

Births: Final Data for 2011

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

Abstract

Objectives—This report presents 2011 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, attendant at birth, method of delivery, and infant characteristics (e.g., period of gestation, birthweight, and plurality). Birth and fertility rates are presented by age, live-birth order, race and Hispanic origin, and marital status. Selected data by mother’s state of residence and birth rates by age and race of father

also are shown. 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 3.95 million births that occurred in 2011 are presented. Denominators for population-based rates are postcensal estimates derived from the U.S. 2010 census. Birth and fertility rates for 2001–2009 are based on revised intercensal population estimates. Denominators for 2011 and 2010 rates for the specific Hispanic groups are derived from the American Community Survey; denominators for earlier years are derived from the Current Population Survey.

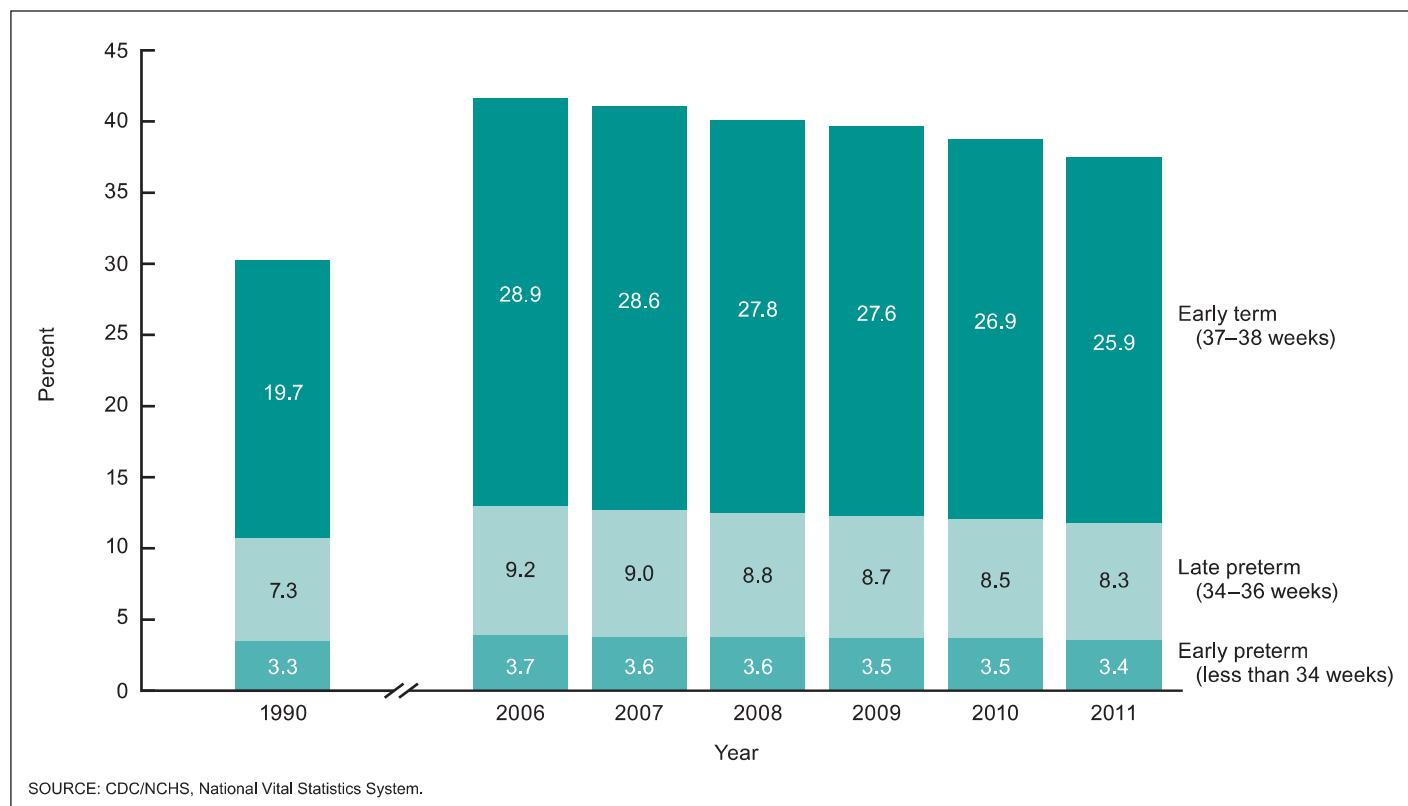


Figure 1. Births at less than 39 weeks of gestation: United States, 1990 and 2006–2011

Table 3. Birth rates, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race of mother: United States, 2011

[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. Populations estimated as of July 1. Live-birth order refers to number of children born alive to mother. Missing values for live-birth order have been distributed]

Live-birth order and race of mother	Age of mother in years												
	15–44	10–14	15–19					20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49 ¹
			Total	15–17	18–19								
All races	63.2	0.4	31.3	15.4	54.1	85.3	107.2	96.5	47.2	10.3	0.7		
1st child	25.4	0.4	25.7	14.1	42.4	43.0	40.5	28.3	10.7	2.3	0.2		
2nd child	20.0	0.0	4.8	1.2	10.0	27.9	35.4	33.2	15.3	2.9	0.2		
3rd child	10.4	*	0.7	0.1	1.6	10.5	19.3	19.5	10.7	2.2	0.1		
4th child	4.4	*	0.1	0.0	0.2	2.9	7.8	8.9	5.5	1.3	0.1		
5th child	1.7	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.7	2.7	3.6	2.5	0.7	0.0		
6th and 7th child	1.0	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.2	1.3	2.3	1.8	0.6	0.0		
8th child and over	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.0		
White	63.4	0.3	29.1	14.1	50.8	83.0	110.2	100.1	47.6	10.1	0.6		
1st child	25.4	0.3	24.1	13.0	40.2	42.6	42.3	29.2	10.7	2.3	0.2		
2nd child	20.3	0.0	4.4	1.0	9.2	27.5	37.1	34.6	15.3	2.8	0.2		
3rd child	10.6	*	0.6	0.1	1.3	9.8	19.8	20.8	11.0	2.1	0.1		
4th child	4.3	*	0.1	*	0.1	2.5	7.5	9.3	5.7	1.3	0.1		
5th child	1.6	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.5	2.4	3.6	2.5	0.7	0.0		
6th and 7th child	0.9	*	*	*	*	0.1	1.0	2.1	1.8	0.6	0.0		
8th child and over	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.0		
Black	65.5	0.9	47.3	24.7	78.8	111.9	101.7	74.1	38.0	9.4	0.7		
1st child	25.7	0.9	38.0	22.4	59.7	52.2	28.7	16.4	7.3	1.7	0.2		
2nd child	18.7	0.0	7.8	2.1	15.6	35.8	31.8	21.5	10.2	2.3	0.2		
3rd child	11.2	*	1.4	0.2	3.1	16.1	21.9	16.9	8.8	2.0	0.1		
4th child	5.4	*	0.2	*	0.4	5.7	11.1	9.5	5.4	1.3	0.1		
5th child	2.4	*	0.0	*	0.0	1.6	4.8	4.7	2.8	0.8	0.1		
6th and 7th child	1.6	*	*	*	*	0.5	2.9	3.8	2.4	0.7	0.1		
8th child and over	0.5	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.5	1.3	1.2	0.5	0.0		
American Indian or Alaska Native	47.7	0.5	36.1	18.2	61.6	86.6	75.4	47.3	23.1	5.5	0.2		
1st child	17.1	0.5	29.1	16.7	46.9	35.7	17.1	7.9	3.1	0.7	*		
2nd child	12.8	*	5.9	1.4	12.3	29.0	21.9	11.1	4.6	1.0	*		
3rd child	8.5	*	0.9	*	2.0	15.0	17.3	10.9	4.8	1.0	*		
4th child	4.8	*	0.1	*	0.3	5.1	10.6	8.2	3.8	0.9	*		
5th child	2.4	*	*	*	*	1.4	5.2	4.6	2.7	0.7	*		
6th and 7th child	1.7	*	*	*	*	0.4	2.9	3.6	2.9	0.8	*		
8th child and over	0.5	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	1.1	1.3	0.5	*		
Asian or Pacific Islander	59.9	0.1	10.2	4.6	18.1	41.9	93.7	114.9	64.1	15.2	1.2		
1st child	27.0	*	8.4	4.2	14.5	25.4	51.8	47.2	18.7	4.0	0.4		
2nd child	21.4	*	1.5	0.4	3.1	11.5	28.2	46.7	27.2	5.4	0.4		
3rd child	7.5	*	0.2	*	0.5	3.6	8.9	13.9	11.9	3.3	0.2		
4th child	2.4	*	*	*	*	0.9	3.1	4.4	3.8	1.3	0.1		
5th child	0.9	*	*	*	*	0.3	1.1	1.6	1.3	0.6	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	0.3	0.3	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 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 the 1977 Office of Management and Budget standards. Forty states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data for 2011 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.