



PEP UPDATE

Helping Hospitals Help Children through Paternity Establishment

Paternity Establishment Percentage (PEP) for Hospitals

The number of paternity establishments in a year divided by the number of born-out-of-wedlock births in the same year.

Kathy Scott- PEP Liaison

Kathy Scott is the PEP Liaison working for the Department of Human Services. She is available to answer paternity establishment questions. Please feel free to contact her at **517-373-0275** or [DHS -OCS-PEP](mailto:DHS-OCS-PEP)

Important Vital Records Contacts

Hospital staff can refer parents to the following Department of Community Health (DCH) telephone numbers:

1. To speak to a customer service rep about a vital record, call **517-335-8666**.
2. For general information or to get a vital record application, call **517-335-8656**.
3. Regarding changes or corrections to a birth or death record; call **517-335-8660** or email VRCustomerService@michigan.gov.
DCH should respond within two business days.

Dear hospital medical records staff,

Thank you for your continued efforts in helping Michigan's families to establish paternity! The number of children born to unmarried parents in Michigan grows each year, and we appreciate the essential role hospital staff play in maintaining the federally required 90% paternity establishment percentage (PEP) rate. By meeting or exceeding the 90% PEP rate, Michigan avoids financial penalties while earning federal incentive funds.

In 2011, Michigan experienced another low total birth rate of 110,536, but of those, 47,500 were children born to unmarried parents, a very high unmarried birth percentage of 43%. See Hospital Birthing Statistics: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/Hospital_Stats_CY_2010_354232_7.pdf).

Paternity establishment provides emotional, social and economic links between a father and child. Once paternity is established, a child gains legal rights and privileges, has a chance to develop a relationship with the father, and to develop a sense of identity and connection to the "other half" of his or her family. It may be important for the health of a child for doctors to have knowledge of the father's medical history. Recent studies indicate that children who have a relationship with their fathers are much more likely to live healthy and stable lives.

Thanks for your continuing efforts in establishing paternity for Michigan's children.
Marilyn F. Stephen, Director of the Michigan Office of Child Support

Helpful Websites...

Orchid Cellmark - DNA testing information: <https://www.orchidgenescreen.com//Default.aspx>

Hospital PEP statistics: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/Hospital_Stats_CY_2010_354232_7.pdf

Hospital Paternity Guide: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/PAT_ACK_Guide_June_2011_356774_7.pdf

Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS) – Search for dad's in the state prison system:
<http://www.state.mi.us/mdoc/asp/otis2.html>

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Michigan's Top Performing PEP Hospitals Year-End 2011		
Hospitals (5-500 Unwed Births)	County	PEP %
Aspirus Keweenaw	Houghton	88%
Huron Medical Center	Huron	85.5%
Hospitals (501-1000 Unwed Births)	County	PEP %
St. Mary's Health Care (Grand Rapids)	Kent	76.7%
Munson Medical Center	Grand Traverse	75.9%
Hospitals (Over 1000 Unwed Births)	County	PEP %
Beaumont Health System Royal Oak	Oakland	71.2%
Bronson Methodist Hospital	Kalamazoo	70.8%

10 Michigan Counties with Highest Births to Teens Ages 15-19 in Calendar Year 2009		
Michigan Total	12,076	
Wayne	3,422	
Kent	879	
Genesee	750	
Oakland	720	
Macomb	561	
Ingham	346	
Saginaw	339	
Muskegon	327	
Kalamazoo	316	
Berrien	259	

Footnotes: These data are based on three-year averages, with the latest year listed. Rates are not calculated for counties with occurrences that total less than six over the three-year period. NA represents the uncalculated rates.

Data Source: Michigan Department of Community Health, Vital Records and Health

Teen Pregnancy: The Importance of Prevention

During the past 20 years, the rate of teen girls having children has dropped by about 40%, but approximately 1,100 teen girls still give birth each day. Learn how to help break the Cycle of Teen Pregnancy. Preventing teen pregnancy is a priority because of the huge economic, social, and health costs on teen parents and their families.

1. Teen birth rates in the U.S. are unacceptably high, about 4% of all teenage girls give birth each year. Teen births represent 10% of the 4 million births each year. Teen birth rates in the U.S. are up to 9 times higher than in most other developed countries.
2. Hispanic and black teen girls are about 2–3 times more likely to give birth than white teen girls. The percentage of black teen girls ever having sex also is higher than for Hispanic and white teen girls, while the percentage of black teen boys ever having sex is greater than Hispanics or whites.
3. Girls born to teen parents are almost 33% more likely to become teen parents themselves, continuing the cycle of teen pregnancy.
4. About 50% of teen mothers get a high school diploma by age 22 compared with 90% of teen girls who do not give birth.
5. Teen childbearing costs U.S. taxpayers about \$9 billion each year.

Source - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/VitalSigns/TeenPregnancy/>