Parenting at any age can be challenging, but it can be particularly difficult for adolescent parents. In 2012 in the United States, almost 305,500 babies were born to teen girls between the ages of 15 and 19. [1]

Childbearing during adolescence negatively affects teen parents themselves, their children, and society. Research has shown that compared with older parents, teen mothers are less likely to finish high school, more likely to rely on public assistance, more likely to be poor as adults, and more likely to have children who have poorer educational, behavioral, and health outcomes over the course of their lives. [2]

In the United States, the teen birth rate has declined almost continuously over the past 20 years. In 1991, about 6% of teen girls (aged 15–19) gave birth compared with 3% in 2012. However, the U.S. teen birth rate remains higher than that of many other developed countries, including Canada and the United Kingdom. [3]

In 2012 in Illinois, there were 11,548 teen mothers, or fewer than 2% of female teens (aged 13–19). Consistent with national data, both the number and the percent of teen moms in Illinois have decreased since 2009. [4] The following maps display the number and percent of teen mothers in Illinois by Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs). [5]