

## Oklahoma County: 2021 Teen Birth Facts-at-a-Glance

### **Statewide birth numbers declined:**

- In 2021, Oklahoma had 3,233 births to girls aged 19 and younger, a decrease of 1% from the previous year.
- One-fourth (758) of the births were to girls aged 17 and younger; three-fourths (2,475) were older teens, age 18-19.

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

- The birth rate was 24.8 for ages 15-19, declining 1% from 2020, but remaining well above the U.S. rate of 14.4.
- Oklahoma had the 4<sup>th</sup> *highest* (worst) teen birth for ages 15-19 in 2020, ranked 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* (1,073, 33%) of all teen births in the state.
- Oklahoma County had 699 births to girls aged 10-19, which represented *one out of every five* (22%) in the state.
- Of those births, 11 were to girls aged 10-14; 162 were to 15 - 17-year-olds; and 526 were to 18 and 19-year-olds.
- Oklahoma County's birth rate was 27.2 for ages 15-19, above the state rate and *nearly double* the U.S. rate.
- Some Oklahoma County zip codes have had rates that were *three times higher* than the national average.

### **Costs and consequences of teen pregnancy and too-early, unprepared parenting in Oklahoma County:**

- On average, about 58 girls between the ages 10-19 in Oklahoma County gave birth each month in 2021.
- Among all teens giving birth, *over half* (54%) had not yet graduated from high school.
- Even among the older teens, aged 18-19, *over two out of five* (42%) did not have a high school diploma.
- Nearly *one out of every five* births (18%) was to a teen girl who was already a mother.
- Nearly *nine out of ten* (88%) of the births to Oklahoma County teen mothers were paid by Medicaid.

For more data and resources, go to: [healthyteensok.org](http://healthyteensok.org); for adolescent sexual health programs and info, go to: [teenempower.org](http://teenempower.org)

Sources: Oklahoma State Department of Health, Vital Statistics 2021; CDC/National Center for Health Statistics, *Births: Provisional Data for 2021*.

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