Births: Provisional Data for 2023

by Brady E. Hamilton, Ph.D., Joyce A. Martin, M.P.H., and Michelle J.K. Osterman, M.H.S.

Abstract

Objectives—This report presents provisional 2023 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 more than 99% of all 2023 birth records received and processed by the National Center for Health Statistics as of January 25, 2024. Comparisons are made with final 2022 data and earlier years.

Results—The provisional number of births for the United States in 2023 was 3,591,328, down 2% from 2022. The general fertility rate was 54.4 births per 1,000 females ages 15–44, down 3% from 2022. The total fertility rate was 1,616.5 births per 1,000 women in 2023, a decline of 2% from 2022. Birth rates declined for females in age groups 15–19 through 35–39 and were unchanged for females ages 10–14 and for women ages 40–44 and 45–49 in 2023. The birth rate for teenagers ages 15–19 declined by 3% in 2023 to 13.2 births per 1,000 females; the rate for younger teenagers (ages 15–17) was unchanged, and the rate for older teenagers (ages 18–19) declined 3%. The cesarean delivery rate rose to 32.4% in 2023, from 32.1 in 2022; the low-risk cesarean delivery rate also increased to 26.6% from 26.3%. The preterm birth rate was 10.41% in 2023, essentially unchanged from the rate of 10.38% in 2022.
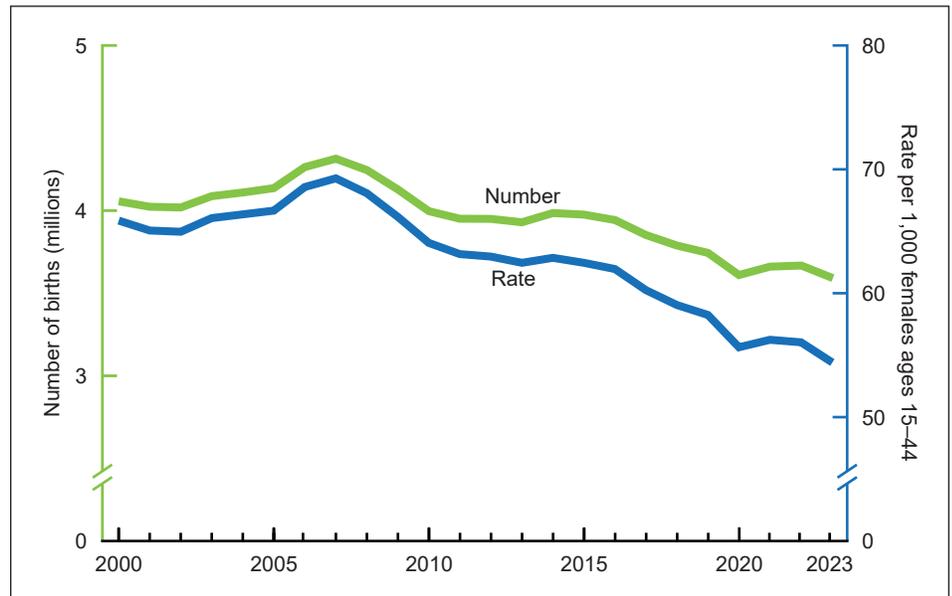
Keywords: birth rates • maternal and infant health • National Vital Statistics System

Introduction

This report from the National Center for Health Statistics, "Births: Provisional Data for 2023," is part of the National Vital Statistics System 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 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, available from: 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. In addition, monthly provisional birth data are now available and can be accessed through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research system (CDC WONDER).

Figure 1. Number of live births and general fertility rates: United States, final 2000–2022 and provisional 2023

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

Using provisional birth data for the 12 months of 2023 (1), this report supplements the Quarterly Provisional Estimates for 2023 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) 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 2023. Information on prenatal care, low birthweight, and other health use and maternal and infant risk factors will be presented with final birth data for 2023.

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 2023 as of January 25, 2024; these records represent nearly 100% (99.94%) of registered births occurring in 2023. 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 (new and updated records from the states). Accordingly, provisional estimates for 2023 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 2022 and earlier years (3). Data for American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands were not available as of the release of the 2023 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, Asian non-Hispanic single race, Black non-Hispanic single race, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander non-Hispanic single race, White non-Hispanic single race, 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 2023 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 is a blend of 2020 census data, 2020 Demographic Analysis estimates, and Vintage 2020 estimates as of July 1, 2023 (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 the "User Guide to the 2022 Natality Public Use File" (4).
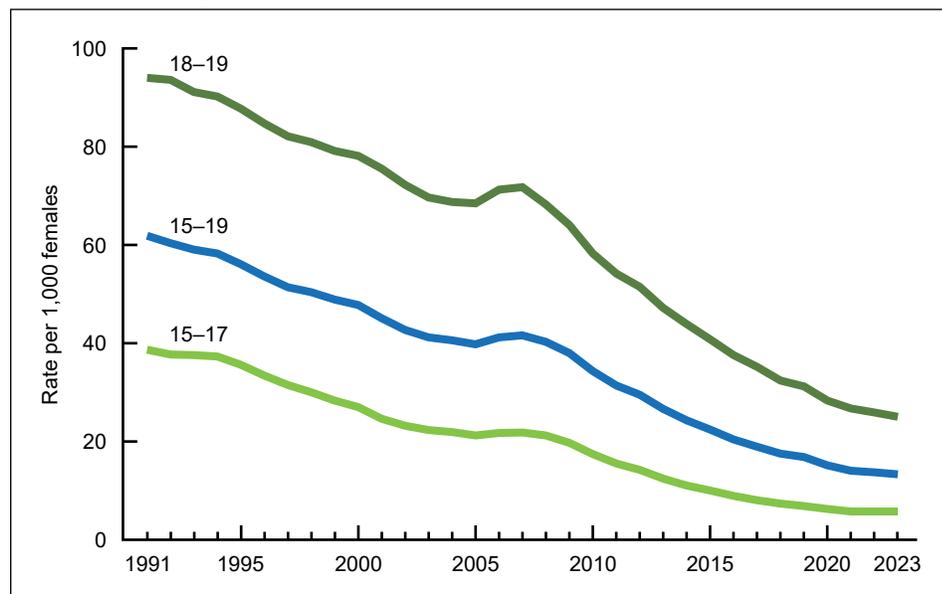
Results

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 2023 was 3,591,328, down 2% from the number in 2022 (3,667,758) (Tables 1–3 and Figure 1). The number of births declined by an average of 2% per year from 2015 to 2020, including a decline of 4% from 2019 to 2020, rose 1% from 2020 to 2021, and was essentially unchanged from 2021 to 2022 (3,8).

- The provisional number of births declined 5% for American Indian and Alaska Native women, 4% for Black women, 3% for White women, and 2% for Asian women from 2022 to 2023. Births rose 1% for Hispanic women and were essentially unchanged for Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander women (Tables 2 and 3).

- The provisional **general fertility rate** for the United States in 2023 was 54.4 births per 1,000 females ages 15–44, down 3% from the rate in 2022 (56.0); the rate had declined 1% from 2021

Figure 2. Birth rate for teenagers, by age of mother: United States, final 1991–2022 and provisional 2023

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

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to 2022, risen 1% from 2020 to 2021, and declined 2% per year from 2014 through 2020 (Tables 1 and 2 and Figure 1) (3,8).

- General fertility rates declined 5% for American Indian and Alaska Native and Black women, 3% for Asian and White women, and 1% for Hispanic women from 2022 to 2023. The general fertility rate was essentially unchanged for Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander women.

- The provisional **total fertility rate** for the United States in 2023 was 1,616.5 births per 1,000 women, down 2% from the rate in 2022 (1,656.5); the rate had declined less than 1% from 2021 to 2022, risen 1% from 2020 to 2021, and declined 2% per year from 2014 through 2020 (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 2023 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 births rates declined for females in age groups 15–19 through 35–39 from 2022 to 2023 and were unchanged for females ages 10–14 and for women ages 40–44 and 45–49 (Table 1).

- The provisional birth rate for teenagers in 2023 was 13.2 births per 1,000 females ages 15–19, down 3% from 2022 (13.6) and another record low for this age group (Table 1 and Figure 2) (3,8–10). The rate declined an average of 7% annually from 2007 through 2022 (3,8). The rate has declined by 68% since 2007 (41.5), the most recent period of continued decline, and 79% since 1991, the most recent peak. The number of births to

females ages 15–19 was 140,801 in 2023, down 2% from 2022 (3).

- Provisional birth rates for teenagers ages 15–17 and 18–19 in 2023 were 5.6 and 24.9 births per 1,000 females, respectively; the birth rate for younger teenagers (ages 15–17) was unchanged from 2022, whereas the rate for older teenagers (ages 18–19) was down by 3%, a new record low (3,8–10). From 2007 through 2023, rates for teenagers ages 15–17 and 18–19 declined by 8% and 6% per year, respectively (3,8).

- The provisional **birth rate for females ages 10–14** was 0.2 births per 1,000 in 2023, unchanged since 2015.

- The provisional **birth rate for women ages 20–24** in 2022 was 55.4 births per 1,000 women, down 4% from 2022 (57.5) and another record low for this age group (Table 1) (3,8,9). This rate has declined by 47% since 2007. The number of births to women in this age group declined by 4% from 2022 to 2023.

- The provisional **birth rate for women ages 25–29** was 91.0 births per 1,000 women, down 3% from 2022 (93.5) (3,8,9). The number of births to women in their late 20s was down 3% from 2022 to 2023.

- The provisional **birth rate for women ages 30–34** in 2023 was 95.1 births per 1,000 women, down 2% from 2022 (97.5) (3,8,9). The number of births to women in their early 30s declined 2% from 2022 to 2023.

- The provisional **birth rate for women ages 35–39** was 54.7 births per 1,000 women, down 1% from 2022 (55.3). The number of births to women in their late 30s was down by less than 1% from 2022 to 2023.

- The provisional **birth rate for women ages 40–44** in 2023 was 12.6 births per 1,000 women, unchanged from 2022. The rate for this age group rose almost continuously from 1985 through 2022 (3,8). The number of births to these women rose by 1% from 2022 to 2023.

- 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 2022. The number of births to women in this age group was essentially unchanged from 2022 to 2023.
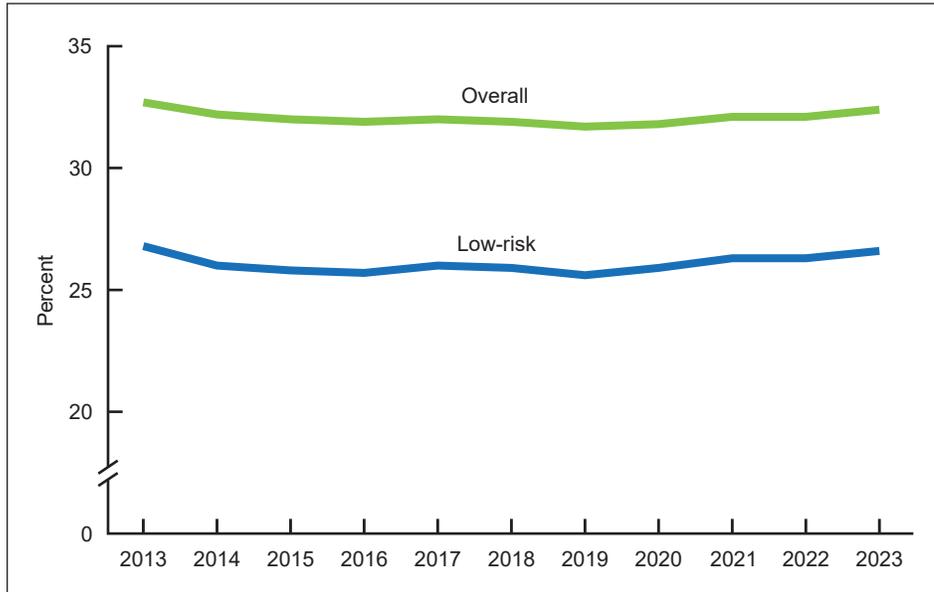
Maternal and infant health characteristics

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

Cesarean delivery

- In 2023, the overall cesarean delivery rate increased 1% to 32.4%, from 32.1% in 2022 (Tables 3 and 4); this is the fourth increase in a row after the rate generally declined from 2009 (32.9%) through 2019 (31.7%) and the highest rate since 2013 (32.7%) (Figure 3) (3). See Table 4 for state-specific rates.

- From 2022 to 2023, cesarean deliveries increased for Asian (33.5% to 34.2%), Black (36.8% to 37.0%), White (31.1% to 31.2%), and Hispanic (31.7% to 32.0%) women; the increases for American Indian and Alaska Native (29.4% to 29.9%) and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (32.4% to 32.5%) women were not significant.

- The low-risk cesarean delivery rate, or cesarean delivery among nulliparous (first birth), term (37 completed weeks or more based on the obstetric estimate), singleton (one fetus), vertex (head-first) births, increased from 26.3% in 2022 to 26.6% in 2023, the highest rate since 2013 (Figure 3, Table 3).

- Low-risk cesarean rates increased from 2022 to 2023 for Asian (29.2% to 30.1%), White (25.3% to 25.6%), and Hispanic (25.6% to 25.9%) women. The increase for American Indian and Alaska Native (23.0% to 23.6%) women and the decrease for Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (30.1% to 29.1%) women were not significant. No change was observed in the low-risk cesarean delivery rate for Black women (30.8%).

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Figure 3. Percentage of overall and low-risk cesarean delivery: United States, final 2013–2022 and provisional 2023

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

Preterm birth

- The **preterm birth rate** was 10.41% in 2023, essentially unchanged from the 2022 rate of 10.38% (Table 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 (11)] to 2014, rose 7% from 2014 (9.57%) through 2019 (10.23%), and has fluctuated since (3). See Table 4 for state-specific rates for 2023.

- Rates of **early preterm** (less than 34 completed weeks of gestation) and **late preterm** (34–36 weeks) births were also essentially unchanged from 2022 to 2023 (Table 3). The early preterm rate was 2.76%, the same as in 2022; the late preterm rate was 7.65% in 2023 compared with 7.62% in 2022. The late preterm rates for 2021 (7.67%) and 2023 are the highest reported since at least 2007 (3).

- Preterm birth rates were essentially unchanged for each of the race and Hispanic-origin groups from 2022 to 2023: American Indian and Alaska Native (12.61% to 12.23%), Asian (9.19% to 9.08%), Black (14.59% to 14.65%), Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (11.96% to 12.52%), White (9.44% to 9.45%), and Hispanic (10.06% to 10.14%) women (Table 3).

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Table 1. Births and birth rates, by age of mother: United States, final 2022 and provisional 2023

[Data for 2023 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 females ages 15–44. Populations estimated as of July 1]

Age of mother	2023		2022	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
All ages	3,591,328	54.4	3,667,758	56.0
10–14	1,763	0.2	1,825	0.2
15–19	140,801	13.2	143,789	13.6
15–17	35,669	5.6	35,422	5.6
18–19	105,132	24.9	108,367	25.8
20–24	616,139	55.4	638,685	57.5
25–29	985,309	91.0	1,013,417	93.5
30–34	1,096,696	95.1	1,118,787	97.5
35–39	603,798	54.7	606,598	55.3
40–44	136,096	12.6	134,115	12.6
45–54[1]	10,726	1.1	10,542	1.1

[1]The birth rate for women in this age group is computed by relating the number of births to women age 45 and older to women ages 45–49 because most of the births in this group are to women ages 45–49.

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

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Table 2. Total number of births and fertility rates, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2022 and provisional 2023

[Data for 2023 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 females ages 15–44 in specified race and Hispanic-origin group. Populations estimated as of July 1]

Year	All races and origins[1]	Non-Hispanic, single race					Hispanic[3]
		American Indian and Alaska Native[2]	Asian[2]	Black[2]	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander[2]	White[2]	
				Number			
2023.	3,591,328	24,479	215,599	490,677	10,096	1,783,962	943,957
2022.	3,667,758	25,721	218,994	511,439	10,122	1,840,739	937,421
				Rate			
2023.	54.4	47.9	47.7	53.5	73.4	51.6	65.0
2022.	56.0	50.6	49.4	56.1	74.8	53.1	65.7

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

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

Table 3. Total number of births and percentage of cesarean delivery and preterm births, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 2022 and provisional 2023

[Data for 2023 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 and Alaska Native[2]	Asian[2]	Black[2]	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander[2]	White[2]	
Number of births				**Number**			
2023.	3,591,328	24,479	215,599	490,677	10,096	1,783,962	943,957
2022.	3,667,758	25,721	218,994	511,439	10,122	1,840,739	937,421
Cesarean delivery				**Percent**			
Total[4]:							
2023	32.4	29.9	34.2	37.0	32.5	31.2	32.0
2022	32.1	29.4	33.5	36.8	32.4	31.1	31.7
Low-risk[5]:							
2023	26.6	23.6	30.1	30.8	29.1	25.6	25.9
2022	26.3	23.0	29.2	30.8	30.1	25.3	25.6
Gestational age[6]							
Preterm (under 37 weeks):							
2023	10.41	12.23	9.08	14.65	12.52	9.45	10.14
2022	10.38	12.61	9.19	14.59	11.96	9.44	10.06
Late preterm (34–36 weeks):							
2023	7.65	9.21	6.79	9.80	9.27	7.17	7.52
2022	7.62	9.33	6.95	9.70	8.90	7.16	7.46
Early preterm (under 34 weeks):							
2023	2.76	3.02	2.29	4.85	3.24	2.28	2.62
2022	2.76	3.28	2.25	4.89	3.06	2.28	2.60

[1]Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as Hispanic single-race White, Hispanic single-race Black, and non-Hispanic multiple-race women, and births with origin not stated.
[2]Race 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.
[3]Includes all people of Hispanic origin of any race.
[4]All births by cesarean delivery per 100 live births.
[5]Low-risk cesarean is defined as singleton, term (37 or more weeks of gestation based on obstetric estimate), vertex (not breech), cesarean deliveries to women having a first birth per 100 women delivering singleton, term, vertex, first births.
[6]Completed 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 2023, and percentage of cesarean delivery and preterm births, by state of residence: United States, each state and territory, final 2022 and provisional 2023

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

Area	Total number of births, 2023	Percent				Percent			
		Total cesarean		Low-risk cesarean[1]		Late preterm[2]		Preterm[3]	
		2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
		Percent							
United States[4]	3,591,328	32.4	32.1	26.6	26.3	7.65	7.62	10.41	10.38
Alabama	57,803	34.2	34.5	28.3	28.3	9.51	9.52	12.91	12.84
Alaska.	8,914	24.0	22.7	20.5	16.7	7.86	7.55	10.25	10.04
Arizona	78,076	29.0	28.6	23.4	23.4	7.32	7.40	9.87	9.85
Arkansas	35,213	33.8	33.7	26.9	27.9	8.89	8.78	12.08	11.78
California	399,368	31.6	31.0	25.9	25.2	6.79	6.79	9.17	9.08
Colorado.	61,475	27.5	27.9	23.1	23.0	7.20	7.45	9.70	10.04
Connecticut	34,531	35.1	35.2	30.0	29.2	6.66	6.83	9.34	9.41
Delaware	10,396	31.5	31.9	24.1	25.7	7.63	7.58	10.44	10.83
District of Columbia	7,885	34.1	33.3	29.7	29.3	7.28	6.89	10.77	10.24
Florida	221,365	36.2	35.9	29.9	29.1	7.75	7.55	10.72	10.57
Georgia.	125,046	35.8	35.2	29.8	28.9	8.59	8.50	11.83	11.87
Hawaii.	14,643	27.5	27.6	23.8	24.4	7.52	7.29	10.07	9.82
Idaho	22,377	24.5	24.5	19.8	20.3	6.52	6.77	8.68	8.85
Illinois	124,743	31.0	31.0	24.2	24.9	7.85	7.79	10.76	10.57
Indiana	78,856	30.8	30.5	25.0	24.6	8.21	7.95	11.04	10.92
Iowa	35,994	30.3	29.6	24.5	23.0	7.71	7.80	10.38	10.23
Kansas	34,056	30.3	30.1	24.8	24.6	7.98	7.96	10.46	10.46
Kentucky.	51,830	34.3	34.5	27.2	27.3	8.42	8.75	11.27	11.70
Louisiana	54,682	36.1	35.5	28.4	27.9	9.86	9.78	13.34	13.32
Maine	11,617	31.1	31.7	25.5	25.6	7.24	7.09	9.56	9.54
Maryland.	65,561	35.0	34.3	30.3	30.0	7.39	7.53	10.25	10.29
Massachusetts	67,113	33.5	33.1	27.5	27.3	6.76	6.87	9.08	9.13
Michigan	99,055	33.3	33.1	28.4	27.7	7.50	7.47	10.31	10.43
Minnesota.	61,671	30.2	30.0	26.6	26.6	6.96	7.11	9.45	9.56
Mississippi	34,449	37.9	38.5	30.1	30.8	10.84	10.66	14.95	14.80
Missouri	67,058	30.2	30.4	24.0	24.5	8.25	8.39	11.04	11.31
Montana	11,069	26.0	27.1	21.5	21.2	7.17	7.67	9.35	9.73
Nebraska	24,043	29.4	28.9	23.0	22.6	8.41	8.49	11.14	11.34
Nevada.	31,759	33.5	32.9	28.1	27.3	8.02	8.10	11.07	10.87
New Hampshire	11,929	32.9	32.1	27.5	27.9	6.23	6.10	8.31	8.18
New Jersey.	100,943	33.1	32.9	27.3	26.3	6.93	6.87	9.27	9.28
New Mexico	20,815	28.4	27.0	23.6	22.8	7.42	7.46	10.07	10.17
New York	203,126	33.9	33.9	29.6	29.5	7.13	6.92	9.62	9.46
North Carolina	119,744	30.8	30.2	25.0	24.5	7.68	7.66	10.74	10.70
North Dakota	9,614	26.1	26.0	19.7	18.6	8.04	7.77	10.34	10.33
Ohio	126,785	31.5	31.4	25.7	25.8	7.68	7.86	10.70	10.84
Oklahoma.	47,872	33.1	32.4	25.7	25.4	8.18	8.26	11.04	11.31
Oregon	38,225	28.9	29.1	24.0	24.8	6.73	6.60	8.99	8.71
Pennsylvania	126,757	31.3	31.1	25.6	25.6	7.03	6.95	9.71	9.62
Rhode Island	9,801	33.2	34.9	28.0	30.5	7.25	6.39	9.57	8.99
South Carolina	57,688	32.6	32.6	25.2	24.8	8.32	8.34	11.61	11.61
South Dakota	11,198	24.4	24.0	19.1	18.3	9.74	8.12	12.52	10.38
Tennessee	82,973	32.3	32.1	26.5	26.3	8.40	8.15	11.34	11.04
Texas	387,636	34.5	34.7	27.8	27.7	8.15	8.25	11.13	11.26
Utah	45,016	24.3	24.0	20.5	19.6	6.98	6.91	9.37	9.37
Vermont	5,058	27.5	28.1	23.7	22.4	5.80	6.36	7.68	8.79
Virginia	92,512	32.3	32.3	26.3	26.7	7.06	6.93	9.80	9.66
Washington.	80,879	30.0	29.7	26.2	25.4	6.51	6.59	8.70	8.77
West Virginia	16,403	35.0	34.1	29.2	28.3	9.92	9.70	13.13	12.98
Wisconsin.	59,719	27.3	27.5	22.6	23.2	7.37	7.65	9.92	10.26
Wyoming	5,987	28.3	27.3	22.8	20.6	7.79	7.92	9.76	10.42

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 4. Total number of births, by state of residence, provisional 2023, and percentage of cesarean delivery and preterm births, by state of residence: United States, each state and territory, final 2022 and provisional 2023—Con.

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

Area	Total number of births, 2023	Percent				Percent			
		Total cesarean		Low-risk cesarean[1]		Late preterm[2]		Preterm[3]	
		2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
		Percent							
Puerto Rico.	18,529	50.7	50.5	48.9	48.6	8.89	8.69	12.20	11.77
U.S. Virgin Islands	---	---	36.8	---	19.7	---	6.35	---	10.24
Guam	---	---	27.8	---	25.8	---	9.16	---	12.12
American Samoa	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Marianas	571	28.9	31.0	24.7	23.1	7.37	9.87	10.35	12.02

--- Data not available.

[1]Low-risk cesarean is defined as singleton, term (37 or more weeks of gestation based on obstetric estimate), vertex (not breech) cesarean deliveries to women having a first birth per 100 women delivering singleton, term, vertex first births.
[2]Births at 34–36 completed weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate.
[3]Births before 37 completed weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate.
[4]Excludes data for the territories.

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

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