

Births to Teens

Latina and African American girls are more likely to have babies compared to other race/ethnic groups.

Between 2002 and 2004, there were 2,510 births to teen girls age 15-19 years residing in Contra Costa. This means that there are approximately 837 births to teens per year in the county. Contra Costa's teen birth rate (23.8 per 1,000 teens) is lower than that of California (39.6 per 1,000 teens).



Editor's note: This section presents data for births to teen girls 15-19 years old in Contra Costa. All rates presented are crude teen birth rates per 1,000 teen girls 15-19 years old for the particular group, city or county overall.

- In 2002-2004, there were 2,510 births to teens – 837 per year.
- More than half of those births (1,334) were to Latinas.

Local Findings

Teen Births by Race/Ethnicity

Table 1. Contra Costa County 2002–2004

	Cases	Percent	Rate
Latina	1334	53.1%	*54.1
African American	452	18.0%	*38.8
White	421	16.8%	**8.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	110	4.4%	**8.4
Contra Costa	2510	100.0%	23.8

* Significantly higher rate compared to county.

** Significantly lower rate compared to county.

Latina teens have both the highest percentage (53.1%) and highest rate of teen births (54.1 per 1,000 teens) – higher than county teens overall (23.8 per 1,000 teens) and teens of any other race/ethnicity group. African American teen births represent almost a fifth (18.0%) of the county’s teen births and have the

next highest teen birth rate (38.8 per 1,000), which is higher compared to the rates of county teens overall and White and Asian/Pacific Islander teens. Both White and Asian/Pacific Islander teens have lower teen birth rates than county teens overall.

Teen Births by Selected Communities

Table 2. Contra Costa County 2002–2004

	Cases	Percent	Rate
Richmond	567	22.6%	*57.6
Bay Point/Pittsburg	456	18.2%	*56.8
Antioch	371	14.8%	*31.9
Concord	336	13.4%	*28.2
San Pablo	267	10.6%	*75.3
Oakley	99	3.9%	*32.8
Brentwood	86	3.4%	24.8
Martinez	58	2.3%	**16.6
Pinole	31	1.2%	**15.1
Walnut Creek	29	1.2%	**6.8
Contra Costa	2510	100.0%	23.8

* Significantly higher rate compared to county.

** Significantly lower rate compared to county.

Four communities in Contra Costa had over 300 births to teens between 2002 and 2004: Richmond (567), Bay Point/Pittsburg (456), Antioch (371) and Concord (336).

Six communities have significantly higher teen birth rates than county teens overall: San Pablo (75.3 per 1,000 teens), Richmond (57.6 per 1,000 teens), Bay Point/Pittsburg (56.8 per 1,000 teens), Oakley (32.8 per 1,000 teens) and Antioch (31.9 per 1,000 teens). Martinez (16.6 per 1,000 teens), Pinole (15.1 per 1,000 teens) and Walnut Creek (6.8 per 1,000 teens) have rates of teen births that are lower than the county rate overall.

Teen births have been associated with a variety of factors including low income, low maternal education, race/ethnicity, lack of effective family planning practices, lack of education or counseling regarding family planning, previous teen pregnancy and initiation of sexual activity at a young age. As teenagers become parents, it is more difficult for them to achieve educational goals, find sustainable and productive work, and become self-sufficient.¹ In addition, infants born to teens are more likely to be born low birth weight and suffer from related health problems.^{2,3}

Text

1. National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (1997). *Whatever Happened to Childhood? The Problem of Teen Pregnancy in the United States*.

2. Maynard R. A., The Robin Hood Foundation. (1997). *Kids Having kids: The Costs of Adolescent Childbearing*. Available online at: <http://www.urban.org/pubs/khk/contents.html>. Summary available at the National Network for Child Care website at <http://www.nccc.org/Release/kidswkids.html>

3. Wolfe B., Perozek M., Maynard R. A., The Robin Hood Foundation?. (1997). *Kids Having Kids: Teen Children's Health and Health Care Use*. Available online at: <http://www.urban.org/pubs/khk/contents.html>

Tables

Tables 1, 2: Birth data from the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), Birth Statistical Master Files, 2002-2004. Any analyses, interpretations or conclusions of the data have been reached by CHAPE and are not from the CDHS. Data for the following race/ethnicity groups was excluded due to small numbers: American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiians, Two or More Races, and Other. Data was not available for all Contra Costa cities. These tables include births to teen girls age 15-19 years who are residents of Contra Costa and average crude teen birth rates for 2002 through 2004.

Crude teen birth rate = number of infants born to teen girls 15-19 years old divided by the total population of teen girls 15-19 years for the particular group, city or county multiplied by 1,000.

Population data from:

California Department of Finance (April 2006). *Estimated Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail 2000-2004*. Sacramento, CA.

California Department of Finance (May 2006). E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State 2001-2006, with DRU Benchmark. Sacramento, CA. Available online at: <http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/Druhpar.htm>

Note: City level denominators were extrapolated from the E-4 file to approximate the mid-year city-level population.