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Recent Declines in Teenage Birth Rates in the United States: Variations by State, 1990–94

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Abstract

Objectives—This report presents teenage birth rates by State for 1990–94. Rates for the United States for 1970–94 are shown to put the State changes in perspective. U.S. rates for 1990–94 are shown by race and Hispanic origin of mother and for teenage subgroups 15–17 and 18–19 years as well as for teenagers 15–19 years. Also presented in the same detail are birth rates by mother's State of residence for 1994, and birth rates for teenage subgroups by State for 1990–94.

Methods—Descriptive tabulations of birth rates for teenagers for the United States and by State are presented and explained.

Results—After increasing from 1990 to 1991, birth rates declined for American teenagers during the years 1991–94; rates fell 3 percent each for teenagers 15–17 and 18–19 years. Preliminary data indicate that the birth rate for teenagers 15–19 years continued to decline in 1995, with a total decline of about 8 percent during the 1991–95 period. The largest declines were reported for black teenagers, with smaller declines measured for non-Hispanic white teenagers. Rates for Hispanic teenagers increased slightly. Declines from 1991 to 1994 were reported for the majority of the States.

Keywords: Teenage fertility • State-based birth rates • Fertility trends • Teenage pregnancy

Introduction

This report presents national and State-level data on teenage birth rates for 1990–94. The early 1990's have witnessed a slow but steady decline in birth rates for teenagers. Rates have declined steadily for black teenagers and for teenage subgroups 15–17 and 18–19 years; rates for white teenagers have generally declined while changes in rates for Hispanic teenagers have been less consistent. The data in this report show the patterns in teenage birth rates by State and the extent to which the recent national declines are shared by all States. Teenage childbearing continues to be an important social issue because studies have shown that teenage mothers are more likely to be poorly educated and more likely to face lifetime poverty.

Although birth rates for teenagers were substantially higher in the early 1970's than in recent years, most teenagers giving birth in the earlier period were married, whereas most teenagers giving birth recently are unmarried.

The birth rate for married teenagers was about 13 percent lower in 1994 than in 1970 (388 per 1,000 married women aged 15–19 compared with 444). Moreover, the proportion of 15–19-year-olds who were married was less than 5 percent in 1994 compared with 14 percent in 1970. In contrast to the change in childbearing by married teenagers, the rate for unmarried teenagers has risen virtually without interruption, although the pace of increase has slowed considerably since 1991. For

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unmarried teenagers 15–19 years, the rate doubled from 22 births per 1,000 in 1970 to 46 in 1994. The rate for younger teens aged 15–17 years rose from 17 to 32 per 1,000, while the rate for older teens rose from 33 to 70 per 1,000 unmarried women aged 18–19 years. As a consequence of these trends in marriage and childbearing among teenagers, the proportion of all teenaged births occurring to unmarried teenagers has risen dramatically during this period. For teenagers 15–19 years, the proportion rose from 30 percent in 1970 to 76 percent in 1994 (shown in table A). The percent unmarried nearly doubled for young teenagers 15–17 years and more than tripled for older teenagers 18–19 years.

The vast majority of teenage childbearing is unintended. Data on teenage pregnancy trends (including information on induced abortions and fetal losses as well as live births) in the 1990's are more limited than are data on live births. The data in this report provide some information on the extent to which efforts to reduce teenage pregnancy are succeeding.

State-level birth rates for unmarried teenagers can be computed only in census years when the necessary population data are available. Rates for unmarried teenagers by State have been published for 1980 and 1990 (1–2). In addition, rates for teenagers under 15 years of age are not shown in this report because the numbers of births are relatively small, 12,901 for the entire United States in 1994. Thus, the numbers are too small to compute reliable rates for many States.

Methods

Data shown in this report are based on 100 percent of the birth certificates registered in all States and the District of Columbia. More than 99 percent of births occurring in this country are registered. Population data for computing birth rates were provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (3,4). Tables showing data by State provide information for the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Rates are not shown for Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam, because the population data by age needed to compute teenage birth rates are not available for these areas. State rates are based on mother's place of residence.

All tabulations are by race and Hispanic origin of mother as reported on the birth certificate. Race and ethnicity differentials in rates for teenagers may reflect differences in income, education, access to health care, and health care coverage. Additional information on the computation of birth rates, population denominators, and statistical significance is presented in the Technical notes.

Table A. Percent of teen births to unmarried teenagers

Year	*15–19 years*	*15–17 years*	*18–19 years*
1994	76	84	70
1990	67	78	61
1985	58	71	51
1980	48	62	40
1975	38	51	30
1970	30	43	22

Results and discussion

There were 505,488 live births to teenagers 15–19 years in 1994 resulting in a birth rate of 58.9 per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years (table 1). The birth rate for teenagers fell steadily from 1970 (68.3) to 1976 (52.8), a 22-percent decline, fluctuated modestly over the next 10 years reaching a low of 50.2 in 1986, increased considerably—by 24 percent— from 1986 to 1991 (62.1) and then declined steadily from 1991 to 1994, by 5 percent overall, to its current level (table 1 and figure 1). Preliminary data indicate that the U.S. teenage birth rate declined again in 1995 to 56.9 per 1,000, 3 percent lower than in 1994 (5).

The birth rate for teenagers aged 18–19 years was 91.5 in 1994, more than twice the rate for teenagers 15–17 years (37.6). The trend in the birth rates for teenagers 15–17 years and teenagers 18–19 years had essentially the same pattern during the 1970–94 period, but the disparity between the rates for the two age groups diminished somewhat because the rate for older teenagers in 1994 was much lower than in 1970, while rates for younger teenagers were essentially the same in 1970 and 1994.

Table 2 shows teenage birth rates for each year, 1990–94, for each State and the District of Columbia. In 1994, birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years ranged from a high of 114.7 in the District of Columbia to a low of 30.1 in New Hampshire. In general, the 10 States with the highest rates in 1994 were located in the South or West while the 10 States with the lowest rates were in the Northeast and Midwest (figure 2). The same regional variation in birth rates was also evident for the more detailed age groups of 15–17 and 18–19 years.

The majority of States had lower birth rates for teenagers in 1994 than in 1991, the year with the recent high point. The State with the largest decline was Maine (18 percent), followed by Vermont and Alaska (16 percent), Idaho (14 percent), and Montana (12 percent). About

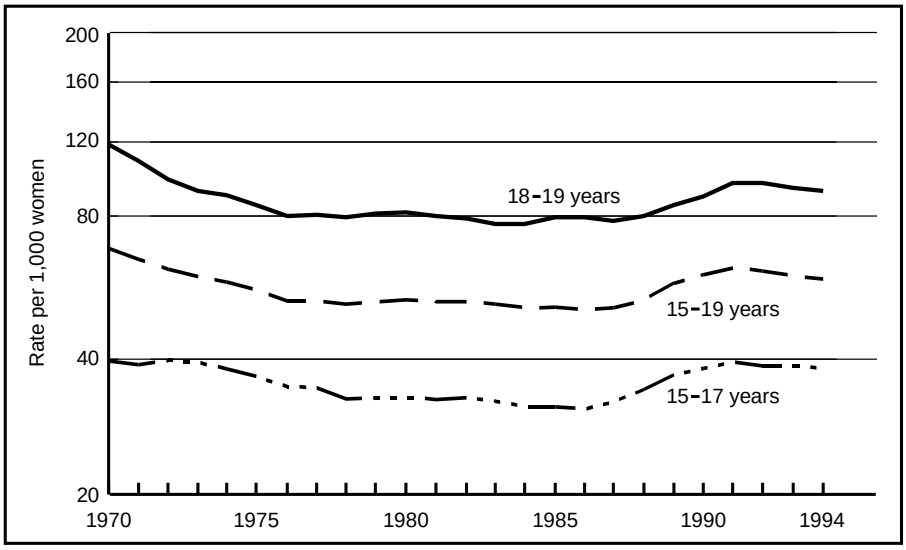

Figure 1. Birth rates for teenagers, by age: United States, 1970–94

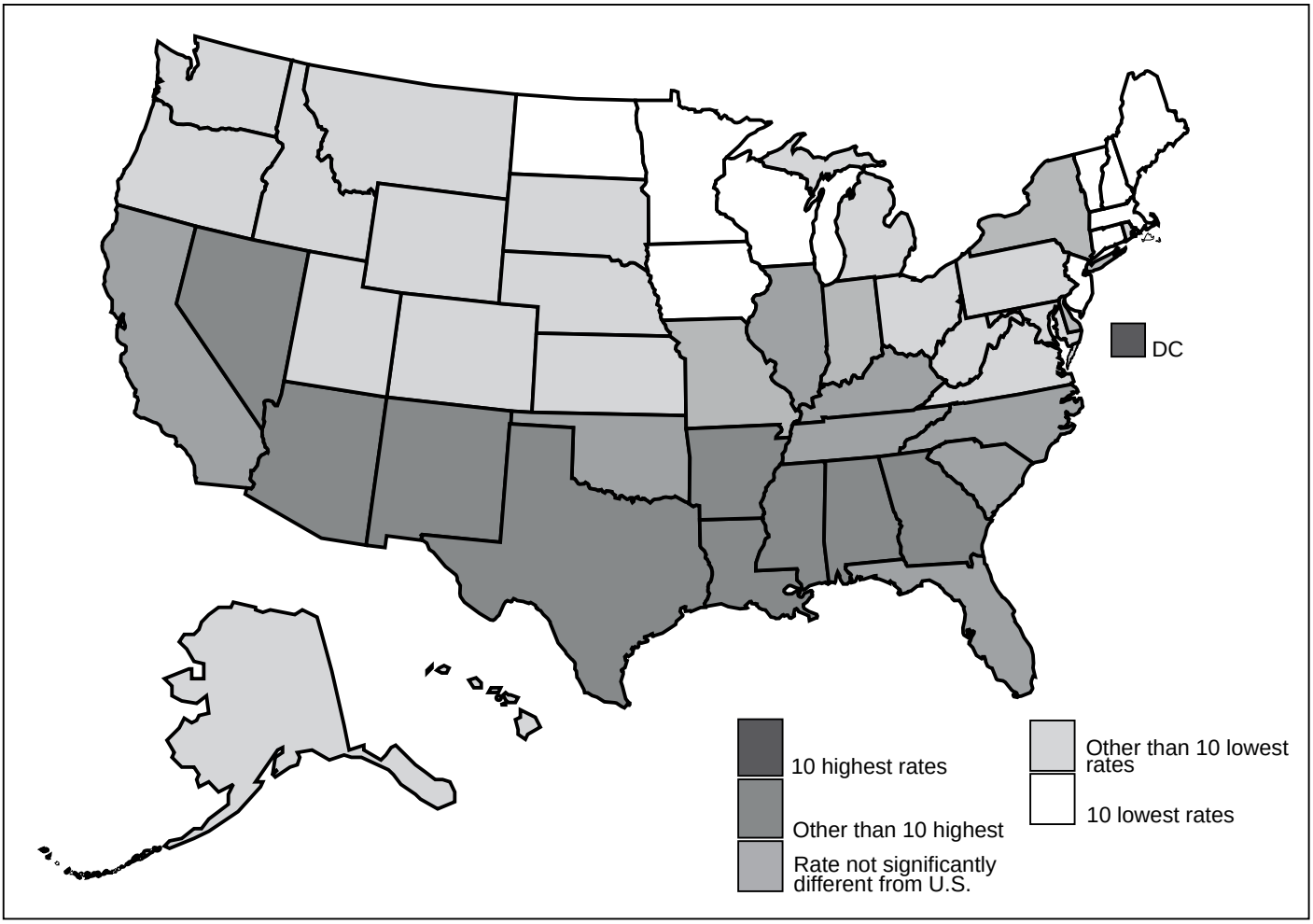

Figure 2. Teenage birth rates by State, 1994

half of the States had declines of between 5 and 11 percent while the teenage birth rate for 13 States and the District of Columbia was not significantly different in 1994 than in 1991 (figure 3). In general, many States with the lowest rates in 1994 experienced the largest declines. For the more detailed age groups 15–17 and 18–19 years, the majority of States had declines in rates for both age groups for the 1991–94 period (table 2). Many changes in rates for detailed age groups, especially 15–17 years, are not statistically significant because the numbers of births are small.

Birth rates for black and Hispanic teenagers 15–19 years were very similar, 104.5 and 107.7, respectively, and were about two and a half times the rate for non-Hispanic white teenagers, 40.4 (table 3). This pattern has been observed for many years (2,6). The rate for black teenagers fell sharply during the 1991–94 period, by 10 percent, from 115.5 to 104.5 per 1,000. The rate for non-Hispanic white teenagers declined 7 percent, from 43.4 to 40.4 per 1,000, and the rate for Hispanic teenagers rose 1 percent, from 106.7 to 107.7. The disparity between the rate for non-Hispanic white teenagers and the rates for black and Hispanic teenagers was observed for both 15–17 year olds and 18–19 year olds (table 3 and figure 4).

The pattern of lower birth rates for non-Hispanic white than for black and Hispanic teenagers was evident in almost every State in which there were sufficient data to compute birth rates for all groups (table 4). The birth rate for non-Hispanic white teenagers 15–19 years varied between 63.1 in Arkansas and 15.3 in the District of Columbia; the rate for black teenagers varied between 142.3 in Wisconsin and 66.4 in New Mexico; the rate for Hispanic teenagers varied between 159.6 in North Carolina and 49.3 in Louisiana. These relationships within racial and Hispanic subgroups have been noted for several years (1,2,7).

With few exceptions, birth rates for teenagers 18–19 years were at least double the rates for younger teenagers 15–17 years. This pattern was observed for all races combined as well as for racial and Hispanic origin subgroups. In the age group 15–17 years, rates were higher for black and Hispanic teenagers than for non-Hispanic white teenagers. Among the areas for which birth rates could be reliably computed for black teenagers 15–17 years, rates were highest in the District of Columbia, Illinois, and Wisconsin (105–107 per 1,000 women) and lowest in New Mexico, New York, and Washington (51–52 per 1,000). Birth rates for Hispanic teenagers 15–17 years were computed for 35 States. Rates were highest in Connecticut and Massachusetts (101 per 1,000) and lowest in Louisiana and Maryland (28–34 per 1,000). Birth rates for non-Hispanic white teenagers 15–17 years

Figure 3. Percent decline in teenage birth rates by State, 1991–94

were substantially lower than for black or Hispanic teenagers; rates were highest in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Mississippi (35–37 per 1,000) and lowest in Hawaii and New Jersey (8–10 per 1,000).

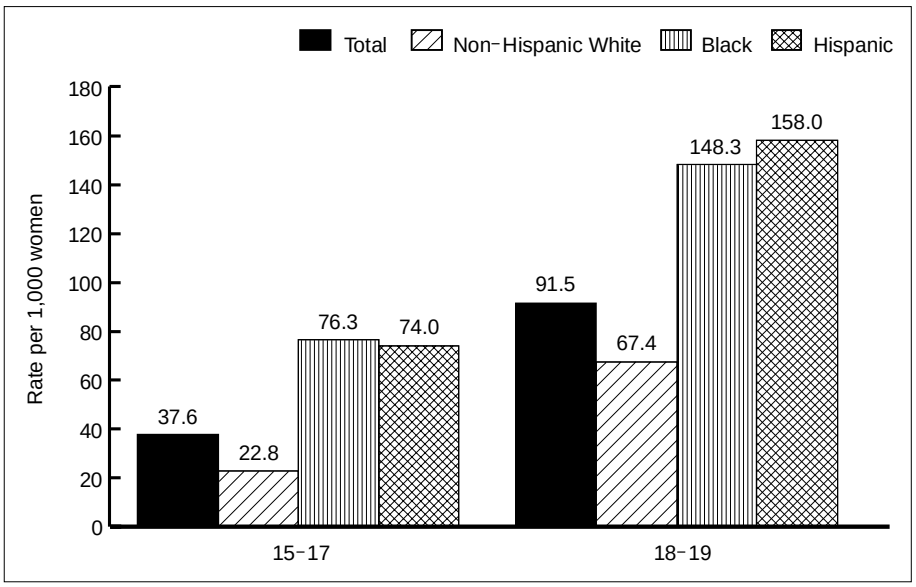

Figure 4. Birth rates by race and ethnicity for mothers 15–17 and 18–19 years of age: United States, 1994

Patterns were similar for older teenagers; rates were higher for Hispanic and black teenagers than for non-Hispanic white teenagers. Among the 31 States for which birth rates for Hispanic teenagers were computed, rates ranged from 80 to 100 per 1,000 women aged 18–19 years in Florida and Louisiana to 234–275 per 1,000 in Georgia and North Carolina. The variation in rates for black teenagers 18–19 years was narrower, with a range of 105 per 1,000 in New York to 193–200 per 1,000 in Illinois and Wisconsin. Rates were substantially lower for non-Hispanic white teenagers 18–19 years, ranging from 29 to 33 per 1,000 (New Jersey and Connecticut) to 98–101 (Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee).

Some of the differences in overall rates by State reflect differences in the composition of the teenage populations by race and Hispanic origin. Given that birth rates for Hispanic and black

teenagers are more than double the rates for non-Hispanic white teenagers, States with relatively high proportions of Hispanic and/or black teenagers in their populations would be expected to have higher overall teenage birth rates. This is in fact the case. Birth rates standardized for differences in population composition by race and ethnicity control for these compositional differences (table 5). The standard population used was the distribution of all U.S. teenagers by race and Hispanic origin (see Technical notes).

For example, the standardized teenage birth rate for California for 1994 was 56.5, considerably below the actual rate of 71.3. This difference results from the relatively lower proportion of Hispanics in the U.S. population compared with the California population. The most dramatic example of the compositional effect was for the District of Columbia. The standardized rate, 43.9, was well below the actual rate of 114.7, reflecting the much lower proportion of black women in the U.S. population compared with the District of Columbia. For many States, the standardized rate was often higher than the actual rate. An example is Minnesota, with a standardized rate of 54.3 compared with the actual rate of 34.4. Compared with the U.S. teenage population, Minnesota has substantially fewer Hispanic and black teenagers.

When State rates are examined separately by race and Hispanic origin, certain geographic patterns emerge. For example, 15 of the 17 highest rates for non-Hispanic white teenagers were generally in the South. Conversely, 16 of the 18 lowest rates were in the Northeast, Middle Atlantic, and Midwest. Of the 15 highest rates for black teenagers, 13 were in the Middle Atlantic and Midwest States. There was no consistent pattern in the States with the lowest rates for black teenagers. Although the Hispanic population is highly concentrated geographically, with more than 60 percent of all births occurring to residents of California and Texas, birth rates for Hispanic teenagers for those States were not among the highest. There was no apparent pattern in the States with high and low rates for Hispanic teenagers.

Although birth rates have fallen for teenagers in the 1990's, nonetheless the rates reported for 1994 are still as high or higher than they were two decades earlier (figure 1). Despite the drop in the rate for teenagers 15–17 years, the number of births for this age group increased by 2 percent in 1994, a reflection of the 3-percent increase in the number of teenagers from 1993 to 1994 (3). Population projections show that the number of women in this age group will continue to rise over the next several years (8). Thus, without larger declines in the birth rate for this age group, the number of births to young teenagers can be expected to continue to increase.

The number of births to older teenagers 18–19 years changed very little between 1993 and 1994, because the 1-percent decline in the birth *rate* was matched by a 1-percent increase in the *number of women* in that age group (1). The number of teenagers 18–19 years is projected to continue to increase over the next several years (8). In order for the number of births to decline, the birth rate will have to decline further to compensate for the increasing number of women.

The rates in this report can be useful in assessing the extent to which programs to reduce teenage pregnancy are succeeding. Comprehensive assessment, however, requires that data on legal induced abortion and fetal loss be combined with the live-birth data to produce teenage pregnancy rates. State-level pregnancy rates have been published for 1990–92 (7,9). For the period 1991–92, State teenage pregnancy rates declined significantly, by 2 to 15 percent, in 31 of the 42 reporting areas for which age-specific abortion data were available. The U.S. rate for women aged 15–19 years declined 3 percent from 1991 to 1992, from 115.0 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years to 111.1 per 1,000 (10–13). More recently, preliminary abortion statistics indicate a continued decline in abortions and abortion rates for teenagers (14). This coupled with the declines in teenage birth rates in 1993 and 1994 suggest that the declines in teenage pregnancy rates have continued.

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Table 1. Births and birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years, by age and race of mother: United States, 1970–94

[Birth rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

Year	All races[1]			White			Black		
	Total	15–17 years	18–19 years	Total	15–17 years	18–19 years	Total	15–17 years	18–19 years
	Number of births								
1994	505,488	195,169	310,319	348,081	126,388	221,693	140,968	62,563	78,405
1993	501,093	190,535	310,558	341,817	121,309	220,508	143,153	63,156	79,997
1992	505,415	187,549	317,866	342,739	118,786	223,953	146,800	63,002	83,798
1991	519,577	188,226	331,351	352,359	118,809	233,550	150,956	63,571	87,385
1990	521,826	183,327	338,499	354,482	114,934	239,548	151,613	62,881	88,732
1989	506,503	181,044	325,459	340,472	111,736	228,736	150,699	63,832	86,867
1988	478,353	176,624	301,729	323,830	109,739	214,091	140,608	61,856	78,752
1987	462,312	172,591	289,721	315,464	108,592	206,872	134,050	59,361	74,689
1986	461,905	168,572	293,333	317,970	107,177	210,793	131,594	57,003	74,591
1985	467,485	167,789	299,696	324,590	107,993	216,597	130,857	55,656	75,201
1984	469,582	166,744	302,938	326,301	106,782	219,519	131,497	55,932	75,565
1983	489,286	172,673	316,613	343,199	111,163	232,036	133,953	57,332	76,621
1982	513,758	181,162	332,596	363,742	117,644	246,098	137,456	59,362	78,094
1981	527,392	187,397	339,995	375,432	122,561	252,871	140,344	60,944	79,400
1980	552,161	198,222	353,939	393,564	129,341	264,223	147,378	65,069	82,309
1979	549,472	200,137	349,335	383,807	127,970	255,837	152,805	67,728	85,077
1978	543,407	202,661	340,746	380,060	130,957	249,103	151,001	67,317	83,684
1977	559,154	213,788	345,366	392,183	138,223	253,960	155,190	71,182	84,008
1976	558,744	215,493	343,251	393,275	139,901	253,374	153,936	71,429	82,507
1975	582,238	227,270	354,968	410,129	148,344	261,785	161,044	74,946	86,098
1974	595,449	234,177	361,272	420,152	152,257	267,895	164,430	77,947	86,483
1973	604,096	238,403	365,693	424,833	153,416	271,417	168,773	81,158	87,615
1972	616,280	236,641	379,639	433,986	150,897	283,089	172,349	82,217	90,132
1971	627,942	226,298	401,644	446,726	143,806	302,920	171,684	79,238	92,446
1970	644,708	223,590	421,118	463,608	143,646	319,962	171,826	76,882	94,944
	Birth rate								
1994	58.9	37.6	91.5	51.1	30.7	82.1	104.5	76.3	148.3
1993	59.6	37.8	92.1	51.1	30.3	82.1	108.6	79.8	151.9
1992	60.7	37.8	94.5	51.8	30.1	83.8	112.4	81.3	157.9
1991	62.1	38.7	94.4	52.8	30.7	83.5	115.5	84.1	158.6
1990	59.9	37.5	88.6	50.8	29.5	78.0	112.8	82.3	152.9
1989	57.3	36.4	84.2	47.9	28.1	72.9	111.5	81.9	151.9
1988	53.0	33.6	79.9	44.4	26.0	69.6	102.7	75.7	142.7
1987	50.6	31.7	78.5	42.5	24.6	68.9	97.6	72.1	135.8
1986	50.2	30.5	79.6	42.3	23.8	70.1	95.8	69.3	135.1
1985	51.0	31.0	79.6	43.3	24.4	70.4	95.4	69.3	132.4
1984	50.6	31.0	77.4	42.9	24.3	68.4	94.1	69.2	128.1
1983	51.4	31.8	77.4	43.9	25.0	68.8	93.9	69.6	127.1
1982	52.4	32.3	79.4	45.0	25.5	70.8	94.3	69.7	128.9
1981	52.2	32.0	80.0	44.9	25.4	71.5	94.5	69.3	131.0
1980	53.0	32.5	82.1	45.4	25.5	73.2	97.8	72.5	135.1
1979	52.3	32.3	81.3	43.7	24.7	71.0	101.7	75.7	140.4
1978	51.5	32.2	79.8	42.9	24.9	69.4	100.9	75.0	139.7
1977	52.8	33.9	80.9	44.1	26.1	70.5	104.7	79.6	142.9
1976	52.8	34.1	80.5	44.1	26.3	70.2	104.9	80.3	142.5
1975	55.6	36.1	85.0	46.4	28.0	74.0	111.8	85.6	152.4
1974	57.5	37.3	88.7	47.9	28.7	77.3	116.5	90.0	158.7
1973	59.3	38.5	91.2	49.0	29.2	79.3	123.1	96.0	166.6
1972	61.7	39.0	96.9	51.0	29.3	84.3	129.8	99.5	179.5
1971	64.5	38.2	105.3	53.6	28.5	92.3	134.5	99.4	192.6
1970	68.3	38.8	114.7	57.4	29.2	101.5	140.7	101.4	204.9

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

NOTE: Figures for 1970–79 are by race of child. See Technical notes.

Table 2. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years by age: United States and each State, 1990–94

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	15–19 years					15–17 years					18–19 years				
	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990
United States	58.9	59.6	60.7	62.1	59.9	37.6	37.8	37.8	38.7	37.5	91.5	92.1	94.5	94.4	88.6
Alabama	72.2	70.5	72.5	73.9	71.0	50.8	48.2	46.3	47.7	47.4	103.4	102.3	109.9	109.5	101.4
Alaska	55.2	56.8	63.9	65.4	65.3	32.3	33.4	34.5	35.3	31.2	90.0	91.6	108.6	111.7	120.0
Arizona	78.7	79.8	81.7	80.7	75.5	50.2	49.6	51.2	51.4	47.7	123.5	126.4	128.3	122.6	111.6
Arkansas	76.3	73.9	75.5	79.8	80.1	48.8	45.9	46.8	49.4	50.4	117.1	114.7	117.1	122.8	120.7
California	71.3	72.7	74.0	74.7	70.6	45.5	46.4	46.1	46.9	44.6	110.8	112.3	116.0	113.6	104.3
Colorado	54.3	55.2	58.4	58.2	54.5	34.3	34.9	36.7	35.3	33.1	85.7	86.6	91.5	91.4	82.9
Connecticut	40.3	39.2	39.4	40.4	38.8	28.9	26.4	25.9	26.3	26.4	58.2	58.4	59.3	59.4	53.9
Delaware	60.2	59.7	59.6	61.1	54.5	44.6	39.2	43.8	40.3	38.4	82.9	89.4	82.0	87.1	71.4
District of Columbia	114.7	128.8	116.1	114.4	93.1	87.9	102.1	88.6	102.8	88.4	151.0	162.8	148.1	125.5	96.7
Florida	64.4	64.8	66.3	68.8	69.1	42.4	42.1	42.2	44.0	44.9	98.3	98.6	101.6	102.9	100.6
Georgia	71.7	73.0	74.5	76.3	75.5	48.5	48.9	48.4	50.6	50.1	107.4	108.4	111.6	110.9	108.5
Hawaii	53.5	53.0	53.5	58.7	61.2	31.7	29.7	31.5	34.7	32.5	83.6	85.0	83.1	91.5	102.0
Idaho	46.6	50.7	51.7	53.9	50.6	27.0	29.4	28.5	29.3	26.3	76.4	83.2	87.8	90.8	84.8
Illinois	62.8	63.0	63.6	64.8	62.9	41.1	41.4	40.3	40.6	40.1	96.7	96.1	98.7	99.1	93.3
Indiana	57.9	58.6	58.7	60.5	58.6	34.9	34.4	34.6	35.2	35.3	92.4	94.0	93.7	95.2	87.8
Iowa	39.7	41.1	40.8	42.6	40.5	22.7	23.1	21.0	22.8	20.4	66.5	69.3	72.3	71.5	65.7
Kansas	53.5	55.7	55.7	55.4	56.1	30.3	31.0	30.3	29.4	30.4	90.1	94.3	95.6	94.1	89.9
Kentucky	64.5	64.0	64.7	68.9	67.6	39.7	39.6	38.8	42.6	40.8	102.1	100.2	103.0	105.5	103.0
Louisiana	74.7	76.1	76.5	76.1	74.2	51.3	52.6	52.4	51.1	49.5	109.6	110.9	112.2	111.4	106.9
Maine	35.5	37.1	39.8	43.5	43.0	18.1	20.0	21.2	23.8	23.3	62.8	62.8	66.6	70.1	68.8
Maryland	49.7	50.1	50.7	54.3	53.2	32.5	33.8	32.8	35.2	33.5	76.5	74.5	76.6	79.8	78.4
Massachusetts	37.2	37.9	38.0	37.8	35.1	23.7	23.6	24.7	25.2	23.7	57.3	58.1	56.0	52.9	47.0
Michigan	52.1	53.2	56.5	59.0	59.0	31.6	32.8	33.6	35.5	36.0	83.8	83.6	89.8	91.1	88.8
Minnesota	34.4	35.0	36.0	37.3	36.3	19.8	20.4	20.6	20.7	19.9	57.9	57.8	60.0	61.4	57.6
Mississippi	83.0	83.3	84.2	85.6	81.0	58.2	57.6	59.1	60.1	57.5	120.2	121.2	120.6	120.4	111.0
Missouri	59.0	59.8	63.2	64.5	62.8	35.4	36.6	38.2	38.7	39.3	96.2	95.2	100.8	100.7	93.0
Montana	41.2	45.7	46.2	46.7	48.4	22.1	26.5	25.8	23.6	24.0	72.1	76.3	78.3	83.0	85.8
Nebraska	42.8	40.5	41.1	42.4	42.3	24.2	22.7	22.8	23.6	23.0	70.8	66.8	68.5	69.2	68.0
Nevada	73.6	73.4	71.4	75.3	73.3	46.6	44.9	42.7	43.9	42.5	116.2	117.1	113.9	119.1	115.1
New Hampshire	30.1	30.7	31.3	33.3	33.0	14.5	14.7	14.8	17.1	17.1	55.2	55.0	54.4	53.8	51.3
New Jersey	39.3	38.1	39.2	41.6	40.5	25.6	25.1	24.4	26.3	24.4	60.6	57.6	61.0	62.9	62.4
New Mexico	77.4	81.1	80.3	79.8	78.2	51.7	53.6	51.5	50.0	46.9	118.4	123.7	124.1	124.4	124.2
New York	45.8	45.7	45.3	46.0	43.6	29.8	29.8	29.0	29.1	27.5	70.1	69.4	69.3	69.0	63.4
North Carolina	66.3	66.8	69.5	70.5	67.6	43.5	42.9	43.8	46.2	44.9	100.3	101.4	105.6	101.7	94.4
North Dakota	34.6	36.8	37.3	35.6	35.4	15.4	17.6	17.8	18.1	15.6	65.5	67.4	68.3	62.4	62.3
Ohio	55.0	56.8	58.0	60.5	57.9	33.7	34.8	34.9	36.2	34.3	87.4	89.2	91.5	93.8	88.1
Oklahoma	65.9	68.6	69.9	72.1	66.8	40.5	40.5	41.1	41.7	38.8	104.9	111.2	113.3	115.6	104.3
Oregon	50.7	51.2	53.2	54.9	54.6	30.1	30.2	30.3	31.3	30.7	83.5	84.4	89.6	90.7	87.9
Pennsylvania	43.8	44.3	45.2	46.9	44.9	28.0	28.4	28.7	29.2	28.4	68.0	68.0	68.9	70.5	64.9
Rhode Island	47.7	49.8	47.5	45.4	43.9	32.2	33.5	29.7	30.1	31.6	71.5	73.5	72.1	63.6	55.7
South Carolina	66.5	66.0	70.3	72.9	71.3	45.7	43.6	45.8	48.0	47.0	96.9	97.8	104.6	105.4	101.4
South Dakota	42.8	44.3	48.3	47.5	46.8	23.0	24.9	26.9	26.3	23.9	74.1	74.7	81.9	79.2	78.7
Tennessee	71.0	70.2	71.4	75.2	72.3	43.2	43.4	44.6	47.8	45.0	113.5	109.7	109.5	112.1	107.3
Texas	77.6	78.1	78.9	78.9	75.3	51.8	51.3	51.1	50.4	48.0	116.4	117.8	120.2	119.3	112.2
Utah	42.7	44.5	46.3	48.2	48.5	24.9	25.7	26.1	27.0	26.3	70.4	74.0	78.4	79.8	78.7
Vermont	33.0	35.2	35.6	39.2	34.0	16.5	17.0	17.3	21.3	19.5	58.7	62.8	62.0	62.0	49.6
Virginia	50.7	49.8	51.8	53.5	52.9	31.2	30.6	31.0	31.8	32.1	78.8	76.7	80.1	81.2	77.7
Washington	48.2	50.2	50.9	53.7	53.1	28.5	29.3	30.8	31.0	29.6	78.9	82.2	81.5	86.5	84.4
West Virginia	54.3	55.6	56.0	57.8	57.3	32.5	33.5	32.4	32.4	33.0	87.0	88.2	90.7	93.2	89.9
Wisconsin	38.8	41.1	42.1	43.7	42.6	23.0	23.9	23.9	24.8	24.2	63.6	67.5	70.1	71.2	66.1
Wyoming	48.2	49.6	49.6	54.2	56.3	24.9	26.9	24.8	26.4	29.7	86.4	86.0	89.8	98.6	98.1

NOTES: Rates for 1990–92 were previously published. 1991–92 (ages 15–19 only): CDC. ''State-Specific Pregnancy and Birth Rates Among Teenagers—United States, 1991–1992.'' MMWR 44(37):677–84. 1995. 1990: Clarke SC, Ventura SJ. Birth and Fertility Rates for States: United States, 1990. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(52). 1994.

Table 3. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1990–94

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

Year	15–19 years			15–17 years			18–19 years		
	Hispanic[1]	Non-Hispanic White	Black	Hispanic[1]	Non-Hispanic White	Black	Hispanic[1]	Non-Hispanic White	Black
1994	107.7	40.4	104.5	74.0	22.8	76.3	158.0	67.4	148.3
1993	106.8	40.7	108.6	71.7	22.7	79.8	159.1	67.7	151.9
1992[2]	107.1	41.7	112.4	71.4	22.7	81.3	159.7	69.8	157.9
1991[2]	106.7	43.4	115.5	70.6	23.6	84.1	158.5	70.5	158.6
1990[3]	100.3	42.5	112.8	65.9	23.2	82.3	147.7	66.6	152.9

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race; see Technical notes.
[2]Rates estimated for the United States; based on information for 49 States and the District of Columbia, which reported Hispanic origin on the birth certificate; information was not reported for New Hampshire; see Technical notes.
[3]Rates computed for the total of 48 States and the District of Columbia, which reported Hispanic origin on the birth certificate in 1990; this information was not reported by Oklahoma and New Hampshire. See Technical notes.

Table 4. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years by age and race/Hispanic origin: United States and each State, 1994

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	15–19 years					15–17 years					18–19 years				
		White					White					White			
	All races[1]	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[2]	All races[1]	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[2]	All races[1]	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[2]
United States	58.9	51.1	40.4	104.5	107.7	37.6	30.7	22.8	76.3	74.0	91.5	82.1	67.4	148.3	158.0
Alabama	72.2	55.1	54.8	108.1	71.8	50.8	35.2	35.1	82.8	*	103.4	83.7	83.2	145.8	*
Alaska	55.2	44.5	43.4	79.3	*	32.3	24.8	24.3	*	*	90.0	74.0	71.9	*	*
Arizona	78.7	77.3	49.2	99.7	136.3	50.2	49.4	28.3	64.9	94.2	123.5	120.9	82.0	154.3	201.2
Arkansas	76.3	64.1	63.1	120.2	118.4	48.8	37.6	37.2	88.2	*	117.1	102.9	101.1	169.3	*
California	71.3	76.6	38.1	89.2	118.4	45.5	48.8	21.4	58.9	79.7	110.8	119.0	64.5	137.3	175.1
Colorado	54.3	52.0	38.2	96.6	109.3	34.3	33.1	21.3	61.0	81.8	85.7	81.6	64.5	154.5	152.4
Connecticut	40.3	33.0	20.1	93.6	125.0	28.9	22.9	11.7	72.2	101.4	58.2	48.6	33.1	128.9	162.9
Delaware	60.2	43.0	38.4	115.4	*	44.6	29.5	26.2	92.2	*	82.9	62.6	56.1	150.6	*
District of Columbia	114.7	16.9	15.3	138.5	96.7	87.9	10.7	*	107.0	*	151.0	25.5	*	180.5	*
Florida	64.4	51.5	46.9	113.1	68.2	42.4	31.0	27.0	84.0	46.5	98.3	82.5	77.4	159.3	99.9
Georgia	71.7	54.1	51.5	106.9	133.8	48.5	32.5	31.3	79.4	68.4	107.4	86.6	81.9	150.6	233.7
Hawaii	53.5	33.0	29.8	*	107.7	31.7	13.5	9.5	*	70.1	83.6	59.4	57.8	*	160.6
Idaho	46.6	46.2	40.6	*	117.8	27.0	26.9	22.6	*	82.7	76.4	75.6	68.1	*	171.3
Illinois	62.8	46.2	34.3	139.1	112.6	41.1	26.8	18.8	105.4	71.5	96.7	76.4	58.3	192.7	175.5
Indiana	57.9	51.8	50.8	115.3	82.2	34.9	29.4	28.7	85.5	52.7	92.4	85.3	83.9	160.2	125.8
Iowa	39.7	37.5	36.2	117.4	96.9	22.7	21.0	20.0	87.1	63.8	66.5	63.8	61.9	*	*
Kansas	53.5	48.7	44.9	116.4	106.9	30.3	26.3	23.5	82.6	69.4	90.1	84.1	78.7	171.7	164.8
Kentucky	64.5	60.4	60.3	113.5	*	39.7	35.6	35.6	85.7	*	102.1	97.6	97.5	159.0	*
Louisiana	74.7	49.2	49.6	115.3	49.3	51.3	28.8	29.1	86.7	27.9	109.6	79.3	79.9	158.8	80.3
Maine	35.5	35.0	35.0	*	*	18.1	17.7	17.6	*	*	62.8	62.1	62.1	*	*
Maryland	49.7	32.4	31.5	89.3	62.0	32.5	18.0	17.4	64.5	34.0	76.5	54.5	53.2	128.4	104.9
Massachusetts	37.2	32.6	23.5	90.5	132.9	23.7	20.5	13.0	60.2	101.0	57.3	50.6	38.9	136.1	180.3
Michigan	52.1	39.7	37.8	110.2	85.3	31.6	21.9	20.4	78.1	58.2	83.8	67.6	64.9	158.9	127.2
Minnesota	34.4	28.6	26.9	132.3	98.9	19.8	15.1	14.0	99.3	62.4	57.9	50.4	47.9	185.9	158.6
Mississippi	83.0	56.6	56.7	114.4	*	58.2	34.5	34.6	85.8	*	120.2	89.1	89.3	158.0	*
Missouri	59.0	49.1	48.7	123.1	65.4	35.4	26.3	26.0	92.7	40.1	96.2	84.8	84.3	171.1	106.0
Montana	41.2	34.7	34.0	*	*	22.1	18.0	17.5	*	*	72.1	61.4	60.3	*	*
Nebraska	42.8	37.9	34.5	119.3	110.6	24.2	20.7	18.0	83.7	78.6	70.8	63.5	59.2	173.8	*
Nevada	73.6	71.1	55.4	111.3	138.3	46.6	43.4	31.4	81.3	95.7	116.2	114.7	93.4	159.0	204.5
New Hampshire	30.1	30.1	29.6	*	*	14.5	14.3	13.9	*	*	55.2	55.4	54.7	*	*
New Jersey	39.3	27.2	16.5	99.7	81.1	25.6	16.0	8.2	71.8	55.7	60.6	44.2	29.2	144.0	120.3
New Mexico	77.4	76.2	43.7	66.4	102.4	51.7	51.7	24.5	50.6	74.1	118.4	115.0	74.5	*	146.6
New York	45.8	39.8	26.4	73.0	81.1	29.8	24.6	14.7	52.3	56.1	70.1	62.7	44.0	104.5	118.6
North Carolina	66.3	52.3	50.0	98.5	159.6	43.5	30.8	29.5	72.5	87.3	100.3	84.3	80.4	137.9	275.1
North Dakota	34.6	29.2	28.7	*	*	15.4	11.9	11.7	*	*	65.5	57.0	56.0	*	*
Ohio	55.0	46.1	45.2	116.1	83.6	33.7	26.3	25.6	83.3	54.2	87.4	76.1	74.9	167.5	129.2
Oklahoma	65.9	59.0	57.1	105.5	87.1	40.5	34.5	33.1	73.3	58.0	104.9	96.0	93.5	157.1	132.0
Oregon	50.7	49.8	43.8	101.6	136.8	30.1	29.2	24.9	68.1	93.5	83.5	82.5	73.9	*	204.3
Pennsylvania	43.8	34.0	30.5	118.1	129.3	28.0	19.6	16.7	90.6	97.3	68.0	56.0	51.5	161.9	180.1
Rhode Island	47.7	41.3	31.7	120.4	136.8	32.2	27.1	20.2	87.9	98.4	71.5	63.0	49.2	*	*
South Carolina	66.5	50.3	49.9	92.1	68.4	45.7	31.0	30.9	68.4	*	96.9	78.3	77.6	127.0	*
South Dakota	42.8	33.0	32.3	*	*	23.0	16.0	15.6	*	*	74.1	59.7	58.4	*	*
Tennessee	71.0	58.8	58.5	119.8	79.5	43.2	32.7	32.6	84.2	41.9	113.5	98.3	97.8	176.3	*
Texas	77.6	75.7	47.7	100.4	113.6	51.8	49.6	27.4	72.8	80.8	116.4	114.6	78.7	143.9	161.4
Utah	42.7	42.0	38.6	*	96.9	24.9	24.5	21.9	*	66.9	70.4	69.1	64.7	*	141.9
Vermont	33.0	33.2	33.4	*	*	16.5	16.5	16.5	*	*	58.7	59.1	59.6	*	*
Virginia	50.7	40.7	38.8	87.9	79.4	31.2	23.1	21.8	59.7	50.1	78.8	65.7	62.9	129.9	122.2
Washington	48.2	47.2	40.5	80.9	125.8	28.5	27.1	22.5	52.4	83.0	78.9	78.3	68.4	128.1	192.0
West Virginia	54.3	53.7	53.8	80.7	*	32.5	31.6	31.7	60.4	*	87.0	86.7	86.9	*	*
Wisconsin	38.8	28.8	26.5	142.3	92.6	23.0	15.2	13.5	105.7	66.8	63.6	50.1	47.0	199.7	131.3
Wyoming	48.2	47.6	45.4	*	74.9	24.9	24.1	22.2	*	*	86.4	86.1	83.4	*	*

* Figure does not meet standards of reliabilty or precision; based on fewer than 20 births or fewer than 1,000 women in specified group.
[1]Includes races other than white and black.
[2]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Table 5. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years—Actual and standardized: United States and each State, 1994

[Rates per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years]

	Actual rate	*Standardized rate*[1]	*Percent difference*
United States	58.9	58.9	. . .
Alabama	72.2	63.6	–12.0
Alaska	55.2	55.4	0.2
Arizona	78.7	71.1	–9.7
Arkansas	76.3	78.0	2.3
California	71.3	56.5	–20.7
Colorado	54.3	56.9	4.8
Connecticut	40.3	45.1	11.8
Delaware	60.2	62.7	4.2
District of Columbia	114.7	43.9	–61.7
Florida	64.4	59.2	–8.1
Georgia	71.7	68.9	–3.8
Hawaii	53.5	44.6	–16.5
Idaho	46.6	55.1	18.3
Illinois	62.8	59.3	–5.6
Indiana	57.9	63.2	9.1
Iowa	39.7	57.0	43.8
Kansas	53.5	63.7	19.1
Kentucky	64.5	67.5	4.7
Louisiana	74.7	58.9	–21.1
Maine	35.5	42.1	18.4
Maryland	49.7	42.9	–13.7
Massachusetts	37.2	47.8	28.5
Michigan	52.1	54.8	5.3
Minnesota	34.4	54.3	58.1
Mississippi	83.0	62.2	–25.0
Missouri	59.0	61.5	4.1
Montana	41.2	43.9	6.4
Nebraska	42.8	60.2	40.6
Nevada	73.6	75.1	2.0
New Hampshire	30.1	35.6	18.0
New Jersey	39.3	37.2	–5.4
New Mexico	77.4	59.4	–23.3
New York	45.8	41.3	–9.9
North Carolina	66.3	72.2	9.0
North Dakota	34.6	41.7	20.7
Ohio	55.0	59.8	8.7
Oklahoma	65.9	69.5	5.5
Oregon	50.7	65.0	28.1
Pennsylvania	43.8	56.2	28.5
Rhode Island	47.7	64.2	34.6
South Carolina	66.5	58.0	–12.8
South Dakota	42.8	45.7	6.9
Tennessee	71.0	69.5	–2.0
Texas	77.6	63.5	–18.2
Utah	42.7	52.4	22.6
Vermont	33.0	32.3	–2.2
Virginia	50.7	50.1	–1.2
Washington	48.2	57.9	20.1
West Virginia	54.3	52.3	–3.6
Wisconsin	38.8	55.2	42.2
Wyoming	48.2	49.1	1.9

. . . Category not applicable.

[1]Standardized by direct standardization with distribution of the U.S. population of women aged 15–19 years by race and Hispanic origin for 1994 as standard population; see Technical notes.

Technical notes

Sources of data

Data shown in this report for 1994 are based on 100 percent of the birth certificates in all States and the District of Columbia. The data are provided to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program (VSCP).

Race

Beginning with the 1989 data year, NCHS is tabulating its birth data primarily by race of the mother. In 1988 and prior years, births were tabulated by the race of the child, which was determined from the race of the parents as entered on the birth certificate.

Trend data by race shown in this report are by race of mother for all years beginning with the 1980 data year. The factors influencing the decision to tabulate births by race of the mother have been discussed in detail in a previous report (15). They include the recent revision of the birth certificate, effective with the 1989 data year, which includes many more health questions that are directly associated with the mother in addition to many other items on the birth certificate for more than two decades. In all these instances, it is more appropriate to tabulate births by the mother's race. A second factor has been the increasing incidence of interracial parentage. In 1994, 4.4 percent of births were to parents of different races compared with just 1.7 percent in 1974. The third factor influencing the decision to tabulate births by race of mother is the growing proportion of births with race of father not stated, 16 percent in 1994 compared with 9 percent in 1974. This reflects the increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women; in many such cases, no information is reported on the father. These births are already assigned the race of the mother because there is no alternative.

Birth rates for American Indian teenagers and Asian or Pacific Islander teenagers are not included in this report. These two population groups are relatively small and tend to be highly concentrated geographically, which makes it possible to compute meaningful rates for only a few States.

Hispanic origin

Hispanic origin of the mother is reported and tabulated independently of race. Thus persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. In 1994, 91 percent of women of Hispanic origin were reported as white (1).

Population denominators

Birth rates for 1991–94 shown in this report are based on populations estimated as of July 1 for each year; rates for 1990 are based on populations enumerated as of April 1, 1990. The population estimates have been published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (1,2) and are based on the 1990 census counts by race and age that were modified to be consistent with Office of Management and Budget racial categories and historical categories for birth data, and in the case of age, to reflect age as of the census reference date. The modification procedures are described in detail in a census report (16).

In computing birth and fertility rates for the Hispanic population, births with origin of mother not stated are included with non-Hispanic births rather than being distributed. Thus, rates for the U.S. Hispanic population are underestimates of the true rates to the extent that the births with origin not stated (1.1 percent) were actually to Hispanic mothers. The origin of the mother was imputed for population counts when it was not stated. The effect on the rates is believed to be small.

Computation of rates

Rates were not computed if there were fewer than 20 births in the numerator or fewer than 1,000 women in the specified group in the denominator. An asterisk is shown in place of the rate.

Rates by Hispanic origin shown in table 3 for 1990 are based on a reporting area consisting of 48 States and the District of Columbia that reported Hispanic origin on the birth certificate in 1990. Data were not available for Oklahoma and New Hampshire; it is estimated that 99.6 percent of the Hispanic population lived in the reporting area (17). Rates for 1991–92 are based on all States except New Hampshire. It is estimated that more than 99.9 percent of the U.S. Hispanic population lived in the reporting area. Beginning in 1993, Hispanic origin was reported by all States. Given that more than 99 percent of the Hispanic origin population lived in the reporting area for 1990–92, the addition of Oklahoma and New Hampshire should not have affected the trends in the birth rates (17).

To eliminate the effect of differences among States in the distributions of the populations by race and Hispanic origin on the State birth rates, standardized birth rates were computed for 1994. The direct method of standardization was used. The 1994 distribution of the U.S. population of women aged 15–19 years by race and Hispanic origin was used as the standard population in this procedure.

Random variation and relative standard error

Although the birth data in this report for births since 1985 are not subject to sampling error, they may be affected by random variation in the number of births involved. When the number of events is small (perhaps less than 100) and the probability of such an event is small, considerable caution must be observed in interpreting the data. Events of rare nature may be assumed to follow a Poisson probability distribution. For this distribution, a simple approximation may be used to estimate the error as follows:

If N is the number of births and R is the corresponding rate, the chances are 19 in 20 that

1. The "true" number of events lies between

$$N - 2\sqrt{N} \text{ and } N + 2\sqrt{N}$$

2. The "true" rate lies between

$$R - 2\frac{R}{\sqrt{N}} \text{ and } R + 2\frac{R}{\sqrt{N}}$$

If the rate R_1 corresponding to N_1 events is compared to the rate R_2 corresponding to N_2 events, the difference between the two rates may be regarded as statistically significant if it exceeds

$$2\sqrt{\frac{R_1^2}{N_1} + \frac{R_2^2}{N_2}}$$

For example, the teenage birth rate for Maine for 1994 was 35.5 births per

1,000 women 15–19 years of age and this rate was based on 1,459 recorded births. Given prevailing conditions, the chances are 19 in 20 that the ''true'' or underlying birth rate for Maine lies between 33.6 and 37.4 per 1,000 women 15–19 years of age. The 1991 teenage birth rate for Maine was 43.5 based on 1,805 recorded births. The difference between the rates is 8.0, which is more than twice the standard error of the difference

$$\sqrt{\frac{(35.5)^2}{1459} + \frac{(43.5)^2}{1805}}$$

of the two rates that is computed to be 2.8. From this, it is concluded that the difference between the teenage birth rate in 1991 and 1994 is statistically significant.

Contents

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