



**A** teenager becoming a parent has significant educational, economic and social risks for herself, the child and their whole community. It is critical that we find a way to help teens continue in school while their children become ready for school through high quality care. This is the work of the Teen Parent Connection.

“Pregnant and parenting teens want to be successful parents but live in such chaos that they can’t see a different way to live. They face overwhelming responsibility and often lack adult support, which has them lurching from crisis to crisis unable to make progress. When surrounded by caring, supportive adults, however, they are able to move forward and make good decisions.” - Public Health Nurse, Minnesota Visiting Nurses Agency

November, 2007

# Teen Parent Connection Report Card

## How many teen mothers are there?

The estimated number of teen parent families in Hennepin County has fallen about 40 percent since 2002 due to declines in teen pregnancy and birth rates.

In Minneapolis in 2006, teen mothers headed an estimated 1,200 families with a total of 1,500 children. In 2005, 577 Minneapolis teens gave birth and another 400 teens were pregnant but did not give birth until 2006.

In suburban Hennepin County in 2006, teen mothers headed 831 families with a total of 962 children. In 2005, 467 suburban teens gave birth and another 300 teens were pregnant but did not give birth until 2006.

These estimates are based only on births to Hennepin County residents; they do not include teen-parent families who move into the county.

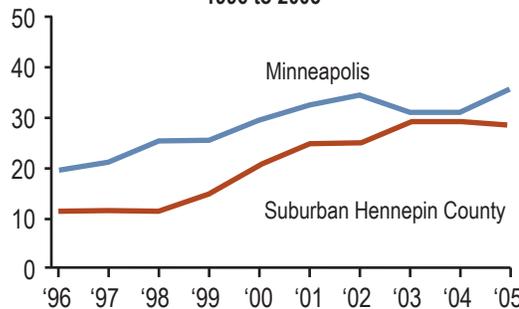
## Who are the teen mothers?

### Births to foreign-born teens are increasing in Minneapolis and Hennepin County

“Teen parents from other cultures have additional challenges, such as added needs such as interpretation and more difficulty accessing resources. There often seems to be the need for the service provider to be the bridge between the two cultures.”

- Case Worker, St. David’s Child Development and Family Services

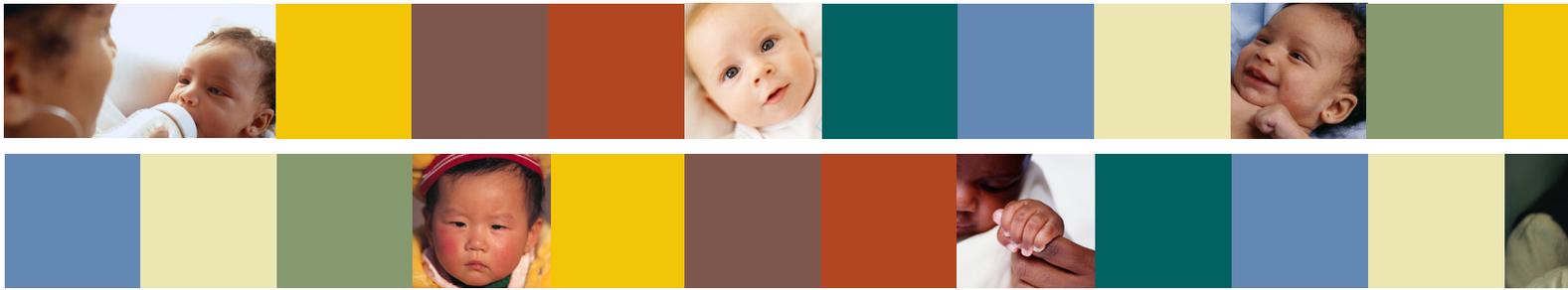
Percentage of births to foreign-born teenage mothers in Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin County 1996 to 2005



### Teen parents in Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin County come from many racial and ethnic backgrounds

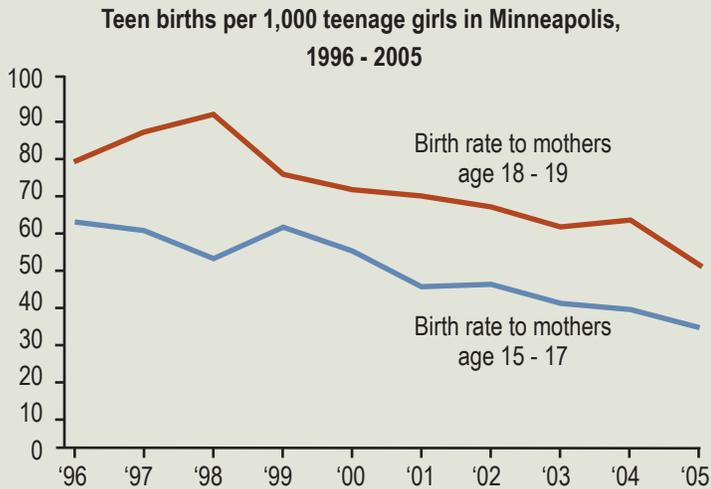
Teen births by race and ethnicity of the mother, 2005

	Minneapolis	Suburban Hennepin County
American Indian	8%	3%
Asian	12%	10%
Black/African American	45%	32%
Latino	22%	18%
White	12%	35%
Unknown	1%	2%

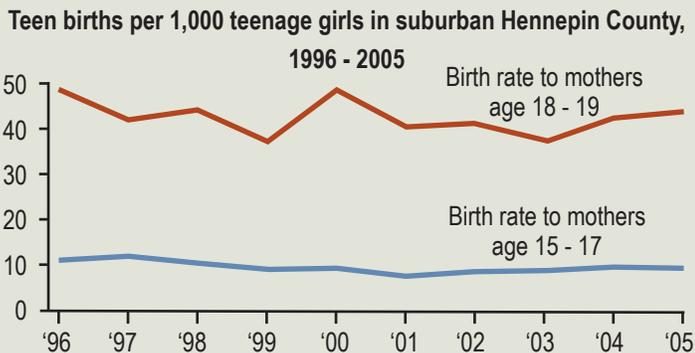


## What are the trends in teen births?

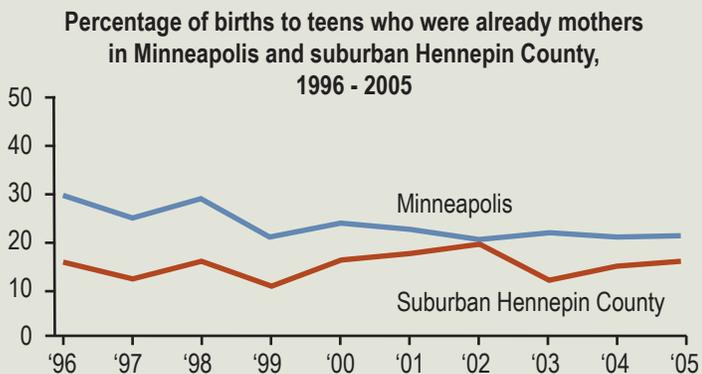
### Birth rates to teens in Minneapolis continue to fall



### Birth rates to teen mothers in suburban Hennepin County are stable



### Second births to teens have fallen in Minneapolis



## Support for teen parents

### School enrollment

Minneapolis Public Schools enrolled 650 pregnant and parenting teenage girls in the 2005-2006 school year. This does not include contracted alternative schools or private or charter schools.

#### Pregnant and parenting teens enrolled in Minneapolis Public Schools

	2004	2005	2006
Minneapolis	778	708	650
District 281	N/A	N/A	145

### Public assistance

At some time during 2006, 1,564 Minneapolis pregnant or parenting teens and 942 suburban pregnant or parenting teens received public assistance. Of these families, 60 percent received cash assistance and other benefits while 40 percent received non-cash assistance only.

#### Teen parents receiving Public Assistance

	2004	2005	2006
Minneapolis	1,570	1,675	1,564
Suburban Hennepin County	794	866	942

### WIC nutrition program

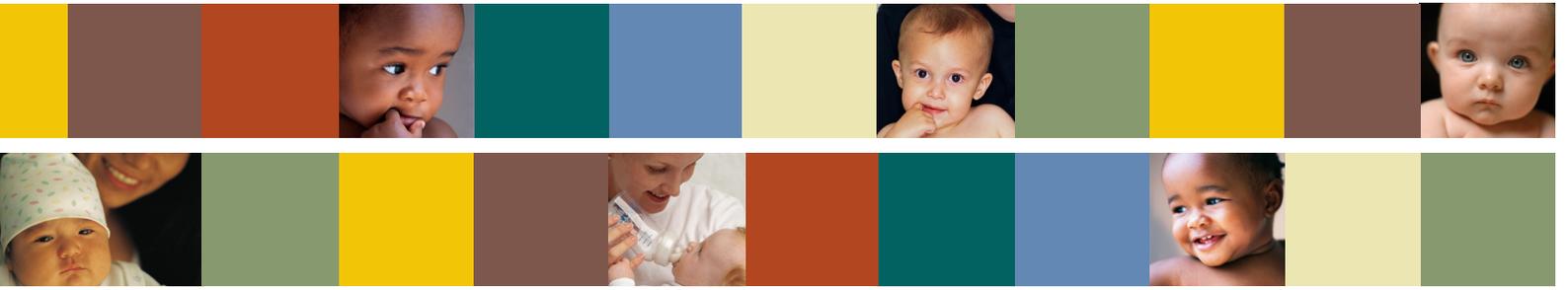
In 2006, 858 pregnant Minneapolis teens and 1,066 postpartum Minneapolis teen mothers were on Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) while 496 pregnant teens and 587 postpartum teen mothers in suburban Hennepin County received WIC.

#### Number of pregnant teens enrolled in the WIC nutrition program

	2004	2005	2006
Minneapolis	836	816	858
Suburban Hennepin County	443	587	496

#### Number of postpartum teens enrolled in the WIC nutrition program

	2004	2005	2006
Minneapolis	1,066	1,066	1,051
Suburban Hennepin County	571	622	640



### Nurse home visiting

Home visiting nurses helped 449 Minneapolis teen parents with parenting education and returning to school in 2006. An additional 117 teen parents received home visiting in Bloomington, Richfield and Edina.

**Number of clients receiving nurse home visits from the Minneapolis Visiting Nurses Agency**

	2004	2005	2006
Minneapolis	593	418	449
Suburban Hennepin County	143	212	191

### Child care

In 2006, 434 Minneapolis teen mothers received child care assistance (compared to 444 in 2005). In suburban Hennepin County, 306 teen mothers received child care assistance in 2006. Though most of the children of teens were enrolled in licensed child care, one in seven was in legal unlicensed family care.



**Teen parents receiving childcare assistance**

	2004	2005	2006
Minneapolis	434	444	434
Suburban Hennepin County	289	251	306

### Case management services

In 2006, county social workers identified 509 teen-parent families in Minneapolis and 251 in the suburbs. Some of these families received only one visit, and these may have had their needs met at that visit or may have declined further services. Social workers connected 70 percent of the teen parents with services.

**Teen parents receiving case management services**

	2004	2005	2006
Minneapolis	415	511	509
Suburban Hennepin County	168	183	251

### School readiness and parenting support

In 2006, 109 children of teen mothers in Minneapolis were served by Way to Grow, compared to 123 in 2005.

**Number of children of teen mothers served by Way to Grow**

	2004	2005	2006
Minneapolis	748	123	109

**Teens in parent education**

	2004	2005	2006
Mpls Public Schools ECFE	N/A	550	527
Other ECFE	N/A	N/A	216

### Fathers of babies born to teen mothers

In 2006, 1,468 teen mothers were in the Hennepin County child support system. There was a legal father associated with 745 of these cases (51 percent). About 1 in 5 (22 percent) of these fathers were themselves teens, 59 percent were in their 20s, and the remaining 19 percent were 30 or older.



## Teen parent profile

Angel and her two younger siblings had been removed from her mother's home because of her mother's chemical addiction. The three children were sent to live with their father, but it soon became clear that their father was addicted to crack. Angel was pregnant and 15 years old.

When Angel was 16, she was able to move out of her father's house into her own apartment. She accomplished this with the help of Project Solo, a City of Minneapolis program for teenage mothers. Angel is now 18 years old; she is the legal custodian of her little brother and sister, and her daughter is 3. Angel is determined to provide her daughter with the kind of life she herself never knew.

Angel trusts that she can step out into the world. This is not just a function of feeling self-reliant, but also a function of her capacity to allow other people in her life to support, encourage and help her.

## Where to find more information

[www.moappp.org](http://www.moappp.org)

*Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP)*

[www.mnfathers.org](http://www.mnfathers.org)

*Minnesota Fathers & Families Network*

[www.co.hennepin.mn.us](http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us)

*Hennepin County Government*

[http://health.mpls.k12.mn.us/Teenage\\_Pregnant\\_and\\_Parenting\\_Program.html](http://health.mpls.k12.mn.us/Teenage_Pregnant_and_Parenting_Program.html)

*Minneapolis Public Schools*

*Teenage Pregnant and Parenting Program*

[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs)

*Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support*

## Who we are and how you can help

Hennepin County, the Minneapolis Public Schools, the City of Minneapolis, organizations in northwest suburban Hennepin County and many others have created the Teen Parent Connection to increase the success of teen parents and their children while reducing teen pregnancy. To help, contact Teen Parent Connection at [teenparentconnection@yahoo.com](mailto:teenparentconnection@yahoo.com) or call (612) 668-1881.

This report is available online at: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs) and click on Research and Policy.

If you need this document in an alternative format, please call (612) 673-2301 or TTY (612) 673-2157. Please allow a reasonable amount of time for special needs accommodation.

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