

# Teen pregnancy in the United States is higher when the nativity of the mother is inside the US

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## Abstract

**Teen pregnancy in the United States is higher when the nativity of the mother is inside the US**

**Background:**

As the latest vital statistics have shown that teen pregnancy is dropping in the US while there are sporadic studies implicating that teen pregnancy in the US is less likely when the nativity of the mother is outside the 50 states of the US.

**Purpose:**

To test the hypothesis that teen pregnancy is lower in the mothers whose nativity is outside the 50 states of the US.

**Methods:**

VSS data from the NCHS was analyzed for the years 1995 thru 2002. Logistic regression analysis was performed with the dependent variable teen pregnancy, TP, with maternal place of birth, MPB as independent variable. The confounding variables were maternal race, gestational age, GA, birth weight, BWT, maternal conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, pregnancy induced hypertension, maternal exposure to alcohol and tobacco. Also considered variables were prenatal care, plurality, and gender. Stata 12.0 was utilized for statistical analysis.

**Results:**

Out of over 31 million records for births during the period 1995 thru 2002 over 25 million births had usable data. Over all, births to teen mothers were significantly more likely if their nativity was within the 50 states of the US, OR 2.49 cf (95%) 2.48-2.50 while controlling for other confounders. Every ethnicity and race was affected by the maternal nativity.

**Conclusion:**

We accept the hypothesis that teen pregnancy is lower when the maternal nativity is outside the US. Reason for higher teen pregnancy rates when mother's nativity is from the US is concerning and needs to be decreased.

## Objectives

Teenage motherhood is burdensome both at a personal and community level in any population. Recently a report from CDC, **Birth Rates for U.S. Teenagers Reach Historic Lows for All Age and Ethnic Groups**, indicated a success in our efforts. However an area of interest, along the lines of whether the nativity of the mother mattered. Various articles with respect to nativity of the pregnant mothers implied that mothers with nativity in the US tend to have poorer outcomes than those with nativity elsewhere.

Why? United States is the most resourceful country in the world.

We wanted to see the trend in pregnancies to the teenage mothers who delivered in the US with respect to their nativity.

**Purpose:**

To test the hypothesis that teen pregnancy is lower in the mothers whose nativity is outside the 50 states of the US.

## Methods

VSS data from the NCHS were used in the analysis.

**Years studied:** 1995 to 2002

**Variables used:** Maternal Age

Maternal place of birth

Race

Gestational age

Birth weight

Maternal condition during pregnancy

induced

(Diabetes, hypertension, pregnancy

hypertension)

tobacco.

Maternal exposure to Alcohol and

Other variables :

Prenatal care, plurality, and gender.

Logistical regression was performed with the dependent variable

birth to teen age mother, TP, with maternal place of birth as the

independent variable, while rest of variable were tested for confounding.

Analysis and plots were done using Stata 12.0 and Excel 2010.

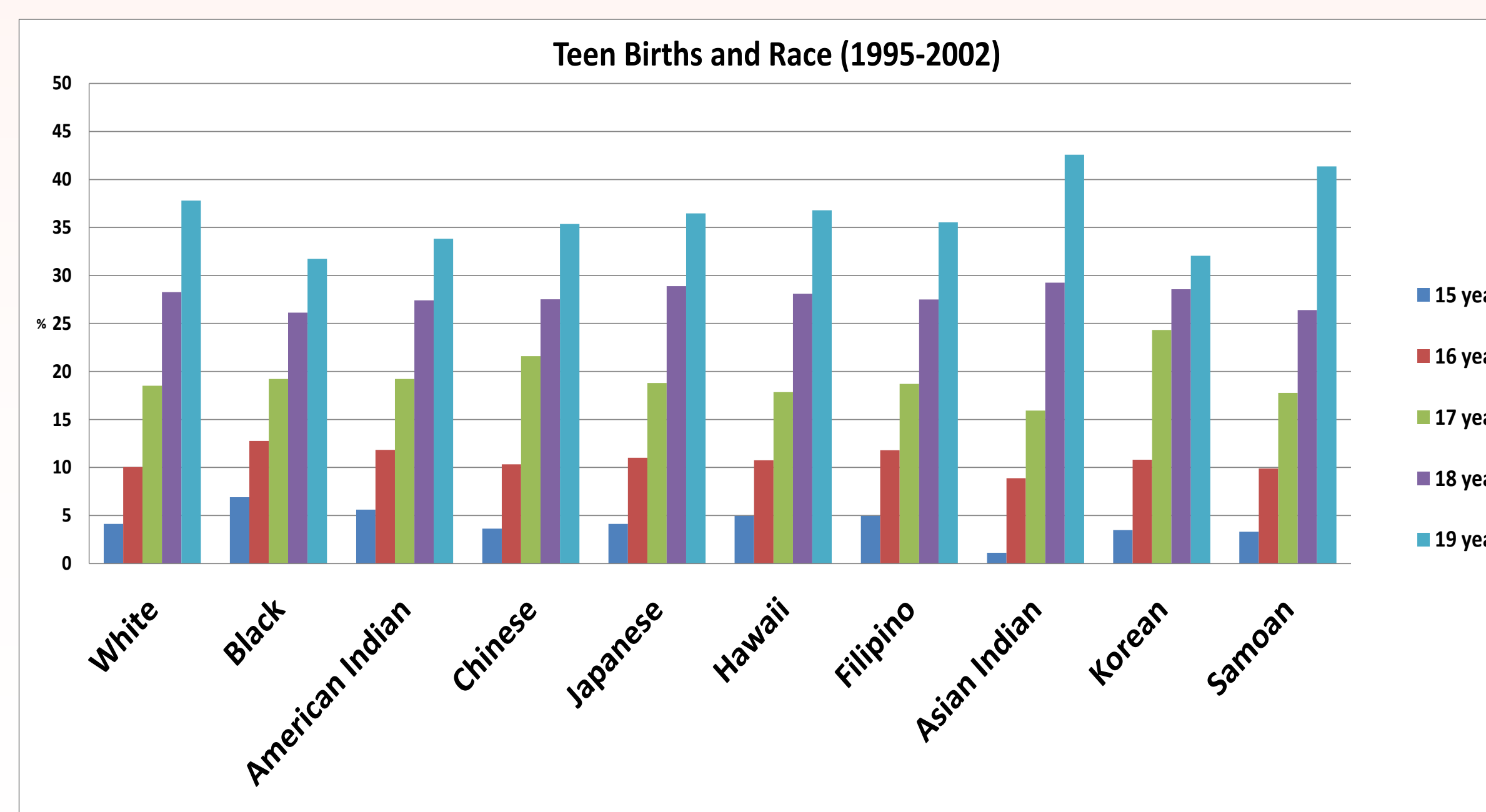
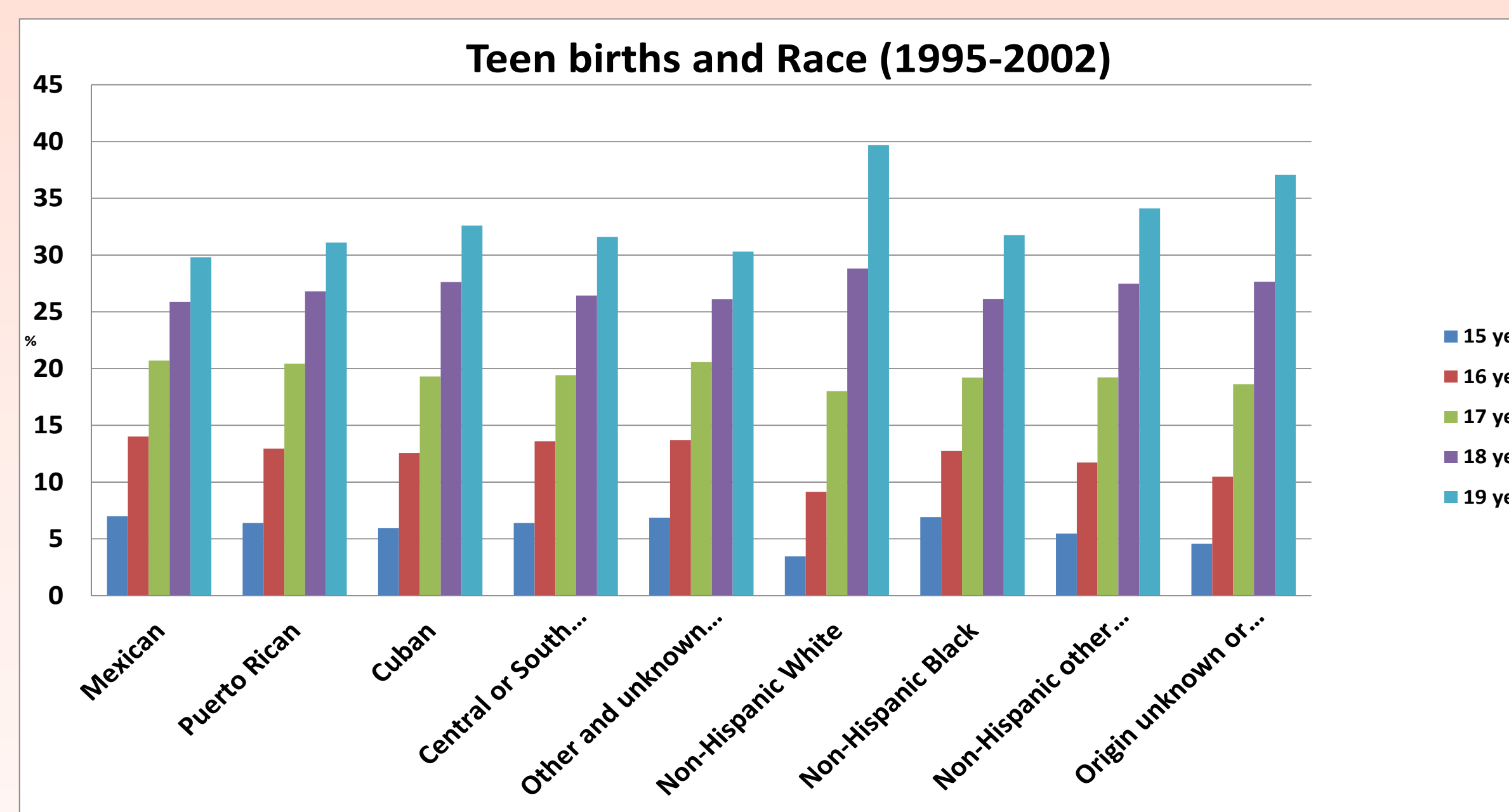
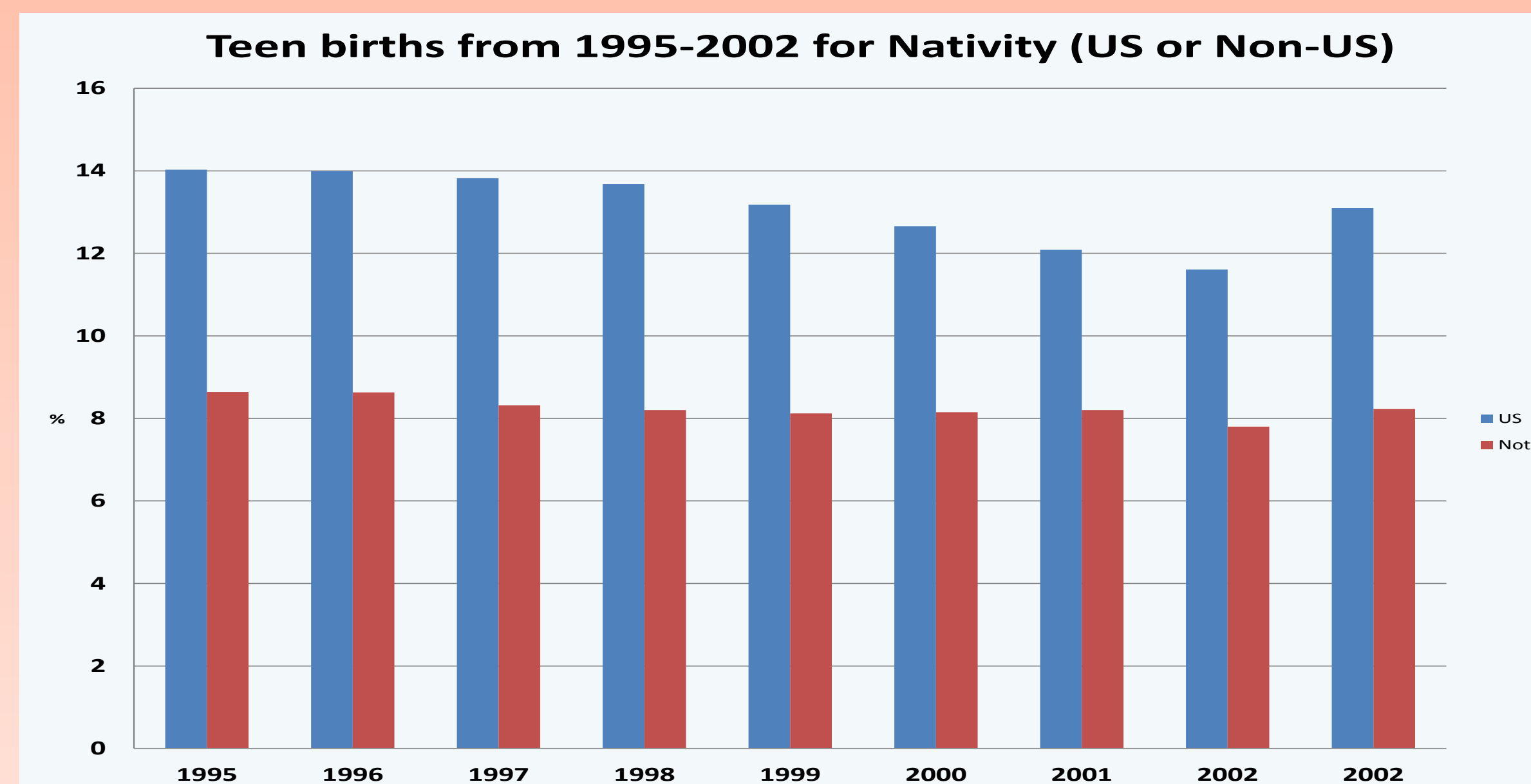
## Results

### Total births

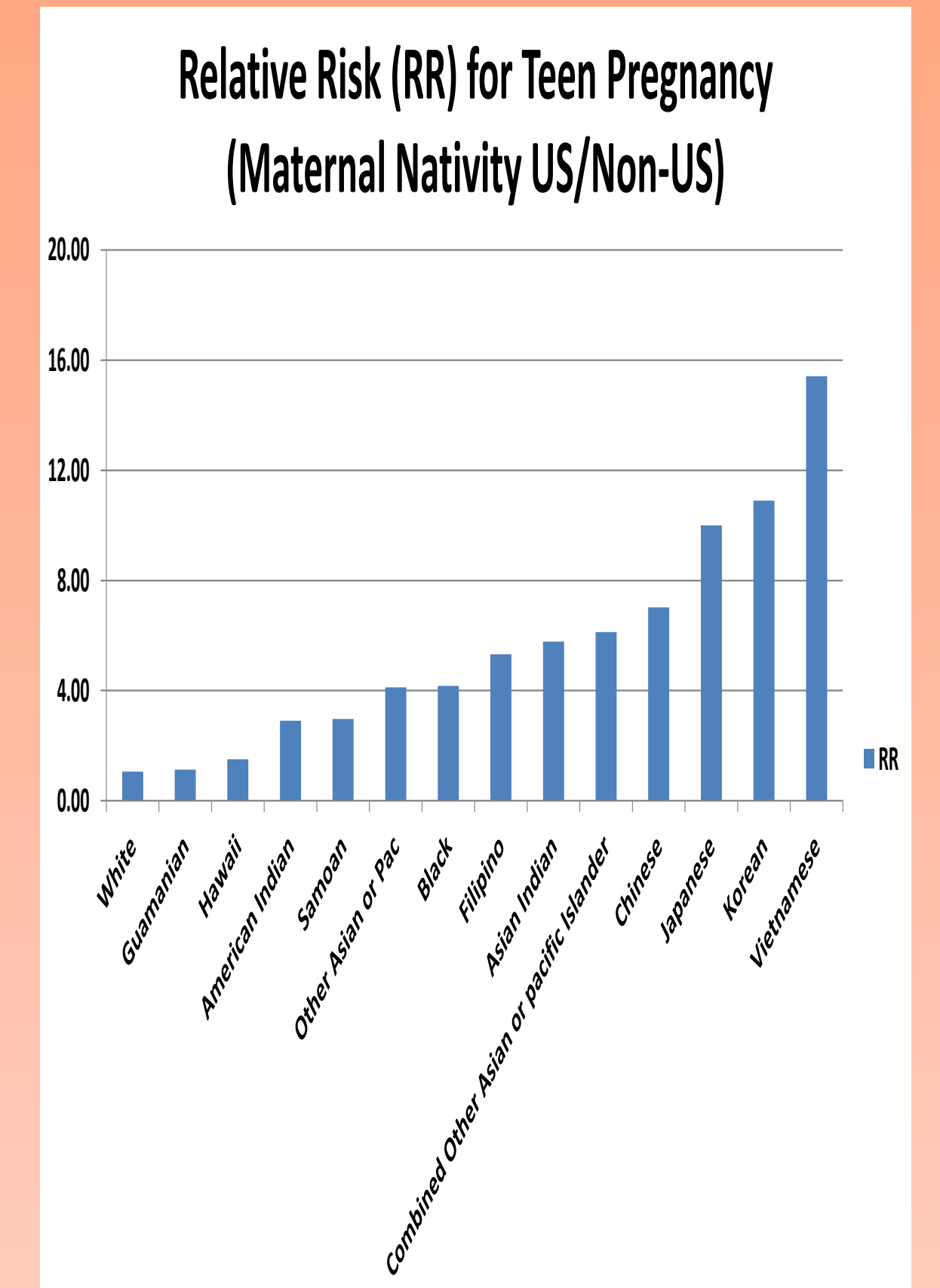
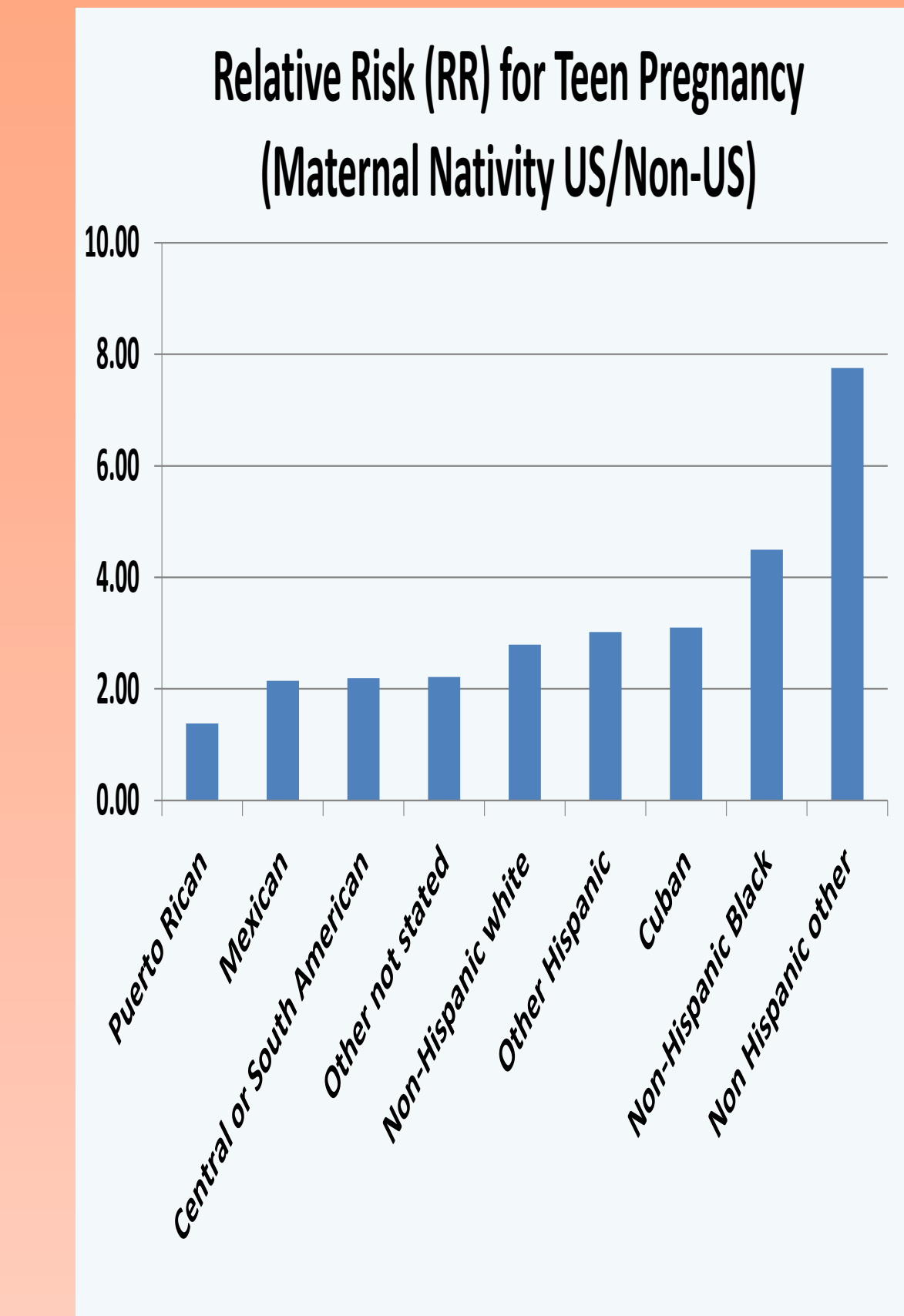
1995 – 2002: Over 31 million

Usable data: Almost 25 million

Teen birth: 3 million (12.3%)



## Results



## Conclusion

1. We accept the hypothesis that teen pregnancy is lower when the maternal nativity is outside the US.
2. Reason for higher teen pregnancy rates when mother's nativity is from the US is concerning and needs to be decreased.

## References

**Birth Rates for U.S. Teenagers Reach Historic Lows for All Age and Ethnic Groups**  
Brady E. Hamilton, Ph.D., and Stephanie J. Ventura, M.A.  
NCHS Data Brief No. 89, April 2012

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