

Births: Provisional Data for 2024

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Abstract

Objectives—This report presents provisional 2024 data on U.S. births. Births are shown by age and race and Hispanic origin of mother. Data on cesarean delivery and preterm births are also presented.

Methods—Data are based on 99.92% of all 2024 birth records received and processed by the National Center for Health Statistics as of February 4, 2025. Comparisons are made with final 2023 data and earlier years.

Results—The provisional number of births for the United States in 2024 was 3,622,673, up 1% from 2023. The general fertility rate was 54.6 births per 1,000 females ages 15–44, an increase of less than 1% from 2023. The total fertility rate was 1,626.5 births per 1,000 women in 2024, an increase of less than 1% from 2023. Birth rates declined for females in 5-year age groups 15–24, rose for women in age groups 25–44, and were unchanged for females ages 10–14 and for women ages 45–49 in 2024. The birth rate for teenagers ages 15–19 declined by 3% in 2024 to 12.7 births per 1,000 females; the rates for younger (15–17) and older (18–19) teenagers declined 4% and 3%, respectively. The cesarean delivery rate increased to 32.4% in 2024, from 32.3% in 2023; the low-risk cesarean delivery rate was unchanged at 26.6%. The preterm birth rate was 10.41% in 2024, unchanged from the rate in 2023.

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

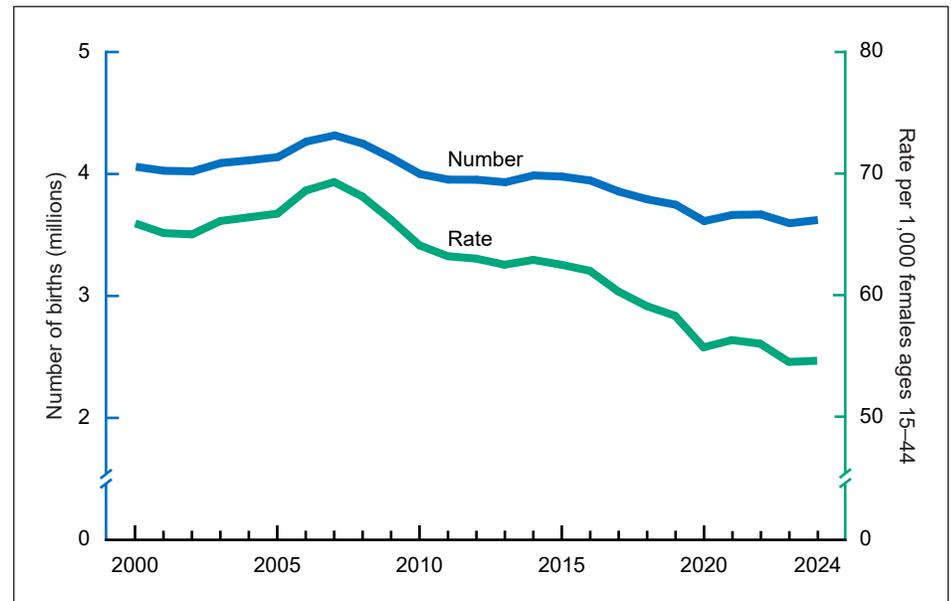
Introduction

This report from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is part of the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) Rapid Release Quarterly Provisional Estimates data series. This series provides timely vital statistics for public health surveillance based on provisional data received and processed by NCHS as of a specified date. Estimates for the 12-month period ending with each quarter for selected key

vital statistics indicators are presented and released online through Quarterly Provisional Estimates, available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/nativity-dashboard.htm>. The series also includes reports that provide additional information on specific topics to help readers understand and interpret provisional natality and mortality data. In addition, monthly provisional birth data are now available and can be accessed through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s CDC WONDER database.

Using provisional birth data for the 12 months of 2024 (1), this report supplements the Quarterly Provisional

Figure 1. Number of live births and general fertility rate: United States, final 2000–2023 and provisional 2024



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, natality data file.

Estimates for 2024 by presenting longer time-based trends in context and more detail (by additional race and Hispanic-origin groups of the mother and by state of residence). Statistics from previous provisional reports have been shown to be consistent with the final statistics for the year (2,3). This report presents provisional data on births, birth rates, cesarean delivery, and preterm birth rates for the United States in 2024. Information on prenatal care, low birthweight, and other health use and maternal and infant risk factors will be presented with final birth data for 2024.

Methods

The provisional estimates shown in this report are collected through NVSS (4). Findings are based on all birth records received and processed by NCHS for calendar year 2024 as of February 4, 2025, and these records represent nearly 100% of registered births occurring in 2024 (99.92%). The natality database, from which data for this report and the monthly data released in CDC WONDER are compiled, is made up of a continuous flow of records, both new and updated, from the states. Accordingly, provisional estimates for 2024 presented in this report and those for the same or different periods in CDC WONDER may differ. Comparisons in this report are based on final data for 2023 and earlier years (3). Data for American Samoa and Guam were not available as of the release of the 2024 provisional birth file. Detailed information on reporting completeness and criteria may be found elsewhere (4,5).

Hispanic origin and race are reported separately on the birth certificate. Data shown by Hispanic origin include all people of Hispanic origin of any race. Data for non-Hispanic people are shown separately for each single-race group. Data by race are based on the revised standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 (6). The race and Hispanic-origin groups shown are American Indian and Alaska Native non-Hispanic single race (subsequently, American Indian and

Alaska Native), Asian non-Hispanic single race (subsequently, Asian), Black non-Hispanic single race (subsequently, Black), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander non-Hispanic single race (subsequently, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander), White non-Hispanic single race (subsequently, White), and Hispanic.

Birth and fertility rates for the United States and by maternal race and Hispanic origin for 2024 are based on population projections derived from the blended base population estimates produced by the U.S. Census Bureau (instead of the April 1, 2020, decennial population count), which are a blend of 2020 census data, 2020 Demographic Analysis estimates, and Vintage 2020 estimates as of July 1, 2024 (7).

Changes and differences presented in this report are statistically significant at the 0.05 level, unless noted otherwise. For information and discussion on computing rates and percentages, and for detailed information on items presented in this report, see “User Guide to the 2023 Natality Public Use File” (4).

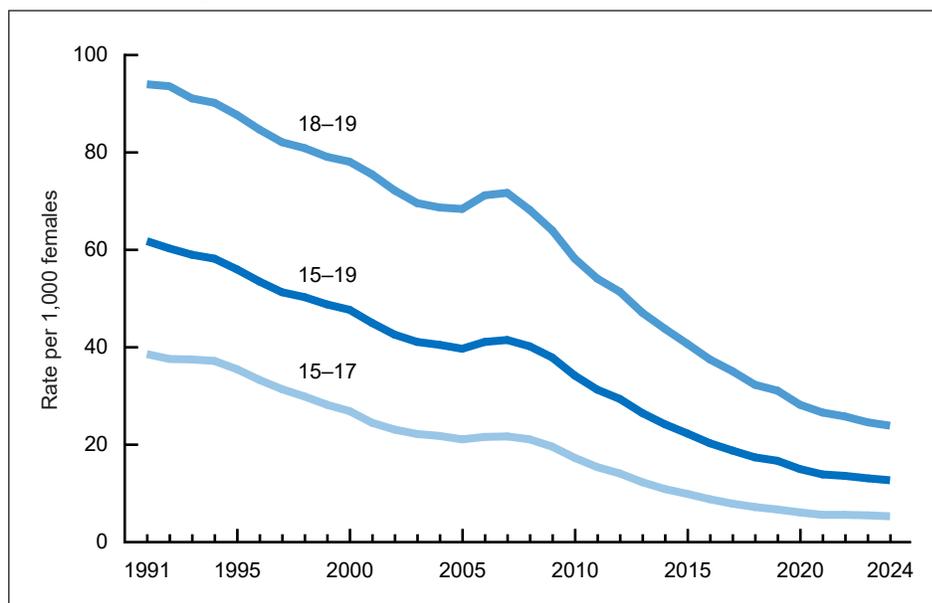
Results

Births and birth rates

Tables 1–3 and Figures 1 and 2 show the following key findings:

- The provisional **number of births** for the United States in 2024 was 3,622,673, increasing 1% from the number in 2023 (3,596,017) (Tables 1–3 and Figure 1). The number of births declined by an average 2% per year from 2015 through 2020 and has generally fluctuated since then (3,8).
- The provisional number of births declined 4% for Black women, 3% for American Indian and Alaska Native women, and less than 1% for White women from 2023 to 2024. Births rose 4% for Hispanic and 5% for Asian women and were essentially unchanged for Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander women (Tables 2 and 3).
- The provisional **general fertility rate** for the United States in 2024 was 54.6 births per 1,000 females ages 15–44, an increase of less than 1% from the rate in 2023 (54.5). The rate declined by 2% per year from 2014 to 2020 and

Figure 2. Birth rate for teenagers, by age of mother: United States, final 1991–2023 and provisional 2024



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, natality data file.

has generally fluctuated since then (Tables 1 and 2 and Figure 1) (3,8).

- General fertility rates declined 4% for Black women and 3% for American Indian and Alaska Native women and rose 2% for Hispanic women and 3% for Asian women from 2023 to 2024. The general fertility rate was unchanged for White women and essentially unchanged for Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander women.
- The provisional **total fertility rate** for the United States in 2024 was 1,626.5 births per 1,000 women, an increase of less than 1% from the rate in 2023 (1,621.0); the rate declined by 2% per year from 2014 to 2020 and has generally fluctuated since then (3,8). The total fertility rate estimates the number of births that a hypothetical group of 1,000 women would have over their lifetimes, based on the age-specific birth rate in a given year. The rate is the sum of birth rates for 5-year age groups (Table 1) multiplied by 5.
- The total fertility rate in 2024 remained below replacement—the level at which a given generation can exactly replace itself (2,100 births per 1,000 women). The rate has generally been below replacement since 1971 and consistently below replacement since 2007 (3,8,9).

Maternal age

Provisional birth rates declined for females in 5-year age groups 15–24 from 2023 to 2024, rose for women in age groups 25–44, and were unchanged for females ages 10–14 and 45–49 (Table 1).

- The provisional **birth rate for teenagers** in 2024 was 12.7 births per 1,000 females ages 15–19, down 3% from 2023 (13.1) and another record low for this age group (Table 1 and Figure 2) (3,8–10). The rate declined an average of 4% annually from 2007 to 2024 (3,8). The rate has declined by 69% since 2007 (41.5), the most recent period of continued decline, and 79% since 1991 (61.8), the most recent peak. The number of births to

females ages 15–19 was 137,020 in 2024, down 3% from 2023 (3).

- Provisional birth rates for teenagers ages 15–17 and 18–19 in 2024 were 5.3 and 23.9 births per 1,000 females, respectively. The birth rate for younger teenagers (ages 15–17) declined by 4% from 2023 (5.5), and the rate for older teenagers (ages 18–19) declined by 3% (24.6), both record lows for each group (3,8–10). From 2007 to 2024, rates for teenagers ages 15–17 and 18–19 declined by 8% and 6% per year, respectively (3,8).
- The provisional birth rate for adolescents ages 10–14 was 0.2 births per 1,000 females in 2024, unchanged since 2015.
- The provisional **birth rate for women ages 20–24** in 2024 was 56.7 births per 1,000 women, down 2% from 2023 (57.7) and another record low for this age group (Table 1) (3,8,9). This rate has declined by 46% since 2007. The number of births to women in their early 20s declined by 1% from 2023 to 2024.
- The provisional **birth rate for women ages 25–29** was 91.4 births per 1,000 women, an increase of less than 1% from 2023 (91.0) (3,8,9). The number of births to women in their late 20s was essentially unchanged from 2023 to 2024.
- The provisional **birth rate for women ages 30–34** in 2023 was 95.4 births per 1,000 women, increasing 1% from 2023 (94.3) (3,8,9). The number of births to women in their early 30s rose 1% from 2023 to 2024.
- The provisional **birth rate for women ages 35–39** was 55.0 births per 1,000 women, increasing 1% from 2023 (54.3). The number of births to women in their late 30s rose 3% from 2023 to 2024.
- The provisional **birth rate for women ages 40–44** in 2024 was 12.8 births per 1,000 women, up 2% from 2023 (12.5). The rate for this age group rose almost continuously from 1985 to 2024 (3,8). The number of births to these women rose 4% from 2023 to 2024.

- The provisional **birth rate for women ages 45–49** (includes births to women ages 50 and older) was 1.1 births per 1,000 women, unchanged from 2023. The number of births to women in this age group was essentially unchanged from 2023 to 2024.

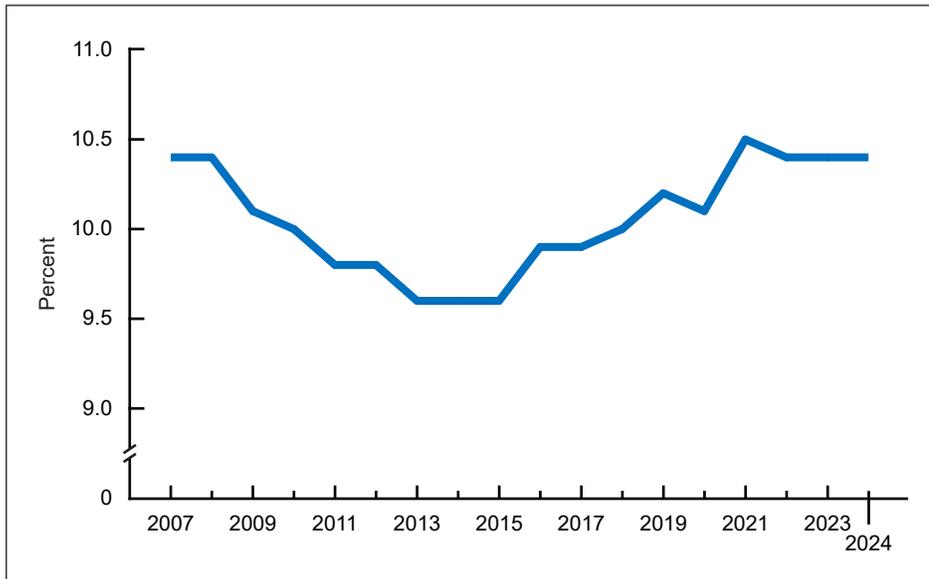
Maternal and infant health characteristics

Tables 3 and 4 and Figure 3 show the following key findings:

Cesarean delivery

- In 2024, the overall cesarean delivery rate increased to 32.4%, from 32.3% in 2023 (Tables 3 and 4). The rate generally declined from 2009 (32.9%) to 2019 (31.7%) and has increased almost every year from 2020 to 2024. The 2024 rate is the highest since 2013 (32.7%) (3). See Table 4 for state-specific rates.
- From 2023 to 2024, cesarean delivery increased for Black (37.0% to 37.5%) and Hispanic (32.0% to 32.2%) women and remained unchanged for White (31.1%) and American Indian and Alaska Native (29.9%) women. Increases for Asian (34.2% to 34.4%) and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (32.5% to 33.3%) women were not significant.
- The low-risk cesarean delivery rate—that is, cesarean delivery among nulliparous (first birth), term (37 completed weeks or more based on the obstetric estimate), singleton (one fetus), vertex (head-first) births—was unchanged from 2023 to 2024 at 26.6%, the highest rate since 2013 (26.8%) (3).
- Low-risk cesarean rates increased from 2023 to 2024 for Black women (30.8% to 31.5%) and remained unchanged for Asian (30.1%) and Hispanic (25.9%) women. Changes for the other race and Hispanic-origin groups were not significant.

Figure 3. Percentage of preterm births: United States, final 2007–2023 and provisional 2024



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

Preterm birth

- The **preterm birth rate** was 10.41% in 2024, unchanged from 2023 (Table 3 and Figure 3). The percentage of infants born preterm (births at less than 37 completed weeks of gestation) fell 8% from 2007 (the most recent year for which national data are available based on the obstetric estimate of gestation) to 2014, rose 7% from 2014 to 2019, declined 1% in 2020, rose 4% in 2021, and has been essentially stable from 2021 to 2024 (3,11). See Table 4 for state-specific rates for 2024.
- The **early preterm** (less than 34 completed weeks of gestation) birth rate declined 1% from 2023 to 2024 (2.76% to 2.72%), while the rate for **late preterm** (34–36 weeks) births increased 1% (7.64% to 7.69%) (Table 3). The late preterm rates for 2021 (7.67%), 2023, and 2024 are the highest reported since at least 2007 (3).
- The preterm birth rate increased 1% for Black mothers from 2023 to 2024 (14.65% to 14.86%) and was not significantly changed for other race and Hispanic-origin groups, including American Indian and Alaska Native

(12.23% to 12.59%), Asian (9.08% to 9.16%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (12.52% to 12.50%), White (9.44% to 9.49%), and Hispanic (10.14% to 10.07%) women (Table 3).

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Table 1. Births and birth rate, by age of mother: United States, final 2023 and provisional 2024

[Data for 2024 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Rates are per 1,000 women in specified age group. Rates for all ages are the total number of births (regardless of age of mother) per 1,000 females ages 15–44. Populations estimated as of July 1]

Age of mother	2024		2023	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
All ages	3,622,673	54.6	3,596,017	54.5
10–14	1,725	0.2	1,766	0.2
15–19	137,020	12.7	140,977	13.1
15–17	34,405	5.3	35,714	5.5
18–19	102,615	23.9	105,263	24.6
20–24	610,548	56.7	616,970	57.7
25–29	989,140	91.4	986,567	91.0
30–34	1,110,643	95.4	1,098,052	94.3
35–39	621,464	55.0	604,631	54.3
40–44	141,204	12.8	136,333	12.5
45–54 ¹	10,929	1.1	10,721	1.1

¹Birth rate computed by relating the number of births to women age 45 and older to women ages 45–49, because most births in this group are to women ages 45–49.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, natality data file.

Table 2. Total number of births and fertility rate, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2023 and provisional 2024

[Data for 2024 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Rates are the total number of births (regardless of age of mother) per 1,000 females ages 15–44 in specified race and Hispanic-origin group. Populations estimated as of July 1]

Year	Non-Hispanic, single race						
	All races and origins ¹	American Indian and Alaska Native ²	Asian ²	Black ²	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander ²	White ²	Hispanic ³
				Number			
2024	3,622,673	23,875	226,744	472,756	10,086	1,780,377	982,253
2023	3,596,017	24,571	215,738	491,494	10,115	1,787,051	945,200
				Rate			
2024	54.6	46.6	49.4	51.4	72.2	51.7	66.1
2023	54.5	48.0	47.8	53.7	73.2	51.7	64.7

¹Includes births to race and Hispanic-origin groups not shown separately, such as Hispanic single-race White, Hispanic single-race Black, and multiple-race non-Hispanic women, as well as births with origin not stated.

²Race groups are non-Hispanic single race. Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. In this table non-Hispanic women are classified by race. Race categories are consistent with 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards. Race categories in this table include only single race, that is, the race reported alone with only one race reported.

³Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, natality data file.

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Table 3. Total number of births and percentage of cesarean delivery and preterm births, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2023 and provisional 2024

[Data for 2024 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states]

Characteristic	Non-Hispanic, single race						
	All races and origins ¹	American Indian and Alaska Native ²	Asian ²	Black ²	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander ²	White ²	Hispanic ³
Number of births				Number			
2024	3,622,673	23,875	226,744	472,756	10,086	1,780,377	982,253
2023	3,596,017	24,571	215,738	491,494	10,115	1,787,051	945,200
Cesarean delivery				Percent			
Total ⁴ :							
2024	32.4	29.9	34.4	37.5	33.3	31.1	32.2
2023	32.3	29.9	34.2	37.0	32.5	31.1	32.0
Low-risk ⁵ :							
2024	26.6	24.1	30.1	31.5	29.0	25.5	25.9
2023	26.6	23.6	30.1	30.8	28.9	25.6	25.9
Gestational age ⁶							
Preterm (under 37 weeks):							
2024	10.41	12.59	9.16	14.86	12.50	9.49	10.07
2023	10.41	12.23	9.08	14.65	12.52	9.44	10.14
Late preterm (34–36 weeks):							
2024	7.69	9.23	6.85	10.01	9.11	7.23	7.51
2023	7.64	9.21	6.79	9.79	9.28	7.16	7.52
Early preterm (under 34 weeks):							
2024	2.72	3.36	2.30	4.84	3.39	2.26	2.56
2023	2.76	3.02	2.29	4.86	3.24	2.28	2.62

¹Includes births to race and Hispanic-origin groups not shown separately, such as Hispanic single-race White, Hispanic single-race Black, and multiple-race non-Hispanic women, as well as births with origin not stated.

²Race groups are non-Hispanic single race. Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards. Race categories in this table include only single race (the race reported alone with only one race reported).

³Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

⁴All births by cesarean delivery per 100 live births.

⁵Low-risk cesarean is defined as singleton, term (37 weeks or more of gestation based on obstetric estimate), vertex (head-first), cesarean deliveries to women having a first birth per 100 women delivering singleton, term, vertex, first births.

⁶Completed weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, natality data file.

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Table 4. Total number of births, by state of residence, provisional 2024, and percentage of cesarean delivery and preterm births, by state of residence: United States, each state and territory, final 2023 and provisional 2024

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

Area	Total number of births, 2024	Total cesarean		Low-risk cesarean ¹		Late preterm ²		Preterm ³	
		2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Percent									
United States ⁴	3,622,673	32.4	32.3	26.6	26.6	7.69	7.64	10.41	10.41
Alabama	57,857	34.7	34.2	28.0	28.3	9.39	9.51	12.74	12.91
Alaska	8,928	23.3	24.0	19.7	20.5	7.49	7.87	10.04	10.27
Arizona	78,680	29.5	29.0	24.2	23.4	7.24	7.32	9.66	9.87
Arkansas	35,272	34.1	33.8	27.9	26.9	9.04	8.89	12.13	12.09
California	401,515	31.9	31.5	26.2	25.9	6.80	6.79	9.08	9.16
Colorado	64,277	27.9	27.5	22.6	23.1	7.44	7.20	9.96	9.70
Connecticut	34,582	35.9	35.0	30.6	30.0	7.14	6.66	9.83	9.34
Delaware	10,421	33.5	31.5	28.1	24.2	7.33	7.63	10.54	10.44
District of Columbia	7,601	36.3	34.1	31.6	29.7	8.03	7.27	11.74	10.77
Florida	224,267	36.3	36.2	30.1	29.9	7.78	7.75	10.70	10.72
Georgia	126,350	34.9	35.8	28.2	29.8	8.55	8.59	11.80	11.82
Hawaii	14,757	27.1	27.4	23.3	23.7	7.45	7.51	10.01	10.05
Idaho	23,237	24.6	24.4	20.2	19.8	6.94	6.52	9.09	8.68
Illinois	125,665	30.8	31.0	24.3	24.2	7.64	7.84	10.38	10.76
Indiana	80,153	31.0	30.7	24.9	25.0	8.09	8.21	10.93	11.04
Iowa	36,391	29.9	30.2	23.3	24.5	7.54	7.70	10.09	10.36
Kansas	33,972	30.1	30.3	24.2	24.8	7.76	7.97	10.27	10.45
Kentucky	52,846	34.5	34.3	26.5	27.2	8.82	8.42	11.73	11.28
Louisiana	52,831	36.1	36.1	28.9	28.3	10.24	9.85	13.96	13.36
Maine	11,595	30.9	31.1	24.6	25.5	7.22	7.24	9.71	9.57
Maryland	65,781	35.6	35.0	30.7	30.3	7.63	7.38	10.49	10.24
Massachusetts	68,178	34.0	33.5	28.5	27.5	6.61	6.73	8.89	9.06
Michigan	99,486	32.7	33.2	27.4	28.4	7.76	7.49	10.67	10.31
Minnesota	62,009	30.3	30.2	26.8	26.6	7.26	6.96	9.74	9.44
Mississippi	33,453	37.9	37.9	29.7	30.1	10.93	10.84	15.01	14.96
Missouri	67,925	30.5	30.2	24.5	24.0	8.14	8.24	10.96	11.04
Montana	11,314	26.2	26.0	21.1	21.5	7.23	7.17	9.42	9.37
Nebraska	24,729	29.7	29.4	24.5	22.9	8.39	8.40	11.08	11.12
Nevada	32,330	32.9	33.5	27.7	28.1	8.11	8.01	10.98	11.07
New Hampshire	11,761	31.2	32.9	26.6	27.5	6.04	6.23	7.93	8.32
New Jersey	101,361	32.9	33.1	26.7	27.3	7.01	6.94	9.39	9.28
New Mexico	20,602	28.7	28.4	24.4	23.6	7.23	7.44	9.85	10.11
New York	204,864	33.8	33.9	29.2	29.6	7.00	7.14	9.49	9.62
North Carolina	122,692	30.8	30.7	24.9	24.9	7.78	7.68	10.68	10.74
North Dakota	9,627	27.0	26.1	20.2	19.7	7.00	8.02	9.40	10.31
Ohio	126,689	32.1	31.4	26.5	25.7	7.97	7.67	10.98	10.70
Oklahoma	47,940	32.7	33.1	25.4	25.7	8.23	8.18	11.01	11.03
Oregon	38,154	29.5	28.9	25.1	24.0	6.70	6.73	8.90	8.98
Pennsylvania	127,079	31.3	31.3	26.0	25.5	7.20	7.03	9.77	9.71
Rhode Island	10,005	33.9	33.2	28.4	28.0	6.47	7.24	8.96	9.57
South Carolina	58,742	32.5	32.6	25.6	25.2	8.54	8.32	11.66	11.61
South Dakota	11,445	24.8	24.4	17.9	19.1	8.35	9.74	11.20	12.52
Tennessee	83,745	31.8	32.3	25.7	26.5	8.07	8.40	10.90	11.34
Texas	390,506	34.5	34.5	27.9	27.8	8.20	8.15	11.09	11.13
Utah	46,655	24.7	24.3	20.6	20.5	7.19	6.98	9.52	9.37
Vermont	5,026	26.3	27.5	20.7	23.7	6.21	5.79	8.19	7.66
Virginia	93,646	32.1	32.3	26.1	26.2	7.30	7.06	10.06	9.80
Washington	83,044	30.5	30.0	26.3	26.2	6.77	6.51	9.00	8.70
West Virginia	16,979	35.2	34.9	29.4	29.2	9.97	9.89	13.39	13.09
Wisconsin	59,624	27.6	27.3	22.7	22.6	7.50	7.37	10.00	9.92
Wyoming	6,085	27.5	28.3	20.8	22.8	7.87	7.80	10.55	9.77

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 4. Total number of births, by state of residence, provisional 2024, and percentage of cesarean delivery and preterm births, by state of residence: United States, each state and territory, final 2023 and provisional 2024—Con.

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

Area	Total number of births, 2024	Total cesarean		Low-risk cesarean ¹		Late preterm ²		Preterm ³	
		2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Percent									
Puerto Rico	18,046	49.8	50.6	47.1	48.9	9.01	8.89	12.23	12.22
Virgin Islands	803	39.7	40.0	33.1	30.9	7.12	10.54	10.18	13.11
Guam	---	---	26.6	---	28.1	---	10.34	---	13.33
American Samoa	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Marianas	546	27.8	28.8	21.8	24.5	5.50	7.44	7.16	10.38

--- Data not available.

¹Singleton, term (37 weeks or more of gestation based on obstetric estimate), vertex (head-first), cesarean deliveries to women having a first birth per 100 women delivering singleton, term, vertex first births.

²Births at 34–36 completed weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate.

³Births before 37 completed weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate.

⁴Excludes data for the territories.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, natality data file.

Acknowledgments

This report was prepared in the Division of Vital Statistics under the general direction of Paul D. Sutton, Director; Robert N. Anderson, Chief, Statistical Analysis and Surveillance Branch; and Joyce A. Martin, Team Leader, Perinatal Research and Statistics Team. Rajesh Virkar, Chief of the Systems, Programming, and Statistical Resources Branch, and Legesse Alemu and Annie S. Liu provided computer programming support and statistical tables. Legesse Alemu and Annie S. Liu also prepared the natality file. The Data Acquisition, Classification, and Evaluation Branch staff evaluated the quality of and acceptance procedures for the state data files on which this report is based. Danielle M. Ely of the Reproductive Statistics Branch provided content review.

Suggested citation

Hamilton BE, Martin JA, Osterman MJK. Births: Provisional data for 2024. Vital Statistics Rapid Release. 2025 Apr;(38):1–10. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc/174587>.

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