

## Births: Final Data for 2002

Rates for women ages 15-17 and 18-19 years by race and Hispanic origin for 1991-1999 have been updated as of June 2004, and may differ from previously published rates. Rates in tables C, 17, and 18 have been adjusted for rounding as of June 2004, and may differ from previously published rates. See yellow highlights

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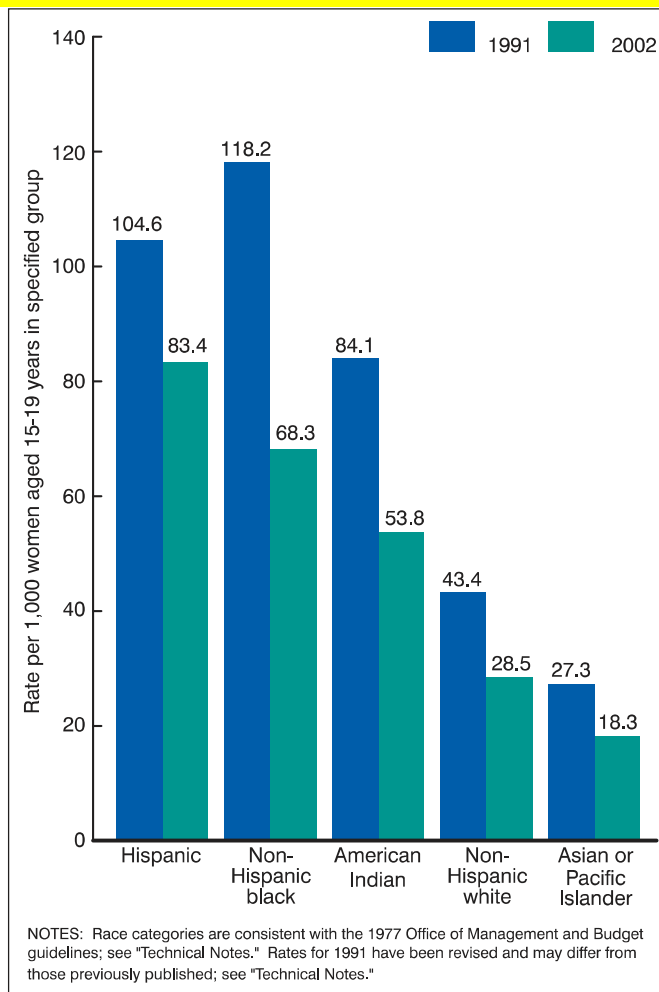
Rates of the specified Hispanic origin groups for 1992 and 1995 have been revised any may differ from previously published rates.

### Abstract

**Objectives**—This report presents 2002 data on U.S. births according to a wide variety of characteristics. Data are presented for maternal demographic characteristics including age, live-birth order, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, and educational attainment; maternal characteristics (medical risk factors, weight gain, tobacco, and alcohol use); medical care utilization by pregnant women (prenatal care, obstetric procedures, complications of labor and/or delivery, attendant at birth, and method of delivery); and infant characteristics (period of gestation, birthweight, Apgar score, abnormal conditions, congenital anomalies, and multiple births). Also presented are birth and fertility rates by age, live-birth order, race, Hispanic origin, and marital status. Selected data by mother's State of residence are shown, as well as data on month and day of birth, sex ratio, and age of father. Trends in fertility patterns and maternal and infant characteristics are described and interpreted.

**Methods**—Descriptive tabulations of data reported on the birth certificates of the 4.022 million births that occurred in 2002 are presented. Denominators for population-based rates are derived from the 2000 U.S. census. Rates for 1991–2001 may differ from those published previously based on the 1990 U.S. census.

**Results**—There were 4,021,726 live births in 2002, essentially unchanged from 2001. The birth rate, fertility rate, and total fertility rates all declined 1 percent in 2002. The teenage birth rate dropped 5 percent, reaching another record low. The birth rates for women 20–24 years declined, whereas the rate for women 25–29 years was stable. The birth rate for women 30–34 years declined, but the rate for women 35–44 years continued to rise. Births to unmarried women changed very little. Smoking during pregnancy was down again. The timeliness of prenatal care continued to improve. The cesarean delivery rate climbed to the highest level ever reported in the United States (26.1 percent) and the rate of vaginal birth after previous cesarean plummeted 23 percent to 12.6 percent. Preterm and low birthweight levels both rose for 2002. The twin birth rate continued to climb, but the rate of triplet/+ births was down slightly.



**Figure 1. Birth rates for teenagers by race and/or Hispanic origin for 1991 and 2002**

**Keywords:** births • birth certificate • maternal and infant health • birth rates • maternal characteristics

**Table 3. Fertility rates and birth rates by age of mother, live-birth order, and race of mother: United States, 2002**

[Rates are live births per 1,000 women in specified age and racial group. Fertility rate computed by relating total births, regardless of age of mother, to women aged 15–44 years. Population estimated as of July 1. Live-birth order refers to number of children born alive to mother. Figures for live-birth order not stated are distributed]

Live-birth order and race of mother	Age of mother										
	15–44 years	10–14 years	15–19 years			20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years	45–49 years <sup>1</sup>
			Total	15–17 years	18–19 years						
All races . . . . .	64.8	0.7	43.0	23.2	72.8	103.6	113.6	91.5	41.4	8.3	0.5
1st child . . . . .	25.8	0.7	34.0	20.8	54.1	48.1	40.7	26.6	9.3	1.8	0.1
2d child . . . . .	21.1	0.0	7.5	2.3	15.6	35.5	38.9	33.1	13.6	2.3	0.1
3d child . . . . .	10.9	*	1.2	0.2	2.8	14.5	21.4	18.8	9.6	1.7	0.1
4th child . . . . .	4.3	*	0.1	0.0	0.4	4.2	8.3	7.8	4.7	1.0	0.1
5th child . . . . .	1.5	*	0.0	*	0.0	1.0	2.9	2.9	2.0	0.6	0.0
6th and 7th child . . . . .	0.9	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.3	1.3	1.8	1.5	0.5	0.0
8th child and over . . . . .	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.0
White . . . . .	64.8	0.5	39.4	20.5	68.0	101.6	117.4	95.5	42.4	8.2	0.5
1st child . . . . .	25.7	0.5	31.7	18.5	51.6	48.6	42.7	27.7	9.6	1.8	0.1
2d child . . . . .	21.5	0.0	6.6	1.8	13.9	35.3	41.2	34.9	13.9	2.3	0.1
3d child . . . . .	11.0	*	1.0	0.1	2.2	13.3	22.1	20.0	10.1	1.7	0.1
4th child . . . . .	4.1	*	0.1	0.0	0.2	3.5	8.0	8.0	4.8	1.0	0.1
5th child . . . . .	1.4	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.7	2.4	2.8	2.0	0.5	0.0
6th and 7th child . . . . .	0.8	*	*	*	*	0.2	1.0	1.6	1.4	0.5	0.0
8th child and over . . . . .	0.2	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.0
Black . . . . .	65.8	1.8	66.6	40.0	107.6	127.1	99.0	64.4	31.5	7.4	0.4
1st child . . . . .	24.8	1.8	50.4	35.0	74.2	49.6	24.4	14.2	5.9	1.3	0.1
2d child . . . . .	19.2	0.0	13.1	4.6	26.2	42.3	30.9	19.6	9.1	1.8	0.1
3d child . . . . .	11.7	*	2.7	0.4	6.1	22.8	22.7	14.8	7.2	1.6	0.1
4th child . . . . .	5.5	*	0.4	0.0	0.9	8.7	11.6	7.8	4.2	1.1	0.1
5th child . . . . .	2.4	*	0.0	*	0.1	2.7	5.4	3.8	2.2	0.6	0.0
6th and 7th child . . . . .	1.6	*	*	*	*	0.9	3.4	3.1	1.9	0.6	0.0
8th child and over . . . . .	0.5	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.4	0.0
American Indian <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	58.0	0.9	53.8	30.7	89.2	112.6	91.8	56.4	25.4	5.8	0.3
1st child . . . . .	20.4	0.9	41.4	27.3	63.1	41.6	18.8	9.0	3.0	0.6	*
2d child . . . . .	16.2	*	10.4	3.2	21.4	41.0	26.2	13.5	4.8	0.9	*
3d child . . . . .	10.4	*	1.8	*	4.2	20.6	22.7	12.8	5.3	1.1	*
4th child . . . . .	5.6	*	0.2	*	0.5	7.0	13.7	9.4	4.2	0.9	*
5th child . . . . .	2.8	*	*	*	*	1.8	6.3	5.4	3.2	0.8	*
6th and 7th child . . . . .	2.0	*	*	*	*	0.5	3.6	4.8	3.1	0.9	*
8th child and over . . . . .	0.7	*	*	*	*	*	0.5	1.6	1.6	0.6	*
Asian or Pacific Islander . . . . .	64.1	0.3	18.3	9.0	31.5	60.4	105.4	109.6	56.5	12.5	0.9
1st child . . . . .	30.1	0.3	14.8	8.1	24.4	37.0	58.3	44.2	15.9	3.2	0.2
2d child . . . . .	22.0	*	2.9	0.8	5.9	16.4	32.0	43.6	23.4	4.3	0.2
3d child . . . . .	7.8	*	0.5	*	1.0	5.0	9.9	14.6	10.8	2.6	0.1
4th child . . . . .	2.5	*	0.1	*	0.2	1.3	3.2	4.4	3.7	1.1	0.1
5th child . . . . .	0.9	*	*	*	*	0.5	1.1	1.5	1.3	0.5	0.1
6th and 7th child . . . . .	0.5	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.1
8th child and over . . . . .	0.2	*	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.1

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

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>Birth rates computed by relating births to women aged 45–54 years to women aged 45–49 years.

<sup>2</sup>Includes births to Aleuts and Eskimos.

NOTES: Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget guidelines. In this table all women (including Hispanic women) are classified only according to their race; see "Technical Notes."