

# Evaluation of Adolescent Family Life Program: The Role of Participation and Father Involvement on Repeat Pregnancy

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## ABSTRACT

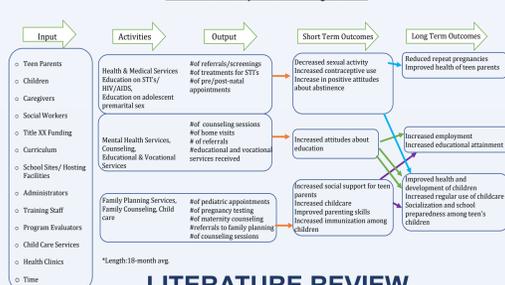
The current study uses secondary data from the dataset, ICPSR 34398, Cross-Site Evaluation of the Title XX Adolescent Family Life Program in 14 States, 2008-2011. In order to answer the evaluation questions, Fisher's Exact tests were performed. Based on the results, there was a strong strength of association between the intervention and comparison groups in the outcome of repeat pregnancy among parenting adolescents. Among the participants that had no father involvement there was no significant relationship between the intervention group and repeat pregnancy. Among the participants that had father involvement there was no significant relationship. Key implications of the findings was that there was no significant relationship between individuals who participated in the program and repeat pregnancy.

## INTRODUCTION

Title XX Adolescent Family Life Program, or AFL, was established to support demonstration projects in developing, implementing, and evaluating strategies in an effort to mitigate the risks with adolescent childbearing and increasing educational attainment (Kan et al., 2012). The purpose of this study was to evaluate the following questions:

1. To what extent has participating in the Care Project prevented pregnancy among parenting adolescents?
2. How does the role of father involvement affect the outcome of repeat pregnancy among parenting adolescents?

Adolescent Family Life - Care Logic Model



## LITERATURE REVIEW

- Social learning theory and social cognitive theory were used in the Adolescent Family Life program.
- Social learning theory focuses on how modeling and imitation processes reinforce certain behaviors and emphasize any consequences to those behaviors as well (Hagenhoff et al., 1987).

## METHODS

**Type of Design:** Secondary data analysis; 16 experimental & quasi- experimental.

**Dataset:** From the dataset, *ICPSR 34398, Cross-Site Evaluation of the Title XX Adolescent Family Life Program in 14 States, 2008-2011*.

**Sampling:** Data was collected from August 2008 to April 2010 and included 469 total participants (Kan et al., 2012). Included adolescents in both the intervention and comparison groups. The study included only parenting female adolescents younger than 19 years old who have one or more children (M. L. Kan et al., 2012). Male partners were also eligible if they were younger than 21 and were actively involved in the life of their child.

**Data Collection Procedures:** Data collected included self-administered paper-and-pencil questionnaires or electronic questionnaires for adolescent respondents at baseline.

**Dependent Variables:**

1. Repeat pregnancy: single question asking the participant if they have been pregnant since taking the baseline survey.

- 0="No" 1= "Yes"

**Other Key Variables:**

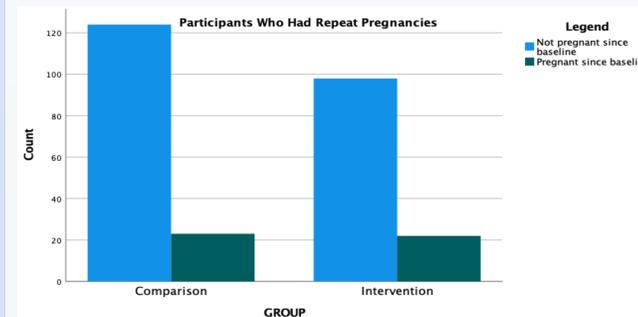
1. Father Involvement (includes financial support, emotional support, and any other support towards the mother and child)
  - Combines 3 variables from original dataset
  - 0="No" 1= "Yes"
  - Possible score range of 0-3. The higher the score, the higher the father involvement. The process was done for baseline and follow-up.

**Demographic Variables:**

- Marital Status: (88%) were single at baseline & at follow-up (93%).
- Age of the participant: (30%) were 19 years old or older. Participants (34%) were 16 years old or younger in the intervention group.
- Current school status: (50%) and intervention group (71%) were in school/ in a GED program.
- Highest grade participant has completed: (39%) were in 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the comparison group, 33.5% were in 11<sup>th</sup> grade in the intervention group.
- Race/ethnicity: The majority of participants (58%) across the two groups were Non-Hispanic Black or African American.

## RESULTS

- Fisher's Exact test was performed to compare the frequency of pregnancy in the comparison and intervention group.
- Results of the Fisher's Exact test, show there was a p value of 0.623.
- Based on the results, **there was no difference between the intervention and comparison groups in the outcome of repeat pregnancy among parenting adolescents.** Among the intervention group, 18.3% of participants were currently pregnant compared to 15.6% of the participants in the comparison group.



- Fisher's Exact test was performed to compare the frequency of father involvement and pregnancy in the comparison and intervention group.
- Of the participants who had no father support, 12% in the comparison group became pregnant. Those who had no father support, 14% in the intervention group became pregnant. P value is 1.000.
- Among the participants that had no father involvement **there was no significant relationship between the intervention group and repeat pregnancy.**
- Of the participants who had father support, 16% in the comparison group became pregnant. Those that had father support, 20% in the intervention group became pregnant. P value is 0.454.
- Among the participants that had father involvement **there was no significant relationship between the intervention group and repeat pregnant.**

## DISCUSSION

**Significance of the Findings:**

These findings correspond to the logic model presented at the beginning of this discussion. One of the long-term effects presented in the logic model was that parenting adolescents would show reduced repeat pregnancies if they participated in the Adolescent Family Life program. In the same way, evidence found has demonstrated that the Adolescent Family Life Program is effective in preventing short-term repeat pregnancy, increasing contraceptive use, and the use of regular child-care (Rosenberg, 2013). Being that the Adolescent Family Life Program based their interventions on the social learning theory and the social cognitive theory, the likelihood of participants being successful increases. The reason being is that these interventions have already been tested in past programs or similar adolescent programs.

**Strengths and Limitations:**

- **Variables Chosen:** Only included categorical variables; measurements were included such as a continuous variable, the results could have been different

**Recommendations for the Program:** Having a long-term follow-up with participants among the comparison and intervention group.

**Implications for Social Work Practice/Policy:** Programs as AFL, should be more readily available to parenting adolescents as a form of support. In addition, programs like the AFL offer individuals core services that adolescents can benefit from like psychoeducation on STI, counseling, and other health services.

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