

Teen Pregnancy



Introduction

The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is an ongoing surveillance system of maternal behaviors and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy.¹ This population-based survey is designed to collect data on maternal health and behaviors, prenatal and postpartum care, and infant health. The 2008 Florida PRAMS survey had a total of 2,624 respondents. The data presented in this fact sheet are weighted to be representative of new mothers and newborns in Florida.

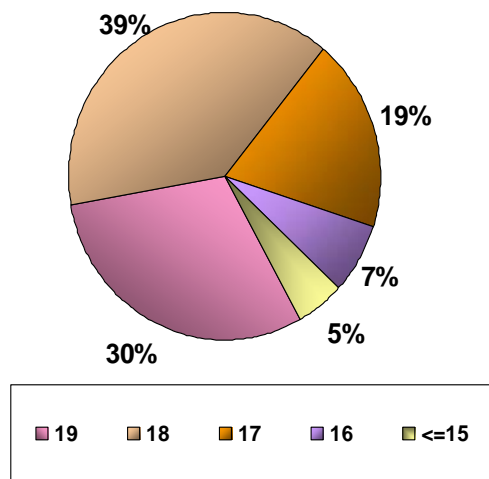
Background

Teen pregnancy is a pregnancy that occurs in an adolescent female who has reached puberty and is 19 years old or younger.²

There are health risks for the baby and children born to teen mothers, including an increased likelihood of premature birth. Babies who are born prematurely, have smaller birth weights, developmental problems, and require additional time in intensive care neonatal units. The mothers face a greater risk of complications such as anemia, hypertension, and renal problems.

This fact sheet illustrates the overall prevalence of teen pregnancy, behaviors and risk factors for pregnant teens, and their baby's health.

Figure 1. Percentage of Teen Pregnancy By Age Group, Florida, 2008

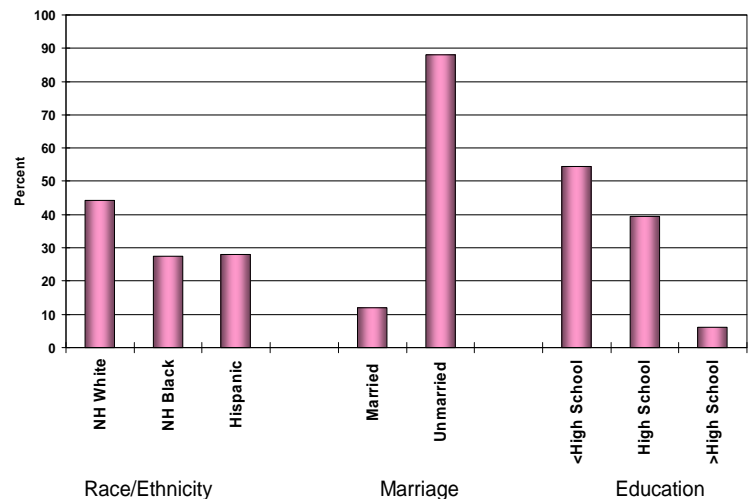


Results

Prevalence of teen pregnancy

- In 2008, 11% of all pregnancies in Florida were mothers under ages 20. About 68% of teenage births were to girls ages 18 and 19 (38.5% were 18; 30% were 19; 19% were 17 and 13% were ages between 14 to 16 years of age). (Figure 1).
- Among pregnant teens, 44% were non-Hispanic (NH) whites, 28% were non-Hispanic blacks and 28% were Hispanics
- More than half (54%) of teen mothers had less than a high school education.
- Only 12% of teen mothers were married.

Figure 2. Prevalence of Teen Pregnancy, Florida, 2008



Teen Mother's Behavior

Smoking

Teens are more likely than women over ages 25 to smoke during pregnancy. In 2008, 13.6% of pregnant teens ages 14 to 19 smoked, compared to 8% of pregnant women ages 25 to 34. Babies of women who smoke during pregnancy are at increased risk for premature birth, low birth weight, and sudden infant death syndrome.

Lack of Prenatal Care (PNC)

Teens are least likely to get early and regular prenatal care. In 2008, 43.5% of teen pregnant mothers had no prenatal care during their first trimester of pregnancy, compared to 20% of mothers ages 25 to 34. Of the reasons cited, 17% said, "I did not want anyone to know I was pregnant". Another 10.4% said, "I had too many other things going on." An additional 13% said, "I did not have a way to get to the clinic or doctors office".

Pregnancy complications

A teenage mother is at greater risk than women over ages 20 for pregnancy complications:

- Pregnant teens had an increased risk for high blood pressure during pregnancy (17%), compared to 13% for mothers ages 25 to 34.
- Of pregnant teens, 31% had a kidney or bladder (urinary tract) infection during pregnancy, compared to 16% for mothers ages 25 to 34.
- Pregnant teens had an increased risk for labor pains more than three weeks before their scheduled due date (25%), compared to 14% for mothers ages 25 to 34.
- Of pregnant teens, 9% reported their water broke more than three weeks before scheduled due date, compared to 5% for mothers ages 25 to 34.

Unintended Pregnancy

Of teen mothers, 75% reported they wanted to be pregnant later, or they did not want to be pregnant then or at any time in the future. It was significantly higher than mothers ages 20 or older (43%).

Teen mothers (57%) did not use birth control at the time of conception and 45% of those teens thought they could not become pregnant at that time; 17% of teens thought themselves or their partner to be sterile.



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Depression and Anxiety

Pregnant teens had a higher rate of depression (30%), either while pregnant or after the birth, compared with mothers ages 25 to 34 (20%). Teens were more anxious and stressed during the 12 months before baby was born. Nearly half of teens (43%) argued with their husbands or partners more than usual; 14% of teens were involved in a physical fight; 15% of teens' husbands or partners went to jail; 22% of teens' very close acquaintances had a problem with drinking or drugs; 23% of teens' very close acquaintances died. The above numbers were significantly higher than the percentage of mothers ages 25 or older.

Breastfeeding

Teen mothers initiated breastfeeding the newborn (76%), but only 22% of the teens continued to do so for 12 weeks or more. Of mothers ages 20 and older, 83% initiated breastfeeding and 48% continued breastfeeding for 12 weeks or more.

Babies of Teen mothers

A baby born to a teen mother is at higher risk for premature birth, low birth weight, and other serious health problems, including death, than a baby born to an older mother .

- Teen mothers, had a low birth weight baby (10%), compared to 7% of mothers ages 20 to 34.
- Of teen mothers, 16% had preterm babies, compared to 8% of mothers ages 20 to 34.

Summary

- Almost 11% of all Florida births in 2008 were to mothers under ages 20. Most teenage births (about 68%) are to girls ages 18 and 19.
- More pregnant teens were non-Hispanic whites, with less than a high school education, and unmarried.
- Teenage mothers were less likely to receive prenatal care and breastfeed. They were more likely to smoke during pregnancy, and had high risk for pregnancy complications, such as high blood pressure and urinary tract infection.
- Teens were more likely to be stressed, anxious and depressed during pregnancy and postpartum.
- Teens were at higher risk of having low birth weight babies and premature babies.

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Selected Citations

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitor System Data*. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.
2. <http://uimc.discoveryhospital.com/main.php?id=1966>, Access on 3/29/11