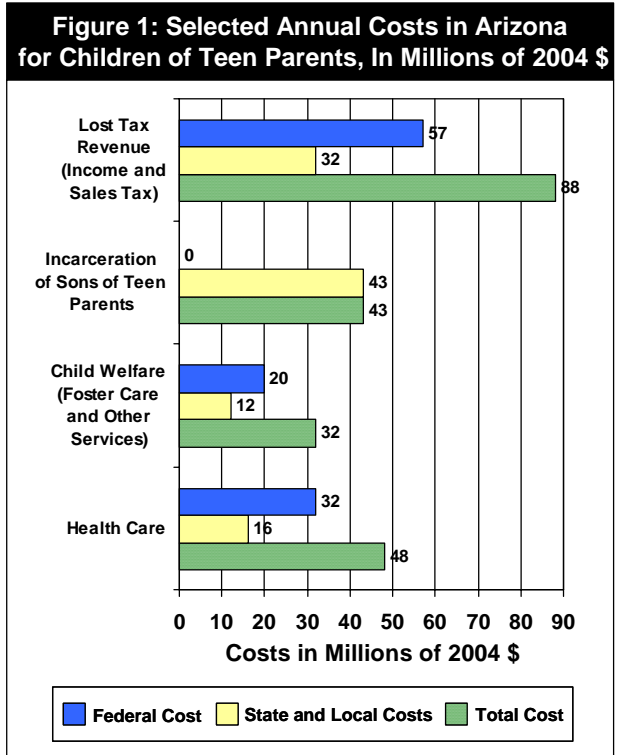




By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Arizona September 2006

Highlights

- A new analysis from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy shows that teen childbearing (teens 15-19) in Arizona costs taxpayers (federal, state, and local) at least \$268 million in 2004 or \$3,822 per teen birth.
- The teen birth rate in Arizona declined 23 percent between 1991 and 2003. The progress Arizona has made in reducing teen childbearing has saved taxpayers an estimated \$76 million in 2004 alone.
- Of the total teen childbearing costs in Arizona, 51% are federal costs and 49% are state and local costs.
- Most of the costs of teen childbearing are associated with negative consequences for the *children* of teen mothers. In Arizona, annual taxpayer costs associated with children born to teen mothers include: \$48 million for public health care (Medicaid and SCHIP); \$32 million for child welfare; \$43 million for incarceration; and \$88 million in lost tax revenue, due to decreased earnings and spending.*
- Between 1991 and 2004 there have been more than 158,300 teen births in Arizona, costing taxpayers a total of \$3.7 billion over this period.



* 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.



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Teen Pregnancy Costs Arizona **\$268 Million in 2004**

Taxpayers shelled out \$268 million in 2004 to pay costs related to teen pregnancy in Arizona.

“Beyond the cost of lost opportunities and delayed dreams for teens and parents when a teen pregnancy occurs, taxpayers pay the bill. In 2004, the cost was \$3822 for every teen birth,” said Patricia Jo Angelini, executive director of The Arizona Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting (ACAPP).

The cost data comes from *By the Numbers, the Public Costs of Teen Childbearing*, produced by The National Campaign To Prevent Teen Pregnancy (NCTPTP). It found that taxpayers pick up the tab for additional incarceration costs, health care and welfare related costs from the children born to teen parents, and lost tax revenue from the teen parents and children.

“We’ve known for a while that the sons of teen moms are 3 times more likely to be incarcerated. Now we know that number translates into \$43 million a year in state and local costs,” Angelini said.

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Investing in teen pregnancy prevention efforts saves Arizona taxpayers money, the report found. “In 2004, taxpayers saved \$76 million because of previous reductions in Arizona’s teen pregnancy rate,” Angelini said. “It’s common sense and fiscal sense to prevent teen pregnancies and provide a helping hand up to teen parents.”

Arizona has the 4th highest teen birth rate in the nation with more than 38 teens becoming pregnant every day.

ACAPP is a nine-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing teen pregnancy and improving the lives and futures of teen parents and their children.

The NCTPTP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. It’s mission is to improve the well-being of children, youth, and families by reducing teen pregnancy with a goal of reducing the teen pregnancy rate by one-third between 2006 and 2015.

The report was funded through a grant to the NCTPTP from the William T. Grant Foundation. The Foundation’s mission focuses on improving the lives of youth ages 8 to 25 in the United States.

Teen Pregnancy in Arizona

In 2004...



- Arizona's teen pregnancy rate increased from 2003 by less than 1%.
- Arizona teen pregnancy rates increased for all youth age groups 15 years of age and older.
- More than 38 teens became pregnant in Arizona. Every Day. A total of 14,163 youth 19 years of age or younger became pregnant.
- Yuma County had the highest pregnancy rate for 15-19 year olds (87.6 pregnancies per 1000).
- Yuma County had the highest pregnancy rate for 15-17 year olds (56.3 pregnancies per 1000).
- Greenlee County had the highest teen pregnancy rate for 18-19 year olds (173.1 pregnancies per 1000).
- Gila and Santa Cruz counties were tied having the highest pregnancy rate for youth under age 15 (2.0 pregnancies per 1000).
- 8562 females who were 19 years of age or younger became pregnant in Maricopa County.
- 233 youth aged 10-14 became pregnant.
- 16% of youth who became pregnant had abortions.
- 27% of Arizona teens giving birth have been pregnant at least once before. 35% of 18-19-year-olds giving birth had been pregnant before.
- 82% of teen births were paid by government funds.
- 84% of Arizona teens giving birth were unmarried.

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. Teenage Pregnancy, Arizona. 1994-2004

For more information on teen pregnancy, please call 602-265-4337 or visit our website at www.azteenpregnancy.org.

2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Arizona¹

	% All Arizona students	% of Arizona 9 th graders	% of Arizona 10 th graders	% of Arizona 11 th graders	% of Arizona 12 th graders
Percentage of students who have had sexual intercourse	42.8	28.4	35.5	51.7	62.0
Percentage of students who had sexual intercourse with 1 of more people during the past 3 months	30.2	17.1	23.2	36.8	49.3
Percentage of students who had sex for the first time before age 13	5.7	8.1	3.7	5.8	4.3
Percentage of students who have ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	10.9	6.9	9.2	14.3	14.4
Of those youth who had sexual intercourse in the past 3 months, the percentage of youth who used alcohol or drugs before having sex	23.4	28.0	19.9	26.1	19.9
Of those youth who had sexual intercourse in the past 3 months, the percentage of youth who used a condom the last time they had sex	55.1	58.6	66.0	55.6	47.6
Of those youth who had sexual intercourse in the past 3 months, the percentage of youth who used birth control pills during the last sexual intercourse	15.3	11.6	11.2	14.1	20.5
Percentage of students who have had sexual intercourse with 4 or more partners	13.5	8.4	7.4	15.3	26.1
Percentage of students who have been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant	5.8	3.5	2.8	8.0	9.9
Percentage of students ever hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the past 12 months	10.5	8.3	9.6	12.7	12.0
Percentage of students whose first sexual intercourse partner was 3 or more years older.	11.5	9.4	7.4	14.1	16.4

¹ Arizona Youth Risk Behavior Survey; Arizona Dept. of Education; Feb. 2006. Arizona 2005 data includes charter schools. <http://www.ade.az.gov/schooleffectiveness/health/matrix/YRBS2005Results.asp>