

Condoms scarce in teen pregnancy-plagued Venezuela

February 9 2015

Condoms are the latest item to become scarce—and costly—in Venezuela.

Once easy to find, condoms disappeared from pharmacy shelves as the year started, along with many food and [cleaning products](#).

Public health workers worry the shortage could worsen Venezuela's already [high rates](#) of HIV and teen pregnancy.

Venezuela has the second-highest teen pregnancy rate in South America, after Guyana, according to World Bank statistics.

Merchants have begun selling condoms on the black market, using a website that is the Venezuelan equivalent of Craigslist. On Monday, a 24-pack of Durex condoms was going for \$317 at Venezuela's official exchange rate, or \$10 at the more widely used black market rate.

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