

1981

## Declining Birthrate

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### Declining Birthrate

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Iowa State Health Department records indicate a steady decrease in the number of babies born to teen-age women. From 1971-1979, there was a 20% decrease in babies born to women under the age of 18.

The reasons for such a decline are uncertain. There is little, if any, evidence to support the idea that the decline was due to abortion. Family planning clinics may have helped stem the rise of unwanted teen-age pregnancies and it is hoped that the introduction of sex education in schools helped alleviate the problem. At any rate, Iowa youth need the continued support and guidance of parents, churches, local school boards and teachers through this critical phase in their lives. Though such co-operative efforts, unwanted teen-age pregnancies should continue to decline.

Des Moines Register, (Jan. 25, 1981). *All Time Low Infant Death Rate in Iowa* (p. 1); *Fewer Babies Being Born to Teen-agers* (p. 9A).