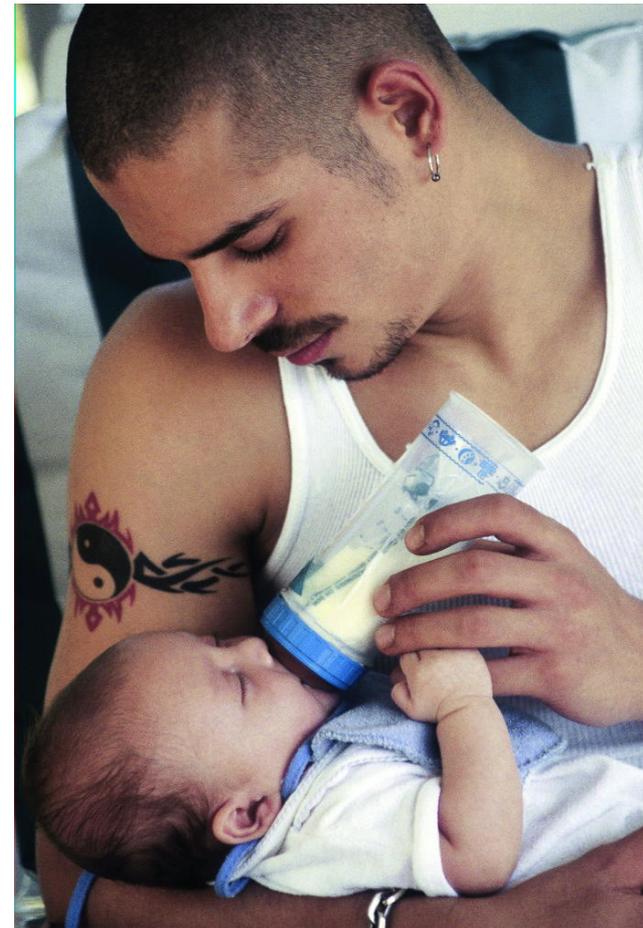


Engaging Young Fathers: Strategies for Achieving Success

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

2:00 – 3:30 pm EST

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Healthy Teen Network



Disclaimer

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Through this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Describe what the research says about the characteristics of young fathers
- Identify the unique needs of young fathers
- Describe strategies for engaging young fathers in programs
- List resources to support working with young fathers

Interactive features of this webinar:

- Polls
- Q&A feature
- Document Sharing

About Healthy Teen Network

A national nonprofit membership organization that builds capacity of professionals in the field of adolescent sexual and reproductive health



We offer

- Training and technical assistance
- Resources and publications
- Networking opportunities

***Please join us for our 34th Annual National Conference:
Embracing Innovation:
Combining Science with Creativity to Improve Adolescent Health
October 22-25, 2013 in Savannah, GA***

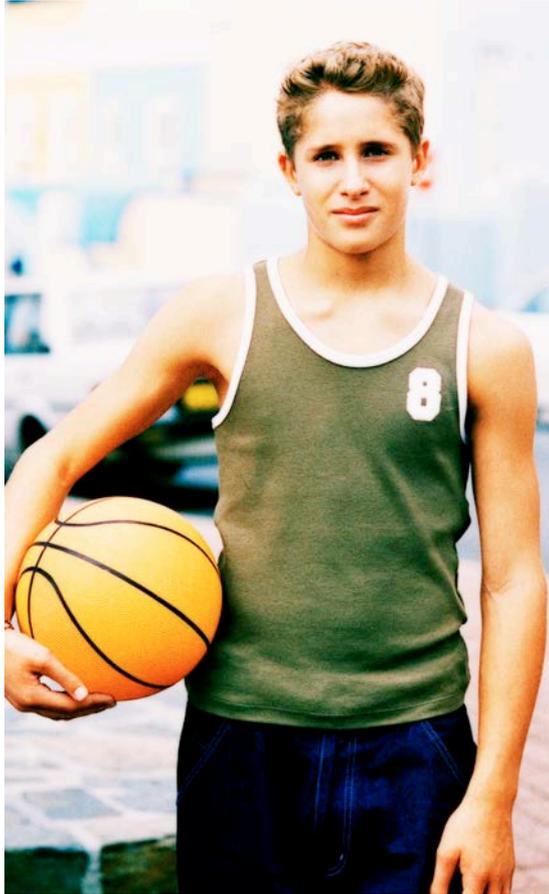
Young Fathers

Refers to all young men who, because of their age and/or maturity level, tend to be vulnerable to the adverse parenting outcomes described in the literature surrounding teenage pregnancy.



In what capacity do you work with young fathers?

- Do not work with young fathers yet but intend to do so
- Program Director/ Manager
- Program Evaluator
- Program Developer
- Social Worker
- Front Line Staff/ Health Educator

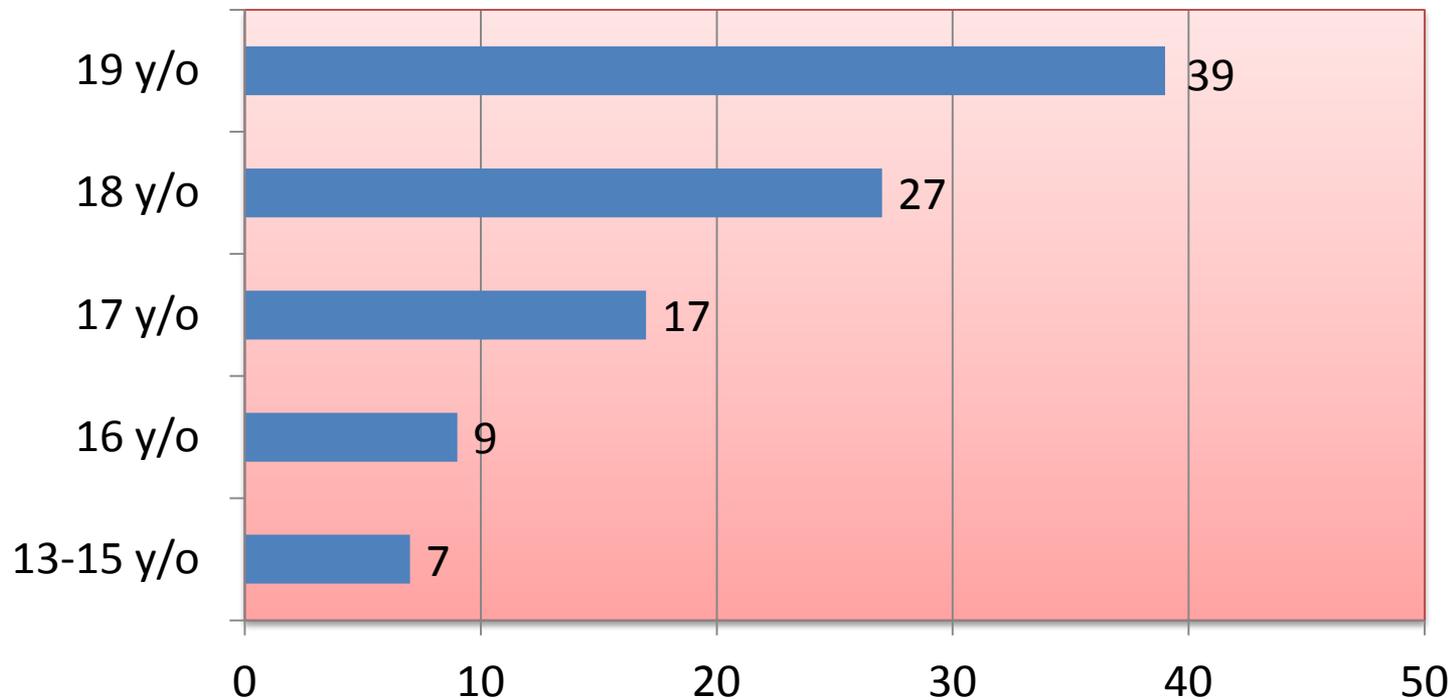


In the US, an estimated 4% of young men between the ages of 12 and 16 years in 1996, became fathers.

- True
- False

(National Vital Statistics Reports, 2012)

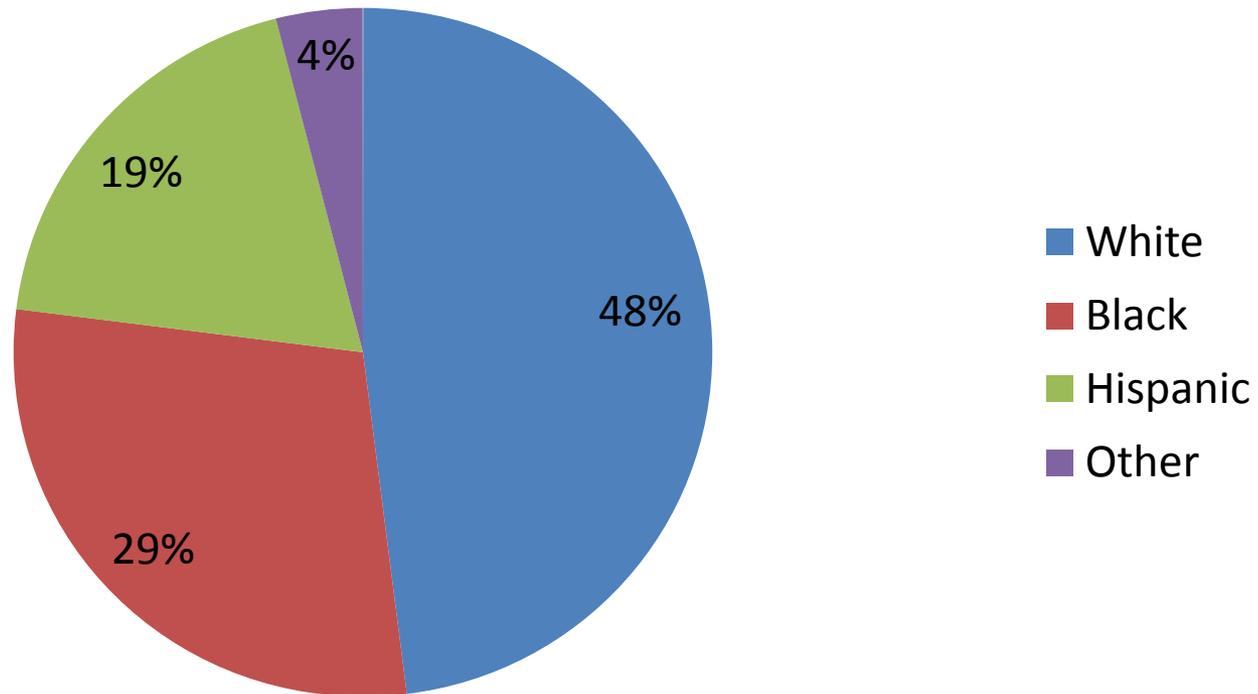
Distribution of Age of Father at Birth of First Child (Percent)



Child Trends (2012). The Characteristics and Circumstances of Teen Fathers: At the Birth of Their First Child and Beyond.

Data Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth-1997 cohort (NLSY97)

Distribution of Teen Fathers' Race/Ethnicity



Child Trends (2012). The Characteristics and Circumstances of Teen Fathers: At the Birth of Their First Child and Beyond.

Data Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth-1997 cohort (NLSY97)

Characteristics of Young Fathers

- Most young men who father a child during their teens are 18 or 19 years old
- Almost half of men who fathered children as a teen had at least one additional child by the time they were ages 22-24
- Most teen fathers are not living with a partner at the time their first child is born

Characteristics of Young Fathers

- Overall, teen fathers who lived with their child at the time of the birth were more likely to be living with that child when they were in their early twenties
- More than one-half of the young men who had been teen fathers are living with a spouse or partner by their early 20s

Child Trends (2012). The Characteristics and Circumstances of Teen Fathers: At the Birth of Their First Child and Beyond.

Data Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth-1997 cohort (NLSY97)

In your opinion, what are some of the unique needs of young fathers?



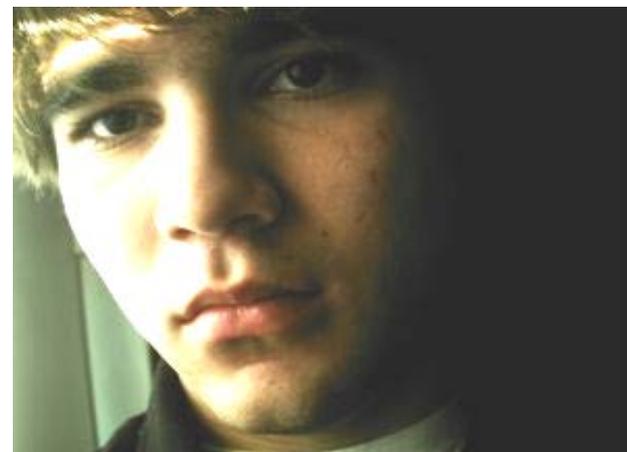
Please type your answers into the Q&A box

Young Male Sexual and Reproductive Health

- Young fathers face an increased risk of repeat unintended pregnancy and STIs
- Most sexually experienced teenage males have used condoms, but they tend to use them inconsistently
- Rates of STIs are higher among young men; especially poor, minority men in their early 20s
- AIDS is the seventh leading cause of death among young men ages 15-24

Young fatherhood is associated with:

- Reduced educational attainment
- Greater employment challenges
- Greater financial hardship
- Less stable marriage
- Poorer health, educational, and behavioral outcomes among the children born to young fathers

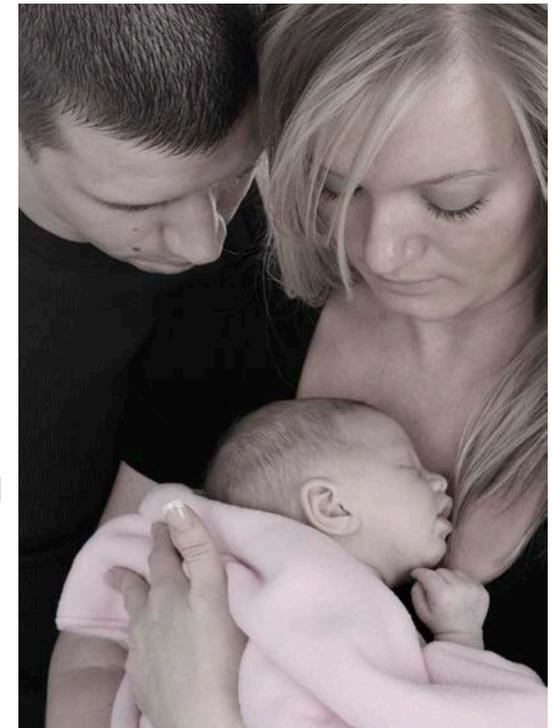


The multiple risk factors predisposing to young fatherhood include:

- Low academic performance and early school dropout
- Low family income
- Antisocial behavior
- High arrest rates
- Deviant peer association
- Living in neighborhoods characterized by poverty.

Father's presence/ involvement:

- At 6 months old, children scored higher on a test of mental and motor development [1]
- Adolescents have higher self-esteem and less depression [2]



OAH (2013). Fatherhood E-learning module.

Data Source: [1]Piffner LJ, McBurnett K, Rathouz PJ, “Father Absence and Familial Antisocial Characteristics” Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology, Vol. 29, No. 5, 2001, pp. 357-367

[2]Field, T., et al. “Adolescents’ Intimacy With Parents and Friends.” Adolescence, 30.117 (Spring 1995): 133-140

Father's absence:

- Pregnant mothers are less likely to obtain prenatal care, more likely to experience depression, and less likely to breastfeed in the absence of the baby's father
- Daughters with absent fathers are more likely to have an early pregnancy
- Youth in father-absent households have significantly higher odds of incarceration than those in homes with two parents

Father's absence:

- 77% greater risk of being physically abused
- 87% greater risk of being harmed by physical neglect
- 80% greater risk of suffering serious injury as a result of abuse
- Overall, a 120% greater risk of being endangered by some type of child abuse



What is one strategy that you would employ to engage young fathers in programs if there were no barriers (financial, policy, logistical, community, etc.)?





What is one strategy that your program implemented to engage young fathers?

Increase Awareness

- Among young mothers and/or co-parents, professionals, and the general public of the potential benefits of positive father involvement in the lives of their children
- About the unique needs of young fathers and the creation of programs that support them
- Among professionals and the public about how certain policies at the state and national level impact young fathers, both minors and legal adults

Get Started

- Assess how well your organization currently engages young fathers
- Create an action plan
- Form an advisory team
- Share research about the important role fathers play
- Challenge stereotypes and gender norms
- Assess staff
- Offer continuing education for staff
- Educate mothers on the importance of father engagement

Recruit and Implement

- Use male program staff to recruit, train, and provide services to teen fathers
- Employ creative nontraditional collaborations with schools, communities, recreational facilities, churches, businesses, and civic and men's organizations
- Schedule nontraditional meeting times, places, and formats
- In group settings aim for small groups
- Make the meeting rooms "father-friendly"

Address Barriers

- Strong Maternal/Child model of care
- Assumption that fathers should know they are included
- Primarily female-run programs
- Staff fear or biases around engaging young fathers
- Lack of programs for teen dads
- Lack of male social service providers
- Organizational policies that prevent engagement
- Intake process that requires limited information on fathers
- Staff capacity to expand services to fathers

Allocate/ Increase Funding for:

- Research into the effects of positive father involvement
- Research into the unique challenges facing young fathers and their unique needs
- Initiatives to bring the voices of young fathers to the forefront
- Programs that engage young fathers and offer them support and incentives
- Policy initiatives to fully incorporate the needs of young fathers into the web of services



Young Student-Parent Initiative: Working with Student-Fathers.

Resource/Reference Links

<http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/the-beat/2011/06/teen-fathers-perspectives>

[http://childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Child Trends-2012_06_01_RB_TeenFathers.pdf](http://childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Child_Trends-2012_06_01_RB_TeenFathers.pdf)

<http://www.center-school.org/education/ppt/pptfather.htm>

<http://gbapp.wordpress.com/history-of-gbapp/>

<http://idaay.org/our-programs/young-fathers-united-parenting-support/>

Resource/Reference Links

<http://www.youngfathersstanding.org/fatherfacts.htm>

<http://www.fatherhood.gov>

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/fatherhood/fatherhood.pdf>

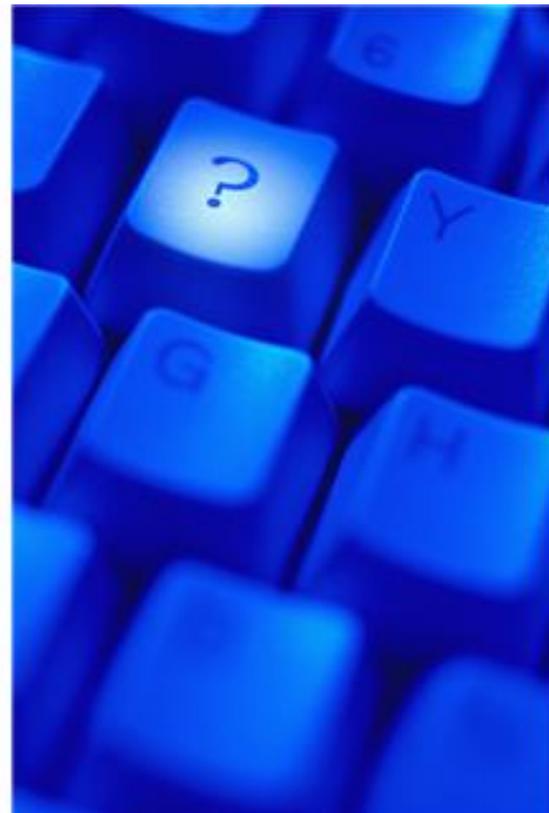
<http://fatherhood.org/>

<http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/news/e-updates/eupdate-3.html>

<http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/resources-and-publications/learning/fatherhood/>

Please type your questions into the Q&A box.

Questions shall be answered verbally.



Thank You for your Attention and Participation!

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Young Student-Parent Initiative: Working with Student-Fathers.

Winona State University MN



Activities

- Supported by the MN Department of Health PAF Program
- Engaging 20 fathers (total 128 parents)
- Dedicated Academic Dads (DADS)
- Weekly luncheons with programming
- Research Project with results published in Fall 2013

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**Winona State University, MN
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Understanding the Influence of Masculinity

(AS A Stumbling Block)

1. No Sissy Stuff: avoiding anything that even remotely hints of femininity and any behavior or characteristic associated with women.

2. Be a Big Wheel: measured by success, power, control and the admiration of others. Possessing wealth, fame, and status.

3. Be a Sturdy Oak: rationality, toughness, and self-reliance. Remaining calm in any situation, showing no emotion or weakness.

4. Give 'em Hell: daring and aggression. Taking risks, to "go for it" even when reason and fear suggest otherwise.



Challenging Traditional Masculine Roles



recommendations

- Recruiting student fathers can be as easy as finding a Pied Piper
- Engage dads in designing the programs to serve them
- Consider forming a father's group (many colleges now have men's groups)
 - Hosting a weekly group lunch and/or monthly dinner
 - Provide skilled mentor ship
 - Create a safe space to build trust and encourage confidential disclosure
 - Start with each dad telling his story with attentive listening by the group

Recommendations

- Join our research project on fathering or create your own.
- Understand traditional roles of masculinity and their impact.
- Support student fathers in defining their own ways of being a dad.
- Build confidence through presentations or creating educational materials to use in presentations.
- Educate dads on policy issues impacting them on and off campus.
- Work with student parents to address policy issues and other barriers and improvements to support this important student population.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- American Men's Studies Association – www.mensstudies.org
 - Minnesota Father's and Families Network – www.mnfathers.org
 - Dr. Will Courtenay (men's health) – www.mensdoc.com
 - ACPA Standing Committee for Men – www2.myacpa.org/scm-home
 - NASPA Men and Masculinities Knowledge Community – www.naspa.org/kc/mnkc
 - APA Division #51 Society for the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinity – www.apa.org/about/divisions/div51
 - Dr. Gar E. Kellom, Winona State University – gkellom@winona.edu. 507-457-2467
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- For more information contact: Gar E. Kellom (gkellom@winona.edu)