



## Oklahoma Teen Birth Rates – Too High for Too Long!

Oklahoma is investing very little in teen pregnancy prevention – and it shows in the dramatic increase of over 500 teen births between 2005 and 2006! The lack of investment in science-based approaches (SBA) is reflected in our state’s high rates of child poverty, child abuse and neglect and school dropout. It is reflected, also, in the number of families that are started by a teen mother who is not ready – physically, educationally, emotionally or economically – to be a parent and to support a child.

In 2004, Oklahoma’s birth rate for 15-19 year-olds ranked 7th highest in the nation at 56 per 1,000 females of the same age. States with teen birth rates higher than Oklahoma were:

<u>State</u>	<u>Birth Rate*</u>
Texas	63
Mississippi	62
New Mexico	61
Arkansas	60**
Arizona	60
Louisiana	56**
<b>Oklahoma</b>	56
U.S.	41 <i>Same rate as Kansas to the north!</i>

\* Birth rates represent the number of births per 1,000 females of the same age; Oklahoma birth rates are calculated on the most recent three-year average.

\*\* The AR rate was slightly higher than AZ, and the LA rate was slightly higher than the OK rate before rounding off.

Teen birth rates in Oklahoma have ranked significantly higher than the national average for decades. As recently as 2002, Oklahoma ranked in the “top 10” highest (worst) rates among all the states in the following categories: *all teen births* (ages 15-19), *births to younger teens* (ages 15-17), *births to older teens* (ages 18-19), *percentage of teen births to all births* (teen and adult) and *percentage of teen births that were repeat births*. We can change this picture by promoting programs and approaches that work!

## Workshops and Trainings: Sharing What We Know

Currently, Oklahoma is one of nine states selected by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to participate in a special training initiative on Promoting Science-Based Approaches (SBA) to Teen Pregnancy Prevention. Our SBA project, Healthy Teens OK!, is coordinated by the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, working in partnership with the Interagency Coordinating Council for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy and STDs, the Community Development Section of the Oklahoma State Department of Health and Family Health Coalition of the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa. The goal of the Healthy Teens OK! Project is to increase the capacity of organizations in our state to identify, select, use and evaluate effective, science-based approaches for teen pregnancy prevention. SBA trainings provided, to date, include: *Introduction to SBAs*, *Using the BDI Logic Model to Improve Programs*, *The Nuts and Bolts of Program Evaluation Basics*, *Teen Pregnancy Prevention - Translating Research to Practice*, *Fostering Hope - Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Youth in Foster Care*, *Postponing Sexual Involvement for Young Teens*, *Teen Outreach Program (TOP)*, *Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Why It Matters* and the *Characteristics of Effective Teen Pregnancy Prevention and STD/HIV Programs*.

## Teen Pregnancy Prevention in Oklahoma: An Overview

A special report, *Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Putting Research into Practice – Using What Works!*, was prepared by the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy through support provided by the Women’s Foundation of Oklahoma. This publication provides a user-friendly overview of the data, research findings, priority populations, science-based program models and resources that can be used to improve teen pregnancy prevention efforts by organizations and communities across Oklahoma.

Effective, science-based teen pregnancy prevention programs highlighted in the report include *Postponing Sexual Involvement (PSI) for Young Teens* in Atoka, Chandler, Oklahoma City and Sallisaw; and the *Teen Outreach Program* in Oklahoma City. Model programs serving pregnant and parenting teens highlighted in the report include the Teen Parent Program at Emerson Alternative Education Center in Oklahoma City and the Margaret Hudson Program in Tulsa and Broken Arrow. Also highlighted is *The Courage to Say Know*, a curriculum developed by the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and *The Power Through Choices*, a curriculum developed with and for youth in foster care available through the University of Oklahoma National Resource Center for Youth Services. To download the full report or a one-page summary: [www.healthyteensok.org](http://www.healthyteensok.org).

## Tapping National Resources

The following three national organizations are being funded by CDC to provide SBA training and technical assistance to the Healthy Teens OK! Project and its selected community pilot sites. These organizations have a wealth of data, information, publications and program materials that can be downloaded free of charge. Check them out!

### National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

[www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org) - or - [www.thenationalcampaign.org](http://www.thenationalcampaign.org)

New website for teens: [www.stayteen.org](http://www.stayteen.org)

Special event: National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy – May 7, 2008

Check the *Science Says* research briefs and *What Works* resources

### Healthy Teen Network

[www.healthyteennetwork.org](http://www.healthyteennetwork.org)

Check the *Tool to Assess the Characteristics of Effective Sex and STD/HIV Education Programs (TAC)*

Resources for working with pregnant and parenting teens

Annual National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico - November 2008

### Advocates for Youth

[www.advocatesforyouth.org](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org)

Download the how-to guide for “Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month” (May)

Download the how-to guide for “Let’s Talk Month” (October)

Check *Science and Success* for a description of effective programs

---

## Contacts

Healthy Teens OK! Project, Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA):

Sharon Rodine, OICA Youth Initiatives Director

Phone: 405-236-5437 x 108

Email: [srodine@oica.org](mailto:srodine@oica.org)

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy and STDs:

Kay Holladay, ICC Chair

Phone: 405-364-4466

Email: [Kayholladay@cox.net](mailto:Kayholladay@cox.net)