

Teenage pregnancy and parenting is a health issue in New Zealand because [...]

The three major determinants of health that influence teenage pregnancy/parenting in NZ are cultural, economic and social.

The cultural determinant refers to people's attitudes, values and beliefs or the characteristics of a group of people (class notes). In New Zealand, the cultural determinant influences the issue of teenage pregnancy/parenthood mainly in relation to the beliefs and values held by the Māori culture towards parenthood. It is well known that the teenage birthrate of Māori girls is much higher than European or Asian teens in New Zealand. This is because they hold a much different attitude and view towards teenage pregnancy and motherhood. In many Māori whānau, a child born to a teenage mother will be cared for by many family members. Raising a family is highly valued, and it may be seen as a sign of cultural strength for Māori girls to begin a family as a teenager (1). The cultural determinant overlaps with the social and economic determinants of health.

1

The economic determinant [...]

The social determinant [...]

There are implications of teenage pregnancy and parenthood for well-being at the personal, interpersonal and societal levels.

Personally [...]

Interpersonally [...]

The well-being of society is affected by the health issue for several reasons. Firstly, New Zealand is well known for having the 2nd highest rate of teenage pregnancy/parenthood across developed nations (4). This might lead people to judge teenagers in New Zealand, but at the same time it might lead the government to invest more money in health and social services for teenagers, which is a good thing. Another impact is that more of tax payers' money is spent on paying benefits and paying for support services for young mothers and their children. The third impact is that higher numbers of teenage pregnancy and parenting might mean that there are less women undertaking university study or gaining employment.

2

Two strategies to address the health issue:

The first strategy is to provide a range of support services that are culturally appropriate for young mothers and their whānau in New Zealand. By showing cultural respect towards different groups, and an understanding of their different cultural needs, the young mothers will be more likely to feel supported and be able to parent with confidence, and perhaps return to school or gain employment. This links to the cultural determinant as it is showing an understanding of different groups in society and a commitment to families and young

3

people's futures. Equitable health outcomes will be encouraged by being inclusive of cultural differences.

The second strategy is to [...]

Note that a chart was provided by the student to show bibliographic details for the references used in the analysis.