

Fast Facts

Teen Pregnancy and Childbearing Among Latino Teens

The United States has made great strides in reducing high rates of teen pregnancy and childbearing, but success has been uneven. Too many teens are still becoming parents, and this problem remains acute in the Latino community. It is also the case that the Latino population is the largest and fastest growing minority group in the United States—by 2025, it is estimated that one-quarter of all teens will be Latino.¹

Key Facts

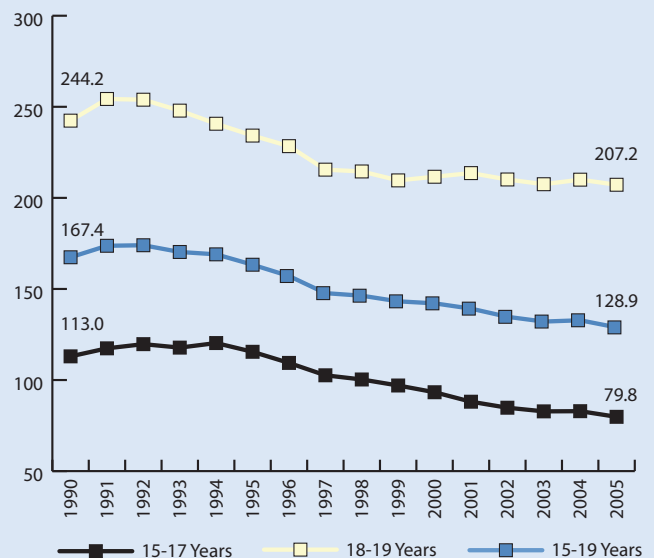
- The Latina teen *birth* rate was 64 births per 1,000 Latina teens in 2009.^{a,2}
- The teen *pregnancy* rate, which factors in both those pregnancies that ended in a birth and those that did not, was 107 per 1,000 Latina teens in 2008 (the most recent pregnancy data available).³
- Over one half (52%) of Latina teens got pregnant at least once before age 20—nearly twice the national average.^{b,4}
- Fortunately, ongoing declines in both the teen pregnancy and the teen birth rate for Latinas suggest a more optimistic outlook, with both rates falling nearly continuously since 1990, and reaching historic lows in the most recent year (2008 for teen pregnancy and 2009 for teen births).

The Details: Pregnancy Data

Overall

The overall teen pregnancy rate declined 42% between 1990 and 2008. The pregnancy rate among Latina teens decreased 34% over this same period (from 162 to 107 pregnancies per 1,000 Latina teens), and declined 7% in the most recent year alone. The pregnancy rate among Latina teens is slightly lower than the rate among black teen girls (107 compared to 117), and is over twice as high as the rate for non-Hispanic white teen girls (43).³

FIGURE 1. Pregnancy Rates Among Latina Teens by Age Group, 1990-2005



By Age Group

In 2005 (the most recent data available by race/ethnicity and age), pregnancies to Latina teens age 18-19 accounted for the majority of pregnancies to Latina teens (Figure 1).⁵

- The teen pregnancy rate for Latina teens under age 15 was 2.5 per 1,000 in 2005. There was no change in the rate between 2004 and 2005, but there has been an overall decrease of 43% since 1990. There were a total of 5,000 pregnancies to Latinas under age 15 in 2005.
- The teen pregnancy rate for Latina teens age 15-17 was 80 per 1,000 in 2005. There was a 4% decrease in the rate between 2004 and 2005, and there has been an overall decrease of 29% since 1990. There were a total of 82,000 pregnancies to Latinas age 15-17 in 2005.

- The teen pregnancy rate for Latina teens age 18-19 was 207 per 1,000 in 2005. There was 1% decrease in the rate between 2004 and 2005, and there has been an overall decrease of 15% since 1990. There were a total of 134,000 pregnancies to Latinas age 18-19 in 2005.

By State

- The vast majority of pregnancies to Latina teens occur to those living in Texas and California. To some extent this simply reflects the fact that these two states account for a large share of the nation's population, as well as a particularly large share of the Latino population.
- The Latina teen pregnancy rate also varied widely by state. In 2005 (the most recent data available by state), these rates ranged from a low of 43 per 1,000 in West Virginia to a high of 228 per 1,000 in Alabama.^{c,7} Unlike the number of teen pregnancies, the rate standardizes for differences in population size, and will not necessarily be highest in states with large Latino populations.^{c,7}
- State specific pregnancy rates by race/ethnicity are available in the State Data section of The National Campaign's website at <http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org/state-data>.

The Details: Birth Data

Overall

The overall teen birth rate declined 39% between 1991 and 2009. The birth rate among Latina teens decreased 39% during this same period (from 105 to 64 births per 1,000 Latina teens) and fell by 10% in the last year alone.² Latina teens currently have the highest birth rate among all teens—more than one and a half times higher than the overall teen birth rate.

By Age Group

Similar to teens overall, births to Latina teens age 18-19 accounted for the vast majority of all Latina teen births in 2009. In fact, 65% of all births to Latina teens were to teens age 18-19 (Figure 2).^{d,2,6}

- The birth rate for Latinas age 10-14 years was 1 per 1,000 in 2009. There was a decrease of 9% between 2008 and 2009, and an overall decrease of 58% since 1991. There were 2,073 births to Latinas under age 15 in 2009.
- The birth rate for Latinas age 15-17 years was 37 per 1,000 in 2009. There was a decrease of 12% between 2008 and 2009, and an overall decrease of 46% since 1991. There were 48,018 births to Latinas age 15-17 in 2009.

FIGURE 2. Birth Rates Among Latina Teens by Age Group, 1991-2009

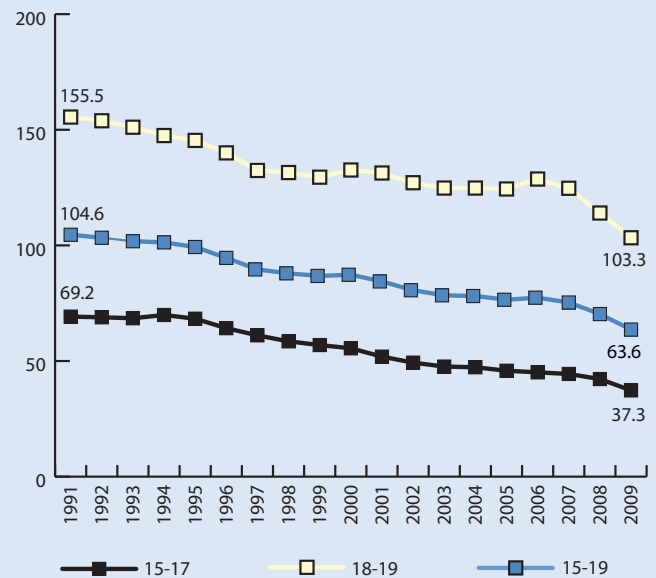
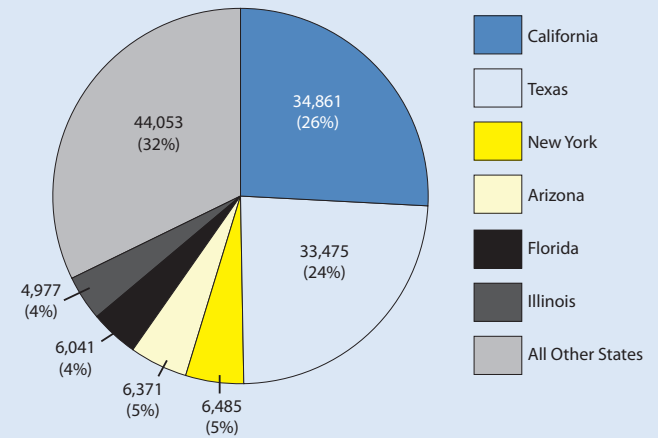


FIGURE 3. Number and Proportion of Latina Teen Births by State, 2009



- The birth rate for Latinas age 18-19 years was 103 per 1,000 in 2009. There was a decrease of 9% between 2008 and 2009, and an overall decrease of 34% since 1991. There were 88,245 births to Latinas age 18-19 in 2009.

By Parity

- Most births to Latina teens are first births. Overall, 78% of births to Latina teens in 2009 were first births—18% were

second births and the remainder were births to Latinas who had two or more previous births.⁶

- Among Latinas who are age 18-19, more than one-quarter of births are to those who are already mothers.

By Marital Status

- Similar to teens overall, the vast majority of births to Latinas are to unmarried teens. In 2009, 85% of births to Latinas were to an unmarried mother.

By State

- In 2009, the *number* of births to Latina teens in California and Texas alone account for half (50%) of all Latina teen births in the United States (Figure 3), although to some extent this simply reflects the fact that these two states account for a large share of the nation's population, as well as a particularly large share of the Latino population, as noted above.
- The Latina teen birth *rate*, on the other hand, was highest in the southeastern United States, and varied dramatically from a low of 35 per 1,000 Latina teens in West Virginia to a high of 161 per 1,000 in Alabama (based on 2008 data—the most recent available for state-level rates by race/ethnicity). Because the rate standardizes for differences in population size, it will not necessarily be highest in states with large Latino populations, as noted above.
- State-specific numbers of teen births by race/ethnicity are available in the State Data section of The National Campaign's website at <http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org/state-data>.

About the Data

Teen pregnancy statistics reported by The National Campaign are derived from published sources. There are currently two similar but distinct time series for teen pregnancy, one reported by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the other reported

by the Guttmacher Institute. In both series, teen pregnancy is calculated using data from: the NCHS (number of births); the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CCDPHP) within CDC (age and race/ethnicity distribution of women obtaining abortions); and the Guttmacher Institute (total number of abortions). Teen pregnancy statistics also include estimates of fetal loss, for which NCHS relies on data from the National Survey of Family Growth, while Guttmacher estimates fetal loss to be 20% of births plus 10% of abortions.^{3,5}

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Note:

- a. Changes in birth rates were calculated using the revised 2009 birth rates published in the 2010 preliminary birth data report.
- b. This statistic only reflects trends through 2006, since that is the most recent data available on Latina teen pregnancy rates by age group.
- c. Note that in 2005, pregnancy rates by state for Latino teens are available for 27 states.
- d. Rates prior to 2001 were taken from the 2009 final birth data report, while revised rates from 2001 to 2009 were taken from the 2010 preliminary birth data report.

References:

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3. Kost, K., & Henshaw, S. (2012). *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2008: National Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity*. Retrieved February 2012, from <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/ustptrends08.pdf>.
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