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Father-Son Bonding: The Influence of Paternal Relationships on College Males' Sexual Behavior and Values

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FATHER-SON BONDING:
THE INFLUENCE OF PATERNAL RELATIONSHIPS ON COLLEGE MALES'
SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND VALUES

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Abstract

While several studies (DiClemente, Wingood, Crosby, Cobb, Harrington, & Davies, 2001; Pistella & Bonati, 1998; Whitaker, Miller, May, & Levin, 1999; Whitaker & Miller, 2000) have found a relationship between close mother-child relationships during adolescence and adolescents' delayed initiation of sex and increased contraceptive use, only a handful of studies (DiIorio, Kelley, & Hockenberry, 1999; Dittus, Jaccard, & Gordon, 1997; Rodgers, 1999) have examined the influence of father-son relationships on college males' sexual behavior and contraceptive use. To examine how father-son relationships influence college males' sexual behaviors and values, this study surveyed 18- to 28-year-old college males ($N=115$) about their relationships with their fathers, their sexual behavior, their sexual values, and their perceptions of perceived paternal disapproval of premarital sex. Results suggested that while level of satisfaction in paternal relationships does not appear to be significantly related to participants' attitudes towards contraception, it is related to participants' clarity of personal sexual values. Furthermore, participants' perceptions of perceived paternal disapproval of premarital sex predicted their attitudes toward premarital sex and a younger age of first penetrative sex.

Father-Son Bonding:

The Influence of Paternal Relationships on College Males' Sexual Behavior and Values

A debate exists among legislators, researchers, educators, and parents regarding who bears primary responsibility for the sexuality education of youth in the United States (Eisenberg, Sieving, & Resnick, 2004; Schaalma, Abraham, Gillmore, & Kok, 2004). Meanwhile, adolescents are increasingly becoming more likely to engage in sexual behaviors with life-long repercussions (Maticka-Tyndale, 1991 as cited in Rodgers, 1999; Smith, Guthrie, Oakley, 2004). Educators and parents see an increasing need to include parents in this matter (Eisenberg, Sieving, & Resnick, 2004). Adolescents report that they want to talk about sex and sexuality-related issues with their parents and that their parents are the most useful source of information (Pistella & Bonati, 1998; Whitaker & Miller, 2000). However, the majority of parents report little or no communication with their children concerning such issues (Hutchinson & Cooney, 1998).

The role of parents in communicating with their adolescent children about sexual behavior and contraceptive use has been increasingly studied over the past 20 years. Focusing on such variables as parental warmth, parental support, parent-child closeness, and parent-child connectedness (Miller, 2002), researchers have reported the influence parent-child relationships have on adolescents' sexual behavior (DiClemente, Wingood, Crosby, Cobb, Harrington, & Davies, 2001; DiIorio, Kelley, & Hockenberry-Eaton, 1999; Dittus, Jaccard, & Gordon, 1997; Miller, Benson, & Galbraith, 2001). A consistent finding has been that parent-child "closeness" is linked to reduced risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, as well as improved use of contraceptives (Miller, 2002).

Studies exploring the relationship between parent-child interactions and adolescent sexual behaviors demonstrated that parents do have an influence on adolescents' contraceptive use and sexual behavior. Parent-child interaction and communication are correlated with both an increase in the use of contraceptives, fewer sexual partners, and a decrease in the amount of risky sexual behavior (Frisco, 2005; Rodgers, 1999; Whitaker & Miller, 2000; Whitaker, Miller, May, & Levin, 1999). Several studies (Brewster, Cooksey, Guilkey, & Rindfuss, 1998; DiClemente, Wingood, Crosby, Cobb, Harrington, & Davies, 2001; Pistella & Bonati, 1998; Whitaker, Miller, May, & Levin, 1999; Whitaker & Miller, 2000) have found a correlation between close mother-child relationships during adolescence and adolescents' delayed initiation of sex and increased contraceptive use. However, Jaccard, Dittus, and Gordon (1998) found that teens who reported engaging in less parent-teen communication about sex tended to underestimate maternal disapproval of having sex. Moreover, Feldman and Rosenthal (2000) found that adolescents evaluate their mothers more positively as communicators than they do their fathers.

Given that sexual risk behaviors increase with years in college and that college males are more likely to consider premarital sex acceptable, a better understanding of college males' sexual behavior and values is needed (Kahn et al., 2000; Siegel, Klein, & Roghmann, 1999). However, only a handful of studies (DiIorio, Kelley, & Hockenberry, 1999; Dittus, Jaccard, & Gordon, 1997; Rodgers, 1999) have examined the influence of father-son relationships on adolescent males' contraceptive use. Little research has examined the relationship between the closeness of father-son relationships and college males' sexual behavior and contraceptive use.

Arnett (2000) has proposed a paradigmatic revision of Erikson's account of Early Adulthood, arguing that persons in this developmental stage (ages 18 to 28) are settling into adult roles several years later than did their counterparts just a few decades ago. Within industrialized

nations, emerging adults are more likely to pursue higher education, live independently, and delay the age of marriage and first childbirth. While no longer considering themselves adolescents, they do not yet define themselves as adults. Unlike past generations, older adolescents and persons in their early twenties are relatively independent from social roles and expectations and are granted the ability to explore (Arnett, 2000). Emerging adulthood researchers and theorists consider this the most *volitional* period due to individuals' freedom to choose among novel opportunities, ideologies, and attitudes.

The increased ability to make personal decisions can lead to a peak in risky behavior during the emerging adulthood years (Jessor, Donovan, & Costa, 1991 as cited in Arnett, 2000). Additionally, emerging adults can pursue risks more freely and seek novel stimulation with limited interference. Risky behaviors can include driving recklessly, engaging in substance abuse, and practicing unsafe sexual behaviors (Bradley & Wildman, 2002). One study has found that while males report engaging in more high-risk and reckless behaviors than females, relatively few have engaged in unsafe sexual behaviors (Bradley & Wildman, 2002). One factor that may play a role in emerging adults' sexual behavior is their relationship with their parents.

The present study of 115 emerging adult (18- to 28-year-olds) males examined how father-son relationships influence college males' sexual behaviors and values. After reviewing current literature on the role of fathers, father-son communication, and college males' sexual behavior, the study's method is described. The study's results, limitations, and implications are then discussed.

Review of Literature

The Role of Parents

Parents play a role in emerging adults' behavior and life satisfaction. Closeness in parent-child relationships has been found to contribute to life satisfaction and psychological distress (Amato, 1994). Emerging adults with the most parental contact (i.e. living at home) have the poorest psychological adjustment and are less close to parents than emerging adults living independently (Dubas & Petersen, 1996; O'Connor, Allen, Bell, & Hauser, 1996 as cited in Arnett, 2000). Other findings have indicated that fathers are becoming more present in the lives of their adult children due to mothers moving into the workforce and the increase of single-parent households (Amato, 1994; Harris, Furstenberg, & Marmer, 1998). Consequently, research has shown that adult children benefit from father involvement, that fathers influence their transition into adulthood, and that male children report greater involvement with fathers than do females (Amato, 1994; Harris, Furstenberg, & Marmer, 1998). Given these findings, it is important that research investigate the role of paternal relationships on college males' sexual behaviors.

The Role of a Father Figure

Father involvement in the lives of adolescent children has been shown to play an important role in healthy adolescent development and individuation (Amato, 1994). As Ackard, Neumark-Sztainer, Story, & Perry (2006) found in their study on parent-child connectedness and adolescent health, a discrepancy exists between where adolescents would like to get their information about sexuality-related issues and where they feel comfortable doing so. Approximately 54% of adolescent girls and 37% of adolescent boys felt they could talk to their fathers very little or not at all. Not only do many adolescents feel uncomfortable discussing

important topics with their fathers, but fathers may also be less accessible, spending only 20 to 25 percent as much time in direct interaction with their children as mothers (Lamb, 2000 as cited in Williams & Kelly, 2005).

While limited research has investigated the role of fathers in their adolescent daughters' sexual behavior, research has shown the need for father involvement in preventing adolescent pregnancy. Powell & Downey (1997) found that the mere presence of a father figure in the household may reduce the risk of teen pregnancy, while Ellis et al. (2003) further found that girls who had an absent father before the age of 5 were at the highest risk of early sexual activity and pregnancy, followed by those who had an absent father figure between the ages of 6 through 13 (as cited in Regnerus & Luchies, 2006). In addition, a current study by Regnerus & Luchies (2006) found that girls who reported above-average father-child relationships were less likely to be sexually active (18%) than those who reported below average father-child relationships (23%). It is the consensus of this body of literature that father-involvement is crucial in parent-adolescent communication and interaction.

Father-Son Communication about Sexuality

Feldman and Rosenthal's (2000) study on the importance on parental communication in sex education found differences among adolescent daughters' and sons' evaluation of their mothers. They determined that females evaluate their mothers as sex educators more positively than do males. Moreover, a study on the influence of fathers across the lifespan found that fathers are more involved with their sons' lives (Harris, Furstenberg, & Marmar, 1998). Given these two sets of findings, it is necessary to understand how paternal involvement affects male adolescents' and young adults' sexual behavior and values (Amato, 1994; Bronte-Tinkew, Moore, & Carrano, 2006, Harris, Furstenberg, & Marmar, 1998).

For several reasons, the influence of father-son communication on sexuality-related issues has not been as easy to study as mother-daughter communication. First, fathers typically report that mothers are in charge of sex education in the home (Feldman & Rosenthal, 2000). Second, since adolescent sons report few specific instances of communication about sexuality with their fathers, they have difficulty evaluating their fathers' skill for discussing this topic (Feldman & Rosenthal, 2000). Due to this, evaluation of fathers' ability to communicate about sexuality has been based more on adolescents' view of their relationship with their fathers and frequency of communication in general (Feldman & Rosenthal, 2000; Pick & Palos, 1995). Despite adolescents' unfavorable view of father-child communication, research suggests that paternal involvement creates more positive outcomes for children, especially sons (Amato, 1994; Bronte-Tinkew, Moore, & Marmer, 1998).

Sexual Behaviors among College Males

Older adolescents and young adults are increasingly becoming sexually active over the past decade (Kahn et al., 2000). By the end of high school, approximately 50% of adolescents will have had sexual intercourse. The average age of first sexual intercourse for males is 17 years (Siegel, Klein, & Roghmann, 1999). According to Billy, Tanfer, Grady, and Klepinger (1993), the majority of 20- to 24-year-old American males are or have been sexually active: 90.1 percent of that demographic have had vaginal intercourse and 29.2 percent of men in that age range have had one-to-three sexual partners. Due to a range of risk factors including earlier age of first intercourse, multiple sexual partners within the past year, and a higher occurrence of sexually transmitted infections (Flannery & Ellingson, 2003), today's adolescents and young adults are at a heightened risk for sexually transmitted infections compared to past generations.

Hypotheses

This study had three hypotheses: 1) Security and contentment with fathers' presence will be positively related to more favorable attitudes toward contraceptives among college men; 2) College males who perceive their fathers as disapproving of premarital sex will be more likely to (a) engage in first intercourse later than their peers and (b) will be more likely to feel negatively toward premarital sex themselves; 3) College males who exhibit satisfaction in their relationships with their fathers will demonstrate greater clarity of personal sexual values.

Method

Participants

A sample of 18- to 28-year-old college males ($N = 115$) was recruited from social science courses at a public, mid-sized Midwestern university. Participants' mean age was 20.93 years ($SD = 1.69$). To be selected for this study, participants had to report a heterosexual orientation and had to currently be, or to have been, sexually active (i.e., having engaged in penetrative or nonpenetrative sex at any point in the participant's life). Sexual orientation was determined by participants' self-report of the gender of their sex partner(s): "only men," "mostly men," "equally men and women," "mostly women," or "only women." Cases were selected from the initial set of participants surveyed if "only women" was selected. Of the 115 participants surveyed, 91 cases were appropriate for the study.

Measures

Participants completed Hudson's (1993) Child's Attitude Toward Father questionnaire to examine their relationships with their fathers. This instrument measures the contentment, presence, and intimacy level of father-child relationships from the child's perspective while indicating the extent or severity of problems a participant has with his father (Hudson, 1993).

Participants' scores can range from 0 and 100. Scores less than 30 suggest the participant is satisfied in his relationship with his father; scores between 30 and 69 suggest the presence of a problem, but not severe stress; and scores 70 to 100 suggest the participant is experiencing severe stress due to problems in the relationship with his father (Hudson, 1993). This measure has a Cronbach's alpha of .95 (Hudson, 1993). For the present study, Cronbach's alpha was .94.

Participants reported their perceptions of perceived paternal disapproval of premarital sex by responding to a five-item measure created for Dittus, Jaccard, and Gordon's (1997) study on the impact of fathers on African American Adolescents. Scores can range from 5 to 25, with higher scores indicating that participants perceive greater paternal disapproval toward premarital sex. Coefficient alpha for their five items is .77 (Dittus, Jaccard, & Gordon, 1997). Cronbach's alpha for the present study was .87. Another set of two additional items employed from Dittus, Jaccard, and Gordon (1997) asked participants to recognize the presence or absence of a father figure in their lives.

Participants completed scales in the Mathtech Attitude and Value Inventory to measure their attitudes and values towards sexuality and sexual behavior. Scores range from 1 to 5 with higher scores representing more favorable value and attitudes towards sexuality, contraceptives, and premarital sex (Kirby, 1984). Cronbach's alphas for the Mathtech Attitude and Value Inventory subscales are Clarity of Personal Sexual Values, .73, Understanding of Personal Sexual Response, .80, Attitude Toward Sexuality in Life, .75, Attitude Toward the Importance of Birth Control, .72, Attitude Toward Premarital Sex, .94, and Recognition of the Importance of the Family, .70 (Kirby, 1984). For the present study, Cronbach's alphas were Clarity of Personal Sexual Values, .73, Understanding of Personal Sexual Response, .73, Attitude Toward Sexuality

in Life, .75, Attitude Toward the Importance of Birth Control, .78, Attitude Toward Premarital Sex, .90, and Recognition of the Importance of the Family, .80.

Participants completed the 32 items in the Contraceptive Attitude Scale to indicate their positive or negative attitudes toward contraceptives (Kyes, 1987). Scores can range from 32 to 160, with lower scores indicating more negative attitudes toward contraceptives and higher scores indicating more positive attitudes toward contraceptives. Test-retest reliability of this scale is .88 (Kyes, 1987). Cronbach's alpha for the present study was .92.

Finally, participants completed Cupitt's (1992) Sexual History Questionnaire (SHQ) to determine sexual identity and behaviors. The test-retest reliability is .80 (Cupitt, 1992).

Procedure

College males were surveyed during a single session after a class period. The questionnaires and scales were handed out in unmarked envelopes. After receiving a packet, participants were assured of the confidentiality and anonymity of their responses, and informed consent forms were signed and dated. They were also instructed to complete the surveys in the order they appeared: Child's Attitude Toward Father; Dittus, Jaccard, and Gordon's five items on participants' perceived paternal disapproval of premarital sex; Mattech Attitude and Value Inventory; Contraceptive Attitude Scale; Sexual History Questionnaire. Upon completion of the questionnaires and scales, participants were asked to place the packet of measures back into the envelope, which they then sealed. On average, participants took 40 minutes to complete the measures.

Results

Descriptive Statistics

Of the 91 cases examined, 92.3% reported participating in penetrative sex, while the remaining cases reported partaking in other forms of sexual activity (oral sex and/or anal sex). The mean age of first penetrative sex was 17.04 years ($SD = 1.60$) (see Table 1). Approximately 67% of participants reported that their last sexual encounter happened within the last month (see Table 2). Only 27.5% of college males reported mentioning the use of a condom to their partner during their last penetrative sex experience and 12.1% reported that their partner suggested the use of a condom (see Table 3). During their last penetrative sex experience, 46.2% of males reported using a condom, 54.9% reported their partners were using an oral contraceptive, 5.5% reported using the withdrawal method, and 6.6% reported using no form of contraception (see Tables 5, 6, 7, 8). Eighty-nine percent of the participants believed that they had little or no risk of contracting HIV or AIDS (see Table 9).

Sixty-six percent of participants held positive attitudes toward contraceptives as measured by the Contraceptive Attitude Scale. Furthermore, 67% had favorable attitudes and values toward the importance of birth control as measured by the Mathtech Attitude and Value Inventory. Finally, 77.8% of college males' felt confident in their personal sexual values.

Approximately 92.3% of college males' reported a father figure in their lives (see Table 10). Of those with father figures, 95.2% identified a biological father as the man taking primary responsibility for the father role, while 4.8% of respondents identified an adoptive father, stepfather, grandfather, or other male figure (see Table 11). Approximately 86% of participants reported being satisfied with their relationship with their fathers and indicated an absence of significant problems, and 14.4% implied the presence of minor problems; however, as measured

by the Child's Attitude Toward Father questionnaire, no participants reported severe stress in their relationships with their fathers. Additionally, 63.7% of college males perceived little or no paternal disapproval toward premarital sex

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: Security and contentment with fathers' presence will be positively related to more favorable attitudes toward contraceptives among college men.

To examine the relationship between participants' relationships with their fathers and their attitudes toward contraceptives, a correlation analysis was performed for the Child's Attitude Toward Father questionnaire and the Contraceptive Attitude Scale. College males' satisfaction in their relationship with their fathers was not significantly correlated with their attitudes toward contraceptives (see Table 12).

Hypothesis 2: College males who perceive their fathers as disapproving of premarital sex will be more likely to (a) engage in first intercourse later than their peers and (b) will be more likely to feel negatively toward premarital sex themselves.

To examine the relationship between participants' perceptions of paternal disapproval of premarital sex and their own attitudes toward premarital sex, a correlational analysis of five items from Dittus, Jaccard, and Gordon's (1997) study and Mathetech's Attitude Toward Premarital Intercourse scale was conducted. To examine the relationship between participants' perceptions of paternal disapproval of premarital sex and age of first penetrative sex, correlational analysis was conducted between Dittus, Jaccard, and Gordon's (1997) five items and age of first penetrative sex. College males' perceived orientations toward premarital sex were correlated with their attitudes toward premarital sex (see Table 12). Moreover, participants

perceived orientations toward premarital sex were correlated with age of first penetrative sex (see Table 12).

Hypothesis 3: College males who exhibit satisfaction in their relationships with their fathers will demonstrate greater clarity of personal sexual values.

A correlation analysis was conducted for participants' relationships with their fathers (Child's Attitude Toward Father questionnaire) and their clarity of personal sexual values (Mathtech's Clarity of Personal Sexual Values scale). This analysis revealed that college males' satisfaction in their relationships with their fathers is negatively correlated with their clarity in personal sexual values (see Table 12).

Other Findings

The correlation table revealed a number of unanticipated results (see Table 13). First, participants' attitudes toward their fathers were found to be negatively correlated with college males' understanding of personal sexual response [$r(89) = -.26, p < .05$]. Second, college males' perceptions of their fathers' disapproval of premarital sex was negatively correlated with their contraceptive attitudes [$r(90) = -.22, p < .05$], their attitude toward the importance of birth control [$r(89) = -.35, p < .01$], and their attitude toward sexuality in life [$r(89) = -.23, p < .05$]. Third, participants' attitudes toward contraceptives were positively correlated with their recognition of the importance of family [$r(89) = .47, p < .01$] and their attitude toward sexuality in life [$r(89) = .25, p < .05$]. Finally, their recognition of the importance of family was significantly correlated with their attitudes toward the importance of birth control [$r(89) = .62, p \leq .01$] and their attitudes toward sexuality in life [$r(89) = .51, p < .01$].

Discussion

The relationship between parent-child interaction and adolescents' contraceptive use has been increasingly studied over the past twenty years, but several issues require further exploration. Building on the growing research that has established the importance of mothers' influence on adolescents' sexual behavior and the limited research on the role of fathers in adolescents' sexuality, this study examined how paternal relationships influence college males' sexual behavior and values. The present study did not find a significant correlation between college males' attitudes toward their relationship with their father and their contraceptive attitudes. This suggests that college males' satisfaction in their relationships with their fathers does not influence their own contraceptive attitudes. Similarly, a study conducted by Thompson and Spanier (1978) reported that college students' perceptions of their parents' social influence did not significantly influence the use of contraceptives in college-age men and women. With data indicating the lack of influence that parents, particularly fathers in this study, exert on college males' contraceptive attitudes and subsequent use, alternative sources of influence, such as peers and partners, must be examined in future research. Additionally, the amount of father-son communication on the topic of contraceptives and fathers' knowledge on contraceptives must be studied.

This study did find a significant relationship between participants' perceptions of their fathers' attitudes towards premarital sex and their own attitudes regarding premarital sex. Additionally, participants who perceived their fathers as disapproving of premarital sex initiated first intercourse at a later age. This finding corroborates Weinstein and Thornton's (1989) and Sieving, McNeely, and Blum's (2000) studies on the impact of close mother-child relationships. They found that if adolescents perceived their mothers as having nonpermissive attitudes toward

sex and if adolescents reported a close maternal relationship, the adolescent would be more likely to delay first intercourse and share similar attitudes with their parents toward premarital sex (Sieving, McNeely, & Blum, 2000; Weinstein & Thornton, 1989). The present study and other research suggests that parents continue to play a role in their emerging adult children's attitudes and sexual behavior. College males continue to be influenced by their fathers even after they have left home.

Finally, it was this study's finding that college males who are more content in their relationship with their fathers are more likely to be secure in their personal sexual values. This suggests that fathers do, in fact, influence their sons' beliefs about what is and is not appropriate sexual behavior. Moreover, fathers do affect college males' ability to develop their own guidelines regarding personal sexual behavior. Future research needs to investigate the extent to which fathers may be considered a protective factor in preventing risky sexual behaviors in college males.

Perceived parental values regarding sexual behavior have been found to affect sexual behavior and values (Miller, 2002). College males have received countless explicit or implicit messages about sex and sexuality from their fathers. Even college males' perceptions of their relationships with their fathers and their perceptions of their fathers' attitudes toward premarital sex are related to their sexual behaviors and values. Present research into emerging adulthood would lead us to believe that college males, while experiencing a time of exploration (Arnett, 2000), are more likely to be exploring new attitudes and values in a wide range of areas of life including their own sexual behavior and values. Nonetheless, as found by Bradley and Wildman (2002), college males in this age range report engaging in more high-risk and reckless behaviors than females, but relatively few engage in unsafe sexual behaviors. In a time when young adults

are trying to separate from their families and find themselves, fathers, and families in general, may play a significant role in determining college males' sexual behavior and values.

Limitations

This study has two major limitations. First, only college males were surveyed. This study did not investigate the influence of paternal relationships on non-college males' sexual behavior and values. Moreover, college students typically live independently from their parents. As noted by Dubas and Petersen (1996) and O'Connor, Allen, Bell, and Hauser (1996), emerging adults who live with their parents have a wide-range of satisfaction levels in their relationships with their parents. It would be beneficial for research to compare the influence of paternal relationships on both college and non-college male populations. The level of satisfaction with paternal relationships between emerging adults living at home and away from home should also be explored.

Another limitation is the lack of variance among this sample's satisfaction in their relationships with their fathers. No participant reported severe stress or the presence of a clinically-significant problem and 85.6 percent of participants reported they were satisfied with the relationship they have with their father. Future research should sample college males' experiencing a wide range satisfaction in their relationships with their fathers.

Implications and Future Research

This study examined the influence of father-son relationships on college males' sexual behavior and values. It adds to existing literature on parents' influence on their children's sexual behavior and values. Moreover, it draws attention to the importance of paternal relationships in the lives of college males. Researchers need to focus on understanding how, why, and when paternal relationships affect college males' sexual behavior and values.

Future research should examine other factors that influence the relationship between father-son relations and college males' sexual behaviors and values. Such factors could include religiosity, fathers' knowledge of sexuality-related issues, amount of father-son interaction and communication, and level of comfort in father-son interaction and communication. To ensure a deeper understanding of how paternal relationships give rise to college males' sexual behavior and values, this research should include qualitative data. Furthermore, future research should investigate the influence of paternal relationships on college females, and studies should explore the influence of both paternal and maternal relationships on male and female emerging adults. Finally, future research is necessary to determine the influence of paternal relationships on their children's contraceptive use and attitudes toward sexually transmitted infections.

Professionals in the human services and family life education fields need to take fathers' impact into account when creating parenting programming. Meyers (1993) has established a set of guidelines for parent education programs that will both meet the needs of fathers and improve their influence on their children's lives. Meyers recommends that parenting programs should actively recruit fathers from workplace or recreation settings with dense populations of males. In addition, he urges parenting programs to improve fathers' knowledge about caregiving, increase father involvement with children, and enhance father-child communication skills. A son who reports a positive relationship with his father, is more likely to have greater clarity of sexual values. Therefore, it is imperative that fathers play a positive role in their children's lives.

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Measures



CHILD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD FATHER (CAF)

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

This questionnaire is designed to measure the degree of contentment you have in your relationship with your father. It is not a test, so there are no right or wrong answers. Answer each item as carefully and as accurately as you can by placing a number beside each one as follows.

- 1 = None of the time
- 2 = Very rarely
- 3 = A little of the time
- 4 = Some of the time
- 5 = A good part of the time
- 6 = Most of the time
- 7 = All of the time

-
1. ___ My father gets on my nerves.
 2. ___ I get along well with my father.
 3. ___ I feel that I can really trust my father.
 4. ___ I dislike my father.
 5. ___ My father's behavior embarrasses me.
 6. ___ My father is too demanding.
 7. ___ I wish I had a different father.
 8. ___ I really enjoy my father.
 9. ___ My father puts too many limits on me.
 10. ___ My father interferes with my activities.
 11. ___ I resent my father.
 12. ___ I think my father is terrific.
 13. ___ I hate my father.
 14. ___ My father is very patient with me.
 15. ___ I really like my father.
 16. ___ I like being with my father.
 17. ___ I feel like I do not love my father.
 18. ___ My father is very irritating.
 19. ___ I feel very angry toward my father.
 20. ___ I feel violent toward my father.
 21. ___ I feel proud of my father.
 22. ___ I wish my father was more like others I know.
 23. ___ My father does not understand me.
 24. ___ I can really depend on my father.
 25. ___ I feel ashamed of my father.

Perceived Orientations Toward Premarital Sex

For each question,

Fill in Circle: A = if you Strongly Agree with the statement
 B = if you Somewhat Agree with the statement
 C = if you feel Neutral about the statement
 D = if you Somewhat Disagree with the statement
 E = if you Strongly Disagree with the statement

1. My father would disapprove of my having sex at this time in my life.
2. My father thinks it is fine for me to be sexually active (having sexual intercourse) at this time in my life.
3. My father thinks I definitely should not be sexually active (having sexual intercourse) at this time in my life.
4. If it was with someone who was special to me and who I knew well, like a steady girlfriend/boyfriend, my father would not mind if I had sexual intercourse.
5. My father told me not to have sex.

Identification of Father Figure

1. Is there a male adult who takes primary responsibility for being a father to you?
 - (A) Yes
 - (B) No
2. If YES, please identify him by name to indicate this relationship:
 - (A) Biological father
 - (B) Adoptive father
 - (C) Stepfather
 - (D) Foster father
 - (E) Grandfather
 - (F) Other

Dittus, P. J., Jaccard, J., and Gordon, V. V. (1997). The impact of African American fathers on adolescent sexual behavior [Electronic version]. *Journal of youth and adolescence*, 26 (4), 445-465.

Mathtech Questionnaires: Sexuality Questionnaires for Adolescents
Attitude and Value Inventory

The questions below are not a test of how much you know. We are interested in what you believe about some important issues. Please rate each statement according to how much you agree or disagree with it. Everyone will have different answers. Your answer is correct if it describes you very well.

For each question,

Fill in Circle: A = if you Strongly Disagree with the statement
B = if you Somewhat Disagree with the statement
C = if you feel Neutral about the statement
D = if you Somewhat Agree with the statement
E = if you Strongly Agree with the statement

1. I am very happy with my friendships.
2. Unmarried people should not have sex (sexual intercourse).
3. Overall, I am satisfied with myself.
4. Two people having sex should use some form of birth control if they aren't ready for a child.
5. I'm confused about my personal sexual values and beliefs.
6. I often find myself acting in ways I don't understand.
7. I am not happy with my sex life.
8. Men should not hold jobs traditionally held by women.
9. People should never take "no" for an answer when they want to have sex.
10. I don't know what I want out of life.
11. Families do very little for their children.
12. Sexual relationships create more problems than they're worth.
13. I'm confused about what I should or should not do sexually.
14. I know what I want and need emotionally.
15. No one should pressure another person into sexual activity.
16. Birth control is not very important.
17. I know what I need to be happy.
18. I am not satisfied with my sexual behavior (sex life).
19. I usually understand the way I act.
20. People should not have sex before marriage.
21. I do not know much about my own physical and emotional sexual responses.
22. It is all right for two people to have sex before marriage if they are in love.
23. I have a good idea of where I'm headed in the future.
24. Family relationships are not important.
25. I have trouble knowing what my beliefs and values are about my personal sexual behavior.
26. I feel I do not have much to be proud of.
27. I understand how I behave around others.
28. Women should behave differently from men most of the time.
29. People should have sex only if they are married.
30. I know what I want out of life.
31. I have a good understanding of my own personal feelings and reactions.
32. I don't have enough friends.
33. I'm happy with my sexual behavior now.
34. I don't understand why I behave with my friends the way I do.

35. At times I think I'm not good at all.
36. I know how I react in different sexual situations.
37. I have a clear picture of what I'd like to be doing in the future.
38. My friendships are not as good as I would like them to be.
39. Sexually, I feel like a failure.
40. More people should be aware of the importance of birth control.
41. At work and at home, women should not have to behave differently from men, when they are equally capable.
42. Sexual relationships make life too difficult.
43. I wish my friendships were better.
44. I feel that I have many good personal qualities.
45. I am confused about my reactions in sexual situations.
46. It is all right to pressure someone into sexual activity.
47. People should pressure others to have sex with them.
48. Most of the time my emotional feelings are clear to me.
49. I have my own set of rules to guide my sexual behavior (sex life).
50. Women and men should be able to have the same jobs, when they are equally capable.
51. I don't know what my long-range goals are.
52. When I'm in a sexual situation, I get confused about my feelings.
53. Families are very important.
54. It is all right to demand sex from a girlfriend or boyfriend.
55. A sexual relationship is one of the best things a person can have.
56. Most of the time I have a clear understanding of my feelings and emotions.
57. I am very satisfied with my sexual activities just the way they are.
58. Sexual relationships only bring trouble to people.
59. Birth control is not as important as some people say.
60. Family relationships cause more trouble than they're worth.
61. If two people have sex and aren't ready to have a child, it is very important they use birth control.
62. I'm confused about what I need emotionally.
63. It is all right for two people to have sex before marriage.
64. Sexual relationships provide an important and fulfilling part of life.
65. People should be expected to behave in certain ways just because they are male or female.
66. Most of the time I know why I behave the way I do.
67. I feel good having as many friends as I have.
68. I wish I had more respect for myself.
69. Family relationships can be very valuable.
70. I know for sure what is right and wrong sexually for me.

Kirby, D. (1984). Mathtech questionnaires: Sexuality questionnaires for adolescents. In Davis, C. M., Yarber, W. L., Bauserman, R., Schreer, G., & Davis, S. L., eds. *Handbook of sexuality-related measures*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1998: 35-46.

Contraceptive Attitude Scale

Below are several statements about the use of contraceptives (birth control). We are interested in know your opinion about each statement. Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each statement. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers. Also remember that we are interested in your personal opinion. Therefore, we want to know how you feel about these statements and not how you think your family or friends might feel about these statements.

For each question,

Fill in Circle: A = if you Strongly Disagree with the statement
 B = if you Somewhat Disagree with the statement
 C = if you feel Neutral about the statement
 D = if you Somewhat Agree with the statement
 E = if you Strongly Agree with the statement

- _____ 1. I believe that it is wrong to use contraceptives.
- _____ 2. Contraceptives reduce the sex drive.
- _____ 3. Using contraceptives is much more desirable than having an abortion.
- _____ 4. Males who use contraceptives seem less masculine than males who do not.
- _____ 5. I encourage my friends to use contraceptives.
- _____ 6. I would not become sexually involved with a person who did not accept contraceptive responsibility.
- _____ 7. Teenagers should not need permission from their parents to get contraceptives.
- _____ 8. Contraceptives are not really necessary unless a couple has engaged in intercourse more than once.
- _____ 9. Contraceptives make sex seem less romantic
- _____ 10. Females who use contraceptives are promiscuous.
- _____ 11. I would not have intercourse if no contraceptive method was available.
- _____ 12. I do not believe that contraceptives actually prevent pregnancy.
- _____ 13. Using contraceptives is a way of showing that you care about your partner.
- _____ 14. I do not talk about contraception with my friends.
- _____ 15. I would feel embarrassed discussing contraception with my friends.
- _____ 16. One should use contraceptives regardless of how long one has known his/her sexual partner.
- _____ 17. Contraceptives are difficult to obtain.
- _____ 18. Contraceptives can actually make intercourse seem more pleasurable.
- _____ 19. I feel that contraception is solely my partner's responsibility.
- _____ 20. I feel more relaxed during intercourse if a contraceptive method is used.
- _____ 21. I prefer to use contraceptives during intercourse.
- _____ 22. In the future, I plan to use contraceptives any time I have intercourse.
- _____ 23. I would practice contraception even if my partner did not want me to.
- _____ 24. It is no trouble to use contraceptives.
- _____ 25. Using contraceptives makes a relationship seem too permanent.
- _____ 26. Sex is not fun if a contraceptive is used.

- _____ 27. Contraceptives are worth using, even if the monetary cost is high.
- _____ 28. Contraceptives encourage promiscuity.
- _____ 29. Couples should talk about contraception before having intercourse
- _____ 30. If I or my partner experienced negative side effects from a contraceptive method,
we would use a different method.
- _____ 31. Contraceptives make intercourse seem too planned.
- _____ 32. I feel better about myself when I use contraceptives.

Kyes, K. B. Contraceptive attitude scale. In Davis, C. M., Yarber, W. L., Bauserman, R., Schreer, G., & Davis, S. L., eds. *Handbook of sexuality-related measures*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1998: 164-166.

Sexual History Questionnaire

Instructions: This questionnaire asks you about your recent sexual history. Your answers are entirely confidential. Some words used in this questionnaire may not be familiar to you, or you may not be sure of their exact meaning. The following definitions may be helpful: *Vaginal sex* is sex in which the penis enters the vagina. *Oral sex* is sex in which the mouth or tongue is in contact with the genitals. *Anal sex* is sex in which the penis enters the anus, or back passage. *Penetrative sex* is sex in which the penis enters the vagina or anus. *Nonpenetrative sex* includes oral sex, and also many other forms of sex such as massage, touching, and mutual masturbation. *Protected sex* refers to penetrative sex with a condom or oral sex with a latex barrier or condom. A *regular partner*, for the purpose of this study, is someone with whom you have had sex more than one.

Please indicate your gender: male/female

Please indicate your age: _____ years

Please indicate your status: undergraduate/postgraduate

Please indicate the which religion influences you the most (please circle):

(1) Christianity (2) Judaism (3) Islam (4) Hinduism (5) Other

Section A

1. Who do you have sex with? (please circle):

(1) only men (2) mostly men (3) equally men and women (4) mostly women (5) only women

2. Have you ever had penetrative sex (sex in which the penis penetrates the vagina or anus)?
Yes/No

If yes, at what age did you first have penetrative sex? _____ years

3. Have you ever had unprotected penetrative sex (penetrative sex without a condom)?
Yes/No

Section B

The following questions relate to your sexual encounter(s) over the last month. This includes nonpenetrative sex such as oral sex and mutual masturbation. If you have not had sex in the last month please move on to Section C. If you have never had sex please move on to Section D.

4. In the last month how many sexual partners have you had? _____

5. How many of these were regular partners (people with whom you have had sex more than once)? _____

- 6. a) How many times have you had sex with a regular partner in the last month? _____
- b) On how many of these occasions did you have penetrative sex? _____
- c) ON how many of these occasions did you use a condom? _____

- 7. a) How many times have you had sex with other partners in the last month? _____
- b) On how many of these occasions did you have penetrative sex? _____
- c) On how many of these occasions did you use a condom? _____

Section C

The following questions refer specifically to your last sexual encounter:

- 8. How long ago was your last sexual encounter? (please circle):
 - (1) less than a week ago
 - (2) between one week and one month ago
 - (3) between one month and three months ago
 - (4) between three months and six months ago
 - (5) between six months and one year ago
 - (6) more than one year ago

- 9. What kind(s) of sex did you have on this occasion? Please answer yes or no to the following activities:
 - Unprotected vaginal sex:
 yes/no
 - Vaginal sex with a condom:
 yes/no
 - Unprotected anal sex:
 yes/no
 - Anal sex with a condom:
 yes/no
 - Oral sex:
 yes/no
 - Other forms of nonpenetrative sex (such as massage and mutual masturbation):
 yes/no

- 10. What gender was your partner on this occasion? Male/Female

- 11. On this occasion did you or your partner mention using a condom?
 - (1) you
 - (2) your partner
 - (3) neither

22. To your knowledge, do you know or have you known anyone personally with HIV/AIDS? Yes/No

23. Please feel free to add anything with you feel may give a clearer picture of your answers to this questionnaire:

Table 1

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age	91	18	28	20.93	1.692
Have you had penetrative sex?	91	1	2	1.08	.268
Age of first penetrative sex	84	10	21	17.04	1.602
Father figure present	91	1	2	1.08	.268
Child's Attitude Toward Father	90	1.33	58.67	16.0444	13.08106
Perceived Orientations Toward Premarital Sex	91	5.00	25.00	11.6593	5.71007
Contraceptive Attitudes Scale	91	50.00	155.00	123.2857	20.36025
Clarity of personal sexual values	90	1.80	4.20	3.5267	.59921
Understanding of personal sexual response	91	1.80	5.00	3.9319	.75732
Attitude toward sexuality in life	90	1.60	5.00	3.6267	.75264
Attitude toward the importance of birth control	90	1.00	5.00	4.2511	.83870
Attitude toward premarital intercourse	90	1.00	5.00	2.0667	1.08845
Recognition of the importance of family	90	1.00	5.00	4.5200	.74339

Table 2

When was last sexual encounter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than one week ago	42	46.2	46.2	46.2
	Between one week and one month ago	19	20.9	20.9	67.0
	Between one month and three months ago	14	15.4	15.4	82.4
	Between three months and six months ago	4	4.4	4.4	86.8
	Between six months and one year ago	5	5.5	5.5	92.3
	More than one year ago	7	7.7	7.7	100.0
	Total	91	100.0	100.0	

Table 3

Did you or you partner mention the use of condom?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	You	25	27.5	27.5	27.5
	Your partner	11	12.1	12.1	39.6
	Neither	52	57.1	57.1	96.7
	Both	3	3.3	3.3	100.0
	Total	91	100.0	100.0	

Table 4

Did you or your partner mention practicing nonpenetrative sex?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	You	8	8.8	8.8	8.8
	Your partner	4	4.4	4.4	13.2
	Neither	76	83.5	83.5	96.7
	Both	3	3.3	3.3	100.0
	Total	91	100.0	100.0	

Table 5

If you had penetrative sex, did you use a condom?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	42	46.2	46.2	46.2
	No	49	53.8	53.8	100.0
	Total	91	100.0	100.0	

Table 6
If you had penetrative sex, did you use the pill?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	50	54.9	54.9	54.9
	No	41	45.1	45.1	100.0
	Total	91	100.0	100.0	

Table 7

If you had penetrative sex, did you use the withdrawal method?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	5	5.5	5.5	5.5
	No	86	94.5	94.5	100.0
	Total	91	100.0	100.0	

Table 8

If you had penetrative sex, did you not use any form of contraception?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	6	6.6	6.6	6.6
	No	85	93.4	93.4	100.0
	Total	91	100.0	100.0	

Table 9

Risk for HIV/AIDS

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not at all	68	74.7	74.7	74.7
	A little	13	14.3	14.3	89.0
	Some	5	5.5	5.5	94.5
	A good deal	3	3.3	3.3	97.8
	A great deal	2	2.2	2.2	100.0
	Total	91	100.0	100.0	

Table 10

Father Figure Present

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	84	92.3	92.3	92.3
No	7	7.7	7.7	100.0
Total	91	100.0	100.0	

Table 11

Identification of Father

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Biological father	79	86.8	95.2	95.2
Adoptive father	1	1.1	1.2	96.4
Stepfather	1	1.1	1.2	97.6
Grandfather	1	1.1	1.2	98.8
Other	1	1.1	1.2	100.0
Total	83	91.2	100.0	
Missing System	8	8.8		
Total	91	100.0		

Table 12

Correlations

		Child's Attitude Toward Father	Perceived Orientations Toward Premarital Sex	Clarity of personal sexual values	Attitude toward premarital intercourse	Age of first penetrative sex	Contraceptive Attitude Scale
Child's Attitude Toward Father	Pearson Correlation	1	-.090	-.241*	-.063	-.011	-.101
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.398	.023	.557	.922	.344
	N	90	90	89	89	83	90
Perceived Orientations Toward Premarital Sex	Pearson Correlation	-.090	1	-.091	.598**	.230*	-.216*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.398		.393	.000	.035	.040
	N	90	91	90	90	84	91
Clarity of personal sexual values	Pearson Correlation	-.241*	-.091	1	-.010	.005	.126
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.023	.393		.923	.962	.236
	N	89	90	90	90	83	90
Attitude toward premarital intercourse	Pearson Correlation	-.063	.598**	-.010	1	.151	-.360**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.557	.000	.923		.174	.000
	N	89	90	90	90	83	90
Age of first penetrative sex	Pearson Correlation	-.011	.230*	.005	.151	1	.090
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.922	.035	.962	.174		.416
	N	83	84	83	83	84	84
Contraceptive Attitude Scale	Pearson Correlation	-.101	-.216*	.126	-.360**	.090	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.344	.040	.236	.000	.416	
	N	90	91	90	90	84	91

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed). ** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 13

Additional Correlations

		Age of first penetrative sex	Child's Attitude Toward Father	Perceived Orientations Toward Premarital Sex	Contraceptive Attitude Scale	Recognition of the importance of family	Attitude toward the importance of birth control	Attitude toward sexuality in life	Understanding of personal sexual response
Age of first penetrative sex	Pearson Correlation	1	-.011	.230(*)	.090	.047	.054	-.091	.050
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.922	.035	.416	.673	.627	.411	.655
	N	84	83	84	84	83	83	83	84
Child's Attitude Toward Father	Pearson Correlation	-.011	1	-.090	-.101	.010	-.071	-.059	-.257(*)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.922		.398	.344	.927	.508	.582	.014
	N	83	90	90	90	89	89	89	90
Perceived Orientations Toward Premarital Sex	Pearson Correlation	.230(*)	-.090	1	-.216(*)	-.145	-.346(**)	-.233(*)	-.067
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.035	.398		.040	.174	.001	.027	.527
	N	84	90	91	91	90	90	90	91
Contraceptive Attitude Scale	Pearson Correlation	.090	-.101	-.216(*)	1	.471(**)	.563(**)	.251(*)	.295(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.416	.344	.040		.000	.000	.017	.005
	N	84	90	91	91	90	90	90	91
Recognition of the importance of family	Pearson Correlation	.047	.010	-.145	.471(**)	1	.619(**)	.505(**)	.546(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.673	.927	.174	.000		.000	.000	.000
	N	83	89	90	90	90	90	90	90
Attitude toward the importance of birth control	Pearson Correlation	.054	-.071	-.346(**)	.563(**)	.619(**)	1	.394(**)	.400(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.627	.508	.001	.000	.000		.000	.000
	N	83	89	90	90	90	90	90	90
Attitude toward sexuality in life	Pearson Correlation	-.091	-.059	-.233(*)	.251(*)	.505(**)	.394(**)	1	.340(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.411	.582	.027	.017	.000	.000		.001
	N	83	89	90	90	90	90	90	90
Understanding of personal sexual response	Pearson Correlation	.050	-.257(*)	-.067	.295(**)	.546(**)	.400(**)	.340(**)	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.655	.014	.527	.005	.000	.000	.001	
	N	84	90	91	91	90	90	90	91

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed). ** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

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This Study by: Erica L. Spies

Entitled: Father-Son Bonding: The Influence of Paternal Relationships on College Males' Sexual
Behavior and Values

has been approved as meeting the thesis requirement for the Designation University Honors.

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Date

Gary Gute, Ph.D., Honors Thesis Advisor

5/2/07

Date

Jessica Moon, Director, University Honors Program