The rate of live births among adolescents in Detroit has steadily decreased over the past 10 years (Figure I), reaching a historic low of 43.7 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years in 2015, the most recent year data are available. Nevertheless, the teen birth rate remains significantly higher in Detroit compared to the state of Michigan as a whole.

Disparities in Teen Childbearing among Detroit Residents

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 2.5 times higher than it was for non-Hispanic white teens (Figure II). Likewise, the birth rate among Hispanic teens was 1.9 times higher than non-Hispanic white teens. Additionally, non-Hispanic black teens who had a birth in 2015 were 93% more likely to deliver a low birth weight infant (less than 2,500 grams) compared to non-Hispanic white teens (Figure III).

Geographic Variability of Teen Birth Rates

Among mid- to large-sized cities in Michigan, Detroit had the seventh highest teen birth rate in 2015. Within the city of Detroit, there is substantial variability among teen birth rates as well. The map to the right demonstrates the teen birth rate by zip code tabulation area among zip codes within or partially within Detroit, Hamtramck, or Highland Park. In 2015, the teen birth rate ranged from a low of 11.8 births per 1,000 teens in zip code 48216 to a high of 82.9 births per 1,000 teens in zip code 48208.

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.