



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Teen Birth Rates Continue to Decline

May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

EAU CLAIRE, Wis.-May 13th, 2016— According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. teen birth rates are at a record low. The number of births to women under age 20 in Eau Claire County has also declined in the past year. In 2014, there were 52 births compared to 62 births in 2013. The teen birth rate continues to be **lower** than the Wisconsin average, with rates at 12.1 births in Eau Claire County compared to 18.3 births statewide (see graph on next page). Although the reason for a decline is not clear, teens seem to be less sexually active, and those that are sexually active seem to be using birth control more when compared to previous years.



“Even though our teen birth rate is lower, it is important that we focus on preventing teen pregnancies. We know that teen pregnancies have long-term effects on the teens, their children and our community, says Janel Hebert, Public Health Nurse of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. For example, only 50% of teen mothers receive a high school diploma by age 22, compared to about 90% of women who did not give birth during teen years. To continue preventing teen pregnancies in Eau Claire County, it is important our youth have:

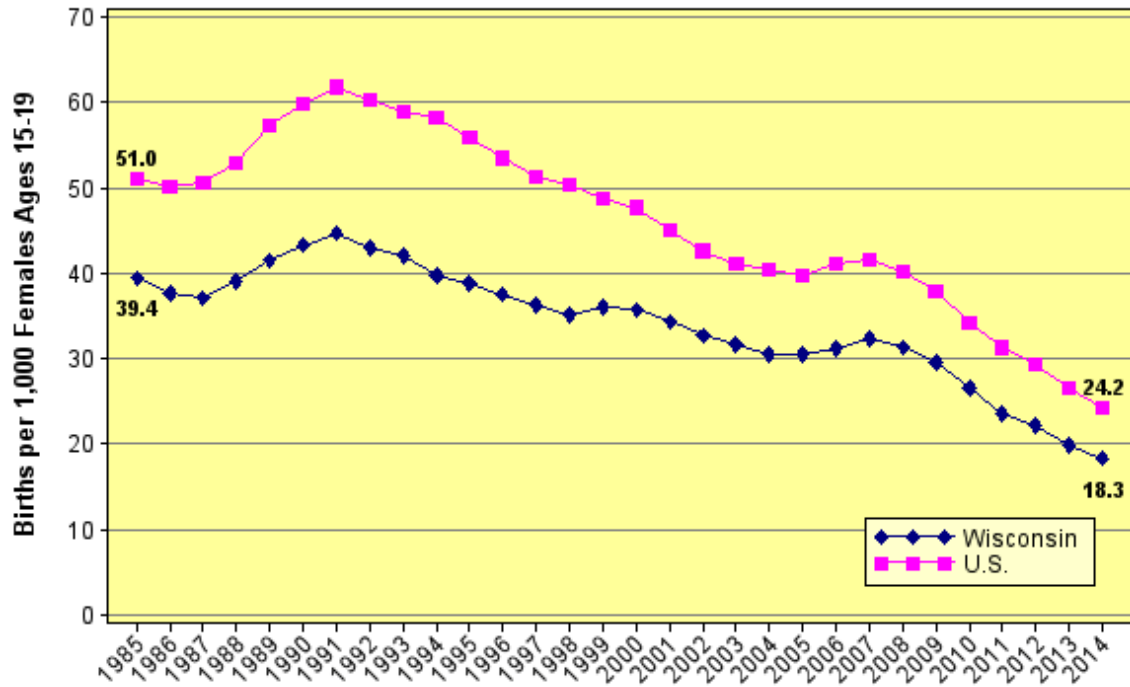
- Supportive parents.
- Healthy relationships with peers.
- Open communication with adults about healthy sexuality and using contraception.
- Accurate knowledge about sexual health, pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and the importance of abstinence.

Research shows that evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs can have a great impact on teen’s knowledge and behavior when it comes to sex. Through the *Amped Health* initiative, the Health Department and other community partners will begin to offer an evidence-based program called *Safe Dates* to adolescents in the fall. This program addresses safe dating practices for adolescents. In the future, the *Amped Health* initiative partners hope to expand efforts to offer evidence-based reproductive health programming for adolescents. These programs are just one way to help prevent teen pregnancy in our community.

To learn more about teenage pregnancy, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm> or <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-health-topics/reproductive-health/states/wi.html>.

The [Eau Claire City-County Health Department Family Planning Clinic](#) offers education for clients (including minors), a variety of birth control options, pregnancy testing and Sexually Transmitted Infection testing and treatment. All services are confidential. For more information, visit www.ehealthdepartment.org or call 715-839-6988.

Teen Birth Rates, Wisconsin and U.S., 1985-2014
Births per 1,000 females age 15-19



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