



## Oklahoma County: 2019 Teen Birth Facts-at-a-Glance

### **Statewide numbers:**

- In 2019, Oklahoma had 3,549 births to girls aged 19 and younger, an increase of 1% from the previous year.
- One-fourth (880) of the births were to girls aged 17 & younger; three-fourths (2,669) were older teens, aged 18-19.

### **Statewide rate:** (Birth rates are the number of births per 1,000 females of the same age range.)

- Oklahoma's birth rate for ages 15-19 stalled at 27.4 in 2019, remaining well above the U.S. average of 16.6.
- The state had the 4<sup>rd</sup> highest (worst) teen birth for ages 15-19 in 2019, ranking 47<sup>th</sup> out of all the states.

### **Oklahoma County had the highest NUMBER of teen births among all counties in the state.**

- The eight counties comprising the OKC metro area had one-third (1,190, 35%) of all teen births in the state.
- Oklahoma County had 767 births to girls aged 10-19, which represented *one out of every five* (22%) in the state.
- Those births included 6 births to girls aged 10-14; 203 births to 15-17-year-olds; 558 births to 18 & 19-year-olds.
- Oklahoma County's teen birth rate was 30.4, above the state rate and *nearly double* the national rate.
- Some Oklahoma County zip codes have had rates that reached three times the national average.

### **Impact of Oklahoma County's high number of births to teens:**

- Unplanned pregnancy is identified as a main reason girls drop out of school.
- Among all teens giving birth, *over half* (51%) did not have a high school diploma.
- Even among the older teens, aged 18-19, *over one-fourth* (27%) did not have a high school diploma.
- Nearly one of every seven births (15%) was to a teen girl who was already a mother.
- Lack of education and employment options leaves too many young parents raising their children in poverty.

Sources: Oklahoma State Department of Health, Vital Statistics 2019; CDC/National Center for Health Statistics *Births: Provisional Report for 2019*.

Prepared by: Healthy Teens OK!, a partner of Oklahoma KIDS COUNT (July 2021)

For more teen birth data and resources, check: [healthyteensok.org](http://healthyteensok.org); for teen pregnancy prevention program info, check: [teenempower.org](http://teenempower.org)