How Being a Teen Parent Affects Our Lives: The Picturing Health Venice Arts Project, Part 2

Recently, I had the opportunity to look at photographs for *Picturing Health: Photographs by Youth Across Southern & Central California*, a documentary project of Venice Arts, funded by the California Endowment. *This is part 2 of a 3 part series*.

In part 1 of this series we looked at photos featuring teen pregnancy and parenthood in Southern Kern. The youth who took these photographs felt connected to the high rates of teenage pregnancy in their communities, and interviewed young parents to hear about their experiences.

Here is a picture from the *Picturing Health* series and an **audio clip** featuring an interview with Southern Kern teenagers who discuss what raising children is really like.

Click on the photo to watch and listen to their multimedia project.



Mother and Child, courtesy of Sandra Merino, age 17, and Venice Arts
(From Picturing Health: Southern Kern)

In this interview, young adults talk about the struggles of being parents. They talk about wanting to do fun activities and be carefree, but can't anymore because of their responsibilities as mothers and fathers.

After listening to the audio, what are your thoughts on the challenges of being a teenage parent? Are there any issues described that you didn't think about? Share your comments below.

Check back on December 13, 2011 for part 3 of the Picturing Health Project Series



*Picturing Health*is a documentary photography project that consisted of photographs taken by eighty teenagers. The *Picturing Health* project was created by Venice Arts (www.venicearts.org) for the California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities Initiative, which seeks to create meaningful change in 14 low-income communities across California.

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