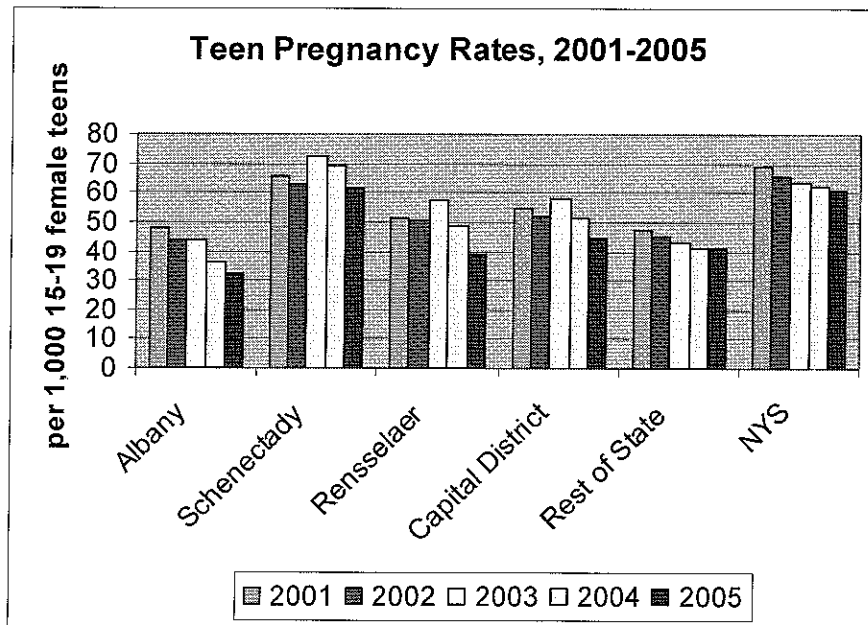
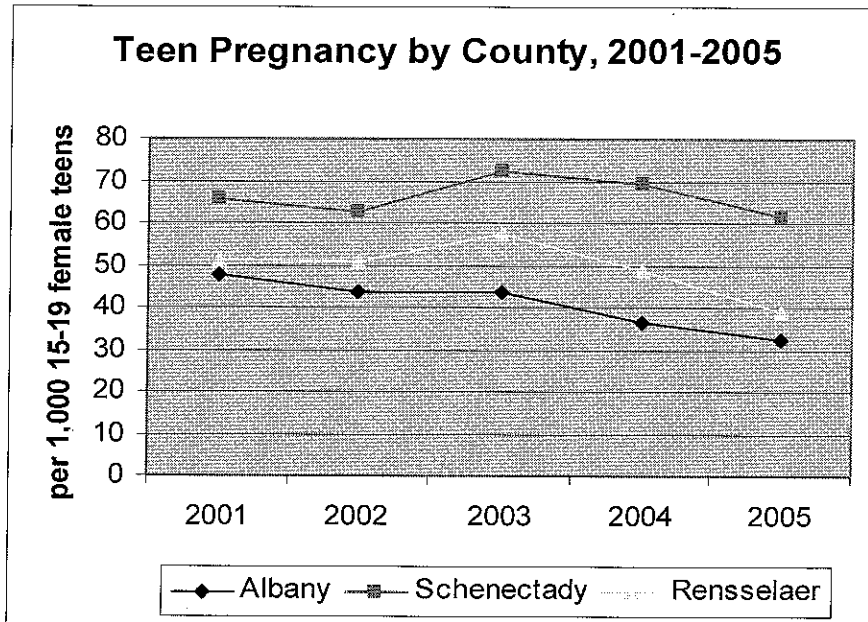


## Adolescent Pregnancy

Nationally, the rate of pregnancy for teens aged 15-19 has declined in recent years to its lowest level in thirty years.<sup>i</sup> Teens age 15-19 account for 10.2% of all pregnancies in New York State, and 9.9% within the Capital Region. While seemingly a small proportion which continues to decline, Capital Region teen pregnancies totaled 887 – a substantial number given the number of teens per the total childbearing age population. Decreased rates have been attributed to a combination of factors, such as increased contraceptive use (especially condoms), increased use of injectable contraceptive devices (e.g., Depo Provera), and decreased sexual activity or abstinence.<sup>ii</sup>

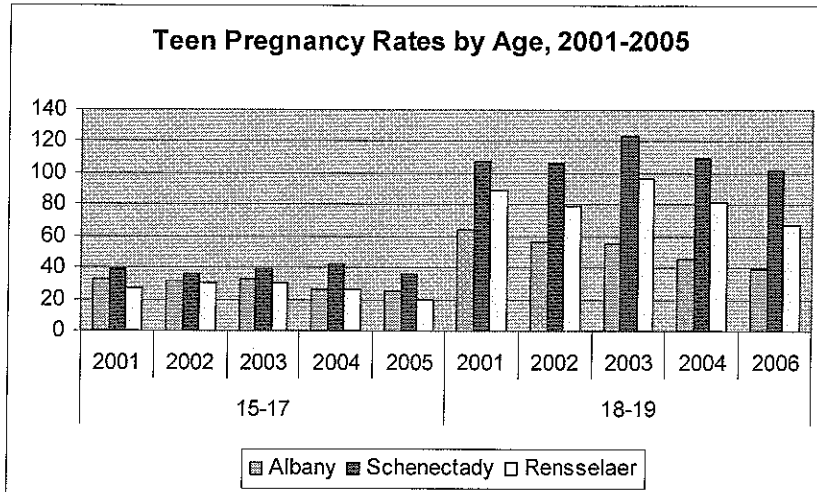


\*Rest of state = New York State numbers excluding New York City

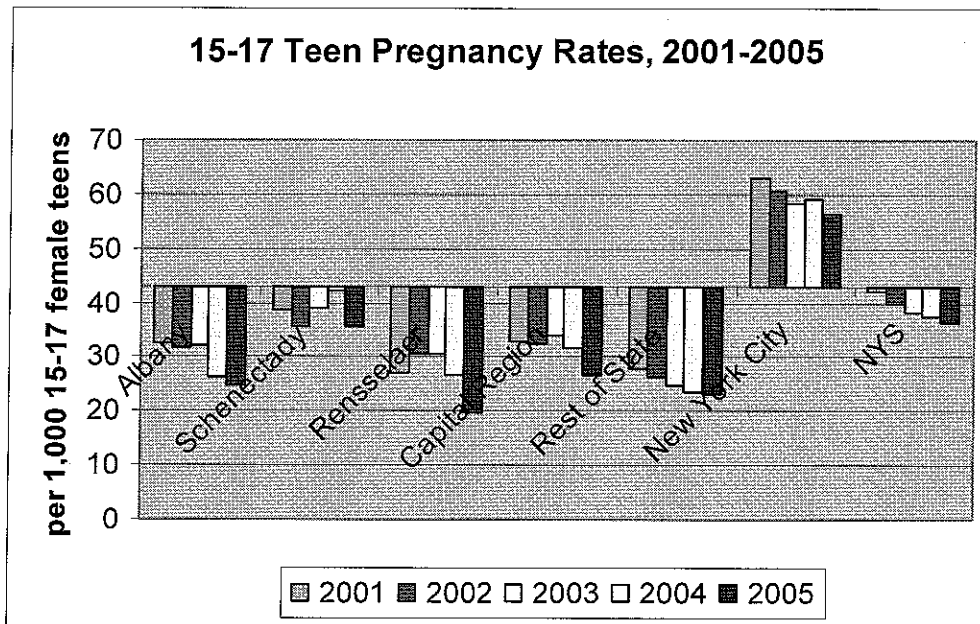


Currently the region and the state are following the same trend. New York State has similarly experienced a decline in the overall teen pregnancy rate, from 69.1 per 1,000 in 2001 to 60.7 per 1,000 in 2005. The Capital Region has also demonstrated an overall decline in the teen pregnancy rate, from 55.0 in 2001 to 44.2 in 2005. Within the region, the rate decreased in all counties from 2001 to 2005: Albany County (47.9 to 32.1) Rensselaer County (51.4 to 39.2) and Schenectady County (65.7 to 61.3).

A closer demographic analysis reveals that in age groups 15-17 and 18-19 in Albany County there was a steady decrease. Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties showed fluctuations with overall decrease with Schenectady showing the greatest variation in these age groups.



The *Healthy People 2010 Objective 9-7* targets a subset of teens ages 15-17. The goal is 43.0 pregnancies per 1,000 15-17 year old teens. The Capital Region along with the rest of New York State, excluding New York City, have successfully met this objective.



\*Rest of state = New York State numbers excluding New York City

The repercussions associated with teenage pregnancy are high and include being<sup>iii</sup>:

- Less likely to complete high school or college
- Less likely to get or stay married (thus reducing support)
- More likely to require public assistance
- More likely to live in poverty than teens who are not mothers

Birth outcomes for adolescents are more problematic, with infants born to teenage mothers more likely to be at higher risk of low birthweight, neonatal death, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

Children of teen mothers are also at greater risk of child abuse, neglect, and behavioral and educational problems at later stages of life

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i [www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2006/09/12/USIPstats.pdf](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2006/09/12/USIPstats.pdf).

ii <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/releases/00facts/trends.htm>

iii Alan Guttmacher Institute. Sex and America's Teenagers. New York, NY. 1994.