**Table A. Total births and percent of births with selected demographic and health characteristics, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, final 1997 and preliminary 1998**

| Characteristic | All races[1] | | White, total[2] | | White, non-Hispanic | | Black[2] | | Hispanic[3] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1998 | 1997 | 1998 | 1997 | 1998 | 1997 | 1998 | 1997 | 1998 | 1997 |
| | | | | | Number | | | | | |
| Births | 3,944,046 | 3,880,894 | 3,122,391 | 3,072,640 | 2,364,907 | 2,333,363 | 610,203 | 599,913 | 735,019 | 709,767 |
| | | | | | Percent | | | | | |
| Births to mothers under 20 years | 12.5 | 12.7 | 11.1 | 11.2 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 21.5 | 22.2 | 16.9 | 17.0 |
| Births to unmarried mothers | 32.8 | 32.4 | 26.3 | 25.8 | 21.9 | 21.5 | 69.0 | 69.2 | 41.6 | 40.9 |
| Low birthweight[4] | 7.6 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 13.0 | 13.0 | 6.4 | 6.4 |
| Very low birthweight[5] | 1.45 | 1.42 | 1.15 | 1.13 | 1.15 | 1.12 | 3.08 | 3.04 | 1.15 | 1.13 |
| Births delivered by cesarean | 21.2 | 20.8 | 21.0 | 20.7 | 21.2 | 20.9 | 22.4 | 21.8 | 20.6 | 20.2 |
| Prenatal care beginning in first trimester | 82.8 | 82.5 | 84.8 | 84.7 | 87.9 | 87.9 | 73.3 | 72.3 | 74.3 | 73.7 |
| Prenatal care beginning in third trimester or no care | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 7.0 | 7.3 | 6.3 | 6.2 |

[1]Includes races other than white and black.
[2]Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on the birth certificate. Data for persons of Hispanic origin are included in the data for each race group according to the mother's reported race; see Technical notes.
[3]Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical notes.
[4]Birthweight of less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces).
[5]Birthweight of less than 1,500 grams (3 pounds, 4 ounces).