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**Southern Regional Project on
Infant Mortality**

**Press Conference
July 22, 1997
Charleston, West Virginia**



The Mount Sinai Medical Center

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August 12, 1997

Ms. Jennifer Klein
Office of the First Lady
West Wing, Second floor
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

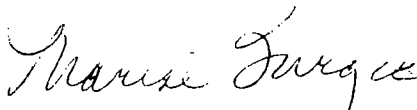
Dear Ms. Klein,

It is a pleasure to enclose a copy of the recent report "Occupational Injury and Illness in the United States", co-authored by Dr. Philip J. Landrigan.

Earlier reports from our Division of Environmental and Occupational Medicine include "Occupational Injuries Among Working Adolescents in New York State" and "Health Costs of Occupational Disease in New York State".

Dr. Landrigan will be pleased to learn that these may be of use to Mrs. Clinton.

Sincerely,


Marise Burger, R.N., B.Sc.

cc: Philip J. Landrigan, M.D.



World Health Organization
Collaborating Centre in
Environmental Epidemiology



Adults' faith in teens low, study shows

By Tamara Henry
USA TODAY

Grousing about children has intensified among adults in the USA.

A study out today says adults use such adjectives as "rude, irresponsible, and wild" to describe teens and "lacking discipline" and "spoiled" to characterize adolescents. Only 37% believe today's kids, once grown, will make the country a better place.

"It's an American pastime to bemoan the American teens, but what surprised us was the explicitness of the concern," says Deborah Wadsworth, head of Public Agenda, a research and education group.

The concern is for kids of all ages, cultures, races and socio-economic status, she says. "Americans are

frightened for and in some cases frightened of our children and fault parents for the problems they see."

Kids These Days, based on phone surveys of 3,200 adults over 18 and children ages 12-17, found:

► 63% of adults say it is very common for parents to have kids before they are ready for the responsibility.

► 61% of adults think youngsters' failure to learn such values as honesty, respect, and responsibility is a very serious problem.

► 81% of parents think parents are not being good role models or fail to teach their kids right from wrong.

► 65% of adults who say they have a lot of contact with teen-agers describe teens disapprovingly.

► 51% of parents say it is common for parents to equate buying things

for children to caring for them.

Aaron Benavidez, 15, Stockton, Calif., disagrees with the parents' assessments, saying adults merely misinterpret kids' desire for independence. He says children tend to be more liberal than their parents. "Right now, like the '60s, a lot of the issues are clashing with old values."

Parents themselves are critical of the job parents are doing. Most say couples divorce too easily and fail to discipline their children.

Still, adults see potential for solutions in public schools, community and religious groups, law enforcement, charities and the government.

The study was conducted for Ronald McDonald House Charities and the Advertising Council. Margin of error: 2 percentage points.

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Jennifer Bundy
312-75411

Southern states skimp on teen pregnancy prevention, study says

BY JENNIFER BUNDY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — States could offer more sex education classes and family planning services for teen-agers and target male as well as female teens, said a study on teen pregnancy in the South released Tuesday.

Southern states spend far less preventing teen pregnancy than they do supporting families started by teen-agers, said the report on adolescent pregnancy in the South

by the Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality in Washington, D.C.

Twenty Southern states spent \$13.6 billion in state and federal money to support families started by teen-agers but only \$121.9 million on teen pregnancy prevention programs in the 1994-1995 fiscal year, said the report released at the Southern Legislative Conference.

The \$13.6 billion included Aid to Families with Dependent Children, food stamps, Medicaid, and Women,

Infants and Children programs.

About 47 percent of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children caseload in the 1994-1995 fiscal year was made up of recipients who had their first child when they were teen-agers. About 7 percent of the caseload that year was made up of families headed by those then ages 15 to 19.

States spent an average \$23.73 per state teen-ager on prevention programs. South Carolina spent the most, \$62.38 per teen-ager, and Mis-

issippi the least, \$11.89 per teen-ager.

"We have a lot of room for improvement. Investing even more in pregnancy prevention is really our best hope," said Elizabeth Morgan, an aide to West Virginia Gov. Cecil Underwood who attended the press conference where the report was released.

Age-appropriate family life and sex education classes can emphasize that abstinence is one way to prevent teen pregnancies and re-

duce sexually transmitted diseases, the report said. But contraceptive education and counseling are necessary to make sure sexually active teens are fully informed about reproductive and psychological health, the report said.

States should improve teen-agers' access to family planning services by lowering the cost of the services, improving transportation to them, locating them in areas frequented by teen-agers and addressing teen-

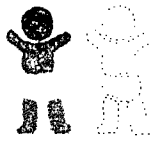
See TEEN, Page 3B

(202) 624-5460

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Troccoli Kretzger
Karen Troccoli
back on Mon.

Jen-
| This is in
| the mail |
-Brecken



SOUTHERN REGIONAL PROJECT ON INFANT MORTALITY

*Southern Governors' Association
Southern Legislative Conference*

MEMORANDUM

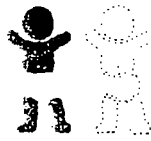
TO: Jennifer Klein

FROM: Karen Troccoli 

SUBJECT: *Expenditures and Investments* Report

DATE: August 11, 1997

Brecken Armstrong asked me to send you the enclosed report and press packet, which Mrs. Clinton read about in an AP wire story. Please let me know if you need any additional information.



SOUTHERN REGIONAL PROJECT ON INFANT MORTALITY

*Southern Governors' Association
Southern Legislative Conference*

COSTS TO PUBLIC OF ADOLESCENT CHILDBEARING EXCEED SPENDING ON PREVENTION IN SOUTHERN STATES

NEW REPORT CALLS FOR SHIFTING PRIORITIES

EMBARGOED: 12:00 Noon EST
Noon, July 22, 1997

Contact: Karen Troccoli 202/624-5460
Washington, DC
Colleen Cousineau 304/353-3737
Charleston, WV

Public expenditures associated with teen childbearing far surpass public spending on programs to prevent teen pregnancy, according to a new report released today by the Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference in Charleston, West Virginia. As outlined in *Expenditures and Investments: Adolescent Pregnancy in the South, Volume II*, in Fiscal Year 1995 (FY95), southern states as an aggregate spent nearly \$14 billion to underwrite programs to support families begun by adolescents, while they "invested" only \$122 million in primary prevention of adolescent pregnancy in the same year. Meanwhile, teen birth rates in the South, while decreasing, are still higher than rates for the rest of the United States.

This is the equivalent of one penny spent on the prevention of teen pregnancy for each dollar spent on the consequences of teen childbearing. "As a result of the Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality's work in the area of tracking fiscal expenditures relating to adolescent pregnancy, we are given a clearer picture of the tremendous costs to our states as we continue to focus our resources on the results of adolescent pregnancy rather than its prevention," stated Dan Sprague, Executive Director of the Council of State Governments, which administers the Southern Regional Project.

Using a newly revised cost formula (adapted from the one used for the 1992 *Expenditures and Investments* report), calculations indicate that, in FY95, total Medicaid expenditures on families begun by teens were the largest outlay (\$6.4 billion), followed by Food Stamps (\$4.5 billion), Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) (\$1.9 billion) and the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) (\$816.9 million). Cost estimates were based on national data that suggest that 47 percent of families currently receiving public assistance were begun when the mother was a teenager.

Of the \$122 million of state and federal spending on primary prevention of adolescent pregnancy in the South, the largest share, \$75 million, went to family planning services. Other categories of public investments included school-based and school-linked health centers; state coalitions; community grants programs; family life and sexuality education; and special initiatives. The good news is that some southern states are making significant investments in prevention. South Carolina dedicated nearly \$14 million to its "Teen Companion Program" to prevent pregnancy in high-risk Medicaid-eligible teens, and Delaware appropriated nearly \$2 million to school-based health centers in FY95.

The 20 states and territories surveyed for the report were Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, and West Virginia. The report was made possible by grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

The Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality was created in 1984 by the Southern Governors' Association and the Southern Legislative Conference to assist member states in their efforts to reduce the region's high infant mortality and low birthweight rates. The Council of State Governments administers the project's grants.

Background Information and Report Highlights

- ▶ Although the U.S. teen birth rate declined from 62.1 to 58.9 per 1,000 teen women ages 15-19 between 1991 and 1994, U.S. rates still exceed those of all other industrialized nations. The situation is even worse in the South, where the teen birth rate reached 72.5 in 1991 and declined only to 69.0 in 1994. Moreover, although the U.S. teen birth rate decreased, the number of births to teens increased in 1994, reflecting an increase in the overall U.S. teen population.
- ▶ The consequences of teen pregnancy and parenting are serious. For example, teen mothers are less likely to receive adequate prenatal care and are more likely to deliver low birthweight babies who are at-risk for life-long developmental and health problems. Teen parents and their children are less likely to complete high school, which increases their likelihood of living in poverty.
- ▶ The nearly \$14 billion the South spent in federal and state funds for programs to support families begun by teens is conservative because it does not include other costs associated with teen parenting, such as remedial education, job training, day care, subsidized school meals, special education or foster care.
- ▶ States' investments "per teen" were calculated to enable comparisons across states. High per teen investments, such as in South Carolina (\$62.38) and Delaware (\$56.27) reflect substantial commitments beyond the traditional family planning services.



SOUTHERN REGIONAL PROJECT ON INFANT MORTALITY

*Southern Governors' Association
Southern Legislative Conference*

Expenditures and Investments: Adolescent Pregnancy in the South, Volume II Southern Region Data Sheet

Adolescent Childbearing: Ages 15-17

- ▶ Adolescent birth rates declined slightly in the United States between 1991 and 1994, from 62.1 to 58.9 births per 1,000 teen women ages 15-19. The situation is worse in the South where the teen birth rate reached 72.5 in 1991 and declined to only 69.0 in 1994.

Expenditures (public outlays for programs that support families begun by teens)

- ▶ In Fiscal Year 1995 (FY95), the South spent \$13,593,292,464 to support families begun by teens. This included:

Medicaid	\$6,437,311,977
Food Stamps	\$4,451,639,460
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)	\$1,887,450,519
The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	\$816,890,508

Investments (funds dedicated to primary prevention -- prevention of the first birth -- of teen pregnancy)

- ▶ In FY95, the South spent \$121,996,619 in state and federal dollars on the primary prevention of teen pregnancy.

Expenditures vs. Investments

- ▶ For every dollar spent on programs to support families begun by teens in FY95, one cent was invested in the primary prevention of teen pregnancy in the same year.

Contacts: Karen Troccoli, Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality, 202/624-5460
Colleen Cousineau, Southern Legislative Conference, 404/266-1271

**TEEN BIRTH RATES¹ (AGES 15-19) IN THE SOUTH AND THE U.S.
1991 AND 1994²**

STATE	TEEN BIRTH RATE 1991	TEEN BIRTH RATE 1994	% change (1991- 1994)
ALABAMA	73.9	72.2	-2.3
ARKANSAS	79.8	76.3	-4.4
DELAWARE	61.1	60.2	-1.5
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	114.4	114.7	0.26
FLORIDA	68.8	64.4	-6.4
GEORGIA	76.3	71.7	-6.0
KENTUCKY	68.9	64.5	-6.4
LOUISIANA	76.1	74.7	-1.8
MARYLAND	54.3	49.7	-8.5
MISSISSIPPI	85.6	83	-3.0
MISSOURI	64.5	59	-8.5
NORTH CAROLINA	70.5	66.3	-6.0
OKLAHOMA	72.1	65.9	-8.6
PUERTO RICO	N/A	N/A	N/A
SOUTH CAROLINA	72.9	66.5	-8.8
TENNESSEE	75.2	71	-5.6
TEXAS	78.9	77.6	-1.6
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS	N/A	N/A	N/A
VIRGINIA	53.5	50.7	-5.2
WEST VIRGINIA	57.8	54.3	-6.1
THE SOUTH³	72.5	69.0	-4.8
UNITED STATES	62.1	58.9	-5.2

¹Teen birth rate: The number of births per 1,000 teen women (ages 15-19).

²Monthly Vital Statistics Report. Volume 45, No. 5. December 19, 1996.

³Average for the South does not include Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands for which data were unavailable.