



Teen Births Fact Sheet Wyoming, 2012-2015

Wyoming Department of Health

2018

Fast Facts:

In 2016, the Wyoming teen birth rate was 26.2 per 1,000 girls age 15-19¹¹; above the United States provisional estimate of 20.3 per 1,000 for 2016.¹²

In 2010, the estimated cost of teen births to Wyoming taxpayers was \$20 million.⁶ In 2010, the estimated cost to the nation was \$9.4 billion.⁶

Fewer teens receive early prenatal care as compared to women aged 20 or older. Their infants are at higher risk of low birthweight and infant mortality than infants of older women.⁹

Teen Births in the United States

Teen birth rates¹ continue to decline nationally. Rates dropped from 41.5 per 1,000 girls age 15-19 (2007)², to 22.3 per 1,000 (2015).³

While rural teen births account for only about 20% of all U.S. teen births⁴, in 2015, the teen birth rate in rural counties (30.9 per 1,000) continued to exceed rates in both medium/small urban counties (24.3 births per 1,000) and large urban counties (18.9 per 1,000) across the nation.⁵

Teen births cost U.S. taxpayers (federal, state, and local) at least \$9.4 billion dollars in 2010.⁶

Economic and Social Impact

According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy⁷:

- Fifty-one percent (51%) of girls who become teen mothers get a high school diploma by the age of 22.
- Nearly two-thirds (67%) of

teen mothers who live on their own are living in poverty.

- Less than one quarter (24%) of teen mothers receive any child support payments.

Infant health

More teen mothers report smoking⁸ during pregnancy and delayed prenatal care⁹; factors that may increase their risk of a preterm or low birthweight infant. Higher rates of infant mortality are also associated with teen births.⁹

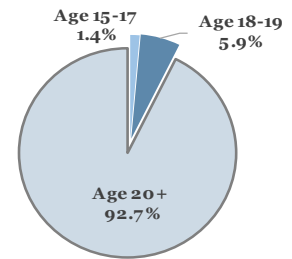
Children of teen mothers may have more difficulties in school and are twice as likely to experience child abuse and neglect as compared to children of older mothers.¹⁰

Teen Births in Wyoming

Teen births account for only 7.3% of the total births in Wyoming (Figure 1), yet in 2010, teen births cost taxpayers about \$ 20 million dollars.⁶

Wyoming teen birth rates declined by nearly half

Figure 1. Percent of births by age WY PRAMS 2012-2015



(47%) between 2007 (49.6 births per 1,000) and 2016 (26.2 births per 1,000).¹¹

While substantial progress has been made, Wyoming's teen birth rate is higher than the U.S. 2016 provisional rate of 20.3 births per 1,000 girls.¹²

The percent of teen births varies by race and ethnicity (Figure 2) and when compared to adults (Figure 3), teen mothers in Wyoming were more often:

- First-time mothers
- Not married
- Enrolled in WIC and or Medicaid during their pregnancy

Figure 2. Wyoming Teen Births (Age 15-19) by Race and Ethnicity WY PRAMS 2012-2015

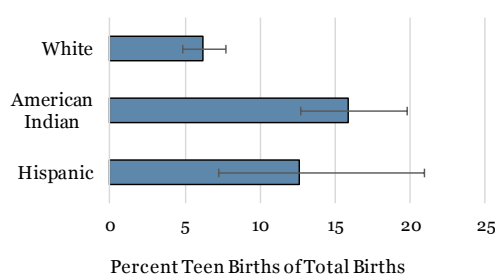
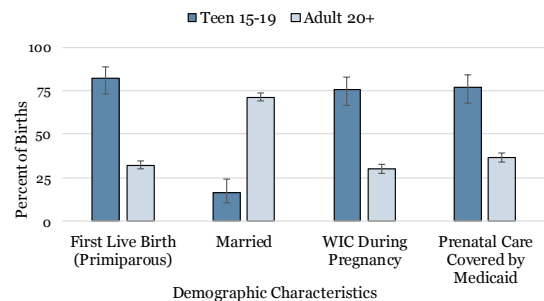


Figure 3. Demographic Characteristics of Teen & Adults Births, WY PRAMS 2012-2015



The Health Impact of Teen Births

Babies born to teen moms in Wyoming have a higher risk of being born too small (low birth-weight, at <2,500 grams) and have an increased risk of infant mortality (not living until their first birthday) as compared to babies of older moms.⁹

however no difference was observed for smoking during the third trimester of pregnancy when compared to older moms.

Smoking during pregnancy affects both birthweight and gestational age at birth.

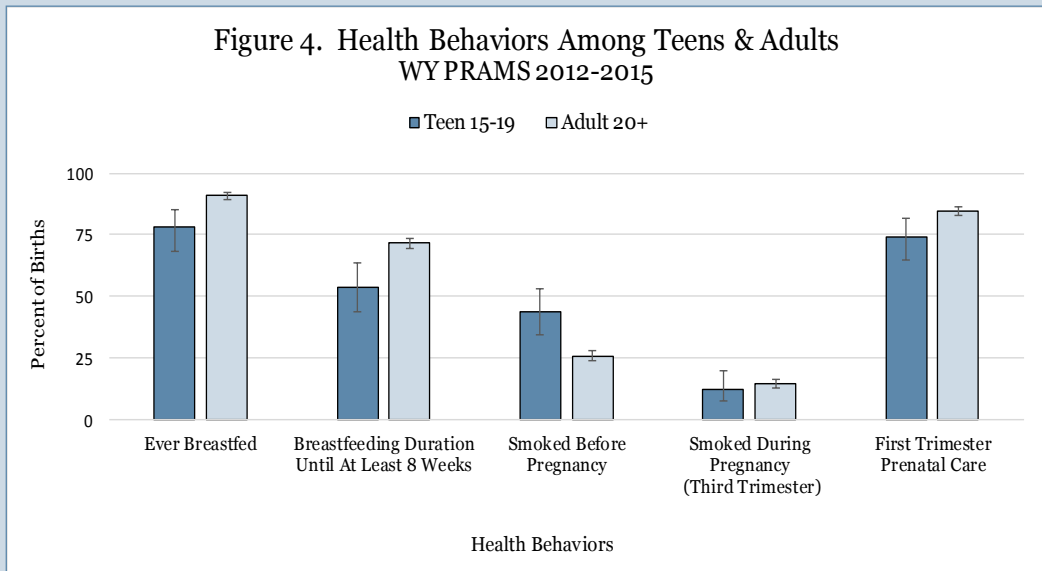
Early and appropriate prenatal care leads to better birth outcomes for women of all ages.

Reducing the number of teen pregnancies in Wyoming improves the health of women, infants, and communities.

Figure 4 provides data from Wyoming PRAMS (2012-2015) on health behaviors before, during, and after pregnancy among teens and adult women.

Fewer teens initiate and continue breastfeeding until at least 8 weeks after birth.

Teens report higher rates of smoking before pregnancy,



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: <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/chronic-disease-and-maternal-child-health-epidemiology-unit/pregnancy-risk-assessment-monitoring-system-prams/data/>

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