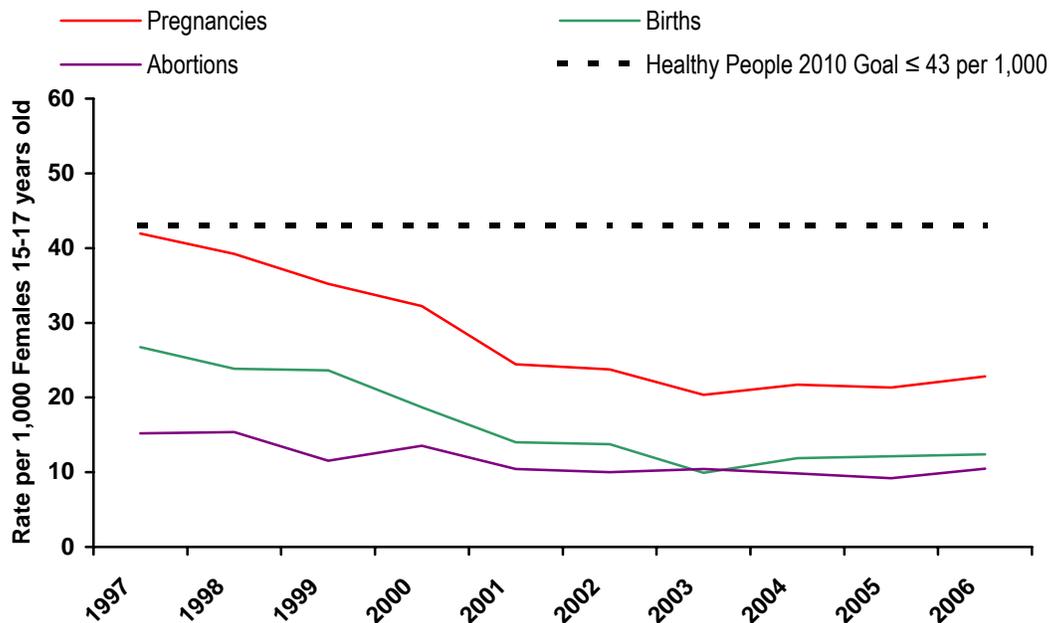




Teen Pregnancy, Birth and Abortion Rates Aged 15-17 Clark County, 1997 through 2006

Why it Matters:

Parenthood at an early age can interrupt education or limit it to high school, thereby decreasing opportunities for better jobs, housing, health care, and overall well-being for teens and their children. Teen parents are more likely to smoke and have low birth weight babies who are at greater risk for health, developmental, behavioral, and social problems. Teen pregnancy cost taxpayers an estimated \$9.1 billion annually in the United States. In Washington State, the costs were \$115 million in 2004. Teen mothers are also at risk of repeat pregnancies.¹ For these reasons we focus public health efforts on preventing teen pregnancies.



Status:

- Since 1997, the Clark County teen pregnancy rate declined 46 percent to 22.8 per 1,000 females aged 15-17 years old in 2006.^{2,3}
- The Clark County 2006 rate of 22.8 teen pregnancies was well below and met the national goal of no more than 43 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-17 years.^{2,3,4}
- While the abortion rate has declined slightly, the birth rate is less than half of what it was in 1997.^{2,3}
- During the time period from 2002 to 2006, the highest rates of teen births were among Hispanics, Blacks and Native Americans. The rates were five, two, and two times higher, respectively, than the 11.9 rate for Whites. Asian and Pacific Islanders had the lowest teen birth rate at 4.9 per 1,000.^{2,3}
- The large majority of teen births (90%) during the 2002 to 2006 time period were among Whites.^{2,3} White females represent about 88% of the females between 15 and 17 years of age in Clark County.⁵

What We Can Do:

- Promote positive communication between youth and adults. Connections to family and the community through strong family attachments, school programs, after-school activities, and youth organizations can positively influence teens and prevent teen pregnancy.¹
- Support comprehensive health education programs that include education on contraception and abstinence. This combination appears to be the most effective in preventing teen pregnancies.¹
- Support active teen involvement in youth development programs that promote skill-building in areas such as sense of self-worth, mastery, leadership, and relationships to help teens succeed.¹
- Support increased access to teen reproductive health services.⁶





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Year	Rates per 1,000 females aged 15-17			Number of Events			Total Females aged 15-17
	Pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Pregnancies	Births	Abortions	
1997	42.0	26.8	15.2	301	192	109	7,175
1998	39.2	23.8	15.4	291	177	114	7,424
1999	35.2	23.7	11.6	265	178	87	7,525
2000	32.3	18.7	13.6	245	142	103	7,598
2001	24.4	14.0	10.4	190	109	81	7,775
2002	23.8	13.8	10.0	190	110	80	7,995
2003	20.3	9.9	10.4	166	81	85	8,161
2004	21.7	11.9	9.8	181	99	82	8,330
2005	21.3	12.1	9.2	183	104	79	8,579
2006	22.8	12.4	10.5	203	110	93	8,888

Teen Birth Rate by Race/Ethnicity Clark County, 2002-2006

Race/ Ethnicity	Birth		Number of Events	Total Females aged 15-17
	Rate per 1,000	95% CI*		
Total	12.0	(11.0, 13.1)	504	41,954
White	11.9	(10.8, 13.0)	453	38,161
Black	23.6	(15.4, 34.5)	26	1,103
Native American	24.4	(12.2, 43.5)	11	451
Asian and Pacific Islander	4.9	(2.5, 8.8)	11	2,239
Hispanic	53.7	(44.9, 63.7)	131	2,440

*If two confidence intervals overlap, there is generally no significant difference between these rates.

Technical Notes: The teen pregnancy rate is the number of pregnancies per 1,000 adolescent females aged 15-17 in Clark County per year. It is calculated by adding together teen births and teen abortions (and does not include fetal deaths).

Sources: (1) Washington State Department of Health. (December 2007). The Health of Washington State: Adolescent Pregnancy and Childbearing. Olympia, WA. Retrieved May 2008 from <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hws/TOC2007.shtm>. (2) Vital Registration System, Annual Statistics Files, Births 1980-2006. [Data file]. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. (3) Public Health: Seattle & King County, Epidemiology, Planning, & Evaluation. (1991-2008). VistaPHw 7.3.0.4, 2008 [Computer software for public health assessment]. Seattle, WA. (4) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (November 2000). Family Planning (Objective 9-9: Reduce pregnancies among adolescent females to 43 per 1,000). In Healthy people 2010, Volume II (second edition). Washington, DC. Retrieved May 2008 from <http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/tableofcontents.htm>. (5) 2004 Population Estimates by Age, Gender, Race, and Hispanic Origin. [Data file]. Olympia, WA: Office of Financial Management. Retrieved June 2008 from <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/race/2004estimates.asp> (6) Washington State Department of Health. (December 2007). The Health of Washington State: Unintended Pregnancy. Olympia, WA. Retrieved May 2008 from <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hws/TOC2007.shtm>.

