

Repeat Births to Teens

Definition

Repeat births to teens is the number of babies born to females ages 15 to 19 who were already mothers and the percent of all births to females ages 15 to 19.

Data in context

Every child born in Kentucky needs the opportunity for a safe and healthy start in life. Likewise, all teens in Kentucky need quality education and independent living skills as they enter adulthood. Teen mothers face challenges in providing for their children as they learn to become a parent for their newborn. The arrival of a subsequent infant can exacerbate those challenges, particularly for those without a strong social or family network to rely upon.

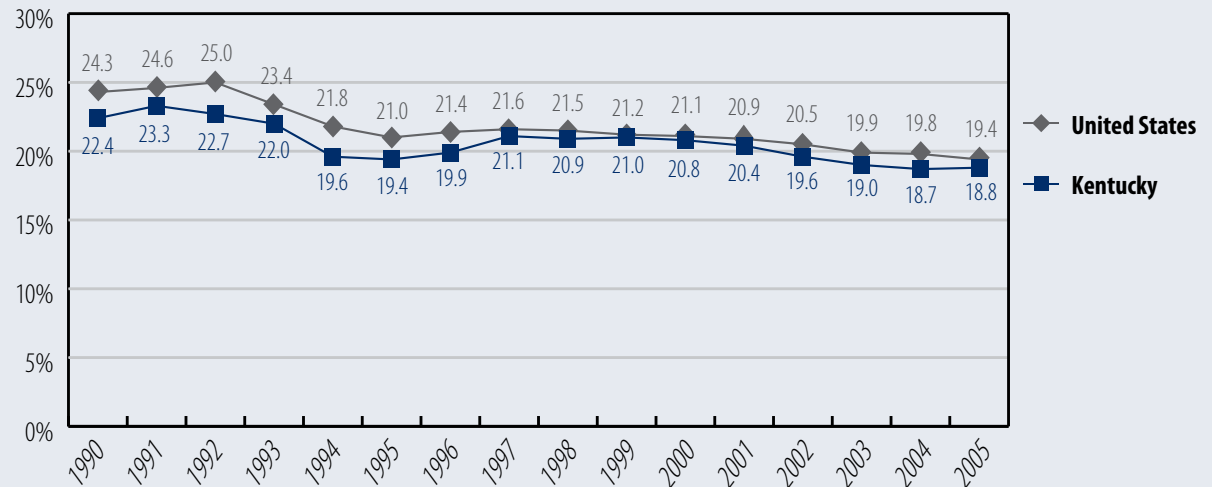
The likelihood that a teen mother will finish high school and achieve financial self-sufficiency diminishes with the arrival of each subsequent infant.¹ In addition to economic challenges, subsequent births by a teenage mother increase risks of poorer educational outcomes and behavioral problems for her children.²

Young women are more likely to have a second adolescent pregnancy within 18 months of a first birth when they do not return to school within 6 months of the first birth or they marry or cohabitate with a male partner.³

The likelihood of a first birth to a teen is much lower than the likelihood that a teen who already has a child will have a second child during her teen years.⁴ Nationally, 19.4 percent of births to teens in 2005 were to women who were already mothers, down from more than 24 percent in the early 1990s.⁵ Kentucky's rate has consistently been lower than the national rate across that time and was 18.8 percent in 2005.⁶

In Kentucky, 19 percent of teen mothers had subsequent births before the age of twenty during 2004-2006, an improvement from 21 percent during 1999-2001. McLean and Trigg Counties showed the greatest improvement between the time periods. Allen and Oldham Counties also showed improvement, and the rates for those counties are less than half the state rate. In contrast, rates in Crittenden (29 percent) and Magoffin (32 percent) Counties increased over time and are highest in the state.

Percent of Teen Births to Young Women Who Are Already Mothers, 1990-2005



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation website, KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Though differences in access to protective factors contribute to disparities by race in teen births, rates of repeat births are more consistent across racial and ethnic groups in Kentucky.⁷ In 2006, 20 percent of teen births to Black women, 23 percent to Hispanic women, and 19 percent to White women were repeat teen births.⁸

Kentucky can reduce the number of repeat teen births with efforts to support young women during and after their first pregnancy. Programs can decrease the chance of a second teen birth by building a strong relationship between the teen and the person working with her during the first pregnancy and maintaining that relationship at least until her child turns two years old and she turns 18.⁹ Teen mothers should also be encouraged to live with a parent or adult other than a boyfriend who can provide financial and emotional support.¹⁰ Efforts should also focus on encouraging teen mothers to complete their educations and supporting them with child care while they pursue their education or job training.¹¹

Data Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.

Data Note: All data refer to totals over the 3-year periods of 1999-2001 and 2004-2006. Data are reported by mother's place of residence, not infant's place of birth. Data from 2006 are preliminary and exclude births to Kentucky mothers that occurred in Ohio. For cases where the information for this variable was missing, the case was excluded from the total number of live births.

Rate Calculation: (number of births to teens ages 15-19 who were already mothers between 1999-2001 * 100) / (number of births to teens ages 15-19 between 1999-2001)
(number of births to teens ages 15-19 who were already mothers between 2004-2006 * 100) / (number of births to teens ages 15-19 between 2004-2006)

- 1 Klerman, L. (2004). *Another Chance: Preventing Additional Births to Teen Mothers*. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. Available at <http://www.teenpregnancy.org>. Accessed August 2008.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Child Trends DataBank. *Teen Births*. Available at <http://www.childtrendsdatbank.org>. Accessed October 2008.
- 5 Annie E. Casey Foundation website. KIDS COUNT Data Center. Available at <http://www.kidscount.org>. Accessed October 2008.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Data obtained from Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children, September 2008, processed by Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Klerman, L. (2004). *Another Chance: Preventing Additional Births to Teen Mothers*. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. Available at <http://www.teenpregnancy.org>. Accessed August 2008.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 Ibid.

Repeat births to teens 15-19 (number & percent of all births to teens ages 15-19)

	1999-2001		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Kentucky	4,775	21	3,916	19
Adair	22	21	26	26
Allen	15	15	9	9
Anderson	19	20	20	23
Ballard	8	24	1	*
Barren	35	16	35	17
Bath	16	22	17	22
Bell	56	26	39	21
Boone	52	15	44	13
Bourbon	18	21	20	22
Boyd	42	19	41	16
Boyle	29	21	32	23
Bracken	10	21	7	15
Breathitt	15	16	10	15
Breckinridge	11	12	16	18
Bullitt	49	18	35	16
Butler	14	15	13	22
Caldwell	15	22	9	14
Calloway	24	18	18	16
Campbell	101	22	62	16
Carlisle	14	40	5	*
Carroll	12	16	16	23
Carter	40	22	34	22
Casey	23	23	15	21
Christian	138	24	115	22
Clark	49	23	31	17
Clay	40	24	25	17
Clinton	8	12	10	21
Crittenden	9	19	12	29
Cumberland	5	*	5	*
Daviess	108	20	115	24
Edmonson	10	14	10	17
Elliott	9	21	7	17
Estill	20	18	21	21
Fayette	226	21	194	18
Fleming	20	26	10	16
Floyd	55	20	58	22
Franklin	54	22	42	19
Fulton	10	20	11	23
Gallatin	9	17	12	16
Garrard	13	21	8	14

	1999-2001		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Grant	31	17	28	19
Graves	39	19	41	22
Grayson	27	17	21	17
Green	12	22	7	12
Greenup	29	17	24	18
Hancock	14	26	4	*
Hardin	118	20	88	17
Harlan	55	22	47	20
Harrison	19	18	22	20
Hart	15	15	21	20
Henderson	69	24	57	21
Henry	19	19	14	18
Hickman	8	29	2	*
Hopkins	72	23	66	21
Jackson	26	23	16	19
Jefferson	861	23	581	19
Jessamine	39	25	47	21
Johnson	23	15	21	19
Kenton	175	22	147	20
Knott	17	18	20	21
Knox	75	26	69	24
LaRue	16	23	11	17
Laurel	86	23	63	19
Lawrence	16	17	15	16
Lee	4	*	12	27
Leslie	11	16	7	12
Letcher	33	20	31	22
Lewis	21	19	18	21
Lincoln	33	21	29	18
Livingston	2	*	3	*
Logan	37	22	31	18
Lyon	2	*	3	*
McCracken	84	25	53	18
McCreary	28	21	33	24
McLean	21	28	7	14
Madison	77	20	63	19
Magoffin	19	17	31	32
Marion	22	19	27	26
Marshall	18	13	27	22
Martin	17	17	18	22
Mason	15	17	16	15

	1999-2001		2004-2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Meade	31	20	15	15
Menifee	11	22	8	24
Mercer	25	22	18	18
Metcalfe	10	16	15	25
Monroe	13	19	17	27
Montgomery	29	20	30	20
Morgan	18	24	11	19
Muhlenberg	48	23	31	19
Nelson	32	16	42	20
Nicholas	9	19	9	20
Ohio	28	22	23	16
Oldham	12	14	8	8
Owen	12	21	13	19
Owsley	3	*	4	*
Pendleton	16	19	14	18
Perry	40	21	29	17
Pike	79	21	53	16
Powell	19	18	27	26
Pulaski	94	23	68	20
Robertson	1	*	0	*
Rockcastle	28	26	19	23
Rowan	24	23	12	16
Russell	18	19	21	19
Scott	37	20	37	19
Shelby	42	23	31	18
Simpson	32	26	17	17
Spencer	10	20	3	*
Taylor	27	19	30	25
Todd	15	22	10	19
Trigg	19	31	9	18
Trimble	5	*	6	21
Union	17	18	22	23
Warren	110	22	86	20
Washington	12	23	9	18
Wayne	19	15	26	17
Webster	18	19	15	22
Whitley	56	20	53	25
Wolfe	19	24	12	20
Woodford	9	12	12	19

* Rates were not calculated for counties with fewer than 6 occurrences.