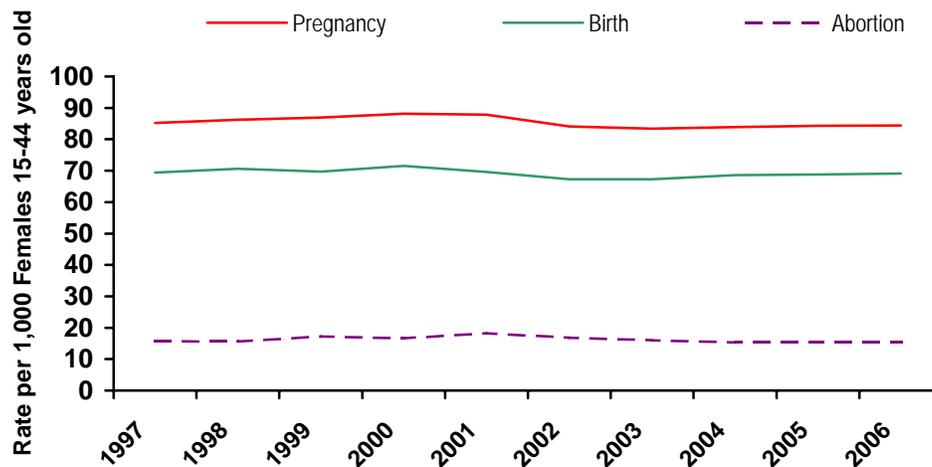




Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion Rates Aged 15-44 Clark County, 1997 through 2006

Why it Matters

For all pregnancies, we want the best possible outcome for mother and child. Healthier women have healthier babies who grow into healthier children.¹ Public health efforts focus on promoting healthier pregnancies, improving pregnancy planning and spacing, and preventing unintended pregnancy in an effort to ensure good health for mother and child.^{1,2} Intended pregnancies are those that are clearly and consciously desired at the time of conception.²



Status

- Between 1997 and 2006, the pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates among females aged 15-44 years old in Clark County remained constant.^{3,4}
- In 2006, Clark County's pregnancy rate was the same as Washington State's at 84 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-44.^{3,4}
- At 69.1 births per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years in 2006, Clark County's birth rate was higher than Washington State's rate of 65.3. There has been a 17% increase in the number of births in Clark County from 4,935 in 1997, to 5,778 in 2006.^{3,4}
- Abortion rates in Clark County have remained constant. In Clark County, the 2006 induced abortion rate was 15.3 per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years; this was slightly less than the Washington State rate of 18.5.^{3,4} Induced abortion ended 18% of all pregnancies in 2006.
- During the time period 2001 to 2003, about 54% of Washington State pregnancies were unintended, and 39% of all live births were from unintended pregnancies.⁵

What We Can Do

- Support access to family planning education and services that help women avoid unintended pregnancies and have healthy pregnancies.⁶
- Sustain Maternal and Child Health programs that promote healthy behaviors such as eating well and decrease risks such as tobacco use during pregnancy.¹
- Support increased access to teen reproductive health services.⁶
- Support access to prenatal care throughout pregnancy to improve the long-term health of mothers and their infants, thereby contributing to a healthier society and lower financial burden to families and taxpayers.⁷

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Clark County

Year	Rate per 1,000 females aged 15-44			Number of Events			Total Females aged 15-44
	Pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Pregnancies	Births	Abortions	
1997	85.2	69.5	15.8	6,054	4,935	1,119	71,061
1998	86.2	70.6	15.6	6,269	5,134	1,135	72,736
1999	86.9	69.7	17.2	6,447	5,169	1,278	74,190
2000	88.2	71.5	16.7	6,652	5,396	1,256	75,437
2001	87.9	69.6	18.2	6,708	5,316	1,392	76,348
2002	84.1	67.3	16.8	6,551	5,240	1,311	77,909
2003	83.4	67.3	16.1	6,585	5,317	1,268	78,989
2004	83.9	68.6	15.3	6,764	5,529	1,235	80,615
2005	84.3	68.8	15.5	6,884	5,622	1,262	81,663
2006	84.4	69.1	15.3	7,057	5,778	1,279	83,662

Washington State

Year	Rate per 1,000 females aged 15-44			Number of Events			Total Females aged 15-44
	Pregnancy	Birth	Abortion	Pregnancies	Births	Abortions	
1997	82.3	61.3	21.1	104,677	77,904	26,773	1,271,209
1998	81.9	62.1	19.9	104,804	79,393	25,411	1,279,437
1999	81.6	61.7	20.0	104,961	79,300	25,661	1,285,708
2000	82.5	62.5	20.0	106,583	80,724	25,859	1,292,649
2001	80.9	61.1	19.8	105,046	79,290	25,756	1,298,668
2002	80.0	60.6	19.4	104,004	78,792	25,212	1,300,188
2003	80.9	61.8	19.2	105,093	80,190	24,903	1,298,461
2004	81.3	62.6	18.7	105,766	81,424	24,342	1,301,595
2005	81.2	62.9	18.3	106,333	82,367	23,966	1,309,168
2006	83.8	65.3	18.5	111,145	86,560	24,585	1,325,858

Technical Notes: The pregnancy rate is the number of pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-44 in Clark County per year. It is calculated by adding together births and abortions (and does not include fetal deaths). Birth and abortion rates are also calculated per 1,000 females aged 15-44. These data include induced abortions only and not spontaneous abortions (i.e., miscarriages).

Sources: (1) Washington State Department of Health. (December 2007). The Health of Washington State: Maternal and Child Health. Olympia, WA. Retrieved May 2008 from <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hws/TOC2007.shtm>. (2) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (November 2000). Family Planning. In Healthy people 2010, Volume II (second edition). Washington, DC. Retrieved May 2008 from <http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/tableofcontents.htm>. (3) Vital Registration System, Annual Statistics Files, Births 1980-2006. [Data file]. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. (4) Public Health: Seattle & King County, Epidemiology, Planning, & Evaluation. (1991-2008). VistaPHw 7.3.0.4, 2008 [Computer software for public health assessment]. Seattle, WA. (5) Washington State Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Assessment. (January 2006). Maternal and Child Health Data Report: Unintended Pregnancy. Olympia, WA. Retrieved June 2008 http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/mch_assessment/mch_assesshome.htm. (6) Washington State Department of Health. (December 2007). The Health of Washington State: Unintended Pregnancy. Olympia, WA. Retrieved May 2008 from <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hws/TOC2007.shtm>. (7) Washington State Department of Health. (July 2002). The Health of Washington State. Prenatal Care. Olympia, WA. Retrieved January 2008 from <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hws/HWS2002.htm>.

