Teen births: Current trends in New Zealand

**GLOBALLY**

New Zealand’s teen birth rates are high internationally

Source: Statistics New Zealand, OECD Family database Chart SF2.4 D Adolescent fertility rates, supplemented by US and Australian Statistics Bureaus data

**IN NEW ZEALAND**

11% of women give birth as a teenager. That’s 1 in 9

**BUT**

Teen births are down:

***TEEN BIRTHS MADE UP ONLY***

5.9% of all births in NZ in 2013

**BY REGION**

Teen birth rates are declining in all regions except Northland

**Download the full report:** superu.govt.nz/teenbirths
Teen births are down

More teenagers are delaying sex
The proportion of students who reported ever having had sex was similar in 2001 and 2007 (approximately a third), but was lower in 2012 24% (Youth 2012 survey)

Contraception use has not improved over the last ten years
The percentage of sexually active students who always use contraception (to prevent pregnancy) has remained unchanged at about 60% across the three surveys (2001, 2007 and 2012, Youth survey)

Approximately 88% of teen pregnancies are unplanned (of the 328 teen births in the Growing up in New Zealand Study, 2010)

The abortion rate has halved
Abortions rates, 15 - 19 year olds by ethnic group: 2001, 2006 and 2013

Teen mothers are older
Births to younger teens have fallen the most, with almost three quarters of teen mothers aged 18 – 19 when they give birth (up from two-thirds in 2006)

The Māori teen birth rate is also declining
Source: Statistics New Zealand Vital Statistics annual data online through Infoshare

Number and proportion of registered births to teenagers 2001-2013
Source: Statistics New Zealand Vital Statistics annual data online through Infoshare

Number of births to teenage mothers

Proportion
Number

Live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19

Source: Statistics New Zealand Vital Statistics annual data online through Infoshare

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