

Tracking Unintended Pregnancy in Mahoning County

*Health Promotion and Assessment Unit
District Board of Health*



Definitions

- An unintended pregnancy is a pregnancy that is *“either unwanted or mistimed at the time of conception.”* (Healthy Valley Commission for Community Health, 1998)
- Up to 57% of pregnancies may be unintended (Institute of Medicine, 1996)



Measures of Unintended Pregnancy

- Teen births
- Teen pregnancies
- Abortions
- Intervals between pregnancies



Local Data Sources

- Birth certificates
- Fetal death certificates
- Abortion reports to the Ohio Department of Health



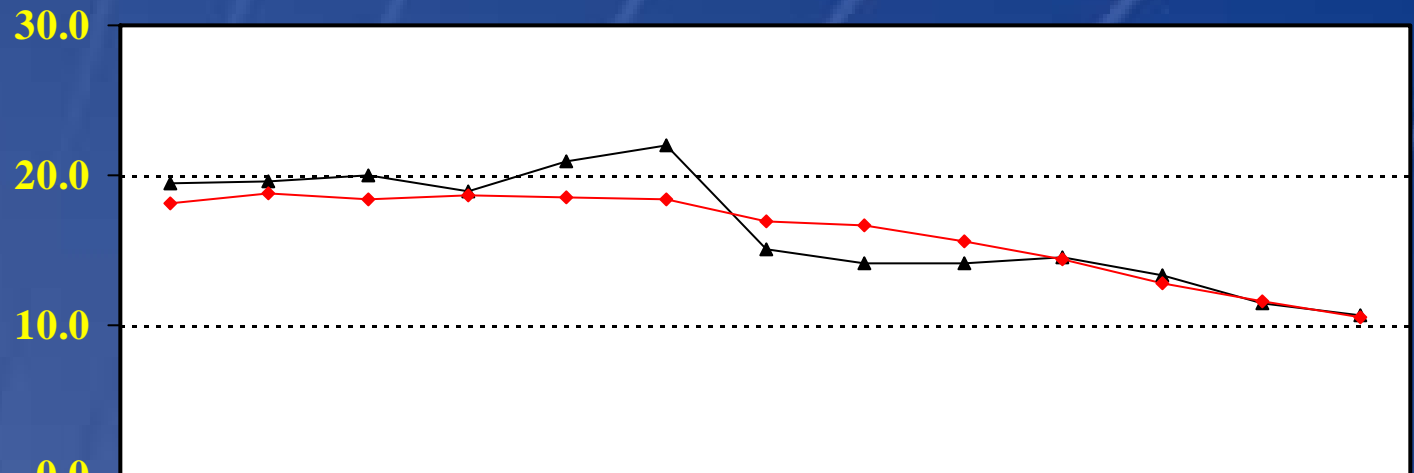
Teen Births

- Numbers and rates per 1,000 girls/women in age group
- Tracked for different age groups (under 18, 15-17, under 20)
- District Board of Health tracks school-age teen births (12-17) in Mahoning County



School-Age Teen Birth Rates (12-17) in Mahoning County and Ohio 1990-2002

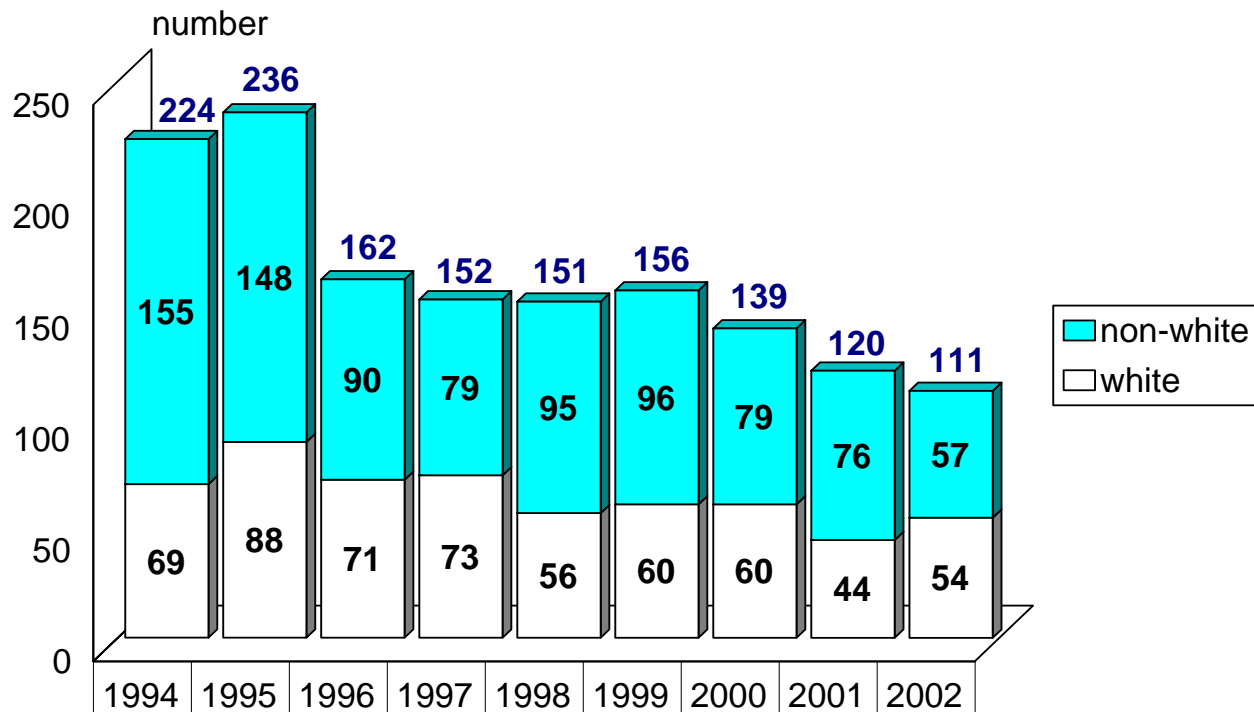
rate per 1,000 girls



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
▲ Mahoning County	19.5	19.6	20.0	19.0	20.9	22.0	15.1	14.2	14.1	14.5	13.4	11.5	10.7
◆ Ohio	18.1	18.8	18.4	18.7	18.6	18.4	17.0	16.6	15.6	14.4	12.8	11.6	10.6



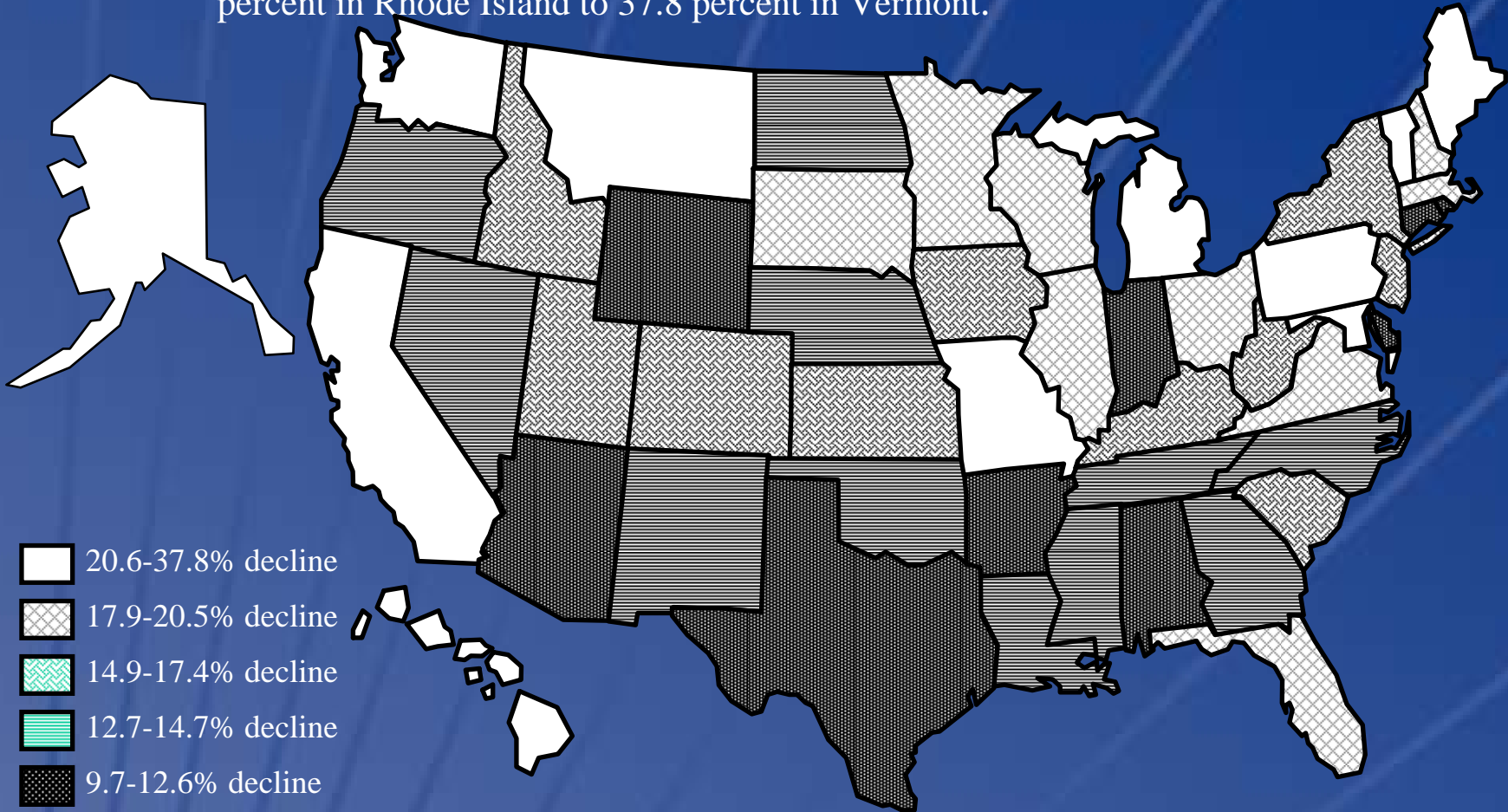
School-Age Teen Births (ages 12-17) in Mahoning County



Changes in teen birth rates, 1991-98

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

Teen birth rates declined in all 50 state between 1991 and 1998; declines ranged from 9.7 percent in Rhode Island to 37.8 percent in Vermont.



Ventura, S.J., Curtin, S.C., & Mathews, T.J. (2000). Variations in teenage birth rates, 1991-98: National and state trends. *National Vital Statistics Reports* 48(6).

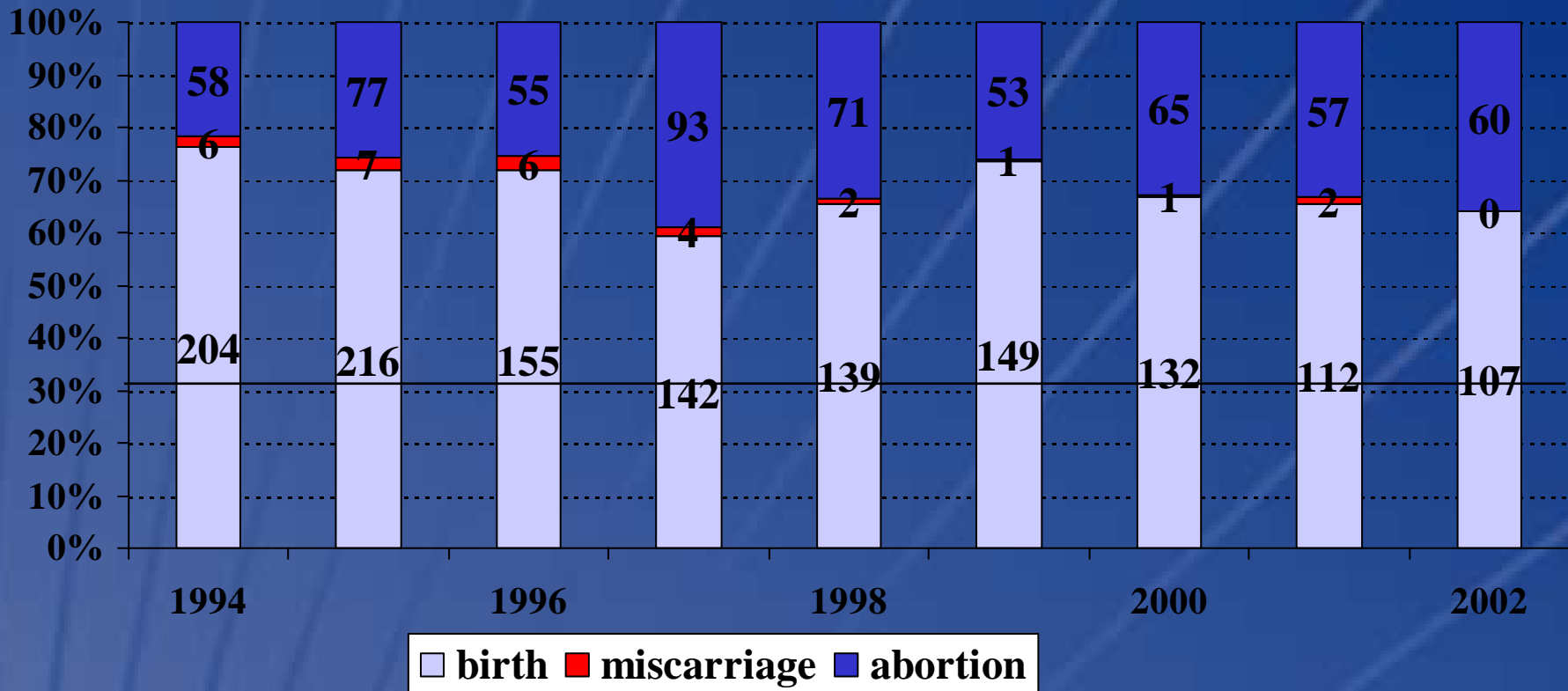


Teen Pregnancies

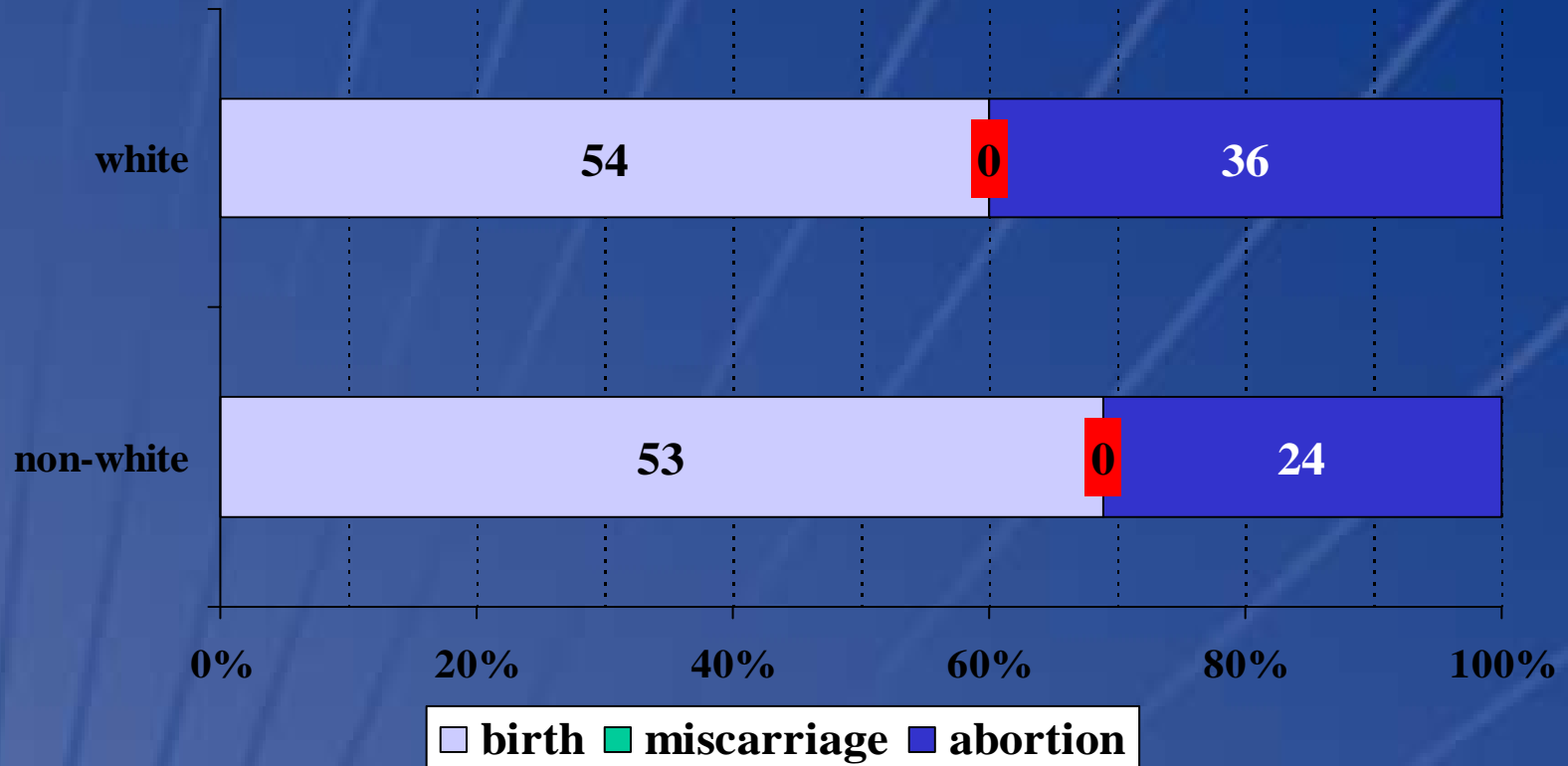
- Teen pregnancies result in:
 - live births
 - abortions
 - fetal deaths (miscarriages)



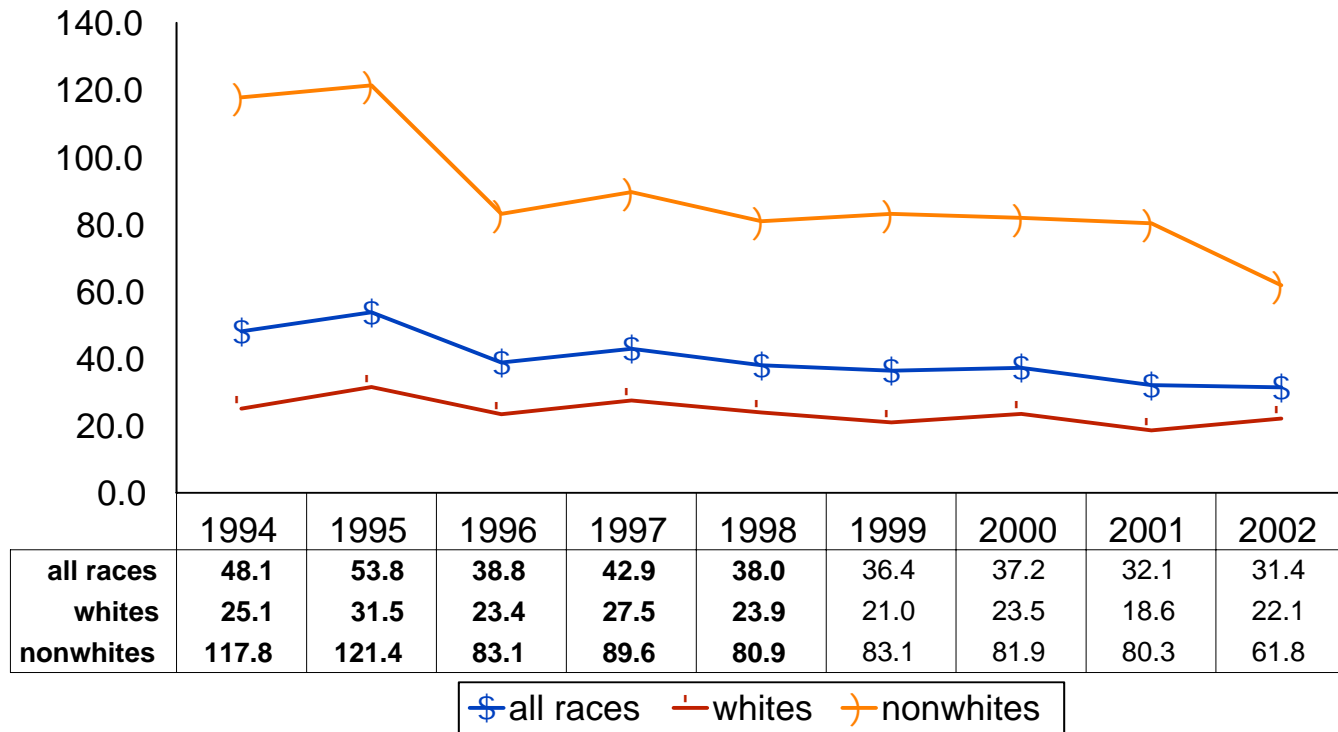
Pregnancy Outcomes, Girls Ages 15-17 Mahoning County, 1994-2002



Pregnancy Outcomes, Girls Ages 15-17 Mahoning County, 2002



Teen Pregnancy Rates per 1,000 Girls in Mahoning County, Ages 15-17



pregnancies include births, abortions, and miscarriages

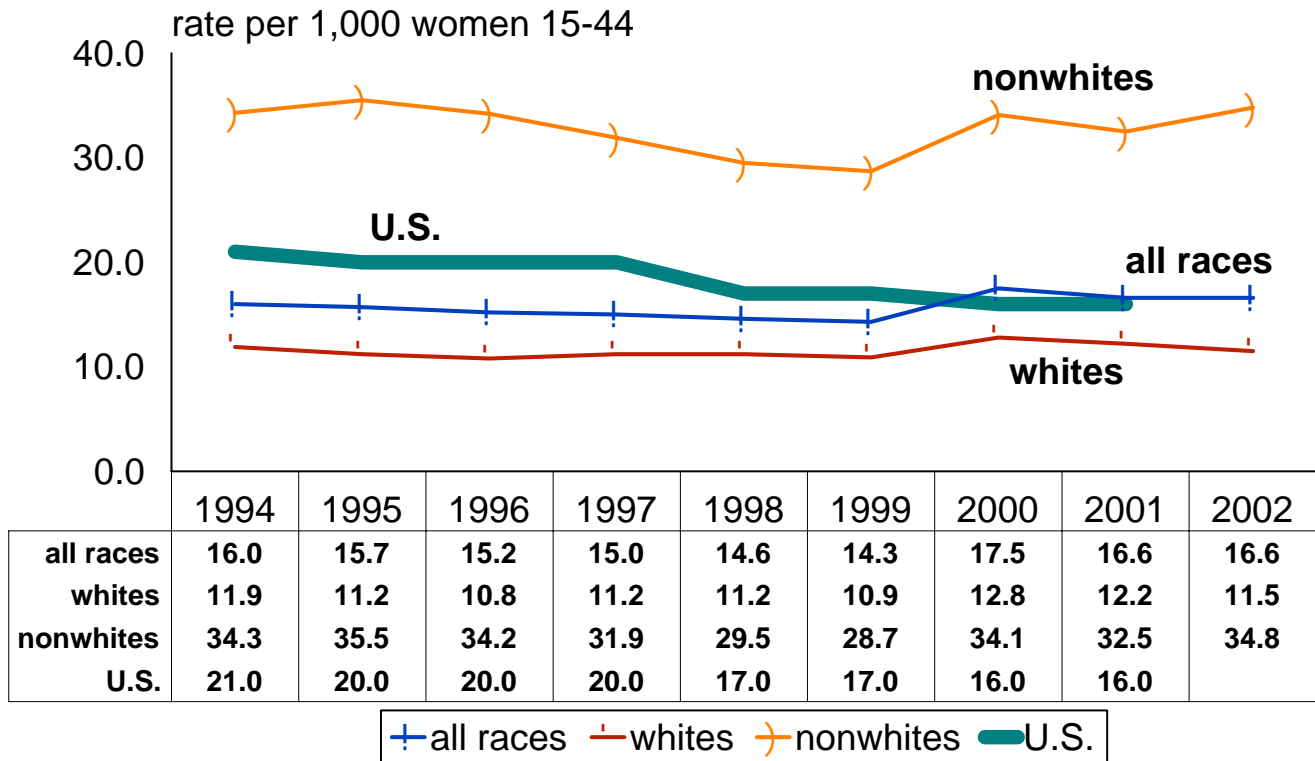


Abortions

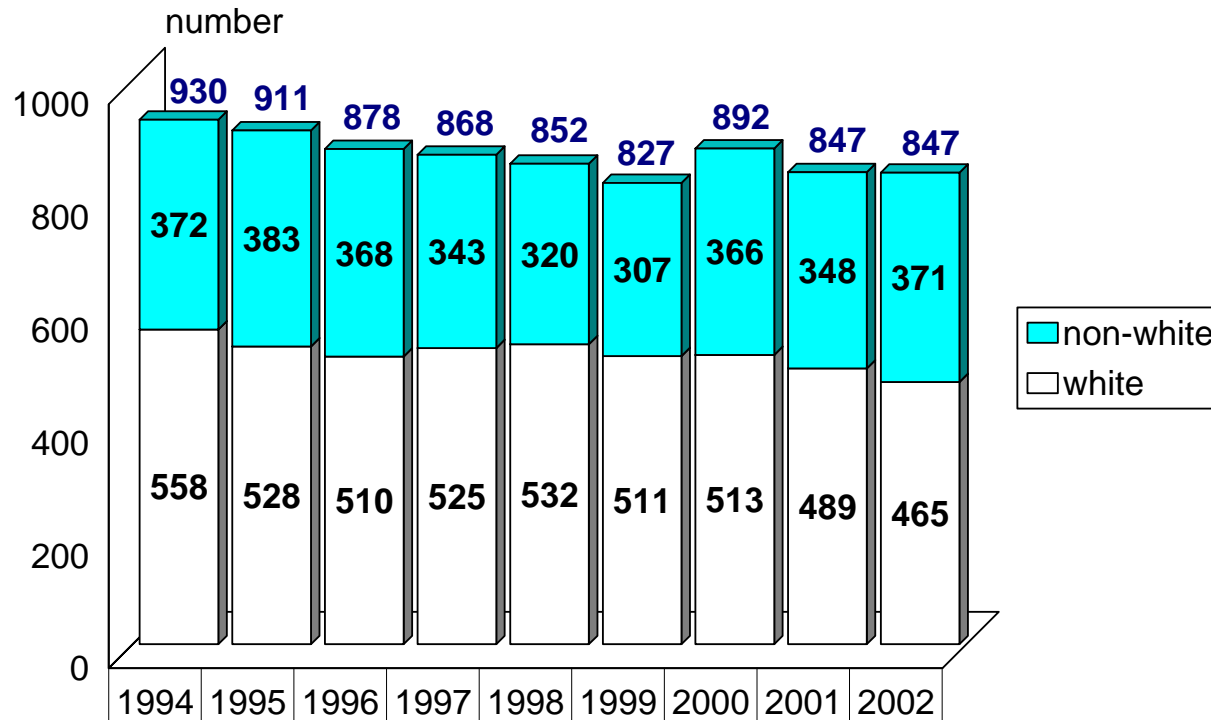
- The abortion rate is the number of abortions per 1,000 women ages 15-44
- The abortion ratio is the number of abortions per 1,000 births to women ages 15-44



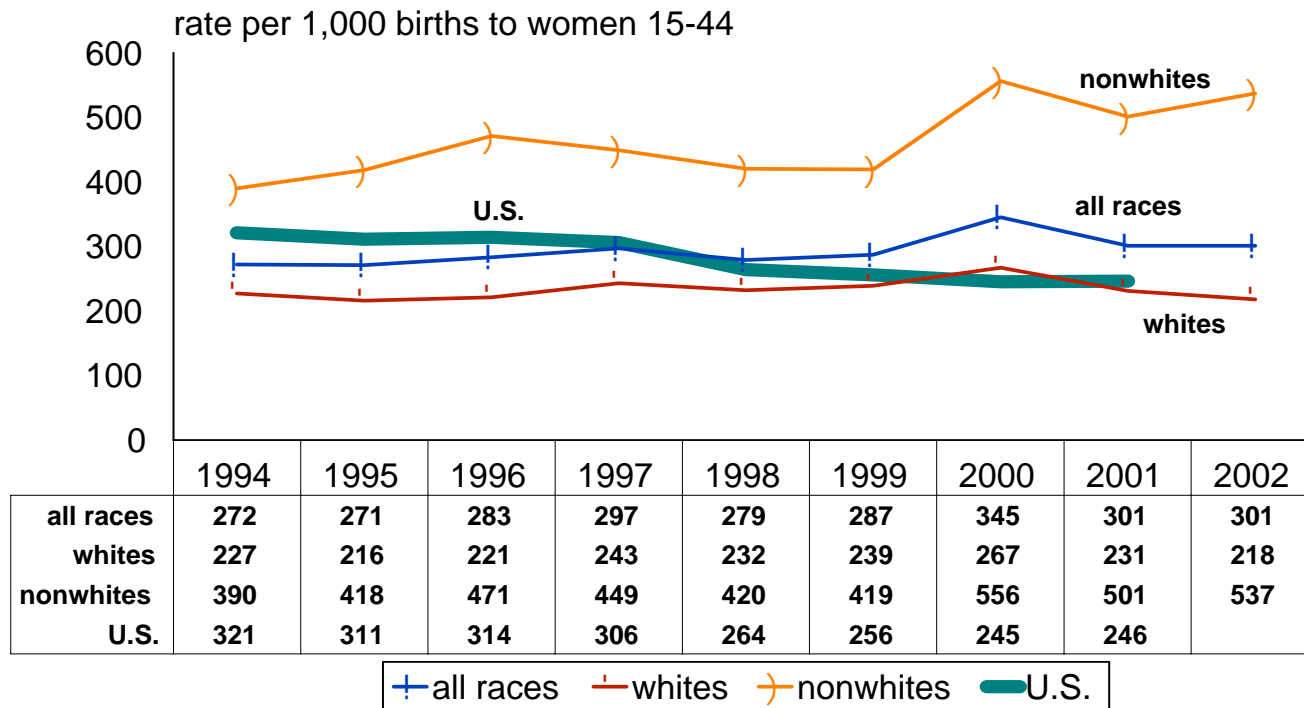
Abortion Rates in Mahoning County



Abortions in Mahoning County



Abortion Ratios in Mahoning County

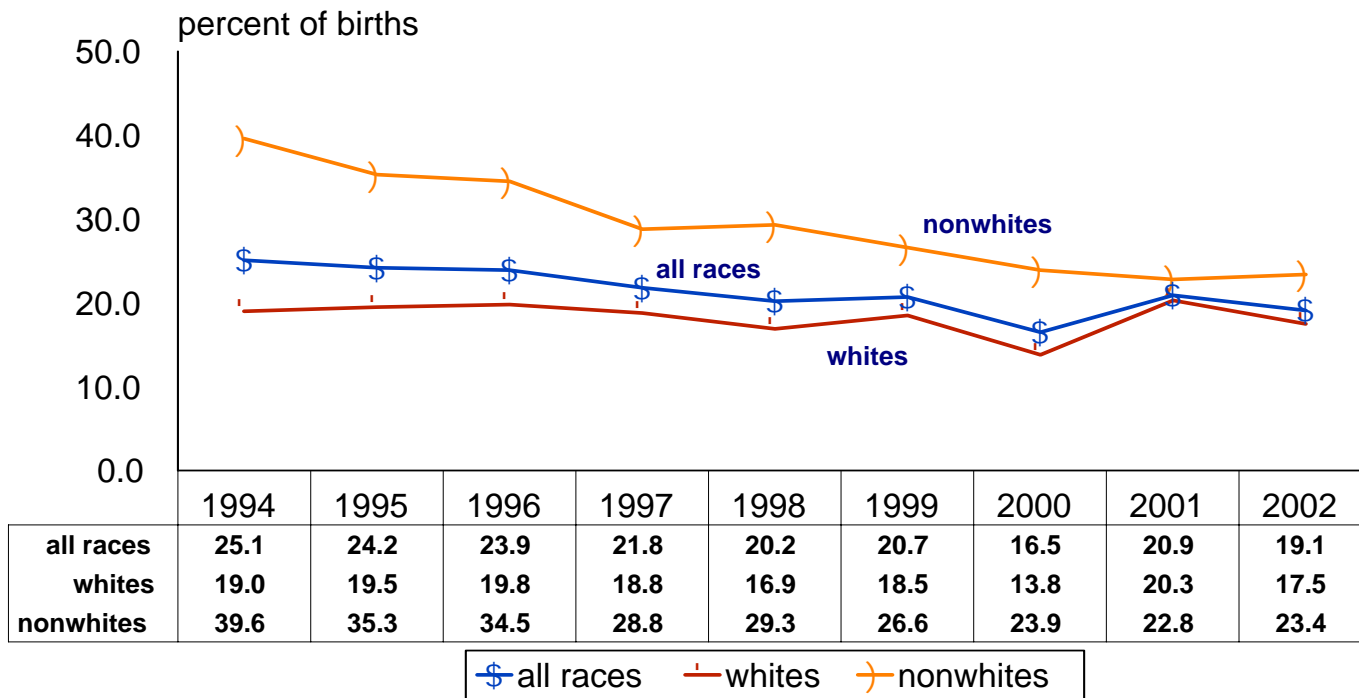


Short Inter-pregnancy Interval

- Pregnancies that are too closely spaced are often unintended
- We defined short inter-pregnancy interval as less than 12 months between delivery of one child and conception of the next child (Utah Department of Health, 1998)
 - Example: a women who delivers a child on January 1, 2000 and delivers a 36-week gestational age second child on October 1, 2001 would just exceed this short interpregnancy interval



Short Inter-pregnancy Intervals in Mahoning County



Conclusions

- Births to school-age teens in Mahoning County have declined by 50% since 1994, from 224 in 1994 to 111 in 2002
 - The decline was steepest among nonwhite school-age teens (63% vs. 22% for white teens)



Conclusions

- Teen pregnancies have declined at a slower rate (36% since 1994) than teen births
 - About the same number of teen pregnancies ended in abortion in 2002 (60) as in 1994 (58)



Conclusions

- The number of abortions in Mahoning County has declined by 9% since 1994
 - The decline was steepest among whites (17% vs. < 1% for nonwhites)
 - Local abortion rates are comparable to the national average



Conclusions

- The proportion of babies spaced too closely has declined by more than 24% since 1994, suggesting that more pregnancies carried to term are planned pregnancies

