

Tulsa 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 4th highest (worst) teen birth for ages 15-19 in 2020, ranked 47th out of all the states.

Tulsa County had the second highest number of teen births among all counties in the state.

- The eight counties in the Tulsa metro area represented almost *one-fourth* (23%) of all teen births in the state.
- Tulsa County had 508 births to girls aged 10-19, which represented almost *one out of every six* (16%) in the state.
- Those births included 8 births to girls aged 10-14, a decrease from 12 births in that age range in 2020.
- There were 119 births (23%) to 15-17-year-old, and 381 births (75%) to 18 and 19-year-olds.
- Tulsa County's birth rate was 23.9 for ages 15-19, under the state rate of 24.8, but higher than the U.S. rate of 14.4.

Costs and consequences of teen pregnancy and too-early, unprepared parenting in Tulsa County:

- On average, about 42 girls between the ages 10-19 in Tulsa County gave birth each month in 2021.
- Among all teens giving birth, *over half* (278, or 55%) had not yet graduated from high school.
- Even among the older teens, aged 18-19, *over two out of five* (159, or 42%) did not have a high school diploma.
- Nearly *one of every eight* births (79, or 13%) was to a teen girl who was already a mother.
- *Over four out of five* (438, or 82%) of the births to Tulsa County teen mothers was paid by Medicaid.

For teen birth data and resources, go to: healthyteensok.org; for Tulsa area teen sexual health programs and info, go to: amplifytulsa.org

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

Prepared by: Healthy Teens OK!, a partner of Oklahoma KIDS COUNT (November 2022)