

Latino Adolescents: Sexual Decision Making and Reproductive Health

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Overview

- Talk about current trends in US and in Latino youth populations
 - Teen Pregnancy
 - STDs
 - HIV/AIDS
- Why this is important
- What can we do
- Resources

Latina Teens Speak Out

“We’re not all just another statistic.
Help us reach our goals.”

Quotes From “Bridging Two Worlds” by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Many teenagers experience pregnancy and STDs

- More than 800,000 women younger than 20 become pregnant each year
- 80% of these pregnancies are unintended
- Nine million teenagers and young adults acquire an STD each year
- Two young people every hour become infected with HIV

Alan Guttmacher Institute, 2005

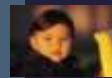
Adolescent Risk Behavior

In 2005 in the United States...

- **46.8%** of high school students report having had sexual intercourse
- **14.3%** of high school students reported having 4 or more sexual partners
- **37.2%** of sexually active high school students reported they did not use a condom during their last sexual intercourse



Center for Disease Control's 2005 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Adolescent Pregnancy

In 2004 in the United States...

- The birth rate for adolescents 15-19 years old was 41.1 births per 1,000 females

In 2004 in Missouri...

- The birth rate for adolescents 15-19 years old was 43.4 births per 1,000 females

CDC National Vital Statistics Reports- Births: Final Data for 2004 Vol. 55 (1)

Adolescent STDs



In 2005 in the United States...

- 15- to 24-year olds acquire **nearly one-half** of all new STDs
- 15- to 19-year-old women had the **highest rate** of gonorrhea (624.7 per 100,000 population) compared to women in all other age categories

Center for Disease Control's 2005 STD Surveillance

Adolescent HIV/AIDS

In 2004 in the United States...

- An estimated **4,883** youth ,ages 13-24, received a diagnosis of HIV infection or AIDS, representing about **13%** of the persons given a diagnosis during that year
- **232** young people with AIDS died



Center for Disease Control, 2004

Latina Teens Speak Out

“Telling us not to have sex is not enough. We need to know why and how sex changes things and we need to know more about how to protect ourselves.”

Quotes From “Bridging Two Worlds” by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Latino Adolescent Risk Behavior



- In 2005, 51% of Latino high school students reported having had sex
- Latino youth have the lowest rate of condom use among all major racial/ethnic groups
- 25.6% of Latino high school students had drunk alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse

Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2005

Latina Teens Speak Out

**“If it happens, it happens.
Lots of people we know have kids.”**

Quotes From “Bridging Two Worlds” by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Latino Adolescent Risk Behavior

- Latina adolescents are more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to have older partners
- Sexual risk-taking increases with greater acculturation



Reproductive Health of Latino Youth in the United States: A Literature Review. Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, 38 (4), 208-219.

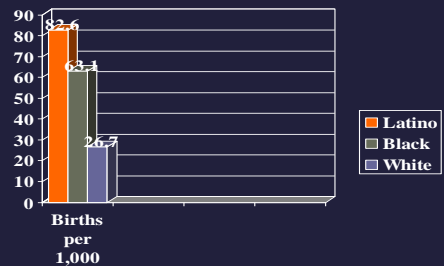
Latina Adolescent Pregnancy



- Latina adolescents have the highest birth rate among all major racial/ethnic groups
- Among Latinas, birth rates are highest for Mexican adolescents (95.5 per 1,000), followed by Puerto Rican adolescents (62.6 per 1,000)

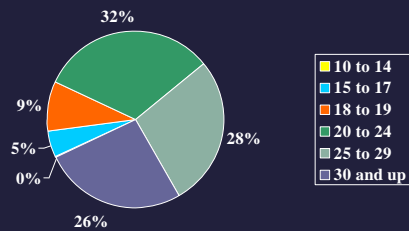
CDC National Vital Statistics Reports- Births: Final Data for 2004. Vol. 55 (1)

2004 Birth Rates for ages 15-19 years in the United States



CDC National Vital Statistics Reports- Births: Final Data for 2004. Vol. 55 (1)

2005 Missouri Latina Births by Age



MO Department of Health and Senior Services 2007

Latina Adolescent Pregnancy

- Latina adolescents are more likely to report their pregnancy as intended than other racial/ethnic groups
- Latino male adolescents are more likely to report that they would be "a little pleased" or "very pleased" if they got a partner pregnant now



Latina Teens Speak Out

"Contraception is more the guy's responsibility."

Quote From "Bridging Two Worlds" by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

AIDS in Hispanics

Of the 918,286 AIDS cases reported to CDC through 2004, Hispanics accounted for

- 19% of total
- 19% of women
- 22% of high risk heterosexuals*
- 23% of children age <13 years

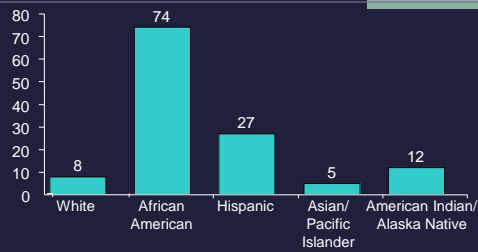
Of AIDS cases reported in 2004, 21% were among Hispanic adults and adolescents.



*High-risk sexual contact with a partner whose blood or at high risk for HIV infection

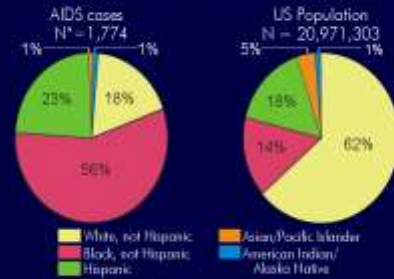


Racial and Ethnic Disparities Persist in Adolescents and Adults



Adult/Adolescent AIDS Annual Rates per 100,000 Population, by Race/Ethnicity, Reported in 2003, United States, CDC

Proportion of AIDS Cases and Population among Young Adults 20 to 24 Years of Age, by Race/Ethnicity Reported in 2004—50 States and DC



Notes: Data based on person's age at AIDS diagnosis. Excludes persons from US dependencies, possessions, and associated nations. *Includes 11 persons of unknown race or multiple races.



Effects on Youth

- STDs and HIV/AIDS can have major negative physical, mental, and emotional ramifications

Giving birth as a teen is associated with:

- Increased poverty
- Increased high school drop-out rates
- Decreased educational attainment



Possible Explanations



- Lack of knowledge about sex and consequences
- Misinformed about sex and contraceptives
- Pressured to engage in sexual acts
- Afraid to ask questions or be tested
- Lack to access of quality health care and/or health insurance

Possible Explanations

- Culture promotes chastity among female youth, but looks somewhat approvingly on sexual activity among male youth
- Culture places high importance on motherhood
- Youth may have less support for academic and career achievement



Latina Teens Speak Out

“We want to talk to our parents, but they just don’t understand.”

Quotes From “Bridging Two Worlds” by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

What We Can Do: Parents

- Educate yourself
- Talk early and often
- Show interest in your children and practice active listening
- Encourage teens to excel in academics and to be involved in extracurricular activities
- Praise them for their achievements



Latina Teens Speak Out

"If you don't want us to have babies, why do you shower us with attention only when there is a baby involved?"

Quotes From "Bridging Two Worlds" by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

What We Can Do: Community

- Encourage faith based organizations to be involved in educating the community about the consequences of adolescent risky behaviors
- Encourage and educate the family unit and supporting adults, not just the teen
- Be careful not to glorify teen pregnancy or view it as a norm
- Peer education



Latina Teens Speak Out

"Let me be me."

"We need to talk with adults who aren't scared to hear the truth and who understand what our life is really like."

Quotes From "Bridging Two Worlds" by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

What We Can Do: Professionals

- View Latino culture as an asset
- Be personal
- Take acculturation into consideration
- Don't use the teen as a translator
- Involve and educate parents on their level



From "Bridging Two Worlds" by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy



What We Can Do: Professionals

- Include teens in program development
- Incorporate goal setting and educational attainment in program design
- Empower teens by providing training and information
- Recognize youth for their efforts, offering incentives and awards

Bridging Two Worlds" by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Helpful Resources

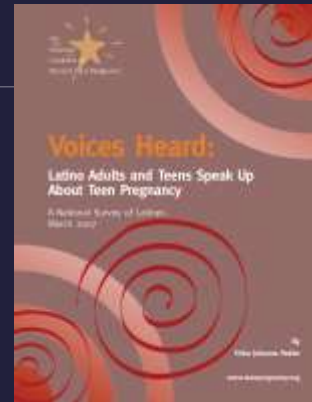
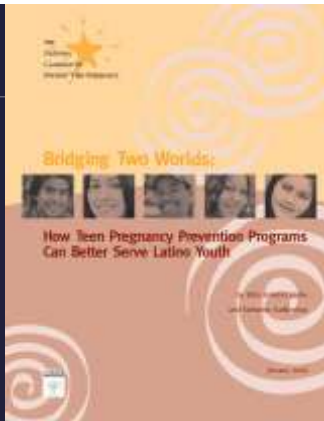


- “Bridging Two Worlds” from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. PDF version can be found at www.teenpregnancy.org
- The Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences can be found online at <http://hjb.sagepub.com>
- The Youth Risk Behavior Survey by the Center for Disease Control can be found online at <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth>

www.teenpregnancy.org

National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy May 2, 2007

The goal of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy by one-third between 2006 and 2015.



Silence Poster

A locker-sized poster (11 in. x 14 in.) featuring the following message:

- Spanish:
Tu silencio puede cambiar la vida de una quinceañera. Más de 3 de cada 5 adolescentes latinas quedan embarazadas, por lo menos una vez, antes de los 20 años. No permitas que las ideas anticuadas y la timidez te impidan hablar con tus hijos, chicas y chicos por igual. Ellos necesitan escuchar tus consejos acerca de las relaciones, el amor y el sexo. No evites estos temas; mejor ayúdales a evitar el embarazo juvenil.
- English translation:
Your silence can change your teenager's life. More than 3 out of 5 Latino girls become pregnant, at least once, by age 20. Don't allow old-fashioned ideas and shyness/timidity to keep you from talking to your kids, girls and boys equally. They need to listen to your advice on relationships, love and sex. Don't avoid these topics; better help them prevent teen pregnancy.



Zipper Poster

A locker-sized poster (11 in. x 14 in.) featuring the following message:

- Spanish:
Si nos cerramos, esto puede abrirse. Más de 3 de cada 5 adolescentes latinas salen embarazadas, por lo menos una vez, antes de los 20 años. Los padres podemos ser parte del problema o de la solución. Si quieres ayudar, deja a un lado las ideas anticuadas y la vergüenza, y háblale a tus hijos: chicos y chicas por igual. Mientras más abierto seas con ellos sobre las relaciones, el amor y sus consecuencias, mejor preparados estarán para evitar el embarazo juvenil.
- English translation:
If we close [shut] down, this could open up. More than 3 out of 5 Latino girls become pregnant, at least once, by age 20. As parents we can be part of the problem or part of the solution. If you want to help, set aside old-fashioned ideas and embarrassment and talk to your kids; girls and boys equally. The more open you are with them about relationships, love and its consequences, the better prepared they'll be to prevent teen pregnancy.

Thank You

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