

Adolescent Pregnancy

In 2009, Washington teens 17 years of age and younger had 3,379 pregnancies (live births, abortions and fetal deaths). This equates to a rate of 24 pregnancies per 1000 youth ages 15-17 years. This rate is down over two points from the previous year (26.7 in 2008). 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 2000 (ten years ago) was 45.7 per 1000 females ages 15 through 17, whereas in 2009 the rate was 24 for the same age group.

Four of Washington's counties are significantly higher than the state rate. These counties include: Adams (73), Yakima (54.2), Franklin (51.8), and Grant (50.5).

Although the adolescent pregnancy rate in each of these counties decreased (except Adams County) 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*

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.

TABLE 28
Adolescent Pregnancy* by County in 2009

County	Under age 15	Age 15-19	15-17 Years only	18-19 Years only
Adams	4	98	34	64
Asotin	0	38	7	31
Benton	4	337	94	243
Chelan	2	139	45	94
Clallam	2	100	30	70
Clark	8	639	189	450
Columbia	0	4	1	3
Cowlitz	0	209	49	160
Douglas	0	71	26	45
Ferry	0	10	1	9
Franklin	4	270	96	174
Garfield	0	1	0	1
Grant	4	305	108	197
Grays Harbor	2	126	46	80
Island	2	99	16	83
Jefferson	0	27	5	22
King	35	2,172	670	1,502
Kitsap	4	318	79	239
Kittitas	0	48	13	35
Klickitat	1	26	11	15
Lewis	3	164	50	114
Lincoln	0	6	1	5
Mason	2	102	41	61
Okanogan	3	104	29	75
Pacific	1	21	9	12
Pend Oreille	0	25	6	19
Pierce	15	1,594	449	1,145
San Juan	1	11	2	9
Skagit	3	234	80	154
Skamania	1	20	4	16
Snohomish	14	893	282	611
Spokane	10	725	195	530
Stevens	0	67	21	46
Thurston	3	396	118	278
Wahkiakum	0	6	1	5
Walla Walla	0	100	26	74
Whatcom	3	259	91	168
Whitman	0	28	4	24
Yakima	8	872	311	561
Unknown	0	2	0	2
State Total	139	10,666	3,240	7,426

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

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Department of Health, 10/2010.

Table 16. "Total Pregnancies by Woman's Age and County of Residence, 2009", last update 10/8/2010.

TABLE 29

Age 15-17 Adolescent Pregnancies by County *

County	2009 Female Population Age 15-17	2009 Pregnancies 15-17	2009 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	2008 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	2007 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	2006 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	2005 15-17 Rate/ 1,000	% Change 2005-2009 15-17 Preg/1000
Adams	466	34	73.0	67.5	69.0	59.7	65.4	11.6
Asotin	496	7	14.1	11.8	19.3	15.6	17.8	-20.7
Benton	4,156	94	22.6	30.6	39.0	28.2	31.5	-28.2
Chelan	1,594	45	28.2	41.1	42.7	40.9	24.0	17.6
Clallam	1,325	30	22.6	21.3	24.7	30.0	29.8	-24.0
Clark	9,093	189	20.8	20.2	19.9	23.0	21.5	-3.3
Columbia	88	1	11.4	44.4	10.9	10.9	0.0	
Cowlitz	2,095	49	23.4	27.5	38.4	44.9	36.1	-35.2
Douglas	911	26	28.5	29.3	31.5	40.9	22.8	25.2
Ferry	200	1	5.0	14.7	24.5	9.9	20.1	-75.1
Franklin	1,855	96	51.8	50.5	58.9	61.4	52.4	-1.2
Garfield	61	0	0.0	31.2	0.0	29.4	0.0	
Grant	2,137	108	50.5	50.9	41.0	41.5	44.5	13.6
Grays Harbor	1,581	46	29.1	29.0	30.2	28.6	32.7	-11.0
Island	1,504	16	10.6	11.1	15.5	16.4	16.1	-33.9
Jefferson	506	5	9.9	19.3	9.5	13.5	19.7	-49.8
King	32,667	670	20.5	24.7	26.5	23.6	24.7	-17.0
Kitsap	5,336	79	14.8	18.8	21.4	20.6	18.8	-21.2
Kititas	669	13	19.4	13.1	29.2	16.4	10.8	79.9
Klickitat	464	11	23.7	16.9	16.7	16.8	19.3	22.8
Lewis	1,706	50	29.3	22.9	30.0	23.6	28.8	1.8
Lincoln	250	1	4.0	7.8	7.8	3.9	11.9	-66.4
Mason	1,193	41	34.4	32.0	38.2	32.4	39.4	-12.8
Okanogan	970	29	29.9	30.3	30.0	42.0	33.3	-10.2
Pacific	400	9	22.5	19.3	19.1	40.6	36.3	-38.0
Pend Oreille	329	6	18.2	20.9	26.8	27.4	21.6	-15.6
Pierce	17,291	449	26.0	29.0	30.2	29.1	30.6	-15.1
San Juan	243	2	8.2	12.1	28.0	8.1	12.3	-33.1
Skagit	2,587	80	30.9	41.0	49.0	42.6	38.5	-19.7
Skamania	259	4	15.4	19.0	18.7	7.5	3.9	296.0
Snohomish	14,896	282	18.9	22.2	24.2	23.0	23.5	-19.4
Spokane	9,718	195	20.1	23.4	23.3	23.4	24.4	-17.8
Stevens	1,191	21	17.6	18.1	19.7	19.3	19.8	-10.9
Thurston	5,405	118	21.8	18.8	20.0	20.4	21.0	4.0
Wahkiakum	95	1	10.5	40.9	61.9	10.5	21.0	-49.9
Walla Walla	1,221	26	21.3	28.8	37.8	30.9	37.8	-43.7
Whatcom	3,741	91	24.3	26.9	25.1	27.5	27.7	-12.2
Whitman	648	4	6.2	5.9	11.7	4.4	13.3	-53.6
Yakima	5,734	311	54.2	54.6	56.4	57.9	54.0	0.4
State Total *	135,081	3,240	24.0	26.7	28.7	27.6	27.6	-13.1

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

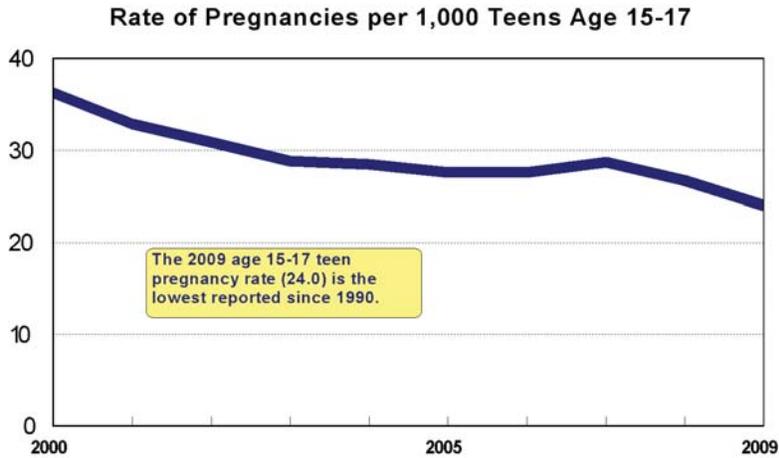
Age-specific rates equal the number of pregnancies to women in a specific age group per 1,000 women in the age group.

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Dept. of Health, last update 10/8/2010; Table 16, "Total pregnancies by woman and county of residence, 2009;" Table 17, "Age-Specific Pregnancy Rates by county of residence, 2009;" and Table 28,

"Female Population by Age and County of Residence, 2009."

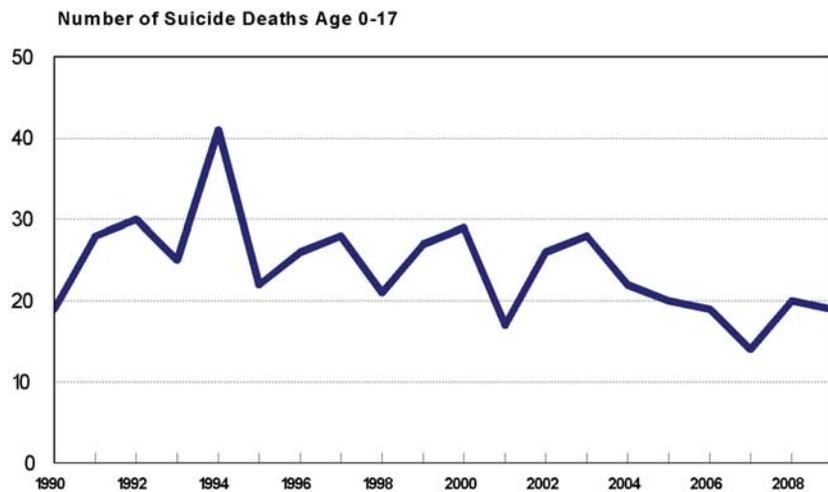
Population data are from the Washington State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting Division, Intercensal and Postcensal Estimates of County Population by Age and Sex, 1980-2009.

Graph 13
Teen Pregnancy Rates in Washington State
2000 - 2009



Source: Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, "Total Pregnancies by Woman's Age and County of Residence," updated 9/2010; population data obtained from OFM, "Intercensal and Postcensal Estimates of County Population by Age and Sex: 1980-2009").

Graph 14
Youth Suicide Deaths in Washington State
1990 - 2009



Source: Data provided by the Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, "Residence Suicide Deaths by Gender in Washington, Age 0-17," updated November 2010.