

Intimate partner violence in pregnant adolescents in Guanajuato, Mexico

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Casique CL, Juárez AVG, Aguirre AA et al. Intimate partner violence in pregnant adolescents in Guanajuato, Mexico. *J Clin Psychiatry Neurosci* 2021;4(6): 1-4 .

Objective: To analyze intimate partner violence in pregnant adolescents in high school.

Methodology: It is a qualitative study, discourse analysis was performed, and Grounded Theory was applied to the data, there were 9 pregnant adolescents, who were in high school, and who lived with their partner, the participants were in the second trimester of gestation, informed consent was respected, the data collection was done through a group setting.

Results: 66.6% registered 17 years, 77.8% of the adolescent lived in free union with their partner, 88.99% are Catholic and 77.8% are primigravida, 44.4% of the partners of the adolescents are workers, the highest incidence of violence towards the pregnant adolescent was when the partner consumes alcohol 100%, tobacco 88.9%, 77.7% of the cases the violence was accentuated after the news of the diagnosis of pregnancy. There was a phenomenon of interpersonal violence between the couple.

Conclusion: The most type of violence is psychological, followed by physical and verbal.

Key Words: Teenage pregnancy; Intimate partner violence; Substance abuse

INTRODUCTION

Partner violence as well as teenage pregnancies currently mark one of the most incident social problems in our society, since, after various investigations it has been reported that in the world partner violence affects a considerable number of women, reaching this figure up to 38% in some regions mainly in Mexico due to its patriarchal culture and machismo that even today, in the XXI century is still present despite the efforts that are made every day against partner violence against women specifically. At the same it is reported that 38% of the total number of female homicides is due to conjugal violence, which shows that incidence of cases of partner violence is very high, since more than half of the female population has suffered some type of violence at some point in the relationship, speaking the statistics alone of the problem presented here [1].

However, the prevalence of interpersonal violence is higher among men (5.0% men, 3.3% women) and the most vulnerable age group is that of men aged 20 to 29 years; for women, the home is a place where one in four reports suffering violence (24.5%). The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that 42% of men and 37% of women during their youth are exposed to violence, which shows that exposure to violence is a strong predictor of behavior [2,3].

A very important point to touch is the issue of violence in pregnant adolescent, which according to WHO reports, In World Health Statistics 2014 indicates that the average global birth rate among adolescents age 15-19 years is 49 per 1000 girls, as it has been observed generally [4]. This is attributed to the greater economic dependence of the mother, higher incidence of perinatal problems, lack of knowledge of sexual and reproductive health issues and inadequate family structuring. In turn, adolescent pregnancy represents a situation that places a woman's life in a particularly vulnerable condition in relation to the macro social structures of thought: machismo and stereotyped gender roles. From this ideology, a particularly important reality emerges: violence during pregnancy in adolescent women, since the problem becomes much more complex when it is understood that the repercussions of such violence will not be limited to the woman alone, but will also affect the developing product.

METHODOLOGY

Qualitative and descriptive study, discourse analysis was performed and the Grounded Theory was applied in the Data, it was carried out from May 2017, concluding in November of the same year, were 9 pregnant adolescents aged 15 to 19 years, studying the second trimester of pregnancy, who had a couple relationship, who suffered some kind of violence by their partner and who were studying the second or third trimester of pregnancy and who studied the upper middle level in the municipality of Celaya and Salamanca. For the collection of data, the instrument "Cuestionario de las Vivencias de Violencia de Pareja en Adolescentes" was used, consisting of two sections;

1) Personal data; in which there are identifications items such as: age, school grade, occupation outside of class, marital status, religion, with whom she lives, work, number of children, number of romantic partners, number of sexual partners, time of cohabitations with the current partner, history of violence, as well as data on the partner such as age, education, occupation, drug use, and history of violence in her family, and

2) Experiences of Violence which consists of open questions where adolescents can relate freely and explicitly their experiences of violence. The data collection was done through direct interviews led by a coordinator. Once the data had been collected, the discourse analysis continued and after that, the Grounded Theory was applied to the data for the corresponding analysis of the qualitative data.

RESULTS

The participants mentioned being between 15 to 19 years old, 66.6% mentioned being 17 years old, the same percentage (66.7%) reported being in the third semester of high school, 88.9% of the pregnant adolescents do not carry out extra-class activities, 88.99% profess the Catholic religion, another same percentage (88.8%) of the adolescents interviewed live with

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Received date: November 03, 2021; **Accepted date:** November 17, 2021; **Published date:** November 24, 2021



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their partner and their partner family, 77.8% are primigras, 100% of the adolescents mentioned that the time of cohabitation with their partner who rapes them is less than two years. 55.6% of the partners of the adolescents did not finish their professional studies, so 44.4% of them work as laborers. It was registered in a 100% that the violence suffered by the adolescent is when her partner consumes alcohol, tobacco 88.9%, and energizers 55.6%. 77.7% mentioned that the violence was accentuated after the diagnosis of pregnancy, 88.8% of the pregnant adolescents suffer psychological violence 11.2% suffer physical and verbal violence. In relation to qualitative data based on the theory based on the data, a conceptual map was developed describing the origin of the categories based on the physical, spiritual aspects. Social and psychological to later create the open codes that together with living code form in axial code, which allows to establish judgment and define a category for each set of elements of axial code, which can be identified in Figures 1-3, in which they show the type of relationship, time and manner of change of behavior toward the couple, as well as the daily experiences and experiences of ill-treatment from the analysis of the various codes, of the trials and categories was concluded with the formulation of a conceptual network describing the experiences of partner violence in pregnant adolescents of the upper middle level (Figure 4).

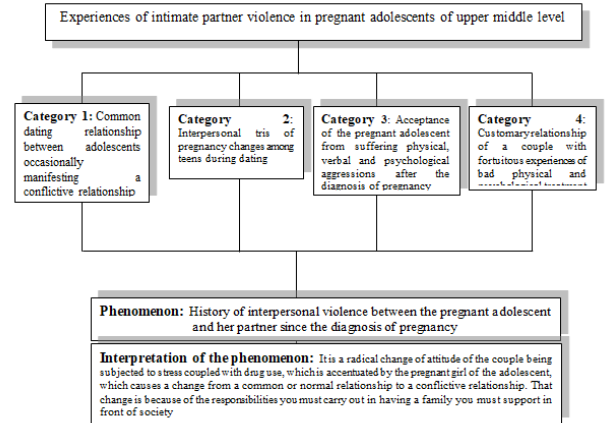


Figure 4) Conceptual network. Interpretation of the phenomenon: History of interpersonal violence between the adolescent and her partner since the diagnosis of pregnancy

DISCUSSION

Rojas and Méndez mention that adolescents seek stability, even if they do not, with older men, in comparison with them because it can also mean part of a cultural tradition in which men seek relationships with very joyous couples [5]. Pacheco also refers to older men in age, biological and psychological maturation and with more knowledge and experience in sexuality, often use the affection needs of young women in comparison to them as an element of pressure to have sex and thus produce unwanted or adolescent pregnancies, usually resulting in the abandonment of these [6].

In addition, Pérez, et al. Mentioned in their study that pregnant adolescents are under 17 years of age, students, with basic secondary school completed and living in consensual union, according to the present study that 66.6% of pregnant women reported to be 17 years of age [7]. Aldaz for his part, in his research "Pregnancy and poor school performance in high school students of the Juan Montalvo college of the city of Ambato", refers that 75% of pregnant adolescents are in the second year of baccillerato, while in the present study it was recorded that 66.6% of teenage pregnancies occur from the third semester of high school [8].

According to Rico Jiménez et al. Adolescent pregnancy has become a public health problem, which is influenced by the sociocultural conditions surrounding it and that some cultural, sports and recreational activities that develop within society favor early sexual behavior [9]. In parallel Osorio mentions that young people are the project society that recreation is necessary as a means of preventing the problems that afflict youth [10].

Quintana, Montalvo and Garcia note in their study that the women interviewed were Catholic, were in free union and did not work, such characteristics were denouncing for domestic violence [11]. These results are consistent with the characteristics of the pregnant women interviewed in the present study, since they reported living in free union, with violence being present in their daily lives, due to the social, emotional and economic insecurity perceived by the pregnant adolescent interviewed.

Rivera and Lozano mention that of the total population of their study, 60% of pregnant adolescents live in free union at the home of their parents [12]. These results are consistent with the results of the present study since 88.8% of the adolescents interviewed live with the family with their partner, so they figure out that living with their partner in their parents' home, they give the man greater security and courage to perform violent acts by feeling the support of his family, however, on the other hand the pregnant teenager by changing surroundings and leaving his comfort zone, he is vulnerable by allowing violent attitudes and behaviors for fear of the loss of stability they are giving him.

Somupstairs and Rivera, they mention that almost half of the cases of partner violence in the pregnancy period were found to be primary [13]. These results are consistent with those obtained in the present investigation since 77.8% of the raped adolescents reported to be primary, and this

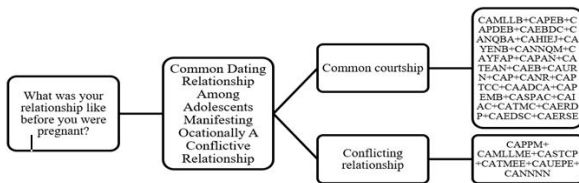


Figure 1) What was your relationship like before you were pregnant?

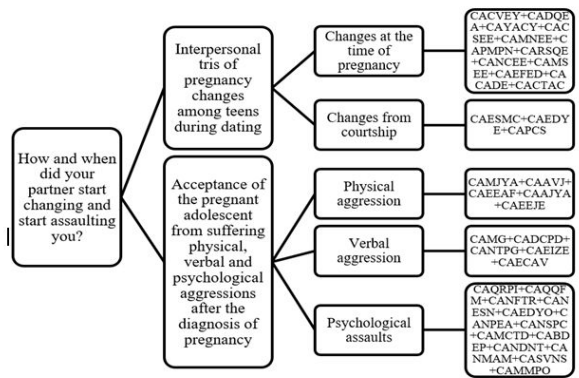


Figure 2) How and when did your partner start to change and start attacking you?

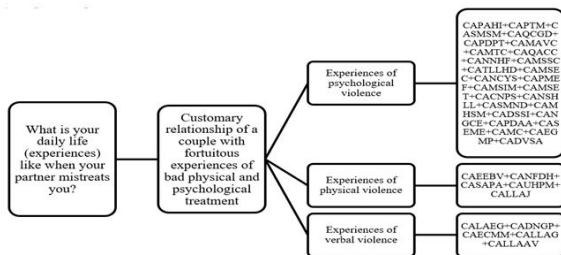


Figure 3) Origin of category No.3. How is your daily life when your partner mistreats you?

condition determines that the lack of experience places the adolescent in a state of vulnerability, which favors the acceptance of abuse.

Canola carried out a study in Mexico and mention that 65.7% of the women studied stated that violence began three years or less before pregnancy and continued during pregnancy, while 28.6% began in the first trimester of pregnancy. When the colleague learned about the situation [14]. In turn, in the present study, 100% of pregnant adolescents mentioned that the time of coexistence with their partner who raped them is less than two years old. So it can be inferred that the time of coexistence marks an important guideline for the development of the relationship, since there is less knowledge about the other person and a degree of stress as great as the news of pregnancy, which increases stress levels exponentially translating it into violence towards the couple.

Del Moral, et al. point out that adolescents resort to the use of intimate partner violence that is learned within their own homes [15]. Also in the research of Martínez et al. mention that the usual male behaviors in early childhood, such as preference for rough physical exchanges, hard and active play, both at home and in school, as well as various situations of their educational management, may condition domestic violence responses [16].

These results of both studies are consistent with those obtained in the present research, since it was reported that 55.6% of the parents of the adolescents have raped their partner's respectively, while 44.4% of the mothers of pregnant adolescents have suffered from partner violence. So it can be noted that the romantic fusion between couples enhances the submission and dependence of women towards men and strengthens them in a position of objects.

Monterrosa, Arteta, Ulloque report that on weekends, alcohol intake by the couple was associated with a five-fold increase in domestic violence in teenage pregnant women, marking a significance of 95% [17]. Likewise Redondo and Graña mention that there is a high consumption of psychoactive substances in abusers [18]. These results agree with the data obtained in the present investigation, since 100% of the maltraters use alcohol, 88.9% tobacco, 56.6% energizers, 33.3% marijuana and 22.2% cocaine, indicating that the addictive substances are present within the relationship of violence in the couple.

The beginning of a new role as paternity creates stress for both mother and father, as mentioned by Lara, et al., which mention that pregnant women who are abused have a number of common characteristics, such as the history of victimization, unwanted pregnancies, more stressful factors in daily life that can be aggravated by the announcement of pregnancy, uncertain onset of parental role and, obviously, machismo [19]. Together with this, Monterrosa, Arteta and Ulloque point out that pregnancy does not free women from being abused, since domestic violence can be initiated, perpetuated and even increased during the gestation period [17].

In turn Novo, HERBON and Amado establish the existence of subtle psychological violence, which refers to messages and actions to underestimate, not take into account the couple and isolate it, such psychological violence is said subtle why it can appear in loving situations, funny and apparent love [20]. These conclusions point out that psychological violence is the first to suffer women, since it is not perceived as aggression, allowing women to accept such violence without considering it as such; this situation of permissiveness is consistent with the results obtained in the present investigation, since pregnant adolescents suffer more psychological violence because it is not identified as such, while physical and verbal violence are present, because they are more objective than the adolescent can identify.

CONCLUSION

Pregnant adolescents suffering from partner violence live in free union, and because there is no social commitment, their partner is becoming machinist and selfless. It should be noted that pregnant adolescents profess the Catholic religion, so it is important to mention that within Mexican society, that religion establishes and accepts submission behaviors in women, favoring a fearless society, which establishes that the man is in charge of providing the necessary resources for the sustenance of the woman and family, and as such has the power over her.

In turn, it should be mentioned that the domestic violence experienced in childhood in both the pregnant adolescent and her partner, mark an important factor in the development of repeated patterns, i.e., the adolescent assumes the role of submission while her partner assumes the dominant or abusive role; that is and such behaviors are learned within her families. It can be concluded that Mexican society makes a difference in roles, responsibilities and rights based on gender, creating submissive behavior and acceptance of violence in women regardless of whether or not women are pregnant.

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