

Table 6. Twin and higher order multiple births, by race, Hispanic origin, and age of mother: United States, selected years 1971–2005

[Data are based on birth certificates]

<i>Plurality of birth and race, Hispanic origin, and age of mother</i>	1971	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	1997	2000	2003	2004	2005
Twin births											
	Number per 1,000 live births										
All races	17.8	18.8	18.9	20.5	22.6	24.8	26.8	29.3	31.5	32.2	32.2
White	17.0	18.1	18.1	19.9	22.1	24.6	26.7	29.2	31.4	32.1	32.0
Black or African American	22.5	22.9	24.0	25.2	26.5	28.2	30.0	33.1	34.4	35.1	35.7
American Indian or Alaska Native	15.6	15.3	16.7	15.8	17.9	20.6	20.6	21.6	24.3	24.7	24.2
Asian or Pacific Islander ¹	11.9	17.5	14.1	14.7	16.4	17.3	19.2	20.7	25.7	26.5	26.3
Hispanic or Latina ²	---	---	16.8	17.6	18.0	18.7	19.5	20.2	21.3	21.5	22.0
Mexican	---	---	16.7	17.7	17.4	17.8	18.5	19.1	19.8	19.9	20.3
Puerto Rican	---	---	18.7	20.1	20.8	22.8	23.0	25.1	28.5	28.7	31.1
Cuban	---	---	14.2	20.1	20.2	25.0	28.6	27.6	31.3	37.6	32.2
Central and South American	---	---	17.4	16.2	17.6	18.6	20.6	20.8	23.2	23.6	23.4
Other and unknown Hispanic or Latina	---	---	15.2	15.7	19.4	21.2	21.1	23.4	25.4	23.5	26.1
Not Hispanic or Latina: ²											
White	---	---	18.3	20.2	22.9	26.2	28.8	32.2	35.2	36.3	36.1
Black or African American	---	---	24.2	24.9	26.7	28.3	30.0	33.4	34.7	35.6	36.4
Age of mother:											
Under 20 years	11.6	12.7	12.8	13.0	14.3	14.2	15.0	15.8	15.3	15.7	16.6
20–24 years	16.2	17.6	17.4	18.3	19.2	19.9	20.4	22.0	22.4	22.8	22.4
25–29 years	19.8	20.9	20.5	21.6	23.5	24.8	26.3	28.2	29.6	30.2	30.6
30–34 years	23.7	24.5	23.5	25.5	27.6	30.6	33.7	36.5	39.2	40.1	40.0
35–39 years	27.3	25.8	25.3	26.3	30.2	35.7	39.3	43.5	47.8	48.5	48.0
40–44 years	22.3	23.3	23.0	20.5	24.7	32.3	38.6	45.2	51.3	53.7	54.4
45–49 years	*18.1	*	*	*18.9	*23.8	101.9	133.2	153.1	189.2	195.4	182.9
50–54 years	---	---	---	---	---	---	347.2	313.7	374.6	379.7	407.7
Triplet and higher order multiple births											
	Number per 100,000 live births										
All races	29.1	33.9	37.0	51.2	72.8	127.5	173.6	180.5	187.4	176.9	161.8
White	28.4	35.3	37.6	54.2	80.2	145.4	195.9	205.1	208.7	196.3	178.2
Black or African American	35.4	30.4	37.1	41.2	46.9	58.4	88.3	83.7	108.4	98.2	102.0
American Indian or Alaska Native	*	*	*	*	*	*53.7	*	*	*76.7	*50.1	*55.8
Asian or Pacific Islander	*	*	*	*22.0	43.1	59.9	103.1	117.2	111.7	140.5	116.8
Hispanic or Latina ²	---	---	25.4	28.4	39.5	52.2	72.7	80.8	85.9	76.4	77.2
Not Hispanic or Latina: ²											
White	---	---	39.0	55.3	89.8	170.0	230.8	246.3	255.0	243.4	217.8
Black or African American	---	---	42.6	39.1	46.2	57.8	90.0	83.7	109.5	99.7	105.5
Age of mother:											
Under 20 years	9.1	10.9	14.8	13.8	15.9	17.6	20.7	23.2	12.8	20.6	19.7
20–24 years	25.4	28.1	31.4	35.0	32.4	35.3	46.8	44.2	48.4	41.7	44.7
25–29 years	43.7	45.4	42.8	66.3	73.9	118.3	151.0	163.3	158.9	158.7	144.5
30–34 years	36.4	53.5	58.3	71.2	126.3	217.2	293.6	307.3	309.1	285.0	257.0
35–39 years	35.7	45.1	47.6	70.0	156.8	285.3	403.2	368.5	409.5	375.3	332.0
40–44 years	*	*	*	*	*57.6	273.6	315.4	415.5	330.7	364.6	328.7
45–49 years	*	*	*	*	*	*1,466.8	2,100.2	1,586.6	1,919.6	1,235.2	1,699.6
50–54 years	---	---	---	---	---	---	*	*9,019.6	*	*	*

--- Data not available.

* Rates preceded by an asterisk are based on fewer than 50 births. Rates based on fewer than 20 births are considered unreliable and are not shown.

¹Starting with 2003 data, estimates are not available for Asian or Pacific Islander subgroups during the transition from single-race to multiple-race reporting. See [Appendix II, Race, Birth File](#).

²Prior to 1993, data from states lacking an Hispanic-origin item on the birth certificate were excluded. See [Appendix II, Hispanic origin](#). Data for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black women for years prior to 1989 are not nationally representative and are provided for comparison with Hispanic data.

NOTES: The race groups, white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with 2003 data, some states reported multiple-race data. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 Office of Management and Budget standards for comparability with other states. See [Appendix II, Race](#). Interpretation of trend data should take into consideration expansion of reporting areas and immigration. Data for additional years are available. See [Appendix III](#).

SOURCES: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Birth File; Martin JA, Park MM. Trends in twin and triplet births: 1980–97. National vital statistics reports. vol 47 no 24. Hyattsville, MD: NCHS. 1999.