

Adolescent Pregnancy

Five of Washington's counties are significantly higher than the state rate.

In 2007, Washington teens 17 years of age and younger had 4,154 pregnancies (live births, abortions and fetal deaths). This equates to a rate of 28.7 pregnancies per 1000 youth ages 15-17 years. This rate is up over one point from the previous year (27.6 in 2006). Washington's rate for this age group is lower than the national rate. The rate of adolescent pregnancy has shown a steady and significant decline in recent years. The adolescent pregnancy rate in 1997 (ten years ago) was 45.7 per 1000 females ages 15 through 17, whereas in 2007 the rate was 28.7 for the same age group.

Five of Washington's counties are significantly higher than the state rate. These counties include: Adams (69), Wahkiakum (61.9), Franklin (58.9), Yakima (56.4), and Skagit (49). The adolescent pregnancy rate in each of these counties increased over the previous year. The most dramatic increase was Wahkiakum County where the rate increased from 10.5 in 2006 to 61.9 in 2007. Wahkiakum County has a very small population thus two or three adolescent pregnancies can make a significant difference in the rate. In 2007 there were 6 teen pregnancies in Wahkiakum County.

Children who have children put both generations at risk. Teenage mothers typically have less education and work experience than their peers who did not bear a child. They are more likely to need public assistance to support their children). According to Washington State's Department of Health, "Compared to their peers who have children later, teen parents are:

- More likely to have children born at a low birth-weight, and who suffer from poor health and development.
- More likely to have low family incomes, live in poverty and receive public assistance.
- Less likely to fulfill their educational and economic goals.
- At increased risk of substance abuse, intimate partner violence, maternal depression and divorce or separation."

Further, according to the Florida State University Prevention and Early Intervention Center, Teen Parent Child Care Quality Improvement Project, **Fact Sheet**, (2001), "The prevalence of child abuse among children born to adolescent mothers is greater than in the general population...Children born to mothers age 15 and younger are two times more likely to become an indicated case of child abuse/neglect in the first five years of their lives than are children born to mothers ages 20-21."

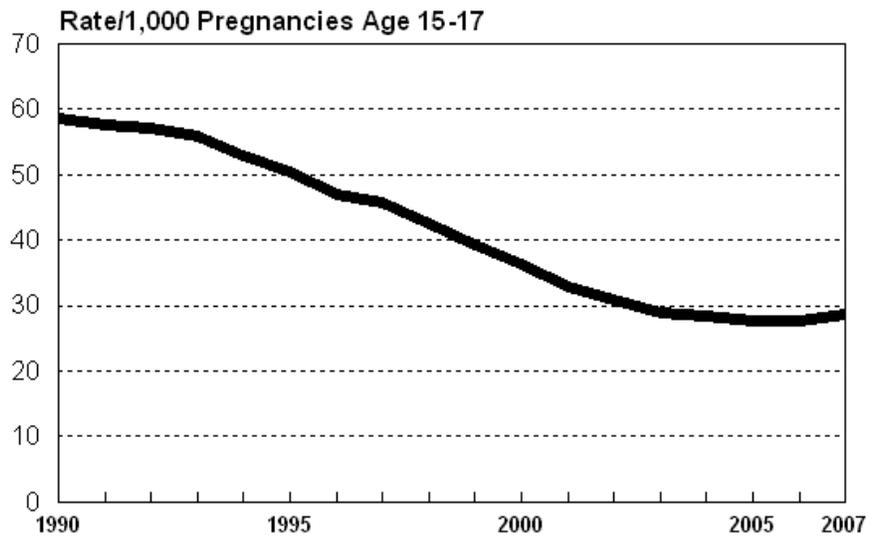
The same fact sheet identifies a host of problems often faced by children born to teenage mothers. These problems include:

- Developmental delays
- Behavioral problems in school
- School dropout
- Incarceration (boys born to teenage mothers are three times more likely to be incarcerated than those born to adult mothers)
- Daughters are more likely to become teen parents

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(continued)

Programs that appear to make a difference in reducing teenage pregnancy include: early childhood education, nurse home-visiting, school-based curricula, abstinence and contraceptive programs, and activities that enhance life options for adolescent girls.

Graph 13
Teen Pregnancy Rates in Washington State
1990 - 2007



Source: Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, "Total Pregnancies by Woman's Age and County of Residence," updated December 2008; population data obtained from OFM "Intercensal and Postcensal Estimates of County Population by Age and Sex: 1980-2007," September 2007 (last modified 10/3/07).

TABLE 28
Adolescent Pregnancy* by County in 2007

County	Under age 15	Age 15-19	15-17 Years only	18-19 Years only
Adams	1	71	33	38
Asotin	1	34	10	24
Benton	4	422	163	259
Chelan	2	161	70	91
Clallam	4	107	34	73
Clark	7	634	182	452
Columbia	0	4	1	3
Cowlitz	4	268	83	185
Douglas	1	91	29	62
Ferry	0	17	5	12
Franklin	8	267	106	161
Garfield	0	1	0	1
Grant	8	256	88	168
Grays Harbor	2	148	50	98
Island	0	95	24	71
Jefferson	0	28	5	23
King	53	2,609	885	1,724
Kitsap	3	384	118	266
Kittitas	1	65	20	45
Klickitat	0	26	8	18
Lewis	2	163	53	110
Lincoln	0	6	2	4
Mason	3	122	46	76
Okanogan	0	85	30	55
Pacific	1	38	8	30
Pend Oreille	0	32	9	23
Pierce	25	1,745	533	1,212
San Juan	1	17	7	10
Skagit	7	305	129	176
Skamania	0	18	5	13
Snohomish	17	1,158	367	791
Spokane	7	805	231	574
Stevens	0	77	24	53
Thurston	2	379	108	271
Wahkiakum	0	7	6	1
Walla Walla	1	116	48	68
Whatcom	3	314	97	217
Whitman	0	34	8	26
Yakima	28	901	333	568
Unknown	0	5	0	5
State Total	196	12,015	3,958	8,057

* Total pregnancies equals the sum of live births, abortions, and fetal deaths.

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Department of Health, 12/2008;
 Table 16, "Total Pregnancies by Women's Age and County of Residence, 2007."

TABLE 29

Age 15-17 Adolescent Pregnancies by County *

County	2007 Female Population Age 15-17	2007 Pregnancies 15-17	2007 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	2006 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	2005 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	2004 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	2003 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	% Change 2003-2007 15-17 Preg/1000
Adams	478	33	69.0	59.7	65.4	73.8	67.0	3.0
Asofin	517	10	19.3	15.6	17.8	30.1	35.9	-46.1
Benton	4,184	163	39.0	28.2	31.5	30.3	31.0	25.7
Chelan	1,641	70	42.7	40.9	24.0	32.1	33.3	28.1
Clallam	1,378	34	24.7	30.0	29.8	22.7	23.4	5.4
Clark	9,161	182	19.9	23.0	21.5	21.8	20.3	-2.1
Columbia	92	1	10.9	10.9	0.0	33.0	43.5	-75.0
Cowlitz	2,160	83	38.4	44.9	36.1	30.7	34.4	11.7
Douglas	921	29	31.5	40.9	22.8	30.3	30.6	2.9
Ferry	204	5	24.5	9.9	20.1	5.1	15.2	61.2
Franklin	1,800	106	58.9	61.4	52.4	49.4	60.6	-2.8
Garfield	67	0	0.0	29.4	0.0	0.0	14.7	-100.0
Grant	2,147	88	41.0	41.5	44.5	46.8	46.1	-11.1
Grays Harbor	1,653	50	30.2	28.6	32.7	36.2	39.2	-22.8
Island	1,544	24	15.5	16.4	16.1	15.1	22.6	-31.2
Jefferson	525	5	9.5	13.5	19.7	20.2	34.2	-72.2
King	33,452	885	26.5	23.6	24.7	25.2	25.9	2.1
Kitsap	5,518	118	21.4	20.6	18.8	23.7	22.4	-4.5
Kititas	685	20	29.2	16.4	10.8	19.0	22.2	31.5
Klickitat	478	8	16.7	16.8	19.3	23.9	25.8	-35.1
Lewis	1,766	53	30.0	23.6	28.8	25.7	26.2	14.5
Lincoln	258	2	7.8	3.9	11.9	7.8	3.9	98.8
Mason	1,205	46	38.2	32.4	39.4	30.5	27.0	41.4
Okanogan	1,001	30	30.0	42.0	33.3	27.4	34.1	-12.1
Pacific	419	8	19.1	40.6	36.3	31.9	19.5	-2.1
Pend Oreille	336	9	26.8	27.4	21.6	9.5	12.7	110.9
Pierce	17,622	533	30.2	29.1	30.6	32.4	31.1	-2.7
San Juan	250	7	28.0	8.1	12.3	21.0	16.9	65.7
Skagit	2,634	129	49.0	42.6	38.5	34.6	36.6	33.8
Skamania	268	5	18.7	7.5	3.9	8.0	20.2	-7.6
Snohomish	15,177	367	24.2	23.0	23.5	25.3	24.7	-2.1
Spokane	9,923	231	23.3	23.4	24.4	27.0	25.3	-8.0
Stevens	1,216	24	19.7	19.3	19.8	25.4	22.6	-12.7
Thurston	5,400	108	20.0	20.4	21.0	22.7	24.3	-17.7
Wahkiakum	97	6	61.9	10.5	21.0	10.8	21.3	190.4
Walla Walla	1,271	48	37.8	30.9	37.8	32.0	30.5	23.8
Whatcom	3,861	97	25.1	27.5	27.7	27.7	26.1	-3.7
Whitman	684	8	11.7	4.4	13.3	10.7	18.2	-35.7
Yakima	5,904	333	56.4	57.9	54.0	55.9	57.7	-2.2
State Total	137,898	3,958	28.7	27.6	27.6	28.5	28.8	-0.3

* Total pregnancies equals the sum of live births, abortions, and fetal deaths.

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Dept. of Health, 12/2008;

Table 16, "Total Pregnancies by Women's Age and County of Residence, 2007."

Population data obtained from OFM, Forecasting Division, "Intercensal and Postcensal Estimates of County Population by Age and Sex: 1980-2007," September 2007 (modified 10/3/07).

County population totals may not add to total statewide population reported due to rounding (-1).