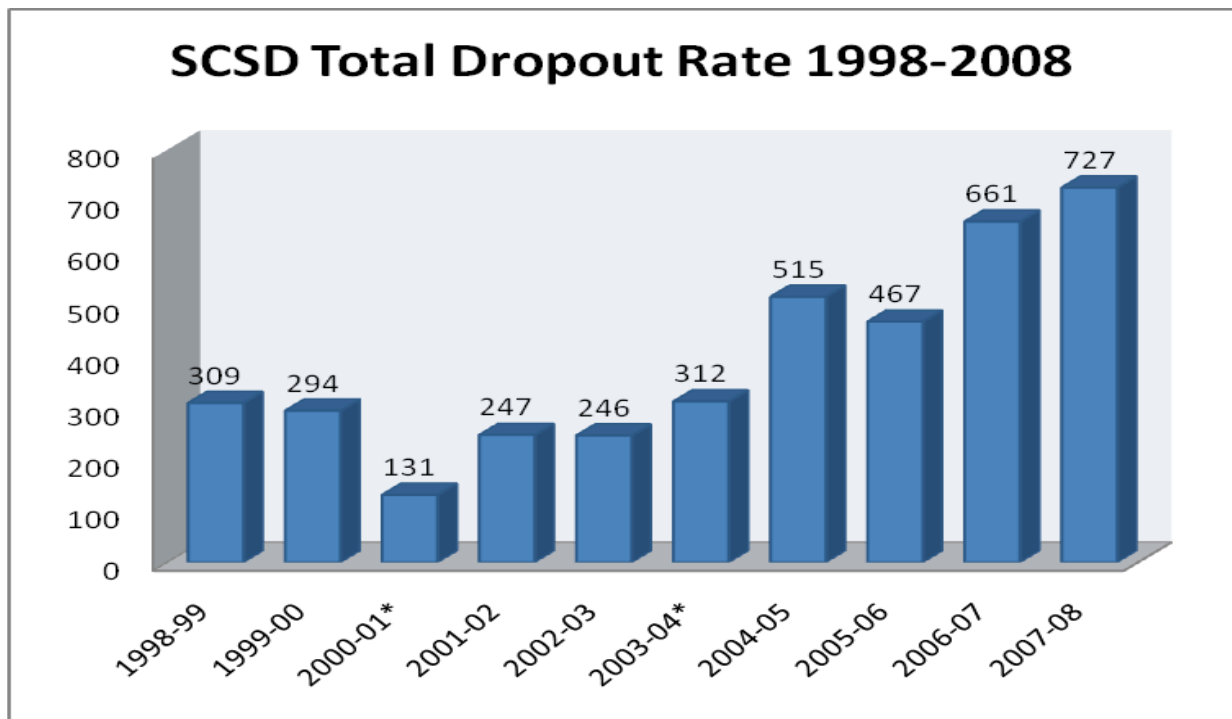


## City of Syracuse Profile of African-American and Latina Adolescent Girls

The City of Syracuse is located in Central New York State. It is predominantly populated by Caucasians; however African-Americans make up 25% of the city's population, however 37% are living in poverty. Contrary to the number of Caucasians residing in Syracuse, African-American children are the largest represented population attending the Syracuse City School District in which they make up 54%.(1). The City of Syracuse reports a staggering 80% of children and families on free and reduced lunches.



\* Three secondary schools in this district did not submit 2000-01 graduate or dropout data.

\* Graduation rate not submitted for 2003-04.

\*All data taken from the New York State District School Report Card Comprehensive Information Report

Life for young African-American and Latina girls is more than difficult. Often their chances for success is hindered by teen pregnancy, an increase in HIV/Aids, dating violence, gang related activity and mental health issues such as suicide.

- The Center for Disease Control reported that adolescents (n =3,230) between 13 to 19 years of age were reported to be living with AIDS in the United States and dependent areas in 2007. Of that number 768 cases were reported in NYS. The majority of cases were reported from states in the Northeast and the South.
- From 2003 through 2007, the majority of AIDS cases among adolescent and young adult females were attributed to high-risk heterosexual contact.
- Black/African American adolescents have been disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 2007, in the 34 states with long-term confidential name-based HIV infection reporting, 17% of adolescents 13 to 19 years of age were black/African American, yet 72% of HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 13 to 19 year olds were in black/African American adolescents.
- The ratio of male to female adolescents and young adults with a diagnosis of HIV infection increases with age at diagnosis. In 2007, females accounted for 31% of adolescents aged 13 to 19 years who were diagnosed with HIV infection, compared with 23% of young adults aged 20 to 24 years and 26% of adults aged 25 years and older.
- Black/African American adolescents have been disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In the 50 states and the District of Columbia in 2007, 15% of adolescents 13 to 19 years of age were black/African American, yet 68% of reported AIDS cases among 13 to 19 year olds were in black/African American adolescents.

#### Aids New York State

- New York - 198,083 (29.2 cases per 100,000 people)
- Syracuse - 1,325 (7.5 cases per 100,000 people)
- Total Living with HIV (not AIDS) 2006 - 43,021
- Total Living with AIDS 2006 - 70,845

<http://aids.about.com/od/statebystateresources/qt/ny.htm>

#### Teen Pregnancy

- The Center for Disease Control reported the birth rate for teenagers aged 15–19 years rose 3 percent in 2006, interrupting the long-term decline that had extended from 1991 through 2005. The rate in 2006 was 41.9 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19 years, up from 40.5 in 2005.(CDC)
- Teen birth rate for 15-19 year old rose 3% to 435,436 in 2006, compared to 414,593 in 2005—the largest increase in a single year since 1989–1990.
- Babies born to teenage mothers are at elevated risk of poor birth outcomes, including higher rates of low birthweight, preterm birth, and death in infancy (17–19) (see later

sections of this report). The limited educational, social, and financial resources often available to teenage mothers add to their higher risk profile. A recent study found that the public costs of teenage childbearing in the U.S. are about 9.1 billion annually (20).

[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57\\_07.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_07.pdf)

### **National Institute of Health April 10, 2009**

#### **Black Teens, Especially Girls, at Risk for Suicide**

- Suicide is the third leading cause of death in all teens in the United States, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Historically, black teens and young adults have lower suicide rates than white teens, but in recent decades, the suicide rate for black youth has increased dramatically.
- 810 African American and 360 Caribbean black teens, ages 13-17, were randomly selected to complete the NSAL-Adolescent (NSAL-A) survey.
- African American teen girls are most likely to attempt suicide, followed by Caribbean teen girls, African American teen boys, and Caribbean teen boys. Lower income households (\$18,000-\$31,999 annually) were least likely to report attempting suicide, while youth living in homes of modest means (\$32,000-\$54,999) were most likely.
- Overall, the researchers estimated that at some point before they reach 17 years of age, 4 percent of black teens, and more than 7 percent of black teen females, will attempt suicide.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention/index.shtml>

#### **Correlation between Relationship Violence, STDs/HIV/AIDS and Teenage Pregnancy:**

The following organizations: Department of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education, Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, Georgia; Emory/Atlanta Center for AIDS Research, Atlanta, Georgia; Department of Pediatrics, Division of Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology and Immunology, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia; and Department of Health Behavior, School of Public Health, University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama participated in a study examining the association between having a history of dating violence and the sexual health of African-American adolescent females. Black adolescent females (n = 522) completed a survey that assessed dating violence, defined as ever having a physically abusive boyfriend, and an interview that assessed sexual behaviors.

Dating violence was reported by 18.4% of adolescents (n = 96). Adolescents with a history of dating violence were, in the past 6 months, 2.8 times more likely to have a sexually transmitted disease, 2.8 times more likely to have non-monogamous male partners, and half as

likely to use condoms consistently. Furthermore, adolescents with a history of dating violence were significantly more likely to fear the perceived consequences of negotiating condom use; fear talking with their partner about pregnancy prevention; have a higher perceived risk of acquiring a sexually transmitted disease; perceive less control over their sexuality; have peer norms non-supportive of using condoms; and have norms non-supportive of having a healthy relationship.

Although society is becoming more aware of domestic violence involving adults, the issue of dating violence among adolescents has not received sufficient attention. The majority of adolescents have begun dating by 16 years old, and many have experienced an episode of dating violence by age 15 years. The prevalence of dating violence among adolescents ranges from 9% to 39%, with previous research indicating a higher prevalence of dating violence among black female adolescents compared with female adolescents of other ethnic groups.