Teen Pregnancy: An ongoing trend in the Dayton area

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The Ongoing Trend of Teenage Pregnancy in the Dayton Area

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Risks
- Low birth rate/premature birth
- Anemia (Low iron levels)
- Pregnancy Induced Hypertension
- Postpartum Depression
- Lack of Prenatal Care

Causes
- Living in poverty
- Access to birth control
- Family cycle of teen pregnancy
- Absence of sex education
- Absent parents
- Underage drinking
- Contributes to 75% of teen births nationally

Effects
- Only about 50% of teen mothers finish high school
- Lead to increased use of drugs and alcohol
- 60% of pregnant teens say they have used 1 or more substances in the past year
- Lead to low income levels annually
- 80% of teen mothers have to rely on welfare at some point of their lives

Why Should We Care?
Labeling theory: People come to identify and behave in ways that reflect how others label them. Young women living in poverty are more likely to be labeled as the “type” to become pregnant during their teens, abuse drugs and alcohol, and drop out of school. Because they are surrounded by others engaging in the behaviors, they feel they have no other option than to do the same. In many cases, young women believe they cannot achieve anything greater in life, and thus settle and act on the label that was placed on them.

Resources in Dayton
- The Mustard Seed Foundation
- Family Services: “All About Baby and Me”
- Catholic Social Services

References

Figure 1: Pregnant females per 1,000 aged 15-19, Mont. County

Figure 2: Pregnant females per 1,000 aged 15-19

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