

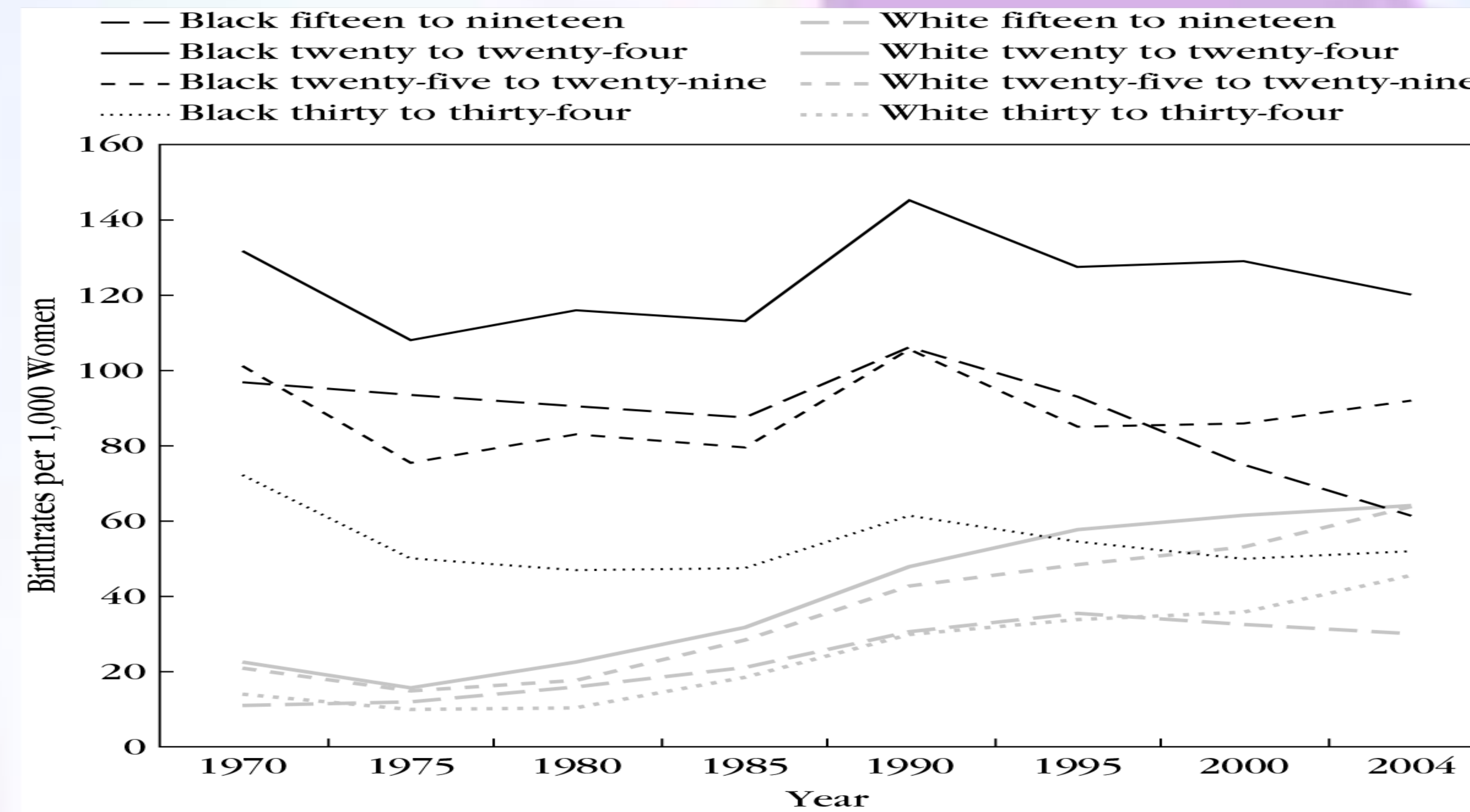
# Teen Pregnancy Education

Tiaira Witherspoon<sup>1</sup>, Jessica Tabron<sup>2</sup>, Rachael Kaci<sup>2</sup>, Jeong Choe<sup>2</sup>  
 Palo Alto High School<sup>1</sup>, Palo Alto Unified School District<sup>2</sup>



## STATISTICS

### Birth Rates Among Unmarried American Women by Race and Age, 1970 to 2004



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2000); author's compilation of national vital statistics data from 2000 to 2004.

## Significance

Teen pregnancy is a staple throughout American history. While the construct of teen pregnancy became a social problem during the 1950s, there has been peaks and valleys of this topic being viewed in this regard. I chose to research this issue as it has affected some of the people closest to me. It's a subject that people usually have "swept under the rug," but with the changing times, more people are talking about it openly. However, the typical response is don't forget to "wear a condom, use birth control, or just get an abortion." This further sparked my interest to research teen pregnancy for my AAR project. This particular subject is also of interest to me as I am planning to become a preschool teacher. I'm hoping that through this research, I will gain a better understanding of how to support families that are at a disadvantage such as this.

## Data Collection

My method of research involved conducting interviews, literature reviews and accessing personal relationships involving this issues.

## Literature Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy](http://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy)  
[www.russellsage.org](http://www.russellsage.org)

## Conclusion

Through my personal observations, I could gather that the demographic for the teens most impacted by teen pregnancies are minority individuals (African American and Latin Americans). This can be attributed to socio-economics and family dynamics. However, during the course of my research, I learned that this issue affects the greater society at large, and can be due to various factors.

I hope that through this research project, I am able to heighten the awareness of this ongoing social issue and reach a broader audience. In the future, I also hope to see positive changes in the high school education system regarding teen pregnancy, and help teen mothers know that they are not alone.

## Empirical Data

| Participants  | Do Teen Students tell you when they are pregnant? | Are pregnant teens aware of community resources? | Do teen parents feel like they have support from their family? |
|---|---|--|--|
| Ms. Tonga<br>Guidance Secretary<br>Palo Alto High School      | yes   | n/a  | Yes  |
| Ms. Singeres -<br>Guidance Counselor<br>Palo Alto High School | No  | n/a  | Yes  |
| Grandma - former teen mother                                  | n/a   | No   |  |
| Jasmine - teen mother to be                                   | n/a   | Yes  |  |
| Teen Parents - anonymous responses                            | n/a   | Yes  | Yes, but not at the beginning.                                 |

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