



Adolescent Birth Rate Increases After Long-Term Decline

According to a new report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the adolescent birth rate is on the rise following an annual decline between 1991 and 2005. Among girls aged 15-17 years, the birth rate increased 3% between 2005 and 2006 (21.4 vs. 22.0 live births per 1,000 population in 2005 and 2006 respectively). Preliminary 2007 data indicate an additional rate increase of 1%, reaching 22.2 live births per 1,000 population. Hispanic juveniles in this age group experienced a higher birth rate than any other racial/ethnic group in 2006 (47.9 live births per 1,000 population, compared to 36.2 among non-Hispanic African Americans, 30.7 among American Indian/Alaska Natives, 11.8 among non-Hispanic Whites, and 8.8 among Asian/Pacific Islanders). Non-Hispanic African Americans had the most significant rate increase between 2005 and 2006 – 3.7% (34.9 vs. 36.2 live births per 1,000 population in 2005 and 2006, respectively). Unlike any other racial/ethnic group, Hispanics experienced a rate decrease (1.2%) during this time (48.5 vs. 47.9 live births per 1,000 population).

Live Birth Rates Among Females Aged 15-17, per 1,000 Population (1990-2006)



Sources: Gavin, L. et al. (2009). "Sexual and Reproductive Health of Persons Aged 10-24 years — United States, 2002-2007." *MMWR*, #58(SS06);1-58. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 28, 2009, from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5806a1.htm>.

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