

REASONS FOR TEEN PREGNANCY –

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ABUSE - Women exposed to abuse, domestic violence, and family strife in childhood are more likely to become pregnant as teenagers, and the risk of becoming pregnant as a teenager increases with the number of adverse childhood experiences.

BOYS - Studies have also found that boys raised in homes with a battered mother, or who experienced physical violence directly, were significantly more likely to impregnate a girl.^[48]

RAPE - Studies have found that between 11 and 20 percent of pregnancies in teenagers are a direct result of rape, while about 60 percent of teenage mothers had unwanted sexual experiences preceding their pregnancy. Before age 15, a majority of first-intercourse experiences among females are reported to be non-voluntary;

STATUTORY RAPE - the Guttmacher Institute found that 60 percent of girls who had sex before age 15 were coerced by males who on average were six years their senior. One in five teenage fathers admitted to forcing girls to have sex with them.^[29]

AGE GAP - According to the Family Research Council, studies in the US indicate that Teenage girls in relationships with older boys, and in particular with adult men, are more likely to become pregnant than teenage girls in relationships with boys their own age. They are also more likely to carry the baby to term rather than have an abortion.

A review of California's 1990 vital statistics found that men older than high school age fathered 77 percent of all births to high school-aged girls (ages 16-18), and 51 percent of births to girls (15 and younger).

Men over 25 fathered twice as many children of teenage mothers than boys under the age of 18, and men over age 20 fathered five times as many children of teenage girls under 15

AGE GAP & RAPE - A 1992 Washington state study of 535 adolescent mothers found that 62 percent of the mothers had a history of being raped or sexual molested by men whose ages averaged 27 years. This study found that, abused adolescent mothers initiated sex earlier, had sex with much older partners, and engaged in riskier, more frequent, and promiscuous sex.

Studies by the Population Reference Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics found that about two-thirds of children born to teenage girls in the United States are fathered by adult men age 20 or older.^[28]

ABSENT FATHERS - Studies have found that girls whose fathers left the family early in their lives had the highest rates of early sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy. Girls whose fathers left them at a later age had a lower rate of early sexual activity, and the lowest rates are found in girls whose fathers were present throughout their childhood.

early absent father- girls were about five times more likely in the United States and three times more likely in New Zealand to become pregnant as adolescents than girls whose fathers were present throughout their childhood

EDUCATION - Low educational expectations have been pinpointed as a risk factor.^[51]

MOTHERS & SISTERS - A girl is also more likely to become a teenage parent if her mother or older sister gave birth in her teens.^{[52][53]}

COMMUNICATION - a majority of respondents in a 1988 Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies survey attributed the occurrence of adolescent pregnancy to a breakdown of communication between parents and child and also to inadequate parental supervision.^[20]

JUDGEMENTAL NURSES - studies have indicated that young mothers who are given high-quality maternity care have significantly healthier babies than those that do not.

TEENAGE FEAR - Research indicates that pregnant teens are less likely to receive prenatal care, often seeking it in the third trimester, if at all.^[5] The Guttmacher Institute reports that one-third of pregnant teens receive insufficient prenatal care and that their children are more likely to suffer from health issues in childhood or be hospitalized than those born to older women.^[58]

HEALTH - The worldwide incidence of premature birth and low birth weight is higher among adolescent mothers.^{[6][57][5]}

FOSTER CARE - Foster care youth are more likely than their peers to become pregnant as teenagers. The National Casey Alumni Study, which surveyed foster care alumni from 23 communities across the United States, found the birth rate for girls in foster care was more than double the rate of their peers outside the foster care system.

A University of Chicago study of youth transitioning out of foster care in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin found that nearly half of the females had been pregnant by age 19.

The Utah Department of Human Services found that girls who had left the foster care system between 1999 and 2004 had a birth rate nearly 3 times the rate for girls in the general population.^[54]

Teen Pregnancy facts

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| Teenage pregnancy is falling | In 2007, there were increases in fertility rates for all age groups, except for women aged under 20, where the fertility rate fell compared with 2006. |
| Mums over 40 | The highest percentage increase was observed for women aged 40 and over (6.0 per cent). For this age group the fertility rate rose from 11.4 births per thousand in 2006, to 12.1 in 2007 |
| Birth rates double in mums over 40 | Over the last decade the number of births to mothers aged 40 and over has nearly doubled from 12,914 in 1997 to 25,350 in 2007. |
| Single parent stats | Nearly one in four children live in lone-parent families (That's 22.9 per cent or 2,672,000 dependent children) – |
| Single mum stat's | 91.2 per cent of which are headed by the mother. |
| House with children | Overall, almost 1 in 3 households contain dependent children |
| Birth rate in Britain increasing since 2001 | The number of live births in England and Wales increased for the sixth successive year in 2007. There were 690,013 live births in 2007 compared with 669,601 in 2006, an increase of 3.0 per cent. The number of live births has been increasing since 2001 and has now reached the highest level since 1991 when there were 699,217 live births. |
| 2007 / 2006 birth rate | In 2007 there was 62 live births per thousand women aged 15-44, an increase compared with 2006 when it was 60. |

Birth rate increasing,
Children average per woman.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for 2007 gives an average of 1.91 children per woman in England and Wales. This is an increase from 1.86 in 2006 and is the sixth consecutive annual increase from a low point in 2001 where the TFR was 1.63.

The last time the TFR exceeded 1.91 was 34 years ago in 1973 when it was 2.00.

Average age of women giving birth

The average age of women giving birth rose to 29.3 from 29.1 in 2006.

Foreigners are having increasing amounts of children

There was a continued rise in the proportion of births to mothers born outside the UK:
23 per cent in 2007 compared with 22 per cent in 2006.
In 1997, 13 per cent of births were to non-UK born mothers.

Total amount of children in the UK

According to the UK Census 2001 there are 11.7 million dependant children in the UK.
To put this in scale, it is a greater number than the total population size of many European countries including Sweden, Belgium, Greece and Portugal.

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| children are born outside of marriage, | In the UK, 40 per cent of live births were born outside marriage in 2001, compared to 12 per cent in 1980 and 6 per cent in 1960. |
| Uk population stats UK getting older Children versus old people | In mid-2007 the resident population of the UK was 60,975,000. The average age was 39 years, up from 37 in 1997. Children aged under 16 represented around one in five of the total population, around the same proportion as those of retirement age. |

Benefits drains

Many children live in 'workless' households there are over two million households where there are no adults in work (17.6 per cent).

Muslim benefit drains

More than a third of Muslim children live in households where no adult works.

Muslims over crowding

Muslim children also experience much more overcrowding (more than two in five - 41.7 per cent - compared with an average of 12.3 per cent)

Council flats

High-rise accommodation may not be suitable for families with very young children, but over 58,000 children under two live in homes two or more storeys above ground level, and over 11,000 on the fifth floor or above.

Pension costs to Gov

The basic state pension will continue to rise each April by 2.5 per cent or the increase in the retail prices index which was 3.9% last year.

Benefits comparison in 2003

Total claiming benefits-----

In August 2003, 2.8 million children were living in families claiming a key benefit.

Unemployed families-----

In 2003 there were 231,000 children living in families classed as 'unemployed' (those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance) and

Lone parent families-----

1.57 million children lived in families classed as 'lone parents'.

Pension claimers -----

Claimants over state pension age receiving a key benefit have steadily risen from 10.2 million in May 1997 to 10.5 million in May 2003 – 84,000 people per year.

Pensioners v parent -----

The UK population is approx 70 million. That's 1 in 7 people in the UK are claiming pension type benefits as opposed to 1 in 28 claiming child / parent type benefits.

Workers versus pensioners -----

In 2006, there were 3.3 people of working age for every person of state pensionable age. This ratio is projected to fall to 2.9 by 2031,

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|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STD's | Between 1991 and 2001, the number of new episodes of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) doubled from 669,291 to 1,332,910. |
| | Young females under the age of 20, bear the burden of sexually transmitted infections. |
| Genital warts----- | Genital warts are the most commonly diagnosed viral STI. In 2001, 29 per cent of females diagnosed with genital warts were under 20 years of age, compared with only 10 per cent of males. |
| | Diagnosis among females aged 16 to 19 years increased by more than 15 per cent during the last decade and reached 680 per 100,000 females in 2001. |
| Chlamydia----- | In 2001, the highest rates of diagnosed Chlamydia seen in GUM clinics, were among 16- to 19-year-olds (1,035 per 100,000 females). |
| Conception among under 20's | In 2000, the conception rate among females under 20 years was 63 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 years. |
| | This marks a decrease in conception rates over the last decade that mirrors a general decrease among females of all ages. |
| Conception among 13 – 15 yr olds----- | The exception however has been among females aged 13 to 15 years. Rates of conceptions in this group have remained consistent at between 8 to 10 per 1,000 females from 1990 to 2000. |
| Abortion among under 20's----- | The proportion of conceptions terminated by abortion among under 20-year-olds increased slightly from 36 per cent in 1990 to 39 per cent in 2000. |
| Abortion among under 16 yr olds----- | Over half (51 per cent) of all conceptions among under 16-year-olds resulted in a termination in 1990 and this increased slightly to 54 per cent in 2000. |
| London/Birmingham abortion.----- | Legal abortion rates were highest in London and the West Midlands in 2000 and 2001. |

POVERTY & teenage pregnancy

Poverty is associated with increased rates of teenage pregnancy.^[22] Economically poor countries such as Niger and Bangladesh have far more teenage mothers compared with economically rich countries such as Switzerland and Japan.^[8]

Uk reasons-----

In the UK, around 505 of all pregnancies to under 18s are concentrated among the 30% most deprived population.

Italy reasons-----

Italy, the teenage birth rate in the well-off central regions is only 3.3 per 1,000, while in the poorer Mezzogiorno it is 10.0 per 1000.^[3]

Live births per 1000 women 15-19 years old, 2002.^[8]

| Country | Teenage birth rate per 1000 women 15-19 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <u>South Korea</u> | 3 |
| <u>Netherlands</u> | 5 |
| <u>Tunisia</u> | 7 |
| <u>Australia</u> | 16 |
| <u>United Kingdom</u> | 20 |
| <u>Russia</u> | 30 |
| <u>United States</u> | 53 |
| <u>Indonesia</u> | 55 |
| <u>South Africa</u> | 66 |
| <u>Brazil</u> | 73 |
| <u>Bangladesh</u> | 117 |
| <u>Niger</u> | 233 |