

REDUCING AMERICAN INDIAN TEEN PREGNANCY RATES

We Can Make a Difference

FAST FACTS

Pregnancy Rates

- ✚ Teen pregnancy rates for the Montana American Indian population exceed the state average.
- ✚ In 2005, the teen pregnancy rate for Montana American Indians was 127 per 1,000, compared with 49 per 1,000 for the state as a whole.
- ✚ While one in five Montana females will become pregnant before the age of 20, two in three American Indian females will become pregnant before age 20.

Birth Rates

- ✚ American Indian teens give birth at younger ages than the general teen population. Over 40% of babies born to a Montana teen in the 15-17 age range are born to an American Indian mother.

Abortion Rates

- ✚ Pregnancy and birth rates for American Indian teen ages 15 to 19 in Montana have declined since 1991 (from 154/1000 in 1991 to 127/1000 in 2005). In 2005, the abortion rates are higher than the overall teen abortion rates (21/1000 compared to 13/1000).

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

- ✚ Initiate discussions in your community about American Indian teen pregnancy rates.
- ✚ Identify key stakeholders in your community who have interest in teen pregnancy rates. Some of those people might include: Elected tribal leaders; healthcare providers; parents with like concern and motivation; educators and other teens.
- ✚ Investigate Best Practices for creating change in your community. Guides to your research efforts can be found at the Community Tool Box, Montana Prevention Resource Center <http://ctb.ku.edu> and at the US DHHS Building and Sustaining Community Partnerships for Teen Pregnancy Prevention at <http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/teenp/teenpreg/teenpreg.htm>
- ✚ Make appropriate cultural adaptations to your Best Practices model.

