Oklahoma Alert:
2024 Teen Birth Update

July 2026 (updated)

Oklahoma's teen birth numbers dropped slightly in 2024, while the birth rate decreased by 5% (ages 15-19), compared to 2023. Ensuring all young people receive quality education, services and support to protect their sexual health and safety remains a critical priority. Even with a 50% decrease in teen birth numbers and rates in the last decade, the state still has one of the highest teen birth rates in the U.S.

Decade trend in Oklahoma teen birth numbers

Ages	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
14 & younger	43	49	43	32	29	36	44	25	26	38
15 – 17	1,225	1,100	964	818	851	786	714	708	708	678
18 – 19	3,166	3,146	2,822	2,662	2,669	2,431	2,475	2,147	2,146	2,054
TOTAL	**4,434**	**4,295**	**3,829**	**3,512**	**3,549**	**3,253**	**3,233**	**2,880**	**2,880**	**2,770**

A closer look at the 2024 teen birth numbers

Oklahoma had 2,770 births to teens aged 19 and younger in 2024, a 4% decrease from 2023. One of four births was to a teen aged 17 and younger; 38 of those births were to 10 to14 year-olds. Three-fourths of births were to older teens, aged 18 to 19. Half (49%) of all teen mothers, and one-third (35%) of older teen mothers (age 18-19), had not finished high school. Over one of six (15%) teens was already a parent.

Reducing teen pregnancy is a smart, cost-effective way to improve health, education and economic outcomes.

Number of births by birth order

1st birth	2,387
2nd birth	316
3rd birth	56
4th birth	<5

Percentage of births by race

NH White	40%
NH Black	9%
NH American Indian	11%
NH Asian/Pacific Isl.	1%
Two or more races	14%

(NH = Non Hispanic)

Percentage by ethnicity*

Hispanic Origin	26%

Birth rate comparison**

Age	OK	U.S.
15 – 19	**19.6**	12.6
15 – 17	**8.0**	5.3
18 – 19	**37.9**	23.6

* Hispanic can be any race.
** Rates = number of births per 1,000 females the same age

Sources: Oklahoma State Dept. of Health, Vital Statistics Final 2024 Data
National Center for Health Statistics/CDC, *Births: Final Data for 2024*

For more information, check **Healthy Teens OK!** at healthyteensok.org

HealthyTeens OKLAHOMA

All youth need access to high quality, effective sexual health education and health services.

Oklahoma has experienced a dramatic decrease in teen birth rates and numbers for over a decade. However, it has continued to remain among the handful of states with the highest teen birth rates in the nation. In 2024, it ranked **45th** out of the 50 states in all three means it had the following:

- **6th highest** birth rate to teens, ages 15 – 19.
- **6th highest** birth rate to young teens, ages 15 – 17.
- **6th highest** birth rate to older teens, ages 18 – 19.

States with the highest birth rates for ages 15-19 in 2024:

OKLAHOMA	**19.6**
Tennessee	19.9
Kentucky	20.4
Louisiana	21.3
Arkansas	22.2
Mississippi	22.8
U.S. Average	**12.6**

Priorities for action:

- Where teen birth rates/ numbers are highest
- Youth at greatest risk for early sexual activity
- Children and youth growing up in poverty
- Children experiencing early school failure or family dysfunction

Teens at higher risk for an unintended pregnancy:

School dropouts - 30% of girls cite pregnancy/parenting as the reason

Older teens (18-19) – *three-fourths* of all teen births each year

System-involved youth (state foster care and juvenile justice, or county juvenile bureau systems) – very vulnerable and underserved

Victims of sexual abuse - in national studies, two-thirds of teen mothers indicate their first sexual intercourse was *non-consensual* and occurred *between ages 9-12*; preventing child sexual abuse is critical!

Teen parents – one in every six teen births is a subsequent birth

Siblings of teen parents - at high risk of becoming a teen parent

Disconnected youth - young people who are not connected to school or work have the greatest potential for risk-taking behaviors

Effective ways to reduce teen birth numbers and rates in your community:

- **Expand high quality, evidence-based, well-delivered programs** that provide medically-accurate, age appropriate information by trained health educators in safe, caring settings – programs that work!
- **Support groups** like Teen Empower (teenempower.org/), Amplify Youth Health Collective (amplifytulsa.org/), *honestly* Youth Sexual Health (honestlyokc.org/), Take Control Initiative (takecontrolinitiative.org/), Youth Services of Tulsa (yst.org/), and J.A.M.E.S. Inc. (jamesinc.org/). For more info, go to Resources on the Health Teens OK! website: healthyteensok.org/resources/
- **Use the latest research and resources** from the Healthy Teen Network, healthyteennetwork.org; Power To Decide, powertodecide.org/, and Oklahoma KIDS COUNT/ Oklahoma Policy Institute and funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation: datacenter.aecf.org/data?location=OK#OK/2/0/char/0
- **Resources for Youth, Parents, and Providers** are available on the Homepage of the Healthy Teens OK! website: healthyteensok.org

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