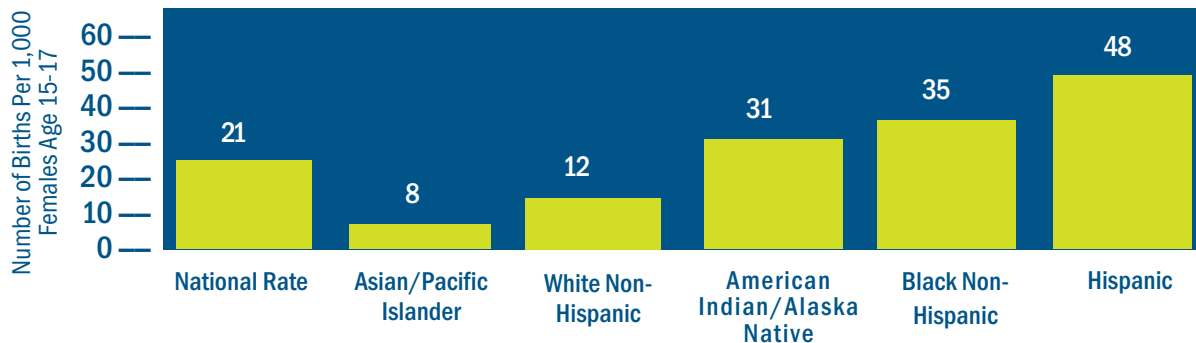




Teen Birth Rate Continues Decline, Reaches Record Low

A new national report on American youth, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2007*, by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics reveals that the birth rate among teenage females¹ age 15-17 reached a record low in 2005, at 21 per 1,000 (133,138), falling more than two-fifths since 1991, when it peaked at 39 per 1,000. However, rates differ tremendously among racial/ethnic groups. In 2005, it was lowest among Asians/Pacific Islanders (8 per 1,000) and highest among Hispanics (48 per 1,000). Like the national rate, the rates for all racial/ethnic categories peaked in the early to mid-1990s and have decreased since then. Among Black non-Hispanics in this age range, the rate dropped by three-fifths between 1990 and 2005 (from 85 to 35 per 1,000); among White non-Hispanics, the rate declined by about half (from 23 to 12 per 1,000); and among Hispanics, the rate fell by nearly one-third (from 66 to 48 per 1,000).

Live Birth Rate by Racial Ethnic Groups, 2005



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System. Hamilton, B. E., Martin, J. A., and Ventura, S. J. (2006). Births: Preliminary Data for 2005. *National Vital Statistics Reports* 55(11). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Sutton, P. D., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, F., and Kirmeyer, S. (2006). Births: Final data for 2004. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 55(1). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. *(Cited in the following source.)*

Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2007). *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2007*. Washington, DC. U.S. Government Printing Office. Retrieved August 13, 2007, from <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/index.asp>.

¹ Becoming a teenage mother is associated with long-term challenges for both the mother and the child(ren) due to poverty and other difficult socioeconomic conditions that often accompany the occurrence.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, offer trainings, technical assistance, and organizational development in the fields of health and justice. For more information visit us online at: www.centerforhealthandjustice.org

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