

U.S. Fertility in Context

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June, 2025

www.birthingthenumbers.org

How do we measure fertility rates?

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** – the total number of children that would be born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her child-bearing years and give birth to children in alignment with the prevailing age-specific fertility rates. *Commonly used for cross-national comparisons.*
- **Fertility rate** – the number of births (times 1,000) divided by the number of females age 15 - 44 years old in the given year. *Commonly used for U.S. trends and interstate comparisons.*
- **Birth rate** – the number of births (times 1,000) divided by total population in the given year

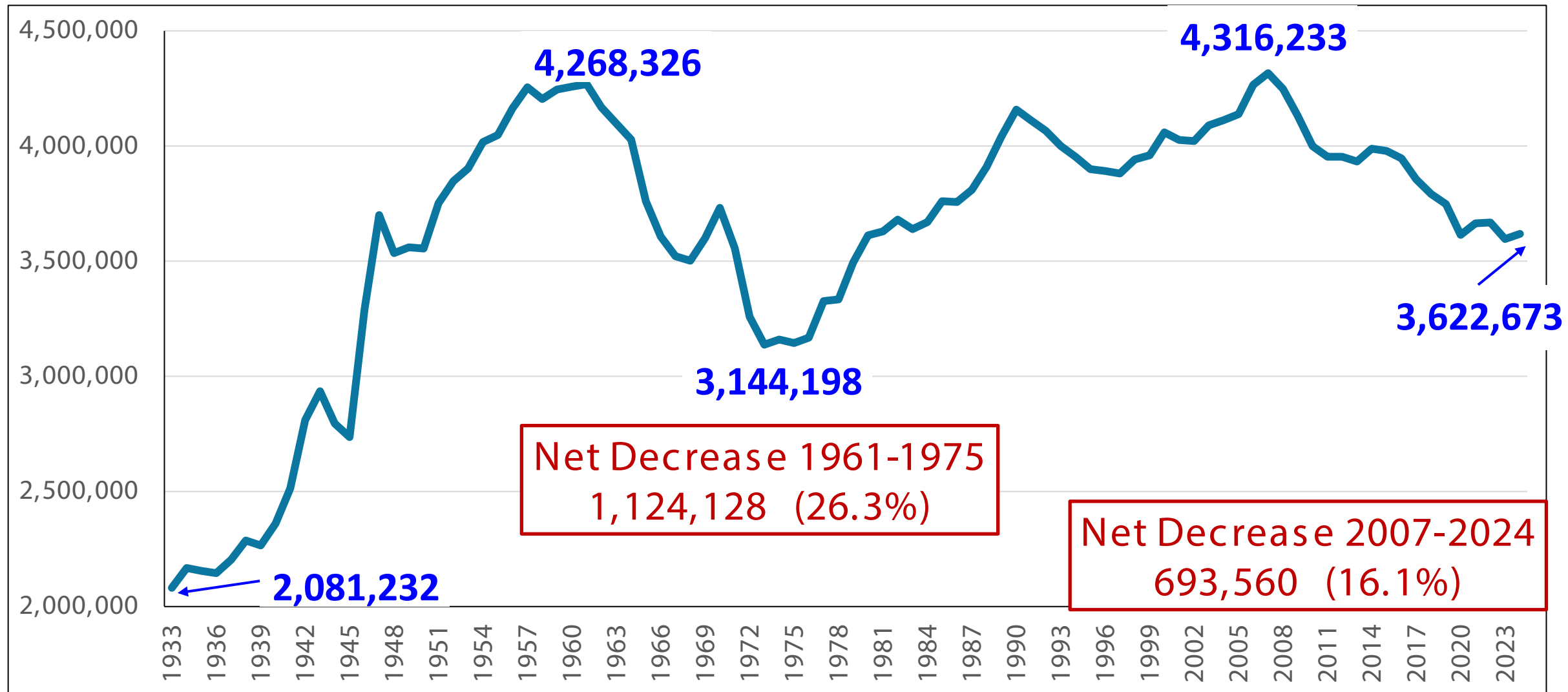
What does each measure look like for the U.S.?

- **Total Fertility Rate** **1.62** births per woman over a lifetime (2025 UN estimate)
- **Fertility Rate** **54.51** Births per 1,000 woman 15-44 (2023 NCHS) $(3,596,017 \text{ births} / 65,974,992 \text{ women 15-44}) \times 1,000$
- **Birth Rate** **10.74** births per population (2023 NCHS) $(3,596,017 \text{ births} / 334,914,895 \text{ pop.}) \times 1,000$

UN – United Nations Data Portal;
NCHS – National Center for Health Statistics

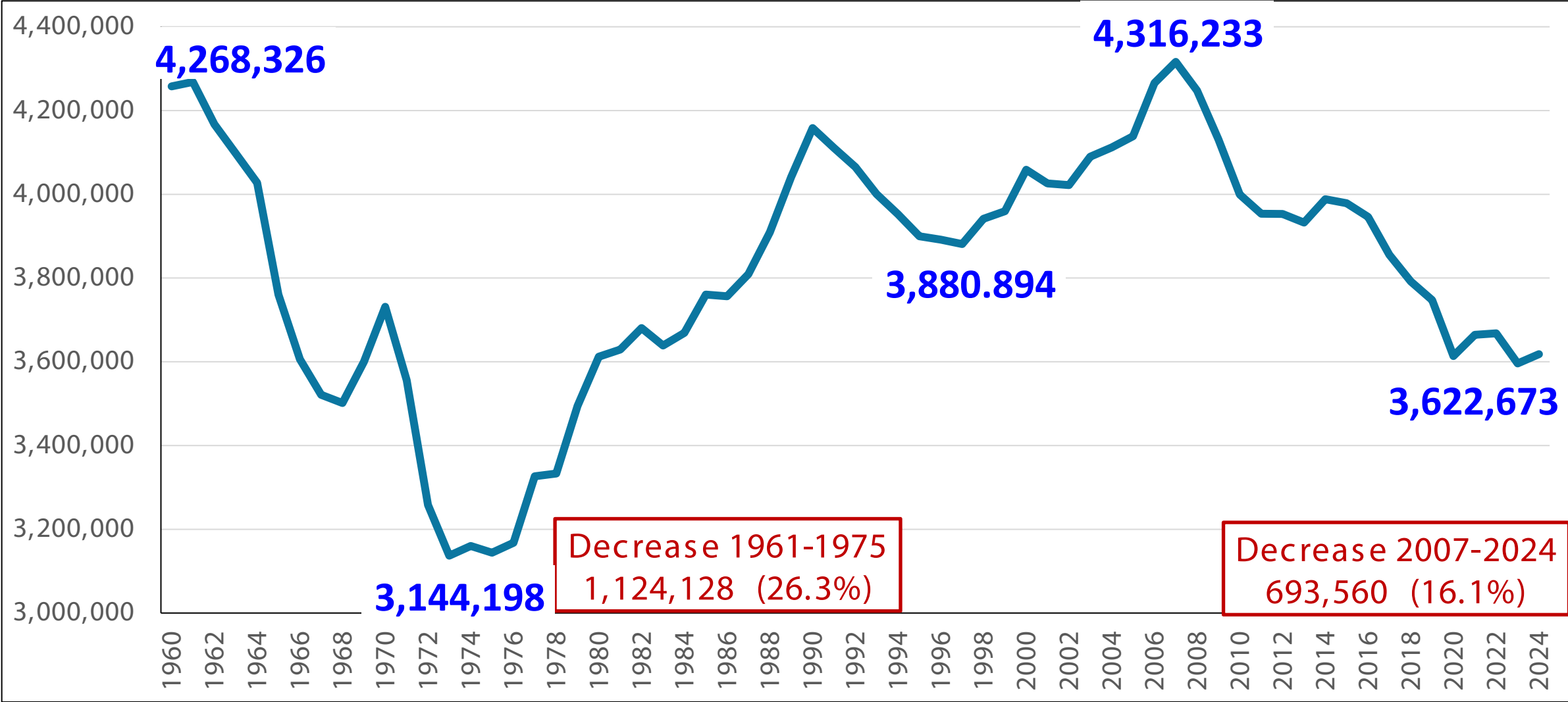
U.S. Fertility over Time

U.S. Total Births, 1933-2024



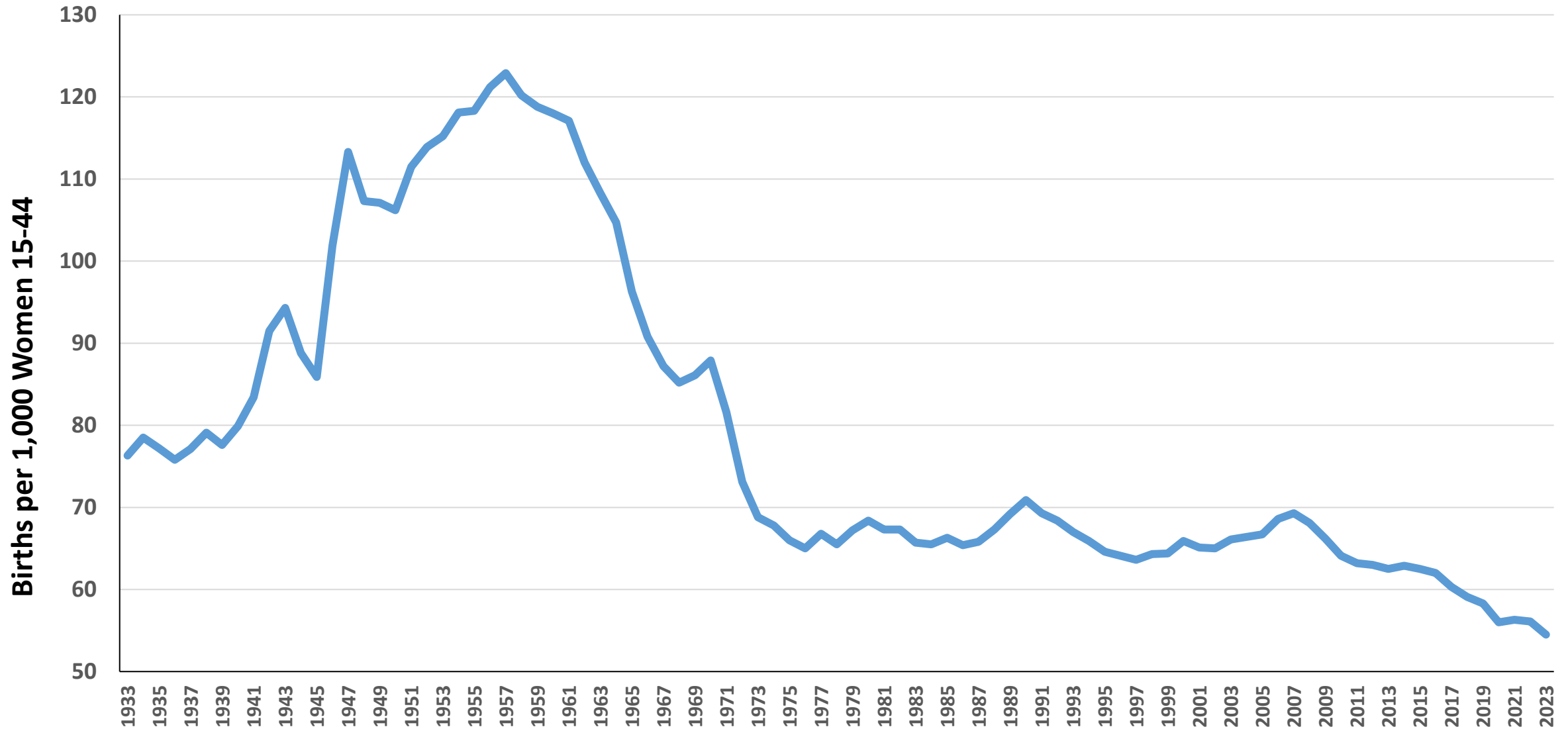


U.S. Total Births, 1960-2024





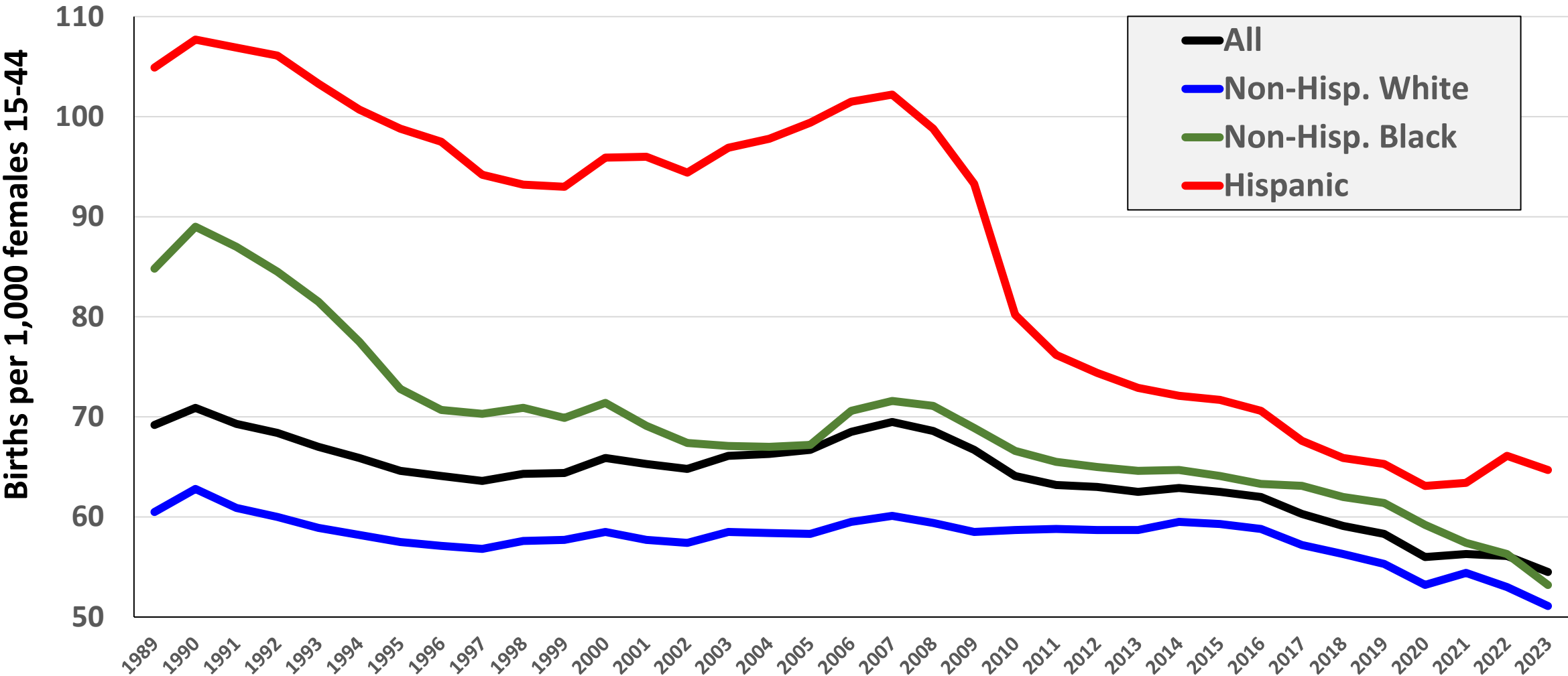
U.S. Fertility Rates, 1933-2023



Sources: Historic Data (pre 1995 <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-visualization/nativity-trends/index.htm>; Data 1995-present. CDC Wonder



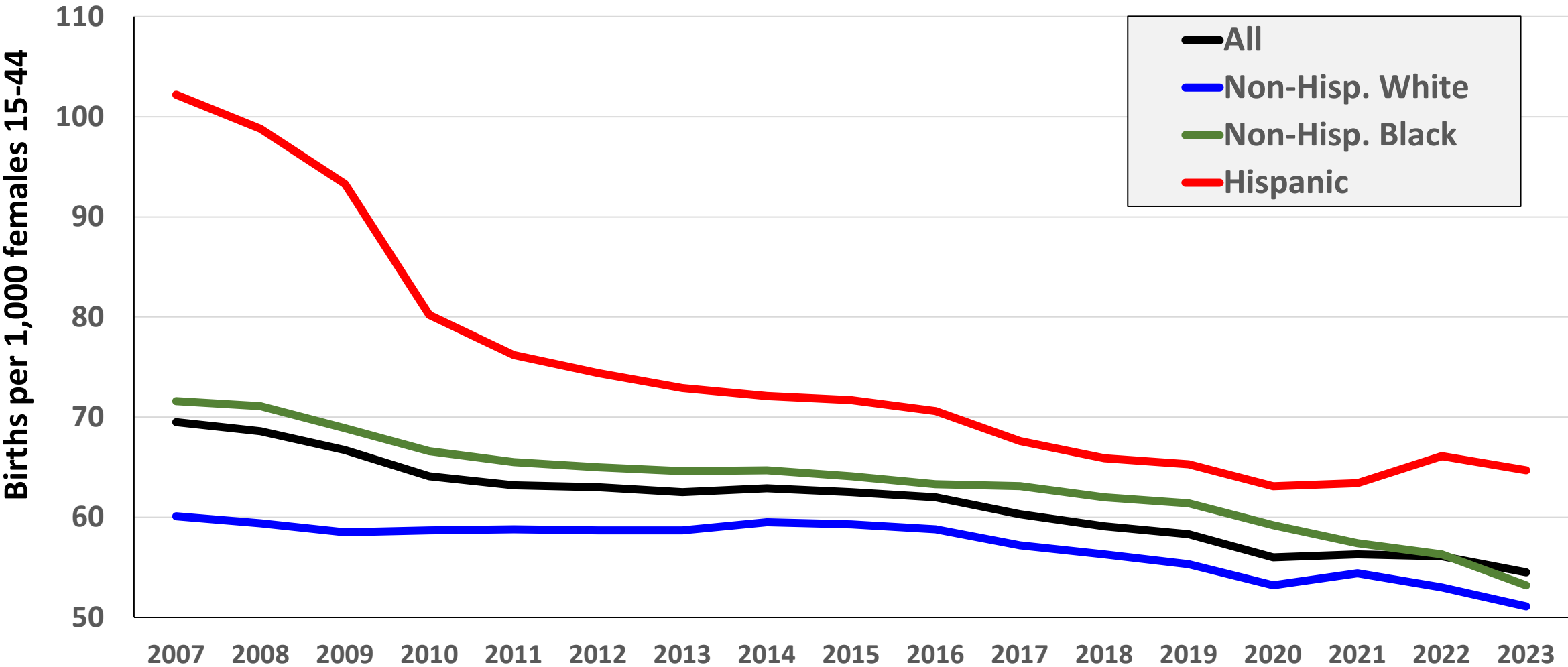
U.S. Fertility Rates (per 1,000) by Race/Ethnicity, 1989-2023



Source: NCHS Annual Birth Reports and CDC Wonder Birth Files

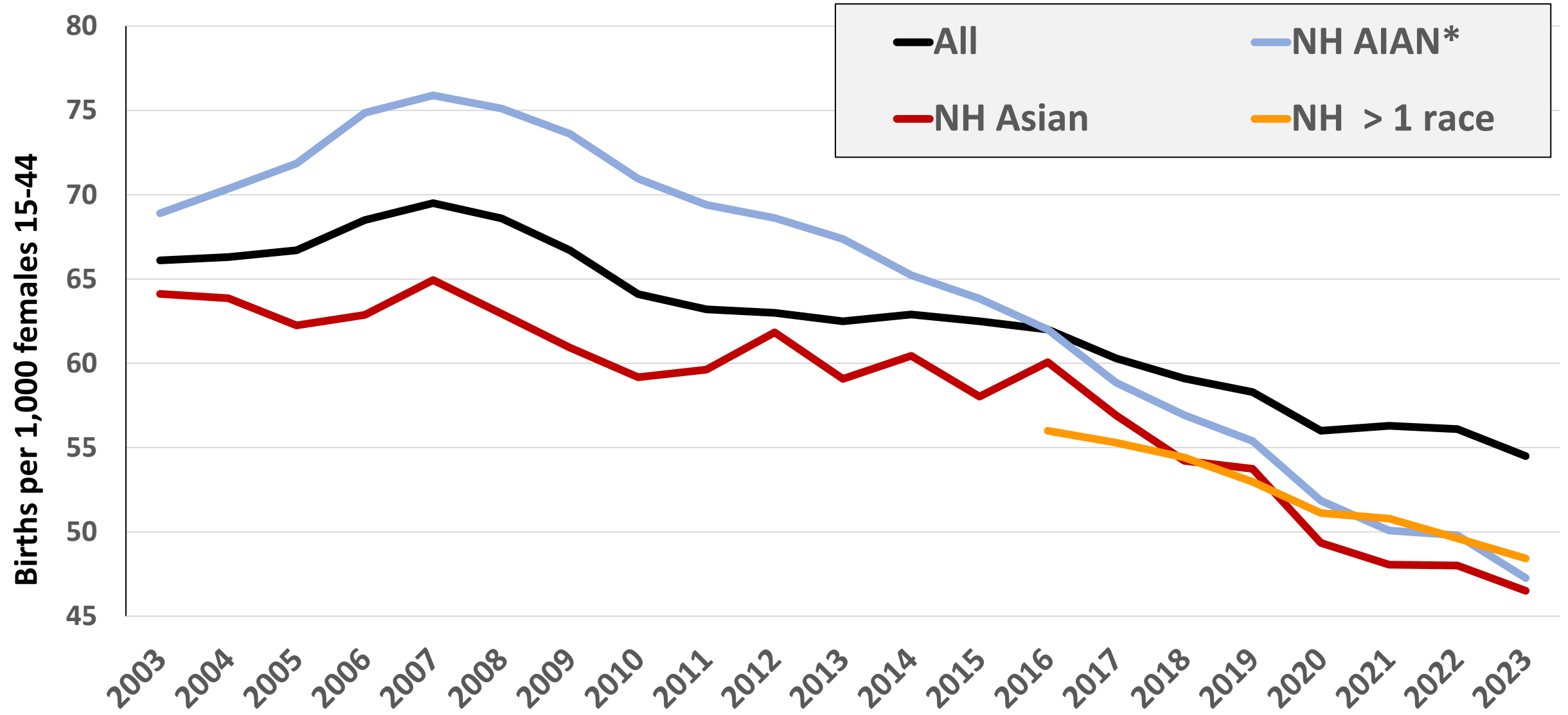


U.S. Fertility Rates (per 1,000) by Race/Ethnicity, 2007-2023





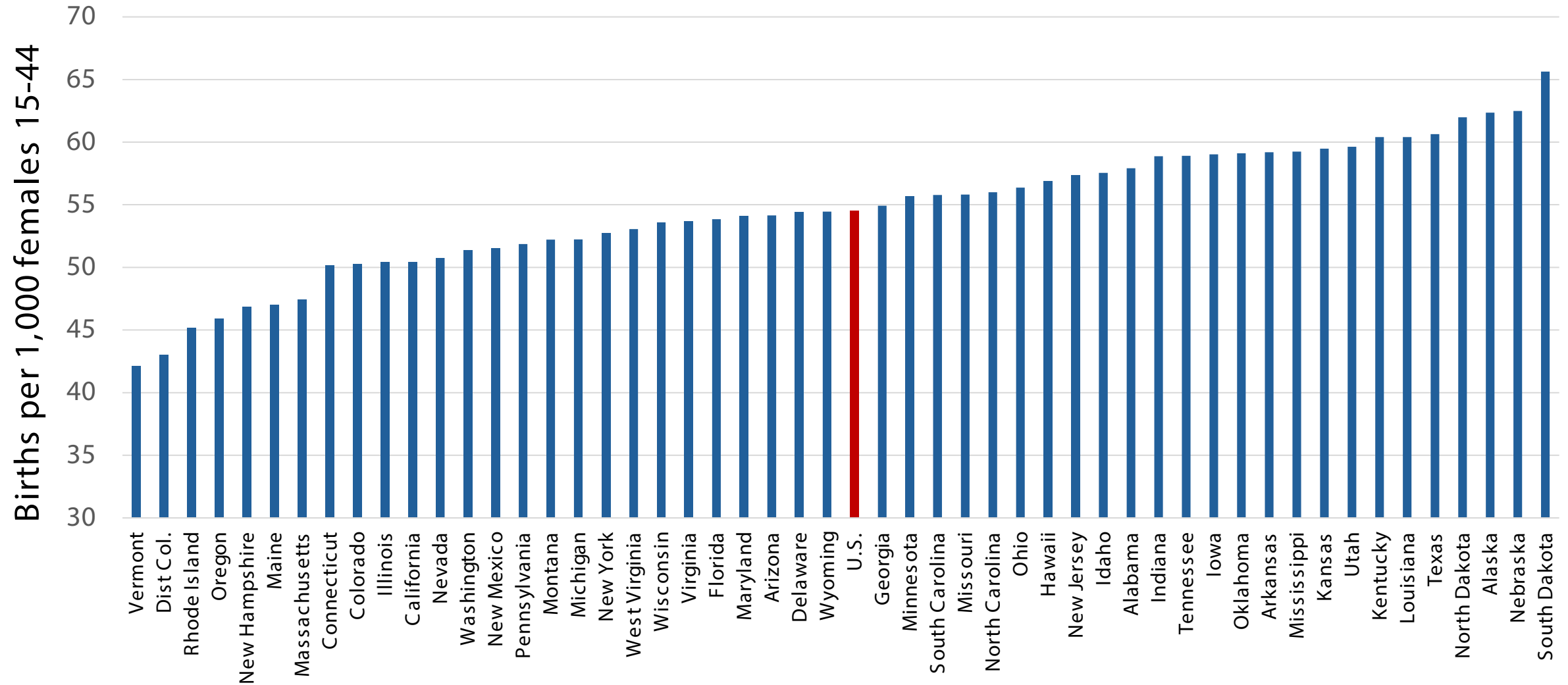
U.S. Fertility Rates (per 1,000) by Race/Ethnicity, 2003-2023



*AIAN – American Indian Alaskan Native



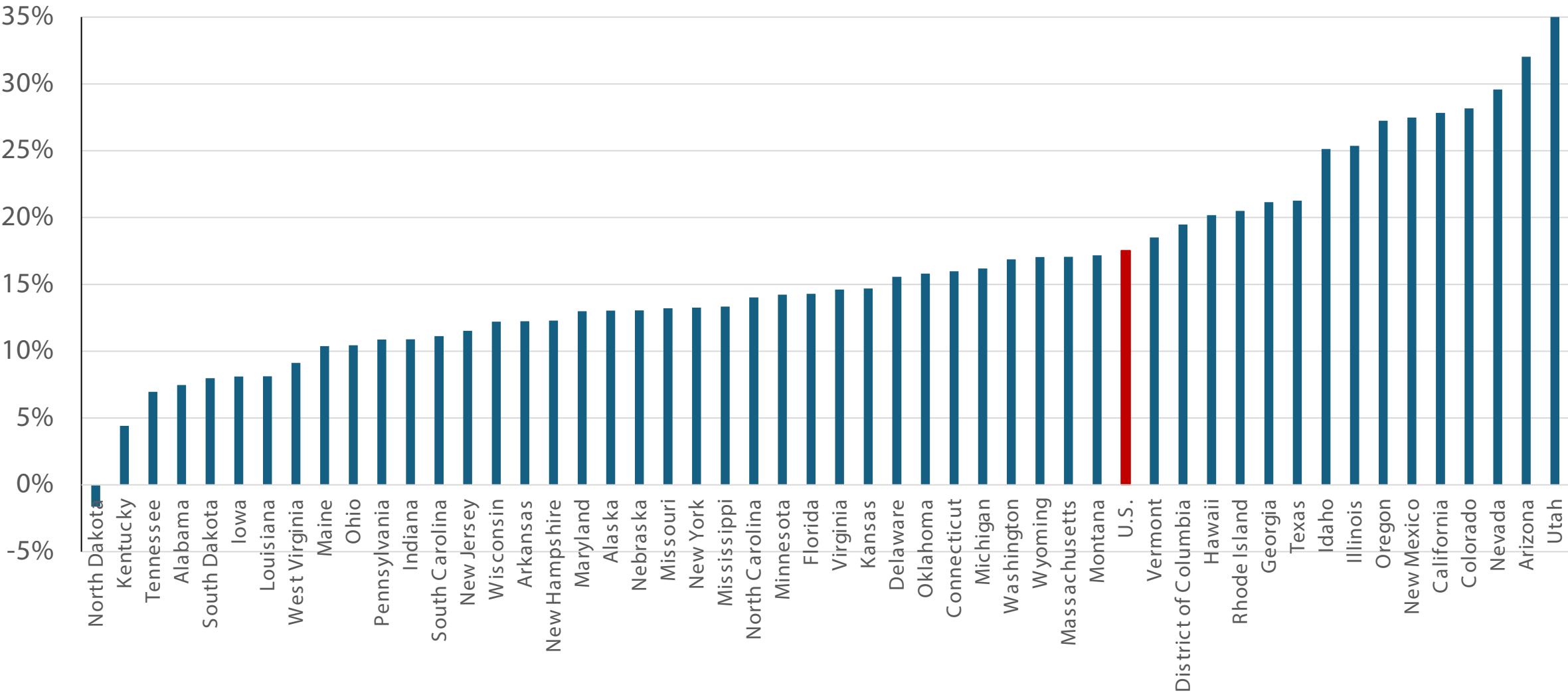
U.S. State Fertility Rates* (2023)



*Fertility rates computed by relating total births per state, per 1,000 women 15-44 years in that state.



Percent Decline in Fertility Rate by State, 2003-2023

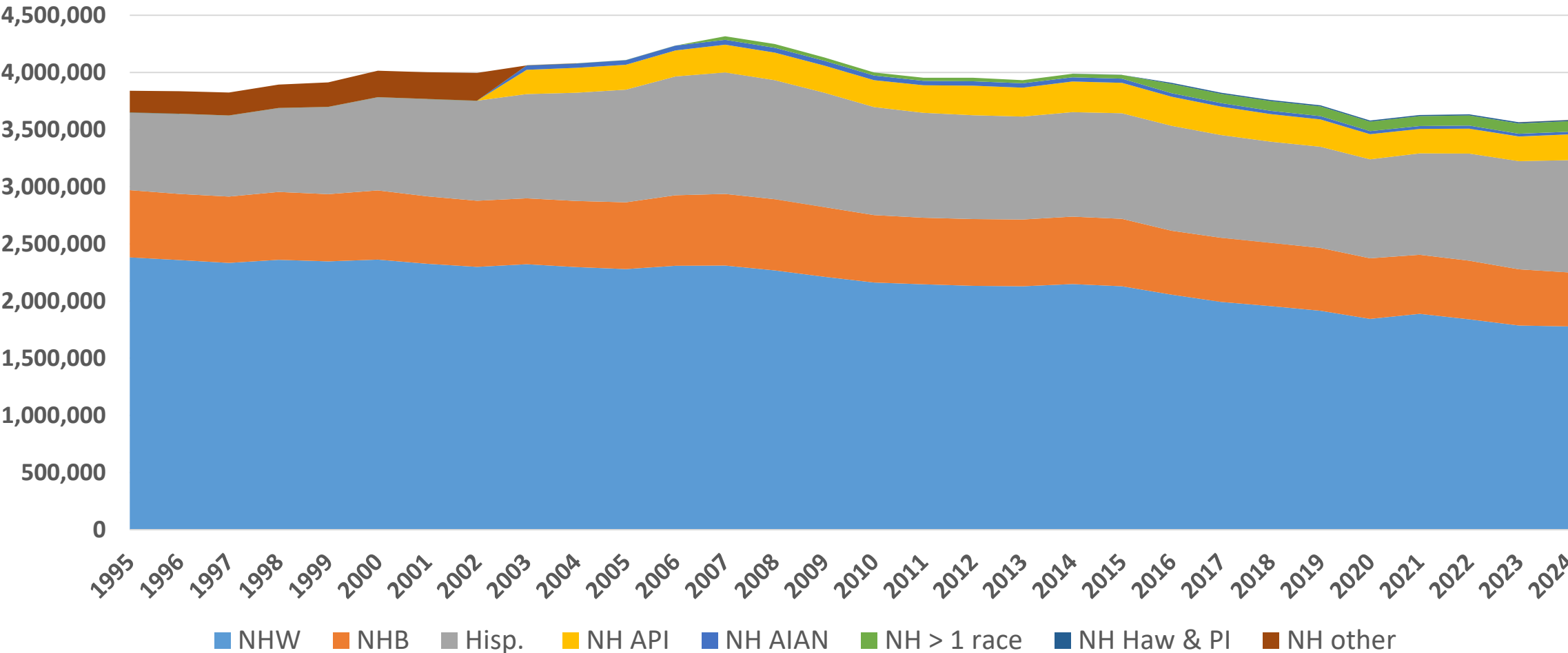


Sources: Calculated from data available on CDC Wonder

U.S. Births by Race Ethnicity



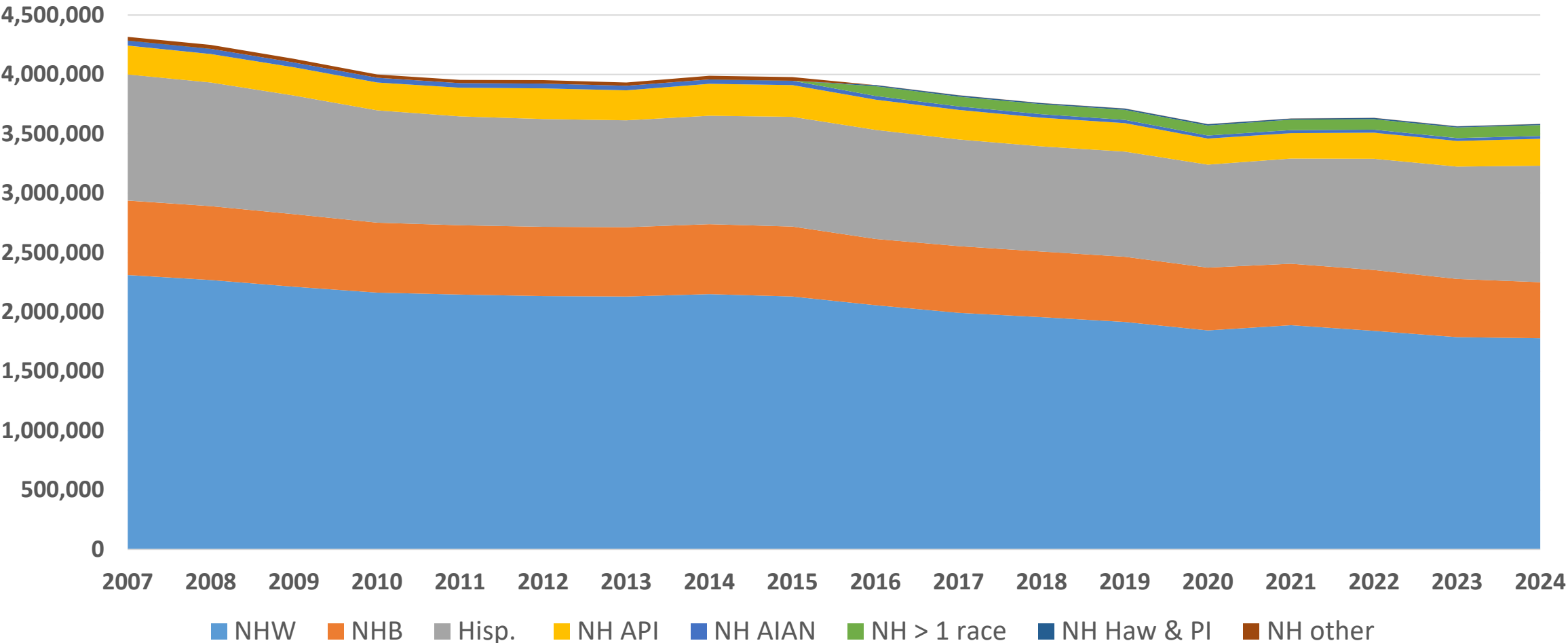
Total U.S. Births by Race/Ethnicity, 1995-2024



Notes: NH API or NH AIAN first recorded 2003; NH >1 Race in 2007 & NH Haw in 2016; 2024 data provisional



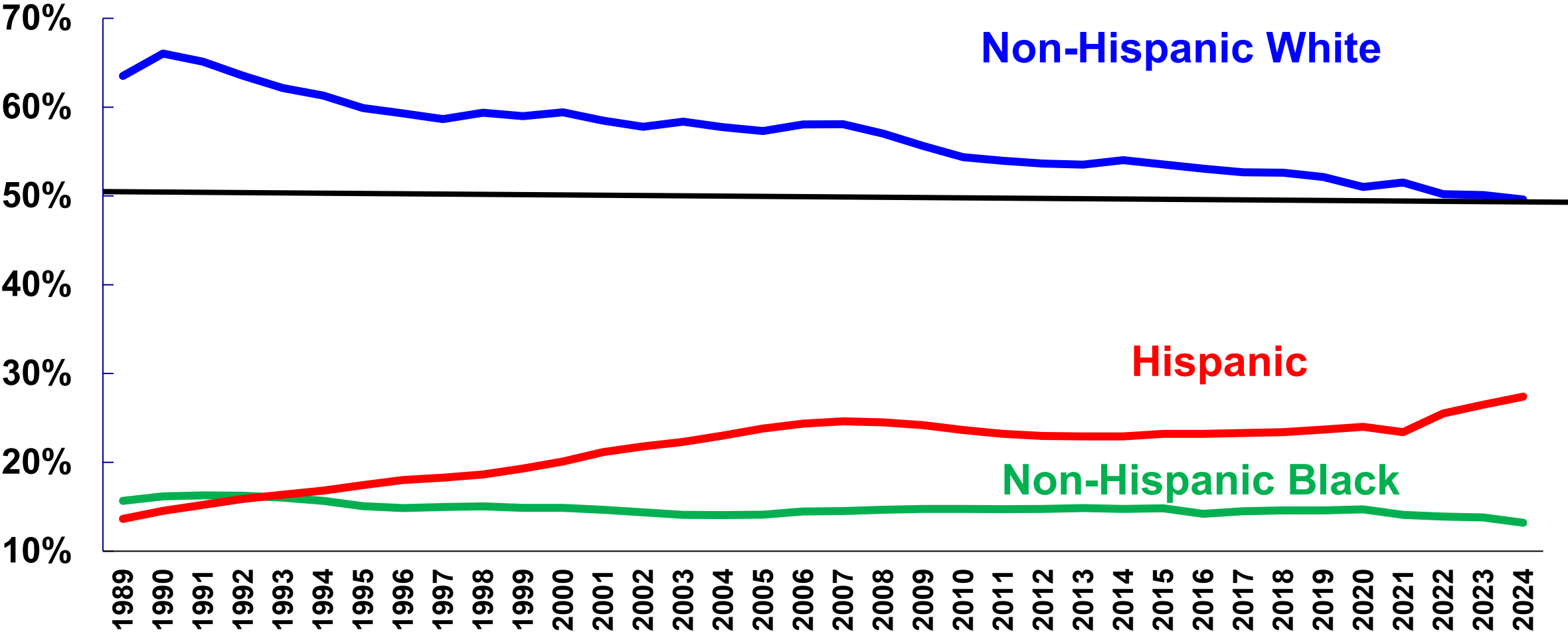
Total U.S. Births by Race/Ethnicity, 2007-2024



Notes: NH Haw first recorded 2016; 2024 data provisional



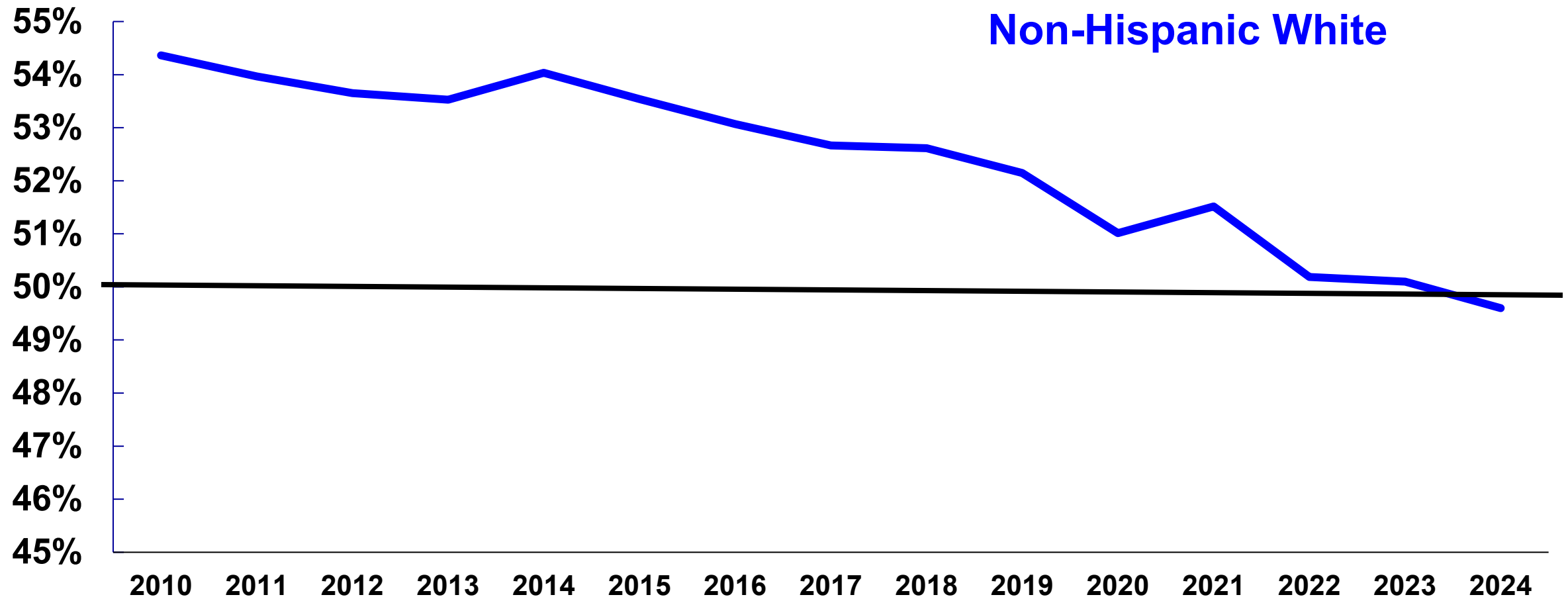
Proportion of all U.S. Births, 1989-2024*



* 2024 data is provisional

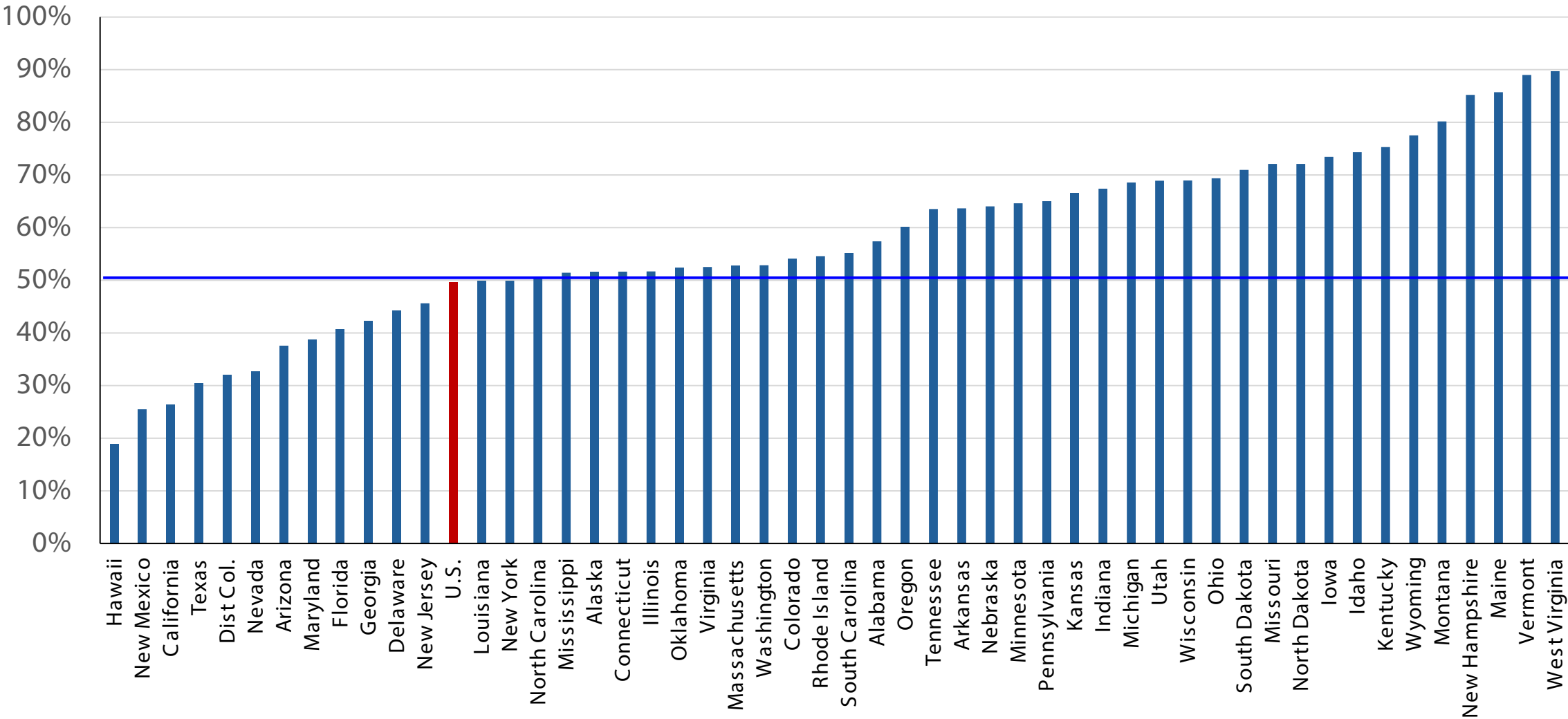


Proportion of all U.S. Births, 2010-2024





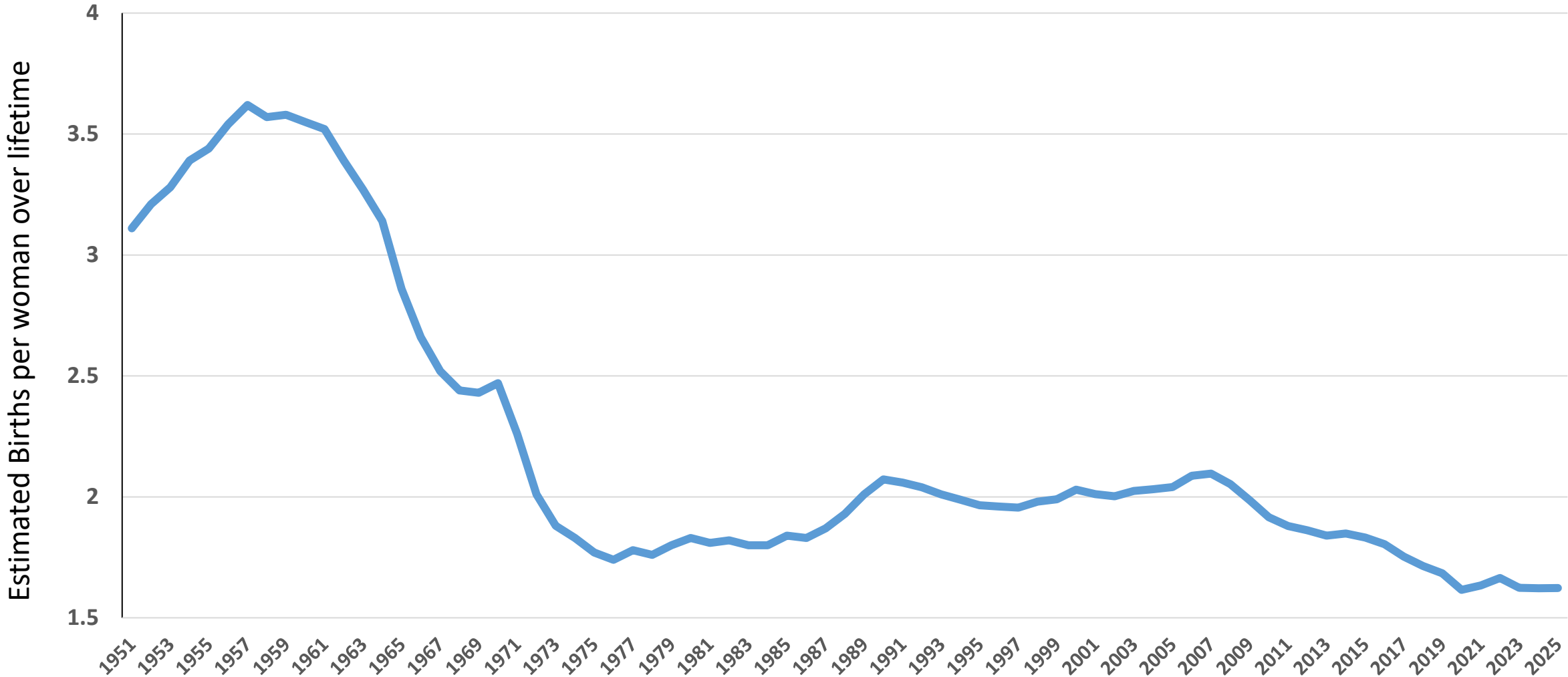
Percent Non-Hispanic Whites Births, 2024 (Provisional)



U.S. Fertility in a Global Context



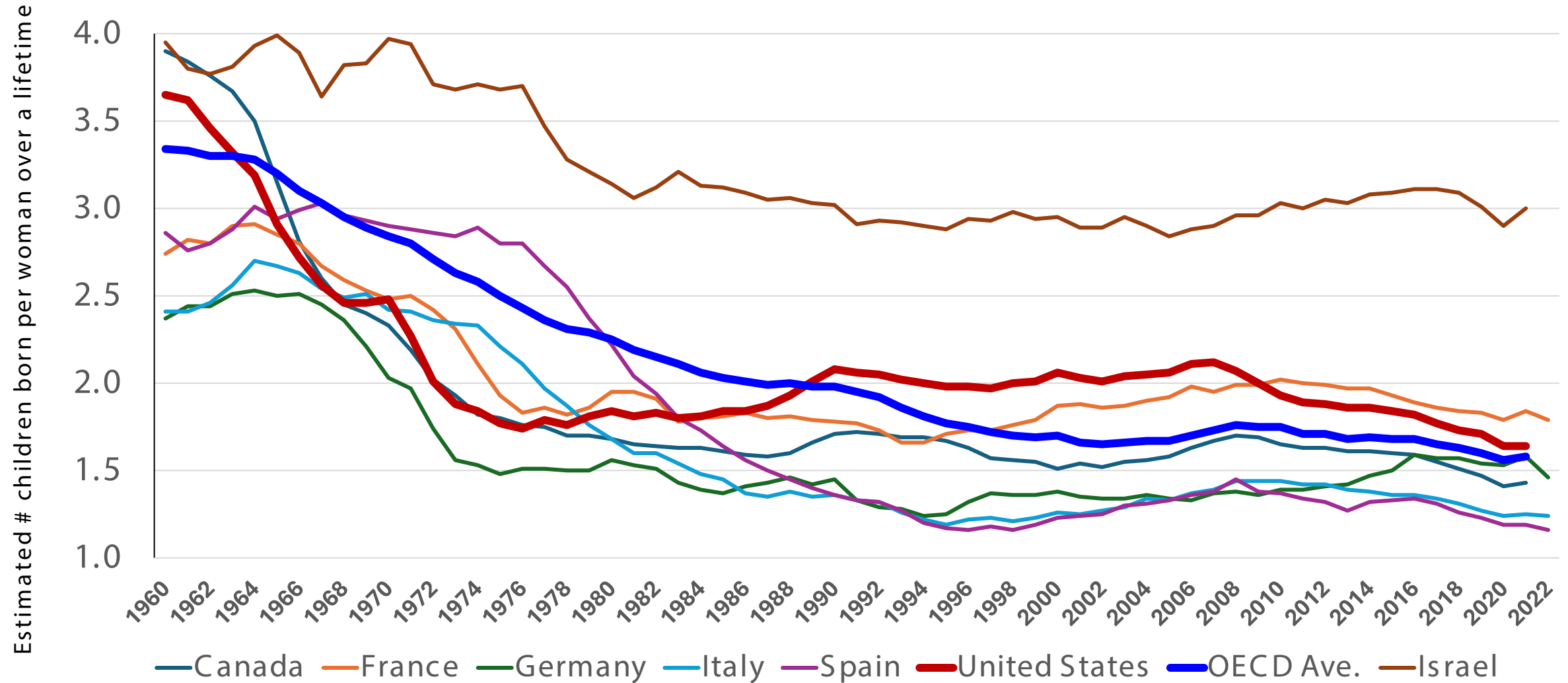
U.S. Total Fertility Rate (Births per woman), 1950-2025



Source: UN Data Portal. <https://population.un.org/dataportal/data/indicators/19/locations/840/start/1950/end/2025/table/pivotbylocation?df=c5296187-40c9-45da-a168-a27dba41216a>

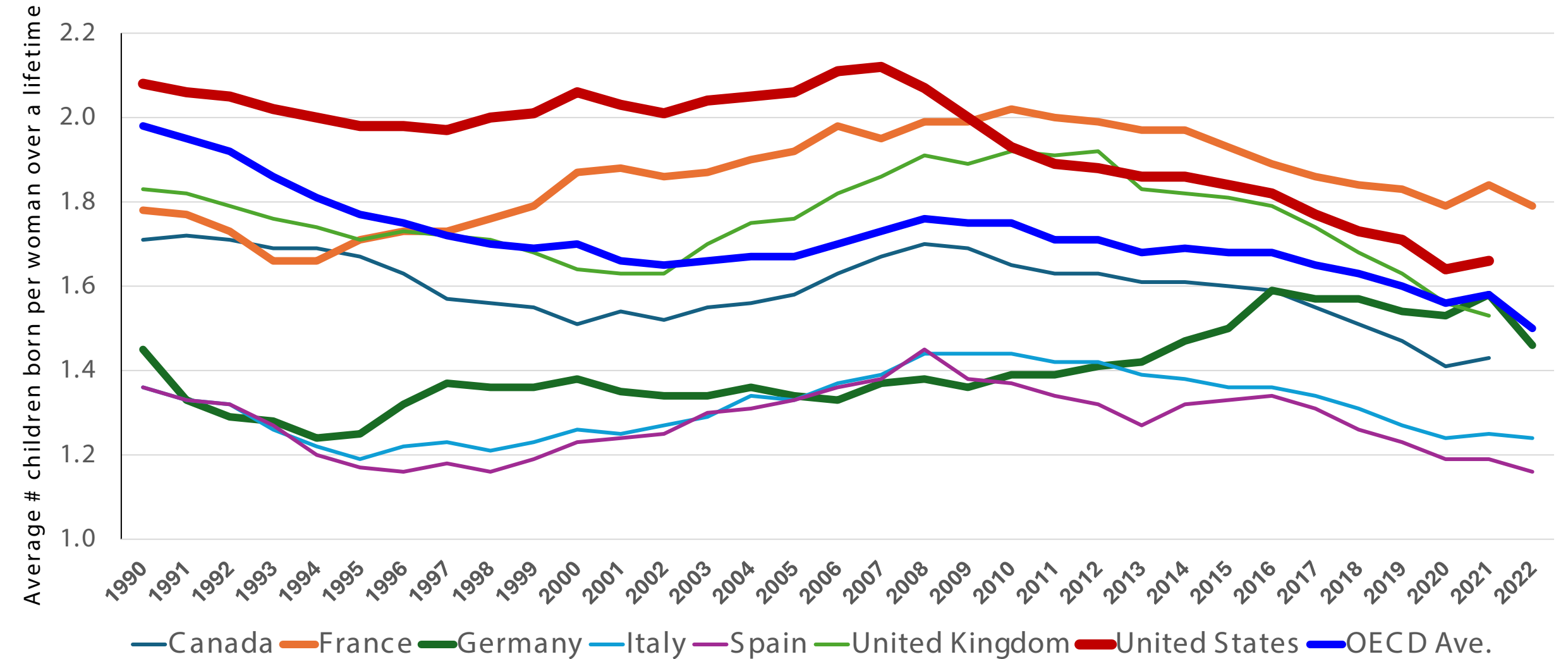


Total Fertility Rate (Average Children per Woman), Select OECD Countries, 1960-2022





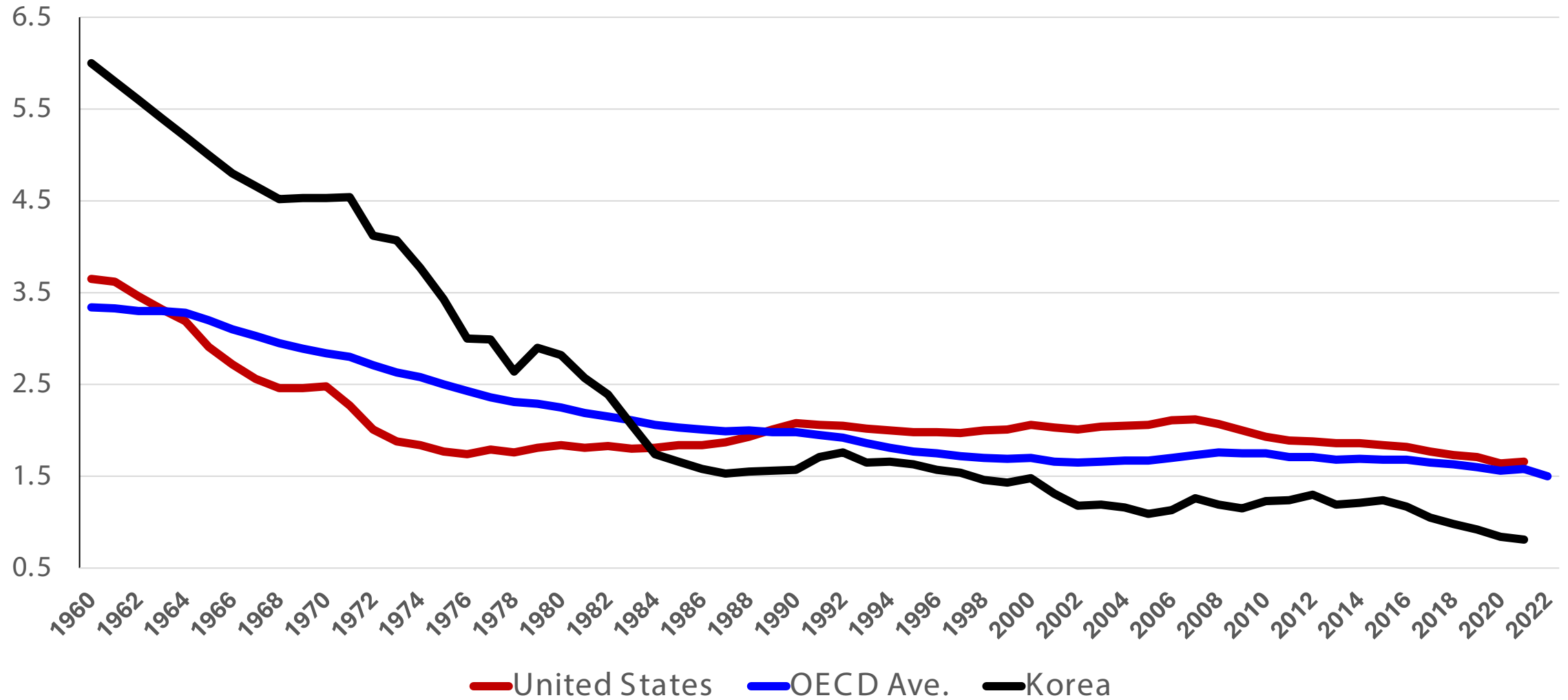
Total Fertility Rate (Average Children per Woman), Select OECD Countries, 1990-2022





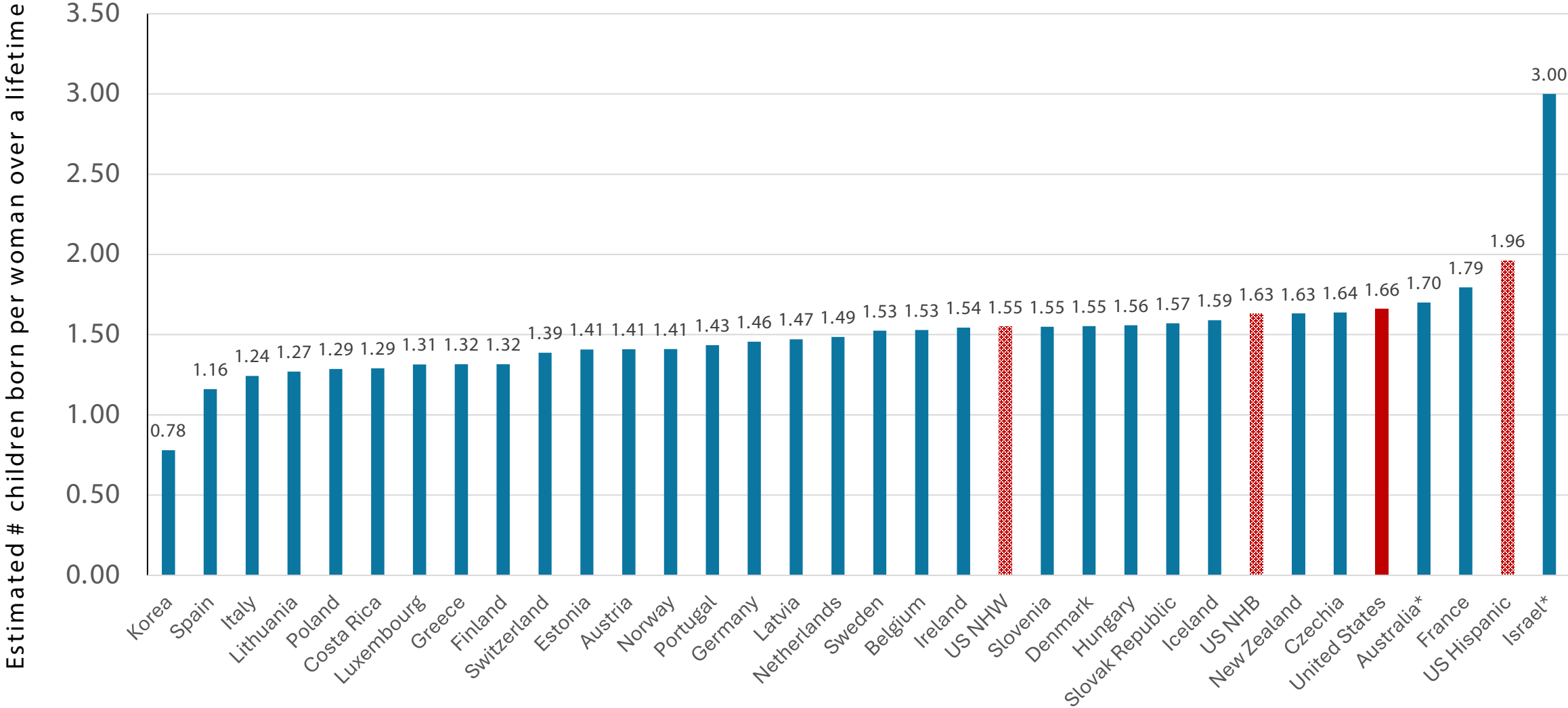
Total Fertility Rate (Average Children per Woman), S. Korea, U.S. and Ave. OECD Countries, 1960-2022

Average # children born per woman over a lifetime





Total Fertility Rates by OECD Country, 2022

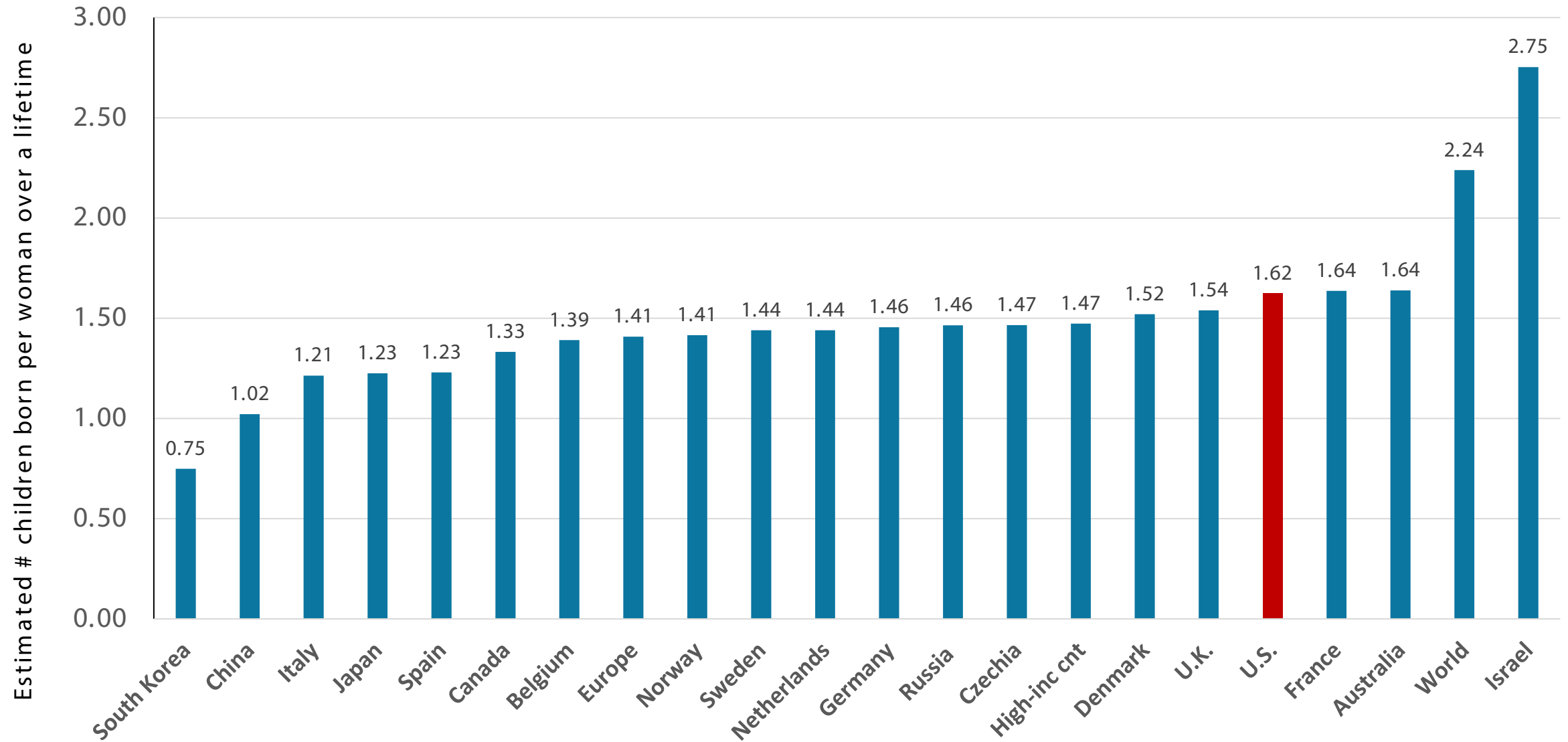


*2021 rate

Source: OECD health data; US by race/ethnicity 2022 – calculated from CDC Wonder data



Projected Total Fertility Rates Selected Countries, 2025



Source: UN Data Portal. <https://population.un.org/dataportal/data/indicators/19/locations/840/start/1950/end/2025/table/pivotbylocation?df=c5296187-40c9-45da-a168-a27dba41216a>



Proportion of U.S. Births to Foreign Born Mothers, 1990-2023

