

Research Reviews

Partner Support and Outcomes in Teen Pregnancies

Roye, C.F., & Balk, S.J. (1996). The Relationship of Partner Support to Outcomes for Teenage Mothers and Their Children: A Review. Adolescent Health, 19, 86-93.

Two sources of social support to an adolescent mother are described in this review article: (1) baby's father and (2) mother's mother or grandmother. Over a period of time the involvement of the father in the baby decreases. Father involvement also yields mixed results: it interferes with maternal educational attainment, but improves maternal self-esteem and reduces depressive symptomatology during the postpartum period. Father involvement positively influences maternal sufficiency, maternal interaction with infants, early language development, and the education/ employment of offspring during early adult years. Grandmothers are effective in providing early childcare and contribute to higher intelligence scores and health outcomes in infants. Family support improves teenager's satisfaction with parenting. Long term co-residence of the teen mother with her own mother may breed conflict, which has a negative impact on the quality of the home environment for the child. Additional research is suggested to describe the mechanisms of partner influence on parenting and maternal school success.