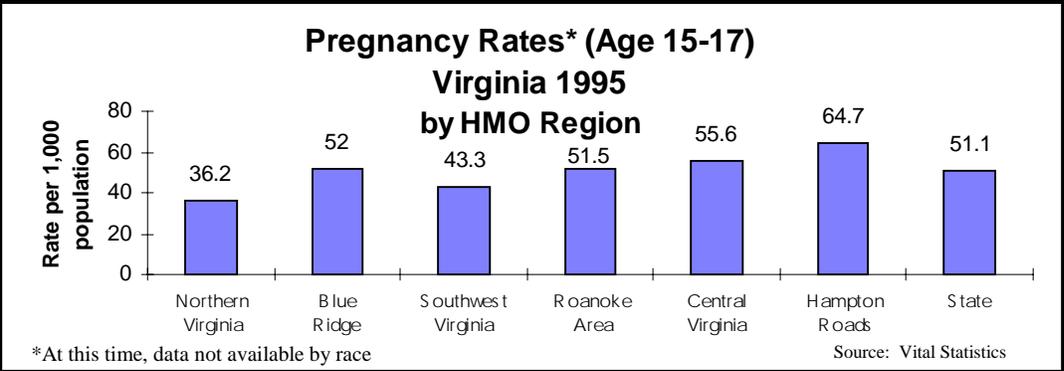
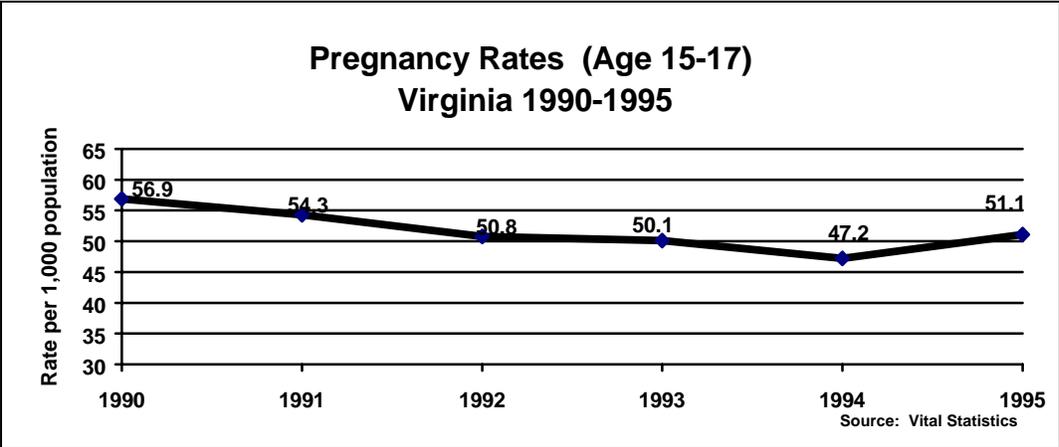


# Pregnancy Among Females Aged 15 -17

**Objective:** *Reduce pregnancies among females aged 15 - 17 to no more than 50 per 1,000 adolescents.*

Teen pregnancy is a critical public health issue which affects the health, educational, social and economic future of the mother and child. The majority of these pregnancies are unintended and about half of them end in abortion. Adolescents are less likely to seek out prenatal care because they are afraid or embarrassed. This phenomenon and the immature physical nature of adolescents result in higher rates of low birthweight babies than other age groups. As the offspring of adolescent mothers grow, they are more apt than children born to older women to have health and cognitive problems, and to be the victims of neglect or abuse. Virginia's 1995 pregnancy rate of females aged 15-17 was the highest it's been in the past four years.



**Pregnancy Rates\* of Females aged 15-17  
by Health District, Virginia 1995**

<b>FIRST QUARTILE</b>	Fairfax	23.0	
	Alleghany	28.4	
	Hanover	29.5	
	Loudoun	33.7	
	Chesterfield	37.1	
	Chesapeake	37.1	
	Cumberland Plateau	40.2	
	Lenowisco	43.8	
	Henrico	45.3	
<b>SECOND QUARTILE</b>	Lord Fairfax	46.2	
	Three Rivers	46.3	
	Mount Rogers	47.3	
	Central Shenandoah	47.9	
	New River	48.0	
	Southside	49.1	
	Pittsylvania/Danville	49.5	
	Arlington	50.2	<b>Virginia 2000 Objective</b>
	Prince William	50.4	
<b>THIRD QUARTILE</b>	Virginia Beach	50.9	<b>Virginia Rate 1995</b>
	Rappahannock	51.4	
	Piedmont	53.2	<b>51.1 per 1,000</b>
	Central Virginia	53.5	
	West Piedmont	55.6	
	Rappahannock/Rapidan	56.0	
	Thomas Jefferson	58.2	
	Western Tidewater	58.2	
	Peninsula	59.3	
<b>FOURTH QUARTILE</b>	Eastern Shore	69.2	<b>U.S. Rate 1992</b>
	Crater	69.6	
	Hampton	76.2	<b>74.6 per 1,000</b>
	Norfolk	98.6	
	Portsmouth	99.2	
	Roanoke	99.8	
	Alexandria	101.3	
	Richmond	109.9	

\*Rate per 1,000 adolescents, based on extrapolation of population