

Teen Pregnancy **Facts Sheet**

Teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy among young adults is at the root of a number of important public health and social challenges.

How prevalent is it? Rates of teen pregnancy are higher in the United States than they are in other industrialized countries, partly because of lower contraceptive use among American adolescents. One-third of the girls in the U.S. get pregnant at least once by age 20. Of those, about a quarter of teen moms will have a second child within 24 months of their first baby. In 2011, a total of 329,797 babies were born to women aged 15–19 years, for a live birth rate of 31.3 per 1,000 women in this age group.

Teen Birth Rates (births per 1,000 females aged 15-19), 2011, U.S. versus states with high Native American Population:

United States	Oklahoma	Arizona	New Mexico
31.3	47.8	38.5	48.8

Teens who give birth face serious consequences: Adolescent females may be more susceptible to STDs than older women. Teen girls have fewer antibodies to STDs and may have a higher risk of cervical infections. The maternal death rate for teens under age 15 is two and a half times greater than that of mothers aged 20 to 24. Babies born to teens younger than 15 are more than twice as likely to weigh less than 6 pounds at birth and are three times more likely to die in the first 28 days of life than babies born to older mothers. The children of teenage mothers are more likely to have lower school achievement and drop out of high school, have more health problems, be incarcerated at some time during adolescence, give birth as a teenager, and face unemployment as a young adult.

Prevention strategies: Evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs, access to youth-friendly clinical services, parents/guardians and other trusted adults also play an important role in

Important things to remember:

- ◆ Barriers to contraceptive access, poverty, and structural exclusion and disadvantage all contribute to young people's ability and motivation to prevent unintended pregnancy.
- ◆ Sexuality education courses do not increase the likelihood of sexual activity among younger teens. In fact, of those who waited until age 18 to start having sexual intercourse, nearly 61 percent of women and almost 52 percent of men, had attended a sexuality education course.

For more information visit: www.cdc.gov, www.hhs.gov, www.thenationalcampaign.org

National Indian Women's Health Resource Center

228 South Muskogee Ave., Tahlequah, OK 74464 Phone-918-456-6094 Fax-918-456-8128

Vision: American Indian and Alaska Native women and families living a healthy, balanced life.



Mission: To empower American Indian and Alaska Native women and families to build happy, healthy communities.