

The “*Facts of Life*” About Oregon Teens

Oregon statistics for the year 2004

	Ages 10 - 14	Ages 15 - 17	Ages 18 - 19	Total
Female teens in Oregon	123,826	75,409	49,491	248,726
Pregnant female teens	106	1,791	3,935	5,832
Births to teens	55	1,173	2,807	4,035
Legal abortions to teens (Oregon residents only)	51	618	1,128	1,797

Teens and Birth Control

- 68.5% of teenagers 10-19 obtaining an abortion in Oregon during 2004 reported not using contraception.
- Percent of unintended pregnancies occur the first month after beginning sexual activity.
- Teens typically seek birth control from six months to one year after beginning sexual activity.
- Teens most likely to use birth control regularly or to postpone sexual activity:
 - Have had a comprehensive sexuality education course;
 - Have adequately discussed sexuality, pregnancy and birth control with their parents;
 - Have realistic life options;
 - Live in a supportive environment that contributes to an individual’s self-esteem.
- Sexually active teens say that a guarantee of confidentiality and easy access to birth control encourages them to use contraception.

What can be done to reduce teen pregnancy?

As a Parent:

- It is never too early or too late to talk with children about risky behaviors (alcohol and drugs, skipping school, early activity, etc.)
- Discuss sexuality, pregnancy, and contraception openly and honestly with children. Help them to understand the facts and responsibilities of these issues.
- Involve family members in creating health limits and goals.
- Engage children in positive after-school activities like sports, the arts, employment, community service or homework clubs.

As a community member:

- Support responsible abstinence education, comprehensive sexuality education and adolescent health services in your schools and faith-based organizations.
- Involve youth in planning and delivering activities and programs.
- Encourage and provide opportunities for young and adult males to be actively involved in teen pregnancy prevention and parenting.

As a citizen:

- Support legislation that would expand access to human sexuality education and family planning services.
- Get involved in positive youth activities and programs in your area.

Data Sources:

Oregon Department of Human Services, Health Services, Family Planning Perspectives and 2002 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

Center for Health Statistics 2003

Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1986.

