

Concentrated Disadvantage

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SHOULDN'T BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH

Everyone has a stake in the health of Nebraskans. To improve health we need to address the well-being of the places where we live, work, and play instead of simply focusing on individual behaviors. Particularly when experienced early in life, poverty is a solid indicator of an individual's health. Likewise, the environment, community, and neighborhood also impact health over an individual's lifespan.

Concentrated disadvantage is an indicator of the relative well-being of a geographical area and goes beyond simply measuring poverty. Concentrated disadvantage is a reflection of how intensely a community experiences economic hardship, ineffective systems, struggling families and lack of opportunities and resources.

Teen sexual health is one example of the impact of concentrated disadvantage.

Disadvantage experienced at the community level affects teens' sexual health behaviors and, in turn, contributes to high numbers of teen births.

Addressing these issues crosses into every sector of life.

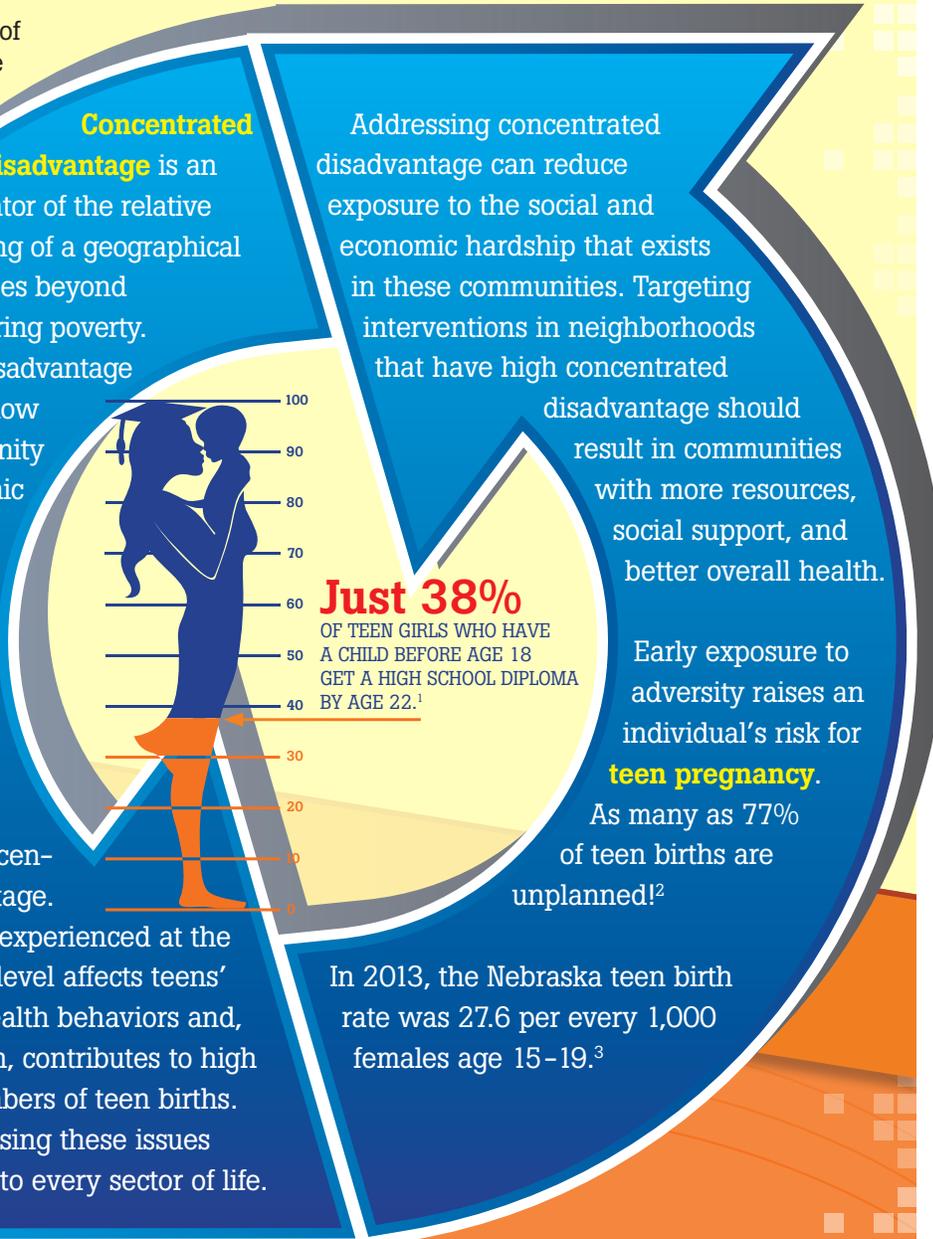
Addressing concentrated disadvantage can reduce exposure to the social and economic hardship that exists in these communities. Targeting interventions in neighborhoods that have high concentrated disadvantage should result in communities with more resources, social support, and better overall health.

Early exposure to adversity raises an individual's risk for **teen pregnancy**.

As many as 77% of teen births are unplanned!²

Just 38% OF TEEN GIRLS WHO HAVE A CHILD BEFORE AGE 18 GET A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BY AGE 22.¹

In 2013, the Nebraska teen birth rate was 27.6 per every 1,000 females age 15-19.³



When we reduce concentrated disadvantage, we strengthen the neighborhood in which our children grow!

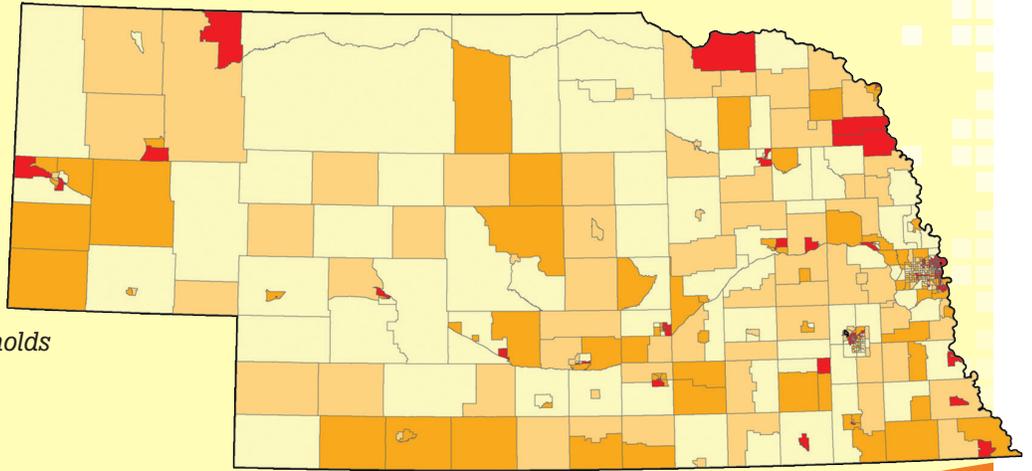
¹ Ng, A. S., & Kaye, K. (2012). *Why It Matters: Teen Childbearing, Education, and Economic Wellbeing*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.
² Mosher, W. D., Jones, J., Abma, J.C. (2012). *Intended and unintended births in the United States: 1982-2010*. National Center for Health Statistics. \ Vital Health Stat (55). Retrieved September 03, 2015 from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr055.pdf>.
³ Nebraska Birth Certificate Database. Retrieved on December 17, 2014 from Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Office of Vital Records.

Concentrated Disadvantage by Census Tract, NE 2009 - 2013

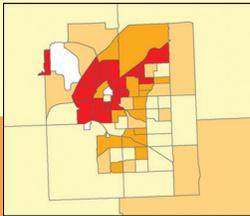
Concentrated disadvantage is a standardized measure calculated from five Census variables:

- percent of individuals below the poverty line
- percent of individuals on public assistance
- percent of female-headed households
- percent unemployed
- percent under age 18

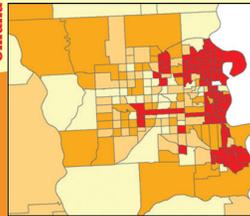
The range of scores are split into four quartiles and the highest 25 percent of scores comprise the "high concentrated disadvantage" quartile.



Lincoln



Omaha



Legend

- Low Disadvantage
- Medium Low Disadvantage
- Medium High Disadvantage
- High Disadvantage

Go to <http://1.usa.gov/1U0hova> for larger view.

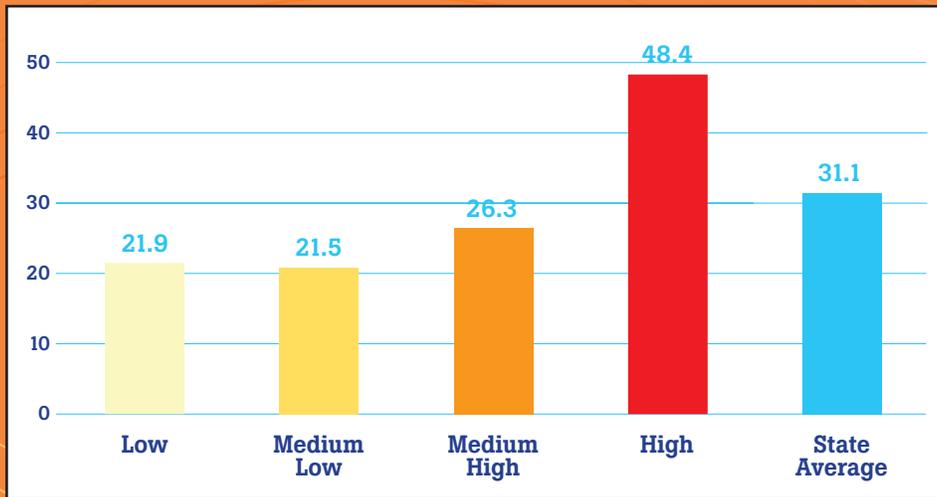
Concentrated disadvantage uniquely captures the synergistic effects of economic and social factors clustered geographically.

Breaking the cycle between concentrated disadvantage and teen birth rates will reduce exposure to risk factors and help improve the health of youth. This focus can help strengthen protective factors such as:

- ♥ *Having a supportive home environment*
- ♥ *School achievement*
- ♥ *Food security*
- ♥ *Physical and psychological safety*



Teen Birth Rate* by Concentrated Disadvantage Quartile



Teen birth rates in high disadvantage neighborhoods are more than **double** the rates in low disadvantage neighborhoods.

*Numbers above are based on Nebraska birth certificate data averaged from 2009 - 2013.
Rate of Teen Births per 1,000 for Females Age 15 - 19

Investing at Home

All Nebraskans should have the opportunity to make the choices that allow them to live a long, healthy life, regardless of their income, education, or ethnic background.

Potential Partners Within Your Community

- Faith based organizations
- Local schools
- Social service agencies
- Local and city offices
- County extension offices
- After school programs
- Your local Chamber of Commerce
- Housing assistance programs
- Public health programs
- Job training centers

In Nebraska, breaking this cycle by investing in healthy environments and supports for teens can reduce the cost of teen childbearing.

- ♥ In 2010, Nebraska spent \$59 million on teen childbearing.
- ♥ Between 1991 and 2010 there have been 46,929 teen births in Nebraska, costing taxpayers a total of 1.5 billion over that period.

These funds could be better used to increase the opportunities for youth throughout Nebraska. Areas of neighborhoods with high concentrated disadvantage have the highest need for focus and intervention.

Total costs factor in the negative consequences sometimes experienced by the children of teen mothers during both their childhood and their young adult years, and include costs associated with public health care (Medicaid and CHIP); increased risk of participation in child welfare; and, for children who have reached adolescence or young adulthood, increased risk of incarceration and lost tax revenue due to decreased earnings and spending. Total costs also factor in the negative consequences experienced by the teen mother and the father of her child, primarily in terms of lost tax revenue due to their decreased earnings and spending.

⁴The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2011). Counting It Up: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Nebraska in 2010. Retrieved on November 12, 2015 from <https://thenationalcampaign.org/sites/default/files/resource-primary-download/fact-sheet-nebraska.pdf>

To improve health within Nebraska's communities we need to address the well-being of the places - where we live, work, and play - instead of simply focusing on individual behaviors. Share what you have learned with peers and build ties with local partners and policy makers! Now is the time to forge change that will impact teen births and concentrated disadvantage, creating healthier families and communities!

http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/public_health_lifespanhealth.aspx

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Everyone has a Stake in the Health of Nebraskans



- **Share this message within your organization!** Take a moment to digest the information presented in this brochure. Think about how these factors are related within your own community. Think about how the social environment impacts health in multiple ways. Think about ways you can support all teens to make healthy choices.
- **Talk to other service providers!** Build strong networks with organizations that can impact the concentration of disadvantage and teen birth rates in your community.
- **Align services!** Work with related service providers to increase the links of resources. Encourage primary prevention efforts through service alignment.
- **Increase cross-discipline collaboration!** Think broadly! Who else can you reach out to?
- **Broadcast service connections!** Once services are aligned, spread the word! Tell clients, coworkers, and other organizations about established service links.
- **Target your approach!** Focus on areas with the highest levels of concentrated disadvantage in your service area to ensure the greatest return on your economic investment.
- **Talk to your local and state policy makers!** One way to improve community infrastructure is by affecting change at the state level. Inform your state senator about your concerns related to concentrated disadvantage and teen births. Think about ways you can build political will around these issues.

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