



By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in New Hampshire November 2006

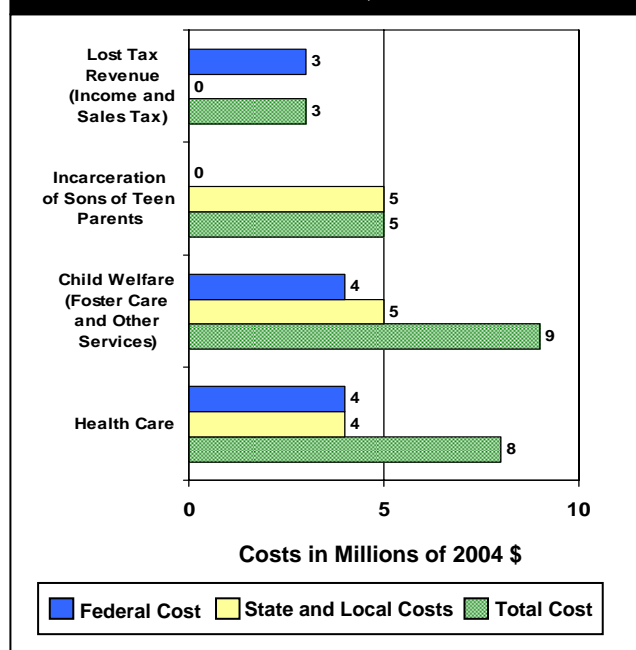
Highlights

- A new analysis from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy shows that teen childbearing (teens 19 and younger) in New Hampshire cost taxpayers (federal, state, and local) at least \$18 million in 2004.
- Of the total 2004 teen childbearing costs in New Hampshire, 44% were federal costs and 56% were state and local costs.
- Most of the costs of teen childbearing are associated with negative consequences for the *children* of teen mothers. In New Hampshire, in 2004, annual taxpayer costs associated with children born to teen mothers included: \$8 million for public health care (Medicaid and SCHIP); \$9 million for child welfare (Foster Care and Other Services); \$5 million for incarceration; and \$3 million in lost tax revenue, due to decreased earnings and spending.*
- The costs of childbearing are greatest for younger teens. In New Hampshire, the average annual cost associated with a child born to a mother 17 and younger is \$5,327.
- Between 1991 and 2004 there have been more than 14,200 teen births in New Hampshire, costing taxpayers a total of \$0.3 billion over that period.
- The teen birth rate in New Hampshire declined 45 percent between 1991 and

2004. The progress New Hampshire has made in reducing teen childbearing saved taxpayers an estimated \$21 million in 2004 alone.

- Nationally teen childbearing costs taxpayers at least \$9.1 billion a year.
- For more information, including a national report and state-by-state comparisons, please visit www.teenpregnancy.org/costs.

Figure 1: Selected Annual Costs in New Hampshire for Children of Teen Parents, In Millions of 2004 \$



* Careful readers will note that the cost breakdown for the *children* of teen mothers does not match the total costs. This is because the total costs include costs associated with both teen *parents* and their *children*. Also note that because we cannot measure and include all outcomes and all costs, the analysis should be considered conservative; that is, it is likely that the full costs of a teen birth are greater than the figures presented here. Due to rounding, federal and state and local costs may not add to the totals presented in Figure 1 and throughout.