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ABSTRACT

This short report presents annual projections of first births for the United States from 1975 to 2000. Three projection series are included which reflect different assumptions about the proportion of women who will have at least one birth (the complement of the proportion remaining childless). The ultimate proportions are: Series I-90%; Series II-85%; and Series III-75%. A consideration of annual trends in first births and explanation of the methodology and assumptions used are included with the projection tables. (ED)

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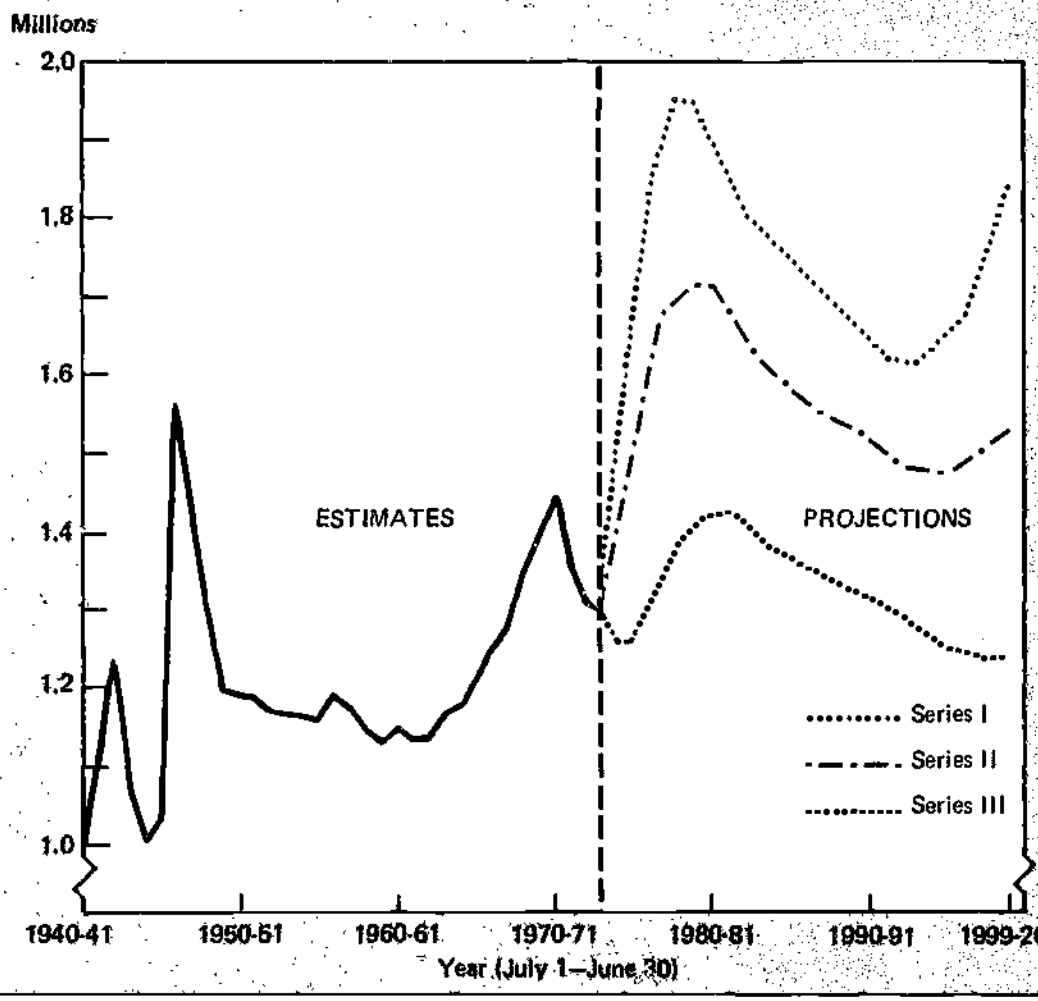

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ILLUSTRATIVE PROJECTIONS OF FIRST BIRTHS FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1975 TO 2050

INTRODUCTION

This report presents annual projections of first births for the United States from 1975 to 2000. Three projection series are included reflecting different assumptions about the proportion of women who will have at least one birth (i.e., the complement of the proportion remaining childless). The ultimate proportions are as follows: Series I—90 percent, Series II—85 percent, and Series III—75 percent.

These assumptions for first births were set to be generally consistent with the assumptions for the ultimate level of completed cohort fertility (average number of lifetime births per woman) used in the most recent national population projections: Series I—2.7, Series II—2.1, and Series III—1.7.[1] It should be noted, however, that while the pairings of assumptions about total fertility and first births appear reasonable, there are many possible combinations. Thus, for example, if a cohort of women now in the young childbearing ages were to complete childbearing with an average of about 2.1 births, the proportion of the cohort having at least one birth could easily be above or below 85 percent. And if 85 percent of the cohort were to have at least one birth, the average completed fertility of the cohort could easily be above or below 2.1. (For further discussion, see the section on Methodology and Assumptions.)

Fertility is the component of population change at the national level (the other components being mortality and net immigration) that is subject to the greatest uncertainty in the future. This uncertainty extends also to future trends in first births. Because of the difficulty of ascertaining the annual number of first births in future years, even in the short run, three different assumptions were made about the course of first births. Together, these assumptions are believed to provide a reasonable range. No one series is likely to depict the future course of first births for an extended period. Even if one of the assumptions about the proportion of women having at least one birth turns out to be essentially correct, the trend in first births could differ greatly from that projected because of changes in the timing of childbearing.[2] This is especially true now because there appears to have been considerable postponement of first births in the United States during the early 1970's.[3]

ANNUAL TRENDS IN FIRST BIRTHS

As noted earlier, it is extremely difficult to determine the annual number of first births in future years, even in the short run. This is because the social, economic, and other factors which affect fertility are neither fully understood nor easily predicted. Herein lies a paradox. Because the factors influencing fertility are subject to change and because couples in the United States exercise a high degree of control over the timing of their childbearing, fluctuations in annual fertility rates for first births are to be expected. However, given our present inability to predict these fluctuations in first births, it seems preferable to assume smooth trends in annual total fertility rates for first births with the qualification that actual trends in the rates (and, by extension, the actual trend in the annual number of first births) will probably not be nearly so smooth as shown in these projections.

The annual number of first births increased sharply following the Second World War to a peak figure of

[1] U.S. Bureau of the Census, **Current Population Reports**, Series P-25, No. 601. "Projections of the Population of the United States: 1975 to 2050."

[2] For a more general discussion of the limitations in projections of fertility and population, a discussion of the differences between projections, forecasts, and predictions, and a discussion of factors to consider in selecting a projection series or projected range, see report P-25, No. 601.

[3] Campbell Gibson, "Changes in Marital Status and Marital Fertility and Their Contribution to the Decline in Period Fertility in the United States: 1961-1973," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Seattle, Washington, April 17-19, 1975. June Sklar and Beth Berkov, "The American Birth Rate: Evidences of a Coming Rise," **Science**, Vol. 189, No. 4204 (August 29, 1975), pp.693-700.

This report was prepared by Campbell Gibson, Chief, National Population Estimates and Projections Branch. Statistical assistance was provided by Pauline B. Shell.

nearly 1.6 million in the 1946-1947 year (July 1-June 30). The number dropped below 1.2 million in 1950 and remained between 1.1 and 1.2 million until the mid-1960's. The annual number of first births then rose above 1.4 million in the 1970-71 year before declining to an estimated 1.3 million in the 1973-74 year (table A and table 1).

Except for an initial drop under Series III, the projected number of annual first births, which is determined by the projected age-specific birth rates and the projected female population in the childbearing ages, would increase until the early 1980's under all three projection series. The female population 15 to 29 years old (the prime childbearing ages for first births) is projected to increase from 27.7 million in 1974 to 30 million in 1980 (report P-25, No. 601). As a result of this increase, Series I and Series II, in which the total fertility rates for first births are projected to increase, show substantial increases in the projected numbers of first births. Even under Series III, in which the projected rate for 1980 is below the current figure, the projected number of first births for 1980 would be above the current level.

Under Series II, which assumes some postponement of childbearing during the past few years, the annual number of first births would increase to 1.7 million in 1980 and then would drop gradually to 1.5 million at the turn of the century. Under Series I, which assumes pronounced postponement of childbearing during the past few years, the annual number of first births would increase to nearly 2 million by 1980. The figure would then drop gradually to 1.6 million during the early 1990's before again increasing. Under Series III, which assumes no postponement of childbearing in recent years, the annual number of first births would drop slightly below 1.3 million and then increase to 1.4 million in 1980 before beginning a long-term decline.

METHODOLOGY AND ASSUMPTIONS

General. The projections of first births presented in this report are generally consistent with the projections of total births in report P-25, No. 601. In both cases assumptions were made about cohort fertility rates, ultimate timing patterns of fertility, and period fertility rates, in order to generate birth rates by single year of

Table A. Estimates and Projections of the Average Annual Numbers of First Births and Total Births: Selected Years, 1940 to 2000

(In thousands)

Years (July 1-June 30)	First births			Total births		
	Series I	Series II	Series III	Series I	Series II	Series III
ESTIMATES						
1940-1945		1,089			2,903	
1945-1950		1,311			3,555	
1950-1955		1,175			3,949	
1955-1960		1,161			4,274	
1960-1965		1,153			4,171	
1965-1970		1,293			3,613	
1970-1971		1,446			3,709	
1971-1972		1,359			3,408	
1972-1973		1,310			3,191	
1973-1974		1,300			3,112	
PROJECTIONS						
1974-1975	1,455	1,372	1,259	3,372	3,178	3,049
1975-1976	1,627	1,484	1,257	3,679	3,285	2,946
1976-1977	1,801	1,606	1,291	3,932	3,425	2,958
1977-1978	1,902	1,678	1,348	4,156	3,575	3,092
1978-1979	1,951	1,697	1,388	4,356	3,720	3,223
1979-1980	1,944	1,712	1,410	4,539	3,865	3,323
1980-1985	1,831	1,652	1,403	4,958	4,088	3,416
1985-1990	1,707	1,557	1,343	5,243	4,146	3,376
1990-1995	1,624	1,493	1,288	5,093	3,949	3,173
1995-2000	1,731	1,496	1,239	5,076	3,783	2,944

Source: Table 1.

age for each year in the projection period. The problems encountered in projecting first births given projections of total births were relatively minor. However, it should be noted that projections with full birth-order detail (first, second, third, etc.) would be more complex and would require a parity-progression model.[4]

Cohort fertility assumptions. As noted in the introduction, assumptions about the ultimate proportion of women who will have at least one birth were set to yield reasonable pairings with prior assumptions about the ultimate level of completed cohort fertility. These cohort fertility assumptions, which were used in the preparation of national population projections in report P-25, No. 601, are as follows: Series I—2.7; Series II—2.1; Series III—1.7.

For Series II, the ultimate proportion of women who will have at least one birth was set at 85 percent. This figure is suggested by various data on birth expectations and actual fertility. Birth expectations data for young women must be evaluated in light of actual fertility because they refer only to currently married women and because they understate the proportion of wives who will remain childless involuntarily (i.e., due to their own or their husbands' sterility or subfecundity).

The 1955 Growth of American Families (GAF) Study reported that among white wives 18 to 24 years old (i.e., the 1931-1937 birth cohorts), only 1 percent expected to have zero births.[5] The proportion childless among ever-married white women 35 to 39 years old in 1970 (i.e., the 1931-1935 birth cohorts) ranged from 4 percent for those first marrying at ages 14 to 17 to 8 percent for those first marrying at ages 22 to 24.[6]

Another perspective is provided by data on the fertility of all women 35 to 39 years old in 1970. The proportion childless was 11 percent for white women and 12 percent for all races based on 1970 census data and 9 percent for all races based on vital statistics data.[7] While these figures differ somewhat,[8] they suggest that the percent childless in the 1931-1935 cohort when it completes childbearing will be about 10 percentage points higher than the percent of wives 18 to 24 years old expecting no births.

Survey data on birth expectations for wives 18 to 24 in 1974 show that 5 percent expect to have zero births.[9] If it is assumed that the percentage of all women in the cohort who will remain childless will be 10 percentage points higher, then 85 percent of women in the cohort will have at least one birth, which is the Series II assumption. While the birth expectations data and the procedure used here are of course subject to error, the Series II ultimate assumption appears at this time to be a reasonable choice.

For Series I, it is assumed that the ultimate proportion of women who will have at least one birth is 90 percent. This is slightly lower than the proportion among women born in the 1930's who contributed heavily to the post-Second World War "baby boom" (tables A-1, A-2). It is assumed that if social and economic conditions conducive to relatively high fertility (i.e., the Series I assumption of 2.7 births per woman) were to occur, voluntary childlessness would be slightly more frequent than during the baby boom.

For Series III, it is assumed that the ultimate proportion of women who will have at least one birth is 75 percent. This is below the historically low proportion of just under 80 percent among women born in the 1900-1910 period (table A-1). It is assumed that if social and economic conditions conducive to extremely low fertility (i.e., the Series III assumption of 1.7 births per woman) were to occur, there would be a change in the social norm which favors at least two children per family (or in adherence to the norm) and, in comparison to the Series II assumption, a substantially higher frequency of childlessness.

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[4] U.S. Bureau of the Census. **Current Population Reports**, Series P-25, No. 286, "Projections of the Population of the United States, by Age and Sex: 1964 to 1985," pp. 35-37, 83-86. Donald S. Akers, "Cohort Fertility Versus Parity Progession as Methods of Projecting Births," **Demography**, Vol. 2 (1965), pp. 414-428.

[5] Ronald Freedman et al, **Family Planning, Sterility, and Population Growth** (New York: McGraw-Hill), 1959, p. 217.

[6] U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Final Report PC(2)-3A, **Women by Number of Children Ever Born**, p. 107.

[7] U.S.Bureau of the Census, **Women by Number of Children Ever Born**, pp. 146, 150, 365, 366. Cohort fertility data in table A-2 in this report are based on vital statistics data.

[8] The census figure could be high due to underreporting of fertility by single women or by ever-married women whose fertility occurred out of wedlock. The vital statistics figure could be low if women occasionally report a second or higher order birth as a first birth when preceding fertility occurred out of wedlock.

[9] U.S. Bureau of the Census, **Current Population Reports**, Series P-20, No. 277, "Fertility Expectations of American Women: June 1974," p. 17.

The ultimate proportions of women who will have at least one birth are assumed to be reached with the 1970 cohort. For women born before 1970 who have not completed childbearing, the projected completed cohort fertility rates for first births reflect fertility to date, if any, and movement of projected fertility toward the ultimate assumptions. In Series I and Series II, the projected rates drop from the high level noted previously for cohorts born in the 1930's to levels below the ultimate assumptions for cohorts born in the early 1950's before moving to their ultimate levels (table A-1).

Ultimate timing patterns of fertility. In report P-25, No. 601, one ultimate timing pattern of fertility with a mean age of childbearing of 26.0 was used for all three projection series. The use of one timing pattern was suggested by the likelihood that social and economic conditions which would lead to high average fertility and therefore more high-order (later) births would also lead to an early entry of young adults into marriage and childbearing.

This line of reasoning suggests that the level of first-order fertility and the mean age of childbearing for first births will be inversely related. Experimentation with assumptions about ultimate parity distributions and order-specific mean ages at childbearing suggested the following ultimate mean ages of childbearing for first births: Series I—22.5, Series II—23.5, and Series III—24.0.

Derivation of the Series II ultimate timing pattern for first births required three major steps. First, the first-birth proportions (first births divided by total births) by single year of age in the childbearing span were computed for 1947 and 1973, two years in which the first-birth proportions were among the highest ever recorded. Second, these proportions were averaged and applied to the Series II ultimate birth rates by single year of age for all births (report P-25, No. 601, table A-4) to obtain a first estimate of the ultimate first-birth rates for Series II. Third, these rates were adjusted mathematically to produce a distribution with a total of 850 and a mean of 23.5.

For Series I and Series III, the ultimate timing patterns for first births were obtained by making mathematical adjustments on the ultimate rates for Series II. The ultimate first-birth rates by single year of age for all three projection series are shown in table A-3.

Period fertility rates. The basic first-birth assumptions relate to cohort fertility rates and to the ultimate timing patterns of fertility. However, the computation of projected first births for each future year requires projections of birth rates for each age in the childbearing span (ages 14 to 49) which thus always includes 36 cohorts.

The first step in obtaining the necessary age-specific rates was to produce projections of cohort fertility rates by age. This was done by interpolating linearly between estimated age-specific birth rates for 1973 and ultimate age-specific birth rates. The resulting age-specific birth rates (observed to date, if any, and projected) were then summed and the interpolated rates were then adjusted so that the observed and projected rates added to the completed cohort fertility rates set previously. (Final cumulative cohort fertility rates by age, which are shown in table A-1, required an additional adjustment noted below.)

The projected birth rates by age were then evaluated on a period basis (i.e., for calendar years) to make certain that the implied trends in projections of annual total fertility rates appeared reasonable. In order to provide a reasonable range in annual total fertility rates for the first few years of the projection period (i.e., a range that is more likely to encompass annual fluctuations in fertility than the range obtained by the procedures described), projected age-specific birth rates were adjusted for the first few years of the projection period. For Series II and especially for Series I, an upward adjustment in birth rates for the first few years of the projection period was required in order to increase completed fertility rates for cohorts born in the early 1950's to what appear to be more reasonable levels (tables A-1 and A-2) and to allow for first births postponed during the early 1970's to be made up (see footnote 3).

RELATED REPORTS

This is the first Census Bureau report to present projections of first births. These projections are consistent with projections of total births and population by age and sex in **Current Population Reports**, Series P-25, No. 601, "Projections of the Population of the United States: 1975 to 2050." Annual data on numbers of first births and first-birth rates by age and race of mother are published by the National Center for Health Statistics in **Vital Statistics of the United States**, Volume I—Natality, and **Monthly Vital Statistics Report**.

Table 1. Annual Estimates and Projections of Total Births and First Births for the United States: 1940 to 2000

(Numbers in thousands. Includes Alaska and Hawaii in all years. See text for discussion of methodology and assumptions)

Year (July 1 to June 30)	Series I			Series II			Series III		
	Total births	First births		Total births	First births		Total births	First births	
		Number	Percent of total		Number	Percent of total		Number	Percent of total
ESTIMATES[1]									
1940-1941				2,631	1,003	38.1			
1941-1942				2,789	1,121	10.2			
1942-1943				3,168	1,215	39.3			
1943-1944				2,989	1,072	35.9			
1944-1945				2,937	1,005	34.2			
1945-1946				2,873	1,036	36.1			
1946-1947				3,918	1,573	39.8			
1947-1948				3,658	1,446	39.5			
1948-1949				3,660	1,307	35.7			
1949-1950				3,638	1,195	32.8			
1950-1951				3,771	1,189	31.5			
1951-1952				3,859	1,187	30.8			
1952-1953				3,951	1,170	29.6			
1953-1954				4,015	1,168	28.9			
1954-1955				4,119	1,163	28.2			
1955-1956				4,167	1,159	27.8			
1956-1957				4,312	1,192	27.6			
1957-1958				4,313	1,175	27.2			
1958-1959				4,298	1,148	26.7			
1959-1960				4,279	1,131	26.4			
1960-1961				4,350	1,150	26.4			
1961-1962				4,259	1,136	26.7			
1962-1963				4,185	1,138	27.2			
1963-1964				4,119	1,164	28.3			
1964-1965				3,940	1,176	29.8			
1965-1966				3,716	1,201	32.3			
1966-1967				3,608	1,246	34.5			
1967-1968				3,520	1,277	36.3			
1968-1969				3,567	1,344	37.7			
1969-1970				3,652	1,399	38.3			
1970-1971				3,709	1,446	39.0			
1971-1972				3,408	1,359	39.9			
1972-1973				3,191	1,310	41.1			
1973-1974[2]				3,112	1,300	41.8			
PROJECTIONS									
1974-1975	3,372	1,455	43.1	3,178	1,372	43.2	3,049	1,259	41.3
1975-1976	3,679	1,627	44.2	3,285	1,484	45.2	2,946	1,257	42.7
1976-1977	3,932	1,801	45.8	3,425	1,606	46.9	2,958	1,291	43.6
1977-1978	4,156	1,902	45.8	3,575	1,678	46.9	3,092	1,348	43.6
1978-1979	4,356	1,951	44.8	3,720	1,697	45.6	3,223	1,388	43.1
1979-1980	4,539	1,944	42.8	3,865	1,712	44.3	3 323	1,410	42.4
1980-1981	4,703	1,904	40.5	3,978	1,711	43.0	3.375	1,417	42.0
1981-1982	4,853	1,860	38.3	4,049	1,684	41.6	3.406	1,419	41.7
1982-1983	4,982	1,824	36.6	4,104	1,650	40.2	3,428	1,411	41.2
1983-1984	5,087	1,795	35.3	4,144	1,620	39.1	3,437	1,393	40.5
1984-1985	5,166	1,770	34.3	4,167	1,596	38.3	3.435	1,377	40.1
1985-1986	5,220	1,748	33.5	4,176	1,581	37.9	3.424	1,364	39.8
1986-1987	5,253	1,726	32.9	4,172	1,568	37.6	3.407	1,352	39.7
1987-1988	5,263	1,707	32.4	4,157	1,557	37.5	3,382	1,342	39.7
1988-1989	5,253	1,688	32.1	4,132	1,546	37.4	3.351	1,334	39.8
1989-1990	5,225	1,667	31.9	4,095	1,533	37.4	3.314	1,324	40.0
1990-1991	5,181	1,646	31.8	4,050	1,519	37.5	3,271	1,314	40.2
1991-1992	5,134	1,626	31.7	4,000	1,504	37.6	3,224	1,301	40.4
1992-1993	5,086	1,614	31.7	3,948	1,490	37.7	3,175	1,288	40.6
1993-1994	5,045	1,612	32.0	3,897	1,480	38.0	3,123	1,274	40.8
1994-1995	5,016	1,622	32.3	3,851	1,474	38.3	3,071	1,261	41.1
1995-1996	5,008	1,644	32.8	3,813	1,474	38.7	3,021	1,250	41.4
1996-1997	5,018	1,678	33.4	3,785	1,479	39.1	2,976	1,241	41.7
1997-1998	5,049	1,722	34.1	3,770	1,491	39.5	2,937	1,236	42.1
1998-1999	5,110	1,776	34.8	3,768	1,508	40.0	2,904	1,235	42.5
1999-2000	5,196	1,837	35.4	3,780	1,530	40.5	2,880	1,235	42.9

[1]Estimates were derived as follows: registered births by stated birth order (National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States and Monthly Vital Statistics Report, 1940-1973) were inflated to total births (report P-25, No. 601, table 1); annual first-birth proportions were applied to total births for 6-month periods (report P-25, No. 521, table 2); estimates of first births for years ending June 30 were obtained by addition.

[2]Estimates reflect provisional data on births by six-month periods for 1974, and an estimate of first births for 1974. See table A-2, footnote 2.

APPENDIX

Table A-1. First Births—Estimates and Projections of Cumulative Fertility by Age and of Completed Fertility: Selected Births Cohorts: 1900 to 1970

(Rates represent cumulative first births per 1,000 women up to age indicated. Figures below heavy lines in each block are based in whole or in part on projected fertility. See text for discussion of methodology and assumptions)

Series and birth cohort of women[1]	Cumulative fertility rate					Completed cohort fertility rate	Mean age of child-bearing	Median age of child-bearing
	Up to age 20	Up to age 25	Up to age 30	Up to age 35	Up to age 40			
ALL SERIES								
1900	211.6	571.6	723.8	776.8	795.5	799.8	23.20	22.16
1905	243.9	562.4	703.3	762.2	788.5	795.1	23.30	22.02
1910	221.1	501.9	662.3	747.3	781.7	788.2	24.02	22.68
1915	197.0	503.6	708.8	799.3	826.7	831.8	24.25	23.37
1920	209.1	577.2	800.1	869.6	890.5	894.0	23.80	22.99
1925	214.7	649.9	830.7	883.1	897.8	900.7	23.23	22.58
SERIES I								
1930	281.4	696.4	850.5	890.7	903.2	905.1	22.54	21.79
1935	313.7	752.5	876.8	910.0	916.9	920.6	22.02	21.33
1940	334.0	737.7	861.9	895.9	905.2	906.9	21.92	21.08
1945	290.5	663.0	810.7	855.3	865.4	866.9	22.40	21.55
1950	257.9	589.5	798.8	844.6	853.8	855.2	22.91	22.05
1955	242.8	619.9	814.6	848.5	854.8	855.6	22.73	22.46
1960	284.5	688.0	870.8	898.1	903.7	904.1	22.34	21.69
1965	262.3	687.9	874.5	899.3	903.1	903.4	22.42	22.10
1970 and beyond	241.0	689.0	876.0	897.2	899.9	900.0	22.50	22.21
SERIES II								
1930	281.4	696.4	850.5	890.7	903.2	905.1	22.54	21.78
1935	313.7	752.5	876.8	910.0	916.9	920.6	22.02	21.33
1940	334.0	737.7	861.9	895.6	904.1	905.8	21.90	21.07
1945	290.5	663.0	809.1	851.3	861.6	863.5	22.37	21.53
1950	257.9	584.3	772.9	822.9	833.5	835.4	22.88	21.91
1955	240.7	572.9	766.4	812.6	822.2	823.6	22.97	22.51
1960	252.4	603.1	798.8	845.8	854.9	856.2	22.90	22.35
1965	232.0	583.3	794.5	843.9	853.2	854.5	23.21	22.77
1970 and beyond	189.4	568.0	788.7	839.7	848.7	850.0	23.50	23.09
SERIES III								
1930	281.4	696.4	850.5	890.7	903.2	905.1	22.54	21.79
1935	313.7	752.5	876.8	910.0	916.9	920.6	22.02	21.33
1940	334.0	737.7	861.9	895.4	902.3	904.1	21.87	21.06
1945	290.5	663.0	808.6	844.9	854.5	856.3	22.29	21.49
1950	257.9	576.8	733.3	766.8	777.1	778.9	22.56	21.54
1955	240.1	513.6	677.6	725.6	736.6	738.6	22.91	22.23
1960	214.7	506.2	681.0	733.9	745.5	747.5	23.21	22.59
1965	189.5	488.9	677.9	736.4	748.9	751.0	23.56	23.03
1970 and beyond	157.0	466.8	670.5	734.7	747.9	750.0	24.00	23.49

[1] A birth cohort is defined as those women born in the twelve-month period centered on the beginning of the year. (For example, the 1900 cohort is comprised of females born July 1, 1899 to June 30, 1900.)

Table A-2. First Births—Estimates and Projections of Total Fertility Rates and Fertility Rates by Age: Selected Years, 1925 to 2000

(Rates represent first births per 1,000 women. See text for discussion of methodology and assumptions)

Series and year (calendar year)	Total fertility rate[1]	Central birth rates[1]								Mean age of child-bearing	Median age of child-bearing
		10 to 14 years	15 to 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 to 29 years	30 to 34 years	35 to 39 years	40 to 44 years	45 to 49 years		
ESTIMATES											
1925	818.8	0.6	48.3	67.4	31.2	11.2	4.1	0.9	0.1	23.18	22.15
1930	715.4	0.6	43.6	60.3	29.4	10.7	3.6	0.7	0.1	23.22	22.22
1935	711.8	0.6	39.8	58.4	29.0	10.6	3.3	0.6	0.1	23.30	22.33
1940	787.6	0.6	38.7	61.8	36.8	14.5	4.4	0.7	0.0	23.83	22.93
1945	796.1	0.7	37.5	64.4	34.1	15.2	6.1	1.2	0.1	24.06	22.99
1950	970.0	1.0	55.9	78.9	37.0	14.3	5.7	1.2	0.1	23.30	22.23
1955	1,001.3	1.0	62.5	88.1	32.4	11.4	4.5	1.0	0.1	22.75	21.73
1960	923.7	1.0	61.0	81.1	26.2	8.6	3.2	0.7	0.0	22.35	21.40
1965	803.3	0.8	52.4	73.2	23.6	7.2	2.8	0.6	0.0	22.37	21.47
1970	818.7	1.2	54.2	75.4	29.5	7.0	2.0	0.4	0.0	22.38	21.67
1971	795.6	1.1	51.5	68.6	28.9	6.7	1.9	0.4	0.0	22.40	21.70
1972	738.5	1.2	50.1	59.8	27.9	6.7	1.7	0.3	0.0	22.37	21.63
1973	709.6	1.3	18.2	55.4	28.1	6.9	1.7	0.3	0.0	22.43	21.69
PROJECTIONS											
Series I											
1974	750.0	1.0	44.7	60.7	34.5	7.2	1.5	0.3	0.0	22.77	22.27
1975	800.0	1.0	46.9	64.8	37.5	7.8	1.6	0.3	0.0	22.83	22.32
1976	900.0	1.1	52.3	73.3	42.2	9.0	1.8	0.3	0.0	22.86	22.34
1977	950.0	1.0	55.0	78.0	44.0	9.7	2.0	0.3	0.0	22.88	22.34
1978	975.0	1.0	56.2	81.0	44.3	10.2	2.0	0.3	0.0	22.88	22.33
1979	975.0	0.9	56.1	82.0	43.3	10.4	2.1	0.3	0.0	22.88	22.30
1980	950.0	0.8	54.4	81.1	41.4	10.0	2.1	0.3	0.0	22.87	22.27
1985	890.0	0.4	48.6	82.6	36.9	7.3	1.9	0.3	0.0	22.78	22.24
1990	905.8	0.4	47.8	87.9	37.4	5.9	1.4	0.3	0.0	22.70	22.26
1995	909.2	0.4	47.8	89.6	37.7	5.2	1.0	0.2	0.0	22.62	22.26
2000	903.0	0.4	47.8	89.6	37.4	4.5	0.8	0.1	0.0	22.55	22.23
Series II											
1974	[2]708.6	1.1	44.3	56.7	31.2	6.7	1.5	0.3	0.0	22.64	22.06
1975	750.0	1.0	45.7	60.0	34.1	7.3	1.5	0.3	0.0	22.74	22.17
1976	800.0	1.0	47.8	64.1	36.8	8.2	1.7	0.3	0.0	22.83	22.25
1977	850.0	1.0	49.8	68.5	39.4	9.2	1.9	0.3	0.0	22.90	22.33
1978	850.0	0.9	48.9	69.0	39.4	9.6	1.9	0.3	0.0	22.97	22.39
1979	850.0	0.8	48.0	69.6	39.3	10.1	2.0	0.3	0.0	23.02	22.44
1980	850.0	0.7	47.1	70.2	39.3	10.3	2.1	0.3	0.0	23.08	22.49
1985	800.0	0.3	39.4	70.1	36.4	9.3	2.1	0.4	0.0	23.30	22.75
1990	823.3	0.3	37.6	73.8	41.3	9.3	2.0	0.4	0.0	23.41	22.94
1995	844.9	0.3	37.6	75.3	43.9	9.8	1.9	0.3	0.0	23.47	23.05
2000	850.0	0.3	37.6	75.3	44.5	10.2	1.8	0.3	0.0	23.50	23.09
Series III											
1974	675.0	1.1	44.6	53.7	27.5	6.3	1.5	0.3	0.0	22.48	21.79
1975	660.0	1.0	42.3	52.7	27.5	6.6	1.5	0.3	0.0	22.60	21.91
1976	650.0	0.9	40.8	52.1	27.6	6.9	1.4	0.3	0.0	22.69	22.03
1977	675.0	0.9	41.2	54.4	29.2	7.4	1.8	0.3	0.0	22.79	22.14
1978	690.0	0.8	41.1	55.8	30.5	7.9	1.6	0.3	0.0	22.88	22.24
1979	700.0	0.7	40.7	56.9	31.5	8.2	1.7	0.3	0.0	22.96	22.34
1980	700.0	0.6	39.6	57.2	32.0	8.4	1.8	0.3	0.0	23.05	22.43
1985	690.0	0.2	33.5	58.6	33.9	9.4	2.0	0.4	0.0	23.48	22.90
1990	708.1	0.2	31.2	60.7	36.7	10.3	2.2	0.4	0.0	23.71	23.16
1995	735.5	0.2	31.2	62.0	39.6	11.4	2.3	0.4	0.0	23.86	23.37
2000	747.6	0.2	31.2	62.0	40.7	12.6	2.5	0.4	0.0	23.97	23.47

[1] These rates differ slightly from those published by The National Center for Health Statistics. They are the sum of central birth rates which are based on births adjusted for underregistration and females adjusted for estimated net census undercount.

[2] Rate is consistent with an estimate of first births for 1974 of 1,332,000. This estimate reflects trends in first births from 1973 to 1974 in selected States.

Table A-3. First births—Estimates of Fertility Rates for 1973 and Projections of Ultimate Fertility Rates, by Age

Rates represent first births per 1,000 women. These rates are central birth rates which are based on births adjusted for under-registration and females adjusted for estimated net census undercount. See text for discussion of methodology and assumptions)

Age	1973	Ultimate		
		Series I	Series II	Series III
Total	709.6	900.0	850.0	750.0
14 years	6.3	1.8	1.4	1.1
15 years	15.8	7.9	6.2	5.1
16 years	34.2	23.5	18.5	15.3
17 years	53.3	48.0	37.7	31.3	
18 years	66.0	72.0	56.6	47.0
19 years	71.9	87.8	69.0	57.2
20 years	66.1	93.9	74.4	61.1
21 years	59.9	95.4	77.0	62.8
22 years	54.6	93.6	77.7	63.4
23 years	50.3	87.6	76.0	62.6
24 years	46.2	77.5	71.5	59.9
25 years	41.0	64.3	64.0	54.9
26 years	35.6	50.1	54.9	48.6
27 years	27.5	35.3	43.8	40.1
28 years	20.9	23.2	34.2	33.2
29 years	15.5	14.1	25.8	26.9
30 years	11.9	8.6	18.7	21.4
31 years	8.4	5.4	13.1	18.6
32 years	6.1	3.4	8.8	11.8
33 years	4.6	2.3	6.1	8.4
34 years	3.4	1.5	4.3	6.0
35 years	2.7	1.0	3.1	4.4
36 years	2.1	0.7	2.3	3.4
37 years	1.6	0.5	1.7	2.5
38 years	1.1	0.3	1.1	1.7
39 years	0.9	0.2	0.8	1.2
40 years	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.9
41 years	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.6
42 years	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.3
43 years	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2
44 years	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
10 to 14 years	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.2
15 to 19 years	48.2	47.8	37.6	31.2
20 to 24 years	55.4	89.6	75.3	62.0
25 to 29 years	28.1	37.4	44.5	49.7
30 to 34 years	6.9	4.2	10.2	12.8
35 to 39 years	1.7	0.5	1.8	2.6
40 to 44 years	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.4
Mean age of childbearing	22.43	22.59	23.50	24.00
Median age of childbearing	21.69	22.21	23.09	23.49