

# Teen Parent Connection Report Card

Teen birth affects us all

While only 13% of all families in Hennepin County began with a teen birth<sup>1</sup>:

- 55% of Long Term MFIP (welfare) families began with a teen birth<sup>2</sup>
- 56% of open Child Protection cases in 2003-05 were from families that began with a teen birth<sup>3</sup>
- 75% of the 200 Most Costly Families began with a teen birth<sup>4</sup>
- 1. Estimated from Hennepin County birth statistics through 2003.
- 2. Source: Hennepin County DHS Warehouse/MAXIS.
- 3. Source: Hennepin County Department of Human Services and Public Health.
- Most Costly Families are calculated from social service programs provided by Hennepin County. Source: 200
  Families, A Foundation for a Reform in Process. Hennepin County Community Services Group, 1999.

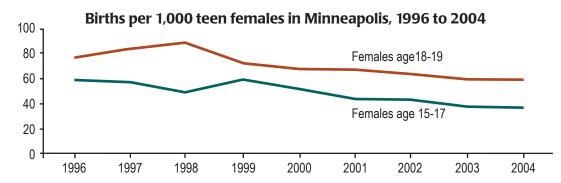
The entire community is affected by the educational, economic and social challenges experienced by teen parents and their children. It is critical that we find a way to help teens continue in school while their children become school-ready through high quality care. This is the work of the Teen Parent Connection.

# Teen birth rates are falling

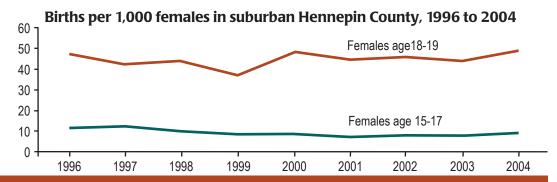
In Hennepin County, there were 1,131 births to teen girls (age 19 and younger) in 2004, a 12-percent decrease from 1,283 in 1996. During this time, teen birth rates in Minneapolis have fallen significantly among both older and younger teens, while teen birth rates in suburban Hennepin County have been relatively steady.



## Birth rates to all teens are falling in Minneapolis



## Birth rates to all teens are stable in suburban Hennepin County



# Characteristics of Teen Families in Hennepin County

## How many families are there with teen mothers?

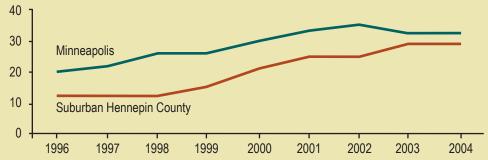
In Minneapolis in 2005, there were an estimated 1,400 families headed by teen mothers, with a total of 1,700 children. In 2004, 653 Minneapolis teens gave birth and another 400 teens were pregnant but did not give birth until 2005. In suburban Hennepin County in 2005, there were 800 families headed by teen mothers, with a total of 900 children. In 2004, 499 suburban teens gave birth and another 300 teens were pregnant but did not give birth until 2005. These estimates are based on births to Hennepin County residents only and exclude teen families who move into the county.

#### Births to teens by race and ethnicity of the mother, 2004

	Minneapolis	Suburban Hennepin
American Indian	8%	2%
Asian	11%	13%
Black/African American	44%	26%
Latino	24%	20%
White	12%	36%
Unknown	1%	3%

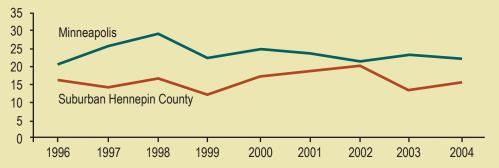
## Foreign-born teens are a greater share of teen parents

Percentage of all teen births that were to foreign-born mothers



## Births are falling among teens who are already mothers

#### Percentage of all teen births to mothers with previous children



### **WIC Nutrition Program**

In 2005, 816 pregnant Minneapolis teens and 1,066 postpartum Minneapolis teen mothers were on the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, while 520 pregnant teens and 622 postpartum teen mothers in suburban Hennepin County received WIC. WIC provides critical nutritional support and health referrals to the most at-risk families.

#### **School Readiness**

In 2005, 123 children of teen o mothers in Minneapolis were served by Way to Grow or Teen Age Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPPP). Children in programs like these are more likely to succeed in school and in the workplace when they grow up. Studies show that the benefits of children succeeding accrue not only to children and their parents, but also to the non-participating public.

#### **Public Assistance**

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> In 2005, 1,675 Minneapolis and 866 suburban Hennepin County pregnant or parenting teens received public assistance. Two-thirds of these families received cash assistance along with other benefits, while onethird received non-cash benefits only. This critical support helps teen families keep their heads above water while attending school and/or working.

# **Connections That Support Teen Families**

connections that support teen families

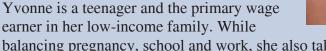
#### connections that support teen families

#### **School Enrollment**

The Minneapolis Public Schools enrolled 708 pregnant and parenting teens in the 2004-2005 school year (this figure does not include contracted alternative schools or private or charter schools in Minneapolis). In addition, teen parents attend traditional and alternative schools in suburban Hennepin County, including School District 287. Besides the benefit of being able to continue their education, teen parents rarely have another child while enrolled in school.

#### **Meet Yvonne**

Teen parents who are connected to a supportive adult have better parenting skills, healthier babies, more educational success, and fewer repeat pregnancies than those who are not connected. With support, pregnant and parenting teens can finish school, become contributing members of society and live out the dreams we all have. Just ask Yvonne.



balancing pregnancy, school and work, she also takes care of her younger siblings.

After getting connected to caring adults at Broadway School, Yvonne beat the odds to become the first in her family to graduate from high school. Not only that, but she is going to college with multiple scholarships. Her family is proud of her, but they can't provide financial support or child care. This young mom is determined to be a good parent while working to make ends meet and taking the full course load her scholarships require.

Yvonne's goals are the same as other teens' goals, but her challenges are bigger. That's why Teen Parent Connection's work is important - we connect teen families like Yvonne's to the supports they need to succeed.

## **Parenting Support**

In the 2004-2005 school year, 223 teen parents attended Minneapolis Public Schools Early Childhood Family Education classes, and 580 pregnant or parenting teens attended parent education classes in the Minneapolis schools. Many of these parents do both, helping to create more positive parent-child interactions. In addition, there are various programs that help fathers connect to parenting resources in Hennepin County. Research shows that both children and fathers benefit significantly when they spend positive time together.

connections that support teen families

connections that support teen families

#### **Child Care**

In 2005, 444 Minneapolis teen mothers and 251 suburban Hennepin County teen mothers had children in child care. Though most of the children of teens were enrolled in licensed care, one in six was in legal unlicensed family care. Research clearly shows that high quality child care experiences help prepare children for school and put them ahead of their peers in developing their math, reading, social and attention/thinking skills. In addition, with access to affordable, quality child care, teen parents can focus on continuing their education and then moving into the workforce.

#### **Case Management Services**

In 2005, 511 Minneapolis and 183 suburban Hennepin County teen parent families were connected with family, school and community support by county social workers. This support helps provide a solid base of stability for teen families.

#### **Home Visits by Nurses**

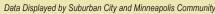
In 2005, 418 Minneapolis and 212 suburban Hennepin County teen parents were visited by public health nurses. These visits help ensure the health of the children and are associated with improved parenting skills, school return and pregnancy avoidance.

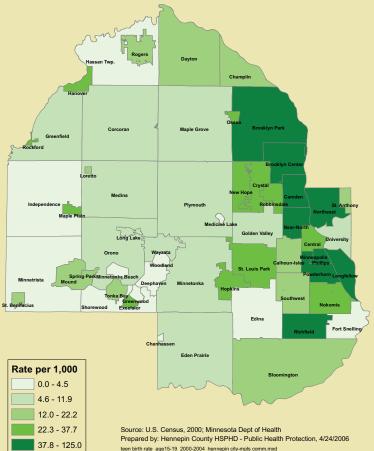
# **Teen Birth Rates in Hennepin County**

There is a wide variation in teen birth rates in different areas of Hennepin County, as shown in the map. Areas with the highest teen birth rates in the county are shown in the table below.

# Teenage Birth Rate per 1,000 Females Age 15-19, 2000 - 2004

**Hennepin County** 





#### Birth rate per 1,000 females age 15 to 19, 2000 to 2004

	Mother's age			
	15 - 19	15 - 17	18 - 19	
City/Community	years old	years old	years old	
Brooklyn Center	60.4	33.2	101.3	
Minneapolis	53.0	42.9	61.5	
Phillips	125.2	83.1	184.2	
Near North	96.7	59.3	166.3	
Powderhorn	84.0	52.4	123.4	
Camden	83.6	57.7	131.1	
Northeast	56.8	31.4	93.9	
Longfellow	45.9	26.0	76.1	
Richfield	46.3	19.6	87.0	

This report is available online at: <a href="https://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs">www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs</a> and click on Research and Policy.

If you need this document in an alternative format, please call (612) 673-2301 or TTY (612) 673-2157. Please allow a reasonable amount of time for special needs accommodation.

# **Coordinated Support for Teen Parents**

Teen parent families face many challenges. To succeed, they often need in-depth support, frequently from more than one source. From June 2005 through April 2006, about 40 percent of the estimated number of teen families in Hennepin County met at least twice with an adult who helped connect them to school, parenting and other educational supports:

- 475 teen parent families were connected with home visiting nurses
- 578 teen parent families were connected with county social workers
- 89 teen parents enrolled in school or a GED program through the Bright Futures Program
- 432 teen parents returned to or stayed in school with help from adults in the Minneapolis Public Schools

#### Where to find more information

www.moappp.org

Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP)

www.mnfathers.org

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network

www.co.hennepin.mn.us

Hennepin County Government

http://health.mpls.k12.mn.us/Teenage Pregnant and Parenting Program.html

Minneapolis Public Schools

Teenage Pregnant and Parenting Program

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs

Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support

#### Who we are and how you can help

Hennepin County, the Minneapolis Public Schools, the City of Minneapolis, organizations in northwest suburban Hennepin County and many others have created the Teen Parent Connection to increase the success of teen parents and their children while reducing teen pregnancy. To help, contact Teen Parent Connection at <a href="mailto:teenparentconnection@yahoo.com">teenparentconnection@yahoo.com</a> or call (612) 668-1881.

English-Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 612-673-3948. Spanish-Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700.

Somali-Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

Hmong-Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800.