

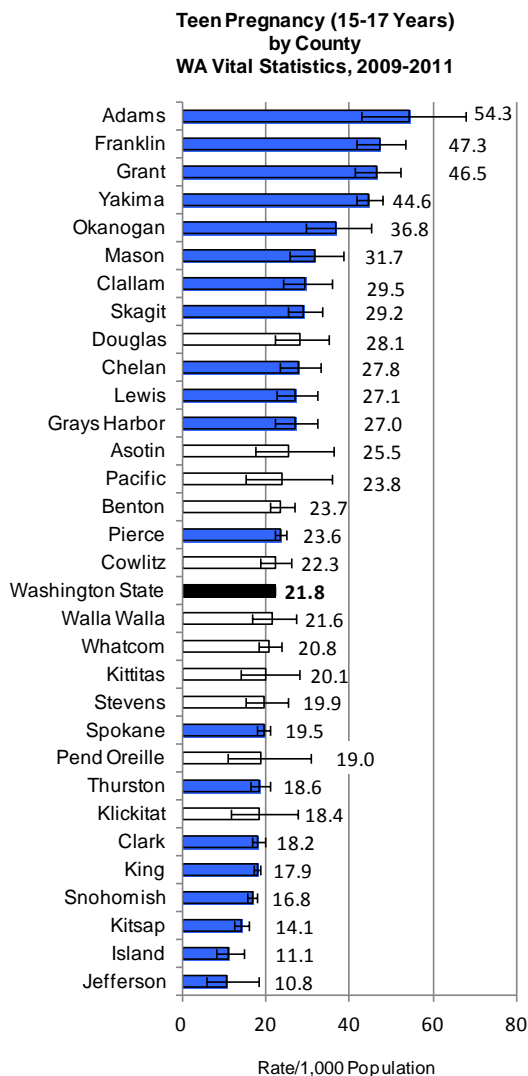
# Teen Pregnancy and Childbearing<sup>a</sup>

## Key Findings

- Washington's teen pregnancy rate in 2011 was 19.4 per 1,000 women ages 15-17 years. This represented 2,256 pregnancies. The most recent national rate available is the 2008 teen pregnancy rate of 39.5 per 1,000.<sup>1,2,c</sup>
- Washington's teen pregnancy rate was approximately one-third of the 1990 rate of 57.9 per 1,000 women ages 15-17.<sup>1</sup>
- About 60% of teen pregnancies resulted in live births for a total of 1,519 births in 2011.<sup>c</sup> The Washington teen birth rate in 2011 was 11.6 per 1,000 females ages 15-17, compared to the national rate of 17.3 per 1,000 women ages 15-17 years in 2010.<sup>1,3</sup>
- Reliable data on teen abortions by race and ethnicity are not available, so race and ethnicity data from live births only, are presented here. At present, we do not have reliable denominators on mother's race and ethnicity after 2011. For this reason data presented in this report are from 2009-2011. Teen birth rates are significantly higher in Hispanics, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black and Pacific Islander females when compared to Whites and Asians. Hispanics have the highest rates and Asians the lowest.<sup>c</sup>
- Washington meets the Healthy People 2020 objective of no more than 36.2 pregnancies per 1,000 women 15-17 years old.<sup>4</sup>

**Definition:** Teen pregnancies are estimated by adding together reported births, induced abortions, and fetal losses for women ages 15-17 years. Spontaneous abortions (miscarriages) occurring prior to 20 weeks gestation are not included because we have no way of accurately estimating them.

## County<sup>1,b</sup>

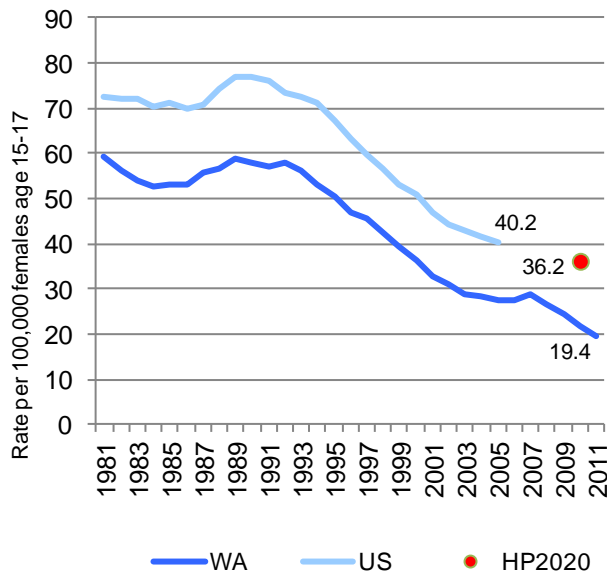


\* County rate not calculated for Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, San Juan, Skamania, Wahkiakum and Whitman counties. These counties had less than 5 adolescent pregnancies, or the relative standard error of the rate was  $\geq 30\%$

■ Significantly different from state rate at  $p < 0.05$

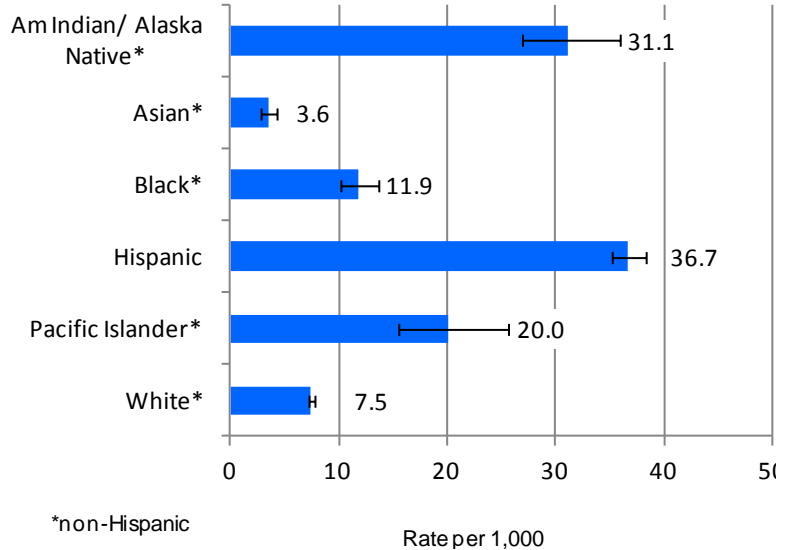
**Time Trend** <sup>1,2</sup>

**Teen Pregnancy (Ages 15-17)  
WA State and US Vital Statistics  
1981-2011**



**Race and Ethnicity (Live Births)** <sup>5,d</sup>

**Teen Pregnancy (15-17)  
Maternal Race/Ethnicity  
WA Birth Certificate, 2009-2011**



**Data Sources**

1. *Washington State Pregnancy Data: Vital Registration System Annual Statistical Files, Births 1980-2011.* (2012). Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health.
2. Ventura SJ, Curtin SC, Abma JC, Henshaw SK. Estimated pregnancy rates for the United States, 1990–2008. *National vital statistics reports*; Vol 60 no 7. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2012. Website: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60\\_07.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60_07.pdf).
3. Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Ventura SJ, et.al. Births: Final data for 2010. *National vital statistics reports*, vol 61 no 1. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2012. Website: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61\\_01.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_01.pdf)
4. Department of Health and Human Services (US). *Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health.* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Washington DC: US Government Printing Office; November 2000.
5. Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Department of Health, Washington State Birth Certificate data 2009-11: *Vital Statistics 2012.* Population data accessed via CHAT February 2013.

**Endnotes**

- a. In this section, teens are 15-17 year olds unless otherwise indicated. Analysis was restricted to 15-17 year olds because they are school age. Pregnancy among women younger than 15 is a rare event and women older than 17 are at a lower risk for poor birth outcomes. For more information, see the Health of Washington State Chapter on Infant Mortality: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5500/MCH-IM2012.pdf>
- b. Statistical significance based on Z-test at  $p < .05$
- c. Teen pregnancy rates are based on live births, abortions, and reported fetal deaths per 1,000 females ages 15-17. Birth rates are based on live births per 1,000 females ages 15-17.
- d. As of the time when this document was updated there were no population data available on statewide race and ethnicity counts for the year 2012. Therefore the most recent data available are presented here.

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