



## Latino Youth Less Sexually Active, Using More Birth Control

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Latino youth in the U.S. are learning to practice safe sex. And they're also having less of it.

The latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows Latino high school students are getting smarter when it comes to sexual intercourse.

Data compiled from 2007 to 2011 shows the amount of sexually active high school Latinos has decreased by 3.9 percent.

The High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey was conducted nationally among students from 9th to 12th grade.

The number of teens not using any form of birth control has also decreased, meaning that the youth that are having sex are more likely to be using some form of contraception.

And despite Latinos having the highest pregnancy rate among females ages 15 to 19, in recent years these numbers have reached historic lows.

An analysis by the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign showed that in 2011, pregnancy rates among Latino teens shifted the most of any demographic, dropping 14 percent in one year.

"It's a glass half full, half empty situation," Bill Albert, chief program officer of The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, told Fox News Latino.

"It's really this magic formula of less sex and more contraception," he added.

The data for Latino teens backs up the most recent findings by the Pew Research Center which show that Latinas of all ages are having fewer babies.

The Pew survey explains that there are several reasons why Latinas aren't in a hurry for motherhood. In addition to the recession, attitudes toward having bigger families may have changed with the times. Older generations, Pew experts say, prized larger families and were more likely to following religious Roman Catholic teachings, which forbid artificial contraception.

In addition, reproductive health experts are stating there is greater access to information about birth control.