

## Births: Preliminary Data for 2014

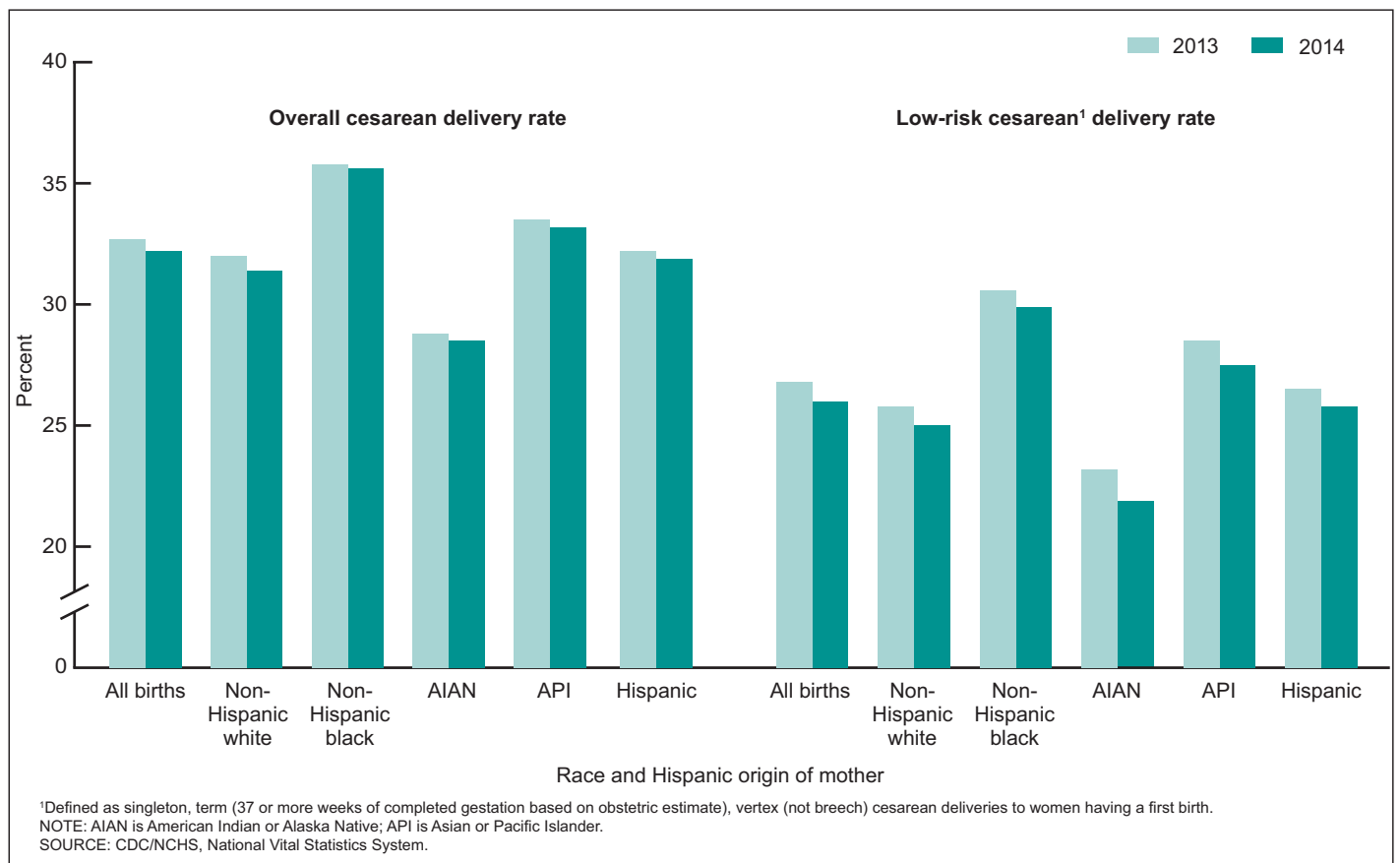
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### Abstract

**Objectives**—This report presents preliminary 2014 data on U.S. births. Births are shown by age, live-birth order, race, and Hispanic

origin of mother. Data on marital status, cesarean delivery, preterm births, and low birthweight are also presented.

**Methods**—Data are based on 99.71% of 2014 births. Records for the few states with less than 100% of records received are weighted



**Figure 1. Overall and low-risk cesarean delivery rates, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2013 and preliminary 2014**

to independent control counts of all births received in state vital statistics offices in 2014. Comparisons are made with final 2013 data and earlier years.

**Results**—The 2014 preliminary number of U.S. births was 3,985,924, an increase of 1% from 2013. The number of births increased for women in all race and Hispanic origin groups in 2014 except for American Indian or Alaska Native women, for whom births decreased. The general fertility rate was 62.9 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44, up 1% from 2013, and the first increase in the fertility rate since 2007. The birth rate for teenagers aged 15–19 decreased 9% in 2014 to 24.2 births per 1,000 women, yet another historic low for the nation; rates decreased for both younger and older teenagers to record lows. The birth rate for women in their early 20s declined to 79.0 births per 1,000 women, another record low. Birth rates for women in their 30s and early 40s increased in 2014. The nonmarital birth rate declined 1% in 2014, to 44.0 births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44, dropping for six consecutive years. The cesarean delivery rate was down 2%, and the low-risk cesarean delivery rate was down 3%, in 2014. The preterm birth rate (based on a change in measure) was down in 2014 to 9.57%. The low birthweight rate was essentially unchanged in 2014 at 8.00%.

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

## Introduction

This report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) presents preliminary data on births and birth rates and selected maternal and infant health characteristics (including cesarean delivery [Figure 1]) for the United States in 2014. The findings are based on nearly 100% of registered vital records occurring in calendar year 2014, which were received and processed by NCHS as of February 12, 2015. Trends in the preliminary reports for 1995–2013 births were confirmed by the final vital statistics for each year (1,2). Comparisons are based on the final data for 2013 and earlier years (2). Changes and differences presented in this report are statistically significant at the 0.05 level, unless noted otherwise.

Beginning with the 2014 data year, NCHS is transitioning to a new standard for estimating the gestational age of the newborn. The new measure—the obstetric estimate of gestation at delivery (OE)—replaces the measure based on the date of the last normal menses (LMP) (3). Accordingly, gestational age data shown in this report are based on OE. However, LMP-based data are also available for all relevant report tables at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64\\_06\\_supplemental\\_and\\_expanded\\_tables.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_06_supplemental_and_expanded_tables.pdf). National data based on OE data are available only from data year 2007 forward. Gestational age estimates differ somewhat between the OE- and LMP-based measures. For example, the 2014 OE-based preterm birth rate for the United States is 9.57%, compared with the LMP-based rate of 11.32%. Of note, both measures show declines in the rate of preterm birth from 2007 to 2014. The reasons for the change, and a detailed comparison of the two measures, are presented in: “Measuring Gestational Age in Vital Statistics Data: Transitioning to the Obstetric Estimate” (3).

State-specific detailed tables for 2014 births, based on preliminary data and showing the percentages of births delivered by cesarean

and born preterm, are available on the NCHS website (see [Internet Tables I–1 and I–2](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_06_tables.pdf) at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64\\_06\\_tables.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_06_tables.pdf)).

Population estimates by age, sex, and race and Hispanic origin for 2014 at the national and state levels were not available as of the preparation of this report. Accordingly, birth and fertility rates by race and Hispanic origin and fertility rates by state could not be shown here. Birth and fertility rates by age and race and Hispanic origin based on 2014 preliminary data will be released as soon as available at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64\\_06\\_supplemental\\_and\\_expanded\\_tables.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_06_supplemental_and_expanded_tables.pdf).

## Results

### Births and birth rates

Key findings, illustrated in [Tables 1–6](#) and [Figures 2–4](#), are listed below:

- The preliminary **number of births** for the United States in 2014 was 3,985,924, an increase of 1% (or 53,743 births) from 2013 (3,932,181) ([Tables 1 and 2](#) and [Figure 2](#)) (2). This is the first increase in births since 2007, ending the recent downward trend. The number of births declined steadily from 2007 through 2010, but the pace of decline slowed from 2010 through 2013.
- The number of births increased 1% for women in each of the three largest race and Hispanic origin groups (non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic) from 2013 to 2014 (2). Births to Asian or Pacific Islander (API) women increased 6% in 2014, whereas births to American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) women decreased 2%.
- The preliminary **general fertility rate** (GFR) for the United States also increased 1% in 2014, to 62.9 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44, from 62.5 in 2013 ([Tables 1, 3, and 5](#) and [Figure 2](#)) (2,4). This is the first increase in the fertility rate since 2007. Similar to the trend in the number of births, the rate declined steadily from 2007 through 2013, with the pace of decline slowing from 2010 through 2013.
- The preliminary **birth rate for teenagers** in 2014 was 24.2 births per 1,000 women aged 15–19—yet another historic low for the nation ([Tables 1, 3, and 4](#) and [Figures 3 and 4](#)) (2,5). The rate was down 9% from 2013 (26.5) and has declined more than 7% annually since 2007. Since the most recent peak in 1991 (61.8), the rate has declined a total of 61% (5). In 2014, the preliminary number of births to women aged 15–19 was 249,067 ([Tables 1 and 2](#)), down 9% from 2013 and 44% from 2007 (444,899) (2,5).
- In 2014, the preliminary birth rates for teenagers aged 15–17 and 18–19 fell 11% and 7%, respectively, to 10.9 and 43.8 births per 1,000 women, another record low for both groups, from 12.3 and 47.1 in 2013. Since 2007, the rate for teenagers aged 15–17 has declined more than 9% annually, and the rate for those aged 18–19 has declined nearly 7% annually. The number of births for teenagers aged 15–17 declined 11% from 2013 to 2014, and births to those aged 18–19 declined 8%.

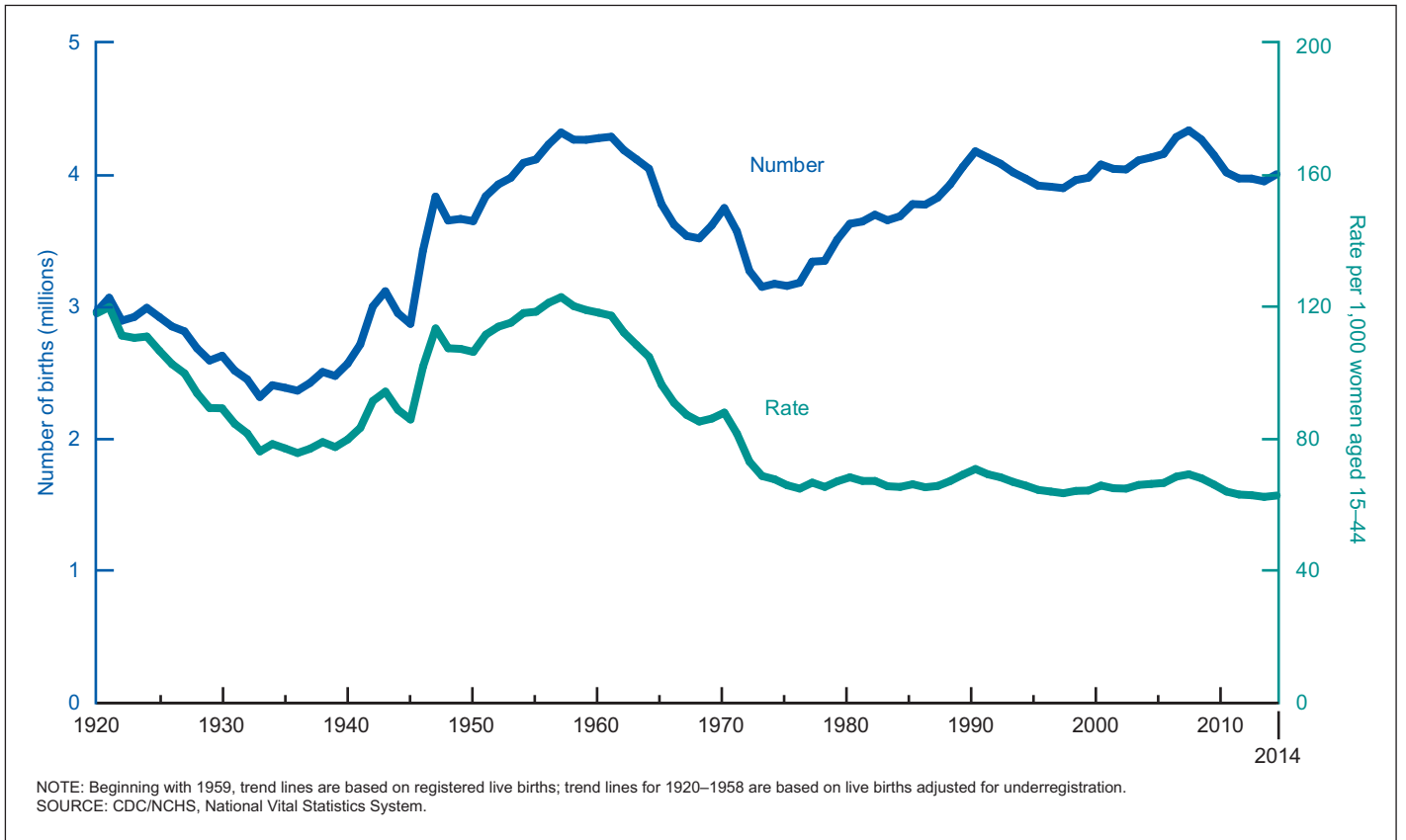


Figure 2. Live births and general fertility rates: United States, final 1920-2013 and preliminary 2014

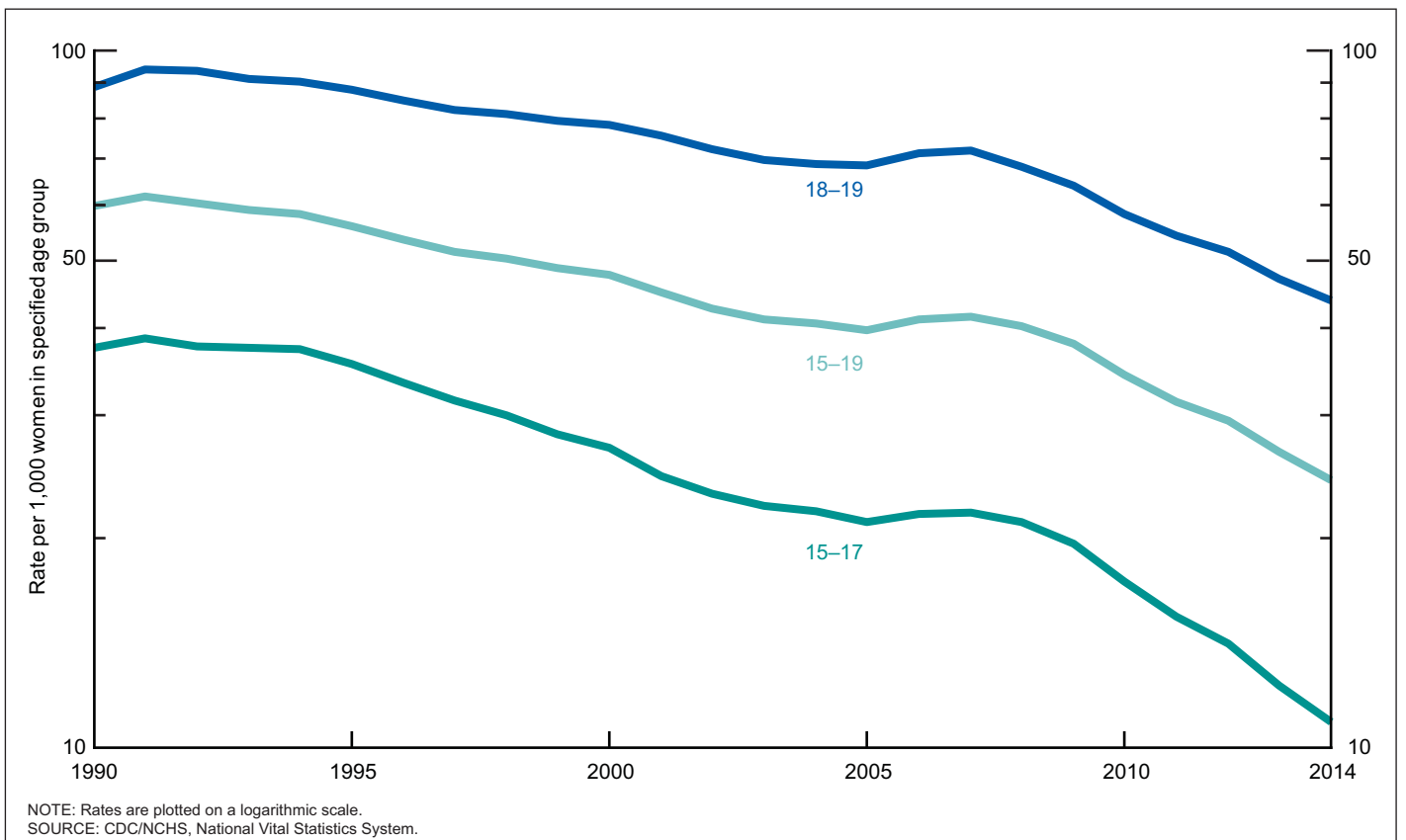
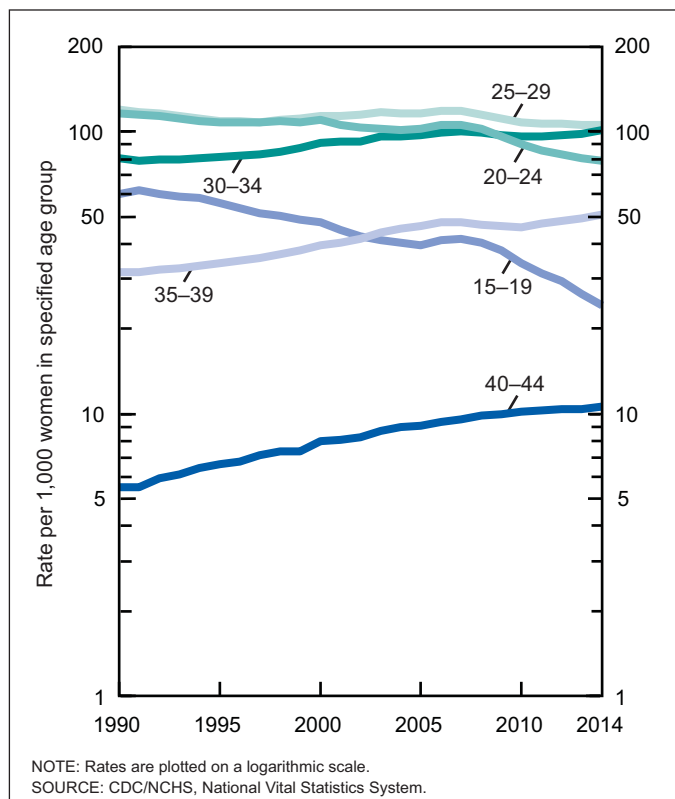


Figure 3. Birth rates for women aged 15-19, by age group: United States, final 1990-2013 and preliminary 2014



**Figure 4. Birth rates, by selected age of mother: United States, final 1990–2013 and preliminary 2014**

- The birth rate for teenagers aged 10–14 was 0.3 births per 1,000 in 2014, unchanged from 2013, the historic low for the nation. The number of births to mothers in this age group declined 11% in 2014, to 2,771 births.
- The preliminary **birth rate for women aged 20–24** in 2014 was 79.0 births per 1,000 women, down 2% from the rate in 2013 (80.7), reaching yet another record low for the nation (Tables 1 and 3 and Figure 4) (2,4). The rate for women in this age group has declined steadily since 2007 at more than 4% a year. The number of births to women in their early 20s decreased 2% from 2013 to 2014 (Tables 1 and 2). The **rate for women aged 25–29** was 105.7 births per 1,000 women, essentially unchanged from 2013 (105.5) (2). Since 2008, the rate for women in this age group has declined more than 1% a year. The number of births to women in their late 20s increased 2% from 2013 to 2014.
- The preliminary **birth rate for women aged 30–34** in 2014 was 100.8 births per 1,000 women, up 3% from the rate in 2013 (98.0) (Tables 1 and 3 and Figure 4). The rate for this group has increased steadily since 2011. The number of births to women in their early 30s also increased in 2014, by 4%. The **rate for women aged 35–39** was 50.9 births per 1,000 women, up 3% from 2013 (49.3). The rate for this group has increased steadily since 2010 (2). The number of births to women in their late 30s increased 5% in 2014.
- The preliminary **birth rate for women aged 40–44** in 2014 was 10.6 births per 1,000 women, up 2% from 2013 (10.4). Since 1982, the rate for women in their early 40s has generally risen (2,4). The number of births to these women was essentially unchanged in

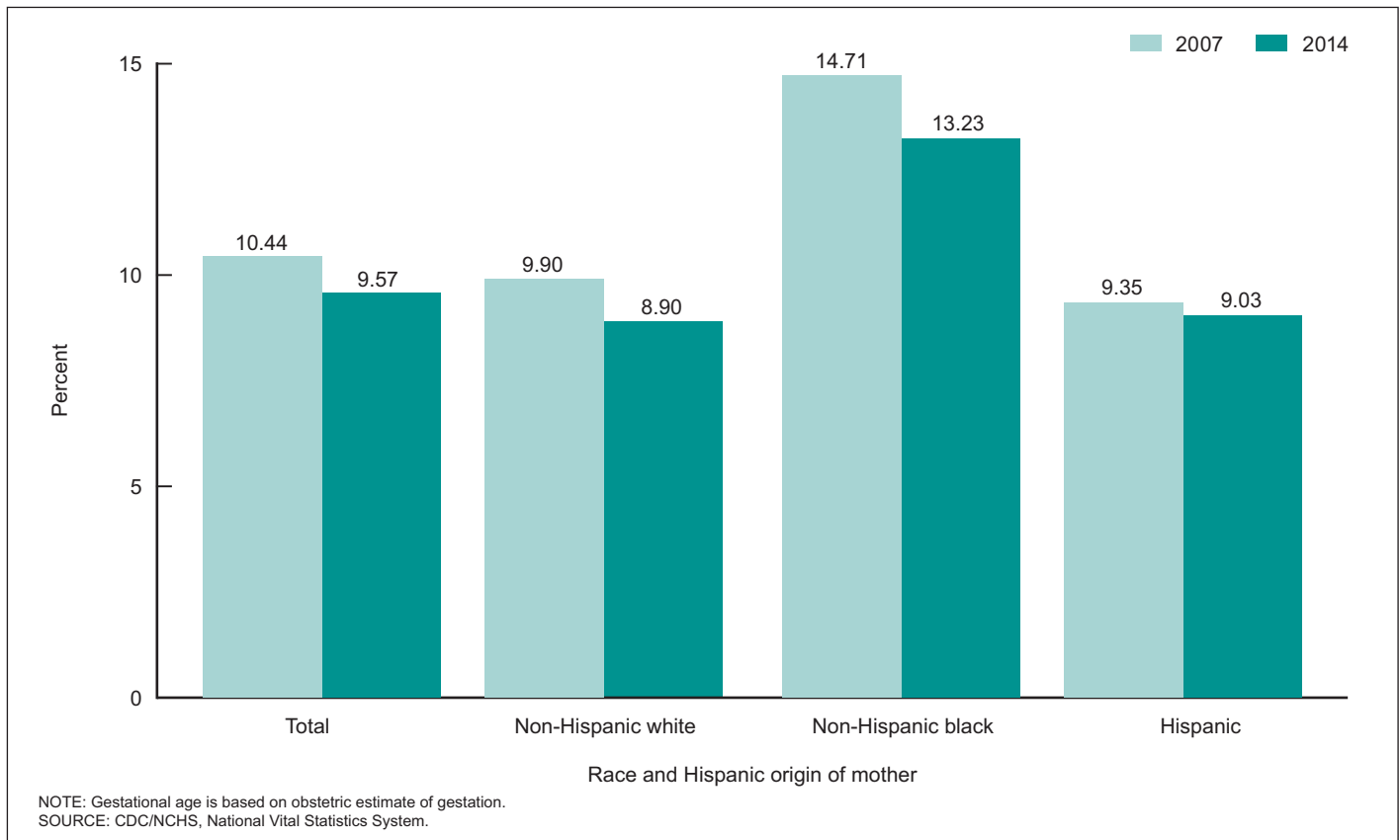
2014. The **rate for women aged 45–49** (which includes births to women aged 50 and over) was 0.8 births per 1,000 women, unchanged from 2013. The number of births to women in this age group increased 4% in 2014 (Tables 2–4).

- The preliminary total fertility rate (TFR) for the United States in 2014 was 1,861.5 births per 1,000 women, a slight increase (less than 1%) from the rate in 2013 (1,857.5) (2). This is the first increase in the rate since 2007 (2). The TFR estimates the number of births that a hypothetical group of 1,000 women would have over their lifetimes, based on the age-specific birth rates in a given year.
  - The 2014 TFR was below replacement—the level at which a given generation can exactly replace itself (2,100 births per 1,000 women). The rate has not been above replacement since 2007 (2).
- The preliminary **first birth rate** for the United States in 2014 was 24.6 first births per 1,000 women aged 15–44, down slightly (less than 1%) from 2013 (24.7) and reaching another record low (Table 3) (2,4). First-birth rates decreased for women aged 15–24, increased for women aged 30–39, and were unchanged for women aged 10–14, 25–29, and 40 and over (2,6). The rate for second-order births to women aged 15–44 also increased in 2014, by 1%, as did the rates for third-order (up 2%) and fourth- and higher-order (up 3%) births.
- The **birth rate for unmarried women** in 2014 (44.0 births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44) declined 1% from 2013 (44.3) (2). The rate has declined for 6 consecutive years and was 15% lower than the all-time peak in 2007 and 2008 (51.8). The 2014 preliminary rate was the lowest since 2002 (43.6).
  - Nonmarital births numbered almost 9,000 more in 2014 (1,604,495) than in 2013 (1,595,873), a 1% increase (Table 6). The 2014 preliminary number of nonmarital births is 7% lower than the 2008 peak (1,726,566).
  - The percentage of all births to unmarried women declined to 40.3% in 2014, from 40.6% in 2013. This overall decline was primarily the result of a compositional shift (that is, more births to older women who have proportionally fewer nonmarital births than their younger counterparts).
  - The percentage of nonmarital births declined from 2013 to 2014 for all race and Hispanic origin groups. The percentage of births to unmarried mothers in 2014 ranged from 16.4% for API women to 70.9% for non-Hispanic black women.

## Maternal and infant health characteristics

Key findings, illustrated in Tables 7 and 8 and Figures 1 and 5, are listed below:

- In 2014, the overall cesarean delivery rate was 32.2%, a 2% decline from 32.7% in 2013 (Table 8). After peaking in 2009 at 32.9%, the rate remained stable for 2010–2012. The 2014 preliminary rate is the lowest since 2007.
  - The cesarean delivery rate for non-Hispanic white women declined for the fifth straight year in 2014, down 2% to 31.4%. Rates declined in 2014 for the first time since the mid-1990s



**Figure 5. Preterm birth rates, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2007 and preliminary 2014**

for non-Hispanic black (down 1%, to 35.6%), Hispanic (down 1%, to 31.9%), and API (down 1%, to 33.2%) women, but were statistically unchanged for AIAN women (28.5% in 2014) (Table 8 and Figure 1) (2).

- The rate of low-risk cesarean delivery, which is cesarean delivery among nulliparous (first birth), term (37 or more completed weeks based on the obstetric estimate), singleton (one fetus), vertex (head-first) births, declined to 26.0% in 2014. This is 3% lower than the 2013 rate (26.8%) and is the largest decline since the 2009 peak (28.0%).
- Rates of low-risk cesarean delivery declined for all race and ethnicity groups in 2014. Declines ranged from 2% for non-Hispanic black women to 6% for AIAN women (Table 7 and Figure 1).
- The 2014 **preterm birth rate** (based on the obstetric estimate of gestation, as described in the Introduction) was 9.57%, down slightly from 9.62% in 2013. The percentage of births delivered at less than 37 completed weeks of gestation has declined 8% since 2007 (from 10.44%), the first year for which national data are available for this measure (and differs from the LMP-based rate previously published) (Tables 7 and 8 and Figure 5) (3).
  - The rate of infants born early preterm (less than 34 weeks) was down slightly, from 2.79% to 2.75% for 2013–2014; the late preterm birth rate (34–36 weeks) was essentially stable at 6.82% in 2014. Since 2007, the early preterm level has declined 6% and the late preterm rate by 9% (Table 8).
  - Preterm rates were essentially stable for each of the largest race and Hispanic origin groups for 2013–2014: non-Hispanic white (8.90% in 2014), non-Hispanic black (13.23%), and Hispanic (9.03%) (Table 7). Since 2007, preterm rates have fallen 10% for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black and 3% for Hispanic infants.
- Preterm birth rates declined in 44 states and the District of Columbia from 2007 to 2014; the rates for 6 states (Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, and North Dakota) did not change significantly over this period (see 2013 and 2014 data in Table I-2).
- The 2014 U.S. **low birthweight** (LBW) rate was 8.00%, essentially unchanged from 2013 (8.02%). The LBW rate (the percentage of infants born at less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds, 8 ounces) rose to 8.26% in 2006 but has trended slowly downward during 2007–2014 (2). The percentage of **very low birthweight** (VLBW) infants (less than 1,500 grams or 3 pounds, 4 ounces) was stable at 1.40% in 2014. The VLBW level has also declined in recent years, from a peak of 1.49% for 2005–2007 (Table 7) (2).
  - LBW levels were essentially unchanged in 2014 from 2013 for the three largest race and Hispanic origin groups: non-Hispanic white (6.96% in 2014), non-Hispanic black (13.16%), and Hispanic (7.05%). Since 2006, however, modest declines in LBW are reported for non-Hispanic white (5%) and non-Hispanic black (6%) births; the rate among Hispanic infants has not changed significantly over this period (see 2013 and 2014 data in Table 7) (2).

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**Table 1. Births and birth rates, by age of mother: United States, final 2013 and preliminary 2014**

[Data for 2014 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures for 2014 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	2014		2013	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
All ages. . . . .	3,985,924	62.9	3,932,181	62.5
10–14 . . . . .	2,771	0.3	3,098	0.3
15–19 . . . . .	249,067	24.2	273,105	26.5
15–17 . . . . .	66,788	10.9	74,820	12.3
18–19 . . . . .	182,279	43.8	198,285	47.1
20–24 . . . . .	882,398	79.0	896,745	80.7
25–29 . . . . .	1,144,837	105.7	1,120,777	105.5
30–34 . . . . .	1,080,248	100.8	1,036,927	98.0
35–39 . . . . .	508,263	50.9	483,873	49.3
40–44 . . . . .	109,874	10.6	109,484	10.4
45–54 <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	8,465	0.8	8,172	0.8

<sup>1</sup>The birth rate for women in this age group is computed by relating the number of births to women aged 45 and over to the number of births 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 reference 7.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

**Table 2. Births, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, preliminary 2014**

[Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals]

Live-birth order and race and Hispanic origin of mother	Age of mother								
	All ages	Under 15	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–54
All races and origins <sup>1</sup>	3,985,924	2,771	249,067	882,398	1,144,837	1,080,248	508,263	109,874	8,465
1st child	1,549,518	2,733	205,733	445,440	428,473	326,001	114,806	23,920	2,411
2nd child	1,265,265	28	36,748	287,874	376,718	367,387	164,245	30,192	2,074
3rd child	666,390	2	4,852	106,130	206,837	212,600	111,826	22,740	1,403
4th child and over	481,926	1	649	38,495	126,298	167,863	113,956	32,168	2,496
Not stated	22,825	7	1,085	4,460	6,511	6,397	3,430	854	80
Non-Hispanic white <sup>2</sup>	2,146,482	679	99,154	419,950	645,352	641,197	280,199	55,486	4,465
1st child	878,662	666	84,678	226,255	269,981	211,493	70,261	13,895	1,434
2nd child	707,888	11	12,620	135,767	216,440	229,386	96,082	16,426	1,156
3rd child	337,955	1	1,371	43,519	103,115	118,472	59,853	10,927	696
4th child and over	212,385	–	149	12,690	52,958	78,981	52,583	13,885	1,140
Not stated	9,592	1	336	1,719	2,858	2,865	1,421	353	39
Non-Hispanic black <sup>2</sup>	589,016	955	54,855	182,480	160,960	116,950	57,661	13,987	1,168
1st child	216,610	945	44,412	85,897	45,614	26,119	10,694	2,631	298
2nd child	168,948	8	8,543	57,582	49,928	33,997	15,336	3,271	283
3rd child	104,092	–	1,370	25,601	34,549	26,299	13,063	3,008	202
4th child and over	94,855	–	203	12,188	29,637	29,488	18,008	4,957	374
Not stated	4,512	2	326	1,211	1,233	1,046	560	121	12
American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>2,3</sup>	44,932	55	5,005	14,106	12,776	8,598	3,572	785	35
1st child	14,763	55	4,076	5,859	2,779	1,408	485	97	4
2nd child	11,959	–	779	4,766	3,692	1,951	636	127	8
3rd child	8,462	–	116	2,327	3,128	2,010	742	136	3
4th child and over	9,482	–	14	1,079	3,108	3,173	1,670	419	19
Not stated	267	–	21	75	69	56	39	6	1
Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>2,3</sup>	282,724	40	4,634	27,000	74,986	105,448	56,411	13,152	1,053
1st child	126,187	39	3,852	16,559	41,732	44,098	16,112	3,458	337
2nd child	102,009	–	650	7,153	21,921	42,233	24,830	4,921	301
3rd child	33,765	1	88	2,210	6,952	11,934	9,764	2,636	180
4th child and over	18,277	–	12	830	3,688	6,326	5,212	1,987	221
Not stated	2,486	–	33	247	693	856	493	150	14
Hispanic <sup>4</sup>	914,116	1,039	85,987	239,158	248,993	204,246	107,639	25,605	1,449
1st child	309,673	1,028	69,184	110,937	67,331	41,016	16,318	3,581	277
2nd child	272,297	8	14,265	82,785	84,489	58,794	26,452	5,225	280
3rd child	181,655	–	1,933	32,705	59,103	53,622	28,096	5,938	257
4th child and over	146,263	–	277	11,784	36,883	49,755	36,211	10,726	627
Not stated	4,228	3	329	946	1,187	1,059	562	134	7

– Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as white Hispanic and black Hispanic women, and births with origin not stated.<sup>2</sup>Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data in 2014. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see Technical Notes.<sup>3</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin, and origin not stated, according to the mother's reported race; see Technical Notes.<sup>4</sup>Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 7.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.



**Table 3. Birth rates, by age of mother and live-birth order: United States, preliminary 2014**

[Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Rates are per 1,000 women in specified age group]

Live-birth order	Age of mother								
	15–44 <sup>1</sup>	10–14	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49 <sup>2</sup>
All births . . . . .	62.9	0.3	24.2	79.0	105.7	100.8	50.9	10.6	0.8
1st child . . . . .	24.6	0.3	20.1	40.1	39.8	30.6	11.6	2.3	0.2
2nd child . . . . .	20.1	0.0	3.6	25.9	35.0	34.5	16.6	2.9	0.2
3rd child . . . . .	10.6	*	0.5	9.5	19.2	20.0	11.3	2.2	0.1
4th child and over . . . . .	7.7	*	0.1	3.5	11.7	15.8	11.5	3.1	0.2

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 the numerator.

<sup>1</sup>The rate shown is the fertility rate, which is defined as the total number of births, regardless of age of mother, per 1,000 women aged 15–44.<sup>2</sup>The birth rate for women in this age group is computed by relating the number of births to women aged 45 and over to the number of births 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 reference 7.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

**Table 4. Birth rates for women aged 10–19, by age of mother: United States, final 1991, 2007, and 2013, and preliminary 2014**

[Data for 2014 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Rates per 1,000 women in specified age group]

Age of mother	Year				Percent change		
	2014	2013	2007	1991	2013–2014	2007–2014	1991–2014
10–14 . . . . .	0.3	0.3	0.6	1.4	†	–50	–79
15–19 . . . . .	24.2	26.5	41.5	61.8	–9	–42	–61
15–17 . . . . .	10.9	12.3	21.7	38.6	–11	–50	–72
18–19 . . . . .	43.8	47.1	71.7	94.0	–7	–39	–53

†Difference not statistically significant.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 7.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

**Table 5. Births, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States and each state and territory, preliminary 2014**

[By place of residence. Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals. Birth rates are total births per 1,000 total population; fertility rates are total births per 1,000 women aged 15–44]

Area	Number						Birth rate, all races	Fertility rate, all races
	All races and origins <sup>1</sup>	Non-Hispanic white <sup>2</sup>	Non-Hispanic black <sup>2</sup>	American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>2,3</sup>	Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>2,3</sup>	Hispanic <sup>4</sup>		
United States <sup>5</sup>	3,985,924	2,146,482	589,016	44,932	282,724	914,116	12.5	62.9
Alabama	59,392	35,903	18,228	200	1,226	4,018	12.2	---
Alaska	11,370	6,532	445	2,441	1,105	840	15.4	---
Arizona	86,869	38,598	4,672	5,471	3,519	35,031	12.9	---
Arkansas	38,453	25,905	7,234	300	1,206	3,830	13.0	---
California	502,401	144,041	28,293	3,505	84,187	237,424	12.9	---
Colorado	65,670	40,564	3,337	775	2,999	17,601	12.3	---
Connecticut	36,277	20,935	4,618	308	2,280	8,121	10.1	---
Delaware	10,960	5,896	2,844	26	644	1,541	11.7	---
District of Columbia	9,511	2,967	4,776	16	481	1,283	14.4	---
Florida	219,978	100,829	49,311	406	7,401	61,845	11.1	---
Georgia	130,895	60,080	45,015	292	6,515	17,236	13.0	---
Hawaii	18,497	4,860	558	29	11,510	2,757	13.0	---
Idaho	22,871	18,183	207	429	501	3,651	14.0	---
Illinois	158,509	86,194	27,183	227	10,174	33,794	12.3	---
Indiana	83,993	63,994	10,340	125	2,322	7,238	12.7	---
Iowa	39,651	32,390	2,360	284	1,401	3,314	12.8	---
Kansas	39,218	28,498	2,938	347	1,359	6,132	13.5	---
Kentucky	56,019	46,590	5,320	75	1,273	2,813	12.7	---
Louisiana	64,322	34,196	24,145	372	1,530	4,228	13.8	---
Maine	12,696	11,651	441	158	249	200	9.5	---
Maryland	73,884	33,153	23,961	260	5,795	10,971	12.4	---
Massachusetts	71,960	44,048	7,046	151	6,587	12,559	10.7	---
Michigan	114,167	80,109	21,642	782	4,282	7,351	11.5	---
Minnesota	69,854	50,288	7,745	1,428	5,668	4,677	12.8	---
Mississippi	38,736	19,835	16,626	223	583	1,546	12.9	---
Missouri	75,253	57,060	11,443	423	2,184	3,959	12.4	---
Montana	12,404	10,129	90	1,579	170	494	12.1	---
Nebraska	26,781	19,463	1,850	554	1,047	4,139	14.2	---
Nevada	35,795	15,101	4,255	475	3,142	12,998	12.6	---
New Hampshire	12,295	10,908	188	21	529	592	9.3	---
New Jersey	104,111	47,461	16,063	200	12,065	28,322	11.6	---
New Mexico	25,981	7,208	468	3,575	576	14,401	12.5	---
New York	238,722	116,315	37,043	754	26,818	54,921	12.1	---
North Carolina	120,934	67,514	29,014	2,026	5,730	17,784	12.2	---
North Dakota	11,356	9,033	460	1,033	313	480	15.4	---
Ohio	139,277	103,963	23,624	299	4,228	6,876	12.0	---
Oklahoma	53,282	33,544	5,039	6,045	1,734	7,213	13.7	---
Oregon	45,503	32,292	1,218	779	2,811	8,518	11.5	---
Pennsylvania	142,127	99,197	20,153	367	7,065	14,490	11.1	---
Rhode Island	10,811	6,567	849	131	594	2,584	10.2	---
South Carolina	57,617	33,634	17,876	192	1,292	4,646	11.9	---
South Dakota	12,278	9,122	340	2,055	271	600	14.4	---
Tennessee	81,430	55,407	16,937	239	2,172	6,967	12.4	---
Texas	399,617	140,939	47,958	1,166	20,838	189,402	14.8	---
Utah	51,130	39,413	573	712	1,849	7,764	17.4	---
Vermont	6,127	5,722	116	15	163	92	9.8	---
Virginia	103,203	59,828	21,604	257	8,359	13,473	12.4	---
Washington	88,560	55,830	4,661	2,102	10,324	15,779	12.5	---
West Virginia	20,349	18,917	763	29	212	352	11.0	---
Wisconsin	67,144	49,427	7,063	979	3,332	6,373	11.7	---
Wyoming	7,683	6,250	85	292	108	894	13.2	---

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 5. Births, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States and each state and territory, preliminary 2014—Con.**

[By place of residence. Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals. Birth rates are total births per 1,000 total population; fertility rates are total births per 1,000 women aged 15–44]

Area	Number						Birth rate, all races	Fertility rate, all races
	All races and origins <sup>1</sup>	Non-Hispanic white <sup>2</sup>	Non-Hispanic black <sup>2</sup>	American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>2,3</sup>	Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>2,3</sup>	Hispanic <sup>4</sup>		
Puerto Rico . . . . .	34,373	2,458	252	---	---	31,637	9.7	---
Virgin Islands . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Guam . . . . .	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	---
American Samoa . . . . .	1,087	---	---	—	1,086	---	19.9	86.0
Northern Marianas . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- Data not available.

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision; less than 85% of data for the area were available as of release of the preliminary file; see Technical Notes.

— Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as white Hispanic and black Hispanic women, and births with origin not stated.

<sup>2</sup>Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia reported multiple race data in 2014. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see Technical Notes.

<sup>3</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin, and origin not stated, according to the mother's reported race; see Technical Notes.

<sup>4</sup>Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

<sup>5</sup>Excludes data for the territories.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 7.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

**Table 6. Births to unmarried women, by age and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2013 and preliminary 2014**

[Data for 2014 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures for 2014 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to total]

Characteristic	Number		Percent	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
<b>Age of mother</b>				
All ages <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	1,604,495	1,595,873	40.3	40.6
Under 20 . . . . .	223,363	245,239	88.7	88.8
Under 15 . . . . .	2,755	3,072	99.4	99.2
15–19 . . . . .	220,608	242,167	88.6	88.7
15–17 . . . . .	63,887	71,394	95.7	95.4
18–19 . . . . .	156,721	170,773	86.0	86.1
20–24 . . . . .	579,653	586,874	65.7	65.4
25–29 . . . . .	419,618	401,876	36.7	35.9
30–34 . . . . .	243,041	231,598	22.5	22.3
35–39 . . . . .	110,026	102,412	21.6	21.2
40 and over . . . . .	28,794	27,874	24.3	23.7
<b>Race and Hispanic origin of mother</b>				
Non-Hispanic white <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	627,541	623,645	29.2	29.3
Non-Hispanic black <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	417,531	417,291	70.9	71.5
American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>2,3</sup> . . . . .	29,540	30,543	65.7	66.4
Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>2,3</sup> . . . . .	46,334	45,062	16.4	17.0
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	483,900	479,751	52.9	53.2

<sup>1</sup>Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as white Hispanic and black Hispanic women, and births with origin not stated.

<sup>2</sup>Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data in 2014. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see Technical Notes. Multiple-race reporting areas vary for 2013–2014; see Technical Notes.

<sup>3</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin, and origin not stated, according to the mother's reported race; see Technical Notes.

<sup>4</sup>Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 7.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

**Table 7. Selected characteristics of births, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2013 and preliminary 2014**

[Data for 2014 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Figures for 2014 are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual]

Race and Hispanic origin of mother	Number		Cesarean delivery				Preterm				Low birthweight			
			Total <sup>1</sup>		Low-risk <sup>2</sup>		Total <sup>3</sup>		Late <sup>4</sup>		Total <sup>5</sup>		Very low birthweight <sup>6</sup>	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
All races and origins <sup>7</sup> . . . . .	3,985,924	3,932,181	32.2	32.7	26.0	26.8	9.57	9.62	6.82	6.83	8.00	8.02	1.40	1.41
Non-Hispanic white <sup>8</sup> . . . . .	2,146,482	2,129,196	31.4	32.0	25.0	25.8	8.90	8.94	6.55	6.54	6.96	6.98	1.10	1.11
Non-Hispanic black <sup>8</sup> . . . . .	589,016	583,834	35.6	35.8	29.9	30.6	13.23	13.25	8.47	8.45	13.16	13.08	2.87	2.90
American Indian or Alaska Native total <sup>8,9</sup> . . . . .	44,932	45,991	28.5	28.8	21.9	23.2	10.22	10.17	7.49	7.41	7.64	7.48	1.27	1.32
Asian or Pacific Islander total <sup>8,9</sup> . . . . .	282,724	265,673	33.2	33.5	27.5	28.5	8.45	8.68	6.26	6.38	8.04	8.34	1.15	1.18
Hispanic <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	914,116	901,033	31.9	32.2	25.8	26.5	9.03	9.08	6.53	6.57	7.05	7.09	1.23	1.21

<sup>1</sup>All births by cesarean delivery per 100 live births.<sup>2</sup>Defined as singleton, term (37 or more weeks of gestation, based on obstetric estimate), vertex (not breech) cesarean deliveries to women having a first birth, per 100 women delivering singleton, term, vertex first births.<sup>3</sup>Born prior to 37 completed weeks of gestation, based on obstetric estimate.<sup>4</sup>Born between 34 and 36 completed weeks of gestation, based on obstetric estimate.<sup>5</sup>Birthweight less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds 8 ounces).<sup>6</sup>Birthweight less than 1,500 grams (3 pounds 4 ounces).<sup>7</sup>Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as white Hispanic and black Hispanic women, and births with origin not stated.<sup>8</sup>Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data in 2014. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards for comparability with other states; see Technical Notes. Multiple-race reporting areas vary for 2013–2014; see Technical Notes.<sup>9</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin, and origin not stated, according to the mother's reported race; see Technical Notes.<sup>10</sup>Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 7.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

**Table 8. Distribution of births born preterm (prior to 37 completed weeks of gestation): United States, final 2007 and 2013 and preliminary 2014**

[Data for 2014 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states]

Gestational age <sup>1</sup>	2014	2013	2007
		Percent	
Under 32 weeks . . . . .	1.59	1.62	1.71
32–33 weeks . . . . .	1.15	1.17	1.22
Total under 34 weeks . . . . .	2.75	2.79	2.93
34–36 weeks . . . . .	6.82	6.83	7.51
Total under 37 weeks . . . . .	9.57	9.62	10.44

<sup>1</sup>Completed weeks of gestation, based on obstetric estimate.

NOTE: For information on the relative standard errors of the data and further discussion, see reference 7.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

**Table 9. Total count of records and completeness of preliminary file of live births: United States and each state and territory, preliminary 2014**

[By place of occurrence]

Area	Live births	
	Count of records	Percent completeness
United States <sup>1</sup>	3,984,356	99.707
Alabama	57,772	100.000
Alaska	11,224	100.000
Arizona	88,007	100.000
Arkansas	37,719	100.000
California	503,420	100.000
Colorado	64,478	97.390
Connecticut	37,631	99.965
Delaware	11,476	100.000
District of Columbia	14,496	100.000
Florida	220,137	100.000
Georgia	132,018	100.000
Hawaii	18,520	100.000
Idaho	22,486	100.000
Illinois	154,770	100.000
Indiana	84,807	100.000
Iowa	39,426	100.000
Kansas	40,141	100.000
Kentucky	53,641	100.000
Louisiana	64,342	100.000
Maine	12,530	100.000
Maryland	70,892	100.000
Massachusetts	72,483	99.880
Michigan	113,201	99.984
Minnesota	69,114	100.000
Mississippi	37,956	100.000
Missouri	76,619	100.000
Montana	12,368	100.000
Nebraska	27,102	100.000
Nevada	35,432	100.000
New Hampshire	12,292	99.886
New Jersey	92,580	90.587
New Mexico	24,916	100.000
New York	239,334	100.000
New York excluding New York City	117,285	100.000
New York City	122,049	100.000
North Carolina	122,495	99.992
North Dakota	12,836	100.000
Ohio	140,296	99.981
Oklahoma	51,878	100.000
Oregon	46,045	100.000
Pennsylvania	141,193	100.000
Rhode Island	11,342	100.000
South Carolina	54,495	100.000
South Dakota	12,953	100.000
Tennessee	86,999	100.000
Texas	408,019	99.988
Utah	52,139	100.000
Vermont	5,842	100.000
Virginia	101,772	100.000
Washington	88,396	100.000
West Virginia	20,470	99.369
Wisconsin	66,873	100.000
Wyoming	6,983	100.000
Puerto Rico	34,447	100.000
Virgin Islands	---	---
Guam	2,273	68.588
American Samoa	922	84.821
Northern Marianas	211	20.446

--- Data not available.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes data for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Marianas.

NOTE: Percent completeness = Number of records in preliminary file × 100/Count of records.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.



## Technical Notes

### Nature and sources of data

Preliminary data for 2014 are based on nearly all births for that year (99.71%) (Table 9), with levels for 40 states and the District of Columbia at 100%. Preliminary 2014 data are based on the continuous receipt and processing of statistical records through February 12, 2015, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). NCHS receives the data from the states' vital registration systems through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. In this report, U.S. totals include only events occurring within the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for Puerto Rico and American Samoa are included in tables showing data by state, but are not included in U.S. totals (Tables 5 and 9, and see state-specific Internet tables at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64\\_06\\_tables.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_06_tables.pdf)). Data for Northern Marianas and the Virgin Islands were not available, and less than 85% of data for Guam were available, as of release of the 2014 preliminary file. (For prior releases of preliminary birth data, a criterion of at least 75% of a state's records for the year was used [7].) Accordingly, data for these territories are not included in this report. Detailed information on reporting completeness and imputation procedures may be found in the "User Guide to the 2013 Natality Public Use File" (8).

To produce the preliminary estimates shown in this report, records in the file were weighted using independent control counts of all 2014 births by state of occurrence. Detailed information on weighting and the reliability of estimates is also available elsewhere (7).

### 1989 and 2003 U.S. Standard Certificates of Live Birth

This report includes selected 2014 data on items that are collected on both the 1989 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth (unrevised) and the 2003 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth (revised). The 2003 revision is described in detail elsewhere (2,8–10). Forty-seven states (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming), the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Northern Marianas had implemented the revised birth certificate as of January 1, 2014. One additional state, New Jersey, implemented the revised birth certificate in 2014, but after January 1 (in July) and only for selected facilities. Furthermore, the revised data for New Jersey were not available as of release of the 2014 preliminary file. The 47 revised states and the District of Columbia that implemented the revision as of January 1, 2014, represent 96.2% of all births in 2014.

Data items exclusive to either the 1989 or the 2003 birth certificate revisions are not shown in this report. A forthcoming report and data release based on 2014 final data will present selected data exclusive to the 2003 revised certificate.

### Age of mother

For information on and discussion of age of mother, see "User Guide to the 2013 Natality Public Use File" (8).

### Hispanic origin and race

#### Hispanic origin

Hispanic origin and race are reported separately on the birth certificate. Data shown by race (i.e., American Indian or Alaska Native and Asian or Pacific Islander) include persons of Hispanic or non-Hispanic origin, and data for Hispanic origin include all persons of Hispanic origin of any race. Data for non-Hispanic persons are shown separately for white mother and black mother, given the substantial differences in fertility and maternal and infant health characteristics between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women and Hispanic and non-Hispanic black women. Items asking for the Hispanic origin of the mother have been included on the birth certificates of all states and the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Guam since 1993, on the birth certificate of Puerto Rico starting in 2005, and on the birth certificate of Northern Marianas starting in 2010 (8). American Samoa does not collect this information.

#### Single, multiple, and "bridged" race

The 2003 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth allows the reporting of more than one race (multiple races) for each parent (9), in accordance with the revised standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 1997 (11). Information on this change is presented elsewhere (8,12–15).

In 2014, 48 states and the District of Columbia reported multiple-race data. Multiple-race reporting areas include the 47 fully revised states (see "1989 and 2003 U.S. Standard Certificates of Live Birth" section above) and the District of Columbia, which used the 2003 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth, as well as Rhode Island, which used the 1989 revision but collected multiple-race data comparable to data for the states using the revised certificate. Puerto Rico, which revised its birth certificate in 2005, continued to report race according to the 1989 revision (i.e., as an open-ended question in which only one response is accepted). Multiple-race data for New Jersey were not available as of release of the 2014 preliminary file. The 48 states and the District of Columbia accounted for 96.5% of U.S. births in 2014. Data from the vital records of the remaining two areas, Connecticut and part of New Jersey, are based on the 1989 revision of the certificate that follows the 1977 OMB standard, allowing only a single race to be reported (12,13).

To provide uniformity and comparability of the data during the transition period, before all or most of the data are available in the new multiple-race format, it was necessary to "bridge" the responses of those who reported more than one race (multiple races) to one single race. The bridging procedure for multiple-race mothers and fathers is based on the procedure used to bridge the multiple-race population estimates (13–15). Information detailing the processing and tabulation of data by race is presented elsewhere (8). A previous report describes multiple-race birth data for 2003 (16).

## Marital status

For information on and discussion of marital status, see “User Guide to the 2013 Natality Public Use File” (8).

## Method of delivery, gestation, and birthweight

For information on and discussion of method of delivery and birthweight, see “User Guide to the 2013 Natality Public Use File” (8).

Beginning with the 2014 data year, NCHS is transitioning to a new standard for estimating the gestational age of the newborn. The new measure—the obstetric estimate of gestation at delivery (OE)—replaces the measure based on the date of the last normal menses (LMP) (3). Accordingly, gestational age data shown in this report are based on OE. However, LMP-based data are also available for all relevant report tables at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64\\_06\\_supplemental\\_and\\_expanded\\_tables.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_06_supplemental_and_expanded_tables.pdf). National data based on OE data are available only from data year 2007 forward. Gestational age estimates differ somewhat between the OE- and LMP-based measures. For example, the 2014 OE-based preterm birth rate for the United States is 9.57%, compared with the LMP-based rate of 11.32%. Of note, both measures show declines in the rate of preterm birth from 2007 to 2014. Information on and discussion of the reasons for the change, and a detailed comparison of the two measures, are presented elsewhere (3).

## Population denominators

U.S. national birth and fertility rates and state-level birth rates for 2014 shown in this report are based on population estimates derived from the 2010 census as of July 1, 2014 (17,18). Birth and fertility rates for the territories shown in this report (with the exception of Puerto Rico) are based on population estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau’s International Data Base (19). Rates for Puerto Rico are based on population estimates derived from the 2010 census as of July 1, 2014 (18).

Rates by state and territory shown in this report may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates. Rates for states and territories with smaller populations, or groups with smaller populations, are more likely to be affected by differences in population base.

Information on the national estimates of births to unmarried women (i.e., methods of determining marital status) and the computation of preliminary birth rates for unmarried women is presented elsewhere (2,8,20). The birth rate for unmarried women for 2014 is estimated based on the population distributions by marital status provided by the U.S. Census Bureau as of March 2014 and applied to the national population estimates as of July 1, 2014, which are derived from the 2010 census (17,20,21).

Postcensal population estimates by age, sex, and race and Hispanic origin for 2014 at the national and state levels were not available as of the preparation of this report. Accordingly, birth and fertility rates by race and Hispanic origin and fertility rates by state could not be shown in this report. Birth and fertility rates by age and race and Hispanic origin based on 2014 preliminary data will be released as soon as available at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64\\_06\\_supplemental\\_and\\_expanded\\_tables.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_06_supplemental_and_expanded_tables.pdf).

## Computing rates and percentages and reliability of estimates

For information on and further discussion of computing rates and percentages and the relative standard errors of the data, see “Births: Preliminary Data for 2005” (7).

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