

Youth Stats

Snapshot of Adolescent Health in Contra Costa County

Contra Costa Health Services

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Sexual Activity and Teen Births

Adolescence is an important time in sexual health development as youth contemplate and explore issues of sexual behavior, values, sexual orientation, and gender identity. As young people become sexually active, sexual risk behaviors (e.g., lack of condom use) and the consequences of these behaviors, such as teen pregnancy, become important health issues.

Teen pregnancy can have negative consequences for the mother, father and child. When teenagers become parents, they are less likely than teens without children to achieve educational goals, find sustainable and productive work, and become self sufficient.^{1,2} Infants born to teens are more likely to be born low birth weight and suffer from related

health problems.^{3,4} In addition, compared to children of older mothers, children of teen mothers are more likely to do poorly in or drop out of school and to become teen parents themselves.⁵ Teen births have been associated with a variety of factors including low income, low maternal education, 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.¹

This fact sheet highlights key information about sexual activity and teen births among Contra Costa youth.

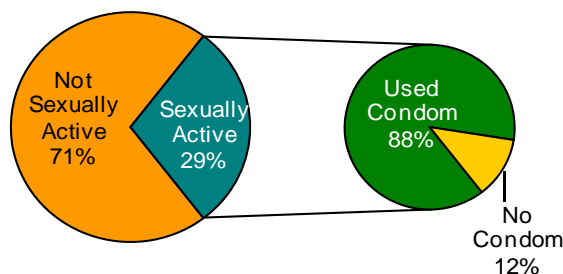
Highlights

- Approximately one in four adolescents in the Bay Area have had sexual intercourse; most used a condom the last time they had sex (2007).
- The teen birth rate in Contra Costa decreased 28% between 2000 and 2008.
- Hispanics and African Americans had the highest teen birth rates in Contra Costa (2006 – 2008).
- San Pablo, Richmond and Bay Point were the cities with the three highest teen birth rates in Contra Costa (2006 – 2008).

In 2007, approximately one in four adolescents in the Bay Area have had sexual intercourse; most used a condom the last time they had sex.⁶

- Among youth in nine Bay Area counties* 14 to 17 years of age, 29% have had sexual intercourse. The majority of these youth (88%) reported that they had used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse.
- Levels of sexual activity and condom use among Bay Area youth were not significantly different from youth in all of California. Statewide, 20% of youth have had sexual intercourse and 91% of them reported using a condom at last intercourse.

Sexual Activity and Condom Use
Among Youth 14 to 17 Years Old, 2007

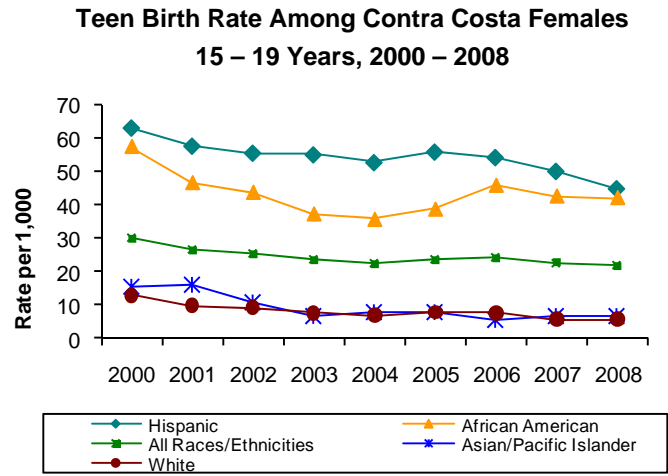


Source: CHIS 2007

*The nine Bay Area counties include Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma Counties

The teen birth rate in Contra Costa decreased 28% between 2000 and 2008.^{7,8}

- The teen birth rate among adolescent females 15 to 19 years old declined from 30.0 to 21.7 births per 1,000 teens. This represents a 28% drop in the teen birth rate.
- The decline in the teen birth rate was evident for African Americans, Hispanics, Whites, and Asian/Pacific Islanders. White and Asians/Pacific Islander teens had the largest decline in birth rates (55% for both). The Hispanic and African American teen birth rates declined 29% and 26%, respectively.



Source: California Department of Health Services, Birth Statistical Master Files

Hispanics and African Americans had the highest teen birth rates in Contra Costa from 2006 to 2008.^{7,8}

- A total of 2,622 adolescent females 15 to 19 years old gave birth between 2006 and 2008, which corresponds to an average of 874 births to teens per year in the county.
- Teen birth rates differed by racial/ethnic group. Hispanic teens had the highest number of births (1,515) and highest teen birth rate (49.7 per 1,000 teens). The teen birth rates for Hispanics and African Americans (43.6 per 1,000) were approximately twice as high as the rate for all teens (22.8 per 1,000 teens).
- Contra Costa’s teen birth rate (22.8 per 1,000 teens) was lower than the teen birth rate for California (36.7 per 1,000 teens).

Births by Race/Ethnicity Among Females 15 to 19 Years of Age in Contra Costa, 2006 – 2008

Race/Ethnicity	3-Year Total Teen Births	Percent of Teen Births	Birth Rate (per 1,000)
Hispanic	1,515	58%	* 49.7
African American	541	21%	* 43.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	87	3%	* 6.4
White	350	13%	* 6.4
Other/Unknown ^a	129	5%	na
Contra Costa Total	2,622	100%	22.8

na = not available

^a Data for the Other/Unknown group includes the following: American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiians, Two or More Races, and Other race/ethnicities. These race/ethnic groups are not shown separately due to low numbers of births.

* Rate is significantly different than the rate for the county.

Source: California Department of Health Services, Birth Statistical Master Files

Did You Know?

Research has shown that school health centers can improve health status and reduce risk behaviors, which in turn can influence academic achievement.⁹ By placing health services where students are, youth have regular access to primary and reproductive health services. Contra Costa Health Services operates school-based health clinics at 9 high schools in the Mt. Diablo, Pittsburg and West Contra Costa Unified School Districts.

San Pablo, Richmond and Bay Point were the cities with the three highest teen birth rates in Contra Costa from 2006 to 2008.^{7,10}

- Cities with teen birth rates that were higher than the county rate included San Pablo, Richmond, Bay Point, Pittsburg, Oakley, Antioch and Concord. These seven cities accounted for 84% of all teen births.
- San Pablo had the highest teen birth rate, which was almost four times that of the county, but accounted for only 9% of the teen births in Contra Costa. Walnut Creek had the lowest rate.
- The three cities with the highest birth rates – San Pablo, Richmond and Bay Point – also had resident populations that were more than 50% African American and/or Latina.

Births Among Females 15 to 19 Years of Age in Contra Costa for Select Cities, 2006 – 2008

City	Number of Teen Births	Percent of Teen Births	Birth Rate (per 1,000)
San Pablo	249	9%	* 84.5
Richmond	550	21%	* 56.5
Bay Point	138	5%	* 54.6
Pittsburg	343	13%	* 43.9
Oakley	121	5%	* 39.5
Antioch	461	18%	* 35.9
Concord	329	13%	* 32.5
El Cerrito	21	1%	22.9
Brentwood	123	5%	21.7
Martinez	46	2%	* 16.6
Hercules	37	1%	* 15.0
San Ramon	20	1%	* 4.2
Walnut Creek	24	1%	* 4.0
Contra Costa Total	2,622	100%	22.8

^a Some cities with low numbers of births are not shown in this table.

* Rate is significantly different than the rate for the county.

Source: California Department of Health Services, Birth Statistical Master Files

Sources and Other Notes

Typically, data on births to teens is based on live births that occur to females age 15 to 19 years old. This data does not include adolescents who get pregnant and do not have a live birth, either due to miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion. Teen birth rates were calculated using California Department of Health Services (CDHS), Birth Statistical Master Files and population data from the California Department of Finance (rates for the county and by race/ethnicity) and U.S. Census, American Community Survey (rates by city). Any analyses, interpretations or conclusions of the data have been reached by Contra Costa Health Services and are not from the CDHS.

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For more **Youth Stats** fact sheets and additional data resources visit:

www.cchealth.org/services/teenage_program

TeenAge Program (TAP), Family, Maternal and Child Health Programs, Contra Costa Health Services

