



NEGATIVE OUTCOMES

Teen Birth Rate

INDICATOR

Rate of births to female teens, age 15-19, per 1,000.

Numerator Number of live births to mothers 15 to 19 years old

Denominator Number of female residents 15 to 19 years old, per 1,000

DESCRIPTION

This is the rate of live births for females aged 15 to 19.

YEAR:		2015	
WI	US	Best	Worst
16.2*	22.3	9.4	38.0
per 1,000		MA	AR
PAST YEAR:		2014	
WI	US		
18.4*	24.2		
per 1,000			

* Indicates a statistically significant difference from the US value at $p < 0.05$.

IMPORTANCE

The teen birth rate is a negative outcome reflecting likely limited social supports that the teen mom received during her childhood (Kearney, 2012; Kotchick, 2001), and predicts future socioeconomic struggles such as unemployment and lower education (Bissell, 2000). Children born to teen parents are at risk of emotional, behavioral, and socioeconomic difficulties (Lehr, 2016). Teen pregnancy is also correlated with risky sexual behavior and contracting sexually transmitted infections (Kotchick, 2001). Preventing teen pregnancy is one of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) top priorities.

LIMITATIONS

- Planned pregnancies are not differentiated from unplanned pregnancies.
- This metric captures only live births; abortions, stillbirths, or spontaneous abortions are not included.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

Wisconsin Analyses

Race/Ethnicity	Teen Births (per 1,000)
Hispanic	
Black, non-Hispanic	10.5
White, non-Hispanic	8.0
Other, non-Hispanic	Unreliable

National Analyses

Race/Ethnicity	Teen Births (per 1,000)
Hispanic	
Black, non-Hispanic	8.0
White, non-Hispanic	6.2
Other, non-Hispanic	10.2

SOURCE

Bissell, M. (2000). Socio-economic outcomes of teen pregnancy and parenthood: A review of the literature. *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 9(3), 191.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. (1999-2015). Natality public-use data 2007-2015 [Data file]. Retrieved from <http://wonder.cdc.gov>.
Kearney, M. S., & Levine, P. B. (2012). Why is the teen birth rate in the United States so high and why does it matter? *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 26(2), 141-166.

Kotchick, B. A., Shaffer, A., Miller, K. S., & Forehand, R. (2001). Adolescent sexual risk behavior: A multi-system perspective. *Clinical psychology review*, 21(4), 493-519.
Lehr, M., Wecksell, B., Nahum, L., Neuhaus, D., Teel, K. S., Linares, L. O., & Diaz, A. (2016). Parenting Stress, Child Characteristics, and Developmental Delay from Birth to Age Five in Teen Mother-Child Dyads. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 25(3), 1035-1043.