

# Teen Births in COWLITZ COUNTY

2000-2020 Data



## BACKGROUND

Teens who give birth are more likely to have negative health, social, educational, and economic outcomes than those who delay childbearing. Even before pregnancy, teen mothers tend to have low grades and parents with a low level of education and are more likely to be living in poverty than teens who do not give birth.

Children of teen mothers also tend to have more negative health, educational, and social outcomes than children born to older mothers.

In this report, we focus on births to teens aged 15-17 because they are still school-age. This aligns with the age group used in teen pregnancy & birth reporting by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

Because population data are not available for 2021, this report provides statistical analysis through 2020. However, we can currently report that 11 babies were born to Cowlitz County teens aged 15-17 in 2021.

### LEARN MORE:

- [Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

## COWLITZ COUNTY DATA SUMMARY



# 14

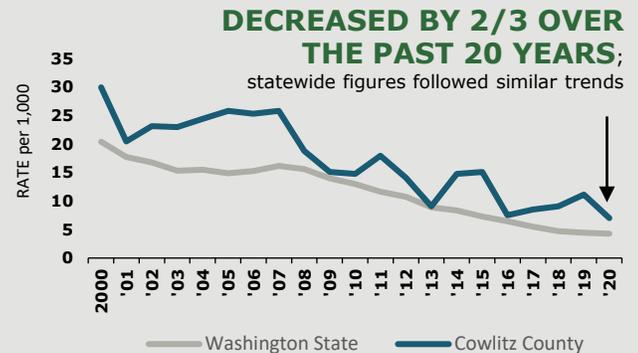
total babies were born to teens aged 15-17 in 2020.

That is **1 baby** for every **143 teen women**.

Our per capita births among teen women aged 15-17 are

**about 75% HIGHER** than the statewide average.

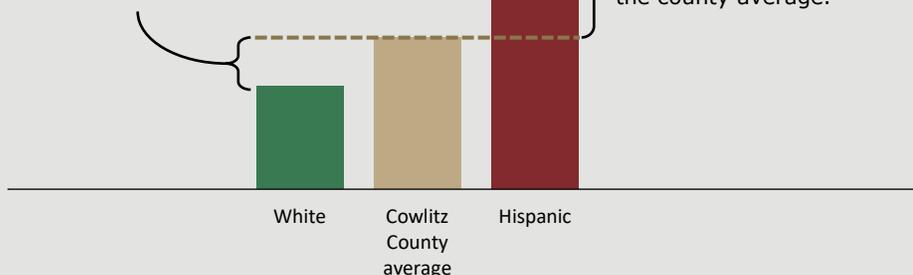
Our **PER CAPITA BIRTHS** among teen women aged 15-17:



## For per capita births among women aged 15-17:

### In Cowlitz County:

Our data suggest that **White** women aged 15-17 have rates **about 33% LOWER** than the county average. This aligns with statewide patterns.



**Hispanic** women aged 15-17 have rates that are **MORE THAN 2X** the county average.

### Statewide figures\* show that:

**Native American** women aged 15-17 have rates **more than 2X** the state average.

**Black** women aged 15-17 have rates **roughly the same** than the state average.

**Asian** women aged 15-17 have rates **about 90% lower** than the state average.

\*Counts are too small to report data for these race/ethnicity groups in Cowlitz County.

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## For Community Members: Prevention & Support

**Q:** How can I avoid getting pregnant unintentionally?

**A:** The only 100% effective way to prevent pregnancy is not having sex at all. Teens who are sexually active can use birth control correctly and consistently. [Cowlitz Family Health Center](#) and [Women's Health Pavilion](#) both provide family planning services in Cowlitz County.

**Q:** What if I'm pregnant?

**A:** Visit your healthcare provider. Having a healthy pregnancy is one of the best ways to promote a healthy birth. Getting early and regular prenatal care improves the chances of a healthy pregnancy.

**Q:** What local resources are available to teen parents?

**A:** Lower Columbia College Early Head Start (EHS) provides support to infants and toddlers of teen parents. Information is available on page 3 of Cowlitz County Health & Human Services' Fall 2022 [Maternal Child Health Newsletter](#).

### *Did you know?*

Free condoms are available at Cowlitz County Health & Human Services' 9th Avenue location in the lobby!

## TECHNICAL NOTES

**Have questions? Email:** [AskCowlitzHealth@cowlitzwa.gov](mailto:AskCowlitzHealth@cowlitzwa.gov)

Birth data were accessed in September 2022 from the Washington State Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT). These data come from birth certificates reported to Washington State's Vital Registration system.

Cowlitz figures include babies born to women who live in Cowlitz County, regardless of the county or state in which the birth took place.

Unless otherwise noted, population denominators are those provided in CHAT.

### Notes on demographic analysis

- Race/ethnicity analysis includes data for 2016-2020 combined.
  - During that time period, there were a total of 86 births to Cowlitz County women aged 15-17.
  - 44 babies were born to non-Hispanic White mothers.
  - 30 babies were born to Hispanic mothers.
  - Counts are too small to report for any other race/ethnicity group.
- Analysis not available for Pacific Islander women because of concerns with the accuracy of population denominator data.