Teen pregnancy is the number one reason girls drop out of school, and its costs are both academic and economic. Teen childbearing in the United States cost taxpayers (federal, state, and local) at least $10.9 billion in 2008, but even that number doesn’t fully gauge the academic cost of teen pregnancy and who’s paying the highest price.¹

**ONE MILLION DOLLARS**

Over the course of a lifetime, a high school dropout earns $1 million less than a college graduate.⁴

A staggering 60% of teen moms don’t finish high school.³

**THE BABY BELT**
The region from Arizona to Alabama up to Tennessee and Kentucky has the highest teen pregnancy rates in the United States.²

About 50% of teen mothers get a high school diploma by age 22, compared with 90% of teen girls who do not give birth.²

Less than 2% percent of teen moms finish college by age 30.¹

Girls born to teen parents are almost 33% more likely to become teen parents themselves. They are 50% more likely to repeat a grade. Only about two-thirds of children born to teen mothers earn high school diplomas, as compared to 81% of children of later child-bearers.²

Teen birthrates in the United States are up to 9 times higher than in most other developed countries.²

Hispanic and black teen girls are about 2–3 times more likely to give birth than white teen girls. Use of birth control is lower among sexually active black and Hispanic high schoolers than it is among white students.²

30% of the one in three (1.3 million annually) students who drop out cite pregnancy or parenting as a reason—the rate is higher among Latinos (36%) and blacks (38%).¹

Sources:¹ The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.² U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.³ MSNBC.⁴ National Public Radio.