Adolescent Motherhood
A multidisciplinary bibliography with a focus on African Americans
April 2011
Background

Adolescent parenting and repeat pregnancy

This bibliography complements the Postpartum Adolescent Birth Control Study (Postpartum ABCs), a longitudinal study of postpartum contraceptive use, well-being, and repeat pregnancy among first-time, African American adolescent mothers on the South Side of Chicago. This study was shaped by a multisystem framework theorizing many levels and domains influencing repeat pregnancy (above). As such, the literature informing our study spans multiple disciplines, methodologies, and perspectives. A comprehensive literature search was completed in 2010 to capture the diverse research pertaining to the experiences and outcomes of pregnant and parenting adolescents, especially African Americans.

Methods

Sources

We searched CINAHL, PsycInfo, PubMed, Social Services Abstracts, Social Work Abstracts, and Sociological Abstracts for dissertations and peer-reviewed journal articles. We also hand-searched references lists of selected publications to identify ones missed by our database search.

Search terms

We compiled search strategies based on the study’s conceptual framework. In all databases except PubMed we used the simple search phrase, “Adolescent Mothers.” In PubMed, we first searched the MeSH database for relevant terms which were then supplemented with text and phrase search terms as needed. All searches contained core terms relating to pregnant, parenting, or postpartum adolescents that were combined with terms from the framework (e.g., contraceptive use, baby’s father, etc.) using Boolean logic. To stay up to date on the literature, we were notified by e-mail when newly indexed articles matched our search terms; all databases offered this service.

Inclusion/exclusion criteria

We included all English-language publications that presented findings from original research with adolescent populations. There were no restrictions on date of publication or study methodology. Because African American populations were of special interest to us, we excluded studies whose participants were all non-Black. We included select review articles that provided strong summaries of the adolescent motherhood literature. We also included books, research reports, and other grey literature that were highly referenced by the peer-reviewed journal articles identified through the database search.

Data management

We used EndNote, a citation management program, to store and manage all publications meeting inclusion criteria. Publications were catalogued by topic using a standardized list of key words from the conceptual framework. Multiple key words could be assigned to the same publication.
Key words and definitions

Baby – Mother/infant relationship, outcomes of children born to adolescent mothers.

Baby’s Father – Relationship with baby and teen mother, support, experiences of fatherhood.

Contraception – Use, attitudes/preferences, continuation rates, side effects.

Education – Experiences during pregnancy, school transitions postpartum, long-term outcomes.

Fathers – Relationship between adolescent mothers and their fathers (biological, step, or fictive).

Health Care – Access to, use of, and experiences in the health care system.

Housing – Availability, stability, household structure.

Infant Feeding – Breastfeeding, bottle feeding.

Interpersonal Violence – During pregnancy or postpartum.

Mental Health – Body image, depression, self-esteem, stress.

Mothers – Relationship between adolescent mothers and their mothers (biological, step, or fictive).

Peers – Relationship with peers, pregnancy among peers.

Physical – Weight, exercise, obesity, postpartum changes.

Pregnancy – Experiences and health issues during pregnancy.

Repeat Pregnancy – Risk factors, interventions.

Review – Literature reviews, systematic reviews.

Sexual Behavior – During pregnancy or postpartum.

Sexual Partners – Sexual relationships during pregnancy or postpartum (other than baby’s father).

Social Support – From family members, partners, and programs.

STIs/HIV – Risk, incidence, and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or HIV during pregnancy or postpartum.

Not peer-reviewed – Books, dissertations, reports, and other key grey literature pertaining to adolescent parenthood.

Results

Our initial search yielded over 5,000 abstracts:

- PubMed – 2,690
- CINAHL – 603
- PsycInfo – 1,668
- Social Services Abstracts – 224
- Social Work Abstracts – 146
- Sociological Abstracts – 348

After excluding duplicates and articles that didn’t meet inclusion criteria, 575 unique publications remained. This includes a small number of articles published after our initial search that were identified through e-mail notification.

Results are presented in this document by key topic. Because multiple topics could be assigned to the same publication, some publications appear on more than one list.

Next Steps

This bibliography will be updated periodically as new publications are identified. Revisions will be posted to our website at familyplanning.uchicago.edu. We are expanding our search strategy to include more racial/ethnic groups – especially Latinas – and outcomes like parenting behaviors. We will also be adding more books and grey literature.


Baby’s Father


Fathers


Housing


Interpersonal Violence


Pregnancy


Weatherley, R. A., S. B. Perlman, et al. (1986). "Comprehensive programs for pregnant teenagers and teenage parents: how successful have they been?" Fam Plann Perspect 18(2): 73-78.


East, P. L. and E. A. Kiernan (2001). "Risks among youths who have multiple sisters who were adolescent parents." Fam Plann Perspect 33(2): 75-80.


Sexual Partners


Social Support


East, P. L. and E. A. Kieman (2001). "Risks among youths who have multiple sisters who were adolescent parents." Fam Plann Perspect 33(2): 75-80.


Sullivan, K., J. Clark et al. (2010). "Continuing Education Mitigates the Negative Consequences of Adolescent Childbearing." Matern Child Health J.


