



*"The money that it takes to raise a baby is so much more than I ever could have imagined."*  
 – Megan, pregnant at age 15

*"Everything from the minute that you wake up until the minute that you go to bed is going to be completely different. Your friends are going to change. School's going to change. Everything is going to change."*  
 – Amber, mother of two by age 20



*"My girlfriend came over, told me she was pregnant. I started thinking about everything: I'm gonna be a father, ain't out of high school yet ... gotta get a job."*  
 – Shannon, father at age 16



**RESOURCES:**

If you have questions about teen pregnancy or the responsibilities of a parent, contact one of the following state agencies to learn more about programs offered and office locations:

**Tennessee Department of Human Services**

TDHS has offices in all 95 counties, and is responsible for child support services and other state assistance programs. Contact your local county office or log on to:

<http://www.tennessee.gov/humanservices>

**Tennessee Department of Health**

TDH has offices in all 95 counties, and is responsible for family health services, prenatal care and the WICS program. Contact your local county office or log on to: <http://tn.gov/health>



**Strained peas and baby formula are not on the school cafeteria menu.**

**WHAT'S THE RUSH?**  
 Don't Be A Teen Parent

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*What's the Rush?* is a project of the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference. For more information, visit [www.tndagc.org/whatstherush](http://www.tndagc.org/whatstherush). Statistics have been gathered from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, [dosomething.org](http://dosomething.org), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Department of Health, Department of Human Services and Department of Education



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# The school bus doesn't stop at day care.



## MONEY MATTERS:

You have a baby, you're still in high school, and you have to get a job in order to pay child support and avoid jail – so what is your cash flow going to look like? **Well, let's see ...**



## WHAT'S THE RUSH?

High school is supposed to be fun. But, every day, backpacks are traded in for **diaper bags**, and after-school jobs that were supposed to pay for new clothes and movie tickets end up paying for **baby food and diapers**.

**GIRLS**

If you get pregnant, the chances of you and your boyfriend raising the baby together are slim. Eight out of 10 teen fathers **do not marry** the mothers of their first child.

**BOYS**

If your girlfriend becomes pregnant, it is not her sole responsibility to care for the child. Tennessee requires all absent parents to **pay child support, or go to jail**.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the U.S., **24 out of 1,000 women ages 15–19 have a baby.**



Less than **half of mothers** who have a child before they are 18 years old graduate from high school, and **less than 2 percent** have a college degree by age 30.

Teen fathers are **more likely** to have **economic and employment challenges** than adult fathers.

The children of teen mothers are more likely to be **born prematurely and at a low birth weight**, which can cause infant death, blindness, deafness, respiratory problems, developmental disability, cerebral palsy, dyslexia and hyperactivity.

If you **don't pay child support**, the state can **suspend your driver's, hunting and fishing licenses**.

The sons of teen mothers are two times more likely to **end up in prison**.

The children of teenage mothers are more likely to **drop out of high school, become a teen parent themselves** and have **more health problems**.

Girls, **child support will not be enough**. The cost of raising a child from birth to 17 years old is estimated to be **\$177,412**.



So ... you don't have much money left to pay for things like new clothes or a fun time out with friends. You can forget about having your own apartment or getting a new car, because you will be struggling to pay for the basics.

\*This amount is representative of a monthly child support payment in Tennessee. Amounts will vary on a case-by-case basis.