



Teen Pregnancy In The United States

- The United States has the highest rates of teen pregnancy and births in the western industrialized world. Teen pregnancy costs the United States at least \$7 billion annually. (National Campaign To Prevent Teen Pregnancy. 1997. Whatever Happened to Childhood? The Problem of Teen Pregnancy in the United States. Washington, DC: Author.)
- Nearly 4 in 10 young women become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20 - nearly one million a year. (Martin, J.A., Hamilton, B.E., Ventura, S.J., Menacher, F. & Park, M.M. 2002. Births: Final data for 2000. National Vital Statistics Reports 50:5.)
- The teen birth rate has declined slowly but steadily from 1991 to 2000 with an overall decline of 22 percent for those aged 15 to 19. The largest decline since 1991 by race was for black women. The birth rate for black teens aged 15 to 19 fell 31 percent between 1991 to 2000. Hispanic teen birth rates declined 12 percent between 1994 and 2000. The rates of both Hispanics and Blacks, however, remain higher than for other groups. Hispanic teens now have the highest teenage birth rates. (Martin, J.A., Hamilton, B.E., Ventura, S.J., Menacher, F. & Park, M.M. 2002. Births: Final data for 2000. National Vital Statistics Reports 50:5.)