

Table 7. Nonmarital childbearing, by detailed race and Hispanic origin of mother, and maternal age: United States, selected years 1970-2008

(Data are based on birth certificates)

Race, Hispanic origin of mother, and maternal age	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Live births per 1,000 unmarried women 15-44 years of age <sup>1</sup>										
All races and origins.....	26.4	24.5	29.4	32.8	43.8	44.3	44.1	47.5	50.6	52.3	52.5
White <sup>2</sup> .....	13.9	12.4	18.1	22.5	32.9	37.0	38.2	43.0	46.1	48.1	48.2
Black or African American <sup>2</sup> .....	95.5	84.2	81.1	77.0	90.5	74.5	70.5	67.8	71.5	72.6	72.5
Asian or Pacific Islander.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	20.9	24.9	25.9	27.3	28.2
Hispanic or Latina <sup>3</sup> .....	---	---	---	---	89.6	88.8	87.2	100.3	106.1	108.4	105.1
White, not Hispanic or Latina.....	---	---	---	---	24.4	28.1	28.0	30.1	32.0	33.3	33.7
Percent of live births to unmarried mothers											
All races and origins.....	10.7	14.3	18.4	22.0	28.0	32.2	33.2	36.9	38.5	39.7	40.6
White.....	5.5	7.1	11.2	14.7	20.4	25.3	27.1	31.7	33.3	34.8	35.7
Black or African American.....	37.5	49.5	56.1	61.2	66.5	69.9	68.5	69.3	70.2	71.2	71.8
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	22.4	32.7	39.2	46.8	53.6	57.2	58.4	63.5	64.6	65.3	65.8
Asian or Pacific Islander <sup>4</sup> .....	---	---	7.3	9.5	13.2	16.3	14.8	16.2	16.5	16.6	16.9
Hispanic or Latina <sup>3</sup> .....	---	---	23.6	29.5	36.7	40.8	42.7	48.0	49.9	51.3	52.6
Mexican.....	---	---	20.3	25.7	33.3	38.1	40.7	46.7	48.6	50.1	51.3
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	46.3	51.1	55.9	60.0	59.6	61.7	62.4	63.4	64.6
Cuban.....	---	---	10.0	16.1	18.2	23.8	27.3	36.4	39.4	41.8	44.2
Central and South American.....	---	---	27.1	34.9	41.2	44.1	44.7	49.2	51.5	52.7	52.3
Other and unknown Hispanic or Latina..	---	---	22.4	31.1	37.2	44.0	46.2	48.6	49.2	51.3	54.4
Not Hispanic or Latina: <sup>3</sup>											
White.....	---	---	9.5	12.4	16.9	21.2	22.1	25.3	26.6	27.8	28.7
Black or African American.....	---	---	57.2	62.0	66.7	70.0	68.7	69.9	70.7	71.6	72.3
Number of live births, in thousands											
Live births to unmarried mothers.....	399	448	666	828	1,165	1,254	1,347	1,527	1,642	1,715	1,727.0
Maternal age											
Percent distribution of live births to unmarried mothers											
Under 20 years.....	50.1	52.1	40.8	33.8	30.9	30.9	28.0	23.1	22.7	22.5	22.2
20-24 years.....	31.8	29.9	35.6	36.3	34.7	34.5	37.4	38.3	38.1	37.6	37.1
25 years and over.....	18.1	18.0	23.5	29.9	34.4	34.7	34.6	38.7	39.2	39.9	40.7

---Data not available.

<sup>1</sup>Rates computed by relating births to unmarried mothers, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women 15-44 years of age. Population data for unmarried American Indian or Alaska Native women are not available for rate calculations. Prior to 2000, population data for unmarried Asian or Pacific Islander women were not available for rate calculations.

<sup>2</sup>For 1970 and 1975, birth rates are by race of child.

<sup>3</sup>Prior to 1993, data from states lacking an Hispanic-origin item on the birth certificate were excluded. See Appendix II, Hispanic origin. Data for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black women for years prior to 1989 are not nationally representative and are provided for comparison with Hispanic data.

<sup>4</sup>Starting 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.

NOTES: National estimates for 1970 and 1975 for unmarried mothers are based on births occurring in states reporting marital status of mother. Changes in reporting procedures for marital status occurred in some states during the 1990s. Interpretation of trend data should also take into consideration expansion of reporting areas and immigration. See Appendix II, Marital status. 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. Starting with *Health, United States, 2003*, rates for 1991-1999 were revised using intercensal population estimates based on the 2000 census. Rates for 2000 were computed using the 2000 census counts and starting with 2001, rates were computed using 2000-based postcensal estimates. 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; Hamilton BE, Sutton PD, Ventura SJ. Revised birth and fertility rates for the 1990s and new rates for Hispanic populations, 2000 and 2001: United States. National vital statistics reports; vol 51 no 12. Hyattsville, MD: NCHS. 2003; Births: Final data for each data year 1997-2007. National vital statistics reports. Hyattsville, MD; Final natality statistics for each data year 1993-1996. Monthly vital statistics report. Hyattsville, MD; Ventura SJ. Births to unmarried mothers: United States, 1980-1992. Vital Health Stat 21(53). 1995.