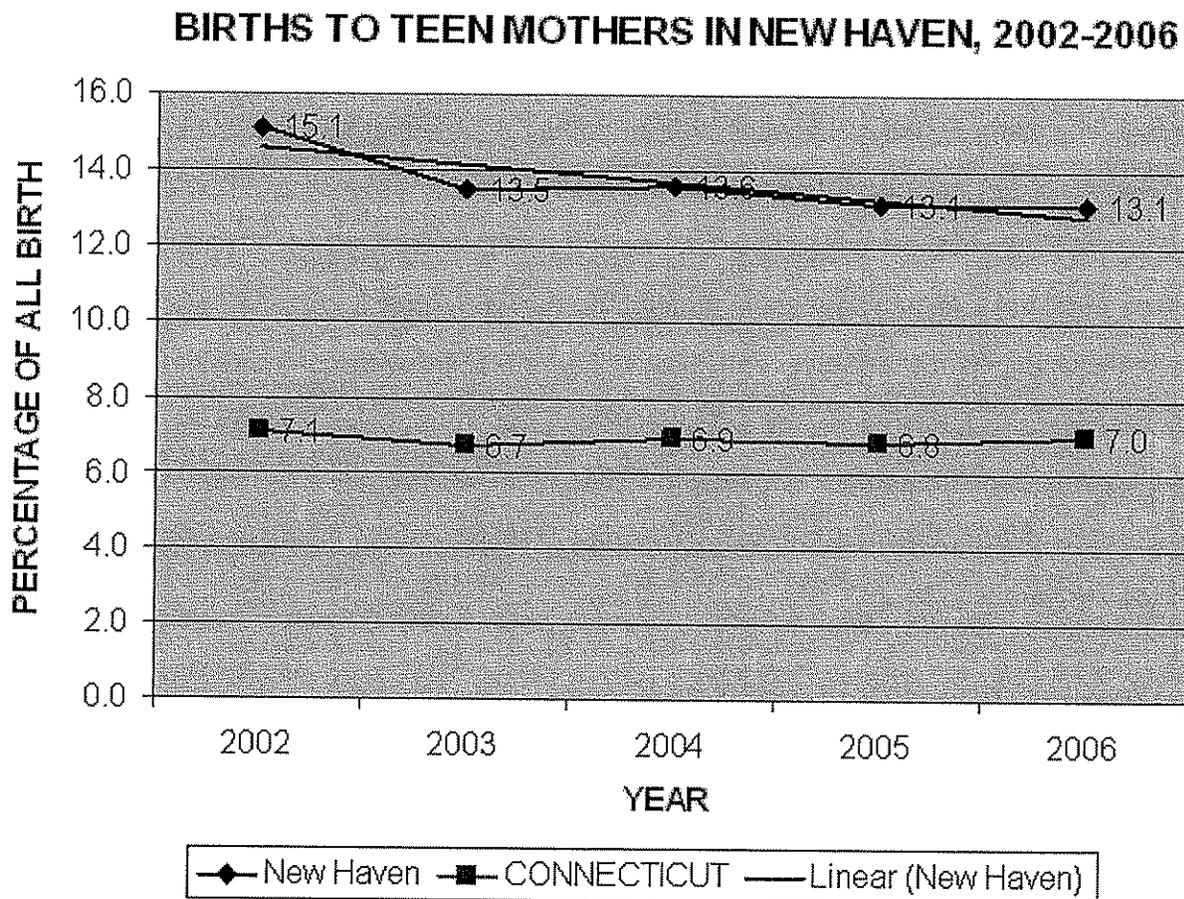


My name is Camellia Redway, Program Director for the Teen Outreach Program (TOP) at Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis (CCCC) in collaboration with Augusta Lewis Troup School in New Haven Connecticut. We are in the third year of teen pregnancy prevention funding. CCCC has been trained to utilize the science-based Wyman Teen Outreach Program model that is committed to ensuring program fidelity, utilize service learning to foster community engagement and make vulnerable students the givers rather than receivers of help. I have been placed in a wonderful position at our local middle school (Augusta Lewis Troup School) where I have acknowledged how important it is to talk to our youth. It's important to speak on a personal level and have them understand the world they live in and how they are able to make changes for themselves and/or others. The TOP students complete a minimum of 1000 service learning hours each year. CCCC participates in a national evaluation in which results indicated that students participating in TOP have a 60% lower rate of school dropout, 14% lower rate of school suspension, 11% lower rate of school course failure and 33% lower rate of teen pregnancy.

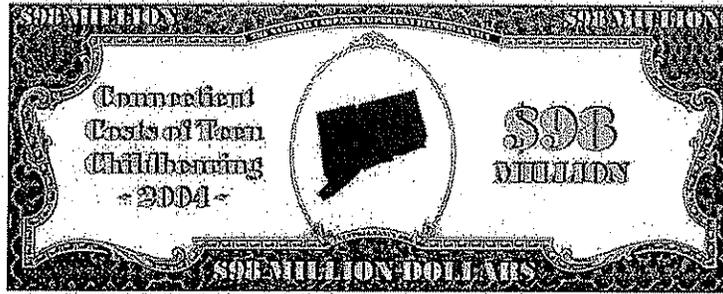
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy estimates that in 2004, teen childbearing cost Connecticut taxpayers \$103 million. According to an analysis by the Family Planning Program at the University of Connecticut Health Center, New Haven exceeds the statewide average for births to teen mothers (aged 19 or younger). It is ranked the sixth worst community in Connecticut with an average percentage of 13.1% of all resident births to teen mothers as compared to the statewide average of 6.9% during the same time period. New Haven is clearly a community in need of teen pregnancy prevention services. We would like to maintain the Teen Pregnancy Prevention funding to preserve the uninterrupted delivery of science-based teen pregnancy prevention program for at-risk youth. Service learning influences the students to become better people in their homes, schools and general communities. This program will put forth outstanding students who will eventually give back to their communities.

Thank you for your consideration  
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## NEW HAVEN DATA



The pattern of adolescent childbearing in New Haven indicates a small downward trend over the last five years, but one that still greatly exceeds the statewide average. In 2002 the proportion of all resident births to teen mothers in New Haven was 15.1% and then slowly dropped to 13.1% in 2006. However, even at its lowest, the proportion of births to teen mothers in New Haven was nearly double that of the statewide average. New Haven is clearly still a community in need of teen pregnancy prevention services.



## By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Connecticut November 2006

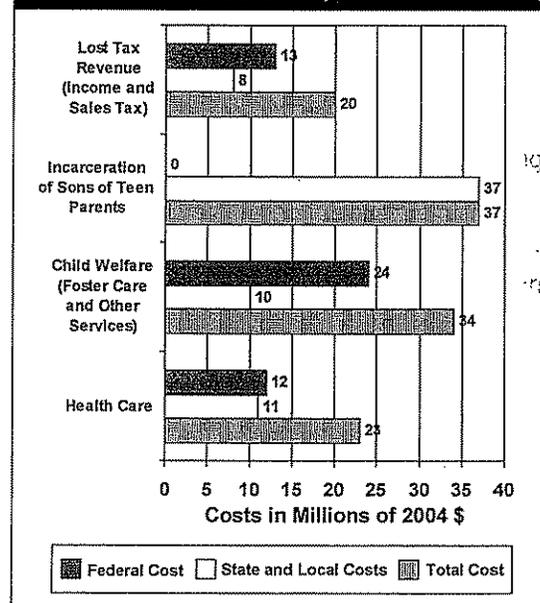
### Highlights

- A new analysis from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy shows that teen childbearing (teens 19 and younger) in Connecticut cost taxpayers (federal, state, and local) at least \$98 million in 2004.
- Of the total 2004 teen childbearing costs in Connecticut, 47% were federal costs and 53% were state and local costs.
- Most of the costs of teen childbearing are associated with negative consequences for the *children* of teen mothers. In Connecticut, in 2004, annual taxpayer costs associated with children born to teen mothers included: \$23 million for public health care (Medicaid and SCHIP); \$34 million for child welfare; \$37 million for incarceration; and \$20 million in lost tax revenue, due to decreased earnings and spending.\*
- The costs of childbearing are greatest for younger teens. In Connecticut, the average annual cost associated with a child born to a mother 17 and younger is \$6,850.
- Between 1991 and 2004 there have been more than 48,700 teen births in Connecticut, costing taxpayers a total of \$1.9 billion over that period.
- The teen birth rate in Connecticut declined 39 percent between 1991 and 2004. The

progress Connecticut has made in reducing teen childbearing saved taxpayers an estimated \$103 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](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/costs).

**Figure 1: Selected Annual Costs in Connecticut 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.

## Teen Childbearing

Despite impressive declines in teen pregnancy and a 33 percent decline in teen birth rates between 1991 and 2004, the United States still has the highest teen pregnancy and birth rates in the industrialized world. One in three teenage girls becomes pregnant at least once before the age of 20. More than 400,000 children are born to teen mothers in the United States each year. Approximately 80 percent of teen births are to unmarried teen mothers.

In Connecticut, there were 2,906 births to teens in 2004. The Connecticut teen birth rate in 2004 was 24.4 per 1,000 girls aged 15 – 19 (the national rate was 41.1 per 1,000 girls aged 15 – 19). Among all states, the 2004 teen birth rate in Connecticut ranks 6<sup>th</sup> (50 = highest).

## Consequences of Teen Parenting

Research closely links teen parenthood to many negative consequences for mothers, fathers, and their children. For example, compared to those who delay childbearing, teen mothers are more likely to drop out of school, remain unmarried, and live in poverty; their children are more likely to be born at low birth weight, grow up poor, live in single-parent households, experience abuse and neglect, and enter the child welfare system. Daughters of teen mothers are more likely to become teen parents themselves and sons of teen mothers are more likely to be incarcerated (Hoffman, SD (2006). *By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing*. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy: Washington, DC.)

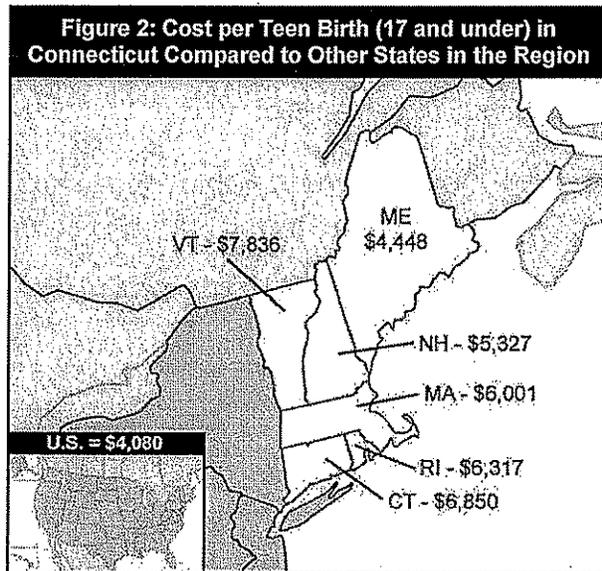
## What This Analysis Measures

This new analysis by the National Campaign documents the economic costs of teen childbearing by measuring the participation of the children of teen mothers in public health care systems, primarily Medicaid and SCHIP, the child welfare system (foster care and child protective services), and the criminal justice system. The analysis also measures the participation of teen mothers in public assistance programs.

Additionally, the analysis measures lost labor market activity (which translates into lost tax revenue) of the children of teen mothers when they become adults and reduced earning capacity for teen mothers and their partners. This reflects the decreased educational attainment of teen mothers and their children. Specifically, the analysis compares costs associated with teen mothers, their partners, and their children with the same costs for women who delay childbearing until they are 20 – 21 years old. That is, the analysis takes many steps to isolate the net costs associated with teen childbearing rather than just the gross costs. There are many ways in which teen childbearing has a negative effect on the life prospects of teen mothers and their families; however this analysis only focuses on the economic costs to taxpayers.

## Key Connecticut Findings

In Connecticut, the cost to taxpayers (federal, state, and local) associated with teen childbearing is estimated to be at least \$98 million in 2004, of which \$46 million (47%) are federal costs and \$52 million (53%) are state and local costs. Put another way, the average annual cost in Connecticut of teen childbearing is \$2,245 per teen birth. However, it is important to note that costs of births to young teens are much greater than costs of births to older teens, and the average annual cost associated with a child born to a mother 17 and younger is \$6,850. Figure 2 shows the average annual costs for births to younger teens in Connecticut as compared to neighboring states and the nation.



Nationally, the overall cost to taxpayers is estimated to be at least \$9.1 billion a year. The total costs include those attached to teen mothers, their partners, and children born to teen mothers. The most significant costs are associated with poorer outcomes for the children of teen parents as compared to the outcomes for children born to mothers who are 20-21 years old. Please see figure 1 for detailed information on specific costs.

Between 1991 and 2004 there have been more than 48,700 teen births in Connecticut, costing taxpayers a total of \$1.9 billion over this period. However, the state has made significant progress in reducing teen childbearing, leading to significant annual savings. Specifically, the progress Connecticut has made in reducing teen childbearing (as noted previously, the teen birth rate in the state actually declined 39 percent between 1991 and 2004) has saved taxpayers an estimated \$103 million in 2004 alone, of which \$48 million represent federal costs and \$54 million represent state and local costs.

## What does this all mean?

Teen pregnancy and child-bearing have significant economic and social costs. 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 young people and the next.

Despite the impressive strides all states have made in reducing teen pregnancy and childbearing, there is still much work to be done. The new cost data presented in this fact sheet makes a powerful case for investing additional resources, attention, and effort in reducing teen pregnancy. Prevention offers a terrific return on investment and represents sound fiscal policy. If states are able to sustain the progress in reducing teen pregnancy and childbearing, they will not only improve the well-being of children, families, and communities, but will also reduce the burden on taxpayers, thereby freeing up funds that could be invested in other priority areas as policymakers see fit.

In order to maintain a focus on this important health and social issue, a number of states have set goals to reduce the teen pregnancy and/or birth rates. For more information on state goals, please see [www.teenpregnancy.org/stategoals](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/stategoals).

## Related Information

These first-of-their-kind state estimates are part of a larger National Campaign project on the costs of teen childbearing. Those who want to learn more about the national costs of adolescent parenting are encouraged to read, *By The Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing* (available at: [www.teenpregnancy.org/costs](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/costs)).

A related analysis by the National Campaign shows that declining teen birth rates have significantly improved overall child well-being in all 50 states and the District of Columbia (see [www.teenpregnancy.org/whycare/whatif.asp](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/whycare/whatif.asp)). According to the *What If* analysis, between 1991 and 2002 (the most recent year available at the time the analysis was done), the teen birth rate for girls aged 15-19 had declined 36 percent in Connecticut. If the teen birth rate had not improved in the state:

- Over 10,000 additional children (under age 18) in the state would have been born to teen mothers between 1991 and 2002, and
- Fully 81 percent of these children would have been under age six in 2002.

Focusing specifically on children in Connecticut under age six in 2002:

- 15 percent more of these children would have been living in poverty, and
- 11 percent more of these children would have been living in single mother households.

## Methodology

The total costs of a teen birth are based on three factors: 1) the best current estimates from the research literature of the impact of a teen birth, adjusted for other risk factors, on each of the outcomes that generate public sector costs; 2) the cost of providing a particular public sector service in 2004; and 3) the number of teen births in 2004. For most analyses, the costs are those associated with the first fifteen years of motherhood, beginning either with a teen birth or, in the case of the comparison group, if the birth were delayed to ages 20 or 21. The only costs included in the analysis are those for which there are reliable national estimates of the net impact of a teen birth and for which there are explicit dollar costs associated with that outcome. For example, the analysis does not include special education or juvenile justice costs for children of teen parents, which may be sizable but for which there are no national impact estimates. **Because we cannot measure and include all outcomes and all costs, this costs 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.** In addition, the analysis does not isolate factors that may be of significant interest to policymakers such as the citizenship or marital status of teen parents. Further information on the methods used can be found in Hoffman (2006). [www.teenpregnancy.org/costs](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/costs)

## For more information

To read a technical description of the analysis, detailed cost tables, or citation information, go to *By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing* at [www.teenpregnancy.org/costs](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/costs). For more information about teen pregnancy prevention generally or the National Campaign in particular, please visit [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org).

## Funding information

This work was made possible by a generous grant from the William T. Grant Foundation in fulfillment of their mission to further the understanding of human behavior through research. The Foundation's mission focuses on improving the lives of youth ages 8 to 25 in the United States. For information about the William T. Grant Foundation, please visit [www.wtgrantfoundation.org](http://www.wtgrantfoundation.org).

## About the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

The National Campaign is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization supported largely by private donations. Our mission is to improve the well-being of children, youth, and families by reducing teen pregnancy. Our goal is to reduce the teen pregnancy rate by one-third between 2006 and 2015.

