

31<sup>st</sup> May 2019

**HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Statement in response to Central Statistics Office (CSO) figures: Births to Teenagers 2018.**

The HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) welcomes a further decline in the number of births to teenagers.

Births to teenage mothers have decreased from 3,087 in 2001 to 980 in 2018; a decline of 68% over the 17 year period. This equates to a decrease in the teenage birth rate from 20 per 1000 of women aged 15-19 in population in Ireland in 2001 to 6.3 per 1000 in 2018.

The SHCPP is committed to implementing the National Sexual Health Strategy 2015 – 2020 to improve sexual health and wellbeing and reduce negative sexual health outcomes.

The strategy sets out that all young people will have continued access to and knowledge about sources of age appropriate, trustworthy information and support relating to relationships and sexual health. The SHCPP supports the operationalisation of this by working in partnership with statutory, community and NGO partners. This includes the development of resources for young people and supporting parents and professionals to respond to young people's relationships and sexuality education needs.

Published resources are available free of charge from [www.healthpromotion.ie](http://www.healthpromotion.ie). These include the 'Busy Bodies' booklet, and the 'Talking to Your Young Child about Relationships, Sexuality and Growing Up' resource.

In addition, the SHCPP has comprehensive online information about how to talk to your children aged 12 and under about relationships, sexuality and growing up <http://sexualwellbeing.ie/for-parents>

[www.B4uDecide.ie](http://www.B4uDecide.ie) is a website for 14 – 16 year olds and their parents and teachers, with videos, quizzes, polls and information about healthy relationships.

For information on training available for young people in youth work settings, see here: <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/training/working-with-young-people>

For information on training for parents: <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/training/parents>

Link to CSO data can be found here <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-vs/vitalstatisticsyearlysummary2018/>

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