PROFILE OF NEW FATHERS IN OKLAHOMA

Introduction
This profile focuses on the demographics and select behaviors of fathers who recently had a newborn.

Highlights
- In 2016, over 14% of all fathers were less than 20 years of age.
- For years 2012-2016, nearly 33% of all fathers less than 20 years had a child with a mother less than 20 years old.
- 51% of all new fathers were non-Hispanic Whites and 27% were Hispanics.
- Over 43% of Hispanic fathers were less than 20 years old.
- In PRAMS 2012-2015, 7% of fathers did not want the pregnancy and 20% did not use birth control prior to pregnancy.

Trends in Age of Fathers
- The average age of fathers is 29.8 years, while women become mothers at the average age of 27.1 years. The average age gap of 3 years between fathers and mothers has remained steady since 2000.
- Ages of fathers have continually increased since 2000. Births among teen fathers have decreased by 30% from 20.7% in 2000 to 14.5% in 2016, while births to men over 40 years have increased at the same rate. Births among men 30-39 years have also increased by 28% from 28.4% in 2000 to 36.4% in 2016.

Race and Ethnicity of Fathers

- 51% of all births for 2012-2016 were to non-Hispanic White fathers’ and 27% to Hispanic fathers.
- Non-Hispanic White, Black, and American Indian fathers were mostly in the younger age group of 20 – 39 years, while over 43% of Hispanic fathers were less than 20 years old. Non-Hispanic Asian men seem to be older fathers.

Age of Fathers by Race and Ethnicity, Oklahoma Births 2012 -2016

Father’s Education

- For births 2012-2016, 17% of fathers over 17 years had less than high school education and 33% had a high school diploma.
- Nearly half of all Hispanic fathers over 17 years had less than high school education.
- Non-Hispanic Asian fathers were more educated than other races with 63% having education higher than a high school.

Note: 15% of Oklahoma birth records did not indicate father’s education.

References:

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) is an equal opportunity employer and provider. This publication, issued by the OSDH, was authorized by Brian Downs, Acting Commissioner of Health. A digital file has been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Copies have not been printed but are available for download at www.health.ok.gov. Feb 2018