Research indicates that bearing a child during adolescence is associated with long-term difficulties for the mother, her child, and society. These consequences are often attributable to the poverty and other adverse socioeconomic circumstances that frequently accompany early childbearing.

Poor Birth Outcomes
Pregnant teens are especially at risk for a variety of poor outcomes, including:
- Inadequate prenatal care
- Low birth weight and preterm birth
- High maternal and newborn health care costs
- Increased infant mortality and morbidity

Infant Death Rate
*Figure 1.* Infant death rate and percentage of low birth weight births by mother’s age, Utah 1995-2000.

Teen Pregnancy Rates
*Figure 2.* Pregnancy rate of girls age 15-19 by year and age group, Utah 1990-2000.

Declining Teen Abortion Rate
While there were many more teen births than teen abortions, the rate of abortions to teens declined more sharply than the birth rate (Figure 3). By 2000 the abortion rate for teens 15-19 in Utah declined almost 60% from the 1990 rate. Figure 4 shows the relative contribution of births and abortions to teen pregnancy in Utah’s local Health Districts.

Marital Status
Although the overall teen birth rate has been declining, the proportion of teen births to unmarried mothers has increased.

Teen Births and Abortions
*Figure 3.* Number of births and abortions per 1,000 girls age 15-19 by year and age group, Utah 1990 and 2000.

Teen Births and Abortions by Health District
*Figure 4.* Number of births and abortions per 1,000 girls age 15-19 by local health district, Utah 1998-2000.

*Pregnancies* in this report are defined as the total of births, fetal deaths of 20 weeks or more gestation, and induced abortions. Spontaneous terminations (miscarriage) at less than 20 weeks gestation are excluded. Source: Utah Department of Health, Office of Vital Records and Statistics. Population estimates published 2002 by the Utah Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget, and based on Utah Process Economic and Demographic (UPED) model.
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For additional information about this topic, contact Lois Bloebaum, R.N., Manager, Reproductive Health Program, Utah Department of Health, P.O. Box 142001, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2001, (801) 538-6792, FAX (801) 538-9409, email: lbloebau@doh.state.ut.us; or the Center for Health Data, Utah Department of Health, P.O. Box 142101, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2101, (801) 538-6108, FAX (801) 536-0947 or (801) 538-9346, email: phdata@doh.state.ut.us.

Center for Health Data
Utah Department of Health
P O Box 142101
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2101

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