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Teen Births in South Dakota, 2006-2014

By Wei Bai, Ph.D., Bonny Specker, Ph.D., Lon Kightlinger, Ph.D.

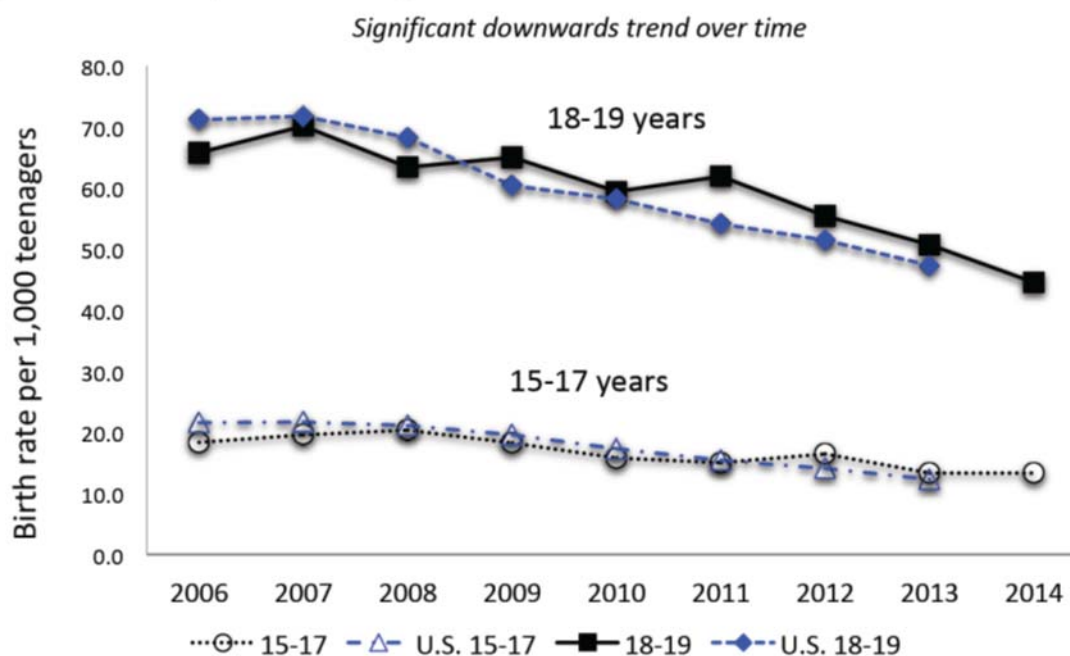
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According to the Office of Adolescent Health at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the teen birth rate in the U.S. has dropped continuously over the past 20 years and dropped 10% nationwide between 2012 and 2013. In 2013, about 273,000 babies were born nationally to adolescent teens aged 15–19 years for a rate of 26.5/1,000 adolescent females. According to the data from the World Bank, the U.S. teen birth rate in 2010–14 was higher than that of many developed countries, including Canada, Japan, Australia, and the majority of European countries. Teen pregnancies are associated with negative outcomes for the mother, child, and society.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on rates and trends of teen births in South Dakota using 2006–2014 birth certificate data. The following graphs can be summarized as follows:

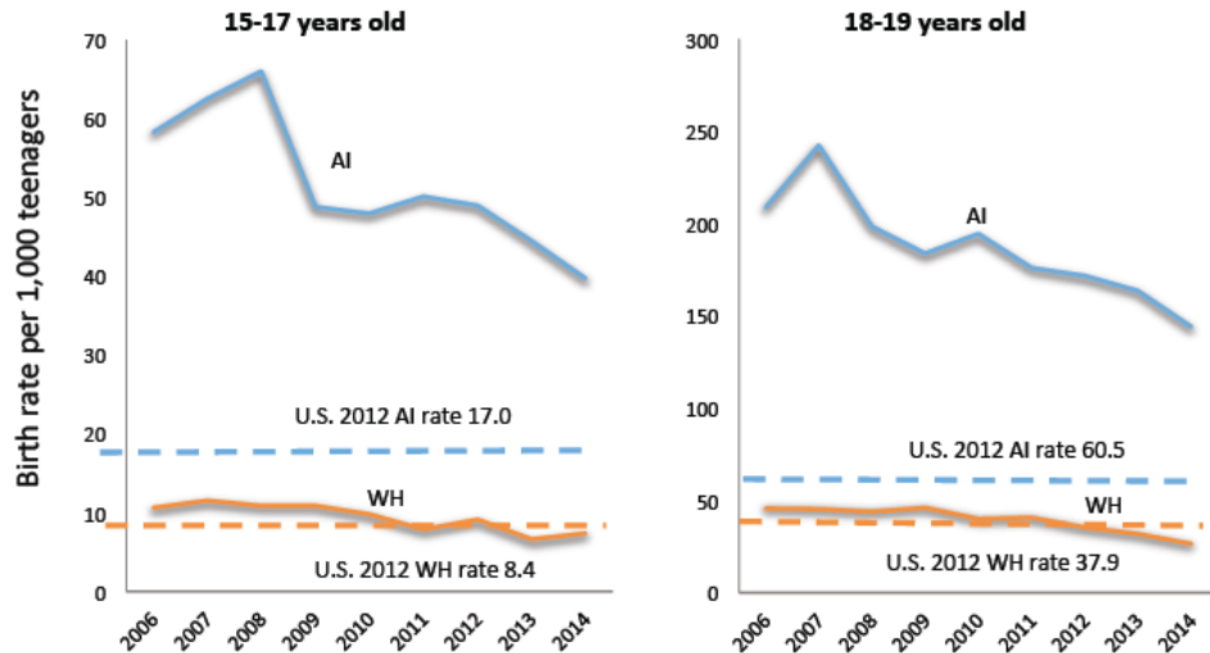
- There has been a decrease in teen births between 2006 and 2014 in South Dakota for ages 15–17 years and 18–19 years (**Figure 1**).
- Teen birth rates for White and American Indian teens have decreased between 2006 and 2014. However, teen birth rates among South Dakota American Indians are about 4–5 times higher than that of Whites for both 15–17 and 18–19 year old age groups. The teen birth rate among South Dakota American Indians is higher than that of U.S. American Indians (**Figure 2**).
- Compared with births of mothers aged 20 years and older, teen mothers deliver a higher percent of low birth weight babies and their infants have a higher mortality rate (**Figure 3**).
- South Dakota has a higher teen pregnancy rate than most of the surrounding states (**Figure 4**).
- Birth rates vary widely by geographical location (**Figure 5**).

Figure 1. Birth Rate per 1,000 Teenagers, 2006-2014



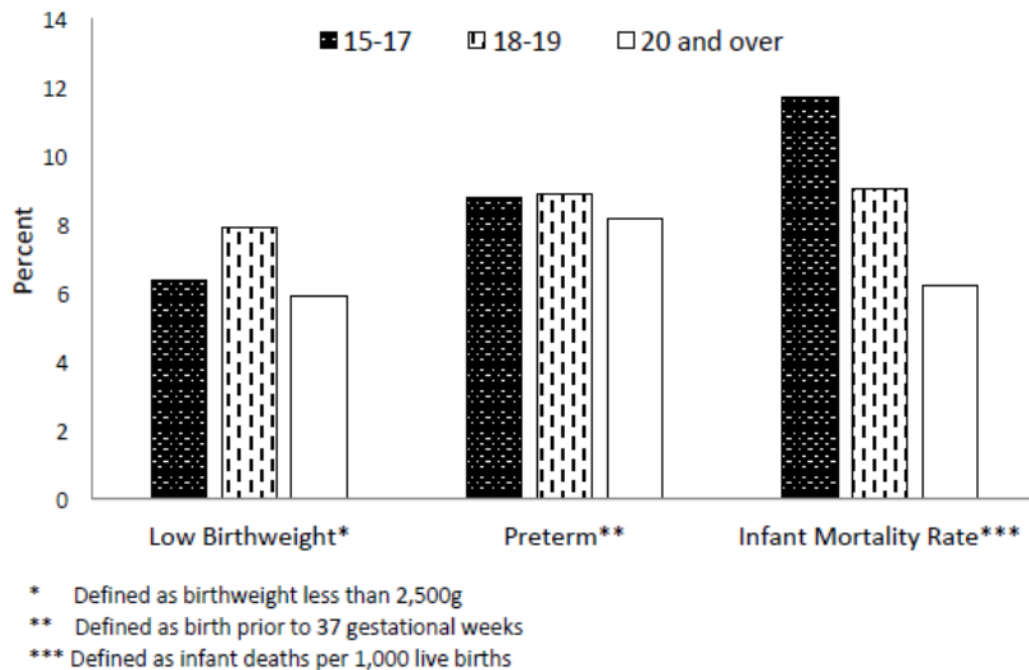
Source: South Dakota Vital Records, 2006-2014. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr63/nvsr63_04.pdf.

Figure 2. Birth Rate per 1,000 Teenagers by Race, 2006-2014



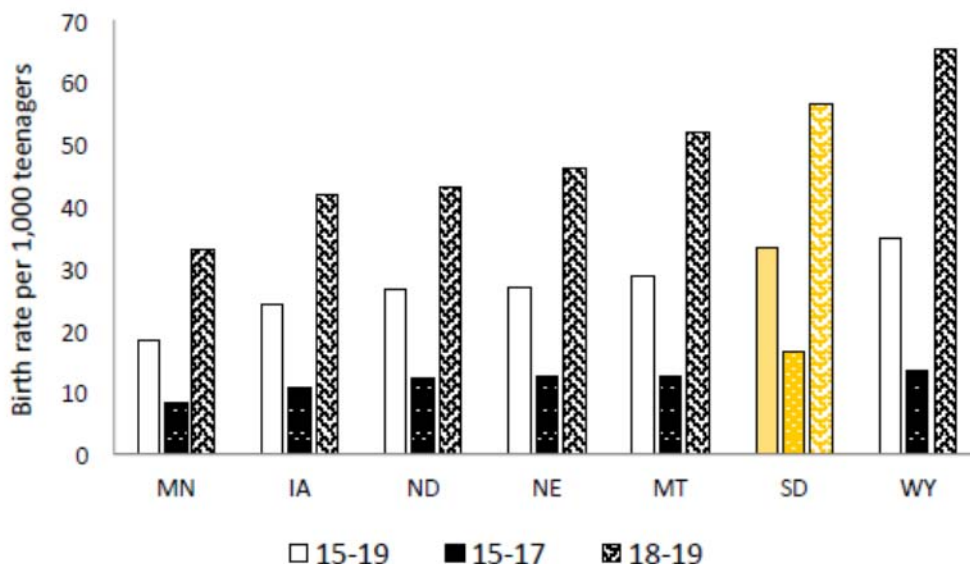
Source: South Dakota Vital Records, 2006-2014. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr63/nvsr63_04.pdf

Figure 3. Selected Birth Characteristics by Maternal Age Group, South Dakota, 2010-2014



Source: South Dakota Vital Records, 2010-2014.

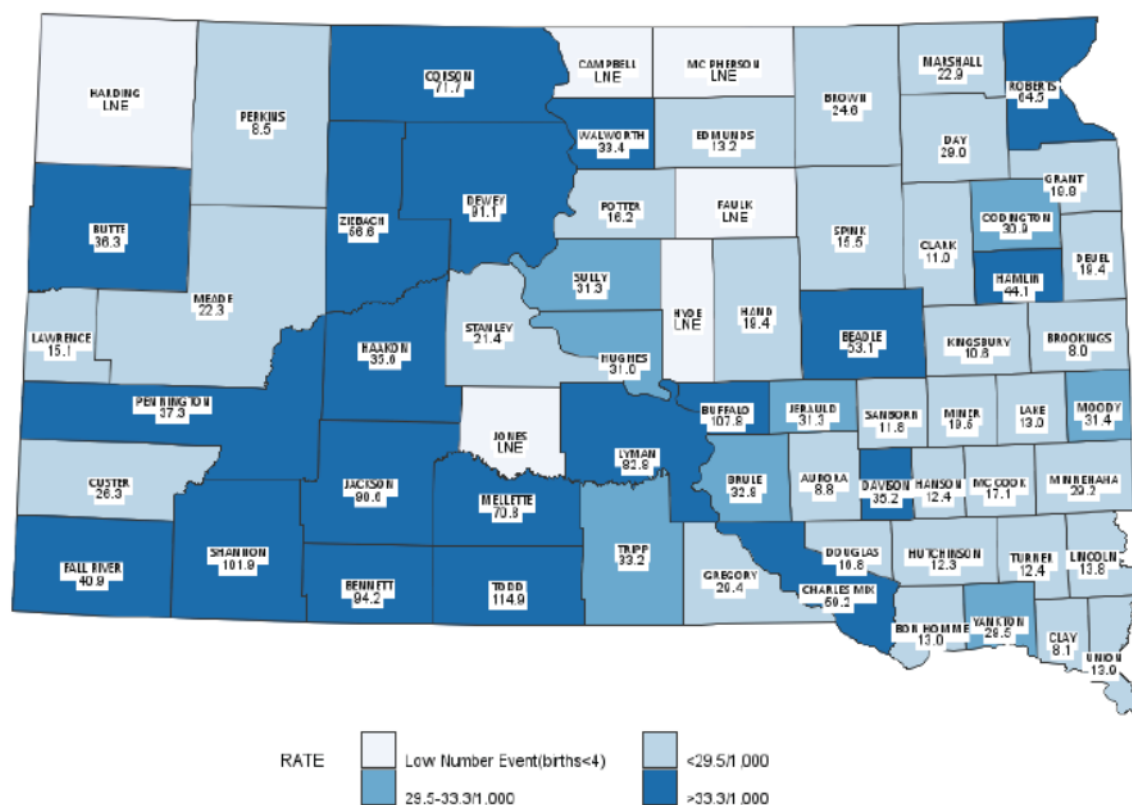
Figure 4. Teen Birth Rates in South Dakota and Surrounding States, 2012



Source: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr63/nvsr63_04.pdf

Figure 5. Birth Rates per 1,000 Teenagers by County, SD 2010-2014

U.S. 2012 rate: 29.4 SD 2012 rate: 33.3



Source: South Dakota Vital Records. 2010-2014.