

# COUNTING IT UP



## The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Iowa in 2010

An updated analysis from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy shows that teen childbearing in Iowa cost taxpayers at least \$85 million in 2010. Nationally, teen childbearing costs taxpayers at least \$9.4 billion each year.

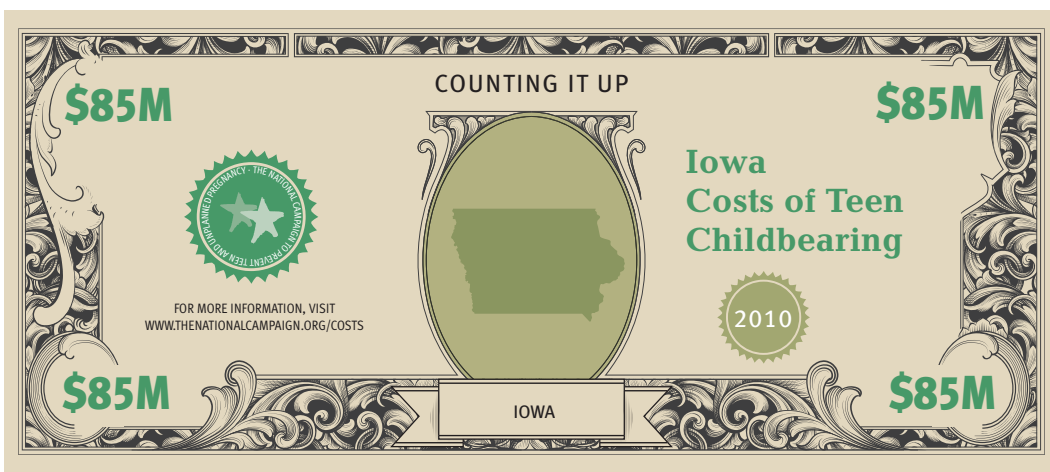
### Costs and Savings

- Between 1991 and 2010 there have been 74,210 teen births in Iowa, costing taxpayers a total of \$2.2 billion **over that period**.
- Had it not been for significant declines in the teen birth rate in recent years, the costs to taxpayers would have been even higher.
- The teen birth rate in Iowa declined 33% between 1991 and 2010. The progress Iowa has made in reducing teen childbearing saved taxpayers an estimated \$58 million in 2010 alone compared to the costs they would have incurred had the rates not fallen.

Total costs factor in the negative consequences sometimes experienced by the children of teen mothers during both their childhood and their young adult years, and include costs associated with public health care (Medicaid and CHIP); increased risk of participation in child welfare; and, for children who have reached adolescence or young adulthood, increased risk of incarceration and lost tax revenue due to decreased earnings and spending.<sup>1</sup> Total costs also factor in the negative consequences experienced by the teen mother and the father of her child, primarily in terms of lost tax revenue due to their decreased earnings and spending.

Visit [www.TheNationalCampaign.org/why-it-matters/public-cost](http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org/why-it-matters/public-cost) for more information on the costs of teen childbearing, state-by-state data on teen pregnancy and childbearing, and other information.

**ABOUT THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN.** The National Campaign is a private, non-profit organization that seeks to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families by preventing teen and unplanned pregnancy. Please visit [www.TheNationalCampaign.org](http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org) to find out more.<sup>2</sup>



1. Note that because we cannot measure and include all outcomes and all costs, this analysis should be considered conservative; that is, it is likely that the full costs of a teen birth are greater than the figures presented here.
2. This analysis was funded in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through grant number IU58DP002916-04. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC. The National Campaign wishes to thank the CDC for its support of this resource.