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Births: Provisional Data for 2021

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Abstract

Objectives—This report presents provisional 2021 data on U.S. births. Births are shown by age and race and Hispanic origin of mother. Data on cesarean delivery and preterm births are also presented.

Methods—Data are based on 99.94% of all 2021 birth records received and processed by the National Center for Health Statistics as of February 10, 2022. Comparisons are made with final 2020 data and earlier years.

Results—The provisional number of births for the United States in 2021 was 3,659,289, up 1% from 2020 and the first increase in the number of births since 2014. The general fertility rate was 56.6 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44, up 1% from 2020 and the first increase in the rate since 2014. The total fertility rate was 1,663.5 births per 1,000 women in 2021, up 1% from 2020. Birth rates declined for women in age groups 15–24, rose for women in age groups 25–49, and was unchanged for adolescents aged 10–14 in 2021. The birth rate for teenagers aged 15–19 declined by 6% in 2021 to 14.4 births per 1,000 females; rates declined for both younger (aged 15–17) and older (aged 18–19) teenagers. The cesarean delivery rate rose to 32.1% in 2021; the low-risk cesarean delivery rate also rose to 26.3%. The preterm birth rate rose 4% in 2021 to 10.48%, the highest rate reported since 2007.

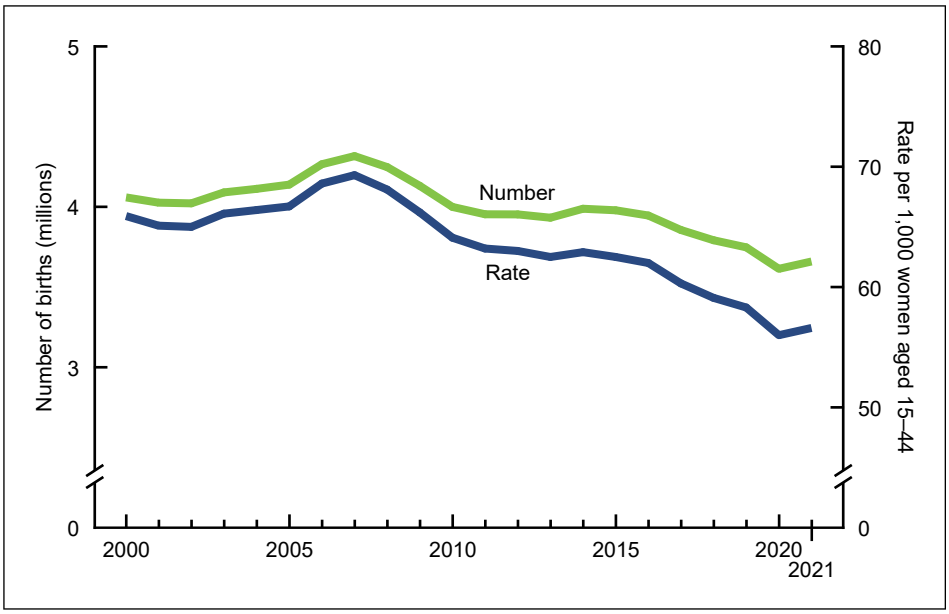
Keywords: birth rates • maternal and infant health • National Vital Statistics System

Introduction

This report from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is part of the National Vital Statistics System Rapid Release Quarterly Provisional Estimates. This series provides timely vital statistics for public health surveillance based on provisional data received and processed by NCHS as of a specified date. Estimates for the 12-month period ending with each quarter for selected key vital statistics indicators are presented and released online through Quarterly Provisional Estimates (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/natality-dashboard.htm). The series also includes reports that provide additional information on specific topics to help readers understand and interpret provisional natality and mortality data. Also, now available are provisional birth estimates developed to monitor health services utilization and maternal and infant outcomes that may be directly or indirectly impacted by COVID-19. Information is updated quarterly and is available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/covid-birth.htm.

Using provisional birth data for the 12 months of 2021 (1), this report supplements the Quarterly Provisional Estimates for 2021 by presenting longer time-based trends in context and more detail (by race and Hispanic origin of the mother and by state of residence) than is shown in the quarterly estimates.

Figure 1. Number of live births and general fertility rates: United States, final 2000–2020 and provisional 2021



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

Statistics from previous provisional reports have been shown to be consistent with the final statistics for the year (2,3). This report presents provisional data on births, birth rates, cesarean delivery, and preterm birth rates for the United States in 2021. Information on prenatal care, low birthweight, and other health utilization and maternal and infant risk factors is presented in the Quarterly Provisional Estimates (1).

Methods

The provisional estimates shown in this report are collected through the National Vital Statistics System (4). Findings are based on all birth records received and processed by NCHS for calendar year 2021 as of February 10, 2022; these records represent nearly 100% (99.94%) of registered births occurring in 2021. Comparisons in this report are based on the final data for 2020 and earlier years (3). Data for American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands were not available as of the release of the 2021 provisional birth file. Detailed information on reporting completeness and criteria may be found elsewhere (4,5).

Hispanic origin and race are reported separately on the birth certificate. Data shown by Hispanic origin include all people of Hispanic origin of any race. Data for non-Hispanic people are shown separately for each single-race group. Data by race are based on the revised standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 (6). The race and Hispanic-origin groups shown are non-Hispanic, single-race White; non-Hispanic, single-race Black; non-Hispanic, single-race American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN); non-Hispanic, single-race Asian; non-Hispanic, single-race Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI); and Hispanic. For brevity, text references to race omit the term "single-race" (3).

Birth and fertility rates for the United States and by maternal race and Hispanic origin for 2021 were based on population projections derived from the 2010 census as of July 1, 2021 (7).

Changes and differences presented in this report are statistically significant at the 0.05 level, unless noted otherwise. For information and discussion on computing rates and percentages, and for detailed information on items presented in this report, see "User Guide to the 2020 Natality Public Use File" (4).

Beginning with Quarterly Provisional Estimates for Quarter 3, 2020, the use of record weights for provisional birth data was discontinued (1,5). This change was implemented because of the recent high levels of completeness of provisional birth data; the change in weighting has limited, if any, impact on the provisional birth estimates. Data shown in this report were based directly on the counts of all (unweighted) birth records received and processed by NCHS as of February 10, 2022.

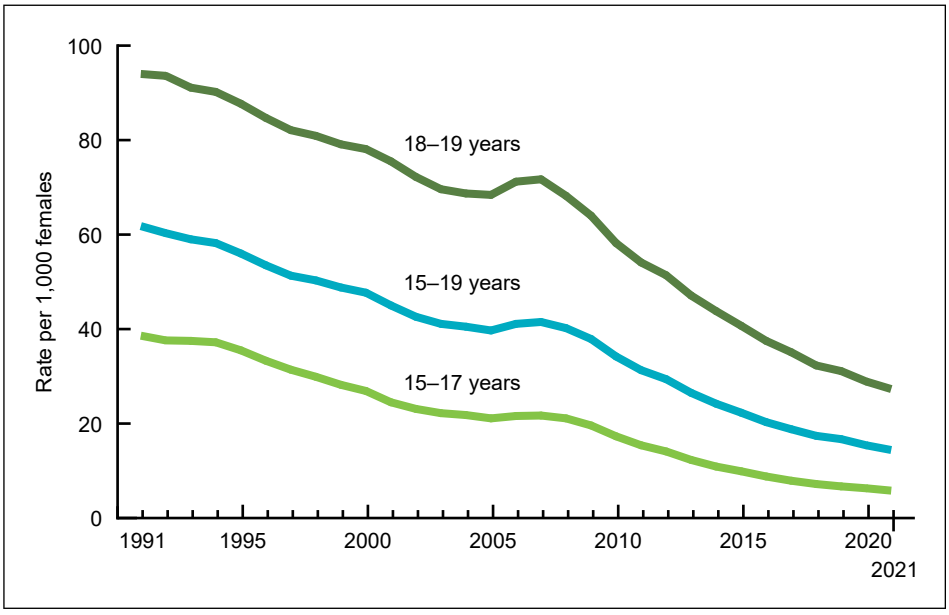
Results

Births and birth rates

Key findings, illustrated in Tables 1–3 and Figures 1 and 2, show:

- The provisional **number of births** for the United States in 2021 was 3,659,289, up 1% from the number in 2020 (3,613,647) (Tables 1–3 and Figure 1). This is the first increase in the number of births since 2014; the number of births declined by an average of 2% per year from 2014 to 2020, including a decline of 4% from 2019 to 2020 (3,8).
- The provisional number of births rose 2% for non-Hispanic White and Hispanic women and declined 2% for non-Hispanic Black women and 3% for non-Hispanic AIAN and non-Hispanic Asian women from 2020 to 2021 (Tables 2 and 3). The 1% decline in the number of births for non-Hispanic NHOPI women was not significant.
- The provisional **general fertility rate** (GFR) for the United States in 2021 was 56.6 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44, up 1% from the rate in 2020 (56.0) (Tables 1 and 2 and Figure 1). This is the first increase in the GFR since 2014; from 2014 to 2020, the GFR declined by an average of 2% per year (3,8).
- GFRs rose 1% for Hispanic women and 3% for non-Hispanic White women and declined 1% for non-Hispanic Asian women, 3% for non-Hispanic Black women, and 4% for non-Hispanic AIAN women from

Figure 2. Birth rates for teenagers, by age of mother: United States, final 1991–2020 and provisional 2021



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

2020 to 2021. The 1% decline in the GFR for non-Hispanic NHOPI women was not significant.

- The provisional **total fertility rate** (TFR) for the United States in 2021 was 1,663.5 births per 1,000 women, up 1% from the rate in 2020 (1,641.0). This is the first increase in the GFR since 2014 (3,8). The TFR estimates the number of births that a hypothetical group of 1,000 women would have over their lifetimes, based on the age-specific birth rate in a given year.
- The TFR in 2021 remained below replacement—the level at which a given generation can exactly replace itself (2,100 births per 1,000 women). The rate has generally been below replacement since 1971 and consistently below replacement since 2007 (3,8,9).

Maternal age

- Provisional birth rates declined for women in all age groups 15–24 from 2020 to 2021, rose for women in age groups 25–49, and were unchanged for adolescents aged 10–14 (Table 1).
- The provisional **birth rate for teenagers** in 2021 was 14.4 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19, down 6% from 2020 (15.4), reaching another record low for this age group (Table 1 and Figure 2) (3,8–10). The rate has declined by 65% since 2007 (41.5), the most recent period of continued decline, and 77% since 1991, the most recent peak. The rate declined an average of 7% annually from 2007 to 2021 (3,8). The number of births to females aged 15–19 was 146,756 in 2021 (Table 1), down 7% from 2020 (3).
- The provisional birth rates for teenagers aged 15–17 and 18–19 in 2021 were 5.8 and 27.3 births per 1,000 females, respectively, down by 8% and 6% from 2020, which were record lows for both groups (3,8–10). From 2007 to 2021, the rates for teenagers aged 15–17 and 18–19 declined by 9% and 7% per year, respectively (3,8).
- The provisional birth rate for females aged 10–14 was 0.2 births per 1,000 in 2021, unchanged since 2015.
- The provisional **birth rate for women aged 20–24** in 2021 was 61.5 births per 1,000 women, down 2% from 2020 (63.0), yet another record low for this age group (Table 1) (3,8,9). This rate has declined by 42% since 2007. The number of births to women in their early 20s declined by 3% from 2020 to 2021 (Table 1).
- The provisional **birth rate for women aged 25–29** was 92.0 births per 1,000 women, up 2% from 2020 (90.2), which was a record low for this age group (3,8,9). The number of births to women in their late 20s was essentially unchanged from 2020 to 2021.
- The provisional **birth rate for women aged 30–34** in 2021 was 97.3 births per 1,000 women, up 3% from 2020 (94.9) (Table 1) (3,8,9). The number of births to women in their early 30s rose by 4% from 2020 to 2021.
- The provisional **birth rate for women aged 35–39** was 54.2 births per 1,000 women, up 5% from 2020 (51.8). The number of births to women in their late 30s also rose by 5% from 2020 to 2021.
- The provisional **birth rate for women aged 40–44** in 2021 was 12.1 births per 1,000 women, up 3% from 2020 (11.8) (Table 1). The rate for this age group had risen almost continuously from 1985 to 2020 by an average of 3% per year (3,8). The number of births to these women rose by 5% from 2020 to 2021.
- The provisional **birth rate for women aged 45–49** (includes births to women aged 50 and over) was 1.0 births per 1,000 women, up from 0.9 in 2020, the first change in this rate since 2015. The number of births to women in this age group was essentially unchanged from 2020 to 2021.

Maternal and infant health characteristics

Key findings, illustrated in Tables 3 and 4 and Figure 3, show:

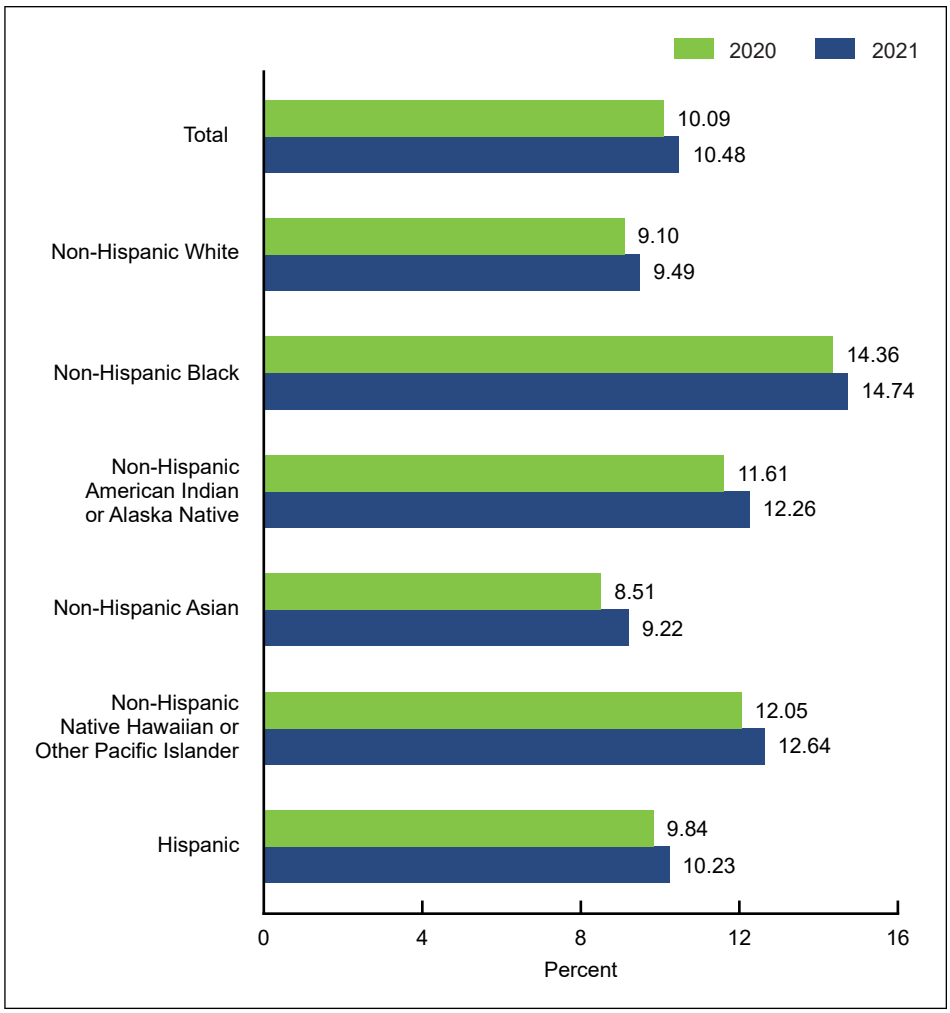
Cesarean delivery

- In 2021, the overall cesarean delivery rate increased to 32.1% from 31.8% in 2020 (Tables 3 and 4); this is the second increase in a row after the rate generally declined from 2009 (32.9%) to 2019 (31.7%) (3). See Table 4 for state-specific rates.
- From 2020 to 2021, cesarean delivery increased for non-Hispanic White (30.8% to 31.1%), non-Hispanic Black (36.3% to 36.8%), non-Hispanic Asian (32.6% to 33.1%), and Hispanic (31.4% to 31.6%) women; increases in rates for non-Hispanic AIAN (28.8% to 29.2%) and non-Hispanic NHOPI (32.3% to 32.5%) women were not statistically significant.
- The low-risk cesarean delivery rate, or cesarean delivery among nulliparous (first birth), term (37 or more completed weeks based on the obstetric estimate), singleton (one fetus), vertex (head first) births, also increased in 2021, to 26.3% from 25.9% in 2020 (Table 3).
- Low-risk cesarean rates increased from 2020 to 2021 for non-Hispanic White (24.9% to 25.2%), non-Hispanic Black (30.6% to 31.2%), non-Hispanic Asian (27.7% to 28.4%), and Hispanic (25.1% to 25.5%) women; changes for non-Hispanic AIAN (23.6% to 23.1%) and non-Hispanic NHOPI (29.2% to 30.0%) women were not significant.

Preterm birth

- The **preterm birth rate** rose 4% in 2021 to 10.48%, from 10.09% in 2020. The 2021 rate is the highest reported since at least 2007 (10.44%) (Table 3 and Figure 3) (11). The percentage of infants born preterm (births at less than 37 completed weeks of gestation) fell 8% from 2007 (the first year for which national data are available based on the obstetric estimate of gestation [11]) to 2014, rose 7% from 2014 (9.57%) to 2019, and declined 1% from 2019 to 2020 (3). See Table 4 for state-specific rates.

Figure 3. Percentage of preterm births, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, final 2020 and provisional 2021



NOTE: Preterm is less than 37 weeks of gestation.
SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

- Increases of 4% were observed in both **early preterm births** (less than 34 completed weeks of gestation) and **late preterm births** (34–36 weeks) from 2020 to 2021 (Table 3). The early preterm rate rose from 2.70% to 2.81%, the highest level reported since 2011 (11). The late preterm rate rose to 7.67% from 7.40%, the highest level reported since at least 2007 (11).
- The preterm birth rate rose for each of the race and Hispanic-origin groups from 2020 to 2021; the 5% increase for births to non-Hispanic NHOPI women (12.05% to 12.64%) was not significant. Increases ranged from 3% to 4% for births to non-Hispanic White (9.10% to 9.49%), non-Hispanic Black (14.36% to 14.74%), and Hispanic (9.84% to 10.23%) women, and to 8% for births to non-Hispanic Asian women (8.51% to 9.22%).
- Late preterm births also rose among all groups; the increase for births to non-Hispanic NHOPI women was not significant. Increases ranged from 2% for births to non-Hispanic NHOPI women (not significant) to 7% for births to non-Hispanic AIAN and non-Hispanic Asian women. Increases in early preterm births were also seen for each of the race and Hispanic-origin groups from 2020 to 2021, but the increases were not significant for births to non-Hispanic AIAN and non-Hispanic NHOPI women (Table 3).

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List of Detailed Tables

Report tables

Table 1. Births and birth rates, by age of mother: United States, final 2020 and provisional 2021

[Data for 2021 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Rates are per 1,000 women in specified age group. Rates for all ages are the total number of births (regardless of the age of the mother) per 1,000 women aged 15–44. Populations estimated as of July 1]

Age of mother	2021		2020	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
All ages	3,659,289	56.6	3,613,647	56.0
10–14	1,876	0.2	1,765	0.2
15–19	146,756	14.4	158,043	15.4
15–17	35,487	5.8	38,587	6.3
18–19	111,269	27.3	119,456	28.9
20–24	647,505	61.5	665,595	63.0
25–29	1,022,541	92.0	1,024,402	90.2
30–34	1,113,678	97.3	1,069,984	94.9
35–39	591,377	54.2	564,059	51.8
40–44	126,138	12.1	120,570	11.8
45–54[1]	9,418	1.0	9,229	0.9

[1]The birth rate for women in this age group is computed by relating the number of births to women aged 45 and over to women aged 45–49 because most of the births in this group are to women aged 45–49.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

Table 2. Total number of births and fertility rates, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2020 and provisional 2021

[Data for 2021 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Rates are the total number of births (regardless of the age of the mother) per 1,000 women aged 15–44 in specified race and Hispanic-origin group. Populations estimated as of July 1]

Year	All races and origins[1]	Non-Hispanic, single race					Hispanic[3]
		White[2]	Black[2]	American Indian or Alaska Native[2]	Asian[2]	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander[2]	
				Number			
2021	3,659,289	1,884,554	517,027	25,935	213,556	9,517	884,726
2020	3,613,647	1,843,432	529,811	26,813	219,068	9,626	866,713
				Rate			
2021	56.6	54.6	57.7	50.6	50.1	72.2	63.8
2020	56.0	53.2	59.2	52.7	50.8	72.9	63.1

[1]Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as Hispanic, single-race White; Hispanic, single-race Black; non-Hispanic, multiple-race women; and births with origin not stated.
[2]Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. In this table, non-Hispanic women are classified by race. Race categories are consistent with the 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards. Race categories in this table include only single race; that is, the race reported alone with only one race reported.
[3]Includes all people of Hispanic origin of any race.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

Table 3. Total number of births and percentage of cesarean delivery and preterm births, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2020 and provisional 2021

[Data for 2021 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states]

Characteristic	All races and origins[1]	Non-Hispanic, single race					Hispanic[3]
		White[2]	Black[2]	American Indian or Alaska Native[2]	Asian[2]	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander[2]	
Number of births							
2021	3,659,289	1,884,554	517,027	25,935	213,556	9,517	884,726
2020	3,613,647	1,843,432	529,811	26,813	219,068	9,626	866,713
Cesarean delivery				Percent			
Total[4]:							
2021	32.1	31.1	36.8	29.2	33.1	32.5	31.6
2020	31.8	30.8	36.3	28.8	32.6	32.3	31.4
Low-risk[5]:							
2021	26.3	25.2	31.2	23.1	28.4	30.0	25.5
2020	25.9	24.9	30.6	23.6	27.7	29.2	25.1
Gestational age[6]							
Preterm (under 37 weeks):							
2021	10.48	9.49	14.74	12.26	9.22	12.64	10.23
2020	10.09	9.10	14.36	11.61	8.51	12.05	9.84
Late preterm (34–36 weeks):							
2021	7.67	7.18	9.80	9.20	6.89	9.11	7.56
2020	7.40	6.90	9.54	8.56	6.43	8.97	7.32
Early preterm (under 34 weeks):							
2021	2.81	2.31	4.94	3.06	2.33	3.53	2.66
2020	2.70	2.21	4.82	3.05	2.08	3.08	2.52

[1]Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as Hispanic, single-race White; Hispanic, single-race Black; non-Hispanic multiple-race women; and births with origin not stated.
[2]Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards. Race categories in this table include only single race; that is, the race reported alone with only one race reported.
[3]Includes all people of Hispanic origin of any race.
[4]All births by cesarean delivery per 100 live births.
[5]Low-risk cesarean is defined as singleton, term (37 or more weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate), vertex (not breech), cesarean deliveries to women having a first birth per 100 women delivering singleton, term, vertex, first births.
[6]Completed weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

Table 4. Total number of births, by state of residence, provisional 2021, and percentage of cesarean delivery and preterm births, by state of residence: United States, each state and territory, final 2020 and provisional 2021

[By place of residence. Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states]

Area	Total number of births, 2021	Total cesarean		Low-risk cesarean[1]		Late preterm[2]		Preterm[3]	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
		Percent							
United States[4]	3,659,289	32.1	31.8	26.3	25.9	7.67	7.40	10.48	10.09
Alabama	58,032	35.1	35.0	29.8	29.0	9.54	9.40	13.10	12.92
Alaska	9,258	24.3	22.9	20.1	18.2	7.53	7.32	10.14	9.79
Arizona	77,891	28.7	28.4	23.2	22.8	7.39	7.13	10.01	9.48
Arkansas	35,902	34.3	33.8	28.0	26.5	8.70	8.56	12.05	11.76
California	420,031	30.8	30.5	24.7	24.0	6.77	6.51	9.15	8.75
Colorado	62,900	27.4	27.2	22.3	22.7	7.25	6.65	9.75	9.14
Connecticut	35,646	35.4	34.1	28.9	27.9	6.89	6.63	9.59	9.17
Delaware	10,477	31.9	31.7	26.0	24.7	7.84	7.52	11.00	10.39
District of Columbia	8,644	31.2	32.3	27.6	27.8	6.95	7.00	10.09	9.83
Florida	216,236	35.8	35.9	28.9	28.7	7.83	7.64	10.89	10.47
Georgia	123,939	35.1	33.9	28.8	27.7	8.48	8.18	11.89	11.42
Hawaii	15,565	27.7	26.3	23.6	23.0	7.43	7.54	10.21	10.03
Idaho	22,426	24.1	23.5	19.0	18.0	6.73	6.19	8.99	8.46
Illinois	132,117	31.2	30.8	25.3	24.7	7.94	7.62	10.75	10.31
Indiana	79,760	30.4	30.1	24.5	24.4	8.10	7.66	10.88	10.44
Iowa	36,783	29.7	30.2	23.5	24.7	7.59	7.54	10.03	9.90
Kansas	34,690	29.6	30.1	23.9	24.6	7.35	7.38	9.82	9.97
Kentucky	52,144	34.8	34.3	27.4	27.7	8.65	8.32	11.97	11.05
Louisiana	57,218	37.1	36.8	29.8	29.4	9.86	9.34	13.53	12.89
Maine	12,003	30.9	29.7	25.3	23.5	6.90	6.86	9.37	8.99
Maryland	68,262	34.3	33.7	29.3	28.7	7.69	7.29	10.69	10.13
Massachusetts	69,142	31.9	32.4	26.1	26.4	6.68	6.50	8.93	8.78
Michigan	104,830	33.3	32.5	28.1	27.4	7.72	7.40	10.60	10.23
Minnesota	64,398	28.9	28.5	25.5	24.6	7.13	6.82	9.63	9.11
Mississippi	35,146	38.5	38.2	31.2	30.9	10.85	10.26	14.96	14.19
Missouri	69,375	30.2	29.3	24.3	23.0	8.46	8.17	11.28	10.98
Montana	11,222	27.8	27.6	22.1	21.7	7.31	7.34	9.72	9.82
Nebraska	24,555	28.6	28.8	22.3	21.4	7.96	7.85	10.79	10.49
Nevada	33,655	32.9	32.9	26.6	27.2	8.22	7.86	11.23	10.68
New Hampshire	12,615	32.7	32.1	28.4	27.1	6.41	6.04	8.50	8.41
New Jersey	101,457	32.5	33.2	25.5	25.9	6.76	6.86	9.18	9.33
New Mexico	20,910	27.3	26.1	22.3	21.0	7.32	6.94	9.96	9.60
New York	210,359	34.2	33.6	29.9	28.7	7.06	6.63	9.69	9.22
North Carolina	119,792	30.2	29.9	24.0	23.6	7.74	7.66	10.64	10.80
North Dakota	10,108	26.3	27.0	20.1	20.3	7.06	7.44	9.57	9.82
Ohio	129,717	31.5	31.3	26.0	26.3	7.62	7.51	10.59	10.31
Oklahoma	48,350	32.5	32.1	24.4	23.8	8.81	8.40	11.94	11.17
Oregon	40,868	29.2	28.8	25.0	25.0	6.75	6.13	8.89	8.19
Pennsylvania	132,401	30.8	30.6	25.3	25.4	7.14	7.02	9.82	9.57
Rhode Island	10,458	33.6	33.4	29.1	29.3	7.13	6.63	9.63	9.07
South Carolina	57,129	33.5	33.5	27.0	27.4	8.61	8.59	12.06	11.81
South Dakota	11,368	24.6	24.7	18.1	19.7	8.23	7.19	10.53	9.41
Tennessee	81,675	32.4	32.1	26.6	25.9	8.23	7.92	11.29	10.93
Texas	373,340	34.8	34.7	28.3	28.2	8.34	7.90	11.38	10.79
Utah	46,701	23.4	23.1	19.4	19.4	7.45	7.01	9.89	9.28
Vermont	5,383	27.2	26.9	22.8	22.7	5.95	5.65	8.03	7.62
Virginia	95,544	32.5	32.6	26.7	26.8	7.18	6.89	9.89	9.59
Washington	83,838	29.0	28.5	24.5	24.0	6.58	6.32	8.86	8.64
West Virginia	17,080	34.1	34.2	26.6	26.9	9.46	8.97	12.81	12.02
Wisconsin	61,719	27.3	26.7	23.3	21.7	7.35	7.37	10.00	9.93
Wyoming	6,230	26.7	26.4	20.3	18.1	8.30	7.44	10.86	10.07

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Total number of births, by state of residence, provisional 2021, and percentage of cesarean delivery and preterm births, by state of residence: United States, each state and territory, final 2020 and provisional 2021—Con.

[By place of residence. Data are based on a continuous file of records received from the states]

Area	Total number of births, 2021	Total cesarean		Low-risk cesarean[1]		Late preterm[2]		Preterm[3]	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
		Percent							
Puerto Rico	19,161	49.6	48.1	47.5	45.8	8.89	8.52	12.02	11.58
U.S. Virgin Islands	---	---	37.7	---	---	---	6.76	---	10.62
Guam	1,792	23.9	22.2	17.8	19.5	10.57	8.40	13.55	11.61
American Samoa	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Marianas	551	32.3	29.8	31.1	20.1	7.10	8.12	9.11	10.67

--- Data not available.
[1]Low-risk cesarean is defined as singleton, term (37 or more weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate), vertex (not breech) cesarean deliveries to women having a first birth per 100 women delivering singleton, term, vertex first births.
[2]Births at 34–36 completed weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate.
[3]Births before 37 completed weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate.
[4]Excludes data for the territories.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

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