

Kelly Marquet – Data on U.S. Teen Pregnancy

Research to help inform your interview with Kelly, with links to resources.

In the United States, one of every ten births involves a teen mother. According to a September 2006 report by the Guttmacher Institute, the following statistics characterize teenage pregnancy in the US:

1. Three-quarters of a million teens between 15 and 19 become pregnant each year.

2. Very few teens who become mothers plan on doing so.

Out of all teen pregnancies, 82% are unintended. Teen pregnancy accounts for 20% of all unplanned pregnancies annually.

3. Two-thirds of teen pregnancies occur among teens 18-19 years old.

4. Teen mothers account for 11% of all births in the US.

5. Out of all teen pregnancies, 57% end in birth.

Another 14% end in miscarriage.

6. Nearly a third of pregnant teenagers choose abortion.

Out of all teenage pregnancies, 29% are terminated by abortion.

7. Black teens have the highest teen pregnancy rate.

For young women age 15-19, black teens are most likely to become pregnant (134 per 1,000 women). Slightly lower rates occur among Hispanics (131 per 1,000) followed by non-Hispanic whites (48 per 1,000).

8. Teens who become pregnant are less likely to attend college.

Although teenage mothers today are more likely to finish high school or earn their GEDs than in the past, pregnant teens are less likely to attend college than teens who do not become pregnant.

9. US teen pregnancy rates are higher than those of other developed countries.



US rates are twice as high as in England and Wales or Canada, and eight times as high as in the Netherlands or Japan.

10. Teen pregnancy rates declined between 1991 and 2005 but are on the rise again.

The teen pregnancy rate reached an all-time high in 1990 with an estimated 116.9 per thousand and an all-time high birth rate of 61.8 births per thousand in 1991. By 2002, the pregnancy rate had dropped to 75.4 per thousand - a decline of 36%. However, a December 2007 report by the Centers for Disease Control shows a 3% increase in teenage pregnancy from 2005 to 2006. In 2009 a slight decrease in some states, but huge increase in others.