

Births: Final Data for 2018

by Joyce A. Martin, M.P.H., Brady E. Hamilton, Ph.D., Michelle J.K. Osterman, M.H.S., and Anne K. Driscoll, Ph.D.,
Division of Vital Statistics

Abstract

Objectives—This report presents 2018 data on U.S. births according to a wide variety of characteristics. 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 3.79 million births that occurred

in 2018 are presented. Data are presented for maternal age, live-birth order, race and Hispanic origin, marital status, tobacco use, prenatal care, source of payment for the delivery, method of delivery, gestational age, birthweight, and plurality. Selected data by mother's state of residence and birth rates by age also are shown. Trend data for 2010 through 2018 are presented for selected items. Trend data by race and Hispanic origin are shown for 2016–2018.

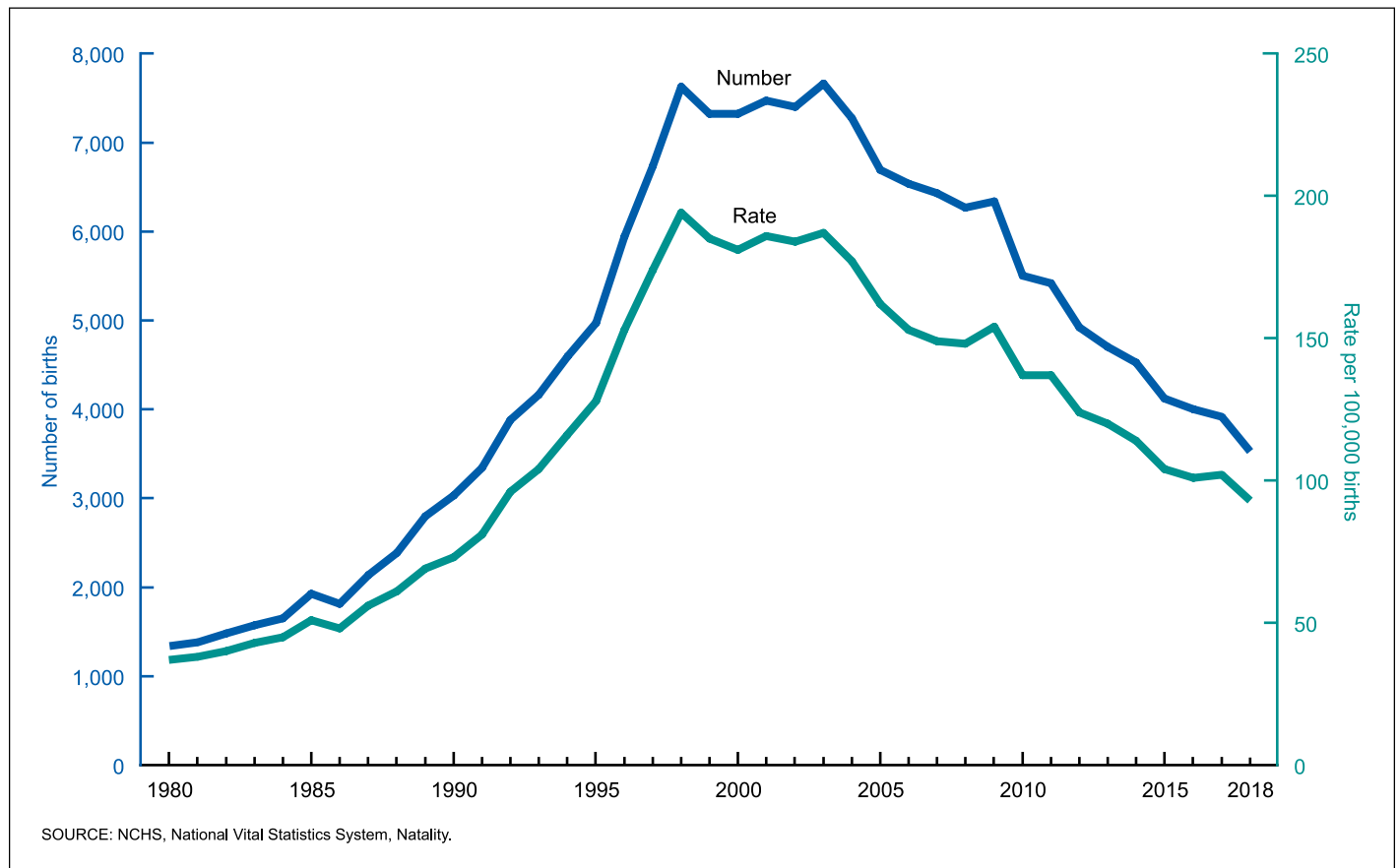


Figure 1. Number and rate of triplet and higher-order multiple births: United States, 1980–2018



Table 5. Birth rates, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 2018

[Rates are births per 1,000 women in specified age and race and Hispanic-origin group. Fertility rate computed by relating total births, regardless of age of mother, to women aged 15–44 years. Populations 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	Fertility rate	Age of mother (years)										
		10–14	15–19				20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49 ¹
			Total	15–17	18–19							
All races and origins ²	59.1	0.2	17.4	7.2	32.3	68.0	95.3	99.7	52.6	11.8	0.9	
1st child	22.4	0.2	14.7	6.7	26.4	36.0	35.6	30.5	11.9	2.5	0.3	
2nd child	18.9	*	2.4	0.5	5.2	21.7	31.5	33.9	17.3	3.3	0.2	
3rd child	10.2	*	0.3	0.0	0.7	7.7	17.4	19.6	11.7	2.4	0.2	
4th child	4.4	*	0.0	*	0.1	2.0	7.1	9.1	6.0	1.6	0.1	
5th child	1.7	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.5	2.4	3.6	2.8	0.9	0.1	
6th and 7th child	1.1	*	*	*	*	0.1	1.1	2.3	2.1	0.7	0.1	
8th child and over	0.4	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.1	
Non-Hispanic, single race ³												
White	56.3	0.1	12.1	4.1	23.6	57.8	92.9	103.1	51.1	10.2	0.7	
1st child	22.2	0.1	10.4	3.9	19.7	31.8	38.5	34.1	12.7	2.4	0.2	
2nd child	18.8	*	1.5	0.2	3.4	18.3	31.2	36.9	17.8	3.0	0.2	
3rd child	9.2	*	0.2	0.0	0.4	5.9	15.3	19.0	11.0	1.9	0.1	
4th child	3.6	*	0.0	*	0.0	1.4	5.6	7.8	5.0	1.1	0.1	
5th child	1.3	*	*	*	*	0.3	1.7	2.9	2.1	0.6	0.0	
6th and 7th child	0.8	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.7	1.8	1.7	0.5	0.0	
8th child and over	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.0	
Black	62.0	0.4	26.3	11.9	46.9	90.0	97.1	84.1	47.1	12.3	1.1	
1st child	21.9	0.4	22.0	11.0	37.7	45.9	28.4	18.8	8.8	2.2	0.3	
2nd child	17.7	*	3.6	0.8	7.6	27.5	30.7	24.4	12.4	2.9	0.2	
3rd child	11.5	*	0.6	0.0	1.3	11.4	20.5	19.4	11.1	2.7	0.2	
4th child	5.9	*	0.1	*	0.2	3.7	10.4	11.0	6.7	1.9	0.1	
5th child	2.7	*	*	*	*	1.0	4.4	5.3	3.6	1.0	0.1	
6th and 7th child	1.8	*	*	*	*	0.3	2.4	4.0	3.0	1.0	0.1	
8th child and over	0.6	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.4	1.2	1.5	0.6	0.1	
American Indian or Alaska Native	57.7	0.2	29.7	13.5	52.9	87.7	94.4	73.2	36.1	8.3	0.5	
1st child	17.3	0.2	24.3	12.6	41.1	38.7	20.0	9.9	3.8	0.9	*	
2nd child	15.1	*	4.7	0.9	10.2	30.0	27.0	15.8	6.2	1.1	*	
3rd child	11.1	*	0.6	*	1.3	13.3	23.4	16.9	7.4	1.5	*	
4th child	6.8	*	*	*	*	4.2	13.4	13.3	6.9	1.3	*	
5th child	3.7	*	*	*	*	1.2	6.5	8.3	4.2	1.1	*	
6th and 7th child	2.9	*	*	*	*	0.2	3.5	6.9	5.2	1.6	*	
8th child and over	0.9	*	*	*	*	*	0.5	2.0	2.4	0.7	*	

Table 5. Birth rates, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 2018—Con.

[Rates are births per 1,000 women in specified age and race and Hispanic-origin group. Fertility rate computed by relating total births, regardless of age of mother, to women aged 15–44 years. Populations 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	Fertility rate	Age of mother (years)									
		10–14	15–19			20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49 ¹
			Total	15–17	18–19						
Non-Hispanic, single race³—Con.											
Asian	55.6	*	2.8	1.0	5.4	24.1	73.0	116.5	70.7	16.1	1.8
1st child	25.2	*	2.4	1.0	4.5	15.9	43.0	52.4	21.2	4.5	0.6
2nd child	20.8	*	0.4	0.1	0.8	6.1	21.6	46.6	31.5	6.1	0.6
3rd child	6.5	*	0.1	*	0.1	1.7	5.8	12.3	12.2	3.3	0.3
4th child	2.0	*	*	*	*	0.3	1.7	3.5	3.7	1.3	0.2
5th child	0.6	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.5	1.0	1.2	0.5	0.1
6th and 7th child	0.3	*	*	*	*	*	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.1
8th child and over	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander											
1st child	21.7	*	21.9	7.8	42.9	55.4	29.7	14.3	5.8	2.1	*
2nd child	17.7	*	3.8	*	8.7	38.4	31.5	18.2	8.2	2.0	*
3rd child	13.7	*	*	*	*	16.8	27.5	20.6	9.5	2.4	*
4th child	9.2	*	*	*	*	6.0	17.4	16.6	8.5	3.0	*
5th child	5.2	*	*	*	*	1.4	7.7	11.3	6.1	2.2	*
6th and 7th child	4.2	*	*	*	*	*	4.7	8.8	7.1	2.2	*
8th child and over	1.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.1	4.1	1.6	*
Hispanic⁴											
Total	65.9	0.3	26.7	12.4	48.5	89.3	108.9	96.6	54.5	14.5	1.0
1st child	22.6	0.3	22.3	11.4	38.7	45.0	32.2	20.9	8.6	2.0	0.2
2nd child	19.7	*	3.9	0.9	8.5	29.9	37.3	28.6	14.1	3.1	0.2
3rd child	13.0	*	0.5	0.0	1.2	10.8	24.7	24.8	14.1	3.4	0.2
4th child	6.3	*	0.0	*	0.1	2.8	10.0	13.5	9.3	2.8	0.2
5th child	2.5	*	*	*	*	0.6	3.2	5.3	4.7	1.6	0.1
6th and 7th child	1.4	*	*	*	*	0.2	1.3	2.8	3.0	1.2	0.1
8th child and over	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.0

* Estimate does not meet NCHS standards of reliability.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Birth rates computed by relating births to women aged 45 years and over to women aged 15–44 years; see Technical Notes in this report.

²Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as Hispanic single-race white, Hispanic single-race black, and non-Hispanic multiple-race women, and births with origin not stated.

³Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates; persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. In this table, non-Hispanic women are classified by race. Race categories are consistent with the 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards; see Technical Notes. Single race is defined as only one race reported on the birth certificate.

⁴Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.