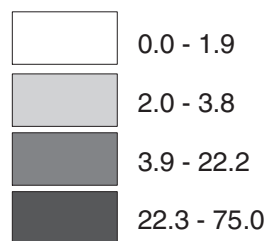
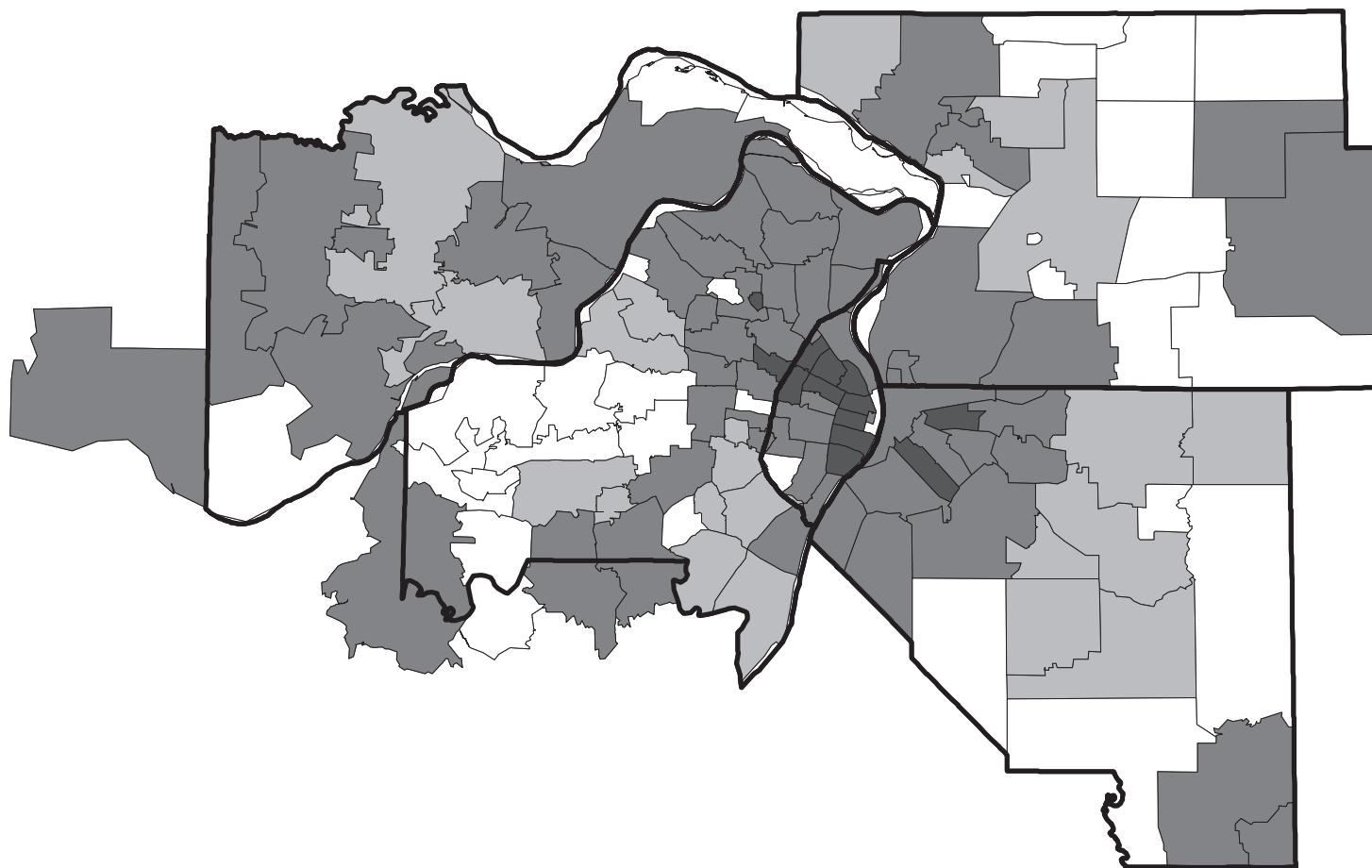


Percent of Births with No or Inadequate Prenatal Care



Comparative Norm
U.S.: 3.9%
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (2000)



Many public health agencies report that early and adequate prenatal care promotes healthy pregnancies and babies. Nationally, 83.2% of women received early prenatal care (beginning in the first trimester) in 2000, but only 74.3% of African American women and 74.4% of Hispanic women received care at this stage. Only 74.1% of births in the U.S. in 2000 were to women who received adequate prenatal care (care starting in the first three months of pregnancy and at least nine visits for women giving birth to full term infants) according to the March of Dimes. Teen mothers and low-income mothers are more likely to receive no or inadequate prenatal care, putting their babies at higher risk of low birth weight, preterm birth, and infant mortality.