



Teen Pregnancy in the San Joaquin Valley:

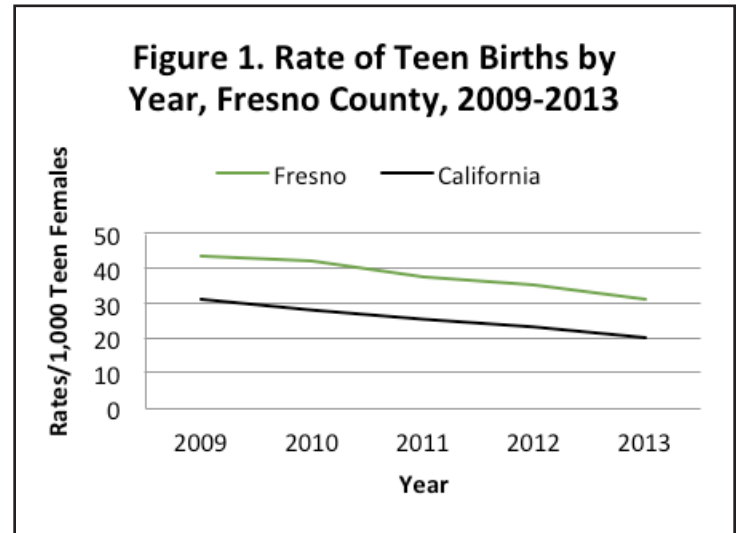
Individual and Neighborhood Characteristics in Fresno County

Background and Implications

Promoting healthy pregnancies and births while reducing teen pregnancies are key objectives for public health. Research indicates that early investment in initiatives that tackle these issues improve the health and well-being of the overall community. This report examines current trends in teen birth, how teen birth is related to individual and neighborhood characteristics in Fresno County, and the cost associated with related health outcomes.

Summary of Findings

Social determinants such as socioeconomic status and employment opportunity are negatively associated with teen births. Communities with greater socioeconomic and educational status have lower rates of teen pregnancy. Figure 1 illustrates that Fresno County has a higher teen birth rate than the state. However, the county has reduced teen births at a rate similar to the state. A 29% decline in teen births (females ages 15-19) from 2009 to 2013 was found in Fresno County. In 2009, the rate was 44/1,000 compared to a rate of 31/1,000 in 2013. The county saw a total of 9,036 teenage births between 2009 and 2013. African Americans account for 8% and Latinas 70% of teen births, but only compose 5% and 48% of the general population, respectively.



The prevention of teen pregnancy provides a cost benefit for youth and the community as a whole. Table 1 shows conservative estimates of costs to taxpayers due to teen birth. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy estimates that the average cost of a teen birth is \$1,462. By reducing the rate of teen births, Fresno County has saved 28% of the costs in 2013 compared to 2009.

Table 1. Total Costs to Taxpayers Associated with Teen Childbearing by Year, Fresno County, 2009-2013

Year	Rate ^a of Teen Births	Total Costs of Teen Childbearing ^b	% Decline in Teen Birth Rate Compared to Previous Year	Cumulative Savings Due to Decline Teen Birth Rate
2009	44	\$3,040,960	-	-
2010	42	\$2,957,626	4	\$83,334
2011	37	\$2,611,132	12	\$429,828
2012	36	\$2,478,090	3	\$562,870
2013	31	\$2,163,760	14	\$877,200

^a rate per 1,000 live births

^b based on average cost of teen birth in California \$1,462 (2010)

How Does Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) Reduce Teen Pregnancy and Related Health Outcomes?



Over 275 individuals from different sectors of the community have come together to form Fresno Community Health Improvement Partnership (FCHIP) for measurable improvements in health through collaboration, alignment, and leveraged resources. FCHIP is focused on 6 strategic priority areas: infant health, health literacy, land use and planning, healthy food access, diabetes prevention, and alignment of health assessment. Currently, partners are working in these priority areas to identify specific community needs and establish specific goals and objectives for the Community Health Improvement Plan using evidence-based practices.

FCDPH is partnering with University of California, San Francisco, (UCSF) and others in a transdisciplinary research effort aimed at reducing the burden of premature birth. The Preterm Birth Initiative (PTBi) was funded in June 2014 by a \$100M commitment from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Marc and Lynne Benioff. The PTBi is currently in a planning phase to determine where and how the FCDPH and its partners can have the greatest impact.

FCDPH staff is coordinating provider education on recommended updated treatment regimens, reporting requirements, and current epidemiology of high risk sexually transmitted disease (STD) areas. Promoting Adolescent Health Through School-Based HIV/STD Prevention is a partnership with the State Department of Education and State Department of Public Health, and is being implemented in Fresno Unified, Selma Unified, and Central Unified School Districts. This collaboration assists school districts with compliance with state mandates related to sexual health education and provides resources, research, and best practices surrounding sexual health. The initiative is designed

to assist schools with reducing: teen pregnancy rates, HIV/STD rates, disparities in HIV and other STDs experienced by specific adolescent sub populations, chronic absenteeism and dropout rates.

The County collaborated with the UCSF in conducting a Youth Community Health Assessment of Resources and Trends (CHART), published June 2015. Local community stakeholders and multiple youth interviews were conducted within Fresno County. The assessment tool examined community context, social norms, social networks, relationships and sexual behaviors, condom use, STD knowledge and attitudes, and access to existing STD testing and treatment services. This study was distributed to local partners and is available on the UCSF website.

What Are Future Goals for Public Health for Teen Pregnancy and Other Related Health Outcomes?

The County was selected to participate in a State sponsored pilot project to focus on chlamydia screening, treatment, and quality improvement. The goal of the project is to assist medical providers in increasing STD screening amongst adolescent patients. FCDPH seeks to expand the pilot project into a sustainable program. FCDPH also aims to attract and retain medical providers in the area, distribute providers to areas of greatest need, and seek ways to improve Medi-Cal reimbursement for providers.

