

Adolescent Pregnancy

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In 2008, Washington teens 17 years of age and younger had 3,856 pregnancies (live births, abortions and fetal deaths). This equates to a rate of 26.7 pregnancies per 1000 youth ages 15-17 years. This rate is down two points from the previous year (28.7 in 2007). 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 2008 the rate was 26.7 for the same age group.

Five of Washington's counties are significantly higher than the state rate. These counties include: Adams (67.5), Yakima (54.6), Grant (50.9), Franklin (50.5), and Garfield (50.9).

Although the adolescent pregnancy rate in each of these counties decreased over the previous year, it is significant to note that Adams County had the highest teen pregnancy rate in the State for the past five years.

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

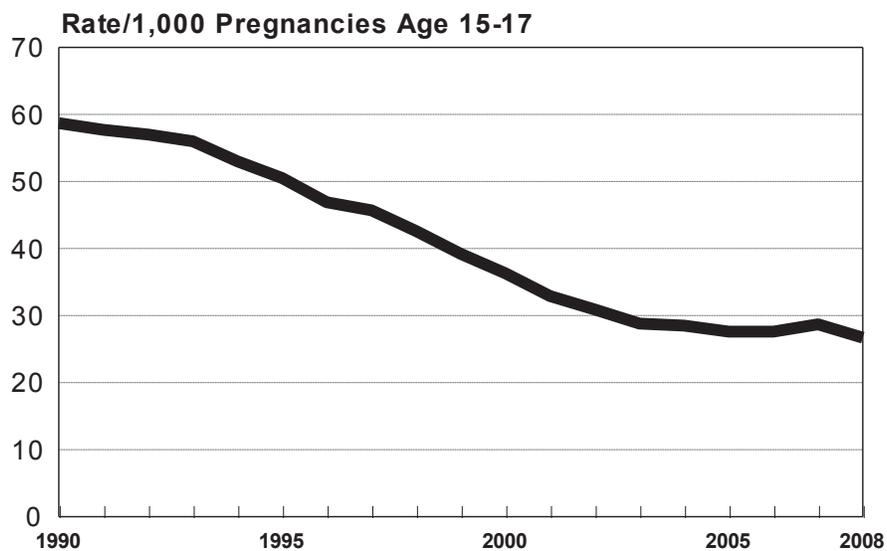
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based curricula, abstinence and contraceptive programs, and activities that enhance life options for adolescent girls.

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Graph 13
Teen Pregnancy Rates in Washington State
1990 - 2008



Source: Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, "Total Pregnancies by Woman's Age and County of Residence," updated December 2009; population data obtained from OFM, "Intercensal and Postcensal Estimates of County Population by Age and Sex: 1980-2008," September 2008 (modified 9/8/08).

TABLE 28
Adolescent Pregnancy* by County in 2008

County	Under age 15	Age 15-19	15-17 Years only	18-19 Years only
Adams	0	90	32	58
Asotin	0	36	6	30
Benton	4	430	128	302
Chelan	6	158	67	91
Clallam	1	107	29	78
Clark	8	688	186	502
Columbia	0	6	4	2
Cowlitz	4	210	59	151
Douglas	1	77	27	50
Ferry	0	15	3	12
Franklin	5	242	93	149
Garfield	0	4	2	2
Grant	4	287	110	177
Grays Harbor	4	142	47	95
Island	1	94	17	77
Jefferson	0	28	10	18
King	43	2,515	820	1,695
Kitsap	2	387	103	284
Kittitas	0	58	9	49
Klickitat	0	34	8	26
Lewis	4	143	40	103
Lincoln	0	15	2	13
Mason	2	118	39	79
Okanogan	0	109	30	79
Pacific	1	31	8	23
Pend Oreille	0	24	7	17
Pierce	27	1,744	511	1,233
San Juan	1	11	3	8
Skagit	7	271	108	163
Skamania	1	12	5	7
Snohomish	20	1,049	336	713
Spokane	9	838	232	606
Stevens	0	74	22	52
Thurston	8	371	103	268
Wahkiakum	0	8	4	4
Walla Walla	0	110	36	74
Whatcom	5	297	103	194
Whitman	0	29	4	25
Yakima	15	854	319	535
Unknown	0	2	1	1
State Total	183	11,718	3,673	8,045

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

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Department of Health, 12/2009;

Table 16, "Total Pregnancies by Women's Age and County of Residence, 2008."

TABLE 29

Age 15-17 Adolescent Pregnancies by County *

County	2008 Female Population Age 15-17	2008 Pregnancies 15-17	2008 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	2007 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	2006 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	2005 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	2004 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	% Change 2004-2008 15-17 Preg/1000
Adams	474	32	67.5	69.0	59.7	65.4	73.8	-8.6
Asotin	509	6	11.8	19.3	15.6	17.8	30.1	-60.8
Benton	4,176	128	30.6	39.0	28.2	31.5	30.3	1.1
Chelan	1,630	67	41.1	42.7	40.9	24.0	32.1	27.9
Clallam	1,362	29	21.3	24.7	30.0	29.8	22.7	-6.3
Clark	9,203	186	20.2	19.9	23.0	21.5	21.8	-7.5
Columbia	90	4	44.4	10.9	10.9	0.0	33.0	34.5
Cowlitz	2,145	59	27.5	38.4	44.9	36.1	30.7	-10.5
Douglas	922	27	29.3	31.5	40.9	22.8	30.3	-3.5
Ferry	204	3	14.7	24.5	9.9	20.1	5.1	188.6
Franklin	1,841	93	50.5	58.9	61.4	52.4	49.4	2.2
Garfield	64	2	31.2	0.0	29.4	0.0	0.0	
Grant	2,161	110	50.9	41.0	41.5	44.5	46.8	8.8
Grays Harbor	1,623	47	29.0	30.2	28.6	32.7	36.2	-20.1
Island	1,531	17	11.1	15.5	16.4	16.1	15.1	-26.3
Jefferson	518	10	19.3	9.5	13.5	19.7	20.2	-4.2
King	33,239	820	24.7	26.5	23.6	24.7	25.2	-1.9
Kitsap	5,468	103	18.8	21.4	20.6	18.8	23.7	-20.4
Kititas	689	9	13.1	29.2	16.4	10.8	19.0	-31.2
Klickitat	474	8	16.9	16.7	16.8	19.3	23.9	-29.4
Lewis	1,746	40	22.9	30.0	23.6	28.8	25.7	-11.0
Lincoln	256	2	7.8	7.8	3.9	11.9	7.8	-0.2
Mason	1,218	39	32.0	38.2	32.4	39.4	30.5	4.9
Okanogan	989	30	30.3	30.0	42.0	33.3	27.4	10.9
Pacific	413	8	19.3	19.1	40.6	36.3	31.9	-39.4
Pend Oreille	335	7	20.9	26.8	27.4	21.6	9.5	119.8
Pierce	17,631	511	29.0	30.2	29.1	30.6	32.4	-10.6
San Juan	248	3	12.1	28.0	8.1	12.3	21.0	-42.4
Skagit	2,634	108	41.0	49.0	42.6	38.5	34.6	18.5
Skamania	264	5	19.0	18.7	7.5	3.9	8.0	137.0
Snohomish	15,146	336	22.2	24.2	23.0	23.5	25.3	-12.4
Spokane	9,905	232	23.4	23.3	23.4	24.4	27.0	-13.3
Stevens	1,214	22	18.1	19.7	19.3	19.8	25.4	-28.7
Thurston	5,467	103	18.8	20.0	20.4	21.0	22.7	-16.9
Wahkiakum	98	4	40.9	61.9	10.5	21.0	10.8	280.0
Walla Walla	1,252	36	28.8	37.8	30.9	37.8	32.0	-10.3
Whatcom	3,836	103	26.9	25.1	27.5	27.7	27.7	-3.0
Whitman	673	4	5.9	11.7	4.4	13.3	10.7	-44.3
Yakima	5,839	319	54.6	56.4	57.9	54.0	55.9	-2.2
State Total *	137,488	3,673	26.7	28.7	27.6	27.6	28.5	-6.3

* Total pregnancies equals the sum of live births, abortions, and fetal deaths; includes one age 15-17 female, county unknown.

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Dept. of Health, updated 12/2009;

Table 16, "Total Pregnancies by Women's Age and County of Residence, 2008."

Population data obtained from OFM, Forecasting Division, "Intercensal and Postcensal Estimates of County Population by Age and Sex: 1980-2008," September 2008 (9/8/08).