

Adolescent pregnancy and social stratification In Mexico



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OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study is to show that **the incidence and characteristics of adolescent pregnancy* vary across socioeconomic strata.**

*Defined as women 15-24 years old who got pregnant before age 20

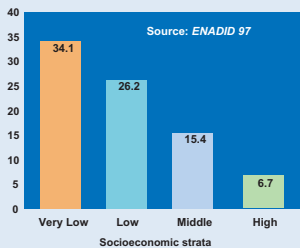
METHODOLOGY

Data from the National Surveys on Demographic Dynamics (ENADID 1992 and 1997), and the National Survey on Youth (ENAJUV 2000) are used. For each the surveyed population was stratified according to a household socioeconomic index based on: the characteristics of dwellings, their endowment

of public services (water, sewage), the mean educational level of the family members, weighted by gender and by generation, and the occupational level of the family member with the highest occupational ranking.

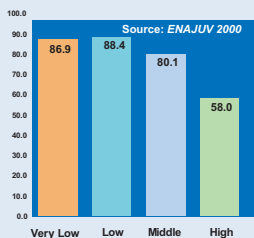
RESULTS

WOMEN AGED 15-24 WHO GOT PREGNANT AS ADOLESCENTS, BY SOCIOECONOMIC STRATA (In percentages)



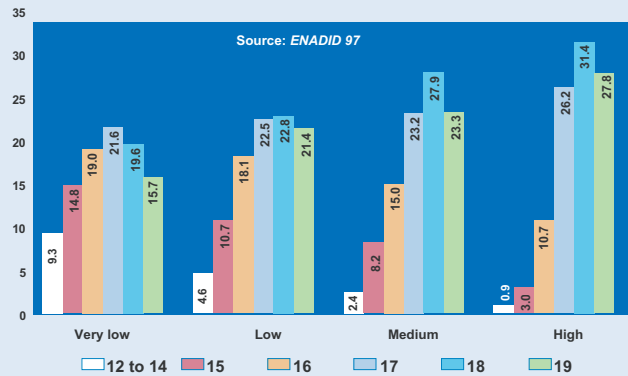
It can clearly be seen that there is an inverse relationship between the incidence of adolescent pregnancy and the socioeconomic level of households. The difference between the lowest and the highest strata is fivefold.

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AGED 15-24 WHO GOT PREGNANT AS ADOLESCENTS, WHO HAD ALREADY LEFT SCHOOL WHEN THEY GOT PREGNANT, BY SOCIOECONOMIC STRATA



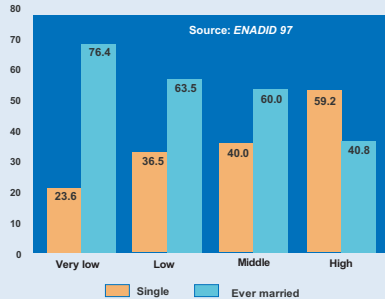
Most adolescents of all strata had already left school when they got pregnant. However, the proportion who got pregnant before leaving school is considerably larger among adolescents of the high stratum.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF AGE AT FIRST PREGNANCY OF WOMEN AGED 15-24 WHO GOT PREGNANT AS ADOLESCENTS, BY SOCIOECONOMIC STRATA



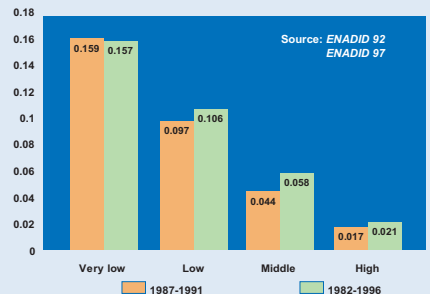
Most adolescents of all strata who get pregnant in adolescence do so during late adolescence (17-19 years old). The trend towards becoming pregnant during late adolescence increases the higher the stratum.

MARITAL STATUS OF WOMEN AGED 15-24 WHO GOT PREGNANT AS ADOLESCENTS, AT THE TIME THEY BECAME PREGNANT, BY SOCIOECONOMIC STRATA



The majority of adolescents of the very low, low, and middle strata were married or in consensual union when they became pregnant. However, this trend is reversed among those of the higher stratum, where most were single.

TRENDS IN ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY RATES OF WOMEN AGED 15-19 BY SOCIOECONOMIC STRATA



Trends in rates of adolescent pregnancy vary between strata; they remained high and stable between 1992 and 1997 in the lowest stratum, while in the other strata they increased.

CONCLUSION:

The analysis undertaken of the incidence, trends, and characteristics of adolescent pregnancy in Mexico shows that average figures obscure important differences by

socioeconomic strata, and points to the need to understand the underlying social processes involved.