
What's Going on with Fertility?

2019 Edition

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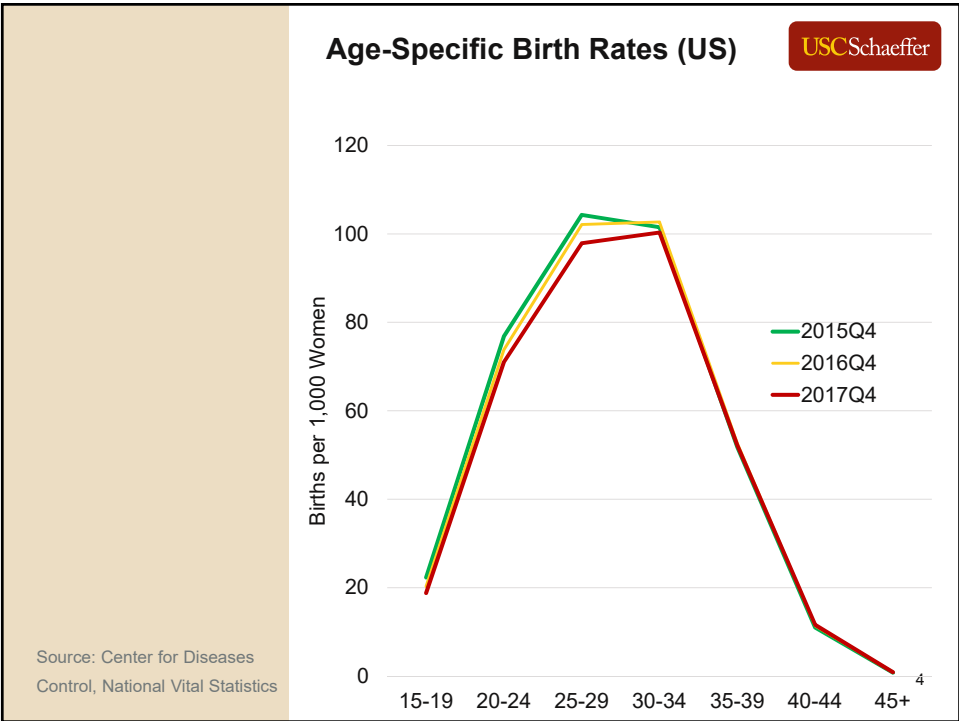
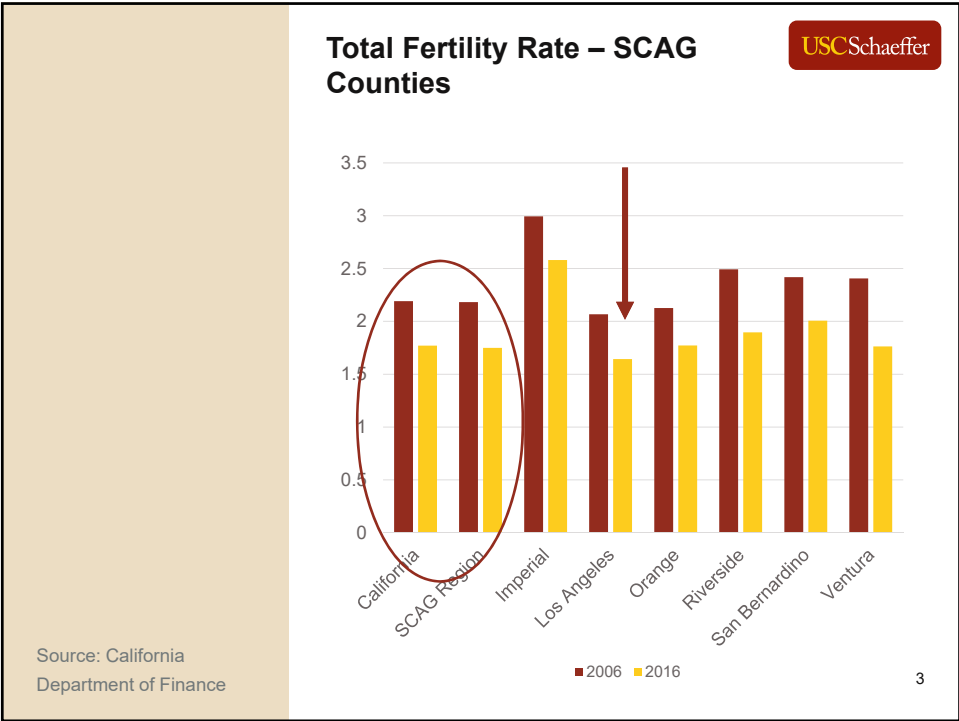
TRT WORLD
Declining US fertility rates 'a cause for alarm'
15 MAY 2019

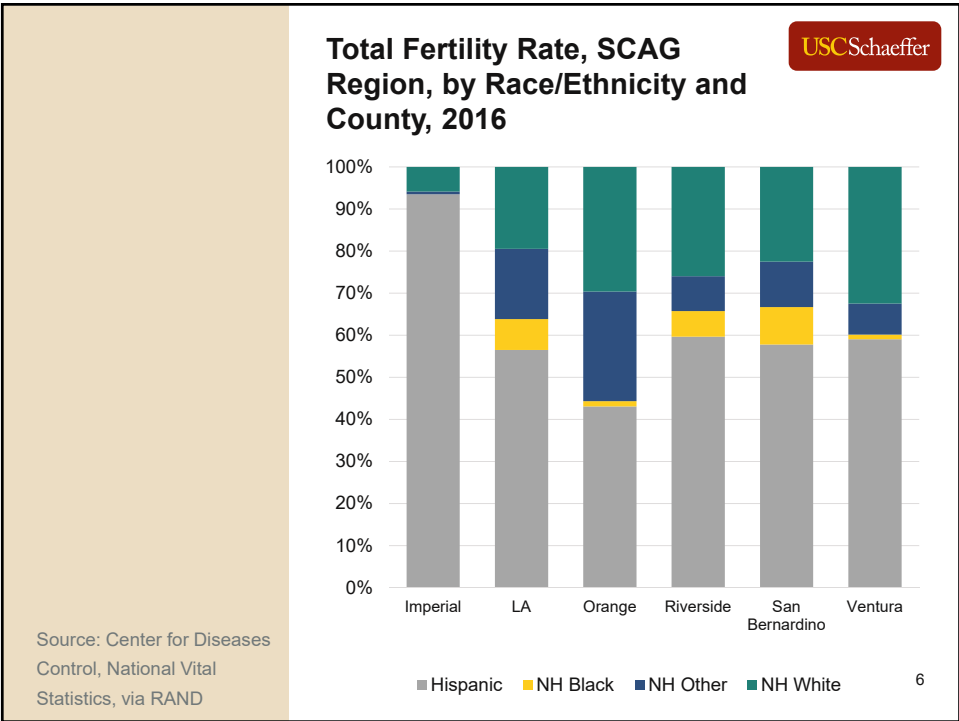
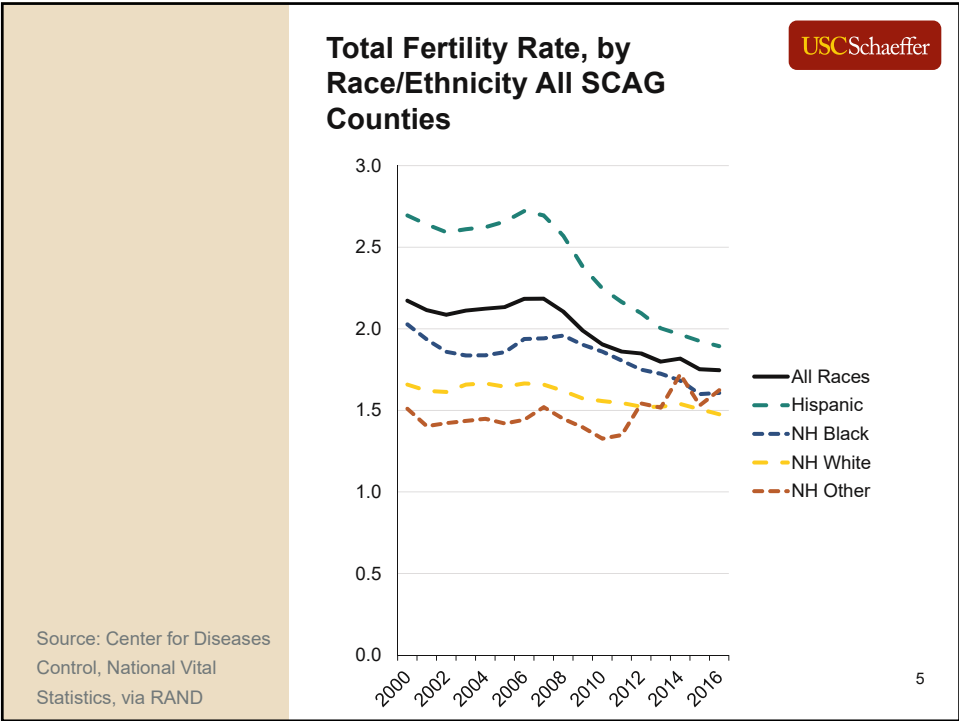
The Atlantic
The Misplaced Fears About the United States' Declining Fertility Rate
Many women may not be abstaining from having children, but simply delaying it.
ALIA WONG MAY 17, 2019

What's going on with fertility?

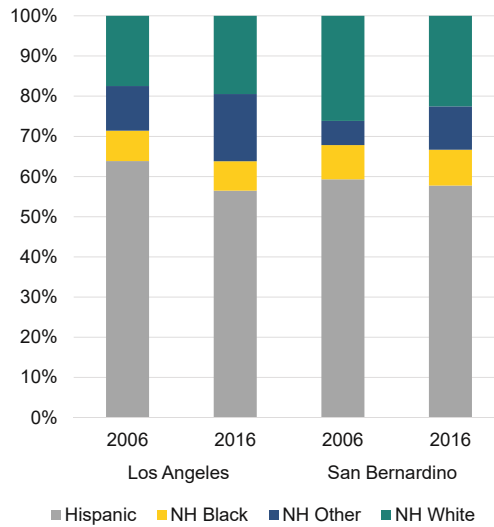
The New York Times
U.S. Birthrate Drops 4th Year in a Row, Possibly Echoing the Great Recession

TIME
It May Not Be a Bad Thing Fewer U.S. Babies Were Born in 2018 Than in Any Year Since 1986





Total Fertility Rate, by Race/Ethnicity LA and San Bernardino, 2006 & 2016



Source: Center for Diseases Control, National Vital Statistics, via RAND

What are the explanations...?

- Recession/financial (in)security
- Mismatch of entry-level jobs and affordable housing
- More people seeking higher education
- Delayed marriage and childbearing
- Cost of living (and children!) is high
- Changes in cultural expectations of parenthood
- Lack of supportive workplace policy
- Lack of public policies

So what?

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Positives:

- Older mothers have children with better socioeconomic outcomes
- Result of better birth control, fewer teen pregnancies & lower child mortality

Drawbacks:

- Shrinking future workforce combined with aging current workforce
- Delay could result in no children for some

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What can be done?

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- Child care subsidies +
- Baby bonus +
- Parental leave +
- Maternity leave only ?
- Part-time work +
- School schedules ?
- But...differences across socioeconomic background

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In sum...

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- Fertility declining across geography, race and age group
- Disagreement on whether declining fertility should be disconcerting
- BUT...if the reason women are not realizing desired fertility has to do with barriers to fertility, there may be some solutions

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