

Features

3 Teen Fathers: An Introduction

By Colette Kimball, M.P.H.

This article provides an introduction and overview to the topic of teen fathers. Included is a discussion of the rate of teen fatherhood, how adolescent development impacts teen fatherhood, the association between teen fathers and juvenile delinquency, how involved teen fathers are with their child, and components of comprehensive teen father programs.

6 "Being There": The Perception of Fatherhood Among a Group of African American Adolescent Fathers

By William D. Allen, Ph.D., and William J. Doherty, Ph.D.

"Being There" gives a "face" to African American adolescent fathers. Using structured interviews, this article uses adolescents' own words to explore the perception of fatherhood among a small group of teen fathers and the obstacles they confront being fathers.

10 Teenage Fatherhood and Involvement in Delinquent Behavior

By Terence P. Thornberry, Ph.D., Carolyn A. Smith, Ph.D., and Susan Ehrhard, M.A.

This paper investigates the relationship between teenage fatherhood and various indicators of deviant behavior. By using a large sample of students first interviewed in the 7th or 8th grades and again when they were 21 years old, the authors are able to explore the link between teenage fatherhood and delinquent behavior along the adolescent life course.

14 Involvement by Young, Unmarried Fathers Before and After Their Baby's Birth

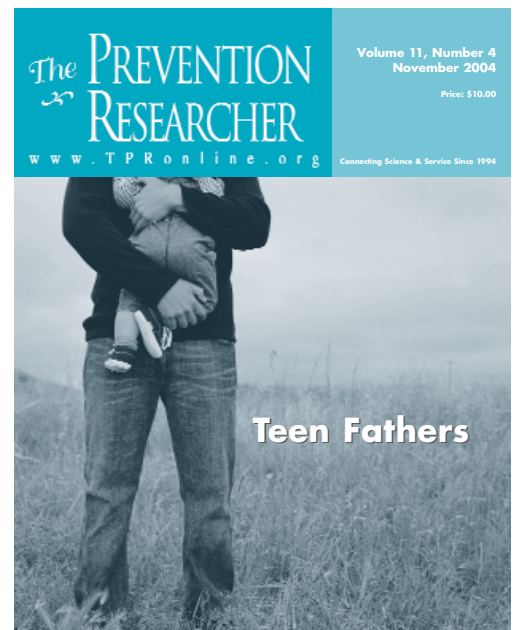
By Marcia J. Carlson, Ph.D.

Little is known about the extent to which young fathers (age 22 and under) are involved with their children over time. Using data from a national study on children born to unmarried parents, father's involvement with their child approximately one year after the birth is examined.

18 Young Fathers Participating in a Fatherhood Program: Their Expectations and Perceived Benefits

By Ruth S. Buzi, Ph.D., Mahasin F. Saleh, M.S.W., Maxine L. Weinman, Dr. P.H., and Peggy B. Smith, Ph.D.

Using qualitative data from young men (average age 22 years) enrolled in a young father's program, this article examines their expectations for the program and how they perceive the program has helped them.




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The Prevention Researcher is a quarterly journal that acts as an intermediary between researchers and service professionals. Established in 1994, *The Prevention Researcher* publishes professional articles based on the latest research. Each single-theme issue focuses on an at-risk youth topic from a prevention standpoint. *The Prevention Researcher* is indexed in ERIC and CINAHL.

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From the Editor's PC

Dear Colleagues,

The topic of teen parents nearly always brings about the image of teen mothers. However, young men also become teen parents. There are few research studies which look at the unique needs of teen fathers and few programs to address those needs. As an accompaniment to our issue on Teen Mothers [Vol. 10(3)], I am pleased to present this issue on Teen Fathers. In this issue, you'll see the many faces of teen fathers and get a sense of their service needs.

This issue begins with an article by Colette Kimball, M.P.H., associate editor of *The Prevention Researcher*. Ms. Kimball provides an introduction and overview of the topic of teen fathers.

A qualitative study by William D. Allen, Ph.D., a licensed family therapist, and William J. Doherty, Ph.D., from the University of Minnesota, follows. This article provides a "face" to African American adolescent fathers and explores the obstacles that they are confronted with.

There is an association between teen fatherhood and delinquent behavior. Using a large data set from the Rochester Youth Development Study, Terence Thornberry, Ph.D., and colleagues from the School of

Criminal Justice at the University at Albany, investigate this relationship.

A stereotype of young, unmarried fathers is that they are not involved in their children's lives. As Marcia Carlson, Ph.D., from Columbia University, explores in her article, this stereotype is not necessarily true.

And finally, this issue ends with an article by Ruth Buzi, Ph.D., from Baylor College of Medicine, and colleagues, who use qualitative research data from young men enrolled in a young fathers program to examine their expectations for the program and how they perceive the program has helped them.

Completing our look at teen parents, our upcoming Resource Issue will focus on both adolescent pregnancy prevention and teen parents. This issue will include a number of additional resources regarding these topics.

I would like to extend a big thank you to Linda Brice, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University, Health Science Center for conducting a guest review of this issue.

All the best,



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Psychologist/Editor

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