A study of the relationship between black adolescent unwed pregnancy, self esteem and father presence in the household

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APPROVAL OF THESIS

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To the Committee on Graduate Study:

The attached thesis: A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN BLACK ADOLESCENT UNWED PREGNANCY, SELF ESTEEM AND
FATHER PRESENCE IN THE HOUSEHOLD

has been approved by the School of Social Work in partial fulfill-
ment of the requirements for the Master of Social Work de-
gree and is recommended for acceptance.

(Signature) Naomi J. Ward

Dean: Donald G. Harris

Date: May 11, 1967
A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
BLACK ADOLESCENT UNWED PREGNANCY, SELF
ESTEEM AND FATHER PRESENCE IN THE HOUSEHOLD

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

BY
EASTER J. WATSON

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

MAY 1987
Children having children
.........every which way,
Looking for love that they
lost a long time yesterday,
...............................
Poor little babies,
I feel sorry for you,
Because your mother is a mother
who is a baby too....

Juliette Brown
(15 year old unwed
Black adolescent
mother)

Dedicated with love to LaTonia D. Watson
and Boisie L. Watson Ph.D.

I thank God for granting me the strength and
preserverence to complete this task.
I offer sincere gratitude to my parents, Tom and
Louise Watson for loving me through it all.
A love offering is extended to Derek O. Watson
and Lorenzo T. Watson for their love, patiance and under
standing.
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Finally, compassionate appreciation and gratitude is
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ABSTRACT

Watson, Easter J. 
Atlanta University, 1987

A Study of the Relationship Between 
Black Adolescent Unwed Pregnancy, Self 
Esteem and Father Presence in the Household

Advisors: Professor Naomi Ward 
Dr. Mamie Darlington

Thesis Date: April 24, 1987

The purpose of this study was to determine if there was a relationship between Black adolescent unwed pregnancy and self esteem as well as if there was a relationship between Black adolescent unwed pregnancy and the adolescent's father's presence in the household. This study also reviews adolescent sexual behavior longitudinally from 1915 through the present. Research in the area of self esteem among unwed mothers and unwed adolescents mothers in general is examined. However, this study concentrates on Black adolescents between the ages of 13 and 17 specifically. Further reviewing concentrates on studies in regard to father presence in the households of adolescents in general and Black adolescents in particular.

The major findings of this study are that: there is a relationship between Black adolescent unwed pregnancy and self esteem and the presence of the adolescent's father in the household. The population studied was from a lower socioeconomic background and the subjects were receiving supportive services.
LIST OF TABLES

1. T-Test of Parenting and Non Parenting Black Female Adolescents..........................42

2. Age Distribution of Sample for Non Parenting Adolescents..............................45

3. Age Distribution of Sample for Parenting Adolescents.................................46

4. Mean Self Esteem of Sample Population......................47

5. Percentage of Parenting Adolescents With or Without Fathers Present in the Household.................................48

6. Percentage of Non Parenting Adolescents With or Without Fathers Present in the Household.................................50

7. Mean Score of Non Parenting Adolescents With or Without Fathers Present in the Household.................................51

8. Mean Score of Parenting Adolescents With or Without Fathers Present in the Household.................................53

9. Distribution of the Self Esteem Scores for Adolescent Parenting.................................54

10. Distribution of Self Esteem Scores for Non Parenting Adolescents.................................55
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements...........................................ii
Abstract.......................................................iii
List of Tables................................................iv

Chapters

I. INTRODUCTION...........................................1
   Statement of the Problem...............................5
   Definition of Terms.....................................6

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE.................................8
   Longitudinal Review of Teenage Sexuality..............8
   Theoretical Perspective.................................14
   Self Esteem.............................................17
   Father Presence in Household............................23

III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK..............................29

IV. METHODOLOGY..........................................36

V. FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE..41

APPENDICES................................................60

BIBLIOGRAPHY...............................................71
CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This study examined the issue of teenage pregnancy as it relates to unwed Black females. Whether or not there was a relationship between Black adolescent unwed pregnancy and level of self esteem as well as the adolescent's father's presence in the household was the major thrust of study.

Prior to discussion of the intricacies involved in the stage of human development called adolescence, some discussion will be given to the phenomenon of teenage pregnancy and its evolution within American society.

Teenage pregnancy is not a new phenomenon, but the devastating social and economic consequences associated with teenage parenthood are new. It is only in recent years that half of all teen mothers rear their children as single parents.

At the turn of the century, youths generally finished

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school by the onset of physical maturity and had families by their late teens. By the 1940's this process was stretching into the early twenties. Today half of our young adults are still in school at age nineteen. Only half have entered the labor force as non-students by age twenty.

Teenage pregnancy is one of the most significant social problems facing the nation today. The percentage of babies born each year in America who are born to teenage mothers is one of the highest among westernized nations. "In 1982, fourteen percent of the 3.6 million births that took place in the United States occurred to mothers under age 20. Fifty percent of these births were to unmarried teens, over one third of all births to teenage girls occurred to teens between the ages of 15 and 17, nearly 10,000 births occurred to girls under the age of 15."

Births to adolescent women are particularly prevalent among minorities. The birth rate among Black teens ages 15-17 is nearly three times the rate among

2 Ibid.
3 Ibid. pp. 11-12.
White girls. Black teens account for 14 percent of the adolescent population, 28 percent of all adolescent births, and 47 percent of births to unmarried teens. Adolescent pregnancy is a national problem but in the black community it is a crisis."

Adolescence is a crucial period in human development. According to Erikson, "The adolescent mind is essentially a mind of the moratorium, a psychosocial stage between childhood and adulthood, and between the morality learned by the child, and the ethics to be developed by the adult. It is an ideological outlook of a society that speaks most clearly to the adolescent who is eager to be affirmed to his peers, and is ready to be confirmed by rituals, creeds, and programs which at the same time define what is evil, uncanny, and inimical. In searching for the social values which guide identity one therefore confronts the problems of ideology and aristocracy, both in their wildest possible sense which connotes that within a defined world image and predestined course of history, the best people will come to rule and rule develops the best in people."

4 Ibid., p. 4.
Adolescence is defined by Zachler and Brandstat as the "universal transitional experience bridging childhood and adulthood." Subsequently, it is during the period of adolescence that young people begin to aspire toward the ultimate goal of adulthood. At this point the child has been indoctrinated into an understanding of the social milieu or schema of society. A sense of the technological ethos of a culture, has developed. Although skin color is not the focus of this study, it does have a bearing on Black adolescent development. Thus at the time that ethos evolves the child realizes that the color of her skin, the background of her parents, or the fashion of her clothes rather than her wish or her will to learn will decide her worth as an aspiring adult and consequently, her sense of identity. Doubtlessly, the aforementioned issues impact the level of self esteem among Black adolescent females.


Greater contribution to this negative self image and low self esteem is the fact that the Black community has lost many of its leaders to the suburbs, leaving Black youth without the benefit of positive role models. More significantly, the Black female adolescent sees little evidence of a tangible future based on the "American dream."

To further compound the issues of adolescent development the proportion of children living in female-headed households more than doubled for both Blacks and Whites from 1960 to 1985. For Black children this means that half live in female-headed families compared to one White child in seven. "Young Black female-headed families are being formed each day because the bleak prospects for young Black women make it difficult for them to see the value of avoiding parenthood."

**Statement of the Problem**

This was a descriptive study which examined the relationship between Black adolescent unwed pregnancy and

9 Ibid.
10 Ibid.
Finally, a group of Black adolescent females who were parenting was compared to a group of Black adolescent females who were not parenting to determine whether or not the dependent variables; self esteem and father's presence in the household are relative to the independent variable, teenage pregnancy.

**Definition of Terms**

Adolescent refers to a teenage female between the age of thirteen and seventeen years. The terms adolescent and teen will be used interchangeably.

Pregnancy refers to the period during which a developing fetus is present within the uterus.

Male Present Household refers to a household within which the father or stepfather of a female adolescent is presently residing.

Self esteem refers to the evaluation that one has toward perceived characteristics of one's self and reactions to these perceived characteristics behaviorally and emotionally.

Low Self Esteem refers to negative evaluation that one has toward perceived characteristics of one's self and reactions to these perceived characteristics behaviorally and emotionally. This definition also applies to a score of thirty (30) or above on the Clinical Measurement Package Self Esteem Scale.

High Self Esteem refers to positive evaluation that one has toward perceived characteristics of one's self and reactions to these perceived characteristics behaviorally and emotionally. This definition also applies to a score below (30) on the Clinical Measurement Package Self Esteem Scale.
CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This review of literature covers the transitionalization of adolescent sexual behavior from 1915 to the present. Differences in sexual behavior relative to race will also be addressed. Literature in reference to levels of self esteem and the pertinence of the adolescent's father's presence in the household is examined. Based on the results of studies, several theories in regard to adolescent pregnancy have been developed and are included in this review.

The approach used is intended to provide the reader with a general view of the aforementioned characteristics as they apply to the general population, and ultimately, as they relate to Black adolescent unwed pregnancy.

Longitudinal Examination of Adolescent Sexual Behavior

It is all but impossible to address the issue of teen pregnancy without addressing the phenomenon of sexual behavior among adolescents. The most dramatic
increase in adolescent sexual participation in this century seemed to occur during what might be called the 'flapper' period extending roughly from 1915-1925 (Osofsky, 1971). The span of time since this initial increase has demonstrated a steadily escalating number of sexually active adolescents. As this sexual participation grew, so did the feeling within the adolescent group that this participation was a right that accompanied adolescence. Unfortunately, this is a right which is too frequently exercised in the absence of thought as to the responsibilities which accompany this participation (Thornburg, 1979).

Perhaps it is due to this change in perception of sexual values or alterations in adolescent 'rights of passage.' That the illegitimacy rate for women under twenty years of age began to increase between the twenty year period of 1938-1957. The increase during this period for adolescents age 15-19 years was 108 per cent.

Chilman (1979) has collectively reviewed several

14 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
surveys reflecting adolescent sexuality during the late 1960s and early 1970s. This period in history was found to be one of rapid attitudinal change regarding sexuality, particularly among the high school group. The Chilman (1979) review went further to report that during this period an increasing number of high school aged adolescents had gained greater acceptance of sexually related issues such as intercourse, abortion, homosexuality, and having children outside of marriage. Chilman's feelings, when combined with a 1973 survey (Yankelvich, 1974) indicating that adolescents were perceiving sexual activity to be more a matter of personal choice rather than traditional morality, indicate that substantial social evolution had occurred within the area of adolescent sexual participation and thought.

The late 1960s and early 1970s were landmark years for adolescent sexuality not only in attitudinal change but also in participation. During this period sexual intercourse was thought to be a more available option for

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16 Ibid.
17 Ibid.
18 Ibid.
the adolescent than ever before in history. It has been estimated that nearly one-fourth of the White females at this time were sexually experienced by age sixteen. Differential estimates for Black adolescents report nearly fifty percent of the females as being sexually experienced by that age (Finkel and Finkel, 1975; Jessor and Jessor, 1975; Kantner and Zelnick, 1972; Sorenson, 1973; Vener and Stewart, 1974).

In 1978, Dryfoos reported that the sexually active female adolescent population was made up of forty percent of all females aged 15-19. Additional examination found fifty-eight percent of these young women to be living within families whose annual income exceeded the federal poverty level by better than two hundred percent, forty percent to be under age eighteen, and almost thirty percent of these young women to reside in non-metropolitan areas. This same report identified 375,000 sexually active adolescent women in the 13 to 14 year-old range.

Miller concluded in 1978 that if there exists a


Ibid.
mythical average age for the initiation of sexual activity, at least for sexual intercourse, Miller (1978) suggests that this age would be fifteen. Although the Chilman (1979) summary data have described a substantial degree of participation before the age of fifteen, other research provides some evidence that the age of fifteen is a reasonable starting point to assume the likelihood of sexual experience. As an example, Klerman (1975: 264) presents findings which report differential participation in sexual activity by age following a pattern which appears as (1) fourteen percent participation among fifteen-year-olds, (2) twenty-one percent participation within the sixteen-year-old population, (3) twenty-seven percent participation within the sixteen-year-old population, (3) twenty-seven percent participation by age seventeen, (4) thirty-seven percent participation in sexual activity by age eighteen, and (5) forty-six percent participation by the final adolescent year nineteen.

Another view concerning the age at which sexual activity begins is that there are variations among racial groups. This survey also finds differential rates
between racial groups in that fifty-four percent of the Black adolescent women studied had experienced intercourse between the ages of fifteen and nineteen as compared with twenty-three percent of the White adolescents sampled. Zelnick, Kim, and Kantner (1979) report that thirty-five percent of all adolescent females who are sexually active will become pregnant at some point in their adolescent sexual career.

According to Chilman (1979: 122), in comparison to the practices of the 1960s, fewer of today's adolescent females are content to cease sexual participation at the point of petting. Certainly this steadily changing attitude toward and participation in sexual intercourse contributes to the problem of Black adolescent unwed pregnancy.

Clark Vincent, in his application of the concept of illegitimacy seems to hold that the Principle of Legitimacy is universal, but stresses that the phenome-

22 Ibid.
24 Ibid.
non of illegitimacy related not only to this principle but to closely related norms as well. That is, a society may, while holding negative sanctions against illegitimacy, at the same time, maintain permissive norms about related behavior. Thus, in Vincent's words, "There is need to consider attitudes and social policy about illicit sexual behavior within the larger social context."

Theoretical Perspectives

According to Vincent, it is the area of closely related tracts of behavior that one finds relativity of values between cultures. It is among those cultures that hold negative norms against both nonmarital sexual intercourse and illegitimacy that one finds low rates of illegitimacy. Conversely, cultures with contradictory norms (that is are permissive towards non-marital sexual intercourse and condemning of illegitimacy) will have high illegitimacy rates. Such cultures see the act of

illegitimacy and not the act of promiscuity as bad.

It is a further contention that the contradiction in social goals allows only the most intelligent and highly socialized individuals to avoid becoming involved in unwed parenting.

In attempting to understand the causes of illegitimacy, researchers have analyzed the personalities of unwed mothers and their parents, and investigated various aspects of background and interaction. Josselyn, writing about the unmarried mother, lists seven impulses expressed in sexuality:

(a) feelings of inadequacy
(b) a wish to be loved
(c) a wish to mother
(d) a wish to have a gift for the mother
(e) competition with the mother (the father of the baby is identified with her own father)
(f) a wish to have a baby with whom to identify (to become the sort of mother she wished she had had) and
(g) hostility toward men (a way to make a man capitulate to her powers)" 28

27 Ibid.
28 Ibid.
The final theory to be viewed is cultural relationism. The concept of cultural relationism, as originally formulated by Karl Manneheim, was introduced in his development of a sociological theory of knowledge. Rejecting both the relativistic and absolute definitions of knowledge, Manneheim stated that "all of the elements in a given situation have reference to one another and derive their significance from this reciprocal relationship in a given frame of thought." Thus the theorist reasons that childrearing practices of the impoverished differ from those of the affluent. Accordingly, if there is a subculture of poverty, it is expected that:

(1) the way children are reared effects their later achievement of an adequate income
(2) these childrearing ways differ markedly between the poor and the nonpoor
(3) and that those ways that were acquired by the parents in their own childhood and youth are maintained. 29

Just as researchers have related adolescent pregnancy to socio-economic status they have also indicated that level of self esteem has a bearing on this phenomenon.

29 Ibid.
Self Esteem

Studies in regard to teen pregnancy since their inception in the 1920s have gone through transitional phases. Originally researchers viewed teen pregnancy as a pathology. By the 1950s researchers began to examine the phenomenon in relationship to sub-culture identity, socioeconomic levels and environmental influences. The literature reviewed in this chapter is intended to be insightful in regard to research conducted to examine the relationship between Black adolescent pregnancy and self esteem.

In 1964 Zonker studied a group of adolescent females to determine their levels of self esteem. In order to test for possible differences, a self concept instrument was administered to pregnant school age mothers over a period of two years. Scores were then compared with the published norms of the test instrument and with scores of a control group from the same city. Results were examined to investigate the self concepts of the subjects as well as the presence and nature of possible differences between the two samples.

The subjects composing the two population groups were Florida secondary school students who had become pregnant, and had voluntarily enrolled in a school-age
parent program. The non-parenting group consisted of a random sampling of students from a high school which was the most centrally located secondary school in the same city and least susceptible to a skewed socioeconomic distribution.

The self portrait painted by mean scores of the pregnant adolescents on both scales of the Tennessee Self Concept Scale revealed that they had pervasive feelings of being 'bad', dissatisfaction with their own behavior, intense doubts about their identity, and only nominal feelings of self worth. The subjects were defensive, unhappy with the relationships that they had with their families and with society in general, and basically overwhelmed by feelings of low self esteem. They were poorly integrated as persons, possessed a deficit of coping behaviors, and exhibited a high degree of instability and conflict.

The control group also registered low mean scores on the counseling scales, ranking between 20th and 30th percentiles on a profile of nationally normed subjects.

31 Ibid.
In contrast with the school age mothers, there was an absence of psychological maladjustment, as measured by the research and clinical scales, and no mean score was sufficiently low enough to be considered deviant. The highest mean score registered by the control group was on a measure reflecting feelings of personal adequacy. These adolescents were from a lower socioeconomic background.

Economic status is a variable that is highly interactive with minority group participation, and evidence would suggest that the problems of the minority adolescent are shared by the lower-socioeconomic status adolescent. Cutright (1972) has claimed that nearly sixty percent of illegitimate births are to nonwhite females and about eighty percent of the nonwhite females with illegitimate births are living below poverty level. This turns the perspective to that offered by Herzog (1962), and supported by Reiss (1976), that illegitimacy predominately occurs within the poor population. These and other researchers have concluded that poverty, minority group status and illegitimacy appear to be strongly interrelated. There is a circular relationship

in that either poverty or minority group status can lead to limitations in life options which, in turn, can lead to limitations in life which, in turn lead to limitations in self valuation. This type of relationship can finally result in the inability to deal with problems and sometimes contributes to an unintended pregnancy.

Furstenberg (1976) has studied a group of first-time pregnant adolescents who were living at home and below poverty level. Within this group, nearly fifty percent of the perspective grandmothers had produced their first child before age 18 and at least twenty-five percent of these women had borne an out-of-wedlock child. This modeling effect, when combined with the restriction in occupational and educational aspirations which often accompany the adolescent pregnancy (Osofsky, 1968:9) may convince the lower socioeconomic status adolescents that this is an inescapable life pattern. This has been

33 Ibid.
34 Ibid.
36 Ibid.
cited as the major reason behind the repetition of the adolescent pregnancy cycle across generations of lower socioeconomic status families. This cycle is more easily entered into by the poor adolescent and one which is much more difficult for that adolescent to escape.

Cutright and Furstenberg, though not studying self-esteem specifically, have indirectly touched upon the variable as it relates to level of aspiration.

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) study, funded by the Administration for Children, Youth and Families, followed nearly 200 mothers from Chicago, Cleveland and Minneapolis/St. Paul who were under age 16 at the time of their first delivery through their babies' first two years. All were in contact with a social service agency during pregnancy and immediately after the baby's birth. The target population was predominately Black. Information for the study was gathered in two interviews with each young mother, the first when the baby was about three months old and the second at 18 months. Most of the interviews, which lasted for several hours each took place in the mothers' homes, but about

37 Ibid.
38 Ibid.
one-third were held in the agencies where the mothers were receiving services.

By the time of the second interview, 19 percent of the young mothers had become pregnant again. This rate of repeat pregnancies within the same time period was also found in a study of teenage mothers who were, on the average, 1 1/2 years older than the mothers in the CWLA study. The subsequent pregnancy rate among the predominantly Black, older adolescents in Furstenberg's study was even higher. About one-quarter became pregnant again within one year and over 40 per cent in two years.

The 12-15 year old mothers in the CWLA study had high educational aspirations. Several months after delivery, most said they hoped to finish high school and four out of ten indicated that they wanted to obtain college degrees. Over time, however, many decreased their educational expectations and fewer thought they would actually be able to achieve their goals.

40 Ibid.
41 Ibid.
42 Ibid.
Researchers concluded that though these adolescent mothers had access to birth control measures they did little or nothing to prevent second pregnancies as a whole. The mothers expressed the feeling that their pregnancy was something that 'just happened', perhaps, magically. The adolescent parents seemed to view themselves as passive victims of fate to someone else's act. This self image seemed to permeate all other life adjustments. This was especially the case for the 12-15 year olds.

These studies tend to exemplify a relationship between Black adolescent unwed pregnancy and level of self esteem. The populations studied exhibited behaviors that were indicative of low levels of self worth and scored poorly on measurement tests. In addition to low levels of self esteem a vast number of adolescent females who were pregnant or were parents lived in households where fathers were not present.

Father Presence in Household

It is believed by researchers that a relationship

43 Ibid.
44 Ibid.
between Black adolescent unwed pregnancy and father presence in the household is significant. According to Leontine Young even when illegitimacy is not acceptable, the relationship between family members is an important factor. Leontine Young studied 100 unmarried mothers aged 18-40. None of her subjects came from backgrounds where illegitimacy was socially acceptable. However, she found that many of the women came from broken homes with dominating fathers or mothers who were rejecting or cold; happy, healthy relationships with parents were lacking. Consequently, the girls experienced difficulty relating with others. In addition, they appeared to have a strong desire for self punishment.

Not only the mother of the unwed pregnant girl, but the father influences her ideas about sexual relationships and her ability to handle them successfully. The kind of relationship that he has with his wife and children will be crucial. Barglow and his colleagues studied a group of seventy-eight early adolescents, 11-16 year old unwed mothers. These girls

46 Ibid.
were in elementary school, pregnant for the first time, Black, and from the lower socioeconomic class background. They found a common pattern of background factors including broken homes and absence of father figures. In general, these girls were passive-dependent and depressive, and felt that their mothers did not love them. One third of the girls became pregnant again, illegitimately, within twelve months. Most of these girls did not return to school, and if they did had lower grades than those girls who did not become pregnant a second time.

This picture is not unusual. In 1965, the Chicago Board of Health noted that 3,144 girls, 17 years of age and under, had given birth to babies out-of wedlock. Seventy-five per cent of them were Black. Wright working with 108 of these girls, found that 59% came from one-parent homes (that parent usually the mother); one-third of them had, themselves, been conceived out-of-wedlock; grade eight was the median school level; the median age of the girls was fourteen years.

48 Ibid.
Zongker in a study conducted in 1974 found that father-absence was a critical variable in comparing two groups of Black adolescent females. One group was parenting and the other was not.

The sample of teenage mothers had significantly fewer fathers or stepfathers (p = .007) living in the homes from which they came than did the control group. This is consistent with findings of Babikian and Goldman (1971), who theorized that most of the pregnant teenage girls in their study had unresolved oedipal conflicts associated with the relationship to the father or his absence. A total of 60.5% of the school age mothers were without fathers or stepfathers in their homes, as compared to 17.6% of the controls.

The following study though not focusing specifically on the issue of father presence in the household, resulted in findings demonstrating evidence pertaining to this variable. A study conducted in 1986 used multivariate analysis to determine whether age at first

50 Ibid.
birth independently affects the probability of a rapid second birth once the effects of parental education, marital status, wantedness of the first birth and other variables are controlled for. The analysis shows that age at first birth exerts a significant independent effect on the pattern of repeated childbearing among all women, and that major racial and ethnic variations remain in that pattern.

It was proven that Black women are considerably more likely than White women to begin childbearing at young ages. By their twentieth birthday 43 percent of Blacks but 18 percent of Whites have had their first child. Compared with White women, Black women come from a social milieu generally characterized by greater prevalence of early sexual activity, a presumably greater acceptance of early childbearing and a more limited use of contraceptives. Another indication of the special character of the oldest adolescent Black mothers is that they are significantly more likely to have mothers who attended college and are single heads of household (13

52 Ibid.
percent) than are White mothers aged 19-22 (6 percent).
Many of the older adolescents in this study were enrolled in school age well. These findings tend to indicate that Black adolescents develop greater aspirational levels as age increases even though they may come from single female-headed homes.

The previously cited studies indicate that there is a relationship between Black adolescent unwed pregnancy and father presence in the home. These studies clearly offer insight that this relationship merits investigation. In addition, it is being contended that adolescent development is somewhat dependent upon the way that society views the adolescent.

Ibid.
CHAPTER THREE

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Erikson contends that because of a loss of cultural identity, rejection by the majority society, and lack of allowance to assimilate, that Black people in America have developed a sense of inferiority and inadequacy.

"According to Simpson and Yinger, Black children develop an awareness of themselves as different, based on how the majority population responds to them. It is during adolescence that one attempts to define one's self in regard to sex role and self valuation. It is contended that Black adolescents develop a devalued concept of self based on how the majority population views them and the limited opportunities afforded them in the areas of career options and professions. Black adolescents in general and the Black adolescent female in particular, learns that her minority group status is

considered inferior as defined by the majority population.

Simpson and Yinger further observe that most Blacks hold inferior occupations, have inferior education, and maintain an inferior societal status. Simpson and Yinger believe these types of experiences result in self hatred and/or low self esteem.

Ausubel suggests that

"...the development of segregated Negro children in America manifests certain distinctive properties. Negro children live in a predominately lower class subculture that is further characterized by a unique type of family structure, by specially circumscribed opportunities for acquiring status, by varying degrees of segregation from the dominant white majority, and, above all, by a fixed and apparently immutable denigration of their social value, standing, and dignity as human beings because of their skin color."[57]

Although skin color is not a variable within this study it is fundamental to the development of Ausubel's theory.

Ausubel further asserts that,

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Ibid.
57
...it would be remarkable indeed if these factors did not result in significant developmental differences in self-esteem, in aspirations for achievement, in personality adjustment, and in character structure."[58]

Ausubel's theory on personality development maintains three assumptions: "(1) all behavior is motivated; (2) behavior is motivated toward maintaining or enhancing self-esteem; and (3) self-esteem is a function of status. According to Ausubel, there are four major sources of status conferring agencies: (1) family, especially parents, (2) peers, (3) teachers and (4) significant others in the individual's environment."[59] Ausubel contends that socializing agencies grant two types of status (derived and primary).

Derived status is given as a result of family status or status obtained through organizational membership. Primary status is given for development of outstanding skills and abilities which are performed independently of social position or background.

58 Ibid. p. 38.
60 Ibid.
It also appears that father/daughter relationships are a significant part of adolescent development. Accordingly, Lidz propounds that "To a very large degree the adolescent girl, despite her careful attention to what she sees in the mirror, and despite her constant comparisons of her own physique with those of her friends and movie starlets, does not achieve an estimate of her charms by what she sees as much as through how she perceives others regard her; and at this age her father's reactions to her are particularly significant."

When a father is not in the home during adolescence, Litz states that "the situation is aggravated. Further, it is important essential that the father convey to his daughter that he finds her attractive. The sensuous and effectual attachments of the parent of the opposite sex are the obvious channels into which sexual feelings can flow."

Lidz implies that it is possible under these circumstances to be a sexual being with sexual feelings

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without the concern of sexual intercourse. Erikson adds that the 'first love' usually resembles in some way the parent of the opposite sex.

Biller and Weiss contend that the father's presence in the household can be an important reinforcing agent for the development of appropriate sex role behavior in female adolescents. It is suggested that evidence exists that supports the premise that a constructive interplay between father and daughter impacts the daughter's development of specific aspects of the feminine role which will help to shape her identity.

Hetherington and Deur contend that father absent adolescent females more commonly demonstrate inappropriate behavior patterns in relating to males. These theorists suggest that a number of adolescent females submit to heterosexual intercourse because they know no other way to establish or sustain a relationship.

Consequently, it is being theorized that Black adolescent unwed pregnancy is related to father presence

63 Ibid.
65 Ibid. Cited by Hetherington and Deur, p. 35-36.
in household and self esteem. Theorists agree that adolescence in and of itself is a major life crisis. For Black adolescents who are not viewed in the same light as their White counterparts, this period is a dual crisis. For the Black adolescent female who resides in a household that is fatherless it would appear that this period of crisis is even more significant.

Adolescence is the period of life when one begins to prepare for adulthood. One might consider adolescents adult apprentices. Adolescents view themselves and have feelings about themselves based on the input they receive from the environment (society, school, family).

The environment often feeds Black adolescent females negative information in regard to beauty and life expectations. This information results in a level of low self esteem.

Without a father present in the home, the Black adolescent female has no male image through which she can affirm her worth, value and beauty. She has no avenue through which she can affirm her sexual self without the possible consequences of sexual intercourse and eventual unwed pregnancy. As a result, it is being theorized that the Black adolescent female who has no father present in the household (and who is simultaneously ex-
periencing feelings of low self esteem) is more likely to experience an unwed pregnancy than those Black adolescent females who do have a father present in the household.
CHAPTER FOUR

METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive study which has been embarked upon to determine whether or not there is a relationship between Black adolescent pregnancy (independent variable) and self esteem and father presence in the household (dependent variables). An interval scale of measurement was used in conducting this study. The instrument used was a questionnaire. (see Appendices)

In September of 1986 the researcher contacted the directors of three agencies on the southside of Chicago, which provide services to Black adolescent females who are both parenting and non-parenting. Each of the agencies, Roseland Adolescent Parenting Project, Mother's Enrichment and The Harris Young Parents Programs are part of an Illinois statewide project to combat teen pregnancy and reduce infant mortality and morbidity. The agencies also sponsor programs that address issues such as sex education and educational tutoring. Permission from these agencies was granted.

The researcher requested that she be allowed to administer a questionnaire to each agency's Black
adolescent female population between the ages of 13 through 17 years of age. A list of names of those females who were not parenting and those who were parenting was provided by each agency. The three lists of parenting adolescents and the three lists of non-parenting adolescents from each agency were combined. This procedure resulted in a list of 200 parenting teens and 175 non-parenting teens.

The researcher then randomly selected twenty subjects from each list. The procedure followed was the selection of every sixth name until a total of twenty names from each list was acquired. Names of selected subjects were verified at the appropriate agency to determine if the subjects were presently active within the support group component of programming.

Following verification it was requested that the researcher be allowed to visit each site once on the afternoon of the subjects group meeting day and administer the questionnaire prior to the scheduled group meeting. A questionnaire was administered to each subject in a group at the three sites.

The research hypothesis for this study is that:

\[ H \]

There is a significant relationship between father
presence in the household, self esteem and Black adolescent unwed pregnancy.

There is no significant relationship between father presence in the household, self esteem and Black adolescent unwed pregnancy.

The research questions to be answered are:

1. Is there a significant relationship between father presence in the household, self esteem and Black adolescent unwed pregnancy?

2. Is there a significant difference in the pregnancy rate of Black female adolescents whose fathers are present in the home and Black female adolescents whose fathers are not present in the home?

3. Is there a significant difference in the level of self esteem among Black adolescent females who become pregnant and Black adolescent females who do not become pregnant?

The instrument employed was the Clinical Measurement Package Index of Self-Esteem (ISE) Questionnaire (refer to Appendix). This is a twenty-five item questionnaire designed to measure how one sees one's self. It is a self administered questionnaire. Some examples of items are:

I feel that people would not like me if they really knew me well
I feel that others get along better than I do
I feel ugly etc.

The items were responded to in degrees of time. These degrees include:

1. Rarely or none of the time
2. A little of the time
3. Some of the time
4. Good part of the time and
5. Most or all of the time.

This scale has a reliability of .90 or better and has good content, concurrent, factorial, discriminant and construct validity. The scoring range of the scale is from zero to one-hundred. The clinical cutting score is thirty (30). That is, if a person scores above thirty (30) on this scale it is usually found that the individual in question has low self esteem. The higher the score the lower the self-esteem level and the lower the score the higher the self esteem level. This package also includes a reverse scoring feature for specific items. The computation formula is:

\[ Y = 6 - X \]
\[ S = Y - N \]

- \( X \) = original number score
- \( Y \) = score after reversal
- \( S \) = sum of all item scores after reversal
- \( N = 25 \)
The researcher included a demographic questionnaire to determine if a father was present in the household and if he was present when the adolescent became pregnant.

All scores were calculated from each group and a calculation of the mean scores for each group's scores followed (see Table 1). The t-ratio test was employed to test the significance of the mean scores. The t-ratio measures the degree of variation among sets of scores. Finally, the level of confidence was set at .05.

This study was limited to Black adolescent unwed mothers and Black adolescent females between the ages of 13 through 17 years. The population studied was actively involved in programming at either the Roseland Adolescent Project, the Harris Young Parents Program or the Mother's Enrichment Program, located on the southside of Chicago. This study does not address the adolescent that is not receiving support services, living in rural areas or is socially, politically and/or economically advantaged.
CHAPTER FIVE

FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK

The t-test indicates that the researcher should accept the hypothesis and reject the null hypothesis. The non-parenting adolescents consisted of three (3) females between the ages of 11-13 years (15%), fifteen females between the ages of 14-16 (75%), and two females between the ages of 17-19 (10%). The non-parenting adolescents had a mean score of self esteem of 18.95 (see Tables #1 and 3). Sixteen (16) of these females or 80% have fathers present in their households. Four (4) or 20% have no fathers present in the household (see Table #5). The mean scores of the self esteem level among those adolescents who are non-parenting and have fathers present in their households is 16.75. The mean scores of the self esteem level among those adolescents who are non-parenting and do not have fathers present in their households is 36.25 (see Tables #6 and 9).

The parenting adolescents consisted of two (2) females between the ages of 11-13 years (10%), fifteen (15) females between the ages of 14-16 years (75%) and three (3) females between the ages of 17-19.
years (15%). The parenting adolescents have a mean score of self esteem of 57.55 (see Tables # 2 and 3). Two (2) or 10% of these females have fathers present in the household. Eighteen (18) or 90% do not have fathers present in their households (see Table 4). The mean score of self esteem level among those adolescents who are parenting and have fathers present in their households is 36.25. The mean scores of the self esteem level among adolescents who are parenting and do not have fathers present in their households is 64.65 (see Tables # 7 and 8).

The following section of this chapter consists of the t test, tables and diagrams depicting graphic illustrations and explanations of the findings of this study. The final section will include the implications for social work practice.

T-TEST OF PARENTING/NONPARENTING BLACK FEMALE ADOLESCENTS

\[
\text{Standard Error of Difference} \quad \text{odrs} = \sqrt{\left(\bar{x}_1^2 + \bar{x}_2^2\right)^2}
\]

\[
\sqrt{(57.55)^2 + (18.95)^2}
\]

\[
\sqrt{3312.0020 + 359.1025}
\]
odrs = \sqrt{3671.1051} \\
\text{odrs} = 60.589644

\text{odrs} = \text{standard error of difference} \\
1 \quad x = \text{mean of parenting sample} \\
2 \quad x = \text{mean of non parenting sample}

T = \frac{57.55 + 18.95}{60.589644} + \frac{76.50}{60.589644}

T = .7920214

t = \text{The t ratio was used to translate the sample mean difference into units of standard error of difference} \\
The t ratio for this population was reached by taking the difference between the sample means and dividing by the standard error of the difference.

\text{Distribution of Frequency}

s^1 + s^2 - 2 \\
20 + 20 - 2 \\
40 - 2 \\
38

s = \text{size of parenting sample} \\
s = \text{size of non parenting sample} \\
\sqrt{\text{square root}}
The t test for small sample comparisons is a statistical technique that indicates the direction and degree that the mean difference falls from zero on a scale of standard deviation units. The t test indicates that the researcher should accept the hypothesis and reject the null hypothesis. The hypothesis was accepted based on a .05 level of confidence: a level of probability at which the null hypothesis is rejected if an obtained sample difference occurs by chance only five (5) times or less out of one hundred (100). In summary the t test findings indicated that there will be a difference in the level of self esteem among parenting and non parenting adolescents.
ninety-five (95) times out of one hundred (100) and that the level of self esteem among non parenting teens will be higher ninety-five (95) times out of one hundred (100).

TABLE 1

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLE
FOR NON PARENTING ADOLESCENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGES</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 - 10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - 13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - 16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 - 19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEAN SCORE OF NON PARENTING = 18.95

This table shows the distribution of age within the portion of the tested sample that was non parenting. Three (3) subjects were between the ages of 11-13, fifteen (15) subjects were between the ages of 14-16 and two (2) subjects were between the ages of 17-19. The percentage of the non-parenting population tested that were between the ages of 11-13 years was fifteen (15). The percentage between the ages of 14-16 was seventy-five
(75) and the percentage between the ages of 17-19 was ten (10). The mean score of the level of self esteem for the group of non-parenting teens was 18.95. The mean score is significantly lower than thirty (30) on the ISE scale. This score indicated a high level of self esteem.

**TABLE 2**

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLE FOR PARENTING ADOLESCENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGES</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 - 10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - 13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - 16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 - 19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEAN SCORE OF PARENTING = 57.55

Table 2 shows the age distribution of the adolescents in the parenting portion of the population. Two (2) subjects were between the ages of 11-13, fifteen (15) were between the ages of 14-16 and three (3) were between the ages of 17-19. Those subjects between the ages of 11-13 years
constituted ten (10) percent of the population. Those subjects between the ages of 14-16 years constituted seventy-five (75) percent of the population. Finally, those subjects between the ages of 17-19 years constituted fifteen (15) percent of the sample of parenting teens. The mean score of the level of self esteem of those subjects who were parenting was 57.55. This score signifies a low level of self esteem (above 30 on the ISE Measurement Scale).

TABLE 3
MEAN SELF ESTEEM OF SAMPLE POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARENTING</th>
<th>NON PARENTING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57.55</td>
<td>18.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3 shows the mean scores of the parenting and non-parenting teens. The parenting teens had a combined mean score of 57.55. The non-parenting teens had a combined self-esteem score of 18.95. This table indicates a significant difference between levels of self esteem for the parenting teens and the non-parenting teens. The researcher concludes that pregnancy has a significant relationship to level of self esteem among adolescents.

**TABLE 4**

PERCENTAGE OF PARENTING ADOLESCENTS 
WITH/WITHOUT FATHERS PRESENT IN THE HOUSEHOLD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARENTING</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FATHER PRESENT IN HOUSEHOLD</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FATHER NOT PRESENT IN HOUSEHOLD</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4 shows the number and percentage of subjects within the sampled population that have fathers present in the household and those subjects who do not have fathers present in the household among teens that are parenting. Of the parenting population eighteen (18) or ninety percent do not have a father present in the household. Based on the findings of table 3 (mean scores of the level of self esteem among parenting and non-parenting teens) and the findings in this table there is a clear indication that the level of self esteem among teens is related to adolescent pregnancy and father presence in the household.
### TABLE 5

PERCENTAGE OF NON PARENTING ADOLESCENTS WITH/WITHOUT FATHERS PRESENT IN THE HOUSEHOLD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NON PARENTING</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FATHER PRESENT IN HOUSEHOLD</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FATHER NOT PRESENT IN HOUSEHOLD</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table shows the number and percentage of teens who are not parenting and who have fathers present in the household. Table 5 also indicates the number and percentage of adolescents who are not parenting and do not have fathers present in the household. Of the non-parenting teens sixteen (16) or eighty percent of this segment of the population have fathers present in the household.
household. When compared to tables number three (3) and four (4) a higher level of self esteem is demonstrated by teens who are non-parenting and have fathers present within the household.

**TABLE 6**

MEAN SCORE OF NON PARENTING ADOLESCENTS WITH/WITHOUT FATHERS PRESENT IN THE HOUSEHOLD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NON PARENTING</th>
<th>MEAN SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FATHER PRESENT IN HOUSEHOLD</td>
<td>16.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FATHER NOT PRESENT IN HOUSEHOLD</td>
<td>36.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 6 shows the mean score of those adolescents who are non-parenting and who have fathers present in the household and the mean score of those adolescents who are non-parenting and do not have fathers present in the household. The mean self-esteem score of 16.75 for those teens who are non-parenting and have fathers present in the household is significantly higher than the self-esteem mean score (36.25) of those adolescents who do not have fathers present in the household. This table indicates that there is a significant relationship between the level of self-esteem of female adolescents and father presence in the household among the non-parenting subjects.
Table 7 shows the mean scores of the level of self esteem among parenting teens. The mean score of the sample that had fathers present in the household was 36.25 and the mean score of those adolescents who were parenting and did not have fathers present in the household was 64.652. Though the mean score of self esteem is low for the total...
population, the female adolescents who do not have fathers present in the household is significantly higher than those adolescent females who have fathers present in the household. These findings indicate that there is a relationship between self esteem and father presence in the household among adolescent females who are parenting.

Table 8 is a diagram that depicts the individual self esteem scores of the subjects tested who are parenting. All subjects scored eighteen (18) points or more above the ISE cutting score of thirty (30) with the exception of one (1) subject. The cutting score for the ISE scale is thirty (30). All subjects scoring above thirty (30) on this scale have a low level of self esteem. All subjects within the sampled population who were parenting had low levels of self esteem with the exception of one (1).

Following table 8 is table 9 which is a diagram that shows the individual self esteem scores of the subjects tested who are not parenting. Fifteen (15) subjects had scores of below thirty (30) on the ISE Scale. These scores indicate a level of high self esteem. Five (5) subjects scored above thirty (30) on the ISE Scale; indicative of a low level of self esteem.
TABLE 8
DISTRIBUTION OF THE SELF ESTEEM SCORES
FOR PARENTING ADOLESCENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Self Esteem Score</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>65</td>
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<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

55
TABLE 9
DISTRIBUTION OF SELF ESTEEM SCORES
FOR NON PARENTING ADOLESCENT
Based on discussion and interpretation of the findings the researcher concludes that there is a significant relationship between father presence in the household, self esteem and Black adolescent unwed pregnancy. There is a significant difference in the pregnancy rate of Black female adolescents whose fathers are present in the home and Black female adolescents whose fathers are not present in the home. In addition, there is a significant difference in the level of self esteem among Black adolescent females who do not become pregnant and those who do.

This research supports the findings of Zongker Barglow, Young and others in that those Black adolescent females who become pregnant have low levels of self esteem. The aforementioned researchers gave note to the fact that adolescent out-of-wedlock pregnancy is a phenomenon that occurs overwhelmingly among the lower socioeconomic population group. It might be considered that those Black adolescents who compose this strata of the population live within the confines of limited opportunity to elevate their life aspirations. The findings also support theories of the need for adolescents to be able to realistically plan their futures and begin to be involved in goal-directed
behavior towards adult professions or occupations.

It may well be that because the socially, economically and politically disadvantaged Black adolescent female finds few examples of a promising and upward mobile future (through role models) that there is no perceived need to delay intercourse and/or adolescent unwed pregnancy. The premise held by these young women seems to be one of little optimism in regard to a positive and enterprising adulthood. This state of being coupled with the lack of a father present in the home seems to breed an environment ripe for the occurrence of an unwed adolescent pregnancy.

As the studies reviewed have disclosed, as well as the findings of this research, there seems to be a significant relationship between father presence in the home and Black adolescent unwed pregnancy. As Litz and Erikson have stated, perhaps there is a need during the period of adolescence for the female to have an avenue through which to verify herself as a sexual being. Further, it may be that within the father/daughter relationship during this period the female is allowed to assert herself and receive positive affirmation in regard to beauty and being loved in an unconditional manner.

Perhaps it is the human need for this affirmation by the father during this stage of development that
stimulates the adolescent female to seek to fulfill this need through other male figures. Perhaps the consequences of this behavior is an unwed pregnancy. There appears little doubt that there is a need for further study in the area of the relationship between Black adolescent unwed pregnancy, self esteem and father presence in the household.

It might behoove social work practitioners to concentrate on efforts designed to alleviate some of the adverse stress factors associated with this stage of development among Black females. Perhaps community based agencies should develop programming designed to address the issues of self esteem and lack of father presence in households in relationship to Black adolescent unwed pregnancy. Social workers might consider how it is that they can alter this social condition as well.

Social workers might employ their skills as change agents, enablers and teachers from a non-deficit perspective in practice with impoverished Black families and Black adolescent females. There is certainly no doubt that social workers at the macro, mezzo and micro levels have a responsibility to society, the profession and themselves in aiding in the amelioration of Black adolescent unwed pregnancy.
APPENDICES
This questionnaire is part of a research study that is being conducted as partial requirement for completion of graduate work at Atlanta University. All information contained in this questionnaire is anonymous. Your individual name is not needed and will not be included in this study. THANK YOU for your time and assistance.
NON PARENTING SAMPLE
QUESTIONNAIRE

Age 13-17

Is father living in the home 16 yes 4 no

Parental Religion

Protestant 18
Catholic
Other
None 2

Number of brothers and sisters in the home

Mother's Education

Did not complete high school 3
Did complete high school 12
Has not completed college 3
Has completed college 2

Father's Education

Did not complete high school 8
Did complete high school 7
Has not completed college 5
Has completed college

Please Answer the Following Questions Yes Or No

Do you or your family receive public assistance 10 yes 10 no
Do you or your family receive Food Stamps 11 yes 9 no
Do you or your family receive WIC 18 yes 2 no
Do you or your family receive Social Security, Unemployment Compensation or Veteran's Compensation 20 no

Family's estimated weekly income 250-400 dollars
QUESTIONNAIRE

Is Your Mother:

- Married and living with husband: 16 How long 10-20 years
- Married and separated from husband: 2 How long 5-10 years
- Divorced: 2 How long 5-7 years
- Living with boyfriend: How long

Mother's age 36-50
Father's age 36-55

Have you ever been pregnant: 20 no
Have you ever had a miscarriage or abortion: 20 no
Do you have a child: 20 no What is child's age: N.A.
PARENTING SAMPLE
QUESTIONNAIRE

Age 13-17
Is father living in the home 2 yes 18 no

Parental Religion
Protestant 12
Catholic 3
Other 3
None 2

Number of brothers and sisters in the home 0-8

Mother's Education
Did not complete high school 6
Did complete high school 11
Has not completed college 3
Has completed college

Father's education
Did not complete high school 3
Did complete high school 12
Has not completed college 4
Has completed college 1

Please Answer the Following Questions Yes Or No
Do you or your family receive public assistance 18 yes 2 no
Do you or your family receive Food Stamps 18 yes 2 no
Do you or your family receive WIC
Do you or your family receive Social Security, Unemployment Compensation or Veteran's Compensation 20 no

Family's estimated weekly income 175-500 dollars

64
QUESTIONNAIRE

Is Your Mother:

Married and living with husband  2  How long 5-15 years
Married and separated from husband  9  How long 5-10 years
Divorced  4  How long 10-15 years
Living with boyfriend  5  How long 6 months-1 year

Mother's age  29-40
Father's age  35-55

Have you ever been pregnant  yes
Have you ever had a miscarriage or abortion  3 yes  17 no
Do you have a child  yes  What is child's age  5 months-2 years
INDEX OF SELF ESTEEM

This questionnaire is designed to measure how you see yourself. It is not a test, so there are no right or wrong answers. Please answer each item as carefully and accurately as you can by placing a number by each one as follows:

1. Rarely or none of the time
2. A little of the time
3. Some of the time
4. A good part of the time
5. Most or all of the time

Please begin.

1. I feel that people would not like me if they really knew me well.
2. I feel that others get along much better than I do.
3. I feel that I am a beautiful person.
4. When I am with other people I feel that they are glad that I am with them.
5. I feel that people really like to talk with me.
6. I feel that I am a very competent person.
7. I think I make a good impression on others.
8. I feel that I need more self confidence.
9. When I am with strangers I am very nervous.
10. I think that I am a dull person.
11. I feel ugly.
12. I feel that other's have more fun than I do.
13. I feel that I bore people.

15. I think I have a good sense of humor.

16. I feel very self conscious when I am with strangers.

17. I feel that if I could be more like other people I would have it made.

18. I feel that people have a good time when they are with me.

19. I feel like a wallflower when I go out.

20. I feel I get pushed around more than others.

21. I think I am a rather nice person.

22. I feel that people really like me very much.

23. I feel that I am a likeable person.

24. I am afraid I will appear foolish to others.

25. My friends think very highly of me.
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