



FACT SHEET

State Legislation to Reduce Teen Pregnancy

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Teen pregnancy is closely linked to a host of other critical social issues, as well as the substantial public costs associated with adolescent childbearing. Consequently, teen pregnancy should be viewed not only as a reproductive health issue, but as one that works to improve social and economic measures.

Recognizing the importance of the complex issue, individual states have approached reducing teen pregnancy from various angles. While this document is not exhaustive, it does give some examples of a variety of state legislative initiatives ranging from incorporating teen pregnancy prevention into afterschool programs to increasing resources for at-risk teens to supporting parent-child communication to setting standards for sexual education.

CALIFORNIA

- Introduced in 2006, Assembly Bill [2141](#) created the Parent-Child Communication Assistance Program within the office of Family Planning, to equip parents with the knowledge, understanding and communication skills necessary to talk to their children about sex and sexuality.
- Introduced in 2007, Assembly Bill [1511](#) establishes a public education campaign to help parents talk to their kids about sex and health, particularly in communities with health disparities and barriers to health care access.

COLORADO

- Passed in 2006, House Bill [1351](#) established a community-based program that provides support to Medicaid-eligible at-risk teens and teen parents,

including intensive individual or group counseling, vocational and educational guidance, and health services. The program only uses federal and local dollars.

- Passed in 2007, House Bill [1292](#) ensures that any program teaching human sexuality to teenagers adopt science-based content standards.

FLORIDA

- In 2005, Florida enacted Senate Bill [1650](#), which authorized inclusion of teen pregnancy prevention in a plan to encourage educational attainment and reduce the need for public assistance. ENABL (Education Now and Babies Later) is a multifaceted approach which targets youth especially at-risk of teen pregnancy, including the children of teen parents, those who receive public assistance and teens in areas with the highest teen pregnancy rates.

HAWAII

- In April 2002, the Hawaii legislature adopted House Resolution [69](#), establishing a Special Assistant on Children and Families in the office of the governor to convene and chair a task force to be known as the Hawaii Afterschool Initiative. The task force's activities include the development of a plan to ensure quality afterschool programs for every school-age child in the state, implementing a needs-assessment, and mapping existing funding streams and programs. The middle schools initiative will emphasize teen pregnancy and drug abuse prevention.

ILLINOIS

- In 2003, the Illinois Legislature passed House Bill [1630](#), which called for creation of a program to conduct research, education and prevention activities for at-risk Hispanic/Latino teenagers.

KANSAS

- Senate Bill [508](#), the Abstinence Plus Education Act, was introduced in 2006 and replaces abstinence-only education. It states that students should be given factual and age-appropriate sexual education, including information about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases.

NEW MEXICO

- Senate Bill [124](#) provides \$2.6 million for a statewide teen pregnancy prevention program for fiscal year 2008. The bill was introduced in 2007, but action has been postponed indefinitely.

NEW YORK

- Passed in May 2007, the New York State Assembly passed the Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act (A.[5569](#) / S.[3579](#)) by a huge margin of 115 to 27. This bill enables women to obtain emergency contraception (EC) in pharmacies and from nurses through collaborative agreements with physicians. It also requires insurance policies that provide coverage for prescription contraception to cover the cost of emergency contraception.
- The Healthy Teens Act, Assembly Bill [2856](#), would establish a competitive grant program to support real sex education in New York State. The legislation would provide funding for schools and communities to develop sex education programs that best suit their needs while ensuring that students receive medically accurate information.

**TIPS ON ADDRESSING TEEN PREGNANCY
LEGISLATION FOR YOUR STATE**

- Define the problem and the consequences of early pregnancy and childbearing
- Include teen pregnancy and birth data for your state, and if possible for localities within the state
- Highlight how much teen childbearing costs your state to help make the case for investing in prevention
- Set a clear and reasonable goal for your state.
- Whenever possible, invest in evidence-based approaches.

NORTH CAROLINA

- Introduced in 2007, House Bill [879](#) and Senate Bill [1182](#) would fund comprehensive school health education to cover many health topics including preventing teen pregnancy, HIV, and STDs.

OHIO

- HB [251](#) and SB [179](#), both titled the Ohio Prevention First Act, were introduced in May 2007. The bills will help prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce the need for abortion by increasing access to contraceptives and honest sex education.

TEXAS

- House Bill [2176](#), effective September 1, 2007, requires that every school in the state incorporate a parenting and paternity awareness program into the curriculum. Topics included are responsibilities associated with becoming a parent, violence prevention, communication and relationship skills, and marriage preparation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
www.teenpregnancy.org/policy