

Effects of Age-specific Fertility Trends on Overall Fertility Trends: United States, 1990–2023

by Anne K. Driscoll, Ph.D., and Brady E. Hamilton, Ph.D.

Abstract

Objectives—This report examines the role of age-specific trends in fertility rates in the decline in the number of births and of general fertility rates (GFRs) and total fertility rates (TFRs).

Methods—Data are from the National Center for Health Statistics' National Vital Statistics System birth data files from 1990 through 2023. To estimate the role of changes in age-specific fertility rates on total births, GFRs, and TFRs from 1990 through 2023, 1990 rates for each maternal age category were kept constant and applied to all subsequent years to produce adjusted totals and rates.

Results—The actual number of U.S. births declined 14% from 1990 to 2023, the GFR declined 23%, and the TFR declined 22%. Due to declines in birth rates among females younger than age 30, holding their 1990 birth rates constant resulted in higher adjusted GFRs, TFRs, and number of births in 2023 than the actual rates and numbers. Due to increases in birth rates to women age 30 and older, holding their 1990 birth rates constant would have led to lower adjusted GFRs, TFRs, and number of births in 2023 than the actual rates and numbers. The magnitude of the decrease in birth rates among females younger than 30 was greater than the magnitude of the increase in rates among women 30 and older, resulting in declining overall fertility rates. These age-specific changes in birth rates resulted in changing maternal age distributions—in 1990, females younger than 30 accounted for 7 in 10 births (69.8%), while in 2023, they accounted for less than 1 in 2 (48.6%).

Summary—The decline in fertility rates over the past few decades results from declining rates among females younger than 30 coupled with smaller increases in rates among older women.

Keywords: maternal age • general fertility rate • total fertility rate • birth rate • replacement level • National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)

Introduction

Births and fertility rates have been declining in the United States over recent decades. Since 1990, the U.S. total fertility rate (TFR) declined from about the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman—the fertility level needed for a population to replace itself from one generation to the next—to 1.62 births per woman in 2023 (1–3). This trend, like fertility trends in other industrialized countries, has prompted discussion about both the reasons for the decline and the challenges it poses to the U.S. economy and society (4,5). This report examines the role of changes in age-specific fertility rates in the decline of overall fertility rates.

Methods

Data for this analysis are from the National Center for Health Statistics' National Vital Statistics System birth data files from 1990, the most recent peak for general fertility rates (GFRs) and TFRs, through 2023 (6). Birth certificate data are based on 100% of births registered in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (3). Populations used to calculate fertility rates are based on counts enumerated as of April 1 for census years 1990, 2000, and 2010, and estimated as of April 1, 2020, and July 1 for all other years (3,7).

Several measures of birth trends were calculated for 1990–2023. First, numbers of births, both overall and by maternal age and the percent distributions of births by maternal age, are presented from 1990 through 2023. Second, GFRs (the number of births in a given year divided by the number of females ages 15–44) are presented. Third, age-specific birth rates, which are computed by dividing the number of births to women in 5-year age groups in a given year by the number of women in that age group, are presented. Finally, TFRs for a given year (the average number of children expected to be born to a woman over her lifetime if she was to experience the same age-specific birth rates for that year) are presented. TFRs are the sum of

age-specific fertility rates multiplied by five, the number of years in the age group.

For the number of births, GFRs and TFRs, both actual (unadjusted) and adjusted numbers and rates are presented for each maternal 5-year age group. To estimate the role of changes in birth rates in each age category on total births, GFRs, and TFRs, 1990 age-specific birth rates were applied to all subsequent years to produce a set of adjusted totals and rates for each year. For example, the adjusted GFR testing the effect of changing birth rates for women ages 20–24 applied the 1990 birth rate for this age group to the population of the age group for each subsequent year. The resulting adjusted number of births for the age group was incorporated into the calculation of the adjusted GFR. Similarly, a set of adjusted TFRs was calculated for each year by replacing the current age-specific birth rate for a given age group with the 1990 rate and calculating the resulting TFR.

Results

Trends in number of actual births

The total number of U.S. births declined 14% from 1990 to 2023 (from 4,158,212 to 3,596,017) (Table 1, Figure 1). During this period, births to females younger than age 30 declined, while those to women 30 and older increased. Births to females younger than 20 declined 73% from 1990 to 2023, the

steepest percentage decline of all age groups, equal to 390,740 fewer births. Women ages 20–24 had 476,760 fewer births in 2023 than in 1990, a 44% decline, while those ages 25–29 had 290,541 fewer births, a 23% decline.

The number of births increased for women age 30 and older. Women ages 30–34 had 211,989 more births in 2023 than those in 1990, a 24% increase. Women ages 35–39 had 287,048 more births in 2023 than in 1990, a 90% increase, while those age 40 and older had 96,809 more births in 2023 in 1990, a 193% increase.

As a result of these changes, teen births declined from 1 in 8 births in 1990 (12.8%) to 1 in 25 births in 2023 (4.0%) (Table 1, Figure 2). Women ages 20–24 accounted for 26.3% of births in 1990 and 17.2% in 2023. Women ages 25–29 accounted for 30.7% in 1990 and 27.4% in 2023. The percentage of births to women ages 30–34 increased from 21.3% to 30.5%, the percentage of births to women ages 35–39 more than doubled from 7.6% to 16.8%, and births to women age 40 and older increased from 1.2% to 4.1% in 2023. In 1990, women 30 and older accounted for 3 in 10 births (30.2%); in 2023, they accounted for just over one-half (51.4%).

Trends in actual age-specific fertility rates

Birth rates for females ages 10–14 declined from 1.4 births per 1,000 females in 1990 to 0.2 in 2023; for females ages 15–19, the rate declined 78% from 59.9 to 13.1 (Table 2).

Figure 1. Number of births, by maternal age group: United States, 1990–2023

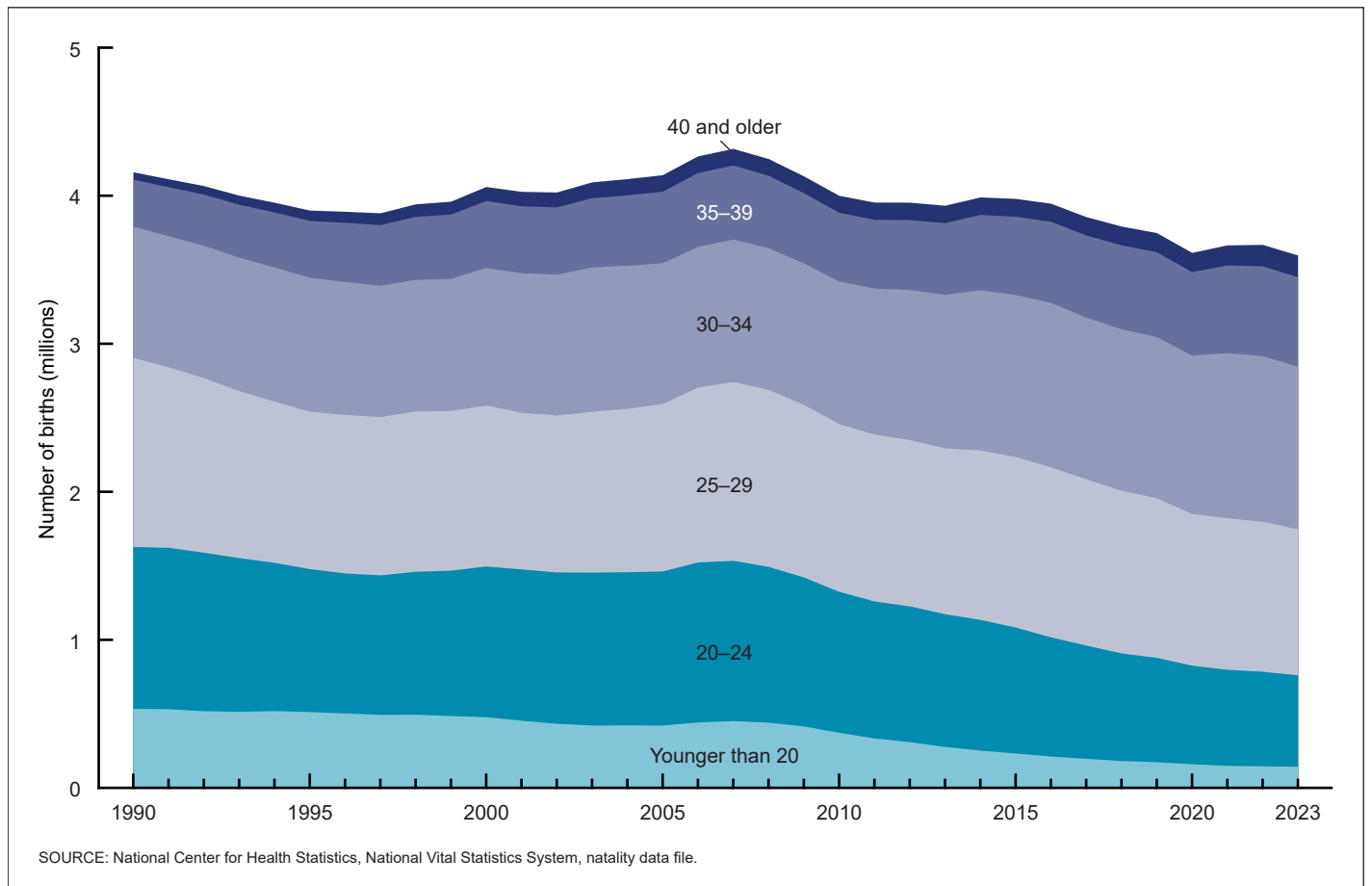
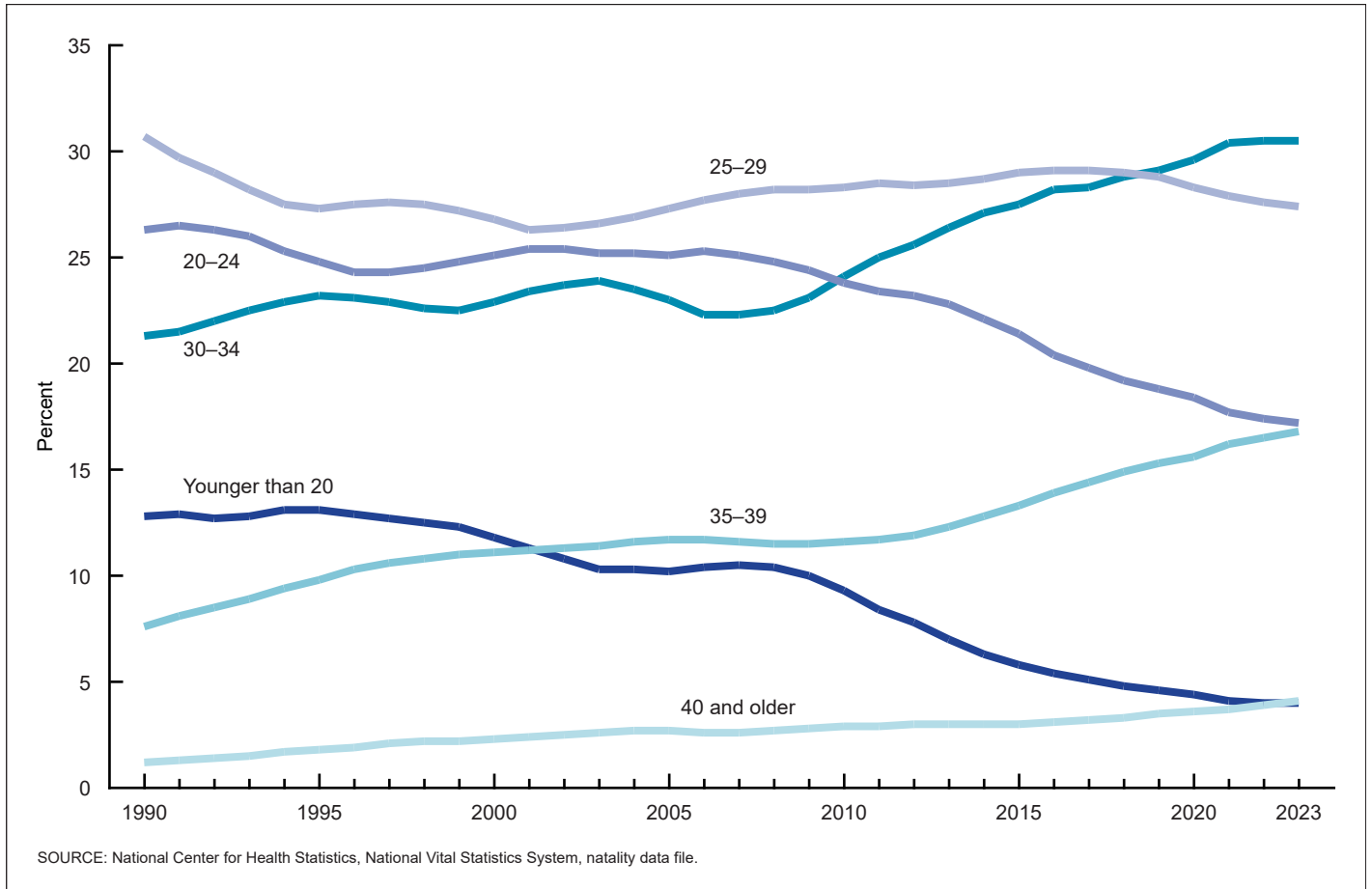


Figure 2. Percentage of births, by maternal age group: United States, 1990–2023

Age-specific birth rates also declined for women ages 20–24 and 25–29, who had the highest age-specific birth rates in 1990 (116.5 and 120.2, respectively). The rate declined 51% for women ages 20–24 to 57.7 in 2023, and 24% for ages 25–29 to 91.0 in 2023.

Conversely, rates increased for all older age groups from 1990 to 2023. The rate for women ages 30–34 increased 17% from 80.8 to 94.3, the highest age-specific rates in 2023. The rate for women ages 35–39 increased 71% from 31.7 to 54.3. The rates for women ages 40–44 and 45 and older increased from 5.5 to 12.5 (127% increase) and from 0.2 to 1.1 (450% increase), respectively, in 2023.

As a result of these overall changes in age-specific birth rates, the general fertility rate fell from 70.9 in 1990 to 54.5 in 2023, a 23% decline.

Trends in adjusted GFRs

As previously noted, the actual GFR declined 23% from 1990 to 2023 (Table 3, Figure 3). When 1990 birth rates for females younger than age 30 were held constant, adjusted GFRs fell less than the actual GFR. If the 1990 birth rate was held constant for teenagers and for women ages 20–24 and 25–29, the adjusted 2023 GFRs (62.3, 64.0, and 59.3, respectively) would have been 9% to 17% higher than the actual GFR of 54.5.

Conversely, when 1990 birth rates for women age 30 and older were held constant, adjusted GFRs declined more than the actual GFR. If 1990 birth rates for women ages 30–34, 35–39,

and 40 and older were held constant, the adjusted 2023 GFRs (52.1, 50.7, and 53.2, respectively) would have been 2% to 7% lower than the actual 2023 GFR.

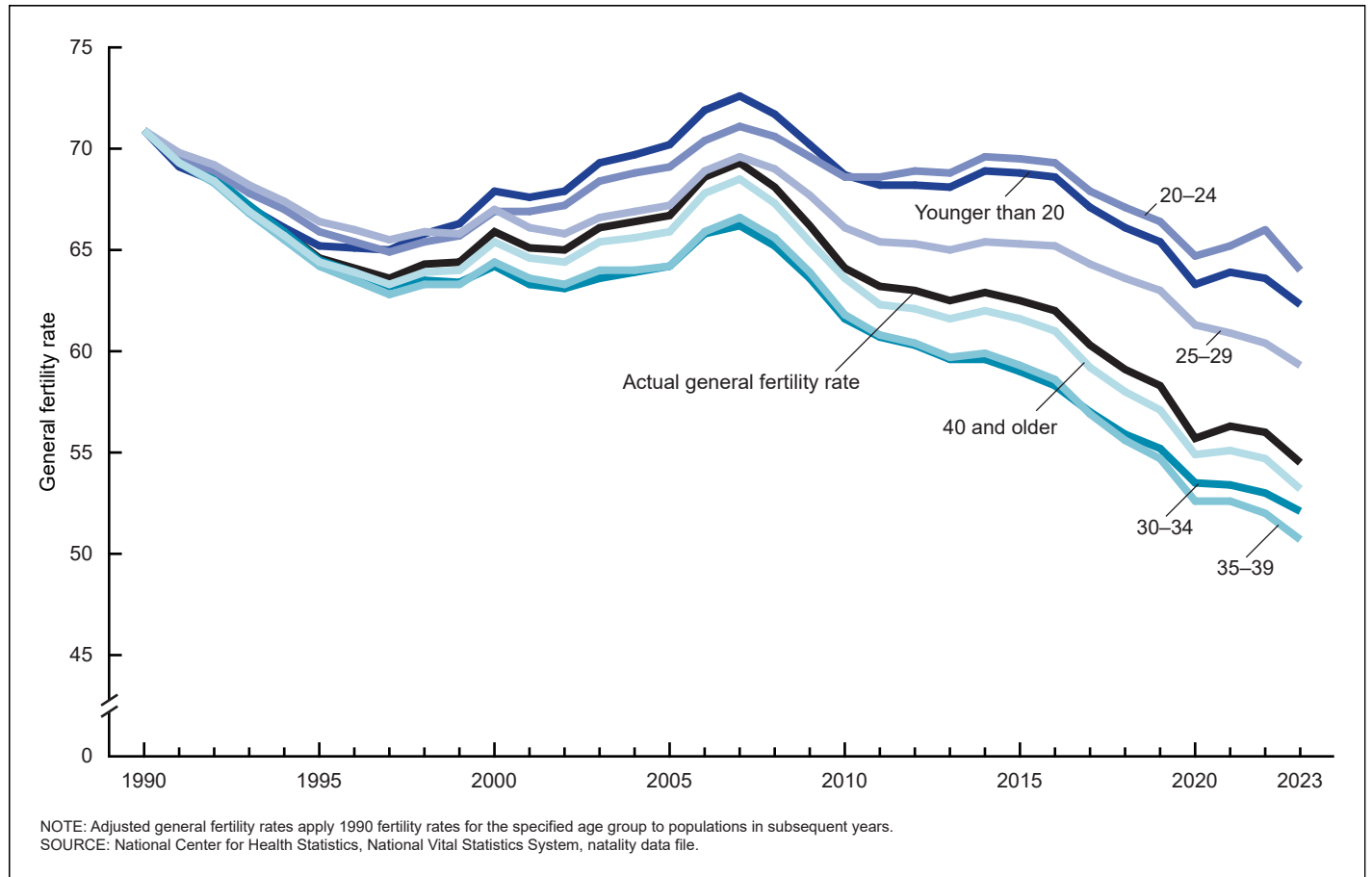
Trends in adjusted TFRs

In 1990, the actual total fertility rate was 2.08, slightly below the replacement level of 2.10. The rate declined 22% to 1.62 in 2023, further below replacement level (Table 4, Figure 4). When the birth rates of females younger than age 30 were held constant at 1990 levels, adjusted 2023 TFRs were higher than the actual TFR. Holding 1990 birth rates constant for females younger than 20 and for women ages 20–24 and 25–29 resulted in adjusted 2023 TFRs of 1.86, 1.91, and 1.77, respectively, 9% to 18% higher compared with the actual 2023 TFR of 1.62.

Conversely, when the birth rates of women age 30 and older were held constant at 1990 levels, the 2023 adjusted TFRs were lower than the actual TFR. Holding 1990 birth rates constant for women ages 30–34, 35–39, and 40 and older resulted in adjusted 2023 TFRs of 1.55, 1.51, and 1.58, respectively, or 2% to 7% lower than the actual 2023 TFR.

Trends in adjusted number of births

The United States recorded 562,195 fewer total births in 2023 than in 1990 (Tables 1 and 5). Applying the 1990 birth rates of females younger than age 30 to all subsequent years would

Figure 3. Actual and adjusted general fertility rates: United States, 1990–2023

have resulted in more births in 2023 than actually occurred. If 1990 birth rates for teenagers and for women ages 20–24 and 25–29 were applied to all subsequent years, the result would have been 517,143, 627,758, and 316,697 more births, respectively, in 2023.

Conversely, holding the 1990 birth rates of women age 30 and older constant would have resulted in fewer births in 2023 than actually occurred. If 1990 rates for women ages 30–34 and 35–39 were applied to all subsequent years, the result would have been 157,470 and 251,412 fewer total births, respectively, in 2023. If the 1990 rate for women age 40 and older was applied, the result would have been 85,195 fewer births in 2023.

Summary

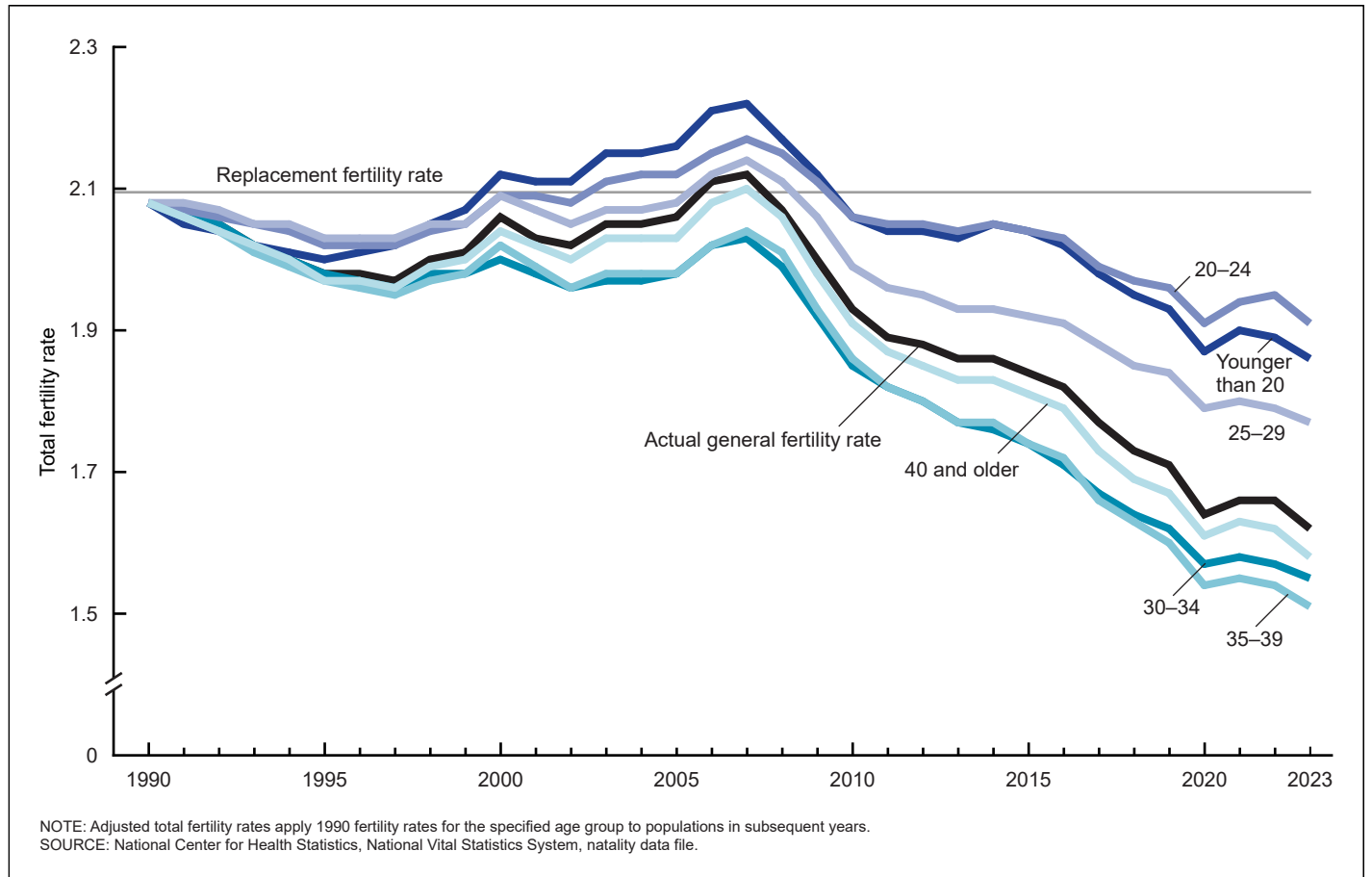
The total number of births in the United States declined 14% from 1990 to 2023. During the same period, the GFR declined 23% and the TFR declined 22%. Declining birth rates of females younger than age 30 drove the decline in overall fertility rates and number of births, while rising rates for women 30 and older only partially compensated for the decline in fertility rates of younger women. Because the declines in birth rates of younger women, who account for the majority of births, outweighed the increases in rates of women age 30 and older, the overall GFR, TFR, and number of births declined.

If birth rates for females younger than 30 had not declined from their 1990 levels, GFRs, TFRs, and the number of births in 2023 would have been higher. Conversely, if birth rates for women 30 and older had not risen from their 1990 levels, the result would have been 85,000 to 251,000 fewer births in 2023 as well as lower GFRs and TFRs.

The trends for younger and older women also resulted in a shift in the age distribution of women giving birth over the study period. In 1990, 7 in 10 births were to females younger than 30 (69.8%), 4 in 10 were to females younger than 25 (39.1%), and 1 in 8 were to females younger than 20 (12.8%). By 2023, females younger than 30 accounted for fewer than 1 in 2 births (48.6%), females younger than 25 accounted for 1 in 5 (21.2%), and females younger than 20 accounted for 1 in 20 (4.0%).

To illustrate the effect of trends in age-specific rates on overall fertility trends, note that these analyses rely on the creation of hypothetical fertility trends. In particular, holding the birth rates of younger women constant does not account for how a birth, or its absence, might affect subsequent fertility at older ages. Delay in the timing of a birth results in a mix of postponed and foregone fertility. In some cases, women shift their childbearing to older ages, increasing births and fertility rates for older women without resulting in a difference in final total fertility. In other cases, births that would have occurred during earlier years of women's lives do not occur in later years, resulting in lower final fertility.

Figure 4. Actual and adjusted total fertility rates: United States, 1990–2023



In summary, the decline in fertility rates over the past few decades results from declining rates among females younger than 30 that are offset somewhat by smaller increases in rates among older women.

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Table 1. Number and percentage of births, by maternal age: United States, 1990–2023

Year	Total	Number of births						Percent distribution					
		Younger than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and older	Younger than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and older
1990.....	4,158,212	533,483	1,093,730	1,277,108	886,063	317,583	50,245	12.8	26.3	30.7	21.3	7.6	1.2
1991.....	4,110,907	531,591	1,089,692	1,219,965	884,862	330,993	53,804	12.9	26.5	29.7	21.5	8.1	1.3
1992.....	4,065,014	517,635	1,070,490	1,179,264	895,271	344,644	57,710	12.7	26.3	29.0	22.0	8.5	1.4
1993.....	4,000,240	513,647	1,038,127	1,128,862	901,151	357,053	61,400	12.8	26.0	28.2	22.5	8.9	1.5
1994.....	3,952,767	518,389	1,001,418	1,088,845	906,498	371,608	66,009	13.1	25.3	27.5	22.9	9.4	1.7
1995.....	3,899,589	512,115	965,547	1,063,539	904,666	383,745	69,977	13.1	24.8	27.3	23.2	9.8	1.8
1996.....	3,891,494	502,725	945,210	1,071,287	897,913	399,510	74,849	12.9	24.3	27.5	23.1	10.3	1.9
1997.....	3,880,894	493,341	942,048	1,069,436	886,798	409,710	79,561	12.7	24.3	27.6	22.9	10.6	2.1
1998.....	3,941,553	494,357	965,122	1,083,010	889,365	424,890	84,809	12.5	24.5	27.5	22.6	10.8	2.2
1999.....	3,959,417	485,104	981,929	1,078,252	892,400	434,294	87,438	12.3	24.8	27.2	22.5	11.0	2.2
2000.....	4,058,814	477,509	1,017,806	1,087,547	929,278	452,057	94,617	11.8	25.1	26.8	22.9	11.1	2.3
2001.....	4,025,933	453,725	1,021,627	1,058,265	942,697	451,723	97,896	11.3	25.4	26.3	23.4	11.2	2.4
2002.....	4,021,726	432,808	1,022,106	1,060,391	951,219	453,927	101,275	10.8	25.4	26.4	23.7	11.3	2.5
2003.....	4,089,950	421,241	1,032,305	1,086,366	975,546	467,642	106,850	10.3	25.2	26.6	23.9	11.4	2.6
2004.....	4,112,052	422,043	1,034,454	1,104,485	965,663	475,606	109,801	10.3	25.2	26.9	23.5	11.6	2.7
2005.....	4,138,349	421,315	1,040,388	1,131,596	950,691	483,156	111,203	10.2	25.1	27.3	23.0	11.7	2.7
2006.....	4,265,555	441,832	1,080,437	1,181,899	950,258	498,616	112,513	10.4	25.3	27.7	22.3	11.7	2.6
2007.....	4,316,233	451,094	1,082,354	1,208,408	961,931	499,914	112,532	10.5	25.1	28.0	22.3	11.6	2.6
2008.....	4,247,694	440,522	1,052,184	1,195,774	956,716	488,875	113,623	10.4	24.8	28.2	22.5	11.5	2.7
2009.....	4,130,665	414,831	1,005,982	1,166,787	955,246	474,103	113,716	10.0	24.4	28.2	23.1	11.5	2.8
2010.....	3,999,386	372,175	951,688	1,133,713	962,170	464,870	114,770	9.3	23.8	28.3	24.1	11.6	2.9
2011.....	3,953,590	333,746	925,200	1,127,583	986,682	463,849	116,530	8.4	23.4	28.5	25.0	11.7	2.9
2012.....	3,952,841	309,060	916,811	1,123,900	1,013,416	472,318	117,336	7.8	23.2	28.4	25.6	11.9	3.0
2013.....	3,932,181	276,203	896,745	1,120,777	1,036,927	483,873	117,656	7.0	22.8	28.5	26.4	12.3	3.0
2014.....	3,988,076	251,847	882,567	1,145,392	1,081,058	508,748	118,464	6.3	22.1	28.7	27.1	12.8	3.0
2015.....	3,978,497	232,215	850,509	1,152,311	1,094,693	527,996	120,773	5.8	21.4	29.0	27.5	13.3	3.0
2016.....	3,945,875	212,062	803,978	1,149,122	1,111,042	547,488	122,183	5.4	20.4	29.1	28.2	13.9	3.1
2017.....	3,855,500	196,294	764,780	1,123,577	1,091,917	554,796	124,136	5.1	19.8	29.1	28.3	14.4	3.2
2018.....	3,791,712	181,607	726,175	1,099,491	1,090,697	566,786	126,956	4.8	19.2	29.0	28.8	14.9	3.3
2019.....	3,747,540	173,461	704,342	1,078,097	1,089,281	572,598	129,761	4.6	18.8	28.8	29.1	15.3	3.5
2020.....	3,613,647	159,808	665,595	1,024,402	1,069,984	564,059	129,799	4.4	18.4	28.3	29.6	15.6	3.6
2021.....	3,664,292	148,850	648,484	1,023,989	1,115,055	592,179	135,735	4.1	17.7	27.9	30.4	16.2	3.7
2022.....	3,667,758	145,614	638,685	1,013,417	1,118,787	606,598	144,657	4.0	17.4	27.6	30.5	16.5	3.9
2023.....	3,596,017	142,743	616,970	986,567	1,098,052	604,631	147,054	4.0	17.2	27.4	30.5	16.8	4.1
Change from 1990 to 2023.....	-562,195	-390,740	-476,760	-290,541	211,989	287,048	96,809	...	...	...	...	...	...
Percent change from 1990 to 2023.....	-14	-73	-44	-23	24	90	193	...	...	...	...	...	...

... Category not applicable.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, natality data file.

Table 2. General and age-specific birth rates: United States, 1990–2023

Year	General fertility rate	Age-specific birth rate							
		10–14	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45 and older
1990.....	70.9	1.4	59.9	116.5	120.2	80.8	31.7	5.5	0.2
1991.....	69.3	1.4	61.8	115.3	117.2	79.2	31.9	5.5	0.2
1992.....	68.4	1.4	60.3	113.7	115.7	79.6	32.3	5.9	0.3
1993.....	67.0	1.4	59.0	111.3	113.2	79.9	32.7	6.1	0.3
1994.....	65.9	1.4	58.2	109.2	111.0	80.4	33.4	6.4	0.3
1995.....	64.6	1.3	56.0	107.5	108.8	81.1	34.0	6.6	0.3
1996.....	64.1	1.2	53.5	107.8	108.6	82.1	34.9	6.8	0.3
1997.....	63.6	1.1	51.3	107.3	108.3	83.0	35.7	7.1	0.4
1998.....	64.3	1.0	50.3	108.4	110.2	85.2	36.9	7.4	0.4
1999.....	64.4	0.9	48.8	107.9	111.2	87.1	37.8	7.4	0.4
2000.....	65.9	0.9	47.7	109.7	113.5	91.2	39.7	8.0	0.5
2001.....	65.1	0.8	45.0	105.6	113.8	91.8	40.5	8.1	0.5
2002.....	65.0	0.7	42.6	103.1	114.7	92.6	41.6	8.3	0.5
2003.....	66.1	0.6	41.1	102.3	116.7	95.7	43.9	8.7	0.5
2004.....	66.4	0.6	40.5	101.5	116.5	96.2	45.5	9.0	0.5
2005.....	66.7	0.6	39.7	101.8	116.5	96.7	46.4	9.1	0.6
2006.....	68.6	0.6	41.1	105.5	118.0	98.9	47.5	9.4	0.6
2007.....	69.3	0.6	41.5	105.4	118.1	100.6	47.6	9.6	0.6
2008.....	68.1	0.6	40.2	101.8	115.0	99.4	46.8	9.9	0.7
2009.....	66.2	0.5	37.9	96.2	111.5	97.5	46.1	10.0	0.7
2010.....	64.1	0.4	34.2	90.0	108.3	96.5	45.9	10.2	0.7
2011.....	63.2	0.4	31.3	85.3	107.2	96.5	47.2	10.3	0.7
2012.....	63.0	0.4	29.4	83.1	106.5	97.3	48.3	10.4	0.7
2013.....	62.5	0.3	26.5	80.7	105.5	98.0	49.3	10.4	0.8
2014.....	62.9	0.3	24.2	79.0	105.8	100.8	51.0	10.6	0.8
2015.....	62.5	0.2	22.3	76.8	104.3	101.5	51.8	11.0	0.8
2016.....	62.0	0.2	20.3	73.8	102.1	102.7	52.7	11.4	0.9
2017.....	60.3	0.2	18.8	71.0	98.0	100.3	52.3	11.6	0.9
2018.....	59.1	0.2	17.4	68.0	95.3	99.7	52.6	11.8	0.9
2019.....	58.3	0.2	16.7	66.6	93.7	98.3	52.8	12.0	0.9
2020.....	55.7	0.2	15.0	63.3	90.9	94.9	51.3	11.8	0.9
2021.....	56.3	0.2	13.9	61.5	93.0	97.6	53.7	12.0	0.9
2022.....	56.0	0.2	13.6	57.5	93.5	97.5	55.3	12.6	1.1
2023.....	54.5	0.2	13.1	57.7	91.0	94.3	54.3	12.5	1.1
Change from 1990 to 2023.....	-16.4	-1.2	-46.8	-58.8	-29.2	13.5	22.6	7.0	0.9
Percent change from 1990 to 2023.....	-23	-86	-78	-51	-24	17	71	127	450

NOTES: The general fertility rate is the number of births per 1,000 females ages 15–44. The age-specific birth rate is the number of births per 1,000 females in a given age group.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, natality data file.

Table 3. Actual and adjusted general fertility rates: United States, 1990–2023

Year	Actual GFR	Adjusted GFR ¹					
		Younger than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and older
1990.....	70.9	70.9	70.9	70.9	70.9	70.9	70.9
1991.....	69.3	69.1	69.5	69.8	69.6	69.3	69.3
1992.....	68.4	68.4	68.9	69.2	68.6	68.3	68.4
1993.....	67.0	67.1	67.8	68.2	67.2	66.8	66.9
1994.....	65.9	66.1	67.0	67.4	65.9	65.5	65.7
1995.....	64.6	65.2	65.9	66.4	64.5	64.2	64.4
1996.....	64.1	65.1	65.4	66.0	63.9	63.5	63.9
1997.....	63.6	65.0	64.9	65.5	63.2	62.8	63.3
1998.....	64.3	65.8	65.4	65.9	63.5	63.3	63.9
1999.....	64.4	66.3	65.7	65.8	63.4	63.3	64.0
2000.....	65.9	67.9	66.9	67.0	64.2	64.4	65.4
2001.....	65.1	67.6	66.9	66.1	63.3	63.6	64.6
2002.....	65.0	67.9	67.2	65.8	63.1	63.3	64.4
2003.....	66.1	69.3	68.4	66.6	63.6	64.0	65.4
2004.....	66.4	69.7	68.8	66.9	63.9	64.0	65.6
2005.....	66.7	70.2	69.1	67.2	64.2	64.2	65.9
2006.....	68.6	71.9	70.4	68.9	65.8	65.9	67.8
2007.....	69.3	72.6	71.1	69.6	66.2	66.6	68.5
2008.....	68.1	71.7	70.6	69.0	65.2	65.6	67.3
2009.....	66.2	70.2	69.6	67.7	63.6	63.9	65.4
2010.....	64.1	68.7	68.6	66.1	61.6	61.8	63.6
2011.....	63.2	68.2	68.6	65.4	60.7	60.8	62.3
2012.....	63.0	68.2	68.9	65.3	60.3	60.4	62.1
2013.....	62.5	68.1	68.8	65.0	59.6	59.7	61.6
2014.....	62.9	68.9	69.6	65.4	59.6	59.9	62.0
2015.....	62.5	68.8	69.5	65.3	59.0	59.3	61.6
2016.....	62.0	68.6	69.3	65.2	58.3	58.6	61.0
2017.....	60.3	67.1	67.9	64.3	57.0	56.9	59.2
2018.....	59.1	66.1	67.1	63.6	55.9	55.6	58.0
2019.....	58.3	65.4	66.4	63.0	55.2	54.7	57.1
2020.....	55.7	63.3	64.7	61.3	53.5	52.6	54.9
2021.....	56.3	63.9	65.2	60.9	53.4	52.6	55.1
2022.....	56.0	63.6	66.0	60.4	53.0	52.0	54.7
2023.....	54.5	62.3	64.0	59.3	52.1	50.7	53.2
Change from 1990 to 2023	-16.4	-8.6	-6.9	-11.6	-18.8	-20.2	-17.7
Percent change from 1990 to 2023	-23	0	-10	0	-27	-29	-25
Difference from 2023 actual GFR . . . . .	...	7.8	9.5	4.8	-2.4	-3.8	-1.3
Percent difference from 2023 actual GFR . . . . .	...	14	17	9	-4	-7	-2

... Category not applicable.

¹Adjusted rates apply 1990 fertility rates of the specified age group to the population in subsequent years.

NOTE: GFR is general fertility rate, which is the number of births per 1,000 females ages 15–44.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, natality data file.

Table 4. Actual and adjusted total fertility rates: United States, 1990–2023

Year	Actual TFR	Adjusted TFR ¹					
		Younger than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and older
1990.....	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08
1991.....	2.06	2.05	2.07	2.08	2.07	2.06	2.06
1992.....	2.05	2.04	2.06	2.07	2.05	2.04	2.04
1993.....	2.02	2.02	2.05	2.05	2.02	2.01	2.02
1994.....	2.00	2.01	2.04	2.05	2.00	1.99	2.00
1995.....	1.98	2.00	2.02	2.03	1.98	1.97	1.97
1996.....	1.98	2.01	2.02	2.03	1.97	1.96	1.97
1997.....	1.97	2.02	2.02	2.03	1.96	1.95	1.96
1998.....	2.00	2.05	2.04	2.05	1.98	1.97	1.99
1999.....	2.01	2.07	2.05	2.05	1.98	1.98	2.00
2000.....	2.06	2.12	2.09	2.09	2.00	2.02	2.04
2001.....	2.03	2.11	2.09	2.07	1.98	1.99	2.02
2002.....	2.02	2.11	2.08	2.05	1.96	1.96	2.00
2003.....	2.05	2.15	2.11	2.07	1.97	1.98	2.03
2004.....	2.05	2.15	2.12	2.07	1.97	1.98	2.03
2005.....	2.06	2.16	2.12	2.08	1.98	1.98	2.03
2006.....	2.11	2.21	2.15	2.12	2.02	2.02	2.08
2007.....	2.12	2.22	2.17	2.14	2.03	2.04	2.10
2008.....	2.07	2.17	2.15	2.11	1.99	2.01	2.06
2009.....	2.00	2.12	2.11	2.06	1.92	1.93	1.98
2010.....	1.93	2.06	2.06	1.99	1.85	1.86	1.91
2011.....	1.89	2.04	2.05	1.96	1.82	1.82	1.87
2012.....	1.88	2.04	2.05	1.95	1.80	1.80	1.85
2013.....	1.86	2.03	2.04	1.93	1.77	1.77	1.83
2014.....	1.86	2.05	2.05	1.93	1.76	1.77	1.83
2015.....	1.84	2.04	2.04	1.92	1.74	1.74	1.81
2016.....	1.82	2.02	2.03	1.91	1.71	1.72	1.79
2017.....	1.77	1.98	1.99	1.88	1.67	1.66	1.73
2018.....	1.73	1.95	1.97	1.85	1.64	1.63	1.69
2019.....	1.71	1.93	1.96	1.84	1.62	1.60	1.67
2020.....	1.64	1.87	1.91	1.79	1.57	1.54	1.61
2021.....	1.66	1.90	1.94	1.80	1.58	1.55	1.63
2022.....	1.66	1.89	1.95	1.79	1.57	1.54	1.62
2023.....	1.62	1.86	1.91	1.77	1.55	1.51	1.58
Change from 1990 to 2023.....	-0.46	-0.22	-0.17	-0.31	-0.53	-0.57	-0.50
Percent change from 1990 to 2023.....	-22	-11	-8	-15	-25	-27	-24
Difference from actual 2023 TFR.....	...	0.24	0.29	0.15	-0.07	-0.11	-0.04
Percent difference from actual 2023 TFR.....	...	15	18	9	-4	-7	-2

... Category not applicable.

¹Adjusted rates apply 1990 fertility rates of the specified age group to the population in subsequent years.

NOTE: TFR is total fertility rate, which is the average number of children expected to be born to women over their lifetimes.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, natality data file.

Table 5. Actual and adjusted number of births: United States, 1990–2023

Year	Actual births	Adjusted number of births ¹					
		Younger than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and older
1990.....	4,158,212	4,158,212	4,158,212	4,158,212	4,158,212	4,158,212	4,158,212
1991.....	4,110,907	4,095,036	4,122,317	4,142,389	4,128,897	4,108,603	4,110,775
1992.....	4,065,014	4,062,311	4,091,555	4,110,668	4,078,582	4,058,260	4,061,204
1993.....	4,000,240	4,008,292	4,048,798	4,070,149	4,010,533	3,989,405	3,993,894
1994.....	3,952,767	3,967,823	4,019,394	4,042,730	3,957,120	3,933,660	3,943,267
1995.....	3,899,589	3,935,442	3,980,903	4,010,717	3,896,513	3,873,803	3,887,669
1996.....	3,891,494	3,952,710	3,968,031	4,005,961	3,877,498	3,854,442	3,876,302
1997.....	3,880,894	3,965,501	3,961,824	3,998,920	3,857,826	3,835,417	3,862,504
1998.....	3,941,553	4,038,225	4,013,423	4,039,791	3,895,672	3,881,194	3,919,284
1999.....	3,959,417	4,072,829	4,037,477	4,046,620	3,895,146	3,888,854	3,935,552
2000.....	4,058,814	4,184,066	4,121,684	4,123,093	3,952,776	3,967,756	4,028,458
2001.....	4,025,933	4,180,075	4,131,671	4,085,902	3,912,562	3,927,396	3,993,393
2002.....	4,021,726	4,201,353	4,154,863	4,073,015	3,900,339	3,913,438	3,986,056
2003.....	4,089,950	4,287,517	4,233,564	4,122,298	3,938,064	3,960,233	4,048,810
2004.....	4,112,052	4,318,173	4,264,808	4,146,952	3,957,714	3,967,816	4,068,081
2005.....	4,138,349	4,356,566	4,288,918	4,174,201	3,982,338	3,985,241	4,092,413
2006.....	4,265,555	4,472,868	4,377,936	4,287,390	4,091,940	4,099,455	4,217,153
2007.....	4,316,233	4,522,184	4,430,353	4,337,382	4,126,696	4,149,259	4,266,505
2008.....	4,247,694	4,468,552	4,400,069	4,301,223	4,068,749	4,089,698	4,195,551
2009.....	4,130,665	4,377,152	4,343,205	4,221,996	3,967,304	3,982,824	4,077,286
2010.....	3,999,386	4,284,474	4,279,315	4,123,717	3,842,436	3,855,879	3,966,649
2011.....	3,953,590	4,264,462	4,291,382	4,090,304	3,793,335	3,801,447	3,897,444
2012.....	3,952,841	4,280,754	4,321,462	4,097,464	3,781,126	3,790,346	3,895,842
2013.....	3,932,181	4,287,850	4,330,505	4,087,966	3,750,342	3,759,554	3,874,356
2014.....	3,988,076	4,366,386	4,407,134	4,144,035	3,773,173	3,795,752	3,928,767
2015.....	3,978,497	4,378,056	4,417,813	4,154,655	3,755,305	3,773,878	3,915,846
2016.....	3,945,875	4,366,609	4,410,578	4,150,134	3,708,935	3,727,987	3,880,366
2017.....	3,855,500	4,292,286	4,345,366	4,110,404	3,642,936	3,637,232	3,787,878
2018.....	3,791,712	4,242,721	4,308,829	4,079,680	3,585,302	3,566,443	3,721,396
2019.....	3,747,540	4,205,838	4,274,392	4,052,277	3,553,256	3,518,969	3,674,921
2020.....	3,613,647	4,083,016	4,178,514	3,954,250	3,454,210	3,394,824	3,541,965
2021.....	3,664,292	4,161,533	4,244,971	3,964,116	3,472,646	3,421,938	3,588,347
2022.....	3,667,758	4,168,577	4,322,665	3,957,360	3,475,853	3,408,771	3,583,409
2023.....	3,596,017	4,113,160	4,223,775	3,912,714	3,438,547	3,344,605	3,510,822
Change from 1990 to 2023	-562,195	-45,052	65,563	-245,498	-719,665	-813,607	-647,390
Percent change from 1990 to 2023.....	-14	-1	2	-6	-17	-20	-16
Difference from actual 2023 births . . . . .	...	517,143	627,758	316,697	-157,470	-251,412	-85,195
Percent difference from actual 2023 births . . . . .	...	14	18	9	-4	-7	-2

... Category not applicable.

¹Adjusted birth numbers apply 1990 fertility rates for the specified age group to the population in subsequent years.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, natality data file.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics
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National Center for Health Statistics

Brian C. Moyer, Ph.D., *Director*
Amy M. Branum, Ph.D., *Associate Director for Science*

Division of Vital Statistics

Paul D. Sutton, Ph.D., *Director*
Andrés A. Berruti, Ph.D., M.A., *Associate Director for Science*