

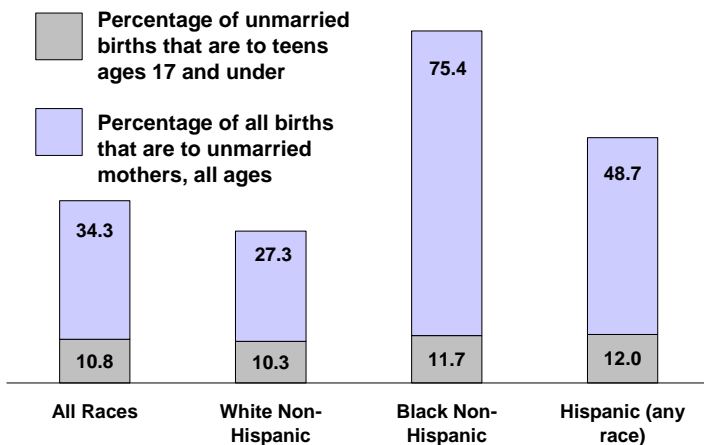


OHIO POPULATION NEWS: Fertility in Ohio

Over 151 thousand babies were born to Ohio residents during the year 2001—representing a **fertility rate of 61.9 live births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44**. This represents a decrease from last year's rate of 63.0. Nationally the fertility rate in 2001 declined less than one percent from the previous year, after three years of consecutive increase. Even though there was a minimal decline in the rate of childbearing nationally, the National Center for Health Statistics cites that women in the U.S. are having more children than any other time in almost 30 years with total fertility rate above replacement level (Replacement level fertility (2.1) is considered to be the level at which the population can replace itself). The total fertility rate (or the average number of births a women can expect to have in her lifetime) was fairly consistent across racial groups nationally with white, Asian/ Pacific Islander and American Indian women having rates of 2.1 and black women slightly higher at 2.2. Hispanic women (who may be of any race) had total fertility rates of 3.1.

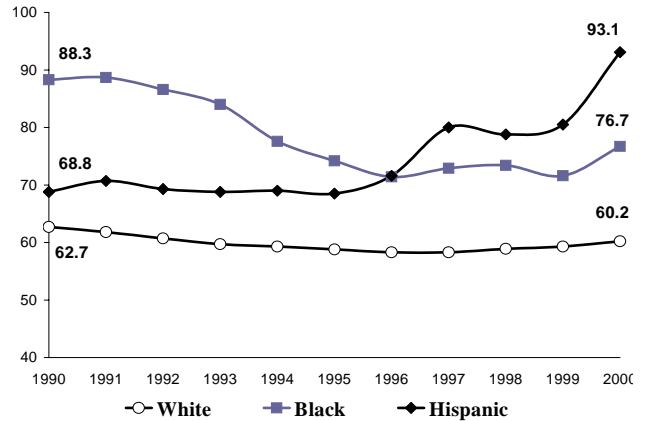
Source: Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Ventura SJ, Menacker F, Park MM, Sutton PD. Births: Final data for 2001. National vital statistics reports; vol 51 no. 2. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2002.

FIGURE 2: PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED WOMEN BY RACE/ETHNICITY and PERCENTAGE OF UNMARRIED BIRTHS TO WOMEN AGES 17 AND UNDER; OHIO 2000



Over one-third (33.5%) of all births nationally in 2001 were to unmarried women. **In Ohio, the percentage was slightly higher than the nation overall with 35.1 percent of all births occurring to unmarried women.** Figure 2 shows the variations across race/ethnicity as well as the proportion of unmarried births that are to mothers ages 17 and under for the year 2000 (2001 figures are not yet available).

FIGURE 1: OHIO FERTILITY RATE BY RACE/ETHNICITY 1990-2000



Source: Ohio Department of Health, Vital Statistics Data Warehouse, <http://dwhouse.odh.ohio.gov>

Teen Births Down

Throughout the 1990s, teenage birth rates declined to record lows—dropping from a high in 1991 of 62.1 births per 1,000 teen females aged 15 to 19 to a low of 45.9 per thousand in 2001. Teen birth rates declined for all race and Hispanic origin groups. **In Ohio the decline was slightly greater during the 1991 to 2001 time period—dropping from 60.5 births per 1000 to 42.2 births (a 30% reduction).** Even with this dramatic decline, the United States has one of the highest teen birthrates in the developed world. For instance, the U.S. teen pregnancy rate is twice that of Canada and Great Britain and four times that of France and Sweden.

Why is the teen birth rate down?

Research shows that approximately one-quarter of the decline in teen pregnancies in the U.S. between 1988 and 1995 was due increased abstinence. Three-quarters of the decline was due to changes in behavior of sexually experienced teens—overall contraceptive use by teens increased from 78 to 80-percent during 1988 to 1995 but more importantly, there was an increase in the use of more effective forms of contraception, i.e. long-acting hormonal methods such as injectables and implants. **By 1995, nearly 1 in 8 sexually active teens were using long-acting methods and thus better able to avoid pregnancy.**

Source: The Guttmacher Report on Public Policy, Volume 5(1) 2002.

Mean Age of First Birth

The average age at which women are having their first child has increased steadily over the past thirty years, despite the fact that over half of all births occur to women in their twenties. **In 2000, the average Ohio woman was having her first baby when she was almost 25 years old (24.5 years).** Thirty years earlier the average age was 21.3. Researchers consider the increased educational opportunities and career choices for women that have occurred in the last several decades as important factors in the delay in childbearing. (Over the past thirty years, the number of women completing college almost doubled, while the number of women in the labor force increased by close to forty percent.) Other factors may have an affect on delayed childbearing, such as changes in contraceptive use, marriage patterns and economic conditions.

Source: Mathews TJ, Hamilton BE. Mean age of mother, 1970-2000. National vital statistics reports: vol 51 no 1. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2002.

IN OHIO:

- **41% of women who had a live birth in 1999 became pregnant unintentionally.**
- **Approximately 8% of women who had a live birth in 1999 were physically abused during pregnancy.**
- **Close to 20% of women or their partners were using birth control when they became pregnant.**

Source: Ohio Department of Health, PRAMS 1999 Data Book

Infertility & Contraception

Of the 60 million women of reproductive age in the U.S. during 1995, 1.2 million or 2% had an infertility-related medical appointment within the previous year; further, an additional 13% had received infertility treatment in their lifetimes. **Seven percent (7%) of married couples in which the woman was of reproductive age reported that they had not used contraception for 12 months and the woman had not become pregnant.**

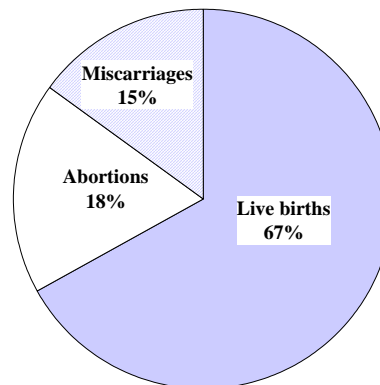
Surgical sterilization has grown to be the most common method of contraception among women of reproductive ages in the U.S. **In 1995, female sterilization (tubal ligation) or male sterilization (vasectomy) was reported by 38% of all women ages 15 to 44 who were currently contracepting.** The leading method of contraception as measured in 1995 was female sterilization, followed by the oral contraceptive pill, the male condom, and male sterilization.

Sources: Chandra A. Surgical sterilization in the United States: Prevalence and characteristics, 1965-95. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(20). 1998
Abma J, Chandra A, Mosher W, Peterson L, Piccinino L. Fertility, family planning, and women's health: New data from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(19).1997.

Contraception and Abortion

In Ohio, roughly 1.4 million women are in need of contraceptive services and supplies. Of these, 43-percent are in need of publicly supported contraceptive services. In addition, Ohio has no explicit policy related to minors' access to contraceptive services.

Figure 3: Pregnancy Outcomes in Ohio, 1996



Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute <http://www.agi-usa.org>

The total number of abortions performed in Ohio has remained fairly stable since 1994. **There were 38,140 abortions performed in Ohio during 2000.** Of these:

- 18.8 percent were to women under age 20, 34 percent to women aged 20-24 years, and 47 percent to women aged 25 and older.
- 59.2 percent were to white women, 35.3 percent were to black women.
- 17.4 percent were to married women and 81 percent to unmarried women, (1.7 % did not report marital status).
- Sixty-two percent of women who had abortions in 2000 already had at least one child.

Source: Ohio Department of Health

The **Center for Family and Demographic Research (CFDR)** is a federally funded population research center in the State of Ohio dedicated to training, research and service in demography. The **CFDR** integrates demographic methods, data, and perspectives with other social scientific approaches to understand the well-being of children and families.

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