INTRODUCTION

The stability in fertility rates among American women at the close of the century is in sharp contrast to the wide swings in fertility rates that occurred in preceding decades. Annual total fertility rates fell from almost 4.0 births per woman at the turn of the century to 2.2 births per woman during the Great Depression. They subsequently rose to a postwar peak of 3.7 births per woman in 1957, but fell again by half to 1.8 births per woman in the mid-1980s. With minor fluctuations, the rates have remained at approximately 2.0 births per woman over the last 20 years (the level required for the natural replacement of the population is about 2.1 births per woman).1

This report profiles current fertility patterns of American woman and is based on data collected in the June 1998 supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). Unlike annual fertility statistics compiled from birth certificates by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), data collected in the CPS are from two questions asked of women 15 to 44 years old: (1) the number of children they have ever had, and (2) the date of birth of their last child. Historical data from previous surveys are also used in this report to illustrate how women completing their childbearing today differ from an earlier generation of women who had their principal childbearing years during the peak of the Baby Boom in the 1950s (the Baby Boom era was from 1946 to 1964).

1 The total fertility rate for a given year is a hypothetical estimate of completed fertility. It indicates how many births a woman would have by the end of her reproductive life, if, for all of her childbearing years, she was to experience the age-specific birth rates for that given year. Historical data on the total fertility rate are found in Ansley J. Coale and Melvin Zelnik, New Estimates of Fertility and Population in the United States. Princeton University Press: Princeton, 1963, Table 2, and Robert L. Heuser. Fertility Tables for Birth Cohorts by Color: United States, 1917-73. DH EW Publication (HRA)76-1152. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1976, Table 1A.
Table A.  
Fertility Indicators for Women 15 to 44 Years Old by Age and Race and Hispanic Origin: June 1998  
(Numbers in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Number of women</th>
<th>Percent childless</th>
<th>Women who had a child in the last year</th>
<th>Births per 1,000 women</th>
<th>First births per 1,000 women</th>
<th>Children ever born per 1,000 women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AGE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60,519</td>
<td>42.2</td>
<td>3,671</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>1,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>9,575</td>
<td>90.1</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>8,800</td>
<td>64.0</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>98.2</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29 years</td>
<td>9,451</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>100.5</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>1,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 34 years</td>
<td>10,229</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>843</td>
<td>82.4</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>1,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 39 years</td>
<td>11,351</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>1,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 44 years</td>
<td>11,113</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1,877</td>
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<td><strong>RACE AND ETHNICITY</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>43.1</td>
<td>2,947</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>1,196</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>7,557</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>123</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>6,962</td>
<td>66.3</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>93.5</td>
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<td>25 to 29 years</td>
<td>7,512</td>
<td>45.6</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>101.9</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>990</td>
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<td>30 to 34 years</td>
<td>8,151</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>89.4</td>
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<td>1,509</td>
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<td>35 to 39 years</td>
<td>9,250</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>41.5</td>
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<td>40 to 44 years</td>
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<td>19.5</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1,838</td>
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<td>White non-Hispanic</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>44.5</td>
<td>2,374</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>1,142</td>
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<td>15 to 19 years</td>
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<td>232</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>104</td>
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<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>5,700</td>
<td>71.0</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>75.9</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
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<td>25 to 29 years</td>
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<td>665</td>
<td>104.0</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>922</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 to 34 years</td>
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<td>616</td>
<td>88.6</td>
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<td>35 to 39 years</td>
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<td>42.1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>1,772</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 to 44 years</td>
<td>8,040</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1,769</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>554</td>
<td>62.9</td>
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<td>15 to 19 years</td>
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<td>82.5</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>229</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
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<td>47.8</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>123.9</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29 years</td>
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<td>29.4</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>99.3</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>1,531</td>
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<td>30 to 34 years</td>
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<td>66</td>
<td>44.8</td>
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<td>1,788</td>
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<tr>
<td>35 to 39 years</td>
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<td>25.9</td>
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<td>2,065</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 to 44 years</td>
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<td>17.0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>5.8</td>
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<td>Asian and Pacific Islander</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>47.3</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>52.4</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>1,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
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<td>94.3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>81.5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>56.9</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29 years</td>
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<td>55.9</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>90.6</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 34 years</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>76.8</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>1,275</td>
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<tr>
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<td>13</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>1,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 44 years</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,047</td>
</tr>
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<td>Hispanic (of any race)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7,359</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>84.0</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>1,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>1,314</td>
<td>82.4</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>77.2</td>
<td>59.2</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>1,324</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>180.7</td>
<td>91.3</td>
<td>908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29 years</td>
<td>1,184</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>92.4</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>1,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 34 years</td>
<td>1,269</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>2,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 39 years</td>
<td>1,184</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>2,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 44 years</td>
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<td>14.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,373</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.


Overall patterns of fertility

Table A shows fertility indicators for women in June 1998 by their age and race and Hispanic origin. The fertility rate in this report is defined as the number of women who reported having a child in the 12-month period prior to the June 1998 survey per 1,000 women in the specified age and/or characteristic group at the time of the survey. Of the estimated 60.5 million women who were 15 to 44 years old in June 1998, 3.7 million gave birth in the preceding 12 months. This produced an estimated fertility rate of 60.7 births per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years old and a corresponding first birth rate of 24.6 births per 1,000 women (1.5 million births or 41 percent of all births).

Fertility differences by race and ethnicity

Hispanic women had the highest fertility rate among all race and origin groups shown in Table A (84.0 births per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years old). Overall, 618,000 Hispanic women had a birth in the year prior to the survey, representing 17 percent of all births in 1998. The fertility rate for White non-Hispanic women was considerably lower (57.2 births per 1,000 women).
Fertility Indicators Among Different Generations, Women 40 to 44 Years Old: June 1976 and June 1998
(Numbers in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>1976</th>
<th>1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALL WOMEN</td>
<td>5,684</td>
<td>11,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children ever born (percent)</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>35.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four or more</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children ever born per 1,000 women</td>
<td>3,091</td>
<td>1,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEVER-MARRIED WOMEN</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>1,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children ever born (percent)</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>75.5</td>
<td>66.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>22.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children ever born per 1,000 women</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Nearly all women end their childbearing by age 45. Among women 40 to 44 years old in 1998, only Hispanic women, with an average of 2.4 births each, had exceeded the level required for the natural replacement of the population (about 2.1 births per woman).4 Black women and Asian and Pacific Islander women had fertility levels not different from the replacement level, while White non-Hispanic women were significantly below replacement level and averaged only 1.8 births each. These fertility patterns will have a significant impact on the growth of the population—the most recent series of population projections indicates that by 2005, Hispanics may become the second largest race/ethnic group in the United States.5 Corresponding to their relatively high levels of completed fertility, only 15 percent of Hispanic women 40 to 44 years old were childless compared with 20 percent of White non-Hispanic women.

**Fertility Between Generations**

The fertility characteristics of women 40 to 44 years old provide an accurate demographic summary of women at the completion of their childbearing years (see Table B). Women in this age group in June 1998 were born during the peak of the Baby Boom in the mid-1950s and will end their childbearing years with an average of 1.9 children. This contrasts sharply with their mothers who were born during the Great Depression of the 1930s—when they were 40 to 44 years old in 1976, they averaged 3.1 births.

Accompanying this decline in completed fertility since 1976 has been an increase in the proportion of women 40 to 44 years old who will end their reproductive life childless (see Figure 1). Currently, 19 percent of women in their early forties are childless. By comparison, the earlier generation of women 40 to 44 years old in 1976 completed their childbearing years with about 10 percent never having a child. While the current level of childlessness is high compared with the generation of women 40 to 44 years old in 1976, it is not different from the level for

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4 The level required for the natural replacement of the population is the average number of children a woman must have to replace herself with a female living to the average age of childbearing. Taking into account that slightly more boy than girl babies are born and that not all children survive to the childbearing ages, this level is about 2.1 births per woman.

women born in 1900 (about 20 percent). While childless levels are approximately the same now as they were a century ago, in contrast, a higher percentage of women who were born at the turn of the century had four or more children (26 percent) compared with women today (about 10 percent).

Smaller size families are also more typical today than in the previous generation (see Table B). Only 10 percent of women 40 to 44 years old in 1998 will have four or more children compared with 36 percent of women in this same age group in 1976. In addition to smaller families, a higher proportion of Baby Boom children will not marry by the end of their childbearing years—10 percent have never been married by age 40 to 44 years compared with 4 percent for the earlier generation of women.

**OUT-OF-WEDLOCK CHILDBEARING**

**Annual estimates for 1998**

Estimates from the June 1998 Current Population Survey indicate that approximately 1.1 million women gave birth out of wedlock in the 12-month period preceding the survey, which represented 31 percent of all births during this period. One million births were to never-married women, while 143,000 were to women widowed or divorced at the time of the survey (see Table C). These estimates may vary slightly from those reported by the National Center for Health Statistics, because marital status in the CPS is recorded at the time of the survey.

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### Table C. Fertility Indicators for Women 15 to 44 Years Old by Selected Characteristics: June 1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Num-ber of women</th>
<th>Percent child-less</th>
<th>Num-ber with a birth</th>
<th>Births per 1,000 women</th>
<th>First births per 1,000 women</th>
<th>Children ever born per 1,000 women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60,519</td>
<td>42.2</td>
<td>3,671</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>1,227</td>
</tr>
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<td>MARITAL STATUS</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently married</td>
<td>30,904</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>2,528</td>
<td>81.8</td>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>1,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, husband present</td>
<td>28,344</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>2,424</td>
<td>85.5</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>1,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, husband absent</td>
<td>2,559</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>1,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced or widowed</td>
<td>5,430</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>1,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never married</td>
<td>24,185</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>410</td>
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<td>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</td>
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<td>Not a high school graduate</td>
<td>13,048</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>1,076</td>
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<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>17,536</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>1,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College, 1 or more years</td>
<td>29,935</td>
<td>44.0</td>
<td>1,844</td>
<td>61.6</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>1,123</td>
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<tr>
<td>No degree</td>
<td>12,626</td>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>54.6</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>1,138</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
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<td>33.1</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>65.3</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>1,339</td>
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<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>9,762</td>
<td>47.4</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>1,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
<td>3,134</td>
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<td>239</td>
<td>76.2</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>998</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In labor force</td>
<td>43,765</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>2,155</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>1,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>40,957</td>
<td>42.6</td>
<td>1,948</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>1,183</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>2,808</td>
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<td>207</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>1,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in labor force</td>
<td>16,754</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>1,516</td>
<td>90.5</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>1,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMILY INCOME</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under $10,000</td>
<td>5,631</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>1,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 to $19,999</td>
<td>6,917</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>1,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000 to $24,999</td>
<td>3,902</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>1,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 to $29,999</td>
<td>3,848</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>1,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000 to $34,999</td>
<td>3,928</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>1,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>9,478</td>
<td>40.9</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>55.1</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $74,999</td>
<td>11,003</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>60.3</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>1,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 and over</td>
<td>9,627</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>50.2</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>1,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income not reported</td>
<td>6,187</td>
<td>45.3</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>1,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGION OF RESIDENCE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>11,397</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>1,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>13,857</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>60.1</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>1,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>21,564</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>1,325</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>1,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>13,702</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>61.8</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>1,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METROPOLITAN RESIDENCE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan</td>
<td>49,815</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>2,968</td>
<td>59.6</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>1,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In central cities</td>
<td>18,860</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>1,148</td>
<td>60.3</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>1,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside central cities</td>
<td>30,955</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>1,821</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>1,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonmetropolitan</td>
<td>10,704</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>703</td>
<td>65.6</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>1,379</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Includes separated women.

Note: Since the number of women who have had a birth during the 12-month period was tabulated and not the actual numbers of births themselves, a small underestimation of fertility for this period may exist because of the omission of: (1) Multiple births; (2) more than one live birth occurring to a woman in a 12-month period (the woman is counted only once); (3) women who had births in the period and who died by the survey date; (4) women who were in institutions and therefore not in the survey universe; and (5) 2 percent of births in a 12-month period (only 51 weeks of data are tabulated in the CPS due to the interview schedule). These losses may be somewhat offset by the inclusion in the CPS of births to immigrants who did not have their children born in the United States and births to nonresident women who had their children born in the United States. These births would have not been recorded in the vital registration system. The ages of the women in this table and similar tables in this report refer to the age of women at the time of the survey and not at the birth of child.


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and not at the time of the actual birth. Hence, the CPS estimates of out-of-wedlock births may differ from NCHS estimates by the degree that some women who had a birth in the last year may have subsequently married or divorced by the time of the survey.

Out-of-wedlock childbearing predominantly occurs among younger women—86 percent of births to teenagers in 1998 were out-of-wedlock (see Figure 2). Forty-seven percent of births to women in their early twenties were out of wedlock, with the proportion declining to 11 percent for women 30 years and over. The majority (67 percent) of births to Black women in 1998 were out of wedlock, compared with 38 percent for Hispanic women and 22 percent for White non-Hispanic women.

Figure 2 also shows that women who had not graduated from high school had the highest level of out-of-wedlock childbearing in 1998 (60 percent). About 38 percent of mothers who had graduated from high school who had a birth in 1998 had their children born out of wedlock, compared with 26 percent of mothers with some college education and only 3 percent of women who had a bachelor’s degree or more education. The above statistics illustrate that, while sharp differences occur among different educational groups, out-of-wedlock childbearing occurs throughout the population regardless of their level of education.

**Fertility of never-married women**

The out-of-wedlock childbearing indicators previously discussed present a demographic portrait of women who gave birth in 1998. Those statistics included births to women who were unmarried (women never married, divorced and widowed) in June 1998. Table D looks more selectively at women who have entered motherhood but have yet to marry. This group is especially important as never-married women are much younger and are less likely to be able to support themselves financially.

Overall, there were 24.2 million women 15 to 44 years old in June 1998 who had never married. The large majority were childless, but 5.5 million (23 percent) had borne a child at some time before the survey date. Among never-married teenage women in 1998, 8 percent had borne a child, compared with 40 percent of never-married women in their thirties. One-third of women 40 to 44 years old in 1998 who had never married had borne at least one child. In comparison, among never-married women 40 to 44 years old in 1976, 25 percent had a child out of wedlock (see Table B).

Among never-married women in 1998, 48 percent of Black women had borne a child, compared with 13 percent of White non-Hispanic women and 11 percent of Asian and Pacific Islander women. About one-third of never-married Hispanic women had borne a child.

Sharp differences also exist by educational attainment levels. Since many teenagers have not yet graduated from high school, the statistics in Table D by educational attainment are limited to women...
FERTILITY OF FOREIGN-BORN WOMEN

Differences by nativity status

Beginning in June 1994, information on place of birth and citizenship status was collected in the Current Population Survey in recognition of the growing proportion of the population of the United States who are foreign born. In June 1998, there were 7.2 million foreign-born women aged 15 to 44 years old in the United States, representing 12 percent of women in the childbearing ages (see Table E). About 527,000 foreign-born women gave birth in the year prior to the survey, resulting in a fertility rate of 73 births per 1,000 women. Overall, 41 percent of births to foreign-born women were first births. The fertility rate for native women was 59 births per 1,000 women although a similar proportion of births to these women were first births.

Higher fertility rates for foreign-born women are due to higher age-specific fertility rates for women under age 30. Table E shows that while fertility rates are higher for foreign-born than native women under age 30 by 29 births per 1,000 women, there are no significant differences in the fertility rates for women 30 to 44 years old by nativity.

Among women completing their childbearing years, native women 40 to 44 years old will complete their reproductive years with an average of 2.2 children each, not different from replacement level fertility. On the other hand, foreign-born women will complete their childbearing years with an average of 1.8 children each, which is below replacement level fertility (see Figure 3). On the other hand, foreign-born women will complete their childbearing years with an average of 2.2 children each, not different from replacement level fertility. In addition, levels of childlessness were lower for foreign-born women in their early forties (13 percent) than for native women (20 percent).

21 to 44 years of age in 1998 to present a more reasonable representation of out-of-wedlock fertility differences. About 66 percent of women who had not completed high school had a birth out of wedlock, compared with 28 percent of women with some college education—lower levels of out-of-wedlock childbearing were found for never-married women who had graduated college (9 percent). These differences in fertility may reflect both differential knowledge and access to contraceptive services, but educational outcomes are probably also the consequences of the temporary or even permanent disruptions resulting from an out-of-wedlock birth.

Table D.
Fertility Indicators for Never-Married Women 15 to 44 Years Old by Selected Characteristics: June 1998
(Numbers in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Number of women</th>
<th>Percent with 1 or more children</th>
<th>Number with a birth</th>
<th>Births per 1,000 women</th>
<th>First births per 1,000 women</th>
<th>Children ever born per 1,000 women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>24,185</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>9,204</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>6,315</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29 years</td>
<td>3,606</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>44.0</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 34 years</td>
<td>2,277</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 39 years</td>
<td>1,666</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 44 years</td>
<td>1,118</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RACE AND ETHNICITY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>17,823</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White non-Hispanic</td>
<td>15,131</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>5,099</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>70.3</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian and Pacific Islander</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic (of any race)</td>
<td>2,877</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>72.8</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a high school graduate</td>
<td>1,592</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>72.2</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>1,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>3,553</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>59.6</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>4,416</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree and</td>
<td>3,830</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

1 Limited to women 21 to 44 years old.

Variations by world regions of birth and citizenship status

Estimates from the June 1998 CPS show that the majority of foreign-born women 15 to 44 years old were from Latin America (about 3.9 million or 54 percent). The estimated 304,000 births to these women in 1998 produced a fertility rate of 78 births per 1,000 women. The majority of the women from Latin America were born in Mexico (2.1 million).

Women from Asia, who made up 24 percent of all foreign-born women, had a fertility rate of 57 births per 1,000. The average number of children born to date to these women was 1.3 births per woman compared to 1.8 births per woman from Latin America. Asian-born women also had childlessness levels 10 percentage points higher than women from Latin America. These statistics reflect actual differences in fertility and are not caused by differences in the age distribution of women from the two regions—about one-half of women from both regions who are 15 to 44 years old are in the principal childbearing ages of 20 to 34 years. European-born women also had levels of childlessness (38 percent) and births to date (1.3 births per woman) that were similar to those of Asian-born women.

Table E also shows fertility differences by citizenship status. Thirty-one percent of foreign-born women in the childbearing ages in 1998 were naturalized citizens. The annual fertility rate in 1998 for naturalized citizens was no different from that for native women (59 births per 1,000) although two other fertility indicators were different. Naturalized citizens, relative to native women, had higher average numbers of children born to date (1.6 births per woman) and lower proportions who were childless (30 percent compared with 43 percent). These statistics, which measure cumulative childbearing experience, reflect the relatively older age distribution of naturalized citizens compared with native women—52 percent of women in the childbearing ages who were naturalized citizens were 35 to 44 years old.

Table E. Fertility Indicators for Women 15 to 44 Years Old by Place of Birth, Age, and Citizenship Status: June 1998 (Numbers in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Women who had a child in the last year</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of women</td>
<td>Percent child less</td>
<td>Number with a birth</td>
<td>Births per 1,000 women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60,519</td>
<td>42.2</td>
<td>3,671</td>
<td>60.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATIVE</td>
<td>53,274</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>2,743</td>
<td>49.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 29 years</td>
<td>24,963</td>
<td>67.3</td>
<td>1,866</td>
<td>78.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>8,978</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>49.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>7,836</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>91.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29 years</td>
<td>8,150</td>
<td>44.3</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>99.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 44 years</td>
<td>28,311</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>1,178</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 34 years</td>
<td>8,750</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>82.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 39 years</td>
<td>9,850</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>36.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 44 years</td>
<td>9,711</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREIGN BORN</td>
<td>7,245</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>72.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 29 years</td>
<td>2,864</td>
<td>55.1</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>107.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>89.9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>33.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>151.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29 years</td>
<td>1,302</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>108.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 44 years</td>
<td>4,382</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>49.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 34 years</td>
<td>1,478</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>84.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 39 years</td>
<td>1,501</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>49.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 44 years</td>
<td>1,402</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of birth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>3,916</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>77.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>2,102</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>88.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remainder of Latin America</td>
<td>1,814</td>
<td>32.9</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>64.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>1,713</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>56.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>82.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>94.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naturalized citizen</td>
<td>2,273</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>58.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a citizen</td>
<td>4,972</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>79.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Shown for selected areas for women who are foreign born.
2Includes Russia and all former republics of the Soviet Union.


Fertility rates by place of birth are based on relatively small population bases and can be subject to considerable variation on an annual basis as population controls by region of birth were not made in this survey. These estimates should be treated with caution.
44 years old compared with only 37 percent of native women.

Foreign-born women who were not citizens had a more youthful distribution of women in the principal childbearing ages (55 percent were 20 to 34 years old) compared with foreign-born women who had become citizens (44 percent). However, no differences are noted in 1998 in the average number of children ever born between these two groups of women (1.5 births each) despite their different age distributions. Previous research on immigrant fertility suggests that differences caused by disruptions to childbearing related to migration and settlement eventually diminish by the end of the childbearing years.10

LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS OF MOTHERS WITH INFANTS

Labor force participation rates for women with infants11 reached an all-time high of 59 percent in 1998, almost double the rate of 31 percent in 1976 (see Figure 4).12 In June 1998, there were 2,155,000 women with infants were in the labor force—90 percent were employed at the time of the survey. The large increase in labor force participation rates since 1976 is an important reason why child care issues have been a key component of family policy legislation in recent years. From changes to the federal tax code in 1976 which permitted working parents to take a tax credit for child care expenses to the passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, there has been an increased recognition of the importance of making it easier for women to combine child rearing and employment activities.

For comparative purposes, Table F shows the degree of labor force participation of mothers (women with children) who were 15 to 44 years old by whether they have had a child in the last year. Labor force participation rates of mothers rather than all women were used in this comparison as children require attention and daily supervision, time constraints which are not shared by childless women. These family activities, in turn, influence the likelihood of being employed. On average, mothers who had a child in the last year recorded lower labor force participation rates (59 percent) than did other mothers (73 percent).

Women who seek to return to work shortly after giving birth may face medical and maternal responsibilities that are not shared by women with older children. Mothers with infants may want to return to work, but at lower levels of activity, to devote as much time as possible to providing care in the critical months after childbirth. These employment tendencies are evident in Table F—lower proportions of mothers with infants were employed full-time13 than were mothers without infant children. Among mothers with infants, about twice as many were employed full-time (36 percent) as were employed part-time (17 percent) compared with mothers without infant children where full-time

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11 Labor force participation rates are defined as the number of persons who are either employed or looking for work per 100 persons in specified population groups. Infants are defined as children under 1 year or 12 months old.


13 Full-time workers are employed people who work 35 or more hours per week.
workers were three times as common (52 percent) as part-time workers (17 percent).

**Full-time and part-time employment**

Which women are more likely to be employed full-time rather than part-time? Labor force participation among women with infants is appreciably higher for college-educated women than for women with a high school education or less. Data from the June 1998 CPS indicate that 68 percent of women with 1 or more years of college who had a child in the previous year were in the labor force, compared with 58 percent for high school graduates and only 38 percent for women who were not high school graduates. For women with 1 or more years of college or who had graduated high school, a larger percentage of women worked at full-time rather than at part-time jobs. Among women who were not high school graduates, no difference was found in the percentage working at full-time or part-time jobs.

This pattern suggests that women with more time invested in their educational careers' return to work more rapidly and are more likely to return as full-time workers than do women with fewer years of schooling. Many factors could account for these differences, insofar as educational attainment is related to work experience and salary levels. Studies have shown that the likelihood of returning to work after a child's birth is highly associated with work experience prior to and during pregnancy (for example, hours worked per week and when the woman stopped working). In addition to higher initial levels of labor force activity during pregnancy, greater job commitment or available resources to purchase child care services may account for the higher post-childbirth levels of labor force participation levels among mothers with more years of schooling.

What other factors influence the decision to return to work after childbirth? The marital status of the mother is a strong determinant of labor force participation but can act as a double-edged sword as a predictor. Women who are unmarried and who lack a spouse's income may be in relatively poorer economic circumstances than married women, and more dependent on their own employment to support their family. However, the absence of a husband may restrict their ability to obtain child care services due to fewer family economic resources to pay for child care and the lack of a spouse to serve as a child care provider. Table F shows that 50 percent of separated, divorced, and widowed women with infants are employed full-time—more than women who are married (39 percent), and also twice as high a proportion as women who have never married (24 percent). Among mothers in the labor force with infants, never-married women also are most likely to be unemployed and possibly in need of child care services or job training assistance.

An important trend appearing in the last few years has been the narrowing of differences in labor force participation rates among women by the number of children they have. Table F indicates that in 1998 the labor force participation rate for mothers with infants was not different between mothers with only one birth (61 percent) or with two or more births (57 percent). In the June 1995 survey, the difference was about 10 percentage points (59 percent and 49 percent, respectively) while in 1976 the difference was about 13 percentage points (39 percent and 26 percent, respectively). This convergence suggests that families today are better able to provide child care services when additional births occur. Recent childcare data indicate that if a family uses the same provider for more than one child, the cost of child care is about 25 percent less per child than if different arrangements are made for the children.16

**DUAL-EMPLOYED FAMILIES**

The increase in the labor force participation of women has significantly altered the structure of family life, especially the need for child care providers. The traditional family portrayed as one with an employed husband whose wife stayed home to look after the children has changed to a family with both parents employed outside the home and with children cared for by someone other than a family member.

Table G shows selected socioeconomic characteristics of married couples (where the wife is 15 to 44 years old) by the spouses' employment status and whether the wife was childless or had ever had a child. Of the 28.3 million married-couple families in 1998 with wives who were in the childbearing ages, 14.3 million (51 percent) were dual-employed

---


### Table F. Labor Force Participation Among Mothers 15 to 44 Years Old by Fertility Status and Selected Characteristics: June 1998

*(Numbers in thousands. Limited to women with at least one child ever born)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Mothers who had a child in the last year</th>
<th>Mothers who did not have a child in the last year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of mothers</td>
<td>Percent in labor force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,671</td>
<td>58.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>43.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>56.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29 years</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>61.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 44 years</td>
<td>1,397</td>
<td>63.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Births to Date and Age of Woman</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First birth</td>
<td>2,181</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>22,115</td>
<td>71.1</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>1,490</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>9,188</td>
<td>76.9</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>2,306</td>
<td>66.1</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29 years</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4,387</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>50.3</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>4.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 to 44 years</td>
<td>1,397</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>24,127</td>
<td>74.4</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>3.2</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Race and Ethnicity</strong></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>2,947</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>24,647</td>
<td>72.1</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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<td>White non-Hispanic</td>
<td>2,374</td>
<td>61.6</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>20,690</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>5,079</td>
<td>77.5</td>
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<td>10.8</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian and Pacific Islander</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>49.9</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>67.6</td>
<td>50.3</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic (of any race)</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>4,182</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>5.5</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Marital Status</strong></th>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married, husband present</td>
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<td>60.0</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>21,121</td>
<td>70.7</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated1, divorced or widowed</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>50.2</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5,731</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td>12.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never married</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<td>24.2</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>4,451</td>
<td>70.8</td>
<td>46.9</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>9.9</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Educational Attainment</strong></th>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not a high school graduate</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>4,871</td>
<td>56.3</td>
<td>35.4</td>
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<td>7.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
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<td>58.4</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>11,511</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College, 1 or more years</td>
<td>1,844</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>46.6</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>14,920</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>56.3</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No degree</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>66.4</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>6,329</td>
<td>75.8</td>
<td>56.4</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
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<td>50.4</td>
<td>17.3</td>
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<td>2,664</td>
<td>81.5</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
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<td>66.5</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>4,509</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>54.0</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
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<td>73.6</td>
<td>63.2</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,418</td>
<td>80.6</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Family Income</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under $10,000</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>3,179</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 to $19,999</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>3,763</td>
<td>69.8</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000 to $24,999</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>2,024</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 to $29,999</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>2,013</td>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000 to $34,999</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2,006</td>
<td>76.2</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>67.3</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>5,080</td>
<td>76.7</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $74,999</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>5,634</td>
<td>80.1</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 and over</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1,271</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income not reported</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>49.9</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>3,078</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
1Includes married, husband absent.

### Table G.
**Married Couples by Employment and Fertility Status: Selected Years, 1976 to 1998**
(Numbers in thousands. Limited to married-couple families)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic and survey year</th>
<th>Number of couples</th>
<th>Husband and wife employed</th>
<th>Husband employed, wife not employed</th>
<th>All other couples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Wife with one or more children</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1998 SURVEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>28,344</td>
<td>18,262</td>
<td>3,946</td>
<td>14,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age of Wife</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 years</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24 years</td>
<td>2,005</td>
<td>1,068</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29 years</td>
<td>4,655</td>
<td>2,995</td>
<td>1,167</td>
<td>1,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 34 years</td>
<td>6,365</td>
<td>4,103</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>3,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 39 years</td>
<td>7,472</td>
<td>4,786</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>4,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 44 years</td>
<td>7,592</td>
<td>5,199</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>4,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race and Ethnicity of Wife</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>24,522</td>
<td>15,847</td>
<td>3,516</td>
<td>12,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White non-Hispanic</td>
<td>21,221</td>
<td>14,198</td>
<td>3,252</td>
<td>10,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>2,152</td>
<td>1,478</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>1,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian and Pacific Islander</td>
<td>1,451</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic (of any race)</td>
<td>3,440</td>
<td>1,727</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>1,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Attainment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Both college graduates</td>
<td>5,372</td>
<td>3,705</td>
<td>1,224</td>
<td>2,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>22,972</td>
<td>14,557</td>
<td>2,721</td>
<td>11,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occupation</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both professional-managerial</td>
<td>6,558</td>
<td>3,311</td>
<td>948</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
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<td>14,951</td>
<td>2,988</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Under $10,000</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 to $19,999</td>
<td>2,031</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000 to $24,999</td>
<td>1,528</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>599</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,000 to $29,999</td>
<td>1,697</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>178</td>
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<td>1,789</td>
<td>1,144</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>852</td>
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<td>3,567</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>2,881</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6,693</td>
<td>5,050</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>4,010</td>
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<tr>
<td>$75,000 and over</td>
<td>5,724</td>
<td>4,230</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>3,104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income not reported</td>
<td>2,661</td>
<td>1,534</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>1,213</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tenure</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own home</td>
<td>20,783</td>
<td>14,359</td>
<td>2,667</td>
<td>11,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>7,061</td>
<td>3,679</td>
<td>1,219</td>
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<td>No cash rent</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SURVEY YEAR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>29,531</td>
<td>17,834</td>
<td>3,910</td>
<td>13,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>29,413</td>
<td>17,596</td>
<td>4,150</td>
<td>13,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>26,777</td>
<td>14,113</td>
<td>3,672</td>
<td>10,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>25,420</td>
<td>11,379</td>
<td>3,048</td>
<td>8,331</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X Not applicable.

Note: Data for 1992 and 1998 are for families where the wife was 15 to 44 years old; for previous surveys, the data are for women 18 to 44 years old.

families with children. This is the first year since the Census Bureau began presenting these data that
dual-employed families with children made up the majority of married-couple families. In 1976, there were
only 8.3 million of these families, or one-third of all married couple families.

The modal family type in the 1970s was one which had children but where only the husband worked, frequently referred to as the “traditional family.” In 1976, 43 percent of married couples (11 million) were in this family situation. By 1998, the number of married couples with children where only the husband worked declined to 6.8 million and represented only 24 percent of married couples.

Dual-employed couples who are childless increased from about 3 million couples in 1976 to 4.2 million couples in 1987—no significant change was noted by 1998. The major change for the past two decades in family and economic life has not been the growth of dual-employed couples without children, but an increase in the number and proportion of couples where both child rearing and working lives are the norms for both spouses.

**Socioeconomic characteristics of dual-employed families**

Among dual-employed families, what characteristics differentiate those families with and without children? In general, wives of childless couples tend to be younger and hence at an earlier stage of family formation. About 43 percent of childless dual-employed couples had wives who were under age 30 compared with only 17 percent of couples with children.

One distinguishing characteristic which makes childless dual-employed couples different from the other family groupings is their higher joint level of educational attainment. In 1998, 31 percent of childless dual-employed couples had both spouses graduating from college compared with only 17 percent of dual-employed couples with children. The traditional family, where only the husband was employed and the wife stayed home with the children, also had levels of joint college education (17 percent) similar to dual-employed couples with children.

Consistent with their higher levels of education, childless dual-employed couples were more likely to have both husbands and wives working in either professional or managerial occupations. Twenty-four percent of childless couples were jointly employed in these occupational categories compared with 16 percent of couples with children. Despite these differences in education and occupation, relatively small differences in family income were found among dual-employed couples by the wife’s fertility status. Among those reporting on their family income, 60 percent of childless couples had incomes of $50,000 and over compared with 54 percent of families with children. Dual-employed couples, as expected, had distinctly higher incomes than families where only the husband worked. Among couples reporting on their family income, 55 percent of dual-employed couples had incomes of $50,000 and over compared with only 40 percent of husband-only employed couples.

Despite their lower income levels, home ownership levels were significantly higher for dual-employed couples with children (82 percent) than for childless couples (68 percent). A similar pattern was found for husband-only working couples, with home ownership rates higher for couples with children (69 percent) than without children (56 percent). These results suggest that decisions to purchase a home may not solely depend on the family’s income, but may also be influenced by the need for larger and more private spaces when families begin to grow.

**SOURCE OF THE DATA**

Most estimates in this report come from data obtained in the June 1998 Current Population Survey (CPS). Some estimates are based on data obtained by the CPS in earlier years. The Census Bureau conducts the CPS every month, although this report uses only data from the June surveys.

**ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY OF THE DATA**

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and meet the Census Bureau’s standards for statistical significance. 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 answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process—including the overall design of surveys, testing the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports.
The CPS employs 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 how it affects different variables in the survey is not precisely known. Moreover, biases may also be present when people who are missed in the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than the categories used in weighting (age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin). 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, contact Marti Jones, Demographic Statistical Methods Division, on the Internet at dsmd_S&A@ccmail.census.gov.

MORE INFORMATION

Detailed tables with characteristics of women in the childbearing ages by fertility indicators are available on the Internet (http://www.census.gov); search by clicking on “F” for “Fertility” under the “Subjects A-Z” heading on the Census Bureau home page.

To receive a paper copy of these tables, send your request for “PPL-116, Fertility of American Women: June 1998” along with a check or money order in the amount of $25.00 payable to “Commerce-Census-88-00-9010,” to U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, PO. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422. A copy of these tabulations will be made available to any existing CPR P20 subscriber without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this report. Contact our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422.

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USER COMMENTS

The Census Bureau welcomes the comments and advice of users of its data and reports. If you have any suggestions or comments, please write to:

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or send an e-mail inquiry to:
pop@census.gov

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