

Recent Trends in Births and Fertility Rates Through December 2011

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The provisional count of births in the United States for 2011 was 3,961,000, 1 percent lower than the 4 million births for 2010 (4,000,279) ([Figure](#)) ([1,2](#)). The number of births has steadily declined from the all-time high of 4,316,233 in 2007 ([2](#)), however, the rate of decline slowed from 2010 to 2011.

The provisional fertility rate in the United States for 2011 declined 1 percent to 63.4 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 from 64.1 for 2010 ([Figure](#)) ([1,2](#)). As with the number of births, the fertility rate has steadily declined from the recent high of 69.3 in 2007 ([2](#)), although the rate of decline slowed in 2011.

Data sources and methods

Data for 2005–2009 in the [Figure](#) are final; data for 2010 are preliminary and data for 2011 are provisional ([1,2](#)). Provisional counts and rates are based on 12 months of provisional data ending with the specified month. Provisional counts are rounded to the nearest thousand. For further information about provisional data, see [Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths: Provisional Data for 2009](#) ([3](#)). Rates for 2005–2011 shown in this report are based on intercensal population estimates derived from the 2000 and 2010 censuses. Rates for 2005–2009 may differ from the original rates published in [Births: Final Data for 2009](#) ([4](#)) and earlier reports, which are based on postcensal population estimates derived from the 2000 census alone. Rates based on intercensal population estimates derived from the 2000 and 2010 censuses are generally lower compared with rates based on the postcensal population estimates derived from the 2000 census alone ([2](#)).

References

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