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TEEN PREGNANCY FACTS

- 1** The US has the highest rate of teen pregnancy, birth and abortion in the industrialized world.
- 2** Nearly 4 out of 10 girls will become pregnant at least once before age 20.
- 3** New Mexico has the 3rd highest teen birth rate in the nation. About 4,500 teens gave birth in 2002. That's more than 12 each day.
- 4** Teen pregnancy results in serious education and health problems for the mother and father.
 - teen mothers are more likely to have serious complications during pregnancy and delivery.
 - teen mothers and fathers are less likely to earn a high school diploma.
- 5** Babies born to teen mothers are more likely to:
 - have health problems at birth
 - be physically abused, abandoned, or neglected
 - do poorly in school
 - do time in jail
 - also become teen parents
- 6** The law can require that a boy or man take a test to determine if he is the father of a child. If he is the father, he must pay child support for 18 years (even if he is under 18). If payment is not made, he can be arrested, have his possessions confiscated (such as his car), and have his wages docked.
- 7** In order to receive welfare support, a mother must identify the father of her child and she must attend school or work.
- 8** The cost of teen childbearing to New Mexico taxpayers is over half a billion dollars per year.
- 9** Nationwide, teen childbearing costs taxpayers over \$38 billion per year.
- 10** It's better for everyone when babies are born to adult parents.

The New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition, 3/04

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