

**Table 5. Nonmarital childbearing, by detailed race and Hispanic origin of mother, and maternal age: United States, selected years 1970–2012**

Updated data when available, Excel, PDF, and more data years: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2012.htm#005>.

[Data are based on birth certificates]

Maternal race, Hispanic origin, and age	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2011	2012
Live births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 <sup>1</sup>										
All races and origins . . . . .	26.4	24.5	29.4	32.8	43.8	44.3	44.1	47.2	46.0	45.3
White <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	13.9	12.4	18.1	22.5	32.9	37.0	38.2	43.2	42.7	42.1
Black or African American <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	95.5	84.2	81.1	77.0	90.5	74.5	70.5	67.2	63.7	62.6
Asian or Pacific Islander . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---	20.9	22.8	22.4	22.9
Hispanic or Latina <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	---	---	---	---	89.6	88.8	87.2	96.2	75.1	72.6
White, not Hispanic or Latina <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	---	---	---	---	24.4	28.1	28.0	30.4	32.3	32.1
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	40.7	40.7
White. . . . .	5.5	7.1	11.2	14.7	20.4	25.3	27.1	31.7	35.7	35.9
Black or African American . . . . .	37.5	49.5	56.1	61.2	66.5	69.9	68.5	69.3	71.8	71.6
American Indian or Alaska Native . . . . .	22.4	32.7	39.2	46.8	53.6	57.2	58.4	63.5	66.2	66.9
Asian or Pacific Islander <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	---	---	7.3	9.5	13.2	16.3	14.8	16.2	17.2	17.0
Hispanic or Latina <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	---	---	23.6	29.5	36.7	40.8	42.7	48.0	53.3	53.5
Mexican . . . . .	---	---	20.3	25.7	33.3	38.1	40.7	46.7	52.0	52.1
Puerto Rican . . . . .	---	---	46.3	51.1	55.9	60.0	59.6	61.7	65.0	65.1
Cuban . . . . .	---	---	10.0	16.1	18.2	23.8	27.3	36.4	48.2	48.8
Central and South American . . . . .	---	---	27.1	34.9	41.2	44.1	44.7	49.2	51.2	50.8
Other and unknown Hispanic or Latina . . . . .	---	---	22.4	31.1	37.2	44.0	46.2	48.6	55.9	56.4
Not Hispanic or Latina: <sup>3</sup>										
White . . . . .	---	---	9.5	12.4	16.9	21.2	22.1	25.3	29.0	29.3
Black or African American . . . . .	---	---	57.2	62.0	66.7	70.0	68.7	69.9	72.3	72.1
Number of live births, in thousands										
Live births to unmarried mothers . . . . .	399	448	666	828	1,165	1,254	1,347	1,527	1,608	1,610
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	18.4	17.1
20–24 years . . . . .	31.8	29.9	35.6	36.3	34.7	34.5	37.4	38.3	36.9	36.9
25 years and over. . . . .	18.1	18.0	23.5	29.9	34.4	34.7	34.6	38.7	44.8	46.1

--- Data not available.

<sup>1</sup>Rates computed by relating births to unmarried mothers, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women aged 15–44. 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 that did not report Hispanic origin 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 solely for comparison with Hispanic data.

<sup>4</sup>Estimates are not available for Asian or Pacific Islander subgroups because not all states have adopted the 2003 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth. 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. Data for states in which marital status was not reported have been inferred and included with data from the remaining states. See [Appendix II, Marital status](#). Interpretation of trend data for Hispanic births should take into consideration expansion of reporting areas. 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 1990 and 2000 censuses. Rates for 2000 were based on bridged-race April 1, 2000 census counts. Starting with *Health, United States, 2012*, rates for 2001–2009 were revised using intercensal population estimates based on the 2000 and 2010 censuses. Rates for 2010 were based on 2010 census counts. Rates for 2011 and beyond were computed using 2010-based postcensal estimates. Data for additional years are available. See the Excel spreadsheet on the *Health, United States* website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, public-use Birth File. Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Ventura SJ, Osterman MJK, Curtin SC, Mathews TJ. Births: Final data for 2012. National vital statistics reports; vol 62 no 9. Hyattsville, MD: NCHS. 2013; Available from: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_09.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_09.pdf). 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; Available from: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr51/nvsr51\\_12.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr51/nvsr51_12.pdf). 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. See [Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System \(NVSS\)](#).