

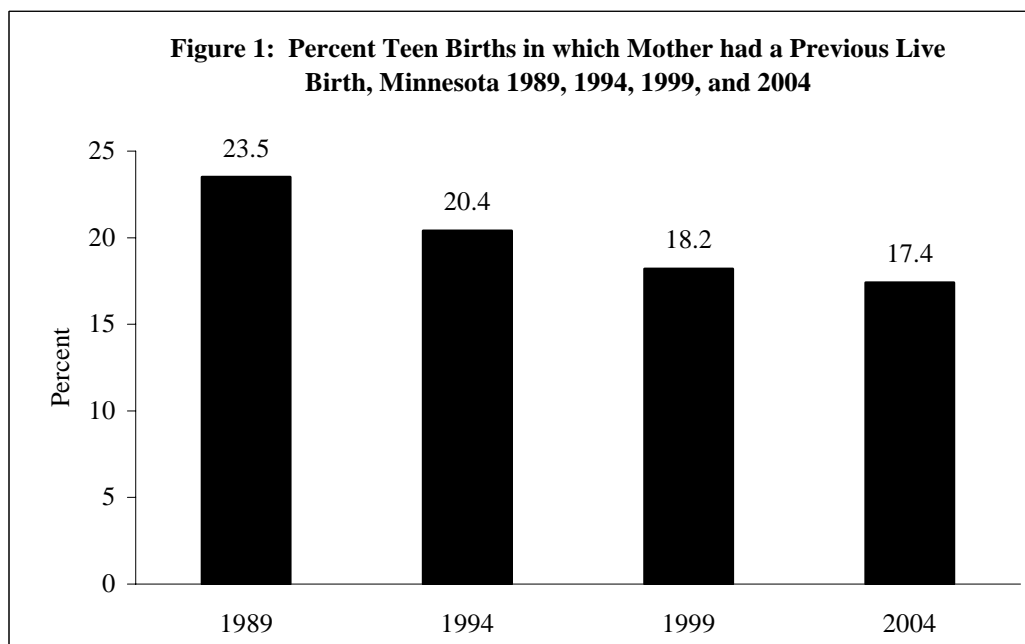
Repeat Births to Teens in Minnesota, 1989 - 2004

In 2004, teen mothers (under age 20) had 4,961 births; this accounted for 7.1% of all Minnesota resident births. Of these 4,961 births, 17.4% or 865, were to repeat teen mothers: teens having had one or more times previously given birth. This report notes general trends in repeat teen births and compares birth outcomes of first-time teen mothers with those of repeat teen mothers.

Data is from the Minnesota birth certificate, looking at resident births where the mother is under age 20, for the years 1989-2004. Multiple births are counted as one event i.e. twins and triplets are not considered repeat births, but a single birth event to be evaluated with any other separate birth event of the mother.

Overall Trends

There is no clear change in the percent of total Minnesota resident births per year that are to teen mothers. For example, in 1989 7.5% of births were to mothers under age 20, in 2004 the percent was slightly lower at 7.1%. However, the percent of the repeat teen births has been steadily decreasing over the years, from 23.5% in 1989 to 17.4% in 2004 (Figure 1).



It is expected that the majority of repeat teen mothers under age 20 have a total of two births within that limited span of time; however a sizable number of teens giving birth have had two or more previous births, with the upper end in one or two instances having six births in total. Some may be due to past multiple birth events, which are not apparent in the mother's birth history, so the data breakdown is limited to include two or more previous births (Table 1).

**Table 1: Previous live births to Repeat Teen Mothers
Minnesota, Selected Years**

Previous live births	1989		1994		1999		2004	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
One	816	77.6	793	80.7	782	84.6	659	82.0
Two or more	236	22.4	190	19.3	142	15.4	145	18.0

Age

Not surprisingly the majority of repeat teen births are to older teen mothers; however in 2004, almost 14% of these births occur at age 17 and under (Table 2).

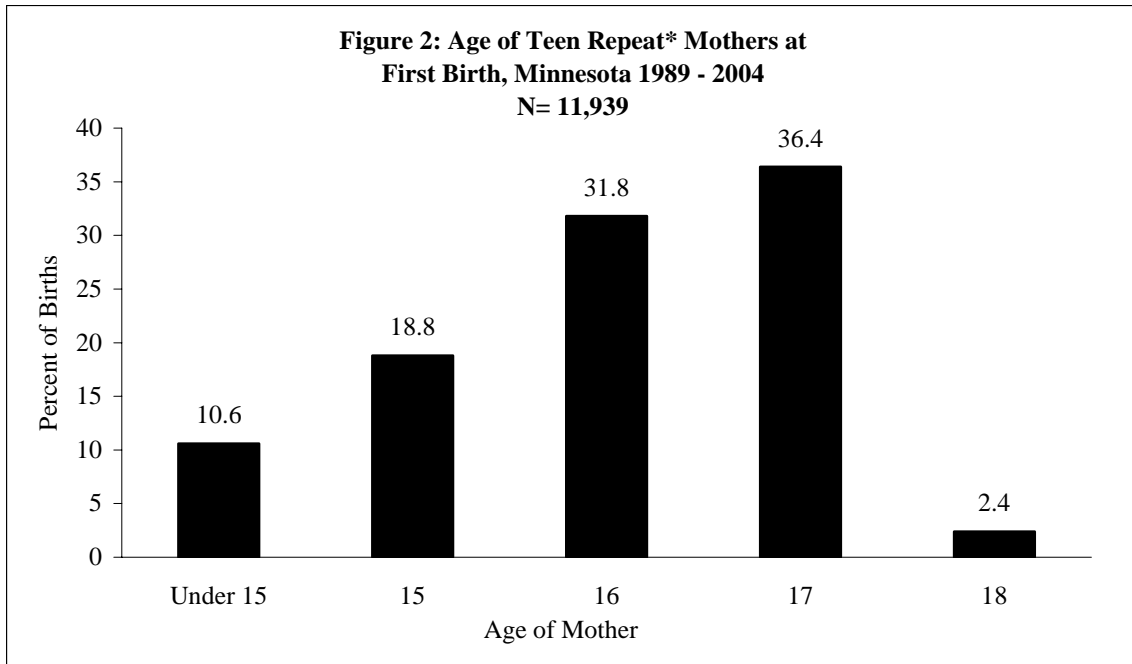
**Table 2: Previous Live Births to Repeat Teen Mothers by Age
Minnesota, Selected Years**

Age of Mother	1989		1994		1999		2004	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
17 and Under	218	19.0	201	19.1	182	18.7	114	13.8
18 - 19	928	81.0	851	80.9	789	81.3	714	86.2

Age at first birth

Taking only repeat teen mothers who have had two birth events from 1989-2004, 10.6% were age 14 or younger at first birth. As expected, near the end of the teen years a low proportion, 2.4%, were age 18 at first birth. This would necessitate close spacing between births in order to have a second birth by age 19 (Figure 2). Note: due to limitations of birth certificate data, mother's age at first birth cannot be calculated for mothers with more than 2 births.

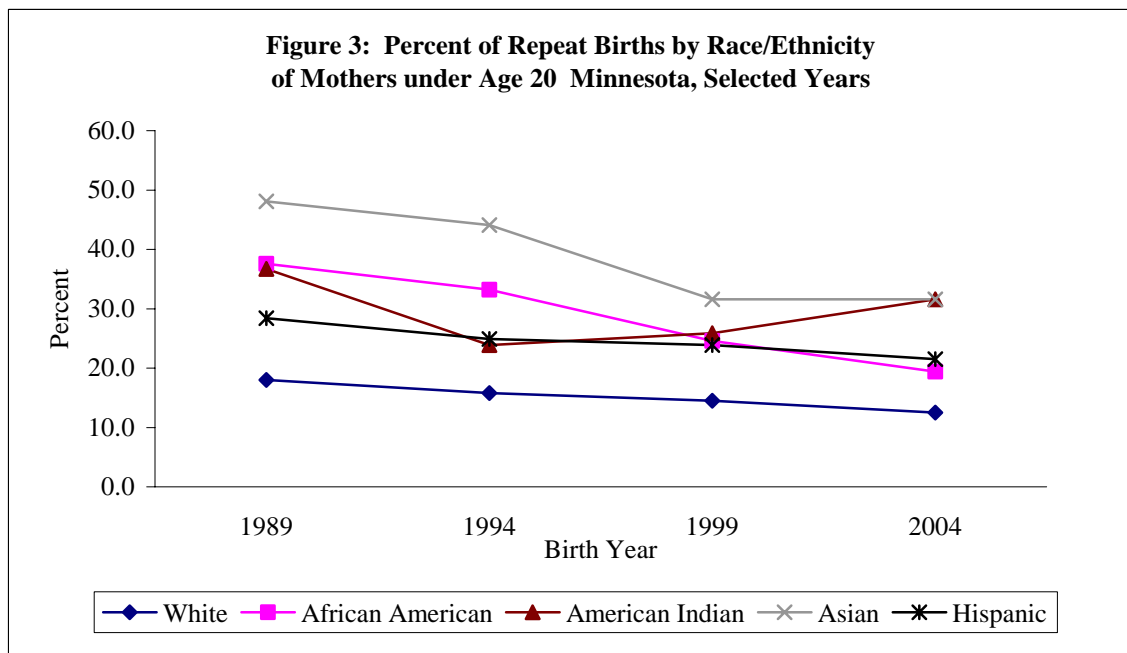
The average time between births for these repeat teen mothers is 2.3 years; 6.0% had their second birth within one year. The average age at first birth of these repeat teen mothers is 16.0 years, while by contrast the average age of teens with only one birth in the same time period was 17.7 years.



*Data only available for teen mothers with two births only.

Repeat Births by Race and Ethnicity

Breaking down the data by race and ethnicity also shows the general downward trend in the percent of repeat births. However, for American Indian teens, after a drop in 1994, the percent of repeat teen births increases over the next ten years (Figure 3). Repeat births make up a much larger percentage of births for Asian and American Indian teens, approaching one-third in 2004; in 1989 repeat births accounted for almost half of all Asian teen births. African American teen repeat births show the greatest decrease over the years, from 37.6% in 1989 to 19.4% in 2004.



Breaking down the number of previous births by repeat teen mothers by race and ethnicity, Asians have the greatest percentage of multiple previous births (Table 3).

**Table 3: Previous live births to Repeat Teen Mothers by Race, Ethnicity
Minnesota, 1989 - 2004**

Race/Ethnicity	Previous Live Births			
	One		Two or More	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White	7,387	87.7	1,033	12.3
African American	2,372	76.5	727	23.5
American Indian	1,020	78.9	272	21.1
Asian	1,374	65.9	710	34.1
Hispanic	1,427	81.5	323	18.5

Among teen mothers in general, Populations of Color and American Indians give birth at slightly younger ages than Whites. More significant is that repeat teen mothers are younger at first birth than teen mothers with only one birth (Table 4).

Table 4: First-time and Repeat Teen Mothers, Minnesota for Year Span 1989 - 2004

Race/Ethnicity	First Time Mothers		Race/Ethnicity	Repeat Mothers*	
	Average Age	Number of Births		Average Age at First Birth	Number of Births
White	17.8	51,920	White	16.2	7,134
African American	17.2	8,221	African American	15.7	2,259
American Indian	17.3	3,466	American Indian	15.9	982
Asian	17.3	3,837	Asian	15.7	1,298
Hispanic	17.5	5,701	Hispanic	15.8	1,372

*Births are of teen mothers with two births total.

Of the U.S.- born teen births from 1989 - 2004, the percentage that were repeat teen births was 17.5% (N= 13,098), where foreign-born teen mothers was somewhat higher at 29.4% (N=2,821). Interestingly, breaking this data down further by race and ethnicity show that U.S.-born Hispanics had a higher proportion of repeat teen births than foreign-born Hispanics (Table 5).

**Table 5: Teen Repeat Births By Race/Ethnicity of Mother
Minnesota 1989 - 2004**

Race/Ethnicity	U.S. Born		Foreign Born	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White	8,143	14.3	720	20.1
African American	2,997	28.7	173	*
American Indian	1,321	28.0	11	*
Asian	354	23.6	1,781	40.0
Hispanic	1,071	26.6	729	21.2

*Percents not calculated because number of events were small.

Birth Characteristics

Comparing first birth events with that of repeat births for teens in more detail, it is clear that teens who have repeat births have worse outcomes than first-time teen mothers (Table 6). For example in 2004, 71.4% of first-time mothers under 20 began prenatal care in the first trimester compared to 57.6% of mothers under 20 who gave birth to their second or higher order child. Repeat teen mothers are also more likely to give birth prematurely (16.0% repeat vs. 10.2% first-time, 2004) and deliver a low birth weight baby (11.8% repeat vs. 7.5% first-time, 2004).

A rough indicator of education that is used here, educational status, takes the commonly expected school grade level that would be achieved by a particular age (plus or minus one year), and assesses a teen mother's level (low, average, high). For example, typically a teen aged 16 or 17 years could be expected roughly to be in 11th grade. Using this formula, almost 30% of first-time teen mothers in 2004 have low educational status, showing that education of the teen mother suffers with a young birth event; even more so with a repeat event, which may be a problem that persists over her educational span.

Table 6: Selected Birth Indicators for First-Time Mothers Under Age 20 and Repeat Teen Mothers Under 20, Minnesota Selected Years

Indicator	Birth Order	1989	1994	1999	2004
Percent Receiving Prenatal Care in First Trimester	First	58.8	64.5	69.1	71.4
	Repeat	46.2	53.4	58.0	57.6
Percent Receiving Prenatal Care in Third Trimester or Not at All	First	9.2	6.8	5.7	5.4
	Repeat	17.0	12.7	10.1	9.8
Percent Low Birth Weight (Under 2,500 grams)	First	6.9	6.6	7.3	7.5
	Repeat	10.7	9.5	8.8	11.8
Percent Premature (Less than 37 weeks gestation)	First	10.5	10.1	9.3	10.2
	Repeat	15.0	13.9	12.8	16.0
Percent with Low Educational Status	First	33.9	34.5	34.7	29.8
	Repeat	55.7	49.3	51.5	45.0
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	First	10.1	6.8	7.8	5.3*
	Repeat	17.7	16.4	18.1	10.3*

*2003 data used; 2004 not yet available.

Minnesota Vital Signs

**Minnesota Center for Health Statistics
Office of Health Policy, Statistics and Informatics
Minnesota Department of Health**

Vital Signs is available on the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics website, <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/vitalsigns/index.html>. If you require this document in another format such as large print, Braille, or cassette tape call 651/296-1232 or email healthstats@health.state.mn.us.



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