

# Fertility of American Women: June 2004

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## Population Characteristics

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### INTRODUCTION

This report describes fertility patterns of American women and is based on data collected in the June 2004 supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS).<sup>1</sup> Unlike fertility statistics from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which are compiled from birth certificates, CPS data are collected from two survey questions asked of women 15 to 44 years old: (1) "How many children have you ever had?" and (2) "What is the date of birth of your last child?" The report provides estimates of recent fertility and nonmarital childbearing, highlighting differences among women by race, Hispanic origin, and nativity status.

Historical data from previous surveys are also used in this report to show the fluctuations since 1976 in the labor force participation of women with infants (children under 1 year of age).<sup>2</sup> Mothers' labor force participation is also examined according to the number of years since the last birth. In addition, this report illustrates how women completing their childbearing today differ from women whose principal childbearing occurred during the latter Baby Boom years of the late 1950s and early 1960s.

<sup>1</sup> The data in this report are from the Fertility Supplement to the June 2004 Current Population Survey. The population represented (the population universe) is the female civilian noninstitutionalized population 15 to 44 years old living in the United States.

<sup>2</sup> Women with a birth in the last year are also referred to as women or mothers with infants. The measure does not take living arrangements into account.

Data from NCHS indicate that fertility rates have fluctuated since the peak of the Baby Boom in the late 1950s, when the total fertility rate was more than 3.5 births per woman.<sup>3</sup> By the mid-1970s, the rate had fallen by one-half to about 1.8 births per woman. During the past decade, the rate has fluctuated between 2.0 and 2.1 births per woman, close to the rate required for natural replacement of the population (about 2.1 births per woman).<sup>4</sup>

### CURRENT FERTILITY

#### Overall Patterns of Fertility

Table 1 shows fertility indicators for women in June 2004 by age, race, and Hispanic origin.<sup>5</sup> Of the 61.6 million

<sup>3</sup> The total fertility rate for any 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 were to experience the age-specific birth rates for that given year. From 1955 to 1959, the total fertility rate ranged from 3,579 to 3,712 births per 1,000 women, which translates to 3.6 to 3.7 births per woman. (*Vital Statistics of the United States, 1999. Volume 1, Natality.* <[www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh/statab/unpubd/natality/natab99.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh/statab/unpubd/natality/natab99.htm)> Detailed table 1-7.)

<sup>4</sup> 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 boys than girls are born and that not all children survive to the childbearing ages, this level is about 2.1 births per woman.

<sup>5</sup> The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

## Current Population Reports

By  
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Table 1.  
**Fertility Indicators for Women 15 to 44 Years Old by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin:  
 June 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Number of women	Percent childless	Women who had a child in the last year				Children ever born per 1,000 women
			Number	Births per 1,000 women		First births per 1,000 women	
				Rate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>		
<b>AGE</b>							
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>61,588</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>3,746</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>1,182</b>
15 to 19 years .....	9,964	93.3	385	38.7	4.5	22.1	96
20 to 24 years .....	10,068	68.9	882	87.6	6.6	43.0	489
25 to 29 years .....	9,498	44.2	938	98.7	7.1	40.2	1,060
30 to 34 years .....	10,082	27.6	946	93.8	6.8	28.4	1,564
35 to 39 years .....	10,442	19.6	443	42.4	4.6	11.5	1,844
40 to 44 years .....	11,535	19.3	153	13.2	2.5	2.8	1,895
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>							
<b>White alone</b>							
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>47,984</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>2,881</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>1,159</b>
15 to 19 years .....	7,646	93.9	262	34.2	4.9	21.3	85
20 to 24 years .....	7,790	70.8	670	86.0	7.4	44.6	443
25 to 29 years .....	7,309	45.6	726	99.4	8.2	40.6	1,006
30 to 34 years .....	7,790	28.4	764	98.1	7.9	26.9	1,518
35 to 39 years .....	8,212	20.2	337	41.0	5.1	8.8	1,825
40 to 44 years .....	9,237	19.1	122	13.2	2.8	2.7	1,878
<b>White alone, non-Hispanic</b>							
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>39,120</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>2,114</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>1,091</b>
15 to 19 years .....	6,174	95.5	169	27.4	4.9	17.3	64
20 to 24 years .....	6,252	75.4	424	67.8	7.4	40.2	358
25 to 29 years .....	5,699	49.6	543	95.3	9.1	42.0	896
30 to 34 years .....	6,242	30.9	599	96.0	8.7	31.1	1,389
35 to 39 years .....	6,784	21.3	289	42.6	5.7	9.6	1,746
40 to 44 years .....	7,968	20.0	90	11.3	2.8	2.4	1,811
<b>Black alone</b>							
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>8,798</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>1,361</b>
15 to 19 years .....	1,571	90.4	92	58.8	13.9	26.8	147
20 to 24 years .....	1,495	57.0	140	93.6	17.6	36.1	742
25 to 29 years .....	1,370	33.3	125	91.0	18.1	28.2	1,491
30 to 34 years .....	1,408	18.9	84	59.6	14.7	18.6	1,952
35 to 39 years .....	1,431	17.0	57	39.9	12.1	16.8	2,020
40 to 44 years .....	1,523	21.3	17	11.1	6.3	4.7	1,938
<b>Asian alone</b>							
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>3,035</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>1,031</b>
15 to 19 years .....	383	94.7	18	46.4	25.1	19.5	94
20 to 24 years .....	443	80.8	34	76.5	29.5	30.4	341
25 to 29 years .....	549	50.4	59	107.3	30.9	66.1	771
30 to 34 years .....	595	40.0	68	114.5	30.5	63.3	1,103
35 to 39 years .....	559	19.0	38	68.6	25.0	36.2	1,592
40 to 44 years .....	505	17.8	13	25.6	16.4	1.2	1,923
<b>Hispanic (any race)</b>							
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>9,618</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>1,454</b>
15 to 19 years .....	1,588	87.9	93	58.4	17.8	35.5	163
20 to 24 years .....	1,684	52.8	273	162.0	27.2	66.8	780
25 to 29 years .....	1,744	31.5	194	111.5	22.9	34.8	1,408
30 to 34 years .....	1,700	18.6	177	104.0	22.4	15.3	2,029
35 to 39 years .....	1,524	15.1	48	31.7	13.6	4.9	2,192
40 to 44 years .....	1,378	13.8	32	22.9	12.2	4.4	2,301

<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimated birth rate in each category, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2004.

women who were 15 to 44 years old in June 2004, 3.7 million gave birth in the preceding 12 months; 1.5 million were first births.<sup>6</sup> These births reflect an estimated fertility rate in the past year of 61 births per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years old and a corresponding first-birth rate of 24 births per 1,000 women. In this report, the fertility rate is defined as the number of women who reported having a child in the 12-month period ending in June 2004 per 1,000 women in the specified age and/or characteristic group at the time of the survey.

### **Fertility Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin**

The fertility rate for Hispanic women in 2004 was 85 births per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years old (Table 1).<sup>7</sup> Among Hispanic women, 817,000 gave birth in the year prior to the survey, representing 22 percent of all births. Single-race non-Hispanic White women

had more births in the past year (2.1 million), while their fertility rate (54 births per 1,000 women) was lower than that of Hispanic women.<sup>8</sup>

Based on the number of children ever born to women 40 to 44 years old in 2004, Hispanic women, with an average of 2.3 births, were the one group that exceeded the level required for natural replacement of the population (about 2.1 births per woman). Black and non-Hispanic White women 40 to 44 years old had fertility levels below the replacement level, ranging from about 1.8 to 1.9 births per woman. Corresponding to their relatively high level of completed fertility, 14 percent of Hispanic women 40 to 44 years old were childless, compared with about 20 percent to 21 percent of Black women and non-Hispanic White women. The percent childless for Black and non-Hispanic White women 40 to 44 years old are not statistically different.

### **Fertility Differences by Nativity Status**

Table 2 shows that 9.5 million foreign-born women 15 to 44 years old lived in the United States in June 2004, representing 15 percent of women of childbearing ages.<sup>9</sup> In the year prior to the survey, 794,000 foreign-born women gave birth, resulting in a fertility rate of 84 births per 1,000 women in this group. Thirty-seven percent of births to foreign-born women in the previous year were first births (31 first births per 1,000 women). While the number of native women who gave birth in the previous year was almost 4 times that of foreign-born women, the corresponding fertility rates for native women were lower, at 57 births per 1,000 women and 23 first births per 1,000 women.

Among foreign-born women 15 to 44 years old, those of Hispanic origin had a higher fertility rate in 2004 (94 births per 1,000 women) than non-Hispanics (74 births per 1,000 women) and a higher average number of births per woman (1.7 and 1.2, respectively).<sup>10</sup> Consistent with their higher fertility rates, foreign-born Hispanic women were less likely to be childless (26 percent) than were non-Hispanic foreign-born women (42 percent). In 2004, 55 percent of births to

<sup>6</sup> Vital statistics estimates for the calendar year 2003 indicate that there were about 4.1 million births, of which 1.6 million were first births. (Joyce A. Martin, Brady E. Hamilton, Paul D. Sutton, et al. "Births: Final data for 2003." *National Vital Statistics Reports*; Vol. 54, No. 2. National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2005, Table 2.) Taking into account that 10 days of births were not collected in the June 2004 CPS, that only births to women 15 to 44 years are counted in the CPS, and that the CPS counts only women and not births occurring in multiple deliveries, a comparative number of vital statistics births for 2003 would be about 4.0 million, indicating that the CPS estimate is lower than the estimated number based on vital statistics reports.

<sup>7</sup> Federal surveys now give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text, figures, and tables) shows data for women who reported they were the single race White and not Hispanic, women who reported the single race Black, and women who reported the single race Asian. Use of

the single-race populations does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The U.S. Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.

The appendix table shows data on selected fertility characteristics for women who reported they were White, Black, or Asian, including women who reported that race alone, women who reported that race in combination with another race, and women who reported that race regardless of whether they also reported another race. For further information, see the Census 2000 Brief *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000* (C2KBR/01-1) <[www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html)>. The CPS uses five categories to describe race: White, Black, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. People of Hispanic origin may be any race. Data for the American Indian and Alaska Native population are not shown in this report because of their small sample size in the CPS. Based on the population of women 15 to 44 years old surveyed in the June 2004 CPS, 3.4 percent of the single-race Black population and 1.7 percent of the single-race Asian population were also Hispanic.

<sup>8</sup> For the remainder of this text, the phrase "non-Hispanic White women" is used to designate women who reported they were the single race White and not Hispanic.

<sup>9</sup> In this report, "native" is used to designate people born in the United States, Puerto Rico, the island areas of the United States (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands), or abroad to at least one U.S. citizen parent. "Foreign born" refers to all other people. The CPS sample does not include Puerto Rico or the U.S. island areas.

<sup>10</sup> In order to control for differences in the age distributions of Hispanic and non-Hispanic immigrants, the total fertility rate for each of these populations was constructed from age-specific fertility rates from the June 2004 CPS. Hispanic women who were foreign born had an estimated total fertility rate of 2.8 births per woman, compared with 2.2 births per woman for non-Hispanic women who were foreign born.

Table 2.  
**Fertility Indicators for Women 15 to 44 Years Old by Selected Characteristics: June 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Number of women	Percent childless	Women who had a child in the last year <sup>1</sup>			Children ever born per 1,000 women
			Number	Births per 1,000 women	First births per 1,000 women	
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>61,588</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>3,746</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>1,182</b>
<b>NATIVITY AND HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>						
Native .....	52,107	46.5	2,953	56.7	22.7	1,134
Hispanic (any race) .....	4,968	47.4	380	76.6	28.6	1,199
Not Hispanic .....	47,139	46.4	2,572	54.6	22.0	1,127
White alone, non-Hispanic .....	37,460	47.2	2,002	53.4	21.8	1,087
Foreign born .....	9,481	34.3	794	83.7	30.9	1,446
Hispanic (any race) .....	4,650	26.2	436	93.8	27.3	1,727
Not Hispanic .....	4,831	42.1	358	74.0	34.4	1,177
White alone, non-Hispanic .....	1,660	42.3	112	67.5	35.7	1,191
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>						
Currently married .....	29,909	19.0	2,557	85.5	31.0	1,771
Married, husband present .....	27,586	18.7	2,416	87.6	32.4	1,764
Married, husband absent .....	784	30.6	69	88.5	35.9	1,568
Married, separated .....	1,539	17.8	73	47.1	3.2	2,006
Divorced or widowed .....	5,294	20.8	145	27.3	7.0	1,724
Never married .....	26,385	78.5	1,044	39.6	19.3	406
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>						
Not a high school graduate .....	12,965	61.4	748	57.7	18.1	962
High school graduate .....	16,137	31.8	1,086	67.3	24.6	1,461
College, 1 or more years .....	32,486	44.3	1,913	58.9	25.9	1,132
No degree .....	12,667	47.6	671	53.0	19.1	1,091
Associate's degree .....	5,335	31.0	295	55.3	26.8	1,417
Bachelor's degree .....	10,807	47.4	681	63.0	30.7	1,055
Graduate or professional degree .....	3,678	42.5	267	72.5	33.9	1,085
<b>LABOR FORCE STATUS</b>						
In labor force .....	42,621	44.5	2,046	48.0	20.7	1,153
Employed .....	39,441	44.0	1,824	46.2	20.2	1,160
Unemployed .....	3,180	50.5	223	70.0	26.3	1,070
Not in labor force .....	18,967	44.9	1,700	89.6	31.3	1,248
<b>ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME<sup>2</sup></b>						
Under \$20,000 .....	9,077	40.8	782	86.2	27.3	1,379
\$20,000 to \$34,999 .....	9,641	41.4	641	66.5	24.0	1,264
\$35,000 to \$49,999 .....	8,149	44.5	465	57.1	24.3	1,150
\$50,000 to \$74,999 .....	10,659	46.0	588	55.2	23.3	1,128
\$75,000 to \$99,999 .....	6,629	45.6	388	58.5	26.9	1,087
\$100,000 and over .....	7,183	48.8	362	50.4	19.2	1,073
Not ascertained .....	10,249	46.2	520	50.7	22.6	1,152
<b>REGION OF RESIDENCE<sup>3</sup></b>						
Northeast .....	11,412	48.0	656	57.5	22.3	1,099
Midwest .....	13,703	43.7	898	65.5	24.7	1,211
South .....	22,182	42.5	1,338	60.3	23.9	1,203
West .....	14,291	46.1	854	59.8	24.6	1,189

<sup>1</sup> Since the number of women who 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; (5) 2 percent of births in a 12-month period (only 51 weeks of data are tabulated in the CPS due to the mid- to late-June interview schedule). These losses may be somewhat offset by the inclusion in the CPS of births to immigrants whose children were not born in the United States and births to nonresident women who gave birth in the United States. These births would not have 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 the child.

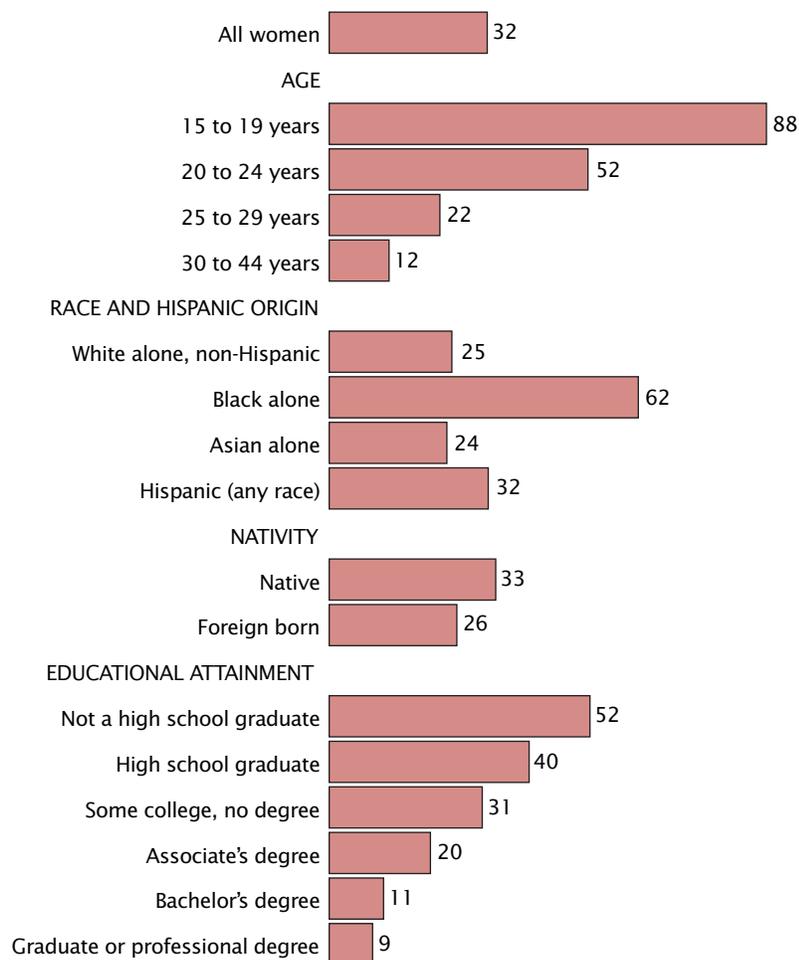
<sup>2</sup> Family income is asked of all respondents regardless of living arrangements. For people living alone, the income data are for these individuals. For other people living in nonfamily households (i.e., households with no members who are related to the householder), it is presumed that the respondent listed only his or her own income.

<sup>3</sup> Region is defined as the four groupings of states and the District of Columbia (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West) established by the U.S. Census Bureau in 1942 for the presentation of census data. Northeast Region: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania. Midwest Region: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas. South Region: Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas. West Region: Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2004.

Figure 1.  
**Nonmarital Births by Age, Race, Hispanic Origin,  
 Nativity, and Educational Attainment: June 2004**

(Percent of births born in the preceding 12 months to women who were never married, divorced, or widowed in specified categories)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2004.

foreign-born women were to Hispanic women, who represented 49 percent of foreign-born women in the childbearing ages.

Among native women, fertility rates for Hispanic women were also higher than those of non-Hispanic women (77 births per 1,000 and 55 births per 1,000, respectively), while their levels of childlessness were not different. One reason for the difference in overall fertility rates between

Hispanic and non-Hispanic native women was the relatively higher fertility of Hispanic women 20 to 24 years old.

## DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES IN FERTILITY

### Nonmarital Childbearing

Estimates from the June 2004 CPS indicate that 1.2 million women had a nonmarital birth in the previous 12-month period, representing 32 percent of all births to women

aged 15 to 44 (Figure 1). About 1.0 million births were to never-married women, while 145,000 were to women who were divorced or widowed at the time of the survey (Table 2). These estimates may vary slightly from the vital statistics reported by NCHS because marital status in the CPS is recorded at the time of the survey and not at the time of the birth.<sup>11</sup> Some women in the CPS who gave birth in the last year may have subsequently married or divorced by the time of the survey.

Nonmarital childbearing occurs more frequently among younger women (Figure 1). In 2004, 88 percent of births to teenage women were nonmarital, compared with 52 percent of births to women in their early twenties. Black women and Hispanic women had larger proportions of nonmarital births (62 percent and 32 percent, respectively) than non-Hispanic White women and Asian women (25 percent and 24 percent, respectively). The proportions of nonmarital births to non-Hispanic White and Asian women are not significantly different. The proportion of nonmarital births among foreign-born women was somewhat lower (26 percent) than among native women (33 percent). Figure 1 also shows an inverse relationship between educational attainment and the proportion of births to unmarried women. The majority of births to women without a high school diploma were nonmarital (52 percent), compared with 9 percent of births to women with a graduate or professional degree.

<sup>11</sup> Vital statistics estimates for the calendar year 2003 indicate that unmarried women of all ages had 1.4 million births or 34.6 percent of all births. (Joyce A. Martin, Brady E. Hamilton, Paul D. Sutton, et al. "Births: Final data for 2003." *National Vital Statistics Reports*; Vol. 54, No. 2. National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2005, Table D.)

Table 3.  
**Fertility Indicators for Women 15 to 44 Years Old by Cohabitation Status and Marital Status: June 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Cohabitation status	Number of women	Average age in years	Percent childless	Women who had a child in the last year			Children ever born per 1,000 women
				Number	Births per 1,000 women	First births per 1,000 women	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>61,588</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>3,746</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>1,182</b>
Married, husband present .....	27,586	34.4	18.7	2,416	87.6	32.4	1,764
Other than married, husband present <sup>1</sup> ..	34,002	29.2	65.6	1,331	39.1	17.1	710
Opposite-sex partner in household .....	3,656	29.2	50.3	238	65.1	29.7	991
Ever married <sup>1</sup> .....	1,152	34.5	24.7	45	39.0	2.4	1,644
Never married .....	2,504	26.8	62.0	193	77.0	42.2	690
No opposite-sex partner in household ..	30,346	25.9	67.5	1,093	36.0	15.5	677
Ever married <sup>1</sup> .....	6,465	35.3	20.5	242	37.4	10.4	1,787
Never married .....	23,880	23.3	80.2	852	35.7	16.9	376

<sup>1</sup> Includes married, husband absent; separated, divorced, or widowed.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2004.

### Demographic Differences in Childbearing

Table 2 shows that women whose highest level of education was a high school diploma or an associate's degree had the highest rates of children ever born among women aged 15 to 44 (1.5 births per woman and 1.4 births per woman, respectively—rates that were not statistically different from each other). Women who had completed a graduate or professional degree, bachelor's degree, or high school diploma had birth rates in the past year of 73 births per 1,000 women, 63 per 1,000 women, and 67 per 1,000 women, respectively, which were not statistically different. Women who were not in the labor force had a higher birth rate (90 per 1,000 women) and higher average number of children ever born (1.3 births per woman) than women who were in the labor force (48 per 1,000 women and 1.2 births per woman, respectively). It is likely that some women intentionally do

not participate in the labor force in order to be stay-at-home mothers.<sup>12</sup>

Women with lower family incomes (under \$20,000 per year) had higher fertility rates than women in other income groups.<sup>13</sup> Women with annual family incomes of \$100,000 and over were more likely than women with annual family incomes below \$20,000 to be childless (49 percent compared with 41 percent). Women in the Northeast were more likely to be childless (48 percent) than women

<sup>12</sup> Research from the March 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS) shows that, of the 2.3 million married women who were living with their husband and who had an infant under 1 year of age, 855,000 were out of the labor force for the entire year. Among this group, 810,000 stated that they were not working in order to take care of their family and children. <[www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/cps2003/tabFG8-all.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/cps2003/tabFG8-all.pdf)>.

<sup>13</sup> Family income is asked of all respondents regardless of living arrangements. For people living alone, the income data are for the individual. For other people living in nonfamily households (i.e., households with no members who are related to the householder), the income data presumably are for the individual respondent.

in the other three regions (ranging from 43 percent to 46 percent).<sup>14</sup>

### Births to Cohabiting Women

Cohabitation between unmarried, opposite-sex partners may increase the likelihood that a woman will have a nonmarital birth.<sup>15</sup> Among the 34 million women of childbearing age in 2004 who were not married with their husband present, 3.7 million were living with an opposite-sex partner and 238,000 of them had given birth in the last year (Table 3).<sup>16</sup> Among the latter

<sup>14</sup> Footnote 3 in Table 2 lists the states in each census-defined region.

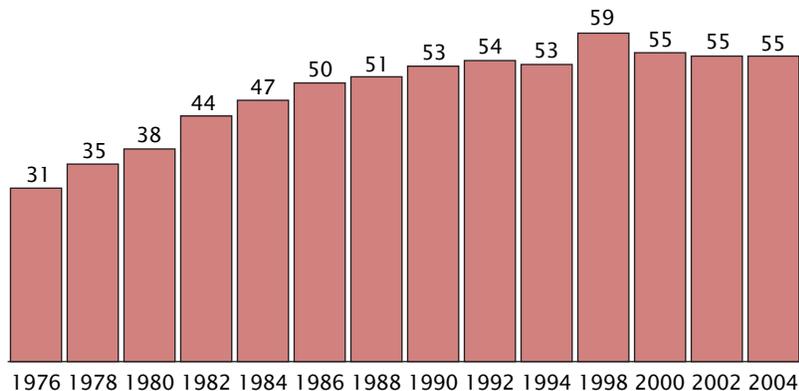
<sup>15</sup> Amara Bachu, *Trends in Premarital Childbearing: 1930 to 1994*, Current Population Reports P23-197, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1999.

<sup>16</sup> Cohabitation, in this report, is determined by whether a woman is living with a male unmarried partner, where either the woman or her partner is the householder. People in a partnered relationship who are not living together in the same household, or where neither is identified as the householder, are not tabulated in this report. For example, the daughter of the householder living with her partner, who would be identified as a nonrelative of the householder, would not be tabulated.

Figure 2.

### Labor Force Participation Rates for Mothers With a Birth in the Last Year: 1976 to 2004

(Percent of all women aged 15 to 44 who were in the labor force and had a child in the last 12 months<sup>1</sup>)



<sup>1</sup> Prior to 1990, labor force participation was only collected for women 18 and older.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, selected years, June 1976 to June 2004.

group, the birth rate was lower than that of women living with a husband (65 births and 88 births per 1,000 women, respectively) and higher than the rate for women living without an unmarried partner (36 births per 1,000 women). Never-married cohabiting women were more likely to have given birth in the last year than cohabiting women who had ever married (77 births and 39 births per 1,000 women, respectively).<sup>17</sup> Birth rates for women who were married and living with a husband (88 births per 1,000 women) were not statistically different from the birth rates for never-married women living with a cohabiting partner (77 births per 1,000 women).

First-birth rates were highest among never-married cohabiting women, followed by women living with their husband (42 births and

<sup>17</sup> Birth rates for women with no cohabiting partner (36 births per 1,000 women) were not statistically different from birth rates of women who had ever married and were living with a cohabiting partner (39 births per 1,000 women).

32 births per 1,000 women, respectively). In contrast, the first-birth rate for never-married women without a cohabiting partner was 17 births per 1,000 women. Data on the average number of children ever born by marital and cohabitation status, which reflects cumulative childbearing to date, show that women were more likely to have had children if they were currently or had ever been married than if they had never been married, regardless of their current cohabitation status. These differences in fertility by marital status among women aged 15 to 44 reflect differences in average age, as shown in Table 3.

### LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS OF MOTHERS

#### Changes in Labor Force Patterns Since 1976

Changes in the labor force participation of mothers who had a birth in the past year may point to changes in the need for child care

and maternity leave arrangements in upcoming years. In addition, they may signal changes in child-rearing practices, methods of balancing work and family life, and future childbearing and birth-spacing trends.<sup>18</sup> Since 1990, the majority of mothers who had a birth in the previous year were in the labor force, reaching a high of 59 percent in 1998 (Figure 2).<sup>19</sup> The labor force participation rate fell to 55 percent in 2000, where it remained in 2002 and 2004.

### Current Labor Force Participation

Table 4 indicates differences in labor force participation rates among mothers with a birth in the past year. Historically, labor force participation rates among women with one child have usually been higher than for women with two or more children. In 2004, 60 percent of women with one child were in the labor force, compared with 51 percent of women with two or more children. Women 30 and older also had higher labor force participation rates than teenage mothers (59 percent and 40 percent, respectively), and non-Hispanic White mothers had higher labor force participation rates than Hispanic mothers (60 percent and 48 percent, respectively). Women with a college degree (associate's,

<sup>18</sup> Martin O'Connell, "Childbearing," *Continuity and Change in the American Family*, ed. Lynne M. Casper and Suzanne M. Bianchi. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2002: 67-94.

<sup>19</sup> The labor force participation rate is defined as the percentage of people in a specified population group who are either employed or looking for work. Mothers are defined in this report as women 15 to 44 years old who have had at least one live birth, regardless of whether any of their children currently reside with them. In this report, mothers with infants are identified through a recent birth to the mother and are also referred to as mothers with children under 1 year (less than 12 months) old. Similarly, mothers whose last birth was a number of years ago are referred to as mothers with a youngest child of corresponding ages.

Table 4.

### Labor Force Participation Rates for Mothers 15 to 44 Years Old With a Birth in the Last Year by Selected Characteristics: Selected Years, 1990 to 2004

(Numbers in thousands. Limited to women with a birth in the 12-month period preceding the survey)

Characteristic	1990	1992	1994	1998	2000	2002	2004
<b>Total number of mothers with a birth in the last year</b> .....	<b>3,913</b>	<b>*3,688</b>	<b>*3,890</b>	<b>*3,671</b>	<b>*3,934</b>	<b>3,766</b>	<b>3,746</b>
Percent in labor force .....	52.8	53.8	53.1	*58.7	*55.2	54.6	54.6
<b>AGE</b>							
15 to 19 years .....	42.8	35.1	39.3	43.2	46.0	38.9	40.1
20 to 24 years .....	45.5	46.2	51.0	56.4	51.9	54.7	52.7
25 to 29 years .....	55.3	58.4	54.5	*61.9	59.5	54.0	55.1
30 to 44 years .....	58.9	59.8	57.1	*63.0	*57.7	60.9	59.1
<b>CHILDREN EVER BORN</b>							
One child .....	59.7	59.4	59.0	60.8	57.5	59.8	59.8
Two or more children .....	48.4	50.2	48.9	*57.3	53.5	51.5	51.3
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>							
White alone .....	54.5	54.2	55.4	58.4	*53.1	53.8	56.1
White alone, non-Hispanic .....	(NA)	(NA)	59.2	61.6	*56.8	56.8	59.5
Black alone .....	46.9	54.4	47.0	*63.0	65.8	*57.4	55.2
Asian alone .....	48.0	44.7	37.7	49.9	56.3	51.1	*34.9
Hispanic (any race) .....	43.8	37.4	37.7	*45.7	41.8	45.2	48.3
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>							
Married, husband present .....	56.4	56.8	54.5	*59.5	*54.1	55.4	55.3
All other <sup>1</sup> .....	43.5	43.5	*49.7	*57.1	57.2	53.3	53.5
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT<sup>2</sup></b>							
Not a high school graduate .....	31.5	29.8	33.5	37.7	39.0	*32.2	35.6
High school graduate .....	51.9	*56.8	*48.1	*58.4	55.0	56.1	52.3
College, 1 or more years .....	65.3	63.4	66.2	67.9	*63.5	63.2	63.3
No degree .....	62.8	59.1	59.9	66.4	64.9	60.8	58.6
Associate's degree .....	(NA)	68.9	71.1	69.7	59.5	70.0	75.6
Bachelor's degree .....	68.0	65.0	66.5	66.5	63.2	63.3	60.1
Graduate or professional degree .....	(NA)	71.6	82.4	73.6	65.2	64.0	70.0

\* Indicates a statistically significant difference from the previous survey at the 90-percent confidence level.

(NA) Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Includes married, husband absent; separated, divorced, widowed, and never-married women.<sup>2</sup> Educational attainment categories in 1990 based on years of school completed. In 1990, no degree includes associate's degree; bachelor's degree includes graduate or professional degree.

Note: Data are not available for 1996.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey for selected years, June 1990 to 2004.

bachelor's, or graduate/professional) had higher labor force participation rates (76 percent, 60 percent, and 70 percent, respectively) than mothers with a high school diploma or less education (52 percent and 36 percent, respectively).

Figure 3 shows the employment status of mothers based on when their last child was born. Overall, the labor force participation of mothers is lower among mothers

with more recent births. Fifty-five percent of mothers whose last birth was less than 1 year ago were in the labor force, compared with 80 percent of mothers whose last birth was 12 or more years ago. The proportion of mothers working full-time is also associated with the amount of time since their last birth, ranging from 35 percent of mothers with infants to 62 percent of women whose last birth was 12 or more years ago. Smaller differences between the various

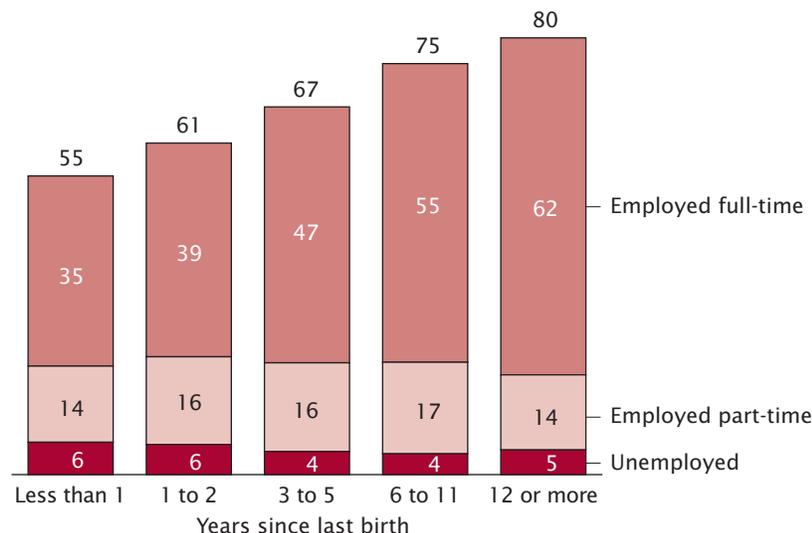
categories of duration since the last birth shown in Figure 3 are noted for the percentage of women unemployed (a range of 4 percent to 6 percent) or employed part-time (14 percent to 17 percent).

#### Demographic Differences in Labor Force Participation

Labor force participation patterns are also influenced by the age and particular childbearing characteristics of mothers (Table 5). Among

Figure 3.  
**Labor Force Participation of Mothers 15 to 44 by  
 Years Since Last Birth: June 2004**

(Percent in the labor force)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2004.

those with an infant in 2004, mothers aged 30 to 44 were more likely to work full-time (41 percent) than mothers aged 20 to 24 (32 percent) and mothers aged 15 to 19 (13 percent). A larger proportion of young mothers aged 15 to 19 with infants were unemployed, compared with mothers 30 to 44 years old (11 percent and 4 percent, respectively).<sup>20</sup> Among mothers aged 20 to 24, approximately 6 out of 10 mothers were participating in the labor force by the time their youngest child was 1 or 2 years old. Mothers with an infant who had two or more children were less likely to be in the labor force (51 percent) and less likely to be employed full-time (31 percent) than mothers whose only child was an infant (60 percent and 41 percent, respectively).

<sup>20</sup> The percentage of mothers aged 15 to 19 with a birth in the last year who were working full-time (13 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage unemployed in the same age group (11 percent).

Sixty percent of non-Hispanic White mothers with infants were in the labor force, not statistically different from the proportion of Black mothers with infants (55 percent). No difference was found in the proportions of these mothers working at full-time jobs. Non-Hispanic White women with infants were more likely to be part-time workers (18 percent) and less likely to be unemployed (5 percent) than Black mothers (6 percent and 14 percent, respectively).

Among Black mothers whose most recent birth was 1 to 2 years ago, 71 percent were in the labor force, compared with 81 percent for Black mothers whose most recent birth was 12 or more years ago. Hispanic women reported larger differences by when their last child was born (from 48 percent of those whose youngest child was 1 to 2 years old to 77 percent of those with a 12-year-old or older child).

Among mothers with children 1 or 2 years old, married mothers with

their husband present were the least likely to be in the labor force (56 percent). The labor force participation rate of mothers with a husband present whose youngest child was at least 12 years old (78 percent) was lower than the rates for mothers with similarly aged children in other marital status categories (ranging from 81 percent to 83 percent in the labor force).

Among mothers whose youngest child was 1 to 2 years old, about three-quarters of those with an associate's degree or a graduate/professional degree were in the labor force. Mothers with less than a high school diploma whose youngest child was 1 to 12 years old had the lowest labor force participation rates (42 percent to 62 percent).

Labor force participation also varied by annual family income. Labor force participation rates of mothers with infants whose family income was \$50,000 to \$74,999 were among the highest (65 percent). Mothers with infants with a family income under \$20,000 had among the lowest labor force participation rates (47 percent). Twenty percent of the mothers with incomes below \$20,000 were employed full-time and 13 percent were unemployed.

## COMPLETED FERTILITY

Most of the statistics previously described in this report show current childbearing and labor force patterns. This section shows fertility characteristics of women near the end of their childbearing years.<sup>21</sup> Table 6 shows that among

<sup>21</sup> Of the 4.1 million births to women in 2003, less than 1 percent were to women over age 44. (Joyce A. Martin, Brady E. Hamilton, Paul D. Sutton, et al. "Births: Final data for 2003." *National Vital Statistics Reports*; Vol. 54, No. 2. National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2005, Table 2.)

Table 5.

### Labor Force Participation Rates for Mothers 15 to 44 Years Old by Fertility Status and Selected Characteristics: June 2004

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

Characteristic	Mothers who had a child in the last year					Mothers who did not have a child in the last year				
	Number of mothers	Percent in labor force				Number of mothers	Percent in labor force			
		Total	Full-time	Part-time	Unemployed		Last birth 1 to 2 years ago	Last birth 3 to 5 years ago	Last birth 6 to 11 years ago	Last birth 12 or more years ago
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3,746</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>30,363</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>79.7</b>
<b>AGE</b>										
15 to 19 years .....	385	40.1	13.1	16.3	10.7	281	43.7	80.9	(X)	(X)
20 to 24 years .....	882	52.7	31.5	12.6	8.7	2,252	58.4	67.4	71.2	(X)
25 to 29 years .....	938	55.1	37.4	13.3	4.4	4,366	61.0	66.4	77.8	75.9
30 to 44 years .....	1,542	59.1	40.5	14.4	4.1	23,464	62.2	67.1	74.7	79.7
<b>CHILDREN EVER BORN AND AGE OF WOMAN</b>										
One child .....	1,474	59.8	41.4	12.7	5.7	9,131	65.4	72.1	80.9	80.1
15 to 19 years .....	221	44.4	17.7	17.4	9.4	234	47.0	79.8	(X)	(X)
20 to 24 years .....	433	55.6	35.6	11.4	8.6	1,412	62.9	72.7	74.7	(X)
25 to 29 years .....	382	65.0	48.3	13.9	2.8	1,847	68.1	66.9	79.4	64.4
30 to 44 years .....	438	67.0	53.0	10.6	3.4	5,637	69.5	75.4	81.8	80.3
Two or more children .....	2,273	51.3	30.5	14.7	6.1	21,232	57.7	64.9	72.9	79.5
15 to 19 years .....	164	34.3	6.9	14.8	12.5	47	(B)	(B)	(X)	(X)
20 to 24 years .....	449	50.0	27.5	13.7	8.8	840	53.2	53.8	39.4	(X)
25 to 29 years .....	556	48.2	29.8	12.9	5.5	2,518	56.8	66.0	75.8	100.0
30 to 44 years .....	1,104	55.9	35.6	16.0	4.4	17,826	59.7	65.3	72.8	79.5
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>										
White alone .....	2,881	56.1	35.0	15.9	5.2	23,441	58.5	64.9	75.0	79.8
White alone, non-Hispanic ..	2,114	59.5	36.7	18.1	4.7	18,607	62.0	67.0	75.4	80.5
Black alone .....	515	55.2	35.3	6.2	13.8	4,721	71.0	78.3	79.1	80.8
Asian alone .....	230	34.9	26.2	8.1	0.6	1,374	59.1	67.0	68.2	81.3
Hispanic (any race) .....	817	48.3	32.4	10.0	6.0	5,231	48.3	59.3	72.6	76.7
<b>NATIVITY</b>										
Native .....	2,953	58.8	36.8	15.9	6.1	24,926	64.1	70.2	76.5	80.2
Foreign born .....	794	39.0	27.1	6.5	5.4	5,436	46.4	55.4	67.8	76.8
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>										
Married, husband present .....	2,416	55.3	38.9	13.3	3.0	20,010	55.7	62.2	72.0	78.2
Married, husband absent or separated .....	142	49.4	23.8	13.9	11.7	1,668	72.9	71.5	81.1	81.8
Divorced or widowed .....	145	54.8	33.0	14.3	7.5	4,050	74.8	80.4	85.6	82.7
Never married .....	1,044	53.8	26.9	15.2	11.7	4,635	69.1	77.7	75.9	80.9
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>										
Not a high school graduate .....	748	35.6	16.5	10.4	8.7	4,252	42.3	54.2	60.5	61.9
High school, 4 years .....	1,086	52.3	32.6	12.9	6.8	9,917	55.6	64.7	73.5	81.5
College, 1 or more years .....	1,913	63.4	43.2	15.8	4.4	16,193	67.9	72.0	79.0	83.6
No degree .....	671	58.6	36.2	17.5	4.9	5,960	65.1	71.4	77.9	82.5
Associate's degree .....	295	75.6	49.9	16.9	8.7	3,385	73.5	77.4	83.0	86.9
Bachelor's degree .....	681	60.1	43.1	14.3	2.7	4,999	65.7	69.4	74.9	82.4
Graduate or professional degree .....	267	70.0	53.4	14.3	2.3	1,849	72.9	72.3	86.2	83.4
<b>ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME</b>										
Under \$20,000 .....	782	46.7	20.4	13.0	13.4	4,591	51.7	68.8	64.9	63.8
\$20,000 to \$34,999 .....	641	47.5	31.5	10.0	6.0	5,012	57.0	62.1	75.2	77.0
\$35,000 to \$49,999 .....	465	54.7	35.9	15.8	3.0	4,062	64.7	69.7	77.4	84.2
\$50,000 to \$74,999 .....	588	65.0	45.8	15.7	3.5	5,165	64.4	71.6	81.9	87.7
\$75,000 to \$99,999 .....	388	60.1	40.0	15.3	4.9	3,221	70.1	74.9	79.6	89.6
\$100,000 and over .....	362	59.9	44.9	12.1	2.9	3,316	64.8	61.7	77.9	82.7
Not ascertained .....	520	55.7	36.1	16.5	3.1	4,996	57.2	62.2	69.1	76.4

(X) Not applicable.

(B) Derived measures not shown. Base less than 75,000.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2004.

Table 6.  
**Children Ever Born per 1,000 Women 40 to 44 Years Old: Selected Years, 1976 to 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Number of women	Children ever born per 1,000 women	Percent distribution of women by number of children ever born						
			Total	None	One child	Two children	Three children	Four children	Five or more children
1976 .....	5,684	3,091	100.0	10.2	9.6	21.7	22.7	15.8	20.1
1980 .....	5,983	2,988	100.0	10.1	9.6	24.6	22.6	15.5	17.6
1985 .....	7,226	2,447	100.0	11.4	12.6	32.9	23.1	10.9	9.1
1990 .....	8,905	2,045	100.0	16.0	16.9	35.0	19.4	8.0	4.8
1995 .....	10,244	1,961	100.0	17.5	17.6	35.2	18.5	7.4	3.9
1998 .....	11,113	1,877	100.0	19.0	17.3	35.8	18.2	6.1	3.5
2000 .....	11,447	1,913	100.0	19.0	16.4	35.0	19.1	7.2	3.3
2002 .....	11,561	1,930	100.0	17.9	17.4	35.4	18.9	6.8	3.6
2004 .....	11,535	1,895	100.0	19.3	17.4	34.5	18.1	7.4	3.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey for selected years, June 1976 to June 2004.

women 40 to 44 years old in 2004, 19 percent were childless, about twice the percentage childless among women of the same age in 1976 (10 percent). Women 40 to 44 years old in 2004 approached the end of their childbearing years with an average of 1.9 children, more than one child fewer than the average for women in the same age group in 1976 (3.1 children). This shift in the average number of children ever born reflects the decline in the proportion of women having higher order births (three or more children) from an average of 20 percent in 1976 to 10 percent in 2004.

Table 7 shows data on lifetime fertility of women aged 40 to 44 by selected characteristics. As previously mentioned, the fertility of Hispanic women was higher than that of Black, Asian, or non-Hispanic White women. Fertility levels were higher for foreign-born women than for native women (2.2 births and 1.8 births, respectively), reflecting the fact that Hispanic women made up 44 percent of foreign-born women aged 40 to 44.

In 2004, women with a graduate or professional degree were ending their childbearing years with an

average of 1.6 births, about one child fewer than women who were not high school graduates (2.5 births). In addition, about one-quarter of college graduates who were 40 to 44 years old were childless.

Women aged 40 to 44 currently in the labor force in 2004 averaged 1.8 births, compared with 2.1 births for women the same age not currently in the labor force. The average number of births per woman also ranged from 1.8 for women whose annual family income was \$35,000 to \$49,999 or \$75,000 and over to 2.1 for those with an income under \$20,000.

In addition to providing a picture of completed fertility levels, Table 7 shows demographic, social, and economic factors related to whether women aged 40 to 44 had never married. Thirty-one percent of Black women, 21 percent of women who had less than a high school education, and 26 percent of women who had a family income of less than \$20,000 had never married. Groups that had 10 percent or lower proportions never married included: Asian women, non-Hispanic White

women, women with an associate's degree, and women with a family income of \$50,000 or more.

The differential in completed fertility by educational attainment is larger than that of any other characteristic shown in Table 7. The differential in the average number of children ever born between women who did not graduate from high school and women who completed a graduate or professional degree was 0.9 children, compared with a differential of 0.5 children between Hispanic women and non-Hispanic White women.

#### **SOURCE OF THE DATA**

Most estimates in this report come from data obtained in the June 2004 Current Population Survey (CPS). Some estimates are based on data obtained by the CPS in earlier years. The Census Bureau conducts this survey every month, although this report uses only data from the June surveys for its estimates. Comparative estimates on annual births are made with data collected in the Vital Statistics Registration system and published by the National Center for Health Statistics.

Table 7.  
**Completed Fertility for Women 40 to 44 Years Old by Selected Characteristics: June 2004**  
 (Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	Percent never married	Percent childless	Children ever born per 1,000 women
<b>Total women 40 to 44</b> .....	<b>11,535</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>1,895</b>
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>				
White alone .....	9,237	10.3	19.1	1,878
White alone, non-Hispanic .....	7,968	9.6	20.0	1,811
Black alone .....	1,523	30.8	21.3	1,938
Asian alone .....	505	7.0	17.8	1,923
Hispanic (any race) .....	1,378	14.5	13.8	2,301
<b>NATIVITY</b>				
Native .....	9,807	13.1	20.0	1,848
Foreign born .....	1,727	12.3	15.2	2,160
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>				
Not a high school graduate .....	1,202	20.9	15.3	2,479
High school graduate .....	3,649	12.0	16.7	1,943
College, 1 or more years .....	6,683	12.1	21.4	1,763
No degree .....	2,045	12.6	19.7	1,833
Associate's degree .....	1,262	9.4	17.0	1,894
Bachelor's degree .....	2,373	13.2	24.2	1,721
Graduate or professional degree .....	1,003	12.0	23.8	1,557
<b>LABOR FORCE STATUS</b>				
In labor force .....	8,780	13.4	20.6	1,817
Employed .....	8,380	13.2	20.5	1,814
Unemployed .....	400	18.1	23.9	1,869
Not in labor force .....	2,754	11.6	15.1	2,143
<b>ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME<sup>1</sup></b>				
Under \$20,000 .....	1,275	26.1	21.1	2,064
\$20,000 to \$29,999 .....	1,487	19.4	18.9	1,960
\$35,000 to \$49,999 .....	1,473	14.3	20.8	1,798
\$50,000 to \$74,999 .....	1,998	7.4	18.9	1,921
\$75,000 to \$99,999 .....	1,505	6.7	15.7	1,819
\$100,000 and over .....	1,720	6.1	17.9	1,845
Not ascertained .....	2,075	15.1	21.5	1,883
<b>REGION OF RESIDENCE<sup>2</sup></b>				
Northeast .....	2,272	17.0	19.7	1,849
Midwest .....	2,587	11.0	17.5	1,950
South .....	4,128	12.5	19.7	1,834
West .....	2,548	12.2	20.1	1,978

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

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2004.

The population represented (the population universe) in the Fertility Supplement to the June 2004 CPS is the female civilian noninstitutionalized population 15 to 44 years old living in the United States. The institutionalized

population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the institutionalized population [4.1 million] in Census 2000).

### ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error

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

The CPS weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still

be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to <[www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility/2004/sa04.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility/2004/sa04.pdf)> or contact the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division via e-mail at <[dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov](mailto:dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov)>.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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

### **CONTACTS**

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### **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](mailto:pop@census.gov)

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Appendix Table.

**Selected Fertility Characteristics for Race Alone and for Race Alone or in Combination With One or More Other Races: June 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Race and characteristic	Alone	In combination	Alone or in combination
<b>WHITE</b>			
Number of women 15 to 44 years old .....	47,984	898	*48,882
Children ever born per 1,000 women .....	1,159	1,095	1,158
Percent childless .....	45.1	50.0	45.2
Women who had a birth in the last year .....	2,881	57	*2,938
Births per 1,000 women .....	60.0	63.9	60.1
First births per 1,000 women .....	23.2	22.5	23.2
Percent with a nonmarital birth .....	26.8	(B)	26.7
Percent in the labor force .....	70.1	(B)	69.9
<b>BLACK</b>			
Number of women 15 to 44 years old .....	8,798	268	*9,065
Children ever born per 1,000 women .....	1,361	1,023	*1,351
Percent childless .....	40.5	49.9	*40.8
Women who had a birth in the last year .....	515	23	*537
Births per 1,000 women .....	58.5	84.2	59.3
First births per 1,000 women .....	21.8	25.6	22.0
Percent with a nonmarital birth .....	62.0	(B)	61.2
Percent in the labor force .....	68.2	(B)	68.0
<b>ASIAN</b>			
Number of women 15 to 44 years old .....	3,035	227	*3,262
Children ever born per 1,000 women .....	1,031	847	1,018
Percent childless .....	47.2	60.1	*48.1
Women who had a birth in the last year .....	230	13	243
Births per 1,000 women .....	75.8	56.3	74.4
First births per 1,000 women .....	38.1	24.2	37.2
Percent with a nonmarital birth .....	23.6	(B)	23.7
Percent in the labor force .....	61.4	(B)	61.3

\* Significantly different at the 90-percent confidence level from the race alone group.

(B) Derived measures not shown. Base less than 75,000.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2004.