

TEEN BIRTH IN TEXAS

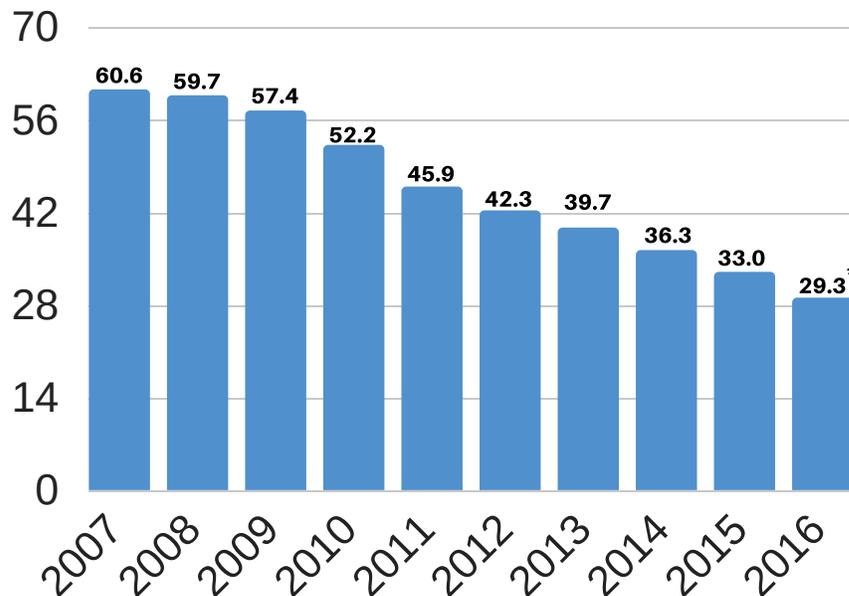


Like the rest of the nation, Texas has made tremendous progress in reducing the rate of teen birth. Between 2007 - 2016, the Texas teen birth rate declined by an amazing 52%. However, much is left to accomplish. Texas consistently maintains one of the highest rates of both teen birth and repeat teen birth in the nation. Approximately 30,000 Texas teens and preteens gave birth in 2016.

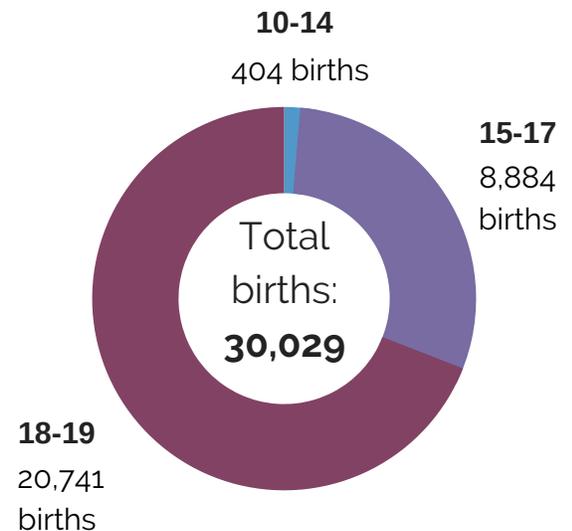
Unintended early childbearing can create significant barriers for young women in completing their education, forming strong workforce attachments, and escaping intergenerational poverty. With most births to teen mothers covered by Medicaid, the public cost also is significant.

Improving access to effective contraception and providing medically-accurate sex education can empower young women and men with the tools and information they need to make informed decisions about their reproductive health, families and futures.

TEXAS TEEN BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 GIRLS AGED 15-19 2007 - 2016*



TEXAS TEEN BIRTH COUNT BY AGE OF MOTHER 2016*



* 2016 counts and rates use preliminary vital statistics data

Repeat Teen Births

Texas had the highest rate of repeat teen births nationwide in 2016. Among teens aged 15-19 giving birth, more than 19% already have at least one child. Nevertheless, under state law, teen moms aged 17 or younger can provide consent to medical care for their child, but require parental consent for their own contraceptive needs. Best practices to address repeat teen pregnancy include:

- Statutory change to give teen mothers in Texas the legal right to consent to contraception
- Contraceptive counseling during prenatal visits
- Access to highly effective birth control in the postpartum period, if desired
- Supports provided through the school district to help teens complete their education

Sex Education

Under Texas law, schools that teach sexual health education are required to emphasize abstinence until marriage. Most districts teach abstinence-only education, which leaves teens in the dark about basic reproductive health. The Texas Campaign supports abstinence-plus education, which frames abstinence as the safest choice, but also provides medically-accurate information around topics like healthy relationships, pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted infection (STI) avoidance. Among Texas school districts:

- 59% teach abstinence-only curriculum.
- 17% teach abstinence-plus curriculum.
- 25% teach no sex education at all.

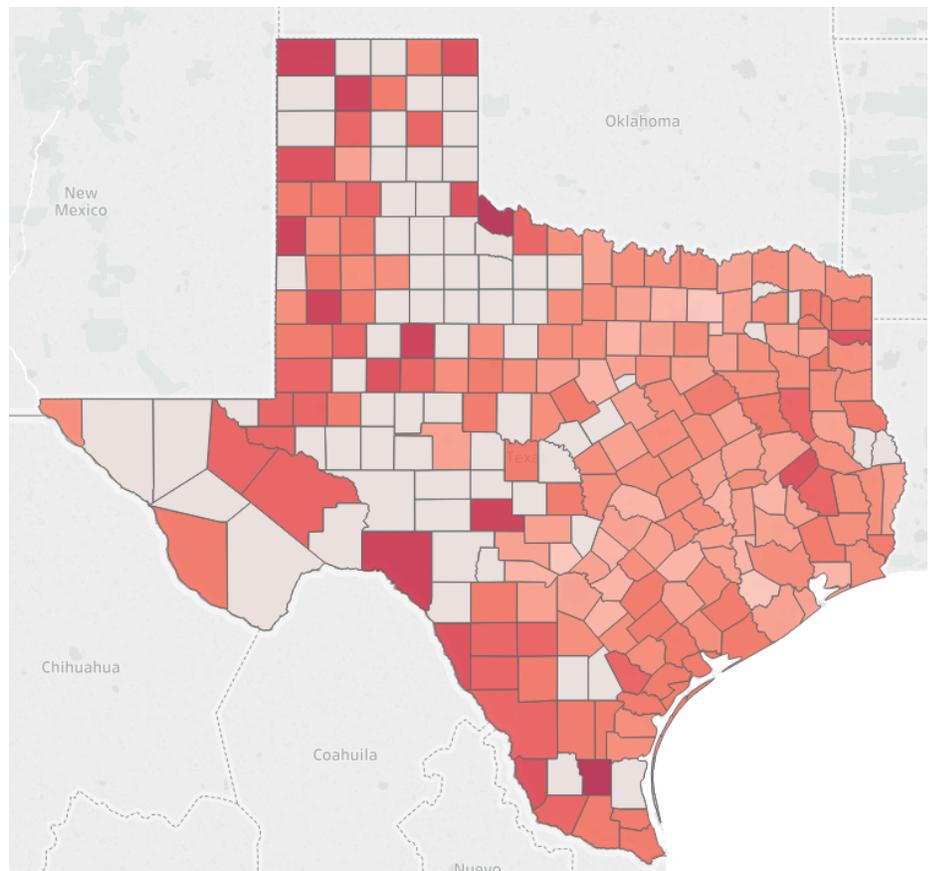
However, 80% of large school districts with enrollment greater than 50,000 teach abstinence-plus education.

2016 TEXAS TEEN BIRTH RATES BY COUNTY

Texas teen birth rates vary widely across the state. Rates are highest along the border and in the Texas Panhandle, reflecting the higher rates of pregnancy experienced by Hispanic and rural teens. In some rural counties, as many as 10% of teens give birth each year.

Due to their large population size, half of teen births in Texas occur in just seven counties: Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Cameron, Hidalgo, and El Paso. However, many large urban counties have rates near or lower than the state average.

To learn more, visit txcampaign.org and click on "interactive data map."



Note: Counties filled in gray have data suppressed for privacy due to small birth counts. However, the actual teen birth rates in these counties may be high.