

SELF-ESTEEM, FAMILY SUPPORT, PEER SUPPORT, AND DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMATOLOGY IN THE PREGNANT ADOLESCENT

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Depression Adolescent Pregnancy

Purpose: The central purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between depressive symptomatology and the variables self-esteem, perceived social support from family and perceived social support from friends in the pregnant adolescent. A second purpose of this study is to describe characteristics (age, race or ethnicity, educational level, and socioeconomic status) of the adolescent during pregnancy.

Method: This descriptive correlational study addresses the following questions: 1). What is the relationship between depressive symptomatology and self-esteem, perceived family support, and perceived peer support in the pregnant adolescent? 2) Are there significant mean differences in perceived social support from family and perceived social support from friends for individuals with different levels of self-esteem? The sample will be single pregnant adolescents between the ages of 13 and 18 who are experiencing a normal pregnancy and are 13 to 27 weeks gestation. The adolescents will provide demographic data regarding age, gestation, education, and race or ethnicity, and income and respond to instruments measuring depressive symptomatology, self-esteem, perceived social support from family, and perceived social support from friends. The following instruments will be completed by the participants: The Reynolds Adolescent Depression Screening Scale, The Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, Perceived Social Support from Family Scale, and Perceived Social Support from Friends Scale. Data will be analyzed with descriptive statistics, multiple regression, and multivariate analysis of variance.

Findings: Research in progress.

Discussion: This research will provide a clearer understanding of the potential psychological impact that the stress of pregnancy can have on the pregnant adolescent. The research will further address the area of support during pregnancy in an effort to identify the support system that is associated with positive adaptation during pregnancy. Findings from this research study will guide healthcare providers in the development of strategies and interventions that are vital in promoting the health and well-being of adolescents during pregnancy.