MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
GRETCHEN WHITMER, GOVERNOR | ELIZABETH HERTEL, DIRECTOR

Teen Pregnancy and Live Birth in Michigan: 2020

Figure 1: Pregnancy rate by maternal age in Michigan, 2011-2020

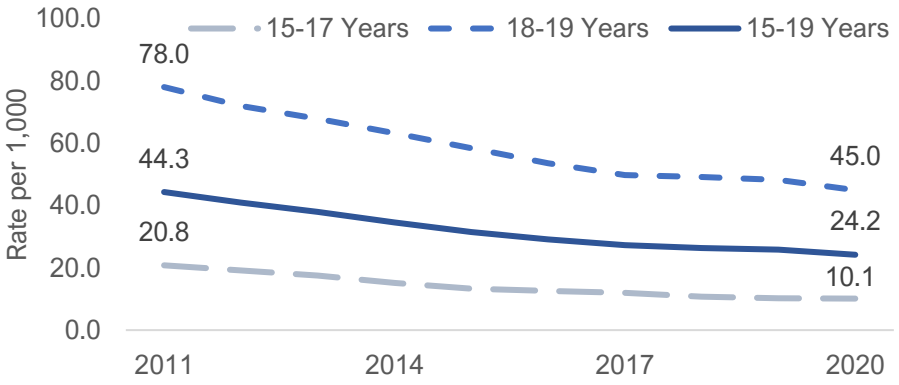
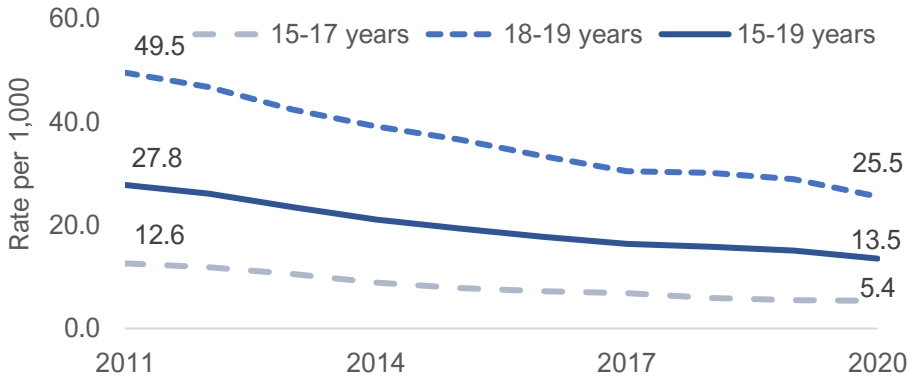


Figure 2: Live birth rate by maternal age in Michigan, 2011-2020



Michigan continues to see a decline in the rate of teen pregnancies in the past 10 years (Figure 1), reaching a historic low of 24.2 pregnancies[ł] per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years in 2020, a 46% decline from 2011. Live births to females aged 15-19 years have likewise declined by 50% over this period to an all-time low of 13.5 births per 1,000 in 2020 (Figure 2).

The pregnancy rates among younger teens (15-17 years) and older teens (18-19 years) have also steadily declined. Births to younger teens (15-17 years) dropped below 1,000 (991) for the first time ever, a 67% decline in births to this age group since 2010.

DISPARITIES IN TEEN CHILDBEARING

Despite reductions in the teen birth rate across all race and ethnic groups, large disparities persist. In 2020, the birth rate among non-Hispanic Black teens was 3.2 times higher than it was for non-Hispanic white teens (Figure 3). Likewise, Hispanic teens had a birth rate 2.4 times that of non-Hispanic white teens.

Figure 3: Birth rate per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years, Michigan, 2019

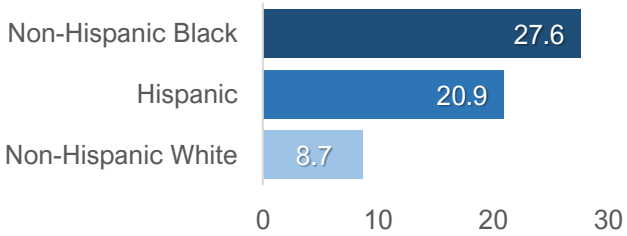
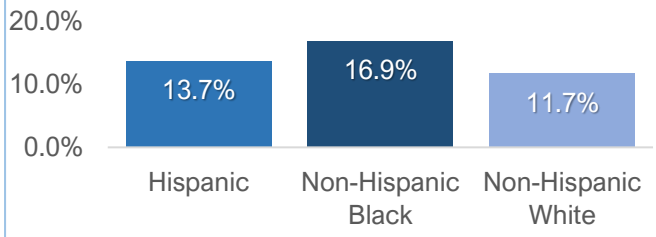


Figure 4: Percent of teen births that were repeat births, Michigan, 2020



Compared to non-Hispanic white teens who had live births in 2020, Hispanic teens were 17% and non-Hispanic Black teens were 44% percent more likely to have previously had a live birth (Figure 4).

ł *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)*

Geographic Variability of Teen Birth Counts and Rates: 2020

Counts

The counties (including the City of Detroit) with the highest number of live births to females aged 15-19 years are also Michigan's most highly populated. Counties with more than 200 total teen births include Detroit (705) and its suburban counties, Wayne (385), Oakland (220) and Macomb (205). Outside of metro Detroit, Kent County (312) and Genesee County (241) each are home to large cities: Grand Rapids and Flint, respectively.

The relatively large numbers of teen births in these counties do not necessarily correlate with a high teen birth rate. For example, Oakland County has one of the lowest teen birth rates in the state at 5.9 live births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years. ‡

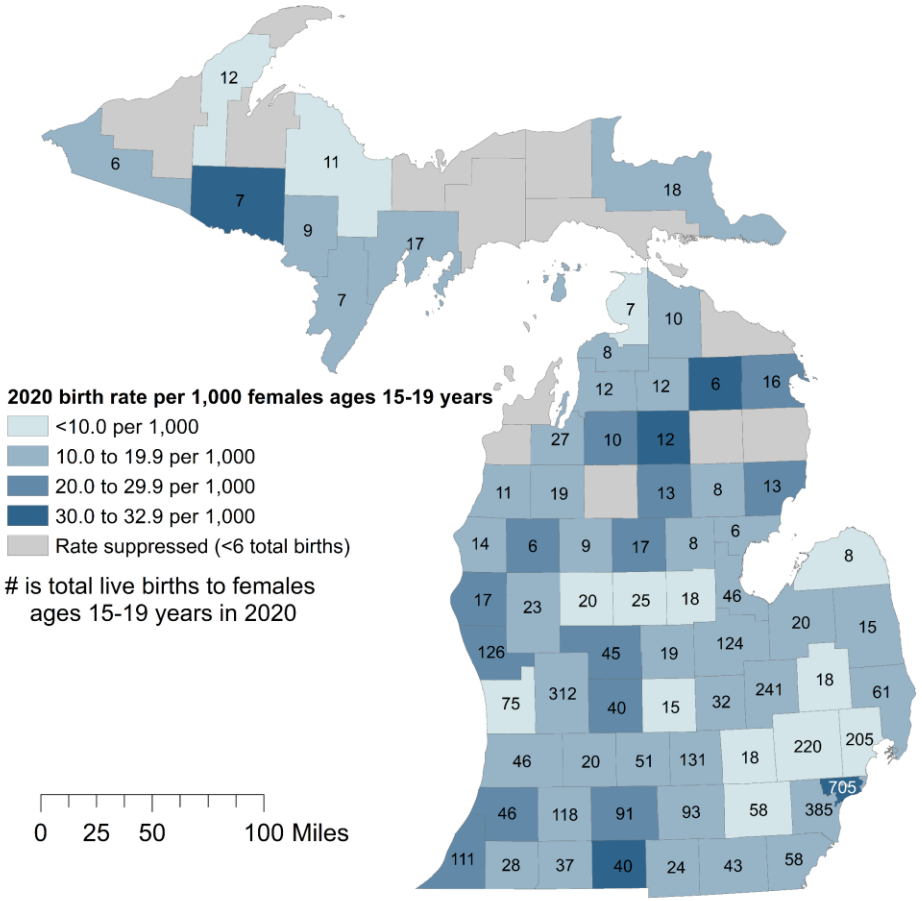
Rates

In 2020, counties in Michigan ranged from a low of 3.0 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years in Livingston County to a high of 32.9 births per 1,000 in Crawford County. Despite the relatively low number of teen births overall, rural Michigan counties are home to four of five counties with a teen birth rate above 30.0 per 1,000: Crawford (32.9), Montmorency (32.6), Branch (31.5) and Iron Counties (31.1). The City of Detroit also has a teen birth rate above 30.0 per 1,000 (32.7).

County-level reporting can mask relatively high birth rates among Michigan's small cities, which had the highest city-level teen birth rates in 2020. In 2020, the five cities with the highest teen birth rates were: Benton Harbor (108.8/1,000), Muskegon (67.2/1,000), Monroe (65.0/1,000), Saginaw (44.6/1,000) and Pontiac (44.0/1,000), each of which has a total population under 60,000 people.

By contrast, of Michigan's six cities with a population over 100,000, only Detroit is among the 10 highest city-level teen birth rates, while the rest range from 1.8 per 1,000 in Ann Arbor to 29.6 per 1,000 in Lansing.

Live birth counts and rates among females ages 15-19 years, 2020



Source: 2020 Michigan Resident Live Births Files, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

‡ *Geographies with fewer than six births were excluded due to the unreliability of estimates*

1. 2011-2020 Michigan Resident Live Birth Files, Division of Vital Records & Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
2. 2011-2020 Files of Induced Abortions Occurring in Michigan, Division of Vital Records & Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
3. Vintage 2019 Bridged-race postcensal population estimates for July 1, 2011 to July 1, 2019. National Center for Health Statistics.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will not exclude from participation in, deny benefits of, or discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, gender identification or expression, sexual orientation, partisan considerations, or a disability or genetic information that is unrelated to the person's eligibility.

MDHHS-Pub-1411 (Rev. 10-22)