

A Look at Latinos



Latina Teen Pregnancy and Educational Attainment

Teen childbearing is closely linked with high school completion; teens who have a child are less likely to complete high school and college than those who delay childbearing until at least age 20.¹ It is also the case that teens who drop out of school are at increased risk for early pregnancy.² Not surprisingly, they are also more likely to be unemployed and to earn less than their peers who stay in school. Early childbearing and parenting not only increases the likelihood that mothers will be poor but also that their children will live in poverty and start school at a disadvantage.

- More than half (54 percent) of Latina teen moms do not complete high school, compared to 34 percent of teen moms overall.³
- Of all Latinas who drop out of high school between their sophomore and senior year, 36 percent cite being pregnant or becoming a mother as a reason they dropped out.⁴
- Overall, Latino teens and young adults (ages 16-24) are twice as likely as non-Hispanic blacks and four times more likely than non-Hispanic whites to have dropped out of high school.⁵

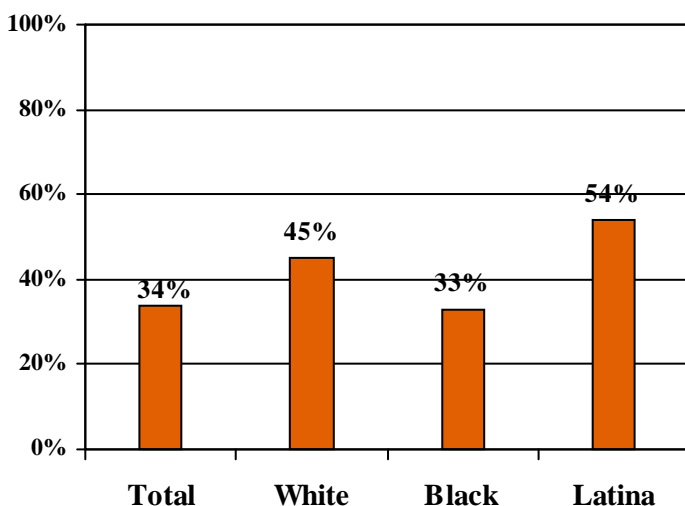
- Dropout rates among Latino young adults vary by immigration status. Even so, Latino drop out rates are consistently higher than those from other racial/ethnic groups.⁶
- Among young adults who have completed high school, a similar proportion of Hispanic U.S. citizens and non-Hispanic whites enroll in college or university—about 4 in 10.⁷
- More than nine in ten Latino parents (91%) and eight in ten Latino teens (84%) believe that graduating from college or university or having a promising career is the most important goal for a teen's future.⁸

The relationship between education and teen pregnancy works both ways. That is, teen pregnancy often has a negative impact on education. However, it is also the case that school achievement, attendance, and involvement help reduce the risk of teen pregnancy. Put another way, helping young people with academic achievement will help reduce teen pregnancy.

SOURCES

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Proportion of Teen Mothers Who Do Not Attain a High School Diploma or GED



This publication made possible by the Abbott Fund

May 2010

