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No Time for Complacency:
Teen Births in California's 69th Assembly District

Assembly District 69

The 69th Assembly District consists of part of Orange County, including Santa Ana and parts of Anaheim and Garden Grove. Lou Correa (D) represents the 69th District; he was re-elected for a two-year term in November 2002.

The Problem

The Public Health Institute's Center for Research on Adolescent Health and Development analyzed teen births and birthrates in California's state legislative districts. Results show that in the 69th Assembly District:

• 1,131 teen births occurred in this district in year 2000.

• Nearly 9 percent of all female teens aged 15-19 in the district, or 1 out of every 12, gave birth in year 2000.

• The district's birthrate of 86 births per thousand teen women was higher than the overall California and US rates (45 per thousand), but higher than the rates for all other industrialized countries, including Japan (4), Netherlands (6), Italy (7), France (10), Germany (13), and Ireland (15).

• Every year, the total costs to society for teen births in the 69th Assembly District are $70 million.

• Every year, the total costs to society for teen births across California are $3.3 billion.

The Consequences

• Teens who become mothers on average have lower levels of educational attainment and high school completion, more single parenthood, and less stable employment than those who postpone childbirth.

• Teen mothers tend to experience more pregnancy-related problems and have less healthy infants.

• Pregnant teens are more likely to smoke during pregnancy.

• Preschool children of teen mothers tend to show delay of cognitive development as well as more behavior problems and more aggressive behavior.

• Adolescent children of teen mothers experience higher rates of grade failure, delinquency, and early sexual activity.

• Children of teen mothers are more likely to experience abuse and neglect, and to be placed in foster care.