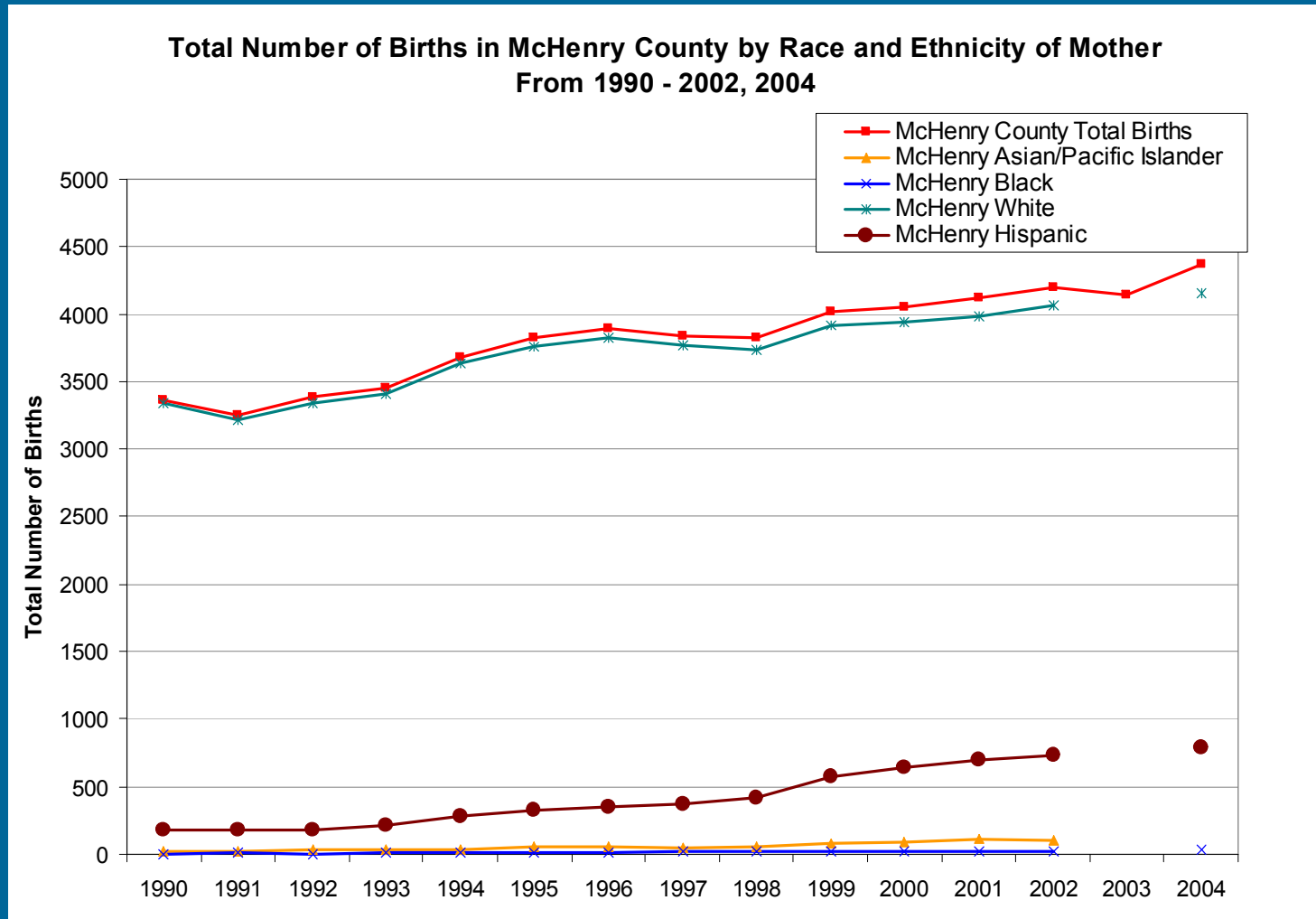


McHenry County Birth Analysis

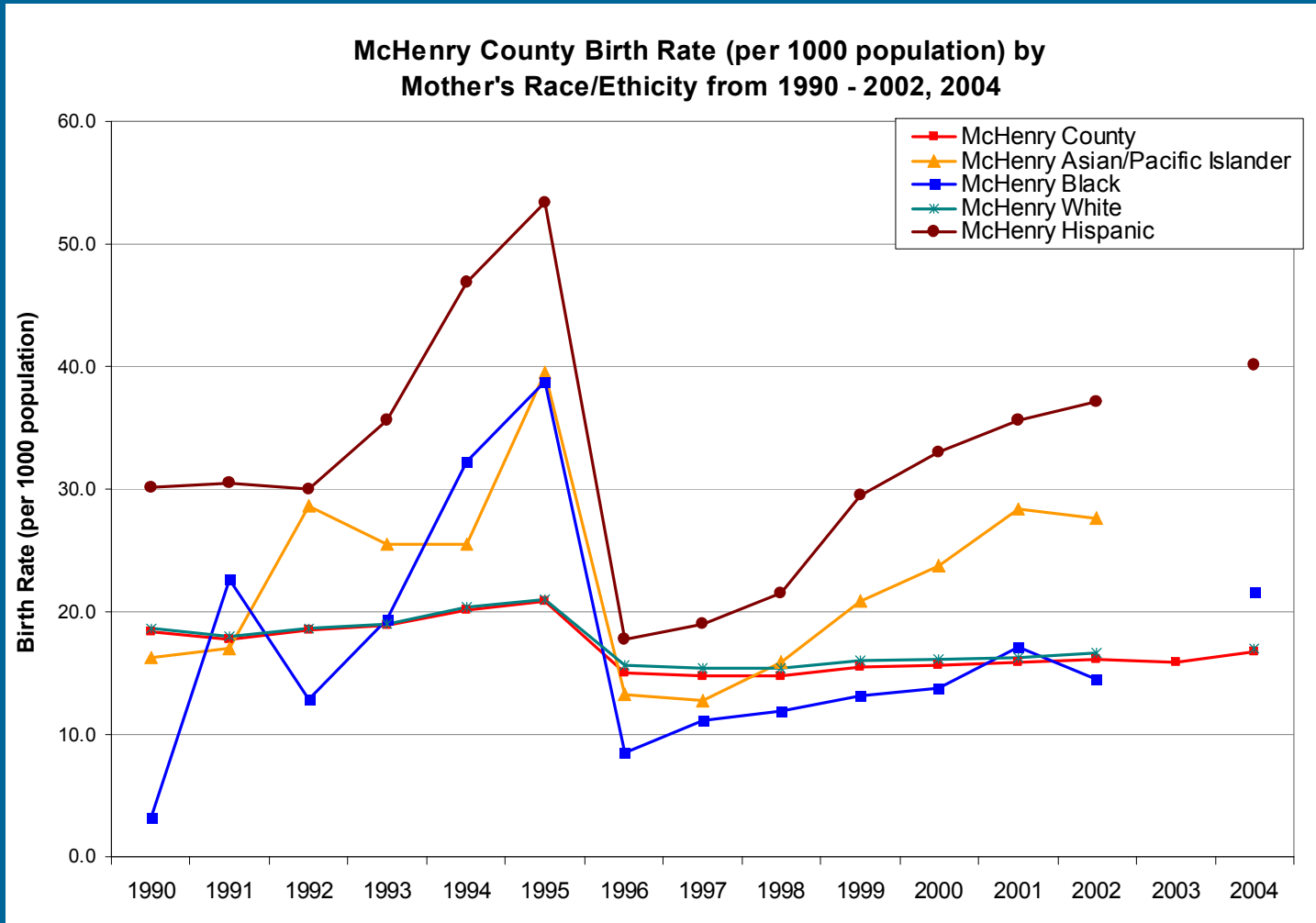
Sherrie M. Gallas, MPH
Epidemiologist

McHenry County Department of Health
(815) 334 - 4510

Actual numbers of births in McHenry County has been increasing for all races and ethnic groups.



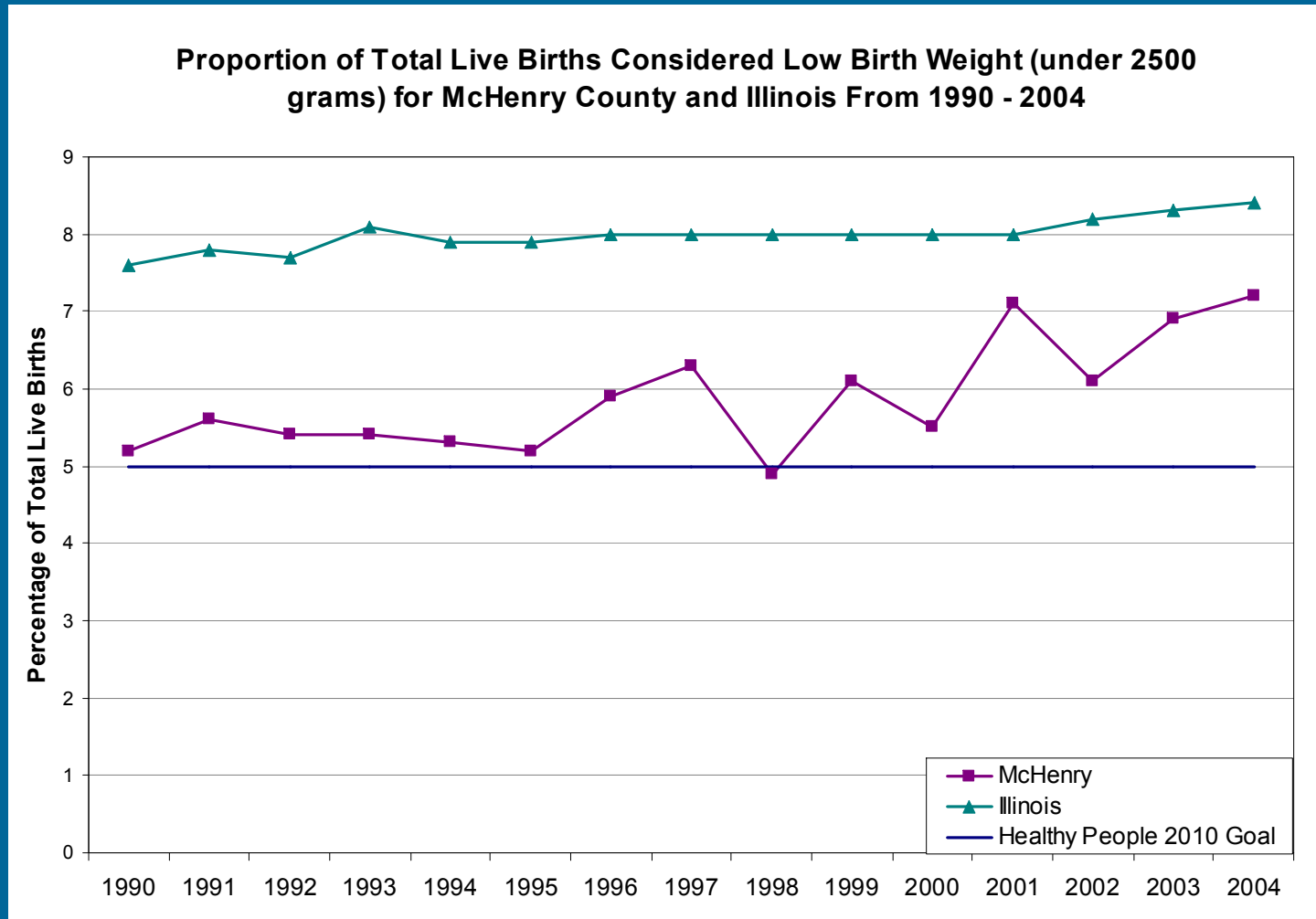
Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islanders have highest birthrates in McHenry County.



Low Birth Weight Facts

- Low Birth Weight (LBW):
 - Less than 2500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces at birth)
 - LBW affects 1 in ever 13 babies each year in the US.
 - LBW is responsible for 65% of infant deaths.
 - Causes of LBW:
 - Genetic conditions, environmental factors
 - Multiple births
 - Mother's medical problems
 - Socioeconomic Status
 - Consequences of LBW
 - Respiratory distress syndrome
 - Bleeding in the brain
 - Heart problems
 - Intestinal and digestive problems
-
- Retinopathy of prematurity
 - Low body temperature

McHenry's low weight birth trend continues to increase, resembling IL and is rising more steeply

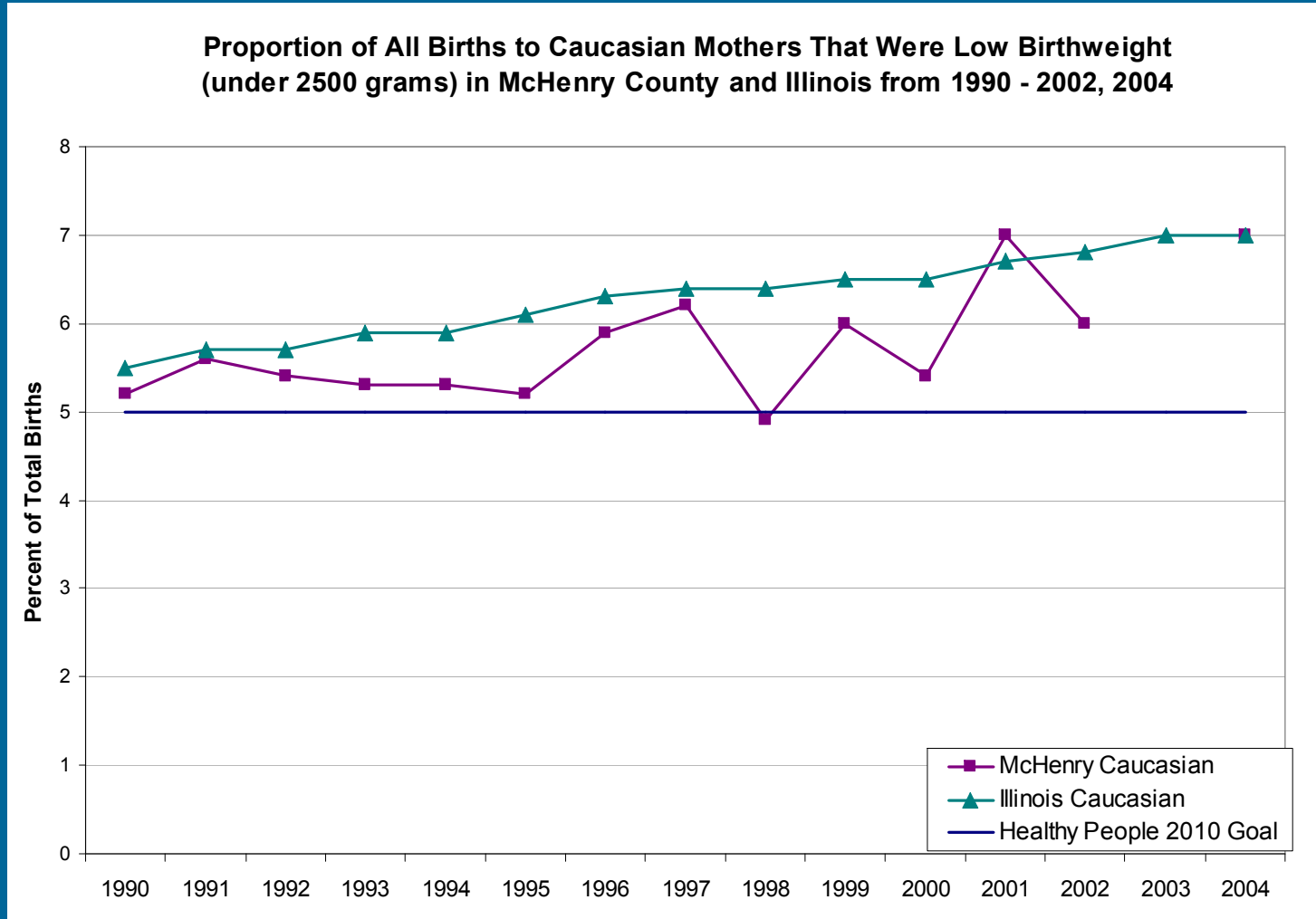


**After years of relative stability,
why has the LBW rate started to
climb again?**

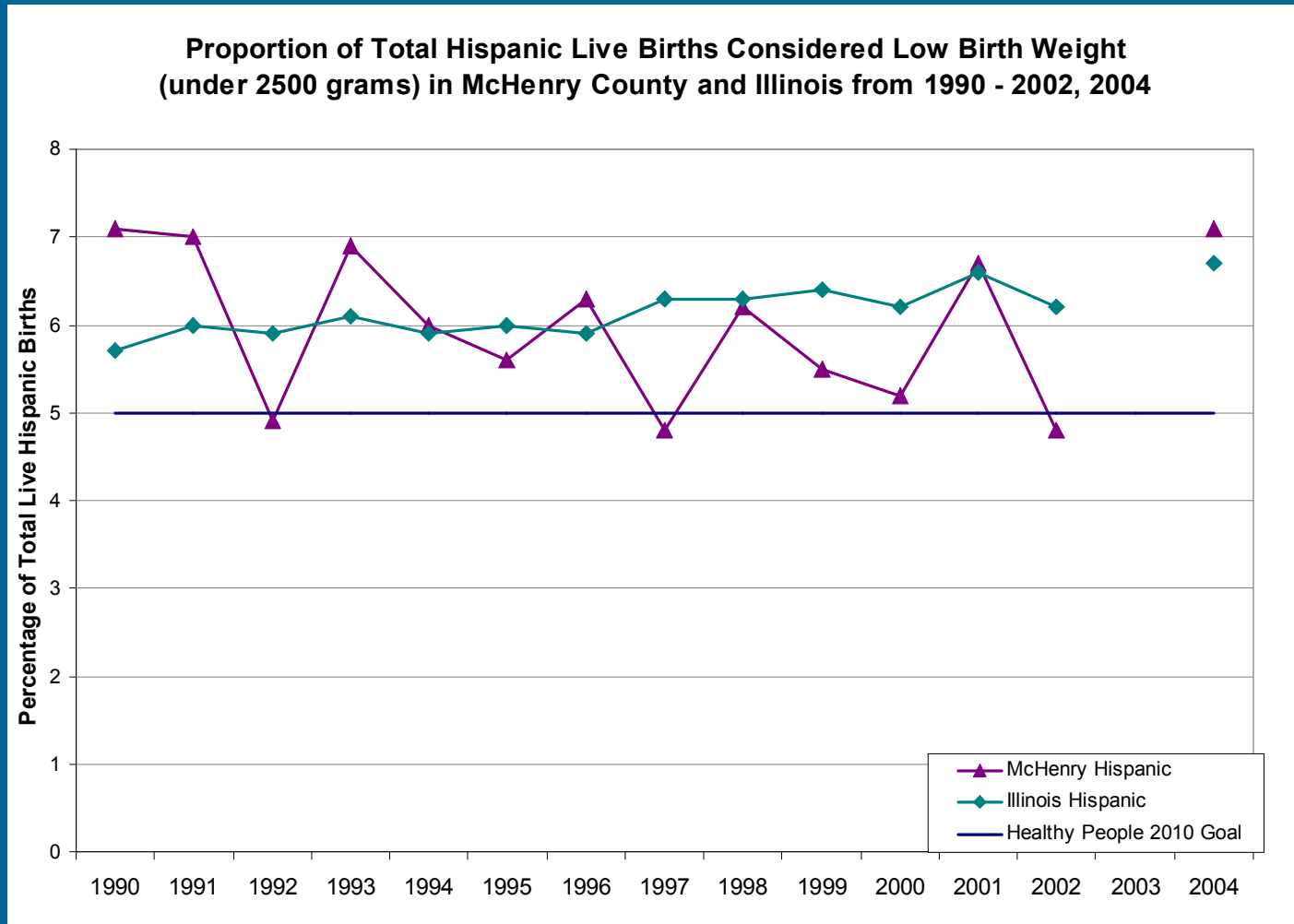
RACIAL / ETHNIC FACTORS

- Women of low socioeconomic status are at increased risk for delivering a LBW baby.
 - Educated mothers know more about family planning and healthy behaviors during pregnancy.
 - Ethnic minorities are much more likely than whites to come from disadvantaged SES backgrounds.
- Black women are twice as likely to deliver a LBW baby regardless of mother's age, multiple births, SES, and mother's education level.
- LBW among Hispanic persons is equal to the white non-Hispanic population, but varies greatly among ancestral origins.

7.0% of births to Caucasian McHenry County mothers were low weight in 2004

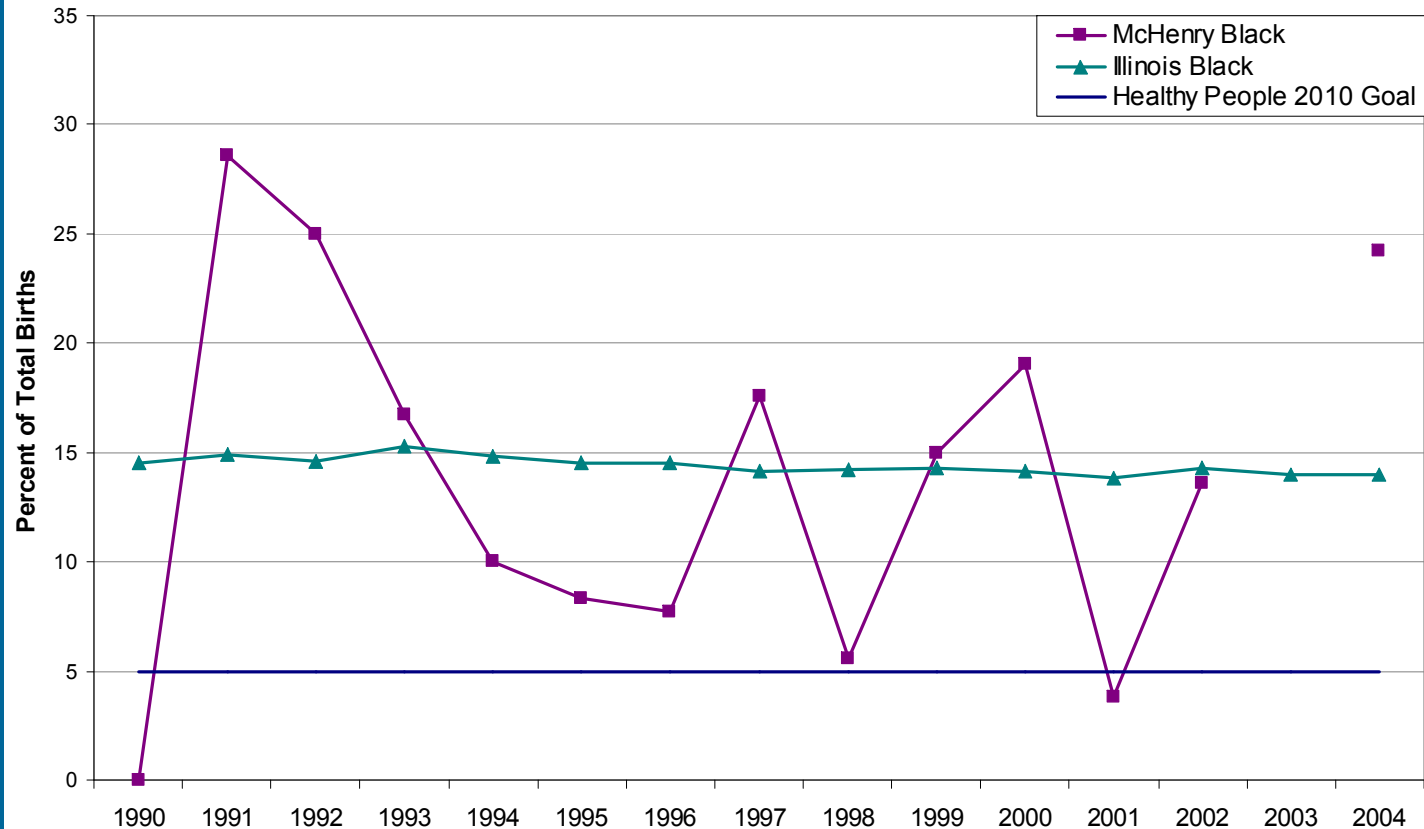


7.1% births to Hispanic McHenry County mothers were low weight in 2004



24.2% of 2004 births to black McHenry County mothers were low weight

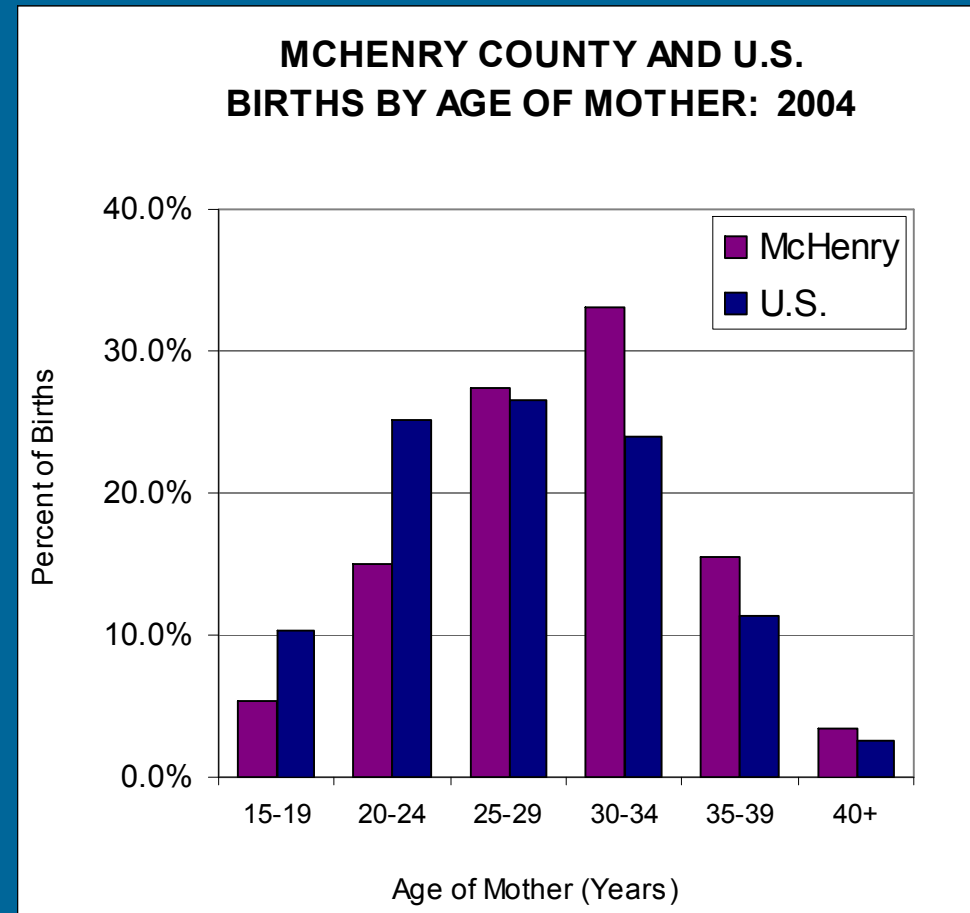
Proportion of All Births to Black/African American Mothers that Were Low Birth Weight (under 2500 grams) in McHenry County and Illinois from 1990 - 2002, 2004



Mother's Age

- LBW rate among teen mother's is 35% higher than that among mother's 20 – 29 years old.
 - Competition for nutrients
 - Increased risk for pre-term delivery
 - Low SES
- Women who give birth in their late thirties or older are at increased risk for having LBW babies.
 - Mostly biological reasons:
 - Older ova
 - Greater likelihood of medical risk factors

- More infants are born to McHenry mothers in all age groups 25 years and older compared to the US.
- Greatest number of births are among McHenry mothers ages 30-34 compared to all other age groups.



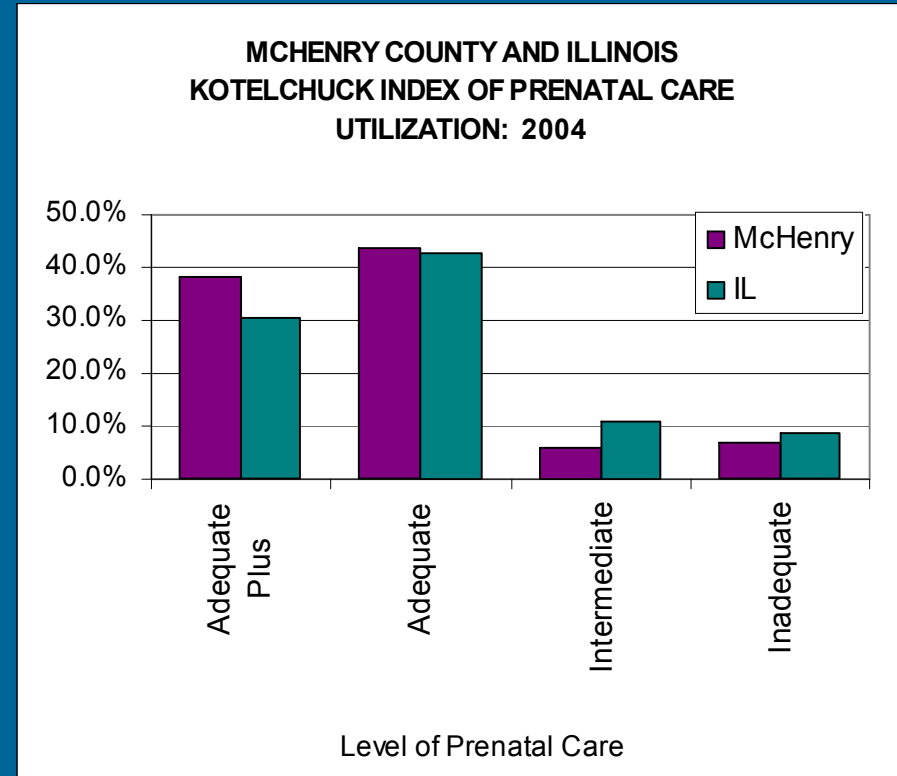
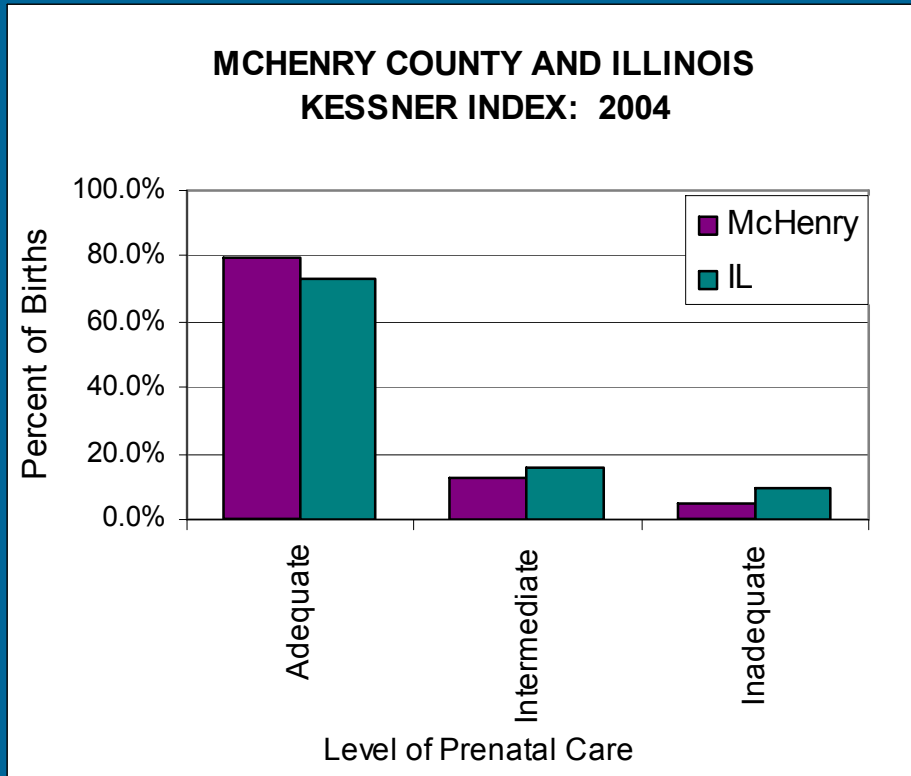
Median Age of Mother

- With a median age of 30.3 years, McHenry County mothers are, on average, two years older at the time of birth than mothers statewide (28.3 years) or nationally (27.7 years).

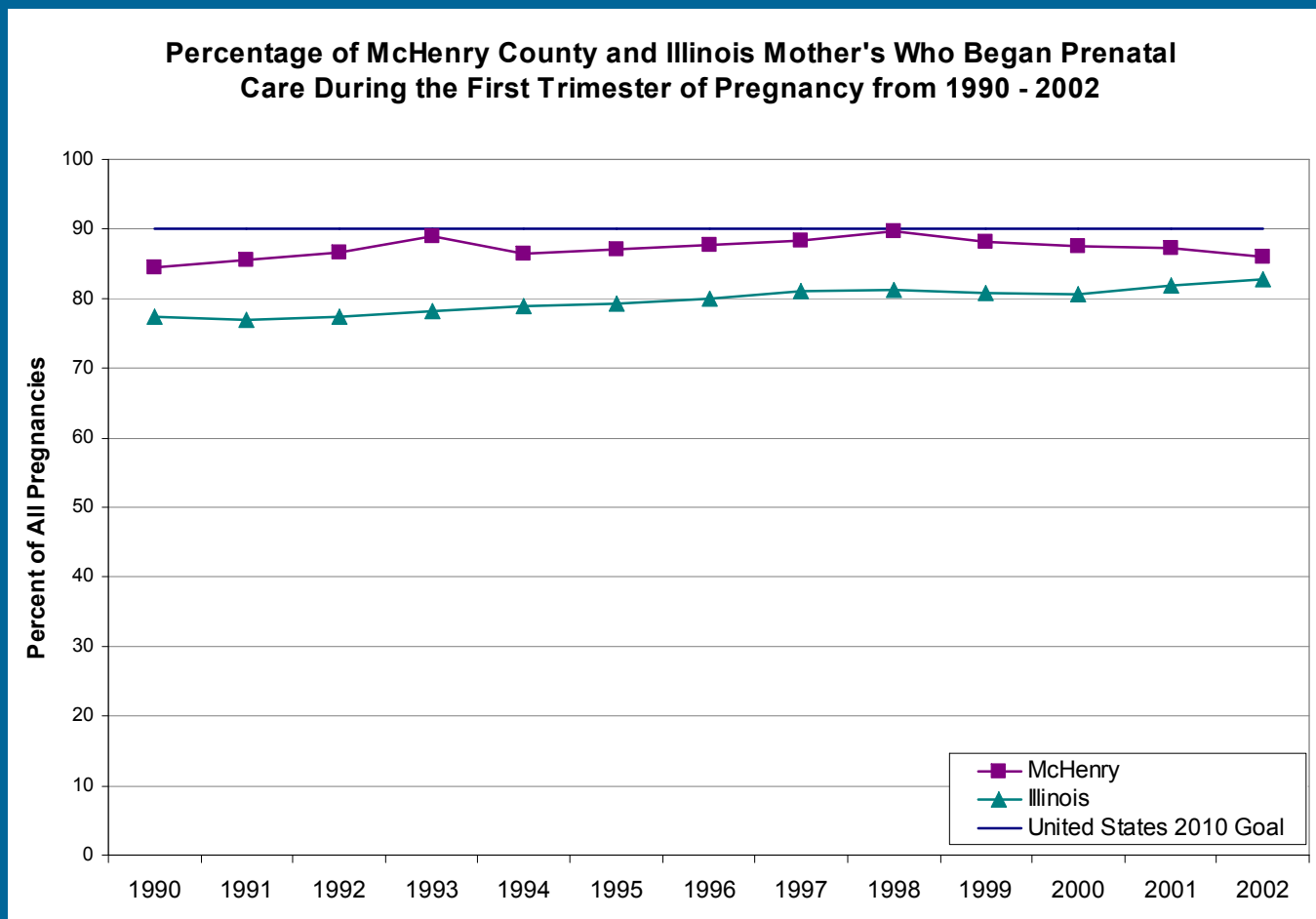
Prenatal Care

- Each year, one million American women deliver babies without receiving proper pre-natal care.
- Babies born to mothers who received no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at low birth weight, and five times more likely to die, than those whose mothers received prenatal care.
- Connect mother's to the health care system.
- Education on family planning, proper nutrition, child care, and substance abuse cessation programs.

Eight in ten McHenry County births receive adequate or better prenatal care.

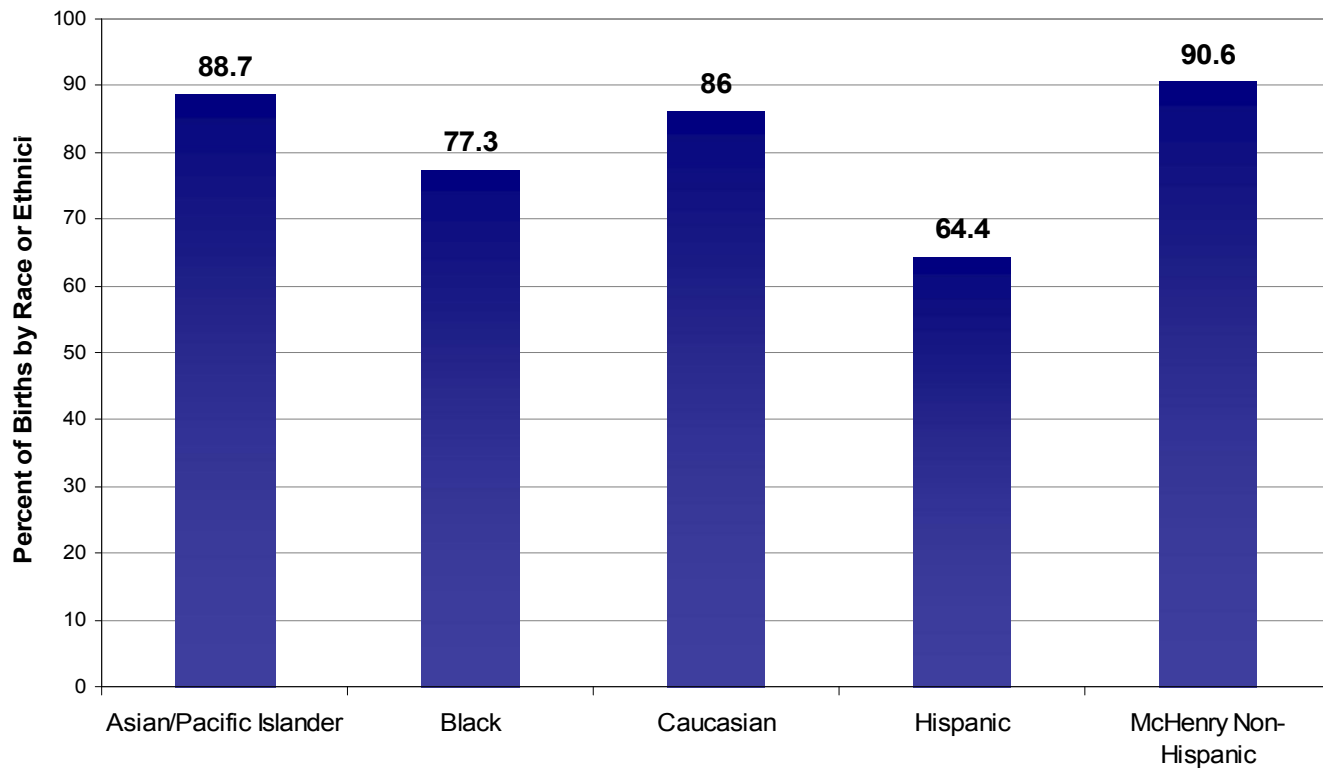


86% of McHenry County Mother's Began Prenatal Care During the First Trimester of Pregnancy in 2002



Hispanic and Black Mother's Have the Lowest Rates of Receiving Early Prenatal Care in McHenry County

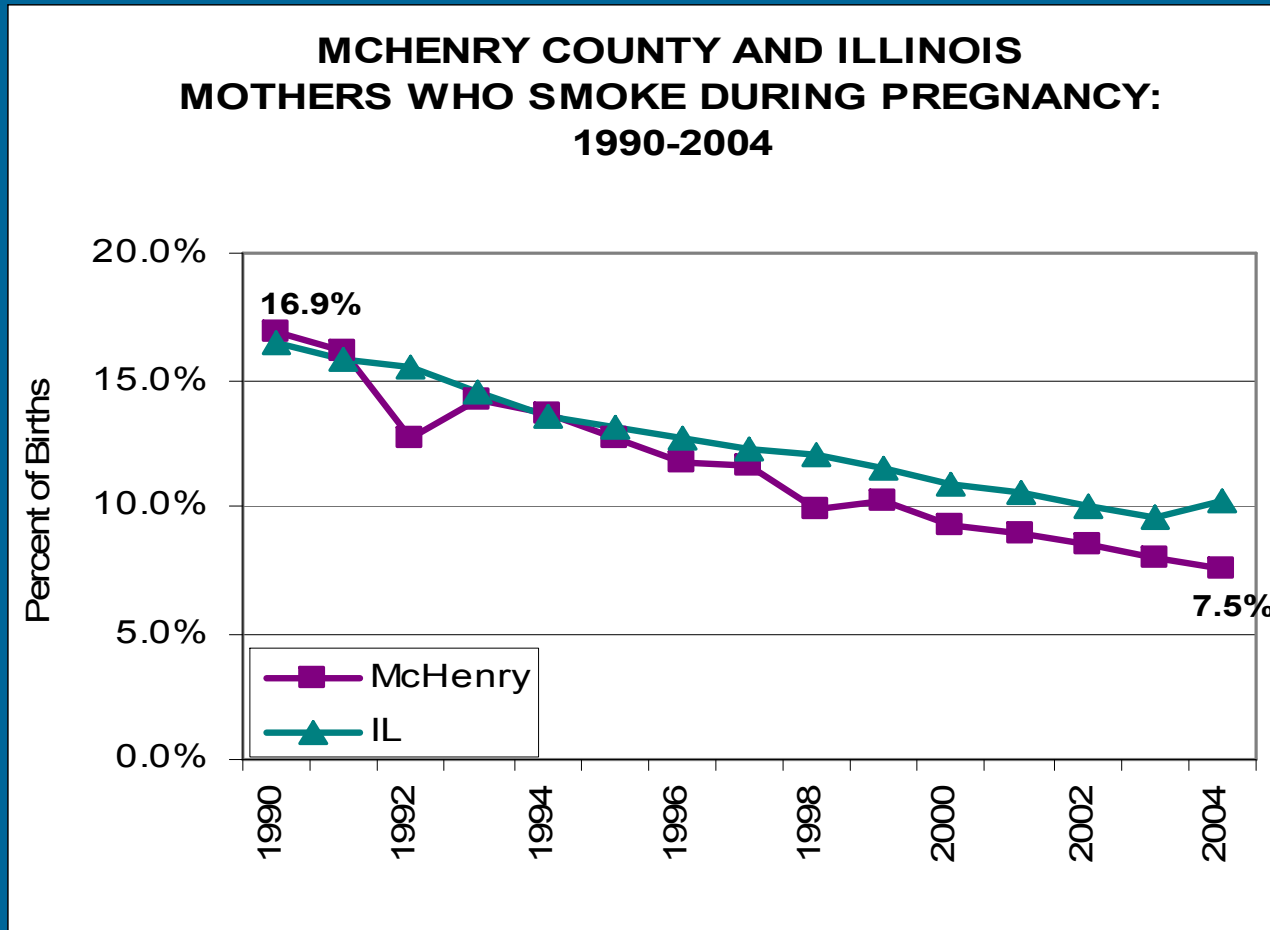
Percent of McHenry County Mother's that Received Care During the First Trimester of Pregnancy in 2002 by Race and Ethnicity



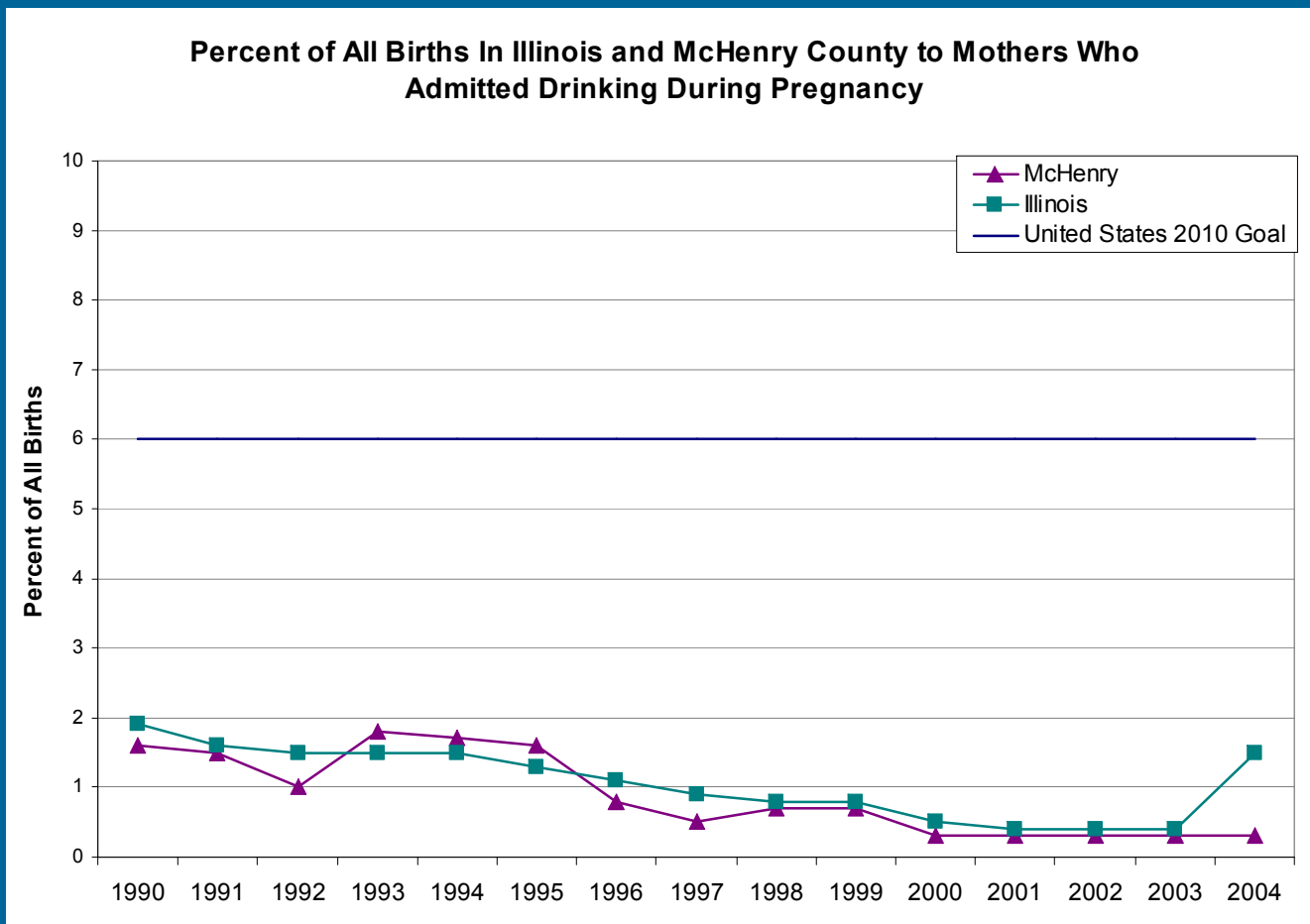
Tobacco and Alcohol Use During Pregnancy

- More likely to occur in minority and underserved populations
- Highly underreported

Once higher than the state, the proportion of McHenry mothers who smoke during pregnancy has dropped below Illinois.



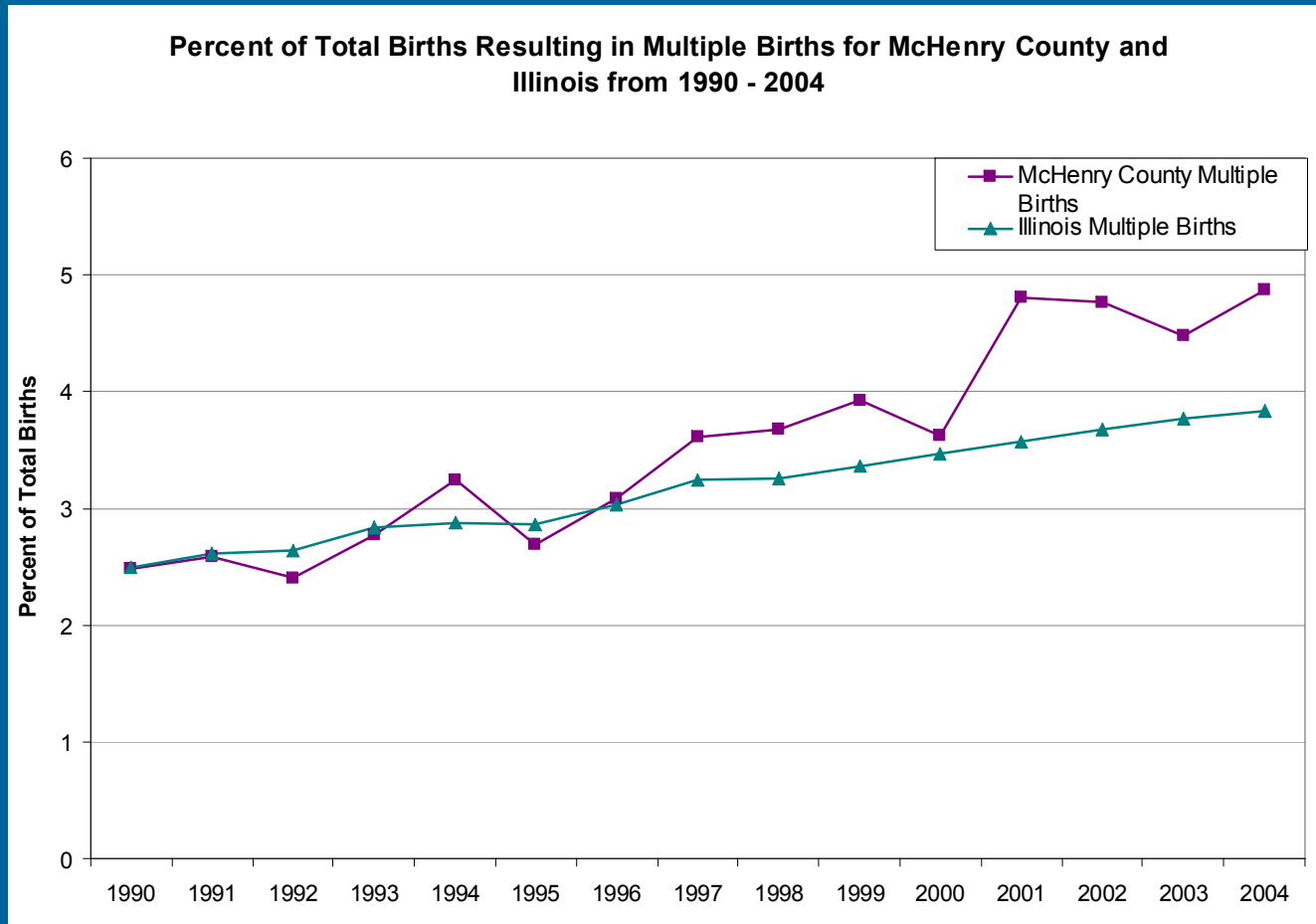
Rate of Mother's Who Drink During Pregnancy Continues to Decline and is well below the 2010 Goal.



Multiple Births

- Increase of multiple births due to 2 factors:
 - Use of fertility drugs and in vitro fertilization
 - Later age pregnancies
- Compared with single births, twins' have a 10.3 times higher risk of LBW
- Compared with single births, triplets' have a 18.8 times higher risk of LBW

Number of multiple births increasing over the past several years, especially in McHenry County Compared to Illinois



Is birth weight still a valid measure of infant outcome?

- Gestational age may be more appropriate
 - Increasing development time may prevent several adverse health outcomes.
- Technological advances have not significantly impacted the incidence of LBW.
 - Recent technology may have increased LBW rates.
- More babies are surviving LBW, however the long term outcome has not improved.
- Medical advances come at a high economic price: \$26 billion per year in direct medical costs.
- Most experts agree that prevention of LBW is more cost effective than relying on medical technology after birth.