

# JEWEL HOUSE

*Cultivating The Jewels Found Within*

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## FACT SHEET

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION - TEEN PREGNANCY

The fight to prevent teen pregnancy has recently received a very striking blow as the Center For Disease Control issued the teen birth rates for 2006 which showed the first increase in the teen birth rate in fourteen years. The release of these statistics reinforce the need for programs that are aimed at reducing the teen birth rate and for programs that assist teens who find themselves braving the dual role of teenager and parent. These young people, in a disproportionate fashion, are often unable to complete minimal educational endeavors, are more likely to remain in jobs which earn amounts below the poverty, are unable to access resources that will pull them beyond their current standards of living and remain entrenched in the cycle of government assistance and dependency.

Some of the startling statistics regarding teen families are as follows:

- *The Preliminary Data Report for 2006 published by the Center for Disease Control reports that the U.S. teen birth rates have risen by 3% in 2006 to 41.9 births per 1,000 females age 15-19. This report further reveal a larger increase of 4% among females age 18-19 with 22.0 births per 1,000 females in this age group. The 2006 raw data for the U.S. reveals the following:*
  - 6,405 females under the age of 15 gave birth
  - 435,427 females between the ages of 15-19 gave birth
  - 84,888 of these 435, 427 births are to teen mothers who already have one or more children.
- *According to the 2005 County birth statistics (the latest statistics available), Baltimore City has the 7<sup>th</sup> highest rate of teen births in the United States of America.*
- *52 percent of all mothers on welfare had their first child as a teenager.*
- *Almost 1/2 of all teen mothers and over 1/4 of unmarried teen mothers began receiving welfare within five (5) years of the birth of their first child.*
- *The children of teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely and at low birth weight and are two (2) times more likely to suffer abuse and neglect compared to children of older mothers.*
- *The daughters of teen mothers are three times more likely to become teen mothers themselves when compared to the daughters of mothers who were age 20-21.*
- *Teen girls in foster care are two and a half times more likely than their peers not in foster care to experience a pregnancy by age 19. Foster Care systems across the United States can not guarantee the placement of teen parents with their children absent a group home or foster care placement that is equipped and able to care for them.*
- *Children born to teen parents are more likely than those born to older parents to end up in foster care or have multiple caretakers throughout their childhood.*
- *Parenthood is the leading cause of dropping out of school among teen girls.*
- *Teen mothers are less likely to complete the education necessary to qualify for a well-paying job —only 40% of mothers who have children before age 18 ever graduate from high school compared with about three-quarters of similarly situated young women who delay childbearing until age 20 or 21. Furthermore, less than 2% of mothers who have children before age 18 complete college by the age of 30 compared to nine percent of young women who wait until age 20 or 21 to have children. This disparity in education, not surprisingly, tends to affect income level. In fact, over the past 20 years the median income for college graduates has increased 19 percent while the median income for high school dropouts has decreased 28%.*
- *Children of teen mothers also do not perform as well as children of older mothers on measures of child development and school readiness such as cognition, language and communication, and interpersonal skills. They are also less likely to read simple books independently and to demonstrate early writing ability compared to the children of mothers aged 20-21.*
- *Children of teen mothers do worse in school than those born to older parents. They are 50 percent more likely to repeat a grade, are less likely to complete high school than the children of older mothers, and have lower performance on standardized tests*

- *Teen mothers are likely to have a second birth relatively soon—about one-fourth of teenage mothers have a second child within 24 months of the first birth—which can further impede their ability to finish school or keep a job, and to escape poverty.*
- *Some research suggests that teen fathers have lower education levels and suffer earning losses of 10% - 15% annually.*
- *Teens who have dropped out of school are more likely to become pregnant and have a child than their peers who stay in school.*

*These statistics are brought to us by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.*