

## DESCRIPTION

Teen pregnancy is closely linked to other risky behavior as well as a host of critical social issues—poverty and income, overall child well-being, out-of-wedlock births, responsible fatherhood, health issues, education and child welfare. There are also substantial public costs associated with adolescent childbearing.<sup>1</sup> Nationally, 82 percent of pregnancies to mothers ages 15 to 19 are unintended.<sup>2</sup> Children from unintended pregnancies are more likely to experience poor mental and physical health during childhood, and have lower educational attainment and more behavioral issues in their teen years.<sup>3</sup> Births resulting from unintended pregnancies can have negative consequences including birth defects and low birth weight.<sup>4</sup> Teen mothers: are less likely to graduate from high school or attain a GED by the time they reach age 30; earn an average of approximately \$3,500 less per year, when compared with those who delay childbearing until their 20s; and receive nearly twice as much federal aid for nearly twice as long.<sup>5,6</sup>

## HOW ARE WE DOING

Birth and pregnancy rates (per thousand) for teens often combine years due to the small count of births overall. Teen pregnancy rates differ from birth rates, are naturally higher and generally follow similar trends. During 2014-2016, the Ramsey County birth rate for teens ages 15-17 was 9.1 per 1,000 and for teens ages 18-19 years, 31.3 per 1,000. Ramsey County's teen birth rate declined 35 percent between 2010 and 2016. Despite this dramatic decline, it remains the highest among the metro area counties. Although teen birth rates are at a historic low, teens in the U.S. are far more likely to give birth than in any other industrialized country in the world.<sup>7</sup>

## BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Healthy People 2020:

1) Reduce pregnancies among adolescent females aged 15 to 17 years.

U.S. Target: 36.2 per 1,000 population. (Ramsey County is already below the goal.)

2) Reduce pregnancies among adolescent females aged 18 to 19 years

U.S. Target: 104.6 per 1,000 population. (Ramsey County is already below the goal.)

## DISPARITIES

Ramsey County's teen birth rates during 2013-2015 are nearly four times higher for African-American/African, American Indian and Asian/Asian Pacific Islander teens than they are for white teens, and nearly three times higher for Hispanic teens than they are for white teens.<sup>8</sup>

## Information to note

- Ramsey County's teen birth rate declined 35% from 2010-2016, yet remains the highest in the metro area.
- The greatest decline in teen births in Ramsey County was among African-Americans, but rates remain nearly four times higher than white teens.

<sup>1</sup> The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unwanted Pregnancy. <https://thenationalcampaign.org/why-it-matters/teen-pregnancy>. Accessed October 13, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Frost, J, Frohwirth L, Blades N, et al. Publicly Funded Contraceptive Services at U.S. Clinics, 2015, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Logan C, Holcombe E, Manlove J, et al. The consequences of unintended childbearing: A white paper [Internet]. Washington: Child Trends, Inc.; 2007 May. <https://thenationalcampaign.org/sites/default/files/resource-primary-download/consequences.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Preconception and interconception health status of women who recently gave birth to a live-born infant—pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system (PRAMS), United States, 26 Reporting Areas, 2004. MMWR Weekly. 2007 Dec 14;56(SS-10):1-40. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss5610.pdf> [PDF- 609 KB]. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/family-planning>. Accessed 10/13/2017.

<sup>5</sup> Hoffman S, Maynard R, eds. Kids Having Kids: Economic Costs and Social Consequences of Teen Pregnancy, 2nd ed. Washington: Urban Institute Press; 2008.

<sup>6</sup> Hoffman S. By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing. Washington: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy; 2006. <https://thenationalcampaign.org/resource/numbers>. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/family-planning>. Accessed October 13, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Kearney MS and Levine, PB. Why is the teen birth rate in the United States so high and why does it matter? Journal of Economic Perspective. 2012 Spring;26(2):141-66.

<sup>8</sup> Minnesota Department of Health. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/> Accessed October 13, 2017.

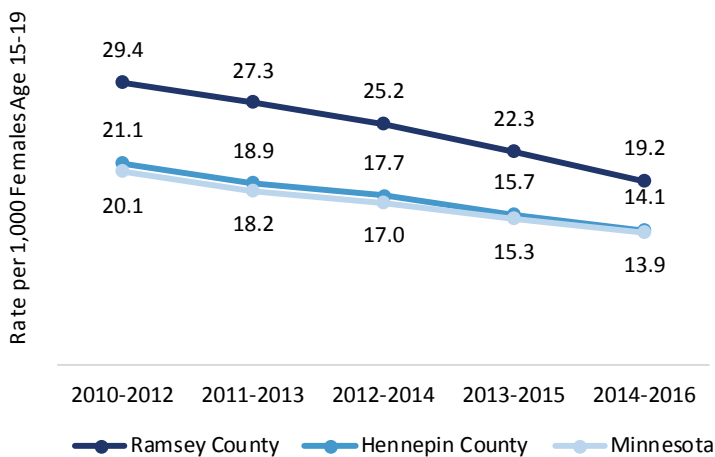
## RISK FACTORS

Teen birth is correlated with mothers' educational attainment, poverty status, race and ethnicity. Other socioeconomic conditions in communities and families may also contribute. These include: low education and low income levels of a teen's family; few opportunities in the community for positive youth involvement; neighborhood racial segregation and/or income inequality; and involvement in the welfare system.<sup>9</sup>

## WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

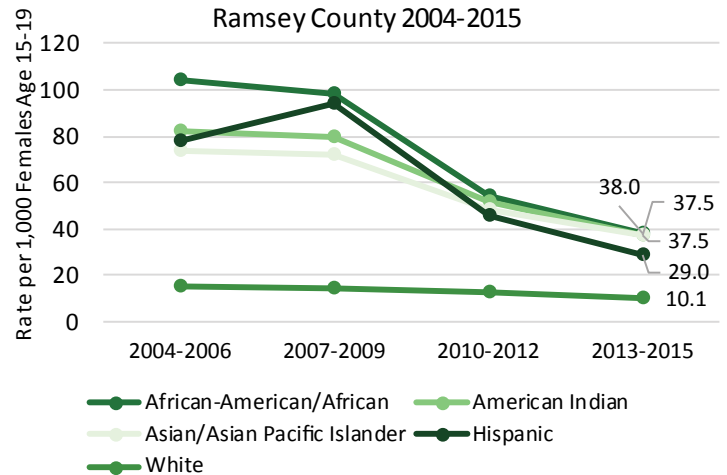
Since 2003, Ramsey County Public Health and Ramsey County Workforce Solutions have collaborated to serve teen parents on MFIP with home visiting and education resources to improve the likelihood of teen parents obtaining a high school diploma by age 19. The percentage of teen MFIP parents achieving a high school diploma has risen over time and is currently above 80% while the total number of teen MFIP parents has declined from more than 350 to less than 50 over the 15 years since the program began. Full-family services are also being developed and implemented through collaboration between Workforce Solutions, Social Services, Financial Assistance, Community Corrections, Public Health, Parks and Recreation, Libraries, the County Attorney's Office and several community non-profits to serve at risk children while serving their parents on public assistance.

Teen Births (15-19 years), Rolling 3-year Rates



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.<sup>10</sup>

Teen Birth Rates (15-19 years), Ramsey County 2004-2015



Source: Minnesota Department of Health.<sup>11</sup>

Teen Birth and Pregnancy Rates, 2014 - 2016

	Birth Rates per 1,000			Pregnancy Rates per 1,000		
	15-17 yrs	18-19 yrs	15-19 yrs	15-17 yrs	18-19 yrs	15-19 yrs
Minnesota	5.8	26.3	13.9	8.0	34.5	18.6
Anoka	4.3	24.6	11.1	7.3	34.2	16.4
Carver	0.8	11.7	4.5	1.4	14.9	6.0
Dakota	3.2	23.2	9.9	4.8	33.6	14.5
Hennepin	6.8	24.9	14.1	10.4	38.9	21.9
Ramsey	9.1	31.3	19.2	13.0	42.6	26.4
Scott	2.1	17.9	7.0	3.3	26.4	10.5
Washington	1.9	18.0	7.2	3.7	24.9	10.8

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Centers for Disease Control. <https://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/social-determinants-disparities-teen-pregnancy.htm>. Accessed October 13, 2017.

<sup>10</sup> Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytables/>. Accessed December 4, 2017.

<sup>11</sup> Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/>. Accessed October 13, 2017.