Fertility of American Women: 2006

Population Characteristics

This report describes fertility patterns of American women. Previous U.S. Census Bureau reports on this topic were based on fertility data from the June supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is collected every 2 years.[1] With the full implementation of the American Community Survey (ACS), we now have the capacity to examine fertility data on an annual basis.[2] The large sample size of the current ACS (3 million addresses) makes it possible, on a state-by-state basis, to analyze fertility characteristics that were previously unobtainable from the CPS.[3]

A historical perspective showing the cumulative fertility experience of women to date is first presented, based on data collected in the June 2006 supplement to the CPS. The 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?" Annual fertility rates derived from the CPS refer to the number of women who had a birth between July 2005 and June 2006 per 1,000 women.

The current fertility experiences of women with a birth in the last year are also shown, based on data collected from the 2006 ACS at the national and state level. The ACS fertility data are from a single survey question asked of women 15 to 50 years old: "Has this person given birth to any children in the past 12 months?" This question was asked of women for each interview month from January 2006 through December 2006, thus representing the fertility of these women over the years 2005 and 2006.

This report provides estimates of cumulative fertility, completed fertility, and current fertility—including nonmarital births; births in the last year by cohabitation status, citizenship status, and labor force status; and geographic differences in fertility. This report also examines new topics, such as delayed fertility patterns for women with higher education, fertility rates of Hispanic women by nativity status, and birth rates among women receiving public assistance.

Some highlights of the report are:

- The level of childlessness among women 40 to 44 years old in June 2006, 20 percent, is twice as high as 30 years ago (10 percent).

- Women 40 to 44 years old will end their childbearing years with an average of 1.9 children each, a number below replacement-level fertility. Hispanic women will have an average of 2.3 children each, higher than that

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[1] The data in this report are from the Fertility Supplement to the June 2006 CPS and the 2006 ACS. The population represented by the CPS (the population universe) is the female civilian noninstitutionalized population 15 to 44 years old living in the United States. The population represented by the ACS is the female population 15 to 50 years old living in the United States.

[2] For more details on the ACS, including its sample size and questions, see <www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

[3] Appendix Table A provides comparisons of the number of births reported by mothers in each survey.

of White non-Hispanic, Black, or Asian women.[4]

- Overall, second generation Hispanic women 15 to 44 years old have lower fertility rates than either foreign-born Hispanics or those who were native and were born of native parents (third generation).

- Of the 4.2 million women 15 to 50 years old in the 2006 ACS who had a birth in the past 12 months, 36 percent were separated, widowed, divorced, or never married at the time of the survey. Of these 1.5 million mothers, 199,000 were living with an unmarried partner.

- The highest levels of current fertility (67 births per 1,000 women 15 to 50 years old) were recorded among women with a graduate or professional degree in 2006. The peak age of fertility among women who had at least a bachelor's degree was 30 to 34 years old.

- Twenty percent of births in the last year were to foreign-born women 15 to 50 years old. In California, the proportion was twice the national average (41 percent). Four states that had above-average levels of births to foreign-born women had below-average proportions of births to women in poverty (California, Nevada, Illinois, and New Jersey).

- One-quarter of all women 15 to 50 years old in the 2006 ACS with a birth in the last 12 months were living below the poverty level in the past 12 months. Fertility rates were twice as high among these women living below poverty (91 births per 1,000) as among women living at 200 percent or more of poverty (45 births per 1,000).

Cumulative Fertility

The first section of this report discusses data from the CPS that illustrates the childbearing patterns of women over time and their cumulative fertility up to the time of the survey.

Table 1 shows that in June 2006, 61.7 million women were in the principal childbearing ages of 15 to 44 years and 45 percent of them were childless.[5] Levels of childlessness ranged from 93 percent for teenagers 15 to 19 years old to 19

percent among women 35 to 39 years old. Thirty years ago, 10 percent of women aged 40 to 44 were childless, one-half the level recorded in 2006 (20 percent).[6]

In June 2006, 17 percent of women 15 to 44 years old had one child, 22 percent had two, 11 percent had three, 4 percent had four, and 2 percent had five or more children. Hispanic mothers were more likely to have had one or more children (62 percent) compared with Black-alone women (59 percent) or White alone, non-Hispanic and Asian-alone women (about 52 percent each).

Overall, women 15 to 44 years old in June 2006 had an average of 1,169 births per 1,000 women (Table 1). Hispanic women aged 15 to 44 had the highest number of children ever born (1,435 per 1,000 women), compared with non-Hispanic White women, who had 1,091 children ever born per 1,000 women; Black women, who had 1,288 children ever born per 1,000 women; and Asian women, who had 992 children ever born per 1,000 women.

Women near the end of their childbearing years, 40 to 44 years old in 2006, had 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).[7] This shift in the average number of children ever born reflects the decline in the number of women having higher order births (three or more children) over the past three decades from 59 percent in 1976 to 28 percent in 2006 and also the increase in the

[4] 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 using the first approach (race alone). Appendix Table B shows data using both approaches. Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. For further information, see the Census 2000 Brief *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000* (C2KBR/01-1) at <www.census.gov/population/www /cen2000/briefs.html>. This report will refer to the White-alone population as White, the Black-alone population as Black, the Asian-alone population as Asian, and the White-alone-non-Hispanic population as White non-Hispanic. Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on the June 2006 CPS, among women 15 to 44 years old, being Hispanic was reported by 19.5 percent of White women who reported only one race, 4.1 percent of Black women, 0.5 percent of Asian women, and 20.4 percent of women of other races who reported only one race.

[5] 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. Further information on the source and reliability of the estimates can be found in Attachment 16 of <www.census.gov/apsd /techdoc/cps/cpsjun06.pdf>.

[6] See Internet Supplemental Table 1 at <www.census.gov/population/socdemo /fertility/SupFertTab1.xls>. Data for 1976 were collected only for women 18 to 44 years old.
[7] See Internet Supplemental Table 2 at <www.census.gov/population/socdemo /fertility/SupFertTab2.xls>.

Table 1.
Fertility Indicators for Women 15 to 44 Years Old by Age and Race and Hispanic Origin: June 2006

(Numbers in thousands. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsjun06.pdf)

Characteristic	Number of women	Children ever born per 1,000 women	Margin of error[1]	First birth in the last 12 months 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
Total	**61,683**	**1,169**	**11.6**	**25.1**	**100.0**	**45.1**	**17.0**	**21.7**	**10.8**	**3.7**	**1.7**
15 to 19 years	10,269	98	5.0	23.7	100.0	93.3	4.5	1.5	0.5	0.2	–
20 to 24 years	10,079	489	14.2	47.9	100.0	68.6	18.8	9.3	2.7	0.6	0.2
25 to 29 years	10,004	1,029	25.5	40.1	100.0	45.6	22.9	19.4	8.5	2.8	0.8
30 to 34 years	9,647	1,595	37.8	28.7	100.0	26.2	21.8	29.3	15.3	5.3	2.1
35 to 39 years	10,450	1,874	41.8	11.6	100.0	18.9	17.6	35.4	18.5	6.5	3.0
40 to 44 years	11,235	1,862	40.1	2.3	100.0	20.4	16.9	34.4	18.5	6.4	3.5
White alone	**47,846**	**1,158**	**13.0**	**25.4**	**100.0**	**45.6**	**16.4**	**22.1**	**10.8**	**3.6**	**1.5**
15 to 19 years	7,872	99	5.7	22.3	100.0	93.5	4.2	1.5	0.5	0.2	–
20 to 24 years	7,799	443	15.0	48.6	100.0	71.0	17.7	8.4	2.2	0.5	0.2
25 to 29 years	7,695	1,025	29.0	42.5	100.0	45.7	22.4	20.0	8.5	2.7	0.7
30 to 34 years	7,391	1,573	42.6	29.7	100.0	26.1	21.7	30.4	15.2	4.6	1.9
35 to 39 years	8,167	1,857	46.9	11.4	100.0	19.3	17.1	35.9	18.7	6.4	2.7
40 to 44 years	8,922	1,849	44.7	2.5	100.0	21.2	15.9	34.3	18.7	6.5	3.4
White alone, non-Hispanic	**38,532**	**1,091**	**13.8**	**24.0**	**100.0**	**47.5**	**16.2**	**22.3**	**9.9**	**3.0**	**1.2**
15 to 19 years	6,264	90	6.0	16.7	100.0	94.5	3.1	1.7	0.5	0.2	–
20 to 24 years	6,278	375	14.9	44.7	100.0	74.8	16.3	6.7	1.8	0.2	0.2
25 to 29 years	6,033	902	29.5	44.8	100.0	50.0	22.4	18.4	6.6	2.1	0.6
30 to 34 years	5,754	1,498	46.3	28.8	100.0	28.1	21.8	31.0	13.5	4.1	1.6
35 to 39 years	6,655	1,761	49.6	13.2	100.0	20.3	18.1	37.4	17.2	5.0	2.0
40 to 44 years	7,548	1,767	46.7	1.8	100.0	22.5	16.2	35.5	17.7	5.6	2.6
Black alone	**8,896**	**1,288**	**32.7**	**22.6**	**100.0**	**41.4**	**19.5**	**20.5**	**11.0**	**4.8**	**2.8**
15 to 19 years	1,653	107	13.0	30.1	100.0	91.6	6.7	1.2	0.5	–	–
20 to 24 years	1,496	716	49.2	53.2	100.0	54.1	26.1	15.1	4.0	0.4	0.3
25 to 29 years	1,459	1,283	80.3	30.6	100.0	35.3	27.3	20.6	10.3	4.9	1.7
30 to 34 years	1,354	1,875	115.9	17.2	100.0	23.8	18.6	25.1	18.4	10.0	4.2
35 to 39 years	1,423	1,952	117.2	2.9	100.0	19.4	17.5	32.1	19.1	6.9	5.0
40 to 44 years	1,511	2,003	116.4	–	100.0	16.4	22.1	32.2	15.8	7.6	5.9
Asian alone	**3,145**	**992**	**44.1**	**23.8**	**100.0**	**47.7**	**19.0**	**22.9**	**8.3**	**1.4**	**0.6**
15 to 19 years	352	67	21.7	10.3	100.0	95.9	1.4	2.7	–	–	–
20 to 24 years	442	248	42.3	16.3	100.0	83.6	10.1	4.2	2.1	–	–
25 to 29 years	561	417	53.6	43.3	100.0	72.1	18.1	6.5	3.0	0.3	–
30 to 34 years	637	1,128	109.0	33.9	100.0	35.2	29.2	25.8	7.8	1.6	0.5
35 to 39 years	581	1,840	174.0	31.2	100.0	10.8	26.9	41.9	14.1	4.4	2.0
40 to 44 years	572	1,689	162.6	–	100.0	18.1	18.2	43.6	17.9	1.7	0.5
Hispanic (any race)	**10,099**	**1,435**	**33.7**	**30.6**	**100.0**	**38.0**	**17.2**	**20.9**	**15.0**	**6.1**	**2.7**
15 to 19 years	1,724	136	14.7	45.6	100.0	89.7	8.4	0.9	0.7	0.3	–
20 to 24 years	1,688	738	47.4	59.5	100.0	55.0	24.2	15.0	3.9	1.8	0.1
25 to 29 years	1,814	1,458	80.4	31.4	100.0	31.0	22.2	25.7	14.9	4.9	1.3
30 to 34 years	1,772	1,848	100.1	30.0	100.0	19.0	21.6	28.2	21.9	6.6	2.7
35 to 39 years	1,628	2,273	125.6	6.6	100.0	15.8	12.5	28.7	25.0	12.2	5.9
40 to 44 years	1,473	2,300	133.5	6.0	100.0	14.4	13.7	28.0	24.9	11.8	7.1

– Represents or rounds to zero.

[1] This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2006.

proportion of women not having any births (from 10 percent in 1976 to 20 percent in 2006).

Hispanic women aged 40 to 44 had an average of 2.3 births and were the only group that exceeded the fertility level required for natural replacement of the U.S. population (about 2.1 births per woman).[8] Non-Hispanic White women and Asian women 40 to 44 years old had fertility levels below the replacement level (1.8 and 1.7 births per woman, respectively).[9] The fertility level of Black women aged 40 to 44 (2.0 births per woman) did not differ statistically from the natural replacement level.

Completed Fertility for Women 40 to 44 years old

The CPS asks respondents how many children they have ever had, which allows us to study the completed fertility of women near the end of their childbearing years. Table 2 shows data on lifetime fertility of women aged 40 to 44 by selected characteristics. In June 2006, 20 percent of women 40 to 44 years old were childless—a proportion that has doubled since 1976. As previously mentioned, the fertility of Hispanic women was higher than that of Black, Asian, or non-Hispanic White women. Fertility levels were also higher for foreign-born women than for native women (2.1 births and 1.8 births, respectively). In 2006, 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 (2.4 births). In addition, about one-quarter of college graduates who were 40 to 44 years old were childless, compared with 15 percent of women who did not graduate from high school.

In addition to providing a picture of completed fertility levels, Table 2 shows demographic, social, and economic factors related to whether women aged 40 to 44 had never married. One in seven women in this age group were never married. Among other groups, Black women (29 percent) and women with less than $20,000 income (27 percent) had higher proportions of never-married women than the overall proportion of women aged 40 to 44 (14 percent).[10] Groups that had 10 percent or lower proportions never married included Asian women; Hispanic women; women with annual family incomes of $75,000 or more; and foreign-born women, especially those who had become naturalized citizens.

Current Fertility

Data on first births indicate when and under what circumstances women tend to begin childbearing. In many cases, women delay childbearing because they want to finish their education or develop their career.[11] For this indicator of current fertility, the CPS data for 2006 can be used to measure differences in first birth rates. The ACS does not collect information on the birth order of the woman's birth. In 2006, the highest levels of first

birth rates (shown in Table 1) were for women in the 20-to-24-year age group (47.9 first births per 1,000 women), and the 25-to-29-year age group (40.1 first births per 1,000 women).[12] First births among 35-to-39-year-old women were much lower at 12 first births per 1,000 women.[13]

Current fertility rates in the ACS are based on the number of women 15 to 50 years old reporting a birth in the previous 12 months per 1,000 women in the specified group, and they provide a picture of recent childbearing experiences among different population groups. Using data from the ACS in 2006, 4.2 million women between the ages of 15 and 50 had a birth in the past 12 months (Table 3).[14] That number translates to 55 births per 1,000 women 15 to 50 years old. The fertility levels measured by the ACS from 2000 to 2006 ranged from an overall highest fertility rate of 59 births per 1,000 women 15 to 50 years old in 2000 and 2001 to the lowest level of 54 births per 1,000 in 2003.[15, 16]

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[8] 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.

[9] Fertility levels for non-Hispanic White women and Asian women 40 to 44 years old do not differ statistically.

[10] The percentages of Black women and women with less than $20,000 income who were aged 40 to 44 and never married were not statistically different.

[11] Hamilton, B.E. and T.J.Mathews, Mean Age of Mother, 1970–2000. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 51, No. 1, National Center for Health Statistics: Hyattsville, MD, 2002.

[12] First birth rates for women 20 to 24 years old and 25 to 29 years old are not statistically different.

[13] First birth rates from National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) also show the highest levels of first births among 20-to-24-year age group and the 25-to-29-year age group (48.6 first births per 1,000 women and 41.2 first births per 1,000 women, respectively). Hamilton, B.E., S. Kirmeyer, J.A. Martin, F. Menacker, M.L. Munson, P.D. Sutton, and S.J. Ventura. Births: Final Data for 2005. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 56, No. 6, National Center for Health Statistics: Hyattsville, MD, 2007 (Table 3).

[14] The preliminary number of births in calendar year 2006 from the NCHS is 4,269,000. Eldridge, R.I. and P.D. Sutton. Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths: Provisional Data for 2006. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 55, No. 20, National Center for Health Statistics: Hyattsville, MD, 2007 (Table 1).

[15] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American FactFinder 2004 Multiyear Social Profile.

[16] The CPS shows that fertility rates for women 15 to 44 years ranged from 67 births per 1,000 women in 1990 to 61 births per 1,000 women in 2004 (Supplemental Fertility Table 1) <www.census.gov/population/socdemo/fertility/SupFertTab1.xls>.

Table 2.
Completed Fertility for Women 40 to 44 Years Old by Selected Characteristics: June 2006

(Numbers in thousands. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see
www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsjun06.pdf)

Characteristic	Total	Percent never married	Percent childless	Children ever born per 1,000 women
Total women aged 40 to 44	**11,235**	**13.5**	**20.4**	**1,862**
Race and Hispanic Origin				
White alone	8,922	11.0	21.2	1,849
White alone, non-Hispanic	7,548	11.4	22.5	1,767
Black alone	1,511	29.3	16.4	2,003
Asian alone	572	9.7	18.1	1,689
Other race	230	18.5	20.2	1,860
Hispanic (any race)	1,473	9.1	14.4	2,300
Nativity and Citizenship				
Native	9,350	14.4	21.4	1,823
Foreign born	1,885	9.0	15.5	2,052
Naturalized citizen	863	6.2	13.5	2,035
Not a citizen	1,022	11.5	17.2	2,065
Educational Attainment				
Not a high school graduate	1,158	16.6	14.9	2,447
High school, 4 years	3,337	12.3	18.3	1,947
College, 1 or more years	6,740	13.6	22.3	1,719
No degree	2,097	15.6	19.7	1,822
Associate's degree	1,205	12.3	19.0	1,820
Bachelor's degree	2,380	12.3	24.1	1,632
Graduate or professional degree	1,058	14.1	27.4	1,596
Labor Force Status				
In labor force	8,684	13.7	21.7	1,781
Employed	8,374	13.5	21.6	1,778
Unemployed	310	20.5	24.1	1,885
Not in labor force	2,551	12.8	16.0	2,135
Annual Family Income[1]				
Under $20,000	1,265	26.7	22.8	2,038
$20,000 to $29,999	1,445	20.0	19.4	1,988
$35,000 to $49,999	1,274	14.6	17.3	2,052
$50,000 to $74,999	1,953	10.2	23.3	1,734
$75,000 to $99,999	1,417	9.1	20.0	1,752
$100,000 and over	2,017	5.4	18.3	1,832
Not ascertained	1,865	14.3	21.2	1,763
Region of Residence[2]				
Northeast	2,126	15.9	22.4	1,751
Midwest	2,503	11.9	18.2	2,014
South	4,013	13.6	19.9	1,803
West	2,593	13.0	21.7	1,896

[1] Family income is asked of all respondents regardless of living arrangements. It includes income data for people living alone. 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.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2006.

Table 3.
Women Who Had a Birth in the Last 12 Months Per 1,000 Women 15 to 50 Years Old by Selected Characteristics: 2006

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/users_guide /ACS_2006_Statistical_Testing.pdf*)

Characteristic	Number of women		Women who had a birth in the last 12 months					
			Total		Percent distribution		Births per 1,000 women	
	Estimate	Margin of error[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[1]
Total	**76,172,507**	**26,845**	**4,182,942**	**36,517**	**100.0**	**–**	**54.9**	**0.5**
Age								
15 to 19 years	10,551,372	20,447	278,445	9,200	6.7	0.2	26.4	0.9
20 to 24 years	10,134,195	22,267	935,039	16,091	22.4	0.4	92.3	1.6
25 to 29 years	9,976,440	17,922	1,173,652	20,143	28.1	0.4	117.6	1.9
30 to 34 years	9,679,647	14,300	987,324	15,739	23.6	0.3	102.0	1.6
35 to 39 years	10,559,537	37,669	583,591	10,658	14.0	0.2	55.3	1.0
40 to 44 years	11,384,220	36,790	170,791	6,111	4.1	0.1	15.0	0.5
45 to 50 years	13,887,096	24,830	54,100	4,219	1.3	0.1	3.9	0.3
Marital Status								
Married	35,225,985	90,172	2,698,790	28,954	64.5	0.4	76.6	0.8
Widowed	719,572	15,590	13,541	2,268	0.3	0.1	18.8	3.1
Divorced	7,378,966	40,798	167,767	7,159	4.0	0.2	22.7	0.9
Separated	2,317,577	27,685	113,275	6,442	2.7	0.2	48.9	2.8
Never married	30,530,407	69,274	1,189,569	20,817	28.4	0.4	39.0	0.7
Cohabitation Status								
Not married[2]	40,946,522	91,837	1,484,152	22,650	35.5	0.4	36.2	0.5
Living with an unmarried partner	2,742,042	31,941	199,051	9,209	4.8	0.2	72.6	1.4
Not living with an unmarried partner	38,204,480	96,639	1,285,101	19,423	30.7	0.4	33.6	0.5
Nativity and Citizenship								
Native	64,375,416	52,242	3,347,731	29,999	80.0	0.3	52.0	0.5
Foreign born	11,797,091	47,776	835,211	15,972	20.0	0.3	70.8	1.3
Naturalized citizen	4,293,664	38,159	210,880	7,111	5.0	0.2	49.1	1.7
Not a citizen	7,503,427	46,366	624,331	13,344	14.9	0.3	83.2	1.8
Race and Hispanic Origin								
White alone	54,423,321	38,319	2,826,551	28,216	67.6	0.4	51.9	0.5
White alone, non-Hispanic	48,410,876	18,451	2,394,767	26,689	57.3	0.4	49.5	0.6
Black alone	10,431,264	20,021	605,433	13,163	14.5	0.3	58.0	1.3
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	654,150	8,778	44,148	3,445	1.1	0.1	67.5	5.1
Asian alone	3,879,167	13,592	209,615	7,070	5.0	0.2	54.0	1.8
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	125,034	4,757	7,676	1,590	0.2	0.0	61.4	12.3
Some other race alone	5,262,240	35,254	407,992	12,052	9.8	0.3	77.5	2.2
Two or more races	1,397,331	19,646	81,527	4,844	1.9	0.1	58.3	3.3
Hispanic (any race)	11,739,015	12,178	873,368	16,713	20.9	0.4	74.4	1.4
Educational Attainment								
Not a high school graduate	14,581,563	51,404	746,907	15,588	17.9	0.3	51.2	1.0
High school, 4 years	19,704,046	86,304	1,133,009	19,470	27.1	0.4	57.5	1.0
College, 1 or more years	41,886,898	97,318	2,303,026	26,629	55.1	0.5	55.0	0.6
Some college or associate's degree ..	23,475,815	71,672	1,171,936	18,786	28.0	0.4	49.9	0.8
Bachelor's degree	12,908,885	56,021	763,260	13,019	18.2	0.3	59.1	1.0
Graduate or professional degree	5,502,198	38,930	367,830	7,597	8.8	0.2	66.9	1.3
Labor Force Status								
In labor force[3]	53,071,870	69,079	2,397,953	29,365	57.3	0.4	45.2	0.6
Employed	49,115,747	78,271	2,109,291	25,785	50.4	0.4	42.9	0.5
Unemployed	3,956,123	34,538	288,662	9,806	6.9	0.2	73.0	2.3
Not in labor force	20,983,532	75,028	1,774,412	22,331	42.4	0.4	84.6	1.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3.
Women Who Had a Birth in the Last 12 Months Per 1,000 Women 15 to 50 Years Old by Selected Characteristics: 2006—Con.

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/users_guide /ACS_2006_Statistical_Testing.pdf*)

| Characteristic | Number of women | | Women who had a birth in the last 12 months | | | | | |
| | | | Total | | Percent distribution | | Births per 1,000 women | |
	Estimate	Margin of error[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[1]
Annual Family Income								
Less than $10,000	15,889,965	68,203	526,785	14,611	12.6	0.3	33.2	0.9
$10,000 to $14,999	2,308,705	30,113	206,620	8,207	4.9	0.2	89.5	3.4
$15,000 to $24,999	5,324,892	46,573	453,454	12,176	10.8	0.3	85.2	2.2
$25,000 to $34,999	5,864,945	50,855	438,014	11,778	10.5	0.3	74.7	1.9
$35,000 to $49,999	8,599,979	66,825	552,125	13,061	13.2	0.3	64.2	1.4
$50,000 to $74,999	13,215,740	54,387	779,033	15,984	18.6	0.3	58.9	1.2
$75,000 to $99,999	9,647,862	56,387	500,678	11,791	12.0	0.3	51.9	1.2
$100,000 to $149,999	9,444,088	58,045	454,476	11,235	10.9	0.3	48.1	1.1
$150,000 to $199,999	3,105,652	31,954	145,109	6,174	3.5	0.2	46.7	2.0
$200,000 or more	2,770,679	27,756	126,648	4,978	3.0	0.1	45.7	1.8
Poverty Status[4]								
Below 100 percent of poverty in the past 12 months	11,521,336	68,062	1,053,398	17,017	25.2	0.3	91.4	1.5
100 percent to 199 percent of poverty in the past 12 months	12,967,105	65,675	876,609	14,234	21.2	0.3	67.6	1.1
200 percent of poverty or above in the past 12 months	50,155,075	97,733	2,235,862	28,308	53.2	0.4	44.5	0.5
Public Assistance								
Receiving public assistance	1,742,895	21,852	269,300	9,979	6.4	0.2	154.5	5.0
Not receiving public assistance	74,429,612	34,492	3,913,642	32,712	93.6	0.2	52.6	0.4

– Represents or rounds to zero.

[1] This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.
[2] Includes separated, widowed, divorced, and never-married women.
[3] Labor force status is only determined for the population 16 years old and over.
[4] For whom poverty status is determined.

Note: Births per 1,000 shows the likelihood that a given group of women will have a birth.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006 (Table S1301 and special tabulations).

Age-specific fertility data in the ACS are shown by the age of the woman at the time of the survey, which could be up to 12 months after the child's birth. This produces systematic underestimates of fertility for the youngest age group and overestimates for the oldest age group compared with data published by the National Center for Health Statistics, which tabulates the age of the woman at the time of her child's birth.[17] For the middle age groups, this data

[17] This birth rate is slightly different from the NCHS birth rate for a calendar year because the ACS asks whether or not a woman had a birth in the past 12 months. In addition, birth rates by age will be slightly different from age-specific birth rates published by NCHS, since the ACS tabulated the woman's age at the time of the survey interview date, while NCHS tabulates data at the time of the woman's birth. See Johnson, Tallese and Jane Lawler Dye. "Indicators of Marriage and Fertility in the United States

collection issue does not distort the data. Women in their peak

from the American Community Survey: 2000 to 2003" at <www.census.gov/population /www/socdemo/fertility/mar-fert-slides.html>. Despite these differences, declines in teenage fertility were also noted in NCHS reports between 2000 and 2004. Hamilton, B.E., S. Kirmeyer, J.A. Martin, F. Menacker, P.D. Sutton, and S.J. Ventura. Births: Final Data for 2004. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 55, No. 1, National Center for Health Statistics: Hyattsville, MD, 2006 (Table 4). Also see Appendix Table D.

childbearing years, 20 to 34 years old, had a fertility rate of 104 births per 1,000 in 2006.[18]

Marital Status and Cohabitation

In 2006, 36 percent of women 15 to 50 years old with a birth in the past year were not currently married (that is, they were separated, divorced, widowed, or never married) (Table 3). Of these 1.5 million unmarried mothers, 199,000 were living with an unmarried partner, representing 5 percent of women 15 to 50 years old with a birth in the last year. The data indicate that 4 percent were living with an unmarried partner and were never married and 1 percent were living with an unmarried partner and were widowed, divorced, or separated.[19] Fertility rates for cohabiting women were almost as high as for married women (73 births per 1,000 and 77 births per 1,000, respectively).

Overall, older mothers between the ages of 35 and 50 with a birth in the last 12 months were more likely to be married (81 percent compared with 16 percent of teenage mothers).[20] However, 2 percent of 35-to-50-year-old women with a recent birth were unmarried and living with an unmarried partner, compared with 6 percent of teenage mothers. Educational attainment shows a similar pattern. Mothers who had a bachelor's degree or more education were more likely to be married (92 percent) than mothers with less than a high school education (41 percent) but were less likely to be living with an unmarried partner (2 percent and 7 percent,

Figure 1.
Births in the Last 12 Months Per 1,000 Hispanic Women by Citizenship and Age: 2006
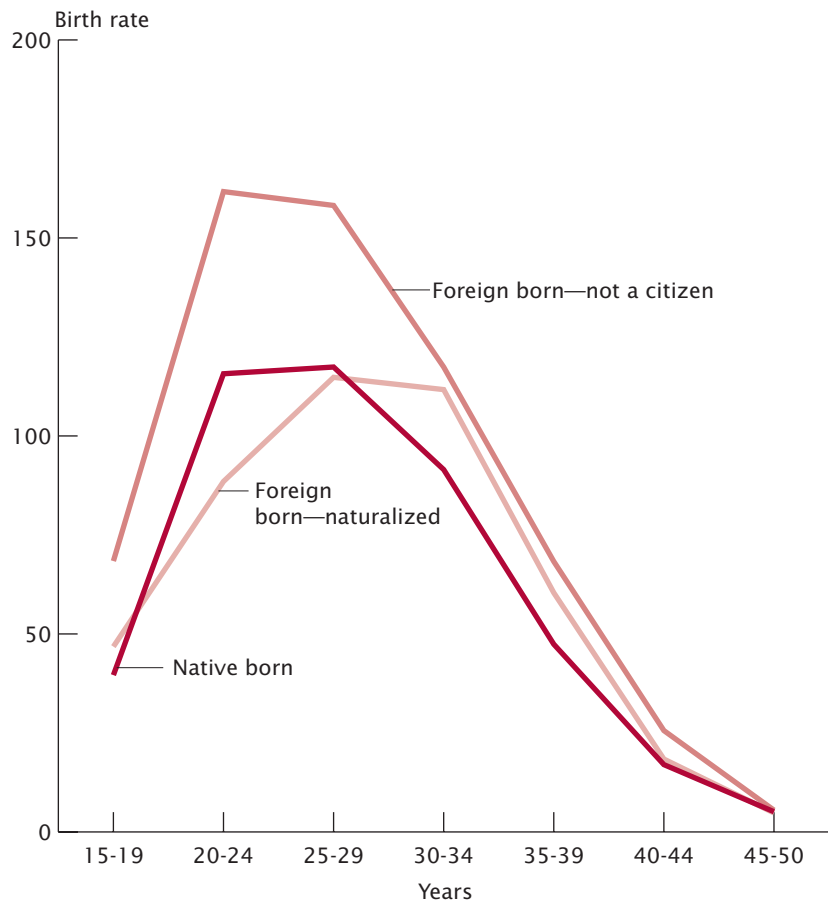
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006.
See Detailed Table 9 <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>.

respectively). More mothers with a recent birth who were in the labor force were married (67 percent) than were mothers who were not in the labor force (63 percent). Similar proportions of mothers with a recent birth, whether they were in or out of the labor force, lived with an unmarried partner (4 percent to 5 percent).

Nativity, Citizenship Status, Race and Hispanic Origin

In 2006, among all women 15 to 50 years old with a birth in the last year, 835,000 (20 percent) were foreign born (Table 3). Three-fourths

of foreign-born mothers were not citizens of the United States (15 percent of all women with a birth in the last 12 months). Overall, foreign-born women had a birth rate of 71 births per 1,000 women, 19 births higher than the rate of native women (52 births per 1,000 women).

Twenty years ago, in the June 1986 CPS, fertility information was collected for women 18 to 44 years old by nativity status. Birth rates were also higher for foreign-born women in 1986 (99 births per 1,000 women) than native women

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[18] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American FactFinder 2006 Fertility Subject Table (Table S1301).
[19] These include same- and opposite-sex unmarried partner households. See Detailed Table 8 <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>.
[20] Source: Detailed Table 8.

Figure 2.
Children Ever Born per 1,000 Hispanic Women by Age, Nativity, and Generation of Immigrant Families: June 2006

Birth rate
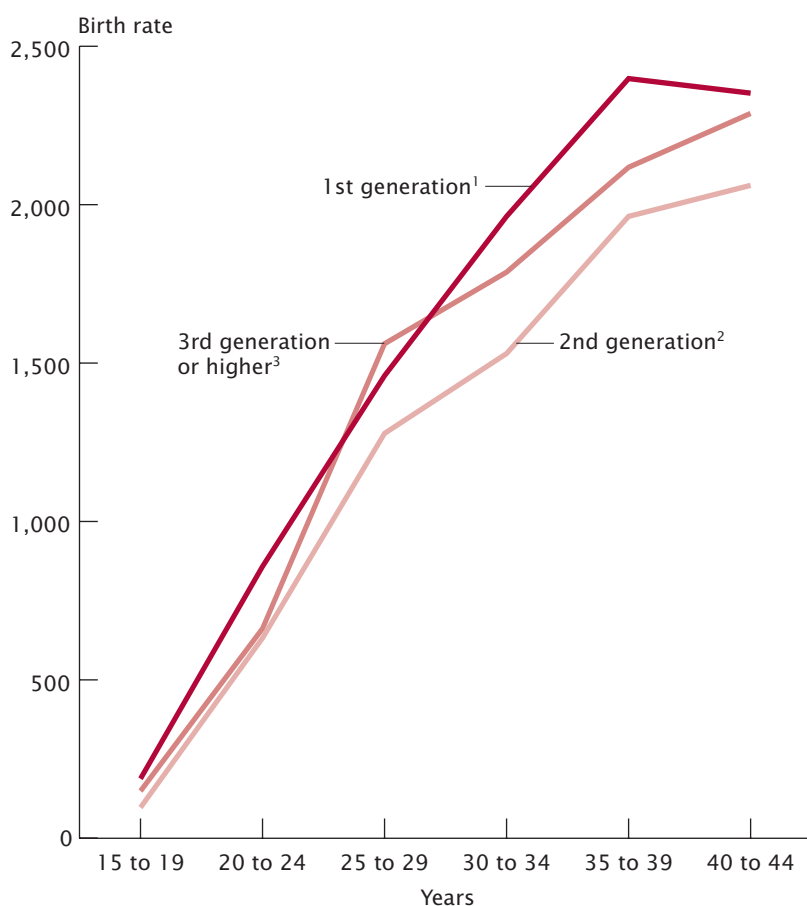
[1] Foreign born.
[2] Native with foreign-born parent.
[3] Native with no foreign-born parent.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2006.

(68 births per 1,000 women), while the number of births in 1986 to foreign-born women comprised 12 percent of all births.[21]

Fertility levels of women also differed by racial and ethnic backgrounds (Table 3). One of the lowest fertility rates in 2006 was for non-Hispanic White women (50 births per 1,000 women 15 to 50

years old).[22] The rate for American Indian and Alaska Native women was among the highest (68 births per 1,000 women), followed by Black women (58 births per 1,000 women) and Asian women (54 births per 1,000 women).

Overall, Hispanic women 15 to 50 years old had higher fertility rates than non-Hispanic women

regardless of race (74 and 51 births per 1,000 women, respectively).[23] Figure 1 shows more age-specific detail for Hispanic women by their nativity status. Hispanic women who were foreign born and were not citizens had statistically higher fertility rates than their native and naturalized counterparts at ages 20 through 29 years. Hispanic women who became naturalized citizens may have postponed their childbearing until they were 25 to 29 years old, accounting for their relatively low levels of fertility at ages 20 to 24.

Data on which generation of a woman's family immigrated to the United States provides more information about Hispanic fertility patterns. The data shown in Figure 2, once again using the June 2006 CPS because of its data aspects, show the average number of children born to Hispanic women 15 to 44 years old, by age, for three different generations.[24] The first generation, those who were foreign born, recorded higher levels of fertility for most of the age groups compared with second-generation women.[25] This could reflect both larger family size norms from their countries of origin, generally Latin America, and also births they may already have had before immigrating to the United States.

Researchers studying fertility patterns among people of Mexican ancestry hypothesize that fertility levels become progressively lower for each successive generation among ever-married Mexican

[21] Bachu, Amara. *Fertility of American Women: June 1986*. Current Population Reports, P20-421. U.S. Census Bureau, 1987 (Table H).

[22] Fertility rates for non-Hispanic White women did not differ statistically from Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander fertility rates.

[23] The fertility rates for non-Hispanic women are derived from the author's tabulation.

[24] Information about the place of birth of respondent's parents is available in the CPS and not in the ACS.

[25] Children ever born per 1,000 Hispanic women aged 25 to 29 and 40 to 44 who were first and second generation were not statistically different.

Americans.[26] They suggest that the opportunity-cost theory applies to differences in generational fertility patterns, meaning that later-generation women who had more years of schooling tended to have lower fertility, as the cost of having multiple children reduces socio-economic opportunities. In the June 2006 data, second-generation native women 15 to 44 years old had lower levels of children ever born than both first generation Hispanic women and third generation Hispanic women who were native and had two native parents. This anomaly may be partly explained by further analysis that shows that second generation Hispanic mothers had higher levels of educational attainment than third generation Hispanic mothers.[27]

Educational Attainment

As the opportunity-cost model suggests, women's fertility decisions and educational attainment are related. Further, educational attainment is a good indicator of future economic success.[28] In 2006, 18 percent of women 15 to 50 years old with a birth in the last year had not completed their high school education (Table 3). Twenty-seven percent had a high school diploma and 55 percent had 1 or more years of college. As previously shown, women 15 to 44 years old with at least a bachelor's degree completed their childbearing years with fewer children on average (1.6 births per woman) than those

Figure 3.
Births in the Last 12 Months per 1,000 Women by Educational Attainment and Age: 2006
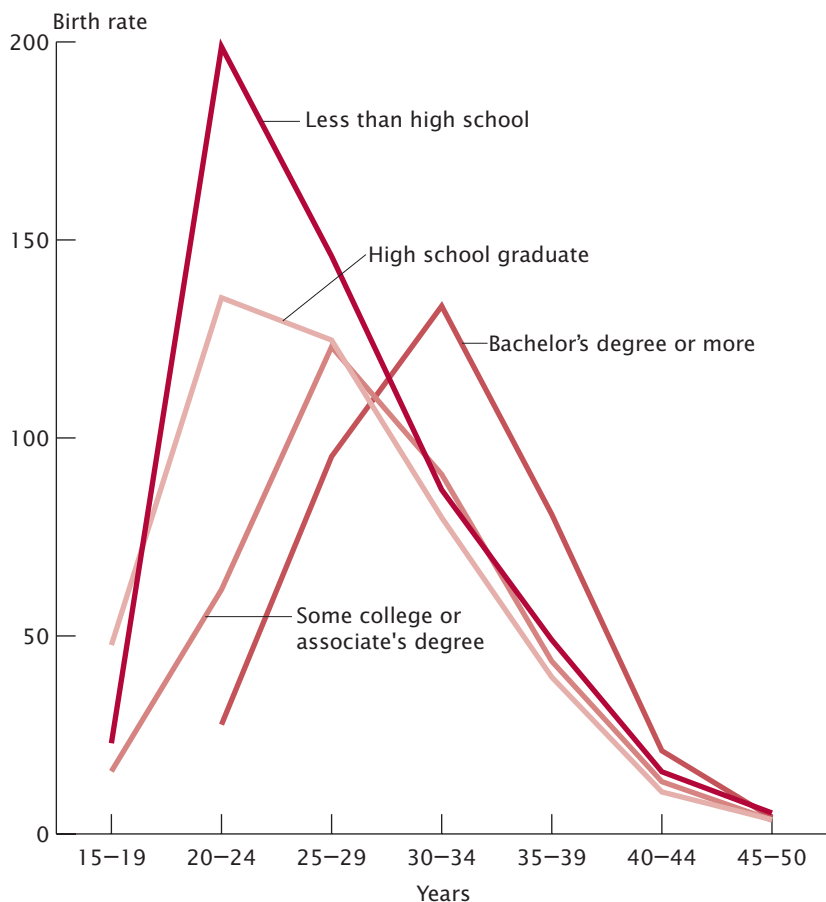
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006.
See Detailed Table 10 <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>.

who had not completed high school (2.4 births per woman). The highest current fertility rate (67 births in the last year per 1,000 women 15 to 50 years old) was among women with a graduate or professional degree. The opportunity-cost model is reflected in their decision to wait to have their first child until they completed their education, resulting in higher current fertility rates but not necessarily higher completed fertility levels.
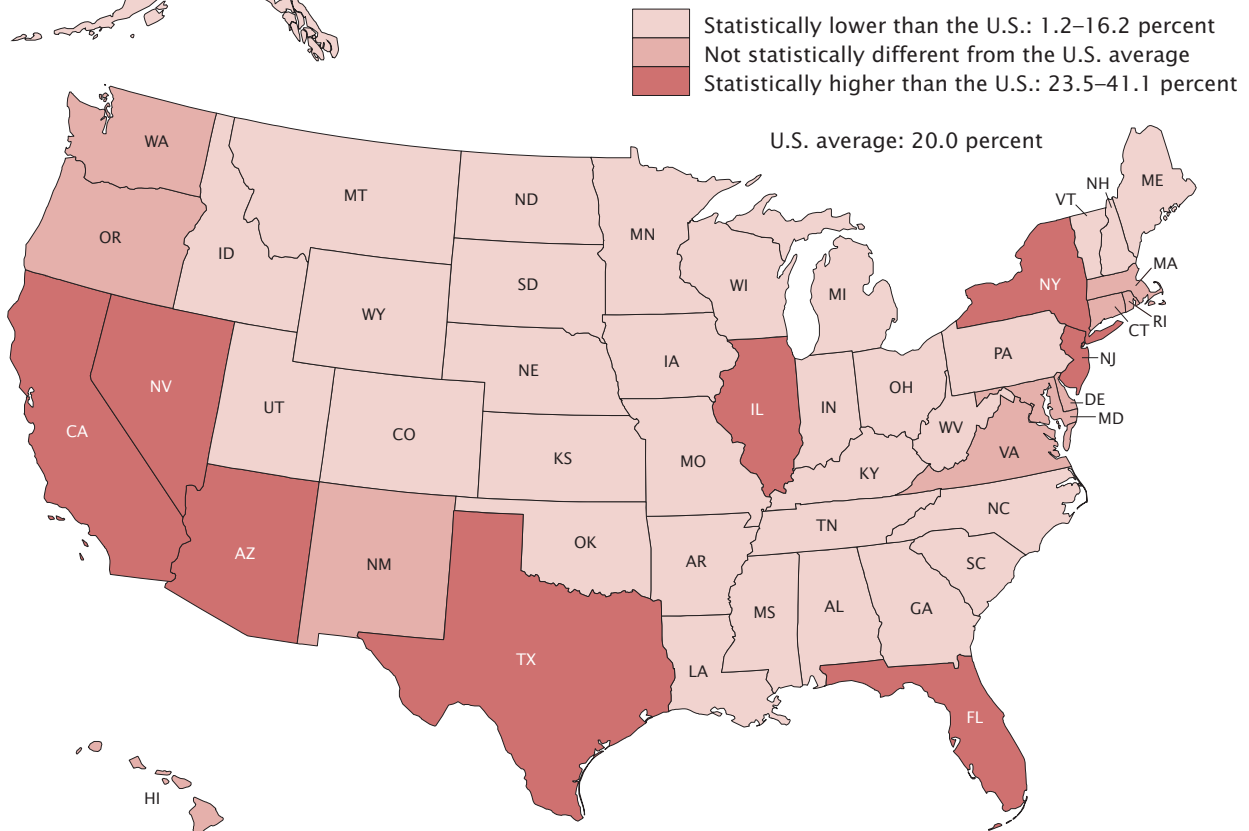
Figure 3 shows the pattern of delayed childbearing for women

pursuing higher education. Women with a birth in the last year with a bachelor's degree or more education had the highest fertility rate between the ages of 30 to 34 years (133 births per 1,000 women).[29] Women who did not complete high school had the highest fertility rates between the ages of 20 to 24 years and 25 to 29 years (199 and 146 births per 1,000, respectively).

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[26] Bean, Frank D. and Gray Swicegood. *Mexican American Fertility Patterns.* University of Texas Press: Austin, TX, 1985.

[27] Current Population Survey, June 2006. Special tabulation—47.4 percent of Hispanic second generation mothers with education beyond high school, compared with 38.4 percent of third generation mothers and 21.0 percent of first generation mothers.

[28] Stoops, Nicole. *Educational Attainment in the United States: 2003.* Current Population Reports, P20-550. U.S. Census Bureau, 2004.

[29] Detailed Table 10 <www.census.gov /population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>.

Figure 4.
Percent of Women Who Had a Birth in the Last 12 Months Who Were Foreign Born: 2006

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov*)

Statistically lower than the U.S.: 1.2–16.2 percent
Not statistically different from the U.S. average
Statistically higher than the U.S.: 23.5–41.1 percent

U.S. average: 20.0 percent

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006.

Economic Profile of Recent Mothers

More than half (57 percent) of women 15 to 50 years old with a birth in the past year were in the labor force (Table 3). Fertility rates for women 15 to 50 years old not in the labor force were about twice the level (85 births per 1,000 women) of employed women (43 births per 1,000 women). Aside from women with family incomes of less than $10,000 in the past year, lower fertility rates were generally found among women with h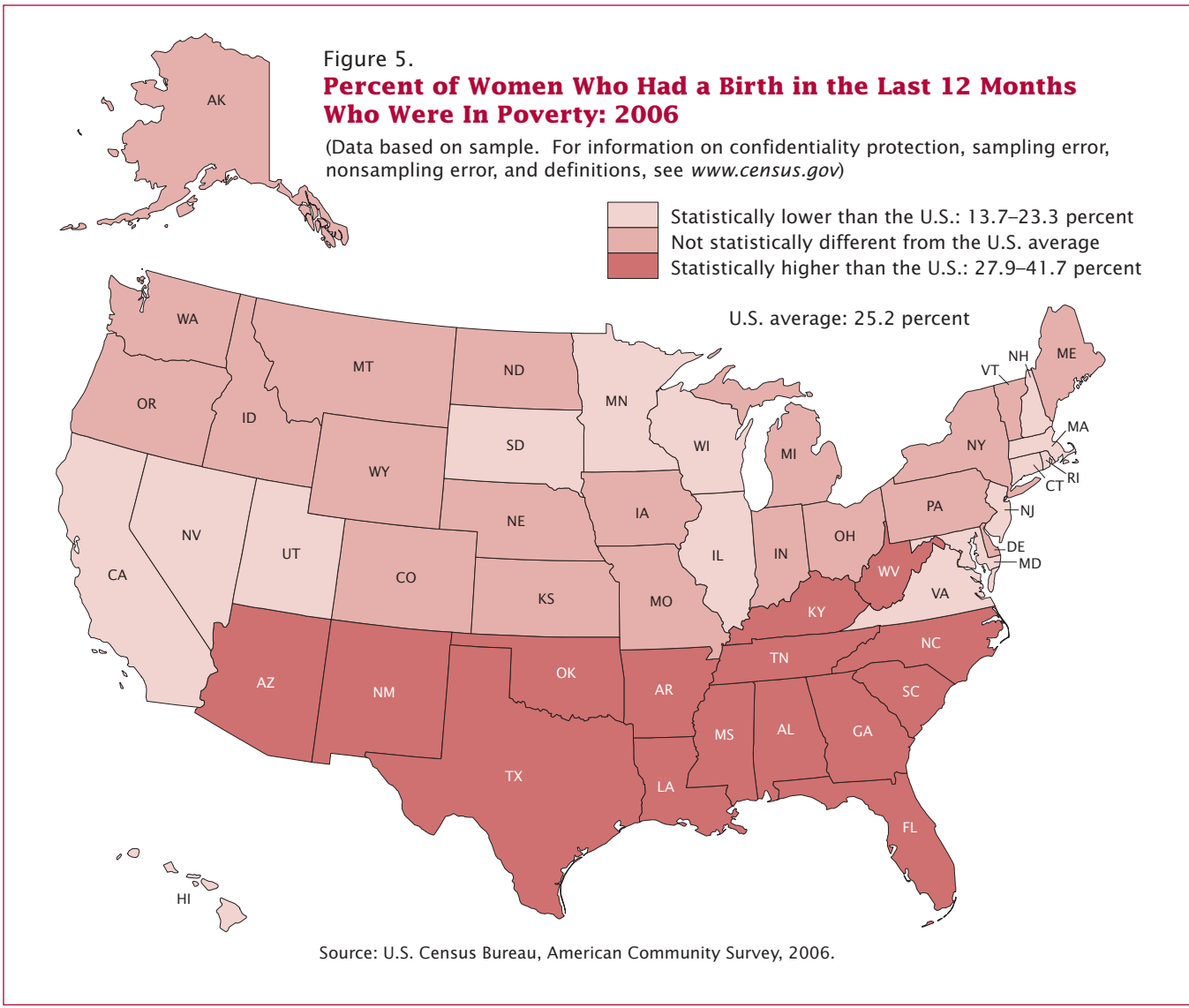igher levels of family income. Women with a family income of $10,000 to $14,999 in the past year had a fertility rate of 90 births per 1,000, while women with family incomes of $200,000 or more had a fertility rate of about 46 births per 1,000.

Twenty-five percent of women 15 to 50 years old with a birth in the last year were living in poverty. The fertility rate for women with a family income at or below poverty level was 91 births per 1,000— higher than the fertility rate of those with incomes at 100 percent to 199 percent of poverty (68 births per 1,000) and those with incomes at 200 percent above

poverty (45 births per 1,000). About 6 percent of women with a birth in the last year were receiving public assistance.

Geographic Comparisons

In prior reports, fertility statistics from the CPS have shown data only at the national level, which hides considerable geographic variation in childbearing patterns among women. The ACS offers the opportunity to examine the diversity of fertility patterns at the state level and provides an important profile of mothers who had a child in the last year that can assist state agencies

Figure 5.
Percent of Women Who Had a Birth in the Last 12 Months Who Were In Poverty: 2006

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov*)

Statistically lower than the U.S.: 13.7–23.3 percent
Not statistically different from the U.S. average
Statistically higher than the U.S.: 27.9–41.7 percent

U.S. average: 25.2 percent

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006.

in providing maternal care services to mother and child.[30]

Place of Birth

Access to prenatal care and postnatal health services are important issues for mothers. Knowledge of and access to such services may be affected by a mother's ability 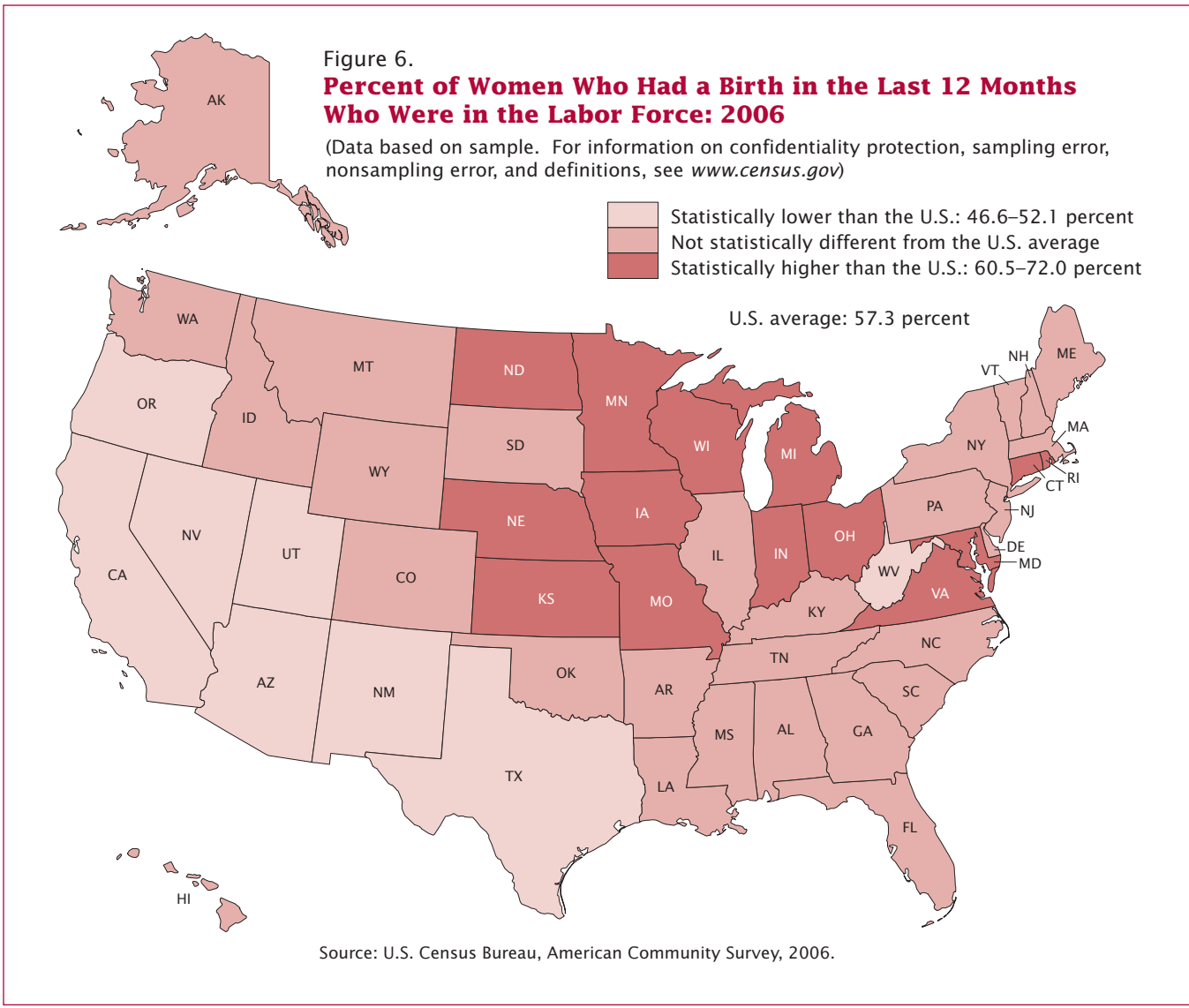to speak English and her cultural and ethnic background.[31] Overall, 20 percent of all births to mothers in 2006 were to foreign-born women 15 to 50 years old—15 percent were to women who were not citizens and 5 percent were to naturalized citizens.

Figure 4 shows a map of the United States, highlighting states where the percentage of births in the last year to foreign-born women 15 to 50 years old was above the national average. The states where one-third or more of births were to foreign-born mothers were California (41 percent) and Nevada (34 percent). New Jersey, New York, Arizona, Texas, Florida, and Illinois were also statistically above the national average (20 percent). States with relatively low percentages of 3 percent or less could be found in different parts of the country, as far north as Montana and North Dakota

[30] Detailed Table 11 provides state-level estimates for the characteristics discussed in the following section, see <www.census.gov /population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>.

[31] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Healthy People 2010.* 2nd ed. With Understanding and Improving Health and Objectives for Improving Health, 2 vols., U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, DC, November, 2000.

Figure 6.
Percent of Women Who Had a Birth in the Last 12 Months Who Were in the Labor Force: 2006

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov*)

- Statistically lower than the U.S.: 46.6–52.1 percent
- Not statistically different from the U.S. average
- Statistically higher than the U.S.: 60.5–72.0 percent

U.S. average: 57.3 percent

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006.

and in the southern states of Mississippi and West Virginia.

Poverty

Figure 5 shows a map of the United States indicating the percentage of women 15 to 50 years old with a birth in the last year who had a family income below the poverty threshold. The southern tier of states from Arizona to North Carolina (excluding Florida) all had higher than average percentages of women with a birth living in poverty, compared with the national level of 25 percent. In contrast, in Rhode Island, 14 percent of women
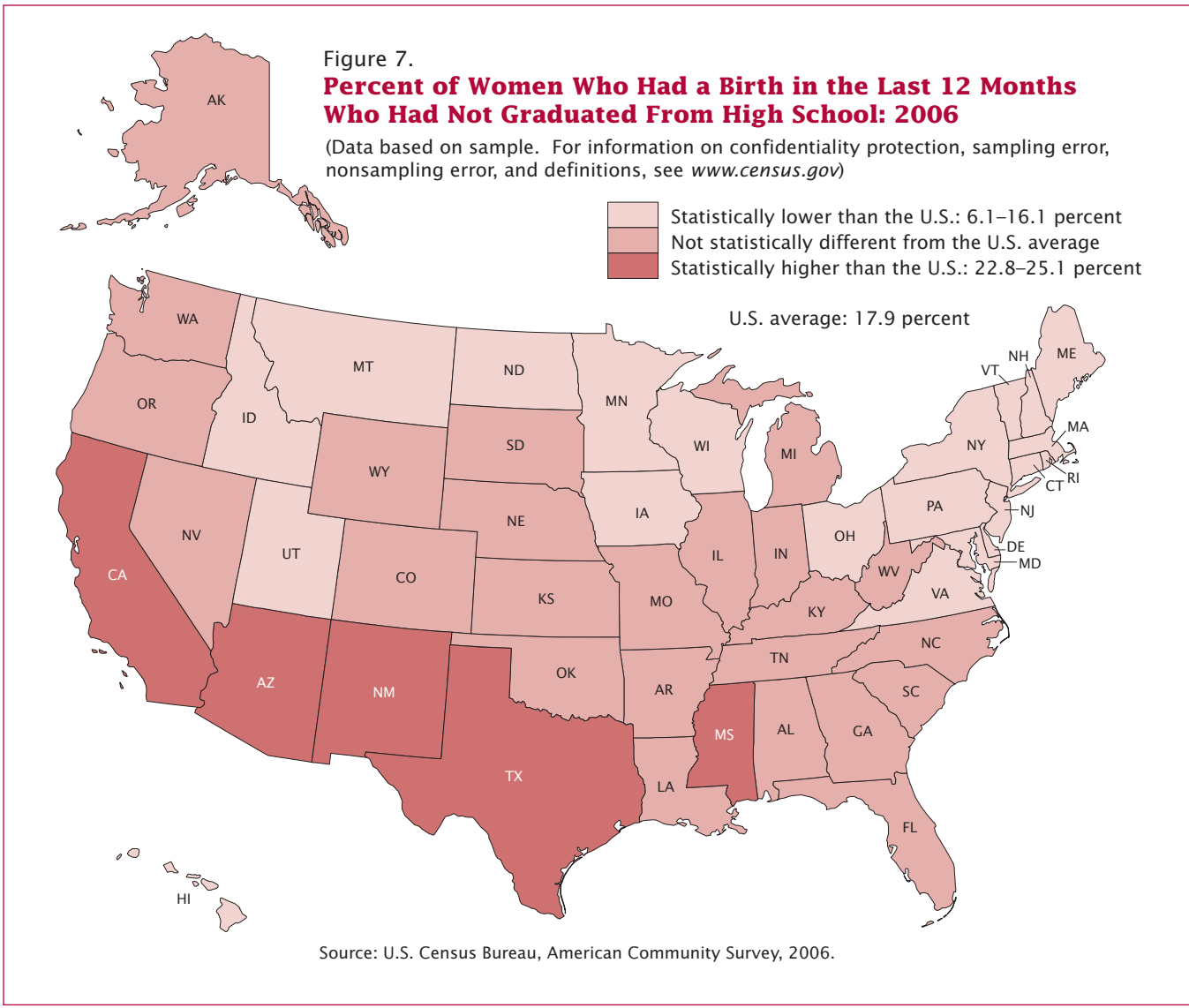
with a birth in the last year were in poverty. Maryland and Hawaii were also below the national average with about 15 percent of women with a recent birth in poverty.[32] Several states in the Midwest and in the Northeast, as well as Utah, California, and Nevada also had percentages below the national average. Four states that had above-average levels of births to foreign-born women had below-average proportions of births to

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[32] The percent of mothers with a recent birth in poverty in Rhode Island, Maryland, and Hawaii were not statistically different.

women in poverty (California, Nevada, Illinois, and New Jersey).

Labor Force and Education Characteristics

More than one-half of women 15 to 50 years old who had a birth in the last year (57 percent) were in the labor force. A cluster of states in the Midwest and also Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, and Connecticut had rates higher than the national average (Figure 6). Prior research has shown that Midwestern states have relatively higher ratios of child care establishments per 1,000 children under age 5 compared with

Figure 7.
Percent of Women Who Had a Birth in the Last 12 Months Who Had Not Graduated From High School: 2006

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov*)

Statistically lower than the U.S.: 6.1–16.1 percent
Not statistically different from the U.S. average
Statistically higher than the U.S.: 22.8–25.1 percent

U.S. average: 17.9 percent

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006.

the rest of the nation.[33] States from the West—Oregon, California, Nevada, and Utah—through Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in the Southwest had labor force participation rates statistically lower than the U.S. average for mothers with a recent birth.
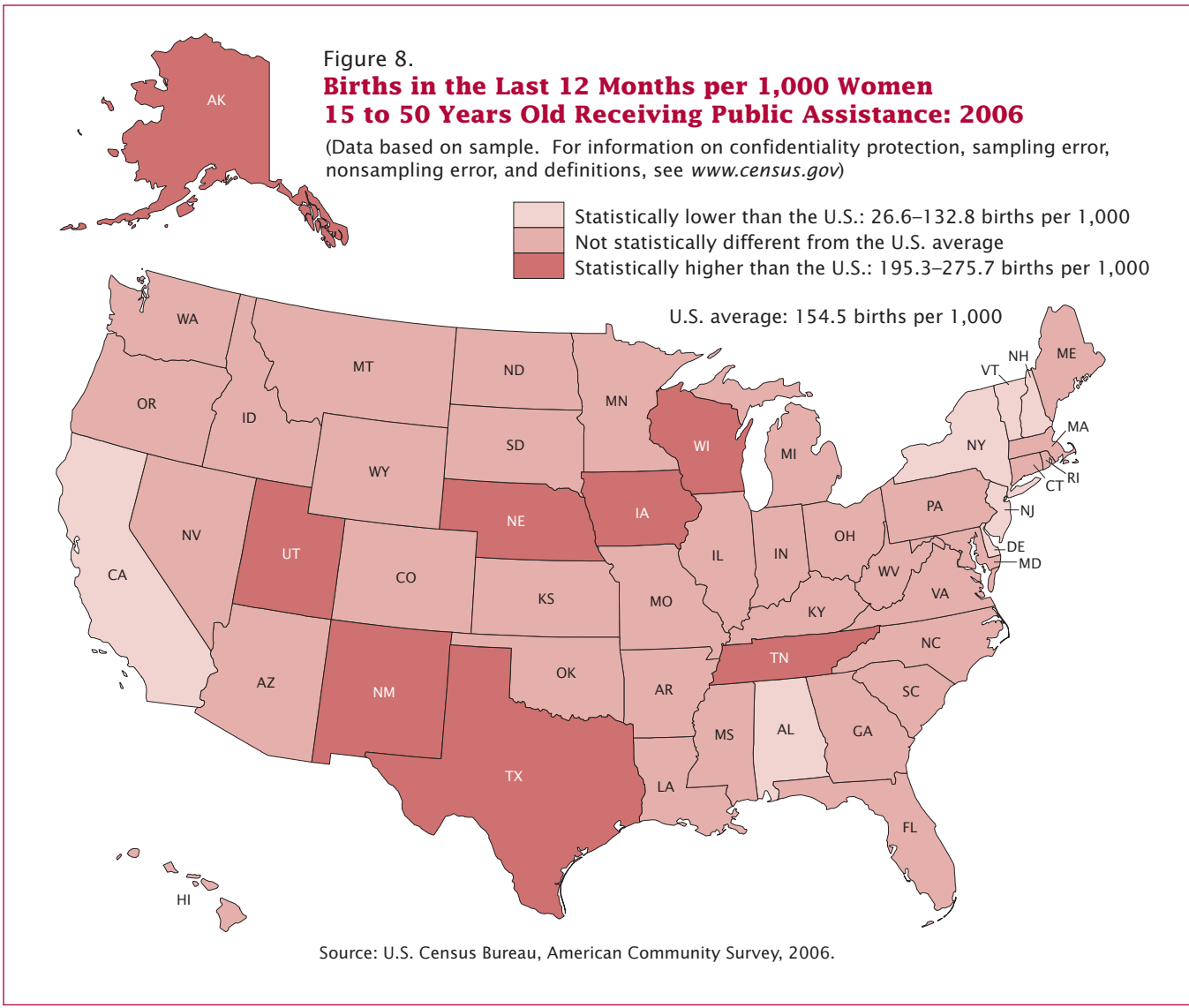
In 2006, about 18 percent of women 15 to 50 years old with a recent birth had not graduated from high school. California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Mississippi, and Oklahoma were the only states where the proportion of new mothers who had not completed high school was statistically above average (Figure 7). In contrast, in North Dakota and New Hampshire, 6 percent to 7 percent of women with a recent birth had not completed high school. A grouping of states ranging from Virginia and Maryland in the South to New Jersey, the New England states, and several states in the Midwest also had relatively low

levels of mothers with a recent birth who had not completed high school.

Birth Rates and Public Assistance

The 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) gave states greater flexibility to formulate and implement initiatives to reduce welfare dependency and encourage employment for members of low-income families with children.[34] For the nation, in 2006,

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[33] O'Neil, Grace and Martin O'Connell. *State Estimates of Child Care Establishments: 1977 to 1997*. Population Division Working Paper Series, No. 55. U.S. Census Bureau, August, 2001. Hronis, Carolyn and Martin O'Connell. *State Estimates of Child Care Establishments: 2002*. Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Population Association of America: Los Angeles, CA, March 30, 2006.

[34] U.S. Congress, Public Law 104-193. H.R. 3734, 1996.

Figure 8.
Births in the Last 12 Months per 1,000 Women 15 to 50 Years Old Receiving Public Assistance: 2006

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov*)

Statistically lower than the U.S.: 26.6–132.8 births per 1,000
Not statistically different from the U.S. average
Statistically higher than the U.S.: 195.3–275.7 births per 1,000

U.S. average: 154.5 births per 1,000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006.

10 years after passage of the Act, the birth rate for women 15 to 50 years old receiving public assistance income in the last 12 months was 155 births per 1,000 women, about three times the rate for women not receiving public assistance (53 births per 1,000 women).[35] However, 33 states

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[35] Detailed Table 12 <www.census.gov /population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>. Public assistance in this report refers to individuals receiving cash assistance from the government. There is no implied causality between fertility rates and receipt of public assistance, as we do not know specifically when the women had a birth or when they began and ended their receipt of public assistance.

recorded birth rates for women on public assistance that were not statistically different from the national average for women on public assistance (Figure 8). Women receiving public assistance in Texas, Iowa, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Alaska, Nebraska, Utah, and New Mexico had higher than average fertility rates for women on public assistance. Women who were receiving public assistance in New Hampshire, Delaware, Vermont, Alabama, New Jersey, New York, and California were less likely to have a birth than the national average for women receiving public assistance.

Summary

With the exception of Hispanics, women 40 to 44 years old in 2006 were completing their childbearing years with fertility levels at or below the level required for natural replacement of the population. Levels of childlessness were at 20 percent, twice the level in 1976.

Overall, Hispanic women had higher fertility levels than non-Hispanic women of any race. Foreign-born Hispanic women who were not citizens had the highest fertility. Fertility levels of second-generation Hispanic women who were born in the United States and who had a

foreign-born parent were lower than the levels of first generation foreign-born Hispanic women.

The majority of women with a recent birth were in the labor force, but 1 in 4 mothers with a birth in the last year were living in families that had an income at or below the poverty line. About 6 percent of women with a birth in the last 12 months received cash public assistance.

There was noticeable variation in the characteristics of recent mothers among the states. Among mothers with a birth last year the highest percentage never married were in the District of Columbia, Mississippi, and North Carolina; the highest percentage foreign born were in California; and the highest percentage in poverty were in Mississippi.

SOURCE OF THE DATA

Some estimates in this report come from data obtained in the June 2006 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 (Appendix Tables A and D).[36] Vital statistics preliminary data for calendar year 2006 estimates 4.3 million births to women 15 to 44 years old. The CPS estimated 4.0 million women with a birth between July 2005 and June 2006 (Appendix Table A).

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[36] Also see Supplemental Tables 9 and 10 on the Internet for a comparison of vital statistics, CPS, and ACS fertility data at <www.census.gov/population/www /socdemo/fertility.html#hist>.

The population represented (the population universe) in the Fertility Supplement to the June 2006 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 4.1 million institutionalized population in Census 2000).

This report also presents data from the 2006 American Community Survey (ACS). The population represented (the population universe) in the ACS is the population living in both households and group quarters. The 2006 ACS estimated that 8.1 million people, or 2.7 percent of the total population, in the 50 states and the District of Columbia lived in group quarters. Of this population, 4.1 million lived in places classified as institutions and 2.3 million lived in college dormitories. In the 2006 ACS, there were 4.1 million births in the last 12 months to women aged 15 to 44 (Appendix Table A).

For more information about fertility data from the ACS and CPS, see Appendix Table C.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error 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, 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 for the CPS, go to <www.census.gov /apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsjun06.pdf > or contact the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division via e-mail at <dsmd.source.and.accuracy @census.gov>.

The final ACS population estimates are adjusted in the weighting procedure for coverage error by controlling specific survey estimates to independent population controls by sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin. The final ACS estimates of housing units are controlled to independent estimates of total housing. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to over- or

undercoverage, but biases may still be present; for example, when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than sex, age, race, 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 the ACS sample, weighting procedures, sampling error, nonsampling error, and quality measures from the ACS, see <www.census.gov /acs/www/Downloads/ACS /accuracy2006.pdf >.

MORE INFORMATION

Detailed tables with characteristics of women in the childbearing ages by fertility indicators are available on the Internet at <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:

Chief, Housing and Household
 Economic Statistics Division
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-8800

Or send an e-mail inquiry to: <HHES@census.gov>.

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Appendix Table A.

Comparison of Fertility Indicators for Women Aged 15 to 44 From Preliminary 2006 Vital Statistics, the June 2006 CPS, and the 2006 ACS

(Numbers in thousands. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions in the CPS, see *www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsjun06.pdf*. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions in the ACS, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/users_guide/ACS_2006_Statistical_Testing.pdf*)

Characteristic	2006 Vital statistics	June 2006 CPS	Margin of error[1]	2006 ACS	Margin of error[1]
Total women aged 15 to 44	**(NA)**	**61,683**	**34**	**62,285**	**23 ***
Births last year	**4,253**	**3,974**	**142**	**4,129**	**36 ***
Age					
15 to 19 years	435	417	48	278	9 *
20 to 24 years	1,081	935	71	935	16
25 to 29 years	1,182	1,046	75	1,174	20 *
30 to 34 years	950	888	69	987	16 *
35 to 39 years	499	579	56	584	11
40 to 44 years	105	109	24	171	6 *
Race and Hispanic Origin[2]					
White alone	(NA)	3,155	128	2,792	28 *
White alone, non-Hispanic	2,304	2,383	112	2,364	26
Black alone	614	513	52	595	13 *
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	47	(NA)	(NA)	44	3
Asian alone	239	178	31	205	7
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone .	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	8	2
Some Other Race alone	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	405	12
Two or More Races	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	81	5
Hispanic (any race)[3]	1,036	830	84	866	17
Marital Status[4]					
Married	2,615	2,524	115	2,663	2 *
Separated	(NA)	92	22	111	6
Unmarried	1,637	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Widowed	(NA)	17	10	11	2
Divorced	(NA)	112	25	159	7 *
Never married	(NA)	1,228	81	1,184	21

* Statistically different at the 90-percent confidence level from the CPS estimate.
(NA) Not available.

[1] This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.
[2] Race of mother. Vital statistics data refer to non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander. CPS data refer to White only; White only, not Hispanic; Black only; and Asian only. These differ and are not necessarily comparable to the ACS race categories of White alone; White alone, not Hispanic; Black alone; Asian alone; American Indian or Alaska Native alone; Some Other Race alone; and Two or More Races.
[3] Origin of mother.
[4] NCHS reported 38.5 percent of births to women of all ages were nonmarital. Number based on prorated percent of all nonmarital births to women aged 15 to 44.

Note: The universe for vital statistics is the number of births to women aged 15 to 44 reported to the National Center for Health Statistics via birth certificates. The universe for the CPS is women 15 to 44 years old at the time of interview in June 2006. The number of women who had a birth between July 2005 and June 2006 represents the estimate of births in the last year. The universe for ACS is women 15 to 44 years old when the survey was taken in each month in the calendar year 2006. The number of women who reported having had a birth in the 12 months prior (to each interview) represents the estimate of births to those women over the course of the interview year.

Sources: Hamilton, B.E., J.A. Martin, and S.J. Ventura, Births: Preliminary Data for 2006. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 56, No. 7, National Center for Health Statistics: Hyattsville, MD, 2007. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2006. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006 (Table S1301 and special tabulations).

Appendix Table B.
Comparison of Selected Fertility Characteristics by Race Alone, Race in Combination, and Race Alone or in Combination With One or More Other Races: June 2006 CPS and 2006 ACS

(Numbers in thousands. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions in the CPS, see *www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc /cps/cpsjun06.pdf*. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions in the ACS, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/users_guide /ACS_2006_Statistical_Testing.pdf*)

Race and characteristic	Alone	In combination	Alone or in combination
White			
CPS			
Number of women 15 to 44 years old	47,846	975	48,821 *
Children ever born per 1,000 women	1,158	978	1,154 *
Percent childless	45.6	51.1	45.7 *
Women who had a birth in the last year ...	3,155	65	3,220 *
ACS			
Number of women 15 to 50 years old	54,423	640	55,060 *
Women who had a birth in the last year ...	2,827	38	2,864 *
Black			
CPS			
Number of women 15 to 44 years old	8,896	376	9,272 *
Children ever born per 1,000 women	1,288	939	1,274 *
Percent childless	41.4	53.3	41.9 *
Women who had a birth in the last year ...	513	25	538 *
ACS			
Number of women 15 to 50 years old	10,431	380	10,810 *
Women who had a birth in the last year ...	605	22	628 *
Asian			
CPS			
Number of women 15 to 44 years old	3,145	246	3,391 *
Children ever born per 1,000 women	992	871	984
Percent childless	47.7	51.0	47.9
Women who had a birth in the last year ...	178	24	202 *
ACS			
Number of women 15 to 50 years old	3,879	366	4,245 *
Women who had a birth in the last year ...	210	19	229 *

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2006.   U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006 (Table S1301 and special tabulations).

Appendix Table C.
Comparison of Census Bureau Data Sources on Fertility

Survey characteristics	American Community Survey	Current Population Survey	Survey of Income & Program Participation
Geographic scope	Annual estimates of the nation, regions, states, congressional districts, and geographies of 65,000 or more. Three-year estimates available for places of 20,000 or more (available starting in 2008). Five-year estimates of areas as small as census tracts (available starting in 2010).	National estimates and estimates of selected characteristics for regions and states.	National estimates.
Periodicity of collection	Every year.	Every 2 years.	Once every panel: 3–4 years.
Timeliness	Released year after collection cycle.	Released year after collection cycle.	Released 1–3 years after collection cycle.
Sample size	Annual sample of about 3 million addresses. Data are collected from about one-twelfth of the sample each month.	The fertility data come from June CPS supplement, which is based on a sample of about 72,000 addresses.	The survey design is a continuous series of national panels. The 2004 panel consists of 46,500 households.
Data collection method	Mail, telephone, and personal-visit interviews for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. About half the responses are obtained by mail. The ACS is a mandatory survey.	Telephone and personal-visit interviews for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The CPS is a voluntary survey.	Computer-assisted interview on a laptop computer. All household members 15 years old and over are interviewed by self-response, if possible; proxy response is permitted when household members are not available for interviewing. The SIPP is a voluntary survey.
Questionnaire item(s)	Asks women 15–50 years old if they have given birth to any children in the past 12 months.	Asks women 15–44 years old how many children they have ever had and the month and year of last birth.	Asks men and women 15 years and older how many children they have ever had. Obtains dates of first and last birth for women 15–64 years old and employment and maternity leave data for the period around the time of the first birth.
Unique measures/data	Produces annual fertility rates.	Produces biannual fertility rates, numbers of children ever born by age and levels of childlessness.	Produces information on child spacing and duration of employment during pregnancy. Also can be used with marital history items in same wave.
Technical issues	Characteristics of women are shown at time of interview and not at birth.	Characteristics of women are shown at time of interview and not at birth.	Information on birth dates derived from either direct questions or obtained from household roster.

Appendix Table C.
Comparison of Census Bureau Data Sources on Fertility—Con.

Survey characteristics	American Community Survey	Current Population Survey	Survey of Income & Program Participation
Population universe	The ACS includes the resident population of the United States, including household and group quarters populations.	The CPS includes the civilian noninstitutionalized population and Armed Forces personnel living off post or with their families on post.	SIPP includes the civilian noninstitutionalized population.
Tables available/detail	Detailed tables showing a range of socioeconomic characteristics.	Detailed tables showing a range of socioeconomic characteristics.	Reports produced showing characteristics of mothers participating in government assistance programs and labor force and maternity leave patterns.
Sampling error information	Can be computed by data user.	Can be computed by data user.	Can be computed by data user.
Historical data	The ACS began in 1996 in a limited number of test sites and began national implementation in 2000.	Fertility data from the CPS have been gathered since 1971.	Fertility data from the SIPP only available from public use files since the 1984 panel.
Public use file	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
Electronic accessibility	Tables—American Fact-Finder public use files through DataFerrett.	Public use files through DataFerrett.	Public use files through DataFerrett.

Appendix Table D.
Comparison of ACS, CPS, and Vital Statistics Birth Statistics: 2002–2006

(Numbers in thousands. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsjun06.pdf*. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/users_guide/ACS_2006_Statistical_Testing.pdf*)

Year	Current Population Survey				American Community Survey				Vital statistics	
	All women 15 to 44 years old with a birth in the last 12 months July to June[1]				All women 15 to 50 years old with a birth in the last 12 months January to December[1]					
	Total women		Unmarried women		Total women		Unmarried women			
	Number	Margin of error[2]	Number	Margin of error[2]	Number	Margin of error[2]	Number	Margin of error[2]	Total births	Nonmarital births
2006[3, 4]	3,974	142	1,357	85	4,183	37	1,371	23	4,266	1,642
2005[4]	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	4,247	36	1,300	24	4,138	1,527
2004	3,746	139	1,189	80	4,089	67	1,171	43	4,112	1,470
2003	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	3,967	66	1,161	40	4,090	1,416
2002	3,766	139	1,261	82	4,255	72	1,241	39	4,022	1,366

(NA) Not available.

[1] ACS and CPS data show characteristics at the time of interview, not at the time of birth.
[2] This number when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.
[3] Vital statistics data for 2006 are preliminary results.
[4] Years of fully expanded sample for ACS. 2006 ACS data include group quarters estimates.

Sources: Hamilton, B.E., J.A. Martin, and S.J. Ventura. Births: Preliminary Data for 2006. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 56 No. 7, National Center for Health Statistics: Hyattsville, MD, 2007; and Martin, J.A., B.E. Hamilton, P.D. Sutton, S.J. Ventura, F. Menacker, S. Kirmeyer, and M.L. Munson. Births: Final Data for 2005. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 56 No. 6, National Center for Health Statistics: Hyattsville, MD, 2007.   U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, June 2002–2006.   U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002–2006 (Table S1301 and special tabulations).