

Teen Pregnancy and Live Birth in Michigan: 2023

Figure 1: Pregnancy rate by maternal age in Michigan, 2014-2023

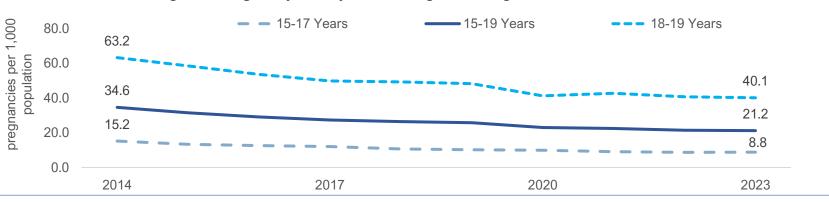
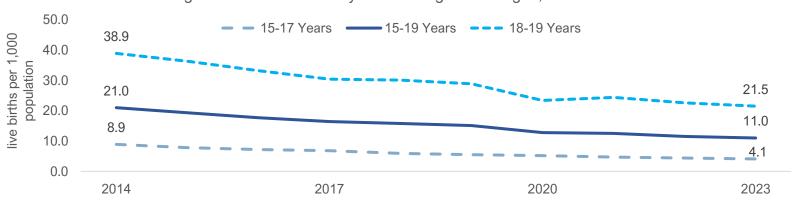


Figure 2: Live birth rate by maternal age in Michigan, 2014-2023



Michigan continues to see a decline in the rate of teen pregnancies over the past 10 years (Figure 1), reaching a historic low of 21.2 pregnancies[†] per 1,000 females ages 15-19 years in 2023, a 36% decrease from 2014. Live births[‡] to females ages 15-19 years have likewise declined by 48% over this period (Figure 2). The total number of teen births has likewise declined by 51%, from 6,968 in 2014 to 3,422 in 2022.

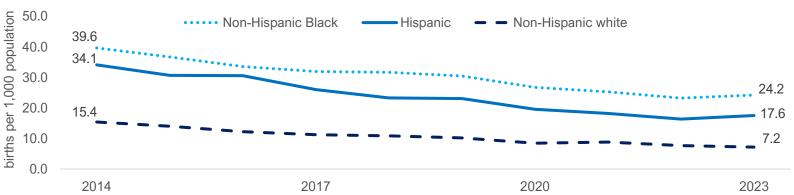
The pregnancy rates among younger teens (15-17 years) and older teens (18-19 years) have also steadily declined. The proportion of teen pregnancies attributable to younger teens has remained largely unchanged from 26% in 2014 to 25% in 2023; however, this represents a slight increase from the low of 23% in 2019.

[†]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 are estimated to be miscarriages).

‡ Live births are defined as 'births where the baby is alive for any length of time.'

Racial and ethnic disparities in teen childbearing in Michigan, 2014-2023

Figure 3: Birth rates per 1,000 females ages 15-19 by race/ethnicity, 2014-2023



Despite significant declines in teen birth rates across all race and ethnicity groups in Michigan, large disparities persist (Figure 3). From 2014 to 2023, the live birth rate declined more among non-Hispanic white teens (53%) than for non-Hispanic Black teens (39%). As a result of these different rates of decline, the disparity in birth rates between non-Hispanic Black and non-Hispanic white teens has increased.

In 2014, non-Hispanic Black teens were 2.6 times more likely to give birth than non-Hispanic white teens, while in 2023, non-Hispanic Black teens were 3.4 times more likely to give birth than non-Hispanic white teens. Over that same period, the disparity between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white teens remained relatively stable, from Hispanic teens being 2.2 times more likely to give birth than non-Hispanic white teens in 2014 to 2.4 times in 2023.

After more than 15 years of continuous declines, both the non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic teen birth rates increased by more than 1.0 per 1,000 females ages 15-19 between 2022 and 2023. These increases are small, but notable, given the overall decline in teen births from 2014-2023.

Compared to non-Hispanic white teens who had a live birth in 2023, non-Hispanic Black teens were significantly more likely to have had a previous pregnancy (Figure 4). The percentage of live births that are the result of a repeat pregnancy has significantly decreased among non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic teens from 2014 to 2023. There is no significant change in this metric for non-Hispanic white teens over this same period.

The rate of live births to teens who have had previous pregnancies per 1,000 females ages 15-19 was 4.0 times higher among non-Hispanic Black teens (6.0 per 1,000) than non-Hispanic white teens (1.5 per 1,000). This disparity is a major contributor to the overall disparity in teen birth rates between these two populations.

Figure 4: Repeat births to females ages 15-19 years by race/ethnicity, 2014-2023 40.0% 31.4% 30.0% 24.8% 28.1% 20.9% 20.0% 20.9% 19.5% 10.0% 0.0% 2015 2016 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 Non-Hispanic Black - Non-Hispanic white Hispanic

Geography of teen births in Michigan, 2023[‡]

Counts

The counties and cities with the highest number of live births among females aged 15-19 years in 2023 are also Michigan's most highly populated. Geographies with more than 150 total teen births include Detroit (565) and its suburban counties, Wayne [excluding Detroit] (291) and Oakland (195). Outside of metro Detroit, Kent County (243) and Genesee County (200) each are home to large cities: Grand Rapids and Flint, respectively.

The relatively large numbers of teen births in these counties and cities 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 5.4 live births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years.

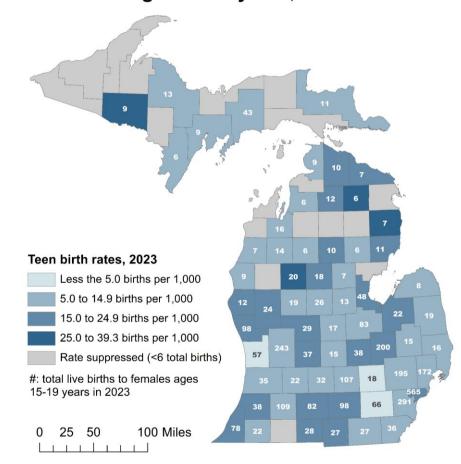
Rates

In 2023, among counties in Michigan, teen birth rates ranged from a low of 3.3 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years in Livingston County to a high of 39.3 births per 1,000 in Alcona County. Despite the relatively low number of teen births overall, the northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula are home to all four counties with a teen birth rate above 25.0 per 1,000: Alcona (39.3 per 1,000), Iron (33.2 per 1,000), Montmorency (31.6 per 1,000) and Osceola (29.5 per 1,000).

Michigan's small cities remain an area of concern for teen births, having had the highest city-level teen birth rates in 2023. In 2023, the five cities with the highest teen birth rates were: Benton Harbor (58.4 per 1,000), Jackson (40.3 per 1,000), Pontiac (36.1 per 1,000), Saginaw (31.8 per 1,000) and Muskegon (31.5 per 1,000), each of which has a total population under 60,000 people.

By contrast, of Michigan's seven cities with a population over 100,000, only Detroit (24.9 per 1,000) is among the 10 highest citylevel teen birth rates, while the rest range from 3.2 per 1,000 in Sterling Heights to 23.5 per 1,000 in Lansing.

Live birth rates and counts among females ages 15-19 years, 2023



Data source: 2023 Michigan Resident Live Birth Files, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

‡ Geographies with fewer than six births to females between ages 15 and 19 were excluded due to the unreliability of estimates.

Citations:

- 2014-2023 Michigan Resident Live Birth Files, Division of Vital Records & Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- 2014-2023 Files of Induced Abortions Occurring in Michigan, Division of Vital Records & Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- Vintage 2023 Bridged-race postcensal population estimates for July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2023. National Center for Health Statistics.

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