



**Florida Actual versus Expected Teen Births and Repeat Teen Births
By County 2019 through 2021**

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Introduction

Throughout the United States, the teen birth rate has been consistently decreasing since 2009 [1]. In Florida, a total of 8,057 babies were born to teens aged 15–19 years in 2021. This total number of babies born resulted in a live birth rate of 13.5 births per 1,000 teens aged 15–19 years, a 10.0% decrease from what was previously seen in 2020 (15.0 births per 1,000). The 10.0% decrease represents an 8.8% decrease for teens aged 15–17 years, and a 10.7% decrease for teens aged 18–19 years [2]. Decreases were also seen across all racial/ethnic groups. From 2019 to 2021, birth rates dropped 17.9% among Non-Hispanic White teens, 17.2% among Non-Hispanic Black teens, and 15.1% among Hispanic teens [3]. While reasons for the decline are not fully understood, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that more teens appear to be abstaining from sexual activity, and those who are sexually active seem to be using birth control more than in past years [4]. Additionally, data from the CDC/National Center for Health Statistics' National Survey of Family Growth shows an increase in the number of sexually active teenagers using dual birth control methods (e.g., using condoms and hormonal pills), which is more effective in preventing pregnancy as compared to a singular method [5].

While teen birth rates have declined, teen pregnancy prevention continues to be a public health priority. Pregnant teens are less likely to receive proper prenatal care and are therefore at an increased risk of developing anemia and high blood pressure [6, 7]. Teen mothers are also at an increased risk of giving birth prematurely and having low birthweight babies, increasing the risk of child developmental delay, illness, and mortality [8]. Additionally, teen mothers are more likely than their peers to drop out of high school, live below the poverty level, and rely on public assistance [9].

The purpose of this annual analysis is to identify areas in Florida where teen birth rates and repeat teen birth rates are statistically significantly higher than would be expected considering the unique demographics of each area. This information may be used to encourage further, more detailed analyses to investigate factors that contribute to the higher than expected rates and to develop intervention strategies for improving outcomes.

Methods

In this analysis, the actual number of teen births and repeat teen births are compared to the expected number for each county in Florida. The expected number of teen births is calculated by multiplying the state teen birth rate by the teen population for each county. The expected number of repeat teen births is calculated by multiplying the percentage of repeat teen births statewide by the number of actual teen births for each county. The assumption is the expected rates for the counties are equal to the statewide rates. If the rates are not equal, the difference between the number of actual and expected births is tested for statistical significance. In the following tables, the word “Higher” appears for the counties where the number of actual births is statistically significantly higher than the expected number of births and the word “Lower” appears for the counties where the number of actual births is statistically significantly lower than the expected number of births. For counties without the words “Higher” or “Lower” the number of actual births is not statistically significantly different from the expected number of births. An alpha level of 0.05 is used for this test, which means that for the counties marked as “Higher” or “Lower” there is a 5% chance that the difference between the actual and expected number is due to random variation.

Note that for larger counties, smaller differences between the statewide rate and the county rate may be statistically significant while the same or greater differences may not be statistically significant in smaller counties. This is because larger counties have a higher sample size and therefore a higher level of statistical power. Having more statistical power means the differences in rates are more likely to be statistically different. The data utilized to generate this report can be found on the Florida Department of Health's (FDOH) FLHealthCHARTS website at: <https://www.flhealthcharts.com/default.aspx>. The Poisson function in Excel was used for the statistical testing.

Results

In the following tables, actual statistics are compared to expected statistics. Counties with statistically significantly higher than expected statistics are indicated in the tables as “Higher.” Counties with statistically significantly lower than expected statistics are indicated in the tables as “Lower.” Counties not marked as “Higher” or “Lower” had rates that were not statistically significantly different from the expected rates.

Teen births among females aged 15–17 (Table 1)

As shown on Table 1, teen births among females, aged 15–17, was statistically significantly higher in 27 counties (Baker, Bay, Collier, Desoto, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Holmes, Lake, Lee, Levy, Liberty, Manatee, Marion, Okeechobee, Polk, Putnam, Saint Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Walton, and Washington) and statistically significantly lower in 10 counties (Broward, Clay, Miami-Dade, Hernando, Leon, Nassau, Osceola, Saint Johns, Sarasota, and Seminole).

Teen births among females aged 15–19 (Table 2)

As shown on Table 2, teen births among females, aged 15–19, was statistically significantly higher in 39 counties (Baker, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Citrus, Collier, Columbia, Desoto, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Jackson, Lake, Lee, Levy, Liberty, Manatee, Marion, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Polk, Putnam, Saint Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Volusia, Walton, and Washington) and statistically significantly lower in 12 counties (Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Clay, Miami-Dade, Leon, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Saint Johns, Sarasota and Seminole).

Repeat births to teens aged 15–17 (Table 3)

As shown on Table 3, repeat births to teens, aged 15–17, was statistically significantly higher in two counties (Desoto and Leon) and statistically significantly lower in four counties (Brevard, Osceola, Pinellas, and Seminole).

Repeat births to teens aged 15–19 (Table 4)

As shown on Table 4, repeat births to teens, aged 15–19, was statistically significantly higher in four counties (Bay, Duval, Holmes and Manatee) and statistically significantly lower in five counties (Miami-Dade, Flagler, Osceola, Saint Johns, and Seminole).

Discussion

One limitation of this analysis is the comparatively high level of variability of rates in smaller counties. Consequently, larger differences in rates for small counties may not be statistically significant while the same or smaller differences may be statistically significant in larger counties. Actual rates that are statistically significantly higher than the expected rates are most likely not a result of random fluctuations and are cause for concern; however, higher rates that are not statistically significant may also warrant further investigation. Additionally, smaller counties with higher than expected rates for a period of several years may also be cause for concern.

This analysis may be used as a basis for establishing priorities and to inform strategies developed to reduce both teen births and repeat teen births in Florida. The rationale is to use the results of this analysis to focus further analysis and efforts on the counties where the rates are significantly high and analyze factors that contribute to the lower rates seen in some counties.

Current FDOH Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiatives and Activities

Evidence suggests that implementing a variety of outreach and educational programs can help in reducing teen pregnancies. Accordingly, one of the Healthy People 2030 objectives is to reduce pregnancy among adolescent females (FP-03) [10].

- Prevention of initial or repeat teen births is a family planning program objective which aligns with the federal Title X Program priorities and key issues.
- Teen birth rate goals are included in FDOH's Long-Range Program Plan.
- A county health department (CHD) snapshot measure was developed in 2013 to track the number of teens who adopt an effective or higher method of contraception. Effective or higher contraception use increased from 88.0% in 2019 to 88.9% in 2021 [11].
- A family planning Title X program expectation is for CHDs to provide adolescent-friendly services, which are accessible, acceptable, equitable, appropriate, and effective for adolescents.
- Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) use among teens, aged 15–19, increased from 10.1% in 2020 to 12.6% in 2021 (excluding teens who were pregnant, seeking pregnancy, or abstinent) [11]. LARC methods are highly effective in preventing pregnancy and are a significant tool in reducing unplanned or unwanted pregnancies.
- The State Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Grant allows youth, aged 10–19, across multiple counties in the state, to receive instruction on healthy relationships and avoiding risky sexual behavior via an evidenced-based curriculum administered by CHDs and community organizations.
- The Positive Youth Development Initiative provides CHDs with resources to enhance the strengths and assets of youth while mitigating risky behaviors through education volunteer opportunities.

References:

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11. Family Planning Annual Report (FPAR) Dashboard. Florida Department of Health. Accessed: August 2, 2022.

**Table 1: Florida Teen Birth Rates for Mothers Ages 15-17
2019-2021**

County	2019 - 2021 Number of Females 15-17	2019 - 2021 Actual Number of Births to Mothers 15-17	2019 - 2021 Expected Number of Births to Mothers 15-17	2019 - 2021 Number of Births per 1,000 Females 15-17	Statistical Significance*
Statewide	1,091,570	6,140	6,140	5.6	
Alachua	11,144	60	63	5.4	
Baker	1,548	28	9	18.1	Higher
Bay	8,480	82	48	9.7	Higher
Bradford	1,298	6	7	4.6	
Brevard	28,621	147	161	5.1	
Broward	102,486	363	576	3.5	Lower
Calhoun	754	4	4	5.3	
Charlotte	6,138	25	35	4.1	
Citrus	5,967	40	34	6.7	
Clay	13,777	54	77	3.9	Lower
Collier	17,279	122	97	7.1	Higher
Columbia	3,498	27	20	7.7	
Miami-Dade	143,424	566	807	3.9	Lower
Desoto	1,598	25	9	15.6	Higher
Dixie	739	16	4	21.7	Higher
Duval	54,583	454	307	8.3	Higher
Escambia	17,633	198	99	11.2	Higher
Flagler	4,353	20	24	4.6	
Franklin	460	11	3	23.9	Higher
Gadsden	2,406	25	14	10.4	Higher
Gilchrist	865	6	5	6.9	
Glades	531	6	3	11.3	
Gulf	657	7	4	10.7	
Hamilton	599	9	3	15.0	Higher
Hardee	1,829	26	10	14.2	Higher
Hendry	2,306	28	13	12.1	Higher
Hernando	9,502	41	53	4.3	Lower
Highlands	4,513	34	25	7.5	
Hillsborough	86,600	487	487	5.6	
Holmes	870	17	5	19.5	Higher
Indian River	6,306	45	35	7.1	
Jackson	2,453	18	14	7.3	
Jefferson	554	2	3	3.6	
Lafayette	473	3	3	6.3	
Lake	15,075	101	85	6.7	Higher
Lee	34,874	237	196	6.8	Higher
Leon	26,557	84	149	3.2	Lower
Levy	981	15	6	15.3	Higher
Liberty	382	7	2	18.3	Higher
Madison	864	5	5	5.8	
Manatee	18,503	145	104	7.8	Higher
Marion	16,657	158	94	9.5	Higher
Martin	6,811	42	38	6.2	
Monroe	2,708	11	15	4.1	
Nassau	4,542	16	26	3.5	Lower
Okaloosa	9,585	53	54	5.5	
Okeechobee	1,973	34	11	17.2	Higher
Orange	78,340	430	441	5.5	
Osceola	24,460	92	138	3.8	Lower
Palm Beach	73,225	420	412	5.7	
Pasco	27,529	143	155	5.2	
Pinellas	40,112	217	226	5.4	
Polk	39,226	284	221	7.2	Higher
Putnam	3,491	41	20	11.7	Higher
Saint Johns	14,823	33	83	2.2	Lower
Saint Lucie	15,570	107	88	6.9	Higher
Santa Rosa	10,340	46	58	4.4	
Sarasota	17,189	74	97	4.3	Lower
Seminole	26,252	65	148	2.5	Lower
Sumter	2,337	22	13	9.4	Higher
Suwannee	2,240	24	13	10.7	Higher
Taylor	1,005	10	6	10.0	
Union	697	6	4	8.6	
Volusia	24,525	155	138	6.3	
Wakulla	1,738	10	10	5.8	
Walton	3,419	36	19	10.5	Higher
Washington	1,296	15	7	11.6	Higher

* Higher - county rate is statistically significantly higher than the state rate (alpha=0.05)
 Lower - county rate is statistically significantly lower than the state rate (alpha= 0.05)
 Blank - no statistically significant difference between the county rate and the state rate

**Table 2: Florida Teen Birth Rates for Mothers Ages 15-19
2019 - 2021**

County	2019 - 2021 Number of Females 15-19	2019 - 2021 Actual Number of Births to Mothers 15-19	2019 - 2021 Expected Number of Births to Mothers 15-19	2019 - 2021 Number of Births per 1,000 Females 15-19	Statistical Significance*
Statewide	1,775,936	26,516	26,516	14.9	
Alachua	34,163	298	510	8.7	Lower
Baker	2,636	103	39	39.1	Higher
Bay	13,821	369	206	26.7	Higher
Bradford	2,110	63	32	29.9	Higher
Brevard	45,311	598	677	13.2	Lower
Broward	161,908	1,558	2,417	9.6	Lower
Calhoun	1,119	35	17	31.3	Higher
Charlotte	9,441	137	141	14.5	
Citrus	8,807	190	131	21.6	Higher
Clay	20,919	264	312	12.6	Lower
Collier	26,863	459	401	17.1	Higher
Columbia	5,549	134	83	24.1	Higher
Miami-Dade	238,007	2,463	3,554	10.3	Lower
Desoto	2,611	82	39	31.4	Higher
Dixie	1,126	59	17	52.4	Higher
Duval	81,688	1,801	1,220	22.0	Higher
Escambia	29,286	790	437	27.0	Higher
Flagler	8,354	114	125	13.6	
Franklin	665	37	10	55.6	Higher
Gadsden	4,048	110	60	27.2	Higher
Gilchrist	1,474	36	22	24.4	Higher
Glades	832	14	12	16.8	
Gulf	1,002	23	15	23.0	Higher
Hamilton	949	43	14	45.3	Higher
Hardee	2,710	101	40	37.3	Higher
Hendry	3,913	115	58	29.4	Higher
Hernando	14,800	231	221	15.6	
Highlands	6,823	166	102	24.3	Higher
Hillsborough	134,116	2,117	2,002	15.8	Higher
Holmes	1,478	45	22	30.4	Higher
Indian River	10,067	153	150	15.2	
Jackson	3,717	91	55	24.5	Higher
Jefferson	934	15	14	16.1	
Lafayette	789	15	12	19.0	
Lake	27,300	481	408	17.6	Higher
Lee	54,994	997	821	18.1	Higher
Leon	42,440	390	634	9.2	Lower
Levy	3,016	70	45	23.2	Higher
Liberty	592	27	9	45.6	Higher
Madison	1,281	23	19	18.0	
Manatee	28,320	580	423	20.5	Higher
Marion	26,725	665	399	24.9	Higher
Martin	10,893	155	163	14.2	
Monroe	4,337	53	65	12.2	
Nassau	6,723	109	100	16.2	
Okaloosa	15,380	288	230	18.7	Higher
Okeechobee	3,206	138	48	43.0	Higher
Orange	137,832	1,704	2,058	12.4	Lower
Osceola	38,988	565	582	14.5	
Palm Beach	117,604	1,589	1,756	13.5	Lower
Pasco	44,201	659	660	14.9	
Pinellas	64,289	880	960	13.7	Lower
Polk	64,880	1,378	969	21.2	Higher
Putnam	5,670	185	85	32.6	Higher
Saint Johns	24,178	144	361	6.0	Lower
Saint Lucie	24,632	408	368	16.6	Higher
Santa Rosa	15,524	257	232	16.6	
Sarasota	27,278	314	407	11.5	Lower
Seminole	41,716	358	623	8.6	Lower
Sumter	3,647	109	54	29.9	Higher
Suwannee	3,652	101	55	27.7	Higher
Taylor	1,559	52	23	33.4	Higher
Union	1,071	23	16	21.5	
Volusia	41,992	724	627	17.2	Higher
Wakulla	2,734	51	41	18.7	
Walton	5,351	143	80	26.7	Higher
Washington	1,895	67	28	35.4	Higher

* Higher - county rate is statistically significantly higher than the state rate (alpha=0.05)
 Lower - county rate is statistically significantly lower than the state rate (alpha= 0.05)
 Blank - no statistically significant difference between the county rate and the state rate

**Table 3: Florida Repeat Birth Rates for Mothers Ages 15-17
2019 - 2021**

County	2019 - 2021 Number of Births to Females 15-17	2019 - 2021 Actual Number of Repeat Births to Mothers 15-17	2019 - 2021 Expected Number of Repeat Births to Mothers 15-17	2019 - 2021 Actual Percent Repeat Births to Mothers 15-17	Statistical Significance*
Statewide	6,140	385	385	6.3%	
Alachua	60	4	4	6.7%	
Baker	28	1	2	3.6%	
Bay	82	4	5	4.9%	
Bradford	6	0	0	0.0%	
Brevard	147	4	9	2.7%	Lower
Broward	363	26	23	7.2%	
Calhoun	4	0	0	0.0%	
Charlotte	25	0	2	0.0%	
Citrus	40	2	3	5.0%	
Clay	54	2	3	3.7%	
Collier	122	5	8	4.1%	
Columbia	27	3	2	11.1%	
Miami-Dade	566	39	35	6.9%	
Desoto	25	5	2	20.0%	Higher
Dixie	16	0	1	0.0%	
Duval	454	29	28	6.4%	
Escambia	198	13	12	6.6%	
Flagler	20	0	1	0.0%	
Franklin	11	0	1	0.0%	
Gadsden	25	2	2	8.0%	
Gilchrist	6	1	0	16.7%	
Glades	6	1	0	16.7%	
Gulf	7	2	0	28.6%	
Hamilton	9	0	1	0.0%	
Hardee	26	2	2	7.7%	
Hendry	28	2	2	7.1%	
Hernando	41	3	3	7.3%	
Highlands	34	0	2	0.0%	
Hillsborough	487	36	31	7.4%	
Holmes	17	1	1	5.9%	
Indian River	45	0	3	0.0%	
Jackson	18	3	1	16.7%	
Jefferson	2	0	0	0.0%	
Lafayette	3	1	0	33.3%	
Lake	101	8	6	7.9%	
Lee	237	12	15	5.1%	
Leon	84	11	5	13.1%	Higher
Levy	15	1	1	6.7%	
Liberty	7	1	0	14.3%	
Madison	5	0	0	0.0%	
Manatee	145	14	9	9.7%	
Marion	158	13	10	8.2%	
Martin	42	4	3	9.5%	
Monroe	11	1	1	9.1%	
Nassau	16	0	1	0.0%	
Okaloosa	53	3	3	5.7%	
Okeechobee	34	3	2	8.8%	
Orange	430	25	27	5.8%	
Osceola	92	0	6	0.0%	Lower
Palm Beach	420	31	26	7.4%	
Pasco	143	10	9	7.0%	
Pinellas	217	5	14	2.3%	Lower
Polk	284	21	18	7.4%	
Putnam	41	3	3	7.3%	
Saint Johns	33	1	2	3.0%	
Saint Lucie	107	9	7	8.4%	
Santa Rosa	46	2	3	4.3%	
Sarasota	74	2	5	2.7%	
Seminole	65	0	4	0.0%	Lower
Sumter	22	1	1	4.5%	
Suwannee	24	0	2	0.0%	
Taylor	10	1	1	10.0%	
Union	6	0	0	0.0%	
Volusia	155	8	10	5.2%	
Wakulla	10	0	1	0.0%	
Walton	36	4	2	11.1%	
Washington	15	0	1	0.0%	

* Higher - county percentage is statistically significantly higher than the state rate (alpha=0.05)
 Lower - county percentage is statistically significantly lower than the state rate (alpha= 0.05)
 Blank - no statistically significant difference between the county rate and the state rate

**Table 4: Florida Repeat Birth Rates for Mothers Ages 15-19
2019 - 2021**

County	2019 - 2021 Number of Births to Females 15-19	2019 - 2021 Actual Number of Repeat Births to Mothers 15-19	2019 - 2021 Expected Number of Repeat Births to Mothers 15-19	2019 - 2021 Actual Percent Repeat Births to Mothers 15-19	Statistical Significance*
Statewide	26,516	3,589	3,589	13.5%	
Alachua	298	35	40	11.7%	
Baker	103	14	14	13.6%	
Bay	369	63	50	17.1%	Higher
Bradford	63	11	9	17.5%	
Brevard	598	70	81	11.7%	
Broward	1,558	205	211	13.2%	
Calhoun	35	3	5	8.6%	
Charlotte	137	12	19	8.8%	
Citrus	190	34	26	17.9%	
Clay	264	32	36	12.1%	
Collier	459	53	62	11.5%	
Columbia	134	22	18	16.4%	
Miami-Dade	2,463	287	333	11.7%	Lower
Desoto	82	13	11	15.9%	
Dixie	59	4	8	6.8%	
Duval	1,801	282	244	15.7%	Higher
Escambia	790	124	107	15.7%	
Flagler	114	7	15	6.1%	Lower
Franklin	37	5	5	13.5%	
Gadsden	110	14	15	12.7%	
Gilchrist	36	6	5	16.7%	
Glades	14	2	2	14.3%	
Gulf	23	4	3	17.4%	
Hamilton	43	8	6	18.6%	
Hardee	101	15	14	14.9%	
Hendry	115	17	16	14.8%	
Hernando	231	24	31	10.4%	
Highlands	166	19	22	11.4%	
Hillsborough	2,117	311	287	14.7%	
Holmes	45	13	6	28.9%	Higher
Indian River	153	25	21	16.3%	
Jackson	91	17	12	18.7%	
Jefferson	15	1	2	6.7%	
Lafayette	15	3	2	20.0%	
Lake	481	72	65	15.0%	
Lee	997	131	135	13.1%	
Leon	390	60	53	15.4%	
Levy	70	12	9	17.1%	
Liberty	27	6	4	22.2%	
Madison	23	3	3	13.0%	
Manatee	580	96	79	16.6%	Higher
Marion	665	97	90	14.6%	
Martin	155	23	21	14.8%	
Monroe	53	8	7	15.1%	
Nassau	109	12	15	11.0%	
Okaloosa	288	36	39	12.5%	
Okeechobee	138	19	19	13.8%	
Orange	1,704	214	231	12.6%	
Osceola	565	55	76	9.7%	Lower
Palm Beach	1,589	222	215	14.0%	
Pasco	659	82	89	12.4%	
Pinellas	880	121	119	13.8%	
Polk	1,378	199	187	14.4%	
Putnam	185	25	25	13.5%	
Saint Johns	144	12	19	8.3%	Lower
Saint Lucie	408	60	55	14.7%	
Santa Rosa	257	31	35	12.1%	
Sarasota	314	34	43	10.8%	
Seminole	358	31	48	8.7%	Lower
Sumter	109	17	15	15.6%	
Suwannee	101	16	14	15.8%	
Taylor	52	6	7	11.5%	
Union	23	2	3	8.7%	
Volusia	724	96	98	13.3%	
Wakulla	51	4	7	7.8%	
Walton	143	25	19	17.5%	
Washington	67	7	9	10.4%	

* Higher - county percentage is statistically significantly higher than the state rate (alpha=0.05)
 Lower - county percentage is statistically significantly lower than the state rate (alpha= 0.05)
 Blank - no statistically significant difference between the county rate and the state rate