



# Pregnant and parenting teens in Hennepin County

## 2017

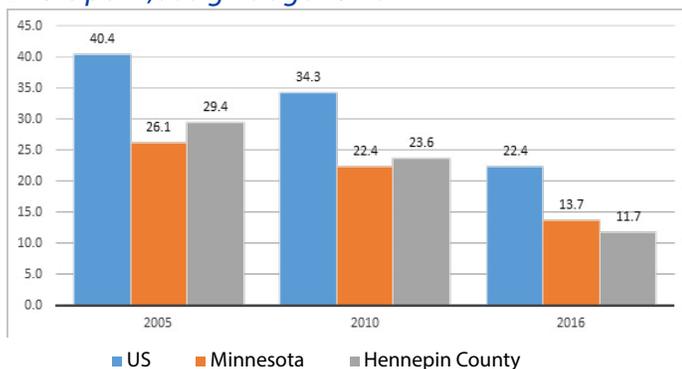
### Purpose

Teens who become parents face challenges to achieving healthy outcomes for themselves and their children. In response, Hennepin County, Bloomington Public Health, and the Minneapolis Health Department have collaborated to prevent teen pregnancies and provide supportive services for pregnant and parenting teens.

### Scope of the Issue

In 2016, 419 babies (2.5 percent of all Hennepin County births) were born to mothers aged 15 to 19. This represents a 66 percent decline in teen birth rates in the past ten years (from 32 births per 1,000 teens in 2007 to 11.7 in 2016) and outpaces state and national declines.<sup>1</sup> More information is available at [www.hennepin.us/publichealthdata](http://www.hennepin.us/publichealthdata)

### Births per 1,000 girls age 15-19



### General statistics

- About \$11 billion per year is spent nationally on increased health care, foster care, and incarceration for children of teens, and on lost tax revenue among teen mothers.<sup>2</sup>
- Teen birth rates are nine to 13 times higher for black, Native American, and Latino teens. Additionally, teen birth rates are highest in Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Richfield, Brooklyn Park, and Brooklyn Center.<sup>3</sup> More information is available at: <https://www.hennepin.us/bettertogether>
- Babies born to teens are at increased risk of low birth weight and other complications.<sup>1</sup>
- Children of teens are more likely to live in poverty, experience poor mental and physical health, and become teen parents themselves; they're less likely to complete high school.<sup>2,4, 5, 6</sup>

### Hennepin County partnerships help

#### Better Together Hennepin

Better Together Hennepin, Hennepin County's teen pregnancy prevention program, uses federal, state, and county funding to expose youth to teen pregnancy prevention programming that is evidence-based, sequential, consistent, and reinforcing. In 2016/2017, the program provided pregnancy prevention education to 5,000 youth in 25 schools and nine clinics.





## Pathways

Each year, staff at MVNA's Pathways reengagement sites help approximately 200 out-of-school County Involved Youth (CIY) establish a plan for re-entering high school, preparing for the GED, or increasing their Accuplacer college placement scores. In collaboration with case managers, Pathways staff use a holistic approach based on the 4R's:

- Robust outreach that connects youth to childcare, housing, and other supports
- Remediation that's tailored to the individual like tutoring and small group instruction
- Relevant career assessment and exploration activities like paid internships, college try-outs, and job shadowing
- Retention services that reduce emotional, familial, and health barriers

Watch a Pathways video at <https://youtu.be/erDcye-a44s>

## Teens at increased risk

- **Repeat births to teen parents** – Repeat births declined 16 percent in 2016, but still account for 13.4 percent of births to teen parents in Hennepin County.<sup>3</sup>
- **Teens with mental health concerns** – Forty-six percent of Hennepin County teens (under age 20) with a confirmed pregnancy had mental health, chemical dependency, or developmental delay diagnoses.<sup>5</sup>
- **Housing challenges and homelessness** - Teen families experience high rates of homelessness and/or housing instability that compound existing life challenges.

## Community support helps teens succeed

Schools, nonprofit, government, and private agencies work together to prevent teen pregnancy, and support teen parents and their children. Specific recommendations include:

- Identify and support promising practices that target high-risk teens, including teens in **foster care** and with **mental health concerns**
- Identify factors that lead to **repeat pregnancy** and implement innovative strategies to moderate those factors (e.g., home visiting, broad-based school programming)
- **Develop and expand supportive housing** for teens and their babies in safe neighborhoods, with close proximity to transit and schools
- Continue **post-secondary planning** for teen parents, with options for college, vocational school, trade school, and certificate programs
- Continue **long-term home visiting programs** for pregnant and parenting teens
  - Hennepin County enrolled 78 pregnant and parenting teens (2015); 44 (2016)
  - Bloomington Public Health enrolled 26 pregnant and parenting teens (2015); 23 (2016)
  - Minneapolis Health Department enrolled 96 pregnant and parenting teens (2015); 132 (2016)

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<sup>1</sup> [www.hennepin.us/your-government/research-data/public-health-data](http://www.hennepin.us/your-government/research-data/public-health-data)

<sup>2</sup> [www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/family-planning](http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/family-planning)

<sup>3</sup> <https://hennepin.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=07b08c38dca94f54abc3dc066f74fe78>

<sup>4</sup> [www.scaany.org/documents/teen\\_pregnancy\\_dec08.pdf](http://www.scaany.org/documents/teen_pregnancy_dec08.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Hennepin County teen parenting data, 2013-14

<sup>6</sup> Bodurtha, P., Boyce, T., Clausen, K., Krmpotich, S., Lee-Rife, S., & Miller, K. (2014). A-GRAD educational outcomes for county-involved youth: final report. Hennepin County, MN: Center for Innovation and Excellence