

# Section E

## THE CHANGING PORTRAIT OF TEEN CHILDBEARING OVER TIME

### KEY DATA FROM SECTION E

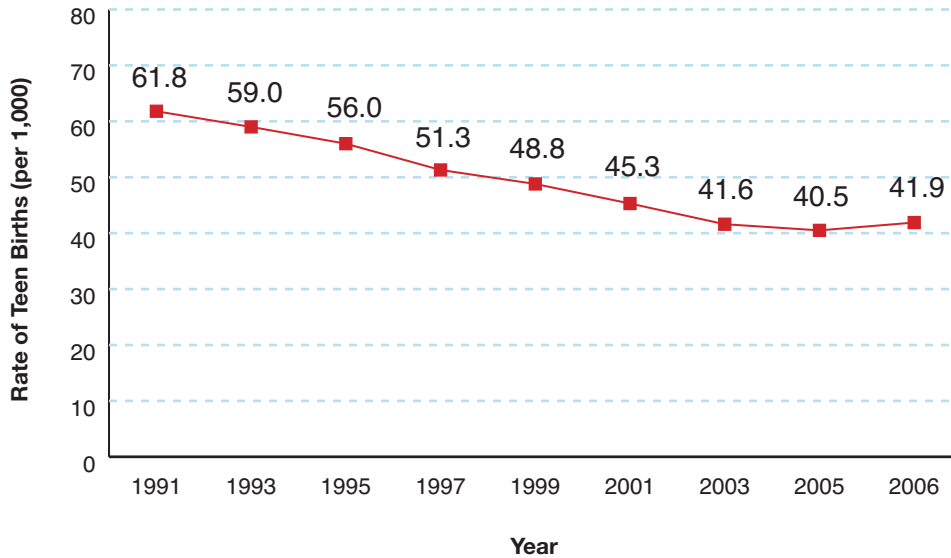
- ▲ Non-Hispanic white teens account for the largest share of teen births. However, since 1991, the proportion of teen births that are to non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black teens has decreased while the proportion of teen births that are to Hispanic teens has increased.
- ▲ While the proportion of teen births that are to foreign born teens remains relatively low, it has increased over time, from 12% in 1991 to 17% in 2006.
- ▲ More than 8 out of 10 (84%) births to teen girls in 2006 were to unmarried teens compared to 69% of teen births that were to unmarried teens in 1991.
- ▲ Among older teens (age 18 to 19) giving birth, there has been a steady increase in the proportion who had graduated from high school at the time of the birth, rising from 44% to 50% between 1991 to 2006.
- ▲ 7 out of 10 (70%) teen births were to girls who report starting prenatal care in the first three months of their pregnancy in 2006 compared to less than two-thirds (57%) of teen births in 1991.

This section provides a portrait of teen births among girls age 15–19 in the United States, from 1991 to 2006. More specifically, the section explores the distribution of teens giving birth by age, race/ethnicity, nativity, marital status, and education, as well as the proportion of teen births that are low birth weight and are premature. Results are based on data provided by the National Center for Health Statistics, as reported on birth certificates, and thus the characteristics included here are limited to items that are reported on the birth certificate consistently over time.

Examining the faces of teen childbearing can help the teen pregnancy prevention field as well as the pregnant and parenting teen field better understand the extent to which the populations they serve are changing over time.

## E-1. Teen Birth Rate, Age 15–19, 1991–2006<sup>1</sup>

- ▲ Between 1991 and 2005, the teen birth rate decreased 34% to a record low of 40.5 births per 1,000 teen girls age 15–19 in 2005. However, between 2005 and 2006 the teen birth rate increased by 3%, to a rate of 41.9.

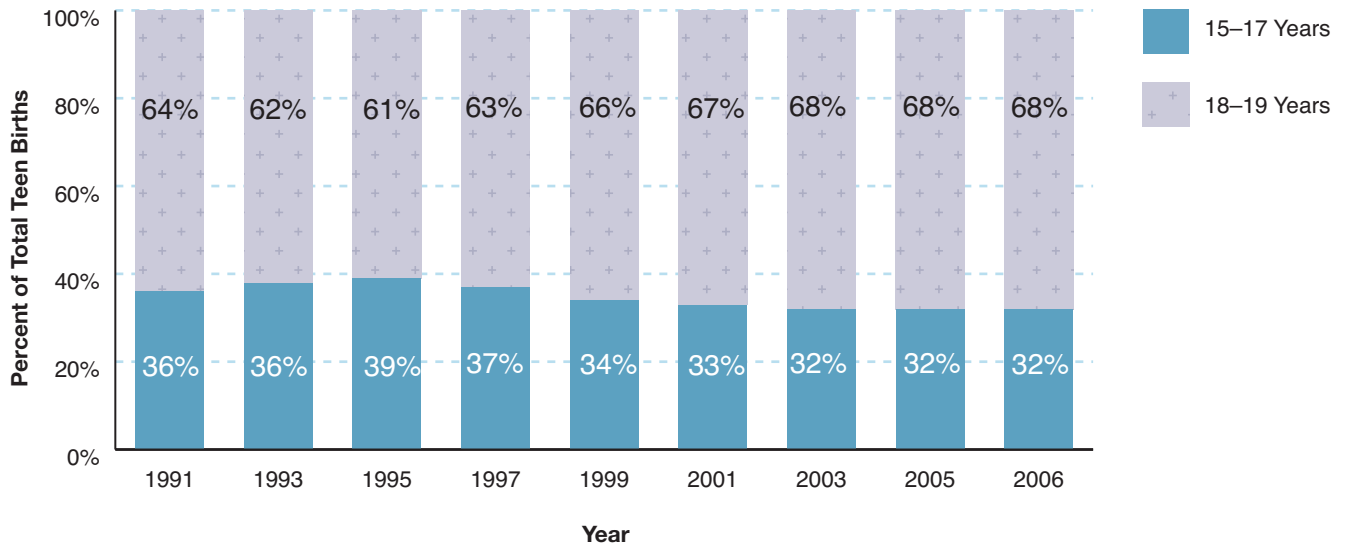


Teen Birth Rate, Age 15–19, 1991–2006			
Year	Number of Births to Teens Age 15–19	Population of Teen Girls 15–19	Teen Birth Rate Per 1,000 Girls Age 15–19
1991	519,577	8,371,000	61.8
1993	501,093	8,409,736	59.0
1995	499,873	8,799,492	56.0
1997	483,220	9,241,412	51.3
1999	476,050	9,596,928	48.8
2001	445,944	9,843,981	45.3
2003	414,580	9,959,789	41.6
2005	414,593	10,248,766	40.5
2006	435,436	10,389,322	41.9

1. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

## E-2. Distribution of Teen Births by Age, 1991–2006<sup>2</sup>

- ▲ Over the last 15 years, births to teens age 18–19 have consistently accounted for the majority of all teen births.
- ▲ In fact, the proportion of teen births that are to teens age 18–19 has increased from 64% in 1991 to 68% in 2006 while the proportion of teen births that are to teens age 15–17 decreased from 36% in 1991 to 32% in 2006.

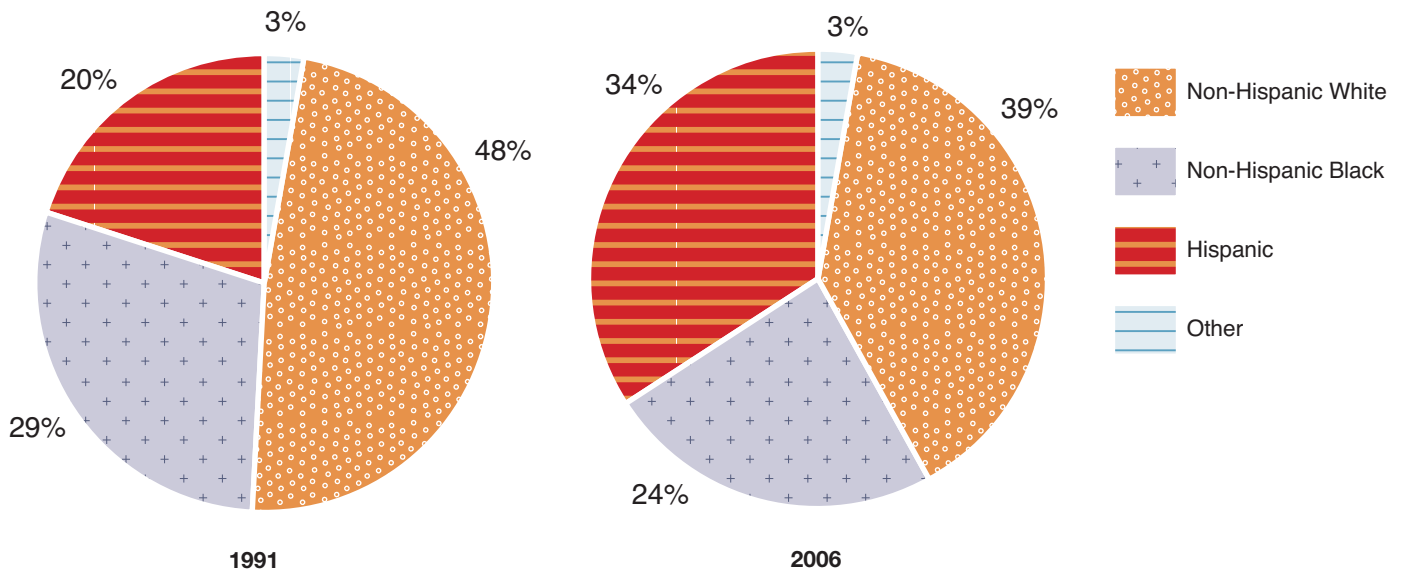


Distribution of Teen Births by Age, 1991–2006						
Year	Number of Births to Teens Age 15–17	Number of Births to Teens Age 18–19	Total Number of Births to Teens Age 15–19	Percent of Teen Births to Teens Age 15–17	Percent of Teen Births to Teens Age 18–19	Total Percent of Teen Births
1991	188,226	331,351	519,577	36%	64%	100%
1993	190,535	310,558	501,093	38%	62%	100%
1995	192,508	307,365	499,873	39%	61%	100%
1997	180,154	303,066	483,220	37%	63%	100%
1999	163,588	312,462	476,050	34%	66%	100%
2001	145,324	300,620	445,944	33%	67%	100%
2003	134,384	280,196	414,580	32%	68%	100%
2005	133,191	281,402	414,593	32%	68%	100%
2006	138,943	296,493	435,436	32%	68%	100%

2. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

### E-3. Distribution of Teen Births (Age 15–19) by Race/Ethnicity, 1991 and 2006<sup>3</sup>

- ▲ Non-Hispanic white teens account for the largest share of teen births. Yet, since 1991 the proportion of teen births that are to non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black teens has decreased, while the proportion of teen births that are to Hispanic teens has increased.
- ▲ A little over one-third (34%) of all teen births in 2006 were to Hispanic teens compared to one-fifth (20%) of all teen births in 1991.



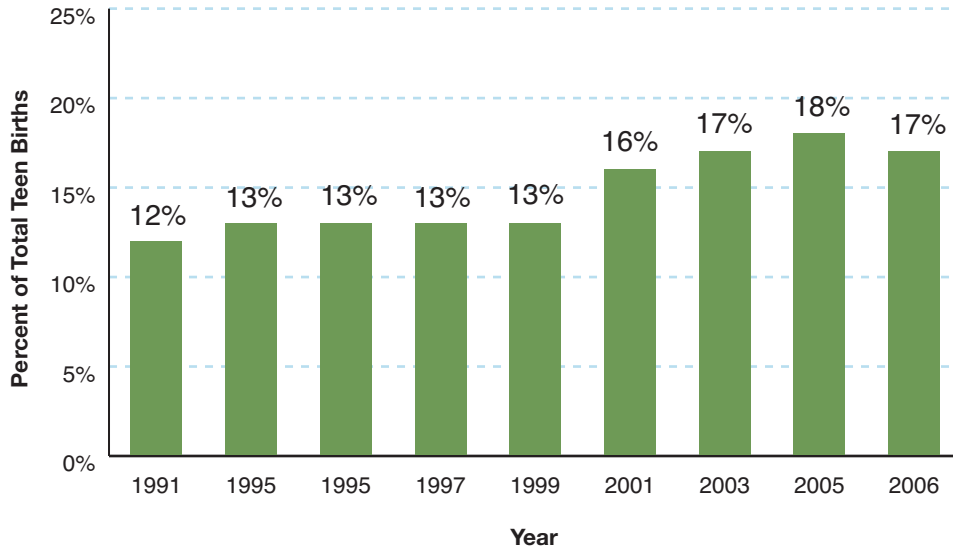
Distribution of Teen Births (Age 15-19) by Race/Ethnicity <sup>4</sup> , 1991 and 2006				
Race	Number of Births by Race/Ethnicity, 1991	Distribution of Teen Births by Race/Ethnicity, 1991	Number of Births by Race/Ethnicity, 2006	Distribution of Teen Births by Race/Ethnicity, 2006
Non-Hispanic White	246,570	48%	169,729	39%
Non-Hispanic Black	148,342	29%	103,725	24%
Hispanic	104,651	20%	145,669	34%
Other	14,924	3%	13,657	3%
Total	514,487	100%	432,780	100%

3. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

4. The total number of teen births by race/ethnicity do not reflect the total number of teen births in a given year as previously shown due to the number of "not stated."

### E-4. Proportion of Teen Births that are to Foreign Born Teens (Age 15–19), 1991–2006<sup>5</sup>

- ▲ While remaining relatively low, there was an increase in the proportion of teen births that occurred to foreign born teen girls between 1991 and 2006.
- ▲ In 2006, nearly 1 in 5 (17%) teen births occurred to a foreign born teen as compared to about 1 in 8 (12%) in 1991.

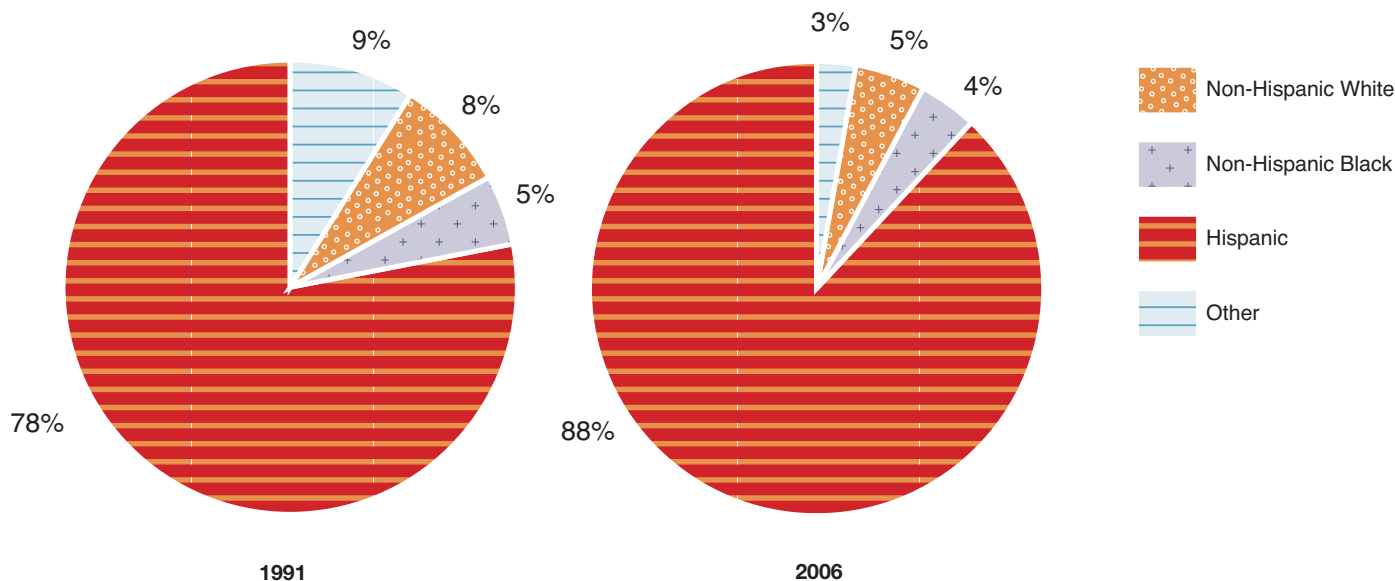


Proportion of Teen Births that are to Foreign Born Teens (Age 15–19), 1991–2006									
	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2006
Total Number of Teen Births	519,577	501,093	499,873	483,220	476,050	445,944	414,580	414,593	435,436
Number of Births to Foreign Born Teens	61,723	63,568	64,745	61,385	63,679	72,978	71,070	72,942	75,656
Proportion of Teen Births that are to Foreign Born Teens	12%	13%	13%	13%	13%	16%	17%	18%	17%

5. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

## E-5. Among Births to Foreign Born Teens (Age 15–19), Distribution by Race/Ethnicity of Mother, 1991 and 2006<sup>6</sup>

- ▲ For the majority of births to foreign born teens, the mother’s race/ethnicity is Hispanic.
- ▲ In 1991, nearly 8 out of 10 (78%) births to foreign born teens were to Hispanic teen girls. By 2006, this share had risen to nearly 9 out of 10 (88%). During the same time period the share of foreign born births that were to non-Hispanic white or non-Hispanic black teens decreased.



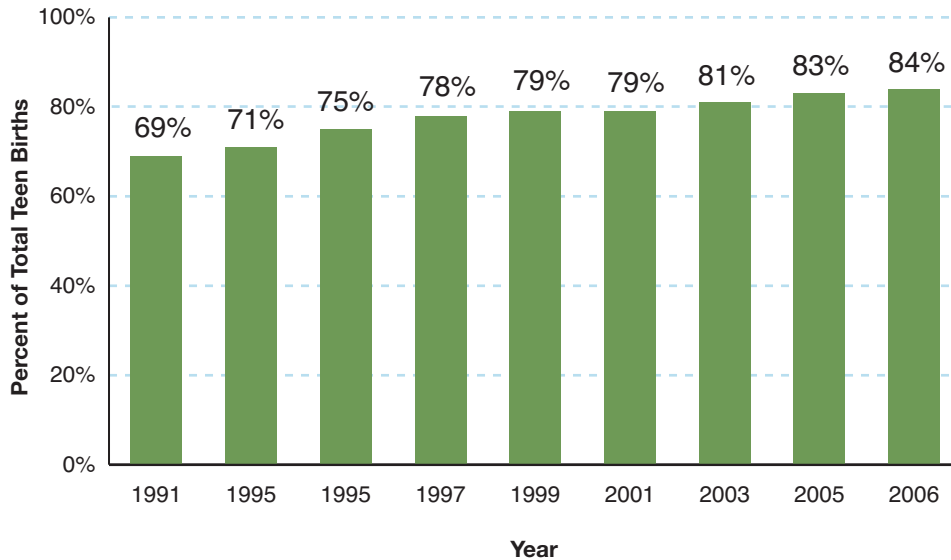
Race/Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
Number of Births to Foreign Born Teens by Race/Ethnicity 1991	4,686	3,283	47,992	5,418	61,379
Distribution of Births to Foreign Born Teens by Race/Ethnicity, 1991	8%	5%	78%	9%	100%
Number of Births to Foreign Born Teens by Race/Ethnicity, 2006	3,595	3,172	66,106	2,514	75,387
Distribution of Births to Foreign Born Teens by Race/Ethnicity, 2006	5%	4%	88%	3%	100%

6. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

7. The total number of teen births by race/ethnicity do not reflect the total number of teen births in a given year as previously shown due to the number of “not stated.”

## E-6. Proportion of Teen Births that are to Unmarried Teens (Age 15–19), 1991–2006<sup>8</sup>

- ▲ Between 1991 and 2006, the proportion of teens that were unmarried when they gave birth increased substantially (by 22%).
- ▲ In fact, in 2006 more than 8 out of 10 (84%) births to teen girls were to unmarried teens, compared to approximately two-thirds (69%) of teen births in 1991.

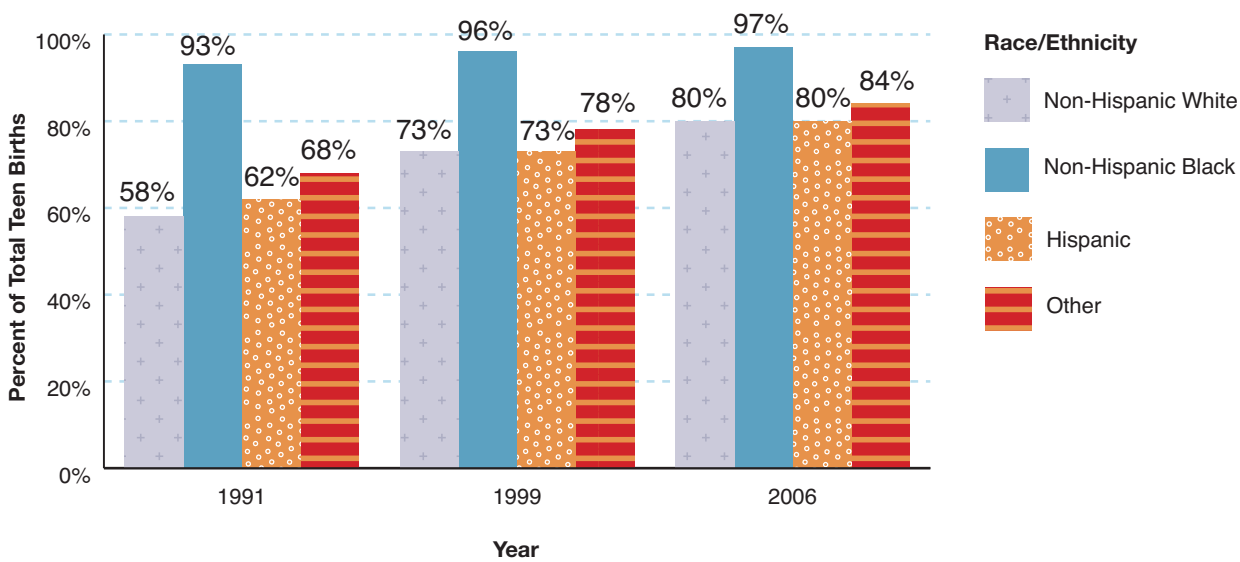


Proportion of Teen Births that are to Unmarried Teens (Age 15–19), 1991–2006									
	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2006
Number of Births to Unmarried Teens	357,483	357,432	375,738	376,117	374,448	352,026	337,201	345,413	366,588
Total Number of Teen Births	519,577	501,093	499,873	483,220	476,050	445,944	414,580	414,593	435,436
Proportion of Teen Births to Unmarried Teens	69%	71%	75%	78%	79%	79%	81%	83%	84%

8. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

## E-7. Proportion of Teen Births that are to Unmarried Teens (Age 15–19) by Race/Ethnicity, 1991–2006<sup>9</sup>

- ▲ Across all racial/ethnic groups the proportion of teen births that are to unmarried teen girls has increased from 1991 to 2006.
- ▲ In fact, the proportion of teen births that occurred outside of marriage increased measurably among non-Hispanic white teens (from 58% to 80%), among Hispanic teens (from 62% to 80%), and among teens from other racial/ethnic groups (from 68% to 84%) between 1991 to 2006. The proportion of teen births to unmarried teens also increased among non-Hispanic black teens (from 93% to 97%), although the change was more modest—in part because the proportion was comparatively high to begin with.



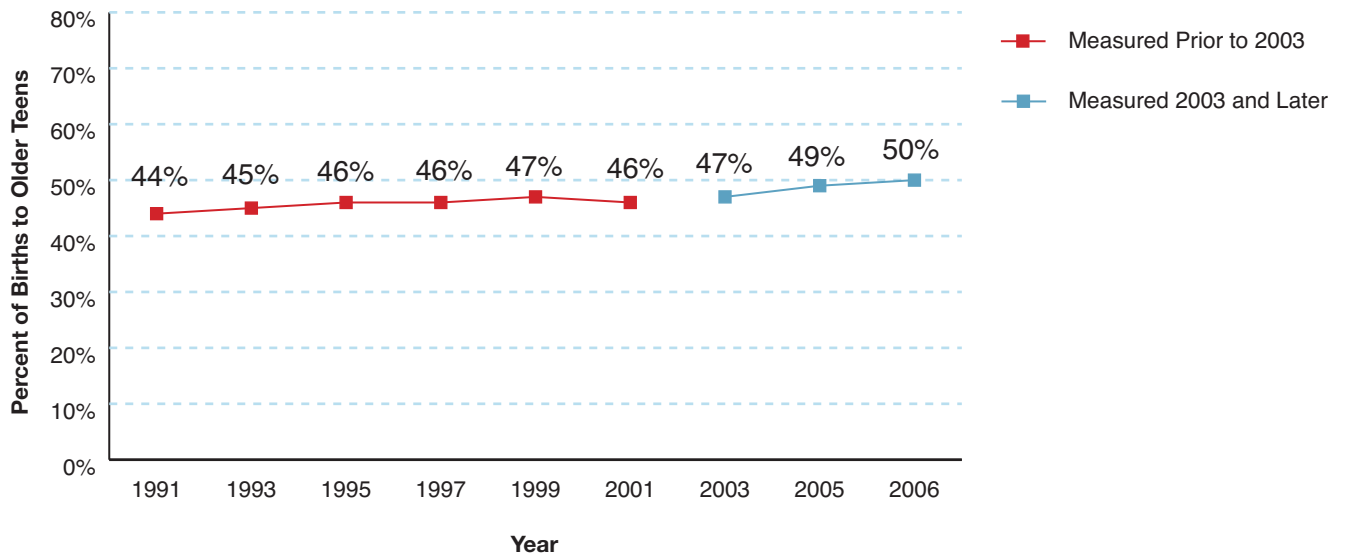
9. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

10. The total number of teen births by race/ethnicity do not reflect the total number of teen births in a given year as previously shown due to the number of “not stated.”

Proportion of Teen Births that are to Unmarried Teens (Age 15–19) by Race/Ethnicity <sup>10</sup> , 1991 and 2006									
Race	1991			1999			2006		
	Total Number of Teen Births	Number of Births to Unmarried Teens	Proportion of Teen Births to Unmarried Teens	Total Number of Teen Births	Number of Births to Unmarried Teens	Proportion of Teen Births to Unmarried Teens	Total Number of Teen Births	Number of Births to Unmarried Teens	Proportion of Teen Births to Unmarried Teens
Non-Hispanic White	246,570	142,596	58%	219,857	155,795	73%	169,729	134,685	80%
Non-Hispanic Black	148,342	137,174	93%	125,343	120,098	96%	103,725	100,473	97%
Hispanic	104,651	64,031	62%	118,122	84,594	73%	145,669	117,712	80%
Other	14,924	10,119	68%	14,959	10,861	78%	13,657	11,427	84%
Total	514,487	353,920	69%	478,281	411,947	86%	432,780	364,297	84%

### E-8. Among Births to Older Teens (Age 18–19), Proportion of Teens Who Had Graduated From High School at the Time of the Birth, 1991–2006<sup>11,12</sup>

- ▲ A steadily growing proportion of older teen mothers (age 18–19) had graduated from high school at the time of the birth from 1991 to 2006. While there were changes in reporting between 2002 and 2003, this increase is evident from 1991 to 2001, and from 2003 to 2006.<sup>13</sup>
- ▲ In 1991, only 42% of births to older teens were to girls who had graduated from high school by the time they gave birth, compared to 50% in 2006.



Among Births to Older Teens (Age 18–19), Proportion of Teens Who Had Graduated From High School at the Time of the Birth, 1991–2006									
	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2006
Number of Births to Teens (Age 18–19) Who Graduated	138,288	137,846	139,121	137,194	142,498	138,180	124,473	90,180	72,879
Total Number of Births to Teens Age 18–19 <sup>14</sup>	313,468	305,776	302,665	298,456	307,107	296,029	263,250	184,212	146,336
Proportion of Births to Teens Who Graduated High School	44%	45%	46%	46%	46%	47%	47%	49%	50%

11. Please note: Vital Statistics measures completed years of education at the time of the birth, and does not necessarily reflect whether a person eventually completes high school.

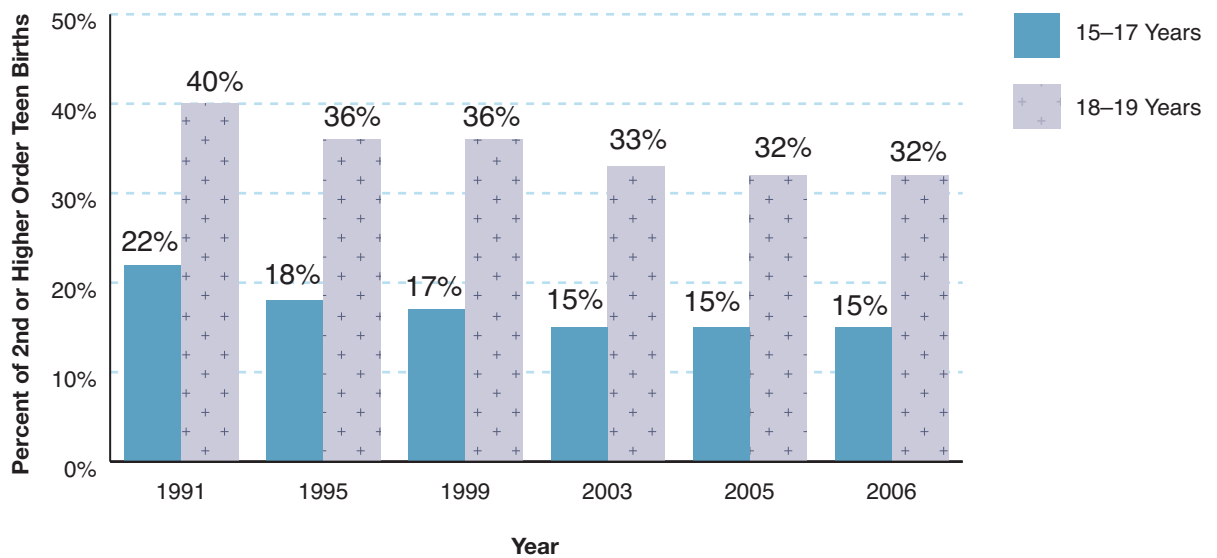
12. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

13. Data for educational attainment, prenatal care, and tobacco use, although collected on both the revised and unrevised certificates, are not considered comparable between revisions (2003–2006).

14. Please note that the denominator has been adjusted to exclude those births for which no response was given to the question regarding education attainment on the birth certificate.

## E-9: Proportion of Teen Births that are Second or Higher Order Births by Age, 1991–2006<sup>15</sup>

- ▲ The proportion of teen births that are second or higher order has steadily decreased for younger (age 15–17) and older teens (age 18–19).
- ▲ In fact, 15% of teen births to younger teens were second or higher order births in 2006 compared to 22% in 1991.
- ▲ Although a substantially higher proportion of teen births to older teens are second or higher order births compared to younger teens, the proportion of second or higher births to older teens also decreased from 1991 to 2006 (40% vs. 32% respectively).

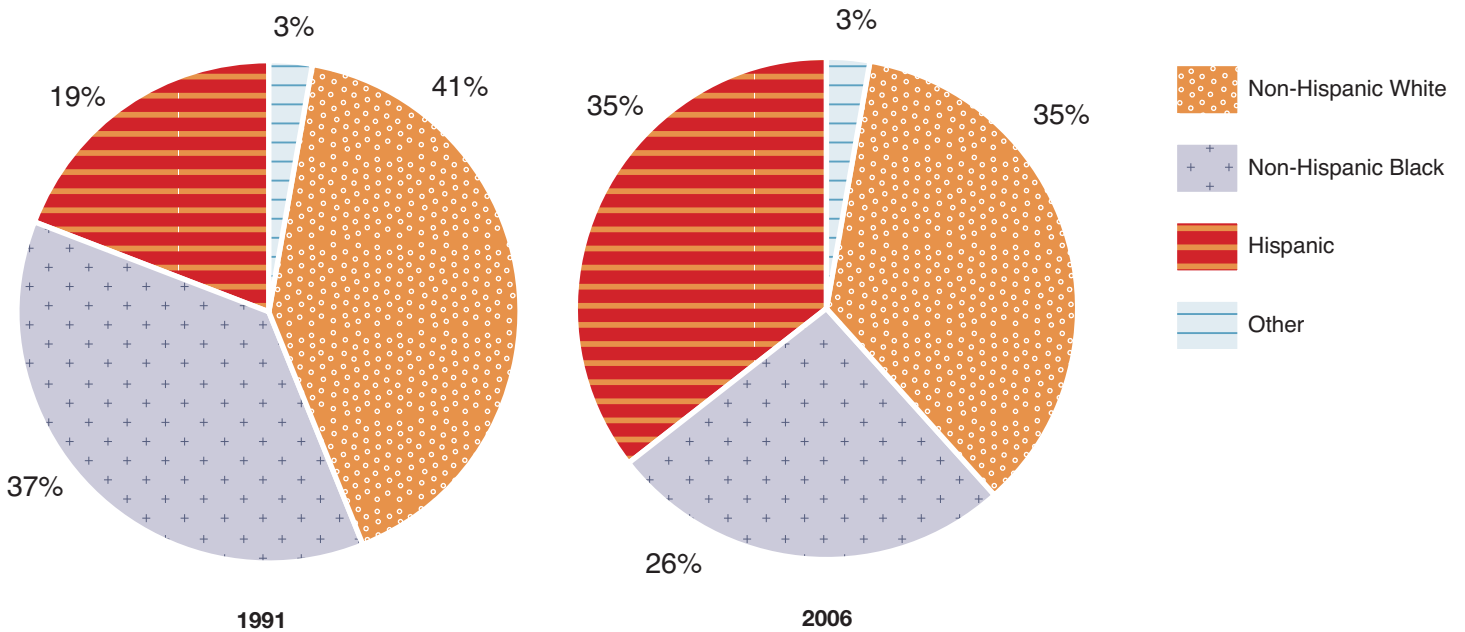


Proportion of Teen Births that are Second or Higher Order Births by Age, 1991–2006						
	1991	1995	1999	2003	2005	2006
Total Number of Births to Teens Age 15–17	188,226	192,508	163,588	134,384	133,191	138,943
Number of Births that are Second or Higher Order Births to Teens Age 15–17	39,937	34,887	27,089	20,669	19,669	20,568
Proportion of Births that are Second or Higher Order Births to Teens Age 15–17	22%	18%	17%	15%	15%	15%
Total Number of Births to Teens Age 18–19	331,351	307,365	312,462	280,196	281,402	296,493
Number of Births that are Second or Higher Order Births to Teens Age 18–19	131,561	111,159	111,787	92,840	90,771	94,813
Proportion of Births that are Second or Higher Order Births to Teens Age 18–19	40%	36%	36%	33%	32%	32%

15. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

## E-10: Among Second or Higher Order Births to Teens Age 15–19, Distribution by Race/Ethnicity of Mother, 1991 and 2006<sup>16</sup>

- ▲ In 1991, second or higher order teen births to non-Hispanic white teens accounted for the largest share of second or higher order teen births by race/ethnicity. In fact, 41% of second or higher order teen births were to Non-Hispanic white teen girls. By 2006, this proportion had decreased to 35%, and was no longer the largest share.
- ▲ During the same time period the share of second or higher order teen births that were to Hispanic teens increased from 19% in 1991 to 35% in 2006.



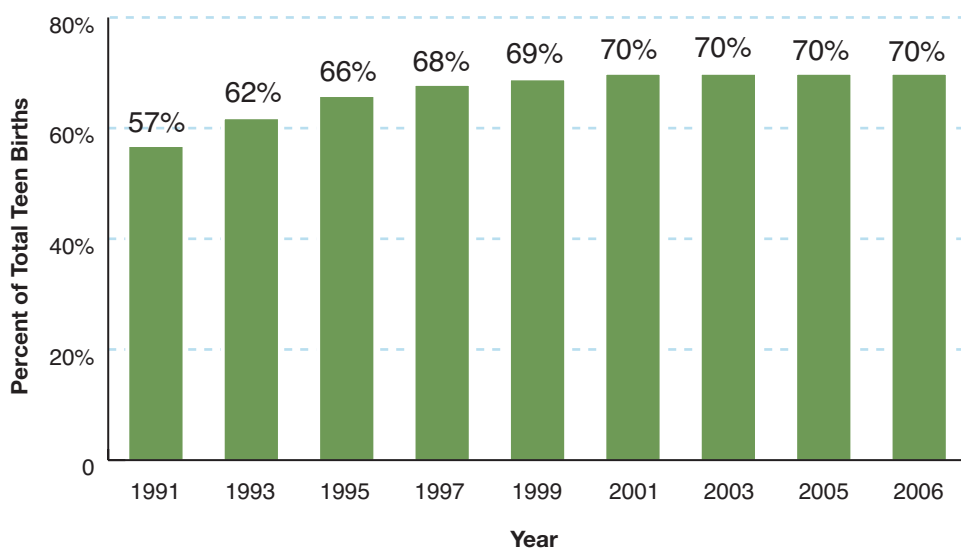
Among Second or Higher Order Births to Teens Age 15–19, Distribution by Race/Ethnicity of Mother, 1991 and 2006					
Race/Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
Number of Teen Births that are Second or Higher Order Births by Race/Ethnicity 1991	69,887	62,673	32,474	4,945	169,979
Distribution of Teen Births that are Second or Higher Order Births by Race/Ethnicity, 1991 <sup>17</sup>	41%	37%	19%	3%	100%
Number of Teen Births that are Second or Higher Order Births by Race/Ethnicity, 2006	40,135	30,238	40,516	3,801	114,690
Distribution of Teen Births that are Second or Higher Order Births by Race/Ethnicity, 2006	35%	26%	35%	3%	100%

16. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

17. Note that due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100%.

## E-11. Proportion of Births to Teens (Age 15–19) who Received Prenatal Care in the First Trimester,<sup>18</sup> 1991–2006<sup>19,20</sup>

- ▲ Prenatal visits are an important opportunity for helping to prevent poor birth outcomes and improve maternal health.<sup>21</sup>
- ▲ Since 1991, the proportion of births to teens who received prenatal care in the first trimester has increased. However, between 2001 and 2006, there has been relatively little change.
- ▲ In 2006, 70% of teen births were to teens who received prenatal care in the first three months of their pregnancy compared to less than two-thirds (57%) in 1991.



Proportion of Births to Teens (Age 15–19) who Received Prenatal Care in First Trimester, 1991–2006									
	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2006
Number of Births to Teens Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester	286,417	302,199	322,346	319,387	317,423	300,892	273,266	190,420	184,763
Total Number of Teen Births	506,286	488,126	486,521	468,659	460,364	433,246	391,853	273,985	264,126
Proportion of Births to Teens Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester	57%	62%	66%	68%	69%	70%	70%	70%	70%

18. The first trimester is comprised of the first three months of a pregnancy.

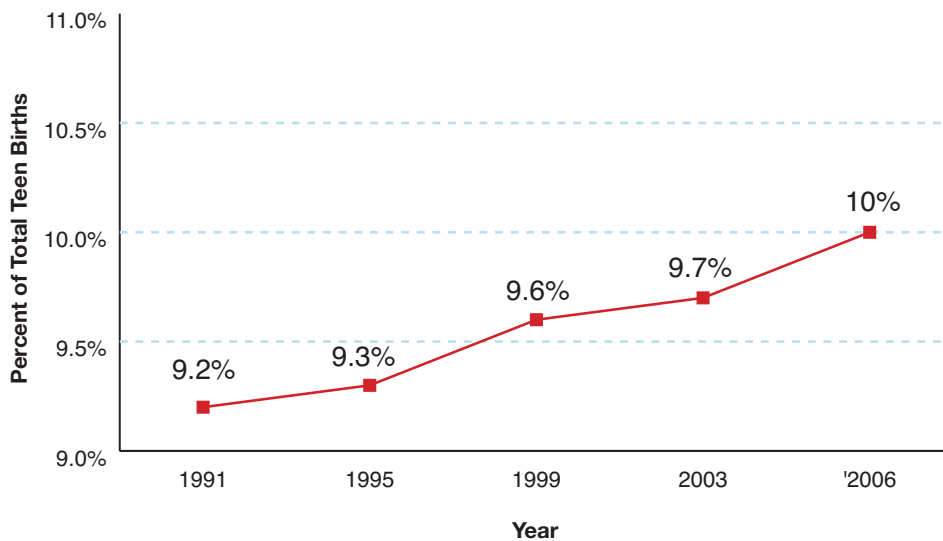
19. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

20. Please note that the denominator has been adjusted to exclude births for which no response was given to the question regarding prenatal care on the birth certificate.

21. The Healthy People 2010 prenatal goal is to increase the percent of infants born to pregnant women receiving prenatal care beginning in the first trimester to 90.0%. Please refer to <http://www.healthypeople.gov/> for more information.

## E-12. Proportion of Teen Births (Age 15–19) that are Low Birth-Weight,<sup>22</sup> 1991–2006<sup>23</sup>

- ▲ The proportion of teen births that are low birth-weight has changed by less than a percentage point since 1991.
- ▲ Being born at low birth weight is closely linked to childhood morbidity,<sup>24</sup> and increased risk of numerous infant health problems, such as lung and kidney problems. Babies born at low birth weight also often have trouble maintaining their own body temperatures.<sup>25</sup>
- ▲ Compared to other age groups, teen girls have the second highest proportion of low birth weight babies (second to mothers age 45 or older).<sup>24</sup>
- ▲ The proportion of teen births that are low birth weight is relatively similar for younger and older teens (not shown).



Proportion of Teen Births (Age 15–19) that are Low Birth Weight, 1991–2006					
Year	1991	1995	1999	2003	2006
Number of Teen Births that are Low Birth-Weight	48,195	46,511	45,604	40,211	43,369
Total Number of Teen Births	519,577	499,873	476,050	414,580	435,436
Proportion of Teen Births that are Low Birth Weight	9.2%	9.3%	9.6%	9.7%	10.0%

22. Low birth weight is less than 2,500 grams at birth.

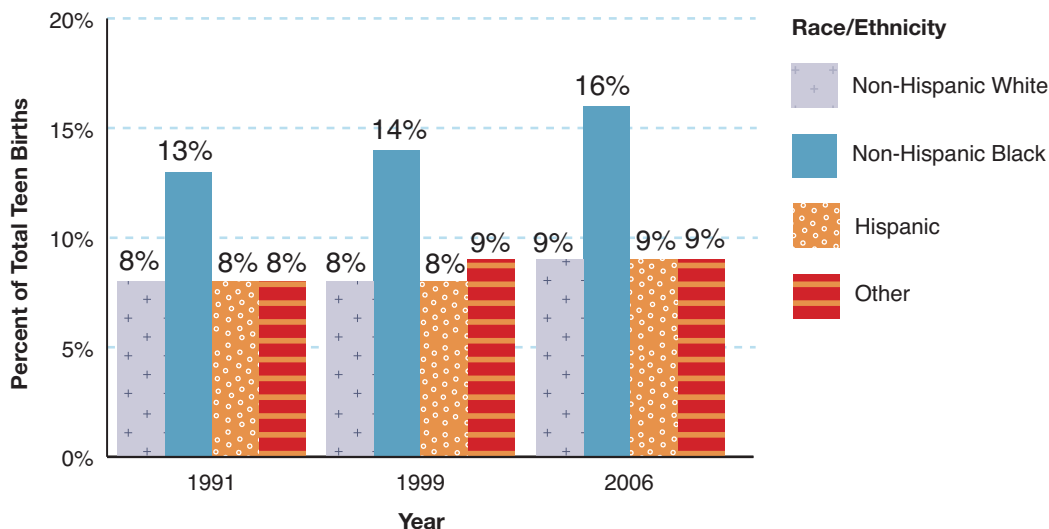
23. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

24. Source: Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Sutton PD, Ventura SJ, et al (2009). National Center for Health Statistics: Births: Final data for 2006. National vital statistics reports; vol 57 no 7. (page 18). Hyattsville, MD.

25. Source: Stevens, L. (2002). JAMA Patient Page: Low Birth Weight. Journal of the American Medical Association; vol 287 no 2. <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/287/2/270.pdf> [July 2009].

### E-13. Proportion of Teen Births (Age 15–19) that are Low Birth Weight<sup>26</sup> by Race/Ethnicity, 1991–2006<sup>27</sup>

- ▲ There are large racial/ethnic disparities in the percent of teen births that are low birth weight. Non-Hispanic black teens have the highest proportion teen births that are low weight.
- ▲ In fact, while the proportion of teen births to teen mothers that are low birth weight remained relatively constant over time among non-Hispanic white teens, Hispanic teens, and teens from other racial/ethnic groups, it increased from 13% in 1991 to 16% in 2006 among non-Hispanic black teens.



Proportion of Teen Births (Age 15–19) that are Low Birth Weight by Race/Ethnicity <sup>28</sup> , 1991–2006									
Race	1991			1999			2006		
	Number of Low Weight Births to Teens	Total Number of Teen Births	Proportion of Teen Births That are Low Birth Weight	Number of Low Weight Births to Teens	Total Number of Teen Births	Proportion of Teen Births that are Low Birth Weight	Number of Low Weight Births to Teens	Total Number of Teen Births	Proportion of Teen Births that are Low Birth Weight
Non-Hispanic White	18,791	246,570	8%	17,821	212,923	8%	15,079	169,729	9%
Non-Hispanic Black	19,828	148,342	13%	16,256	118,285	14%	15,025	103,725	16%
Hispanic	7,841	104,651	8%	9,635	124,677	8%	11,801	145,669	9%
Other	1,253	14,924	8%	1,431	15,490	9%	1,181	13,657	9%
Total	47,713	514,487	9%	45,143	471,375	10%	41,905	432,780	10%

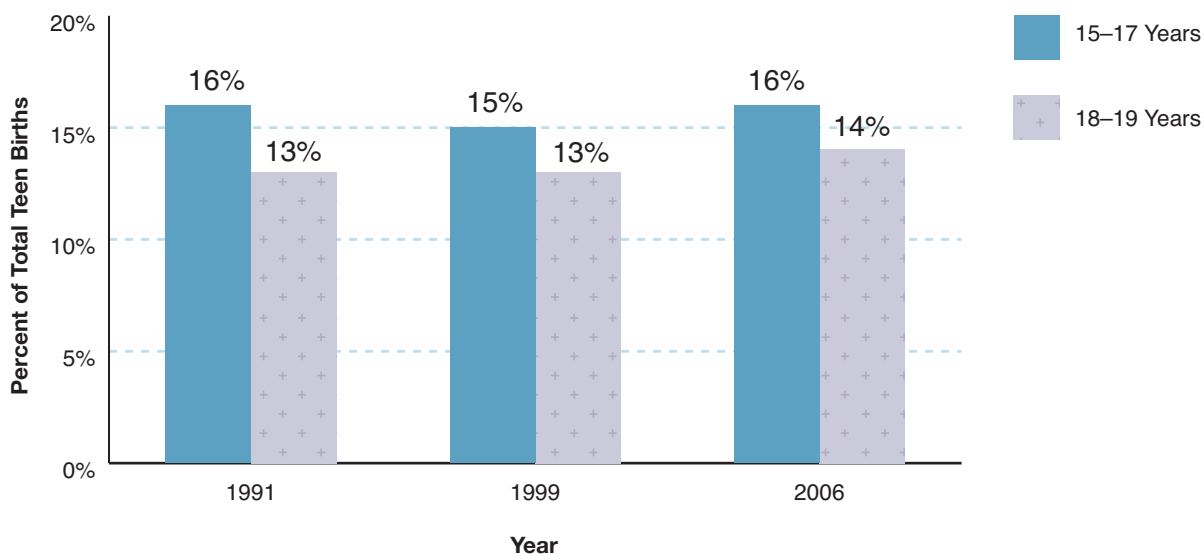
26. Low birth weight is less than 2,500 grams at birth.

27. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

28. The total number of teen births by race/ethnicity do not reflect the total number of teen births in a given year as previously shown due to the number of “not stated.”

## E-14. Proportion of Teen Births that are Premature<sup>29</sup> by Age, 1991–2006<sup>30</sup>

- ▲ A slightly larger proportion of births to younger teens (age 15–17) are born premature compared to births to older teens (age 18–19). These percentages have changed relatively little over time.<sup>31</sup>
- ▲ Babies that are born premature are more likely to suffer from a number of health complications and need special medical care. Premature birth is the leading cause of death among newborn babies.



Proportion of Teen Births that are Premature by Age, 1991–2006						
Year	1991		1999		2006	
Age	15–17	18–19	15–17	18–19	15–17	18–19
Number of Teen Births that are Premature by Age	30,027	43,744	24,805	40,750	21,179	38,864
Total Number of Teen Births by Age	188,226	331,351	163,588	312,462	138,943	296,493
Proportion of Teen Births that are Premature by Age	16%	13%	15%	13%	16%	14%

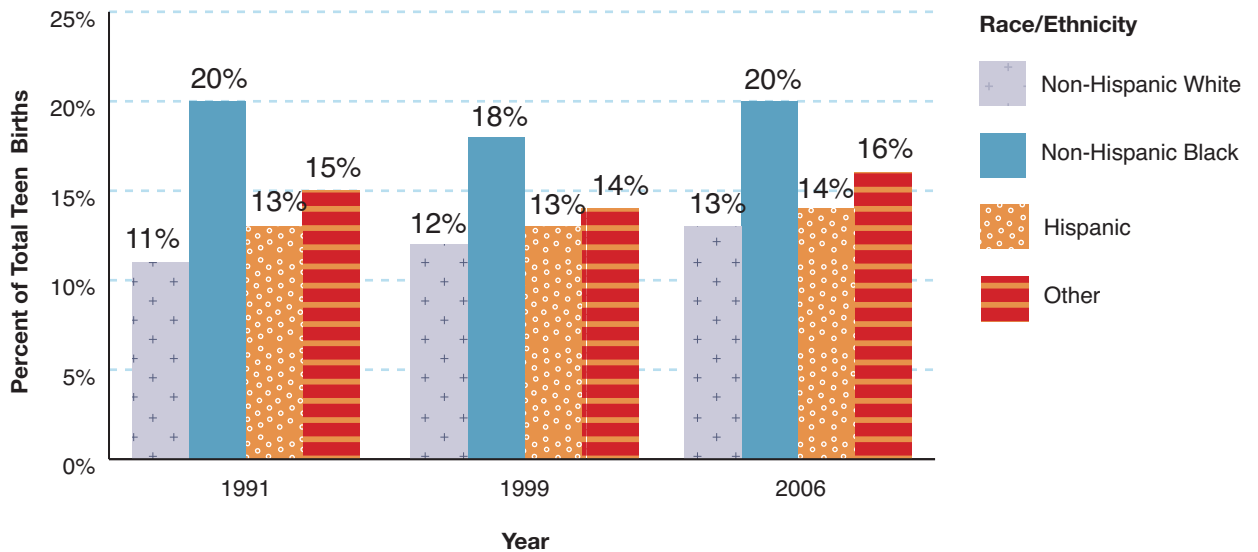
29. A child born less than 37 weeks is premature.

30. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> [March 2009].

31. Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Features: Premature Birth. <http://www.cdc.gov/features/prematurebirth/> [July 2009].

## E-15. Proportion of Teen Births (Age 15–19) that are Premature<sup>32</sup> by Race/Ethnicity, 1991–2006<sup>33</sup>

- ▲ The proportion of teen births that are premature is highest among non-Hispanic black teens. In fact, in 1991 and 2006, 20% of births to non-Hispanic black teens were premature.



Proportion of Teens Births (Age 15–19) that are Premature by Race/Ethnicity, 1991–2006									
Race	1991			1999			2006		
	Number of Teen Births that are Premature	Total Number of Teen Births	Proportion of Teen Births that are Premature	Number of Teen Births that are Premature	Total Number of Teen Births	Proportion of Teen Births that are Premature	Number of Teen Births that are Premature	Number of Teen Births	Proportion of Teen Births that are Premature
Non-Hispanic White	27,629	246,570	11%	25,543	212,923	12%	22,171	169,729	13%
Non-Hispanic Black	29,915	148,342	20%	21,612	118,285	18%	19,479	103,725	20%
Hispanic	13,416	104,651	13%	15,681	124,677	13%	19,496	145,669	14%
Other	2,221	14,924	15%	2,146	15,490	14%	2,047	13,657	16%
Total	47,713	514,487	9%	45,143	471,375	10%	41,905	432,780	10%

32. A child born less than 37 weeks is premature.

33. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm>. [March 2009].