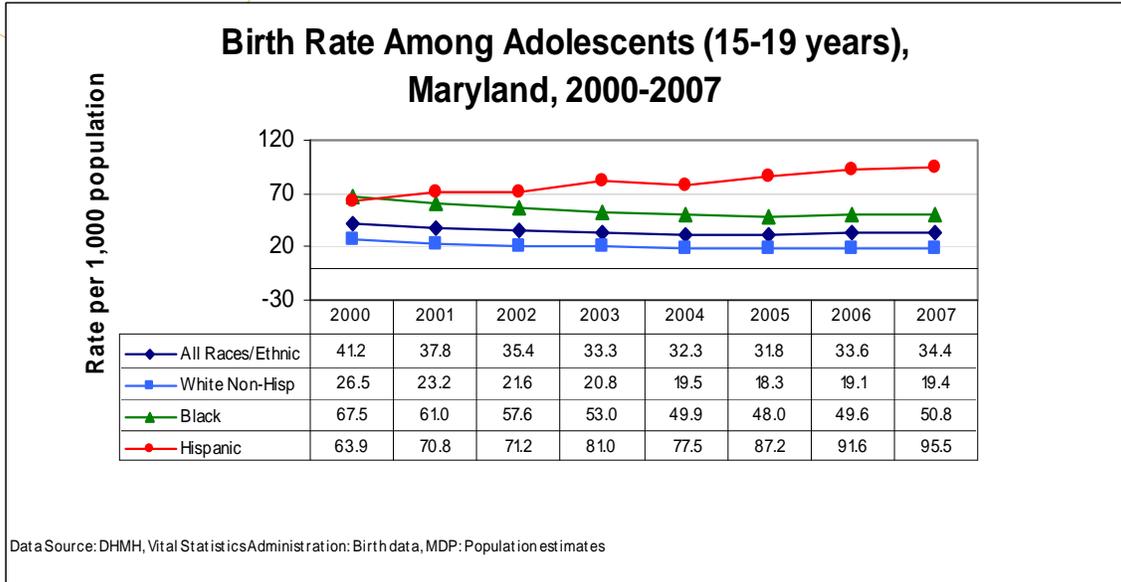


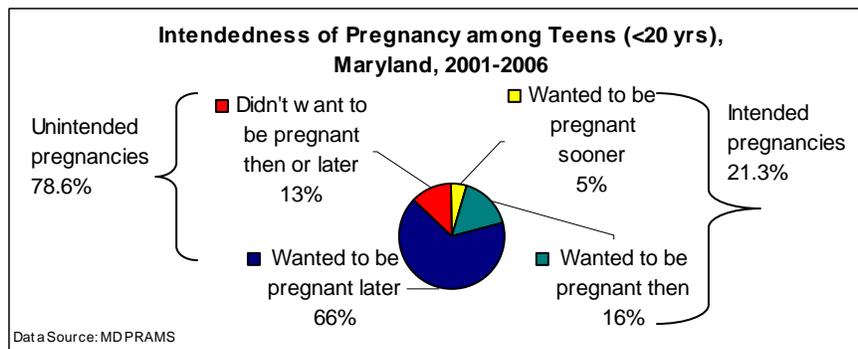
# TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION IN MARYLAND:

**Family Health Administration  
Center for Maternal and Child Health  
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
www.fha.state.md.us/mch**

## What does Teen Pregnancy in Maryland look like?



- Teen pregnancy is a major social and public health problem that has consequences for affected teens, their children and families, and society as a whole. There were 6,986 babies born to young Maryland moms under the age of 20 in 2007. Nearly half of these births were to young moms under the age of 18, including 93 births to mothers who were aged 14 or younger. (Vital Statistics Administration)
- Between 1998 and 2007, Maryland’s teen birth rate declined by 20% and reached a low of 31.8 births per 1,000 adolescents (ages 15-19) in 2005. The largest decline occurred among African American teens at 28%. The teen birth rate has increased among all races over the last two years. The rate among Hispanic adolescents increased by 49% from 2000 to 2007. (Vital Statistics Administration)
- Approximately 8 in 10 births to teen moms under the age of 20 in Maryland are unintended, i.e., mistimed or unwanted (Maryland PRAMS Focus on Unintended Pregnancy Issue Brief, April 2007).



## **What's Being Done to Address Teen Pregnancy Prevention?**

- The Center for Maternal & Child Health is reducing unintended pregnancies and decreasing teen pregnancies by using a multi-faceted approach. Activities range from clinical services through the State's Family Planning Program to training and educational opportunities offered through various venues. A Community Health Educator in the Center serves as the State's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator.

### **Maryland Family Planning Health Program**

- This Program provides family planning, preconception health, teen pregnancy prevention services to the 70,000+ clients served annually in over 80 sites statewide. *Teens represent approximately one third of clients served statewide.* Grants are awarded to local health departments and Planned Parenthood for the provision of clinical and other services.
- This Program funds *Healthy Teen and Young Adult (HTYA)* sites in Baltimore City, Prince George's County and Anne Arundel County. HTYA is a program designed to reach and serve young people at risk for unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and high risk behaviors. Service sites provide a holistic approach to health care and community-based prevention efforts. Male involvement coordinators design and implement activities to help young men understand their passage through boyhood and manhood as a prelude to fatherhood. The HTYA Program serves young men and women up to age 24.

### **Maryland Abstinence Education Program**

- The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has received Federal Title V, Section 510 funding for abstinence education since 1999. The Center views abstinence education as a primary prevention and youth development strategy and uses these funds to support activities that promote positive life planning as well as sexual abstinence.
- In FY 2008 abstinence education grants were provided to 14 local health departments. The majority of these programs utilize an after-school program model which educates middle school youth about critical thinking skills, peer pressure, self-esteem, positive decision making and sexual abstinence. Abstinence funds support conferences for young people and their parents/caregivers. In the past, abstinence education funds have also supported the abstinence based teen pregnancy prevention media campaign, Campaign for Our Children.

### **Other Activities**

#### **Training and Education.**

- The Center for Maternal & Child Health provides a broad range of training and educational opportunities to professionals, parents and teens to promote abstinence and/or prevent teen pregnancy. Workshops and trainings are designed to keep professionals who work with teens abreast of research and programming in the areas of positive youth development, adolescent brain development and teen pregnancy prevention. Educational materials are provided to parents/caregivers to educate them on communicating with youth to foster attitudes to help them avoid becoming teen parents.

### **Data Analysis and Performance Monitoring**

- The Center for Maternal & Child Health monitors teen birth rates and related indicators as required by Federal Maternal and Child Health Block Grant guidelines.

### **Outreach, Advocacy and Technical Assistance**

- The Center works collaboratively with various federal, state and local government agencies, local health departments and other health providers, advocacy groups, community based organizations and other stakeholders to address teen pregnancy. Technical assistance on teen pregnancy prevention issues including best and promising practices is provided when requested.