

2012

Births to Teens

In Wisconsin



Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
Office of Health Informatics

Foreword

The Department of Health Services is mandated by section 69.03 (9), Wisconsin Statutes, to prepare annual reports on vital statistics. *Births to Teens in Wisconsin, 2012* includes relevant information from the annual *Wisconsin Births and Infant Deaths* report, as well as additional information on teen births not included in that report. This publication was prepared by the Office of Health Informatics, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

The findings in this report were compiled by Laura Ninneman, Audrey Nohel, Karl Pearson, and Yiwu Zhang in the Health Analytics Section of the Office of Health Informatics. Patricia Nametz of the Bureau of Operations edited the report. Draft review was provided by staff in the Bureau of Community Health Promotion, Division of Public Health. The report was prepared under the supervision of Oskar Anderson, State Registrar, Vital Records Section, and Director of the Office of Health Informatics; and Milda Aksamitauskas, Section Chief, Health Analytics Section.

Beginning with the 2011 data year, individual tables and other components of the report are posted as they become available. *Births to Teens in Wisconsin, 2012* will also be posted as a single large document after all its components have been released.

Additional health-related statistical information for Wisconsin is available through the Internet on the Department of Health Services site, at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/stats/>. Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) is an online data query system, located at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish>, which includes birth data for multiple years and geographic areas in Wisconsin.

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Introduction

This report presents information on Wisconsin teen births, based primarily on data collected from the confidential portion of the birth record. It presents data for 2012 and other relevant years in two main sections: "Statewide Information" and "Local Information."

Beginning January 1, 2011, Wisconsin began collecting data using a new web-based data entry system for hospitals. The new system adopted the 2003 U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth. Previously, Wisconsin had been collecting data based on the 1989 U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth. Many changes have been made to the data collection process. Some information is no longer collected, new information has been added, and some information is still collected but using a different definition. Comparisons between 2012 data and data from years prior to 2011 should be made only with great caution. Please refer to the Technical Notes for a more complete description of changes.

Data files used in the report are the resident birth certificate file, the matched infant birth-death file, the fetal death file, and the statistical publication on reported induced abortions. All data refer to Wisconsin residents unless otherwise noted.

All the information is presented according to place of residence. This means that events have been assigned to the area where the person lives (usually legal residence) regardless of where the events occurred. For births, the reference is to the residence of the mother. For deaths, the reference is to the residence of the infant.

Key Findings

- In 2012, there were 4,195 live births to Wisconsin teens (mothers less than 20 years of age), a decrease from 4,559 teen births in 2011.
- The estimated pregnancy rate among Wisconsin teens in 2012 was 26.6 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-19, lower than the 2011 rate (28.5). (This rate is calculated by adding births, reported fetal deaths, and reported induced abortions among females under 20 years of age, then dividing by the number of females aged 15-19.)
- The 2012 Wisconsin teen birth rate was 21.9 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19, compared to 23.2 in 2011. (This rate excludes births to girls under 15 years of age.) In 2012, the U.S. teen birth rate was 29.4.
- The largest declines in the teen birth rate occurred among black/African American teens, from 61.2 per 1,000 in 2011 to 53.9 per 1,000 in 2012; and American Indian/Alaska Native teens, from 48.7 per 1,000 in 2011 to 43.5 per 1,000 in 2012. Among white teens, the rate decreased from 13.4 to 12.8 per 1,000. Among Hispanic/Latina teens, the rate was 39.0 per 1,000 in 2011 and 37.8 per 1,000 in 2012. 2011 was the first year that mothers could report multiple races. (See Technical Notes for an explanation of race/ethnicity categories.)
- In 2012, teen births represented 6 percent of Wisconsin births overall. By race/ethnicity, teen births represented 4 percent of births to whites, 15 percent of births to blacks/African Americans, 13 percent of births to American Indians/Alaska Natives, 12 percent of births to Hispanics, 10 percent of births to Laotians or Hmong, and 13 percent of births to other, unknown, and multiple-race groups. (See Technical Notes for an explanation of race/ethnicity categories.)
- The proportion of teens who received first-trimester prenatal care was 60 percent in 2012 (57% in 2011). Among all women who gave birth in 2012, 77 percent received first-trimester prenatal care. (Note: Beginning in 2011, month prenatal care began was calculated as the difference between the date of last menstrual period and date of first prenatal care visit. Previous to 2011, mothers were asked what month of pregnancy they began prenatal care.)
- In 2012, 397 infants born to Wisconsin teens were low birthweight; that is, they weighed less than 2,500 grams (about 5.5 pounds) at birth. This number represented 9.5 percent of all teen births (compared to 9.3 percent in 2011). The low birthweight percentage for all Wisconsin births in 2012 was 7.2 percent.
- Among low birthweight infants born to teens, 85 were born at very low birthweight (less than 1,500 grams or about 3.3 pounds) and were thus at the highest risk for health problems. The very low birthweight percentage was 2.0 percent of all teen births (compared to 1.3 percent of all births).
- In general, babies born to teens are more likely to die in infancy. In 2012, the infant mortality rate was 9.1 per 1,000 births to teens aged less than 20, compared with 5.5 per 1,000 births to mothers aged 20 and older. (In 2010, the rates were 9.7 per 1,000 births to teens and 6.0 per 1,000 births to mothers 20+.)