

Recent Trends in Births and Fertility Rates Through June 2011

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The provisional count of births in the United States for the 12-month period ending June 2011 was 3,978,000, which was 2 percent lower than the provisional count of 4,057,000 for the 12-month period ending June 2010 ([Figure](#)) (1). This continues the decline in the number of births from the all-time high of 4,316,233 in 2007 (2); the rate of decline appears to have slowed from January 2011 to June 2011 (1).

The provisional fertility rate in the United States for the 12-month period ending June 2011 declined as well, down 2 percent to 64.4 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 from 65.5 for the 12-month period ending June 2010 ([Figure](#)) (1). This continues the decline in the fertility rate from the 17-year high of 69.5 in 2007 (2), but again, the rate of decline appears to have slowed in the first 6 months of 2011 (1).

Data sources and methods

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). Data for 2005–2009 in the [Figure](#) are final (2). Rates for 2005 through June 2011 shown in this report are based on 2000 (postcensal) population estimates. Rates for 2005–2009 may differ from the revised rates published in [Births: Preliminary Data for 2010](#) (4), which are based on (intercensal) population estimates based on the 2000 and 2010 censuses. Monthly (postcensal) population estimates based on the 2010 census were not available as of the writing of this report. Rates based on 2000 (postcensal) population estimates are generally higher compared with rates based on (intercensal) population estimates based on the 2000 and 2010 censuses (4).

References

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