

Table 9. Nonmarital childbearing according to detailed race and Hispanic origin of mother, and maternal age: United States, selected years 1970–2001

[Data are based on birth certificates]

<i>Race, Hispanic origin of mother, and maternal age</i>	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Live births per 1,000 unmarried women 15–44 years of age ¹												
All races and origins	26.4	24.5	29.4	32.8	43.8	44.3	43.8	42.9	43.3	43.3	44.0	43.8
White ²	13.9	12.4	18.1	22.5	32.9	37.0	37.0	36.3	36.9	37.4	38.2	38.5
Black or African American ²	95.5	84.2	81.1	77.0	90.5	74.5	72.8	71.6	71.6	69.7	70.5	68.2
Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	20.9	21.2
Hispanic or Latino ³	---	---	---	---	89.6	88.7	86.1	83.2	82.8	84.9	87.2	87.8
White, not Hispanic or Latino	---	---	---	---	24.4	28.1	28.2	27.5	27.9	27.9	28.0	27.8
Percent of live births to unmarried mothers												
All races	10.7	14.3	18.4	22.0	28.0	32.2	32.4	32.4	32.8	33.0	33.2	33.5
White	5.5	7.1	11.2	14.7	20.4	25.3	25.7	25.8	26.3	26.8	27.1	27.7
Black or African American	37.5	49.5	56.1	61.2	66.5	69.9	69.8	69.2	69.1	68.9	68.5	68.4
American Indian or Alaska Native	22.4	32.7	39.2	46.8	53.6	57.2	58.0	58.7	59.3	58.9	58.4	59.7
Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	7.3	9.5	13.2	16.3	16.7	15.6	15.6	15.4	14.8	14.9
Chinese	3.0	1.6	2.7	3.0	5.0	7.9	9.2	6.5	6.4	6.9	7.6	8.4
Japanese	4.6	4.6	5.2	7.9	9.6	10.8	11.4	10.1	9.7	9.9	9.5	9.2
Filipino	9.1	6.9	8.6	11.4	15.9	19.5	19.4	19.5	19.7	21.1	20.3	20.4
Hawaiian	---	---	32.9	37.3	45.0	49.0	49.9	49.1	51.1	50.4	50.0	50.6
Other Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	5.4	8.5	12.6	16.2	16.5	15.6	15.2	14.5	13.8	13.7
Hispanic or Latino ³	---	---	23.6	29.5	36.7	40.8	40.7	40.9	41.6	42.2	42.7	42.5
Mexican	---	---	20.3	25.7	33.3	38.1	37.9	38.9	39.6	40.1	40.7	40.8
Puerto Rican	---	---	46.3	51.1	55.9	60.0	60.7	59.4	59.5	59.6	59.6	58.9
Cuban	---	---	10.0	16.1	18.2	23.8	24.7	24.4	24.8	26.4	27.3	27.2
Central and South American	---	---	27.1	34.9	41.2	44.1	44.1	41.8	42.0	43.7	44.7	44.3
Other and unknown Hispanic or Latino	---	---	22.4	31.1	37.2	44.0	43.5	43.6	45.3	45.8	46.2	44.2
Not Hispanic or Latino: ³												
White	---	---	9.6	12.4	16.9	21.2	21.5	21.5	21.9	22.1	22.1	22.5
Black or African American	---	---	57.3	62.1	66.7	70.0	70.0	69.4	69.3	69.1	68.7	68.6
Number of live births, in thousands												
Live births to unmarried mothers	399	448	666	828	1,165	1,254	1,260	1,257	1,294	1,309	1,347	1,349
Maternal age												
Percent distribution of live births to unmarried mothers												
Under 20 years	50.1	52.1	40.8	33.8	30.9	30.9	30.4	30.7	30.1	29.3	28.0	26.6
20–24 years	31.8	29.9	35.6	36.3	34.7	34.5	34.2	34.9	35.6	36.4	37.4	38.2
25 years and over	18.1	18.0	23.5	29.9	34.4	34.7	35.3	34.4	34.3	34.3	34.6	35.2

--- Data not available.

¹Rates computed by relating births to unmarried mothers, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women 15–44 years of age. Population data for unmarried American Indian or Alaska Native women and prior to 2000, population data for unmarried Asian or Pacific Islander women were not available for rate calculations.

²For 1970 and 1975, birth rates are by race of child.

³Prior to 1993, data from States lacking an Hispanic-origin item on the birth certificate were excluded. See Appendix II, Hispanic origin.

NOTES: National estimates for 1970 and 1975 for unmarried mothers based on births occurring in States reporting marital status of mother. Changes in reporting procedures for marital status have occurred in some states during the 1990s. Interpretation of trend data should also take into consideration expansion of reporting areas and immigration. See Appendix II, Marital status. The race groups, white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Population estimates used to compute rates for 1991–2000 differ from those used previously. Rates for 1991–99 were revised using intercensal population estimates based on Census 2000. Rates for 2000 were computed using Census 2000 counts and rates for 2001 were computed using 2000-based postcensal estimates. Data for additional years are available. See Appendix III.

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Birth File. Hamilton BE, Sutton PD, Ventura SJ. Revised birth and fertility rates for the 1990s and new rates for Hispanic populations, 2000 and 2001: United States. National vital statistics reports; vol 51, no 12. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 2003; Births: Final data for each data year 1997–2000. National vital statistics reports. Hyattsville, Maryland; Final natality statistics for each data year 1993–96. Monthly vital statistics report. Hyattsville, Maryland; Ventura SJ. Births to unmarried mothers: United States, 1980–92. Vital Health Stat 21(53). 1995.