



Births: Provisional Data for 2016

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Abstract

Objectives—This report presents provisional 2016 data on U.S. births. Births are shown by age and race and Hispanic origin of mother. Data on marital status, cesarean delivery, preterm births, and low birthweight are also presented. This report is the first in a new annual series replacing the preliminary report series.

Methods—Data are based on 99.96% of 2016 births. Records for the states with less than 100% of records received are weighted to independent control counts of all births received in state vital statistics offices in 2016. Comparisons are made with final 2015 data and earlier years.

Results—The provisional number of births for the United States in 2016 was 3,941,109, down 1% from 2015. The general fertility rate was 62.0 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44, down 1% from 2015 to a record low for the United States. Birth rates declined to record lows for women in all age groups under 30 years in 2016. The birth rate for teenagers aged 15–19 declined 9% in 2016 to 20.3 births per 1,000 women; rates declined for both younger (aged 15–17) and older (aged 18–19) teenagers. The birth rate declined for women in their early 20s to 73.7 births per 1,000 women aged 20–24 in 2016, and for women in their late 20s to 101.9 births per 1,000 women aged 25–29. The rates for women in their 30s and 40s rose in 2016. The nonmarital birth rate declined

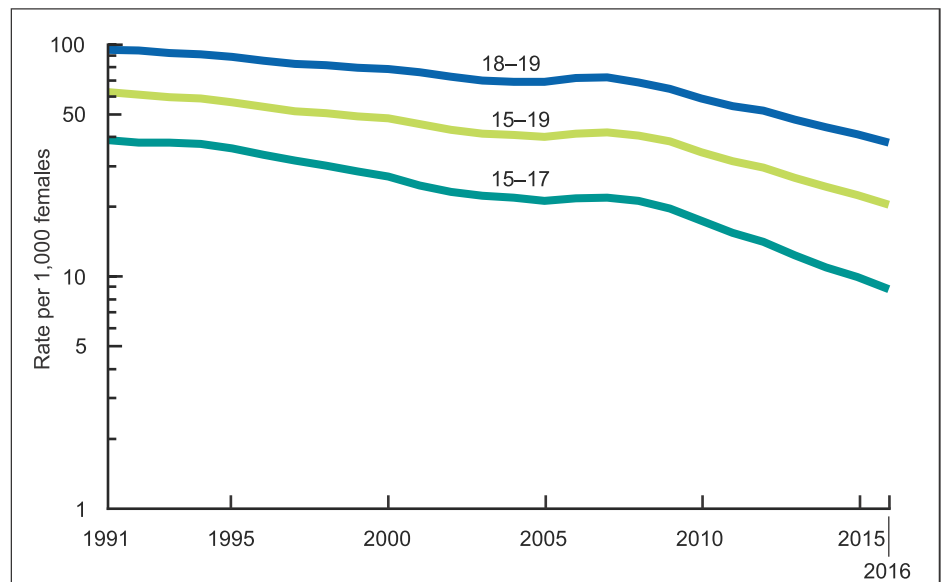
3% in 2016, to 42.2 births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44. In 2016, 77.2% of women began prenatal care in the first trimester; 6.2% had late (beginning in the third trimester) or no prenatal care. The cesarean delivery rate declined for the fourth year in a row to 31.9%; the low-risk cesarean delivery rate declined again to 25.7% in 2016. The preterm birth rate rose for the second year in a row, to 9.84% in 2016. The low birthweight rate was also up for the second straight year to 8.16%.

Keywords: birth rates • maternal and infant health • vital statistics

Introduction

This new report from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is part of the National Vital Statistics System, Vital Statistics Rapid Release provisional data series. This series provides timely vital statistics for public health surveillance based on provisional data received and processed by NCHS as of a specified date. Estimates (quarterly and 12-month periods ending with each quarter) for selected key vital statistics indicators are presented and released online through Quarterly Provisional Estimates. In addition, the series includes reports that provide additional information

Figure 1. Birth rates for females aged 15–19, by age group: United States, final 1991–2015 and provisional 2016



NOTE: Rates are plotted on a logarithmic scale.
SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

Vital Statistics Surveillance Report

Table 1. Births and birth rates, by age of mother: United States, final 2015 and provisional 2016

[Data for 2016 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures for 2016 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals. Rates are per 1,000 women in specified age group. Rates for all ages are the total number of births (regardless of the age of the mother) per 1,000 women aged 15–44]

Age of mother (years)	2016		2015	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
All ages	3,941,109	62.0	3,978,497	62.5
10–14	2,246	0.2	2,500	0.2
15–19	209,480	20.3	229,715	22.3
15–17	54,636	8.8	61,184	9.9
18–19	154,844	37.5	168,531	40.7
20–24	802,763	73.7	850,509	76.8
25–29	1,147,879	101.9	1,152,311	104.3
30–34	1,109,882	102.6	1,094,693	101.5
35–39	546,854	52.6	527,996	51.8
40–44	112,982	11.4	111,848	11.0
45–54 ¹	9,025	0.9	8,925	0.8

¹The birth rate for women in this age group is computed by relating the number of births to women aged 45 and over to women aged 45–49 because most of the births in this group are to women aged 45–49.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see Technical Notes.