

## Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths: Provisional Data for March 2003

**Table A. Provisional vital statistics for the United States, March 2003**

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

Item	March				January–March				12 months ending with March				
	Number		Rate		Number		Rate		Number		Rate		
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2001
Live births . . . . .	334,000	332,000	13.6	13.6	970,000	968,000	13.6	13.7	4,025,000	4,018,000	13.9	14	14.3
Fertility rate . . . . .	...	...	63.3	63.1	...	...	63.3	63.3	...	...	64.8	64.9	65.7
Deaths . . . . .	208,000	226,000	8.4	9.3	625,000	662,000	8.7	9.3	2,400,000	2,440,000	8.3	8.5	8.4
Infant deaths . . . . .	2,300	2,500	6.7	7.3	6,500	7,100	6.7	7.3	27,100	27,600	6.7	6.9	6.7
Natural increase . . . . .	126,000	106,000	5.2	4.3	345,000	306,000	4.9	4.4	1,625,000	1,578,000	5.6	5.5	5.9
Marriages <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	143,000	156,000	5.8	6.4	412,000	421,000	5.8	5.9	2,245,000	2,311,000	7.8	8.1	8.2
Divorces <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4.0	4.0	4.0
Population base (in millions) . . . . .	...	...	290.4	287.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	289.2	286.2	283.1

... Category not applicable.

--- Data not available.

<sup>1</sup>Marriage rates may be underestimated due to incomplete reporting in Oklahoma; see “Technical Notes.”

<sup>2</sup>Divorce rates exclude data for California, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Populations for these rates also exclude these States.

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

### Technical Notes

Data shown here are provisional and include only events occurring within the United States (50 States and the District of Columbia). Tables A and B provide monthly, year-to-date, and 12-month ending counts and rates for births, deaths, and marriages and 12-month ending rates for divorces. Tables 1–3 (available at the “Data Warehouse” at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>) present monthly and year-to-date counts of births, deaths, marriages, and divorces and 12-month ending counts and rates of infant deaths as reported by each State. Mortality data exclude fetal deaths. Delay in the receipt of certificates in a registration office may result in a low figure for a given month followed by a high figure for the month(s) in which the delayed records were received. Data for previous months include revisions States might have provided to correct for delayed

reporting; therefore, figures may differ from those previously published. Totals for births, deaths, and infant deaths are by State of residence and, therefore, in effect, exclude events to nonresidents of the United States. The effect of excluding events to nonresidents from the U.S. totals is small. Events to nonresidents of the United States are included in all marriage and divorce figures. Divorce figures include reported annulments.

Until 1998, provisional totals for births, marriages, and divorces for the entire United States included corrections for observed differences between provisional and final figures. These corrections served to compensate for delays in reporting. Beginning with data for January 1998, these monthly corrections for births, marriages, and divorces have been dropped. Further information on these changes has been provided in the National Vital Statistics Reports presenting provisional data for January, February, and March 1999 (vol. 48, nos. 1, 2, and 4, respectively) available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>.

Moreover, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) ceased publishing divorce counts and rates based on provisional data from the combined 50 States because it is no longer statistically feasible to calculate estimates of monthly divorce counts for nonreporting States (California, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, and Oklahoma). Instead, NCHS publishes only the 12-month divorce rates shown in [table A](#), based solely on the combined counts and populations for reporting States and the District of Columbia. Aggregate 1-month, cumulative counts and rates, and 12-month counts for divorces have been dropped because of their very limited usefulness when based on less than the full complement of States. Monthly marriage and divorce counts as reported by each State will continue to be shown in [table 3](#), available at the NCHS Web site's "Data Warehouse."

Marriage and divorce counts for Oklahoma are not included in [table 3](#) showing provisional data by State because of incomplete reporting. For the purpose of calculating 12-month divorce rates shown

in [table A](#), Oklahoma is treated as a nonreporting State (see earlier discussion). Since all other States report marriages, marriage rates shown in [tables A](#) and [B](#) include Oklahoma data. The impact of the missing marriages on the national rate is negligible (estimated at less than 1 percent).

Population estimates used for computing rates originate from the U.S. Census Bureau and are based on the 2000 census. Monthly rates are based on populations estimated for the specific month. Year-to-date rates are averages of monthly rates that have been weighted by the number of days in the corresponding months. Rates for 12-month periods are the sum of events for the period per population estimated at the midpoint of the period. Populations have been estimated by NCHS for the 12-month divorce rates based on the 45 reporting States and the District of Columbia. Because monthly infant mortality rates are based on relatively few events, they are highly variable, and comparisons of monthly infant mortality rates should be interpreted cautiously.

**Table B. Provisional number of live births, marriages, deaths, and infant deaths and rates, by month: United States, January 2002–March 2003**

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

Period	Live births				Marriages		Deaths		Infant deaths	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 women ages 15–44 years		Number	Rate per 1,000 population <sup>2</sup>	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births
			Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>						
2002:										
January . . . . .	331,000	13.6	62.9	65.8	113,000	4.6	226,000	9.3	2,400	7.2
February . . . . .	305,000	13.8	64.1	65.2	152,000	6.9	209,000	9.5	2,200	7.2
March . . . . .	332,000	13.6	63.1	64.6	156,000	6.4	226,000	9.3	2,500	7.3
April . . . . .	325,000	13.8	63.8	64.6	172,000	7.3	200,000	8.4	2,400	7.3
May . . . . .	340,000	13.9	64.5	64.9	211,000	8.6	200,000	8.2	2,400	6.9
June . . . . .	328,000	13.9	64.4	63.5	227,000	9.6	186,000	7.9	2,300	6.9
July . . . . .	358,000	14.6	68.0	65.1	237,000	9.7	193,000	7.9	2,300	6.4
August . . . . .	360,000	14.7	68.3	65.9	235,000	9.6	190,000	7.8	2,200	6.4
September . . . . .	349,000	14.7	68.5	64.8	216,000	9.1	190,000	8.0	2,200	6.4
October . . . . .	346,000	14.1	65.7	66.2	214,000	8.7	200,000	8.2	2,300	6.8
November . . . . .	318,000	13.4	62.3	64.7	157,000	6.6	201,000	8.4	2,200	6.7
December . . . . .	330,000	13.4	62.5	63.0	165,000	6.7	215,000	8.7	2,300	6.9
2003:										
January . . . . .	330,000	13.4	62.5	65.3	132,000	5.4	218,000	8.8	2,300	6.7
February . . . . .	306,000	13.8	64.2	65.3	136,000	6.1	200,000	9.0	2,000	6.6
March . . . . .	334,000	13.6	63.3	64.8	143,000	5.8	208,000	8.4	2,300	6.7

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

<sup>2</sup>Marriage rates may be underestimated due to incomplete reporting in Oklahoma; see "Technical Notes."

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

---

**Acknowledgments**

This report was prepared by Paul D. Sutton, assisted by Martha L. Munson, both in the Reproductive Statistics Branch (RSB) of the Division of Vital Statistics (DVS) under the general direction of Stephanie J. Ventura, Chief, RSB, and James A. Weed, Acting Director, DVS. Betty L. Smith of the Mortality Statistics Branch assisted with review of the mortality data. Connie Gentry, Chrissy Jarman, Millie Johnson, Susan McBroom, and Pam Stephenson of the Data Acquisition and Evaluation Branch (DAEB) were responsible for acquisition of the provisional data. Brenda Green, David Justice, Jenny Justice, Adrienne Rouse, and Francine Winter, also of DAEB, evaluated the quality of the provisional data. The report was edited by Kathy Sedgwick and typeset by Jacqueline M. Davis of the Publications Branch, Division of Data Services.

---

**Copyright information**

All material appearing in this report is in the public domain and may be reproduced or copied without permission; citation as to source, however, is appreciated.

**Suggested citation**

Sutton PD. Births, marriages, divorces, and deaths: Provisional data for March 2003. National vital statistics reports; vol 52 no 5. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2003.

**National Center for Health Statistics**

Director, Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director, Jack R. Anderson

**Division of Vital Statistics**

Acting Director, James A. Weed, Ph.D.