

Measuring childbearing patterns in the United States

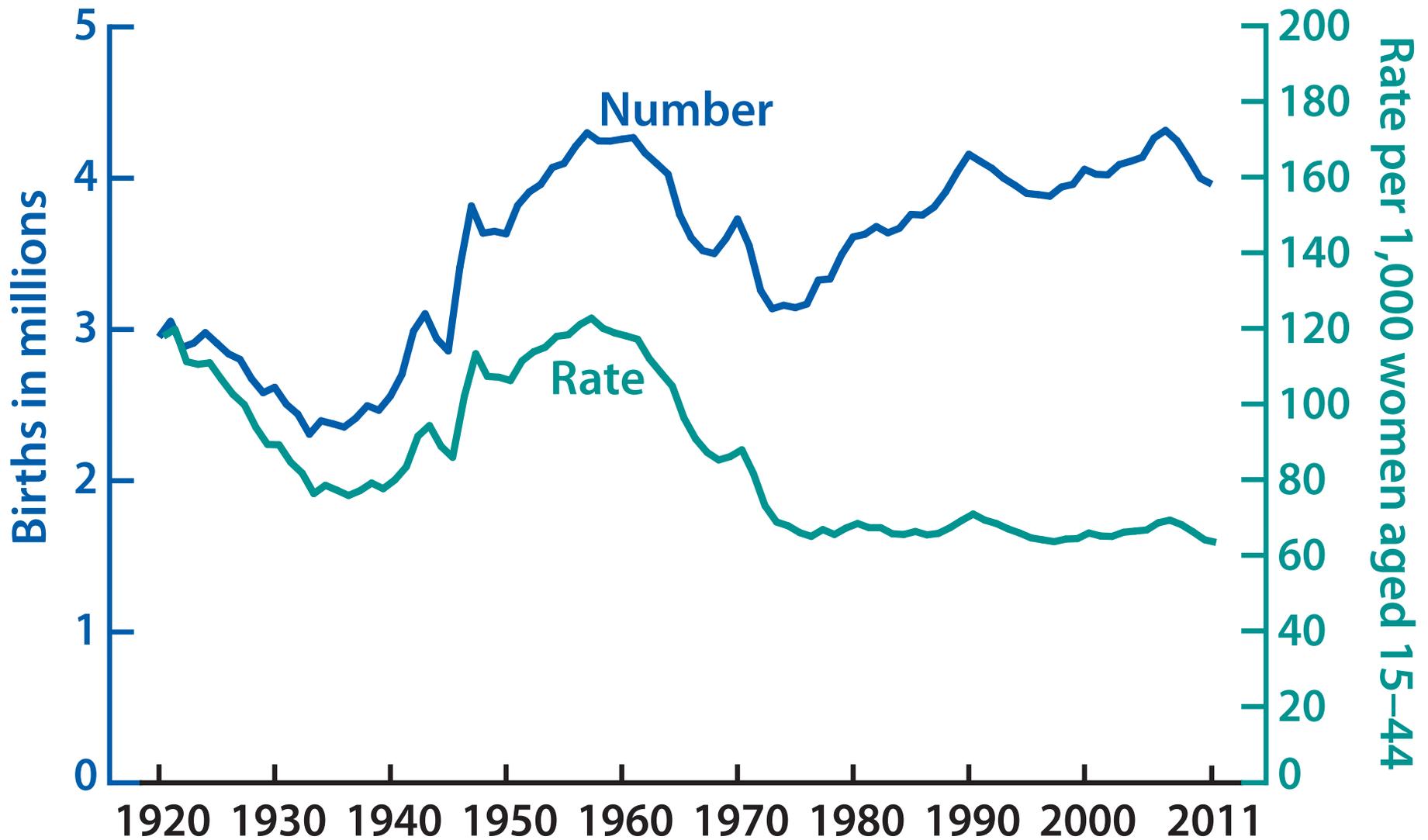
- Birth certificates (through National Vital Statistics System)
- National Survey of Family Growth (interviews with women and men ages 15–44)



Childbearing patterns in the United States

- **Teen birth and pregnancy rates now at historic lows**
- **Teen childbearing down among age and racial groups**
- **Women starting families at older ages and having fewer children**
- **Out-of-wedlock childbearing rates stabilizing**
- **Births to cohabiting women are rising**

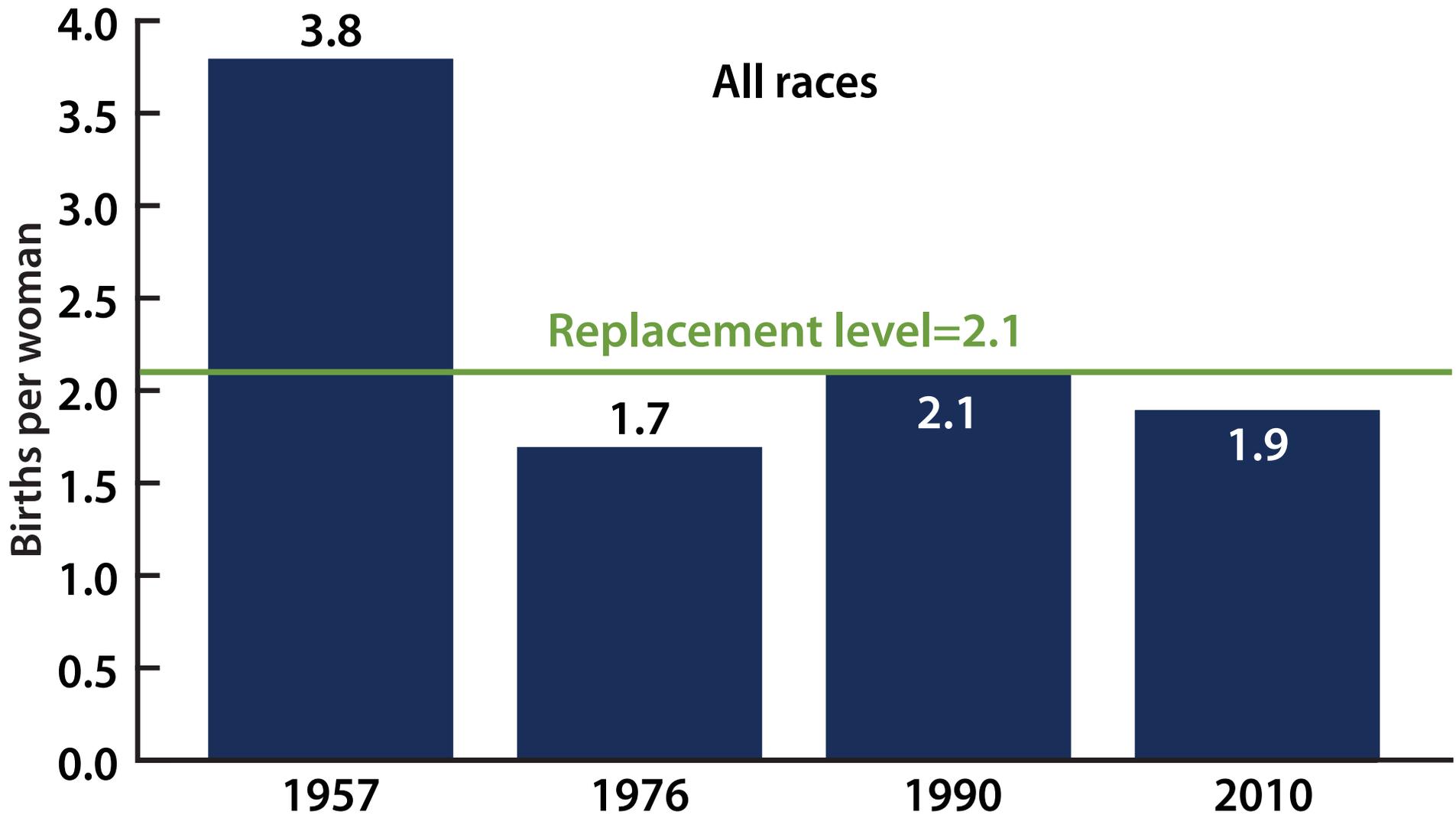
Childbearing in the U.S. 1920–2011



NOTE: Beginning with 1959, trend lines are based on registered live births; trend lines for 1920–1958 are based on live births adjusted for underregistration.

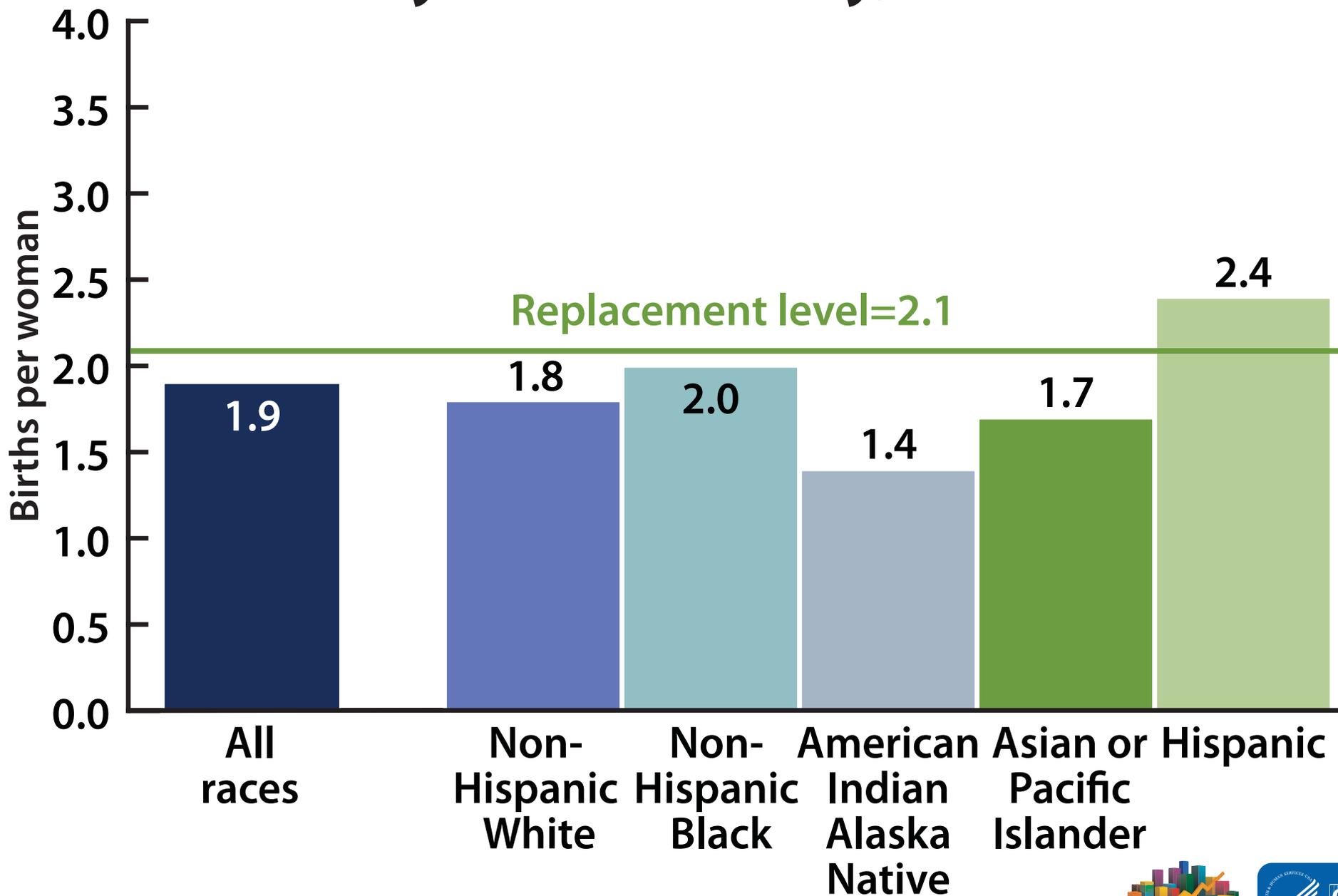
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

Women are having fewer children today



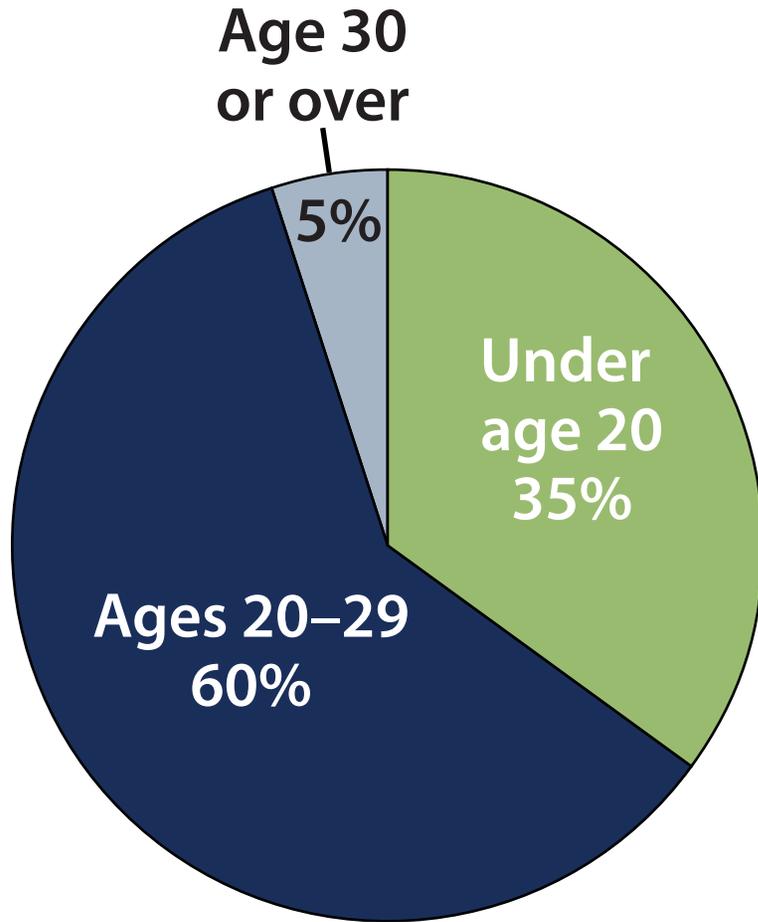
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

Wide variation in number of children by race/ethnicity, 2010

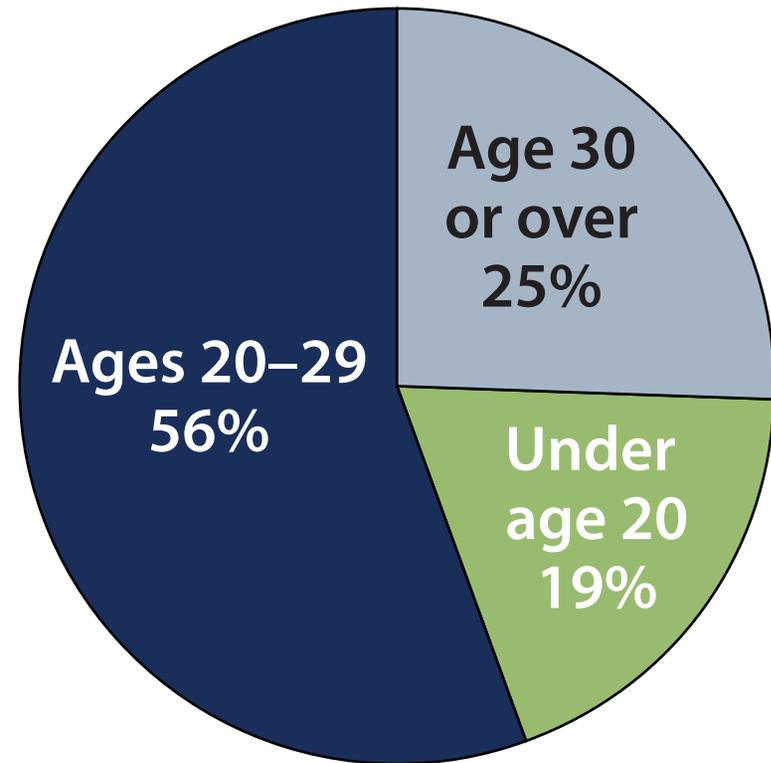


SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

First births in the United States, by age, 1975 and 2010



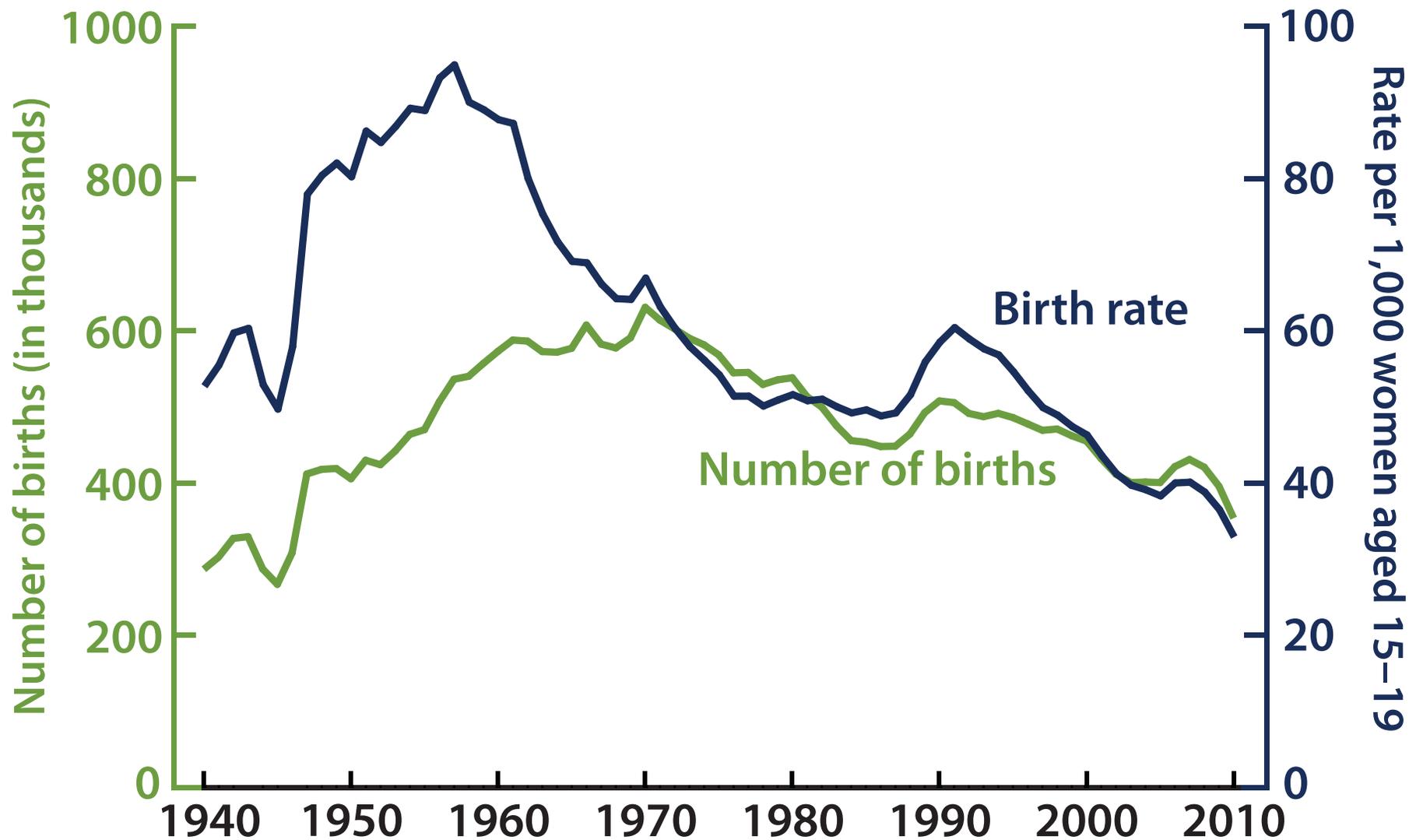
1975
1,319,126 births



2010
1,604,181 births

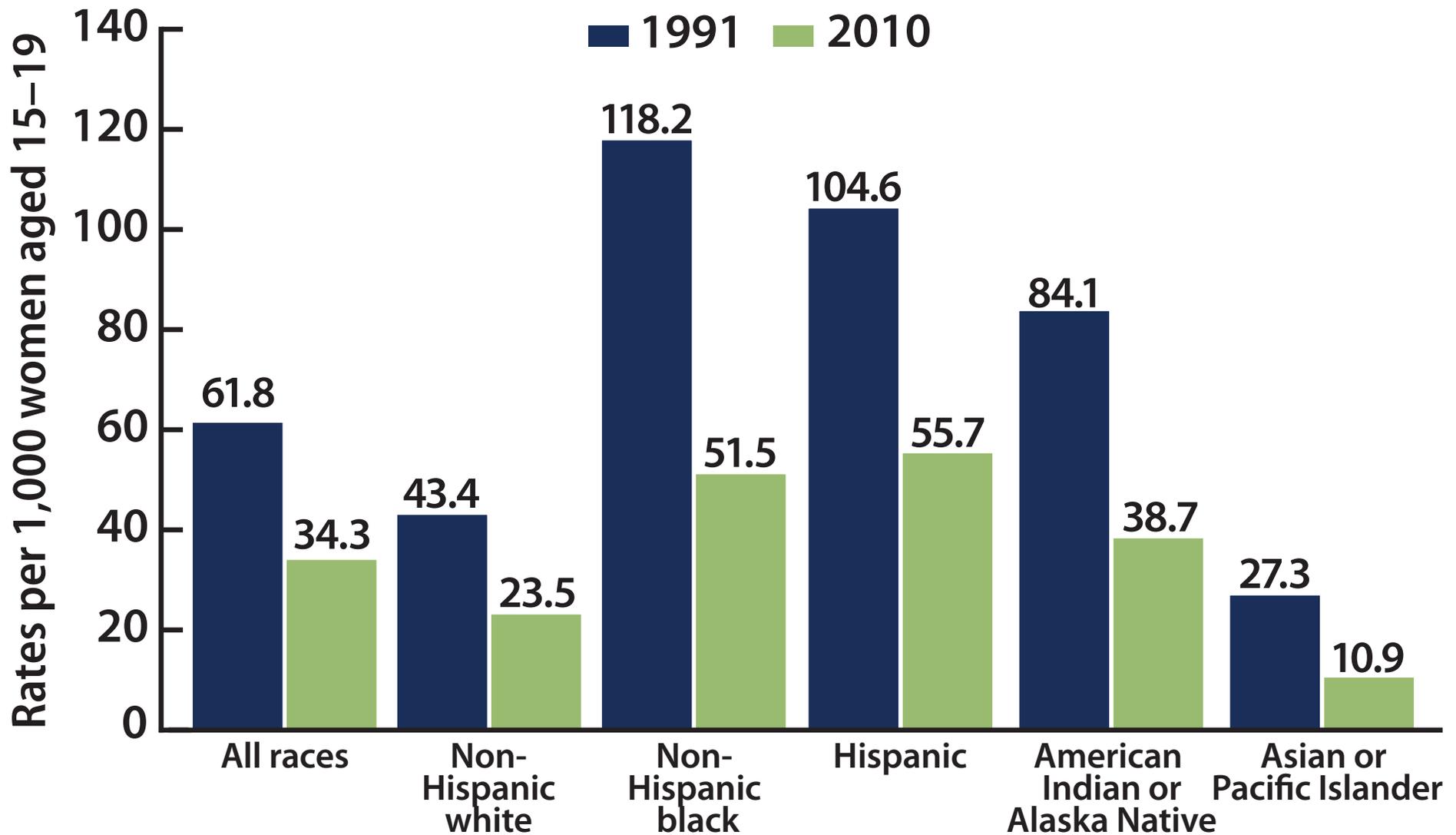
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

Teen births have declined sharply over the years



NOTE: Data for 2010 are preliminary.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

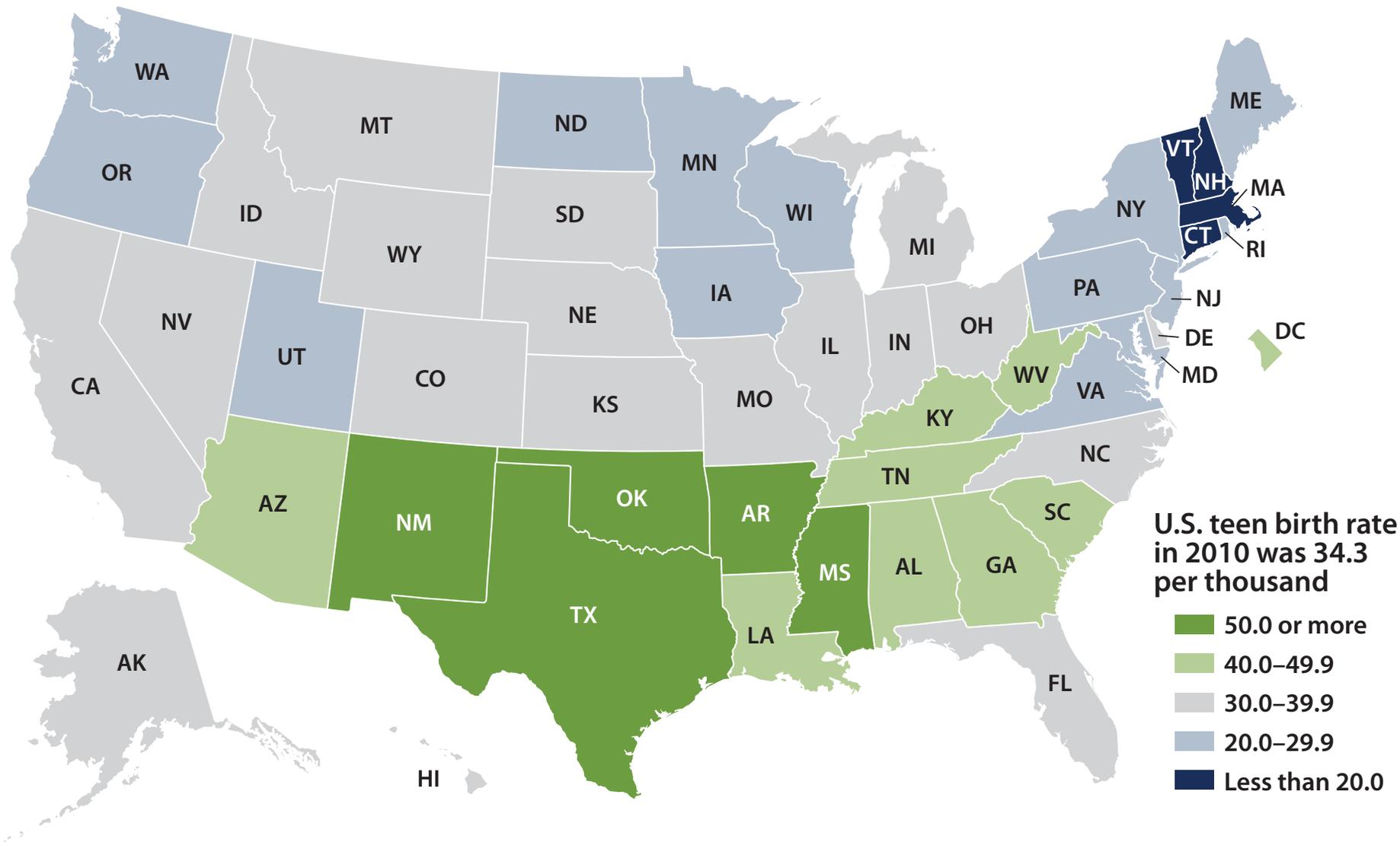
Teen birth rates have declined across all race/ethnic groups



NOTE: Data for 2010 are preliminary.

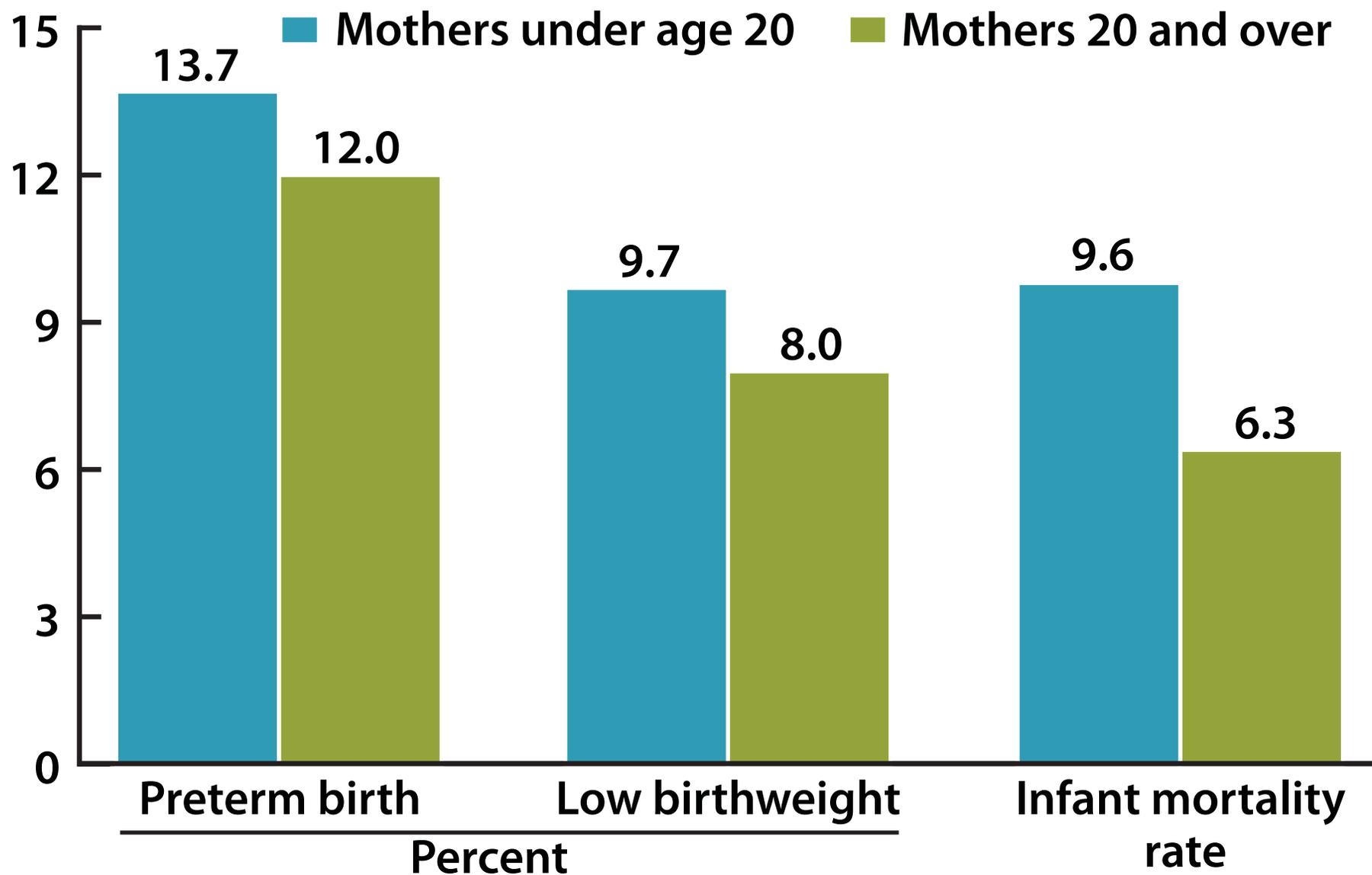
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

Teen rates higher in the sun belt and lowest in New England region



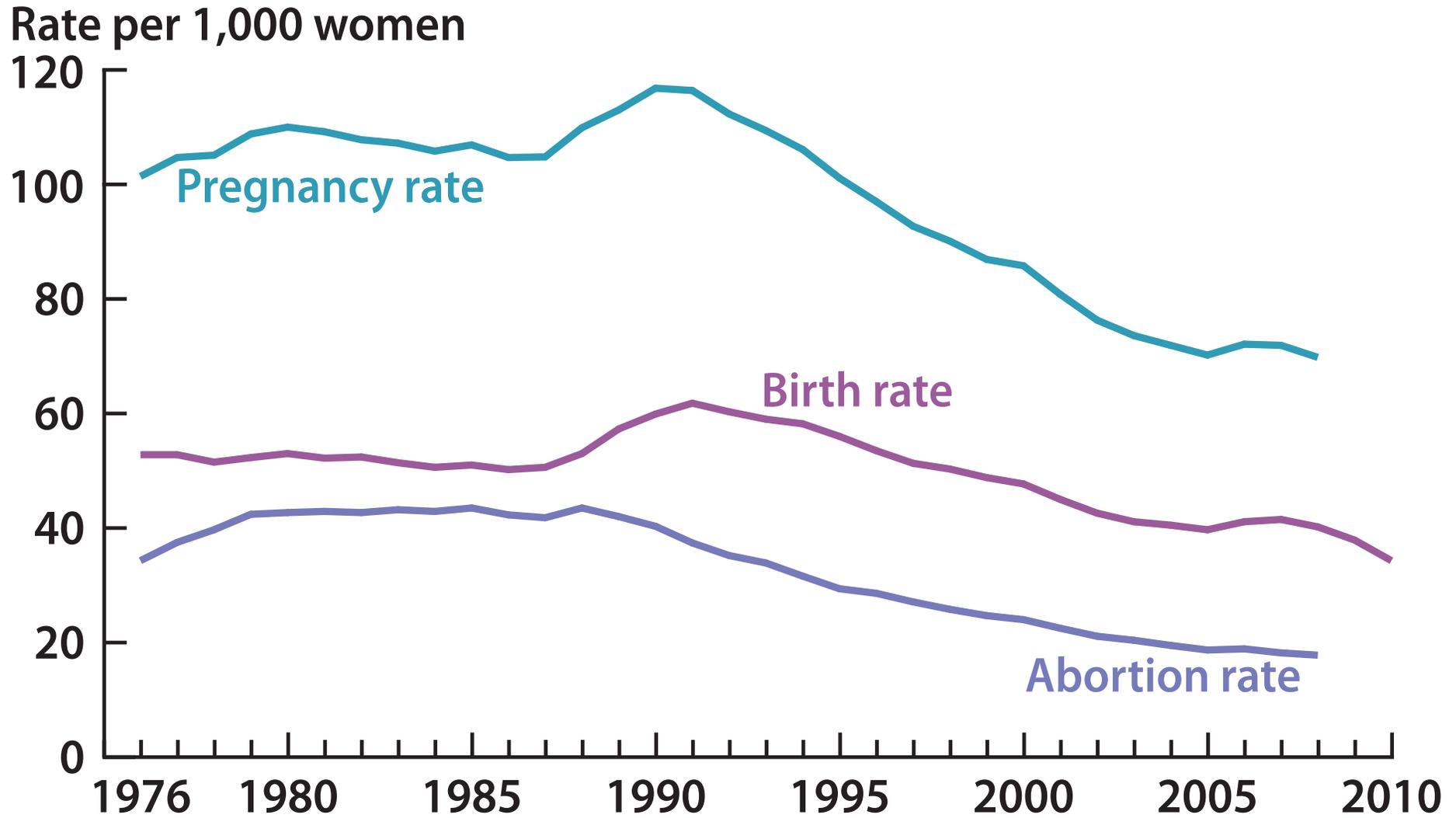
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

Selected birth outcomes



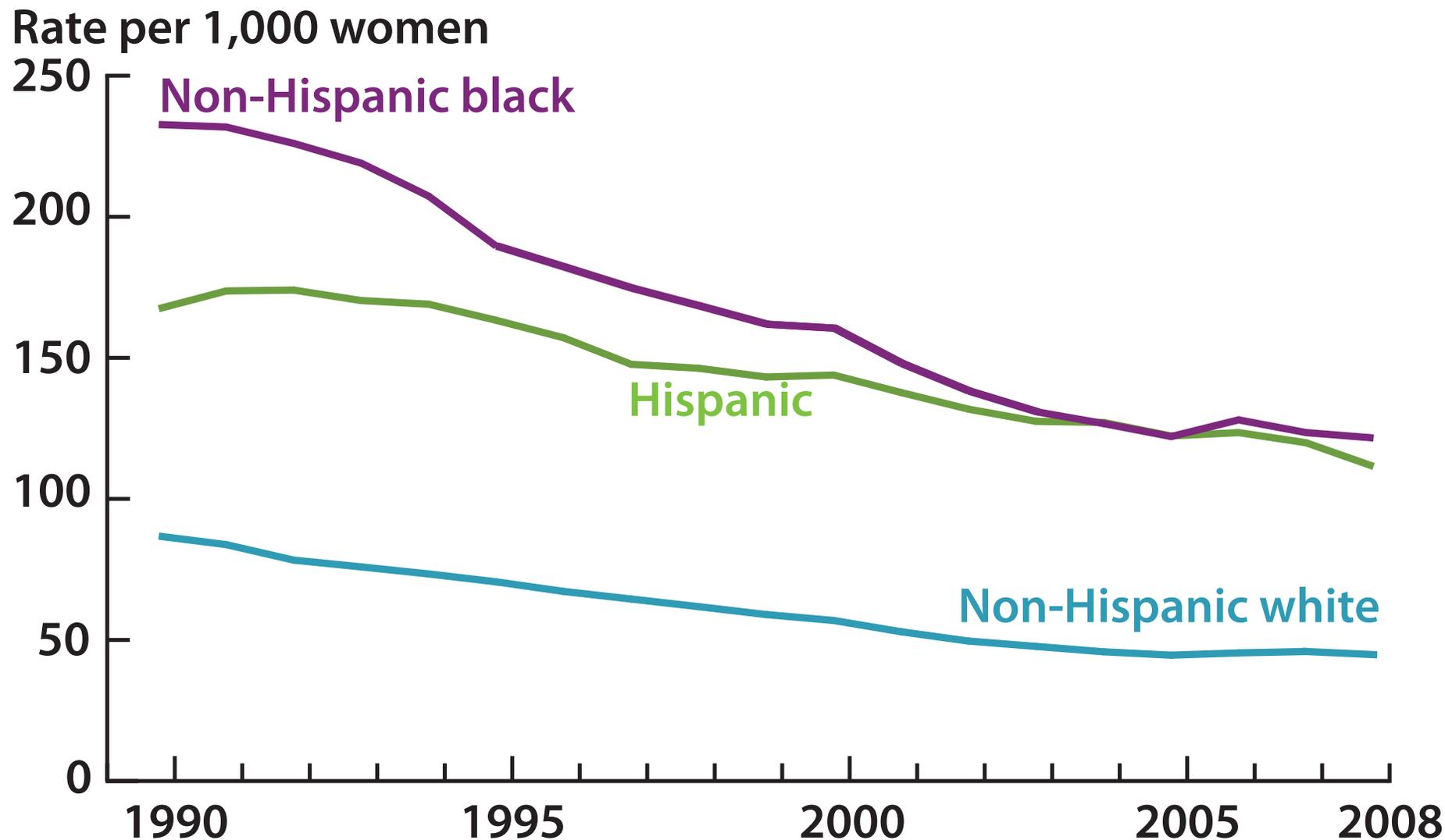
NOTE: Infant mortality rate is per 1,000 live births
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

Pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates for teens aged 15–19 years



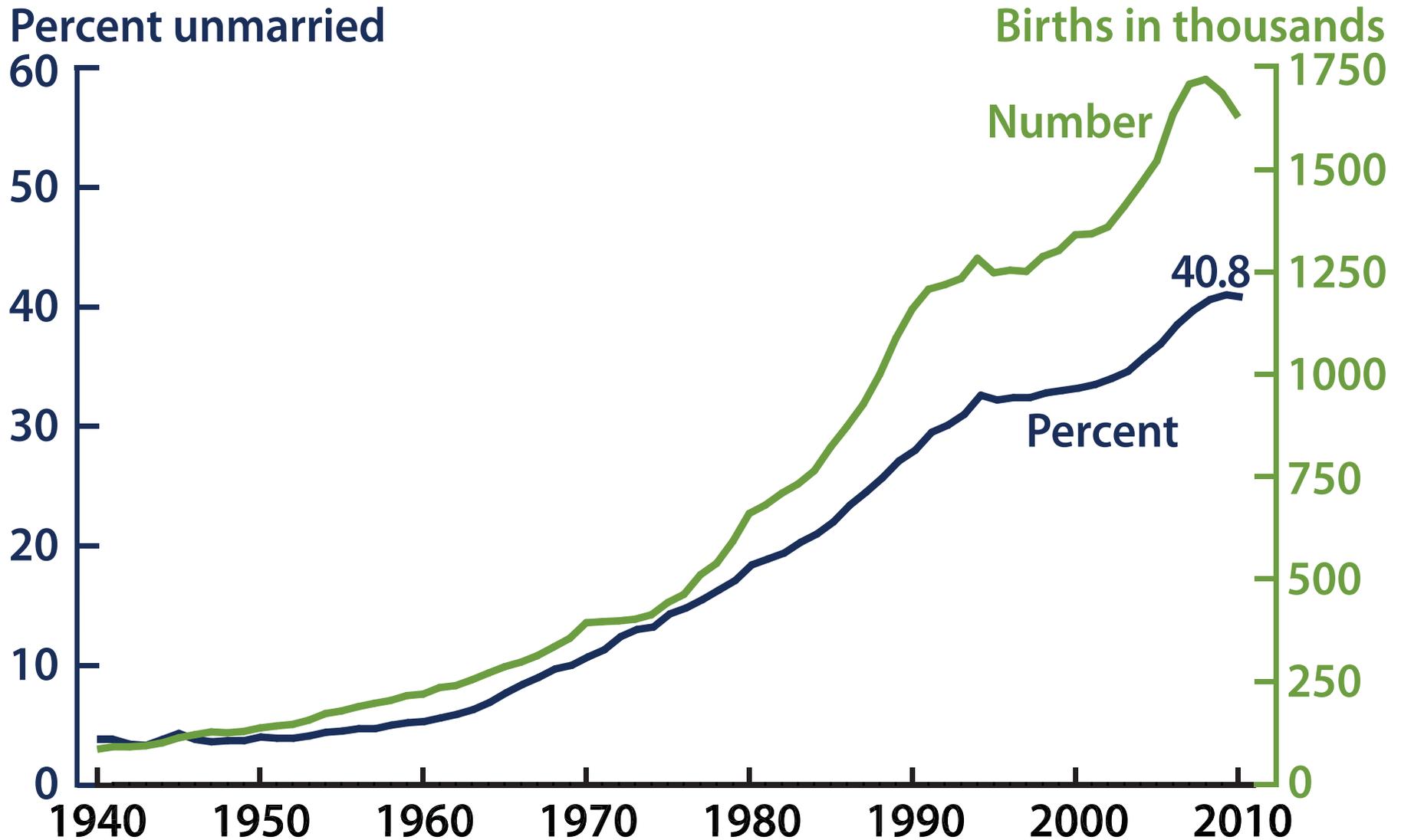
NOTES: Birth rate for 2010 is preliminary.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, National Vital Statistics System, National Abortion Surveillance System, and the Guttmacher Institute.

Pregnancy rates for teens by race and Hispanic origin aged 15–19 years



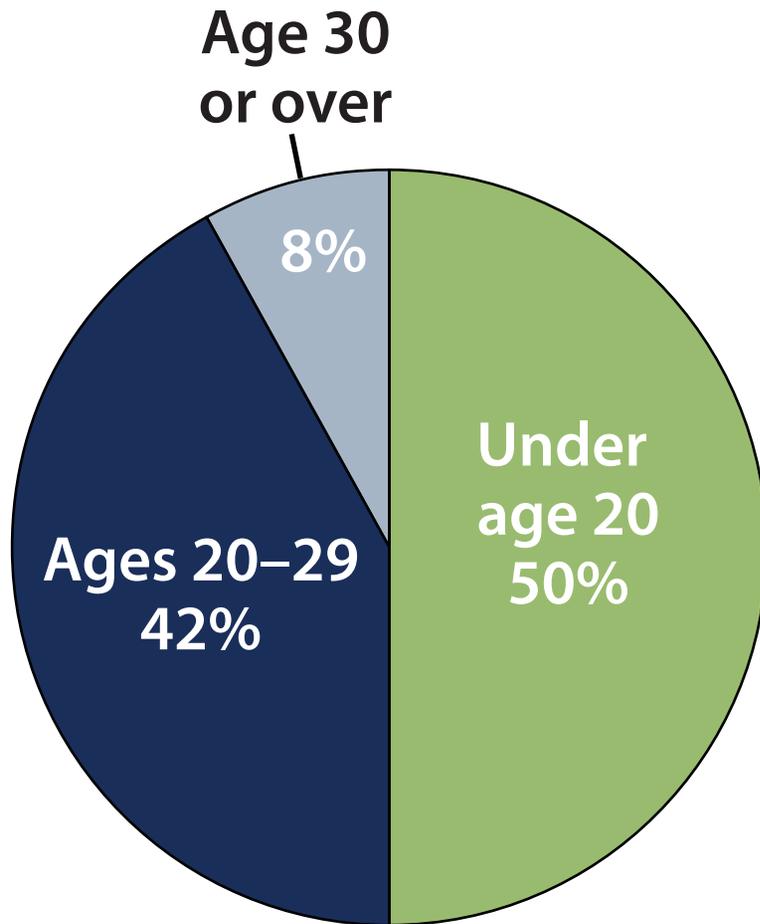
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, National Vital Statistics System, National Abortion Surveillance System, and the Guttmacher Institute.

Out-of-wedlock childbearing has risen over the past several decades

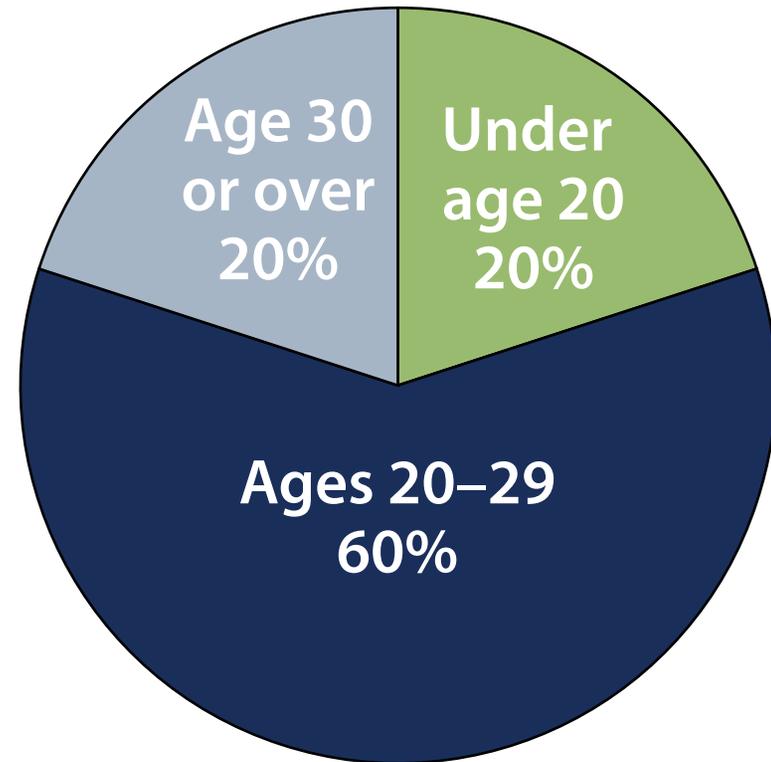


SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

Most unmarried births are not to teens

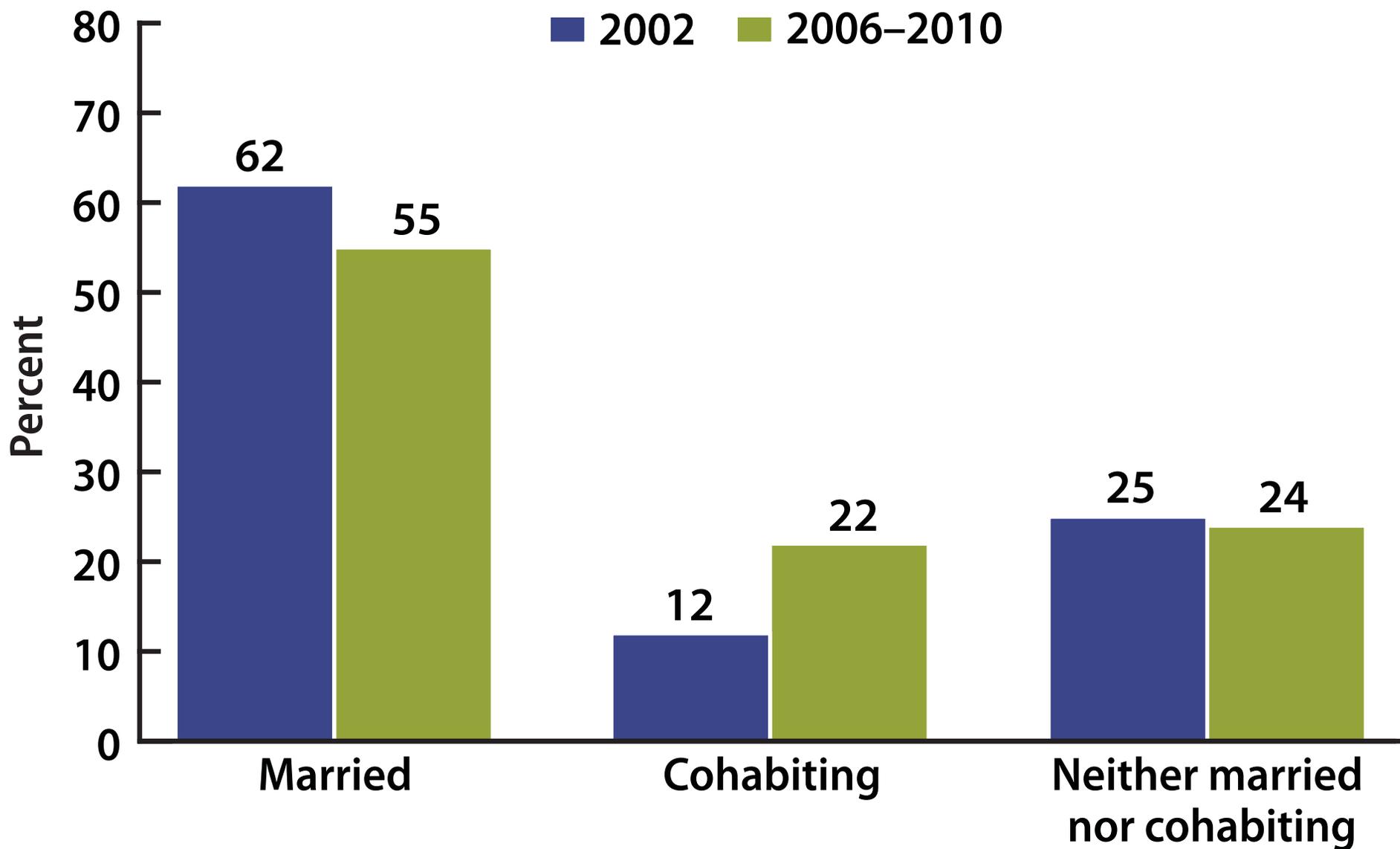


1970
398,700 births



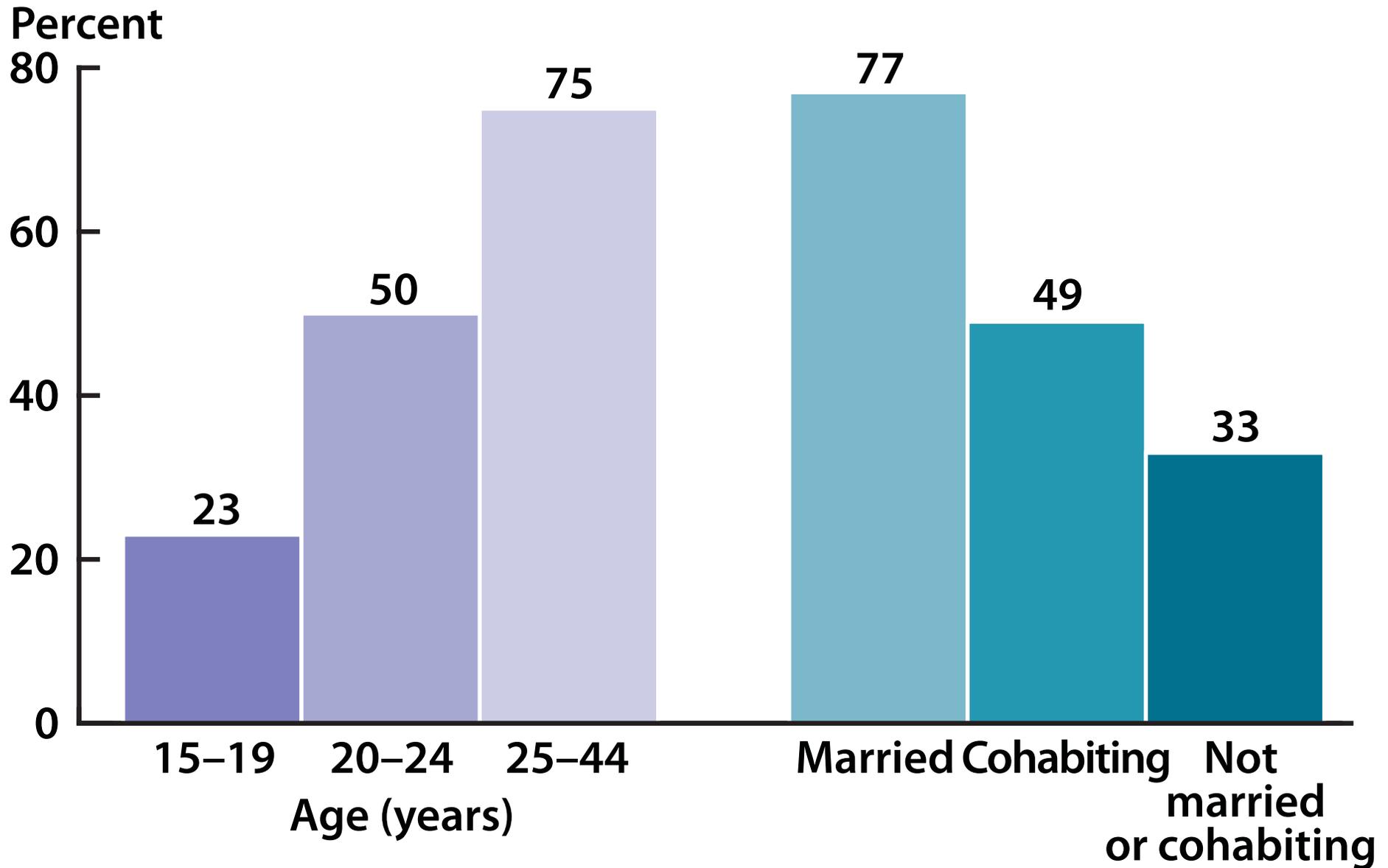
2010
1,633,785 births

More first births to cohabiting women



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006-2010.

Births that were intended at conception



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006-2010.