

# Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Issue #1  
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**Inside this issue:**

- Board Members 2
- Survey says.... 2
- From the Director 2
- Teen Pregnancy Fact Sheet 3
- Media Influence on Teen Pregnancy 4

**Resources on the internet**

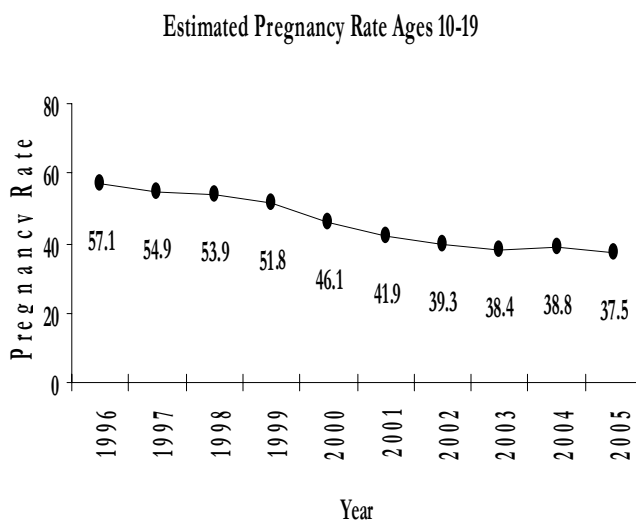
acptp.org (Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy)  
 teenpregnancy.org (National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy)  
 advocatesforyouth.org (Advocates for Youth)  
 thefocusprogram.com (The FOCUS Program)  
 adph.org/schoolhealth (Adolescent and School Health)

## The Public Co\$ts of Teen Childbearing:

Despite the declines in teen pregnancy and teen birth rates, the costs to teen mothers, fathers, and their children remain high. For example, compared to teens who delay childbearing, teen mothers are more likely to drop out of school, remain unmarried, and live in poverty. Children of teen parents are more likely to have low birth weight, experience abuse and neglect, do poorly in school, and enter the child welfare system. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, *By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing*, reports additional costs at the state and federal level. There were more than 143,000 teen births in Alabama between 1991 and 2004, costing taxpayers a total of \$3.4 billion over that period. Most of the costs of teen childbearing are associated with negative consequences for the children born to teen mothers which include \$40 million for public health care; \$27 million for child wel-

fare; \$16 million for incarceration; and \$59 million in lost revenue due to decreased earnings and spending. There are additional costs associated with the teen mothers and fathers which contribute to the \$178 million total in 2004 alone. The national teen childbearing costs taxpayers at least \$9.1 billion a year. Teen pregnancy and child-bearing have significant economic and social costs. Although teen

pregnancy has declined 33% between 1991 and 2004, making further progress in reducing teen pregnancy will both benefit the national and state economies as well as improve the educational, health, and social prospects for this generation of the young people and the next. This cost analysis makes a powerful case for investing resources, attention, and effort in reducing teen pregnancy.



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## Survey Says. . .

**With One Voice 2007– *America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy*** is a periodic national survey conducted by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. The most recent survey, released in February 2007, provides important insight on American opinion on teen pregnancy.

Survey questions ask adults and teens a consistent, core set of questions about teen pregnancy and related issues. Topics surveyed include: parents and other adults; abstinence and contraception; regret; virginity; older partners; attitudes about teen sex; gender differences; religion; social norms and beliefs; and the media.

Results of this survey show that “the majority of adults and teens hold a practical, common sense view about teen sexual behavior and strategies for reducing early pregnancy and childbearing.”

For survey details, including exact wording of questions posed to adults and teens, please visit [http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/pdf/WOV2007\\_fulltext.pdf](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/pdf/WOV2007_fulltext.pdf).

## From the Director

**Why It Matters** is a new web portal located on the web site of The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy ([teenpregnancy.org](http://teenpregnancy.org)). Fact sheets available on the web site provide details regarding:

**The Cost of Teen Childbearing:** In addition to the many personal and social costs, teen childbearing is also costly to the public sector.

**Teen Pregnancy, Poverty, and Income Disparity:** Poverty is a cause as well as a consequence of early childbearing.

**Teen Pregnancy and Overall Child Well-Being:** Children of teen mothers are at significantly increased risk for a number of economic, social, and health problems.

**Teen Pregnancy, Out-of-Wedlock Births, Healthy Relationships, and Marriage:** The teen years are frequently a time when unmarried families are first formed.

**Teen Pregnancy and Responsible Fatherhood:** Children born to teen parents are often denied a close connection with their father.

**Teen Pregnancy and Education:** There is a strong relationship between academic failure and teen pregnancy.

**Teen Pregnancy and Child Welfare:** Early pregnancy and parenthood is directly related to child welfare, including abuse and neglect and foster care.

**Teen Pregnancy, Substance Use, and Other Risky Behavior:** Teens who drink or use drugs often are more sexually active than teens who take fewer risks.

**Teen Pregnancy and Violence:** Teen pregnancy is linked with various types of violence, including intimate partner violence and sexual abuse.

# ALABAMA CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY FACT SHEET

## IN ALABAMA:

- ◆ There were 11,518 pregnancies ages 10-19 in 2005<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ Nearly 300 girls 14 or younger became pregnant in 2005<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ 16% of teen pregnancies end in abortion<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ Alabama had the 15<sup>th</sup> highest teen pregnancy rate of any state<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ 75% of teen mothers reported their pregnancy was unintended<sup>2</sup>

## ALABAMA'S YOUTH: ISSUES WE FACE

- ◆ In 2005, over 50% of female and male high school students reported having sexual intercourse.<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ In 2005, 10% of female high school students and 21% of male high school students reported having 4 or more sexual partners.<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ In 2005, among those who reported being currently sexually active, 15% of females and 30% of males reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse.<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ In 2005, 88% of high school students reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school.<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ In 2005, there were an average of 21.7 births each day.<sup>1</sup>

## IMPACT ON ALABAMA

### Teen Mothers

- ◆ Are most likely to become pregnant again while still a teen.<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Are less likely to finish high school...only 1 in 3 will graduate<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Are more likely to live in poverty and rely on public assistance<sup>3</sup>

### Children of Teen Mothers

- ◆ Are less prepared for school and score lower in math and reading.<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Are more likely to become a teen mother (girls).<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Are more likely to end up in prison (boys).<sup>2</sup>

### Alabama Tax Payers

- ◆ Cost taxpayers (federal, state, & local) \$178 million in 2004
- ◆ Between 1991-2004 there have been over 143,000 teen births, costing taxpayers a total of 3.4 billion – this money paid for food stamps, housing, foster care, juvenile justice and other direct costs.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>AL Department of Health, Office of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems. (2006).

<sup>2</sup>National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (2005)

<sup>3</sup>The Alan Guttmacher Institute. (2005). Teenage pregnancy: Trends by state.



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We're on the web :  
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## Media Influence on Teen Pregnancy

- ◆ 3 out of 4 teenagers say TV shows and movies make it seem normal for them to have sex.
- ◆ Young teens (13-15) rank entertainment media as the top source of info about sex.
- ◆ American Psychological Association estimates that teens are exposed to 14,000 sexual references and innuendos per year on television.
- ◆ Music videos contain more sex per minute than any competing media genre<sup>1</sup>.
- ◆ A study of 4,294 network TV commercials found that nearly 1 in 4 commercials include some type of sexual attractions as base of message.
- ◆ Of roughly 14,000 references to sex a teen will see on TV each year, only a small fraction (165) will include any reference to abstinence or delay of sex, birth control, risk of pregnancy, or sexually transmitted disease<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Center for Media and Public Affairs, 2003.

<sup>2</sup>American Academy of Pediatrics, Sexuality, Contraception, & the Media, 2001.

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