

Indicator: Repeat Teen Births

Rate of births to mothers 15-19 years old who were already mothers per 1,000

Key Findings

- The number of teen births to mothers who were already mothers represents a small proportion of all births in Hennepin County; however, repeat teen births represent about one in five teen births.
- Disparities persist among some racial and ethnic subpopulations, especially African American, American Indian, and Hispanic mothers.
- Rates of repeat teen births were higher in Minneapolis compare to other geographic areas in Hennepin County in 2012; however, rates continue to decline in all geographic regions of the County.

Overview

In 2012, 701 births, or 4.3 percent, of all births in Hennepin County were to mothers age 15-19. However, repeat births to teen mothers represented about one in five (20%) of teen births. The repeat teen birth rate has declined substantially over the past 5 years, similar to the declines observed in the overall teen birth rate. Nationally, though repeat births to teen moms have similarly declined, more than 18 percent of all teen births are to teens who were already mothers.

Births to teen mothers who may not yet be fully mature, stable, or financially able to adequately support their new infant, can have significant consequences for the health and well-being of the infants, their parents, and their communities. A substantial proportion of births to teen mothers are repeat births, most often a second birth. Having more than one child as a teen can limit a teen's ability to finish her education or get a job, and infants born from a repeat teen birth are often born too small or too soon, which can lead to health problems for the baby.

The following describes data on births to teen moms who were already mothers in 2012, as well as trends in repeat teen births from 2002-2012.

Teen births in 2012

In 2012, 701 births, or 4.3 percent, of all births in Hennepin County were to mothers age 15-19. The birth rate for older teen mothers (18-19) is about three times that of younger mothers (15-17).

	Number of births	Rate per 1,000 females
Teen mothers aged 15-19 years	701	19.6

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A declining trend

In 2012, most teen births occurred to mothers who were 18 or 19 years of age. Of those, about one in five was a repeat birth, either a second (84%), third (14%), or more (2%) births to a teen mother. A smaller proportion of younger teen mothers had a repeat birth. Nineteen mothers between 15-17 years of age had a second birth in 2012.

Figure 2 highlights the decline in repeat teen birth rate in Hennepin County since 2003.

Figure 1. Proportion of repeat teen births: Hennepin County 2012

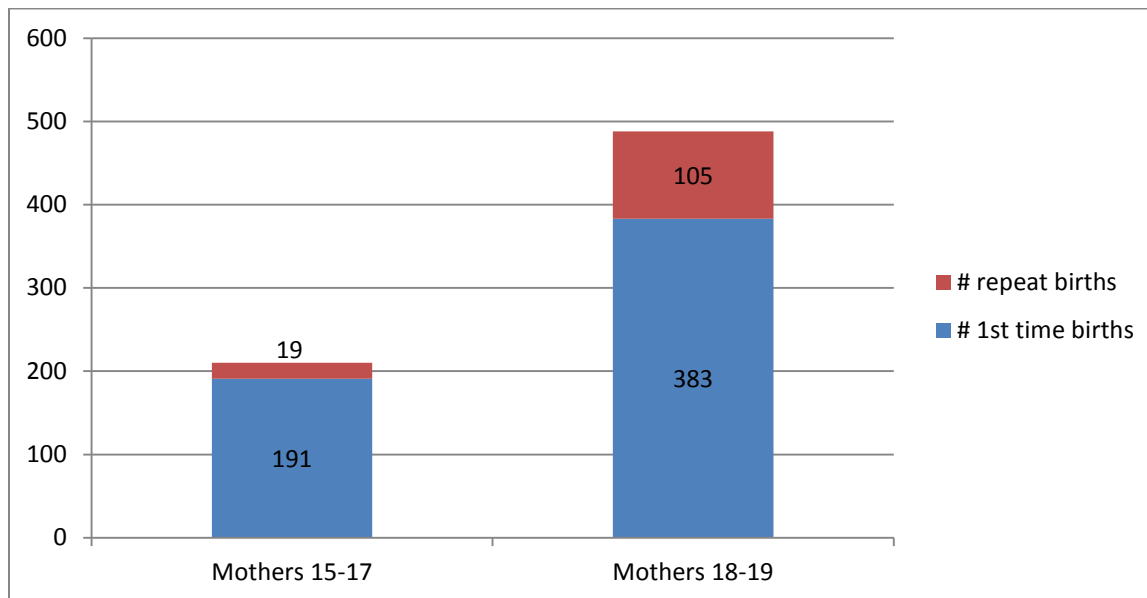
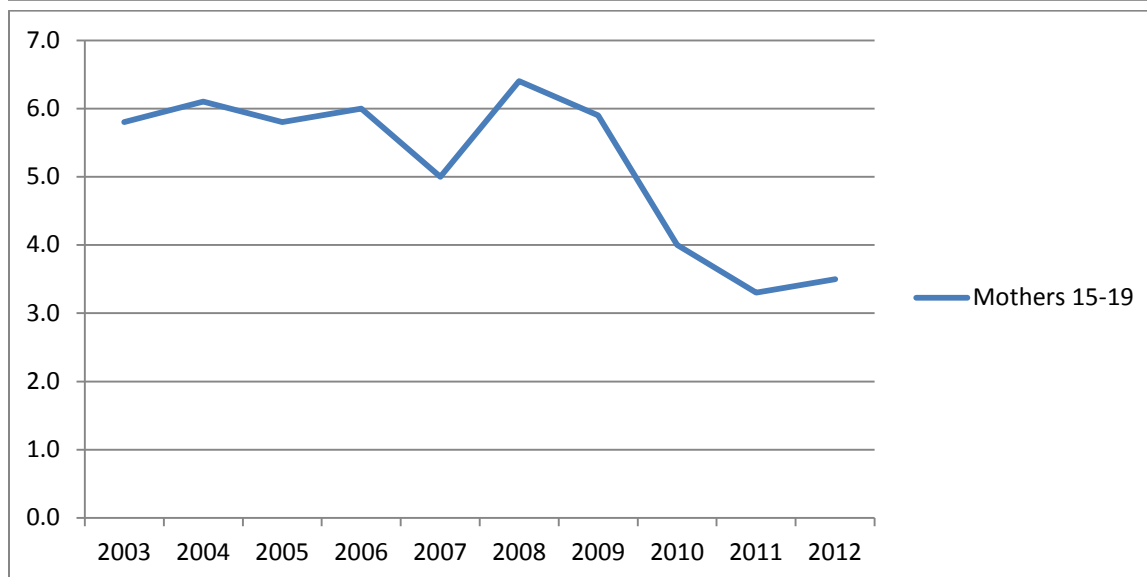


Figure 2. Repeat teen birth rate: Hennepin County 2003 - 2012



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Disparities by race and geography

While repeat teen birth rates have declined across all racial/ethnic groups in Hennepin County, disparities persist for teens of color, particularly Black/African American, American Indian, and Hispanic teens. Similarly, repeat teen birth rates have decreased in all regions of the County since 2002, but continue to be highest in Minneapolis and Northwest Hennepin County.

Figure 3. Repeat birth rate for mothers 15-19 years by race/ethnicity: 2012

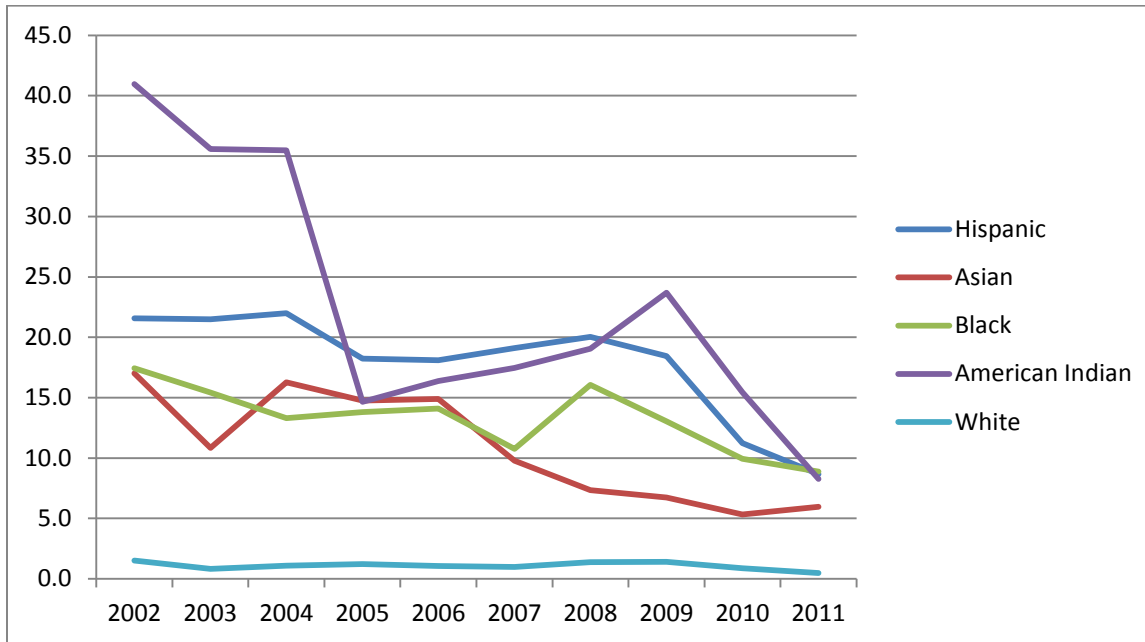
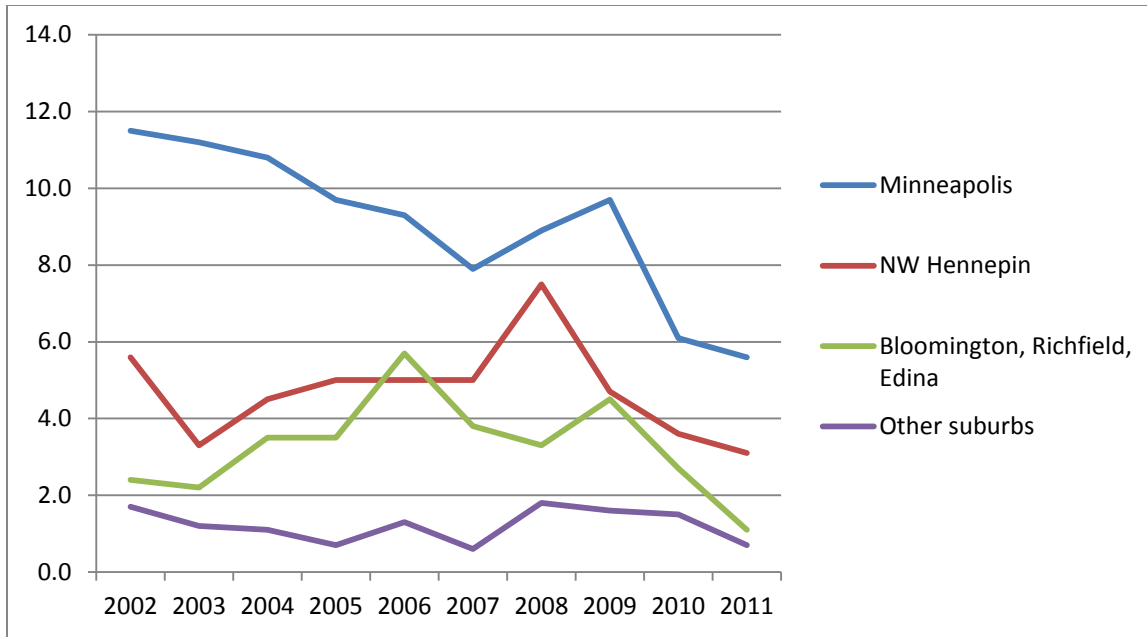


Figure 4. Repeat birth rate for mothers 15-19 years by geography: 2012

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Technical notes

Population		Number of repeat births to mothers aged 15-19	Rate per 1,000 females aged 15-19	Number of all births to mothers age 15-19
<i>Teen mothers aged 15-19 who were already mothers</i>		124	3.5	701
Age	15-17	19	0.9	210
	18-19	105	7.3	491
Race/ethnicity <i>Races reported a non-Hispanic</i>	Asian/Pacific Islander	16	5.5	71
	Black/African American	53	8.1	273
	American Indian	5	11.0	29
	White	15	0.7	150
	Hispanic/Latino	33	11.6	168
Location of residence	Minneapolis	75	5.6	372
	Suburban Hennepin (includes St Anthony)	49	2.1	329
	NW Hennepin County	36	3.1	206
	Bloomington, Edina, Richfield	10	2.2	93
	Other Suburbs	3	0.4	30

Definition of indicator: The repeat teen birth rate for Hennepin County is based on the number of births to mothers aged 15-19 who had previously given birth one time or more per 1,000 females in the population. There is a very small set of births to mothers under age 15; these were not included in the graphs and charts, unless otherwise indicated.

Data source: The number of repeat births to teen mothers is based on data provided by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) from the annual birth certificate files. These data were geo-coded by Hennepin County HSPHD to identify births to mothers residing in Hennepin County at the time the birth occurred; these will include births that occurred in other hospitals or locations outside of Hennepin County, where the mothers' address indicated that she was a resident of Hennepin County. The population data used for creating the birth rates were drawn using straightline estimates from US Census 2000 and 2010; rates for 2011 and 2012 use 2010 US Census 2010 estimates.

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Special notes on reporting by race/ethnicity: The information on race and ethnicity is based on self-reported data provided by the mothers about themselves; the race/ethnicity of the child may be different from that of their mother. The mothers who identify their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino may belong to any racial group. The rates reported for Black or African American mothers combines members from both the US-born and African immigrant communities; rates would be expected to be notably different for these two sub-groups. The number of births and the overall rate reported for Hennepin County includes a small number of births to mothers whose race/ethnicity was not identified.

Population estimates by race/ethnicity were revised in 2011 to estimates published by the National Center for Health Statistics Bridged Race population estimates. Prior reports used 1-year estimates from the American Community Survey. The NCHS estimates are more closely aligned with population projections published by the Minnesota Department of Health and used for national vital statistics reporting. Due to this change in population estimates, notable differences in rates of previously published teen pregnancy will be evident in reports dating 2011 going forward. In addition, multiple race selection became possible in the 2011 birth certificate, which may affect their comparability to data from prior years. For further clarification in interpreting these changes, please contact Dave Johnson at David.Johnson2@hennepin.us.

Data limitations: It is important to note that large annual changes in teen birth rates, especially for specific racial or ethnic groups, may be due to small overall numbers of births within that population. Caution is warranted in interpreting these findings across subpopulations within the County.