Teenage Pregnancy
Year of conception, ending 31 December 2016

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Information Services Division (ISD) provides an annual update of teenage pregnancy statistics in Scotland up to December 2016, based on year of conception and age at conception. In the full report, data are presented for the age groups: under 16, under 18 and under 20.

Main Points

For women aged under 20:

- Teenage pregnancies in Scotland are at their lowest level since reporting began in 1994. Rates decreased for the ninth consecutive year to 31.6 per 1,000 women in 2016.

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

Teenage pregnancy by deprivation area, 2007-2016

[Graph showing teenage pregnancy rates by deprivation area from 2007 to 2016]
• Deliveries remain more common than terminations. In 2016, the teenage delivery rate was 18.1 and the termination rate was 13.5 per 1,000 women.

• Delivery rates have fallen faster than termination rates. In 2016, the percentage of teenage pregnancies that ended in termination was the highest since reporting began.

• Teenagers from the most deprived areas are more likely to deliver than to terminate their pregnancy. In contrast, teenagers 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 over recent years.

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

Many teenage women experience unintended or unwanted pregnancies, although for some this may be planned and a positive life choice. Scotland has historically had a higher rate of teenage pregnancy than most other Northern and Western European countries and reducing unintended teenage pregnancy is a priority for the Scottish Government.

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Further Information
Further information can be found in the full Teenage Pregnancy Publication Report.
We have included some interactive visual content in the Teenage Pregnancy Dashboard. Information is presented over time, by deprivation area, maternal age group and outcome of pregnancy.
ISD publishes a wide range of information on birth, pregnancy and sexual health, including teenage pregnancies and terminations of pregnancy in Scotland. Further information can be found on our Maternity and Births and Sexual Health pages.
This report will be updated in July 2019.

ISD and Official Statistics
Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD 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 Official Statistics. Further information about our statistics.