

Fast Facts

Teen Childbearing in the United States, Final 2009 Birth Data

Since the early 1990s, the United States has made extraordinary progress in reducing teen pregnancy and birth rates. Although the teen birth rate briefly increased between 2005 and 2007, the teen birth rate has since resumed its decline, reaching an all time low in 2009. This *Fast Facts* provides information on the 2009 final birth data along with some trend information.

The Data

Overall

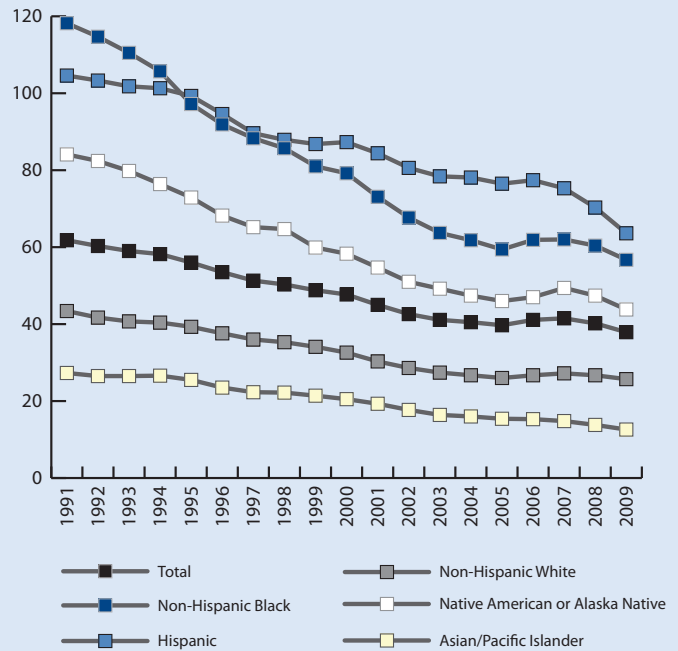
Between 1991 and 2005, the overall teen birth rate decreased 36 percent before rising 5 percent between 2005 and 2007 and decreasing 9 percent between 2007 and 2009 (Figure 1). These trends generally held true for both older teens and younger teens. There have been decreases in the teen birth rate across all racial/ethnic groups, although the rates have declined more rapidly in some groups compared to others (see below for more details). Despite recent fluctuations, the teen birth rate has decreased 39 percent between 1991 and 2009 (from 61.8 per 1,000 to 37.9 per 1,000 respectively).

By Race/Ethnicity

In 2009, the birth rate among Hispanic and non-Hispanic black teen girls age 15-19 was more than twice the birth rate among non-Hispanic white teen girls age 15-19.

- The teen birth rate was 25.7 per 1,000 among non-Hispanic white teen girls in 2009. Since 1991, the teen birth rate has decreased 41 percent among non-Hispanic white teens.
- The teen birth rate was 56.7 per 1,000 among non-Hispanic black teen girls in 2009. Since 1991, the teen birth rate has decreased 52 percent among non-Hispanic black teen girls.

FIGURE 1. Teen Birth Rate (Per 1,000 Girls Age 15-19) 1991-2009, by Race/Ethnicity



- The teen birth rate was 63.6 per 1,000 among Hispanic teen girls in 2009. Since 1991, the teen birth rate has decreased 39 percent among Hispanic teen girls.
- The teen birth rate was 43.8 per 1,000 among Native American or Alaska Native teen girls in 2009. Since 1991, the teen birth rate has decreased 48 percent among Native American or Alaska Native teen girls.
- The teen birth rate was 12.6 per 1,000 among Asian or Pacific Islander teen girls in 2009. Since 1991, the teen birth rate has decreased 54 percent among Asian or Pacific Islander teen girls.

By Age Group

In 2009, births to teens age 18-19 accounted for the vast majority of all teen births. In fact, 69 percent of all births to teens were to teens age 18-19.

- The teen birth rate for girls age 10-14 years was 0.5 per 1,000 girls in 2009. There was a decrease of 17 percent between 2008 and 2009, and an overall decrease of 64 percent since 1991. There were 5,029 births to girls age 10-14 in 2009.
- The teen birth rate for girls age 15-17 years was 19.6 per 1,000 girls in 2009. There was a decrease of 7 percent between 2008 and 2009, and an overall decrease of 49 percent since 1991. There were 124,247 births to girls age 15-17 in 2009.

- The teen birth rate for girls age 18-19 years was 64.0 per 1,000 girls in 2009. There was a decrease of 6 percent between 2008 and 2009, and an overall decrease of 32 percent since 1991. There were 285,555 births to girls age 18-19 in 2009.

By Parity

- Most births to teens are first births. In fact, 81 percent of all births to teens were first births—16 percent were second births and the remainder were births to teens who had two or more previous births.
- Not surprisingly, births to younger teens are more often first births. Ninety-eight percent of births to teens age 10-14 are

TABLE 1. Teen Birth Rate (Per 1,000 girls age 15-19), 1991-2008 by Race/Ethnicity

Year	Total	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic	Native American or Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander
1991	61.8	43.4	118.2	104.6	84.1	27.3
1992	60.3	41.7	114.7	103.3	82.4	26.5
1993	59	40.7	110.5	101.8	79.8	26.5
1994	58.2	40.4	105.7	101.3	76.4	26.6
1995	56	39.3	97.2	99.3	72.9	25.5
1996	53.5	37.6	91.9	94.6	68.2	23.5
1997	51.3	36	88.3	89.6	65.2	22.3
1998	50.3	35.3	85.7	87.9	64.7	22.2
1999	48.8	34.1	81	86.8	59.9	21.4
2000	47.7	32.6	79.2	87.3	58.3	20.5
2001	45	30.3	73.1	84.4	54.7	19.3
2002	42.6	28.6	67.7	80.6	51	17.7
2003	41.1	27.4	63.7	78.4	49.2	16.4
2004	40.5	26.7	61.8	78.1	47.4	16
2005	39.7	26	59.4	76.5	46	15.4
2006	41.1	26.7	61.9	77.4	47	15.3
2007	41.5	27.2	62	75.3	49.4	14.8
2008	40.2	26.7	60.4	70.3	47.4	13.8
2009	37.9	25.7	56.7	63.6	43.8	12.6

first births; 91 percent of births to teens age 15-17 are first births; and 77 percent of births to teens age 18-19 are first births.

By Marital Status

- The vast majority of births to teens are to unmarried teens. In 2009, 87 percent of births to teens were to an unmarried mother.

By State

- The teen birth rate varies greatly by state, ranging from a low of 16.4 per 1,000 teen girls in New Hampshire to a high of 64.2 per 1,000 teen girls in Mississippi (in 2009). More information about teen birth rate by state is available in the State Data section of The National Campaign website (<http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org/state-data/default.aspx>).

About the Data

Teen birth statistics reported by The National Campaign are derived from published sources. Birth data are published by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). More information about NCHS birth data is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/births.htm>.

National level birth rates for 2000-2009 were updated after publication of the Final 2009 Birth Data to more accurately reflect census estimates. National level birth rates for 2009, as well as percentage changes in rates over time, were calculated using rates reported in the 2010 Preliminary Birth Data report.