

Attitudes of Young African American Fathers Toward Early Childbearing

Susan L. Davies, PhD; Emily S. Dix, PhD; Scott D. Rhodes, PhD, MPH
Kathleen F. Harrington, MPH; Sonja Frison, PhD, MPH; Leigh Willis, MPH

Objective: To qualitatively examine the perceptions of young fathers toward issues related to early childbearing. **Methods:** Focus groups were held with male partners of adolescent females who had become pregnant while participating in an HIV-prevention trial. **Results:** Primary domains that emerged included young male's desire for pregnancy, their atti-

tudes toward father/child involvement, and their perceived social support as young fathers. **Conclusions:** Findings may help in developing gender-appropriate interventions to delay early childbearing and prevent HIV/STD transmission.

Key words: African Americans, males, fathers, adolescents, adolescent pregnancy

Am J Health Behav. 2004;28(5):418-425
