

Consequences & Costs Dropping Out of School



Indiana Department of Education
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

The decision to drop out is **RISKY!**

Economic:

Dropouts make up nearly half the heads of households on welfare.

Over a lifetime, high school dropouts earn **\$400,000 less than high school graduates.**

The average income based on education level is as follows:

- No High School Diploma: \$17,299 per year
 - High School Diploma: \$26,933 per year
- High School Graduates make almost \$10,000 more per year!**

(2005 - Grad Nation)

Unemployment:

In 2008, 54% of High School dropouts were unemployed! In a survey of dropouts, 47% said not having a diploma made it hard to find a good job.

(2006 - Silent Epidemic)

Incarceration:

Dropouts make up almost half of the prison population. Dropouts are three and a half times more likely than high school graduates to be arrested and more than eight times as likely to be in jail or prison.

(2006 - Silent Epidemic)

Cost to Society:

The average high school dropout will cost taxpayers over \$500,000 in lower tax revenues, social services, and incarceration costs.

If Indiana increased the male graduation rate by 5%, the state would see an estimated \$95,731,795 in crime related savings and \$151,864,932 in total benefit to the Indiana economy.

(2006 - Alliance for Excellent Education Issue Brief)

Driver's License/Employment Certificate:

A driver's license or a learner's permit may not be issued to an individual less than 18 years of age who is considered a dropout. A driver's license or learner's permit may be revoked, and an employment certificate revoked or denied, if a student drops out.

(IC 9-24-2)

Engagement in high-risk behaviors:

37.8% of 16-24 year old girls who drop out of high school are mothers.

High-risk behaviors such as premature sexual activity, early pregnancy, delinquency, crime, violence, alcohol and drug abuse, and suicide are significantly higher among dropouts.

(2009 - North Eastern University)

In 2007, 16% (6.2 million) of all persons between the ages of 16 and 24 in the U.S. were high school dropouts. Most of them are headed for a life of sporadic employment and low wages making it difficult for them to establish a stable family and raise children who can make it in our society and economy.