In the United States, every twenty-six seconds, a teenage girl becomes pregnant.

Of teenage girls who first had sex before they were 15, nearly half of them will become pregnant as teens.

In 2002, there were over 750,000 teenage pregnancies (215,000 of which ended in abortion).

More than 2/3 of all teenagers who have a baby will not graduate from high school.

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**resources:**


Teen pregnancy is a startling trend and reality in the United States today. With all these teenagers becoming pregnant, one has to ask themselves what the risks are associated with teenage pregnancy.

♥ Pregnant teenagers often have problems finding and receiving adequate prenatal care, which can result in birth defects and high-risk pregnancies.

♥ Younger mothers often have underweight and premature infants, which can cause damage to their babies.

♥ Many teenage girls do not realize the risks associated with smoking and drinking alcohol during pregnancy. This ignorance can lead to alcohol or smoking-related birth defects and low birth weight.

♥ Teenagers who become pregnant are likely to drop out of high school and do not receive their diploma. This leads to low-wage jobs, which can cause their impromptu families to live in poverty.

♥ Teenage girls often are unaware of the importance of their nutrition during the pregnancy, and often will take over-the-counter medications and drink caffeinated beverages (which can harm the baby’s development).

Help is out there...
If you or someone you know is a pregnant teenager, please consider reaching out to these help-centers...

♥ American Pregnancy Hotline
   www.thehelpline.org
   1-866-942-6466

♥ Planned Parenthood of America
   www.plannedparenthood.org
   1-800-230-PLAN