



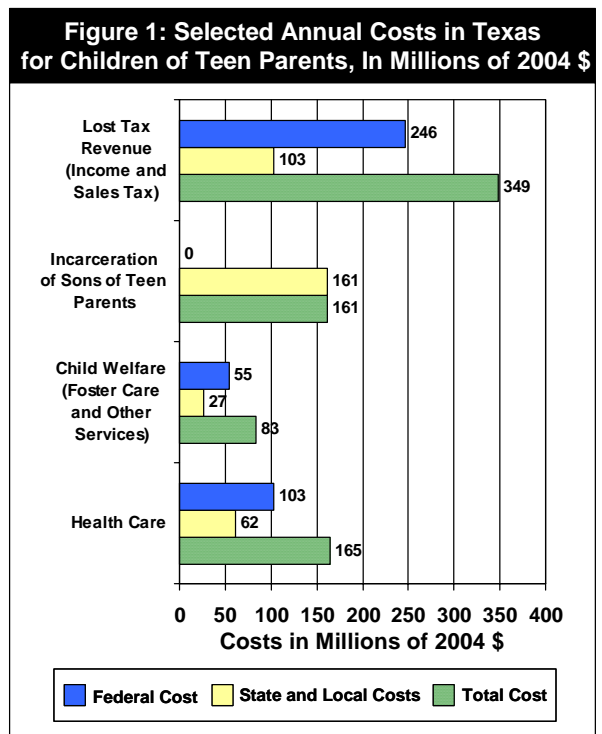
## By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Texas November 2006

### Highlights

- A new analysis from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy shows that teen childbearing (teens 19 and younger) in Texas cost taxpayers (federal, state, and local) at least \$1 billion in 2004.
- Of the total 2004 teen childbearing costs in Texas, 55% were federal costs and 45% were state and local costs.
- Most of the costs of teen childbearing are associated with negative consequences for the children of teen mothers. In Texas, in 2004, annual taxpayer costs associated with children born to teen mothers included: \$165 million for public health care (Medicaid and SCHIP); \$83 million for child welfare; \$161 million for incarceration; and \$349 million in lost tax revenue, due to decreased earnings and spending.\*
- The costs of childbearing are greatest for younger teens. In Texas, the average annual cost associated with a child born to a mother 17 and younger is \$2,997.
- Between 1991 and 2004 there have been more than 745,000 teen births in Texas costing taxpayers a total of \$15.1 billion over that period.
- The teen birth rate in Texas declined 20 percent between 1991 and 2004. The

progress Texas has made in reducing teen childbearing saved taxpayers an estimated \$327 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).



\* 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.