

# Teen Births in the City of Erie & Erie County (PA), 2003-2008

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Epidemiology



ERIE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ERIE COUNTY, PA



PUBLIC HEALTH  
PREPAREDNESS  
DIVISION

*Teen Births in the City of Erie & Erie County (PA), 2003-2008*

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*“Our mission is to preserve, promote, and protect  
the health, safety and well-being of the people and the environment in Erie County.”*

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## INTRODUCTION

This report presents teenage birth data for Erie County female residents 15 to 17 years of age for the six-year period 2003-2008, with a specific focus on recent events occurring in the City of Erie. Some key points and statistics are described in the accompanying selected highlights. The figures, tables, and maps are intended to be largely self-explanatory and, hopefully, are presented in a format that permits readers to access readily the information most relevant to their particular needs.

Data and information provided in this report were obtained from the following sources: (1) the Vital Statistics Database, Erie County Department of Health ([www.ecdh.org](http://www.ecdh.org)), (2) the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, Pennsylvania Department of Health ([www.dsf.health.state.pa.us](http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us)), (3) the United States Census Bureau ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)), and (4) the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council ([www.ffiec.gov](http://www.ffiec.gov)). State and federal agencies specifically disclaim responsibility for any of the analyses, interpretations, or conclusions that appear in this report.

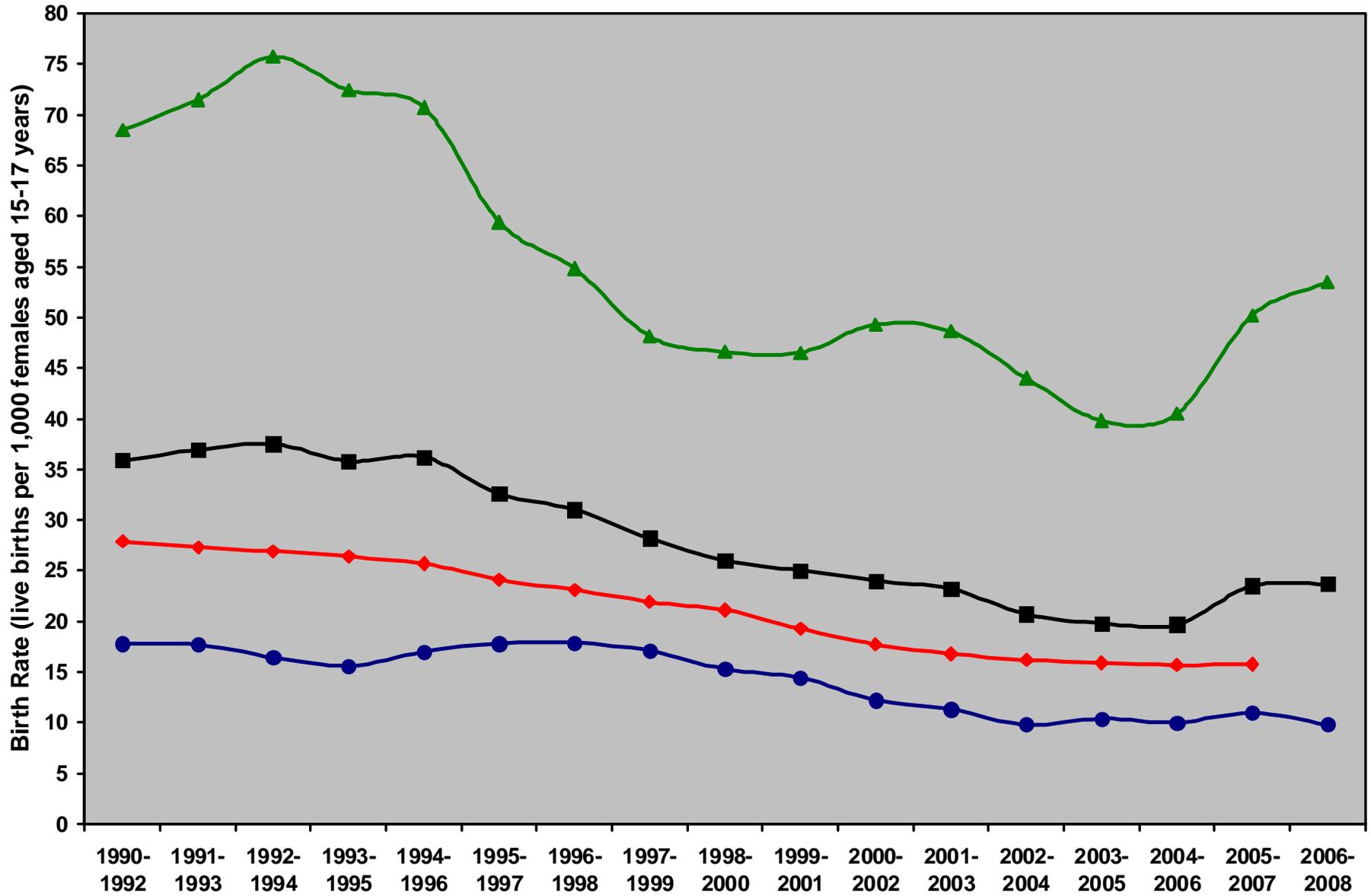
The reporting of live births for Erie County residents is nearly complete since there is an agreement among all registration areas in the United States for the exchange of resident birth certificate copies. However, readers should please note that 2008 Pennsylvania data are not yet available, and 2008 Erie County data are preliminary. Therefore, information and rates presented in this report may change slightly when the final data are released. Geocoding data were provided by the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research (approximately 90% of births), and additionally by the geocoding/mapping system of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. Overall, 99% of Erie County births during 2003-2008 were successfully matched to an Erie County census tract (785 out of 791 total births).

## SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

- Since 1990-1992, the birth rate for Erie County female residents 15 to 17 years of age has consistently exceeded the birth rate for Pennsylvania as a whole and often ranks as one of the highest rates among Pennsylvania's sixty-seven counties (p.7).
- From 1992-1994 to 2003-2005, the birth rate for females aged 15-17 years fell gradually from historic peak levels and dropped by 47% overall in both Erie County and the City of Erie (p.7).
- From 2003-2005 to 2006-2008, the 15-17 birth rate rose by 20% in Erie County and by 34% in the City of Erie. The bulk of the Erie County rate increase can be attributed to the recent upswing observed in the City of Erie because the rate for the remainder of Erie County (Erie County without the City of Erie) remained essentially stable (pp.7-9).
- There were 791 live births to Erie County female residents aged 15-17 years during 2003-2008. Overall, 113 births (14%) were to mothers 15 years old, 265 (34%) were to mothers 16 years old, and 413 (52%) were to mothers 17 years old.
- During 2003-2008, the City of Erie 15-17 birth rate was over two times higher than the Erie County rate (46.6 vs. 21.7 births per 1,000, respectively) (p.10).
- Although representing only about one-third of the total Erie County female population 15-17 years of age, the City of Erie accounted for over two-thirds of all Erie County 15-17 births from 2003-2008 (p.10).

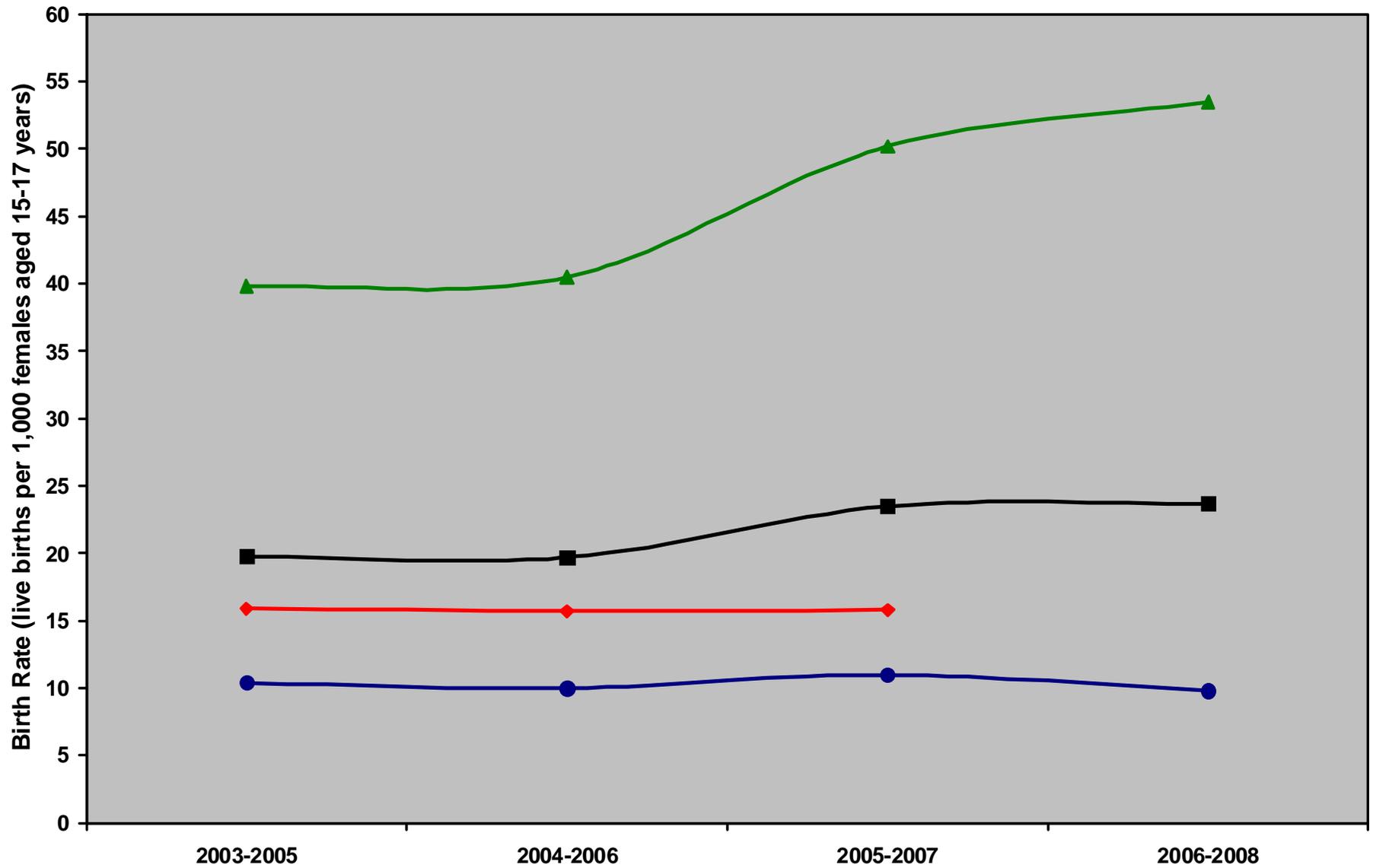
- Only four of Erie County's thirty-eight municipalities had 20 or more live births to females 15-17 years of age during 2003-2008. These municipalities included the City of Erie (541 births; birth rate = 46.6 per 1,000), Millcreek Township (45 births; birth rate = 6.5), the City of Corry (26 births; birth rate = 27.1), and Harborcreek Township (20 births; birth rate = 8.3).
- Birth rates differed significantly by race and Hispanic origin of mother in both Erie County and the City of Erie during 2003-2008. Compared to the rate for Whites, the rate was 274% higher for Blacks and 341% higher for Hispanics in the City of Erie. The rate for Whites in the City of Erie was nearly three times higher than the rate for Whites residing elsewhere in Erie County (p.10).
- During 2003-2008, the birth rates for females aged 15-17 years varied considerably among the thirty census tracts within the City of Erie. Eleven contiguous census tracts (census tracts 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 18) had rates greater than 50 births per 1,000. These eleven census tracts were all identified as low or moderate income areas based on the 2000 United States Census and collectively accounted for 60% of all City of Erie births and 41% of all Erie County births (pp.11-13).
- Census tracts 7 and 8 had both the highest number of teenage births and observed birth rates among the thirty census tracts within the City of Erie. Nearly one out of every four teenage births (23%) in the City of Erie occurred to females residing in these two neighboring census tracts (pp.11-13).

Birth Rates for Females Aged 15-17 Years, 1990-2008



Erie County
  City of Erie
  Erie County without City of Erie
  Pennsylvania

Birth Rates for Females Aged 15-17 Years, 2003-2008



■ Erie County    ▲ City of Erie    ● Erie County without City of Erie    ◆ Pennsylvania

## Birth Rates for Females Aged 15-17 Years, 2003-2008

<u>Years</u>	<i>Erie County</i>		<i>City of Erie</i>		<i>Erie County without City of Erie</i>		<i>Pennsylvania</i>	
	<u>Births</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Rate</u>
2003-2005	360	19.8	231	39.8	129	10.4	12,736	15.9
2004-2006	359	19.7	235	40.5	124	10.0	12,673	15.7
2005-2007	427	23.5	291	50.2	136	11.0	12,788	15.8
2006-2008	431	23.7	310	53.5	121	9.8	Not available	

Notes: Average annual live birth rates are per 1,000 females aged 15-17 years. All Erie County-related rates were calculated using population counts for females aged 15-17 years from the 2000 United States Census. Pennsylvania data were provided by the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, Pennsylvania Department of Health.

## Birth Rates for Females Aged 15-17 Years by Race & Hispanic Origin, 2003-2008

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<i>Erie County</i>			<i>City of Erie</i>			<i>Erie County without City of Erie</i>		
	<u>Population</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Rate</u>
All Races	36,408	791	21.7	11,598	541	46.6	24,810	250	10.1
White	32,304	446	13.8	8,292	222	26.8	24,012	224	9.3
Black	2,760	262	94.9	2,496	250	100.2	264	12	45.5
Hispanic	912	100	109.7	720	85	118.1	192	15	78.1

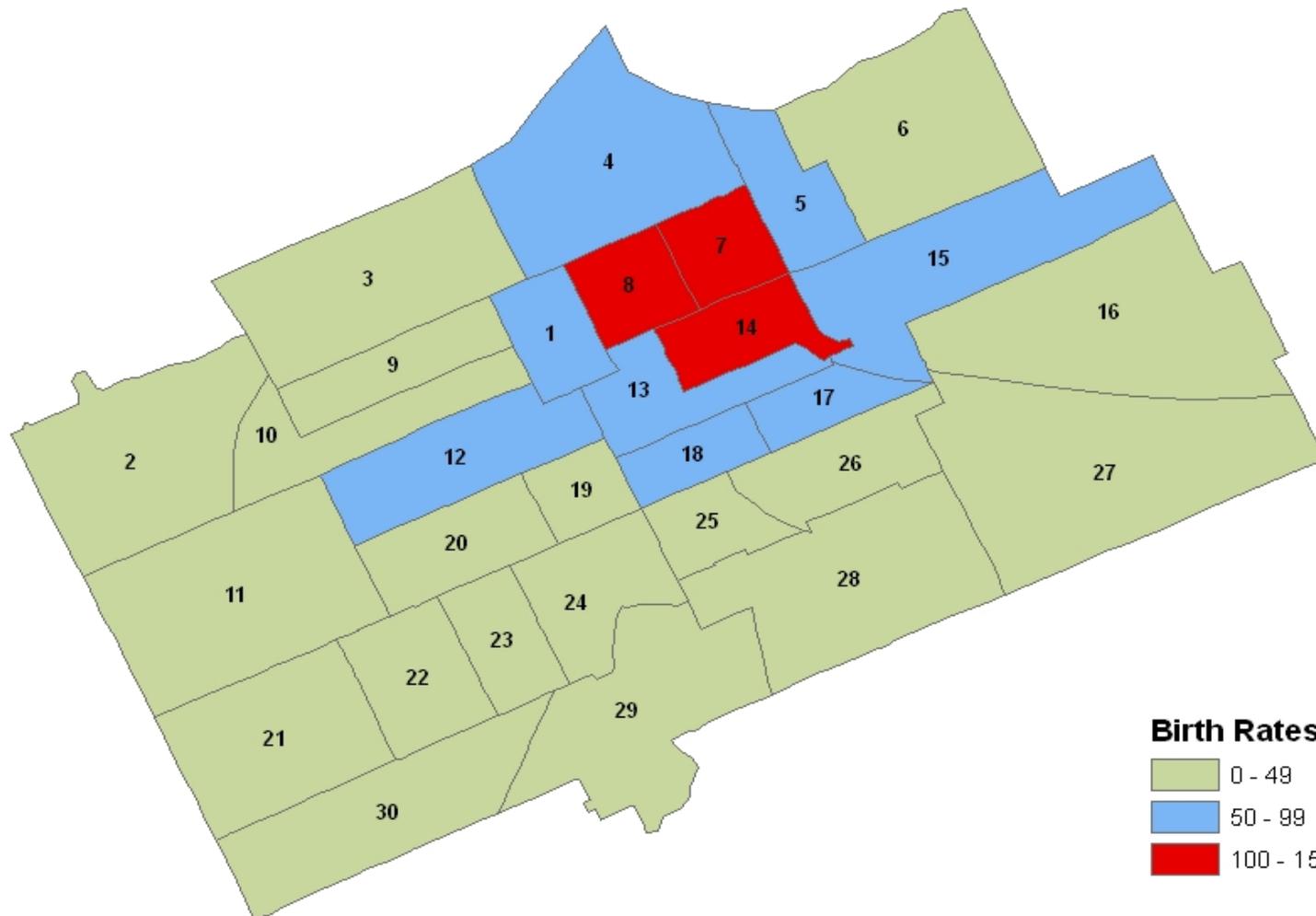
Notes: The race or Hispanic origin of the mother is used to classify live births. Hispanic ethnicity can be of any race. Average annual live birth rates are per 1,000 females aged 15-17 years. All Erie County-related rates were calculated using population counts for females aged 15-17 years from the 2000 United States Census.

### Birth Rates for Females Aged 15-17 Years by City of Erie Census Tract, 2003-2008

<u>Census Tract</u>	<u>Females 15-17</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Census Tract</u>	<u>Females 15-17</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	36	2	55.6	16	564	27	47.9
2	462	1	2.2	17	408	34	83.3
3	480	20	41.7	18	378	30	79.4
4	270	18	66.7	19	192	7	36.5
5	342	29	84.8	20	402	17	42.3
6	354	10	28.2	21	270	2	7.4
7	558	70	125.4	22	390	9	23.1
8	498	56	112.4	23	330	7	21.2
9	558	20	35.8	24	300	7	23.3
10	432	16	37.0	25	336	8	23.8
11	300	9	30.0	26	558	18	32.3
12	342	28	81.9	27	750	13	17.3
13	342	21	61.4	28	462	10	21.6
14	96	10	104.2	29	306	2	6.5
15	504	27	53.6	30	378	10	26.5

Notes: Average annual live birth rates are per 1,000 females aged 15-17 years. Rates were calculated using population counts for females aged 15-17 years from the 2000 United States Census. There were a total of 541 births in the City of Erie during 2003-2008, and 538 (99%) of these births could be mapped to a census tract. The overall birth rate for the City of Erie was 46.6 per 1,000.

# 2003-2008 Birth Rates by Census Tract Females Aged 15-17 Years Erie City

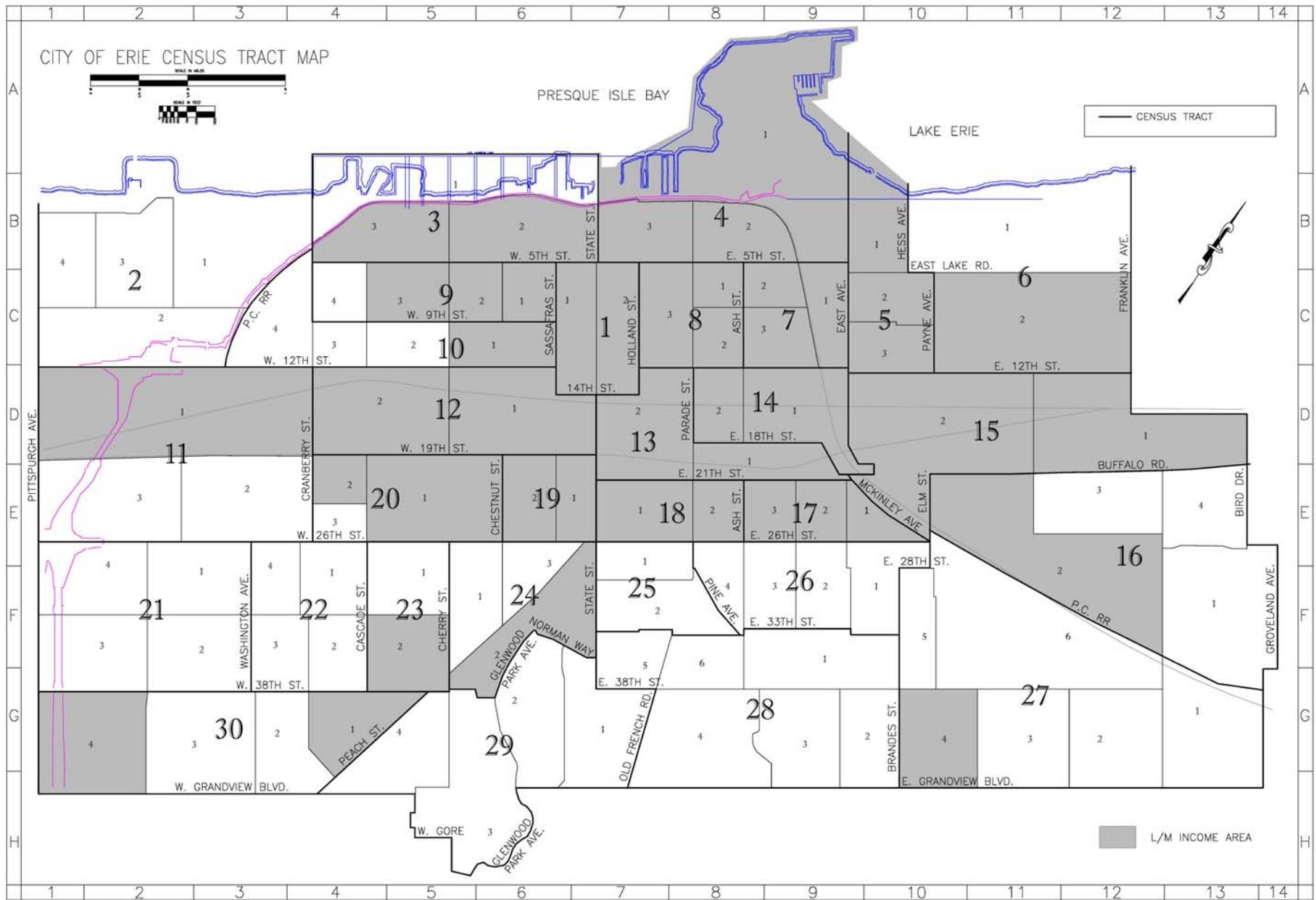


### Birth Rates per 1,000

- 0 - 49
- 50 - 99
- 100 - 150

Erie County Department of Health  
Erie County, PA





Note:  
L/M Income Area denotes low or moderate income area based on the 2000 United States Census.