Teen Pregnancy in Our Community

Unintended Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Youth is a Local Issue

- Despite recent gains, the U.S. still has the highest rates of teen pregnancy among comparable countries. The U.S. birth rate is nearly 2 times higher than that of the U.K., 10 times higher than Switzerland, and more than 3 times higher than Canada.¹
- STD rates among U.S. teens are also high. The U.S. teen HIV rate is 4.5 times greater than in Germany, and gonorrhea rates are 30 times higher than in the Netherlands.²
- Nationally, overall teen birth rates decreased 37% between 1991 and 2009.³
- However, local teen pregnancy rates remain high.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>State Ranking**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemung</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schuyler</td>
<td>41st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steuben</td>
<td>24th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tompkins</td>
<td>60th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Out of 62 counties in NYS

Comprehensive Sexuality Education: Making the Case

- Evidence-based, comprehensive sex education programs have been proven to help delay the onset of sexual activity, reduce the frequency of sexual activity, reduce the number of sexual partners, and increase condom and contraceptive use.
- Teens that receive comprehensive sex education are 50% less likely to experience a pregnancy than those who receive abstinence-only education.⁴
- 80% of Americans support teaching comprehensive sex education in middle and high schools.⁴
- No abstinence-only program has yet been proven through rigorous evaluation to help youth delay sex for a significant period of time, help decrease number of sex partners, or reduce pregnancy or STD rates among teens.

¹Teen Birth Rates: How does the U.S. Compare? National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.
²Strategies for Organizational Success: Talking Points on Science-Based Approaches and Programs. Advocates for Youth. 2009.
⁴The Facts: Comprehensive Sex Education: Research and Results. Advocates for Youth. 2009.

Project CAP Goals
- promote abstinence and delay the onset of sexual activity to expand educational, recreational, vocational, and economic opportunities for teens
- provide alternatives to sexual activity
- prevent pregnancies, STDs, and HIV

Project CAP Partners
Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes
Economic Opportunity Program
Elmira School District
Southside Community Center
AOMC Health Center for Women
Chemung County Health Department
GST Boces
**Teen Pregnancy Prevention is a wise investment.**

**Substantial progress in reducing teen childbearing has saved taxpayers billions of dollars.**

**Teen pregnancy and childbearing have significant social and economic costs.**

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### National Costs of Teen Childbearing

- Teen childbearing costs U.S. taxpayers at least $10.9 billion per year.\(^5\)
- 2/3 of families started by a teen mom are poor.\(^5\)
- 1/4 of teen moms go on public assistance within 3 years of the child’s birth.\(^5\)
- The children of teen moms are more likely to be born prematurely and at a low birth weight.\(^5\)
- The children of teen moms are 2 times more likely to suffer from abuse and neglect.\(^5\)
- The daughters of teen moms are 3 times more likely to become teen moms themselves.\(^5\)
- The sons of teen moms are 2 times more likely to end up incarcerated.\(^6\)
- Children born to teen moms are more likely to end up in foster care.\(^5\)
- Every $1 spent on preventing teen pregnancy and STDs saves $2.65 in total medical and social costs.\(^7\)
- Only 36% of teen moms under the age of 18 will graduate from high school.\(^8\)

### Public Costs of Teen Childbearing

**In New York State:**

- A June 2011 analysis shows teen childbearing cost NYS taxpayers $377 million (2008).\(^9\)
- Most of the costs are associated with the negative consequences of teen childbearing and being the child of a teen mother.
  - Annual cost of $176 million for Medicaid and SCHIP;
  - $211 million for child welfare;
  - $150 million for incarceration; and
  - $126 million in lost tax revenue (2008 data)\(^9\)
- Cost per year for each child of a teen mom 17 and under = $6,094.\(^9\)
- Every $1 spent on family planning services saves NYS taxpayers $4 in Medicaid costs for prenatal, delivery, and first-year infant care.

### Locally, using 2006 cost data and 2009 birth rates (most recent county specific data available):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Number of Children Born</th>
<th>Costs (over the child’s lifetime)(^10)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemung</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>$2.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steuben</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>$2.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schuyler</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$395,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tompkins</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>$1.03 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prevention offers a terrific return on investment and represents sound fiscal policy. Reducing teen pregnancy and childbearing not only improves the well-being of children, families, and communities, but reduces the burden on taxpayers.

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\(^7\) *The Facts: Comprehensive Sex Education: Research and Results. Advocates for Youth. 2009.*

