Health Outcomes - 5
Teenage Birth Rate

Indicator Definition: Live births per 1,000 women, ages 15-19.

Indicator Overview:
- Nearly two-thirds of births to women younger than age 18 are the result of unintended pregnancy.
- The children of teenage mothers are less likely to graduate from high school, more likely to suffer health problems, and more likely to encounter problems with the law.
- Only about 50 percent of teenage mothers earn a high school diploma by age 22, in contrast with nearly 90 percent of their peers who had not given birth during their teenage years.

Trends: Michigan’s teenage birth rate for ages 15-19 is on an overall decline from 2000 to 2009, falling to 32.7 from 40.2 births per 1,000 women. The teenage birth rate in Michigan has been consistently lower than that of the United States as a whole since the year 2000.

Health Disparities: Asian/Pacific Islander and Arab teenagers had the lowest birth rates, while American Indian teenagers had double the birth rate of White teenagers, and Hispanic teenagers nearly so. The birth rate for Black teenagers was over 2.5 times greater than that of White teenagers. According to a 2007 MDCH white paper, among White females ages 15-17, the five counties with the highest pregnancy rates were rural: Newaygo, Clare, Missaukee, Branch, and Gladwin. Among Black females ages 15-17, the five counties with the highest pregnancy rates during the same time period were those with sizeable urban centers: Jackson, Kalamazoo, Genesee, Muskegon, and Berrien.

Percent of Live Births, Ages 15-19, By Race and Ethnicity of Mother, Michigan Residents, 2009

Links to Other Sources of Information:
National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy: http://www.thenationalcampaign.org

Links to Related Public Health Programs:
Michigan’s Family Planning Program: http://www.michigan.gov/familyplanning