



Facts at Your Fingertips

“Facts at Your Fingertips,” is designed to make it easy for you to find teen-related data in support of programming needs, funding opportunities, policy development, and advocacy.

Age of Majority

The age of majority is the age at which one acquires the full legal rights of an adult. This commonly includes things such as the right to vote and the ability to make contracts. The age is normally fixed by law, though in some cases a minor may reach majority through an emancipation procedure.

DC ST § 46-101

The Law: Notwithstanding any rule of common or other law to the contrary in effect on July 22, 1976, the age of majority in the District of Columbia shall be 18 years of age, except that this chapter shall not affect any common-law or statutory right to child support.

For more information:

<http://government.westlaw.com/linkedslice/default.asp?SP=DCC-1000>

July 1, 2004 Census Population Estimates

10-19 year old boys, 28,800

10-19 year old girls, 28,297

For more information: www.census.gov/popest/states

Teen Pregnancy Rate

The 2003 teen pregnancy rate is 99.7 pregnancies per 1,000 teen girls 15-19 years old. Reporting the teen pregnancy rate typically lags 2-3 years behind real time and is calculated by adding the total number of pregnancies, which includes abortions, births and fetal deaths, divided by the population, multiplied by 1,000.

$$\frac{\text{Abortions} + \text{Births} + \text{Fetal Deaths} \times 1,000}{\text{Population}} = \text{Teen Pregnancy Rate}$$

Teen Birth Rate

In 2003, there were 7,616 births in the District of Columbia, of which 60 percent were black, 25.3 percent were white, 2.9 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander, 11.6 percent were other races, and 12.8 percent were Hispanic/Latina (Hispanic/Latino is not a race category. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race, therefore, each race category contains persons of both Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin). Among **15-19 year old teens** there were:

- 1,281 pregnancies
- 838 live births
- 437 induced abortions
- 6 fetal deaths

For more information: *Statistical Not: Reported Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates in the District of Columbia 1999-2003, November 2005*, DC Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

In 2004, among 15-19 year olds, the data shows:

- 1, 270 cases of Chlamydia
- 657 cases of Gonorrhea
- 2 cases of Herpes (HSV)
- 20 cases of Syphilis

For more information: District of Columbia Division of STD Control, (202) 727-1740

2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

Every two years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) administers the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The Survey measures the prevalence of teen health risk behaviors in the areas of unintentional injury and violence; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behaviors; dietary behaviors; and inadequate physical activity. The latest survey was administered by the HIV/AIDS Education Office in 2005 to 2,189 District high school students. Go to www.teenpregnancydc.org for complete results. When asked about sexual behaviors, the data shows that:

- 48.1 percent of teens had sexual intercourse
- 11.1 percent of teens had sexual intercourse before age 13
- 16.1 percent of teens had sexual intercourse with four or more people
- 13.4 percent of teens who had sexual intercourse during the past three months drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse
- 76.2 percent of teens who had sexual intercourse during the past three months used a condom
- 8.0 percent of teens who had sexual intercourse during the past three months, used birth control pills

Minors' and the Right to Consent to Health Care

District of Columbia law allows minors to self-consent for many health care services. This means that a minor does not have to have parent or guardian to get some types of care including:

- Contraceptive Services
- Prenatal Care
- STD/HIV Services
- Treatment for alcohol and/or drug abuse
- Outpatient mental health services
- Abortion services

For more information: http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/ib_minors_00.html

DC Public School Enrollment as of October 5, 2005

Grade 7	3,683	Grade 10	3,815
Grade 8	3,828	Grade 11	3,108
Grade 9	4,543	Grade 12	2,402
Total: 21,378			

2004 drop out rate for DC Public Schools was 6.6 percent for grades 7-12, which was 1,605 students.

For more information: DCPS, Office of Accountability, (202) 442-5202

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