

Table 4. Nonmarital childbearing, by detailed race and Hispanic origin of mother, and maternal age: United States, selected years 1970–2016

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2017.htm#004>.

[Data are based on birth certificates]

Maternal race, Hispanic origin, and age	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016
Live births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 ¹										
All races and origins	26.4	29.4	43.8	44.3	44.1	47.2	47.5	43.9	43.4	42.4
White ²	13.9	18.1	32.9	37.0	38.2	43.2	44.5	40.6	40.4	---
Black or African American ²	95.5	81.1	90.5	74.5	70.5	67.2	65.3	61.5	59.6	---
Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	---	---	20.9	22.8	22.3	21.7	20.4	---
Hispanic or Latina ³	---	---	89.6	88.8	87.2	96.2	80.6	68.5	67.4	66.0
White, not Hispanic or Latina ³	---	---	24.4	28.1	28.0	30.4	32.9	31.8	31.6	---
Percent of live births to unmarried mothers										
All races and origins	10.7	18.4	28.0	32.2	33.2	36.9	40.8	40.2	40.3	39.8
White	5.5	11.2	20.4	25.3	27.1	31.7	35.9	35.7	35.8	35.3
Black or African American	37.5	56.1	66.5	69.9	68.5	69.3	72.1	70.4	70.1	69.0
American Indian or Alaska Native	22.4	39.2	53.6	57.2	58.4	63.5	65.6	65.7	65.8	65.7
Asian or Pacific Islander ⁴	---	7.3	13.2	16.3	14.8	16.2	17.0	16.4	16.4	17.1
Hispanic or Latina ³	---	23.6	36.7	40.8	42.7	48.0	53.4	52.9	53.0	52.6
Mexican	---	20.3	33.3	38.1	40.7	46.7	52.0	51.6	51.5	51.2
Puerto Rican	---	46.3	55.9	60.0	59.6	61.7	65.2	63.9	64.2	63.6
Cuban	---	10.0	18.2	23.8	27.3	36.4	47.0	49.8	50.7	51.2
Central and South American	---	27.1	41.2	44.1	44.7	49.2	51.8	50.4	51.0	50.6
Other and unknown Hispanic or Latina	---	22.4	37.2	44.0	46.2	48.6	56.3	55.5	55.1	54.9
Not Hispanic or Latina: ³										
White	---	9.5	16.9	21.2	22.1	25.3	29.0	29.2	29.2	28.8
Black or African American	---	57.2	66.7	70.0	68.7	69.9	72.5	70.9	70.5	69.7
Number of live births in thousands										
Live births to unmarried mothers	399	666	1,165	1,254	1,347	1,527	1,633	1,605	1,602	1,570
Maternal age										
Percent distribution of live births to unmarried mothers										
Under 20 years	50.1	40.8	30.9	30.9	28.0	23.1	20.1	13.9	12.9	12.1
20–24 years	31.8	35.6	34.7	34.5	37.4	38.3	36.8	36.1	35.0	33.7
25 years and over	18.1	23.5	34.4	34.7	34.6	38.7	43.1	50.0	52.1	54.2

--- Data not available.

¹Rates computed by dividing births to unmarried mothers, regardless of age of mother, by the population of unmarried women aged 15–44. Population data for unmarried American Indian or Alaska Native women are not available for rate calculations. In 2016, single-race estimates were not available for all groups. Prior to 2000, population data for unmarried Asian or Pacific Islander women were not available for rate calculations.

²For 1970 and 1975 (shown in spreadsheet version), birth rates are by race of child.

³Prior 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.

⁴Starting with 2016 data, estimates for Asian or Pacific Islander subgroups from all 50 states and the District of Columbia are available. These estimates will be incorporated into this table when multiple years of data are available to permit trend comparisons. See Appendix II, Race.

NOTES: Estimates are based on single-race categories; multiple-race data were bridged to single-race categories as needed. National estimates for 1970 and 1975 (shown in spreadsheet version) 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. As of January 1, 2016, all states and reporting areas (other than American Samoa) had adopted the 2003 U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth. Bridged single-race categories are still presented in *Health, United States* to permit trend comparisons. 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 bridged-race April 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: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, public-use Birth File. Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Osterman MJK, Driscoll AK, Drake P. Births: Final data for 2016. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 67 no 1. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2018. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr67/nvsr67_01.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: National Center for Health Statistics. 2003. Available from: https://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: National Center for Health Statistics. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/nvsr.htm>; Final natality statistics for each data year 1993–1996. Monthly Vital Statistics Reports. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics; Ventura SJ. Births to unmarried mothers: United States, 1980–92. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(53). 1995. See Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System (NVSS).