

Examining External and Internal Poverty as Antecedents of Teen Pregnancy

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Objectives: To identify antecedents of teen pregnancy. **Methods:** Data from the National Education Longitudinal Study were analyzed. This data set allowed us to identify eighth-grade antecedents of teen pregnancy/childbearing. **Results:** The variables that were found to be most predictive of later pregnancy were reflective of internal poverty (locus of control, subject's educational expectations, and confidence in graduating from high school) and exter-

nal poverty (parents' highest education). **Conclusions:** Prevention programs must begin before the eighth grade, instill an internal locus of control, promote academic achievement by enriching children's perception of personal life options for which an education is needed, empower children and their familial models, and prevent internal poverty.

Key words: adolescent pregnancy

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