

Department of Health Resources in Woonsocket

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.

Connecting For Children and Families 46 Hope Street, Woonsocket • 401-766-3384

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.

Thundermist Health Center 450 Clinton Street, Woonsocket • 401-767-4100 • www.health.ri.gov/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 Family Resources Community Action 245 Main Street, Woonsocket • 401-766-0900
• 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.

Thundermist Health Center 191 Social Street, Woonsocket • 401-767-4109 • www.health.ri.gov/wic

Additional resources in your community

Boys and Girls Club of Woonsocket

Enables and inspires youth, especially those from diverse or difficult circumstances, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and healthy members of their community through programs such as character and leadership development, computer training, life skills, and sports recreation.

72 Kendrick Avenue, Woonsocket • 401-766-9242

Family Resources Community Action—YouthWorks411 Center

A drop-in center for ages 14-24 that offers the Youth Success Program, GED Prep, career planning and exploration, leadership development, and academic support.

55 Main Street, Woonsocket • 401-617-2971

NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley

Through the Youth Resident Activities Program (RAP), youth receive comprehensive services that increase academic performance, build leadership skills and self-esteem, and prepare them for the workforce and college. The Youth Initiative Project (YIP) formerly known as the “youth committee” encourages Woonsocket high school students to be engaged in their communities through student-led service projects.

719 Front Street, Suite 103, Woonsocket • 401-762-0993

Northern RI Family Care Community Partnership

Offers a comprehensive array of formal and informal resources encompassing food pantries, housing, shelter, adult and youth employment and training, GED, literacy, mental health and substance abuse treatment, early childhood services, healthcare and much more.

245 Main Street, Woonsocket • 401-766-0900

RiverEdge Art Project

A social enterprise that provides talented, underserved teens hands-on work experience in graphic design, digital photography, screen-printing, and visual arts.

68 South Main Street, Woonsocket • 401-767-2100

Thundermist Health Center

Runs a school-based health center (The Health Hut) at Woonsocket High School. Offers on-site oral health services and classroom-based oral education. Through the ThunderKids Wellness Program, targets clinically obese adolescent children 11-13 years old through an intensive, school year-long intervention.

191 Social Street, 9th Floor Woonsocket • 401-767-4109

Woonsocket Prevention Coalition

Youth leadership program that assists youth in being alcohol, tobacco, and other drug free by providing healthy alternative activities and prevention-related information and education.

City Hall, 169 Main Street, Woonsocket • 401-766-3332

YMCA

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.

18 Federal Street, Woonsocket • 401-769-0791

YWCA of Northern RI

Offers The Parenting in Progress alternative education program for pregnant and parenting teens and their children who have limited opportunities due to education, socio-economic background, and mental and physical disabilities. The program provides prenatal care and family planning services, developmentally appropriate child care, alternative educational training, life skills workshops, job preparation support, and preventive healthcare for infants and young children.

514 Blackstone Street, Woonsocket • 401-769-7450



ISSUE BRIEF • JULY 2013

Teen Pregnancy WOONSOCKET



Woonsocket has many services in place to help teens—including those who are pregnant and parenting—achieve their education, career, and personal goals. Opportunities exist to build on these strengths to prevent teen pregnancy and enhance individual, family, and community well-being.

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**—although at a slower rate in Woonsocket (24%) than across Rhode Island (28%) during 2007-2011. (See Figure 1 on the next page.)
- **Most Woonsocket teens want to continue their education.** Fewer Woonsocket 12th graders, however, had planned to attend college during the 2010-2011 school year (82%) than their peers statewide (90%).
- **Woonsocket has many community-based services for teens**, including programs to help teens prevent pregnancy, continue their education, find employment, prepare for a baby, and improve their parenting skills and confidence. See page four for a partial listing.

WOONSOCKET COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- ALL AGES: **41,186**
- WHITE: **32,011 (77.7%)**
- BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN: **2,621 (6.4%)**
- HISPANIC/LATINO ETHNICITY: **5,845 (14.2%)**
- BELOW POVERTY: **22.2%**
- FEMALES AGED 15-19: **1,260**
- TEEN PREGNANCIES BY YEAR:

124

2009

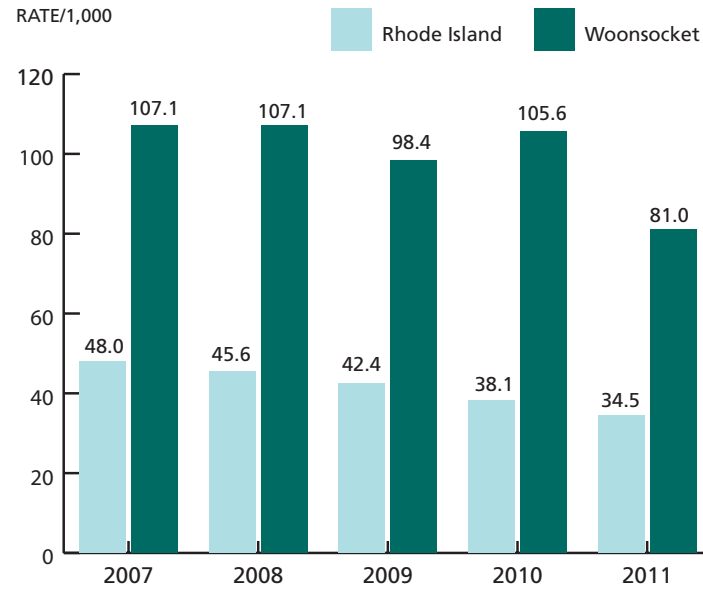
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2010

102

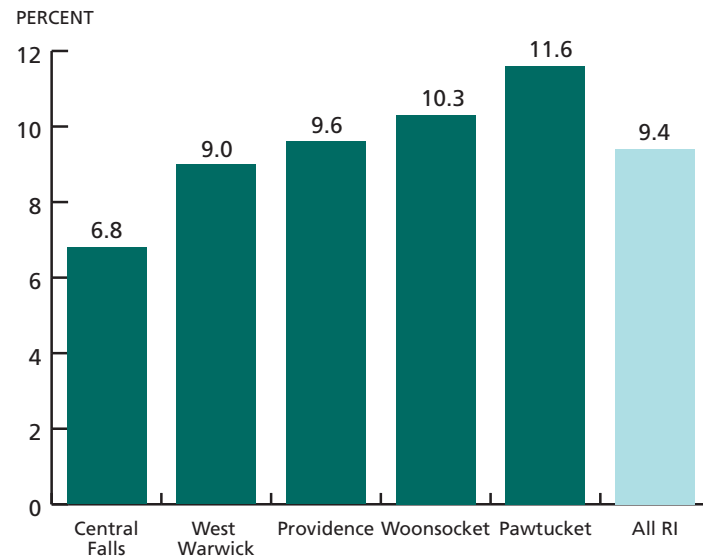
2011

FIGURE 1
TEEN PREGNANCY RATES, WOONSOCKET 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*

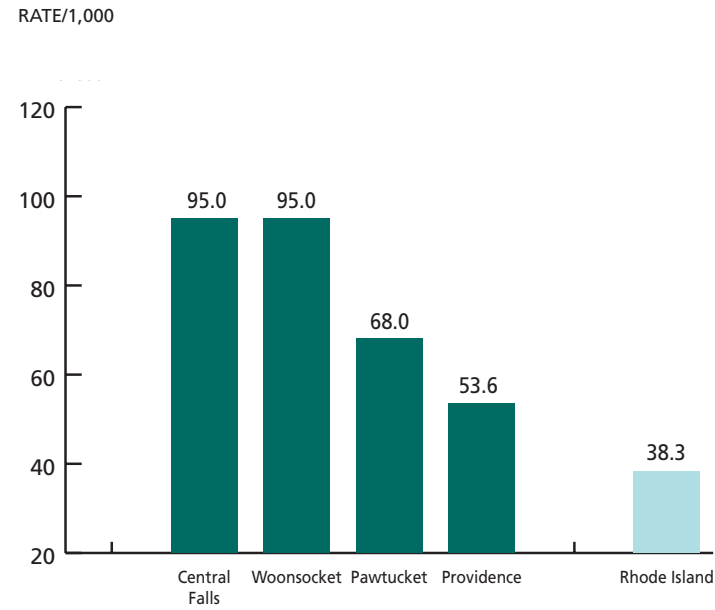


*Low birth weight = <2500 grams; teens aged 15-19
Source: Maternal and Child Health Database, Rhode Island Department of Health

References

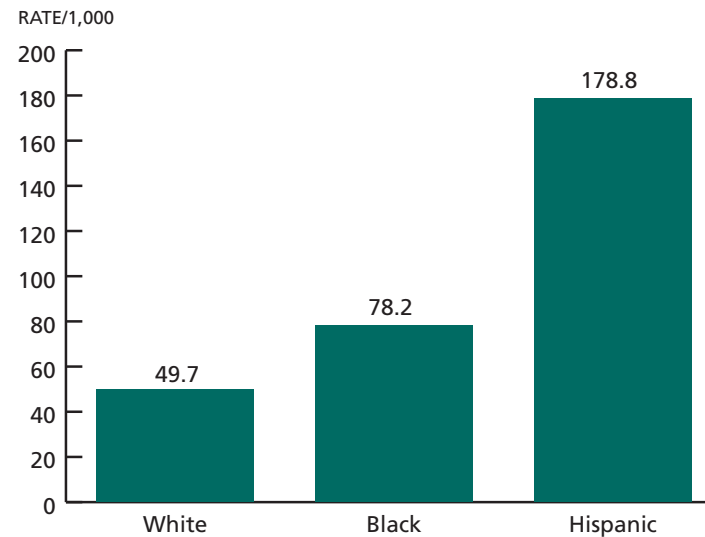
- ¹Rhode Island Department of Health. (2012). 2012 Rhode Island Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System data book. Retrieved from www.health.ri.gov/publications/databooks/2012PregnancyRiskAssessmentMonitoringSystem.pdf
²Counting It Up: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Rhode Island in 2008. 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, WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND* 2009-2011



*Rates were calculated using population estimates based on the 2010 US Census; rates for Native Americans and Asians are not shown due to small numbers.
Source: Maternal and Child Health Database, Rhode Island Department of Health

Community challenges

- **Woonsocket (tied with Central Falls) had the highest teen pregnancy rate in the state during 2009-2011.** The rate in Woonsocket (95 per 1,000 teens) was 2.5 times that for the state (38), with 359 teen pregnancies occurring during the three-year period (Figure 2).
- **The repeat teen birth rate was higher in Woonsocket than statewide.** Among the 261 infants born to teens in Woonsocket during 2009-2011, 53 (20%) were born to teens who were already mothers, compared to 16% statewide.
- **More than one in five (21%) of the Woonsocket teens who gave birth during 2009-2011 received late* or no prenatal care.** This rate is 1.3 times higher than the overall rate among Woonsocket 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.
- **Woonsocket teens had a higher rate of low birth weight births (10%)** than teens statewide and in most other Rhode Island cities with high teen birth rates (Figure 3).
- **Disparities exist among racial/ethnic groups.** During 2009-2011 in Woonsocket, the teen birth rate was more than 3 times higher among those of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity and 1.6 times higher among Black or African Americans compared to the rate for Whites (Figure 4).
- **Woonsocket high school students had higher absenteeism rates** during the 2010-2011 school year than their peers statewide. Nearly half (48%) of the 1,743 high school students in Woonsocket were absent 18 or more days compared to the statewide rate of 25%. The overall attendance rate of 85% was lower than the state rate (92%).
- **Woonsocket students had lower school achievement** than their statewide peers. The Woonsocket class of 2011 had a lower four-year graduation rate (63%) than that in Rhode Island overall (77%). In addition, only 64% of Woonsocket 11th grade students were proficient at reading compared to 77% of all Rhode Island students.

Worth noting

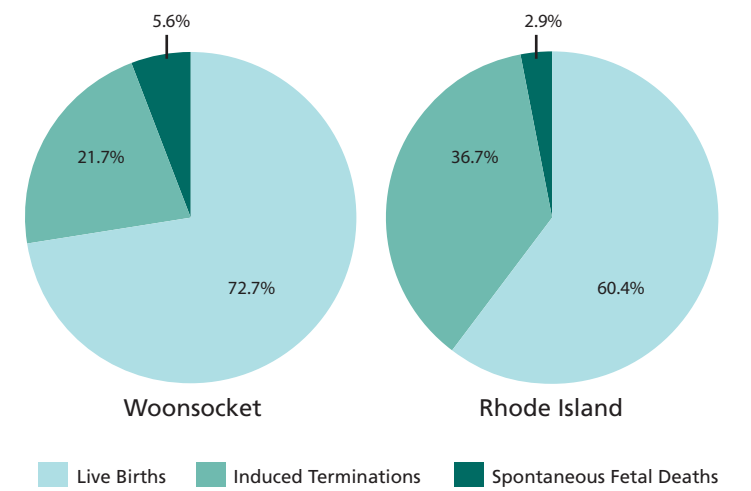
A higher proportion of teen pregnancies result in a live birth in Woonsocket than statewide. Among the 359 Woonsocket pregnancies during 2009-2011, 261 (73%) resulted in a live birth, and 78 (22%) in an induced termination. Statewide, 60% of teen pregnancies resulted in a live birth and 37% in an induced termination (Figure 5).

What you can do

- **Make a data-driven action plan** to address teen pregnancy and promote adolescent health in Woonsocket. 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.

*Prenatal care that begins after the first trimester

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



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