

Data Brief 243: Declines in Triplet and Higher-order Multiple Births in the United States, 1998–2014

Data table for Figure 1. Number and rate of triplet and triplet and higher births: United States, 1980–2014

Year	All births	Triplets	Triplet and higher order ¹	Triplet birth rate ²	Triplet and higher-order birth rate ³
2014	3,988,076	4,233	4,526	106.1	113.5
2013	3,932,181	4,364	4,700	111.0	119.5
2012	3,952,841	4,598	4,919	116.3	124.4
2011	3,953,590	5,137	5,417	129.9	137.0
2010	3,999,386	5,153	5,503	128.8	137.6
2009	4,130,665	5,905	6,340	143.0	153.5
2008	4,247,694	5,877	6,268	138.4	147.6
2007	4,316,233	5,967	6,427	138.2	148.9
2006	4,265,555	6,118	6,540	143.4	153.3
2005	4,138,349	6,208	6,694	150.0	161.8
2004	4,112,052	6,750	7,275	164.2	176.9
2003	4,089,950	7,110	7,663	173.8	187.4
2002	4,021,726	6,898	7,401	171.5	184.0
2001	4,025,933	6,885	7,471	171.0	185.6
2000	4,058,814	6,742	7,325	166.1	180.5
1999	3,959,417	6,742	7,321	170.3	184.9
1998	3,941,553	6,919	7,625	175.5	193.5
1997	3,880,894	6,148	6,737	158.4	173.6
1996	3,891,494	5,298	5,939	136.1	152.6
1995	3,899,589	4,551	4,973	116.7	127.5
1994	3,952,767	4,233	4,594	107.1	116.2
1993	4,000,240	3,834	4,168	95.8	104.2
1992	4,065,014	3,547	3,883	87.3	95.5
1991	4,110,907	3,121	3,346	75.9	81.4
1990	4,158,212	2,830	3,028	68.1	72.8
1989	4,040,958	2,529	2,798	69.2	69.0
1988	3,909,510	---	2,385	---	61.0
1987	3,809,394	---	2,139	---	56.2
1986	3,756,547	---	1,814	---	48.3
1985	3,760,561	---	1,925	---	51.2
1984	3,669,141	---	1,653	---	45.1
1983	3,638,933	---	1,575	---	43.3
1982	3,680,537	---	1,484	---	40.3
1981	3,629,238	---	1,385	---	38.2
1980	3,612,258	---	1,337	---	37.0

--- Data not available.

¹Triplet and higher-order are births in triplet and higher-order multiple deliveries.

²Triplet births per 100,000 total births.

³Triplet and higher-order births per 100,000 total births.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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Data table for Figure 2. Rate of triplet and higher-order births, by age of mother: United States, 1998 and 2014

Age	1998	2014
	Rate per 100,000 total births	
Under 20	17.6	21.7
20–24	47.8	42.9
25–29	156.2	86.1
30–34	360.4	158.3
35–39	409.8	213.1
40–44	433.2	224.5
45 and over	2,326.0	769.9

NOTE: Triplet and higher-order births are births in triplet and higher-order multiple deliveries.
SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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Data table for Figure 3. Triplet and higher-order birth rates, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1998–2014

Year	Non-Hispanic white ¹	Non-Hispanic black ¹	Hispanic ¹
2014	140.9	89.7	64.3
2013	147.2	106.7	71.4
2012	152.9	107.8	70.1
2011	171.0	108.9	78.7
2010	177.7	97.3	76.3
2009	201.4	105.6	83.5
2008	198.1	91.3	80.1
2007	197.3	97.6	80.6
2006	208.1	94.0	75.7
2005	217.8	105.5	77.2
2004	243.4	99.7	76.4
2003	255.0	109.5	85.9
2002	250.4	102.2	84.1
2001	253.3	90.0	83.3
2000	246.3	83.7	80.8
1999	251.8	95.2	76.3
1998	262.8	87.3	75.3

¹Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.
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SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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Data table for Figure 4. Triplet and higher-order multiple birth rates, by state: Combined years 1998–2000 and 2012–2014

State	2012–2014	1998–2000	Percent change
	Rate per 100,000 total births		
Alabama	138.0	170.1	–19
Alaska	*	167.5	*
Arizona	97.3	165.5	–41
Arkansas	95.9	116.7	–18
California	99.2	132.0	–25
Colorado	90.3	159.7	–43
Connecticut	148.7	364.2	–59
Delaware	*	173.3	*
District of Columbia	99.3	109.3	**–9
Florida	109.9	180.8	–39
Georgia	117.7	158.0	–26
Hawaii	122.1	147.6	–17
Idaho	99.7	135.8	–27
Illinois	128.9	262.9	–51
Indiana	124.2	204.4	–39
Iowa	130.2	221.9	–41
Kansas	136.8	142.0	–4
Kentucky	132.4	177.2	–25
Louisiana	141.3	135.7	4
Maine	117.6	166.0	**–29
Maryland	114.7	226.8	–49
Massachusetts	123.5	319.3	–61
Michigan	138.1	234.5	–41
Minnesota	94.8	239.0	–60
Mississippi	86.2	117.2	–26
Missouri	109.7	147.9	–26
Montana	97.5	135.2	**–28
Nebraska	191.5	274.7	–30
Nevada	98.3	163.1	–40
New Hampshire	81.0	253.0	–68
New Jersey	147.0	383.4	–62
New Mexico	85.6	94.2	–9
New York	145.4	243.0	–40
North Carolina	97.8	172.1	–43
North Dakota	155.9	283.9	–45
Ohio	169.6	222.6	–24
Oklahoma	122.3	113.3	8
Oregon	75.9	102.0	–26
Pennsylvania	117.5	203.2	–42
Rhode Island	129.0	322.9	–60
South Carolina	104.3	140.7	–26
South Dakota	101.0	163.7	–38
Tennessee	106.2	146.1	–27
Texas	127.2	140.7	–10
Utah	144.6	171.5	–16
Vermont	*	101.8	*
Virginia	143.0	174.9	–18
Washington	105.1	131.5	–20
West Virginia	103.3	142.8	–28
Wisconsin	108.4	160.5	–32
Wyoming	*	48.3	*

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

** Difference is not statistically significant ($p = 0.05$).

NOTE: Triplet and higher births are births in triplet and higher-order multiple deliveries.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.