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Social Bonds and Outcomes of Sexual Activity Among Teenage Women

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ABSTRACT Although many American teenagers receive sex education and have access to contraceptive services, early sexual activity and teen pregnancy remain issues of concern for social researchers, education, and policy makers. Data on teen women aged 14-19 (n=213) who received comprehensive private health insurance coverage were used to identify important social bonds and to explore their impact on women's reproductive outcome; deliver, abort and contracept. Results demonstrated that a preventions strategy aimed at reducing negative reproduction outcomes among teenage women should not only include classroom instruction and access to contraceptive methods, but also focus on strengthening women's social bonds.