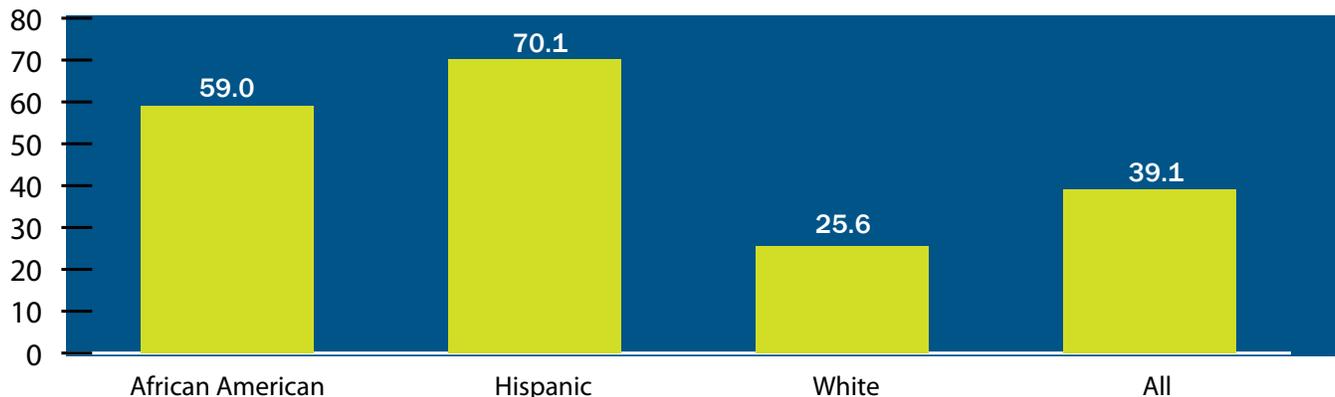




## Teen Birth Rate in U.S. Continues Decline, Racial/Ethnic Disparities Persist

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the teen<sup>1</sup> birth rate in the U.S. dropped to its lowest recorded rate in 2009, at 39.1 births per 1,000 females. The 2009 rate maintains the downward trend observed over the last two decades and represents a 37% decrease since 1991, when the rate was 61.8 births per 1,000 females. However, the rate in the U.S. remains markedly higher than in other developed countries.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, rates for African-American and Hispanic teens (59.0 births and 70.1 births per 1,000 females, respectively) are more than double that of white teens (25.6 births per 1,000 females). Report authors note that teen births present increased health risks to infants and can disadvantage teens, and recommend that prevention programs should provide evidence-based sex education, support parental communication, and ensure access to contraception.

### Number of Teen Births per 1,000 Females in the U.S., 2009



**Source:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Vital Signs: Teen Pregnancy – United States, 1991-2009." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly*. 2011;60(13).

United Nations. "2008 Demographic Yearbook." New York, NY; United Nations, 2010.

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Includes females between the ages of 15 and 19 years.

<sup>2</sup> The U.S. rate (2006) is 1.5 times higher than rates in the United Kingdom (2002), 3 times higher than in Canada (2007), and 6 to 9 times higher than in Denmark (2008), the Netherlands (2008), Sweden (2008), and Switzerland (2008).

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at [www.centerforhealthandjustice.org](http://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org).

To receive *Facts on Youth* from CHJ, please send an email to [research@tasc-il.org](mailto:research@tasc-il.org) with "Join Facts on Youth" typed in the subject line, and your name, title, organization, and email address in the body of the message.

©2011 CHJ at TASC – Chicago, Illinois.