 

**The Making of Terra**

*Presentation*

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University of Alberta

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Human Ecology Department

Creating healthy human environments for everyday living.

Human Ecology is an interdisciplinary applied field that uses a holistic systems approach to examine the many contexts of people’s lives. In particular, we focus on the dynamic relationships people have with their near environments: clothing, family, home and community. Our mission is to create healthy human environments that enhance the quality of daily life.

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MSc in Family Ecology and Practice

A team that works, together with government and community partners, conduct policy and program-relevant studies, to enhance the well-being of children, youth and families – with a particular focus on those who are vulnerable.

Emancipatory action is often called the "empowerment or take action" practice which leads to changes in societal values and morals such that everyone is better of. Using an emancipatory approach to practice leads to the ability to affect or shape familial and institutional change to benefit society at large.

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# Teen Pregnancy

International Statistics

Comparisons of international teen pregnancy or teen birth rates are usually made between countries with similar economic standings. In this context, Canada is commonly compared with other developed nations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, the Nordic countries and member states of the European Union.

* Teen fertility statistics published in 2007 ranked Canada 17th out of 24 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations, with a rate of approximately 20 births per 1, 1000 women aged 15-19.
* The United States ranks last with a teen fertility rate of more than double that of Canada. The United Kingdom and New Zealand also recorded higher fertility rates than Canada, while Australia’s fertility rate is only slightly less than Canada.
* Japan continues to have the lowest fertility rate, followed by the Netherlands, Switzerland, Denmark and Italy. Sweden, Finland, France, and Norway also have comparably low teen fertility rates (McKay A., & Barrett, M. (2010).

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Combined birth/abortion rates per 1,000 women under age 20, Canada, USA, England/Wales, 1990-2004.



Sources: Canada: Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database http://cansim2.statcan.ca, Table 106-9002. Retrieved 10/03/07. England/Wales: Office for National Statistics, All Conceptions-Rates per 1,000 Women in Age-Group, (www.statistics.gov.uk). USA: Guttmacher Institute. (2006). U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity. (McKay, 2006).

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Canadian Statistics

Based on Statistics Canada data from 2007 (CANSIM), teen pregnancy (combined pregnancy and abortion) rates in Canada have shown a considerable decline since 19904. For instance, teen pregnancy in 15-19 year olds has dropped to 36.9% between 1996 and 20061. It has been estimated that 46,774 or 4.3% of babies born in Canada in 2009 had a mother under the age of 205.These national statistics have shown a promising drop in the overall teen birth rate. However there are dramatic regional differences4. For instance, the pregnancy rate for Alberta teens may have declined from 53.0 to 38.8 between 1998 and 20041. Yet the Alberta Health Services 2010 report has further indicated that the pregnancy rates for teens between 15-19 years of age in Alberta, has increased from 38.8 to 41.0 between 2005 and 20071.

* Recent Canadian statistics show a steady decline in teen pregnancy and birth rates since the 1990s. The abortion rate for teens has also decreased over the last few years (McKay A., & Barrett, M. (2010).
* In Canada, the pregnancy rate for 15-19 years old in 2005 was 29.2. The teen pregnancy rate has steadily declined since 1994 (Statistics Canada 2008a)
* In 2005, the estimated pregnancy rate for teens 15-17 years of age was 15.8. The pregnancy rate for teens aged 18-19 was 49.0 (Statistics Canada, 2008a).
* In 2005 the birth rate for teens 15-19 years old was 13.3. The live birth rate has been decreasing since 1994 (Statistics Canada, 2008a).
* Between 1996 and 2006, Canada teen pregnancy rate declined in each consecutive year, falling from 44.2 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 in 1996 to 27.9 in 2006. That represents a 36.9 per cent decline over the course of a decade (Edmonton Global News, 2010).

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Teen birth and abortion rates per 1,000 15- to 19-year-olds, Canada, 1974-2003.



Source: Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database http://cansim2.statcan.ca, Table 106-9002. Retrieved on 10/03/07 (McKay, 2006).

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Alberta Statistics

The provincial statistics can be further broken down into smaller age ranges to add another dimension to the state of pregnancy in Alberta (see table 1). According to Statistics Canada data (CANSIM), the pregnancy rate in 2003 for older teens between 18-19 years of age was estimated at 54.1 (per 1000). Teens between 15-17 years of age had lower rates of pregnancy, estimated at 18. 82. For those under 15 years of age it was the lowest rate at 2.0. Compared to a 2007 Alberta Health Services report, it showed the estimated pregnancy rate for teens 15-17 years old increased to 22.7 and the rate for 18-19 year olds also increased to 63.91.

* From 1998 to 2004 the estimated pregnancy rate for Alberta teens aged 15-19 declined from 53.0 to 38.8. Then, the pregnancy rate increased from 38.8 in 2005 to 41.0 in 2007 (Reproductive Health Working Group, 2009).
* In 2007, the estimated pregnancy rate for teens 15-17 years old was 22.7. The pregnancy rate for teens aged 18-19 was 68.3 (Reproductive Health Working Group, 2009).
* From 1998 to 2004, the teen birth rate decreased from 25.4 to 18.1. Then, the birth rate increased from 18.1 in 2004 to 20.6 in 2007 (Reproductive Health Working Group, 2009).

Edmonton Statistics

* In the 2011 calendar year there were 419 teen pregnancies out of a total of 10,746 deliveries. The estimated teen pregnancy rate for 2011 was 3.9% (Alberta Health Services, 2012).
* In the 2010 calendar year there were 437 teen pregnancies out of a total of 10,825 deliveries. The estimated teen pregnancy rate for 2010 was 4.0% (Alberta Health Service, 2012).

Terra & Clients

All of Terra’s clients are residents of Edmonton. However, over the years many have come from rural areas around Edmonton and they often have diverse cultural and family backgrounds. In 2012, the majority of the client population was Aboriginal (50%); slightly less than half of the population was Caucasian (47%), and 3% were immigrants. Regardless of their age or cultural background, Terra’s client populations are similar in that most of them have not experienced positive healthy relationships. Moreover, many of the teens have or are still experiencing some form of family or relationship abuse. In 2012, 35% of teen fathers and 39% of teen mothers had past child welfare involvement and 25% (male and female client population) were still part of the system. In addition, 43% of teen mothers and 27% of teen fathers experienced some form of family violence or relationship abuse in their past. While these experiences can have a significant impact on emotional health and parenting approaches, teen parents still have a desire to succeed and have success in life. For many young parents, their children more than often motivate them to stop destructive behavior and encourage them to plan for their future.

* From 2011-2012 there were approximately 54 young fathers using Terra services.
* From the same calendar year, 2011-2012, there were approximately 383 teen mothers using Terra services.
* On average, Terra serves approximately 600 clients each year.

The growth in programs and services that are offered by Terra reflects the complexity of the barriers and challenges that teen parents face today. As an agency, Terra continues to examine its practice paradigms to be sure that they facilitate teen capacity to stear their own lives and achieve future success. The staff take an ecological view of teen parent’s problems and possible solutions, respect their historical and cultural contexts, appreciate life changes, and empower teen parents by building on their resiliency and self-sufficiency. Terra continues to work to improve the programs and services that support teen parents’ long-term stability and children’s health, well-being, and overall future success.

Additional Information

#### Suggested Readings:

Making Fathers Count, (Beaupre, Dryburgh, & Wendt, 2010).

Resilience in parenting among young mothers: Family and ecological risks and opportunities (Easterbrooks, H. Chaudhuri, Bartlett & Copeman, 2010).

Teenage pregnancy: The making and unmaking of a problem (Arai, 2009). http://psychcentral.com/lib/2010/depression-and-teenage-pregnancy/

Terra Client Profile (Csek, 2012).

Teen Pregnancy Prevention (Barrett, Hunter, Loiselle, Macelwee, McKay, 2007).

The State of Teen Pregnancy Today (Csek, 2012).

Trends in teen pregnancy in Canada with comparisons to USA, and Enland and Whales (McKay, 2006).

Better Health Channel Fact Sheet, (Family Planning Victoria, 2012).[http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcpdf.nsf/ByPDF/Teenage\_pregnancy/$File/Teenage\_pregnancy.pdf](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcpdf.nsf/ByPDF/Teenage_pregnancy/%24File/Teenage_pregnancy.pdf)

Social Support: Improving outcomes for adolescent parents and their children. FSU Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy, 2005). <http://www.cpeip.fsu.edu/resourceFiles/resourceFile_77.pdf>

Depression and Teenage Pregnancy (Collingwood, 2012). <http://psychcentral.com/lib/2010/depression-and-teenage-pregnancy/>

Teen Moms Look for Support, But Find Only Shame (M. Perez, 2011).<http://colorlines.com/archives/2011/05/teen_pregnancy_prevention_and_stigma.html>

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Alberta Health Services. 2010. Get the facts on teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STI), HIV and AIDS, and teen sexuality. <http://www.tascc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Teen-Facts-20102.pdf>.

Barret, M., Hunter, K., Loiselle, E., Maceleww, L., & McKay, A. (2007). Update report on teen pregnancy prevention. [www.beststart.org](http://www.beststart.org)

Child Health Surveillance Project Data Group (2005). *Alberta Child Health Surveillance Report 2005.* Edmonton, AB: Alberta Health and Wellness.

Collingwood, J. (2012). Depression and Teenage Pregnancy. *Psych Central*. Retrieved on September 3, 2012, from <http://psychcentral.com/lib/2010/depression-and-teenage-pregnancy/>

Esterbrooks, A., Chaudhuri, J., Dym Bartlett, J., & Copeman, A. (2010). Resilience in parenting among young mothers: family and ecological risks and opportunities. *Child and Youth Services Review*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2011.03.031>

McGregor, S. L. T. (1997). Envisioning our collective journey into the next millennium. *Journal of Home Economics Education, 35*(1), 26-38.

McKay A. (2006). Trends in teen pregnancy in Canada with comparisons to USA and England/Whales. *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality, 15*(3-4), 157-161.

 McKay A., & Barrett, M. (2010). Trends in teen pregnancy rates from 1996-2006: A comparison of Canada, Sweden, U.S.A., and England/Wales. *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality, 19(*1-2), 43-52.

Murcott, A. (1980). The social construction of teenage pregnancy: a problem in the ideologies of childhood and reproduction. *Sociology of Health and Illness, 2*(1), 1-13.

Vanier Institute, 2012. Teen pregnancy: supporting young parents. Fascinating Families, *46.*