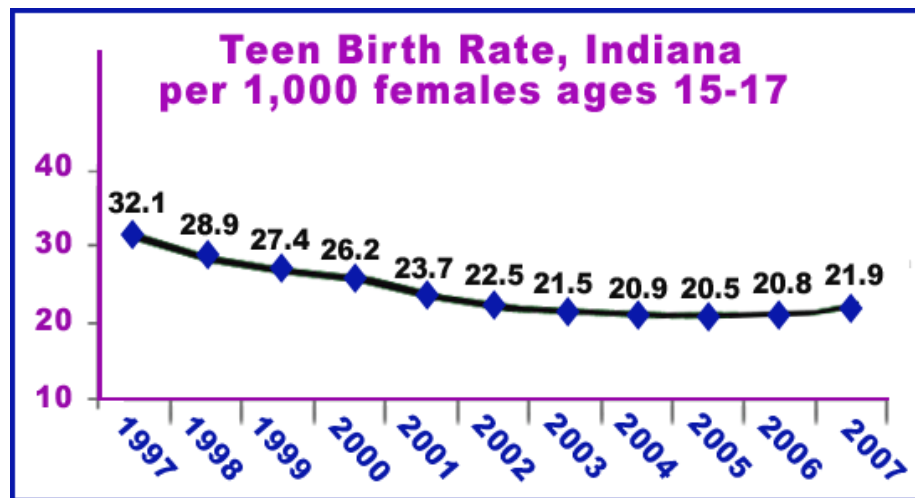




July 30, 2010

Kids Raising Kids

More than **2,800 Indiana teen** females ages 15-17 **become parents each year**, and an additional hundred girls become parents before age 15.⁽¹⁾ After a decade of declines, **the teen birth rate is increasing**, and nearly one in five of those births are repeat births to teens who were already mothers.⁽²⁾



Children born to teen mothers are more likely than children of older parents to grow up in a poor and mother-only family, to live in a poor or underclass neighborhood, and to experience high risks to both their health status and potential school achievement. These children are 50% more likely to be born at a low birth weight and do not perform as well as children of older mothers on measures of child development and school readiness such as cognition, communication, and interpersonal skills. Children born to teen mothers also are more likely to be abused, abandoned, or neglected than children of older parents.⁽³⁾



Teenage sons of teen mothers are 2.7 times more likely to be incarcerated, and daughters are more likely to become teen mothers themselves than children of older mothers. Children of teen mothers are also more likely to repeat a grade in school and are less likely to complete high school. At age 24, 30% of children of teen parents are not in school, working, or actively looking for a job.⁽⁴⁾

The Good News

Preventing teen pregnancy is a primary social goal, but when teens do become pregnant, quality family, partner, and social support can improve outcomes for the children of teen mothers.⁽⁵⁾ High school-based parenting programs with a child care center also may be a protective factor contributing to better outcomes for teen mothers and their children.⁽⁶⁾

The Center for Assessment and Policy Development has identified **six core services** that are critical to ensure healthy growth and development for children of teen parents. These services include:

Available at IYI's [Virginia Beall Ball Library!](#)

[How I Learn: Ages & Stages of Child Development](#)

—Produced by Learning ZoneXpress



Hosted by a teen childcare worker, this DVD documentary examines the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth and development of children from age birth through age eight years.

1. flexible, high quality schooling for young parents,
2. case management and family support services,
3. prenatal care,
4. quality child care with links to basic preventative health care,
5. parenting and life skills education, and
6. father involvement supports

About Teen Fathers

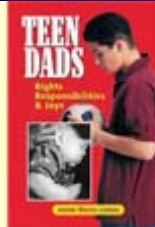


Though **eight of ten teen fathers do not marry** the mothers of their first children, (7) there is increasing evidence that teen fathers want to be (and are) involved with their children, though this involvement may not always include financial support. (8) Young fathers are more likely to have economic and employment challenges and are more often economically disadvantaged than adult fathers. (9)

Young fathers do not have the same needs as young mothers. According to research from the Baylor College of Medicine, a few key focus areas for young fathers' programs include: (10)

Available at IYI's [Virginia Beall Ball Library!](#)

[Teen Dads: Rights, Responsibilities, and Joys](#) By Jeanne Warren Lindsay

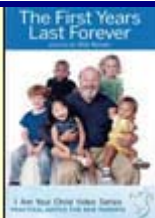


This helpful guide offers useful tips to teen dads who want to improve their parenting skills, with an emphasis on dealing with children from birth to the age of three

- financial and personal self-sufficiency,
- gainful employment and job skills,
- education completion,
- effective parenting skills,
- the legal aspects of fatherhood,
- behavioral issues,
- delay of future pregnancies,
- self-esteem, and
- community involvement.

Available at IYI's [Virginia Beall Ball Library!](#)

[The First Years Last Forever](#)
Produced by I Am Your Child Foundation



This introductory DVD program for new parents offers an overview of the importance of bonding, communication, health, nutrition, and child care, while helping new parents learn how to help their infants reach their full potential.

[Teen Parents Succeeding](#)

(TPS) - Kosciusko County, a 2008 Indiana Youth Investment Award Winner! TPS provides child care and other support to teen parents who are still in high school.

The participants are required to attend weekly parent enrichment groups and weekly case management meetings to help them explore careers, examine college options, utilize supportive services, and become self-sufficient. In return, TPS provides free child care during the school day. Learn more about [IYI's Youth Investment Awards](#).



Resources for and about teen parents:

- [WIC](#) is a program designed to improve access to nutritious foods and promote healthier eating habits and lifestyles for pregnant women and infants. Nationally, 6.1% of female WIC clients are aged seventeen or younger. (11)
 - [Early Head Start programs](#) were established to serve children from birth to three years of age in recognition that the earliest years matter a great deal to children's growth and development. These programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services to enrolled children and families. They engage parents in their children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy, and employment goals.
 - [Healthy Families Indiana](#) is a voluntary home visitation program designed to promote healthy families and healthy children through a variety of services, including child development, access to health care, and parent education. Of those enrolled, 23% are under age 20. (12)
 - Find [Information for teens, parents, and teachers](#) about how raising a child impacts the rest of a teen's life.
 - A [Resource Guide of Best Practices](#) for Pregnant and Parenting Teen Programs.
 - [Research on how children born to teen mothers fare.](#)
 - [Pregnant and Parenting Adolescents Bibliography](#) from the National Clearinghouse for Families and Youth.
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(1) [Indiana State Department of Health.](#)

(2) [Childtrends \(2007\) Repeat Teen Childbearing: Differences across states and by race and ethnicity.](#)

(3) [FSU Prevention & Early Intervention Policy \(2005\) The Children of Teen Parents.](#)

(4) *ibid*

(5) *ibid*

(6) Sadler, L.S., Swartz, M.K., & Ryan-Krause, P. (2003). Supporting adolescent mothers and their children through a high school based child care center and parent support program. [Journal of Pediatric Health Care](#), 17(3), 109-117 and FSU Center for Prevention & Early Intervention (2005) [Adolescent Parenting Research.](#)

(7) Brein, M.J., & Willis, R.J., Costs and consequences for fathers, in Kids Having Kids: economic and social consequences of teen pregnancy, R. Maynard, Editor. 1997, The Urban Institute Press: Washington, DC. p. 95-143.

(8) Gavin, L., et al. (2002). Young, disadvantaged fathers' involvement with their infants: An ecological perspective. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 31, 266-276. and Allen, W., & Doherty, W. (1996). The responsibilities of fatherhood as perceived by African American Teenage Fathers. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services*, 77(3), 142-155.

(9) Lerman, R. (1993a). A national profile of young unwed fathers. In R. Lerman & T. Ooms (Eds.), *Young Unwed Fathers: Changing Roles and Emerging Policies*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. and Lerman, R. (1993b). Employment Patterns of unwed fathers and public policy. In R. Lerman & T. Ooms (Eds.), *Young Unwed Fathers: Changing Roles and Emerging Policies*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.

(10) Smith, P.B., et al. (2002). Programs for young fathers: Essential components and evaluation issues. *North American Journal of Psychology*, 4(1), 81-92. Kimball, C. (2004). Teen Fathers: An Introduction. *The Prevention Researcher*, 11(4), 3-5. Lane, T., & Clay, C. (2000). Meeting the service needs of young fathers. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 17(1), 35-54.

(11) [WIC Program and Participant Characteristics \(2008\)](#)

(12) [Healthy Families Factsheet \(2006\)](#)

[IYI Virginia Beall Ball Bibliography - Teen Parenting](#)

[More resources from the Indiana Youth Institute >>>>>](#)