

Adolescent Family Life Research Awards
FY 1982 – 2002

Adolescent Pregnancy And Parenting

Factors Influencing Quality of Adolescent Parenting

Principal Investigator:
Louise Flick, Ph.D.
School of Nursing
St. Louis University Medical Center
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Project Period: 10/1/82 - 9/30/84

Summary: This study added an additional subsample to a study that was previously conducted. It examined the social cognitive development and maternal behavior of adolescent mothers, testing the validity of Newberger's parental awareness model. The study tested two hypotheses: among adolescent mother, parental awareness relates positively to mother's age and to the quality of mother-child interaction. The additional sample was primarily black, low SES mothers referred to urban programs.

Fathers of Infants of Adolescent Mothers

Principal Investigator:
Arthur B. Elster, M.D.
Department of Pediatrics
University of Utah
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Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Project Period: 10/1/84 - 9/30/88

Summary: The goal of this four-year study was to learn more about fathers of infants born to adolescent mothers. The study attempted to: describe the characteristics of young fathers as a function of their level of commitment with their partner; use these characteristics to predict the level of commitment; describe the social and financial involvement which fathers have with the adolescent mother and infant as a function of the couple's relationship; describe the medical, psychological, and vocational educational outcomes of adolescent mothers and their infants as a function of their relationship with the father of the baby; and describe the problems perceived by fathers and the father's perception of parenthood.

The Grandmother's Role in Teenage Parenthood

Principal Investigator:
Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Ph.D.
Educational Testing Services
Rosedale Road
Princeton, NJ 08541

Project Period: 10/1/85 - 9/30/88

Summary: This study investigated the role of grandmothers and family networks in families where an adolescent pregnancy has occurred. In particular, the flow of support and influence of grandmothers on their daughters who are teenage mothers and their grandchildren born to early childbearers were examined. Four generations of 300 primarily Black low-income families were studied in what is known as the Baltimore Study. Emphasis was on the role of two different generations of grandmothers in these families vis-a-vis the development of their grandchildren.

Social Support and Adolescent Childbearing

Principal Investigator:
Carolyn E. Cutrona, Ph.D.
University of Iowa
Dept. of Psychology
Seashore Hall
Iowa City, IA 52242

Project Period: 10/1/85 - 9/30/88

Summary: This was a longitudinal study designed to investigate the effects of adolescent childbearing on the psychological and social development of the adolescent mother and to determine the extent to which social support and other social network variables can prevent the deleterious effects of adolescent childbearing on both the young mother and her infant. Outcomes that were examined included the mother's mental health, self-esteem, and social competence, and health care behaviors, as well as the infant's cognitive development and the security of the infant's attachment to its mother.

Parenting Among Low-Income Teenage Mothers

Principal Investigator:
Denise F. Polit, Ph.D.
Humanalysis, Inc.
74 Henry St., Ste. 139
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Project Period: 10/1/85 - 12/31/86

Summary: This study examined the extent to which a teen mother's parenting knowledge was influenced by her age at first birth and her exposure to parenting education classes and other factors. Also, the model predicted that child development outcomes are a function of parenting behaviors and the home environment as well as child characteristics.

Longitudinal Study of Adolescents and Their Children

Principal Investigator:
Arlene R. Stiffman, Ph.D.
The George Warren Brown
School of Social Work
Washington University
Box 1196
St. Louis, MO 63130

Project Period: 11/1/85 - 10/31/86

Summary: The two major objectives of this study were: (1) to examine the impact of adolescent pregnancy on adolescent physical and mental health and, (2) to examine the development of the infants of adolescents as both parents and infants are influenced by health service utilization, family and peer support, environmental stress and the adolescent's personal factors.

Psychological Impact of Pregnancy for Rural Adolescents

Principal Investigator:
Judith R. Vicary, Ph.D.
Pennsylvania State University
201 Human Development East
University Park, PA 16802

Project Period: 10/1/85 - 9/30/90

Summary: This was a five-year prospective longitudinal study of the psychological and social impact of pregnancy and childbearing on a sample of white, rural adolescent females in junior high school. The study identified factors that predict a pregnancy during adolescence and compares the later development of girls who become pregnant with those who do not.

Attachment Across Generations in Families of Adolescents

Principal Investigator:
Mary J. Ward, Ph.D.
Box 578
New York Hospital
Cornell University Medical Center
New York, NY 10021

Project Period: 10/1/85 - 9/30/88

Summary: This was a longitudinal study which investigated the influence of individual differences (personality, family and environmental factors) on attachment across generations. Patterns of group and individual change in childrearing knowledge and behavior were analyzed, and an attempt was made to identify factors which distinguish teenage parents who provide adequate care from those not providing adequate care for their children.

Teen Mothers: Maternal Care and Child Development

Principal Investigator:
Byron R. Egeland, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota
n517 Elliott Hall
75 E. River Rd.
St. Paul, Minnesota

Project Period: 11/1/85 - 10/31/87

Summary: This research project assessed parental characteristics, quality of caretaking, as well as developmental outcomes for adolescent mothers and their children. Included in the analysis was a comparison group of older mothers and children. The two-year study analyzed secondary data covering the third trimester of pregnancy through elementary school. These data were from the Mother-Child Project, a longitudinal study of high risk mothers and their children.

Teen Mothers and Attachment

Principal Investigator:
Eli Saltz, Ph.D.
Merrill-Palmer Institute
Wayne State University
71-A East Ferry Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202

Project Period: 10/1/85 - 9/30/86

Summary: The aims of this study were 1) to determine if teenage mothers and their infants are at risk for developing insecure attachment relationships; 2) to determine if the maternal grandmothers (with whom the teenagers reside) are likely to assume the primary caretaker role and, particularly for younger mothers become the focus of the infant's attachment; and 3) to determine the factors related to the development of secure vs. insecure attachments in infants of teenage mothers, with particular emphasis on those factors which might be amenable to change.

Predicting and Modifying Parenting in Adolescent Mothers

Principal Investigator:
John G. Borkowski, Ph.D.
University of Notre Dam
Dept. of Psychology
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Project Period: 7/1/86 - 6/30/89

Summary: The project was designed to accomplish three goals: (1) Descriptive phase - To identify personal-social factors that differentiate pregnant teenagers and adults; (2) Structural modeling phase - To use prepartum individual differences in measures of Readiness for Parenting, Ability to Learn, Personal Adjustment, Social Supports, and Neonatal Integrity to predict childrearing practices and child development; (3) Intervention phase - To assess the impact of several theoretically-driven interventions on improving parenting skills and enhancing child development.

Adolescent Parenting Behavior

Principal Investigator:
Marguerite B. Stevenson, Ph.D
Child and Family Studies
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI 53706

Project Period: 10/1/86 - 9/30/89

Summary: The aims of this study were: (1) the comparison of the environments provided for the infant by adolescent single mothers and adult single mothers in terms of the amount of stimulation, the variety and appropriateness of experiences provided and the mother's responsiveness to signals from her infant; (2) to examine possible influences of knowledge of infant development and child care assistance on the adolescent mother's parenting behavior; and (3) to examine the possible influence of the adolescent mother's parenting behavior on the socio-emotional and cognitive development of her infant.

Pregnancy and Parenthood in the Adolescent Life Course

Principal Investigator:
Cynthia A. Robbins, Ph.D.
Dept. of Sociology
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0027

Project Period: 4/1/87 - 3/31/90

Summary: The objectives of this study were to: (1) identify demographic and psychosocial risk factors for premarital adolescent pregnancy; (2) test hypotheses concerning how a premarital adolescent pregnancy will be resolved; (3) develop models concerning the effects of pregnancy and parenthood on early adult social role functioning and satisfaction; (4) examine the effects of adolescent pregnancy and parenthood on adult psychological well-being; and (5) identify conditioning or buffering factors for effects of early pregnancy and parenthood on adult psychological well-being.

Rural Adolescent Family Life: Health and Well-Being

Principal Investigator:
Sara A. Quandt, Ph.D.
Dept. of Anthropology
University of Kentucky
208 Lafferty Hall
Lexington, KY 40506-0024

Project Period: 9/30/87 - 9/29/89

Summary: The objectives of this study were (1) to assess individual, household, and community environmental factors in predicting parenthood among male and female rural adolescents; (2) compare the predictors of parenthood for rural and urban adolescents; (3) assess environmental factors in predicting the well-being of rural adolescent parents and their children; (4) analyze the mediation of health and social behaviors between environment and well-being of adolescent parents; (5) identify variations in rural adolescent family life and their correlation of family life and well-being; and (6) compare the effect of environment on well-being of parenthood; and the correlation of family life and well-being between rural and urban adolescents.

Teen Mothers' Attachment Relationships: 3-Year Followup

Principal Investigator:
Mary J. Ward, Ph.D.
Box 578
New York Hospital
Cornell University Medical Center
New York, NY 10021

Project Period: 7/1/88 - 6/30/91

Summary: This project was an extension of two longitudinal studies of approximately 120 adolescent mothers, their firstborn children, and their own mothers followed from before the infants' births. It covered the period from the child's second to third birthdays. Mother-child dyads were seen at 24 and 36 months; mother- grandmother dyads at 30 months; mother-secondborn dyads at the child's 12 month birthdays. Four major questions were addressed in this study: (1) continuity in mother-child attachment from infancy to three years, (2) mother and child behavior sequelae of infant-mother attachment, (3) associations between mother-child and mother-grandmother relationships, and (4) the role of social support, relationship with partner, and caregiving attitudes in change and continuity in relationships.

The Background, Education and Employment of Teen Fathers

Principal Investigator:
Maureen Pirog-Good, Ph.D.
Indiana University
School of Public and Environmental Affairs
Bloomington, IN

Project Period: 9/1/90 - 8/31/94

Summary: Using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Labor Market Experiences - Youth Cohort (NLSY), this study examined the distinctive characteristics of those males who become teen fathers. The research focused on the background and social-psychological characteristics of the young men as well as their educational attainment and labor force participation. The aim of the study was to determine how the experiences of teen fathers change over time and whether these changes compare favorably or unfavorably with non-fathers.

Paternity and Pregnancy Among Adolescent Males

Principal Investigator:

Freya L. Sonenstein, Ph.D. Urban Institute 2100 M Street, N.W. Washington, DC

Project Period: 7/1/93 - 6/30/95

Summary: Using longitudinal data from a nationally representative cohort of never-married 15-19 year old males, interviewed in 1988 in the National Survey of Adolescent Males (NSAM) and in 1990-1991, this study examined the antecedents and sequelae of adolescent pregnancy and birth among adolescent males. Analyses of NSAM were augmented with the 1988 National Maternal and Infant Health Survey (NMIHS), which provided the first available data about characteristics of fathers for a nationally representative sample of live births.

Cross-Ethnic/Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Fatherhood

Principal Investigator:

Paul W. Florsheim, Ph.D.

University of Utah

Dept. of Psychology

Salt Lake City, UT

Project Period: 4/1/96 - 3/31/99

Summary: This research project was designed to test a model of adolescent paternal involvement across three ethnic groups (African-American, Hispanic, and White) In examining adolescent fatherhood from a developmental-ecological perspective, the study is specifically designed to: 1) identify risk and protective factors associated with different patterns of paternal involvement; 2) clarify the relationship between paternal attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors and child development; 3) determine whether risk and protective factors function similarly across ethnic groups and social-ecological contexts. One of the primary goals of this study was to better understand the process through which young fathers develop or fail to develop as parents.

Evaluating an African-Centered Pregnancy Model

Principal Investigator:

Ann A. O'Connell, Ed.D.

The University of Memphis

Memphis, TN

Project Period: 8/1/96 - 7/31/97

Summary: The aim of this study was to translate an Africentric conceptual model into a school-based program for pregnant and parenting adolescents and to evaluate the efficacy of the approach on adolescent pregnancy outcomes. The investigation involved randomly assigning schools with high rates of adolescent pregnancy either to an Intervention Treatment condition or to a Comparison (Control) condition. African-American females who are pregnant and/or parenting and attending a Memphis City School, serving grades 7 through 12, will be involved in "Rites of Passage" training that will run for 8 months. It was hypothesized that, relative to students in the Comparison (Control) Condition, pregnant and parenting adolescents who are assigned to the Intervention/Treatment Condition ("Rites of Passage") will be more sexually responsible, will have better pregnancy outcomes and better parenting skills, will have better school performance, will have a higher level of self-esteem, and will be less likely to experience a repeat pregnancy.

Young Adult Outcomes of Adolescent Sexuality and Pregnancy

Principal Investigator:
Judith R. Vicary, Ph.D.
Pennsylvania State University
S-152 Henderson Bldg.
University Park, PA

Project Period: 8/1/96 - 7/31/97

Summary: The goal of this project was first, to follow-up a sample of rural adolescent females initially studied as part of a longitudinal study into their young adulthood to determine the present outcomes of their early, middle or late initiation of sexual intercourse and second, to examine the consequences of teen childbearing in the same sample by comparing the outcomes for: (a) girls who were not sexually active in adolescence; (b) girls who were sexually active at that stage but did not become pregnant; and (c) girls who became pregnant as teenagers.

The Demographic Context of Teen Motherhood, 1980-1995

Principal Investigator:
Jennifer S. Manlove, Ph.D.
Child Trends, Inc.
1990 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Project Period: 10/1/97 - 9/30/00

Summary: This study will assess multiple hypotheses to help explain why the U.S. teen birth rate, after declining for several decades, experienced a dramatic and unprecedented increase of nearly 25 percent between 1986 and 1991. The project will use data from Cycle V of the National Survey of Family Growth (1995), augmented with census-level

and state-level data. It will compare teenage mothers who had a birth during the period of dramatic increases in the teen birth rate (1987-1991) with teen mothers who gave birth in the period prior to the increase (1980-1986), as well as with teen mothers who gave birth during a period of stable or declining birth rates (1992-1995).

Follow-up of Younger Siblings of Teen Mothers

Principal Investigator:
Patricia L. East, Ph.D.
University of California- San Diego
San Diego Medical Center
Department of Pediatrics
San Diego, CA 92103-8449

Project Period: 1/01/98 - 12/31/00

Summary: This study is a short-term longitudinal follow-up which will examine the factors resulting from an older sister's birth that contribute to younger siblings' risk of early pregnancy and childbearing. Are younger sisters more adversely affected than younger brothers? What are the processes by which younger brothers become vulnerable to such risk and is it different from or similar to younger sisters' pathway to vulnerability? These issues will be addressed by this study. The sample consists of 313 younger siblings (169 younger sisters, 144 younger brothers, their 218 older sisters, and their 176 mothers. Approximately half of the older sisters had never been pregnant by time 1; the remaining older sisters were either currently pregnant for the first time or had delivered their first child not longer than six months previously. This would continue a study of the younger siblings and older sisters for a Time 3 assessment scheduled 3.5 years after Time 2 to allow for follow-up of the younger siblings through the age at which their older sister gave birth.

Adolescent Fathers: Patterns of Involvement

Principal Investigator:
Maureen M. Black, Ph.D. University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Medicine
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Baltimore, MD 21201

Project Period: 01/01/98 - 12/31/01

Summary: This study will examine the paternal roles of fathers of babies born to adolescent mothers. Its aims are to examine the parenting roles of both biological and non-biological father figures, the determinants of those roles, the relationship between paternal roles and children's behavior and development, and the impact on paternal roles of an ongoing intervention targeted toward parenting and adolescent role development of adolescent mothers. The investigation includes both qualitative and quantitative

components. The qualitative component includes 20 biological fathers of infants born to adolescent mothers and the quantitative component includes 180 biological fathers and /or non-biological father figures. Both groups will be followed over the first two years of the child's life.