

Fast Facts

Summary of 2009 Preliminary Birth Data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

Overall teen birth rates

- The teen birth rate for girls aged 15-19 decreased 6% between 2008 and 2009 to its lowest levels since NCHS began tracking teenage childbearing (from 41.5 births per 1,000 to 39.1 per 1,000).
- The teen birth rate for this age group declined 37% between 1991 and 2009.

Rates by Age

- The birth rate for girls aged 10-14 decreased 17% between 2008 and 2009 (from 0.6 per 1,000 to 0.5 per 1,000). The birth rate for girls aged 10-14 has declined 64% between 1991 and 2009.
- The birth rate for girls aged 15-17 decreased 7% between 2008 and 2009 (from 21.7 per 1,000 to 20.1 per 1,000). The birth rate for this age group declined 48% between 1991 and 2009.
- The teen birth rate for girls aged 18-19 decreased 6% between 2008 and 2009 (from 70.6 per 1,000 to 66.2 per 1,000). The birth rate for this age group declined 30% between 1991 and 2009.

Rates by Race/Ethnicity

- Teen birth rates for those aged 15-19 decreased from 2008 to 2009 for all racial/ethnic groups.
- Among those aged 15-17, birth rates decreased for all racial/ethnic groups.
- Among teens aged 18-19, birth rates decreased for all racial/ethnic groups.
- The birth rate for non-Hispanic white teens aged 15-19 decreased 4% between 2008 and 2009 (from 26.7 per 1,000 to 25.6 per 1,000).
- The birth rate for non-Hispanic black teens aged 15-19 decreased 6% between 2008 and 2009 (from 62.8 per 1,000 to 59.0 per 1,000).
- The birth rate for Hispanic teens aged 15-19 decreased 10% between 2008 and 2009 (from 77.5 per 1,000 to 70.1 per 1,000).
- The birth rate for American Indian or Alaska Native teens aged 15-19 decreased 5% between 2008 and 2009 (from 58.4 per 1,000 to 55.5 per 1,000).
- The birth rate for Asian/Pacific Islander teens aged 15-19 decreased 10% between 2008 and 2009 (from 16.2 per 1,000 to 14.6 per 1,000).

Nonmarital Births

- In 2009, the proportion of nonmarital births to teens increased again—87.2% of births to teens aged 15-19 are nonmarital, up from 86.7% in 2008. This is a total of 357,510 nonmarital births to teens. Among teens under age 15 the proportion is 99.0%; to those 15-17 it is 94.2%; and to those 18-19 it is 84.2%.