

Psychosocial Development in Adolescence

Identity versus role confusion

Three major issues

Occupational choice

Adoption of values to live by

Sexual identity

Sexuality

Sexual orientation is usually expressed in adolescence

Homosexuality is explained in physical and environmental terms

Sexual activity may begin in adolescence

Factors influencing early sexual activity

Social pressure

Curiosity

Timing of puberty

Personality style

Family structure

Socioeconomic status

Ethnicity and gender

Use of contraception

Most active teens use protection

Early teens are less likely to use protection

Low educational aspirations, drug use, minorities, single parent households are less likely to use contraceptives

Teenage pregnancy

In the U. S. for 15-19 year olds 84.5 pregnancies per 1,000 girls

Birthrates are 41.7 per 1,000 girls

Sharp decrease in birthrates among black teens

Births to teens are more at risk and more likely to have low birthweight

Mothers are more likely to have financial problems

May experience more emotional problems

Relationships

Sharp interest in peers

Fundamental values are more like those of parents

Emotional turmoil may occur, but requires intervention

Family conflicts center around everyday issues

Conflict with mother is more likely

Juvenile Delinquency

43 percent of arrests for serious crimes are committed by persons less than 21 years old.

Influences on delinquency

Peer pressure

Ineffective parenting

Ineffective discipline

Inadequate supervision