

## Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths: Provisional Data for 1998

**Table 1. Provisional Vital Statistics for the United States**

[Rates for infant deaths are deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births; fertility rates are live births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years; all other rates are per 1,000 total population. Data are subject to monthly reporting variation; see Technical notes]

Item	Numbers and rates with correction factors <sup>1</sup> for births, marriages, and divorces								
	December				January–December				
	Number		Rate		Number		Rate		
	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1996
Live births . . . . .	332,000	324,000	14.4	14.2	3,946,000	3,882,000	14.6	14.5	14.7
Fertility rate . . . . .	...	...	65.0	63.9	...	...	66.0	65.0	65.4
Deaths . . . . .	194,000	192,000	8.4	8.4	2,331,000	2,294,000	8.6	8.6	8.7
Infant deaths . . . . .	2,400	2,200	7.2	6.6	27,600	27,000	7.0	7.0	7.2
Natural increase . . . . .	138,000	132,000	6.0	5.8	1,615,000	1,588,000	6.0	5.9	6.0
Marriages . . . . .	170,000	165,000	7.4	7.2	2,244,000	2,384,000	8.3	8.9	8.8
Divorces . . . . .	98,000	104,000	4.3	4.5	1,135,000	1,163,000	4.2	4.3	4.3

  

Item	Numbers and rates without correction factors <sup>1</sup> for births, marriages, and divorces								
	December				January–December				
	Number		Rate		Number		Rate		
	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1996
Live births . . . . .	321,000	324,000	13.9	14.2	3,943,000	3,882,000	14.6	14.5	14.7
Fertility rate . . . . .	...	...	62.8	63.9	...	...	66.0	65.0	65.4
Deaths . . . . .	194,000	192,000	8.4	8.4	2,331,000	2,294,000	8.6	8.6	8.7
Infant deaths . . . . .	2,400	2,200	7.2	6.6	27,600	27,000	7.0	7.0	7.2
Natural increase . . . . .	127,000	132,000	5.5	5.8	1,612,000	1,588,000	6.0	5.9	6.0
Marriages . . . . .	172,000	165,000	7.5	7.2	2,256,000	2,384,000	8.4	8.9	8.8
Divorces . . . . .	83,000	104,000	3.6	4.5	955,000	1,163,000	3.5	4.3	4.3
Population base (in millions) . . . . .	...	...	271.5	268.8	...	...	270.0	267.6	265.2

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>For explanation of correction factors, see Technical notes.

NOTES: Figures include revisions received from the States. Twelve-month figures for the current year reflect revisions received for previous months, and figures for earlier years may differ from those previously published.

### Technical notes

#### Introduction

Effective with Volume 47, Number 1, the *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* (MVSr) has been renamed the *National Vital Statistics Reports* (NVSR). The monthly issue includes [Technical notes](#) and two

tables that show provisional vital statistics for the United States. These tables have been expanded for this current issue to show monthly and annual numbers and rates for births, marriages, and divorces with and without corrections for delays in reporting, as explained later. The Current Mortality Sample has been replaced with a detailed biannual report of births and deaths (*Births and Deaths*:

**Table 2. Provisional number of live births, marriages, divorces, deaths, and infant deaths and rates, by month: United States, January 1997–December 1998**

[Data are provisional and are subject to monthly reporting variation; see Technical notes]

Period	Live births				Marriages		Divorces		Deaths		Infant deaths	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years		Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 population
			Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>								
1997:												
January	305,000	13.5	60.2	63.2	105,000	4.9	94,000	4.1	218,000	9.6	2,100	6.7
February	289,000	14.1	63.1	64.4	163,000	8.3	87,000	4.3	191,000	9.3	2,200	7.5
March	313,000	13.8	61.7	62.6	191,000	8.8	95,000	4.2	198,000	8.7	2,500	7.9
April	342,000	15.6	69.8	71.6	193,000	9.2	106,000	4.8	189,000	8.6	2,100	6.4
May	311,000	13.7	61.5	61.9	234,000	10.3	99,000	4.3	195,000	8.6	2,300	7.2
June	324,000	14.8	66.1	64.7	233,000	10.6	100,000	4.6	182,000	8.3	2,200	6.8
July	345,000	15.2	68.1	65.3	229,000	10.1	99,000	4.4	192,000	8.4	2,300	6.7
August	341,000	15.0	67.3	63.6	252,000	11.1	93,000	4.1	178,000	7.8	2,200	6.8
September	353,000	16.0	71.9	67.7	232,000	10.5	96,000	4.4	176,000	8.0	2,300	6.8
October	329,000	14.4	64.9	65.1	235,000	10.3	102,000	4.5	193,000	8.5	2,600	7.7
November	304,000	13.8	61.9	63.9	151,000	6.9	87,000	4.0	189,000	8.6	2,000	6.6
December	324,000	14.2	63.9	66.5	165,000	7.2	104,000	4.5	192,000	8.4	2,200	6.6
Number and rates with correction factors <sup>2</sup> for births, marriages, and divorces												
1998:												
January	290,000	12.7	57.2	60.2	104,000	4.8	85,000	3.7	225,000	9.8	2,400	7.4
February	309,000	15.0	67.5	68.5	141,000	7.2	80,000	3.9	209,000	10.1	2,300	7.5
March	325,000	14.2	64.0	64.6	144,000	6.6	96,000	4.2	219,000	9.6	2,400	7.3
April	342,000	15.4	69.6	71.0	164,000	7.8	96,000	4.3	191,000	8.6	2,300	6.9
May	324,000	14.1	63.8	64.5	209,000	9.1	100,000	4.4	188,000	8.2	2,200	6.8
June	343,000	15.5	69.8	68.7	241,000	10.9	107,000	4.8	184,000	8.3	2,300	7.1
July	359,000	15.6	70.6	68.2	230,000	10.0	100,000	4.4	187,000	8.2	2,400	6.9
August	329,000	14.3	64.8	61.8	237,000	10.3	93,000	4.1	191,000	8.3	2,300	6.7
September	337,000	15.2	68.7	65.1	215,000	9.6	98,000	4.4	175,000	7.9	2,300	6.9
October	342,000	14.9	67.4	68.0	213,000	9.3	92,000	4.0	189,000	8.2	2,300	6.7
November	315,000	14.2	64.2	66.0	177,000	7.9	89,000	4.0	178,000	8.0	2,100	6.7
December	332,000	14.4	65.0	66.4	170,000	7.4	98,000	4.3	194,000	8.4	2,400	7.2
Number and rates without correction factors <sup>2</sup> for births, marriages, and divorces												
1998:												
January	308,000	13.5	60.8	64.0	135,000	6.2	72,000	3.1	225,000	9.8	2,400	7.4
February	310,000	15.0	67.8	68.8	135,000	6.9	67,000	3.3	209,000	10.1	2,300	7.5
March	332,000	14.5	65.4	66.0	155,000	7.2	80,000	3.5	219,000	9.6	2,400	7.3
April	337,000	15.2	68.6	70.0	157,000	7.5	81,000	3.6	191,000	8.6	2,300	6.9
May	318,000	13.9	62.7	63.3	191,000	8.3	85,000	3.7	188,000	8.2	2,200	6.8
June	326,000	14.7	66.4	65.2	229,000	10.3	90,000	4.0	184,000	8.3	2,300	7.1
July	357,000	15.6	70.4	68.0	239,000	10.4	85,000	3.7	187,000	8.2	2,400	6.9
August	337,000	14.7	66.4	63.3	226,000	9.8	79,000	3.4	191,000	8.3	2,300	6.7
September	330,000	14.8	67.1	63.7	221,000	9.9	82,000	3.7	175,000	7.9	2,300	6.9
October	356,000	15.5	70.1	70.7	209,000	9.1	78,000	3.4	189,000	8.2	2,300	6.7
November	311,000	14.0	63.3	65.0	186,000	8.3	75,000	3.4	178,000	8.0	2,100	6.7
December	321,000	13.9	62.8	64.2	172,000	7.5	83,000	3.6	194,000	8.4	2,400	7.2

<sup>1</sup>The method of seasonal adjustment, developed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, is described in *The X-11 Variant of the Census Method II Seasonal Adjustment Program*, Technical Paper No. 15 (1967 revision)<sup>2</sup>For explanation of correction factors, see Technical notes.

NOTE: Figures include all revisions received from the States, and therefore, may differ from those previously published.

United States) based on preliminary data. Tables previously published in the MVSR that show provisional data by State are now available on the NCHS home page on the Internet at [www.cdc.gov/nchswww/datawh/statab/unpubd/nvsrtabl.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/datawh/statab/unpubd/nvsrtabl.htm).

### Nature and sources of data

Data shown here are provisional and include only events occurring within the United States (50 States and the District of Columbia). Mortality data exclude fetal deaths. Delay in the receipt of certificates in a registration office may result in a low figure for a given month followed by a high figure for the month(s) in which the delayed records were received. Totals for births, deaths, and infant deaths are based on the State estimates by State of residence and, therefore, in effect, exclude events to nonresidents of the United States. Events to

nonresidents of the United States are included in all marriage and divorce figures. The effect of excluding events to nonresidents from the U.S. totals is small. Divorce figures include reported annulments.

### Corrections

Until 1998 provisional totals for births, marriages, and divorces for the entire United States included corrections for observed differences between provisional and final figures. These corrections served to compensate for delays in reporting. For example, the monthly national estimate for births was obtained by multiplying the reported total by the ratio that had been observed between the most recent 3-year average of final monthly totals and the corresponding 3-year average of provisional monthly totals for the United States. The vast majority of birth certificates are now electronically recorded and

transmitted from hospitals to state vital registration offices, producing a more consistent flow of records. For this reason, beginning in 1998, these monthly corrections for births were dropped.

Beginning with the 1994 data year, National Center Health Statistics stopped requesting final marriage and divorce totals from the States (though collection and publication of monthly provisional counts was continued) and consequently recent final data are no longer available to calculate current correction factors for marriage and divorce. Therefore, correction factors for monthly provisional marriage and divorce totals were also dropped in 1998. This step produced an error in the monthly and cumulative divorce totals in 1998, because estimates for three nonreporting States (California, Indiana, and Louisiana) were inadvertently omitted when the correction factors were dropped. It should therefore be noted that the monthly uncorrected counts for divorces previously published for 1998 are erroneous and should not be used.

To enable data users to judge the effect of deleting monthly correction factors for provisional data, [tables 1](#) and [2](#) in this report present uncorrected and corrected counts and rates for births, marriages, and divorces for 1998 (death statistics have never been corrected). The corrected figures use the most recent correction factors

available. Although the absolute levels of births by month based on corrected numbers differ from the uncorrected data, the month-to-month trends are generally the same for both series. The corrected monthly and annual divorce totals for 1998 include estimates for California, Indiana, and Louisiana.

For the monthly and cumulative provisional estimates of births and marriages in 1999, NCHS will continue the practice of *not* employing correction factors. However, further consideration must be given to certain options for publishing 1999 provisional divorce totals.

## Rates

The populations used for computing rates are furnished by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Monthly rates are based on populations estimated for the specific month. Year-to-date rates are averages of monthly rates that have been weighted by the number of days in the corresponding months. Rates for 12-month periods are the sum of events for the period per population estimated at the midpoint of the period. Because monthly infant mortality rates are based on relatively few events, they are highly variable, and comparisons of monthly infant mortality rates should be interpreted cautiously.

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