

# **Teen Pregnancy - A Critical Public Health Issue**

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and  
Unplanned Pregnancy



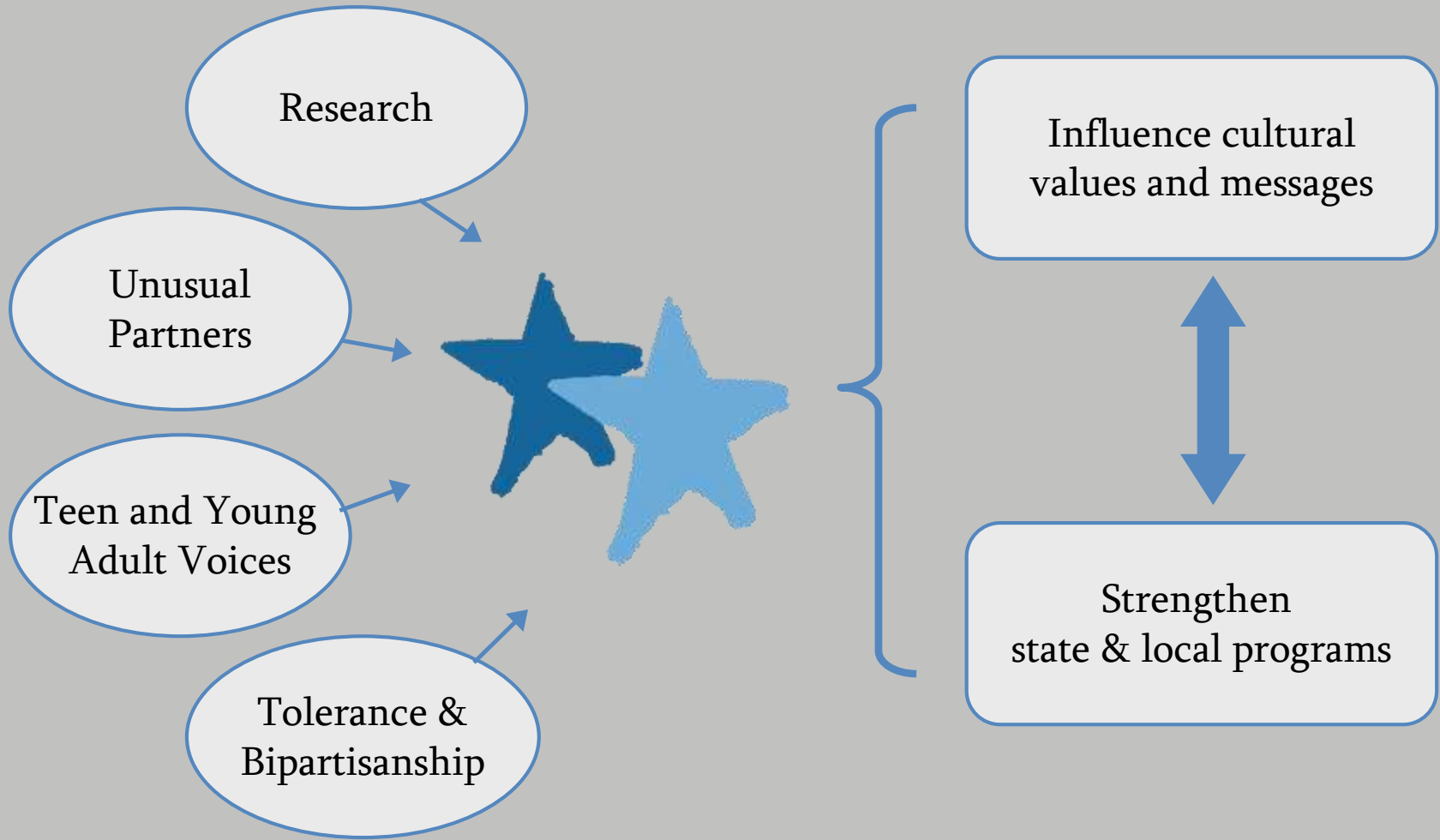
# Here is where we are going today

- **A tiny bit about the National Campaign** (who are we?)
- **Current State of Play** (trends, data, and other necessary boredom)
- **Costs and consequences** (why should we care about preventing teen pregnancy?)
- **Implications**(So, what to do today, tomorrow?)

# The Campaign's Mission and Goal

- Our mission is to is to **improve the lives and future prospects of children and families** and, in particular, to help ensure that children are born into stable, two-parent families who are committed to and ready for the demanding task of raising the next generation.

# Our Strategy



# Trends in Teen Pregnancy and Teen Births

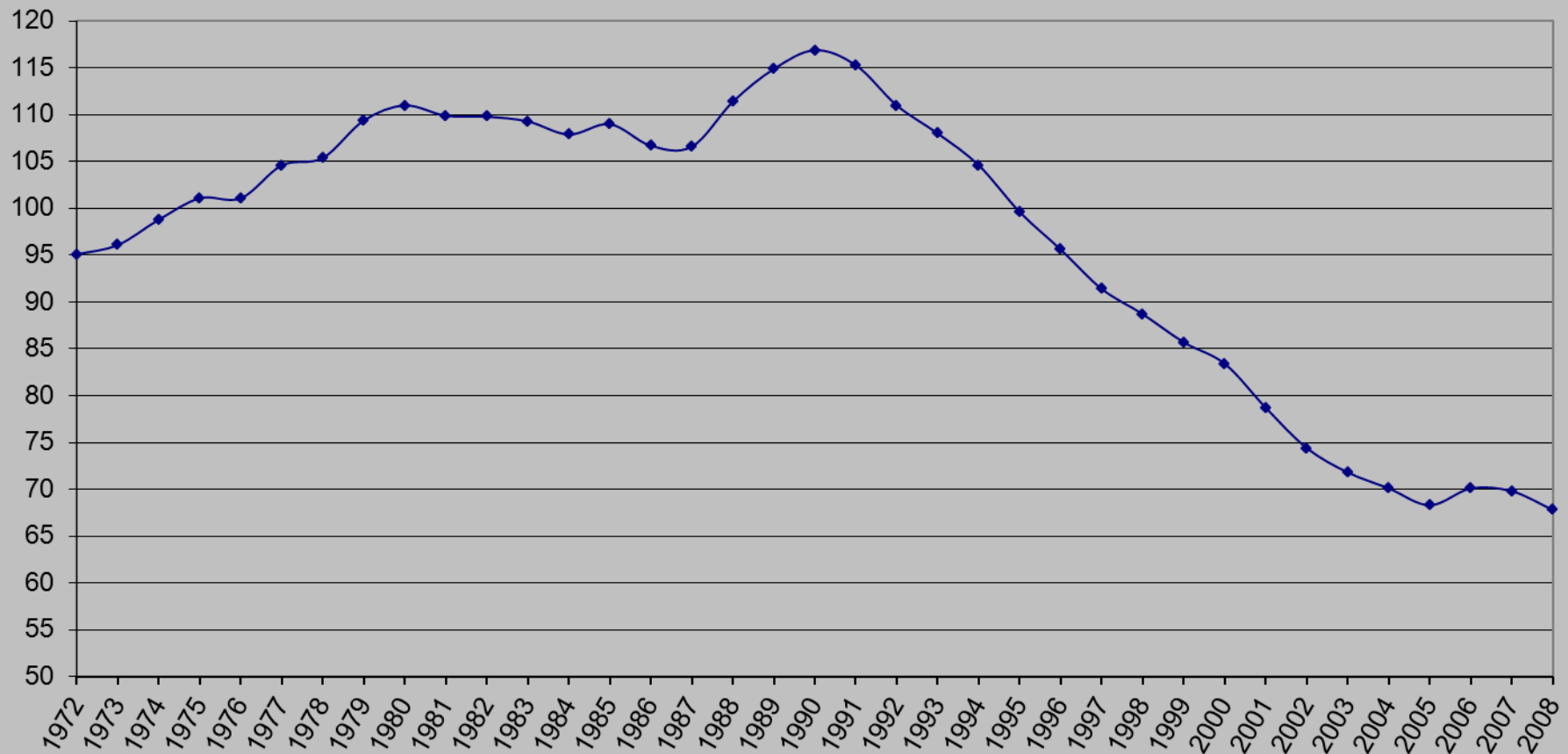


# Good news

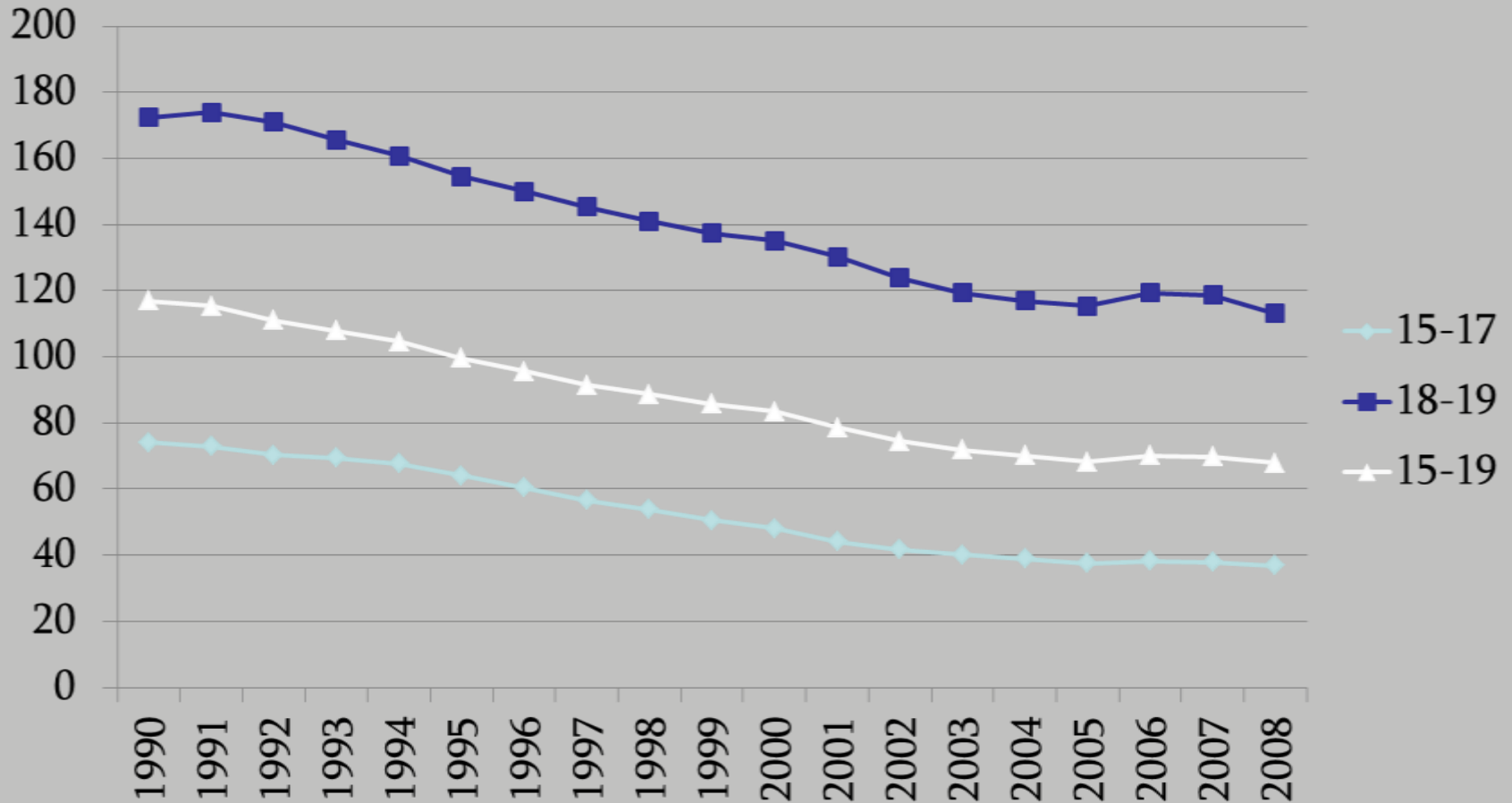


- Teen pregnancy rate decreased 40% from 1990 to 2005
- Less sex; more contraception

# National Teen Pregnancy Rates, 1972-2008



# Pregnancy Rates Among Teen Subgroups, 1990 - 2008





# National Teen Birth Rates, 1940-2010\*



\*Data for 2010 are preliminary.

Sources: Ventura, S.J., Mathews, T.J., & Hamilton, B.E. (2001). Births to Teenagers in the United States: 1940-2000. *National Vital Statistics Reports, 49*(10); Hamilton, B.E., Martin, J.A., & Ventura, S.J. (2011). Preliminary Data for 2010. *National Vital Statistics Reports, 60* (2).

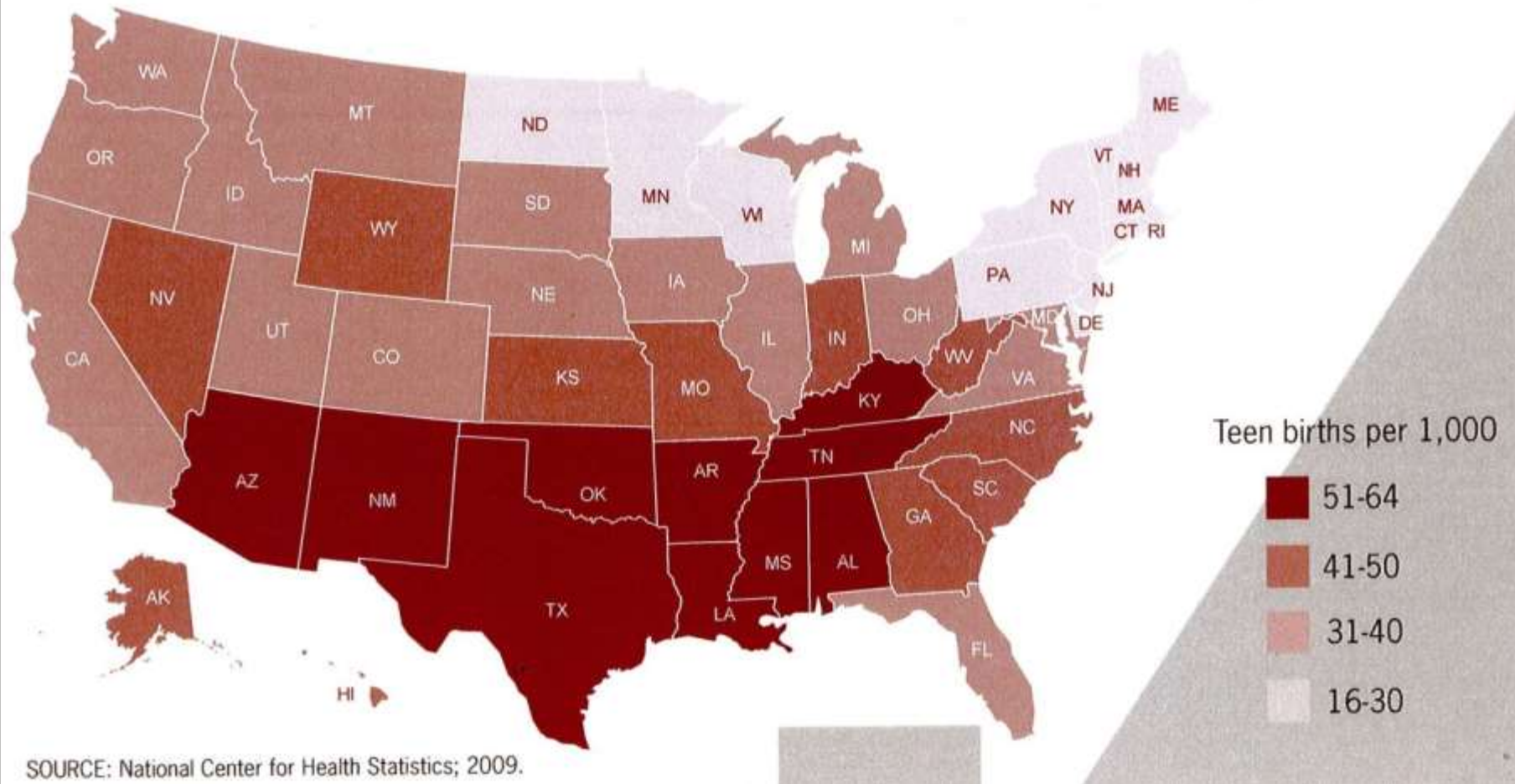
# Still more work to do



- Three in ten
- 52%
- 1 in 5
- 3 million

## Teen birth rates by state per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 years, 2009

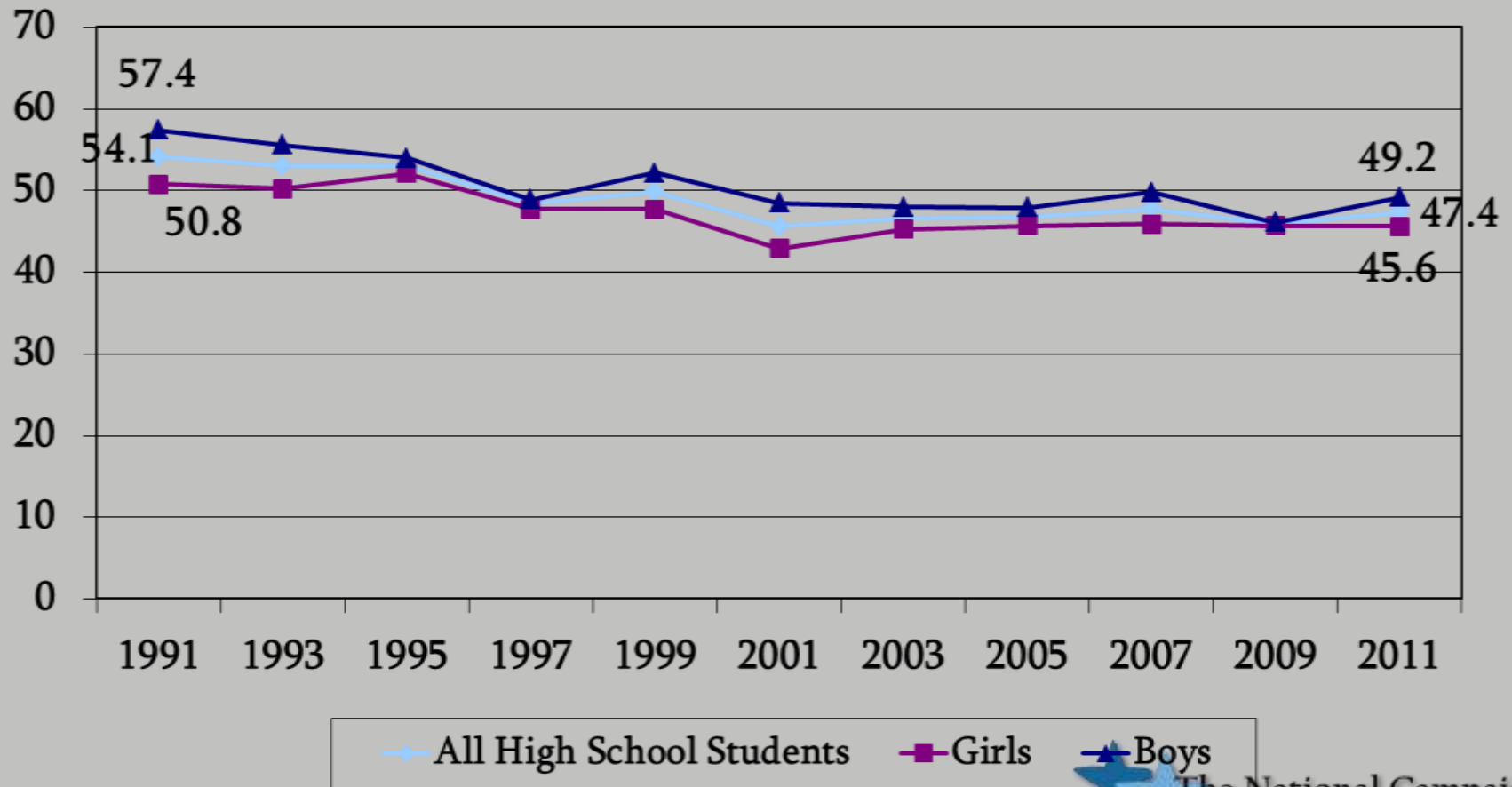
Teen birth rates were lowest in the Northeast and upper Midwest and highest across the southern states.



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics; 2009.

# More mixed progress

Percent of High School Students who Have Ever Had Sex



# Teens in Anne Arundel

- In 2011, there were 364 births to teens (a rate of 22.3) – enough to fill nearly 15 classrooms
  - 93% of these births were to unmarried teens
  - Account for 7% of all births to teens in Maryland
  - 19% of births were to teen mothers

# Consequences of Teen Pregnancy

- Compared to children born to older mothers (20-21 years old), children born to teen moms are more likely to:
  - drop out of high school.
  - become teen parents.
  - use Medicaid and SCHIP.
  - experience abuse/neglect.
  - enter the foster care system.
  - end up in prison (sons).
  - be raised in single parent families.

# Connection with Education and Workforce Preparation

- Only 40% of mothers who have children before 18 graduate from high school.
- Parenthood is a leading cause of school drop out: 30% of teen girls cite pregnancy/parenthood as a reason for dropping out.
- Less than 2% of mothers who have children before age 18 have a college degree by age 30.
- Teens who drop out of school are more likely to become pregnant and have a child than their peers who stay in school.
- 61% of community college students who have children after enrolling don't finish their education, which is 65% higher than the rate for those who don't have children.

# Maryland Costs of Teen Childbearing





# Reducing Risk of Pregnancy and STIs

1. Abstain from sex
2. Reduce the frequency of sex
3. Increase the correct and consistent use of effective methods of contraception – including condoms



# Reducing Risk of Pregnancy and STIs cont.

4. Reduce the number of sexual partners
5. Increase amount of time between sexual partners
6. Get tested and treated for STDs
7. Get vaccinated against hepatitis B and HPV (human papillomavirus)

# Consider Risk and Protective Factors

- More than 500 have been identified
- Some directly influence, others are indirect
- Values and attitudes are important
- Consider the factors that are critical for the behaviors you want to change, and whether or not you can modify these factors

# A word about evidence-based programs

- Rigorous scientific study
  - Randomized control trial
  - Quasi-experimental design
- Changing teens' behavior
  - Measures outcomes like delaying sex, decreasing number of sexual partners

# Why is it important to use evidence-based programs?

- Best chance of success for behavior change (which then leads to success with the outcomes we're interested in)
- Scarce resources and time means we should spend them wisely

# Evidence-Based Programs

- Research and resources available at [http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/effective\\_programs.aspx](http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/effective_programs.aspx)



The National Campaign  
1000 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
www.thenationalcampaign.org

# How to Get Started

- Agree teen pregnancy is a problem
- Commit to take action
- There are only 2 ways to prevent pregnancy
  - Less sex and more contraception
- All interventions must drive towards one or both
- Groups tend to choose one or the other
- Fact: BOTH led to recent decreases

# Thank You!

TheNationalCampaign.org

StayTeen.org

Bedsider.org

[ksuellentrop@thenc.org](mailto:ksuellentrop@thenc.org)

**Sign up for e-gram updates**

**Get cool stuff for parents and teens**