

## Births: Final Data for 2006

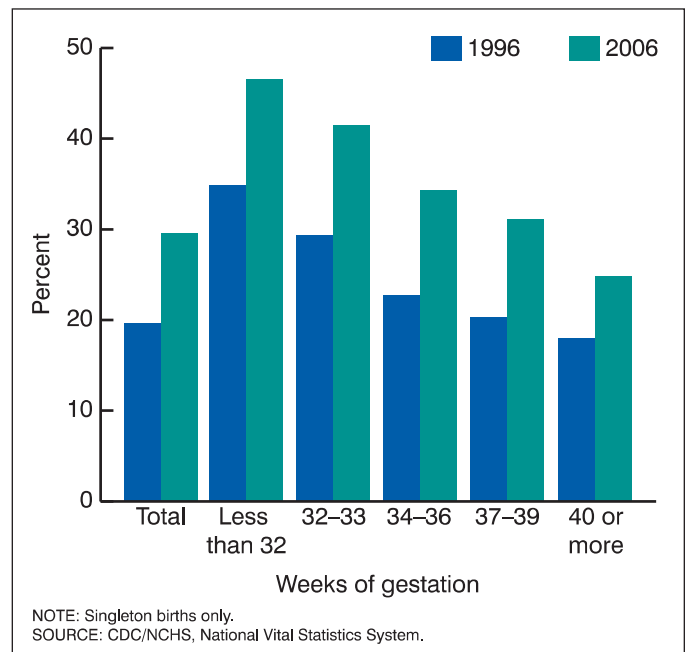
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### Abstract

**Objectives**—This report presents 2006 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 4.3 million births that occurred in 2006 are presented. Denominators for population-based rates are postcensal estimates derived from the U.S. 2000 census.

**Results**—In 2006, births and fertility rates increased for most states, age groups, and race and Hispanic origin groups. A total of 4,265,555 births were registered in the United States in 2006, 3 percent more than in 2005, and the largest number of births in more than four decades. The crude birth rate was 14.2, up slightly from the previous year; the general fertility rate was 68.5, up 3 percent. Birth rates increased for women in nearly all age groups, with the largest increases for teenagers and for women aged 20–24 and 40–44 years. Teenage childbearing increased, interrupting the 14-year decline from 1991–2005. The mean age at first birth for U.S. women was down in 2006, to 25.0 years. The total fertility rate increased to 2,100.5 births per 1,000 women. All measures of unmarried childbearing reached record levels in 2006. Women were less likely to receive timely prenatal care in 2006. The cesarean delivery rate climbed to 31.1 percent, another all-time high. Preterm and low birthweight rates continued to rise; the twin birth rate was unchanged for the second consecutive year; the rate of triplet and higher order multiple births declined 5 percent.



**Figure 1. Cesarean delivery rates by gestational age, United States: 1996 and 2006**

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

### Highlights

- In 2006, the **number of births and birth and fertility rates** increased for nearly all age groups, live-birth orders, race, and Hispanic origin groups and reporting areas. In some cases, rates rose to levels not seen in three or more decades.
- A total of 4,265,555 **births** were registered in the United States in 2006, 3 percent higher than in 2005. This is the largest single-

**Table 3. Fertility rates and birth rates by age of mother, live-birth order, and race of mother: United States, 2006**

[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 . . . . .		0.6	41.9	22.0	73.0	105.9	116.7	97.7	47.3	9.4	0.6
1st child . . . . .	27.4	0.6	33.7	19.8	55.4	51.1	41.6	27.6	10.8	2.0	0.2
2d child . . . . .	21.9	0.0	7.0	2.0	14.8	35.4	39.2	34.4	15.6	2.7	0.2
3d child . . . . .	11.6	*	1.1	0.2	2.5	14.1	22.4	20.5	11.0	2.0	0.1
4th child . . . . .	4.7	*	0.1	0.0	0.3	4.0	9.0	9.0	5.3	1.2	0.1
5th child . . . . .	1.7	*	0.0	*	0.0	1.0	3.1	3.5	2.3	0.6	0.0
6th and 7th child . . . . .	1.0	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.2	1.4	2.1	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 . . . . .	68.0	0.5	38.2	19.4	67.5	102.5	119.1	100.9	48.2	9.2	0.6
1st child . . . . .	27.1	0.5	31.0	17.5	51.9	50.5	43.2	28.3	11.0	2.0	0.1
2d child . . . . .	22.0	0.0	6.3	1.7	13.3	34.7	40.7	35.8	15.9	2.6	0.2
3d child . . . . .	11.6	*	0.9	0.1	2.0	13.1	22.8	21.7	11.4	1.9	0.1
4th child . . . . .	4.6	*	0.1	0.0	0.2	3.3	8.6	9.4	5.5	1.2	0.1
5th child . . . . .	1.6	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.7	2.7	3.4	2.3	0.6	0.0
6th and 7th child . . . . .	0.9	*	*	*	*	0.2	1.0	1.9	1.5	0.5	0.0
8th child and over . . . . .	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.0
Black . . . . .	72.1	1.5	64.6	36.6	110.2	135.8	109.4	74.0	36.6	8.5	0.5
1st child . . . . .	28.1	1.5	50.8	32.5	80.5	58.7	28.1	15.7	6.9	1.6	0.1
2d child . . . . .	20.8	0.0	11.4	3.7	24.0	44.6	34.4	22.0	10.3	2.1	0.1
3d child . . . . .	12.6	*	2.0	0.3	4.8	21.7	25.0	17.4	8.8	1.9	0.1
4th child . . . . .	5.9	*	0.3	0.0	0.6	7.8	12.6	9.3	4.9	1.2	0.1
5th child . . . . .	2.6	*	0.0	*	0.1	2.3	5.5	4.7	2.5	0.7	0.0
6th and 7th child . . . . .	1.7	*	*	*	*	0.7	3.2	3.7	2.2	0.6	0.1
8th child and over . . . . .	0.5	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.5	1.2	1.1	0.4	0.0
American Indian or Alaska Native . . . . .	63.1	0.9	55.0	30.7	93.0	115.4	97.8	61.8	28.4	6.1	0.4
1st child . . . . .	22.3	0.9	42.2	27.0	66.0	44.7	19.8	9.4	3.7	0.6	*
2d child . . . . .	17.2	*	10.7	3.4	22.0	39.9	27.6	13.9	5.7	1.0	*
3d child . . . . .	11.6	*	1.9	0.3	4.4	21.3	25.2	14.0	5.9	1.0	*
4th child . . . . .	6.1	*	0.3	*	0.6	7.0	14.5	10.7	4.6	0.9	*
5th child . . . . .	3.1	*	*	*	*	1.9	6.5	6.9	3.4	0.8	*
6th and 7th child . . . . .	2.2	*	*	*	*	0.5	3.6	5.4	3.6	1.1	*
8th child and over . . . . .	0.7	*	*	*	*	*	0.5	1.5	1.7	0.6	*
Asian or Other Pacific Islander . . . . .	67.5	0.2	17.0	8.8	29.5	63.2	108.4	116.9	63.0	14.1	1.0
1st child . . . . .	31.1	0.2	13.9	8.0	22.9	38.2	59.1	47.4	18.7	3.7	0.3
2d child . . . . .	23.8	*	2.6	0.7	5.5	17.2	33.1	47.7	25.8	5.2	0.3
3d child . . . . .	8.3	*	0.4	0.1	0.9	5.6	10.4	14.7	11.9	2.8	0.2
4th child . . . . .	2.7	*	0.1	*	0.1	1.6	3.7	4.3	3.9	1.2	0.1
5th child . . . . .	0.9	*	*	*	*	0.4	1.2	1.6	1.4	0.5	0.1
6th and 7th child . . . . .	0.6	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.4	*
8th child and over . . . . .	0.2	*	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	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. In 2006, 23 states reported multiple-race data. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states. In this table all women (including Hispanic women) are classified only according to their race. See "Technical Notes" for more information on multiple-race data.