

A Look at Latinos



Latina Teen Pregnancy and Educational Attainment

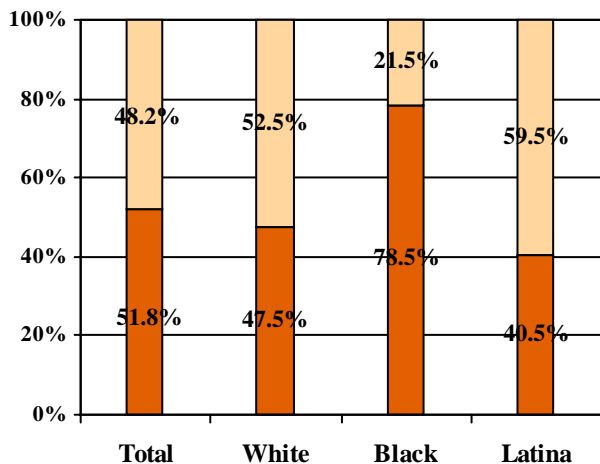
Teen childbearing is closely linked with high school completion; teens who have a child are less likely to complete high school and college than those who delay childbearing until at least age 20.¹ It is also the case that teens who drop out of school are at increased risk for early pregnancy.² Not surprisingly, they are also more likely to be unemployed and to earn less than their peers who stay in school. Early childbearing and parenting not only increase the likelihood that mothers will be poor but also that their children will live in poverty and start school at a disadvantage.

- Over two-thirds (69 percent) of Latina teen moms drop out of high school, compared to 58 percent of teen moms overall.³
- Of those teen moms who drop out, 60 percent of Latina teen moms do so before getting pregnant compared to less than 50 percent of teen moms overall (see figure).⁴
- Latinas who drop out of school at younger ages are more likely to have a teen pregnancy than their peers who drop out at an older age.⁵

- Hispanic teens and young adults (ages 16-24) are twice as likely as non-Hispanic blacks and four times more likely than non-Hispanic whites to have dropped out of high school.⁶
- Although dropout rates among Hispanic young adults vary by immigration status, the rates are consistently higher than their peers from other racial/ethnic groups.⁷
- Among young adults who have completed high school, a similar proportion of Hispanic U.S. citizens and non-Hispanic whites enroll in college or university—about 4 in 10.⁹
- More than nine in ten Latino parents say that it is very important for their child to get a college education.¹⁰

The relationship between education and teen pregnancy works both ways. That is, teen pregnancy often has a negative impact on education. However, it is also the case that school achievement, attendance, and involvement help reduce the risk of teen pregnancy. Put another way, helping young people with academic achievement will help reduce teen pregnancy.

Time of drop out among teen girls who had a pregnancy by race/ethnicity²



Percent of teen girls who drop out *before* becoming pregnant
 Percent of teen girls who drop out *after* becoming pregnant

SOURCES

1. Hoffman, S.D. (2006). *By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Adolescent Childbearing*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
2. Manlove, J (1998). The Influence of High School Dropout and Social Disengagement on the Risk of School-Age Pregnancy. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 8(2): p. 187-220.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Llagas, C. (2003). *Status and Trends in the Education of Hispanics* (NCES 2003-008), Washington, DC.: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Pew Hispanic Center & Kaiser Family Foundation. (2004). *National Survey of Latinos: Education. Summary and Chartpack*. Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center.

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