

Adolescent Health Issue Brief

Reproductive Health among teenagers in Wisconsin

Background

The Administration for Children and Families provides funding for the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP). The goal of PREP is to prepare teens for adulthood by offering programs with proven positive outcomes in counties with high teen birth rates.



Adolescent reproductive health

Adolescence is one of the most dynamic stages of human development. It is a time of rapid change and development and it is a critical time to intervene to promote behaviors that will improve health in the long term. During adolescence, boys and girls experience hormonal changes that prepare them for childbearing. This period of change is an ideal time to support sexual and reproductive health among this age group, including promoting access to services and programs that will help youth delay childbearing and prevent sexually transmitted infections and diseases.

The teen birth rate is a key indicator of adolescent reproductive health, and teen pregnancy prevention is critical to health and quality of life of adolescents. Consequences of teen pregnancy include:

- Increased participation in the child welfare system.
- Increased risk of incarceration.
- Decreased earnings and spending potential.

Adolescents account for half of all sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) diagnosed each year. Consequences of STDs include:

- Increased risk of infertility.
- Increased risk of ectopic pregnancy.
- Increased risk of acquiring other STDs or sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Wisconsin teen birth rates declined by 55% from 1991 to 2013.

Despite declines in teen chlamydia and gonorrhea rates, certain populations remain at higher risk.

Purpose of this report

This report provides a summary of data relevant to teen reproductive health in Wisconsin, including behavioral factors that affect reproductive health, contraception, teen pregnancy, STDs, and programmatic efforts relevant to optimizing healthy sexual development. Our goals are to:

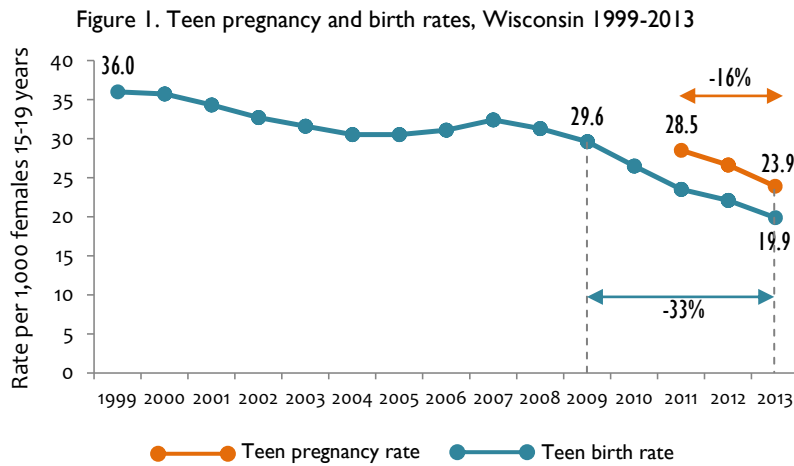
- 1) Provide statewide information about sexual behavior and contraception use among adolescents.
- 2) Provide statewide information for teen pregnancy, birth, and STD rates.
- 3) Review national strategies currently being implemented in Wisconsin for teen pregnancy and STD prevention.
- 4) Highlight work in areas funded by the Personal Responsibility and Education Program (PREP).



Statewide Trends in Teen Pregnancy and Birth Rates

Wisconsin has made progress in reducing teen pregnancies over time.

- The teen birth rate decreased by 33% from 2009-2013 (Figure 1).
- The teen pregnancy rate decreased by 16% from 2011-2013 (Figure 1).
- In 2013, birth rates for minority teens were higher than the birth rate for non-Hispanic white teens (Figure 2):
 - * The birth rate for non-Hispanic black teens was more than 4 times the birth rate for non-Hispanic white teens.
 - * The birth rate for non-Hispanic American Indian teens was 3.5 times the birth rate for non-Hispanic white teens.



Source for Figures 1-3: Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics

Figure 2. Teen birth rates by race and ethnicity, WI, 2013

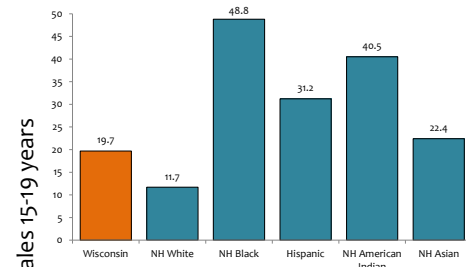
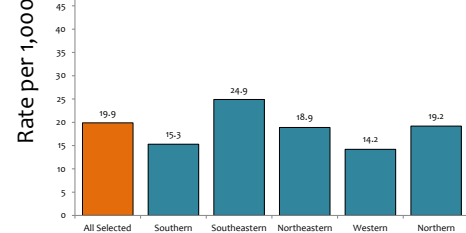


Figure 3. Teen birth rates by region, WI, 2013



Statewide Trends in Teen Gonorrhea and Chlamydia Rates

- The teen chlamydia rate decreased by 19% from 2011-2014 (Figure 4).
- The teen gonorrhea rate decreased by 44% from 2011-2014 (Figure 4).
- The black-white disparity in STD rates is stark:
 - * The chlamydia rate for non-Hispanic black teens was nearly 8 times the rate for non-Hispanic white teens (Figure 5).
 - * The gonorrhea rate for non-Hispanic black teens was 39 times the rate for non-Hispanic white teens (Figure 6).

Figure 4. Teen chlamydia and gonorrhea rates, Wisconsin 2011-2014

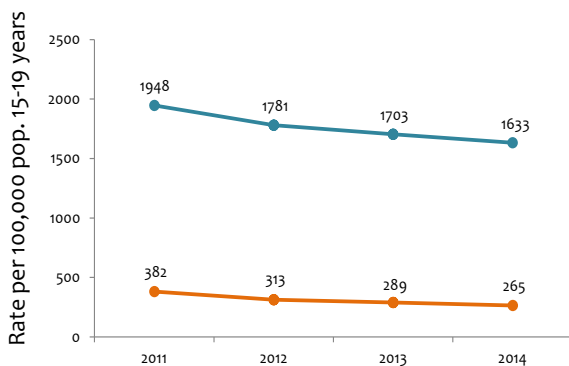


Figure 5. Teen chlamydia rates by race and ethnicity, WI, 2011-2014

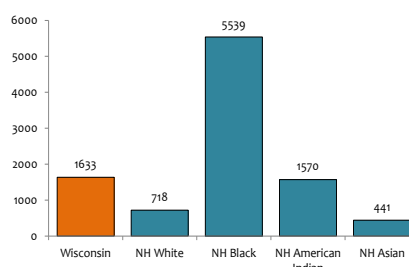
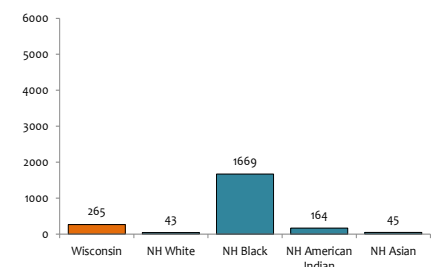


Figure 6. Teen gonorrhea rates by race and ethnicity, WI, 2011-2014



Source for Figures 4-6: Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Diseases Program

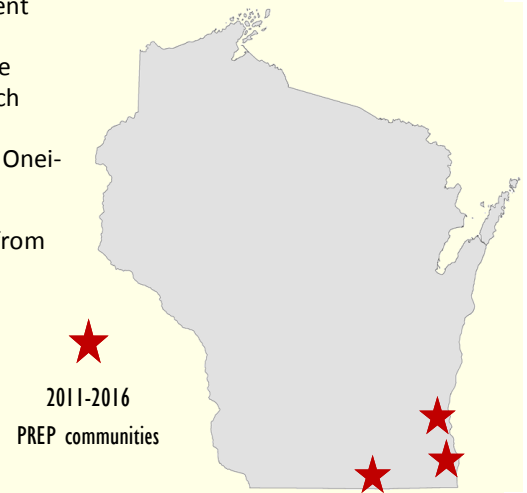
Spotlight on Personal Responsibility Education Program

The goal of PREP is to provide youth ages 10 to 19 years with skills necessary to prevent teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. Wisconsin PREP provides evidence-based programs designed to educate teens in Beloit, Racine, and Milwaukee cities, which have high teen birth rates. In 2017 the PREP program will expand to reach youth in Milwaukee, Green Bay, Racine, Beloit. Additionally, PREP will serve youth through the Project Positive Youth Development grants in Ashland, Bayfield, Sawyer, Oneida, Waushara, and Eau Claire Counties.

The PREP program served 8,381 youth in the cities of Beloit, Racine, and Milwaukee from 2011 to 2014.

Youth Served by PREP Grantees, 2011-2015

| | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total Youth Served | 966 | 1700 | 2667 | 3048 |



- Overall, the decline in the teen birth rate from 2010 to 2014 in PREP grantee cities was similar to the statewide decline (Figure 7).
- Countywide rates for chlamydia and gonorrhea have generally declined since PREP was implemented, though trends may be somewhat different in PREP grantee cities (Figures 8a-b).
- Though there are many factors likely contributing to declining teen birth and STD rates, the PREP program’s efforts to empower youth to optimize their reproductive health is a factor in preventing teen pregnancy and teen births in these communities.

PREP Grantee Teen Birth and STD Rates

Wisconsin Beloit Racine Milwaukee

Figure 7. Teen birth rates by PREP grantee city, Wisconsin 2010-

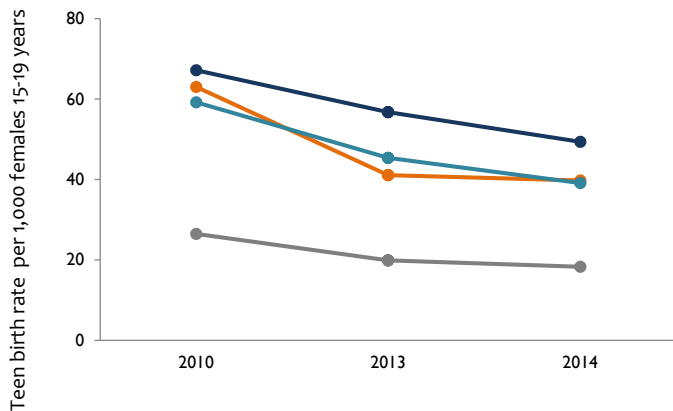
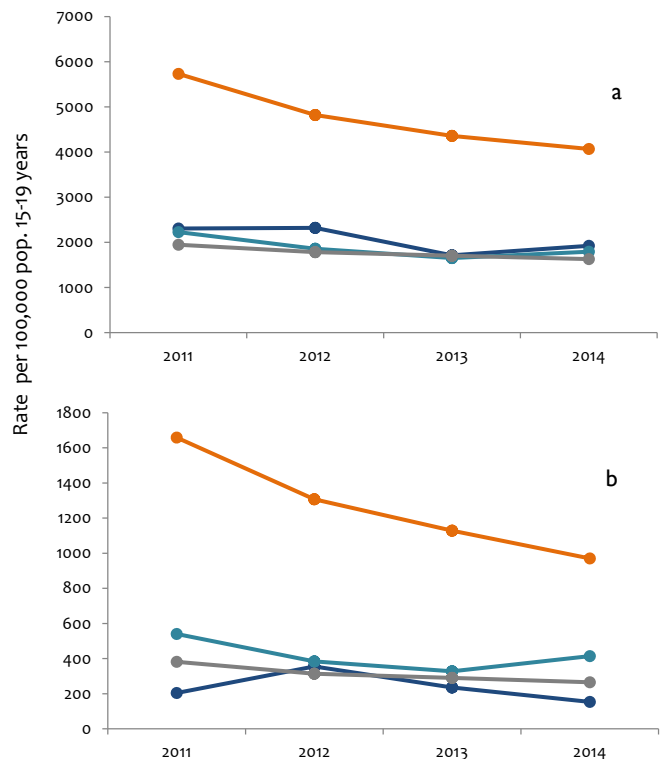


Figure 8a-b. Teen chlamydia (a) and gonorrhea (b) rates by PREP grantee county, Wisconsin 2010-2013



Note: Data presented are for the cities of Beloit, Racine, and Milwaukee
 Source for Figure 7: Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics

Note: Data presented are for the counties of Beloit, Racine, and Milwaukee
 Source for Figures 8-9: Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics

Strategies to continue positive trends in teen pregnancy and STDs

The data showing statewide declines in teen pregnancy and STDs is encouraging. Several strategies to reduce pregnancy and STDs among adolescents are currently underway in Wisconsin. These strategies have empowered many youth to delay pregnancy during this period of development, and many also address STDs.

| Wisconsin Strategy | Focus on teen pregnancy | Focus on teen STDs | Wisconsin strategy |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Positive Youth Development programs | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Promoting dual protection (e.g., contraception and barrier methods) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Promoting communication between adolescents and adults, including parents and medical providers | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Summary

The focus on adolescent reproductive health supports several Maternal Child Health program initiatives such as the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network to Improve Infant Mortality, Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Life Course, and Reproductive Life Planning. To improve adolescent reproductive health in Wisconsin, continued collaboration and system alignment is needed to engage youth and families, medical providers, and programs. Through this collaboration we can achieve the Division of Public Health mission to protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin.

Data Sources

The data presented in this report come from a variety of data sources, including:

- Birth certificate (vital statistics)
- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)
- Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)
- Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Diseases Control Surveillance Reports



References

1. The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Wisconsin in 2010 (<https://thenationalcampaign.org/sites/default/files/resource-primary-download/fact-sheet-wisconsin.pdf>)
2. Wisconsin Adolescent Reproductive Health Facts. (<http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-health-topics/reproductive-health/fact-sheets/state.html?s=wisconsin>)
3. Darkness To Light The five steps to protecting children. http://www.d2l.org/site/c.4dICIJOkGcISE/b.6178657/k.4DDE/Talk_Openly_With_Children_To_Prevent_Child_Sexual_Abuse.htm
4. Estimating a Child Sexual Abuse Prevalence Rate for Practitioners (http://www.d2l.org/site/c.4dICIJOkGcISE/b.8766307/k.A6B6/Prevalence_1_in_10.htm)
5. Disease Surveillance and Statistical Trends, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/std/data.htm>)
6. Consultation to Address STD Disparities in African American Communities (<http://www.cdc.gov/std/general/stdhealthdisparitiesconsultationjune2007.pdf>)
7. Why is the Teen Birth Rate Falling? (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/04/21/why-is-the-teen-birth-rate-falling/>)