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## **Birth rates hit record low for those under 25, still on the rise for those 40+**

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The overall U.S. birth rate declined to a record low in 2011, but newly-released government data ([http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_01.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_01.pdf)) showed remarkably different trends for young and older women. Birth rates continued to decline to an all-time low among women in their teens and early 20s, while rising to the highest level in four decades among women in their early 40s. The final data for 2011 from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) confirm the record-low birth rate (<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/11/29/u-s-birthrate-falls-to-a-record-low-decline-is-greatest-amongimmigrants/>)

(63.2 births per 1,000 women ages 15-44) shown in preliminary data released last fall, and offer the first details about trends for different demographic groups. During the period from 2010 to 2011, birth rates among teens ages 15-19 dropped 8%, and among women ages 20-24 declined 5%—in both cases reaching historic lows in 2011. At the other end of the age spectrum, the birth rate for women ages 40-44 rose 1%, to 10.3 births per 1,000 women in that age group. The last time the rate came that close was in 1967, when it was 10.6. Birth rates among women in their late 20s declined 1%, to the lowest point in 2011 since the 1976 bicentennial. Among women in their early 30s, birth rates held stable, while rates for women in their late 30s rose for the first time since the onset of the recession.

The total number of births in 2011—3,953,590—represented a 1% decline since 2010. The age patterns in birth rates, and the continued overall decline, reflect trends (<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2011/10/12/in-a-downeconomy-fewer-births/>) that accompanied the onset of the Great Recession in 2007. The U.S. birth rate, which had been relatively stable, declined 9% from 2007 to 2011. The pace of decline has slowed, however. From 2009 to 2010, the overall U.S. birth rate declined by 3.2%, and from 2010-2011 the decline was a relatively modest 1.4%. This slower decline may foreshadow what many experts have predicted: as the economy continues to improve, the fertility rate may be bottoming out and may begin a rebound in the years to come.

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U.S. Population in 2011: ca. 312,000,000.

Table 1. Population by Age and Sex: 2011  
 (Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutionalized population<sup>1</sup>)

Age	Both sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All ages	306,110	100.0	150,643	100.0	155,466	100.0
Under 5 years	21,265	6.9	10,869	7.2	10,396	6.7
5 to 9 years	20,870	6.8	10,667	7.1	10,203	6.6
10 to 14 years	20,020	6.5	10,237	6.8	9,783	6.3
15 to 19 years	20,886	6.8	10,691	7.1	10,196	6.6
20 to 24 years	21,525	7.0	10,960	7.3	10,565	6.8
25 to 29 years	21,382	7.0	10,917	7.2	10,464	6.7
30 to 34 years	20,202	6.6	10,067	6.7	10,135	6.5
35 to 39 years	19,255	6.3	9,542	6.3	9,713	6.2
40 to 44 years	20,587	6.7	10,172	6.8	10,415	6.7
45 to 49 years	21,989	7.2	10,800	7.2	11,189	7.2
50 to 54 years	21,965	7.2	10,695	7.1	11,270	7.2
55 to 59 years	19,554	6.4	9,499	6.3	10,055	6.5
60 to 64 years	17,430	5.7	8,447	5.6	8,983	5.8
65 to 69 years	12,160	4.0	5,600	3.7	6,561	4.2
70 to 74 years	9,254	3.0	4,242	2.8	5,012	3.2
75 to 79 years	7,088	2.3	3,065	2.0	4,023	2.6
80 to 84 years	5,719	1.9	2,370	1.6	3,349	2.2
85 years and over	4,957	1.6	1,804	1.2	3,153	2.0
Under 15 years	62,155	20.3	31,773	21.1	30,382	19.5
15 to 17 years	12,761	4.2	6,570	4.4	6,191	4.0
18 to 20 years	12,515	4.1	6,377	4.2	6,138	3.9
21 to 44 years	98,562	32.2	49,402	32.8	49,159	31.6
45 to 64 years	80,939	26.4	39,441	26.2	41,498	26.7
65 years and over	39,179	12.8	17,081	11.3	22,098	14.2
Median age	36.8	(X)	35.5	(X)	38.1	(X)

(X) Not applicable

<sup>1</sup>Plus armed forces living off post or with their families on post.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2011.

Internet release date: November 2012

	Average population (x 1,000)	Live births	Deaths	Natural change	Crude birth rate (per 1,000)	Crude death rate (per 1,000)	Natural change (per 1,000)	Total fertility rate
1935	127250	2,377,000	1,392,752	984,248	46.08			2.19
1936	128053	2,355,000	1,479,228	875,772	18.4			2.15
1937	128825	2,413,000	1,450,427	962,573	18.7			2.17
1938	129835	2,496,000	1,381,391	1,114,609	19.2			2.22
1939	130880	2,466,000	1,387,897	1,141,731	18.8			2.17
1940	132,165	2,559,000	1,417,269	1,142,000	19.4	10.8	8.6	2.23
1941	133,002	2,703,000	1,397,642	1,305,358	20.3	10.5	9.8	2.33
1942	134,464	2,989,000	1,385,187	1,603,813	22.2	10.3	11.9	2.55
1943	136,003	3,104,000	1,459,544	1,644,306	22.8	10.7	12.1	2.64
1944	138,083	2,939,000	1,411,338	1,644,456	21.2	10.2	11.0	2.49
1945	139,994	2,858,000	1,401,719	1,456,281	20.4	10.0	10.4	2.42
1946	140,008	3,411,000	1,395,617	2,015,383	24.1	10.0	14.1	2.86
1947	145,023	3,817,000	1,445,370	2,371,630	26.6	10.0	16.6	3.18
1948	148,013	3,637,000	1,444,337	2,192,663	24.9	9.8	15.1	3.03
1949	149,336	3,649,000	1,443,607	2,205,393	24.5	9.7	14.8	3.04
1950	151,868	3,632,000	1,452,454	2,180,000	24.1	9.6	14.5	3.03
1951	154,056	3,823,000	1,482,099	2,340,901	24.8	9.6	15.2	3.20
1952	156,431	3,913,000	1,496,838	2,416,162	25.0	9.6	15.4	3.30
1953	159,047	3,965,000	1,447,459	2,142,000	25.2	9.1	16.1	3.36
1954	161,948	4,078,000	1,481,091	2,596,909	24.8	9.3	15.5	3.48
1955	163,476	4,097,000	1,528,717	2,568,283	25.0	9.3	14.3	3.52
1956	166,578	4,218,000	1,564,476	2,653,524	25.1	9.3	15.8	3.63
1957	169,637	4,308,000	1,633,128	2,666,872	25.3	9.5	15.8	3.71
1958	172,668	4,255,000	1,647,886	2,607,114	24.4	9.5	14.9	3.65
1959	175,642	4,244,796	1,656,814	2,587,982	24.0	9.4	14.7	3.66
1960	179,979	4,257,850	1,711,982	2,545,868	23.7	9.5	14.1	3.65
1961	182,992	4,268,326	1,701,522	2,566,804	23.3	9.3	14.0	3.62
1962	185,771	4,167,362	1,756,720	2,410,642	22.4	9.5	12.9	3.46
1963	188,483	4,098,020	1,813,549	2,284,471	21.7	9.6	12.1	3.32
1964	191,141	4,027,490	1,798,051	2,229,439	21.1	9.4	11.7	3.19
1965	193,526	3,760,358	1,828,136	1,932,222	19.4	9.5	9.9	2.91
1966	195,576	3,606,274	1,863,149	1,743,125	18.4	9.5	8.9	2.72
1967	197,457	3,520,959	1,851,323	1,669,636	17.8	9.4	8.4	2.56
1968	<b>199,399</b>	3,501,564	1,930,082	1,571,482	17.6	9.7	7.9	2.46
1969	<b>201,385</b>	3,600,206	1,921,990	1,678,216	17.9	9.5	8.4	2.46
1970	203,984	3,731,386	1,921,031	1,810,355	18.4	9.4	9.0	2.480
1971	206,827	3,555,970	1,927,542	1,628,428	17.2	9.3	7.9	2.266
1972	209,284	3,258,411	1,963,944	1,294,467	15.6	9.4	6.2	2.010
1973	211,357	3,136,965	1,973,003	1,163,962	14.8	9.5	5.3	1.879
1974	213,342	3,159,958	1,934,388	1,225,570	14.8	9.1	5.7	1.835
1975	215,465	3,144,198	1,892,879	1,251,319	14.6	8.8	5.8	1.774
1976	217,563	3,167,788	1,909,440	1,258,348	14.6	8.8	5.8	1.738
1977	219,760	3,326,632	1,899,597	1,427,035	15.1	8.6	6.5	1.789
1978	222,095	3,333,279	1,927,788	1,405,491	15.0	8.7	6.3	1.760
1979	224,567	3,494,398	1,913,841	1,580,557	15.6	8.5	7.1	1.808
1980	227,225	3,612,258	1,989,841	1,622,417	15.9	8.8	7.1	1.839
1981	229,466	3,629,238	1,977,981	1,651,257	15.8	8.6	7.2	1.812
1982	231,664	3,680,537	1,974,797	1,705,740	15.9	8.5	7.4	1.827
1983	233,792	3,638,933	2,019,201	1,619,732	15.6	8.6	6.9	1.799
1984	235,825	3,669,141	2,039,369	1,629,772	15.6	8.6	6.9	1.806
1985	237,924	3,760,561	2,086,440	1,674,121	15.8	8.8	7.0	1.844
1986	240,133	3,756,547	2,105,361	1,651,186	15.6	8.8	6.9	1.837
1987	242,289	3,809,394	2,123,323	1,686,071	15.7	8.8	7.0	1.872
1988	244,499	3,909,510	2,167,999	1,741,511	16.0	8.9	7.1	1.934
1989	246,819	4,040,958	2,150,466	1,890,492	16.4	8.7	7.7	2.014

1990	249,623	4,158,212	2,148,463	2,009,749	16.7	8.6	8.1	2.081
1991	252,981	4,110,907	2,169,518	1,941,389	16.2	8.6	7.7	2.062
1992	256,514	4,065,014	2,175,613	1,889,401	15.8	8.5	7.4	2.046
1993	259,919	4,000,240	2,268,553	1,731,687	15.4	8.7	6.7	2.019
1994	263,126	3,952,767	2,278,994	1,673,773	15.0	8.7	6.4	2.001
1995	266,278	3,899,589	2,312,132	1,587,457	14.6	8.7	6.0	1.978
1996	269,394	3,891,494	2,314,690	1,576,804	14.4	8.6	5.9	1.976
1997	272,647	3,880,894	2,314,245	1,566,649	14.2	8.5	5.7	1.971
1998	275,854	3,941,553	2,337,256	1,604,297	14.3	8.5	5.8	1.999
1999	279,040	3,959,417	2,391,399	1,568,018	14.2	8.6	5.6	2.007
2000	282,172	4,058,814	2,403,351	1,655,463	14.4	8.5	5.9	2.056
2001	285,082	4,025,933	2,416,425	1,609,508	14.1	8.5	5.6	2.030
2002	287,804	4,021,726	2,443,387	1,578,339	14.0	8.5	5.5	2.020
2003	290,326	4,089,950	2,448,288	1,641,662	14.1	8.4	5.5	2.047
2004	293,046	4,112,052	2,397,615	1,714,437	14.0	8.2	5.9	2.051
2005	295,753	4,138,349	2,448,017	1,690,332	14.0	8.3	5.7	2.057
2006	<b>298,593</b>	4,265,555	2,426,264	1,839,291	14.3	8.1	6.2	2.108
2007	<b>301,580</b>	4,316,233	2,423,712	1,892,521	14.3	8.0	6.3	2.120
2008	304,375	4,247,694	2,471,984	1,775,710	14.0	8.1	5.9	2.072
2009	307,007	4,130,665	2,437,163	1,693,502	13.5	7.9	5.6	2.002
2010	309,330	3,999,386	2,465,936	1,534,343	13.0	8.0	5.0	1.931
2011	<i>ca. 312,000</i>	3,953,593	2,513,171	1,440,422	12.7	8.1	4.6	1.894
2012		3,958,000	2,539,000	1,419,000	12.6	8.1	4.5	1.87

Overall population numbers for 1935-39 are taken from a different census report.

### Estimated world and regional populations at various dates (in millions)

Year	World	Africa	Asia	Europe	Northern America	Oceania	Latin America
70,000 BC	< 0.015						
10,000 BC	1						
9000 BC	3						
8000 BC	5						
7000 BC	7						
6000 BC	10						
5000 BC	15						
4000 BC	20						
3000 BC	25						
2000 BC	35						
1000 BC	50						
500 BC	100						
AD 1	200						
1000	310						
1750	791	106	502	163	2	2	16
1800	978	107	635	203	7	2	24
1850	1,262	111	809	276	26	2	38
1900	1,650	133	947	408	82	6	74
1950	2,519	221	1,398	547	172	12.8	167
1955	2,756	247	1,542	575	187	14.3	191
1960	2,982	277	1,674	601	204	15.9	209
1965	3,335	314	1,899	634	219	17.6	250
1970	3,692	357	2,143	656	232	19.4	285
1975	4,068	408	2,397	675	243	21.5	322
1980	4,435	470	2,632	692	256	22.8	361
1985	4,831	542	2,887	706	269	24.7	401
1990	5,263	622	3,168	721	283	26.7	441
1995	5,674	707	3,430	727	299	28.9	481
2000	6,070	796	3,680	728	316	31.0	520
2005	6,454	888	3,917	725	332	32.9	558
2010	6,972	1,022	4,252	732	351	35.6	580

# Years to Double Population

