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Trends and Differentials in Births to Unmarried Women:

United States, 1970-76

An analysis of trends and differentials in childbearing by unmarried women. Discusses variations in relation to age of mother, live-birth order, race, educational attainment, and place of residence. Also examined is the relationship of childbearing by unmarried women with health factors such as low birth weight and prenatal care.

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TRENDS AND DIFFERENTIALS IN BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED WOMEN

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

INTRODUCTION

The continued increase in the number of births to unmarried women, particularly since the mid-1960's when the number of births to married women began to decline, has led to widespread public concern and interest in determining the factors behind the rising trend as well as the consequences of childbearing by unmarried women. The purpose of this report is to describe this trend and to analyze some of the factors associated with it.

The principal topics covered are trends and differentials in the incidence of childbearing by unmarried women as measured primarily by the birth rate for unmarried women (the number of births per 1,000 unmarried women 15-44 years of age), factors accounting for the observed trends and variations, and differences in socioeconomic and health status between births to unmarried and married mothers.

For the most part the discussions of trends extend through the 1976 data year. The sections of the report covering differentials in childbearing by unmarried women and characteristics of infants born to these women, however, are based on data for 1975, the most recent year for which data were available when this report was written.

In this report the term "illegitimacy" is used interchangeably with "births to unmarried mothers," "out-of-wedlock childbearing," and variations of these terms. The latter terminology may be preferable to "illegitimacy" because it focuses on the legal marital status of the mother rather than on the "legitimacy status" of the newborn infant. However, references to "births to unmarried mothers," "out-of-wedlock" births, "out-of-wedlock childbearing rates," and so forth are cumbersome, particularly in an extensive text such as this one. For this and other reasons the use of the term "illegitimacy" is widely accepted and used by other researchers in this area.[1-5]

Illegitimacy is defined by State statute. Generally a child is classified as legitimate if he or she was conceived or born during lawful wedlock, regardless of whether or not the mother's husband was the child's biological father.

There are variations from State to State in the wording of the legitimacy status item. Most States, however, have adopted the wording included in the 1968 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth: "Legitimate (specify yes or no)." Some States ask, "Is mother married?" or some variation of this wording. Although no systematic analysis has been conducted of the effect on illegitimacy statistics of these differences among States in the wording of this item, it is believed to be inconsequential. Beginning in 1978, most States have modified the wording of the item to ask "Is mother married?" as recommended by the 1978 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth.

SOURCE OF DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The source of data for this report is the certificate of live birth filed for each child born in the United States. In 1976 the birth certificates of 38 States and the District of Columbia included an item asking for the legitimacy status of the child.

Over the years included in this study the number of States asking for the legitimacy status of the child has changed little. At one time, during the 1930's, the reporting of legitimacy status was nearly universal. However, during the 1940's a number of States removed the item out of concern for its confidentiality. Most States now include a separate confidential section on their certificates where the legitimacy item is located and take additional precautions to safeguard the privacy of the child and the mother.

The quality of illegitimacy statistics is affected by the completeness of birth registration as well as by the accuracy with which the legitimacy item is completed. However, for the more recent period covered by this report (1950-76), it is estimated that more than 97 percent of all births occurring in the United States were registered. Thus it is unlikely that improved reporting could account for any part of the observed increase in illegitimacy.

No attempt has been made to evaluate the quality of reporting for the legitimacy status question. It is impossible to say whether the quality has varied over time, yet it is probable that variation in accuracy exists among different segments of the population. For example, many assume that there is more falsification of legitimacy status among white women and women of higher socioeconomic status than among black women and women of lower income. It has also been argued, however, that since accurate registration of legitimacy status is necessary to facilitate adoption, white women are *less* likely to falsify their children's legitimacy status, since a much higher proportion of white than of black out-of-wedlock babies are adopted.[6]

With respect to the validity of the legitimacy status item as an accurate measure of illegitimacy in the reporting area,[a] an independent study was conducted for a sample of 1973 births to infer the legitimacy status of births occurring in the reporting States by comparing the mother's, child's, and father's surnames as reported on the birth certificate.[7] That inferential study estimated that 71,605 illegitimate births occurred in the sample, whereas the number of registered illegitimate births totaled 71,241. Thus, the inferential method differed from the birth certificate item by only 0.5 percent. (See appendix III for a complete description of this study.)

It was noted earlier that only 38 States and the District of Columbia reported legitimacy status in 1976. Among the nonreporting States are New York, California, and Massachusetts, together accounting for 20 percent of all births in that year. In order to have national figures on illegitimacy, estimates are prepared for the number of illegitimate births occurring in these and other nonreporting States as a group. (Appendix table V shows the reporting status of each State.) To obtain national estimates, all States are grouped into nine geographic divisions. The combined ratio of illegitimate births per 1,000 total live births for all reporting States in a single division is then applied to all the live births occurring to residents of that division. This yields an estimate of illegitimate live births for the geographic division. This procedure is applied separately to white, black, and other births. The sum of these estimates for the nine geographic divisions makes up the estimate for the United States.

This method assumes that the nonreporting States in a given geographic division have the same proportion of births that are illegitimate as the reporting States in that division. The reliability of the estimates is therefore influenced by the proportion of all births that are

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[a] In this sense, "validity" refers to the consistency between the information reported in the legitimacy status item and the inference based on the names of the mother, father, and child. It is not possible to detect from this procedure inaccuracies that arise from deliberate falsification of both the legitimacy status item and the names.

to residents of the reporting States in each geographic division. In some divisions this proportion is small, particularly in the New England, Middle Atlantic, Mountain, and Pacific Divisions. Thus it is not advisable to estimate the number of illegitimate births for any individual nonreporting State from this method.

With respect to the validity of the national estimates of illegitimate births prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), an independent estimate of these births was made for 1975. This method, described in detail in appendix IV, involved combining the numbers of illegitimate births registered in the legitimacy-reporting States with the numbers of illegitimate births inferred by the individual nonreporting States. The independent estimates of illegitimacy were remarkably consistent with the results obtained by the usual NCHS estimation procedure for all births. Estimates by race indicated that the usual estimation procedure undercounts the number of white illegitimate births somewhat and overstates the number of illegitimate births of all other races slightly. Nevertheless, considering that the inferential procedures are themselves subject to error, the usual estimation procedure seems to be reasonably accurate at the national level. This aspect is discussed in detail in Chamblee's thesis (see reference 7).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The risk that an unmarried woman will give birth to a child has declined fairly steadily since 1970. This risk, as measured by the illegitimacy rate, declined from 26.4 illegitimate births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15-44 years, to 24.7 in 1976. During this same period, however, all other measures of illegitimacy have increased considerably. The number of out-of-wedlock births rose from 398,700 in 1970 to 468,100 in 1976, an increase of 17 percent. This increase occurred during a period of generally declining fertility (principally among married women), when total births declined by 15 percent. Therefore, the proportion of all births that were illegitimate increased from 10.7 percent in 1970 to 14.8 percent in 1976.

The declining rate of childbearing by unmarried women has not had the effect of reducing the number of illegitimate births during this period for several reasons. There has been an increase in the population of unmarried women of all ages, and although the illegitimacy rate has declined for most age groups, it has increased for teenagers, particularly for those aged 15-17 years. The rate for the latter group rose from 17.1 per 1,000 in 1970 to 19.3 in 1976. The trend in the illegitimacy rate for teenagers is critical because the overwhelming majority of teenagers are unmarried and thus "at risk" of giving birth to a child out of wedlock. In addition teenage girls 15-19 years of age compose about one-half of the unmarried female population aged 15-44 years and account for half of all illegitimate births. Because of these factors it is not likely that there will be a decline in the total number of illegitimate births in the near future unless the recent trends in teenage illegitimacy rates are reversed. A number of factors associated with the trends in the teenage illegitimacy rate are considered in this report, including the incidence of premarital intercourse, the use of contraception, and the use of abortion.

There is a larger incidence of illegitimacy for the black population than for the white. This is true regardless of the measure used. A number of factors are examined, but a substantial racial difference persists, with the measure for the black population being several times larger than that for the white population.

Out-of-wedlock childbearing is becoming increasingly concentrated among teenage mothers. In 1975 an estimated 52.1 percent of illegitimate infants were born to mothers under 20 years of age. This proportion was 50.1 percent in 1970 and 44.4 percent in 1965. Because of this concentration of young mothers, the majority of illegitimate births—61.8 percent—were first births in 1975. Since unmarried mothers are more concentrated in the teenage group, they are less likely to have had the opportunity to complete high school: in 1975, 40.3 percent of unmarried mothers compared with 76.0 percent of married mothers had done so. It is clear that unmarried mothers are thus at a definite disadvantage socially and economically because of their lower educational attainment.

Four health factors in childbearing are considered in this report. It is shown that illegitimate infants are far more likely to be of low birth weight—2,500 grams or less (5 pounds 8 ounces or less)—than are legitimate babies (12.9 percent compared with 6.5 percent in 1975).

Unmarried mothers are more likely to have begun prenatal care late in pregnancy and to have made fewer prenatal visits than are married mothers. In 1975, 16.2 percent of unmarried mothers compared with 4.3 percent of married mothers began prenatal care in the last trimester or had no care at all.

The only health factor considered in this report for which there is now virtually no difference between legitimate and illegitimate babies is the attendant at birth. In 1975, 99.0 percent of legitimate births and 98.4 percent of illegitimate births were attended by physicians in hospitals. These figures reflect a substantial increase in the level of hospital deliveries for out-of-wedlock babies since 1964, when 89.1 percent of these infants were delivered in hospitals.

Although spontaneous fetal deaths are substantially underreported, there is nonetheless a considerable difference in the incidence of reported fetal deaths according to legitimacy status. In 1975 the fetal death ratio (fetal deaths per 1,000 live births) was 15.9 for illegitimate births—56 percent greater than that for legitimate births, 10.2.

The measurement of out-of-wedlock childbearing in terms of both the number of illegitimate births and the population at risk of bearing an illegitimate child is considered in detail in this report and in the appendixes. It is concluded that although there are shortcomings in the present estimates by the National Center for Health Statistics, they are adequate to analyze national trends and differentials in illegitimacy.

THE BIRTH RATE FOR UNMARRIED WOMEN: NATIONAL DATA

The Trend Since 1940

Trends in the rate of childbearing by unmarried women for the United States are now available for a 36-year period. Although all States were in the birth registration area by 1933, estimates of out-of-wedlock births for the States not reporting legitimacy status were not made until 1938, and a consistent series of birth rates for unmarried women has been available only since 1940.

The birth rate for unmarried women for the United States increased relatively rapidly from 1940 to 1957 from 7.1 to 21.0 births per 1,000 unmarried women of childbearing age, an average annual increase of 0.8 births per 1,000. The rate continued to increase in the next 8 years but at a much slower pace—from 21.0 in 1957 to 23.4 in 1965, an average increase of 0.3 births per 1,000 per year. The period from 1965 to 1970 was again marked by a rapid increase in the illegitimacy rate. The rate rose in every year except one by an average of about 0.6 births per 1,000 per year, from 23.4 in 1965 to 26.4 in 1970. Since 1970 there has been a fairly steady decline in the illegitimacy rate, except that in 1975 the rate increased somewhat over the 1974 level. The rate in 1976 was 24.7.

Rates by Race and Age of Mother

Birth rates for unmarried women by color were prepared for the first time for an earlier NCHS report[8] on the subject. The procedures used for estimating the population denominators for these rates are described in appendix II of this report. Rates by color are available for 1940, 1950, and annually since 1955. Rates by race are available since 1969, the first year for which illegitimacy statistics for the black population were compiled.

There continue to be wide differences in the incidence of out-of-wedlock childbearing between white women and women of all other races (figures 1 and 2 and table 1).[b] From 1940 to 1960 the rate for white women increased from 3.6 to 9.2, and the rate for women of all other races rose from 35.6 to 98.3. During this period the rates for women of all other races were 10 to 11 times the rates for white

[b] As used in this report, the term "all other" refers to the combined grouping of all races other than white.

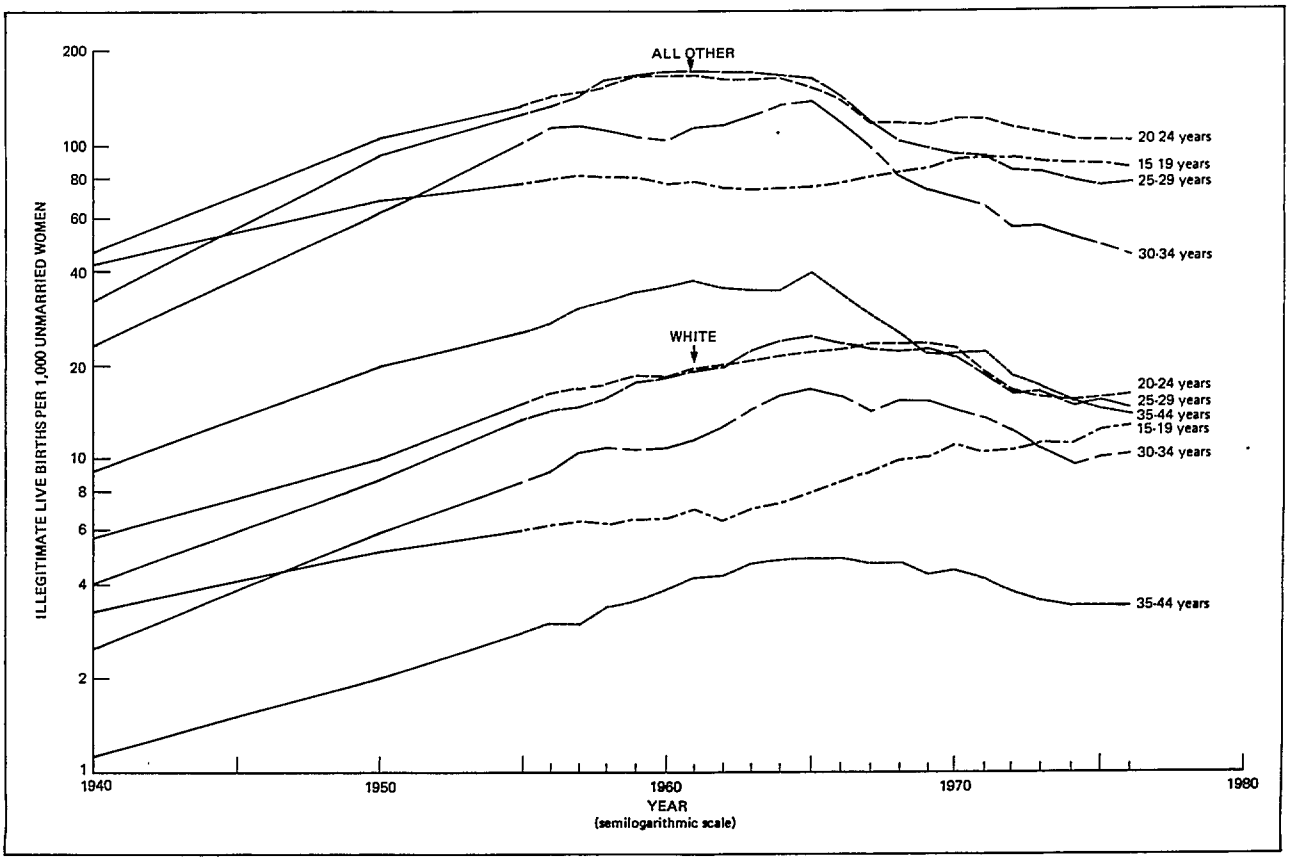

Figure 1. Estimated birth rates for unmarried women by age of mother and color: United States, 1940, 1950, 1955-76

women. Between 1960 and 1970 the color differential (defined as the ratio of the rate for all other women to the rate for white women) declined because the rate for white women generally rose during this period while the rate for all other women fell. In 1965 the rate for all other women was 97.4, or slightly more than 7 times higher than the rate for white women (11.6). Between 1965 and 1970 the rate for white women increased by about 20 percent to 13.9 while the rate for all other women declined by nearly 8 percent to 89.9. Thus the color differential was reduced considerably by 1970 when the rate for all other women was about 6½ times the rate for white women. The rates for both white and all other women declined between 1970 and 1976: in 1976 the rates were 12.7 and 78.1, respectively. The color differential continued to decline slightly in the most recent period because the rate for white women declined less (by 9 percent) than did the rate for all other women (by 13 percent).

The illegitimacy rates for each age and color group indicate that the trends were generally similar for white and all other women of the same age during the periods from 1940 to 1960 and from 1970 to 1976 (figure 2 and table 1). Between 1960 and 1965, the rates for white women in all age groups generally increased while those for all other women under 30 years of age decreased slightly. Rates for all other women 30 years of age and over increased during this period. There was no consistent trend in the age-specific rates for white women between 1965 and 1970—some increased, some decreased. For all other women, however, the trend was down for each age group except for the teenagers. Since 1970, all the rates have declined except for white women aged 15-19 years. Rates for white teenagers have continued to increase since the early 1960's,

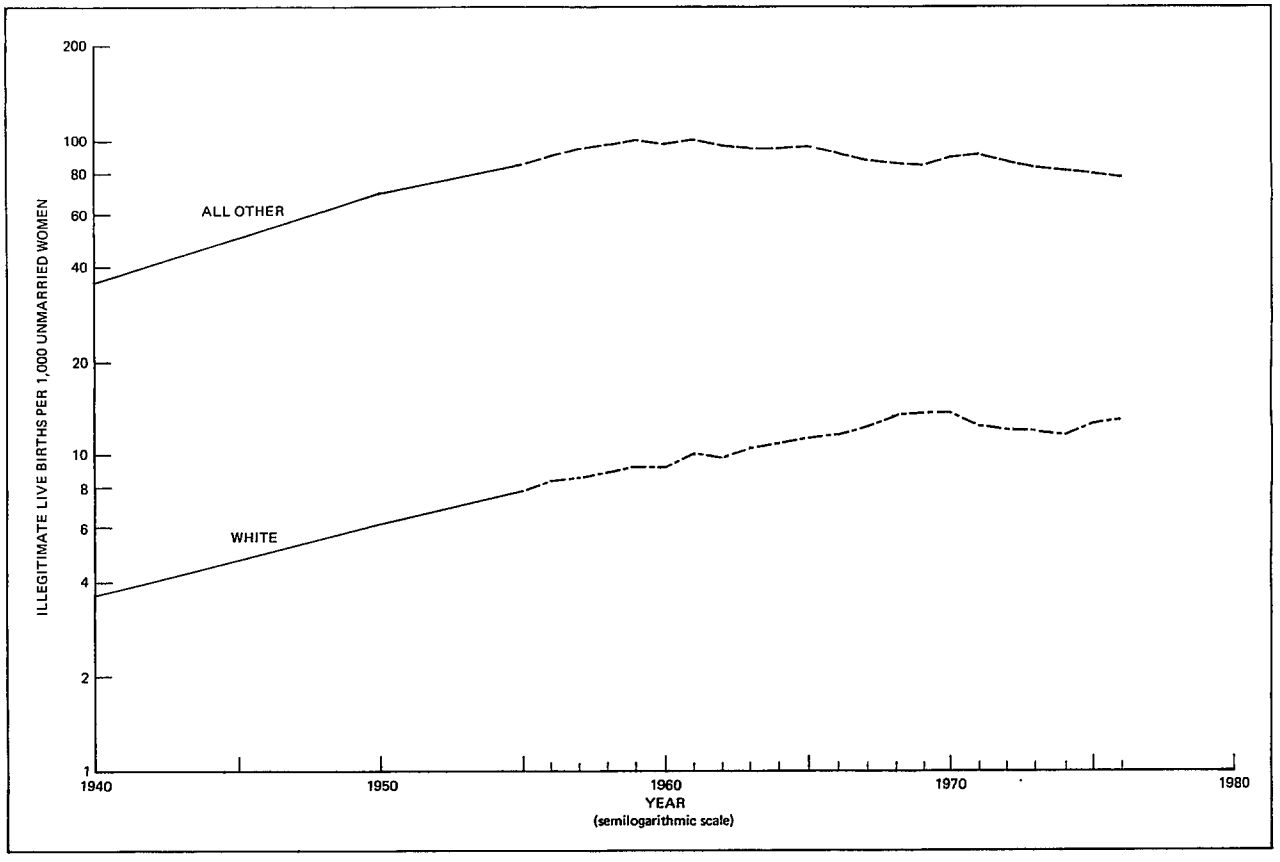

Figure 2. Estimated birth rates for unmarried women by color: United States, 1940, 1950, 1955-76

although the rate of increase has slowed down considerably since 1970. During the period 1960-70 the rate for white teenagers increased by an average of 6½ percent per year; since 1970, the increase has averaged only about 2 percent per year. However, among young white teenagers 15-17 years of age, the illegitimacy rate increased considerably between 1970 and 1976—from 7.5 to 9.9, an increase of about 5 percent per year.

By 1976 the age-specific rates for white women (except for teenagers) were sharply down from the 1970 levels. The declines ranged from 28 percent to 32 percent for women aged 20 years and older.

The 1976 age-specific rates for all other women were also reduced from the 1970 levels. The decline was only about 7 percent for teenagers, but for the other age groups, the declines ranged from 15 percent (women 20-24 years) to 41 percent (women 35-39 years).

Illegitimacy rates for black women have been available since 1969. In general the rates for black women are slightly higher than for all other women, and the trends in rates for these two groups are parallel.

The Teenage Rate

It is popularly believed that teenagers have the greatest risk of bearing an out-of-wedlock child. This is because more than 50 percent of out-of-wedlock births are to women under 20 years of age. Actually, though, teenage girls overall have the lowest illegitimacy *rates* (number of births per 1,000 unmarried women) of any age group under 30 (women under 30

give birth to more than 90 percent of all out-of-wedlock babies). However, it is also true that the teenagers have been the only group to show a persistent rise in the illegitimacy rates, from 22.4 in 1970 to 24.0 in 1976, an increase of 7 percent. In contrast, rates for other age groups have dropped very sharply since 1970, ranging from 16 percent for women 20-24 years to 35 percent for women 35-39 years. The result of these divergent trends has been that the illegitimacy rate for teenagers is now close to that for women in their twenties, and if recent patterns persist, it may reach the level of the rates for women 20 and over in a few years. In fact, the rate for older teenagers, 18-19 years of age, is now higher than the rate for any other age group of women. Although the levels of the age-specific rates for white and all other women differ widely, the trends just described apply in general to women of both color groups.

Since teenagers have been the one group not to follow the general downward trend in illegitimacy rates observed in recent years, it is useful to examine rates for separate age groups within the teenage years in an attempt to determine if one particular age group is responsible for the increase. Illegitimacy rates for the age groups 15-17 and 18-19 years for 1966-76 are shown in table 1. The rate for the 15-17-year-olds increased somewhat, and the rate for 18-19-year-olds declined only slightly between 1970 and 1976, a period during which rates for all other ages declined considerably.

The incidence of illegitimacy among 18-19-year-olds was nearly twice the level for women 15-17 years old in 1970. By 1976 the differential between older and younger teenagers had declined somewhat as a result of the considerably faster rate of increase in the rate for young teenagers.

Birth rates for unmarried black women were substantially higher than the rates for unmarried white women in both age groups. For 15-17-year-olds the rate for black women was 74.6 in 1976 compared with 9.9 for white women. For 18-19-year-olds the rates were 121.6 and 17.0, respectively. Since 1970 the rate for white women 15-17 years of age increased 32 percent (from 7.5 to 9.9) while the rate for black women of the same age declined 4 percent from 77.9 to 74.6. Rates for 18-19-year-old women of both races fell between 1970 and 1976 by only 3 percent for white women and by 11 percent for black women.

It is evident that the younger teenagers are primarily responsible for the persistent rise in the illegitimacy rate for 15-19-year-olds and that this trend is far more pronounced for white teenagers 15-17 years of age than for black teenagers of the same age group.

Sexual Experience, Contraception, and Abortion

The combination of increasing teenage out-of-wedlock birth rates and increasing numbers of unmarried women has resulted in an even greater escalation in the annual numbers of out-of-wedlock births to women under 20 years of age (table 2). Illegitimate births to all other age groups have risen, too, but it is the births to teenagers that have constituted an increasing proportion of the total, in 1976 accounting for 50.3 percent of all out-of-wedlock births.

With these facts in mind it is appropriate to examine some of the factors that influence the levels of childbearing among unmarried teenagers. In this section the increased proportion of teenagers who are sexually experienced, the use of contraception and abortion among teenagers, and the possible compensating effects these factors might have had on the most recent trends in out-of-wedlock childbearing will be examined.

It appears that the growing rate of out-of-wedlock childbearing among women under 20 years of age, particularly young teenagers, is related to the sizable increase in the proportion of sexually experienced teenagers. In a study recently completed, Melvin Zelnik and John F. Kantner document widespread increases between 1971 and 1976 in the proportion of never-married women of 15-19 years who have had sexual intercourse.[9] The proportion of sexually experienced 17-year-olds, for example, increased by 54 percent, from 26.6 percent to 40.9 percent. An increase in sexual

activity was measured for both white and black women, but the increases were substantially higher among white women at all ages except for 15-year-olds. They also found higher proportions of teenagers reporting more consistent use of contraception and increased use of the more effective medical methods (oral contraceptives and intrauterine devices). These findings would tend to indicate that teenagers, while more exposed to the risk of pregnancy because of increased sexual activity, have also moderated this increased risk by using contraception more effectively and consistently.

An earlier study by Zelnik and Kantner showed that high rates of premarital intercourse among teenagers are associated with fairly high levels of premarital pregnancies.[10,11] Their 1971 survey found that of teenage girls who had had premarital intercourse 28.7 percent had experienced a premarital first pregnancy. The proportions for white and black teens were 23.3 percent and 46.2 percent, respectively. A key finding in the 1976 Zelnik and Kantner study was that for most teenagers there remains a gap between the time of first intercourse and the first use of contraception, and that "those who delay the use of contraception are much more likely than those who do not to have had a pregnancy." (See page 71 of reference 9.) Thus there continues to be a considerable degree of risk-taking by unmarried teenagers who have had intercourse. This no doubt is a key factor in the continued high level of childbearing among unwed teenagers.

Thus the very large increase in the out-of-wedlock birth rate for white women 15-17 years old between 1971 and 1976 (34 percent) is consistent with the even larger increase in the proportion of sexually experienced never-married women of that age group (45 percent). The increases in the proportions of sexually experienced women 18-19 years of age were considerably smaller, and they were not reflected in the changes in the illegitimacy rates, which declined for both white and black women. However, the inconsistency for the older teenagers may result from the far greater levels of contraceptive use among this group than among young teenagers and by the significant improvement among all teenagers in effective contraceptive practice between 1971 and 1976.

Legalized abortion appears to have been responsible for a considerable portion of the overall decline in fertility in recent years. Christopher Tietze has estimated that about one-fifth of the national decline in total births between 1969 and 1973 was accounted for by legal abortions that replaced live births.[12] However, this proportion is lower than might be expected because a large portion of the legal abortions performed then constituted replacements for illegal abortions. (For additional evidence on this point, see references 13 and 14.) In addition the use of legalized abortion was substantial in only a few areas.

More recently, there is evidence both in the age and marital status distributions of abortion patients and in the trends in the illegitimacy rates for teenagers that abortion has acted to restrain and partially halt what had been a rapidly increasing rate of out-of-wedlock childbearing. Data from the Center for Disease Control's *Abortion Surveillance* Reports and the Alan Guttmacher Institute indicate a continued high level of use of abortion by teenagers—in 1975 about one-third of all abortions, or about 342,300, were obtained by teenagers. The rate of abortion use by teens increased from 19 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-19 in 1972 to 32 in 1975, and the abortion ratio for this age group increased during this period from 250 abortions per 1,000 live births to 561[16,17] (see reference 15 for other data on this point).

Data from the same sources show also that almost three-fourths of all abortions were obtained by unmarried women in 1975. This is a continuation of the increase in the proportions of abortions to unmarried women observed in previous years. The distribution of abortion recipients by race shows a steady increase in the percent of abortions to women of all other races. These women are more likely to have their pregnancies terminated by abortion than are white women, according to data from the District of Columbia and 18 of the 26 States that had data on this topic.

A review of recent trends in the out-of-wedlock birth rates for teenagers suggests strongly that abortion has had a key role in

holding back the previously escalating illegitimacy rates for women under 20. From 1966 to 1973, the year the Supreme Court declared anti-abortion statutes unconstitutional, the illegitimacy rate for 15-19-year-old women increased from 17.5 to 22.9, or an average of about 4.4 percent annually. A projection of this trend to 1976 would give an expected teenage illegitimacy rate of 25.9. Instead, in the 3 years after the Supreme Court decision, the rise in the teenage illegitimacy rate averaged only 1.6 percent annually to 24.0. The situation is similar for illegitimacy rates for teens 15-17 years of age and 18-19 years of age. The rates rose sharply between 1966 and 1973 and since then have increased relatively little. The greater use of abortion by pregnant teenagers of all other races compared with white teens is reflected somewhat in the *decline* since 1972 in the illegitimacy rates for women of all other races 15-19 years of age on the one hand, and the continued increase in the rates for white teenagers on the other.

Although it is difficult and perhaps impossible to be precise about the impact of legalized abortion on out-of-wedlock childbearing, the available data seem to indicate that abortion has at least had a restraining effect on what had been a steady upward trend in illegitimacy among teenagers.

Effect of Including Separated Women in the Denominator of the Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing Rate

There has been increasing discussion in recent years over which groups of women should be included in the denominator used for computing birth rates for unmarried women. The denominator used by NCHS in computing these rates consists of single (never-married), widowed, and divorced women 15-44 years of age. Some researchers believe that women separated for a long period of time should be included in the denominator as well; these women, it is said, are exposed to the risk of giving birth to an illegitimate child.[3,5,18] It may be worth noting at this point that the vast majority (a minimum of 80.3 percent in 1973) of illegitimate births occur to never-married women.[7]

Separated women are not included in the denominator for a number of reasons.[19] In general, a child's legitimacy status is determined on the basis of the marital status of the mother. For a large number of States it is required that if the mother is married the name of the husband be entered on the birth record as the father unless or until there is a court order determining paternity to be otherwise. Additionally, most States have adopted the concept that a child is legitimate if he or she was conceived or born during lawful wedlock, regardless of whether or not the husband was the child's biological father. This is the strictly legal aspect of the issue; that is, separated women, even those separated permanently or for an extended period of time, are nevertheless married, and any children they bear are assumed to be legitimate.

Although separated women are exposed to the risk of bearing children by men other than their husbands, it must be recognized that a certain proportion of them will list the legal husband as the father on the birth certificate, thus virtually assuring that their babies are reported as legitimate. In addition, some women who have been separated for a long period may have established a stable common-law relationship, and their births will probably be reported as legitimate. The difficulty is that there are no firm statistics on the relative proportions of separated women giving birth to acknowledged illegitimate babies compared with reported legitimate babies. And finally, there are probably some separated women who have babies fathered by their legal husbands.

For illustrative purposes out-of-wedlock birth rates have been computed for the years 1970-75 including separated women in the denominator (table 3). The principal effect of including separated women in the denominator of the illegitimacy rate is to reduce the levels of the rates (table A), particularly for all other and black women, because of the relatively large proportion of separated women. In 1975 rates computed with separated women included in the denominator were about 6 percent lower than conventionally computed rates for white women and about 18 percent lower

Table A. Percent difference between birth rates for unmarried women computed with and without separated women in the denominator, by age of mother and race: United States, 1970 and 1975

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

Year and age of mother	All races	White	All other	
			Total	Black
1975				
15-44 years	8.5	6.3	16.8	18.2
15-19 years	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1
20-24 years	7.0	5.7	12.0	13.3
25-29 years	17.1	14.6	27.1	28.4
30-34 years	23.2	17.0	41.7	43.7
35-39 years	24.2	20.4	35.8	37.9
40-44 years	19.2	20.0	38.6	38.9
1970				
15-44 years	6.8	5.0	17.4	18.4
15-19 years	0.4	-	0.9	1.0
20-24 years	6.0	4.9	12.5	13.6
25-29 years	19.2	14.7	33.3	35.5
30-34 years	22.5	15.5	40.3	41.5
35-39 years	22.8	14.5	39.1	40.7
40-44 years	17.1	10.0	38.3	38.5

NOTE: Percents shown indicate the extent to which the rates computed with separated women in the denominator are lower than the rates which exclude them.

for black women. Since the inclusion of separated women in the denominator of the illegitimacy rate affects all other and black women more than white women, the color or racial differential for all ages combined is somewhat reduced when it is calculated on the basis of the recomputed rates. In both 1970 and 1975 the conventionally computed rates for all other women were about 6½ times the comparable rates for white women. When the recomputed rates are compared, those for all other women are found to be slightly over 5½ times the rates for white women.

By age of mother, the effects were greater for both black and white women 25 years of age and over. The percent differences in the rates were less than 1 percent for all teenagers but increased to 20 percent for white women 35-39 years of age and to 44 percent for black women aged 30-34 years.

It is also useful to examine the trend in the out-of-wedlock birth rates computed both ways to determine if the trends are similar or if they differ. Table B shows the percent changes in both sets of rates, by age of mother and race, between 1970 and 1975. The most striking finding in this table is that the percent changes in the rates (a decline in nearly every case) are similar for the two sets of rates. The year-to-year trends in the two sets of rates are also virtually identical. Thus, for recent years at least, the trends for age-race specific illegitimacy rates computed with separated women in the denominator are very nearly the same as the trends observed for the conventionally defined rates.

On the basis of the foregoing analysis and other research on this issue[4] it may be concluded that illegitimacy rates based on the conventional definition provide a close approximation of differing levels of childbearing by

Table B. Percent change between 1970 and 1975 in birth rates for unmarried women computed with and without separated women in the denominator, by age of mother and race: United States

Base of rate and age of mother	All races	White	All other	
			Total	Black
Denominator includes separated women				
15-44 years	−7.7	−10.6	−10.0	−10.1
15-19 years	+7.6	+10.1	−2.9	−1.9
20-24 years	−18.6	−30.8	−13.8	−16.1
25-29 years	−22.4	−28.3	−12.3	−14.1
30-34 years	−33.8	−30.8	−31.9	−31.7
35-39 years	−34.3	−33.8	−33.8	−35.4
40-44 years	−27.6	−33.3	−34.8	−31.3
Denominator excludes separated women (originally published rates)				
15-44 years	−6.1	−9.4	−10.6	−10.4
15-19 years	+8.0	+11.0	−3.0	−1.9
20-24 years	−17.7	−30.2	−14.2	−16.4
25-29 years	−24.3	−28.4	−19.7	−22.6
30-34 years	−33.2	−29.6	−30.2	−29.0
35-39 years	−33.1	−28.9	−37.2	−38.3
40-44 years	−25.7	−25.0	−34.6	−30.8

unmarried women by age and race as well as indicate the trend in the age-race specific rates in recent years.

Live-Birth Order and Race

Illegitimacy rates by live-birth order are computed by relating the number of out-of-wedlock births of a given birth order to all unmarried women 15-44 years of age. The birth order for a given birth refers to all live births—legitimate or illegitimate—born to that mother. An illegitimate birth classified as a second (or higher) order birth may be the mother's second (or higher) order illegitimate birth or her first *illegitimate* birth, following one or more legitimate births. It is not possible to determine from information on the birth certificate which illegitimate births of second or higher order have occurred after previous illegitimate births and which are the first illegitimate children born to these mothers.

The minimum proportion of unmarried women who became mothers of an out-of-wedlock child for the first time in a given year can be estimated by relating the number of first births that were illegitimate to the population of unmarried women. Table C shows the trend in these rates since 1955 and indicates that in 1976, 1.5 percent of unmarried women became mothers for the first time. The proportions for each racial group were 0.9 percent for white women and 4.5 percent for black women.

The racial differential for the first birth rate is about half as large as that for second and higher order births; in 1976 the first birth rate for black women (45.1 illegitimate births per 1,000 unmarried women 15-44 years of age) was 5.1 times the rate for white women (8.8); the rate for second and higher order births for black women (38.2) was nearly 10 times that for white women (3.9). This would suggest that the large racial differential observed for all illegitimate births (6.6 times) results principally from the far greater incidence of higher order illegitimate births among black women than among white women.

The most striking feature of the trend in the racial or color differential by live-birth order has been the sharp decline in the differential for rates for births of second and higher orders. In 1960 this rate for all other women was 58.3, or 18 times the rate for white women (3.3), compared with the 9-fold differential in 1976.[c]

Table C. Estimated birth rates for unmarried women by live-birth order and race: United States, 1955, 1960, and 1970-76

[Figures for live-birth order not stated are distributed. Rates are live births per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group]

Live-birth order and year	All races	White	All other	
			Total	Black
All births				
1976	24.7	12.7	78.1	83.2
1975	24.8	12.6	80.4	85.6
1974	24.1	11.8	81.5	86.6
1973	24.5	11.9	84.2	89.5
1972	24.9	12.0	86.9	92.2
1971	25.6	12.5	90.6	96.5
1970	26.4	13.9	89.9	95.5
1960	21.6	9.2	98.3	—
1955	19.3	7.9	87.2	—
1st birth				
1976	15.0	8.8	42.4	45.1
1975	15.3	8.8	44.8	47.4
1974	15.0	8.3	45.9	48.5
1973	15.1	8.3	47.2	50.0
1972	15.4	8.4	48.7	51.6
1971	15.6	8.8	49.7	52.8
1970	16.5	10.0	49.8	52.8
1960	10.6	5.9	40.0	—
1955	9.7	5.2	36.2	—
Birth of 2d or higher order				
1976	9.7	3.9	35.7	38.2
1975	9.5	3.7	35.6	38.1
1974	9.2	3.5	35.6	38.0
1973	9.4	3.6	37.0	39.5
1972	9.6	3.6	38.2	40.7
1971	10.0	3.8	40.9	43.7
1970	9.8	3.9	40.1	42.8
1960	11.0	3.3	58.3	—
1955	9.7	2.7	51.0	—

[c]Rates for black women are available only since 1969; as a result this discussion is confined to rates for all other women, which were about 5-7 percent lower than the rates for black women from 1970 to 1976.

The differential for first birth rates has also declined, but not as sharply; in 1960 the rate for all other women was almost 7 times that for white women, and by 1976 the differential was just under 5.

OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTH RATES BY STATE

Although each State has its own laws and regulations defining an out-of-wedlock birth, these differences affect only a minimal proportion of all infants since the vast majority of out-of-wedlock births are to women who have never been married. It is possible, though, that the quality of reporting legitimacy status varies from State to State and even within States. For example, it may be easier for a woman to misrepresent her marital status if she lives in a large metropolitan area than if she resides in a small town. Comparisons among geographic locations should therefore be made with caution; small differences may not be significant.

To date it has been possible to obtain estimates of the number of unmarried women by age for States for the calculation of illegitimacy rates only in census years. The rates shown in table 4 are average rates for 1969-71, the numerator being the average number of out-of-wedlock births in a specified group for 1969-71 and the denominator being the 1970 population for that group. The average illegitimacy rate for the total of the 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia for 1969-71 was 26.2. The rankings of the States were greatly influenced by the proportion of each State's population that is black, since rates for the black population are consistently higher than those for the white population. Thus the highest rates were found in the States of the South Atlantic and West South Central Divisions, which have large black populations.

There has been relatively little change in the rank order by State in the rates for all women and for white women from 1960 to 1969-71. Rank-order correlation coefficients were computed for the relationship among illegitimacy rates for the 27 States and the District of Columbia that reported legitimacy status in both 1960 and 1969-71. For all women there was a positive correlation of 0.95 between the ranks for these two time periods. For white women the correlation coefficient was 0.80. It is not possible to compare measures for black women since the 1960 rates were computed for all other women rather than for black women.

PREMARITAL CONCEPTIONS ENDING IN LEGITIMATE BIRTHS

There are several possible outcomes for a pregnancy conceived prior to marriage: an out-of-wedlock birth; a miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion; or a legitimate live birth. The latter results when a premaritally pregnant woman marries before the birth of her child. Some inferential data on premaritally conceived legitimate births are presented in table D. These data are based on the June 1975 survey of trends in childspacing conducted by the Bureau of the Census. According to table D, the incidence of premarital pregnancy has risen for white women since 1945, but the proportion leveled off during the 1960's and ranged between 13 and 15 percent up through 1970-74. The proportion for black women increased steadily over the period of the survey to a level of 20.7 percent for women who first married in 1960-64. Since then the proportion has declined to about 15 percent.

Table D. Estimated percent of women first married in specified years whose first child was born less than 8 months after first marriage, by race: United States, June 1975

Year of first marriage	White	Black
1970-74	12.5	15.0
1965-69	14.8	14.9
1960-64	12.6	20.7
1955-59	10.3	15.3
1950-54	7.3	
1945-49	5.4	13.3
1940-44	4.7	
1935-39	5.5	12.5
1930-34	5.6	

SOURCE: Figures based on data in tables 27 and 28 in U.S. Bureau of the Census: Trends in Childspacing: June 1975. *Current Population Reports.* Series P-20, No. 315. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1978.

To obtain a minimum estimate of the proportion of first births conceived out of wedlock, the percent of first births that were illegitimate and the percent premaritally conceived (and born during wedlock) can be summed as shown in table E for 1972 births.

From these data, derived from the 1972 National Natality Survey,[20] it is apparent that the large color differential in the incidence of out-of-wedlock conceptions is dependent mainly on the differential in out-of-wedlock births. Put another way, by combining all out-of-wedlock conceptions, not just those born out of wedlock, it is seen that the color differential is considerably reduced. These data show that the proportion illegitimate for all other first births was 52.9 percent, or 4.8 times the proportion for white first births, 11.0 percent. When all premarital conceptions are included in the computation, the differential is cut almost in half—to 2.7. Thus nearly half of the difference in out-of-wedlock conceptions between the white and all other populations can be ascribed to differences in the timing of marriage after the discovery of a premarital conception.

Among teenagers the incidence of premarital pregnancy is extremely high, and nearly half of all births occur out of wedlock. Additional data on premarital conceptions are derived from a study by Melvin Zelnik and John F. Kantner, based on a survey conducted in 1976.[21] They found that among teenagers who had had a first pregnancy, more than three-fourths of these pregnancies were conceived premaritally: the figures for white and black women were 73.5 percent and 93.7 percent, respectively. Zelnik and Kantner also found that white teenagers were much more likely to marry before the end of the pregnancy than were black teenagers: 36.5 percent of premaritally pregnant white teens married before the outcome of the pregnancy, compared with only 8.8 percent of black teens.

The decline in the racial differential in out-of-wedlock childbearing in recent years may have resulted partly because white couples are now less likely to marry in order to legitimate a premarital conception. Evidence for this shift among teenagers is noted by Zelnik and Kantner, who report a 29-percent decline between 1971 and 1976 among white girls aged 15-19 in the proportion that had ever resolved a premarital pregnancy by marriage prior to the end of the pregnancy (from 52 percent to 37 percent).[21]

Table E. Percent of 1st births conceived out of wedlock, percent born out of wedlock, and percent premaritally conceived, by color: United States, 1972

Color	Total conceived out of wedlock	Born out of wedlock	Premaritally conceived and born within 7 months of marriage
White	21.8	11.0	10.7
All other	59.9	52.9	6.9

OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING TRENDS IN OUT-OF-WEDLOCK CHILDBEARING

There is some indirect but persuasive evidence that changes in what have been called "involuntary controls over conception" may account for a portion of the increase in out-of-wedlock childbearing—particularly during the 1940-60 period. Such involuntary controls include the age at which menstruation begins, involuntary sterility resulting from venereal and other fertility-impairing diseases, and spontaneous abortion or fetal loss.[4] Cutright's research in this area shows a long-term decline in the age at which menstruation begins, partly associated with improved nutrition and health during childhood. Such a decline would increase the fecundity of young teenage women and thus augment the risk that premarital intercourse would result in pregnancy.

Another involuntary control over conception is sterility attributed to venereal and other diseases. Birth cohort data can be used to show the prevalence of childlessness among women who are past the childbearing ages. Tabulations of women according to the number of children they have had show, for example,

that 18.6 percent of women of all other races, aged 50 years in 1977, had never had any children. This proportion is considerably lower than that for comparably aged women in 1960 (29.5 percent), but also somewhat above the figure for younger women 35 years old in 1977 (12.7 percent).[22,23] The trends were similar for white women 50 years old, except that the levels of childlessness were generally lower for white women. It seems likely that this trend toward fewer childless women, which until recently represented involuntary childlessness for the most part, represents an increase in fecundity, probably resulting from the reduced prevalence of venereal and other diseases. (For additional evidence on this point, see references 24 and 25.) An increase in the fecundity of the population would presumably affect both the married and the unmarried and, again, increase the likelihood that premarital intercourse would lead to pregnancy and childbirth.

With respect to spontaneous fetal losses, it is widely accepted that fetal deaths are substantially underreported.[26] Using 1960 data from New York City's Health Insurance Program, Phillips Cutright has estimated the likely true levels of spontaneous fetal loss in 1940 and 1960. He concluded that the decline in spontaneous fetal deaths during that period accounted for a considerable portion of the observed increase in illegitimate births, particularly those to all other women.[4]

TREND IN NUMBER OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED WOMEN

The estimated number of births to unmarried women in the United States has risen every year except one since 1940. During the period from 1940 to 1976 the estimated number increased by 5 times, from 89,500 to 468,100. (See table 2. Comparable data for each State are shown in table 5.)

Changes in the number of illegitimate births result, statistically, from changes in two factors: first, the "risk" that an unmarried woman will give birth to a child (the out-of-wedlock birth rate) and second, the size of the population "at risk" (unmarried women of childbearing age). The years 1940-76 can be divided into two separate periods with respect to trends in these key factors. From 1940 to 1957 the birth rate for unmarried women rose sharply, tripling, from 7.1 to 21.0. At the same time the number of unmarried women actually declined. Although there was an increase in the total population of women, a declining proportion of them were unmarried, causing the decline in the number of unmarried women. (Table F shows the increases in the numbers of women and the declines in the proportions unmarried for census years 1940-70.) So the rapid increase in the number of illegitimate births during these years resulted solely from the increase in the illegitimacy rate. The rise in the number of illegitimate births would have been even larger had the proportions of women unmarried remained unchanged instead of declining as they did.

Since 1958 the birth rate for unmarried women has remained comparatively stable, increasing by only 17 percent over the entire 18-year period (from 21.2 in 1958 to 24.7 in 1976). However, both the number and proportions of unmarried women have risen sharply. Beginning in the middle 1940's and continuing through the 1950's the annual number of births increased; the girls born in those years were beginning to reach age 15 by 1958, and in each year thereafter there has been an increase in the number of women reaching the younger ages of the childbearing period. In addition the declining age at marriage observed during the 1940's was reversed beginning in the late 1950's as a consequence of the increasing proportions of young women remaining unmarried at each age. The increases in the proportions and numbers of unmarried women have been especially striking for women under 30, the age group that accounted for 93 percent of all illegitimate births in 1976. Thus the increase in the number of out-of-wedlock births since 1958 is primarily due to the increasing number of unmarried women of childbearing age. The rise in the number of out-of-wedlock births would have been even larger if the illegitimacy rate had continued to increase rather than leveling off as it did.

Table F. Number of unmarried women and percent of women unmarried in the childbearing ages, by color and age: United States, 1940, 1950, 1960, and 1970

[Populations enumerated as of April 1 for each year]

Color and age	1970	1960	1950	1940	1970	1960	1950	1940
	Number of unmarried women in thousands				Percent of all women who are unmarried			
Total								
15-44 years	15,392	10,289	10,017	12,523	36.3	28.5	29.3	39.1
15-19 years	8,412	5,555	4,434	5,439	88.7	84.3	83.3	88.4
20-24 years	3,300	1,686	2,021	2,870	39.5	30.5	34.4	48.7
25-29 years	1,194	765	1,050	1,461	17.5	13.8	16.7	25.9
30-34 years	813	688	814	1,016	13.9	11.3	13.8	19.6
35-39 years	766	761	830	888	13.4	11.9	14.5	18.5
40-44 years	907	834	868	849	14.7	14.1	16.9	19.4
White								
15-44 years	12,923	8,802	8,779	11,142	35.1	27.7	28.9	39.1
15-19 years	7,210	4,868	3,907	4,863	88.6	84.3	83.9	89.3
20-24 years	2,790	1,422	1,781	2,599	38.3	29.5	34.4	49.7
25-29 years	949	618	911	1,298	16.0	12.8	16.3	25.9
30-34 years	637	559	711	892	12.5	10.4	13.5	19.3
35-39 years	604	631	715	759	12.2	11.1	14.1	17.8
40-44 years	733	704	753	730	13.6	13.3	16.3	18.5
All other								
15-44 years	2,469	1,486	1,238	1,381	44.4	34.8	32.4	39.3
15-19 years	1,202	687	527	576	89.2	84.2	79.4	81.7
20-24 years	510	264	240	271	47.5	37.8	34.3	40.4
25-29 years	245	147	138	163	28.2	21.1	19.8	25.7
30-34 years	176	129	104	124	22.4	17.6	16.9	23.0
35-39 years	162	130	115	129	21.7	18.3	18.3	24.0
40-44 years	174	130	115	119	23.3	21.0	22.1	27.9

SOURCES: Figures for 1970 and 1960 based on data in table 203 in U.S. Bureau of the Census: United States Summary. *Census of Population, 1970, Detailed Characteristics.* Final report PC(1)-D1. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1973.

Figures for 1950 and 1940 based on data shown in table 102 in U.S. Bureau of the Census: United States Summary. Characteristics of population, Pt. I, *Census of Population, 1950, Vol. II.* Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1953. ch. C.

OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTHS AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL BIRTHS

Analytical Deficiencies of the Ratio of Births to Unmarried Women

The ratio of births to unmarried women (number of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 total live births) is the measure used to describe the proportion of all births classified as illegitimate. It is useful in judging the numerical impact of out-of-wedlock babies on services provided for the newborn and in identifying geographic areas and population groups that have relatively high proportions of out-of-wedlock births and therefore a greater need for special services. These are important functions since the health of these infants is more precarious and their needs for social services greater than they are for legitimate infants.

However, the illegitimacy ratio has many shortcomings as an analytical tool. When using this measure, it is essential to remember that different factors affect the numerator and the

denominator. Out-of-wedlock births (the numerator) are affected by the size of the unmarried female population and the rate of illegitimacy. The denominator (the total number of live births) is largely influenced by the factors that affect marital fertility, including changes in the spacing of children, completed family size, and the proportion of women who are married. If any of these change, the ratio will change even if the numerator remains the same.

For example, although the illegitimacy rate has declined since 1970, the number of unmarried women has been increasing, and more children are being born out of wedlock. Simultaneously there has been a general decline in total fertility, associated with the delay of marriage by many women and the decline in the number of births within marriage. Because of these factors there has been a sustained rise in the illegitimacy ratio. Between 1970 and 1976 the ratio of births to unmarried women increased by 38 percent (table 6). The corresponding increases among white and black women were 36 and 34 percent, respectively. The three common measures of childbearing by unmarried women have changed as shown in table G.

Similarly contrasting impressions of the incidence of out-of-wedlock childbearing can be shown with respect to age differentials. Table 6 indicates, for example, that the illegitimacy ratio has been highest at the youngest ages. In 1976 the ratios were 863.5 for women under 15 years of age, 402.7 for those 15-19, and considerably lower for all women over 20.

Table G. Percent change between 1970 and 1976 in 3 common measures of childbearing by unmarried women by race: United States

Measure	All races[1]	White	Black
Number of births to unmarried women	+17	+13	+20
Birth rate for unmarried women	−6	−9	−13
Ratio of births to unmarried women per 1,000 total births	+38	+36	+34

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

As shown in table 1, however, the illegitimacy rate has been higher at ages 20-24 and 25-29 than at ages 15-19.

Several factors contribute to the different pictures presented by the illegitimacy rate and ratio. Because very few teenagers are married in comparison with older women, a smaller proportion of teenage girls are liable to have a *legitimate* child. The result is that even though only a very small percent of the unmarried women aged 15-19 years have a child (2.4 percent in 1976), a much larger percent of all births to teenage mothers are classified as out of wedlock (40 percent of births to 15-19-year-olds in 1976). In contrast, a large proportion of women 20-24 years of age are married and having legitimate children. Therefore, although the unmarried women of this age have a higher risk of bearing an illegitimate child than do those 15-19, they contribute only a small proportion of all births to mothers aged 20-24 (13 percent in 1976).

Although the shortcomings of the illegitimacy ratio impair its usefulness for most analytical purposes, this measure is helpful in indicating the proportion of infants requiring special services. In many cases it is the only measure of out-of-wedlock childbearing, aside from total numbers, that can be computed because the population data needed for computing illegitimacy rates are often not available.

Trends in the Out-of-Wedlock Birth Ratio by Color

Between 1940 and 1950 the ratio of births to unmarried women changed relatively little, increasing from 37.9 to 39.8. Since 1950 the ratio has been increasing annually with only one or two exceptions.

By 1976 it had almost quadrupled from the 1950 level, reaching 147.8 (table 6). That is, nearly 15 percent of the babies born in 1976 were illegitimate. The reasons for the anomalous situation in which the illegitimacy ratio has risen without interruption while the rate has declined in recent years have already been reviewed.

The ratio for white infants varied little from 1940 to 1950—ranging between 16.5 and 23.6. Since 1950, however, the ratio has more

than quadrupled, increasing from 17.5 in 1950 to 76.8 in 1976. The period of the most rapid increase was from 1960 to 1976, when the ratio rose from 22.9 to 76.8, a gain averaging 3.4 births per 1,000 per year. During the 1950-60 decade the increase averaged only 0.5 illegitimate births per 1,000 per year.

For all other women the illegitimacy ratio increased only moderately from 1940 to 1950—from 168.3 to 179.6. Since 1950, however, the ratio has more than doubled—from 179.6 in 1950 to 451.5 in 1976. The ratio for all other women has been rising at a steadily increasing rate since 1950. The increase from 1950 to 1960 averaged 3.6 out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 per year; from 1960 to 1970 the annual increase averaged 13.4 births per 1,000; and since 1970 the increase has averaged 17.0 illegitimate births per 1,000 per year.

A comparison of the out-of-wedlock birth ratio for white and for all other women shows that the ratio for all other women has consistently been from 5 to 10 times higher than that for white women since 1940 (table 6). The trend in the color differential in the ratio is similar to that for the rate. That is, in 1940 the illegitimacy ratio for all other women was 8.6 times that for white women (168.3 compared with 19.5). By 1950 the color differential had increased to 10.3 (179.6 compared with 17.5). The differential declined somewhat in 1960 to 9.4 and declined further in 1970 to 6.2 (349.3 compared with 56.6). In 1976 the color differential continued to decline to 5.9.

The overall decline in the color differential since 1950 is due to a more rapid increase in the ratio for white women than for all other women. The reasons for the different rates of increase in these ratios include the more rapid increase in the out-of-wedlock *rate* for white women during this period, affecting the numerator of the illegitimacy ratio, and the simultaneous sharper decline in *marital* fertility for white women, affecting the denominator.

Out-of-wedlock birth ratios for black births have been computed since 1969. In general the trend in these ratios parallels that for all other births, although the levels are somewhat higher for black births; in 1976 the ratio for this group was 11 percent higher than for all other births (503.0 compared with 451.5).

Live-Birth Order, Age of Mother, and Race

Out-of-wedlock birth ratios for first births have continued to be substantially higher than ratios for second and higher order births (table 7). In 1976, for example, the ratio for all first births was 210.7, or an average of more than two times the ratio for any other birth order (range from 94.6 to 129.2). In other words, more than 20 percent of all first births were illegitimate in 1976 compared with 9-13 percent of second and higher order births.

During the years 1970-76 the illegitimacy ratio for first births increased by 23 percent (171.3 to 210.7); the ratios for second and higher birth orders increased considerably more—some by more than 50 percent. Regardless of birth order, illegitimacy ratios for black births are considerably greater than for white births.

The observations made earlier in discussing illegitimacy rates by live-birth order and race, concerning the large racial differential in out-of-wedlock childbearing, apply also to illegitimacy ratios: the differential is due primarily to the far greater levels of out-of-wedlock childbearing for higher order births among black women than among white women.

Illegitimacy ratios by age of mother, live-birth order, and race have been estimated for the United States for 1975 as shown in table H. (Frequencies are shown in table 8.) As would be expected, the ratios are highest for first births to very young mothers. First-birth ratios decline sharply after the teenage years. Ratios for births to women under 20 are high for all birth orders. The lowest ratios observed are for second births to mothers 25-29 and 30-34 years old.

State of Residence

Ratios of out-of-wedlock births for States and the rank order for 1969-71 are shown in table 9. If the level of childbearing by unmarried women as measured by the illegitimacy rate is positively associated with the level of out-of-wedlock childbearing as measured by the illegitimacy ratio, then the variation in ratios by place of residence should be similar to the variation

Table H. Estimated ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother, live-birth order, and race: United States, 1975

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

Age of mother and race	All births	Live-birth order					
		1st birth	2d birth	3d birth	4th birth	Birth of 5th or higher order	Not stated
All races[1]	142.5	206.3	89.0	90.6	103.8	123.4	195.6
Under 15 years	870.1	876.8	*	-	-	-	*
15-19 years	382.1	401.9	300.3	355.7	397.7	*	387.0
20-24 years	122.5	123.7	100.1	154.0	214.4	239.7	148.3
25-29 years	53.6	46.0	34.4	60.3	99.5	150.5	77.3
30-34 years	52.7	52.9	30.3	37.6	55.7	109.7	86.6
35-39 years	70.2	73.4	44.6	42.3	56.5	97.9	107.3
40 years and over	82.3	113.0	77.6	64.5	56.5	95.5	-
White	73.0	119.6	34.3	35.8	43.3	55.8	122.5
Under 15 years	709.6	695.6	-	-	-	-	*
15-19 years	229.0	253.7	112.7	108.9	148.1	-	317.2
20-24 years	60.9	73.4	41.5	60.7	87.3	98.0	83.1
25-29 years	26.2	28.8	16.0	28.3	44.8	70.3	39.6
30-34 years	27.0	36.9	16.3	19.6	27.3	50.9	34.9
35-39 years	38.6	55.2	27.0	22.3	30.2	49.7	-
40 years and over	45.9	69.1	46.7	39.2	33.4	48.0	-
Black	487.9	648.2	411.1	360.0	339.5	308.3	457.3
Under 15 years	984.3	993.9	*	-	-	-	*
15-19 years	768.7	822.8	657.6	604.2	576.4	*	524.8
20-24 years	429.8	465.1	402.2	416.4	434.0	395.5	444.1
25-29 years	268.4	246.3	222.4	281.8	314.8	331.1	322.3
30-34 years	241.0	224.7	179.6	210.2	239.6	299.5	202.4
35-39 years	238.9	171.1	147.5	206.8	256.3	275.3	*
40 years and over	231.0	*	*	243.9	219.3	239.6	-

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

in rates (table 4). Rank-order correlation coefficients were computed to determine the relationship between the illegitimacy rates and ratios in 39 reporting areas for 1969-71. For all races combined there was a positive correlation of 0.93 between these two measures. The correlation for the white group was 0.80 while the correlation for the black group was only 0.55. The latter was reduced considerably by the erratic rankings of four States (New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming), each of which had fewer than 100 total black births in each of the years 1969-71. When the rank-order correlation coefficient was recomputed with these States excluded, the correlation was increased to 0.69. With the exception of the four States just listed, only a few States had marked differences in their rankings.

There has been only a moderate change in the rankings of the States with respect to the illegitimacy ratio between 1960 and 1969-71. Rank-order correlation coefficients were computed for the relationship among illegitimacy ratios for the 27 States and the District of Columbia that reported legitimacy status in both 1960 and 1969-71. For all births there was a positive correlation of 0.87 between the ratios for these two time periods. For white births the correlation was 0.63. Measures for black births could not be compared since the

1960 ratios referred to ratios for all other births rather than for black births.

Ratios of out-of-wedlock births by State and race for selected years from 1940 through 1976 are shown in table 10. Ratios by age of mother and race for each reporting State for 1975 are shown in table 11.

Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Residence

In 1975 the distribution of out-of-wedlock births by residence in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties was somewhat more heavily weighted to metropolitan residence than was the distribution of births to married women. That is, 67 percent of illegitimate births and 60 percent of legitimate births occurred to residents of metropolitan counties.

Illegitimacy ratios for births to women residing in metropolitan counties have tended to be higher than ratios for births to nonmetropolitan county residents. In 1975 the ratios averaged 33 percent higher for metropolitan counties (157.6 compared with 118.4). The differential by type of residence was greatest for mothers aged 20-24 years (57 percent) and then declined with each successive age group through 35-39 years of age. Detailed ratios by age of mother and race are shown in table 12.

Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Cities

Ratios of out-of-wedlock births by age of mother and race have been computed for the 25 largest standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) and for all cities with populations of 100,000 or more in the States reporting legitimacy status in 1975. A comparison of the ratios for all metropolitan counties (table 12), the total of 25 SMSA's (table 13), and the total of the 101 large cities[d] showed that regardless of race the proportion of out-of-wedlock births was highest for the large cities. Overall, 24.5 percent of all births to residents of the 101 cities were illegitimate compared with 17.6 percent of births to residents of the largest SMSA's and 15.8 percent of births to residents of all metropolitan counties. This same relationship existed for both white and black births. When individual central cities were compared with the SMSA's of which they are a part, the illegitimacy ratios for the central cities were consistently higher than those for the SMSA's regardless of race.

There was considerable variation in the proportions of births that were out of wedlock from one SMSA to another. For all births, the percent illegitimate varied from a high of 30.5 percent for the Memphis SMSA to a low of 9.9 percent for the Pittsburgh SMSA. Among white births the proportions ranged from 10.8 percent for the San Antonio SMSA to 3.5 percent for the Birmingham SMSA. The percents for black births ranged from 61.3 percent (St. Louis SMSA) to 39.0 percent (San Antonio SMSA).

It is evident that a very large proportion of births to residents of large cities and SMSA's are illegitimate. These births are particularly likely to need special health and social services. For those people in the health professions who must provide immediate care to a mother and her child there is little reassurance in knowing that the risk of having a child out of wedlock has declined in recent years. Even if birth rates for unmarried women continue to decline gradually or to level off, there will probably be larger and larger numbers of mothers and illegitimate children to care for, in the next few years at least, simply because the number of unmarried women is rising rapidly.

CHARACTERISTICS OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS

Age of Mother

Out-of-wedlock childbearing is becoming increasingly concentrated among teenage mothers. According to national estimates, more than 52 percent of all illegitimate infants born in 1975 were to mothers under 20 years of age (table J). In 1970, 50.1 percent of illegitimate births occurred to mothers in this age group. The

[d]Data for the 101 cities are available upon request to the Division of Vital Statistics, NCHS.

Table J. Estimated percent distribution of births to unmarried women by age of mother, according to live-birth order and race: United States, 1975

[Based only on records for which live-birth order is stated. Percents may not add to totals because of rounding]

Age of mother and race	All births	Live-birth order	
		1st birth	Birth of 2d or higher order
All races[1]	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15 years	2.5	3.9	0.1
15-19 years	49.7	66.7	22.1
20-24 years	29.9	23.5	40.5
25-29 years	11.2	4.6	22.0
30-34 years	4.4	1.1	9.8
35 years and over	2.3	0.4	5.6
White	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15 years	1.9	2.6	-
15-19 years	50.4	64.9	15.5
20-24 years	29.2	25.3	39.1
25-29 years	11.4	5.4	26.0
30-34 years	4.6	1.4	12.4
35 years and over	2.5	0.5	7.2
Black	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15 years	2.9	5.0	0.2
15-19 years	49.6	68.8	25.8
20-24 years	30.3	21.5	41.3
25-29 years	10.9	3.7	19.8
30-34 years	4.2	0.8	8.4
35 years and over	2.2	0.2	4.7

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

corresponding proportion in 1965 was 44.4 percent (table 2).

The increasing concentration of illegitimacy in the teenage years is particularly evident for white unmarried mothers. In this group, 52.3 percent were teenagers in 1975 compared with 46.7 percent in 1970. The proportion of black unmarried mothers who were teenagers was 52.5 percent in 1975. It had been 53.3 percent in 1970.

Overall, out-of-wedlock births are more heavily concentrated among young mothers than are births to married women. Of illegitimate births in 1975, 82.0 percent occurred to mothers under 25 years of age, while only 49.0 percent of *legitimate* births occurred to mothers in this age group.

In the teenage years, illegitimacy presents particular challenges with respect to the mother's and child's health and the mother's ability to cope with the situation economically, emotionally, and socially. As will be seen in later sections of this report, teenage mothers are more likely to give birth to infants of low birth weight, are less likely to have had prenatal care, and are less likely to have completed a high school education.

Live-Birth Order

More than 60 percent of all out-of-wedlock births in 1975 were first births (table K). The preponderance of first births was even more evident for white infants (70.3 percent) than

Table K. Estimated percent distribution of births to unmarried women by live-birth order, according to age of mother and race: United States, 1975

[Based only on records for which live-birth order is stated. Percents may not add to totals because of rounding]

Age of mother and race	All births	Live-birth order	
		1st birth	Birth of 2d or higher order
All races[1]	100.0	61.8	38.3
Under 15 years	100.0	98.1	1.9
15-19 years	100.0	83.0	17.1
20-24 years	100.0	48.4	51.7
25-29 years	100.0	25.1	74.9
30-34 years	100.0	15.4	84.6
35 years and over	100.0	9.7	91.3
White	100.0	70.3	29.6
Under 15 years	100.0	97.1	-
15-19 years	100.0	90.9	9.1
20-24 years	100.0	60.6	39.6
25-29 years	100.0	33.0	67.5
30-34 years	100.0	21.2	78.8
35 years and over	100.0	13.0	84.8
Black	100.0	55.5	44.5
Under 15 years	100.0	97.1	2.9
15-19 years	100.0	76.9	23.1
20-24 years	100.0	39.3	60.7
25-29 years	100.0	18.7	81.3
30-34 years	100.0	10.6	88.5
35 years and over	100.0	5.7	98.1

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

for black infants (55.5 percent). As would be expected, the chances of an illegitimate birth being the mother's first child declined sharply after the teenage years. Of all unwed mothers under 20 years of age, 83.7 percent gave birth to their first child. From this level the proportion declined to 9.7 percent for mothers aged 35 years and over. The corresponding decline by age for white mothers was from 91.1 to 13.0 percent, and for black mothers from 78.0 to 5.7 percent.

Educational Attainment of the Mother

A comparison of the educational attainment of mothers (table L) shows that, regardless of race, unmarried mothers are far less likely to have completed high school than are married mothers. These data refer to births occurring to residents of the 33 States and the District of Columbia that reported both legitimacy status and educational attainment on the birth certificate in 1975. Among all races 76.0 percent of married mothers compared with only 40.3 percent of unmarried mothers had completed high school. The corresponding proportions for white mothers were 77.3 percent for married women and 40.2 percent for unmarried women. Among black mothers 67.1 percent of married mothers compared with 40.2 percent of unmarried mothers had completed high school.

Concomitantly, unwed mothers were about twice as likely as married mothers to have had only an elementary school education. The proportion of unmarried mothers who had completed 9-11 years of school was also about 2½ times greater than this percent for married mothers. This particularly large differential by marital status probably occurs because unmarried mothers, heavily concentrated as they are in the teenage years, are very likely to leave high school prematurely as a result of their pregnancies. Since unwed mothers are concentrated in the age group under 20 years, they are less likely than married mothers to have had an opportunity to complete high school. However, even when both age of mother and race are held constant, it is seen that unwed mothers were more likely than married mothers to have completed less than 12 years of schooling (table M). The differential was fairly small at ages 17, 18, and 19 and then increased steadily at ages 20 and over. By age 24 the mothers of illegitimate births were almost three times more likely than mothers of legitimate births to have less than a high school education.

Table N and figure 3 show the percent of births in 1975 that were out of wedlock by years of school completed by mother, age of mother, and race. Figure 3 shows that there was a consistent pattern, although not one of steady increase or decrease, in the proportions of births illegitimate within each age group for successive categories of educational attainment. Regardless of age of mother, the percent of births to unmarried mothers increased from 0-8 years to 9-11 years of schooling and then declined for births to mothers who completed

Table L. Percent distribution of live births by educational attainment of mother, according to marital status of mother and race: total of 33 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975

[Based only on records for which educational attainment is stated]

Years of school completed by mother	All races[1]		White		Black	
	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-8 years	5.1	10.6	4.8	12.1	5.8	9.7
9-11 years	18.9	49.1	17.9	47.7	27.1	50.1
12 years	46.4	33.0	46.9	33.0	45.1	32.9
13-15 years	16.9	6.4	17.3	6.1	14.4	6.5
16 years or more	12.7	0.9	13.1	1.1	7.6	0.8

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

Table M. Percent of live births to mothers who completed less than 12 years of school, by marital status of mother, age of mother, and race: total of 33 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975

[Based only on records for which educational attainment is stated]

Age of mother	All races[1]		White		Black	
	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried
All ages	24.0	59.7	22.8	59.8	32.9	59.7
15 years	99.1	99.5	99.0	99.6	99.6	99.5
16 years	97.2	97.9	97.2	98.4	97.0	97.5
17 years	83.7	83.9	84.0	85.8	80.0	82.5
18 years and over	21.0	46.0	19.7	46.2	30.6	45.8
18 years	55.4	56.4	55.6	57.8	53.5	55.3
19 years	39.8	44.1	39.8	45.0	39.0	43.3
20 years	31.1	41.1	30.6	41.5	33.5	40.7
21 years	24.9	40.4	24.0	41.5	30.2	39.7
22 years	20.5	40.8	19.5	41.3	27.2	40.3
23 years	17.2	40.7	16.0	40.7	25.5	40.7
24 years	15.1	41.8	13.9	41.9	23.6	41.6
25-29 years	12.9	43.3	11.7	41.9	23.4	44.1
30-34 years	17.4	52.8	15.6	50.0	32.7	55.4
35-39 years	28.0	62.4	25.2	58.6	45.2	65.0
40 years and over	39.0	69.8	34.3	63.0	58.4	73.5

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

high school. With only one exception, the percents were highest for births to mothers who completed 9-11 years. The next highest proportion illegitimate was for births to mothers with an elementary school education or less.

The difference in the proportions for 0-8 years and 9-11 years of education declined with each successive age. This might be expected because with increasing age a premarital pregnancy is less likely to disrupt a woman's secondary school education.

The proportions of births that were out of wedlock were higher for births to mothers with 13-15 years of education than for mothers who were high school graduates among mothers 19-21 years of age. Again, a likely explanation for these women is that premarital pregnancies occurring while they were in college may well have caused them to leave college before graduation. For older mothers the proportions illegitimate declined steadily with each successive category of educational attainment.

Increased education of the mother is apparently not directly or consistently associated with lower proportions of births that are illegitimate for mothers at any age. This lack of association results from the complex relationship between age of mother and risk of premarital pregnancy, and the likelihood that such a pregnancy will cause the end, at least temporarily, of the mother's formal education.

The relationships within each racial group were similar to those for all births except that the percents for black births were considerably higher at each educational attainment and age group than for white births.

EDUCATION AS A CONTROL FOR SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

It has already been shown that the differentials in out-of-wedlock childbearing between white and black women are large. This is true regardless of the measure of illegitimacy that is analyzed. In various sections above, a number of hypotheses have been suggested to account for these differences. In a paper on family formation in the black population, Zelnik and Kantner suggest other factors that

Table N. Percent of live births that are to unmarried women, by educational attainment of mother, age of mother, and race: total of 33 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975

Years of school completed by mother and race[1]	All ages	Age of mother											
		15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years	20 years	21 years	22 years	23 years	24 years	25-29 years	30 years and over
Total[2]	14.7	70.9	56.4	43.8	34.8	26.3	19.5	14.7	11.4	8.9	7.4	5.3	5.9
White	7.1	49.7	36.4	26.1	19.9	14.3	9.8	7.0	5.3	4.0	3.3	2.4	2.8
Black	50.0	94.2	89.3	82.4	72.8	63.0	53.7	47.2	41.6	36.2	32.9	27.5	24.8
0-8 years	26.4	63.8	45.8	33.5	29.3	26.9	22.8	21.2	19.7	18.3	16.6	14.5	14.2
White	15.9	43.2	30.4	20.6	19.4	17.9	15.3	14.4	12.4	12.1	10.6	9.1	8.5
Black	62.3	92.7	82.1	77.1	68.0	64.7	55.1	51.5	53.1	48.1	47.4	42.3	35.9
9-11 years	30.7	73.5	57.9	44.6	35.8	28.4	24.2	21.9	20.4	18.7	18.3	16.2	14.4
White	16.8	52.5	37.3	27.0	20.5	15.5	12.3	10.9	10.0	8.9	8.7	7.7	6.9
Black	64.7	94.5	90.1	83.1	73.8	65.2	58.8	54.5	50.9	47.1	45.9	41.4	33.0
12 years	10.8	54.4	49.7	43.1	33.6	23.8	16.3	11.9	9.2	7.4	6.4	5.2	4.8
White	5.1	28.6	25.2	23.7	18.7	12.8	8.0	5.5	4.1	3.3	2.8	2.3	2.3
Black	42.1	95.0	87.0	80.2	71.9	60.6	50.6	44.7	38.9	33.4	30.3	26.2	21.8
13-15 years	6.1	-	34.6	43.3	49.6	33.0	20.6	12.2	7.5	5.1	3.9	2.8	2.7
White	2.6	-	15.0	19.6	28.7	17.2	10.2	5.4	3.4	2.2	1.6	1.3	1.3
Black	31.1	-	*	83.6	73.4	63.6	51.9	40.7	32.4	27.3	24.2	18.6	16.0
16 years or more	1.2	-	-	-	-	17.3	14.2	10.2	6.8	3.3	1.9	0.8	0.8
White	0.6	-	-	-	-	3.4	5.9	4.4	3.7	1.4	0.8	0.5	0.5
Black	9.2	-	-	-	-	*	39.1	33.0	23.8	18.6	13.3	6.5	4.3

[1]Total for years of school completed by mother includes races other than white and black.
[2]Figures for educational attainment not stated are included in totals but are not shown separately.

may account for the persistently higher level of illegitimacy among black than among white women.[27] These include differences between the black and white populations in the severity of sanctions against illegitimacy and the raising of a child born out of wedlock. Zelnik and Kantner point out that black girls have fewer opportunities for independence than white girls; motherhood is thus enhanced as a way for black girls to achieve independence from parental control. Much of a speculative nature has been written on these matters. It is very difficult, however, to quantify the effect of such factors or to determine their impact on the racial differential in illegitimacy. It has also been suggested that differences in socioeconomic status are the basis of much of the racial differential and that if it were possible to control for socioeconomic status much of the differential would disappear. The educational attainment of the mother is a measure of socioeconomic status that can be used to test this hypothesis.

Percent Out of Wedlock by Educational Attainment of Mother

Data in table N can be used to approximate the incidence of illegitimacy according to the mother's educational attainment and age, by race. Overall, the percent illegitimate in 1975 for black births was 50 percent, or 7 times the proportion for white births, 7.1 percent. The data in this table also show that while the proportion illegitimate among black births was consistently higher than the comparable proportion for white births, regardless of educational attainment or age of mother, the racial differential (the ratio of the black

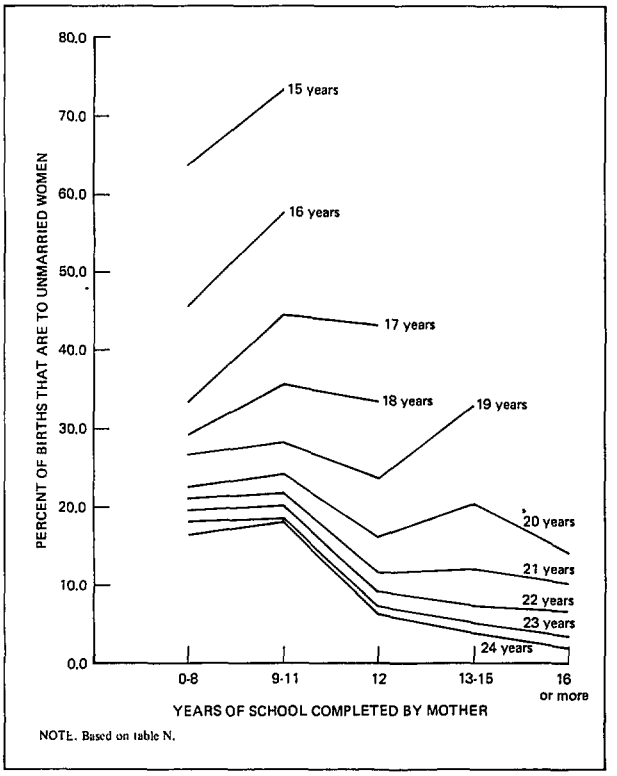

Figure 3. Percent of live births that are to unmarried women, by years of school completed by mother and age of mother: total of 33 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975

to the white measure) was considerably less at the younger ages and at the lower educational-attainment categories. Most illegitimate births occur to mothers in these groups. In order to determine whether the large overall racial differential might be the result of differences between the distributions of black and white births by educational attainment and age of mother, the standardized proportions illegitimate were computed to eliminate the influence of these differences. (See appendix I for a description of the standardization procedure.)

The standardized proportions illegitimate for black and white births were computed using as the standard the 1975 distribution of births of all races by educational attainment and age of mother occurring in the 33 States and the District of Columbia that reported both educational attainment and legitimacy status on the birth record. The standardized percents were 39.4 for black births and 8.0 for white births. The adjusted racial differential was 4.9, considerably reduced from the unadjusted differential of 7.0. This reflects the fact just noted, that for the young, poorly educated women who are most likely to bear illegitimate children the racial differential in out-of-wedlock childbearing is somewhat lower than it is overall. Since it is in these same categories that relatively more black than white births occur, standardization has the effect of diminishing the overall racial differential.

Out-of-Wedlock Birth Rates by Educational Attainment of Mother

It is possible that the effect of educational attainment on the incidence of illegitimacy as measured by the proportion of births that are illegitimate may differ from that measured by the illegitimacy rate. The proportion illegitimate is influenced both by levels of marital fertility (in the denominator) and by illegitimate or nonmarital fertility (in the numerator). The ideal situation would be to compare illegitimacy *rates* by mother's educational attainment and race. Unfortunately it is not possible to do so on an annual basis because the requisite population denominators by educational attainment are not available. However, it is possible to make estimates of these rates for census years. Such rates for 1970 are shown in table O.

There was a fairly consistent pattern in the rates by age within each educational-attainment category. That is, the estimated illegitimacy rate was generally highest at ages 20-24 years and then declined for each successively older age group. On the average and for women aged 15-19 years the illegitimacy rates were highest for women who completed exactly 12 years of schooling. Rates for women 20-24 and 25-34 years of age were highest for those with 9-11 years of education. The highest rates for women 35-44 years of age were observed for those with 0-8 years of schooling. Rates for women with some college were sharply lower for all age groups.

These patterns for the out-of-wedlock birth rate differ in some respects from those just

Table O. Estimated birth rates for unmarried women by educational attainment of mother, age of mother, and race: United States, 1970

[Rates are live births per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group. See appendix I for description of procedure used to estimate rates]

Years of school completed by mother and race[1]	15-44 years[2]	Age of mother			
		15-19 years	20-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years[3]
Total[4]	25.9	22.7	38.4	29.7	7.4
White[4]	13.6	11.0	22.3	16.2	4.0
Black[4]	96.5	99.2	137.0	84.0	21.6
0-8 years	26.4	17.3	55.4	39.2	12.7
White	12.3	7.2	32.0	22.2	6.7
Black	73.3	58.8	117.6	79.6	26.5
9-11 years	29.2	21.8	120.6	65.1	12.1
White	12.9	9.6	64.9	33.5	6.3
Black	112.4	102.7	229.7	122.2	26.8
12 years	32.4	32.5	49.6	27.8	5.2
White	19.7	18.9	31.3	17.1	3.3
Black	110.8	145.6	144.3	77.7	16.4
13-15 years	13.3	13.5	14.9	14.5	2.8
White	9.3	8.5	10.6	9.6	1.9
Black	55.2	70.5	65.6	45.7	9.2
16 years or more	4.4	-	7.6	4.0	1.0
White	3.7	-	5.8	3.2	0.6
Black	17.2	-	35.4	15.2	-

[1]Total for years of school completed by mother includes races other than white and black.
[2]Rates computed by relating total births, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women aged 15-44 years.
[3]Rates computed by relating births to mothers aged 35 and over to unmarried women aged 35-44 years.
[4]Rates for ages 15-44, 15-19, and 20-24 differ from rates previously published and elsewhere in this report because population denominators are 1970 census figures rather than 3-year averages of Current Population Survey estimates; see appendixes I and II.

noted for the proportion of all births that are illegitimate. The percent illegitimate was consistently highest for births to teenage women in each educational-attainment category. Additionally, the proportions illegitimate were generally highest for births to women with 9-11 years of schooling, regardless of age, while there was no comparably consistent pattern in the illegitimacy rates.

Standardized out-of-wedlock birth rates by educational attainment, age of mother, and race were computed to determine whether differences in the distribution of black and white unmarried women by educational attainment would tend to influence the observed racial differential. The standardized rates were computed using as the standard the distribution of all unmarried women, regardless of race, by age and educational attainment, according to the 1970 census.

The unadjusted rates were 96.5 for black women and 13.6 for white women, a differential of 7.1; the corresponding standardized rates were 90.4 and 13.7, a differential of 6.6. Thus there was only a very slight reduction in the racial differential when the rates were standardized for differences in the educational attainment of black and white women. This finding reflects the fact that the racial differential is highest for women 15-19 years old, regardless of educational attainment, and is especially great for women with 9-11 years of schooling. Teenage women constitute about half of all unmarried women 15-44 years of age

(the denominator of the illegitimacy rate), and unmarried teenage women with 9-11 years of schooling contribute nearly one-third of all the out-of-wedlock births (the numerator of the rate). Thus standardization has little effect on the overall racial differential.

It is apparent that the risk of illegitimacy as measured by the illegitimacy rate declines with the increasing educational attainment of the mother; this is true for both black and white women. However, controlling for socioeconomic status, as was done here using the mother's educational attainment, evidently has virtually no effect on the racial differential. Other evidence based on data for poverty and nonpoverty areas of large cities also points to a persistent racial differential in illegitimacy even when the poverty status of area of residence is accounted for.[28] There continues to be a gap in the incidence of illegitimacy, regardless of the measure used, between the black and white populations.

HEALTH ASPECTS OF CHILDBEARING BY UNMARRIED WOMEN

Unmarried mothers are in many ways at a disadvantage with respect to raising a child compared with married mothers. First, in the majority of cases they are very young: more than 52 percent were under 20 years of age in 1975, and 28.5 percent were 17 years of age and under. They may not be fully mature physically or emotionally. More likely than not they have not completed high school, and the chances of their doing so after the birth of a child are slim, particularly if they keep the child. A 1971 study of a national sample of teenage women showed that among those with an illegitimate first birth, 86 percent had kept the babies and were still living with them when surveyed.[10] Such women are less prepared to provide for a child's growth and development than are married mothers, among whom only 13.4 percent were teenagers in 1975.

Data from other studies indicate that "there are indeed differences in the life chances of legitimate and illegitimate children."[29] Using recent California data, Beth Berkov and June Sklar found a higher risk of an illegitimate child's dying in the first year of life. They found a declining level of adoption of out-of-wedlock children, a pattern of less subsequent marriage among unwed mothers and fewer stable marriages among those who do marry. (See also references 30 and 31.) Although mortality rates for infants under 28 days old (neonatal period) were higher than rates for infants of 28 days to 1 year of age (postneonatal period), the differential by legitimacy status was considerably greater in the postneonatal period, indicating, as the authors put it, that ". . . 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." There is also evidence that the incidence of childbearing by unmarried women is higher among poverty groups than among higher income populations.[28]

In the sections that follow, four health factors in childbearing are discussed as they relate to illegitimacy: low birth weight, prenatal care, attendant at birth, and fetal death. It is shown here that for each factor except attendant at birth, the child born out of wedlock is at a definite disadvantage compared with the child born to a married woman.

Low Birth Weight

The incidence of low-birth-weight babies, that is, those born weighing 2,500 grams (5 pounds 8 ounces) or less, has been directly related to a number of factors, including maternal nutrition, health, poverty status, and access to prenatal care.[28,32] These are considered the principal variables determining the incidence of low birth weight in addition to any possible genetic factors. The relationship between low birth weight and problems in the infant's subsequent growth and development have been well documented.[33]

There are wide differences between legitimate and illegitimate infants in the incidence of low birth weight. These differences persist even when the data are controlled for race, age of mother, educational attainment of mother, month of pregnancy prenatal care began, and live-birth order. Overall, the proportion of low-weight births among illegitimate infants was about twice as high as the

comparable proportion for legitimate babies (12.9 percent compared with 6.5 percent—table P).

There are striking differences in the incidence of low birth weight between white and black infants. Among births occurring to residents of the legitimacy reporting area in 1975, 13.2 percent of black infants weighed less than 2,501 grams compared with 6.3 percent of white infants. Legitimacy status is more critical with respect to the incidence of low birth weight for white than for black infants. Among white births 10.0 percent of illegitimate babies were of low birth weight, about two-thirds more than the comparable proportion for legitimate babies, 6.0 percent. In contrast 15.0 percent of black illegitimate babies were of low birth weight, about one-third more than the proportion of low-weight legitimate infants, 11.5 percent. The levels of low birth weight are high for black babies, regardless of legitimacy status.

The proportion of low-birth-weight infants is substantially higher among babies born to young mothers, both married and unmarried (table P). The incidence of low birth weight for births to 15-year-olds, for example, was 13.0 percent in 1975, more than two-thirds higher than the average of 7.5 percent for all births. Infants born to unmarried mothers, however, even at the youngest ages, were more likely to be of low weight than were babies born to married mothers. This may result from the greater likelihood that a young unmarried girl who is pregnant will attempt to conceal this fact for as long as possible; she may not maintain adequate nutrition for her condition, and she may resort to dieting to keep her weight down.

Both legitimate and illegitimate infants born to mothers in their twenties were less likely to be of low birth weight. There was a steady decline in the incidence of low birth weight for legitimate babies through ages 25-29.

Table P. Percent low birth weight, by marital status of mother, age of mother, and race: total of 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975

[Low birth weight is 2,500 grams or less]

Marital status and race	All ages	Age of mother											
		Under 15 years	15-17 years				18-19 years			20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35 years and over
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	Total	18 years	19 years				
Total													
All races[1]	7.5	14.9	11.1	13.0	11.6	10.3	9.3	9.7	9.0	7.1	6.1	6.8	8.5
White	6.3	12.0	9.0	10.6	9.5	8.3	7.6	8.0	7.4	6.0	5.4	6.0	7.5
Black	13.2	16.9	15.4	16.2	15.3	15.1	14.4	14.4	14.3	12.8	11.3	12.1	13.1
Married													
All races[1]	6.5	12.6	9.1	11.2	9.9	8.4	8.0	8.3	7.7	6.4	5.7	6.4	8.0
White	6.0	12.4	8.5	10.7	9.3	7.8	7.2	7.5	7.0	5.8	5.3	5.9	7.3
Black	11.5	14.2	14.6	17.0	15.8	13.7	13.4	13.8	13.1	11.5	10.3	10.9	11.9
Unmarried													
All races[1]	12.9	15.3	13.2	13.8	13.0	13.0	12.6	12.5	12.7	12.4	12.4	14.2	14.7
White	10.0	11.8	10.0	10.4	10.0	9.8	9.7	9.8	9.5	9.6	10.2	11.8	12.1
Black	15.0	17.0	15.5	16.1	15.2	15.5	14.8	14.6	15.1	14.6	14.2	16.0	16.7

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

Among illegitimate infants the levels of low birth weight declined slightly through ages 20-24 and then increased for births to mothers 35 and over to nearly the same level as that for births to young teenagers. The gap in birth weight between legitimate and illegitimate infants generally increased with age, as data in table P show for births in 1975.

The relationships of low birth weight to age of mother and legitimacy status within each racial group were similar to the pattern just described, although not as consistent as for all births combined. As mentioned earlier, however, the incidence of low birth weight was nearly always higher for black than for white births.

Educational attainment of mother.—Babies born to unmarried mothers were more likely to be of low birth weight than were infants born to married mothers, even when the educational attainment of the mother was held constant. That is, within the same educational-attainment-of-mother category, the incidence of low birth weight was higher for illegitimate than for legitimate babies. This was true, without exception, regardless of race or live-birth order, according to data from 33 States and the District of Columbia that reported both educational attainment and legitimacy status in 1975 (table Q). For example, among births to mothers with only an elementary school education the proportion of low birth weight for

Table Q. Percent low birth weight by marital status of mother, live-birth order, educational attainment of mother, and race: total of 33 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975

[Low birth weight is 2,500 grams or less]

Live-birth order and years of school completed by mother	All races[1]		White		Black	
	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried
All births[2]						
All years of school[3]	6.5	12.8	5.9	9.9	11.4	15.0
0-8 years	9.0	14.3	8.5	11.8	12.6	16.7
9-11 years	8.6	13.3	7.9	10.2	12.6	15.6
12 years	6.1	11.7	5.6	9.0	11.0	13.7
13-15 years	5.5	11.5	5.0	9.7	10.4	12.9
16 years or more	4.9	10.9	4.5	7.7	9.3	14.1
1st birth						
All years of school[3]	6.6	11.9	6.1	9.4	11.9	14.2
0-8 years	9.3	14.2	9.0	11.4	14.5	17.0
9-11 years	8.4	12.4	8.0	9.7	13.4	14.8
12 years	6.3	10.7	5.9	8.5	11.7	12.8
13-15 years	5.8	10.5	5.3	8.9	11.3	11.9
16 years or more	5.3	10.1	4.9	8.0	10.5	12.6
Birth of 2d or higher order						
All years of school[3]	6.4	14.3	5.8	11.2	11.1	15.9
0-8 years	8.9	14.5	8.3	12.3	12.3	16.4
9-11 years	8.7	14.9	7.9	11.5	12.4	16.6
12 years	6.0	13.2	5.4	10.2	10.7	14.6
13-15 years	5.2	13.6	4.7	11.8	9.9	14.5
16 years or more	4.5	13.1	4.2	6.1	8.2	18.0

[1]Includes races other than white and black.
[2]Figures for live-birth order not stated are included in totals but are not shown separately.
[3]Figures for years of school completed not stated are included in totals but are not shown separately.

illegitimate babies was 14.3 percent compared with 9.0 percent for legitimate infants. Similarly, among births to mothers who had completed college, 10.9 percent of the illegitimate babies weighed less than 2,501 grams compared with 4.9 percent of the legitimate infants.

The gap between legitimate and illegitimate babies tended to widen as educational attainment of the mother increased, beginning with births to mothers with some high school education. Thus, for example, the level of low birth weight among out-of-wedlock infants born to mothers with 9-11 years of schooling was 55 percent higher than that for infants born to married women, while for births to college graduate mothers, it was 122 percent higher for illegitimate babies. These patterns held for both white and black births and for both first and higher order births. However, as has already been noted, black babies were far more likely to be of low birth weight than were white infants, even within the same educational-attainment category (figure 4). Moreover, the incidence of low birth weight for white *illegitimate* infants was consistently lower than that for black *legitimate* babies within each educational-attainment category for total and for first births.

Prenatal care.—The influence of prenatal care on birth weight is not necessarily a direct one. That is, it is possible, as some studies have suggested,[34] that it is the educational attainment of the mother that determines when the mother will seek care, and this in turn has an impact on the outcome of the pregnancy.

Babies whose married mothers sought prenatal care early in their pregnancies were less likely to be of low birth weight than those whose mothers sought care late in pregnancy or not at all, according to data for 33 States and the District of Columbia that reported this information in 1975 (table R). This was generally true for both white and black infants.

The influence of the month of pregnancy that prenatal care began on low birth weight for out-of-wedlock births was quite different. For illegitimate births the percent of low birth weight *declined* as the month prenatal care began advanced. However, a tabulation showing only those out-of-wedlock births that were

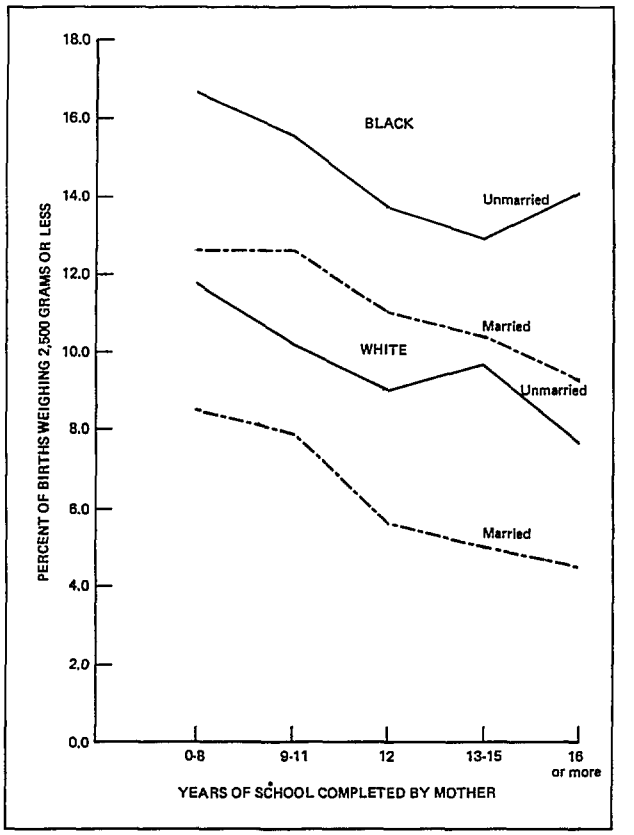

Figure 4. Percent low birth weight by marital status of mother, years of school completed by mother, and race: total of 33 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975

full term (a gestation of 37 weeks or longer) indicates that for these infants, early initiation of prenatal care *was* associated with lower proportions of low-weight infants. Premature low-weight out-of-wedlock infants are evidently more heavily represented in the earlier care than in the later care categories, and it is this fact that caused the anomalous finding just noted.

Prenatal Care

There are many factors supporting the potential value of prenatal care begun in early pregnancy, and there is evidence associating the absence of medical supervision with a considerable increase in the risk of an unfavorable outcome of pregnancy.[34-38]

According to data from 33 States and the District of Columbia (table S), in 1975 unmarried women began prenatal care later in pregnancy and made fewer prenatal visits than did married women. Almost 4 times more unmarried than married women began prenatal care late in pregnancy (in the third trimester) or had no care at all (16.2 percent compared with 4.3 percent).

According to data in table S, unwed mothers were far more likely to have received late or no prenatal care than were married mothers regardless of race. For white infants, 18.9 percent of the unmarried mothers compared with only 3.9 percent of the married mothers began prenatal care in the last trimester or had no care at all. The comparable proportions for black infants were 13.6 percent for unmarried mothers and 7.5 percent for married mothers. If the comparison is restricted to the proportion of mothers who received no care at all (the incidence of low birth weight in this group

Table R. Percent low birth weight by month of pregnancy prenatal care began, marital status of mother, and race: total of 33 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975

[Low birth weight is 2,500 grams or less]

Month of pregnancy prenatal care began	All races[1]		White		Black	
	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried
Total	6.5	12.8	6.0	10.0	11.5	15.1
1st and 2d month	5.9	12.5	5.5	9.2	10.8	14.9
3d month	6.2	12.2	5.7	9.2	11.2	14.3
4th-6th month	7.5	12.2	6.7	9.3	11.6	14.5
7th-9th month	7.4	10.8	6.8	8.9	10.9	13.4
No prenatal care	15.8	25.3	14.3	21.5	22.5	29.4
Not stated	8.4	15.4	7.5	13.4	13.3	16.6

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

Table S. Total number and percent distribution of live births by month of pregnancy prenatal care began, according to marital status of mother and race: total of 33 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975

[Figures for month of pregnancy prenatal care began not stated are distributed]

Month of pregnancy prenatal care began	All races[1]		White		Black	
	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried
Number of live births	1,536,221	256,449	1,350,866	104,840	148,397	144,749
	Percent distribution					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1st and 2d month	48.4	21.9	49.8	20.3	37.9	23.2
3d month	28.3	21.6	28.6	21.1	26.0	22.2
4th-6th month	19.0	40.3	17.8	39.7	28.7	41.0
7th-9th month	3.5	11.9	3.1	14.2	5.8	9.8
No prenatal care	0.9	4.3	0.8	4.7	1.7	3.8

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

averaging about 20 percent), it is seen that unmarried mothers were less likely to secure care than were married mothers. Overall, 4.3 percent of all unwed mothers compared with 0.9 percent of the married mothers failed to receive any prenatal care. The relationships by legitimacy status for white and black births were comparable to those for total births.

Compared with married mothers, unmarried mothers were more likely not only to begin prenatal care later in pregnancy but also to make fewer visits for prenatal care (table T). In 1975, overall, married mothers had 10.0 visits for prenatal care compared with 7.4 visits for unmarried mothers. The differential by legitimacy status was observed for both white and black births and for each category of month prenatal care began. In other words, the amount of prenatal care received by an unmarried mother was less than that received by a married mother, regardless of race or of what point in her pregnancy she first sought care.

Attendant at Birth and Place of Delivery

Nearly the same proportion of illegitimate as of legitimate births occurred in hospitals in 1975. In that year 99.0 percent of births to married women and 98.4 percent of out-of-wedlock births were delivered in hospitals. These figures indicate considerable improvement in the proportions of hospital deliveries of illegitimate births since 1964, when only 89.1 percent of these infants were delivered in hospitals. The proportion changed little for legitimate babies; it was 97.7 percent in 1964.

In most States there was also very little difference between the proportions of hospital deliveries for legitimate and for illegitimate births. There was only one State, Alaska, in which less than 95 percent of all illegitimate births were delivered in hospitals in 1975 (the proportion was 92.6 percent); the comparable proportion for legitimate births in Alaska was 97.2 percent. This represents a considerable change from the situation in 1964.[8] In that year, in Mississippi, for example, only about half (51.0 percent) of the out-of-wedlock infants were delivered in hospitals. By 1975 this proportion had increased to 95.5 percent. Similarly, in Alabama, only 56.4 percent of illegitimate births occurred in hospitals in 1964 whereas by 1975 this proportion had risen to 95.2 percent. The percents of hospital births increased considerably in several other States, mostly in the South, but not by as much as in Mississippi or Alabama. (These data are available upon request to the Division of Vital Statistics, NCHS.)

The increase in hospital deliveries has been accompanied by a concomitant decline in midwife-attended births outside of hospitals, particularly for births of black and other races in the South. In Mississippi, where 46.2 percent of illegitimate births of black and other races

Table T. Median number of prenatal visits by month of pregnancy prenatal care began, marital status of mother, and race: total of 32 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975

[Refers only to births for which prenatal care was received. Figures for number of prenatal visits not stated are distributed]

Month of pregnancy prenatal care began	All races[1]		White		Black	
	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried
Total[2]	10.0	7.4	10.1	7.8	8.7	7.2
1st and 2d month	11.0	9.8	11.0	10.2	10.5	9.6
3d month	9.8	8.8	9.9	9.2	9.1	8.4
4th-6th month	7.7	6.6	7.8	7.0	6.7	6.2
7th-9th month	3.7	3.3	3.9	3.6	3.2	3.1

[1]Includes races other than white and black.
[2]Includes births for which prenatal care was received, but for which month of pregnancy care began was not stated. Medians are not computed for this group separately.

were delivered by midwives in 1964, only 3.2 percent were attended by midwives in 1975. The largest proportion of such deliveries in 1975 was for out-of-wedlock births to Alaskan residents of other than white race (7.3 percent).

Differentials in the Incidence of Fetal Deaths

Another measure of the differences in apparent health status of and in prenatal care received by married and unmarried women is the relative frequency of fetal death. The World Health Organization has defined a fetal death as any termination of pregnancy other than a live birth, and, as such, statistics on fetal deaths include induced abortions as well as stillbirths and miscarriages. In practice, however, very few if any induced abortions are included in fetal death statistics since the latter are based on registered fetal deaths occurring after 20 weeks of gestation.

Data on fetal deaths are characterized by a substantial degree of underreporting.[26] In addition there may be differences in reporting by legitimacy status or race, but the extent of these differences is not known.

A sizable reduction has occurred in the levels of reported fetal deaths to married and unmarried women of both major color groups since 1965, in contrast to the relatively unchanged proportions of fetal deaths in the previous 10 years (table U and figure 5). Overall, the incidence of fetal deaths among married women declined from 14.6 fetal deaths per 1,000 live births in 1965 to 10.2 in 1975, a decline of 30 percent. The ratio for unmarried women declined from 25.5 to 15.9, a reduction of 38 percent.

In recent years the differential by legitimacy status in the fetal death ratio has declined somewhat. There had been virtually no change in this differential in the 1960-73 period. In 1965, for example, the ratio for unmarried women, 25.5, was 75 percent higher than the ratio for married women, 14.6. By 1975 the ratio for unmarried women, 15.9, was 56 percent greater than that for married women, 10.2. Most of the differential in fetal death ratios by legitimacy status is observed for the white population. In 1975 the ratio for white unmarried women was 45 percent higher than that for white married women, while the ratio for unmarried women of black and other races was just 9 percent greater than the ratio for married women of black and other races.

Table U. Fetal death ratios by marital status of mother and color: reporting States, 1960, 1965, and 1970-75

[Ratios are fetal deaths per 1,000 live births in specified group. Fetal deaths include only those with stated or presumed period of gestation of 20 weeks or more]

Color and year	Total	Married	Unmarried
Total			
1975	11.0	10.2	15.9
1974	11.7	10.9	17.0
1973	12.6	11.6	19.5
1972	13.1	12.1	19.9
1971	13.8	13.0	20.6
1970	14.1	13.2	22.3
1965	15.5	14.6	25.5
1960	15.8	15.1	27.4
White			
1975	9.6	9.3	13.5
1974	10.3	10.0	14.6
1973	10.9	10.5	17.1
1972	11.4	11.0	17.0
1971	12.2	11.9	17.7
1970	12.5	12.0	19.7
1965	13.3	13.0	20.8
1960	13.8	13.6	22.9
All other			
1975	16.7	16.0	17.4
1974	17.9	17.4	18.4
1973	19.7	18.7	21.0
1972	20.6	19.8	21.7
1971	21.1	20.4	22.4
1970	22.1	20.9	24.3
1965	25.8	24.7	28.5
1960	26.2	25.2	29.6

NOTE: Reporting area in each year includes all States reporting both live births and fetal deaths by legitimacy status. In 1975 this reporting area included 38 States.

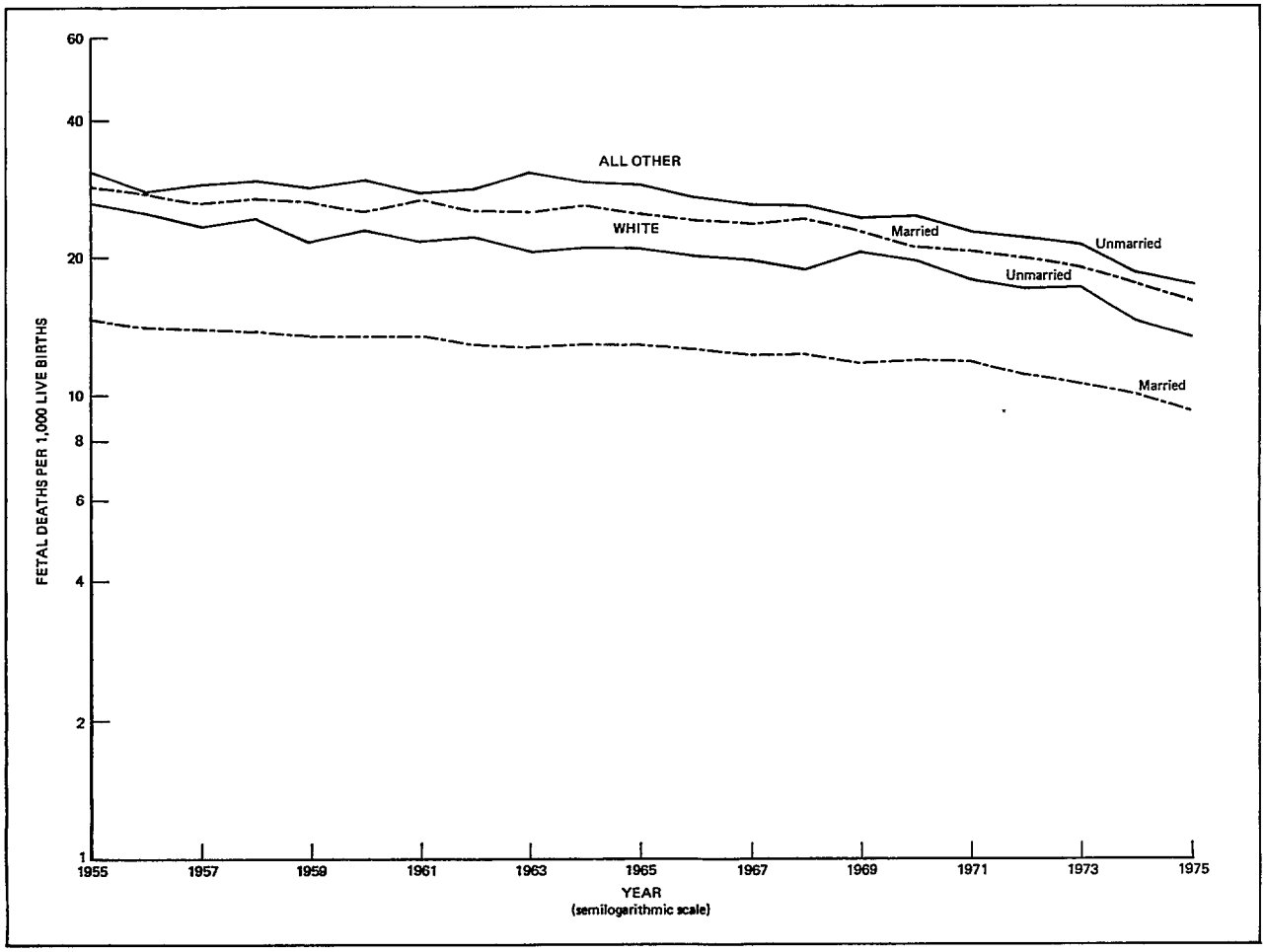

Figure 5. Fetal death ratios by marital status of mother and color: reporting States, 1955-75

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LIST OF DETAILED TABLES

Table 1. Estimated birth rates for unmarried women by age of mother for the United States, 1940-76; and by age of mother and race for the United States, 1940, 1950, and 1955-76

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

Race and year	15-44 years[1]	Age of mother							
		15-19 years			20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years[2]
		Total	15-17 years	18-19 years					
ALL RACES									
1976[3]	24.7	24.0	19.3	32.5	32.2	27.5	17.8	8.9	2.5
1975[3]	24.8	24.2	19.5	32.8	31.6	28.0	18.1	9.1	2.6
1974[3]	24.1	23.2	19.0	31.4	30.9	28.4	18.6	10.0	2.6
1973[3]	24.5	22.9	18.9	30.6	31.8	30.0	20.5	10.8	3.0
1972[3]	24.9	22.9	18.6	31.0	33.4	31.1	22.8	12.0	3.1
1971[4]	25.6	22.4	17.6	31.7	35.6	34.7	25.3	13.3	3.5
1970[4]	26.4	22.4	17.1	32.9	38.4	37.0	27.1	13.6	3.5
1969[4]	24.8	20.4	15.2	30.8	37.3	37.9	27.0	13.6	3.6
1968[4]	24.3	19.7	14.7	29.6	37.2	38.3	27.8	14.8	3.8
1967[5]	23.7	18.5	13.8	27.6	38.1	41.1	28.9	15.3	4.0
1966[4]	23.3	17.5	13.1	25.6	39.0	45.1	32.7	16.3	4.1
1965[4]	23.4	16.7	—	—	39.6	49.1	37.2	17.4	4.5
1964[4]	23.0	15.9	—	—	39.5	49.9	38.9	16.3	4.4
1963[4]	22.5	15.3	—	—	39.9	48.8	33.1	16.1	4.3
1962[4]	21.9	14.8	—	—	40.7	46.6	29.6	15.6	4.1
1961[4]	22.7	16.0	—	—	41.4	46.4	28.2	15.4	3.9
1960[4]	21.6	15.3	—	—	39.7	45.1	27.8	14.1	3.6
1959[4]	21.9	15.5	—	—	40.2	44.1	28.1	14.1	3.3
1958[4]	21.2	15.3	—	—	38.2	40.5	27.5	13.3	3.2
1957[4]	21.0	15.8	—	—	37.3	36.8	26.8	12.1	3.1
1956[4]	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[4]	18.7	14.9	—	—	31.4	31.0	20.4	10.3	2.5
1953[4]	16.9	13.9	—	—	28.0	27.6	17.3	9.0	2.4
1952[4]	15.8	13.5	—	—	25.4	24.8	15.7	8.2	1.9
1951[4]	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
WHITE									
1976[3]	12.7	12.4	9.9	17.0	16.0	14.4	10.2	5.5	1.4
1975[3]	12.6	12.1	9.7	16.6	15.7	15.1	10.0	5.4	1.5
1974[3]	11.8	11.1	8.9	15.4	15.2	14.9	9.6	5.5	1.5
1973[3]	11.9	10.7	8.5	15.0	15.6	16.1	10.7	5.9	1.7
1972[3]	12.0	10.5	8.1	15.1	16.7	16.6	12.1	6.4	1.6
1971[4]	12.5	10.3	7.4	15.9	18.8	18.6	13.3	7.2	1.9
1970[4]	13.9	10.9	7.5	17.6	22.5	21.1	14.2	7.6	2.0
1969[4]	13.4	9.9	6.6	16.6	23.0	22.5	15.1	7.6	2.0
								35-44[6]	
1968[4]	13.1	9.7	6.2	16.6	23.0	22.1	15.0	4.7	
1967[5]	12.5	8.9	5.6	15.3	23.0	22.7	14.0	4.7	
1966[4]	11.9	8.5	5.4	14.1	22.6	23.4	15.7	4.9	
1965[4]	11.6	7.9	—	—	22.0	24.3	16.6	4.9	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Estimated birth rates for unmarried women by age of mother for the United States, 1940-76; and by age of mother and race for the United States, 1940, 1950, and 1955-76-Con.

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

Race and year	15-44 years[1]	Age of mother							
		15-19 years			20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years[2]
		Total	15-17 years	18-19 years					
WHITE—Con.								35-44[6]	
1964[4]	11.0	7.4	---	---	21.1	24.0	15.9	4.8	
1963[4]	10.5	7.0	---	---	20.7	21.9	14.2	4.6	
1962[4]	9.8	6.5	---	---	19.9	19.8	12.6	4.3	
1961[4]	10.0	7.1	---	---	19.7	19.4	11.3	4.2	
1960[4]	9.2	6.6	---	---	18.2	18.2	10.8	3.9	
1959[4]	9.2	6.5	---	---	18.3	17.6	10.7	3.6	
1958[4]	8.8	6.3	---	---	17.3	15.8	10.8	3.4	
1957[4]	8.6	6.4	---	---	16.6	14.6	10.5	3.0	
1956[4]	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	
ALL OTHER									
1976[3]	78.1	84.6	69.0	112.4	103.1	76.8	44.3	18.8	6.9
1975[3]	80.4	88.1	72.0	117.4	103.8	75.3	48.7	20.1	7.0
1974[3]	81.5	88.8	74.3	115.9	104.3	78.8	51.6	23.3	6.7
1973[3]	84.2	89.7	76.5	114.6	108.9	82.4	56.4	26.2	7.2
1972[3]	86.9	92.7	78.1	120.6	113.1	84.5	56.3	29.0	8.2
1971[4]	90.6	92.4	75.7	126.5	121.0	93.3	65.7	32.2	10.4
1970[4]	89.9	90.8	73.3	126.5	121.0	93.8	69.8	32.0	10.7
1969[4]	84.8	84.2	67.3	118.9	115.4	93.9	69.0	33.3	10.4
								35-44[6]	
1968[4]	85.1	82.1	66.4	115.4	116.4	100.0	75.8	24.6	
1967[5]	88.3	80.0	64.1	114.5	126.2	113.5	92.1	28.4	
1966[4]	92.1	77.4	61.2	113.3	137.0	138.0	113.3	33.3	
1965[4]	97.4	77.1	---	---	147.8	161.0	131.9	38.7	
1964[4]	97.2	75.5	---	---	158.2	164.9	127.0	34.4	
1963[4]	97.2	75.3	---	---	156.3	168.9	120.8	34.4	
1962[4]	97.6	75.5	---	---	158.5	171.3	113.2	35.5	
1961[4]	101.0	78.8	---	---	165.8	171.3	111.0	37.4	
1960[4]	98.3	76.5	---	---	166.5	171.8	104.0	35.6	
1959[4]	100.8	80.8	---	---	167.8	168.0	106.5	34.9	
1958[4]	97.8	80.4	---	---	153.2	161.2	110.5	32.5	
1957[4]	95.3	81.4	---	---	147.7	142.6	115.1	30.3	
1956[4]	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	
Black									
1976[3]	83.2	91.6	74.6	121.6	109.3	81.1	45.9	19.0	7.0
1975[3]	85.6	95.1	77.7	126.8	109.9	78.1	51.0	20.3	7.2
1974[3]	86.6	95.1	79.4	124.9	111.2	82.5	52.3	24.2	6.7
1973[3]	89.5	96.0	81.9	123.0	117.2	86.0	58.1	27.4	7.7
1972[3]	92.2	98.8	82.9	129.8	122.0	89.7	57.7	30.2	8.5
1971[4]	96.5	99.1	80.9	136.3	131.1	100.4	69.0	32.7	9.4
1970[4]	95.5	96.9	77.9	136.4	131.5	100.9	71.8	32.9	10.4
1969[4]	90.0	90.3	72.0	128.4	125.3	99.5	70.1	34.3	10.1

[1]Rates computed by relating total out-of-wedlock births, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women aged 15-44 years.
[2]Rates computed by relating births to unmarried mothers aged 40 years and over to unmarried women aged 40-44 years.
[3]Based on 100 percent of births in selected States and on a 50-percent sample of births in all other States; see appendix I.
[4]Based on a 50-percent sample of births.
[5]Based on a 20- to 50-percent sample of births.
[6]Rates computed by relating births to unmarried mothers aged 35 years and over to unmarried women aged 35-44 years.

Table 2. Estimated number of live births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940-76

[Refers only to births occurring within the United States. Alaska included beginning 1959 and Hawaii, 1960. Figures by race may not add to totals because of rounding. Figures for age of mother not stated are distributed]

Race and year	All ages	Age of mother											
		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													
1976[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[3]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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
					15-17			18-19					
1954[2]	176,600	3,900	67,200		33,600			33,500	53,300	26,600	15,500	7,900	2,200
1953[2]	160,800	3,400	61,500		30,900			30,600	48,800	24,500	13,400	7,000	2,100
1952[2]	150,300	3,200	58,700		30,700			28,000	45,500	22,400	12,400	6,500	1,600
1951[2]	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
1949	133,200	3,100	53,300		27,200			26,100	40,300	19,500	9,700	5,600	1,600
1948	129,700	3,000	52,500		26,600			25,900	40,800	18,200	8,800	4,900	1,400
1947	131,900	2,900	52,900	—	—	—	—	—	43,100	18,100	8,700	4,800	1,500
1946	125,200	2,300	49,000	—	—	—	—	—	43,200	17,000	7,800	4,400	1,300
1945	117,400	2,500	49,200	—	—	—	—	—	39,300	14,100	7,100	4,000	1,200
1944	105,200	2,300	45,500	—	—	—	—	—	33,700	12,400	6,400	3,700	1,100
1943	98,100	2,400	44,000	—	—	—	—	—	29,800	11,300	6,100	3,500	1,100
1942	96,500	2,300	43,200	—	—	—	—	—	29,500	11,200	5,900	3,400	1,000
1941	95,700	2,200	43,100	—	—	—	—	—	29,200	10,900	5,800	3,300	1,200
1940	89,500	2,100	40,500	—	—	—	—	—	27,200	10,500	5,200	3,000	1,000
WHITE													
1976[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[3]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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
1960[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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			18-19					
1954[2]	62,700	800	23,200		10,200			13,000	20,600	8,900	5,200	3,000	1,000
1953[2]	56,600	800	20,700		9,100			11,600	19,000	8,200	4,700	2,600	800
1952[2]	54,100	700	19,600		8,800			10,800	18,500	7,700	4,300	2,600	700
1951[2]	52,600	600	19,700		8,900			10,900	17,300	7,800	4,200	2,300	800

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Estimated number of live births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940-76—Con.

[Refers only to births occurring within the United States. Alaska included beginning 1959 and Hawaii, 1960. Figures by race may not add to totals because of rounding. Figures for age of mother not stated are distributed]

Race and year	All ages	Age of mother											
		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.					15-17		18-19						
1950	53,500	700	19,900		8,700		11,100		17,800	7,900	4,200	2,300	700
1949	53,500	700	19,700		8,800		10,900		17,700	8,300	4,100	2,300	700
1948	54,800	700	20,500		9,100		11,400		19,000	8,200	3,700	2,100	600
1947	60,500	700	21,600	---	---	---	---	---	22,300	9,100	4,000	2,000	700
1946	61,400	600	20,300	---	---	---	---	---	24,800	9,300	3,800	2,000	600
1945	56,400	600	20,300	---	---	---	---	---	22,600	7,500	3,300	1,700	500
1944	49,600	600	18,600	---	---	---	---	---	19,000	6,500	2,900	1,500	500
1943	42,800	600	16,600	---	---	---	---	---	15,500	5,500	2,600	1,500	500
1942	42,000	500	16,300	---	---	---	---	---	15,300	5,400	2,600	1,400	500
1941	41,900	500	16,500	---	---	---	---	---	15,200	5,300	2,500	1,300	500
1940	40,300	500	16,000	---	---	---	---	---	14,700	5,200	2,200	1,300	500
ALL OTHER													
1976[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[2]	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[2]	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
1969[2]	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[2]	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[3]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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		18-19						
1954[2]	113,900	3,100	44,000		23,400		20,600		32,700	17,700	10,300	4,900	1,200
1953[2]	104,200	2,700	40,800		21,800		19,000		29,900	16,300	8,700	4,400	1,300
1952[2]	96,200	2,600	39,000		21,800		17,200		27,000	14,700	8,000	3,900	900
1951[2]	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
1949	79,700	2,400	33,600		18,500		15,200		22,600	11,200	5,600	3,300	900
1948	74,900	2,300	32,100		17,600		14,500		21,800	10,100	5,000	2,800	800
1947	71,500	2,200	31,300	---	---	---	---	---	20,800	9,000	4,700	2,800	800
1946	63,800	1,800	28,700	---	---	---	---	---	18,400	7,700	4,000	2,500	700
1945	60,900	1,900	28,900	---	---	---	---	---	16,700	6,600	3,800	2,300	700
1944	55,600	1,800	26,900	---	---	---	---	---	14,700	5,900	3,500	2,200	600
1943	55,400	1,800	27,300	---	---	---	---	---	14,300	5,800	3,500	2,100	600
1942	54,500	1,700	26,900	---	---	---	---	---	14,100	5,800	3,300	2,000	600
1941	53,800	1,700	26,600	---	---	---	---	---	13,900	5,600	3,300	2,000	700
1940	49,200	1,600	24,500	---	---	---	---	---	12,500	5,300	2,900	1,700	600
Black													
1976[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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

[1]Based on 100 percent of births in selected States and on a 50-percent sample of births in all other States; see appendix I.
[2]Based on a 50-percent sample of births.
[3]Based on a 20- to 50-percent sample of births.

Table 3. Illustrative estimated birth rates for unmarried women computed with separated women in the denominator, by age of mother and race: United States, 1970-75

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

Race and year	15-44 years[1]	Age of mother					
		15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years[2]
ALL RACES							
1975	22.7	24.0	29.4	23.2	13.9	6.9	2.1
1974	22.2	23.1	28.7	23.1	14.1	7.6	2.1
1973	22.5	22.7	29.5	24.2	15.4	8.2	2.4
1972	23.0	22.8	30.8	25.2	17.2	9.2	2.5
1971	23.8	22.3	33.1	28.1	19.4	10.4	2.9
1970	24.6	22.3	36.1	29.9	21.0	10.5	2.9
WHITE							
1975	11.8	12.0	14.8	12.9	8.3	4.3	1.2
1974	11.1	11.0	14.4	12.7	8.0	4.5	1.3
1973	11.2	10.7	14.8	13.6	9.0	4.8	1.4
1972	11.4	10.4	15.7	14.2	10.1	5.4	1.4
1971	12.0	10.2	17.8	16.0	11.3	6.1	1.7
1970	13.2	10.9	21.4	18.0	12.0	6.5	1.8
ALL OTHER							
1975	66.9	87.4	91.3	54.9	28.4	12.9	4.3
1974	66.9	88.1	89.4	55.0	29.6	14.6	4.2
1973	68.6	88.7	91.9	56.6	30.7	16.2	4.6
1972	71.3	91.9	95.4	57.2	32.9	18.0	5.3
1971	74.5	91.6	103.3	63.2	38.1	20.1	6.4
1970	74.3	90.0	105.9	62.6	41.7	19.5	6.6
Black							
1975	70.0	94.1	95.3	55.9	28.7	12.6	4.4
1974	70.1	94.4	93.9	56.1	29.0	14.7	4.2
1973	72.0	94.9	97.8	57.8	30.9	16.4	4.9
1972	74.9	98.0	102.0	58.9	33.0	18.4	5.5
1971	78.6	98.1	110.7	66.1	38.9	20.2	5.9
1970	77.9	95.9	113.6	65.1	42.0	19.5	6.4

[1]Rates computed by relating total out-of-wedlock births, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women aged 15-44 years.
[2]Rates computed by relating births to unmarried mothers aged 40 years and over to unmarried women aged 40-44 years.

Table 4. Ranking of 39 reporting areas according to birth rates for unmarried women, by race, 1969-71 average

[Rates are live births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15-44 years residing in area for specified group]

Area	All races[1]		White		Black	
	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate
39 reporting areas	...	26.2	...	12.9	...	96.5
Alabama	6	36.4	39	8.3	27	85.1
Alaska	9	33.0	6.5	17.2	35	67.1
Arizona	14	27.8	1	19.4	7	118.8
Arkansas	8	34.7	30	10.8	17	102.2
Colorado	26	19.8	5	17.3	24	89.5
Delaware	5	37.2	17	14.1	2	133.4
District of Columbia	1	59.1	26	12.1	30	82.7
Florida	7	36.1	14	14.4	8	118.4
Hawaii	19	23.1	3	18.7	38	35.0
Illinois	11	31.4	24	12.5	5	126.0
Indiana	22	22.0	11	14.6	22	90.9
Iowa	36	16.2	14	14.4	14	107.1
Kansas	34	16.5	27	11.8	26	88.6
Kentucky	20.5	22.9	14	14.4	16	103.2
Louisiana	4	38.7	31.5	10.4	28	84.2
Maine	29	18.1	4	17.8	37	45.2
Michigan	16	26.7	12	14.5	19	101.3
Minnesota	31	17.2	9	15.0	6	123.4
Mississippi	2	54.0	36.5	9.3	15	103.5
Missouri	15	27.3	21.5	12.9	10	110.9
Nebraska	28	18.5	18	14.0	4	126.9
New Hampshire	38	13.1	20	13.0	34	77.9
New Jersey	20.5	22.9	38	8.9	12	108.6
North Carolina	10	32.3	35	9.8	33	80.7
North Dakota	35	16.4	21.5	12.9	3	*133.3
Oklahoma	18	23.3	19	13.5	21	92.7
Oregon	33	16.9	8	15.3	25	88.7
Pennsylvania	27	19.1	34	10.1	23	90.4
Rhode Island	37	13.9	33	10.3	9	111.6
South Carolina	3	39.7	31.5	10.4	31	82.4
South Dakota	25	20.1	25	12.4	39	*24.5
Tennessee	12	30.4	29	11.3	20	97.0
Texas	17	25.3	16	14.3	29	84.1
Utah	39	10.2	36.5	9.3	18	102.1
Virginia	13	28.3	28	11.6	32	81.6
Washington	24	20.3	6.5	17.2	13	107.7
West Virginia	30	17.4	10	14.7	36	58.5
Wisconsin	32	17.0	23	12.7	11	110.8
Wyoming	23	21.3	2	18.8	1	201.3

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

Table 5. Number of live births to unmarried women by race: each reporting State and the District of Columbia, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1965, and 1969-76

[Refers only to out-of-wedlock births occurring within the reporting area to residents of the area]

Area and race	1976[1]	1975[1]	1974[1]	1973[1]	1972[1]	1971[2]	1970[2]	1969[2]	1965[2]	1960[2]	1950	1940
Alabama	11,149	10,651	10,165	10,086	10,035	9,588	9,210	8,344	8,732	8,718	7,462	5,363
White	1,618	1,644	1,430	1,453	1,387	1,278	1,398	1,260	1,032	804	642	663
All other	9,531	9,007	8,735	8,633	8,648	8,310	7,812	7,084	7,700	7,914	6,820	4,700
Black	9,524	9,005	8,733	8,619	8,608	8,262	7,762	7,024	---	---	---	---
Alaska	840	798	728	569	602	430	698	558	476	362	---	---
White	322	335	253	164	216	156	244	240	138	64	---	---
All other	518	463	475	405	386	274	454	318	338	298	---	---
Black	41	19	34	26	22	12	38	16	---	---	---	---
Arizona	5,612	5,262	4,944	4,346	4,286	4,064	3,396	3,504	---	---	---	314
White	3,412	3,287	3,011	2,635	2,506	2,434	2,122	2,224	---	---	---	240
All other	2,200	1,975	1,933	1,711	1,780	1,630	1,274	1,280	---	---	---	74
Black	726	682	728	628	680	678	494	500	---	---	---	---
Arkansas	5,936	5,675	5,334	5,196	4,780	4,760	4,522	3,950	---	---	---	1,587
White	1,503	1,405	1,302	1,247	1,140	1,040	1,082	906	---	---	---	420
All other	4,433	4,270	4,032	3,949	3,640	3,720	3,440	3,044	---	---	---	1,167
Black	4,429	4,264	4,032	3,943	3,634	3,718	3,438	3,042	---	---	---	---
Colorado	4,126	3,860	3,537	3,431	3,314	3,240	3,762	3,410	---	---	---	456
White	3,372	3,154	2,861	2,782	2,736	2,614	3,204	2,904	---	---	---	433
All other	754	706	676	649	578	626	558	506	---	---	---	23
Black	662	615	608	577	516	568	552	428	---	---	---	---
Connecticut	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	450
White	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	388
All other	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	62
Black	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Delaware	1,636	1,519	1,375	1,174	1,350	1,480	1,598	1,428	1,174	1,024	591	325
White	516	463	431	324	378	400	508	468	378	282	150	100
All other	1,120	1,056	944	850	972	1,080	1,090	960	796	742	441	225
Black	1,118	1,054	944	848	972	1,076	1,082	952	---	---	---	---
District of Columbia[3]	4,800	4,730	4,758	4,528	4,636	5,402	5,770	5,286	5,102	4,072	2,256	1,075
White[3]	198	146	144	170	172	246	406	436	632	346	352	195
All other[3]	4,602	4,584	4,614	4,358	4,464	5,156	5,364	4,850	4,470	3,726	1,904	880
Black[3]	4,596	4,578	4,596	4,354	4,454	5,148	5,345	4,834	---	---	---	---
Florida	21,198	20,501	20,088	19,017	18,633	18,336	16,652	15,460	12,456	10,962	5,147	2,104
White	5,909	5,814	5,406	4,988	5,052	5,186	5,476	5,184	3,540	2,310	816	372
All other	15,289	14,687	14,682	14,029	13,581	13,150	11,176	10,276	8,916	8,652	4,331	1,732
Black	15,237	14,639	14,636	13,996	13,544	13,126	11,132	10,254	---	---	---	---
Georgia	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	7,294	5,020
White	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	758	612
All other	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	6,536	4,408
Black	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hawaii	1,570	1,956	1,622	1,640	1,426	1,392	1,600	1,382	1,134	902	---	---
White	386	444	368	432	304	346	462	384	286	200	---	---
All other	1,184	1,512	1,254	1,208	1,122	1,046	1,138	998	848	702	---	---
Black	26	32	24	20	6	18	14	16	---	---	---	---
Idaho	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	127
White	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	124
All other	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3
Black	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Illinois	33,119	31,519	29,033	29,573	29,998	28,994	27,580	23,084	18,694	14,262	6,987	3,302
White	10,386	9,858	8,782	8,706	8,868	8,830	9,420	7,884	6,506	4,260	2,787	2,146
All other	22,733	21,661	20,251	20,867	21,130	20,164	18,160	15,200	12,188	10,002	4,200	1,156
Black	22,610	21,533	20,117	20,757	21,007	20,022	18,056	15,080	---	---	---	---
Indiana	10,142	9,961	9,100	9,196	9,093	8,896	8,052	7,394	5,818	4,546	2,241	1,128
White	5,672	5,444	4,868	5,216	4,993	5,146	4,826	4,628	3,622	2,720	1,455	864
All other	4,470	4,517	4,232	3,980	4,100	3,750	3,226	2,766	2,196	1,826	786	264
Black	4,455	4,497	4,222	3,966	4,088	3,746	3,218	2,760	---	---	---	---

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Number of live births to unmarried women by race: each reporting State and the District of Columbia, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1965, and 1969-76—Con.

[Refers only to out-of-wedlock births occurring within the reporting area to residents of the area]

Area and race	1976[1]	1975[1]	1974[1]	1973[1]	1972[1]	1971[2]	1970[2]	1969[2]	1965[2]	1960[2]	1950	1940
Iowa	3,453	3,349	2,964	3,108	3,102	3,220	3,402	2,942	2,234	1,438	1,033	708
White	2,935	2,908	2,541	2,615	2,658	2,758	2,956	2,620	1,982	1,278	956	673
All other	518	441	423	493	444	462	446	322	252	160	77	35
Black	473	405	391	467	414	430	402	288	—	—	—	—
Kansas	3,496	3,211	2,882	2,707	2,795	2,974	2,516	2,152	1,980	1,340	813	496
White	2,140	1,990	1,772	1,692	1,712	1,890	1,754	1,424	1,286	820	530	338
All other	1,356	1,221	1,110	1,015	1,083	1,084	762	728	694	520	283	158
Black	1,298	1,162	1,070	979	1,034	1,062	736	716	—	—	—	—
Kentucky	6,713	6,228	5,595	5,652	5,630	5,466	5,008	4,608	4,178	3,636	2,523	1,827
White	4,064	3,793	3,229	3,300	3,294	3,030	2,864	2,636	2,420	2,020	1,497	1,279
All other	2,649	2,435	2,366	2,352	2,336	2,436	2,144	1,972	1,758	1,616	1,026	548
Black	2,643	2,429	2,362	2,344	2,332	2,432	2,140	1,970	—	—	—	—
Louisiana	14,998	13,901	12,728	12,431	11,908	11,372	10,972	9,838	9,434	8,126	6,014	4,167
White	2,464	2,268	2,007	2,009	1,946	1,836	1,774	1,718	1,158	990	560	467
All other	12,534	11,633	10,721	10,422	9,962	9,536	9,198	8,120	8,276	7,136	5,454	3,700
Black	12,515	11,618	10,711	10,414	9,956	9,526	9,174	8,098	—	—	—	—
Maine	1,511	1,460	1,253	1,319	1,337	1,372	1,250	1,106	886	630	609	445
White	1,476	1,447	1,237	1,299	1,321	1,358	1,214	1,076	872	620	603	439
All other	35	13	16	20	16	14	36	30	14	10	6	6
Black	9	6	1	8	3	6	12	6	—	—	—	—
Michigan	19,849	19,674	18,715	20,265	19,518	19,208	18,738	16,470	11,020	7,328	4,566	2,269
White	8,823	8,486	7,898	8,181	7,968	8,184	8,982	8,094	5,802	3,766	2,646	1,771
All other	11,026	11,188	10,817	12,084	11,550	11,024	9,756	8,376	5,218	3,562	1,920	498
Black	10,931	11,106	10,739	11,987	11,464	10,942	9,688	8,276	—	—	—	—
Minnesota	5,366	5,155	4,464	4,497	4,845	4,930	5,518	4,916	3,680	2,486	1,618	1,138
White	4,263	4,160	3,584	3,615	3,993	4,138	4,710	4,268	3,186	2,138	1,398	1,043
All other	1,103	995	880	882	852	792	808	648	494	348	220	95
Black	628	515	475	496	520	468	510	326	—	—	—	—
Mississippi	10,189	10,594	10,273	9,694	9,758	9,410	8,510	8,542	8,614	8,214	6,746	4,785
White	963	897	849	824	793	794	798	798	562	384	251	343
All other	9,226	9,697	9,424	8,870	8,965	8,616	7,712	7,744	8,052	7,830	6,495	4,442
Black	9,189	9,656	9,388	8,816	8,947	8,600	7,672	7,728	—	—	—	—
Missouri	10,616	10,319	9,795	9,455	9,951	9,510	9,262	8,276	6,728	5,632	3,076	1,663
White	4,367	4,073	3,711	3,486	3,736	3,638	3,844	3,380	2,482	1,798	1,187	1,110
All other	6,249	6,246	6,084	5,969	6,215	5,872	5,418	4,896	4,246	3,834	1,889	553
Black	6,220	6,214	6,063	5,954	6,191	5,860	5,394	4,876	—	—	—	—
Montana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	324	228
White	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	202	172
All other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	122	56
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	2,176	2,095	1,975	1,974	2,074	2,082	1,952	1,854	—	—	—	—
White	1,518	1,424	1,339	1,340	1,398	1,454	1,438	1,358	—	—	—	—
All other	658	671	636	634	676	628	514	496	—	—	—	—
Black	533	576	553	548	592	564	448	438	—	—	—	—
Nevada	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,026	858	604	266	84	28
White	—	—	—	—	—	—	618	510	334	122	47	8
All other	—	—	—	—	—	—	408	348	270	144	37	20
Black	—		—	—	—	—	366	294	—	—	—	—
New Hampshire	920	863	741	691	714	596	750	688	—	—	—	—
White	902	848	729	679	701	586	738	666	—	—	—	—
All other	18	15	12	12	13	10	12	22	—	—	—	—
Black	16	11	10	12	10	10	12	14	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	15,113	14,391	13,814	13,563	12,872	13,164	12,534	10,738	8,034	4,784	2,306	1,530
White	5,678	5,382	4,872	4,277	3,808	4,100	4,274	3,784	2,940	1,658	1,082	852
All other	9,435	9,009	8,942	9,286	9,064	9,064	8,260	6,954	5,094	3,126	1,224	678
Black	9,398	8,903	8,824	9,170	8,984	9,018	8,196	6,916	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Number of live births to unmarried women by race: each reporting State and the District of Columbia, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1965, and 1969-76—Con.

[Refers only to out-of-wedlock births occurring within the reporting area to residents of the area]

Area and race	1976[1]	1975[1]	1974[1]	1973[1]	1972[1]	1971[2]	1970[2]	1969[2]	1965[2]	1960[2]	1950	1940
New Mexico	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	541
White	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	489
All other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Carolina	13,044	12,985	12,622	12,683	12,383	12,086	12,210	11,360	10,828	9,912	8,661	6,538
White	2,582	2,483	2,326	2,373	2,247	2,350	2,594	2,384	2,002	1,694	1,684	1,507
All other	10,462	10,502	10,296	10,310	10,136	9,736	9,616	8,976	8,826	8,218	6,977	5,031
Black	10,146	10,207	10,060	10,094	9,870	9,484	9,380	8,782	—	—	—	—
North Dakota	879	840	712	755	816	730	726	672	578	420	352	304
White	572	570	468	529	602	548	558	528	472	344	284	262
All other	307	270	244	226	214	182	168	144	106	76	68	42
Black	8	12	8	6	6	-	2	4	—	—	—	—
Ohio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,204	10,092	5,184	2,542
White	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,250	5,098	3,007	1,735
All other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,954	4,994	2,177	807
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oklahoma	5,179	4,818	4,750	4,465	4,385	4,330	3,736	3,844	—	—	—	1,402
White	2,347	2,168	2,176	2,130	2,122	2,020	1,892	1,964	—	—	—	687
All other	2,832	2,650	2,574	2,335	2,263	2,310	1,844	1,880	—	—	—	715
Black	2,112	1,967	1,941	1,831	1,775	1,782	1,470	1,528	—	—	—	—
Oregon	3,812	3,355	2,962	2,575	2,486	2,406	2,628	2,760	2,036	1,184	629	237
White	3,296	2,858	2,518	2,203	2,098	2,062	2,230	2,492	1,808	1,008	541	215
All other	516	497	444	372	388	344	398	268	228	176	88	22
Black	348	355	339	270	292	260	278	192	—	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	21,072	18,890	17,179	16,856	17,246	17,924	18,526	16,264	13,978	10,100	7,660	5,614
White	9,441	8,619	7,686	7,405	7,740	8,014	8,584	8,074	6,892	4,942	4,034	3,812
All other	11,631	10,271	9,493	9,451	9,506	9,910	9,942	8,190	7,086	5,158	3,626	1,802
Black	11,563	10,231	9,463	9,409	9,462	9,878	9,874	8,138	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	1,333	1,229	1,105	1,119	1,047	1,086	1,062	946	692	582	391	259
White	995	895	804	821	735	768	754	692	524	402	323	225
All other	338	334	301	298	312	318	308	254	168	180	68	34
Black	318	321	287	290	302	306	296	236	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	9,327	9,071	8,704	8,726	8,373	7,990	7,694	7,346	7,306	7,226	5,437	4,886
White	1,439	1,383	1,288	1,295	1,250	1,154	1,170	1,224	894	706	634	583
All other	7,888	7,688	7,416	7,431	7,123	6,836	6,524	6,122	6,414	6,520	4,803	4,303
Black	7,875	7,673	7,407	7,425	7,113	6,830	6,502	6,118	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	1,370	1,300	1,214	1,090	1,121	1,104	806	972	746	552	347	228
White	694	679	626	549	635	600	500	556	434	262	206	173
All other	676	621	588	541	486	504	306	416	312	290	141	55
Black	2	2	4	7	2	6	4	2	—	—	—	—
Tennessee	10,309	9,862	9,515	9,589	9,575	9,150	8,950	7,668	8,268	7,130	4,743	2,553
White	2,981	2,871	2,725	2,621	2,745	2,616	2,594	2,240	2,166	1,752	1,420	922
All other	7,328	6,991	6,790	6,968	6,830	6,534	6,356	5,428	6,102	5,378	3,323	1,631
Black	7,319	6,984	6,784	6,964	6,824	6,532	6,354	5,420	—	—	—	—
Texas	27,021	26,426	24,840	25,220	24,194	22,870	20,164	18,320	15,672	12,830	6,872	3,768
White	13,341	12,690	11,747	11,846	10,926	10,514	9,742	8,904	7,266	4,954	2,583	1,798
All other	13,680	13,736	13,093	13,374	13,268	12,356	10,422	9,416	8,406	7,876	4,289	1,970
Black	13,624	13,695	13,056	13,332	13,232	12,336	10,356	9,366	—	—	—	—
Utah	1,123	960	794	831	874	870	970	758	532	410	204	96
White	993	859	683	742	770	780	842	674	484	352	192	89
All other	130	101	111	89	104	90	128	84	48	58	12	7
Black	38	24	26	32	34	34	44	46	—	—	—	—
Vermont	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	197	223
White	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	195	223
All other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Number of live births to unmarried women by race: each reporting State and the District of Columbia, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1965, and 1969-76—Con.

[Refers only to out-of-wedlock births occurring within the reporting area to residents of the area]

Area and race	1976[1]	1975[1]	1974[1]	1973[1]	1972[1]	1971[2]	1970[2]	1969[2]	1965[2]	1960[2]	1950	1940
Virginia	10,653	10,208	9,670	9,399	9,596	9,846	9,906	8,804	8,688	7,552	5,510	4,211
White	3,211	2,986	2,774	2,685	2,544	2,872	3,104	2,926	2,426	1,812	1,348	1,100
All other	7,442	7,222	6,896	6,714	7,052	6,974	6,802	5,878	6,262	5,740	4,162	3,111
Black	7,407	7,192	6,870	6,704	7,030	6,952	6,776	5,860	---	---	---	---
Washington	5,428	5,079	4,698	4,271	4,020	4,620	5,528	5,268	3,172	1,866	973	437
White	4,188	3,935	3,607	3,245	3,072	3,620	4,454	4,338	2,616	1,522	803	370
All other	1,240	1,144	1,091	1,026	948	1,000	1,074	930	556	344	170	67
Black	771	722	652	650	596	648	700	626	---	---	---	---
West Virginia	2,928	2,782	2,556	2,508	2,544	2,684	1,880	2,110	2,542	2,346	2,434	2,084
White	2,381	2,251	2,026	1,990	2,038	2,140	1,522	1,666	1,958	1,788	1,896	1,781
All other	547	531	530	518	506	544	358	444	584	558	538	303
Black	545	525	526	518	504	544	350	444	---	---	---	---
Wisconsin	7,090	7,078	6,687	6,174	6,070	5,980	5,886	5,636	4,074	2,506	1,473	1,100
White	4,721	4,726	4,386	4,092	3,950	3,956	4,464	3,988	3,012	1,856	1,253	1,009
All other	2,369	2,352	2,301	2,082	2,120	2,024	1,422	1,648	1,062	650	220	91
Black	2,174	2,138	2,133	1,910	1,960	1,872	1,322	1,514	---	---	---	---
Wyoming	519	488	453	457	477	456	430	470	294	196	95	---
White	443	423	395	388	409	404	372	388	248	162	75	---
All other	76	65	58	69	68	52	58	82	46	34	20	---
Black	30	26	28	33	26	16	24	24	---	---	---	---

[1]Based on 100 percent of births in selected States and on a 50-percent sample of births in all other States; see appendix I.
[2]Based on a 50-percent sample of births.
[3]Figures for 1965-72 include an unknown number of out-of-wedlock births erroneously allocated to this area because of incomplete residence reporting; see appendix I.

Table 6. Estimated ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940 and 1950-76

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group. Alaska included beginning 1959 and Hawaii, 1960]

Race and year	All ages	Age of mother											
		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													
1976[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[2]	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[2]	106.9	808.4	295.3	433.8	346.8	271.0	208.6	162.3	89.3	40.8	44.6	52.2	56.5
1969[2]	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[2]	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[3]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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
					15-17		18-19						
1954[2]	44.0	643.8	140.6		231.5		100.7		42.4	23.7	21.5	23.4	23.9
1953[2]	41.2	639.6	134.9		223.0		96.4		40.0	22.1	19.4	21.5	23.8
1952[2]	39.1	645.3	134.0		228.4		92.2		37.5	20.3	18.2	20.3	19.2
1951[2]	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													
1976[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[3]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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
1962[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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		18-19						
1954[2]	18.2	368.3	63.1		102.2		48.5		19.1	9.1	8.2	10.2	12.6
1953[2]	16.9	431.5	59.0		95.7		45.3		18.1	8.4	7.7	9.1	10.6
1952[2]	16.3	381.8	58.4		96.3		44.1		17.6	7.9	7.2	9.3	9.7
1951[2]	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

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6. Estimated ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: United States, 1940 and 1950-76—Con.

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group. Alaska included beginning 1959 and Hawaii, 1960]

Race and year	All ages	Age of mother											
		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													
1976[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[3]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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			18-19						
1954[2]	198.5	797.7	399.8		516.4		318.1		184.6	127.2	119.7	113.7	94.8
1953[2]	191.1	779.9	389.0		501.0		309.6		177.3	122.1	108.7	108.7	103.4
1952[2]	183.4	783.8	384.1		513.7		290.9		163.7	116.2	106.5	99.9	79.3
1951[2]	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
Black													
1976[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[1]	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[2]	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[2]	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[2]	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

[1]Based on 100 percent of births in selected States and on a 50-percent sample of births in all other States; see appendix I.
[2]Based on a 50-percent sample of births.
[3]Based on a 20- to 50-percent sample of births.

Table 7. Estimated ratios of births to unmarried women by live-birth order and race: United States, 1964 and 1969-76

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

Race and year	All births[1]	Live-birth order				
		1st birth	2d birth	3d birth	4th birth	Birth of 5th or higher order
ALL RACES						
1976	147.8	210.7	94.6	96.2	112.1	129.2
1975	142.5	206.3	89.0	90.6	103.8	122.8
1974	132.3	193.5	80.4	83.6	95.9	116.6
1973	129.8	186.4	76.0	78.2	88.3	108.7
1972	123.7	182.8	75.7	71.5	76.6	99.6
1971	112.9	174.2	72.1	62.7	68.2	89.7
1970	106.9	171.3	66.4	54.6	59.7	79.5
1969	100.2	165.0	62.4	49.6	53.8	70.3
1964	68.5	126.3	49.0	36.7	37.5	52.2
WHITE						
1976	76.8	124.4	37.2	39.1	48.3	59.8
1975	73.0	119.6	34.3	35.8	43.3	55.8
1974	65.4	108.3	29.5	32.1	40.2	50.1
1973	63.9	104.4	28.3	30.5	36.8	46.2
1972	60.4	101.1	28.3	27.2	31.6	40.5
1971	56.1	98.1	27.1	23.8	28.1	35.3
1970	56.6	103.0	26.5	21.3	24.7	30.9
1969	54.7	101.4	26.0	20.1	23.0	28.2
1964	33.9	75.8	19.3	13.4	14.2	15.6
ALL OTHER						
1976	451.5	597.7	375.5	333.9	325.8	297.9
1975	441.7	589.3	362.9	324.0	313.2	287.4
1974	427.3	574.7	345.6	310.2	301.8	282.7
1973	416.9	558.1	334.9	298.5	290.3	268.7
1972	402.6	551.7	334.3	285.2	263.6	250.3
1971	373.3	536.9	318.1	258.5	241.0	226.1
1970	349.3	515.3	295.4	235.9	220.8	207.7
1969	325.1	489.7	280.4	216.9	199.9	183.6
1964	245.0	439.8	244.6	184.8	161.8	146.6
Black						
1976	503.0	664.5	427.6	372.0	357.1	322.2
1975	487.9	648.2	411.1	360.0	339.5	308.3
1974	470.9	631.8	392.0	345.5	325.3	300.4
1973	457.5	614.1	379.9	330.9	313.5	284.8
1972	439.1	602.2	373.6	316.4	283.1	264.9
1971	405.3	584.1	352.9	282.5	259.2	237.9
1970	375.8	553.7	323.0	258.4	235.0	218.0
1969	348.7	525.0	305.9	236.4	213.9	192.1

[1]Figures for live-birth order not stated are included in totals but are not shown separately.

NOTES: Data for 1972-76 are based on 100 percent of births in selected States and on a 50-percent sample of births in all other States; see appendix I.

Data for 1964 and 1969-71 are based on a 50-percent sample of births.

Table 8. Estimated number of live births to unmarried women, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race: United States, 1975

[Figures by age and order may not add to totals because of rounding]

Age of mother and race	All births	Live-birth order					
		1st birth	2d birth	3d birth	4th birth	Birth of 5th or higher order	Not stated
All races[1]	447,900	272,200	87,700	40,000	19,100	21,800	7,300
Under 15 years	11,000	10,500	200	-	-	-	300
15-19 years	222,500	181,500	31,200	5,300	700	100	3,800
20-24 years	134,000	63,900	39,800	19,000	6,900	2,500	2,000
25-29 years	50,200	12,400	12,300	11,200	7,100	6,500	700
30-34 years	19,800	3,000	3,200	3,500	3,100	6,700	300
35-39 years	8,100	800	800	900	1,100	4,400	100
40 years and over	2,300	200	200	200	200	1,600	0
White	186,400	128,600	28,200	12,800	6,200	7,000	3,500
Under 15 years	3,600	3,400	-	-	-	-	100
15-19 years	93,900	83,500	7,500	800	100	0	2,000
20-24 years	54,500	32,500	13,600	5,400	1,700	500	900
25-29 years	21,200	6,900	5,100	4,500	2,500	2,000	300
30-34 years	8,600	1,800	1,500	1,600	1,300	2,300	100
35-39 years	3,600	500	400	400	500	1,700	0
40 years and over	1,000	100	100	100	100	600	0
Black	249,600	136,400	57,100	26,100	12,200	14,100	3,700
Under 15 years	7,200	6,800	200	-	-	-	200
15-19 years	123,800	93,800	23,100	4,400	600	100	1,800
20-24 years	75,600	29,300	25,000	13,100	5,100	2,000	1,100
25-29 years	27,100	5,000	6,700	6,300	4,300	4,400	400
30-34 years	10,500	1,100	1,600	1,800	1,600	4,200	100
35-39 years	4,200	200	300	500	600	2,600	100
40 years and over	1,200	100	100	100	100	900	0

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

Table 9. Ranking of 39 reporting areas according to ratios of births to unmarried women, by race, 1969-71 average

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

Area	All races[1]		White		Black	
	Rank	Ratio	Rank	Ratio	Rank	Ratio
39 reporting areas	...	108.3	...	53.8	...	378.0
Alabama	7	138.7	38	30.2	22	358.6
Alaska	28	77.9	32	39.5	35	100.3
Arizona	16	100.6	5	72.8	19	379.1
Arkansas	9	125.9	33	38.5	15	390.9
Colorado	22	86.1	4	76.4	31	303.2
Delaware	3	151.5	16	59.0	1	503.1
District of Columbia	1	382.5	1	192.0	9	415.2
Florida	5	149.5	11	62.6	7	418.6
Hawaii	18	91.4	2	84.2	38	78.9
Illinois	8	133.6	19	55.5	4	445.6
Indiana	24	84.6	17.5	56.2	21	362.6
Iowa	36	68.0	12.5	60.8	6	428.8
Kansas	35	68.6	28	49.5	29	320.2
Kentucky	23	85.8	23	53.5	8	417.9
Louisiana	6	144.9	34	38.4	28	324.1
Maine	33	70.8	6	70.4	36	89.6
Michigan	14	109.4	12.5	60.8	20	367.7
Minnesota	27	78.1	8	68.6	5	443.2
Mississippi	2	183.0	37	32.0	26	347.1
Missouri	13	113.7	22	54.1	2	446.6
Nebraska	29	77.5	14	59.3	3	445.9
New Hampshire	38	56.8	17.5	56.2	34	166.7
New Jersey	15	106.1	31	43.5	14	392.4
North Carolina	10	124.3	36	36.1	24	351.9
North Dakota	37	66.7	20	54.6	39	26.1
Oklahoma	19	89.6	25	53.0	17	380.9
Oregon	31	76.5	7	69.7	16	382.6
Pennsylvania	17	95.1	26	51.1	11	403.6
Rhode Island	34	69.8	24	53.2	13	399.4
South Carolina	4	151.0	35	37.1	27	346.2
South Dakota	25	83.1	21	54.2	37	87.0
Tennessee	11	121.0	30	44.4	10	409.3
Texas	20	89.4	27	50.2	30	314.7
Utah	39	33.0	39	30.1	33	244.1
Virginia	12	114.7	29	46.3	23	358.1
Washington	21	88.4	3	76.8	25	348.0
West Virginia	30	76.8	10	64.1	18	379.7
Wisconsin	26	78.2	15	59.1	12	402.2
Wyoming	32	73.3	9	65.9	32	288.3

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

Table 10. Ratios of births to unmarried women by race: each reporting State and the District of Columbia, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1965, and 1969-76

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group. Refers only to out-of-wedlock births occurring within the reporting area to residents of the area]

Area and race	1976[1]	1975[1]	1974[1]	1973[1]	1972[1]	1971[2]	1970[2]	1969[2]	1965[2]	1960[2]	1950	1940
Alabama	195.8	186.6	173.8	172.5	165.1	145.9	139.2	130.8	123.6	107.8	90.3	85.1
White	44.1	44.3	37.6	38.3	35.3	29.3	31.5	29.6	23.0	15.8	12.9	17.0
All other	471.0	451.2	426.8	421.2	403.0	375.3	358.4	334.5	298.2	263.6	207.7	195.5
Black	475.6	454.5	430.5	424.6	405.8	377.7	360.7	336.4	---	---	---	---
Alaska	106.5	107.1	103.6	86.3	87.0	59.0	93.0	81.5	67.4	47.9	---	---
White	55.8	63.1	51.0	36.4	43.4	29.3	44.3	44.8	29.3	12.3	---	---
All other	244.2	215.9	229.6	193.9	198.8	139.1	227.2	212.9	143.2	126.3	---	---
Black	178.3	*83.7	153.2	114.0	90.9	*62.5	141.8	*80.8	---	---	---	---
Arizona	142.4	135.0	125.9	116.2	116.2	107.2	91.4	103.5	---	---	---	27.7
White	102.2	98.8	89.9	83.1	80.0	75.4	66.3	77.0	---	---	---	24.6
All other	365.0	345.8	333.4	300.1	319.9	289.7	247.6	257.6	---	---	---	47.6
Black	445.4	446.9	423.5	386.7	438.7	417.0	339.8	375.9	---	---	---	---
Arkansas	174.0	164.8	154.5	154.9	141.6	133.1	127.6	116.6	---	---	---	40.5
White	59.5	55.2	50.3	50.0	45.1	38.7	40.9	35.7	---	---	---	13.3
All other	499.3	474.3	466.7	458.4	429.9	417.1	381.8	360.2	---	---	---	126.6
Black	510.6	500.4	473.8	464.2	435.2	422.0	385.3	364.0	---	---	---	---
Colorado	100.9	96.4	90.8	89.3	86.3	80.6	90.8	86.8	---	---	---	23.4
White	88.4	84.3	78.2	77.1	75.6	69.0	81.9	78.1	---	---	---	22.4
All other	276.0	267.9	287.4	275.7	257.2	270.1	241.6	240.3	---	---	---	94.5
Black	362.1	345.5	373.2	348.4	327.4	334.1	292.5	280.8	---	---	---	---
Connecticut	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	18.2
White	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	16.1
All other	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	98.7
Black	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Delaware	206.9	188.8	169.9	146.8	157.5	153.5	155.7	145.1	109.9	88.4	77.3	74.0
White	85.7	74.9	69.0	52.1	56.5	52.9	63.4	60.3	44.4	29.9	24.0	29.3
All other	593.8	565.3	510.8	477.5	517.6	517.7	483.2	460.7	365.1	347.7	318.4	304.7
Black	617.0	587.5	536.4	504.8	538.2	535.9	498.6	475.0	---	---	---	---
District of Columbia[3]	515.9	501.1	489.0	430.5	397.4	395.1	387.3	365.7	282.8	204.9	113.8	82.0
White[3]	155.8	125.3	123.3	132.5	134.3	144.2	212.8	212.5	159.8	55.8	31.7	23.8
All other[3]	572.9	554.0	538.9	471.9	429.9	430.9	412.9	391.0	317.3	272.4	218.2	216.2
Black[3]	576.0	558.8	542.7	476.8	433.2	435.4	417.1	393.8	---	---	---	---
Florida	203.5	194.8	183.0	177.3	170.5	158.1	145.4	144.5	116.7	94.9	74.6	63.7
White	77.9	75.1	66.5	63.0	62.6	60.2	63.3	64.5	45.7	27.4	17.8	17.3
All other	540.8	528.6	516.4	500.0	475.6	439.9	399.8	385.3	303.7	277.1	230.8	175.0
Black	562.0	547.7	532.9	515.3	487.8	450.8	409.2	392.6	---	---	---	---
Georgia	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	79.8	76.9
White	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	13.4	15.2
All other	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	188.1	171.2
Black	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hawaii	96.0	124.5	104.6	106.9	92.6	88.1	97.4	88.4	69.5	52.4	---	---
White	87.9	103.1	87.4	100.9	70.0	74.2	94.7	83.4	56.9	37.6	---	---
All other	98.9	132.6	111.1	109.2	101.5	93.9	98.5	90.5	75.1	59.0	---	---
Black	71.4	94.7	80.5	66.2	*29.7	*85.7	*61.4	*94.1	---	---	---	---
Idaho	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	9.1
White	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	9.0
All other	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	31.6
Black	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Illinois	194.6	186.1	171.6	174.8	168.4	148.5	134.3	117.9	89.8	59.7	36.8	26.4
White	79.3	75.6	66.9	67.3	65.1	58.4	57.9	50.3	38.2	21.2	16.4	18.1
All other	579.0	556.5	533.4	524.8	504.7	459.2	426.1	388.3	321.5	261.6	211.1	167.7
Black	619.0	600.0	573.6	562.5	536.3	480.8	446.5	405.3	---	---	---	---

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 10. Ratios of births to unmarried women by race: each reporting State and the District of Columbia, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1965, and 1969-76—Con.

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group. Refers only to out-of-wedlock births occurring within the reporting area to residents of the area]

Area and race	1976[1]	1975[1]	1974[1]	1973[1]	1972[1]	1971[2]	1970[2]	1969[2]	1965[2]	1960[2]	1950	1940
Indiana	126.6	121.5	110.0	110.1	104.7	93.3	81.5	79.1	59.3	40.3	24.0	17.8
White	79.3	74.8	66.2	69.9	64.4	60.1	54.0	54.6	40.3	26.3	16.5	14.1
All other	518.4	491.6	458.8	447.1	438.8	389.5	340.4	317.8	265.7	194.5	152.5	120.2
Black	541.5	513.4	478.8	464.9	454.5	404.2	351.5	328.7	—	—	—	—
Iowa	83.0	81.0	73.7	79.7	75.9	71.4	70.5	62.3	43.8	22.4	16.5	16.1
White	72.8	72.3	64.9	69.2	66.9	62.8	62.8	56.8	39.6	20.2	15.4	15.5
All other	390.6	378.2	390.2	415.3	384.7	382.5	378.6	299.8	262.0	161.0	123.0	142.9
Black	519.8	482.1	494.3	523.0	488.2	470.5	437.0	370.2	—	—	—	—
Kansas	98.8	94.8	87.6	84.3	84.2	82.4	65.9	58.0	50.5	26.4	18.5	15.9
White	66.9	64.5	59.2	57.8	56.6	57.2	49.9	41.7	35.4	17.3	12.6	11.5
All other	399.1	400.6	374.7	361.7	364.6	354.2	250.7	250.0	235.9	152.2	140.4	132.5
Black	491.3	479.6	446.0	424.5	421.2	398.9	280.3	279.3	—	—	—	—
Kentucky	123.9	115.9	106.7	107.0	103.1	91.3	84.6	81.3	67.9	50.4	33.6	28.3
White	82.9	77.6	67.7	69.0	66.5	55.8	53.2	51.2	43.0	30.6	21.5	20.7
All other	514.9	496.5	496.6	473.7	464.4	441.8	398.2	376.9	332.6	258.6	190.7	170.9
Black	541.9	521.4	521.8	497.2	481.4	455.1	411.1	385.8	—	—	—	—
Louisiana	215.1	204.7	193.4	187.2	174.1	155.7	147.6	131.6	118.4	90.1	78.8	82.8
White	58.9	55.5	50.3	50.1	46.6	40.4	38.3	36.6	24.3	17.9	12.4	17.4
All other	449.1	430.0	414.1	396.5	373.7	345.5	328.5	291.4	258.1	204.4	175.1	175.6
Black	457.9	435.5	418.5	400.2	377.1	348.3	330.6	293.6	—	—	—	—
Maine	100.9	95.9	83.2	84.6	82.7	77.4	70.6	64.3	44.9	27.1	28.9	30.1
White	100.2	96.2	83.0	84.5	82.8	77.6	69.5	63.8	44.7	27.1	28.7	29.8
All other	149.6	*67.7	*101.3	90.9	*76.9	*61.4	156.5	86.7	*56.9	*32.3	*101.7	*133.3
Black	147.5	*96.8	*27.8	*112.7	*54.5	*83.3	*157.9	*50.0	—	—	—	—
Michigan	151.8	147.6	136.7	144.0	133.4	118.9	109.6	100.0	66.1	37.5	28.4	23.0
White	82.4	77.9	70.2	71.8	67.1	61.5	62.6	58.1	39.7	21.7	18.0	18.7
All other	464.9	459.1	442.1	449.6	420.7	386.5	353.2	328.3	253.3	165.3	136.8	120.8
Black	489.2	478.3	460.3	465.5	436.2	399.4	364.0	336.5	—	—	—	—
Minnesota	94.8	91.4	80.0	83.7	86.1	79.0	80.7	74.6	52.0	28.4	21.5	21.6
White	79.0	77.1	66.9	70.0	73.7	68.5	70.8	66.6	46.1	24.9	18.8	20.0
All other	426.0	406.0	406.3	426.7	396.6	390.9	431.6	366.5	292.0	212.7	215.5	138.9
Black	549.4	461.5	469.8	524.3	475.8	454.4	479.3	384.4	—	—	—	—
Mississippi	237.3	241.9	232.9	217.5	212.2	193.8	173.5	181.6	164.6	138.9	103.9	89.7
White	42.2	39.5	36.9	35.6	33.4	31.5	31.2	33.3	23.2	14.2	9.1	11.9
All other	458.9	459.9	446.1	414.2	402.7	369.2	329.0	335.9	286.5	244.3	173.4	150.9
Black	463.9	465.1	450.4	417.8	406.7	372.5	330.9	338.0	—	—	—	—
Missouri	154.2	150.6	140.7	137.3	136.9	121.3	114.6	105.1	82.7	57.5	35.8	30.0
White	75.6	71.1	63.8	60.8	61.8	55.5	56.3	50.6	36.1	21.3	15.3	22.2
All other	564.4	555.5	534.6	516.5	506.2	455.6	431.4	411.4	336.1	285.4	226.3	138.1
Black	596.9	585.6	561.2	540.3	528.4	471.5	445.3	421.2	—	—	—	—
Montana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20.8	18.4
White	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13.7	14.6
All other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	145.4	80.4
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	91.5	88.5	83.3	86.6	88.4	81.6	75.9	74.8	—	—	—	—
White	67.9	64.0	60.0	62.8	63.5	60.6	59.2	58.0	—	—	—	—
All other	461.4	469.2	462.5	436.0	464.9	419.8	362.5	360.5	—	—	—	—
Black	536.8	551.2	542.7	513.6	541.1	490.4	420.3	422.8	—	—	—	—
Nevada	—	—	—	—	—	—	108.8	96.2	63.8	36.6	22.9	13.1
White	—	—	—	—	—	—	74.7	66.3	40.4	19.3	31.9	3.8
All other	—	—	—	—	—	—	352.9	282.9	226.5	152.5	127.1	100.5
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	403.1	337.9	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 10. Ratios of births to unmarried women by race: each reporting State and the District of Columbia, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1965, and 1969-76—Con.

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group. Refers only to out-of-wedlock births occurring within the reporting area to residents of the area]

Area and race	1976[1]	1975[1]	1974[1]	1973[1]	1972[1]	1971[2]	1970[2]	1969[2]	1965[2]	1960[2]	1950	1940
New Hampshire	93.1	87.2	71.5	67.4	66.6	49.9	61.8	58.6	---	---	---	---
White	92.7	86.8	71.1	66.9	66.1	49.6	61.5	57.5	---	---	---	---
All other	*113.9	*115.4	*115.4	*123.7	*105.7	*73.5	*92.3	139.2	---	---	---	---
Black	*202.5	*215.7	*188.7	*214.3	*163.9	*161.3	*193.5	*152.2	---	---	---	---
New Jersey	170.3	160.1	148.6	144.5	130.5	119.2	106.2	93.5	64.2	36.1	23.6	25.8
White	80.5	75.0	65.3	57.3	48.3	46.1	44.5	40.1	28.1	14.4	12.3	15.5
All other	517.6	496.2	487.2	484.1	456.8	422.5	377.3	339.4	247.2	177.5	128.8	147.0
Black	544.4	526.3	514.7	509.3	479.9	438.5	388.3	349.0	---	---	---	---
New Mexico	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	36.2
White	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	33.7
All other	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	118.3
Black	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
North Carolina	162.2	160.8	150.2	148.3	139.5	126.8	124.6	121.6	110.9	90.3	81.3	81.0
White	47.0	45.2	40.4	40.4	36.5	35.0	37.3	35.9	30.2	22.5	24.0	27.2
All other	410.8	406.2	389.8	384.9	373.0	346.2	337.3	331.2	281.7	238.1	192.3	194.5
Black	434.5	428.6	413.9	408.1	392.1	362.2	349.8	343.6	---	---	---	---
North Dakota	82.5	79.5	71.6	78.1	81.1	70.8	66.8	62.6	43.8	25.3	20.7	21.6
White	58.5	58.2	51 3	59.2	64.9	57.0	54.9	52.1	37.7	21.5	17.1	18.9
All other	348.1	349.7	299.8	306.6	273.3	260.0	241.4	244.1	152.3	121.8	158.1	103.0
Black	*72.7	*129.0	*85.1	*57.7	*71.4	-	*26.3	*50.0	---	---	---	---
Ohio	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	67.6	43.7	27.9	22.3
White	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	41.6	24.7	17.6	16.1
All other	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	283.7	206.3	146.8	132.4
Black	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Oklahoma	118.6	112.9	112.0	109.5	103.5	95.7	83.3	89.8	---	---	---	31.3
White	66 6	62.6	62.7	63.5	60.5	54.2	50.5	54.3	---	---	---	16.9
All other	335.9	330.8	333.5	323.7	310.8	289.5	250.5	282.8	---	---	---	157.2
Black	483.5	463.5	469.0	456.2	443.9	403.5	345.9	393.6	---	---	---	---
Oregon	110.0	101.0	91.6	83.9	79.8	72.6	75.1	81.8	61.7	30.8	17.4	13.7
White	100.5	91.1	82.1	75.4	70.8	65.0	67.0	77.2	57.0	27.2	15.3	12.7
All other	276.7	272.0	263.7	253.1	252.9	239.6	234.9	184.6	178.7	131.7	124.5	76.9
Black	478.7	467.7	478.8	439.7	439.8	426.2	398.3	320.0	---	---	---	---
Pennsylvania	143.5	127 9	114.5	110.9	106.5	99.7	97.1	88.4	68.3	41.8	34.6	33.8
White	74.9	67.4	58.7	56.2	55.0	51.4	51.8	50.2	38.2	22.9	19.8	24.3
All other	557.0	517.6	496 2	466.4	448.2	414.6	399.9	353.8	293.8	202.7	207.7	191.2
Black	586.1	545.7	519.0	485 7	465.3	429.3	413.2	366.6	---	---	---	---
Rhode Island	129.0	120 2	101.6	94.9	82.2	76 1	69.9	63.5	39.9	31.6	24.1	24.2
White	103.7	94.1	79.3	75.1	62.1	57.5	53.1	49.1	31.7	22.8	20.4	21.5
All other	457 4	467 1	407.9	347.7	350.2	348.7	308.0	314.4	213.7	241.9	165.0	138.2
Black	548.3	546.8	490.6	438.1	456.2	438.4	392.6	365.3	---	---	---	---
South Carolina	201.2	199.9	184.3	182.3	171.3	154.0	150.3	148.6	138.1	120.8	94.6	109.8
White	51.9	50.9	45.1	44.8	41.7	35.9	36.0	39.3	29.1	20.4	20.6	25.6
All other	422.9	421.8	397.2	392.0	377.3	346.2	348.5	334.1	287.7	258.4	179.9	195.4
Black	430.4	428 2	404.0	397.5	382.5	351.0	350.1	337.1	---	---	---	---
South Dakota	117 5	115.6	108.6	102.1	103.0	95.5	69.0	84.9	53.7	31.3	19.5	16.2
White	69.2	69.7	64.5	59.8	66.5	59.4	48.4	55.0	35.0	16.1	12.2	12.3
All other	414.2	412.9	397.8	363.1	363.8	344.3	228.7	310.4	208.6	216.1	162.3	77.0
Black	*33 9	*37.7	*97.6	*118.6	*62.5	*100.0	*111.1	*47.6	---	---	---	---
Tennessee	165.2	158.5	148.5	149.2	145.4	128.6	124.3	109.8	113.2	86.9	58.3	46.5
White	61.3	59.3	54.4	52.5	53.3	46.7	45.9	40.7	38.4	27.4	21.8	20.2
All other	532.8	506.6	485.3	486.5	478.1	432.8	411.4	366.4	366.8	295.9	205.8	192.1
Black	546.6	517.5	496.4	496.3	485.5	439.9	416.3	371.0	---	---	---	---

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 10. Ratios of births to unmarried women by race: each reporting State and the District of Columbia, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1965, and 1969-76—Con.

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group. Refers only to out-of-wedlock births occurring within the reporting area to residents of the area]

Area and race	1976[1]	1975[1]	1974[1]	1973[1]	1972[1]	1971[2]	1970[2]	1969[2]	1965[2]	1960[2]	1950	1940
Texas	123.6	122.7	117.8	120.2	112.9	99.9	87.4	80.9	72.7	51.5	33.7	29.7
White	72.2	69.9	66.0	67.3	61.0	54.6	49.9	46.1	40.3	23.3	14.6	16.2
All other	406.1	404.6	397.3	397.7	378.0	340.9	292.9	283.8	238.8	213.5	156.0	124.4
Black	428.7	423.9	414.1	412.4	391.2	351.6	301.1	289.1	—	—	—	—
Utah	32.0	30.4	26.6	29.8	32.6	31.7	36.0	31.3	23.9	15.6	9.6	7.0
White	29.2	28.1	23.6	27.4	29.6	29.3	32.2	28.6	22.4	13.7	9.2	6.6
All other	116.7	104.9	123.6	112.5	131.6	109.8	162.0	131.7	74.1	104.3	*34.7	*40.8
Black	245.2	171.4	194.0	275.9	236.1	202.4	229.2	310.8	—	—	—	—
Vermont	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21.9	32.0
White	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21.7	32.0
All other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	400.0	-
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia	153.6	147.0	137.4	132.2	129.0	120.7	116.2	107.2	97.6	79.1	67.2	75.5
White	61.8	57.0	51.7	49.2	44.7	46.0	47.0	46.0	36.2	25.3	22.2	27.5
All other	427.8	422.7	412.6	405.9	404.1	364.7	354.0	317.2	283.5	241.0	194.8	197.8
Black	459.8	451.6	437.5	428.9	423.9	379.5	367.5	326.7	—	—	—	—
Washington	102.9	100.4	94.3	90.1	83.7	84.0	91.6	89.1	60.1	28.6	17.4	17.1
White	87.7	85.6	79.5	74.9	69.5	71.3	79.7	79.0	52.9	24.7	14.9	15.0
All other	248.0	248.0	243.0	250.4	244.2	238.7	242.1	220.9	165.9	96.4	85.9	91.8
Black	393.6	385.1	381.3	393.5	376.3	363.6	362.3	319.7	—	—	—	—
West Virginia	107.2	104.1	96.8	95.4	90.6	90.2	63.5	76.5	79.2	59.4	48.2	49.1
White	91.1	88.1	80.6	79.1	76.1	75.2	53.7	63.3	64.3	47.6	40.0	44.2
All other	460.4	453.1	424.3	455.6	393.2	412.7	281.4	351.8	357.0	292.1	171.3	138.2
Black	505.1	491.1	455.0	493.8	430.8	459.5	297.6	381.4	—	—	—	—
Wisconsin	109.2	108.6	102.6	98.4	94.0	83.1	75.7	76.0	49.1	25.2	17.8	19.6
White	78.6	78.4	72.7	70.4	66.1	59.1	60.8	57.3	38.0	19.4	15.4	18.2
All other	489.6	483.4	475.3	452.2	439.1	404.6	326.6	364.8	282.3	163.7	145.5	134.2
Black	573.0	558.2	550.5	513.0	492.2	454.8	342.5	405.9	—	—	—	—
Wyoming	71.2	70.7	69.9	75.6	80.1	75.0	66.6	78.9	44.7	23.0	12.5	—
White	63.8	63.8	63.3	67.7	72.3	69.3	60.3	68.6	39.4	19.1	10.2	—
All other	219.7	237.2	239.7	224.0	229.7	209.7	200.0	273.3	162.0	118.1	88.9	—
Black	315.8	333.3	388.9	379.3	309.5	*216.2	307.7	342.9	—	—	—	—

[1]Based on 100 percent of births in selected States and on a 50-percent sample of births in all other States; see appendix I.
[2]Based on a 50-percent sample of births.
[3]Figures for 1965-72 include an unknown number of out-of-wedlock births erroneously allocated to this area because of incomplete residence reporting; see appendix I.

Table 11. Ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group. Refers only to out-of-wedlock births occurring within the reporting area to residents of the area]

Area and race[1]	All ages	Age of mother						
		Under 15 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
Total	142.3	849.9	373.4	119.0	51.5	50.6	68.1	83.5
White	69.7	657.0	214.3	56.8	24.4	25.0	35.6	43.5
Black	490.2	974.6	759.6	423.6	264.5	236.5	237.2	235.6
Alabama	183.4	831.2	414.8	138.7	58.7	57.9	77.8	102.7
White	43.4	504.8	130.4	30.5	8.9	10.5	14.2	23.9
Black	448.6	951.0	735.9	354.7	216.1	188.9	174.0	168.8
Alaska	106.9	*1,000.0	351.5	91.6	32.4	32.9	62.5	115.4
White	63.0	*1,000.0	267.2	49.3	18.4	21.9	-	55.6
Black	83.0	-	155.6	117.6	-	-	-	-
Arizona	133.0	904.8	332.2	115.3	55.2	54.5	56.9	95.5
White	98.3	916.7	271.0	81.7	36.7	39.6	46.7	62.9
Black	445.2	909.1	686.5	408.8	226.8	211.5	45.5	166.7
Arkansas	164.7	813.0	365.8	114.1	60.2	65.3	100.5	155.6
White	55.2	562.5	152.9	33.0	18.4	13.9	36.8	23.4
Black	500.3	973.3	750.7	400.6	274.1	261.3	244.8	398.1
Colorado	96.0	750.0	284.9	88.2	34.2	24.3	45.4	63.0
White	84.0	708.3	259.4	75.5	29.8	21.8	39.1	58.0
Black	344.7	*933.3	598.7	318.5	172.3	96.8	220.0	*250.0
Delaware	184.3	920.0	496.5	167.7	60.3	56.7	72.3	103.4
White	72.8	*666.7	252.4	64.4	26.1	28.1	19.5	41.7
Black	584.9	954.5	862.6	517.5	290.8	260.9	350.0	*400.0
District of Columbia	484.7	961.5	832.5	511.2	255.2	182.0	201.6	200.0
White	111.1	*1,000.0	456.5	230.8	53.6	35.4	20.2	*111.1
Black	550.6	960.8	847.5	539.0	313.8	268.9	276.4	237.3
Florida	193.9	865.0	450.8	156.9	70.6	70.8	92.3	114.4
White	74.8	579.6	213.3	61.1	25.8	27.5	38.1	43.0
Black	544.0	987.7	793.8	462.9	303.9	269.1	257.8	287.4
Hawaii	124.5	1,000.0	371.0	122.2	58.5	52.3	32.9	62.5
White	103.0	*1,000.0	265.0	94.4	69.7	54.6	34.5	-
Black	94.7	-	285.7	88.9	43.5	-	-	-
Illinois	186.0	955.3	478.3	173.9	76.7	73.6	96.2	129.8
White	75.6	847.9	250.7	67.4	28.7	29.1	41.8	56.8
Black	599.9	998.2	840.9	565.0	389.8	352.7	339.9	367.1
Indiana	120.8	851.1	302.4	96.5	44.4	45.4	61.3	74.7
White	74.3	750.0	207.1	56.0	25.5	28.0	40.7	41.4
Black	513.1	971.6	768.0	456.8	297.8	238.4	244.3	289.2
Iowa	80.9	903.2	273.6	62.4	25.8	29.0	32.3	39.3
White	72.3	872.3	251.8	55.3	22.6	25.7	29.7	34.0
Black	482.1	1,000.0	799.2	412.9	242.2	234.4	156.3	*333.3

[1]Total for each area includes races other than white and black.

Table 11. Ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975—Con.

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group. Refers only to out-of-wedlock births occurring within the reporting area to residents of the area]

Area and race[1]	All ages	Age of mother						
		Under 15 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
Kansas	94.7	815.2	279.8	70.6	28.2	33.8	37.8	18.1
White	64.5	696.4	213.0	46.0	16.6	23.8	20.2	5.1
Black	479.2	1,000.0	714.3	392.8	271.5	245.0	290.3	*166.7
Kentucky	113.9	647.9	254.9	85.4	42.0	53.3	60.1	48.8
White	76.2	489.1	177.0	54.9	30.4	38.6	38.0	31.6
Black	520.2	1,000.0	820.3	423.8	233.3	261.4	321.7	266.7
Louisiana	204.6	852.2	428.3	168.9	86.1	86.6	109.4	126.3
White	55.5	532.6	165.7	40.8	16.0	14.4	35.7	49.3
Black	435.4	930.7	670.0	381.8	254.2	222.2	209.2	203.4
Maine	95.6	714.3	268.4	73.8	33.4	39.2	51.2	59.8
White	95.9	714.3	268.8	74.2	33.3	39.9	51.5	60.3
Black	96.8	-	*214.3	35.7	*125.0	-	-	-
Michigan	146.9	937.6	422.7	121.7	47.8	46.9	61.6	67.3
White	77.4	868.3	275.1	60.1	21.0	23.4	33.4	40.9
Black	477.9	979.7	780.8	426.8	243.6	206.4	203.9	181.3
Minnesota	91.3	909.1	375.7	78.7	29.2	23.0	30.3	27.0
White	77.0	864.9	342.8	65.6	22.6	17.7	26.8	20.0
Black	461.5	*1,000.0	787.5	433.2	251.0	145.6	181.8	*400.0
Mississippi	241.8	908.5	483.6	178.8	97.7	89.3	158.1	163.2
White	39.5	509.1	121.4	27.4	12.3	4.6	11.3	13.2
Black	465.1	957.6	700.5	369.7	263.2	219.9	275.8	230.8
Missouri	150.6	873.3	380.6	124.5	56.4	59.6	83.8	110.8
White	71.1	683.3	218.2	54.6	23.1	22.5	41.8	57.9
Black	585.4	1,000.0	848.0	533.0	349.1	331.2	354.5	347.8
Nebraska	88.5	926.8	313.8	72.2	31.3	27.8	39.2	31.0
White	64.0	869.6	244.3	53.7	21.6	18.1	27.1	23.6
Black	551.2	*1,000.0	840.0	469.3	320.4	284.0	280.0	*222.2
New Hampshire	78.1	*800.0	273.6	60.0	25.7	41.7	62.3	92.0
White	77.7	*800.0	272.7	60.1	25.5	40.9	57.6	82.4
Black	200.0	-	*428.6	*125.0	*55.6	*200.0	*500.0	
New Jersey	156.7	951.1	531.1	172.1	59.5	50.6	57.7	64.4
White	73.3	886.6	306.5	80.7	31.9	27.9	34.6	33.1
Black	521.4	980.8	854.1	515.6	278.9	212.5	182.6	219.5
North Carolina	160.5	825.8	393.4	118.8	41.5	45.2	60.6	66.3
White	45.1	416.1	134.7	32.7	11.8	14.6	24.8	28.7
Black	428.4	994.4	731.2	315.9	162.0	163.5	142.9	122.0
North Dakota	79.3	*833.3	324.0	61.9	20.3	12.3	25.8	38.1
White	58.0	*750.0	270.0	43.7	10.4	9.3	21.7	38.8
Black	129.0	-	*315.8	120.0	-	-	-	-

[1]Total for each area includes races other than white and black.

Table 11. Ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975—Con.

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group. Refers only to out-of-wedlock births occurring within the reporting area to residents of the area]

Area and race[1]	All ages	Age of mother						
		Under 15 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
Oklahoma	112.8	771.4	268.4	82.4	35.9	43.3	77.9	74.1
White	62.5	647.1	172.4	40.6	19.2	22.1	44.3	60.6
Black	463.3	982.8	703.1	377.8	216.5	233.7	291.3	157.9
Oregon	100.5	818.2	300.4	87.5	39.7	37.0	57.0	56.8
White	90.6	796.6	277.9	78.1	35.2	35.1	53.2	49.1
Black	467.7	*1,000.0	773.1	418.6	271.6	163.9	*363.6	-
Pennsylvania	126.7	842.1	373.8	119.3	45.1	40.6	55.9	66.3
White	66.7	647.1	226.4	58.7	24.4	25.3	39.1	49.4
Black	545.1	975.8	828.0	514.2	289.3	238.2	225.5	222.2
Rhode Island	114.6	*1,000.0	373.5	102.5	44.1	39.8	59.1	93.8
White	89.4	*1,000.0	310.7	79.3	34.9	33.8	51.0	57.5
Black	546.8	*1,000.0	786.1	497.5	361.9	217.4	*222.2	*500.0
South Carolina	194.3	827.8	442.3	154.1	64.6	64.1	110.2	149.1
White	49.3	478.9	145.4	39.3	13.4	12.7	24.9	43.8
Black	418.3	922.8	715.2	333.6	189.6	178.5	228.0	220.6
South Dakota	115.6	818.2	316.6	104.6	47.0	50.1	50.0	29.0
White	69.7	*666.7	248.6	59.0	19.8	17.3	15.8	-
Black	37.7	-	-	-	-	*250.0	-	-
Tennessee	158.2	800.0	336.4	126.2	62.7	70.2	90.6	126.4
White	59.2	487.8	143.9	45.7	21.8	26.3	39.1	58.4
Black	517.1	996.2	760.1	434.3	290.2	299.7	305.3	325.9
Texas	122.5	782.2	293.7	99.8	45.9	47.1	60.1	71.5
White	69.8	607.9	175.8	56.6	27.8	30.9	43.6	58.3
Black	423.7	979.8	684.5	350.8	203.5	185.5	181.9	152.2
Utah	30.3	619.0	133.3	25.5	9.9	4.5	9.6	6.5
White	28.0	650.0	126.3	23.1	9.2	4.2	8.5	-
Black	171.4	-	*333.3	166.7	133.3	*125.0	-	-
Virginia	145.6	832.2	384.3	133.1	52.6	47.9	61.0	74.5
White	56.4	566.0	179.1	51.7	19.7	17.7	28.8	32.9
Black	450.6	979.1	728.6	385.2	240.9	225.4	212.1	181.8
Washington	100.0	883.5	300.1	88.1	41.1	34.0	55.6	43.8
White	85.3	915.5	267.0	75.3	34.0	28.9	41.2	50.4
Black	384.7	*888.9	666.7	345.5	220.6	122.9	153.8	-
West Virginia	99.1	592.2	224.7	71.9	46.0	49.7	52.2	117.6
White	83.7	548.4	190.3	60.2	38.3	47.3	47.5	124.4
Black	481.7	*1,000.0	775.1	355.6	304.8	181.8	*333.3	-
Wisconsin	108.6	1,000.0	406.6	88.2	32.4	31.2	38.6	36.0
White	78.4	1,000.0	332.6	60.7	21.8	23.0	27.0	19.3
Black	558.2	1,000.0	852.9	503.0	291.1	240.8	296.3	366.7
Wyoming	70.1	*733.3	230.3	43.6	18.9	26.7	21.1	-
White	63.3	*666.7	214.4	39.5	15.1	24.6	21.7	-
Black	333.3	-	642.9	157.9	*200.0	-	-	-

[1]Total for each area includes races other than white and black.

Table 12. Number and ratio of births to unmarried women for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties by age of mother and race: total of 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1975

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

Age of mother and race	Number			Ratio		
	All counties	Metropolitan counties	Nonmetropolitan counties	All counties	Metropolitan counties	Nonmetropolitan counties
All races[1]						
All ages	303,043	204,507	98,536	142.3	157.6	118.4
Under 15 years	7,861	5,050	2,811	849.9	894.8	779.8
15-19 years	154,787	101,728	53,059	373.4	429.1	298.9
20-24 years	89,800	62,221	27,579	119.0	139.9	89.1
25-29 years	31,807	22,664	9,143	51.5	57.1	41.3
30-34 years	12,169	8,498	3,671	50.6	54.4	43.7
35-39 years	5,079	3,356	1,723	68.1	72.6	60.7
40 years and over	1,540	990	550	83.5	92.5	71.1
White						
All ages	120,066	74,931	45,135	69.7	73.6	64.2
Under 15 years	2,335	1,350	985	657.0	725.4	581.8
15-19 years	61,858	37,294	24,564	214.3	243.6	181.2
20-24 years	34,960	22,234	12,726	56.8	63.5	47.9
25-29 years	13,042	8,793	4,249	24.4	26.0	21.5
30-34 years	5,109	3,445	1,664	25.0	26.3	22.6
35-39 years	2,147	1,398	749	35.6	38.0	31.9
40 years and over	615	417	198	43.5	51.2	33.1
Black						
All ages	175,593	126,505	49,088	490.2	504.7	456.3
Under 15 years	5,366	3,623	1,743	974.6	978.9	965.7
15-19 years	89,698	63,109	26,589	759.6	782.9	709.5
20-24 years	52,419	39,011	13,408	423.6	448.5	364.5
25-29 years	17,762	13,421	4,341	264.5	273.4	240.4
30-34 years	6,680	4,869	1,811	236.5	241.2	224.8
35-39 years	2,796	1,909	887	237.2	243.2	225.2
40 years and over	872	563	309	235.6	250.2	213.0

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

Table 13. Ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: 25 largest standard metropolitan statistical areas in the reporting States, 1975

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

Area and race[1]	All ages	Age of mother						
		Under 15 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
Total	175.8	919.8	480.3	164.2	64.5	59.9	79.3	108.5
White	76.5	764.5	266.3	70.3	26.9	27.4	39.4	52.9
Black	524.0	982.7	802.6	475.8	293.2	254.5	252.0	286.2
Birmingham, Ala.	172.3	809.5	436.5	129.6	53.1	52.9	82.3	97.6
White	34.7	*600.0	119.6	23.8	6.8	10.5	38.5	-
Black	413.9	875.0	739.1	305.5	191.4	179.7	166.7	181.8
Chicago, Ill.	224.0	974.3	589.2	228.0	93.2	82.3	110.9	147.8
White	78.1	882.9	296.5	78.3	31.1	30.0	46.5	65.6
Black	602.8	997.7	849.9	573.0	393.0	346.9	336.0	354.8
Dallas, Tex.	162.5	880.8	414.4	135.0	44.9	48.2	62.0	109.8
White	66.1	618.2	205.8	51.7	17.5	26.2	30.4	49.2
Black	483.5	985.3	772.4	404.1	198.3	172.6	230.8	285.7
Denver, Colo.	117.8	925.0	378.5	118.0	40.1	27.6	59.5	58.8
White	97.6	892.9	332.0	95.6	33.2	23.1	46.3	42.6
Black	423.4	*	770.6	396.0	202.0	113.8	323.5	*400.0
Detroit, Mich.	190.6	956.0	519.8	173.2	65.9	63.3	73.7	78.3
White	76.3	869.6	297.5	65.7	20.8	24.1	31.5	33.9
Black	475.2	975.5	769.2	434.0	247.8	215.6	198.9	190.5
Fort Worth, Tex.	119.2	846.2	333.6	82.0	33.6	30.6	39.9	34.5
White	61.3	*625.0	194.1	46.5	15.0	17.1	15.1	-
Black	435.1	944.4	712.3	295.4	195.5	166.7	235.3	*333.3
Houston, Tex.	144.6	850.0	375.0	126.2	50.0	44.6	48.4	86.1
White	66.6	674.4	198.0	57.4	22.5	22.5	28.9	52.6
Black	411.2	1,000.0	707.4	350.4	194.2	159.2	132.8	205.9
Indianapolis, Ind.	174.3	875.0	428.7	135.3	53.8	70.3	95.2	134.3
White	87.6	684.2	263.1	61.4	21.3	41.8	65.3	58.8
Black	582.0	1,000.0	828.1	499.5	332.1	304.3	235.3	375.0
Kansas City, Mo.-Kans.	160.5	882.4	425.8	140.2	57.4	56.2	91.4	157.9
White	73.1	687.5	242.8	60.4	24.4	23.4	42.4	73.2
Black	544.5	1,000.0	801.7	498.7	305.4	273.0	340.0	375.0
Louisville, Ky.-Ind.	166.6	882.4	413.8	134.7	49.6	53.2	70.0	90.9
White	83.9	666.7	230.6	67.0	27.1	33.0	36.6	76.9
Black	544.3	1,000.0	885.5	453.2	217.0	197.5	235.3	*142.9
Memphis, Tenn.-Ark.	305.2	973.2	605.1	254.5	125.2	138.8	201.5	273.4
White	47.4	*700.0	160.8	39.6	14.5	17.5	24.4	-
Black	540.3	992.8	782.6	467.7	316.1	298.9	326.4	376.3
Miami, Fla.	194.9	879.1	525.8	182.5	80.3	70.9	74.4	95.9
White	62.4	500.0	199.3	64.9	27.9	34.0	32.4	63.3
Black	499.1	985.9	800.6	448.6	279.0	224.1	200.0	183.3

[1]Total for each area includes races other than white and black.

Table 13. Ratios of births to unmarried women by age of mother and race: 25 largest standard metropolitan statistical areas in the reporting States, 1975—Con.

[Ratios are out-of-wedlock live births per 1,000 total live births in specified group]

Area and race[1]	All ages	Age of mother						
		Under 15 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
Milwaukee, Wisc.	165.5	1,000.0	552.2	151.0	49.6	51.0	73.1	70.3
White	85.9	*	383.9	75.2	22.8	29.2	38.4	19.9
Black	576.7	1,000.0	863.2	529.6	303.8	253.8	316.3	357.1
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.	115.2	1,000.0	495.5	115.0	40.7	29.4	51.1	57.8
White	91.3	*	437.9	91.9	30.7	22.9	43.9	38.7
Black	479.2	*	796.2	445.7	265.6	164.8	190.5	*400.0
New Orleans, La.	225.7	868.4	477.6	202.8	106.2	99.2	99.8	130.7
White	55.8	*562.5	177.1	49.8	20.6	14.3	25.6	72.3
Black	424.1	918.4	663.4	375.0	263.0	237.3	196.4	209.0
Newark, N.J.	222.1	937.5	674.8	256.4	90.5	62.1	84.0	122.6
White	73.2	833.3	339.2	88.9	35.0	26.8	33.5	41.1
Black	525.2	971.4	861.5	526.2	292.1	196.0	210.5	312.5
Paterson-Clifton-Passaic, N.J.	114.0	1,000.0	491.9	128.5	41.8	40.6	45.5	37.6
White	60.0	*	286.5	70.6	26.6	23.8	38.4	32.1
Black	531.1	*	868.5	499.1	298.8	254.7	123.5	100.0
Philadelphia, Pa.-N.J.	189.5	955.6	536.7	197.1	67.1	51.8	64.0	95.1
White	69.3	809.5	268.6	69.5	26.4	22.5	30.4	56.1
Black	551.1	982.5	836.9	527.6	292.7	228.7	219.3	230.8
Phoenix, Ariz.	130.4	944.4	353.1	112.0	45.7	47.0	47.5	73.5
White	105.0	956.5	304.7	87.5	35.3	38.5	44.9	53.6
Black	481.8	*857.1	734.9	450.3	230.8	236.8	62.5	*285.7
Pittsburgh, Pa.	99.0	857.1	345.9	97.5	31.6	30.8	53.8	41.7
White	46.3	833.3	176.9	45.1	15.8	18.4	38.4	34.1
Black	502.5	*888.9	819.7	446.6	258.5	215.5	208.3	*125.0
Portland, Oreg.-Wash.	112.9	818.2	380.0	103.5	40.4	33.5	67.1	33.7
White	95.9	785.7	338.2	87.0	34.3	30.2	65.2	36.6
Black	488.9	*	798.0	426.4	282.6	181.8	*333.3	-
St. Louis, Mo.-Ill.	216.0	951.0	530.9	196.7	83.9	89.5	103.4	170.0
White	73.4	782.6	260.5	63.1	22.8	21.7	37.7	58.6
Black	612.6	1,000.0	861.0	560.9	393.2	368.1	360.9	432.7
San Antonio, Tex.	125.9	756.8	277.4	113.2	50.6	80.0	77.2	125.0
White	108.2	727.3	236.7	94.2	46.1	75.8	70.7	141.0
Black	390.3	*	656.3	379.6	152.7	195.7	210.5	-
Seattle-Everett, Wash.	114.7	785.7	397.6	117.6	54.1	37.8	44.2	40.0
White	92.1	*666.7	331.6	94.7	45.8	35.0	25.1	48.8
Black	454.6	*857.1	812.0	461.1	252.0	111.1	125.0	-
Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.	190.2	873.7	461.6	155.0	60.4	61.5	83.0	96.2
White	89.9	636.4	259.5	76.1	26.3	29.7	45.8	38.0
Black	573.4	1,000.0	830.2	489.5	298.4	245.4	256.1	333.3

[1]Total for each area includes races other than white and black.

APPENDIXES

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LIST OF APPENDIX TABLES

APPENDIX I

SOURCES OF DATA AND METHODS

Sample

Data shown in this report for 1972-76 are based on 100 percent of the birth certificates from States reporting legitimacy status and participating in the Cooperative Health Statistics System (CHSS). They are based on a 50-percent sample of births from all other reporting States. Beginning in 1972 reporting States providing data through CHSS were Florida, Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. The following States were added in subsequent years: Michigan and Colorado in 1973; Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oregon, and South Carolina in 1974; Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin in 1975; and Alabama, Kentucky, Minnesota, and West Virginia in 1976. Data for 1951-54, 1956-66, and 1968-71 are based on a 50-percent sample of births, while statistics for 1967 are based on a 20- to 50-percent sample of births. Birth data for 1955 and years prior to 1951 are based on 100 percent of the birth records.

Residence Classification

All tables included in this report are by place of residence. Births to U.S. residents occurring outside this country are not reallocated to the United States. Beginning in 1970, births to nonresidents of the United States occurring in the United States have been excluded from tabulations by place of residence. Prior to this year, births occurring in the United States to nonresident mothers were considered as births to residents of the place of occurrence.

Reporting Areas for Educational Attainment and Prenatal Care

Data on educational attainment and legitimacy status are derived from information reported by the States that require the reporting of both items on the birth record. In 1975 the following States did not have both items: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, and Washington. Data on prenatal care and legitimacy status are also based on statistics from the States that report both items on the birth certificate. The following States did not report both items in 1975: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Virginia.

Birth statistics by legitimacy status, educational attainment, and prenatal care are based only on births occurring in the areas that reported these items to residents of these areas. Thus illegitimate births occurring in New York State to residents of New Jersey, for example, are not included in tabulations of illegitimate births because New York State does not report legitimacy status.

Determination of Race of Child

Births are classified according to the race or national origin of the parents: white, black, or other. The category "white" comprises births

reported as white, Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban. The category "other races" includes American Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiian and Part-Hawaiian, Filipino, and "other" births. Since the race of the father is not stated for the majority of births to unmarried women, the race of the mother and child are identical for most of these births. Therefore, for ease and clarity in writing this report, the racial identification given to the mother is that of the child; the term "white mothers," for example, actually refers to white births.

Illegitimacy Rates by Educational Attainment

Illustrative illegitimacy rates by age of mother, educational attainment of mother, and race have been computed for this report for 1970. Since the numbers of illegitimate births by age and educational attainment of mother were not available for the United States as a whole, they were estimated by applying the known distribution of illegitimate births by educational attainment in the 33 reporting States and the District of Columbia to the estimated number of illegitimate births in the United States as a whole. This procedure was done separately by race.

The populations of unmarried women by age, educational attainment, and race (the denominators for the rates) were derived from the 1970 census report, *Marital Status.*[39]

Incomplete Residence Reporting on District of Columbia Birth Certificates

The place of residence was incompletely reported on a sizable number of District of Columbia certificates of illegitimate births for the years 1965-72. When the place-of-residence item was not complete on the birth certificate, a processing rule identified the place of residence as the place of occurrence. Consequently the number of white illegitimate births classified as District of Columbia residents was overstated. In general, these births occurred to mothers whose place of residence was given simply as Virginia or Maryland, with no county or city specified.

Standardization of Proportions of Births Illegitimate and of Illegitimacy Rates by Race According to Educational Attainment of Mother

To eliminate the effects of differences between the distributions of black and white births by educational attainment and age of mother on proportions of illegitimate births by educational attainment and race, the direct method of standardization was used. The 1975 distribution of births of all races by educational attainment and age of mother in the 33 States and the District of Columbia which reported both educational attainment and legitimacy status on the birth record was used as the standard population in this procedure. Standardization for educational attainment and age of mother was performed separately for each racial group using the following formula:

$$m_1 = \frac{\Sigma m_a P_a}{P} \times 100$$

where

m_1 = standardized percent illegitimate for given race
m_a = proportion of births illegitimate in each educational-attainment/age-of-mother group, for given race
P_a = standard population of births in each educational-attainment/age-of-mother group
P = total standard population of births

Similarly, to eliminate the effects of differences between the distributions of black and white unmarried women by educational attainment on illegitimacy rates by educational attainment and race, the direct method of standardization was used. The 1970 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 performed separately for each racial group using the following formula:

$$m_1 = \frac{\Sigma m_a P_a}{P}$$

where

m_1 = standardized illegitimacy rate for given race

m_a = illegitimacy rate in each educational-attainment/age-of-mother group for given race

P_a = standard population of unmarried women in each educational-attainment/age group

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

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APPENDIX II

POPULATION ESTIMATES

The numbers of unmarried women by color enumerated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in 1940 and 1950 have been used to compute illegitimacy rates for those years. However in each year since 1957 estimates of the population 14 years and older, classified by age, color, sex, and marital status, have been available from the Census Bureau's March Current Population Survey.[40] Since these estimates fluctuate erratically from year to year because of sampling error, they have been smoothed so that the rates computed from them do not also fluctuate.

The observed percent of unmarried women (defined as "single, widowed, and divorced") in each age and color group in each year was smoothed by computing a 3-term moving average for the years 1955-76. Since the data necessary for calculating the averages at the beginning of the period are not available by color, they had to be estimated. These estimates were made by assuming that the proportion unmarried for each age-color group in each year from 1954 to 1956 was the same as the corresponding proportion for 1957 and then adjusting these estimates by color to the observed total unmarried population in each age group in each year.

The percents of unmarried women obtained by computing a moving average were subsequently applied to estimates of the total resident population as of July 1 in the appropriate age-color groups. The total numbers of unmarried women by age for 1955-76 were estimated by summing up the figures for white women and women of all other races.

The total figures (both color groups combined) for 1951-54 were estimated by computing a 3-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.

Beginning with 1969 data, estimates of the number of unmarried black women have been prepared, and illegitimacy rates for this group are shown in this report. In addition it has been possible to refine further the age groupings for which illegitimacy rates are calculated. Thus rates are now separately available for teenage girls 15-17 and 18-19 years of age, beginning in 1966. At the other end of the age spectrum, since 1969 rates have been computed by race separately for unmarried women 35-39 and 40-44 years of age, replacing the combined grouping 35-44 years.

In this report the age-specific illegitimacy rates shown in table 1 for 1941-49 are based on Census Bureau estimates of the unmarried female population. The rates by age and color for 1940 and 1950 are based on census counts. The illegitimacy rates by age for 1951-76 and the rates by age and color or race for 1955-76 were computed using the smoothed series of population estimates described above.

The smoothed series were used in order to have a consistent series for 1951-76. The rates differ, therefore, from those published in issues of *Vital Statistics of the United States* up through 1968, which were based on population estimates provided annually by the Census Bureau.

Illegitimacy rates in this report for the years 1961-69 are based on revised estimates of the resident female population and thus may differ

from those published in *Vital Statistics of the United States,* Volume I, "Natality," for years prior to 1976. The revised population estimates of unmarried women by age and race were obtained by applying the proportions of unmarried women to the revised total resident population estimates published by the Bureau of the Census in the *Current Population Reports.*[41]

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APPENDIX III

EVALUATION OF REPORTED LEGITIMACY STATUS

The measurement of illegitimacy in the United States has depended largely on the legitimacy status item, included on the birth certificates of 38 States and the District of Columbia in 1975. The accuracy of illegitimacy statistics thus is very much dependent on the validity of the reporting of this item. In an effort to assess the quality of reporting, an independent study was conducted for a large sample of 1973 births to infer the legitimacy status of births occurring in the reporting States by comparing the surnames of the child, the father, and the mother (present and maiden). The study was carried out by Ronald Chamblee in connection with his work at NCHS and his graduate studies at North Carolina State University,[7] partly in order to compare the reported with the inferred legitimacy status for each birth.

In Chamblee's study there were four basic criteria developed for use in determining the legitimacy status of a birth:

1. If a record contained no father's name, the birth was considered illegitimate.
2. If a record contained both the father's surname and the mother's current surname, the birth was illegitimate if the names were different; it was legitimate if they were the same.
3. If a record contained the father's surname but not the mother's current surname, the birth was illegitimate if the child's and father's names were different; it was considered legitimate if they were the same.
4. If a record was missing the child's or father's surname and was thus not complete, the birth was considered to be of indeterminate status.

Records from 16 reporting areas were selected for the study. The States were chosen on the basis of the surnames shown on each State's birth certificate, the regulations concerning the name the child takes in the case of an out-of-wedlock birth, and the laws and procedures governing entry of information about the father on the birth record for an illegitimate birth. The States included in the study were representative of the various reporting and legal situations encountered in all 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia. Stratified random sampling was used to select the sample records within each State.

The study population consisted of 516,609 records, from which a sample of 167,000 records was selected. The first five letters of each of four surnames (child's, father's, mother's present, and mother's maiden) were coded on the magnetic tape containing the previously processed source records. According to the reported method, 71,241 records (13.8 percent) had been classified illegitimate and 442,789 (85.7 percent) had been classified legitimate. Legitimacy status for the remaining 2,579 records (0.5 percent) could not be determined.[e]

The distribution of the study records by reported and inferred legitimacy status is shown in table I. Using the reported method as the standard, the inferential method correctly classified 99.0 percent of the births reported as legitimate and 97.5 percent of the births reported as illegitimate. Only 0.4 percent of the reported legitimate births were classified as illegitimate by the inferential method. Of the births reported as illegitimate, 1.8 percent were

[e]In processing, NCHS recodes such records as legitimate.

Table I. Number and percent distribution of births by inferred legitimacy status, according to reported legitimacy status: sample of 15 selected States and the District of Columbia, 1973

Reported legitimacy status	Total	Inferred legitimacy status		
		Legitimate	Illegitimate	Indeterminate
Total				
Number	516,609	441,557	71,605	3,447
Percent distribution	100.0	85.5	13.9	0.7
Legitimate				
Number	442,789	438,270	1,641	2,878
Percent distribution	100.0	99.0	0.4	0.6
Illegitimate				
Number	71,241	1,296	69,476	469
Percent distribution	100.0	1.8	97.5	0.7
Indeterminate				
Number	2,579	1,991	488	100
Percent distribution	100.0	77.2	18.9	3.9

classified as legitimate. Thus on an overall basis the inferential procedure was quite successful in measuring the extent of illegitimacy.

The closest agreement between the inferential method and the reported legitimacy status occurred when the legitimacy status was inferred on the basis of the first criterion for illegitimacy—absence of the father's surname. Only 1.3 percent of the records with the father's surname missing had been reported as legitimate (table II). Furthermore, this criterion was used more frequently than any other—for 81.6 percent of the records inferred to be illegitimate. The second criterion, "father's surname differs from mother's present surname," was applicable to 14.8 percent of the records inferred to be illegitimate. The rate of difference between the two methods was rather high—7.7 percent. The third criterion, "father's surname not same as child's," was applied to only 3.5 percent of the records and the rate of difference was 2.7 percent. This criterion was infrequently used since it was only pertinent when the mother's current surname was missing from the record. Nearly all the records lacking the mother's current surname were from Pennsylvania, where the informant item often states "mother" instead of her name. The "errors" of understatement and overstatement are summarized in table III.

Chamblee tabulated his results by State, age of mother, race, live-birth order, and place of delivery. The States showing the closest agreement between the two procedures were Arizona, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia. Excessive errors of overstatement and/or understatement were observed for Alaska, Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Illinois, and Mississippi. As might be expected, agreement by age of mother was excellent through age 29 and then deteriorated at age 30 and over, when the likelihood of divorce and remarriage, and therefore more name possibilities, is greater (table IV). Agreement was relatively closer, and compensating errors proportionately fewer, for black than for white births. Although agreement by live-birth order was relatively high for all birth orders less than seven, there was a tendency for compensating errors to increase steadily from the first through the sixth birth order. Agreement was substantially lower for seventh and higher order births. Finally, the legitimacy status of births occurring in hospitals was identical for nearly all births for both procedures, and compensating errors were relatively few. There was

Table II. Number and percent distribution of births by reported legitimacy status, according to inferred legitimacy status and inferential criteria: sample of 15 selected States and the District of Columbia, 1973

Inferred legitimacy status and criterion	Total	Reported legitimacy status		
		Legitimate	Illegitimate	Indeterminate
ILLEGITIMATE				
All criteria				
Number	71,605	1,641	69,476	488
Percent distribution	100.0	2.3	97.0	0.7
Father's name missing				
Number	58,453	760	57,408	285
Percent distribution	100.0	1.3	98.2	0.5
Father's surname differs from mother's present surname				
Number	10,627	813	9,616	198
Percent distribution	100.0	7.7	90.5	1.9
Father's surname not same as child's				
Number	2,525	68	2,452	5
Percent distribution	100.0	2.7	97.1	0.2
LEGITIMATE				
All criteria				
Number	441,557	438,270	1,296	1,991
Percent distribution	100.0	99.3	0.3	0.5
Father's surname same as mother's present surname				
Number	398,042	395,229	898	1,915
Percent distribution	100.0	99.3	0.2	0.5
Father's surname same as child's				
Number	43,515	43,041	398	76
Percent distribution	100.0	98.9	0.9	0.2
INDETERMINATE				
Number	3,447	2,878	469	100
Percent distribution	100.0	83.5	13.6	2.9

relatively more disagreement for births occurring outside of hospitals.

On the basis of his findings, Chamblee listed several cautions in using the inferential method. First, the success of the method is somewhat dependent on the cancellation of "errors" of overstatement and understatement; such errors were relatively frequent. Second, the increasing trend toward permitting the father's surname to be entered on the birth record of an out-of-wedlock birth diminishes the extent to which the "father's-surname-is-missing" criterion can be used to infer legitimacy status, and it is this criterion that has had the lowest error rate. Similarly, any increase in the incidence of married women retaining their maiden names or adopting a hyphenated combined maiden-husband surname would likely be associated

Table III. Comparison between reported and inferred illegitimate births and allocation of inferential error by type of error: sample of 15 selected States and the District of Columbia, 1973

Measure	Reported illegitimate	Inferred illegitimate	Type of error					
			Overstatement			Understatement		
			Total	Reported legitimate, inferred illegitimate	Reported indeterminate, inferred illegitimate	Total	Reported illegitimate, inferred legitimate	Reported illegitimate, inferred indeterminate
Number	71,241	71,605	2,129	1,641	488	1,765	1,296	469
Percent reported illegitimate	100.0	100.5	3.0	2.3	0.7	2.5	1.8	0.7

Table IV. Comparison between reported and inferred illegitimate births by age of mother: sample of 15 selected States and the District of Columbia, 1973

Age of mother	Births reported illegitimate	Births inferred illegitimate	Births inferred illegitimate as percent of births reported illegitimate
All ages	71,241	71,605	100.5
Under 15 years	1,936	1,908	98.6
15-19 years	35,504	35,413	99.7
20-24 years	20,868	21,054	100.9
25-29 years	7,611	7,727	101.5
30-34 years	3,344	3,458	103.4
35-39 years	1,526	1,571	102.9
40-49 years	452	474	104.9

with more error. Finally, the assumption that a child is legitimate if his and his father's surnames are the same when the mother's present surname is missing is apparently valid now, but if current practices change, the assumption may no longer be valid. Other areas of concern relate to the operational application of the inferential procedure and to the effect of changes in regulations and procedures that would impinge on the success of the inferential method in the various States.

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APPENDIX IV

EVALUATION OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED WOMEN

It has long been necessary to estimate the number of births to unmarried women in the United States because not all States require the reporting of legitimacy status on the birth record. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has been concerned for some time about the validity of its national estimates,[8] particularly since several large States are not included in the legitimacy-reporting area. The usual NCHS estimation procedure has been questioned for not incorporating available inferred illegitimacy data from the nonreporting States in lieu of assuming that the reporting and nonreporting States in a given geographic division are similar with respect to proportions of out-of-wedlock births.[3] Berkov and Sklar contend that in some geographic divisions ". . .the assumed similarity between reporting and nonreporting States is open to question. . . ." (See page 360 of reference 3.)

For this report an attempt was made to evaluate the NCHS procedure for preparing national estimates of illegitimate births. The usual estimation procedure has been described in the text. The areas that report legitimacy status and on which national estimates are based are shown in table V.

The evaluation procedure described in this appendix is similar to that employed by Berkov and Sklar except that the NCHS evaluation is based only on 1975 data. NCHS obtained from each of the nonreporting States its inferred count of illegitimate births to residents by color or race.

All States were grouped by geographic division. A combined total of illegitimate births for each division was derived by summing the reported number of illegitimate births for the reporting States and the inferred number of illegitimate births for the nonreporting States. The figures for the nine divisions were summed to yield an "independent" estimate of illegitimate births. This procedure was done separately for white and all other births, and the figures by color were combined to yield the estimate for the United States.

A comparison of the usual NCHS estimate and the independent estimate is shown in table VI. In general the two methods were in remarkable overall agreement for the United States, with the independent estimate exceeding the usual estimate by only 1 percent. Agreement was very close for the East North Central, South Atlantic, and Mountain Divisions. All States in three other divisions report legitimacy status (West North Central, East South Central, and West South Central), so that no independent estimates of illegitimate births had to be made. The differences between the two methods were quite large, however, in the Pacific Division, with the independent estimate 32 percent higher than the usual estimate.

The totals by color for each method showed less overall agreement than the totals for all births. For white births the independent estimate was about 6 percent higher than the usual method, and for all other births, the independent estimate was about 3 percent lower. Thus the independent procedure resulted in a somewhat larger estimate of white illegitimate births and a slightly smaller estimate of all other illegitimate births in comparison with the usual method.

The large difference between the two methods noted for the Pacific Division is primarily due to the 43 percent difference in the

Table V. Reporting of legitimacy status on the birth certificate by area, 1976

Area	Whether or not legitimacy status reported
New England	
Maine	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes
Vermont	No
Massachusetts	No
Rhode Island	Yes
Connecticut	No
Middle Atlantic	
New York	No
New Jersey	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes
East North Central	
Ohio	No
Indiana	Yes
Illinois	Yes
Michigan	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes
West North Central	
Minnesota	Yes
Iowa	Yes
Missouri	Yes
North Dakota	Yes
South Dakota	Yes
Nebraska	Yes
Kansas	Yes
South Atlantic	
Delaware	Yes
Maryland	No
District of Columbia	Yes
Virginia	Yes
West Virginia	Yes
North Carolina	Yes
South Carolina	Yes
Georgia	No
Florida	Yes
East South Central	
Kentucky	Yes
Tennessee	Yes
Alabama	Yes
Mississippi	Yes
West South Central	
Arkansas	Yes
Louisiana	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes
Texas	Yes
Mountain	
Montana	No
Idaho	No
Wyoming	Yes
Colorado	Yes
New Mexico	No
Arizona	Yes
Utah	Yes
Nevada	No
Pacific	
Washington	Yes
Oregon	Yes
California	No
Alaska	Yes
Hawaii	Yes

estimate for white births. The only nonreporting State in this division is California, which accounted for 83 percent of all illegitimate births in the division according to the independent estimate. The usual estimation procedure does not work well in the Pacific Division because the estimate is only based on about 17 percent of the illegitimate births, and the States on which the division estimate is based are very unlike California with respect to the incidence of illegitimacy. (For further discussion of California's inferred illegitimacy statistics, see reference 42.)

The brief evaluation described here indicates that the procedures used by NCHS to make national estimates of illegitimacy, while not ideal (because they do not include direct evidence from the nonreporting States), still result in remarkably accurate estimates of illegitimate births for the United States as a whole.

Table VI. Number of out-of-wedlock births and ratios and rates of births to unmarried women by two estimation procedures, color, and geographic division: United States, 1975

Color and geographic division	Estimate of illegitimate births		Index of agreement of two methods	Illegitimacy ratio		Illegitimacy rate	
	Independent method	Usual method		Independent method	Usual method	Independent method	Usual method
Total							
United States	452,300	447,900	101.0	143.9	142.5	25.0	24.7
New England	16,000	17,300	92.5	108.1	116.9	—	—
Middle Atlantic	67,200	72,300	92.9	140.8	151.5	—	—
East North Central	89,700	90,300	99.3	147.1	148.1	—	—
West North Central	...	26,300	...	...	107.0	—	—
South Atlantic	83,500	88,400	94.5	173.1	183.3	—	—
East South Central	...	37,600	...	...	171.8	—	—
West South Central	...	50,800	...	...	140.8	—	—
Mountain	17,100	16,300	104.9	96.7	92.2	—	—
Pacific	64,000	48,700	131.4	150.7	114.6	—	—
White							
United States	198,200	186,400	106.3	77.7	73.0	13.4	12.6
New England	11,400	12,800	89.1	83.0	93.2	—	—
Middle Atlantic	27,400	27,100	101.1	70.9	70.1	—	—
East North Central	39,100	39,100	100.0	76.6	76.6	—	—
West North Central	...	15,800	...	...	70.5	—	—
South Atlantic	20,300	21,400	94.9	60.1	63.4	—	—
East South Central	...	9,300	...	...	58.5	—	—
West South Central	...	18,500	...	...	65.4	—	—
Mountain	12,200	11,500	99.1	71.2	71.8	—	—
Pacific	44,100	30,900	142.7	124.4	87.2	—	—
All other							
United States	254,100	261,600	97.1	429.1	441.7	78.1	80.4
New England	4,600	4,500	102.2	430.0	420.7	—	—
Middle Atlantic	39,800	45,200	88.1	438.7	498.3	—	—
East North Central	50,500	51,300	98.4	507.9	516.0	—	—
West North Central	...	10,500	...	...	485.5	—	—
South Atlantic	63,300	67,000	94.5	437.5	463.1	—	—
East South Central	...	28,300	...	...	471.4	—	—
West South Central	...	32,300	...	...	413.9	—	—
Mountain	4,900	4,800	102.1	295.2	289.2	—	—
Pacific	19,900	17,800	111.8	282.7	252.9	—	—

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