



Press Release
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Teen Childbearing Costs Taxpayers \$9.1 Billion Annually **New National and State-by-State Data Released**

(Washington, DC) — Despite a one-third decline in the teen birth rate since the early 1990s, teen childbearing in the United States cost taxpayers (federal, state, and local) at least **\$9.1 billion** in 2004, according to a new analysis released by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. The estimated cumulative public costs of teen childbearing between 1991 and 2004 totals **\$161 billion**.

Most of the public sector costs of teen childbearing are associated with negative consequences for the children of teen mothers. These costs include \$1.9 billion for increased public sector health care costs, \$2.3 billion for increased child welfare costs, \$2.1 billion for increased costs of incarceration, and \$2.9 billion in lost revenue due to lower taxes paid by the children of teen mothers over their own adult lifetimes. The \$9.1 billion total also factors a variety of costs and savings associated with teen mothers and the fathers of their children.

The new analysis, *By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing*, is authored by Saul Hoffman, Ph.D., Professor of Economics and Department Chair at the University of Delaware. The analysis is the first comprehensive national estimate of the public costs of teen childbearing since the 1996 report *Kids Having Kids*, a ground-breaking report edited by Rebecca Maynard, Ph.D. The report also provides the first-ever state-by-state analysis of the costs of teen childbearing, which ranged in 2004 from **\$1 billion in Texas to \$12 million in Vermont**.

The one-third decline in the teen birth rate between 1991 and 2004 has also yielded substantial costs savings. The estimated national savings to taxpayers in 2004 alone due to the one-third decline in the teen birth rate between 1991 and 2004 is **\$6.7 billion**—ranging from over **\$1 billion in California to \$5 million in Wyoming**.

The analysis provides a cautious estimate of the costs of teen childbearing and reflects only those costs clearly associated with a teen birth rather than other associated risks. Specifically, the analysis compares costs associated with teen mothers (aged 19 and younger), their partners, and their children with the same costs for women who delay childbearing until they are aged 20-21.

“This report makes clear that teen pregnancy and child-bearing have significant economic and social costs,” said Sarah Brown, Director of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. “Making further progress in reducing teen pregnancy will benefit taxpayers and the economy, as well as improve the educational, health, and social prospects for this generation of young people and the next.”

For more information: Visit the National Campaign’s *By the Numbers* website at www.teenpregnancy.org/costs for more information, including fact sheets detailing teen childbearing costs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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About the National Campaign: Founded in 1996, the National Campaign is a private, nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the well-being of children, youth, and families by reducing teen pregnancy. The organization’s goal is to reduce the teen pregnancy rate by one-third between 2006 and 2015.