

Births to Teens

DEFINITION

Births to teens is the number of births to teen girls ages 15 to 17 per 1,000 teen girls. Data are reported by the mother's place of residence, not the place of the infant's birth.

SIGNIFICANCE

Teen pregnancy and parenting threatens the development of teen parents as well as their children. Teen mothers are less likely to have the financial resources, social supports and parenting skills needed for healthy child development.¹ Children born to teen parents are more likely to suffer poor health, experience learning and behavior problems, live in poverty, go to prison, and become teen parents themselves.²

While teen pregnancy occurs in families of all income levels, teens who give birth are more likely to come from economically-disadvantaged families and communities.^{3,4} Teen mothers are more likely to have mothers with low educational attainment and to have mothers or older sisters who became pregnant as an adolescent.⁵

Poor academic achievement is a key predictor of teen pregnancy.⁶ Half of teen mothers drop out of school before becoming pregnant.⁷ Nationally, only one third of teen mothers go on to

receive a high school diploma.⁸ Being a teen parent seriously limits subsequent education and employment prospects.⁹ Teen parents are more likely to delay or not finish school, putting them at greater risk of facing unemployment, low-wage jobs, and poverty.¹⁰

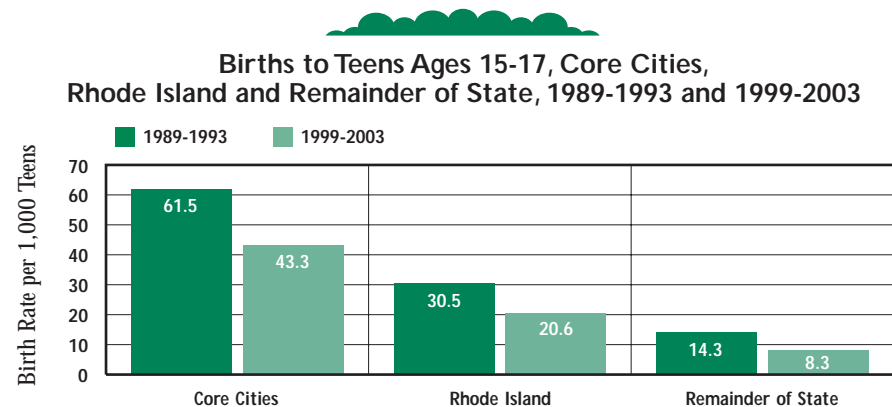
Of all births to teens ages 15 to 17 in Rhode Island from 1999-2003, 74% occurred in the core cities. Between 1999 and 2003 in Rhode Island, 60% of pregnancies in girls ages 15 to 19 resulted in live births, 37% resulted in abortion, and 3% resulted in miscarriage.¹¹

Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 teens ages 15-17)		
	1996	2001
RI	25	22
US	33	25
National Rank*	26th	
New England Rank**	6th	

*1st is best; 50th is worst

**1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: *KIDS COUNT data book: State profiles of child well-being 2004*. (2004). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 1989-1993 and 1999-2003. Data for 2002-2003 are provisional.

◆ Over the past decade, teen birth rates for Rhode Island girls ages 15 to 17 declined in all geographic areas. The rate decreased by 32% for the state as a whole and the core cities compared to a 44% decrease in the remainder of the state. Despite the decreases, teen girls in the core cities become pregnant and give birth at five times the rate of girls of the same age in the remainder of the state.¹²

Repeat Births to Teens, Ages 12 to 19, Rhode Island, 1999-2003

Age	Total Number of Births	Number of Repeat Births	Percent
12-14	97	0	0%
15-17	2,028	185	9%
18-19	3,942	1,038	26%
Total	6,067	1,223	20%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 1999-2003. Data for 2002-2003 are provisional.

◆ Between 1999 and 2003 in Rhode Island, one in five teen births (20%) was to a teen who was already a mother. For girls ages 15-17, 9% of births were repeat births and for girls ages 18-19, more than one in four (26%) were repeat births.¹³ Repeat births can further impede a teen mother's ability to finish school and keep a job.¹⁴

Table 20.

Births to Teens, Ages 15-17, Rhode Island, 1999-2003

CITY/TOWN	# OF TEEN GIRLS AGES 15-17	# OF BIRTHS TO TEENS AGES 15-17	1999-2003 RATE PER 1,000 TEENS
Barrington	2,130	2	0.9
Bristol	1,860	15	8.1
Burrillville	1,785	11	6.2
Central Falls	1,875	122	65.1
Charlestown	670	10	14.9
Coventry	3,210	43	13.4
Cranston	6,890	93	13.5
Cumberland	3,125	27	8.6
East Greenwich	1,415	5	3.5
East Providence	4,565	46	10.1
Exeter	725	7	9.7
Foster	445	1	NA
Glocester	1,145	5	4.4
Hopkinton	870	8	9.2
Jamestown	565	3	5.3
Johnston	2,295	22	9.6
Lincoln	2,190	11	5.0
Little Compton	295	0	NA
Middletown	1,370	6	4.4
Narragansett	1,265	4	3.2
New Shoreham	80	0	NA
Newport	1,990	54	27.1
North Kingstown	2,660	11	4.1
North Providence	2,470	32	13.0
North Smithfield	1,015	4	3.9
Pawtucket	6,820	217	31.8
Portsmouth	1,680	8	4.8
Providence	17,055	860	50.4
Richmond	815	6	7.4
Scituate	1,215	6	4.9
Smithfield	1,750	9	5.1
South Kingstown	2,750	22	8.0
Tiverton	1,345	10	7.4
Warren	1,000	4	4.0
Warwick	7,910	77	9.7
West Greenwich	540	2	3.7
West Warwick	2,455	47	19.1
Westerly	2,170	23	10.6
Woonsocket	4,240	195	46.0
<i>Core Cities</i>	<i>34,435</i>	<i>1,495</i>	<i>43.4</i>
<i>Remainder of State</i>	<i>64,215</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>8.3</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>98,650</i>	<i>2,028</i>	<i>20.6</i>

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 1999-2003. Data for 2002-2003 are provisional.

Core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

NA: Rates were not calculated for cities and towns with fewer than 500 teen girls ages 15-17, as rates for small denominators are statistically unreliable.

The denominator is the number of girls ages 15 through 17 according to Census 2000, multiplied by five to compute a rate over five years, 1999-2003.

References for Indicator

- ^{1,8} *KIDS COUNT data book: State profiles in child well-being 2004*. (2004). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- ² *The state of America's children yearbook 2001*. (2001). Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund.
- ^{3,5,10} Shore, R. (2003). *KIDS COUNT indicator brief: Preventing teen births*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- ⁴ Manlove, J., Terry-Human, E., Papillo, A., Franzetta, K., Williams, S. & Ryan, S. (2002). *Preventing teenage pregnancy, childbearing, and sexually transmitted diseases: What the research shows*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.
- ⁶ *Why the education community cares about preventing teen pregnancy: Notes from the field*. (2002). Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
- ^{7,14} *Not just another single issue: Teen pregnancy prevention's link to other critical social issues*. (February 2002). Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
- ⁹ Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2003). *America's children: Key national indicators of well-being 2003*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- ^{11,12,13} Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 1989-2003. Data for 2002-2003 are provisional.