Adolescent pregnancy is a health issue in Houston/Harris County, with mothers ages 17 years and younger representing 3.9% of all births in 2012. Adolescents who live in disadvantaged neighborhoods face many barriers to healthy and successful lives such as limited youth development opportunities, unintended pregnancies, and poverty. The magnitude of Houston/Harris County's teenage pregnancy rate negatively affects the health outcomes of both mother and infant.

Compared with other developed countries, the United States has significantly higher rates of teenage pregnancies.

From 2012-2013:
- The birth rate for teens aged 15-19 years dropped 6% from 2011, to 29.4 per 1,000, the lowest rate ever reported for the United States.
- Teen birth rates were highest among African American and Hispanic teens. African American and Hispanic teens aged 15-19 years had 43.4 births and 41.8 births per 1,000, respectively, compared to 17.8 births among non-Hispanic white teens.
- As of 2013, Texas’ teen birth rate was 41 births per 1,000 teen girls (aged 15-19 years).

**DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT OF YOUTH**

Below is a snapshot of the demographics for youth living in Houston and Harris County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Houston:</th>
<th>Harris County:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male: 51%</td>
<td>Male: 51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female:</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>Female: 49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Houston:</th>
<th>Harris County:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Under 5: 28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 to 9: 25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 to 14: 23%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 to 19: 24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Houston:</th>
<th>Harris County:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rereportages youth under the age of 19 as a representation of the total Houston/Harris County population.

In 2012, 19% of teenagers were not married and not living with their parents.

**TEEN PREGNANCY & PREVENTION**

Profile of the City of Houston & Harris County, Texas

Adolescent pregnancy is a health issue in Houston/Harris County, with mothers ages 17 years and younger representing 3.9% of all births in 2012. Adolescents who live in disadvantaged neighborhoods face many barriers to healthy and successful lives such as limited youth development opportunities, unintended pregnancies, and poverty. The magnitude of Houston/Harris County’s teenage pregnancy rate negatively affects the health outcomes of both mother and infant.

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**WHAT’S HAPPENING IN HOUSTON?**

The 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey reported among 9-12th graders in Houston:
- About 47% of students reported ever having had vaginal sex.
- The highest percentage of students reported to have had vaginal sex was among 11th graders (57%).
- African Americans (53%) were more likely to report having had vaginal sex, followed by Hispanics (48%).

In 2010, Texas had the highest prevalence of repeat teen births (22%) compared to the rest of the country.20
CONSEQUENCES OF TEEN PREGNANCY

TEEN PARENTS
- More likely to:
  - Live in poverty.
  - Have large families.
  - Be single parents.
  - Less likely to:
    - Complete high school.
    - Attend college.

THE CHILD
- More likely to experience:
  - Delays in cognitive development.
  - Poorer educational outcomes.
  - Higher rates of incarceration (males).
  - Higher rate of also becoming a teen parent.

WHAT WORKS?
The programs listed below are a compilation of initiatives, campaigns, and programs that are research informed, apply best practices and have the potential to be implemented in various settings. Below are some examples of these types of programs for teen pregnancy prevention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>What Is It?</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Family Partnership*</td>
<td>Home visitation program for first time mothers. Registered nurses are partnered with parents to improve pregnancy outcomes, child health and develop and increase economic self-sufficiency.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/">http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s Your Game...Keep It Real**</td>
<td>School and computer based curriculum for 7th-8th grade youth encouraging abstinence and condom use.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.itsyourgame.org">www.itsyourgame.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safer Choices**</td>
<td>School-based program for 9th-10th grade youth to reduce unprotected sex.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.etr.org/ebi/programs/saferchoices/">www.etr.org/ebi/programs/saferchoices/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-Linked Reproductive Health Services (The Self Center)***</td>
<td>Curriculum-based plus clinic services for African American junior and senior high school students in urban environments. Comprehensive intervention combining education, counseling and reproductive services.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.socio.com/arch/summary/pasha/full/paspp06.htm">www.socio.com/arch/summary/pasha/full/paspp06.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¡Cuidate!**</td>
<td>Curriculum-based program for Latino youth ages 13–18. Modules incorporate cultural beliefs to frame abstinence and condom use as culturally accepted and effective.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/prevention/research/compendium/rr/cuidate.html">www.cdc.gov/hiv/prevention/research/compendium/rr/cuidate.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive Health Counseling for Young Men***</td>
<td>Clinic-based intervention for boys ages 15-18. One-hour session designed to meet needs of teens, and to promote abstinence and contraceptive use.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.socio.com/arch/summary/pasha/full/paspp08.htm">www.socio.com/arch/summary/pasha/full/paspp08.htm</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendations:13
- Work with local school officials to implement evidence-based culturally and linguistically appropriate teen pregnancy prevention program in your district.
- Screen and counsel adolescents for sexually risky behaviors, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and dating violence.
- Involve youth in developing strategies and solutions to prevent teen pregnancy.
- Raise awareness among community partners about the link between teen pregnancy and social determinants of health.

Related Policies and Policy Implications:14,15
- Evidence-based health education programs prevent teen pregnancy and are cost effective. For every $1 spent on effective sexual health education, $2 is saved.
- Social determinants of health, or conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, play and age, can have a direct impact on health outcomes such as teen pregnancy.

13 Denotes evidence-based programs as listed by SAMSHA—National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices.
14 Denotes evidence-based programs as listed by the Office of Adolescent Health
15 Denotes evidence-based programs as listed by National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

COST OF TEEN PREGNANCY

- In 2010, public spending on teen childbearing in Texas totaled $1.1 billion.
- Between 1991 and 2010, there have been 1,063,399 teen births in Texas, costing taxpayers a total of $24.3 billion.
- The progress Texas made in reducing teen childbearing has saved taxpayers an estimated $701 million in 2010 compared to cost incurred had rates not fallen.

Lower earnings by teen parents means $17 million in lost sales tax revenue in Texas and increased Medicaid costs.13