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Fertility of Men and Women Aged 15–44 in the United States: National Survey of Family Growth, 2011–2015

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Abstract

Objective—This report presents national estimates of selected fertility measures for men and women aged 15–44 in the United States in 2011–2015 based on data from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG). Estimates for 2011–2015 are compared with those for 2006–2010.

Methods—Data were collected through in-person interviews of a nationally representative sample of the household population aged 15–44 in the United States from September 2011 through September 2015. The 2011–2015 NSFG sample comprised 20,621 respondents aged 15–44, including 9,321 men and 11,300 women. The response rate for the 2011–2015 NSFG was 72.3% for women and 69.6% for men. Fertility measures in this report include: have ever had a biological child, number of children born alive, timing of the first child, and birth spacing.

Results—Most estimates of fertility measures for men and women aged 15–44 in 2011–2015 were similar to those reported in 2006–2010. For 2011–2015, 85.0% of women had given birth and 80.4% of men had fathered a child by ages 40–44. On average, women had 1.2 biological children and men had fathered 0.9 children. The mean age at first birth was 23.1 for women and 25.5 for men. Among women, 31.2% of first births occurred during the teen years and 54.5% occurred during ages 20–29. Among men, 13.8% of first births occurred during the teen years and 63.1% occurred during ages 20–29. In 2011–2015, nearly one-third of women aged 15–44 with a birth had only had one birth at the time of interview, about one-third had a second birth within 36 months, and one-third had a second birth more than 36 months after their first birth. Estimates of fertility measures differed by age, marital or cohabiting status, education, household income relative to the federal poverty level, and Hispanic origin and race.

Keywords: parity • number of children • age at first birth • birth spacing

Introduction

This report presents national estimates of selected fertility measures for both men and women in the United

States during 2011–2015. In 2015, vital statistics data indicated there were 4 million births in the United States; the number of births declined steadily during 2007–2013, increased slightly in 2014,

and decreased again in 2015 (1). The birth rate (number of births per 1,000 females in a specific age group) declined for teenagers aged 15–19 and those aged 20–24. The rate increased for women aged 30–39 and 40–44 (1). The mean number of children born declined, from three children per woman in 1976 to two children per woman in 2012 (2).

Fertility research in the United States has focused on various topics, including characteristics of those who have children (3,4), how many children they have (2,3,5), timing of childbearing (e.g., adolescent childbearing, late childbearing) (2,6,7), and spacing of births (8). Having a child at an early age, particularly in the teen years, has been associated with negative social, economic, and health consequences for the young woman and her child (9–13), and it is estimated that in 2015 alone, the United States saved about \$4 billion as a result of efforts to prevent unintended births among teenagers (14). On the other hand, later childbearing is associated with declines in U.S. total fertility rates (15). In 1970, the birth rate among women aged 20–24 was 168 births per 1,000 women compared with 76.8 births per 1,000 women in 2015 (1,16). The gap in the birth rate has narrowed for women in their 20s compared with women in their



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30s, and most recently, there has been a higher rate of childbearing among women in their 30s than women in their 20s. For example, in 2016, the birth rate for women aged 20–24 reached a record low at 73.8 births per 1,000 women, while the birth rate for women aged 30–34 was at the highest rate since 1964 at 102.7 births per 1,000 women (17). In addition, spacing of births can have a significant impact on the health of the baby and the mother. Short birth spacing, defined as having a pregnancy less than 18 months after a previous birth, has been associated with adverse outcomes, including preterm delivery, low birth weight, congenital disorders, and poor health for the mother, including folate depletion and incomplete recovery from the prior birth, especially for cesarean deliveries (8,18–22).

This report presents data on the fertility experience of men and women aged 15–44 in the United States using 4 years of National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) data collected during 2011–2015, and it updates previously published estimates using 2006–2010 data (3). Selected fertility measures include: have ever had a biological child, number of children born alive, timing of the first child, and birth spacing (for women only). The fertility measures are described by several key demographic characteristics, including age, marital or cohabiting status, education, household income relative to the federal poverty level, and Hispanic origin and race.

Methods

Data source

This report is based on pooled NSFG public-use data for 2011–2013 and 2013–2015. The combined 4 years of data collected in 2011–2015 come from 20,621 face-to-face interviews—11,300 with women and 9,321 with men—representative of the U.S. household population aged 15–44. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has been conducting NSFG since 1973 to collect data on fertility and the proximate determinants (23) that explain fertility in the United States. NSFG is jointly planned and funded by NCHS and several other U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services programs (see [Acknowledgments](#)). The response rate for the 2011–2015 NSFG was 72.3% for women and 69.6% for men aged 15–44. More details on the sample design, fieldwork procedures, and variance estimation for the 2011–2013 and 2013–2015 NSFG were previously published (24).

Fertility measures

This report focuses on fertility measures based on questions administered by an interviewer to respondents. Data are shown for both men and women, which is an important contribution, because there are limited sources of information on the fertility of men. The results presented in this report are described separately for men and women, because the fertility patterns of men and women differ across the life course. The average age at first birth is younger for women compared with men, so comparisons between men and women in the same age group would show differences solely for this reason (3). Although some results are presented that indicate whether the patterns of differences are similar for men and women, a systematic comparison of the fertility of men and women is not the focus of this report.

The four fertility measures covered include:

- Ever had a biological child
 - The percentage of women who have had a biological child
 - The percentage of men who have fathered a child
- Number of children born alive
 - The percent distribution of the number of children born alive to women
 - The percent distribution of the number of children fathered by men
- Timing of first birth
 - The percent distribution of age at first birth for men and women
 - The probability of a first birth by selected ages for men and women
- Birth spacing (for women with at least one child)
 - Number of months from first

birth to second births (or percentage with no second birth at the time of interview)

Selected demographic variables

The fertility measures presented in this report are shown with respect to several key demographic characteristics, including age, marital or cohabiting status, educational attainment, household income relative to the federal poverty level, and Hispanic origin and race. With the exception of age and marital status at first birth in [Table 6](#), all variables reflect the respondent's own status at the time of interview. Educational attainment is shown only for respondents aged 22–44 because many of those aged 15–21 are still attending school. Household income relative to the federal poverty level, shown as the respondent's household income as a percentage of the federal poverty level accounting for the number of household members, is shown for respondents aged 20–44 because of concerns about younger respondents' ability to accurately report on their household incomes. The definition of Hispanic origin and race used in this report takes into account the reporting of more than one race, in accordance with the 1997 guidelines from the Office of Management and Budget (25), and while not shown separately, data from respondents reporting more than one race are included in the total. Hispanic respondents, regardless of their racial identification, are shown separately and further categorized by their nativity status.

Statistical analysis

All estimates in this report are weighted to represent the approximately 61 million men and 61 million women aged 15–44 in the household population of the United States. SAS software, Version 9.4 (www.sas.com), was used to produce statistics for this report. For most tables, PROC SURVEYFREQ was used to produce weighted percentages and variances that account for the complex sampling design of NSFG. [Tables 1–6](#) and the [Appendix Table](#) include standard

errors as a measure of the precision of each point estimate.

In addition, PROC LIFETEST was used for [Table 5](#) to calculate probabilities of a first birth using life table methodology. These probabilities represent the expected proportion of individuals who have had a first birth by a certain age, assuming the current age-specific first birth rates apply to future birth cohorts. Probabilities were estimated based on retrospective reporting of the age at first birth and are shown for those aged 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40. In this report, probabilities are described as percentages, such as the percentage of women who would have a first birth by age 18. [Table 5](#) illustrates information beyond the distribution of age at first birth ([Table 4](#)) by showing the cumulative probability of having a first birth by specific ages.

Overall, differences in fertility measures by demographic characteristics were evaluated using survey-adjusted Wald chi-square tests. Significance of differences between any two estimates was determined by standard two-tailed *t* tests at the 0.05 level using point estimates and their standard errors. A weighted least-squares regression method was used to test for linear trends across age, education, and household income. Terms such as “increased” and “decreased” or “higher” and “lower” indicate there was a statistically significant difference between the two estimates. When statistics compared did not demonstrate a statistically significant difference, terms such as “similar” or “no difference” were used.

In this report, data presentation standards for proportions are based on a minimum denominator sample size and on the absolute and relative widths of a confidence interval calculated using the Korn–Graubard approach (modified Clopper–Pearson) for complex surveys. All estimates presented meet the NCHS guidelines for presentation of proportions (26). When a percentage or other statistic is not shown for this reason, the table contains an asterisk signifying that the “statistic does not meet standards of reliability or precision.” This report also compares selected measures of the fertility of men and women in the United States during 2006–2010 and

2011–2015. Statements describing an increase or decrease between two time points do not necessarily indicate a linear trend. The results presented in this report are descriptive and do not attempt to demonstrate cause-and-effect relationships. Differing age distributions may explain some of the differences shown in fertility measures across education, marital status, household income relative to the federal poverty level, and Hispanic origin and race. For example, non-Hispanic white women have fewer children, on average, which may in part be explained by age if Hispanic and non-Hispanic black women have a younger age distribution than non-Hispanic white women, and non-Hispanic white women have children at older ages. Differences in other characteristics, such as household income relative to the federal poverty level across marital status, may also account for some of the differences seen in fertility measures by marital status. A full multivariate analysis of these fertility outcomes that controls for differences across groups or standardizes across groups by other characteristics, such as age or household income relative to the federal poverty level, is beyond the scope of this report.

Results

Ever had a biological child

[Table 1](#) shows the percentage of men and women who had ever had a biological child by selected demographic characteristics. In 2011–2015, 54.9% of women and 43.8% of men aged 15–44 had ever had a child, which was similar to their respective percentages in 2006–2010.

- In 2011–2015, 17.1% of women aged 15–24 and 85.0% of those aged 40–44 had ever had a biological child. Among men, 7.6% of those aged 15–24 and 80.4% of those aged 40–44 had ever had a child.
- Among currently married women, 80.4% had ever had a child, which is higher than the percentage for currently cohabiting women (59.4%).
- Among both men and women, the percentage who had ever had

a biological child was higher for individuals with lower levels of education. For example, 80.7% of women with a high school diploma or GED had ever had a child compared with 53.8% of women with a bachelor’s degree or higher.

- Looking at household income relative to the federal poverty level, a higher percentage of women with household incomes below 150% of the federal poverty level had ever had a biological child (75.0%) compared with women whose household incomes were 300% or more than the federal poverty level (54.0%). A similar pattern was observed among men.
- Among Hispanic men and women, looking at differences by nativity, a higher percentage of those born outside of the United States had ever had a biological child (63.7% of men and 79.3% of women) compared with those born in the United States (38.4% of men and 50.4% of women).
- A higher percentage of Hispanic women, regardless of nativity, had ever had a biological child (62.1%) compared with non-Hispanic white (53.0%), non-Hispanic black (57.1%), and non-Hispanic Asian (48.9%) women ([Figure 1](#)). The percentage of Hispanic men, regardless of nativity, who had ever had a child (49.8%) was higher than non-Hispanic white (42.3%) and non-Hispanic Asian (35.6%) men but similar to the percentage for non-Hispanic black men (46.6%). The percentages were similar for non-Hispanic black (46.6%) and non-Hispanic white (42.3%) men.

Number of children ever born

[Table 2](#) shows the percent distribution and mean number of children born to women aged 15–44 by selected demographic characteristics. The mean number of children decreased, from 1.3 children in 2006–2010 to 1.2 children in 2011–2015. There were no significant differences in the distribution of the number of children born in 2006–2010 and 2011–2015. In 2011–2015, 45.1% of women had not had a biological child,

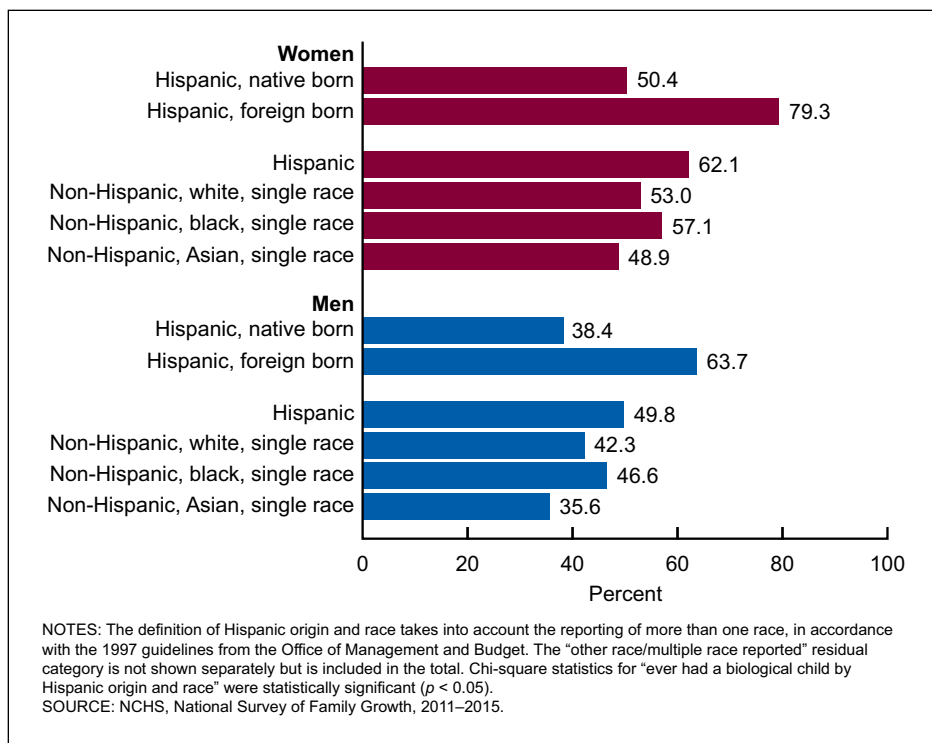


Figure 1. Percentage of women and men aged 15–44 who ever had a biological child, by Hispanic origin and race: United States, 2011–2015

17.1% had one child, 19.7% had two children, 11.9% had three children, and 6.2% had four or more children at the time of interview.

- In 2011–2015, the majority of women aged 15–24 had not had a biological child (82.9%), and 15.0% of women aged 40–44 had not had a child.
- The highest mean number of children ever born was reported by formerly married women (2.1), followed by currently married (1.8) and currently cohabiting (1.2) women. Formerly married women were more likely to have four or more children (13.9%) compared with currently married (8.4%) and currently cohabiting (7.2%) women.
- Women with no high school diploma or GED had a higher average number of children (2.6) compared with women with higher levels of education (1.0–1.9) (Figure 2). In addition, nearly one in four women with less than a high school diploma have had four or more children (23.5%), which is more than twice the percentage of any other education group.

- Women aged 20–44 living in households with incomes of 300% of the federal poverty level or higher at the time of interview were more likely to have not had a birth (46.0%) compared with women living in households in lower income groups (25.0%–36.4%).
- When comparing differences by nativity, a higher percentage of U.S.-born Hispanic women had

not had a child (49.6%) compared with Hispanic women born outside of the United States (20.7%). A lower percentage of Hispanic women (37.9%) had not had a child compared with non-Hispanic white (47.0%), non-Hispanic black (42.9%), and non-Hispanic Asian (51.1%) women.

Table 3 shows the percent distribution and mean number of children fathered by men aged 15–44 by selected demographic characteristics. The mean number of children fathered by men in 2011–2015 (0.9) was unchanged from 2006–2010. In 2011–2015, 56.2% of men had not fathered a biological child, 15.6% had fathered one biological child, 16.2% had fathered two children, 8.1% had fathered three children, and 3.9% had fathered four or more children. A similar percent distribution of the number of biological children fathered by men occurred in 2006–2010.

- In 2011–2015, the majority of men aged 15–24 had not had a biological child (92.4%), and at age 40–44, 19.6% had not had a child.
- Currently married men reported the highest mean number of children (1.7), followed by formerly married (1.4) and currently cohabiting (1.2) men. A higher percentage of currently married men fathered four or more biological children (7.5%) compared with currently cohabiting (5.2%) and never married (0.3%)

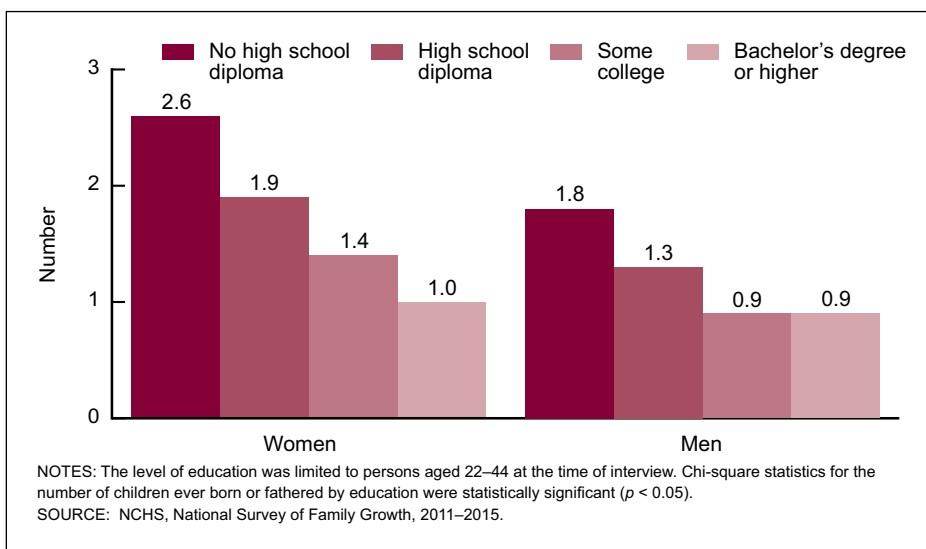


Figure 2. Mean number of children ever born to women and men aged 22–44, by education: United States, 2011–2015

men, but the percentage was similar to formerly married (7.1%).

- Men with no high school diploma or GED had fathered a higher mean number of children (1.8) compared with men who had a high school diploma (1.3) or those with some college (0.9) or a bachelor's degree or higher (0.9).
- Men aged 20–44 currently living in households with incomes of 300% of the federal poverty level or higher on average fathered 0.9 children compared with an average 1.3 children for men living in households with incomes of 0%–149% of the federal poverty level and an average 1.1 children for men living in households with incomes of 150%–299% of the federal poverty level.
- Higher percentages of U.S.-born Hispanic men had not fathered a child (61.6%) compared with Hispanic men born outside of the United States (36.3%). Hispanic men (50.2%) were less likely to have not fathered a child compared with non-Hispanic white (57.7%) and non-Hispanic Asian (64.4%) men but were similar to non-Hispanic black men (53.4%).

Timing of first birth

Table 4 focuses on men and women who have had a child and shows their mean age at first birth, as well as the percent distribution by age at first birth. In 2011–2015, the mean age at first birth among women who had ever had a child was 23.1, which was similar to the mean age at first birth in 2006–2010 (23.0). The percentage of women whose first birth occurred at age 30 or over was similar in 2011–2015 (14.2%) to 2006–2010 (13.6%). For men, the mean age at first birth in 2011–2015 (25.5) and 2006–2010 (25.1) was similar.

- In 2011–2015, more than one-half of first births occurred among women in their 20s (33.0% among those aged 20–24 and 21.5% among those aged 25–29) and nearly one-third occurred at ages younger than 20 (31.2%). About two-thirds of first births occurred among men in their 20s (32.4% among those aged 20–24

and 30.7% among those aged 25–29) and nearly one out of eight occurred among those under age 20 (13.8%).

- Women aged 15–24 and 25–29 were more likely to have had a first birth before age 20 (61.3% and 35.3%, respectively) than older women (25.2%–27.2%). This same pattern did not exist among men.
- A higher percentage of currently married women have had a first birth at age 30 and over (20.2%) than those who were not married (4.7%–8.2%). This relationship also holds for men.
- College-educated women were more likely to have had a first birth at age 30 and over (35.0%) compared with women with lower levels of education (3.4%–9.6%). The same pattern holds for men. For both men and women aged 22–44, the higher the level of education, the lower the percentage who have had a first birth before age 20. For example, 53.9% of women who had less than a high school education have had a first birth before age 20 compared with 5.5% of women with a bachelor's degree or higher (Figure 3).
- Women currently living in households with incomes of 300% of the federal poverty level or higher were more likely to have

had a first birth at age 30 and over (29.0%) compared with women living in households with lower incomes (6.1%–10.3%). The same relationship holds for men. Men currently living in households with incomes of 300% of the federal poverty level or higher were more likely to have had a first birth at age 30 and over (35.2%) compared with those living in households with lower incomes (11.2%–18.9%).

- The mean age at first birth among those who had ever had a child was highest for non-Hispanic Asian women (26.7), followed by non-Hispanic white (24.1), Hispanic (21.5), and non-Hispanic black (21.2) women. A similar pattern exists among men.

Another way to examine the timing of first births in the U.S. population is to use life table methodology to calculate the cumulative probability of having had a birth by selected ages (Table 5 and Figure 4). In 2011–2015, the probability of a woman having had a birth was 8% by age 18 and 83% by age 40 (Figure 4). For men, the probability of having fathered a child was 2% by age 18 and 78% by age 40. Among those aged 15–44, the probability of having a child by age 40 decreased among women from 2006–2010 (85%) to 2011–2015 (83%)

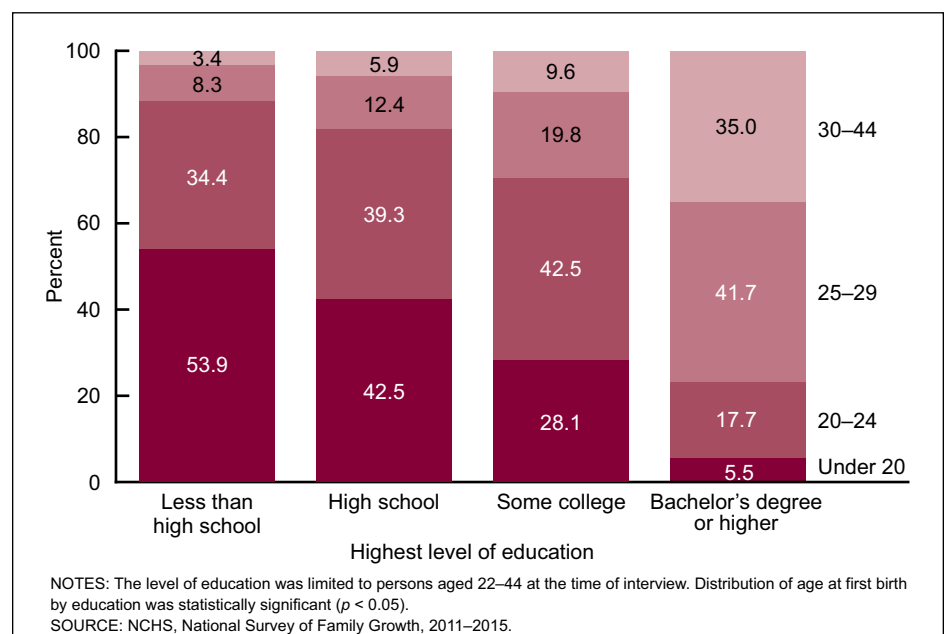


Figure 3. Percent distribution of age at first birth for women aged 22–44, by education: United States, 2011–2015

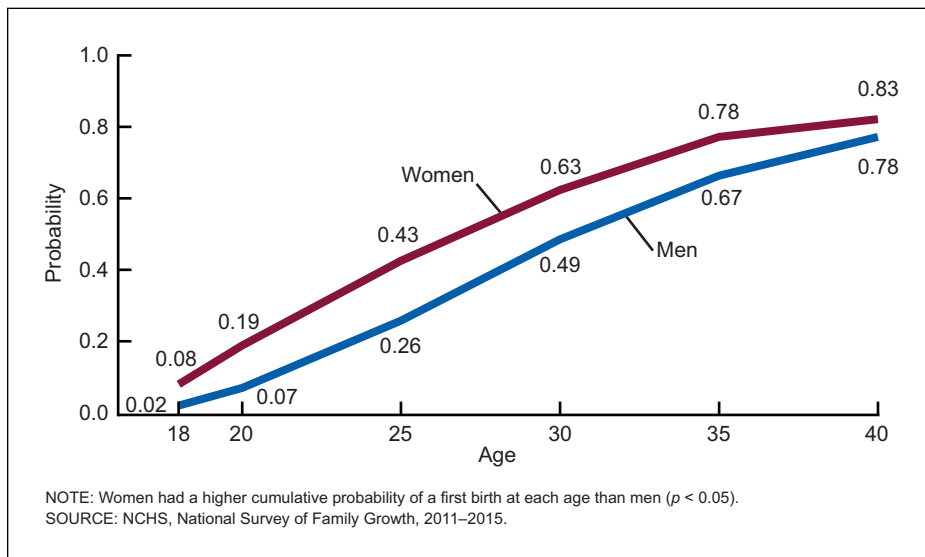


Figure 4. Probability of a first birth, by selected age for women and men aged 15–44: United States, 2011–2015

and increased slightly for men (76% compared with 78%) (Table 5).

- Women and men with lower levels of education were more likely to have had a child by age 20 than those with higher levels of education. For example, 50% of women who did not graduate from high school have had a birth by age 20 compared with 3% of those who had at least a college degree.
- Women currently living in households with incomes less than 150% of the federal poverty level were more likely to have had a birth by age 20 (33%) compared with women living with household incomes at 300% of the federal poverty level or higher (7%). Among men, those currently living with the highest household incomes relative to the federal poverty level were less likely to have fathered a child by age 20 (4%) compared with those with the lowest household incomes relative to the federal poverty level (12%).
- There were significant differences by Hispanic origin and race in the probability of having had a first birth by age 20. Hispanic (28%) and non-Hispanic black (28%) women had a higher probability of having had a first birth by age 20, followed by non-Hispanic white (14%) and non-Hispanic Asian (4%) women. Non-Hispanic black men (12%) were

most likely to have had a first birth by age 20, followed by Hispanic (9%), non-Hispanic white (5%), and non-Hispanic Asian (less than 1%) men. U.S.-born Hispanic men (8%) and women (27%) were less likely to have had a first birth by age 20 than Hispanic men and women born outside of the United States (10% and 30%, respectively).

Birth spacing

Based on women aged 15–44 in 2011–2015 who had at least one birth in their lifetime, Table 6 shows variations in birth spacing (or birth intervals) between their first and second birth (if any at the time of interview) by selected characteristics. The distribution of birth spacing in 2011–2015 is similar to that in 2006–2010.

- In 2011–2015, nearly one-third of women aged 15–44 in the United States with a birth had only one birth (31.7%). About one-third of women had their second birth within 36 months of the first birth (22.8% within 26 months and 12.7% within 27–36 months). About one-third of women had a second birth more than 3 years after their first birth (10.2% within 37–48 months and 22.6% at 49 or more months).
- Higher percentages of women in older age groups at the time of their

first birth did not have a second birth. For example, 50.3% of women aged 30–44 at the time of their first birth did not have a second birth compared with 31.2% of women aged 20–24.

- A higher percentage of women under age 20 at the time of their first birth had a second birth within 26 months of the first birth (26.1%) compared with women aged 20–24 (21.3%).
- The percentage of women who had a second birth 49 months or more after their first birth decreased as their age at first birth increased. For example, 29.1% of women under 20 at the time of their first birth had a second birth 49 months or later after their first birth compared with 7.8% of women aged 30–44.
- The percentages of women who had a second birth within 26 months among those who were married (24.7%) or cohabiting (23.4%) at the time of their first birth were higher than the percentages for women who were formerly married (14.2%) or never married (18.8%).
- A higher percentage of women who had never been married at the time of their first birth had a birth interval of 49 or more months (27.9%) compared with women who were married (19.9%) or cohabiting (22.4%) at the time of their first birth.
- The percentage of women without a high school diploma or GED who had a second birth within 26 months of their first birth (29.7%) was similar to the percentage for women with a high school diploma or GED (25.1%). The percentage of women with some college but no bachelor's degree who had a second birth within 26 months of their first birth (19.8%) was similar to the percentage for women with a bachelor's degree or higher (21.6%). The percentage of women with a high school diploma or GED who had a second birth within 26 months of their first birth (25.1%) was similar to the percentage for women with a bachelor's degree or higher (21.6%).
- About one in seven women with a bachelor's degree or higher had a birth interval of 49 or more months (15.4%) compared with about one in

four women in the other education groups (25.4%–27.8%).

- A higher percentage of women with higher household incomes relative to the federal poverty level did not have a second birth. For example, 37.0% of women with household incomes at 300% or higher of the federal poverty level did not have a second birth compared with 27.6% of women with household incomes of less than 150% of the federal poverty level.
- A higher percentage of women with household incomes of 0%–149% of the federal poverty level had a second birth within 26 months of their first birth (26.3%) compared with women with household incomes of 150%–299% of the federal poverty level (20.6%) or women with household incomes of 300% or higher of the federal poverty level (20.2%).
- A higher percentage of women with household incomes relative to the federal poverty level of 0%–149% (23.4%) and 150%–299% (26.0%) had a second birth 49 months or more after their first birth compared with women with a household income of 300% or higher than the federal poverty level (19.5%).
- The percentage of Hispanic women born in the United States who had a second birth within 26 months of their first birth (21.2%) was similar to the percentage among Hispanic women born outside of the United States (27.0%). The percentage of Hispanic women (regardless of nativity) who had a second birth within 26 months (24.2%) was similar to the percentage for non-Hispanic white (22.6%), non-Hispanic black (21.7%), and non-Hispanic Asian (17.6%) women. The only comparison among all Hispanic-origin and race groups shown for women that was statistically significant was a higher percentage of Hispanic women born outside of the United States who had a second birth within 26 months (27.0%) compared with non-Hispanic Asian women (17.6%).
- The percentage of Hispanic women born in the United States who had a

second birth 49 months or later after their first birth (25.1%) was similar to the percentage among Hispanic women born outside of the United States (31.2%). The percentage of Hispanic women (regardless of nativity) who had a second birth 49 months or later after their first birth (28.2%) was higher than the percentage for non-Hispanic white (20.9%), non-Hispanic black (22.1%), and non-Hispanic Asian (19.3%) women.

Summary

This report presents selected fertility indicators for men and women aged 15–44 in the United States based on 2011–2015 NSFG data. Measures of fertility include having had any biological children, the number of biological children, age at first child's birth, and birth intervals for women with at least one child. The fertility experience of men and women differs across various characteristics, including education, household income relative to the federal poverty level, and Hispanic origin and race. The overall results reported for 2011–2015 are generally similar to those based on the 2006–2010 NSFG.

In 2011–2015, 54.9% of women and 43.8% of men aged 15–44 in the United States had a biological child. The mean number of births reported by women aged 15–44 in 2011–2015 was 1.2, and the mean number of births reported by men aged 15–44 was 0.9.

Among men and women aged 15–44 in 2011–2015 who had ever had a biological child, the mean age at first birth (25.5 and 23.1, respectively) was statistically unchanged from 2006–2010. Among women, about one-third had their first birth in their teens, and more than one-half had them in their 20s. Among men, one in six fathered their first child in their teens, and two-thirds fathered them in their 20s. This difference may also be explained in part by age differences between women and men in sexual relationships (27).

The frequently documented differences in birth rates and birth timing by Hispanic origin and race continue (1,3,28). On average, the number of

children ever born is highest for Hispanic women followed by non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic white women, which is explained partly by a higher age at first birth for non-Hispanic white women compared with Hispanic and non-Hispanic black women. In 2011–2015, non-Hispanic white women had the fewest number of children and the oldest mean age at first birth compared with Hispanic women and non-Hispanic black women. However, non-Hispanic Asian women had the highest mean age at first birth. These differences may be explained in part by differences in age structure among these different groups. The probability of having a first birth before age 20 is highest for Hispanic and non-Hispanic black women and lowest for non-Hispanic Asian women. Among men, the probability of fathering a baby before age 20 is highest for non-Hispanic black men, followed by Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, and non-Hispanic Asian men.

Looking at differences by educational attainment, men and women with lower levels of education were more likely to have had a birth, to have had more children, and to have had their first child at younger ages compared with men and women with higher levels of education. As mentioned earlier, education was measured at the time of interview, not at the time of the child's birth, so the bivariate association seen in cross-sectional data like NSFG may be due partly to early childbearing curtailing additional education for younger parents.

In presenting these key findings on selected fertility measures for men and women in the United States, some limitations of the data must be noted. Some measures are assessed at the time of interview, such as household income relative to the federal poverty level, and may not reflect cause-and-effect relationships. Bivariate associations described in this report may be explained by age and other characteristics included or not included in this report. The 2011–2015 pooled NSFG data do not include persons over the age of 44 and may not describe completed fertility for men or women nor information about birth spacing among later child bearers, because the birth of their next child may occur past the survey's age

range. In addition, the age range of the NSFG does not allow for examination of birth spacing or completed fertility of women who start childbearing at a later age and who may go on to have the same number of children as women who started childbearing at an earlier age. Similarly, these fertility measures may be particularly incomplete for men, because men are more likely than women to father children after age 44. Starting in the fall of 2015, the NSFG age range was expanded from 15–44 to 15–49, which will allow future descriptions and analyses of fertility to cover more of the upper end of the reproductive years. Nonetheless, the NSFG is a rich source of data on proximate determinants of fertility, which help explain variations in birth rates obtained from the National Vital Statistics System.

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Table 1. Percentage of women and men aged 15–44 who ever had a biological child: United States, 2011–2015

Characteristic	Women		Men	
	Number (thousands)	Percent (standard error)	Number (thousands)	Percent (standard error)
Total¹				
2011–2015.....	61,263	54.9 (0.90)	60,875	43.8 (0.92)
2006–2010.....	61,755	55.6 (1.09)	62,128	44.8 (1.06)
Age group				
15–24.....	19,937	17.1 (1.02)	20,596	7.6 (0.72)
25–29.....	10,550	52.1 (1.83)	10,472	37.2 (1.82)
30–34.....	10,540	76.2 (1.59)	10,290	58.6 (1.75)
35–39.....	9,787	80.0 (1.69)	9,462	74.8 (1.88)
40–44.....	10,449	85.0 (1.21)	10,055	80.4 (1.48)
Marital or cohabiting status				
Currently married.....	23,342	80.4 (1.14)	22,041	80.0 (1.20)
Currently cohabiting.....	9,035	59.4 (1.99)	8,078	54.6 (2.25)
Never married, not cohabiting.....	23,787	21.3 (1.05)	27,648	8.8 (0.62)
Formerly married, not cohabiting.....	5,099	86.8 (1.52)	3,107	70.1 (2.40)
Education²				
No high school diploma or GED.....	4,786	93.3 (1.07)	6,130	74.4 (2.40)
High school diploma or GED.....	11,422	80.7 (1.24)	13,205	61.8 (1.48)
Some college, no bachelor's degree.....	14,601	66.8 (1.33)	13,822	49.4 (1.77)
Bachelor's degree or higher.....	16,813	53.8 (1.54)	13,448	48.9 (2.00)
Percent of federal poverty level³				
0–149.....	19,371	75.0 (1.33)	14,147	57.1 (1.74)
150–299.....	13,175	63.6 (1.32)	14,162	53.6 (1.74)
300 or higher.....	19,235	54.0 (1.45)	22,569	47.9 (1.59)
Hispanic origin and race				
Hispanic or Latino.....	12,303	62.1 (1.30)	12,908	49.8 (1.66)
Native born.....	7,311	50.4 (1.79)	7,090	38.4 (2.17)
Foreign born.....	4,991	79.3 (1.71)	5,818	63.7 (2.61)
Not Hispanic or Latino.....	34,087	53.0 (1.24)	34,304	42.3 (1.23)
White, single race.....	8,407	57.1 (1.39)	7,286	46.6 (2.00)
Black or African American, single race.....	3,161	48.9 (3.94)	3,180	35.6 (3.32)

¹Includes persons of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.

²Limited to persons aged 22–44 at the time of interview.

³Limited to persons aged 20–44 at the time of interview.

NOTE: Chi-square statistics for "ever had a biological child" were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

SOURCE: NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2011–2015.

Table 2. Number of children born to women aged 15–44: United States, 2011–2015

Characteristic	Number (thousands)	Mean (standard error)	Total	Percent distribution							
				None (standard error)	One (standard error)	Two (standard error)	Three (standard error)	Four or more (standard error)			
Total¹											
2011–2015	61,263	1.2 (0.02)	100.0	45.1 (0.90)	17.1 (0.47)	19.7 (0.60)	11.9 (0.51)	6.2 (0.38)			
2006–2010	61,755	1.3 (0.03)	100.0	44.4 (1.09)	16.2 (0.54)	21.0 (0.75)	11.5 (0.49)	6.9 (0.47)			
Age group											
15–24	19,937	0.2 (0.02)	100.0	82.9 (1.02)	11.6 (0.71)	4.0 (0.40)	1.4 (0.25)	0.1 (0.05)			
25–29	10,550	1.0 (0.04)	100.0	47.9 (1.83)	22.5 (1.10)	16.0 (1.19)	9.9 (0.92)	3.8 (0.45)			
30–34	10,540	1.7 (0.05)	100.0	23.8 (1.59)	22.5 (1.31)	27.3 (1.53)	17.4 (1.41)	9.0 (0.86)			
35–39	9,787	1.9 (0.06)	100.0	20.0 (1.69)	16.9 (1.17)	32.8 (1.68)	19.3 (1.48)	11.1 (1.18)			
40–44	10,449	2.1 (0.05)	100.0	15.0 (1.21)	16.8 (1.35)	33.7 (1.78)	22.0 (1.54)	12.6 (1.25)			
Marital or cohabiting status											
Currently married	23,342	1.8 (0.03)	100.0	19.6 (1.14)	20.4 (0.89)	33.3 (1.17)	18.4 (1.04)	8.4 (0.72)			
Currently cohabiting	9,035	1.2 (0.05)	100.0	40.6 (1.99)	23.1 (1.42)	17.9 (1.25)	11.2 (1.14)	7.2 (0.84)			
Never married, not cohabiting	23,787	0.4 (0.02)	100.0	78.7 (1.05)	10.5 (0.63)	5.4 (0.41)	3.5 (0.36)	2.0 (0.26)			
Formerly married, not cohabiting	5,099	2.1 (0.06)	100.0	13.2 (1.52)	22.0 (1.75)	27.7 (2.23)	23.3 (1.99)	13.9 (1.55)			
Education²											
No high school diploma or GED	4,786	2.6 (0.06)	100.0	6.7 (1.07)	16.2 (1.69)	26.1 (1.96)	27.4 (2.18)	23.5 (1.75)			
High school diploma or GED	11,422	1.9 (0.05)	100.0	19.3 (1.24)	21.4 (1.26)	27.6 (1.34)	20.2 (1.39)	11.5 (1.13)			
Some college, no bachelor's degree	14,601	1.4 (0.04)	100.0	33.2 (1.33)	21.2 (1.03)	24.9 (1.32)	14.9 (1.02)	5.9 (0.66)			
Bachelor's degree or higher	16,813	1.0 (0.04)	100.0	46.2 (1.54)	19.0 (1.20)	23.1 (1.26)	8.9 (0.92)	2.8 (0.52)			
Percent of federal poverty level³											
0–149	19,371	1.8 (0.05)	100.0	25.0 (1.33)	20.3 (0.83)	22.9 (0.93)	18.5 (0.98)	13.3 (0.82)			
150–299	13,175	1.4 (0.04)	100.0	36.4 (1.32)	18.6 (1.07)	24.9 (1.41)	14.7 (1.33)	5.3 (0.76)			
300 or higher	19,235	1.0 (0.04)	100.0	46.0 (1.45)	19.5 (1.07)	22.6 (1.20)	9.3 (0.82)	2.6 (0.51)			
Hispanic origin and race											
Hispanic or Latina	12,303	1.5 (0.04)	100.0	37.9 (1.30)	16.6 (1.07)	20.4 (1.09)	15.2 (1.09)	9.9 (0.92)			
Native born	7,311	1.1 (0.05)	100.0	49.6 (1.79)	16.8 (1.42)	17.0 (1.36)	9.6 (1.04)	7.0 (0.98)			
Foreign born	4,991	2.0 (0.07)	100.0	20.7 (1.71)	16.3 (1.77)	25.4 (1.89)	23.5 (2.23)	14.1 (1.66)			
Not Hispanic or Latina											
White, single race	34,087	1.1 (0.03)	100.0	47.0 (1.24)	16.4 (0.71)	21.0 (0.91)	11.5 (0.72)	4.1 (0.44)			
Black or African American, single race	8,407	1.3 (0.05)	100.0	42.9 (1.39)	20.5 (1.27)	15.3 (0.94)	11.4 (0.84)	9.9 (0.96)			
Asian, single race	3,163	0.9 (0.10)	100.0	51.1 (3.94)	18.2 (2.41)	21.4 (3.14)	5.5 (1.36)	*			

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes persons of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.²Limited to persons aged 22–44 at the time of interview.³Limited to persons aged 20–44 at the time of interview.NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Chi-square statistics for each variable by number of children born were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

SOURCE: NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2011–2015.

Table 3. Number of biological children fathered by men aged 15–44: United States, 2011–2015

Characteristic	Number (thousands)	Mean (standard error)	Total	Percent distribution					
				None (standard error)	One (standard error)	Two (standard error)	Three (standard error)	Four or more (standard error)	
Total¹									
2011–2015	60,875	0.9 (0.02)	100.0	56.2 (0.92)	15.6 (0.58)	16.2 (0.66)	8.1 (0.49)	3.9 (0.33)	
2006–2010	62,128	0.9 (0.02)	100.0	55.2 (1.06)	15.8 (0.64)	17.0 (0.71)	7.9 (0.47)	4.1 (0.33)	
Age group									
15–24	20,596	0.1 (0.01)	100.0	92.4 (0.72)	5.8 (0.68)	1.4 (0.21)	0.5 (0.12)	0.0 (0.02)	
25–29	10,472	0.6 (0.04)	100.0	62.8 (1.82)	21.1 (1.42)	10.8 (1.12)	4.0 (0.61)	1.3 (0.41)	
30–34	10,290	1.2 (0.05)	100.0	41.4 (1.75)	21.0 (1.43)	22.0 (1.52)	11.1 (1.02)	4.5 (0.76)	
35–39	9,462	1.7 (0.06)	100.0	25.2 (1.88)	20.0 (1.83)	32.7 (2.05)	14.1 (1.75)	8.0 (1.11)	
40–44	10,055	1.9 (0.05)	100.0	19.6 (1.48)	20.2 (1.44)	30.9 (1.89)	19.2 (1.81)	10.1 (1.45)	
Marital or cohabiting status									
Currently married	22,041	1.7 (0.04)	100.0	20.0 (1.20)	22.4 (1.06)	33.2 (1.37)	17.0 (1.17)	7.5 (0.78)	
Currently cohabiting	8,078	1.2 (0.05)	100.0	45.4 (2.25)	25.5 (2.00)	15.9 (1.46)	7.9 (1.10)	5.2 (0.85)	
Never married, not cohabiting	27,648	0.1 (0.01)	100.0	91.2 (0.62)	6.2 (0.51)	1.6 (0.20)	0.7 (0.13)	0.3 (0.07)	
Formerly married, not cohabiting	3,107	1.4 (0.06)	100.0	29.9 (2.40)	25.1 (2.19)	26.9 (2.30)	10.9 (1.72)	7.1 (1.18)	
Education²									
No high school diploma or GED	6,130	1.8 (0.09)	100.0	25.6 (2.40)	21.1 (1.94)	26.4 (2.05)	13.8 (1.69)	13.0 (1.79)	
High school diploma or GED	13,205	1.3 (0.04)	100.0	38.2 (1.48)	23.2 (1.28)	21.0 (1.42)	12.3 (1.02)	5.2 (0.88)	
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,822	0.9 (0.04)	100.0	50.6 (1.77)	18.6 (1.14)	18.2 (1.29)	8.8 (0.83)	3.8 (0.60)	
Bachelor's degree or higher	13,448	0.9 (0.05)	100.0	51.1 (2.00)	15.4 (1.27)	21.8 (1.51)	9.0 (1.27)	2.6 (0.55)	
Percent of federal poverty level³									
0–149	14,147	1.3 (0.05)	100.0	42.9 (1.74)	19.1 (1.32)	17.3 (1.22)	11.8 (1.27)	8.9 (1.16)	
150–299	14,162	1.1 (0.05)	100.0	46.4 (1.74)	19.1 (1.21)	20.0 (1.32)	9.6 (0.86)	4.9 (0.75)	
300 or higher	22,569	0.9 (0.04)	100.0	52.1 (1.59)	17.3 (0.93)	20.4 (1.12)	8.4 (0.93)	1.9 (0.37)	
Hispanic origin and race									
Hispanic or Latino	12,908	1.1 (0.04)	100.0	50.2 (1.66)	15.8 (1.34)	18.2 (1.25)	9.6 (0.93)	6.2 (0.82)	
Native born	7,090	0.8 (0.06)	100.0	61.6 (2.17)	13.2 (1.28)	14.5 (1.33)	7.4 (1.18)	3.3 (0.75)	
Foreign born	5,818	1.5 (0.08)	100.0	36.3 (2.61)	19.0 (2.37)	22.8 (1.99)	12.3 (1.68)	9.6 (1.68)	
Not Hispanic or Latino									
White, single race	34,304	0.8 (0.03)	100.0	57.7 (1.23)	15.0 (0.76)	16.9 (0.92)	7.7 (0.70)	2.7 (0.35)	
Black or African American, single race	7,286	1.0 (0.05)	100.0	53.4 (2.00)	17.7 (1.37)	14.4 (1.30)	9.0 (1.18)	5.5 (0.93)	
Asian, single race	3,180	0.8 (0.80)	100.0	64.4 (3.32)	17.2 (2.58)	10.8 (1.88)	*	*	

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes persons of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.²Limited to persons aged 22–44 at the time of interview.³Limited to persons aged 20–44 at the time of interview.NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Chi-square statistics for each variable by number of children fathered were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

SOURCE:NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2011–2015.

Table 4. Age at first child's birth for women and men aged 15–44: United States, 2011–2015

Characteristic	Women						
	Number (thousands)	Mean (standard error)	Total	Under 20 (standard error)	20–24 (standard error)	25–29 (standard error)	30–44 (standard error)
Total¹				Percent distribution			
2011–2015	33,645	23.1 (0.16)	100.0	31.2 (1.20)	33.0 (0.92)	21.5 (0.97)	14.2 (0.76)
2006–2010	34,353	23.0 (0.16)	100.0	31.1 (1.14)	34.5 (1.06)	20.7 (0.97)	13.6 (0.84)
Age group							
15–24	3,401	18.9 (0.12)	100.0	61.3 (2.93)	38.7 (2.93)
25–29	5,500	21.1 (0.13)	100.0	35.3 (1.84)	46.7 (1.93)	18.0 (1.60)	...
30–34	8,032	23.1 (0.18)	100.0	27.2 (1.66)	35.3 (1.60)	25.9 (2.00)	11.7 (1.42)
35–39	7,833	24.1 (0.26)	100.0	26.3 (1.91)	28.5 (1.96)	24.6 (1.82)	20.5 (1.54)
40–44	8,878	25.0 (0.30)	100.0	25.2 (2.13)	24.5 (1.72)	25.0 (1.86)	25.3 (1.87)
Marital or cohabiting status							
Currently married	18,778	24.7 (0.18)	100.0	19.2 (1.23)	31.2 (1.20)	29.4 (1.37)	20.2 (1.06)
Currently cohabiting	5,368	21.1 (0.24)	100.0	43.8 (2.46)	38.4 (2.18)	10.5 (1.09)	7.3 (1.31)
Never married, not cohabiting	5,074	20.3 (0.17)	100.0	51.8 (2.23)	34.9 (1.99)	8.6 (1.01)	4.7 (0.70)
Formerly married, not cohabiting	4,425	21.6 (0.27)	100.0	43.6 (2.51)	32.5 (2.30)	15.7 (1.94)	8.2 (1.29)
Education²							
No high school diploma or GED	4,465	20.1 (0.16)	100.0	53.9 (2.01)	34.4 (1.86)	8.3 (1.03)	3.4 (0.66)
High school diploma or GED	9,219	21.1 (0.16)	100.0	42.5 (1.90)	39.3 (1.54)	12.4 (1.24)	5.9 (0.76)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	9,754	22.7 (0.17)	100.0	28.1 (1.70)	42.5 (1.72)	19.8 (1.32)	9.6 (1.13)
Bachelor's degree or higher	9,043	27.8 (0.23)	100.0	5.5 (1.10)	17.7 (1.81)	41.7 (1.96)	35.0 (1.81)
Percent of federal poverty level³							
0–149	14,786	21.0 (0.13)	100.0	44.7 (1.42)	36.8 (1.25)	12.4 (0.91)	6.1 (0.61)
150–299	8,445	22.8 (0.19)	100.0	29.2 (1.74)	39.0 (1.68)	21.5 (1.57)	10.3 (0.92)
300 or higher	10,414	26.3 (0.21)	100.0	13.8 (1.27)	22.9 (1.67)	34.3 (1.92)	29.0 (1.65)
Hispanic origin and race							
Hispanic or Latina	7,646	21.5 (0.17)	100.0	40.6 (1.88)	36.3 (1.74)	15.1 (1.39)	7.9 (0.73)
Native born	3,688	21.0 (0.25)	100.0	45.4 (2.78)	34.0 (2.14)	13.0 (2.01)	7.6 (1.20)
Foreign born	3,957	22.0 (0.18)	100.0	36.2 (2.00)	38.5 (2.40)	17.1 (1.88)	8.2 (0.91)
Not Hispanic or Latina	18,065	24.1 (0.24)	100.0	24.8 (1.56)	31.1 (1.27)	26.2 (1.48)	17.9 (1.29)
White, single race	4,802	21.2 (0.20)	100.0	44.9 (2.29)	36.0 (2.27)	10.8 (1.25)	8.2 (1.22)
Black or African American, single race	1,545	26.7 (0.46)	100.0	7.2 (2.03)	27.6 (5.28)	38.0 (5.31)	27.2 (3.83)

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Age at first child's birth for women and men aged 15–44: United States, 2011–2015 —Con.

Characteristic	Number (thousands)	Mean (standard error)	Total	Men			
				Under 20 (standard error)	20–24 (standard error)	25–29 (standard error)	30–44 (standard error)
Total ¹				Percent distribution			
2011–2015	26,661	25.5 (0.16)	100.0	13.8 (0.87)	32.4 (1.30)	30.7 (1.20)	23.1 (1.30)
2006–2010	27,821	25.1 (0.15)	100.0	14.6 (0.83)	35.4 (1.29)	29.8 (1.24)	20.2 (1.10)
Age group							
15–24	1,572	19.7 (0.20)	100.0	45.2 (4.31)	54.8 (4.31)
25–29	3,893	22.8 (0.15)	100.0	14.9 (2.00)	53.3 (2.83)	31.8 (2.70)	...
30–34	6,031	24.7 (0.20)	100.0	15.6 (1.92)	31.5 (2.51)	37.3 (2.45)	15.5 (1.77)
35–39	7,079	26.7 (0.28)	100.0	8.5 (1.29)	26.8 (2.10)	35.3 (2.21)	29.4 (2.27)
40–44	8,085	27.6 (0.28)	100.0	10.6 (1.63)	23.4 (1.85)	27.0 (1.97)	39.0 (2.52)
Marital or cohabiting status							
Currently married	17,642	26.6 (0.22)	100.0	9.6 (1.08)	26.9 (1.80)	34.4 (1.55)	29.2 (1.86)
Currently cohabiting	4,407	23.2 (0.25)	100.0	23.3 (2.27)	44.0 (3.12)	22.9 (2.66)	9.8 (1.75)
Never married, not cohabiting	2,434	22.8 (0.34)	100.0	27.1 (2.87)	44.8 (3.32)	18.4 (2.31)	9.7 (1.94)
Formerly married, not cohabiting	2,178	24.5 (0.32)	100.0	14.5 (2.06)	39.5 (3.04)	29.8 (2.60)	16.2 (2.10)
Education ²							
No high school diploma or GED	4,559	22.9 (0.23)	100.0	23.1 (2.36)	46.8 (2.93)	22.1 (2.26)	8.0 (1.57)
High school diploma or GED	8,158	24.1 (0.19)	100.0	17.9 (1.54)	41.8 (2.03)	26.6 (1.97)	13.6 (1.27)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	6,834	25.6 (0.23)	100.0	10.1 (1.44)	32.9 (2.41)	37.5 (2.25)	19.5 (2.14)
Bachelor's degree or higher	6,570	29.7 (0.25)	100.0	1.1 (0.44)	10.8 (1.29)	37.0 (2.25)	51.1 (2.64)
Percent of federal poverty level ³							
0–149	8,213	23.4 (0.18)	100.0	21.8 (1.66)	44.3 (2.14)	22.8 (1.84)	11.2 (1.23)
150–299	7,617	25.1 (0.21)	100.0	13.5 (1.33)	34.9 (2.19)	32.7 (2.24)	18.9 (1.92)
300 or higher	10,831	27.5 (0.28)	100.0	8.1 (1.16)	21.6 (1.78)	35.2 (1.91)	35.2 (2.35)
Hispanic origin and race							
Hispanic or Latino	6,432	24.3 (0.22)	100.0	16.4 (1.54)	41.1 (2.20)	26.7 (2.46)	15.7 (1.80)
Native born	2,724	24.2 (0.39)	100.0	18.3 (2.19)	40.4 (3.13)	25.5 (3.38)	15.8 (2.68)
Foreign born	3,709	24.4 (0.29)	100.0	15.1 (2.04)	41.7 (3.11)	27.5 (3.10)	15.7 (2.81)
Not Hispanic or Latino							
White, single race	14,506	26.3 (0.23)	100.0	10.1 (1.08)	28.6 (1.80)	34.5 (1.49)	26.7 (1.90)
Black or African American, single race	3,396	23.8 (0.40)	100.0	22.8 (2.06)	37.6 (2.82)	25.0 (2.63)	14.6 (2.83)
Asian, single race	1,132	29.9 (0.84)	100.0	0.4 (0.31)	*	27.6 (4.36)	51.9 (6.45)

... Category not applicable.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes persons of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.²Limited to persons aged 22–44 at the time of interview.³Limited to persons aged 20–44 at the time of interview.NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Chi-square statistics for each variable by age at first birth were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

SOURCE: NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2011–2015.

Table 5. Probability of a first birth, by selected ages for women and men aged 15–44: United States, 2011–2015

Characteristic	Women						Men					
	18	20	25	30	35	40	18	20	25	30	35	40
Total¹												
2011–2015.....	0.08	0.19	0.43	0.63	0.78	0.83	0.02	0.07	0.26	0.49	0.67	0.78
2006–2010.....	0.08	0.19	0.45	0.65	0.80	0.85	0.02	0.07	0.29	0.52	0.68	0.76
Education²												
No high school diploma or GED.....	0.25	0.50	0.83	0.92	0.96	0.97	0.05	0.17	0.53	0.73	0.82	0.85
High school diploma or GED.....	0.14	0.34	0.67	0.80	0.89	0.90	0.03	0.11	0.38	0.61	0.71	0.80
Some college, no bachelor's degree.....	0.07	0.19	0.49	0.68	0.79	0.85	0.01	0.05	0.23	0.50	0.68	0.75
Bachelor's degree or higher.....	0.01	0.03	0.13	0.41	0.66	0.74	0.00	0.01	0.06	0.28	0.58	0.74
Percent of federal poverty level³												
0–149.....	0.15	0.33	0.65	0.80	0.89	0.92	0.04	0.12	0.41	0.63	0.74	0.08
150–299.....	0.07	0.18	0.46	0.68	0.81	0.86	0.01	0.07	0.28	0.55	0.72	0.81
300 or higher.....	0.02	0.07	0.21	0.45	0.66	0.73	0.01	0.04	0.15	0.38	0.60	0.74
Hispanic origin and race												
Hispanic or Latino.....	0.13	0.28	0.59	0.76	0.86	0.89	0.03	0.09	0.37	0.62	0.77	0.84
Native born.....	0.13	0.27	0.54	0.69	0.81	0.85	0.03	0.08	0.32	0.55	0.69	0.80
Foreign born.....	0.13	0.30	0.65	0.82	0.90	0.93	0.02	0.10	0.42	0.67	0.83	0.87
Not Hispanic or Latino.....	0.05	0.14	0.36	0.59	0.76	0.82	0.01	0.05	0.21	0.45	0.65	0.75
White, single race.....	0.13	0.28	0.56	0.68	0.77	0.82	0.04	0.12	0.37	0.59	0.70	0.83
Black or African American, single race.....	0.01	0.04	0.20	0.48	0.69	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.26	0.54	0.72

0.00 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Includes persons of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.²Limited to persons aged 22–44 at the time of interview.³Limited to persons aged 20–44 at the time of interview.NOTES: Probabilities in this table are produced using the life table methodology. All standard errors are $p < 0.001$.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2011–2015.

Table 6. Number of months from first birth to second birth for women aged 15–44: United States, 2011–2015

Characteristic	Number (thousands)	Total	No second birth (standard error)	Interval between first and second birth ¹			
				26 or less (standard error)	27–36 (standard error)	37–48 (standard error)	49 or more (standard error)
Total ²			Percent distribution				
2011–2015	33,645	100.0	31.7 (0.78)	22.8 (0.84)	12.7 (0.65)	10.2 (0.55)	22.6 (0.76)
2006–2010	34,334	100.0	30.0 (0.96)	23.2 (0.87)	14.0 (0.59)	12.3 (0.72)	20.6 (0.78)
Age group at first birth							
Under age 20	10,507	100.0	20.9 (1.31)	26.1 (1.53)	11.7 (0.96)	12.2 (1.07)	29.1 (1.50)
20–24	11,121	100.0	31.2 (1.39)	21.3 (1.25)	11.9 (1.04)	8.9 (0.81)	26.7 (1.46)
25–29	7,220	100.0	35.8 (1.78)	21.4 (1.97)	15.5 (1.58)	10.7 (1.38)	16.6 (1.65)
30–44	4,796	100.0	50.3 (2.72)	21.0 (2.35)	12.5 (1.77)	8.4 (1.23)	7.8 (1.30)
Marital or cohabiting status at first birth							
Married	16,337	100.0	29.5 (1.24)	24.7 (1.26)	15.2 (1.09)	10.8 (0.82)	19.9 (1.12)
Cohabiting	8,685	100.0	35.6 (1.57)	23.4 (1.61)	10.8 (0.92)	7.9 (0.89)	22.4 (1.41)
Formerly married	534	100.0	*	14.2 (4.26)	*	*	*
Never married	8,089	100.0	31.0 (1.56)	18.8 (1.35)	10.5 (0.99)	11.8 (1.20)	27.9 (1.58)
Education ³							
No high school diploma or GED	4,465	100.0	17.6 (1.80)	29.7 (1.92)	14.2 (1.38)	10.7 (1.43)	27.8 (2.05)
High school diploma or GED	9,219	100.0	27.0 (1.52)	25.1 (1.73)	10.8 (0.90)	11.6 (1.24)	25.4 (1.72)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	9,754	100.0	32.4 (1.49)	19.8 (1.34)	11.9 (1.13)	9.2 (0.90)	26.7 (1.57)
Bachelor's degree or higher	9,043	100.0	36.2 (2.09)	21.6 (1.99)	16.1 (1.69)	10.8 (1.16)	15.4 (1.48)
Percent of federal poverty level ⁴							
0–149	14,529	100.0	27.6 (1.10)	26.3 (1.10)	11.7 (0.68)	11.0 (0.81)	23.4 (1.05)
150–299	8,384	100.0	29.9 (1.66)	20.6 (1.60)	13.7 (1.33)	9.8 (1.31)	26.0 (1.67)
300 or higher	10,380	100.0	37.0 (1.79)	20.2 (1.70)	13.6 (1.60)	9.8 (1.01)	19.5 (1.44)
Hispanic origin and race							
Hispanic or Latina	7,646	100.0	27.1 (1.65)	24.2 (1.95)	11.8 (1.13)	8.7 (0.86)	28.2 (1.67)
Native born	3,688	100.0	33.7 (2.41)	21.2 (2.15)	9.7 (1.78)	10.4 (1.54)	25.1 (2.35)
Foreign born	3,957	100.0	20.9 (2.20)	27.0 (2.54)	13.7 (1.75)	7.2 (1.09)	31.2 (2.30)
Not Hispanic or Latina							
White, single race	18,065	100.0	31.9 (1.17)	22.6 (1.12)	13.9 (0.98)	10.8 (0.88)	20.9 (1.09)
Black or African American, single race	4,802	100.0	36.4 (2.07)	21.7 (1.52)	10.9 (1.37)	8.9 (1.13)	22.1 (1.56)
Asian, single race	1,545	100.0	37.2 (4.23)	17.6 (3.29)	10.8 (2.69)	15.1 (3.16)	19.3 (4.12)

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (see Technical Notes for more information).

¹Refers to intervals between deliveries, not intervals between first and second babies born as a multiple birth. Pregnancies resulting in multiple births (e.g., twins) are considered one delivery.

²Includes women of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.

³Limited to women aged 22–44 at the time of interview.

⁴Limited to women aged 20–44 at the time of interview.

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Chi-square tests for differences across groups were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). Includes women aged 15–44 at the time of interview during 2011–2015. First and subsequent births may have occurred at any time in the woman's life and are not limited to specific years.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2011–2015.

Technical Notes

The [Table](#) compares the numbers of births estimated for 2007–2011 based on 2011–2015 data from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) and annual data from the National Center for Health Statistics' National Vital Statistics System (NVSS). The [Table](#) is an assessment of NSFG data quality on births, since NVSS data represents all births registered in the vital records system in the United States. Given that the U.S. birth registration system only includes births occurring within the United States, the NSFG estimates for women in this comparison are limited to births to women who were born in the United States or for births that occurred after women who were born outside the United States came to stay in the United States. Across all years and population subgroups shown, NSFG data do not differ significantly from the number of births recorded in NVSS. The numbers based on vital records fall within the 95% confidence intervals for all the NSFG estimates shown, suggesting that the NSFG-based estimates are reasonably valid.

Information from NVSS was obtained using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's WONDER databases available at: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>. The databases do not include information on paternal characteristics, therefore only maternal characteristics are shown. Beyond this technical limitation, comparisons of information about fathers from birth certificates represent a less precise benchmark to male survey reports in general, such as those from NSFG, since mothers report information for the birth registration system, and not all mothers report information about the fathers of their babies.

Table. Number of births estimated for 2007–2011, based on the 2011–2015 National Survey of Family Growth and vital records

Characteristic	Number (thousands) of births from NSFG	95% confidence interval	Vital records ¹	Ratio of NSFG and vital records
Total²				
1991–1994	15,932	14,935–16,929	16,129	0.99
1997–2001	20,394	18,896–21,892	19,800	1.03
2002–2006	21,084	19,205–22,963	20,597	1.02
2007–2011	20,184	18,591–21,776	20,610	0.98
Birth year				
2011	3,850	3,395–4,304	3,946	0.98
2010	3,890	3,462–4,317	3,992	0.97
2009	4,121	3,696–4,547	4,123	1.00
2008	4,101	3,601–4,601	4,240	0.97
2007	4,222	3,758–4,686	4,309	0.98
Hispanic origin and race				
Hispanic or Latino	4,858	4,069–5,647	4,961	0.98
Not Hispanic or Latino				
White	11,214	9,888–12,540	11,077	1.01
Black or African American	2,623	2,142–3,103	3,027	0.87
Marital status at birth				
Married	11,499	10,321–12,678	12,240	0.94
Unmarried	8,684	7,872–9,496	8,369	1.04
Age group at birth				
15–19	2,021	1,690–2,351	1,987	1.02
20–24	5,053	4,531–5,575	5,017	1.01
25–44	13,088	11,840–14,336	13,579	0.96
25–29	5,898	5,248–6,547	5,832	1.01
30–44	7,191	6,323–8,059	7,747	0.93
Birth order				
First	8,046	7,353–8,740	8,262	0.97
Second	6,733	6,143–7,324	6,465	1.04
Third or higher	5,404	4,668–6,139	5,752	0.94

¹Vital records data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WONDER databases are available from: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>.

²Includes births to persons of other race and origin groups, those with unknown or not stated birth order, and to women under age 15, not shown separately.

NOTES: NSFG is National Survey of Family Growth. The Hispanic origin and race variable is based on the 1977 OMB guidelines to allow comparisons with available vital statistics reports. See the Methods section for further information on the "Hispanic origin and race" variable used for the majority of this report. Persons born outside the United States (50 states and Washington, D.C.) are limited to births occurring after they came to the United States to stay, because data on births occurring outside the United States are not available from vital records.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2011–2015, and CDC WONDER databases.

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