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

Highlights

- A new analysis from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy shows that teen childbearing (teens 19 and younger) in Ohio cost taxpayers (federal, state, and local) at least $352 million in 2004.

- Of the total 2004 teen childbearing costs in Ohio, 39% were federal costs and 61% were state and local costs.

- Most of the costs of teen childbearing are associated with negative consequences for the *children* of teen mothers. In Ohio, in 2004, annual taxpayer costs associated with children born to teen mothers included: $67 million for public health care (Medicaid and SCHIP); $92 million for child welfare; $90 million for incarceration; and $104 million in lost tax revenue, due to decreased earnings and spending.*

- The costs of childbearing are greatest for younger teens. In Ohio, the average annual cost associated with a child born to a mother 17 and younger is $4,534.

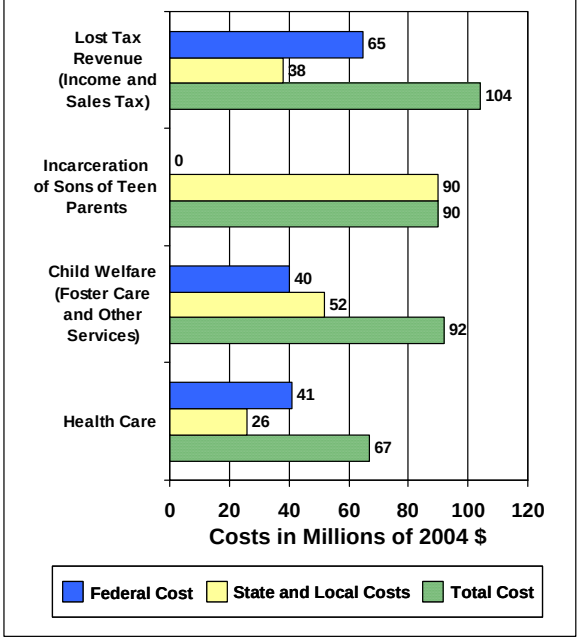
- Between 1991 and 2004 there have been more than 271,900 teen births in Ohio, costing taxpayers a total of $6.9 billion over that period.

- The teen birth rate in Ohio declined 36 percent between 1991 and 2004. The progress Ohio has made in reducing teen childbearing saved taxpayers an estimated $300 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.

Figure 1: Selected Annual Costs in Ohio 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.