

# Fast Facts

## Summary of 2012 Preliminary Birth Data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

### Overall Teen Birth Rates

- The teen birth rate for girls age 15-19 decreased 6% between 2011 and 2012, from 31.3 births per 1,000 to 29.4 per 1,000. This is following a 8% decline between 2010 and 2011. Teen birth rates are at their lowest levels since NCHS began tracking teenage child-bearing in the 1940's.
- The teen birth rate for this age group declined 52% between 1991 and 2012. Between 2007 and 2012 alone, the teen birth rate dropped by 29%.
- The teen birth rate for all age groups and all racial/ethnic groups are at historic lows.

### Rates by Age

- The birth rate for girls age 10-14 remained unchanged between 2011 and 2012 at .4 per 1,000, an historic low for this age group. The birth rate for girls age 10-14 has declined 71% between 1991 and 2012, and has declined by 33% since 2007 alone.
- The birth rate for girls age 15-17 decreased 8% between 2011 and 2012 (from 15.4 per 1,000 to 14.1 per 1,000). The birth rate for this age group declined 63% between 1991 and 2012, and has declined by 35% since 2007 alone.
- The teen birth rate for girls age 18-19 decreased 5% between 2011 and 2012 (from 54.1 per 1,000 to 51.4 per 1,000). The birth rate for this age group declined 45% between 1991 and 2012, and has declined by 28% since 2007 alone.

### Rates by Race/Ethnicity

- The birth rate for non-Hispanic white teens age 15-19 decreased 6% between 2011 and 2012 (from 21.7 per 1,000 to 20.5 per 1,000). The birth rate for this group declined by 53% between 1991 and 2012, and has declined by 25% since 2007 alone.
- The birth rate for non-Hispanic black teens age 15-19 decreased 7% between 2011 and 2012 (from 47.3 per 1,000 to 43.9 per 1,000). The birth rate for this group declined by 63% between 1991 and 2012, and has declined by 29% since 2007 alone.
- The birth rate for Hispanic teens age 15-19 decreased 7% between 2011 and 2012 (from 49.6 per 1,000 to 46.3 per 1,000). The birth rate for this group declined by 56% between 1991 and 2012, and has declined by 39% since 2007 alone.
- The birth rate for American Indian or Alaska Native teens age 15-19 decreased 3% between 2011 and 2012 (from 36.1 per 1,000 to 34.9 per 1,000). The birth rate for this group declined by 59% between 1991 and 2012, and has declined by 29% since 2007 alone.
- The birth rate for Asian/Pacific Islander teens age 15-19 decreased 5% between 2011 and 2012 (from 10.2 per 1,000 to 9.7 per 1,000). The birth rate for this group declined by 64% between 1991 and 2012, and has declined by 34% since 2007 alone.

### Nonmarital Births

- In 2012, the proportion of non-marital births among teens was essentially unchanged from 2011, at 88.7% of births to teens age 15-19. This is a total of 270,888 non-marital births to teens. Among teens under age 15, the proportion is 99.1%; among those age 15-17 it is 95.4%; and among those age 18-19 it is 86.0%.