

Outcome Based Accountability Factsheet 2. Teenage Pregnancy in Wigan

Teenage Pregnancy is a complex issue which can only be tackled through committed partnership working - the agenda in Wigan is driven by key strategic partners through the Teenage Pregnancy Steering Group.

Why reducing teenage pregnancy matters

Evidence clearly shows that having children at a young age can damage young women's health, well-being and education and career prospects.

Children born to teenagers are more likely to experience negative outcomes in later life – i.e. are 22% more likely to be living in poverty at age 30, are much less likely to be employed or living with a partner and are up to 3 times more likely to become a teenage parent themselves. (The strongest predictor of teenage motherhood is being the daughter of a teenage mother).

Teenage mothers are 20% more likely to have no qualifications at age 30.

Teenage mothers are three times more likely to suffer postnatal depression and long-term mental health problems

Teenage mothers are three times more likely to smoke throughout their pregnancy, and 50% less likely to breastfeed

There is a 60% higher infant mortality rate - achieving the under-18 conception target would contribute 1% of the 10% infant mortality target.

Children of teenage mothers have a 63% increased risk of being born into poverty, have more accidents requiring A&E admission and suffer more psychological and behavioural problems.

There is also a strong economic argument for investing in measures to reduce teenage pregnancy as it places significant burdens on the NHS and wider public services.



National key risk factors associated with high teenage pregnancy rates

Girls are three times more likely to become pregnant if start having sex under-16.

41% of girls leaving school at 16 with no qualifications will have a teenage pregnancy compared with 5% for girls leaving at 17 or over.

Regular smoking, drinking and experimentation with drugs increase the risk of starting sex under 16 and teenagers are less likely to use contraception if under the influence of alcohol.

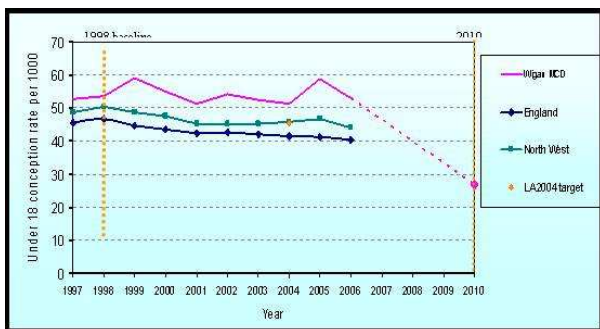
1700 local young people took part in the 'Great Debate' and overwhelmingly believed 'alcohol' to be the key factor in Wigan's high teenage pregnancy rates.

Nationally 20% of under-18 births are second or subsequent births - under 10% in Wigan

Nationally 10.4% of teenage abortions are repeat abortions - 7.5% in Wigan

Girls are 3 times more likely to become a mother under-18 if 'living in care'

Under 18 Teenage Conception Rates per 1,000 Females 15-17



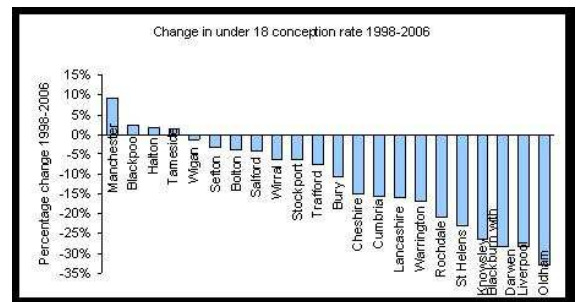
The rate of teenage pregnancy remains high in Wigan. We believe this is closely linked to low aspirations and limited ambition. Parents' low educational aspirations for her daughter at age 10 is an important predictor

Overall Wigan has achieved only a 1.2% reduction since 1998 baseline statistics. Wigan has been included in the group of 22 'ministerial high focus areas', with high rates and significantly slow progress towards the 2010 targets.

Local research suggests that some traditional attitudes to the relative roles in society of men and women have been slower to change in Wigan than has been the case elsewhere.

Screening data shows that the great majority (79%) of those taking up screening for Chlamydia in Wigan are aged 19 or younger. Among the most vulnerable girls, the risk of becoming a teenage mother before the age of 20 is nearly one in three.

Northwest Region % Change in Under-18 Conception rate 1998-2006



The Government's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy set two national targets:

- Halve the under 18 conception rate by 2010 ; and
- Increase the participation of teenage mothers in education, training or work to 60% by 2010 to reduce the risk of long term social exclusion.

The rate of teenage pregnancy remains high in Wigan. Latest ONS provisional data for 2006 show the under-18 conception rate in Wigan is 52.9 - higher than North West and national rates.

Wigan had a significant annual reduction of 10.7% from 2005 to 2006.

The reduction followed implementation of a range of innovative multi-agency targeted interventions including the 'C Card' scheme and the mobile TIC TAC Bus, with significant success in engaging vulnerable and hard to reach groups, particularly young men.

Narrowing the Gap

Marked differences can be seen between Wigan's communities, with considerably higher numbers of conceptions in the most deprived wards. Latest data shows rates of less than 35 per 1000 in Aspull-Standish, Lightshaw, Swinley, Tyldesley East and Winstanley, but rates of over 75 per 1000 in Abram, Hindley, Ince, Newtown and Norley.