

Table 4. Live births, by plurality and detailed race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, selected years 1970-2008

(Data are based on birth certificates)

Plurality of birth and race and Hispanic origin of mother	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2008
Number of live births										
All births										
All races.....	3,731,386	3,144,198	3,612,258	3,760,561	4,158,212	3,899,589	4,058,814	4,138,349	4,316,233	4,247,694
White.....	3,109,956	2,576,818	2,936,351	3,037,913	3,290,273	3,098,885	3,194,005	3,229,294	3,336,626	3,274,163
Black or African American.....	561,992	496,829	568,080	581,824	684,336	603,139	622,598	633,134	675,676	670,809
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	22,264	22,690	29,389	34,037	39,051	37,278	41,668	44,813	49,443	49,537
Asian or Pacific Islander ¹	---	28,884	74,355	104,606	141,635	160,287	200,543	231,108	254,488	253,185
Hispanic or Latina ²	---	---	---	---	---	679,768	815,868	985,505	1,062,779	1,041,239
Mexican.....	---	---	---	---	---	469,615	581,915	693,197	722,055	684,883
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	---	---	---	54,824	58,124	63,340	68,488	69,015
Cuban.....	---	---	---	---	---	12,473	13,429	16,064	16,981	16,718
Central and South American.....	---	---	---	---	---	94,996	113,344	151,201	169,851	155,578
Other and unknown Hispanic or Latina.....	---	---	---	---	---	47,860	49,056	61,703	85,404	115,045
Not Hispanic or Latina: ²	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
White.....	---	---	---	---	---	2,382,638	2,362,968	2,279,768	2,310,333	2,267,817
Black or African American.....	---	---	---	---	---	587,781	604,346	583,759	627,191	623,029
Twin births										
All races.....	---	59,192	68,339	77,102	93,865	96,736	118,916	133,122	138,961	138,660
White.....	---	46,715	53,104	60,351	72,617	76,196	93,235	103,367	106,409	105,725
Black or African American.....	---	11,375	13,638	14,646	18,164	17,000	20,626	22,580	24,432	24,312
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	---	348	491	537	699	769	900	1,086	1,186	1,195
Asian or Pacific Islander ¹	---	505	1,045	1,536	2,320	2,771	4,155	6,089	6,934	7,428
Hispanic or Latina ²	---	---	---	---	---	12,685	16,470	21,723	23,405	23,266
Mexican.....	---	---	---	---	---	8,341	11,130	14,080	14,754	13,977
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	---	---	---	1,248	1,461	1,973	2,097	2,071
Cuban.....	---	---	---	---	---	312	371	517	525	557
Central and South American.....	---	---	---	---	---	1,769	2,361	3,540	3,792	3,744
Other and unknown Hispanic or Latina.....	---	---	---	---	---	1,015	1,147	1,613	2,237	2,917
Not Hispanic or Latina: ²	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
White.....	---	---	---	---	---	62,370	76,018	82,223	83,632	82,903
Black or African American.....	---	---	---	---	---	16,622	20,173	21,254	23,101	22,924
Triplet and higher-order multiple births										
All races.....	---	1,066	1,337	1,925	3,028	4,973	7,325	6,694	6,427	6,268
White.....	---	909	1,104	1,648	2,639	4,505	6,551	5,753	5,404	5,343
Black or African American.....	---	151	211	240	321	352	521	646	660	613
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	---	2	9	13	4	20	18	25	39	24
Asian or Pacific Islander ¹	---	4	9	23	61	96	235	270	324	288
Hispanic or Latina ²	---	---	---	---	---	355	659	761	857	834
Mexican.....	---	---	---	---	---	202	391	444	523	470
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	---	---	---	35	73	79	69	83
Cuban.....	---	---	---	---	---	24	15	29	30	30
Central and South American.....	---	---	---	---	---	59	122	152	176	167
Other and unknown Hispanic or Latina.....	---	---	---	---	---	35	58	57	59	84
Not Hispanic or Latina: ²	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
White.....	---	---	---	---	---	4,050	5,821	4,966	4,559	4,493
Black or African American.....	---	---	---	---	---	340	506	616	612	569

---Data not available.

¹Starting with 2003 data, estimates are not available for Asian or Pacific Islander subgroups during the transition from single-race to multiple-race reporting. See Appendix II, Race.

²Prior to 1993, data from states lacking an Hispanic-origin item on the birth certificate were excluded. See Appendix II, Hispanic origin.

NOTES: The race groups, white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with 2003 data, some states reported multiple-race data. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 Office of Management and Budget standards for comparability with other states. See Appendix II, Race. Interpretation of trend data should take into consideration expansion of reporting areas and immigration. Prior to 1993, only a portion of the states reported Hispanic origin on birth certificates. Starting in 1993, Hispanic origin of mother was reported by all 50 states and D.C. Therefore, before 1993, the total number of live births reported for Hispanics and Hispanic subgroups, as well as non-Hispanic whites and blacks, does not include live births in many states. Data for additional years are available. See Appendix III.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Birth File. Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Sutton PD, Ventura SJ, Mathews TJ, Osterman MJK. Births: Final data for 2008. National vital statistics reports; vol 59 no 1. Hyattsville, MD: NCHS. 2010; Births: Final data for each data year 1997-2007. National vital statistics reports. Hyattsville, MD; Final natality statistics for each data year 1970-1996. Monthly vital statistics report. Hyattsville, MD.