

Teenage Births in the United States: State Trends, 1991–2000, an Update

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Abstract

Objectives—This report provides State-specific birth rates for teenagers for 1991 and 2000, and the percent change between the time periods.

Methods—Tabular and graphical description of trends in teenage birth rates by age group for each State and territory.

Results—Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years declined significantly in all States, the Virgin Islands and Guam, between 1991 and 2000. Declines by State ranged from 12 to 39 percent. Rates also fell significantly for teenage subgroups 15–17 and 18–19 years.

Keywords: teenage fertility • State-specific birth rates

Highlights

The birth rate for U.S. teenagers declined steadily throughout the 1990s, falling from 62.1 births per 1,000 teenagers 15–19 years in 1991 to 48.5 in 2000, a reduction of 22 percent (table 1). Rates for teenage subgroups fell as well. The rate for young teenagers 15–17 years dropped 29 percent, from 38.7 to 27.4 per 1,000, and the rate for older teenagers 18–19 years declined 16 percent, from 94.4 to 79.2 per 1,000. The rates for ages 15–19 and 15–17 years in 2000 were at all-time lows.

Teenage birth rates vary substantially by State (table 1 and figure 1). In 2000 rates for teenagers 15–19 ranged from 23.4 per 1,000 in New Hampshire to 72.0 in Mississippi. Although not directly comparable, because it is a city, the highest rate was for the District of Columbia, 80.7. The rates for teenage subgroups also vary considerably. Among teenagers 15–17 years, the rates ranged from 9.8 in New Hampshire to 45.0 in Mississippi. Rates were higher for the District of Columbia, 60.7; Guam, 55.0; and Puerto Rico, 49.1. Among older teenagers 18–19 years, the rates ranged from 44.5 in Vermont to 114.1 in Arkansas.

Birth rates in 2000 for ages 15–19 years were significantly lower than in 1991 in every State, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Guam, with overall declines ranging from 12 (Nebraska) to 39 per-

cent (Vermont) (table 1 and figure 2). Generally, the year-to-year declines in the State-specific rates echoed the national declines, but there was considerable variability in the State declines (1). Among young teenagers 15–17 years, birth rates dropped in all States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. Statistically significant declines ranging from 15 percent (Texas) to 50 percent (Vermont) were reported. Rates for older teenagers, 18–19 years, declined in the Virgin Islands, Guam, the District of Columbia, and all but four States. Statistically significant declines ranged from 6 percent (Georgia) to 38 percent (Alaska).

This summary updates a recently issued report, "Births to Teenagers in the United States, 1940–2000," by providing State-specific data for 2000, and supplements information provided in "Births: Final Data for 2000," published earlier this year (1,2). These previous reports provide additional detail on the trends and variations for population subgroups, and also describe the factors associated with the recent trends in childbearing among U.S. teenagers. Information on the population denominators used for this report is available in "Births: Final Data for 2000" (2).

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Table 1. Birth rates for teenagers aged 15–19 years, by age group and State and territory, and percent change by age: United States, 1991 and 2000

State	1991			2000			Percent change between 1991 and 2000		
	15–19 years	15–17 years	18–19 years	15–19 years	15–17 years	18–19 years	15–19 years	15–17 years	18–19 years
	United States ¹	62.1	38.7	94.4	48.5	27.4	79.2	-21.9	-29.2
Alabama	73.9	47.7	109.5	62.9	37.9	97.3	-14.9	-20.5	-11.1
Alaska	65.4	35.3	111.7	42.4	23.6	69.4	-35.2	-33.1	-37.9
Arizona	80.7	51.4	122.6	69.1	41.1	111.3	-14.4	-20.0	-9.2
Arkansas	79.8	49.4	122.8	68.5	36.7	114.1	-14.2	-25.7	-7.1
California	74.7	46.9	113.6	48.5	28.6	75.6	-35.1	-39.0	-33.5
Colorado	58.2	35.3	91.4	49.2	28.6	79.8	-15.5	-19.0	-12.7
Connecticut	40.4	26.3	59.4	31.9	16.9	56.3	-21.0	-35.7	** -5.2
Delaware	61.1	40.3	87.1	51.6	30.5	80.2	-15.5	-24.3	** -7.9
District of Columbia	114.4	102.8	125.5	80.7	60.7	101.8	-29.5	-41.0	-18.9
Florida	68.8	44.0	102.9	52.6	29.7	88.0	-23.5	-32.5	-14.5
Georgia	76.3	50.6	110.9	64.2	36.8	104.3	-15.9	-27.3	-6.0
Hawaii	58.7	34.7	91.5	45.1	24.7	70.5	-23.2	-28.8	-23.0
Idaho	53.9	29.3	90.8	43.1	21.3	72.8	-20.0	-27.3	-19.8
Illinois	64.8	40.6	99.1	49.5	28.5	81.1	-23.6	-29.8	-18.2
Indiana	60.5	35.2	95.2	50.3	26.2	85.9	-16.9	-25.6	-9.8
Iowa	42.6	22.8	71.5	34.7	17.4	60.3	-18.5	-23.7	-15.7
Kansas	55.4	29.4	94.1	45.3	22.4	78.5	-18.2	-23.8	-16.6
Kentucky	68.9	42.6	105.5	55.3	29.2	92.2	-19.7	-31.5	-12.6
Louisiana	76.1	51.1	111.4	62.1	36.3	97.1	-18.4	-29.0	-12.8
Maine	43.5	23.8	70.1	28.7	13.4	52.8	-34.0	-43.7	-24.7
Maryland	54.3	35.2	79.8	41.6	23.8	68.8	-23.4	-32.4	-13.8
Massachusetts	37.8	25.2	52.9	27.1	15.0	44.9	-28.3	-40.5	-15.1
Michigan	59.0	35.5	91.1	39.2	21.3	66.3	-33.6	-40.0	-27.2
Minnesota	37.3	20.7	61.4	29.6	15.6	51.0	-20.6	-24.6	-16.9
Mississippi	85.6	60.1	120.4	72.0	45.0	109.9	-15.9	-25.1	-8.7
Missouri	64.5	38.7	100.7	48.8	26.5	82.2	-24.3	-31.5	-18.4
Montana	46.7	23.6	83.0	35.8	19.1	60.8	-23.3	-19.1	-26.7
Nebraska	42.4	23.6	69.2	37.2	19.3	62.7	-12.3	-18.2	-9.4
Nevada	75.3	43.9	119.1	62.2	34.2	106.7	-17.4	-22.1	-10.4
New Hampshire	33.3	17.1	53.8	23.4	9.8	45.4	-29.7	-42.7	-15.6
New Jersey	41.6	26.3	62.9	31.7	17.0	54.9	-23.8	-35.4	-12.7
New Mexico	79.8	50.0	124.4	66.2	40.2	105.1	-17.0	-19.6	-15.5
New York	46.0	29.1	69.0	35.6	20.1	58.1	-22.6	-30.9	-15.8
North Carolina	70.5	46.2	101.7	59.9	32.8	101.4	-15.0	-29.0	** -0.3
North Dakota	35.6	18.1	62.4	28.2	12.5	51.4	-20.8	-30.9	-17.6
Ohio	60.5	36.2	93.8	45.6	24.1	77.2	-24.6	-33.4	-17.7
Oklahoma	72.1	41.7	115.6	60.1	32.9	99.8	-16.6	-21.1	-13.7
Oregon	54.9	31.3	90.7	43.2	23.5	72.8	-21.3	-24.9	-19.7
Pennsylvania	46.9	29.2	70.5	35.2	19.6	58.8	-24.9	-32.9	-16.6
Rhode Island	45.4	30.1	63.6	38.4	21.3	64.0	-15.4	-29.2	** 0.6
South Carolina	72.9	48.0	105.4	60.6	36.7	92.9	-16.9	-23.5	-11.9
South Dakota	47.5	26.3	79.2	37.2	19.4	62.2	-21.7	-26.2	-21.5
Tennessee	75.2	47.8	112.1	61.5	34.2	101.6	-18.2	-28.5	-9.4
Texas	78.9	50.4	119.3	69.2	42.7	107.1	-12.3	-15.3	-10.2
Utah	48.2	27.0	79.8	40.0	22.0	62.7	-17.0	-18.5	-21.4
Vermont	39.2	21.3	62.0	24.1	10.6	44.5	-38.5	-50.2	-28.2
Virginia	53.5	31.8	81.2	40.8	21.7	66.9	-23.7	-31.8	-17.6
Washington	53.7	31.0	86.5	38.2	20.3	64.5	-28.9	-34.5	-25.4
West Virginia	57.8	32.4	93.2	46.4	22.8	79.8	-19.7	-29.6	-14.4
Wisconsin	43.7	24.8	71.2	34.5	18.3	58.8	-21.1	-26.2	-17.4
Wyoming	54.2	26.4	98.6	40.8	19.0	73.4	-24.7	-28.0	-25.6
Puerto Rico	72.4	50.8	105.9	71.5	49.1	103.8	** -1.2	** -3.3	** -2.0
Virgin Islands	77.9	48.6	124.0	51.9	29.2	86.6	-33.4	-39.9	-30.2
Guam	95.7	55.0	156.1	80.3	55.0	120.5	-16.0	** 0.0	-22.8
American Samoa	---	---	---	44.8	20.4	83.8	---	---	---
Northern Marianas	---	---	---	54.0	40.8	70.9	---	---	---

--- Data not available.

** Not significant at $p < 0.05$.¹Excludes data for the territories.

NOTE: Birth rates by State shown in this table are based on population estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, projected from the 1990 census; see reference 2. Therefore, the rates shown here may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates.

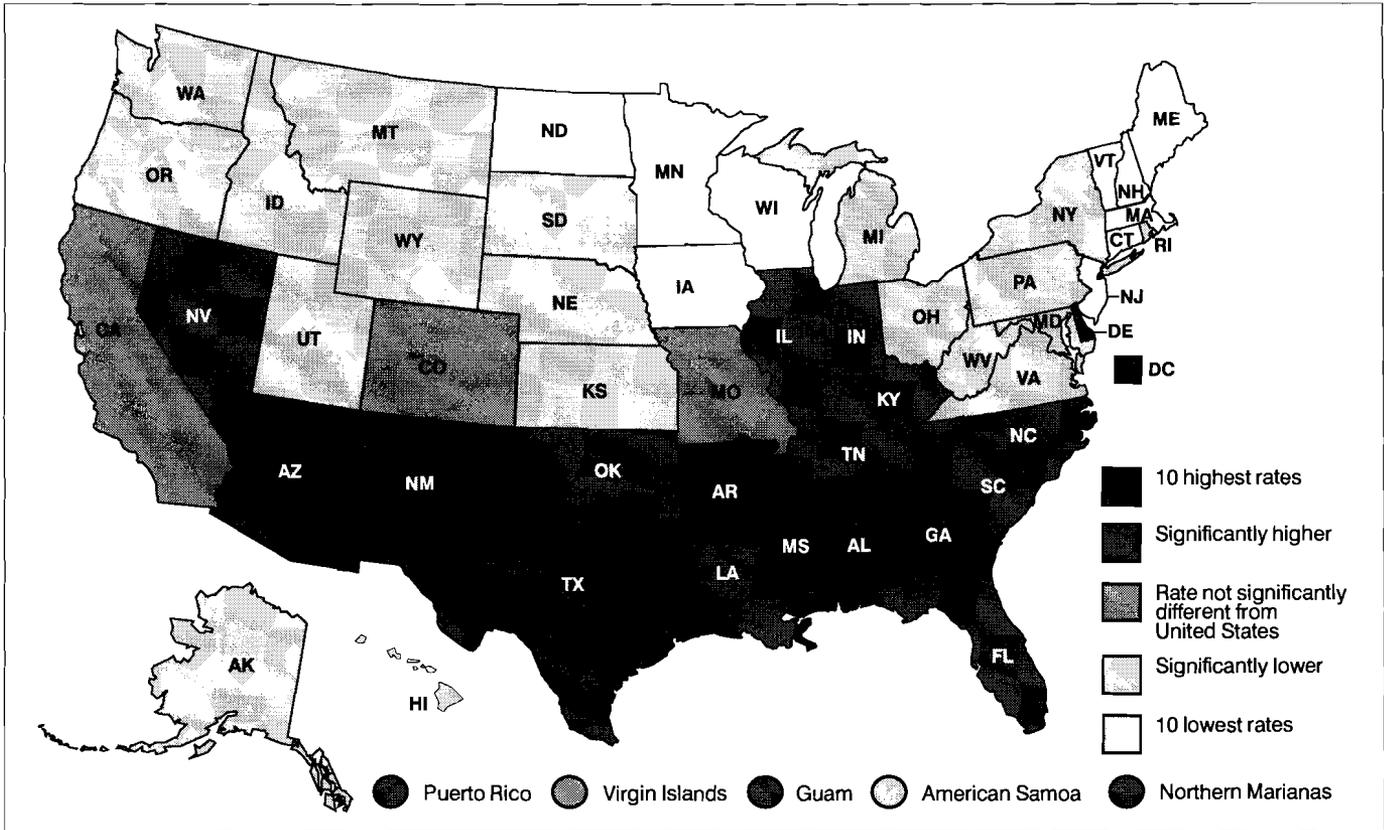


Figure 1. Birth rates for teenagers 15-19 years by State, 2000

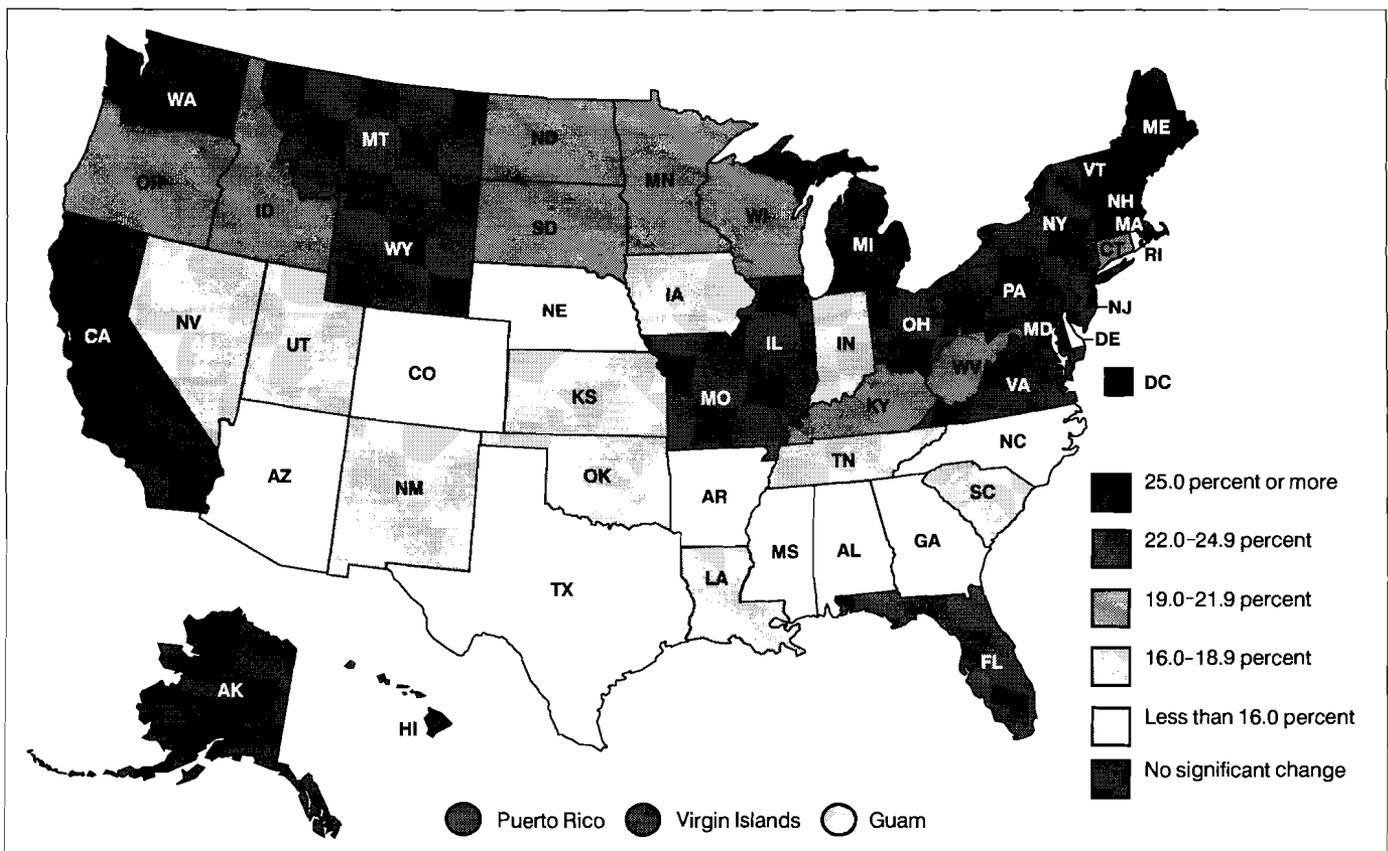


Figure 2. Percent decline in birth rates for teenagers 15-19 by State, between 1991 and 2000

References

1. Ventura SJ, Mathews TJ, Hamilton BE. Births to teenagers in the United States, 1940–2000. National vital statistics reports; vol 49 no 10. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2001.
2. Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Ventura SJ, Menacker F, Park MM. Births: Final data for 2000. National vital statistics reports; vol 50 no 5. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2002.

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