

# Fast Facts

## Teen Childbearing in the United States, Final 2008 Birth Data

Since the early 1990s, the United States has made extraordinary progress in reducing teen pregnancy and birth rates. In fact, the teen birth rate reached an all time low in 2005 before increasing slightly in subsequent years. Between 2007 and 2008, the teen birth rate decreased again. This *Fast Facts* provides information on the 2008 final birth data along with some trend information.

### The Data

#### Overall

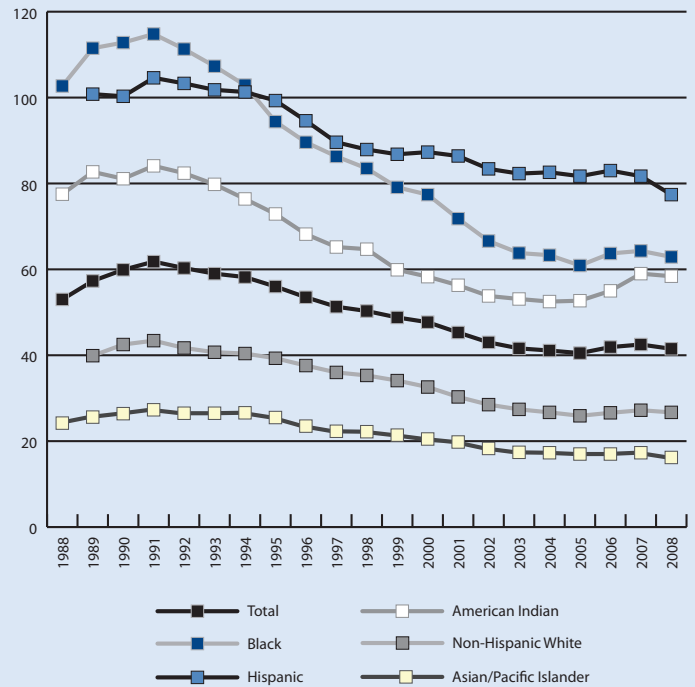
Between 1990 and 2005, the overall teen birth rate decreased 34 percent before rising 5 percent between 2005 and 2007 and decreasing 2 percent between 2007 and 2008 (Figure 1). These trends generally held true for both older teens and younger teens. There have been decreases in the teen birth rate across 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 33 percent between 1991 and 2008 (from 61.8 per 1,000 to 41.5 per 1,000 respectively).

#### By Race/Ethnicity

In 2008, the birth rate among Hispanic, non-Hispanic black, and American Indian or Alaska Native 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 26.7 per 1,000 among non-Hispanic white teen girls in 2008. Since 1991, the teen birth rate has decreased 38 percent among non-Hispanic white teens.
- The teen birth rate was 62.8 per 1,000 among non-Hispanic black teen girls in 2008. Since 1991, the teen birth rate has decreased 47 percent among non-Hispanic black teen girls.

**FIGURE 1.** Teen Birth Rate (Per 1,000 Girls Age 15-19) 1988-2008, by Race/Ethnicity



- The teen birth rate was 77.5 per 1,000 among Hispanic teen girls in 2008. Since 1991, the teen birth rate has decreased 26 percent among Hispanic teen girls.
- The teen birth rate was 58.4 per 1,000 among Native American or Alaska Native teen girls in 2008. Since 1991, the teen birth rate has decreased 31 percent among Native American or Alaska Native teen girls.
- The teen birth rate was 16.2 per 1,000 among Asian or Pacific Islander teen girls in 2008. Since 1991, the teen

birth rate has decreased 41 percent among Asian or Pacific Islander teen girls.

### By Age Group

In 2008, births to teens age 18-19 accounted for the vast majority of all teen births. In fact, 68 percent of all births to teens were to teens age 18-19.

- The teen birth rate for girls age 10-14 years was 0.6 per 1,000 girls in 2008. There was no change in the rate between 2007 and 2008. There has been an overall decrease of 57 percent since 1991. There were 5,764 births to girls age 10-14 in 2008.
- The teen birth rate for girls age 15-17 years was 21.7 per 1,000 girls in 2008. There was a decrease of 2 percent between 2007 and 2008, and an overall decrease of 44 percent since 1991. There were 135,664 births to girls age 15-17 in 2008.

- The teen birth rate for girls age 18-19 years was 70.6 per 1,000 girls in 2008. There was a decrease of 4 percent between 2007 and 2008, and an overall decrease of 25 percent since 1991. There were 299,094 births to girls age 18-19 in 2008.

### By Parity

- Most births to teens are first births. In fact, 80 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 first births; 90 percent of births to teens age 15-17 are first births; and 76 percent of births to teens age 18-19 are first births.

**TABLE 1.** Teen Birth Rate (Per 1,000 girls age 15-19), 1988-2008 by Race/Ethnicity

Year	Total	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic	Native American or Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander
1988	53				77.5	24.2
1989	57.3	39.9	111.9	100.8	82.7	25.6
1990	59.9	42.5	116.2	100.3	81.1	26.4
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	81.0	86.8	59.9	21.4
2000	47.7	32.6	79.2	87.3	58.3	20.5
2001	45.3	30.3	73.5	86.4	56.3	19.8
2002	43	28.5	68.3	83.4	53.8	18.3
2003	41.6	27.4	64.7	82.3	53.1	17.4
2004	41.1	26.7	63.1	82.6	52.5	17.3
2005	40.5	25.9	60.9	81.7	52.7	17
2006	41.9	26.6	63.7	83	55	17
2007	42.5	27.2	64.2	81.8	59.3	16.9
2008	41.5	26.7	62.8	77.5	58.4	16.2

### *By Marital Status*

- The vast majority of births to teens are to unmarried teens. In 2008, 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 19.8 per 1,000 teen girls in New Hampshire to a high of 65.7 per 1,000 teen girls in Mississippi (in 2008). 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>.