

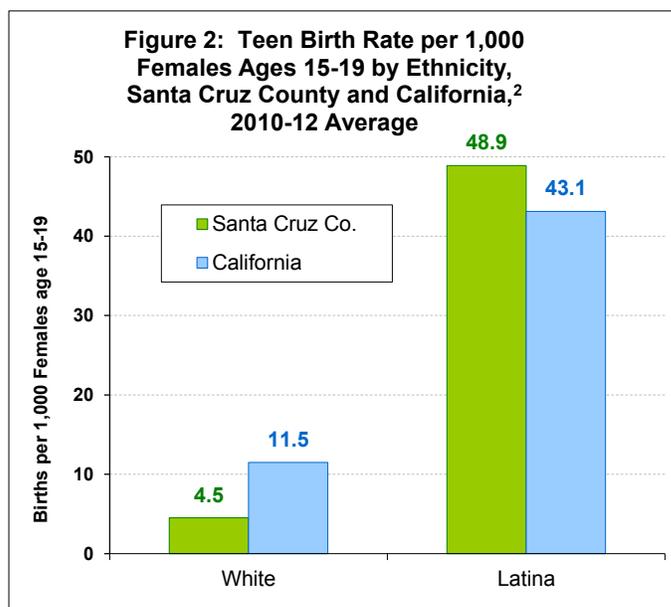
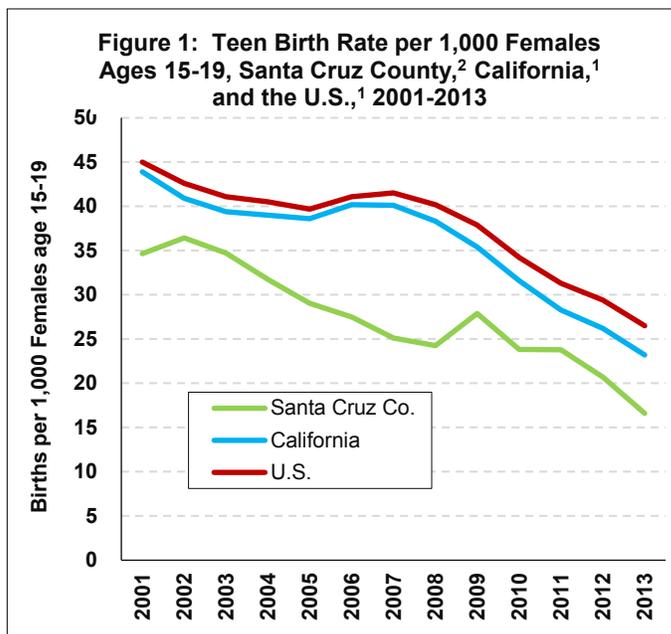
# TEEN BIRTHS

Teen pregnancy prevention is of paramount importance to the health and quality of life of our youth. Teen pregnancy and parenthood bring substantial social and economic costs through immediate and long-term impacts on teen parents and their children. Only about 50% of teen mothers receive a high school diploma versus 90% of women who had not given birth during adolescence.<sup>1</sup> Children born to teen parents are also more likely to have lower school achievement, give birth as a teenager, and face unemployment as an adult. Teen pregnancy is one of CDC's six “winnable battles” in public health. Evidence-based prevention programs typically address protective factors on the basis of knowledge, skills, beliefs and attitudes related to teen pregnancy.

In 2013, the U.S. teen birth rate was 26.5 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19. This is another record low for U.S. teens, and a drop of 10% from 2012.<sup>1</sup> California and Santa Cruz County also experienced record lows in 2013, with rates of 23.2 and 16.6 per 1,000 females ages 15-19, respectively.<sup>2</sup> Overall, Santa Cruz County rates have been consistently lower than state and national rates (Figure 1). However, Latina rates in Santa Cruz County were higher than Latina rates statewide, whereas rates among White teens in Santa Cruz County were lower than state rates between 2010 and 2012 (Figure 2).<sup>2</sup>

Younger teens in Santa Cruz County (ages 15-17) had a birth rate of 16.4 per 1,000 between 2010 and 2012, compared to the California rate of 14.8 – both well below the Healthy People 2020 objective of 36.2 per 1,000 for this age group. The state-local difference was not statistically significant. However, among Latinas in that age group, rates were significantly higher in Santa Cruz County than for statewide counterparts – 32.1 versus 23.5 per 1,000.<sup>2</sup> Fortunately, these rates have been decreasing steadily over the years.

Among older teens (ages 18-19), Santa Cruz County rates are significantly lower than state rates, 28.3 versus 47.6 per 1,000 females, respectively. Both rates are far below the Healthy People 2020 objective of 105.9 per 1,000 females age 18-19.



## Sources

- (1) California Department of Public Health. California Teen Birth Rates. 2000-2012. June 2014. [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Documents/140602%20ver%202012%20TBR%20press%20release%20combined%20slides\\_updatedCDPHlogo\\_final.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Documents/140602%20ver%202012%20TBR%20press%20release%20combined%20slides_updatedCDPHlogo_final.pdf)
- (2) UCSF. Family Health Outcomes Project. CA County MCAH Data. Santa Cruz County. Data were extracted from the Birth Statistical Master File. <https://fhop.ucsf.edu/databooks/santa-cruz/santa-cruz-county> (password protected).