



- what** *No Time for Complacency: Teen Births in California* is the first report of its kind to analyze teen birth rates by legislative districts, offering insight into taxpayer and societal costs by state senate district
- who** The study was conducted by the Public Health Institute's (PHI) Center for Research on Adolescent Health and Development. The authors were Dr. Norm Constantine, PHI senior scientist and the Center's director, and Dr. Carmen R. Nevarez, PHI medical director and vice president of external relations. The study was funded in part by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation.
- how** The Public Health Institute obtained birth data from the California Department of Health Services. Teen population by zip code data were obtained from the US Census Bureau, and mapping of zip codes to legislative districts was done by Capitol Enquiry. All data are from year 2000. Dr. Norm Constantine conducted data management and analysis.
- why** Teen birth rates for the year 2000 were analyzed by each of California's 40 senate districts. This report invites policymakers and their constituents to understand how the issue of teen pregnancy impacts their districts' communities and what they can do to positively affect the situation.
- when** This report is based on birth data from year 2000. The data were analyzed and released in March 2003.
- key findings**
- California has led the nation in reduction of teen birth rates over the last decade.
 - Total societal costs for teen births in California for 2000 were \$3.3 billion.
 - The California teen birth rate was higher than those of every other developed country in the world.
 - Within five years, the annual number of teen births in California is projected to exceed 66,000 — a phenomenal 23 percent increase.
 - Every one of California's 40 state senate districts had higher teen birth rates than Japan, the Netherlands, Italy, France, Germany and Ireland.
 - In California, the Latina teen birth rate was more than three times higher than the white non-Hispanic rate and Asian/Pacific Islander rates.
- key recommendations**
- At a minimum, all program funding aimed at reducing teen pregnancies and births must be maintained.
 - California continue to decline participation in and contribution of matching funds for the federal abstinence-only-until-marriage education program.
 - California continue to fund effective school- and community-based programs that provide education, outreach and services to support teens in delaying childbearing.
 - Elected officials step up to the plate and initiate community dialogues by bringing together parents, adolescents and other school and community stakeholders to address the issue of high teen birth rates and to determine what additional steps can be taken.
 - California provide for enforcement of existing education standards that require medically accurate information be taught in school-based sexuality education programs.



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KEY FINDINGS



- In 2001, more than 53,000 teens aged 15-19, nearly one out of twenty, gave birth in California.
- California teen birth rates are higher than those of every developed country in the world.
- California teen birth rates are between 4 and 12 times higher than rates for France, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Japan.
- The Latina teen birth rate was more than three times higher than the white non-Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander rates. The African-American rate was more than two times higher.
- In some California legislative districts, teen birth rates are as much as twice the overall statewide rate, with 1 in 10 teen girls giving birth.
- Every one of California's 40 state senate districts had higher teen birth rates than Japan (3.6), the Netherlands (5.8), Italy (6.9), France (10.0), Germany (13.2) and Ireland (15.0).
- The current annual cost to taxpayers for teen births in California is estimated to be \$1.5 billion, and the total annual cost to society is estimated to be \$3.3 billion.
- Annual societal costs of teen births were calculated to range from a low of \$27 million in Senator Ross Johnson's 35th district, to a high of \$192 million in Senator Dean Florez's 16th district.
- California's unprecedented investment in teen pregnancy prevention has contributed to the largest decline, and second largest percentage reduction (after Alaska), in teen birth rates of all 50 states over the last decade.
- The unparalleled 40 percent reduction in California's annual teen birth rate over the last decade represents 35,000 fewer teen births in 2001 than the 89,000 that would have occurred had the teen birth rate remained at its 1991 level.
- Translated into annual costs averted, this reduction represents an annual savings to taxpayers of \$968 million and a total annual savings to society of \$2.2 billion.
- Due to changing demographics and growth of the teen population, the California Department of Finance predicts that the recent decline in California's teen birth rate will begin to reverse within the next three years.
- Due to rising poverty levels, California's teen birth rate decline may have already begun to reverse in 2002.



programs

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- California continue to decline participation in and contribution of matching funds for the federal abstinence-only-until-marriage education program.
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leadership

- Elected officials step up to the plate and initiate community dialogues by bringing together parents, adolescents, and other school and community stakeholders to address the issue of high teen birth rates and to determine what additional steps can be taken.

educational policy

- California provide for enforcement of existing education standards that require medically accurate information be taught in school-based sexuality education programs.
- California revise and strengthen California Education Code to clarify and consolidate the minimal standards for comprehensive sexuality education instruction.
- California begin discussion and development of a legislative mandate for California public middle schools, high schools, and alternative schools to teach research-based comprehensive sexuality education.
- California support reliable and complete school-based survey research that will elicit scientific understanding of teen health risk behaviors, including sexual risk behaviors.

school & communities

- Schools and communities provide multi-level comprehensive sexuality education and youth development programs, with school, parent, youth, and community components working in synergy.
- Schools and communities review and monitor school policies and curricula to assess compliance with California Education Code, and to bring these policies and curricula into compliance as necessary.



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As senior scientist and director of PHI's Center for Research on Adolescent Health and Development, Dr. Constantine's primary areas of specialization include research and evaluation on adolescent health promotion and parent education programs, and policy use of evaluation results and health statistics. Dr. Constantine has taught research methodology classes at several universities and has published in leading journals, including the *Journal of Pediatrics*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and *Child Development*. He is co-editor of a forthcoming book on effective uses of evaluation by philanthropic foundations to be published by Jossey-Bass.

Dr. Constantine is currently funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study smoking ces-

sation among pregnant and parenting teens, and by the California Wellness Foundation to study and promote effective teen pregnancy prevention policies in California. He serves as senior methodologist for the statewide evaluation of the California Children and Families Commission's Kit for New Parents, and principal evaluator for the Sacramento County AIDS Prevention Program Evaluation and the California Youth Connection Foster Youth Advocates Evaluation.

He previously has served as lecturer in Pediatrics at the Stanford University School of Medicine, co-director of the California Healthy Kids Survey, director of data analysis systems for a national evaluation of the Infant Health and Development Program, director of the California Interagency Data Collaboration, and as a counselor working with early adolescents in residential treatment settings.



CARMEN RITA NEVAREZ, M.D., M.P.H.

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With more than 23 years of experience as a physician and 19 years as a public health practitioner, Dr. Carmen Rita Nevarez is uniquely qualified to serve as an advocate for issues impacting the public's health. Dr. Nevarez currently serves as the medical director and vice president for external relations at the Public Health Institute (PHI), one of the largest and most comprehensive public health organizations in the nation.

Prior to joining PHI, Dr. Nevarez served as a health officer and department director with the Department of Health and Human Services at the city of Berkeley. There she directed a \$19 million agency that provided integrated public health services and a wide range of community programs. As a physician, Dr. Nevarez has helped to provide medical services to multi-cultural,

multi-ethnic communities in a diverse array of settings including: serving as medical director at La Clinica de la Raza, Oakland, and the Beach Area Community Clinic in San Diego. Dr. Nevarez also serves in an advisory capacity to numerous public health and community health organizations.

Dr. Nevarez received her M.D. from the University of Minnesota and her M.P.H. from the University of California at Berkeley. She completed a General Preventive Medicine Residency with California Department of Health Services.

She currently serves as executive board member for the American Public Health Association. She is also past president of the California Public Health Association – North, and former chair of the board of the California Center for Public Health Advocacy.



public health institute

The Public Health Institute (PHI) is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting health, well-being and quality of life for people throughout California, across the nation and around the world. As one of the largest and most comprehensive public health organizations in the nation, the Public Health Institute focuses its efforts in two distinct but complementary ways. PHI promotes and sustains independent and innovative research, training and demonstration programs—many in collaboration with the private health care system and community-based organizations. PHI also serves as a partner with government to support its role in assessment, policy development and assurance.

The quality programs and projects of PHI improve the health of people and communities and inform the development of public policy. At the forefront of current issues, the Public Health Institute is an incubator for innovative community-oriented solutions to emerging public health issues and a vital connector for traditional and non-traditional public health partnerships. PHI acts as

a convener for public health dialogue, discussion and leadership development opportunities.

The Institute is a resource for researchers and professionals who view the social, environmental, economic and demographic changes in our communities in terms of the impact on health and well-being. These experts work to deepen understanding of incidence and causation, create appropriate strategies and systems, and support the building of capacity within communities and institutions to develop the most effective solutions.

A vital, growing, financially-stable organization with a long history of excellence in administering government and foundation grants and contracts, PHI provides a variety of professional project support services and maintains various contractual relationships with its partners. The Public Health Institute nurtures new programs and initiatives, often in partnership with foundations and other funders. It provides a home for several large national and international centers and institutes based in California. PHI also acts as a fiscal sponsor for independent or soon-to-be independent organizations.

the california wellness foundation

The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF) was founded upon a vision to promote the health of the people of California by making grants for prevention. The foundation believes that, rather than focusing only on medical treatment, it is important also to work to prevent health problems.

Guided by this mission, TCWF pursues the following goals through grantmaking:

- to address the particular health needs of traditionally underserved populations, including low-income individuals, people of color, youth and residents of rural areas;

- to support and strengthen nonprofit organizations that seek to improve the health of underserved populations;
- to recognize and encourage leaders who are working to increase health and wellness within their communities; and
- to inform the development of public policies that promote wellness and enhance access to preventive health care.

Since its first year of operation TCWF has awarded 2,900 grants totaling more than \$378 million. It is one of the state's largest private foundations, making an average of \$40 million in grants each year in pursuit of its mission.