222	709	1,660	8,224	21.0	94.1
Vermont	6,509	6,198	17	108	74	10.4	52.2
Virginia	107,817	62,492	156	7,423	14,463	14.1	66.3
Washington	86,848	56,242	2,268	8,634	15,785	13.6	65.2
West Virginia	20,928	19,757	22	177	219	11.5	59.4
Wisconsin	72,335	54,541	1,233	2,735	6,870	13.0	64.0
Wyoming	7,670	6,224	347	104	897	14.9	75.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6. Live births by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States and each state and territory, and birth and fertility rates, preliminary 2006—Con.

[By place of residence. Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Birth rates are total births per 1,000 total population; fertility rates are total births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years. Figures are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals]

Area	Number					Birth rate	Fertility rate
	All races and origins ¹	Non-Hispanic white	American Indian or Alaska Native total ²	Asian or Pacific Islander total ²	Hispanic ³	All races	All races
Puerto Rico	48,590	1,328	–	–	47,143	12.4	57.2
Virgin Islands	1,431	101	51	–	253	13.2	64.6
Guam	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
American Samoa	1,442	---	-	1,440	---	25.0	110.4
Northern Marianas	1,422	---	-	1,403	---	17.2	42.4

– Quantity zero.

--- Data not available.

¹Includes Hispanic origin not stated.

²Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Twenty-three states reported multiple-race data for 2006. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see "Technical Notes." Data for persons of Hispanic origin are included in the data for each race group according to the mother's reported race; see "Technical Notes."

³Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see "Technical Notes."

⁴Excludes data for the territories.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and for further discussion, see reference 2.

Table 7. Number and percentage of births to unmarried women, by age: United States, final 2005 and preliminary 2006

[Data for 2006 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures for 2006 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals]

Age of mother	Number		Percent	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
All ages	1,641,700	1,527,034	38.5	36.9
Under 20 years	372,826	352,003	84.4	83.5
Under 15 years	6,297	6,590	98.3	98.0
15–19 years	366,529	345,413	84.2	83.3
15–17 years	127,718	121,112	91.9	90.9
18–19 years	238,811	224,301	80.5	79.7
20–24 years	625,701	584,792	57.9	56.2
25–29 years	366,056	331,820	31.0	29.3
30–34 years	173,538	161,752	18.3	17.0
35–39 years	81,786	75,717	16.4	15.7
40–54 years	21,792	20,950	19.4	18.8

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and for further discussion, see reference 2.

Table 8. Total births, total cesarean delivery rate, percentage of live births preterm and very preterm, and percentage of live births low and very low birthweight, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2005 and preliminary 2006

[Data for 2006 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states]

Race and Hispanic origin of mother	Number		Cesarean rate ¹		Preterm				Low birthweight			
					Total ²		Very preterm ³		Total ⁴		Very low birthweight ⁵	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
All races and origins ⁶	4,265,996	4,138,349	31.1	30.3	12.8	12.7	2.04	2.03	8.3	8.2	1.48	1.49
Non-Hispanic white ⁷	2,309,833	2,279,768	31.3	30.4	11.7	11.7	1.65	1.64	7.3	7.3	1.20	1.21
Non-Hispanic black ⁷	617,220	583,759	33.1	32.6	18.4	18.4	4.07	4.17	14.0	14.0	3.14	3.27
American Indian or Alaska Native total ^{7,8}	47,494	44,813	27.4	25.9	14.2	14.1	2.14	2.07	7.5	7.4	1.28	1.17
Asian or Pacific Islander total ^{7,8}	239,829	231,108	30.6	29.7	10.9	10.8	1.46	1.50	8.1	8.0	1.12	1.14
Hispanic ⁹	1,039,051	985,505	29.7	29.0	12.2	12.1	1.80	1.79	7.0	6.9	1.19	1.20

¹All births by cesarean delivery per 100 live births.

²Less than 37 completed weeks of gestation.

³Less than 32 completed weeks of gestation.

⁴Less than 2,500 grams (5lb 8oz).

⁵Less than 1,500 grams (3lb 4oz).

⁶Includes Hispanic origin not stated.

⁷Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Twenty-three states reported multiple-race data for 2006. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see "Technical Notes."

⁸Data for persons of Hispanic origin are included in the data for each race group according to the person's reported race; see "Technical Notes."

⁹Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see "Technical Notes."

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and for further discussion, see reference 2.

Table 9. Percentage of preterm births: United States, final 1990, 2000, and 2005; and preliminary 2006

[Data for 2006 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states]

Year	Total preterm ¹	Late preterm ²	32–33 weeks	Very preterm ³
2006	12.80	9.14	1.62	2.04
2005	12.73	9.09	1.60	2.03
2000	11.64	8.22	1.49	1.93
1990	10.61	7.30	1.40	1.92

¹Less than 37 completed weeks of gestation.

²34–36 completed weeks of gestation.

³Less than 32 completed weeks of gestation.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and for further discussion, see reference 2.

Table 10. Total count of records and percentage complete of preliminary file of live births: United States and each state and territory, preliminary 2005

[By place of occurrence. Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states]

Area	Live births	
	Counts of records	Percent completeness
United States ¹	4,273,644	99.9
Alabama	62,102	100.0
Alaska	10,895	100.0
Arizona	103,192	100.0
Arkansas	39,759	100.0
California	563,522	100.0
Colorado	71,157	100.0
Connecticut	42,178	100.0
Delaware	12,416	100.0
District of Columbia	14,602	100.0
Florida	237,491	100.0
Georgia	149,919	99.9
Hawaii	18,986	100.0
Idaho	23,719	100.0
Illinois	177,257	100.0
Indiana	89,182	100.0
Iowa	40,620	100.0
Kansas	41,946	100.0
Kentucky	56,694	99.9
Louisiana	63,499	95.1
Maine	14,009	100.0
Maryland	74,077	100.0
Massachusetts	78,618	100.0
Michigan	126,395	100.0
Minnesota	73,513	100.0
Mississippi	44,863	100.0
Missouri	82,458	100.0
Montana	12,490	100.0
Nebraska	26,898	100.0
Nevada	39,743	99.6
New Hampshire	14,070	100.0
New Jersey	111,923	100.0
New Mexico	29,337	100.0
New York	251,946	100.0
New York excluding New York City	126,435	100.0
New York City	125,511	100.0
North Carolina	129,002	100.0
North Dakota	9,875	100.0
Ohio	151,351	100.0
Oklahoma	53,041	100.0
Oregon	49,120	99.9
Pennsylvania	148,511	99.8
Rhode Island	13,179	100.0
South Carolina	59,624	97.5
South Dakota	12,386	100.0
Tennessee	89,429	100.0
Texas	405,880	100.0
Utah	54,528	100.0
Vermont	6,113	100.0
Virginia	105,889	100.0
Washington	86,776	99.8
West Virginia	21,137	100.0
Wisconsin	71,235	100.0
Wyoming	7,092	100.0
Puerto Rico	48,742	98.2
Virgin Islands	1,514	100.0
Guam	3,416	---
American Samoa	1,442	100.0
Northern Marianas	1,422	100.0

--- Data not available.

¹Excludes data for the territories.

NOTE: Percent completeness equals the number of records in the preliminary file multiplied by 100, divided by the count of records.

Technical Notes

Nature and sources of data

Preliminary data for 2006 are based on a substantial proportion of births for that year (99.9 percent; see [Table 10](#)), with levels for 42 of the 50 states and the District of Columbia at 100.0 percent and levels for the remaining 8 states above 95.0 percent. The data for 2006 are based on a continuous receipt and processing of statistical records as of July 26, 2007, by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which receives the data from the states' vital registration systems through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. In this report, U.S. totals include only events occurring within the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas are included in tables showing data by state, but they are not included in U.S. totals (see [Table 6](#) and "State-specific detailed tables" at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_07_tables.pdf). Data for Guam were not available as of the release of the 2006 preliminary file and consequently are not included in this report. Detailed information on reporting completeness and imputation procedures may be found in the Technical Appendix of *Vital Statistics of the United States, 2005, Volume 1, Natality* (5).

To produce the preliminary estimates shown in this report, records in the file were weighted using independent control counts of all 2006 births by state of occurrence. Detailed information on weighting is available elsewhere (5). Detailed information on the reliability of estimates also may be found elsewhere (2).

The 1989 and 2003 U.S. Standard Certificates of Live Birth

This report includes selected 2006 data on items that are collected on both the 1989 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth (unrevised) and the 2003 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth (revised). The 2003 revision is described in detail elsewhere (1,6–8). Nineteen states, (California, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York State [excluding New York City], North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming) and Puerto Rico implemented the revised birth certificate as of January 1, 2006. The 19 revised states represent 49 percent of all births in 2006.

Data items exclusive to either the 1989 or the 2003 birth certificate revisions are not shown in this report. A forthcoming report will present selected data exclusive to the 2003 revision from the final data file for 2006.

Hispanic origin and race

Hispanic origin

Hispanic origin and race are reported separately on the birth certificate. Data shown by race (i.e., AIAN and API) include persons of Hispanic or non-Hispanic origin, and data shown for Hispanic persons include all persons of Hispanic origin of any race. Data for non-Hispanic persons are shown separately according to the race of the mother because substantial differences exist in fertility and

maternal and infant health characteristics between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women. Items asking for the Hispanic origin of the mother have been included on the birth certificates of all states and the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Guam since 1993, and on the birth certificate of Puerto Rico starting in 2005 (1). American Samoa and the Northern Marianas do not collect this information.

Single, multiple, and bridged race

The 2003 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth allows the reporting of more than one race (multiple races) for each parent (6) in accordance with the revised standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 1997 (9,10). Information on this change is presented in several recent reports (1,10,11).

In 2006, multiple race was reported by California, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York State (excluding New York City), North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming, which all used the 2003 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth, as well as Hawaii, Michigan (for births at selected facilities only), Minnesota, and Utah, which all used the 1989 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth. In addition, multiple race was also reported by Puerto Rico. The 23 states, which accounted for 55 percent of births in the United States in 2006, reported 1.6 percent of the mothers as multiracial. Data from the vital records of the remaining 27 states, New York City, and the District of Columbia are based on the 1989 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth that follows the 1977 OMB standard, which allows only a single race to be reported (9–11).

To provide uniformity and comparability of the data during the transition period, before all or most of the data are available in the new multiple-race format, it was necessary to "bridge" the responses of those who reported more than one race (multiple race) to one, single race. The bridging procedure for multiple-race mothers and fathers is based on the procedure used to bridge the multiple-race population estimates (see "Population denominators" section below) (12,13). Information detailing the processing and tabulation of data by race is presented elsewhere (1). A recent report describes multiple-race birth data for 2003 (14).

Change in imputation of race for Hispanic women

Starting with the 2006 data year for data collected on the revised birth certificate, the race edit was modified slightly to take into account differences in the race distribution for births to Hispanic women compared with all births. For Hispanic women who report their race as "Hispanic" or a specific Hispanic subgroup, race of the mother is now imputed according to the specific race of the mother on the preceding record of a Hispanic woman with a known race of mother. Previously, race of the mother reported as "Hispanic" or a specific Hispanic subgroup was imputed according to the preceding record of any woman regardless of Hispanic origin.

Between 2005 and 2006, the increase in the number of births to the total AIAN population of women may be slightly overstated and the increase in the number of births to the total API population of women may be slightly understated because of the changes in the race edit procedure in 2006 (figures for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic

black women are not affected). It is estimated that if the editing change was not made, less than 1 percent fewer births would have been classified as AIAN total and about 1 percent more births would have been classified as API total in 2006. Nevertheless, comparisons of figures for AIAN total or API total women between 2005–2006 across revisions for individual states should be interpreted with caution.

A forthcoming report will provide more detailed information about the modification to the race edit and its impact.

Marital status

National estimates of births to unmarried women are based on two methods of determining marital status. For 2005 and 2006, birth certificates in 48 states and the District of Columbia included a direct question about mother's marital status; in two of these states, California and Nevada, a direct question is part of the electronic birth registration process but does not appear on certified or paper copies of the birth certificate. The question in most states is: "Mother married? (At birth, conception, or any time between) (Yes or no)." Marital status is inferred in Michigan and New York. A birth is inferred as nonmarital if a paternity acknowledgment was filed or if the father's name is missing from the birth certificate (listed in respective priority-of-use order).

Population denominators

Birth and fertility rates for 2006 shown in this report are based on population estimates based on the 2000 census as of July 1, 2006. These population estimates are available on the NCHS website (15). The production of these population estimates is described in detail in a recent report (1).

Information on the national estimates of births to unmarried women (i.e., methods of determining marital status) and the computation of the preliminary birth rate for unmarried women is presented elsewhere (2). The birth rate for unmarried women for 2006 is estimated on the basis of population distributions by marital status provided by the U.S. Census Bureau as of March 2006 applied to the national population estimates as of July 1 of each data year(4,15,16). Both population files are based on the 2000 census.

The nonmarital birth rate shown here for 2006, therefore, differs from those published by NCHS in the annual final reports, which are based on populations estimated from 3-year averages of the marital status distributions rather than a single year, as shown here (4). Population estimates for a single year are not an adequate basis for computing age-specific birth rates for unmarried women—these rates are available only in reports based on final data.

The populations used in this report were produced under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau and are based on the 2000 census counts. Reflecting the new guidelines issued in 1997 by OMB, the 2000 census included an option for persons to report more than one race as appropriate for themselves and for household members (9). In order to produce birth and fertility rates by race, the bridging of the reported population data for multiple-race persons back to single-race categories was necessary. For detailed information on the revised OMB standards on race reporting and procedures used to produce the 'bridged' populations, see "United States Census 2000 with Bridged Race Categories" (11).

Computing rates and percentages and reliability of estimates

For information and further discussion on computing rates and percentages and the relative standard errors of the data, see "Births: Preliminary Data for 2005" (2).

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