

# DHSC Statsheet

Delaware Health Statistics Center

Division of Public Health  
Department of Health  
and Social Services

## Repeat Teen Births in Delaware

The majority of teen birth statistics revolve around the total number of teen births and the resulting rate per teen population. This document looks specifically at repeat teen births, which are defined as having two or more live births before age 20. According to a recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), each additional teen birth multiplies the potential risks and negative socioeconomic consequences of teen childbearing<sup>1</sup>. The report found that nearly 1 in 5 teen births was a repeat birth.

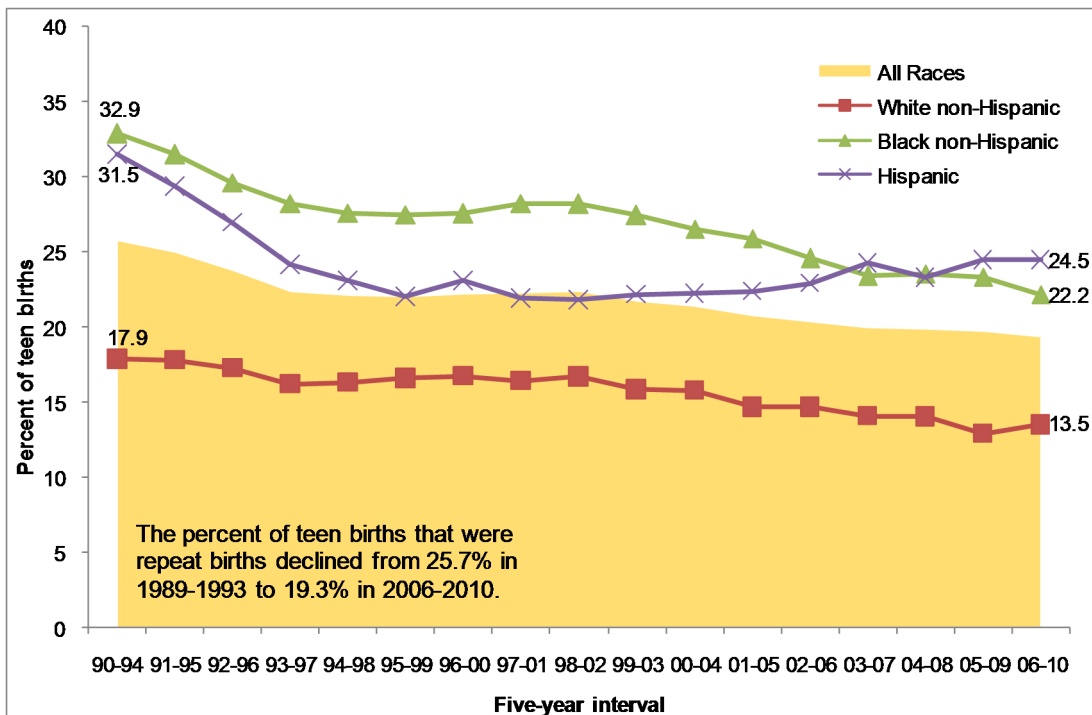
*Substantial progress has been made in reducing teen births and rates are the lowest they've been in the last 25 years.*

*However, teen childbearing continues to be an area of concern, and in 2006-2010 teen births accounted for 9.8 percent of the total live births.*

*Teen mothers have a higher risk of poor birth outcomes, are nearly all single, and rely more heavily on Medicaid to cover their payment for delivery.*

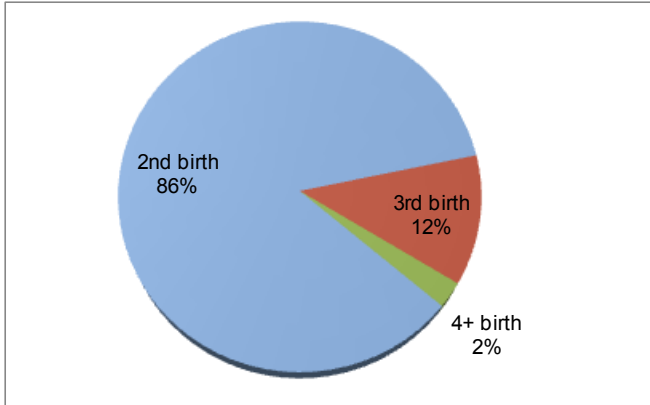
Delaware figures mirrored the national statistics. In 2006-2010, 19 percent of teen births were repeat births. White non-Hispanic teen mothers had both the lowest teen birth rate and the lowest percent of repeat teen births; Hispanic teen mothers had both the highest teen birth rate and the highest percent of repeat teen births. Between 1990 and 2010, all racial and ethnic groups demonstrated a decline in the percent of repeat teen births.

**Figure 1. Five-year Average Percent of Teen (15-19) Births that Were Repeat Births Delaware, 1990-2010**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

**Figure 2. Distribution of Teen Births by Live Birth Order, Delaware, 2006-2010**



Overall, teen births in Delaware accounted for 9.8 percent of all births in 2006-2010, which is approximately 1,150 teen births per year. Of those teen births, 19.3 percent were repeat births; this equates to an average of 222 repeat teen births per year.

Among the teens who had a repeat birth, the majority (86 percent) were second births, 12 percent were third births, and 2 percent were fourth or higher births.

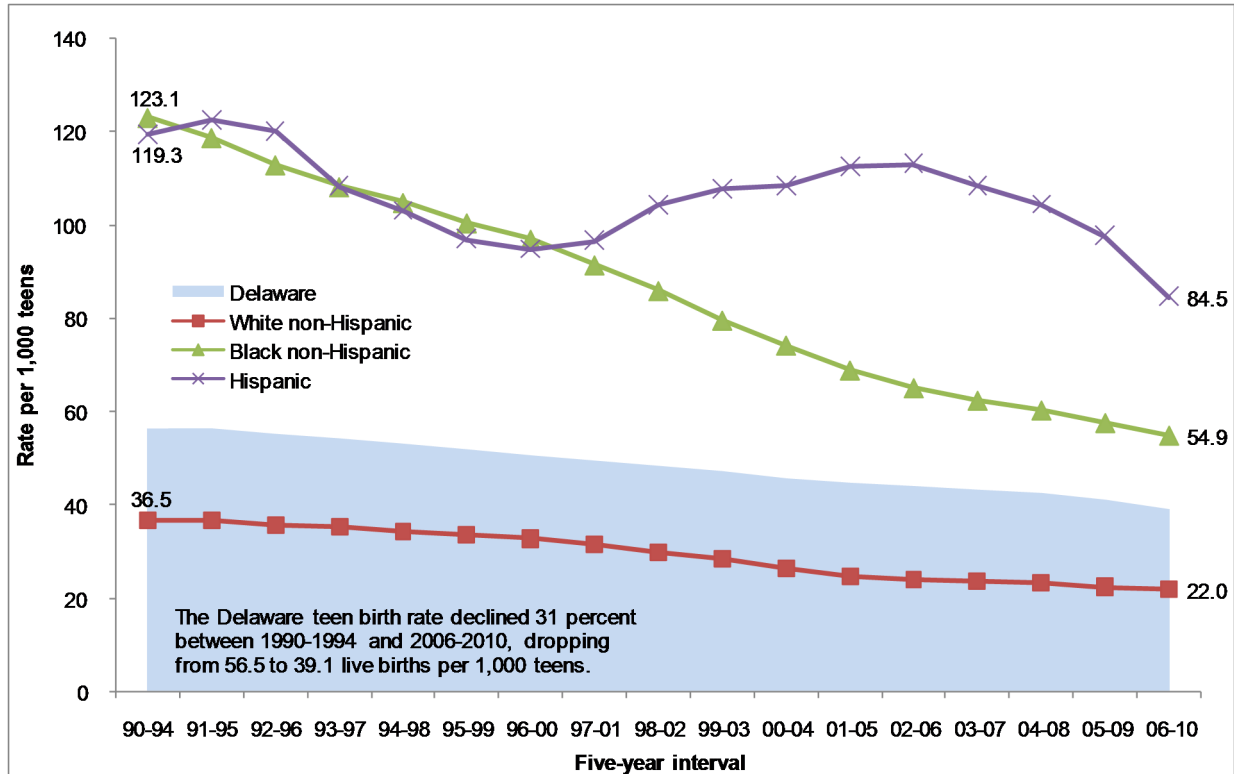
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Delaware teen (ages 15-19) birth rates have been declining steadily since 1990-1994.

Delaware's 2006-2010 teen birth rate was 39.1 live births per 1,000 teens, 31 percent lower than its 1990-1994 rate, and just under the U.S. rate of 40.

Decreases were evident in the rates of teen mothers of all races and ethnicities; the greatest declines occurred in birth rates of black non-Hispanic teen mothers.

**Figure 3. Five-year Average Teen (15-19) Birth Rates, Delaware, 1990-2010**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

## References

1. CDC. [Vital Signs: Repeat Births Among Teens -- United states, 2007-2010](#). MMWR

### General reference websites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/TeenPregnancy/> - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Factsheet

<http://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/> - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Teen Pregnancy

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/teenagepregnancy.html> - National Institutes of Health Medline Plus

<http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-health-topics/reproductive-health/teen-pregnancy/> - U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Reproductive Health, Teen Pregnancy & Childbearing



*DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES*

Division of Public Health

If you have comments, suggestions, and/or questions, please contact the Delaware Health Statistics Center at (302) 744-4541.

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