



## Supporting Positive Engagement Among Young Fathers and their Children

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# Roadmap for Today's Talk

- Who are young fathers?
- Young fathers' perspectives
- What shapes their involvement with their children?
- Tips for supporting young father's engagement with their children in PREP programming
- Q&A
- Resources



# Who Are Young Fathers?

- Age 20 or younger
  - Or older if their partner is a teen
- Often in a romantic relationship with mother prior to child's birth
- However, many are no longer in a romantic relationship by the child's first birthday
- Highly involved in the child's first year, but involvement decreases over time
- Can positively influence their child's life



# What Do Young Fathers Have to Say About Being a Good Father?

“Being a good father is always being there for your family and significant other as well. Family always comes first, and you will know how to love and care for your children.”<sup>1</sup>

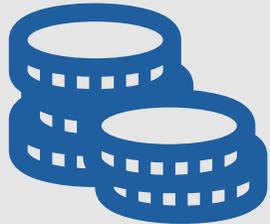
“[The program] taught me [that] if you can’t be there financially, you still need to be there mentally... They connected a whole lot of the dots for me... Just being a dad or a parent doesn’t just stop at the financial responsibility... It just made me think about just a lot of the different areas that I wasn’t there for [my oldest daughter]. It just kind of woke my senses up. It was kind of an awakening... I can’t go back [in] time and change anything. I can’t get a redo. [But] the things that I picked up from [the program] show me that I have a lot to offer”<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Quote from young fathers interviewed as part of the AIM 4 Teen Moms Study; Laris, B. A. (2017). *Young fathers interview report: A sub-study of AIM 4 Teen Moms*. Final report. Los Angeles, CA: ETR Associates & Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

<sup>2</sup>Holcomb, Pamela, Kathryn Edin, Jeffrey Max, Alford Young, Jr., Angela Valdovinos D’Angelo, Daniel Friend, Elizabeth Clary, Waldo E. Johnson, Jr. (2015). *In Their Own Voices: The Hopes and Struggles of Responsible Fatherhood Program Participants in the Parents and Children Together Evaluation*. OPRE Report Number 2015-67. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

# Factors That Influence Father Engagement



# Supporting Young Fathers' Engagement



## Tip Sheet

**FYSB** Family & Youth  
Services Bureau

Adolescent Pregnancy  
Prevention Program



## Supporting Young Fathers' Engagement with Their Children

September 2018

Young males who become fathers during adolescence and young adulthood are simultaneously navigating the complex realities of parenthood and their own growth and development. Many young fathers have low rates of employment, limited opportunities to further their education, and few opportunities for economic stability. These demands and responsibilities often heighten stress and undermine their ability to solidify their own sense of identity while nurturing their child and maintaining a co-parenting relationship with their child's mother.

# Elements of Young Father Programs



Self-sufficiency



Physical and  
mental health



Social  
integration



Housing  
stability



Financial  
stability



Parenting skills



Healthy  
relationships



Awareness of  
legal issues

# Key Strategies to Engage Young Fathers in PREP Programming

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- Address their needs as dads:
  - Education and career services
  - Relationship education
  - Model how to parent
- Assess other needs and refer for services as needed



# Key Strategies to Engage Young Fathers in PREP Programming (cont.)

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- Make them feel comfortable in your space
  - Have culturally specific discussions about fatherhood
  - Make sure your physical space, messaging, timing of services, and staff are “father friendly”





Questions?

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# Questions

- What are some of the challenges that you face when trying to engage fathers in programming?
- What can be done to overcome these challenges?
- How do practitioners/program facilitators share information to support abstinence and contraception to avoid future unplanned births?

## Questions (cont.)

- How do young mothers feel about fathers' engagement with their children?
- What do we know from research about coparents' buy-in (support and facilitation of father engagement with their children)?
- How can programs support both parents?

## Questions (cont.)

- Are there any best practices for working with young fathers who have children with more than one partner?
- How do you help young fathers stay engaged when they are co-parenting with more than one other parent?
- What is one action you will take based on what you learned?

# Resources for Young Fatherhood Programs



Resource	Topic	Format
<a href="#"><u>Supporting Young Father' Engagement With Their Children</u></a>	Program elements of integrated programs that support young fathers	Tip Sheet
<a href="#"><u>Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit: Resources from the Field</u></a>	Fatherhood programs	Toolkit
<a href="#"><u>Supporting Young Fathers</u></a>	Serving young fathers in the community	Toolkit
<a href="#"><u>Programs for Dads</u></a>	Programs serving underserved, at-risk populations	Webpage
<a href="#"><u>Fatherhood Program Development Resources</u></a>	Program development and performance monitoring	Toolkits; Reports; Briefs
<a href="#"><u>Recruiting and Retaining Men in Responsible Fatherhood Programs</u></a>	Recruitment and retention	Research-to-Practice Brief
<a href="#"><u>Working with Pregnant and Parenting Teens</u></a>	Serving pregnant and parenting teens	Tip Sheet

Contact us!

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# Let's Hear From You!

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- Please complete a short survey about your experience with today's talk.

<https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/5572395/SRAE-Fatherhood-Webinar-April-2020>