

received 2/13/84

nchs MONTHLY VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

Final Data From the National Center for Health Statistics

Vol. 32, No. 10, Supplement • February 10, 1984

Characteristics of Asian Births: United States, 1980

by Selma Taffel, Division of Vital Statistics

Introduction

The number of Asian and Pacific Islander births in the United States has increased dramatically in recent years because of the large influx of immigrants from China since the late 1960's; from Korea, the Philippines, and India since the early 1970's; and more recently from Southeast Asia.^{1,2} Between 1978 and 1980 alone, the number of Asian births rose by 30 percent, about 4 times the increase in white (8 percent) and black (7 percent) births according to information recorded on live-birth certificates (table 1). Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiian, and Filipino births all increased more rapidly than did white or black births, but by far the largest rise, 60 percent, was for "Other Asian or Pacific Islander" births. This category includes births identified as Asian Indian, Cambodian, Korean, Laotian, and Vietnamese, as well as other Asian or Pacific Islanders.

In many ways, the major Asian or Pacific Islander groups are different from one another as well as from other races. In addition, there are major differences between Asian mothers born in the United States and those born abroad. In this report, information obtained from 1980 live-birth certificates is used to compare the demographic profiles of Asian mothers (Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiian, Filipino, and "Other" Asian or Pacific Islander) and the health of their babies with those of white and black mothers.

Race designation is that of the child, and it is determined from the race of the parents as entered on the birth certificate (see Technical notes). Although mixed Asian and white parentage is not uncommon, the vast majority of Asian babies have mothers who are Asian. Therefore, for ease in discussion, the term "Asian mothers" is used to designate mothers whose babies are categorized as "Asian." Also, for convenience the category "Asian or Pacific Islander" is often abbreviated as "Asian."

Geographic distribution of Asian births

In 1980, 58 percent of the Asian or Pacific Islander mothers resided in western States (table 2 and figure 1), 16 percent

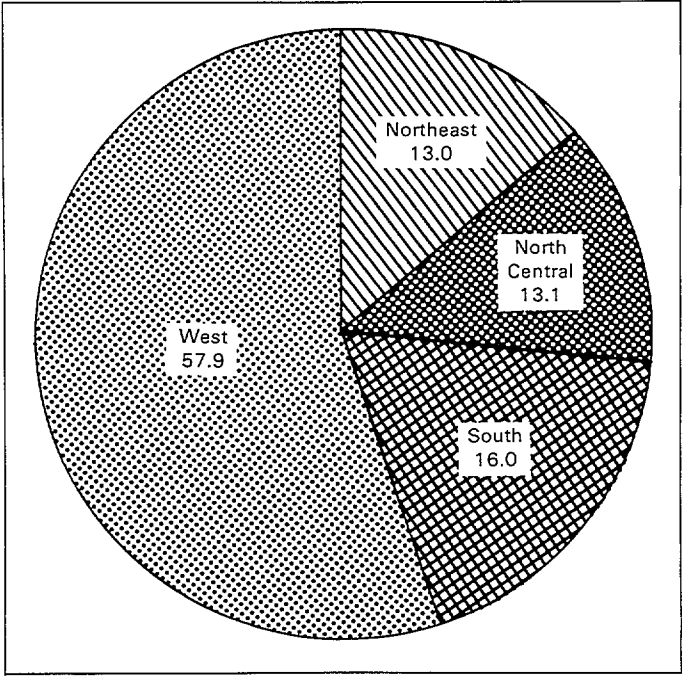


Figure 1. Percent distribution of Asian or Pacific Islander births by mother's region of residence: United States, 1980

lived in the South, and the remaining 26 percent resided in about equal numbers in the Northeast and North Central Regions. Approximately three-quarters of the Japanese and Filipino mothers lived in the West as did almost all Hawaiian mothers, as would be expected, because the State of Hawaii is located in this region. Although nearly one-quarter of the Chinese mothers resided in the Northeast, relatively few other Asian mothers lived there.

A majority of Asian mothers lived in three States: California (32 percent), Hawaii (16 percent), and New York (6 percent) (table 3). Other States each accounted for 5 percent or less of the total. Over one-third of the Chinese, Japanese,

and Filipino mothers and nearly 30 percent of the "Other" Asian or Pacific Islander mothers lived in California. The concentration of Asian or Pacific Islander births in the West is not surprising because there are large Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiian, and Filipino populations residing in this region.³ In addition, it is estimated that by 1980 one-third of the Southeast Asian refugees had located in California.⁴

Age of mother and live-birth order

Asian or Pacific Islander mothers, with the exception of Hawaiians, are considerably older than either black or white mothers (table 4). In 1980, only 6 percent of Asian mothers were under 20 years of age (figure 2), compared with 14 percent of white mothers and 27 percent of black mothers. In addition, only 23 percent were 20–24 years of age, far less than the comparable proportion of white (34 percent) or black (36 percent) mothers. On the other hand, about one-third of Asian mothers (35 percent) were 30 years of age or more, considerably higher than the comparable percent for white (20 percent) or black (15 percent) mothers.

Hawaiian mothers are the youngest of the Asian mothers, while Chinese and Japanese mothers are the oldest, as measured by the median age at birth. The median age of Hawaiian mothers in 1980 was 24.4 years while for other Asian groups the median age ranged from 27.6 years for "Other" Asian mothers to 29.4 years for Chinese mothers. The median ages for white mothers (25.9 years) and black mothers (24.2 years) were both substantially lower than those of all Asian groups except Hawaiians.

The distributions of births by live-birth order provide indirect evidence of the fertility of Asian women compared with that of white and black women. Overall, the birth order distribution of Asian births is quite similar to that of white births, with more than 40 percent first order births and about 10 percent fourth or higher order births (table 5). By contrast, 15 percent of black births were fourth or higher order, an indication that as a group, Asian women have lower fertility than black women. Among the specific Asian groups, Chinese and Japanese women probably have the lowest fertility and Hawaiian and "Other" Asian women the highest, as evidenced by the proportion of first and fourth and higher order births for these groups. Only 5 percent of the Chinese and Japanese births were fourth or higher order, compared with 15 percent of Hawaiian births and 13 percent of "Other" Asian births. Nearly half (48 percent) of Chinese and Japanese births were first births, while 39 percent of Hawaiian and 40 percent of "Other" Asian births were first births.

These differences are consistent with the relatively higher median age of Chinese and Japanese mothers and lower median age of Hawaiian and "Other" Asian mothers. In addition, as can be seen in table 6, delayed childbearing, as indicated by the proportion of first births to mothers 30 years of age and over, is more common among Chinese and Japanese mothers.

Educational attainment of mothers

It should be noted when interpreting data on educational attainment that California, Texas, and Washington, where 4

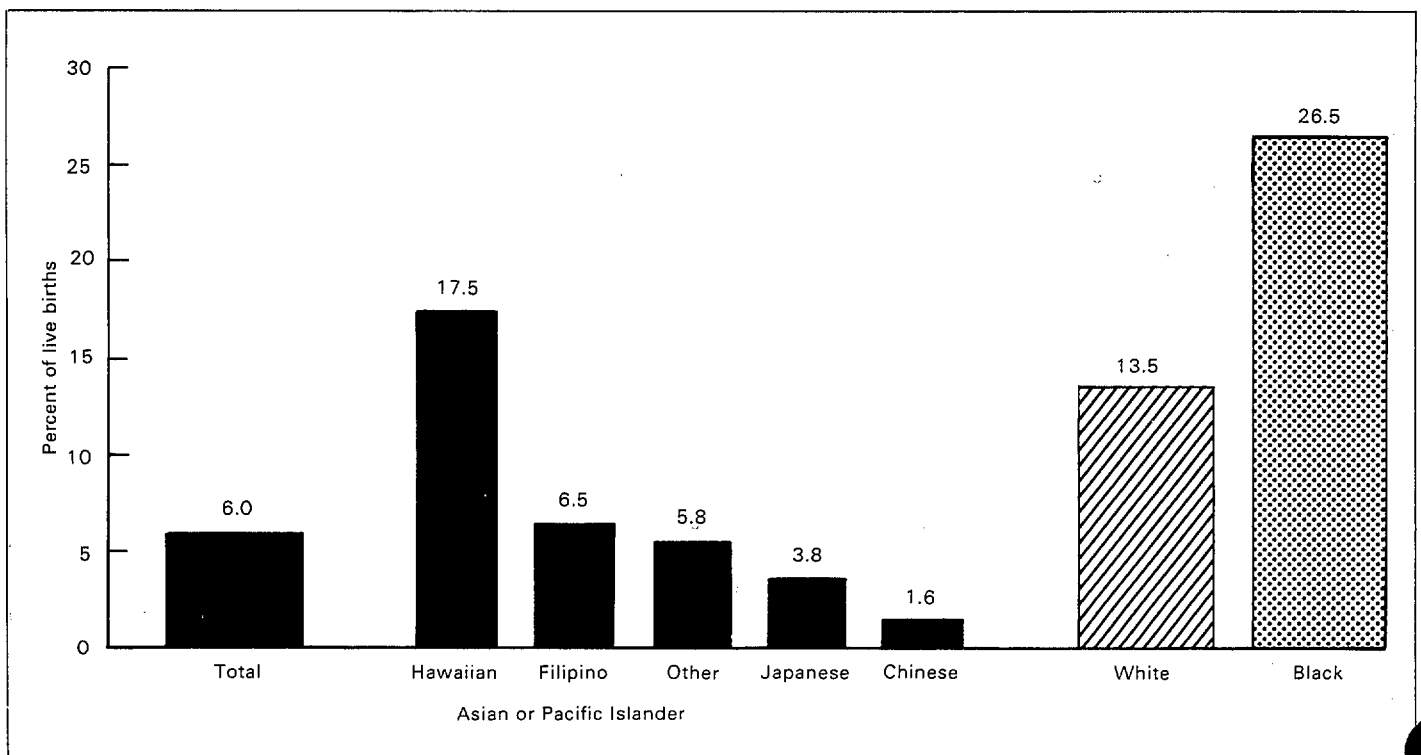


Figure 2. Percent of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births to mothers under 20 years of age: United States, 1980

percent of Asian births occurred, did not request information on the educational attainment of parents on birth certificates. Although, as a group, Asian mothers in States reporting educational attainment are 2 to 3 times as likely as white or black mothers are to have completed only a grade school education or less, they are also far more likely to have completed college (table 7 and figure 3). In 1980, 10 percent of the Asian mothers had completed fewer than 9 years of schooling, compared with 4 percent of white mothers and 5 percent of black mothers. However, relatively fewer Asian than other mothers had completed only 9 to 11 years of schooling, and the proportion of Asian mothers who had at least completed high school (80 percent) was nearly identical to that of white mothers and 25 percent higher than the comparable proportion of black mothers (64 percent). The most striking difference in years of schooling was found for higher levels of education—30 percent of Asian mothers had completed college, almost twice the proportion of white mothers and nearly 5 times the proportion of black mothers.

Almost all Japanese mothers (95 percent) had completed high school, compared with only 74 percent of "Other" Asian

mothers. Japanese mothers also had the highest median years of schooling, 14.5 years, followed closely by Chinese mothers, 14.4 years. While Hawaiian mothers had the lowest median years of schooling of the Asian groups, 12.6, this was identical to the median for white mothers and slightly higher than the median of 12.3 years for black mothers.

Differences in the age distributions of Asian mothers do not explain these wide variations in educational attainment. If each of the Asian groups had the same age distribution as all races combined, the proportion of mothers completing 12 years or more of schooling would still be highest for Japanese women and lowest for "Other" Asian women.

Births to unmarried women

Out-of-wedlock childbearing, as measured by the ratio of births to unmarried women per 1,000 total live births, is a less frequent occurrence among Asian than among either white or black women. Only 78 per 1,000 Asian babies were born out of wedlock, compared with 110 per 1,000 white and 553 per 1,000 black babies (table 8). However, there are large differ-

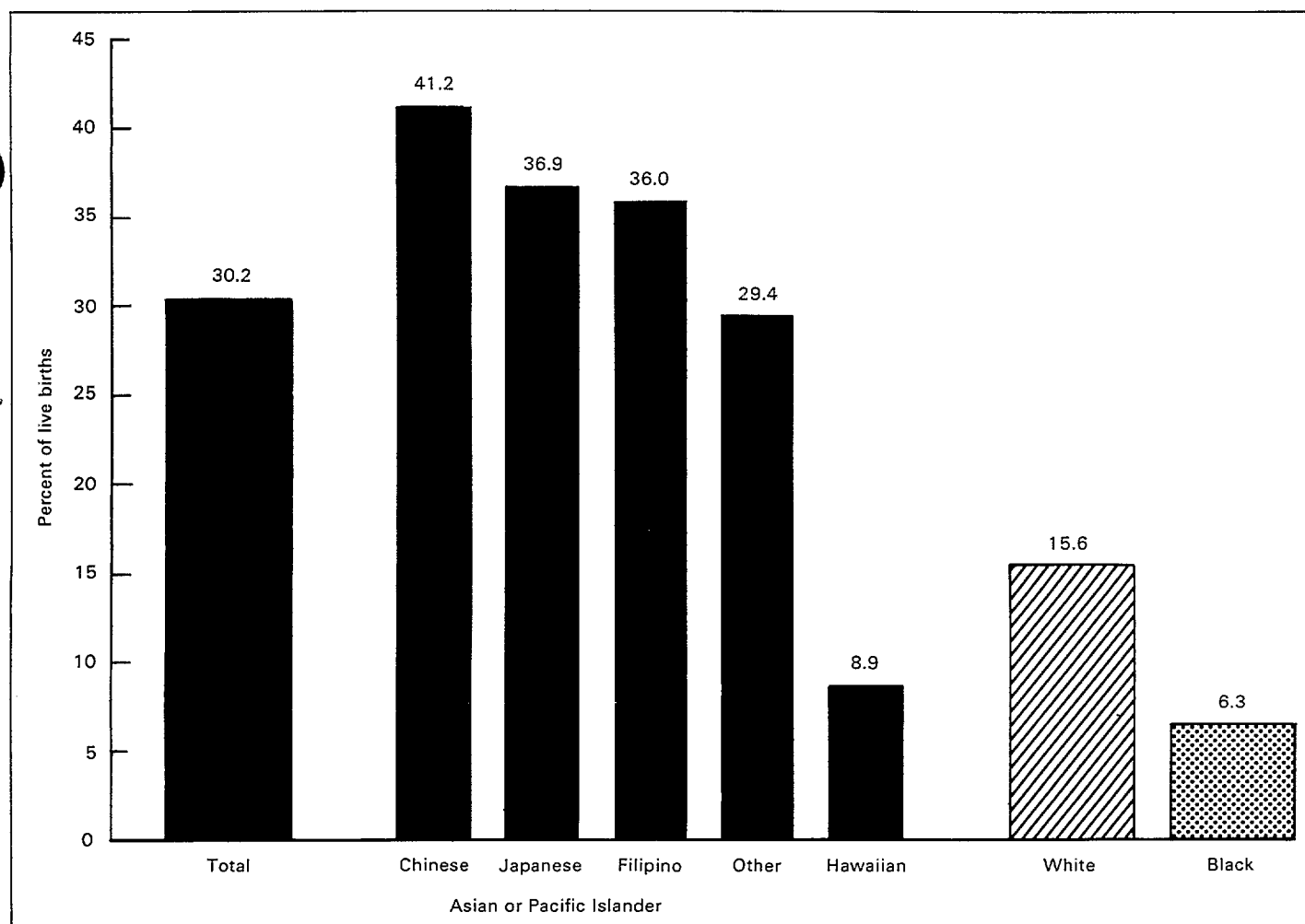


Figure 3. Percent of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births to mothers with 16 or more years of school: United States, 1980.

ences among the Asian groups in the extent of out-of-wedlock childbearing. The lowest out-of-wedlock ratio (33) was observed for Chinese births, and the highest (270) for Hawaiian births, about a sevenfold difference.

Differences in the level of out-of-wedlock childbearing among Asian groups are quite consistent for mothers of all ages. For each age group the ratio is generally the lowest for Chinese births and highest for Hawaiian births. Out-of-wedlock childbearing is more common among Asian than among white teenagers, but the reverse is true for older mothers. For all ages, out-of-wedlock childbearing is less prevalent for Asian than for black mothers. One factor that contributes to the lower overall out-of-wedlock ratio for Asian mothers as compared with white and black mothers is their comparatively older ages, because out-of-wedlock childbearing is more common at younger ages. If the age distribution of Asian mothers were the same as that of white mothers, then the Asian out-of-wedlock ratio would increase nearly 50 percent and would be higher than for white mothers; if it were the same as that of black mothers, then the Asian ratio would more than double, but it would still be lower than that of black mothers. In addition, for almost all ages the proportion of births that are out of wedlock is lower for Asian than for white or black women (table 8).

Nativity of mother

In 1980, 72 percent of Asian mothers were born outside the United States, in sharp contrast to less than 10 percent of white or black mothers. The very high proportion of foreign-born Asian mothers is not surprising in light of the accelerated immigration to the United States since the mid-1960's. Except for Hawaiian mothers, only 6 percent of whom were born abroad, the proportion of foreign-born mothers was quite large for all Asian groups, ranging from 41 percent of Japanese to 86 percent of "Other" Asian mothers (table 9 and figure 4). Older Asian mothers are more likely than younger Asian mothers to be foreign born: 85 percent of those 40 years of age and over were born outside the United States, twice the proportion of foreign-born teenage mothers.

There are substantial demographic differences between native- and foreign-born Asian mothers. As shown in table 10, Asian mothers born in the United States are more likely than foreign-born mothers to be in their teens, to be having a first birth, and to be unmarried; they are less likely to have either minimal education or to have completed college. For many aspects of childbearing, Asian mothers born in the United States resemble white mothers more than do their foreign-born counterparts. It is thus apparent that a process of assimilation is taking place. As the flow of Asian immigrants and refugees abates, the childbearing patterns of Asian mothers can probably be expected to become more and more indistinguishable from those of white mothers.

Sex ratio at birth and multiple birth ratio

The sex ratio at birth (males per 1,000 females) varies widely by race.⁵ While the overall ratio for Asian births of

1,056 was quite similar to that of white births (1,058), it was substantially higher than the ratio of 1,029 for black births (table 11). However, among specific Asian groups, there is wide variation in the sex ratio, the ratio ranging from 1,021 for Hawaiian births to 1,084 for Chinese births. Previous studies have demonstrated an association between sex ratio and birth order—the higher the proportion of first births, the higher the overall sex ratio.^{6,7} This association is a partial explanation for the differences among the Asian groups.

Large racial differences are also apparent for the multiple birth ratio, the ratio of live births in plural deliveries per 1,000 total live births. A relatively low ratio for Asian births has been observed for some time.⁸ In 1980 the ratio of 15 for all Asian births was substantially lower than for either white births (19) or black births (24) (table 11). Individual Asian racial groups also had lower ratios than those for white or black births.

There is a strong, positive association between the multiple birth ratio and mother's age⁶ and live-birth order.⁹ Although the ratio for Asian births rises with advancing age and higher birth orders, it is lower than the ratio for white or black births for most ages and birth orders. Other factors must, therefore, play an important role in producing these unusually low Asian ratios.

Month of pregnancy prenatal care began

Asian mothers are not as likely to start prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy and are more likely to delay care to the third trimester or to have no care than white mothers are (table 12). In comparison with black mothers, however, care generally starts far earlier for Asian mothers and late or no care is less usual. For all Asian groups combined, 75 percent of the mothers started care in the first trimester of pregnancy, compared with 79 percent of white and 63 percent of black mothers. Only 6 percent of Asian mothers delayed care to the last trimester or had no care, intermediary between white (4 percent) and black (9 percent) mothers.

Among the Asian population, Japanese mothers are most likely to start care early and least likely to delay care or to have no care; the reverse is true for "Other" Asian mothers. Differences among Asian groups in the time prenatal care begins are reflected in the median number of prenatal visits, which ranged from a low of 10.3 visits for "Other" Asian mothers to 11.8 visits for Japanese mothers. The timing of prenatal care has been shown to be related to the educational attainment of the mother.¹⁰ For all Asian groups, as educational attainment increases, women are more apt to start care earlier and are less likely to have late or no care. Some of the differences among Asian groups in the extent of prenatal care received can thus be attributed to differences in educational attainment (see table 7).

Weight at birth

Babies weighing less than 2,500 grams or 5½ pounds are considered to be low birth weight. On the average, 6.5 percent of Asian babies weighed less than 2,500 grams—somewhat

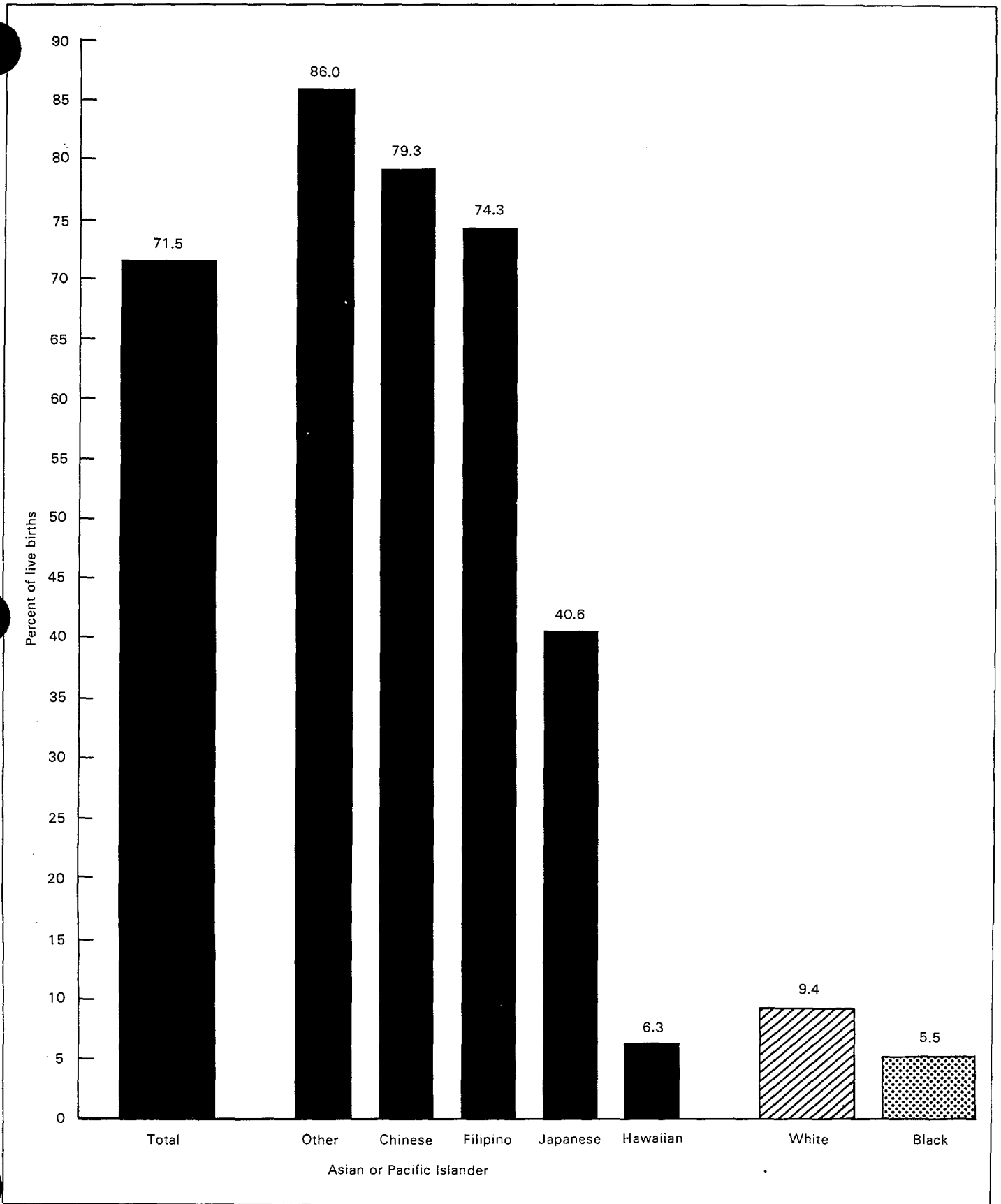


Figure 4. Percent of births to foreign-born Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black mothers: United States, 1980

more than the 5.7 percent incidence among white babies, but only half the low birth weight level of 12.5 percent among black newborns (table 13). However, there are large differences in the extent of low birth weight among specific Asian groups: Only 4.9 percent of the Chinese babies weighed less than 2,500 grams, while 7.4 percent of Filipino babies weighed this little. For each Asian group, the risk of a low-birth-weight outcome is substantially less than for black births. The proportion of Asian babies weighing 4,000 grams (8 lb 14 oz) or more (5.8 percent) was half that of white births (12.0 percent), and slightly greater than that of black births (5.1 percent).

A major factor identified with the risk of low birth weight is the mother's educational attainment.¹¹ The high percent of Asian women who had 13 or more years of schooling does not, however, fully explain the relatively low proportion of low-birth-weight Asian babies. If Asian mothers had the same education as white mothers, the differential in low birth weight between these races would remain basically the same; if Asian mothers had the same educational attainment as black mothers, the difference in the risk of low birth weight would be only slightly narrowed. Other factors—for example, the low percent of out-of-wedlock and teenage Asian births—must, therefore, be largely responsible for these racial differences.

1- and 5-minute Apgar scores

The Apgar score is a means of evaluating the physical condition of an infant 1 and 5 minutes after birth. It is a composite rating of vital signs, with a maximum score of 10. The 1-minute score is an indication of the infant's condition at birth while the 5-minute score also reflects care received during the first 5 minutes of life. The 5-minute score is a better predictor of long-term health and survival chances than is the 1-minute score. A score of less than 7 is considered an indication for concern about the infant's health and chances for survival.¹²

For all groups of Asian births except Hawaiians, the proportion of babies with a score of less than 7 at 1 minute is the same as or lower than that of white babies; for all Asian groups including Hawaiians, this proportion is lower than that of black babies. The range for the specific Asian groups was from 6.1 percent of Chinese births to 9.7 percent of Hawaiian births, compared with 8.9 percent of white births and 11.7 percent of black births (table 14).

Five-minute scores of Asian births also compare favorably to those of white and black births. The percent of Asian births with a score of less than 7 was 1.6, slightly below the 1.8 percent observed for white births and considerably less than the 3.4 percent of black births scoring this low (table 15). Only 1.1 percent of both Chinese and Japanese babies scored less than 7. "Other" Asian or Pacific Islander births were the most likely to have low scores: 1.9 percent of these babies scored less than 7.

References

- ¹Immigration and Naturalization Service: *1979 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*. U.S. Department of Justice.
- ²Immigration and Naturalization Service: Unpublished tabulations.
- ³U.S. Bureau of the Census: *U.S. Census of Population: 1980, General Population Characteristics*. PC 80-1-B1. United States Summary. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Aug. 1983.
- ⁴U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: *Refugee Resettlement Program*. Report to the Congress. Social Security Administration Office of Refugee Resettlement. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Jan. 31, 1982.
- ⁵National Center for Health Statistics, L. Querec and E. Spratley: Characteristics of births, United States 1973-1975. *Vital and Health Statistics*. Series 21-No. 30. DHEW Pub. No. (PHS) 78-1908. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Sept. 1978.
- ⁶D. Erickson: The secondary sex ratio in the United States, 1969-71: Association with race, parental ages, birth order, paternal education and legitimacy. *Ann. Hum. Genet.* 40:205-212, 1976.
- ⁷J. D. Tarver and C. Lee: Sex ratio of registered live births in the United States, 1942-63. *Demography* 5(1):374-381, 1968.
- ⁸A. F. Guttmacher: The incidence of multiple births in man and some of the other unipara. *Obstet. Gynecol.* 2(1):22-35, July 1953.
- ⁹National Center for Health Statistics: Unpublished tabulations, 1983.
- ¹⁰National Center for Health Statistics, S. Taffel: Prenatal care, United States, 1969-1975. *Vital and Health Statistics*. Series 21-No. 33. DHEW Pub. No. (PHS) 78-1911. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Sept. 1978.
- ¹¹National Center for Health Statistics, S. Taffel: Factors associated with low birth weight, United States, 1976. *Vital and Health Statistics*. Series 21-No. 37. DHEW Pub. No. (PHS) 80-1915. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Apr. 1980.
- ¹²National Center for Health Statistics, L. J. Querec: Apgar score in the United States, 1978. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*. Vol. 30-No. 1 Supp. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 81-1120. Public Health Service. Hyattsville, Md., May 1981.

Symbols

- - - Data not available
- ... Category not applicable
- Quantity zero
- 0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
- Z Quantity more than zero but less than 500 where numbers are rounded to thousands
- * Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision
-

Table 1. Number of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births and percent increase: United States, 1978-80

Race	1980	1979	1978	Percent increase, 1978 to 1980
All races ¹	3,612,258	3,494,398	3,333,279	8.4
Asian or Pacific Islander.....	82,454	70,382	63,630	29.6
Chinese.....	12,792	11,732	11,224	14.0
Japanese.....	8,755	8,285	8,094	8.2
Hawaiian.....	6,597	6,342	5,962	10.7
Filipino.....	15,086	14,101	13,753	9.7
Other.....	39,224	29,922	24,597	59.5
White.....	2,898,732	2,808,420	2,681,116	8.1
Black.....	589,616	577,855	551,540	6.9

¹Includes races not shown separately.

Table 2. Percent distribution of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births by mother's region of residence: United States, 1980

Region of residence	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Percent distribution									
United States.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northeast.....	18.2	13.0	23.3	7.9	0.6	6.2	15.5	18.6	17.0
North Central.....	26.5	13.1	10.8	8.0	4.2	9.6	17.9	28.1	20.8
South.....	34.1	16.0	12.9	7.4	2.5	11.7	22.8	31.0	53.1
West.....	21.2	57.9	52.9	76.6	92.7	72.5	43.8	22.3	9.1

¹Includes races not shown separately.

Table 3. Number of Asian or Pacific Islander births: United States and each State, 1980

<i>State of residence of mother</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Chinese</i>	<i>Japanese</i>	<i>Hawaiian</i>	<i>Filipino</i>	<i>Other</i>
Number						
United States	82,454	12,792	8,755	6,597	15,086	39,224
Alabama	334	30	16	7	22	259
Alaska	266	13	33	13	101	106
Arizona	637	116	52	22	85	362
Arkansas	197	9	8	2	31	147
California	26,696	5,273	3,023	310	6,773	11,317
Colorado	1,045	49	121	13	48	814
Connecticut	391	62	31	4	56	238
Delaware	85	5	6	-	15	59
District of Columbia	102	19	5	1	20	57
Florida	1,217	199	73	11	236	698
Georgia	744	90	46	4	59	545
Hawaii	13,058	693	2,652	5,503	2,946	1,264
Idaho	221	24	68	13	31	85
Illinois	3,604	439	219	17	775	2,154
Indiana	561	84	55	7	79	336
Iowa	443	61	32	4	27	319
Kansas	620	55	17	9	54	485
Kentucky	423	29	25	10	47	312
Louisiana	691	67	17	7	33	567
Maine	97	10	6	1	14	66
Maryland	1,430	236	62	24	190	918
Massachusetts	1,057	415	69	7	47	519
Michigan	1,592	224	92	196	123	957
Minnesota	1,153	105	52	5	65	926
Mississippi	230	26	9	4	40	151
Missouri	703	113	58	12	101	419
Montana	139	12	17	8	16	86
Nebraska	243	36	27	6	43	131
Nevada	380	46	26	16	99	193
New Hampshire	97	17	12	2	7	59
New Jersey	2,003	328	137	6	214	1,318
New Mexico	237	21	30	9	26	151
New York	5,063	1,904	368	10	417	2,364
North Carolina	672	49	35	15	94	479
North Dakota	58	2	6	2	8	40
Ohio	1,102	185	87	11	90	729
Oklahoma	671	54	41	11	37	528
Oregon	1,221	169	149	53	139	711
Pennsylvania	1,717	212	59	9	150	1,287
Rhode Island	285	33	11	1	24	216
South Carolina	361	24	23	11	37	266
South Dakota	86	7	4	4	12	59
Tennessee	491	58	19	4	56	354
Texas	3,751	566	174	31	352	2,628
Utah	769	61	96	41	36	535
Vermont	29	5	2	-	1	21
Virginia	1,653	172	82	19	478	902
Washington	2,973	285	434	114	632	1,508
West Virginia	118	16	6	1	18	77
Wisconsin	663	75	54	4	75	455
Wyoming	75	9	9	3	7	47

Table 4. Percent distribution of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births by age of mother, and median age: United States, 1980

Age of mother	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Percent distribution									
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15 years	0.3	0.1		0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0
15-19 years	15.3	6.0	1.6	3.8	17.4	6.5	5.8	13.4	25.5
15 years	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.5	2.1
16 years	1.7	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.6	0.7	0.4	1.4	3.7
17 years	3.0	1.0	0.2	0.8	3.0	1.1	1.0	2.5	5.3
18 years	4.2	1.7	0.5	1.1	5.5	1.8	1.6	3.8	6.7
19 years	5.6	2.6	0.7	1.5	6.6	2.8	2.7	5.2	7.6
20-24 years	33.9	23.0	13.7	15.9	36.5	23.5	25.3	33.9	35.5
25-29 years	30.7	35.7	41.2	37.8	26.7	33.2	35.8	32.2	23.0
30-34 years	15.2	26.3	34.8	33.1	14.4	25.4	24.5	15.8	10.9
35-39 years	3.9	7.6	7.6	8.3	4.3	9.5	7.2	3.9	3.3
40-49 years	0.7	1.4	1.1	1.1	0.6	1.9	1.5	0.6	0.7
Median									
Age in years	25.7	28.0	29.4	29.2	24.4	28.0	27.6	25.9	24.2

¹Includes races not shown separately.

Table 5. Percent distribution of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births by live-birth order: United States, 1980

Live-birth order	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Percent distribution									
All birth orders	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
First child	43.2	42.5	47.8	47.5	38.8	43.2	40.0	43.9	39.8
Second child	32.0	33.1	35.1	34.8	28.7	33.0	32.8	32.5	29.2
Third child	15.0	14.3	11.9	13.0	18.0	15.5	14.4	14.7	16.5
Fourth child and over	9.9	10.1	5.2	4.7	14.6	8.2	12.8	8.9	14.5

¹Includes races not shown separately.

Table 6. Percent of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births that are first births, and percent that are fourth and higher order, by age of mother: United States, 1980

Age of mother	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Percent first births									
All ages	43.2	42.5	47.8	47.5	38.8	43.2	40.0	43.9	39.8
Under 20 years	78.5	79.6	80.8	87.7	77.2	81.7	78.7	80.8	72.8
20-24 years	49.8	55.2	68.1	65.6	42.7	57.2	53.8	52.3	38.2
25-29 years	33.8	44.7	57.0	53.5	24.8	44.4	40.5	35.3	22.2
30-34 years	20.7	28.4	34.8	33.9	17.5	28.8	24.8	21.3	14.5
35 years and over	12.4	17.8	18.7	23.9	10.8	21.1	15.1	12.8	9.0
Percent fourth and higher order births									
All ages	9.9	10.1	5.2	4.7	14.6	8.2	12.8	8.9	14.5
Under 20 years	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.9
20-24 years	3.9	4.0	1.1	1.6	6.9	2.2	4.8	2.8	9.1
25-29 years	10.1	8.3	2.7	2.2	19.4	6.2	11.1	8.4	21.2
30-34 years	21.3	13.2	6.1	6.5	31.2	11.4	17.3	19.7	34.1
35 years and over	46.6	30.0	20.1	15.7	46.5	24.2	38.3	45.3	57.2

¹Includes races not shown separately.

Table 7. Number and percent distribution of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births by educational attainment of mother, and median years of school completed: Total of 47 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1980

Years of school completed	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Number									
All years of school completed ²	2,867,871	49,034	6,668	5,124	6,142	7,329	23,771	2,277,269	505,747
Percent distribution									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-8 years	4.3	10.4	9.1	0.4	1.2	6.9	16.7	3.9	4.9
9-11 years	19.4	9.6	5.9	5.1	17.4	9.6	9.6	16.8	31.4
12 years or more	76.3	80.0	85.0	94.5	81.4	83.5	73.7	79.3	63.8
12 years	44.3	31.6	27.8	29.7	53.4	27.3	28.6	45.1	42.4
13-15 years	17.9	18.2	16.0	27.9	19.2	20.1	15.8	18.6	15.1
16 years or more	14.0	30.2	41.2	36.9	8.9	36.0	29.4	15.6	6.3
Median									
Years of school completed	12.6	12.9	14.4	14.5	12.6	14.0	12.8	12.6	12.3

¹Includes races not shown separately.

²Includes births with educational attainment not stated, which are excluded from the computation of the percent distribution.

NOTE: Excludes data for California, Texas, and Washington, which did not require reporting of educational attainment of mother.

Table 8. Number and ratio of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births to unmarried women, by age of mother: United States, 1980

(Ratios are live births to unmarried women per 1,000 total live births)

Age of mother	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Number of births to unmarried women									
All ages	665,747	6,435	427	493	1,781	1,355	2,379	320,063	325,737
Under 15 years	9,024	38	-	2	11	8	17	3,144	5,707
15-19 years	262,777	1,929	70	146	739	419	555	127,984	128,022
20-24 years	237,265	2,127	101	172	644	427	783	112,854	117,423
25-29 years	99,583	1,335	145	89	260	308	533	46,872	49,077
30-34 years	40,984	710	92	60	95	138	325	20,565	18,766
35-39 years	13,187	253	19	22	30	43	139	7,073	5,513
40 years and over	2,927	43	-	2	2	12	27	1,571	1,229
Ratio per 1,000 live births									
All ages	184.3	78.0	33.4	56.3	270.0	89.8	60.7	110.4	552.5
Under 15 years	887.4	826.1	-	*1,000.0	*916.7	*800.0	772.7	753.8	985.2
15-19 years	475.9	392.8	346.5	438.4	645.4	429.7	246.0	329.8	851.5
20-24 years	193.5	112.0	57.8	123.8	267.8	120.4	79.0	114.9	560.2
25-29 years	89.9	45.4	27.5	26.9	147.6	61.5	37.9	50.2	361.7
30-34 years	74.5	32.7	20.7	20.7	100.2	36.1	33.9	44.8	291.5
35-39 years	93.7	40.5	19.4	30.3	105.6	29.9	49.4	62.5	280.8
40 years and over	120.5	37.9	-	20.4	47.6	42.7	47.4	84.7	293.0

¹Includes races not shown separately.

Table 9. Percent of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births to foreign-born mothers, by age of mother: United States, 1980

Age of mother	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Percent of births to foreign-born mothers									
All ages	10.1	71.5	79.3	40.6	6.3	74.3	86.0	9.4	5.5
Under 20 years	6.6	42.5	47.5	13.5	2.9	37.8	68.8	8.0	2.0
20-24 years	8.9	63.0	69.9	28.0	4.0	60.3	82.3	8.8	4.5
25-29 years	10.2	74.6	80.4	41.2	6.5	76.9	88.2	8.6	7.3
30-34 years	13.6	77.9	82.2	45.9	12.4	86.5	88.9	11.0	10.3
35-39 years	18.8	81.4	83.0	51.3	16.9	90.7	90.6	16.2	13.8
40 years and over	23.7	84.8	88.3	61.2	19.0	89.6	91.0	22.7	13.1

¹Includes races not shown separately.

Table 10. Selected characteristics of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births, by nativity status of mother: United States, 1980

Selected characteristics	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Age of mother									
Percent under 20 years:									
Native born	}15.6	{12.2	4.1	5.6	18.2	16.3	12.9	}13.5	26.5
Foreign born			3.6	1.0	1.3	8.2	3.4		
Percent 30 years and over:									
Native born	}19.8	{26.1	36.8	37.8	17.8	17.4	25.1	}20.4	15.0
Foreign born			38.8	45.1	49.6	41.6	43.3		
Live-birth order									
Percent first births:									
Native born	}43.2	{45.9	50.8	50.0	38.6	45.3	48.4	}43.9	39.8
Foreign born			41.1	47.1	44.0	40.2	42.2		
Percent fourth and higher order births:									
Native born	}9.9	{8.9	4.8	4.6	14.9	9.2	7.7	}8.9	14.5
Foreign born			10.6	5.3	5.0	10.1	8.2		
Percent of unmarried mothers									
Native born	}18.4	{16.8	7.9	7.7	28.2	20.2	14.3	}11.0	55.3
Foreign born			4.2	2.1	2.7	8.4	5.4		
Educational attainment of mother									
Percent completing less than 9 years of school:									
Native born	}4.3	{1.1	1.5	0.2	0.9	1.7	1.9	}3.9	4.9
Foreign born			14.7	10.9	0.8	5.2	8.7		
Percent completing 16 years of school or more:									
Native born	}14.0	{21.2	44.3	39.9	7.2	10.4	25.5	}15.6	6.3
Foreign born			34.3	40.5	32.1	34.3	45.0		

¹Includes races not shown separately.

Table 11. Sex ratio at birth and multiple birth ratio of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births: United States, 1980

Sex ratio and multiple birth ratio	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Sex ratio ²	1,053	1,056	1,084	1,059	1,021	1,070	1,047	1,058	1,029
Multiple birth ratio ³	19.3	15.1	11.2	17.0	15.3	13.2	16.7	18.5	24.1

¹Includes races not shown separately.

²Male births per 1,000 female births.

³Live births in multiple deliveries per 1,000 total live births.

Table 12. Percent distribution of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births by month of pregnancy prenatal care began, and median number of prenatal visits: United States, 1980

Month of pregnancy prenatal care began and median number of visits	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Percent distribution									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1st and 2d month	51.6	50.3	57.0	63.5	47.7	50.7	45.3	54.5	38.6
3d month	24.7	24.4	25.5	22.6	24.2	27.1	23.4	24.8	24.1
4th-6th month	18.6	19.2	13.8	11.8	22.4	18.2	22.5	16.4	28.5
7th-9th month	3.8	5.3	3.4	1.8	5.1	3.4	7.5	3.2	6.1
No prenatal care	1.3	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.3	1.0	2.7
Median									
Number of prenatal visits ²	11.2	10.8	11.1	11.8	11.2	11.0	10.3	11.4	9.9

¹Includes races not shown separately.²Based on information from 48 reporting States and the District of Columbia. California and New Mexico did not require reporting of number of prenatal visits. Excludes births to mothers with no prenatal care.

Table 13. Percent distribution of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births by birth weight, and percent low birth weight: United States, 1980

Birth weight	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Percent distribution									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1,000 grams	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.2
1,000-1,499 grams	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.2
1,500-1,999 grams	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	2.5
2,000-2,499 grams	4.4	4.5	3.4	4.2	4.5	5.2	4.6	3.7	7.6
2,500-2,999 grams	16.3	21.8	20.7	21.8	20.0	23.3	22.0	14.6	24.3
3,000-3,499 grams	37.0	42.5	44.7	43.9	39.0	42.2	42.1	36.6	38.4
3,500-3,999 grams	29.1	23.3	24.2	22.8	25.7	22.3	23.1	31.1	19.8
4,000-4,499 grams	8.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	7.1	4.0	4.9	9.9	4.3
4,500-4,999 grams	1.6	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.8	0.7
5,000 grams or more	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1
Percent low birth weight ²	6.8	6.5	4.9	6.2	7.0	7.4	6.8	5.7	12.5

¹Includes races not shown separately.²Weight of less than 2,500 grams (5 lb 8 oz).

Table 14. Number and percent distribution of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births by 1-minute Apgar score: Total of 44 reporting States, 1980

1-minute score	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Number									
All Apgar scores ²	2,714,913	49,305	6,703	5,437	6,232	7,791	23,142	2,173,684	460,676
Percent distribution									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-3	2.2	2.0	1.4	1.5	2.5	2.0	2.2	1.9	3.6
4-6	7.2	6.2	4.7	5.2	7.2	6.9	6.3	7.0	8.1
7-8	44.1	46.7	37.2	47.8	58.5	52.1	44.0	44.7	41.1
9-10	46.5	45.1	56.7	45.5	31.8	39.0	47.4	46.4	47.1
Less than 7	9.4	8.2	6.1	6.7	9.7	8.9	8.6	8.9	11.7

¹Includes races not shown separately.

²Includes births with Apgar score not stated, which are excluded from the computation of the percent distribution.

NOTE: Excludes data for California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Louisiana, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Texas, which did not require reporting of 1-minute Apgar scores.

Table 15. Number and percent distribution of Asian or Pacific Islander, white, and black births by 5-minute Apgar score: Total of 43 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1980

5-minute score	All races ¹	Asian or Pacific Islander						White	Black
		Total	Chinese	Japanese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other		
Number									
All Apgar scores ²	2,685,493	49,016	6,660	5,411	6,229	7,755	22,961	2,141,483	463,859
Percent distribution									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-3	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.2
4-6	1.4	1.2	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.3	2.2
7-8	10.0	8.9	6.1	7.5	10.4	10.2	9.2	9.8	11.1
9-10	88.0	89.4	92.8	91.3	87.9	88.1	88.9	88.4	85.5
Less than 7	2.1	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.8	3.4

¹Includes races not shown separately.

²Includes births with Apgar score not stated, which are excluded from the computation of the percent distribution.

NOTE: Excludes data for California, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Technical notes

Data shown in this report for 1980 are based on 100 percent of the birth certificates of 44 States that provided data through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Data from the remaining areas (Arizona, California, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Georgia, New Mexico, and North Dakota) are based on a 50-percent sample of birth certificates filed in these areas.

Racial classification

Racial designation shown in this report is that of the child. The child's race is determined from the race or national origin of the parents. When only one parent is white, the child is assigned the other parent's race or national origin. When neither parent is white, the child is assigned the father's race or national origin, with one exception: if the mother is Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian, the child is considered Hawaiian. If information on race is missing for either parent, the child is assigned the known race. When the information is missing for both parents, the race of the child is assigned according to the race of the child on the previous record.

In 1980, 11 percent more births were designated as Asian or Pacific Islander than the number of Asian or Pacific Islander mothers because of interracial parentage. Differences for in-

dividual Asian groups were Chinese, 10 percent; Japanese, 17 percent; Hawaiian, 41 percent; Filipino, 9 percent; and other, 8 percent.

Before 1978 the category "Other Asian or Pacific Islander" was not separately identified. The separation of this category allows identification of all Asian or Pacific Islander births by combining "Other Asian or Pacific Islander" births with Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiian, and Filipino births. The "Other Asian or Pacific Islander" category includes births identified as Asian Indian, Burmese, Cambodian, Ceylonese, Chamorro, Dutch East Indian, Fijian, Gilbertese, Guamanian, Javanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Maori, Marshallese, Pakistani, Ponapean, Samoan, Siamese, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Computation of percent, medians, and ratios

Percent distributions, medians, and ratios are computed using only events for which the characteristic is reported. The "Not stated" category is subtracted from the total before computation of these measures. Data are shown with an asterisk (*) when the base of the ratio is less than 20 events. Median age of mother and median years of school completed are computed from single-year distributions.

Suggested Citation

National Center for Health Statistics, S. Taffel: Characteristics of Asian births, United States, 1980. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*. Vol. 32-No. 10 Supp. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 84-1120. Public Health Service. Hyattsville, Md., Feb. 10, 1984.

Copyright Information

This report may be reprinted without further permission.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
National Center for Health Statistics
3700 East-West Highway
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

FIRST CLASS MAIL POSTAGE & FEES PAID PHS PERMIT No. G29
--

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

To receive this publication regularly, contact the National Center for Health Statistics by calling 301 436-NCHS.
