

OKLAHOMA ALERT: TEEN BIRTHS ARE RISING...AGAIN!

In recent years, Oklahoma has invested few resources, little funding and little training in teen pregnancy and STD prevention programs. As a result, the slow but steady decrease in teen births and birth rates that occurred from 1991 through 2005 reversed itself in 2006 and continued to increase in 2007. Between 2005 and 2006, births to teens in Oklahoma increased by over 500, with another increase of over 250 births in 2007.

Number of Births to Oklahoma Teens

<u>Ages</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007*</u>
14 and younger	104	113	96	93
15-17	2,145	2,020	2,280	2,293
18-19	4,704	4,662	4,944	5,230
TOTAL	6,953	6,795	7,320	7,616

*Oklahoma Vital Statistics, Preliminary Data

This is not good news for Oklahoma's young people. It is not good news for our state's future - for education, health costs, the workforce or the economy.

Oklahoma must begin focusing serious attention and resources on teen pregnancy prevention programs and strategies that have been shown to be effective in...

- Delaying/preventing the onset of sexual activity
- Having sexually active teens understand how to avoid pregnancy and STDs
- Helping pregnant and parenting teens avoid rapid, repeat births

***It is critical that we begin to put what works...
to work in Oklahoma!***

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