

Study examines individuals' perceptions of childbirth's effects on sexuality

November 22 2017

Media reports have depicted vaginal birth as harmful and cesarean delivery as protective of sexuality, but research does not support these depictions. In a recent survey published in *Birth*, 16%-48% of participants endorsed beliefs consistent with these media reports, and individuals who endorsed these beliefs tended to identify as heterosexual; hold negative attitudes toward female genitalia; and report that reality, nonreality, and online media sources are influential in terms of childbirth information.

Individuals who reported that [healthcare professionals](#) were an influential source of information were less likely to endorse these beliefs.

"Although these depictions—of [vaginal birth](#) as harmful and cesarean delivery as protective of sexuality—are ubiquitous in popular media, we do not have a lot of information about how they are related to individuals' perceptions of and preferences for childbirth," said co-author Dr. Caroline Pukall, of Queen's University, in Ontario.

"Understanding childbirth from the viewpoint of a future generation of potential child bearers can help create current, relevant conversations and appropriate reproductive health education content."

More information: Jaclyn Cappell et al, Perceptions of the effects of childbirth on sexuality among nulliparous individuals, *Birth* (2017). [DOI: 10.1111/birt.12321](https://doi.org/10.1111/birt.12321)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Study examines individuals' perceptions of childbirth's effects on sexuality (2017, November 22) retrieved 27 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-11-individuals-perceptions-childbirth-effects-sexuality.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.