Teen pregnancy in the United States is higher when the nativity of the mother is inside the US

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Abstract

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Methods

VSS data from the NCHS were used in the analysis. Years studied: 1995 to 2002. Variables used: Maternal Age, Maternal place of birth, Race, Gestational age, Birth weight, Maternal condition during pregnancy (Diabetes, hypertension, pregnancy induced hypertension), Maternal exposure to Alcohol and tobacco, Other variables: Prenatal care, plurality, and gender. Logistical regression was performed with the dependent variable birth to teen age mother, TP, with maternal place of birth as the independent variable, while rest of variable were tested for confounding. Analysis and plots were done using Stata 12.0 and Excel 2010.

Results

Total births

1995 – 2002: Over 31 million
Usable data: Almost 25 million
Teen birth: 3 million (12.3%)

Figure: Teen births from 1995 – 2002 for Nativity (US or Non-US)

Figure: Teen births and Race (1995-2002)

Conclusion

1. We accept the hypothesis that teen pregnancy is lower when the maternal nativity is outside the US.
2. Reason for higher teen pregnancy rates when mother’s nativity is from the US is concerning and needs to be decreased.

References

Birth Rates for U.S. Teenagers Reach Historic Lows for All Age and Ethnic Groups
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