

About the Data

Overheads

You have been provided with a set of charts comparing teen pregnancy, birth and abortion statistics for Germany, France, the Netherlands, the U.S. and Oregon. The statistics used for each overhead were gathered from several sources (cited at the bottom of the overhead).

The data on the pregnancy, birth and abortion overheads are from 1999 (with the exception of the U.S. teen pregnancy rate which is a 1997 figure). Please note that the Advocates for Youth handout (**Adolescent Sexual Health in Europe and the U.S. – Why the Difference?**, see article section) is from 1997.

Please consider the following points about the data:

- On the 1999 Teen Pregnancy Rates overhead, the U.S. rate specified is from 1997. This figure was used because it is the last year for which we have found consistent reporting from several recognized and respected sources. It would be fair to state that teen pregnancy rates have continued to decline in the late '90's, and that the rate for 1999 was indeed lower than the 92 per 1,000 stated on the overhead. The as yet unconfirmed number from Advocates for Youth is 83.6 per 1,000 females aged 15-19 for 1999.
- While mixing data isn't the ideal for appropriate comparison, the bottom-line message is: We are headed in the right direction. Nevertheless, there continues to be an enormous gap between U.S. (and Oregon) rates and those that are achievable, given the use of effective strategies.
- Don't be thrown if, in your readings, you discover that several reputable sources report slightly different U.S. teen pregnancy, birth and abortion rates for the same year. The variance is not significant and simply reflects the difficulty of precise national data collection.
- Be aware if someone questions why the overhead states the 1999 Oregon teen pregnancy rate as 68.6 per 1,000 when they've read that the rate is only 15.9 per 1,000. The rate on the overhead is for 15–19 year old females. Please remember that, for some goofy reason (ok – that's Mary Gossart's descriptor), the state of Oregon talks about teen pregnancy and birth rates in terms of females aged 10–17. The rest of the country and the world generally talk about 15–19 year olds.