FP-20-17 Women Who Gave Birth Within the Past 12 Months, 2018

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Marital Status and Marital Histories
- The share of women who gave birth in the last year who were unmarried remained essentially unchanged over the past decade (37% in 2008, 36% in 2018, not shown).
  - The majority of these recent unmarried mothers have never been married (82%, not shown).
- Among currently married women who had a recent birth, most were in first marriages (91%), and only 7% both married and had a birth within the past year (not shown).

Educational Attainment
Married women who had a child in the last 12 months typically had higher levels of education than their unmarried counterparts.
- Only 8% of unmarried women had a bachelor’s degree and 3% had a master’s degree or higher, while 29% and 19% of married women had these degrees, respectively.
- Nearly one-fifth (18%) of unmarried women who had a birth in the last 12 months had less than a high school education compared to only 8% of married women.

Figure 1. Marital Status by Educational Attainment, 2018

Source: NCFMR analyses of ACS 2018 1-year estimates

The share of women who gave birth in the last year who were unmarried remained essentially unchanged over the past decade.
Race/Ethnicity

There is notable racial variation in the marital statuses of women who gave birth in the last year.

- Among women with a recent birth, 39% of unmarried women and 61% of married women were White.
- Among unmarried women with a recent birth, Blacks and Hispanics made up over one-fourth (27% each), but among married women they only accounted for 8% and 9%, respectively.
- Asians comprised 2% of unmarried women and 9% of married women with births in the last year.
- Other women represented 6% of unmarried and 3% of married women who had a birth in the past 12 months.

Age Group

Overall, married women who gave birth in the last year were older than their unmarried counterparts.

- 65% of unmarried women who had a birth in the last year were under age 30. Only 36% of married women were below age 30.
- It was most common for unmarried women who had a birth in the last 12 months to be between ages 25 to 29. For married women, it was most common to be between ages 30 and 34.

Data Source:
U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey (ACS), One-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), 2018.

References:


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