

Teenage Pregnancy

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Social Work Policy
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Local Coverage

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• For the first time in 14 years, the percentage of teens having babies is up.

• A Centers For Disease Control And Prevention Report shows that between 2005 and 2006, the birth rate for teens age 15 to 19 rose 3 percent.

• Kayleigh Higgins says "I found out I was pregnant five days after my 15th birthday."

• Kayleigh Higgins from Denver is among thousands of teenagers who had a child at a much younger age than she had planned.

• Kayleigh says "I was a stupid little kid. I was a stupid little Freshman in High School. I was lying to my parents about the whole sex thing."

• Because of her daughter Hannah, Kayleigh made it her mission to educate her peers about teen pregnancy.

• Some experts argue there's one simple way to lower teen birth rates.

• Dr. Mark Schuster says "Parents who talk to their kids about sex, and families where kids understand their parents attitudes about sex, are less likely to have sex, and if they do have sex, more likely to use contraception."

• C-D-C experts say it's too early to tell if the increase in the teen birth rate is a trend, but that it's worth noting, after what had been long term progress in reducing teen pregnancies.

• The CDC report shows a three percent increase in the birth rate for white teenagers, a two percent increase for hispanics and five percent for blacks.

• The report also shows unmarried childbearing reached a new record high. the number of births to single mothers rose close to eight percent in 2006. that's a 20 percent increase from just four years earlier. The biggest jump was among unmarried women age 25 to 29.

National Coverage

- <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/110-h2097/show>
- **H.R.2097 Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Responsibility, and Opportunity Act of 2007**
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- Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Responsibility, and Opportunity Act of 2007 - Authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to local educational agencies, state and local public health agencies, and nonprofit private entities for projects to provide education on preventing teen pregnancies. Gives priority to communities with significantly above averages rates of teen pregnancy. Requires the Secretary to establish criteria to evaluate such projects. Amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to increase authorized appropriations for community learning centers. Authorizes appropriations for physical education programs. Amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reauthorize appropriations for TRIO and GEARUP programs. Authorizes the Secretary to make matching grants to public or nonprofit private entities for demonstrating innovative approaches to prevent teen pregnancies.