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## Births of Hispanic Parentage, 1979

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Information on births of Hispanic parentage was available for the first time in 1978, when 17 States included an item on ethnic or Hispanic origin of mother and father on their birth certificates. The 17 States were Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Utah, and Wyoming. In 1979, two additional States—Florida and Illinois—included the ethnicity item on their birth certificates. The 19 reporting States accounted for an estimated coverage of 60 percent of all births of Hispanic origin in the United States in 1979. Demographic and health characteristics of 1978 Hispanic births were reported in detail in an earlier report.<sup>1</sup>

The distributions of births of Hispanic origin by specified Spanish origin of the mother as well as by various other characteristics, including age of mother, live birth order, birth weight, and prenatal care in 1979 differed little from the distributions in 1978. The completeness of reporting of Hispanic origin improved between 1978 and 1979. In 1979 Hispanic origin of mother was not reported for 9.6 percent of the births compared with 12.1 percent in 1978. Origin of father was not stated on 18.1 percent of the records in 1979 compared with 20.2 percent in 1978. Because the mother's origin is better reported than the father's (tables 1-3), the births are classified only by origin of the mother in tables 4-9 and in the remainder of the text.

### Geographic coverage

The 19 States that reported Hispanic origin in 1979 accounted for 46.4 percent of all births in the United States and an estimated 60 percent of all births of Hispanic origin.<sup>2</sup> Florida and Illinois, which began reporting in 1979, have substantial Hispanic populations, principally Mexican in Illinois, and

Cuban in Florida. As in 1978 a few of the reporting States combined accounted for more than 90 percent of the Hispanic births in the reporting area in 1979: California (49.9 percent), New York (16.8 percent), Illinois (8.5 percent), Arizona (5.6 percent), New Jersey (5.2 percent), and Florida (5.1 percent) (see table 2).

Births of Mexican origin were predominant among Hispanic births in California, Illinois, and Arizona (85.4 percent); Puerto Rican births comprised the majority of Hispanic births in New York and New Jersey (60.9 percent). Cuban births accounted for 40.1 percent of Hispanic births in Florida. The addition of Florida to the reporting area resulted in nearly tripling the number of reported Cuban births between 1978 and 1979.

With the addition of data from Texas, New Mexico, and Georgia in 1980, the reporting area will include an estimated 85-90 percent of the Hispanic population of the United States.

The completeness of reporting of Hispanic or ethnic origin improved considerably between 1978 and 1979 as personnel involved in the registration process became more familiar with the item on the birth certificate. In 1979, 9.6 percent of the births in the 19 reporting States lacked information on the mother's origin compared with 12.1 percent in 1978. There was a wide range in this proportion by State, from 0.3 percent (Hawaii) to 21.9 percent (Arkansas).

### Race

The overwhelming majority of births to mothers of Hispanic origin are white (table 4). In 1979, 94.2 percent of these births were white, 3.8 percent were black, and 2.0 percent were of other races. These proportions for 19 States were virtually unchanged from those for the 17 reporting States in 1978. The highest proportions of white births were those to Mexican

(97.6 percent), Cuban (96.6 percent), and Puerto Rican (91.5 percent) mothers. The distribution of births to mothers of Central and South American origin by race was similar to that for births to non-Hispanic mothers. Tabulations in this report generally present data for the non-Hispanic population by race, because national fertility data show wide differences in most characteristics between white and black births. The necessary population data by race are not available, however, to complete the birth and fertility rates shown in table 5.

## Birth and fertility rates

Birth and fertility rates, which can be computed for a total of nine selected States, show that fertility continues to be much higher for the Hispanic than for the non-Hispanic population. The Hispanic birth rate in 1979 was 25.5 births per 1,000 population, compared with 14.7 for the non-Hispanic population. The fertility rate for the Hispanic population was 100.5 births per 1,000 women 15-44 years of age, 59 percent above the rate for non-Hispanic women, 63.2 (table 5).

These rates were computed for nine States for which the necessary population data, derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS), were made available by the Bureau of the Census. These States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, and Ohio) accounted for 96.4 percent of the births of Hispanic origin in the total 19-State reporting area. The proportions for individual Spanish groups were all in excess of 96 percent, except for "other Hispanic" (93 percent).

Fertility rates computed for this report based on vital statistics data are fairly comparable with those derived from the June 1979 CPS for the entire United States. The CPS rates, computed on the basis of women 18-44 years of age, were 119.2 for Hispanic women and 73.1 for non-Hispanic women.<sup>2</sup>

Levels of the birth and fertility rates for the individual Hispanic groups were about the same in 1979 as in 1978. The fertility of the Mexican population again was considerably higher than that of other Hispanic groups. In 1979 the Mexican birth rate was 29.6, 31 percent greater than for the Puerto Rican population (22.6), and more than three times the rate for the Cuban population (8.6). The fertility rate for Mexican women (119.3) was 48 percent greater than the rate for Puerto Rican women (80.7) and three times the rate for Cuban women (39.7). Birth and fertility rates for the Cuban population were far below the rates for any other group. This is because the rates are based primarily on the relatively older Cuban population in Florida; CPS data indicate that

the median age of Cuban women is substantially higher than that of women of other Hispanic origins.

Other vital statistics data demonstrate that the fertility of Hispanic women is higher than that of non-Hispanic women. Table 6 shows, for example, that 10.3 percent of births to Mexican women in 1979 were of fifth and higher order compared with 3.5 percent for white non-Hispanic births and 7.4 percent for black non-Hispanic births. Similarly, CPS data on family size show that nearly 1 out of 10 Mexican families had 7 or more persons in 1979 compared with fewer than 1 out of 35 non-Hispanic families.<sup>3</sup>

## Age of mother

Hispanic mothers tend to be somewhat younger than white non-Hispanic mothers but considerably older than black non-Hispanic mothers. In 1979, 19.0 percent of Spanish mothers giving birth were under 20 years of age compared with 12.1 percent for white and 27.5 percent for black non-Hispanic mothers. The highest proportion of teenage births was for Mexican (20.1 percent) and Puerto Rican (23.4 percent) women; these proportions were substantially above the levels for Cuban (11.9 percent) and Central and South American mothers (8.6 percent) (table 7).

The percents of mothers aged 30 years and over were relatively small for Mexican (18.5 percent) and Puerto Rican mothers (17.9 percent) compared with Cuban (24.0 percent) and Central and South American mothers (29.5 percent). Among non-Hispanic mothers, 21.3 percent of white women and 15.2 percent of black women were 30 years of age or over.

As in 1978 variations in childbearing by age of mother among the different Hispanic groups are consistent with similarly wide variations in the median age of women in these groups: Mexican, 21.3 years; Puerto Rican, 22.1 years; Cuban, 38.3 years; and Central and South American, 26.7 years.<sup>3</sup>

## Low birth weight

Levels of low birth weight among births to women of Hispanic origin were generally quite comparable to those for white non-Hispanic women. Overall, 6.1 percent of infants born to Hispanic women weighed less than 2,500 grams (5 lbs 8 oz) compared with 5.7 percent for white non-Hispanic and 12.8 percent for black non-Hispanic births (table 8). As in 1978 the incidence of low birth weight among infants of Mexican origin was quite low (5.3 percent). Babies born to Cuban and Central and

South American mothers were also at relatively low risk of being of low birth weight (5.8 and 6.1 percent, respectively); the risk was relatively high for Puerto Rican babies (9.0 percent).

## Educational attainment

Mothers of Hispanic origin were generally less likely to have completed high school than were non-Hispanic mothers. In 1979, 47.3 percent of Hispanic mothers had completed at least 12 years of schooling compared with 82.1 percent for white non-Hispanic and 62.0 percent for black non-Hispanic mothers (table 9). Data on this topic are available for 18 States; California did not require reporting of educational attainment in 1979. Because of this significant change in the composition of the reporting area between 1978 and 1979, the number of Hispanic origin births for which the mother's educational attainment was reported was only about one-half of the Hispanic origin births in the 19-State reporting area. As expected, data for Mexican origin births were particularly affected.

Changes in the educational attainment of Hispanic origin mothers were uneven between 1978 and 1979. Levels of high school completion increased appreciably for Mexican and Central and South American mothers, but the proportion was still very low for Mexican mothers (37.0 percent). Because of the loss of California Hispanic births from the reporting area, the improvement between 1978 and 1979 in the overall level of educational attainment for Hispanic origin mothers is sharply overstated. Mexican Hispanic births comprised a much smaller portion of the Hispanic births in the 18-State reporting area (31.3 percent) than in the 19-State reporting area (60.1 percent), and educational attainment was lowest for Mexican women.

The relatively large proportion of births to teenagers among Hispanic mothers is a factor accounting

for the lower levels of educational attainment observed for Hispanic women.

## Prenatal care

Hispanic mothers are generally less likely to begin receiving prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy than are non-Hispanic mothers (table 10). In 1979, 60.5 percent of all Hispanic mothers received care in the initial 3 months of pregnancy, considerably below the 81.2 percent for white non-Hispanic mothers but about the same as the 60.2 percent for black non-Hispanic mothers. In 1979 as in 1978 Cuban mothers were most likely to seek care early (82.0 percent), followed by Mexican mothers (60.8 percent), Central and South American mothers (55.5 percent), and Puerto Rican mothers (53.3 percent).

The proportions of mothers receiving late care (care beginning in the third trimester) or no care varied inversely with the proportions receiving care early. Only 2.9 percent of Cuban mothers were in this category compared with 10.4 percent of Mexican mothers, 14.5 percent of Central and South American mothers, and 16.4 percent of Puerto Rican mothers.

The likelihood that a woman will seek prenatal care early has been shown to be closely associated with age and educational attainment as well as the birth order of the infant. Young mothers with low educational attainment and mothers having high order births are particularly unlikely to receive early care.<sup>4</sup>

Mothers of Hispanic origin made fewer visits for prenatal care than did non-Hispanic mothers. The median number of visits was fewest for mothers of Puerto Rican origin (9.0), followed by Mexican and Central and South American mothers (9.5). The median number of visits made by Cuban mothers, 11.3, was the same as made by white non-Hispanic mothers.

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## References

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<sup>1</sup>National Center for Health Statistics, S. J. Ventura and R. L. Heuser: Births of Hispanic parentage, 1978. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*. Vol. 29-No. 12 Supp. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 81-1120. Public Health Service. Hyattsville, Md. Mar. 20, 1981.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census: Fertility of American women: June 1979. *Current Population Reports*. Series P-20, No. 358. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1980.

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census: Persons of Spanish origin in the United States: March 1979. *Current Population Reports*. Series P-20, No. 354. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1980.

<sup>4</sup>National Center for Health Statistics, S. Taffel: Prenatal care: United States, 1969-75. *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.

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### 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
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Table 1. Live births by Hispanic origin of mother and father: Total of 19 reporting States, 1979

Origin of father	Origin of mother								
	All origins	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic	Not stated
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic		
All origins . . . . .	1,621,934	196,222	117,989	32,555	6,422	17,995	21,261	1,270,196	155,516
Hispanic . . . . .	188,503	157,678	102,299	27,995	5,036	14,217	13,131	28,926	1,899
Mexican . . . . .	119,756	102,911	99,850	583	161	1,308	1,009	15,709	1,136
Puerto Rican . . . . .	28,181	23,251	829	20,561	264	1,097	500	4,657	273
Cuban . . . . .	6,255	4,938	185	263	3,956	328	206	1,265	52
Central and South American . . . . .	15,843	14,058	895	1,241	420	11,363	139	1,706	79
Other and unknown Hispanic . . . . .	18,468	12,520	540	347	235	121	11,277	5,589	359
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	1,139,182	22,897	11,190	3,026	1,094	2,112	5,475	1,108,701	7,584
Not stated . . . . .	294,249	15,647	4,500	6,534	292	1,666	2,655	132,569	146,033

Table 2. Live births by Hispanic origin of mother: 19 reporting States, 1979

State of residence	Origin of mother								
	All origins	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic	Not stated
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic		
All reporting States . . . . .	1,621,934	196,222	117,989	32,555	6,422	17,995	21,261	1,270,196	155,516
Arizona . . . . .	46,709	11,018	10,007	36	10	64	901	34,663	1,028
Arkansas . . . . .	36,300	252	90	16	4	54	88	28,107	7,941
California . . . . .	379,422	97,909	87,195	930	496	4,711	4,577	209,130	72,383
Colorado . . . . .	47,213	6,861	2,913	62	11	56	3,819	37,234	3,118
Florida . . . . .	121,146	9,956	1,565	1,292	3,995	1,013	2,091	105,280	5,910
Hawaii . . . . .	17,546	1,684	198	465	24	20	977	15,810	52
Illinois . . . . .	184,210	16,618	9,973	2,376	215	685	3,369	162,272	5,320
Indiana . . . . .	87,383	1,522	1,031	237	11	48	195	78,646	7,215
Kansas . . . . .	39,006	1,201	885	75	11	67	163	32,932	4,873
Maine . . . . .	16,365	57	8	10	6	1	32	13,927	2,381
Mississippi . . . . .	45,923	111	48	4	4	11	44	43,262	2,550
Nebraska . . . . .	26,220	610	524	9	5	8	64	24,295	1,315
Nevada . . . . .	12,365	970	674	13	23	25	235	10,264	1,131
New Jersey . . . . .	96,501	10,169	166	6,341	888	1,670	1,104	76,867	9,465
New York . . . . .	235,944	32,955	518	19,938	655	9,424	2,420	185,223	17,766
North Dakota . . . . .	11,792	68	36	4	2	6	20	10,788	936
Ohio . . . . .	167,010	2,161	928	735	30	87	381	154,532	10,317
Utah . . . . .	41,098	1,519	844	6	29	40	600	38,924	655
Wyoming . . . . .	9,781	581	386	6	3	5	181	8,040	1,160

Table 3. Live births by Hispanic origin of father: 19 reporting States, 1979

State of residence	Origin of father								
	All origins	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic	Not stated
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic		
All reporting States	1,621,934	188,503	119,756	28,181	6,255	15,843	18,468	1,139,182	294,249
Arizona	46,709	11,031	10,060	88	20	30	833	32,430	3,248
Arkansas	36,300	198	90	14	8	32	54	22,953	13,149
California	379,422	99,138	88,841	1,306	565	4,053	4,373	202,384	77,900
Colorado	47,213	5,700	2,733	100	10	45	2,812	33,741	7,772
Florida	121,146	9,846	1,626	1,373	4,011	989	1,847	88,892	22,408
Hawaii	17,546	1,275	202	409	13	13	638	14,266	2,005
Illinois	184,210	17,133	10,513	2,484	180	666	3,290	151,614	15,463
Indiana	87,383	1,414	958	242	12	40	162	69,339	16,630
Kansas	39,006	1,186	902	100	8	37	139	30,072	7,748
Maine	16,365	63	11	12	2	2	36	12,247	4,055
Mississippi	45,923	97	39	9	9	9	31	31,105	14,721
Nebraska	26,220	561	498	11	1	10	41	22,104	3,555
Nevada	12,365	941	665	25	30	23	198	8,956	2,468
New Jersey	96,501	8,832	150	5,348	733	1,657	944	66,103	21,566
New York	235,944	27,121	441	15,872	589	8,127	2,092	159,724	49,099
North Dakota	11,792	62	24	10	4	-	24	10,067	1,663
Ohio	167,010	2,000	823	772	30	74	301	138,076	26,934
Utah	41,098	1,322	789	4	30	34	465	37,672	2,104
Wyoming	9,781	583	391	2	-	2	188	7,437	1,761

Table 4. Number of live births and percent distribution by race of child, by Hispanic origin of mother: Total of 19 reporting States, 1979

Race of child	Origin of mother									
	All origins	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic	Not stated	
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic			
		Number								
All races	1,621,934	196,222	117,989	32,555	6,422	17,995	21,261	1,270,196	155,516	
White	1,298,557	184,900	115,108	29,776	6,204	14,696	19,116	985,925	127,732	
Black	257,195	7,440	1,665	2,290	174	2,584	727	228,407	21,348	
Other races	66,182	3,882	1,216	489	44	715	1,418	55,864	6,436	
		Percent distribution								
All races	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
White	80.1	94.2	97.6	91.5	96.6	81.7	89.9	77.6	82.1	
Black	15.9	3.8	1.4	7.0	2.7	14.4	3.4	18.0	13.7	
Other races	4.1	2.0	1.0	1.5	0.7	4.0	6.7	4.4	4.1	

Table 5. Birth rates and fertility rates by Hispanic origin of mother: Total of 9 selected States,<sup>1</sup> 1979

Measure	All origins	Hispanic					Non-Hispanic <sup>3</sup>
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Hispanic <sup>2</sup>	
Birth rate <sup>4</sup>	15.6	25.5	29.6	22.6	8.6	25.7	14.7
Fertility rate <sup>5</sup>	66.7	100.5	119.3	80.7	39.7	95.9	63.2

<sup>1</sup>The selected States are Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, and Ohio.

<sup>2</sup>Includes Central and South American and other and unknown Hispanic origin.

<sup>3</sup>Includes origin not stated.

<sup>4</sup>Rate per 1,000 total population.

<sup>5</sup>Rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years.

Table 6. Percent distribution of live births by live-birth order, by Hispanic origin of mother, and by race for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: Total of 19 reporting States, 1979

Live-birth order	Origin of mother									
	All origins <sup>1</sup>	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic		
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total <sup>2</sup>	White	Black
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
First child	42.4	38.2	36.9	38.1	50.4	40.6	40.3	42.8	43.5	39.8
Second child	31.7	28.9	27.6	30.2	32.8	31.7	30.8	32.1	32.9	28.8
Third child	15.2	16.7	16.8	17.6	11.5	16.4	16.5	15.1	14.8	16.2
Fourth child	6.0	7.8	8.4	7.7	3.3	6.7	6.7	5.8	5.3	7.8
Fifth child	2.4	3.8	4.3	3.4	1.2	2.5	2.9	2.3	1.9	3.6
Sixth child and over	2.3	4.6	6.0	2.9	0.7	2.1	2.8	2.0	1.6	3.8

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

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

Table 7. Percent distribution of live births by age of mother, by Hispanic origin of mother, and by race for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: Total of 19 reporting States, 1979

Age of mother	Origin of mother									
	All origins <sup>1</sup>	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic		
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total <sup>2</sup>	White	Black
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15 years	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	1.0
15-19 years	15.0	18.6	19.8	22.8	11.8	8.5	16.5	14.5	12.0	26.5
15 years	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.4	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.4	2.1
16 years	1.7	2.2	2.3	3.1	1.1	0.8	2.0	1.6	1.1	4.0
17 years	2.9	3.7	3.9	4.7	2.4	1.6	3.3	2.8	2.2	5.5
18 years	4.2	5.2	5.5	6.3	3.4	2.3	4.6	4.1	3.5	7.0
19 years	5.4	6.6	7.1	7.4	4.5	3.6	5.7	5.3	4.8	7.9
20-24 years	33.4	35.0	36.0	35.5	33.3	30.6	33.1	33.2	33.2	35.1
25-29 years	30.7	26.1	25.4	23.3	30.7	31.3	28.2	31.4	33.4	22.2
30-34 years	15.6	13.6	12.6	12.6	15.6	19.2	15.5	15.8	16.6	10.7
35-39 years	4.2	5.2	4.8	4.4	6.7	8.4	5.4	4.1	4.0	3.7
40-44 years	0.7	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.6	1.8	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.8
45-49 years	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

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

Table 8. Percent distribution of live births by birth weight and percent low birth weight, by Hispanic origin of mother, and by race for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: Total of 19 reporting States, 1979

Birth weight	Origin of mother									
	All origins <sup>1</sup>	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic		
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total <sup>2</sup>	White	Black
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 500 grams	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
500-999 grams	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.0
1,000-1,499 grams	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.2
1,500-1,999 grams	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.7	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.1	2.5
2,000-2,499 grams	4.4	4.0	3.5	5.9	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.5	3.7	7.9
2,500-2,999 grams	16.7	17.2	15.8	22.3	14.7	16.5	18.4	16.8	14.7	24.5
3,000-3,499 grams	37.4	39.4	38.8	40.6	39.3	40.5	40.1	37.2	36.7	38.3
3,500-3,999 grams	28.6	28.2	29.9	22.4	30.4	27.9	26.8	28.6	30.9	19.5
4,000-4,499 grams	8.5	7.6	8.4	4.9	8.0	7.4	6.9	8.6	9.8	4.2
4,500-4,999 grams	1.6	1.3	1.5	0.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.8	0.7
5,000 grams or more	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Percent low birth weight <sup>3</sup>	6.9	6.1	5.3	9.0	5.8	6.1	6.6	7.0	5.7	12.8

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

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

<sup>3</sup>Weight of less than 2,500 grams (5 lbs 8 oz).



Table 9. Number of live births and percent distribution of live births by educational attainment of mother and median years of school completed, by Hispanic origin of mother, and by race for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: Total of 18 reporting States, 1979

Years of school completed by mother	Origin of mother									
	All origins <sup>1</sup>	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic		
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total <sup>2</sup>	White	Black
		Number								
Live births .....	1,242,512	98,313	30,794	31,625	5,926	13,284	16,684	1,061,066	826,194	199,129
		Percent distribution								
Total .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-8 years .....	4.8	24.0	36.8	18.3	7.1	24.7	17.0	3.1	2.5	4.7
9-11 years .....	19.6	28.7	26.2	38.2	15.7	18.8	27.7	18.7	15.4	33.3
12 years .....	43.9	33.5	27.0	32.7	44.6	39.8	37.9	44.8	46.1	41.0
13-15 years .....	18.0	9.9	7.8	8.2	21.4	11.2	11.7	18.8	19.7	15.3
16 years or more .....	13.8	3.9	2.1	2.6	11.2	5.5	5.7	14.6	16.4	5.7
Percent completing 12 years or more of school .....	75.7	47.3	37.0	43.5	77.2	56.5	55.3	78.2	82.1	62.0
		Median								
Years of school completed .....	12.6	11.7	10.5	11.5	12.6	12.2	12.1	12.6	12.7	12.3

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

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

NOTE: Excludes data for California, which did not report educational attainment.

Table 10. Percent distribution of live births by month of pregnancy prenatal care began and median number of prenatal visits, by Hispanic origin of mother, and by race for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: Total of 19 reporting States, 1979

Measure of prenatal care	Origin of mother									
	All origins <sup>1</sup>	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic		
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total <sup>2</sup>	White	Black
Month prenatal care began		Percent distribution								
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1st and 2d month	49.7	37.1	36.8	30.8	60.9	33.5	44.1	51.5	55.2	36.4
3d month	25.3	23.4	24.0	22.5	21.2	22.0	23.0	25.6	26.0	23.8
4th-6th month	19.5	28.2	28.8	30.3	15.1	30.0	24.0	18.3	15.5	29.8
7th-9th month	4.0	8.1	8.1	8.9	2.1	9.4	7.3	3.5	2.6	6.6
No prenatal care	1.4	3.3	2.4	7.5	0.8	5.1	1.5	1.2	0.7	3.4
Prenatal visits		Median								
Number <sup>3</sup>	10.9	9.5	9.5	9.0	11.3	9.5	9.8	11.0	11.3	10.5

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

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

<sup>3</sup>Excludes births to mothers with no prenatal care.

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## Technical notes

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### Sources of data

Concurrent with the recommendation of the 1978 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth, the National Center for Health Statistics recommended that States add items to identify Hispanic or ethnic origin of the newborn's mother and father. All 19 reporting States selected one of two basic formats. The first format was an open-ended item to obtain the specific origin or descent of each parent (for example, Italian, Mexican, German, Puerto Rican, English, or Cuban). The second format was directed specifically toward the Hispanic population and asked whether the mother and father were of Spanish origin. If so, the specific origin—Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, etc.—was to be indicated.

### Sampling

Birth data shown in this report are based on 100 percent of the births occurring in the 42 States that provided data through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Births occurring in the remaining eight States (Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, New Mexico, North Dakota, and South Dakota) and the District of Columbia were sampled at a 50-percent rate. The data shown in the tables are for births to all residents of the 19 States reporting ethnic or Hispanic origin, regardless of where the births occurred. Because the sampling rate is large, the associated errors are relatively small.

Data on Hispanic origin from the Current Population Survey are based on small samples and may be

subject to substantial sampling error. More information may be found in appropriate Bureau of the Census publications.<sup>2,3</sup>

### Computation of rates

In computing vital statistics rates for this report, births with unknown origin of mother and population with unknown origin are included with the non-Hispanic population rather than being distributed. These rates for the Hispanic population are underestimates of the true rates to the extent that the births with unknown origin of mother for the 9-State area (9.7 percent) are actually to Hispanic mothers. Because the proportion of the population in the 9-State area with unknown origin is low (1.5 percent), the effect on the rates is small. The rates derived from the Current Population Survey have also been computed with unknown origin included with the non-Hispanic population.

### Computation of percent distributions and medians

Births of unknown live-birth order, birth weight, educational attainment of mother, month of pregnancy prenatal care began, and prenatal visits were subtracted from figures for total births used as denominators before percent distributions and medians were computed.

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NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

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