

**Menarche age in teenagers: survey of girls born between 1985 and 1989 in Babol
(Nortnen IRAN)**

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INTRODUCTION: Despite the importance of menarcheal age as an indicator of puberty, there is little information on menarcheal age in contemporary teenagers. This study was carried out to determine age menarche in teenagers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: In 2001, we used self-reported questionnaires from 827 girls born in 1985-9 in Babol.

RESULTS: In all, 827 girls aged 12-16 years reported their menarcheal age (response 85.7%). Mean $\pm$ SD menarcheal age 12.5 $\pm$ 1.18 years (95% confidence interval 10 $\pm$ 15). Of all subjects, 31.8% first menstruated in summer. Highest mean menarcheal age was 16.9 years and lowest menarcheal age was 8 years.

DISCUSSION: It is concluded that living in the urban (v.s. rural) areas had significant effect on variation of menarcheal age.