

How Causes and Effects of Teen Pregnancy

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Teenage pregnancy has been one of the important issues in the Northern Mariana Islands and today's world. Due to too many teens girls getting pregnant at an early age that may cause social consequences, health risk, emotional issues, such as anemia, urinary tract infection, pregnancy-induced hypertension, depression, substance abuse, increased sexual risk behaviors, as well as disrupt their educational deficiency, career goals and socioeconomic statuses. (Christofides et al., 2014).

According to Burton (2017) , I found that the countries in Africa have the highest teen pregnancy rates in the world. Among them, in the Neger is the list of the top at 203,604 births per 100,000 teenage girls and these pregnant girls between the ages of 15 to 19 years old. In the Northern Marianas island, "there were 513 pregnancies recorded between the years 2000 to 2003." And the majority of the pregnancies about 175 were among 19-year-olds women, while 143 cases were recorded with 18-year-old girls, about 101 cases were reported among 17-year-olds, 61 for 16-year-olds, and about 33 for 15- year-olds. Another study that I found about 39.6% of female high school students and 44.6% of male high school students reported ever having had sexual intercourse in the Northern Mariana Islands. In those, 3.7% of female high school students and 9.4% of male high school students reported before age 13 (SIECUC, 2017).

So I think there are some reasons why so many teenage girls get pregnant so early. First, teenagers are generally lacking proper sex education because schools are now providing sex education but they do it just for the sake of doing and not with the aim to counsel properly. Second, most of them lack supportive parents and family due to a child deprived of love will look for pleasure and happiness elsewhere. Third, stressful lifestyles cause a depressive lifestyle can always lead an individual to look out for something in which they will find momentary pleasure.

There are several disadvantages to teen pregnancy. I found that the region of Petén has the highest rate of maternal mortality in Guatemala at 172 deaths for every 100,000 births and the infant mortality is also high at 40 deaths for every 1,000 births, and the United States (U.S.), young people (aged 15–24 years old) account for 50% of all new STDs. Furthermore, 25% of sexually active adolescent females have an STD (Leung et al., 2019). Also I found that more pregnant 15- to 19-year-olds develop anemia and high blood pressure than pregnant women from 20 to 44 It will cause premature delivery or low birth weight of the baby. In addition to health deterioration, it indicates the likelihood of girls dropping out and missing out on needed education of school. For example, according to Saipan Tribune (2000), Anne was only 17 years old and needed to rear a two-year-old – alone. Eventually, Anne had to stop going to school and start working in a private company and her boyfriend is now living with her younger sister who also bore his child. Anne and her sister having a child was the biggest mistake of their life because it will affect their education and future. In today's world, Anne and her younger sister share basically the same situation with millions of girls their age all over the world.

Overall, teen pregnancy is a serious issue that may seriously impact teenage girls. Getting pregnant is not just a threat to the health of the baby while they change their lifestyle for a young mother, this could mean their education may be put on hold. Teen pregnancy will have a big impact on their education and dreams for the future because they need to accompany their child.

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