Recent Changes in Childbearing in the United States

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- Declines in U.S. births slowed in 2012
- First births and birth rates dropping for teens and increased for women in their 30s
- Teen birth rates are down steeply for all women—especially Hispanic—and in most states, since 2007
- Unmarried mothers are more likely to be older and cohabiting

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Center for Health Statistics.

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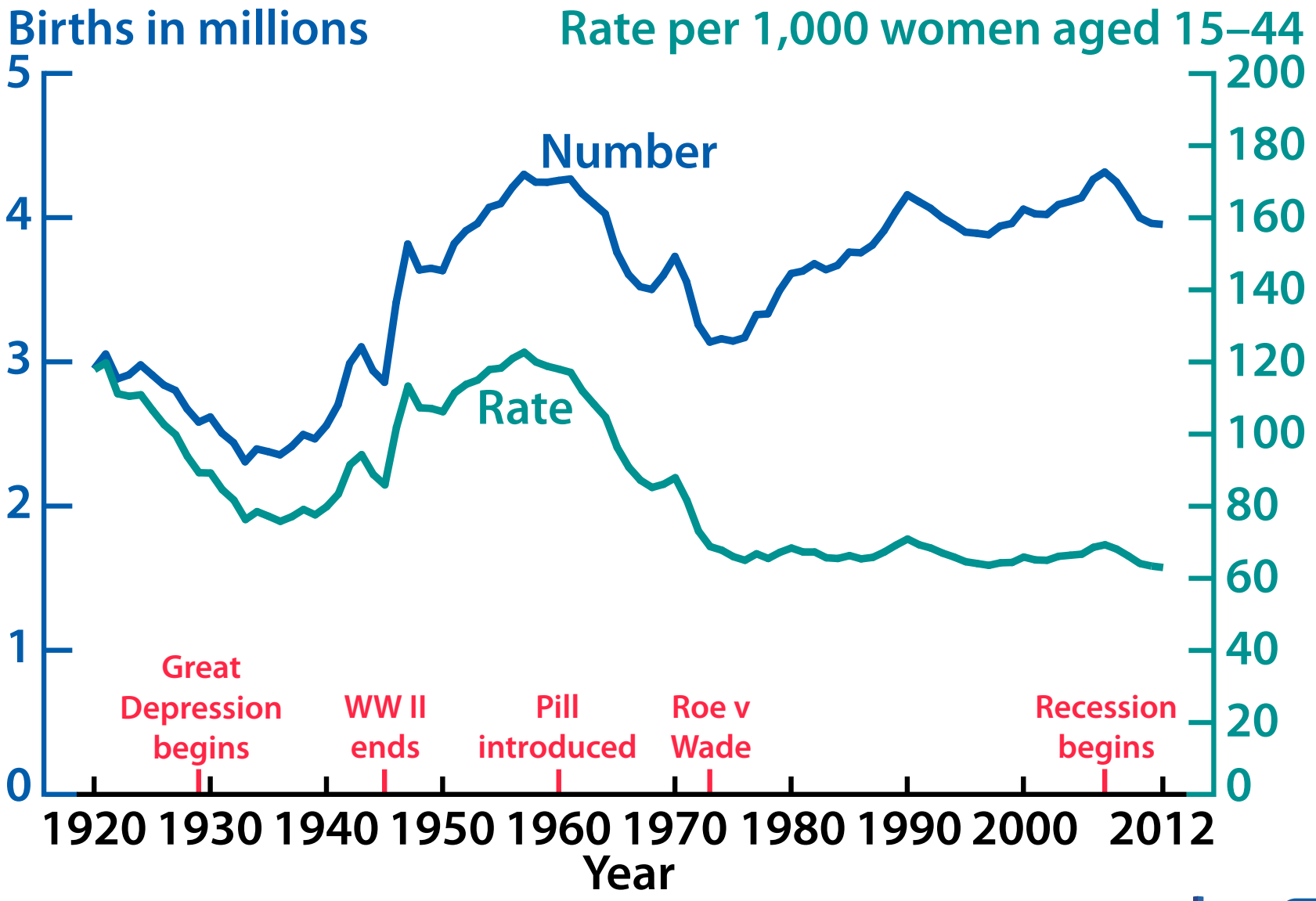
Births leveled off in 2012 after recent declines



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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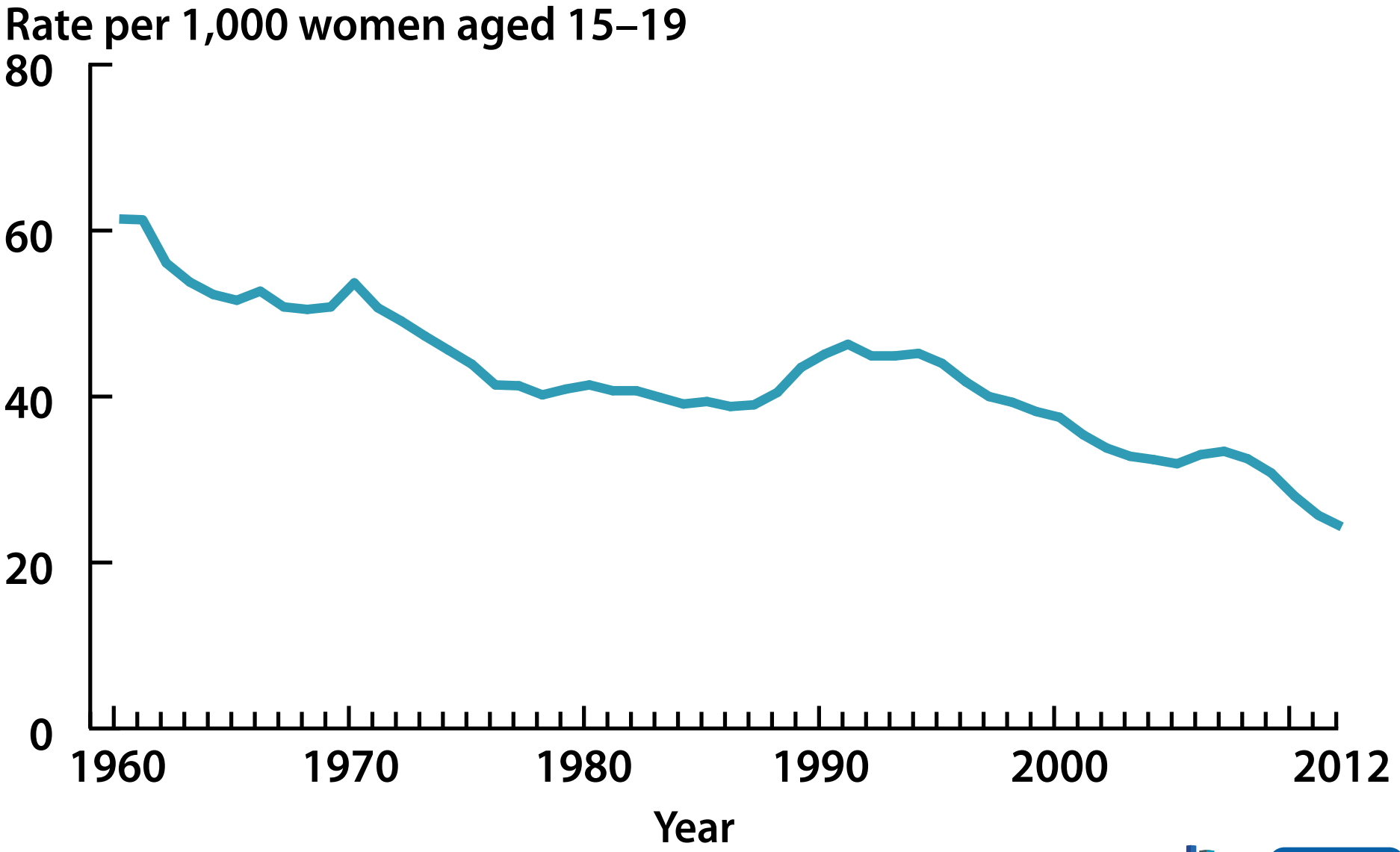
First birth rates for teens down sharply



NOTE: Data for 2012 are preliminary.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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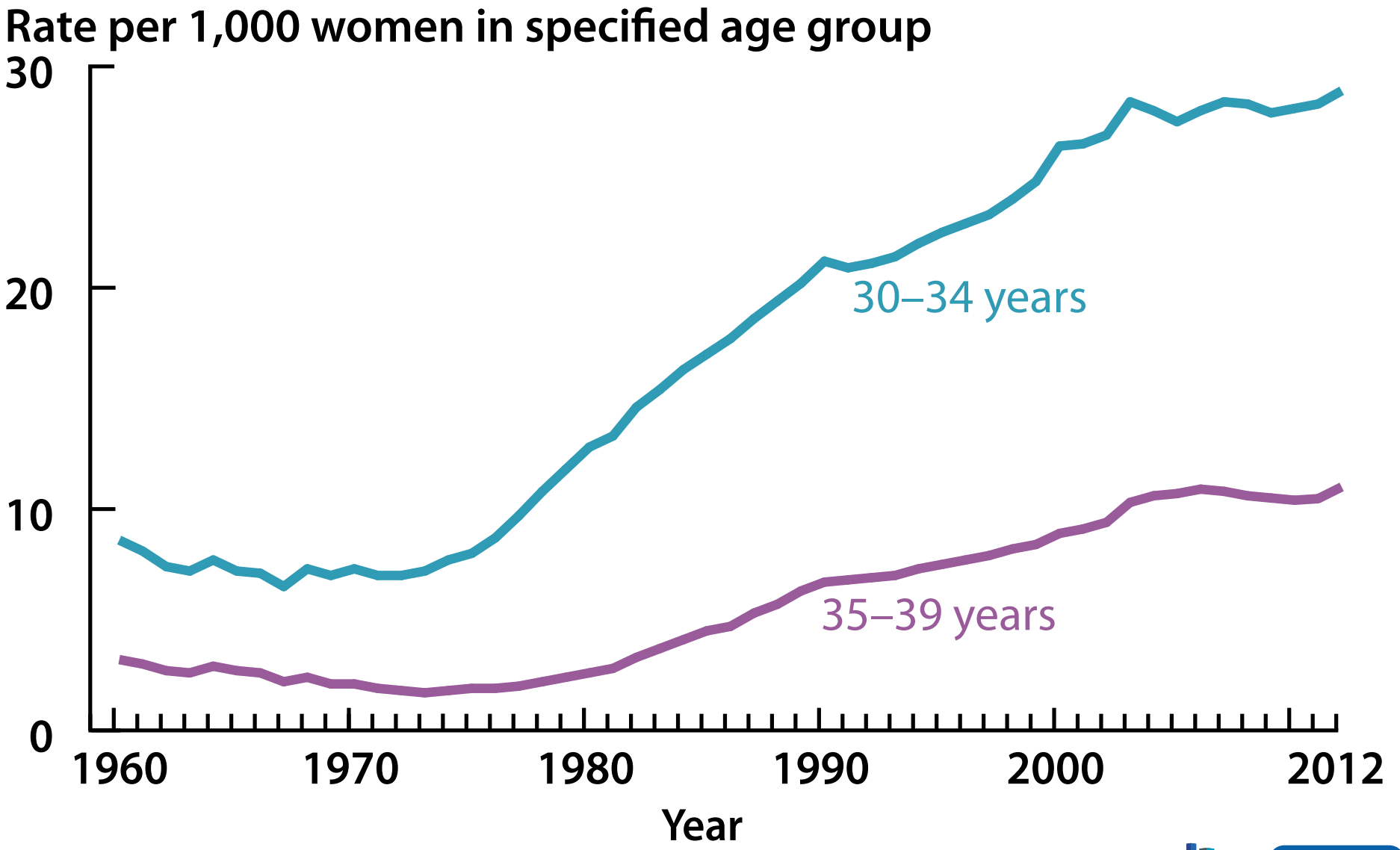
First birth rates for women in their 30s have increased since the mid-1970s



NOTE: Data for 2012 are preliminary.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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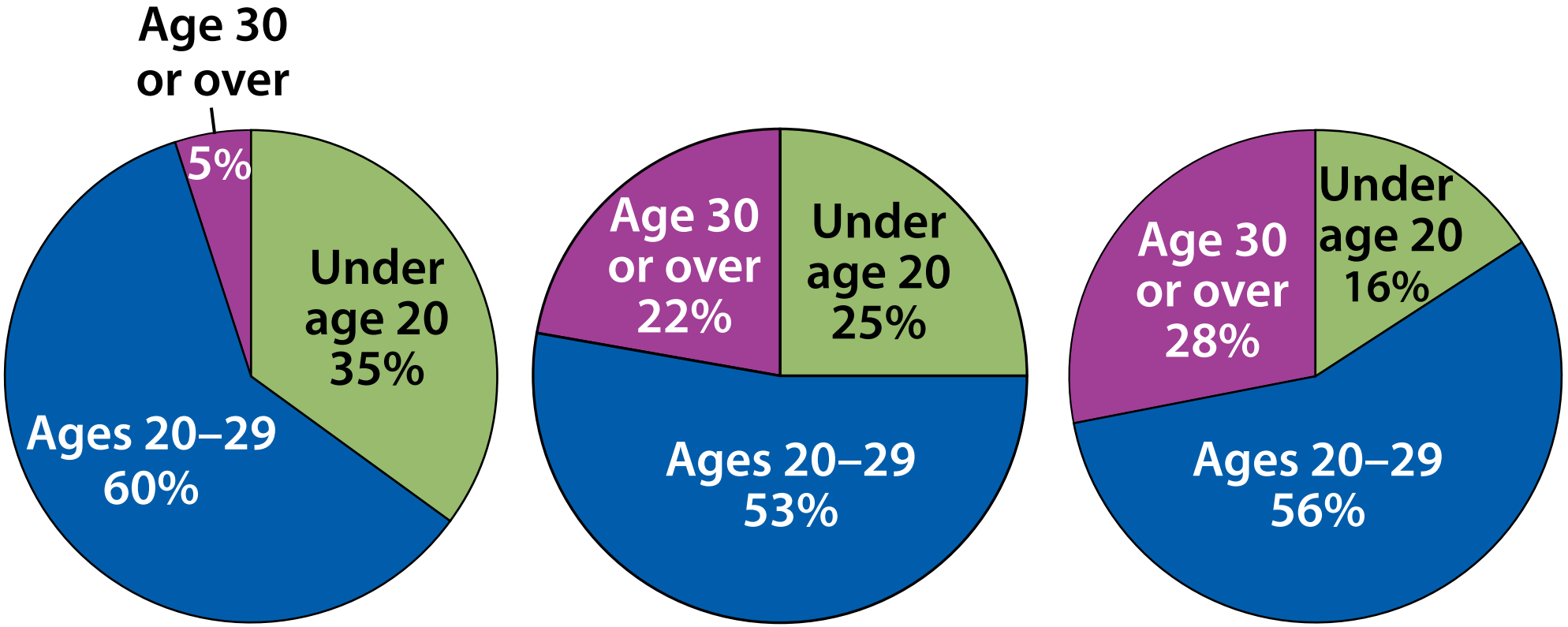
28% of first births in 2012 were to women 30 and older, more than 5 times the 1975 level



1975
1,319,126 births

1995
1,610,453 births

2012
1,569,943 births

NOTE: Data for 2012 are preliminary.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

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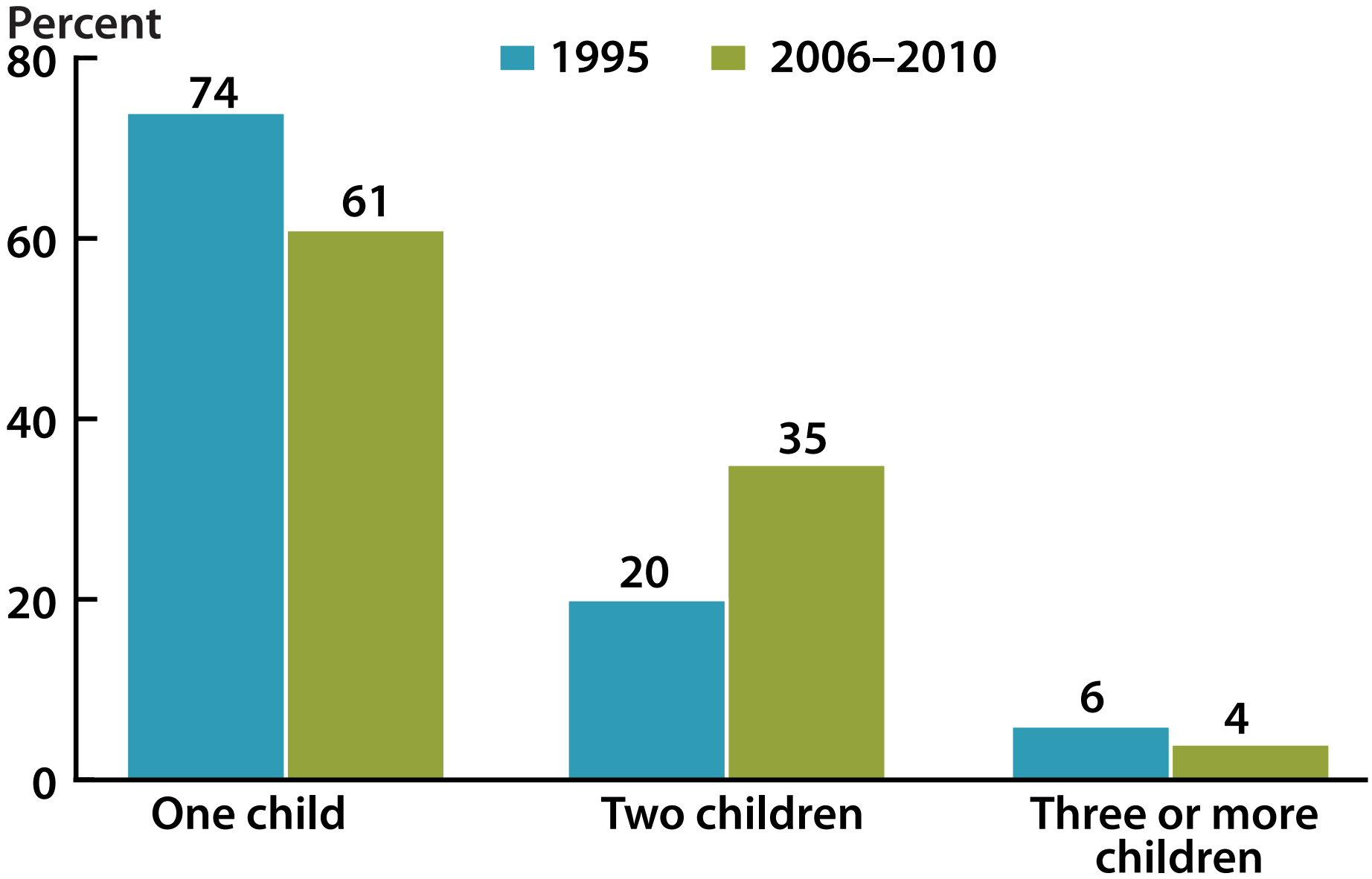
Women having their first child at 35–44 are now more likely to have a second child



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, 1995 and 2006–2010 National Surveys of Family Growth.

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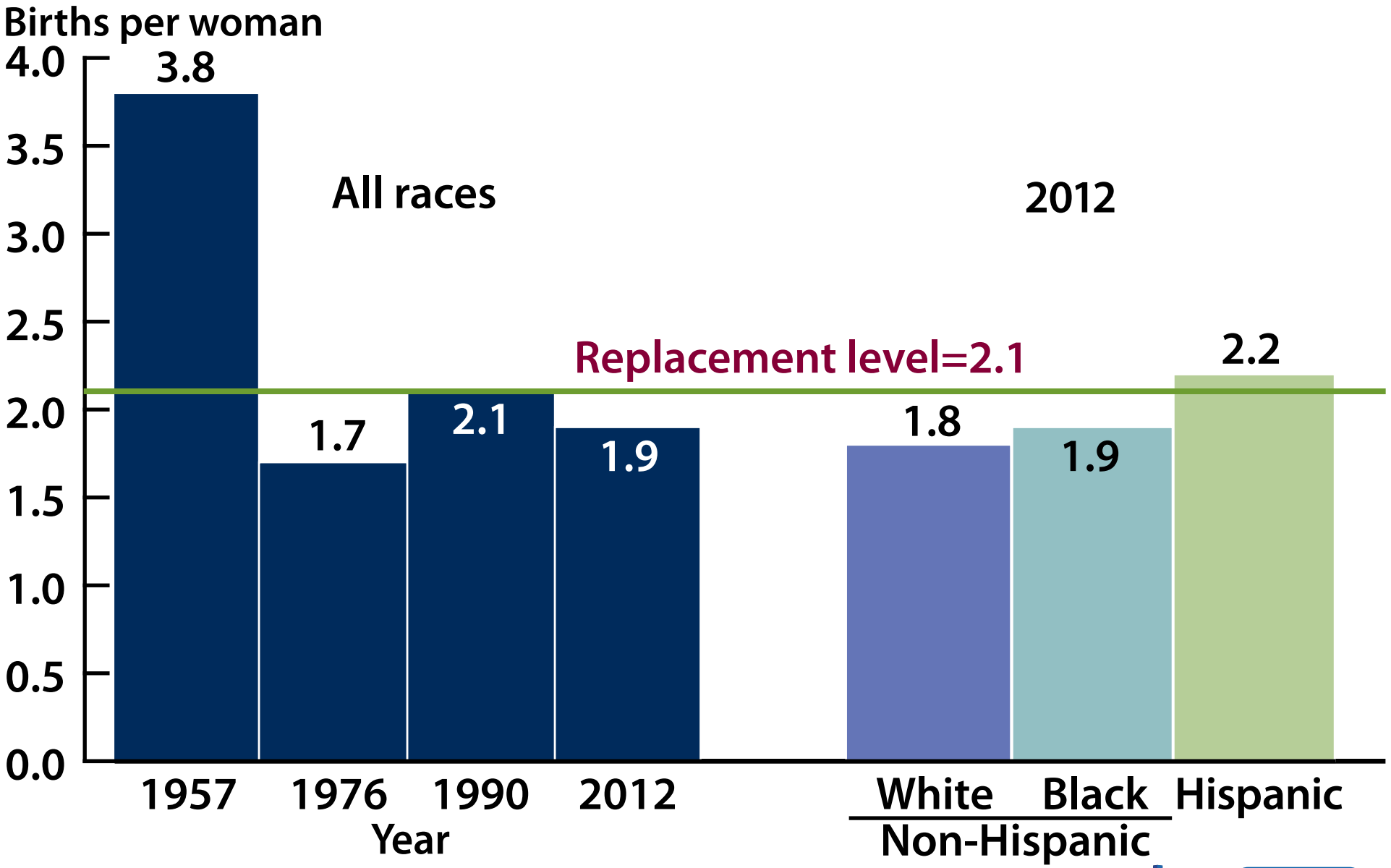
Women are having one-half as many births compared with 1957



NOTE: Data for 2012 are preliminary.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

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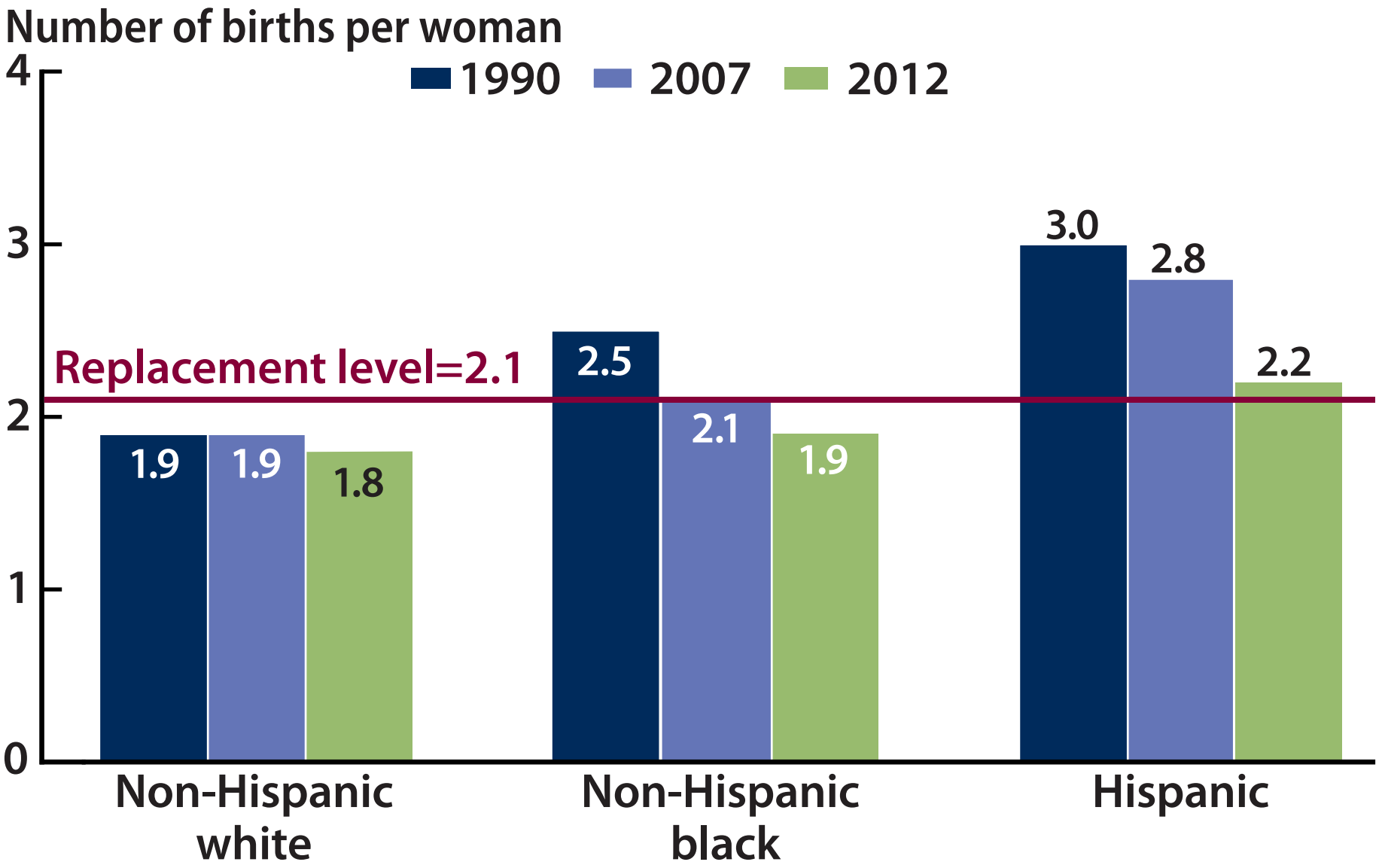
Births have declined more for black and Hispanic women



NOTE: Data for 2012 are preliminary.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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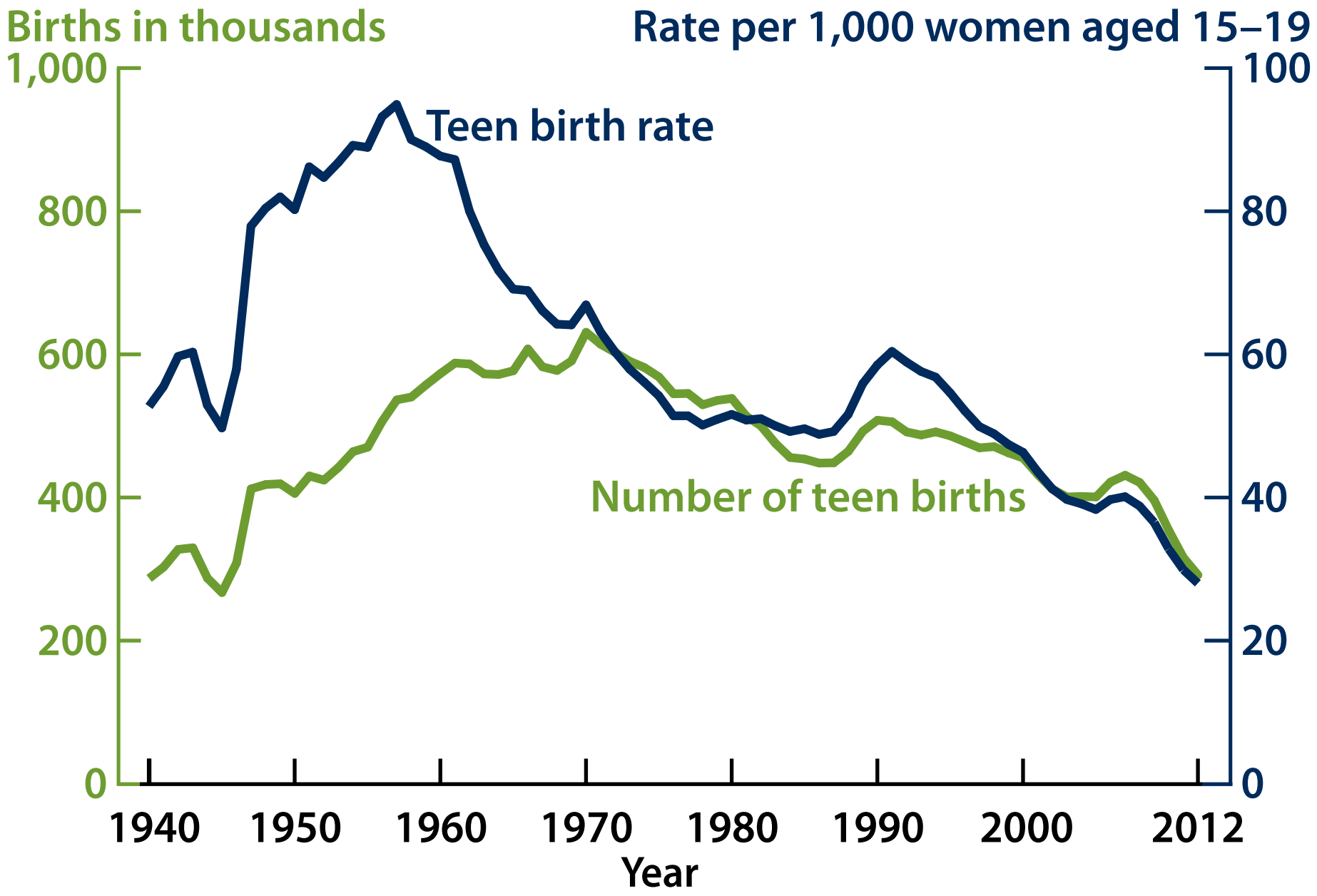
Teen births and rates are at historic low levels



NOTE: Data for 2009 are preliminary.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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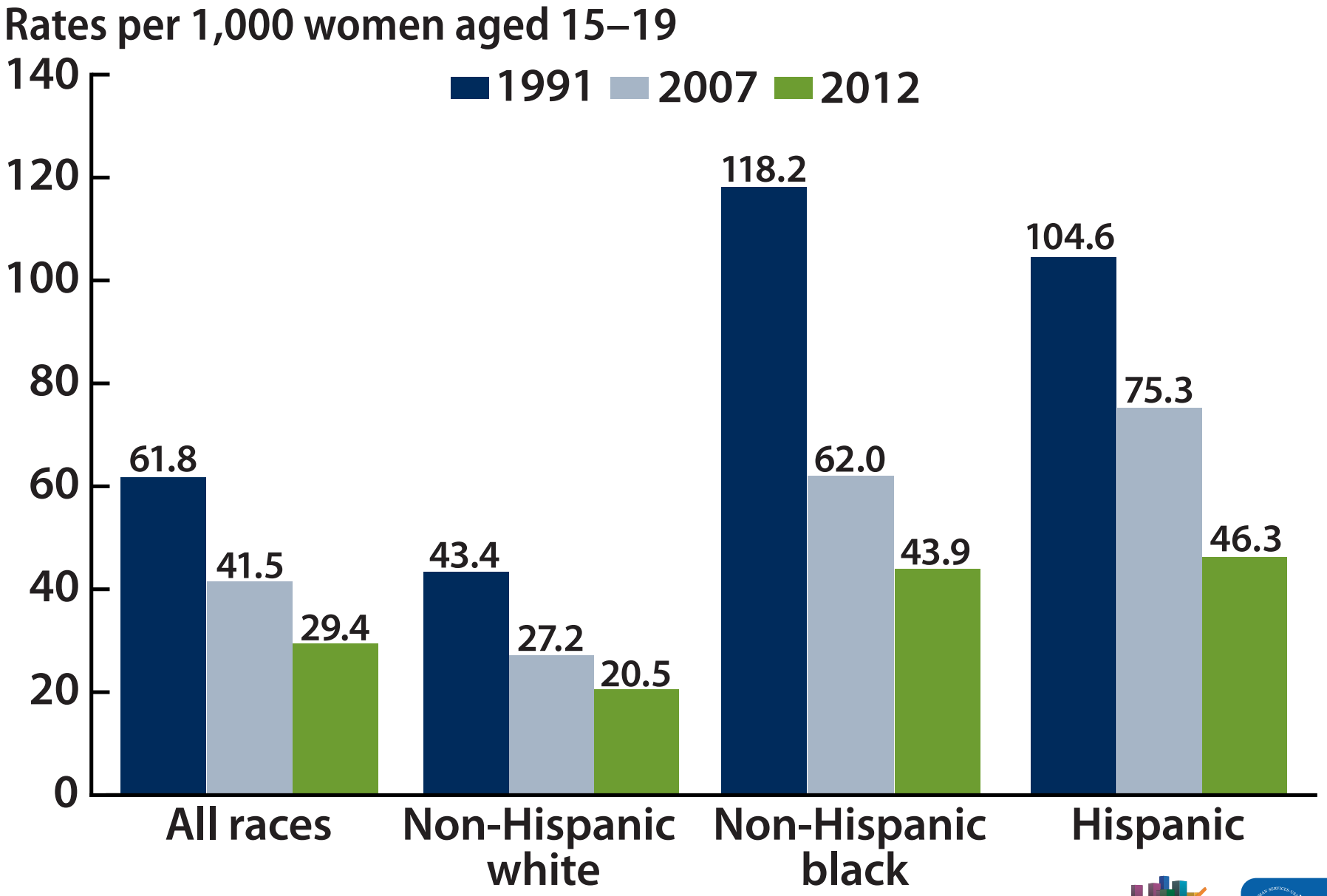
Teen birth rates down sharply for all groups



NOTE: Data for 2012 are preliminary.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

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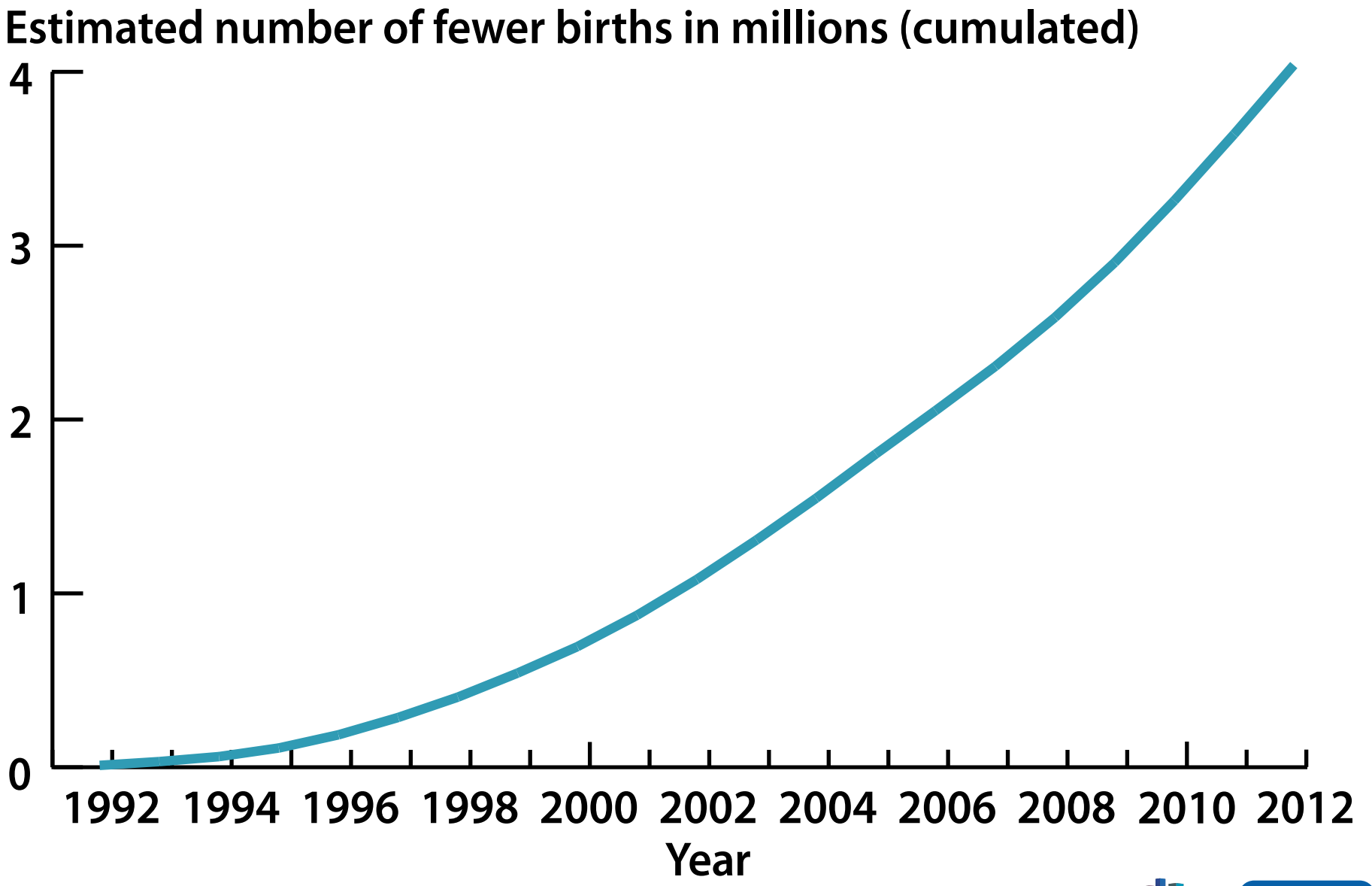
Two-decade drop in teen birth rates translates into 4 million fewer teen births



NOTE: Data for 2012 are preliminary.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

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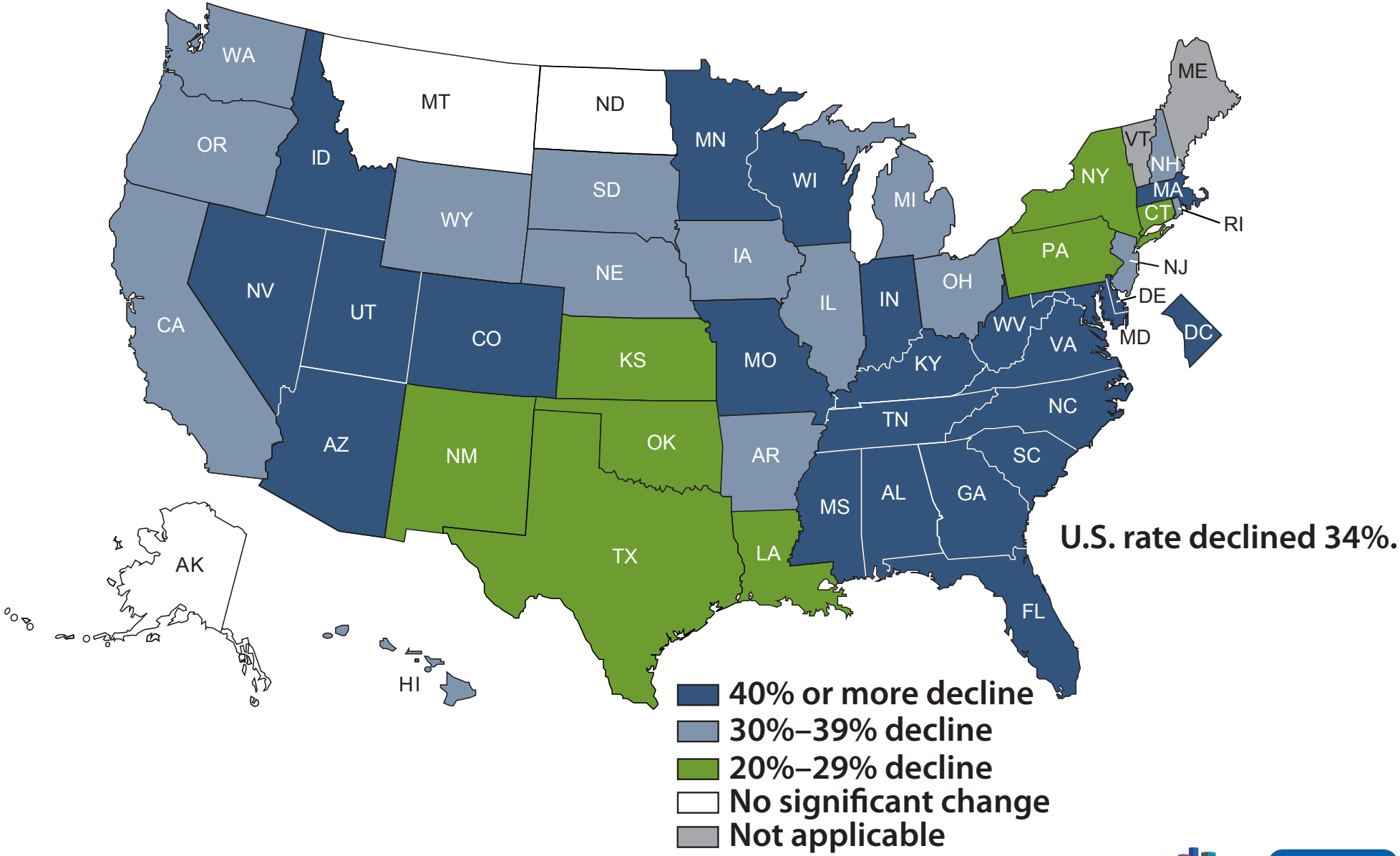
Greatest declines from 2007 to 2011 were among Hispanic teens



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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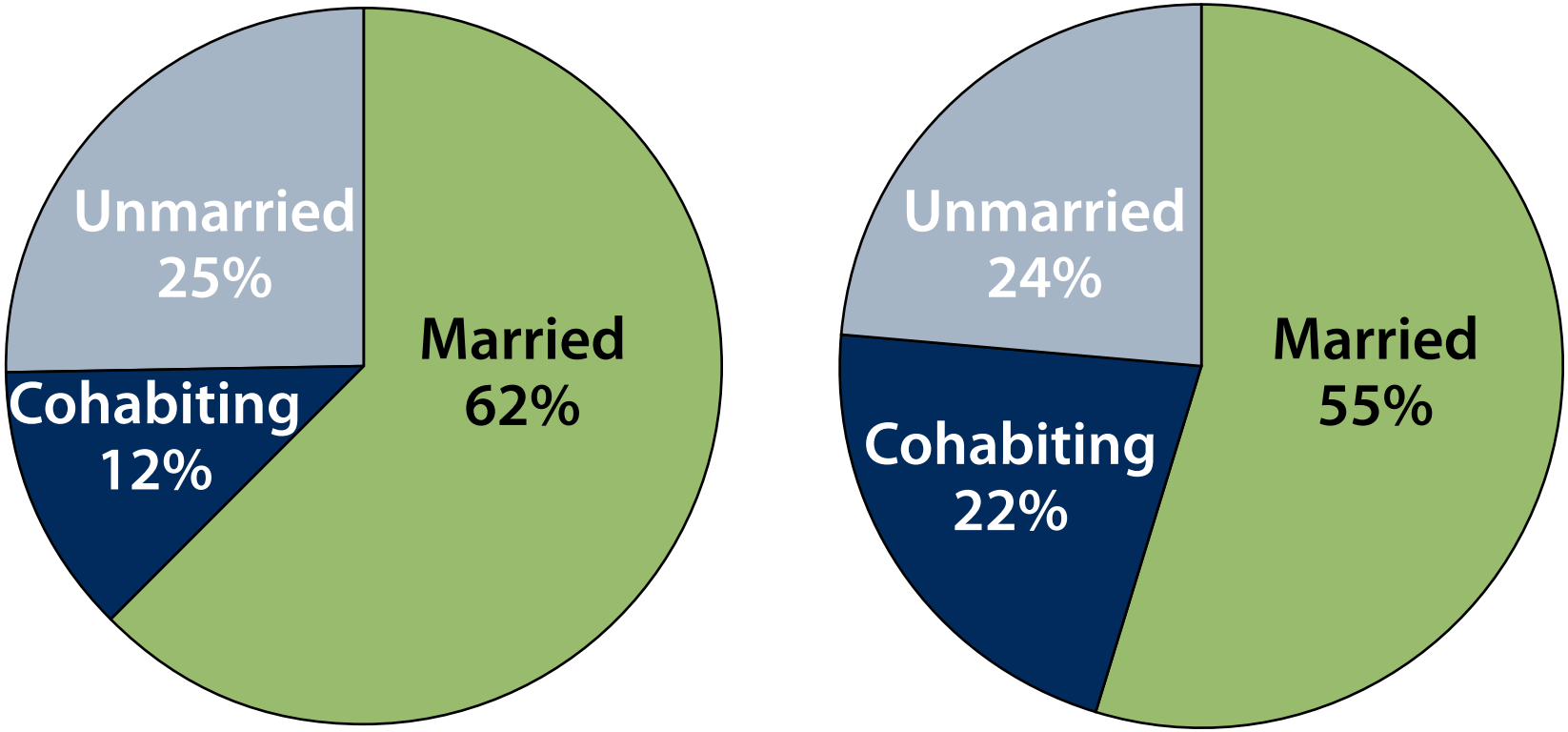
Unmarried parents of first births more likely to be cohabiting



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, 2002 and 2006-2010 National Surveys of Family Growth.

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