Teenage Pregnancy

Year of conception, ending 31 December 2018

A National Statistics release for Scotland

Publication date: 25 August 2020

About this release

This release by Public Health Scotland (PHS) provides an annual update on teenage pregnancy statistics in Scotland. This is based on age at conception and presented by year of conception and the most recent information is for the calendar year ending 31 December 2018. In the full report data are presented by NHS Board and council area for the age groups: under 16, under 18 and under 20.

Main Points

For women aged under 20 years:

- The teenage pregnancy rate in Scotland is at its lowest level since reporting began in 1994. In the last 5 years, rates fell from 34 per 1,000 women in 2014 to 30 per 1,000 women in 2018.

- In 2018 NHS Highland recorded the lowest overall rate of teenage pregnancy amongst the mainland NHS Boards while NHS Fife recorded the highest (25 and 37 per 1,000 women respectively).

- The absolute gap in teenage pregnancy rates between the most and least deprived areas is narrowing. While rates have generally reduced across all levels of deprivation in the last decade, rates in the most deprived areas have fallen more.

![Teenage pregnancy by age group at conception, 1994-2018](chart.png)
• The proportion of teenage pregnancies that result in a termination is increasing. In 2018 the percentage of teenage pregnancies that ended in termination was the highest since reporting began (46%).

• Teenage women from the most deprived areas are more likely to deliver than to terminate their pregnancy. In contrast, those from the least deprived areas are more likely to terminate than to deliver. This difference in outcome of pregnancy between the most and least deprived has not changed in recent years.

Background
The source data are (i) registrations of live and stillbirths from the National Records of Scotland (NRS) with multiple births counted as one event, and (ii) the number of legal abortions notified to the Chief Medical Officer (Scotland) in accordance with the Abortion (Scotland) Regulations 1991.

Many teenage women experience unintended or unwanted pregnancies, although for some women this may be a planned, positive life choice. Reducing unintended teenage pregnancy remains a priority for the Scottish Government.

Contact
Duncan McMaster  
Information Analyst  
0141 282 2081  
phs.isdmaternity@nhs.net  

Stuart Wrigglesworth  
Senior Information Analyst  
0131 275 7128  
phs.isdmaternity@nhs.net  

For all media enquiries please email phs.comms@nhs.net or call 07500 854 574.

Further Information
Data from this publication are available from the publication page on our website.

The next release of this publication will be July 2021.

PHS and Official Statistics
Public Health Scotland (PHS) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. PHS is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. Further information about our statistics.