

# NCHS Dataline

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The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released preliminary birth and death statistics for 2011. The 2011 preliminary mortality report documents a record low age-adjusted death rate and indicates that life expectancy and infant mortality were unchanged from 2010. According to the birth report, teen childbearing reached a record low, as did the general fertility rate for the United States. A new NCHS report describing the current contraceptive patterns in the U.S. shows that the pill and female sterilization are the most popular methods of contraception. And another new report examines the frequency of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing.

## 2011 PRELIMINARY DEATH DATA RELEASED

A new report by NCHS, “Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2011,”<sup>1</sup> documents a record low age-adjusted death rate of 740.6 deaths per 100,000 population in 2011, down from 747.0 deaths per 100,000 population in 2010. From 2010 to 2011, the age-adjusted death rates decreased significantly for five of the 15 leading causes of death: diseases of the heart; malignant neoplasms; cerebrovascular diseases; Alzheimer’s disease; and nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis. The age-adjusted death rate increased for six leading causes of death: chronic lower respiratory diseases, diabetes mellitus, influenza and pneumonia, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, Parkinson’s disease, and pneumonitis due to solids and liquids. From 2010 to 2011, the age-adjusted death rate decreased by 1.4% for males and 0.5% for females and was down in each of the racial/ethnic groups. The death rate declined by 1.0% for white males, 3.3% for black males, and 4.8% for Hispanic males. The death rate declined by 1.6% for black women and 2.5% for Hispanic women. The drop of 0.2% for white females was not significant.

The preliminary number of deaths in the U.S. for 2011 was 2,513,171. The crude death rate of 806.6 per 100,000 population in 2011 was 0.9% higher than the rate of 799.5 per 100,000 population in 2010. Statistically significant decreases in mortality from 2010 to 2011 were registered for those younger than one year of age and across age groups for those aged 65 years and older. Mortality for those aged 1–4, 5–14, 15–24, 35–44, 45–54, and 55–64 years did not change significantly from 2010 to 2011, but the mortality rate increased for those aged 25–34 years. The preliminary estimate

of life expectancy at birth for the total population for 2011 was 78.7 years, which was the same as in 2010. Life expectancy for males in 2011 was 76.3 years of age; for females, it was 81.1 years of age.

The preliminary infant mortality rate for 2011 was 6.05 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, which did not differ significantly from the final 2010 rate. The infant mortality rate has either remained the same or declined each year since 1958. The neonatal (i.e., infants aged <28 days) mortality rate was 4.04 per 1,000 live births in 2011, which was not significantly different from 2010. The postneonatal (i.e., infants aged 28 days to 11 months) mortality rate decreased by 4.3%, from 2.10 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2010 to 2.01 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2011. The three leading causes of infant mortality in 2011 were congenital malformation, disorders related to short gestation and low birthweight, and sudden infant death syndrome.

The report presents preliminary U.S. data on deaths, death rates, life expectancy, leading causes of death, and infant mortality for 2011 by selected characteristics, such as age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. Data in this report are based on death records filed in state vital statistics offices and reported to NCHS through the National Vital Statistics System, comprising more than 98% of the demographic and medical files for all deaths in the U.S. in 2011. Comparisons are made with 2010 final data.

## BIRTH STATISTICS FOR 2011 PUBLISHED

According to a new report, “Births: Preliminary Data for 2011,”<sup>2</sup> the preliminary number of U.S. births for 2011 was 3,953,593, which was 1% fewer births than in 2010. The general fertility rate (63.2 per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years) declined to the lowest rate ever reported for the U.S. The number of births declined for most racial/ethnic and Hispanic-origin groups in 2011. The birth rate for teenagers aged 15–19 years fell 8% in 2011 to 31.3 births per 1,000 population—another record low—with rates declining for younger and older teenagers and for all racial/ethnic and Hispanic-origin groups. The birth rate for women aged 20–24 years also declined to a historic low of 85.3 births per 1,000 population. The birth rate for women in their early thirties was unchanged in 2011 but rose for women aged 35–39 and 40–44 years.

The birth rate for women in their late forties was unchanged in 2011. The birth rate, the number of

births, and the percentage of births to unmarried women each declined for the third consecutive year. The birth rate was 46.1 per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years, and the percentage of births to unmarried women was 40.7%. The cesarean delivery rate of 32.8% was unchanged from 2010. The preterm birth rate in 2011 fell for the fifth straight year to 11.7%, with declines reported for each of the largest racial/ethnic and Hispanic-origin groups. The 2011 low birthweight rate was 8.1%, down slightly from 8.2% in 2010.

The report presents preliminary data on births and birth rates based on approximately 100% of the 2011 birth certificates filed in state vital statistics offices and reported to NCHS through the National Vital Statistics System. This report includes data on births by age, live-birth order, race/ethnicity, and Hispanic origin of mother. Data on marital status, cesarean delivery, preterm births, and low birthweight are also presented. Comparisons are made with final 2010 data.

### CURRENT PATTERNS OF CONTRACEPTION

Findings from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) for 2006–2010, which are published in “Current Contraceptive Use in the United States, 2006–2010, and Changes in Patterns of Use Since 1995,”<sup>3</sup> show that 62% of women of reproductive age are currently using contraception. The NSFG is based on personal interviews with a national sample of women and men aged 15–44 years.

The survey reports that of women using a contraceptive method during the month of the interview, the most common methods used were the pill (28% or 10.6 million women) and female sterilization (27% or 10.2 million women). Use of intrauterine devices as a current method has increased since 1995 (from 0.8% in 1995 to 5.6% during 2006–2010). Fewer women reported that their partners were using condoms as their current, most effective contraceptive method. Of women at risk of an unintended pregnancy, 11% reported not currently using a method of contraception.

Use of contraception and the effectiveness of the method used to prevent pregnancy are major factors affecting national pregnancy and birth rates and the ability of women to plan their pregnancies. The report presents national estimates of contraceptive use among women of childbearing age (15–44 years) during 2006–2010. Selected comparisons are made with 1995 data to describe changes in contraceptive use and method choice over time. The report is based primarily on the sample of 12,279 women interviewed

during 2006–2010; some tables are supplemented with the sample of 10,847 women interviewed in 1995.

### HIV TESTING

“HIV Testing in the U.S. Household Population Aged 15–44: Data from the National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2010”<sup>4</sup> presents nationally representative estimates and trends for HIV testing among the U.S. household population aged 15–44 years. The report includes data on lifetime experience with HIV testing and HIV testing in the past year, including testing conducted as part of prenatal care.

Among U.S. women aged 15–44 years, the percentage ever tested for HIV outside of blood donation increased significantly from 35% in 1995 to 55% in 2002 to 59% in 2006–2010. Among men aged 15–44 years, the percentage ever tested outside of blood donation fell from 47% in 2002 to 42% in 2006–2010. During 2006–2010, the proportions ever tested for HIV outside of blood donation were similar for Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women (about 60% tested) and for Hispanic and non-Hispanic white men (roughly 40% tested). However, a higher percentage of non-Hispanic black women (75%) and non-Hispanic black men (61%) had ever been tested for HIV outside of blood donation. Based on 2006–2010 data, 21% of women were tested for HIV within the 12 months prior to interview compared with 13% of men.

Data for this report came from the 2006–2010 NSFG, which consists of 22,682 interviews with men and women aged 15–44 years conducted from June 2006 through June 2010. The overall response rate for the 2006–2010 NSFG was 77%: 78% for women and 75% for men. The NSFG collects data on factors related to childbearing and reproductive health.

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### REFERENCES

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