

## Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths: Provisional Data for February 1999

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

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

Item	February				January–February				12 months ending with February				
	Number		Rate		Number		Rate		Number		Rate		
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1997
Live births . . . . .	303,000	310,000	14.6	15.0	643,000	619,000	14.7	14.2	3,968,000	3,906,000	14.7	14.6	14.6
Fertility rate . . . . .	...	...	65.8	67.8	...	...	66.2	64.1	...	...	66.4	65.4	65.2
Deaths . . . . .	208,000	209,000	10.0	10.1	427,000	434,000	9.7	10.0	2,323,000	2,319,000	8.6	8.7	8.7
Infant deaths . . . . .	2,300	2,300	7.4	7.5	4,500	4,700	7.0	7.5	27,500	27,400	6.9	7.0	7.2
Natural increase . . . . .	95,000	101,000	4.6	4.9	216,000	185,000	5.0	4.2	1,645,000	1,587,000	6.1	5.9	5.9
Marriages . . . . .	141,000	135,000	7.2	6.9	271,000	270,000	6.6	6.5	2,256,000	2,386,000	8.3	8.9	8.9
Divorces <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4.2	4.3	4.3
Population base (in millions) . . . . .	...	...	271.8	269.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	270.5	268.0	265.6

--- Data not available.

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Divorce rates exclude data for California, Colorado, Indiana, and Louisiana. Populations for these rates also exclude these States.

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

### Technical notes

#### Introduction

Effective with Volume 47, Number 1, the *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* (MVSR) has been renamed the *National Vital Statistics Reports* (NVSR). The monthly issue includes [Technical notes](#) and two tables that show provisional vital statistics for the United States. Tables previously published in the MVSR that show provisional data by State are now available on the NCHS home page on the Internet at:

[www.cdc.gov/nchs/dataawh/statab/unpubd/nvstab48.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/dataawh/statab/unpubd/nvstab48.htm)

#### Nature and sources of data

Data shown here are provisional and include only events occurring within the United States (50 States and the District of Columbia). Mortality data exclude fetal deaths. Delay in the receipt of certificates in a registration office may result in a low figure for a given month followed by a high figure for the month(s) in which the delayed records were received. Totals for births, deaths, and infant deaths are based on the State estimates by State of residence and, therefore, in effect, exclude events to nonresidents of the United States. Events to nonresidents of the United States are included in all marriage and divorce figures. The effect of excluding events to nonresidents from the U.S. totals is small. Divorce figures include reported annulments.

#### Corrections

Until 1998 provisional totals for births, marriages, and divorces for the entire United States included corrections for observed differences between provisional and final figures. These corrections served to compensate for delays in reporting. For example, the monthly national estimate for births was obtained by multiplying the reported total by the ratio that had been observed between the most recent 3-year average of final monthly totals and the corresponding 3-year average of provisional monthly totals for the United States. The vast majority of birth certificates are now electronically recorded and transmitted from hospitals to state vital registration offices, producing a more consistent flow of records. For this reason beginning with data for January 1998, these monthly corrections for births have been dropped.

Correction factors for monthly provisional marriage and divorce totals have also been dropped beginning with January 1998. Up through December 1997, the correction factors for marriage and divorce data included an adjustment reflecting the ratio of final to provisional data and, for divorce, estimates for States that did not report any provisional data. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) stopped requesting final marriage and divorce totals from the States in 1994 (though collection and publication of monthly provisional counts was continued), and consequently, recent final data are no longer available to calculate current correction factors for marriage and divorce. Moreover, it is no longer statistically feasible to supply estimates of monthly divorce counts for four non-reporting States (California, Colorado, Indiana, and Louisiana), and

**Table 2. Provisional number of live births, marriages, deaths, and infant deaths and rates, by month: United States, January 1998–February 1999**

[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 aged 15–44 years		Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 population
			Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>						
<b>1998:</b>										
January . . . . .	308,000	13.5	60.8	64.0	135,000	6.2	225,000	9.8	2,400	7.4
February . . . . .	310,000	15.0	67.8	68.8	135,000	6.9	209,000	10.1	2,300	7.5
March . . . . .	332,000	14.5	65.4	66.0	155,000	7.2	219,000	9.6	2,400	7.3
April . . . . .	337,000	15.2	68.6	70.0	157,000	7.5	191,000	8.6	2,300	6.9
May . . . . .	318,000	13.9	62.7	63.3	191,000	8.3	188,000	8.2	2,200	6.8
June . . . . .	326,000	14.7	66.4	65.2	229,000	10.3	184,000	8.3	2,300	7.1
July . . . . .	357,000	15.6	70.4	68.0	239,000	10.4	187,000	8.2	2,400	6.9
August . . . . .	337,000	14.7	66.4	63.3	226,000	9.8	191,000	8.3	2,300	6.7
September . . . . .	330,000	14.8	67.1	63.7	221,000	9.9	175,000	7.9	2,300	6.9
October . . . . .	356,000	15.5	70.1	70.7	209,000	9.1	189,000	8.2	2,300	6.7
November . . . . .	311,000	14.0	63.3	65.0	186,000	8.3	178,000	8.0	2,100	6.7
December . . . . .	321,000	13.9	62.8	64.2	172,000	7.5	194,000	8.4	2,400	7.2
<b>1999:</b>										
January . . . . .	340,000	14.7	66.6	69.8	130,000	6.0	219,000	9.5	2,300	6.7
February . . . . .	303,000	14.6	65.8	67.1	141,000	7.2	208,000	10.0	2,300	7.4

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

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

therefore, NCHS is ceasing to publish aggregated divorce counts and rates based on provisional data from all 50 States. Instead, NCHS will publish only the 12-month divorce rates shown in [table 1](#), based solely on the combined counts and populations for the 46 reporting States and the District of Columbia. Aggregated 1-month and cumulative divorce numbers and rates, as well as the 12-month number, have been dropped due to their very limited usefulness when based on less than the full complement of States. Monthly marriage and divorce counts as reported by the States will continue to be provided on the NCHS Internet home page cited previously.

## Rates

The populations used for computing rates are furnished by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Monthly rates are based on populations estimated for the specific month. Year-to-date rates are averages of monthly rates that have been weighted by the number of days in the corresponding months. Rates for 12-month periods are the sum of events for the period per population estimated at the midpoint of the period. Populations have been estimated by NCHS for the 12-month divorce rates based on the 46 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.

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DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 2000-1120  
0-0256 (3/2000)

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