Community Information Packet:
Teen Births
North Adams, Massachusetts
2009

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition
Released July 2011

Perhaps one of the most vital aspects of public health is community empowerment especially in the area of Maternal and Child Health (MCH). For more than a decade, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has been empowering the Commonwealth through the annual release of community birth packets via the analysis of selected maternal and child health indicators. Previous responses to the packets, which target the most adversely affected communities, have been community mobilization to broaden public awareness as well as the establishment of strategic initiatives to address concerning issues or trends. This July 2011 the community empowerment continues.

TEEN BIRTHS FACT SHEET 2009: NORTH ADAMS

- In 2009, there were a total of 29 births to North Adams resident teens aged 15-19 years, representing 18.5% of the city's total births (157).

- There were 13 more births to North Adams resident teens aged 15-19 years in 2009 than in the previous year.

- The 2009 North Adams teen birth rate was 51.3 per 1,000 teens aged 15-19 years[1] (95% CI[2], 33.1-69.4), compared with a rate of 28.3 in 2008 and the Massachusetts 2009 rate of 19.6 (95% CI, 19.0-20.1).

- The teen birth rate in North Adams increased by 28.0% between 1996 and 2009, from 40.2 to 51.3 births per 1,000 teens aged 15-19 years. The annual percent change (APC) was 0.7% (not statistically significant) (Figure 1). There was a 31.2% decrease in the Massachusetts teen birth rate during the same period from 28.5 to 19.6 (Figure 2).

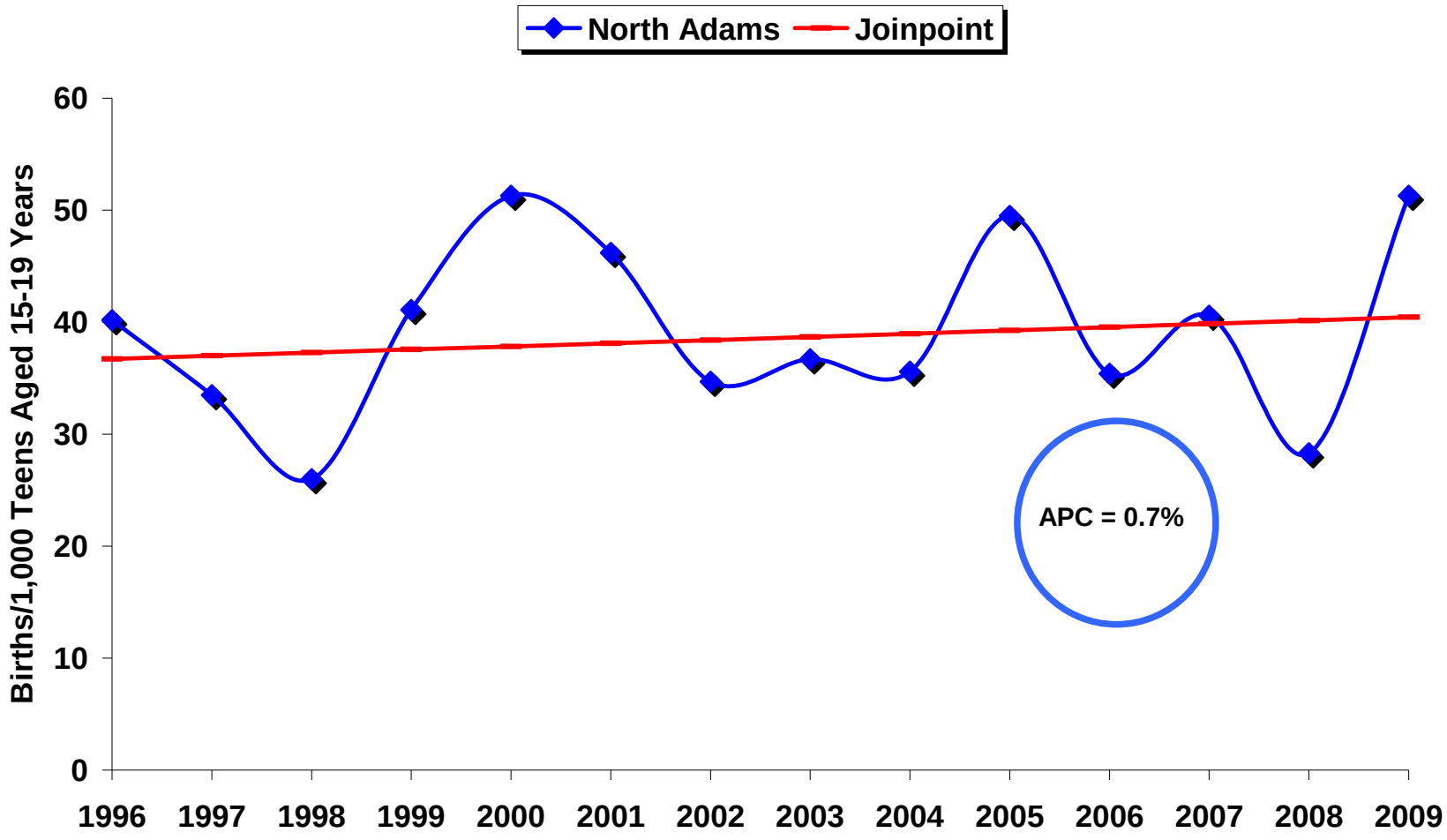
- Among all live births to North Adams residents aged 15–19 years in 2009, 82.8% were to White non-Hispanic mothers (compared to 94.1% in 1996) (Figure 3).

- Among births to North Adams resident teens aged 15-19 years in 2009, 79% were to older teens aged 18-19 years and 21% were to teens aged 15-17 years.

[1] The 2009 teen birth rate for North Adams is based on the 2005 population estimates. See Technical Notes page for further detail

[2] Confidence Interval

Figure 1. Trends in Teen Birth Rates Using Joinpoint Regression[2]: North Adams, 1996-2009



Source: Natality, Massachusetts Community Health Information Profile (MassCHIP), Massachusetts Department of Public Health, v3.00 r325, June 2011, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition and Bureau of Health Information, Statistics, Research, and Evaluation

[1]The 2009 teen birth rate for North Adams is based on the 2005 population estimates. See Technical Notes page for further detail

Figure 2. Birth Rates Among Teens Aged 15-19 Years: North Adams and Massachusetts, 1996-2009

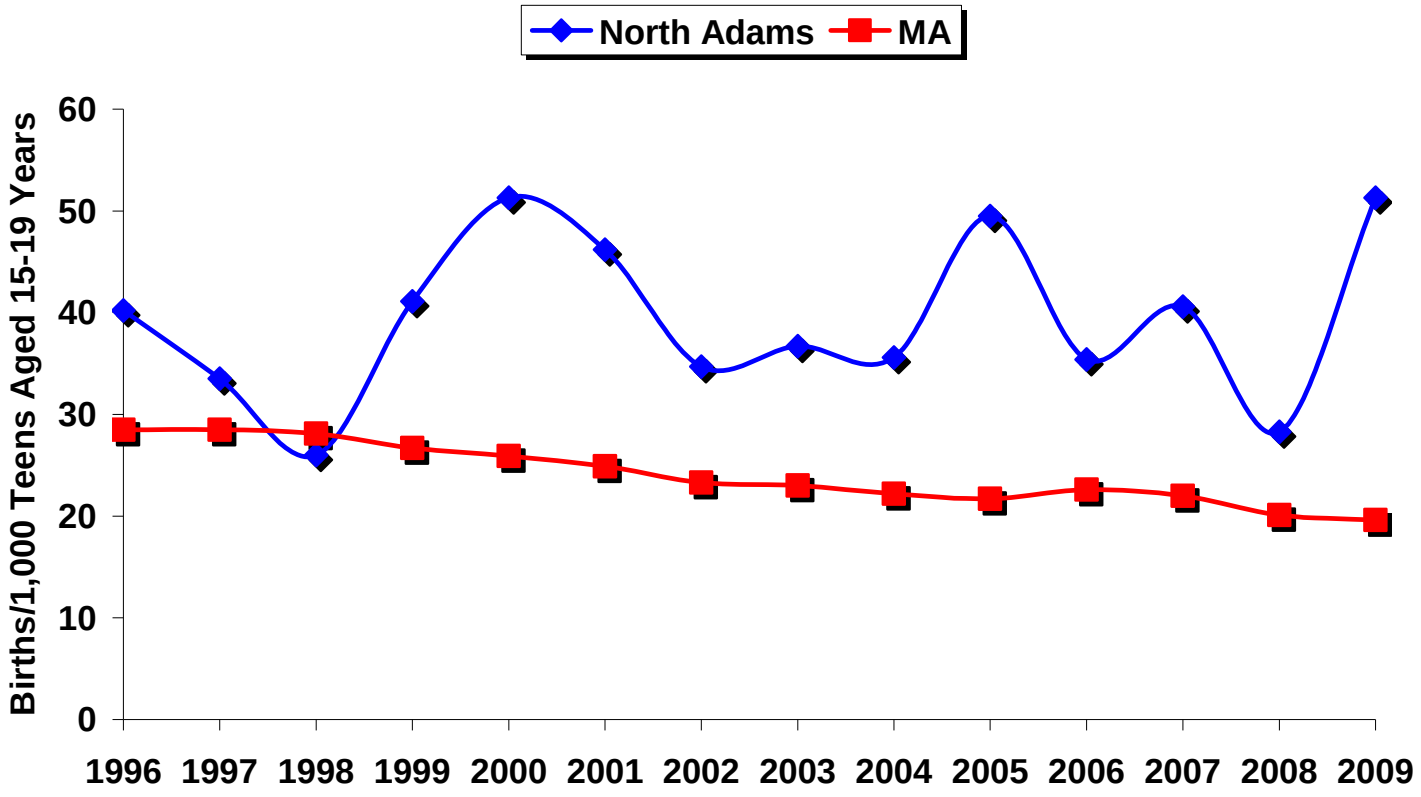


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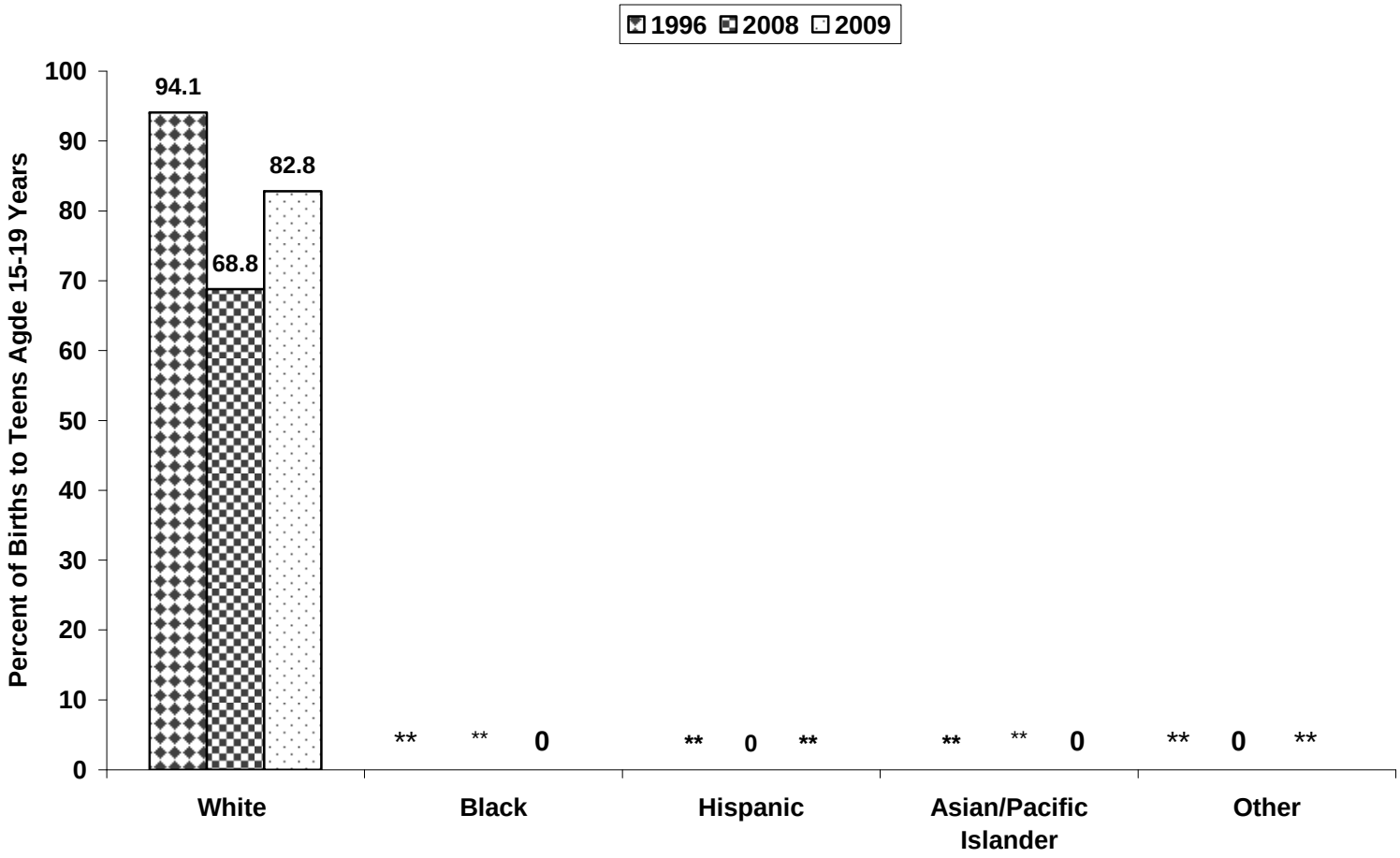
Figure 3. Percent of Births to Teens Aged 15-19 Years by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity: North Adams



Source: Natality, Massachusetts Community Health Information Profile (MassCHIP), Massachusetts Department of Public Health, v3.00 r325, June 2011, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition and Bureau of Health Information, Statistics, Research, and Evaluation

** Calculations based on 0-4 events were excluded.