



Okanogan County Public Health

1234 South 2nd Avenue
P.O. Box 231
Okanogan, WA 98840
(509) 422-7140
TDD (800) 833-6388

<http://www.okanogancounty.org/ochd/index.htm>

Okanogan County Teen Health Facts

- **Sexually Transmitted Diseases:**

- There is a statewide epidemic of Chlamydia. The rate of Chlamydia increased again in 2005. In 2005 there were 18,617 cases of Chlamydia in Washington State and 124 cases in Okanogan County. Rates in Okanogan County have increased faster than the state rate.
- In Okanogan County during 2006 someone new was infected with an STD every 2.5 days.
- Okanogan County has the 7th highest rate of Chlamydia infection in the state, a rate higher than King or Spokane counties.
- An increasing proportion of those infected are school age children. The mean age of STD infection in Okanogan County has decreased from 29 yrs to 23 yrs. Approximately 70% of new cases are in those 15-24 yrs old.

- **Pregnancy**

- During the period 1999-2003 Pregnancy rates (Births + Abortion) among 15-17 yr old children in Okanogan County was 39.53/1000, 19% higher than the state rate of 33.18 and 8th highest in the state.
- In Okanogan County the percentage of pregnancies ending in abortion among 15-17 yr old children was 38.89 per 100 pregnancies, 13% lower than the state rate of 44.7 and 23rd lowest in the state.
- While Teen pregnancy has declined in both Washington State and Okanogan County, the rate in Okanogan remains higher than the state rate. In 2004, 2.54% of births were to children under 18 yrs, 25% higher than the state rate and 19th highest in the state.
- Birth Risk Factors in Okanogan exceed those statewide.
- In Okanogan County 43.6% of births were to unmarried moms, a rate 44% higher than the state rate and 5th highest in the state.
- In 2004 15.46% of the births in Okanogan County were premature, 55% higher than the state rate and 3rd highest in the state. There appears to be a relationship between Chlamydia rates and premature births.
- In 2004 7.82% of births in Okanogan County delivered underweight babies, a rate 26% higher than the state rate and 7th highest in the state.
- In 2004, 13.4% of mothers in Okanogan County smoked while pregnant, a rate 33% higher than the state rate and 19th highest in the state. While smoking rates during pregnancy have declined statewide, the rate in Okanogan County has remained stationary.
- In 2004 only 42.3% of Okanogan moms maintained adequate weight control, a rate 16% less than the state rate and 3rd lowest in the state.

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- **Accident Rates**

- Overall mortality rates in Okanogan County are higher than the state rate. During the 5 yr 1999-2003 period, the overall mortality rate was 862.9/100,000, 9.3% higher than the state rate of 789.4/100,000 and 11th highest in the state.
- Morality due to accidents and external causes is especially troubling. During the 5 yr 1999-2003 period, the overall mortality rate for all ages was 77.56/100,000, 219% higher than the state rate of 35.42/100,000 and 2nd highest in the state.
- While mortality rates due to accidents among children 5 -14 yrs in Okanogan County is 53% lower than the state rate (3.17 vs. 6.0) the rate dramatically shifts among 15-17 yr olds.
- Among 15-17 yr olds, mortality due to accidents and external causes during the 5 yr 1999-2003 period, was 48.7/100,000, 233% higher than the state rate of 20.86/100,000 and 8th highest in the state.
- Mortality due to motor vehicle accidents is high among 15-17 yr olds in Okanogan County. During 1999-2003, the rate in Okanogan county was 38.9/100,000, 251% higher than the state rate and 7th highest in the state/
- Suicide rates among 15-17 yr olds in Okanogan County is also higher than the state rate, during 1999-2003 the rate was 9.73/100,000, 28% higher than the state rate and 10th highest in the state.

- **Poverty**

- Okanogan County is one of the poorest counties in the State of Washington. Median household income in Okanogan County is \$30,339 compared to \$48,185 for
- Washington State and \$53,414 for King County.
- Poverty rates in Okanogan County are 35% higher than other rural counties and twice the State rate.
- The annual Homeless count in Okanogan County indicated that 426 residents were homeless, 34% of the homeless were 17 or younger.