

# Teen Pregnancy and Youth Access to Reproductive Healthcare

Jennifer Biundo, MPAff  
Director of Policy and Data



[www.txcampaign.org](http://www.txcampaign.org)

# Mission and Strategies

The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is a statewide, non-partisan, non-profit organization founded in 2009 to **reduce the rate of teen pregnancy in Texas** through:

## Research & Data



We analyze and disseminate data on teen pregnancy and teen births, including prevention strategies proven effective globally, nationally and here in the Lone Star State.

## Advocacy & Public Policy



We advocate for public policies that increase young Texans' access to knowledge and healthcare to prevent unintended pregnancy.

## Strategic Collaboration



We partner with others across the state on programs designed to leverage local and regional resources with statewide systems change.

## Training & Events



We ensure our partners have the opportunity to learn from one another and access the resources they need to advance the work in their home communities.

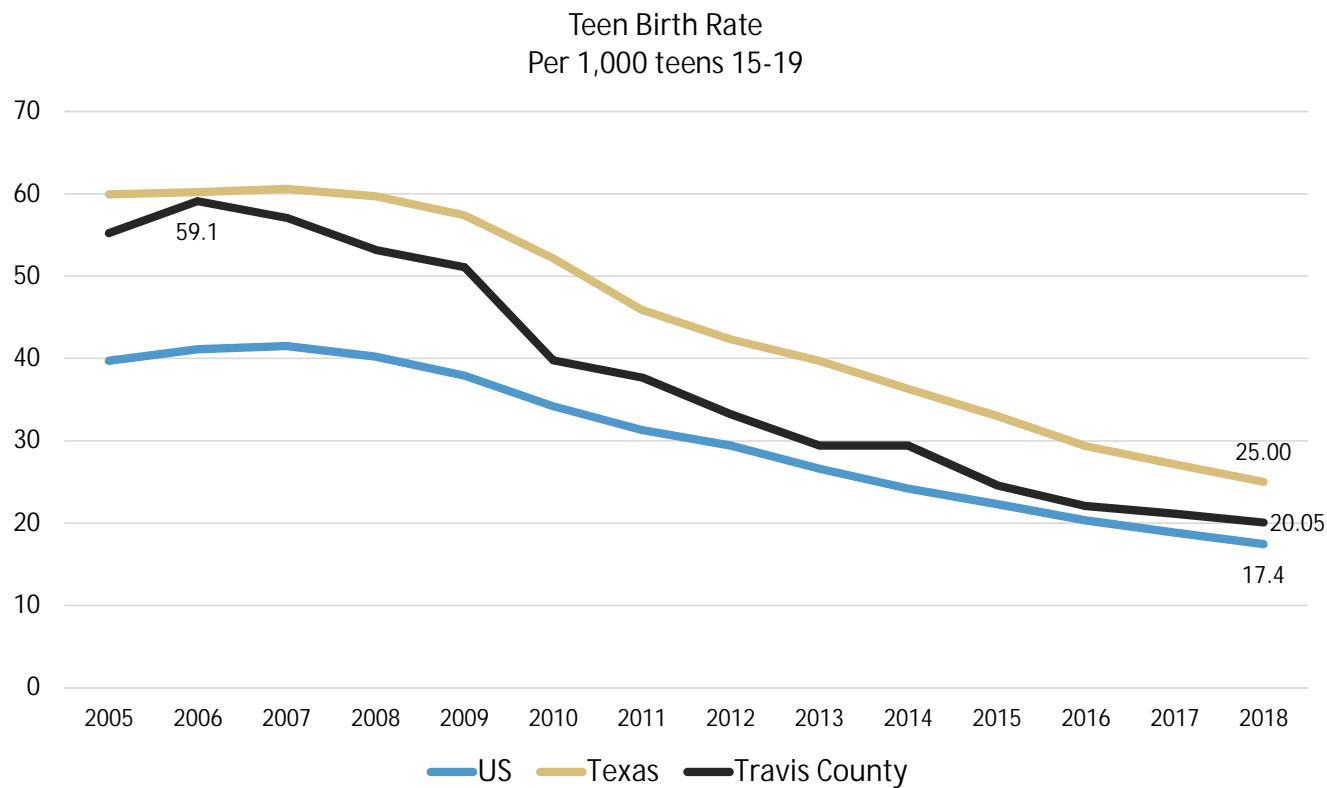
# An evolving narrative around teen birth

- Intentionality around supporting rather than shaming the families that already exist (reproductive justice focus)
- Focus on removing barriers to accessing desired information and healthcare resources
- More nuanced understanding of correlation v. causation around negative outcomes associated with teen birth
- Awareness of underlying disparities and structural racism shaping inequitable outcomes



# Teen birth rates are on the decline

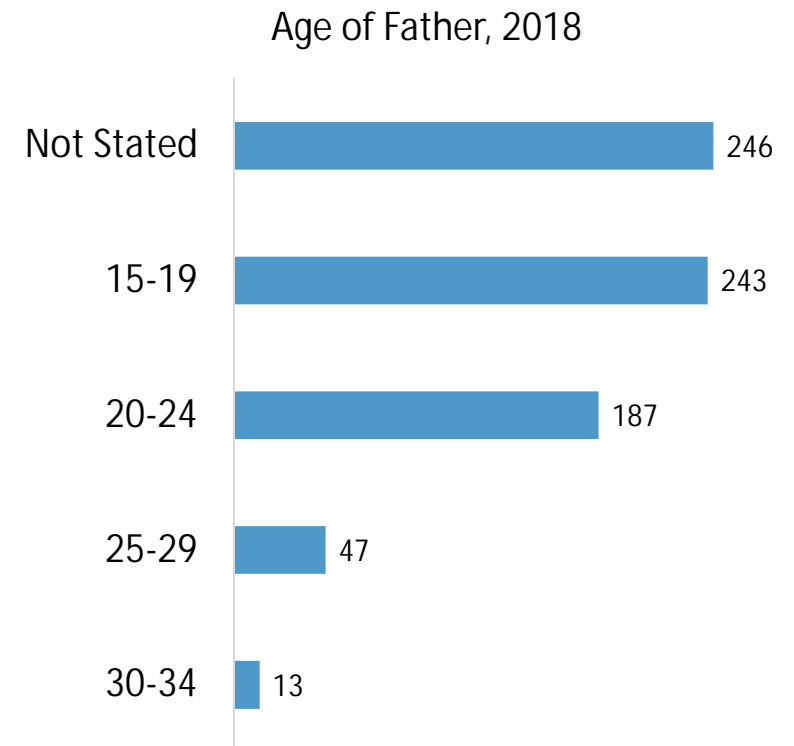
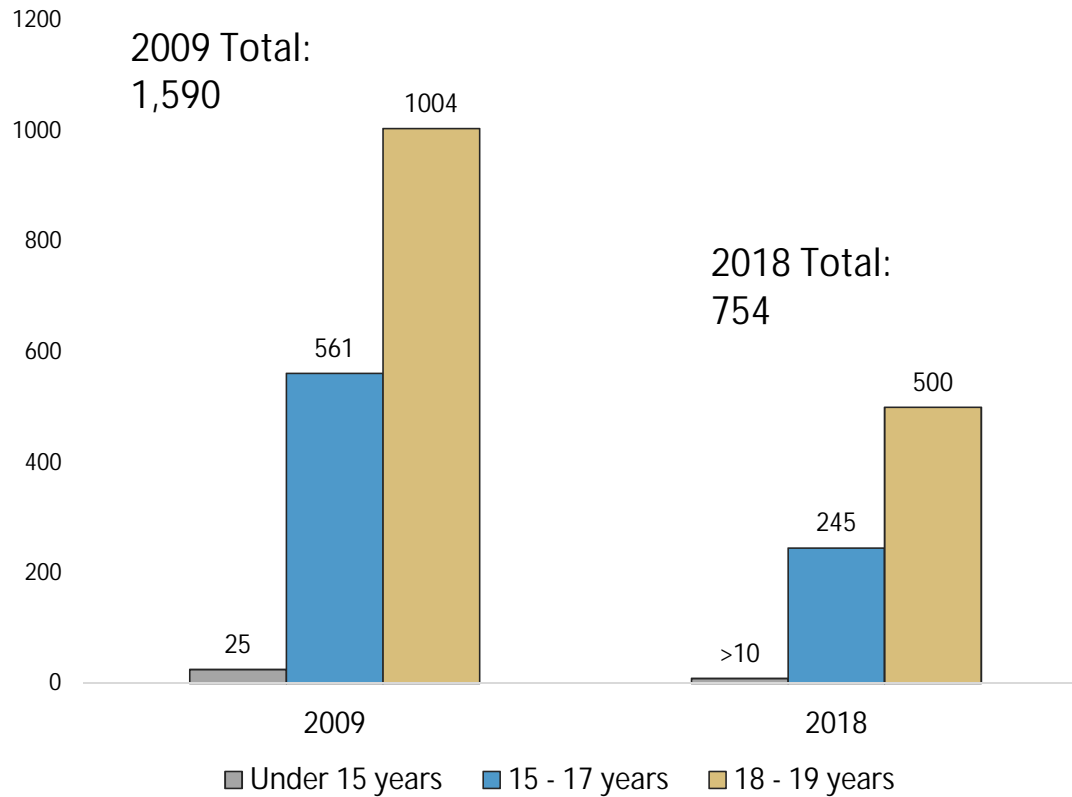
- Texas consistently has one of the highest rates of both teen birth and repeat teen birth in the nation.
- The Texas teen birth rate declined by about half between 2009 - 2018, mirroring nationwide trends.
- Travis County's teen birth rates are lower than the state's and the lowest of any major metro county.
- About 2% of Travis County teens gave birth in 2018, down from 6% in 2006.



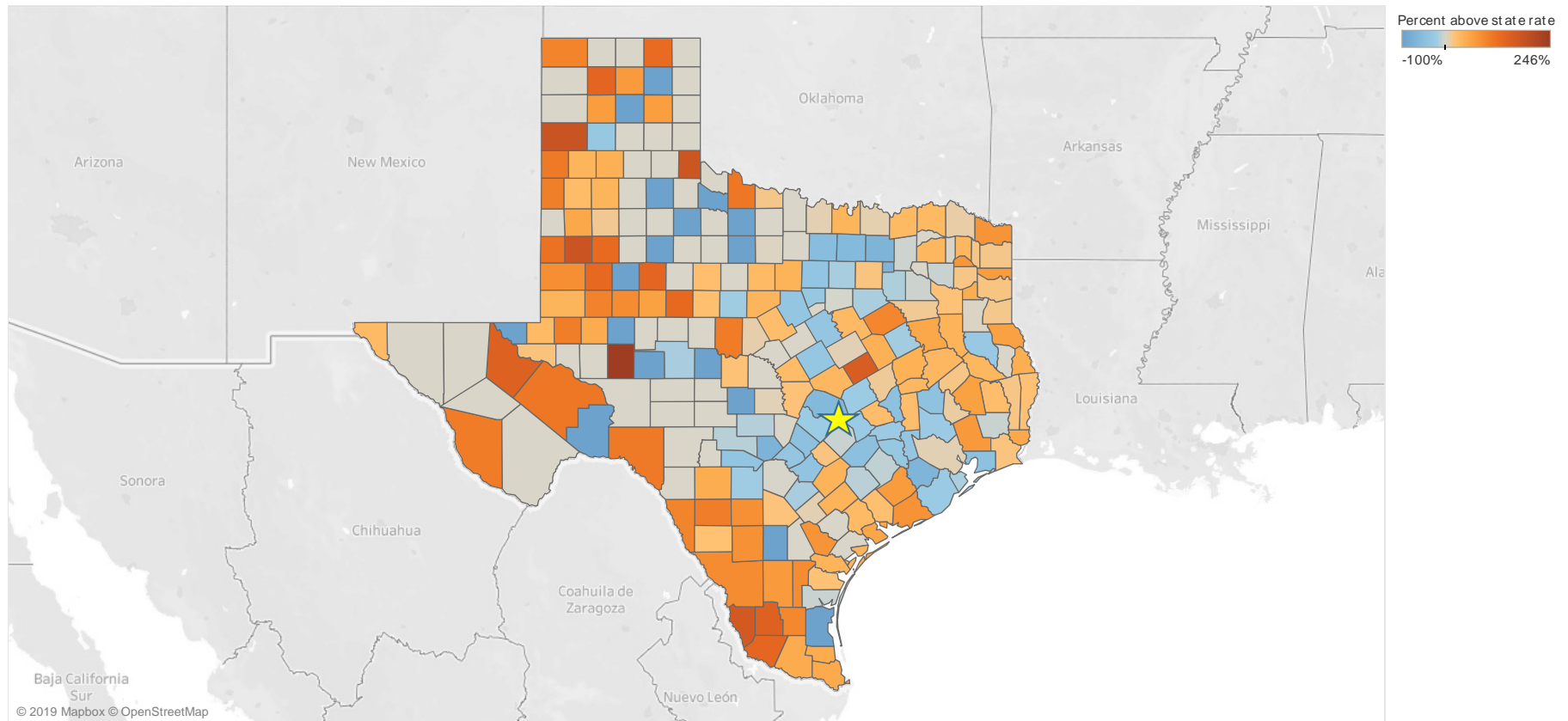


**Why are teen birth rates  
declining so dramatically?**

# Travis County Teen Births by Age



## Births to Teens aged 15-19, Texas, 2016



# Health Equity

“Health **disparities** are differences in health, health outcomes, access to care, etc.

Health **inequities** are when these differences are the result of systems of oppression and structural factors that do disproportionate harm to certain groups vs. other groups.”

– Dr. Oni Blackstock

We see disparities and inequities in every aspect of reproductive health – including early and unintentional pregnancy.

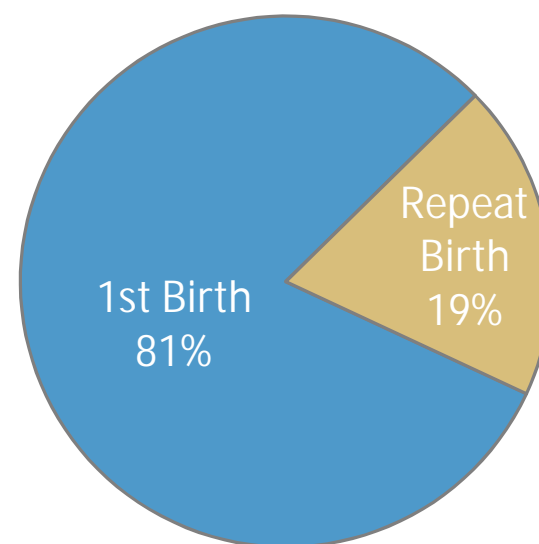


# Disparities

Teen birth rates are higher among:

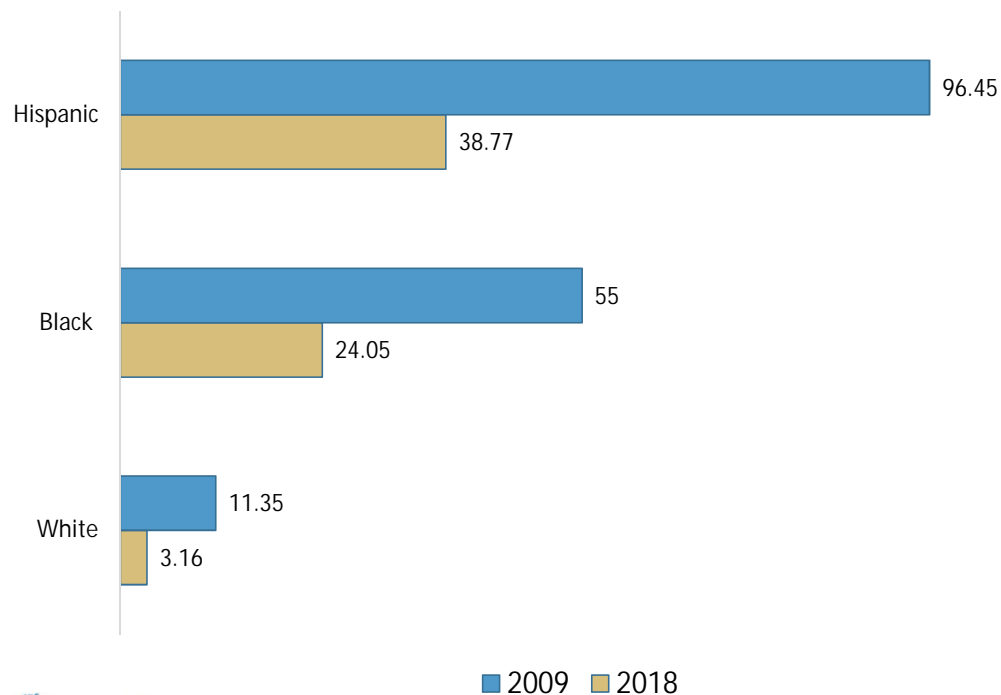
- Teens who have already had a baby
- Older teens (18-19 years)
- Youth of color
- Youth living in poorer areas
- Youth in rural counties
- Youth in conservatorship (foster care)
- Youth with high rates of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Youth experiencing intimate partner violence

Teen Births in Texas, 2017



# Travis County disparities

Travis County Teen Birth Rates  
2009 and 2018



Travis County's teen birth rate for Hispanic teens is slightly higher than the state average.

26% of Travis County teen births were to mothers born outside the US, the highest proportion in the state. This population may face barriers in accessing health care, economic opportunity, and other key resources.

Count of Births		
	15-17	18-19
Black	28	74
Hispanic	205	379
White	>10	36
Other	0	11
Total	245	500



# Current Policy Landscape

# Policy Work: Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Repro Health

## Access to Education

- Sexual health education
- Funding for teen pregnancy prevention programs

## Access to Health Care

- Funding for health coverage
- Programmatic improvements
- Minor consent to health care

# Sex Education in Texas



Texas is one of 26 states that does not require sex education for high school graduation.

- 58% of Texas public schools teach **Abstinence-only** curriculum.
- 17% of Texas public schools teach **Abstinence-plus** curriculum.
- 25% of Texas public schools teach **no sex education at all**.

The Texas State Board of Education is preparing to revise sex education curriculum standards, or TEKS.



# Sex education in Austin-area School Districts

- 9 school districts located wholly or partly within city of Austin.
- In 2019, Austin ISD adopted a comprehensive and inclusive sexual health education curriculum.
- Hays CISD teaches “abstinence-plus” education.
- Round Rock ISD teaches abstinence-only education.
- Leander ISD teaches abstinence-only education developed by a crisis pregnancy center.



Photo: Gabriel C. Pérez / KUT



## Navigating the Maze

Two major factors complicate youth access to reproductive health care in Texas:

- Consent and confidentiality
- Financial coverage



# Texas residents with incomes below 250% FPL are eligible for free reproductive health care.

- Policy decisions in 2011-2013 attempting to limit abortion access resulted in loss of access to general reproductive care.
- In 2016, Texas launched two revamped reproductive health programs, but many Texans don't know about the programs for which they are eligible.
- Recent changes to Title X program rules have resulted in instability in provider base locally and nationwide.
- While access to family planning services is relatively robust, access to full health coverage remains challenging for many Texans without Medicaid expansion. Additionally, CHIP doesn't cover contraception.



# Reproductive Health Care in Texas

Program	Serves	Income cap	Citizenship Required?	Parental Consent Needed?	How to get care	Funded by:
Healthy Texas Women	Women aged 15-64	200% FPL	Yes, or qualified non-citizen	Yes	Apply at <a href="http://YourTexasBenefits.com">YourTexasBenefits.com</a> or at clinic. Automatic enrollment from Pregnant Women's Medicaid	State
Family Planning	Women and men under 65	250% FPL	No	Yes	Apply at Family Planning Clinic	State
Title X	Everyone	Everyone on a sliding scale!	No	No	Make appointment at Title X clinic	Federal Gov.

200% FPL = \$24,280 for family of 1; \$50,200 for family of 4

250% FPL = \$30,350 for family of 1; \$62,750 for family of 4

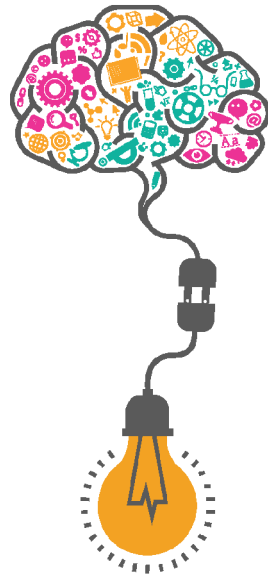
# Travis County access to care

## Reproductive Healthcare

- Title X: UT Women's Health Institute
- Family Planning Program: CommUnityCare, Seton Circle of Care, and Lonestar Circle of Care (14 locations in greater Austin area)
- Healthy Texas Women: Almost 50 providers in greater Austin Area
- Planned Parenthood: No longer receives state or federal funding for programs, but provides sliding scale care (3 Austin locations)

## General Health Coverage

- Medicaid covers low-income children, pregnant women, and disabled individuals, as well as extremely low-income adults with children.
- The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) covers low to middle income children up to 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, but does not fund birth control for pregnancy prevention.
- Travis County has a strong Medical Access Program (MAP) through Central Health.



LEARN CONNECT INSPIRE

# THE TEXAS CAMPAIGN'S 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

April 6-7, 2020  
San Antonio, TX

Jen Biundo  
[jen@txcampaign.org](mailto:jen@txcampaign.org)