



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Teenage pregnancy and young parents Report for Wirral

Purpose

This report brings together key data and information which will help you understand the demand, risk factors, provision and outcomes for services of a particular target population.

This includes:

- appropriate evidence-based information on prevalence;
- incidence and risk factors affecting the provision of healthcare services; and relevant expenditures

PHE offers a range of other resources which will also help you analyse your services. At the end of this report, a section called 'next steps' points you in the direction of some of these.

Introduction

Teenage pregnancy is a cause and consequence of education and health inequality for young parents and their children. Despite significant progress over the last 18 years, with a reduction of 64% in the under-18 conception rate, a continued focus is needed. Teenagers have the highest rate of unplanned pregnancy with disproportionately poor outcomes (1). Nationally, over 50% of under-18 conceptions and 62% of under-16 conceptions end in abortion and inequalities remain between and within local authorities (2).

Recent data shows that babies born to mothers in England and Wales under 20 years had a 30% higher rate of stillbirth than average, and a 40% higher rate of infant mortality than average (3). Rates of low birthweight in younger mothers were 30% higher than average, and this inequality is increasing (3). Children born to teenage mothers have a 63% higher risk of living in poverty (4). Mothers under 20 have a 30% higher risk of poor mental health two years after giving birth (5). This affects their own wellbeing, and their ability to form a secure attachment with their baby, recognised as a key foundation stone for positive child outcomes (6). Teenage mothers are more likely than other young people to not be in education, employment or training (7); and by the age of 30, are 22% more likely to be living in poverty than mothers giving birth aged 24 or over (8). Young fathers are twice as likely to be unemployed aged 30, even after taking account of deprivation (9). Recent analysis of the [Next Steps](#)

data shows that some of these poor outcomes, notably poor mental health, are also experienced by young parents up to the age of 25 (10).

Since the introduction of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in 1999, England has achieved a 64.2% reduction in the under-18 conception rate between 1998 and 2018. The rate of 16.7 per 1,000 is currently at the lowest level since 1969 (11), with the greatest reductions in the most deprived areas, and a doubling in the proportion of young mothers in education, training or employment (12). The success of the strategy's approach has been recognised by the World Health Organization with the lessons being shared internationally with countries seeking to address high rates (13,14).

However, despite the significant progress England's teenage birth rate remains higher than comparable western European countries (15), and inequalities in the under-18 conception rate persist between and within local areas. Over a quarter of local authorities have an under-18 conception rate significantly higher than the England average (11) and 60% have at least one high rate ward (16). Further progress in both reducing the under-18 conception rate and improving the outcomes for young parents is central to improving young people's sexual health and achieving health and educational equity for young parents and their children. Maintaining the downward trend is a priority in the Department of Health Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England (17) and key to PHE priorities, including reducing health inequalities, ensuring every child gets the best start in life and improving sexual and reproductive health (18). The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) includes the under-18 conception rate and a number of other indicators disproportionately affecting young parents and their children (19).

The data shown below at local authority level shows the 2018 rates. If more recent annual rates have recently been published, they are available from [Office for National Statistics](#).

Background, demographics and teenage pregnancy in Wirral

As of 2018, Wirral had a population of 5,253 girls aged 15-17 years.

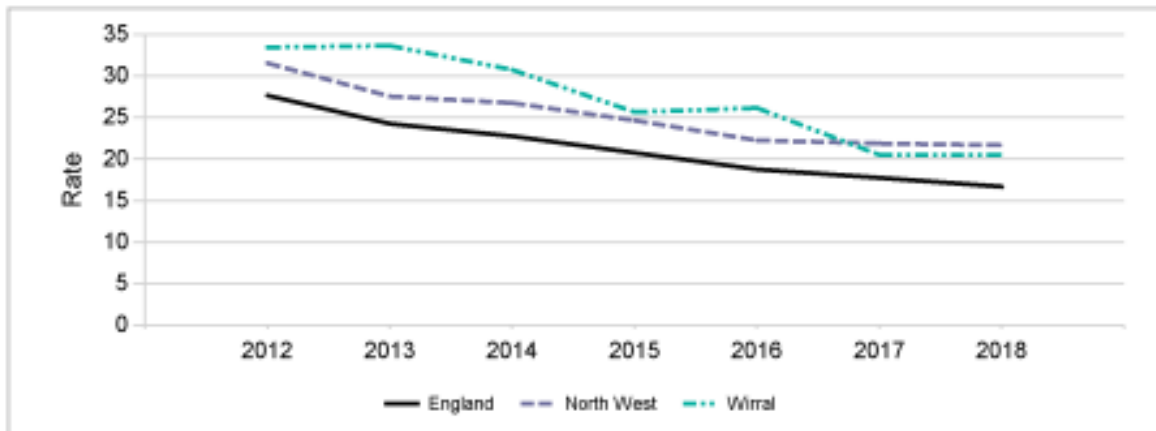
There is a strong relationship between teenage conceptions and deprivation (20). Wirral, with a score of 26.9, is in the fourth more deprived decile (IMD 2015).

In Wirral in 2018, 108 young women aged under 18 years conceived, which is a rate of 20.6 per 1,000 population: 14% of these were to girls aged under 16 years. The national rate of under 18 conceptions was 16.7. In 2018, 15 girls became pregnant under 16 years, a rate of 2.8 per 1,000 population; the national rate was 2.5. Of under 18 conceptions in Wirral in 2018, 47.2% led to abortion, compared with the national average of 53.0%.

The charts and tables below show trends in under 18 and under 16 conceptions and abortions. The abortion rate (number of abortions per 1,000 population) is also displayed in the chart showing under-18 conceptions. The tables below the chart show the data for the conception rate, abortion rate and the percentage of conceptions leading to abortion.

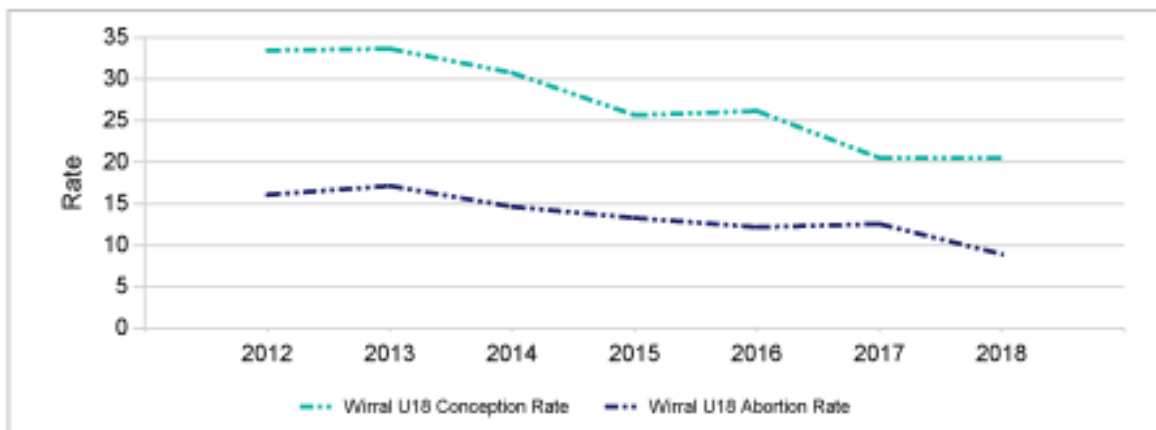
Recent conception statistics have been taken from the [Office for National Statistics](#). Older statistics can be found on the [NHS IC Indicator Portal](#).

Figure 1: Under 18 conceptions in Wirral (rate per 1,000 population)



Source for Figure 1: Office for National Statistics

Figure 2: Under 18 conceptions and abortions in Wirral (rate per 1,000 population)



Source for Figure 2: Office for National Statistics

Table 1: Under 18 conceptions, rate per 1,000 population

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
England	27.7	24.3	22.8	20.8	18.8	17.8	16.7
North West	31.6	27.6	26.8	24.7	22.3	21.9	21.7
Wirral	33.5	33.7	30.8	25.7	26.2	20.5	20.6

Source for Table 1: Office for National Statistics

-1 may be shown where small numbers have been suppressed

Table 2: Under 16 conceptions, rate per 1,000 population

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
England	5.6	4.8	4.4	3.7	3.0	2.7	2.5
North West	6.6	5.8	5.1	4.6	3.8	3.5	3.3
Wirral	6.0	8.4	5.5	5.0	5.6	4.4	2.8

Source for Table 2: Office for National Statistics
 -1 may be shown where small numbers have been suppressed

Table 3: Under 18 abortions, rate per 1,000 population

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
England	12.8	11.7	11.1	9.9	8.9	8.4	8.1
North West	14.6	13.5	13.5	11.9	10.6	10.4	10.7
Wirral	16.1	17.2	14.7	13.3	12.2	12.6	9.0

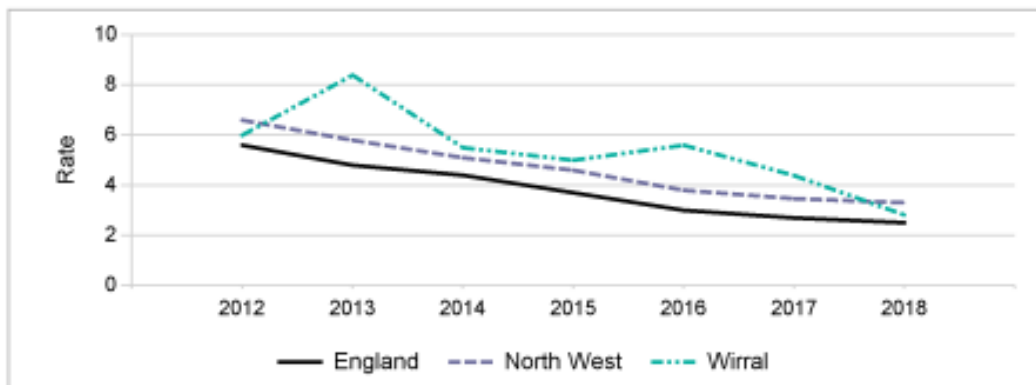
Source for Table 3: Office for National Statistics
 -1 may be shown where small numbers have been suppressed

Table 4: Percentage of under 18 conceptions leading to an abortion

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
England	49.1	51.1	51.1	51.2	51.8	52.0	53.0
North West	48.5	52.8	52.5	52.1	51.7	51.9	53.6
Wirral	48.7	55.4	52.8	57.9	51.4	64.0	47.2

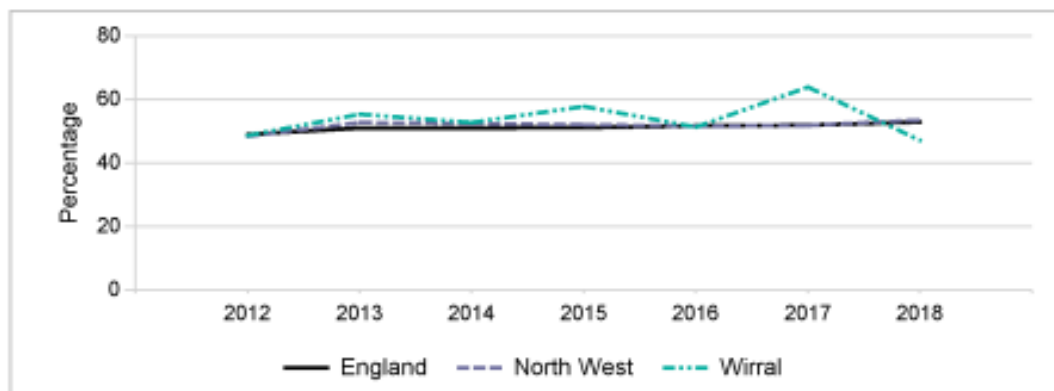
Source for Table 4: Office for National Statistics
 -1 may be shown where small numbers have been suppressed

Figure 3: Under 16 conceptions in Wirral (rate per 1,000 population)



Source for Figure 3: Office for National Statistics

Figure 4: Percentage of under 18 conceptions leading to an abortion



Source for Figure 4: Office for National Statistics

