

Teen Pregnancy in West Virginia

NATIONAL
40
RANK

1 in 22



WV TEENAGE GIRLS WILL HAVE A BABY

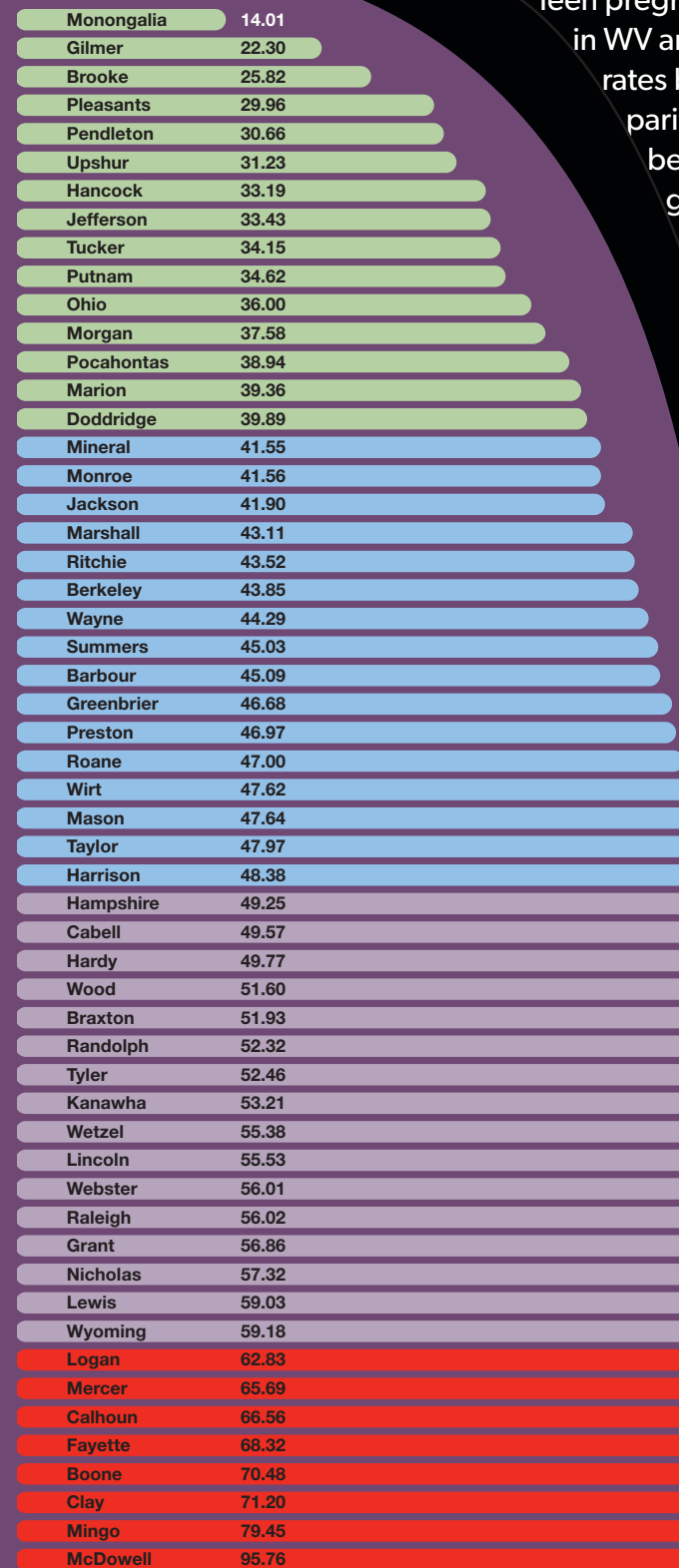
What goes wrong when teens have babies:

- **Dropping Out.** One in three girls cites pregnancy as her reason for dropping out of high school.
- **Poverty.** The poverty rate for kids born to teenage mothers who have never married and did not graduate from high school is 78%, compared to 9% of children born to married women over 20 who are high school graduates.
- **Unhealthy Babies.** Children born to teen mothers are at higher risk of being born under weight and dying within their first year of life. They are less likely to get the emotional and intellectual stimulation they need for healthy child development.

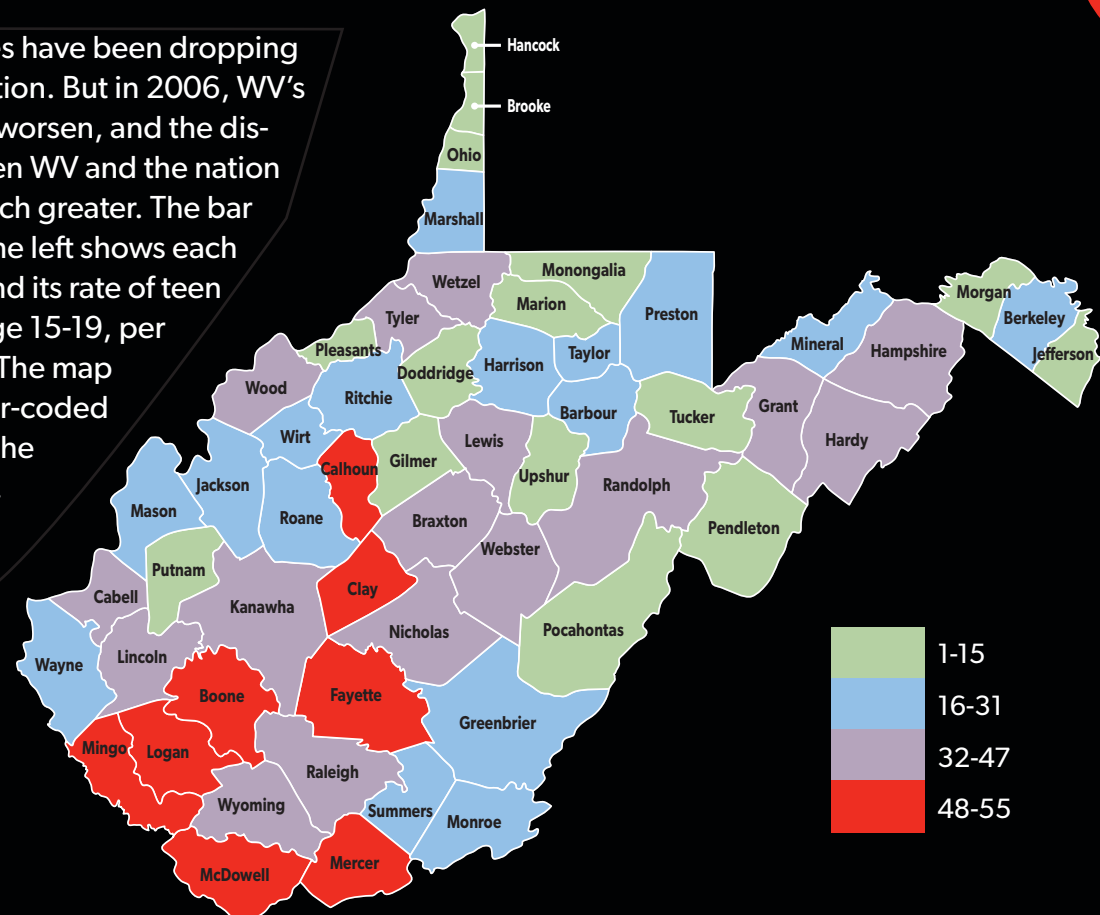
1 in 8



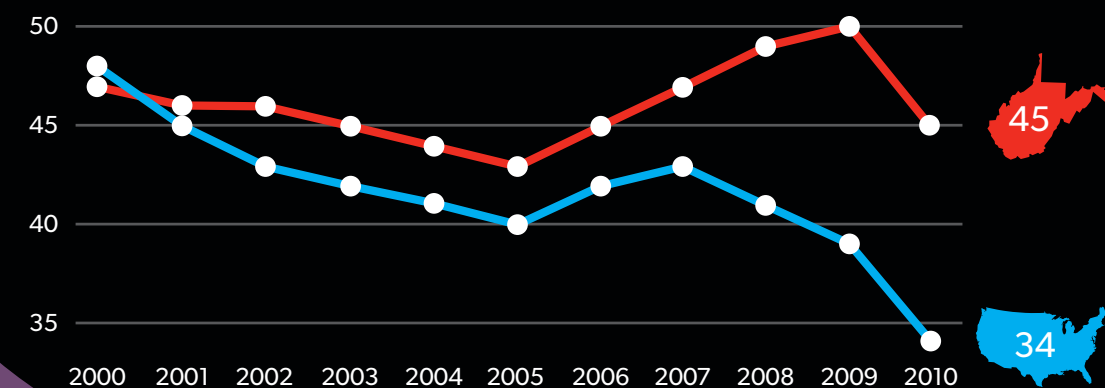
WV BABIES IS BORN TO A TEEN MOTHER



Teen pregnancy rates have been dropping in WV and the nation. But in 2006, WV's rates began to worsen, and the disparity between WV and the nation became much greater. The bar graph to the left shows each county and its rate of teen births age 15-19, per 1,000. The map is color-coded with the bars.



WV vs US Teen Pregnancy Rate



What we can do:

- Implement the state's comprehensive sex education curriculum
- Give young people a credible vision of a positive future
- Help parents succeed as sex educators
- Help adults provide good information about how to reduce risk-taking behaviors
- Create community-wide action plans for teen pregnancy prevention



West Virginia
KIDS COUNT

Making WV a great place to be a kid!