Minnesota Birth Rates

In 2016, the birth rate for American Indian youth was nearly five times greater and the birth rates for Black and Latinx* youth in Minnesota are three times greater than that of White youth.

From 2015 to 2016 birth rates decreased among adolescents in every racial group except American Indian youth, which increased by 5.9%. The birth rate fell most markedly among Asian/Pacific Island youth, which saw declines of 14.3%.

*Latinx is a gender-neutral alternative to Latino or Latina.

Minnesota Adolescent Birth Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2015-2016 (Ages 15-19, Per 1,000 Population)

Trends in Minnesota Birth Rates

Adolescents constitute only 7% of the Minnesota state population, which means that birth rates calculated over a three-year time period are more reliable when assessing trends over time. Despite an accelerated decline in birth rates among adolescents of color since 2007, racial and ethnic minorities continue to have higher birth rates than white populations, suggesting unequal access to reproductive health care education and services.

Note: The term “Black” is used rather than “African American” in order to be consistent with state and national racial categories and because the data presented in this racial category includes both foreign-born and U.S.-born populations.

National Comparison

In 2011, the birth rate among Latinx youth in Minnesota fell below the national rate for the first time in 18 years. Although 2012 marked an increase, 2016 yielded a slight lower-than-national rate once again. Despite the decrease in birth rates experienced by Asian/Pacific Islander youth in Minnesota, rates still remain higher than national figures. The slight increase in birth rates experienced by American Indian youth in Minnesota maintains a significantly higher rate than national figures.

In comparison, 2016 marked the seventh year in a row that the birth rate among Black youth in Minnesota was lower than the national rate.

Adolescent Birth Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin, Minnesota vs United States, 2016 Aged 15-19 per 1,000 population

1 Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2018.
2 MDH, Center for Health Statistics, 2016 Birth Data.
4 The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. 50-State and National Comparisons thenationalcampaign.org/data/state/minnesota.