Recent changes in childbearing in the United States

- Declines in U.S. births slowed in 2012
- First births and birth rates dropping for teens and increased for women in their 30s
- Teen birth rates are down steeply for all women—especially Hispanic—and in most states, since 2007
- Unmarried mothers are more likely to be older and cohabiting

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Center for Health Statistics.
Births leveled off in 2012 after recent declines

First birth rates for teens down sharply

Rate per 1,000 women aged 15–19

Year

NOTE: Data for 2012 are preliminary.
First birth rates for women in their 30s have increased since the mid-1970s

Rate per 1,000 women in specified age group

Year


30–34 years

35–39 years

NOTE: Data for 2012 are preliminary.
28% of first births in 2012 were to women 30 and older, more than 5 times the 1975 level.

- **Ages 20–29**:
  - 1975: 1,319,126 births
  - 1995: 1,610,453 births
  - 2012: 1,569,943 births

- **Age 30 or over**:
  - Under age 20:
    - 1975: 35%
    - 1995: 25%
    - 2012: 28%
  - Age 30 or over:
    - 1975: 5%
    - 1995: 22%
    - 2012: 16%

**NOTE:** Data for 2012 are preliminary.
**SOURCE:** CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.
Women having their first child at 35–44 are now more likely to have a second child


Women are having one-half as many births compared with 1957.

NOTE: Data for 2012 are preliminary.

Births have declined more for black and Hispanic women.

Number of births per woman

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic white</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic black</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Replacement level = 2.1

NOTE: Data for 2012 are preliminary.
Teen births and rates are at historic low levels

Births in thousands

Rate per 1,000 women aged 15–19

NOTE: Data for 2009 are preliminary.
Teen birth rates down sharply for all groups

Rates per 1,000 women aged 15–19

- **All races**
  - 1991: 61.8
  - 2007: 41.5
  - 2012: 29.4

- **Non-Hispanic white**
  - 1991: 43.4
  - 2007: 27.2
  - 2012: 20.5

- **Non-Hispanic black**
  - 1991: 118.2
  - 2007: 62.0
  - 2012: 43.9

- **Hispanic**
  - 1991: 104.6
  - 2007: 75.3
  - 2012: 46.3

**NOTE:** Data for 2012 are preliminary.

**SOURCE:** CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.
Two-decade drop in teen birth rates translates into 4 million fewer teen births

Estimated number of fewer births in millions (cumulated)

Year

NOTE: Data for 2012 are preliminary.
Greatest declines from 2007 to 2011 were among Hispanic teens

U.S. rate declined 34%.

Unmarried parents of first births more likely to be cohabiting