

Physical and Emotional Health

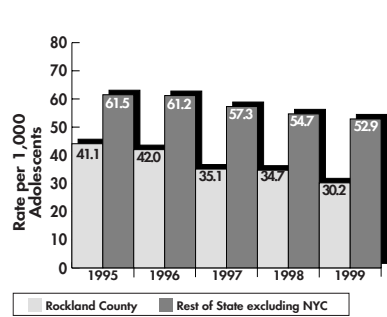


Goal: Children and Youth will have optimal physical and emotional health.

Adolescent Pregnancies Ages 15-19

Source: New York State Department of Health, County Health Indicator Profiles

The number of adolescent pregnancies in Rockland County has decreased significantly from 1995 (395) to 1999 (280). Rockland County's rate decreased more than the rest of the state (30% compared to 12% decrease in rest of state).

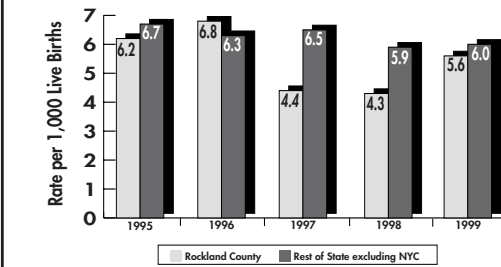


Description: The rate of pregnancies per 1,000 females age 15-19 years.
Significance: Adolescent mothers are less likely than other adolescents to complete high school and marry. They are more likely to have large families and live in poverty. Their children are at greater risk of infant mortality and poor health.

Infant Mortality

Source: New York State Department of Health, County Health Indicator Profiles

Rockland County has maintained lower infant mortality rates in comparison to the rest of the state from 1995 (26 infant deaths) until 1999 (25 infant deaths).



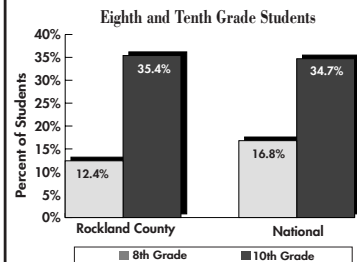
Description: The deaths per 1,000 live births in infants who are less than 1 year of age.

Significance: Infant mortality is a measure of population health and is used as a worldwide indicator of health status and well being.

2001 Students Using Alcohol Monthly

Source: 2001 Rockland Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) Survey.

There is a slightly greater percentage of alcohol use reported by 10th Grade students in Rockland County in comparison to national norms. Among 5th and 8th grade students, there is less regular alcohol usage reported in Rockland County than reported is nationally.



Description: This indicator includes the use of all alcoholic beverages – beer, wine, wine coolers, and hard liquor. There were subtle differences in the design and application of the fifth grade surveys in comparison to the other Grades.

Significance: Adolescents who use alcohol are more vulnerable to alcohol dependency and developmental disabilities than adults because of neurological immaturity and incomplete muscle and body mass development. Social drinking disrupts the development of interpersonal skills and may result in a decrease in impulse control and an increase in sexual pressure and engaging in risky behaviors.

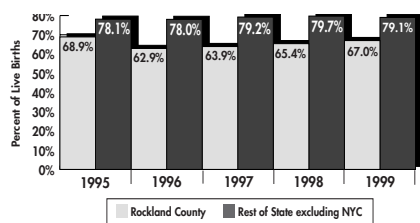
5th Grade Students

Percent Monthly Alcohol Use		
Type of Alcohol	Rockland County	National
Beer	0.6%	2.3%
Wine Coolers	0.6%	2.5%
Other Liquor	0.3%	0.9%

Births to Women Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Three Months of Pregnancy

Source: New York State Department of Health, County Health Indicator Profiles

There is a lower percentage of Rockland County women receiving prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy in comparison to the rest of the state from 1995 until 1999.



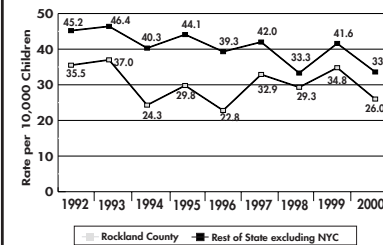
Description: The percent of all live births to women who began receiving prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy.

Significance: Prenatal care can contribute to reductions in perinatal illness, disability, and death by identifying and mitigating potential risks and helping women to address behavioral factors that contribute to poor outcomes. Prenatal care is more likely to be effective if women begin receiving care early.

Asthma Hospitalization Rate of Children Ages Birth to 4 Years Old

Source: New York State Department of Health, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS), Bureau of Biometrics

The rate at which children birth to 4 years are hospitalized for asthma has been consistently lower for Rockland County than for the rest of the state. In 2000, there were 47 asthma hospitalizations for children 4 years old and under in Rockland County.



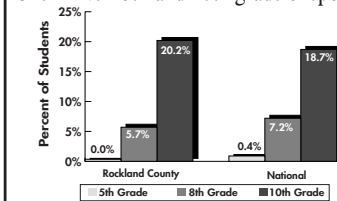
Description: The number of hospitalizations per 10,000 children, birth to 4 years old, in Rockland County. This is not representative of the number of children with asthma, just the number of hospitalizations for children with asthma.

Significance: Asthma is one of the most common chronic diseases in childhood. Without effective management, asthma can have serious negative consequences for the health and functioning of involved children.

2001 Students Using Marijuana Monthly

Source: 2001 Rockland Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) Survey

Regular marijuana use among Rockland County 5th and 8th grade students is much less than the national norms. However, there is higher Rockland usage reported among 10th grade students than nationally. One in five Rockland 10th graders report using marijuana monthly.



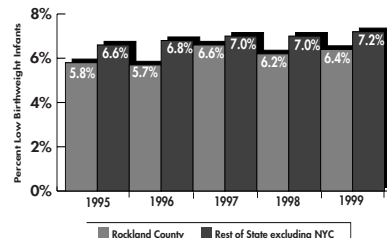
Description: Survey responses from more than 6,000 students relating to monthly marijuana use by students in seven Rockland County school districts.

Significance: Marijuana use is a major public health problem in the United States. Acute intoxication with marijuana interferes with many aspects of mental functioning and has serious acute effects on perception and skilled performance, such as driving and other complex tasks involving judgement or fine motor skills. Of special concerns are the long-term developmental effects in children and adolescents who are particularly vulnerable to the drug's behavioral and psychological effects.

Low Birth Weight Infants (Less than 5 Pounds)

Source: New York State Department of Health, County Health Indicator Profiles

The percentage of low birth weight infants born in Rockland County has increased slightly (0.6%) from 1995 to 1999. Rockland County had the same percentage increase as rest of the state. In 1999, there were 290 low-birth weight babies born in Rockland County.



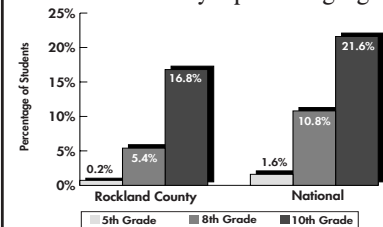
Description: Low birth weight is generally categorized as infants born at less than 2,500 grams (about 5 pounds). This category includes infants born pre-term and infants born full term but who are too small.

Significance: Low birth weight is a major cause of infant mortality. Additionally, low birth weight is associated with increased incidence of health and developmental problems in infants.

2001 Students Using Cigarettes Monthly

Source: 2001 Rockland Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) Survey

Rockland County has a lower percentage of 5th, 8th and 10th grade students using cigarettes on a regular basis compared to national norms. However, one in six 10th graders in Rockland County report using cigarettes monthly.



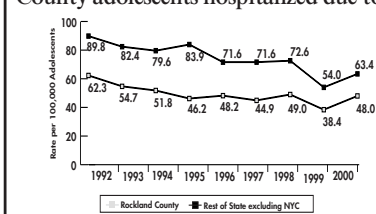
Description: Survey responses from more than 6,000 students representing seven Rockland County school districts.

Significance: Tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of death and disease in the U.S. Approximately 80% of adult smokers started smoking before age 18. Responses allow the community to assess both prevalence and patterns of current tobacco use in youth.

Youth Hospitalizations Due to Self-Inflicted Injuries Ages 10-19

Source: New York State Department of Health, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS), Bureau of Biometrics

The rate of hospitalization due to self-inflicted injuries of adolescents 10 to 19 years have lessened over the years. In comparison to the rest of New York State, Rockland County has consistently lower rates. In 2000, there were 20 Rockland County adolescents hospitalized due to self-inflicted injuries.



Description: The rate per 100,000 adolescents 10-19 year olds who were hospitalized due to self-inflicted injuries.

Significance: Rate of hospitalizations due to self-inflicted injuries is an indicator of suicide attempts and mental health status of adolescents. In 1996 suicide was the third leading killer of young persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years old in New York State. Suicide attempts can be prevented in many cases by early recognition and treatment of mental disorders.