

Age-Specific Birth Rates, 1990-2006

This Vital Signs summarizes age-specific births from 1990-2006. The first section focuses on births to women between the ages of 15 and 44. The second section provides information on births to teen mothers overall and by race/ethnicity. Vital statistics are from the Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.

Age-Specific Birth Rates

Age-specific birth rates are the number of births for an age group per 1,000 females in that age group. The birth rates for all age groups increased from 2005 to 2006 except for the 40-44 year olds whose rate decreased slightly (Table 1). The greatest increase (7.4%) occurred in the 20 to 24 age group, their first increase since 2002.

Overall, the data in Table 1 indicate that women are having babies later in life. The rates for the older age groups have increased and, for the most part, the rates in the younger age groups have decreased. The 35-39 year old birth rate has increased every year since 1990. In 1990, the birth rate for 35-39 year olds was 31.1 births for every 1,000 women age 35-39, compared to 52.6 births per 1,000 in 2006.

Conversely, the birth rate for 15-19 year olds has decreased almost every year since 1990 when it was 36.4. The age group with the highest birth rate (25-29 year olds) has not changed from 1990. However, in 1993 the group with the second highest birth rate switched from the 20-24 year olds to the 30-34 year olds. In 2006, the 30-34 year old birth rate was still the second highest at 115.6 per 1,000 females.

Table 1: Age-Specific Birth Rates, Minnesota 1990-2006

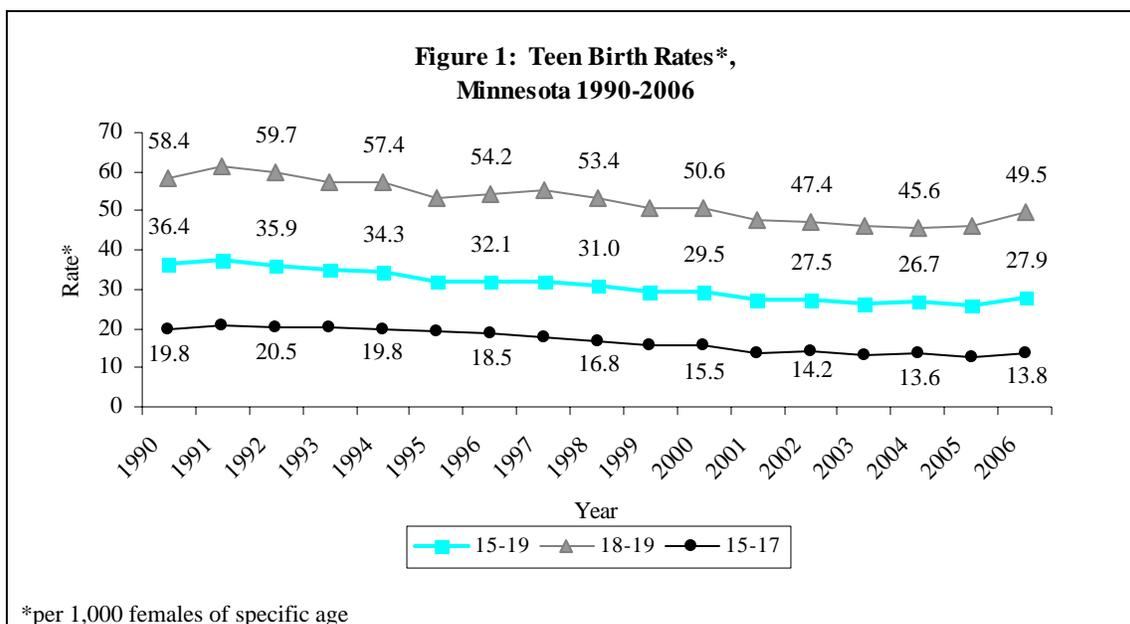
Year	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44
1990	36.4	92.4	128.3	86.5	31.1	5.1
1991	37.3	91.1	126.9	86.0	32.3	5.0
1992	35.9	88.9	125.4	87.3	32.6	5.3
1993	34.9	86.9	124.1	89.8	32.6	5.5
1994	34.3	85.6	124.2	91.2	34.1	5.8
1995	32.2	84.7	122.2	91.8	35.1	6.4
1996	32.1	85.1	122.6	95.6	36.2	6.2
1997	32.0	86.2	127.9	98.0	37.3	6.7
1998	31.0	86.5	127.8	102.8	39.4	6.9
1999	29.6	85.6	130.0	109.2	40.5	7.3
2000	29.5	86.3	121.5	108.3	41.7	7.8
2001	27.4	82.7	120.7	105.8	42.3	8.0
2002	27.5	83.3	123.7	107.1	43.8	8.0
2003	26.6	82.1	128.5	111.7	46.9	8.5
2004	26.7	81.2	128.9	110.5	49.1	8.2
2005	26.1	80.1	128.8	109.7	50.1	9.2
2006	27.9	86.0	135.4	115.6	52.6	9.0

*per 1,000 females of that specific age group

Teen Births

In 2006 there were 5,145 births to females age 12-19. Nearly 70% of those births were to 18 -19 year olds while 1.1% were to 12 -14 year olds. The age composition of teen births has remained relatively unchanged since 1990 with 41.3% of teen births to 19 year olds, 27.8% to 18 year olds, 17.5% to 17 year olds and 8.9% to 16 year olds in 2006.

Teen birth rates have increased for 15-17 and 18-19 year olds from 2005 to 2006 (Figure 1). For the 15-19 year olds, the rate increased by 1.8 births per 1,000 females from 2005 to 2006. From 1990 to 2006, there has been a general downward trend in teen birth rates. The 15-17 year old rate decreased by 30.2% from 19.8 in 1990 to 13.8 in 2006 and the 18-19 year old rate decreased from 58.4 to 49.5, a 15.2% decrease.



Teen Births by Race/Ethnicity

Teen birth rates (age 15-19) for Whites, African Americans and American Indians have decreased dramatically since 1990 (Table 2). From 1990 to 2006, the African American and American Indian rates decreased by 54.7% (150.9 to 68.4) and 26.9% (132.9 to 97.1) respectively. The Asian teen birth rate also decreased from 58.3 in 1990 to 51.7 in 2006. The teen birth rate for Whites has been decreasing steadily since 1990 with the rate reaching under 20 births per 1,000 in 2004. The Latina teen birth rate has fluctuated greatly since 1990. This may be due in part to the underestimation of the population of Latinas in this age group. In general, there is no clear trend for Latinas.

Although teen births rates have demonstrated a downward trend over the years, the rates increased for all races except American Indians from 2005 to 2006. The White rate increased by less than one birth per 1,000 White females 15-19, while the rate for African Americans increased by two births, Asians six births and Latinas 13 births. For African Americans, this was the first increase since 2002 and for Asians it was the first increase since 2001.

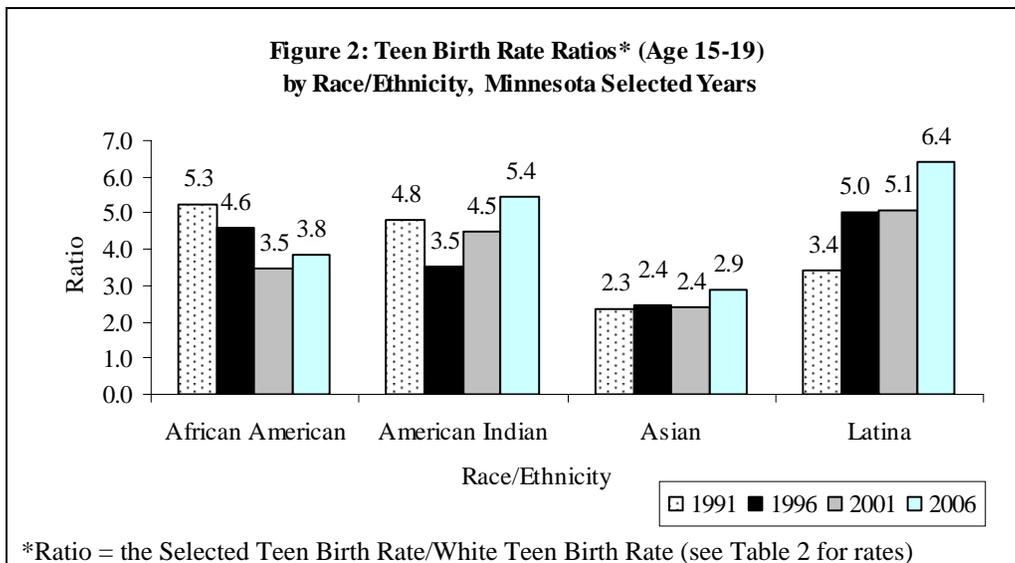
Disparities in Teen Birth Rates

Teen birth rates for African Americans, American Indians, Asians and Latinas are much higher than White rates. Figure 2 demonstrates the differences in the rates between Populations of Color/American Indians and Whites through ratios (e.g. African American teen birth rate/White teen birth rate). In 2006, Populations of Color and American Indians are from three to six times more likely than Whites to give birth as a teen. These disparities have not improved over the years despite the decreases in teen birth rates.

Table 2: Teen Birth Rates* by Race/Ethnicity, Minnesota 1990-2006

Year	White	African American	American Indian	Asian	Latina
1990	30.6	150.9	132.9	58.3	78.9
1991	30.3	159.4	145.2	70.7	103.7
1992	29.1	168.6	120.0	60.9	99.0
1993	28.2	145.9	118.7	67.3	109.9
1994	28.0	139.6	112.3	57.3	113.4
1995	25.7	119.0	108.5	68.1	110.9
1996	26.0	119.1	92.1	63.6	131.2
1997	25.7	117.1	102.6	67.2	125.8
1998	24.5	115.2	92.2	69.4	130.0
1999	23.2	108.1	96.4	64.7	137.5
2000	23.6	88.7	88.4	50.3	104.3
2001	21.7	75.4	97.3	52.4	110.2
2002	21.6	79.0	95.9	49.6	118.0
2003	20.9	73.2	99.3	48.1	111.7
2004	17.3	71.1	93.6	47.8	115.2
2005	17.2	66.4	99.5	45.7	101.3
2006	17.9	68.4	97.1	51.7	114.6

*per 1,000 females age 15-19



Minnesota VitalSigns

**Minnesota Center for Health Statistics
Division of Health Policy
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 651/201-3504 or email healthstats@health.state.mn.us.



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