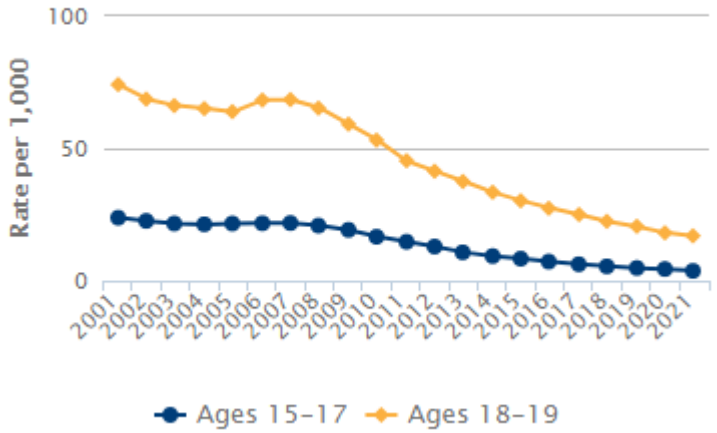
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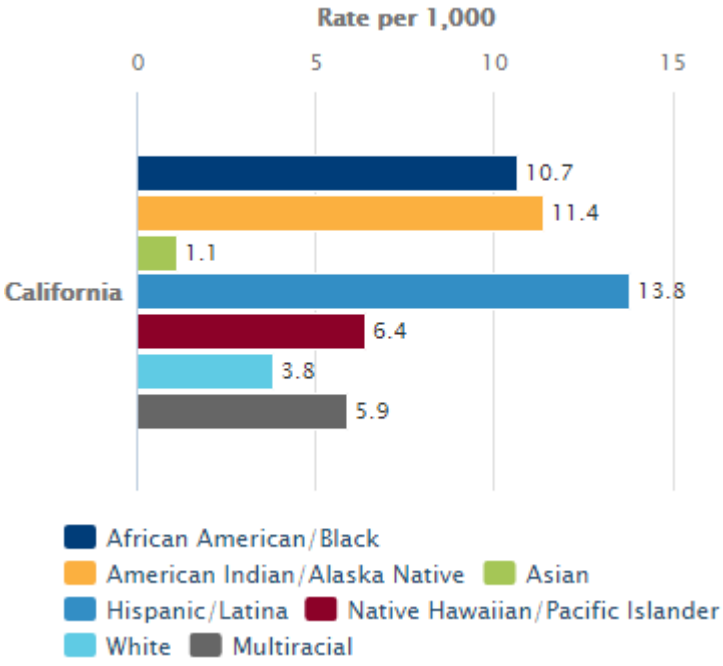
Teen Births in California

Teen Birth Rate, by Age Group
California



Definition: Number of births to mothers ages 19 and under, per 1,000 young women ages 19 and under, by age group (e.g., in California in 2021, the teen birth rate among mothers ages 18-19 was 16.9 births per 1,000 young women ages 18-19).
Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Births: Final Data (Mar. 2020); CDC WONDER, Natality; California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections (Jun. 2023).

Teen Birth Rate, Ages 15-19, by Race/Ethnicity: 2021



Definition: Number of births to mothers ages 15-19, per 1,000 young women ages 15-19, by race/ethnicity (e.g., in California in 2021, the teen birth rate among Hispanic/Latina mothers was 13.8 births per 1,000 Hispanic/Latina young women ages 15-19).

What It Is

On kidsdata.org, teen births data are available as numbers and rates per 1,000 young women overall, by age group (14 and under, 15-17, 18-19), and by mother's race/ethnicity.

Why This Topic Is Important

Adolescent births put young parents and their children at increased risk for a host of serious life challenges and negative outcomes. Teen mothers are more likely than mothers in their 20s and early 30s to experience premature labor, give birth to infants with low birthweight, and have babies who die in infancy. Children of teens also are at increased risk for short- and long-term physical, developmental, emotional, and academic challenges. For example, children born to teens are more likely than children born to older mothers to drop out of high school, enter the juvenile justice system, become teen parents themselves, and experience unemployment in adulthood.

Giving birth as a teenager can create challenges for parents as well. Teen mothers have increased risks of physical and mental health problems, and teen parenthood in general is associated with lower educational attainment, job prospects, and income levels. However, many teen parents are able to navigate these challenges successfully, become competent parents, and reach their educational and career goals.

Socioeconomic factors at the individual, family, and community levels place some teens at higher risk for pregnancy, and contribute to persistent disparities in teen birth rates by race/ethnicity, income level, and geography. Overall, the social cost of teen births is estimated in the billions of dollars annually, due to lost productivity and expenses related to health care, foster care, and negative outcomes for children of adolescent parents.

How Children Are Faring

The birth rate among California teens decreased by 85% between 1995 and 2021, from 63 births per 1,000 young women ages 15-19 to 9 per 1,000. At the local level, rates fell in all 35 counties with data over this period. Still, in 2021 there were more than 12,600 births to California mothers under age 20, and some counties recorded teen birth rates more than double the statewide average. Sharp declines in birth rates also were evident across age groups (14 and under, 15-17, and 18-19) between 1995 and 2021, with births to teens ages 18-19 accounting for a large, and increasing, share of state totals—more than 75% in 2021.

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Births: Final Data (Aug. 2017); CDC WONDER, Natality; California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections (Jun. 2023).

Teen Birth Rate, Ages 15-19: 2021

Locations	Rate per 1,000
California	9.3
Alameda County	6.1
Contra Costa County	6.9
Fresno County	16.3
Kern County	19.6
Los Angeles County	8.2
Orange County	5.6
Riverside County	10.1
Sacramento County	8.7
San Bernardino County	12.4
San Diego County	6.9
Santa Clara County	4.8

Definition: Number of births to mothers ages 15-19, per 1,000 young women ages 15-19 (e.g., in California in 2021, the teen birth rate was 9.3 births per 1,000 young women ages 15-19).
Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files (Mar. 2020); CDC WONDER, Natality; California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections (Jun. 2023).

Trends among California racial/ethnic groups can be compared beginning in 2000. Since then, teen birth rates have decreased for all groups with data. Nevertheless, large differences remain; e.g., in 2021, teen birth rates were higher than 10 per 1,000 among African American/black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic/Latina groups, and lower than 4 per 1,000 for Asian and white teens.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:
https://kidsdata.org/topic/60/teen-births/summary



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