



Births: Provisional Data for 2022

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Abstract

Objectives—This report presents provisional 2022 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 99.91% of all 2022 birth records received and processed by the National Center for Health Statistics as of February 14, 2023. Comparisons are made with final 2021 data and earlier years.

Results—The provisional number of births for the United States in 2022 was 3,661,220, a nonsignificant decline from 2021. The general fertility rate was 56.1 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44, down less than 1% from 2021. The total fertility rate was 1,665.0 births per 1,000 women in 2022, essentially unchanged from 2021. Birth rates declined for women in age groups 15–24 and 30–34, rose for women in age groups 25–29 and 35–49, and were unchanged for females aged 10–14 years in 2022. The birth rate for teenagers aged 15–19 declined by 3% in 2022 to 13.5 births per 1,000 females; rates declined for both younger (aged 15–17) and older (aged 18–19) teenagers. The cesarean delivery rate rose to 32.2% in 2022, from 32.1% in 2021; the low-risk cesarean delivery rate was steady at 26.3%. The preterm birth rate declined 1% in 2022 to 10.38%.

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

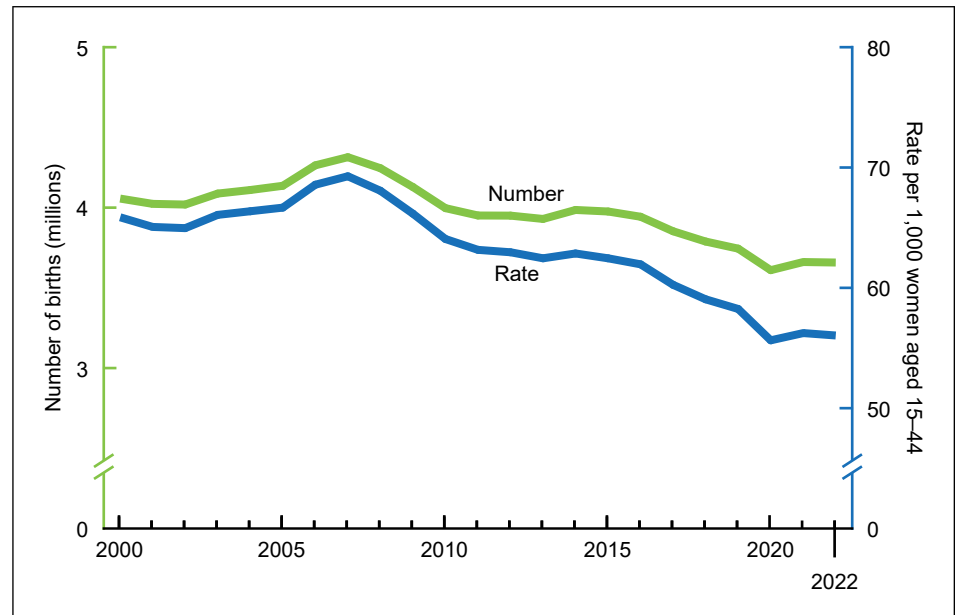
Introduction

This report from the National Center for Health Statistics is part of the National Vital Statistics System Rapid Release Quarterly Provisional Estimates. This series provides timely vital statistics for public health surveillance based on provisional data received and processed by the National Center for Health Statistics 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 (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/natality-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. Also, now available are provisional birth estimates developed to monitor health services use and maternal and infant outcomes that may be directly or indirectly impacted by COVID-19. Information is updated quarterly and available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/covid-birth.htm>.

Using provisional birth data for the 12 months of 2022 (1), this report supplements the Quarterly Provisional Estimates for 2022 by presenting longer

Figure 1. Number of live births and general fertility rates: United States, final 2000–2021 and provisional 2022



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.



time-based trends in context and more detail (by race and Hispanic origin of the mother and by state of residence) than is shown in the quarterly estimates. 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 2022. Information on prenatal care, low birthweight, and other health use and maternal and infant risk factors will be presented with final birth data for 2022.

Methods

The provisional estimates shown in this report are collected through the National Vital Statistics System (4). Findings are based on all birth records received and processed by the National Center for Health Statistics for calendar year 2022 as of February 14, 2023; these records represent nearly 100% (99.91%) of registered births occurring in 2022. Comparisons in this report are based on the final data for 2021 and earlier years (3). Data for American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands were not available as of the release of the 2022 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 non-Hispanic, single-race American Indian or Alaska Native; non-Hispanic, single-race Asian; non-Hispanic, single-race Black; non-Hispanic, single-race Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; non-Hispanic, single-race White; and Hispanic. For brevity, text references to race omit the term “non-Hispanic, single-race” (3).

Birth and fertility rates for the United States and by maternal race and Hispanic origin for 2022 are based on population projections derived from the 2020 census, vintage 2020 estimates, and 2020 demographic analysis estimates as of July 1, 2022 (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 2021 Natality Public Use File” (4).

Beginning with Quarterly Provisional Estimates for Quarter 3, 2020, the use of record weights for provisional birth data was discontinued (1,5). This change was implemented because of the recent high levels of completeness of provisional birth data; the change in weighting has limited, if any, impact on the provisional birth estimates. Data shown in this report are based directly on the counts of all (unweighted) birth records received and processed by the National Center for Health Statistics as of February 14, 2023.

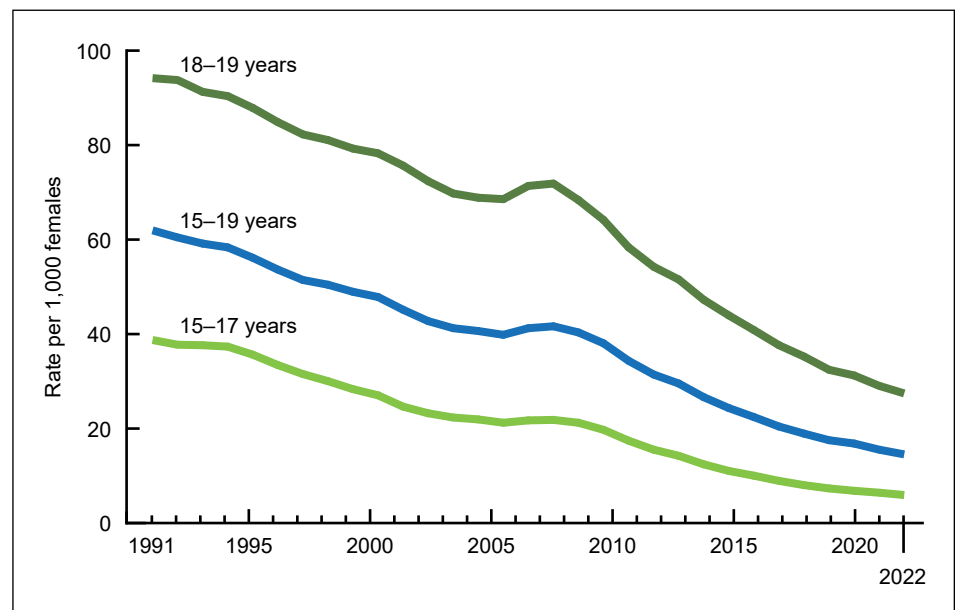
Results

Births and birth rates

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

- The provisional **number of births** for the United States in 2022 was 3,661,220, a nonsignificant decline from the number in 2021 (3,664,292) (Tables 1–3 and Figure 1). The number of births in 2022 follows an increase in births in 2021; the number of births declined by an average of 2% per year from 2014 through 2020, including a decline of 4% from 2019 through 2020, and rose 1% from 2020 to 2021 (3,8).
- The provisional number of births declined 3% for American Indian or Alaska Native and White women and by 1% for Black women from 2021 to 2022. Births rose 2% for Asian women and 6% for Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander and Hispanic women (Tables 2 and 3).
- The provisional **general fertility rate** for the United States in 2022 was 56.1 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44, down less than 1% from the rate in 2021 (56.3) (Tables 1 and 2 and

Figure 2. Birth rates for teenagers, by age of mother: United States, final 1991–2021 and provisional 2022



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

Figure 1). The general fertility rate declined by an average of 2% per year from 2014 through 2020, then rose 1% from 2020 to 2021 (3,8).

- General fertility rates declined 2% for Black women and 3% for American Indian or Alaska Native and White women, and rose 3% for Asian women, 6% for Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander women, and 4% for Hispanic women from 2021 to 2022.
- The provisional **total fertility rate** for the United States in 2022 was 1,665.0 births per 1,000 women, essentially unchanged from the rate in 2021 (1,664.0). The total fertility rate declined by an average of 2% per year from 2014 through 2020, then rose 1% from 2020 to 2021 (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 total fertility rate in 2022 remained at 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 births rates declined for women in age groups 15–24 and 30–34 from 2021 to 2022, rose for women in age groups 25–29 and 35–49, and were unchanged for females aged 10–14 years (Table 1).

- The provisional birth rate for teenagers in 2022 was 13.5 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19, down 3% from 2021 (13.9), reaching another record low for this age group (Table 1 and Figure 2) (3,8–10). The rate declined an average of 8% annually from 2007 through 2021 (3,8). The rate has declined by 67% since 2007 (41.5), the most recent period of continued decline, and 78% since 1991, the most recent peak. The

number of births to females aged 15–19 was 143,442 in 2022, down 2% from 2021 (3).

- The provisional birth rates for teenagers aged 15–17 and 18–19 in 2022 were 5.5 and 25.6 births per 1,000 females, respectively, down by 2% and 4% from 2021, which were record lows for both groups (3,8–10). From 2007 through 2021, the rates for teenagers aged 15–17 and 18–19 declined by 9% and 7% per year, respectively (3,8).
- The provisional **birth rate for females aged 10–14 years** was 0.2 births per 1,000 in 2022, unchanged since 2015.
- The provisional **birth rate for women aged 20–24** in 2022 was 60.4 births per 1,000 women, down 2% from 2021 (61.5), yet another record low for this age group (Table 1) (3,8,9). This rate has declined by 43% since 2007. The number of births to women in their early 20s declined by 2% from 2021 to 2022.
- The provisional **birth rate for women aged 25–29** was 93.4 births per 1,000 women, up less than 1% from 2021 (93.0) (3,8,9). The number of births to women in their late 20s was down 1% from 2021 to 2022.
- The provisional **birth rate for women aged 30–34** in 2022 was 97.0 births per 1,000 women, down 1% from 2021 (97.6) (3,8,9). The number of births to women in their early 30s was essentially unchanged from 2021 to 2022.
- The provisional **birth rate for women aged 35–39** was 54.9 births per 1,000 women, up 2% from 2021 (53.7). The number of births to women in their late 30s also rose by 2% from 2021 to 2022.
- The provisional **birth rate for women aged 40–44** in 2022 was 12.5 births per 1,000 women, up 4% from 2021 (12.0). The rate for this age group has risen almost continuously from 1985 through 2021 (3,8). The number of births to these women rose by 6% from 2021 to 2022.

- The provisional **birth rate for women aged 45–49** (includes births to women aged 50 and over) was 1.1 births per 1,000 women, up from 0.9 in 2021, the first change in this rate since 2015. The number of births to women in this age group rose by 12% from 2021 to 2022.

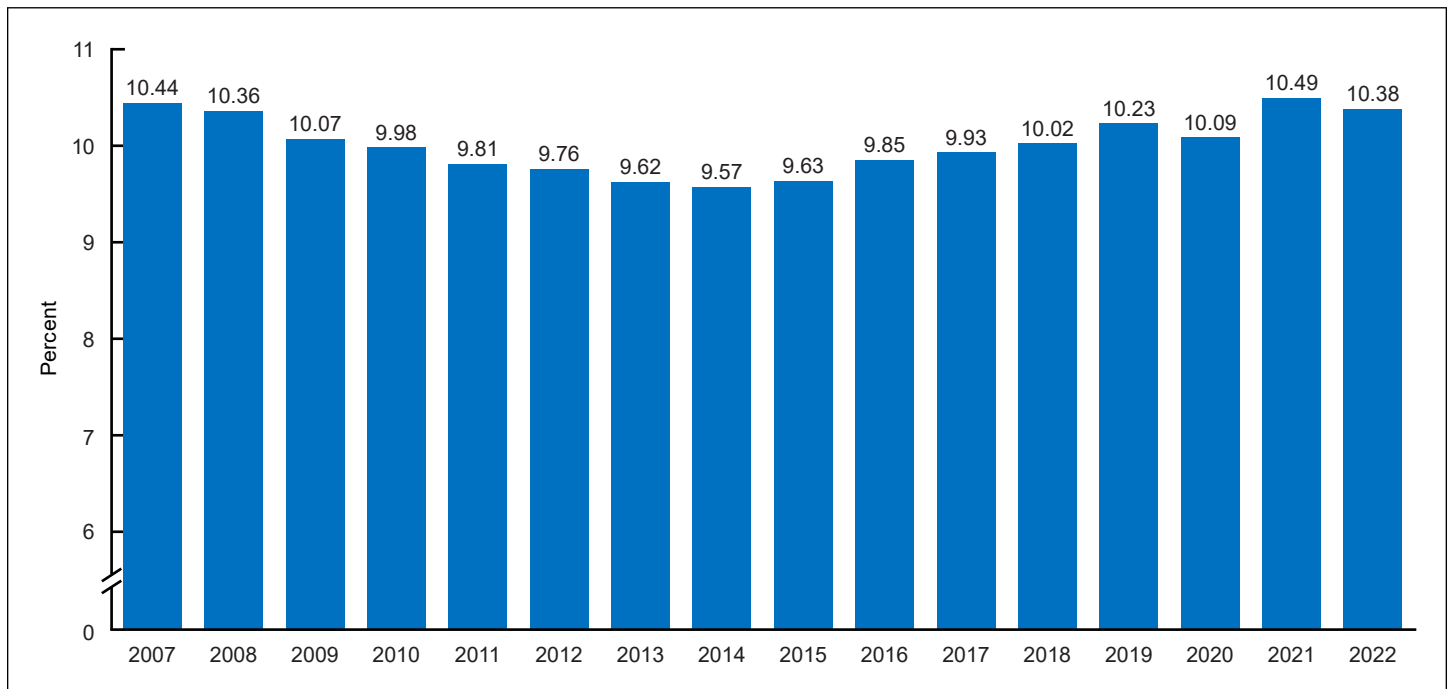
Maternal and infant health characteristics

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

Cesarean delivery

- In 2022, the overall cesarean delivery rate increased to 32.2% from 32.1% in 2021 (Tables 3 and 4); this is the third increase in a row after the rate generally declined from 2009 (32.9%) through 2019 (31.7%) (3). See Table 4 for state-specific rates.
- From 2021 to 2022, cesarean delivery increased for Asian (33.1% to 33.5%), Hispanic (31.6% to 31.7%), and White (31.0% to 31.1%) women; the increase for American Indian or Alaska Native women (29.2% to 29.5%) was not significant. Cesarean delivery rates did not change for Black (36.8%) and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (32.5%) women.
- The low-risk cesarean delivery rate, or cesarean delivery among first birth (nulliparous), term (37 completed weeks or more based on the obstetric estimate), singleton (one fetus), and head-first (vertex) births, was unchanged in 2022 at 26.3%.
- Low-risk cesarean rates increased from 2021 to 2022 for Asian women (28.4% to 29.2%) and decreased for Black women (31.2% to 30.8%). Increases for American Indian or Alaska Native (23.0% to 23.1%), Hispanic (25.5% to 25.6%), Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (29.8% to 30.1%), and White (25.2% to 25.3%) women were not significant.

Figure 3. Percentage of preterm births: United States, final 2007–2021 and provisional 2022



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

Preterm birth

- The **preterm birth rate** declined 1% in 2022 to 10.38%, from 10.49% in 2021. (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 first year for which national data are available based on the obstetric estimate of gestation [11]) through 2014, rose 7% from 2014 (9.57%) through 2019, declined 1% from 2019 to 2020, and rose 4% in 2021 to the highest reported level since 2007 (2,3). See Table 4 for state-specific rates for 2022.
- Declines were observed in both **early preterm births** (less than 34 completed weeks of gestation) and **late preterm births** (34–36 weeks) from 2021 to 2022 (Table 3). The early preterm rate declined 2%, from 2.81% to 2.76%, and the late preterm rate by 1%, from 7.67% to 7.62%. The 2021 late preterm rate was the highest level reported since at least 2007 (11).
- The preterm birth rate declined 1% for the three largest race and Hispanic-origin groups from 2021 to 2022: Black (14.75% to 14.58%), Hispanic

(10.23% to 10.06%), and White (9.50% to 9.44%); changes for American Indian or Alaska Native (12.26% to 12.64%), Asian (9.23% to 9.19%), and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (12.69% to 11.93%) women were not significant.

- Early preterm rates declined for births to Hispanic (3%), Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (15%), and White (1%) women; changes in early preterm births to American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Black women were not significant. Late preterm births declined by 1% for births to Hispanic women from 2021 to 2022 (7.57% to 7.46%) but did not change significantly for any of the other race and Hispanic-origin groups.

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Table 1. Births and birth rates, by age of mother: United States, final 2021 and provisional 2022

[Data for 2022 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 the age of the mother) per 1,000 women aged 15–44. Populations estimated as of July 1]

Age of mother	2022		2021	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
All ages	3,661,220	56.1	3,664,292	56.3
10–14	1,825	0.2	1,877	0.2
15–19	143,442	13.5	146,973	13.9
15–17	35,318	5.5	35,542	5.6
18–19	108,124	25.6	111,431	26.6
20–24	637,330	60.4	648,484	61.5
25–29	1,011,572	93.4	1,023,989	93.0
30–34	1,117,049	97.0	1,115,055	97.6
35–39	605,591	54.9	592,179	53.7
40–44	133,858	12.5	126,332	12.0
45–54 ¹	10,553	1.1	9,403	0.9

¹The birth rate for women in this age group is computed by relating the number of births to women aged 45 and over to women aged 45–49 because most of the births in this group are to women aged 45–49.
SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

Table 2. Total number of births and fertility rates, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2021 and provisional 2022

[Data for 2022 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states. Rates are the total number of births (regardless of the age of the mother) per 1,000 women aged 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 or Alaska Native ²	Asian ²	Black ²	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ²	White ²	Hispanic ³
				Number			
2022	3,661,220	25,370	218,683	510,469	10,085	1,832,532	934,842
2021	3,664,292	26,124	213,813	517,889	9,531	1,887,656	885,916
				Rate			
2022	56.1	49.5	50.9	56.3	75.7	53.0	66.1
2021	56.3	50.8	49.6	57.4	71.5	54.4	63.4

¹Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as Hispanic, single-race White; Hispanic, single-race Black; non-Hispanic, multiple-race women; and births with origin not stated.
²Race 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 the 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 people of Hispanic origin of any race.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

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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 2021 and provisional 2022

[Data for 2022 are based on a continuous file of records received from the states]

Characteristic	All races and origins ¹	Non-Hispanic, single race					Hispanic ³
		American Indian or Alaska Native ²	Asian ²	Black ²	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ²	White ²	
Number of births				Number			
2022	3,661,220	25,370	218,683	510,469	10,085	1,832,532	934,842
2021	3,664,292	26,124	213,813	517,889	9,531	1,887,656	885,916
Cesarean delivery				Percent			
Total ⁴ :							
2022	32.2	29.5	33.5	36.8	32.5	31.1	31.7
2021	32.1	29.2	33.1	36.8	32.5	31.0	31.6
Low-risk ⁵ :							
2022	26.3	23.1	29.2	30.8	30.1	25.3	25.6
2021	26.3	23.0	28.4	31.2	29.8	25.2	25.5
Gestational age ⁶							
Preterm (under 37 weeks):							
2022	10.38	12.64	9.19	14.58	11.93	9.44	10.06
2021	10.49	12.26	9.23	14.75	12.69	9.50	10.23
Late preterm (34–36 weeks):							
2022	7.62	9.35	6.95	9.70	8.89	7.16	7.46
2021	7.67	9.18	6.90	9.80	9.14	7.18	7.57
Early preterm (under 34 weeks):							
2022	2.76	3.29	2.25	4.89	3.03	2.28	2.60
2021	2.81	3.08	2.33	4.95	3.55	2.31	2.67

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

²Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race categories are consistent with the 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 people of Hispanic origin of any race.

⁴All births by cesarean delivery per 100 live births.

⁵Low-risk cesarean is defined as singleton, term (37 completed weeks or more of gestation based on the obstetric estimate), vertex (not breech), 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.

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Table 4. Total number of births, by state of residence, provisional 2022, and percentage of cesarean delivery and preterm births, by state of residence: United States, each state and territory, final 2021 and provisional 2022

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

Area	Total number of births, 2022	Total cesarean		Low-risk cesarean ¹		Late preterm ²		Preterm ³	
		2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Percent									
United States ⁴	3,661,220	32.2	32.1	26.3	26.3	7.62	7.67	10.38	10.49
Alabama	58,079	34.5	35.1	28.3	29.7	9.52	9.54	12.84	13.11
Alaska	9,331	22.7	24.2	16.7	19.9	7.57	7.52	10.04	10.15
Arizona	78,517	28.6	28.7	23.4	23.2	7.40	7.39	9.85	10.01
Arkansas	35,380	33.6	34.3	27.9	28.0	8.78	8.69	11.76	12.04
California	418,523	31.0	30.8	25.3	24.7	6.79	6.76	9.08	9.14
Colorado	62,346	27.9	27.3	23.0	22.3	7.44	7.24	10.03	9.75
Connecticut	35,323	35.2	35.4	29.2	28.9	6.83	6.90	9.41	9.60
Delaware	10,786	31.9	31.9	25.7	26.0	7.57	7.84	10.84	10.98
District of Columbia	8,047	33.3	31.1	29.4	27.6	6.90	6.93	10.26	10.09
Florida	224,226	35.9	35.8	29.1	28.9	7.54	7.83	10.56	10.89
Georgia	125,827	35.3	35.1	28.9	28.8	8.50	8.48	11.87	11.89
Hawaii	15,225	27.7	27.7	24.5	22.8	7.28	7.44	9.81	10.22
Idaho	22,382	24.5	24.1	20.3	19.0	6.77	6.73	8.85	8.99
Illinois	128,315	31.0	31.2	24.9	25.3	7.79	7.94	10.57	10.74
Indiana	79,598	30.5	30.4	24.6	24.4	7.95	8.08	10.92	10.86
Iowa	36,482	29.6	29.7	23.0	23.5	7.80	7.59	10.24	10.03
Kansas	34,385	30.1	29.6	24.6	23.9	7.97	7.35	10.45	9.83
Kentucky	52,219	34.5	34.7	27.3	27.3	8.75	8.65	11.70	11.97
Louisiana	56,096	35.5	37.1	27.9	29.8	9.77	9.85	13.29	13.52
Maine	12,079	31.7	30.9	25.6	25.3	7.09	6.89	9.53	9.37
Maryland	68,694	34.3	34.3	30.0	29.3	7.53	7.69	10.30	10.69
Massachusetts	68,613	33.1	31.8	27.4	26.0	6.87	6.69	9.09	9.00
Michigan	102,248	33.2	33.2	27.7	28.1	7.47	7.71	10.43	10.60
Minnesota	63,914	30.0	28.9	26.6	25.5	7.12	7.13	9.57	9.62
Mississippi	34,609	38.5	38.5	30.8	31.2	10.65	10.84	14.79	14.96
Missouri	68,977	30.4	30.2	24.5	24.3	8.39	8.46	11.31	11.28
Montana	11,154	27.1	27.8	21.2	22.1	7.65	7.30	9.71	9.72
Nebraska	24,316	28.9	28.6	22.6	22.3	8.49	7.96	11.34	10.79
Nevada	33,174	32.9	32.9	27.3	26.6	8.11	8.22	10.87	11.22
New Hampshire	12,062	32.1	32.7	27.9	28.5	6.09	6.41	8.17	8.54
New Jersey	102,883	32.9	32.5	26.3	25.5	6.87	6.76	9.28	9.18
New Mexico	19,501	27.5	27.3	23.1	22.3	7.45	7.35	10.24	10.02
New York	207,484	33.9	34.1	29.5	29.9	6.91	7.05	9.45	9.69
North Carolina	121,389	30.2	30.3	24.5	24.0	7.66	7.79	10.71	10.82
North Dakota	9,561	26.0	26.3	18.6	20.1	7.78	7.07	10.33	9.56
Ohio	128,221	31.4	31.5	25.8	26.0	7.86	7.62	10.84	10.59
Oklahoma	48,301	32.5	32.5	25.4	24.4	8.25	8.81	11.30	11.94
Oregon	39,451	29.2	29.1	24.8	25.0	6.60	6.75	8.71	8.88
Pennsylvania	130,003	31.1	30.8	25.6	25.3	6.95	7.14	9.62	9.82
Rhode Island	10,214	34.8	33.6	30.4	29.1	6.40	7.13	9.00	9.65
South Carolina	57,775	32.6	33.5	24.8	27.0	8.34	8.61	11.61	12.08
South Dakota	11,188	24.0	24.6	18.3	18.1	8.13	8.23	10.39	10.53
Tennessee	82,262	32.1	32.4	26.3	26.6	8.15	8.23	11.04	11.29
Texas	389,533	34.7	34.8	27.7	28.3	8.25	8.34	11.25	11.38
Utah	45,761	24.0	23.4	19.6	19.4	6.91	7.45	9.37	9.89
Vermont	5,275	28.1	27.2	22.3	22.8	6.41	5.95	8.86	8.03
Virginia	95,405	32.3	32.5	26.7	26.7	6.94	7.17	9.66	9.90
Washington	83,207	29.7	29.0	25.4	24.4	6.59	6.58	8.77	8.86
West Virginia	16,905	34.1	34.0	28.3	26.6	9.70	9.45	12.98	12.81
Wisconsin	59,930	27.5	27.3	23.2	23.3	7.65	7.35	10.25	10.00
Wyoming	6,044	27.4	26.7	20.6	20.3	7.93	8.29	10.43	10.84

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 4. Total number of births, by state of residence, provisional 2022, and percentage of cesarean delivery and preterm births, by state of residence: United States, each state and territory, final 2021 and provisional 2022—Con.

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

Area	Total number of births, 2022	Total cesarean		Low-risk cesarean ¹		Late preterm ²		Preterm ³	
		2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
		Percent							
Puerto Rico	19,091	50.5	49.6	48.6	47.5	8.69	8.91	11.77	12.03
U.S. Virgin Islands	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Guam	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
American Samoa	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Marianas	460	31.1	32.5	23.1	30.7	9.37	7.04	11.33	8.98

--- Data not available.

¹Low-risk cesarean is defined as singleton, term (37 completed weeks or more of gestation based on the obstetric estimate), vertex (not breech) 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.

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