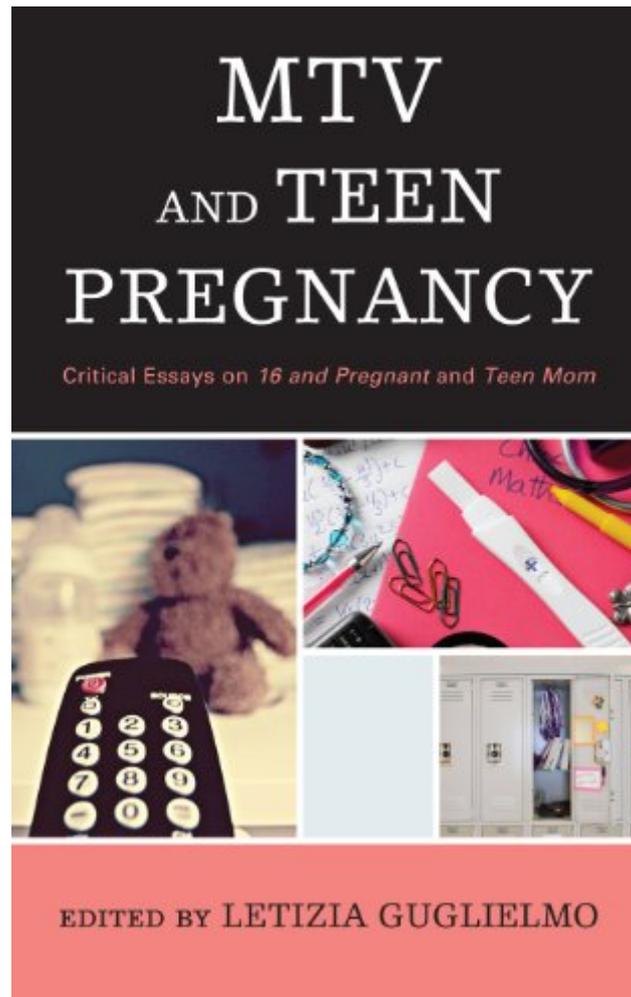


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# MTV And Teen Pregnancy: Critical Essays On 16 And Pregnant And Teen Mom



## Synopsis

In 2009, *16 and Pregnant* premiered on MTV, closely followed by the spinoffs *Teen Mom* and *Teen Mom 2*. Because of their controversial portrayals of teenage mothers, the shows have received ongoing media attention. While some argue that the programs could play a factor in reducing the number of teen pregnancies, others claim the shows exploit young women and glamorize their situations. Among these debates, there have been surprisingly few in-depth discourses that discuss the roles such shows have on teenage audiences. In *MTV and Teen Pregnancy: Critical Essays on 16 and Pregnant and Teen Mom*, contributors from a variety of backgrounds and expertise offer potent essays about these programs. Divided into four parts, the book tackles the controversial representations of teen pregnancy from various disciplines. Part I explores gendered social norms and the shows' roles as either educational resources or idealized depictions of teenage motherhood. Part II prompts readers to consider the intersections of race, class, gender, and the social and cultural power structures often glossed over in these programs. Part III focuses on teenage fathers, the portrayal of masculinity, and "good" vs. "bad" parents. Part IV draws from TV's representations of reality to discuss the impact of these shows on the viewing audience. This section includes a narrative from a teen mother who argues that the shows do not accurately reflect the life she leads. As the debates about *16 and Pregnant* and *Teen Mom* continue, this collection provides a valuable critical discourse to be used both inside and outside the classroom. Those engaged in courses on gender and women's studies, as well as media studies, social work, and family and childhood development, will find *MTV and Teen Pregnancy* especially insightful—as will those involved in community outreach programs, not to mention teens and young mothers themselves.

## Book Information

File Size: 1167 KB

Print Length: 278 pages

Publisher: Scarecrow Press (May 30, 2013)

Publication Date: July 16, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00D8WE0FS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,156,499 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #116  
in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Teen Health #437 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >  
Humor & Entertainment > Television > History & Criticism #1157 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks  
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