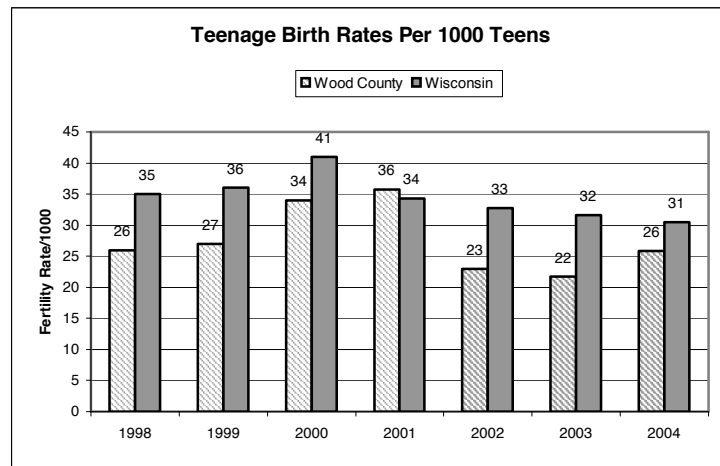


Wood County's Teen Births Below Wisconsin State Average



Key Facts

- Wood County teenage birth rates have historically remained lower than Wisconsin state averages.
- Since 1998, the number of 15-19 year olds giving birth in Wisconsin has decreased.
- In Wood County, 35.8% of expecting teenagers received first trimester prenatal care.
- In Wood County, 90.6% of 15-19 year olds received prenatal care before the third trimester.

Why is this Information Important?

Teenage childbearing is often associated with a number of negative implications, and both the young mothers and their children often have greater health risks than an older mother. Studies indicate that children of teen mothers are at greater risk for low birth weights, lower cognitive scores and school failure.

Births to Teenage Mothers

Due to childbirth at a young age, education levels and economic independence of the mother are generally at a lower level than older mothers.

A profile of teen mothers indicates that many are unmarried and receive the greatest amount of financial support from state and federal programs. Likewise, teen mothers generally have a higher incidence of living in poverty and relying on economic aid.

Of concern, children of teen mothers are proven more likely to grow up without emotional support and cognitive stimulation. Without this critical support and brain stimulation, children can suffer lasting cognitive disadvantages.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services