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LATINO DATA PROJECT

CRUDE BIRTH RATES AMONG NEW YORK CITY'S RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUPS AND LATINO NATIONALITIES IN 2002

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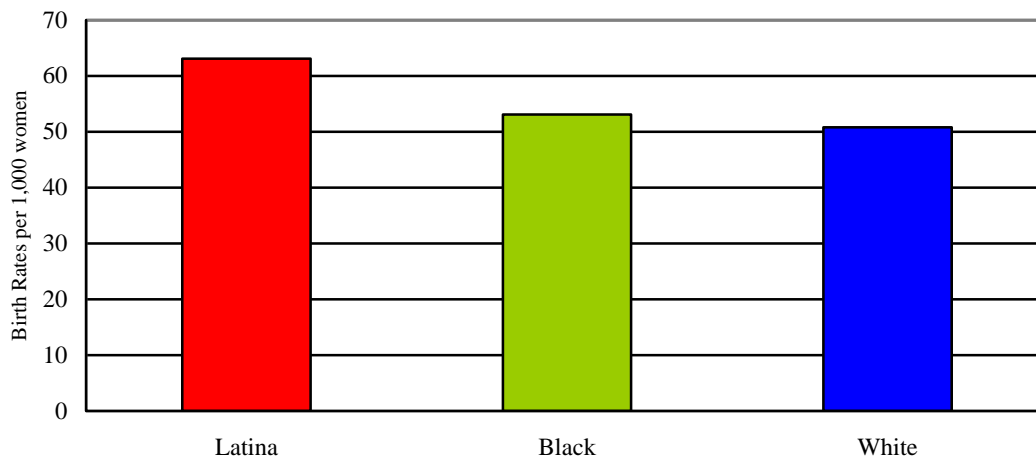
Crude Birth Rates among New York City’s Racial/Ethnic Groups and Latino Nationalities in 2002¹

By Victoria Stone

This report analyzes crude birth rates among women in the three primary racial/ethnic groups, White, Black, and Latina, and further examines birth rates by age-specific groups in the five boroughs of New York City in 2002. In addition, this report presents the crude birth rates for six Latino nationalities: Mexican, Ecuadorian, Dominican, Colombian, Puerto Rican and Cuban. These birth rates are based on live births organized by the ancestry of the mother and are available in the NYC Vital Statistics Report for 2002.

In 2002, birth rates for the general age group between 15 and 50 years of age were highest among Latina women at 63.1 per thousand, followed by Black women at 53.1 per thousand, and were lowest among White women at 50.8 per thousand. (See Figure 1 below.)

Figure 1. Crude Birth Rates among Women by Racial/Ethnic Groups, New York City, 2002



¹ It should be noted that data in this report reflect significantly lower birth rates than the national data analyzed in the report, “Crude Birth Rates and Contraceptive Use, 1990 – 2000”. Despite this disparity, the relative differentials between the groups are significant and relevant. The methodology for calculating crude birth rates is described below. The data examined here was derived from the NYC Vital Statistics 2002 Report and the Census 2000 SF4 table on Sex by Age by race and Latino nationality. The birth rates were calculated by dividing live birth numbers (Vital Statistics report) by total population count by age and racial/ethnic group (Census 2000 data) and multiplying this number by 1000.

Birth Rates by Age-Specific Groups: 15 - 19, 20 - 29, 30 - 39, and 40 - 50 Years of Age

Latina women had higher birth rates than White and Black women for the two youngest age-specific groups; 15 - 19 and 20 - 29. Latina women in the 15 - 19 year old age-specific group had a birth rate of 57.5 per thousand and 116.2 per thousand for 20 - 29 year olds. The second highest crude birth rates were among Black women, at 45.3 per thousand for 15 - 19 year olds and 96.8 per thousand for 20 - 29 year olds. Birth rates were lowest rates among White women, at 11.6 per thousand for 15 - 19 year olds and 64.3 per thousand for 20 - 29 year olds. (See Table 1)

The crude birth rates among 30 - 39 year olds reveal a significant shift between the racial/ethnic groups. These data show that White women in this age-specific group had the highest crude birth rate of all three racial/ethnic groups at 90.6 per thousand. Crude birth rates among Black women in the age-specific group were 64.2 per thousand and were 64 per thousand for Latina women. (See Table 1)

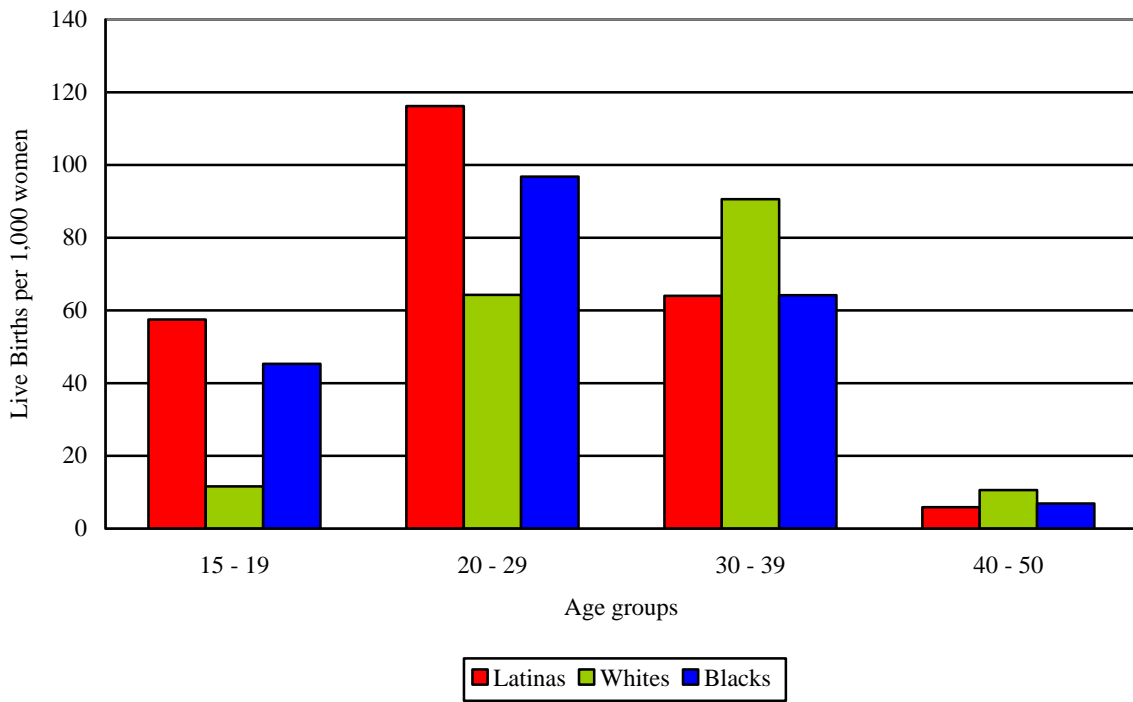
Crude birth rates among women in the 40 - 50 year old age-specific group showed significantly lower rates among all three racial/ethnic groups. White women had the highest rates at 10.6 per thousand, followed by Black women at 6.9 per thousand. Rates were lowest among Latina women at 5.6 per thousand. (See Table 1)

These comparative differentials reveal that while birth rates were higher among Latina women in the general age group between 15 - 50 years of age, Latina women were having children at younger ages than the two other groups. Data also reveal that among Latina women there was a dramatic increase in birth rates between the age groups 15 - 19 and 20 - 29, followed by a dramatic decrease in the 30-39 years olds. While Black women had the second highest crude birth rates among 15 – 50 year olds, the differences in rates, in terms of increase/decrease, between the age-specific groups were not as dramatic as that of Latinas. While birth rates among White women among 15 – 50 year olds were lower than the other two groups, the difference between the age-specific groups was quite dramatic. Among white women, a concentration of births in the 20-29 and 30-39 year old categories may be observed. (See Table 1 and Figure 2).

Table 1. Crude Birth Rates among Women by Racial/Ethnic Groups and by Age-Specific Groups, New York City, 2002

Racial/Ethnic Group	15-19 years of age	20-29 years of age	30-39 years of age	40-50 years of age
Latina	57.5	116.2	64	5.6
Black	45.3	96.8	64.2	6.9
White	11.6	64.3	90.6	10.6

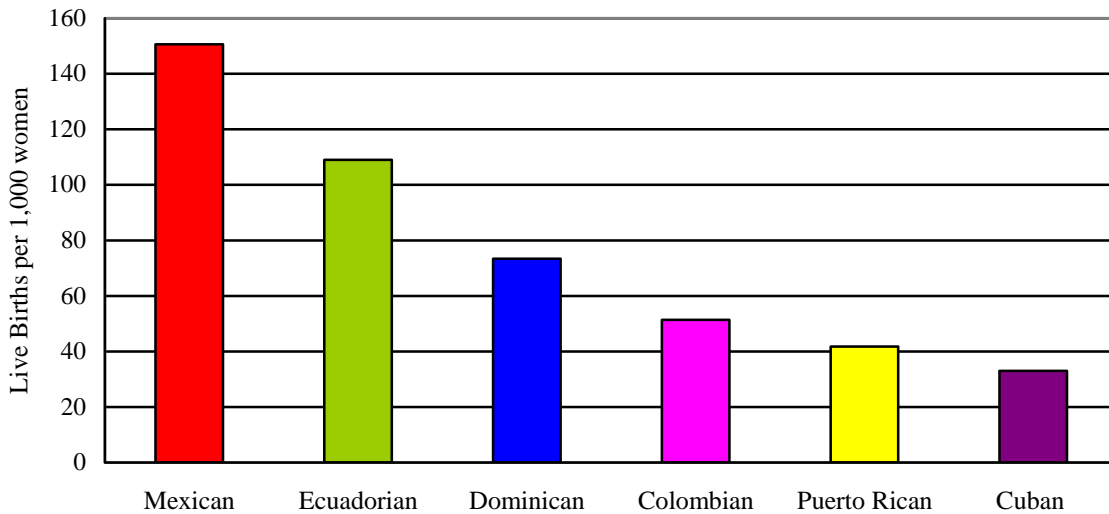
Figure 2. Crude Birth Rates among Women by Racial/Ethnic Groups and by Age-Specific Groups, New York City, 2002



Birth Rates by Latino Nationality

Crude birth rates by ancestry of mother show that in 2002, Mexicans had the highest crude birth rates at 150.6 per thousand women, followed by Ecuadorians at 109 per thousand, Dominicans at 73.4 per thousand, Colombians at 51.4 per thousand, Puerto Rican at 41.8 per thousand, and Cuban at 33 births per thousand. (See Figure 3)

Figure 3. Birth Rates by Ancestry of Mother, New York City, 2002



The comparative differentials between the Latino nationalities are particularly striking. A number of factors may account for these differences. As the rates were derived from the total population between 15 - 50 years of age, part of the explanation for the differences may be explained by a higher concentration of younger women in those national groups with higher birth rates. Data indicate that the overall population of women among Mexicans and Ecuadorians were younger while the Cuban population, with the lowest birth rate, had a higher proportion of older women. Of the total Mexican population of women between 15 and 50 years of age, 57.6% were between the ages of 15 and 29. For

Ecuadorians, 43.2% were between the ages of 15 and 29. For Cubans, 33% of the same were between the ages of 15 and 29. For Dominicans, 40.8%, and for Colombians, 35.2% were between 15 and 29 years of age. While these percentages seem to correspond to the differences in overall birth rates, other factors would need to be considered when examining birth rate data, especially with respect to Puerto Ricans. Among Puerto Ricans, 48.7% of women were between the ages of 15 and 29, yet the birth rate was low relative to the other nationalities. (See Table 2)

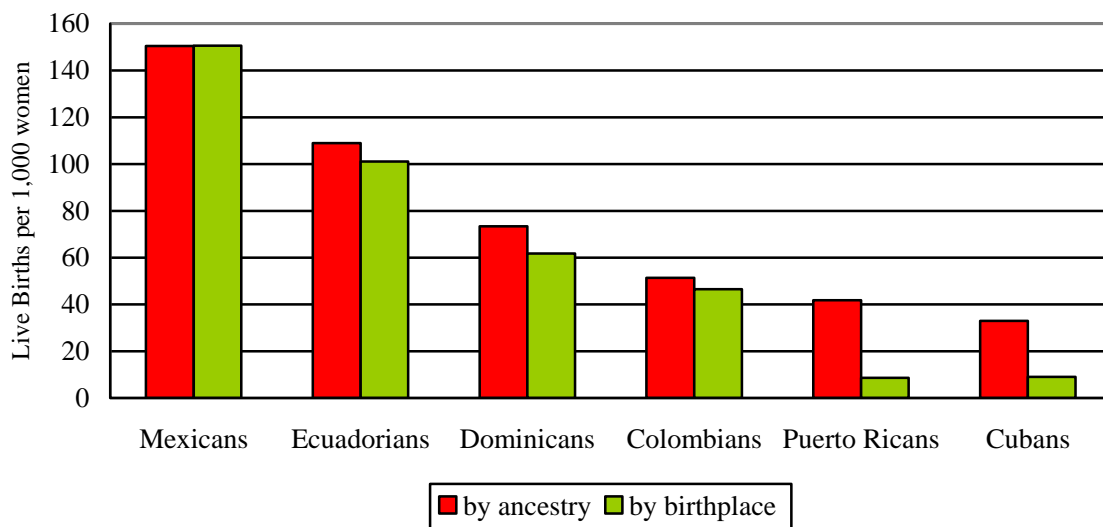
Table 2. Percentages of Women in Age-Specific Groups of Women between 15 and 50 Years of Age

Latino Nationality	15 - 29 years of age	30-50 years of age
Mexican	57.6%	42.2%
Puerto Rican	48.7%	51.3%
Ecuadorian	43.2%	56.8%
Dominican	40.8%	59.2%
Colombian	35.2%	64.8%
Cuban	33.0%	67.0%

These differences may be further explained by the fact that birth rates generally seem to decline among a particular migrant population after it becomes more established in the United States. This is suggested through a comparative examination of two data sets provided by the 2002 New York City Vital Statistics Report. The first data set provided the number of live births organized by the birthplace of the mother and the second calculated live births organized by the ancestry of the mother. Birthrates for each data set are presented in Figure 4. Among women whose place of birth was in Mexico, birth rates were 150.5 per thousand in 2002 and among women with Mexican ancestry birth rates were 150.6 per thousand. This comparative differential suggests that many of the live births counted in the data set organized by the ancestry of the mother were in fact live births by mothers who were actually born in

Mexico and hence a more recent arrival to NYC. Puerto Ricans, being a more established Latino national group in NYC, had higher birth rates in the data set organized by the ancestry of the mother, at 41.8 per thousand, as opposed to birth rates organized by the birthplace of the mother which was 8.6 per thousand. Figure 4 depicts that, overall, women who were born in Latin American countries had higher birth rates than those women with Latino nationality due to ancestry.

Figure 4. Birth Rates by Birthplace and by Ancestry of the Mother, New York City, 2002



Conclusion

These data reveal interesting disparities between racial/ethnic groups within NYC as well as between different Latino nationalities and invoke possibilities for further analysis. However, the characteristics within each group which would account for these overall differences remain to be examined. What can be deduced from these data is that Latina and Black women tend to have children earlier than White women. Among all three racial/ethnic groups there was a higher concentration in births in the 20 - 29 and 30 - 39 age groups. However, both Black and Latina women have much higher birth rates than White women in the 15 - 19 year old age specific group. This general tendency was considered in the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies report “Crude Birth Rates and Contraceptive Use by Racial/Ethnic Group in the U.S. 1990-2000”

(<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/lastudies/birthratesandcontraceptiveuse.pdf>) however no direct comparison between national and city-based data is possible given the different primary resources and methodology, as explained in Footnote 1.

Data Sources

Census 2000. American Fact Finder. Summary File 4. *Sex by age, 1999*

Summary of Vital Statistics 2002, The City of New York. Bureau of Vital Statistics. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Prepared by the Statistical Analysis and Reporting Unit of the Bureau of Vital Statistics: Wenhui Li, PhD, Darlene Kelley, and Joseph Kennedy. December 2003.
Table 30. *Live Births by ancestry of mother and borough of residence, 2002*
Table 31. *Live Births by mother's ethnic group and age, 2002*