TEEN PREGNANCY IN MICHIGAN

The rate of pregnancy among adolescents has steadily decreased over the past 10 years (Figure I), reaching a historic low of 31.6 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years in 2015, the most recent year data are available. The pregnancy rate has fallen both among younger teens (15-17 years) and older teens (18-19) years, although older teens still account for the majority of pregnancies (75%).

Figure I: Pregnancy rate by maternal age in Michigan, 2006-2015

Disparities in Teen Childbearing

Despite improvements in the teen birth rate across all race and ethnicity groups, large disparities persist. In 2015, the teen birth rate among non-Hispanic black teens was 2.6 times higher than it was for non-Hispanic white teens (Figure II). Likewise, the birth rate among Hispanic teens was 2.1 times higher than non-Hispanic white teens. Additionally, non-Hispanic black and Hispanic teens who had a birth in 2015 were 48% and 25% more likely, respectively, to have had a previous live birth compared to non-Hispanic white teens (Figure III).

Figure II: Birth rate per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years, 2015

Geographic Variability of Teen Birth Rates

The teen birth rate varies substantially across the state of Michigan. In 2015, the live birth rate ranged from a low of 6.0 births per 1,000 teens in Washtenaw County to a high of 48.1 births per 1,000 teens in Iosco County. Among mid- to large-sized cities in Michigan, the areas with the highest teen birth rates in 2015 included Pontiac (57.6/1,000), Saginaw (49.8/1,000), Jackson (46.9/1,000), Inkster (45.6/1,000), Lansing (45.1/1,000), Muskegon (44.7/1,000), Detroit (43.7/1,000), and Flint (43.3/1,000). East Lansing and Ann Arbor had the lowest teen birth rates with 0.5 births/1,000 and 0.6 births/1,000, respectively.

2. 2010-2015 Files of Induced Abortions Occurring in Michigan, Division of Vital Records & Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
3. Vintage 2015 Bridged-race postcensal population estimates for July 1, 2010 - July 1, 2015. National Center for Health Statistics. † Pregnancy rates are based on the sum of live births, induced abortions, and estimated miscarriages as calculated from the model developed by C. Tietz and J. Bongaarts of the Population Council (20% of the live births and 10% of the abortions).
4 Geographies with fewer than six births were excluded due to unreliability of estimates.