



massachusetts alliance
on teen pregnancy

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\$109 MILLION: THE COST WHEN TEENS BECOME PARENTS TOO SOON

Boston, MA—\$109 million is the price Massachusetts pays for not ensuring that every young person has hope for a bright future and avoids teen parenthood. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy analysis released today reports that children born to teens are more likely to need public health care, child welfare, and correctional services, and teen parents have decreased earnings and spending resulting in lost tax revenue.

“We know what it takes to prevent teen pregnancy—access to information, access to contraception, and most importantly, perception of opportunity and hope for a bright future. And we do not believe that teens are responsible for creating their own hope. That is our job as adults, and when we don’t come through young people pay the price, their children pay the price, and our society pays the price to the tune of \$109 million,” says Susan Lovelace, executive director of the Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy.

The National Campaign’s analysis also highlights the progress Massachusetts has made in reducing teen pregnancy—the teen birth rate in Massachusetts has declined by 41% from 1991-2004. This success means a savings of \$65 million in 2004 alone. But in 2003 and 2004 Massachusetts saw little in the way of declines as teen birth rates stagnated. The stagnation coincides with significant cuts to teen pregnancy prevention and other youth development programming. *“Clearly, we must redouble our investment in the youth of Massachusetts. The costs of inaction are just too high,”* says Lovelace.

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