

“When children have children...that’s not good for business.



The business community has a vested interest in preventing teen pregnancy and childbearing because of the associated financial, social, and workforce-related consequences. If teens can delay parenthood, they will have the time and resources they need for their education and training, which are crucial to a productive workforce in an increasingly high-tech world.”¹

Restoring Michigan's economy requires competitive businesses with access to a well-trained workforce.

High teen pregnancy rates weaken our workforce.

- Teen parents – and their children – are less likely to complete high school.²
- Only *half* of teen mothers receive a high school diploma by age 22.³

Teen pregnancy has long-term effects on future generations.

Children of teen mothers are more likely to...

- have lower cognitive attainment and proficiency scores at kindergarten entry
- exhibit behavior problems
- have chronic medical conditions
- rely on publicly provided health care
- drop out of high school
- be incarcerated at some time during adolescence
- give birth as a teenager
- be unemployed, or underemployed as a young adult.²

Delaying teen pregnancy helps reduce the cycle of poverty, and creates greater economic self-sufficiency.

In 2009, an estimated 18,450 Michigan teens became pregnant, accounting for 11% of all pregnancies.

Many young people are capable, loving parents in spite of these statistics. It is critical that we create the best opportunities possible for all. Nurturing a brighter future for Michigan's youth and families means a vibrant workforce and economy.

When we work to reduce teen pregnancy, we also **reduce Sexually Transmitted Infections, including HIV**, which disproportionately affect teens.

The cost of teen childbearing to Michigan taxpayers was conservatively estimated at **\$308 million** for 2008.

*These public costs include lost tax revenue, health care, and child welfare costs.*⁴

Beyond the measurable expenses, teen parenting increases absenteeism in the workplace and financial and emotional strain on families, including grandparents who assume parenting responsibilities.



“ **An effective response** to the problem of teen pregnancy includes investments in proven interventions, efforts to inform and empower parents of teens and other adults and focused attention on vulnerable subgroups of teens, such as those in foster care.

Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2010

”

What we can do for our families, workplaces, and our economy...

1. Assess current workplace policies and culture related to teen pregnancy prevention.
 - Do workplace policies support employees seeking healthcare?
 - Is contraception covered in the healthcare plan?
 - Do managers in the workplace recognize healthy work/life boundaries, appropriate workplace humor, and an atmosphere of respect?
2. Support state and local funding for teen pregnancy prevention and adolescent sexual health efforts.
3. Be aware of local and state resources for healthcare, teen parenting, safe delivery options, and STD/HIV prevention.
4. Host a Talk Early & Talk Often workshop at your workplace to help parents communicate with their children about abstinence and healthy sexual values (www.michigan.gov/talkearly)
5. Support evidence-based comprehensive sex education, both in our local schools and community programs, and within statewide policy and law.
6. Support state and local efforts to raise awareness of the issues – for example, put out posters and fliers on The National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/national>).
7. Participate in local coalitions to address teen health and teen pregnancy prevention.
8. Advocate for healthy adolescents by supporting Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health with a donation (www.moash.org).

This document was created with support from Michigan Department of Community Health, in partnership with the



¹ National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2002) Not just another single issue: Teen pregnancy prevention's link to other critical social issues.

² Hoffman SD. (2008) Kids having kids: economic costs and social consequences of teen pregnancy. The Urban Institute Press.

³ Perper K, Peterson K, Manlove J. (2010) Diploma attainment among teen mothers. Child Trends, Fact Sheet Publication #2010-01: Washington, DC.

⁴ National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (2011). Counting it Up: Michigan Costs of Teen Childbearing 2008. www.thenc.org