

ESTIMATES OF OUT-OF-WEDLOCK CHILDBEARING

Data on out-of-wedlock births from the June Current Population Survey (CPS) are approximated by the number of women who had a birth in the Preliminary Research Findings. A detailed report comparing estimates of out-of-wedlock childbearing between these two data collection systems is currently being prepared. More importantly, other findings now suggest that a major reason for the overall differences between these two estimates can be traced to the CPS counts a birth as occurring in the last year as a marital birth if the woman is reported as being currently married (including separations). The usual method of determining a marital from a nonmarital birth for NCHS data is to tabulate directly the mother's marital status category. In the CPS, both "consensual or common-law" marriages and "legal" marriages are recorded in the same category, "married." For births occurring in 1993, this problem could significantly affect out-of-wedlock childbearing statistics, although NCHS has developed rigorous coding rules for these years. Perhaps more importantly, the complexity of Hispanic surnames--as with surnames of persons from other countries which do not follow traditional patterns--

ESTIMATES OF THE PERCENT OF BIRTHS OCCURRING OUT-OF-WEDLOCK

Race and Hispanic origin	1994 CPS 1/		1993 NCHS 2/
	Percent	CI 3/	Percent
Total	27.7	1.7	31.0
Not Hispanic 4/	27.3	1.9	29.3 5/
Native	28.5	1.9	30.3
Foreign-born	9.8	4.9	18.1
Hispanic	29.6	5.8	40.0 5/
Native	40.8	9.5	41.6
Foreign-born	21.4	6.8	38.9
Asian and Pacific Islander 6/	15.7	8.6	15.7

Notes:

1. CPS data in this table differ from statistics in the published report by the inclusion of births that occurred to women never married at childbirth but who subsequently married by the survey interview date. This procedure adds about 2 percent to the overall proportion of children born out of wedlock.
2. Refers to the percent of births for calendar year 1993 that were classified as nonmarital births. Data provided by Stephanie Ventura, Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.
3. Represents the 90 percent confidence interval of the estimated percentage.
4. Includes other races not shown.
5. Includes births with place of mother's birth not stated.
6. May be of any ethnic origin.