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### Recent Changes in the Trends of Teen Birth Rates, 1981–2006

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#### Abstract

##### Purpose

To explore trends in teen birth rates by selected demographics.

##### Methods

We used birth certificate data and joinpoint regression to examine trends in teen birth rates by age (10–14, 15–17, and 18–19 years) and race during 1981–2006 and by age and Hispanic origin during 1990–2006. Joinpoint analysis describes changing trends over successive segments of time and uses annual percentage change (APC) to express the amount of increase or decrease within each segment.

##### Results

For teens younger than 18 years, the decline in birth rates began in 1994 and ended in 2003 (APC:  $-8.03\%$  per year for ages 10–14 years; APC:  $-5.63\%$  per year for ages

2003 (APC: a -0.05% per year for ages 10ac 17 years, APC: a -0.05% per year for ages 15ac 17 years). The downward trend for 18- and 19-year-old teens began earlier (1991) and ended 1 year later (2004) (APC: a ^2.37% per year). For each study population, the trend was approximately level during the most recent time segment, except for continuing declines for 18- and 19-year-old white and Asian/Pacific Islander teens. The only increasing trend in the most recent time segment was for 18- and 19-year-old Hispanic teens. During these declines, the age distribution of teens who gave birth shifted to slightly older ages, and the percentage whose current birth was at least their second birth decreased.

## Conclusions

Teen birth rates were generally level during 2003/2004ac 2006 after the long-term declines. Rates increased among older Hispanic teens. These results indicate a need for renewed attention to effective teen pregnancy prevention programs in specific populations.



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## Keywords

Teen pregnancy; Family planning; Birth certificates

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