Teenage Pregnancy: Value, Attitudes and Decision Making
Press Conference  Rm619 Sino Bldg CUHK

研究發佈會
Press Conference: Announcement of Research Findings

香港青少年懷孕：價值觀、態度與抉擇
HK Teenage Pregnancy: Values, Attitudes & Decision Making

林少峯博士
S. F. Lin, Ph. D.

Mission Statement
Mother's Choice promotes loving, nurturing care for babies and children needing permanent homes. We help single girls and their families facing crisis pregnancies.

Services
- Hotline Service
- Counseling and Referral Service
- Bilingual Sex education website (www.motherschoice.org)
- School talks / workshop for students, teachers and parents
- Agency Visit
- Hostel service
- Advertisement (e.g. TVCs, posters, billboards)

Mother’s Choice
A Place to Show Love and Care since 1987

Mother's Choice promotes loving, nurturing care for babies and children needing permanent homes. We help single girls and their families facing crisis pregnancies.

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Decision making

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004-05</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>44 (33.3%)</td>
<td>33 (25.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting</td>
<td>46 (34.8%)</td>
<td>35 (26.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
<td>15 (11.4%)</td>
<td>19 (14.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscarriage/Post Abortion Counseling:</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>8 (6.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>26 (19.7%)</td>
<td>36 (27.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research objectives

- What is the values and attitudes of teenagers towards sexual behaviors and pregnancy-related issues?
- If teenagers have unplanned pregnancy, how would they do?
- Which internal and external factors would affect their decision making after unplanned pregnancy?
- Of whom teenagers will talk to about their sexual behaviors and pregnancy-related issues?
- How are teenagers' views different from parents in terms of their views towards sexual behaviors and pregnancy-related issues?

The Research

Teenagers who are full-time students
- Between 12 to 21 years old
- A total of 3335 teenagers participated in the study

Parents
- Having children of 12 to 21 years old
- A total of 140 parents participated in the study

Teenage Mothers
- Teenage mothers who experienced unplanned pregnancy in the last 2 to 3 years
- A total of 5 teenage mothers participated in the study
Research tools

Teenagers who are full-time students
- Questionnaire
- Included Teen Attitude Pregnancy Scale (Somers, Johnson, & Sawilowsky, 2002)

Parents
- Questionnaire

Teenage Mothers
- Case study
- Qualitative analysis
- Quantitative analysis

Major Findings
(Teenage Participants)

Information of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Form 1 to 2</td>
<td>19 %</td>
<td>18 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form 3 to 7</td>
<td>24 %</td>
<td>35 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>2 %</td>
<td>2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45 %</td>
<td>55 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teenagers and Sex
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Percentage of Participants (who are now engaged in romantic relationship) that has Sexual Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form 1 to Form 2</th>
<th>Form 1 to Form 3</th>
<th>University Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Relationship Status of Teenage Participants

Form 1 to Form 2  Form 3 to Form 7  University Student

Not involved in relationship 89%  Involved in relationship 11%

Teenager's Opinion on Using Contraception

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>If you have sex with the others, you must use contraceptive devices.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Educational Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>If you have sex with the others, you must use contraceptive devices.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is the decision that teenagers will make after being pregnant?
Decision Making after Teenage Pregnancy

Adoption 24%
Abortion 23%
Parenting 53%

Factors affecting decision making

Theory of Planned Behaviour TPB

Belief
- Subjective Norm
- Attitude towards behaviour
- Perceived behavioral control

Intention
Behavior


Ecological Systems Theory

What are the internal and external factors affecting decision making?

**Internal Factors**
- Belief
- Perceived cost

**External Factors**
- Family
- Peers
- Society
- School

Sources:

What are the internal and external factors affecting decision making?

- Those youths that have chosen **Abortion** as a solution to pregnancy tends to be … …
  - Less concern with
    - Family and kinship
    - Value of life
    - Realism of child rearing

What are the internal and external factors affecting decision making?

- Those youths that have chosen **Parenting** as a solution to pregnancy tends to be … …
  - More concerned with
    - Family and kinship
    - Realism of child rearing
  - Less concerned with
    - Perceived cost
    - Influence from family, peers and society

What are the internal and external factors affecting decision making?

- Those youths that have chosen **Adoption** as a solution to pregnancy tends to be … …
  - More concerned with
    - Belief
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Cognitive Dissonant

Teenage value towards life is important

Agree 89%
Disagree 11%

20% of them choose abortion

Cognitive Dissonant

Teenages who think are capable to be parent

Agree 13%
Disagree 87%

50.9 % of them choose parenting

Cognitive Dissonant

Teenage value towards future career

High rating 83%
Low rating 17%

51.9 % of them choose parenting

Cognitive Dissonant

Teenage value towards family and kinship

High rating 87%
Low rating 13%

24.2% of them choose adoption
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Teenagers talk about sex with … …

Who do they talk to?

Percentage (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>4.88</td>
<td>1.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>5.78</td>
<td>5.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibling</td>
<td>16.06</td>
<td>15.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>24.88</td>
<td>24.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Media</td>
<td>10.61</td>
<td>16.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyfriend/Girlfriend</td>
<td>7.50</td>
<td>18.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Worker/Social welfare organization</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>7.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oh… !!

Teenagers’ opinion on the responsibility of sex education
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Major Findings
(Parent Participants)

How would parents react on their children’s unplanned pregnancy?
Will parents talk about ‘SEX’ with their children?

Parents’ opinions on the responsibility of sex education

Parent VS Teenage
Opinion on promoting sex education

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Qualitative Analysis

- 5 persons who were pregnant in the last 2 to 5 years were interviewed
- The interviewees have all been clients of Mother’s Choice
- The interviews took around one hour

Their ages of pregnancy ranged from 15 to 21 years

- 2 of them have chosen parenting
- 2 of them have chosen adoption
- 1 have chosen abortion

They were asked to share about
- Difficulties encountered in the incident of accidental pregnancy
- Means employed to solve problems
- Sources of help that they received
- Factors affecting their decision-making

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Problem solving</th>
<th>Source of help</th>
<th>Factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parenting</td>
<td>39.87</td>
<td>26.36</td>
<td>26.65</td>
<td>19.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
<td>44.39</td>
<td>21.39</td>
<td>24.42</td>
<td>11.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>43.37</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>20.26</td>
<td>9.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Four Aspects Mentioned in Interview
Teenagers who choose abortion receive less help from adult, included family and social workers, as they do not disclose her pregnancy.

Factors concerned to make decision

- Interviewees chose adoption concerned more about ethical factors
- Interviewees chose abortion concerned more about emotional factors
The five core needs of Adolescents

- Affirmation
- Information giving
- Values clarification
- Limit setting
- Anticipatory guidance

Source: Roffman, 2001

Six dimensions of sexuality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health</th>
<th>“safe sex” and beyond (WHO’s definition-physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Values</td>
<td>personal conduct and character; ethical sexual conduct → moral values and choices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>sexual and reproductive changes throughout the life span</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimacy</td>
<td>Physical intimacy → sexual fulfillment (difficult to find the right words)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensuality</td>
<td>our perception and experiences of our own body image, desirability and attractiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Personal identity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sexuality is more than what we are but who we are and how we behave

- **Sex** = genital + genital behaviour

- **Sexuality** = Genitality and genderality,
  Personal identity
  Multitude of ways we think, feel and act

Reliability of the Study

1. Reliability of the questionnaire

- Reliabilities of the scales are satisfactory.

- **Teenage questionnaire**
  - Factors affecting decision after getting pregnant (α = 0.94)
    - Internal factors (α = 0.92);
    - External factors (α = 0.91);
    - Items about values and attitude (α = 0.78)

- **Parent questionnaire**
  - Factors affecting decision after getting pregnant (α = 0.91)
    - Internal factors (α = 0.87);
    - External factors (α = 0.86);
    - Items about values (α = 0.69)
Reliability of the Study

2. Response rate

- **Teenage questionnaire (99.9%)**
  - No. of questionnaire has been distributed: 3337
  - No. of questionnaire has been distributed: 3335

- **Parent questionnaire (78.2%)**
  - No. of questionnaire has been distributed: 179
  - No. of questionnaire has been distributed: 140

Acknowledgement

CUHK & Mother’s Choice would like to thank everyone that has taken the time to attend this conference. Your support is valuable to us & to the benefits of the adolescence of HK

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- All parents who have participated in the study
- All teenage mothers who have participated in the study
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- Ms Amy Chui in the Public Relations, CUHK
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