

## **SPRING 2016 NO TIME FOR COMPLACENCY**

### ***METHODS AND DATA SOURCES***

#### **TEEN BIRTH NUMBERS**

##### **California Statewide and California Counties**

The Spring 2016 *No Time for Complacency* materials use the statewide and county birth number for 2013. Teen birth numbers are for females aged 15-19 years. The source of these data is the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Vital Statistics Query System (<http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/vsq/default.asp>).

#### **TEEN BIRTH RATES**

##### **California Statewide**

The Spring 2016 *No Time for Complacency* materials use the statewide and county birth rates for 2013. Teen birth rates are for females aged 15-19 years. The rates were calculated using 2013 birth numbers obtained from the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Vital Statistics Query System (<http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/vsq/default.asp>) and the 2013 population projections from the California Department of Finance ([http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/projections/documents/P-3\\_Female\\_DetailedAge\\_CAProj\\_2010-2060.xls](http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/projections/documents/P-3_Female_DetailedAge_CAProj_2010-2060.xls)), Report P-3: State and County Female Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity and Detailed Age, 2010 through 2016 (December 15, 2014).

##### **United States and Texas**

The Spring 2016 *No Time for Complacency* materials use nationwide and Texas's birth rate for 2013. The source of these data is the National Vital Statistics Report, *Births: Final Data for 2013* (Vol. 64; Num. 1; January 15, 2015, [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64\\_01.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_01.pdf)).

#### **ESTIMATED TAXPAYER AND SOCIETAL COSTS**

In 1997, a rigorous and comprehensive series of cost analyses on teen pregnancy and parenting was conducted by a group of nationally prominent researchers in economics, demographics, family policy, and health policy. Integrating the studies conducted by these researchers, Maynard<sup>1</sup> employed conservative assumptions and estimated a net cost per teen birth. The most directly attributable costs were used, including lost tax revenue based on mother's and father's lower incomes and consumption, public assistance costs (welfare and medical assistance), costs for

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<sup>1</sup> Maynard, R. A. (1997). *Kids having kids*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press.

increased foster placement and incarceration of children, and tax revenue losses based on children's incomes and consumption when they reach young adulthood. These were adjusted for estimated costs in the same categories had the teen mother delayed her birth until after age 20. In addition to taxpayer costs, Maynard estimated total costs to society, which also included estimated losses in earnings of the teen mothers, fathers, and children when they reached young adulthood, as well as privately paid medical costs.

In 2008, Hoffman and Maynard<sup>2</sup> updated these taxpayer and societal costs based on a new methodology. They calculated the average annual cost to taxpayers per teen birth to be \$4,010 for age 17 years and younger and -\$98 for age 18-19 years, in year 2004 dollars. Adjusting for annual inflation, these costs are equivalent to \$4,948 for age 17 years and younger and -\$121 for age 18-19 years, in year 2013 dollars. The average annual cost to society per teen birth was \$12,112 for age 17 years and younger and \$1,527 for age 18-19 years, in year 2004 dollars. Adjusting for annual inflation, these costs are equivalent to \$14,945 for age 17 years and younger and \$1,884 for age 18-19 years, in year 2013 dollars.

When applied to the 30,499 teen births in California in 2013, and multiplied across 15 yearly cohorts of teen births as per Maynard's methodology, this yields an annual total net cost to taxpayers of \$590 million and an annual total net cost to society of \$2.5 billion.

California county cost estimates, and United States and Texas cost estimates, were calculated in the same manner.

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<sup>2</sup> Hoffman, S. D., & Maynard, R. A. (2008). *Kids having kids* (2nd edition). Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press.