

Adolescent Pregnancy

In 2013, Washington teens age 15-17 years of age had 1,886 pregnancies (live births, abortions and fetal deaths). This equates to a rate of 14.5 pregnancies per 1,000 youth ages 15-17 years. This is a decrease of 15.7 percent from the 2012 rate of 17.2. This is significantly below the national teen pregnancy rate of 27 births per 1,000 girls.

The only Washington County in 2013 with a rate of over 40 pregnancies per 1,000 was Adams (40.1). Five additional counties are significantly higher than the state rate. These counties include: Asotin (30.5), Franklin (31.4), Grant (29.5), Walla Walla (29.9) and Yakima (34.6).

Numerous individual, family, and community characteristics have been linked to adolescent childbearing. For example, adolescents who are enrolled in school and engaged in learning (including participating in after-school activities, having positive attitudes toward school, and performing well educationally) are less likely than are other adolescents to have or to father a baby. At the family level, adolescents with mothers who gave birth as teens and/or whose mothers have only a high school degree are more likely to have a baby before age 20 than are teens whose mothers were older at their birth or who attended at least some college. In addition, having lived with both biological parents at age 14 is associated with a lower risk of a teen birth. At the community level, adolescents who live in wealthier neighborhoods with strong levels of employment are less likely to have or to father a baby than are adolescents in neighborhoods in which income and employment opportunities are more limited.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, teen pregnancy and childbearing bring substantial social and economic costs through immediate and long-term impacts on teen parents and their children.

- Teen pregnancy accounts for nearly \$11 billion per year in costs to U.S. taxpayers for increased health care and foster care, increased incarceration rates among children of teen parents, and lost tax revenue because of lower educational attainment and income among teen mothers.

- Pregnancy and birth are significant contributors to high school dropout rates among girls. Only about 50% of teen mothers receive a high school diploma by 22 years of age, versus approximately 90% of women who had not given birth during adolescence.
- The children of teenage mothers are more likely to have lower school achievement and drop out of high school, have more health problems, be incarcerated at some time during adolescence, give birth as a teenager, and face unemployment as a young adult.

These effects remain for the teen mother and her child even after adjusting for those factors that increased the teenager's risk for pregnancy; such as, growing up in poverty, having parents with low levels of education, growing up in a single-parent family, and having low attachment to and performance in school

Numerous individual, family, and community characteristics have been linked to adolescent childbearing. For example, adolescents who are enrolled in school and engaged in learning (including participating in after-school activities, having positive attitudes toward school, and performing well educationally) are less likely than are other adolescents to have or to father a baby. At the family level, adolescents with mothers who gave birth as teens and/or whose mothers have only a high school degree are more likely to have a baby before age 20 than are teens whose mothers were older at their birth or who attended at least some college. In addition, having lived with both biological parents at age 14 is associated with a lower risk of a teen birth. At the community level, adolescents who live in wealthier neighborhoods with strong levels of employment are less likely to have or to father a baby than are adolescents in neighborhoods in which income and employment opportunities are more limited.

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 2013

County	Under age 15	Age 15-19	15-17 Years only	18-19 Years only
Adams	2	46	19	27
Asotin	1	28	12	16
Benton	3	232	57	175
Chelan	0	71	24	47
Clallam	1	65	19	46
Clark	3	426	118	308
Columbia	0	3	0	3
Cowlitz	2	125	26	99
Douglas	0	43	14	29
Ferry	0	11	3	8
Franklin	2	194	63	131
Garfield	0	0	0	0
Grant	4	171	63	108
Grays Harbor	2	86	21	65
Island	0	49	12	37
Jefferson	1	14	3	11
King	20	1,298	403	895
Kitsap	1	204	48	156
Kittitas	0	25	7	18
Klickitat	1	14	7	7
Lewis	0	108	35	73
Lincoln	0	9	3	6
Mason	1	71	22	49
Okanogan	1	67	18	49
Pacific	1	16	6	10
Pend Oreille	0	11	1	10
Pierce	6	941	244	697
San Juan	0	10	1	9
Skagit	4	136	42	94
Skamania	0	10	3	7
Snohomish	4	575	143	432
Spokane	5	456	108	348
Stevens	2	39	14	25
Thurston	2	229	50	179
Wahkiakum	0	3	0	3
Walla Walla	1	95	33	62
Whatcom	3	146	42	104
Whitman	0	24	4	20
Yakima	8	533	198	335
Unknown	1	2	0	2
State Total	82	6,586	1,886	4,700

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

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Department of Health, 10/2013,
 Table 16. "Total Pregnancies by Woman's Age and County of Residence, 2013."

TABLE 29
Adolescent Pregnancy* by County in 2013

County	2013 Estimate	2013 Pregnancies 15-17	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	% Change
	Female Population Age 15-17		Rate/ 1,000	Rate/ 1,000	Rate/ 1,000	Rate/ 1,000	Rate/ 1,000	2012-2013 15-17 Preg/1000
Adams	474	19	40.1	39.4	33.1	57.0	175.0	1.8
Asotin	393	12	30.5	24.0	15.1	24.0	47.0	27.2
Benton	3,982	57	14.3	16.2	20.1	19.0	46.0	-11.5
Chelan	1,481	24	16.2	20.1	24.7	118.0	308.0	-19.5
Clallam	1,143	19	16.6	11.2	35.6	0.0	3.0	48.6
Clark	9,808	118	12.0	15.2	16.3	26.0	99.0	-20.8
Columbia	87	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.0	29.0	
Cowlitz	2,061	26	12.6	17.6	23.5	3.0	8.0	-28.5
Douglas	856	14	16.4	19.7	29.3	63.0	131.0	-16.9
Ferry	153	3	19.6	18.5	13.9	0.0	0.0	5.9
Franklin	2,005	63	31.4	37.3	40.8	63.0	108.0	-15.8
Garfield	49	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.0	65.0	
Grant	2,139	63	29.5	36.6	44.4	12.0	37.0	-19.4
Grays Harbor	1,326	21	15.8	21.5	23.2	3.0	11.0	-26.3
Island	1,220	12	9.8	15.8	8.8	403.0	895.0	-37.7
Jefferson	413	3	7.3	7.5	9.6	48.0	156.0	-2.9
King	33,612	403	12.0	13.4	15.6	7.0	18.0	-10.6
Kitsap	4,669	48	10.3	12.2	14.2	7.0	7.0	-15.7
Kittitas	633	7	11.1	13.1	17.4	35.0	73.0	-15.4
Klickitat	382	7	18.3	14.5	21.5	3.0	6.0	26.1
Lewis	1,487	35	23.5	19.7	19.0	22.0	49.0	19.3
Lincoln	217	3	13.8	0.0	13.9	18.0	49.0	
Mason	1,047	22	21.0	34.5	26.8	6.0	10.0	-39.2
Okanogan	746	18	24.1	22.8	43.3	1.0	10.0	6.0
Pacific	299	6	20.1	34.5	24.4	244.0	697.0	-41.8
Pend Oreille	243	1	4.1	15.9	11.2	1.0	9.0	-74.1
Pierce	16,067	244	15.2	16.9	19.8	42.0	94.0	-10.4
San Juan	239	1	4.2	4.4	0.0	3.0	7.0	-4.6
Skagit	2,280	42	18.4	18.7	24.1	143.0	432.0	-1.6
Skamania	218	3	13.8	13.7	14.2	108.0	348.0	0.5
Snohomish	14,565	143	9.8	13.5	15.2	14.0	25.0	-27.3
Spokane	8,893	108	12.1	14.0	17.5	50.0	179.0	-13.4
Stevens	983	14	14.2	19.6	20.2	0.0	3.0	-27.2
Thurston	4,849	50	10.3	14.0	15.6	33.0	62.0	-26.3
Wahkiakum	78	0	0.0	14.7	30.8	42.0	104.0	-100.0
Walla Walla	1,103	33	29.9	26.8	22.4	4.0	20.0	11.8
Whatcom	3,671	42	11.4	18.1	19.4	198.0	335.0	-36.8
Whitman	527	4	7.6	8.1	3.9	0.0	2.0	-6.5
Yakima	5,722	198	34.6	41.5	38.3	44.4	54.2	-16.6
Unknown								
State Total *	130,120	1,886	14.5	17.2	19.4	21.9	24.0	-15.6

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

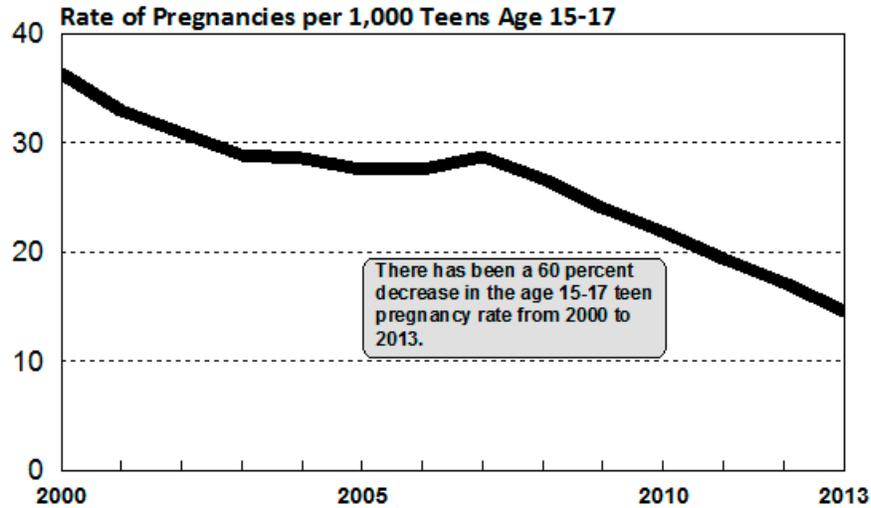
Table 16. "Total Pregnancies by Woman's Age and County of Residence, 2013."

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Dept. of Health, last update 10/2014; Table 16, "Total pregnancies by woman's age and county of residence, 2013 and population data from: Puzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2014). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2013" Online. Available: <http://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>

Population data: For years 2008 - 2009, from the Washington State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting Division, Intercensal and Postcensal Estimates of County Population by Age and Sex; population data for 2010 is from "Census 2010

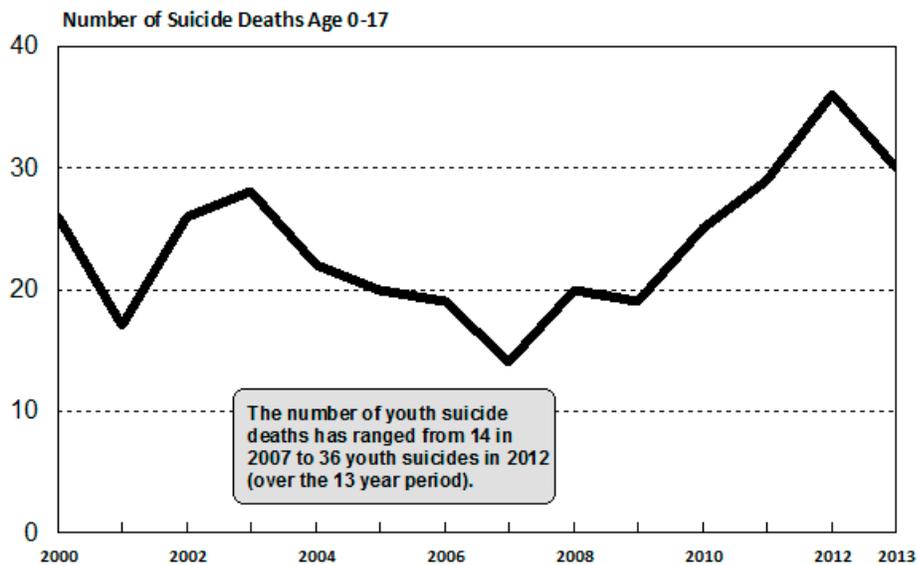
Summary File 1 for Washington - County Summary, Population by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic or Latino Origin, 1 Year Age groups," WA State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting Division.

Graph 13 Teen Pregnancy Rates in Washington State 2000 - 2013



Source: Center for Health Statistics, WA State Department of Health, "Total Pregnancies by Woman's Age and County of Residence," last update 10/2013; population data obtained from OFM, "Intercensal and Postcensal Estimates of County Population by Age and Sex"; 2010 population data from Census 2010 Summary File 1 for Washington; and 2011-12 population data from "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2013 available online at www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/.

Graph 14 Youth Suicide Deaths in Washington State 2000 - 2013



Source: Data provided by the Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, "Residence Suicide Deaths by Gender in Washington, Age 0-17," last update 10/2013.