

Series 21

No. 53



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# Vital and Health Statistics

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From the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION / National Center for Health Statistics

## Births to Unmarried Mothers: United States, 1980–92

June 1995



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Health Statistics



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# Vital and Health Statistics

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## Births to Unmarried Mothers: United States, 1980–92

Series 21

Data on Natality, Marriage, and Divorce  
No. 53

Trends and variations in births to unmarried women for 1980–92 are presented by demographic characteristics including age, race, Hispanic origin, and educational attainment of mother, and live-birth order. Health aspects of nonmarital childbearing are discussed, including prenatal care, smoking, maternal weight gain, and infant birthweight. Social and behavioral factors affecting the incidence of nonmarital births are described.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Health Statistics

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June 1995  
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# Births to Unmarried Mothers: United States, 1980–92

by Stephanie J. Ventura, A.M., Division of Vital Statistics

## Introduction

The continued increase in all measures of childbearing by unmarried women, especially since 1980, has resulted in considerable public concern and interest in assessing the factors associated with the trend, the consequences of nonmarital childbearing, and the characteristics of unmarried mothers. Birth rates for unmarried women of all ages—white, black, and Hispanic—are high and rising. Despite the increase in the demographic diversity of unmarried mothers, these women and their babies continue to be at disproportionate risk. They are still overwhelmingly young, poorly educated, low income, and likely to experience (along with their children) the long-range consequences, in terms of education and income, of their early childbearing as single parents. The trend in nonmarital childbearing and some of the factors associated with it are described and analyzed in this report.

The primary measure used to describe and explain trends and variations in the incidence of nonmarital childbearing is the birth rate for unmarried mothers, defined as the number of nonmarital births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years. This rate measures the “risk” that an unmarried woman will give birth in a given year. Rates are presented by age, race, Hispanic origin, and educational attainment of the mother. Differences by race and Hispanic origin primarily reflect differences in education, income, access to health care, sexual activity, and contraceptive use (1–6). Variations in the incidence of nonmarital childbearing according to educational attainment of mother are helpful in accounting for some of the overall differences in childbearing by unmarried women by race and Hispanic origin. Variations in sexual activity, contraceptive use, and the resolution of premarital pregnancies are also discussed in this report (6–8).

The focus of the report is the trend in nonmarital childbearing for the period 1980–92. However, to put the more recent period into context, trends for the period 1940–80 are included in some tables and in the text. National birth statistics for unmarried women are available annually beginning with 1940.

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## Highlights

The risk that an unmarried woman will have a baby increased substantially between 1980 and 1991 and then was unchanged in 1992. Measured by the birth rate, this risk increased from 29.4 per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years in 1980 to 45.2 in 1991, a 54-percent rise. Other measures of nonmarital childbearing have also risen sharply since 1980. The number of births rose 84 percent, from 665,747 in 1980 to 1,224,876 in 1992. Because these increases occurred during a period of relatively stable fertility for all women and declining fertility among married women, the proportion of all births to unmarried women rose from 18.4 percent in 1980 to 30.1 percent in 1992.

Rates for unmarried women by age have risen sharply for women in all age groups, but particularly among women in the 20 and older age groups. Rates are still highest for women aged 18–19 years and 20–24 years. As a consequence of the steep rise in rates for older women, teenagers accounted for only 30 percent of all births to unmarried women in 1992, compared with the 40–50 percent level observed until the early 1980’s. Despite this decline, unmarried mothers are still much more likely to be teenagers than are married mothers; only 5 percent of married mothers were under age 20 in 1992.

Many age-specific rates for white unmarried women doubled from 1980 to 1992, while rates for black women in the same age groups rose much less. Still, the overall rate in 1992 for black unmarried women, 86.5 per 1,000, was 2.5 times the rate for white unmarried women, 35.2. Birth rates for unmarried Hispanic women, available only for 1990–92, are higher than rates for white or black women; the overall rate was 95.3 in 1992. This generally reflects the fact that nonmarital childbearing among Hispanic women is high for women in all age groups.

Unmarried mothers tend to be disproportionately poorly educated. Some of this disparity is linked to their generally younger age profile. Even when births to mothers aged 20 and older are examined separately, at least one-third of unmarried mothers were reported to have less than a high school education compared with 13 percent of married mothers.

Health factors considered in this report also show the generally less favorable status of unmarried mothers and their babies. Unmarried mothers are less apt to receive adequate prenatal care, more likely to smoke during pregnancy, and less likely to gain adequate weight during pregnancy. As a consequence of these and other factors, babies born to unmarried

women are at elevated risk of low birthweight. This risk persists even when data are classified by maternal age, educational attainment, adequacy of prenatal care, smoking status, and weight gain.

## Sources and methods

The source of data for this report is the certificate of live birth filed for each child born in the United States. Data since 1980 on mother's marital status have been derived in two ways. In the majority of States, there is a direct question on the birth certificate asking, "Is mother married?" According to the *Hospitals' and Physicians' Handbook on Birth and Fetal Death Reporting*, this question should be answered "yes" if the mother was married at the time of birth, at the time of conception, or at any intervening time (9). In 1989–92, 44 States and the District of Columbia included this direct question on their birth certificates. Data on mother's marital status in the remaining States (California, Connecticut, Michigan, Nevada, New York, and Texas in 1992) are inferred from a comparison of the child's and parents' surnames. A basic set of rules for inferring the mother's marital status was developed and modified to meet the individual requirements of some States. For example, in some States the absence of any information on the father is sufficient indication that the birth is to an unmarried mother. Differences in the application of the procedures are presented in the coding manual for births and related special rules for States (10,11).

There has been continuing concern that the inferential method may overstate the incidence of nonmarital childbearing because it incorporates data based on a comparison of surnames. In cases where women have retained their maiden names, or where their names are hyphenated combinations of their name and their husband's, births to these women might be erroneously classified as nonmarital. Therefore, the inferred data are continuously evaluated to the extent that resources permit. Information on an evaluation of the procedure is presented in the Technical notes (12).

Prior to 1980, data on births to unmarried women were based on the information reported in States with the direct question on marital status. These States were grouped into the nine census geographic divisions and the proportions of nonmarital births by race in each division were applied to the births in the nonreporting States in the respective division. National estimates of births to unmarried women were derived by summing the data by geographic division for each race group. The reliability of these estimates was influenced by the proportion of all births to residents of the reporting States in each geographic division. In some divisions, this proportion was small, particularly the Middle Atlantic, West South Central, and Pacific divisions. Under the pre-1980 procedures, data were not available for the individual nonreporting States.

A recent evaluation of the accuracy of the marital status item was conducted in connection with the 1988 Maternal and Infant Health Survey. Entries on the birth certificate were compared with entries on the mother's questionnaire (13). That study found an overall agreement on marital status of 94 percent for black mothers and 96 percent for white mothers. It is possible that the accuracy has varied over time as public attitudes on nonmarital childbearing have changed. It is also likely that variation in accuracy exists among different segments of the population.

In this report, the terms "births to unmarried women," "nonmarital childbearing," and "childbearing by unmarried women" are used interchangeably. In addition, in discussions of data by race, the terms "white births" and "births to white mothers" or "black births" and "births to black mothers" are used interchangeably. Birth data formerly reported by race of child have been retabulated by race of mother for all years beginning in 1980. This change is described in detail in the Technical notes. Tables showing trend data for years prior to 1980 show 1980 data tabulated by race of mother and race of child. Data for 1980 are shown for both the geographically based estimates of nonmarital births and the inferential data, so that the effect of these changes in methods can be seen.



# Birth rate for unmarried women

## Trends

The birth rate for unmarried women, defined as the number of births to unmarried women per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years, is the optimum measure to use in interpreting changes in the statistical “risk” that unmarried women of childbearing age will give birth in a given year.

There have been several distinct periods in this rate in the United States (table 1 and figure 1). From 1940 to 1957, the rate nearly tripled, from 7.1 to 21.0 per 1,000. Over the next 13 years, the rate generally increased, slowly at first and then more rapidly from 1966 to 1970. However, from 1970 to 1976 the rate declined nearly every year, about 8 percent overall. Beginning in 1976, the rate increased without interruption until 1991. The pace of increase was especially rapid from 1985 to 1990 (5–8 percent annually). In 1991, the rate increased 3 percent to 45.2 per 1,000 where it remained in 1992 as well.

## Age

Just as trends in the overall birth rate for unmarried women have had several distinct phases, so have the trends in rates by age (table 1 and figure 2). Rates for teenage women began at about the same point as the rate for all women, 7.4 per 1,000 aged 15–19 in 1940. The teen rate approximately doubled from 1940 to 1957, a smaller increase than the overall rate, which tripled. From 1957 to 1964, the rate for unmarried teens changed relatively little, increasing in some years and declining in others, but there was essentially no net change. Over the next 8 years, however, the rate rose sharply, by 43 percent, before stabilizing again briefly from 1973 to 1976.

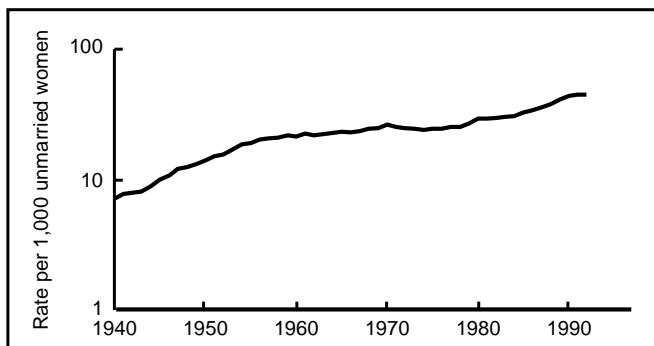


Figure 1. Birth rate for unmarried women 15–44 years of age: United States, 1940–92

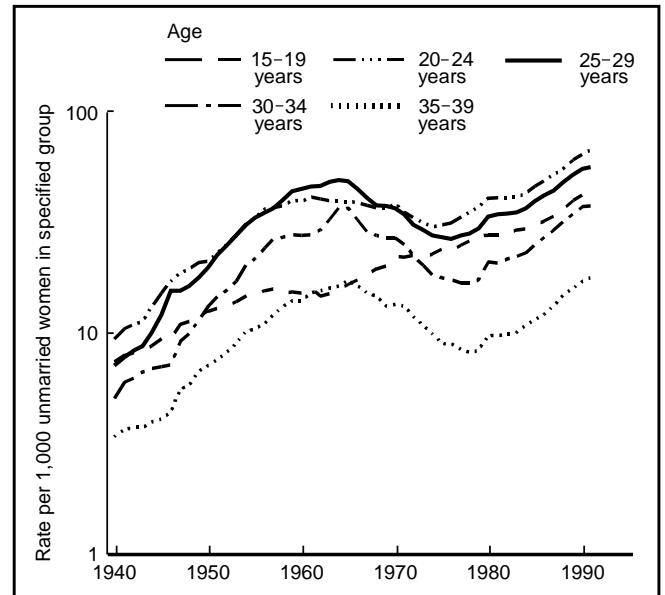


Figure 2. Birth rate for unmarried women by age: United States, 1940–92

The most recent phase of rapid annual increases began in 1978 and continued through 1991. During these 13 years, the nonmarital birth rate for teens jumped 80 percent, to 44.8 per 1,000. The rate declined slightly in 1992 to 44.6.

Trends in rates for teenage subgroups can be examined beginning in 1966, when populations by marital status for ages 15–17 and 18–19 first became available. Between 1966 and 1980, the rates for these age groups increased steadily at about the same pace, by 57 percent for young teens 15–17 years and by 52 percent for older teens aged 18–19 (table 1). Since 1980 the rates have continued to rise rapidly, but the rate for older teens has risen more sharply, by 73 percent, from 39.0 in 1980 to 67.3 in 1992. The rate for young teens rose 50 percent from 20.6 in 1980 to 30.9 in 1991, before declining slightly in 1992.

Unlike rates for teenaged unmarried women, which have generally increased without interruption since 1940, trends in birth rates for unmarried women aged 20 and older differ somewhat in that the rates rose sharply from 1940 to the early 1960’s and then declined until the mid 1970’s. Beginning in the late 1970’s, the rates for women aged 20 and older have risen substantially, at least doubling during the 15-year period 1977–92.

Although the greatest focus of attention in nonmarital childbearing has typically been on teenagers, it is apparent that the rates for women in their twenties have consistently been higher than rates for teens. In fact, from 1950 to 1965 nonmarital birth rates for women in their twenties were 2–3 times the rates for teens 15–19 years. The disparity by age has declined considerably since 1965, but rates have continued to be highest for women aged 18–19 and 20–24 years, followed closely by women aged 25–29 years. In 1992, the rates were 67.3 for 18–19-year-olds and 68.5 for 20–24-year-olds. The rate for women aged 25–29 was 56.5, and for women aged 30–34, it was 37.9, while the rate for young teens 15–17 years was 30.4.

## Race

Birth rates for unmarried women by race have been available since 1969 when birth statistics by marital status for the black population first became available. Birth data by race for 1969–79 are tabulated by race of child; beginning with the 1980 data year, tabulations are by race of mother. Details of the current and former procedures in tabulating by race are described in the Technical notes. The effects of change in tabulation by race as well as the change in the method for compiling national data on nonmarital births can be seen by reviewing the rates for 1980, which are shown by race of mother and by race of child.

Birth rates for unmarried black women have consistently been higher than for unmarried white women (table 1 and figure 3). However, the disparity by race has declined sharply for two reasons. First, in the 1970's, rates for white women rose, while rates for black women generally fell. Thus, while the rate for black women was 7 times the white rate in 1970, by 1980 the differential was 4. Second, since 1980 rates have risen for white and black women, but the increase was substantially greater for white than for black women, 94 percent compared with 7 percent. Thus, by 1992 the rate for black women was 2.5 times the rate for white women.

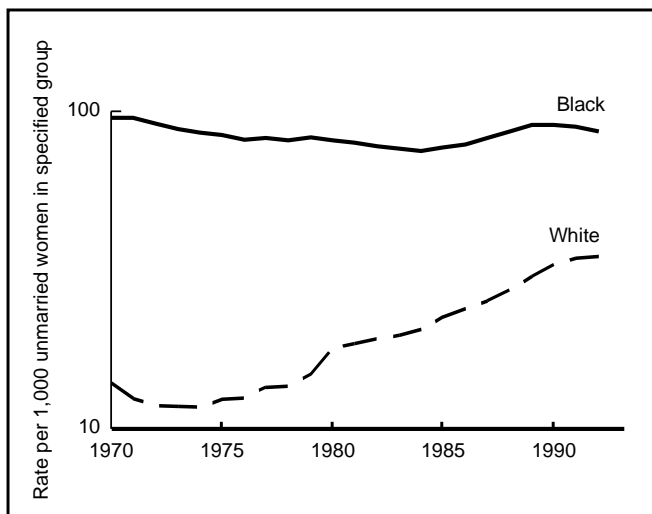


Figure 3. Birth rate for unmarried women by race: United States, 1970–92

The patterns within each age group by race have also differed. Rates for white teens rose fairly steadily during the 1970's whereas rates for black teens increased early in the decade and then declined (table 1). By 1980, the rates for black teens were lower than they were in 1970. Since 1980, rates for both white and black teens have increased. The rate for white teens doubled, while the rate for black teens rose 20 percent. The changes in rates for teen subgroups by race were very similar to those for all teens aged 15–19, but the increases were larger for older teens (figure 4).

Rates for white women in their twenties declined from about 1970 until the mid 1970's, when the rates began to rise again. From 1980 to 1992, the rates doubled. The pattern of decline and increase was generally observed for black women in their twenties except that the increases since 1980 were much smaller for black women (table 1 and figure 5). The rate for black women aged 20–24 rose 28 percent; the rate for women aged 25–29 rose 29 percent between 1980 and 1990 before falling 7 percent by 1992. Whereas nonmarital birth rates by age for black women were 2.7 to 5.7 times the rates for white women in 1980, the differentials were reduced to 1.6–3.7 by 1992.

Rates for women in other racial groups, including American Indian and Asian or Pacific Islander women, cannot be computed because populations by marital status are not available. However, the incidence is believed to be low in most groups, based on data from other measures that are discussed in a later section and other studies (14).

## Hispanic origin

Now that birth and population data by marital status for women of Hispanic origin have been available for a few years, estimated birth rates for unmarried women by Hispanic origin have been computed for 1990–92 and are shown in table A. Unfortunately, rates for non-Hispanic women by race cannot be computed because populations by marital status are not available for those subgroups. In this report, rates for Hispanic

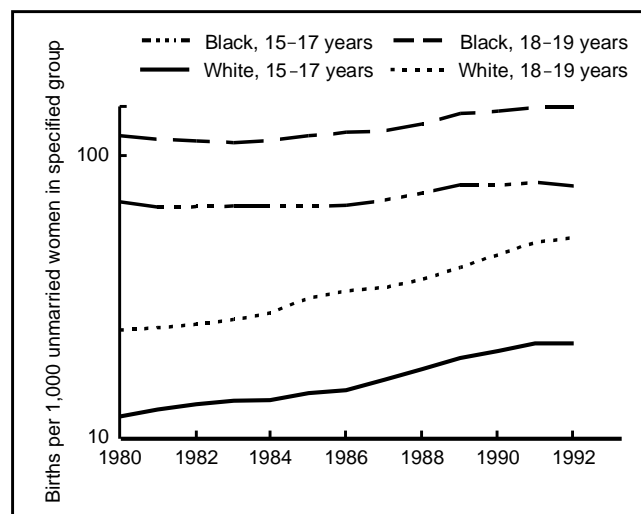
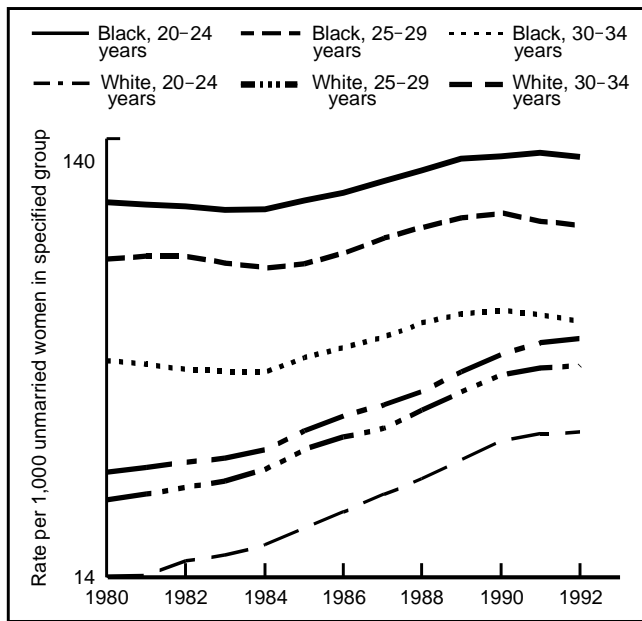


Figure 4. Birth rate for unmarried teenagers by race: United States, 1980–92



**Figure 5. Birth rate for unmarried women aged 20–34 years by race: United States, 1980–92**

women are compared with rates for all white and black women. About 11 percent of white women in the childbearing ages are Hispanic (15).

The rate for Hispanic women was 95.3 per 1,000 in 1992, more than twice the rate for white women and about 10 percent higher than the rate for black women (tables A and 1). The high rate for Hispanic women reflects principally the elevated birth rates for Hispanic women in nearly all age groups compared with white and black women, especially the high rates for women aged 25 and older. Nonmarital childbearing among Hispanic women, particularly Puerto Rican women, is affected also by the relatively high levels of consensual or common-law marriages (16). It is not possible to identify the women who are in such relationships from data on the birth certificate.

## First-birth rate

The proportion of unmarried women who became mothers for the first time can be determined by relating the number of first births to unmarried women to the population of unmarried women. Trends in these rates by age and race for 1980–92 are shown in table 2 and rates for 1992 in table B.

The first birth rate for unmarried women was 21.6 per 1,000 in 1992, 30 percent higher than the rate in 1980. This rate had changed little between 1980 and 1984, ranging from 16.2 to 16.6. From 1984 to 1991, however, the rate rose 32 percent or about 5 percent per year, to 21.7, before declining slightly in 1992. The overall nonmarital birth rate rose 46 percent between 1984 and 1991. Thus, it is apparent that birth rates for women having their second or subsequent child increased much more than for those having their first child.

The pattern of first birth rates by age is generally similar to that for the overall rates by age. The highest first birth rate was observed for women aged 18–19 years. However, the first birth rate declines rapidly with advancing age for women aged 25 years and older, reflecting the greatly increased likelihood that older unmarried women are having a second or higher order birth rather than a first birth.

It is not possible to determine from information on the birth certificate whether nonmarital births of second or higher order have occurred after previous nonmarital births or if they are the mothers' first *nonmarital* birth (that is, occurring after she had given birth during a previous marriage). Given the sharp increases in divorce in recent years, it is likely that some portion of the second and higher order nonmarital births were the first nonmarital births for the mothers, particularly for older women.

The first birth rate for unmarried black women in 1992 was 34.9 per 1,000, about 1.9 times the rate of 18.4 for unmarried white women. The racial differential in this rate declined by about half during the 1980's: In 1980, the rate for unmarried black women was 40.1, 3.5 times the rate for unmarried white women, 11.4.

Trends in the rates by race have differed considerably. The rate for white women rose steadily throughout the 12-year

**Table A. Estimated birth rate for unmarried women by Hispanic origin and age of mother: United States, 1990–92**

[Rates per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group. For method of estimation, see Technical notes]

Year and origin	Age of mother								
	15–44 years <sup>1</sup>	15–19 years							
		Total	15–17 years	18–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years <sup>2</sup>
<b>Hispanic</b>									
1990 . . . . .	89.6	65.9	45.9	98.9	129.8	131.7	88.1	50.8	13.7
1991 . . . . .	93.7	72.4	50.5	109.6	135.4	137.5	89.1	47.7	14.2
1992 . . . . .	95.3	72.9	51.0	110.5	142.2	138.3	91.8	48.1	14.5
<b>Non-Hispanic<sup>3</sup></b>									
1990 . . . . .	39.2	39.7	27.5	56.5	58.4	48.7	32.6	14.6	2.9
1991 . . . . .	39.9	41.3	28.3	60.4	60.6	48.3	32.8	15.2	3.0
1992 . . . . .	39.7	40.8	27.6	61.7	60.5	47.8	32.4	16.0	3.3

<sup>1</sup>Computed by relating all births to unmarried mothers, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women aged 15–44 years.

<sup>2</sup>Computed by relating births to unmarried mothers aged 40 years and over to unmarried women aged 40–44 years.

<sup>3</sup>Includes births with origin of mother not stated. See Technical notes.

**Table B. Number and percent distribution of live births to unmarried women by live-birth order and first birth rate for births to unmarried women, according to age and race of mother: United States, 1992**

Race and age of mother	All births <sup>1</sup>	First	2nd and higher	All births	First	2nd and higher	First birth rate <sup>2</sup>
	Number			Percent distribution <sup>3</sup>			
All races <sup>4</sup>	1,224,876	580,513	637,706	100.0	47.7	52.3	21.6
Under 15 years	11,161	10,722	371	100.0	96.7	3.3	---
15-19 years	353,878	267,026	85,303	100.0	75.8	24.2	33.8
15-17 years	148,583	126,096	21,810	100.0	85.3	14.7	25.9
18-19 years	205,295	140,930	63,493	100.0	68.9	31.1	46.4
20-24 years	435,727	195,110	238,377	100.0	45.0	55.0	30.8
25-29 years	233,467	65,446	166,503	100.0	28.2	71.8	15.9
30-34 years	127,982	29,097	98,050	100.0	22.9	77.1	8.7
35-39 years	52,447	10,966	41,113	100.0	21.1	78.9	4.0
40-44 years	10,214	2,146	7,989	100.0	21.2	78.8	0.9
White	721,986	376,188	342,048	100.0	52.4	47.6	18.4
Under 15 years	4,553	4,405	125	100.0	97.2	2.8	---
15-19 years	206,830	168,313	37,634	100.0	81.7	18.3	27.0
15-17 years	83,848	74,997	8,471	100.0	89.9	10.1	19.4
18-19 years	122,982	93,316	29,163	100.0	76.2	23.8	39.2
20-24 years	258,268	130,983	126,051	100.0	51.0	49.0	26.9
25-29 years	137,639	43,215	93,564	100.0	31.6	68.4	14.3
30-34 years	75,696	19,702	55,531	100.0	26.2	73.8	8.3
35-39 years	32,218	7,945	24,040	100.0	24.8	75.2	4.0
40-44 years	6,782	1,625	5,103	100.0	24.2	75.8	0.9
Black	458,969	184,004	272,302	100.0	40.3	59.7	34.9
Under 15 years	6,296	6,021	231	100.0	96.3	3.7	---
15-19 years	135,994	90,210	45,170	100.0	66.6	33.4	70.5
15-17 years	60,202	47,198	12,732	100.0	78.8	21.2	61.5
18-19 years	75,792	43,012	32,438	100.0	57.0	43.0	84.2
20-24 years	162,561	57,358	104,277	100.0	35.5	64.5	51.2
25-29 years	86,853	19,590	66,665	100.0	22.7	77.3	22.3
30-34 years	46,860	7,995	38,520	100.0	17.2	82.8	9.9
35-39 years	17,608	2,446	15,045	100.0	14.0	86.0	3.6
40-44 years	2,797	384	2,394	100.0	13.8	86.2	0.7

<sup>1</sup>Includes live-birth order not stated.

<sup>2</sup>First births per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group.

<sup>3</sup>Based only on records for which live-birth order is stated.

<sup>4</sup>Includes races other than white and black.

period, by 61 percent overall. In contrast, the rate for black women initially declined from 1980 to 1984, then rose briefly before falling again, beginning in 1989. The rate in 1992 was 13 percent below the 1980 rate.

The sharp rise in nonmarital birth rates among white unmarried women reflects sharp increases in first-time childbearing by these women and even greater increases in rates for second and subsequent births (regardless of whether the mother was previously married). For black unmarried women, the pattern is quite different. Rates for first births fell during the 1980's, but the rates for second and higher order births increased 26 percent.

## Educational attainment

Birth rates for unmarried women by educational attainment, age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother have been estimated for 1992 and are shown in table C; rates by education, age, and race for 1970 and 1985 have been published (17,18). Such rates can be useful in comparing levels of nonmarital childbearing by socioeconomic status because

educational attainment is considered to be the most reliable measure of socioeconomic differences in fertility. Many studies have demonstrated differences by mother's educational attainment in such measures as number of children ever born, the timing and spacing of births, and contraceptive use (6, 19,20).

There are considerable differences in the educational attainment of Hispanic women and non-Hispanic white women. For example, 54 percent of Hispanic women who gave birth in 1992 had not completed high school compared with 15 percent of non-Hispanic white women (table D). Much of this difference is related to the high proportions of Hispanic women born in countries where universal educational systems are not in place. The rates in table C reflect these differences only partially, however, because the rates for white women include births to Hispanic and non-Hispanic women.

Birth rates for unmarried women according to educational attainment were consistently highest for women with a grade school education (82 per 1,000), followed in order by high school graduates (70 per 1,000), and women who did not complete high school (59 per 1,000). Rates for women with

**Table C. Estimated birth rate for unmarried women by educational attainment, age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1992**

[Rates are live births to unmarried women per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group; see Technical notes]

Race, Hispanic origin, and age of mother	Total	Years of school completed				
		0–8 years	9–11 years	12 years	13–15 years	16 years or more
<b>All races<sup>1</sup></b>						
15–44 years <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	45.2	82.3	59.2	70.2	21.2	10.8
15–17 years . . . . .	30.4	28.2	28.4	244.1	6.3	...
18–24 years . . . . .	68.1	259.1	127.2	111.9	19.8	11.0
25–29 years . . . . .	56.5	210.8	109.4	77.1	40.2	11.1
30–34 years . . . . .	37.9	82.8	71.7	46.7	26.7	15.5
35–39 years . . . . .	18.8	58.4	28.8	20.9	13.6	11.6
40–44 years <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	4.1	15.1	6.3	4.0	2.6	3.3
<b>White</b>						
15–44 years <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	35.2	85.5	47.9	55.8	14.4	7.9
15–17 years . . . . .	21.6	24.2	19.4	168.8	5.1	...
18–24 years . . . . .	52.3	256.9	116.8	85.3	13.2	6.9
25–29 years . . . . .	45.4	256.5	122.6	61.8	28.1	7.3
30–34 years . . . . .	31.5	102.1	62.7	39.5	19.4	12.4
35–39 years . . . . .	16.2	59.9	32.2	17.6	10.0	10.1
40–44 years <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	3.6	17.0	5.8	3.3	2.0	3.0
<b>Black</b>						
15–44 years <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	86.5	76.1	101.0	111.9	54.7	31.6
15–17 years . . . . .	78.0	46.5	79.9	671.7	15.3	...
18–24 years . . . . .	145.4	228.0	168.3	200.2	66.6	76.7
25–29 years . . . . .	98.2	78.8	97.5	123.1	85.0	46.2
30–34 years . . . . .	57.7	32.3	88.2	64.8	49.2	32.2
35–39 years . . . . .	25.8	47.3	24.4	28.2	27.0	16.8
40–44 years <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	5.4	9.2	6.3	5.8	4.4	5.0
<b>Hispanic<sup>4</sup></b>						
15–44 years <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	95.3	169.1	100.7	111.0	33.2	29.0
15–17 years . . . . .	51.0	66.0	44.2	419.5	12.2	...
18–24 years . . . . .	130.9	306.4	196.9	140.3	28.6	28.5
25–29 years . . . . .	138.3	302.3	185.6	131.4	59.3	34.4
30–34 years . . . . .	91.8	153.9	99.7	105.6	40.0	38.7
35–39 years . . . . .	48.1	87.4	61.4	37.6	25.0	20.0
40–44 years <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	14.5	33.8	12.5	10.0	6.1	8.9

<sup>1</sup>Includes race other than white and black.

<sup>2</sup>Rates computed by relating total births, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women aged 15–44 years in specified group.

<sup>3</sup>Rates computed by relating births to unmarried mothers aged 40 years and over to unmarried women aged 40–44 years in specified group.

<sup>4</sup>Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For method of estimation, see Technical notes.

some college and college graduates were sharply lower, 21 and 11 per 1,000, respectively.

This pattern was observed for women of all races combined and for white and Hispanic women. Rates for black women were highest for high school graduates (112 per 1,000) followed by women who did not complete high school (101 per 1,000) and women with a grade school education (76 per 1,000). Again, rates for black women with some college were lower.

Rates by education and age vary in a consistent pattern. Rates for women with less than a high school education were highest for ages 18–24 years. Rates for women with some college were highest for ages 25–29 years, while rates for college graduates were highest for women aged 30–34 years.

The highest rates were for grade-school-educated women aged 18–24 years (259 per 1,000) and 25–29 years (211 per

1,000). This means that one-fifth to one-quarter of unmarried women in these age-education groups had a baby in 1992. Rates for white and black women were most similar for those with a grade school education, 86 and 76 per 1,000, respectively. Rates by age within that group tended to be much higher for white than for black women. Hispanic women constitute a disproportionate share of white women in this educational attainment category, 39 percent overall and 64–76 percent in age groups 18–29 years, compared with 5–12 percent of women with a high school education or more. Among women with a grade school education, the relatively high rates for Hispanic women were, therefore, an important factor in the high rates for white women.

Rates for black women with 9–11 years of schooling or high school graduates were about twice the rates of their white counterparts. The differential in rates for black and white

**Table D. Percent of births to mothers who completed less than 12 years of school by age, marital status, and Hispanic origin of mother and by race of mother for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: United States, 1992**

Age and marital status of mother	All births <sup>1,2</sup>	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic		
			Total <sup>2</sup>	White	Black
All ages <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	23.6	54.1	17.9	14.5	29.8
Married . . . . .	15.1	47.4	10.0	9.4	11.5
Unmarried . . . . .	43.3	64.5	37.8	37.1	38.3
15–17 years . . . . .	91.6	93.5	91.0	90.1	92.1
Married . . . . .	90.4	93.3	89.0	89.0	88.6
Unmarried . . . . .	91.9	93.6	91.4	90.6	92.2
18 years . . . . .	58.3	72.6	54.5	54.5	54.4
Married . . . . .	59.5	73.9	54.2	55.0	46.3
Unmarried . . . . .	57.7	71.8	54.6	54.1	55.0
19 years . . . . .	42.5	63.2	37.4	37.5	36.7
Married . . . . .	41.8	62.8	35.5	36.2	27.7
Unmarried . . . . .	43.0	63.6	38.5	38.8	37.8
20–24 years . . . . .	28.0	53.9	21.9	20.7	24.1
Married . . . . .	23.1	50.0	17.0	16.9	13.8
Unmarried . . . . .	35.2	59.2	29.2	30.4	27.5
25 years and over . . . . .	12.8	46.1	7.8	5.9	15.2
Married . . . . .	9.4	41.1	5.3	4.5	7.9
Unmarried . . . . .	29.9	58.3	21.5	20.0	22.3

<sup>1</sup>Includes origin not stated.

<sup>2</sup>Includes races other than white and black.

<sup>3</sup>Includes births to mothers under 15 years of age.

NOTE: Figures by Hispanic origin exclude data for New Hampshire, which did not require the reporting of Hispanic origin on the birth certificate. Only 0.25 percent of all nonmarital births in 1992 were to New Hampshire residents.

women with one or more years of college was much greater; rates for black women were nearly four times the rates for white women. Rates for Hispanic women tended to be higher than rates for white or black women with a grade school education. Among high school graduates and better-educated women, rates for Hispanic women were usually between the rates for white and black women. These patterns were observed among women in each age group.

Variations in nonmarital childbearing among white, black, and Hispanic women persist even when rates by maternal education are compared. Other factors are apparently involved in the persistent gap in childbearing by unmarried women in these groups. Some of these factors may include differences in sexual activity, especially among teenagers; contraceptive use; and the extent to which premarital pregnancies are resolved by marriage prior to the birth of the child or by abortion. These factors are discussed later in this report.

One question that arises in comparing rates by race and Hispanic origin is the extent to which differences in the distribution of black, white, and Hispanic women by age and educational attainment would affect the observed differences in rates by race and Hispanic origin. Standardized rates indicate actual differences among groups in the rates or “risk” of nonmarital childbearing after differences by age and educational attainment have been taken into account. Standardized rates have been computed, using as the standard the distribution of all unmarried women, regardless of race or Hispanic origin, by age and education according to the 1992 Current Population Survey (21). (See appendix.)

The unadjusted and adjusted rates are:

Race/Hispanic origin	Unadjusted	Adjusted
White . . . . .	35.2	36.9
Black . . . . .	86.5	81.3
Hispanic . . . . .	95.3	70.3

Standardization had little effect on the black/white differential. The unadjusted rate for black women was 2.5 times the unadjusted rate for white women. Adjusted, the rate for black women was 2.2 times the rate for white women. The adjusted rate for white women was 5 percent higher than the unadjusted rate, while the adjusted rate for black women was 6 percent lower than the unadjusted rate. The standard population used to compute the adjusted rates is younger and of lower educational attainment than the white female population. Therefore the adjusted white rate is higher, because nonmarital birth rates are higher for young women. The pattern is reversed for black women. The standard population has an older age pattern than that of black women. Consequently, the adjusted rate for black women is lower than the unadjusted rate.

There was a considerable reduction in the difference between Hispanic and white women. Unadjusted, the rate for Hispanic women was 2.7 times the rate for white women; adjusted, the differential was 1.9. The disproportionate share of Hispanic women who have 0–8 or 9–11 years of schooling affects the differential in rates. Rates were especially high for Hispanic women in these educational attainment groups, regardless of age. Thus, standardizing for differences in the population composition by age and education resulted in a

lower rate for Hispanic women and, therefore, a smaller difference between rates for Hispanic and white women. However, the difference in standardized birth rates for Hispanic and white women must be considered an approximation because (as noted above) rates and population distributions for white women by educational attainment include Hispanic women.

To summarize the standardization procedure, prior to standardizing the rates, the rates for black and Hispanic unmarried women were 2.5–2.7 times the rate for white women. After standardizing the rates to adjust for compositional differences in the white, black, and Hispanic populations, the rates for black and Hispanic women were each about twice the rate for white women. Thus, some of the original differences in rates reflects the differences in the composition of the populations by age and educational attainment. However, most of the differences in rates still remains after taking these compositional differences into account. The remaining

difference reflects the fact that age-education-specific birth rates for unmarried black and Hispanic women are higher than the respective rates for white women.

## **State**

It is possible to compute reliable birth rates for unmarried women by State only in census years when the necessary population data are available. Rates by age and race of mother have been published for 1990 as well as for the 1969–71 census period and for 1980 (22–24). The 1990 rates are included in this report for reference in table 3.

Birth rates for unmarried women vary widely by State. Much of the differential is associated with the wide variation among States in characteristics that are generally associated with variations in nonmarital childbearing. These include differences among States in population composition by age, race, and Hispanic origin as well as by educational attainment.

# Number and proportion of births to unmarried women

There are two other important summary measures frequently used to describe trends and patterns of births to unmarried women. One is the number of nonmarital births and the other is the proportion of all births to unmarried women. This proportion is often called the “ratio.” These measures are of importance in evaluating the absolute level of nonmarital births and the related needs for social, financial, and health services for the mothers and their babies. Although it is preferable to use the birth *rate* in interpreting patterns of nonmarital childbearing, the number and proportion are especially useful in monitoring trends in nonmarital births in population groups at the State and local level, when birth *rates* often cannot be computed. It is important to keep in mind, however, that although the numerator of the proportion or ratio is affected by the number of unmarried women and their birth rate, the denominator of the proportion (total births) is largely influenced by the factors that affect marital fertility. These include changes in the timing of marriage, the spacing of children, and completed family size. In effect, changes in the proportion may occur even when there is no change in the number of unmarried women or their birth rate.

As indicated in figure 6 and table 4, there has been a substantial growth in the number of births to unmarried women since 1940 when an estimated 89,500 babies were born to unmarried women. This number more than doubled by 1955. The number doubled again to 398,700 in 1970, and rose 80 percent to 715,227 in 1982. By 1992, the number of nonmarital births rose another 71 percent, to 1,224,876, nearly 14 times as many as in 1940.

The proportion of births to unmarried women rose substantially, from 3.8 percent in 1940 to 30.1 percent in 1992, an

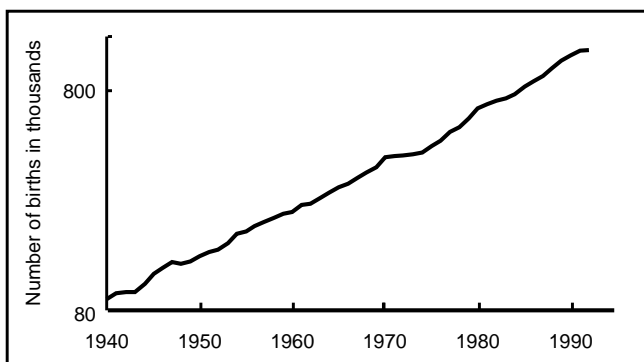


Figure 6. Number of births to unmarried women: United States, 1940–92

eight-fold increase (table 5). The proportion rose relatively slowly from 1940 to 1960, by about 40 percent overall, with most of the increase occurring from 1950 to 1960. Births to unmarried women increased 58 percent in that decade compared with only a 16-percent increase among married women.

In the next decade, the proportion of births to unmarried women doubled, from 5.3 percent to 10.7 percent. This increase was especially rapid because birth rates for married women began to decline during the 1960's while rates for unmarried women were rising. The number of births to married women fell 17 percent while nonmarital births rose 78 percent. The proportion of nonmarital births has risen steadily since 1970, nearly tripling over this time period, to 30.1 percent in 1992. The most recent increase reflects continued declines in marital fertility occurring simultaneously with sizeable increases in nonmarital fertility.

## Age

The numbers of births to unmarried women have increased dramatically for mothers in all age groups in recent years. The number of births to unmarried teens in 1992 was 34 percent higher than in 1980. There was a greater relative increase in the number of births to older than to younger teens. The number of births to unmarried women aged 18–19 years increased 46 percent between 1980 and 1992, while among teens 15–17 years, the number increased 22 percent. The greater increase among older teens is due entirely to the sharper overall rise in the nonmarital birth rate.

The numbers of births to unmarried women in their twenties in 1992 were 84–134 percent higher than in 1980. Increases in births to these women reflect both the increasing birth rates and the substantial rise in the number of unmarried women.

Nonmarital births to women aged 30 years and older have also increased considerably. The greatest increase for this age group began to occur in 1980, with the 1992 totals averaging three to four times the numbers reported in 1980. These increases also reflect both rising birth rates and sharp increases in the number of unmarried women.

The proportions of births to unmarried mothers by age have increased virtually without interruption since 1940. As noted above, the increases in recent years reflect three factors: rising nonmarital birth rates, sharp increases in the number of unmarried women in each age group, and declining or stable birth rates for married women. Among births to women aged



20 years and older, the proportion to unmarried women in 1992 ranged from 14 percent for births to mothers aged 30–34 years to 41 percent for births to mothers aged 20–24 years. Among teens, the nonmarital proportion ranged from 91 percent for births to mothers under age 15 years to 61 percent for births to 19-year-old mothers. Because the levels of nonmarital births are so high among teens, trends for this age group tend to receive the most attention.

## Race and Hispanic origin

In 1969, 5 percent of white births compared with 35 percent of black births were nonmarital. By 1992, the proportions rose to 23 percent for white births and 68 percent for black births (table 5). Data for other racial/ethnic origin groups indicate wide variation in nonmarital childbearing (table E). In 1992, the proportions ranged from a low of 6 percent for Chinese mothers and 10 percent for Japanese mothers to 44–46 percent for Hawaiian and Central and South American mothers and 58 percent for Puerto Rican mothers.

## Educational attainment

The proportion of births to unmarried women varies in a distinct pattern according to mother's education. The percent is highest for mothers with 9–11 years of school completed, 59 percent in 1992. This is followed by mothers with a grade school education, 44 percent. For mothers with at least a high school diploma, the proportion of births to unmarried women declined continuously from 32 percent for women with 12 years of schooling to 5 percent for college graduates (table F). Some of this pattern is related to the generally younger age

distribution of unmarried mothers. However, even when maternal age is taken into account, it is apparent that mothers with 9–11 years of school consistently have the highest proportions of nonmarital births; for these mothers aged 20 years and older, the proportions ranged from 41 percent (women 35 and older) to 58 percent (aged 20 years).

The proportion of nonmarital births among mothers who had completed high school declined from 77 percent for the youngest mothers to about 20 percent for mothers aged 30 years and older. Among mothers with some college education, the proportion unmarried tended to decline more sharply with advancing age, from 69 percent for 18-year-old mothers to 12–14 percent for mothers aged 25 years and older. Similarly, the proportion unmarried dropped sharply for college graduates, from 33 percent for 21-year-olds to 4–6 percent for mothers 25 years and older.

## Race and Hispanic origin

In examining differences in the proportions of nonmarital births by education, it is important to look at Hispanic and white non-Hispanic women separately because, as noted in the section on birth rates, the educational attainment of Hispanic women tends to be considerably lower than that of white non-Hispanic women regardless of any other characteristic (table D).

Although the absolute proportions of nonmarital births differ substantially by race and Hispanic origin, the proportions were consistently highest for mothers with 9–11 years of schooling, followed by those with a grade school education (table F). The disparity by race and Hispanic origin was smallest for women with 9–11 years of education and increased steadily with increasing education. This pattern was observed regardless of maternal age. Overall, among births to mothers who were college graduates, the proportions of nonmarital births ranged from 3 percent for white non-Hispanic births to 13 percent for Hispanic births and 26 percent for black non-Hispanic births.

The proportions of unmarried women were highest for black non-Hispanic mothers in each educational attainment/age group and they declined little with advancing maternal age. Except for births to older women with some college and to college graduates, more than half of all births in each category were to unmarried mothers. Within the college graduate group, the nonmarital proportions dropped from 70 percent for 21-year-old black mothers to 19–21 percent for mothers aged 30 years and older.

Because the nonmarital proportions for black births declined relatively little for older mothers, the racial differential in nonmarital proportions increased with advancing maternal age. The ratio of the black non-Hispanic to the white non-Hispanic proportion was 2 or less for births to mothers aged 21 years and under. However, for births to older mothers, the racial disparity increased sharply from 2.7 for 22-year-olds to 6.2 for births to women aged 30–34 years and then declined. This pattern was generally observed within each educational attainment category.

**Table E. Number and percent of births to unmarried women by race and Hispanic origin of mother and by race of mother for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: United States, 1992**

<i>Race and Hispanic origin</i>	<i>Number of births</i>	<i>Percent of all births</i>
All races . . . . .	1,224,876	30.1
White . . . . .	721,986	22.6
Black . . . . .	458,969	68.1
American Indian . . . . .	21,825	55.3
Chinese . . . . .	1,537	6.1
Japanese . . . . .	890	9.8
Hawaiian . . . . .	2,688	45.7
Filipino . . . . .	4,879	16.8
Other Asian or Pacific Islander . . . . .	12,102	14.9
All Hispanic <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	251,737	39.1
Mexican <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	156,809	36.3
Puerto Rican <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	34,275	57.5
Cuban <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	2,323	20.2
Central and South American <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	39,115	43.9
Other and unknown Hispanic <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	19,215	37.6
Non-Hispanic <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	958,804	28.5
White . . . . .	468,739	18.5
Black . . . . .	449,351	68.3
Origin not stated . . . . .	11,267	28.2

<sup>1</sup>Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>2</sup>Includes races other than white and black.

NOTE: Figures by Hispanic origin exclude data for New Hampshire, which did not require the reporting of Hispanic origin on the birth certificate.

**Table F. Percent of births to unmarried mothers by age, education, and Hispanic origin of mother and by race of mother for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: United States, 1992**

Years of school completed by mother, Hispanic origin, and race <sup>1</sup>	All ages <sup>2</sup>	Age of mother										
		15–17 years	18 years	19 years	20 years	21 years	22 years	23 years	24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35 years and over
Total <sup>3,4</sup>	30.1	79.2	69.2	61.0	53.3	46.6	40.3	34.3	29.7	19.8	14.3	15.6
Hispanic <sup>3</sup>	39.1	69.0	60.6	54.4	49.7	45.3	41.8	38.5	36.2	30.8	27.2	28.9
Non-Hispanic <sup>3,5</sup>	28.5	82.2	71.5	62.6	54.2	46.9	39.9	33.4	28.2	17.9	12.6	13.7
White <sup>3</sup>	18.5	71.6	59.7	49.9	41.2	33.8	28.1	22.7	18.2	10.7	7.5	8.9
Black <sup>3</sup>	68.3	95.7	92.5	89.0	84.2	79.6	74.5	69.7	65.3	55.1	46.7	44.3
0–8 years <sup>4</sup>	44.0	73.4	56.9	51.4	48.8	45.2	42.5	39.2	38.2	34.8	30.7	30.6
Hispanic	41.5	63.1	54.1	50.0	48.6	45.6	43.7	41.1	40.0	37.3	33.4	33.3
Non-Hispanic <sup>5</sup>	48.7	79.8	60.3	53.7	49.0	44.3	39.8	34.5	33.6	28.3	23.4	24.2
White	40.4	67.7	52.5	46.9	42.9	38.5	34.5	30.2	29.2	23.7	18.0	18.0
Black	86.3	96.9	92.1	89.1	88.1	82.6	78.4	76.7	73.9	68.0	58.3	56.3
9–11 years <sup>4</sup>	59.2	80.6	70.3	63.6	58.4	55.0	52.4	49.9	48.1	45.2	42.7	41.1
Hispanic	51.1	71.2	62.2	57.2	53.6	50.2	47.7	45.4	43.2	40.7	38.0	38.2
Non-Hispanic <sup>5</sup>	62.0	82.9	72.5	65.5	59.9	56.6	54.1	51.8	50.2	47.3	44.8	42.4
White	48.5	72.5	60.0	52.0	46.6	42.8	41.2	39.2	37.2	34.4	31.8	31.2
Black	87.9	95.7	93.7	91.8	88.9	87.4	85.5	83.0	83.1	79.1	73.8	65.9
12 years <sup>4</sup>	32.4	76.5	70.1	60.3	51.5	44.6	38.7	33.7	30.0	23.1	19.4	21.2
Hispanic	35.4	67.9	62.2	53.7	47.0	42.6	38.4	34.9	33.0	28.3	26.4	27.6
Non-Hispanic <sup>5</sup>	32.0	78.3	71.3	61.2	52.2	44.9	38.8	33.5	29.6	22.4	18.5	20.4
White	21.3	68.4	60.1	48.6	38.8	31.6	26.5	22.5	18.9	13.8	11.5	13.3
Black	69.7	93.8	91.4	87.5	82.9	78.4	73.6	70.2	67.0	60.5	55.1	52.5
13–15 years <sup>4</sup>	19.4	67.1	68.7	60.9	50.6	40.9	32.3	25.9	21.4	14.3	11.8	13.7
Hispanic	24.9	63.9	63.3	53.7	45.9	37.6	32.4	28.7	25.5	19.9	18.3	22.0
Non-Hispanic <sup>5</sup>	18.9	67.6	69.6	61.9	51.1	41.3	32.4	25.6	20.9	13.8	11.3	13.1
White	11.7	57.4	58.4	49.3	38.6	29.2	21.8	16.6	12.7	7.9	6.6	8.5
Black	52.4	90.2	88.3	86.6	80.1	73.3	66.2	59.3	53.9	44.1	39.6	40.3
16 years or more <sup>4</sup>	5.4	–	–	–	42.8	33.3	27.7	17.8	11.5	4.8	3.8	6.3
Hispanic	12.9	–	–	–	40.2	33.7	33.0	24.6	20.2	12.2	10.4	12.7
Non-Hispanic <sup>5</sup>	5.1	–	–	–	43.5	33.3	27.3	17.3	10.9	4.4	3.5	6.0
White	3.4	–	–	–	31.9	23.1	19.4	10.9	6.8	2.6	2.4	4.8
Black	25.5	–	–	–	75.2	70.2	65.1	54.5	42.4	25.6	18.5	20.9

<sup>1</sup>Totals for years of school completed by mother include origin not stated and races other than white and black.

<sup>2</sup>Includes births to mothers under age 15 years.

<sup>3</sup>Includes figures for educational attainment not stated.

<sup>4</sup>Includes origin not stated.

<sup>5</sup>Includes races other than white and black.

NOTE: Figures by Hispanic origin exclude data for New Hampshire, which did not require reporting of Hispanic origin on the birth certificate. Only 0.25 percent of nonmarital births and 0.4 percent of all births were to New Hampshire residents in 1992.

The majority of nonmarital births occur to young women and poorly educated women. Women in these groups account for disproportionate shares of Hispanic and black non-Hispanic births. To determine if the large overall differential in nonmarital births by race and Hispanic origin results from the differences in the distributions of white non-Hispanic, black non-Hispanic, and Hispanic births by age and education, standardized proportions of nonmarital births have been computed. (See appendix.)

The standard population used was the distribution of all births in 1992 by age and educational attainment of mother. As a result of standardization, the differential between the black non-Hispanic and white non-Hispanic proportions declined from 3.7 to 2.7. The differential declined because the adjusted white non-Hispanic proportion (22.0 percent) was higher than the unadjusted proportion (18.5 percent), while the adjusted

black non-Hispanic proportion (58.8 percent) was lower than the unadjusted proportion (68.3 percent). Similarly, the differential between the proportions for Hispanic and white non-Hispanic births declined from 2.1 to 1.5. This decline reflects the reduction in the nonmarital proportion for Hispanic women due to adjustment from 39.1 percent to 32.0 percent, as well as the increase for white non-Hispanic births.

As was the case for standardized *rates*, standardized nonmarital *proportions* resulted in reduced differentials between black and white births and between Hispanic and white births. However, considerable disparities remain after the differences in composition by age and education are considered. This is because the age-education-specific proportions of nonmarital births are consistently higher for black non-Hispanic and Hispanic births than for white non-Hispanic births.

## State

Trends in numbers and proportions of births to unmarried mothers by race and State are shown in tables 6 and 7. Much of the considerable variation by State in these measures is associated with the variations in births by Hispanic origin, age, marital status, and educational attainment, which reflect

differences in the State populations by these characteristics. Because populations of unmarried women by State or other geographic subgroup are often not available to compute birth rates, the numbers and ratios are sometimes the only measures available to monitor trends in nonmarital childbearing below the national level.

# Factors affecting the incidence of nonmarital childbearing

## Population at risk

As indicated earlier, one critical factor in determining the number of births occurring to unmarried mothers is the nonmarital birth rate. The other critical factor which statistically determines the number of nonmarital births is the number of unmarried women.

There have been several distinct periods in the trends in these two factors. The birth rate tripled from 1940 to 1957, increased more moderately between 1957 and 1970, declined briefly until 1976, and has increased almost continuously since 1976.

Trends in the number of unmarried women of childbearing age have been quite different. The number declined from 12.5 million in 1940 to 9.5 million in 1954–55, a 24-percent drop. Over the next decade, the number increased 31 percent, to 12.4 million in 1965. Between 1965 and 1992, the number of unmarried women more than doubled, totaling 27.1 million in 1992 (table G).

These changes in the number of unmarried women reflect two distinctive changes in population and marriage patterns over the last half century. First is the unprecedented growth of the total population beginning immediately after World War II and continuing through the early 1960's. Women born during these years, the "baby-boom" generation, constitute a large portion of the population in the childbearing ages (15). A shift in marriage patterns has also accelerated the increase in the number of unmarried women. The age at marriage had been declining through the late 1940's, causing a decrease in the proportion of unmarried women through the mid 1950's. Beginning in the late 1950's, the age at marriage began to increase as large proportions of young women remained unmarried in each age group (25,26). (Data for 1960–92 are shown in table G.) These dramatic shifts were particularly noticeable for women aged 18–34, who accounted for 82 percent of nonmarital births in 1992. In age groups 20 years and older, the proportions of women who were unmarried in 1992 were two to three times the proportions in 1960.

Thus, the increase in nonmarital births has resulted statistically from a changing set of factors. From 1940 to 1957, the increase resulted entirely from the increased birth rate. From 1957 to 1970, the increase in the number of births was more a result of the 57-percent growth in the population at risk (unmarried women) and to a lesser extent the 26-percent rise in the birth rate. Since 1970, the number of unmarried women increased 79 percent and the birth rate rose 71 percent, each

factor contributing about the same to the statistical rise in the number of nonmarital births.

## Sexual activity and contraceptive use

Sexual activity and contraceptive use are among the factors affecting levels and trends in nonmarital childbearing. There has been a sharp increase during the 1980's in the proportion of teenagers who have had sexual intercourse (7). For all teens aged 15–19 years, the increase was from 47 percent in 1982 to 55 percent in 1990; for young teens 15–17 years, the proportion rose from 32 to 41 percent, and for older teens it increased from 64 to 74 percent. Black teens are more likely than white teens to be sexually experienced (7).

Somewhat attenuating the risk of pregnancy among teenagers who had premarital intercourse has been a significant rise since the early 1980's in the use of contraception at first intercourse, from 53 percent in 1980–82 to 71 percent in 1990 (6). This increase in contraceptive use is probably one factor in the 11-percent decline in the pregnancy rate for all sexually experienced teens during the 1980's (8).

## Pregnancy and abortion

The proportion of premarital pregnancies that end in induced abortion is another factor affecting the risk of a nonmarital birth. Because pregnancies among teenagers are most likely to be nonmarital, the resolution of these pregnancies—whether as a live birth, fetal loss, or an induced abortion—is of particular interest. The proportion ending in abortion has declined from 39 percent in 1980 to 33 percent in 1991, indicating a declining likelihood of abortion among pregnant teenagers (8,27). Pregnancy estimates for unmarried women of all ages for 1980 and 1991 show an increase in the overall pregnancy rate from 91 to 103 per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years, with all of the increase reflected in an increase in the birth rate; the induced abortion rate fell about 12 percent (8).

## Premarital conceptions ending in marital births

A pregnancy conceived outside of marriage can have several possible outcomes. These include a nonmarital birth, a miscarriage, an induced abortion, or a marital birth. A marital birth occurs when a premaritally pregnant woman marries

**Table G. Number and percent of women who are unmarried by age and race: United States, selected years, 1960–92**

[Populations as of July 1 for all years]

Race of women and year	Ages 15–44 years		15–19 years							
	Number <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Total	15–17 years	18–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years
All races <sup>2</sup>			Percent							
1992 . . . . .	27,098	45.9	95.4	98.6	90.7	68.1	41.1	30.2	26.2	26.2
1990 . . . . .	26,588	45.3	95.3	98.6	91.0	66.1	38.8	28.6	25.4	25.9
1985 . . . . .	25,287	44.6	94.0	98.1	88.0	61.3	35.2	26.5	23.1	23.1
1980 . . . . .	22,681	42.8	92.0	97.4	84.4	54.4	29.8	21.9	19.1	18.8
1975 . . . . .	18,315	38.5	89.0	96.4	77.9	44.4	21.1	15.4	15.0	15.3
1970 . . . . .	15,121	35.5	89.2	97.0	77.2	38.6	15.9	12.0	12.2	13.8
1965 . . . . .	12,419	31.8	87.9	---	---	33.4	13.1	9.4	10.7	12.9
1960 . . . . .	10,392	28.8	85.8	---	---	30.8	12.9	11.2	11.8	13.9
White										
1992 . . . . .	20,489	42.5	94.7	98.4	89.3	65.1	37.2	26.2	22.7	23.9
1990 . . . . .	20,372	42.2	94.7	98.3	89.8	63.3	35.4	25.2	22.3	23.6
1985 . . . . .	19,832	41.9	93.1	97.9	86.3	58.2	31.8	24.0	20.8	21.2
1980 . . . . .	18,201	40.5	91.4	97.1	83.3	51.5	27.1	19.7	16.8	17.1
1975 . . . . .	15,002	36.7	88.4	96.1	77.0	42.6	19.1	14.1	13.0	13.9
1970 . . . . .	12,643	34.1	89.1	96.9	77.0	37.2	14.2	10.7	10.6	12.7
1965 . . . . .	10,700	31.3	87.9	---	---	32.9	12.3	8.9	11.3	
1960 . . . . .	8,950	28.1	85.8	---	---	30.2	12.2	10.4	12.2	
Black										
1992 . . . . .	5,305	65.5	98.4	99.6	96.6	82.4	62.3	54.6	49.9	44.7
1990 . . . . .	5,031	63.6	98.2	100.0	95.7	80.5	58.6	50.2	46.1	44.4
1985 . . . . .	4,627	62.7	98.3	99.3	96.9	78.0	57.1	45.1	41.3	38.8
1980 . . . . .	3,929	58.4	95.9	99.0	91.3	70.8	46.6	37.6	34.9	31.5
1975 . . . . .	2,964	51.0	91.9	97.5	83.2	56.8	36.2	25.6	29.9	25.7
1970 . . . . .	2,252	45.1	90.3	97.9	77.7	47.7	27.2	21.6	23.6	23.6
1965 . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1960 . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

<sup>1</sup>In thousands.

<sup>2</sup>Includes races other than white and black.

Source: Number of unmarried women computed based on three-year moving average of percent unmarried by age and race, applied to population estimates published by U.S. Bureau of the Census, as of July 1 for each year. See Technical notes.

before the birth of her child. Data from several surveys suggest that the discovery of a nonmarital conception is no longer as much of an impetus to a quickly arranged marriage.

The 1972 and 1980 National Natality Surveys provide data documenting substantial increases in premarital pregnancies, with increasing proportions of these pregnancies ending in nonmarital births (28). Recent data from the Current Population Survey fertility supplements show that this pattern has continued to the present (14). Data from these surveys also show that these changes have occurred for both white and black women, but the levels of all premarital pregnancies and premarital births were much higher for black than for white women.

There was a considerable decline in the likelihood of marriage prior to the birth of a child that was premaritally conceived. For example, among women aged 15–34 years whose first child was born in 1960–64, 52 percent who were premaritally pregnant married before the birth of the child. This proportion dropped to 27 percent for mothers having their first birth in 1985–89. These declines were particularly sizeable for mothers who were teenagers when their first child was born and were observed for white and black women (14).

About one-third of premaritally pregnant white women in 1985–89 married before the birth of the child, compared with 8 percent of comparable black women. Although these proportions were both sharply lower compared with 1960–64 levels (61 percent for white women and 31 percent for black women), the racial differential in the proportion marrying has increased over the three decades for which data were available (14). This is evidently a factor in the continued racial differential in nonmarital birth rates.

### Other factors

Several other factors should be considered in future research on the causes of the high levels of childbearing by unmarried women and the variations in these levels among population subgroups.

These factors include “involuntary” controls over conception, such as age at menarche, involuntary sterility resulting from sexually transmitted diseases (STD’s), and patterns of miscarriage. For example, the long-term decline in the age at which menstruation begins (29) would be associated with higher levels of pregnancy and childbearing among young

teens. In contrast, the rising incidence of STD's (30) would tend to limit fertility among those affected.

Changes have also occurred in public attitudes concerning childbearing outside of marriage. The social disapproval once associated with nonmarital childbearing has declined. This is evidenced, for example, in the willingness of public schools to permit pregnant teenagers to attend regular classes and in the provision of child care in some schools for the children of these students.

Recently published data show that pregnancies are less likely to end in abortion and more likely to end in live birth (8,27). Further research is needed to determine whether the decline in the abortion-to-live-birth ratio is linked to increased difficulty in obtaining abortion services (31) or to an increased preference for carrying the pregnancy to term.

# Characteristics of unmarried mothers

## Age

There have been several sharp swings in the distribution of nonmarital births by age of mother since 1940 (table H). Teenage mothers typically accounted for 40–50 percent of the total until about 1980; the peak year was 1973 at 53 percent. Since 1980, there has been a steady decline in the proportion of nonmarital births occurring to teens—30 percent in 1992. However, the number of all nonmarital births continued to increase, to 365,039 in 1992, which is 34 percent more than in 1980.

In 1940, 30 percent of nonmarital births were to mothers aged 20–24 years. Only about one in five was aged 25 and older. By 1950, and continuing until about 1960, the proportion of births to mothers 25 and older had increased to nearly 30 percent, while the proportion aged 20–24 years remained at about 30 percent.

Beginning about 1970 and continuing to the present time, the numbers and proportions of nonmarital births to mothers aged 25 and older have increased rapidly. The numbers of births by age for women 25 years and older in 1992 were three to seven times the numbers reported in 1970 (table 4).

Maternal age is one of the key characteristics distinguishing nonmarital and marital births. This is true in spite of the sharp changes in the age distribution of nonmarital births in recent years. For example, teen mothers accounted for 30 percent of nonmarital births in 1992, but only 5 percent of marital births. Of all nonmarital births in 1992, about two-thirds were to mothers under age 25, compared with about one-fourth of births to married mothers.

It is the disproportionate share of nonmarital births to teen mothers that is of concern because of the elevated risks associated with childbearing at a young age. Teen mothers, especially unmarried teen mothers, have more limited education, are less likely to get adequate prenatal care, are more likely to smoke, less likely to gain adequate weight during pregnancy, and have higher rates of conditions such as anemia and pregnancy-associated hypertension (1,32–34). As a consequence, their babies are at elevated risk of low birthweight, preterm delivery, fetal distress, and other adverse outcomes.

An indication of the extent to which today's teenage population has been impacted by early childbearing is that 958,400 women aged 15–19 in 1992, or more than one in nine women in that age group, had had at least one child. Three-quarters of these women, 729,400, first became mothers outside of marriage.

## Live-birth order

Since 1980, when national data on live-birth order for nonmarital births first became available, there has been a gradual decline in the proportion of these births that are the mother's first birth. In that year, first births constituted 56 percent of all nonmarital births. By 1992, 48 percent of all births to unmarried mothers were the mother's first birth (table B). This proportion typically declines sharply with advancing age of mother. In 1992, more than three-quarters of births to unmarried teenaged mothers compared with about one in five births to unmarried mothers aged 35 and older were the

**Table H. Number and percent distribution of births to unmarried mothers by age: United States, selected years, 1940–92**

Year	All ages	Under 20 years	20–24 years	25 years and over	Percent distribution			
					All ages	Under 20 years	20–24 years	25 years and over
	Number				Percent distribution			
1992 . . . . .	1,224,876	365,039	435,727	424,110	100.0	29.8	35.6	34.6
1990 . . . . .	1,165,384	360,645	403,873	400,866	100.0	30.9	34.7	34.4
1985 . . . . .	828,174	280,308	300,365	247,501	100.0	33.8	36.3	29.9
1980 . . . . .	665,747	271,801	237,265	156,681	100.0	40.8	35.6	23.5
1975 . . . . .	447,900	233,500	134,000	80,400	100.0	52.1	29.9	18.0
1970 . . . . .	398,700	199,900	126,700	72,100	100.0	50.1	31.8	18.1
1965 . . . . .	291,200	129,300	90,700	71,500	100.0	44.4	31.1	24.6
1960 . . . . .	224,300	91,700	68,000	64,600	100.0	40.9	30.3	28.8
1955 . . . . .	183,300	72,800	55,700	54,800	100.0	39.7	30.4	29.9
1950 . . . . .	141,600	59,200	43,100	39,400	100.0	41.8	30.4	27.8
1940 . . . . .	89,500	42,600	27,200	19,700	100.0	47.6	30.4	22.0

Note: Figures by age may not add to totals for years prior to 1980 because of rounding.

mother's first birth. White nonmarital births were more likely to be the mother's first child (52 percent) than were black births (40 percent).

## **Educational attainment**

Nonmarital childbearing has a negative effect on maternal educational attainment. In 1992, 15 percent of married mothers compared with 43 percent of unmarried mothers had not completed high school (table D). Some of this disparity is related to the younger age composition of nonmarital births. However, when the comparison is restricted to mothers aged 20 and older, who would be assumed to have had the opportunity to complete high school, the gap in educational attainment between married and unmarried mothers is greater. For example, 13 percent of married mothers aged 20 and older had less than a high school education compared with 33 percent of unmarried mothers. This type of deficit has a

long-lasting, even permanent, impact on the mother and her family's long-term chances for improved economic and social stability.

As noted above, educational attainment of Hispanic women is generally limited, regardless of age. Thus, the differential by marital status in educational attainment is smallest for Hispanic women: 47 percent of married mothers compared with 65 percent of unmarried mothers had less than a high school education.

The differentials by marital status were more noticeable for white and black non-Hispanic mothers, especially at ages 20 and older. Among white non-Hispanic mothers, there was little difference by marital status in educational level for teenage mothers. Beginning at ages 20–24, the gap by marital status increased sharply. Among black non-Hispanic women, unmarried mothers in every age group were more likely than married mothers to have completed fewer than 12 years of school.



# Health aspects of childbearing by unmarried women

Unmarried mothers tend to have poorer birth outcomes than married mothers because they are disproportionately young, poorly educated, and are more likely to be poor (35). Although there have been dramatic shifts in nonmarital childbearing patterns over the past two decades, these changes have not had any impact on eliminating the disadvantages that unmarried mothers face. As shown above, unmarried mothers are more likely to be teenagers, 30 percent compared with 5 percent of births to married mothers. Unmarried mothers are substantially less likely to complete high school (43 percent) compared with married mothers (15 percent), a disparity that increases with maternal age. As a consequence, unmarried mothers face a higher risk of poverty and poor chances for significant improvement over their lifetime (35–37). The youth, limited education, and high poverty rates of women who become mothers outside of marriage have negative consequences for their children. These mothers often lack the skills and resources to provide for the growth and development of their children.

Studies dating back 25 years or more point to the higher risks of nonmarital childbearing that persist today. Babies born to unmarried mothers of all ages are at greater risk than babies born to married mothers because of higher levels of inadequate prenatal care, higher maternal smoking rates, and higher levels of insufficient maternal weight gain (33,34). Furthermore, the risk of dying in infancy is greater among nonmarital births, particularly in the postneonatal period (38,39). A study published almost two decades ago summarized this problem as follows: “... once outside the hospital, the children are exposed to economic and social conditions that negate [the] advances [in prenatal, obstetrical, and neonatal intensive care] and reduce their later life chances” (39). Little has happened in the last 20 years to modify this bleak assessment (38).

## Prenatal care

Timely and comprehensive prenatal care has been shown to be of great potential value in improving pregnancy and birth outcome. Such care can be especially valuable for women whose resources and sources of emotional and other support are limited. Ideally, prenatal care should include detailed advice on adequate nutrition and weight gain, guidance on avoiding tobacco and alcohol, and careful monitoring of the progress of the pregnancy. This includes screening for such

conditions as anemia and diabetes, which can have negative consequences for pregnancy outcome (40).

For this report, the Kessner Index has been used to measure receipt of prenatal care (41). This is a three-component index that evaluates prenatal care according to the month the care began, the number of visits made for prenatal care, and the length of gestation. Care is classified as adequate, intermediate, or inadequate according to these criteria (see Technical notes).

It is apparent from data in table J for 1992 that married mothers, regardless of race, are more likely than unmarried mothers to receive adequate care. White mothers have higher rates of adequate care than black mothers in each marital status category.

It is widely accepted that receipt of prenatal care is directly associated with the mother’s educational attainment; that is, better-educated mothers have higher rates of adequate prenatal care, which in turn is associated with better outcomes as measured, for example, by low birthweight (42). Data in table K confirm the strong relationship between educational attainment and receipt of prenatal care for married and unmarried women regardless of maternal age. Unmarried mothers were much less likely than married mothers to receive adequate care, regardless of mother’s education. However, within each marital status category, the proportion receiving adequate care increased with increasing maternal education. Thus better-educated mothers were more apt to receive adequate care than their less educated counterparts. These relationships were observed for teenaged mothers as well as for mothers aged 20 years and older.

## Tobacco use

Smoking during pregnancy has repeatedly been shown to be linked with an elevated risk of a low-birthweight outcome (1,32,34,43–46). Additionally, studies have shown that there is no safe level of smoking, that is, births to mothers who smoked even five cigarettes or less per day had higher rates of low birthweight than did babies born to nonsmokers (1).

There is a substantial gap in smoking rates between married and unmarried mothers, a gap that persists for both white and black mothers as well as for every educational attainment group. Overall, 26 percent of unmarried mothers smoked during pregnancy in 1992 compared with 13 percent of married mothers. Married black mothers were least likely to

**Table J. Number of births and percent distribution by adequacy of prenatal care, according to marital status and race of mother: United States, 1992**

Adequacy of care <sup>1</sup>	All races <sup>2</sup>		White		Black	
	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried
	Number					
Number of births . . . . .	2,840,138	1,224,876	2,479,692	721,986	214,664	458,969
	Percent distribution <sup>3</sup>					
Total . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Adequate . . . . .	78.0	51.7	79.2	55.1	69.1	46.9
Intermediate . . . . .	17.8	33.7	16.9	32.7	23.6	35.2
Inadequate . . . . .	4.2	14.6	3.8	12.3	7.3	17.9

<sup>1</sup>Adequacy of care as defined by Kessner Index. See Technical notes.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes races other than white and black.  
<sup>3</sup>Based on births for which all items comprising adequacy of care were reported.

**Table K. Percent of births to mothers with adequate prenatal care by education, age, race, and marital status of mother: United States, 1992**

[Adequate prenatal care is defined by the Kessner Index; see Technical notes]

Age and years of school completed by mother	All races <sup>1</sup>		White		Black	
	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried
Under 20 years <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	57.6	47.4	58.5	51.3	50.4	41.9
0–8 years . . . . .	44.4	38.4	44.7	40.0	40.3	35.4
9–11 years . . . . .	55.3	46.5	56.2	51.0	46.7	40.5
12 years . . . . .	64.2	52.5	65.6	57.1	53.8	46.3
13–15 years . . . . .	67.6	53.7	69.1	57.3	60.9	49.5
16 years or more . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---
20 years and over <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	79.1	53.6	80.4	56.6	70.0	49.2
0–8 years . . . . .	47.5	39.4	47.2	39.3	51.7	38.9
9–11 years . . . . .	60.0	45.5	61.0	50.0	50.2	38.0
12 years . . . . .	77.4	55.5	79.2	60.3	65.0	49.6
13–15 years . . . . .	83.5	62.5	84.9	65.6	74.9	59.2
16 years or more . . . . .	88.6	72.5	89.5	75.6	83.1	67.2

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than white and black.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes births to mothers with educational attainment not reported.

have smoked—9 percent overall—followed by married white mothers (14 percent), unmarried black mothers (16 percent), and unmarried white mothers (34 percent) (table L).

When smoking rates are examined by educational attainment, a clear pattern emerges: married and unmarried mothers with 9–11 years of schooling had the highest smoking rates. This pattern was observed for both teen mothers and older mothers, and for white and black mothers, with only one exception. Smoking rates for unmarried black teen mothers were highest for those with 0–8 years of schooling.

Smoking rates were generally highest for unmarried white women aged 20 years and older, regardless of mother’s educational attainment. The rates for these women ranged from 16 percent for unmarried college graduates to 49 percent for unmarried women with 9–11 years of schooling. Smoking rates were relatively low, 5–6 percent overall, for married and unmarried black teens, as well as for married black women aged 20 years and older (9 percent overall). Rates were considerably higher for unmarried black women aged 20 years and older, 21 percent on the average.

## Maternal weight gain

Many studies have shown the importance of adequate weight gain during pregnancy for optimum pregnancy outcome (1,32–33,45–47). Inadequate weight gain has been associated with elevated risk of low birthweight and preterm delivery, which are both linked to more compromised prospects for the infant’s survival and health.

Guidelines issued in 1990 by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences recommended a weight gain of 25–35 pounds for women of average size. However, young women and black women were advised to gain at the upper end of the guidelines for their height and weight (48).

Unmarried mothers were considerably more likely to gain less than 16 pounds, well below the standard for women of any height/weight (table M). In 1992, 11 percent of unmarried teen mothers and 14 percent of unmarried mothers aged 20 years and older had this minimal weight gain, compared with 8 percent of married mothers in both age groups.

Poor weight gain is more pronounced among older women and among black women regardless of marital status.

**Table L. Percent of mothers who smoked during pregnancy by education, age, marital status, and race of mother: Total of 46 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1992**

Age and years of school completed by mother	Married			Unmarried		
	All races <sup>1</sup>	White	Black	All races <sup>1</sup>	White	Black
All ages <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	13.3	13.9	8.8	25.9	34.0	16.1
0-8 years . . . . .	13.0	13.6	11.2	21.9	26.8	11.5
9-11 years . . . . .	31.1	32.7	19.9	30.3	39.6	19.2
12 years . . . . .	17.5	18.6	9.7	25.6	34.7	15.2
13-15 years . . . . .	10.0	10.6	6.7	20.6	27.5	13.1
16 years or more . . . . .	3.6	3.7	3.2	12.9	15.6	9.5
Under 20 years of age <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	19.3	20.6	4.5	17.8	27.5	5.9
0-8 years . . . . .	21.7	22.3	9.3	18.8	28.0	5.4
9-11 years . . . . .	23.9	25.3	6.3	19.6	30.2	6.9
12 years . . . . .	14.4	15.6	2.6	15.2	23.9	4.1
13-15 years . . . . .	7.4	8.1	*	8.5	14.0	2.1
16 years or more . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---
20 years of age and over <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	12.9	13.5	9.0	29.7	37.1	21.0
0-8 years . . . . .	11.3	11.7	11.6	25.1	25.9	26.4
9-11 years . . . . .	33.7	35.5	23.7	42.2	49.4	33.7
12 years . . . . .	17.7	18.7	10.1	28.5	37.9	18.2
13-15 years . . . . .	10.1	10.6	6.8	21.6	28.7	14.1
16 years or more . . . . .	3.6	3.7	3.2	12.9	15.6	9.5

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than white and black.

<sup>2</sup>Includes births with educational attainment not reported.

NOTE: Excludes data for California, Indiana, New York, and South Dakota, which did not require reporting of tobacco use on the birth certificate.

**Table M. Percent of births to mothers gaining less than 16 pounds during pregnancy by education, age, marital status, and race of mother: Total of 49 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1992**

Age and years of school completed by mother	Married			Unmarried		
	All races <sup>1</sup>	White	Black	All races <sup>1</sup>	White	Black
Under 20 years of age <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	8.1	7.7	12.6	11.4	8.2	15.6
0-8 years . . . . .	12.8	12.4	18.9	14.1	11.5	17.9
9-11 years . . . . .	8.5	8.1	14.0	11.5	8.1	16.1
12 years . . . . .	6.5	6.0	11.0	10.0	7.0	14.1
13-15 years . . . . .	6.1	5.8	9.0	9.0	7.2	11.4
16 years or more . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---
20 years of age and over <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	8.4	7.9	13.6	13.8	11.1	17.4
0-8 years . . . . .	16.3	15.3	21.8	18.7	16.7	24.5
9-11 years . . . . .	13.4	12.7	20.3	16.6	12.8	21.9
12 years . . . . .	9.7	9.2	14.9	13.3	10.4	17.0
13-15 years . . . . .	7.8	7.4	12.3	11.1	9.0	13.6
16 years or more . . . . .	4.9	4.5	9.5	8.7	6.7	12.1

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than white and black.

<sup>2</sup>Includes births to mothers with educational attainment not reported.

NOTE: Excludes data for California, which did not require reporting of weight gain on the birth certificate.

Additionally, minimal weight gains were very frequent among mothers with less than a high school education, the same group with high smoking rates and high rates of inadequate prenatal care. A recent study found that pregnant women were likely to follow advice on weight gain received from their prenatal care provider (47). However, black women and unmarried women were more likely to report receiving advice that did not conform to the standards in effect at the time of the study. It is apparent that appropriate prenatal care with special attention given to adequate nutrition could be useful in improving the weight gain of many pregnant women (49).

## Birthweight

The incidence of low birthweight (weight of less than 2,500 grams) has been directly associated with a number of factors, including maternal nutrition, health, tobacco use, prenatal care, and poverty status (1,33-34,50). These are considered to be critical variables in accounting for variations in low birthweight (LBW). Low birthweight, in turn, is a major predictor of infant morbidity and mortality. The death rate for LBW infants in 1985 was 22 times that of infants weighing at least 2,500 grams (38).

Low birthweight levels for nonmarital births are considerably elevated compared with marital births, 10.4 percent compared with 5.7 percent in 1992. This pattern is observed for births to mothers in all age groups, but is particularly noticeable for births to mothers aged 20 years and older (table N). The LBW rates were 61–133 percent higher among nonmarital compared with marital births to mothers aged 20 years and older. In contrast, marital status has less impact on LBW levels for births to teens. That is, births to teenaged mothers were at generally greater risk of LBW, regardless of marital status.

Low birthweight rates were much higher for black than for white births in each age/marital status category. The lowest rates for black births (to married mothers aged 20–34 years) were comparable to the highest rates for white births (measured for unmarried mothers under age 15 years and ages 35 years and older). Rates of LBW for black births increased sharply beginning with ages 20–24 years. Thus, the racial disparity in LBW rates is greater for older women.

As noted earlier, LBW is associated with such factors as maternal nutrition, smoking during pregnancy, and education. Data in table O show the patterns of LBW rates by maternal smoking status. Mothers who smoked during pregnancy were more likely to give birth to a low-birthweight infant, with a greater differential observed for mothers aged 20 years and

older than for teenaged mothers. Although marital status had relatively little effect on low birthweight rates for teenaged mothers, LBW rates for births to older unmarried women who smoked were noticeably higher than for unmarried nonsmokers. This pattern was observed for both white and black women. However, LBW rates for black births were higher than for white births, regardless of maternal age, marital status, or smoking status.

Educational attainment is another important factor accounting for differences in low birthweight. Rates are generally highest for births to mothers with less than a high school education, and decline steadily thereafter (table P).

Differences by education are apparent for births to married and unmarried women within each age group. Advanced educational attainment is associated with a lower risk of LBW for married and unmarried women, although nonmarital births were at greater risk of low birthweight than births to married women in each age-education-race subgroup.

The racial differential in low birthweight also persists in each age-education-marital status subgroup. For example, the LBW rate for black births to unmarried college graduates was 12.8, nearly twice the rate for white unmarried college graduates (6.8 percent). The causes of this persistent differential need to be explored.

**Table N. Percent low birthweight by age, marital status, and race of mother: United States, 1992**

[Low birthweight includes birthweight of less than 2,500 grams (5 lb 8 oz)]

Race and marital status	All ages	Age of mother								
		Under 15 years	15–17 years	18 years	19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–49 years
All races <sup>1</sup>	7.1	13.2	10.1	9.0	8.5	7.1	6.2	6.5	7.7	8.5
Married	5.7	10.6	8.3	7.4	6.9	5.7	5.1	5.5	6.5	7.5
Unmarried	10.4	13.4	10.6	9.7	9.5	9.2	10.7	12.8	14.0	13.0
White	5.8	10.2	8.3	7.5	7.1	5.8	5.1	5.5	6.5	7.4
Married	5.2	9.7	7.9	7.1	6.5	5.2	4.7	5.0	6.0	6.8
Unmarried	7.9	10.3	8.5	7.7	7.6	7.1	7.8	9.2	10.7	10.8
Black	13.3	15.9	13.7	13.2	12.6	12.2	13.1	14.7	16.2	16.0
Married	10.8	13.8	13.3	12.2	11.4	10.3	10.0	11.0	12.5	13.8
Unmarried	14.5	15.9	13.8	13.3	12.7	12.8	15.6	19.0	20.7	19.1

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than white and black.

**Table O. Percent low birthweight by age, smoking status, marital status, and race of mother: Total of 46 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1992**

[Low birthweight includes birthweight of less than 2,500 grams (5 lb 8 oz)]

Age and smoking status of mother	All races <sup>1</sup>		White		Black	
	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried
Under 20 years <sup>2</sup>	7.6	10.6	7.2	8.4	12.5	13.7
Smoker	10.1	11.4	10.1	10.6	16.4	16.8
Nonsmoker	7.0	10.4	6.5	7.4	12.2	13.4
20 years and over <sup>2</sup>	5.7	11.1	5.2	8.3	10.8	15.0
Smoker	9.4	14.8	8.8	11.0	19.8	23.5
Nonsmoker	5.1	9.4	4.6	6.6	9.8	12.6

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than white and black.

<sup>2</sup>Includes births with smoking status not reported.

NOTE: Excludes data for California, Indiana, New York, and South Dakota, which did not require reporting of tobacco use on the birth certificate.

**Table P. Percent low birthweight by age, education, marital status, and race of mother: United States, 1992**

[Low birthweight includes birthweight of less than 2,500 grams (5 lb 8 oz)]

Age and years of school completed by mother	All races <sup>1</sup>		White		Black	
	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried
Under 20 years of age <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	7.4	10.2	7.0	8.1	12.1	13.4
0–8 years . . . . .	8.0	10.7	7.8	8.5	14.4	15.3
9–11 years . . . . .	7.8	10.4	7.4	8.4	12.6	13.5
12 years . . . . .	6.9	9.4	6.4	7.2	11.4	12.6
13–15 years . . . . .	6.5	8.5	6.0	6.4	10.6	11.5
16 years or more . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---
20 years of age and over <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	5.6	10.5	5.1	7.9	10.7	15.0
0–8 years . . . . .	5.5	7.7	5.3	6.9	10.7	15.6
9–11 years . . . . .	7.3	11.7	6.8	8.7	14.2	17.3
12 years . . . . .	5.9	10.6	5.4	8.0	11.1	14.5
13–15 years . . . . .	5.3	9.7	4.7	7.1	10.0	13.1
16 years or more . . . . .	4.8	8.8	4.4	6.8	9.2	12.8

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than white and black.

<sup>2</sup>Includes births to mothers with educational attainment not reported.

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## Symbols

- - - Data not available
  - . . . Category not applicable
  - Quantity zero
  - 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 or denominator)
-



**Table 1. Birth rates for unmarried women by age of mother: United States, 1940–92, and by age of mother and race, 1940, 1950, and 1955–92**

[Rates are live births to unmarried women per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group]

Race and year	Age of mother									
	15–44 years <sup>1</sup>	15–19 years				20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years <sup>2</sup>
		Total	15–17 years	18–19 years						
All races										
					Reported/inferred <sup>3</sup>					
1992 . . . . .	45.2	44.6	30.4	67.3	68.5	56.5	37.9	18.8	4.1	
1991 . . . . .	45.2	44.8	30.9	65.7	68.0	56.5	38.1	18.0	3.8	
1990 . . . . .	43.8	42.5	29.6	60.7	65.1	56.0	37.6	17.3	3.6	
1989 . . . . .	41.6	40.1	28.7	56.0	61.2	52.8	34.9	16.0	3.4	
1988 . . . . .	38.5	36.4	26.4	51.5	56.0	48.5	32.0	15.0	3.2	
1987 . . . . .	36.0	33.8	24.5	48.9	52.6	44.5	29.6	13.5	2.9	
1986 . . . . .	34.2	32.3	22.8	48.0	49.3	42.2	27.2	12.2	2.7	
1985 . . . . .	32.8	31.4	22.4	45.9	46.5	39.9	25.2	11.6	2.5	
1984 . . . . .	31.0	30.0	21.9	42.5	43.0	37.1	23.3	10.9	2.5	
1983 . . . . .	30.3	29.5	22.0	40.7	41.8	35.5	22.4	10.2	2.6	
1982 . . . . .	30.0	28.7	21.5	39.6	41.5	35.1	21.9	10.0	2.7	
1981 . . . . .	29.5	27.9	20.9	39.0	41.1	34.5	20.8	9.8	2.6	
1980 . . . . .	29.4	27.6	20.6	39.0	40.9	34.0	21.1	9.7	2.6	
					Estimated <sup>4</sup>					
1980 . . . . .	28.4	27.5	20.7	38.7	39.7	31.4	18.5	8.4	2.3	
1979 . . . . .	27.2	26.4	19.9	37.2	37.7	29.9	17.7	8.4	2.3	
1978 . . . . .	25.7	24.9	19.1	35.1	35.3	28.5	16.9	8.2	2.2	
1977 . . . . .	25.6	25.1	19.8	34.6	34.0	27.7	16.9	8.4	2.4	
1976 . . . . .	24.3	23.7	19.0	32.1	31.7	26.8	17.5	9.0	2.5	
1975 . . . . .	24.5	23.9	19.3	32.5	31.2	27.5	17.9	9.1	2.6	
1974 . . . . .	23.9	23.0	18.8	31.2	30.5	27.9	18.4	10.0	2.6	
1973 . . . . .	24.3	22.7	18.7	30.4	31.5	29.6	20.3	10.8	3.0	
1972 . . . . .	24.8	22.8	18.5	30.9	33.2	30.8	22.6	12.0	3.1	
1971 . . . . .	25.5	22.3	17.5	31.7	35.5	34.5	25.2	13.3	3.5	
1970 . . . . .	26.4	22.4	17.1	32.9	38.4	37.0	27.1	13.6	3.5	
1969 . . . . .	24.8	20.4	15.2	30.8	37.3	37.9	27.0	13.5	3.6	
1968 . . . . .	24.3	19.7	14.7	29.6	37.2	38.3	27.8	14.8	3.8	
1967 . . . . .	23.7	18.5	13.8	27.6	38.1	41.1	28.9	15.3	4.0	
1966 . . . . .	23.3	17.5	13.1	25.6	39.0	45.1	32.7	16.3	4.1	
1965 . . . . .	23.4	16.7	---	---	39.6	49.1	37.2	17.4	4.5	
1964 . . . . .	23.0	15.9	---	---	39.5	49.9	36.9	16.3	4.4	
1963 . . . . .	22.5	15.3	---	---	39.9	48.8	33.1	16.1	4.3	
1962 . . . . .	21.9	14.8	---	---	40.7	46.6	29.6	15.6	4.1	
1961 . . . . .	22.7	16.0	---	---	41.4	46.4	28.2	15.4	3.9	
1960 . . . . .	21.6	15.3	---	---	39.7	45.1	27.8	14.1	3.6	
1959 . . . . .	21.9	15.5	---	---	40.2	44.1	28.1	14.1	3.3	
1958 . . . . .	21.2	15.3	---	---	38.2	40.5	27.5	13.3	3.2	
1957 . . . . .	21.0	15.8	---	---	37.3	36.8	26.8	12.1	3.1	
1956 . . . . .	20.4	15.6	---	---	36.4	35.6	24.6	11.1	2.8	
1955 . . . . .	19.3	15.1	---	---	33.5	33.5	22.0	10.5	2.7	
1954 . . . . .	18.7	14.9	---	---	31.4	31.0	20.4	10.3	2.5	
1953 . . . . .	16.9	13.9	---	---	28.0	27.6	17.3	9.0	2.4	
1952 . . . . .	15.8	13.5	---	---	25.4	24.8	15.7	8.2	1.9	
1951 . . . . .	15.1	13.2	---	---	23.2	22.8	14.6	7.6	2.2	
1950 . . . . .	14.1	12.6	---	---	21.3	19.9	13.3	7.2	2.0	
1949 . . . . .	13.3	12.0	---	---	21.0	18.0	11.4	6.8	1.9	
1948 . . . . .	12.5	11.4	---	---	19.8	16.4	10.0	5.8	1.6	
1947 . . . . .	12.1	11.0	---	---	18.9	15.7	9.2	5.6	1.8	
1946 . . . . .	10.9	9.5	---	---	17.3	15.6	7.3	4.4	1.8	
1945 . . . . .	10.1	9.5	---	---	15.3	12.1	7.1	4.1	1.6	
1944 . . . . .	9.0	8.8	---	---	13.1	10.1	7.0	4.0	1.3	
1943 . . . . .	8.3	8.4	---	---	11.4	8.8	6.7	3.8	1.3	
1942 . . . . .	8.0	8.2	---	---	11.0	8.4	6.3	3.8	1.2	
1941 . . . . .	7.8	8.0	---	---	10.5	7.8	6.0	3.7	1.4	
1940 . . . . .	7.1	7.4	---	---	9.5	7.2	5.1	3.4	1.2	

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Birth rates for unmarried women by age of mother: United States, 1940–92, and by age of mother and race, 1940, 1950, and 1955–92—Con.**

[Rates are live births to unmarried women per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group]

Race and year	Age of mother								
	15–44 years <sup>1</sup>	15–19 years			20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years <sup>2</sup>
		Total	15–17 years	18–19 years					
White		Reported/inferred <sup>3</sup>							
Race of mother:									
1992 . . . . .	35.2	33.0	21.6	51.5	52.7	45.4	31.5	16.2	3.6
1991 . . . . .	34.6	32.8	21.8	49.6	51.5	44.6	31.1	15.2	3.2
1990 . . . . .	32.9	30.6	20.4	44.9	48.2	43.0	29.9	14.5	3.2
1989 . . . . .	30.2	28.9	19.3	40.2	43.8	39.1	26.8	13.1	2.9
1988 . . . . .	27.4	25.3	17.6	36.8	39.2	35.4	24.2	12.1	2.7
1987 . . . . .	25.3	23.2	16.2	34.5	36.6	32.0	22.3	10.7	2.4
1986 . . . . .	23.9	21.8	14.9	33.5	34.2	30.5	20.1	9.7	2.2
1985 . . . . .	22.5	20.8	14.5	31.2	31.7	28.5	18.4	9.0	2.0
1984 . . . . .	20.6	19.3	13.7	27.9	28.5	25.5	16.8	8.4	2.0
1983 . . . . .	19.8	18.7	13.6	26.4	27.1	23.8	15.9	7.8	2.0
1982 . . . . .	19.3	18.0	13.1	25.3	26.5	23.1	15.3	7.4	2.1
1981 . . . . .	18.6	17.2	12.6	24.6	25.8	22.3	14.2	7.2	1.9
1980 . . . . .	18.1	16.5	12.0	24.1	25.1	21.5	14.1	7.1	1.8
Race of child:									
Estimated <sup>4</sup>									
1980 . . . . .	16.2	15.9	11.7	22.8	22.4	17.3	10.5	5.3	1.4
1979 . . . . .	14.9	14.6	10.8	21.0	20.3	15.9	10.0	5.1	1.4
1978 . . . . .	13.7	13.6	10.3	19.3	18.1	14.8	9.4	4.8	1.3
1977 . . . . .	13.5	13.4	10.5	18.7	17.4	14.4	9.3	4.9	1.4
1976 . . . . .	12.6	12.3	9.7	16.9	15.8	14.0	10.1	5.5	1.4
1975 . . . . .	12.4	12.0	9.6	16.5	15.5	14.8	9.8	5.4	1.5
1974 . . . . .	11.7	11.0	8.8	15.3	15.0	14.7	9.5	5.5	1.5
1973 . . . . .	11.8	10.6	8.4	14.9	15.5	15.9	10.6	5.9	1.7
1972 . . . . .	11.9	10.4	8.0	15.1	16.6	16.5	12.1	6.5	1.6
1971 . . . . .	12.5	10.3	7.4	15.8	18.7	18.5	13.2	7.2	1.9
1970 . . . . .	13.9	10.9	7.5	17.6	22.5	21.1	14.2	7.6	2.0
1969 . . . . .	13.4	9.9	6.6	16.6	23.0	22.5	15.1	7.6	2.0
35–44 years									
1968 . . . . .	13.1	9.7	6.2	16.6	23.0	22.1	15.0	4.7	
1967 . . . . .	12.5	8.9	5.6	15.3	23.0	22.7	14.0	4.7	
1966 . . . . .	11.9	8.5	5.4	14.1	22.6	23.4	15.7	4.9	
1965 . . . . .	11.6	7.9	---	---	22.0	24.3	16.6	4.9	
1964 . . . . .	11.0	7.4	---	---	21.1	24.0	15.9	4.8	
1963 . . . . .	10.5	7.0	---	---	20.7	21.9	14.2	4.6	
1962 . . . . .	9.8	6.5	---	---	19.9	19.8	12.6	4.3	
1961 . . . . .	10.0	7.1	---	---	19.7	19.4	11.3	4.2	
1960 . . . . .	9.2	6.6	---	---	18.2	18.2	10.8	3.9	
1959 . . . . .	9.2	6.5	---	---	18.3	17.6	10.7	3.6	
1958 . . . . .	8.8	6.3	---	---	17.3	15.8	10.8	3.4	
1957 . . . . .	8.6	6.4	---	---	16.6	14.6	10.5	3.0	
1956 . . . . .	8.3	6.2	---	---	16.3	14.0	9.2	3.0	
1955 . . . . .	7.9	6.0	---	---	15.0	13.3	8.6	2.8	
1950 . . . . .	6.1	5.1	---	---	10.0	8.7	5.9	2.0	
1940 . . . . .	3.6	3.3	---	---	5.7	4.0	2.5	1.2	

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Birth rates for unmarried women by age of mother: United States, 1940–92, and by age of mother and race, 1940, 1950, and 1955–92—Con.**

[Rates are live births to unmarried women per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group]

Race and year	Age of mother								
	15–44 years <sup>1</sup>	15–19 years			20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years <sup>2</sup>
		Total	15–17 years	18–19 years					
All other		Reported/inferred <sup>3</sup>							
Race of mother:									
1992 . . . . .	76.1	87.9	64.2	123.9	121.2	86.9	53.6	25.4	5.7
1991 . . . . .	78.8	90.3	66.3	125.0	124.4	90.1	55.8	25.1	5.7
1990 . . . . .	79.7	88.3	65.0	120.6	124.3	94.3	57.8	24.6	5.2
1989 . . . . .	80.7	87.8	65.6	119.5	123.5	94.7	57.9	24.3	5.1
1988 . . . . .	77.3	81.6	61.9	111.8	116.7	89.9	54.9	23.5	5.0
1987 . . . . .	74.3	78.0	59.4	107.0	110.1	85.0	51.6	22.2	4.9
1986 . . . . .	71.4	76.6	57.4	106.3	104.0	78.5	48.5	20.1	4.6
1985 . . . . .	70.1	76.5	57.6	104.7	101.0	74.4	46.4	20.0	4.4
1984 . . . . .	68.8	76.1	58.0	102.2	97.5	72.7	43.0	19.3	4.4
1983 . . . . .	69.9	76.4	59.1	101.3	97.8	73.8	42.5	18.9	4.7
1982 . . . . .	71.5	76.7	59.1	103.0	100.1	75.4	42.4	19.2	5.1
1981 . . . . .	72.8	76.7	58.9	104.3	101.6	75.9	43.5	18.7	5.5
1980 . . . . .	75.2	80.2	62.1	109.3	103.5	76.4	45.2	18.5	5.4
Race of child:									
		Estimated <sup>4</sup>							
1980 . . . . .	78.0	83.0	64.0	113.4	108.2	79.1	46.2	18.5	5.3
1979 . . . . .	78.2	83.9	64.8	115.3	107.1	77.7	44.8	19.1	5.7
1978 . . . . .	76.5	81.2	63.2	111.6	104.9	76.4	43.6	18.2	5.6
1977 . . . . .	77.4	84.0	67.2	112.7	103.1	74.4	43.7	18.5	6.6
1976 . . . . .	76.4	82.5	67.5	108.9	101.1	74.0	43.4	18.7	6.9
1975 . . . . .	79.0	86.3	70.7	114.3	102.1	73.2	47.9	20.0	6.9
1974 . . . . .	80.3	87.3	73.2	113.4	103.0	77.0	50.9	23.2	6.6
1973 . . . . .	83.2	88.5	75.6	112.8	107.8	81.0	55.8	26.2	7.2
1972 . . . . .	86.2	91.8	77.6	119.3	112.4	83.3	55.7	29.0	8.2
1971 . . . . .	90.2	92.0	75.4	125.4	120.6	92.6	65.3	32.2	10.4
1970 . . . . .	89.9	90.8	73.3	126.5	121.0	93.8	69.8	32.0	10.7
1969 . . . . .	84.8	84.2	67.3	118.9	115.4	93.9	69.0	33.3	10.4
									35–44 years
1968 . . . . .	85.1	82.1	66.2	115.4	116.4	100.0	75.8	24.6	
1967 . . . . .	88.3	80.0	64.1	114.5	126.2	113.5	92.1	28.4	
1966 . . . . .	92.1	77.4	61.2	113.3	137.0	138.0	113.3	33.3	
1965 . . . . .	97.4	77.1	---	---	147.8	161.0	131.9	38.7	
1964 . . . . .	97.2	75.5	---	---	158.2	164.9	127.0	34.4	
1963 . . . . .	97.2	75.3	---	---	156.3	168.9	120.8	34.4	
1962 . . . . .	97.6	75.5	---	---	158.5	171.3	113.2	35.5	
1961 . . . . .	101.0	78.8	---	---	165.8	171.3	110.0	37.4	
1960 . . . . .	98.3	76.5	---	---	166.5	171.8	104.0	35.6	
1959 . . . . .	100.8	80.8	---	---	167.8	168.0	106.5	34.9	
1958 . . . . .	97.8	80.4	---	---	153.2	161.2	110.5	32.5	
1957 . . . . .	95.3	81.4	---	---	147.7	142.6	115.1	30.3	
1956 . . . . .	92.1	79.6	---	---	143.5	132.7	113.7	27.0	
1955 . . . . .	87.2	77.6	---	---	133.0	125.2	100.9	25.3	
1950 . . . . .	71.2	68.5	---	---	105.4	94.2	63.5	20.0	
1940 . . . . .	35.6	42.5	---	---	46.1	32.5	23.4	9.3	

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Birth rates for unmarried women by age of mother: United States, 1940–92, and by age of mother and race, 1940, 1950, and 1955–92—Con.**

[Rates are live births to unmarried women per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group]

Race and year	Age of mother								
	15–44 years <sup>1</sup>	15–19 years			20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years <sup>2</sup>
		Total	15–17 years	18–19 years					
Black <sup>5</sup>		Reported/inferred <sup>3</sup>							
Race of mother:									
1992 . . . . .	86.5	105.9	78.0	147.8	144.3	98.2	57.7	25.8	5.4
1991 . . . . .	89.5	108.5	80.4	148.7	147.5	100.9	60.1	25.6	5.4
1990 . . . . .	90.5	106.0	78.8	143.7	144.8	105.3	61.5	25.5	5.1
1989 . . . . .	90.7	104.5	78.9	140.9	142.4	102.9	60.5	24.9	5.0
1988 . . . . .	86.5	96.1	73.5	130.5	133.6	97.2	57.4	24.1	5.0
1987 . . . . .	82.6	90.9	69.9	123.0	126.1	91.6	53.1	22.4	4.7
1986 . . . . .	79.0	88.5	67.0	121.1	118.0	84.6	50.0	20.6	4.4
1985 . . . . .	77.0	87.6	66.8	117.9	113.1	79.3	47.5	20.4	4.3
1984 . . . . .	75.2	86.1	66.5	113.6	107.9	77.8	43.8	19.4	4.3
1983 . . . . .	76.2	85.5	66.8	111.9	107.2	79.7	43.8	19.4	4.8
1982 . . . . .	77.9	85.1	66.3	112.7	109.3	82.7	44.1	19.5	5.2
1981 . . . . .	79.4	85.0	65.9	114.2	110.7	83.1	45.5	19.6	5.6
1980 . . . . .	81.1	87.9	68.8	118.2	112.3	81.4	46.7	19.0	5.5
Race of child:									
		Estimated <sup>4</sup>							
1980 . . . . .	83.2	90.3	70.6	121.8	116.0	82.9	47.0	18.5	5.5
1979 . . . . .	83.0	91.0	71.0	123.3	114.1	80.0	44.8	19.3	5.9
1978 . . . . .	81.1	87.9	68.8	119.6	111.4	79.6	43.9	18.5	6.2
1977 . . . . .	82.6	90.9	73.0	121.7	110.1	78.6	45.7	19.0	6.6
1976 . . . . .	81.6	89.7	73.5	117.9	107.2	78.0	45.0	19.2	7.0
1975 . . . . .	84.2	93.5	76.8	123.8	108.0	75.7	50.0	20.5	7.2
1974 . . . . .	85.5	93.8	78.6	122.2	109.8	80.3	51.8	24.3	6.7
1973 . . . . .	88.6	94.9	81.2	120.5	116.0	84.5	57.8	27.6	7.7
1972 . . . . .	91.6	98.2	82.8	128.2	121.2	88.3	57.4	30.4	8.5
1971 . . . . .	96.1	98.6	80.7	135.2	130.6	99.6	68.6	32.7	10.1
1970 . . . . .	95.5	96.9	77.9	136.4	131.5	100.9	71.8	32.9	10.4
1969 . . . . .	90.6	90.3	72.0	128.4	125.3	99.5	70.1	34.3	10.1

NOTE: Rates for 1981–89 have been revised and differ, therefore, from rates published in *Vital Statistics of the United States*, Vol. I, Natality, for 1991 and earlier years; see Technical notes.

<sup>1</sup>Rates computed by relating births to unmarried women, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women aged 15–44 years.

<sup>2</sup>Rates computed by relating births to unmarried women aged 40 and over to unmarried women aged 40–44 years. Rates by race for years prior to 1969 are computed by relating births to unmarried women aged 35 years and over to unmarried women aged 35–44 years.

<sup>3</sup>Data for States in which marital status was not reported have been inferred from other items on the birth certificate and included with data from the reporting States; see Technical notes.

<sup>4</sup>Births to unmarried women are estimated for the United States from data for registration areas in which marital status of mother was reported; see Technical notes.

<sup>5</sup>Data also included in “all other” group.

**Table 2. First birth rates for unmarried women by age and race of mother, United States, 1980–92**

[Rates are first live births per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group]

Race and year	Age of mother								
	15–44 years <sup>1</sup>	15–19 years			20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years <sup>2</sup>
		Total	15–17 years	18–19 years					
<b>All races<sup>3</sup></b>									
1992 . . . . .	21.6	33.8	25.9	46.4	30.8	15.9	8.7	4.0	0.9
1991 . . . . .	21.7	34.1	26.4	45.7	30.9	15.9	8.7	3.9	0.8
1990 . . . . .	21.2	32.5	25.3	42.6	29.5	15.9	8.7	3.8	0.7
1989 . . . . .	20.5	31.0	24.7	39.8	27.7	15.0	8.3	3.5	0.7
1988 . . . . .	19.2	28.4	22.9	36.9	25.5	13.9	7.7	3.3	0.6
1987 . . . . .	18.4	26.7	21.5	35.4	24.6	13.0	7.3	3.0	0.6
1986 . . . . .	17.7	25.7	20.1	34.9	23.5	12.3	6.6	2.7	0.5
1985 . . . . .	17.2	25.0	19.7	33.5	22.2	11.6	6.1	2.4	0.4
1984 . . . . .	16.4	23.9	19.3	31.0	20.5	10.7	5.6	2.2	0.4
1983 . . . . .	16.2	23.6	19.4	29.9	19.8	10.1	5.2	2.0	0.3
1982 . . . . .	16.3	22.9	18.9	29.0	19.8	10.1	5.0	1.8	0.3
1981 . . . . .	16.3	22.4	18.4	28.7	19.7	10.0	4.6	1.6	0.3
1980 . . . . .	16.6	22.3	18.3	28.8	19.8	9.7	4.6	1.5	0.3
<b>White</b>									
1992 . . . . .	18.4	27.0	19.4	39.2	26.9	14.3	8.3	4.0	0.9
1991 . . . . .	18.4	27.0	19.6	38.1	26.6	14.2	8.2	3.8	0.8
1990 . . . . .	17.6	25.2	18.4	34.7	24.9	13.9	8.1	3.8	0.7
1989 . . . . .	16.4	23.3	17.5	31.4	22.6	12.7	7.5	3.5	0.7
1988 . . . . .	15.1	21.2	16.0	28.9	20.3	11.6	7.0	3.2	0.6
1987 . . . . .	14.2	19.7	14.9	27.4	19.4	10.8	6.6	2.9	0.5
1986 . . . . .	13.6	18.5	13.7	26.7	18.4	10.3	6.0	2.6	0.5
1985 . . . . .	13.0	17.7	13.4	24.9	17.2	9.7	5.5	2.3	0.4
1984 . . . . .	12.0	16.4	12.6	22.3	15.4	8.7	5.0	2.1	0.3
1983 . . . . .	11.7	16.0	12.6	21.2	14.7	8.1	4.6	1.8	0.3
1982 . . . . .	11.7	15.5	12.1	20.4	14.7	8.1	4.4	1.7	0.3
1981 . . . . .	11.5	14.9	11.7	20.0	14.5	7.9	3.9	1.5	0.2
1980 . . . . .	11.4	14.3	11.2	19.7	14.3	7.7	3.7	1.3	0.3
<b>Black</b>									
1992 . . . . .	34.9	70.5	61.5	84.2	51.2	22.3	9.9	3.6	0.7
1991 . . . . .	36.4	72.6	63.3	85.9	53.0	22.5	10.2	3.7	0.8
1990 . . . . .	37.4	71.9	62.3	84.9	52.3	23.9	10.5	3.6	0.7
1989 . . . . .	38.7	72.6	63.4	85.8	52.4	23.7	10.5	3.6	0.7
1988 . . . . .	37.6	67.9	59.8	80.3	50.2	22.5	9.8	3.5	0.7
1987 . . . . .	36.8	65.3	57.6	77.0	48.9	21.3	9.3	3.2	0.6
1986 . . . . .	35.9	64.2	55.7	76.9	47.1	19.6	8.6	2.9	0.5
1985 . . . . .	35.6	63.8	55.5	75.8	45.2	18.3	7.9	2.8	0.5
1984 . . . . .	35.3	63.0	55.4	73.6	43.3	17.7	7.4	2.6	0.5
1983 . . . . .	36.0	62.9	55.8	73.0	42.2	17.5	7.1	2.5	0.4
1982 . . . . .	36.9	62.4	55.2	72.8	42.7	17.9	7.1	2.3	0.4
1981 . . . . .	38.4	62.4	55.0	73.7	43.4	18.2	7.1	2.2	0.5
1980 . . . . .	40.1	65.3	58.1	76.8	44.6	17.3	7.3	2.0	0.4

<sup>1</sup>Rates computed by relating first births to unmarried women, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women aged 15–44 years.<sup>2</sup>Rates computed by relating first births to unmarried women aged 40 and over to unmarried women aged 40–44 years.<sup>3</sup>Includes races other than white and black.

**Table 3. Birth rates for unmarried women by age and race of mother: United States and each State, 1990**

[Rates per 1,000 unmarried women residing in area for specified group]

State <sup>1</sup> and race of mother	15-44 years <sup>2</sup>	Age of mother							
		15-19 years			20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years <sup>3</sup>
		Total	15-17 years	18-19 years					
United States	43.8	42.5	29.6	60.7	65.1	56.0	37.6	17.3	3.6
White	32.9	30.6	20.4	44.9	48.2	43.0	29.9	14.5	3.2
Black	90.5	106.0	78.8	143.7	144.8	105.3	61.5	25.5	5.1
Alabama	45.6	48.1	35.9	65.8	73.0	54.4	28.3	12.7	2.3
White	19.6	21.0	15.7	28.6	29.2	24.4	12.9	5.6	*
Black	86.3	101.0	75.9	136.0	145.5	92.1	46.4	21.3	4.6
Alaska	56.7	45.5	25.0	84.2	104.1	83.0	49.6	24.0	4.7
White	35.2	32.2	17.0	61.3	66.2	47.8	30.5	15.8	*
Black	66.7	57.3	*	81.3	101.0	84.8	71.4	*	*
Arizona	57.5	57.8	41.2	81.5	88.6	74.2	45.4	20.6	4.4
White	50.4	52.8	38.1	73.6	78.3	63.7	38.5	17.4	3.5
Black	96.2	110.0	85.6	146.1	152.8	119.7	58.5	22.5	*
Arkansas	50.2	52.5	37.8	76.0	85.8	59.2	29.6	11.4	2.8
White	30.7	30.5	20.7	46.8	52.8	39.7	20.2	7.0	1.8
Black	103.3	126.7	97.9	170.2	172.5	99.7	48.8	21.8	6.3
California	56.4	49.7	34.4	71.4	81.3	74.7	57.2	29.5	7.2
White	57.8	50.6	34.9	72.8	84.6	76.9	57.9	30.5	7.5
Black	83.2	92.0	64.4	130.8	129.5	104.3	71.1	29.1	5.7
Colorado	31.1	37.7	27.0	53.0	50.0	36.4	19.6	9.3	2.2
White	28.2	34.7	24.8	48.8	44.9	32.6	18.0	8.7	2.0
Black	77.7	96.8	70.4	135.1	140.0	85.5	42.8	18.1	*
Connecticut	35.0	32.1	24.0	42.4	46.4	44.2	37.5	19.2	4.0
White	26.8	23.3	17.2	31.0	34.8	33.7	31.0	18.0	3.9
Black	85.2	100.2	77.6	128.2	128.2	98.3	66.2	23.4	*
Delaware	41.5	44.2	34.5	55.2	59.5	49.7	29.4	15.0	*
White	24.5	24.9	18.9	31.3	33.6	29.7	19.6	12.7	*
Black	92.5	117.1	90.7	148.3	152.5	99.3	50.0	20.7	*
District of Columbia	64.4	89.7	87.0	91.8	86.8	75.2	55.7	20.6	5.1
White	8.7	9.5	17.8	6.5	9.1	9.1	10.4	8.2	*
Black	90.6	119.4	99.2	140.9	138.8	112.1	74.4	24.2	5.8
Florida	48.8	52.1	37.6	72.9	74.7	58.7	40.5	18.8	5.0
White	31.6	31.1	20.8	45.7	48.1	40.9	28.6	13.9	3.9
Black	111.7	131.8	100.5	177.0	175.5	120.7	78.8	35.8	9.6
Georgia	50.2	55.7	40.2	78.2	82.8	55.9	32.9	12.6	2.2
White	24.2	26.4	17.9	39.1	39.0	27.7	16.9	6.4	1.2
Black	89.6	112.8	84.7	152.0	151.9	91.9	51.6	19.9	3.7
Hawaii	42.5	46.5	29.2	73.4	67.8	48.7	30.9	16.0	3.5
White	23.3	20.6	11.2	35.3	35.3	29.1	27.9	15.5	*
Black	52.9	38.3	*	*	103.0	47.2	*	*	*
Idaho	31.4	26.2	17.1	40.8	56.7	46.6	25.6	13.2	3.5
White	30.8	25.5	16.8	39.4	56.3	46.0	25.2	12.1	3.6
Black	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Illinois	47.6	52.8	36.8	75.3	69.8	54.6	36.1	15.3	3.4
White	29.1	31.0	19.9	46.5	42.4	33.8	22.6	9.9	2.6
Black	109.8	143.8	106.5	196.4	181.8	116.7	68.2	28.5	5.8
Indiana	38.5	41.7	29.5	58.2	60.9	45.2	23.4	9.3	1.8
White	30.6	33.0	22.8	46.8	47.9	36.3	18.6	7.2	1.6
Black	91.9	120.2	89.5	164.2	166.1	92.9	45.5	19.4	3.5
Iowa	31.3	29.7	17.8	45.5	48.3	42.0	23.1	8.2	1.6
White	29.1	27.5	16.2	42.6	45.7	38.9	21.3	7.6	1.5
Black	96.5	115.8	85.9	151.5	136.3	114.4	61.4	*	*
Kansas	36.3	37.9	24.7	57.0	58.7	42.1	23.5	8.4	2.0
White	29.9	31.3	19.8	48.0	48.3	34.6	19.7	7.3	1.6
Black	98.6	126.1	90.0	177.4	171.5	100.2	49.2	18.3	*

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Birth rates for unmarried women by age and race of mother: United States and each State, 1990—Con.**

[Rates per 1,000 unmarried women residing in area for specified group]

State <sup>1</sup> and race of mother	Age of mother									
	15–44 years <sup>2</sup>	15–19 years							35–39 years	40–44 years <sup>3</sup>
		Total	15–17 years	18–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years			
Kentucky	35.8	38.3	25.9	57.1	61.3	40.9	20.8	8.5	1.8	
White	29.8	31.2	20.6	47.6	50.3	34.9	17.5	7.6	1.8	
Black	80.3	110.6	83.3	147.6	148.3	74.6	36.8	13.6	*	
Louisiana	56.7	57.5	42.9	78.9	90.6	68.2	39.7	17.8	3.2	
White	25.3	26.0	18.2	37.6	38.0	31.1	19.0	9.1	1.6	
Black	95.8	108.0	83.6	141.9	157.1	104.7	59.6	26.5	5.2	
Maine	31.5	32.8	20.3	50.2	51.7	39.9	21.1	8.4	*	
White	31.1	32.6	20.2	49.8	51.4	39.1	20.8	8.1	*	
Black	62.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Maryland	41.8	43.6	29.5	62.3	62.5	50.6	34.6	13.6	2.3	
White	24.9	24.4	14.8	37.5	35.9	30.8	22.5	9.7	1.8	
Black	71.0	89.0	65.2	119.2	116.3	79.4	49.4	18.1	2.9	
Massachusetts	29.3	30.0	22.2	38.2	38.5	35.5	27.2	12.9	3.3	
White	23.7	25.5	18.8	32.8	31.5	27.6	20.5	9.7	2.5	
Black	92.5	86.9	64.6	112.9	127.8	120.3	88.4	40.0	10.9	
Michigan	37.1	40.7	28.7	57.1	54.8	44.4	27.3	11.5	1.9	
White	21.2	22.9	15.0	33.5	31.3	24.6	15.5	6.5	1.2	
Black	92.2	120.3	89.0	164.1	152.2	103.4	57.3	24.2	3.9	
Minnesota	30.3	29.8	18.2	45.4	44.9	37.5	24.0	10.4	2.6	
White	25.1	24.5	14.0	38.4	37.2	31.2	20.4	8.7	2.1	
Black	114.5	151.3	113.4	199.2	179.9	114.0	60.2	28.7	*	
Mississippi	62.0	62.6	48.2	82.8	101.2	71.5	37.7	15.8	3.1	
White	22.3	21.4	15.9	29.1	36.2	29.2	15.1	5.4	*	
Black	97.8	109.4	85.3	142.9	158.9	99.6	52.7	23.7	5.0	
Missouri	43.6	46.7	33.0	66.0	68.3	52.4	29.8	12.8	2.3	
White	29.1	31.1	20.4	46.1	44.4	35.5	20.1	8.6	1.6	
Black	109.4	142.2	110.9	185.5	187.9	114.3	61.5	26.8	5.4	
Montana	37.9	34.8	20.0	59.6	65.0	57.1	30.1	11.0	*	
White	27.4	26.0	15.3	43.8	47.9	38.6	22.2	7.8	*	
Black	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Nebraska	33.2	31.7	20.2	47.8	52.9	41.5	23.4	9.3	2.2	
White	27.3	25.8	15.6	40.0	43.4	35.2	18.9	8.1	2.1	
Black	99.8	132.7	99.4	180.5	176.4	90.0	55.9	*	*	
Nevada	43.7	45.2	30.6	67.7	72.1	57.5	37.8	14.1	2.7	
White	37.6	37.5	24.6	57.3	62.5	50.7	34.0	13.4	2.5	
Black	99.0	121.7	88.4	174.1	157.6	108.8	67.7	19.7	*	
New Hampshire	25.5	24.4	15.0	35.8	36.4	35.0	22.1	9.3	*	
White	25.5	24.5	15.0	36.1	36.7	34.9	22.3	9.1	*	
Black	40.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
New Jersey	33.9	33.6	21.8	50.2	47.0	42.6	30.5	13.6	3.4	
White	22.2	20.3	12.3	31.6	29.6	28.4	22.6	11.5	3.1	
Black	79.4	95.5	67.5	132.5	124.0	92.4	54.0	20.0	4.2	
New Mexico	59.6	58.5	39.2	90.2	101.8	76.4	42.8	21.9	5.2	
White	50.2	53.1	36.3	80.5	86.3	62.2	32.5	17.1	3.6	
Black	74.3	92.1	70.3	124.5	122.3	83.0	*	*	*	
New York	44.5	36.2	25.1	50.3	57.7	61.8	51.5	26.6	6.1	
White	33.8	27.6	18.3	39.2	44.1	46.3	39.0	20.8	4.9	
Black	81.5	73.1	52.9	100.6	114.1	109.0	84.5	41.9	9.4	
North Carolina	44.5	48.8	36.6	65.1	69.4	51.0	27.1	10.2	1.7	
White	22.8	25.6	19.7	33.5	33.4	25.5	15.1	5.9	1.2	
Black	85.3	102.7	76.3	137.4	141.3	91.0	44.2	16.6	2.6	
North Dakota	29.3	25.4	13.4	42.8	42.8	38.6	27.8	10.3	*	
White	21.9	19.3	9.7	33.0	32.4	28.6	19.8	6.3	*	
Black	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Ohio	40.8	44.9	29.5	66.2	63.9	48.1	26.8	10.6	1.7	
White	29.5	32.7	20.3	49.9	45.8	34.5	18.2	7.4	1.4	
Black	95.9	127.3	92.1	174.5	170.9	101.8	55.6	22.1	3.0	
Oklahoma	41.2	41.0	27.9	61.5	71.9	52.3	29.2	9.2	2.2	
White	31.2	31.6	21.2	47.8	53.3	41.8	21.4	7.2	1.9	
Black	91.8	109.0	78.9	149.6	164.1	88.6	56.5	15.7	*	
Oregon	38.5	38.9	25.5	59.2	63.3	54.5	31.3	11.8	2.3	
White	36.9	37.4	24.0	58.0	61.4	53.0	30.1	11.3	2.2	
Black	89.1	105.8	80.2	146.8	165.7	91.4	58.0	*	*	

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Birth rates for unmarried women by age and race of mother: United States and each State, 1990—Con.**

[Rates per 1,000 unmarried women residing in area for specified group]

State <sup>1</sup> and race of mother	Age of mother								
	15–44 years <sup>2</sup>	15–19 years							40–44 years <sup>3</sup>
		Total	15–17 years	18–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	
Pennsylvania	38.6	37.2	25.9	51.4	54.7	52.2	32.9	13.2	2.7
White	27.2	26.4	17.3	37.9	39.0	35.5	22.7	9.7	2.2
Black	103.3	124.3	95.0	161.6	164.1	127.4	71.9	27.3	4.7
Rhode Island	33.3	36.3	28.8	43.8	45.0	42.7	24.0	11.4	2.0
White	27.6	30.8	24.0	37.5	36.9	35.2	19.0	9.7	*
Black	104.0	117.2	94.5	143.5	161.8	112.8	72.1	32.0	*
South Carolina	50.6	53.6	39.1	73.2	79.0	58.3	33.0	13.7	2.2
White	24.3	26.8	19.5	36.6	35.1	28.7	15.9	7.1	1.1
Black	86.5	96.7	70.4	133.2	142.6	91.5	51.2	21.1	3.6
South Dakota	39.8	33.7	20.3	53.8	61.7	56.1	36.4	14.7	*
White	24.1	21.8	12.8	34.8	38.0	31.6	19.8	7.6	*
Black	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tennessee	44.8	47.6	33.4	68.4	75.6	52.2	30.0	12.0	2.4
White	27.3	28.6	19.0	43.1	46.6	32.6	17.4	7.0	1.6
Black	94.0	118.3	90.1	155.9	157.8	95.8	56.4	23.0	4.8
Texas	31.4	32.6	23.9	46.0	50.3	36.7	21.3	9.6	2.1
White	24.1	23.7	17.1	33.8	38.1	29.7	18.0	8.4	2.0
Black	67.0	87.7	66.7	117.8	113.0	65.7	33.6	14.0	2.4
Utah	29.7	25.1	17.1	37.6	46.3	43.1	27.4	10.0	3.0
White	27.7	24.2	16.5	36.1	43.1	39.0	25.1	8.9	2.6
Black	83.7	99.5	92.8	108.1	117.0	111.6	*	*	*
Vermont	26.4	24.6	16.2	34.0	40.6	36.3	19.6	10.6	*
White	26.6	24.6	16.3	34.1	40.8	36.6	19.9	10.7	*
Black	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Virginia	38.3	37.9	26.2	53.2	57.4	47.9	30.0	12.6	2.5
White	22.9	21.9	13.8	32.8	33.6	29.0	19.7	9.0	1.8
Black	81.9	93.6	70.7	121.6	131.9	94.4	51.4	20.5	3.7
Washington	36.6	37.9	24.9	56.6	58.8	47.3	29.1	12.0	2.4
White	34.1	35.9	23.2	54.5	55.2	44.5	27.0	10.6	2.2
Black	72.0	85.3	61.5	118.9	125.9	79.1	43.5	21.8	*
West Virginia	34.2	33.3	22.6	49.5	58.3	45.4	22.6	8.7	2.2
White	32.6	32.1	21.9	47.6	55.5	42.9	21.5	7.8	2.1
Black	67.0	70.9	46.6	101.1	121.4	80.2	36.4	20.1	*
Wisconsin	33.9	34.9	21.9	52.2	49.1	41.3	24.6	10.7	2.1
White	24.2	23.6	13.1	37.5	35.2	30.7	19.0	8.4	1.7
Black	122.7	174.5	124.8	246.5	209.2	117.0	56.5	24.8	*
Wyoming	34.1	33.9	21.7	55.5	61.9	44.5	23.3	6.6	*
White	31.6	32.4	20.6	53.2	57.2	40.5	20.1	5.9	*
Black	63.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

<sup>1</sup>Totals for areas include races other than white and black.

<sup>2</sup>Rates computed by relating total births to unmarried mothers, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women aged 15–44 years.

<sup>3</sup>Rates computed by relating total births to unmarried mothers aged 40 years and over to unmarried women 40–44 years.



**Table 4. Number of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940 and 1950–92**

Race and year	Age of mother												
	All ages	Under 15 years	15–19 years						20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years					
All races													
													Reported/inferred <sup>1</sup>
1992 . . . . .	1,224,876	11,161	353,878	25,459	49,021	74,103	96,009	109,286	435,727	233,467	127,982	52,447	10,214
1991 . . . . .	1,213,769	10,968	357,483	25,083	49,049	74,039	98,118	111,194	429,094	234,593	123,901	48,353	9,377
1990 . . . . .	1,165,384	10,675	349,970	24,068	46,309	72,021	95,961	111,611	403,873	229,991	118,200	44,149	8,526
1989 . . . . .	1,094,169	10,612	337,268	23,358	46,194	71,134	94,815	101,767	378,122	215,477	106,344	39,030	7,316
1988 . . . . .	1,005,299	9,907	312,499	22,456	44,101	69,580	85,659	90,703	350,905	196,365	94,874	34,408	6,341
1987 . . . . .	933,013	9,583	292,958	22,005	44,515	64,220	78,338	83,880	331,257	179,257	84,186	30,271	5,501
1986 . . . . .	878,477	9,415	280,720	22,248	41,625	59,618	75,493	81,736	316,188	165,662	74,928	26,967	4,597
1985 . . . . .	828,174	9,386	270,922	20,930	39,630	58,371	72,934	79,057	300,365	152,024	67,315	24,038	4,124
1984 . . . . .	770,355	9,075	261,104	19,945	38,763	56,647	70,175	75,574	279,192	136,956	59,261	20,916	3,851
1983 . . . . .	737,893	8,816	261,260	20,078	39,356	57,191	70,716	73,919	265,579	126,519	53,884	18,206	3,629
1982 . . . . .	715,227	8,720	260,626	20,142	39,750	57,804	70,496	72,434	257,473	118,954	49,559	16,420	3,475
1981 . . . . .	686,605	8,589	259,239	20,554	40,173	57,881	69,056	71,575	246,919	109,174	45,300	14,281	3,103
1980 . . . . .	665,747	9,024	262,777	21,908	41,386	58,606	69,173	71,704	237,265	99,583	40,984	13,187	2,927
													Estimated <sup>2</sup>
1980 . . . . .	643,400	9,200	262,400	22,200	41,700	58,800	68,800	70,900	229,900	91,900	36,000	11,400	2,600
1979 . . . . .	597,800	9,500	253,200	21,800	41,300	56,900	66,400	66,600	210,100	80,600	31,300	10,600	2,500
1978 . . . . .	543,900	9,400	239,700	21,400	40,200	54,900	62,200	61,000	186,500	70,000	26,500	9,400	2,300
1977 . . . . .	515,700	10,100	239,700	23,000	42,400	55,500	60,800	57,900	168,600	62,400	23,700	8,800	2,300
1976 . . . . .	468,100	10,300	225,000	22,900	41,700	51,900	55,900	52,600	145,400	55,400	21,000	8,600	2,300
1975 . . . . .	447,900	11,000	222,500	23,800	41,400	51,600	55,600	50,200	134,000	50,200	19,800	8,100	2,300
1974 . . . . .	418,100	10,600	210,800	23,100	40,100	49,800	51,500	46,200	122,700	44,900	18,600	8,200	2,300
1973 . . . . .	407,300	10,900	204,900	23,000	39,600	48,700	49,100	44,400	119,100	43,100	18,500	8,200	2,600
1972 . . . . .	403,200	9,900	202,300	22,500	38,400	47,600	49,200	44,500	119,600	41,200	19,000	8,600	2,700
1971 . . . . .	401,400	9,500	194,100	20,400	35,500	44,900	47,800	45,400	125,200	40,900	19,300	9,400	3,000
1970 . . . . .	398,700	9,500	190,400	19,300	34,000	42,800	47,500	46,800	126,700	40,600	19,100	9,400	3,000
1969 . . . . .	360,800	8,300	168,200	16,700	29,100	37,500	42,400	42,500	116,900	37,600	17,700	9,200	3,100
1968 . . . . .	339,200	7,700	158,000	15,400	27,000	35,500	39,500	40,700	107,900	35,200	17,200	9,700	3,300
1967 . . . . .	318,100	6,900	144,400	13,600	24,900	32,400	36,100	37,400	101,600	34,500	17,300	10,100	3,300
1966 . . . . .	302,400	6,200	135,800	12,900	23,000	30,000	34,000	35,800	92,500	35,500	18,400	10,500	3,400
1965 . . . . .	291,200	6,100	123,200	12,200	21,200	28,400	32,700	28,700	90,700	36,800	19,600	11,400	3,700
1964 . . . . .	275,700	5,800	111,400	11,300	20,200	27,200	25,800	26,900	87,900	36,400	19,500	11,100	3,600
1963 . . . . .	259,400	5,400	101,800	10,700	18,600	21,700	24,900	25,800	82,600	35,400	19,800	10,900	3,500
1962 . . . . .	245,100	5,100	94,400	10,100	15,500	20,600	23,600	24,700	77,400	34,000	19,800	11,100	3,300
1961 . . . . .	240,200	5,200	93,200	9,000	15,500	20,500	24,600	23,500	74,000	33,700	19,800	11,100	3,200
1960 . . . . .	224,300	4,600	87,100	8,700	15,100	19,900	21,800	21,600	68,000	32,100	18,900	10,600	3,000
1959 . . . . .	220,600	4,600	84,500	8,800	15,200	19,100	20,900	20,600	67,300	32,000	19,000	10,500	2,800
1958 . . . . .	208,700	4,400	79,400	8,400	13,900	17,800	19,700	19,600	62,800	30,800	18,700	9,900	2,700
1957 . . . . .	201,700	4,600	76,400	8,200	13,900	17,300	19,000	18,100	60,500	29,800	18,200	9,400	2,800
1956 . . . . .	193,500	4,200	72,800	7,500	13,200	16,200	18,400	17,500	58,800	29,400	17,000	8,800	2,500
1955 . . . . .	183,300	3,900	68,900	7,200	11,900	15,700	17,200	17,100	55,700	28,000	16,100	8,300	2,400

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Number of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940 and 1950–92—Con.

Race and year	Age of mother												
	All ages	Under 15 years	15–19 years						20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years					
All races—Con.			15–17 years			18–19 years							
1954 . . . . .	176,600	3,900	67,200	33,600	33,500	53,300	26,600	15,500	7,900	2,200			
1953 . . . . .	160,800	3,400	61,500	30,900	30,600	48,800	24,500	13,400	7,000	2,100			
1952 . . . . .	150,300	3,200	58,700	30,700	28,000	45,500	22,400	12,400	6,500	1,600			
1951 . . . . .	146,500	3,200	57,400	29,200	28,300	43,900	22,000	11,900	6,200	1,900			
1950 . . . . .	141,600	3,200	56,000	28,700	27,400	43,100	20,900	10,800	6,000	1,700			
1940 . . . . .	89,500	2,100	40,500	---	---	---	---	---	27,200	10,500	5,200	3,000	1,000
White			Reported/inferred <sup>1</sup>										
Race of mother:													
1992 . . . . .	721,986	4,553	206,830	12,664	27,323	43,861	57,566	65,416	258,268	137,639	75,696	32,218	6,782
1991 . . . . .	707,502	4,346	207,035	12,615	27,150	43,058	58,132	66,080	251,228	136,727	72,484	29,607	6,075
1990 . . . . .	669,698	4,157	199,896	11,625	25,063	41,398	56,195	65,615	232,529	131,967	68,400	27,050	5,699
1989 . . . . .	613,543	3,920	188,253	10,904	24,094	40,110	54,599	58,546	211,815	120,640	60,344	23,730	4,841
1988 . . . . .	557,394	3,595	173,981	10,369	23,183	39,087	49,166	52,176	192,584	108,787	53,498	20,812	4,137
1987 . . . . .	513,984	3,466	162,039	10,238	23,672	36,208	44,907	47,014	180,698	98,554	47,424	18,195	3,608
1986 . . . . .	480,533	3,420	153,605	10,414	21,729	33,510	42,393	45,559	172,014	90,379	41,848	16,323	2,944
1985 . . . . .	445,595	3,430	145,457	9,758	20,796	32,119	39,933	42,851	161,046	81,628	37,235	14,242	2,557
1984 . . . . .	403,022	3,258	136,065	9,188	19,640	30,294	37,158	39,785	145,873	71,057	32,102	12,329	2,338
1983 . . . . .	381,276	3,269	134,966	9,247	19,710	30,126	37,292	38,591	136,349	64,850	28,968	10,700	2,174
1982 . . . . .	365,647	3,270	133,457	9,010	19,805	30,108	36,749	37,785	130,731	60,411	26,191	9,508	2,079
1981 . . . . .	346,541	3,090	131,452	9,135	19,792	29,907	35,847	36,771	123,602	54,650	23,909	8,112	1,726
1980 . . . . .	328,984	3,166	130,417	9,356	19,916	29,433	35,088	36,624	116,445	48,722	21,325	7,298	1,611
Race of child:			Estimated <sup>2</sup>										
1980 . . . . .	294,200	3,200	125,500	9,300	19,600	28,600	33,500	34,500	103,600	39,200	15,900	5,500	1,200
1979 . . . . .	263,000	3,300	116,400	9,000	18,600	26,700	31,300	30,800	90,200	33,200	13,700	4,900	1,200
1978 . . . . .	233,600	3,300	108,500	8,900	18,200	25,400	28,300	27,600	77,000	28,300	11,400	4,200	1,100
1977 . . . . .	220,100	3,400	107,100	9,500	18,900	25,400	27,500	25,700	69,300	25,200	10,200	3,800	1,100
1976 . . . . .	197,100	3,500	97,600	9,200	17,900	22,900	24,600	23,000	58,900	22,800	9,400	3,900	1,000
1975 . . . . .	186,400	3,600	93,900	9,500	17,400	22,000	23,600	21,400	54,500	21,200	8,600	3,600	1,000
1974 . . . . .	168,500	3,300	85,000	8,600	16,100	20,100	21,000	19,200	49,600	18,600	7,600	3,400	1,000
1973 . . . . .	163,000	3,200	81,100	8,100	15,200	19,100	20,300	18,400	48,300	18,300	7,600	3,400	1,100
1972 . . . . .	160,500	2,700	78,600	7,500	13,800	18,600	19,600	19,100	49,500	17,300	7,700	3,500	1,100
1971 . . . . .	163,800	2,500	76,000	6,500	12,400	17,300	20,000	19,900	55,300	17,200	7,800	3,800	1,300
1970 . . . . .	175,100	2,500	79,300	6,100	12,600	17,500	21,100	22,100	62,100	18,000	7,700	4,000	1,400
1969 . . . . .	163,700	2,100	70,400	5,000	10,700	15,100	18,500	21,000	60,700	17,500	7,700	4,000	1,400
1968 . . . . .	155,200	1,900	67,400	4,500	9,700	14,200	17,800	21,100	56,800	16,100	7,300	4,200	1,500
1967 . . . . .	142,200	1,700	60,300	3,700	8,200	12,900	16,300	19,200	52,500	15,200	6,800	4,200	1,500
1966 . . . . .	132,900	1,400	57,500	3,600	7,800	12,000	15,200	18,900	45,800	14,900	7,300	4,500	1,500
1965 . . . . .	123,700	1,400	50,700	3,300	7,100	11,100	15,200	14,000	43,400	14,900	7,200	4,500	1,600
1964 . . . . .	114,300	1,400	45,200	3,200	6,900	11,500	11,000	12,600	40,600	14,300	6,800	4,400	1,600
1963 . . . . .	104,600	1,300	40,700	3,300	6,800	8,300	10,400	12,000	36,800	13,000	7,000	4,200	1,500
1962 . . . . .	94,700	1,300	36,700	3,000	5,100	7,700	9,800	11,100	32,300	11,900	7,000	4,100	1,400
1961 . . . . .	91,100	1,400	36,100	2,700	5,200	7,600	10,300	10,400	29,900	11,600	6,600	4,100	1,400

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 4. Number of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940 and 1950–92—Con.**

Race and year	Age of mother													
	All ages	Under 15 years	15–19 years						20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over	
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years						
White—Con.			Estimated <sup>2</sup>											
Race of child:														
1960 . . . . .	82,500	1,200	32,800	2,600	5,100	7,400	8,800	9,000	26,700	10,700	6,000	3,900	1,300	
1959 . . . . .	79,600	1,200	30,900	2,500	5,100	6,800	8,000	8,500	26,200	10,500	5,900	3,700	1,100	
1958 . . . . .	74,600	1,200	28,500	2,400	4,400	6,300	7,300	8,000	24,100	10,000	6,100	3,500	1,100	
1957 . . . . .	70,800	1,100	26,900	2,200	4,300	6,000	7,300	7,100	22,700	9,800	6,000	3,100	1,200	
1956 . . . . .	67,500	1,000	25,200	1,900	3,900	5,600	6,900	7,000	22,200	9,500	5,400	3,200	1,100	
1955 . . . . .	64,200	900	23,700	1,800	3,600	5,200	6,300	6,800	21,000	9,100	5,400	3,000	1,000	
				15–17 years			18–19 years							
1954 . . . . .	62,700	800	23,200	10,200			13,000			20,600	8,900	5,200	3,000	1,000
1953 . . . . .	56,600	800	20,700	9,100			11,600			19,000	8,200	4,700	2,600	800
1952 . . . . .	54,100	700	19,600	8,800			10,800			18,500	7,700	4,300	2,600	700
1951 . . . . .	52,600	600	19,700	8,900			10,900			17,300	7,800	4,200	2,300	800
1950 . . . . .	53,500	700	19,900	8,700			11,100			17,800	7,900	4,200	2,300	700
1940 . . . . .	40,300	500	16,000	---	---	---	---	---	14,700	5,200	2,200	1,300	500	
All other			Reported/inferred <sup>1</sup>											
Race of mother:														
1992 . . . . .	502,890	6,608	147,048	12,795	21,698	30,242	38,443	43,870	177,459	95,828	52,286	20,229	3,432	
1991 . . . . .	506,267	6,622	150,448	12,468	21,899	30,981	39,986	45,114	177,866	97,866	51,417	18,746	3,302	
1990 . . . . .	495,686	6,518	150,074	12,443	21,246	30,623	39,766	45,996	171,344	98,024	49,800	17,099	2,827	
1989 . . . . .	480,626	6,692	149,015	12,454	22,100	31,024	40,216	43,221	166,307	94,837	46,000	15,300	2,475	
1988 . . . . .	447,905	6,312	138,518	12,087	20,918	30,493	36,493	38,527	158,321	87,578	41,376	13,596	2,204	
1987 . . . . .	419,029	6,117	130,919	11,767	20,843	28,012	33,431	36,866	150,559	80,703	36,762	12,076	1,893	
1986 . . . . .	397,944	5,995	127,115	11,834	19,896	26,108	33,100	36,177	144,174	75,283	33,080	10,644	1,653	
1985 . . . . .	382,579	5,956	125,465	11,172	18,834	26,252	33,001	36,206	139,319	70,396	30,080	9,796	1,567	
1984 . . . . .	367,333	5,817	125,039	10,757	19,123	26,353	33,017	35,789	133,319	65,899	27,159	8,587	1,513	
1983 . . . . .	356,617	5,547	126,294	10,831	19,646	27,065	33,424	35,328	129,230	61,669	24,916	7,506	1,455	
1982 . . . . .	349,580	5,450	127,169	11,132	19,945	27,696	33,747	34,649	126,742	58,543	23,368	6,912	1,396	
1981 . . . . .	340,064	5,499	127,787	11,419	20,381	27,974	33,209	34,804	123,317	54,524	21,391	6,169	1,377	
1980 . . . . .	336,763	5,858	132,360	12,552	21,470	29,173	34,085	35,080	120,820	50,861	19,659	5,889	1,316	
Race of child:														
Estimated <sup>2</sup>														
1980 . . . . .	349,300	6,000	136,900	12,800	22,100	30,200	35,300	36,400	126,300	52,700	20,100	5,900	1,300	
1979 . . . . .	334,800	6,200	136,700	12,800	22,800	30,300	35,100	35,800	119,900	47,400	17,600	5,700	1,300	
1978 . . . . .	310,200	6,100	131,200	12,500	22,100	29,400	33,900	33,400	109,500	41,800	15,200	5,200	1,200	
1977 . . . . .	295,500	6,700	132,600	13,400	23,500	30,200	33,300	32,200	99,200	37,200	13,500	5,000	1,300	
1976 . . . . .	271,000	6,800	127,400	13,700	23,800	29,000	31,300	29,600	86,500	32,700	11,600	4,700	1,300	
1975 . . . . .	261,600	7,500	128,600	14,300	24,000	29,600	31,900	28,800	79,500	29,000	11,200	4,500	1,300	
1974 . . . . .	249,600	7,300	125,700	14,600	24,000	29,700	30,500	27,000	73,200	26,400	11,000	4,700	1,300	
1973 . . . . .	244,300	7,700	123,800	15,000	24,400	29,600	28,800	26,000	70,800	24,800	11,000	4,800	1,400	
1972 . . . . .	242,700	7,200	123,600	14,900	24,600	29,000	29,600	25,500	70,000	23,900	11,200	5,100	1,500	
1971 . . . . .	237,500	7,100	118,100	13,900	23,200	27,600	27,900	25,600	69,800	23,700	11,500	5,600	1,700	
1970 . . . . .	223,600	7,000	111,100	13,200	21,500	25,300	26,400	24,700	64,600	22,600	11,300	5,400	1,700	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Number of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940 and 1950–92—Con.

Race and year	Age of mother													
	All ages	Under 15 years	15–19 years						20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over	
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years						
All other—Con.			Estimated <sup>2</sup>											
Race of child:														
1969 . . . . .	197,200	6,200	97,800	11,700	18,400	22,400	23,900	21,500	56,200	20,100	10,000	5,200	1,700	
1968 . . . . .	183,900	5,800	90,600	10,900	17,300	21,300	21,700	19,500	51,100	19,100	10,000	5,500	1,800	
1967 . . . . .	175,800	5,200	84,000	9,900	16,700	19,500	19,800	18,200	49,100	19,300	10,500	5,900	1,700	
1966 . . . . .	169,500	4,800	78,300	9,300	15,200	18,000	18,800	17,000	46,700	20,700	11,100	6,100	1,900	
1965 . . . . .	167,500	4,600	72,400	8,900	14,100	17,200	17,500	14,700	47,300	21,900	12,400	6,900	2,000	
1964 . . . . .	161,300	4,400	66,200	8,100	13,300	15,800	14,800	14,300	47,300	22,100	12,700	6,700	1,900	
1963 . . . . .	154,900	4,200	61,000	7,500	11,800	13,400	14,500	13,800	45,800	22,300	12,800	6,700	2,000	
1962 . . . . .	150,400	3,900	57,600	7,100	10,400	12,900	13,800	13,500	45,000	22,100	12,900	7,100	1,800	
1961 . . . . .	149,100	3,800	57,100	6,400	10,300	12,900	14,400	13,100	44,100	22,100	13,100	7,000	1,900	
1960 . . . . .	141,800	3,500	54,300	6,100	10,000	12,600	13,100	12,600	41,300	21,300	12,900	6,700	1,700	
1959 . . . . .	141,100	3,400	53,600	6,300	10,100	12,300	12,900	12,100	41,100	21,500	13,100	6,700	1,700	
1958 . . . . .	134,100	3,300	50,900	6,000	9,400	11,500	12,400	11,600	38,600	20,800	12,600	6,300	1,600	
1957 . . . . .	130,900	3,500	49,600	6,000	9,600	11,200	11,700	11,000	37,800	20,100	12,200	6,300	1,600	
1956 . . . . .	126,000	3,200	47,600	5,600	9,300	10,700	11,600	10,400	36,600	19,900	11,600	5,600	1,500	
1955 . . . . .	119,200	3,000	45,300	5,400	8,300	10,500	10,900	10,300	34,700	18,900	10,700	5,300	1,400	
				15–17 years			18–19 years							
1954 . . . . .	113,900	3,100	44,000	23,400			20,600			32,700	17,700	10,300	4,900	1,200
1953 . . . . .	104,200	2,700	40,800	21,800			19,000			29,900	16,300	8,700	4,400	1,300
1952 . . . . .	96,200	2,600	39,000	21,800			17,200			27,000	14,700	8,000	3,900	900
1951 . . . . .	93,900	2,600	37,700	20,300			17,400			26,600	14,200	7,700	4,000	1,200
1950 . . . . .	88,100	2,500	36,100	19,900			16,200			25,300	13,000	6,600	3,600	1,000
1940 . . . . .	49,200	1,600	24,500	---	---	---	---	---	12,500	5,300	2,900	1,700	600	
Black <sup>3</sup>			Reported/inferred <sup>1</sup>											
Race of mother:														
1992 . . . . .	458,969	6,296	135,994	12,059	20,158	27,985	35,422	40,370	162,561	86,853	46,860	17,608	2,797	
1991 . . . . .	463,750	6,298	139,325	11,701	20,402	28,714	36,902	41,606	163,532	89,198	46,370	16,357	2,670	
1990 . . . . .	455,304	6,240	139,442	11,732	19,894	28,476	36,875	42,465	157,819	89,614	44,930	14,946	2,313	
1989 . . . . .	442,395	6,458	138,718	11,797	20,735	28,840	37,398	39,948	153,551	86,846	41,468	13,333	2,021	
1988 . . . . .	413,157	6,057	129,333	11,498	19,680	28,470	33,914	35,771	146,697	80,125	37,290	11,833	1,822	
1987 . . . . .	387,468	5,861	122,502	11,188	19,722	26,134	31,207	34,251	139,771	74,133	33,112	10,511	1,578	
1986 . . . . .	369,786	5,762	119,357	11,310	18,749	24,499	31,022	33,777	134,380	69,623	29,892	9,387	1,385	
1985 . . . . .	356,205	5,753	118,058	10,653	17,881	24,695	30,867	33,962	130,032	65,126	27,262	8,650	1,324	
1984 . . . . .	342,524	5,599	117,844	10,285	18,179	24,842	31,026	33,512	124,541	61,091	24,580	7,579	1,290	
1983 . . . . .	333,183	5,324	119,216	10,383	18,636	25,527	31,542	33,128	120,905	57,122	22,586	6,735	1,295	
1982 . . . . .	327,998	5,272	120,243	10,685	19,015	26,218	31,796	32,529	119,133	54,500	21,366	6,229	1,255	
1981 . . . . .	321,383	5,323	121,738	11,016	19,543	26,662	31,553	32,964	116,568	51,170	19,712	5,633	1,239	
1980 . . . . .	318,799	5,691	126,276	12,137	20,602	27,809	32,457	33,271	114,538	47,594	18,160	5,338	1,202	

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 4. Number of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940 and 1950–92—Con.**

Race and year	Age of mother												
	All ages	Under 15 years	15–19 years						20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years					
Black <sup>3</sup> —Con.													Estimated <sup>2</sup>
Race of child:													
1980 . . . . .	327,000	5,800	129,700	12,400	21,100	28,600	33,400	34,200	118,300	48,500	18,300	5,200	1,200
1979 . . . . .	315,800	6,100	130,100	12,300	21,800	28,800	33,200	33,900	113,100	44,000	16,100	5,200	1,200
1978 . . . . .	293,400	5,900	125,200	12,000	21,100	28,100	32,300	31,700	103,500	38,900	14,000	4,800	1,200
1977 . . . . .	281,600	6,500	127,200	12,900	22,600	28,900	31,900	30,800	94,600	35,000	12,600	4,700	1,200
1976 . . . . .	258,800	6,600	122,700	13,200	22,900	28,000	30,200	28,400	82,400	30,800	10,700	4,400	1,200
1975 . . . . .	249,600	7,200	123,800	13,800	23,200	28,500	30,600	27,600	75,600	27,100	10,500	4,200	1,200
1974 . . . . .	238,800	7,100	121,200	14,200	23,300	28,600	29,300	25,900	69,700	24,900	10,200	4,400	1,200
1973 . . . . .	234,500	7,500	119,800	14,600	23,700	28,700	27,900	25,000	67,500	23,400	10,400	4,500	1,400
1972 . . . . .	233,300	7,100	119,900	14,600	23,900	28,100	28,700	24,500	67,000	22,600	10,500	4,800	1,500
1971 . . . . .	229,000	6,900	114,900	13,600	22,600	26,900	27,000	24,800	67,000	22,400	10,900	5,300	1,500
1970 . . . . .	215,100	6,800	107,800	13,000	20,900	24,500	25,600	23,900	61,800	21,300	10,700	5,100	1,600
1969 . . . . .	189,400	6,100	95,000	11,500	17,900	21,800	23,200	20,700	53,500	18,900	9,400	4,900	1,600

<sup>1</sup>Data for States in which marital status was not reported have been inferred from other items on the birth certificate and included with data from the reporting States; see Technical notes.

<sup>2</sup>Births to unmarried women are estimated for the United States from data for registration areas in which marital status of mother was reported; see Technical notes.

<sup>3</sup>Data also included in "all other" group.

NOTE: Figures by age may not add to estimated totals for years prior to 1980 because of rounding.

**Table 5. Ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940 and 1950–92**

[Ratios are live births to unmarried women per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

Year and race	Age of mother												
	All ages	Under 15 years	15–19 years						20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years					
All races			Reported/inferred <sup>1</sup>										
1992 . . . . .	301.3	913.3	700.2	869.9	815.2	755.0	692.4	609.8	407.0	198.0	143.0	152.2	177.0
1991 . . . . .	295.3	912.9	688.0	870.6	810.6	748.6	681.2	593.6	393.8	192.3	140.0	146.1	174.3
1990 . . . . .	280.3	915.8	670.7	868.8	799.8	737.0	661.9	576.7	369.3	180.1	133.4	139.0	169.7
1989 . . . . .	270.8	923.9	665.9	873.8	806.5	733.1	656.8	561.9	350.9	170.6	126.2	132.8	159.0
1988 . . . . .	257.1	935.7	653.3	877.0	799.7	725.8	642.3	538.7	328.7	158.5	118.1	127.7	155.5
1987 . . . . .	244.9	929.4	633.7	867.0	789.8	706.9	615.3	516.5	307.9	147.4	110.7	122.1	152.1
1986 . . . . .	233.9	925.2	607.7	857.3	767.7	674.4	590.7	493.8	286.9	138.1	103.9	117.1	147.8
1985 . . . . .	220.2	918.4	579.5	837.1	741.1	653.6	562.9	464.7	263.2	126.5	96.7	112.2	139.8
1984 . . . . .	210.0	910.7	555.9	826.2	728.9	633.5	539.1	437.4	244.6	117.5	90.0	106.8	137.8
1983 . . . . .	202.8	904.0	534.0	813.3	715.6	615.0	516.5	411.4	228.9	110.2	86.3	100.9	134.2
1982 . . . . .	194.3	892.3	507.3	802.8	693.1	585.5	486.4	386.0	213.5	103.3	81.9	97.8	134.2
1981 . . . . .	189.2	891.7	491.5	791.7	674.0	568.4	469.7	370.9	203.7	96.8	77.9	97.8	126.6
1980 . . . . .	184.3	887.4	475.9	777.5	654.9	548.5	451.1	357.4	193.5	89.9	74.5	93.7	120.5
			Estimated <sup>2</sup>										
1980 . . . . .	178.1	904.7	475.2	787.8	659.8	550.3	448.7	353.4	187.5	82.9	65.4	81.0	107.0
1979 . . . . .	171.1	887.9	460.8	768.2	645.9	527.8	433.2	339.7	176.8	75.4	60.5	78.5	103.2
1978 . . . . .	163.2	872.6	441.1	741.4	619.2	504.2	410.4	322.4	163.7	69.0	55.9	74.5	96.3
1977 . . . . .	155.0	881.7	428.7	743.0	605.3	492.1	396.0	301.8	147.1	61.4	53.0	72.8	90.3
1976 . . . . .	147.8	863.5	402.7	719.0	585.6	461.6	363.5	277.6	133.2	57.0	53.6	74.4	89.1
1975 . . . . .	142.5	870.1	382.1	711.5	558.4	431.1	342.6	260.5	122.5	53.6	52.7	70.2	82.3
1974 . . . . .	132.3	846.0	354.0	685.1	528.3	399.8	312.9	234.9	110.7	48.6	49.9	69.4	77.7
1973 . . . . .	129.8	847.5	339.2	661.8	508.4	387.2	293.1	224.0	108.2	48.5	50.0	64.7	76.9
1972 . . . . .	123.7	819.4	328.3	666.9	500.6	377.2	284.7	215.2	101.9	45.8	50.7	60.9	69.0
1971 . . . . .	112.9	820.5	309.1	655.6	491.2	365.3	270.8	201.7	92.4	43.2	47.5	57.8	65.7
1970 . . . . .	106.9	808.4	295.3	648.3	476.0	349.7	259.8	196.4	89.3	40.8	44.6	52.2	56.5
1969 . . . . .	100.2	792.9	278.2	627.8	461.1	334.6	245.0	184.9	86.2	39.3	41.8	48.5	53.5
1968 . . . . .	96.9	810.2	267.2	624.5	452.8	326.6	235.9	176.3	82.6	38.9	41.0	47.1	51.4
1967 . . . . .	90.3	803.0	242.1	597.0	425.7	302.9	213.6	156.3	77.5	39.8	39.4	44.4	46.3
1966 . . . . .	83.9	762.8	218.5	577.9	406.1	278.4	191.9	139.0	71.3	40.7	38.8	41.6	43.1
1965 . . . . .	77.4	785.3	208.3	563.6	374.1	257.5	175.5	132.9	67.8	39.8	37.0	40.3	42.9
1964 . . . . .	68.5	742.1	190.2	529.9	349.2	232.4	160.6	117.5	61.1	36.1	33.3	35.8	39.0
1963 . . . . .	63.3	711.1	173.6	501.8	315.4	216.4	152.7	106.3	56.8	34.6	32.4	33.8	37.3
1962 . . . . .	58.8	694.8	157.3	469.5	306.1	204.6	138.2	96.2	53.6	32.5	31.0	33.2	34.2
1961 . . . . .	56.3	696.9	154.9	465.9	291.8	194.4	136.1	96.7	51.2	31.2	29.2	31.2	32.2
1960 . . . . .	52.7	678.5	148.4	443.9	281.3	182.4	129.2	91.6	47.7	29.4	27.5	29.5	31.0
1959 . . . . .	52.0	678.9	148.0	437.2	275.3	186.4	126.9	90.1	47.9	29.1	27.1	28.9	29.5
1958 . . . . .	49.6	661.9	143.3	426.2	269.1	177.3	123.5	87.9	45.9	27.8	26.3	27.6	28.8
1957 . . . . .	47.4	660.9	138.9	426.1	268.1	173.7	120.0	81.8	44.4	26.1	24.9	25.7	29.1
1956 . . . . .	46.5	660.8	139.9	421.6	268.1	173.2	120.9	84.3	44.4	26.0	23.4	24.8	26.4
1955 . . . . .	45.3	662.9	142.3	427.7	265.1	178.4	124.4	87.2	43.7	25.0	22.3	24.0	25.9

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 5. Ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940 and 1950–92—Con.**

[Ratios are live births to unmarried women per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

Year and race	Age of mother												
	All ages	Under 15 years	15–19 years						20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years					
All races—Con.													
				15–17 years			18–19 years						
1954 . . . . .	44.0	643.8	140.6	231.5			100.7		42.4	23.7	21.5	23.4	23.9
1953 . . . . .	41.2	639.6	134.9	223.0			96.4		40.0	22.1	19.4	21.5	23.8
1952 . . . . .	39.1	645.3	134.0	228.4			92.2		37.5	20.3	18.2	20.3	19.2
1951 . . . . .	39.1	638.0	129.4	217.6			91.2		36.6	20.5	18.6	20.3	23.0
1950 . . . . .	39.8	637.3	133.5	226.1			93.6		38.1	20.5	18.1	20.4	21.3
1940 . . . . .	37.9	644.8	134.7	---	---	---	---	---	36.8	16.3	13.0	14.9	15.0
White													
Race of mother:													
				Reported/inferred <sup>1</sup>									
1992 . . . . .	225.5	848.3	603.5	793.2	733.4	669.0	600.0	511.0	317.1	142.7	101.5	114.0	146.0
1991 . . . . .	218.3	837.5	587.6	795.9	726.7	656.4	584.4	492.8	302.2	136.7	98.4	108.6	141.2
1990 . . . . .	203.5	835.7	563.9	785.4	707.1	640.0	559.3	471.8	277.6	125.5	92.5	103.3	140.8
1989 . . . . .	192.2	846.7	552.9	786.2	705.9	629.3	549.8	452.3	257.0	115.9	85.8	97.9	130.9
1988 . . . . .	179.7	865.0	537.3	785.9	696.0	618.1	532.0	428.8	234.5	106.0	79.6	94.0	126.5
1987 . . . . .	168.9	846.2	513.7	770.2	683.8	596.7	502.0	400.4	215.8	97.2	74.2	89.1	124.1
1986 . . . . .	159.2	836.2	483.1	755.6	651.4	558.1	471.6	376.9	198.0	89.9	68.8	85.9	119.7
1985 . . . . .	146.7	824.1	448.1	721.6	617.6	528.3	436.0	342.8	177.2	80.7	63.3	80.7	109.0
1984 . . . . .	135.8	807.8	417.0	703.2	594.0	499.5	403.9	312.0	159.7	72.3	57.6	76.3	105.7
1983 . . . . .	129.4	799.5	393.3	682.0	574.8	475.8	380.8	287.8	146.2	66.9	54.9	71.7	102.3
1982 . . . . .	122.5	776.9	366.9	664.6	547.8	443.2	351.2	267.1	134.2	62.0	51.3	68.6	102.9
1981 . . . . .	117.6	764.9	350.1	644.2	522.7	424.1	335.2	252.0	125.9	57.1	48.7	68.0	91.2
1980 . . . . .	112.0	753.8	331.4	616.2	496.0	397.7	314.1	240.1	116.8	51.6	45.9	63.6	85.8
Race of child:													
				Estimated <sup>2</sup>									
1980 . . . . .	101.5	767.2	323.4	620.9	493.9	391.8	304.1	229.7	105.4	42.0	34.6	48.6	64.7
1979 . . . . .	93.6	749.7	303.3	593.8	470.7	364.3	285.2	210.8	94.6	36.7	31.5	44.8	64.1
1978 . . . . .	87.1	731.4	285.5	564.9	446.3	341.3	261.9	195.7	84.2	32.9	28.4	41.2	59.6
1977 . . . . .	81.8	727.9	273.1	562.1	428.6	328.9	250.0	178.5	74.6	29.0	26.9	39.1	55.8
1976 . . . . .	76.8	692.5	248.2	528.1	399.2	295.0	221.9	161.4	66.3	27.3	28.3	41.8	49.8
1975 . . . . .	73.0	709.6	229.0	519.4	369.6	265.1	201.7	147.8	60.9	26.2	27.0	38.6	45.9
1974 . . . . .	65.4	653.1	202.3	475.9	335.2	233.3	176.3	129.0	54.4	23.2	24.0	35.6	42.8
1973 . . . . .	63.9	652.1	190.9	442.6	312.2	221.0	166.9	122.8	53.4	23.6	24.3	33.0	41.1
1972 . . . . .	60.4	590.4	181.1	431.1	293.4	215.1	156.2	121.2	51.0	22.0	24.4	30.5	35.3
1971 . . . . .	56.1	605.3	170.1	418.8	282.4	205.0	154.3	114.8	48.8	20.9	22.8	28.7	35.8
1970 . . . . .	56.6	578.7	171.0	416.8	286.7	205.7	156.1	119.6	51.8	20.7	21.2	27.0	32.5
1969 . . . . .	54.7	570.0	162.1	391.4	277.6	196.5	145.8	117.2	52.7	20.8	21.4	25.5	29.7
1968 . . . . .	53.3	610.1	158.0	387.1	271.9	192.3	144.3	116.0	51.0	20.4	20.5	24.5	28.4
1967 . . . . .	48.7	615.7	138.5	355.4	236.8	176.7	129.0	100.6	47.0	20.3	18.4	22.2	25.7
1966 . . . . .	44.4	525.1	123.6	341.2	227.1	160.2	112.7	89.8	41.6	19.9	18.3	21.4	23.1
1965 . . . . .	39.6	572.8	114.3	321.6	201.1	141.0	104.4	80.5	38.4	18.8	16.1	19.0	22.2
1964 . . . . .	33.9	523.2	101.7	300.3	184.3	132.9	88.7	67.8	33.1	16.5	13.7	16.9	20.7
1963 . . . . .	30.4	487.4	89.9	294.9	171.9	112.8	81.4	59.8	29.7	14.8	13.5	15.4	19.0

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 5. Ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940 and 1950–92—Con.**

[Ratios are live births to unmarried women per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

Year and race	Age of mother													
	All ages	Under 15 years	15–19 years						20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over	
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years						
White—Con.			Estimated <sup>2</sup>											
Race of child:														
1962 . . . . .	27.0	480.1	78.2	256.2	152.1	103.5	72.4	51.8	26.2	13.3	12.9	14.5	17.1	
1961 . . . . .	25.3	498.6	76.5	260.1	145.6	96.1	71.3	51.5	24.2	12.5	11.4	13.6	16.6	
1960 . . . . .	22.9	475.4	71.6	238.7	140.2	89.9	65.7	46.2	21.9	11.4	10.2	12.7	15.8	
1959 . . . . .	22.1	466.6	69.4	224.2	134.7	88.5	61.3	45.0	21.8	11.1	9.8	11.9	13.5	
1958 . . . . .	20.9	453.2	65.9	215.0	125.2	83.6	57.7	43.4	20.6	10.4	9.9	11.3	13.7	
1957 . . . . .	19.6	415.4	62.7	208.6	123.5	80.3	58.0	38.8	19.5	9.9	9.5	9.8	14.6	
1956 . . . . .	19.0	425.9	62.6	200.1	119.1	80.1	57.6	41.0	19.6	9.6	8.5	10.4	13.5	
1955 . . . . .	18.6	421.3	63.6	204.7	120.9	80.1	58.2	42.3	19.3	9.3	8.5	10.0	12.5	
				15–17 years			18–19 years							
1954 . . . . .	18.2	368.3	63.1	102.2			48.5			19.1	9.1	8.2	10.2	12.6
1953 . . . . .	16.9	431.5	59.0	95.7			45.3			18.1	8.4	7.7	9.1	10.6
1952 . . . . .	16.3	381.8	58.4	96.3			44.1			17.6	7.9	7.2	9.3	9.7
1951 . . . . .	16.3	376.6	57.9	97.3			43.5			16.7	8.2	7.4	8.5	10.6
1950 . . . . .	17.5	419.4	62.4	102.2			47.5			18.3	8.7	7.9	9.0	10.2
1940 . . . . .	19.5	443.7	69.7	---	---	---	---	---	22.7	8.9	6.0	7.3	8.5	
All other			Reported/inferred <sup>1</sup>											
Race of mother:														
1992 . . . . .	582.5	964.2	903.9	962.0	948.3	928.2	900.0	856.9	693.0	446.4	349.1	326.1	304.4	
1991 . . . . .	582.2	970.3	899.7	962.0	946.0	930.1	897.4	847.3	688.2	445.2	347.3	320.5	306.4	
1990 . . . . .	571.1	975.3	896.8	964.5	946.2	926.9	893.9	844.5	668.9	435.0	339.1	306.5	289.8	
1989 . . . . .	566.4	976.1	897.5	968.4	954.8	931.6	892.7	836.4	656.3	426.4	329.9	297.6	274.2	
1988 . . . . .	554.7	981.3	896.4	973.9	957.8	934.4	891.1	825.2	643.1	412.2	314.1	283.1	273.4	
1987 . . . . .	547.3	984.2	891.5	973.4	958.4	928.7	882.6	819.8	631.1	399.7	303.2	276.4	266.9	
1986 . . . . .	539.7	985.0	883.1	972.6	953.6	920.5	873.5	810.3	618.0	388.2	292.1	263.6	254.3	
1985 . . . . .	529.4	983.2	878.0	973.2	951.2	920.6	868.9	802.5	599.7	371.1	278.9	259.0	259.7	
1984 . . . . .	523.2	980.6	872.1	971.2	950.7	916.0	865.3	790.7	584.3	359.8	267.5	252.1	259.7	
1983 . . . . .	515.0	979.5	864.5	973.3	948.7	912.1	857.2	775.0	567.0	345.1	256.5	240.5	252.1	
1982 . . . . .	502.5	979.5	847.7	965.1	941.1	899.5	837.2	750.2	546.3	328.9	245.6	235.8	244.8	
1981 . . . . .	499.0	983.4	840.9	969.3	937.6	893.2	829.2	739.3	536.3	319.2	235.4	230.0	246.5	
1980 . . . . .	498.2	981.4	834.6	965.9	931.5	888.4	818.6	729.6	526.7	309.4	228.7	225.6	239.1	

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 5. Ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940 and 1950–92—Con.**

[Ratios are live births to unmarried women per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

Year and race	Age of mother												
	All ages	Under 15 years	15–19 years						20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years					
All other—Con.			Estimated <sup>2</sup>										
Race of child:													
1980 . . . . .	489.5	1000.0	834.2	969.8	939.9	892.1	818.0	722.5	518.3	300.9	220.4	213.2	226.2
1979 . . . . .	488.1	984.6	825.2	968.2	933.3	877.8	806.1	716.7	509.0	286.6	215.3	220.9	235.7
1978 . . . . .	475.6	974.4	803.2	953.7	915.2	853.4	779.7	693.5	487.2	269.7	207.9	213.9	221.5
1977 . . . . .	464.9	987.6	794.1	953.3	905.3	849.5	764.6	672.9	456.7	251.7	200.4	211.4	225.7
1976 . . . . .	451.5	989.2	769.9	949.3	902.8	833.4	728.8	630.7	425.3	239.2	194.8	209.5	226.2
1975 . . . . .	441.7	990.9	747.2	943.2	886.8	806.5	704.7	601.1	399.5	226.8	195.3	203.1	211.4
1974 . . . . .	427.3	976.5	717.1	933.0	860.9	773.5	670.2	564.0	372.3	219.7	196.8	208.5	209.1
1973 . . . . .	416.9	968.1	690.6	911.9	835.4	752.6	627.5	537.5	358.9	217.5	194.4	201.5	199.7
1972 . . . . .	402.6	958.8	678.0	911.8	829.1	729.9	624.6	518.8	343.2	206.6	190.2	192.0	188.5
1971 . . . . .	373.3	953.3	651.7	891.4	817.8	716.3	595.0	493.9	316.4	193.4	177.3	185.4	182.3
1970 . . . . .	349.3	941.9	613.5	872.2	782.4	677.7	554.0	461.7	295.0	180.6	172.8	168.8	169.1
1969 . . . . .	325.1	913.9	574.0	846.1	748.9	636.1	517.2	425.2	275.0	170.8	156.4	158.6	158.7
1968 . . . . .	312.0	907.7	549.7	836.3	722.3	611.7	492.2	398.6	264.0	168.0	155.3	157.2	156.5
1967 . . . . .	293.8	891.6	521.1	800.3	699.9	574.1	464.3	376.3	253.2	164.4	151.5	155.3	133.0
1966 . . . . .	276.5	878.8	500.9	790.0	681.9	548.1	443.8	361.3	237.2	167.5	147.7	145.9	137.2
1965 . . . . .	263.2	864.0	492.0	781.5	659.7	545.2	429.4	349.4	229.9	162.8	149.0	148.8	140.1
1964 . . . . .	245.0	856.0	468.3	759.1	651.8	517.2	404.5	331.5	220.4	155.0	140.7	136.2	125.2
1963 . . . . .	235.5	852.4	455.6	740.1	607.5	502.3	409.4	326.8	213.9	151.2	138.3	133.8	134.6
1962 . . . . .	227.8	842.0	439.3	724.3	607.8	490.9	390.6	316.9	212.5	147.2	134.6	136.6	120.7
1961 . . . . .	223.4	816.5	439.2	716.4	592.2	489.1	396.5	319.5	209.4	143.5	132.0	129.9	126.7
1960 . . . . .	215.8	822.4	421.5	700.7	577.8	469.3	376.2	306.2	199.6	141.3	129.9	127.7	116.8
1959 . . . . .	218.0	808.8	426.5	701.6	582.4	479.7	377.2	306.2	202.3	143.4	133.4	130.1	124.4
1958 . . . . .	212.3	825.0	419.0	702.1	569.4	459.9	375.8	301.9	194.2	141.6	130.9	127.1	119.7
1957 . . . . .	206.7	811.7	409.1	689.5	563.7	449.0	360.5	288.7	190.5	135.9	125.6	127.6	117.4
1956 . . . . .	204.0	798.4	404.8	675.2	564.0	453.2	357.7	282.8	189.7	136.0	123.4	116.7	111.6
1955 . . . . .	202.4	800.6	406.6	671.8	549.1	455.3	363.1	292.8	189.4	133.4	119.9	117.1	108.6
				15–17 years			18–19 years						
1954 . . . . .	198.5	797.7	399.8	516.4			318.1		184.6	127.2	119.7	113.7	94.8
1953 . . . . .	191.1	779.9	389.0	501.0			309.6		177.3	122.1	108.7	108.7	103.4
1952 . . . . .	183.4	783.8	384.1	513.7			290.9		163.7	116.2	106.5	99.9	79.3
1951 . . . . .	182.8	771.4	365.5	472.5			289.1		162.6	117.4	109.4	102.5	98.5
1950 . . . . .	179.6	745.8	358.4	475.7			275.1		159.0	114.7	102.4	98.5	92.9
1940 . . . . .	168.3	751.2	344.4	---	---	---	---	---	136.4	88.3	80.1	75.3	77.4

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 5. Ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940 and 1950–92—Con.**

[Ratios are live births to unmarried women per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

Year and race	Age of mother												
	All ages	Under 15 years	15–19 years						20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years					
Black <sup>3</sup>													
Race of mother:													
1992 . . . . .	681.3	976.4	926.4	970.0	961.3	945.4	923.4	888.5	752.4	549.8	467.0	447.0	421.2
1991 . . . . .	679.4	981.1	923.0	972.5	960.2	947.9	922.1	878.4	747.0	547.1	465.4	437.8	426.7
1990 . . . . .	665.3	984.5	919.7	975.8	959.5	945.3	918.0	874.5	726.4	532.7	451.5	419.9	399.6
1989 . . . . .	657.2	984.5	920.5	979.2	968.4	949.6	915.1	868.5	712.3	519.2	437.6	405.9	371.7
1988 . . . . .	647.0	988.9	919.8	983.8	972.3	951.3	916.2	857.1	698.9	505.3	423.2	388.7	377.2
1987 . . . . .	634.0	990.5	913.9	982.3	970.0	945.5	907.0	850.3	685.2	486.4	402.5	372.8	365.1
1986 . . . . .	623.7	990.2	907.0	979.7	967.5	939.3	899.3	842.4	672.2	472.5	384.3	355.5	342.1
1985 . . . . .	612.2	987.6	902.2	981.1	965.0	940.1	894.9	834.2	653.5	452.2	370.1	351.1	344.3
1984 . . . . .	602.9	985.7	896.2	977.7	963.1	936.1	890.5	822.9	637.7	438.2	352.3	334.8	333.9
1983 . . . . .	592.2	985.2	890.0	981.2	961.7	932.6	884.5	808.8	620.7	419.4	336.9	317.5	322.2
1982 . . . . .	576.9	984.1	874.8	972.7	954.4	921.4	865.7	786.4	598.8	400.1	322.3	308.2	312.8
1981 . . . . .	568.9	989.4	867.4	977.3	951.7	915.0	857.4	773.8	584.4	385.6	307.5	297.7	307.1
1980 . . . . .	561.2	985.8	856.8	973.1	943.1	904.4	843.4	759.2	569.5	367.5	295.7	284.0	295.0
Race of child:													
1980 . . . . .	554.6	1000.0	862.6	985.7	954.9	914.0	850.2	758.3	564.4	357.5	284.3	264.9	286.1
1979 . . . . .	546.5	993.6	851.4	971.2	945.1	900.0	833.5	749.2	549.0	338.1	272.3	269.9	275.2
1978 . . . . .	532.0	972.3	829.1	958.1	927.3	877.1	808.9	724.6	526.1	319.9	261.7	261.7	279.3
1977 . . . . .	517.4	987.5	819.6	957.7	922.6	870.1	792.4	704.0	494.8	297.4	249.7	254.5	258.1
1976 . . . . .	503.0	990.8	797.1	956.0	917.0	857.6	761.1	663.1	460.6	284.9	239.9	251.2	252.8
1975 . . . . .	487.9	984.3	768.7	947.7	896.4	826.0	726.2	627.9	429.8	268.4	241.0	238.9	231.0
1974 . . . . .	470.9	973.8	737.1	937.2	875.4	790.5	689.9	588.4	400.9	261.7	237.8	241.1	226.7
1973 . . . . .	457.5	964.3	709.8	914.6	849.2	769.8	648.5	560.7	386.3	257.0	233.4	229.0	231.8
1972 . . . . .	439.1	964.3	695.7	916.3	839.0	743.5	644.2	537.5	369.5	240.5	221.9	216.3	220.2
1971 . . . . .	405.3	949.9	669.3	897.8	826.3	732.2	611.9	513.2	338.8	221.3	204.5	207.0	185.2
1970 . . . . .	375.8	934.8	627.4	883.0	785.8	688.9	570.0	477.7	312.8	202.7	196.4	186.0	183.4
1969 . . . . .	348.7	917.3	586.6	851.0	754.6	645.3	530.6	438.6	290.2	190.2	176.4	174.1	170.9

<sup>1</sup>Data for States in which marital status was not reported have been inferred from other items on the birth certificate and included with data from the reporting States; see Technical notes.<sup>2</sup>Births to unmarried women are estimated for the United States from data for registration areas in which marital status of mother was reported; see Technical notes.<sup>3</sup>Data also included in "all other" group.



Table 6. Number of live births to unmarried women by race of mother: United States and each State, 1970, 1980, and 1985–92—Con.

State and race <sup>1</sup>	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1980	1970 <sup>2</sup>
Iowa . . . . .	9,058	8,657	8,282	7,575	6,736	6,147	5,825	5,590	4,899	3,402
White . . . . .	7,990	7,626	7,340	6,613	5,885	5,347	5,102	4,891	4,261	2,956
Black . . . . .	889	861	766	811	730	676	620	604	576	402
Kansas . . . . .	9,224	8,746	8,397	7,577	7,025	6,633	6,568	5,843	4,986	2,516
White . . . . .	6,789	6,452	6,095	5,424	4,921	4,650	4,648	4,089	3,249	1,754
Black . . . . .	2,180	2,048	2,099	1,967	1,914	1,793	1,742	1,597	1,660	736
Kentucky . . . . .	14,181	13,796	12,829	12,048	11,206	10,658	10,355	9,799	8,966	5,008
White . . . . .	10,455	10,017	9,285	8,563	7,882	7,656	7,275	6,861	5,749	2,864
Black . . . . .	3,659	3,726	3,496	3,441	3,292	2,975	3,064	2,928	3,207	2,140
Louisiana . . . . .	28,452	27,694	26,601	25,692	24,752	23,594	23,564	23,261	19,191	10,972
White . . . . .	7,350	6,795	6,425	5,946	5,525	5,164	5,045	4,849	3,571	1,774
Black . . . . .	20,899	20,705	19,971	19,525	19,034	18,225	18,363	18,272	15,576	9,174
Maine . . . . .	4,063	4,180	3,931	3,806	3,489	3,338	3,171	3,012	2,281	1,250
White . . . . .	3,980	4,087	3,815	3,717	3,423	3,268	3,108	2,950	2,226	1,214
Black . . . . .	30	21	37	25	15	19	15	13	11	12
Maryland . . . . .	23,717	24,292	23,789	22,607	24,716	22,866	21,198	19,773	15,075	---
White . . . . .	8,089	8,733	8,497	7,916	9,140	8,373	7,683	7,070	4,715	---
Black . . . . .	15,303	15,173	14,961	14,356	15,014	13,983	13,127	12,375	10,218	---
Massachusetts . . . . .	22,618	22,873	22,886	21,798	19,559	17,616	15,861	15,033	11,369	---
White . . . . .	16,368	16,691	16,548	15,896	14,426	13,194	12,195	11,608	8,711	---
Black . . . . .	5,446	5,414	5,479	5,082	4,424	3,938	3,378	3,201	2,585	---
Michigan . . . . .	38,620	40,941	40,289	36,441	30,195	28,724	26,620	24,941	23,543	18,738
White . . . . .	16,838	17,830	17,410	15,685	13,816	13,152	12,557	12,061	10,740	8,982
Black . . . . .	21,431	22,720	22,477	20,365	16,155	15,368	13,846	12,677	12,654	9,688
Minnesota . . . . .	15,058	14,984	14,192	13,142	12,235	11,114	10,721	10,158	7,731	5,518
White . . . . .	11,451	11,319	10,896	9,994	9,341	8,572	8,414	8,012	6,367	4,710
Black . . . . .	2,170	2,090	1,890	1,766	1,638	1,374	1,180	1,098	687	510
Mississippi . . . . .	18,312	18,317	17,627	16,958	15,824	14,499	14,228	14,275	13,418	8,510
White . . . . .	3,291	3,302	2,973	2,734	2,519	2,152	2,051	1,972	1,479	798
Black . . . . .	14,872	14,848	14,507	14,077	13,162	12,232	12,081	12,194	11,876	7,672
Missouri . . . . .	24,049	23,736	22,643	21,123	19,124	17,823	16,917	16,599	13,920	9,262
White . . . . .	13,340	12,991	12,147	11,336	10,162	9,460	8,719	8,344	6,420	3,844
Black . . . . .	10,474	10,541	10,308	9,620	8,859	8,269	8,116	8,189	7,466	5,394
Montana . . . . .	3,032	2,898	2,757	2,539	2,430	2,379	2,262	2,270	1,778	---
White . . . . .	2,076	2,000	1,801	1,644	1,520	1,495	1,490	1,507	1,220	---
Black . . . . .	17	13	18	11	9	6	8	10	7	---
Nebraska . . . . .	5,290	5,181	5,056	4,662	4,333	4,006	3,788	3,790	3,173	1,952
White . . . . .	4,019	3,866	3,798	3,412	3,130	2,901	2,716	2,773	2,301	1,438
Black . . . . .	954	999	980	969	922	867	846	807	721	448
Nevada . . . . .	7,449	7,016	5,480	4,607	3,432	2,740	2,637	2,398	1,791	1,026
White . . . . .	5,462	5,132	3,946	3,191	2,188	1,677	1,579	1,431	1,061	618
Black . . . . .	1,555	1,503	1,263	1,164	1,087	924	917	805	635	366
New Hampshire . . . . .	3,068	2,996	2,967	2,797	2,503	2,511	2,213	2,065	1,506	750
White . . . . .	3,000	2,953	2,914	2,750	2,449	2,469	2,186	2,037	1,492	738
Black . . . . .	54	33	42	34	26	33	18	19	9	12
New Jersey . . . . .	31,631	31,972	29,756	29,364	28,580	26,647	24,887	23,495	20,415	12,534
White . . . . .	15,821	15,993	14,711	13,933	13,734	12,708	11,999	11,003	8,562	4,274
Black . . . . .	15,385	15,611	14,677	15,125	14,547	13,788	12,697	12,296	11,786	8,196

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 6. Number of live births to unmarried women by race of mother: United States and each State, 1970, 1980, and 1985–92—Con.**

<i>State and race<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1988</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1985</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>1970<sup>2</sup></i>
New Mexico	11,023	10,445	9,704	9,447	8,711	8,067	7,629	7,298	4,198	---
White	8,003	7,549	6,893	6,586	6,015	5,585	5,340	5,117	2,834	---
Black	298	329	304	294	274	255	230	227	149	---
New York	100,260	99,738	98,110	92,996	84,381	80,939	77,535	72,839	56,905	---
White	56,641	55,752	53,660	49,887	43,796	42,212	40,071	37,331	26,978	---
Black	41,360	42,118	42,700	41,615	39,248	37,582	36,501	34,668	28,755	---
North Carolina	32,547	32,340	30,718	28,315	25,622	23,262	21,323	19,772	16,055	12,210
White	11,394	11,096	10,083	8,925	7,973	7,039	6,169	5,594	3,706	2,594
Black	20,262	20,357	19,816	18,614	16,970	15,619	14,626	13,645	11,936	9,380
North Dakota	1,995	1,952	1,699	1,615	1,578	1,429	1,398	1,347	1,107	726
White	1,425	1,376	1,172	1,079	1,071	957	972	922	769	558
Black	15	13	16	9	17	13	2	6	6	2
Ohio	51,317	50,826	48,289	45,921	42,448	39,237	36,917	34,922	30,130	---
White	31,024	30,500	28,652	27,039	24,885	22,996	21,573	20,017	16,353	---
Black	20,051	20,079	19,397	18,671	17,381	16,057	15,187	14,769	13,693	---
Oklahoma	13,486	12,973	11,998	11,258	10,600	9,892	9,426	9,149	7,315	3,736
White	8,025	7,548	6,995	6,390	5,986	5,629	5,265	5,117	3,637	1,892
Black	3,532	3,545	3,311	3,262	3,050	2,884	2,822	2,771	2,659	1,470
Oregon	11,343	11,324	11,041	10,436	9,435	8,672	8,025	7,403	6,378	2,628
White	10,059	10,011	9,782	9,226	8,329	7,683	7,148	6,516	5,664	2,230
Black	676	703	656	631	619	552	482	506	466	278
Pennsylvania	51,959	51,360	49,258	47,093	43,919	41,143	39,298	36,546	28,094	18,526
White	31,183	30,501	29,049	27,273	25,451	23,657	22,612	21,221	15,388	8,584
Black	20,181	20,319	19,793	19,446	18,189	17,257	16,497	15,154	12,603	9,874
Rhode Island	4,298	4,073	3,997	3,684	3,262	3,064	2,656	2,549	1,907	1,062
White	3,256	3,065	3,027	2,787	2,501	2,361	2,024	1,964	1,463	754
Black	797	757	729	711	616	605	545	515	408	296
South Carolina	19,934	20,000	19,148	18,116	16,722	15,333	14,304	13,714	11,973	7,694
White	5,693	5,484	5,217	4,723	4,135	3,722	3,307	2,988	2,095	1,170
Black	14,173	14,466	13,857	13,345	12,534	11,580	10,965	10,709	9,859	6,502
South Dakota	2,933	2,720	2,515	2,415	2,334	2,225	2,036	2,175	1,780	806
White	1,652	1,516	1,327	1,224	1,243	1,112	998	1,102	908	500
Black	26	10	18	18	11	14	11	8	12	4
Tennessee	24,061	24,026	22,662	21,281	19,511	17,897	16,767	16,214	13,739	8,950
White	11,088	10,868	10,037	8,994	7,982	7,207	6,636	6,317	4,662	2,594
Black	12,829	13,027	12,506	12,217	11,474	10,655	10,104	9,870	9,061	6,354
Texas	55,994	56,528	55,435	60,303	59,820	57,464	54,240	50,445	36,406	20,164
White	35,324	34,992	33,983	36,938	36,567	35,281	33,089	30,089	19,212	9,742
Black	20,032	20,896	20,941	22,869	22,790	21,760	20,728	20,019	17,058	10,356
Utah	5,634	5,196	4,910	4,504	4,221	3,929	3,575	3,259	2,593	970
White	5,004	4,621	4,333	3,935	3,772	3,496	3,192	2,919	2,359	842
Black	127	92	116	103	88	87	79	73	61	44
Vermont	1,811	1,811	1,666	1,685	1,510	1,459	1,359	1,378	1,080	---
White	1,774	1,776	1,645	1,667	1,503	1,454	1,354	1,372	1,076	---
Black	13	17	9	8	6	4	1	4	1	---
Virginia	27,538	27,125	25,874	24,410	22,126	20,562	19,538	18,443	15,055	9,906
White	11,924	11,731	10,921	10,061	9,013	8,325	7,544	6,885	4,996	3,104
Black	15,237	14,997	14,631	14,094	12,872	12,006	11,797	11,362	9,998	6,776

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 6. Number of live births to unmarried women by race of mother: United States and each State, 1970, 1980, and 1985–92—Con.**

<i>State and race</i> <sup>1</sup>	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1980	1970 <sup>2</sup>
Washington . . . . .	20,116	19,861	18,746	17,638	16,150	14,629	13,745	12,978	9,227	5,528
White . . . . .	16,448	16,341	15,417	14,187	13,003	11,716	11,112	10,460	7,556	4,454
Black . . . . .	1,740	1,672	1,579	1,543	1,475	1,414	1,299	1,269	953	700
West Virginia . . . . .	6,149	6,040	5,743	5,212	4,948	4,722	4,530	4,202	3,846	1,880
White . . . . .	5,559	5,451	5,144	4,653	4,390	4,191	4,041	3,703	3,243	1,522
Black . . . . .	581	581	587	551	553	529	485	495	599	350
Wisconsin . . . . .	18,444	18,235	17,656	16,815	15,528	14,698	14,184	13,359	10,376	5,886
White . . . . .	11,685	11,579	11,205	10,662	9,908	9,381	9,278	8,856	7,054	4,464
Black . . . . .	6,007	5,971	5,789	5,534	5,045	4,762	4,374	4,033	2,968	1,322
Wyoming . . . . .	1,613	1,546	1,383	1,276	1,229	1,189	1,202	1,244	867	430
White . . . . .	1,423	1,371	1,223	1,139	1,094	1,049	1,079	1,109	766	372
Black . . . . .	33	39	30	31	29	34	34	24	31	24

<sup>1</sup>Totals for geographic areas include races other than white and black.

<sup>2</sup>Data are by race of child. Figures for the District of Columbia include an unknown number of births to unmarried women erroneously allocated to this area because of incomplete residence reporting; see reference 17.

NOTE: For the years 1980 and 1985–92, marital status of mother is inferred for births to residents of several States; see Technical notes.

**Table 7. Ratios of births to unmarried women by race of mother: United States and each State, 1970, 1980, and 1985–92**

[Ratios per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

<i>State and race<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1988</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1985</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>1970<sup>2</sup></i>
United States . . . . .	301.3	295.3	280.3	270.8	257.1	244.9	233.9	220.2	184.3	106.9
White . . . . .	225.5	218.3	203.5	192.2	179.7	168.9	159.2	146.7	112.0	56.6
Black . . . . .	681.3	679.4	665.3	657.2	647.0	634.0	623.7	612.2	561.2	375.8
Alabama . . . . .	325.6	318.6	301.3	297.9	278.8	267.8	258.7	249.4	221.7	139.2
White . . . . .	137.3	127.8	119.7	115.4	105.1	93.8	85.8	80.5	59.2	31.5
Black . . . . .	682.1	681.5	647.4	642.0	612.5	607.2	593.7	582.0	521.0	360.7
Alaska . . . . .	274.2	269.4	261.6	245.9	233.9	219.6	208.0	182.5	156.2	93.0
White . . . . .	189.7	188.0	171.9	158.1	145.4	139.6	132.9	116.4	95.2	44.3
Black . . . . .	352.4	343.6	300.9	296.4	272.0	268.0	296.7	242.9	201.1	141.8
Arizona . . . . .	362.3	350.9	326.6	308.2	286.7	271.9	256.2	238.8	187.1	91.4
White . . . . .	327.1	313.1	288.9	267.4	245.0	229.3	214.0	198.0	146.0	66.3
Black . . . . .	652.8	641.0	612.0	612.5	579.6	571.2	550.0	550.5	489.3	339.8
Arkansas . . . . .	309.6	298.8	293.9	276.9	264.7	245.9	239.8	224.2	204.8	127.6
White . . . . .	185.9	174.6	171.3	152.6	144.7	129.3	121.2	106.8	85.3	40.9
Black . . . . .	714.2	704.8	695.7	682.1	660.0	641.0	633.0	615.6	571.9	385.3
California . . . . .	343.0	334.8	315.9	300.3	286.2	271.7	264.8	245.6	213.8	---
White . . . . .	340.4	329.6	307.4	287.3	272.5	254.2	247.1	226.7	186.5	---
Black . . . . .	628.4	635.4	623.3	621.2	613.5	606.3	600.5	580.9	541.0	---
Colorado . . . . .	237.8	235.7	212.5	204.6	195.5	189.0	180.0	166.1	130.1	90.8
White . . . . .	217.6	215.5	192.1	186.1	177.8	171.4	163.0	150.9	116.5	81.9
Black . . . . .	560.5	568.8	545.9	532.0	520.7	521.6	509.4	500.4	441.3	292.5
Connecticut . . . . .	287.1	279.6	265.9	262.9	238.4	235.3	189.6	212.7	179.4	---
White . . . . .	221.8	214.0	202.7	201.6	177.5	189.7	139.7	154.1	121.4	---
Black . . . . .	707.4	701.3	691.5	661.4	670.3	570.3	575.1	672.4	643.2	---
Delaware . . . . .	325.6	318.1	289.9	291.2	270.9	277.3	269.7	262.2	241.8	155.7
White . . . . .	201.6	182.7	166.5	161.7	154.2	149.5	141.6	141.5	115.4	63.4
Black . . . . .	725.8	719.9	702.7	714.3	673.7	704.1	687.3	689.9	670.7	498.6
District of Columbia . . . . .	669.2	662.9	649.1	643.0	617.4	597.0	577.4	567.2	564.5	387.3
White . . . . .	151.8	123.4	193.2	129.8	135.3	145.5	147.5	171.4	174.4	212.8
Black . . . . .	775.6	773.4	759.6	759.3	737.1	716.6	685.9	673.8	645.2	417.1
Florida . . . . .	341.6	330.4	316.9	301.9	287.1	275.2	267.4	257.6	230.1	145.4
White . . . . .	236.9	221.5	208.9	191.4	175.3	161.5	153.0	140.9	106.2	63.3
Black . . . . .	688.5	687.0	676.2	665.7	651.6	648.7	645.2	638.5	599.2	409.2
Georgia . . . . .	350.3	345.6	328.2	316.7	296.0	279.5	272.0	257.0	231.5	---
White . . . . .	168.7	162.1	149.3	140.0	121.8	113.5	105.5	93.6	66.0	---
Black . . . . .	671.2	668.0	649.1	636.7	619.1	602.7	594.0	574.6	522.3	---
Hawaii . . . . .	262.0	260.8	248.3	238.0	221.7	213.3	203.2	199.0	175.5	97.4
White . . . . .	154.8	158.9	144.9	144.8	146.3	140.9	133.8	131.2	132.8	94.7
Black . . . . .	194.2	179.9	176.6	151.2	152.2	145.8	121.8	123.9	110.3	*
Idaho . . . . .	183.1	173.8	166.6	161.2	140.8	130.1	118.5	107.8	78.7	---
White . . . . .	179.2	169.5	162.0	155.6	136.9	126.1	114.9	103.1	75.3	---
Black . . . . .	362.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	---
Illinois . . . . .	334.3	325.5	317.4	309.3	294.5	280.5	270.7	257.3	225.3	134.3
White . . . . .	206.8	199.1	190.2	180.1	168.4	156.9	149.3	136.5	108.5	57.9
Black . . . . .	792.0	781.8	778.2	756.3	758.0	740.2	730.3	725.4	665.9	446.5

See footnotes at end of table.

82 **Table 7. Ratios of births to unmarried women by race of mother: United States and each State, 1970, 1980, and 1985–92—Con.**  
 [Ratios per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

State and race <sup>1</sup>	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1980	1970 <sup>2</sup>
Indiana . . . . .	294.6	283.5	261.7	238.4	227.1	219.7	210.0	197.9	155.0	81.5
White . . . . .	236.2	225.1	203.4	181.5	168.8	164.9	155.4	144.1	103.7	54.0
Black . . . . .	767.8	759.6	738.5	713.0	707.8	712.0	699.9	684.1	595.7	351.5
Iowa . . . . .	235.5	222.0	210.2	194.1	176.7	162.2	150.2	135.6	102.5	70.5
White . . . . .	218.5	205.5	194.7	177.1	160.8	146.8	136.7	122.8	92.0	62.8
Black . . . . .	750.8	743.5	730.9	767.3	750.3	718.4	701.4	676.4	595.7	437.0
Kansas . . . . .	242.6	231.1	215.2	195.6	181.1	172.2	167.3	147.3	122.5	65.9
White . . . . .	201.6	191.6	175.4	157.2	142.2	135.0	131.9	114.2	88.3	49.9
Black . . . . .	657.8	647.7	628.1	606.5	601.3	584.0	574.0	551.3	530.7	280.3
Kentucky . . . . .	263.4	253.9	236.0	225.5	219.5	207.4	199.9	185.3	150.5	84.6
White . . . . .	216.8	205.8	190.0	178.6	172.1	164.4	155.6	142.9	106.9	53.2
Black . . . . .	705.3	706.5	685.8	674.0	673.6	669.6	648.2	641.5	594.7	411.1
Louisiana . . . . .	402.4	383.6	368.5	353.1	334.9	319.0	302.3	285.6	233.6	147.6
White . . . . .	184.9	167.5	155.8	142.7	129.4	119.8	109.7	99.2	70.8	38.3
Black . . . . .	700.3	681.1	672.0	655.3	638.6	617.5	600.1	584.0	504.8	330.6
Maine . . . . .	253.0	249.5	226.5	217.9	203.2	198.1	189.8	178.2	138.6	70.6
White . . . . .	252.5	248.5	224.2	216.1	202.5	196.7	188.6	176.9	137.0	69.5
Black . . . . .	365.9	259.3	385.4	320.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Maryland . . . . .	304.8	306.8	296.5	288.9	326.2	315.2	304.8	290.7	251.5	---
White . . . . .	163.0	170.9	162.1	153.6	182.4	173.5	163.7	153.1	114.7	---
Black . . . . .	601.9	607.6	601.5	600.9	655.7	643.9	644.0	626.2	586.4	---
Massachusetts . . . . .	259.3	259.3	247.0	238.2	221.8	208.6	193.0	183.8	156.5	---
White . . . . .	217.8	219.7	207.0	199.5	186.7	175.7	165.0	155.9	130.3	---
Black . . . . .	629.8	623.4	607.9	608.2	581.1	577.5	560.3	584.2	551.6	---
Michigan . . . . .	268.0	272.6	262.1	245.4	216.1	204.3	193.4	180.7	161.8	109.6
White . . . . .	150.1	153.7	146.2	135.2	122.9	115.8	111.8	105.6	89.3	62.6
Black . . . . .	720.6	718.4	703.4	679.6	639.9	614.9	592.1	577.6	539.7	364.0
Minnesota . . . . .	229.5	223.4	208.7	194.6	183.3	170.5	163.0	150.7	114.1	80.7
White . . . . .	193.5	186.7	175.8	162.2	152.2	142.1	137.2	126.9	98.5	70.8
Black . . . . .	744.2	745.9	732.8	720.2	732.6	696.4	701.5	688.0	602.1	479.3
Mississippi . . . . .	429.0	424.0	404.6	393.9	376.1	351.1	339.8	328.5	280.4	173.5
White . . . . .	151.6	150.7	133.3	123.8	115.4	99.3	92.7	85.6	59.7	31.2
Black . . . . .	724.6	713.1	699.1	687.9	666.3	638.5	626.3	610.8	523.9	330.9
Missouri . . . . .	315.2	301.7	285.7	271.3	250.0	237.2	224.8	215.6	176.3	114.6
White . . . . .	215.5	203.3	187.9	177.1	160.1	151.0	138.3	129.3	96.3	56.3
Black . . . . .	786.6	770.8	759.7	749.8	728.7	706.8	711.5	704.3	647.3	445.3
Montana . . . . .	264.3	251.7	237.4	217.4	207.8	194.3	177.6	168.2	125.2	---
White . . . . .	208.0	199.4	179.6	161.5	149.6	139.2	130.8	124.7	93.7	---
Black . . . . .	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	---
Nebraska . . . . .	226.1	215.7	207.4	192.5	181.2	168.2	155.1	148.3	116.0	75.9
White . . . . .	187.8	175.8	169.6	153.6	142.1	131.6	119.7	116.5	89.6	59.2
Black . . . . .	727.1	746.6	710.7	701.7	720.9	706.0	700.3	660.4	615.2	420.3
Nevada . . . . .	332.9	318.5	253.7	235.0	190.6	164.4	165.9	156.5	134.5	108.8
White . . . . .	288.0	273.8	212.4	190.3	144.0	119.6	118.1	110.2	92.7	74.7
Black . . . . .	718.9	727.5	662.3	636.4	609.3	577.9	614.6	582.5	523.1	403.1

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 7. Ratios of births to unmarried women by race of mother: United States and each State, 1970, 1980, and 1985–92—Con.**

[Ratios per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

State and race <sup>1</sup>	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1980	1970 <sup>2</sup>
New Hampshire	191.9	183.3	168.9	157.1	144.1	147.4	139.2	133.6	109.6	61.8
White	190.9	183.3	168.7	156.8	144.1	147.3	139.5	133.7	109.7	61.5
Black	495.4	412.5	371.7	283.3	260.0	302.8	*	*	*	*
New Jersey	263.8	263.3	243.3	241.0	242.7	235.0	228.7	222.6	210.8	106.2
White	174.2	172.3	155.9	149.5	150.8	142.6	140.1	132.7	113.2	44.5
Black	657.3	658.1	635.5	630.3	644.0	646.0	635.1	626.2	615.7	388.3
New Mexico	394.8	375.7	354.1	345.4	322.5	295.5	278.5	262.9	160.8	---
White	345.6	327.7	305.0	292.9	269.2	246.0	232.0	219.7	129.2	---
Black	580.9	572.2	566.1	558.9	539.4	494.2	456.3	451.3	273.9	---
New York	348.3	340.8	329.7	319.1	300.7	297.4	293.7	280.7	238.1	---
White	266.4	257.3	243.1	231.2	210.7	208.0	202.3	190.3	147.7	---
Black	678.1	677.6	674.4	657.9	645.8	638.8	639.4	630.4	601.3	---
North Carolina	313.1	315.9	293.9	277.3	262.6	248.8	236.3	221.2	190.0	124.6
White	161.0	160.2	141.7	128.2	119.1	108.6	98.5	89.4	64.0	37.3
Black	668.0	668.8	644.1	621.7	600.5	590.1	573.1	551.3	485.1	349.8
North Dakota	226.4	219.6	183.7	168.8	156.2	138.7	129.2	114.9	92.4	66.8
White	182.0	174.0	140.4	126.8	117.4	102.4	98.3	85.8	69.3	54.9
Black	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ohio	316.3	306.6	289.3	280.1	264.4	248.6	233.6	217.6	178.1	---
White	230.9	221.5	205.9	197.1	184.2	172.1	160.3	145.9	112.3	---
Black	771.4	761.8	747.3	740.4	725.6	707.0	690.1	675.4	614.2	---
Oklahoma	283.6	271.4	251.8	237.6	223.6	206.6	186.1	172.2	140.4	83.3
White	215.1	201.2	185.1	169.7	158.3	145.4	127.4	116.9	84.4	50.5
Black	684.0	686.7	649.2	642.0	627.7	602.1	567.6	558.6	534.6	345.9
Oregon	269.8	266.5	257.4	252.8	235.6	224.1	206.5	187.5	147.9	75.1
White	257.5	253.5	245.1	240.2	222.8	211.7	195.6	175.3	138.7	67.0
Black	707.9	726.2	713.8	696.5	697.1	675.6	638.4	645.4	589.1	398.3
Pennsylvania	315.6	304.2	286.4	279.0	265.1	253.0	244.1	227.7	176.9	97.1
White	229.3	218.0	202.4	193.5	182.8	172.0	165.2	154.1	111.2	51.8
Black	794.4	787.9	774.9	772.1	758.1	753.3	746.0	725.0	672.9	413.2
Rhode Island	296.4	276.4	263.0	249.5	229.3	218.1	197.6	195.6	156.5	69.9
White	256.9	236.8	226.3	213.4	196.8	186.7	166.8	166.1	130.7	53.1
Black	672.0	662.9	629.5	647.5	614.2	618.0	635.9	608.0	598.2	392.6
South Carolina	354.7	347.4	326.7	316.0	303.4	290.4	276.1	264.2	230.3	150.3
White	167.6	158.5	146.5	136.6	123.9	115.3	105.1	94.0	68.1	36.0
Black	656.0	644.2	618.1	600.3	588.5	574.9	551.6	543.6	473.9	350.1
South Dakota	266.2	248.5	228.7	217.8	208.5	193.6	175.3	179.3	134.1	69.0
White	181.3	166.3	144.7	133.5	133.0	115.2	101.8	107.0	78.6	48.4
Black	329.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tennessee	326.9	322.5	302.3	290.8	275.9	263.4	253.1	242.9	198.5	124.3
White	200.6	194.1	177.3	163.2	149.1	139.3	130.7	123.2	87.5	45.9
Black	732.7	731.5	710.8	700.9	688.7	678.4	674.1	658.4	586.4	416.3
Texas	174.5	177.9	175.2	177.7	196.0	197.2	176.6	163.7	133.1	87.4
White	130.7	130.9	127.7	143.1	143.5	138.5	127.1	114.8	82.9	49.9
Black	465.7	484.9	483.0	532.2	543.1	530.4	511.8	501.0	450.2	301.1

See footnotes at end of table.

82 **Table 7. Ratios of births to unmarried women by race of mother: United States and each State, 1970, 1980, and 1985–92—Con.**  
 [Ratios per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

State and race <sup>1</sup>	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1980	1970 <sup>2</sup>
Utah . . . . .	151.5	144.2	135.3	126.6	117.1	111.2	98.2	87.0	62.0	36.0
White . . . . .	141.7	135.2	125.8	116.6	109.6	103.7	91.8	81.3	58.2	32.2
Black . . . . .	518.4	511.1	527.3	481.3	539.9	472.8	443.8	442.4	412.2	229.2
Vermont . . . . .	234.1	227.4	201.4	198.4	186.2	179.5	167.0	171.5	137.0	---
White . . . . .	232.5	226.1	200.5	198.1	186.8	179.9	167.4	171.5	137.2	---
Black . . . . .	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	---
Virginia . . . . .	283.3	278.6	260.4	252.2	237.6	227.6	224.1	214.3	191.9	116.2
White . . . . .	170.0	166.8	151.0	142.4	131.7	124.5	117.2	107.7	86.1	47.0
Black . . . . .	638.8	630.0	612.8	603.8	587.1	572.0	579.0	574.2	533.0	367.5
Washington . . . . .	253.2	249.2	236.5	234.0	222.7	207.9	197.9	184.8	136.0	91.6
White . . . . .	234.7	231.4	218.2	213.2	201.7	186.6	178.5	165.8	121.9	79.7
Black . . . . .	553.3	542.3	543.0	530.4	527.7	517.8	496.7	500.4	460.6	362.3
West Virginia . . . . .	277.4	268.3	254.3	235.2	226.5	210.6	195.0	174.1	130.5	63.5
White . . . . .	261.6	252.5	238.2	219.0	209.9	195.1	181.1	160.0	114.7	53.7
Black . . . . .	712.9	721.7	680.2	665.5	659.9	621.6	578.8	560.6	545.5	297.6
Wisconsin . . . . .	261.0	253.0	242.2	233.5	219.3	207.2	196.1	181.2	138.7	75.7
White . . . . .	192.5	186.0	177.0	170.2	159.0	149.1	143.5	133.1	102.1	60.8
Black . . . . .	822.1	826.6	806.9	799.2	795.0	790.1	764.2	750.9	656.6	342.5
Wyoming . . . . .	239.9	230.6	198.0	184.9	171.6	157.7	139.2	132.8	82.1	66.6
White . . . . .	224.9	217.3	185.9	174.4	161.7	146.4	130.6	123.7	75.2	60.3
Black . . . . .	507.7	600.0	447.8	413.3	391.9	395.3	523.1	381.0	397.4	307.7

<sup>1</sup>Totals for geographic areas include races other than white and black.

<sup>2</sup>Data are by race of child. Figures for the District of Columbia include an unknown number of births to unmarried women erroneously allocated to this area because of incomplete residence reporting; see reference 17.

# Appendix

## Technical notes

### Sources

Data shown in this report are based on 100 percent of the birth certificates from all States and the District of Columbia. The data are provided to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program (VSCP). In 1972–84, the VSCP included varying numbers of States that provided data based on 100 percent of their birth certificates. Data for States not in the VSCP were based on a 50-percent sample of birth certificates filed in those States. During 1951–54, 1956–66, and 1968–71, data were based on a 50-percent sample for all States. Data for 1967 are based on a 20- to 50-percent sample of births. Data for 1940–50 and 1955 are based on 100 percent of birth certificates. Information on sampling procedures and sampling errors for 1984 and earlier years is provided in the annual report, *Vital Statistics of the United States*, Volume I, Natality.

### Births by marital status

Beginning with the 1980 data year, national estimates of births to unmarried women have been derived from two sources. For most States (44 States and the District of Columbia in 1992), marital status was reported directly on the birth certificates. In the remaining States that lack such an item (California, Connecticut, Michigan, Nevada, New York, and Texas in 1992), marital status is inferred from a comparison of the child's and the parents' surnames. This procedure represents a substantial departure from the method used before 1980 to prepare national estimates of births to unmarried women, which assumed that the incidence of births to unmarried women in States with no direct question on marital status was the same as the incidence in reporting States in the same geographic division.

The current method represents an effort to use related information on the birth certificate to improve the quality of national data as well as to provide data for the individual nonreporting States. An evaluation of the current method and its validity for California (the largest nonreporting State) has been published (12). Because of the continued substantial increases in nonmarital childbearing throughout the 1980's, the data have been intensively evaluated and reviewed by the Division of Vital Statistics, NCHS. There is continuing concern that the current method might overstate the number of births to unmarried women because it incorporates data based on a comparison of surnames. This occurs because women

who have retained their maiden surname after marriage and who are frequently older and well-educated would be classified as unmarried. The results of this evaluation have been generally similar in both the reporting and the States using inferential data for all races combined. The results have also generally been similar for white and black births. However, between 1991 and 1992, the patterns differed by race. Births to unmarried white women increased 1 percent in the States providing inferential data and 3 percent in the States with a marital status item on the birth certificate. Conversely, births to unmarried black women declined 3 percent in the States providing inferential data and declined just slightly (0.2 percent) in the States reporting marital status directly on the birth certificate.

### Births in Texas

The number of births to unmarried women in Texas has been underreported since 1989. Beginning in that year, as a result of legislation passed in the State, a birth is considered to have occurred to a married woman if the mother provides any information about the father or if a paternity affidavit has been filed. Prior to 1989, no information could be given about the father if the mother was not married. The measurement of marital status for births in Texas is expected to improve beginning with the 1994 data year because a direct question on marital status has been added to the birth certificate.

### Race

Beginning with the 1989 data year, NCHS has tabulated its birth data primarily by race of the mother. In 1988 and prior years, births were tabulated by race of the child, which was determined from the race of the parents as entered on the birth certificate. When the parents were of the same race, as was the case for 96.1 percent of births in 1992, the race of the child was the same as the race of the parents. When the parents were of different races and one parent was white, the child was assigned to the other parent's race. When the parents were of different races and neither parent was white, the child was assigned to the father's race, with one exception. If either parent was Hawaiian, the child was assigned to the Hawaiian category. If race was missing for one parent, the child was assigned to the race of the parent for whom race was reported.

Trend data by race shown in this report have been retabulated by race of the mother for all years beginning with

the 1980 data year. The retabulation provides more uniform data to those analyzing birth data by race, particularly trend data. To facilitate continuity and analysis of the data, trend tables showing data for years prior to 1980 show data for both race of mother and race of child for 1980. This makes it possible to distinguish the effects of this change from real changes in the data.

The most important factor influencing the decision to tabulate births by race of the mother was the recent revision of the birth certificate, effective with the 1989 data year. This revision includes many more health questions that are directly associated with the mother (for example, method of delivery, tobacco and alcohol use, and maternal weight gain). Additionally, many of the other items on the birth certificate for more than two decades also relate directly to the mother, for example, age, education level, and receipt of prenatal care. In all these instances, it is more appropriate to tabulate births by the mother's race.

A second factor has been the increasing incidence of interracial parentage. In 1992, 3.9 percent of births were to parents of different races compared with just 1.4 percent in 1972. The majority of these births were to mothers who were white and fathers who were of another race. There have been two major consequences of the increasing interracial parentage. One is the effect on birth rates by race. Under the previous procedures, the number of white births had been arbitrarily limited to infants whose parents were both white (or one parent white if only one parent's race was reported). At the same time, the number of births of other races had been arbitrarily increased to include all births to white mothers and fathers of other races. Thus, if race of the mother had been used, birth rates per 1,000 unmarried white women in a given age group would have been higher, while comparable rates for unmarried black women would have been lower. The other consequence of increasing interracial parentage is its impact on the racial differential in various characteristics of births, particularly in cases where there is generally a large racial disparity, such as the incidence of nonmarital births. In this instance, the racial differential is smaller when the data are tabulated by race of child rather than by race of mother.

The third factor influencing the decision to tabulate births by race of mother is the growing proportion of births with race of the father not stated, 16 percent in 1992 compared with 9 percent two decades earlier. This primarily reflects the increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women; in many such cases, no information is reported on the father generally because of legal restrictions in the State. These births are already assigned to the race of the mother because there is no alternative. Therefore, tabulating all births by race of the mother provides for a more uniform approach rather than a necessarily arbitrary combination of parental races. Additional information on the tabulation of births by race is provided in two recent papers (51,52).

## Population denominators

The numbers of unmarried women (defined as "single, widowed, and divorced" women) by age and race enumerated

by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in 1940 and 1950 have been used to compute birth rates for unmarried women for those years. Rates by age for 1941–49 shown in table 1 are based on Census Bureau estimates of the unmarried female population.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census' March Current Population Survey (CPS) provided annual estimates of the population by age, sex, and marital status that were used as the basis for rates beginning in 1951 (25). Because the estimates of the unmarried population fluctuate erratically from year to year due to sampling error, they have been smoothed so that the rates computed from them do not also fluctuate.

The observed percent of women unmarried in each age and race group in each year was smoothed by computing a three-term moving average for the years 1955–92. Because the data necessary for calculating the averages at the beginning of the period are not available by race, they had to be estimated. These estimates were made by assuming that the proportion of unmarried women for each age-race group in each year from 1954 to 1956 was the same as the corresponding proportion for 1957, the first year that these estimates were available from the CPS. The estimates by race were then adjusted to the observed total unmarried population in each age group in each year.

The percents of women who were unmarried obtained by computing a moving average were subsequently applied to estimates of the total resident population as of July 1 in the appropriate age-race groups (15,53–57). The total numbers of unmarried women by age for 1955–92 were estimated by summing up the figures for white women and women of all other races.

The total figures (all races combined) for 1951–54 were estimated by computing a three-term moving average of the percent unmarried for each age group and applying these to the annual July 1 estimates of the total resident population in the appropriate age groups.

As noted above in the section on race, all trend data for births to unmarried women, including birth rates, have been retabulated by race of the mother for each year beginning with 1980. Therefore, rates and other measures by race shown in this report for 1980–88 differ from those published in *Vital Statistics of the United States*, Volume I, Natality, for 1991 and earlier years.

## Rates by Hispanic origin

In computing birth rates for unmarried Hispanic women by age and educational attainment, births with origin of mother not stated are included with non-Hispanic births. In addition, all births to New Hampshire residents in 1990–92 are assumed to be non-Hispanic. In 1990, 1.0 percent of the New Hampshire population was reported to be Hispanic (58). Hispanic births to Oklahoma residents in 1990 were estimated to be in the same proportion as the proportion reported in 1991. Estimates of rates for the Hispanic population are underestimates of the true rates to the extent that the births with origin not stated (about 1 percent each year) were actually to Hispanic mothers, and by the proportion of New

Hampshire births that were to Hispanic mothers. The population with origin not stated was imputed. The effect on the rates is believed to be small.

## Rates by educational attainment

Estimated birth rates for unmarried women by educational attainment, age, race, and Hispanic origin have been computed for this report for 1992. The numbers of births by education were reported for all States and the District of Columbia. The populations by marital status, education, age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin were provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, based on the March 1992 Current Population Survey (21). The distributions by educational attainment of unmarried women in each age/race/Hispanic origin group were applied to the July 1 population estimates to produce estimates of the number of unmarried women by age, race, Hispanic origin, and educational attainment. Thus, rates shown in table C in each age/race group for women of all years of schooling combined are the same as the rates in tables A and 1 for those age groups common to all three tables. Because the March 1992 Current Population Survey did not provide separate estimates of the population for ages 18–19 years and 20–24 years by marital status, education, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, birth rates have been computed for the combined age group 18–24 years for this report.

## Computation of rates

In computing rates by live-birth order and educational attainment of mother, births with birth order not stated and births with educational attainment not stated were distributed in the same proportion as births of known live-birth order and education within each age-of-mother classification. This procedure is done separately by race and Hispanic origin.

## Standardization for age and education

Differences in the distributions of black, white, and Hispanic unmarried women by age and educational attainment and the effect of these differences on birth rates for unmarried women by education and race were noted in the text. To eliminate the effects of these differences on the nonmarital birth rates, standardized rates were computed using the direct method of standardization. The 1992 distribution of unmarried women of all races by age and educational attainment was used as the standard population in this procedure. Standardization for educational attainment and age of mother was computed separately for each racial group, using the following formula:

$$m_1 = \sum m_a P_a / P$$

where

$m_1$  = standardized birth rate for unmarried women for given race/origin group

$m_a$  = birth rate for unmarried women in each education-age group for given race/origin

$P_a$  = standard population of unmarried women in each education-age group

$P$  = total standard population of unmarried women 15–44 years of age

A similar procedure was followed to eliminate the effects of differences among the distributions of black, white, and Hispanic births by educational attainment and age of the mother on the proportions of nonmarital births by educational attainment and race. The direct method of standardization was used, with the 1992 distribution of births of all races by educational attainment and age used as the standard population. Standardized rates were computed separately for each race/origin group using the following formula:

$$m_1 = (\sum m_a P_a / P) \times 100$$

where

$m_1$  = standardized proportion of births to unmarried mothers for given race/origin group

$m_a$  = proportion of births to unmarried mothers in each education-age group, for given race/origin

$P_a$  = standard population of births in each education-age group

$P$  = total number of births to unmarried mothers

## Kessner Index

The Kessner Index is a multidimensional measure that examines when prenatal care began in terms of the total number of prenatal visits made by the mother as well as the gestational age of the infant (41). Care is classified as “adequate,” “intermediate,” or “inadequate.” Adequate care is care that was begun in the first trimester with an appropriate number of prenatal care visits consistent with the length of gestation. Women classified as having inadequate care include all women who began care in the third trimester plus women whose care began earlier but who had four or fewer visits depending on the length of the pregnancy. Intermediate care is the classification for all other combinations of care, visits, and length of gestation.

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