

Births: Preliminary Data for 2000

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Abstract

Objectives—This report presents preliminary data for 2000 on births in the United States. U.S. data on births are shown by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother. Data on marital status, prenatal care, cesarean delivery, and low birthweight are also presented.

Methods—Data in this report are based on more than 96 percent of births for 2000. The records are weighted to independent control counts of births received in State vital statistics offices in 2000. Comparisons are made with 1999 final data.

Results—The number of births rose 3 percent between 1999 and 2000. The crude birth rate increased to 14.8 per 1,000 population in 2000, 2 percent higher than the 1999 rate. The fertility rate rose 3 percent to 67.6 per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years between 1999 and 2000. The birth rate for teenagers, which has been falling since 1991, declined 2 percent in 2000 to 48.7 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19 years, another historic low. The rate for teenagers 15–17 years fell 4 percent, and the rate for 18–19 year olds was down 1 percent. Since 1991, rates have fallen 29 percent for teenagers 15–17 years and 16 percent for teenagers 18–19 years. Birth rates for all of the older age groups increased for 1999–2000: 1 percent among women aged 20–24 years, 3 percent for women aged 25–29 years, and 5 percent for women in their thirties. Rates for women aged 40–54 years were also up for 2000. The birth rate for unmarried women increased 2 percent to 45.2 births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years in 2000, but was still lower than the peak reached in 1994. The number of births to unmarried women was up 3 percent, the highest number ever reported in the United States. However, the number of births to unmarried teenagers declined. The proportion of women who began prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (83.2 percent) did not improve for 2000, nor did the rate of low birthweight (7.6 percent). The total cesarean rate rose for the fourth consecutive year to 22.9 percent, the result of both a rise in the rate of primary cesarean deliveries and a decline in the rate of vaginal births after previous cesarean delivery.

Keywords: births • vital statistics

Introduction

This report presents preliminary data on births based on a substantial proportion of vital records for births occurring in 2000. For

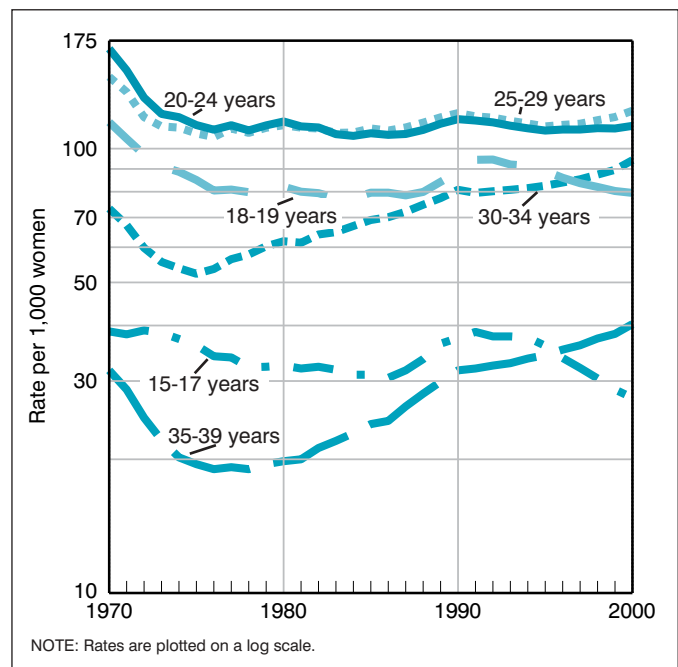


Figure 1. Birth rates by age of mother: United States, 1970–2000

data years 1995–98, reports in the preliminary series included data for both births and deaths. Beginning with data year 1999, birth and death data are published separately. The preliminary report series includes detailed tabulations from the preliminary natality file. For most measures, trends shown in the preliminary reports for 1995–99 births were confirmed by the final statistics for each year (1–4).

Sources and methods

The preliminary data in this series are based on records of births that occurred during 2000 and were received and had undergone quality control by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics as of April 11, 2001. This represents over 96 percent of the births that occurred in the United States during this 12-month period.

To produce the preliminary estimates shown in this report, records in the file were weighted using independent control counts of births by State of occurrence. Preliminary estimates are subject to sampling variation as well as random variation.

In addition to national and State estimates of total births and birth and fertility rates, this report includes preliminary statistics on births by maternal age, marital status, race, Hispanic origin, live-birth order, and selected maternal and infant health characteristics, including receipt of prenatal care, cesarean delivery, and low birthweight.

Race and Hispanic origin are reported as separate items on the birth certificate. Therefore, births shown by race may be of Hispanic or non-Hispanic origin, and births of Hispanic origin may be of any race. All tabulations in this report show data separately for the non-Hispanic white population as well as for the white population as a whole. Although the overwhelming majority of Hispanic-origin births (approximately 97 percent) are to white women, there are notable differences in childbearing patterns between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women. About one in five white births is to Hispanic women. For this preliminary report, data are not shown separately for non-Hispanic black persons because the great majority (more than 95 percent) of black births are to non-Hispanic persons and, thus, the difference in the statistics for the two groups are minimal (1). The report, "Births: Final Data for 1999," shows data for these groups separately.

State-specific preliminary data are shown only for those States and areas for which at least 75 percent of the records for 2000 were received and had undergone quality control by April 11, 2001 (i.e., were processed). (See [Technical notes](#).) The number of birth records processed for Ohio was below the 75 percent criterion. Therefore, birth data for Ohio are not shown in the State-specific tabulations but are included in the U.S. totals. The lower proportion of birth records for Ohio should have only minimal impact on U.S. totals. The proportion of records processed is shown by State in [table I](#) in the Technical notes. Preliminary data for 2000 are not available for American Samoa and the Northern Marianas; data for 1999 for these territories are available and shown in the State-specific tables. Data for the territories are shown

separately but are not included in the data for the United States, which includes information for the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Detailed information on the nature, sources, and qualifications of the preliminary data is given in the [Technical notes](#).

All population denominators for this report are estimates projected from the 1990 census. When population estimates from the 2000 census and intercensal estimates become available, population-based rates for the 1990s and 2000 will be recalculated and presented in an upcoming report. Because of differences in projections and counts, it is expected that rates based on the 2000 census will differ from those based on the 1990 census.

Results

Trends in numbers and rates

The number of **births** (preliminary) in the United States was 4,064,948 in 2000, a 3-percent increase over the final number for 1999 (3,959,417) ([tables A](#) and [1](#)). The number of births for all racial and ethnic groups increased between 1999 and 2000. The **crude birth rate** in 2000 was 14.8, an increase of 2 percent over the rate for 1999 (14.5), and a return to the level observed in 1995. The **fertility rate** relates births to the population at risk of giving birth (women aged 15–44 years) and is thus more indicative of changes in fertility behavior than is the crude birth rate. The rate was 67.6 in 2000, an increase of 3 percent over the rate for 1999 (65.9). This was the third consecutive increase in the fertility rate following declines from 1990 to 1997 (see [tables 1–4](#) for number of births, birth rates, and fertility rates). The majority of States (41) and the District of Columbia had increases in their crude birth rates between 1999 and 2000, 4 States had decreases, and 4 were unchanged. Fertility rates increased for 46 States and the District of Columbia and decreased for 3 States. (Reliable data for Ohio were not available.)

The fertility rate in 2000 for Hispanic women (105.9) was 80 percent higher than for non-Hispanic white women (58.7), the group with

Table A. Total births and percent of births with selected demographic and health characteristics, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 1999 and preliminary 2000

[Figures for 2000 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual]

Characteristic	All races ¹		White, total ²		White, non-Hispanic		Black ²		Hispanic ³	
	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999
	Number									
Births	4,064,948	3,959,417	3,202,932	3,132,501	2,370,778	2,346,450	619,970	605,970	815,778	764,339
	Percent									
Births to mothers under 20 years.	11.8	12.3	10.6	10.9	8.8	9.2	19.8	20.7	16.2	16.7
Births to unmarried mothers	33.1	33.0	27.1	26.8	22.1	22.1	68.5	68.9	42.5	42.2
Low birthweight ⁴	7.6	7.6	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	12.9	13.1	6.4	6.4
Very low birthweight ⁵	1.42	1.45	1.13	1.15	1.13	1.15	3.05	3.14	1.14	1.14
Births delivered by cesarean	22.9	22.0	22.8	21.9	23.0	22.1	24.3	23.2	22.1	21.2
Prenatal care beginning in first trimester	83.2	83.2	85.0	85.1	88.5	88.4	74.2	74.1	74.4	74.4
Prenatal care beginning in third trimester or no care	3.9	3.8	3.3	3.2	2.3	2.3	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.3

¹Includes races other than white and black.

²Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on the birth certificate. 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.

⁴Birthweight of less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds 8 ounces).

⁵Birthweight of less than 1,500 grams (3 pounds 4 ounces).

the lowest rate. Rates for black women (71.4), American Indian women (71.3), and Asian or Pacific Islander women (70.7) were much lower than for Hispanic women but moderately higher than for non-Hispanic white women. Fertility rates for non-Hispanic white, black, and American Indian women increased in 2000 by an average of 2 percent. The rate for Asian and Pacific Islander women jumped 8 percent to the highest level observed since 1988. For Hispanic women, the fertility rate was 4 percent higher in 2000. Hispanic fertility had declined between 1992 and 1998; the current rate is still lower than the high reported for 1992 (1). Births to Hispanic women comprised 20 percent of all births in the United States in 2000, compared with 14 percent in 1989 when national data became available for this group.

The **birth rate for teenagers** in 2000 was 48.7 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19 years, a 2 percent decline from 1999 (49.6), and 22 percent lower than the recent high for 1991 (62.1) (table B, table 1, and figure 1). The 2000 rate for teenagers is another historic low (1). The rate for the youngest teenage group, **10–14 years**, remained steady between 1999 and 2000 at 0.9 births per 1,000 women. However, the number of births to women aged 10–14 years fell 5 percent from 9,054 to 8,561 (preliminary), the lowest number in 30 years. **Rates for teenagers 15–17 and 18–19 years** continued their steady decline. Compared with 1999, the 2000 rate for teenagers 15–17 years (27.5) declined 4 percent whereas the rate for teenagers 18–19 years (79.5) declined 1 percent. Between 1991 and 2000, there was a 29 percent drop in the birth rate for teenagers 15–17 years and a 16 percent drop in the rate for teenagers 18–19 years.

Birth rates for women aged 15–19 years by race and Hispanic origin show that most groups continued to decline into 2000. The largest declines between 1999 and 2000 were for non-Hispanic white teenagers (4 percent, with a 2000 rate of 32.8 per 1,000), followed by a 2 percent drop among Asian or Pacific Islander (21.8) and black

teenagers (79.2). The birth rate for American Indian teenagers was essentially unchanged at 67.9, whereas that for Hispanic teens increased slightly to 94.4. The rate for Hispanic teenagers continues to be substantially higher than that of other groups. Between 1991 and 2000, rates dropped most steeply for black teenagers (31 percent) with the smallest decline observed for Hispanic teenagers (12 percent).

Birth rates for women in their twenties, the ages at which rates are historically the highest, were 112.5 per 1,000 for women aged 20–24 years and 121.7 for women 25–29 years in 2000 (figure 1, table 1). The rate for women aged 20–24 years increased 1 percent for 2000, from 111.0, and the rate for women aged 25–29 years increased 3 percent, from 117.8. The rate rose 3 percent for Asian or Pacific Islander and Hispanic women aged 20–24 years and 1 percent for black women. In contrast, the rate for non-Hispanic white women aged 20–24 years was essentially unchanged and that for American Indian mothers aged 20–24 years declined 1 percent. All racial and ethnic groups experienced increases of at least 2 percent in birth rates for women aged 25–29 years between 1999 and 2000. The rate of increase was greatest for Asian or Pacific Islander women (8 percent), followed by Hispanic women (5 percent), and American Indian women (4 percent).

Birth rates for women 30 years of age and over continued to increase in 2000. The rate rose 5 percent for women aged 30–34 years (from 89.6 to 94.2) and for women 35–39 years (from 38.3 to 40.3). The **birth rate for women aged 40–44 years** also increased between 1999 and 2000 (from 7.4 to 7.9 per 1,000) as did the **birth rate for women aged 45–54 years** (from 0.4 to 0.5). Birth rates for women 30 years of age and over were the highest in 30 years (figure 1).

As a result of the continued decline in teenage birth rates and increases in the birth rate for most groups aged 20 years and over, the proportion of all births occurring to women under the age of 20 years declined from 12.3 to 11.8 between 1999 and 2000 (table A).

Table B. Birth rates for women aged 15–19 years, by age, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, final 1990–99 and preliminary 2000, and percent change in rates, 1990–2000

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

Age and race and Hispanic origin of mother	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	Percent change 1991–2000
15–19 years												
All races ¹	48.7	49.6	51.1	52.3	54.4	56.8	58.9	59.6	60.7	62.1	59.9	-21.6
White, total ²	43.9	44.6	45.4	46.3	48.1	50.1	51.1	51.1	51.8	52.8	50.8	-16.9
White, non-Hispanic	32.8	34.0	35.2	36.0	37.6	39.3	40.4	40.7	41.7	43.4	42.5	-24.4
Black, total ²	79.2	81.0	85.4	88.2	91.4	96.1	104.5	108.6	112.4	115.5	112.8	-31.4
Hispanic ³	94.4	93.4	93.6	97.4	101.8	106.7	107.7	106.8	107.1	106.7	100.3	-11.5
15–17 years												
All races ¹	27.5	28.7	30.4	32.1	33.8	36.0	37.6	37.8	37.8	38.7	37.5	-28.9
White, total ²	23.8	24.8	25.9	27.1	28.4	30.0	30.7	30.3	30.1	30.7	29.5	-22.5
White, non-Hispanic	15.9	17.1	18.4	19.4	20.6	22.0	22.8	22.7	22.7	23.6	23.2	-32.6
Black, total ²	50.2	52.0	56.8	60.8	64.7	69.7	76.3	79.8	81.3	84.1	82.3	-40.3
Hispanic ³	60.0	61.3	62.3	66.3	69.0	72.9	74.0	71.7	71.4	70.6	65.9	-15.0
18–19 years												
All races ¹	79.5	80.3	82.0	83.6	86.0	89.1	91.5	92.1	94.5	94.4	88.6	-15.8
White, total ²	73.0	73.5	74.6	75.9	78.4	81.2	82.1	82.1	83.8	83.5	78.0	-12.6
White, non-Hispanic	57.3	58.9	60.6	61.9	63.7	66.1	67.4	67.7	69.8	70.5	66.6	-18.7
Black, total ²	121.1	122.8	126.9	130.1	132.5	137.1	148.3	151.9	157.9	158.6	152.9	-23.6
Hispanic ³	143.5	139.4	140.1	144.3	151.1	157.9	158.0	159.1	159.7	158.5	147.7	-9.5

¹Includes races other than white and black.

²Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on the birth certificate. 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.

The first birth rate increased between 1999 (26.6 first births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years) and 2000 (27.1) (table 3). The first birth rate fell between 1990 and 1998 but was up slightly for 1999 (5). The first birth rate for teenagers, however, continued to decline to the lowest level recorded since 1986. The first birth rate for teenagers was 38.2 in 2000, 2 percent lower than 1999 (38.9).

The **total fertility rate** (TFR) indicates the number of births that a hypothetical group of 1,000 women would have if they experienced throughout their childbearing years the age-specific birth rates observed in a given year. The TFR for 2000 was 2,133.5, a 3 percent increase over 1999 (2,075.0) and the highest TFR since 1971. TFRs increased between 1999 and 2000 for all racial and ethnic groups—from 1,850.0 to 1,887.0 for non-Hispanic white, from 2,146.5 to 2,183.5 for black, from 2,056.5 to 2,098.5 for American Indian, from 1,927.0 to 2,072.0 for Asian or Pacific Islander, and from 2,985.0 to 3,107.5 for Hispanic women (tabular data not shown).

The **number of births to unmarried women** (preliminary) increased 3 percent in 2000, to 1,345,917, compared with 1,308,560 in 1999. The total for 2000 was the highest number ever reported for the United States. The increase from 1999 to 2000 is largely due to the 2 percent rise in the **birth rate for unmarried women**. The preliminary rate for 2000 was 45.2 births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years. The rate rose from 44.4 in 1999, but it is still below the peak reached in 1994 (46.9). The other factor that determines, statistically, the number of births to unmarried women is the number of unmarried women in the childbearing ages (15–44 years); this population rose less than 1 percent in 2000.

The **proportion of births to unmarried women** rose modestly in 2000, to 33.1 percent, compared with 33.0 percent in 1999. The proportion has changed very little between 1994 and 2000, ranging from 32.2 to 33.1 percent. Among population groups, the proportion increased from 42.2 to 42.5 percent for Hispanic births, was unchanged for non-Hispanic white births at 22.1 percent, and declined for black births from 68.9 to 68.5 percent (tables A and 5).

The number of nonmarital births to teenagers declined again in 2000, as it did in 1999. The declines were limited to teenagers under 15 years (down 6 percent) and aged 15–17 years (down 4 percent). The number of births to unmarried 18–19-year-olds rose very slightly (table C).

Despite the reductions in the number of nonmarital births to teenagers under 18 years, the proportions of nonmarital births among teenagers were essentially unchanged in 2000 compared with 1999 because total births to teenagers declined even more than births to unmarried teenagers (see table 1). Birth rates for unmarried teenagers for 2000 are not yet available; see [Technical notes](#).

The proportions of births to unmarried women by race and Hispanic origin are shown by State in table 5 for 1999 and 2000. The proportions increased in 31 States, declined in 15 States and the District of Columbia, and were unchanged in 3 States (data are not available for Ohio). The changes from 1999 to 2000 were small in most cases.

The percent of **low birthweight** (LBW) (infants born at less than 2,500 grams) was 7.6 percent for 2000, unchanged from the previous 2 years. Following declines in the 1970s and early 1980s, the LBW rate has risen slowly since the mid-1980s (from 6.8 percent); current levels equal those reported for the early 1970s (1). (See tables A and 6 for 1999 and 2000 data.) The percent of infants born at **very low**

Table C. Number and percent of births to unmarried women, all ages and women under 20 years: United States, final 1999 and preliminary 2000

[Figures for 2000 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual]

Age of mother	Number		Percent	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
All ages	1,345,917	1,308,560	33.1	33.0
Under 20 years	378,585	383,222	79.0	79.0
Under 15 years	8,255	8,737	96.4	96.5
15–19 years	370,330	374,485	78.7	78.7
15–17 years	138,174	143,391	87.6	87.7
18–19 years	232,157	231,094	74.2	74.0

birthweight (VLBW) was 1.4, essentially the same as that for 1999. The current rate of VLBW is slightly higher than that reported for the early 1970s (1.2 percent).

The LBW levels were unchanged among non-Hispanic white (6.6 percent) and Hispanic births (6.4 percent) between 1999 and 2000, but declined slightly among births to black women (13.1 to 12.9 percent). LBW among black births has improved somewhat after peaking at 13.6 percent in the early 1990s. LBW among non-Hispanic white births worsened during the 1990s, in part as the result of increases in the rate of multiple births; about one-half of all multiple births are born LBW (1).

The **cesarean delivery rate** rose for the fourth consecutive year to 22.9 percent for 2000, an increase of 4 percent over 1999. The cesarean rate declined steadily between 1989 and 1996 (tables A and 7) (figure 2) but has risen 11 percent since. The current level is the highest reported since 1989, when these data first became available from birth certificates.

The rise in the overall rate was the result of both an increase in the primary cesarean rate and a decrease in the rate of vaginal births after previous cesarean (VBAC) delivery. The rate of **primary cesarean delivery** (births to women with no previous cesarean) increased from 15.5 to 16.0 percent for 1999–2000. The primary cesarean rate has risen 10 percent since 1997. The **VBAC rate** dropped 12 percent for the current year, from 23.4 per 100 women with a previous cesarean delivery to 20.7, and has fallen 27 percent since 1996 (from 28.3 percent). Between 1989 and 1996, the VBAC rate had risen 50 percent (1).

Overall cesarean rates rose 4 to 5 percent among each of the three major **race and ethnic groups** for 1999–2000; non-Hispanic white (from 22.1 to 23.0 percent), black (from 23.2 to 24.3 percent), and Hispanic (from 21.2 to 22.1 percent) (table 7). A forthcoming report shows that over the period 1996–99, rates rose for all racial, ethnic, and age groups (6).

Elevated rates were reported for 1999–2000 by nearly all States and the District of Columbia—slight declines were reported for only two States (Louisiana and Wyoming). All areas have reported increases for the 2-year period 1998–2000.

The percent of women who began **prenatal care in their first trimester of pregnancy** was 83.2 percent for 2000, the same as the level reported for 1999. The proportion of women with timely prenatal care had improved steadily between 1989 and 1999, rising from

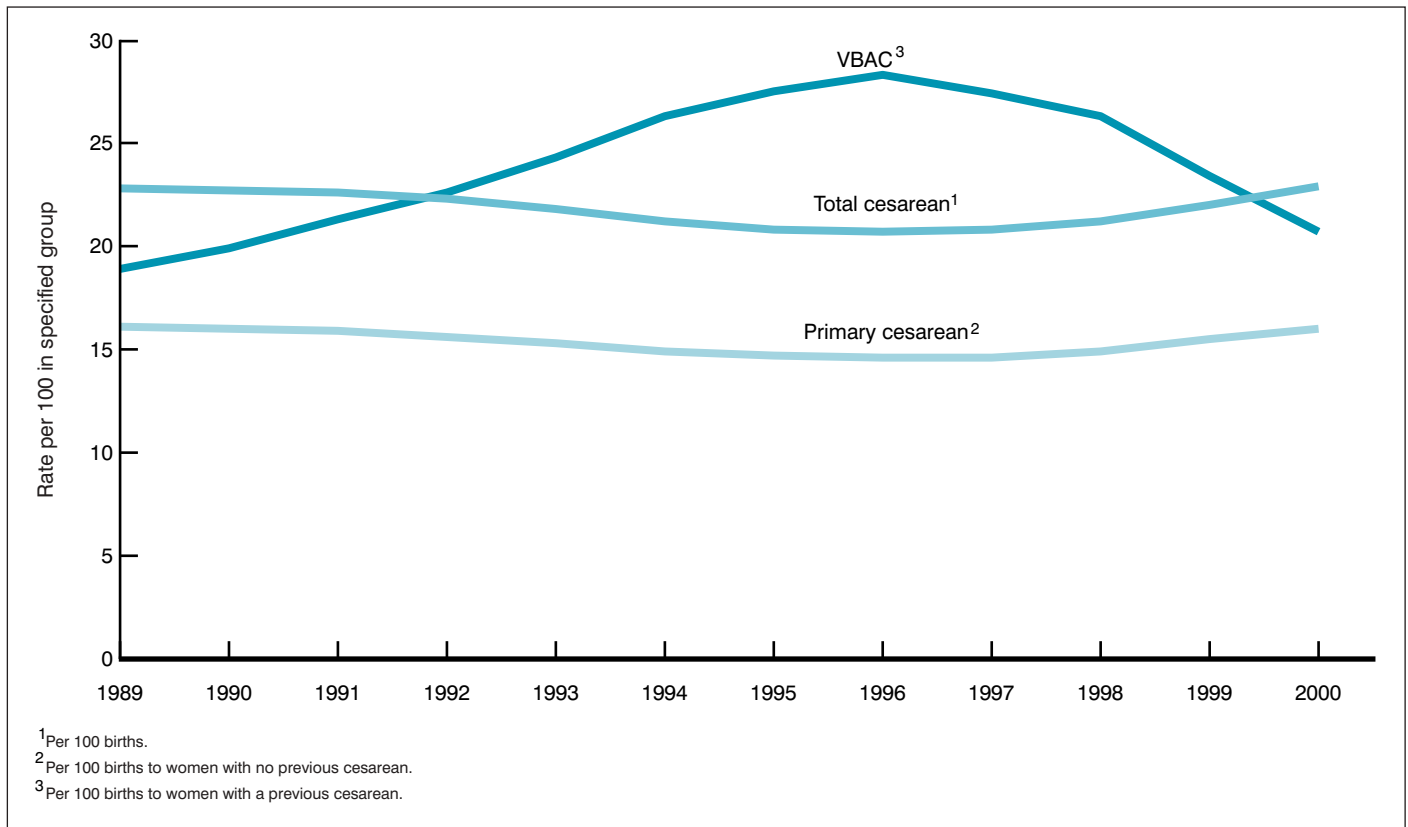


Figure 2. Total and primary cesarean rate and vaginal birth after previous cesarean (VBAC) rate: United States, 1989–2000

75.5 percent (1). The percent of women with **late** (care beginning in the third trimester of pregnancy) or **no care** was essentially unchanged at 3.9 percent between 1999 and 2000. The proportion of late or no care has dropped from 6.4 percent for 1989–2000. (See [tables A and 8](#) for 1999 and 2000 data.)

For 1999–2000, very small increases in first trimester care were observed for non-Hispanic white (88.4 to 88.5 percent), and black women (74.1 to 74.2 percent), but no change was reported for Hispanic women (74.4 percent). Although still substantially lower than that for non-Hispanic white women, timely prenatal care for black and Hispanic women rose by more than 20 percent during the 1990s.

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Table 1. Births and birth rates, by age, race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 1999 and preliminary 2000

[Data for 2000 are based on a continuous file of records received from the States. Figures for 2000 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals]

Age and race/Hispanic origin	2000		1999	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
All races				
Total ¹	4,064,948	67.6	3,959,417	65.9
10-14 years	8,561	0.9	9,054	0.9
15-19 years	470,506	48.7	476,050	49.6
15-17 years	157,661	27.5	163,588	28.7
18-19 years	312,845	79.5	312,462	80.3
20-24 years	1,020,229	112.5	981,929	111.0
25-29 years	1,090,430	121.7	1,078,252	117.8
30-34 years	929,572	94.2	892,400	89.6
35-39 years	451,398	40.3	434,294	38.3
40-44 years	89,687	7.9	83,090	7.4
45-54 years ²	4,565	0.5	4,348	0.4
White, total ³				
Total ¹	3,202,932	66.7	3,132,501	65.1
10-14 years	4,451	0.6	4,739	0.6
15-19 years	334,751	43.9	337,888	44.6
15-17 years	107,373	23.8	111,624	24.8
18-19 years	227,378	73.0	226,264	73.5
20-24 years	775,854	108.3	748,371	107.0
25-29 years	877,915	124.9	873,654	121.1
30-34 years	765,723	97.6	739,948	93.2
35-39 years	368,363	40.7	356,959	38.8
40-44 years	72,176	7.7	67,419	7.3
45-54 years ²	3,698	0.4	3,523	0.4
White, non-Hispanic				
Total ¹	2,370,778	58.7	2,346,450	57.8
10-14 years	1,845	0.3	2,048	0.3
15-19 years	205,729	32.8	212,923	34.0
15-17 years	59,325	15.9	63,520	17.1
18-19 years	146,404	57.3	149,403	58.9
20-24 years	526,728	90.1	514,386	89.9
25-29 years	654,745	113.4	663,569	111.0
30-34 years	618,070	94.2	600,830	90.3
35-39 years	302,224	39.0	294,590	37.3
40-44 years	58,387	7.2	55,175	6.8
45-54 years ²	3,051	0.4	2,929	0.4
Black, total ³				
Total ¹	619,970	71.4	605,970	70.1
10-14 years	3,833	2.5	3,977	2.6
15-19 years	118,642	79.2	121,166	81.0
15-17 years	44,453	50.2	45,919	52.0
18-19 years	74,188	121.1	75,247	122.8
20-24 years	201,907	143.7	193,211	141.7
25-29 years	141,204	104.8	138,868	101.9
30-34 years	94,233	67.0	91,486	64.5
35-39 years	49,054	32.0	47,277	30.8
40-44 years	10,633	7.1	9,564	6.5
45-54 years ²	464	0.4	421	0.3
American Indian, total ^{3,4}				
Total ¹	41,621	71.3	40,170	69.7
10-14 years	161	1.3	198	1.6
15-19 years	8,061	67.9	7,915	67.8
15-17 years	2,890	39.5	2,984	41.4
18-19 years	5,171	113.4	4,931	110.6
20-24 years	13,614	135.4	13,225	137.1
25-29 years	10,032	106.7	9,641	102.4
30-34 years	6,067	68.0	5,701	64.3
35-39 years	3,001	32.7	2,844	30.7
40-44 years	659	7.4	621	7.1
45-54 years ²	26	0.3	25	0.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Births and birth rates, by age, race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 1999 and preliminary 2000 — Continued

[Data for 2000 are based on a continuous file of records received from the States. Figures for 2000 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals]

Age and race/Hispanic origin	2000		1999	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Asian or Pacific Islander, total ³				
Total ¹	200,426	70.7	180,776	65.6
10-14 years	117	0.3	140	0.3
15-19 years	9,052	21.8	9,081	22.3
15-17 years	2,945	11.7	3,061	12.3
18-19 years	6,107	37.3	6,020	38.0
20-24 years	28,854	72.2	27,122	70.0
25-29 years	61,279	125.7	56,089	116.4
30-34 years	63,549	120.6	55,265	109.3
35-39 years	30,979	60.2	27,214	54.6
40-44 years	6,219	12.7	5,486	11.6
45-54 years ²	377	0.9	379	0.9
Hispanic ⁵				
Total ¹	815,778	105.9	764,339	102.0
10-14 years	2,648	1.9	2,725	2.0
15-19 years	129,398	94.4	124,677	93.4
15-17 years	48,413	60.0	48,229	61.3
18-19 years	80,984	143.5	76,448	139.4
20-24 years	247,462	184.6	231,475	178.7
25-29 years	218,246	170.8	203,985	163.1
30-34 years	141,545	109.0	131,369	102.2
35-39 years	62,905	48.6	58,146	46.3
40-44 years	13,004	11.6	11,440	10.7
45-54 years ²	571	0.6	522	0.6

¹ The 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 age of mother, per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years.

² The number of births shown is the total for women aged 45-54 years. The birth rate is computed by relating the number of 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.

³ Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on the birth certificate. Data for persons of Hispanic origin are also included in the data for each race group, according to the mother's reported race; see Technical notes.

⁴ Includes births to Aleuts and Eskimos.

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

NOTE: Data are subject to sampling and/or random variation. For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see Technical notes.

Table 2. Live births by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, preliminary 2000

[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/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	4,064,948	8,561	470,506	1,020,229	1,090,430	929,572	451,398	89,687	4,565
1st child	1,625,342	8,349	367,779	467,064	394,487	267,414	100,234	18,885	1,130
2d child	1,315,842	149	84,310	350,691	374,642	334,210	146,232	24,531	1,077
3d child	677,179	6	14,057	143,845	200,684	193,045	106,111	18,673	758
4th child and over	428,558	3	2,004	54,614	116,103	130,656	96,555	27,056	1,566
Not stated	18,028	54	2,355	4,016	4,514	4,248	2,266	542	33
White, total ¹	3,202,932	4,451	334,751	775,854	877,915	765,723	368,363	72,176	3,698
1st child	1,286,395	4,338	266,761	369,582	325,017	221,742	82,481	15,507	967
2d child	1,052,562	64	56,766	269,507	308,176	278,166	119,204	19,793	886
3d child	534,774	3	8,281	101,720	159,981	161,296	87,942	14,952	600
4th child and over	314,355	3	1,036	31,827	81,063	100,924	76,816	21,470	1,215
Not stated	14,845	43	1,908	3,218	3,679	3,595	1,919	453	30
White, non-Hispanic	2,370,778	1,845	205,729	526,728	654,745	618,070	302,224	58,387	3,051
1st child	978,218	1,823	169,087	261,983	265,335	193,045	72,459	13,626	860
2d child	799,564	12	31,420	181,128	231,970	234,251	102,937	17,063	782
3d child	380,099	1	4,042	64,048	106,334	122,126	71,002	12,040	505
4th child and over	203,731	1	449	17,947	48,766	65,992	54,363	15,333	880
Not stated	9,167	7	729	1,622	2,341	2,655	1,462	325	25
Black, total ¹	619,970	3,833	118,642	201,907	141,204	94,233	49,054	10,633	464
1st child	231,392	3,742	87,644	75,161	34,237	19,854	8,899	1,782	72
2d child	183,622	78	24,495	68,290	45,003	29,307	13,810	2,539	100
3d child	110,401	2	5,238	37,260	32,239	21,814	11,453	2,303	94
4th child and over	92,426	-	885	20,588	29,215	22,898	14,686	3,956	196
Not stated	2,129	10	380	609	509	360	206	52	2
American Indian, total ^{1,2}	41,621	161	8,061	13,614	10,032	6,067	3,001	659	26
1st child	14,532	155	6,126	4,982	1,962	872	358	76	2
2d child	11,648	4	1,612	5,007	2,899	1,433	586	101	6
3d child	7,356	1	266	2,489	2,507	1,378	609	102	5
4th child and over	7,919	-	29	1,077	2,623	2,358	1,442	377	13
Not stated	166	1	29	58	41	27	6	4	-
Asian or Pacific Islander, total ¹	200,426	117	9,052	28,854	61,279	63,549	30,979	6,219	377
1st child	93,024	115	7,249	17,340	33,270	24,946	8,495	1,520	89
2d child	68,010	2	1,437	7,886	18,565	25,304	12,632	2,098	85
3d child	24,647	-	273	2,375	5,958	8,557	6,107	1,316	60
4th child and over	13,857	-	54	1,122	3,201	4,476	3,610	1,252	142
Not stated	888	-	39	130	284	266	135	33	1
Hispanic ³	815,778	2,648	129,398	247,462	218,246	141,545	62,905	13,004	571
1st child	302,581	2,555	98,028	106,965	57,498	26,558	9,221	1,667	89
2d child	247,560	55	25,454	87,770	74,705	41,722	15,236	2,530	88
3d child	152,405	2	4,246	37,506	53,092	38,329	16,338	2,809	83
4th child and over	108,947	2	586	13,872	31,962	34,382	21,890	5,947	307
Not stated	4,284	34	1,084	1,349	988	555	220	51	3

- Quantity zero.

¹ Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on the birth certificate. 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.² Includes births to Aleuts and Eskimos.³ Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical notes.

NOTE: Data are subject to sampling and/or random variation. For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see Technical notes.

Table 3. Birth rates by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, preliminary 2000

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

Live-birth order and race/Hispanic origin of mother	Age of mother								
	15-44 years ¹	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	67.6	0.9	48.7	112.5	121.7	94.2	40.3	7.9	0.5
1st child	27.1	0.9	38.2	51.7	44.2	27.2	9.0	1.7	0.1
2d child	22.0	0.0	8.8	38.8	42.0	34.0	13.1	2.2	0.1
3d child	11.3	*	1.5	15.9	22.5	19.6	9.5	1.6	0.1
4th child and over	7.2	*	0.2	6.0	13.0	13.3	8.7	2.4	0.2
White, total ³	66.7	0.6	43.9	108.3	124.9	97.6	40.7	7.7	0.4
1st child	26.9	0.6	35.2	51.8	46.4	28.4	9.2	1.7	0.1
2d child	22.0	0.0	7.5	37.8	44.0	35.6	13.2	2.1	0.1
3d child	11.2	*	1.1	14.3	22.9	20.6	9.8	1.6	0.1
4th child and over	6.6	*	0.1	4.5	11.6	12.9	8.5	2.3	0.1
White, non-Hispanic	58.7	0.3	32.8	90.1	113.4	94.2	39.0	7.2	0.4
1st child	24.3	0.3	27.0	44.9	46.1	29.5	9.4	1.7	0.1
2d child	19.9	*	5.0	31.1	40.3	35.8	13.3	2.1	0.1
3d child	9.5	*	0.6	11.0	18.5	18.7	9.2	1.5	0.1
4th child and over	5.1	*	0.1	3.1	8.5	10.1	7.1	1.9	0.1
Black, total ³	71.4	2.5	79.2	143.7	104.8	67.0	32.0	7.1	0.4
1st child	26.7	2.4	58.7	53.7	25.5	14.2	5.8	1.2	0.1
2d child	21.2	0.1	16.4	48.7	33.5	20.9	9.1	1.7	0.1
3d child	12.8	*	3.5	26.6	24.0	15.6	7.5	1.6	0.1
4th child and over	10.7	*	0.6	14.7	21.8	16.4	9.6	2.7	0.2
American Indian, total ^{3,4}	71.3	1.3	67.9	135.4	106.7	68.0	32.7	7.4	0.3
1st child	25.0	1.3	51.8	49.8	21.0	9.8	3.9	0.9	*
2d child	20.0	*	13.6	50.0	31.0	16.1	6.4	1.1	*
3d child	12.6	*	2.2	24.9	26.8	15.5	6.6	1.1	*
4th child and over	13.6	*	0.2	10.8	28.0	26.5	15.7	4.2	*
Asian or Pacific Islander, total ³ ...	70.7	0.3	21.8	72.2	125.7	120.6	60.2	12.7	0.9
1st child	33.0	0.3	17.5	43.6	68.5	47.5	16.6	3.1	0.2
2d child	24.1	*	3.5	19.8	38.2	48.2	24.7	4.3	0.2
3d child	8.7	*	0.7	6.0	12.3	16.3	11.9	2.7	0.1
4th child and over	4.9	*	0.1	2.8	6.6	8.5	7.1	2.6	0.3
Hispanic ⁵	105.9	1.9	94.4	184.6	170.8	109.0	48.6	11.6	0.6
1st child	39.5	1.8	72.1	80.2	45.2	20.5	7.2	1.5	0.1
2d child	32.3	0.0	18.7	65.8	58.7	32.3	11.8	2.3	0.1
3d child	19.9	*	3.1	28.1	41.7	29.6	12.7	2.5	0.1
4th child and over	14.2	*	0.4	10.4	25.1	26.6	17.0	5.3	0.3

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.

¹ The 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.² The 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 45-49.³ Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on the birth certificate. 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.⁴ Includes births to Aleuts and Eskimos.⁵ Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical notes.

NOTE: Data are subject to sampling and/or random variation. For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see Technical notes.

Table 4. Live births by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, each State and territory, preliminary 2000, and birth and fertility rates, final 1999 and preliminary 2000

[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 for 1999 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	White, total ¹	White, non-Hispanic	Black ¹	American Indian ^{1,2}	Asian or Pacific Islander ¹	Hispanic ³	2000	1999	2000	1999
United States ⁴	4,064,948	3,202,932	2,370,778	619,970	41,621	200,426	815,778	14.8	14.5	67.6	65.9
Alabama	63,317	42,075	40,182	20,515	182	544	1,883	14.4	14.2	65.0	63.3
Alaska	10,026	6,394	5,797	466	2,523	642	598	16.1	16.1	75.0	74.3
Arizona	85,274	74,765	39,906	2,789	5,668	2,052	34,696	17.5	17.0	84.4	81.1
Arkansas	38,031	29,249	26,817	8,031	247	505	2,362	14.8	14.4	69.5	67.7
California	531,832	429,516	172,337	34,856	3,037	64,423	257,202	15.8	15.6	70.6	69.5
Colorado	65,434	59,679	41,818	3,032	644	2,078	18,238	15.8	15.3	73.1	69.8
Connecticut	43,154	36,118	29,073	5,143	126	1,766	6,502	13.1	13.2	61.3	61.9
Delaware	11,050	8,010	6,998	2,633	39	368	1,021	14.5	14.2	63.5	61.7
District of Columbia	7,666	2,325	1,464	5,155	9	177	876	14.8	14.5	63.0	60.0
Florida	204,152	150,614	106,199	47,390	1,129	5,019	45,867	13.3	13.0	66.9	65.1
Georgia	132,711	84,813	70,682	44,066	299	3,533	13,369	16.7	16.3	71.4	68.8
Hawaii	17,544	4,018	3,280	472	189	12,865	2,302	14.9	14.4	72.3	68.7
Idaho	20,371	19,710	17,029	75	288	298	2,596	16.0	15.9	74.8	73.2
Illinois	185,066	142,729	103,681	34,243	268	7,827	39,242	15.2	15.0	69.5	68.0
Indiana	87,111	76,279	70,684	9,500	144	1,188	5,421	14.6	14.5	66.3	65.2
Iowa	38,545	36,153	33,855	1,243	227	923	2,152	13.4	13.1	64.5	62.3
Kansas	39,690	35,320	30,199	2,869	434	1,067	4,765	14.9	14.6	69.3	67.5
Kentucky	56,197	50,351	49,297	5,155	80	610	1,065	14.1	13.7	63.8	61.5
Louisiana	67,964	38,169	36,663	28,375	390	1,030	1,531	15.5	15.4	69.2	67.7
Maine	13,603	13,185	13,017	112	118	188	143	10.8	10.9	49.5	49.4
Maryland	74,341	45,569	41,026	24,918	237	3,617	4,815	14.2	13.9	62.0	60.4
Massachusetts	81,650	68,571	60,463	8,101	164	4,814	9,268	13.2	13.1	59.2	58.5
Michigan	136,273	107,433	92,602	24,346	679	3,815	6,962	13.7	13.5	62.0	60.7
Minnesota	67,393	58,738	52,431	3,935	1,245	3,475	3,723	14.0	13.8	63.6	62.6
Mississippi	44,106	23,558	22,861	19,906	248	393	622	15.8	15.4	70.3	67.9
Missouri	76,456	63,169	60,506	11,465	344	1,478	2,663	13.9	13.8	64.0	63.0
Montana	10,964	9,476	8,840	46	1,327	114	331	12.3	12.2	61.3	59.8
Nebraska	24,650	22,293	19,224	1,376	431	550	2,591	14.8	14.3	68.9	66.6
Nevada	30,910	26,095	15,744	2,383	432	2,000	10,236	16.4	16.2	80.0	78.3
New Hampshire	14,613	14,077	13,145	182	28	326	374	12.0	11.7	52.3	50.8
New Jersey	115,071	84,254	63,827	21,003	182	9,632	22,348	14.0	14.0	65.5	64.5
New Mexico	27,238	22,902	9,047	499	3,436	401	13,961	15.6	15.6	72.7	72.2
New York	258,036	183,010	124,869	54,729	702	19,594	53,778	14.1	14.0	64.8	63.6
North Carolina	120,249	86,393	73,933	29,342	1,739	2,775	12,563	15.5	14.9	71.5	67.6
North Dakota	7,696	6,729	6,414	82	789	97	133	12.2	12.1	58.8	57.3
Ohio ⁵	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	13.6	*	61.4
Oklahoma	49,905	38,899	34,219	4,829	5,158	1,019	4,364	14.8	14.6	70.1	68.9
Oregon	45,800	41,694	33,000	1,023	738	2,345	7,367	13.7	13.6	65.8	64.8
Pennsylvania	146,243	121,249	113,564	20,646	384	3,964	7,532	12.2	12.1	58.2	57.4
Rhode Island	12,493	10,803	7,873	1,112	147	431	2,070	12.5	12.5	58.0	57.2
South Carolina	56,116	35,338	33,177	19,741	188	849	2,258	14.3	14.1	63.3	62.1
South Dakota	10,354	8,431	8,231	106	1,684	132	223	14.0	14.4	66.8	67.7
Tennessee	79,630	61,237	58,036	16,916	154	1,323	3,227	14.4	14.2	65.2	63.5
Texas	366,841	313,424	144,384	40,969	831	11,617	168,573	18.0	17.4	80.8	77.6
Utah	47,368	44,912	38,826	332	690	1,435	5,938	21.9	21.7	94.5	93.1
Vermont	6,497	6,363	6,172	32	19	83	33	10.9	11.1	48.8	49.2
Virginia	98,907	71,173	63,521	22,507	109	5,118	7,716	14.2	13.9	61.2	59.6
Washington	81,033	68,679	55,787	3,496	1,969	6,889	11,320	13.9	13.8	63.2	62.1
West Virginia	20,912	20,017	19,917	775	12	107	49	11.6	11.5	56.0	54.7
Wisconsin	69,428	59,899	55,529	6,494	937	2,097	4,493	13.1	13.0	60.5	59.3
Wyoming	6,247	5,865	5,304	57	266	59	568	13.0	12.8	62.7	60.8
Puerto Rico	59,333	54,595	---	4,738	---	---	---	15.2	15.3	64.9	65.3
Virgin Islands	1,568	314	66	1,196	56	3	344	13.0	14.0	60.0	64.3
Guam	3,764	295	262	45	4	3,420	39	24.3	26.4	120.8	129.1
American Samoa	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	27.2	---	125.1
Northern Marianas	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	20.0	---	59.0

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision; see Technical notes.

--- Data not available.

¹ Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on the birth certificate. 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.

² Includes births to Aleuts and Eskimos.

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

⁴ Excludes data for the territories.

⁵ Due to processing problems, Ohio data for 2000 are not shown separately but are included in U.S. totals; see Technical notes.

NOTE: Data are subject to sampling and/or random variation. For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see Technical notes.

Table 5. Percent of live births to unmarried mothers by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, each State and territory, final 1999 and preliminary 2000

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

Area	All races ¹		White, total ²		White, non-Hispanic		Black, total ²		Hispanic ³	
	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999
United States ⁴	33.1	33.0	27.1	26.8	22.1	22.1	68.5	68.9	42.5	42.2
Alabama	34.3	33.3	18.1	17.2	17.7	16.9	68.1	67.8	24.7	26.4
Alaska	33.0	33.2	23.4	23.1	22.8	22.7	45.6	46.5	34.8	31.8
Arizona	39.3	38.8	37.0	36.0	24.7	24.6	61.9	63.6	51.4	50.2
Arkansas	35.7	35.2	25.2	24.7	24.5	24.0	74.8	74.6	34.6	35.0
California	32.6	32.9	32.9	32.7	19.8	20.7	62.5	62.6	42.0	41.3
Colorado	25.0	25.4	23.9	24.1	17.4	18.4	51.6	54.5	39.1	38.8
Connecticut	29.1	29.0	24.6	24.2	16.2	16.4	66.8	67.3	63.1	62.6
Delaware	38.0	38.8	28.4	28.1	25.2	25.4	70.9	72.9	51.6	51.3
District of Columbia ...	60.3	61.7	25.0	24.5	8.7	8.2	77.8	78.9	53.9	54.1
Florida	38.3	37.5	29.7	29.0	26.5	26.1	67.5	67.2	38.3	37.3
Georgia	37.0	36.6	22.8	21.9	20.1	20.0	66.5	66.7	38.0	35.4
Hawaii	32.2	32.8	17.1	17.8	15.2	16.7	23.9	25.0	45.6	45.4
Idaho	21.6	21.6	21.0	21.1	19.1	19.7	48.0	41.0	32.9	31.3
Illinois	34.5	34.1	25.9	25.0	19.8	19.4	76.3	77.2	42.3	40.8
Indiana	34.8	34.5	30.0	29.5	28.7	28.5	76.0	77.1	47.3	45.3
Iowa	28.0	27.5	26.4	26.0	25.5	25.2	74.0	71.3	41.7	40.2
Kansas	29.0	28.6	25.9	25.4	23.6	23.7	69.3	69.2	41.7	38.8
Kentucky	30.9	30.4	26.7	26.2	26.5	26.1	73.2	73.0	37.4	31.8
Louisiana	45.7	44.8	25.4	25.1	25.2	24.9	73.8	73.7	33.5	30.8
Maine	31.1	31.3	30.8	31.1	30.8	30.5	43.8	49.1	33.6	36.3
Maryland	34.6	34.9	22.4	21.8	20.2	19.9	60.7	62.1	42.2	40.5
Massachusetts	26.5	26.5	23.4	23.2	18.5	18.7	58.9	59.2	62.4	61.4
Michigan	33.4	33.1	25.2	24.7	23.3	22.9	72.8	72.4	40.9	41.0
Minnesota	25.8	25.9	22.5	22.4	21.4	21.5	60.6	61.9	46.8	47.1
Mississippi	46.0	45.9	21.7	21.0	21.2	20.7	75.1	75.4	40.3	33.3
Missouri	34.6	34.1	27.1	26.7	26.5	26.3	77.2	76.5	43.0	39.6
Montana	30.8	30.0	25.4	24.5	24.4	23.9	43.5	*	38.8	38.4
Nebraska	27.2	25.9	24.1	22.7	21.6	20.4	67.3	69.6	41.8	41.1
Nevada	36.0	35.7	33.6	33.3	27.7	28.5	67.4	68.1	42.8	41.4
New Hampshire	24.7	24.2	24.8	24.3	24.2	23.5	38.5	37.4	37.4	40.9
New Jersey	28.9	28.5	22.5	21.6	13.2	13.0	64.8	65.0	52.4	50.9
New Mexico	45.5	45.1	41.8	41.3	26.4	26.7	59.5	63.2	51.9	51.2
New York	36.3	36.6	29.1	29.5	18.5	19.1	67.5	67.9	60.6	60.0
North Carolina	33.3	33.2	22.5	21.8	19.1	19.1	65.8	66.4	42.7	41.7
North Dakota	28.3	27.5	23.4	22.9	22.9	22.6	*	26.4	33.3	33.9
Ohio ⁵	*	34.1	*	27.3	*	26.8	*	76.1	*	47.5
Oklahoma	33.8	33.2	28.1	27.3	26.9	26.3	69.6	70.8	38.5	36.9
Oregon	30.1	30.4	29.6	29.9	27.1	28.0	64.5	62.9	40.3	39.6
Pennsylvania	32.7	32.9	25.9	26.0	23.5	23.7	76.0	77.4	61.6	61.3
Rhode Island	34.3	34.3	30.9	30.8	24.1	25.6	62.6	65.8	59.2	56.4
South Carolina	39.8	39.0	23.0	22.3	22.0	21.5	70.9	70.6	37.6	37.2
South Dakota	33.5	31.8	25.0	23.6	24.6	23.4	34.0	36.0	48.0	34.6
Tennessee	34.5	34.7	24.5	24.3	23.7	23.8	72.3	73.4	39.6	38.0
Texas	30.2	31.3	27.0	27.8	19.5	20.1	61.3	62.4	33.4	34.8
Utah	17.2	16.7	16.4	16.0	13.0	12.9	52.9	51.3	39.2	37.7
Vermont	28.2	28.9	28.2	28.8	28.0	28.6	*	55.0	*	*
Virginia	29.9	29.7	21.0	20.4	18.8	18.6	62.8	62.7	40.2	37.5
Washington	28.2	28.1	26.8	26.5	24.2	24.0	53.5	55.6	40.8	39.6
West Virginia	31.8	31.7	30.2	30.2	30.1	30.1	75.5	77.8	*	39.6
Wisconsin	29.3	29.2	23.6	23.2	22.0	21.8	82.1	83.5	45.1	43.8
Wyoming	28.8	29.0	27.3	27.1	25.4	25.9	38.6	54.2	45.4	40.2
Puerto Rico	49.6	48.1	48.2	46.8	---	---	66.5	62.1	---	---
Virgin Islands	65.3	67.1	55.0	51.4	28.9	27.6	70.6	73.6	63.6	66.7
Guam	53.9	55.9	21.4	21.5	21.7	20.1	*	*	*	*
American Samoa	---	35.5	---	*	---	---	---	*	---	---
Northern Marianas	---	47.4	---	*	---	---	---	*	---	---

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision; see Technical notes.

--- Data not available.

¹ Includes races other than white and black.² Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on the birth certificate. 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.³ Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical notes.⁴ Excludes data for the territories.⁵ Due to processing problems, Ohio data for 2000 are not shown separately but are included in U.S. totals; see Technical notes.

NOTE: Data are subject to sampling and/or random variation. For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see Technical notes.

Table 6. Percent low birthweight by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, each State and territory, final 1999 and preliminary 2000

[By place of residence. Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the States. Low birthweight is less than 2,500 grams]

Area	All races ¹		White, total ²		White, non-Hispanic		Black, total ²		Hispanic ³	
	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999
United States ⁴	7.6	7.6	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	12.9	13.1	6.4	6.4
Alabama	9.8	9.3	7.8	7.3	7.9	7.3	14.2	13.6	6.5	6.6
Alaska	5.6	5.8	4.9	5.3	4.8	5.2	11.9	10.5	5.4	6.6
Arizona	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.6	7.0	6.5	12.8	12.1	6.7	6.7
Arkansas	8.6	8.6	7.1	7.4	7.3	7.5	13.7	13.0	5.9	5.9
California	6.2	6.1	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.6	11.5	11.7	5.6	5.5
Colorado	8.4	8.3	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	14.8	13.8	8.1	8.2
Connecticut	7.4	7.6	6.8	6.8	6.4	6.3	11.8	13.1	8.6	9.1
Delaware	8.6	8.6	7.1	6.8	7.2	6.8	13.2	13.8	6.5	7.0
District of Columbia ...	11.8	13.1	7.4	6.4	6.8	6.7	13.9	16.1	8.2	6.1
Florida	8.0	8.2	6.6	6.9	6.6	7.1	12.3	12.2	6.5	6.4
Georgia	8.6	8.7	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.8	12.7	12.7	5.6	5.8
Hawaii	7.5	7.6	5.3	5.4	4.9	5.2	10.4	9.8	7.3	8.0
Idaho	6.7	6.2	6.7	6.1	6.5	6.1	*	*	7.4	6.0
Illinois	7.9	8.0	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	14.1	14.2	6.2	6.4
Indiana	7.4	7.9	6.7	7.2	6.9	7.3	12.5	12.9	5.3	6.5
Iowa	6.1	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	11.7	12.6	5.5	5.7
Kansas	6.9	7.1	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.7	12.2	12.2	5.9	6.2
Kentucky	8.4	8.2	7.8	7.6	7.8	7.7	13.7	14.0	7.4	6.3
Louisiana	10.3	10.0	7.4	6.9	7.4	7.0	14.3	14.5	7.3	6.2
Maine	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.1	*	*	*	*
Maryland	8.6	9.0	6.4	6.7	6.4	6.7	12.8	13.5	6.4	7.2
Massachusetts	7.1	7.1	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.4	10.7	10.9	8.3	8.2
Michigan	7.9	8.0	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.4	14.5	14.6	6.4	6.7
Minnesota	5.8	6.1	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.7	10.8	11.0	5.7	6.0
Mississippi	10.6	10.3	7.9	7.4	8.0	7.4	14.0	13.8	7.2	6.2
Missouri	7.6	7.7	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	13.2	13.7	6.4	5.8
Montana	6.2	6.8	6.1	6.8	6.1	6.9	*	*	7.9	*
Nebraska	6.8	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	13.0	12.9	6.7	6.6
Nevada	7.2	7.6	6.7	7.0	7.1	7.6	12.9	12.4	6.1	6.1
New Hampshire	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.1	5.9	*	*	*	7.3
New Jersey	7.7	8.2	6.5	6.9	6.2	6.7	12.7	13.4	7.3	7.2
New Mexico	8.0	7.7	8.2	7.6	8.1	7.7	13.0	12.3	8.2	7.6
New York	7.7	7.8	6.7	6.8	6.5	6.5	11.4	11.7	7.3	7.6
North Carolina	8.8	8.9	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.3	13.6	13.7	6.1	6.4
North Dakota	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.3	*	*	*	*
Ohio ⁵	*	7.9	*	6.9	*	6.9	*	13.7	*	7.5
Oklahoma	7.4	7.4	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.2	12.9	11.9	6.2	5.9
Oregon	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.5	5.3	10.9	10.7	5.7	5.2
Pennsylvania	7.7	7.9	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.7	13.5	14.3	8.9	9.1
Rhode Island	7.2	7.3	6.5	6.8	6.4	6.7	13.1	11.3	6.5	7.1
South Carolina	9.7	9.8	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.3	14.2	14.7	7.4	5.5
South Dakota	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	*	*	*	*
Tennessee	9.2	9.2	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	14.6	14.2	6.7	6.6
Texas	7.3	7.4	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.7	12.7	12.6	6.8	6.6
Utah	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.7	12.5	13.6	7.8	6.7
Vermont	6.1	5.7	6.0	5.7	5.9	5.6	*	*	*	*
Virginia	7.9	7.8	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.5	12.5	12.0	6.3	5.8
Washington	5.6	5.8	5.3	5.5	5.2	5.4	10.7	10.4	5.4	5.3
West Virginia	8.3	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.0	7.9	15.5	12.3	*	*
Wisconsin	6.5	6.7	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.9	13.3	13.4	6.6	6.1
Wyoming	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.2	8.4	*	*	8.6	5.7
Puerto Rico	10.8	11.4	10.7	11.4	---	---	12.1	11.4	---	---
Virgin Islands	9.5	10.1	8.5	10.3	*	*	9.7	10.3	10.2	13.3
Guam	7.9	7.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
American Samoa	---	3.6	---	*	---	---	---	*	---	---
Northern Marianas ...	---	8.2	---	*	---	---	---	*	---	---

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision; see Technical notes.

--- Data not available.

¹ Includes races other than white and black.² Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on the birth certificate. 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.³ Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical notes.⁴ Excludes data for the territories.⁵ Due to processing problems, Ohio data for 2000 are not shown separately but are included in U.S. totals; see Technical notes.

NOTE: Data are subject to sampling and/or random variation. For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see Technical notes.

Table 7. Percent of live births by cesarean delivery by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, each State and territory, final 1999 and preliminary 2000

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

Area	All races ¹		White, total ²		White, non-Hispanic		Black, total ²		Hispanic ³	
	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999
United States ⁴	22.9	22.0	22.8	21.9	23.0	22.1	24.3	23.2	22.1	21.2
Alabama	26.4	24.8	26.8	25.4	27.0	25.6	25.5	23.5	22.2	20.4
Alaska	17.1	14.8	19.1	16.9	19.4	16.7	23.4	16.0	16.3	17.1
Arizona	18.6	17.8	18.8	17.9	20.2	19.4	20.3	18.9	17.1	16.0
Arkansas	26.5	25.4	26.1	24.9	26.5	25.3	28.3	27.5	20.7	19.3
California	23.4	22.7	23.3	22.5	24.2	23.5	26.6	25.9	22.7	21.9
Colorado	18.3	17.3	18.3	17.3	18.9	17.9	20.2	19.2	16.9	15.8
Connecticut	21.8	21.0	21.8	21.0	22.3	21.1	22.4	21.4	19.8	19.0
Delaware	24.9	23.0	24.7	23.2	25.3	23.5	25.6	23.0	20.6	21.0
District of Columbia ...	22.6	22.2	21.7	19.9	25.2	23.9	22.9	23.2	15.7	12.9
Florida	25.0	23.8	25.3	24.2	24.3	23.4	24.5	22.5	27.6	26.4
Georgia	22.6	21.7	22.5	21.5	23.6	22.2	23.0	22.3	16.5	16.6
Hawaii	14.6	13.8	16.9	17.2	17.1	17.0	16.2	16.6	14.2	16.0
Idaho	18.3	17.3	18.3	17.1	18.1	17.0	*	*	19.5	18.0
Illinois	21.0	20.1	20.9	20.1	21.7	20.9	21.4	20.2	18.6	17.8
Indiana	21.8	20.5	21.8	20.5	21.9	20.5	22.0	20.5	20.0	19.5
Iowa	20.9	19.9	21.0	20.0	21.1	20.0	20.6	18.7	20.1	19.6
Kansas	22.3	21.2	22.2	21.3	22.6	21.4	25.4	21.4	19.5	20.2
Kentucky	24.6	23.3	24.6	23.4	24.7	23.4	25.0	23.2	21.7	21.6
Louisiana	26.6	26.8	27.2	27.4	27.2	27.4	26.0	26.0	28.2	28.9
Maine	22.9	21.5	22.9	21.5	22.9	21.5	23.2	28.3	27.9	28.9
Maryland	24.1	23.2	23.2	22.5	23.5	22.8	26.0	24.8	19.9	19.7
Massachusetts	23.7	22.4	24.0	22.4	24.5	22.8	23.5	24.0	20.5	20.4
Michigan	22.0	21.0	22.2	21.1	22.3	21.3	21.4	20.4	20.5	18.5
Minnesota	19.9	18.9	20.5	19.4	20.5	19.5	18.6	18.8	19.3	17.6
Mississippi	28.3	27.3	29.4	28.1	29.6	28.3	27.1	26.4	22.8	21.4
Missouri	22.5	21.7	22.8	22.1	22.8	22.2	21.0	19.9	21.4	18.2
Montana	19.1	18.8	18.7	18.3	18.9	18.3	*	*	18.0	21.1
Nebraska	22.6	22.0	22.7	22.1	22.9	22.4	23.2	20.6	21.6	19.6
Nevada	21.9	21.8	21.5	21.3	22.9	22.5	26.0	27.1	19.4	19.2
New Hampshire	21.1	19.9	21.1	19.9	21.1	20.0	23.6	25.4	22.3	21.1
New Jersey	27.5	26.3	27.5	26.3	27.7	26.4	28.4	26.6	27.2	26.3
New Mexico	17.2	16.4	17.6	16.8	18.5	17.4	18.4	18.8	17.0	16.4
New York	24.7	23.6	24.7	23.6	25.3	24.3	25.7	24.3	23.9	22.7
North Carolina	23.1	22.7	22.7	22.3	23.6	22.9	24.4	23.9	17.5	18.1
North Dakota	20.9	19.5	20.4	19.5	20.4	19.8	28.0	*	19.2	*
Ohio ⁵	*	19.4	*	19.4	*	19.4	*	19.2	*	18.8
Oklahoma	24.2	24.1	24.0	24.0	24.3	24.4	26.1	24.6	22.0	21.5
Oregon	19.5	18.4	19.3	18.3	19.5	18.5	21.5	18.4	18.3	17.7
Pennsylvania	21.7	20.9	21.8	21.2	21.9	21.4	21.5	20.1	20.2	18.4
Rhode Island	21.9	20.5	21.9	20.7	22.9	21.1	23.2	20.7	18.7	20.1
South Carolina	25.3	24.2	25.6	24.3	25.8	24.6	25.0	24.1	21.9	18.8
South Dakota	22.8	22.3	22.9	22.6	22.9	22.7	28.3	*	22.0	19.0
Tennessee	24.9	24.0	24.9	24.1	25.1	24.3	24.9	23.9	21.7	20.4
Texas	24.9	23.8	24.7	23.6	25.7	24.9	27.0	25.5	23.9	22.5
Utah	16.8	16.0	16.8	15.9	16.5	15.7	21.0	20.4	18.8	17.7
Vermont	17.3	16.4	17.3	16.4	17.4	16.4	*	*	*	*
Virginia	23.2	21.7	22.9	21.6	23.2	21.8	23.8	22.1	20.6	19.2
Washington	20.7	18.9	20.6	18.7	20.8	18.8	24.0	22.5	19.6	17.7
West Virginia	25.5	24.8	25.4	24.6	25.4	24.6	27.2	27.3	*	25.5
Wisconsin	17.5	17.0	18.0	17.5	18.1	17.6	15.1	13.7	16.7	16.2
Wyoming	19.3	19.6	19.1	19.5	18.9	19.6	*	*	21.1	18.8
Puerto Rico	38.9	37.8	39.1	38.0	---	---	37.0	35.8	---	---
Virgin Islands	22.3	22.7	28.4	29.5	38.9	26.6	20.6	21.1	23.3	27.8
Guam	17.1	16.6	22.2	18.5	21.9	18.4	*	*	*	*
American Samoa	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Marianas	---	14.9	---	*	---	---	---	*	---	---

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision; see Technical notes.

--- Data not available.

¹ Includes races other than white and black.² Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on the birth certificate. 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.³ Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical notes.⁴ Excludes data for the territories.⁵ Due to processing problems, Ohio data for 2000 are not shown separately but are included in U.S. totals; see Technical notes.

NOTE: Data are subject to sampling and/or random variation. For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see Technical notes.

Table 8. Percent of mothers receiving prenatal care in first trimester of pregnancy by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, each State and territory, final 1999 and preliminary 2000

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

Area	All races ¹		White, total ²		White, non-Hispanic		Black, total ²		Hispanic ³	
	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999
United States ⁴	83.2	83.2	85.0	85.1	88.5	88.4	74.2	74.1	74.4	74.4
Alabama	82.8	83.2	88.1	88.9	89.6	90.0	72.0	71.4	56.1	60.5
Alaska	80.1	79.4	84.2	82.2	84.4	82.2	81.4	83.6	80.6	79.6
Arizona	76.5	75.9	77.0	76.6	87.1	86.1	74.0	74.5	65.4	65.0
Arkansas	79.7	79.0	82.7	81.7	84.0	83.1	69.1	69.4	67.2	63.5
California	84.5	83.6	84.4	83.6	89.9	89.2	81.9	81.0	80.7	79.7
Colorado	80.7	81.7	81.0	82.0	87.8	88.4	75.2	75.4	65.4	66.0
Connecticut	89.5	89.3	90.6	90.6	93.0	93.1	82.1	81.0	79.6	78.3
Delaware	85.3	83.7	87.8	86.4	90.0	88.2	77.4	75.5	72.1	71.8
District of Columbia ...	75.3	71.9	85.5	82.7	90.4	90.9	70.2	67.1	76.0	64.2
Florida	83.7	83.9	86.8	87.1	89.1	89.1	73.6	73.6	81.0	81.3
Georgia	86.9	87.3	89.8	90.4	91.8	91.9	81.1	81.1	77.9	79.7
Hawaii	85.5	85.7	89.6	91.0	90.0	91.7	89.3	91.2	83.9	83.8
Idaho	80.9	80.5	81.2	80.7	83.6	82.9	74.0	73.7	66.1	64.8
Illinois	82.4	82.5	85.0	85.4	89.5	89.9	71.3	70.0	72.7	72.4
Indiana	81.1	80.6	82.7	82.2	84.2	83.3	68.3	67.3	62.0	64.4
Iowa	88.2	87.7	88.7	88.3	89.7	89.1	77.4	74.8	73.6	71.2
Kansas	86.9	85.8	87.6	86.7	90.6	89.2	79.1	76.9	68.7	68.1
Kentucky	86.8	86.6	87.6	87.4	88.1	87.7	78.7	78.3	67.8	71.2
Louisiana	83.3	82.9	90.5	89.7	90.7	89.8	73.6	73.2	85.4	85.6
Maine	88.7	89.2	88.9	89.5	89.0	89.7	75.9	83.0	79.5	84.4
Maryland	86.4	87.0	90.8	91.4	92.1	92.4	77.7	78.0	79.1	81.4
Massachusetts	89.3	89.4	90.9	90.8	92.3	92.2	79.4	80.0	79.7	79.0
Michigan	84.2	84.0	87.2	87.0	88.8	88.5	70.1	69.9	71.7	72.0
Minnesota	85.2	84.5	87.6	87.0	88.7	88.1	68.8	66.4	66.9	62.1
Mississippi	81.3	81.5	88.8	89.1	89.2	89.3	72.4	72.7	75.5	74.5
Missouri	87.8	87.1	89.4	89.0	89.9	89.5	79.0	76.4	79.1	77.5
Montana	83.3	83.8	86.1	85.8	86.6	86.1	86.7	85.7	81.6	76.4
Nebraska	83.2	84.4	84.5	85.4	86.8	87.4	68.0	73.8	67.2	68.8
Nevada	74.5	75.2	75.1	75.5	84.4	83.2	66.0	69.6	60.6	62.0
New Hampshire	91.1	90.7	91.4	91.0	91.9	91.4	76.7	72.9	79.0	80.6
New Jersey	80.7	81.3	84.5	85.1	89.4	89.7	64.1	64.8	68.6	69.9
New Mexico	68.6	66.8	70.1	68.1	76.7	73.6	65.9	62.6	65.7	64.4
New York	80.9	81.0	84.2	84.2	88.3	88.1	71.3	71.0	72.9	71.8
North Carolina	84.6	85.0	87.7	88.4	91.0	91.1	75.9	76.1	68.4	68.7
North Dakota	86.3	86.3	88.8	88.3	89.3	88.6	78.0	72.1	72.8	81.7
Ohio ⁵	*	86.6	*	88.4	*	88.6	*	76.3	*	77.9
Oklahoma	79.3	80.5	81.6	82.6	83.1	83.8	70.7	73.1	67.5	68.7
Oregon	81.3	80.9	81.6	81.2	84.4	83.8	76.3	76.0	69.0	68.6
Pennsylvania	85.4	85.2	87.6	87.6	88.6	88.5	72.7	71.6	73.5	73.9
Rhode Island	91.0	91.3	91.9	92.4	93.2	93.6	86.0	83.2	86.9	86.1
South Carolina	79.4	80.7	84.1	85.9	85.8	87.2	70.9	70.9	59.1	61.1
South Dakota	78.7	83.4	82.6	87.0	82.8	87.4	70.5	74.2	70.9	68.5
Tennessee	83.1	84.3	86.0	87.0	87.6	87.9	72.2	74.6	56.1	64.0
Texas	78.8	79.3	78.8	79.3	87.6	87.3	76.1	76.7	71.1	72.2
Utah	79.5	80.5	80.5	81.5	83.6	84.0	56.0	63.7	60.5	63.0
Vermont	88.4	87.9	88.6	88.0	88.8	88.0	74.2	81.6	84.4	80.6
Virginia	85.2	85.3	88.2	88.6	90.1	90.2	76.0	74.5	71.8	74.0
Washington	82.7	82.8	83.4	83.6	85.9	86.0	74.9	75.7	71.0	71.1
West Virginia	86.1	85.1	86.7	85.6	86.7	85.7	70.3	70.7	71.1	68.8
Wisconsin	84.2	84.1	86.6	86.6	88.0	87.7	69.9	69.1	68.7	70.6
Wyoming	82.7	83.0	83.5	83.4	84.5	84.3	73.7	76.4	74.1	74.8
Puerto Rico	78.1	77.7	79.0	78.5	---	---	67.9	69.0	---	---
Virgin Islands	63.7	59.6	62.5	63.1	84.2	73.5	63.3	58.2	59.9	57.5
Guam	60.9	61.8	88.1	86.4	89.8	87.6	77.3	77.6	66.7	73.3
American Samoa	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Marianas ...	---	30.2	---	*	---	---	---	*	---	---

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision; see Technical notes.

--- Data not available.

¹ Includes races other than white and black.² Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on the birth certificate. 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.³ Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical notes.⁴ Excludes data for the territories.⁵ Due to processing problems, Ohio data are not shown separately but are included in U.S. totals; see Technical notes.

NOTE: Data are subject to sampling and/or random variation. For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see Technical notes.

Technical notes

Nature and sources of data

Preliminary data for 2000 are based on a substantial proportion of vital records for that year. The data for 2000 are based on a continuous receipt and processing of statistical records through April 11, 2001, by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). NCHS 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, and Guam are included in tables showing data by State, but are not included in U.S. totals. Tables by State generally show entries for American Samoa and the Northern Marianas, but preliminary data for these areas were not available by April 11, 2001, and are not presented in this report. Final data for 1999 for these areas are presented where available.

For 2000, individual records of births are weighted to independent counts of vital events occurring in each State. These State-specific counts serve as control totals and are the basis for the record weights in the preliminary file. If the number of records in the preliminary file is greater than the count received from the State, the State-specific number of records in the preliminary file is used instead and the weight is set at 1.0.

Each birth record has one weight specific to the State where the birth occurred. [Table I](#) shows the percent of completeness of the preliminary file for each event by place of occurrence. The percent of completeness is obtained by dividing the number of records in the preliminary file by the control total and multiplying by 100. Although data by place of occurrence are used to compute the weights, all data in this report are tabulated by place of residence.

For selected variables in the natality file, unknown or not-stated values are imputed. Detailed information on reporting completeness and imputation procedures may be found in *Technical Appendix of the Vital Statistics of the United States: Natality* (7).

Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on the birth certificate. Therefore, data shown by race include persons of Hispanic or non-Hispanic origin, and data for Hispanic origin include persons of any race. In this report, births of Hispanic origin are included in the totals for each race group—white, black, American Indian, and Asian or Pacific Islander—according to the mother's race as reported on the birth certificate. Data shown for Hispanic persons include all persons of Hispanic origin of any race. In 1999, approximately 97 percent of Hispanic-origin births were to white women. Data are shown separately for non-Hispanic white women because there are substantial differences in childbearing patterns between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women. More than 1 in 5 white births were to Hispanic women in 2000.

From 1964 to 1996, mother's age was edited for ages 10–49 years: births reported to occur to mothers younger than age 10 or older than 49 years had age imputed according to the same race and total birth order (total of live births and fetal deaths). Beginning in 1997, age of mother is edited for ages 10–54 years. A review and verification of unedited birth data for 1996 showed that the vast majority of births reported as occurring to women aged 50 years and over were to women aged 50–54 years. The numbers of births to women aged 50–54 years

are too small for computing age-specific birth rates and have been included with births to women aged 45–49 years for computing birth rates.

National estimates of births to unmarried women are based on two methods of determining marital status. For 1999 and 2000, birth certificates in 48 States and the District of Columbia included a direct question about mother's marital status; in California and Nevada, the 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 the father's name is missing from the birth certificate or if a paternity acknowledgment was filed.

The birth rate for unmarried women for 2000 is estimated on the basis of population distributions by marital status provided by the U.S. Census Bureau as of March 2000 (8) applied to the national population estimates as of July 1 (9). (Both sets of estimates are projected from the 1990 census.) The nonmarital birth rate shown here for 2000 thus 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 (10,11). Because of variability, 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 the final reports.

Computing rates and percents

Rates are on an annual basis per 1,000 estimated population residing in the specified area as of July 1, 2000, and July 1, 1999 (projected from the 1990 census) and are based on populations furnished by the U.S. Census Bureau (9,12). Rates by State and the territories are computed on the basis of populations on July 1, 2000, and July 1, 1999 (13–15).

For calculating birth rates, age and race of mother are imputed if they are not stated (0.02 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively, for 2000). In computing birth rates by live-birth order, births with live-birth order not stated are distributed in proportion to stated data. Births with marital status not reported (0.04 percent for 2000) are included with births to married mothers. Percents were computed using only events for which the characteristic is reported. The "Not stated" category is subtracted from the total before the percent is computed for birthweight, prenatal care, and method of delivery. Birth rates for the Hispanic population are based only on events to persons reported as Hispanic. Rates for non-Hispanic white persons are based on the sum of all white events reported as non-Hispanic and white events with origin not stated. Hispanic origin is not imputed if it is not reported.

An asterisk indicates that the figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision. In this report, three sets of criteria determine whether a figure meets these standards:

- The State-specific sample is complete enough to provide reliable estimates. For example, a criterion of at least 75 percent of a State's records for the 12-month period is used as a basis for providing State-specific estimates. The Ohio file contained only 41.4 percent of all records (see [table I](#)) for 2000. Therefore, data for Ohio are included in U.S. totals, but are not shown separately.

Table I. Total count of records and percent completeness of preliminary file of live births: United States, each State and territory, preliminary 2000

[By place of occurrence]

Area	Live births	
	Count of records	Percent completeness
United States ¹	4,070,343	96.3
Alabama	62,561	100.0
Alaska	9,909	99.8
Arizona	85,434	100.0
Arkansas	37,042	99.5
California	532,500	98.1
Colorado	65,675	100.0
Connecticut	43,595	95.3
Delaware	11,638	100.0
District of Columbia	15,156	100.0
Florida	204,349	100.0
Georgia	133,570	100.0
Hawaii	17,636	100.0
Idaho	19,872	99.9
Illinois	182,053	99.4
Indiana	87,170	96.2
Iowa	38,692	99.3
Kansas	39,248	100.0
Kentucky	54,445	89.5
Louisiana	68,325	99.9
Maine	13,461	100.0
Maryland	69,604	100.0
Massachusetts	82,701	100.0
Michigan	134,978	100.0
Minnesota	67,500	89.6
Mississippi	43,010	99.9
Missouri	78,300	99.8
Montana	10,922	99.6
Nebraska	24,958	100.0
Nevada	30,460	99.2
New Hampshire	13,998	100.0
New Jersey	111,999	100.0
New Mexico	26,792	99.7
New York	259,228	99.2
New York excluding New York City ...	133,675	98.4
New York City	125,553	100.0
North Carolina	121,288	99.9
North Dakota	8,847	100.0
Ohio	159,547	41.4
Oklahoma	48,755	95.5
Oregon	46,793	100.0
Pennsylvania	146,859	99.7
Rhode Island	13,171	89.7
South Carolina	53,570	100.0
South Dakota	10,590	100.0
Tennessee	84,858	100.0
Texas	371,676	95.0
Utah	48,446	99.3
Vermont	6,275	99.9
Virginia	96,727	99.7
Washington	80,449	100.0
West Virginia	21,641	100.0
Wisconsin	68,224	100.0
Wyoming	5,846	100.0
Puerto Rico	59,458	90.8
Virgin Islands	1,684	57.5
Guam	3,790	49.2
American Samoa	---	---
Northern Marianas	---	---

-- Data not available.

¹ Excludes data for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Marianas.NOTE: Percent completeness = $\frac{\text{Number of records in preliminary file} * 100}{\text{Count of records}}$

- Reporting for any particular variable is at least 80 percent complete. In this report, no data were suppressed based on this criterion.
- A rate or percent is based on at least 20 births in the numerator.

Rates based on fewer than 20 births have a relative standard error (RSE) of about 23 percent or more and, therefore, are considered highly variable. However, some birth rates (based on data files that are less than 100 percent complete and based on 20–31 births) may have RSEs of 23 percent or more but are still shown instead of asterisks. As a result, caution should be exercised in analyzing rates based on 20–31 events. Additional information on random variation in numbers of events, rates, ratios, and percents may be found in "Reliability of estimates."

Reliability of estimates

Because the preliminary estimates of births in this report are based on files that may not be complete, they are subject to sampling variability. The notion of the sample is reflected in the record weights that are used to adjust record counts to independent control totals. The lack of completeness of the vital statistics files is due to delays in receiving and processing the live-birth records.

In addition, the natality file is subject to nonsampling errors or biases. Records that were delayed and were not included in this report are assumed to have the same characteristics as the records that were included in this report. Seasonal bias may occur because file completeness is greater during the early part than during the later part of the 12-month period for which the data are processed and tabulated.

Even if the number of vital events in this report were 100 percent complete and not subject to sampling variability, it might be affected by random variation. Thus, when the number of events is small and the probability of such an event is small, considerable caution must be observed in interpreting the data. Such infrequent events may be assumed to follow a Poisson probability distribution. The first column of [table II](#) shows the estimated RSEs of a file that is nearly 100 percent complete. The estimated RSEs of the 1999 final data, the preliminary 2000 control totals, and the preliminary 2000 data (based on nearly 100 percent of a file) are shown in the first column of [table II](#).

Data based on a sample, that is, where the file is less than 100 percent complete, are affected by sampling variation as well as by random variation. The estimated RSEs in columns 2–6 of [table II](#) for various levels of file completeness are measures of the sampling errors and the random errors of the estimates. The estimated RSEs in [table II](#) were computed using this formula:

$$RSE = 100 \sqrt{\frac{1}{\bar{X}} + \frac{(1-f)(N-X)}{fX(N-\bar{f})}}$$

where

f = the sampling fraction or the percent of file completeness/100 from [table I](#).

X = the estimated number of live births.

N = the total count of live births for the United States or any State. (NOTE: The RSEs shown in [table II](#) are based on $N = 4,000,000$. If N is smaller, the RSEs may be slightly smaller than those shown.)

Table II. Relative standard errors for preliminary number of live births by percent of file completeness

[Relative standard errors are expressed as a percent of the estimate]

Estimated number of live births	Percent of file completeness					
	100	95	90	80	70	60
	Relative standard error (percent)					
1..	100.0	102.6	105.4	111.8	119.5	129.1
5..	44.7	45.9	47.1	50.0	53.5	57.7
10..	31.6	32.4	33.3	35.4	37.8	40.8
20..	22.4	22.9	23.6	25.0	26.7	28.9
30..	18.3	18.7	19.2	20.4	21.8	23.6
40..	15.8	16.2	16.7	17.7	18.9	20.4
50..	14.1	14.5	14.9	15.8	16.9	18.3
60..	12.9	13.2	13.6	14.4	15.4	16.7
70..	12.0	12.3	12.6	13.4	14.3	15.4
80..	11.2	11.5	11.8	12.5	13.4	14.4
90..	10.5	10.8	11.1	11.8	12.6	13.6
100..	10.0	10.3	10.5	11.2	12.0	12.9
200..	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.9	8.5	9.1
300..	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.5	6.9	7.5
400..	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.6	6.0	6.5
500..	4.5	4.6	4.7	5.0	5.3	5.8
600..	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.6	4.9	5.3
700..	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.5	4.9
800..	3.5	3.6	3.7	4.0	4.2	4.6
900..	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.7	4.0	4.3
1,000..	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.8	4.1
2,000..	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.9
5,000..	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8
10,000..	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3
20,000..	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9
50,000..	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
100,000..	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
200,000..	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
500,000..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
1,000,000..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
2,000,000..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
4,000,000..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

RSEs may be used to compute 95 percent confidence intervals for the number of events (X), for a rate (R), or for a percent (P) and to compute statistical tests concerning the equality of two rates (R_1 and R_2) or two percents (P_1 and P_2).

For the number of live births, the 95 percent confidence interval may be computed as follows:

$$\text{Lower limit: } X_1 - 1.96 \cdot X_1 \cdot \frac{\text{RSE}(X_1)}{100}$$

$$\text{Upper limit: } X_1 + 1.96 \cdot X_1 \cdot \frac{\text{RSE}(X_1)}{100}$$

As a hypothetical example, assume the number of births, X_1 , is 70 from a file with 80 percent completeness. Then

$$\text{Lower limit: } 70 - 1.96 \cdot 70 \cdot \frac{13.4}{100} = 51.6$$

$$\text{Upper limit: } 70 + 1.96 \cdot 70 \cdot \frac{13.4}{100} = 88.4$$

This means that the chances are 95 times out of 100 that the confidence interval (51.6–88.4) will cover the “true” number of births.

For rates based on population estimates in the denominator, the 95 percent confidence interval may be computed as follows:

$$\text{Lower limit: } R_1 - 1.96 \cdot R_1 \cdot \frac{\text{RSE}(R_1)}{100}$$

$$\text{Upper limit: } R_1 + 1.96 \cdot R_1 \cdot \frac{\text{RSE}(R_1)}{100}$$

As a hypothetical example, assume the birth rate, R_1 , is 20.0, which is based on 70 births from a file with 80 percent completeness.

$$\text{Lower limit: } 20.0 - 1.96 \cdot 20.0 \cdot \frac{13.4}{100} = 14.7$$

$$\text{Upper limit: } 20.0 + 1.96 \cdot 20.0 \cdot \frac{13.4}{100} = 25.3$$

This means that the chances are 95 times out of 100 that the confidence interval (14.7–25.3) will cover the “true” rate.

For testing the equality of two rates, R_1 and R_2 , the following z-test may be used to define a significance test statistic:

$$Z = \frac{R_1 - R_2}{\sqrt{R_1^2 \left(\frac{\text{RSE}(R_1)}{100}\right)^2 + R_2^2 \left(\frac{\text{RSE}(R_2)}{100}\right)^2}}$$

The two-tailed 0.95 critical value for a z statistic is 1.96. Therefore, if $|z| \geq 1.96$, the difference is significant at the 0.05 level. If $|z| < 1.96$, then the difference would be considered not statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

As a hypothetical example, assume R_1 is the same as the above example for the current 12-month period and that R_2 , 15.0, is based on 50 births occurring in the prior 12-month period (which implies that the file is approximately 100 percent complete for R_2). The z -test may be determined as follows:

$$z = \frac{20.0 - 15.0}{\sqrt{(20.0)^2 \left(\frac{13.4}{100}\right)^2 + (15.0)^2 \left(\frac{14.1}{100}\right)^2}} = 1.46$$

Because $|z| < 1.96$, there is not a statistically significant difference between the two rates at the 0.05 level of significance.

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