

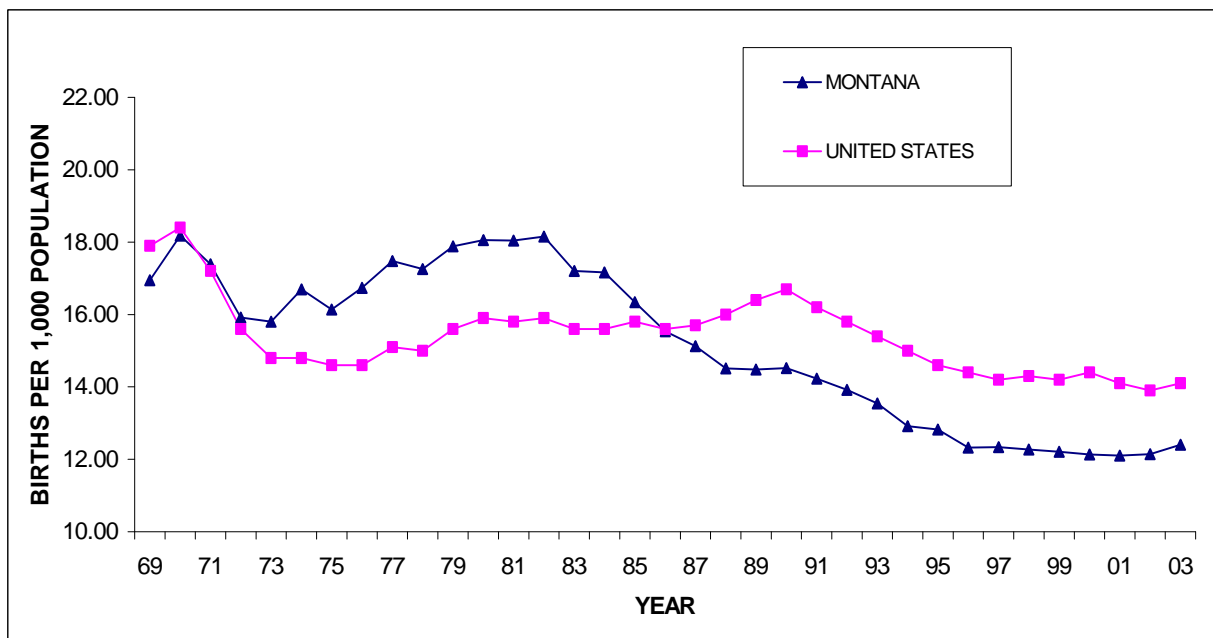
NATALITY

There were 11,384 babies born to Montana residents in 2003. **Table S-1** shows the frequency and rate of births occurring in Montana (regardless of place of residence) at five-year intervals from 1910 to 1945 and those to all Montana residents (regardless of place of occurrence) each year since 1946.

The frequency of births to Montana residents increased slightly in 2000, 2001 and 2002, and the birth rate appears to have stabilized in those years at 12.1 per 1,000 population. In 2003 the number of births increased again and the rate increased to 12.4 per 1,000 population. This was the first substantial increase since 1982. However, it is much too soon to identify this as a change in trend. **Figure 6** below compares the resident birth rates for Montana and the U.S. for the last 35 years.

Figure 6

RESIDENT BIRTH RATES



MONTANA AND THE UNITED STATES, 1969-2003

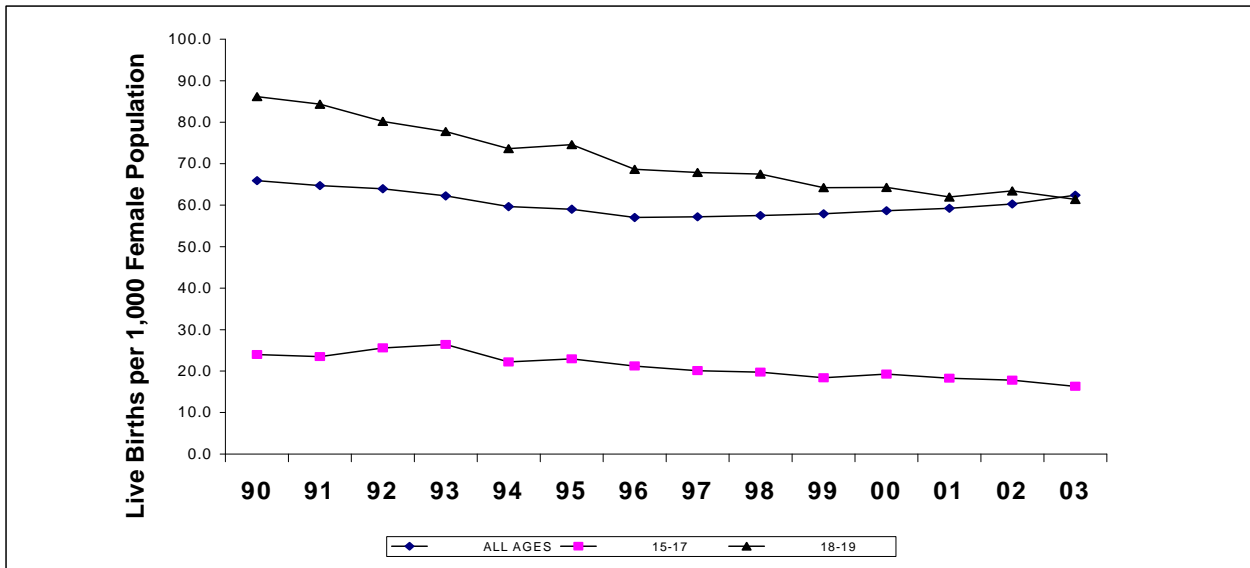
While the Montana rate exceeded the U.S. rate from 1971 to 1985, it began to decline in the early 1980's, fell below the U.S. rate in the mid-80's, and has been the lower of the two since. Only seven states currently have a lower birth rate than Montana. None of those states is West of the Mississippi River.

FERTILITY

The fertility rate, calculated as the number of births per 1,000 females of childbearing age (assumed to be ages 15-44, inclusive), is more useful than the birth rate for many analytic purposes because it is specific with regards to sex and age of the "at-risk" population. Montana's fertility rate since 1990, also among the lowest in the nation, is shown in **Figure 7** for mothers of all ages, mothers between the ages of 15 and 17, and those between the ages of 18 and 19. This graph shows fertility rates for Montana mothers of all races.

Figure 7

FERTILITY RATES FOR MOTHERS OF ALL RACES

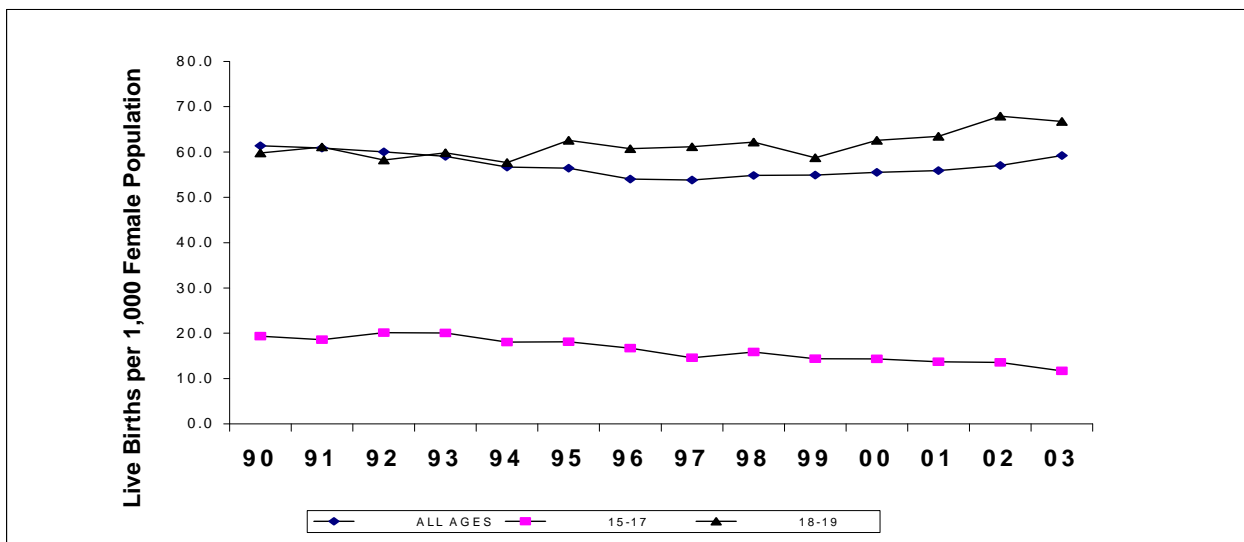


MONTANA TEENS AND MOTHERS OF ALL AGES, 1990-2003

The rate of fertility among various racial groups can be quite different from those of the entire population, as is illustrated by comparison of **Figure 8** below and **Figure 9** on the next page. Examination of the respective rates for whites and Native Americans for the previous several years is revealing.

Figure 8

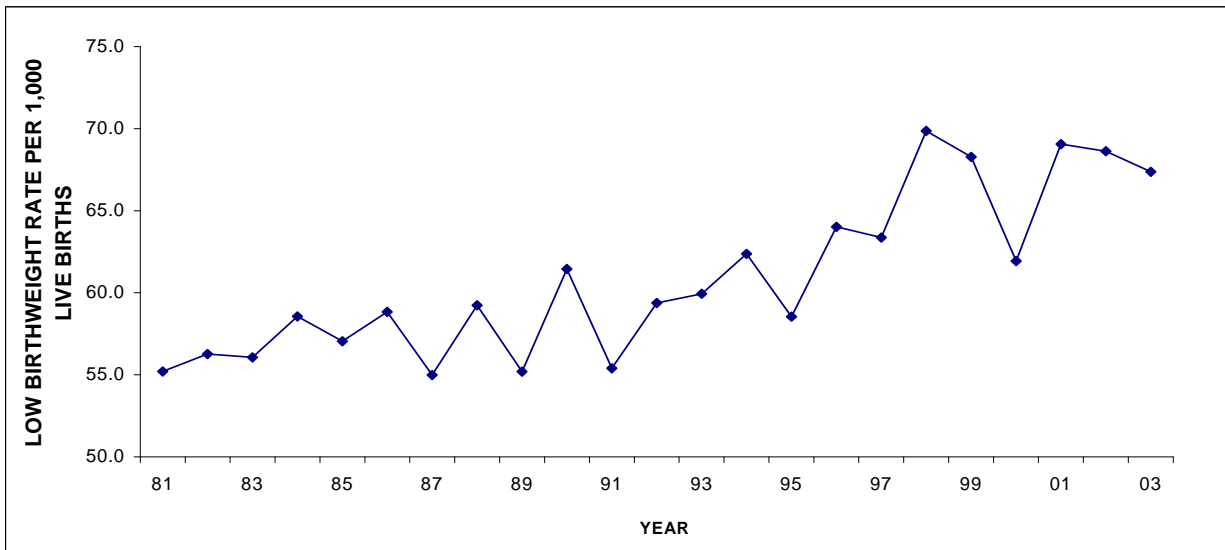
FERTILITY RATES* FOR WHITE MOTHERS
MONTANA TEENS AND MOTHERS OF ALL AGES, 1990-2003



* Since in the year 2000, the Census now records the number of persons of multiple races. Therefore, the enumeration of whites in that and subsequent years may be an undercount and the white fertility rate a slight overestimate.

Figure 10

RATE OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BIRTHS



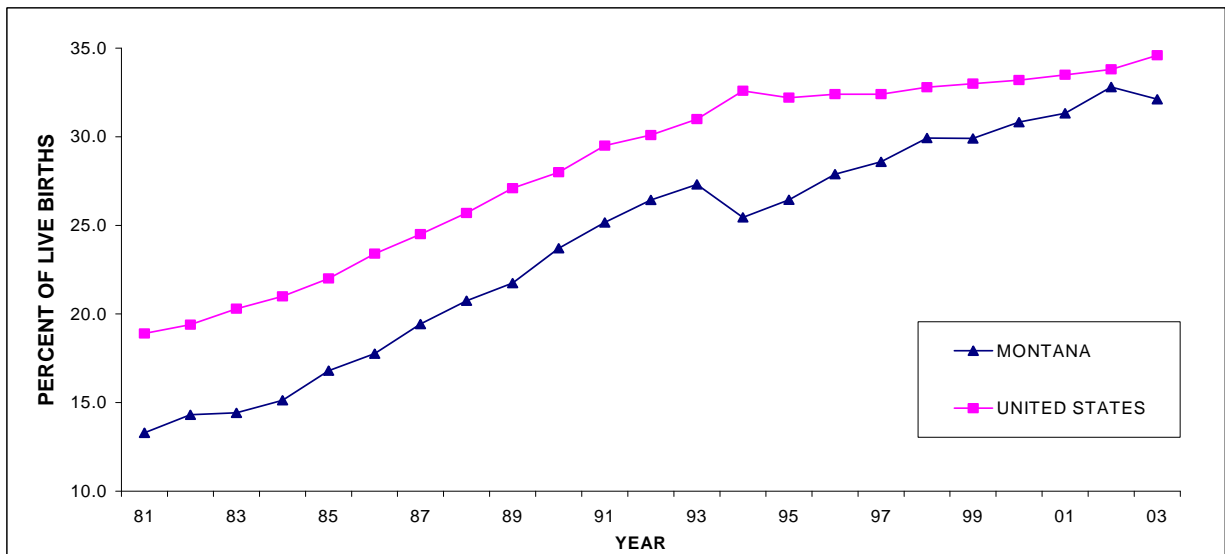
MONTANA RESIDENTS, 1981-2003

MOTHER'S AGE, RACE, AND MARITAL STATUS

Those giving birth in 2003 were predominantly married white women between the ages of 20 and 35 years. **Table S-8** shows the frequency and percent distribution of births to Montana residents by the mother's age and county of residence. **Table S-3** shows the frequency of births by the mother's race and county of residence of the mother. Any of the races shown may include women of Hispanic origin.

Figure 11

PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS



MONTANA AND U.S. RESIDENTS, 1981-2003

Table B-1 shows the frequency and percent distribution of resident births to unmarried mothers for the years 1998 through 2003. **Table S-7** shows the frequency of birth by marital status of the mother for each of Montana's counties in 2003. **Figure 11**, on the previous page, shows the trend in those births to unmarried women for Montana and the United States since 1981. Births to unmarried women represented 13.3% of Montana's resident births in 1981, 23.7% in 1990, 30.8% in 2000, and 32.1% in 2003.

By comparison, unmarried women in the U.S. accounted for 18.9% of the resident births in 1981, 28.0% in 1990, 33.2% in 2000, and 34.6% in 2003 (preliminary). The Montana proportion of births to unmarried mothers has been, for more than two decades, somewhat below the U.S. proportion. The long-term trend for Montana appears to be converging with the national trend over this periods.

METHOD OF DELIVERY

Almost four-fifths of the infants delivered in Montana in the years 1994 through 2003 were delivered vaginally (including those delivered vaginally after the mother had a previous C-section). As **Figure 12** shows, the likelihood of a vaginal delivery decreases steadily with increasing age of the mother. This pattern holds for both whites and Native Americans.

Figure 12

FREQUENCY AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF LIVE BIRTHS BY AGE OF MOTHER AND METHOD OF DELIVERY MONTANA OCCURRENCES, 1994-2003

METHOD OF DELIVERY		ALL AGES	UNDER 15	15-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 AND OVER	NOT STATED
ALL METHODS	Number	109,329	124	4,068	8,795	29,917	30,290	22,940	10,819	2,255	115	6
	Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
VAGINAL	Number	83,782	107	3,525	7,369	23,999	23,218	16,589	7,452	1,442	76	5
	Percent	76.6	86.3	86.7	83.8	80.2	76.7	72.3	68.9	63.9	66.1	83.3
VAGINAL AFTER C-SECTION	Number	3,195	-	5	74	611	987	948	475	92	3	-
	Percent	2.9	0.0	0.1	0.8	2.0	3.3	4.1	4.4	4.1	2.6	0.0
PRIMARY C-SECTION	Number	13,562	16	522	1,166	3,619	3,548	2,827	1,459	383	22	-
	Percent	12	13	13	13	12	12	12	14	17	19	0
REPEAT C-SECTION	Number	8,753	1	14	183	1,683	2,529	2,564	1,429	336	14	-
	Percent	8.0	0.8	0.3	2.1	5.6	8.3	11.2	13.2	14.9	12.2	0.0
NOT STATED	Number	37		2	3	5	8	12	4	- 2		1
	Percent	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	16.7