AMARA BACHU

Twenty-six percent of all births in 1994 were born out-of-wedlock.

In June 1994, there were 60.0 million women of childbearing age (15 to 44). About 3.9 million of them reported having had a birth in the preceding 12 months, resulting in a fertility rate of 65 births per 1,000 women, not different from the rate in 1990.

In both 1990 and 1994, 42 percent of women 15 to 44 years old were childless. About 42 percent of women who had a birth between July 1993 and June 1994 reported that birth as their first, up slightly from the 39 percent reported for the year ending in June 1990.

The proportion of children born out-of-wedlock was 26 percent of all births in 1994, not different from 1990. Of all births to Black women in 1994, 66 percent were to un-married women (women either never married, widowed, or divorced at the survey date);

this is about 3 times as high as that reported by White women (19 percent), and about twice as high as that reported by Hispanic women (28 percent).[1]

Of the 6.5 million Hispanic women 15 to 44 years old in 1994, 4.0 million said that they were of Mexican ancestry. The fertility rate for Mexican-American women was 111 births per 1,000, a rate almost twice as high as the non-Hispanic population (61 per 1,000). Women of Mexican ancestry averaged 1.6 children ever born, about 0.5 children higher than non-Hispanic women.

Twenty percent of never-married women were mothers.

About 38 percent of women 15 to 44 years old in 1994 had never been married. Of these 22.7 million never-

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[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. These data do not include the population of Puerto Rico.

married women, 20 percent had given birth to at least one child by the time of the survey. About 7 percent of never-married teenagers had borne a child; while among women in their thirties, about 4 out of every 10 had borne a child out of wedlock. About 1 in 2 never-married Black women had a baby, compared with 1 in 4 never-married Hispanic women and 1 in 8 never-married White women.
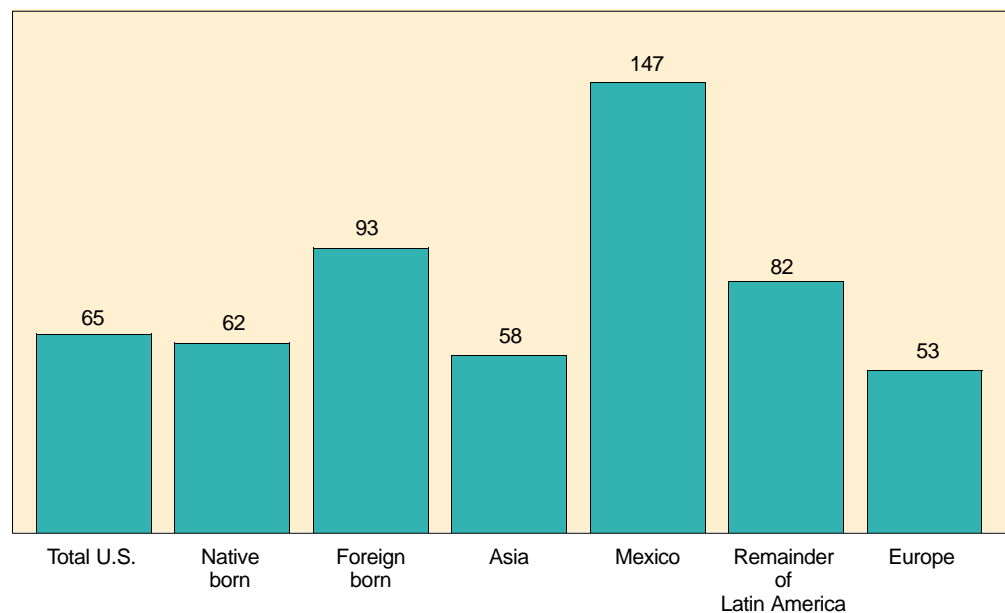
Fertility of foreign-born women was higher than native-born women.

In 1994, there were 6.2 million foreign-born women 15 to 44 years old. The fertility rate for these women was 93 births per 1,000, compared with 62 births per 1,000 native-born women 15 to 44 years old.

Overall, 15 percent of the births (580,000) in 1994 were to foreign-born women, and the majority of these births (503,000) were to women

Births per 1,000 Women 15 to 44 Years Old, by Place of Birth: June 1994

Total U.S.	Native born	Foreign born	Asia	Mexico	Remainder of Latin America	Europe
65	62	93	58	147	82	53

who were not citizens of the United States. Women born in Mexico comprised 30 percent of all foreign-born women in the childbearing ages but had 48 percent of the births to these women. Among foreign-born women, those born in Mexico had the highest fertility rate (147 births per 1,000), compared with 53 births per 1,000 for women born in Europe and 58 births per 1,000 for women born in Asia.[2]

Over one-half of women with a newborn were in the labor force.

In June of 1994, 53 percent of women 15 to 44 years old who had a child in the preceding 12 months were in the labor force, not different from the rate in 1990.

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[2]Fertility rates for women from Europe and Asia were not different from each other.

Among mothers with newborn children, 70 percent of mothers who had at least a bachelor's degree were in the labor force, compared with 48 percent who had completed only high school and 34 percent with less than a high school diploma. It is likely that highly educated women with prior career commitments and higher earnings potential would suffer greater losses from work force interruptions, such as having a child, thereby encouraging a more rapid reentry into the labor force after a child's birth.

For Further Information

See: Current Population Reports, Series P20-482, _Fertility of American Women: June 1994,_ forthcoming.

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Labor Force Participation Rates for Women with Children Under 1 Year Old, by Age and Birth Order: June 1994

(In percent)

Legend: First birth / Second or higher

Age	First birth	Second or higher
15 to 44 years	59	49
15 to 19 years	40	36
20 to 24 years	57	43
25 to 29 years	68	46
30 to 44 years	69	53