
SECTION 4: TEEN PREGNANCY

Teen Pregnancy

Introduction

In 2010, 4,900 pregnancies occurred among Oregon females under the age of 20. Fifty-eight pregnancies occurred among females under age 15. Twenty-seven girls aged 10–14 gave birth during 2010, 12 fewer than the previous year. (See Table 4-2.) The youngest female to give birth was 10 and the youngest female to obtain an abortion was 13.

Due to differences in risk and severity of outcomes, this report bases its analysis on two separate age groups to aid in understanding teen pregnancy trends: females aged 15–17 and females aged 18–19. These two groups are compared to each other and to women aged 20 and older. The number of pregnancies is determined by adding the numbers of births and abortions reported for Oregon residents. Because some neighboring states (e.g., California) do not exchange abortion reports with Oregon, those who obtain an out-of-state abortion are not always included in this count. (See Appendix B.)

Pregnancy rates for Oregonians ages 15 to 17 decreased by 17.2% from 2009.

Oregon females 15 to 17

Efforts to prevent teen pregnancies focus primarily on females aged 15–17. During 2010, 1,406 pregnancies were

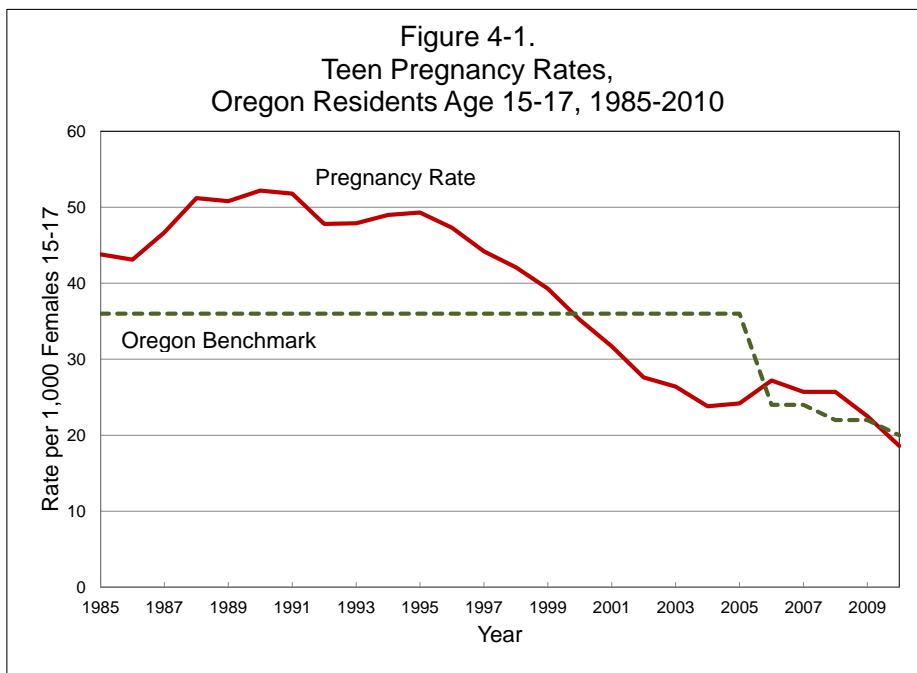


Table 4-A. Oregon Benchmark Teen Pregnancy Rates 15-17	
Year 2010 Goal: 20.0	
Year	Rate
1980	59.3
1985	43.8
1990	52.2
1991	51.8
1992	47.8
1993	47.9
1994	49.0
1995	49.3
1996	47.3
1997	44.2
1998	42.1
1999	39.3
2000	35.2
2001	31.7
2002	27.6
2003	26.4
2004	23.8
2005	24.2
2006	27.2
2007	25.7
2008	25.7
2009	22.5
2010	18.6

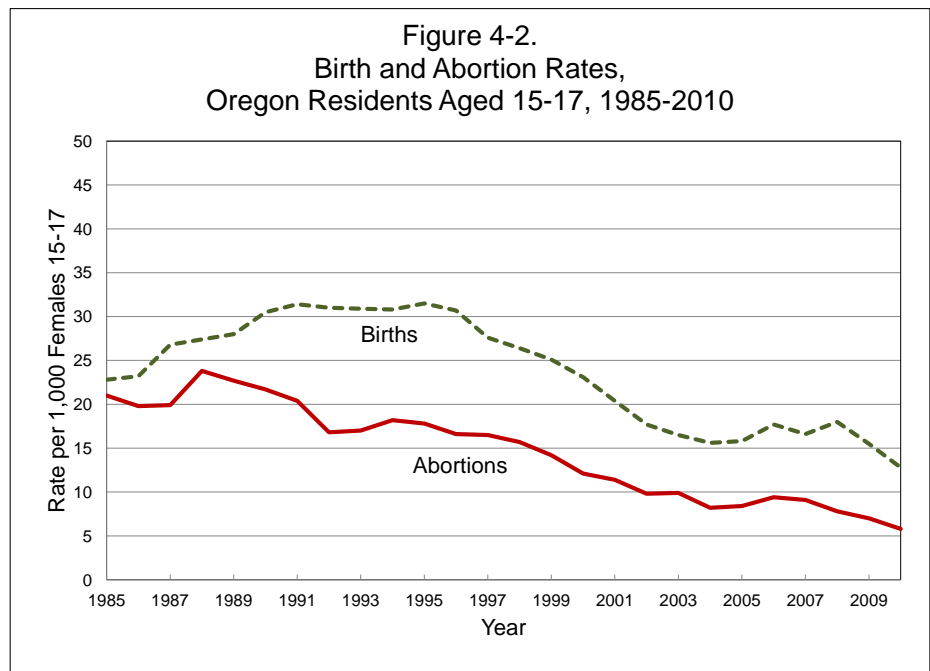
Pregnancy rate per 1,000 Oregon resident females ages 15-17.

recorded for Oregon females aged 15–17, 290 fewer than in 2009. (See Table 4-1.) In 2010, the statewide pregnancy rate among women aged 15–17 decreased 17.2 percent from 22.5 in 2009 to a current low of 18.6. (See Table 4-1.) Historically, the teen pregnancy rate has trended downward and the 2010 rate is 44.3 percent lower than it was in 2000. Pregnancy rates for teens aged 15–17 varied by county. Eight counties had rates significantly different than the state rate. (See Table 4-3.) The 2010 rate for teens 15–17 was 7.0 percent below the Oregon Benchmark goal for the year 2010 of 20 pregnancies per 1,000 females. (See Figure 4-1, page 4-1.)

Births to teens 15 to 17

There were 969 births to Oregon teens aged 15–17 in 2010. More than 68.9 percent of the pregnancies among teens aged 15–17 resulted in a live birth, compared to 46 percent in 1980. (Table 4-1.) It was the mother’s first child in 93.7 percent of these births. (See Table 4-9.) The birth rate for females aged 15–17 was 12.8 per 1,000 females, a decrease of 17.4 percent from the previous year. Of these, 85.7 percent had neither completed high school nor obtained a general equivalency diploma (GED). Among those who took their pregnancies to term, 92.6 percent were unmarried at the time of birth. (See Table 4-10.)

Figure 4-2.
Birth and Abortion Rates,
Oregon Residents Aged 15-17, 1985-2010

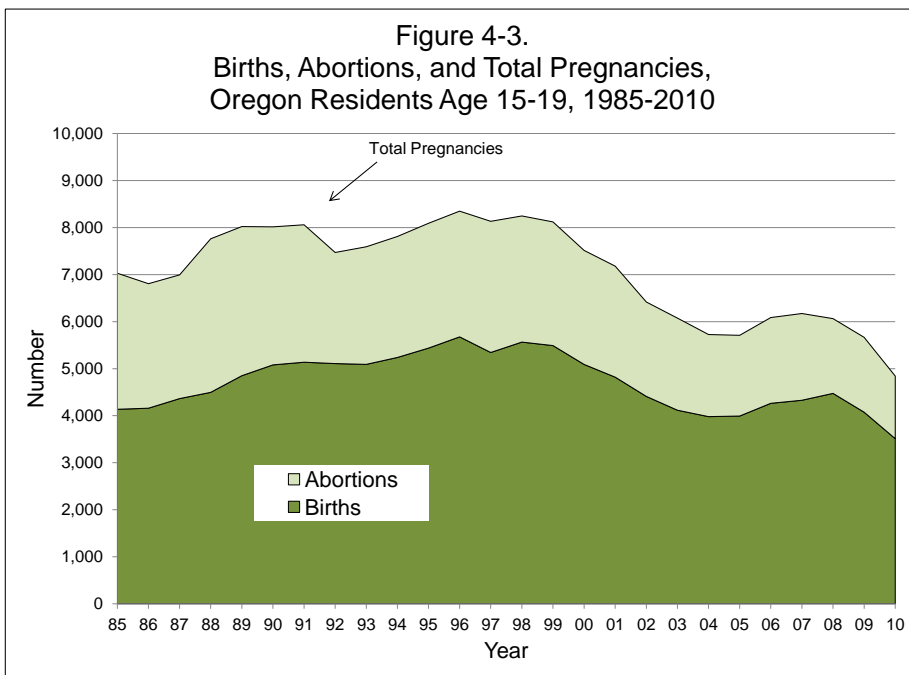


Abortion rates among teens 15 to 17

Abortion rates among teens decreased 17.2 percent from 2009. For females aged 15–17, the abortion rate was historically low in 2010 at 5.8 per 1,000. (See Table 4-5, Figure 4-2.) There were 437 abortions among Oregon females aged 15–17 reported during 2010, 90 fewer abortions than in 2009. Since the record high abortion rate recorded in 1980, the rate for females aged 15–17 has decreased by more than 81.8 percent (from 31.9 to 5.8 per 1,000 females).

Abortion rates for teens age 15 to 17 decreased 17.2% from 2009

Figures 4-3 and 4-4 present historical pregnancy outcomes (birth and abortion). As Figure 4-4 indicates, a higher percentage of teen pregnancies were carried to term in recent years than in 1985. Since 1985, the younger the teen, the higher the percentage of terminated pregnancies. However, even among teens under 15, 46.6 percent of the pregnancies resulted in a live birth in 2010. (See Table 4-2, Figure 4-4.)

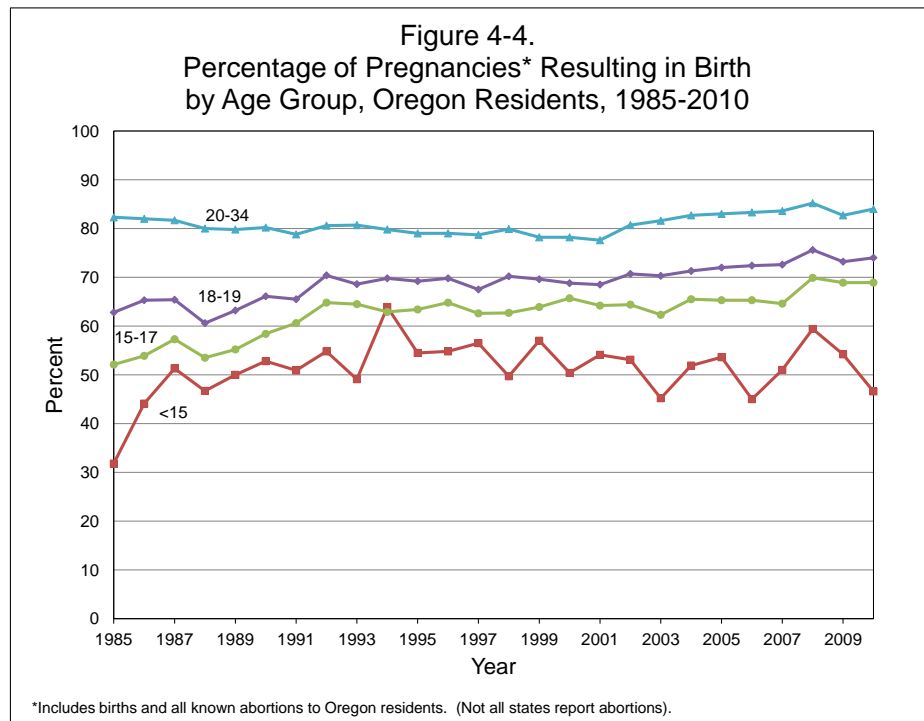


Birth rates for teens age 18 to 19 decreased by 12.3% from 2009

Oregon females 18 to 19

In 2010, the pregnancy rate for Oregonians aged 18–19 was 68.8 per 1,000 females, a 13.3 percent decrease from 2009. Comparisons with the 2009 figures show a decrease in the birth rate (12.3 %), while the abortion rate decreased 15.9 percent among women aged 18–19. (See Table 4-1.)

Of the 3,436 pregnancies among women aged 18–19, 74.0 percent (2,542) resulted in a live birth. (See Figure 4-4.) It was the first child for 81.0 percent of this group.



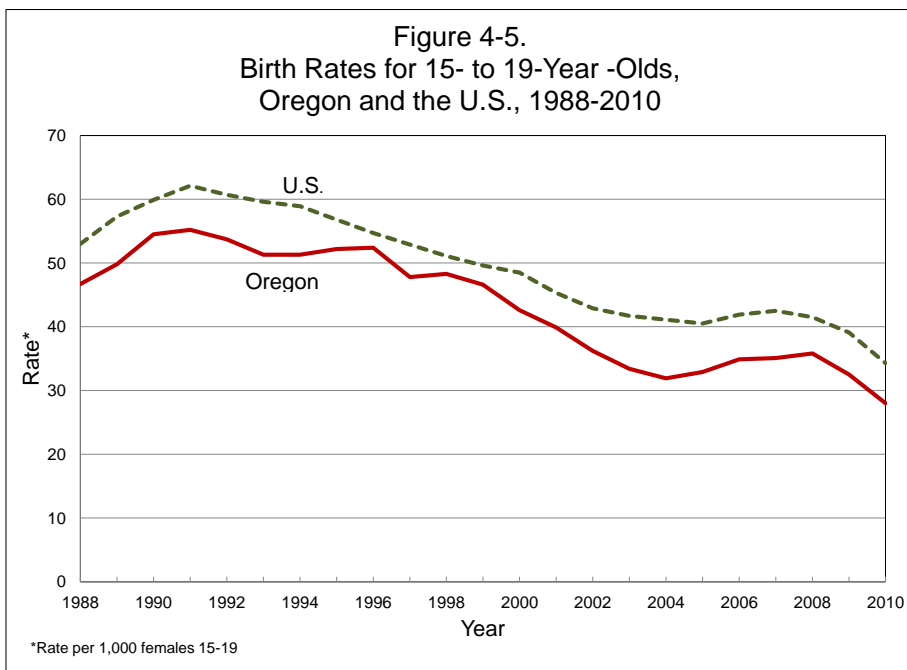
Oregon vs. U.S. birth rates

In Oregon, the birth rate among 15- to 19-year-olds (commonly used in historical and national comparisons) decreased 13.8 percent in 2010 (28.0 vs. 32.5 per 1,000 females in 2009). (See Table 4-1.) The 2010 rate was 49.3 percent lower than the 1991 rate of 55.2 per 1,000, which is the highest rate recorded during the past quarter century. (See Figure 4-5.)

Oregon’s 2010 birth rate for 15- to 19-year-old teens was 28.4 percent below the national rate (28.0 vs. 39.1 per 1,000 females; see sidebar 4-B). Oregon’s lower teen birth rate may be attributable to the state’s demographic characteristics. Historically, African American and Hispanic populations

Age	Oregon		U.S.
	2010	2009	2009
15-17	12.8	15.5	20.1
18-19	50.9	58.0	66.2
15-19	28.0	32.5	39.1

¹ All rates per 1,000 females.



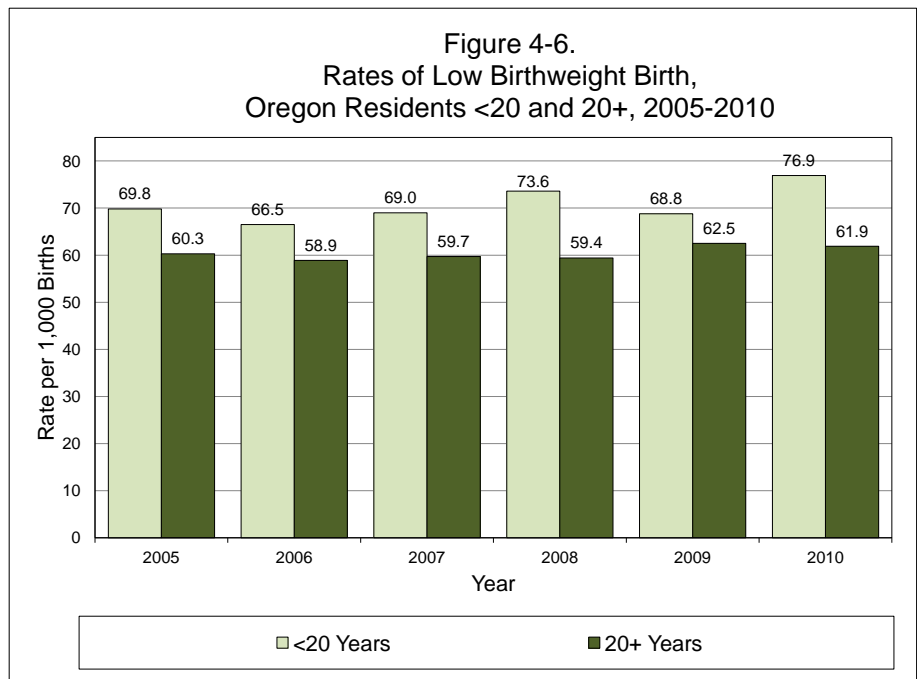
have had higher teen birth rates. Oregon's diversity is increasing. Between the 1990 and the 2000 census, the proportion of Hispanic residents doubled from 4 percent to 8 percent while the proportion of racial minorities was relatively unchanged.¹ Nevertheless, during this period, Oregon's teen pregnancy rate for 15- to 19-year-olds fell from 86.0 per 1,000 females in 1990 to 38.6 in 2010, a 55.1 percent decrease. (See Table 4-1.) (For further discussion of Oregon's demographic characteristics and teen pregnancy rates, see the Methodology section of Appendix B.)

Level of infant health

Low birthweight

The best single measure of newborn infant health is low birthweight rate, which is defined as less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds. Low birthweight is closely related to premature delivery and small size for gestational age. Changes in the low birthweight rate for a group might indicate aggregate changes in the mother's personal behavior during pregnancy or it could indicate other conditions that affect fetal health, such as nutrition or access to prenatal care.

In 2010, the low birthweight rate for teen mothers aged 15–19 was 77.5 per 1,000 births (Table 4-7), a 14.5 percent increase from 2009. For 15- to 17-year-olds, the rate (82.6 per 1,000) increased by 20.8 percent. The teen rate for low



birthweight remained higher than for mothers aged 20 and older (61.9 per 1,000). (See Table 2-29.) The difference in the low birthweight rates between teen and older mothers has increased in recent years. (See Figure 4-6.)

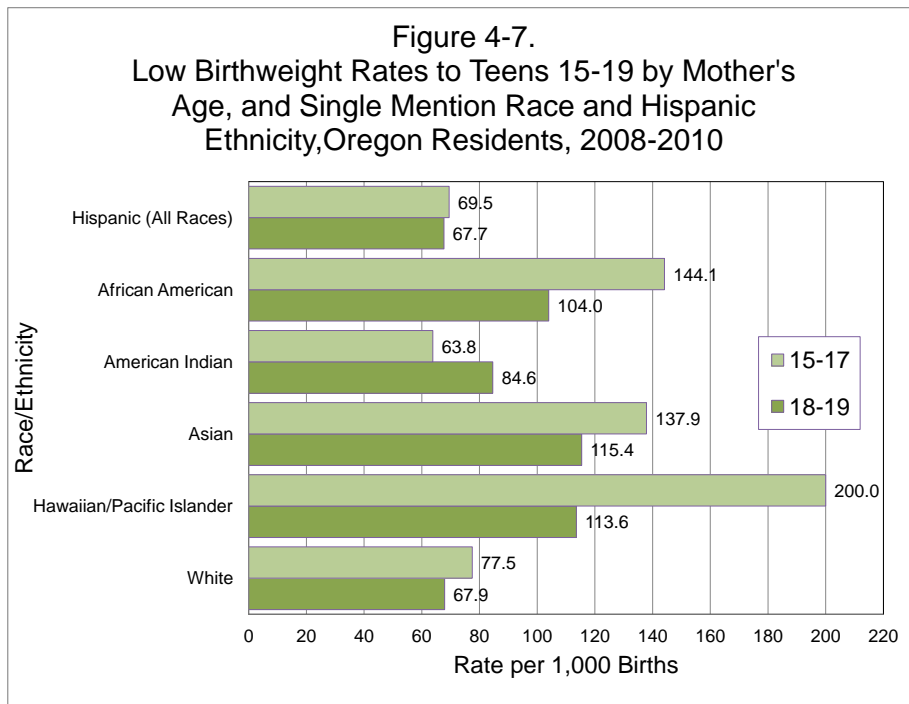
Race and ethnicity

Demographic factors such as race, ethnicity and marital status combine with age to influence the likelihood a teenager will receive early prenatal care. In 2010 for example, 49.5 percent of unmarried Hispanics aged 15–17 started prenatal care during their first trimester, compared to 60.5 percent of married non-Hispanic White women aged 18–19. (See Table 4-7.)

Low birthweight rates among teen mothers by racial/ethnic grouping are displayed in the sidebar and in Table 4-7. Between 2009 and 2010, the rate of low birthweight infants for Hispanic teens aged 15–17 increased by 12.5 percent. The low birthweight rate for Hispanic teens aged 18–19 during this same period decreased by 3.3 percent. Among non-Hispanic, non-White groups, the low birthweight rate for teens aged 15–17 increased by 101.9 percent, while the rate for 18- to 19-year-olds increased by 31.7 percent. (See sidebar 4-C.)

Race/Ethnicity	Age	
	15-17	18-19
Rates		
Non-Hispanic White	81.7	75.8
Hispanic (All Races)	70.3	67.5
Non-Hispanic, Non-white	135.1	95.6
Percent Change, 2010 vs. 2009		
Non-Hispanic White	15.7	17.2
Hispanic (All Races)	12.5	-3.3
Non-Hispanic, Non-white	101.9	31.7

¹ All rates per 1,000 births



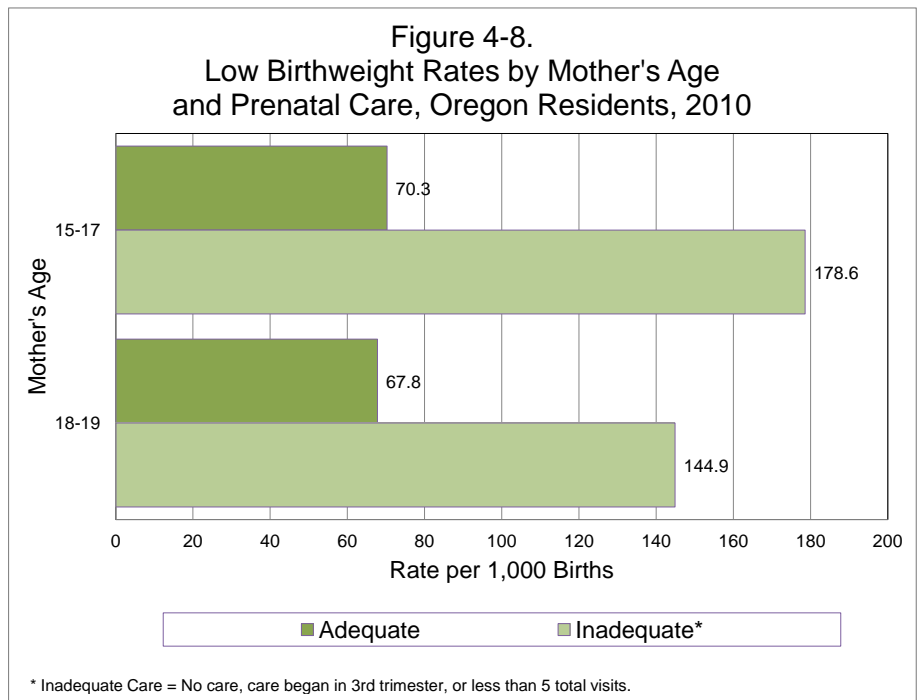
Prenatal care

Table 4-6 shows the association between inadequate prenatal care and frequency of low birthweight infants for teens who gave birth in 2010. Among mothers aged 15–19, those who received inadequate prenatal care had a greater number of low birthweight babies than those who had received adequate care (156.4 vs. 68.5 per 1,000 live births). Figure 4-8 shows low birthweight rates per 1,000 live births by adequate and inadequate prenatal care. For mothers 15–17, the rates were 70.3 vs. 178.6; for mothers 18–19, the rates were 67.8 vs. 144.9.

- **Early prenatal care**

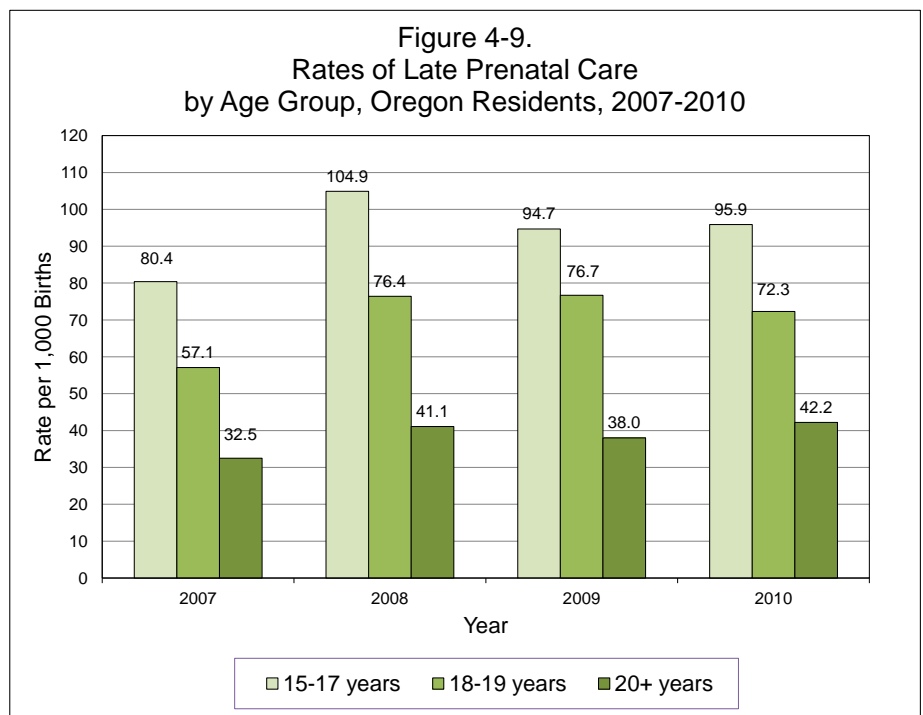
Prenatal care should begin within the first three months of pregnancy to allow early detection of complications and to ensure the health of both mother and infant. An Oregon Benchmark goal is 90 percent of pregnant women, regardless of age, will begin medical care during the first trimester of pregnancy by the year 2010. Teens are further from this goal than any other age group. In 2010, only 57.9 percent of teen mothers started prenatal care during the first trimester, compared to 74.4 percent for women aged 20 and older (see sidebar 4-D). Only 54.1 percent of those 15–17 received first trimester prenatal care, an increase from 49.9 percent in 2009. (See Table 4-10.)

Table 4-D. Oregon Benchmark: First Trimester Prenatal Care, 2010	
Year 2010 Goal: 90%	
All Women	73.1
All Teens	57.9
15-17 Years	54.1
18-19 Years	59.4
20+ Years	74.4



- **Inadequate prenatal care**

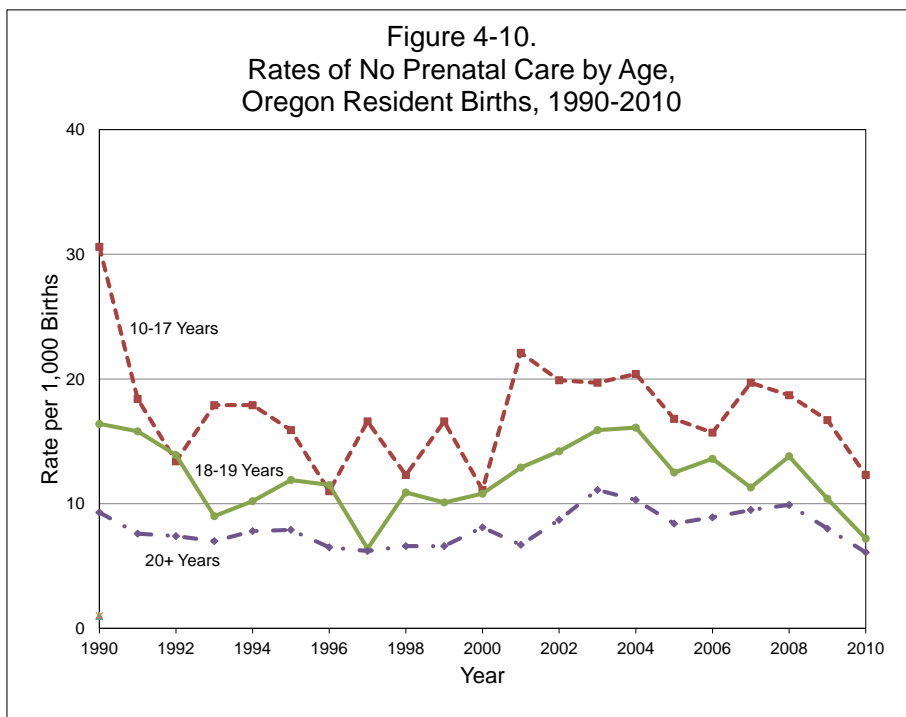
Inadequate prenatal care is defined as no prenatal care, care beginning after the second trimester of pregnancy or involving fewer than five prenatal visits. By this measure, 11.8 percent of 15- to 17-year-old teens and 8.6 percent of 18- to 19-year-old teens received inadequate prenatal care in 2010. This compares with



5.1 percent of women aged 20 or older who received inadequate care. (See Table 4-10.) The proportion of women under age 20 who received inadequate prenatal care decreased by 14.3 percent in 2010, from 11.2 percent in 2009 to 9.6 percent.

- **Late care and no prenatal care**

From 2009 to 2010, the proportion of teens aged 15–17 who began prenatal care during the third trimester increased 1.3 percent to 95.9 per 1,000 live births. (See Figure 4-9.) In 2010, a higher percentage of teens under age 18 went through pregnancy without a single visit to a medical provider than did older women. (See Figure 4-10.) The rate of no prenatal care among teens 15–17 is 11.5 per 1,000 live births, more than twice the rate of women aged 20 and older (6.1 per 1,000 live births). (See Table 4-10.)



Low Apgar score

The Apgar score recorded by the birth attendant five minutes after birth provides another measure of infant health at the time of delivery. A score of less than 7 is considered low and indicates an infant at greater than normal risk for morbidity and mortality. In 2010, the low five-minute Apgar rate for newborns of mothers aged 15–17 was 34.2 per 1,000 births (Table 4-9), a 2.8 percent decrease from 2009 (35.2 per 1,000). The low five-minute Apgar rate for infants born to women under age 20 was 37.3 percent higher than the rate for infants born to women 20 years or older (35.7 compared to 26.0 per 1,000).

Substance use during pregnancy

Estimates of tobacco and alcohol use during pregnancy are presumed to be minimum counts due to underreporting on birth certificates. The legal age to purchase alcohol in Oregon is 21. The legal age to purchase tobacco products is 18. It is hoped that teen mothers are deterred by Oregon legal age limits placed on the purchase and/or possession of these substances.

Tobacco

The percentage of teens aged 15–19 who reported smoking during pregnancy in 2010 was nearly double the percentage reported by women aged 20 and older (18.7 % vs. 10.7 %). (See Table 4-9.) Women who smoked during pregnancy had a higher number of low birthweight babies than nonsmokers. Mothers aged 20 or older show the greatest difference between low birthweight rates by tobacco use (95.8 vs. 57.6 per 1,000 live births). This is due, in part, because the low birthweight rate for teen mothers is higher than for women aged 20 and older (see sidebar 4-E). Tobacco use remains one of the most important preventable causes of low birthweight infants for teen mothers.

Alcohol

Teens aged 15–19 were slightly less likely to report the use of alcohol during pregnancy as were women aged 20 and older (6.8 per 1,000 births vs. 7.7 per 1,000 births).

	<20	20+
Nonsmokers	72.4	57.6
Smokers	99.1	95.8

¹ All Rates per 1,000 births

Source of payment

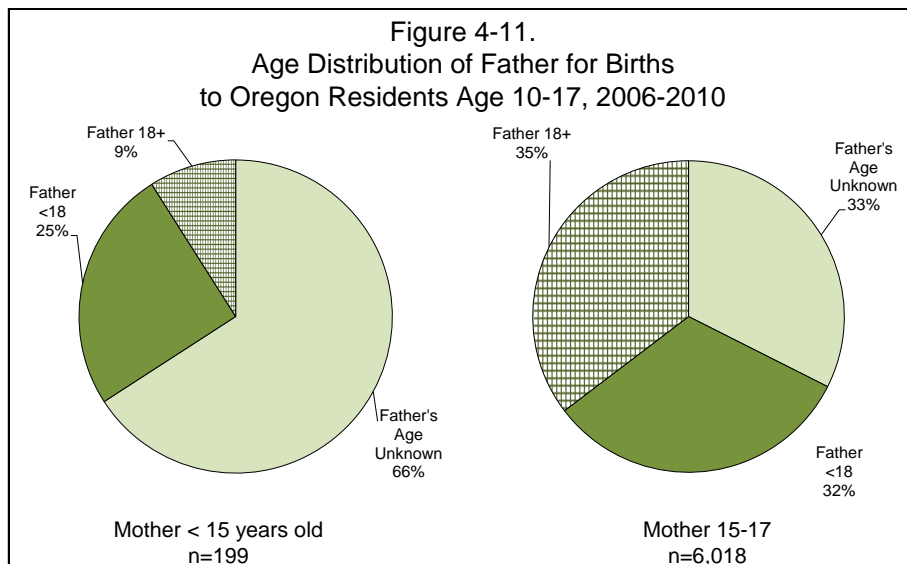
The percentage of teen mothers who utilized public funds to pay the costs associated with birth was nearly twice that of older mothers. In 2010, Medicaid/Oregon Health Plan paid for 77.8 percent of births to teens aged 15–19 and 42.6 percent of births to women aged 20 and older where payor source was reported. (See Table 4-10.)

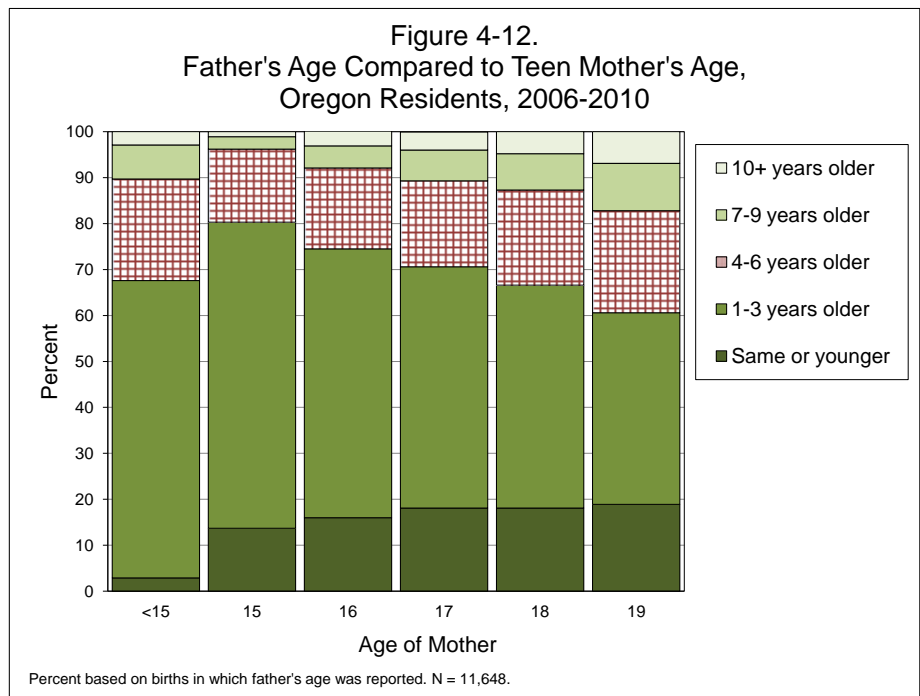
Medicaid/OHP paid for 77.8 percent of births to teens in 2010

Age of father

For the period 2006 to 2010, 32.4 percent of birth records for babies born to teens aged 15–17 did not indicate father’s age or the father was not identified on the birth certificate. (See Figure 4-11, Table 4-13.) Almost two-thirds (65.8 %) of the birth records where the mother was under age 15 did not list the father’s age. When the father’s age was reported for teen mothers under age 15, 73.5 percent were younger than age 18 and 26.5 percent were aged 18 or older. Birth records for mothers aged 15–17 report father’s age for 67.6 percent of births. Where the father’s age was reported, 27.4 percent of fathers were under age 18 and 72.6 percent were aged 18 or older.

For all teens, including the youngest mothers (aged less than 15 years), the father was more than six years older than the mother in 12.4 percent of the births for the 2006–2010 period where the father’s age was reported. The percentage of births to teen mothers where the father was more than six years older than the mother ranged from a low of 3.8





percent of births to 15-year-old mothers, to a high of 17.2 percent for 19-year-old teens. (See Figure 4-12.)

End note

1 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Table DP-1.