

compared to adult mothers, namely postpartum depression, PTSD, and substance abuse. Thus adolescent mothers may also display more aggressive behavior towards their offspring. As a consequence, child abuse and child neglect, leading to attachment insecurity, are recorded at higher levels in these families. Children of adolescent mothers are also at increased risk of disorganized development and disturbed mother-child interactions; they therefore require more support when they grow up [18]. Further, prior research has shown that external and environmental factors can increase the already high burden on teen mothers, namely marital status, social and economic circumstances, educational, and cognitive ability. A more recent study demonstrated that in dysfunctional families, both mothers and their children are likely to experience psychological disorders, and children are likely to experience adverse developmental outcomes [19].

Maternal substance abuse is a third important risk factor that likely plays a negative role in maternal-infant attachment and the later development of the child [20]. Women with substance-abuse issues are

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