



# At-A-Glance: South Carolina Teen Pregnancy

Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

## What is SC PRAMS?

The South Carolina Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (SC PRAMS) is an ongoing population-based surveillance system of maternal behaviors and experiences before, during and after pregnancy. About 2,300 mothers are randomly sampled from the state's live birth registry each year. The data presented in this fact sheet reflect live births to South Carolina mothers that occurred in South Carolina during the years of 2004-2007. The overall response rate for these four years was 69.4 percent.

## Prevalence of Teen Pregnancy

Between 2003 and 2006, 9.9 percent of all pregnancies, including live births, reported fetal deaths and abortions were to teenagers 17 and younger according to the state's vital records.

## Low Birth Weight

Of all teenage (17 years and younger) births in 2004-2007, 12.3 percent of the infants were born with very low or moderately low birth weight. For live births to mothers 18 and over, 8.9 percent of the infants were born with very low or moderately low birth weight.

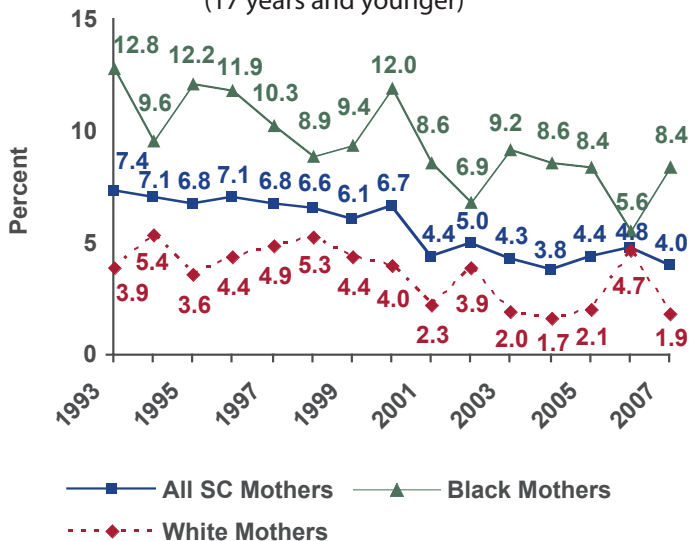
## Use of Medicaid

Of teenage mothers, 17 years and younger, in 2004-2007 96 percent were on Medicaid throughout pregnancy or at some point during pregnancy. Of mothers 18 years and older in 2004-2007 56 percent were on Medicaid throughout pregnancy or at some point during pregnancy.

## Breastfeeding

Between the years of 2004-2007, 47 percent of teenage mothers initiated breastfeeding the newborn but only 18.5 percent of the mothers who initiated breastfeeding continued to do so for 10 weeks or more. Of mothers 18 and older 66.4 percent initiated

Percent of Births to Teenage Mothers in SC, 1993-2007 (17 years and younger)



breastfeeding and of those that initiated, 56.4 percent continued breastfeeding for 10 weeks or more.

## Prenatal Care

Almost 35 percent of teenage mothers reported not getting prenatal care as early as they wanted. Of the reasons cited, 23.8 percent said, "I didn't want anyone to know I was pregnant." Another 12.4 percent said, "I didn't have my Medicaid card," and 12 percent said, "I didn't have a way to get to the clinic or doctors office."

In 2004-2007, 69.7 percent of mothers under the age of 18 were not married and did not include paternal acknowledgment on the birth certificate. More than 28 percent of mothers 18 years and older were married and did include paternal acknowledgement on the birth certificate.

