A study of the relationship between adolescent female interpersonal development in a relationship and the influence of the absence of a father in the home

Nefertiti L. Rowlette
Clark Atlanta University

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A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ADOLESCENT FEMALE INTERPERSONAL DEVELOPMENT IN A RELATIONSHIP AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE ABSENCE OF A FATHER IN THE HOME

Committee Chair: Joyce M. Goosby, Ph. D.

Thesis dated May 2013

This study examines the relationship between the interpersonal development in adult women during adolescence and the influence of the absence of a father and/or father figure in the home. The dependent variables were sexual attitude and behaviors and emotional value; which includes self-esteem. The independent variable was the absence of a father and/or father figure in the home. The dependent variable was operationalized by analyzing the influence of the absence of a father in the home in adolescent females in each area.

A sample population of 40 women between the ages of 20 and 40 from the metro Atlanta Georgia area participated in this study. Each participant was asked to complete a 21-item questionnaire that was divided into four sections. The sections consisted of demographic information, emotional value/self-esteem, influence of fathers’ absence and sexual attitudes and behaviors. The study was able to determine that the absence of a father has an effect on sexual attitudes and behaviors and emotional value/self-esteem in adolescent female interpersonal
development; however, the study could not determine the severity.

The significance of this study is to understand the effect that an absent father has on the development of relationships in daughters as adolescents. The significance of this study is also to understand that the effect an absent father has on the development of relationships with a direct impact on sexual behaviors and emotional value/self-esteem that may be transitioned into adulthood.
A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
ADOLESCENT FEMALE INTERPERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
IN A RELATIONSHIP AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE ABSENCE
OF A FATHER IN THE HOME

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY,
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

BY

NEFERTITI L. ROWLETTE

WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR.
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

ATLANTA, GA
MAY 2013
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In the United States, 21.2 million (26%) children are growing up in a single parent household. Of those single parent households, 5 out of every 6 custodial parents are mothers (84%) and 1 out of 6 are fathers (16%) (Without a Father.com, 2008). A parent’s influence on a child’s development is a pivotal contributor in regards to behavior, mental health, personal relationships and academic achievement, specifically in female adolescents.

Fatherhood or paternal investment provides children with physical and material protection, cultural transmission, and day to day nurturing which are all necessary for the healthy upbringing of children (Blackenhorn, 1995). Dr. A. Dean Byrd of the NART Scientific Advisory Committee for Parenting and Family states “Children navigate the developmental stages more easily, are more solid in their gender identity, perform better in academic tasks at school, have fewer emotional disorders and become better functioning adults when they are reared by dual-gender parents” (Byrd, 2004, p. 1)

Dunlap (2011) reports that females with absent fathers often have diminished cognitive development poor school performance, lower achievement test scores and
lower IQ scores. Dunlap also notes that girls who have little contact with their fathers, especially during adolescence, have great difficulties forming lasting relationships with men; either shying away all together from men or becoming sexually aggressive (Dunlap, 2011).

According to Merriam-Websters Dictionary, a relationship is defined as a romantic or passionate attachment, a connection or bond between individual, (2012). Social Exchange Theory interprets relationships in terms of exchanged benefits. The way people feel about relationships will be influenced by the rewards of the relationship, as well as rewards they may potentially receive in alternate relationships.

According to the U. S. Department of Labor and particular to the work of social workers, social workers assist people by helping them cope with issues in their everyday lives, deal with their relationships, and solve personal and family problems (U.S. Bureau of Statistics, 2012). Identifying the correlation between the development of adolescent female relationships and the influential impact the absence of a father in the home can provide structural tools to assisting future female clients in the community.

Statement of the Problem

Fathers have a direct impact on the cognitive ability, educational achievement, psychological well-being and the social behavior of their children. Time spent with a child makes a father more sensitive to that child’s needs for love, attention, direction and discipline. Children often equate time spent as an indicator of their parent’s love for them (Rosengburg & Wilcox, 2006).
The absence of a father can have a significant impact on a child's relational development specifically for adolescent females. Comings, Muheleman, Johnson, and MacMurry (2002, p. 1046) proposed that girls exposed to a stressful environment, especially when due to father absence in the first 7 years of life, showed an early onset of puberty, precocious sexuality, and unstable relationships as adults” (2002, p1046).

There is a lack of literature regarding the statistical information on adolescent females and absentee fathers; a large number of studies found are directed toward the number of adolescent males without fathers and the significant effect it has on their delinquent behavior.

This concept reference will determine from the literature whether or not the absence of a father in the home while growing up has had a significant effect on the sexual attitude and behavior and the perception of emotional value on adolescent females, which includes self-esteem.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the development of adolescent female relationships and the influence of the absence of a father in the home. The dependent variable is sexual attitude and behavior and emotional value, which includes self-esteem; and the independent variable is the influence of a father in the home. The dependent variable was operationalized by analyzing the influence of the absence of a father in the home in adolescent females in each area.

A sample of 40 women between the ages of 20 and 40 from the Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia area participated in this study. A 21 – item questionnaire that addressed
absent fathers, sexual attitudes and behaviors and emotional value and self-esteem was administered to the voluntary participants, which also included demographic information.

The results suggest that the adult female participants experienced various levels of emotional and behavioral disorganization as adolescents that may be attributed to growing up in a household without the presence of a father.

The content of this study may be utilized as a foundation toward recovery in social work case management when working with this population with regard to addressing self-esteem issues, risky sexual behaviors and negative factors associated with influential intimate relationships. This study offers additional benefits in the form of understanding the significance of the bond in parent-child relationships with regard to the father-daughter dyad.

Research Questions

1. Is there a relationship between sexual attitude and behavior in adolescent females and the absence of a father in the home?

2. Is there a relationship between emotional value, which includes self-esteem in adolescent females and the absence of a father in the home?

Null Hypothesis

1. There is no relationship between sexual attitude and behavior in adolescent females and the absence of a father in the home.

2. There is no relationship between emotional value, which includes self-esteem in adolescent females and the absence of a father in the home.
Significance of the Study

The absence of a father in the home is a significant contributor to the development of adolescent female relationships. There are major risk factors that are associated with adolescent development in females when a father is not present in the home. According to the National Institute of Health (2009), the possibility of underlying traits may account for the relation between father absence and early sexual outcomes in daughters. Specifically, certain personality traits that predispose girls toward early sexual activity may correlate with father absence. Differences between children in externalizing behavior problems—those behaviors considered to be aggressive, disruptive, or oppositional—derive in part from individual differences in temperament characteristics such as negative emotionality (Bates, Pettit, Dodge, & Ridge, 1998; Rothbart & Bates, 1998).

The absence of a father in the home may also contribute to negative self body images. “A dysfunctional early family environment leads to a negative self-image, which contributes to...self-directed hostility” (Goosen, 2009). Goosen also reports that available fathers who talked to, praised, and responded to their daughters boost their girls’ social responsiveness and positive feeling about self beyond the level of those girls whose fathers were uninvolved” (2009, p.1).

This study will be valuable to social workers and human service workers who constantly address risky sexual behaviors and attitudes toward sex with women, which can have an adverse effect on issues such as sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancy and multiple sexual partners, including but not limited to the sexual
exploitation of adolescent females. An additional focus of this study includes self-body image and emotional value, which can also have an adverse effect on issues such as self-mutilation, eating disorders and obesity in adolescent females.

Assessment and intervention in these areas can promote positive interaction in adolescent female relationships that can be shifted into adulthood. This study also provides a positive foundation for an adolescent female to transfer to any child she may have.

Chapter Summary

This study will review the relationship between adolescent female interpersonal relationships and the influence of the absence of a father in the home with regard to sexual attitudes and behaviors and the perception of emotional value, which include self-esteem. This study also will seek to provide information to social workers and human service workers in addressing risky sexual behaviors and attitudes toward sex that can have an adverse effect on issues such as sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancy and multiple sexual partners, including but not limited to sexual exploitation. Additionally, this study can also be utilized to address self-esteem on emotional value, which can include such issues as self-mutilation, eating disorders, and obesity in adolescent female clients. An absent father is defined as those who don’t interact with their children on a regular basis and, therefore, do not contribute to their development (Anton, 2011).
CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Historical Perspective

During the seventeenth century, fathers were thought to be powerful, authoritative, obeyed without question and owner of all, including wife and children. They were 'ruler', thought to intervene in matters of discipline and guidance. This also, made the father-child relationship cold, distant, morally instructive and condescending, too much affection was believed to lead to paternal indulgence, ruining the character of the child (JRank Articles, 2012). Today, it is believed that the involvement and affection of a father can foster and promote growth of character, morals and integrity.

According to the Review of General Psychology, empirical research on children and families has resulted in little information before the 1930's. Most of the information available, focused on child rearing from a mother's perspective. Even when the text referenced the word 'parent', it was assumed to be referring to a mother, rather than a father (Rohnner & Veneziano, 2001). As time went on, literature rarely focused on the role of parenting from a father. Articles relating to fathers and the influence of fathers were reviewed in
every article related to child rearing for the first 6 month of 1950, 1960 and 1970 in three family monthly magazines (Ladies Home Journal, Good Housekeeping and Parents Magazine), finding only 3 that dealt with fathers. Of these articles, the fathers were encouraged to take a more active role in the discipline and sexual education of their children; additional information viewed fathers as role models for sons and husband models for daughter. None mentioned the love or influence of a father’s engagement on personal development (Rohner & Veneziano, 2001).

With the turn of the century, there has been a significant shift in recognizing the influential presence of a father regarding his daughters and sons; however, the majority of the focus remained on the interaction and consequence of the son, rather than the daughter.

The majority of the current literature that has been published regarding a fathers’ influence, the consequence of an absent father and the importance of an involved father with his daughter has come predominately from the daughters of these absent, uninfluenced and uninvolved fathers.

Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors

The lack of parental involvement has been found to contribute to youth creating bonds with deviant peers that can result in sexual activity. Adolescents attempt to meet their needs by creating bonds that may be absent in their family structure (Hurtack & Nicole, 2008). The sexual attitudes and behaviors exhibited by adolescent females may be a direct reflection of the absence of the relationship development provided by a present father.
A research essay on The Effects of Absent Fathers on Daughters Relationship Development indicates that adolescent girls that grow up in fatherless households are more likely to engage in promiscuous sexual activity before marriage, become pregnant out of wedlock and have an abortion. Women who had absent fathers growing up tend to have idealized relationships with men, as a hope to get their lost father back, but then come to the realization that the relationship is flawed and end up disappointed (Anton, 2011). The same essay showed that 60% of female exotic dancers (strippers) come from absent father homes, which is a profession directly related to sexual exploitation.

The significant effect of a present father in the home on adolescent female attitude and behavior toward sex can be identified through the correlation between the behavior and attitudes exhibited by adolescent females without fathers. Several literature journals identified often referred to the E.M. Hetherington’s 1972 study on The Effects of Fathers Absence on Personality Development in Adolescent Daughters. Hetherington’s (1972) study emphasized the more promiscuous attitudes of girls in father-absent households and the difficulty of these girls in forming or maintaining romantic relations later in their development. One being the National Center on Fathers and Families, which also reports that girls exhibit assertive qualities which are categorized as masculine, resulting in the conclusion that father absence leads to inappropriate sex role identification (2010). Jackson (2010) recants her own experience as an adolescent female in a matriarchal household, indicating that fatherless women tend to cling to their partners in a suffocating manner in fear of these men abandoning them as their fathers once did (Jackson, 2010).
This behavior can have an effect on sexual behavior in the form of the possibility of the female conforming to her partner sexually and making herself always sexually available in an effort to maintain the relationship. Jackson further notes that a father is also a model for the daughter to follow, shaping both her femininity and masculinity; or example, his example and love builds her confidence, independence and sense of love-worthiness. She also noted that a woman may create a fantasy image of her father and spend years searching for someone to fulfill that fantasy through intimate relationships (Jackson, 2010).

'Dating’ rituals are learned behaviors through interaction with peer relationships and parental influence. A study conducted by Lisa Mancini (2010) indicated that a possible explanation for female adolescent promiscuity may be a result of single mother without a partner in the home that dates several men in an attempt to identify a suitable mate for her and her children. A female adolescent child may learn this dating ritual from mimicking her mother.

The literature review suggests that the major characteristics of absent fathers and adolescent female sexual development result in three common issues: teenage pregnancy, early sexual activity or promiscuity and difficulty in maintaining and forming romantic relationships. While this study only focused on sexual activity and promiscuity; it is certainly worth mentioning the concern in adolescent females regarding teenage pregnancy and difficulty in maintaining and forming romantic relationships because all three are interrelated.
Emotional Value and Self Esteem

Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung’s Electra Complex Theory describes the relationship between a father and a daughter at an early age. According to Mayer (2003), the female child wants to possess her father sexually and eliminate the mother rival, contributing to the conflict between the love of a girls’ father and the jealousy of her mother (2003). The absence of that love for her father has the potential to birth feelings of abandonment and thoughts of unworthiness.

In the song ‘Daughters’ by John Mayer, there is a depiction of the issues that can occur in a strained father-daughter relationship regarding her emotional value. The song states, “I know a girl, she puts the color inside of my world, but she's just like a maze where all of the walls all continually change. And I've done all I can to stand on her steps with my heart in my hands. Now I'm starting to see maybe it's got nothing to do with me... Fathers be good to your daughters, daughters will love like you do, girls becomes lovers who turn into mothers... Oh you see that skin? It’s the same she’s been standing in since she saw him walk away, now she’s left to clean up the mess he made.... You are the god and the weight of her world...” (Mayer, 2004). The song references the difficulty of John Mayer loving a woman that has so much emotional turmoil that he refers to it as a maze with walls that are continually changing, the song later references that he realizes that her inner turmoil has nothing to do with him but her relationship with her father. A father provides acceptance and self-confidence in their children especially their daughters, who tend to crave their father’s attention and approval.
Jackson (2010) speaks to her experience of feeling unattractive and wanting to be prettier, smarter and hotter like the other girls. She also discusses how the same characteristics that made her feel ‘ugly’ were the characteristics that were derived from her father (nappy hair, buck teeth, dark skin, etc.). Ultimately, she discussed how she entered into a relationship with a man as the ‘other chick’ because not only was she infatuated with the fact that he could be attracted to her, she was also clueless on how to deal with men and wanted to hold on tight to him and never let go for fear of abandonment.

Adolescent females that suffer from emotional issues regarding self value will carry those same insecurities of abandonment, self worthiness and low self esteem into their adulthood, continually searching for that fantasy of her father in intimate relationships. As a social worker and human service worker, it is important to understand these issues must be interpersonal. Furthermore, workers must be aware that it is not only the behavioral and physical conflict that occurs with clients; it is the emotional perspective that drives them.

Afrocentric Perspective

Sixty six percent of African American children in the United States live in single parent households (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2011) with 2010 being the most recent U.S. Census rating. This number exceeds any other racial group. The concern regarding African American single parent households is not confined to identifying self-esteem issues and behavioral concerns; it is also a contributor to low income families and poverty.
According to Forbes magazine (2012), Children of single parents are more likely to experience childhood poverty, become teenage parents and drop out of school (The Rise and Downfall of the American Single Mother, 2012). Children raised in a single parent household have a higher probability of also being raised in a low-income household, as well. Four out of ten African American households headed by single mothers lived in poverty, a figure nearly double the number of households headed by single white mothers (Chang, Mariko, Mason, & Nicole, 2010).

Education is also a strong indication of poverty when it comes to single parent homes. According to a study conducted by the Women of Color Policy Network, NYUWagner, the number of mother who have no education beyond high school nearly doubles for single mothers (68 percent)...of single mothers who do not finish high school 20 percent are African American (2010). African American single parent household headed by mothers face a number of issues that can have an effect on the children, as contributors to that household; economic security, employment, wage gap and lifetime wealth and security. For a single parent, the burden of maintaining a household can often result in the lack of supervision, discipline and guidance children desperately need.

Theoretical Perspective

The theoretical basis for this study is Family System Theory first introduced by Dr. Murray Bowen. The Family Systems Theory suggests that it is the nature of a family that its members are intensely connected emotionally. A change in one person’s functioning is predictably followed by reciprocal changes in the functioning of others.
One of the concepts in Family Systems Theory that relates to this study is Emotional Cutoff. Emotional cutoff suggests that people that are cutoff from family interaction tend to make new relationships too important. When a person is cutoff from specific interactions, the more they will look to others to meet the needs that interaction would otherwise fill. This process will make that person vulnerable to pressure others to meet certain needs or making accommodating too much of their expectation of the person for fear of jeopardizing that relationship (Bowen Center for the Study of the Family, 2012).

A second concept in Family Systems Theory that relates to this study is Differentiation of Self. This concept suggests that families and other social groups tremendously affect how people think, feel, and act, but individuals vary in their susceptibility to a "group think" and groups vary in the amount of pressure they exert for conformity. The difference in the individual and the group is reflected in the level of differentiation of self.

The building blocks of 'self' are inborn, but family relationships during childhood and adolescence primarily determine how much 'self' an individual will develop. People with a poorly differentiated "self" depend so heavily on the acceptance and approval of others that either they quickly adjust what they think, say, and do to please others or they dogmatically proclaim what others should be like and pressure them to conform.
Summary

Historical literature focus has been mainly on the mother’s role with her children, resulting in a lack of knowledge regarding the effect that an inactive father has on his daughter’s life and her development regarding interpersonal relationships. The areas that have received attention are a result of behaviors that have become problematic for society as a whole. An adolescent female sexual attitudes and behaviors can manifest itself in destructive ways, such as promiscuity, teenage pregnancy and the contraction of sexually transmitted diseases. Additionally, young women’s emotional value and self-esteem can have an effect on her in other ways, such as mental health status, self-mutilation, eating disorders and personal growth and development.

African American children are among the highest rate of single parent homes and this in turn has a high contribution to the poverty rate. Single mothers who are under educated tend to bear multiple children by multiple men and in turn present a negative example for their own daughters regarding interaction in relationships.

The Family Systems Theory reports that all persons within a family are connected and each person has a significant role that affects the others in the family. Failure to adhere to a role will result in a shift in balance within the family, causing stress and other familial issues. This theory also suggests that the role that is void from the family unit will cause the other members to compensate in other ways, which may not always be positive.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

Chapter III describes the methods and procedures that were used in conducting the outcome questionnaire. The following will be described: research design, sample and population, treatment of data and limitations of the study.

The current study used a survey research. The analysis used for this study is a Cross Tabulation test, which correlates the variables and presents a more composite score of the collected data. The goal of this research was to determine if a relationship exists between an absentee father and adolescent female’s interpersonal development in a relationship. The dependent variables are sexual behaviors and attitudes and emotional value, which includes self-esteem and the independent variable is the influence of the absence of a father in the home. The study was conducted with a sample of 40 adult females in the metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia area.

Sample

A convenience sample was used for this study based on the location and participants available. Represented in this study are adult women with 85% of the general community, 2% were peers, 10% were colleagues and 8% were friends of this researcher.
The sample included 40 adult women between the ages of 20 and 40 who were raised by a single parent without a father and/or father figure that resided in the home. Research conducted for this study occurred in the community. The researcher identified adult females through conversation regarding the sample guidelines at Grady Memorial Hospital practicum site, CHRIS Kids, Inc counseling center and friends of the researcher regarding their participation in the completion of the survey. Regarding peers in the community, this researcher utilized participants at locations where researcher is a member, also through conversations specifying the survey guidelines, such as Dance 411 and LA Fitness. The researcher specified participants between the ages of 20 and 40 that were raised by a single parent without a father and/or father figure that resided in the home, reviewed the consent letter, explained the purpose and procedure of the questionnaire and asked participants if they had any questions. The researcher provided information regarding the study and the School of Social Work at Clark Atlanta University. The researcher asked participants to sign the consent letter and complete the questionnaire, informing them that their participation was voluntary and they had the right to withdraw at any time, prior to data analysis.

This researcher also utilized personal friends and peers to participate in this study that met survey guidelines. Friends and peers were utilized in this study due to previous conversations with the researcher regarding sexual experiences and relationships to determine the contribution of the absence of a father in the home.
Description of the Site

This researcher utilized peers from practicum site, Grady Memorial Hospital. Grady Memorial Hospital is a state funded hospital in Atlanta, GA. Grady maintains a high standard of providing quality, comprehensive healthcare to the underserved community of Fulton and Dekalb counties, while also providing care for residents of Atlanta and the state of Georgia. Grady continues to provide excellence through the premier level 1 trauma center and the only burn unit within 100 miles of Atlanta. Grady Memorial Hospital is the only hospital that ensures quality medical care for the ever-growing homeless population in the Atlanta area and surrounding counties. Grady also provides medical coverage through the Grady Card program at a discounted rate, ranging from a 30 – 100 percent discounted rate to those that qualify.

CHRIS Kids, Inc is a full service youth counseling agency located at 1976 Flat Shoals Rd. Atlanta, GA. CHRIS Kids provides services to children between the ages of 6 and 18 with a mental health diagnosis in the community and are in state custody. The mission of CHRIS Kids, Inc is to heal children, strengthen families and build communities. CHRIS Kids services range from adolescent group homes, psychiatric clinic services, medication management, individual and family counseling services and the independent living program; which provides apartment style housing for young adults 18 – 22, that have aged out of the state custody system but continue to require assistance.

Dance 411 Studios is a statewide known dance studio in Atlanta, GA. Dance 411 Studios, located at 475 Moreland Ave. Atlanta, GA, and has been featured on several televised forums for international choreographers and celebrity entertainers. Dance 411
Studios provides daily dance and fitness classes for children, teens and adults at beginner, moderate and advanced levels. Dance 411 Studios is one of the top dance studios in Atlanta, Georgia with a wide range of classes that include jazz, ballet, modern, hip-hop and pole dancing.

LA Fitness is a health fitness gym in Atlanta, GA with locations across the nation, including California, Texas, and Florida. LA Fitness has steadily increased its presence by focusing on the lifelong benefit of good health. Located at 3755 Carmia Dr., Atlanta, Georgia, LA Fitness continues to be the largest fitness center in the state of Georgia. The gym provides state of art equipment and cardio area, group fitness classes, heated indoor lap pool, spa and sauna; including full length basketball and racquetball courts. All LA fitness locations are open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day with full staff on site.

Instrumentation

Participants were asked to complete a 21-item questionnaire that was divided into four sections. The sections consisted of demographic information, emotional value/self-esteem, influence of father’s absence and sexual attitude and behavior. The demographic profile was developed to determine each participant’s age group, highest education level, marital status, ethnicity, sexual orientation and the number of sexual partners in the past year.

The section on emotional value/self-esteem consisted of five questions. The first question inquired as to whether participants felt insecure and unsure of their self-esteem
at times. The second questions inquired as to whether they value themselves as being worthy of the type of relationship they desired at any time, past or present. The third question inquired as to whether participants tend to place their mates on a pedestal at any time, past or present. The fourth question inquired as to whether they tend to become clingy to their mates and often overlook negative behavior for fear of abandonment at any time, past or present and the last question in this section inquired as to whether participants have always been able to maintain healthy appropriate relationships.

The next section on the influence of fathers’ absence consisted of five questions. The first question inquired as to whether participant’s parent or guardian provided them with a good example to identify a quality mate. The second question inquired as to whether there were other males that resided in the home that had a positive influence on their interpersonal skills in a relationship. The third question inquired as to whether participants tend to place their male partners in a fatherly role. The fourth question inquired as to whether the absence of their father contributed to an overt desire to be in a relationship. The final question of this section inquired as to whether participants have attempted, at any time past or present, to utilize their relationships to compensate for their feelings of ‘something missing’.

The last section of the questionnaire on sexual attitude and behavior consisted of five questions. The first question inquired as to whether participants have always been able to maintain appropriate sexual boundaries. The second question inquired as to whether, at any time past or present, participants have used having sex too soon as a defense mechanism. The third question inquired as to whether they have considered
themselves to be promiscuous at any time, past or present. The fourth question inquired as to whether at any time past or present, sex was used as a tool to encourage another person to care for them. The final question of this section, inquired as to whether participants, at any time past or present, tend to become sexually accommodating for their mates, although undesired by the participant, for fear of abandonment.

The initial survey that was developed for this study also consisted of four sections that addressed demographic information, emotional value/self-esteem, influence of fathers' absence and sexual attitude and behavior; however, the questions did not include an inquiry as to whether the behavior existed in the past or was a current concern. Also, the wording of questions in each section did not identify specifically with that section. Example: The absence of my father has caused me to become promiscuous.

Ten participants were asked to complete the initial survey. Each participant expressed their concern for the time frame of pertinent information with regard as to whether they continued to exhibit specific behaviors. Each participant also expressed their concern for questions not being specific to their section. Following the recommendations of the initial ten participants, the survey was revised to increase accuracy and validity of information.

This survey was developed utilizing the Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree). This questionnaire was reviewed and devised with the assistance of Dr. Robert Waymer, a Research Professor with the Whitney M. Young, Jr., School of Social Work.
Treatment of Data

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) program was used to analyze research data. Variables from the survey were recoded as ‘Missing – Overt - Boundary – Insecure – Worthy – Care’ to produce a 2x2 table of cross tabulation. Also, two new variables were created by computing the variables to create ‘Attitude’ and ‘Emotions’ in order to succinctly complete a cross tabulation of test subjects.

Two questions from each section were used to develop the cross tabulation tables regarding variables. The combined variables from the emotional value/self-esteem section, ‘At times, I tend to feel insecure and unsure of my self-esteem’, recoded as ‘Insecure’ and ‘In the past or presently, I value myself as not being worthy of the type of relationship I desire’, recoded as ‘Worthy’ was recoded as ‘Emotions’. That variable was tabulated with the ‘Presently or in the past, I attempted to utilize relationships to compensate for something missing’ question from the influence of father’s absence section, which was recoded as ‘Missing’ to create a cross tabulation table to represent emotional value/self-esteem.

From the sexual attitude and behavior section, the combined variables of ‘I have always maintained appropriate sexual boundaries’, recoded as ‘Boundary’ and ‘In the past or presently, I utilized sex as a tool to encourage another person to care for me’, recoded as ‘Care’ was recoded as ‘Attitude’. That variable was tabulated with the ‘The absence of my father has contributed to my overt desire to in a relationship’ question from the Influence of fathers’ absence section, which was recoded as ‘Overt’ to create a cross tabulation table to represent sexual attitude and behavior.
Limitations of this Study

The most immediate limitation of this study was the limited number of women that were without a father and/or father figure present in the home as children and the number of women that were willing to participate in the study. Additionally, the majority of the participants in this study are college-educated women. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and the University of Pennsylvania, children who feel a closeness and warmth with their fathers are twice as likely to enter college (2004). This researcher believes that the participants within the inner circle of community members, family members and peers that were available presented a smaller sample size of adult women who were without a father in the home as a child due to their educational level.

Additional limitations of this study include women who interacted regularly with their fathers. Although the father did not reside in the home, they have maintained regularly communication and contact with their fathers. Also it is suspected that participants, who maintained constant communication and contact with their father, although not in the home, affected the results of this study. According to Ashok L. Lalwani, assistant professor of marketing for the University of Texas, San Antonio, people have a tendency to portray themselves in a more favorable light than their thoughts or actions, called socially desirable responding, which is a problem that effects the validity of statistics and surveys worldwide (2012). This researcher also believes that participants may not have answered the survey honestly regarding such personal and intrusive questions causing further limitations for this study.
In addition to the aforementioned limitations, the researcher did not complete a statistical analysis to determine validity. This may have provided information that could determine whether a fathers' absence in the home has a significant influence on the interpersonal development in adolescent females. A regression analysis may have shown a more accurate correlation of variables.

A final limitation of this study was the sample population. The results were conducted using a convenience sample, which as previously stated may have affected the results. Using a random same of participants with various cultures, backgrounds, educational levels and incomes would have provided a more in-depth study.
CHAPTER IV
PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

This chapter presents the findings of the current study. The chapter is divided into two sections; Section I identifies the demographics of the research participants and Section II presents the findings of the research questions that guided this study.

Demographic Data

The respondents in this study consisted of 40 adult women between the ages of 20 and 40. Fifteen percent reported being at least 40 years of age (n = 6); 32.5% reported being between the ages of 30 and 39 (n = 13); and 52.5 reported being between the ages of 20 and 29 (n = 21). Five percent (n = 2) of the 40 participants that completed the survey, report Vocational School as the highest level of education that they have completed; 2.4% report High School/GED as their highest level of education (n = 1); and 92.5% report college as being the highest level of education they have completed (n = 37). Seventy percent (n = 28) report their marital status as ‘Never Married’; 17.5% report that they are ‘Married’ (n = 7); and 12.5% report their marital status as ‘Divorced’ (n = 5). Among the 40 participants, 92.5% identify themselves as African American (n = 37); 2.5% identify themselves as Hispanic (n = 1); 2.5% identify themselves as Asian (n = 1); and 2.5% identify themselves as Other (n = 1). Ten percent of the participants of this
(n = 35); and 2.5% did not report sexual orientation (n = 1). Among the respondents in this study, 52.5% report having only one sexual partner in the past year (n = 21); 22.5% report having two (n = 9); 12.5% report having three (n = 5); 7.5% report having at least four (n = 3); and 5.0% did not report the number of sexual partners in the past year (n = 2). See Table 1 for demographic profile of study respondents.

Table 1

Demographic Profile of Study Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age Group</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 – 29</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>52.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 – 39</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 and Over</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highest Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School/GED</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographic Profile of Study Respondents (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never Married</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sexual Orientation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>87.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Sexual</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Partners in Past Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>52.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four or More</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2 is a frequency distribution of 40 women indicating whether they disagreed or agreed that they do not value themselves as being worthy of the type of relationship that they desire. As shown in Table 2, of the 40 participants, 23 disagree that they do not value themselves as not being worthy (57.5%) and 17 indicate that they do value themselves as not being worthy (42.5%).

Table 2

*In the Past or Presently, I Value Myself as not being Worthy of the Type of Relationship I Desire*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>42.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 is a frequency distribution of 40 women indicating whether they disagreed or agreed that they feel insecure and unsure of their self-esteem. As shown in Table 3, there were an equal amount of participants that agreed and disagreed that they feel insecure and unsure of their self-esteem.
Table 3

*At Times, I Tend to Feel Insecure and Unsure of my Self-Esteem*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 is a frequency distribution of 40 women indicating whether they disagreed or agreed that the absence of their father contributed to their overt desire to be in a relationship. As shown in Table 4, of the 40 participants 75% (n = 30) indicate that they disagree that the absence of a father contributed and 25% (n = 10) indicate that they agreed that the absence of their father contributed to their overt desire to be in a relationship.

Table 4

*The Absence of my Father has contributed of my Overt Desire to be in a Relationship*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 5 is a frequency distribution of 40 women indicating whether they disagreed or agreed that in the past or presently, they attempted to utilize relationships to compensate for their feelings of 'something missing'. As shown in Table 5, of the 40 participants 47.5% (n = 19) indicate that they disagree and 52.5% (n = 21) indicate that they agree with utilizing relationships to compensate for their feelings of 'something missing'.

Table 5

| Presently or in the Past, I attempted to utilize Relationships to Compensate for my Feeling of 'Something Missing' |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Variable                                         | Frequency       | Percent  |
| Disagree                                         | 19              | 47.5     |
| Agree                                            | 21              | 52.5     |
| Total                                            | 40              | 100.0    |

Table 6 is a frequency distribution of 40 women indicating whether they disagreed or agreed that they have always been able to maintain appropriate sexual boundaries. Of the 40 participants, 42.5% (n = 17) disagreed and 57.5% (n = 23) agreed that they have always been able to maintain appropriate boundaries.
Table 6

*I have always Maintained Appropriate Sexual Boundaries*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>42.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7 is a frequency distribution of 40 women indicating whether they disagreed or agreed that in the past or presently, they have utilized sex as a tool to encourage another person to care for them. Of the 40 participants, 55.0% (n = 22) disagreed that they have utilized sex as a tool and 45.0% (n = 18) agreed that in the past or presently, they have utilized sex as a tool to encourage another person to care for them.

Table 7

*In the Past or Presently, I utilized Sex as a Tool to encourage another Person to Care for Me*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>55.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>45.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hypotheses

Hol: There is no relationship between sexual attitude and behavior in adolescent females and the absence of a father in the home.

Findings

As shown in Table 2, cross tabulation between Sexual Attitudes and Behavior, recoded as ‘Attitude’ and the Influence of a Fathers’ Absence, recoded as ‘Overt’ showed that they disagreed that one influenced the other as the highest percentage. However, when Chi Squared test statistics were implored, it showed .673, which indicates there was no statistical significance of the two variables at .05 level of probability; therefore Hypothesis 1 is accepted.

Table 8

*Relationship between Sexual Attitude and Behavior and Influence of Fathers’ Absence*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attitude and Behaviors</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fathers’ Absence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>22 55.0</td>
<td>8 20.0</td>
<td>30 75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>8 20.0</td>
<td>2 5.0</td>
<td>10 25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30 75.0</td>
<td>10 54.7</td>
<td>40 100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

df = 1, chi squared = .673
Ho2: There is no relationship between emotional value, which includes self-esteem and the absence of a father in the home.

Findings

As shown in Table 3, cross tabulation between Emotional Value/Self Esteem, recoded as ‘Emotions’ and the Influence of a Fathers’ Absence, recoded as ‘Care’ shows that both disagree that one influences the other as the highest percentage. However, when chi squared test statistics were implored, it showed .273, which indicates there was no statistical significance of the two variables at .05 level of probability; therefore Hypothesis 2 is accepted.

Table 9

Relationship between Emotional Value, including Self Esteem and the Influence of a Fathers’ Absence

Cross Tabulation between Emotional Value, including Self Esteem and Fathers’ Absence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of Fathers’ Absence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[df = 1, \text{ chi squared} = .273\]
Summary

Two questions from each section of the survey were utilized in cross tabulation, to represent the interpersonal development in this study. Tables 2 and 3 represent the section of the survey on Emotional Value, including Self Esteem, which indicates whether participants felt the absence of their father affected how they feel about their self image and self worth. Tables 4 and 5 represent the section of the survey on the Influence of a Father, which indicates whether participants feel the absence of their father had an influence on them in any way. Tables 6 and 7 represent the section of the survey on Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors, which indicates whether participants felt the absence of their father, affected how they viewed and behaved sexually in a relationship. The findings of this study showed that participant's whose fathers were in the home were less likely to experience issues regarding interpersonal development in a relationship than those whose fathers were absent from the home.
CHAPTER V
DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Summary of the Study

This study was designed to examine effects of the absence of a father in the home on the interpersonal development of adolescent females. Two independent variables were used to determine whether a relationship existed between the behavior exhibited in adolescent females and the absence of a father and/or father figure in the home. The dependent variables were sexual attitude and behaviors and emotional value, which includes self-esteem.

When female participants were asked about their sexual attitude and behavior patterns 57.5% responded that they either strongly agreed or agreed that they have always been able to maintain appropriate sexual boundaries. Seventeen participants, or 52.5% reported that they have not always been able to maintain appropriate sexual boundaries. The current study found that the absence of a father in the home has an effect on sexual attitude and behaviors, although the study was unable to determine the severity. When chi squared test statistics were implored for variables ‘Attitude’ and ‘Overt’, it showed .673, which indicates there was no statistical significance between the two variables.

The study was also able to determine that the absence of a father in the home has an effect on emotional value, which includes self-esteem. This study was also unable to
determine the severity. Fifty percent, \( n = 20 \) of the participants reported having feelings of insecurity and feeling unsure of their self-esteem. When chi squared test statistics were implored for variables ‘Emotions’ and ‘Care’, it showed .273, which indicates there was no statistical significance of the two variables.

The majority of the participants, 97.5% had some college or better. The educational level and income of the female participants may have had an effect on the results of this study.

Seventy percent of participants have never been married, while 12.5% were divorced. This raises the questions of whether the absence of a father in the home has an effect on mate selection or the maintenance of a positive relationship resulting in marriage or a long-term marriage.

Implications for Social Work

The findings of this study have serious implications for social work practice. Social work practice functions in three sections; Practice, Procedure and Policy. This study identifies implications for each section.

Practice in social work, pertains to the direct work that workers do with the community, in the community. Many of the children, with whom social workers interact, come from single parent home in addition to being from single parent homes themselves. It is important to understand the underlying issues that contribute to behaviors exhibited by adolescent females in the community. Having experienced adolescence in a single parent household, social workers may not be able to provide answer regarding overcoming that problem; however, insight can be provided with how to deal with it and grow from it.
It is important to understand the implications of a father’s absence on an adolescent female, when not just working with that female but also regarding interaction with future fathers and absent or latent fathers. Social workers that work with male clients have the opportunity to provide an understanding on the effects of a man not being present in the home with regard to the mother and the client. Assisting men understand their influence on their children’s development may assist decrease the absence in the home.

The implications for social work, in practice regarding this study may also be used to assist female clients understand that ‘they are not the only ones’. Research such as this provides information that can be used by social workers to show female clients that inappropriate sexual behaviors and issues with self-esteem may be side effects of an absent father from the home and research has been conducted to show how one affects the other and ways to change negative behavior.

Implications for social work with regard to procedure, may be used to assist develop a more accurate study. Recommendations include a larger sample size, a random sample utilizing participants from various backgrounds, cultures, educational levels and income levels. Additional recommendations include developing a survey that is better tested for reliability and validity.

Educational studies can be used to develop successful sex education and parenting programs. Study information can be used to assist parents understand how talk with their daughters about their fathers and how it may affect their behavior. Information can also be used to assist mothers understand their role and how to interact with their daughters in a way that
encourages growth and positive behavior without attempting to compensate for the lack of a father figure.

The implications for social work with regard to policy can be used to develop programs that promote the growth of families. Currently, in order for mothers to receive state assistance, there cannot be an adult male present in the home. Policies such as these encourage single parent homes and promote dependence.

An additional implication may be to promote looser sentences for minor infractions against the law for adult males. Developing programs outside the prison system that teach rehabilitation, life skills, parenting skills and employment longevity for adult males, may contribute to the decline of fathers in the home. State facilities that utilize research study regarding the effects of an absent father in conjunction with these programs, may assist adult males understand the importance of developing a skill, ceasing illegal behavior and obtaining gainful employment. Through these programs, adult males can learn to contribute in a positive way to society and financially support a household, while providing needed guidance, warmth and support for their children residing in the same home.
APPENDICES
Appendix A: Consent Form

A Study of the Relationship between Adolescent Female Interpersonal Development in a Relationship and the Influence of the Absence of a Father in the Home

You are invited to participate in a research study of the implications on romantic relationships for fatherless women. You were selected as a possible participant because you are an adult woman whose father was not present in the home. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to participate in the study.

This study is being conducted by: Nefertiti Rowlette, Social Work Graduate Student (Clark Atlanta University).

The purpose of this study is to determine whether the absence of a father in the household has an affect on romantic relationships in adult African American women.

Procedures:

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to do the following things:
Complete a survey consisting of 20 questions
Participate in an interview

Participation in this study is strictly voluntary; no compensation will be offered or provided for services.

Risks and/or Benefits for participating in the study:

There are no known risks involved with participating in this study.

Confidentiality:

The records of this study will be kept private. In any report that may be published, information will not be included that will make it possible to identify a participant. Research records will be kept in a locked file; only the researcher will have access to the records. The Interviewer will use any taped conversation held during the interview process solely as a record-keeping tool.
Voluntary Nature of the Study:

Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with the researcher or Clark Atlanta University. Your decision to participate in this study is strictly voluntary; all participants have the freedom to withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships previously identified. Any information (survey, interview, etc) obtained from participants choosing to withdraw from the study will not be utilized.

The researcher conducting this study is:

Nefertiti Rowlette, Social Work Graduate Student

If you have any questions about the research, you may contact the researcher at:

223 James P. Brawley Dr., SW
Atlanta, GA 30314
(901) 825-9064

Additional questions may be directed to:

WMYJSSW School of Social Work
Department Head: Dr. Joyce M. Goosby (404) 880 – 8529

If you have any questions now, or later, related to the integrity of the research, (the rights of research subjects or research-related injuries, where applicable), you are encouraged to contact Dr. Georgianna Bolden at the Office of Sponsored Programs (404 880-6979) or Dr. Paul I. Musey, (404) 880-6829 at Clark Atlanta University.
Appendix B: Survey Questionnaire

Section I: Demographic Information
Place a mark (x) next to the appropriate item. Choose only one answer for each statement.


2. Highest Education: 1) _____ Elementary  2) _____ High School/GED  3) _____ Vocational  4) _____ College

3. Marital Status: 1) _____ Married  2) _____ Never Married  3) _____ Divorced  4) _____ Widowed

4. Ethnicity: 1) _____ African Am  2) _____ White  3) _____ Hispanic  4) _____ Asian  5) _____ Other

5. Sexual Orientation: 1) _____ Heterosexual  2) _____ Lesbian  3) _____ Gay  4) _____ Bi-Sexual  5) _____ Transgendered

6. Number of Sexual Partners in the Past Year: 1) _____ One  2) _____ Two  3) _____ Three  4) _____ Four or More

Questionnaire continues on the next page →
Section II: How much do you agree with the following statements?

Instructions: Write the number indicating your answer (1 thru 4) in the blank space in front of each statement on the questionnaire. Choose only one answer for each item and respond to all the statements.

1. Strongly Disagree  2 = Disagree  3 = Agree  4 = Strongly Agree

Emotional Value/Self Esteem

_____ 7. At times, I tend to feel insecure and am unsure of my self-esteem

_____ 8. In the past or presently, I value myself as not being worthy of the type of relationship I desire

_____ 9. In the past or presently, I tend to place my mate on a pedestal

_____ 10. In the past or presently, I tend to become clingy to my mate and often overlook negative behavior for fear of abandonment

_____ 11. I have always been able to maintain healthy appropriate relationships

Influence of Fathers' Absence

_____ 12. My parent (guardian) provided me with a good example to identify a quality mate

_____ 13. I was provided with other males in the home that had a positive influence on my interpersonal skills in a relationship

_____ 14. I tend to place male partners in a fatherly role

_____ 15. The absence of my father has contributed to my overt desire to be in a relationship

_____ 16. Presently or in the past, I attempted to utilize relationships to compensate for my feeling of 'something missing'

Questionnaire continues on the next page →
Section II continued: How much to you agree with the following statements?

Instructions: Write the number indicating your answer (1 thru 4) in the blank space in front of each statement on the questionnaire. Choose only one answer for each item and respond to all the statements.

1= Strongly Disagree  2= Disagree  3= Agree  4= Strongly Agree

Sexual Attitude and Behavior

____ 17. I have always maintained appropriate sexual boundaries

____ 18. In the past or presently, I have used having sex too soon as a defense mechanism

____ 19. I currently or at one point have considered myself to be promiscuous

____ 20. In the past or presently, I utilized sex as a tool to encourage another person to care for me

____ 21. In the past or presently, I tend to become sexually accommodating for my mate, although undesired by myself, for fear of abandonment
Appendix C: SPSS Program

TITLE 'Relationships between Adolescent Females and Fathers'.
SUBTITLE 'Nefertiti Rowlette'.

DATA LIST FIXED/
ID 1-3
AGEGRP 4
EDUCATE 5
MARITAL 6
ETHNIC 7
SEXUAL 8
PARTNER 9
INSECURE 10
WORTHY 11
PEDESTAL 12
CLINGY 13
HEALTHY 14
EXAMPLE 15
OTHER 16
ROLE 17
OVERT 18
MISSING 19
BOUNDARY 20
DEFENSE 21
PROMISC 22
CARE 23
UNDESIRE 24.

COMPUTE ATTITUDE = (CARE + BOUNDARY)/2.
COMPUTE EMOTIONS = (WORTHY + INSECURE)/2.

VARIABLE LABELS
ID 'Case'
AGEGRP 'My age group'
EDUCATE 'Highest Education'
MARITAL 'Marital Status'
ETHNIC 'Ethnicity'
SEXUAL 'Sexual Orientation'
PARTNER 'Number of Partners in the Past Year'
INSECURE 'At times, I tend to feel insecure and unsure of my self esteem'
WORTHY 'In the past or presently, I value myself as not being worthy of the type of relationship I desire'
PEDESTAL 'In the past or presently, I tend to place my mate on a pedestal'
CLINGY 'In the past or presently, I tend to become clingy to my mate and often overlook negative behavior for fear of abandonment'

HEALTHY 'I have always been able to maintain healthy appropriate relationships'

EXAMPLE 'My parent (guardian) provided me with a good example to identify a quality mate'

OTHER 'I was provided with other males in the home that had a positive influence on my interpersonal skills in a relationship'

ROLE 'I tend to place male partners in a fatherly role'

OVERT 'The absence of my father has contributed to my overt desire to be in a relationship'

MISSING 'Presently or in the past, I attempted to utilize relationships to compensate for my feeling of something missing'

BOUNDARY 'I have always maintained appropriate sexual boundaries'

DEFENSE 'In the past or presently, I have used having sex too soon as a defense mechanism'

PROMISCU 'I currently or at one point have considered myself to be promiscuous'

CARE 'In the past or presently, I utilized sex as a tool to encourage another person to care for me'

UNDESIRE 'In the past or presently, I tend to become sexually accommodating for my mate, although undesired by myself, for fear of abandonment'.

VALUE LABELS

AGEGRP
1 'Under 20'
2 '20 - 29'
3 '30 - 39'
4 '40 and Over'/

EDUCATE
1 'Elementary'
2 'High School - GED'
3 'Vocational'
4 'College'/

MARITAL
1 'Married'
2 'Never Married'
3 'Divorced'
4 'Widowed'/

ETHNIC
1 'African Am'
2 'White'
3 'Hispanic'
4 'Asian'
5 'Other'/

SEXUAL
1 'Heterosexual'
2 'Lesbian'
3 'Gay'
4 'Bi-Sexual'
5 'Transgendered'/
PARTNER
1 'One'
2 'Two'
3 'Three'
4 'Four or More'/
INSECURE
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
WORTHY
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
PEDESTAL
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
CLINGY
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
HEALTHY
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
EXAMPLE
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
OTHER
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
ROLE
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
OVERT
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
MISSING
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
BOUNDARY
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
DEFENSE
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
PROMISC
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
CARE
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
UNDESIRE
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'/
ATTITUDE
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'

EMOTIONS
1 'Strongly Disagree'
2 'Disagree'
3 'Agree'
4 'Strongly Agree'.

RECODE CARE BOUNDARY OVERT MISSING (1 THRU 2.99=2)(3 THRU 4.99=3).
RECODE WORTHY INSECURE EMOTIONS ATTITUDE (1 THRU 2.99=2)(3 THRU 4.99=3).

MISSING VALUES
AGEGRP EDUCATE MARITAL ETHNIC SEXUAL PARTNER INSECURE
WORTHY PEDESTAL CLINGY HEALTHY
EXAMPLE OTHER ROLE OVERT MISSING BOUNDARY DEFENSE PROMISC
CARE UNDESIRE (0).

BEGIN DATA
001443111433321233323233
00224211212234311131211
003242114212223122323322
00424211231141111343231
00524211111212311231312
006443111111131211144111
007342112433423443313433
008242112443311122344444
00944311321332222222222
0104210022232321231122
01124211423112222323222
0122421122123212234111
013242112333132322323221
014242112223432241111
01534211413143242214144
016342413323111314413443
017242112331324323441132
018241112111144422141311
019332111421223222222223
02034351244412323444443
02124214433111142123341
02224211221122234332211
023441111313222323333
02444111142242112341111
025241111121232431241333
02634211112322211121111
02734134322221232212332
028242113332332311143124
02934111132311233424433
0303411111313211141111
031443111341133212323422
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034342111334412242343344
035242111312224312222111
03632211114411111331441
03733214332232111323332
03824211011114111141111
03924211143422223232333
04024214232222223232323
END DATA.

FREQUENCIES
/VARIABLES AGEGRP EDUCATE MARITAL ETHNIC SEXUAL PARTNER
INSECURE WORTHY PEDESTAL CLINGY
HEALTHY EXAMPLE ROLE OVERT MISSING BOUNDARY DEFENSE PROMISC
CARE UNDESIRE
EMOTIONS ATTITUDE
/STATISTICS = .
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