

Teen Pregnancy

- 34% of U.S. girls become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20.
- The U.S teen pregnancy rate has decreased 28% between 1990 and 2000.
- Over the past decade, the percentage of all high school students (9th-12 grade) who report ever having had sexual intercourse has declined.
- Among teens who are sexually active, rates of contraceptive use have increased.

State and County Statistics 2006*

2006 Pregnancy Data	Ages	Washington State	Kitsap County
Pregnancy Rate ¹	15 – 17	27.6	20.6
Number of live births	15 – 17	2,062	58
Abortions		1,654	53
Fetal Deaths	15 – 17	12	2

¹Pregnancy rate: total pregnancies per 1,000

*Washington State Department of Health Pregnancy Data 2006

Teen Facts

- Nearly half of 15 to 19 year olds say they believe the average teen does not have enough information about sexuality and reproduction.
- Half of all teen pregnancies occur within the first six months of initiating intercourse.
- Eighty four percent of all pregnancies to teenagers are unintended.
- One study reports the most common reasons for not using contraception were:
 - ✓ they weren't planning for sex
 - ✓ they didn't think pregnancy would occur
 - ✓ their partner didn't want to use birth control
 - ✓ they didn't know where to get birth control
 - ✓ they didn't feel comfortable going to a clinic
 - ✓ they just didn't get around to it

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Teen Mothers

- Teen mothers have decreased levels of educational attainment, are more likely to experience poverty, and their babies experience health problems more frequently than children of older women.
- Early childbearing may be linked to poverty, school failure, family distress, and abuse.

What helps reduce teen pregnancy?

- Parents discussing human sexuality with their child. This can be done during all ages of child development with age appropriate discussions incorporating parental values and beliefs.
- Comprehensive sexuality education is needed to delay onset of intercourse and to improve contraceptive use. This includes information about human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, sexuality, culture, sexual orientation, and access to family planning services.
- For teens that are sexually active, consistent access to contraceptives is critical.

Need more information?

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy www.teenpregnancy.org

Kaiser Family Foundation www.kff.org

Washington State Department of Health www.doh.wa.gov

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