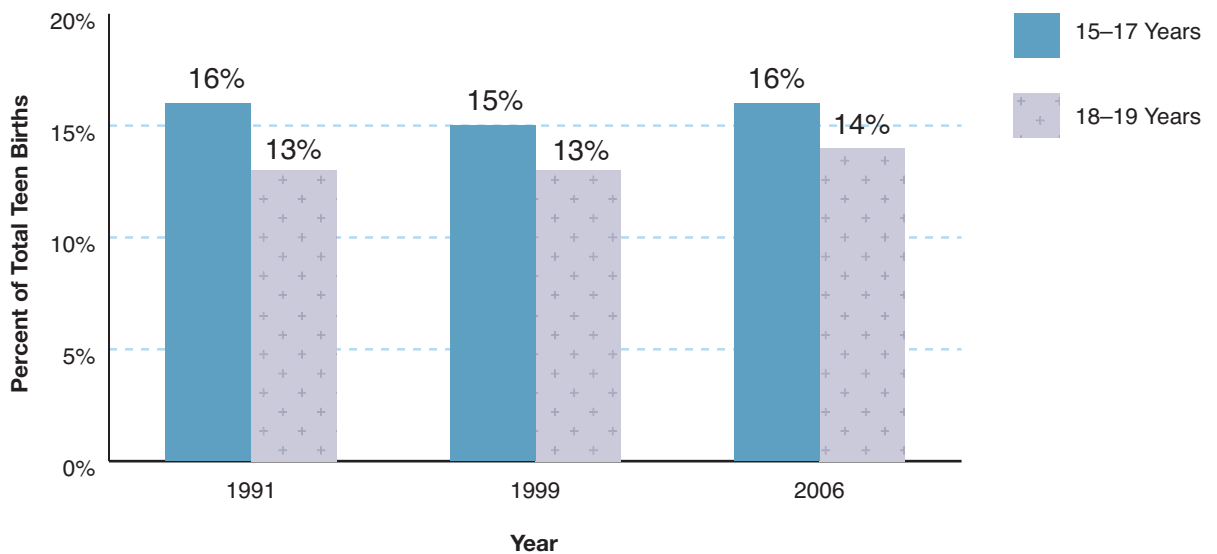


E-14. Proportion of Teen Births that are Premature²⁹ by Age, 1991–2006³⁰

- ▲ 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.³¹
- ▲ 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].