TEEN PREGNANCY IN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES: A COMPARATIVE PRESENTATION

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In this presentation we will cover:

How teen pregnancy affects the individual mother as well as her family, community and health care system

The role of the public health nurse (PHN) in teen pregnancy

Current and future research about prevention and health promotion
BACKGROUND

- Teen pregnancy is defined as an undesired or unplanned pregnancy of a woman aged 19 or younger (Youth.gov, n.d.)

- This is both a social and health problem (Youth.gov, n.d.)

- Teen pregnancy is highly stigmatized in many countries (Third National Health Assembly, 2010)
BACKGROUND (CONT.)

❖ The causes of teen pregnancy are universal:
  Minority status
  Socioeconomic Status
  Level of general education
  Level of sexual and reproductive education

(Third National Health Assembly, 2010)
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS: THAILAND

- Teenage population: approx. 10.2 million or about 15% of the total population (United Nations Population Fund Thailand Country Office and Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, 2013)

- Birth rate: 53 per 1,000 females aged 15-19 in 2012 (Tangcharoensathien, Chaturachinda, & Im-em, 2014)

- Demographics of pregnant teens: 80,000 (Areemit, Thinkhamrop, Kosuwon, Kiatchoosakun, Sutra, & Thepsuthammarat, 2012)
HOW DOES TEEN PREGNANCY AFFECT THE MOTHER IN THAILAND?

- Education
- Career
- Physical Growth
- Health Risks (Liabsuetrakul, 2012)

WHO IS AFFECTED BY TEEN PREGNANCY?

- Teenage mother
- Father of the baby
- Families
- Community

HOW IS THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AFFECTED IN THAILAND?

- Universal Healthcare Coverage
- Hospitalizations

Education/Awareness (Ministry of Public Health, n.d.)
Support/Mentorship (A. Ratinthorn, personal communication, April 21, 2016)
Pre-natal and post-natal care (A. Ratinthorn, personal communication, April 21, 2016)
CURRENT RESEARCH TO PREVENT
TEEN PREGNANCY AND PROMOTE
HEALTHY YOUNG FAMILIES:
THAILAND

- Sex education curriculum
  - Wider acceptance of sex education (Third National Health Assembly, 2010)

- Teen pregnancy clinic
  - Pink Star Clinic (A. Ratinthorn, personal communication, April 21, 2016)

- Accessibility to contraceptive options (Thato, Rachukul, & Sopajaree, 2006)
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS: UNITED STATES

- Approximately 11% of teens in the U.S have one or more children by age 19, this varies substantially according to race and SES (Centers for Disease Control and prevention [CDC], 2016a)

- Teen birth rate: 24.2 per 1,000 live births (CDC, 2016b)

- Women with low SES, education, and women that are Black or Hispanic have the highest rates (Office of Adolescent Health, 2016)
Figure 1: Birth rates per 1,000 females ages 15-19, by race/ethnicity, 1990-2014
(Office of Adolescent Health, 2016)
How does teen pregnancy affect the mother in the United States?

- Lower education levels are attained by both the teen mother and father (Youth.gov, n.d.)
- Career options are limited in her future (Office of Adolescent Health, 2016)
- Lower life satisfaction and family support systems (Office of Adolescent Health, 2016)
- Increased health risks for teen mothers and their babies (Youth.gov, n.d.)
HOW DOES FAMILY/COMMUNITY AFFECT TEEN PREGNANCY RATES (TPR) IN THE UNITED STATES?

- Both biological parents present at home has an effect on TPR
- The employment rate in the neighborhood in which a family lives can affect TPR
- Children of teen parents are more likely to become teen parents
- Education level of parents can also affect TPR (Office of Adolescent Health, 2016)
HOW IS THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AND POPULATION AFFECTED IN THE UNITED STATES?

- There is a cost of an estimated $28 billion per year that is caused by health care, social service agency use, foster care, incarceration rate of children born to teen parents, and lost tax revenue due to lower education attainment and income earnings of teen parents (Youth.gov, n.d.)

- Affordable Care Act 2010 (Healthcare.gov, n.d.)
CURRENT RESEARCH TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY AND PROMOTE HEALTHY YOUNG FAMILIES: UNITED STATES

- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

- Key components to initiative are:
  - Community mobilization and sustainability
  - Using evidence based sex education programs
  - Increase youth access to contraceptives and reproductive health services
  - Stakeholder education
  - Working with diverse communities
  
(CDC, 2016a)
There are specific programs in each state and county in which public health nurses help support teen parents and reduce TPR.

The goals of these programs are:
- To improve the health of teen mothers and their babies
- Improve education rates of pregnant and parenting teens
- Increase teen father involvement
- Prevent repeat pregnancies
- Provide parenting education and contraceptive education for teens

(National Association of County and City Health Officials [NACCHO], 2009)
Duties of the public health nurse within these programs include:

- Assessment of the teen parent
- Provision of referrals
- Provision of parenting and contraceptive education modules
- Regular home visits and assessments

(NACCHO, 2009)
Thailand and the U.S. both view teen pregnancy as a public health issue.

Both countries are adopting new and similar strategies to reduce the risks of teen pregnancy while supporting teen parents.

Efforts toward change can be observed in both countries and should be continued.
QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!!
REFERENCES


