

Abstract

Background: Adolescence is a key developmental period in one's life course, health-related behaviors of adolescents can be linked to lifelong consequences, which affect their future health. Previous studies highlight the role of family and its significant influence on adolescent's health. Adverse outcomes of teenage pregnancy are known as a global problem which affects the present and future health and wellbeing of both the woman and the children. Disadvantages caused by pregnancy result in a decrease of women's productivity, negatively affect their earning capacity, and contribute to their own and their children's poverty. While global adolescent fertility rate is 48 births per 1000 girls among less developed regions, the Philippine's is 55 births per 1000 girls in 2018, higher than the global average. The Philippines is the only country in the region which is showing an upward trend of teenage pregnancy while other countries in East Asia and the Pacific have declining teenage pregnancy. The result of the current study can help people working for adolescent health to understand the risk and protective factors as well as the high-risk populations of teenage pregnancy.

Objective: To investigate the association between teenage pregnancy and family factors specifically parent structure.

Method: The current study is a secondary analysis using the Philippine National Demographic and health Survey 2017, which is a routine cross-sectional study conducted every 5 years and is part of the DHS Program of the United States Agency for International Development. Study population is adolescent women aged 15-19 years old. Dependent variable is teenage pregnancy, which means being currently pregnant or having given birth by the time of the survey. The main exposure variable is the parent structure which describes whether a respondent lives with both parents, a single parent

or neither parent. Other potential independent variables are factors related to sociodemographic, personal behavior, family planning and sexual activities. After multivariable logistic regression, the final model was selected by stepwise forward method and by sensitivity test for the goodness-of-fit.

Result: Adolescent women are more likely to become teenage pregnant when they live with neither parent (aOR=4.57, 95%CI=2.56-8.15), who are older and close to 19 years old (aOR=2.17, 95%CI=1.91-2.46), have many knowledge of contraception (aOR=1.27, 95%CI=1.22-1.32) and live in a big family (aOR=1.14, 95%CI=1.09-1.20). On the other hand, higher educational attainment than secondary education (aOR=0.08, 95%CI=0.01-0.49) and richest wealth quintile (aOR=0.40, 95%CI=0.18-0.92) exhibited statistically protective effects with teenage pregnancy compared to no education and middle wealth quintile. Since interaction of wealth quintiles and parent structure are associated to teenage pregnancy, adolescent women who live with neither parent and belong to the poorest wealth quintile were more probable to become teenage pregnant (aOR=3.55, 95%CI=1.67-7.55).

Conclusion: The current study investigated the association between teenage pregnancy and family factors, specifically parent structures. Living with neither parent was found as a risk factor of teenage pregnancy. Further research in the impact of communication among parents and adolescents, and the gap between knowing status and actual practice regarding family planning are required to improve adolescents' behavior.