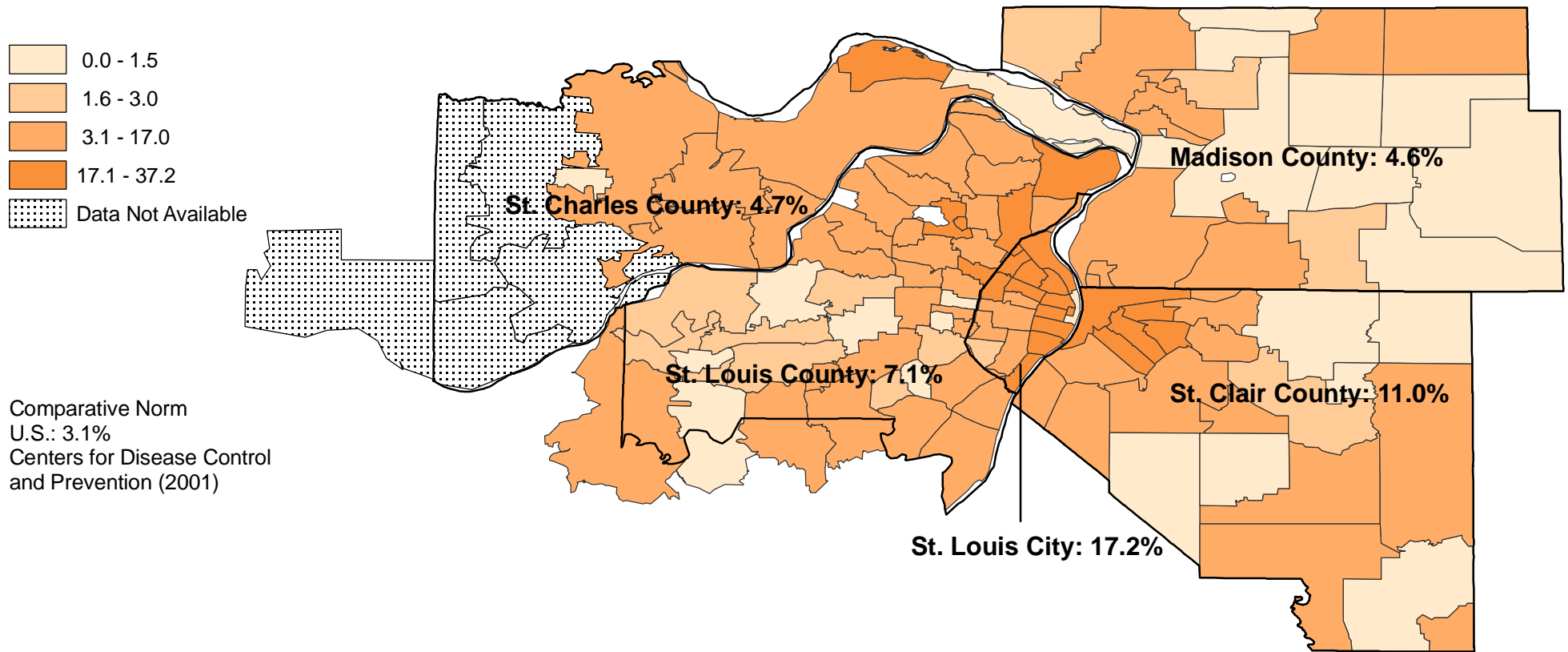


Percent of Births with No or Inadequate Prenatal Care



Adequate prenatal care is critical to ensuring that mothers remain healthy during pregnancy and that babies are born healthy. According to the 2002 National Vital Statistics Reports, nationally, 85.3% of all women received prenatal care that began in the first trimester of pregnancy. In contrast, 75.1% of African American women received prenatal care at this stage in pregnancy. Teen mothers, women with low-incomes, women with more than one child, unmarried women, and women whose pregnancies were unplanned 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.