

INDIVIDUAL AND MATERNAL INFLUENCES WITH MALE
ADOLESCENT SEXUAL INTIMACY

Author's Institution

Carol A. Grantham, PhD(c), MSN, RN
Georgia State University
College of Health and Human Sciences
Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing
Atlanta, GA 30302-4019

Doctoral student: University of Michigan, School of Nursing
Ann Arbor, MI

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Purpose: The main purpose of this investigation was to examine how certain antecedent individual and family related factors influence sexual intimacy in European American adolescent males.

Method: Utilizing components from the Science of Unitary Human Beings, and Bronfenbrenner's Ecological model, a secondary data analysis was completed with the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) public use dataset. Specific aims were to: 1) Explore the relationships among age, pubertal status, and male adolescent sexual intimacy, 2) Examine the relationship between mother-son connectedness and the son's level of sexual intimacy, 3) Examine how male adolescents' perceptions of their mother's attitudes toward premarital sex are related to their level of sexual intimacy and 4) Determine whether the amount of maternal communication about sexual issues mediates, or moderates, the relationship between mother-son connectedness and male adolescent sexual intimacy. The sample consisted of 897, never married, European American males between 15 and 19 years of age (mean = 16.4 years). An ordinal level dependent variable was developed by the researcher. Ordinal logistic regression and related moderation/mediation analyses were completed.

Findings: Almost one-third ($n = 264$) reported having had sexual intercourse. The mean grade level was that of a sophomore in high school. The age range of mother's was between 26 to 74 years (mean = 43 years). The mean family income was \$56,000 and over three-fourth's (81%) of the mother's reported being married. Both age and pubertal status had a positive, direct relationship with level of sexual intimacy with the adolescent males. With more mother-son connectedness, reported sexual intimacy levels were lower. Interestingly, with more maternal communication about negative aspects of adolescent sexual behavior, level of sexual intimacy was higher. The amount of reported maternal communication was not found to mediate the relationship between mother-son connectedness and level of sexual intimacy. The hypothesized moderation relationship approached statistical significance. Additional methodological findings and research limitations will be presented.

Discussion: Young men report initiating sexual intercourse earlier than young women and tend to have more sexual partners. In addition, sexually transmitted infection rates are very high in the adolescent population. Some recent study findings examining whether or not caregivers influence particular adolescent sexual behaviors indicate that families impact their daughters' behavior more than their sons'. In addition, few studies have focused exclusively on young men and there is a national call for more attention to be paid to men overall. Too, more nursing research should consider potential moderator and/or mediator variables.