

HEALTH ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

Priority Problem Justification

Teen Pregnancy, Late Prenatal Care, Low Birth Weight, Infant Mortality

Teen Pregnancy:

In a Community Health Status survey conducted by the council, 60 percent of the respondents described teen pregnancy as a problem in Henry County. The following table shows that the number of pregnancies has fluctuated, yet no notable reduction has occurred.

Henry County Adolescent Pregnancies by Number and Rate

Per 1,000 females aged 10-17 by Race

Race/ Year	1996 # Rate	1995 # Rate	1994 # Rate	1993 # Rate	1992 # Rate	1991 # Rate	1990 # Rate
All	27 18.5	30 22.2	30 21.9	27 19.4	23 16.3	31 21.7	26 18.0
White	20 15.6	24 20.3	25 20.8	19 15.6	19 15.4	20 16.0	22 17.4
Non-White	7 40.2	6 37.5	5 30.9	8 48.8	4 23.8	11 61.8	4 22.2

Average Number of Births to Adolescent Mothers Aged (10-17) During period 1990-1996

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After adjusting for other factors to teen pregnancy, the estimated cost of taxpayers is \$6.9 billion in lost tax revenues, increased health care, foster care, and the criminal justice system.

When adolescent girls give birth, their future prospects decline. Teen mothers complete less school, are more likely to have large families, and are more likely to be single parents. Consequently, over time, and increasing percentage of teens have initiated sex sooner, have sex more frequently, and have sex with a greater number of partners prior to marriage. For example, in 1995, 66 percent of high school students reported having sex prior to graduation.

Children whose mothers were 17 or younger, tend to have more difficulty in school, have poorer health yet receive less health care, have less stimulating and appropriate home environments, have higher incarceration rates, and have higher rates of adolescent pregnancies and births. (Robin Hood Foundation data)

Late Prenatal Care:

Average Annual Number of Live Births and Percent Adequate Prenatal Care

	82-84 # Births % Adequate	85-87 # Births % Adequate	88-90 # Births % Adequate	91-93 # Births % Adequate	94-96 # Births % Adequate
Total	360 48.0	334 51.5	333 47.2	337 62.0	338 72.5
White	307 51.0	286 54.0	288 50.5	291 64.6	300 73.9
Other Races	53 30.8	49 37.0	45 26.7	45 45.6	38 61.4

According to Healthy People 2000, for the period of 1993-95, Henry County ranked 24th worst out of 95 Tennessee counties for inadequate prenatal care. The Healthy People 2000 goal is 10 percent, Henry County's percentage is 22.5.