

Fast Facts

Teen Pregnancy in the United States

After declining dramatically between 1990 and 2005, the teen pregnancy rate increased slightly between 2005 and 2006, before resuming its decline. In 2008, there were nearly 750,000 pregnancies to women younger than age 20 and the rate of pregnancy was 67.8 per 1,000 women age 15-19.¹

The Data

Overall

Between 1990 and 2008, the teen pregnancy rate decreased 42 percent (from 117 to 68 pregnancies per 1,000 teen girls) (Figure 1). Over the same time period, the trend in the teen pregnancy rate was similar for all racial/ethnic groups and for both older and younger teens.

By Race/Ethnicity

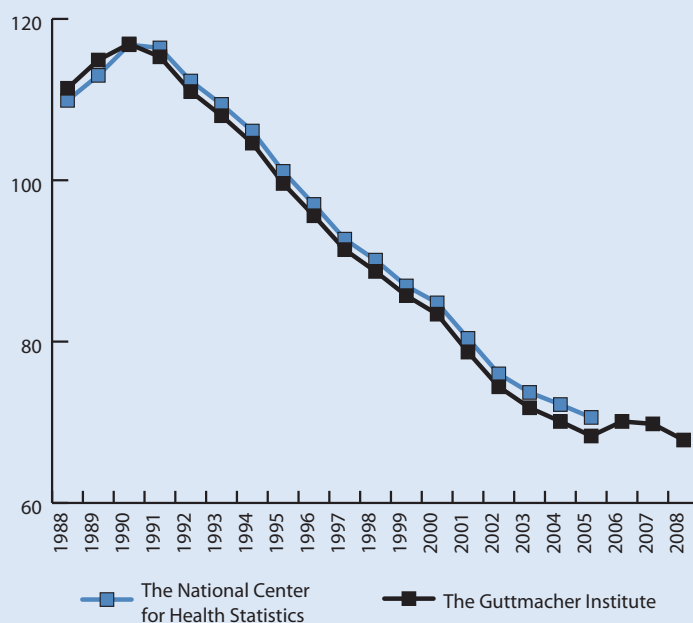
In 2008, the teen pregnancy rate among Hispanic and black teen girls age 15-19 was more than two and a half times higher than the teen pregnancy rate among non-Hispanic white teen girls age 15-19.

- The teen pregnancy rate was 43 per 1,000 for non-Hispanic white teen girls in 2008. Since 1990, the teen pregnancy rate has decreased 50% among non-Hispanic white teens.
- The teen pregnancy rate was 117 per 1,000 for black teen girls in 2008. Since 1990, the teen pregnancy rate among black teen girls has decreased 48%.
- The teen pregnancy rate was 107 per 1,000 among Hispanic teen girls in 2008. Since 1990, the teen pregnancy rate has decreased 34% among Hispanic teen girls.

By Age Group

- There were approximately 236,220 pregnancies in 2008 to girls age 15-17. Their pregnancy rate was 37 per 1,000 in 2008, which is a 50% decline since 1990.

FIGURE 1. Teen Pregnancy Rate
(per 1,000 teen girls age 15-19) by Data Source



- There were approximately 496,780 pregnancies in 2008 to girls age 18-19. Their pregnancy rate was 113 per 1,000 in 2008, which is a 34% decline since 1990.

By State

- The teen pregnancy rate varies greatly by state, ranging from a low of 33 per 1,000 teen girls in New Hampshire to a high of 93 per 1,000 teen girls in New Mexico (in 2005, the most recent data available by state).² More information about teen pregnancy rates by state is available in the State Data section of The National Campaign website (<http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org/state-data/>).

Changes in abortion and births

- Between 1990 and 2005, the pregnancy rate, birth rate, and abortion rate to teens decreased steadily. Despite a brief increase between 2005 and 2006, the pregnancy rate, birth rate, and abortion rate all resumed their decline.¹
- Overall, in 2008 59% of teen pregnancies resulted in a live birth, 26% resulted in a termination, and 14% resulted in a fetal loss.

About the Data

Teen pregnancy statistics reported by The National Campaign are derived from published sources. There are currently two similar but distinct time series for teen pregnancy, one reported by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the other reported by the Guttmacher Institute. In both series, teen pregnancy is calculated using data from: the NCHS (number of births); the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CCDPHP) within CDC (age and race/ ethnicity distribution of women obtaining abortions); and the Guttmacher Institute (total number of abortions). Teen pregnancy statistics also include estimates of fetal loss, for which NCHS relies on data from the National Survey of Family Growth, while Guttmacher estimates fetal loss to be 20% of births plus 10% of abortions.^{1,3}

References:

1. Kost, K., & Henshaw, S. (2012). *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2008: National Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity*. Retrieved February 2012, from <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/ustptrends08.pdf>.
2. Kost, K., Henshaw, S., & Carlin, L. (2010). *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity*. Retrieved January 2010, from <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends.pdf>.
3. Ventura, S.J., Abma, J.C., Mosher, W.D., and Henshaw S.K. (2009). Estimated Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1990-2005: An Update. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 58(4).

TABLE 1. Teen Pregnancy Rate
(per 1,000 teen girls age 15-19) by Data Source

Year	The Guttmacher Institute	The National Center for Health Statistics
1988	111.4	109.9
1989	114.9	113.0
1990	116.9	116.8
1991	115.3	116.4
1992	111.0	112.3
1993	108.0	109.4
1994	104.6	106.1
1995	99.6	101.1
1996	95.6	97.0
1997	91.4	92.7
1998	88.7	90.1
1999	85.7	86.9
2000	83.4	84.8
2001	78.7	80.4
2002	74.4	76.0
2003	71.8	73.7
2004	70.1	72.2
2005	68.3	70.6
2006	70.1	N/A
2007	69.8	N/A
2008	67.8	N/A