

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.