

October 2010

## Teen birth rate at a historic low

*Milwaukee celebrates the third consecutive year of decline*

Commissioner Baker and community partners announced that Milwaukee is on track to reduce teen births by 46% by 2015. Our data shows that there were 44.4 births per 1,000 females aged 15-17 years old in 2009. For that age group, the birth rate has decreased from 46.7 in 2008, 47.1 in 2007, and 52.0 in 2006.

“Our goal of 30 births per 1,000 females is in sight,” said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker, “We’re definitely headed in the right direction.”



The announcement was made on Thursday, October 28 at Council for the Spanish Speaking, a community partner who focuses on teen pregnancy prevention among Hispanics. Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent Gregory Thornton also provided brief remarks.

Betsy Brenner, publisher and president of The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Mary Lou Young, president of United Way of Greater Milwaukee, and Tony Baez, President and CEO of the Council, also joined them at the podium. Gary Mueller, president of Serve, decorated the room with advertisements that have run throughout the campaign.

Commissioner Baker and Brenner are co-chairs of the United Way of Greater Milwaukee advisory committee that set the goal in 2008 of reducing the city's teen birthrate

The remarkable decline in teen birth rate is attributed to the unprecedented, all hands-on-deck approach adopted by the Milwaukee community including local businesses, media outlets, healthcare providers, Milwaukee Public Schools, the State of Wisconsin, and community-based and faith-based organizations and Serve Marketing.