

NEVADA: TEEN PREGNANCY

December 2013



JUST THE FACTS

Teen pregnancy and childbearing are closely linked to various economic and social issues, such as education, income and poverty, child wellbeing, and health. Adolescent childbearing also carries considerable public costs. Teen mothers are less likely to finish high school than women who delay pregnancy and parenthood. Close to half of teen mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 live below the poverty line and nearly two thirds depend on public assistance within the first year of their child's life. Children of teen mothers are more likely to suffer health and cognitive disadvantages, come in contact with the child welfare and correctional systems, live in poverty, drop out of high school and become teen parents themselves.

While states have experienced significant declines in recent years, teen pregnancy and birth rates in the United States remain among the highest in the industrialized world. Nationwide, nearly three in 10 teens will become pregnant at least once by their 20th birthday. One in five births to girls ages 15 to 19 is not the teen's first.

Disparities Exist

A closer look at births to teens in Nevada finds that the majority are to older teens (18 and 19 year olds); the rate among older teens is more than three times higher than that among younger

teens. Birth rates vary significantly by race and ethnicity, too. The birth rates for black and Hispanic teens are more than twice that for non-Hispanic white and American Indian teens. Similar disparities are reflected at the national level.

Geographic variations in Nevada teen birth rates largely appear to follow national trends. A recent study by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy found that while higher numbers of teen births occur in major urban areas, rural regions generally see higher teen birth rates—and account for a disproportionate share of all teen births. In fact, the study shows that as the level of urbanization increases, the teen birth rate decreases.

For More Information

State and local agencies and others are working to reduce teen pregnancy in Nevada. Federal funding is also available for teen pregnancy prevention activities. See NCSL's other fact sheets for additional information on how teen pregnancy relates to various issues, as well as policy options for the state to consider.

- Teen Pregnancy: Impact on Education and the Economy
- Teen Pregnancy in Nevada: Connection to Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice
- Teen Pregnancy in Nevada: State Policy Options

Resources

Teen Pregnancy Prevention, National Conference of State Legislatures; <http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=23141>

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

www.thenationalcampaign.org

The 66,069 children born to Nevada teens between 1991 and 2008 **cost taxpayers approximately \$1.3 billion** over that period. During the same period, the state teen birth rate **declined nearly 30 percent, saving taxpayers an estimated \$44 million** in 2008 alone.

Source: "Counting it Up: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Nevada in 2008," The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, June 2011.

\$84 million

The public cost of teen childbearing in Nevada in 2008.

This includes the following costs associated with the children of teen parents:

- **\$8 million** for public health care (Medicaid and CHIP)
- **\$11 million** for child welfare
- **\$14 million** for higher rates of incarceration
- **\$30 million** in lost tax revenue due to lower earnings and spending

In 2008, teen childbearing in Nevada cost taxpayers at least \$84 million. Forty-nine percent of these costs were paid for by Nevada's state and local governments. Nationally, the public cost was close to \$11 billion. Due to declining teen birth rates, the national cost declined to \$9.4 billion in 2010, according to an updated analysis. The majority of the costs of teen childbearing are associated with the consequences children of teen mothers suffer, including reliance on public health care and the child welfare system, higher rates of incarceration, and lost tax revenue due to lower lifetime earnings and spending. Many of the financial costs associated with teen pregnancy and childbearing are well documented and outlined above. The human costs, however, are impossible to quantify. These are discussed in greater detail in accompanying briefs.

Source: *Counting ... 2008, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy*

Teen Pregnancy

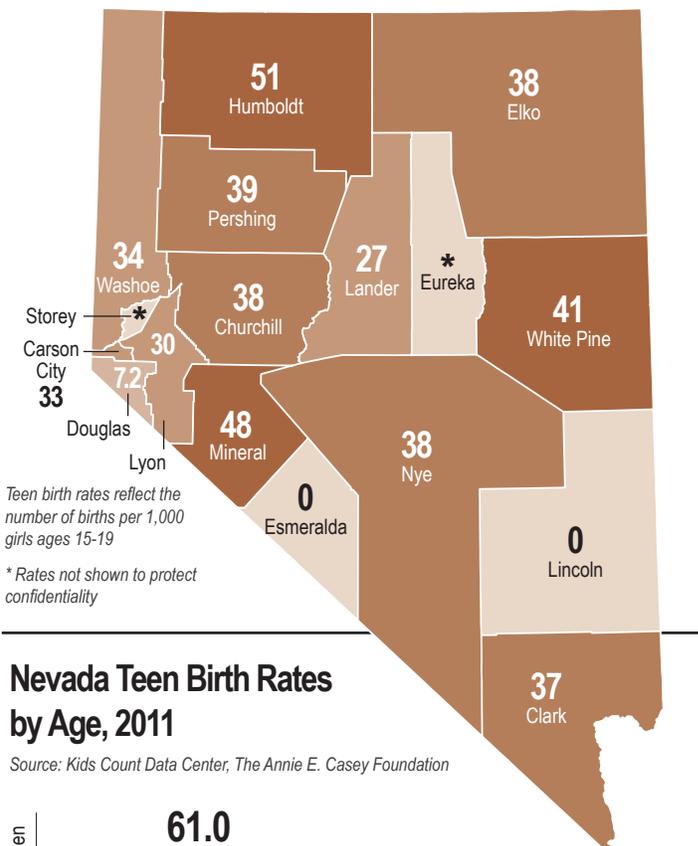
- **3,867 Nevada teens**, or approximately 45 of every 1,000 girls between the ages of 15 and 19, became pregnant in 2011.
- Although the state's teen pregnancy rate declined 41 percent between 1988 and 2008, **Nevada still had the fourth highest teen pregnancy rate in the nation in 2008**, the most recent year for which 50-state comparable data are available.

Teen Birth

- **Eight teens** give birth every day in Nevada.
- In 2011, **3,048** Nevadans between the ages of 15 and 19 gave birth.
- **621** of those births—about 20 percent of the total—were not the teen's first.
- Nevada had the **15th highest teen birth rate** in the United States in 2011.
- Between 2007 and 2011, the state's teen birth rate **declined by 30 percent**.

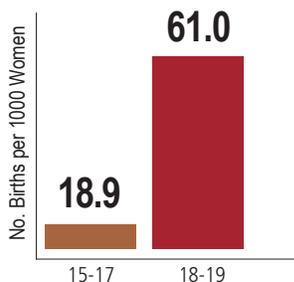
Teen Birth Rate by County, 2011

Source: Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, November 2013



Nevada Teen Birth Rates by Age, 2011

Source: Kids Count Data Center, The Annie E. Casey Foundation



Nevada Teen Birth Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2011

Source: Kids Count Data Center, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

