

# Fast Facts

## Teen Pregnancy in the United States

Teen pregnancy in the United States is at an historic low. Since its peak in 1990, the teen pregnancy rate has dropped by more than half. In 2011 there were approximately 562,000 pregnancies to women younger than age 20 and the pregnancy rate was 52.4 per 1,000 women age 15-19.<sup>1</sup> Despite this decline, roughly 1 in 4 teen girls in the U.S. will get pregnant at least once by age 20.<sup>2</sup>

### The Data

#### Overall

Between 1990 (the peak year for teen pregnancy) and 2011 (the most recent data available), the teen pregnancy rate decreased 55% (from 116.9 to 52.4 pregnancies per 1,000 girls age 15-19), and has fallen by 9% since 2010 (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup> Over this period the teen pregnancy rate fell steeply among all racial/ethnic groups and for both older and younger teens. Although rates remain higher among some groups than others, racial/ethnic disparities are decreasing as described in more detail below.

#### By Race/Ethnicity

In 2011, the teen pregnancy rate among non-Hispanic black and Hispanic teen girls age 15-19 was more than twice as high as the teen pregnancy rate among non-Hispanic white teen girls age 15-19.<sup>1</sup>

- In 2011, there were 212,350 pregnancies to non-Hispanic white teen girls age 15-19. Their pregnancy rate was 35.3 per 1,000—reflecting a decline of 58% since 1991 and 6% since 2010.<sup>1</sup> Roughly 1 in 6 non-

Hispanic white teen girls will get pregnant at least once by age 20.<sup>2</sup>

- There were 155,370 pregnancies in 2011 to non-Hispanic black teen girls age 15-19. Their pregnancy rate was 92.6 per 1,000. Among black teen girls, the teen pregnancy rate declined by 58% since 1991 and 8% since 2010.<sup>1</sup> Roughly 4 in 10 non-Hispanic black teen girls will get pregnant at least once by age 20.<sup>2</sup>
- Pregnancies to Hispanic teen girls age 15-19 totaled 162,370 in 2011. Their pregnancy rate was 73.5 per 1,000—reflecting a decline of 56% since 1991 and 11% since 2010.<sup>1</sup> Roughly 1 in 3 Hispanic teen girls will get pregnant at least once by age 20.<sup>2</sup>

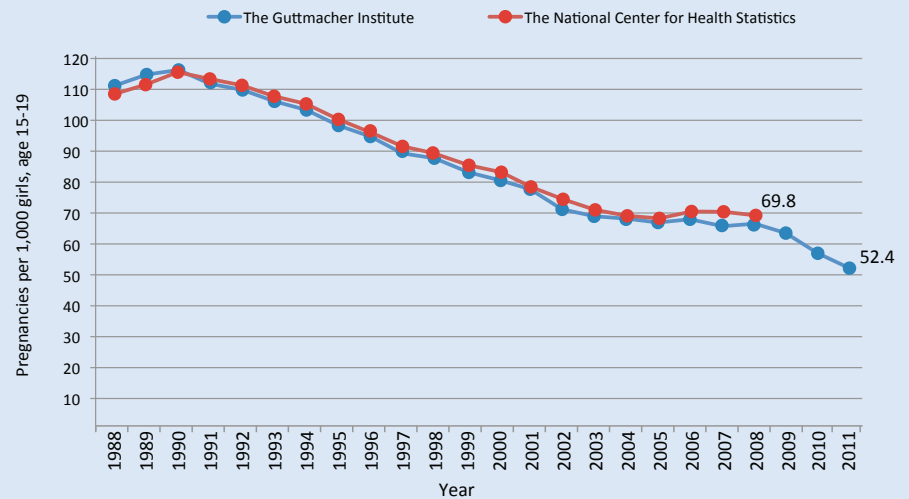
#### By Age Group

- There were approximately 165,810 pregnancies in 2011 to girls age 15-17. Their pregnancy rate was 26.7 per 1,000 in 2011, reflecting a 64% decline since 1990 and a 12% decline since 2010.<sup>1</sup>
- There were approximately 386,830 pregnancies in 2011 to girls age 18-19. Their pregnancy rate was 89.2 per 1,000 in 2011, reflecting a 49% decline since 1990 and an 8% decline since 2010.<sup>1</sup>

#### By State

- The teen pregnancy rate in 2011 varied greatly by state, ranging from a low of 26 per 1,000 teen girls in New Hampshire to a high of 72 per 1,000 teen girls in New Mexico.<sup>3</sup> More information about teen pregnancy rates by state is available in the Data section of The National Campaign website at <http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org/data>.

**FIGURE 1.**  
 Teen Pregnancy Rate  
 by Data Source,  
 1988-2011<sup>1,2</sup>



### Changes in Abortion and Births

- A pregnancy can either lead to a live birth, a miscarriage, or an abortion. In 2011, 60% of pregnancies to girls age 15-19 resulted in a live birth, 15% resulted in a miscarriage, and 26% resulted in an abortion.<sup>1</sup>
- When fewer teens become pregnant, fewer teens become parents and/or have an abortion. As the teen pregnancy rate declined steadily between 1990 and 2011 (by 55%), the teen birth rate and abortion rate declined as well (by 48% and 67% respectively).<sup>1</sup>

### 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 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 the 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.

The Guttmacher Institute has published 2011 pregnancy rates for both non-Hispanic black teen girls and all black teen girls age 15-19, and the 2011 rates presented in this brief reflect non-Hispanic black teens. Declines over time,

however, reflect trends for black teens age 15-19 because historical rates are not available for non-Hispanic black teens. In general, there is little difference in statistics representing non-Hispanic black teen girls and all black teen girls. For example, in 2011 the pregnancy rate among black teen girls overall was 93.8 per 1,000 as compared to the pregnancy rate among non-Hispanic black teen girls, which was 92.6 per 1,000.<sup>1</sup>

#### SOURCES:

1. Kost, K., & Maddow-Zimet, I. (2016). U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2011: National Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity. New York: Guttmacher Institute. Retrieved from: <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/us-teen-pregnancy-trends-2011>.
2. Author tabulations based on data in Curtin, S.C., Abma, J.A., Ventura, S.J., & Henshaw, S.K. (2013). Pregnancy Rates for U.S. Women Continue to Drop. NCHS Data Brief, 136, 1-8. Retrieved from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db136.htm>.
3. Kost, K., & Maddow-Zimet, I. (2016). U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2011: State Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity. New York: Guttmacher Institute. Retrieved from: <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/us-teen-pregnancy-state-trends-2011>.