In 2015, the birth rates for Black, American Indian, and Hispanic/Latina youth in Minnesota were more than three times greater than that of White youth. From 2014 to 2015 birth rates decreased among adolescents in every racial group except American Indians. The birth rate fell most markedly among black and Hispanic/Latina youth, which saw declines of 20% and 17%, respectively. The birth rate among American Indians increased very slightly, by just less than 1%.²

*Hispanic/Latina youth may be of any race.

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.

In 2015, the birth rate among Hispanic/Latina youth in Minnesota fell below the national rate for the first time in 18 years. Although 2012 marked an increase, 2015 yielded a 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.² The slight increase in birth rates experienced by American Indian youth in Minnesota maintains a significantly higher rate than national figures.

In comparison, 2015 marked the sixth year in a row that the birth rate among Black youth in Minnesota was lower than the national rate.³

Trends in Minnesota Birth Rates³
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1 Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2017.
2 MDH, Center for Health Statistics, 2015 Birth Data.
4 The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. 50-State and National Comparisons thenationalcampaign.org/data/state/minnesota.