

Youth Sexual Behavior and Teen Pregnancy Outcomes

Key Findings

In 2005, just under one-third (31%) of Sandusky County youth have had sexual intercourse, increasing to 58% of those ages 17 and over. Of those who were sexually active, 43% have had one sexual partner. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), early sexual activity is associated with unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and negative effects on social and psychological development. In addition, activities that may contribute to early sexual activity include alcohol and drug abuse (Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) Question Rationale, Sexual Behaviors, 2001).

Youth Sexual Behavior

- ◆ This section represents both middle school and high school youth.
- ◆ Just under one-third (31%) of Sandusky County youth have had sexual intercourse, increasing to 58% of those ages 17 and over.
- ◆ Among Sandusky County youth who were sexually active 64% used condoms.
- ◆ Of those youth who were sexually active in their lifetime, 43% have had one sexual partner and 57% have had multiple partners.

High School Sexual Behavior

- ◆ This section only represents high school youth. Middle school youth were not asked these questions.
- ◆ Just under half (48%) of high school youth had participated in oral sex.
- ◆ Of those high school youth who were sexually active, 39% had done so by the age of 14. Another 31% had done so by 15 years of age. Females had sex at a younger age than males. 77% of females had sex by the age of 15 compared to 62% of males.
- ◆ In the past three months, 80% have had one sexual partner, and 20% have had multiple partners.
- ◆ 55% of high school youth used condoms to prevent pregnancy, 22% used birth control pills, and 12% used the withdrawal method. However, 9% were engaging in intercourse without a reliable method of protection.
- ◆ Over one in five (21%) of high school youth used alcohol or drugs before their last sexual intercourse.
- ◆ Most high school youth (95%) had been taught about sexual practices, sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, or HIV infection in school.

Teen Sex and Its Risks

National Statistics

- ❖ About 25% of sexually active teens acquire an STD.
- ❖ In one act of unprotected sex with an infected partner, a teen female increases her risk of acquiring HIV by 1%, genital herpes by 30%, and gonorrhea by 50%.
- ❖ 19% of all sexually active teen women will become pregnant.
- ❖ 25% of new teenage mothers will have a second child within two years.
- ❖ The babies of teen mothers are more likely to be low birth-weight and have childhood health issues that require hospitalization than babies born to older mothers.

(Source: Facts in Brief, The Alan Guttmacher Institute)

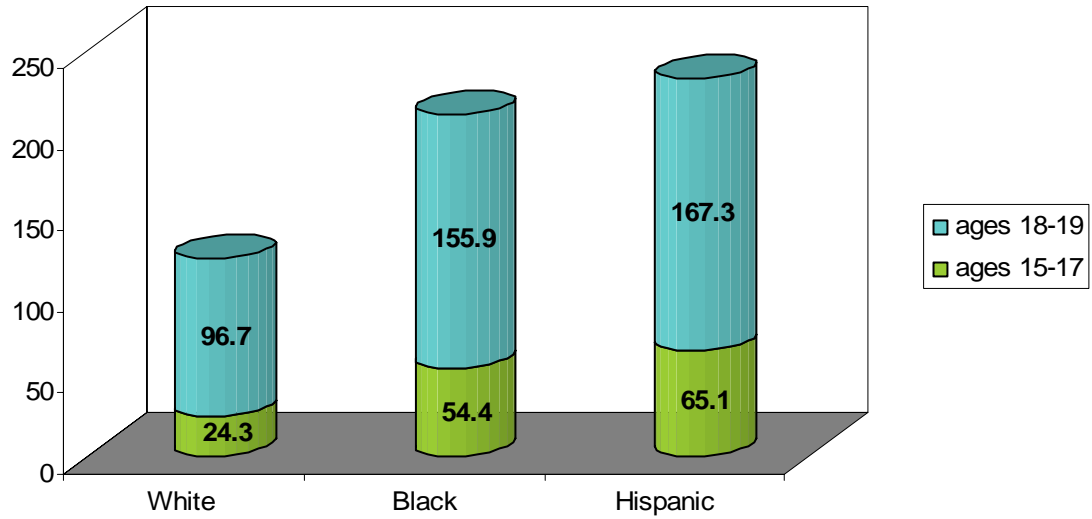
Social and Economic Vulnerabilities of Children Born to Teen Mothers

- ❖ **Poverty**- More than 80% of teen mothers and their children end up reliant on welfare.
- ❖ **Father-less homes**- Less likely to grow up in homes with fathers
- ❖ **Runaway children**- Two to three times more likely to be runaways
- ❖ **Abuse and neglect**- Twice as likely to suffer from abuse and neglect
- ❖ **Foster children**- An estimated 5% of children born to teen mothers end up in foster care.
- ❖ **Difficulty in school**- 2-3 times less likely to be rated "excellent" by teachers, and 50% more likely to repeat a grade
- ❖ **High school drop-outs**- Children of teen mothers have a graduation rate of 77% versus 89% of their cohorts.
- ❖ **Teen mothers**- Daughters of teen mothers are 83% more likely to become teen mothers themselves.
- ❖ **Unproductive lives**- At age 24, approximately 30% are neither in school or actively looking for a job.
- ❖ **Behind bars**- Sons of teen mothers are 2.7 times more likely to end up in prison.

(Source: Kids Having Kids, Robin Hood Foundation)

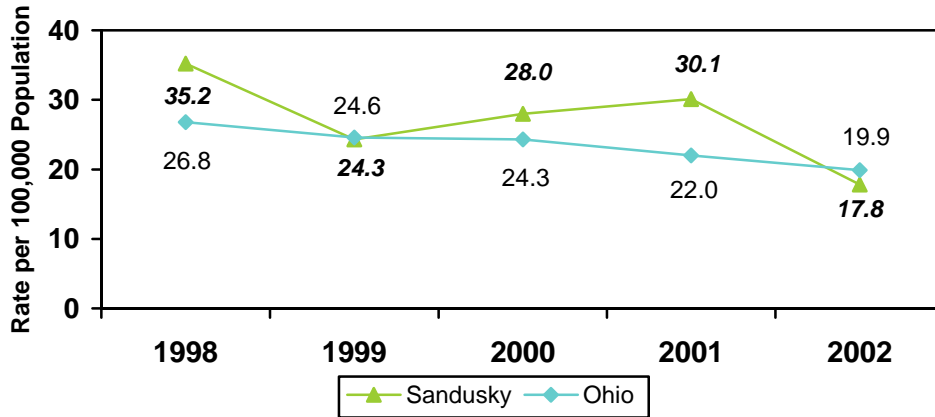
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**Race/Ethnicity of Adolescent Mothers in Sandusky County
3 year Avg. 2000-2002**



*per 1,000 women in specified age and race/ethnicity group
(Source: Ohio Department of Health Information Warehouse Updated 3-12-04)*

Teen Birth Rates for Sandusky County and Ohio*



**Teen birth rates include women ages 15-17
(Source: Ohio Department of Health Information Warehouse Updated 3-12-04)*