

## Births: Final Data for 2005

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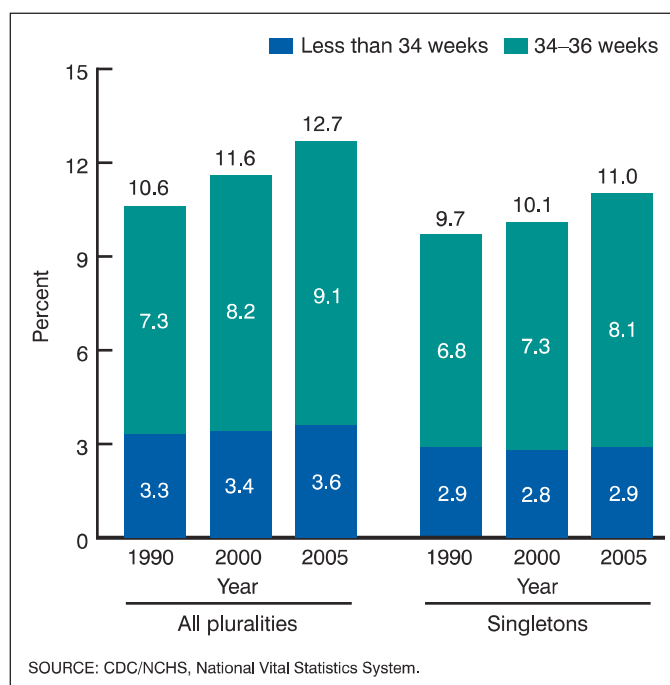
### Abstract

**Objectives**—This report presents 2005 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 lifestyle and health characteristics (medical risk factors, weight gain, and tobacco use); medical care utilization by pregnant women (prenatal care, obstetric procedures, characteristics of labor and/or delivery, attendant at birth, and method of delivery); and infant characteristics (period of gestation, birthweight, Apgar score, 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 4.1 million births that occurred in 2005 are presented. Denominators for population-based rates are postcensal estimates derived from the U.S. 2000 census.

**Results**—In 2005, 4,138,349 births were registered in the United States, 1 percent more than in 2004. The 2005 crude birth rate was 14.0, unchanged from the previous year; the general fertility rate increased slightly to 66.7. Teenage childbearing continued to decline, dropping to the lowest levels recorded. Rates for women aged 20–29 were fairly stable, whereas childbearing among women 30 years of age and older increased. All measures of unmarried childbearing rose substantially in 2005. Smoking during pregnancy continued to decline. No improvement was seen in the timely initiation of prenatal care. The cesarean delivery rate climbed to more than 30 percent of all births, another all-time high. Preterm and low birthweight rates also continued to rise; the twin birth rate was unchanged and the rate of triplet and higher order multiple births declined for the 7th consecutive year.

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



**Figure 1. Preterm birth rates for all births and for singletons only: United States, 1990, 2000, and 2005**

### Highlights

- In 2005, a total of 4,138,349 **births** were registered in the United States, a 1 percent increase over 2004. The total number of births has generally increased since 1997. The number of birth declined slightly for non-Hispanic white women, but increased for all other race and Hispanic origin groups between 2004 and 2005.
- The 2005 **crude birth rate** for the U.S. was 14.0, unchanged from 2004. The **general fertility rate**, increased slightly between 2004 and 2005, to 66.7 live births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years. Fertility rates were essentially unchanged for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black women between 2004 and 2005; the rate

**Table 3. Fertility rates and birth rates, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race of mother: United States, 2005**

[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 . . . . .	66.7	0.7	40.5	21.4	69.9	102.2	115.5	95.8	46.3	9.1	0.6
1st child . . . . .	26.5	0.7	32.5	19.3	52.9	48.6	41.2	27.3	10.7	2.0	0.1
2d child . . . . .	21.5	0.0	6.8	1.9	14.3	34.5	38.9	34.1	15.3	2.6	0.1
3d child . . . . .	11.3	*	1.1	0.2	2.5	13.9	22.0	20.1	10.7	1.9	0.1
4th child . . . . .	4.5	*	0.1	0.0	0.3	3.9	8.7	8.6	5.1	1.1	0.1
5th child . . . . .	1.6	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.9	3.0	3.3	2.2	0.6	0.0
6th and 7th child . . . . .	0.9	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.3	1.4	2.0	1.6	0.5	0.0
8th child and over . . . . .	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.0
White . . . . .	66.3	0.5	37.0	18.9	64.7	99.2	118.3	99.3	47.3	9.0	0.6
1st child . . . . .	26.3	0.5	30.0	17.2	49.7	48.3	43.0	28.1	10.9	2.0	0.1
2d child . . . . .	21.7	0.0	6.0	1.6	12.8	34.0	40.7	35.7	15.6	2.5	0.1
3d child . . . . .	11.4	*	0.9	0.1	2.0	12.9	22.5	21.4	11.2	1.9	0.1
4th child . . . . .	4.4	*	0.1	0.0	0.2	3.2	8.4	8.9	5.3	1.1	0.1
5th child . . . . .	1.5	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.7	2.6	3.2	2.2	0.6	0.0
6th and 7th child . . . . .	0.8	*	*	*	*	0.2	1.0	1.8	1.5	0.5	0.0
8th child and over . . . . .	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.0
Black . . . . .	69.0	1.7	62.0	35.5	104.9	129.9	105.9	70.3	35.3	8.5	0.5
1st child . . . . .	26.6	1.6	48.4	31.6	75.6	54.8	27.0	15.2	6.7	1.5	0.1
2d child . . . . .	19.9	0.0	11.2	3.5	23.5	42.9	33.1	21.1	10.0	2.0	0.1
3d child . . . . .	12.1	*	2.1	0.3	5.0	21.3	24.0	16.3	8.4	1.8	0.1
4th child . . . . .	5.7	*	0.3	0.0	0.8	7.7	12.3	8.8	4.7	1.3	0.1
5th child . . . . .	2.5	*	0.0	*	0.1	2.4	5.6	4.4	2.4	0.7	0.0
6th and 7th child . . . . .	1.6	*	*	*	*	0.8	3.3	3.3	2.1	0.7	0.0
8th child and over . . . . .	0.5	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.5	1.2	1.0	0.4	0.0
American Indian or Alaska Native . . . . .	59.9	0.9	52.7	30.5	87.6	109.2	93.8	60.1	27.0	6.0	0.3
1st child . . . . .	21.0	0.9	41.5	27.3	63.8	41.8	18.5	8.7	3.2	0.6	*
2d child . . . . .	16.2	*	9.6	2.9	20.1	37.7	26.0	14.4	5.4	0.9	*
3d child . . . . .	10.9	*	1.4	0.2	3.3	20.0	24.3	13.7	5.5	1.1	*
4th child . . . . .	6.0	*	0.1	*	0.3	7.2	13.8	10.3	4.9	0.9	*
5th child . . . . .	3.0	*	*	*	*	1.9	7.0	6.4	2.9	0.8	*
6th and 7th child . . . . .	2.2	*	*	*	*	0.5	3.7	5.3	3.5	1.2	*
8th child and over . . . . .	0.7	*	*	*	*	*	0.5	1.4	1.7	0.6	*
Asian or Pacific Islander . . . . .	66.6	0.2	17.0	8.2	30.1	61.1	107.9	115.0	61.8	13.8	1.0
1st child . . . . .	30.6	0.2	13.9	7.4	23.6	36.3	58.7	46.7	18.2	3.6	0.3
2d child . . . . .	23.4	*	2.6	0.8	5.4	17.0	32.9	46.3	25.7	4.9	0.3
3d child . . . . .	8.3	*	0.4	*	1.0	5.5	10.7	14.7	11.4	2.9	0.1
4th child . . . . .	2.7	*	0.1	*	0.2	1.7	3.6	4.5	3.7	1.2	0.1
5th child . . . . .	0.9	*	*	*	*	0.4	1.2	1.5	1.4	0.5	0.1
6th and 7th child . . . . .	0.6	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.1
8th child and over . . . . .	0.2	*	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1

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 numerator.

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

NOTES: Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Nineteen states reported multiple-race data for 2005. 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." In this table all women (including Hispanic women) are classified only according to their race; see "Technical Notes."