

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

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

Culturally [...]

In terms of the economic determinant [...]

The social determinant is one of the key factors influencing teenage pregnancy and parenthood in New Zealand, as proven by a lot of research into the issue in this country. Firstly, it has been shown that teenage pregnancy is more likely for girls who have not done well at school, who have dropped out of school early, or who do not have clear goals and plans for the future (1). The other part of this determinant is the home background of the teenager. Statistics and research shows that teenage mothers in NZ are much more likely to also be the child of a teenage mother (1).

1

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

Personally, the health issue impacts upon the well-being of the girl who gets pregnant. The girl might drop out of school or will have to take a break from school. She will also have changes to her social life – she may lose friends because of this. Becoming a mum at a young age may affect her self-esteem and she may become depressed, especially if she does not have a lot of support. On the other hand, there are some possible positive effects, such as the teenager maturing and feeling a sense of pride and accomplishment.

2

Interpersonally [...]

The well-being of society is affected [...]

Two strategies to address the health issue are to provide better support for teenage mothers through teen parent units and to provide access to a range of health services for teenagers.

The first strategy is to provide better support for teenage mothers by having better access to teenage parent units in schools across New Zealand. By returning to school, the girl will get support from teachers and service providers, meet other mothers, and hopefully gain qualifications. This reflects social justice as it promotes fair and inclusive access to education and services.

3

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.