Fertility of American Women: 2008

Population Characteristics

Issued November 2010

P20-563

Current Population Reports

By
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This report describes the fertility patterns of American women. It is the second report in this series, which incorporates fertility data collected in the June Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS)[1] and the American Community Survey (ACS). The large sample size of the ACS (3 million households) makes it possible to analyze fertility characteristics on a state-by-state basis.[2]

A historical perspective showing the cumulative fertility experience of women to date is first presented based on data collected in the June 2008 Supplement to the CPS. CPS fertility data are collected every 2 years from two survey questions asked of women 15 to 44 years old: (1) "How many children have you ever had?" and (2) "What is the date of birth of your last child?" Annual fertility rates derived from the CPS refer to the number of women who had a birth between July 2007 and June 2008 per 1,000 women.

The current fertility experiences of women with a birth in the last year are shown at the national and state levels based on data collected from the 2008 ACS. The ACS fertility data are from a single survey question asked of women 15 to 50 years old: "Has this person given birth to any children in the past 12 months?"

This report provides estimates of cumulative fertility, completed fertility, and current fertility by citizenship and employment status, as well as geographic differences in fertility. This report also examines new topics such as delayed fertility patterns for women with higher education and fertility rates of Hispanic women by nativity status. The CPS also collected data on cohabitation with a new question in 2008, which allows us to show fertility patterns by women in both marital and cohabitational living arrangements.

Some highlights of the report are:

There were 425,000 mothers with a birth last year living in cohabitational relationships. They made up 28 percent of births to women who were not married, who were separated, or married but with an absent spouse.

The proportion of mothers with a recent birth who were in the labor force increased from 57 percent in 2006 to 61 percent in 2008.

One-in-four mothers with a recent birth were in poverty in 2008. However, only 6 percent of new mothers received public assistance.

One quarter of all births to noncitizens were to women who lived in California (164,000).

Montana, West Virginia, and the southern tier of the states from Arizona to South Carolina all had higher than average

[1] The data in this report are from the Fertility Supplement to the June 2008 Current Population Survey (CPS) and the American Community Survey (ACS) 2008. The population represented by the CPS (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. The CPS sections of the report focus on the female population between the ages of 15 and 44. The population represented by the ACS is the household and group quarters population living in the United States or Puerto Rico. The ACS sections of the report focus on the female population 15 to 50 years old.

[2] For more details on the ACS including its sample size and questions, see <www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

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percentages of women living in poverty that had a birth in the last year.

Among states with higher than average levels of new mothers who were unemployed, the highest proportions were in Alabama (10 percent) and Michigan (9 percent), along with several states in the southeast United States.

New Hampshire (48 percent), Massachusetts and Connecticut (42 percent), and New Jersey and Maryland (39 percent) had higher than average proportions of mothers with a birth in the last year who had a bachelor's degree.

Cumulative Fertility

The first section of this report discusses data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) that illustrates the childbearing patterns of women over time and their cumulative fertility up to the time of the survey.

Table 1 shows that in June 2008 there were 61.7 million women in the principal childbearing ages of 15 to 44, and 46 percent of them were childless.[3] Levels of childlessness ranged from 94 percent for teenagers 15 to 19 years old to 18 percent among women 40 to 44 years old. Childlessness has been increasing steadily since 1976 when 35 percent of women in the childbearing ages were childless.[4] Additionally in June 2008, 17 percent of women aged 15 to 44 had one child, 21 percent had two, 11 percent had three, 4 percent had four, and 2 percent had five or more children. Hispanic mothers were more likely to have had one or more children (62 percent) compared with Black alone (59 percent), or White alone, non-Hispanic (52 percent), and Asian alone women (54 percent).[5]

Women near the end of their childbearing years, 40 to 44 years old as of June 2008, had an average of 1.9 children. In 1976, the average for women in the same age group was 3.1 children.[6] This shift in the average number of children ever born reflects the decline in the number of women having higher order births (three or more children) over the past 3 decades from 59 percent in 1976 to 28 percent in 2008 and also the increase in the proportion of women not having any births (from 10 percent in 1976 to 18 percent in 2008).

Table 2 shows that in June 2008, Hispanic women and Black women aged 40 to 44 had replacement level fertility (2.1 births per woman), while non-Hispanic White and Asian women 40 to 44 years old had fertility levels below the replacement level (1.8 births per woman).[7]

The CPS asks respondents how many children they have ever had, which allows us to study the completed fertility of women near the end of their childbearing years. Table 2 shows data on lifetime fertility of women aged 40 to 44 by selected characteristics. Childbearing levels were higher for foreign-born women than for native women (2.1 births and 1.8 births, respectively). In June 2008, women with a graduate or professional degree were ending their childbearing years with an average of 1.6 births, almost one child fewer than women who were not high school graduates (2.4 births). In addition, 22 percent of post-college graduates who were 40 to 44 years old were childless, compared with 15 percent of women that age who did not graduate high school.

In addition to providing a picture of completed fertility levels, Table 2 shows demographic, social, and economic factors related to whether women aged 40 to 44 had never married. In June 2008, 1-in-7 women in this age group were never married. Some groups with

[3] The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

[4] See Supplemental Table 1 at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html#hist>. Data for 1976 were only collected for women 18 to 44 years old.

[5] The proportion of White alone, non-Hispanic mothers with one or more children was not statistically different than Asian alone mothers.

Federal surveys now give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text, figures, and tables) shows data using the first approach (race alone). Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. All comparative statements regarding race in the text are based on the race-alone concept and, unless noted to the contrary, are also true in terms of statistical significance for the race alone-or-in-combination concept. In this report, the term "non-Hispanic White" refers to people who are not Hispanic and who reported White and no other race. The Census Bureau uses non-Hispanic Whites as the comparison group for other race groups and Hispanics. Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on the June 2008 CPS, being Hispanic was reported by 19.5 percent of White women 15 to 44 who reported only one race, 4.1 percent of Black women, 0.5 percent of Asian women, and 20.4 percent of women 15 to 44 of another race who reported only one race.

[6] See Supplemental Table 2 at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html#hist>.

[7] The fertility levels of non-Hispanic White 40 to 44 year old women were not statistically different than the fertility levels of Asian women in this age group. Further, Hispanic and Black fertility levels for this age group were not statistically different.

Table 1.

Children Ever Born Per 1,000 Women 15 to 44 Years Old by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: June 2008

(Numbers in thousands. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsjun08.pdf*)

Characteristic	Number of women	Children ever born per 1,000 women	Margin of error[1]	First birth in the last 12 months per 1,000 women	Percent distribution of women by number of children ever born						
					Total	None	One child	Two children	Three children	Four children	Five or more children
AGE											
Total	**61,692**	**1,164**	**12**	**25.3**	**100.0**	**45.7**	**17.0**	**21.1**	**10.6**	**3.9**	**1.8**
15 to 19 years	10,405	90	5	23.1	100.0	93.7	4.4	1.4	0.4	0.1	–
20 to 24 years	10,156	460	14	46.8	100.0	70.6	17.4	8.5	2.5	0.7	0.2
25 to 29 years	10,362	1,027	25	42.7	100.0	46.2	22.2	19.5	8.3	2.9	0.9
30 to 34 years	9,618	1,601	38	27.6	100.0	26.8	21.4	28.5	15.4	5.6	2.3
35 to 39 years	10,403	1,898	42	9.5	100.0	19.4	18.4	32.2	18.7	7.7	3.6
40 to 44 years	10,748	1,901	42	3.5	100.0	17.8	18.4	36.2	17.8	6.1	3.7
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN											
White alone	**47,616**	**1,138**	**13**	**24.8**	**100.0**	**46.4**	**16.3**	**21.8**	**10.4**	**3.7**	**1.4**
15 to 19 years	7,924	84	5	18.7	100.0	94.4	3.6	1.5	0.4	0.1	–
20 to 24 years	7,840	421	14	45.5	100.0	72.6	16.2	8.4	2.2	0.5	0.1
25 to 29 years	7,977	975	27	43.6	100.0	48.0	21.8	19.2	7.7	2.9	0.5
30 to 34 years	7,362	1,569	43	30.4	100.0	27.0	21.2	29.6	15.1	5.3	1.8
35 to 39 years	8,050	1,876	48	9.3	100.0	19.5	17.5	33.9	18.5	7.6	3.0
40 to 44 years	8,462	1,867	46	3.7	100.0	18.0	17.8	37.5	17.9	5.8	3.0
White alone, non-Hispanic	**37,846**	**1,065**	**14**	**24.4**	**100.0**	**48.5**	**16.0**	**21.9**	**9.4**	**3.1**	**1.1**
15 to 19 years	6,206	66	5	15.6	100.0	95.5	2.8	1.3	0.2	0.1	–
20 to 24 years	6,266	337	14	42.1	100.0	77.3	14.1	6.8	1.4	0.5	–
25 to 29 years	6,251	857	28	45.6	100.0	52.8	21.0	17.1	6.6	2.0	0.5
30 to 34 years	5,655	1,459	46	33.4	100.0	29.6	21.8	29.4	13.3	4.5	1.3
35 to 39 years	6,438	1,786	51	10.1	100.0	21.1	18.1	34.9	16.9	6.6	2.4
40 to 44 years	7,029	1,806	49	3.6	100.0	17.9	18.5	39.6	16.9	4.8	2.3
Black alone	**8,940**	**1,341**	**34**	**28.9**	**100.0**	**41.4**	**19.9**	**17.6**	**12.5**	**5.0**	**3.7**
15 to 19 years	1,663	122	14	46.4	100.0	90.2	8.2	1.0	0.4	0.2	–
20 to 24 years	1,529	714	49	65.2	100.0	56.5	25.9	10.8	3.7	2.3	0.7
25 to 29 years	1,511	1,398	85	30.4	100.0	32.6	25.1	23.0	13.1	3.2	2.9
30 to 34 years	1,350	1,886	117	12.6	100.0	23.9	19.4	25.2	18.5	7.9	5.1
35 to 39 years	1,426	2,093	125	10.0	100.0	17.7	20.9	22.3	22.7	9.8	6.6
40 to 44 years	1,461	2,088	123	2.8	100.0	18.0	21.3	26.5	19.3	7.5	7.4
Asian alone	**3,276**	**1,054**	**45**	**24.5**	**100.0**	**46.1**	**19.4**	**23.2**	**7.1**	**3.1**	**1.0**
15 to 19 years	403	66	20	9.4	100.0	95.7	2.0	2.3	–	–	–
20 to 24 years	457	230	40	21.6	100.0	86.6	7.3	2.5	3.6	–	–
25 to 29 years	542	579	69	60.3	100.0	63.3	19.5	14.4	1.6	1.1	0.1
30 to 34 years	629	1,315	125	38.3	100.0	28.4	31.1	26.7	8.9	4.0	0.8
35 to 39 years	644	1,658	151	13.1	100.0	20.3	24.3	36.8	11.5	4.4	2.8
40 to 44 years	601	1,849	172	2.0	100.0	12.6	22.9	42.4	13.2	7.2	1.7
Hispanic (any race)	**10,586**	**1,422**	**33**	**26.1**	**100.0**	**38.1**	**17.5**	**21.4**	**14.2**	**6.0**	**2.8**
15 to 19 years	1,864	161	16	29.8	100.0	89.5	6.7	2.5	1.1	0.2	0.1
20 to 24 years	1,728	742	47	58.1	100.0	54.4	24.7	14.8	5.0	0.5	0.6
25 to 29 years	1,866	1,383	76	36.1	100.0	30.9	25.2	25.7	11.9	5.7	0.7
30 to 34 years	1,841	1,956	103	19.6	100.0	18.4	19.1	29.3	21.0	8.5	3.7
35 to 39 years	1,739	2,246	120	6.8	100.0	12.9	15.7	29.3	25.3	11.3	5.5
40 to 44 years	1,549	2,188	124	3.7	100.0	18.9	13.7	27.9	22.1	10.4	7.1

– Represents or rounds to zero.

[1] This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2008.

Table 2.

Completed Fertility for Women 40 to 44 Years Old by Selected Characteristics: June 2008

(Numbers in thousands. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsjun08.pdf*)

Characteristic	Total	Percent never married	Percent childless	Children ever born per 1,000 women
Total women 40 to 44	**10,748**	**13.5**	**17.8**	**1,901**
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN				
White alone	8,462	10.8	18.0	1,867
White alone, non-Hispanic	7,029	10.1	17.9	1,806
Black alone	1,461	28.9	18.0	2,088
Asian alone	601	8.1	12.6	1,849
Other race	224	28.1	21.2	2,118
Hispanic (any race)	1,549	15.4	18.9	2,188
NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP				
Native	8,767	14.0	18.6	1,849
Foreign born	1,981	11.0	13.9	2,131
Naturalized citizen	936	9.7	13.6	2,119
Not a citizen	1,045	12.1	14.2	2,142
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT				
Not a high school graduate	1,095	21.2	15.0	2,452
High school, 4 years	3,132	14.0	14.7	1,970
College, 1 or more years	6,521	11.9	19.7	1,776
Some college, no degree	1,924	13.3	16.7	1,870
Associate's degree	1,183	9.4	17.0	1,921
Bachelor's degree	2,308	13.1	22.8	1,704
Graduate or professional degree	1,105	9.8	21.5	1,606
LABOR FORCE STATUS				
In labor force	8,314	13.5	18.5	1,843
Employed	7,986	13.3	18.6	1,831
Unemployed	328	17.7	16.6	2,130
Not in labor force	2,434	13.5	15.2	2,099
ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME[1]				
Under $20,000	1,008	28.8	16.9	2,207
$20,000 to $29,999	1,143	20.7	19.9	2,008
$30,000 to $49,999	1,134	15.8	20.8	1,798
$50,000 to $74,999	1,843	12.7	18.5	1,830
$75,000 to $99,999	1,413	6.5	16.9	1,920
$100,000 and over	2,326	4.7	14.8	1,836
Not ascertained	1,882	16.4	18.8	1,869
REGION OF RESIDENCE[2]				
Northeast	2,096	14.1	17.9	1,799
Midwest	2,179	12.9	17.3	1,973
South	3,945	13.1	17.1	1,900
West	2,528	14.1	19.1	1,926

[1] Family income is asked of all respondents regardless of living arrangements. For people living alone, the income data are for these individuals. For other people living in nonfamily households (i.e., households with no members who are related to the householder), it is presumed that the respondent listed only his or her own income.

[2] Region is defined as the four groupings of states (Northeast, South, Midwest, and West) established by the Census Bureau in 1942 for the presentation of census data. Northeast Region: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. South Region: Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. Midwest Region: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. West Region: Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2008.

above average proportions never being married were Black women (29 percent), women who had less than a high school education (21 percent), women who had a family income of less than $20,000 (29 percent), and women who had an income between $20,000 and $29,999 (21 percent). Even though these populations all have an above average proportion who were never married, they all have above average rates of children ever born. Groups that had 10 percent or lower proportions of women 40 to 44 years old and never married included: Asian women, women with a graduate or professional degree or an associate's degree, women with annual family incomes of $75,000 or more, and those foreign born women who had become naturalized citizens.

NATIONAL LEVEL ESTIMATES

Current Fertility

Current fertility rates are based on the number of women reporting a birth in the previous 12 months per 1,000 women in the specified group and provide a picture of recent childbearing experiences among different populations. According to the American Community Survey (ACS), in 2008 there were 4.4 million women between the ages of 15 and 50 who had a birth in the past 12 months (Table 3).[8] The fertility levels measured by the ACS from 2000 to 2008 ranged from an overall high of 59 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 50 in 2000 to the lowest level of 54 births per 1,000 in 2003.[9] The fertility rate in 2008 was 58 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 50.

Standardizing for differences in the number of women in different age groups, the total fertility rate for women in 2008 was 2,182 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 50. This number indicates the projected number of births per 1,000 women at the end of their childbearing years if they were to have children throughout their lifetime at the rates prevailing in 2008.[10]

The teen fertility rate for 2008 was 29 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19, significantly lower than the fertility rate in 2000 of 41 births per 1,000 women but up from 26 per 1,000 in 2006.[11, 12] In 2008, the peak childbearing age for women was 25 to 29 years old with a rate of 122 births per 1,000 women.

The first birth is an important indicator of when and under what circumstances women tend to begin childbearing. The average age of first birth has increased 3.6 years between 1970 and 2006.[13] In many cases, women delay childbearing because they want to finish their education or develop their career.[14] For this measure, the CPS data for 2008 can be used to measure differences in first birth rates (the ACS does not collect information on birth order). In June 2008, the highest levels of first birth rates (shown in Table 1) were for women in the 20 to 24 year age group (47 first births per 1,000 women), followed closely by the 25 to 29 year age group (43 first births per 1,000 women). Neither the 20- to 24-year-olds nor the 25- to 29-year-olds recorded levels of fertility different from those in 2000. First births among 30 to 34 and 35 to 39 year old women in 2008 were also not different from their 2000 levels of 28 births per 1,000 and 10 births per 1,000, respectively. Only for teenagers did the first birth rate decline from 39 births per 1,000 women in 2000 to 23 births per 1,000 women in June 2008.[15]

Marital Status and Cohabitation

The birth rate for unmarried women continued to climb through the last decade.[16] One contributing factor is that many people are choosing to live together either as a trial marriage or as a precursor for marriage—even after the birth of a child—and postpone marriage until they are more

[8] The preliminary number of births in calendar year 2008 from the National Center for Health Statistics is 4.3 million. Hamilton, B.E., J.A. Martin, S.J. Ventura, Births: Preliminary data for 2008, *National Vital Statistics Reports,* Vol. 58, No. 16, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2010.

[9] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American FactFinder 2002–2008 Data Profiles, and Census 2000 Supplementary Survey (C2SS) Detailed Tables.

[10] This rate is computed from Table 3 by summing the births in the last year per 1,000 women in age groups 15 to 19 through 45 to 50 and multiplying that summation by 5 representing the number of years in each age group, with the exception of the final age group which contains 6 years.

[11] Ibid.

[12] A recent report from the National Center for Health Statistics also shows an increase in the teen birth rate between 2006 and 2007. Hamilton, B.E., J.A. Martin, S.J. Ventura, Births: Preliminary data for 2007, *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Web release, Vol. 58, No. 16, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, released March 18, 2009.

[13] Mathews, T.J. and B.E. Hamilton, "Delayed Childbearing: More Women Are Having Their First Child Later in Life," NCHS Data Brief, No. 21, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, August 2009.

[14] Mathews, T.J. and B.E. Hamilton, "Mean Age of Mother, 1970–2000," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 51, No. 1, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2002.

[15] Bachu, A. and M. O'Connell, "Fertility of American Women: June 2000," Current Population Reports, P20-543RV, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2001.

[16] Ventura, S.J., "Changing Patterns of Nonmarital Childbearing in the United States," NCHS Data Brief, No. 18, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, May 2009.

Table 3.

Women Who Had a Birth in the Last 12 Months Per 1,000 Women 15 to 50 Years Old by Selected Characteristics: 2008

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf*)

Characteristic	Number of women		Women who had a birth in the last 12 months					
			Total		Percent distribution		Births per 1,000 women	
	Estimate	Margin of error[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[1]
Total	**75,960,920**	**33,035**	**4,436,577**	**37,287**	**100.0**	**–**	**58.4**	**0.5**
AGE								
15 to 19 years	10,671,352	32,331	304,265	9,439	6.9	0.2	28.5	0.9
20 to 24 years	10,199,416	27,600	972,851	17,302	21.9	0.3	95.4	1.7
25 to 29 years	10,213,106	17,973	1,243,596	18,936	28.0	0.3	121.8	1.9
30 to 34 years	9,574,861	15,734	1,028,208	16,657	23.2	0.3	107.4	1.7
35 to 39 years	10,452,497	40,243	602,342	12,221	13.6	0.3	57.6	1.1
40 to 44 years	10,865,786	41,209	194,107	7,092	4.4	0.2	17.9	0.7
45 to 50 years	13,983,902	25,715	91,208	4,193	2.1	0.1	6.5	0.3
MARITAL STATUS								
Married	34,260,808	102,123	2,812,377	28,727	63.4	0.4	82.1	0.8
Widowed	674,977	14,629	14,615	1,986	0.3	–	21.7	2.9
Divorced	7,187,460	47,950	187,968	8,519	4.2	0.2	26.2	1.2
Separated	2,164,981	31,299	103,106	5,363	2.3	0.1	47.6	2.5
Never married	31,672,694	80,013	1,318,511	22,474	29.7	0.4	41.6	0.7
NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP								
Native	64,247,198	52,990	3,541,265	32,647	79.8	0.3	55.1	0.5
Foreign born	11,713,722	48,519	895,312	16,165	20.2	0.3	76.4	1.4
Naturalized citizen	4,392,936	35,371	240,921	9,036	5.4	0.2	54.8	2.0
Not a citizen	7,320,786	43,387	654,391	14,325	14.7	0.3	89.4	1.9
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN								
White alone	55,129,675	41,378	3,068,096	32,622	69.2	0.4	55.7	0.6
White alone, non-Hispanic	47,641,962	25,754	2,484,227	28,788	56.0	0.4	52.1	0.6
Black alone	10,515,312	25,223	645,389	13,428	14.5	0.3	61.4	1.3
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	662,866	11,536	48,330	3,326	1.1	0.1	72.9	5.0
Asian alone	3,875,103	13,199	242,703	8,029	5.5	0.2	62.6	2.1
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	126,619	4,417	8,303	1,512	0.2	–	65.6	11.9
Some other race alone	4,078,509	33,112	326,593	9,901	7.4	0.2	80.1	2.3
Two or more races	1,572,836	24,224	97,163	4,983	2.2	0.1	61.8	3.0
Hispanic (any race)	12,172,896	13,563	953,713	15,725	21.5	0.3	78.3	1.3
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT								
Not a high school graduate	14,207,085	61,452	789,023	16,414	17.8	0.4	55.5	1.1
High school, 4 years	17,621,227	77,897	1,065,040	18,602	24.0	0.4	60.4	1.1
Some college or associate's degree	25,101,898	74,602	1,372,449	19,962	30.9	0.3	54.7	0.8
Bachelor's degree	13,262,168	58,271	803,443	16,820	18.1	0.3	60.6	1.2
Graduate or professional degree	5,768,542	39,034	406,622	9,307	9.2	0.2	70.5	1.5
LABOR FORCE[2]								
In labor force	54,041,337	64,973	2,723,547	29,278	61.6	0.4	50.4	0.5
Employed	50,254,468	68,312	2,447,573	27,340	55.3	0.4	48.7	0.5
Unemployed	3,786,869	31,622	275,974	9,928	6.2	0.2	72.9	2.6
Not in labor force	19,875,290	63,170	1,701,261	21,999	38.4	0.4	85.6	1.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3.

Women Who Had a Birth in the Last 12 Months Per 1,000 Women 15 to 50 Years Old by Selected Characteristics: 2008—Con.

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf*)

Characteristic	Number of women		Women who had a birth in the last 12 months					
			Total		Percent distribution		Births per 1,000 women	
	Estimate	Margin of error[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[1]
ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME								
Less than $10,000	15,778,007	76,399	531,142	13,290	12.0	0.3	33.7	0.8
$10,000 to $14,999	2,048,325	27,077	212,572	8,195	4.8	0.2	103.8	4.0
$15,000 to $24,999	4,954,654	52,183	425,949	11,110	9.6	0.2	86.0	2.2
$25,000 to $34,999	5,337,782	52,752	428,369	11,989	9.7	0.3	80.3	2.3
$35,000 to $49,999	8,010,161	54,696	579,511	14,047	13.1	0.3	72.3	1.7
$50,000 to $74,999	12,500,603	65,578	805,523	16,358	18.2	0.3	64.4	1.3
$75,000 to $99,999	9,661,210	62,645	554,113	13,150	12.5	0.3	57.4	1.3
$100,000 to $149,999	10,435,342	62,196	541,047	11,671	12.2	0.3	51.8	1.1
$150,000 to $199,999	3,783,696	38,695	186,434	7,417	4.2	0.2	49.3	1.8
$200,000 and over	3,451,140	36,305	171,917	6,684	3.9	0.1	49.8	1.9
POVERTY STATUS[3]								
Below 100 percent of poverty in the past 12 months	11,402,493	82,679	1,097,557	18,554	24.8	0.4	96.3	1.6
100 percent to 199 percent of poverty in the past 12 months	12,967,273	76,189	943,576	18,267	21.4	0.3	72.2	1.4
200 percent or more above poverty in the past 12 months	49,999,638	108,004	2,377,579	23,928	53.8	0.4	47.7	0.5
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE								
Receiving public assistance	1,675,556	23,611	268,770	7,615	6.1	0.2	160.4	4.3
Not receiving public assistance	74,285,364	40,395	4,167,807	36,285	93.9	0.2	56.1	0.5

– Represents or rounds to zero.

[1] This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

[2] Labor force data is only shown for the population 16 years old and over for which labor force status is determined. Excluded are the 11,769 women 15 years of age.

[3] Data is only shown for women for whom poverty status is determined.

Note: Births per 1,000 shows the likelihood that a given group of women will have a birth.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008 (Table S1301 and special tabulations).

finanially secure.[17] To estimate this population, the June 2008 CPS has available a direct question about cohabitation that was first added to the CPS in January 2007.[18] Of the 4 million women 15 to 44 years old who had a birth in the last year, 1.5 million (38 percent) were to women who were not married, who were separated, or married but with an absent spouse. Of those 1.5 million mothers, 425,000 (28 percent) were living with a cohabiting partner.[19]

Research has found a relationship between educational attainment and the likelihood of marriage, which can influence the living arrangements of mothers at the time of their child's birth.[20] Figure 1 uses CPS data and shows the living arrangements of women with a birth in the last year by their age and educational attainment. For the age group under 30 years old, the proportion of mothers who are married, spouse present, increases with increasing educational attainment. For example, the proportion of mothers under age 30 who are married is 30 percent for women with less than a high

[17] Cherlin, A., "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage," *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, Vol. 66 (Nov. 2004), pp. 848–861. Edin, K., M.J. Kefala, and J.M. Reed, "A Peek Inside the Black Box: What Marriage Means for Poor Unmarried Parents," *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, Vol. 66 (Nov. 2004), pp. 1007–1014.

[18] See "NOTE: Improvements to data collection about families in CPS 2007"; <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam/improvements-07.pdf>.

[19] These estimates are based on the author's tabulations and will not be found in the tables provided. Of the 425,000 women living with an unmarried partner, 78,000 were included because of the additional question in the survey.

[20] Joshi, P., J.M. Quane, and A.J. Cherlin, "Contemporary Work and Family Issues Affecting Marriage and Cohabitation Among Low-Income Single Mothers," *Family Relations,* Vol. 58 (Dec. 2009), pp. 647–661.

school education compared with 82 percent for women with at least a bachelor's degree.

The data also indicate that for high school graduates and those with some college, cohabiting with an unmarried partner is more likely to occur among younger mothers. These data present a static portrait of mothers with newborns, and as such, one may expect future transitions to different living arrangements as these women age and potentially further their education and get married.

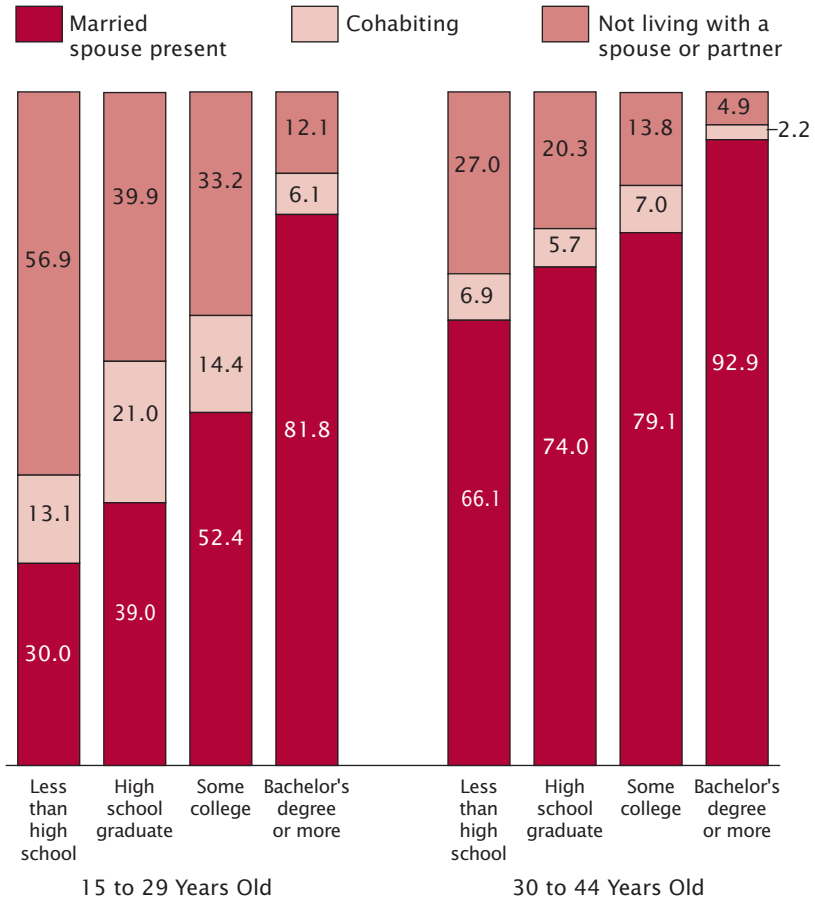
Nativity, Citizenship Status, Race and Hispanic Origin

Population growth in the United States is accomplished through immigration and fertility. The Hispanic population continues to be the fastest-growing population in the United States, through immigration and fertility.[21] Furthermore, citizenship status is an important characteristic to incorporate in any analysis of foreign-born mothers as it may act as a hindrance to receiving public assistance.[22] In this section, fertility indicators are presented in terms of nativity, citizenship status, race, and Hispanic origin.

Based on ACS data in 2008, among all women 15 to 50 years old living in the United States with a birth in the last year, approximately 895,000 (20 percent) were born in another country (Table 3). Three-fourths of foreign-born mothers were not citizens of the United States (15 percent of all women with a birth in the last 12 months).

Figure 1.

Proportion of Mothers 15 to 44 Years Old With a Birth in the Last Year in Different Living Arrangements by Educational Attainment and Age: June 2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2008. See detailed Table 8 at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>.

Overall, foreign-born women had birth rates of 76 births per 1,000 women, 21 births per 1,000 higher than that of native women (55 births per 1,000 women).[23]

Fertility levels of women also differ by racial and ethnic backgrounds (Table 3). The lowest fertility rate was for non-Hispanic White women in 2008 (52 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 50). The rate for American Indian and Alaska Native women was among the highest (73 births per 1,000 women), followed by Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders (66 births per 1,000 women), Black women (61 births per 1,000 women), and Asian women (63 births per 1,000 women).[24]

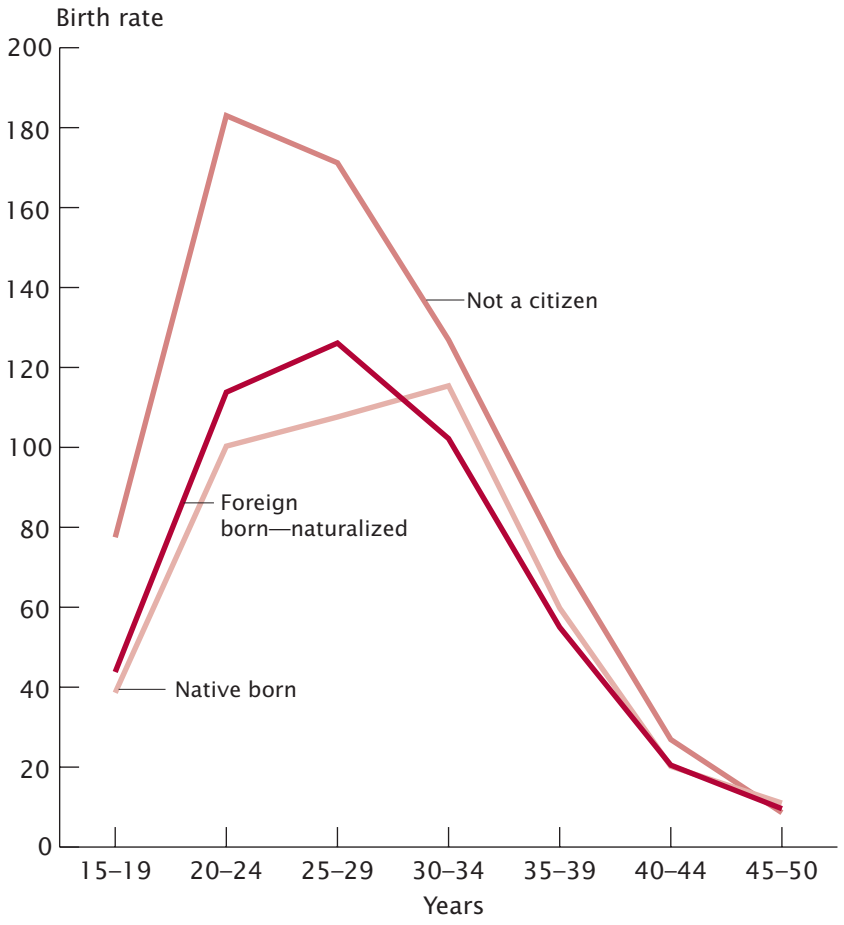
[21] U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 National Population Projections, Washington DC, Internet release August 14, 2008, see <www.census.gov/population/www/projections/2008projections.html>.

[22] Francisco, V., "Mothers without Citizenship: Asian Immigrant Families and the Consequences of Welfare Reform," *Critical Sociology* (Sage Publications, Ltd.), 35(6), (2009), 899–902. Retrieved from Academic Search Complete database.

[23] More than 20 years ago in the June 1986 Current Population Survey (CPS), fertility information was collected for women 18 to 44 years old by nativity status. Birth rates were also higher for foreign-born women in 1986 (99 births per 1,000) than native women (68 per 1,000) while the number of births in 1986 to foreign-born women comprised 12 percent of all births. Bachu, A., *Fertility of American Women: June 1986*, Current Population Reports, P20-421, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC, 1987, Table H.

[24] Fertility rates for Black, Asian, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders are not significantly different.

Figure 2.
Births in the Last 12 Months Per 1,000 Hispanic Women by Age and Citizenship Status: 2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008. See detailed Table 9 at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>.

Figure 2 shows more age-specific detail for Hispanic women by their nativity status. Hispanic women who were foreign born and were not citizens had higher fertility rates than their native or naturalized counterparts at every age except 45 to 50 years. Hispanic women who became naturalized citizens may have postponed their childbearing until they were 30 to 34 years old, accounting for their relatively low levels of fertility at ages 20 to 24 and ages 25 to 29, compared with Hispanics who were not citizens. When shown by age groups, Hispanic women who were native to the United States had fertility levels that were not statistically different from that of naturalized Hispanic women, except for the 25 to 29 year age group.[25]

Educational Attainment

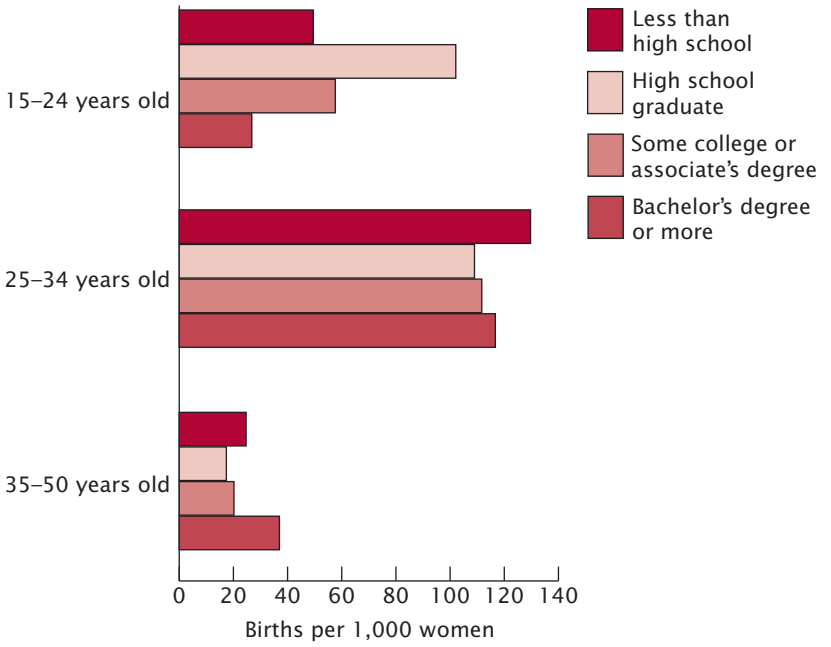
As economic opportunity cost models suggest, women's fertility decisions and educational attainment are interrelated. Furthermore, educational attainment is a good indicator of future economic success.[26] Based on the ACS, 18 percent of women with a birth in the last year had not completed their high school education (Table 3). Twenty-four percent had a high school diploma, and 58 percent had one or more years of college.

In a previous section, we showed that the average number of children ever born by women aged 40 to 44 was higher for women with a high school education than women with at least a bachelor's degree (Table 2). However, annual fertility rates often are affected by temporal delays in childbearing at younger ages and are higher at older ages, especially if the delays are due to postponement in childbearing due to enrollment in college. Figure 3 shows that among the youngest group of women 15 to 24 years old, birth rates are about 4 times greater for high school graduates (102 per 1,000 women) compared with those who have continued their schooling beyond high school and have at least a bachelor's degree (27 per 1,000 women). For the next oldest age group, 25 to 34 years old, birth rates for high school graduates were lower than the birth rates for those with a bachelor's degree (109 births per 1,000 women and 117 births per 1,000 women, respectively). However, for the oldest age group, 35 to 50 years old, women who had at least a bachelor's degree had fertility rates twice as high (37 births per 1,000 women) as those with a high school education (17 per 1,000 women). This suggests that lower fertility at younger ages for women who have continued their education into their twenties may be reflected in higher rates at

[25] Detailed Table 9, see <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>. Click on Detailed Tables.

[26] Crissey, S., *Educational Attainment in the United States: 2007*, Current Population Reports, P20-560, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC, 2009.

Figure 3.
Births in the Last Year Per 1,000 Women 15 to 50 Years Old by Educational Attainment and Age: 2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008. See detailed Table 10 at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>.

older ages once their educational curriculum has been completed.

Economic Profile of Recent Mothers

The current recession started in December 2007 according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.[27] In 2008, more than half (61 percent) of women with a birth in the past year were in the labor force (Table 3), up from 57 percent in 2006.[28] Fertility rates for women not in the labor force (86 births per 1,000 women) were considerably higher than those of employed women (49 births per 1,000), which is to be expected as the majority of women were still out of the labor force by the third month after the birth of their child.[29] Aside from women with family incomes of less than $10,000 in the past year, lower fertility rates were generally found among women with higher levels of family income. Women with a family income of $10,000 to $14,999 in the past year had a fertility rate of 104 births per 1,000, twice as high as women with family incomes of $100,000 or more who had a fertility rate of around 50 births per 1,000.[30]

Twenty-five percent of women with a birth in the last year were living in poverty. The fertility rate for women with a family income at or below poverty level was 96 births per 1,000—higher than the fertility rate of those with incomes at 100 to 199 percent above poverty (72 births per 1,000) and twice as high as those with incomes at 200 percent above poverty (48 births per 1,000). About 6 percent of women with a birth in the last year were receiving public assistance. Women receiving assistance were also more likely to have had a birth (160 births per 1,000) compared with women not receiving public assistance (56 births per 1,000).

STATE LEVEL ESTIMATES

Geographic Comparisons

Because of its large sample size, the American Community Survey (ACS) offers the opportunity to examine how diverse fertility patterns are at the state level. This provides an important profile of mothers who had a child in the last year, which can assist state agencies in providing maternal care services to mother and child.[31]

[27] See <www.nber.org>.

[28] Dye, J.L., *Fertility of American Women: 2006,* Current Population Reports, P20-558, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC, 2008.

[29] Johnson, T., *Maternity Leave and Employment Patterns of First-Time Mothers: 1961–2003*, Current Population Reports, P70-113, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC, 2008, Table 8.

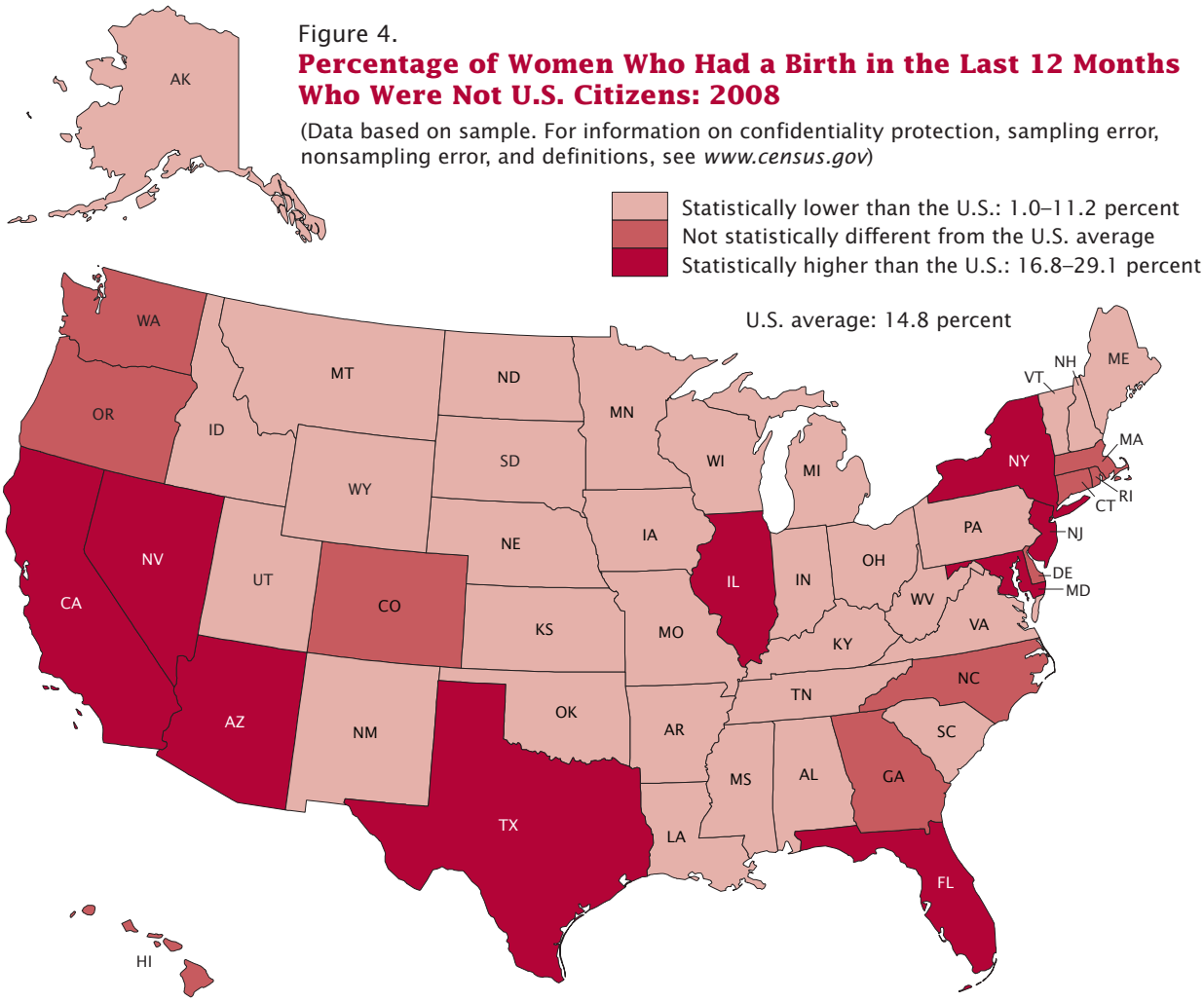
[30] Women with low incomes may include women who are in college or are very young who would generally have lower fertility.

[31] Detailed Tables 11 and 12 accompanying this report on the Internet present all of the state level fertility measures cited in this section and in the maps, see <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>.

Figure 4.

Percentage of Women Who Had a Birth in the Last 12 Months Who Were Not U.S. Citizens: 2008

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008.

Citizenship

Federal law restricts access to some public benefits for noncitizens.[32] Overall, 20 percent of all births to mothers in 2008 were to foreign-born women.[33] Fifteen percent (654,000 births) were to women who were not citizens, and 5 percent were to naturalized citizens.[34] Figure 4 shows a map of the United States, highlighting states where women with a birth in the last year were not U.S. citizens. The states where more than 1-in-5 mothers with a recent birth were noncitizens were California (29 percent), Nevada (26 percent), Arizona (23 percent), and New Jersey and Texas (21 percent). One quarter of all births to noncitizens were to women who lived in California (164,000). In 13 states, less than 5 percent of mothers with a recent birth were not citizens.

Poverty and Unemployment

It is well established that family poverty is associated with myriad problems for children's development and well-being.[35] The likelihood of being in poverty

[32] U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Sponsored Noncitizens and Public Benefits*, GAO-09-375, Washington DC, Government Printing Office, May 2009, see <www.gao.gov/new.items/d09375.pdf>.

[33] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American FactFinder 2008 Fertility Subject Table (Table S1301).

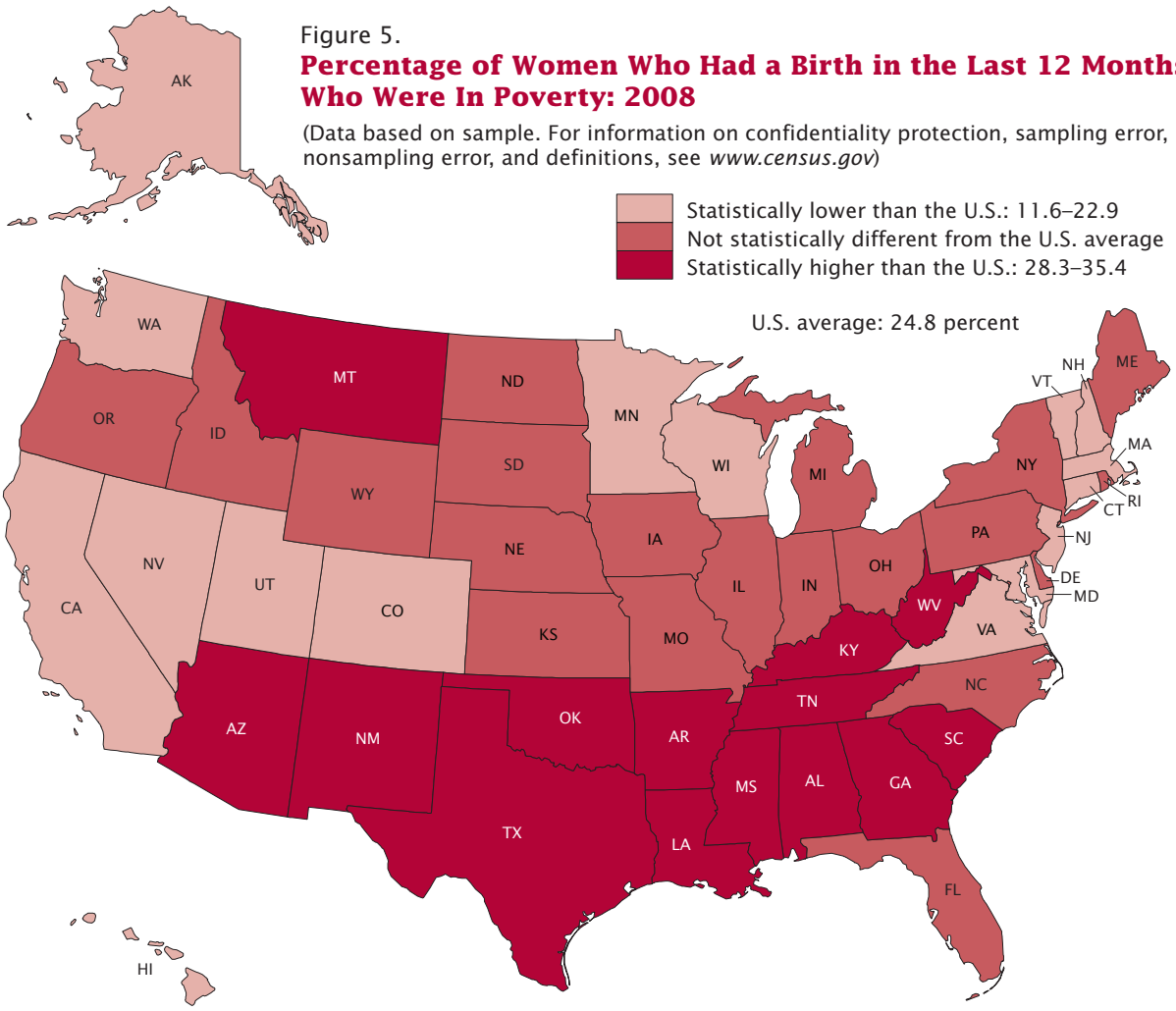
[34] Calculations based on Table 3.

[35] Duncan, G.J., W.J. Yeung, J. Brooks-Gunn, J.R. Smith, "How Much Does Childhood Poverty Affect the Life Chances of Children?" *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 63, No. 3 (June 1998), pp. 406–423. R.L. Wagmiller, Jr., M.C. Lennon, L. Kuang, P.M. Alberti, J.L. Aber, "The Dynamics of Economic Disadvantage and Children's Life Chances," *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 71, No. 5 (Oct. 2006), pp. 847–866.

Figure 5.

Percentage of Women Who Had a Birth in the Last 12 Months Who Were In Poverty: 2008

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008.

is higher for families with young children,[36] putting these children at risk of adverse effects. Figure 5 maps the percentage of women with a birth in the last year who had a family income below the poverty threshold. Montana, West Virginia, and the southern tier of the states from Arizona to South Carolina all had higher than average percentages of women with a birth in the last year living in poverty compared with the national level of 25 percent. In contrast, in New Hampshire, 12 percent of women with a birth in the last year were in poverty. In Maryland and Utah, about 15 percent of women with a recent birth were in poverty.

Another measure of family economic stress is the level of unemployment for those mothers with newborns. In 2008, 6 percent of mothers with a recent birth were looking for a job. Figure 6 shows that among states with above average levels of new mothers who were unemployed, the highest proportions were found in Alabama (10 percent) and Michigan (9 percent), along with several states in the southeast United States. Places with levels lower than the U.S. average included Hawaii (1 percent), Vermont, Utah, and Idaho (3 percent).

Educational Attainment

Research suggests that a mother's educational attainment has a powerful effect on the life outcomes of her children.[37] On average, 27 percent of mothers with a recent birth

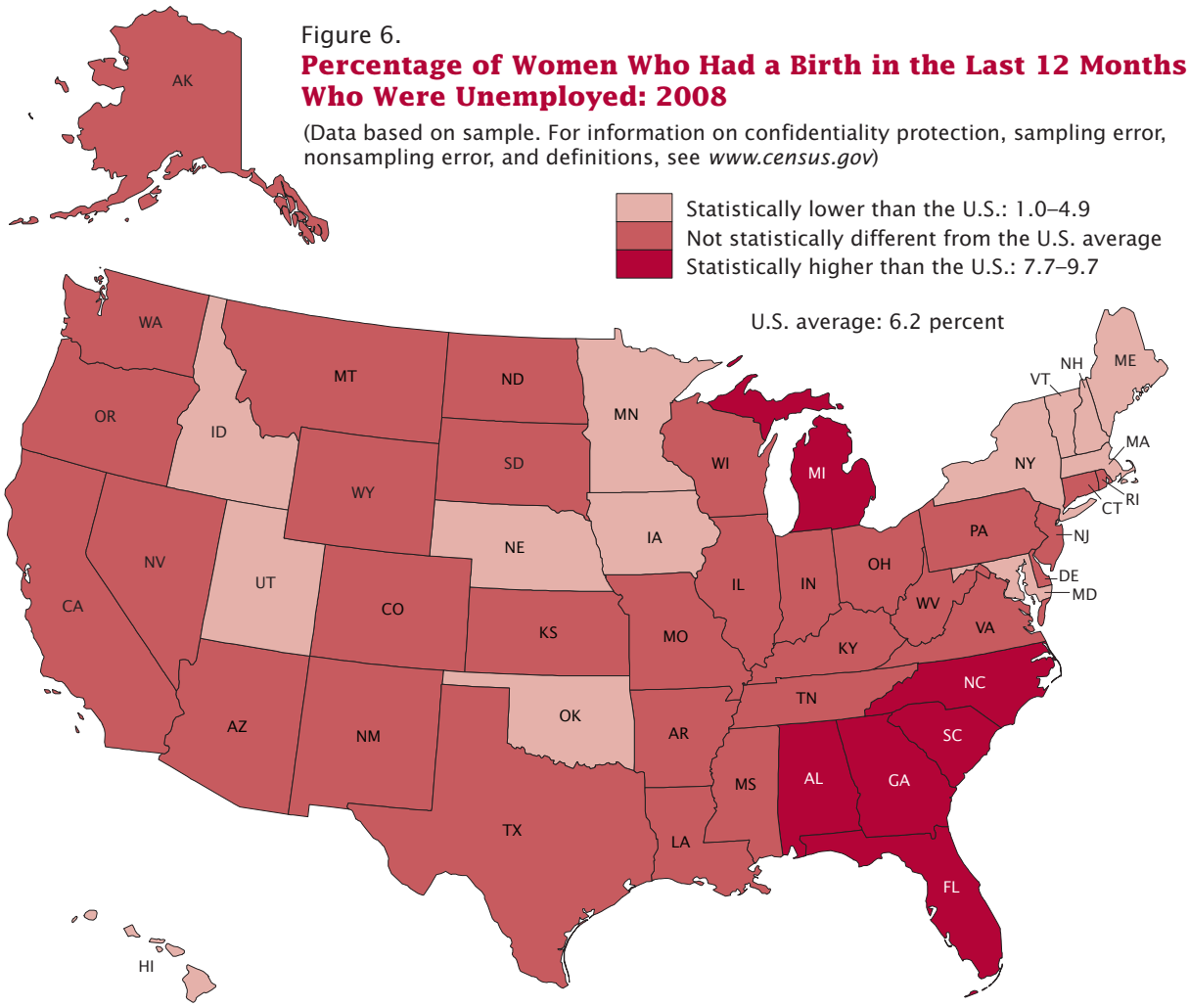
[36] DeNavas-Walt, C., B.D. Proctor, J.C. Smith, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2008,* Current Population Reports, P60-236(RV), U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC, 2009. Detailed table POV02, see <www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/pov/new02_100_01.htm>.

[37] Teachman, J.D., "Family Background, Educational Resources, and Educational Attainment," *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 52, No. 4 (Aug. 1987), pp. 548–557. Murnane, R.J., R.A. Maynard, J.C. Ohls, "Home Resources and Children's Achievement," *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 63, No. 3 (Aug. 1981), pp. 369–377.

Figure 6.

Percentage of Women Who Had a Birth in the Last 12 Months Who Were Unemployed: 2008

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008.

had completed a bachelor's degree or more education. New Hampshire (48 percent), Massachusetts and Connecticut (42 percent), and New Jersey and Maryland (39 percent) had high proportions of mothers with a birth in the last year who had a bachelor's degree. As shown in Figure 7, western and southern states had below average proportions with a bachelor's degree. Arkansas (16 percent) and Alaska and New Mexico (17 percent) were among the states with the lowest proportion of mothers with this level of educational attainment.

Birth Rates and Public Assistance

The 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) has made it increasingly important to examine the participation of mothers in public assistance programs at the state level. The PRWORA gave states greater flexibility to formulate and implement initiatives to reduce welfare dependency and encourage employment for members of low-income families with children.[38] For the nation, the birth rate for women receiving public assistance was 160 births per 1,000 women, almost three times the rate for women not receiving public assistance (56 births per 1,000 women).[39] However, no geographical patterns are noted because only two states recorded birth rates for women on public assistance that were statistically different from the national average: the birth rates for women receiving public assistance in Alaska and New Hampshire were lower than the national average for women receiving public assistance.

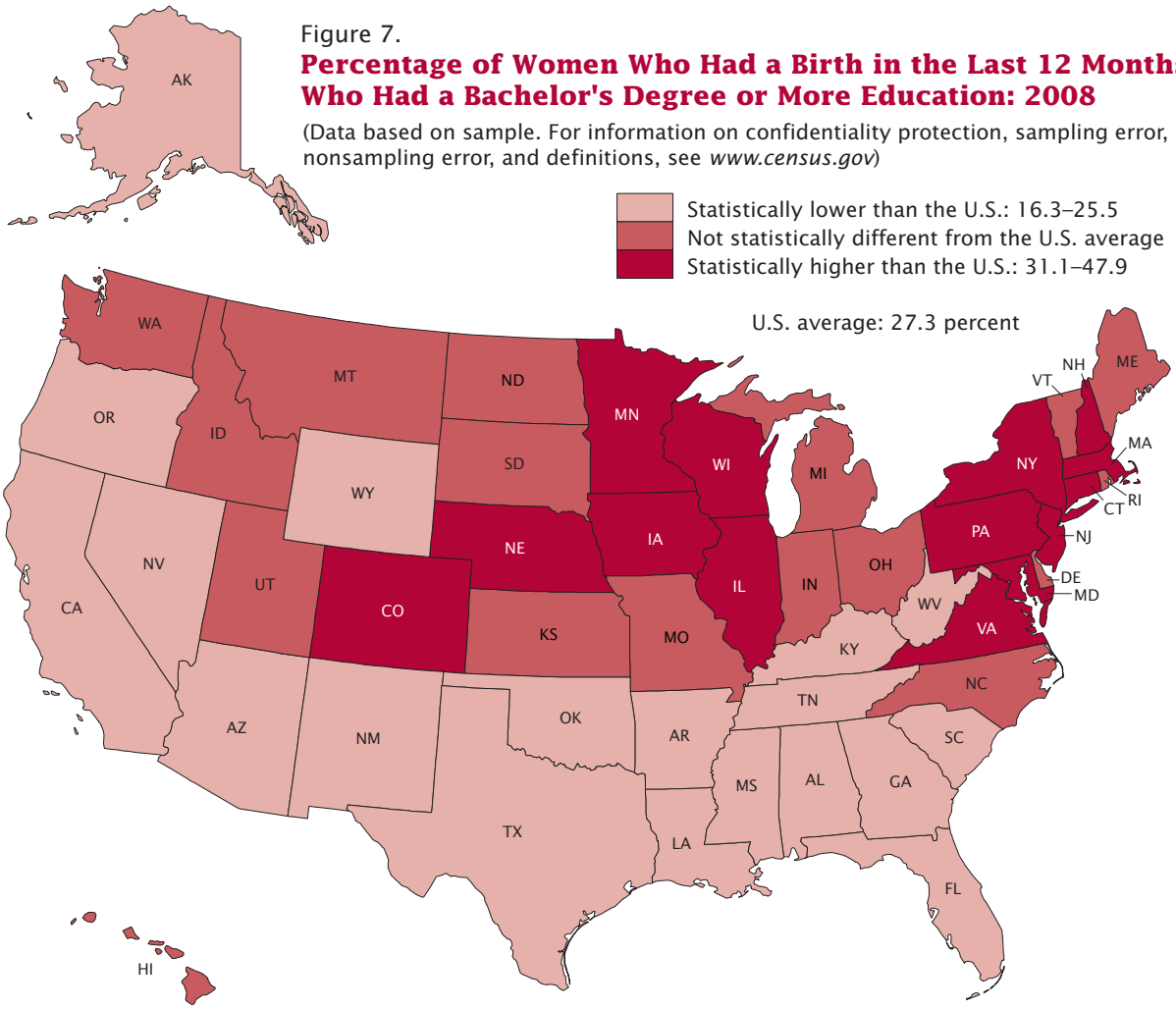
[38] U.S. Congress, Public Law 104-193. H.R. 3734, 1996.

[39] Detailed Table 12, see <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>.

Figure 7.

Percentage of Women Who Had a Birth in the Last 12 Months Who Had a Bachelor's Degree or More Education: 2008

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008.

Summary

Hispanic women 40 to 44 years old in 2008 were completing their childbearing years with 2.2 children each, compared with the national average of 1.9 births. For all women, levels of childlessness were at 18 percent in 2008, down from 20 percent in 2006, but still higher than the level in 1976 (10 percent). Overall, Hispanic women also had higher current fertility levels than White non-Hispanic women. Among all Hispanic women, those who were foreign-born and who were not citizens had the highest levels of current fertility.

Women who continued their education into their twenties experienced lower current fertility levels at younger ages but higher fertility at older ages once they have completed their education. The majority of women with a recent birth were in the labor force, but about 1-in-4 mothers with a birth last year were in families with incomes at or below the poverty line. However, only 6 percent of women with a birth in the last 12 months received cash public assistance.

There was significant variation in the socioeconomic characteristics of recent mothers among the states. Most notably, the southern tier of states had above average proportions of mothers with newborns who were in poverty and below average proportions of mothers who had a bachelor's degree or more education.

SOURCE OF THE DATA

Some estimates in this report come from data obtained in the June 2008 Current Population Survey (CPS) and from the CPS in earlier

years. The U.S. Census Bureau conducts this survey every month, although this report uses only data from the June surveys for its estimates. Comparative estimates on annual births are made with data collected in the Vital Statistics Registration system and published by the National Center for Health Statistics.

The population represented (the population universe) in the Fertility Supplement to the June 2008 CPS is the female, civilian, noninstitutionalized population, 15 to 44 years old, living in the United States. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized population in Census 2000).

This report also presents data from the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). The population represented (the population universe) in the ACS is limited to the population living in households and the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. According to Census 2000, 7.8 million people, or 2.8 percent of the total population, lived in group quarters. Of this number, 4.1 million were institutionalized—primarily in correctional institutions and nursing homes, 2.1 million were in college dormitories, and 1.7 million were in all other types of group quarters.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER DATA SOURCES

The American Community Survey (ACS) birth rate is slightly different than the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) birth rate for a calendar year because the ACS asks whether or not a woman had a birth in the past 12 months. In addition, birth rates by age will be slightly different from age-specific birth rates published by NCHS since the ACS tabulated the women's age at the time of the survey interview date while NCHS tabulates data at the time of the birth. See Tallese Johnson and Jane Lawler Dye, "Indicators of Marriage and Fertility in the United States From the American Community Survey: 2000 to 2003," <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility/mar-fert-slides.html>.

Due to these differences in data collection, the ACS tends to underestimate the number of women 15 to 19 years old with a birth in the last year because about half of the 19-year-olds will be 20 years old by the time of the survey (Appendix Table A). Similarly, the ACS tends to gain births from women 39 years old who turn 40 before the survey date. This produces more births to women 40 to 44 years old in the ACS than reported by vital statistics. For this reason, and the fact that women are having births at older ages, the ACS includes women aged 45 to 50 in the survey questionnaire.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level. This means the 90 percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process, including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports to minimize these errors.

The Current Population Survey (CPS) weighting procedure uses ratio estimation whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors for the CPS, go to <www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsjun08.pdf> or contact the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division on the Internet at <dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov>.

The final ACS population estimates are adjusted in the weighting procedure for coverage error by controlling specific survey estimates to independent population controls by sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin. The final ACS estimates of housing units are controlled to independent estimates of total housing. This weighting partially corrects for

bias due to over or undercoverage, but biases may still be present, for example, when people missed differ from those interviewed in ways other than sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on the ACS sample, weighting procedures, sampling error, nonsampling error, and quality measures from the ACS, see <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf>.

MORE INFORMATION

Detailed tables with characteristics of women in the childbearing ages by fertility indicators are available on the Internet at <www.census.gov>; search by clicking on "F" for "Fertility of American Women Data" under the "Subjects A to Z" heading on the Census Bureau home page.

CONTACTS

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SUGGESTED CITATION

Dye, Jane Lawler, *Fertility of American Women: June 2008*, Current Population Reports, P20-563, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

Appendix Table A.

Comparison of Fertility Indicators for Women Aged 15 to 44 Years From Provisional 2008 Vital Statistics; the Current Population Survey, June 2008; and the American Community Survey, 2008

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2008 Vital Statistics preliminary	June 2008 CPS	Margin of error[1]	2008 ACS	Margin of error[1]
Total women aged 15 to 44	**(NA)**	**61,692**	**33**	**61,977**	***27**
Births last year	**4,238**	**3,960**	**142**	**4,345**	***37**
AGE					
15 to 19 years	435	371	45	304	*9
20 to 24 years	1,053	864	68	973	*17
25 to 29 years	1,197	1,138	78	1,244	*19
30 to 34 years	958	874	69	1,028	*17
35 to 39 years	489	550	55	602	12
40 to 44 years[2]	106	163	30	194	7
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN[3]					
White alone	(NA)	3,034	125	3,007	32
White alone, non-Hispanic	2,267	2,276	109	2,433	*29
Black alone	624	613	58	631	13
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	49	(NA)	(NA)	48	3
Asian alone	253	188	32	234	*8
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	8	2
Some other race alone	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	322	10
Two or more races	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	96	5
Hispanic (any race)[4]	1,035	819	66	938	*15
MARITAL STATUS[5]					
Married	2,892	2,633	117	2,847	29
Separated	(NA)	103	24	100	5
Unmarried	1,345	1,326	84	1,498	25
Widowed	(NA)	19	10	12	2
Divorced	(NA)	128	26	175	*9
Never married	(NA)	1,179	79	1,311	*23

* Statistically different at the 90 percent confidence level from the CPS estimate.

(NA) Not available.

[1] When the margin of error is added to or subtracted from the point estimate, it produces a 90 percent confidence interval.

[2] Vital Statistics data refer to women 15–54 years old.

[3] Race of mother. Vital Statistics data refer to non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander. CPS data refer to White only; White only, not Hispanic; Black only; and Asian only (these differ and are not necessarily comparable to the ACS race categories of White alone; White alone, not Hispanic; Black alone; Asian alone, American Indian or Alaska Native alone, Some other race alone, and Two or more races).

[4] Origin of mother.

[5] National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) reported 40.6 percent of births to women of all ages were nonmarital. Number based on prorated percent of all nonmarital births to women aged 15 to 44.

Note: The universe for vital statistics is the number of births to women aged 15 to 44 reported to the National Center for Health Statistics via birth certificates. The universe for the CPS is women 15 to 44 years old at the time of interview in June 2008. The number of women who had a birth between July 2007 and June 2008 represents the estimate of births in the last year. The universe for ACS is women 15 to 44 years old when the survey was taken in each month in the calendar year 2008. The number of women who reported having had a birth in the 12 months prior (to each interview) represents the estimates of births to those women over the course of the interview year.

Sources: Hamilton, B.E., J.A. Martin, and S.J. Ventura, Births: Preliminary data for 2008. *National Vital Statistics Reports*; Vol. 58, No. 16, Hyattsville, MD, National Center for Health Statistics, 2010. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2008. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <http://www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsjun08.pdf>. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008 (special tabulations). For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions, see <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/documentation_main/>.