

TEEN PREGNANCY

Quality of Life

Compared to women who delay childbearing, teen mothers are less likely to complete high school and more likely to end up on welfare. The children of teen mothers are at significantly increased risk of low birthweight and prematurity, mental retardation, poverty, growing up without a father, welfare dependency, poor school performance, insufficient health care, inadequate parenting, and abuse and neglect. U.S. taxpayers shoulder at least \$7 billion annually in direct costs and lost tax revenues associated with teen pregnancy and childbearing.

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

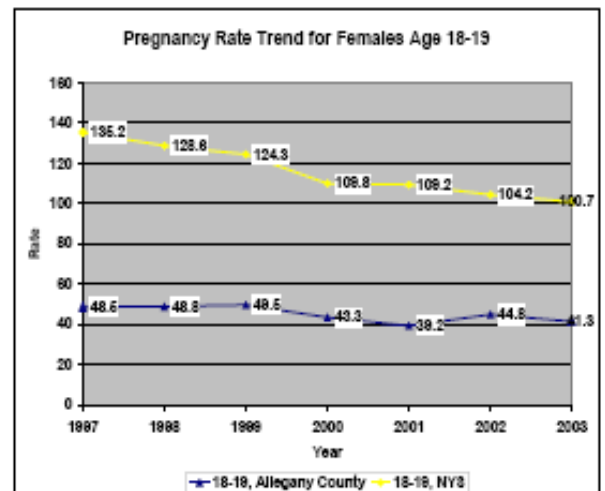
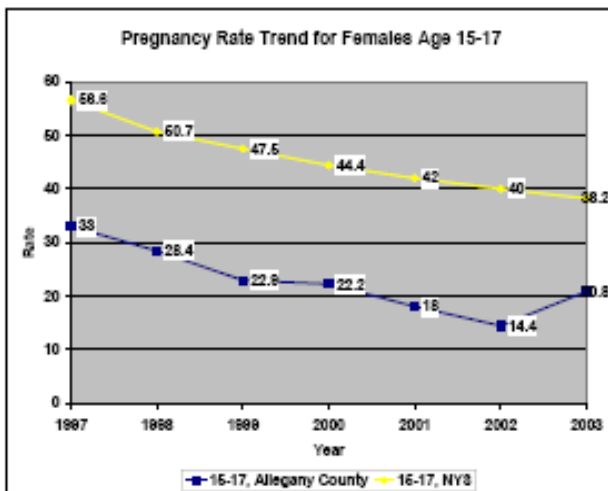
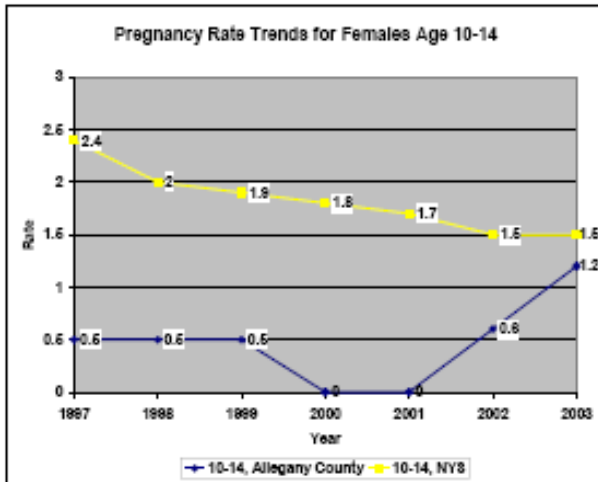
About the Indicator

Information about pregnancies among women ages 10-19, is provided by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) County Health Profiles series (latest data: 2002). The NYSDOH Bureau of Biometrics tracks pregnancy rates by race and ethnicity. Population estimates for teenage girls were obtained from the U.S. Census. Teen pregnancy rates, per 1,000 women, include all pregnancies, regardless of whether they result in a live birth.

In some cases due to small numbers, the rates are not stable and it may be too difficult to predict future trends according to the small frequency.

Total Pregnancies by Age Group

Between 1991 and 2002 the US teen birth rate declined by 30%. Key factors contributing to the decline include less sexual activity in youth population and greater contraceptive use. Allegany County followed the national trend decreasing pregnancy rates in each age category; ages 10-14, 15-17 and 18-19. When comparing Allegany County to New York State trends, pregnancy rates continue to be below the state-wide and regional data.



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Raw Data

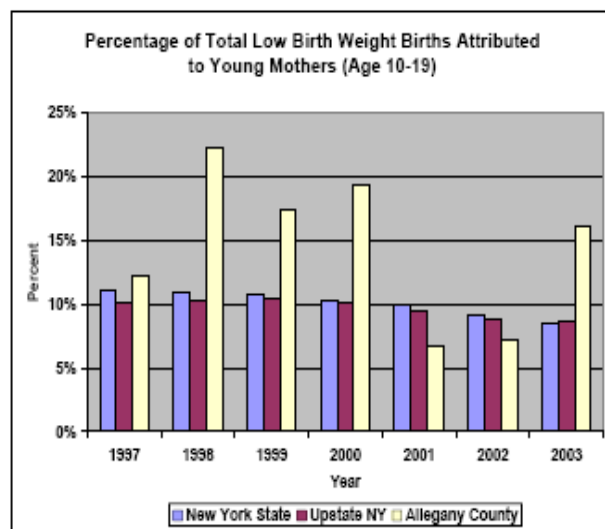
Another method to examine the local teen pregnancy trend is to compare total pregnancies to age specific categories; 10-14 and 15-19; while also weighing in actual teen pregnancies.

	2003		2002		2001		2000		1999	
	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
Pregnancies (All ages)	652	58.6	654	59.4	659	60.2	634	59.1	682	63.3
- Age 10-14	2	1.2	1	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5
- Age 15-19	86	33.0	83	31.8	78	30.1	84	33.7	95	38.0

Low Birth Weight Births

Allegany County statistics show a significantly higher percentage of low birth weight births to young mothers (ages 10-19) in comparison to New York State and Upstate New York.

The children of teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely and at low birth weight, raising the probability of infant death, blindness, deafness, chronic respiratory problems, mental retardation, mental illness, cerebral palsy, dyslexia, and hyperactivity.



Source: NYS Department of Health – Vital Statistics Tables

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)

Although teen pregnancy rates have declined nationally, each year one in four teens contract a STD. About half of all new STDs in 2000 occurred among youth ages 15-24. The total estimated costs of these nine million new cases of STDs was \$6.5 billion, with HIV and Human Papilloma-virus (HPV) accounting for 90% of the total burden. (American Social Health Association) Complications of STDs can include infertility, emotional trauma, greater susceptibility to other STDs, cancers, and potential birth defects.

The following table illustrates morbidity rates (per 100,000 population) for diseases that can be contracted through sexual activity for Allegany County and New York State (excluding New York City) from 2003 New York State Department of Health data and 2000-2002 SPARCS data. Yet, many Sexually Transmitted Diseases are still not reportable and cannot be tracked.

Allegany County Department of Health
Community Health Assessment 2005-2010

Disease	Allegany County Rate	New York (excluding NYC) Rate
Hepatitis B Acute	0	1.0
Hepatitis C Acute	0	0.2
Chlamydia	121.6	197.4
Gonorrhea	6.0	76.6
Syphilis Early	0	1.0
Syphilis Late	2.0	3.7
PID Discharge Rate	46.7	46.3