



25 YEARS
*OF COUNTING
DELAWARE KIDS*

2005

DATA SNAPSHOT **BIRTHS TO TEENS**

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Strong, capable, resourceful families are at the foundation of improving outcomes for children. There is no substitute for families – no institution, program or policy that can successfully rear kids in the absence of strong families. Where families live also matters. Healthy, vibrant families help create strong communities. Similarly, healthy communities can help foster and protect residents. When communities are sag and have strong institutions, good schools and quality support services families and their children are more likely to thrive. Although the strengths and resources that reside in even the most disadvantaged communities are often underestimated, the combined effects of disinvestment and decline have unmistakable consequences for children who grow up amidst these conditions.



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25 Years of Delaware Data: Births to Teens

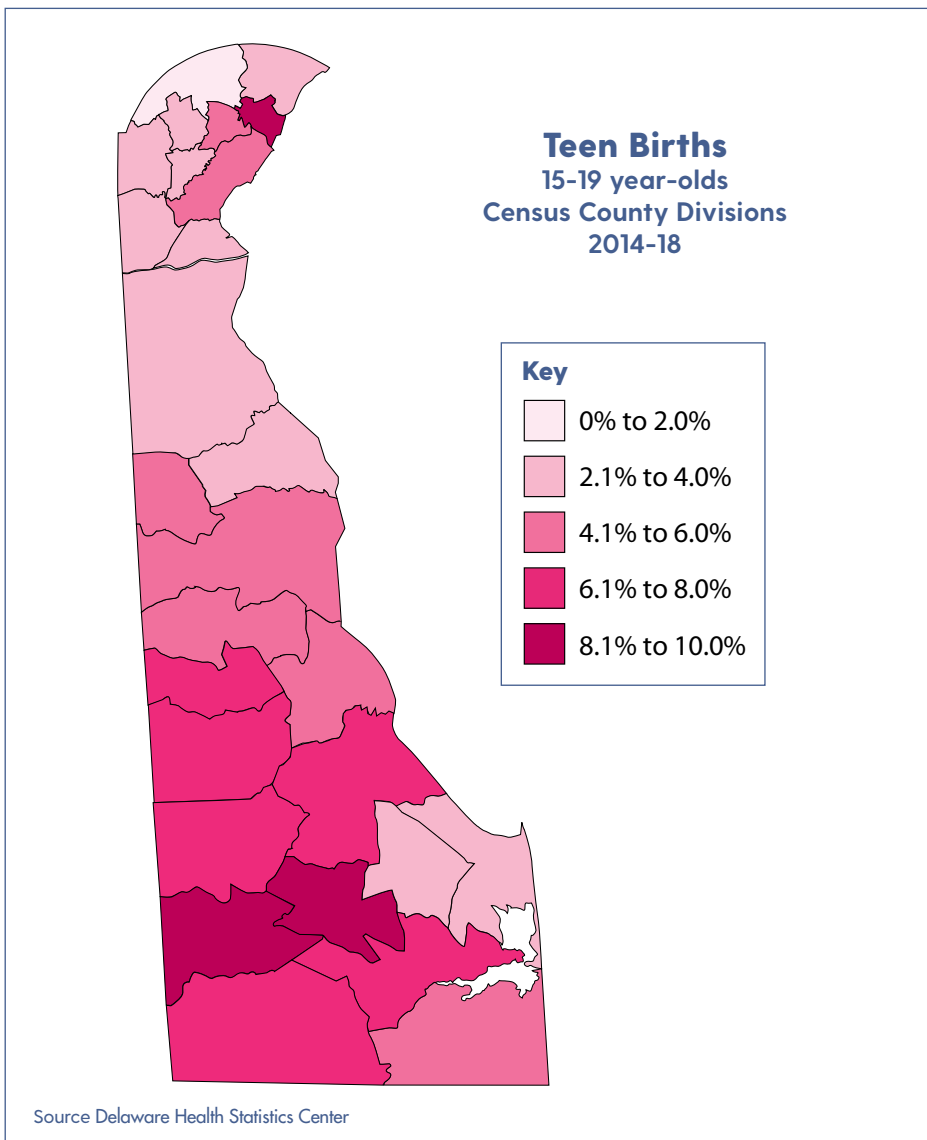
In 2014-2018, Delaware's birth rate to females age 15-19 fell to 19.4 per 1,000 women in that age range, continuing its historic decline. All told, Delaware's teen birth rate has fallen by more than 34 percent in the last two and a half decades (56.5 per 1,000 in 1991-1995 to 19.4 per 1,000 in 2014-2018).

Why Does it Matter?

Women of all ages fare better when they are able to plan their pregnancies. For teenagers especially, pregnancy and childbirth with comprehensive support can have significant socioeconomic impacts throughout their lifetime. Many women who have children as teenagers are still working to complete their education, and without support (including resources like early care and education, as well as social and emotional support), they are less likely to graduate from high school or earn as much as women who have children later in life. Only half of women who have children as teenagers are able to attain a high school diploma by age 22; in comparison, almost 90 percent of adolescent females who do not experience childbirth during their teen years go on to earn a high school diploma.

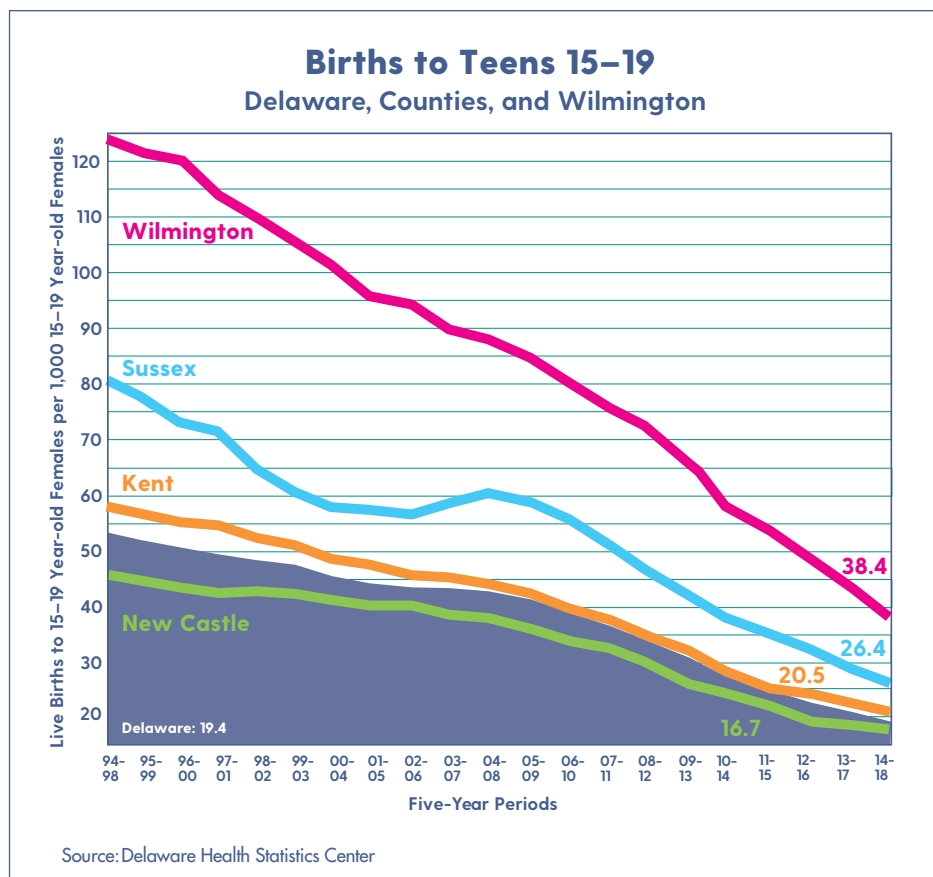
Children of adolescent mothers are impacted by early pregnancy as well. They are more likely to see increased health issues in childhood and lower levels of academic achievement in school. Later in life, these children are more likely to experience a teen pregnancy themselves, drop out of school and face unemployment in young adulthood.

Although the teen birth rate has dramatically decreased over the past decades, America's teen birth rate remains the highest among affluent countries.



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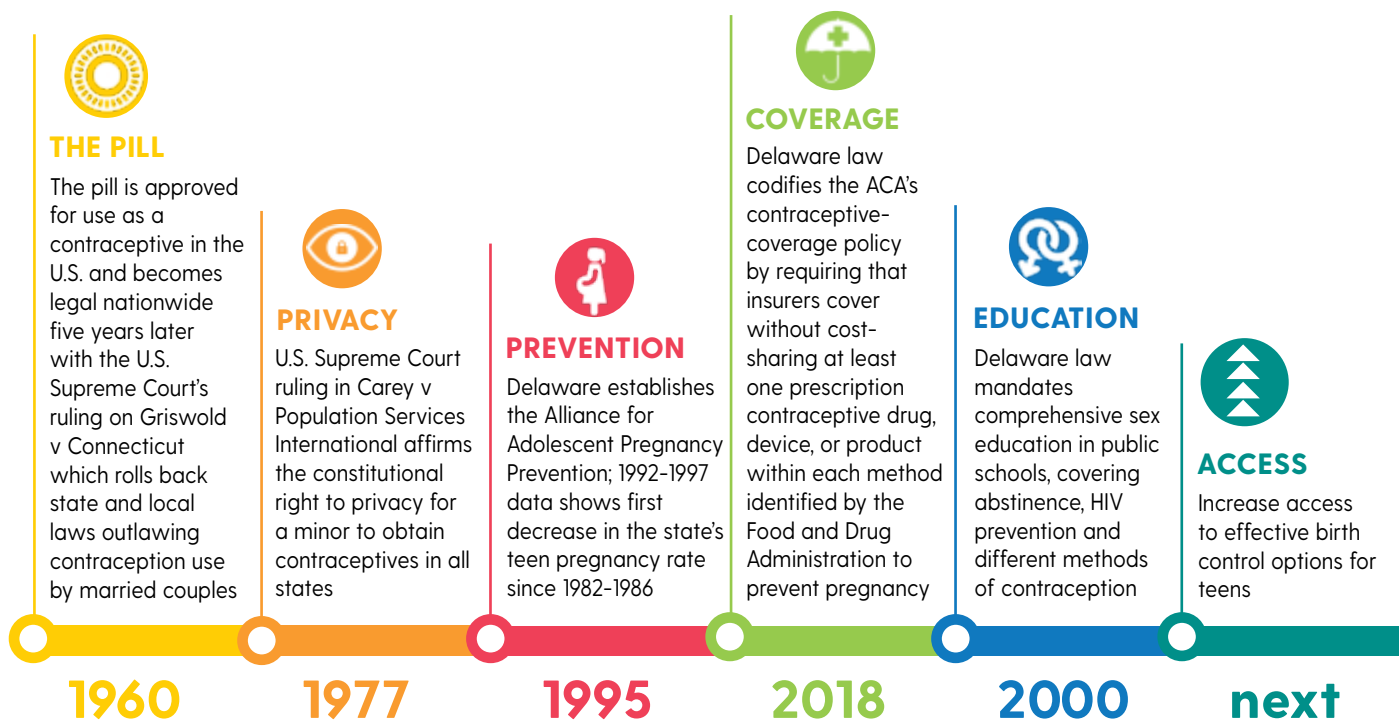


Next Steps

All racial and ethnic groups have experienced declining teen birth rates in recent years, but disparities persist, showing that Delaware has more work to do to ensure young women of all backgrounds have the support they need to plan their families in ways that work for them. ♦



BIRTHS TO TEENS TIMELINE





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The photographs in this data snapshot do not necessarily represent the situations described.

Center for Community Research and Service
Biden School of Public Policy and Administration
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716-7350
302-831-4966 · Fax 302-831-4225
email: kids-count@udel.edu · www.dekidscount.org

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