

# Age-Specific Birth Rates

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# Age-Specific Birth Rates (ASBRs)

- May be defined for any population, time period, and partition of the reproductive age span into age groups
- By convention, they refer to *all* births to *females*
- Usually produced for five year age groups 15-19, 20-24, ..., 45-49

# Definition of ASBRs

- To define we specify the *numerator* and *denominator*
- The numerator of an ASBR is *all births to women in the given age group during the given time period*
- The denominator is *person years lived by women in the given age group during the given time period*

# Empirical Patterns

- Low at age 15-19, rise to a peak at 20-24 or 25-29, then decline to low values at 45-49
- In high fertility populations, rise tends to be rapid and early and decline slow
- In low fertility populations rise may be rapid, but tends to be later, and decline begins at once

# Influences on Age Pattern

- When fertility occurs mainly in marriage, proportions married exert a strong influence on pattern
- The rise in the early portion of the reproductive span reflects increasing proportions married
- Declines in the later portion indicate secondary sterility and contraceptive use

Questions?  
Comments?  
Discussion?