

Recent Trends in Births and Fertility Rates Through 2010

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The broad-based decline in births and fertility rates from 2007 through 2009 is now well-documented (1–3). An earlier NCHS *Health E-Stat* showed the overall birth count and fertility rate continuing to decline through the first 6 months of 2010 (4). This report updates and extends the trend through December 2010 (5).

The provisional count of births in the United States for 2010 (12-month period ending December 2010) was 4,007,000 (5). This count was 3 percent less than the number of births in 2009 (4,131,019) and 7 percent less than the all-time high of 4,316,233 births in 2007 (3,6).

The provisional fertility rate for 2010 was 64.7 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 (5). This was 3 percent less than the 2009 preliminary rate of 66.7 and 7 percent less than the 17-year high of 69.5 in 2007 (see [Figure](#)) (3,6).

Data sources and methods

Provisional counts and rates are based on 12 months of provisional data ending with the specified month. Provisional counts are rounded to the nearest thousand. For further information about provisional data see [Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths: Provisional Data for 2009](#) (7). Data for 2009 are preliminary. For more information about preliminary birth data see [Births: Preliminary Data for 2009](#) (3). Data for years prior to 2009 are final. For more information about final birth data see [Births: Final Data for 2008](#) (8).

References

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