

Utah Health Status Update:

Adolescent Births Among the Latina Community

December 2008

Utah Department of Health

Over the past 15 years, there has been much progress in reducing overall birth rates among U.S. and Utah teens. However, this progress has not been uniform over all ethnicities. Too many teens are still becoming parents, and nowhere is the problem more evident than among the Latino community.¹ This issue of the Health Status Update highlights national and state Latina teen pregnancy and birth rate trends, risk factors, and current programs addressing the problem.

National Data

The national Latina teen pregnancy rate is almost twice the overall national average and has declined about half as fast as the overall national rate. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy estimates that 53% of Latinas will become pregnant at least once by age 20 (compared to 30% for all ethnicities). Latinas have the highest teen pregnancy and birth rates of any major ethnic/racial minority in the country. Since 1995, Latinas have had the highest teen birth rate among the major racial/ethnic groups in the U.S. (see Figure 1).¹

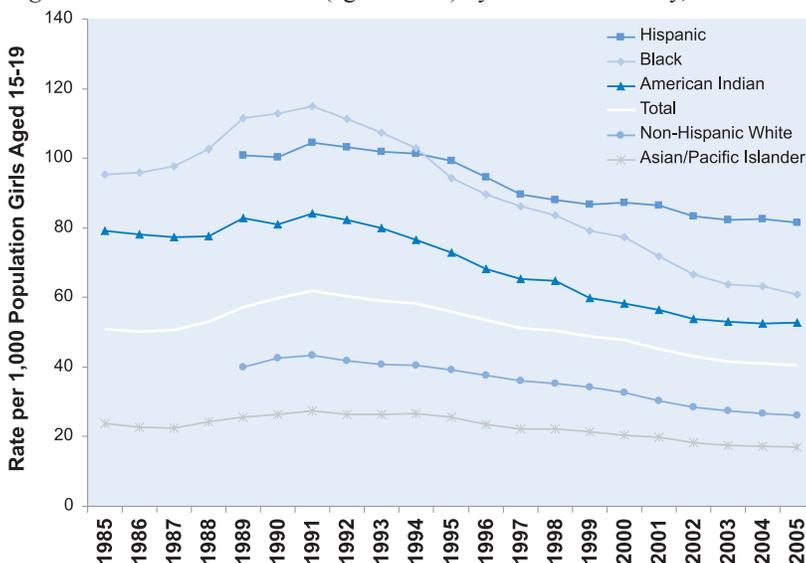
The Latino population is the largest and fastest growing minority group in the United States. At the current rate of increase, by 2025, one-quarter of all teens will be Latino. Therefore, behavioral trends among Latino teens not only affect the Latino community, but will also have an increasingly significant impact on the nation as a whole.¹

Utah Data

Utah's overall teen birth rate for 2007 is 34.6 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19. According to the most recent national data (2006), the national teen birth rate is 41.9 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19. Although Utah has a lower birth rate than the nation (see Figure 2), there are populations within Utah that have rates higher than the nation. When Utah's teen population is broken down by race and ethnicity, the highest birth rates occur among Latina girls aged 15–19. In 2007, the birth rate among Latina teens was 114.9 per 1,000

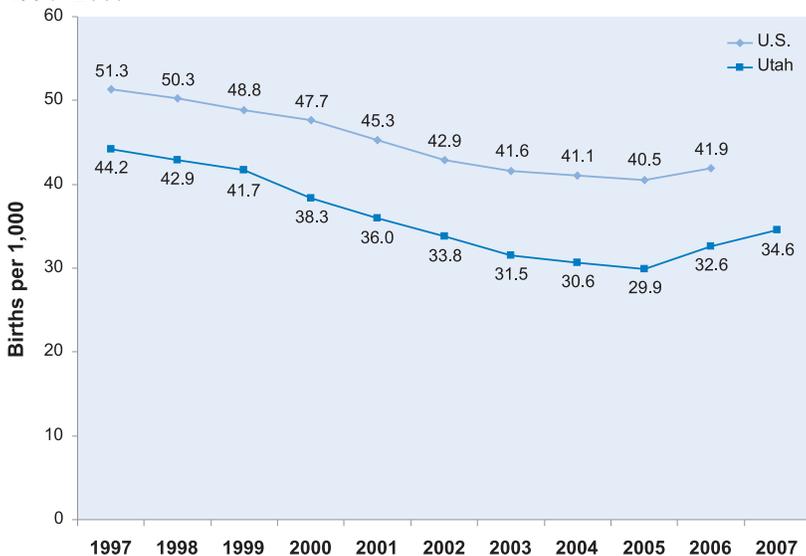
National Teen Birth Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 1. U.S. teen birth rates (ages 15–19) by race and ethnicity, 1985–2005



Teen Births: Utah vs. U.S.

Figure 2. Number of births per 1,000 females age 15–19, Utah and U.S., 1997–2007



females aged 15–19. Figure 3 shows the Utah non-Latina and Latina birth rates for the past 5 years. As the data show, in 2007, the Latina rate is at its highest in 5 years.

Causes for Rise in Teen Birth Rates

The overall U.S. and Utah teen birth rates, as well as the Latina birth rates have risen over the past couple of years. Federal experts from both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the

National Campaign to Prevent Teenage and Unplanned Pregnancy are uncertain why the teen pregnancy and birth rates have risen, and indicate that there is insufficient data to say whether it is yet a trend. Early sexual behavior among teens may be influenced by many complex factors such as poor-quality family relationships, non-voluntary sexual experiences, poverty, lack of supportive adult role models, and negative outlooks on the future. These influences may also interact with other factors such as substance use, risky sexual behaviors (e.g., multiple partners, poor contraceptive use), and low academic achievement. Other factors that might influence sexual behavior among teens include peer pressure, media/societal influences, religious beliefs, and cultural factors.

Prevention Efforts in Utah

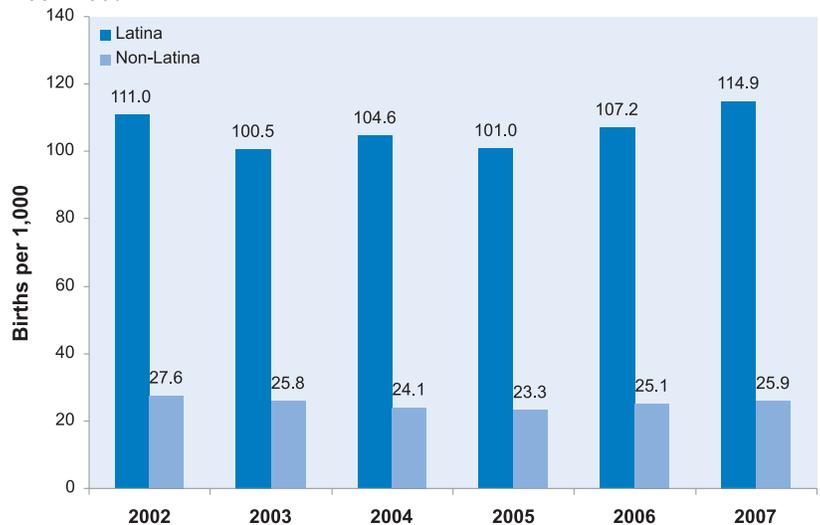
The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and its partners continue their work to prevent teenage pregnancy. The department is helping to educate teens and parents by directing federal funds for the Utah Abstinence Education Program to six community-based programs that target 9–19 year-olds. In 2007, the Utah Adolescent Health Network was chosen to pilot the “Parents Matter” program developed by the CDC. Utah used the funding to implement a Spanish language version of this program for Latino parents. The program teaches parents and guardians how to effectively talk with their kids about sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy prevention. This program will continue to be offered as funding is available.

References:

1. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. Fact Sheet: A Look at Latinos. An overview of Latina Teen Pregnancy & Birth Rates. May 2008.
2. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. Fact Sheet: A Look at Latinos. Nationwide Trends for Latina Teen Births Rates. January 2008.

Utah Teen Birth Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 3. Number of births per 1,000 females age 15-19 by ethnicity, Utah, 2002-2007



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Breaking News, November 2008

Who Is on Medicaid?

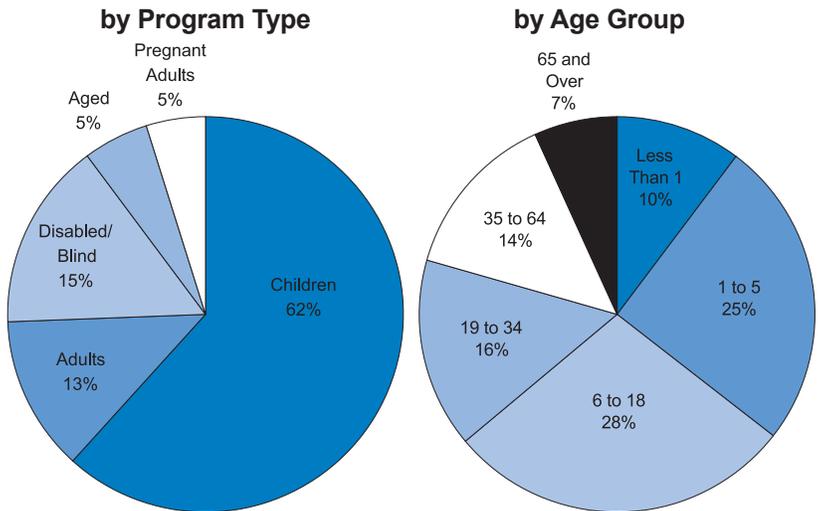
Currently, around 172,000 Utahns are enrolled in one of the Medicaid programs (not including PCN). Medicaid clients qualify for a variety of reasons and come from a variety of backgrounds. Some enrollees are “categorically needy,” due to lack of income or resources, or due to disabilities, blindness, or old age. Others are considered “medically needy” because they have health care needs that exceed their ability to pay. Here’s a brief overview of the breakdowns of the program types and ages of people on Medicaid.

There are many types of Medicaid programs. For simplicity we have combined them into five basic types. Children comprise the largest group by far (62%), followed by the disabled/blind (15%) and adults (13%). Pregnant women and the aged account for 5% each.

In terms of age, Medicaid enrollees cover the entire range of the age distribution from newborns to centenarians.

- 10% are less than 1 year old.
- 64% are under the age of 19.
- 30% are between the ages of 19 and 64.
- 7% are over the age over 65.
- 70% of Medicaid adults (19 or older) are females.

Percentage Distribution of Utah Medicaid Enrollees on 11-18-2008

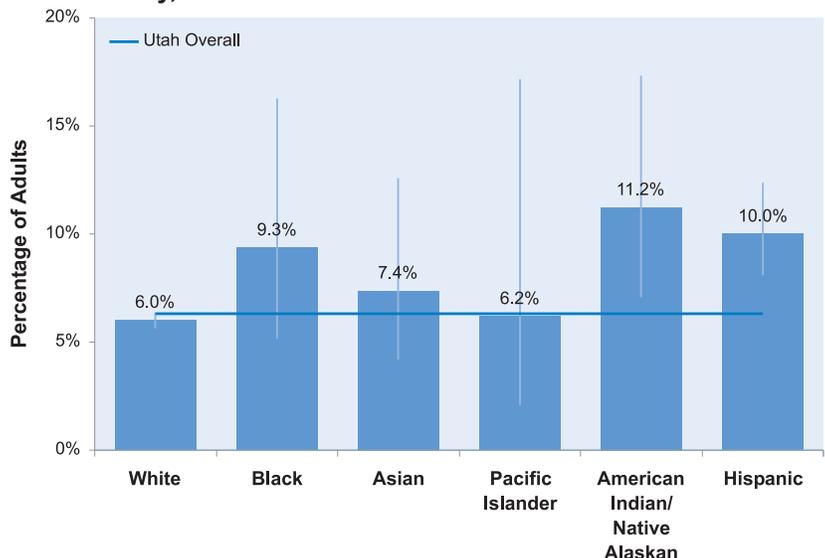


Community Health Indicators Spotlight, November 2008

Diabetes by Race and Ethnicity

Diabetes is a leading cause of death and disability. The American Diabetes Association estimates the annual costs of medical care and lost productivity in the U.S. to be \$174 billion. Approximately 124,000 Utah residents have been diagnosed with diabetes. Members of minority racial and ethnic groups generally have a greater risk of developing diabetes than the non-Hispanic White population. American Indian/Native Alaskan persons have the highest age-adjusted prevalence, 11.2 percent, followed by Hispanic/Latino persons at 10.0 percent. The lowest rate is seen for the non-Hispanic White population, 6.0 percent. As the Utah population becomes more diversified, it becomes increasingly important to ensure public health resources are available for members of minority groups with an excess risk.

Age-adjusted Percentages of Utah Adults With Diabetes by Race and Ethnicity, 2005–2007



Source: Utah Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Monthly Health Indicators Report

(Data Through October 2008)

Monthly Report of Notifiable Diseases, October 2008	Current Month # Cases	Current Month # Expected Cases (5-yr average)	# Cases YTD	# Expected YTD (5-yr average)	YTD Standard Morbidity Ratio (obs/exp)
Campylobacteriosis (Campylobacter)	20	28	333	252	1.3
Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli (E. coli)	9	12	78	95	0.8
Hepatitis A (infectious hepatitis)	2	2	12	22	0.6
Hepatitis B (serum hepatitis)	3	4	28	28	1.0
Influenza†	Weekly updates at http://health.utah.gov/epi/diseases/flu				
Measles (Rubeola, Hard Measles)	0	0	0	0	--
Meningococcal Diseases	0	0	9	7	1.3
Norovirus	0	0	9	11	0.8
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	1	44	177	356	0.5
Salmonellosis (Salmonella)	22	28	298	254	1.2
Shigellosis (Shigella)	8	9	36	45	0.8
Varicella (Chickenpox)	74	66	645	524	1.2
Viral Meningitis	9	24	54	151	0.4

Notifiable Diseases Reported Quarterly, 3rd Qtr 2008	Current Quarter # Cases	Current Quarter # Expected Cases (5-yr average)	# Cases YTD	# Expected YTD (5-yr average)	YTD Standard Morbidity Ratio (obs/exp)
HIV	34	21	82	60	1.4
AIDS	8	13	28	36	0.8
Chlamydia	1,471	1,166	4,449	3,327	1.3
Gonorrhea	111	168	390	491	0.8
Tuberculosis	5	10	19	27	0.7

Program Enrollment for the Month of October 2008	Current Month	Previous Month	% Change ^s From Previous Month	1 Year Ago	% Change ^s From 1 Year Ago
Medicaid	172,195	169,227	+1.8%	158,696	+8.5%
PCN (Primary Care Network)	18,780	19,842	-5.4%	19,882	-5.5%
CHIP (Children's Health Ins. Plan)	35,673	35,639	+0.1%	29,158	+22.3%

Medicaid Expenditures (in Millions) for the Month of October 2008	Current Month	Expected/Budgeted for Month	Fiscal YTD	Budgeted Fiscal YTD	Variance - over (under) budget
Capitated Mental Health	\$ 8.9	\$ 8.5	\$ 34.7	\$ 33.9	\$ 0.9
Inpatient Hospital	\$ 22.2	\$ 15.9	\$ 66.8	\$ 58.1	\$ 8.7
Outpatient Hospital	\$ 7.4	\$ 6.9	\$ 25.3	\$ 24.6	\$ 0.7
Long Term Care	\$ 20.0	\$ 16.1	\$ 65.3	\$ 60.3	\$ 5.0
Pharmacy	\$ 10.4	\$ 11.2	\$ 41.5	\$ 46.7	(\$ 5.1)
Physician/Osteo Services‡	\$ 5.9	\$ 5.5	\$ 20.4	\$ 19.2	\$ 1.1
TOTAL HCF MEDICAID	\$ 125.2	\$ 130.9	\$ 438.8	\$ 455.4	(\$ 16.6)

Health Care System Measures	Number of Events	Rate per 100 Population	% Change ^s From Previous Year	Total Charges in Millions	% Change ^s From Previous Year
Overall Hospitalizations (2007)	278,952	9.7%	-0.7%	\$ 4,265.9	+10.1%
Non-maternity Hospitalizations (2007)	164,659	5.6%	-0.9%	\$ 3,554.6	+9.9%
Emergency Department Encounters (2006)	670,168	24.4%	-1.9%	\$ 667.2	+20.6%
Outpatient Surgery (2006)	304,511	11.2%	-3.7%	\$ 1,020.9	+7.7%

Annual Community Health Measures	Current Data Year	Population at Risk	Number Affected	Percent/Rate	% Change ^s From Previous Year
Overweight and Obesity (Adults 18+)	2007	1,865,484	1,080,100	57.9%	+5.5%
Cigarette Smoking (Adults 18+)	2007	1,865,484	218,300	11.7%	+19.4%
Influenza Immunization (Adults 65+)	2007	227,890	173,700	76.2%	+5.7%
Health Insurance Coverage (Uninsured)	2007	2,699,554	287,200	10.6%	-10.4%
Motor Vehicle Crash Injury Deaths	2007	2,699,554	269	10.0 / 100,000	-12.0%
Suicide Deaths	2007	2,699,554	368	13.6 / 100,000	-0.1%
Diabetes Prevalence	2007	2,699,554	127,000	4.7%	+15.0%
Coronary Heart Disease Deaths	2007	2,699,554	1,531	56.7 / 100,000	-5.1%
All Cancer Deaths	2007	2,699,554	2,547	94.3 / 100,000	-5.1%
Births to Adolescents (Ages 15-17)	2007	61,060	1,133	18.6 / 1,000	+13.5%
Early Prenatal Care	2007	55,063	43,728	79.4%	+0.5%
Infant Mortality	2007	55,063	284	5.2 / 1,000	+2.5%
Childhood Immunization (4:3:1:3:3:1)	2007	51,449	40,200	78.1%	+14.7%

† Influenza activity has been sporadic in Utah. Influenza-like illness activity is below baseline statewide. As of November 19, 2008, 10 influenza-associated hospitalizations have been reported to the UDOH. More information can be found at <http://health.utah.gov/epi/diseases/flu>.

§ % Change could be due to random variation.

‡ Medicaid payments reported under Physician/Osteo Services do not include enhanced physician payments.

Notes: Population estimates were updated since last month's report using the Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2008 Baseline (revised 7/23/08). Data for notifiable diseases are preliminary and subject to change upon the completion of ongoing disease investigations. Active surveillance for West Nile virus has ended until the 2009 season.