

Births: Final Data for 2021

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Abstract

Objectives—This report presents 2021 data on U.S. births according to a variety of characteristics. Trends in fertility patterns and maternal and infant characteristics are described and interpreted.

Methods—Descriptive tabulations of data reported on the birth certificates of the 3.66 million births that occurred in 2021

are presented. Data are presented for maternal age, live-birth order, race and Hispanic origin, marital status, tobacco use, prenatal care, source of payment for the delivery, method of delivery, gestational age, birthweight, and plurality. Selected data by mother's state of residence and birth rates by age also are shown. Trend data for 2010 to 2021 are presented for selected items and by race and Hispanic origin for 2016–2021.

Figure 1. Live births and general fertility rates: United States, 1970–2021

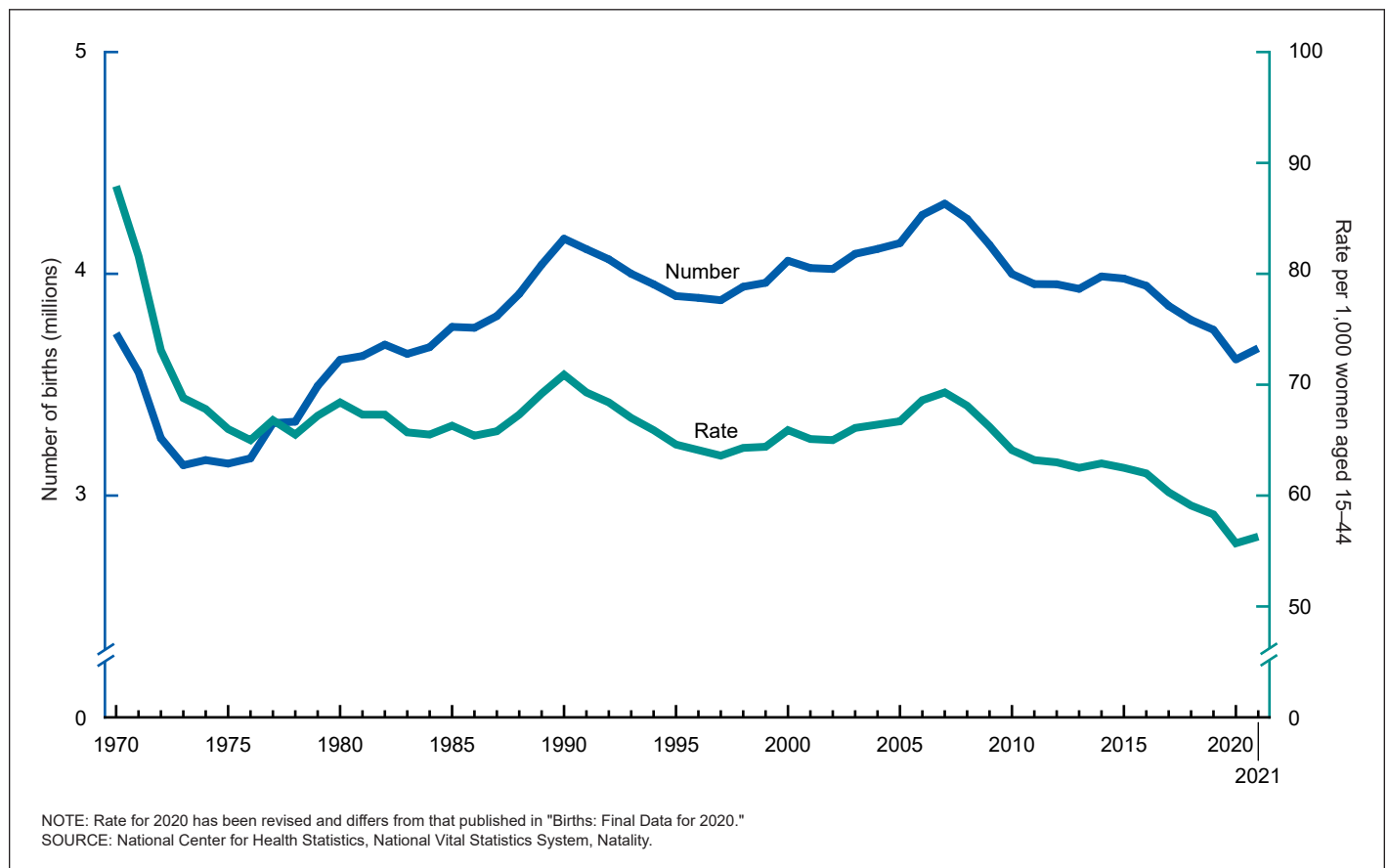


Table 5. Birth rates, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 2021

[Rates are births per 1,000 women in specified age and race and Hispanic-origin group. Fertility rate computed by relating total births, regardless of age of mother, to women aged 15–44. Populations estimated as of July 1. Live-birth order refers to number of children born alive to mother. Figures for live-birth order not stated are distributed]

Race and Hispanic origin of mother and live-birth order	Fertility rate	Age of mother									
		10–14	15–19			20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49 ¹
			Total	15–17	18–19						
All races and origins²											
Total	56.3	0.2	13.9	5.6	26.6	61.5	93.0	97.6	53.7	12.0	0.9
1st child	21.5	0.2	11.9	5.2	22.0	33.9	36.0	30.6	12.4	2.5	0.3
2nd child	18.1	0.0	1.8	0.4	4.1	19.2	30.9	33.2	17.8	3.4	0.2
3rd child	9.5	*	0.2	0.0	0.5	6.3	16.2	18.8	11.7	2.4	0.2
4th child	4.2	*	0.0	*	0.0	1.6	6.5	8.7	6.0	1.6	0.1
5th child	1.7	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.3	2.2	3.5	2.8	0.9	0.1
6th and 7th child	1.1	*	*	*	*	0.1	1.0	2.2	2.1	0.8	0.1
8th child and over	0.4	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.1
Non-Hispanic, single race³											
White	54.4	0.1	9.4	3.2	18.7	52.0	91.8	102.3	52.8	10.5	0.8
1st child	21.4	0.1	8.1	3.0	15.7	29.5	39.2	34.6	13.2	2.4	0.2
2nd child	18.2	*	1.2	0.2	2.6	16.2	30.7	36.7	18.7	3.2	0.2
3rd child	8.8	*	0.1	0.0	0.3	5.0	14.3	18.4	11.2	2.0	0.1
4th child	3.5	*	0.0	*	0.0	1.1	5.3	7.5	5.0	1.1	0.1
5th child	1.3	*	*	*	*	0.2	1.6	2.8	2.1	0.6	0.0
6th and 7th child	0.8	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.7	1.8	1.7	0.6	0.0
8th child and over	0.4	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.1
Black	57.4	0.3	21.8	9.3	40.6	79.1	91.9	79.7	48.2	12.8	1.2
1st child	20.2	0.3	18.3	8.6	33.0	43.1	28.6	17.7	8.8	2.3	0.3
2nd child	16.4	*	3.0	0.7	6.5	23.5	29.4	23.3	12.8	3.1	0.3
3rd child	10.5	*	0.4	0.0	0.9	8.7	18.5	18.3	11.5	2.7	0.2
4th child	5.4	*	0.0	*	0.1	2.8	9.0	10.5	7.0	2.0	0.1
5th child	2.5	*	*	*	*	0.7	3.9	5.2	3.7	1.1	0.1
6th and 7th child	1.7	*	*	*	*	0.2	2.1	3.7	3.0	1.1	0.1
8th child and over	0.6	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.3	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.1
American Indian or Alaska Native	50.8	0.3	24.2	11.3	44.1	78.7	81.9	66.1	36.2	7.5	0.5
1st child	15.8	0.3	20.1	10.4	35.3	37.1	18.9	9.9	4.6	0.9	*
2nd child	13.8	*	3.7	0.9	8.1	26.9	25.8	15.5	6.8	1.2	*
3rd child	9.2	*	0.3	*	0.7	10.6	19.2	14.5	7.1	1.5	*
4th child	5.5	*	*	*	*	3.2	10.2	11.3	6.1	1.2	*
5th child	3.2	*	*	*	*	0.7	4.9	7.2	4.6	1.1	*
6th and 7th child	2.5	*	*	*	*	*	2.6	6.1	4.8	1.0	*
8th child and over	0.8	*	*	*	*	*	0.2	1.6	2.3	0.6	*
Asian	49.6	*	2.0	0.7	3.8	17.7	60.4	105.0	67.9	15.8	1.5
1st child	22.0	*	1.7	0.6	3.2	11.4	34.6	49.0	20.9	4.4	0.5
2nd child	18.5	*	0.2	*	0.5	4.7	17.9	40.2	30.0	5.8	0.4
3rd child	6.0	*	*	*	*	1.3	5.4	10.8	11.3	3.3	0.3
4th child	2.0	*	*	*	*	0.3	1.8	3.3	3.6	1.3	0.2
5th child	0.6	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.5	1.1	1.2	0.5	0.1
6th and 7th child	0.3	*	*	*	*	*	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.1
8th child and over	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	*
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	71.5	*	21.9	7.3	44.6	116.1	124.7	95.8	51.2	15.0	1.3
1st child	20.4	*	17.6	6.4	34.7	53.2	30.3	16.4	6.8	1.7	*
2nd child	18.4	*	4.0	*	8.8	38.9	36.2	20.5	9.7	1.9	*
3rd child	12.8	*	*	*	*	16.7	26.9	20.1	8.3	2.4	*
4th child	9.0	*	*	*	*	5.3	17.9	16.7	8.9	2.5	*
5th child	5.1	*	*	*	*	1.3	8.1	10.5	6.5	2.0	*
6th and 7th child	4.5	*	*	*	*	*	4.7	9.6	7.5	2.8	*
8th child and over	1.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	1.9	3.4	1.5	*

Table 5. Birth rates, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 2021—Con.

[Rates are births per 1,000 women in specified age and race and Hispanic-origin group. Fertility rate computed by relating total births, regardless of age of mother, to women aged 15–44. Populations estimated as of July 1. Live-birth order refers to number of children born alive to mother. Figures for live-birth order not stated are distributed]

Race and Hispanic origin of mother and live-birth order	Fertility rate	Age of mother									
		10–14	15–19			20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49 ¹
			Total	15–17	18–19						
Hispanic ⁴											
Total	63.4	0.3	21.1	9.3	39.8	82.3	108.3	97.5	54.9	14.4	1.0
1st child	22.6	0.3	17.9	8.6	32.5	43.9	35.1	23.5	9.5	2.1	0.2
2nd child	19.1	*	2.9	0.6	6.4	26.9	37.1	29.8	14.5	3.2	0.2
3rd child	11.9	*	0.3	0.0	0.8	8.8	22.8	23.6	13.6	3.2	0.2
4th child	5.8	*	0.0	*	0.1	2.1	9.1	12.6	9.0	2.7	0.2
5th child	2.3	*	*	*	*	0.5	2.8	5.0	4.6	1.6	0.1
6th and 7th child	1.3	*	*	*	*	0.1	1.2	2.6	2.9	1.3	0.1
8th child and over	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.0

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability.

¹Birth rates computed by relating births to women aged 45 and over to women aged 45–49; see Technical Notes in this report.

²Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as Hispanic single-race White, Hispanic single-race Black, and non-Hispanic multiple-race women, and births with origin not stated.

³Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates; people of Hispanic origin may be of any race. In this table, non-Hispanic women are classified by race. Race categories are consistent with the 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards; see Technical Notes. Single race is defined as only one race reported on the birth certificate.

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

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.