

# Teen Pregnancy...

## Journal

You are 17 and find out that you or your girlfriend is pregnant. How would you handle the situation?



# Teen Pregnancy Pre-test

## (True or False)

1. **True** 1. Teen mothers are twice as likely to die in childbirth.
2. **True** 2. A child born to a teen mother is twice as likely to die before the age of one.
3. **True** 3. Teen mothers are twice as likely not to finish high school.
4. **True** 4. One-half of all welfare payments go to families with teen mothers.
5. **True** 5. 20% of teen mothers are pregnant again before two years.
6. **True** 6. 82% of girls who gave birth at age 15 or younger were born to teen parents.

# Teen Pregnancy Pre-test

## (True or False)

7. **True** 7. Most teen pregnancies happen by mistake – they were not planned.
8. **False** 8. If a boy has already made plans for further education after high school, he should not have to worry about marrying a girl, even if she is pregnant.
9. **False** 9. If a girl is pregnant, but the boy doesn't want her to have the baby, he is not responsible for supporting the child financially.
10. **True** 10. If the father wants custody and the mother doesn't, the father gets custody, because it's his baby.

# Teen Pregnancy Pre-test

## (True or False)

- 11. **False** 11. If a girl gets pregnant a guy does not need to worry about it if he does not like the girl.
- 12. **False** 12. If a guy does not have a regular job, he will not be responsible for child support.
- 13. **False** 13. If a couple breaks up after the girl is pregnant, the guy has no responsibility for the child.
- 14. **False** 14. It's a girl's fault if she gets pregnant. It's not the guy's problem.
- 15. **True** 15. The divorce rate is greater for couples with a pre-marital pregnancy than for those who conceive after marriage.

# Teen Pregnancy...

## So what?

An overview of the teen pregnancy  
problem in America

Prepared by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy  
[www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)



# Four in ten girls get pregnant at least once before age 20.

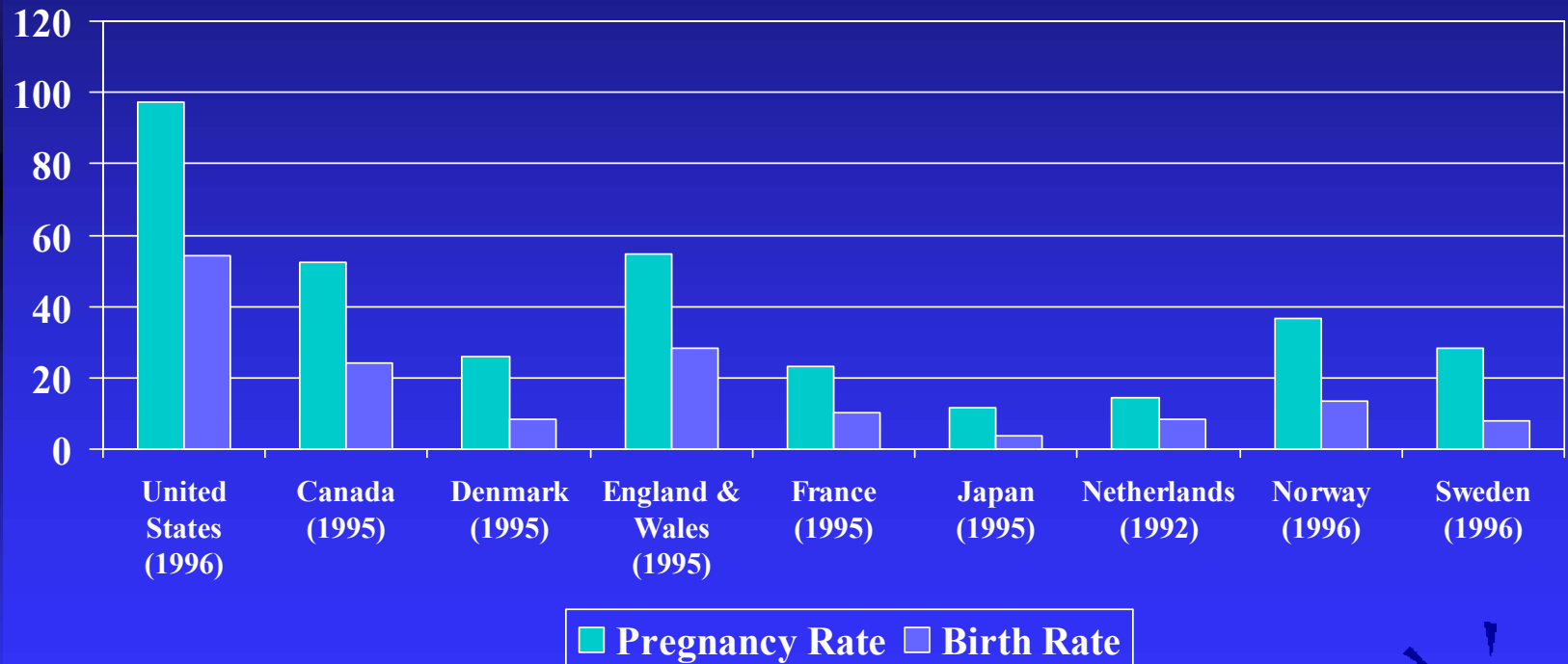


Source: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy analysis of Henshaw, S.K., *U.S.: Teenage Pregnancy Statistics*, New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, May, 1996; and Forrest, J.D., *Proportion of U.S. Women Ever Pregnant Before Age 20*, New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1986, unpublished.



# We're number one...unfortunately

The United States has much higher pregnancy and birth rates than other fully industrialized countries. US pregnancy rates are nearly twice as high as rates in Canada and England and seven to eight times as high as rates in Japan and the Netherlands.



Singh, S., & Darroch, J.E. (2000). Adolescent pregnancy and childbearing: Levels and trends in developed countries. *Family Planning Perspectives* 32(1), 14-23. Pregnancy rates calculated as the sum of births, abortions, and estimated miscarriages (20 percent of births plus 10 percent of miscarriages).



# The consequences of teen motherhood are many:

- Less likely to complete high school
- Dependence on welfare
- Single parenthood
- More likely to have more children sooner on a limited income
- More likely to abuse or neglect the child





# Risks to children of teen mothers

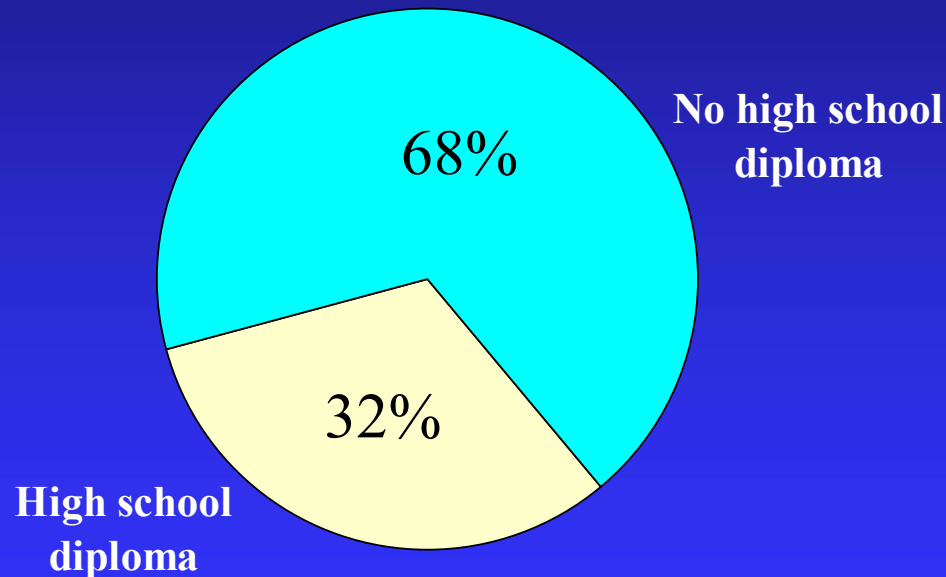
- growing up without a father
- low birth weight and premature
- school failure
- mental retardation
- insufficient health care
- abuse and neglect
- poverty and welfare dependence

Source: Maynard, R.A., (ed.), *Kids Having Kids: A Robin Hood Foundation Special Report on the Costs of Adolescent Childbearing*, New York: Robin Hood Foundation, 1996.



# Only 32 percent of teen mothers get their high school diplomas

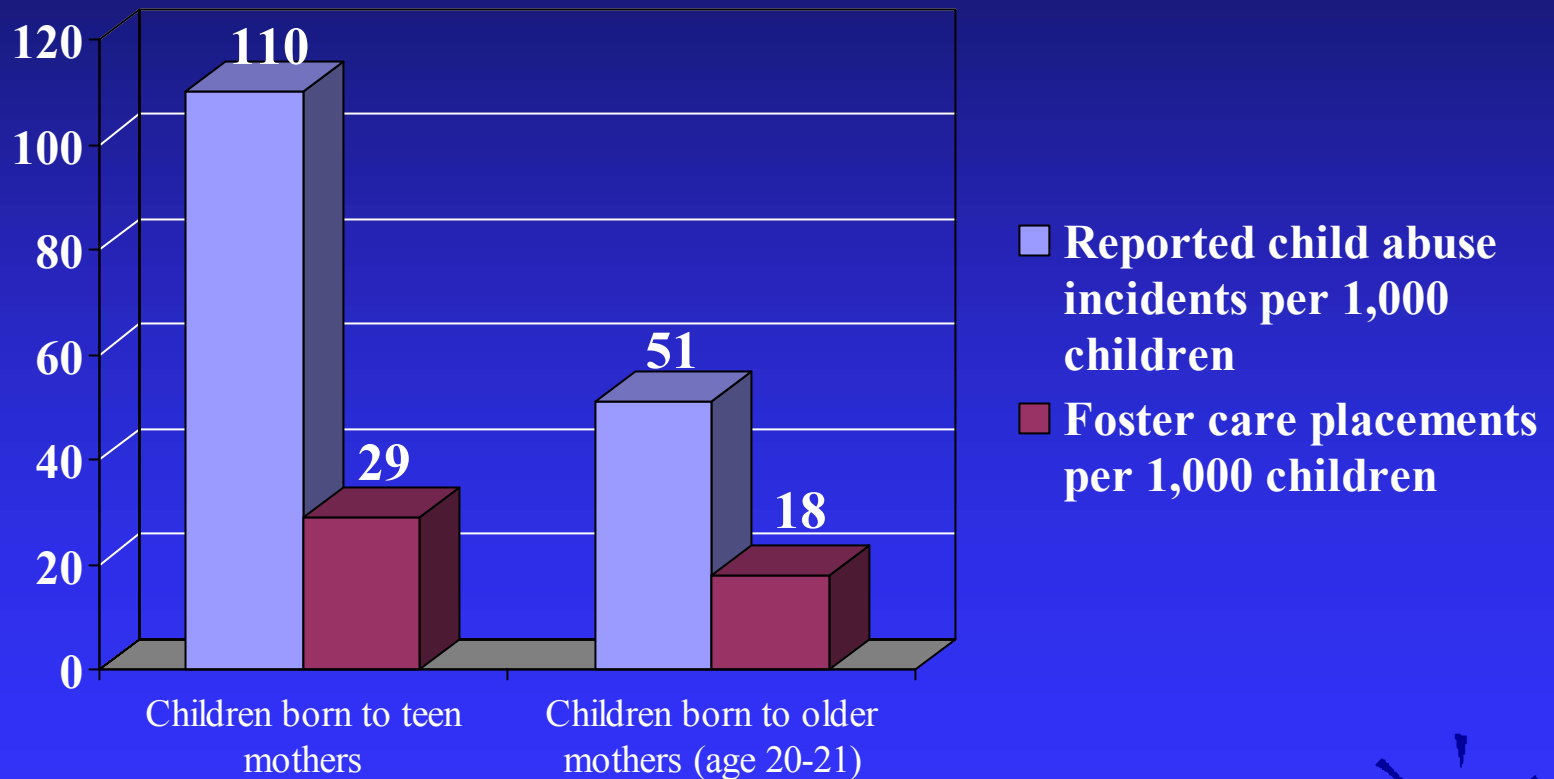
## ■ Teen mothers: Educational attainment by age 30



National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (1997). *Whatever Happened to Childhood? The Problem of Teen Pregnancy in the United States*. Washington, DC: Author.



# The children of teen mothers are at greater risk of abuse and neglect.



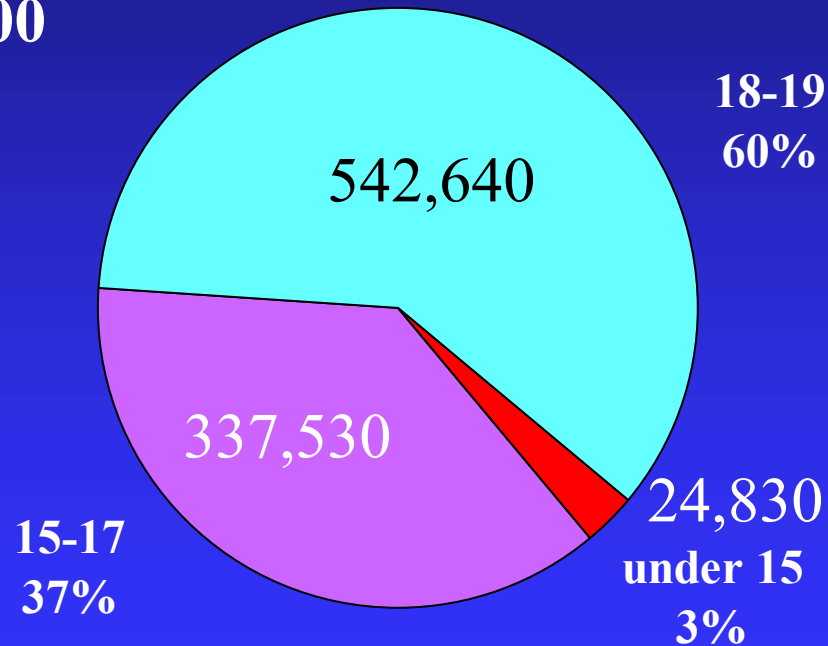
National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (1997). *Whatever Happened to Childhood? The Problem of Teen Pregnancy in the United States*. Washington, DC: Author.



# 100 teen girls get pregnant each hour.

Nearly 1 million teen pregnancies occurred in 1996. To put it another way, more than 100 U.S. teens become pregnant each hour. Forty percent of these pregnancies were girls under the age of 18, and 60 percent were girls aged 18-19.

**Total: 905,000**



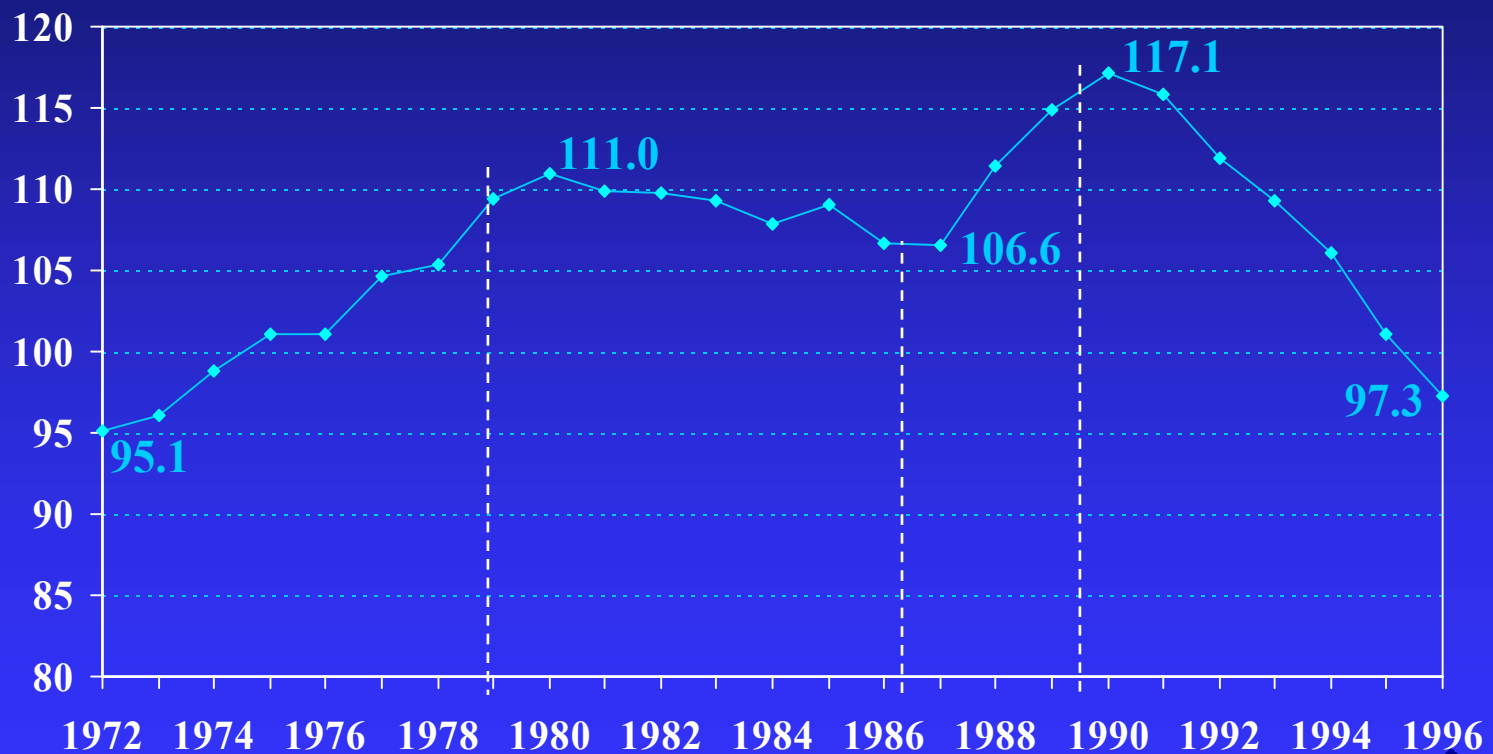
The Alan Guttmacher Institute. (1999). *Special report: U.S. teenage pregnancy statistics with comparative statistics for women aged 20-24*. New York: Author.



# Teen pregnancy rates in girls aged 15-19

(pregnancies per 1,000 girls)

After increasing 23 percent between 1972 and 1990 (including 10 percent between 1987 and 1990), the teen pregnancy rate for girls aged 15-19 decreased 17 percent between 1990 and 1996.

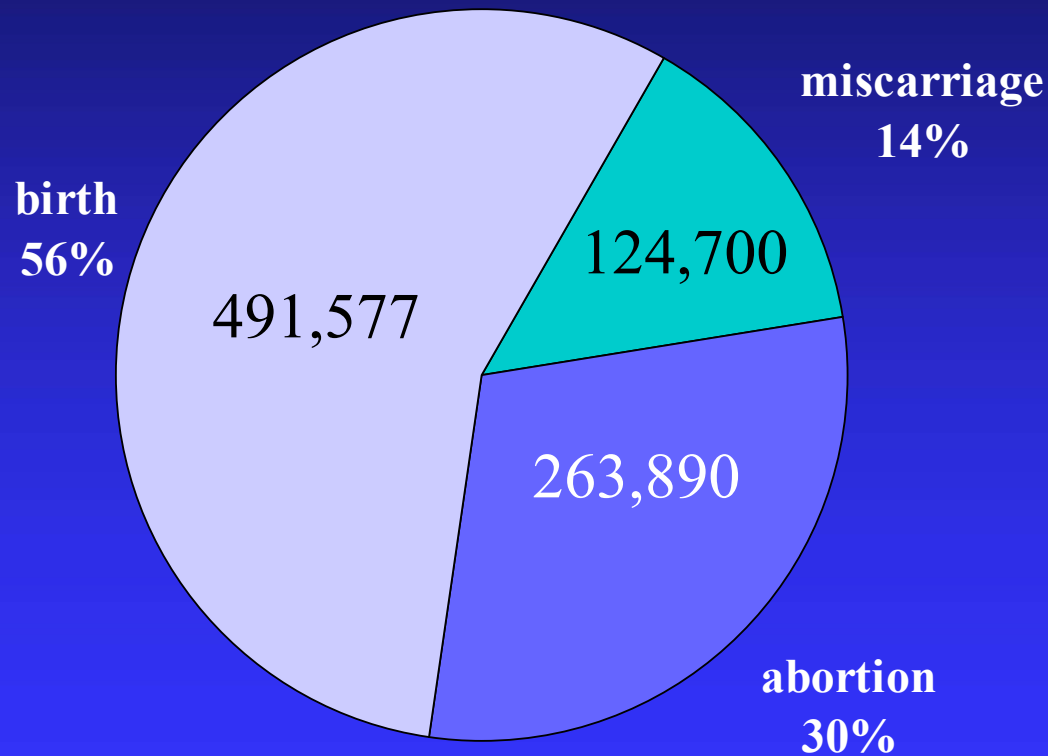


The Alan Guttmacher Institute. (1999). *Special report: U.S. teenage pregnancy statistics with comparative statistics for women aged 20-24*. New York: Author.



# Each year, half a million teens give birth.

In 1996, just over one-half of teen pregnancies to girls aged 15-19 ended in birth, about one-third ended in abortion, and 14 percent ended in miscarriage.



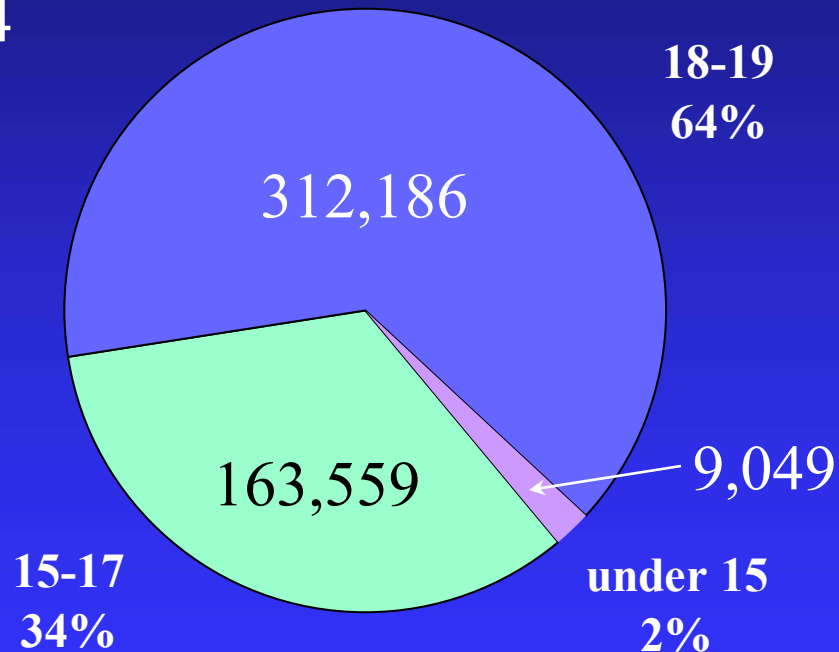
The Alan Guttmacher Institute. (1999). *Special report: U.S. teenage pregnancy statistics with comparative statistics for women aged 20-24*. New York: Author.



# 55 teen girls give birth each hour.

Nearly one-half million teen births occurred in 1999. To put it another way, more than 55 U.S. teens give birth each hour. Thirty-six percent of these births were to girls under the age of 18, and 64 percent were to girls aged 18-19.

Total: 484,794



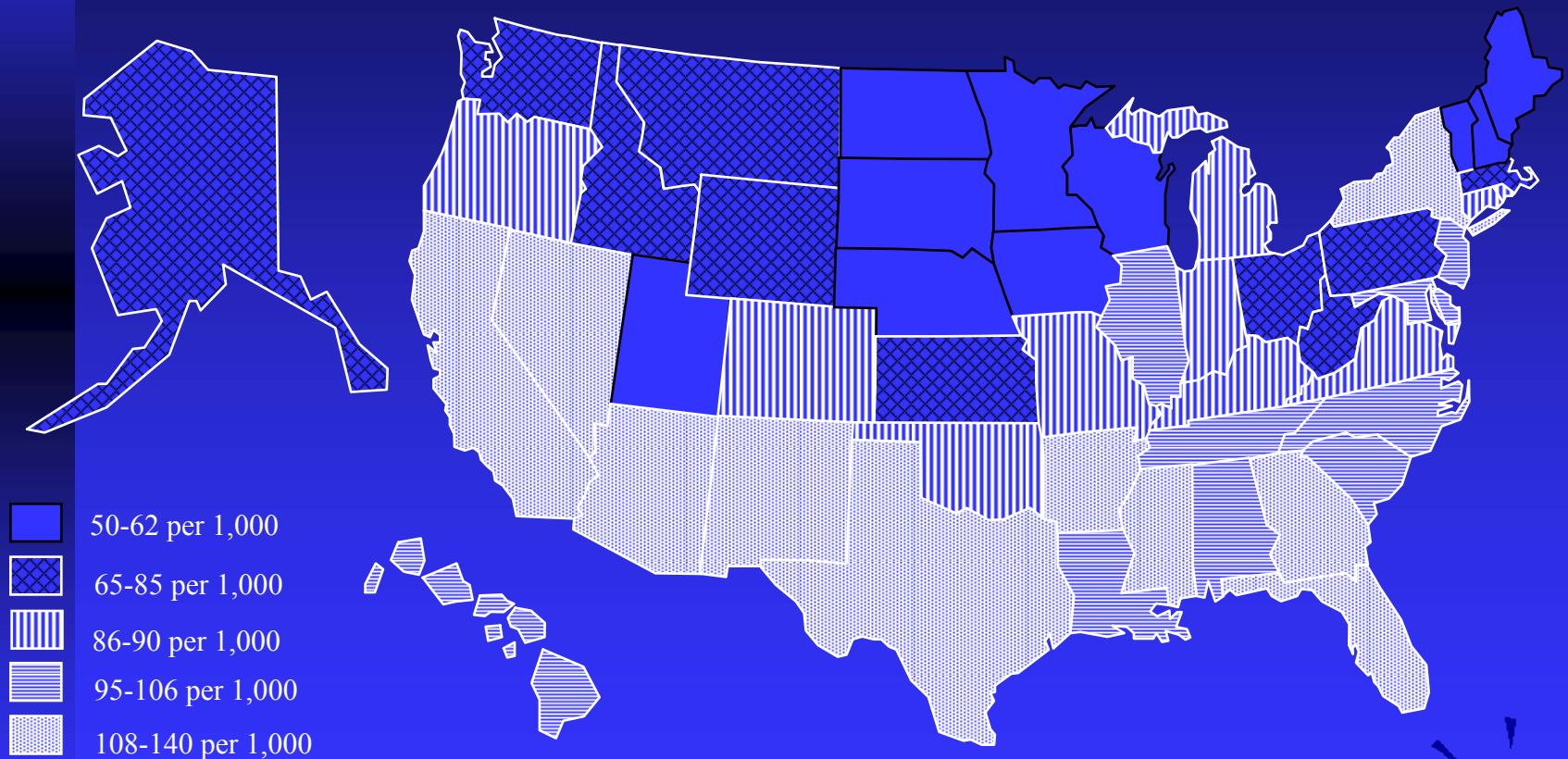
\* Data for 1999 are preliminary. Curtin, S.C., & Martin, J.A. (2000). Births: Preliminary data for 1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports* 48(14).



# State teen pregnancy rates, 1996

(pregnancies per 1,000 girls aged 15-19)

Teen pregnancy rates vary widely by state, ranging from 50 per 1,000 in North Dakota to 140 per 1,000 in Nevada.

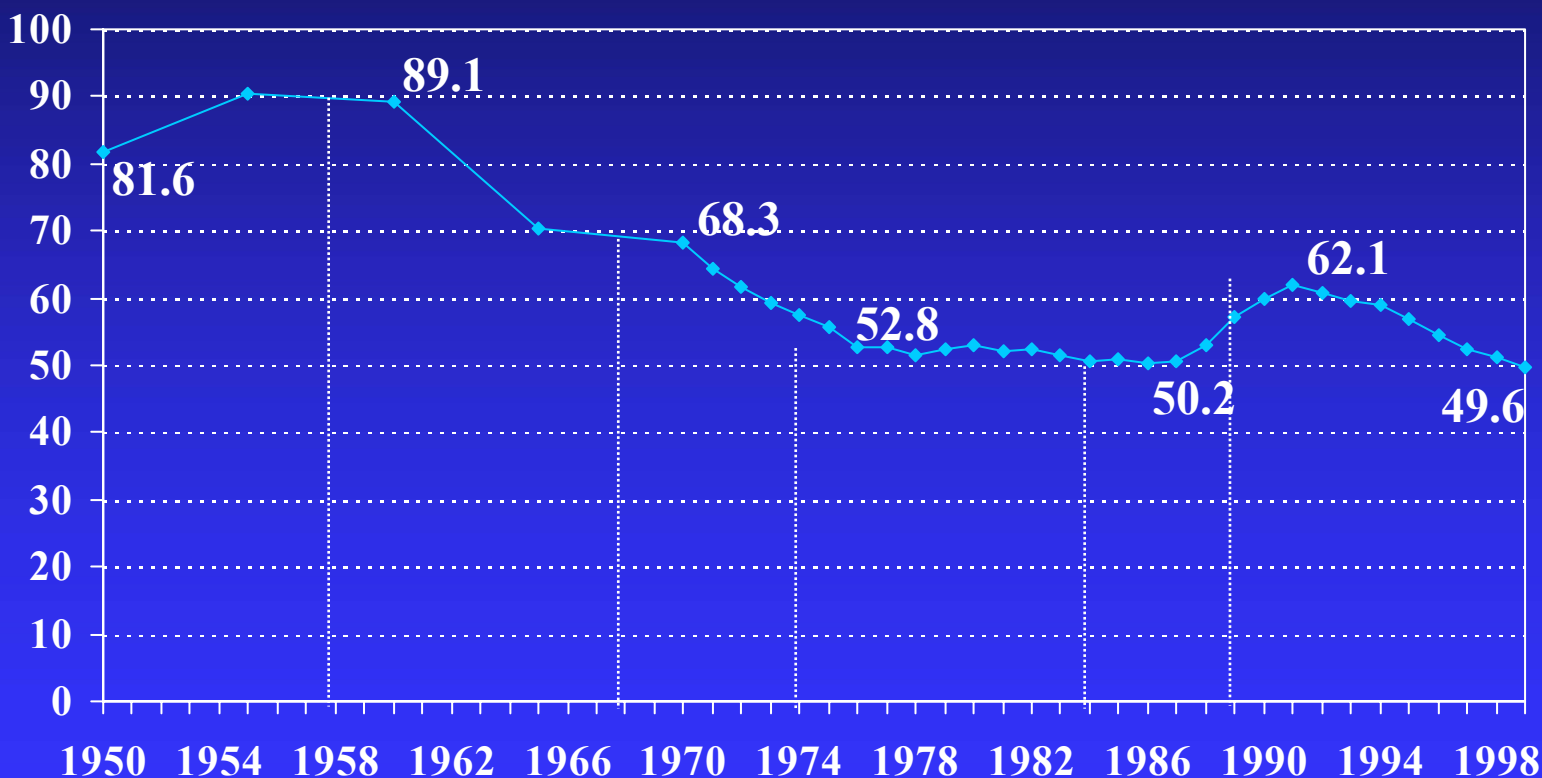




# Teen birth rates, girls aged 15-19

(number of births per 1,000 girls)

The teen birth rate declined steadily from 1960 through the mid-1970s, stayed fairly constant for the next decade, then increased 24 percent between 1986 and 1991. Between 1991 and 1999, the teen birth rate decreased 20 percent to a record low.

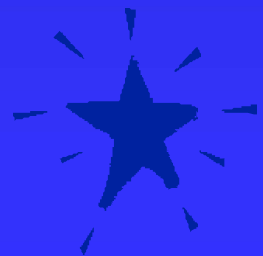


Note: data for 1999 are preliminary. Curtin, S.C., & Martin, J.A. (2000). Births: Preliminary data for 1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports* 48(14). Ventura, S.J., Mathews, T.J., & Curtin, S.C. (1998). Declines in teenage birth rates, 1991-97: National and state patterns. *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47(12).



*“If you’ve had sexual intercourse, do you wish you had waited longer?”*

*Nearly two-thirds of teens who have had sex wish they had waited.*



- *Of those that have had sex, more than one-half of teen boys (55%) and the overwhelming majority of teen girls (72%) said they wish they had waited longer to have sex.*
- The majority of older teens (15-17 years old) surveyed also wish they had waited longer to have sex. Nearly six in ten older teens (58%) said they wish they waited longer to have sex.



# Video

- 4 Pregnant Teenagers

# Internet

- Teen Pregnancy Quiz