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## STATE OF DENIAL:

# The Facts About Teen Pregnancy in Florida

The United States has the highest rates of teen pregnancy and births in the western industrialized world. Teen pregnancy costs the United States at least **\$9 billion** annually.<sup>1</sup>

Thirty-one percent of young women become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20<sup>2</sup>—about 750,000 a year.<sup>3</sup> Eight in 10 of these pregnancies are unintended<sup>4</sup> and 81 percent are to unmarried teens.

### Teen Pregnancy Costs to the State:

Between 1991 and 2004 there have been more than 354,000 teen births in Florida, costing taxpayers a total of \$8.1 billion over this period.<sup>5</sup>

**In 2004 alone, the cost of 23,804 births to teen mothers, age 0–19, on Federal, State and Local Governments, and the taxpayers who support them totaled \$489,158,000<sup>6</sup>.** Of the total costs, 52% were federal costs, and 48% were state costs.

### Teen Pregnancy Costs associated for 0–19 year olds in Florida in selected counties:

- In **Alachua County**: 290 teen births, estimated cost of \$5,959,000
- In **Collier County**: 490 teen births, estimated cost of \$10,069,000
- In **Dade County**: 3059 teen births, estimated cost of \$62,861,000
- In **Duval County**: 1572 teen births, estimated cost of \$32,304,000
- In **Hillsborough County**: 2078 teen births, estimated cost of \$42,702,000
- In **Manatee County**: 557 teen births, estimated cost of \$11,446,000
- In **Orange County**: 1771 teen births, estimated cost of \$36,393,000
- In **Polk County**: 1225 teen births, estimated cost of \$25,173,000

Most of the costs of teen childbearing are associated with the negative consequences for the children of teen mothers. In Florida in 2004, annual taxpayer costs associated with children born to teen mothers included:

- \$96 million for public health care (Medicaid and SCHIP)
- \$89 million for child welfare
- \$105 million for incarceration
- \$145 million in lost tax revenue due to decreased earnings and spending

1 Hoffman, Saul, Ph.D. (2006). *By the Numbers: the Public Cost of Teen Childbearing*. Washington, DC: the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

2 National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy analysis of Teen Pregnancy Data. (2006).

3 The Guttmacher Institute. (2006) U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity. New York: The Guttmacher Institute.

4 Henshaw, S.K. (1998). Unintended Pregnancy in the United States. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 30(1):24–29, 46. Based on data from the 1982, 1988, and 1995 cycles of the National Survey of Family Growth, supplemented by data from other sources.

5 National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy [http://www.teenpregnancy.org/costs/pdf/fact\\_sheet/FL\\_Final.pdf](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/costs/pdf/fact_sheet/FL_Final.pdf)

6 National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/costs/calculator.asp>

Learn More About the Healthy Teens Act at  
[www.HealthyTeensFlorida.org](http://www.HealthyTeensFlorida.org)

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For Informed and Safe Florida Teenagers