



Teen Births Wyoming, 2007-2011

Wyoming Department of Health

2014

Fast Facts:

The Wyoming teen birth rate is 35.1 per 1,000 girls age 15-19, above the national average of 31.3.¹

Teen births cost Wyoming taxpayers \$23 million annually; nationally, they cost \$10.9 billion.²

Teens were more likely than adults to begin prenatal care after the first trimester, placing their infants at greater risk of preterm birth and other health complications.⁴

Teen birth rates have declined from 62.0 per 1,000 teen girls age 15-19 in 1991, to a 2011 rate of 31.3.¹ Rural teens account for only 20% of teen births, but have the highest birth rate, 42.9 per 1,000 girls age 15-19, compared to more populous areas. Teen births cost taxpayers \$10.9 billion annually in the US.²

Maternal health³

Fewer than 40% of teen mothers graduate high school by age 22. Half of teen mothers live in poverty by the time their child is 3. Over half of teen mothers use public benefits in the year after their pregnancy and birth.

Infant health^{4, 5, 6}

Teen mothers more often smoke during pregnancy and have delayed prenatal care, leading to increased:

- preterm birth
- low birth weight infants
- Neonatal and infant deaths

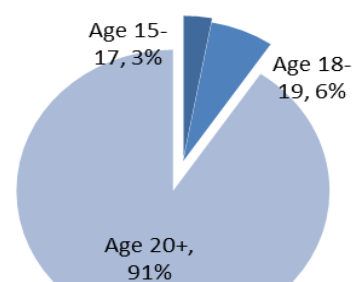
Children of teen mothers have a greater chance of being incarcerated or becoming teen parents.

Teen Births in Wyoming:

From 2007 to 2010, Wyoming had the fifth largest decrease in teen births in the nation; a drop of 22%.¹ In 2011, the Wyoming teen birth rate was 35.1 per 1,000 girls age 15-19, above the national rate.

Though they make up less than 10% of Wyoming births (Figure 1), teen births cost taxpayers \$23 million annually due to teen mothers utilization of child welfare and public aid, low educational attainment, and high incarceration rates among their male children.²

Figure 1. Percent of births by age, Wyoming 2007-2011

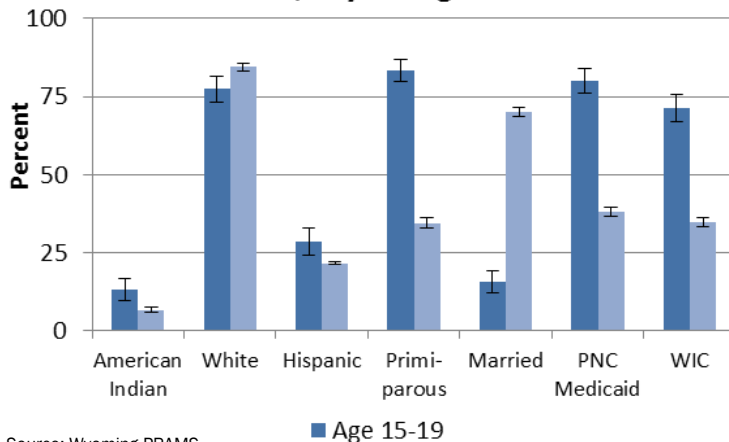


Source: Wyoming PRAMS

Compared with adults, teen mothers were more often:

- Non-white
- First time mothers
- Unmarried
- Enrolled in Medicaid during prenatal care (PNC)
- Enrolled in WIC during pregnancy (Figure 2)

Figure 2: Demographics of Teen & Adult Births, Wyoming 2007-2011



Source: Wyoming PRAMS

Health Impact of Teen Births

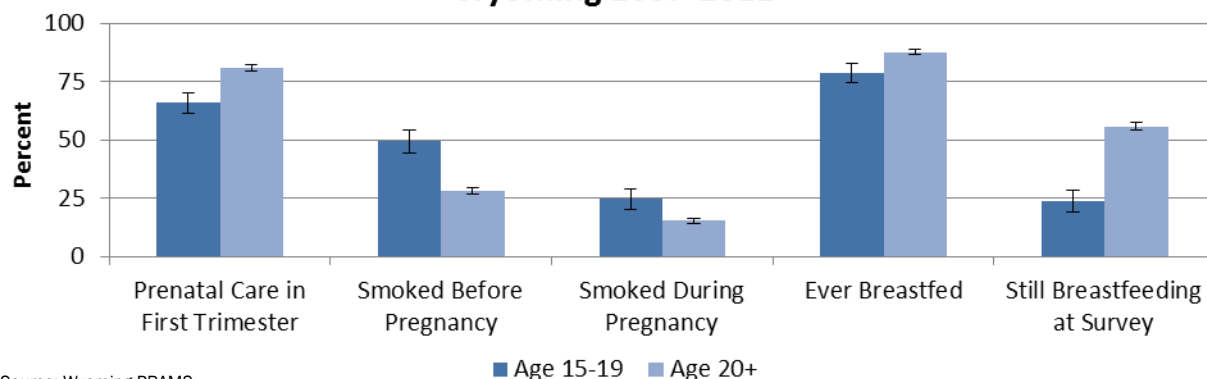
Teen births result in adverse outcomes for both mothers and babies, including complications at birth. Among teens, 26% had a low birth weight infant, <2,500 grams, while 24% of adults had low birth weight infants. Twenty percent of teens and 18% of adults had preterm infants, <37 weeks gestation. Teens were more likely to have negative

health behaviors before, during, and after pregnancy when compared to adult women. These included:

- Beginning prenatal care after the first trimester
- Smoking before pregnancy
- Smoking during pregnancy
- Not beginning to breastfeed
- Shorter breastfeeding duration (Figure 3)

Late prenatal care and smoking during pregnancy affect both weight and gestational age at birth. Among teens who become pregnant, early and appropriate prenatal care can improve birth outcomes.⁴ Reducing the number of teen pregnancies improves the health of women, infants, and

Figure 3: Health Behaviors Among Teens & Adults, Wyoming 2007-2011



What is PRAMS?

The Wyoming Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a surveillance project of the Wyoming Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Wyoming PRAMS collects Wyoming-specific, population-based data on maternal attitudes and experiences before, during and shortly after pregnancy. The goal of the PRAMS project is to improve the health of mothers and infants by reducing adverse outcomes such as low birth weight, infant mortality and morbidity, and maternal morbidity. To learn more about Wyoming PRAMS, visit our website: <http://www.health.wyo.gov/familyhealth/mchept/prams.html>

References:

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- 2) Counting It Up: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Wyoming in 2008. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (2011). Accessed at <http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org/costs> in May 2013.
- 3) Why it Matters: Teen Childbearing, Education, and Economic Wellbeing. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, July 2012. Accessed at www.thenationalcampaign.org/why-it-matters/pdf/childbearing-education-economicwellbeing.pdf
- 4) Debiec KE, Paul KJ, Mitchell CM, Hitti JE (2010). Inadequate prenatal care and risk of preterm delivery among adolescents: a retrospective study over 10 years. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 203, 122e1-122e6.
- 5) Mathews TJ, MacDorman MF (2013). Infant Mortality Statistics from the 2009 Period Linked Birth/Infant Death Data Set. *National Vital Statistics reports*, 61 (8). National Centers of Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD.
- 6) East PL, Reyes BT, Horn EJ (2007). Association Between Adolescent Pregnancy and a Family History of Teenage Births. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 39 (2), 108-115.



Public Health Division
PRAMS
Wyoming Department of Health
6101 Yellowstone Road,
Suite 420
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-5769
Fax: (307) 777-8687
E-mail: PRAMS@wyo.gov

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