

New Publication!

HOW DO NEW PARENTS SEXUAL CONCERNS CHANGE OVER TIME AND WHAT ROLE DO DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS PLAY?

New publication:

THE JOURNAL OF
SEXUAL MEDICINE

COUPLES

A New Baby in the Bedroom: Frequency and Severity of Postpartum Sexual Concerns and Their Associations With Relationship Satisfaction in New Parent Couples



Hera E. Schlagintweit, BA,¹ Kristen Bailey, MSc,¹ and Natalie O. Rosen, PhD^{1,2}



We asked two main questions:



(1) How do postpartum sexual concerns and depressive symptoms change over time?

(2) To what extent do depressive symptoms predict initial levels of postpartum sexual concerns and change in sexual concerns over time?



What did we find?



Mothers **and** partners **declined**
their levels of sexual concern
between 3 and 12 months
postpartum

What did we find?



Contrary to what we expected, Mothers **did not decline** in their levels of depressive symptoms between 3 and 12 months postpartum. Also, partners **increased** in their depressive symptoms over time.





When mothers' or partners' had higher initial levels of depressive symptoms at 3 months postpartum, partners were more likely to have higher initial levels of sexual concern at 3 months postpartum





Our data provide evidence that:
parents can expect sexual
concern levels to decline
postpartum

and

depressive symptoms are a risk
factor for postpartum sexual
concerns



This is a summary of our published article:

Dawson, S. J., Strickland, N. J., &
Rosen, N. O. (2020).

Longitudinal associations
between depressive symptoms
and sexual concerns among
first-time parent couples during
the transition to parenthood.

The Journal of Sex Research.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2020.1836114>

