

# People's Health

Outcomes • Planning • Evaluation



## Know the facts: Births to teens

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Nationally, the birth rate among girls aged 15-19 years decreased in 2015 to the lowest level ever reported for the nation, 22.3 births per 1,000 women in that age group. This is a 64% decline since 1991.
- In California, the birth rate among girls aged 15-19 years decreased in 2015 to 19 births per 1,000 women in that age group. This is a 74% decline since 1991.
- The overall cost to California taxpayers for teenage childbearing was estimated in 2013 to be \$590 million, mainly attributed to higher public assistance costs, lower tax revenues, increased child welfare, and higher criminal justice costs. The 2013 estimated annual cost to Shasta County taxpayers was \$2.8 million or approximately \$18,800 per teen birth, down from \$6 million and \$27,000 respectively in 2003.
- Public funds paid for the delivery cost of approximately 85% of the teen births in Shasta County in 2015 compared to 55% of non-teen births.

### WHERE WE WERE (BASELINE):

In 1990-92 the fertility rate among 15-19 year old females in Shasta County was 68 births per 1000 females age 15-19.

### WHERE WE ARE:

In 2012-14 the fertility rate was 23.4 births per 1000 females age 15-19 in Shasta County.

### WHERE WE ARE AIMING (HP 2020 GOAL):

None

### DEFINITION:

Age-specific fertility rates (live births per 1,000 females in age group) for Shasta County residents in the following age groups: 15-17, 18-19, and 15-19 years.

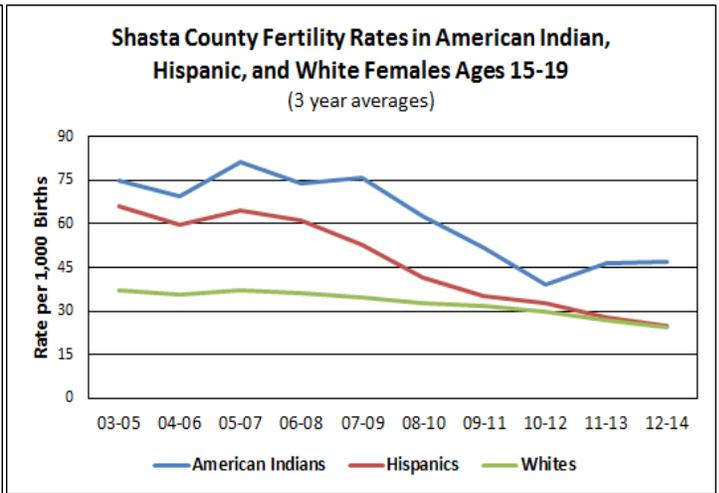
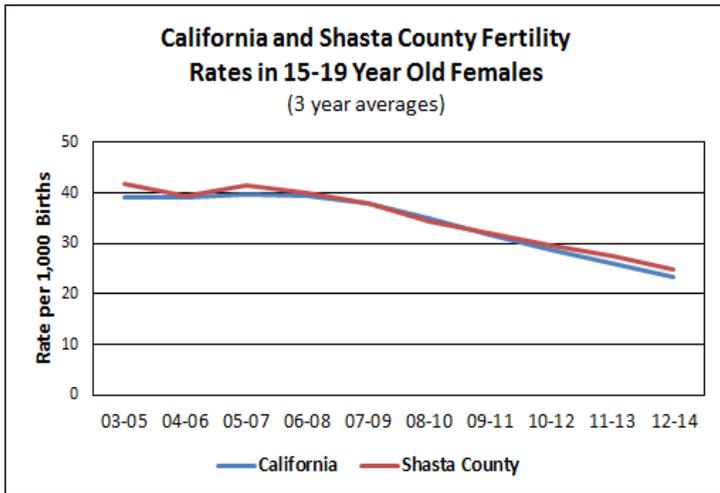
**Average Annual Teen Births and Fertility Rates by Age Group, Shasta County and California (2012-2014)**

Age Group	Shasta County		California
	Births	Fertility Rate	Fertility Rate
Females aged 15-17 years	34	10.2	11.4
Females aged 18-19 years	108	45.7	40.2
Females aged 15-19 years	142	25.0	23.4

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Find more health information at [www.shastahhsa.net](http://www.shastahhsa.net). Click on "Health and Safety," then "Current Health Concerns."

**Questions?** Email [shastahealthdata@co.shasta.ca.us](mailto:shastahealthdata@co.shasta.ca.us)



**KEY POINTS:**

- The fertility rate among women aged 15 to 19 years living in Shasta County leveled off during the early 2000s and then began to decrease again in the late 2000s.
- While the overall fertility rate for teens in Shasta County has tracked closely to that of California’s since the mid 2000s, the fertility rate among white females aged 15 to 19 in Shasta County is more than double that of California (24.4 and 9.4, respectively for 2012-2014), the most recent time period for which California data is available.
- The overall teen fertility rate in Shasta County closely parallels the county's white rate because approximately 72% of teen births are to white women. In California, the teen fertility reflects a more diverse population including a large proportion of Hispanic women, who historically have had a higher birth rate than white women.
- Shasta County fertility rates for both American Indian women and Hispanics declined during the late 2000s, but the rate for American Indian women began to increase starting in 2010.

**PRIMARY PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:**

- Encourage abstinence and develop skills in decision-making, communication, and negotiation about sex.
- Provide parents with information on discussing sex with their children.
- Provide more comprehensive and earlier sex education to youth, with particular attention being given to pregnancy, HIV and STDs.
- Encourage communities to work together to increase youth developmental assets and the availability of contraceptives.
- Promote sexual responsibility among young men through education and enforcement of statutory rape laws, and establishment and enforcement of paternity and child support laws.
- Explore and support comprehensive sexuality education programs, such as school-based health centers with increased access to contraceptives and reproductive health services.
- Encourage and support young women to stay in school and be involved in organized extracurricular activities.

**From the Desk of  
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Teen pregnancy and childbearing bring substantial social and economic costs through immediate and long-term impacts on teen parents and their children. There has been a downward trend in teenage pregnancy in the U.S. in part due to better awareness of the youth about safe sex and the availability of contraceptive devices. Providing suitable information to parents and teens, community participation in youth development activities, and support to women to stay in school are among useful measures to tackle teenage pregnancies. To your health!

**Data source:** California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics and Birth Records; California Department of Finance, “State and County Population Projections, February 2017”; California Department of Public Health, “Teen Births in California”; HealthyPeople2020.gov; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “About Teen Pregnancy” and National Vital Statistics Reports; The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancies, Public Health Institute.