

MATERNAL AGE

In 2010, the birth rate among women aged 15–44 years was 64.1 births per 1,000—a decrease of 3 percent from 2009 and the lowest rate reported in over a decade.¹⁰ Although births and birth rates declined for women of all race and ethnic groups, Hispanic women continued to have the highest birth rate, followed by non-Hispanic Black women (80.2 and 66.6 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, respectively). American Indian/Alaska Native women had the lowest birth rate (48.6 per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years). Between 2009 and 2010, the birth rate also declined in every age group ex-

cept for 40–44 years, which increased 2 percent to the highest level since 1967 (10.2 births per 1,000 women).¹⁰ The birth rates among teenagers aged 15–19 years and young women aged 20–24 years reached historic lows in 2010 (34.2 and 90.0 births per 1,000 women, respectively).

Overall, birth rates were highest among women aged 25–29 years (108.3 births per 1,000 women), followed by those aged 30–34 years (96.5 births per 1,000 women). However, age patterns vary by race/ethnicity. For Hispanic, non-Hispanic Black, and American Indian/Alaska Native women, birth rates were highest among 20- to 24-year-olds (126.1, 119.4, 91.0

births per 1,000 women, respectively), whereas birth rates were highest among 25- to 29-year-olds for non-Hispanic Whites (105.8 per 1,000) and among 30- to 34-year-olds for Asian/Pacific Islanders (113.6 per 1,000).

Demonstrating the trend toward delayed childbearing, average age at first birth rose 3.8 years between 1970 and 2010 to 25.4 years (data not shown).^{10,11} The proportion of first births to women aged 35 and older increased from just 1 percent in 1970 to 8.2 percent in 2010. Meanwhile, the proportion of first births to teenagers (under 20 years) dropped in half between 1970 and 2010, from 35.6 to 18.9 percent.

Live Births per 1,000 Women by Age and Race/Ethnicity,* 2010

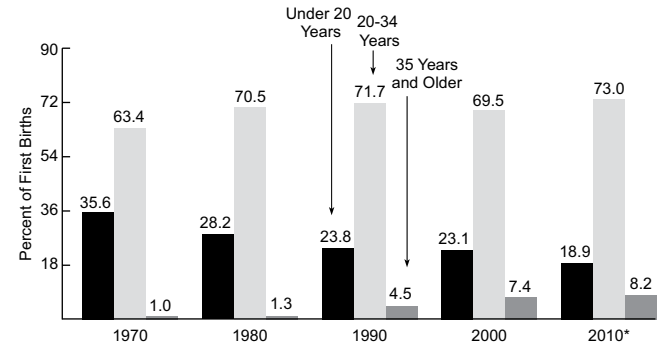
Source (I.8): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System

Age Group	Total	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic	American Indian/Alaska Native*	Asian/Pacific Islander*
Total	64.1	58.7	66.6	80.2	48.6	59.2
15-19 Years	34.2	23.5	51.5	55.7	38.7	10.9
20-24 Years	90.0	74.9	119.4	126.1	91.0	42.6
25-29 Years	108.3	105.8	102.5	125.3	74.4	91.5
30-34 Years	96.5	99.9	73.6	96.6	48.4	113.6
35-39 Years	45.9	44.1	36.4	51.7	22.3	62.8
40-44 Years	10.2	9.2	9.2	13.0	5.2	15.1

*Includes Hispanics.

Percent of First Births* by Mother's Age, 1970-2010

Source (I.8, I.9): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System



*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.