

The Challenge

Myth: "It doesn't affect me."

Fact: "Each adolescent mother in this country costs U.S. taxpayers an average of \$2,831 per year (\$7 billion annually)."

-- Kids Having Kids

Myth: "My kids are too old."

Fact: About 2/3 of teen mothers were impregnated by a man over 20 years old.

-- Linn County [Commission on Children & Families](#)

Myth: "Rates & trends for teenage childbearing are similar in the U.S. to other comparable westernized democracies."

Fact: The U.S. has a rate more than twice as high as that in any other industrialized nation.

-- [National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy](#)

Myth: "My kids are too young."

Fact: When young people see themselves as capable and important individuals, they are less likely to become involved in "risky" behaviors such as unprotected sex.

-- Getting Yourself Together

Myth: "Teens who become pregnant want to have babies."

Fact: Among all pregnancies to teens aged 19 & younger, only 14% end in intended births.

-- [Campaign for Our Children](#)

Other Things to Consider

- Pregnant teenagers have experienced a higher than average incidence of sexual assault.

-- [Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.](#)

- 1/5 of unintended pregnancies occur the 1st month after beginning sexual activity.

-- Facts of Life, Oregon Health Division

- 83% of teens who give birth are low-income or poor.

-- Sex, Teens, & Oregon's Plan

- Teens most often seek birth control 6 months to 1 year after beginning sexual activity.