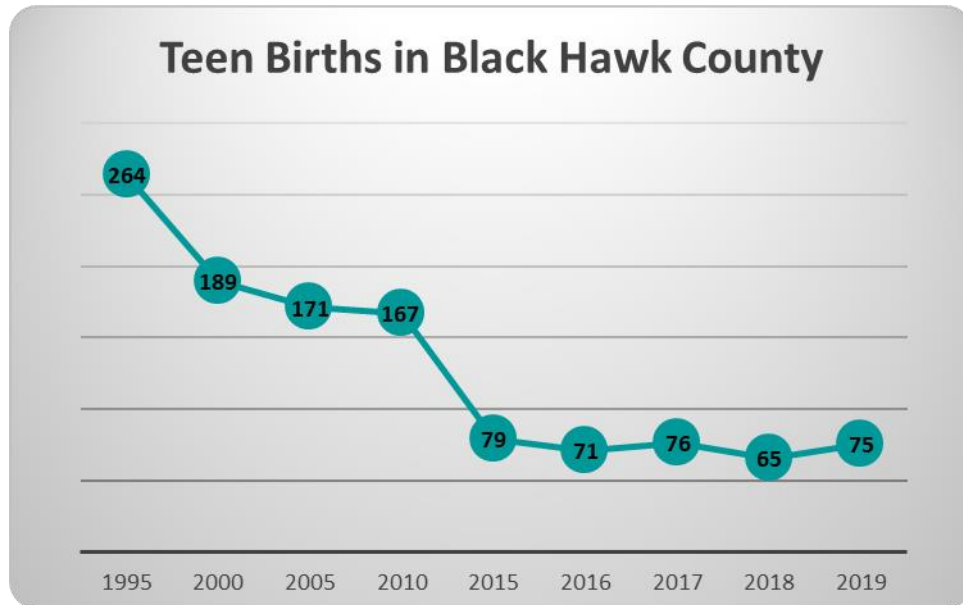
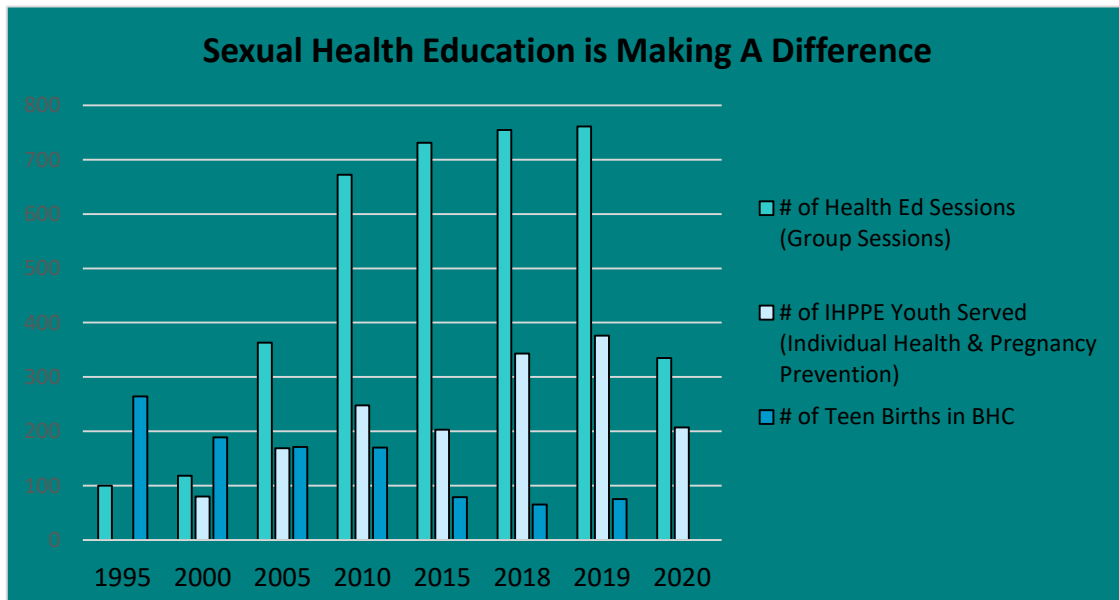


## Adolescent Sexual Health Trends in Black Hawk County

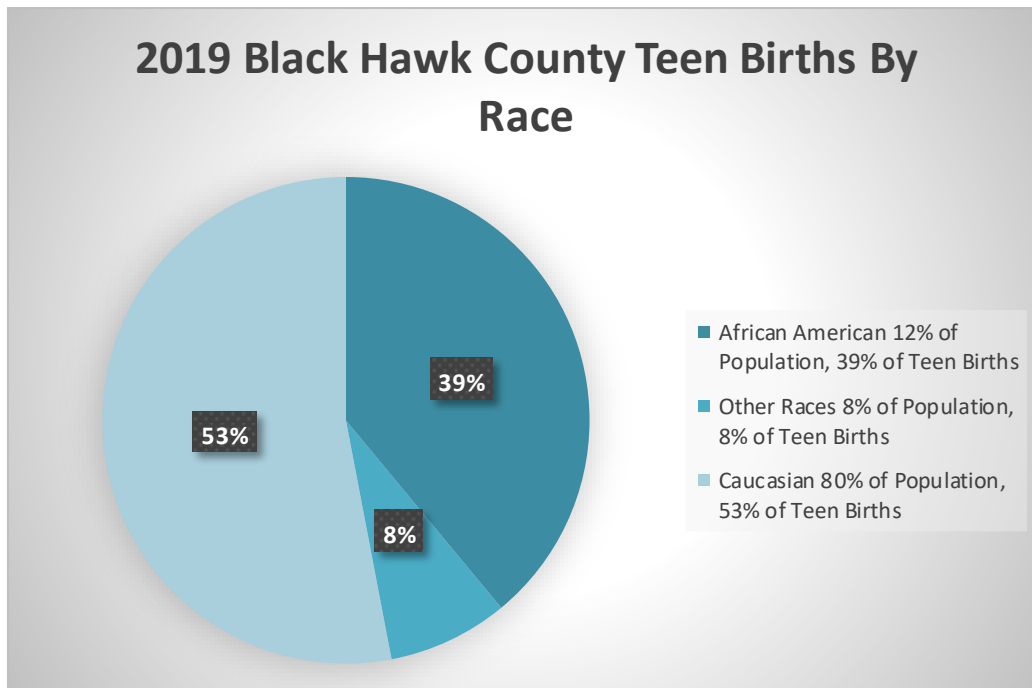
Together For Youth (TFY) has developed partnerships with many community agencies and has had a direct impact on Black Hawk County's current low teen birth rate. Historically our county had one of the highest rates of teen births in the state. In 1995, 47.3 out of 1,000 teen girls gave birth. In 2019, 16.1 out of 1,000 teen girls gave birth. This is a decline of 65%. Over that same time period, the State of Iowa had a decline of 64%, with BHC's decline being steeper.



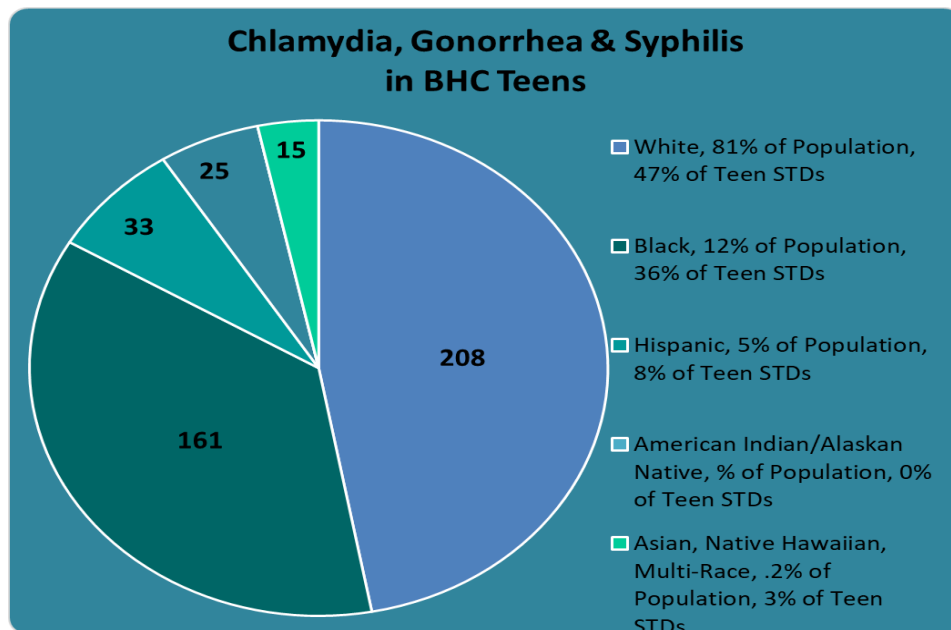
In Fiscal Year 1995, TFY provided 100 Health Education sessions as compared to 542 sessions in Fiscal Year 2020. As TFY programming has increased over the years, the number of teen births in Black Hawk County has decreased. We are proud of this correlation and the package of programming we have developed in partnership with our schools and youth serving agencies. With the Covid-19 pandemic, area schools closed in March of 2020 for the academic year which affected the number of TFY programs provided.



According to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), the rate of *overall* teen births has been declining. The rate of teen births to youth of color continues to be disproportionate. African Americans (AA) account for 12% of the population in Black Hawk County and yet experienced 39% of the teen births. Beginning in fiscal year 2009 TFY strategically implemented the SiHLE curriculum to address these disparate sexual health outcomes, reaching over 567 AA females between the ages of 14 – 18.



IDPH data shows that Black Hawk County has had the highest per capita rate of reported cases of STDs in the state nearly every year since 2007. There continues to be a disparate rate of these infections among youth of color, as demonstrated below with AA accounting for 36% of these STDs.



**Let's join efforts to continue improving these outcomes.  
To get involved, contact Joni Spencer at TFY 319.433.6331.**