

Department of Health Resources in Central Falls

Personal Responsibility Education Program (Teen Outreach Program Curriculum)

Combines a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum with a youth development approach in the form of a community service component that has proven effective in both school and community-based settings.

Progreso Latino 262 Broad Street, Central Falls; 401-728-5920

Sojourner House 386 Smith Street, Providence; 401-861-6191

Title X Family Planning

Provides confidential family planning services at low or no cost based on income. Teens can receive confidential birth control visits or HIV/STD testing without parental notification or consent.

Blackstone Valley Community Health Center 9 Chestnut Street, Central Falls; 401-724-7110

• www.health.ri.gov/programs/familyplanning

Maternal and Child Home Visiting

Provides short- or long-term home visiting services to pregnant or parenting teens, including fathers. Home visitors help their clients find appropriate prenatal care, engage in preventive health practices, connect with community resources, become more confident parents, and set and achieve personal goals.

First Connections at Children's Friend

153 Summer Street, Providence; 401-721-6400 • www.health.ri.gov/homevisiting

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program

Provides services such as healthy food checks, nutrition counseling, and breastfeeding support to low-income pregnant and parenting teens.

Children's Friend 621 Dexter Street, Central Falls; 401-752-7827 • www.health.ri.gov/wic

Additional resources in your community

Blackstone Valley Community Action Program

32 Goff Avenue, Pawtucket, www.bvcap.org

Male Responsibility: Works with teen fathers to increase parenting skills and self-sufficiency.

401-723-4520 x240 • dgardner@bvcap.org

Youth Build: Focus on education and construction. Teens receive credentials and certifications in many areas.

401-723-4520 x269 • cstone@bvcap.org

Youth Employment: Provides youth with summer employment, job readiness skills instruction, and other services.

401-723-4520 x240 • dgardner@bvcap.org

Youth Success: Helps pregnant and parenting teens develop daily living skills, complete secondary education and/or a GED, and learn about child growth and development. Required for teens receiving RI Works cash assistance who have not completed high school or a GED.

401-723-4520 x240 • dgardner@bvcap.org

City of Central Falls Parks and Recreation

Provides youth activities, including basketball, football, soccer, baseball, and track and field.

www.centralfallsri.us/residents/parks-recreation

Dads Making a Difference

Provides resources to help ensure that fathers are having a positive impact on their children's lives. Includes home visits and groups. Teenage fathers in Central Falls are eligible.

Children's Friend 621 Dexter Street, Central Falls; 401-752-7600 • www.cfsri.org/dadsdifference.html

YMCA of Pawtucket

Provides after-school programs, fitness programs, and teen nights. The YMCA also has the Leaders' Club, which provides leadership training, personal growth, service to others, and social development by working closely with peers, counselors, and the community.

20 Summer Street, Pawtucket • 401-727-7900

333 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket • 401-727-7050

YouthWorks Program

A collaboration between Progreso Latino and the Central Falls School District that provides students with volunteer opportunities and first-hand work experience at local businesses and community agencies.

Progreso Latino 262 Broad Street, Central Falls • www.progresolatino.org/CFYouthWorks.html

YWCA Rhode Island's Nowell Academy

Charter school that focuses on at-risk students, including teens who are pregnant or already parents. On-site infant/toddler child care is available for teen parents.

www.ywcari.org

Basic Needs:

Project Hope / Proyecto Esperanza www.diocesepvd.org/charitableministries/project-hope-proyecto-esperanza

Progreso Latino Food Pantry www.progresolatino.org/CFFoodPantry.html

Blackstone Valley Community Action Program www.bvcap.org/basic.htm



ISSUE BRIEF • JULY 2013

Teen Pregnancy

CENTRAL FALLS



Some measures of adolescent health and teen pregnancy are stronger in Central Falls than in other Rhode Island communities. Opportunities exist to further prevent teen pregnancy, improve family and community well-being, and help all Central Falls teens achieve their education, career, and personal goals.

Why we care about teen pregnancy

Teen pregnancy affects the long-term well-being of families and communities. Teen pregnancy is associated with serious health risks for the mother and child. For example, Rhode Island women younger than 20 years old are more likely to use tobacco during pregnancy and have late prenatal care and are less likely to breastfeed.¹ Teen pregnancy and parenting also contribute to higher high school drop-out rates and lower income and educational attainment.² For fathers, education statistics are similar; between 2002 and 2006, 40% of infants born to teens had fathers with a high-school diploma or less. Children of teen parents are more likely to have lower school achievement and drop out of high school, have more health problems, be incarcerated at some time during adolescence, give birth as a teen, and face unemployment as a young adult.³ In Rhode Island in 2008, public sector costs associated with teen childbearing were estimated at nearly \$49 million.²

Community strengths

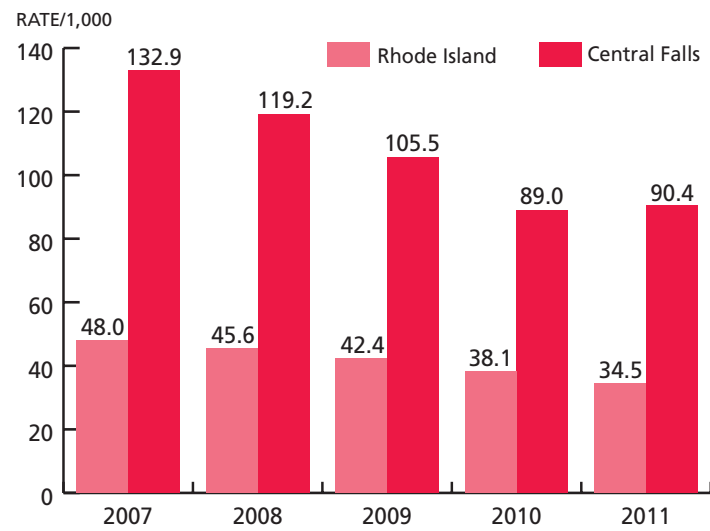
- **The number and rate of teen pregnancies have been decreasing**—and at a sharper rate in Central Falls (32%) than across Rhode Island (28%) during 2007-2011. (See Figure 1 on the next page.)
- **The repeat teen birth rate was slightly lower in Central Falls** than statewide. Among the 162 infants born to teens in Central Falls during 2009-2011, 24 (15%) were born to teens who were already mothers, compared to 16% statewide.
- **Central Falls teens had a lower rate of low birth weight births** (7%) than teens statewide and in other Rhode Island cities with high teen birth rates. (See Figure 2 on the next page.)
- **Most Central Falls teens want to continue their education.** Slightly more Central Falls 12th graders had planned to attend college during the 2010-2011 school year (91%) than their peers statewide (90%).

CENTRAL FALLS COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- ALL AGES: **18,537**
- WHITE: **8,200 (44.4%)**
- BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN: **1,156 (6.2%)**
- HISPANIC/LATINO ETHNICITY: **11,254 (60.7%)**
- BELOW POVERTY: **25.6%**
- FEMALES AGED 15-19: **730**
- TEEN PREGNANCIES BY YEAR:

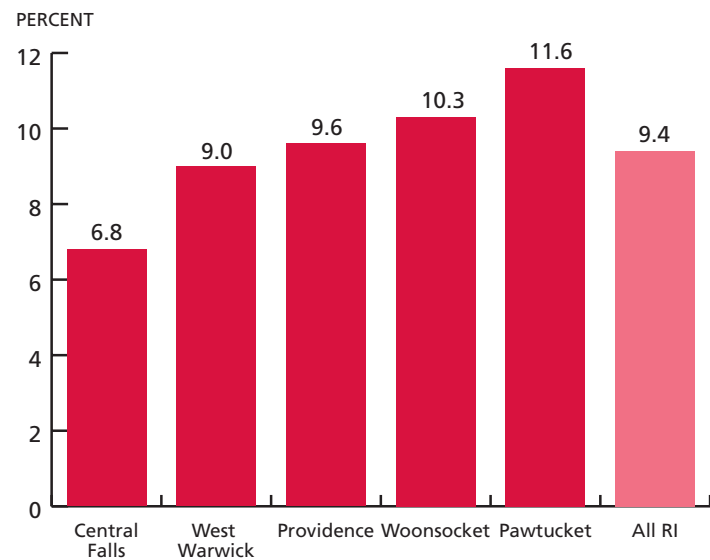


FIGURE 1
TEEN PREGNANCY RATES, CENTRAL FALLS AND RHODE ISLAND, 2007-2011*



*Teen pregnancy rates are defined as the number of births, induced terminations, and spontaneous fetal deaths (e.g., miscarriages) per 1,000 female teens aged 15-19; 2011 data are provisional; rates based on 2010 US Census data
Source: Maternal and Child Health Database, Rhode Island Department of Health

FIGURE 2
LOW BIRTH WEIGHT AMONG TEEN BIRTHS BY SELECTED CITIES/TOWNS, RHODE ISLAND 2009-2011*

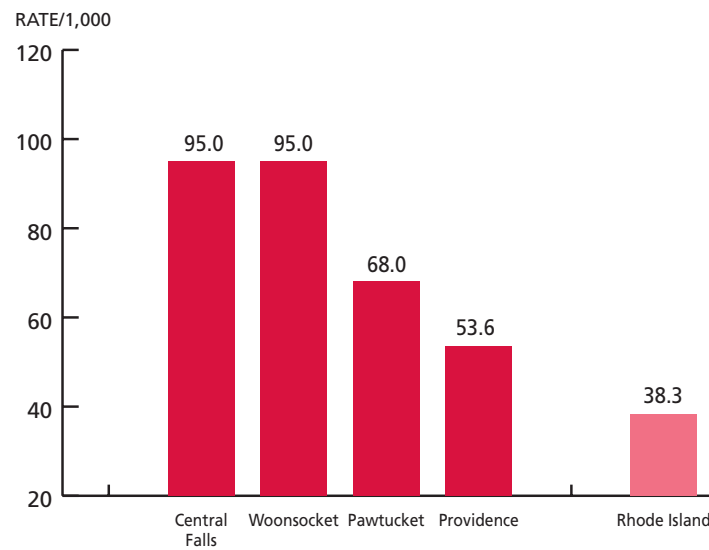


*Low birth weight = <2500 grams; teens aged 15-19
Source: Maternal and Child Health Database, Rhode Island Department of Health

References

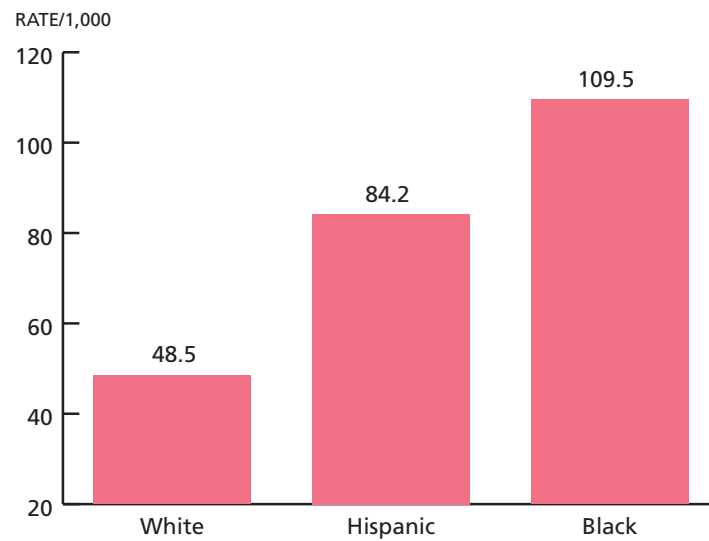
¹Rhode Island Department of Health. (2012). 2012 Rhode Island Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System data book. Retrieved from www.health.ri.gov/publications/databooks/2012PregnancyRiskAssessmentMonitoringSystem.pdf
²Counting It Up: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Rhode Island in 2008. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, June 2011.
³Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012) About teen pregnancy. Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/TeenPregnancy/AboutTeenPreg.htm

FIGURE 3
TEEN PREGNANCY RATES BY SELECTED GEOGRAPHIC AREAS, RHODE ISLAND, 2009-2011



Source: Maternal and Child Health Database, Rhode Island Department of Health

FIGURE 4
TEEN BIRTH RATES BY SELECTED RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUPS, CENTRAL FALLS, RHODE ISLAND* 2009-2011



*Rates were calculated using population estimates based on the 2010 US Census; rate for Native Americans not shown due to small numbers; there were no births among Asians
Source: Maternal and Child Health Database, Rhode Island Department of Health

Community challenges

- **Central Falls (tied with Woonsocket) had the highest teen pregnancy rate in the state during 2009-2011.** The rate in Central Falls (95 per 1,000 teens) was 2.5 times that for the state (38), with 208 teen pregnancies occurring during the three-year period (Figure 3).
- **Nearly one-quarter (24%) of the Central Falls teens who gave birth during 2009-2011 received late* or no prenatal care.** This rate is 1.5 times higher than the overall rate among Central Falls residents (16%). Statewide, the difference between rates of late prenatal care among teens (23%) and those aged 20 and older (12%) was greater, however, nearly twice as high for teens.
- **Disparities exist among racial/ethnic groups.** During 2009-2011 in Central Falls, the teen birth rate was twice as high among Black or African Americans and 1.7 times as high among those of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity as among Whites (Figure 4).
- **Central Falls high school students had higher absenteeism rates** during the 2010-2011 school year than their peers statewide. Forty-four percent of the 810 high school students in Central Falls were absent 18 or more days compared to the statewide rate of 25%. The overall attendance rate of 87% was lower than the state rate (92%).
- **Central Falls students had lower school achievement** than their statewide peers. The Central Falls class of 2011 had a lower four-year graduation rate (70%) than that in Rhode Island overall (77%). In addition, only 41% of Central Falls 11th grade students were proficient at reading compared to 77% of all Rhode Island students.

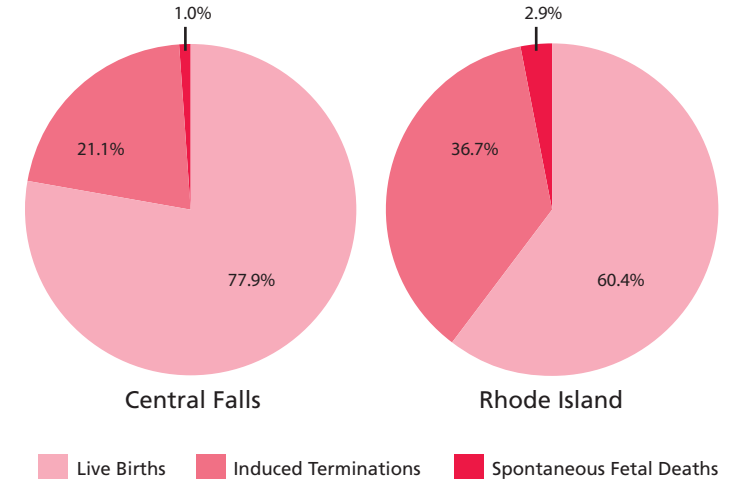
Worth noting

More teen pregnancies result in a live birth in Central Falls than statewide. Among the 208 Central Falls pregnancies during 2009-2011, 162 (78%) resulted in a live birth, and 44 (21%) in an induced termination. Statewide, 60% of teen pregnancies resulted in a live birth and 37% in an induced termination (Figure 5).

What you can do

- Make a data-driven action plan to address teen pregnancy and promote adolescent health in Central Falls. Take advantage of your community’s many strengths and support services to do so.
- Encourage referrals to community-based programs and services that can help teens prevent pregnancy and support them if they do get pregnant. Providers should coordinate care for teens and follow up on referrals, as appropriate, to assure access to care.
- Keep talking with us. We hope to engage in continuous conversation and collaboration to help you enhance adolescent health in your community. For more information, contact Kim Harris, Adolescent Health Program Manager, at 401-222-4354.
- Visit www.health.ri.gov/for/pregnantwomen for useful information for pregnant women.

FIGURE 5
TEEN PREGNANCY OUTCOMES, CENTRAL FALLS AND RHODE ISLAND, 2009-2011



Source: Maternal and Child Health Database, Rhode Island Department of Health

*Prenatal care that begins after the first trimester