Adolescent and Teen Pregnancies in Kansas 2012

Maintaining and improving family health is an essential component of the public health mission of KDHE. Facilitating healthy pregnancies and positive birth outcomes pays dividends to Kansas society in the form of reduced maternal and infant mortality and fit children capable of learning and growing into productive adults.

Adolescent and teenage pregnancy accounts for more than $9 billion per year in costs to U.S. taxpayers for increased health care and foster care, increased incarceration rates among children of teen parents and lower educational attainment and income among teen mothers [1]. However, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared teen pregnancy as one of its ten winnable battles in public health [2]. The nation’s Healthy People 2020 objective is to reduce pregnancies among adolescent females aged 15-17 to 36.2 and females aged 18-19 to 105.9 per 1,000 female age group populations, respectively [3].

Pregnancy rates among Kansas resident females aged 10-19 dropped by 5.7 percent from 2011 to 2012. Kansas pregnancy rates among females in age groups 15-17 and 18-19 years of age (17.0 per 1,000 and 70.8 per 1,000, respectively) compare favorably with the Healthy People 2020 national targets.

### Kansas Highlights

- Seven out of 10 pregnant adolescents and teens were 18-19 years of age, while one percent were 10-14 years of age and about 26 percent were 15-17 years of age (Figure 1).
- The pregnancy rate for females aged 10-17 dropped 9.6 percent to 6.6 per 1,000 age specific female population in 2012 from 7.3 in 2011.
- The 2012 rate for females aged 15-19, 39.0 per 1,000, dropped 4.4 percent from the 2011 rate of 43.4 per 1,000.

### Trends

- Table 1 shows pregnancy rates among Kansas resident females by various age groupings from 2001 through 2012 [4].
- Declines in pregnancy rates are found among all age groupings. The rate has been stable among 10-14 year olds since 2008.
- The pregnancy rate decreased 7.6 percent among teens 15-17 and 1.9 percent among teens 18-19 years of age from 2011 to 2012.

### More Kansas Health Statistics and Publications

- For a list of all publications issued by KDHE go to [http://www.kdhks.gov/data_reports_stats.htm](http://www.kdhks.gov/data_reports_stats.htm).
- Visit Kansas Information for Communities (KIC) the department's online data query tool at [http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/index.html](http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/index.html).
Three year rolling averages of pregnancy rates among younger teens from selected population groups have declined in the long-term from 1996-1998 through 2010-2012 (Figure 2).

Hispanic teens had the highest pregnancy rates since 2000-2002 on average followed by Black non-Hispanics and White non-Hispanics.

Black non-Hispanics have had the strongest decline on average since 1996-1998 through 2010-2012.

State and National Comparisons

- In 2012 the birth rate for Kansas mothers aged 15-19 dropped by 3.7 percent from 2011.
- During the 20-year period from 1993 to 2012, birth rates of Kansas mothers 15-19 years of age decreased by 38.0 percent.
- For 12 years (1993 – 2004) the Kansas rate was lower than the U.S. rate for births to teens aged 15-19.
- Since 2005, the U.S. rate has dropped faster than the Kansas rate. The Kansas rate in 2012 is higher than the U.S. rate by a difference of 4.7 percentage points [4].

Related References: