

Fast Facts: Trends in Births by Teens

Wisconsin Women & Health Disparities

Down ↓
66%

In Wisconsin and nationally, teen births continue to decline.

OVERALL TRENDS IN STATE AND NATIONAL TEEN BIRTH RATES

- ◆ Teen birth rates are at an historic low.
- ◆ Wisconsin's **teen birth rate declined by 66%** over the quarter-century from 1991 to 2016.*
- ◆ This is on par with the trend nationally, with a 67% decline over the period.

Teen Birth Rate: Percent Change 1991-2016 and 2015-2016

	WI	US
Change in rate to females ages 15-19 (1991 to 2016)	-66%	-67%
Change in rate to females ages 15-19 (2015 to 2016)	-7%	-9%

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health: Wisconsin Adolescent Reproductive Health Facts. <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/facts-and-stats/national-and-state-data-sheets/adolescent-reproductive-health/wisconsin/index.html>, accessed 3/4/19.

*2016 is the most current year for which data were provided.

41st

Wisconsin's teen birth rate is among the lowest in the nation.

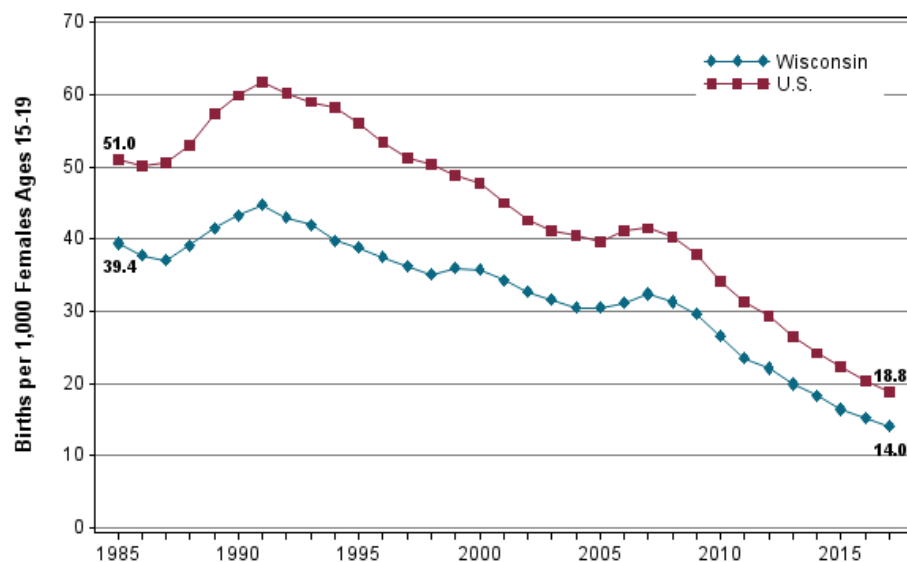
*51st denotes the lowest rate (best), putting WI in the top quartile.

In 2017, Wisconsin's the teen birth rate was **14.0 teen births** per 1,000 births to females aged 15 to 19 and below national teen birth rate of **18.8**. As noted the teen birth rate has been in decline since the early 1990's.

Wisconsin's teen birth rate is among the lowest in the nation. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ranked Wisconsin **41st*** teen birth rates among females ages 15-19 (top quartile).

*51st denotes the lowest rate (best) and 1 denotes highest (worst). Source: Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Stats of the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Birth Data 2017, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/wisconsin/wisconsin.htm> (accessed 3/4/19).

Teen Birth Rates, Wisconsin and U.S., 1985-2017



Source: Reprinted from Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) website, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/teen-birth/index.htm>, accessed 4/29/19.

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Over the past decade, teen birth rates have declined precipitously for **African American**, **Native American** and **Hispanic** teens—declining by as much as much as 50%.

Milwaukee has also seen success with initiatives to reduce teen birth rates.

WISCONSIN TEEN BIRTH RATES BY RACE & ETHNICITY

STATEWIDE

The trend in Wisconsin toward a lower teen birth rates is seen for all racial and ethnic groups.

While the gap has narrowed significantly between **white** teens and teens belonging to **other racial and ethnic groups**, there are still large disparities.

African American teens have had the highest teen birth rate for more than a decade having overtaken the rate for Native American teens. In 2016, the gap was equivalent to a difference of 38 births per 1,000 between **white** and **African American** teens.

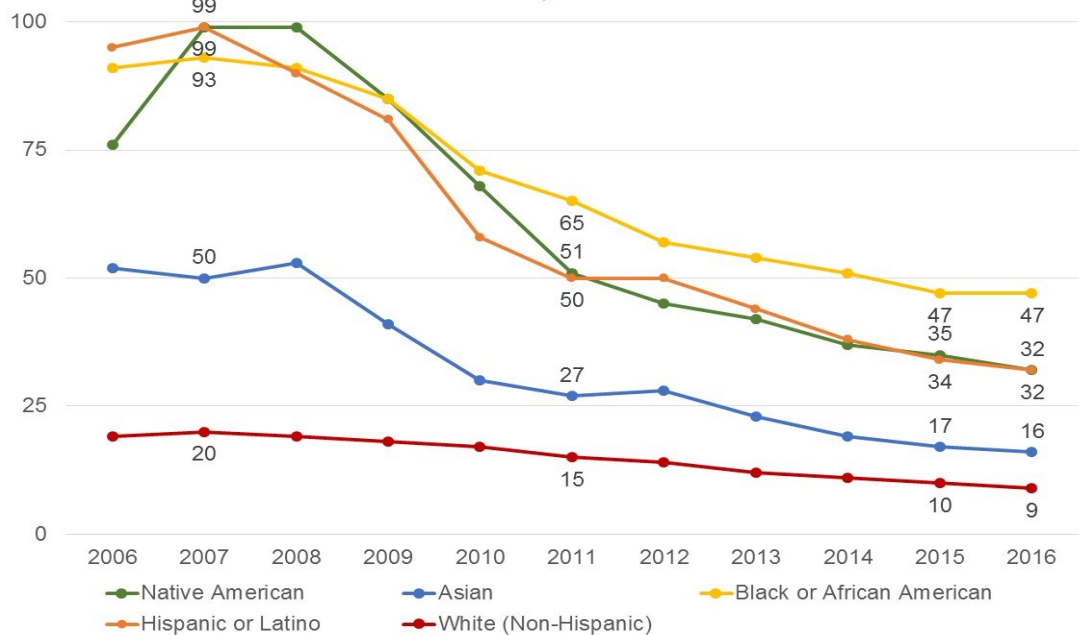
Data Source: The Annie E Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center, Data on other racial/ethnic groups were not available. Note: Comparable Wisconsin data on teen birth rates by racial and ethnic group are not publicly available from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) database.

MILWAUKEE

Reducing teen pregnancy has been a majority public health issue in Milwaukee for more than a decade. In 2008 the city and community partners began a pregnancy initiative when Milwaukee's teen birthrate of 62.9 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 17 was second only to Philadelphia among the nation's largest cities.

In 2017, as reported in the Journal Sentinel, "The African-American teen birth rate also dropped in 2016, reaching a historic low of 18.6 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 17. During last year, the rate for Latino teens increased to 21.4, and the rate for white teens increased to 8.5." (Mary Spicuzza, "Milwaukee's teen birth rate reaches historic low," Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Nov. 1, 2017.)

Teen Birth Rate by 1,000 Births by Race & Ethnicity Wisconsin, 2006-2016



Source: The Annie E Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center, Teen births by race and ethnicity in Wisconsin, 2006-2016, <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/> (accessed, 5/7/19)

About the Women's Council Wisconsin Women's Council promotes initiatives to empower women, conducts research on the status of women, and engages in unique partnerships to address barriers and inequalities affecting Wisconsin women. The Council is comprised of a 15-member board appointed by the Governor and Legislative leaders. Mary Jo Baas, Chair Christine Lidbury, Executive Director • Tayler Palkowski, Research Assistant