

Transcript

Why do some geographic areas in the state have higher birth rates compared to other geographic areas?

Adolescent health, including sexual and reproductive health, often mirrors the social and economic status of communities as a whole. In communities where there are high birth rates among youth, there are also high levels of poverty and limited employment and educational opportunities. In interviews with California youth and adults in communities with high and low adolescent birth rates, we found that youth in areas with low birth rates report better communication about reproductive health with their parents when compared to youth living in areas with high birth rates. Research has also found that adolescent birth rates are lower in areas of California where youth have access to family planning services from California's Family PACT Program than in areas of lower access, after controlling for other community factors that might influence early adolescent birth rates.