

## Births: Preliminary Data for 2012

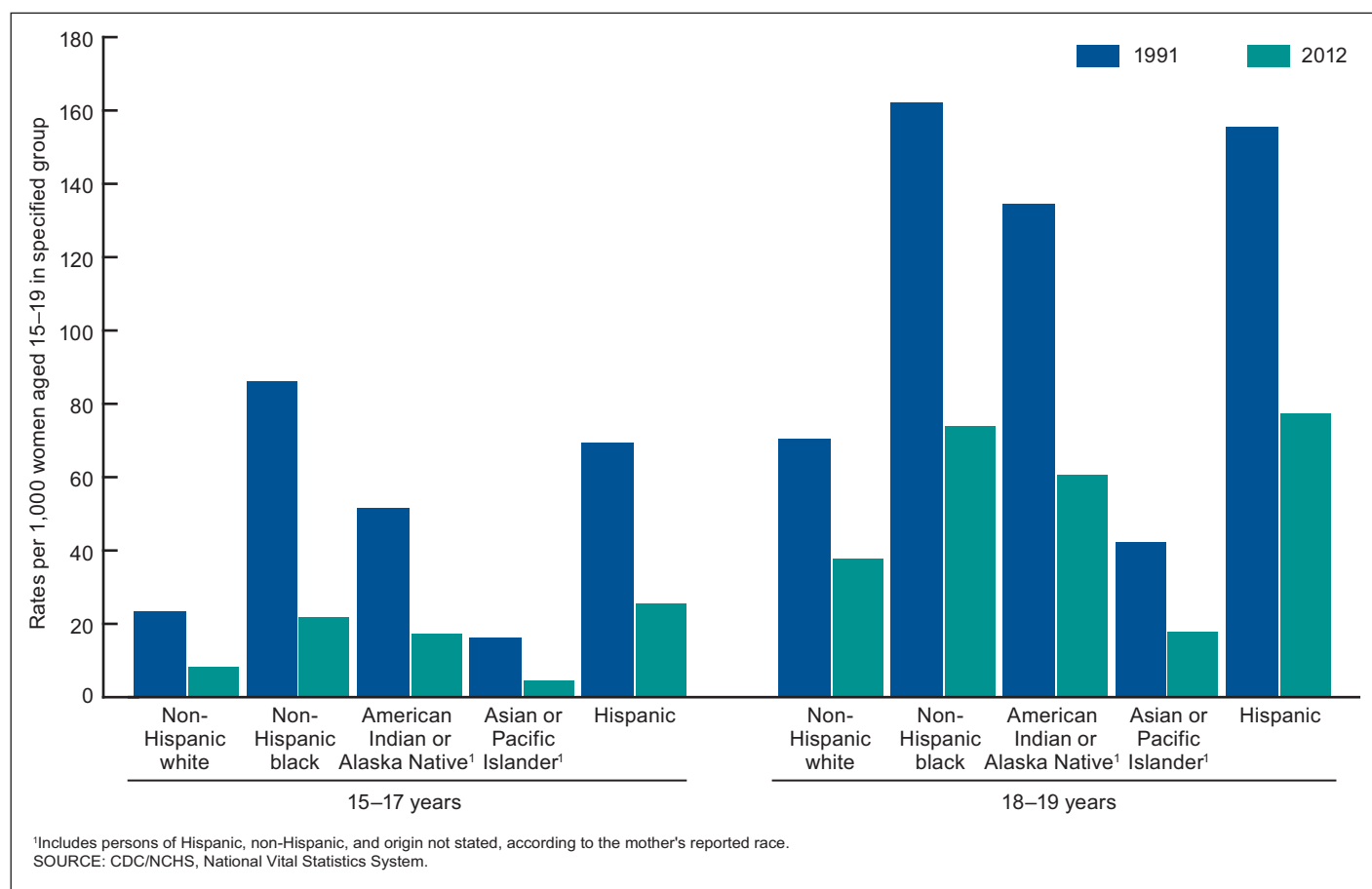
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### Abstract

**Objectives**—This report presents preliminary data for 2012 on births in the United States. U.S. data on births are shown by age,

live-birth order, race, and Hispanic origin of mother. Data on marital status, cesarean delivery, preterm births, and low birthweight are also presented.

**Methods**—Data in this report are based on 99.96% of 2012 births. Records for the few states with less than 100% of records received



**Figure 1. Birth rates for teenagers aged 15-17 and 18-19, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, final 1991 and preliminary 2012**

are weighted to independent control counts of all births received in state vital statistics offices in 2012. Comparisons are made with final 2011 data.

**Results**—The preliminary number of births for the United States in 2012 was 3,952,937, essentially unchanged (not statistically significant) from 2011; the general fertility rate was 63.0 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44, down only slightly from 2011, after declining nearly 3% a year from 2007 through 2010. The number of births and fertility rate either declined or were unchanged for most race and Hispanic origin groups from 2011 to 2012; however, both the number of births and the fertility rate for Asian or Pacific Islander women rose in 2012 (7% and 4%, respectively). • The birth rate for teenagers aged 15–19 was down 6% in 2012 (29.4 births per 1,000 teenagers aged 15–19), yet another historic low for the United States, with rates declining for younger and older teenagers and for nearly all race and Hispanic origin groups. • The birth rate for women in their early 20s also declined in 2012, to a new record low of 83.1 births per 1,000 women. • Birth rates for women in their 30s rose in 2012, as did the birth rate for women in their early 40s. • The birth rate for women in their late 40s was unchanged. • The nonmarital birth rate declined in 2012 (to 45.3 birth per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44), whereas the number of births to unmarried women rose 1% and the percentage of births to unmarried women was unchanged (at 40.7%). • The cesarean delivery rate for the United States was unchanged in 2012 at 32.8%. • The preterm birth rate fell for the sixth straight year in 2012 to 11.54%. • The low birthweight rate also declined in 2012, to 7.99%.

**Keywords:** birth rates • maternal and infant health • vital statistics

## Introduction

This report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) presents preliminary data on births and birth rates [including births to teenagers (Figure 1)] and selected maternal and infant health characteristics for the United States in 2012. The findings are based on nearly 100% of registered vital records occurring in calendar year 2012, which were received and processed by NCHS as of April 24, 2013. Trends in the preliminary reports for 1995–2011 births were confirmed by the final vital statistics for each year (1,2). Comparisons are based on the final data for 2011 and earlier years (2). Changes and differences presented in this report are statistically significant at the 0.05 level, unless noted otherwise.

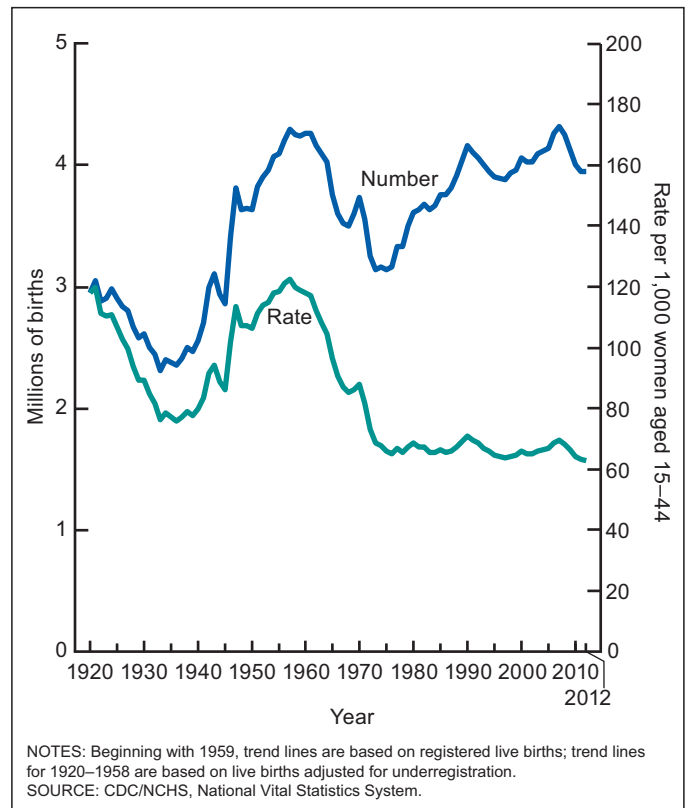
State-specific detailed tables for 2012 births, based on preliminary data—showing the percentages of births to unmarried women, delivered by cesarean, born preterm, and of low birthweight—are available on the NCHS website (see Internet Tables I–1 through I–4 at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_03\\_tables.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_03_tables.pdf)).

## Results

### Births and birth rates

Key findings are listed below:

- In 2012, the preliminary number of births for the United States was 3,952,937, essentially unchanged (not statistically significant) from 2011 (3,953,590) (Tables 1–3 and Figure 2) (2). From



**Figure 2. Live births and general fertility rates: United States, final 1920–2011 and preliminary 2012**

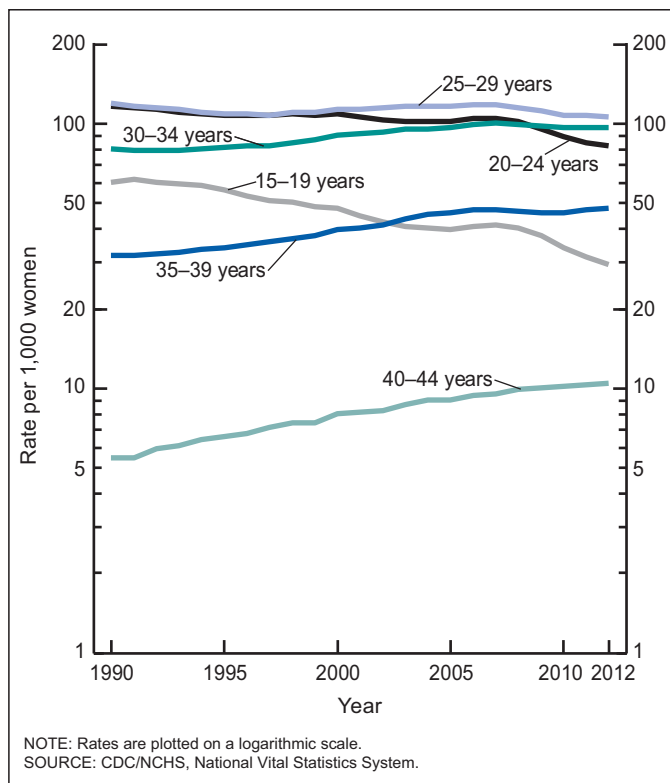
2007 through 2010, the trend in the number of births was down, with births declining steadily from 2007 through 2010, then slowing from 2010 to 2011. From 2011 to 2012, the trend in births appears to have flattened (3).

Births declined for non-Hispanic white and Hispanic women (down 1% each) and were essentially unchanged for non-Hispanic black and American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) women. Births for Asian or Pacific Islander (API) women, however, rose in 2012, by 7%.

- In 2012, the preliminary **general fertility rate** (GFR) was 63.0 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44, down slightly (less than 1%) from the record low rate reported for the United States in 2011 (63.2) (Tables 1, 2, and 4 and Figure 2) (2,4). As with the number of births, the trend in the fertility rate declined steadily from 2007 through 2010 (down nearly 3% per year), then slowly from 2010 to 2011 (down 1%). Rates declined in 2012 for Hispanic women (down 2%) and non-Hispanic black women (down 1%). The rate for non-Hispanic white women was unchanged. The rates for non-Hispanic black and Hispanic women in 2012 were again at record lows (2). The GFR for AIAN women was down 1% in 2012, whereas the rate for API women rose 4%.
- From 2011 to 2012, birth rates declined for women aged 15–29, but rose for women aged 30–44. The rates for women aged 10–14 and 45–49 were unchanged.
- The **birth rate for teenagers** continued to fall in 2012, reaching 29.4 births per 1,000 teenagers aged 15–19, down 6% from 2011

(31.3). The rate in 2012 was an historic low for the United States (see [Tables 2, 4, and 5](#) and [Figure 1](#) for 1991 and 2012) (2.5). Since 2007, the rate has dropped almost one-third (from 41.5) and more than one-half in the years from 1991 (61.8) to 2012 (6).

- The number of births to teenagers aged 15–19 dropped 7% during 2011–2012, to 305,420, the fewest since the end of World War II. The 2012 total was almost one-third fewer than in 2007 (444,899) and less than one-half the total in 1970, the all-time peak year for the number of teen births (644,708).
- The birth rate for the youngest teenagers, aged 10–14, remained at 0.4 births per 1,000 in 2012. Because the female population in this age group declined very slightly, the number of births to mothers under age 15 declined as well during 2011–2012 to 3,674, the fewest since 1946.
- Birth rates fell significantly from 2011 to 2012 for teenagers in age groups 15–17 and 18–19 years. Consistent with recent trends, the rate for younger teenagers fell more during 2011–2012 than the rate for older teenagers, 8% compared with 5%. Since 1991, the rate for ages 15–17 fell 63%, to 14.1 per 1,000 in 2012, while the rate for ages 18–19 dropped 45%, to 51.4.
- Among racial and ethnic groups, declines from 2011 to 2012 for teenagers aged 15–19 ranged from 3% for AIAN teenagers to 5%–7% for non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, API, and Hispanic teenagers. The largest decline for any population group since 2007 was reported for Hispanic teenagers, down 39%, to 46.3 per 1,000 in 2012. Birth rates for teenagers aged 15–17 fell significantly from 2011 to 2012 in all racial and ethnic groups; rates for ages 18–19 were significantly lower in 2012 for all groups except for AIAN and API teenagers.
- The **birth rate for women aged 20–24** was 83.1 births per 1,000 women in 2012, 3% lower than the rate in 2011 (85.3) and another record low for the United States ([Tables 2–4](#) and [Figure 3](#)) (4). The rate for women in this age group has declined steadily since 2007 at nearly 5% annually. The number of births to women in their early 20s declined 1% in 2012 ([Tables 2–4](#)). The **rate for women aged 25–29** was 106.5 births per 1,000 women, down 1% from the rate in 2011 (107.2) (2). The rate for women in this age group has declined 2% a year since 2008. The number of births to women in their late 20s also declined slightly from 2011 to 2012.
- The **birth rate for women aged 30–34** was 97.3 births per 1,000 women, an increase of 1% over the rate in 2011 (96.5) ([Tables 2 and 4](#) and [Figure 3](#)). The number of births to women in this age group also increased in 2012, by 3%. The **rate for women aged 35–39** increased 2% to 48.3 births per 1,000 women, from 47.2 in 2011 (2). The number of births to women in this age group increased 2% from 2011 to 2012.
- The **birth rate for women aged 40–44** was 10.4 births per 1,000 women in 2012, 1% above the rate in 2011 (10.3) (2). The rate for women in this age group has risen steadily since 2000 at 2% annually (4). The number of births to women in their early 40s was essentially unchanged in 2012. The **rate for women aged 45–49** (which includes births to women aged 50 and over) remained at



**Figure 3. Birth rates, by selected age of mother: United States, final 1990–2011 and preliminary 2012**

0.7 births per 1,000 women; the number of births to women in this age group was essentially unchanged ([Tables 2–4](#)).

- The preliminary **total fertility rate (TFR)** for the United States in 2012 was 1,880.5 births per 1,000 women, 1% below the rate in 2011 (1,894.5). The rate has declined steadily since 2007, falling an average of more than 2% annually (2). The TFR estimates the number of births that a hypothetical group of 1,000 women would have over their lifetimes, based on the age-specific birth rates in a given year.
  - In 2012, the *TFR* was below replacement, the level (2,100 births per 1,000 women) at which a given generation can exactly replace itself. The rate had been above replacement in 2006 and 2007, but has been below since then, and was also below replacement from 1972 through 2005 (2).
  - The TFRs declined for nearly all race and Hispanic origin groups, falling 2% for Hispanic and AIAN women and 1% for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black women. However, the rate for API women rose in 2012, by 4%.
- The preliminary **first birth rate** for the United States in 2012 was 25.2 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44, another record low, down 1% from the rate in 2011 (25.4) ([Table 4](#)) (2,4). First-birth rates declined for women aged 15–29, rose for women aged 30–39, and were essentially unchanged for women in all other age groups. The second-order birth rate for women aged 15–44 also declined in 2012 (down 1%). However, the third-order birth rate was unchanged at 10.4 and the rate for fourth- and higher-order births increased to 7.5 in 2012 from 7.4 in 2011.

- The **GFR** decreased for 13 states from 2011 to 2012 (Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and North Carolina) and Puerto Rico, and increased for 4 states (Idaho, Kansas, North Dakota, and Ohio). GFRs for the remaining 33 states, the District of Columbia, and remaining territories were essentially unchanged. Rates by state ranged from 50.2 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 in New Hampshire to 83.1 in Utah (Table 6).
- The **nonmarital birth rate** declined 2% in 2012 to 45.3 births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44. The rate has dropped for 4 consecutive years, falling 13% since 2008 (51.8 per 1,000), according to preliminary data. The 2012 rate was the lowest reported since 2003. Until the current decline began, the rate had risen steadily, increasing 19% from 2002 (43.6) to 2007 (51.8).
  - The total number of births to unmarried women increased by 1% in 2012 to 1,609,912, the first increase since 2007–2008. From 2008 to 2011, the number fell by 7% overall. Nonmarital births dropped for teenagers and increased for women aged 20 and over.
  - The proportion of all births to unmarried women in 2012 was unchanged from 2011 at 40.7%. The proportions increased significantly for births to non-Hispanic white, AIAN, and Hispanic women; changes for other race and Hispanic origin groups were not significant (Tables 1 and 7).
  - Unmarried teenagers accounted for 17% of all nonmarital births in 2012, the lowest percentage ever reported. In 1970,

teenagers accounted for 50% of births to unmarried women (7).

- The percentage of births to unmarried women increased significantly in 10 states and declined in 4 states. Changes in the other 36 states and the District of Columbia were not significant (Table I-1).

## Maternal and infant health birth characteristics

Key findings are listed below:

- The 2012 cesarean delivery rate was 32.8%, unchanged since 2010. The recent stabilization in the cesarean rate follows more than a decade of steady increase of nearly 60% from 1996 through 2009 (Table 8) (2).
- The rate of cesarean delivery declined among non-Hispanic white women for the third straight year to 32.3% in 2012. The 2012 cesarean rates rose, however, among non-Hispanic black (35.8%) and Hispanic (32.2%) women to the highest levels reported since data on this topic first became available on birth certificates in 1989. Rates for AIAN (28.6% in 2012) and API mothers (33.2%) were essentially unchanged.
- The **preterm birth rate** fell for the sixth straight year in 2012, to 11.54%, down 2% from 2011, and 10% from 2006. This rate (the percentage of births delivered at less than 37 completed weeks

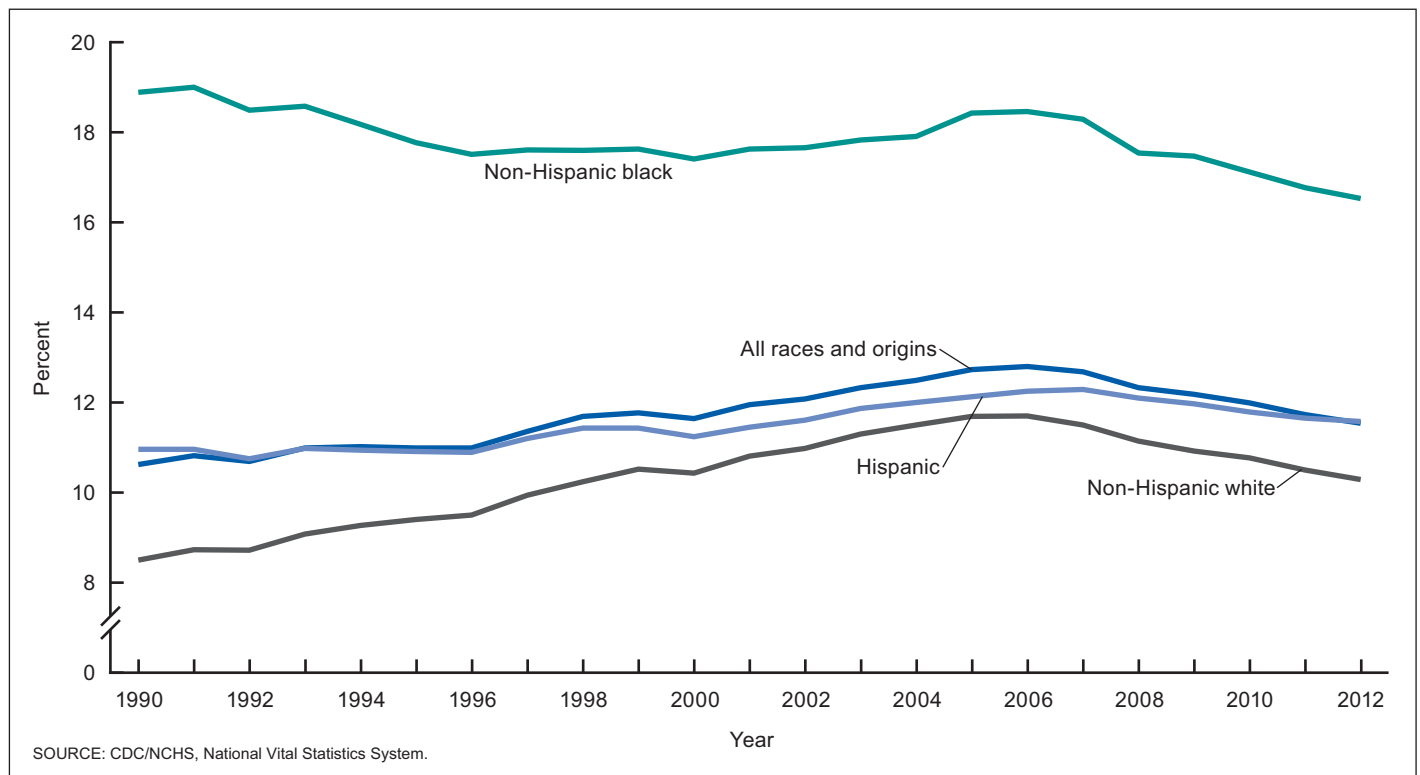


Figure 4. Preterm birth rates, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 1990–2011 and preliminary 2012

of gestation) rose by more than one-third from 1981 to 2006 (see [Tables 8](#) and [9](#) and [Figure 4](#)) (2).

- Declines from 2011 to 2012 were seen among both early preterm (less than 34 completed weeks of gestation) and late preterm (34–36 completed weeks) deliveries. The early preterm rate was 3.41% in 2012, down from 3.44% in 2011 and 3.66% in 2006. The late preterm birth rate declined from 8.28% to 8.13% from 2011 to 2012, and is down 11% from the 2006 high ([Table 9](#)).
- Preterm birth rates declined among non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and API infants from 2011 to 2012; rates were essentially stable for Hispanic and AIAN infants ([Table 8](#)). Since 2006, preterm rates have declined 12% for non-Hispanic white, 10% for non-Hispanic black, and 5% for Hispanic infants (2). The 2012 preterm rate among black infants (16.53%), although higher than that for other race and Hispanic origin groups, represents another record low (comparable data available since 1989).
- Declines in preterm rates are observed from 2006 to 2012 in 44 states and the District of Columbia. Changes in rates in the remaining six states were not statistically significant ([Table I-3](#)).
- The 2012 **low birthweight** (LBW) rate was 7.99, down 1% from 2011 and 3% from the 2006 high ([Table 8](#)) (2). The LBW rate (the percentage of infants born at less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds, 8 ounces) rose during the mid-1980s through 2006, peaking at 8.26% of all births (2). The rate of **very low birthweight** (less than 1,500 grams or 3 pounds, 4 ounces) was 1.42% in 2012, down from 1.44% in 2011 and 1.49% for 2005–2007 ([Table 8](#)) (2). The percentage of infants born moderately low birthweight (1,500 grams–2,499 grams) also declined in 2012, to 6.57% from 6.66% in 2011, and is down from 6.77% in 2006 (data not shown).
- Modest downward trends in LBW rates are observed for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black infants between 2011 and 2012 and from 2006 to 2012. Since 2006, rates are down 5% and 6%, respectively for the two groups. LBW among Hispanic births has been essentially stable from 2006 to 2012 ([Table 8](#)) (2).

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**Table 1. Selected demographic characteristics, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2011 and preliminary 2012**

[Data for 2012 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures for 2012 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual. Birth rates are the total number of births per 1,000 population in specified group. Fertility rates are the total number of births (regardless of the age of the mother) per 1,000 women aged 15–44 in specified group. Total fertility rates are sums of birth rates for 5-year age groups in specified group multiplied by 5]

Race and Hispanic origin of mother	Number		Birth rate		Fertility rate		Total fertility rate		Percent of births to unmarried women	
	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
All races and origins <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	3,952,937	3,953,590	12.6	12.7	63.0	63.2	1,880.5	1,894.5	40.7	40.7
Non-Hispanic white <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2,133,115	2,146,566	10.7	10.8	58.7	58.7	1,761.5	1,773.5	29.4	29.0
Non-Hispanic black <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	583,080	582,345	14.6	14.7	65.0	65.4	1,898.5	1,919.5	72.2	72.3
American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>2,3</sup> . . . . .	46,093	46,419	10.5	10.7	47.0	47.7	1,350.0	1,373.5	66.9	66.2
Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>2,3</sup> . . . . .	272,949	253,915	15.1	14.5	62.2	59.9	1,770.0	1,706.5	17.1	17.2
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	907,405	918,129	17.1	17.6	74.4	76.2	2,188.5	2,240.0	53.5	53.3

<sup>1</sup>Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as white Hispanic and black Hispanic women, and births with origin not stated.

<sup>2</sup>Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Forty-one states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data in 2012. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see Technical Notes. Multiple-race reporting areas vary for 2011–2012; see Technical Notes.

<sup>3</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic, non-Hispanic, and origin not stated, according to the mother's reported race; see Technical Notes.

<sup>4</sup>Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 8.



**Table 2. Births by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2011 and preliminary 2012**

[Data for 2012 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures for 2012 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals. Rates per 1,000 women in specified age and race and Hispanic origin group]

Age in years and race and Hispanic origin of mother	2012		2011	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
<b>All races and origins<sup>1</sup></b>				
Total <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	3,952,937	63.0	3,953,590	63.2
10-14 . . . . .	3,674	0.4	3,974	0.4
15-19 . . . . .	305,420	29.4	329,772	31.3
15-17 . . . . .	86,440	14.1	95,538	15.4
18-19 . . . . .	218,980	51.4	234,234	54.1
20-24 . . . . .	916,868	83.1	925,200	85.3
25-29 . . . . .	1,124,010	106.5	1,127,583	107.2
30-34 . . . . .	1,013,473	97.3	986,682	96.5
35-39 . . . . .	472,206	48.3	463,849	47.2
40-44 . . . . .	109,535	10.4	108,920	10.3
45-54 <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	7,750	0.7	7,610	0.7
<b>Non-Hispanic white<sup>4</sup></b>				
Total <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2,133,115	58.7	2,146,566	58.7
10-14 . . . . .	866	0.2	869	0.2
15-19 . . . . .	119,777	20.5	129,329	21.7
15-17 . . . . .	29,008	8.4	31,461	9.0
18-19 . . . . .	90,769	37.9	97,868	39.9
20-24 . . . . .	444,371	70.2	451,939	71.8
25-29 . . . . .	641,353	104.4	647,520	105.2
30-34 . . . . .	602,549	100.5	591,266	100.1
35-39 . . . . .	261,509	46.8	260,596	45.8
40-44 . . . . .	58,515	9.1	60,724	9.3
45-54 <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	4,174	0.6	4,323	0.6
<b>Non-Hispanic black<sup>4</sup></b>				
Total <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	583,080	65.0	582,345	65.4
10-14 . . . . .	1,263	0.8	1,378	0.9
15-19 . . . . .	71,271	43.9	78,558	47.3
15-17 . . . . .	20,553	21.9	23,659	24.6
18-19 . . . . .	50,719	74.1	54,899	78.8
20-24 . . . . .	187,386	109.0	186,229	112.3
25-29 . . . . .	149,548	101.7	147,708	101.7
30-34 . . . . .	107,768	75.1	104,274	73.9
35-39 . . . . .	51,461	38.9	50,245	37.8
40-44 . . . . .	13,360	9.6	12,952	9.3
45-54 <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1,022	0.7	1,001	0.7
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native total<sup>4,5</sup></b>				
Total <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	46,093	47.0	46,419	47.7
10-14 . . . . .	89	0.5	95	0.5
15-19 . . . . .	6,478	34.9	6,802	36.1
15-17 . . . . .	1,856	17.0	2,014	18.2
18-19 . . . . .	4,621	60.6	4,788	61.6
20-24 . . . . .	15,168	81.7	15,569	86.6
25-29 . . . . .	12,290	73.9	12,477	75.4
30-34 . . . . .	7,871	49.7	7,380	47.3
35-39 . . . . .	3,355	23.3	3,292	23.1
40-44 . . . . .	778	5.5	772	5.5
45-54 <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	64	0.5	32	0.2

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Births by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2011 and preliminary 2012—Con.**

[Data for 2012 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures for 2012 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals. Rates per 1,000 women in specified age and race and Hispanic origin group]

Age in years and race and Hispanic origin of mother	2012		2011	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>4,5</sup>				
Total <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	272,949	62.2	253,915	59.9
10–14 . . . . .	62	0.1	65	0.1
15–19 . . . . .	5,544	9.7	5,708	10.2
15–17 . . . . .	1,414	4.2	1,532	4.6
18–19 . . . . .	4,131	17.8	4,176	18.1
20–24 . . . . .	28,580	41.4	27,783	41.9
25–29 . . . . .	74,254	95.8	70,461	93.7
30–34 . . . . .	97,986	121.4	88,660	114.9
35–39 . . . . .	53,392	68.1	49,474	64.1
40–44 . . . . .	12,196	16.1	10,963	15.2
45–54 <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	935	1.4	801	1.2
Hispanic <sup>6</sup>				
Total <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	907,405	74.4	918,129	76.2
10–14 . . . . .	1,397	0.6	1,576	0.7
15–19 . . . . .	102,698	46.3	109,660	49.6
15–17 . . . . .	33,756	25.5	36,979	28.0
18–19 . . . . .	68,942	77.2	72,681	81.5
20–24 . . . . .	241,049	111.4	243,724	116.0
25–29 . . . . .	244,403	119.6	248,269	121.3
30–34 . . . . .	193,106	94.3	192,517	95.2
35–39 . . . . .	99,820	51.5	98,340	51.3
40–44 . . . . .	23,657	13.2	22,807	13.1
45–54 <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1,275	0.8	1,236	0.8

<sup>1</sup>Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as white Hispanic and black Hispanic women, and births with origin not stated.

<sup>2</sup>Includes births to women of all ages. The rate shown for all ages is the fertility rate, which is defined as the total number of births (regardless of the age of the mother) per 1,000 women aged 15–44.

<sup>3</sup>The birth rate for women aged 45–49 is computed by relating the number of births to women aged 45 and over to women aged 45–49 because most of the births in this group are to women aged 45–49.

<sup>4</sup>Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Forty-one states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data in 2012. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see Technical Notes. Multiple-race reporting areas vary for 2011–2012; see Technical Notes.

<sup>5</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic, non-Hispanic, and origin not stated, according to the mother's reported race; see Technical Notes.

<sup>6</sup>Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion; see reference 8.

**Table 3. Births by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, preliminary 2012**

[Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals]

Live-birth order and race and Hispanic origin of mother	All ages	Age of mother in years							
		Under 15	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–54
All races and origins <sup>1</sup>	3,952,937	3,674	305,420	916,868	1,124,010	1,013,473	472,206	109,535	7,750
1st child	1,569,943	3,580	250,985	461,445	421,522	299,379	106,715	24,208	2,109
2nd child	1,244,555	60	45,522	298,047	369,862	346,482	151,769	30,851	1,960
3rd child	650,242	8	6,380	111,071	202,018	201,814	105,269	22,471	1,211
4th child and over	465,673	8	865	41,077	124,590	160,074	105,457	31,219	2,383
Not stated	22,524	18	1,668	5,229	6,017	5,723	2,996	786	87
Non-Hispanic white <sup>2</sup>	2,133,115	866	119,777	444,371	641,353	602,549	261,509	58,515	4,174
1st child	894,666	841	102,656	242,556	271,221	195,337	65,928	14,857	1,270
2nd child	696,630	16	14,894	140,806	214,683	217,794	89,648	17,657	1,132
3rd child	328,230	2	1,624	45,605	100,746	111,875	56,268	11,476	634
4th child and over	205,299	2	174	13,655	52,321	75,210	48,585	14,243	1,110
Not stated	8,289	5	428	1,750	2,382	2,334	1,079	282	29
Non-Hispanic black <sup>2</sup>	583,080	1,263	71,271	187,386	149,548	107,768	51,461	13,360	1,022
1st child	222,583	1,224	56,747	86,698	41,729	23,818	9,581	2,537	247
2nd child	165,147	26	11,498	59,390	46,090	31,087	13,546	3,281	228
3rd child	99,070	3	1,956	26,470	31,949	23,986	11,762	2,780	164
4th child and over	90,059	1	304	12,844	28,283	27,692	15,950	4,618	367
Not stated	6,222	9	767	1,984	1,497	1,186	620	144	15
American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>2,3</sup>	46,093	89	6,478	15,168	12,290	7,871	3,355	778	64
1st child	15,959	88	5,203	6,225	2,698	1,229	428	84	3
2nd child	12,417	1	1,062	5,152	3,531	1,880	644	129	17
3rd child	8,269	–	162	2,497	2,947	1,795	725	135	7
4th child and over	9,175	–	24	1,205	3,041	2,920	1,526	424	34
Not stated	274	–	26	90	72	46	31	6	3
Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>2,3</sup>	272,949	62	5,544	28,580	74,254	97,986	53,392	12,196	935
1st child	122,656	61	4,591	17,236	41,112	40,721	15,361	3,284	291
2nd child	97,554	1	818	7,885	22,055	39,290	22,708	4,512	284
3rd child	33,589	–	101	2,450	7,066	11,600	9,794	2,430	150
4th child and over	17,850	–	11	880	3,649	5,932	5,264	1,910	204
Not stated	1,300	–	22	130	373	443	265	60	6
Hispanic <sup>4</sup>	907,405	1,397	102,698	241,049	244,403	193,106	99,820	23,657	1,275
1st child	310,139	1,367	82,119	108,456	63,681	36,556	14,561	3,149	250
2nd child	270,546	17	17,349	84,965	83,094	55,389	24,499	4,982	250
3rd child	180,492	3	2,539	34,155	59,355	52,308	26,406	5,520	207
4th child and over	142,489	5	353	12,556	37,228	48,019	33,889	9,880	559
Not stated	3,739	4	338	917	1,045	834	466	126	9

– Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as white Hispanic and black Hispanic women, and births with origin not stated.<sup>2</sup>Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Forty-one states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data in 2012. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see Technical Notes.<sup>3</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic, non-Hispanic, and origin not stated, according to the mother's reported race; see Technical Notes.<sup>4</sup>Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 8.

**Table 4. Birth rates, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, preliminary 2012**

[Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Rates per 1,000 women in specified age and race and Hispanic origin group]

Live-birth order and race and Hispanic origin of mother	Age of mother in years								
	<sup>1</sup> 15–44	10–14	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	<sup>2</sup> 45–49
All races and origins <sup>3</sup>	63.0	0.4	29.4	83.1	106.5	97.3	48.3	10.4	0.7
1st child	25.2	0.4	24.3	42.1	40.2	28.9	11.0	2.3	0.2
2nd child	19.9	0.0	4.4	27.2	35.2	33.4	15.6	2.9	0.2
3rd child	10.4	*	0.6	10.1	19.2	19.5	10.8	2.1	0.1
4th child and over	7.5	*	0.1	3.7	11.9	15.5	10.9	3.0	0.2
Non-Hispanic white <sup>4</sup>	58.7	0.2	20.5	70.2	104.4	100.5	46.8	9.1	0.6
1st child	24.7	0.2	17.6	38.5	44.3	32.8	11.9	2.3	0.2
2nd child	19.2	*	2.6	22.3	35.1	36.4	16.1	2.8	0.2
3rd child	9.1	*	0.3	7.2	16.5	18.7	10.1	1.8	0.1
4th child and over	5.7	*	0.0	2.2	8.6	12.6	8.7	2.2	0.2
Non-Hispanic black <sup>4</sup>	65.0	0.8	43.9	109.0	101.7	75.1	38.9	9.6	0.7
1st child	25.1	0.8	35.3	51.0	28.7	16.9	7.4	1.9	0.2
2nd child	18.6	0.0	7.2	34.9	31.7	21.9	10.4	2.4	0.2
3rd child	11.2	*	1.2	15.6	21.9	16.9	9.0	2.0	0.1
4th child and over	10.1	*	0.2	7.5	19.4	19.5	12.2	3.3	0.3
American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>4,5</sup>	47.0	0.5	34.9	81.7	73.9	49.7	23.3	5.5	0.5
1st child	16.4	0.5	28.2	33.7	16.3	7.8	3.0	0.6	*
2nd child	12.7	*	5.7	27.9	21.4	11.9	4.5	0.9	*
3rd child	8.5	*	0.9	13.5	17.8	11.4	5.1	1.0	*
4th child and over	9.4	*	0.1	6.5	18.4	18.5	10.7	3.0	0.3
Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>4,5</sup>	62.2	0.1	9.7	41.4	95.8	121.4	68.1	16.1	1.4
1st child	28.1	0.1	8.0	25.1	53.3	50.7	19.7	4.3	0.4
2nd child	22.3	*	1.4	11.5	28.6	48.9	29.1	6.0	0.4
3rd child	7.7	*	0.2	3.6	9.2	14.4	12.6	3.2	0.2
4th child and over	4.1	*	*	1.3	4.7	7.4	6.7	2.5	0.3
Hispanic <sup>6</sup>	74.4	0.6	46.3	111.4	119.6	94.3	51.5	13.2	0.8
1st child	25.5	0.6	37.1	50.3	31.3	17.9	7.6	1.8	0.2
2nd child	22.3	*	7.8	39.4	40.8	27.2	12.7	2.8	0.2
3rd child	14.9	*	1.1	15.8	29.2	25.6	13.7	3.1	0.1
4th child and over	11.7	*	0.2	5.8	18.3	23.5	17.6	5.5	0.4

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision; based on fewer than 20 births in the numerator.

<sup>1</sup>The rate shown is the fertility rate, which is defined as the total number of births, regardless of age of mother, per 1,000 women aged 15–44.<sup>2</sup>The birth rate for women aged 45–49 is computed by relating births to women aged 45 and over to women aged 45–49 because most of the births in this group are to women aged 45–49.<sup>3</sup>Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as white Hispanic and black Hispanic women, and births with origin not stated.<sup>4</sup>Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Forty-one states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data in 2012. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see Technical Notes.<sup>5</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic, non-Hispanic, and origin not stated, according to the mother's reported race; see Technical Notes.<sup>6</sup>Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 8.

**Table 5. Birth rates for women aged 10–19, by age and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 1991, 2007, and 2010–2011, and preliminary 2012**

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified age and race and Hispanic origin group. Population based on counts enumerated as of April 1 for 2010 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Age and race and Hispanic origin of mother	Year					Percent change		
	2012	2011	2010	2007	1991	2011–2012	2007–2012	1991–2012
<b>10–14 years</b>								
All races and origins <sup>1</sup>	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	1.4	†	–33	–71
Non-Hispanic white <sup>2</sup>	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	†	†	–60
Non-Hispanic black <sup>2</sup>	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.4	4.9	–11	–43	–84
American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>2,3</sup>	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.6	†	–29	–69
Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>2,3</sup>	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.8	†	–50	–88
Hispanic <sup>4</sup>	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.2	2.4	–14	–50	–75
<b>15–19 years</b>								
All races and origins <sup>1</sup>	29.4	31.3	34.2	41.5	61.8	–6	–29	–52
Non-Hispanic white <sup>2</sup>	20.5	21.7	23.5	27.2	43.4	–6	–25	–53
Non-Hispanic black <sup>2</sup>	43.9	47.3	51.5	62.0	118.2	–7	–29	–63
American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>2,3</sup>	34.9	36.1	38.7	49.3	84.1	–3	–29	–59
Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>2,3</sup>	9.7	10.2	10.9	14.8	27.3	–5	–34	–64
Hispanic <sup>4</sup>	46.3	49.6	55.7	75.3	104.6	–7	–39	–56
<b>15–17 years</b>								
All races and origins <sup>1</sup>	14.1	15.4	17.3	21.7	38.6	–8	–35	–63
Non-Hispanic white <sup>2</sup>	8.4	9.0	10.0	11.9	23.6	–7	–29	–64
Non-Hispanic black <sup>2</sup>	21.9	24.6	27.4	34.6	86.1	–11	–37	–75
American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>2,3</sup>	17.0	18.2	20.1	26.1	51.9	–7	–35	–67
Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>2,3</sup>	4.2	4.6	5.1	7.4	16.3	–9	–43	–74
Hispanic <sup>4</sup>	25.5	28.0	32.3	44.4	69.2	–9	–43	–63
<b>18–19 years</b>								
All races and origins <sup>1</sup>	51.4	54.1	58.2	71.7	94.0	–5	–28	–45
Non-Hispanic white <sup>2</sup>	37.9	39.9	42.5	50.4	70.6	–5	–25	–46
Non-Hispanic black <sup>2</sup>	74.1	78.8	85.6	105.2	162.2	–6	–30	–54
American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>2,3</sup>	60.6	61.6	66.1	86.3	134.2	†	–30	–55
Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>2,3</sup>	17.8	18.1	18.7	24.9	42.2	†	–29	–58
Hispanic <sup>4</sup>	77.2	81.5	90.7	124.7	155.5	–5	–38	–50

† Difference not statistically significant.

<sup>1</sup>Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as white Hispanic and black Hispanic women, and births with origin not stated.<sup>2</sup>Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Forty-one states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data in 2012. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see Technical Notes. Multiple-race reporting areas vary for 2007 and 2010–2012; see Technical Notes.<sup>3</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic, non-Hispanic, and origin not stated, according to the mother's reported race; see Technical Notes.<sup>4</sup>Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 8.

**Table 6. Births by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States and each state and territory, preliminary 2012**

[By place of residence. Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals. Birth rates are total births per 1,000 total population; fertility rates are total births per 1,000 women aged 15–44]

Area	Number of births						Birth rate, all races	Fertility rate, all races
	All races and origins <sup>1</sup>	Non-Hispanic white <sup>2</sup>	Non-Hispanic black <sup>2</sup>	American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>2,3</sup>	Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>2,3</sup>	Hispanic <sup>4</sup>		
United States <sup>5</sup>	3,952,937	2,133,115	583,080	46,093	272,949	907,405	12.6	63.0
Alabama	58,424	35,149	18,090	211	1,073	3,922	12.1	60.9
Alaska	11,186	5,770	360	2,811	1,132	722	15.3	75.9
Arizona	86,441	38,838	4,445	5,856	3,667	33,906	13.2	67.5
Arkansas	38,331	25,913	7,297	312	911	3,853	13.0	66.9
California	503,746	142,695	29,435	3,462	77,919	244,926	13.2	63.3
Colorado	65,183	39,995	3,120	759	2,877	17,791	12.6	62.0
Connecticut	36,545	21,265	4,716	246	2,346	7,947	10.2	53.2
Delaware	11,017	6,139	2,911	24	592	1,354	12.0	61.4
District of Columbia	9,414	2,816	4,784	29	557	1,373	14.9	55.4
Florida	213,121	97,020	49,350	404	7,553	57,875	11.0	59.0
Georgia	130,638	60,488	44,417	266	6,240	17,514	13.2	62.5
Hawaii	18,967	4,722	487	83	12,511	2,963	13.6	71.6
Idaho	22,961	18,408	181	482	463	3,496	14.4	74.1
Illinois	159,160	86,193	27,274	225	10,081	34,787	12.4	60.9
Indiana	83,225	63,799	10,043	153	2,239	7,032	12.7	64.7
Iowa	38,701	32,075	2,006	274	1,311	3,151	12.6	66.8
Kansas	40,338	29,437	2,959	328	1,401	6,291	14.0	72.3
Kentucky	55,756	46,688	5,071	77	1,232	2,731	12.7	65.4
Louisiana	62,629	33,359	23,868	351	1,531	3,732	13.6	67.0
Maine	12,794	11,780	399	129	241	207	9.6	53.9
Maryland	72,870	33,159	23,867	212	5,723	10,218	12.4	60.8
Massachusetts	72,523	44,510	6,558	162	6,669	12,314	10.9	53.6
Michigan	113,090	79,046	21,542	751	4,140	7,378	11.4	59.6
Minnesota	68,769	50,065	6,960	1,436	5,462	4,831	12.8	65.7
Mississippi	38,666	20,157	16,499	246	463	1,280	13.0	64.2
Missouri	75,441	57,346	11,319	400	2,131	4,052	12.5	64.3
Montana	12,114	9,962	77	1,469	158	468	12.1	66.6
Nebraska	25,941	19,172	1,787	513	839	3,834	14.0	72.3
Nevada	34,913	14,969	3,709	444	3,105	12,759	12.7	63.0
New Hampshire	12,347	10,956	201	28	495	558	9.3	50.2
New Jersey	104,214	47,941	16,173	182	12,253	27,609	11.8	60.3
New Mexico	27,066	7,674	443	3,638	568	14,869	13.0	67.8
New York	240,874	116,131	38,478	1,080	26,932	55,703	12.3	59.7
North Carolina	119,809	67,141	28,465	1,929	5,514	17,952	12.3	61.0
North Dakota	10,104	8,161	269	1,043	208	378	14.4	74.6
Ohio	138,503	104,133	23,267	297	3,890	6,526	12.0	62.6
Oklahoma	52,754	33,539	4,916	6,075	1,583	6,880	13.8	70.5
Oregon	45,060	31,767	1,157	886	2,749	8,559	11.6	59.0
Pennsylvania	142,488	99,514	21,206	385	6,906	14,055	11.2	58.7
Rhode Island	10,927	6,710	856	149	625	2,467	10.4	51.7
South Carolina	57,103	32,817	18,161	227	1,271	4,592	12.1	61.3
South Dakota	12,103	9,048	308	2,084	219	547	14.5	78.1
Tennessee	80,358	54,702	16,644	198	2,184	6,988	12.4	62.6
Texas	382,719	135,567	44,528	1,232	19,073	182,982	14.7	69.9
Utah	51,462	39,982	500	784	1,846	7,645	18.0	83.1
Vermont	6,006	5,598	94	21	164	97	9.6	51.6
Virginia	102,991	59,981	21,972	221	8,123	12,897	12.6	61.6
Washington	87,446	55,351	4,348	2,162	10,141	15,759	12.7	63.5
West Virginia	20,834	19,582	788	22	185	193	11.2	61.3
Wisconsin	67,293	49,729	6,695	1,002	3,338	6,575	11.8	61.8
Wyoming	7,571	6,154	81	332	113	864	13.1	69.5

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 6. Births by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States and each state and territory, preliminary 2012—Con.**

[By place of residence. Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals. Birth rates are total births per 1,000 total population; fertility rates are total births per 1,000 women aged 15–44]

Area	Number of births						Birth rate, all races	Fertility rate, all races
	All races and origins <sup>1</sup>	Non-Hispanic white <sup>2</sup>	Non-Hispanic black <sup>2</sup>	American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>2,3</sup>	Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>2,3</sup>	Hispanic <sup>4</sup>		
Puerto Rico . . . . .	39,017	2,502	308	---	---	36,032	10.6	51.9
Virgin Islands . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Guam . . . . .	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
American Samoa . . . . .	1,163	---	---	—	1,162	---	21.2	89.0
Northern Marianas . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- Data not available.

— Quantity zero.

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision; less than 75% of data for the area were available as of release of the preliminary file; see reference 8.

<sup>1</sup>Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as white Hispanic and black Hispanic women, and births with origin not stated.

<sup>2</sup>Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Forty-one states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data in 2012. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see Technical Notes.

<sup>3</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic, non-Hispanic, and origin not stated, according to the mother's reported race; see Technical Notes.

<sup>4</sup>Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

<sup>5</sup>Excludes data for the territories.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 8.

**Table 7. Births to unmarried women, by age: United States, final 2011 and preliminary 2012**

[Data for 2012 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures for 2012 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual so categories may not add to total]

Age of mother in years	Number		Percent	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
All ages . . . . .	1,609,912	1,607,773	40.7	40.7
Under 20 . . . . .	274,528	295,675	88.8	88.6
Under 15 . . . . .	3,640	3,939	99.1	99.1
15–19 . . . . .	270,888	291,736	88.7	88.5
15–17 . . . . .	82,503	91,053	95.4	95.3
18–19 . . . . .	188,385	200,683	86.0	85.7
20–24 . . . . .	593,969	592,554	64.8	64.0
25–29 . . . . .	393,931	387,354	35.0	34.4
30–34 . . . . .	222,382	212,974	21.9	21.6
35–39 . . . . .	97,862	93,155	20.7	20.1
40 and over . . . . .	27,240	26,061	23.2	22.4

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 8.

**Table 8. Selected characteristics of births, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2011 and preliminary 2012**

[Data for 2012 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures for 2012 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual]

Race and Hispanic origin of mother	Number		Cesarean rate <sup>1</sup>		Preterm				Low birthweight			
					Total <sup>2</sup>		Late <sup>3</sup>		Total <sup>4</sup>		Very low birthweight <sup>5</sup>	
	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
All races and origins <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	3,952,937	3,953,590	32.8	32.8	11.54	11.73	8.13	8.28	7.99	8.10	1.42	1.44
Non-Hispanic white <sup>7</sup> . . . . .	2,133,115	2,146,566	32.3	32.4	10.29	10.50	7.44	7.62	6.97	7.09	1.13	1.14
Non-Hispanic black <sup>7</sup> . . . . .	583,080	582,345	35.8	35.5	16.53	16.77	10.59	10.74	13.18	13.33	2.94	2.99
American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>7,8</sup> . . . . .	46,093	46,419	28.6	28.4	13.25	13.50	9.26	9.64	7.61	7.55	1.33	1.32
Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>7,8</sup> . . . . .	272,949	253,915	33.2	33.2	10.15	10.40	7.47	7.62	8.21	8.36	1.13	1.18
Hispanic <sup>9</sup> . . . . .	907,405	918,129	32.2	32.0	11.58	11.65	8.31	8.40	6.96	7.02	1.22	1.20

<sup>1</sup>All births by cesarean delivery per 100 live births.

<sup>2</sup>Born prior to 37 completed weeks of gestation.

<sup>3</sup>Born between 34 and 36 completed weeks of gestation.

<sup>4</sup>Birthweight of less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces).

<sup>5</sup>Birthweight of less than 1,500 grams (3 pounds, 4 ounces).

<sup>6</sup>Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as white Hispanic and black Hispanic women, and births with origin not stated.

<sup>7</sup>Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Forty-one states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data in 2012. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see Technical Notes. Multiple-race reporting areas vary for 2011–2012; see Technical Notes.

<sup>8</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic, non-Hispanic, and origin not stated, according to the mother's reported race; see Technical Notes.

<sup>9</sup>Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 8.

**Table 9. Distribution of preterm births (prior to 37 completed weeks of gestation): United States, final 1990, 2006, 2010, and 2011, and preliminary 2012**

[Data for 2012 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states]

Gestational age	Percent				
	2012	2011	2010	2006	1990
Under 32 weeks . . . . .	1.93	1.93	1.96	2.04	1.92
32–33 weeks . . . . .	1.49	1.52	1.53	1.62	1.40
Total under 34 weeks . . . . .	3.41	3.44	3.50	3.66	3.32
34–36 weeks . . . . .	8.13	8.28	8.49	9.15	7.30
Total under 37 weeks . . . . .	11.54	11.73	11.99	12.80	10.62

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 8.



**Table 10. Total count of records and completeness of preliminary file of live births: United States, each state and territory, preliminary 2012**

[By place of occurrence]

Area	Live births	
	Counts of records	Percent completeness
United States <sup>1</sup>	3,959,188	99.956
Alabama	56,941	100.000
Alaska	11,052	100.000
Arizona	87,207	100.000
Arkansas	37,326	100.000
California	504,634	100.000
Colorado	65,643	100.000
Connecticut	37,292	99.984
Delaware	11,376	100.000
District of Columbia	13,906	99.506
Florida	213,402	100.000
Georgia	131,861	99.848
Hawaii	18,974	100.000
Idaho	22,482	100.000
Illinois	155,814	100.000
Indiana	84,204	100.000
Iowa	38,427	100.000
Kansas	41,173	100.000
Kentucky	53,360	100.000
Louisiana	62,567	100.000
Maine	12,594	100.000
Maryland	70,415	99.996
Massachusetts	71,563	98.158
Michigan	112,154	99.996
Minnesota	68,054	100.000
Mississippi	37,787	100.000
Missouri	76,412	100.000
Montana	12,071	100.000
Nebraska	26,282	100.000
Nevada	34,625	100.000
New Hampshire	12,578	100.000
New Jersey	101,611	99.941
New Mexico	26,147	99.996
New York	242,217	100.000
New York (excluding New York City)	118,986	100.000
New York City	123,231	100.000
North Carolina	121,132	100.000
North Dakota	11,507	100.000
Ohio	139,066	99.973
Oklahoma	51,753	99.983
Oregon	45,557	100.000
Pennsylvania	141,981	100.000
Rhode Island	11,652	100.000
South Carolina	54,259	100.000
South Dakota	12,713	100.000
Tennessee	85,600	100.000
Texas	389,895	99.998
Utah	52,514	99.992
Vermont	5,686	100.000
Virginia	101,400	100.000
Washington	87,345	100.000
West Virginia	21,146	99.929
Wisconsin	66,975	100.000
Wyoming	6,856	99.985
Puerto Rico	38,903	99.601
Virgin Islands	---	---
Guam	2,396	66.482
American Samoa	1,163	100.000
Northern Marianas	---	---

-- Data not available.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes data for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Marianas.

NOTE: Percent completeness = Number of records in preliminary file \* 100 / Count of records.

## Technical Notes

### Nature and sources of data

Preliminary data for 2012 are based on nearly all births for that year (99.96%, see [Table 10](#)), with levels for 37 states at 100% and levels for the remaining 13 states and the District of Columbia above 98%. Preliminary 2012 data are based on continuous receipt and processing of statistical records through April 24, 2013, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). NCHS receives the data from the states' vital registration systems through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. In this report, U.S. totals include only events occurring within the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for Puerto Rico and American Samoa are included in tables showing data by state, but are not included in U.S. totals (see [Tables 6](#) and [10](#) and state-specific Internet tables at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_03\\_tables.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_03_tables.pdf)). Data for Northern Marianas and the Virgin Islands were not available and less than 75% of data for Guam were available as of release of the 2012 preliminary file. Accordingly, data for these territories are not included in this report (8). Detailed information on reporting completeness and imputation procedures may be found in the "User Guide to the 2011 Natality Public Use File" (9).

To produce the preliminary estimates shown in this report, records in the file were weighted using independent control counts of all 2012 births by state of occurrence. Detailed information on weighting and the reliability of estimates also may be found elsewhere (8).

### The 1989 and 2003 U.S. Standard Certificates of Live Birth

This report includes selected 2012 data on items that are collected on both the 1989 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth (unrevised) and 2003 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth (revised). The 2003 revision is described in detail elsewhere (2,9–11). Thirty-eight states (California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming), the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Northern Marianas had implemented the revised birth certificate as of January 1, 2012. One additional state, Virginia, implemented the revised birth certificate in 2012, but after January 1. The 38 revised states and the District of Columbia that implemented as of January 1, 2012, represent 86% of all births in 2012.

Data items exclusive to either the 1989 or the 2003 birth certificate revision are not shown in this report. A forthcoming report and data release based on 2012 final data will present selected data exclusive to the 2003 revised certificate.

### Age of mother

For information and discussion of age of mother, see "User Guide to the 2011 Natality Public Use File" (9).

## Hispanic origin and race

### Hispanic origin

Hispanic origin and race are reported separately on the birth certificate. Data shown by race (i.e., American Indian or Alaska Native and Asian or Pacific Islander) include persons of Hispanic or non-Hispanic origin, and data for Hispanic origin include all persons of Hispanic origin of any race. Data for non-Hispanic persons are shown separately for white and black mother given the substantial differences in fertility and maternal and infant health characteristics between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women and Hispanic and non-Hispanic black women. Items asking for the Hispanic origin of the mother have been included on the birth certificates of all states and the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Guam since 1993, on the birth certificate of Puerto Rico starting in 2005, and on the birth certificate of Northern Marianas starting in 2010 (9). American Samoa does not collect this information.

### Single, multiple, and "bridged" race

The 2003 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth allows the reporting of more than one race (multiple races) for each parent (10) in accordance with the revised standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 1997 (12). Information on this change is presented elsewhere (9,13–16).

In 2012, 41 states and the District of Columbia reported multiple races. Multiple-race reporting areas include the 39 revised or partially revised states (see the "1989 and 2003 U.S. Standard Certificates of Live Birth") and the District of Columbia, which used the 2003 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth, as well as Hawaii and Rhode Island, which used the 1989 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth, but which collected multiple-race data comparable to data of the states using the revised certificate. Puerto Rico, which revised its birth certificate in 2005, continued to report race according to the 1989 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth (that is, as an open-ended question in which only one response is accepted). The 41 states and the District of Columbia accounted for 90% of U.S. births in 2012. Data from the vital records of the remaining 9 states (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Maine, Mississippi, New Jersey, and West Virginia) are based on the 1989 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth that follows the 1977 OMB standard, allowing only a single race to be reported (13,14).

To provide uniformity and comparability of the data during the transition period, before all or most of the data are available in the new multiple-race format, it was necessary to "bridge" the responses of those who reported more than one race (multiple race) to one, single race. The bridging procedure for multiple-race mothers and fathers is based on the procedure used to bridge the multiple-race population estimates (see "Population denominators") (14–16). Information detailing the processing and tabulation of data by race is presented elsewhere (9). A previous report describes multiple-race birth data for 2003 (17).

### Marital status

For information and discussion of marital status, see "User Guide to the 2011 Natality Public Use File" (9). Data on mother's

marital status at time of birth for Puerto Rico have been excluded from [Table I-1](#) due to inaccurate reporting.

## Method of delivery, gestation, and birthweight

For information and discussion of method of delivery, gestational age, and birthweight, see “User Guide to the 2011 Natality Public Use File” (9).

## Population denominators

U.S. national and state-level birth and fertility rates for 2012 shown in this report are based on population estimates derived from the 2010 census, as of July 1, 2012. These population estimates are available on the NCHS website (18). The production of these population estimates is described in detail elsewhere (14).

Birth and fertility rates for the territories shown in this report are based on population estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau (19,20).

Rates by state and territory shown in this report may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates. Rates for states and territories with smaller populations, or groups with smaller populations, are more likely to be affected by differences in population base.

Information on the national estimates of births to unmarried women (i.e., methods of determining marital status) and the computation of the preliminary birth rates for unmarried women is presented elsewhere (2,9,21). The birth rate for unmarried women for 2012 is estimated on the basis of the population distributions by marital status provided by the U.S. Census Bureau as of March 2012 and applied to the national population estimates as of July 1, 2012, which is derived from the 2010 census (18,21,22).

The populations for the United States used in this report were produced under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau and are consistent with the 2010 census counts by age, race, and sex. Reflecting the guidelines issued in 1997 by OMB, the 2010 census included an option for persons to report more than one race as appropriate for themselves and household members (12). Beginning with births occurring in 2003, several states began reporting multiple-race data. This number has increased to 41 states and the District of Columbia in 2012 (see “Single, multiple, and ‘bridged’ race”). To produce birth and fertility rates by race during the transition period, the bridging of population data for multiple-race persons back to single-race categories was necessary. Once all states revise their birth certificates to be compliant with the 1997 OMB standards, the use of bridged populations can be discontinued. For detailed information on the revised OMB standards on race reporting and procedures used to produce the bridged populations, see “United States Census 2000 with Bridged Race Categories” (14).

## Computing rates and percentages and reliability of estimates

For information and further discussion on computing rates and percentages and the relative standard errors of the data, see “Births: Preliminary Data for 2005” (8).

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