



# Teen Pregnancy in Our Community

## Unintended Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Youth is a Local Issue

- Despite recent gains, the U.S. still has the highest rates of teen pregnancy among comparable countries. The U.S. birth rate is nearly 2 times higher than that of the U.K., 10 times higher than Switzerland, and more than 3 times higher than Canada.<sup>1</sup>
- STD rates among U.S. teens are also high. The U.S. teen HIV rate is 4.5 times greater than in Germany, and gonorrhea rates are 30 times higher than in the Netherlands.<sup>2</sup>
- Nationally, overall teen birth rates decreased 37% between 1991 and 2009.<sup>3</sup>
- However, local teen pregnancy rates remain high.\*

County	State Ranking**
Chemung	8th
Schuyler	41st
Steuben	24th
Tompkins	60th

\* NYS DOH Vital Statistics, 2009.  
\*\* Out of 62 counties in NYS

### Project CAP Goals

- promote abstinence and delay the onset of sexual activity to expand educational, recreational, vocational, and economic opportunities for teens
- provide alternatives to sexual activity
- prevent pregnancies, STDs, and HIV

### Project CAP Partners

Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes  
Economic Opportunity Program  
Elmira School District  
Southside Community Center  
AOMC Health Center for Women  
Chemung County Health Department  
GST Boces

## Comprehensive Sexuality Education: Making the Case

- Evidence-based, comprehensive sex education programs have been proven to help delay the onset of sexual activity, reduce the frequency of sexual activity, reduce the number of sexual partners, and increase condom and contraceptive use.
- Teens that receive comprehensive sex education are 50% less likely to experience a pregnancy than those who receive abstinence-only education.<sup>4</sup>
- 80% of Americans support teaching comprehensive sex education in middle and high schools.<sup>4</sup>
- No abstinence-only program has yet been proven through rigorous evaluation to help youth delay sex for a significant period of time, help decrease number of sex partners, or reduce pregnancy or STD rates among teens.

<sup>1</sup>Teen Birth Rates: How does the U.S. Compare? National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.  
<sup>2</sup>Strategies for Organizational Success: Talking Points on Science-Based Approaches and Programs. Advocates for Youth. 2009.  
<sup>3</sup>Summary of 2009 Preliminary Birth Data from the National Center of Health Statistics. National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. December 2010.  
<sup>4</sup>The Facts: Comprehensive Sex Education: Research and Results. Advocates for Youth. 2009.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention is a wise investment.

Substantial progress in reducing teen childbearing has saved taxpayers billions of dollars.

Teen pregnancy and childbearing have significant social and economic costs.

## National Costs of Teen Childbearing

- Teen childbearing costs U.S. taxpayers at least \$10.9 billion per year.<sup>5</sup>
- 2/3 of families started by a teen mom are poor.<sup>5</sup>
- 1/4 of teen moms go on public assistance within 3 years of the child's birth.<sup>5</sup>
- The children of teen moms are more likely to be born prematurely and at a low birth weight.<sup>5</sup>
- The children of teen moms are 2 times more likely to suffer from abuse and neglect.<sup>5</sup>
- The daughters of teen moms are 3 times more likely to become teen moms themselves.<sup>5</sup>
- The sons of teen moms are 2 times more likely to end up incarcerated.<sup>6</sup>
- Children born to teen moms are more likely to end up in foster care.<sup>5</sup>
- Every \$1 spent on preventing teen pregnancy and STDs saves \$2.65 in total medical and social costs.<sup>7</sup>
- Only 36% of teen moms under the age of 18 will graduate from high school.<sup>8</sup>

## Public Costs of Teen Childbearing

### In New York State:

- A June 2011 analysis shows teen childbearing cost NYS taxpayers \$377 million (2008).<sup>9</sup>
- Most of the costs are associated with the negative consequences of teen childbearing and being the child of a teen mother.
  - » Annual cost of \$176 million for Medicaid and SCHIP;
  - » \$211 million for child welfare;
  - » \$150 million for incarceration; and
  - » \$126 million in lost tax revenue (2008 data)<sup>9</sup>
- Cost per year for each child of a teen mom 17 and under = \$6,094.<sup>9</sup>
- Every \$1 spent on family planning services saves NYS taxpayers \$4 in Medicaid costs for prenatal, delivery, and first-year infant care.

### Locally, using 2006 cost data and 2009 birth rates (most recent county specific data available):

County	Number of Children Born	Costs (over the child's lifetime) <sup>10</sup>
Chemung	111	\$2.7 million
Steuben	114	\$2.7 million
Schuyler	16	\$395,130
Tompkins	42	\$1.03 million

Prevention offers a terrific return on investment and represents sound fiscal policy. Reducing teen pregnancy and childbearing not only improves the well-being of children, families, and communities, but reduces the burden on taxpayers.

<sup>5</sup>Why it Matters: Linking Teen Pregnancy to Other Critical Social Issues. National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. March 2010.

<sup>6</sup>Science Says: The Public Cost of Teen Child Rearing. National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. December 2006.

<sup>7</sup>The Facts: Comprehensive Sex Education: Research and Results. Advocates for Youth. 2009.

<sup>8</sup>Diploma Attainment Among Teen Mothers. Child Trends. January 2010.

<sup>9</sup>Counting It Up: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing. National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. June 2011.

<sup>10</sup>By the Numbers Calculator. National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/costs/calculator.asp>