

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

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

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

Item	May				January–May				12 months ending with May				
	Number		Rate		Number		Rate		Number		Rate		
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1997
Live births . . . . .	323,000	318,000	13.9	13.9	1,609,000	1,606,000	14.3	14.4	3,947,000	3,927,000	14.5	14.6	14.6
Fertility rate . . . . .	...	...	63.1	62.7	...	...	64.7	65.0	...	...	65.6	65.8	65.0
Deaths . . . . .	192,000	188,000	8.3	8.2	1,057,000	1,033,000	9.4	9.3	2,354,000	2,336,000	8.7	8.7	8.6
Infant deaths . . . . .	2,200	2,200	6.8	6.8	11,400	11,600	7.0	7.2	27,500	27,300	7.0	7.0	7.1
Natural increase . . . . .	131,000	130,000	5.6	5.7	552,000	573,000	4.9	5.1	1,593,000	1,591,000	5.8	5.9	6.0
Marriages . . . . .	204,000	191,000	8.8	8.3	797,000	773,000	7.4	7.2	2,279,000	2,272,000	8.4	8.5	9.1
Divorces <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4.2	4.2	4.4
Population base (in millions) . . . . .	...	...	272.4	269.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	271.5	268.8	266.3

... Category not applicable.

--- Data not available.

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

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

### Technical notes

Effective with Volume 47, Number 1, the *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* (MVSR) has been renamed the *National Vital Statistics Reports* (NVSR). The monthly issue includes **Technical notes** and two tables that show provisional vital statistics for the United States. Tables previously published in the MVSR that show provisional data by State are now available on the NCHS home page on the Internet at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh/statab/unpubd/hvstab48.htm>

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

Until 1998 provisional totals for births, marriages, and divorces for the entire United States included corrections for observed differences between provisional and final figures. These corrections served to compensate for delays in reporting. Beginning with data for January 1998, these monthly corrections for births, marriages, and divorces have been dropped. Further information on

these changes has been provided in the NVSR's presenting provisional data for January, February, and March 1999 (Volume 48, Numbers 1, 2, and 4, respectively; these reports are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/mvsr/nvsr.htm>).

Moreover, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is ceasing to publish aggregated divorce counts and rates based on provisional data from all 50 States, because it is no longer statistically feasible to supply estimates of monthly divorce counts for four nonreporting States (California, Colorado, Indiana, and Louisiana). Instead, NCHS is publishing only the 12-month divorce rates shown in [table 1](#), based solely on the combined counts and populations for the 46 reporting States and the District of Columbia. Aggregated one-month and cumulative divorce numbers and rates as well as the 12-month number have been dropped because of their very limited usefulness when based on less than the full complement of States. Monthly marriage and divorce counts as reported by the States will continue to be provided on the NCHS Internet home page cited previously.

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

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

[Data are provisional and are subject to monthly reporting variation; see Technical notes]

Period	Live births				Marriages		Deaths		Infant deaths	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years		Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births
			Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>						
<b>1998:</b>										
January . . . . .	308,000	13.5	60.8	64.0	135,000	6.2	225,000	9.8	2,400	7.4
February . . . . .	310,000	15.0	67.8	68.8	135,000	6.9	209,000	10.1	2,300	7.5
March . . . . .	332,000	14.5	65.4	66.0	155,000	7.2	219,000	9.6	2,400	7.3
April . . . . .	337,000	15.2	68.6	70.0	157,000	7.5	191,000	8.6	2,300	6.9
May . . . . .	318,000	13.9	62.7	63.3	191,000	8.3	188,000	8.2	2,200	6.8
June . . . . .	326,000	14.7	66.4	65.2	229,000	10.3	184,000	8.3	2,300	7.1
July . . . . .	357,000	15.6	70.4	68.0	239,000	10.4	187,000	8.2	2,400	6.9
August . . . . .	337,000	14.7	66.4	63.3	226,000	9.8	191,000	8.3	2,300	6.7
September . . . . .	330,000	14.8	67.1	63.7	221,000	9.9	175,000	7.9	2,300	6.9
October . . . . .	356,000	15.5	70.1	70.7	209,000	9.1	189,000	8.2	2,300	6.7
November . . . . .	311,000	14.0	63.3	65.0	186,000	8.3	178,000	8.0	2,100	6.7
December . . . . .	321,000	13.9	62.8	64.2	172,000	7.5	194,000	8.4	2,400	7.2
<b>1999:</b>										
January . . . . .	335,000	14.5	65.7	68.9	130,000	6.0	219,000	9.5	2,300	6.7
February . . . . .	303,000	14.6	65.8	67.1	141,000	7.2	208,000	10.0	2,300	7.4
March . . . . .	330,000	14.3	64.5	65.8	159,000	7.3	235,000	10.2	2,400	7.2
April . . . . .	318,000	14.2	64.4	65.6	163,000	7.8	203,000	9.1	2,300	7.1
May . . . . .	323,000	13.9	63.1	63.3	204,000	8.8	192,000	8.3	2,200	6.8

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

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of Columbia. Because monthly infant mortality rates are based on relatively few events, they are highly variable, and comparisons of monthly infant mortality rates should be interpreted cautiously.

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