

Trends in the Adolescent Birthing Population in California, 1990-2012

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Background and Objectives

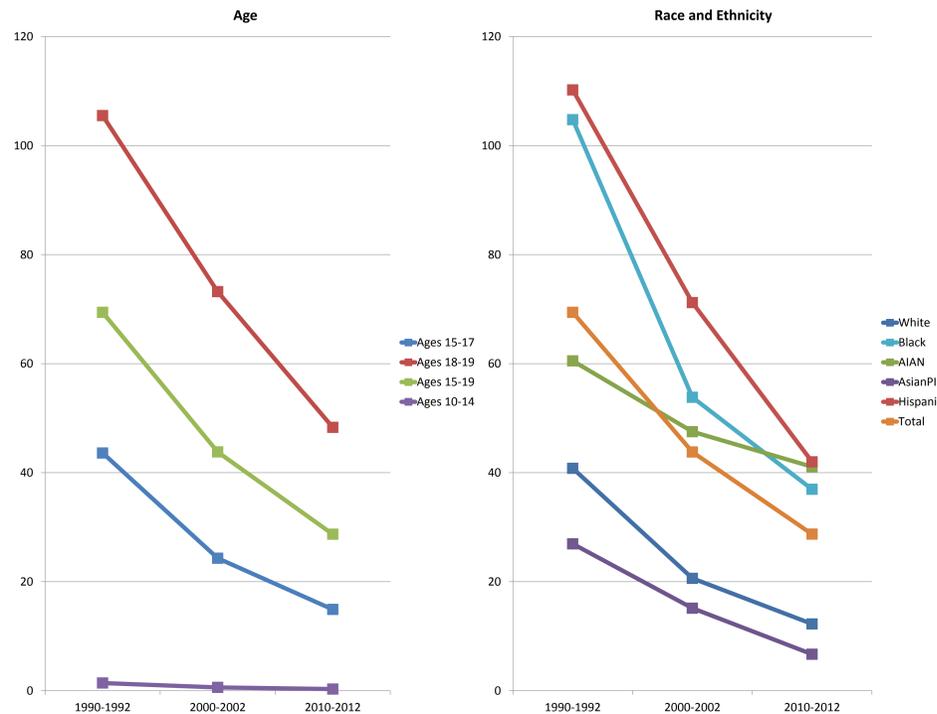
- The adolescent birth rate among females aged 15-19 in California decreased 59% between 1990 and 2012
- Birth rate reductions varied by race, ethnicity, and age
- We describe how these differential reductions have affected the profile of the adolescent birthing population over time and implications of such changes for policy and prevention

Method

- Vital statistics records for California births to mothers under age 20 from three time periods (1990-1992, 2000-2002, and 2010-2012) were used to examine variation in:
 - Number and rate of births by:
 - Age of mothers
 - Race/ethnicity of mothers
 - Marital status of mothers
 - Age of fathers
 - Rates and numbers of preterm and low-birth weight births (LBW)
 - Timing and payment source of prenatal care

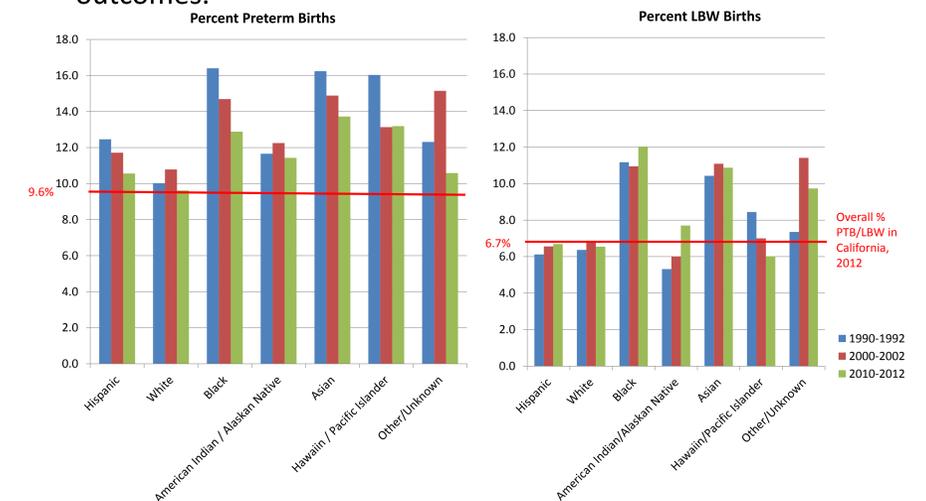
Birth Rates by Age, Race, and Ethnicity of Mothers

- The birth rate decreased for all age and racial/ethnic subpopulations
- Ethnic and racial disparities have persisted across time



Percentage of Preterm and LBW Births Adolescents Aged 15-19: by Race and Ethnicity

- The overall percentage of LBW births has stayed consistent over time while reductions in the percentage of preterm births are concentrated among Hispanic, Black and Asian mothers.
- The percentage of preterm births among adolescents continues to be higher than the overall percentage.
- Black:White and Asian:White disparities remain evident in both outcomes.



Profile of the Adolescent Birthing Population



1990-1992

- 36% aged 15-17
- 57% Hispanic
- 33% married
- 56% father 3+ years older
- 13% births were preterm
 - 7% LBW
- 53% received prenatal care during first trimester
- 68% used Medi-Cal* as payment source for prenatal care



2000-2002

- 33% aged 15-17
- 68% Hispanic
- 24% married
- 54% father 3+ years older
- 12% births were preterm
 - 7% LBW
- 73% received prenatal care during first trimester
- 70% used Medi-Cal as payment source for prenatal care



2010-2012

- 30% aged 15-17
- 74% Hispanic
- 12% married
- 40% father 3+ years older
- 11% births were preterm
 - 7% LBW
- 69% received prenatal care during first trimester
- 77% used Medi-Cal as payment source for prenatal care

This poster prepared by the Epidemiology, Assessment and Program Development Branch of the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division of the California Department of Public Health. Birth data source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 1990 – 2012. Population data sources: 1990-1992, California Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 1990-1999. 2000-2002, State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Hispanics Population with Age and Gender Detail, 2000–2010. 2010-2012, State of California, Department of Finance, Report P-3: State and County Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Detailed Age, and Gender, 2010-2060. *Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid program.

Conclusion

- Although birth rate reductions occurred across subpopulations of youth (e.g., race, age), the size of the reduction varied
- Compared to adolescent mothers in 1990-1992, adolescent mothers in 2010-2012:
 - were older, more likely to be Hispanic, close in age to their child's father, receive prenatal care in the first trimester, and less likely to have a preterm birth; they were also less likely to be married, equally likely to have a low-birth weight birth and more likely to utilize Medi-Cal*.
- Importantly, despite the many improvements in the profile of the adolescent birthing population in California, large racial and ethnic disparities still exist in birth rates and birth outcomes.
- Targeted prevention of early and unintended pregnancy and support efforts are needed to ensure California's youth and youngest families have the resources they need to be successful – especially our youth and young families of color and those with limited financial resources.