

Births: Final Data for 2009

by Joyce A. Martin, M.P.H.; Brady E. Hamilton, Ph.D.; Stephanie J. Ventura, M.A.; Michelle J.K. Osterman, M.H.S.; Sharon Kirmeyer, Ph.D.; T.J. Mathews, M.S.; and Elizabeth C. Wilson, M.P.H., Division of Vital Statistics

Abstract

Objectives—This report presents 2009 data on U.S. births according to a wide variety of characteristics. Data are presented for maternal characteristics including age, live-birth order, race and Hispanic origin, marital status, hypertension during pregnancy, attendant at birth, method of delivery, and infant characteristics (period of gestation, birthweight, and plurality). Birth and fertility rates by age, live-birth order, race and Hispanic origin, and marital status also are presented. Selected data by mother’s state of residence are shown, as well as birth rates by age and race 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 4.13 million births that occurred in 2009 are presented. Denominators for population-based rates are postcensal estimates derived from the U.S. 2000 census.

Results—The number of births declined to 4,130,665 in 2009, 3 percent less than in 2008. The general fertility rate declined 3 percent to 66.7 per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years. The teenage birth rate fell 6 percent to 39.1 per 1,000. Birth rates for women in each 5-year age group from 20 through 39 years declined, but the rate for women 40–44 years continued to rise. The total fertility rate (estimated number of births over a woman’s lifetime) was down 4 percent to 2,007.0 per 1,000 women. The number and rate of births to unmarried women declined, whereas the percentage of nonmarital births increased

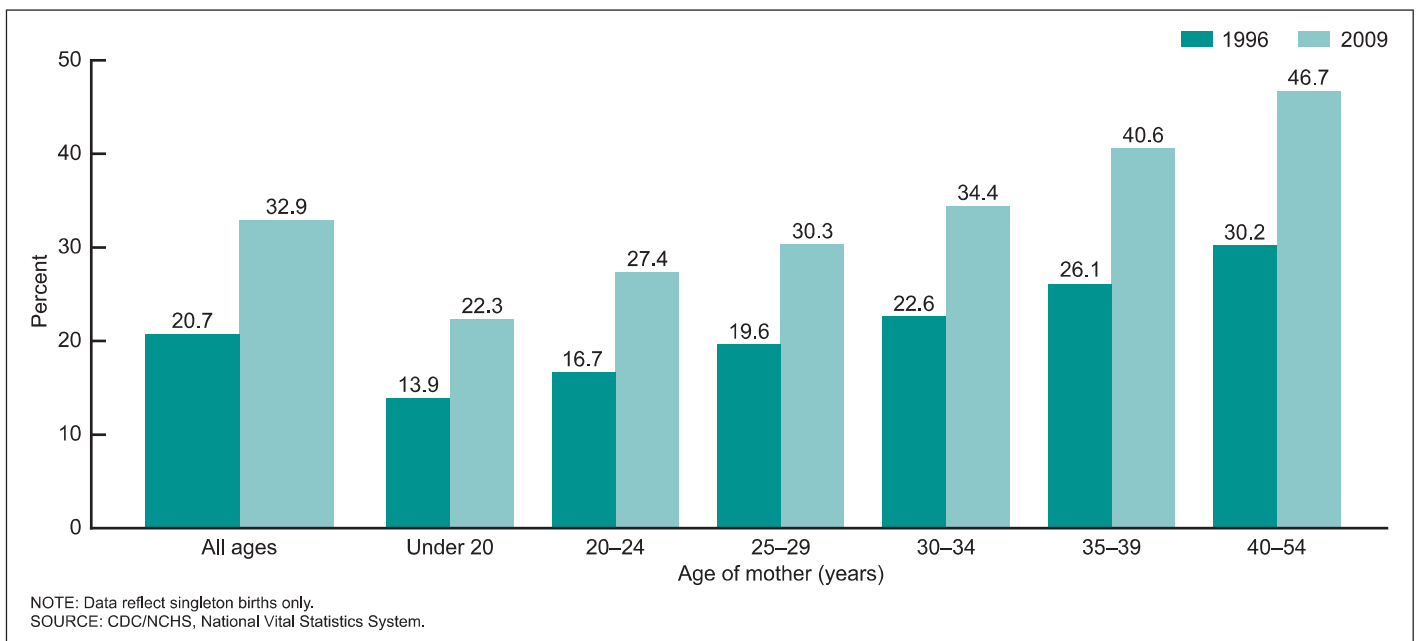


Figure 1. Cesarean delivery rates, by age of mother: United States, 1996 and 2009

Table 3. Birth rates, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race of mother: United States, 2009

[Rates are 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 ¹
			Total	15–17 years	18–19 years						
All races	66.7	0.5	39.1	20.1	66.2	96.3	110.5	97.7	46.5	10.1	0.7
1st child	27.0	0.5	31.7	18.3	51.0	47.6	40.6	28.0	10.6	2.2	0.2
2nd child	21.0	0.0	6.3	1.7	12.8	31.8	36.6	33.6	15.1	2.9	0.2
3rd child	11.0	*	0.9	0.1	2.1	12.3	20.5	20.2	10.7	2.1	0.1
4th child	4.6	*	0.1	0.0	0.3	3.5	8.3	9.3	5.4	1.3	0.1
5th child	1.7	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.8	2.9	3.7	2.4	0.7	0.0
6th and 7th child	1.0	*	0.0	*	*	0.2	1.4	2.3	1.7	0.6	0.0
8th child and over	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.0
White	66.0	0.4	35.7	18.0	61.0	92.5	112.1	100.3	46.7	9.9	0.7
1st child	26.6	0.4	29.3	16.4	47.6	46.6	41.8	28.6	10.5	2.2	0.2
2nd child	21.0	0.0	5.6	1.5	11.5	30.9	37.9	34.7	15.0	2.8	0.2
3rd child	11.1	*	0.8	0.1	1.7	11.2	20.7	21.3	10.9	2.0	0.1
4th child	4.5	*	0.1	0.0	0.2	2.9	8.0	9.6	5.6	1.2	0.1
5th child	1.6	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.6	2.6	3.6	2.4	0.7	0.0
6th and 7th child	0.9	*	*	*	*	0.1	1.1	2.1	1.7	0.6	0.0
8th child and over	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.0
Black	69.9	1.2	59.5	32.4	98.5	125.9	103.8	74.1	36.9	9.1	0.6
1st child	27.8	1.1	47.1	29.1	73.1	56.9	28.4	15.8	7.0	1.7	0.1
2nd child	19.8	0.0	10.3	3.1	20.6	40.7	32.1	21.4	10.0	2.2	0.1
3rd child	11.9	*	1.8	0.3	4.1	19.0	22.8	17.2	8.6	2.0	0.1
4th child	5.7	*	0.3	0.0	0.6	6.8	11.7	9.7	5.0	1.3	0.1
5th child	2.5	*	0.0	*	0.1	1.9	5.2	4.8	2.7	0.8	0.1
6th and 7th child	1.7	*	*	*	*	0.6	3.1	3.9	2.3	0.7	0.1
8th child and over	0.5	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.5	1.2	1.2	0.5	0.1
American Indian or Alaska Native	62.8	0.8	55.5	30.6	90.5	109.1	90.8	63.9	29.0	6.5	0.3
1st child	22.6	*	43.8	27.6	66.5	43.9	19.4	10.0	3.6	0.7	*
2nd child	16.9	*	9.8	2.8	19.6	37.5	25.6	15.1	5.6	1.0	*
3rd child	11.1	*	1.7	*	3.9	18.5	22.2	14.7	6.3	1.1	*
4th child	6.2	*	0.2	*	0.4	7.0	13.0	10.4	5.1	1.2	*
5th child	3.1	*	*	*	*	1.8	6.6	6.5	3.3	1.0	*
6th and 7th child	2.2	*	*	*	*	0.4	3.6	5.7	3.2	1.0	*
8th child and over	0.7	*	*	*	*	*	0.4	1.5	1.8	0.6	*
Asian or Pacific Islander	68.7	0.2	14.7	7.1	25.8	57.5	110.5	123.3	68.1	15.8	1.2
1st child	31.2	0.2	12.1	6.5	20.4	34.5	61.1	50.0	20.0	4.2	0.4
2nd child	24.4	*	2.2	0.5	4.6	15.9	33.1	50.8	28.4	5.6	0.4
3rd child	8.5	*	0.3	*	0.7	5.1	10.7	15.0	12.8	3.3	0.2
4th child	2.8	*	*	*	*	1.5	3.6	4.6	4.2	1.4	0.1
5th child	1.0	*	*	*	*	0.4	1.3	1.6	1.4	0.6	0.1
6th and 7th child	0.6	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.0
8th child and over	0.2	*	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0

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.

¹Birth rates are computed by relating births to women aged 45 and over to women aged 45–49; see “Technical Notes.”

NOTES: Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Race categories are consistent with 1977 Office of Management and Budget standards. Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data for 2009 that were bridged to single-race categories 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.”