

HOW DO THE CHILDREN OF SURROGATES EXPERIENCE THE SURROGACY OF THEIR MOTHER?

CONTEXT

Surrogacy has been studied extensively, but little is known about **the children who witness their mother's surrogacy**.

That's why our research team wanted to know more about the **perceptions** and **experiences** of these children.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

The results show that their mother's surrogacy had **little or no impact** on their daily lives.

The young people's relatives are described as being **involved** during this period.

My stepdad, he would help out a lot, he would always really be there going to her appointments usually.

Jules, 14 years old

However, some struggles were expressed.

Some were **concerned** about their mother's health, especially if she was restricted in her movements or bedridden during pregnancy.

Many had to **help out more** at home. While some young people found this more difficult, others were proud to have been able to help their mother during her pregnancy.

METHODOLOGY

Our research team conducted interviews with **62 young participants** from 34 families, mainly in Quebec and in Ontario.



Many young people mentioned that their other parent, step-parent or grandparent was particularly supportive during their mother's pregnancy.

I would help her clean the house. I would sometimes help her make or I would make her dinner sometimes. I would just help her a lot, and it made me feel good.

Elias, 11 years old



While the daily lives of young people change little when their mothers become pregnant, they sometimes have to contribute more to family tasks. Young people can also count on the presence and support of their families.