

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

HB 1944

Brief Description: Requiring a study of teen mothers and adult fathers.

Background:

In 1995, about five percent of 15 to 17 year old girls in Washington state became pregnant. A 1992 study of 535 teen mothers in Washington showed that the mean age of the father was 18.6 years, or 3.4 years older than the girls' mean age at first pregnancy. (Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Maltreatment," Family Planning Perspectives, Jan./Feb. 1992).

Summary:

Appropriates \$240,000 from the General Fund-State to the Department of Health for a study of teen mothers and adult fathers. The research contractor is directed to gather information on demographic characteristics of the fathers, child support paid by the fathers, and incidence of statutory rape charges filed.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.