



THE POWER OF “DAD”

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Background


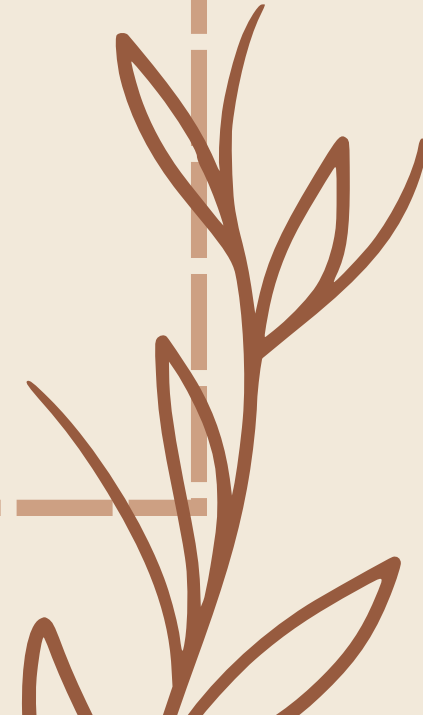
A present father is essential for a child's physical and mental well-being. Research has shown the vital impact that absent black fathers have on their children, in specific their daughters. These effects include early adolescent experiences and births, higher rates of sexual activity during adolescence, increased psychological issues and self esteem issues.





The Problem

There has been an increasing rate of absent African American fathers. The absence of a father in a child's life has a disadvantage impact on the child and can cause a variety of trauma. Effects such as their education, and being unable to thrive academically. The absence of a father also can impact a girl's physical health and development. (Gillette & Gudmunson, 2013) Those without a father are more at risk to become pregnant in adolescent years.

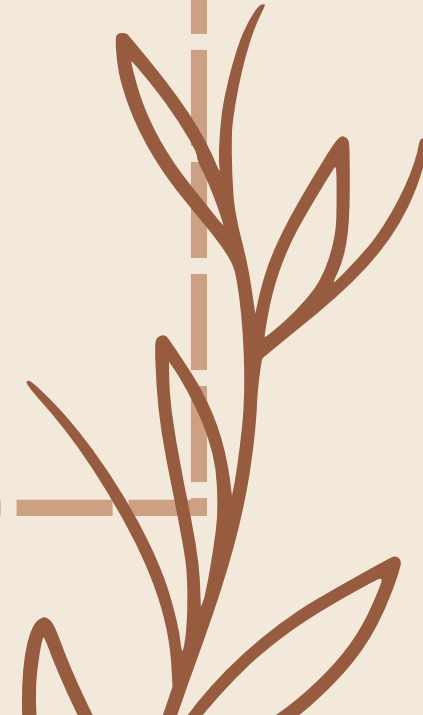




Relevancy to RJ

Females without a father presence, especially African American women are at higher risk for teenage pregnancy. These young women add to the high rates of the black teenage pregnancies throughout the US who are facing inequality in the healthcare system.

Social workers should care about this problem because it is causing more black women to be in the system, suffer from mental and emotional disabilities and cause lifelong trauma.





Interventions

1

Assistant professor, Natasha Crooks is providing a 2 day workshop for black daughters and their male caregivers to talk about female reproductive and sexual health. (Stone, 2024)

2

Spreading awareness and educating people on the impact that absent fathers have on young women so they can be more present in order to break the cycle.

3

Non profit organizations in order to promote greater family involvement.



References

- Stone, E. (2024). Enlisting Dads to Help Improve Black Girls' Reproductive Health.
- Gillette, M. T., & Gudmunson, C. G. (2013). Processes linking father absence to educational attainment among African American females. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 24(2), 309–321.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jora.12066>
- Study: Black dads more involved in activities with their children than other groups. ABC10. (2024b, January 17).
<https://www.abc10.com/article/news/community/race-and-culture/black-dads-more-involved-in-childrens-lives-than-other-groups/103-df371add-144c-40e3-bb3c-986377347fa1>



THANK YOU

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