

TEEN PREGNANCY IN ROCHESTER

Truth and Consequences

Teen birth rates in Rochester are closely related to our high rates of poverty. Rochester zip code areas with the highest rates of teen pregnancy are also the areas with the highest rates of poverty. Teen pregnancy is both a consequence and a cause of poverty. Teen pregnancy keeps young women on a treadmill, unable to become financially self-sufficient. Teen mothers are more likely to be poor and rely on public assistance.

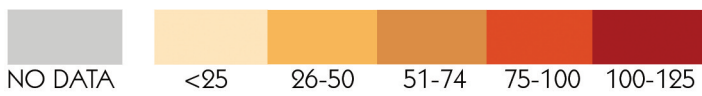
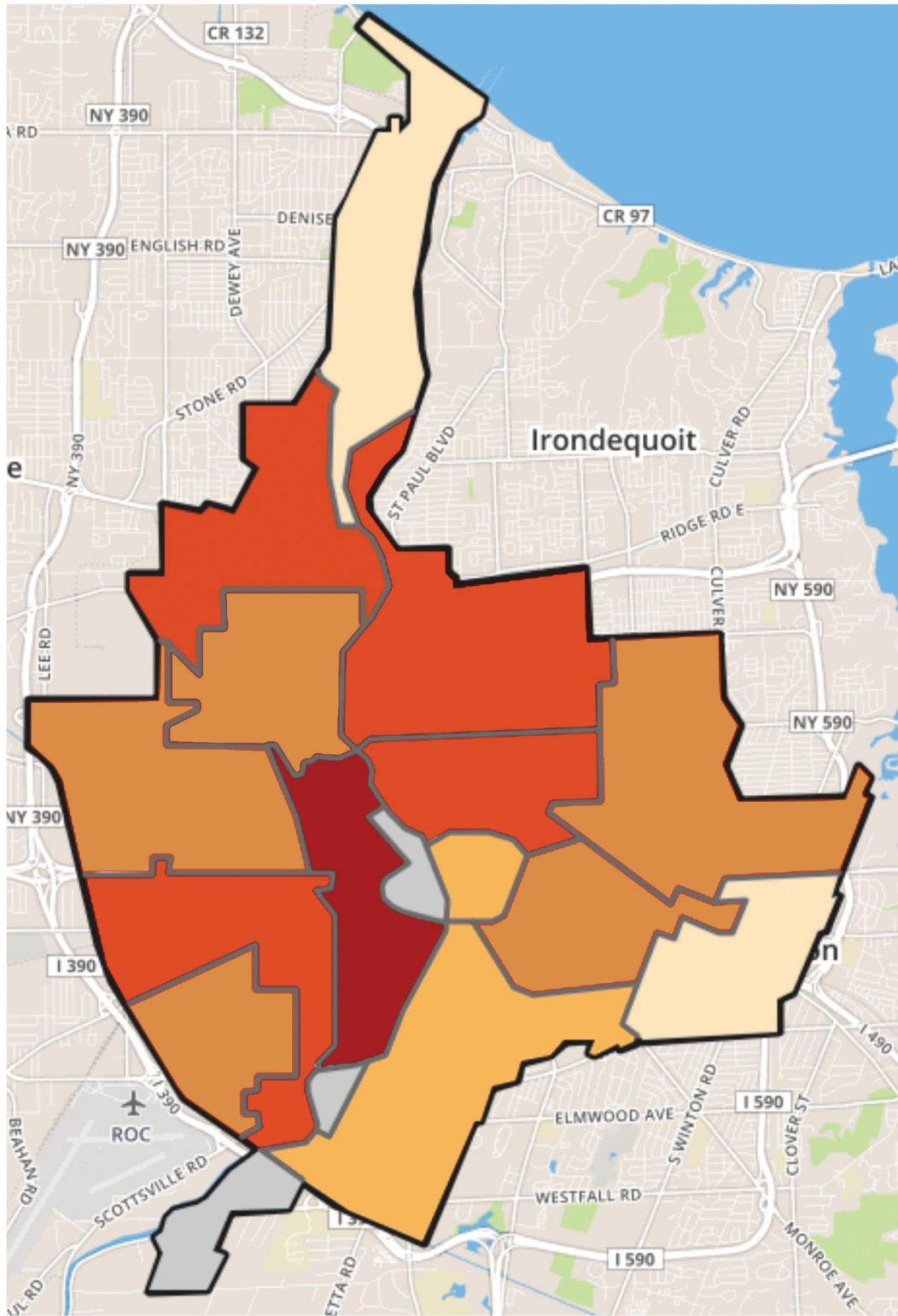
- In 2014, 326 teen girls (ages 15 to 19) gave birth in the City of Rochester, a rate of **39** births per 1,000 girls.
- The rate of teen birth in Rochester is about 1.6 times the national rate (24 births per 1,000 girls); and 2.5 times the rate in NYS (16 births per 1,000 girls).
- The rate of teen birth in Rochester is 6.5 times the rate in Monroe County towns/suburbs (6 births per 1,000 girls).
- 10% of all the babies born in 2014 in the City of Rochester were born to teens.
- In 2019, the 326 babies born to Rochester teen mothers in 2014, if grouped together, would fill 15 kindergarten classrooms.
- Teen birth rates are closely related to high rates of school failure. Only 38% of young women who have a child before age 18 receive a high school diploma. Children of teen parents are at higher risk of school failure.
- Children born to adolescents are more likely to have poorer educational, behavioral, and health outcomes throughout their lives, compared with children born to older parents.
- Teen child bearing costs US taxpayers billions of dollars a year in lost tax revenue, and in higher public expenditures for public assistance, public health care and foster care.
- Adults assume young people receive accurate information from their teachers or health care providers, but that is not always the case. Only 46% of Rochester high school students said that their health care provider discussed pregnancy prevention, HIV or STIs at their last check-up.



City of Rochester, New York
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor



Rochester Teen Pregnancy by ZIP Code (2012-2014) per 1,000 females ages 15-19



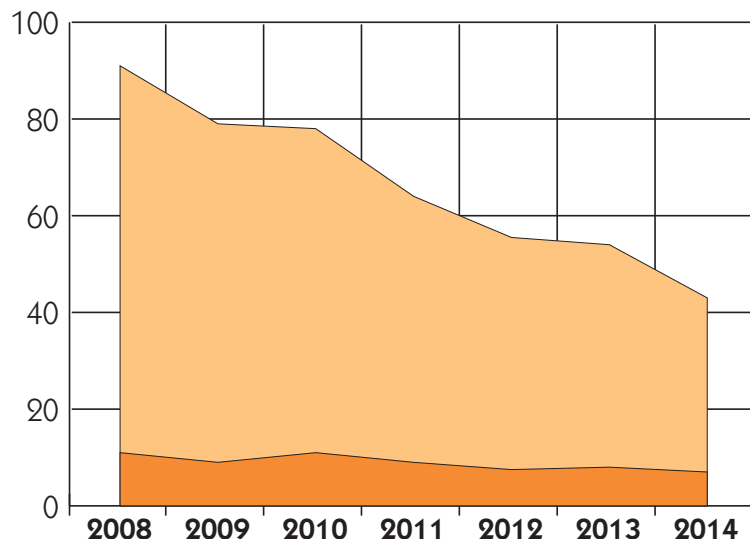
Fortunately, teen birth rates decline when young people receive sufficient information and resources. Teen birth rates in Rochester dropped by 50% between 2008 and 2014.

As long as 10% of the babies born in Rochester are born to teens, we are likely to see continued high rates of school failure and the perpetuation of poverty. The alternative? We can address teen pregnancy as a community-wide effort, by dedicating sufficient resources needed to take common sense steps that are practical and affordable.

- Young people need comprehensive sexuality education that addresses unplanned pregnancy, contraception, STDs, HIV and healthy relationships. This evidence-based curriculum is delivered in several Rochester schools both by certified health teachers (7th and 11th grades) and by trained and community-based health educators, who can engage youth in the other grades. Both the City of Rochester THRIVE 2 program and the City CAPP program provide community-based and trained health educators who are available to engage youth with approved curriculum at no charge to the schools.
- Young people need access to reproductive health care and to contraception that works for them. For examples, Highland Family Planning, Planned Parenthood and school-based health centers reach out to teens, and offer accessible care and walk-in services. More health professionals are educating women about methods of contraception that are long lasting and easier to use, including IUDs and implants. Youth serving organizations and schools should make condoms available to youth who are sexually active.
- Adolescent parents need supports to help them learn essential parenting skills and to assist them to graduate high school and become self-sufficient. Currently, the Nurse Family Partnership, SPCC, the YWCA and Pathways to Success all offer services for teen parents.
- Social marketing messages can alert youth to the consequences of unsafe sex, can reinforce healthy norms and connect youth to services.
- Parents can be approachable, well-informed, and comfortable in providing information and guidance to their children.

Substantial Progress since 2008

Teen Birth Rates per 1,000 (Ages 15-19)



City of Rochester

Monroe County Suburbs

Source:

Monroe County Department of Public Health

Note:

Between 2009 and 2011, several new teen pregnancy prevention programs were launched in Rochester.

The rate of teen birth in Rochester is 1.6 times the national rate (24 births per 1,000 girls) and 2.5 times the rate in NYS (16 births per 1,000 girls)

“It takes a village...”

- All Rochester schools, public and charter, should provide comprehensive sexuality education to their students. Community-based health educators are available to supplement health classes. Their services should be welcomed, and integrated into the school day.
- Youth serving organizations can incorporate comprehensive sexuality education into their programming, with the help of community-based health educators. Youth leadership programs can support peer education activities that provide other youth with resources and accurate information.
- Parents can participate in the free workshop series *Family Talk*, sponsored by the City CAPP program, to become more knowledgeable and confident in talking with their children about sexuality topics.
- More health professionals can educate their adolescent patients about the prevention of teen pregnancy and STIs, and about what birth control methods might work best for young people who are sexually active.

Funding for this report provided by U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health.