

Teen Pregnancy

Statistics

- 90% of teens who give birth are unmarried
- About 650,000 adolescent girls become pregnant each year
- 50% of teen mothers/fathers finish high school by age 22

- Mothers under 18 more likely to have low birth weight babies, unhealthy babies
- Only 45% teens use contraception regularly
- 1/2 teenage pregnancies occur within 6 mo. of initiating sexual activity
- 80% of teen pregnancies are unintended

Why Teens Become Pregnant

- "I'll be the center of attention"
 - novelty wears off, left with baby who depends on you
- "(s)he won't leave me if we have a child"
 - teen couples usually do not stay together, child more likely to take drugs, drop out, be teen parent

- "I can drink and still be in control of my decisions"
 - Many teens who are sexually active were drinking alcohol the first time they had sex.
- "It won't happen to us"
 - 35% of females become pregnant before age 20.

"Costs" of Teen Pregnancy

- Education
- Career
- Social opportunities (dating, dances, etc)
- Time
- Reactions
- \$\$\$\$MONEY\$\$\$\$

Considerations

- Living situation
- School
- Single parent
- Marriage
- Adoption
