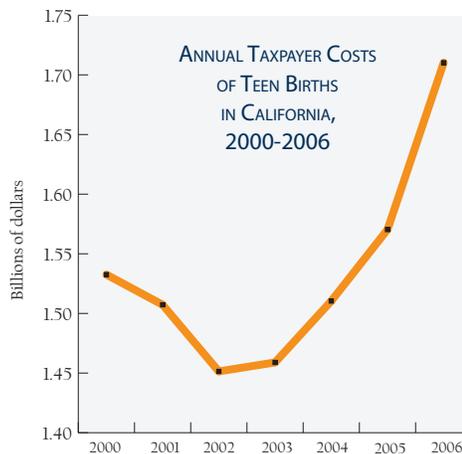


Changes in teen birth rates and costs across California Senate Districts

Mirroring a nationwide trend, California's 15-year teen birth rate decline came to an abrupt halt in 2006 as rates began to climb in the state overall and in 32 of California's 40 State Senate Districts. In fact, the annual number of teen births had already begun to increase in 2004 while the birth rate was still declining slightly, due to California's rapidly growing teen population. And estimated taxpayer costs, due to a small annual inflation component, began to increase a year earlier in 2003.

The most recent increase in taxpayer costs between 2005 and 2006 was especially steep (see chart).



This latest increase from \$1.57 billion to \$1.71 billion results from a combination of inflation, increased teen population, and increased teen birth rate. The *No Time for Complacency* 2008 Teen Birth Update examines progress and continuing challenges for the State of California and all of its individual Senate Districts. This report can be found, together with earlier *No Time for Complacency* reports and supporting materials, at <http://teenbirths.phi.org>.

The 2008 update shows that California's teen birth rate remains lower than the rate for the United States, and substantially lower than the rate for demographically comparable states such as Texas. The rates for California and the United States, however, are four times higher than the median teen birth rate of other Western democracies. This discrepancy reinforces that both California and the United States cannot be complacent with the status quo, and that much work remains to realize our full potential in reducing teen birth rates.

Legislative update: AB 629 and SB 1600

The Sexual Health Education Accountability Act (AB 629; Brownley, D) was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in October 2007. The new law requires all state-funded or administered community-based teen pregnancy and STD prevention programs to be medically accurate, age appropriate and comprehensive. A new bill, SB 1600 (Kuehl, D), which would extend similar requirement to school-based sex education in charter schools, passed out of the Senate Education Committee on April 17, 2008. Its next stop is the Senate Appropriations Committee. To check the status of SB 1600, go to tinyurl.com/fo2z.

California Approves Health Education Standards

The California State Board of Education has adopted its first-ever set of Health Education Content Standards for kindergarten through grade 12. The standards specify what California's public school students are expected to know about health, and they reinforce state law that requires sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention education to be comprehensive, medically accurate, objective and age appropriate. The standards can be accessed at tinyurl.com/3kvas4.

State funding for teen pregnancy prevention

Over the past two decades, California has experienced a substantial decline in teen birth rates, with a 46% decrease in the overall rate between 1991 and 2006. Yet as teen birth rates in California and across the United States still remain high, and have recently shown a small increase, it is imperative that California continue to make strong investments in teen pregnancy prevention programs and services. These state-administered programs are supported by a combination of state and federal funds. The amounts provided below are the latest available immediately following the May 14 release of the Governor's revised budget for 2008-2009.

Of the four Teen Pregnancy Prevention community programs administered by the Department of Public Health, Office of Family Planning (tinyurl.com/r4e6n), one is budgeted at its 2007-2008 level: the Community Challenge Grant Program (\$18.5 million). The other three programs are slated for reduced state general funding – Information and Education is budgeted to be cut 5%, from \$1.9 million in 2007-2008 to \$1.8 million for 2008-09, the Male Involvement Program is earmarked for an 8% cut from \$2.6 million to \$2.4 million, and TeenSMART Outreach is slated for a 11% reduction from \$1.8 million to \$1.6 million.

The State's largest reproductive health program, Family PACT, provides clinical services at no cost to low-income adolescents and adults (<http://familypact.org>). Family PACT received approximately \$451 million in federal and state funding for 2007-2008, with about 20% of this total used to serve teens. For 2008-2009, the Family PACT budget is anticipated to remain at its 2007-2008 level.

For 2008-2009, the Governor's Budget provides one permanent full-time position in the Office of Family Planning to implement the requirements of AB 629. The position will perform ongoing research, review sexual health education curricula, provide technical assistance to existing state program staff, and monitor compliance with the mandates of AB 629.

Additional state-administered programs provide important secondary prevention services to pregnant and parenting teens. The Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP; tinyurl.com/qz9ab) is designed to ensure healthy pregnancy outcomes for teen mothers and infants, and reduce the incidence of subsequent teen births. In 2008-2009, AFLP is slated for a state general fund reduction and budgeted at \$18.2 million (Federal Title V and State General Funds), down 5% from \$19.2 million in 2007-2008.

The California School-Age Families Education program (Cal-SAFE; tinyurl.com/mzwbm) is designed to increase support services for expectant or parenting students to improve academic achievement, provide quality child care programs for their children, and to reduce the risk of subsequent child bearing. For 2008-2009, Cal-SAFE is slated for a state general fund reduction and budgeted at \$54.3 million, down 7% from \$58.3 million in 2007-2008. The Cal-Learn program (tinyurl.com/6m2x2g) helps pregnant and parenting teens attend and graduate from high school. Cal-Learn is budgeted at \$29.9 million, equivalent to 2007-2008.

Converging evidence favors comprehensive sex education

In a recent editorial for the Journal of Adolescent Health, PHI scientist Norman Constantine discusses the growing convergence of evidence on the ineffectiveness of abstinence-only programs, the effectiveness of comprehensive sex education, and the overwhelming parental support for comprehensive sex education. The editorial can be accessed at tinyurl.com/3knj2t.

17 states now reject abstinence-only funding

Iowa recently has joined 16 other states (tinyurl.com/3powgs) in opting out of the federally funded state abstinence-only education grant program. Forty-one percent of young people aged 12-18 nationwide now live in states that have rejected federal funding for abstinence-only education.

CBS 5 story on sex education in Fremont

In a review of the Bay Area group AWAIT & FIND's abstinence curriculum, PHI scientists Petra Jerman and Carmen Nevarez found that the curriculum violates California Education Code requirement that all sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention education must be medically accurate, age appropriate, and comprehensive. This review was highlighted in two 5-minute feature stories on inappropriate sex education being taught to public school students in Fremont on the Bay Area's CBS-5 TV (tinyurl.com/2t7hnt and tinyurl.com/3efvq7).

Testimony to Assembly Health Committee on STDs

Last fall's *No Time for Complacency* study on STDs among California youth motivated the convening of a State Assembly Health Committee informational hearing on STDs in February 2008. Background information from the hearing is available at tinyurl.com/4kv9v, and PHI's testimony can be accessed at tinyurl.com/4ulww9.



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