

**Agenda Questions/Responses
September 30, 2004**

11. 1. In what areas of Austin/Travis County are the identified zip codes? (Council Member Danny Thomas)

The targeted zip codes are:

East	78702 (150-199)*
South Central	78704 (200+)*
Northeast	78723 (150-199)*
East Central	78741 (150-199)*

*Reported number of living HIV/AIDS cases as of July 2003 [TDH database/compiled and reported by A/TCHHD January 2004].

2. Please name the seven (7) community based organizations that will be participating in fiscal accountability and program development training. (Council Member Danny Thomas)

Three community-based organizations and projects have been confirmed for participation: Personal Connections Healthcare Services, Creative Initiatives, and the Women Rising Project. Three additional organizations have been interviewed; work plans have been developed; and decisions will be made within the next two weeks in terms of "fit"-appropriateness for project participation.

Two primary eligibility criteria for project participation are:

- 1) received less than \$50,000 in grant funds in the past; and
- 2) fifty-one percent (51%) of the organization's board of directors, staff and client base must be people of color.

15. Please provide a description of AISD and COA programs and efforts to prevent and discourage teen pregnancy. (Council Member Daryl Slusher)

Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services (HHSD) provides Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Skills Development services to teens to enable them to make healthier decisions regarding their behavior. Services are also available for parents to enable them to be an effective resource for their children regarding matters of sexuality.

- The program has two health educators that provide group education—by invitation—in AISD schools, community-based organizations, and at the juvenile jail.
- The program offers both factually based classes, and classes that address social/relationship issues. Both are considered essential for impacting behavior.

- Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Skills Development Classes:
 - Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology
 - Sexually Transmitted Diseases/Infections
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Birth Control Methods
 - Postponing Sexual Involvement
 - Assertiveness Training
 - Resisting Peer Pressure
 - Talking to Your Partner
 - Values, Choices, and Decision Making
 - Healthy Relationships
 - Dating Violence
 - Consequences of Teen Pregnancy
 - How to Talk to Your Children about Sexuality
 - Talking to Each Other about Sexuality: A Parent/Teen Workshop
- Classes are available to grades 6-12, although most AISD requests are for 7th through 10th grades. Most AISD teaching encounters occur in health/science classrooms. HHSD also provides service to other groups within school settings, such as Communities-in-Schools and the teen parenting programs.
- During FY2003, HHSD provided 5,796 Sexuality Education and Skills Development encounters for youth ages 12-17; over 90 percent occurred in AISD settings. (*Note: complete date for FY2004 is not yet available.*)
- In the spring of 2004, the program trained 18 American YouthWorks students to act as sexual health peer educators.

In addition:

- AISD has a formal plan/curriculum for sexuality education, called Making Healthy Choices.
- LifeWorks provides sexuality education/teen pregnancy prevention services in the schools.
- Communities-in-Schools programs address sexual health issues with teens enrolled in CIS programs.
- Planned Parenthood also provides some limited services in the schools.

**Has Austin's teen pregnancy rate declined? Please provide figures.
(Council Member Daryl Slusher)**

Both teen pregnancy and teen birth rates have decreased in Travis County more than 45 percent since 1990. There has been significant improvement in recent years relative to Travis County standing in relation to other urban areas in Texas.

The attached Public Health Overviews #102: Teen Pregnancy & Birth, published by the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department in June 2004, provides detailed information regarding current teen pregnancy rate and teen birth rate in Travis County. Table 1 provides rate comparison of Travis County with other metropolitan counties in Texas. Raw numbers are available by double-clicking on the graphs.

[Please See Separate Attachment sent to Council Offices via email]



Public Health Overviews

Teen Pregnancy & Birth

June 2004

#102

The teen or adolescent pregnancy and birth rates are important and often requested community indicators. Although related measures, each rate is defined and calculated differently and has a very different meaning. The Texas Department of Health defines teen pregnancies and teen births as those occurring among the female population ages 13 to 17 years old. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and other agencies may define teens or adolescents differently, which impact the ability to compare rates.

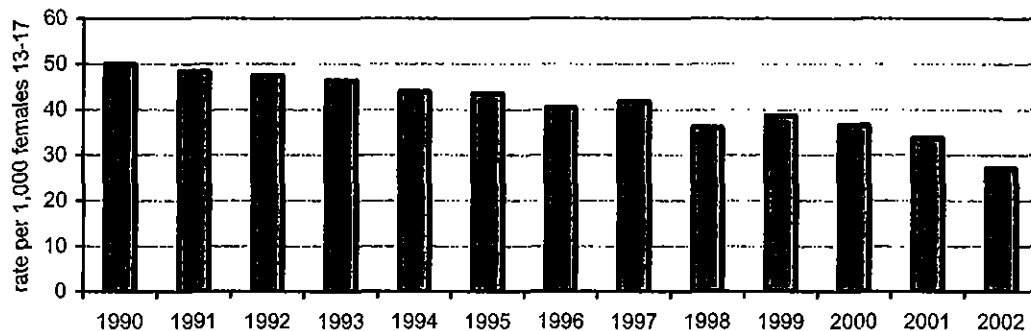
What is a pregnancy rate?

A pregnancy rate is defined as the total number of pregnancies per 1,000 females. Pregnancies are the total number of live births, fetal losses and abortions. All three elements are required to calculate a pregnancy rate. The pregnancy rate is limited in two ways. First, in Texas, fetal losses before 20 weeks gestation are not required to be reported by law. Therefore, reported pregnancy rates underestimate the actual pregnancy rates. Second, due to data constraints, pregnancy rates cannot be calculated for sub-county areas such as zip codes.

What is the teen pregnancy rate in Travis County?

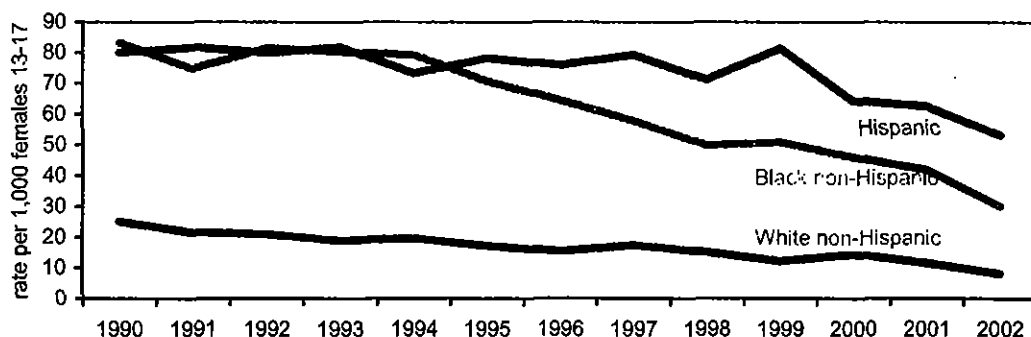
In 2002, there were 658 pregnancies among Travis County females ages 13 to 17, for a rate of 27.1 per 1,000. The 2002 rate decreased by 19.6% from 2001 and since 1990 the rate has decreased 45.7%.

Figure 1. Teen (13 to 17) pregnancy rate per 1,000, Travis County, 1990-2002.



The teen pregnancy rate varies significantly by race/ethnicity (Figure 2). However, since 1990 the teen pregnancy rate for White non-Hispanics, Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics have all decreased. The highest 2002 pregnancy rates were among Hispanic teens at 53.3 per 1,000. The rate among Black teens was significantly lower at 30.3 per 1,000. However, both rates were significantly higher than the rate among White teens (8.2 per 1,000).

Figure 2. Teen (13 to 17) pregnancy rate per 1,000 by race/ethnicity, Travis County, 1990-2002.



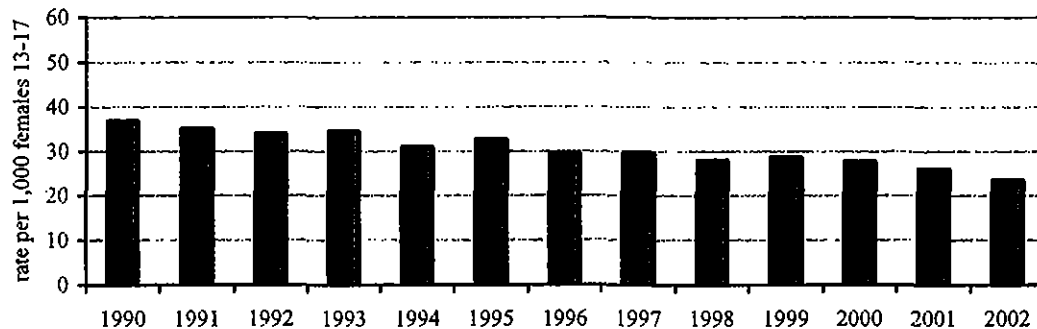
What is a birth rate?

A birth rate is simply the number of live births per 1,000 women. Pregnancies resulting in any outcome other than a live birth are not included in this indicator. Birth rates may be calculated for sub-county like zip codes and census tracts.

What is the teen birth rate in Travis County?

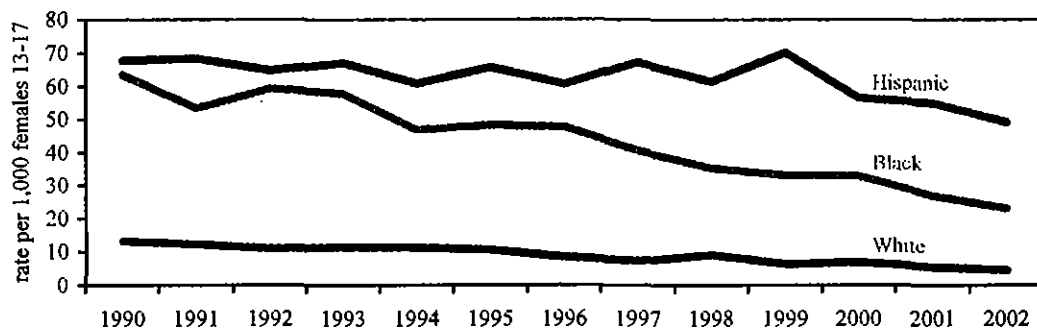
In 2002, there were 568 births to Travis County females ages 13 to 17, for a rate of 23.4 per 1,000. Similar to the pregnancy rate, the teen birth rate has decreased by 45.7% since 1990.

Figure 3. Teen (13 to 17) birth rate per 1,000, Travis County, 1990-2002.



The teen birth rates by race/ethnicity are similar to the teen pregnancy rates. The highest teen birth rate in the county, 54.8 per 1,000, was among Hispanics. The teen birth rate among Black non-Hispanics was 26.8 per 1,000 and the rate among White non-Hispanics was 5.3 per 1,000.

Figure 4. Teen (13 to 17) birth rate per 1,000 by race/ethnicity, Travis County, 1990-2002.



How do teen pregnancy and birth rates in Travis County compare to other areas?

Overall, there are not substantial differences, but Travis County does have lower rates of teen pregnancies and live births than many other metropolitan Texas counties.

Location	Pregnancy Rate	Birth Rate
Travis County	27.1	23.4
Bexar County	35.3	27.7
Cameron County	39.0	35.7
Dallas County	34.2	27.7
El Paso County	34.3	31.4
Harris County	28.2	23.5
Tarrant County	27.1	21.8
Texas	28.5	24.1

Table 1. Teen (13-17) pregnancy and birth rates by geographic area, 2002.

Data Source

All data are from the Texas Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics and the Texas State Data Center, Population Estimates and Projections Program at Texas A & M University.

This fact sheet was produced by the Epidemiology Program in the Office of the Health Authority. Epidemiology investigates disease outbreaks; analyzes infectious disease, vital statistics, behavioral and chronic disease data; and works on bioterrorism preparedness and response initiatives.