



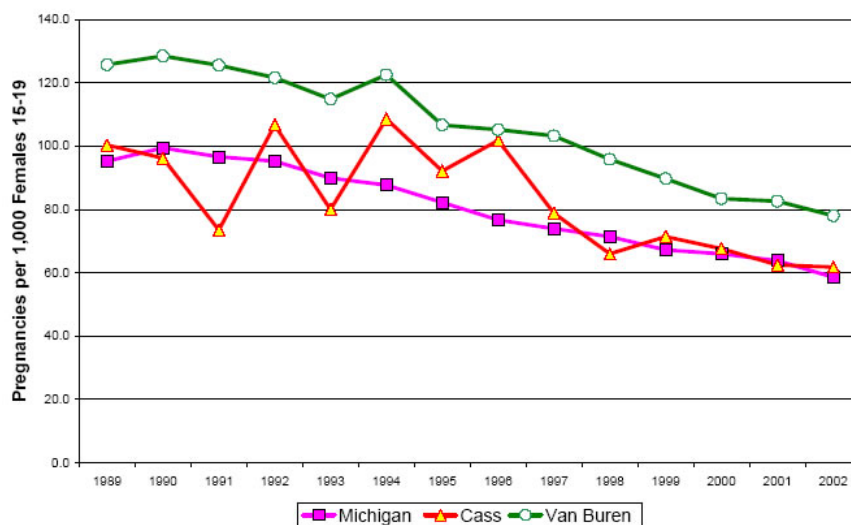
Van Buren / Cass Health View

October 2004

Focus on Teenage Pregnancy

Teen mothers are more likely than adult mothers to be high school drop outs, unemployed, and lack parenting skills. In addition to the increased risk of social and economic disadvantages teenage mothers and their children, there are many health risks to the infants. These include the increased risk of low birth rate, pre-term delivery, fetal distress, and other adverse outcomes.

Teenage Pregnancy



The teen pregnancy rate is an estimate of the proportion of women aged 15-19 who had a live birth, induced abortion, or miscarriage during a given year. Over the last decade, teenage pregnancy in Michigan has made moderate progress. During that time, Cass County and Van Buren Counties have also improved, although Van Buren County remains consistently above the state rate.

Because of the broad adverse outcomes of teenage pregnancy, addressing this problem remains a priority. Currently the Health Department Family Planning team works to reduce the under-utilization of reproductive health care services to teens and provides reproductive health materials and presentations to schools. A Teen Advisory Task Force, made up of local teens, meets biannually to review and update the current teen services and educational literature. The promotion of abstinence and participation in local Postponing Sexual Involvement (PSI) programs continues.

Data is derived from the 1992 - 2002 Michigan Resident Birth Files, Vital Records & Health Data Development Section, Michigan Department of Community Health.

This Community Health Report Card was prepared by the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department. For further information on this or other community health topics, contact the Director of Health Promotion at 269-621-3143 ext. 362 or visit the website at www.vbcassdhd.org.