

Million Dollar Babies

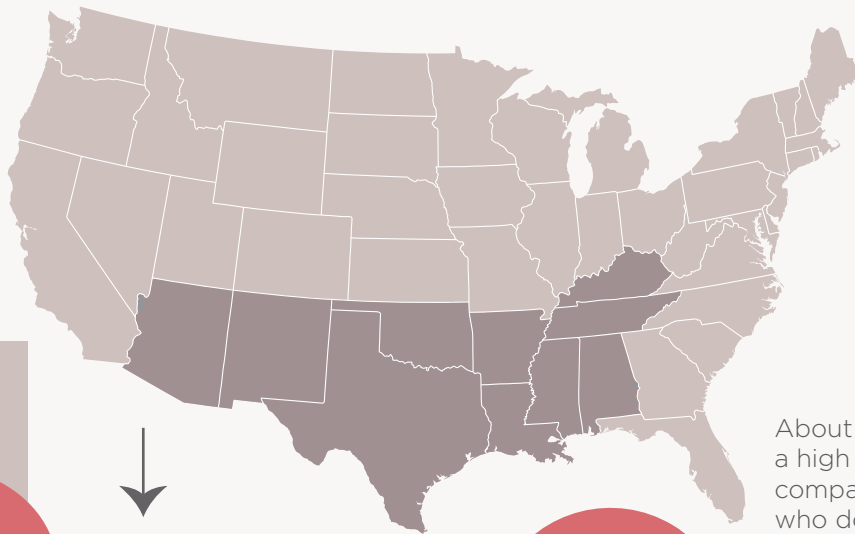
Teen pregnancy is the number one reason girls drop out of school, and its costs are both academic and economic. Teen childbearing in the United States cost taxpayers (federal, state, and local) at least **\$10.9 billion** in 2008, but even that number doesn't fully gauge the academic cost of teen pregnancy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



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



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

60%

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

MORE NUMBERS ADDING UP

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 unacceptably high. About 4% of all teenage girls give birth each year. **Teen births represent 10% of the 4 million births each year.**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 Latinas (36%) and blacks (38%).¹