



Research from the Coalition for Applied Modeling for Prevention (CAMP), led by University of Washington's Steven Goodreau, highlights important new findings on teen pregnancies. Changes in sexual behavior, including delays in age at first sexual intercourse (SI), decreases in the number of sexual partners, and the adoption of more effective birth control methods, have contributed to reductions in teen pregnancies over a decade (2007-2017). [\[Access Study Here\]](#)

Although adolescent pregnancy and birth rates have declined sharply in the US, efforts to prevent unintended adolescent pregnancies are still greatly needed. Findings from this work highlight the role of sexual behavior changes among adolescents – understanding the contribution of each sexual behavior change to the decline of teen pregnancy can help to inform the policies and programmatic efforts needed to further prevent unintended pregnancies among this population.

BEHAVIOR CHANGES AMONG US ADOLESCENTS CONTRIBUTED TO DECLINES IN TEEN PREGNANCY FROM 2007-2017

BEHAVIOR CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

Findings from this work highlight three main changes in sexual behaviors among adolescents from 2007-2017:



The **average age at first sexual intercourse has increased**, suggesting that teens and adolescents are waiting longer to initiate sex.



The average number of **new sexual partners per year among adolescents has decreased**.



While **older adolescents have adopted more effective birth control methods** (including long-acting reversible contraception, also known as LARC) during this time period, **there is a potential need for expanded access to contraceptives, particularly among sexually active adolescents below age 18**.

DIVING INTO THE DATA

Delays in age at first sexual intercourse (SI) played the most prominent role in declines in adolescent pregnancies over this decade.



An estimated **496,200** pregnancies were averted **due to delays in age of first SI**.

Declines in the number of sexual partners and changes in contraceptive use have also driven declines in adolescent pregnancies.



An estimated **78,500 pregnancies were averted** due to a reduction in the number of sexual partners.

Increased effective contraception use led to an estimated **40,700 averted pregnancies** during this decade, **above and beyond those prevented by historical levels of contraceptive use**.



In particular, **LARC played a prominent role in pregnancy prevention** in later years of the decade as its uptake increased among 18-year-olds.

Preventing unintended pregnancies among adolescents over the decade also had financial implications, resulting in significant cost savings.

\$9.71 BILLION

Delays in age of first SI saved an estimated **\$9.71 Billion**.



Declines in the number of sexual partners saved an estimated **\$1.54 Billion**.



Changes in contraception use led to an estimated **\$796 million in cost savings**.

IMPLICATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



comprehensive sex education



youth development programs



youth-friendly clinic-based programs

Ultimately, findings from this study suggest that **evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs – including comprehensive sex education, youth development programs, and youth-friendly clinic-based programs – should continue to build on existing strengths in terms of reducing sexual activity among adolescents**. These will further enhance knowledge and access to contraception for all sexually active adolescents, especially those under the age of 18.