

PARENTING

(Josh McDowell research 2005 and prior)

“FAMILY STRUCTURE, FATHER CLOSENESS, AND DELINQUENCY”

“In the initial bivariate test between family structure and delinquency, the expected pattern of family structure results was found for four of the five delinquency indexes (disorder being the exception), and for three of the five, the differences were either largely or completely statistically significant.”

“Executive Summary”

“Some of the significant findings are as follows:”

- “In the initial bivariate test between family structure and delinquency, the expected pattern of family structure results was found for four of the five delinquency indexes (disorder being the exception), and for three of the five, the differences were either largely or completely statistically significant. In other words, the levels of risk for weapons, violence, theft, and running away run, from highest to lowest, as follows: no-parent, single-parent, blended, and intact.”
- “To begin testing the independent effects of father closeness, another multiple regression was run, adding father closeness as an additional independent variable. Father closeness was a statistically significant predictor of four of the five categories of delinquency, the exception being weapons use. Family structure still had direct effects on every variable except weapons and disorder. Interestingly, the differing effects on delinquency between intact families and blended families disappeared, and for the remainder of the paper, intact and blended families were analytically identical.”
- “To further clarify the importance of father closeness, mother closeness was added as an independent variable on top of the previous regression to test if the effects of father closeness were simply a function of mother closeness, which is frequently assumed. The regression revealed that father and mother closeness each had significant effects on their own unique sets of delinquency variables. Father closeness was a significant predictor of violence, disorder, and running away. Mother closeness was a significant predictor of theft, disorder, and running away. Neither predicted weapons use. The direct effects of family structure were eliminated for all of the delinquency factors except running away, although the indirect effects remained, which were mediated through mother and father closeness. More on this follows.”

“Father closeness is independent in its effects. When controlling for all other variables including mother closeness and family structure, father closeness has statistically significant, independent effects on adolescent delinquency. Specifically, for violence, disorder, and running away, father closeness is a statistically significant and robust predictor. Interestingly, unlike the situation for drug use (as described in the companion paper), mother closeness has independent effects on several measures of delinquency, namely theft, disorder, and running away.”

"TOUGH TALKS"

"Percent who have never talked with a parent about:"

	Sexually Active Teens	All teens
"How to talk with a boyfriend or girlfriend about sexual health issues such as pregnancy, birth control and STDs"	58%	57%
"How to know when you are ready to have sex"	56%	48%
"Other STDs"	54%	50%
"Other methods of birth control"	52%	51%
"HIV/AIDS"	48%	44%
"Condoms"	46%	48%

Figure 3. "CONVERSATION CONCERNS"

"Percent who say the following are big reasons why people their age don't talk with their parents about sexual health:

"They worry about their parent's reaction"	83%
"They worry their parents will think they are having sex"	80%
"They are embarrassed"	78%

“They don’t know how to bring it up”	77%
“They don’t think parents understand”	64%

(Sex Smarts – A public information partnership/The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation/July 2002)

“INVOLVED DADS HELP DAUGHTERS’ DEVELOPMENT”

“When Dads cheer on their daughters at soccer matches, their support helps much more than the score.”

“A new study finds fathers who are interested in their daughters' activities -- whether traditionally masculine pursuits such as sports or traditionally feminine ones such as music -- increase the chances that the girls will stay involved with those activities. And this continued participation bodes well for the girls' development.”

“The new research appears in the September-October issue of Child Development.”

“Dr. John D. O'Brien, a psychiatrist at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, said it makes sense that a parent's involvement with a child's activity would influence the child's participation. ‘This transcends gender and has to do with a mutual respect and admiration between the parent and child. It is a recognition of competence by the parent for the child and the process of enjoying an experience together,’ he said.”

(Janice Billingsley, “Involved Dads Help Daughters’ Development,” September 17, 2004, Forbes.com, <http://www.forbes.com/lifestyle/health/feeds/hscout/2004/09/17/hscout521268.html>)

“PARENTS DESCRIBE HOW THEY RAISE THEIR CHILDREN”

“Having a significant faith commitment and an identifiable set of religious beliefs was mentioned by just one out of every five parents as an ingredient required for parental success.”

“Smaller numbers of parents listed elements such as being a praying person (4%) or having integrity or good character (1%) as significant characteristics.”

“By far the top-rated outcome was getting a good education. Four out of every ten parents (39%) listed that as a critical outcome they were committed to facilitating.”

“Helping the child to feel loved was the second most frequently mentioned outcome (24%), followed by enabling them to have a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ (22%).”

“A second situation was whether the parent tells the child that the Bible teaches moral absolutes that must always be obeyed, no matter what the situation is, or instead teaches that there are no moral absolutes, so the child must be prepared to make good choices in every situation without any absolute guidelines. Parents were evenly divided on this matter: 43% said they teach there are some moral absolutes and 45% said they teach that there are no such absolutes.”

“‘You might expect that parents who are born again Christians would take a different approach to raising their children than did parents who have not committed their life to Christ – but that was rarely the case,’ Barna explained. ‘For instance, we found that the qualities born again parents say an effective parent must possess, the outcomes they hope to facilitate in the lives of their children, and the media monitoring process in the household was indistinguishable from the approach taken by parents who are not born again.’”

(“Parents Describe How They Raise Their Children,” February 28, 2005, The Barna Group, <http://www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=BarnaUpdateNarrow&BarnaUpdateID=183>)

“REPORT BY THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY”

“Teen Sex Study Underscores Need For Parent Involvement, Ross Says”

“The Report by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy found that 18-19 percent of teens age 14 or younger have had sex and that only 30 percent of parents of sexually active 14-year-olds believe their child had engaged in sex.”

“The report, which is based on data primarily collected in the last 10 years, is available in a seven-chapter report titled ‘14 and Younger: The Sexual Behavior of Young Adolescents.’”

“Specifically, the study found:”

- “About 18-19 percent of 14-year-olds have had sex. The number falls to 10 percent for 13-year-olds and 4-5 percent for 12-year-olds.”
- “Boys age 14 and younger are ‘slightly’ more likely to have had sex than girls the same age.”
- “Sexually active teens are more likely to drink alcohol, smoke and use of illegal drugs. Forty-three percent of sexually active teens say they have smoked marijuana, compared to only 10 percent of virgins.”
- “About half of young teens say they have been on a date in the past 18 months.”
- “Thirty-three percent of young teens who date someone who is three or more years older say the relationship includes sex. When the difference in dating is two years, the percentage is 26 percent. If the teens are the same age, the number drops to 13 percent.”
- “Parents and teens disagree on whether they had had a conversation about sex.”

- “Approximately one in seven sexually active 14-year-olds reports having been pregnant.”

“MINDING THE ‘PARENT GAP’”

“There continues to be a ‘parent-gap’ when it comes to teens’ decisions about sex. Consider the following nationally-representative polling data just released by the National Campaign: Parents say teens’ friends are the most influential while teens themselves say parents are the most influential.”

“WHEN IT COMES TO TEENS’ DECISIONS ABOUT SEX, WHO IS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL?”

	Adults	Teens
Parents	32%	45%
Friends	48%	31%

“AMONG THE FOLLOWING, WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTHY, RESPONSIBLE RELATIONSHIPS, WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?”

	Teens
Your Parents	59%
Your Friends Parents	4%
Your Friends	12%
Celebrities	2%
I don’t have any relationship role models	11%
Other family members/relatives	5%
Sibling	3%
Religious Leaders	1%
Myself	1%
Someone Else	1%

(Campaign Update, “Minding the Parent Gap,” *The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy*, (2003): 8 www.teenpregnancy.org)

“‘SOCCER MOM IS DEAD’ GEN X PARENTS ARE REDEFINING PARENTAL ROLES”

“According to the Reach report, 48 percent of Gen X fathers spend three to six hours per day on child rearing, versus 39 percent of Boomer dads, and 47 percent of Gen Xers wish they could spend more time with their children, compared to 36 percent of Boomers.”

“But strengthening family ties doesn't come without a price. In fact, Gen Xers' debt levels are 78 percent higher than their Boomer parents' debt at the same life stage, almost all of which is due to the high cost of housing. ‘Xers didn't buy in before the run up in real estate and [as of two

years ago] their housing debt was 62 percent higher than Boomers at the same life stage,' Chung says. 'It's more expensive to be an Xer at this point in life.'”

(David Myron, “Soccer Mom Is Dead' Gen X parents are redefining parental roles,” American Demographics, September 2004, <http://www.reachadvisors.com/demographicsarticle.html>)

“GRANDMA KNOWS BEST”

“There are more than 2.5 million grandparent-headed families in America...”

(“Grandma Knows Best” Newsweek, June 12, 2000, p. 60)

“LIES AND STATISTICS”

“But it’s more than social isolation. What binds a nation filled with people who live, as well as bowl, alone? Building on the analysis in Love and Economics, it’s possible that all this living alone is a consequence of the erosion of the two-parent family. As Morse notes, it’s the family that teaches the child about trust, commitment, and the permanence of relationships. Is it any surprise that the first generation for whom divorce parents was, if not normative, at least commonplace, chooses to live alone as adults?

(Breakpoint Online, “Lies and Statistics”, by Roberto Rivera, 5/21/01)

“MORE FATHERS ARE FINDING OUT THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME”

“According to National Fatherhood Initiative figures, compiled from government reports the nation’s children living without a father: ‘60’s – 8%, ‘70’s – 11%, ‘80’s – 18%, ‘90’s – 22%.”

(“More fathers are finding out there’s no place like home” by Sam Fulwood, The Dallas Morning News, June 4, 2000 p. 6A)

“OUR WINDOW TO THE FUTURE”

“Parents cannot underestimate the importance of their role in these early years. Each child is born with a unique biology but that doesn’t mean his or her future is preordained. The way a parent nurtures a baby has a profound effect on how the child develops. Recent research on the way genes work in the body suggests that their expression or influence depends on interactions with many different environments, including those in the cell, the body, and in the social and physical world. These interactions in part determine how we function. Nature and nurture thus appear to act together seamlessly, in a developmental duet.”

(“Our Window to the Future” by Drs. T. Berry Brazelton and Stanley Greenspan, Newsweek Special Issue, p. 34-36)

“PARENTS BEHAVING BADLY – HOW MAN AND DAD ACT ON THE SMALL SCREEN”

“In its 1999 report, the National Fatherhood Institute issued the results of its in-depth examination of parenting, as portrayed by TV's prime-time dads. Of the 102 shows surveyed, only 15 fathers appeared as characters. Of those 15, however, only four were shown to be caring, competent and good role models for their children. As parents, the remaining dads were duds.” (Ed Vitagliano, “Parents Behaving Badly, How Mom and Dad Act on the Small Screen,” <http://headlines.agapepress.org/archive/5/302001i.asp>, Agape Press-May 30, 2001)

“PARENTS HAVE TO TALK FRANKLY TO KIDS ABOUT DRUGS”

“Kids who learn from their parents or caregivers about the risks of drugs are 36% less likely to smoke marijuana than kids who don't,” says the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information. Those children are “50 percent less likely to use inhalants, 56 percent less likely to use cocaine, 65 percent less likely to use LSD.” (www.detnews.com, “Parents have to talk frankly to kids about drugs” by Fran Ellers, April 24, 2000)

“POLL SHOWS MARRIAGE AND FAMILY AT FOREFRONT OF AMERICAN CONCERNS”

“The poll conducted for the Alliance For Marriage of more than 1,000 adults, with an estimated margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points, indicated 64 and 77 percent of those surveyed believed strengthening families was more important than increasing job opportunities and creating a cleaner environment, respectively.” (www.cnsnews.com, “Poll Shows Marriage and Family at Forefront of American Concerns” by Cheryl K. Chumley, CNS Staff Writer, August 31, 2000)

“RELIGIOUS TRAINING”

“81% of mothers and 78% of fathers say they plan eventually to send their young child to Sunday school or some other kind of religious training.” (Newsweek special issue, by Karen Springen, p. 71)

“Here are some suggestions to help you build a better relationship with your kids:

Build excellent relationship with your teen

Become active participants in your teens' life

Regularly help with homework

Encourage your teen to seek your help on important decisions

Eat dinners frequently as a family

Attend religious services regularly and make religion important to the life of your teen

Praise and discipline your teen when merited

Know what your teen is doing after school

Know where your teen is on weekends”

“Children tell us that their parents can be the single greatest influence in their decisions not to smoke or use alcohol or drugs. Recent surveys by CASA show that, for many children, parents are the single biggest determinant in these decisions – stronger than that of friends, teachers and media. In short, the impact of parents is more important than commonly thought. Your power as a parent comes from several sources, and its effectiveness is marked by the time spent with your children and the consistency of the messages you give them.”

“Parents have enormous power over a child’s well-being but too many fail to appreciate and use this power. Study after study has shown; Parental involvement makes a critical difference in children’s lives.”

“More teens who don’t use marijuana (42%) credit their parents over any other influence.”

“Among teens who eat dinner with their parents six or seven times a week, 93 percent say they have not smoked a cigarette in the last month. That number drops among teens who eat with their families less. The same can be said for drinking: more than half of students who eat dinner with their parents six or seven times a week have not been to drinking parties in the last six months.”

“Fifty-six percent of teens who attend (services) four or more times (a month) say they will never use an illegal drug in the future compared to just 15% who attend services less than once a month.”

“Children living in two-parent families who have a fair to poor relationship with their father are at 68% higher risk of smoking, drinking and using drugs compared to all teens living in a two-parent household. The average teen living in a household headed by a single mother is at 30% higher risk compared to all teens in a two-parent household.”

“CASA’s 1999 teen and parent drug survey revealed that teens consistently rate moms more favorably than dad’s:

71% of teens report having an excellent or good relationship with mom; only 58% have such a relationship with dad.

More than twice as many teens say it’s easier to talk to mom than dad about drugs (57% vs. 26%).

Twice as many teens who never used marijuana credit mom as credit dad with their decision (29% vs. 13%)

While 45% of teens have discussed drugs with both parents, almost four times as many teens had such discussions with mom alone (15%) than with dad alone (4%)

Teens are three times more likely to rely solely on mom than solely on dad when they have important decisions to make (27% vs. 9%)

45% of teens say mom is more demanding in terms of grades, homework and personal behavior; 39% say dads are more demanding.”

(www.casacolumbia.org, Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, Family and Youth Information)

“SEVEN DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF YOUNG ADOLESCENTS”

“Instructor's Guide”

“Jim Conway and his associates at The Center for Early Adolescents, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, have identified seven developmental needs of young adolescents. They are:”

“Need: physical activity”

“Young adolescents' spurts of boundless energy are as well-known as their periods of dreamy lethargy. They need time to stretch, wiggle and exercise their rapidly growing bodies. They also need time to just relax. Adults who work with young adolescents need to remember the diversity in strength, dexterity and size of youth in this age group. Intensely competitive physical activity often places an unnecessary burden on late-bloomers who cannot compete successfully. Early bloomers who are pressured into conforming to sexual stereotypes that reward athletic prowess rather than intellectual or social development also can be harmed by stressful sports competition.”

“Need: competence and achievement”

“Because young adolescents experience extraordinary self-consciousness about their own new selves and the attitudes of others toward them, it is easy to understand their overwhelming desire to do something well and to receive admiration for achievement. They hunger for chances to prove themselves, especially in ways that are rewarding if all goes well and not devastating if there are some disappointments. Young adolescents need to know what they do is valued by others whom they respect.”

“Need: self-definition”

“Rapidly changing bodies and minds requires time to absorb new ways of thinking, new mirrored reflections and new reactions from others. To accommodate the new selves they are becoming, young adolescents need chances to consider what it means to be a man or woman and to belong to a race and ethnic group. They need to find a friend and share a secret, or to have a good talk with an adult. They need opportunities to explore their widening world and to reflect upon the meaning of new experiences, so they can begin to consider themselves not just as observers, but as participants in society.”

“Need: creative expression”

“Opportunities to express creatively their new feelings, interests, abilities and thoughts help young adolescents to understand and accept the new people they are becoming. Performing and being exposed to drama, literature and musical works of others help youth recognize that others feel the same emotions, thoughts and ideas that are new and confusing. In addition to the arts, young adolescents can find opportunities for creative expression in sports such as synchronized swimming and roller skating and in activities like tending a garden or painting a wall mural.”

“Need: a positive social interaction with peers and adults”

“Young adolescents' parents and family remain of primary importance in setting values and giving affection. Their peers offer needed support, companionship and criticism. In addition, adults other than parents have an effect on the lives of young adolescents, who are so eager to understand the possibilities of adulthood. Young adolescents need relationships with adults who are willing to share their own experiences, views, values and feelings with young people. These adults will also encourage young adolescents to develop positive relationships with peers.”

“Need: structure and clear limits”

“Young adolescents live in a society of rules and they want to know and understand their own limits within the system. Clear expectations are crucial to unsure, self-critical young people. Their search for security in a world of conflicting demands is helped by explicit boundaries that define the areas in which they may legitimately seek freedom to explore. They differ from younger children in that they are more capable of participating with adults in framing their own rules and limits.”

“Need: meaningful participation”

“Youth need to participate in activities that shape their lives. Successful events are planned with, not for, young adolescents. As they develop a mature appearance and more sophisticated social and intellectual skills, they want opportunities to use their new talents. And by learning that their actions can affect the world around them, they gain a sense of responsibility. Adults can help young adolescents see themselves as citizens by providing opportunities for them to make meaningful contributions to their communities. Adults need to adapt responsibilities to the short-term attention span characteristic of early adolescents, and to select varied tasks that enlist diverse interests and abilities.”

Permission to reprint granted: Jim Conway, Conway Associates. Durham, N.C.

(Conway, Jim, “Seven Developmental needs of young adolescents,”

www.ymca.net/presrm/research/appendixa.htm)

“STEREOTYPES OF TROUBLEMAKING KIDS OFF THE MARK”

“Dr. Robert Blum of the University of Minnesota, who led the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, said he was shocked at how many teens were involved in sex. “One in seven seventh and eighth graders tell us they have had intercourse,” he said. “That is kids 12, 13, and 14 years of age.” Teens that least likely to have had sex were those who believed there were social costs to having sex, to getting pregnant or to getting someone pregnant, and those who had taken a pledge of virginity. For black and Hispanic females, fear of parental disapproval also appeared to be a motivator, the researchers said.”

(www.cnn.com, “Study: Stereotypes of troublemaking kids off the mark” Nov. 30, 2000)

“TEENAGE PROBLEMS LINKED TO PARENTS”

“The survey, by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, also examined depression among teens and possible links to parenting styles. It found relationships between depressed teens and their parents were less warm and of poorer quality than the relationships between problem-free teens and their parents.”

“Depressed adolescents felt more alienated from their parents and communication between parent and child was not open. The study involved a survey of 73 anti-social teens, 74 depressed adolescents, 64 problem-free teens and their parents.”

““The study is not showing that parents are bad parents,” Mrs. Smart said. “It shows that some parents are less effective in their parenting style.””

“Adolescents without behavior problems had warm, close relationships with their parents. Their parents monitored their activities and knew what was going on in their children’s lives.”

“TEENAGE GIRL KILLS MOTHERS”

“What should be the priorities for parents who want to improve communication with their teen? Rose Dery was a peer counseling coordinator at Nikki Reynolds’ school. Dery says it is important for parents to spend less time looking for trouble signs, and to focus more on listening to their kids. “Just listen to them, let them know you are really listening (use language like) ‘sounds like you’re hurt, like you’re feeling bad,’” she says. The children that came to her at school, Dery says, often did so because they could not talk to their own parents. Most times, the kids said, their parents would “fly off the handle.” Dery encourages parents to discuss failures and difficulties with their children. She points out children are watching, and so it is important that parents exhibit model behavior. “Let them see in you what you want them to be,” she says.” (www.abcnews.go.com, Nikki feature, “20/20: Teenage Girl Kills Mother”)

“TEENS ‘GET IT’-READING MATTERS: NEW POLL ALSO SHOWS NEED FOR MORE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.”

“President Bob Chase today cheered the news that even in our fast-paced digital age with its emphasis on technology and computer skills, young people still recognize that turning their attention to the printed page is vital to success in work and life, as noted in a new poll conducted by Peter D. Hart and Associates for NEA.”

“Young Americans give highly positive descriptions of their feelings about reading. Overwhelmingly, they described reading as “relaxing”(87 percent), “rewarding and satisfying”(85 percent), and “stimulating and interesting” (79 percent). Most teenagers rejected the notion that reading is “boring and dull” or “old-fashioned” (68 percent disagree).”

“Although more young people (42 percent) say they read primarily for “fun and pleasure,” rather than to get “facts and information” (35 percent), a greater number of those polled (46 percent) acknowledged that most of the reading they’ve done in the past year has been for school. Forty-two percent said the majority of their reading has been for their own enjoyment.”

“The poll revealed some interesting cultural differences. One-half of those polled rated the enjoyment they got from reading highly (“4” or “5” on a five-point scale), but minority youth were the most enthusiastic. Fifty-six percent of Hispanic youth and 51 percent of African-American youth reported they enjoyed reading compared to 47 percent of white youth.”

“Minority students were also more likely to say their parents encouraged them to read (52 percent for African-American youth and 47 percent for Hispanic youth) compared to whites (43 percent). In addition, minority students more often reported that they read aloud to someone—a younger child, parent, or elderly person—at least a few times a week. Almost one-half (49 percent) of African-American youth and 40 percent of Hispanic youth read to others often, compared to 33 percent of white youth.”

“Chase said the poll shows a strong foundation for sustaining a nation of readers, but indicates the need for continuing attention. “Parents and other adults not only need to encourage reading, but model behavior for young people by reading themselves,” he said.”

“The poll was conducted for NEA by Peter D. Hart Research Associates from Feb. 9 to 15, 2001, among a national cross section of 509 young Americans, ages 12-18. The margin of error the poll is (plus)/-4.4 percent.”

(“Teens ‘Get It’ Reading Matters: New Poll also shows need for more parental involvement and encouragement,” March 2, 2001, (http://www.usnewswire.com/topnews/current_releases/0302-127.html))

“TEENS NEED AND WANT CLOSE, SOLID TIES WITH PARENTS”

“Washington Family Council recently surveyed Washington state young people between the ages of 12 and 18 to find out what they have to say about parents, marriage, family and relationships. Overall, teens report having healthy family relationships (66.5 percent) and close relationships with their mother (86.5 percent) and father (74.7 percent). Research indicates that teens who have healthy family relationships and who enjoy a close relationship with their mom and/or dad are less likely to engage in detrimental behaviors.”

“Nearly half of all teens (47.6 percent) say they look to their parents as the “single, most significant influence on (their) thinking about what it will take to have a good marriage.” Which is almost seven times more than the next closest influence of religion or relatives.

Approximately six in 10 teens agree that “Someday (they) hope to have a marriage like (their) parents have.”

“Teens are looking for their parents for guidance and direction, boundaries, an emotional connection, and most importantly, a positive example.”

“Teens who don’t have healthy family relationships, are not close to their parents and who come from single-parent homes are less likely to have healthy ideas about marriage and parenting and are less likely to make healthy behavioral choices.”

(www.spokane.net, “Teenagers need and want close, solid ties with parents” by Jeff Kemp, August 14, 2000)

“TEENS NEED PARENTS NEW RESEARCH ON AVOIDING BAD BEHAVIOR”

“The recent study, which is part of a long-term federal project on American adolescence, ends with a warning and a promise: When parents ‘are not personally and psychologically available for their teenage children, teenagers pay a high price.’”

(www.bergen.com, “Teens need parents new research on avoiding bad behavior”, Editorial, Dec. 4, 2000)

“TEENS TODAY”

“In the Newsweek Polls, just one-third of teens surveyed say their parents understand very well the problems and situations they face in everyday life. By contrast, 48 percent of the parents surveyed think they understand those problems very well. Parents and children also diverge on which is more important to teens today: fitting in with friends or becoming outstanding in some way. More than two-thirds of teens (69%) chose becoming outstanding versus 26 percent who chose fitting in; only 50 percent of parents thought their kids would choose excellence, while 43 percent of parents said teens would prefer to fit in. Just 17 percent of teens say they worry a lot about their safety at school compared to 37 percent of parents. More teens worry a lot about safety on the street (27%), but so do even more parents (55%), the poll shows.”

“Teenagers and parents agree on the role of religion in teens lives today, the poll shows. Seventy-eight percent of teens say it is at least somewhat important, including 43% who say it’s very important; 80% of parents agree that religion is at least somewhat important in their teens’ lives. About half of teens (46%) and parents (51%) say the teens attend religious services regularly, the poll shows.”

“The Princeton Survey Research Associates interviewed 509 parents of teenagers aged 13-19 years old, and 306 of their teenage sons and daughters on April 20-28, 2000. The overall margin of error based on parents’ sample is plus or minus 5 percentage points.”

(www.news.excite.com, “Newsweek Poll: Teens Today” April 29, 2000)

“TEENS WEARY OF MIXED MESSAGES ABOUT SEX”

“Through the 1990’s, biennial surveys from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found fewer high school students saying they had had sexual intercourse – from just over 54.1 percent in 1991 to 49.9 percent in 1999. The number of teen-age mothers giving birth also dropped, although there are still about a million teen pregnancies each year.”

“This spring, Planned Parenthood distributed “Prom Survival Kits,” including condoms, to students in Minneapolis and other cities.”

(www.cnn.com, “Teens weary of mixed messages about sex” 5/24/01, Copyright 2001, Associated Press)

“THE INSTITUTIONAL PARENT”

“The concern about the effects of day care in our country is not a peripheral one. The New York Times reports that “thirteen million preschoolers, including six million infants and toddlers, are in child care in this country.” Thirty percent of American kids are in professional day care, 15 percent with family child care providers, 5 percent are cared for in the home by a hired caregiver, and 25 percent are cared for by relatives. Only one in four kids are cared for primarily by his mother.”

(Breakpoint Online, “The Institutional Parent”, by Douglas C. Minson)

"THE NEEDS OF TEENS"

"The Need to Belong"

"The need to be accepted by a group of people the teen considers important is crucial. Outward symbols of belonging (e.g., club T-shirt, pin, visor or jacket) are popular with this age group. Rejection is a double edged sword for the teen trying to develop a self-image, to determine his or her place in the world. Rejection not only distorts what the teen thinks others think about him- or herself, but it also alters the teen's self-perception. Teens need to be involved in positive interactions with their peers and adults on a regular basis."

"The Need to Express Oneself"

"Growth comes through one's ability to test and retest, to experiment, to enjoy success and cope with failure. The teen who is not allowed or given opportunities to express her- or himself experiences a great deal of frustration. Teens need to learn to express themselves in mental, physical and spiritual ways, which is why diversity in club activities, incorporating all four goal areas, is so important."

"The Need to Love"

"All people, regardless of age, have the need to express their concern for the welfare of others. All religions have a word for such a need; Christianity calls it love. Meaningful activities and service projects help fulfill this need."

"The Need to Be Loved"

"Teens want to be accepted as they are. They want someone to care about them, listen to them and provide the structure and limits that will make them feel secure. They want an advisor they can count on."

"The Need to Lead"

"Teens want to do things that are significant. They want to show they can affect and have some control over their world. They want to take on responsibility even though sometimes they discover they are not yet ready for it. Learning comes from being given the opportunity to try."

"The Need to Like Themselves"

"Teens are interested in learning about themselves. When they learn something negative, it should be handled in a way that provides direction on how to improve rather than one that makes them feel like they are bad. Always describe the appropriate behavior you expect from them when they have done something wrong, and you will be able to increase rather than diminish their self-esteem."

(Jim Conway, "The needs of teens- part of the Seven Developmental needs of young adolescents" <http://www.ymca.net/presrm/research/appendixa.htm>)

“THE POSTIVE IMPACT OF FATHER-TIME”

“Do fathers today spend less time with their children than their fathers did with them? 56.5% agreed, up from 50.9% in 1996. Many studies confirm the positive impact of fathers who spend time with their children. Children with involved fathers are:

More confident and less anxious in unfamiliar settings

Better able to deal with frustration

Better able to gain a sense of independence and an identity outside the mother-child relationship

More likely to mature into compassionate adults

More likely to have higher self-esteem and grade point averages

More sociable”

(www.fathers.com/1999gallup/fathertime, “The positive impact of father-time)

“VITAL STATISTICS”

“The yearbook of the Children’s Defense Fund shows progress in many areas. Yet America still struggles to meet the basic needs of the 1 in 6 kids living in poverty.

Number of uninsured children in 1998: 11.9 million, In 1999: 10.8 million

Percent of 2-year-olds immunized against major diseases in 1992: 55%, In 1999: 80%

Number of children in foster care in 1982: 262,000, In 1999: 568,000

Number of children eligible for child-care assistance: 15 million, Number receiving assistance 1.8 million

Average annual child-care costs in Boston: \$8,121, Average annual tuition at public colleges in Boston: \$4,012”

(U.S. News and World Report, April 30, 2001 “Vital Statistics”)

“WANTED: LIVE-IN FATHERS”

“The latest Census data indicates that slightly fewer children live in low-income, single-parent families. In addition, there was a slight upturn in the number of African-American children living with two married parents. But overall, the news remains grim:

An estimated 25 million children (36%) live without their biological fathers.

Nearly four out of 10 first marriages end in divorce; 60% of those couples have children.

1.3 million births in 1999 were out of wedlock (33%).

There are nearly 1.9 million single fathers with children under 18.

One out of every six children are stepchildren

Nationally, 30% of children living with a never-married mother and 21.5% of children living with a divorced mother have repeated a grade, compared with 11.6% of children living with both biological parents.

Graduation rates for those raised by biological parents are 96%; for those raised in stepfamilies, 78%; for those raised by never married mothers, 73%

Even after controlling for factors such as race, income and mother’s education level, boys who grow up outside intact marriages are twice as likely to end up in jail.

Even after controlling for gender, race, family income and residential mobility, teens in single parent and step-parents families are twice as likely to use illegal drugs, compared with teens in intact, two-parent married families.”

(USA Today, “Wanted: Live-in fathers” June 15, 2001, p. 13A)

“9TH CIRCUIT: PARENTS HAVE ‘NO RIGHT’ IN SCHOOL SEX DISCUSSIONS”

“SAN FRANCISCO (BP)—Parents have ‘no constitutional right prevent the public schools from providing information on [the subject of sex] to their students in any forum or manner they select,’ according to a ruling handed down by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals Nov. 2.” (“9th Circuit: Parents have ‘no right’ in school sex discussions,” BP News, November 2005, www.bpnews.net/printerfriendly.asp?ID=22008)

“A REPAIR MANUAL FOR FIXING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR KIDS”

“Encourage kids rather than praise them. Praise is a reward given for winning and being the best. Encouragement, by contrast is a reward for effort or improvement, however slight. Just don’t restrict your pride in the child to his or her accomplishments.”

“Let your youngsters experience the consequences of their behavior once they know enough to make informed decisions. Children who won’t eat go hungry; those who dress inappropriately get cold or get razzed by their peers. Buy good food that they like, but don’t force them to eat it. The difference between dishing out punishment and letting them experience consequences is often in your tone of voice. If your son loses dad’s hammer, you don’t have to yell or threaten. The child should simply buy a new one. Dad is also justified in coolly explaining that junior isn’t ready to use Dad’s tools.”

(A Repair Manual for Fixing Relationships with Your Kids, Fortune, Jan. 1, 1990, p. 43)

“A TITANIC ICEBERG”

“When the Titanic set sail in 1912, the captain and the owners were convinced of its invincibility. ‘Nothing can sink this ocean liner,’ they said. Likewise, America is perceived as the strongest and most prosperous nation in the world today; there’s no problem we can’t solve.” Unfortunately we have proven as a nation that wealth, power and education alone cannot produce healthy families.”

(Today’s Father, “A Titanic Iceberg” by Ken Canfield, p. 19)

“A WORLD OF THEIR OWN”

“22 million other Americans 13 to 19. ‘Before, parents made you who you are.’”

“22 million other Americans 13 to 19. ‘Before, parents made you who you are. Now, teens are pretty much defined by their friends. I see my mom maybe an hour a day and not at all on weekends. That's what it's like for a lot of high-school kids: we don't know how to get there, what it's really going to be like.’”

“As a group, they lead lives that are more ‘adult-free’ than those of previous generations. ‘Adolescents are not a tribe apart because they left us, as most people assume,’ says Patricia Hersch, author of the 1998 book ‘A Tribe Apart.’ ‘We left them. This generation of kids has spent more time on their own than any other in recent history.’”

“When today's teens are not with their friends, many live in a private, adult-free world of the Web and videogames. ‘I do homework, research, e-mail and talk to my friends on the Internet.’ Data released last year from the Alfred P. Sloan Study of Youth and Social Development found that teens spend 9 percent of their waking hours outside school with friends. They spend 20 percent of their waking hours alone. ‘Teens are isolated to an extent that has never been possible before,’ says psychologist William Damon of Stanford University. ‘There is an ethic among adults that says, ‘Kids want to be autonomous; don't get in their face.’”

“This generation is strongly peer-driven. ‘This is much more a team-playing generation,’ says William Strauss, coauthor of the 1997 book ‘The Fourth Turning.’ ‘Boomers may be bowling alone, but Millennials are playing soccer in teams.’ That makes belonging so crucial that it can be a matter of life and death. In Littleton, Colo., a year ago, the two teenage shooters stood apart, alienated from the jock culture that infused Columbine High School. Yet in a landmark study of 7,000 teens, researchers led by Barbara Schneider of the University of Chicago found that teen social groups are as fluid and hard to pin down as a bead of mercury. ‘Students often move from one group to another, and friendships change over a period of a few weeks or months,’ they write in ‘The Ambitious Generation.’ ‘Best friends are few.’ As a group, today's teens are also infused with an optimism not seen among kids in decades (it doesn't hurt to have grown up in a time of relative peace and the longest economic expansion in U.S. history). ‘I think a lot of adolescents now are being taught that they can make a difference,’ says Sophie Mazuroski, 15, of Portland, Maine. ‘Children of our generation want to. I am very optimistic.’ Still, the law of teenage angst is still on the books: 4.3 percent of ninth graders make suicide attempts serious enough to require medical treatment.”

“This generation of teens is more spiritual than their parents, but often less conventionally so. Many put together their own religious canon as they would a salad from a salad bar. Yet despite their faith, teens, as well as those who study them, say that ‘lying and cheating are standard behavior.’”

“And teens, says Strauss, ‘had harsher opinions about the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal than any other group.’”

“What do they want out of life? Schneider and coauthor David Stevenson found that today's teens ‘are the most occupationally and educationally ambitious generation’ ever. Most plan to attend college, and many aspire to work as professionals. A majority identify ‘happiness’ as a goal, along with love and a long and enjoyable life. But many doubt that marriage and career will deliver that, so they channel their energies more broadly. About half of teens perform community service once a month by, for instance, delivering meals to the homeless or reading to the elderly. But does their volunteer work reflect real compassion, or meeting a school requirement?”

“In 1997, 48 percent of high-school students had had sexual intercourse, compared with 54 percent in 1991, according to the CDC. More are smoking (36 percent, compared with 28 percent in 1991), but the percentage who are drinking alcohol remains at 51 percent.”

- **Stress: Do teens face more problems than their parents did as teens?**

	Teens
More -----	70%
Fewer -----	5%
Same -----	24%

- **21% have looked at something on the Internet that they wouldn’t want their parents to know about.**
- **Hostility: Many teens these days feel a lot of anger. How angry are you?**

	Teens
Very -----	3%
Somewhat -----	25%
Not too -----	43%
Not at all -----	29%

- **Faith: How important is religion in your life today?**

	Teens
Very -----	43%
Somewhat -----	35%
Not too -----	14%
Not at all -----	8%

- **Worries: How concerned are you about the following:**

Those responding ‘A lot’	Teens	Parents
Not having enough money to buy the things you (they want)	34%	35%
The cost of you (their) college	54%	68%
Violence in society	59%	82%
Not being sure of your (their) job opportunities	43%	49%
Your (their) getting into trouble with drugs	25%	66%
Your (their) drinking/abusing alcohol	26%	64%
Sexual permissiveness in society	33%	72%
Sexually transmitted diseases	58%	75%

(“A World of Their Own” Newsweek Magazine, Sharon Begley, May 8, 2000, p. 52)

“ABC NEWS”

“‘There’s a lot of repressed anger [in kids], but a lot of kids do not know how to properly deal with it,’ said Kaslow. ‘So, the anger may not be so much repressed but that kids don’t know how to handle their anger. People are not teaching their kids how to deal with their feelings.’”

(abcnews.com 2001)

“ABC NEWS”

“A mother shared with me that her daughter was tied with another girl in 11th grade in highest class grade points to be valedictorian. Her daughter said that she would be valedictorian, even though the other girl was smarter. She went on to describe the other girls torn relationship with her father and the constant turmoil and hurt she goes through at home. She explained that she can’t concentrate on her studies.”

“Then her daughter shared that she doesn’t have that conflict at home, “when I come home there’s love and peace. You and dad love each other so much and love me that I don’t have the conflict and hurts...as a result I can study so much easier without being distracted.”

“Tom Jarriel of ABC News concluded, after hosting a segment of ABC’s 20/20 news program about the hurts, frustrations, and kids who killed with guns, that it is “easier to build a child then rebuild a teenager.” Either parents take the responsibility in raising their children when young or we pay for it later with prisons and correctional programs ten years down the road.”

(ABC News, 20/20, #1617, April 26, 1998)

“ABSTINENCE MESSAGE FAVORED, POLL FINDS”

“Two-thirds of parents strongly disapproved of telling children ages 5 to 8 details about sexual intercourse or masturbation, or telling children ages 9 to 12 that ‘homosexual love relationships can be as satisfying as heterosexual relationships.’ Most parents also disapproved of teaching 12-to-15-year-olds that ‘two people who live together can have the same commitment and responsibility toward one another as married people.’ In contrast, more than half of parents supported verbatim statements from National Guidelines for Sexuality and Character Education, developed in 1996 by the Medical Institute for Sexual Health. Parents strongly supported teaching their children that ‘sexual or physical intimacy should occur between two people involved in a lifelong, mutually faithful, marriage commitment,’ and ‘When adolescents abstain from premarital sex, they don’t need to worry about sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, having a baby or getting an abortion.’”

“Sixty-two percent of parents strongly disapprove of sex education that teaches children ages 12 to 15 how to ‘practice’ using condoms. Sixty-five percent of parents strongly disapprove of teaching children 9 to 15 that they can become ‘close’ with someone by ‘body massage,’ bathing together or viewing erotic materials. When parents were asked about ‘your child’s school’ providing birth control ‘without your knowledge or approval,’ 69 percent said they disapprove.”

(www.zogby.com/search/ReadClips.dbm?ID=5019)

“ADD HEALTH SURVEY FINDS BETTER PARENTAL COMMUNICATION CAN LOWER TEENS’ CHANCES OF HAVING SEX, BECOMING PREGNANT”

“Research from the ‘National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.’”

- “Parental Involvement: The survey found that teens who felt ‘highly connected’ to their parents were more likely to put off having sex. In particular, teens who reported having a good relationship with their mothers were more likely to delay sexual activity.”

(“‘Add Health’ Survey Finds Better Parental Communication Can Lower Teens’ Chances of Having Sex, Becoming Pregnant,” Kaiser Daily Reproductive Health Report, Wednesday, September 12, 2001

www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/print_report.cfm?DR_ID=6904&dr_cat=2.)

“ADOLESCENT SUICIDE ATTEMPTS: RISK AND PROTECTORS”

“Perceived parent and family connectedness was protective against suicide attempts for black, Hispanic and white girls and boys.”

“Perceived parent and family connectedness was significantly protective for all youth.”

(“Adolescent Suicide Attempts: Risk and Protectors, by Iris Wagman Borowsky, MD, PhD; Marjorie Ireland, PhD; and Michael D. Resnick, PhD, Pediatrics, Vol. 37 No. 3, March 2001, P. 485)

“AMERICAN FAMILIES: FINALLY SOME GOOD NEWS!”

“From these surveys, we found several examples of family strengths, including:”

- “About 80 percent of adolescents report that they enjoy spending time with their parents.”
- “More than half of teens report that they turn first to a parent for help solving problems.”
- “Almost three-quarters of youth report that they eat dinner with their families five or more days each week.”
- “Nearly 60 percent of mothers know ‘almost everything’ or “everything” about their adolescent's close friends.”

(News Room, "American Families: Finally, Some Good News!," Child Trends News Room, August 29, 2002, http://www.childtrends.org/n_familystrengths.asp)

“AMERICAN FAMILY DECLINE, 1960 – 1990: A REVIEW AND APPRAISAL”

“Children who were part of the ‘post-war generation’ could expect to grow up with two biological parents who were married to each other. Eighty percent did. Today, only about 50 percent of children will spend their entire childhood in an intact family.”

(Popenoe, David. “American Family Decline, 1960-1990: A Review and Appraisal.” Journal of Marriage and the Family 55 (August 1993); see also Bumpass, Larry. “What’s Happening to the Family? Interactions Between Demographic and Institutional Change.” Demography 27.4 (1990): 483-498.)

“AMERICANS FAVOR CARS OVER KIDS”

“The nationwide online survey by Ohio-based Progressive Insurance found that 45 percent of married Americans ranked their cars as the thing they considered most important to them. (6% rated their children, 10% rated their spouse)”

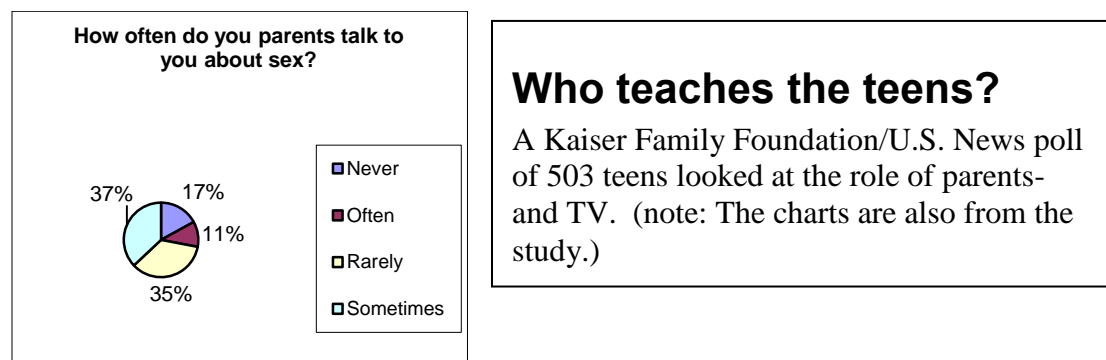
(Excite.com “Americans Favor Cars over Kids” Jan. 31, 2001)

“AN EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE: INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS RISE SHARPLY SINCE SANTEE SHOOTING”

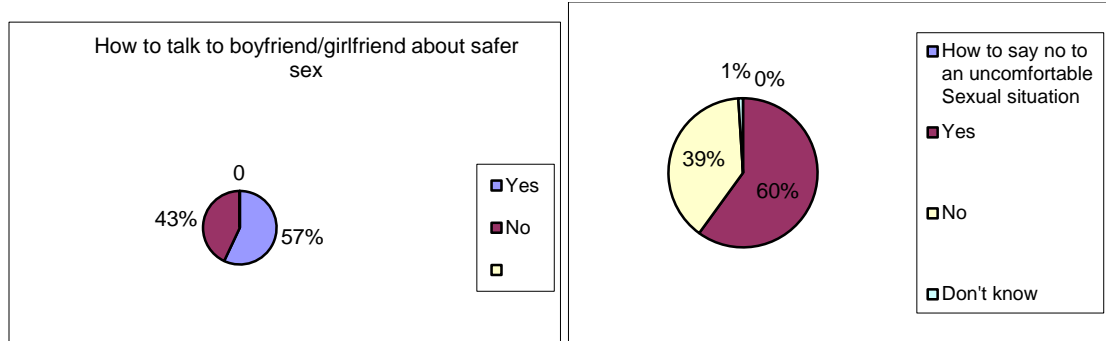
“‘There are not enough police or metal detectors in the world to solve this,’ Sec. Of Education Ron Paige said in an interview with CNN. ‘That is the point we are trying to make now. We need to deal with more relationships.’”

(“An Epidemic of Violence: Incidents in Schools Rise Sharply Since Santee Shooting”
CNN.com, March 8, 2001)

“ARE SEXUAL SCENES ON TV HELPFUL IN THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS?”



“Are Sexual scenes on TV helpful in the following situations?”



(source for the pie charts: *International Communications Research*)
 (Anna Mulrine, "Risky Business," US News and World Report, May 27, 2002)

BEST PRACTICES OF YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

“Such forces as weak bonding, ineffective parenting (poor monitoring, ineffective, excessively harsh, or inconsistent discipline, inadequate supervision), exposure to violence in the home, and a climate that supports aggression and violence puts children at risk for being violent later in life.”

“There is evidence from many studies that parental use of physical punishment may play a direct role in the development of antisocial behavior in their children.”

“In longitudinal studies, higher levels of parental supervision during childhood have been found to predict less antisocial behavior during adolescents.”

“Other researchers have observed that parents often do not define antisocial behavior as something that should be discouraged, including such acts as youths bullying or hitting other children or engaging in minor delinquent acts such as shoplifting.”

“Less parental supervision allows youths to spend more time with delinquent peers. Thus, improving parental supervision may be an important way to reduce the effects of delinquent peer influence.”

“Hawaii’s Healthy Start Program uses a home visitation model to help family members cope with the challenges of child rearing, to teach effective parenting and problem-solving skills, and to link families to necessary services such as childcare, income and nutritional assistance, and pediatric primary care. After 2 years of service, mothers reported improved parenting efficacy, decreased parenting stress, more use of non-violent discipline, better linkage with pediatric care, as well as decreased injury due to partner violence in the home, as compared with a control group.”

("Best Practices of Youth Violence Prevention: A Sourcebook for Community Action", Center for Disease Control and Prevention, September 2000, pp2-6)

“BEST PRACTICES OF YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION”

“Parents’ interactions with each other, their behavior toward their children, and their emotional state have been shown to be important predictors of children’s violent behavior (Webster-Stratton 1997). Marital conflict and a lack of communication between parents have also been identified as risk factors for youth violence (Biglan and Taylor, in press; Buka and Earls 1993; Tolan and Guerra 1994).”

“Some risk factors that parents possess are dramatic and obvious, more subtle predictors include harsh or inconsistent discipline, lack of emotional interaction between parent and child, and lack of parental supervision (Patterson, Reid, and Dishion 1992; Buka and Earls 1993).

Many other behaviors include lack of communication between spouses, marital conflict and divorce, parental social isolation, and parental depression or stress (Buka and Earls 1993; Tolan and Guerra 1994).

“Family experiences play a critical role in causing, promoting, or reinforcing violent behavior by children and adolescents.

“Parents are not the only adults who shape the beliefs and behavior of young people. Individuals such as teachers, coaches, child care providers, and neighbors often influence how a child or adolescent feels about violence.”

(Best Practices of Youth Violence Prevention: A Sourcebook for Community Action, Compiled and Edited by Timothy N. Thornton, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta Georgia, Sept. 2000, p. 10).

“BEYOND THE BIRDS AND THE BEES—Why your kids need to talk to you about sex”

“Admit it: It’s easier to ask your boss for a raise than to talk to your child about sex. But a new national survey from *Seventeen* magazine and the Kaiser Family Foundation reports that these conversations are more crucial than ever.”

“The study of 15- to 17-year-olds found that close to half of the teens surveyed have never talked with their parents about sexual issues such as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, or even how to discuss their sexual decisions with a date. And nearly 40 percent of sexually active teens said their parents don’t know they are having sex. Interestingly, a separate report from the University of Minnesota Adolescent Health Center had similar results, finding that half of all mothers of sexually active teenagers mistakenly believe their children are still virgins.”

“Sara Brown, director of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, says that the best offense against early sexual activity is a parental relationship in which teenagers feel they can easily approach their parents, and parents who keep close tabs on their kids. That means knowing who their friends are and what they do together as well as providing a warm, loving

environment for teens and their friends. ‘When a house is open to young people, there is this sense that they can be themselves,’ says Brown.”

(www.christianitytoday.com/cpt/2003/001/26.8.html)

“BRAIN POWER”

“Trends”

“Time magazine devoted a recent cover story to new discoveries about the teenage brain. Lo and behold, all those frustrating habits that drive parents and youth leaders crazy have less to do with raging hormones and more to do with some radical changes at work in the nether regions of kids’ craniums.”

“Time asked Laurence Steinberg, Temple University psychologist, to offer advice to adults who want to help teenagers through ‘prune-land,’ so to speak:”

1. “Adults who are positively involved in kids’ lives can make a deep difference.”
2. “You can’t give teenagers too much love – they’re desperate for it.”
3. “Recognize that teenagers have new cognitive abilities, and they’ll challenge things that don’t sit well.”
4. “Kids need structure and boundaries almost as much as they need love.”
5. “Teenagers can’t help but experiment with self-reliance, so give them plenty of safe opportunities to try out their autonomy.”

(“Brain Power”, *Group Magazine*, July 8, 2004, p20)

“BREAKING THE CYCLE”

“Growing up, I just wanted a daddy to talk to about boys and basketball and stuff like that, but I had to learn it all on my own.”

“Not one time in my life did my daddy tell me ‘I love you,’ she says, a single tear rolling down her cheek. ‘He ain’t never told me he loved me, and that’s it.’”

“A Nation At Risk:”

- “In 2000, more than 1.5 million children had a parent in prison, an increase of more than half a million since 1991.”
- “78 Percent of women behind bars are mothers; 64 percent of men, fathers.”
- “The children of incarcerated parents are five times more likely to end up in jail themselves.”

(Carolyn Kleiner, “Breaking the Cycle.” U.S. News & World Report, April 29, 2002 page 48,49)

“BUILDING HEALTHY FUTURES”

“The ADD Health Study examined multiple youth risk behaviors including suicide, alcohol use and sexual activity. The researchers found that higher grades, the presence of a religious identity and a sense of connectedness with his or her school and parents were all associated with increased rates of sexual abstinence. The study also demonstrates that youth are affected by their parent’s disapproval of both sexual activity and contraceptive use, and those who do know their parents disapprove are less likely to be sexually active. Finally, the factor most strongly related to delaying initiation of sexual activity was making a public or written pledge to remain abstinent (Resnick et al 1997).”

“Parental Relationship/Connectedness. In addition to the ADD Health findings, other research demonstrates the importance of the parent-child relationship in influencing the choices young people make about sexual activity. When adolescents feel that they have a good relationship with their parents or parents they are more likely to remain abstinent and/or delay the onset of sexual debut. In addition, if adolescents engage in sexual activity, they are more likely to have fewer sexual partners and less frequent intercourse. Studies also show that many parental factors contribute to help teens make healthy choices, those factors include: strong parent-child relationships, attachments to parents and parental support (Miller et al 1997) (Whitbeck et al 1992) (Luster and Small 1994) (Jensen et al 1994).”

(Building Healthy Futures, The Medical Institute for Sexual Health, 2000 p. 20)

“CALIFORNIA SHOOTING”

George Bush on the shooting: "Saddened. We all are to know that two students lost their lives in southern California, others have been injured, in a disgraceful act of cowardice. When America teaches our children right from wrong, and teaches values to respect life in our country, our country would be better off. Our hearts go out and our prayers go out to the parents and teachers and children whose lives have been completely turned upside down right now. All of us. All of us adults in society can teach children right from wrong and explain that life is precious. All of us must be mindful of the fact that some people may decide to act out their aggressions or their pain. We don't know enough of the facts right now as to what took place, but I do know first things are first and that is, our prayers go with the families who lost a child today."

(Cnn.com Talk Back Live "California Shooting" March 5, 2001)

“CAN SCHOOL VIOLENCE BE STOPPED?”

“Family structure did play a role in the most severe type of violence measured in this study, shooting or stabbing someone. The only consistent difference appeared between intact families and the combination of all the other types of family structures. With the exception of the difference between intact families and single biological parent families in the measure of serious

physical fighting, no differences were found between intact family structures and other types of family structures. This, combined with the fact that family structure was not a predictor of shooting or stabbing, suggests that family structure alone plays a limited role in helping to explain adolescent violent behavior. The consistent results for family and school attachment suggest that the meaning attached to whatever configuration of family the adolescent lives in is more important than the structure itself.”

Greta Van Susteren (co-host of Burden of Proof): “...that suggests that this is an intact family and that there are parents at home. But the truth is, is that there are a lot of different types of families in this country, and you know, lots of kids don't have that home and the opportunity to sort of give off those warning signs that you're talking about.”

("Can School Violence Be Stopped?" Transcript from CNN's Burden of Proof, aired March 8, 2001.)

“CHARTING PARENTHOOD 2002”

"The data also provides important insights into the value men place on family life and childrearing, and on the multiple contributions that fathers can make to the lives of children. These insights suggest that many men have a deep commitment to raising children in the context of marriage, and that substantial percentages of fathers are deeply and regularly involved in play, discipline, and primary caregiving. For example:"

- “Most fathers who live with their children participate regularly in some kind of leisure or play activity with them. While mothers are more likely to do ‘quiet’ activities (reading a book or doing a puzzle, for example), fathers are more likely to play an outdoor game or sports activity. Very high levels of both fathers and mothers report talking at least once a week with their children about their family.”
- “Substantial percentages of fathers who live with their children are engaged in monitoring their children’s daily activities and in setting limits on these activities. For example, 61 percent set limits on what television programs their children are allowed to watch.”
- “Men are much more likely than women to believe that two parents are more effective at raising children than one parent alone.”
- “More than one in five young children in two-parent families have their father as the primary caregiver when the mother is at work, attending school, or looking for work.”
- “While 40 percent of children whose fathers live outside the home have no contact with them, the other 60 percent had contact an average of 69 days in the last year.”

"Marriage. The percentage of men and women who are married declined modestly between 1991 and 2001. This trend was also evident among parents: 92 percent of resident fathers were

married in 1991, compared to 88 percent in 2001; 75 percent of resident mothers were married in 1991, compared to 72 percent in 2001."

"Cohabitation. While marriage has declined slightly, cohabitation has increased. Eleven percent of unmarried men cohabited in 1991, rising to 13 percent in 2001. During the same period, the percentage of unmarried women who were cohabiting increased from 8 percent to 11 percent. Cohabitation is more common among poor men and women, declining markedly at higher income levels. Overall, 40 percent of all cohabiting relationships involve parents with children in the home."

"Age at First Sexual Intercourse. Among adults ages 18 to 59 in 1992, 55 percent of men and 43 percent of women reported having their first sexual intercourse before age 18. (These percentages may well have changed in ensuing years.) Age at first sex varies tremendously by education. Women college graduates are much less likely to report having had sex before age 18 than women without a high school education (21 percent compared to 67 percent). The gap for men is similar, though less dramatic – 39 percent and 64 percent."

(Tamara Halle, Ph.D., Project Director, "Charting Parenthood: A Statistical Portrait of Fathers and Mothers in America," Executive Summary of Child Trends, <http://www.childtrends.org/PDF/ParenthoodRpt2002.pdf>)

CHILD CARE DATA DISTORTED

"‘I feel we have been extremely irresponsible, and I’m very sorry the results have been presented in this way,’ said Margaret Burchinal, the lead statistician on the study funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. ‘I’m afraid we have scared parents, especially since most parents in this country’ have to work.’"

"Family interactions counted more towards children’s future behavior than time in child care."

(Researchers: Child Care Data Distorted, Dallas Morning News, Fri. April 27, 2001, p. 6A)

"CHILDREN MIMIC TV SEX AND VIOLENCES, PSYCHIATRIST’S STUDY SAYS"

"Harvard researcher Jay Winsten, who heads the Center for Health Communication at the school of public health, cautioned that media exposure is only one factor shaping behavior, and that some children are more vulnerable because they live in abusive or unsupportive families."

("Children Mimic TV Sex and Violence, Psychiatrist’s Study Says" Richard Saltus, Boston Globe, March 26, 2001, San Francisco Chronicle)

“CHILDREN OF ROCKDALE COUNTY”

"While on the surface this is a program about sex and sexual promiscuity, what is far more disturbing is that is the tremendous disconnect that exists between the children of Rockdale County and their families. Over and over again, throughout the program, we see parents who are either clueless or blatantly unconcerned about their children."

"What is disturbing about the program is not that we are witnessing a rare event in the U.S., but rather an event that is quite common. The solution is not more laws or greater restrictions, for rarely have such interventions worked. Rather, we need to have adults continuously, visibly and actively present in the lives of young people. We saw parents who were unable to connect with their children and even when they did, they thought that caring was all that was needed."

"The things critical for successful teen development:
An adult in the life of every young person who is 'crazy about them'"

(Frontline Transcripts of the Lost Children of Rockdale County)

“CLOSENESS TO MOM AND DELAY FIRST SEX AMONG YOUNGER TEENS, ACCORDING TO LARGEST-EVER SURVEY OF U.S. ADOLESCENTS”

“Mothers’ Disapproval of Sex Carries Weight With Teens,
But Talk Alone Doesn’t Get the Message Across”

“When teens perceive that their mothers oppose their having sex, they are less likely to do so, according to the Add Health results. But kids don’t always get the message. Even when mothers strongly disapprove of their kids having sex, 30 percent of girls and nearly 45 percent of boys do not believe they do. At the same time, when teens report that they are having sex, only 51 percent of their mothers think they are.”

“‘Parents say they talk until they’re blue in the face and their kids still don’t listen,’ said study author Robert Blum, MD, PhD, professor and director of the University of Minnesota’s Center for Adolescent Health and Development. ‘Kids will pay attention to their parents’ values on sex. But talk alone does not get the message through.’”

“The study results show that parents can do many things that make a difference in whether their teens start having sex. For example, teens are less likely to become sexually active if their parents know their friends and speak with their friends’ parents. Most importantly, teens, and especially younger teens, who feel close to their mothers are less likely to start having sex. Findings from other Add Health research have also shown that teens whose parents value education are less likely to have sex.”

“Delaying Teen Sex: What Works?”

“The Add Health findings identified a number of factors that are associated with postponement of early sex:”

- “For younger teens and older teenage boys, a strong sense of connectedness with their mothers—in which the teen feels close to mom and perceives that she is warm and caring—makes a difference. This effect was not seen among older teenager girls.”
- “Girls whose mothers have higher levels of education are less likely to become sexually active. On the other hand, teens whose mothers are highly religious are no less likely than other teens to start having sex.”
- “Mothers who report that they frequently talk with the parents of their daughters’ friends had daughters who were less likely to have initiated sex over the one-year study period. These findings did not hold true for boys.”

(www.allaboutkids.umn.edu)

(Blum, R.W. (2002) “Mothers’ Influence on Teen Sex: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.” Center for Adolescent Health and Development, University of Minnesota.

(McNeely, C.A., Shew, M.L., Beuhring, T., Sieving, R., Miller, B.C., Blum, R.W. “Mother’s Influence on Adolescents’ Sexual Debut.” *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 31 (3), 2002.

(Sieving, R.E., McNeely, C.A., Blum, R.W. “Maternal Expectations, Mother-Child Connectedness and Adolescent Sexual Debut.” *Archives of Adolescent Medicine*. 154 (8): 809-16, 2000.

“COALITION FOR ADOLESCENT SEXUAL HEALTH”

“Subject: National poll shows overwhelmingly support for character-based abstinence education.”

“Dear members of Congress:”

“Subject: National poll shows overwhelmingly support for character-based abstinence education.”

“Congress is currently considering welfare reform legislation that includes funding for abstinence education. Also under consideration are annual appropriations bills that fund a variety of approaches to sexuality education and prevention of sexually transmitted disease, teen pregnancy, and HIV/AIDS.”

“A GAO study estimated that condom-based programs aimed at teen pregnancy prevention received at least \$219 million in federal funding in 1998. This figure does not include independent initiatives in federally funded programs such as Title X, Medicaid, and Extension Services of the United States Department of Agriculture.”

“The President has stated that federal funding should support an unambiguous message to teens that sex is best reserved for marriage. This message is contained in character-based abstinence education programs (also called abstinence-centered education) which have been recommended for \$135 million in federal funding in the President’s budget requests for Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004.”

“Despite the President’s desire to come close to equitable funding between abstinence-centered programs and condom-based programs, a number of organizations are seeking to eliminate federal support for character-based abstinence education. These programs cite opinion polls that use carefully crafted questions to demonstrate public support for condom promotion.”

“In January 2003, Zogby International conducted a survey on behalf of the Coalition for Adolescent Sexual Health to determine what parents think about abstinence-centered sex education vs. comprehensive or ‘abstinence-first that condom’ education.”

“The survey of more than 1,200 parents from across the country found that parents overwhelmingly support abstinence-centered sex education and oppose comprehensive or ‘abstinence-first’ sex education. Parents adamantly object to the type of information contained in the ‘abstinence-first’ curricula that have traditionally been promoted by the CDC. Additional findings are reported in the table below.”

	% of parents who approved or strongly agree	% of parents who disapprove or strongly disagree
Comprehensive or ‘abstinence-first’ sex education guidelines	25.3%	60.5%
Character-based abstinence-centered sex education guidelines	76.1%	14.2%
CDC-promoted sex education curricula	15.1%	73.8%
Misc. aspects of condom-based ‘safer-sex’ education	29.8%	59.4%

“By a 4.6 to 1 margin, parents approve or strongly approve abstinence-centered sex education. By a 2.4 to 1 margin, parents disapprove or strongly disapprove of comprehensive or ‘abstinence-first’ sex education.”

“By a 5.3 to 1 margin, parents disapprove or strongly disapprove of the information contained in ‘safer-sex’ curricula that have been promoted by the CDC.”

“The message is clear. In terms of sex education, parents want schools to provide their children with information consistent with their values and expectations. Those values and expectations are most closely reflected in programs that promote messages of abstinence from sexual activity until marriage. The polling data strongly suggests that parents want their children to receive a

strong message on abstinence. In addition, it demonstrates that an overwhelming proportion of parents disapprove of the messages contained in comprehensive or ‘abstinence-first’ sex education.”

“The complete results of the Zogby survey are attached. We trust that this information will be helpful to you as you consider legislation and funding for federal programs that affect the lives and futures of teens and families.”

“Sincerely,”

“The Coalition for Adolescent Sexual Health”

(Coalition for Adolescent Sexual Health, February 13, 2003, www.whatparentsthink.com)

“CONNECT WITH KIDS – THE TEEN YEARS”

REFRAMING YOUTH ISSUES FOR PUBLIC CONSIDERATION AND SUPPORT

“There are dramatic difference between the way American adults view teenagers and the descriptive data that should inform our view of what teens think and do.”

(These papers will be published together as “Reframing Youth Issues,” “Working Papers of the Frame Works Institute and the Center for Communications and Community, UCLA, 2000) copyright 1999 Benton Foundation (www.connectforkids.org)

“There are dramatic difference between the way American adults view teenagers and the descriptive data that should inform our view of what teens think and do.”

“There are a number of critical areas of distortion. First, adults believe that teens today are ‘different’ than they were in the past. At the core of this concern is a feeling that today’s teens have rejected traditional American values. ‘Only 16% of Americans say that young people under the age of 30 share most of their moral and ethical values,’” Bostrom reports. [Margaret Bostrom, ‘The Twentieth Century Teen: Public Perception and Teen Reality, A summary of the public opinion, Washington D.C., Framework Institute, April 2000]

““While adults have serious reservations about American youth, the reality is that teens place high value on honesty and hard work, and the vast majority are thinking and planning for the future” (Bostrom: 6)”

“Among those values teens say they rank highest are ‘being honest’ (8.6 on a 10 pt. Scale), ‘working hard’ (8.4), ‘being a good student’ (7.9), and ‘giving time to helping others’ (7.6). And majorities of teens say they volunteer, attend church or synagogue weekly, read the newspaper regularly and attend cultural events (Bostrom: 7).”

“TV youth are most often shown dealing with problems relating to romantic relationships, friendships/popularity, and family issues. In the sample, there was not a single instance of a

youth character involved in a conflict or problem that was societal in nature (homelessness, poverty, environmental concerns).”

“In programs with a primarily youth cast, adolescents are often shown as capable of solving their own problems without adult help.”

“In programs with primarily adult cast, youth characters often act as catalysts creating problem adults must fix.”

“TV parents are most often shown as absent or ineffective.”

“Many youth characters exist in a world void of parental involvement.”

“Content analyses of the depictions of youth by the media have consistently revealed a bias towards negative coverage in which youth are most likely to be feature in the context of crime stories (Kunkel, 1994; Berkely Media Studies Group, 1995, 1997; Woodruff 1998; Dorfman and Woodruff, 1998; Berkeley Media Studies Group, 2000).”

“In a study of ‘Frames on Children and Youth in U.S. Newspapers’ (1995), the Berkeley Media Studies Group studied four major papers during one week and concluded that when children appear in the news, it is most often as victims of violence and crime (p.4). Moreover, ‘virtually every time youth or teenagers were used as examples... it was in a negative context... The phrases reflect our stereotypic icons of youth.’”

Michael Mello, a professor at Vermont Law School and former defense counsel for serial killer Ted Bundy and the “Unabomber,” Ted Kaczynski:

“[An adolescent’s] life is passionate and [consists of] extreme responses to people in certain situations,’ especially people they are close with.”

“‘Adolescents are immature; they cannot think things through. And when they kill, they kill for impulsive reasons.’”

(excite.com “Experts: Most teen crimes are impulsive” Feb. 26, 2001)

“I’d rather be wanted for murder, than not be wanted at all.” (Chicago ?)

“CONSEQUENCES OF DIVORCE ON FATHER-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS”

“In a longitudinal study of 2,500 children of divorce, twenty years after the divorce less than one-third of boys and one-quarter of girls reported having close relationships with their fathers. In contrast, seventy percent of youths from the comparison group of intact families reported feeling close to their fathers.”

(Hetherington, E. Mavis, and John Kelly. “For Better or For Worse: Divorce Reconsidered.” New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2002: 231.)

“COPY CAT KILLERS”

“Doesn’t anyone see that this is precisely where today’s value-neutral schools and culture have brought us? Amidst the cries for tougher gun laws, surely somebody must see that there’s a bigger issue here. The root problem, of course, is sin. We’re seeing a lack of individual responsibility and a failure to cultivate conscience.”

“Conscience, remember, is cultivated by the most basic structure of society, the family. Discipline is learned in families, but too many American families have failed. Just look at the statistics. Even in the toughest ghettos, only 10% of kids from intact families get into trouble; but 90% of those from broken families do. Unless we rebuild families, school shootings may well become the norm.”

(Chuck Colson “Copy Cat Killers” March 15, 2001)

“DADS HELP TEENS AVOID DRUGS, SURVEY SAYS”

“Washington: Okay dads, listen up. The key to winning the war on drugs rests not with police or laws, but with you.”

(Akron Beacon Journal, Aug. 31, 1999, pg. A1)

“DADS KEY AGAINST DRUGS, STUDY FINDS”

“A national survey released Monday shows that dads who eat dinner with their children, take them to religious services, and help with their homework greatly reduce the chances their kids will smoke, drink, or use illegal drugs.”

“And those in two-parent families who have fair or poor relationships with their dads are 68% more likely to use drugs than those in the survey’s average two-parent families. By comparison, children raised by their mothers alone were only 30% more likely to use drugs than those in the survey’s average two-parent families.”

“DAD’S LOVE INFLUENCES CHILD AS MUCH AS MOM’S LOVE”

“A father's love—or the lack of it—contributes as much to the development of a child's personality and behavior as the love of a mother, according to researchers. In some respects, they add, a father's love is even more influential. Probably the most important and most surprising finding of all is that the importance of mother love seems to drop out altogether in some of the analyses.”

“The researchers reviewed almost 100 US and European studies investigating the effects of parenting on the psychology and behavior of children as they grew older. The earliest study was conducted in 1949, and the most recent was completed in 2001.”

“The investigators also found that **having the love and nurturing of either parent has an equally positive effect on a child's happiness**, well-being and social and academic success from early childhood through young adulthood.”

“The team further found that in certain instances, the love of a father plays an even more important role than that of the mother. Many studies found a father's love to be the sole determining factor when it came to a child's problems with personality, conduct, delinquency or substance abuse.” (Review of General Psychology, December, 2001)

(www.mercola.com/2002/jan/5/love.htm)

“DECEPTION UNCOVERED: AN ANALYSIS”

“Zogby Survey 2003: The opinions of parents toward character-based, abstinence-until-marriage sex education vs. comprehensive (or ‘abstinence-first,’ then condoms) sex education”

“Zogby Survey 2003: The opinions of parents toward character-based, abstinence-until-marriage sex education vs. comprehensive (or ‘abstinence-first,’ then condoms) sex education”

“Preface”

“For children in kindergarten through third grade (ages 5 to 8)”

- **“Boys and girls have body parts that feel good when touched.”**
- **“Touching and rubbing one’s own genitals to feel good is called maturation.”**
- **“Vaginal intercourse occurs when a man and a woman place the penis inside the vagina.”**

“For children in fourth through seventh grades (ages 9 to 12)”

- **“Couples have different ways to share sexual pleasure with each other.”**
- **Homosexual love relationships can be as satisfying as heterosexual relationships.”**

“For adolescents in middle school (ages 12 to 15)”

- **“How a person masturbates varies for each individual.”**
- **“A few boys engage in a very dangerous and sometimes fatal form of masturbation that involves limiting their air supply.”**

“For adolescents in high school (ages 15 to 18)”

- Some people use erotic photographs, movies, or literature to enhance their sexual fantasies when alone or with a partner.”

“The statements above are verbatim portions of the Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education. These guidelines, developed in 1990 by the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], the National School Boards Association, Planned Parenthood and others, represent the foundation of comprehensive sex education (also known as ‘abstinence-first’ or abstinence-plus-condoms sex education).”

	% of parents who approved or strongly approve	% of parents who disapprove or strongly disapprove
Comprehensive or ‘abstinence-plus-condoms’ sex education guidelines	25.0%	61.1%
Abstinence-plus-character sex education guidelines	73.4%	16.3%
CDC-promoted abstinence- plus-condoms sex education curricula	13.9%	75.3%
Misc. aspects of abstinence- plus-condoms education	22.4%	68.1%

- “By a 4.6 to 1 margin, parents approve or strongly approve of abstinence sex education.”
- “By a 2.4 to 1 margin, parents disapprove or strongly disapprove of comprehensive sex education.”
- “By a 5.3 to 1 margin, parents disapprove or strongly disapprove of the information contained in comprehensive sex education curricula that have been promoted by the CDC.”
- “All demographic groupings strongly disapprove of comprehensive sex education, although the strongest opposition was found among non-white minority parents (Hispanics and Asians) and among parents who identified themselves as born-again Christians.”

(Coalition for Adolescent Sexual Health, www.whatparentsthink.com)

“DISCUSSING SEX IMPARTS ATTITUDES TO TEENS”

“In the CDC study of 907 teen/mother pairs in New York, Alabama, and Puerto Rico, parents and 14 to 16 year olds were interviewed separately about communication and sexual attitudes.

Adolescents are most likely to adopt their parents' attitudes about teen sex if parents often discuss sex-related topics and seem comfortable doing it show this federal survey."

("Discussing sex imparts attitudes to teens" By Marilyn Elias, USA Today, Aug. 7, 2000)

"DOES FATHER ABSENCE PLACE DAUGHTERS AT SPECIAL RISK FOR EARLY SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY?"

"Greater exposure to father absence was strongly associated with elevated risk for early sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy."

"There was stronger and more consistent evidence of effects of father absence on early sexual activity and teenage pregnancy than on other behavioral or mental health problems or academic achievement."

"In conclusion, father absence was an overriding risk factor for early sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy. Conversely, father presence was a major protective factor against early sexual outcomes, even if other risk factors were present. These finding may support social policies that encourage fathers to form and remain in families with their children (unless the marriage is highly conflictual or violent; Armoto & Booth, 1997)."

(Ellis, Bruce J.; Bates, John E.; Dodge, Kenneth A.; Fergusson, David M., Horwood, L. John, Pettit, Gregory S., Woodward, Lianne, "Does Father Absence Place Daughters at Special Risk for Early Sexual Activity and Teenage Pregnancy?" Child Development, May/June 2003, Volume 74, Number 3, pages 801-821)

"DR. JOHN DIGGS, M.D., JAN. 26, 2001"

"Tonight 40% of American children will go to sleep in fatherless homes."

"Seven in 10 juveniles in long-term correctional facilities did not live with their fathers growing up."

"Most gang members come from fatherless homes."

"Children living apart from their biological fathers are up to 75% more likely to have to repeat grades of school (this happened to me) and 70% more likely to be expelled from school than children living with both parents."

"Illicit drug and alcohol use is more common in fatherless homes than in households headed by intact, married couples."

“Compared to females who grow up with their fathers, females from fatherless homes are 111% more likely to have children as teenagers, 164% more likely to have premarital births, and 92% more likely to dissolve their own marriages.”

“Youths who attempt suicide are more likely to live in fatherless homes.”

“Children in fatherless families are five times more likely to be poor.”

“Children living apart from their biological fathers are 20-30% more likely to have accidents than children living with both natural parents.”

“The mortality rate of infants born to college educated but unmarried mothers is higher than for infants born to married high school dropouts.”

“Children of broken families experience significantly lower self-esteem and poorer self-concepts than children of intact families.”

“Fatherlessness is a serious problem, and the evidence strongly suggests that it is a primary contributor to adolescent crises.”

“DR. PETER GOTT”

“As reported in Health Education and Behavior (Feb. 2001), parental attitudes may play an enormous role in whether children smoke, drink or use drugs. According to lead author, Dr. Bruce Simons-Morton: ‘Teens who perceived that their parents like them, respect them, take them seriously, listen to them and give reasons for rules and decisions that involve them were less likely to smoke and drink.’”

“We need to act as role models for our children, as well as to attempt to involve them in lifestyle decisions – a daunting challenge.”

(The Billings Gazette, “Dr. Peter Gott” Wednesday, April 4, 2001, p. 4E)

“DRUGS TIED TO TROUBLE WITH DAD”

“It also shows that while 71% of teens reported having an excellent or very good relationship with their mothers, only 58% said they had such a relationship with their fathers, suggesting the need for dads to take a greater role in their children’s lives for better drug prevention.”

“More than twice as many teens found it easier to talk to their mothers than their fathers about drugs (56% vs. 26%).”

“Joeseeph Califano Jr., former U.S. secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and current president of CASA, says the statistics should be a ‘wake-up call for dads across America’ to become more engaged with their children.”

“The 5th annual survey was financed by the private national Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University and conducted by the Luniz Research Cos. The poll reached a representative sample of 2,000 kids ages 12 to 17 and 1,000 parents. The study sought to isolate the factors that influenced the likelihood of teen drug use, with an emphasis on family relationships.”

(USA Today, August 31, 1999, pg. 4D)

“EXPERTS STUDY EPIDEMIC OF TEEN VIOLENCE”

"Shaw, director of child welfare and attendance at the Norwalk La Mirada unified School District, attributes the rising youth violence numbers to several factors, including disinterested parents, overwhelmed schools, emotional disorders and mental illness."

"Experts recommend that parents spend time with teens and learn what is happening in their lives."

"Ultimately, according to Shaw, the only effective solution to the problem of kids killing kids is in the home."

(Whittier Daily News, "Experts study epidemic of teen violence, July 20, 2001)

“FACTS & FIGURES”

- “Roughly one in three U.S. families is a single-parent family with children under age 18; the majority is female headed.”
- “The median annual income for single mothers is \$25,000 – 35 percent below the national average. The median annual income for a single father is \$40,000.”
- “Forty-three percent of teens don’t live in the same house with both natural parents.”

--Adapted from “Good News/Bad News for Families” in SAM Journal No. 144. Used by permission. Stats from U.S. Census Bureau, Barna Institute and Divorce Magazine.

(“Ministry to Single Parents,” Interpreter, April 2003, pg. 36)

“FAILURE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM”

“A recent study of the California State University system indicated that half of all freshmen needed remedial education in math, and nearly half needed remedial education in English.”

“Over two years of planning and pilot-testing, four years of data collection in the field, and four years of data analysis, we studied more than 20,000 teenagers and their families in nice very different American communities. Our findings suggest that the sorry state of student achievement in America is due more to the conditions of students’ lives outside of school than to what takes place within school walls. The failure of our educational policies is due to our obsession with reforming schools and classrooms, and our general disregard of the contributing forces that, while outside the boundaries of the school, are probably more influential.”

“According to our research, nearly one in three parents in America is seriously disengaged from his or her adolescent’s life, and especially, from the adolescent’s education. Only about one-fifth of parents consistently attend school programs. Nearly one-third of students say their parents have no idea how they are doing in school. About one-sixth of all students report that their parents don’t care whether they earn good grades in school.”

“It’s not surprising, then, that very little of the typical American student’s time –something on the order of 15-20 hours weekly, or only about 15% of his or her waking hours-is spent on endeavors likely to contribute to learning or achievement.”

(Laurence Steinberg, “Failure Outside the Classroom.” The Wall Street Journal. Thursday, July 11, 1996.)

“FATHER FACTS -- Fourth Edition”

“INTRODUCTION”

“Twenty-five years ago, child psychologist Michael Lamb accurately described fathers as the ‘forgotten contributors to child development.” (1--Stacey, Judith (1998). “Dada-ism in the 1990s.” In Cynthia Daniels (Ed.) “Lost Fathers” (pp. 51-83). New York, St. Martin’s Press, 66.)

“Twenty-four million children live in home without their biological fathers.”

“TOP TEN FATHER FACTS”

1. “24 million children (34 percent) live absent their biological father.”
2. “Nearly 20 million children (27 percent) live in single-parent homes.”
3. “1.35 million births (33 percent of all births) in 2000 occurred out of wedlock.”

4. “43 percent of first marriages dissolve within fifteen years; about 60 percent of divorcing couples have children; and approximately one million children each year experience the divorce of their parents.”
5. “Over 3.3 million children live with an unmarried parent and the parent’s cohabiting partner. The number of cohabiting couples with children has nearly doubled since 1990, from 891,000 to 1.7 million today.”
6. “Fathers who live with their children are more likely to have a close, enduring relationship with their children than those who do not. The best predictor of father presence is marital status. Compared to children born within marriage, children born to cohabiting parents are three times as likely to experience father absence, and children born to unmarried, non-cohabiting parents are four times as likely to live in a father-absent home.”
7. “About 40 percent of children in father-absent homes have not seen their father at all during the past year; 26 percent of absent fathers live in a different state than their children; and 50 percent of children living absent their father have never set foot in their father’s home.”
8. “Children who live absent their biological fathers are, on average, at least two to three times more likely to be poor, to use drugs, to experience educational, health, emotional and behavioral problems, to be victims of child abuse, and to engage in criminal behavior than those who live with their married biological (or adoptive) parents.”
9. “From 1960 to 1995, the proportion of children living in single-parent homes tripled, from 9 percent to 27 percent, and the proportion of children living with married parents declined. However, from 1995 to 2000, the proportion of children living in single-parent homes slightly declined, while the proportion of children living with two married parents remained stable.”
10. “Children involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior, and avoid high-risk behaviors such as drug use, truancy, and criminal activity compared to children who have uninvolved fathers.”

“LATE-BREAKING FATHER FACTS”

“Importance of Father Love for Child Well-Being”

“In an analysis of nearly 100 studies on parent-child relationships, father love (measured by children’s perceptions of paternal acceptance/rejection, affection/indifference) was as important as mother love in predicting the social, emotional, and cognitive development and functioning of children and young adults.”

- “Having a loving and nurturing father was as important for a child’s happiness, well-being and social and academic success as having a loving and nurturing mother.”

- “Withdrawal of love by either the father or the mother was equally influential in predicting a child’s emotional instability, lack of self-esteem, depression, social withdrawal, and level of aggression.”
- “In some studies, father love was actually a *better* predictor than mother love for certain outcomes, including delinquency and conduct problems, substance abuse, and overall mental health and well-being.”
- “Other studies found that, after controlling for mother love, father love was the *sole* significant predictor for certain outcomes, such as psychological adjustment problems, conduct problems, and substance abuse.”

(Source: Rohner, Ronald P., and Robert A. Veneziano. “The Importance of Father Love: History and Contemporary Evidence.” *Review of General Psychology* 5.4 (December 2001): 382-405.

“FATHER FACTS”

“*Child Abuse*”

“The rate of child abuse in single-parent families is nearly twice the rate of child abuse in two-parent households.”

(Source: America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being. Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. Washington, DC: GPO, 1997.)

“*Crime*”

“Even after controlling for family background variables such as mother's education level, race, family income, and number of siblings, as well as neighborhood variables such as unemployment rates and median income, boys who grew up outside of intact marriages were, on average, more than twice as likely as other boys to end up in jail.” (Source: Harper, Cynthia C., and Sara S. McLanahan. “Father Absence and Youth Incarceration.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA, August 1998.)

“Drug and Alcohol Use”

“Even after controlling for the effects of gender, age, race-ethnicity, family income, and residential mobility, teens in single-parent and stepparent families were 2 times more likely to use illegal drugs compared to teens in intact, two-parent married families.”

(Source: Hoffmann, John P., and Robert A. Johnson. ‘A National Portrait of Family Structure and Adolescent Drug Use.’ *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 60(August 1998): 633-645.)

“*Education*”

“Even after controlling for differences in income, children who were born out of wedlock and either remained in a single-parent family or whose mother subsequently married had

significantly poorer math and reading scores and lower levels of academic performance than children from continuously married households.” (Source: Cooksey, Elizabeth C. ‘Consequences of Young Mothers' Marital Histories for Children's Cognitive Development.’ Journal of Marriage and the Family 59(May 1997): 245-261.)

“Poverty”

“Single-parent families are five times as likely to be poor as married-couple families. In 1999, 6.3 percent of married-couple families with children were living in poverty, compared to 31.8 percent of single-parent families with children.”
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Current Population Survey.)

(“Father Facts.” National Fatherhood Initiative. www.fatherhood.org/fatherfacts/sample.htm)

“FATHER INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL SETTING AND CHILD OUTCOMES”

“The awareness of the importance of parental involvement as one of the essential components for effective school programs has been increasing among teachers, administrators, and parents in schools across all grade levels (Epstein, Herrick, & Coates, 1996; Sanders, in press). Studies have consistently indicated that active parental involvement, home-school partnerships, and a focus on family-centered programming in school settings can lead to positive developmental outcomes for the children, their families, and the schools in which they are enrolled (Connors & Epstein, 1995; Powell, 1993; NCES, 2001; Sanders, 1996, in press)”

(Brent A. McBride, “Father Involvement In School Setting and Child Outcomes.” 2002 AERA Annual Meeting Submitted Proposal, July 24, 2001.
<http://tigersystem.net/aera2002/viewproposaltext.asp?propID=1016>

“FATHER, WHERE ART THOU?”

“Lee Malvo will be tried as an adult on charges that he helped murder 14 people. If only he’d had one around growing up.”

“The more perplexing question is how a boy allegedly became a coldblooded assassin before he even became a man.”

“The simplest answer may come from Malvo’s aunt Marie Lawrence, who described her family’s curse. ‘We don’t know what father love is.’”

(“Father, Where Art Thou?” Kevin Peraino and Evan Thomas, Newsweek, January 27, 2003, p. 55)

“FATHER’S ABSENCE INCREASES DAUGHTER’S RISK OF TEEN PREGNANCY”

“‘Given these costs to adolescents and their children, it is critical to identify life experiences and pathways that place girls at increased risk for early sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy,’ Ellis say.”

“The researchers defined absence of the biological or adoptive birth father at or before the child reached age 5 as early onset of father absence, while late onset of father absence was defined as occurring when the child was between 6 and 13.”

“The researchers found that father absence places daughters at special risk for early sexual activity and teenage pregnancy. While the researchers said these findings need to be replicated in non- Western, ‘the striking similarity in results across the United States and New Zealand samples underscores the robustness and generalizability of the findings,’ Ellis says.”

“The study results are published in the current issue of the journal *Child Development*.”

“Ellis and colleagues noted that girls whose fathers left the family earlier in their lives had the highest rates of both early sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy, followed by those whose fathers left at a later age, followed by girls whose fathers were present.”

“‘It is not just a matter of whether the father is absent, but the timing of that absence,’ Ellis says. ‘This issue may be especially relevant to predicting rates of teenage pregnancy, which were seven to eight times higher among early father-absent girls, but only two to three times higher among later father-absent girls, than among father-present girls.’”

“Even when the researchers took into account other factors that could have contributed to early sexual activity and pregnancy, such as behavioral problems and life adversity, early father-absent girls were still about five times more likely in the United States and three times more likely in New Zealand to experience an adolescent pregnancy than were father-present girls.”

“Girls who grew up in otherwise socially and economically privileged homes were not protected. ‘Father absence was so fundamentally linked to teenage pregnancy that its effects were largely undiminished by such factors as whether girls were rich or poor, black or white, New Zealand Maori or European, cooperative or defiant in temperament, born to adult or teenage mothers, raised in safe or violent neighborhoods, subjected to few or many stressful life events, reared by supportive or rejecting parents, exposed to functional or dysfunctional marriages, or closely or loosely monitored by parents,’ Ellis says.”

“The researchers suggested several mechanisms to explain the results. One is that a longer duration of father absence results in the daughters having greater exposure to their mothers’ dating and future relationship behaviors, and this exposure may encourage earlier onset of sexual behavior in daughters. Another possibility is that girls who experience father absence may undergo early personality changes that orient them toward early and unstable bonds with men.

(www.newswise.com/articles/2003/5/DAUGHTER.HBN.html)

“FEDS: 1.5 MILLION BABIES BORN TO UNWED MOMS IN ‘04”

“Data from the National Center for Health Statistics found the unwed moms were more likely to be twentysomethings than teenagers: 55% of births for those ages 20-24 were to unwed mothers; almost 28% for ages 25-29. In just two years – 2002 to 2004 – births to unwed mothers ages 25-29 jumped more than 14%, and 7% over the same period for the younger twentysomething mothers. Teens accounted for 50% of unwed births in 1970 but only 24% in 2004.”

(Sharon Jayson,” USA Today, October 31, 2005, www.usatoday.com)

“FIGHTING WITH FRIENDSHIP”

“HERE IN WHAT should be the last of their happy little girl years, in the middle schools of America, is a dirty little secret that is finally getting exposed for what it is — a kind of hidden bullying so vicious that some of the young victims will be scarred for life. ‘We don’t even have a language to talk about this,’ says Rachel Simmons. ‘This’ is female aggression — bullying — and it is, says author and former Rhodes Scholar Simmons, an epidemic among America’s 10- to 13-year-old girls.”

“She believes that girl bullies, using relationships as a weapon, inflict far more damage than most of us would like to think. In fact, she says, it’s getting worse. The evidence suggests that girl bullies now have a new tool to spread their ugly rumors — the Internet.”

“You’re not there talking face to face so you can really say anything and you just write whatever and it can be really mean,” explains one girl. “And then that person will print it out let’s say and they’d show all of their friends. And it’s access to like the whole wide world. Of course, since most of the girls who engage in this sort of thing are just 10 or 12 or so, should we assume the Internet gossip mill is at least relatively innocent?”

“Rachel Simmons says, ‘What I found was most girls were never informed why they were being ostracized. But the pain of not knowing why someone has let go of you, has cut you loose is so devastating as to call into question your whole notion of social relationships, your whole notion of friendship’.”

“Research suggests this female aggression peaks in middle school and begins to ebb as girls develop more maturity and empathy.”

(Keith Morrison“Fighting with friendship.” Dateline NBC www.msnbc.com/news/735674.asp)

“FOSTERING A SENSE OF SELF IN A ‘SKIN-DEEP’ CULTURE”

"Seven steps to a healthy sense of self"

"Seven steps to a healthy sense of self..."

- "First, commend your children when they do something well."
(Page 10)
- "Second, praise your kids in front of others." (Page 10)
- "Third, praise you children in advance." (Page 10)
- "Fourth, affirm them without using words." (Page 10)
- "Fifth, honor young people with words of affection." (Page 14)
- "Sixth, love your kids for who they are." (Page 14)
- "Seventh, remember what your kids can become in the future."
(Page 14)

(Paul Robertson, "Fostering a sense of self in a 'skin-deep' culture," Fall 1999, Youth Culture @ 2000)

“FRAGILE FAMILIES’ FINDINGS”

“Preliminary survey data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, a longitudinal study of 2,670 unmarried couples with children, suggests that most unwed fathers are highly involved shortly after the child’s birth:”

- “50% of unmarried parents were living together at the time of the child’s birth, and another 33% were romantically involved but living apart.”
- “80% of the fathers were involved in helping the baby’s mother during the pregnancy, either financially or in other ways (such as transportation).”
- “73% of mothers reported that the chances that they will marry the baby’s father are ‘fifty-fifty’ or greater; 88% of fathers reported that the odds of marrying the mother of their child are ‘fifty-fifty’ or greater.”
- “64% of the mothers and 75% of the fathers agreed with the statement, ‘it is better for children if their parents are married.’”
- “90% of unmarried mothers rated ‘husband having a steady job’ and ‘emotional maturity’ as very important qualities for a successful marriage.”
- “37% of the mothers and 34% of the fathers lack a high school degree, and less than a third had any education beyond high school.”

- “30% of the fathers were unemployed in the week before their child was born.”

*Compared to a nearly perfect response rate from mothers, only 75 percent of fathers responded to the survey, resulting in a selection effect that most likely inflates the above percentages for fathers.”

(McLanahan, Sara, Irwin Garfinkel, Nancy E. Reichman, Julien Teitler, Marcia Carlson, and Christian Norland Audigier. “The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study Baseline Report.” The Center for Research on Child Wellbeing (Princeton University) and the Social Indicators Survey Center (Columbia University), August 2001.)

“GOOD DADS: FAITH MAKES A DIFFERENCE”

“Catholic and evangelical Christian fathers spend a lot of one-on-one time with their children, making them the best dads studied by a University of Virginia sociologist and expert on religion and families.”

“‘My research shows that evangelical Protestant and Catholic fathers are, on average, more involved with their children than fathers who have no religious affiliation,’ said W. Bradford Wilcox, assistant professor of sociology at U. Va. ‘Evangelical Protestant fathers, including Southern Baptists, are very involved with their children, which I found surprising, given their tendency to embrace traditional gender attitudes.’”

“A count of family dinners showed evangelical Protestant dads, in the average year, will have roughly 27 more dinners with their families than unaffiliated fathers.”

(“Good Dads: Faith Makes a Difference,” W. Bradford Wilcox, National Council of Family Relations, Article from Journal of Marriage and Family, August, 2002; Vol. 64, No. 3, pg. 780-792 entitled: “Religion, Convention, and Paternal Involvement”)

“GROWING UP WITH MARRIED PARENTS IS GOOD FOR KIDS: BUT DO WE KNOW HOW TO GET THERE?”

“Key findings from research in the brief include:”

- **“Two married biological parents are best for kids.** On average, neither cohabitation nor marriage of a parent and a step-parent are as beneficial to children as marriage between two biological parents.”
- **“The birth of a child may be the best time to promote marriage between unmarried biological parents.** Nearly half of births to unmarried women actually occur among cohabiting couples; another third are to couples who remain in a relationship. Many of these parents hold positive attitudes about marriage around the time of pregnancy and birth, and

initial research suggests that this may be the best time for marriage promotion policies to be successful.”

- **“Research also suggests that education, job training and employment may indirectly promote marriage among disadvantaged couples.”**
- **“Preventing teen pregnancies and nonmarital childbearing among adults are both strategies for reducing the number of children growing up with single parents.** While significant research exists on preventing teen pregnancies, there is not an equivalent body of research on how to reduce nonmarital childbearing by adults, to whom the majority of nonmarital births now occur.”
- **“High-conflict marriages, even between biological parents, are detrimental for children.** Domestic violence can be very destructive to children's development, and children who grow up with parents in a high-conflict marriage have worse emotional well-being than children whose parents are in a low-conflict marriage.”

(Child Trends' latest research brief, “Marriage from a Child's Perspective: How Does Family Structure Affect Children, and What Can We Do About It?” News Brief, "Growing up with Married Parents Is Good for Kids: But Do We Know How to Get There?" June 18, 2002, http://www.childtrends.org/n_marriagerb.asp)

“GUNS NOT TO BLAME IN SHOOTINGS”

Sec. Of Education Rod Paige: "The issue of schoolchildren and firearms goes 'beyond metal detectors' and underscores the need to focus on children. There are not enough police or metal detectors in the world to solve this. That is the point we are trying to make now. **We need to deal with more relationships.**" (CNN.com "An epidemic of violence" March 8, 2001)

“‘Probably the biggest problem we have is the amount of alienation and rage in our young people,’ Page said on CBS ‘Face the Nation.’” “Paige recommended more after-school programs and parental involvement, and character education.”

“Bush told Congress last month that he wanted to triple funds for character education ‘to teach our children not only reading and writing, but right from wrong.’”

“‘Character education offers an opportunity to teach kids things like empathy, compassion, tolerance – all values that we all know are wonderful,’ Paige said on CBS.”

(cnn.com “Guns not to blame in shootings, March 11, 2001)

“HARDWIRED TO CONNECT: THE NEW SCIENTIFIC CASE FOR AUTHORITATIVE COMMUNITIES”

“The Commission is basing its recommendations on recent scientific findings suggesting that children are biologically ‘hardwired’ for enduring attachments to other people and for moral and spiritual meaning. Meeting children’s needs for enduring attachments and for moral and spiritual meaning is the best way to ensure their healthy development, according to the Commission’s report.”

“Despite a decade of unprecedented economic growth that resulted in fewer children living in poverty, large and growing numbers of American children and adolescents are suffering from mental health problems. Scholars at the National Research Council in 2002 estimated that at least one of every four adolescents in the U.S. is currently at serious risk of not achieving productive adulthood. Twenty-one percent of U.S. children ages 9 to 17 have a diagnosable mental disorder or addiction; 8 percent of high school students suffer from clinical depression, and 20 percent of students report seriously having considered suicide in the past year. By the 1980’s, U.S. children as a group were reporting more anxiety than did children who were psychiatric patients in the 1950’s, according to one study.”

“Said the child psychiatrist Dr. Kathleen Kovner Kline of the Dartmouth Medical School, the report’s principal investigator:

‘As children’s doctors, we began this project because our waiting lists are too long. Our challenge today is to shift from treatment alone to treatment plus prevention.’”

“What Recent Research Suggests”

“In searching for strategies to improve outcomes for children, the Commission reviewed research on the brain and human behavior from the last two to five years. Among the main scientific findings on which the Commission has based its recommendations are:”

- “The mechanisms by which we become and stay attached to others have a biological basis and are increasingly discernible in the basic structure of the brain.”
- “Nurturing environments, or the lack of them, influence the development of brain circuitry and the way genes affect behavior.”
- “The old ‘nature versus nurture’ debate – focusing on whether heredity or environment is the main determinant of human conduct – is no longer relevant to serious discussions of child well-being and youth programming. New scientific findings are teaching us to marvel at how nature and nurture interact. These findings suggest that strong nurturing can reduce or eliminate the harmful effects of genes that are associated with aggression, anxiety, depression or substance abuse.”
- “Primary nurturing relationships influence early spiritual development, and spiritual development can influence us biologically in the same ways that primary nurturing

relationships do. For instance, spirituality and religiosity can be associated with lower levels of stress hormone (cortisol), more optimism, and commitment to helping others.”

- “Religiosity and spirituality significantly influence well-being.”
- “The human brain appears to be organized to ask ultimate questions and seek ultimate answers.”

“Hardwired to Connect”

“The Commission was particularly impressed by mounting scientific evidence suggesting that in two basic ways the human child is hardwired to connect. First, children are hardwired for close attachments to other people, beginning with their mothers, fathers, and other relatives, and then extending out to the broader community.”

“Hardwired for Meaning”

“A smaller but still significant body of research also shows that people are ‘hardwired’ for meaning, born with a built-in capacity and drive to ask the ultimate questions about life’s purpose: Why am I here? What is the purpose of my life? How should I live? What will happen when I die? Across time and cultures, this distinctively human pursuit has been closely connected to spiritual seeking and experience and to religious belief and practice. Using brain imaging, neuroscientists Eugene dAquila and Andrew B. Newberg’s have found that the same part of the brain that underlies the human need to seek answers to what is true about life’s deepest questions also underlies many spiritual and religious experiences. In other words, the pursuit of meaning appears to be physiologically linked to spiritual and religious seeking.”

“To date the influence of religion on U.S. young people has been ‘grossly understudied,’ according to Byron Johnson of the University of Pennsylvania. However, existing research is highly suggestive. For adolescents, religiosity is significantly associated with a reduced likelihood of both unintentional and intentional injury (both of which are leading causes of death for teenagers. Homicides, suicides and accidents account for 85 percent of all deaths among early to late adolescents). Religious teenagers are safer drivers and are more likely to wear seatbelts than their less religious peers. They are less likely to become juvenile delinquents or adult criminals. They are less prone to substance abuse. They are less likely to endorse engaging in high-risk behavior or the idea of enjoying the danger.”

“One religious quality that appears to be especially beneficial, in terms of mental health and lifestyle consequences, is what some scholars call personal devotion, or the young person’s sense of participating in a ‘direct personal relationship with the Divine.’ Personal devotion among adolescents is associated with reduced risk-taking, more effectively resolving feelings of loneliness, greater regard for self and for others, and a stronger sense that life has meaning and purpose. These protective effects of personal devotion are twice as great for adolescents as they are for adults. This last finding clearly reinforces the idea, found in many cross-national studies, that adolescence is a time of particularly intense searching for, and openness to, the transcendent.

Here is how Lisa Miller of Columbia University puts it: ‘A search for spiritual relationship with the Creator may be an inherent developmental process in adolescence.’”

“One of the many problems with the avoidance strategy is that denying or ignoring the spiritual needs of adolescents may end up creating a void in their lives that either devolves into depression or is filled by other forms of questing and challenge, such as drinking, unbridled consumerism, petty crime, sexual precocity, or flirtations with violence.”

“The Link Between Social Connectedness and Child Well-Being”

“In recent years, authoritative communities have gotten significantly weaker in the United States. Consider the family, for children, the first and typically most important authoritative community. From the mid 1960’s to the mid 1990’s, U.S. families overall have gotten steadily weaker. Today, more than half of all children in the U.S. will spend a significant part of their childhood in a single-parent home, usually a father-absent home, due to high rates of divorce and unmarried childbearing. One particularly harmful aspect of this trend is the widespread absence of fathers in children’s lives.”

“Today there is also a rough scholarly consensus that other authoritative communities, such as civic and community groups, houses of worship, political clubs, and workplace associations have deteriorated significantly in recent decades.”

“The idea that the decline in social connectedness is contributing significantly to a range of childhood problems is supported by numerous studies. For instance, a recent analysis of 269 studies, dating back to the 1950s, links steady increases in self-reported anxiety and depression among U.S. young people primarily to the decline of ‘social connectedness.’ A major population-based study from Sweden – that is, a study focusing on all Swedish children – concludes that children living in one-parent homes have more than double the risk of psychiatric disease, suicide or attempted suicide, and alcohol-related disease, and more than three times the risk of drug-related disease, compared to Swedish children living in two-parent homes. These findings emerge after the scholars controlled for a wide range of demographic and socioeconomic variables.”

“In 1999, the prominent sociologist Robert Putnam and his colleagues carried out a small but fascinating experiment reported in Putnam’s book, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, to test the hypothesis that higher levels of social connectedness mean better outcomes for children and youth. Putnam and his colleagues developed a list of fourteen leading indicators of social connectedness, which they called the Social Capital Index, and applied it on a state-by-state basis. He then compared the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s state rankings on child well-being with his own state rankings for social connectedness. He found that: ‘Statistically, the correlation between high social capital and positive child development is as close to perfect as social scientists ever find in data analyses of this sort.’ This robust correlation held true even after Putnam controlled for a range of socioeconomic and demographic characteristics.”

(<http://www.americanvalues.org/html/hardwired.html>)

HONOR BOUND FALL 2000

“Connecting With Your Child” by Josh McDowell

- “Dr. Loren Moshen, of the National Institute of Mental Health, analyzed U.S. census figures and found the absence of a father to be stronger factor than poverty in contributing to juvenile delinquency.”
- “A group of Yale behavioral scientists studied delinquency in 48 cultures around the world and found that crime rates were highest among adults who as children had been raised solely by women.”
- “Dr. Martin Deutsch found that the father's presence and conversation, especially at dinner time, stimulates a child to perform better at school.” (2)
- “A study of 1,337 medical doctors who graduated from John Hopkins University between 1948 and 1964 found that a lack of closeness with parents was the only single common factor to hypertension, coronary heart disease, malignant tumors, mental illness, and suicide.” (3)
- “A study of 39 teenage girls suffering from anorexia nervosa showed that 36 of them shared a common trait: the lack of a close relationship with their fathers.”
- “Johns Hopkins University researchers found that ‘young, white teenage girls living in fatherless families...were 60 percent more likely to have premarital intercourse than those living in two-parent home.’” (4)
- “Dr. Armand Nicholi's research found that an emotionally or physically absent father contributes to a child's (1) low motivation for achievement; (2) inability to defer immediate gratification for later rewards; (3) low self-esteem; and (4) susceptibility to group influence and to juvenile delinquency.” (footnote 5)

Footnotes:

- 2 Louis O. Caldwell, *When Partners Become Parents* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, n.d.)
 - 3 Claudia Wallis, "Stress: Can We Cope?" *Time* (June 6, 1983): 48-54
 - 4 Armand Nicholi Jr., "Changes in the American Family," *White House Paper* (October 25, 1984): 7-8
 - 5 Josh McDowell and Bob Hostetler, *Right From Wrong* (Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1994), 255.
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“HOW CAN SCHOOL VIOLENCE BE CURBED?”

Theresa Bay, Author, “Making Schools A Place of Peace”: “And when I talk about a multi-dimensional approach, I’m saying it from the perspective that we cannot continue to have security and metal detectors. The cost that school boards are having to face as result of buying all of this equipment leaves us short in other areas. So, I’m advocating that as we approach a new area, we want to include the school, the home and the parents, and the students so that everyone plays a role in stopping violence.”

(cnn.com “How Can School Violence Be Curbed?” March 10, 2001)

“HOW TO MAKE BETTER ‘A’ STUDENTS”

Time in a cover story on “How to Make Better ‘A’ Students,” gives eight secrets and again never mentions a happy, secure home or loving, meaningful relationship with the father. Yet in an article featuring seven of the top performing students, six of them when asked what were factors leading to their success as a student said, “parental support.” Parental support was indicated in the list of “eight secrets” but no hint of the crucial connection with the parents.”

(Time, “How to Make Better ‘A’ Students” October 19, 1998, p. 91)

“THE GALLUP BRAIN: TEENS MISBEHAVIN’”

“Fifty years ago, Gallup asked Americans why teens get into mischief – and their reasons sound painfully familiar to those commonly offered today. In 1954, Gallup asked Americans: ‘There’s been a lot of discussion recently about our teenagers getting out of hand. As you see it, what are the main reasons for their acting up?’ Some of the most common responses were:”

- “parents not strict enough/not enough discipline/don’t exercise enough authority”
- “parents’ fault/improper home life/no home training/don’t set proper example/broken home/lack of supervision”
- “parents have outside interests/not enough interest in kids/not home enough/neglect/lack of parental love”
- “children have too much freedom/late hours/freedom too young”
- “children have too much money/too many material possessions/pampered/too many places to go and too much to do”
- “parents both working”

“How to Solve the Problem”

“In the 1950s, Americans had definite ideas for solving the problems of teenage misbehavior.”

“In the 1950s, Americans had definite ideas for solving the problems of teenage misbehavior.”

- “more supervision at home/pay more attention to teens/parents teach them and make them aware of their conduct”
- “stricter rules of discipline/cut out kids’ freedom/stricter laws/parents should discipline them”
- “closer home ties/more understanding at home/happier home life”
- “parents stay home more/mothers stop working”
- “more group activities/YMCA/teen clubs/community clubs/educational programs”

(Linda Lyons, “The Gallup Brain: Teens Misbehavin’,” February 24, 2004, www.gallup.com/content/print.asp?ci=10741)

"I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THIS ONE, TOO"

"Recently Todd, an anxious 15-year-old male patient, presented to clinic with vague reproductive tract complaints. He was accompanied by his mother, who returned to the waiting room after the initial interview. His history gradually revealed a series of sexual encounters with a woman several years his senior. The sexual liaisons included other risks as well, including alcohol and substance use."

"The teen's anxiety resulted from an awareness that his behavior placed him at risk for HIV. He requested HIV testing. While discussing the testing and evaluation for other sexually transmitted infections, the boy began to cry."

"I don't think that my Mom loves me,' he sobbed. 'Why do you say that?' I responded?" "She doesn't care where I go or who I'm with or if I come home at night. I don't have a curfew and she never asks what I'm doing."

(R. William Noble, III, MD, "I Don't Want to Lose This One, Too", Adolescent and Family Health Magazine, pg. 98)

“IMPORTANCE OF FATHERHOOD:”

“Teenagers living in two-parent families who have a troubled relationship with their fathers are at a higher risk for substance abuse than teens in other families.”

Two parent family (fair/poor rel. with father)	1.56	68%
All families headed by single mother	1.21	30%
Average Risk	1.00	
Single mother (excellent relationship w/her)	.96	
All two parent families	.93	
Two parent (excellent relationship w/both)	.06	

(Dallas Morning News, August 31, 1999, by Lori Lessner, p. 9A)

“INFLUENCE ON YOUR ADOLESCENT? Parents have more of an impact than they realize”

“Most teens say that it would be easier for them to postpone sexual activity and avoid teen pregnancy if they felt they could have more open and honest discussions about such topics. That's according to a recent survey by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy in Washington, D.C.”

“The survey also showed that six out of 10 adolescents, ages 12 to 19, said that their parents are their role models for healthy, responsible relationships. ‘Parents need to know that when it comes to young people's decisions about sex, their influence has not been lost to peers and popular culture,’ says Bill Albert, campaign spokesperson.”

“Still one thing is clear, Klein says. ‘When parents don't talk, then their children pick up their education from other places and it could be from people who don't have the same type of family values.’”

“Tips for talking with your kids about tough issues”

“To sustain an ongoing dialogue with your children, experts advise:”

- ☐ “Start early.”
- ☐ “Talk to them about the importance of self-esteem.”
- ☐ “Communicate your own values.”
- ☐ “Be honest.”
- ☐ “Be patient.”
- ☐ “Use television as a tool.”
- ☐ “Maintain an ongoing dialogue.”
- ☐ “Don't make your child feel ashamed about asking questions on topics related to sex.”
- ☐ “Listen to your child and get their views.”

- “Avoid jumping to conclusions.”
 - “Discuss the risks and responsibilities that are involved in having a sexual relationship.”
- Sources: The Greenville (S.C.) Council for the Prevention of Teen Pregnancy, Inc.;
www.thinkagain.ca

(Cheryl Allen, “Influence On Your Adolescent?” Gannett News Service, The Marion Star, November 29, 2003, www.marionstar.com/news/stories/20031129/localnews/734042.html)

“IT’S NOT EASY BEING TEEN”

"Relationships with mom and dad seem to play a vital role in the teenager's susceptibility to stress. Girls who bond with their parents aren't as stressed about guys and dating, having the 'right look.'"

(Gina Czark, "It's not easy being teen," August 7, 2000)

“IT’S ONLY ME”

“Things weren’t great at home either. Williams’ parents had divorced when he was 5, and he rarely saw his mother after that. Several friends said he would automatically call their mothers Mom. Williams lived with his father Charles Jeffrey in a dank stucco apartment house about one mile from the high school. Adrianna Aceven, a fellow freshman and one of the few friends whom Williams had invited back to his apartment, said the father was distant, disappearing to work on his computer when the kids walked in. On weekends the senior Williams is said to have stretched on the floor, sipping beer and watching the sports channels. ‘I never saw Andy go anywhere with his dad,’ says Shaun Turk, 15. ‘Andy would call him and say it’s raining and beg him to give him a ride home. But you could hear his dad yelling into the phone, ‘Get your ass home!’”

“And so it was when he appeared for his first court hearing two days after the killings. None of his family members was present. His mother was avoiding the public eye. His father told lawyers he was too distraught and did not want to face the media. He also said his ‘financial situation was very tight’ and that he would be unable to pay for a lawyer to represent his son. So Andy was alone in court, puffy faced and solemn.”

(Nancy Gibbs, “Its Only Me,” Time, March 19, 2001, p. 22)

“IT’S UP TO PARENTS”

“Numerous studies have shown that modern teens are angry. They have a right to be. They have been abandoned by ‘no-fault’ divorcing parents for whom ‘love’ is more about feelings than commitment. Children feel conditionally loved. If they perform up to parental expectations,

they are affirmed. But if they struggle or fail, too many parents refuse to spend the time necessary to set them right. It might interfere with their pursuit of affluence.”

“No child is taught to kill, but he has to be taught to love, respect, honor and value not only his own life, but the lives of his classmates, parents and teachers. He has to experience love and acceptance. He has to know his life has purpose and meaning. No amount of money can do that. As former first lady Barbara Bush once said, if we have children, they must come first. Our success as a nation and as families depends less on what happens in the White House than what happens in our own homes.”

(“It’s Up To Parents” Cal Thomas, World Magazine, April 7, 2001, p. 39)

“JACKSON WEEPS OVER OFF THE WALL UPBRINGING”

“Michael Jackson broke down in tears Tuesday night before an audience at Oxford University in England as he talked about his unhappy childhood and his treatment by his manager/father Joseph.

“He cried as he said his father pushed him and his brothers from an early age. ‘He seemed intent...on making us a commercial success. But what I really wanted was a dad.’”

(USA Today, “Jackson weeps over off the wall upbringing” March 7, 2001, p2D)

“JOSH MCDOWELL EXERPT FROM PARENTING TALK”

“You walk out and chit-chat for about thirty seconds and then you say, ‘tonight I’m not going to give a talk. What I want to do is share my heart as a dad.’ And then I always start to the left and say, ‘I wish you could be my son, my daughter, I could be your father, I could be your dad, you could be my son, my daughter.’ Guys will start waving to you. At the break they yell out, ‘Thanks Dad!’ ‘I love you dad!’ ‘See you at the break Dad!’”

“Two years ago we finished what they said was the largest most successful youth tour ever of Canada. Twelve cities were packed out. In Toronto we turned away more than we could even get in. We were at the Jubilee Auditorium in Calgary, Alberta and I saw something I’d never seen in the 35 years of ministry. Thirty-eight hundred screaming teeny-boppers were out there and the Newsboys were on a roll. They introduced a 56 year old evangelist and I walked out there, chit-chatted no more than thirty seconds and I said, ‘Tonight, I’m not going to give a talk. I’m going to share my heart as a dad.’ And I pointed to the left and just one time I said, ‘I wish you could be my son.’ I couldn’t believe what happened. At that split second two to three hundred kids in the balcony and everywhere jumped to their feet and started running forward just yelling at the top of their voices just like you see at a rock concert. I literally thought they Newsboys had come back out to get their guitars. I turned around and nobody was there. I panicked. I didn’t know what was happening.”

“Just as I turned back, I could hear what they were yelling. ‘I want to be your daughter!’ ‘I want to be your son!’ ‘Please be my father.’ Two to three hundred lined up that whole stage. Every single guy was crying. All I said one time was I wish I could be your dad. I walked off the stage in Indianapolis and I had to put up my hands to stop kids coming forward. I looked down because here, sitting on the ground, was a girl just crying and weeping. I sat down on the ground next to her, put my arm around her and said, ‘Are you ok?’ She said, ‘Yes.’ I said, ‘Please tell me what’s wrong.’ Just weeping she said, ‘I’m sixteen years only and for the first time tonight I felt like there’s been a father who loved me.’ The most powerful platform to influence kids today is as a dad, a father.”

“I’ve had the privilege of being married to Dottie for the past 27 years. My wife is one of those people who can only keep things in for so long and then she has to tell me. Men, have you ever heard this, ‘Honey, we need to talk.’ You know it’s time to go back to Promise Keepers. I want to give this context. My two oldest children, Kelly is 23 and Sean is 21. This happened twenty years ago. I lived in San Bernardino, California. It was a Thursday afternoon at about 3:30 and I was on a roll writing a chapter of a book to meet a deadline. I was writing like mad and my two year only son, Sean walked into my study off the dining room. He said, ‘Daddy?’ I said ‘Son, Daddy’s very busy right now. Let me talk to you at dinner.’ He said, ‘OK’ and walked out and I went on writing.”

“In about thirty seconds his mother came through that door. I said ‘Honey...’ She said, ‘Don’t you honey me.’ So I thought I’d try a different approach. ‘Sweetie, I’m very busy right now.’ My wife walked over, put her hands down on the notes I was writing and she said, ‘Honey, you’re always busy. You are a five-ring circus. You’re always going to have a deadline to meet, a chapter to finish, a book to write, a talk to prepare, a trip somewhere to give it, whatever. You’re always going to be busy. But honey, you won’t always have a two year old son who wants to sit in his daddy’s lap and ask him a question.’ Then she walked out.”

“She only needed to say it once. Not immediately, but about three minutes later I found myself on the carpet next to the desk. And I made a pledge before God that I try to keep to this day. I said, ‘God, I never want to let my family come before ministry. I never ever again will put my family before my ministry.’”

“It is one of the greatest errors today when I hear pastors say that their family comes before their ministry. Because God taught me that afternoon on my knees that Kelly, Sean, Katie, Heather and Dottie do not come before my ministry. They are my first ministry. It totally transformed my outlook. I used to go out on the road and I’d come home tired from ministry night and day; and I’d want everyone to be quiet, sit down and play a game or something. After that I don’t care how tired I am, when I walked through that front door, my first ministry just begins. My family does not come before ministry. My family is my first ministry.”

“That was almost 20 years ago. My wife can’t leave things alone. She just can’t. That night at dinner Kelly and Sean had left the table and been dismissed. Dottie turned to me and said, ‘I want to share something with you.’ I urge you to take this counsel that my wife gave to me. She said, ‘Honey, when you get about 45, you’re going to want to spend time with your children. You’re going to want them to come to you with questions, you’re going to want to go places

with them, do things with them. You're going to want to have them come home. You'd better listen to me. If you spend time with your children now, they'll spend time with you later. If you listen to your children now, they'll listen to you later. If you hug them now, they'll hug you later. If you love them now, they'll love you later.'"

"I thank God for a wife that could not remain silent. That was 20 years ago. My son plays point guard at Biola University. It's so neat, last year, I know you're dying to hear this, he was first team academic, all-American. I made about 70 percent of his games a year ago. Once game I flew in. I call it 'fly in, fly out.' You all like to come home early to surprise your spouses and kids. Well, I flew in and walked into the arena. It was packed, and the women's game was going on. When I walked in everyone recognized me and all their heads went 'woosh.' My son was kiddy-corner across the court sitting up in the bleachers with the men's team waiting for the ladies' game to end. So I walked across the end of the floor. All eyes followed me and I get all the way over to the corner and Sean sees me. He jumps up and runs down the bleachers; boom, boom, boom, boom.... And we started walking towards each other and I'm not stretching here, nobody was watching the women's game. They'd look at me, they'd look at him, they'd look at me, they'd look at him. And we met right smack in front of the scorer's table and we walked up and we threw our arms around each other and gave each other a big kiss. And those students exploded with applause, and nobody scored except me. They just broke out with applause."

"Later that night I was at LAX waiting to leave and I tried to analyze that and boy, two things hit me. One, if I hadn't listened to my wife 20 years ago and met my son at half court when he was two, he wouldn't have met me at half court when he was 20. But then the things that really hit me were, why did those kids break out applauding? I really believe for this reason; every one of those students would like to have met their father at half court. To reach this next generation, we need to teach the truth. We need to live the truth. But I really believe we have to go to impart our lives through community, through our marriages, through our children and through compassion, to reach this generation."

(Josh McDowell, Marriage Talk)

"JUDGE DELAYS ARRAINGMENT IN SCHOOL SHOOTING"

"Williams mother, who has been divorced from the boy's father for 10 years, tearfully said her son's 'future is gone' when she answered the door for a reporter at her North Augusta, South Carolina home."

(cnn.com "Judge delays arraignment in school shooting" March 7, 2001)

JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN, APRIL 2000, PREDICTORS OF YOUTH VIOLENCE:

"Family Factors:

1. Parental criminality. Child maltreatment.

2. Poor family management practices
3. Low levels of Parental involvement;
4. Poor family bonding and family conflict
5. Parental attitudes favorable to substance use and violence
6. Parent-child separation

School Factors:

1. Academic failure
 2. Low bonding to school
 3. Truancy and dropping out of school
 4. Frequent school transitions”
-

“KIDS LISTENING TO PARENT’S DRUG WARNINGS”

"With parents, we can cut drug use dramatically. Without them, we cannot, said James E. Burke, Chairman of Partnership for a drug Free America"

"With parents, we can cut drug use dramatically. Without them, we cannot, said James E. Burke, Chairman of Partnership for a drug Free America"

(USA today "Kids listening to parents drug warnings" April 25, 1999)

“KIDS RATE BULLYING AND TEASING AS BIG PROBLEM”

"Evelyn Feliciano, parent, says: 'We have our kids scheduled for soccer, dancing, swimming and we have our own lives... We sit at a computer and ignore our kids. We have too much going on, and we separate ourselves from our families.'"

(cnn.com, "Study: Kids rate bullying and teasing as big problem" March 8, 2001)

“LACK OF BONDING/CONNECTING WITH PARENTS (ESPECIALLY FATHERS):”

“American families and their children are in trouble, trouble so deep and pervasive as to threaten the future of our nation. The source of the trouble is nothing less than a national neglect of children and those primarily engaged in their care – American parents.” (Report to the President of the United States)

James S. Coleman, Prof. Of Soc. Univ. of Chicago, “childrearing is one of the biggest casualties of the modern age that is being ushered in by this generation.”

Doctors Caroline Thomas and Karen Duszynski did a study of 1,337 graduates of Johns Hopkins Medical School, between 1964-1972. In other words, these are medical students who are now out in the profession and they wanted to find a common cause factor for certain diseases and

things. In other words, if this was true in their life you could predict this, this, this or this more thing. And they wanted to see if there was a common cause factor to predict suicide, mental illness, malignant tumor, coronary heart disease and hypertension.

Is there anything that if this is true in your life you have a greater propensity for this. They found one thing. They only found one common denominator or predictor and that was this: The lack of closeness to one's parents. If you do not have a close, loving relationship with your parents, you are so much more prone for suicide, mental illness, malignant tumor, hypertension and coronary heart disease. Why? All of these relate to stress and they're finding that a child who has a very loving, intimate relationship with ones parents can handle stress so much better.

(Johns Hopkins Medical Journal, Drs. Caroline Bedell Thomas and Karen R. Duszynski, "Closeness to Parents and the Family Constellation in a Prospective Study of Five Disease States: Suicide, Mental Illness, Malignant Tumor, Hypertension and Coronary Heart Disease," May 1974, Vol. 134, No. 5)

LETTER TO JOSH FROM JOE

1/20/92

Josh McDowell Ministry
Box 2410
Julian, CA 92036

Dear Josh,

I received your letter and am more than happy to send you the "anonymous" survey forms on helping parents understand their children. I have been in full time youth ministry for more than seven years and appreciate the emphasis that is being placed on the equippng of parents in our quest to see young people strengthened. I applaud you for all you have done and what you're now doing.

I have been the high school Pastor for just over four months. Coming from New York City, I thought I had seen it all. But I must say that I have been overwhelmed with the state I have found the teenagers in here in Southern California. The emotional and physical pain that these teens suffer with is incredible. I have seen more in the sense of "extreme dysfunction" in the four months I have ministered here than in the seven years I ministered in New York. I can only attribute it to the excelerated collapse of the family in sunny, beautiful, wonderful, **transient** California. Having said all that, I want you to know that I have never felt more needed in my years of ministry. I know I am in the center of God's will, and consider it a joy to be able to touch teens here in California with the love of God through Jesus Christ.

I am hoping to be able to schedule you for a parents conference sometime this year. I know that your schedule is busy, and it might not even be possible to do this in 1992. I will give your office a call in the next

couple of weeks to discuss a potential date for the conference. May God bless you as you serve Him.

In Christ's service,

Joe

“LISTEN TO OUR CHILDREN – WWW.CHARITABLEALLIANCES.ORG”

“After thirty years of watching kids become increasingly disconnected, alienated, and losing their lives to violence, Howard Haas and Alex Aitcheson were compelled to go on a quest to discover the root cause of violence.”

“After thirty years of watching kids become increasingly disconnected, alienated, and losing their lives to violence, Howard Haas and Alex Aitcheson were compelled to go on a quest to discover the root cause of violence. They left successful careers as highly recognized school administrators and invested their life savings in a 12,000 mile journey across America called the ‘Children’s Crusade.’”

“With a film crew, they documented kids telling us why kids feel lost, angry, and alienated. In hundreds of intimate interviews, Alex and Howard were able to gain the trust of these disconnected youth, so that they could tell us why kids are killing kids.”

“This story has never been told. Kids of every race, creed, and culture, in the inner cities, the suburbs, the farmlands, and in homeless encampments, reveal fundamental needs that are not being met or honored by their schools, their families, and their communities. These kids want to get connected.”

“They formed the **Listen To Our Children Foundation**, so those who wish to help can do so through tax-deductible donations.”

Violence Can Be Prevented!

“The violence in Pearl, West Paducah, Jonesboro, Springfield and Littleton should not have happened! Alex Aitcheson and Howard Haas of AH-HA CONSULTING will help your community "Get Connected" to youth in order to prevent violence.”

Get Connected Violence Prevention Consulting (www.charitablealliances.org)

“You, your school and community LEARN how to "get connected" to prevent violence.

“AH-HA CONSULTING facilitates the process of creating a community vision for youth and helps design action plans to make this vision a reality.

Get Connected Conferences and Workshop

“Students, teachers, administrators, parents, businesses, health-workers, and other members of the community view intimate interviews with youth that tell why they feel alienated and disconnected.

AH-HA CONSULTING will provide concrete methods to prevent violence.

Get Connected Educational Assemblies

“The lives of all school members will be enhanced by listening to the compelling stories of youth across the nation that tell us why kids become violent. Through this interactive presentation viewers will discuss the roots of violence and possible solutions.

Get Connected Keynote Presentation

“Be inspired by listening to the compelling story of how Alex Aitcheson and Howard Haas had a dream to make a difference for humanity nationwide and how they made that dream come true! They will share how the courage of one's conviction can bring about positive change.

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FINDINGS ([www.charitable alliances.org](http://www.charitablealliances.org))

- Teens are all asking for more attention and guidance from their parents and other adults.
- Teens want their parents and other adults to listen to them, to ask their opinions, and to establish guidelines that are adhered to.
- Parenting programs are needed to support the raising of children and to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Teens expressed that they face tremendous peer pressure and stress to "fit in" and to be accepted by their peers.
- Teens admitted that they do not give respect to one another and do not accept individual differences.
- Programs are needed to help keep youth active and away from violence, drug use and boredom (not just sports programs).
- Teens want to be a part of the solution.

“After the shootings, we saw the so-called experts pontificating on why kids were killing each other,’ Haas said. ‘We felt we needed to go to the real experts.’”

“‘Young people want adults in their lives. There is the need to fit in with their peers. And they want programs to foster the first two,’ he said.”

“Haas said he was surprised by the need for young people to be heard.”

“‘We had the feeling that most these young people had never been listened to before in a nonjudgmental way,’ Haas said. ‘We told them their voices would be heard.’”

(Whittier Daily News “Causes of Youth Violence Explored”, Sun. Dec. 24, 2000
www.childrencrusade.com)

“LITTLE HAS CHANGED IN YEAR SINCE COLUMBINE TRAGEDY”

Out of Columbine has come many wonderful lessons of compassion and service:

1. “Kaela Austin, 61, decided not only to keep working, but to add a radio audience to the family and child counseling clients she’s had in Los Angeles for 25 years.
“I would be playing golf twice a week, retired, if it weren’t for Littleton,” Austin said. “Her call in show is called ‘License to Parent.’ “The point connected to Columbine is that if you don’t listen to children, there will be another Columbine,” Austin said.
2. “A consultant, writer and motivational speaker, Mitch Axelrod of West Orange, N.J., found a new mission and career through Columbine. “For the last 20 years my livelihood was made helping companies improve their profitability and marketability,” said Axelrod, 45, who has just finished a study of nearly 3000 people in which he attempts to measure their values.
“The next 20 years will be totally focused on values and values-based decisions.””

(www.pioneerplanet.com, “Little has changed in year since Columbine tragedy, April 17, 2000)

LYNN VINCENT

“Mr. Cass has three children who attend schools in the same district as Santana. While working in a community pro-life counseling program, he talked with high-schoolers, both from Santana and other area schools. He said many students at Santana responded to prolife counselors with profanity and what he calls ‘a disrespect for human life.’

(Lynn Vincent, World, March 17, 2001, pp20-21)

“MAJORITY OF AMERICAN TEENS HAVE HEROES – FAMILY MEMBERS MOST ADMIRE”

“More than half of American teenagers surveyed are able to name a man or woman whom they greatly admire for achievement and for strong moral character. One teen in six (16%) mentioned mothers, fathers or parents; 7% mentioned other relatives such as grandparents as their hero. Other popular choices were sports figures (10%).

(“Majority of American Teens have Heroes; Family Members Most Admired,” YOUTHviews, Jan. 2001:1)

“MARRIAGE”

“Gallup Poll reports 35% of Americans 40-64 believe marriage is “very important” if a couple have a child vs. 58% of those 65 and older. Overall, 37% of adults believe a child is a “very important” reason to marry, while 65% say marriage is “very important” if a couple plans to spend their lives together. Gallup trends show the percentage of U.S. adults who are married has fallen from 77% in the 60’s to 53% since 2000. The percentage of divorced Americans has grown from 3% to 11%, and the percentage of singles or unmarried living together has surged from 9% to 24%.” (PWB 6/2/06)

(*The Foster Letter*: Religious Market Update, Gary D. Foster Consulting, June 10, 2006, http://www.viewsite.org/Gary/Archives/JUN10_06.html).

“MATERNAL EXPECTATIONS, MOTHER-CHILD CONNECTEDNESS, AND ADOLESCENT SEXUAL DEBUT”

“Conclusion: Perceived maternal disapproval of sexual intercourse, along with mother-child relationships characterized by high levels of warmth and closeness, may be important protective factors related to delay in adolescents’ first sexual intercourse.” (Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2000;154:809-816)

“Teen Parents:”

- “Birthrate for American teens between 15 and 19: 48.7 births per 1,000 females”
- “Birthrate for 15-19 year-olds in France and Sweden: 10 births per 1,000 females” (Time, December 10)

“Relational Parenting”

“Positive, relational parenting is based on four important foundation stones.”

#1 “Nurturing Love: To steadily develop in all areas of their lives, growing children need healthy and continuing relationships with adults who genuinely care about them and who regularly fill up their emotional tanks.”

“There are three primary ways to express unconditional love to your child:

- *Make eye contact.* Use eye contact to give love, not just to show annoyance or to punish.
- *Use physical contact.* Many children do not receive adequate physical touching from their parents. In addition to the important hugs and kisses, try touching your child on her shoulder or the back of her arm, tousling his hair, scratching her back, or gently poking him in the ribs.

- *Give focused attention.* Giving your child your full, undivided attention can make your child feel like the most important person in the world. You might wonder if constant focused attention will "spoil" your child. It won't! You spoil a child by failing to train her, not by loving her too much. As we pray, "God, help us meet our children's needs as You do ours," we can have confidence that He will provide. In Philippians 4:19 we read, *"My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."*

"#2 "Training and Discipline"

"#3 "Protection from Harmful Influence:

- *Teach your children how to think.* Share your own thought processes with your children. Explain why you feel and think as you do.
- *Share your deep feelings with your children.* If they don't know about those deeply held feelings you seldom talk about, your children will be programmed to reject the feelings they do hear from you.
- *Help your children deal with problems before they happen.* This gives them an advantage in coping with life. We must learn to let our children know of potential dangers without frightening them or producing anxiety. Look for the teachable times, such as when your child is inquisitive and asking about an issue. Some issues you will want to discuss with your child include dating and sexuality, exposure to sexual themes in the media, language and attitudes he will encounter in school, and violence in our society."

"#4 "Training in Anger Management:

Keep in mind that a well-loved child is much easier to discipline and train than one who does not feel loved."

"Grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men (Luke 2:52)."

(Dr. Ross Campbell, "Relational Parenting." Lifeway Online.

[http://www.lifewayonline.com/parentlife/index.cfm?fuseaction=read&articleid=182\)](http://www.lifewayonline.com/parentlife/index.cfm?fuseaction=read&articleid=182)

"MEASURABLE PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FATHER ABSENCE!"

"Dads Spending More Time With Kids:

Good news from researchers at the University of Michigan. Despite the perception that the increase in working moms has resulted in less time with kids, fathers and mothers in two-parent families are spending more time with their children than their counterparts did two decades ago. The time-diary study of 2, 125 children by John Sandberg and Sandra Hofferth found that kids spent an average of 23 hours a week with their dads in 1997, up from 19 hours a week in 1981. Children's time with mom in two-parent families also increased, from 25 to 31 hours a week.

Unfortunately, children's time spent with mothers in single parent families remained about the same at 21 hours a week."

"In another paper based on the same data set, researchers looked more closely at father involvement in these families. Researcher W. Jean Yeung noted that fathers' involvement seems to be increasing and that dads are engaging in direct interaction with children in terms of actual hands –on caring and providing emotional support to children. However, Yeung also highlighted the study's limitations. 'It's important to remember that these findings reflect the situation for children who live with both of their fathers and receive lower levels of support from them, both financially and emotionally.'"

(John F. Sandberg, and Sandra L. Hofferth. *Changes in Children's Time Spent with Parents*, U.S. 1981-1997. Population Studies Center Research, University of Michigan, 2001: W. Jean Yeung, John F. Sandberg, Pamela E. Davis-Kean, and Sandra L. Hofferth. *Children's Time With Fathers in Intact Families*. *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 63(February 2000); 136-154.")
(Tom Sylvester, "Measurable progress in the fight against father absence!" *Fatherhood Roundup: A review of Fatherhood-Related News, Articles, and Research*. National Fatherhood Initiative, Page 4)

"MEDIWARE, WHAT'S TV TEACHING US ABOUT DADS?"

"40 percent of America's children will go to sleep tonight in a home where their biological father does not live. That translates into close to 25 million young people."

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"The National Fatherhood Initiative study sought to evaluate prime-time fathers in the following categories:"

"Involvement...Engagement...Guidance...Competence...Priority" (Page 16)

"Of the 102 family shows surveyed in the study, only 15 or 14.7 percent feature a father as a recurring and central character." (Page 16)

(Tom Piotrowski, "Mediaware, What's TV teaching us about dads?," Fall 1999, *Youth Culture @ 2000*)

"MICHAEL JACKSON"

"*Heal the Kids*" aimed at getting parents more involved in their children's own father, Joseph Jackson, left him wanting 'a father who showed me his loved and my father never did that. He never said, 'I love you.'"

(*People Mag.*, March 3, 2001, p. 65)

“MIKE ANDERSON QUOTE”

“With only a few exceptions the majority of the students at my school that have discipline problems coming from dysfunctional homes. They don’t know how or why a relationship works or what one is. When someone picks them up at school, they don’t have the tools to deal with it. My thinking is that a family relationship that is healthy gives them what they need to cope.”

(Mike Anderson, Student in Kalispell, MT)

“NATIONAL CENTER FOR FATHERING SURVEY”

“**Many studies confirm the positive impact of fathers** who spend time with their children. Children with involved fathers are:

1. More confident and less anxious in unfamiliar settings;
2. Better able to deal with frustration;
3. Better able to gain a sense of interdependence;
4. More likely to mature into compassionate adults;
5. More likely to have higher self-esteem
6. Higher grade point averages;
7. More sociable.”

(National Center for Fathering survey data of 2,066 fathers, Father, Fathering in America)

“NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE”

"Every man needs to know that however high his aspirations may be, however lofty a position he may attain, he will never have a greater duty or a more important title than 'dad.'"

(George W. Bush, National Fatherhood Initiative, www.fatherhood.org)

“NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE”

“Late-breaking Father Facts; Importance of Father Love for Child Well-Being”

“In an analysis of nearly 100 studies on parent-child relationships, father love (measured by children's perceptions of paternal acceptance/rejection, affection/indifference) was as important as mother love in predicting the social, emotional, and cognitive development and functioning of children and young adults.”

- “Having a loving and nurturing father was as important for a child's happiness, well-being, and social and academic success as having a loving and nurturing mother.”
- “Withdrawal of love by either the father or the mother was equally influential in predicting a child's emotional instability, lack of self-esteem, depression, social withdrawal, and level of aggression.”
- “In some studies, father love was actually a better predictor than mother love for certain outcomes, including delinquency and conduct problems, substance abuse, and overall mental health and well-being.”
- “Other studies found that, after controlling for mother love, father love was the sole significant predictor for certain outcomes, such as psychological adjustment problems, conduct problems, and substance abuse.”

“Preliminary survey data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, a longitudinal study of 2,670 unmarried couples with children, suggests that most unwed fathers are highly involved shortly after the child's birth.”

- “50% of unmarried parents were living together at the time of the child's birth, and another 33% were romantically involved but living apart.”
- “80% of the fathers were involved in helping the baby's mother during the pregnancy, either financially or in other ways (such as transportation).”
- “73% of mothers reported that the chances that they will marry the baby's father are "fifty-fifty" or greater; 88% of fathers reported that the odds of marrying the mother of their child are "fifty-fifty" or greater.”
- “64% of the mothers and 75% of the fathers agreed with the statement, ‘it is better for children if their parents are married.’”
- “90% of unmarried mothers rated ‘husband having a steady job’ and ‘emotional maturity’ as very important qualities for a successful marriage.”
- “37% of the mothers and 34% of the fathers lack a high school degree, and less than a third had any education beyond high school.”
- “30% of the fathers were unemployed in the week before their child was born.”

“75 percent of fathers responded to the survey, resulting in a selection effect that most likely inflates the above percentages for fathers.”

(“Late-Breaking Father Facts.” Importance of Father Love for Child Well-Being.
www.fatherhood.org/fatherfacts/late.htm)

“NATIONAL SURVEY OF AMERICAN ATTITUDES ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE VI: TEENS”

**National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA).
February. 2001**

"The loud and clear message of the survey is this: moms and dads should be parents to their children, not pals. Mothers and fathers who are parents rather than pals can greatly reduce the risk of their children smoking, drinking and using drugs. They can counter negative media influences and the availability of marijuana and other drugs in a teens' world. Whatever the family structure, whether the teen lives with both parents, a single mom or a single dad, their risk of smoking, drinking or using illegal drugs in 'hands-on' households is dramatically lower than that of the average teen." (p. i)

"The most striking conclusions are these:

- 'Hands-on' parents - parents who establish a household culture where they consistently set down rules and expectations for their teens' behavior and monitor what their teen does - have teens at substantially lower risk of smoking, drinking and using illegal drugs than the average teen." (p. ii)
- "Only one in four teens (27%) lives with 'hands-on' parents. Teens with 'hands-on' parents are at one-fourth the risk of teens living with 'hands-off' parents." (p. ii)
- "Nearly one in five teens (18%) lives with 'hands-off' parents - parents who fail to consistently set down rules and expectations - and are at four times the risk of substance abuse of teens with 'hands-on' parents." (p. ii)

"It is time for every parent to look in the mirror rather than look outside to what everyone else can do. Parents should ask themselves, 'Am I am parent to my teen or a pal? Do I monitor what my teen watches on television and on the Internet, what CDs he or she buys and listens to? Do I know where my teen is after school and on weekends? Have I made it clear that I would be extremely upset if my teen used marijuana? Do I know how my teen is doing in school? Have I set a curfew for my teen? Do we have dinner together as a family most every night - without the television on?' The more CASA examines teen risk of substance abuse, the more it becomes clear that parents have enormous power for good. Parents need to ask themselves every day: 'What am I doing today to keep my kids drug-free?' (p. iii)

"Teens with parents who are 'hands-on' are much more likely to have excellent relationships with their parents than are other teens. Only 24 percent of teenagers living in 'hands-off' households report an excellent relationship with their mothers vs. 57% living in 'hands-on' households. 13% of teens living in 'hands-off' households report an excellent relationship with their father, while 47% of teens living in 'hands-on' households report an excellent paternal relationship." (p. 2)

"In 1996, CASA was the first research organization to recognize that the practice of having regular dinners together as a family is associated with a substantial reduction in teens' substance abuse risk (we repeated this question in the 2000 survey and the result is the same: more

frequent dinners are associated with reduced risk). Family dinners represent a measurable symbol of parental engagement in the teen's life." (p. 7)

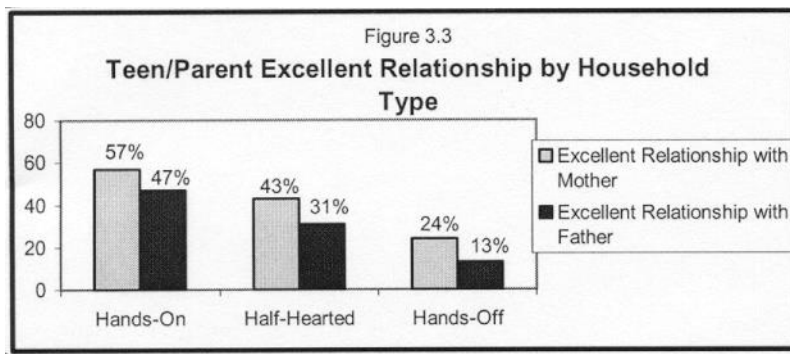
"The 12 survey indicators that define the index of parental authority and distinguish between 'hands-on' and 'hands-off' households are presented below in order of importance to the risk of substance abuse:

- Parents expect to be told where teen is going in the evening or on the weekends and is told the truth by the teen (which 56% of teens 'always' do).
- Parents have made clear they would be 'extremely upset' to find teen using marijuana (68% of teens report this)
- There are not periods of time of an hour or more after school or on weekends when parents do not know where their teen is (74%)
- Parents monitor what teen is watching on TV (just 50% of teens live with a parent who does)
- Parents impose restrictions on the kind of music CDs teen is allowed to buy (36% of teens live in such household)
- Parents are very aware of how teen is doing in school (67%)
- Parents monitor teen's Internet usage (69% of teens have Internet access at home and 39% have parents who monitor their Internet activities)
- Family typically has dinner together six or seven nights a week (47%)
- Teen has a weekend curfew (72% do)
- An adult is always at home when teen returns from school (42%)
- Teen is responsible for completing regular chores (88%)
- The TV is not on during dinner (it is turned off in 58% of households)

"Each of the first seven of these indicators of 'hands-on/hands-off' parenting are independently important (significantly related) to the teen's risk of substance abuse. But all of them taken together as indicators of a prevailing household culture of parental authority yield a composite index which is hugely predictive of substance abuse risk." (p. 8)

Hands-on Parents More Likely to Have Excellent Relationship with Teen

"Not only does the exercise of parental authority directly affect a reduction in substance abuse risk, it also appears to have a positive effect on the teen-parent relationship. Only 24% of teenagers living in 'hands-off' households report an excellent relationship with their mother vs. 57% living in 'hands-on' households. 13% of teens living in 'hands-off' households report an excellent relationship with their father, while 47% of teens living in 'hands-on' households report an excellent paternal relationship. (p. 9)



Ethnicity and Family Structure

"30% of white/non-Hispanic teenagers, 18% of African American teenagers and 23% of Hispanic teenagers reside in households headed by 'hands-on' parents. 29% of teens living with both biological parents and 24% of teens living with their biological mother and no father are a part of a 'hands-on' parent household." (p. 9)

"Teens living with both biological parents have a slightly lower risk of substance abuse than a teen living with a single mother or with the mother and a stepfather." (p.11)

"Being a 'hands-on' parent can significantly lower the teen's risk regardless of family structure. While the average substance abuse risk score for all two-biological parent households is 0.88, for two-biological parent households with 'hands-on' parents the average risk score drops to 0.43. In households with a biological mother and a stepfather, the average risk is 1.04; when the parent is 'hands-on' it is 0.50. In households with a biological mother and no father, the average risk score is 1.16; when the mother is 'hands-on' it is 0.59. In other words, a teen living with a single mother who is 'hands-on' is at lower risk of substance abuse than the average teen living in a two parent household." (p. 11)

"The survey found that teens living with a single mother who regularly spend time with their absent father are at lower risk of substance abuse than teens who do not see their father. Teens who regularly spend time with their biological father have a substance abuse risk score of 1.04 compared with a risk score of 1.21 for teens who do not see their father." (p. 12)

What Teens Do After School Matters

"What teens typically do after school also is relevant to their risk of substance abuse. Those who go home to do homework first are at least risk; those who hang out with friends or go to a job are at greatest risk. Jobs may elevate risk because of an age effect - older teens are more likely to have after school employment and average substance abuse risk score increases with age. But after school employment also gives teens disposable income. According to a recent study by the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine, when teenagers work more than 20 hours a week, the work often leads to lower grades, higher alcohol use and too little time with their parents and families." (p.14)

Religious Involvement

"Again, a teen's religious activity is a significant factor in that teen's risk of substance abuse. The quarter (26%) of teens who never attend religious services have an average substance abuse risk score (1.30), while weekly and more frequent attendees (44%) have a lower than average risk score (0.75)." (p. 15)

"This year for the first time we asked about the degree of religious participation of the teen's friends. We found the proportion of a teen's friends who attend religious services appears more relevant to the teen's risk score than even the teen's own degree of religious attendance." (p. 15)

Study: Rules improve parent-child relationship

"Teens whose parents have established rules in the house have better relationships with their parents and a substantially lower risk of smoking, drinking and using illegal drugs than the typical teen a new study shows.

"The study was released Wednesday by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse. The findings were part of its sixth annual national teen substance abuse survey.

"The study evaluated a 'hands-on' approach versus a 'hands-off' approach, and found that only one in four teens lives with 'hands-on' parents, but those teens are at one-quarter the risk for drug abuse than those in 'hands-off' households.

"Teens living in 'hands-on' households have parents who consistently take 10 or more of the following 12 actions:

- Monitor what their teens watch on TV
- Monitor what their teens do on the Internet
- Put restrictions on the CDs they buy
- Know where their teens are after school and on weekends
- Are told the truth by their teens about where they really are going
- Are 'very aware' of their teens academic performance
- Make clear they would be 'extremely upset' if their teen used pot
- Eat dinner with their teens six or seven nights a week
- Turn off the TV during dinner
- Assign their teen regular chores, and
- Have an adult present when the teens return home from school"

Articles on 'Hands-on' Survey

1. "The survey found that despite conventional wisdom that many teens don't want their parents to establish rules and expectations, 47% of teens living in 'hands-on' households reported having an excellent relationship with their fathers and 57% reported having an excellent relationship with their mothers.

"Only 13% of teens with 'hands-off' parents reported an excellent relationship with their fathers and 24% reported an excellent relationship with their mothers.

"'Moms and dads should be parents, not pals,' said CASA's president, former U.S. Sec. of Health, Education and Welfare Joseph A. Califano Jr. 'Mothers and fathers who are parents rather than pals can greatly reduce the risk of their children smoking, drinking and using drugs.'"

"The survey looked at 1000 American teens, 526 girls and 474 boys between the age of 12 and 17."

(Cnn.com "Study: Rules improve parent-child relationship, Feb. 21, 2001)

2. "Only one in four teenagers in America –27 percent, or about 6.5 million lives with 'hands-on' parents who have established rules and expectations for their children's behavior and monitor what they do. These teens are at one fourth the risk of smoking, drinking and using drugs of teens with 'hands-off' parents, according to the "Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse VI: Teens," a new survey of 1,000 American teens aged 12-17 released today by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA)."

Mayor H. Brent Coles of Boise: "Law enforcement action must continue, but to be successful in this war on drugs we must win the battles at dinner tables and soccer fields."

"Only 1 in 5 teens, 18%, or about 4.3 million teens lives with 'hands-off' parents and are at four times greater risk for substance abuse than teens with 'hands-on' parents."

"'We live in a nation which has committed billions of dollars to drug prevention, treatment, and interdiction,' said Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley. 'But it's not enough – no amount of resources can replace the role of a parent in providing guidance to a child.'"

(U.S. Newswire www.usnewswire.com "Coles, Califano to Release CASA 2000 Survey", Feb. 21, 2001)

"NEWS – TEEN TRENDS"

"Family Connections. Parents and families whose adolescent children feel connected to them and those that are perceived by their adolescent as disapproving of their teens being sexually active provide some protection against early sexually intercourse."

(Lifeway.com "News – Teen Trends")

“NEWSWEEK”

“Look at the terrible childhood he had...Look at the father he had. I have spent 18 years in total behind bars. That can't be helped, can it? Every time he needed me, I was nowhere to be found.” (Robin Reid, father of accused shoe-bomber Richard Reid, hoping to win sympathy for his son). (Newsweek, January 14, 2002, p. 19)

“NO DAD AT HOME”

ABC's 20/20 segment on “No Dad at Home” captured the heart of many children today. “Sometimes late at night I think, ‘How come I don't have a father?’” and “I wish I had one,” confesses one boy.

Another says, “Well, I've never gotten mad, but I've gotten pretty sad to where I cry a lot.”

Yet another shares his longing for his dad: “Every time I think about him, I feel pain and sadness.”

(“No Dad at Home,” 20/20, Wed. Nov. 17, 1999)

“NOW I KNOW TOO MUCH TO TURN AWAY”

“I missed my chance to help my son's girlfriend, but I'm determined to be there for other troubled kids”

“She never had a relationship with her father. It pained her to know he had remarried and was living with children he could talk to, hug and play with every day. Her mother married and divorced several times. Emily became lost in blended families. Toward the end of her life, Jordan told me, she was depressed and cut her flesh when her emotional pain became too great. I had never heard about cutting. I couldn't imagine why a person would do that.”

“When Marina, a high-school senior who had just transferred to my school, came to the library to type up her poetry on the computer, I spend a lot of time talking to her. Like Emily, Marina was cute with a wonderfully bubbly personality. Many of her poems were about the typical teen problems of growing up. However, others were troubling. These poems were about the pain and confusion of reaching out for love when no one responds. I wondered what experiences could lead someone not yet 18 to write such heartbreaking poetry. For some reason, I told her about Emily and that she had been a cutter. Marina slowly pushed back her sleeve to expose the thin white marks that crisscrossed the fleshy part of her forearm. I responded as I wish I had known to do with Emily. I simply reached out and gently touched the scars.”

“Some scars, like Emily's and Marina's, are notched in flesh. Others are not so easily seen. According to the Center for Mental Health Services, as many as one in eight adolescents may experience an episode of depression. Every day millions of teenagers sit in classrooms across

America, struggling to deal with feelings of hopelessness and despair. Many times, their problems are the legacy of parents who have placed their careers and personal lives before the well-being and safety of their children.”

(“Now I Know Too Much to Turn Away,” Jami Jones, Newsweek, March 3, 2003, pg. 12)

“NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN NUCLEAR FAMILIES RISE”

“The number of children living with their biological mother and father, who are a married couple, rose from 51% in 1991 to 56% of 71.5 million children in 1996, the newspapers said, citing the agency’s ‘Living Arrangements of Children’ study. The survey is based on a 1996 survey of 37,000 households. The survey also found that in 1996, 5.2 million children lived with one biological parent and either a stepparent or adoptive parent, up 16% from 4.5 million in 1991, USA Today reported.”

(“Report: Number of Children In Nuclear Families Rise” Reuters News Service, www.abcnews.com 2001)

“OLDER ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING AND AUTHORITATIVE PARENTING”

“Five parenting styles identified...were: authoritative, authoritarian, good enough (mid-range), indulgent, and neglectful. She found that socially appropriate behavior and social competence in children were associated with parents who used firm, consistent discipline and who were warm and supportive, which is best described as authoritative parenting (Baumrind, 1989, 1991b). These parents are high on demandingness and high on responsiveness.”

“In contrast, authoritarian parents place a high value on obedience and conformity. They are very demanding of their children, but not as responsive to their needs. They tend to favor more punitive, absolute, and forceful disciplinary measures and believe that children should accept, without questions, the rules and standards established by the parents. Independent behavior or autonomy is not encouraged by these parents (Baumrind, 1989, 1991b).”

“The most beneficial parenting style for reducing adolescent alcohol abuse appears to be one that incorporates high levels of support with moderate levels of control.”

“She [Ellen Slicker] found that adolescent alcohol use increased as parenting style changed from authoritative, to authoritarian, mid-range, neglectful, and to indulgent parenting, respectively. Similar results were found for adolescent drug use, as well. A three year follow up study (Slicker, 1999) revealed that older adolescents who had been reared by authoritative and authoritarian parenting (i.e., both styles that are high on demandingness) continued to be involved in significantly less alcohol use and in fewer alcohol problems three years later than did those reared by indulgent or neglectful parents.”

“First, offspring of authoritative parents report higher physical well-being than do any of the other four parenting styles.”

“Further, offspring of authoritative parents report significantly greater psychological well-being than do adolescents reared in authoritarian homes.”

“Regular conversations between parents and adolescents about decisions and personal issues would help validate the adolescents’ view and make them feel as if they were an important part of the family system. In addition, this open communication would aid parents in knowing more about their adolescent’s behaviors and would help them provide more guidance, accordingly.”

(Slicker, Ellen K., Thornberry, Iris, “Older Adolescent Well-Being and Authoritative Parenting,” Adolescent & Family Health, 2003 3(1); p 9-19)

“OPEN DIALOGUE: PARENTS TALK TO TEENS ABOUT SEX”

“In the 2003 Gallup Youth Survey*, Gallup asked teen-agers (aged 13 to 17) whether their parents are talking to them about sex, or if they are leaving this discussion to their schools.

“In the 2003 Gallup Youth Survey*, Gallup asked teen-agers (aged 13 to 17) whether their parents are talking to them about sex, or if they are leaving this discussion to their schools. It seems that most American parents are not leaving much up to chance. According to teens, a majority of parents, 63%, are talking to their teens about sex rather than leaving this important discussion to the schools to carry out. Thirty-six percent of American teens said their parents do not speak to them about sex and mostly leave it up to schools.”

*The Gallup Youth Survey is conducted via an Internet methodology provided by Knowledge Networks, using an online research panel that is designed to be representative of the entire U.S. population. The current questionnaire was completed by 1,200 respondents, aged 13 to 17, between Jan. 23-Feb. 10, 2003. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is $\pm 3\%$. For a complete description of the sampling and weighting procedures used to conduct the survey, click [here](http://www.gallup.com/poll/tb/educayouth/20030325b.asp?Version=p).

(www.gallup.com/poll/tb/educayouth/20030325b.asp?Version=p)

“ORPHANS FACE DEVELOPMENT ‘RISK’”

“‘The longer you live without a stable, supportive family, the more the risk for emotional and conduct problems,’ says University of Minnesota psychologist Megan Gunnar. She and neonatologist Dana Johnson are following about 2,300 children from other countries adopted by U.S. families in the 1990s. They spoke at the American Academy of Pediatrics meeting here.”

“‘It looks like the brain is wired for emotional bonding at birth,’ he says. ‘If that doesn’t happen, the system goes awry.’”

(Marilyn Elias, “Orphans face development ‘risk,’” USA Today, October 10, 2005, www.usatoday.com)

“OUR WINDOW TO THE FUTURE”

“Parents cannot underestimate the importance of their role in these early years. Each child is born with a unique biology but that doesn’t mean his or her future is preordained. The way a parent nurtures a baby has a profound effect on how the child develops. Recent research on the way genes work in the body suggests that their expression or influence depends on interactions with many different environments, including those in the cell, the body, and in the social and physical world. These interactions in part determine how we function. Nature and nurture thus appear to act together seamlessly, in a developmental duet.”

“All Young Children Have Seven Irreducible Needs”

1. **“ONGOING NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS:** Every baby needs a warm, intimate relationship with a primary caregiver over a period of years, not months or weeks. This is far more important to emotional and intellectual development than early cognitive training or educational games. If this relationship is absent or interrupted, a child can develop disorders of reasoning, motivation and attachment. Infants, toddlers and preschoolers need these nurturing interactions most of their waking hours.”
2. **“PHYSICAL PROTECTION, SAFETY AND REGULATION:** Both in the womb and in infancy, children need an environment that provides protection from physical and psychological harm, chemical toxins and exposure to violence.”
3. **“EXPERIENCES TAILORED TO INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES:** Every child has a unique temperament. Tailoring early experience to nurture a child’s individual nature prevents learning and behavioral problems and enables a child to develop his or her full potential.”
4. **“DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE EXPERIENCES:** Children of different ages need care tailored to their stage of development. Unrealistic expectations can hinder a child’s development.”
5. **“LIMIT-SETTING, STRUCTURE AND EXPECTATIONS:** Children need structure and discipline. They need discipline that leads to internal limit-setting, channeling of aggression and peaceful problem-solving. To reach this goal, they need adults who empathize as well as set limits. They need expectations rather than labels, and adults who believe in their potential but understand their weaknesses. They need incentive systems, not failure models.”
6. **“STABLE, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES AND CULTURE:** To feel whole and integrated, children need to grow up in a stable community. This means a continuity of values in family, per groups, religion and culture, as well as exposure to diversity.”
7. **“PROTECTING THE FUTURE:** Meeting all these needs should be our highest priority. If we fail, we will jeopardize our children’s future.”

(DRS. T. Berry Brazelton & Stanley Greenspan, "Our Window to The Future." Newsweek special issue, your child learning. Page 34-36)

"OVERHEARD"

"His speech was a perfectly intelligent speech about fathers not being dispensable, and nobody agreed with that more than I did."

"Actress Candice Bergen, star of the '90s TV sitcom Murphy Brown, admitting 10 years later that then-Vice President Dan Quayle had a point when he criticized the title character's cavalier choice to have a baby out of wedlock." (Associated Press, July 11, 2002)

(Newsweek, October 7, 2002; p. 11)

"PAGING ALL PARENTS"

"After school reopens next fall, teachers all over California will be making house calls – not to tutor children but to encourage parents to get more involved in their kids' education. Jim Sweeney, superintendent of a Sacramento district where such home visits are already in place, says they have 'changed the whole relationship' between teachers and parents. Test scores and attendance are up, and discipline problems are down."

"The program's success is not surprising, especially considering the results of a new survey conducted for the Nickelodeon channel and TIME. What emerges from the poll of 991 kids, ages 9 to 14, plus 400 parents and 103 middle school teachers, is a noteworthy disconnect in many families over parental involvement in their children's education. While 92% of the parents said they are very interested in their kids' schoolwork, the number falls to 75% when kids were asked if this is true of their parents. Similarly, 77% of parents said they help the kids with homework to help them learn more, as opposed to just checking it over to make sure it is done, but over 60% of kids agreed with that. Teachers overwhelmingly said they wanted parents to be extremely involved in their kids' work, but only 3% of teachers said they believed parents really are. Nearly 4 out of 10 teachers said their schools don't do enough to involve parents."

"The Nickelodeon/TIME poll suggest such attention may be more important than ever: 50% of the middle schoolers say they know someone who smokes pot, and 36% feel pressure from their peers to do so. Nearly half know someone who has had sex; 40% feel pressure to do so. And 37% of the kids polled say they feel pressure to steal something from a store."

"Kids are becoming more materialistic too. Compared with the same survey last year, a greater number of kids (23%, up from 14%) say they would rather be rich and unhappy than poor and happy. While the majority of kids still say that if they had to choose between making more money and helping others, they would choose to help others, this year 39% would take the money (vs. 33% last year). A year ago, about the same number of kids wanted to become a CEO

as wanted to be President of the U.S. This year 56% want to be CEO, while only 40% want to be President. Perhaps it says something about role models, both in the White House and at home.”

(“Paging all Parents” By Andrew Goldstein, Time Magazine)

“PARENT/TEEN RELATIONS: WHERE’S THE GRIEF?”

“Teens and much more likely to say that they get along better with mother than their father, and have felt this way consistently since Gallup began asking the question in 1977. They have shown a greater tendency in the more recent polls (1995 and 2000) to favor one parent over the other: just 16% of respondents said in 2000 that they get along with both parents equally, compared with 34% who answered that way in 1977.”

“The 2000 survey* revealed that 97% of teens say they get along with their parents, 54% saying “very well” and 43% saying “fairly well.” Gallup has asked teens this question since 1977 and found similar results each time.”

- “Roughly seven in 10 teens (71%) said their family usually eats at least one meal together each day, and 69% said they really enjoy mealtime.”
- “Sixty-eight percent (68%) of teens said an adult is usually home when they get home from school each day.”
- “A slight majority of teens (55%) say that their families do things together on the weekends.”
- “Teens would like to spend still more time with their parents. Sixty-eight percent (68%) say they want to spend more time with their fathers, 64% with their mothers.”

“Finally, the October 2001 Gallup Youth Survey asked American teen-agers to identify a person whom they admire for their achievements and their strong moral character. At the top of the list are family members (23%), coming out far ahead of the next two choices: sports figures (10%) and musicians (8%).”

(Joseph Carroll, “Parent/Teen Relations: Where’s the Grief?” The Gallup Organization, Gallup Tuesday Briefing; Education & Youth, March 12, 2002.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/tb/educaYouth/20020312.asp>)

“PARENTAL WARMTH AND AFFECTION”

“Trends”

“Estimates available for 1997 (the only year for which data are available) show that 87 percent of mothers and 73 percent of fathers hug or show physical affection to their child (under age 13) at least once a day. Eighty-five percent of mothers and 62 percent of fathers tell their children that they love him or her at least once a day. Though the percentage of mothers and fathers who tell their child that they appreciate something he or she did is lower than the other two behaviors, the

difference between mothers and fathers is found here as well (55 percent and 37 percent, respectively).”

(www.childtrends.databank.org)

“PARENTING – KEYS FOR SUCCESS”

“One unfortunate statistic that has emerged is the percentage of children born out of wedlock. Although the U.S. teen birth rate decreased by 16% between 1996 and 2001, currently one out of three children is born to unmarried parents. Equally unfortunate, each year one million children are victims of divorce with roughly 40% of children affected by divorce by the time they become adults.”

(“Parenting,” The Youth Connection, Institute for Youth Development, October/November 2003, pp4-5, http://www.youthdevelopment.org/download/YC11_03.pdf)

“PARENTS AND TEACHERS NAMED TOP ROLE MODELS AMONG TEENS FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, ACCORDING TO NATIONAL JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT POLL”

“When asked to select their number one role model, 28 percent of students say ‘parents,’ while 11 percent answer ‘teacher,’ according to results released today from a national Junior Achievement / Harris Interactive poll. The findings mirror similar results from last year’s poll, when 32 percent of teens chose ‘parents’ and 15 percent chose ‘teacher.’ President Bush came in third with 6 percent, up from 3 percent in last year’s poll.”

(www.ja.org/about/about_newsitem.asp?StoryID=181)

“PARENTS ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE DETERRENT”

"A study by Stephen Small from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Tom Luster at Michigan State University, published in the Journal of Marriage and Family, found that parental involvement and the transmitting of the parent's values were significant factors in preventing early sexual activity.... Not surprisingly adolescents who perceived their parents as accepting of premarital adolescent sexual activity were more likely to be sexually experienced."

"Parents who set moderate, reasonable rules for teens experienced the lowest prevalence of sexual activity with teens. These parents who set moderate rules, 'carefully supervised their teenagers in regard to whom they dated and where they went and insisting on a reasonable curfew...'"

(Citizen Link, Parents Are the Most Effective Deterrent, www.family.org, 1998)

“PARENTS MAKE MORE TIME FOR KIDS”

“A new study says modern moms and dads are doing something right—spending four to six hours more a week with their kids than the previous generation. The study by the Institute of Social Research at the University of Michigan found similar upward trends in kid time for both working and at-home moms, and both types of dads. The only group that didn’t register an increase was single mothers.”

“Where’s the extra time coming from? ‘Housework,’ says study author Sandra Hofferth. ‘Families are doing less of it, or purchasing more of it.’ Some people got their priorities straight.”

(“Parents Make More Time for Kids,” Newsweek. U.S. News & World Report, May 21)

“PARENTS MORE CRITICAL OF CHILD CARE THAN KIDS”

“Seeking to fill that void, Ellen Galinsky, president of the New York based Families and Work Institute, surveyed 1,000 children across the country to hear what they had to say about working parents.”

“‘I think kids like to have a grownup around,’ said 10 year old Kevin of Anaheim, Calif. ‘Someone that cares about them, someone to talk to, and someone to help when you don’t know how...’”

“The first thing kids want is someone who feels connected to them in a real way, who cares about them as an individual or a person.”

(“Parents More Critical of Child Care Than Kids,” The Denver Post, Sept. 6, 1999, pg. 19)

“PARENTS OFTEN CLUELESS ON THEIR TEENS’ DRINKING”

“The University of Michigan’s ‘Monitoring the Future’ 2001 nationwide survey reports that 13 percent of eighth-graders, 25 percent of 10th-graders, and 30 percent of 12th-graders said they had had five or more drinks in one sitting in the two weeks prior to the survey. Actual consumption could be more.”

“There’s a disconnect between the real world kids live in and the world parents think their kids live in, ‘says Wallace. He tells of one study repeated around the country where teenagers were interviewed in one room and their parents in another. Over and over, he says, ‘You’d have a kid saying he drinks every night, every weekend, and his mother across the hall saying, I’m lucky my son doesn’t drink’.”

“In fact, the typical parent assumes his or her child will drink during high school. Studies show that’s a fair assumption: 80 percent will at least have tried alcohol by the time they graduate.

Studies also show, however, that 53 percent of parents think there's nothing they can do about it. Wallace calls this the 'myth of inevitability' and he says it's just plain wrong."

"Our research shows parents can have extraordinary influence,' he says."

(Barbara F. Meltz, "Parents often clueless on their teens drinking." Boston Globe Online. April 25th, 2002. www.boston.com)

"PART 4: PARENTS STILL GREATEST INFLUENCE"

"85 percent of the parents surveyed for our poll say they speak to their children often about sex and relationships. But only 44 percent of their teens say they have those same conversations."

(Katie Couric, "The 411: Teens and sex...Part 4: Parents still greatest influence," MSNBC, January 26, 2005, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6872747/>)

"PERSONALLY INVOLVED FATHER FIGURES ENHANCE KIDS' LEARNING IN SCHOOL"

"When dads or other father figures get personally involved, kids do better in school. The finding says a university of Illinois researcher, suggests that schools should encourage male interaction, especially with at-risk kids."

"The exploratory study was detailed today at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in New Orleans by Brent A. McBride, a professor of human and community development. When father figures talk sincerely with kids daily, reading and math scores on achievement tests are higher, he said."

"The measure is of how often the father or father figure talks to his kids about activities being done in school," McBride said. "We wanted to look beyond involvement such as just dropping kids off and picking them up or helping out on field trips."

"When fathers become involved in a cognitive dimension of their children's education, it can negate such barriers as limited resources in both schools and families," he said. "What is most encouraging is that if you look at the strength of the relationship to a barrier of cultural differences, father involvement has a really strong impact on learning."

"McBride's team referred to the NCES data but drew up data from the 1997 Child Development Supplement of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. The latter's 35-year longitudinal study by the Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan has gathered data annually on a variety of family dimensions."

("Personally involved father figures enhance kids' learning in school." EurekAlert, April 4, 2002 www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2002-04/uoi-a-pif040202.php)

“POLL: ABSTINENCE EDUCATION FAVORED BY PARENTS”

“A poll of over 1,200 parents, conducted by Zogby International, showed that parents disapprove of sex education that promotes premarital sex and cohabitation, homosexuality and schools distributing contraception. Survey participants were read verbatim statements from the Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, developed by the CDC, Planned Parenthood and the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the US in 1990. They were then asked to give their opinion on teaching these principles to children.”

“Highlights of the study:”

- “62 percent strongly disapproved of teaching children ages 12 to 15 how to ‘practice’ using condoms.”
- “65 percent strongly disapproved of teaching children ages 9 to 15 that they can become ‘close’ with someone by ‘body massage,’ bathing together or viewing erotic materials.”
- “When asked about ‘your child’s school’ providing birth control ‘without your knowledge or approval,’ 69 percent disapproved.”
- “Two-thirds disapproved of telling children 9 to 12 that ‘homosexual love relationships can be as satisfying as heterosexual relationships.’”

“The House of Representatives passed a bill last week re-instituting a 1996 welfare-reform law, which includes a \$50 million-a-year abstinence education grant program.”

“David Stevens, MD: ‘Despite a concerted effort to suppress data showing that this curriculum is harmful and doesn’t accomplish its goals, the tide is beginning to turn through the efforts of Drs. Joe McIlhaney, Patricia Sulak and other CMDA members. They are not only exposing the falsehoods but have developed sex education curriculum that works. Yet this battle will be won school system by school system. That is where you can make a difference by getting involved. Contact the Medical Institute for Sexual Health so you can be trained and equipped to make a real difference in the lives of children in your community. The data is compelling and on your side. A great curriculum has been developed. All that is needed is some mighty men and women to step up to the battle line.’”

CMA Testimony on Sex Ed
Additional Survey Information on Teen Sexuality.

“PROBLEMS WITH FATHERS KEY IN DRUG USE”

“‘Parent power may be the greatest underutilized resource in our nation's battle to give our children the will and skills to say no to drugs.’ Said Califano, a former U.S. secretary of health, education and welfare.”

(usatoday.com, "Problems with fathers key in teen drug use" Aug. 30, 1999)

“PROFILE: NEW STUDY SHOWS A FATHER'S ABSENCE DURING HIS DAUGHTER'S CHILDHOOD CAN AFFECT HER TEEN-AGE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR”

ROBERT SIEGEL, host: This is ALL THINGS CONSIDERED from NPR News. I'm Robert Siegel.

MELISSA BLOCK, host: And I'm Melissa Block.

A new study in the journal Child Development confirms something researchers have long known, that a father's absence can have a negative impact on his daughter's sexual development. Previous studies have shown that girls who grow up with a single mother are at substantially higher risks for early sexual activity and pregnancy. But as NPR's Rachel Jones reports, this study reaches different conclusions than the earlier research as to why.

RACHEL JONES reporting:

Research on **teen**-age pregnancy has often concluded that behaviors like early **sex** or pregnancy among girls whose fathers aren't in the home occurred because the single mother was poor, the family lived in an unsafe neighborhood or the daughter wasn't being properly supervised.

Mr. BRUCE ELLIS (Psychologist): What this study has strongly suggested is that that traditional explanation is wrong.

JONES: Bruce Ellis is a psychologist at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. Ellis isn't saying poverty didn't matter, but his study has suggested a father's absence has an impact on girls' sexual behavior regardless of their economic background. Ellis' conclusions come from a study of families in New Zealand and the United States that began in 1977. In the US, the families of 242 girls in three cities volunteered to participate. In New Zealand, all 520 girls born in Christchurch during a four-month period in 1977 were automatically enrolled. Girls in both countries came from a wide range of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds.

Mr. ELLIS: During their childhood, we were carefully measuring things like the quality of the marital relationship and the quality of parenting styles and the quality of support the children were receiving from their parents.

JONES: In families with single mothers, the researchers separated the girls into two categories: those whose fathers left before the girls were six years old and those whose fathers left when the girls were between six and 13. The families were observed and interviewed until the girls turned 18. By the end of the study, a third of the girls in both countries had become pregnant, and the higher risk of **teen** pregnancy cut across income levels.

Mr. ELLIS: And what this is saying is that even girls who are from socially and economically privileged backgrounds, who have all of the traditional advantages going for them, those girls

can still be at substantially elevated risk for early sexual activity and **teen** pregnancy if their fathers are absent from the home, particularly from an early age.

JONES: It turned out that when fathers left home before their daughters were six, their daughters were more likely to become pregnant as **teen**-agers. Researcher Bonnie Barber says that's another reason this study's results are so important.

Ms. BONNIE BARBER (Researcher): This focuses us not only on the importance of dads to **teen**-age girls; it's the importance of fathers to their one-year-old and two-year-old daughters, and that's where I think we need to spend some time thinking about that.

JONES: Barber is a psychologist at the University of Arizona in Tucson. In her own research, she's found a possible explanation for some early pregnancies. Barber thinks that a daughter absorbs subconscious cues about her own sexuality by watching her mother's relationships with boyfriends and stepfathers. But Barber worries this type of research may be used to further political debates about family structure or by groups advocating intact families no matter what the negative emotional or physical costs. And, she says, even though a third of the girls in these studies became pregnant...

Ms. BARBER: ...two-thirds of these single mothers don't have daughters who get pregnant, and many of them don't have daughters who have **sex** too early. And there's also some pregnancy and early **sex** in married families, so it's not just the adding of the dad in as what matters.

JONES: Barber says more research needs to focus on what happens when a father is trying to have a positive influence even if he's not in the home. She and other researchers also want to determine if other factors, perhaps certain personality traits like aggression, are leading some girls to earlier sexual behavior. Rachel Jones, NPR News, Washington.

("Profile: New study shows a father's absence during his daughter's childhood can affect her teen-age sexual behavior," All Things Considered from NPR News, May 19, 2003, Copyright © 1990-2003 National Public Radio®. www.nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we)

"PROMOTING POSITIVE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH IN TEENS: SOME LESSONS FROM RESEARCH"

"Adolescent mental and emotional well-being is associated with teens' environments, including parents and family, school, and neighborhood and community characteristics. Links have been found consistently between teens' well-being and environments that are emotionally positive and warm and that provide support for developing adolescent autonomy. Some research suggests that positive experiences in one area (for example, in the family, among peers, at school, through youth community service, or at work) may lessen the effect of negative experiences in other areas. Also, multi-component strategies seem more appropriate than narrow, single-component strategies."

(Jonathan F. Zaff, Ph.D., Julia Calkins, Lisa J. Bridges, Ph.D., and Nancy Geyelin Margie, "Promoting Positive Mental and Emotional Health in Teens: Some Lessons from Research, Child Trends Research Brief, September 2002, <http://www.childtrends.org/PDF/K5Brief.pdf>)

“PROTECTING ADOLESCENTS FROM HARM”

“Parent-family connectedness and perceived school connectedness were protective against every health risk behavior measure except history of pregnancy.”

“Of the constellation of forces that influence adolescent health-risk behavior, the most fundamental are the social contexts in which adolescents are embedded

(20), the family and school contexts are among the most critical.” (Rutter M., Resilience: some conceptual considerations. J. Adolesc. Health. 1993;14:61:6-22)

“Except for family parent connectedness, no family context variables significantly protected against adolescent suicidality.”

“High levels of parent-family connectedness were associated with less frequent marijuana use, as was a greater frequency of parental presence in the home.”

“With notable consistency across the domains of risk, the role of parents and family in shaping the health of adolescents is evident.” While physical presence of a parent in the home at key times reduces risk (and especially substance abuse), it is consistently less significant than parental connectedness (eg, feelings of warmth, love and caring from parents).”

“Hewlett and Fuchs and Reklis have identified the time deficit that surrounds many of the children of the United States: the increasing scarcity of time that parents have for their children, driven largely by workforce pressures. Compared with 1960, children in the United States have lost, on average, 10 to 12 hours per week of parental time. (48)” (Fuchs V., Reklis D., The Status of American Children. Science. 1992; 255:41-46)

(Protecting Adolescents From Harm, Findings From the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health, Michael D. Resnick, Ph. D, et al, JAMA, Sept. 10, 1997, Vol. 278, No. 10, pp827-831)

“PROTECTING ADOLESCENTS FROM HARM-FINDINGS FROM THE NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH”

"Can parents make a difference in whether a teen becomes sexually active? Definitely. Studies show that parents can have the most dramatic impact on their children's behavior if they clearly define what they expect their children to do (and not do) within the context of close family connectedness. According to the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health, parental

disapproval of their teen being sexually active and using contraceptive are significant factors that influence the delay of the onset of sexual activity in teenagers."

(Resnick, M.D., et al (1997, Sept.) Protecting Adolescents from Harm-Findings from the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health, Journal of the American Medical Association, 278 (10), 823-832)

"PROTECTING OUR DAUGHTERS"

"Asked to select from a list of items the things that "scare" them most regarding their daughters, dad are most likely to choose:"

- "Physical or sexual assault (33%--especially those with daughters age 12 or under)"
- "She won't find a good man who take care of her (22%)"
- "She won't have a loving and equitable relationship (21%)"

("Protecting Our Daughters, NOP World –United Business Media, p6)

"PROTECTING TEENS: BEYOND RACE, INCOME, AND FAMILY STRUCTURE"

Center for Adolescent Health, University of Minnesota
Dr. Richard Blum, December 2000

(This monograph was prepared by Trisha Beuring, PhD., Robert Wm. Blum, MD, MPH, PhD, and Peggy Mann Rinehart of the Center for Adolescent Health, University of Minnesota. It is based on an analysis of Add Health data and reported in the American Journal of Public Health, December 2000.)

"Over two-thirds (71.1%) of the final sample identified themselves as White (non-Hispanic); 12.6% identified themselves as Hispanic and 16.3% said they were Black." (6 – PT (protecting teens)

"Just under one-third (31.1%) of students reported that they had one resident parent, while over two thirds (68.9%) reported living in two-parent families. Although youth living in intact two-parent families are at lower risk than youth living in step, adoptive, or foster two-parent families, this report clusters all two-parent families together. (When we ran the data separating two-parent biological families from others, we saw no significant differences from how we analyzed the data initially). (7-PT)

"For instance, while nearly two thirds (65.2%) of adolescents in the lowest income group came from single parent families, only 6.4% of those in the upper income group came from single-parent homes." (8 –PT)

“Overall, 26% of the sample, representing 5.3 million students nationwide, reported being involved in weapon-related violence. Among those with any involvement in weapon-related violence (one or more incidents), fully 35% (representing 1.8 million students), said they had used a weapon to threaten or hurt someone in the past year. This proportion rose to 55% (1.3 million students) among those who were involved in three or more violent incidents and to 78% (0.7 million students) among those who were involved in six or more violent incidents. The prevalence of weapon-related violence was surprisingly stable across grades 7 through 12 (24% to 29%).

- Black and Hispanic youth were more likely than White youth to report involvement in weapon related violence – independent of income, family structure or gender.
- Youth from wealthier families were less likely to be involved in weapon related violence than their lower income peers – independent of race, family structure, or gender.
- Youth in single parent families were more likely to be involved in weapon related violence than youth in two parent families – independent of race, family structure or gender.
- Males were more likely than females to be involved in weapon related violence – regardless of race, income or family structure. (15-16 – PT)

“When we examine the factors, events and experiences that apply across gender, most ethnic groups and health risk behaviors, the following risk and protective factors stand out:

1. Youth who have problems with schoolwork are more likely than others to experience or be involved with every health risk studied. This is evident, with very little exception, across the groups studied. School failure is a public health problem.
2. Teens who spend a lot of time ‘just hanging out’ with friends, especially friends involved with a specific risk behavior, are more likely to be involved themselves. Clearly, one’s choice of friends matters. There may also be health consequences to substantial amounts of unstructured leisure time.
3. Friends’ drinking behavior is strongly associated with not only teen drinking, but weapon related violence, and in some groups, with suicidal thoughts and attempts. Whether this is just a ‘red flag’ or is directly related is unclear. In the present study there was no measure of friends’ involvement with violence.
4. “However, the one most consistently protective factor found was the presence of a positive parent-family relationship.” (36 PT)

“Parents need to be involved with their teens’ friends – know who they are – attend to what they do, and supervise the amount of time their children spend ‘hanging out’ with their friends. (37 PT)

“Frequently we see that when young people are close to their parents and family they are less likely to report involvement with health-risk behaviors. Parents need both the skills and support to develop and maintain close, caring relationships and connect with their children as they progress through teenager years.” (38 PT)

“When parents and family are involved in the lives of their teenagers, young people benefit. When they are involved in their teenagers’ schooling, young people benefit. And when parents and family are involved with their teenagers’ friends, they benefit, regardless of whether they are White, Black or Hispanic, male or female.” (38 PT)

“In a society with high rates of divorce and separation and where work demands increasingly encroach a parent and family availability, this report stands as a warning and a promise. The warning is that when parents are not personally and psychologically available for their teenage children, teenagers pay a high price. When we as a society do not support parents to be effective as well as available, teenagers suffer. On the other hand, this report also indicates that, in the final analysis it matter less if an adolescent comes from a single or dual parent family than what happens within that family. When we nurture the capacity of parents and of families to be involved in the lives of their teenager children, young people are the beneficiaries.” (38 PT)

“PUBLIC: PARENTS PIVOTAL TO STUDENT PERFORMANCE”

“Americans would like deem the latest Nation’s Report Card refrigerator-worthy. Results from the 2004 National Assessment of Educational Progress show that among 9-year-olds, the achievement gap between minorities and whites is the narrowest it has been in 30 years.”

(Julie Ray, “Public: Parents Pivotal to Student Performance,” The Gallup Poll, September 27, 2005)

“QUESTIONNAIRE AND DETAILED RESULTS.” (NICKELODEON TALK)”

“Research proves that fatherhood really matters”

“We start with a fact that has reached national consensus: children, on average, achieve better outcomes when they have an involved, responsible, and committed father. Indeed, our analysis proves beyond a debatable doubt that children need good fathers.”

“Children who live with their fathers are less likely to be poor; use drugs; experience educational, health, emotional and behavioral problems; be victims of child abuse; and engage in criminal behavior than those who live absent their biological fathers.”

“All available evidence suggests marriage is the most effective pathway to good fatherhood. Research consistently documents that fathers who do not live with their children tend, over time, to become disconnected, both financially and psychologically, from their children. One study, for example, found that only 27 percent of children older than 4 years of age saw their non-resident fathers at least once a week in the last year, and 31 percent had no contact at all during the past year.”

“Another national study following 13,000 youth found that, while 57 percent of unwed fathers with children under 2 years old visited their children more than once a week, only 23 percent still had frequent contact with their children at age 7 ½ years or older.”

(Ronald C Warren, “Research proves that fatherhood really matters.” Tallahassee.com, April 20, 2002)

“QUOTE BY JOSH”

President George W. Bush shared with me that **he’s never known a time in his entire life he was not unconditionally loved by his father.** He said, “You know what that did? It gave me the freedom to fail.” (Conversation with Josh McDowell)

“RAISING BOYS WITHOUT MEN”

“Female-headed households may be even better parents for boys than households with men”

- Female-headed households may be even better parents for boys than households with men
- Sons from these families are growing up emotionally stronger, more empathetic, and more well-rounded than boys from ‘traditional’ mother-father families.
- While more in touch with their feelings, these boys remain boyish and masculine in all the ways defined by our culture”

(Peggy F. Drexler, “Raising Boys Without Men,” Rodale, Inc, 2005, www.rodalestore.com)

“RAISING RESPONSIBLE TEENS – ADOLESCENTS NEED THEIR PARENTS MORE THAN EVER”

“Scientists have found that the first three years of life are not the only significant time for brain development in children.”

“Scientists have found that the first three years of life are not the only significant time for brain development in children. The cognitive portion of the brain goes through a second wave of development just before puberty, when gray matters more than doubles. For girls, that wave of development peaks around age 11 and for boys 12.”

“Millions of Americans who are the parents of teenagers struggle daily with the pressures of balancing work and family life.”

(www.bergen.com “Raising responsible teens – Adolescents need their parents more than ever, May 7, 2000).

“REBECCA ST. JAMES – WHAT DO TODAY’S TEENS REALLY NEED?”

“We’ve been called ‘Generation X’, a generation wrapped up in self. Our role models have included tragic figures such as Kurt Cobain. Teens seem to be growing up without a sense of purpose. But it is hope for my peers – and faith in God – that drives me to travel across the country most of the year, sharing the message that God’s way is the best way... That Jesus Christ is our hope and purpose.”

“After my concerts, I have the opportunity to talk with other teens about what is going in their lives. Their hopes and dreams. Their struggles. There’s no doubt in my mind that teens today are looking for something stable, something to grab with both hands and hold onto for dear life. We want absolutes and a strong foundation. For many in my generation, school life extremely shaky, and home lives are falling apart. That’s why I am so bold in my message to stand strong in Christ, because I believe He is that stability we need so desperately. We all need encouragement to live for God. And even though we may not act like it, teens do too, especially from our parents and youth leaders.”

“My relationship with my parents has been a tremendous blessing. In my house, we have a policy of ‘no secrets.’ Everything is fair game to talk about. I’ve found freedom in the accountability of total honesty. That ‘no secrets’ policy also applies to my parents. Several years ago, when my Dad lost his job, my parents pulled together us as a family to pray, and we all worked just to survive. Giving, serving and dying to self became a daily practice. We cleaned houses, baby-sat and raked leaves to make ends meet. It showed me a true source of joy – serving others. In fact, I see my singing and touring ministry as an extension of my ‘cleaning houses’ ministry!”

“I don’t regret a moment of the hard times my family faced because they had a way of drawing us closer to each other, and to God. Because my parents were able to be vulnerable with us and tell us what we did and didn’t have, we were able to see God work as He took care of us.”

“Sometimes teens think they can’t relate to their parents and vice-versa. I think images in the media only feed this idea – sort of a ‘we’re cool; our parents are not’ mind set. Something that has helped the parent/teen relationship in our family is that my parents have invested in a friendship with me and my siblings. They want to talk to us and hear what we think. They respect us, listen to us and put time into building relationships with us. And you know what? That only makes me respect them more and want to hear what they have to say. As a result, I genuinely don’t want to do things that would make them lose respect for me. As I’ve grown, my bond with my parents has influenced my relationship with God as well, because I don’t want to do anything to displease Him, either. It’s serious accountability!”

“I’ve found that parents can be great role models. Youth pastors can be too. Sometimes youth leaders can actually encourage and challenge us to reach out to our parents as friends. Good role models are so important for teens. We need people to look up to. Why? Because that’s how we learn to start dreaming, imitate adult behavior and become mature.”

“I ask you on behalf of my generation to continue challenging and encouraging us to live all out for God. We need you, we love you and we appreciate your guidance!”

“So my dear brothers and sisters, stand strong. Do not let anything change you. Also give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your work in the Lord is never wasted.’ (I Cor. 15:58)”

(Rebecca St. James “What do Today’s Teens Really Need?” Plugged in Magazine, 1996)

“REDUCING SCHOOL VIOLENCE”

“Schools and teachers can do a great deal to impart those lessons to students through character education and by building individualized relationships with students that allow them to look and listen for signs of trouble. But these lessons and these relationships really begin with families – our first and best teachers. At the end of the day, schools, families and communities need to work together to create a culture of safety for our students. – Daniel A. Domench, Superintendent, Fairfax County schools.”

(Reducing School Violence, Washingtonpost.com, Tues. March 20, 2001, pg. A12)

“REDUCING THE RISK: CONNECTIONS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUTH”

“The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) is the first national study of adolescent health designed to measure the social settings of adolescent lives, the ways in which adolescents connect to their social world, and the influence of these social settings and connections on health.”

Dr. R.W. Blum and P.M. Rinehart, Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health, University of Minnesota

(This research is based on data from the Add Health project, a program project designed by J.Richard Udry (PI) and Peter Bearman, and funded by grand #P01-HD31921 from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to the Carolina Population Center)

(It is based on the first analysis of Add health data, “Protecting adolescents from harm: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health,” published in the Sept. 10, 1997 issue of the JAMA, Journal of the American Medical Association)

“The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) is the first national study of adolescent health designed to measure the social settings of adolescent lives, the ways in which adolescents connect to their social world, and the influence of these social settings and connections on health.” (4 – RR (Reducing the Risk))

“Add Health surveys were conducted in two phases. In the first phase, some 90,000 students in grades 7 through 12 attending 145 schools around the United States answered brief questionnaires about their lives, including their health, friendships, self-esteem and expectations for the future.” (7-RR)

“In the second phase, with written consent of both the parent and adolescent, over 20,000 in-home interviews of students were conducted between April and December of 1995 (Wave I). No paper questionnaires were used. Instead, all data were recorded on lap-top computers. A followup (Wave II) of 15,000 adolescents, interviewed again at home, was conducted between April and August of 1996.” (7-RR)

“High school students report higher levels of distress than those in grades 7 and 8. Girls report one-third more emotional distress than boys.

- Teens in rural areas report slightly higher emotional distress when compared with urban and suburban peers.
 - White teens report the lowest emotional distress followed by African Americans, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Hispanic and American Indians
 - Teens on welfare report much higher emotional distress than peers.”
- (9-10 RR)

“Family connections make a difference in the lives of youth. The home environment makes a difference in the health of American youth. When teens feel connected to their families and when parents are involved in their children’s lives, teens are protected.” (15 – RR)

“Teens are also protected when they do not have access to guns, cigarettes, alcohol and drugs at home. Teens are protected by having parents who have high expectations for school performance.” (15- RR)

“Parent and Family Connectedness - highest degree of closeness, caring and satisfaction with parental relationship, whether resident or non-resident mother or father; feeling understood, loved, wanted, and paid attention to by family members.” (16 – RR)

“Time and time again, the home environment emerges as central in shaping health outcomes for American youth.” (16- RR)

“Children who report feeling connected to a parent are protected against many different kinds of health risks including: emotional distress and suicidal thoughts and attempts; cigarette, alcohol, and marijuana use; violent behavior; and early sexual activity.” (16 – RR)

“When a parent is physically present in the home at key times, and has high expectations for the child’s education, children are on the road to being protected from involvement in behaviors that can damage them.” (16 –RR)

“Family connectedness contributes to the mental health of American youth. When teenagers feel connected to their families, they are less likely to experience emotional distress. (17 –RR)

“Though not to the same extent, adolescents are also protected from emotional distress by:

- Their parents being present at key times during the day (in the morning, after school, at dinner, and at bedtime);
- Their parents’ high expectations for school performance.” (17 – RR)

“Feeling connected to parents and family significantly protects both younger and older adolescents from thinking about or attempting suicide.” (17 – RR)

“When parents are more frequently present in the home at key times of the day, older youth (grades 9-12) are less likely to smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol, and both older and younger adolescents are less likely to smoke marijuana. There does not seem to be a magical time of the day when parental presence is especially critical. Rather, it is having access to a parent and perhaps parental supervision in general that matters most.” (19 – RR)

“Parents and families also influence the choice that adolescent children make about their own sexual behavior.” (20 – RR)

“Parents and families whose adolescent children feel connected to them and those who are perceived by the adolescent as disapproving of their teens being sexually active provide some protection from early sexual intercourse. Disapproval of adolescent contraception protects teens from early sexual involvement as well as from pregnancy. Likewise, a greater number of shared activities with parents protects against pregnancy. In other words, parents who give clear messages about delaying sex have children who are less likely to have early intercourse.” (20 – RR)

“Across all of the health outcomes examined, the results point to the importance of family and the home environment for protecting adolescents from harm. What emerges most consistently as protective is the teenager’s feelings of connectedness with parents and family. Feeling loved and cared for by parents matters in a big way.” (31 – RR)

“When a parent is physically present in the home at key times, youth are less likely to use cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana, and less likely to be emotionally distressed. When teenagers perceive that their parents have high expectations for their school success, they have lower levels of emotional distress and, if in high school, are less likely to smoke cigarettes and engage in violent behavior.” (31 – RR)

“Adolescents’ connections to family and school make a difference to their health and well-being. The ADD Health findings show that parents and family are still central in the lives of both younger and older teenagers.” (34 – RR)

“However, workplace pressures are putting the squeeze on families. Since the 1960s, American young people have lost 10 to 12 hours per week of parental time. Despite this, parents are making a difference in the lives of their adolescent children: by being home at key points of the day, by conveying high expectations for school success and behavior, by restricting access to guns, alcohol, cigarettes and drugs, and more than anything else, by instilling in their children a sense of belonging.” (34 –RR)

“REDUCING THE RISK: CONNECTIONS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUTH”

“90,000 students in grades 7 through 12 attending 145 schools around the United States answered brief questionnaires about their lives, including their health, friendships, self-esteem, and expectations for the future. 20,000 in-home interviews of students were conducted between April and December of 1995. A follow-up (Wave II) of 15,000 adolescents, interviewed again at home, was conducted between April and August 1996.” (p.7)

“The home environment makes a difference in the health of American youth. When teens feel connected to their families and when parents are involved in their children’s lives, teens are protected.” (p. 15)

“Teens are protected by having parents who have high expectations for school performance.” (p.15)

“When teenagers feel connected to their families, they are less likely to experience emotional distress.” (p. 17)

“Though not to the extent, adolescents are also protected from emotional distress by:”

- “Their parents being present at key times during the day (in the morning, after school, at dinner, and at bedtime)”
- “Their parents’ high expectations for school performance.” (p.17)

“Feeling connected to parents and family significantly protects both younger and older adolescents from thinking about or attempting suicide.”

“Overall, 24.2 percent of all adolescents said that guns were easily accessible at home.” (p.17)

“When parents are more frequently present in the home at key times of the day, older youth (grades 9-12) are less likely to smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol, and both older and younger adolescents are less likely to smoke marijuana. There does not seem to be a magical time of day (e.g., after school) when parental presence is especially critical. Rather, it is having access to a parent and perhaps parental supervision in general that matters most.” (p.19)

“Parents and families whose adolescent children feel connected to them and those who are perceived by the adolescent as disapproving of their teens being sexually active provide some protection from early sexual intercourse.” (p.19)

“Disapproval of adolescent contraception protects teens from early sexual involvement as well as from pregnancy.” (p. 19)

“A greater number of shared activities with parents protects against pregnancy. In other words, parents who give clear messages about delaying sex have children who are less likely to have early intercourse.” (p.19)

“Teens’ sense of connectedness to parents and family, parental presence in the home, shared activities, parents’ expectations for their teens, and the presence of guns, cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs in the home all are associated, either positively or negatively, with one or more facets of adolescent health and behavior.” (p. 19)

“When adolescents report that they have taken a pledge to remain a virgin until marriage, they are more likely to delay intercourse. Other protective factors include:”

- “A higher level of importance placed on religion and prayer”
- “Appearing younger than age-mates; and”
- “A higher grade point average.” (p. 30)

“If adolescents have easy access to cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana at home, they are more likely to use these substances. If teens have easy access to guns in the home, they are more likely to act violently towards others and older teens are at increased risk for suicidal thoughts or attempts.” (p. 31-32)

“When self-esteem is high, emotional distress is low. When adolescents feel religion and prayer are important in their lives, they are less likely than others to smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, or use marijuana, and more likely to delay sexual activity.” (p. 33)

“17.9 percent of older teens report working during the school year at least 20 hours per week. These adolescents who work half-time or more report higher levels of emotional distress, substance use, and earlier ages at first sexual intercourse.”(p. 33)

“The Add Health findings show that parents and family are still central in the lives of both younger and older teenagers.” (p. 34)

“Since the 1960s, American young people, on average, have lost 10 to 12 hours per week of parental time. Despite this parents are making a difference in the lives of their adolescent children: by being home at key points of the day, by conveying high expectations for school success and behavior, by restricting access to guns, alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs, and, more than anything else, by instilling in their children a sense of belonging.” (p. 34)

(Blum, R.W. Rinehart, P.M. “Reducing the risk: Connection that make a difference in the lives of youth.” Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health, University of Minnesota, Box 721, 420 Delaware St., S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455. Preparation of this report was assisted by a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey. Printed by the University of Minnesota Printing Services.)

“RELIGION IN THE LIVES OF AMERICAN ADOLESCENTS: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE – Number 3”

“Religious Involvement”

The sources behind the development of religious involvement in youth are several, though parents easily constitute the strongest influence. Some scholars go so far as to suggest that ‘religiosity, like class, is inherited’ (Myers 1996: 858). Parent-child transmission of religiosity and religious identity is indeed quite powerful. But it's not inevitable. On the whole, mainline Protestant parents are having greater difficulty retaining their children within the mainline Protestant fold than are evangelical Protestant parents (Smith 1998). Religious socialization also is more likely to occur in families characterized by considerable warmth and closeness (Ozorak 1989). Mothers are generally thought to be more influential than fathers in the development of religiousness in adolescent children (Benson, Masters and Larson 1997; Bao et al. 1999).”

(Smith, Christian and Faris, Robert, “Religion in the Lives of American Adolescents: A Review of the Literature,” A Research Report of the National Study of Youth and Religion, Number 3, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, www.youthandreligion.org)

REPORT ENTITLED "OUR CHILDREN AT RISK" MARCH 27

“Parents must, at least, double the amount of time, interaction and instruction to nurture their children.”

“OUR CHILDREN AT RISK, CHILDREN AND YOUTH ISSUES, 1998” ARNOLD Q. COLLINS

Moral Meltdown: “10th grade students, less than 1/3 attend religious activities once a week.”

Less Supervision: “40% of young people spend their time without responsible adult companionship or supervision.”

YMCA SUGGESTIONS FOR HEALTHY ADOLESCENTS

“Family support - Family life provides high levels of love and support”

“Positive family communication - Parent(s) communicate with the child in positive ways. Parent(s) respond immediately to the child and respect the child.”

“Parental involvement in out-of-home situations - Parent(s) are actively involved in helping the child succeed in situations outside the home.”

“Children valued - The family places the child at the center of family life.”

“Child has role in family life - The family involves the child in family life.”

“Safety - Child has a safe environment at home, in out-of -home settings and in the neighborhood.”

“Family boundaries - Parent(s) are aware of the child's preferences and adapt the environment to best suit the child's needs. Parent(s) begin setting limits as the child becomes mobile.”

“Adult role models - Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.”

“Expectations for growth - Parent(s) are realistic in their expectations of development at this age. Parent(s) encourage development but do not push the child beyond his or her own pace.”

“Religious community - Family attends religious programs or services on a regular basis while keeping the child's needs in mind.”

“Positive, supervised time at home - Parent(s) supervise the child at all times and provide predictable and enjoyable routines at home.”

“Family values honesty - Parent(s) tell the truth and convey their beliefs in honesty through their actions.”

“Family values responsibility - Parent(s) accept and take personal responsibility.”

“Family values healthy lifestyles and sexual attitudes - Parent(s) love the child, setting the foundation for the child to develop healthy sexual attitudes and beliefs. Parent(s) model, monitor and teach the importance of good health habits, such as providing good nutritional choices and adequate rest and playtime.”

TALKING WITH TEENS: THE YMCA PARENT AND TEEN SURVEY FINAL REPORT

“Disturbingly, 10% of parents report that they eat just one meal a week, or never eat, with their teens.”

“Teens are 3 times more likely than their parents to say that ‘not having enough time together’ is their biggest issue of concern.”

“Fathers have a bigger disconnect with their teenagers than mothers. 47% of dads are looking to spend more time with their teens, compared to 38% of mothers who say they need more time.”

“When families do spend time together, the communication is not getting through. For instance, parents may think they talk to their children about values and beliefs on a frequent basis (64%), but teens are only hearing it 41% of the time.”

“68% of parents of 14 year olds report that they are the most likely to frequently talk to their teens about values and beliefs. Only 34% of this age group agrees that they are having conversations about values on a frequent basis.”

“While the study (YMCA) found that while drugs and alcohol topped parents’ concerns about teens – a quarter of whom are considered ‘at risk’ – teens say their number one worry is not spending enough time with their parents.

“The study claims teenagers say they are three times more likely than their parents to say they do not have enough time together with their family.

“And almost two-thirds of parents say they talk frequently to their teenagers about beliefs and values, while only 41 percent of kids report such conversations are happening.”

“The conference also looked at single parent families, finding that children who spend a lot of time with that one parent do just as well as kids from families with two.

“YMCA poll confirms that communication and family togetherness are crucial factors in raising responsible, happy teenagers.

“‘We have another shot at growing healthy, young people,’ said Shalala, who also attended the conference. ‘We must continue to worry about their development, particularly, about their brain development, just before they are teenagers. And that is a very good piece of information for parents.’”

The research, first published late last year and then in the March issue of the journal *Nature*, showed that in teenagers up to age 15, there are also peak growth rates in areas of the brain associated with language and associative thinking.” (www.CBSnews.com, Study: Teens Need Parents More, Oct. 20, 2000)

“RESEARCH FINDINGS RELATED TO FATHERHOOD”

“Studies on fatherhood report many significant findings such as:”

- “Fathers contribute to their children’s intellectual development and social competence through physical play.”
- “Fathers who are responsible for at least 40% of child-rearing tasks tend to have children that score higher on cognitive development tests.”
- “A father’s involvement in his child’s life is an important predictor of higher grades in school for the child.”
- “Children, whose fathers play a positive role in their lives, are less likely to come into contact with the juvenile justice system.”
- “Low income and poor relationship with the birth mother are two of the greatest barriers to a father’s involvement in his children’s lives.”
- “Unemployed fathers are less likely to form families or assume responsibilities.”
- “National studies consistently find a link between the socio-economic status of fathers and involvement in their children's lives.”
- “Single-parent families headed by the father are rare (3-5%). However, their numbers have increased rapidly over the last twenty years.”
- “Some studies indicate contact between non-custodial fathers and their children is associated with fewer behavioral problems and better psychological well-being while conversely, other studies show that non-custodial father contact can have a detrimental effect on their child's behavior. This distinction has led some researchers to conclude that it may not be the frequency of contact that is important to the relationship, rather the quality of time spent together.”

[Findings excerpted from: Child Trends Fatherhood Research Briefs, www.childtrends.org and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Fact Sheet #73, <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/pubs/fact.html>]

“RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR YOUTH VIOLENCE”

“Research demonstrates that family dynamics and parental or caregiver involvement are significantly correlated with an individual’s propensity to engage in violent behavior. A lack of parental interaction and involvement increases the risk for violence, particularly among males. (12) (J. David Hawkins, Todd I. Herrenkohl, David P. Farrington, and Devon Brewer, Richard F. Catalano, Tracy W. Harachi, and Lynn Cothorn, Predictors of Youth Violence, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, April 2000)

“Family members, especially parents or primary caregivers, can play a significant role in helping protect youth from violence by emphasizing the importance of education and offering support and affection. Frequent, in-depth conversations and communication between parents and children help build resilience as does the existence of a non-kin support network which offers access to a variety of adult viewpoints and experiences. Other family level protective factors include clear boundaries for behavior that enforce structure and rules within the household and reasonable disciplinary actions when rules are violated.”

(Risk and Protective Factors for Youth Violence, National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center, Hot Topics)

“ROMANIAN ORPHANAGES:”

“A welcome recent report indicates that toddlers who were removed from the Romanian orphanages before the age of 6 months and then adopted by dedicated families in the United Kingdom show a remarkable degree of catch-up despite severe developmental deprivation upon arrival; those rescued after 6 months, although they too display surprising gains, continue to reveal persisting cognitive and emotional defects.”

(“Romanian Orphanages,” Pediatrics, May 1999, no page #)

"ROW ON TEEN SEX LINKED TO DIVORCE AND COHABITATION"

"Teenagers who come from stable homes with married parents are much less likely to have underage sex and unwanted pregnancies according to one of the largest surveys of teenage behavior."

"The survey of 2,000 teenagers aged 13-15"

"But the report's authors defended the document, which reveals that teenagers are twice as likely to engage in underage sex if their parents are separated or cohabiting rather than married."

"Hill said the number of children born to unmarried couples had risen from 5 percent in 1960 to 10 percent in 1980, and to 38 percent in 1999."

"The survey found that children who did not think that they had a 'good' relationship with their parents were much more likely to engage in underage sex. Nearly 60 percent of those who said that they had 'no sexual experience' said that they had a very good relationship with their mother, compared to 43 percent of those who had had sex."

"The Family Matters report was overseen by Professor Martin Richards, head of the Center for Family Research at Cambridge University."

(Kamal Ahmed, "Row on Teen Sex Link to Divorce", The Observer, July 22, 2001)

“SANTEE SHOOTING”

"He (Andy) was always saying how he hated his dad' - Kristin Chalmers, friend of Andy Williams, shooter in Santee."

"He also missed his mother who had moved to South Carolina with his stepbrother. 'He was devastated that his mother didn't take him,' says Seek (friend of Andy Williams)"

(People Mag. March 3, 2001, pp 61-62)

“SCHOOL SHOOTINGS AND WHITE DENIAL”

“I’ll tell you what went wrong and it’s not TV, rap music, video games or a lack of prayer in school. What went is that white Americans decided to ignore dysfunction and violence when it only affected other communities, and thereby blinded themselves to the inevitable creeping of chaos which never remains isolated too long. What affects the urban ‘ghetto’ today will be coming to a Walmart near you tomorrow, and unless you address the emptiness, pain, isolation and lack of hope felt by children of color and the poor, then don’t be shocked when the support systems aren’t there for your kids either”

(Tim Wise, “School Shootings and White Denial,” alternet.org, March 6, 2001)

“SECRET SERVICE STUDY”

“After the 1999 Columbine High massacre, the U.S. Secret Service’s National Threat Center – the same agency that assesses presidential assassination threats – reviewed every incident of what it called ‘targeted violence’ in schools. The agency identified a mere 37 incidents since 1974 - an average of 1.4 incidents a year – involving 41 student shooters. After examining each incident, including interviewing 10 of the attackers, the October 2000 report concluded that ‘there is no accurate or useful profile of the ‘school shooter.’”

“‘The school had done most of what it could do to prevent this kind of tragedy,’ said state Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin.”

“‘This young man (Williams) moved to California, but he hadn’t seen his mother in 10 years, so there was clearly some issues he was dealing with,’ Eastin said. ‘If there had been additional counselors, maybe we would have been more successful in getting newer students like him to tell us if there was a problem.’”

“But Principal Brian McKibben is also searching for deeper answers. ‘Perhaps in the suburbs kids are more likely to feel like loners on a more profound level than in urban settings,’ he speculated. ‘Some of these kids live in these great big houses, with mom at one end, and the kid

holed up in his room for hours on end at the other.’ Few children who live in inner city apartments or houses are likely to have that privilege, he says.”

“Schools should not be looking for this one needle in a haystack, they should be looking for kids who need help, not because they may be carrying a gun, but because they come from a dysfunctional family, may be abused or neglected, or have poor grades,” said Bill Modzeleski, director of the Safe and Drug Free School Program at the U.S. Dept. of Education.”

(www.sfgate.com (San Francisco Chronicle) “Student Gunmen Baffle Experts Secret Service study found ‘no useful profile’ March 11, 2001)

“SECURE ATTACHMENTS IMPORTANT TO TEEN COMMUNICATION”

"When a parent and a teenager have trouble communicating, when the teen is withdrawn or hostile when confronted with a family conflict, the root problem may be an insecure attachment, Kobak (leading researcher in attachment disorder) say."

"If teenagers arrived at the idea that their parents are unavailable to them for an extended period of time, they become disengaged. Disengagement usually goes with a lot of adolescent problem behaviors."

"Parents now days have to work harder to stay involved with their children."

(Secure attachments important to teen communication, Patrick Collier, www.udel.edu)

“SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS IN WAKE OF SCHOOL SHOOTING RAMPAGES”

“David Cho, pastor of the world’s largest church, says school shootings partly result from failure to teach the Ten Commandments. ‘Why should those things happens?’ Cho asks. ‘Because they [children] don’t respect their father and mother. If they respect their father and mother, then they’re bound to respect their teachers, elders and friends. All the ethics start from the respect to the parent.’ (Cho, whose church in South Korea has 763,000 members)

(“Searching for Answers in Wake of School Shooting Rampages” by Bill Fancher and Jim Brown, March 8, 2001 agapepress)

“SEX SMARTS”

“COMMUNICATION – “A Series of National Surveys of Teens About Sex”

“Many teens wait until after they’ve had sex to talk to their parents about it—that is, if they ever do. According to a national survey of 15- to 17-year-olds, one in four teen girls, and nearly one in two teen boys, who have had sexual intercourse say their parents don’t know about it.”

Even among parents in the know, many are finding out about their teen's sex life later than they might like to, or at least too late to have an influence on the choices their children make, or to encourage them to protect themselves."

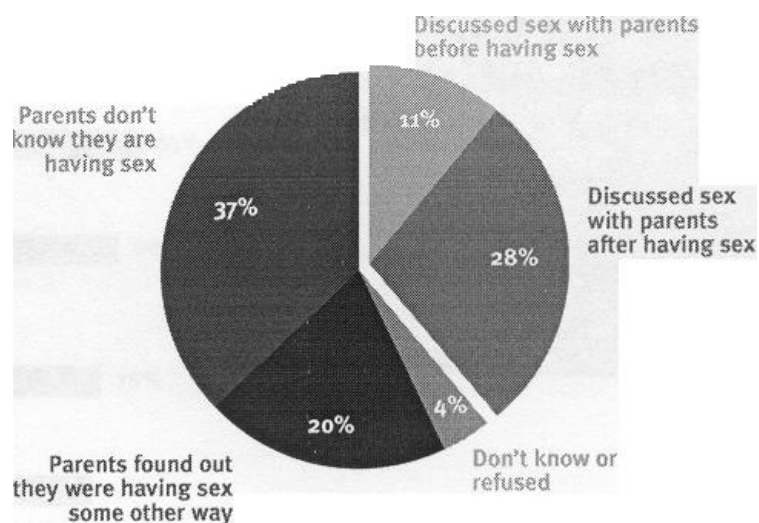
"Of all the teens surveyed—including both those who have had sex as well as those who have not—half have never had a conversation with a parent about how to know when you are ready to have sex. And even fewer have talked with a parent about how to bring up topics like birth control, condoms or sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing with someone they are dating."

"Talking About Sex...Too Late?"

"Just one in 10 teens who have had sexual intercourse say they discussed their plans with their parents ahead of time; a quarter told them after the fact, and another one fifth say their parents found out 'some other way.' The remainder—close to forty percent of sexually-active teens—say their parents still don't know." (Figure 1)

"What's behind this silence? Part of the problem is a lack of communication between parents and their teens. Close to half of 15-to-17-year-olds surveyed—including 56 percent of those who are already sexually active—say they have never talked with their parents about sexual decision making. Nor have many discussed other sexual health issues, like HIV/AIDS, other STDs, condoms or other forms of birth control." (Figure 2)

"Tough Talks -- Percent who have NEVER talked with a parent about:



(“Communication – A Series of National Surveys of Teens About Sex,” SexSmarts (A Public Information Partnership), The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation/Seventeen, July 2002. www.seventeen.com/sexsmarts)

“SPEAKING OF SEX”

“A study published in Family Planning Perspectives last summer found that parents do have a powerful influence over their teens’ sexual behavior. With this in mind, if parents want to encourage their children to abstain from sex until marriage, the study recommends steps that they can take.”

“Keep up a good warm relationship with your children.”

“Be open and honest to your teenagers about your expectations for them not to have sex.”

“Avoid discussing birth control.”

“An open discussion of birth control often times signals to teenagers that it is okay for them to have sex. Many teachers at school will be urging teens to use ‘protection’ and birth control when they have sex. It is the responsibility of the parents at home to teach their children that they expect more from them than their teachers.”

“The conclusion of the study? When teens have all three things going for them, loving parents who encourage abstinence and not contraception, they are twelve and a half times more likely to stay a virgin than those teens who have not heard these things from their parents.”

“And what are the benefits of being a virgin? Teens won’t have to deal with unplanned and unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, rejection, and warped views of love and affection. However, they will find themselves adhering to a set of values that will help them pass through the often difficult adolescent years with self-respect and self-esteem.”

(www.abstinence.net/library/index.php?entryid=363)

“STATE OF THE FAMILY”

“Question: IF you could do so, what one thing would you change about our Western society as far as the family is concerned?”

George Barna: “The one thing I would like to see changed would be the level of esteem given to parenting. In our disposable, fast-paced culture, if we could go back and reestablish the centrality and the priority of parenting as one of the most important-if not the single most important things a person is ever going to do in his or her life, we would see a revolution take place in our entire culture.”

“If parents go through a divorce, that’s when they are more likely to feel that they need the support of a church community. But we also found in our research that it’s also one of the times when the church is least likely to be there for them.”

“The culture is little more than a reflection of the values we build into our kids.”

“Who Influences Our Children?”

Parents:	should 97%
	does 30%
Church:	should 21%
	does 1%
School:	should 1%
	does 13%
Peers/Friends:	should >1%
	does 33%
Media:	should *
	does 21%
Government:	should >1%
	does 1%

(Interview by Sheila Graham, “State of The Family.” The Plain Truth, July/August 1996, pages 4-9).

STEP IN FOR THE MISSING MAN”

“The urgency. Across the United States, as many as 40 percent of all boys live their lives without a father in their homes. That translates to something like 20-25 million boys. While the situation may be most severe in urban and minority situations, even typical white and suburban evangelical churches include significant numbers of boys who for a variety of reasons do not live with their fathers.”

“Mr. Epperson stresses that the divorce rate has doubled since 1970. The out-of-wedlock birth rate has tripled. One-third of all births now, and 44 percent of first births, are to unmarried mothers.”

“The reasonableness. ‘Look around you,’ says Stu Epperson. ‘Your church. Your neighborhood. Kids that need you are everywhere-and right next to you. Prayerfully consider mentoring a precious young person.’ He quotes James 1:27: ‘Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless.’”

(Joel Belz, “Step in for the missing man.” World Magazine, May 18, 2002, P. 5)

“STEREOTYPES OF TROUBLEMAKING KIDS OFF THE MARK”

"National Longitudinal study of Adolescent Health report reinforces earlier finds showing that adolescents who feel a 'connectedness' to their parents were least likely to engage in risky behaviors. 'It's very clear that parents need to know who their children's friends are and what they spend their time doing.'"

(cnn.com "Study: Stereotypes of troublemaking kids off the mark" Nov. 30, 2000)

“STRONG PARENTING CUTS STDs IN BLACK TEEN GIRLS”

“Johns Hopkins researchers found that black teenage girls who had high levels of parental supervision had lower rates of gonorrhea and Chlamydia infections than girls with low levels of parental supervision.”

(“Strong Parenting Cuts STDs in Black Teen Girls”, Health Day Yahoo News, July 7, 2004)

“STUDENTS DO BETTER WHEN THEIR FATHERS ARE INVOLVED AT SCHOOL”

“In two-parent households, children are more likely to do well academically, to participate in extracurricular activities, and to enjoy school and are less likely to have ever repeated a grade or to have been suspended or expelled if their fathers have high as opposed to low involvement in their schools.”

“Half of students get mostly A’s and enjoy school according to their parents when their fathers are highly involved in their schools compared to about one-third of students when their fathers have low levels of involvement. Students are also half as likely to have ever repeated a grade (7 percent versus 15 percent) and are significantly less likely to have ever been suspended or expelled (10 percent versus 18 percent) if their fathers have high as opposed to low involvement in their schools.”

“In father-only households, children are more likely to do well in school, to participate in extracurricular activities, and to enjoy school and are less likely to have ever been suspended or expelled if their fathers have high as opposed to low levels of involvement in their schools.”

“Children living in single-parent households are, on average, less successful in school and experience more behavior problems than children living in two-parent households (McLanahan and Sandefur, 1994). Most research on single-parenthood focuses on children living with single mothers. As is apparent by comparing figures 1 and 2, however, children living in father-only households also do less well in school than children living in two-parents households.”

“Nearly one third of students get mostly A’s when their fathers are highly involved in their schools compared to 17 percent when their fathers have low levels of involvement in their schools. Even more striking, only 11 percent of 6th through 12th graders have ever been

suspended or expelled when their fathers have high levels of involvement in their schools compared to 34 percent when their fathers have low levels of involvement in their schools. Although a similar pattern is observed for grade repetition, the difference between children whose fathers have high and low levels of involvement is not statistically significant.”

(“Students Do Better When Their Fathers Are Involved at School.” National Center For Education Statistics, April 1998)

STUDIES REVEAL UNEXPECTED RISK FACTOR IN TEENS”

“Race, income, family structure, ethnicity – all of those factors we thought meant the difference between college and calamity – don’t amount to a hill of beans when compared to two other factors in kids’ lives: how they are doing in school and who they are hanging with. That’s the conclusion of Dr. Robert Blum, a professor at the University of Minnesota who, along with fellow researchers, continues to pick apart the findings of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, a massive survey of 90,000 teens from seventh to 12th grades.”

“But this research also calls for a renewed commitment from parents.”

“‘The simple message is, don’t believe the common myth that when kids reach adolescence, their parents are irrelevant,’ says Blum, who has teens at home himself.”

“‘Maybe they don’t want to be seen in the mall with us, but they desperately need a sense that their parents are there when they need them.’”

“This doesn’t just mean bail money. This means going out on a rainy night to retrieve the book or the poster board needed for a school project.”

“Our kids need to know we will be there to ‘rescue’ them in a thousand ways that have nothing to do with drunk driving or unintended pregnancy.”

“We also need to be there for our kids in ways they will not like.”

“We must know where they are going and when they will be back. And we need to risk infuriating them by checking out their plans.”

“We need to know their friends, and we need to get to know their friends’ parents. We need to express disapproval when our instincts tell us a certain friend is trouble.”

“We need to ask about their school work and their grades. We need to show up at school functions and talk to their teachers.”

“We need to make very, very clear what our expectations are for them: You will work hard at school, you will graduate and perhaps you will go to college. In the meantime, you will not take risks that could jeopardize your future.”

“‘The numbers show that kids who heard from their parents when they did not approve of something were influenced by that knowledge,’ says Blum with conviction.”

“‘This isn’t ideology; it is born out of data. Parents who are heavily involved in their kids’ lives, in their kids’ school, make a difference in their kids’ lives.’”

“‘This kind of interaction with teens is fraught with conflict. They will make it very clear that they don’t want us in their face about their friends or their grades.’”

“‘But the fact is, they are listening to what we are saying, and Blum has the numbers to prove it.’”

(“Study reveals unexpected risk factors for teens” Baltimore Sun, Dec. 5, 2000, p. 1F)

“STUDY FINDS BAD-GIRL CYCLE”

“‘Among study participants who were between 15 and 22 years old at the start of the study in 1980, those who reported delinquency – defined as abusing drugs, having behavioral problems at school and being charged with a crime – were 50% more likely to be divorced 14 years later. This same group was also twice as likely to have a child outside of marriage.’”

“‘A teenager very much left to her own devices, learning by trial and error, easily influenced by peers, relying heavily on peers for essential emotional support and lacking critical input, guidance and direction from adults, is unlikely to observe two loving, caring parents who function as role models for successful interaction in a marriage,’ said Northman.”

“‘Robert Emery, psychology professor and director at the Center for Children, Families and the Law at the University of Virginia, said that the problems of these children may be caused partly by inherited behavior or personality characteristics and by the environment their parents provided for them before the divorce.’”

“‘How much is genes and how much is environment is a question we hope to answer in our next study,’ Emery said.”

“‘Northman believes that nature may be less important than nurture, that hands-on parental guidance, active involvement in a child’s life, and giving children a role model of two parents in a warm, loving marriage are vital to teaching problem-solving and relationship skills.’”

(apbnews.com “Study Finds Bad-Girl Cycle” May 8, 2000)

“STUDY: KIDS RATE BULLYING AND TEASING AS ‘BIG PROBLEM’.”

“‘A new report finds bullying and teasing tops the list of children’s school troubles and that many students say talking with their parents does little to ease the stress.’”

“10 tips for talking with kids:”

1. Start early
2. Initiate conversations with your child
3. ... Even about sex and relationships
4. Create an open environment
5. Communicate your values
6. Listen to your child
7. Try to be honest
8. Be patient
9. Use everyday opportunities to talk
10. Talk about it again. And again

Source: "[Talking With Kids About Tough Issues](#)"

(Rose Arce, “Study: Kids rate bullying and teasing as ‘big problem’.” March 8, 2001;
<http://www.cnn.com/2001/US/03/08/violence.survey/index.html>)

“STUDY: PEERS SAY A CHILD’S INTEREST IN SMOKING, DRINKING”

"Teens who reported that their parents were highly involved in their lives were absolutely half as likely to smoke or drink as youths who felt their parents were not involved."

(cnn.com "Study: Peers say a child's interest in smoking, drinking" Jan. 23, 2001)

“SURVEY: BULLYING A WAY OF SCHOOL LIFE”

“‘It’s not just parents of teenagers anymore who stay up late worrying about their kids,’ Tina Hoff of the Kaiser Family Foundation said in a statement.”

“‘It’s not just parents of teenagers anymore who stay up late worrying about their kids,’ Tina Hoff of the Kaiser Family Foundation said in a statement. ‘This is a wakeup call for parents to start talking early and often with their kids.’”

“Most parents have talked with their children in the preteen age group about alcohol and drugs, discrimination, teasing and bullying, the survey found, while fewer have discussed puberty or reproduction.”

“Even when parents and children do talk about these issues, the message does not always get through. From 1/3 to more than 1/2 of 8 to 11 year olds said they did not recall conversations with parents on a particular issue, while parents said the issue had been discussed.”

(msnbc.news.com “Survey: Bullying a way of school life” March 8, 2001)

“SURVEY FINDS ADOLESCENTS DO LISTEN TO PARENTS’ ADVICE”

“The 1995 federally funded study is the most comprehensive survey ever done of American adolescents, involving more than 12,000 seventh through 12th graders.”

“The findings, published in today’s issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, indicate that the more teenagers feel loved by their parents and comfortable in their schools, the less likely they are to have early sex, smoke, abuse alcohol or drugs, or commit violence or suicide.”

“The researchers found that if parents expected adolescents to get good grades and refrain from sex, those expectations influenced the adolescents’ behavior powerfully through 12th grade, regardless of family income, race or single-or dual parents status.”

“But to a large extent, the study found, the health and well being of teenagers ‘still rests in that strong feeling of being cared for by parents’ Resnick said.”

“Far more important than school size or type or the training of teachers is whether the school is an ‘arena of comfort, a place where kids want to be—they have a sense of belonging, they feel that teachers care about them and they feel that teachers are fair’ he said.”

(Brenda C. Coleman, “Survey finds adolescents do listen to parents’ advice.” The Sun San Bernardino, California. September 10, 1997. A6.)

“SURVEY: PARENTS WARY OF COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED”

“In a poll done for a pro-family coalition, Zogby International found as much as 75 percent of parents disapproved of sex-ed training that included instructions on the use of condoms. Meanwhile, 74 percent of parents approved of character education that endorses remaining sexually abstinent until marriage.”

“The poll found parents’ disapproval of sex information escalated when it involves their children. Only 46 percent of parents opposed high-school students being taught they can obtain contraceptives without parental approval, but the opposition increased to 70 percent when the question was personalized to their children.”

“Zogby performed the survey in January for the Coalition for Adolescent Sexual Health, a Washington-based group. Members of the coalition are FRC, Concerned Women for America, Focus on the Family, National Abstinence Clearinghouse, Eagle Forum, Christian Coalition and Traditional Values Coalition.”

“The SIECUS guidelines recommend teaching about masturbation and intercourse to children 5 to 8 years old. They also suggest children 9 to 12 be taught ‘[h]omosexual love relationships can

be as satisfying as heterosexual relationships.’ Seventy-one percent of parents disapproved of the teaching of that concept.”

www.zogby.com/search/ReadClips.dbm?ID=5026

THE AMBITIOUS GENERATION

“According to The Sloan Study of Youth and Social Development, most adolescents feel that their parents love and accept them, and most describe their families as cooperative and willing to help one another. Nearly half feel appreciated for who they are and perceive their parents as emotionally supportive. While most consider their parents loving and accepting, however, only a third said that they receive special attention and help when they have a problem. For most adolescents, problem situations are seen as times when parents are least likely to intervene and offer assistance. Overall, high levels of parental support can help adolescents feel positive about themselves, and parents can encourage high educational expectations. Among students who report that their parents are highly supportive, more than 88% expect to earn a college, professional, or advanced degree.”

“To become strong adolescents, Coleman (researcher for The Sloan Study of Youth and Social Development, University of Chicago) argued, adolescents need to be a part of families with strong relationship ties between parents and themselves.”

“It is not simply communication that Coleman perceives as meaningful, but also what norms are conveyed to adolescents. We argue that these norms and specific parental actions influence the development of an adolescent’s ambitions. Parents need to do more than communicate to their teenagers the importance of a college education. They have to take action: accompany adolescents on college visits, arrange for financial assistance, assist in judging the program of a college and whether it is the right one for them.”

“The role of parents in helping adolescents plan for their future now appears to be more critical.”

“Our interest in the relation between ambitions and parent involvement flows from several factors. First, while we recognize that supportive and challenging relationships in families are important for encouraging expectations, they do not focus on actions that can be helpful to adolescents. Second, although parents’ education and resources affect their children’s educational attainment, it is the family’s social capital, the strong social ties within the family, that can be a resource for students with aligned ambitions. Prior research on families has shown the importance of such familial ties for improving academic performance.”

(The Ambitious Generation: America’s Teenagers Motivated But Directionless by Barbara Schneider and David Stevenson, pp147-148)

“THE CLASSROOM AVENGER”

James P. McGee, Ph.D, Caren R. DeBernardo, Psy.D

“Family background and relationships, which may appear superficially normal, are often quite dysfunctional. Divorce, separation and/or frequent episodes of intense friction between parents, and parents and child, is the norm and parents are at risk for becoming the Classroom Avenger’s first victims (see Table 3). Explicit or covert anger and hostility are the prevailing emotions in the family, accompanied by parent-child power struggles and battles over control. Fathers tend to be absent or minimally involved in parenting. Whether or not explicit physical or sexual abuse of the children occurs in these families is unknown. Discipline, however, is overly harsh and applied inconsistently.” (p. 7)

- **“Two major studies of church youth commissioned first in 1987 and again in 1994 ...the closer youth are to their parents relationally, the less at risk they are to unacceptable behavior.”**
- Every major sociological study over the last fifteen years which cross tabulates human relationships or lack of them with human behavior, reveals that **the more disconnect a person is relationally, the more prone he or she is to engage in anti-social behavior.**

We are in trouble...WHEN:

1. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Nearly three-fourths of juveniles in state custody did not live with both parents growing up.” (CWA Family Voice, www.cfa.org, Nov/Dec. 1999)
2. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “There are more boys living without their fathers here than in any country in the world.” (“No Dad at Home” ABC 20/20, Charles Gibson and Lynn Sherr, Wed. Nov. 17, 1999)
3. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 15% of all violent deaths in America’s schools are child suicides.”
4. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “More than 2000 school aged children - 19 and younger - take their own lives each year.
5. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “At least 300 children ages 10-14 kill themselves each year.”
6. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Suicides among adolescents have nearly tripled over the last 40 years.”
7. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “For those ages 15-24 suicide is the third-leading cause of death, behind accidents and homicide.” (USA Today, “Devastation lingers around school”)
8. **We are in trouble when:** “72% of adolescent murders are

from fatherless homes.”

9. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “70% of long term prison inmates came from fatherless homes.” (Life Without Father, p. 63)
10. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Over 25 million children under the age of 18 are growing up in a home without their dad.” (Fathering in America)
11. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “The Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services found just 12% of the delinquents in state custody were from a two-parent family. A study of female delinquents in the California Youth Authority found just 7% came from intact families.” (10) (The Heart of a Father, p. 19)
12. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “50% said their fathers were emotionally absent from them growing up.” (7) (The Heart of a Father)
13. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Only 34% of adult males could say that they considered their own father to be a role model.” (7) (The Heart of a Father)
14. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “More than 40% of American adults have no weekly contact with their children.” (8) (The Heart of a Father)
15. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Broken homes contribute to as many as 3 out of 4 teen suicides.” (14) (The Heart of a Father)
16. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “4 out of 5 psychiatric admissions comes from fatherless homes.” (14) (The Heart of a Father)
17. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “We are more concerned with the rights and personal fulfillment of adults than the emotional health of our children.”
18. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “When the government thinks only of health insurance and not the emotional health of our children.”
19. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “When we substitute gun control for parental connectedness.”
20. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** When we substitute educational reform for parental relationships.
21. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Adults are emotionally fragile and thus need divorce, while children are emotionally resilient and thus can handle it.” (Divorce, p. 90)
22. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Experts and school counselors remind children that their parents are simply going through a stage. Be patient and understanding.”

23. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “We excuse, overlook, fail to judge or tolerate, the immoral behavior of our parents, our politicians, our President and our church leaders.”
24. Dinosaurs Divorce: **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Books on Divorce for Children tell them that, “Parents may need you to take care of yourself more.” (p. 127 Divorce)
25. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “When children get more of their daddy’s money that they do their daddy’s love.”
26. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “More emphasis is placed on “school detention” in place of their “father’s attention, care and love.” (Life Without Father, p. 77)
27. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “The physical absence of the father from the home is the most significant family problem facing America. 72.2% agreed in our 1999 poll.” (Fathering in America p. __)
28. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “The average mother spends less than 17 minutes a day in meaningful interaction with any of their teenage children and the father spend less than 7 minutes per day.”

“Forensic psychologist Shawn Johnston says the ‘raising of responsible men may be the single most important thing our society can do for itself....”

([whyfiles.news.wise.edu/065 school violence/3.html](http://whyfiles.news.wise.edu/065_school_violence/3.html))

The Denver Post

“Ellen Galinsky, present of the New York based Families and Work Institute surveyed 1000 children across America to hear what they had to say about working parents. Her analysis would be summed up by saying: “The first thing kids want is someone who feels connected to them in a real way, who cares about them as an individual or a person.”

(The Denver Post, Sept. 6, 1999, p. 19)

THE KIDS GET THE LAST WORD

“The way a father is thought about by his child is determined less by their frequency of contact or even by their cultural or ethnic background and more by the child’s age, gender, and experience, by the mother’s attitudes and behavior, and by what the child has been permitted to say and to whom it is being said.”

“She slumped back into her seat and, barely audibly, said ‘I wish I had a father.’”

“The child had recently begun to press the mother more forcefully for answers to these questions about the whereabouts of her father: ‘Mommy, what did you do with my daddy?’ ‘Did you get mad at him and make him go away? Didn’t you like him? Didn’t he like me?’ ‘Does he have other children?’ ‘Where can I find him?’ ‘Could we ever get married?’ ‘Can I write him a letter?’ ‘Has he ever seen me?’ ‘Do you have a picture of him with me?’

“‘How could he get so far into parenthood and know so little about children?’” she asked rhetorically.”

“But this out-of-the-blue interrogation of me was a striking example of the child’s urgent need to seek her father in any man...”

“Our best understanding is that the need for a father is so powerful to such children that it is never far from their consciousness.”

“‘Mommy, what did you do with my daddy? You know I need a daddy or I can’t be a child.’”

“For the very young child, the single most powerful attribute of the father is the nature of the relationship between them. Research by psychologist Judith Solomon tells us that a young child’s understanding of who the parents are is related more to the nature of the relationship between them than to the child’s idea of biological connectedness or procreation. She points out that it is not until the age of seven that children understand birth as a part of a process that selectively passes on physical traits from parent to child. Before that, they understand only that it is nurturance, the way a man is with his child that mediates paternity and the passing on of beliefs and values. Out of the mouths of babes...”

“Here is Janine, five years two months, talking about her father of Father’s Day: ‘My dad takes me to parks and zoos with my dog and sister. He means lots of things to me. He likes to sing me stories and is top man in my life. He’s like almost better to me than God.’”

“It’s as though the children already know that an absent or noninvolved father is growing a hole in the center of their life.”

“Dawn, a participant in the same discussion, said that without her dad in her life she would ‘feel like a kite waiting for wind that never comes.’ Deward, in the same discussion group, talked about what it’s life when his father has to be away for a month at a times as a salesman for his computer company: ‘I don’t see him very much, and I almost forget what he’s like. But when he comes home, I get so excited my mother is always telling me to calm down. He’s such a hard worker, sometimes I wish I had my dad instead of his money.’”

“Older dads are different. They’re warm and sweet and wise and they’re around! My friend’s fathers are funny, hyperactive, and gone.”

“If my dad was still around, I wouldn’t do so much dumb stuff. I’m pretty sure I’d be a good student, and that I’d have friends that were better for me. When I turn into a dad, I’m going to be different from my dad. I’ll stay home and do some dishes and change their clothes and their diapers and stuff, because I want them to love me the way I love my Mom.”

“Don’t get me wrong. I’ve got a grandfather I love tons. He teaches a lot about what it’s like to be a man. But I think I would have listened to my dad even better than I listen to my grandpa.”

“Just when I’m getting to the age where I ought to know something about men, I don’t have a clue what they’re about or what they want, so I’m always getting into trouble and doing dumb things in my relationships with guys. My dad’s around, don’t get me wrong, and he gives me things and he tries to act like he really cares. He gives me nice material things, but he’s never lived with me – I know he doesn’t like my mother. He doesn’t help me with my homework, has never been to one of my sports things – and I’m pretty good.”

“I wonder why he does give me things. [Pauses as though she’s trying to figure it out] Maybe that’s all he can do is give me things. Maybe I’m too hard on him, I don’t know but I feel lonely for my dad.”

“I am 14 years old and my father left me when I learned to say ‘daddy.’ Even though my father’s not around, in my heart he is always there. Every birthday and every Christmas I cross my fingers in hopes that my father will come home. Does my wish come true? No, but I never quit looking and hoping.”

“What really hurts is walking through the mall and seeing little girls with their fathers walking hand in hand. I can see how much he loves his little girl, but I can’t see my father loving me as his little girl. See, in my life, there’s not ‘morning daddy’ and me, it’s just me and ‘morning.’”

“I see my father a lot in my dreams but never does he turn around. I call for him, but he’s just walking away. I’d like to believe he misses me, but how can he miss a stranger? Every time I blow the candles out on my birthday cake I wish the same wish that I have had for the past thirteen years. I wish that stranger would turn around and look at me. Maybe if he say all the pain and suffering from living without him in my eyes, he would become a part of my life. For now all I can do is to wish and never give up hope, for hope is all I have, to hold on to.”

“Even though it’s hard to say, my father means the world to me, and if I had the chance to tell him all of this, I would not change anything but I would add a couple of ‘I love you’s”

“I needed guidance and consistency in my life, and he’s not been there to do it. I will be loyal and committed to my children and not let them down the way he has me. If my dad hadn’t walked out on us, I think I’d be a better student, and work harder...I sound kind of pissed off, don’t I?”

“Men are the single greatest untapped resource in the lives of American children?”

(Kyle Pruett, “Fatherneed,” Broadway Books, © 2000, pp203-217)

THE MEDICAL INSTITUTE FOR SEXUAL HEALTH

“The spotlight is finally being turned on absent fathers. Organizations such as the National Fatherhood Initiative, and reports like ‘Turning the Corner of Father Absence in Black America’ have pointed out the problems that result from kids growing up without fathers and how common this problem is in America: (27)

- Approximately 50% of all children born in the U.S. will spend at least half of their childhood without a father.
- More than 1/3 of all children currently live in a household where the child’s father does not reside.

“The data also shows that children who grow up without fathers have less chance for future success:

- The likelihood that a young male will engage in criminal activity doubles if he is reared without a father, and triples if he lives in a neighborhood comprised largely of single parent families.
- Compared to children with both parents at home, children who live apart from their fathers are five times as likely to be poor. (28)
- Children who live apart from their fathers are much more likely to do poorly in school and twice as likely to drop out of school. (29)

(27) Morehouse Research Institute and Institute for American Values (1999) Turning the Corner on Father Absence in Black America. www.morehouse.edu/html)

(28) Ibid

(29) Ibid

(The Medical Institute for Sexual Health Update, Fall 1999, Vol. 7, Num. 3)

“THE NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH” (Add Health) 1994-1996 by J. Richard Udry)

Percent of Teens Who Smoked in the last 30 Days

Percent of Teens Who Smoked in the last 30 Days

	Eats Dinner w/ parents 5 days a week or more	Doesn't Eat Dinner w/ parents 5 days a week or more
Age		
Group		
12-14	15%	24%
15-16	26%	33%
17-19	28%	40%

Percent of 12- to 14-Year-Olds Using Alcohol or Marijuana

	Eats Dinner w/ parents 5 days a week or more	Doesn't Eat Dinner w/ parents 5 days a week or more
Categories		
Drink more than monthly	7%	14%
Have used marijuana	12%	19%

Percent of 15- to 16-Year-Olds in Antisocial Behaviors

	Eats Dinner w/ parents 5 days a week or more	Doesn't Eat Dinner w/ parents 5 days a week or more
Categories		
Lies to parents	50%	75%
Have been in a		

serious fight	30%	44%
Have been suspended from school	25%	38%

Percent of Teens Who Have Had Sex

	Eats Dinner w/ parents 5 days a week or more	Doesn't Eat Dinner w/ parents 5 days a week or more
Age Group		
12-14	12%	23%
15-16	31%	50%
17-19	49%	68%

Percent of Teens Who Think About Suicide

	Eats Dinner w/ parents 5 days a week or more	Doesn't Eat Dinner w/ parents 5 days a week or more
Age Group		
12-14	8%	27%
15-16	10%	32%
17-19	12%	24%

Percent of Teens Intending to Go to College

	Eats Dinner w/ parents 5 days a week or more	Doesn't Eat Dinner w/ parents 5 days a week or more
Age Group		
12-14	80%	69%

15-16	77%	65%
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17-19	77%	68%
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(“The National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health” (Add Health) 1994-1996 by J. Richard Udry)

TALKING WITH KIDS ABOUT TOUGH ISSUES: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS “TOUGH ISSUES”

“Percent of kids who say each is a ‘big problem’ for people their age...”

	8-11 year olds	12-15 year olds
Teasing and bullying	55%	68%
Discrimination	51%	63%
Violence	46%	62%
Alcohol and drugs	44%	68%
Pressure to have sex	33%*	49%
Racism	30%*	35%
HIV/AIDS	26%*	36%

*10-11 year olds only

“REAL LIFE”

“Percent of kids who say kids at their school...”

	8-11 year olds	12-15 year olds
Get teased or bullied	74%	86%

Have boyfriend/girlfriend	68%	97%
Treated badly b/c different	43%	67%
Get threatened with violence	38%	60%
Kiss or make out	16%	72%
Smoke cigarettes	10%	67%
Drink beer or alcohol	5%	58%
Use drugs	5%	57%
Have sex	-	44%

“Sex, however, still goes undiscussed in any families. Fewer than half of parents of 8-11 year olds say they have talked with their child about the basics of reproduction, as compared with 91 percent who have discussed alcohol and drugs. For parents of adolescents, getting beyond the ‘birds and bees’ and puberty can be a challenge: just 49 percent have talked about decision making about sex and relationships.”

“Even when parents are talking, many kids don’t seem to be hearing what they have to say. As many as one in two 8-11 year olds whose parents say they talked to them about a particular topic don’t remember the conversation. Half of teens (51%) whose parents reported a conversation don’t recall getting advice about sexual decision-making. Kids are also less likely than their parents to consider these talks as happening on ‘regular’ basis, recalling instead having just talked a ‘couple of times’ about a particular topic.”

“Twice as many 12-15 year olds-43 percent-say they learn “a lot” about issues like sex, alcohol and drugs, and violence from their friends as compared with 8-11 year olds (21%). The media also becomes more influential as kids get older: 37 percent of 12-15 year olds say they get “a lot” of their information from television and movies, as compared to 26 percent of 8-11 year olds. Fathers fall behind media and friends once adolescence hits.”

“WHO DO KIDS LISTEN TO?”

“Percent of kids who say they learn ‘a lot’ about issues like sex, HIV/AIDS, alcohol and drugs, discrimination and violence from...”

	8-11 year old	12-15 year old
Mothers	60%	56%
Teachers and classes	46%	40%

Fathers	42%	35%
Other relatives	33%	32%
TV and movies	26%	37%
Friends	21%	43%
The internet	18%	16%

“Kids are also more likely to start keeping secrets from their parents about what is going in their lives in the teen years: 82 percent of 12-15 year olds, and 67 percent of 8-11 year olds, say at least “some of the time” they keep things from their parents because they think they just ‘won’t understand.’ Once in four teens (22%) keep secrets ‘all or most of the time.’”

“One reason kids say their families don’t talk about ‘tough issues, like sex, is that it’s too embarrassing (70%). Kids also want to ‘protect’ their parents: 61 percent say their parents will get worried if they ask. More than half (52%) say their parents just don’t understand.”

“WHAT KIDS WANT TO KNOW”

“Percent of kids who want more information about...”

	8-11 year olds	12-15 year olds
Guns in school	62%	57%
Discrimination	57%	53%
Teasing and bullying	54%	40%
Puberty	46%	28%
Alcohol or drugs	45%	40%
Know when ready*	45%	46%
HIV/AIDS	41%	43%
Basics of reproduction	28%	25%
What it means to be gay	26%	21%

*for 8-11 asked: for a girlfriend or boyfriend, for 12-15 asked; to have a sexual relationship.

“The Nickelodeon/Talking with Kids National Survey of Parents and Kids is a nationally representative survey of parents and their children age 8-15. The survey was designed by staff at Nickelodeon, the Kaiser Family Foundation and International Communications Research (ICR) and conducted by telephone by ICR between December 7, 2000 and January 18, 2001.”

“A total of 1,249 of parents of children age 8-15 and 823 children age 8-15 were interviewed for this survey, including over sample of African Americans and Latinos. Depending on the preference of the respondent, interviews were conducted in English or Spanish. Certain questions were not asked of all age groups.”

(“Talking with Kids about Tough Issues: Summary of Findings.” Nickelodeon Talk)
<http://www.talkingwithkids.org/nickelodeon/charts.pdf>

TALKING WITH KIDS ABOUT TOUGH ISSUES

“Bullying, Discrimination and Sexual Pressures ‘Big Problems’ for Today’s Teens and Younger Kids; Parents Often Wait For Their Kids To Raise Tough Issues”

“Large numbers of 8-11 year olds say teasing and bullying (74%), discrimination and disrespect (43%), and threats of violence (38%) occur at their school. One third of 10-11 year olds (33%) say that pressure to have sex is a ‘big problem’ for kids their age. Yet, many parents still put off talking about tough issues with their children, according to a new national survey of parents and kids.”

“Parents are especially likely to delay talking about puberty, sex and related issues. Two thirds of parents of 8-11 year olds (61%) report that their child initiated the first conversation about the basics of reproduction. In two out of five families, discussion about puberty (40%) and HIV/AIDS (38%) were also started by the child.”

“Even when parents and kids do talk, the survey finds that the message isn’t always getting through. From a third to more than half of 8-11 year olds whose parents say they have talked with them about a particular issue do not recall the conversation. For example, 59 percent of kids whose parents say they discussed HIV/AIDS don’t remember the conversation. Parents are also more likely than kids to say that talks about these issues occur ‘regularly,’ while kids tend to recall just one or two discussion.”

“A majority of parents of 8-11 year olds think growing up today is ‘harder’ than when they were kids (65%); even more parents of adolescents (12-15 year olds) agree (78%). About half of 8-11 year olds say discrimination (51%) and violence (46%) are ‘big problems’ for kids their age; 44 percent say alcohol and drug use are concerns. Nearly seven in ten (68%) say kids they know

already have boyfriends or girlfriends, and one in six (16%) see other students kissing or making out at school. By adolescence, these issues loom even larger in young people's lives."

"Most parents have talked with their 8-11 year old about alcohol and drugs (91%), discrimination (87%), and teasing and bullying (78%). Fewer have discussed puberty (56%) or reproduction (49%). Many parents of adolescents find it difficult to get beyond the basics; less than half of parents of 12-15 year olds have discussed decision making about sex (49%)."

"Many kids, even those as young as 8, say they need to know more now about topics parents may be reluctant to bring up. About half of 8-11 year olds want to know more about discrimination (57%), puberty (46%), alcohol and drugs (45%), and HIV/AIDS (41%). Older kids also say they still need more information about these issues, as well as about sexual decision making (46% of 12-15 year olds)."

"Among the reasons kids don't go to their parents when something is bothering them, is that they don't want to worry them (61%). Seven out of ten 8-11 year olds (67%), and 81 percent of 12-15 year olds, say they keep things secret from their parents at least some of the time."

"The *Nickelodeon/Talking with Kids National Survey of Parents and Kids* is a nationally representative survey of parents and their children age 8-15. The survey was designed by staff at Nickelodeon, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and International Communications Research (ICR) and conducted by telephone by ICR between December 7, 2000 and January 18, 2001."

"A total of 1,249 parents of children age 8-15 and 823 children age 8-15 were interviewed for this survey, including over samples of African American and Latinos."

("Bullying, Discrimination and Sexual Pressures 'Big Problems' For Today's Teens and Younger Kids; Parents Often Wait For Their Kids To Raise Tough Issues" Nickelodeon Talk and Kaiser family foundation, March 8, 2001)

TEENS ALONE AFTER SCHOOL RIPE FOR TROUBLE

"The average American teenager spends two days a week unsupervised for a total of nearly five hours, according to a national survey by the YMCA."

"More than 60% of teens queried said that the relationship with their parents would be better if they spent more time together."

("Teens Alone After School Ripe for Trouble," Chicago Tribune, May 7).

TEENS BEG: 'DON'T LEAVE US ALONE'

“‘Don’t try too hard to be your children’s best friend,’ advised one student. But she added, ‘don’t leave them alone.’”

“One teenager, who has runaway before, wrote: ‘When I was entering adolescence I found that my mother was deserting me because she never did the things that she used to do, although it wasn’t because she felt that I was old enough – it was due to her promotion at work. She never realized that my rebellious behavior was so that she could see me.’”

“Another student wrote: ‘Our relationship has never been good. Now it has culminated in my moving out.’ She accepted some of the blame, then added, ‘But the two of you made mistakes. The first of these is a lack of involvement. I could never share my feelings with you or I would be judged and yelled at. When I did share my personal life with you, you later used it against me. I cam home with trophies you didn’t care about. I was told to put them in my closet because they cluttered my room.’”

“‘All I know is my friends gave me the love and support I did not have from you. They never called me a slut, bitch or tramp. It is too late for me. But there is a lot of time for (your other child). Please, listen to me this once, for her sake.’”

“‘Dear Dad, Do you actually know how many times you’ve left me?’”

“‘Dear Dad, From ages 7 to 14 I stayed at neighbors houses, day after day after day. And even at 15 to 17 you would leave me at home for weeks on end. Even when you are home, I see you about once or twice a week! What kind of relationship is that? Leaving me alone a lot has made me an extremely independent person. Thank you. At least I know I won’t be homesick while at college. You said, ‘You just want attention’ even when I told you I was hurting inside. Damn right I just want some attention – for once!’”

“‘If you only knew how lonely I really am. I’ve been living in my shell for a long time and I think I want to get out but the shell is so thick and calloused. How can I do it? Do you even know what my favorite color is? You lost me somewhere and you can’t get me back.’”

(Connect for Kids – The Teen Years, ‘Teens Beg: ‘Don’t Leave Us Alone’ by Richard Louv, Senior Editor of Connect for Kids and columnist for The San Diego Union Tribune)

“TEENS FOLLOW PARENTS’ LEAD IN HEALTH BEHAVIOR”

“The Journal of Health and Social Behavior, the new 5 year study of 330 adolescents and their parents found that ‘Adolescents who are constantly exposed to parents’ health-risk behavior, such as poor eating habits, smoking and drinking will tend to emulate their parents behavior.’ Said lead researcher Dr. K.A.S. Wickrama of the Institute for Social and Behavioral Research at Iowa State University.

“In general, adolescents pattern their overall health-risk lifestyle around their parents, the investigators found. In addition, such role modeling often followed gender lines. ‘Boys’ health lifestyles more closely resembled their fathers’ lifestyles, and girls were more likely to emulate their mothers’ behaviors,’ Wickrama adds.”

(“Teens follow parents’ lead in health behavior” [www. Heartinfo.org/reutersnews](http://www.Heartinfo.org/reutersnews), Sept. 20, 2000)

“TEENS VALUE THEIR PARENTS”

“‘Teens need parents more, not less.’”

“Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development said that teenagers from all economic backgrounds lament the lack of parental attention and guidance.”

“‘Conventional wisdom holds that ... parents should disengage or detach themselves in order to foster autonomy,’ according to Ruby Takanishi, director of the Carnegie’s program on adolescence. The myth is ‘based on a previous relationships in troubled families.’”

“Fifteen years of new research, focused on healthy families, concludes the warm and authoritarian, parents can provide powerful protection against the risks of adolescence.”

“‘Dear Mom and Dad, I truly am amazed by both of you. You were married so young, and had my sister when you were just 18 and 19. After 22 years, you’re still married and happy. You’re always there to listen. And even though I don’t sometimes like it, you do close supervision. Your supervision isn’t the controlling type where I feel as though you don’t trust me. Rather, it’s the kind that makes me feel loved.’”

“‘Dear Mom, I will never forget all the long talks you would give me to make me feel better. You always cheered me up when Dad and I were in arguments. You helped me get all of my college letters out. I remember all of the times that I said ‘I am quitting.’ You always gave me a reason to keep fighting. Mother, when I go away to college I will never forget all the talks we had, and the inspiration you’ve given to me. I love you with all my heart.’”

“One teenager credited his mother with his self-esteem: ‘I like who I am today and it would be an injustice not to credit your patient parenting. Your decision to work out of a studio at home has made it clear to me that you place the well-being of your children above the well-being of your career. Sometimes I take for granted how accessible you make yourself to us. If life is the Grand Canyon, you’ve been the perfect tour guide.’”

“Often, it was the small memories that stood out. ‘Dad, I’ll never forget playing baseball with you in the front yard. ‘I can’t do it.’ I would say and you simply answer, ‘Don’t give up.’”

“Thank you for giving me everything from my clothes to my life. Thank you for giving me encouragement when I needed it most and thank you for telling me the things I need to work on.”

“Dad, where have you been? What have you been doing? What is your new job like? It seems like I never get to see you anymore.”

“I miss driving to church with you and sitting down at the dinner table. I miss those big hugs you gave me and when I used to lay on your bed and we just talked about the future. I want to see you more and spend more time with you. I thought that the trip we were taking was going to be just me and you and I got so excited because I want to spend more time with you. I want to know how you are doing and I want you to be there for me – like Mom. I tell her everything and I want to tell you everything too.”

(Connect for Kids – The Teen Years, “Teens Value Their Parents” by Richard Louv, Senior Editor of Connect for Kids and columnist for The San Diego Union Tribune)

“SYNOPSIS OF PRESS RELEASES AND RESEARCH BY THE YMCA”

“NEW POLL SHOWS DANGEROUS DISCONNECTED BETWEEN PARENTS AND TEENS” YMCA CHICAGO, APRIL 29

“94% of parents believe their children learn values from them, while 20% of teens report they don't.”

“Only 18% of parents believe that their children spend their free time "hanging out with friends," while 37% of teens say that's where they can be found.”

“9% of parents believe their children's friends play an important role in kid's lives. Yet, nearly 1 in 6, 14- 15-Year-Olds (14%) considers friends a source of values, up from 5% for 12- and 13-Year-Olds. Ten percent of these middle-schoolers say they learn values from themselves.”

"In history of our country, our children have never been so neglected, so at risk, so deprived of family interaction, positive values and character development," warned David R. Mercer, national executive director, YMCA of the USA. "As a nation we bear enormous responsibility for children with empty lives and empty futures, nurtured on violent images until they don't know right from wrong. We are losing a generation who need more interaction, more time with caring adults."

“Only 2% of 12- to 15-Year-Olds spend the majority of their free time interacting with family.”

“Nearly half (46%) of respondents say they watch TV on a daily basis unsupervised by their parents.”

“Only 63% of parents say they supervise TV use daily.”

“83% of kids use the Internet, with 62% saying they do so without supervision.”

"We must now find the national will to make our children's future a priority."

YMCA – Press Release - CHICAGO, FEBRUARY 3

“The breakdown of the American family and lack of morals and values education topped drugs, violence, crime and other issues as the most serious concerns facing today's families, according to results of a new nationwide poll of American adults, released today.”

“97%, virtually all of those polled, believed that the success of the family is important to the future of the nation.”

“60% of adults agreed that communication between parents and children has gotten worse.”

(THE GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP OF NEW YORK CITY - conducted the family survey for YMCA of the USA. A total of 510 telephone interviews were held between Dec. 7 and 9. The survey has an overall margin of error of +/- 4.3%)

SURVEY: “PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN ON SUPERVISION, VALUES, AND SHARING”

424 interviews nationwide among parents of 12-15 year olds and children 12-15. The interviews were conducted between March 19 and April 1, 1999
The margin of error for this survey is +/- 4.9%

Introduction:

“While it is natural for kids to rebel, it is not natural for them to act as inhumanly as they do today.”

“This is a hard question to answer, but perhaps the truth lies somewhere in the interactions (or lack thereof) between the children and their parents.”

“The survey conducted among 12 to 15 year olds and parents of children between the ages of 12 and 15. The purpose was to compare and contrast what parents perceive with what children actually do and feel.”

(YMCA) Key Findings:

“Overall, 36% of parents indicate that their children do not use the Internet at all, while only 17% of children say they are not exposed to the Internet.”

“9 out of 10 Parents (90%) would rather teach their child about sex and drugs; however, only 66% of kids would choose to learn about these topics from their parents.”

“Only 55% of 12 to 15 year olds are comfortable talking about sex with their parents, compared to 74% of parents who report their children are comfortable discussing the topic.”

“Only 32% of children indicate that it is never okay to lie to their parents. 77% of parents say it is never okay to lie to their children.”

(YMCA) Supervision and Awareness:

“Over 1/3 of 12 to 15 year olds report spending the majority of their time hanging out with friends (37%) compared to just 18% of parents who say friends take up their child's free time.”

“67% assert that they monitor their child's Internet usage once a week or more (54% daily, 10% a few times a week, 3% once a week).”

“62% of children who use the Internet say they surf the web without supervision at least once a week (30% daily, 22% a few times a week, 10% once a week).”

(YMCA) Parental Interaction:

“94% of parents believe children learn values at home, and 80% of the children believe their parents are the main source for learning value, but they gain from outside sources as well.”

“10% of children state they learn values through personal experience compared to just 3% of parents who believe their children learn hands-on.”

“26% of parents believe the church plays a role in educating their children, while only 16% of 12 to 15 year olds say the same.”

“76% of parents believe that they provide 12 to 15 year olds with more information than other sources about topics such as sex, drugs and politics while only 57% of children indicate they get such information at home.”

“While 12% of adults believe the church is a significant source of information about sex and drugs, just 3% of children agree.”

“90% of parents would rather their children learn about sex and drugs from them. However, 66% of 12 to 15 year olds want to be taught about these topics by their parents.”

“90% of girls are comfortable discussing peer pressure with their parents compared to 83% of boys.”

“55% of 12 to 15 year olds are comfortable talking about sex with their parents compared to 74% of parents who report their children are comfortable discussing the topic.”

“Only 32% of children indicate that it is never okay to lie to their parents. Conversely, 77% of parents say it is never okay to lie to their children.”

“24% of 12 to 15 year olds consume alcohol. This is slightly higher than the 16% of parents who report that their children drink.”

“THE ROLE OF ATTACHMENT AS A PROTECTIVE FACTOR IN ADOLESCENT VIOLENCE BEHAVIOR”

Todd Franke, Adolescent and Family Health, 2000, 1(1): p.40-57.

(This study examined how attachment relationships...function as protective and risk factors across a range of specific violent behaviors.)

(This study analyzed data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (WAVE I). A multistage sample design was used to represent the US population of 7th thru 12th graders.

“While an intact family structure appears as a protective factor against violence, the data supports the idea that the meaning attached to a particular family structure is more important than the structure itself.”

“Attendance at a religious service with a parent reported lower levels of involvement in all forms of violent behavior.”

“Given the fundamental importance of attachment, these results support the importance of providing all children with the skills and opportunities necessary to form secure attachments with parents, families and schools and that prevention and intervention programs need to incorporate a developmentally appropriate multi-dimensional approach, which is fit to the individual needs of the adolescent and family.

“Violence among American youth is a significant societal problem (1).”

(1) Prothrow-Stith D, Weissman M. Deadly Consequences. New York: Harper – Collins; 1991. (p. 1 – RA (Role of Attachment....see above reference))

“The impact of family begins very early in a child's life. Evidence accumulated across a number of different disorders and problems indicates that the family is an important predictor of the presence, severity, and maintenance of youth violence, drug use, and conduct disorders (11-12). A child's early and ongoing positive interaction with parents, family members, and others

provides the opportunities, skills, and recognition for appropriate social development and attachment (6).”

(6) Catalano RF, Hawkins JD. The social development model: A theory of antisocial behavior. In: Hawkins JD, editor. *Delinquency and crime: current theories*. New York: Cambridge University Press; 1996. p. 149-97.

(11) Block J, Block J, Keys S. Longitudinal foretelling drug usage in adolescence: Early childhood personality and environmental precursors. *Child Development* 1988; 59:336-55.

(12) Patterson GR. Performance models for antisocial boys. *American Psychologist* 1986; 41: 432-44. (p. 2 – RA)

“The development of social competence and aggressive behaviors in children is directly influenced by the family and school environment (13).”

(13) Andrews L, Trawick-Smith J. An ecological model for early childhood. In: Hampton RL, Jenkins P, Gullotta TP, editors. *Preventing Violence in America*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications; 1996. p. 233-62., (p. 2 – RA)

“Research in attachment suggests that a family's ability to support each other and cope with transitions and stress during adolescence relates to lower levels of antisocial behavior (14-17).”

(14) Loeber R, Stouthammer-Loeber M. Family factors as correlates and predictors of juvenile conduct problems and delinquency . In: Tonry M, Morris N, editors. *Crime and Justice: an annual review of research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press; 1986. p. 129-50.

(15) Farrington DP. The family backgrounds of aggressive youths. In: Hersov LA, Berger M, Schaffer D, editors. *Aggressive and anti-social behavior in childhood and adolescence*. Oxford, England: Pergamon Press; 1978. p. 73-93.

(16) Henggeler SW, Melton GB, Smith LA. Family preservation using multisystematic therapy: an effective alternative to incarcerating serious juvenile offenders. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 1992; 60 (6): 953-61.

(17) Tolan P. Socioeconomic, family and social stress correlates of adolescent anti-social and delinquent behavior. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology* 1988; 16(3):317-31.

“Family relationship characteristics such as low levels of parental acceptance and affection, low family cohesion, high conflict, and hostility have been associated with delinquent and antisocial behavior in numerous studies (18-20).”

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(19) West D, Farrington D. *Who becomes delinquent?* London: Heinemann; 1973.

(20) Henggeler S. *Delinquency in adolescence*. New York: Sage; 1989., (p. 2 – RA)

“In a study comparing the relationship between family influences and participation in violent and nonviolent delinquent behaviors, differences between the groups could in part be attributed to differences in parenting and family relationship characteristics. In this study, mothers of boys in the violent group reported poorer discipline, less cohesion and less involvement than mothers and boys in the other two groups. (21).”

(21) Gorman-Smith D, Tolan PH, Zelli A, Huesmann LR. The relation of family functioning to violence among inner-city minority youths. *Journal of Family Psychology* 1996; 10 (2): 115-29.

“Data from the British National Survey of Health and Development found that boys whose parents had gone through a separation or divorce were more likely to commit violent crimes (22). (22) Wadsworth ME. Early life events and later behavioral outcomes in British longitudinal study. In: Sells S, Crandall R, Roff M, Strauss J, Pollin W, editors of normal psychopathological populations. Baltimore: Williams and Watkins; 1980. p. 168-77., (p. 3 – RA)

“Research has shown that adolescents who exhibit low commitment to school are at risk of engaging in violent behaviors (23).”

- The current study uses data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (NLSAH) (Wave I) gathered in 1994-1995. NLSAH is a longitudinal study of adolescents in grades 7 through 12.
- "The Role of Attachment as a Protective Factor in Adolescent Violent Behavior" A total of 18,924 students were included in the Wave I.”

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TABLE 1 Socio-demographic Characteristics of U.S. 7th -12th Grade Students.

	Violence against property		Violence against person		
	Shoplifting %	Enter house or building to steal %	Serious physical fight %	Serious physical injury %	Shoot or stab someone %
Total	23.0	5.0	33.0	18.0	2.0
Prevalence (Weighted N)	5,094,000	1,089,000	7,141,000	4,059,000	408,000
Age					
12	22.0	3.0	36.0	16.0	0.0
13	21.0	5.0	34.0	18.0	2.0
14	26.0	5.0	38.0	20.0	2.0
15	26.0	6.0	34.0	21.0	2.0
16	25.0	6.0	32.0	19.0	2.0
17	22.0	4.0	28.0	17.0	2.0
18	19.0***	4.0**	28.0***	17.0*	2.0
Effect Size	0.06	0.04	0.08	0.05	0.03
Gender					
Female	20.0	3.0	23.0	11.0	1.0
Male	26.0***	7.0***	41.0***	26.0***	3.0***
Effect Size	0.07	0.09	0.19	0.20	0.08
Race					
African American	21.0	5.0	42.0	24.0	3.0
Asian	26.0	4.0	24.0	15.0	1.0
Hispanic	29.0	6.0	40.0	20.0	3.0
Native American	33.0	10.0	45.0	30.0	4.0
White	22.0	5.0	29.0	17.0	1.0
Other	22.0***	3.0**	26.0***	11.0***	4.0***
Effect Size	0.06	0.03	0.12	0.08	0.06
Receiving Public Assistance					
No	23.0	5.0	32.0	18.0	2.0
Yes	27.0*	6.0*	44.0***	27.0***	4.0***
Effect Size	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.06
Family Structure					
Intact	21.0	4.0	28.0	15.0	1.0
Reconstituted	24.0	5.0	36.0	20.0	2.0
2 Parent Other	22.0	3.0	33.0	23.0	4.0
2 Parent Informal Kinship	28.0	5.0	38.0	25.0	2.0
1 Biological Parent	27.0	7.0	39.0	23.0	3.0
1 Parent Other	26.0	9.0	45.0	24.0	7.0
1 Parent Informal Kinship	26.0	5.0	43.0	24.0	4.0
Care by Non-relatives	23.0***	7.0***	40.0***	25.0***	4.0***
Effect Size	0.05	0.05	0.11	0.08	0.06
Church					
No	25.0	6.0	36.0	21.0	2.0
Yes	20.0***	4.0**	27.0***	15.0***	1.0***
Effect Size	0.07	0.03	0.07	0.06	0.04

* p<.05 ** p<.01 *** p<.001 F test N=18,924

(p. 8 – RA)

“Adolescents in two-parent kinship families reported the highest % of shoplifting (28%) but over 25% of all the adolescents in the single parent family structures also reported shoplifting in the past year.” (p. 10 – RA)

“The largest effects were found for family and parental attachment, followed by school attachment, problem solving and coping. Adolescents who did not report shoplifting were significantly more attached to their families and parents. They felt more attached to school and had higher scores on problem solving and coping than adolescents who reported shoplifting.” (p. 10 – RA)

TABLE 2 Violent Behavior and Attachment Measures of U.S. 7th -12th Grade Students										
	Violence against property				Violence against person					
	Shoplifting		Enter house or building to steal		Serious physical fight		Seriously injure someone		Shoot or stab someone	
	No x se	Yes x se	No x se	Yes x se	No x se	Yes x se	No x se	Yes x se	No x se	Yes x se
Family Attachment	11.5	10.5***	11.3	10.1***	11.5	10.8***	11.4	10.6***	11.3	9.8***
Range (3-15)	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.13	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.08	0.05	0.23
Effect Size	0.03		0.01		0.02		0.01		<0.01	
School Attachment	11.4	10.7***	11.3	10.2***	11.5	10.8***	11.4	10.7***	11.3	9.5***
Range (3-15)	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.14	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.08	0.05	0.22
Effect Size	0.01		0.01		0.02		0.01		0.01	
Parental Attachment	17.8	17.0***	17.7	16.6***	17.8	17.4***	17.7	17.3***	17.7	17.0**
Range (4-20)	0.05	0.08	0.05	0.15	0.05	0.08	0.05	0.08	0.05	0.21
Effect Size	0.02		0.01		0.01		<0.01		<0.01	
Coping Response	8.4	8.0***	8.3	8.0***	8.5	8.0***	8.4	8.0***	8.3	7.7***
Range (3-15)	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.17
Effect Size	0.01		<0.01		0.01		<0.01		<0.01	
Problem Solving	15.2	14.5***	15.1	14.4***	15.1	14.8***	15.1	14.9*	15.0	14.4*
Range (4-20)	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.12	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.7	0.07	0.27
Effect Size	0.01		<0.01		<0.01		<0.01		<0.01	

* p<0.05 ** p<0.01 *** p<0.001 t-test

(p. 10-11 – RA)

“Adolescents in single parent families reported the highest % of burglary, most notably single parent ‘other’ (9.0%) and single biological parent (7.0%) and care by non-relatives (7.0%) family structures.” (p. 11 – RA)

“Adolescents who did not report engaging in burglary were significantly more attached to their families, parents, and school and had higher scores on problem solving and coping.” (p. 11- RA)

“Increases in attachment to family, school and parent were all significantly associated with a decreased likelihood of reported shoplifting.” (p. 12 - RA)

“Increases in attachment to family, school and parent were all significantly associated with a decreased likelihood of reported burglary.” (p. 12 – RA)

“Adolescents in intact families reported the lowest % of participation in serious physical fighting (28%).” (p. 13 – RA)

“Adolescents who reported attending a religious service or church event with a parent or who were not receiving public assistance, reported less involvement in serious physical fighting.” (p. 13 – RA)

“Significantly higher levels of attachment to family, parents, and school were associated with not being involved in a serious physical fight.” (p. 13 – RA)

“Adolescents in intact families reported the lowest % of participation in serious physical fighting (15%).” (p. 14 – RA)

“Significantly lower levels of attachment to family, parents, and school were associated with reports of seriously injuring someone.” (p. 14- RA)

“Adolescents in intact families reported the lowest % of participation in shooting or stabbing someone.” (p. 14 – RA)

“An intact family structure served as a protective factor compared to the one biological parent structure.” (p. 15 – RA)

“Adolescents who attended religious services or church events with a parent were significantly less likely to have reported taking part in a serious fight. Increasing attachment to family and school and higher coping and problem solving were associated with a decreased likelihood of engaging in serious physical fights for these adolescents. (p. 15 – RA)

“The overall effect of family structure was a significant predictor. A separate analysis comparing intact families to the combination of the other family structure groups indicated that adolescents from intact families were significantly less likely to engage in this behavior than adolescents from the combination for other family structures. Family and school attachment and coping continue to serve as protective factors. Higher levels on these measures were associated with a decreased likelihood of seriously injuring someone.” (p. 16 – RA)

“Only attachment to family and school remain as significant protective factors. Increases in either were associated with a decreased likelihood of shooting or stabbing someone in the past year.” (p. 17 – RA)

“This study lends substantial evidence for the consistent role of attachment to family and school as protective factors across all five measures of self-reported violent behavior.” (p. 17 – RA)

“This study provides researchers and clinicians with a snapshot of middle and high school adolescents' involvement in different types of violent behaviors as well as the relationship of these acts of violence to family characteristics.” (p. 17-18 - RA)

“Attachment is crucial in human development (33). Evidence accumulated across domains indicated that the family and school environments are important predictors of the presence, severity, and manienance of youth violence, drug use, and conduct disorders (11-13).” (p. 18 – RA)

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- (12) Patterson GR. Performance models for antisocial boys. *American Psychologist* 1986; 41:432-44
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- (33) Bowlby J. The nature of the child’s tie to his mother. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* 1958; 39:350-73.. (p. 18 – RA)

“Attachment to parents was a protective factor of both measures of violence against property but for none of the measures of violence against persons.” (p. 18 – RA)

“The importance of attachment to family and school appears to increase as the types of violent behaviors become more sever.” (p. 18 – RA)

“Attending a religious service or church event with a parent was a significant predictor for three to five outcomes in this study.” (p. 19 – RA)

“Its is clear from this study that attending a religious service or church event had an independent effect in addition the contribution of attachment to family or parents.” (p. 19 – RA)

“The importance of a two-parent family has been in the literature for many years. While the advantages of a two-parent/adult household and the disadvantages or challenges faced by a single parent household have been addressed in prior research, (39-42) these results suggest that family structure may play a role in the measures of violence against persons but not in the measures of violence against property used in this study. Significant bi-variant associations were found between all five measures of violent behavior and family structure. When family structure was incorporated into the full model with the other socio-demographic, attachment and cognitive attributes, it was only significant in two of the three measures of violence against persons.”

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“THE ROLE OF FATHER INVOLVEMENT IN CHILDREN’S LATER MENTAL HEALTH”

“Abstract”

“Data on 8441 cohort members of the National Child Development Study were used to explore links between father involvement at age 7 and emotional and behavioral problems at age 16, and between father involvement at age 16 and psychological distress at age 33, controlling for mother involvement and known confounds. Father involvement at age 7 protected against psychological maladjustment in adolescents from non-intact families, and father involvement at age 16 protected against adult psychological distress in women. There was no evidence suggesting that the impact of father involvement in adolescence on children’s later mental health in adult life varies with the level of mother involvement.”

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1. “Introduction”

“Life history research has demonstrated that as the child grows up there will be both factors which will be associated with an increased risk of psychiatric disorder and factors which protect the child against this risk (Caprara & Rutter, 1995). High self-esteem, for instance, good coping skills, school achievement, involvement in extra-curriculum activities, and positive relationships with parents, peers and adults (Compas, 1995; Merikangas & Angst, 1994; Petersen et al., 1993), a high IQ (Fergusson & Lynskey, 1996), and school success and qualifications (Jenkins & Smith, 1990; Rutter, 1989) have all been shown to be inversely related to emotional and behavioural problems. By contrast, family adversities, conflicted family relationships and punitive child-rearing practices (Richman, Stevenson, & Graham, 1982; Webster-Stratton, 1988, 1990; Campbell, Pierce, March, & Ewing, 1991; McGee, Partridge, Williams, & Silva, 1991), parental depression (Webster-Stratton, 1990), single parenting, family stress, poor family relationships (McGee, Williams, & Silva, 1984), family ill mental health (Kovacs, 1997) and severe social and economic disadvantage (Brown & Harris, 1978) have all been related to emotional and behavioural problems even after controlling for genetic factors (Kovacs & Devlin, 1998; Silberg et al., 1996; Goodman & Stevenson, 1989).”

“Father involvement may be another factor associated with positive child outcomes but it has received limited attention in recent psychological research (Cabera, Tamis-LeManda, Bradley, Hofferth, & Lamb, 2000).”

“This lack of emphasis on the role of fathering in child development and well-being is especially unfortunate given that there are several reasons why one should expect fathers to be particularly significant in children's mental health outcomes. First, regarding the direct effects of father involvement, a father's engagement with his child will likely exert influences on child development in the same way that mother's engagement does (Lamb, 1997), and paternal accessibility might similarly offer the child a sense of emotional support (Cabrera et al., 2000). Second, fathers' relationships with their children are distinct from mother-child relations with fathers encouraging their children to be competitive and independent, and spending more time

than mothers in playful and physically stimulating interactions with their children (Lewis, 1986; DeKlyen, Speltz, & Greenberg, 1998). Therefore, fathers may be particularly influential in the development of certain aspects of child behaviour. Regarding the indirect effects of father involvement, fathers' continuing financial support of their children can affect child outcomes by influencing the economic structure of the household (Crockett, Eggebeen, & Hawkins, 1993; Warin, Solomon, Lewis, & Langford, 1999). Finally, because marital problems disrupt fathering more than mothering (Coiro & Emery, 1998), the positive child outcomes associated with father involvement may be attributable to harmonious co-parental relations (Laucht et al., 2000)."

"Although much less research has been carried out on fathering than on mothering, some of the findings are impressive. Barnett, Marshall, and Pleck, (1992), for instance, showed that sons who reported a positive relationship with their mother or father had relatively low levels of psychological distress. In fact, when measures of both the mother-child relationship and the father-child relationship were entered simultaneously into a regression equation, only the father-child relationship was significantly related to son's distress. More recently, Amato showed that closeness to fathers during childhood was positively related to adult daughters' and sons' educational and occupational mobility, psychological adjustment and well-being (Amato, 1994). More recent research has shown that children with involved fathers tend to be more psychologically well-adjusted, to do better at school, to engage in less antisocial behaviour and to have more successful intimate relationships (Sanford et al., 1995; Gould, Shaffer, Fisher & Garfinkel, 1997; Hwang & Lamb, 1997; Flouri & Buchanan, 2000,2002), Father involvement and nurturance are positively associated with children's intellectual development, social competence, internal locus of control and the ability to empathize (e.g. Yongman, Kindlon, & Earls, 1995; Fagan & Iglesias, 1999). Studies of father absence also consistently suggest that father absence is a factor contributing to the lower well-being and academic attainment of children in mother-only families. For instance, children in mother-only families have been found to score lower than other children on measures of academic achievement and cognitive ability (e.g. Mulkey, Crain, & Harrington, 1992) to have a heightened risk of delinquency and deviant behavior (Dornbusch et al., 1985), to be more likely to give birth outside of marriage and to drop out of school (Amato, 1994). On the other hand, research also suggests that father absence has few consequences for children once economic factors have been controlled (Crockett et al., 1993; Tasker & Golombok, 1997). Other studies show, however, that even when economic factors are controlled, father absence continues to be associated with an increased risk of child problems (Amato, 1994)."

(Flouri, Eirini; Buchanan, Ann, "The role of father involvement in children's later mental health," Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford, Barnett House, 32 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2ER, UK, Received 7 December 2001; received in revised form 20 June 2002; accepted 22 July 2002, *Journal of Adolescence* 26 (2003) 63-78, www.elsevier.com/locate/jado)

"THE SCHOLARLY CONSENSUS ON MARRIAGE"

“Marriage is an important social good, associated with an impressively broad array of positive outcomes for children and adults alike. Marriage is an important public good, associated with a range of economic, health, educational, and safety benefits that help local, state, and federal governments serve the common good.” — Sixteen social scientists, *Why Marriage Matters, Second Edition: Twenty-Six Conclusions from the Social Sciences*, 2005

“Research clearly demonstrates that children growing up with two continuously married parents are less likely than other children to experience a wide range of cognitive, emotional, and social problems, not only during childhood, but also in adulthood. Although it is not possible to demonstrate that family structure is the cause of these differences, studies that have used a variety of sophisticated statistical methods, including controls for genetic factors, suggest that this is the case. This distinction is even stronger if we focus on children growing up with two happily married biological parents.” — Paul R. Amato, “The Impact of Family Formation Change on the Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Well-Being of the Next Generation,” *The Future of Children*, Fall 2005

“In addition to high poverty rates, single motherhood is a proxy for multiple risk factors that do not bode well for children ... Although we cannot say whether these marital-status differences are due to marriage per se or something about the parents who marry, there are theoretical reasons for believing that father absence and high levels of union instability are harmful to children. Child development theory, for example, tells us that nonresidential fathers are less likely to bond with their children, sociological theory tells us that father absence reduces children’s access to social capital, and some economists have argued that low contact between fathers and children reduces altruism. Moreover, the fact that married fathers have been increasing the amount of time they spend with their children suggests that father absence may become even more important in the future.” — Sara McLanahan, 2004 Presidential Address, Population Association of America

“Few propositions have more empirical support in the social sciences than this one: Compared to all other family forms, families headed by married, biological parents are best for children.” — David Popenoe, Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University

“The legal basis and public support involved in the institution of marriage help to create the most likely conditions for the development of factors that children need most to thrive — consistent, stable, loving attention from two parents who cooperate and have sufficient resources and support from two extended families, two sets of friends, and society.” — Mary Parke, *Are Married Parents Really Better for Children? What Research Says About the Effects of Family Structure on Child Well-Being*, Policy Brief, Center for Law and Social Policy, May 2003

“A large body of social science research indicates that healthy, married-parent families are an optimal environment for promoting the well-being of children. Children raised by both biological parents are less likely than children raised in single- or step-parent families to be poor, to drop out of school, to have difficulty finding a job, to become teen parents or to experience emotional or behavioral problems. Children living with single mothers are five times as likely to be poor as

those in two-parent families.”

— *Marriage Promotion in Low-Income Families*, Fact Sheet, National Council on Family Relations, April 2003

“In the partisan minefield of American welfare policy, a powerful consensus has emerged in recent years among social scientists, as well as state and federal policy makers. It sees single-parent families as the dismal foundries that produced decades of child poverty, delinquency and crime. And it views the rise of such families, which began in the early 1960’s and continued until about five years ago, as a singularly important indicator of social pathology. From a child’s point of view, according to a growing body of social research, the most supportive household is one with two biological parents in a low-conflict marriage.”

— Elaine Harden, “Two-Parent Families Rise After Change in Welfare Laws,” *New York Times*, August 12, 2001, page one

“Quotable”

“If enough marriages had taken place to return the incidence of single parenting to 1970 levels, and the incomes of the men and women were combined, the poverty rate among children in 1998 would have fallen by about a third.”

—Isabel V.

Sawhill, “The Behavioral Aspects of Poverty,” *The Public Interest*, Fall 2003

(Institute for American Values, Center for Marriage and Families, Fact Sheet No. 2, February, 2006)

“THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TEENAGERS: RAISING RESPONSIBLE AND RESOURCEFUL YOUTH”

May 2, 2000 Report by the Council of Economic Advisers

“Parental involvement is a major influence in helping teens avoid risks such as smoking, drinking, drug use, sexual activity, violence, and suicide attempts, while increasing educational achievement and expected attainment.” (p. 2 – WH (White House – see above documentation))

“Smoking. Among teens aged 15-16, 42% of teens who don’t feel close to their mother and/or father smoke, compared with 26 percent of teens who do feel close to at least one parent. In this same age group, over 34% of teens who don’t regularly eat dinner with their parents smoked, in contrast to just 25% of teens who do eat dinner regularly with their parents.” (p. 3 – WH)

“Drinking. The prevalence of drinking is nearly twice as high among 15-16 year olds who do not feel close to a parent and among those who do not eat dinner with a parent, compared with those who do.” (p. 3 – WH)

“Drug Use. About 50% of 15-16 year olds who aren’t close to their parents have used marijuana, compared with just 24% of those who are close to their parents.” (p. 3 – WH)

“Violence. Less than 30% of teens aged 15-16 who eat dinner with their parents have been in a serious fight, compared with more than 40% of those who do not eat dinner with their parents.” (p. 3 – WH)

“Sexual Activity. Over 50% of teens who do not eat dinner with their parents have had sex by age 15 to 16. By contrast, only 32% of teens who do eat dinner with their parents have ever had sex.” (p. 3 – WH)

“Suicidal Thoughts. Teens aged 15-16 who do not feel close to their parents are about three times as likely to think about suicide as teens who are close to their parents.” (p. 3 – WH)

“Suicide Attempts. Teens aged 15-16 who don’t eat dinner with their parents regularly are twice as likely to have attempted suicide.” (p. 3 – WH)

“Educational Achievement. Teens of all ages who eat with their parents, or feel close to their parents, have higher grade point averages. In general, they are more likely to go to college, and they are less likely to have been ever suspended from school.” (p. 3 – WH)

“This report provides new evidence that teenagers are most successful at meeting today’s challenges if they have close bonds with their parents. Young people are most likely to avoid dangerous or destructive behavior when they are closer to their parents. Similarly, teens who are closer to their parents are more likely to be successful in school. And the importance of parental involvement persists whether families are headed by one or by two parents.” (p. 4 – WH)

“Parental bonds help teens face today’s difficult decisions and serious risks to their well-being.” (p. 4 – WH)

“Results described in this report show that young people who have a close parent-child bond are most likely to avoid dangerous and destructive behavior.” (p. 4 - WH)

“Most adults (95%) and teens (93%) believe it is important that society give the strong message to school age young people to abstain from sex until they are out of high school. Still, most adults believe that sexually active teens should have access to contraceptives.” (p. 18 – WH)

“A majority of sexually active teens – both boys and girls – say that they wished they had waited.” (p. 18 – WH)

“As this report shows, having a close relationship one’s children and spending time with them, for example, by having dinner together on a regular basis, is strongly related to whether teens engage in risky behavior such as drinking, fighting or having sex at early ages.” (p. 18 – WH)

“A close relationship with parents is also associated with higher grades and greater intention to go to college.” (p. 18 - WH)

“The ‘eating dinner together’ variable, although a crude summary measure of parent-teen interaction, has the virtue that it reflects a visible pattern of behavior on the part of the parent and teen child. The ‘parental closeness’ variable, in contrast, may reflect more accurately an important psychological construct concerning the connection between the teen and parent(s), but is based solely on the teen’s perceptions, rather than tangible behavior.” (p. 19-WH)

“Among 12-14 year olds who do not have close relationships with a parent, 34% smoked – more than twice the rate of those teenagers who do have good relationships with their parents. This pattern holds true for older teens as well. Across the board, teens who indicate that they are close to their parent, who feel loved, are able to communicate with a parent, and are satisfied with their relationship with a parent – are much less likely to smoke.” (p. 20 – WH)

“Lying to Parents. Getting into Fights, and Getting Suspended from School. Teens’ willingness to lie to their parents about where they had been or who they have been with varies significantly with the closeness of their relationships. For example, over three-quarters of the teens aged 15 to 16 who do not have close relationships with their parents say that they lie to their parents. By contrast, half of teens who have close relationships do so.” (p. 20-21 WH)

“Initiation of Sexual Activity. The likelihood of having had sex is strongly correlated with eating dinner with a parent and with being close to a parent.” (p. 21 – WH)

“In the youngest age group, 12-14 year olds, teens who eat dinner regularly with a parent are about half as likely to have had sex as other teens their age, and those who are close to a parent are less than half as likely to have had sex.” (p. 21 – WH)

“Among 15-16, for example, more than 50% of the teens who do not regularly eat with their parents had sex, as compared with just 32% of those teens who do routinely eat with their parents.” (p. 21 – WH)

“And even among those aged 17-19, parental involvement corresponds with lower rates of sexual activity. For this age group, 68% of teens who don’t eat with their parents have sex, but only 49% of those who do eat with their parents have done so.” (p. 21 – WH)

“The proportions who have seriously thought about suicide in the past 12 months are: 10.8% for 12-14 year olds, 14% for 15-16 year olds, and 13.8% for those 17-19 year olds. The percentages who reported having attempted suicide within the past year were 3.7% of the youngest group, 3.9% of the middle group, and 3.0% for older teens.” (p. 21 – WH)

“For all teens there are very big differences in suicidal thoughts between teens who feel close to parents and those who do not. Among 12-14, teens who don’t feel close to their parents are about three times as likely to think about suicide. And among those aged 17-19, they are more than twice as likely.” (p. 21 –WH)

“Turning to actual suicide attempts, the results are striking as well. For most age groups, teens are more than twice as likely to attempt suicide if they do not eat dinner regularly with a parent or if they do not have close relationships with their parents. An especially dramatic case is

among 15-16 year olds, who are four more times as likely to attempt suicide if they do not have a close relationship with a parent (10% versus 2.5%).” (p. 22 – WH)

“Analysis indicates that grades are generally significantly higher for teens who eat dinner with a parent or who are close to a parent.” (p. 22 – WH)

“In sum, across all variables a robust pattern of results emerges: teens who continue to connect with their parents by eating dinner with their family, as well as teens who express a close relationship with a mother and/or father, fare better.” (p. 22 – WH)

“Teens who have relatively higher parental involvement in their lives are somewhat protected from emotional stress, suicide thoughts or attempts, substance abuse, becoming sexually involved at young ages, and, to a lesser extent, involvement in violence.” (p. 23 – WH)

Trends in the American Family	1900	1950	1998
Living arrangements of children by family status (percent)			
Two-parent farm family	41	17	----
Two-parent non-farm family			
Father breadwinner, mother homemaker	43	56	24
Dual earner	2	13	44
Single-parent	9	8	28
Not living with parent	5	6	4
Labor force participation of women (percent)	20.0	33.9	60.0
Average household size (persons)	4.8	3.4	2.6
Households with seven or more people (percent)	20.4	4.9	1.2

The trends in female integration into the labor force signal to today's young women a great broadening of opportunities for their own future success. In combination with the increasing prevalence of one-parent families, though, these trends have reduced the number of "traditional" families with stay-at-home moms.

(p. 25 –WH)

Appendix Table. Teen Outcomes Related to Parental Involvement

	Age 12-14	15-16	17-19
Percent of Teens who Smoked in the Last 30 Days			
Teens who do <i>not</i> eat dinner with a parent 5 days a week.	24.0	34.1	40.6
Teens who eat dinner with a parent at least 5 days a week.	14.8	25.2	27.6
Percentage point difference in outcome:	9.1*	8.8*	13.0*
Difference after statistical controls:	8.5*	8.3*	12.0*
Teens who are <i>not</i> close to their mother and/or father.	34.4	41.9	43.9
Teens who are close to their mother and/or father.	15.0	25.5	32.9
Percentage point difference in outcome:	19.3*	16.4*	11.0*
Difference after statistical controls:	18.0*	15.2*	10.3*
Percent of Teens who Drink More Than Monthly			
Teens who do <i>not</i> eat dinner with a parent 5 days a week.	13.2	23.6	30.7
Teens who eat dinner with a parent at least 5 days a week.	6.8	13.9	25.8
Percentage point difference in outcome:	6.4*	9.6*	4.9*
Difference after statistical controls:	6.3*	9.1*	4.3*
Teens who are <i>not</i> close to their mother and/or father.	18.3	29.3	32.1
Teens who are close to their mother and/or father.	7.2	15.0	27.8
Percentage point difference in outcome:	11.1*	14.3*	4.3
Difference after statistical controls:	10.9*	14.4*	4.0
Percent of Teens who Ever Used Marijuana			
Teens who do <i>not</i> eat dinner with a parent 5 days a week.	19.6	38.8	43.8
Teens who eat dinner with a parent at least 5 days a week.	11.9	22.8	28.7
Percentage point difference in outcome:	7.6*	16.0*	15.1*
Difference after statistical controls:	6.6*	13.9*	14.1*
Teens who are <i>not</i> close to their mother and/or father.	30.9	50.1	48.9
Teens who are close to their mother and/or father.	11.8	24.1	34.3
Percentage point difference in outcome:	19.1*	26.0*	14.6*
Difference after statistical controls:	17.1*	24.3*	13.5*

(p. 26 – WH)

	Age 12-14	15-16	17-19
Percent of Teens who Lie to Parents			
Teens who do <i>not</i> eat dinner with a parent 5 days a week.	55.1	62.1	59.9
Teens who eat dinner with a parent at least 5 days a week.	40.5	52.6	51.6
Percentage point difference in outcome:	14.7*	9.5*	8.3*
Difference after statistical controls:	13.2*	9.3*	8.9*
Teens who are <i>not</i> close to their mother and/or father.	72.1	75.7	71.6
Teens who are close to their mother and/or father.	40.9	51.6	52.3
Percentage point difference in outcome:	31.2*	24.1*	19.3*
Difference after statistical controls:	29.8*	22.9*	19.8*
Percent of Teens who Have Been in a Serious Fight			
Teens who do <i>not</i> eat dinner with a parent 5 days a week.	40.5	41.3	28.7
Teens who eat dinner with a parent at least 5 days a week.	33.8	29.3	24.9
Percentage point difference in outcome:	6.7*	12.0*	3.9
Difference after statistical controls:	6.9*	10.5*	2.6
Teens who are <i>not</i> close to their mother and/or father.	45.0	43.6	34.3
Teens who are close to their mother and/or father.	34.3	31.6	25.3
Percentage point difference in outcome:	10.6*	12.0*	9.0*
Difference after statistical controls:	11.4*	11.5*	8.7*
Percent of Teens Who Have Been Suspended from School			
Teens who do <i>not</i> eat dinner with a parent 5 days a week.	29.6	33.9	31.4
Teens who eat dinner with a parent at least 5 days a week.	20.6	24.0	25.5
Percentage point difference in outcome:	9.0*	9.9*	5.9*
Difference after statistical controls:	7.6*	7.3*	3.7
Teens who are <i>not</i> close to their mother and/or father.	33.9	38.1	37.8
Teens who are close to their mother and/or father.	21.5	25.3	26.7
Percentage point difference in outcome:	12.4*	12.8*	11.1*
Difference after statistical controls:	7.9*	11.5*	9.6*

(p. 27 – WH)

	Age 12-14	15-16	17-19
Percent of Teens Who Ever Had Sex			
Teens who do <i>not</i> eat dinner with a parent 5 days a week.	22.3	50.3	68.2
Teens who eat dinner with a parent at least 5 days a week.	11.9	31.7	49.1
Percentage point difference in outcome:	10.3*	18.6*	19.0*
Difference after statistical controls:	8.8*	15.1*	17.4*
Teens who are <i>not</i> close to their mother and/or father.	27.5	54.7	70.6
Teens who are close to their mother and/or father.	12.9	35.2	57.6
Percentage point difference in outcome:	14.7*	19.5*	13.1*
Difference after statistical controls:	10.4*	15.4*	10.5*
Percent of Teens Who Think About Suicide			
Teens who do <i>not</i> eat dinner with a parent 5 days a week.	16.6	18.5	14.8
Teens who eat dinner with a parent at least 5 days a week.	8.6	11.1	12.5
Percentage point difference in outcome:	8.0*	7.4*	2.3
Difference after statistical controls:	8.0*	7.1*	2.3
Teens who are <i>not</i> close to their mother and/or father.	27.1	31.2	24.2
Teens who are close to their mother and/or father.	8.7	10.0	11.1
Percentage point difference in outcome:	18.4*	21.2*	13.1*
Difference after statistical controls:	18.0*	21.0*	13.1*
Percent of Teens Who Report Having Attempted Suicide			
Teens who do <i>not</i> eat dinner with a parent 5 days a week.	6.1	7.0	3.1
Teens who eat dinner with a parent at least 5 days a week.	2.6	2.0	2.9
Percentage difference in outcome:	3.5*	5.0*	0.2
Difference after statistical controls:	3.5*	4.9*	0.2
Teens who are <i>not</i> close to their mother and/or father.	8.3	10.0	5.7
Teens who are close to their mother and/or father.	3.2	2.5	2.3
Percentage difference in outcome:	5.1*	7.5*	3.4*
Difference after statistical controls:	5.0*	7.5*	3.2*

(p. 28 – WH)

	Age 12-14	15-16	17-19
School Performance: Self-Report Grade Point Average			
Teens who eat dinner with a parent at least 5 days a week.	2.98	2.84	2.89
Teens who do <i>not</i> eat dinner with a parent 5 days a week.	2.76	2.72	2.75
Difference in average GPA:	0.22*	0.12*	0.14*
Difference after statistical controls:	0.20*	0.08*	0.08
Teens who are close to their mother and/or father.	2.95	2.82	2.86
Teens who are <i>not</i> close to their mother and/or father.	2.68	2.67	2.63
Difference in average GPA:	0.27*	0.15*	0.23*
Difference after statistical controls:	0.22*	0.11*	0.19*
Percent of Teens Intending to Go to College			
Teens who eat dinner with a parent at least 5 days a week.	80.6	75.2	78.0
Teens who do <i>not</i> eat dinner with a parent 5 days a week.	73.3	71.0	70.4
Percentage point difference in outcome:	7.3*	4.2*	7.6*
Difference after statistical controls:	6.9*	2.1	6.2*
Teens who are close to their mother and/or father.	79.8	75.6	75.4
Teens who are <i>not</i> close to their mother and/or father.	68.4	64.9	66.5
Percentage point difference in outcome:	11.5*	10.8*	8.9*
Difference after statistical controls:	11.8*	9.9*	8.1*

(p. 29 – WH)

“THIRD MILLENNIUM TEENS: RESEARCH ON THE MINDS, HEARTS, AND SOULS OF AMERICA’S TEENAGERS”

Josh’s Synopsis on

1999 The Barna Research Group, “A National Scouting Report”

“More than three out of four teenagers (78%) acknowledged that their parents have a lot of impact on their thoughts and deeds.” (p. 18)

“Half of all teens (47%) said that their parents have the greatest influence on their spiritual development. Parents were named three times as often as the next most prolific source of faith influence (i.e. their church, named by 16%).” (p. 19)

“We know that teens spend an average of four to six hours per day interacting with mass media in various forms.” (p. 28)

“Dealing with the Future”

“Nine out of ten teenagers ponder their future at least once a week.” (p. 37)

“Purpose and Potential in Life”

“Three out of four teenagers (74% concur that they are still trying to figure out the purpose or meaning of their life. This journey is hindered by the fact that most of them - 63% - admit that they do not have any comprehensive and clear ‘philosophy about life that consistently influences their lifestyle and decisions.’” (p. 37)

“One of the disturbing findings, though, is that a majority (53%) contends that they have decided that the main purpose of life is enjoyment and personal fulfillment.” (p. 38)

“Nine out of ten youths believe that it is still possible for one person to make a significant difference in the world. The issue they wrestle with is exactly how to do it.” (p. 38)

“Goals and Accomplishments”

“Perched on top of the list of priorities is the attainment of a college degree. This was one of the five outcomes that at least four out of five teens defined as ‘very desirable’ life outcomes. Of equivalent value to teenagers are having good physical health, developing close personal friendships, having a comfortable lifestyle, and getting married and having one spouse for life. Notice again that their primary interests are relationships (friendships and marriage) and achievement (college degree and lifestyle comfort).” (p.38)

“Three-quarters of the teen population rate the development of a clear purpose of living as a very desirable condition to pursue.” (p. 38)

“Millions of teenagers have been deeply wounded by their family yet most of them have a deep commitment to achieving family health in the future.” They have been hurt but they are not giving up. They believe that the family is one of the mechanisms that will enable them to maximize their life. Teenagers anticipate having a strong family experience in the years to come: a good marriage, loving kids, a comfortable home, and meaningful intra-family relationships.” (p. 62)

“Kids take their cues from their family, not from their youth ministers. God’s plan was for the church to support the family, and for the family to be the front-line of ministry within the home. Teenagers may glean some truths and principles from youth leaders, but the greatest influence in their lives will remain their parents.” (p. 66)

“Several years ago we conducted research among teens that resulted in a controversial conclusion: perhaps the most significant product a youth ministry could provide would be helping parents to have a healthy marriage and not get divorced.” We discovered that such an outcome was of far greater impact than having kids learn verses, sing praise songs or donate money to the homeless - all of which are good and desirable activities, but simply not as life-changing as having parents who can model a Christian life for their kids.” (p. 67)

“How well are you serving the parents of teenagers?”

“Our job is not to replace families but to support them in doing the will of God and the work of the ministry within their household to equip parents as needed. Sometimes the most important aspect of youth ministry is not working with kids but enabling parents to minister to their own children more effectively.” (p. 69)

“THOSE YOUNG AMERICANS”

“The American family is under unprecedented strain. In 1960, 70% of families had at least one parent who stayed at home”

“The American family is under unprecedented strain. In 1960, 70% of families had at least one parent who stayed at home. By 2000, in contrast, 70% of families were headed by either two working parents or a working single parent. American parents spend 22 fewer hours a week with their children than they did in 1969.”

(“Those Young Americans,” The Economist, September 6, 2003, pg. 31)

“TIME SPENT WITH KIDS”

“American Demographics reported that parents today spend roughly 40 percent less time with their children than parents did a generation ago. Almost 20 percent of 6th through 12th graders have not had a good conversation lasting for at least 10 minutes with at least one of their parents in more than a month.”

(Why Are Kids So Angry by H. Chris Slane III, Family First, p. 12)

“The study by the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research sampled 1,500 children nationwide and found that about one in four are completely alone after school, including travel time from school to another location, and 2.5 percent are alone somewhere other than home. Almost one in five children are in supervised after-school care, the study revealed.” (April 14, 2000, “Experts: More Latchkey Kids Means More Trouble” by Sherry Karasik, www.apbnews.com)

“The average amount of time spent unsupervised by adults ranged from 47 minutes for children 5 to 7 to one hour and 15 minutes for children ages 11 and 12.”

(April 14, 2000, “Experts: More Latchkey Kids Means More Trouble” by Sherry Karasik, www.apbnews.com)

“The University of Michigan study, which found that the number of unsupervised children ages 5 to 12 increased from 1.8 million to 3.4 million between 1984 and 1990, did not draw conclusions on the social impact of children home alone.”

(April 14, 2000, “Experts: More Latchkey Kids Means More Trouble” by Sherry Karasik, www.apbnews.com)

“Hofferth [Sandra, author of the University of Michigan study] found that when they get home from school, children spend 100 minutes watching television, 74 minutes playing, 60 minutes playing sports, 30 minutes doing housework, 30 minutes reading and 20 minutes talking.”

(April 14, 2000, “Experts: More Latchkey Kids Means More Trouble” by Sherry Karasik, www.apbnews.com)

“TIPS ABOUT TEENAGE SEX”

“Young people are searching for connectedness to their schools, to their families and purpose in their lives. Here are a few hard realities:

- 5.1 million teens say they binge drink (downing 5 or more drinks at a setting);
- Marijuana use among eighth graders increased more than 100% from 1991 to 1998;
- One in three high school girls report thinking about suicide at least once in a two-week period;
- The rate of increase in girl crime out paces that of boys
- America has the highest rate of sexually transmitted diseases in the developed world with 3 million teenagers infected each year. As a result, the healthcare costs are enormous - \$10 billion a year.”

“The 1996 National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), funded by the National Institutes of Health, report that adolescents who feel a high level of connectedness to their school and parents are less likely to engage in violent behavior or use cigarettes, alcohol or marijuana and more likely to delay first sexual intercourse. Adolescents who clearly perceive that their parents disapprove of them being sexually active, using contraceptives or getting pregnant, are less likely to engage in sex.”

“Research clearly shows that talking with your children about sex does not encourage them to become sexually active. The National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health found that teenagers who clearly perceive that their parents disapprove of them being sexually active, using contraception or getting pregnant are less likely to have early intercourse.”

(www.bestfriendsfoundation.org, “Tips About Teenage Sex”)

TRENDS IN PARENT AND FRIEND INFLUENCE DURING ADOLESCENCE

“The behavior of parents and friends are considered to be among the more important influences on adolescent behavior (Ausubel, Montemayor, and Svajian, 1997; Bandura, 1977; Clausen, 1968; Coleman, 1961; Douvan and Adelson, 1966; Hirschi, 1969; Rowe, 1994; Sutherland and Cressey, 1966). The tendency for adolescents to behave like their parents and friends is central to a number of theories. ‘There is a virtual unanimity among theorists in the belief that parents become less influential and peers become more influential during adolescence.’ (Krosnick and Judd, 1982).”

(Trends in parent and friend influence during adolescence: the case of adolescent cigarette smoking, Karl E. Bauman, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Addictive Behaviors 25 (2000) 1-13)

“TRENDS IN THE WELL-BEING OF AMERICA’S CHILDREN AND YOUTH”

(Annual Report From The U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services (Hhs))

“This report is intended to help readers develop a sense of how children and youth are fairing overall. Here is a sample of recent findings:

Report Highlights

“This report is intended to help readers develop a sense of how children and youth are fairing overall. Here is a sample of recent findings:

- Youth violence has been decreasing, with homicide rates down from 20.7 to 12.8 per thousand youth ages 15-19 between 1993 and 1997, and declines in reported weapon carrying among 9th-12th grade students from 26% in 1991 to 18% in 1997.
- After increases between 1985 and 1991, the birth rate for teen females ages 15 to 19 continues its downward trend from 62.1 births per thousand in 1991 to 52.3 per thousand in 1997.
- Median income for families with children increased between 1996 and 1997, from \$41,925 to \$43,545
- The percentage of families with children receiving welfare payments decreased steadily between 1993 and 1997 from 14% to 9%.
- The percentage of single mothers who were in the labor force increased from 66% in 1996 to 74% in 1998”

Life Goals: The percentage of High School Seniors who rated selected personal and Social Goals As Extremely Important

“From 1976 through 1999, high school seniors have been fairly consistent in the relative importance they assign to various life goals. Specifically:

- Having a Good Marriage and Family Life and Being Successful in My Line of Work have been cited more often than other values by high school seniors as being extremely important. Since 1992, more than three out of four high school seniors have felt it extremely important to have a good marriage and family life, and nearly two out of three have felt it extremely important to be successful at work.
- Having Lots of Money and Making a Contribution to Society were the next most likely goals to be considered extremely important by high school seniors. Between 20 and 30 percent of seniors have found these goals extremely important in recent years.
- Working to Correct Social and Economic Inequalities and Being a leader in my Community are extremely important goals in 1997 for only small percentages of high school seniors: 12 percent and 15 percent, respectively.”

“The two groups appeared equally likely to attach extreme importance to having a good marriage and family life, a rate that has hovered around 75 percent for both races over the period examined.” (Blacks and Whites)

“In 1997, females were more likely to indicate that having a good marriage and family were extremely important (81 percent versus 72 percent), and were less likely to report that having lots of money was an extremely important goal (20 percent versus 33 percent).”

Religious Attendance and Religiosity

“Research relating to children’s day-to-day conduct suggests that teens who are religious are more likely to avoid high-risk behaviors.”⁴

((4) National Commission on Children. 1991. Beyond Rhetoric: A New American Agenda for Children and Families. Final Report of the National Commission on Children, p. 352. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.)

“The number of 12th grade students who report weekly religious attendance has declined from two out of every five students (41 percent) in 1976 to one out of every three students (31-33 percent) since 1987. During that same time period, the percentage of 12th grade students who report that religious attendance but are not more likely to report that religion plays a very important role in their lives. In 1994, 44 percent of 8th graders reported weekly religious attendance, versus 38 percent of 10th grade and 31 percent of 12th grade students. During that same year, the percentage reporting that religion played an important role in their lives was between 30 percent and 32 percent for all three grades.”

“Differences by Race. Black students across grades have consistently been nearly twice as likely as their white counterparts to report that religion plays a very important role in their lives; for

example, in 1997, 55 percent of black 12th graders reported that religion played such a role, compared with 24 percent of white 12th grade students.”

Television Viewing Habits

“Differences by age. The percentage of children who report watching 6 or more hours of television declines with age. Among 9-year-olds, 18% reported watching 6 or more hours of television each day in 1996. Among 13-year-old students, 13 percent watched six or more hours of television. Among 17-year-olds, only 7% watched this amount of television each day. For all three age groups, the percentage of students spending 6 or more hours a day watching television increased between 1982 and 1986 and the declined through 1996.”

“Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁶ For each age group and for each time point of assessment, larger proportions of black students watch television for 6 or more per day than do either white or Hispanic students; for example, among 9-year-old students, 39% of black students, compared with 13 percent of white students and 21 percent of Hispanic students, reported watching television six or more hours per day in 1996.”

(6) Estimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races.

“Differences by Parents’ Educational level. Children’s TV viewing habits also vary by parents’ educational level. In general, as parents’ educational levels increase, the percentages of children watching 6 or more hours of television decline. In 1996, 18 percent of 13-year-olds whose parents had less than a high school education were watching 6 or more hours of television per day, compared with 13 percent of students with parents who graduated from high school and 10 percent of students whose parents graduated from college. A similar pattern is evident for 17-year-olds.”

Youth Violent Crime Arrest Rates

“The FBI’s Violent Crime Index includes murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.⁸ The rate of youth arrests for these Index Crimes increased substantially between 1980 and 1994, from 334 to 528 per 100,000 persons ages 10 through 17, and has been declining since to where it stood in 1997 at 407 per 100,000 persons ages 10 through 17.”

Low-Risk Teen Cumulative Risk Index

“The Low-Risk Teen Cumulative Risk Index

- Has not been suspended or expelled from school
- Has never had sexual intercourse
- Has never used illegal drugs (including marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, heroin, PCP, ecstasy, Amphetamines, LSD, mushrooms, and pills.)
- Has never drank alcohol unsupervised by adults, and
- Has never smoked cigarettes regularly (at least once a day for 30 days)”

“No Risk Behaviors by Gender, Family structure, and Family Income. Across the adolescent years, more girls than boys report free of any of the five risk behaviors. Similarly, children from two-parent families are more likely than children in single-mother families to avoid risky behaviors.”

Closeness with Parents

“The quality of relationships that youth have with parents is important for several aspects of their development; for example, a positive parent-child relationship can promote an adolescent’s ability to handle stress.¹¹ Recent research suggests that closeness with parents serves as a protective factor against emotional distress, substance use, early sexual activity, and suicide thoughts or attempts.¹²

(12) Resnick, M.D., et al. 1997. “Protecting Adolescents from Harm: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health.” *Journal of the American Medical Association* 278 (10):823-832.”

“Differences By Age. More young adolescents report feeling very close to parents than do older adolescents; for example, more youth ages 12-14 (78 percent) report a very close relationship with their resident biological mother than do youth ages 1-17 (66 percent). Similar patterns are found for reports of closeness to resident and nonresident biological fathers, as well as resident nonbiological parents.”

Parents’ Activities with Children

“Recent research indicates that positive interactions between parents and children foster positive developmental outcomes for children¹⁴. Furthermore, there is a growing interest in identifying ways that fathers’ involvement in children’s lives uniquely contributes to child well being.¹⁵

“Data from the first and second waves of the National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH 1988 and 1995) were used to examine mother’s and father’s interactions with their children (ages 5 through 17) in daily activities. Activities included eating meals together, spending time in activities away from home, working on a project together, having private talks, and helping with reading or homework.”

“The findings from the 1995 data include the following:

- Over half of mothers (55 percent) and two-fifths of fathers (42 percent) eat dinner with their child every day of the week.
- A similar percentage of mothers and fathers report going on outings with their child several times a week (17 percent and 18 percent for mothers and fathers, respectively) as well as almost every day (7 percent and 5 percent, respectively).
- Twenty percent of mothers and 12 percent of fathers worked on a project at home with their child almost every day. An additional 32 percent of mothers and 28 percent of fathers worked on a project with their child several times a week.

- Mothers are also frequently helping their children with homework and reading. Forty percent report this type of interaction on an almost daily basis, with an additional 29 percent reporting helping their child with homework several times a week. One-third (33 percent) of fathers also report helping with homework several times a week, with a smaller group (13 percent) reporting helping almost every day”

(14) Hawes, D. 1996. “Who Knows Who Best: A Program to Stimulate Parent-Teen Interaction.” *School Counselor* 44 (2), 115-121.

(15) Lamb, M.E. 1997. “Fathers and Child Development: An Introductory Overview and Guide.” In M.E. Lamb (Ed.), *The Role of the Father In Child Development* (pp. 1-18). New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Trends in Parental Activities

“There was a significant drop in high levels of parent-child activity between 1988 and 1995 in most activities for example, 62 percent of mothers reported eating dinner with their child on a daily basis in 1988, but in 1995 only 55 percent reported doing so. Similarly, 50 percent of fathers ate a daily dinner with their child in 1988, but in 1995 this rate dropped to 42 percent. Another example involves the rate at which parents engage their children in private talks. There was a 7 percentage point drop (from 29 to 22) between 1988 and 1995 in the proportion of mothers who had private talks with their children almost every day. Similarly there was a 5 percentage point drop (from 11 to 6 percent) in the proportion of fathers who had almost daily private talks with their children. Decreases in the amount of time parents spend in activities outside the home and working on projects inside the home were also found.”

“TURNING THE CORNER ON FATHER ABSENCE IN BLACK AMERICA”

“Why Fathers Matter”

“Tonight, about four of every ten children in the United States will go to sleep in homes where their fathers do not live. Before they reach the age of eighteen, more than half of America’s children are likely to spend at least a significant portion of their childhoods living apart from their fathers.”

“Growing numbers of children in our nation live in family and community environments that might be called ‘radically fatherless.’ For example, in 1990, nearly 3 million children – about one of every twenty children in our country – were living in father-absent homes in neighborhoods in which a majority of families with children were headed by single mothers. About 4.5 million U.S. children that year resided in predominantly fatherless neighborhoods, in which more than half of all families with children were headed by single mothers. Of these 4.5 million at-risk children, nearly 80 percent were African American.”

“Although the proportion of children with absent fathers is growing fastest among whites, the problem of father absence is especially acute in the African American community. Of all Black babies born in 1996, approximately 70 percent were born to unmarried mothers. On average, a

Black child born in the early 1950s would eventually spend about four years (or about 22 percent of childhood) living in a one-parent home. But for Black children born in the early 1980s, that figure, according to one estimate, would nearly triple, to almost 11 years or about 60 percent of childhood.”

(“Turning the Corner on Father Absence in Black America,” A Statement from the Morehouse Conference on African American Fathers, Morehouse Research Institute & Institute for American Values, 1999, pp6-8)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – PREDICTORS OF YOUTH VIOLENCE

John J. Wilson, Acting Administrator, April 2000

“Child maltreatment. Studies have examined three forms of child maltreatment: physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Evidence suggests that children who have been physically abused or neglected are more likely than others to commit violent crimes later in life (Widom, 1989; Zingraff et al., 1993; Smith and Thornberry, 1995). (p. 3 – PYV (Predictors of Youth Violence))

“Poor family management practices. Family management practices such as failure to set clear expectations for children’s behavior, poor monitoring and supervision, and severe and inconsistent discipline consistently predict later delinquency and substance abuse (Capaldi and Patterson, 1996; Hawkins, Arthur and Catalano, 1995). In a sample followed up on after 20 years, the McCords found that parents’ poor supervision and aggressive discipline predicted their children’s convictions for person crimes well into their forties.” (McCord, McCord, and Zola, 1959; McCord 1979) (p. 3- PYV)

“Wells and Rankin (1988) found that boys with very strict parents reported that most violence. Boys with very permissive parents reported the second highest level of violence. Boys with parents who were neither too strict nor too lax reported the least violence. Also boys whose parents punished them inconsistently, sometimes ignoring the same behavior, were more likely to commit an offense against other persons than boys whose parents punished them consistently. Parental punitive ness or harshness in discipline also predicted later violence.” (p. 3 - PYV)

“Farrington (1989) found that poor child-rearing; an authoritarian parenting style; poor parental supervision; harsh parental discipline; a cruel, passive, or neglectful parenting attitude; and parental disagreement about childrearing each predicted later violence.” (p. 4 - PYV)

“Low Levels of Parental Involvement. Strong parental involvement can function as a protective factor against violence. Conversely, a lack of parental interaction and involvement with children may increase children’s future risk for violence. Williams (1994) found that parent-child communication and involvement at age 14 predicted less self-reported violent behavior at age 16. This relationship was weaker for females than for males.” (p. 4 - PYV)

“Similarly, Farrington (1989) found that sons whose fathers did not engage in leisure activities with them more often exhibited violent behavior as teenagers and adults and were more likely to be convicted for a violent offense.” (p. 4 - PYV)

“Few studies have looked specifically at the relationship between family bonding and violent behavior. Some research has shown a nonsignificant relationship between poor family bonding and violence (Williams, 1994; Elliott, 1994). Studies investigating this link should distinguish between bonding to prosocial versus antisocial or criminal family members (Forshee and Bauman, 1992).” (p. 4 - PYV)

“Exposure to high levels of marital and family conflict also appears to increase the risk of later violence.” (Farrington, 1989; McCord, 1979; Maguin et al., 1995; Elliott, 1994). (p. 4 - PYV)

“Parental attitudes favorable to substance use and violence. Research indicates that parental attitudes favorable to behaviors such as alcohol use predict use of alcohol and drugs by youth (Peterson et al., 1994), but little research has examined the impact of parental attitudes to violence on children’s behavior.” (p. 4 - PYV)

“One study showed that children who at age 10 had parents who were tolerant of violent behavior were more likely to report violent behavior by age 18. (Maguin et al., 1995).” (p. 4 - PYV)

“Parent-child separation. Evidence indicates the disruptions of parent-child relationships predict later violent behavior in children. Parent-child separation before age 10 has been found to predict violence (Farrington, 1989; Wadsworth, 1978).” (p. 4 - PYV)

“Henry and colleagues (1996) found that having a single-parent family when boys were age 13 predicted their convictions for violence by age 18.” (p. 4 - PYV)

“However, many other factors that also predict violence can contribute to parent-child separations.” (p. 4 – PYV)

“Parental attitudes favorable to violence when subjects were age 10 more than doubled the risk that subjects would engage in violence at age 18.”
(p. 6 - PYV)

“Broken homes and abusive parents are among the poorest predictors of subsequent violence for both age groups.” [Relationships not structure] (based on “Predictors of Violent or Serious Delinquency in Adolescence and Early Adulthood,” by M.W. Lipsey and J.H. Derzon in *Serious and Violent Juvenile Offenders: Risk Factors and Successful Interventions*, edited by Rolf Loeber and David P. Farrington (Sage Publications, Inc., 1998).” (p. 6 - PYV)

“Poor family management practices and family conflict when subjects were age 10 were not significant predictors of later violence. However, poor family management practices when subjects were age 14 doubled the risk for later involvement in violence.” (p. 6 - PYV)

“More research needs to be done on youth violence, including studies that contrast violent offenders and nonviolent offenders. Research is also required to better understand the protective factors that mitigate the effects of risk exposure. Many predictors of violent behavior are predictors of other problems, such as substance abuse, delinquency, school dropout, and teen pregnancy (Dryfoos, 1991; Hawkins, Catalano, and Miller, 1992). The risk of violence is also compounded by the number of risk factors involved. The Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development (Farrington, 1997) found that the percentage of youth convicted for violent crimes increased from only 3 percent for those with no risk factors to 31 percent for those with four risk factors.” (p. 7 - PYV)

“The larger the number of risk factors to which an individual is exposed, the greater the probability that the individual will engage in violent behavior. Multicomponent interventions targeting identification of shared predictors and constellations of risk factors may be more effective in preventing violence than those that target single risk factors.” (p. 7 - PYV)

USA TODAY

"Take it from an 18 year old teenager: The best method to keep our nation's teens off drugs is not censorship, but a firm parent-child relationship based on love and trust."

(USA Today, March 1, p. 14A)

“VOICES OF CHILDREN’S CRUSADE TAKES AIM AT CONGRESSIONAL EARS”

Interviews with teens from book **Listen to Our Children** by Alex Aitcheson and Howard Haas (www.charitablealliances.org):

- “I want to help make choices to better my generation.” (p. 8)
- “Train’em early so the police won’t have to deal with ‘em later. Do what they gotta do as a baby, show’em the rights and wrongs, then they won’t have to grow up not knowing.” (p. 11)
- “Parents are the core to the student’s self esteem. They decide how they want to bring up the child.” – 17 year old Fred Miller (p. 11)
- “Too many parents aren’t there for their kids when they need them and if they were, it would help.” - 15 year old Becky Taylor (p. 23)
- “I think it comes down to the family. They need to talk to them about their experiences in life and they keep the connection with the kids. Because if a parent has a connection, then

the parent can heavily influence their child as to what is right and what is wrong.” – 17 year old Daniel Moody (p. 26)

- “There is a line you have to draw, where you are their parent, and where you are their friend, but parenting comes first. There have to be rules and limits. You can’t always have what you want.” – 16 year old Helen Frank (p.30)
- “Parents. Parenting. Kids not having their family to raise them properly is why kids are killing kids. You know, its like every generation that is why they say that every generation is getting crazier and crazier, because the parents are not responsible.” – 17 year old Robert Duarte Jr. (p. 30)
- “The main adults you learn from are your parent. So I think they have a big impact on what you do in life.” – 17year old Gregory Klein-Hertzel (p.42)
- “Parents and adults need to stop being so interested in themselves. Parents aren’t being parents.” – 17 year old John Kusch (p. 46)
- “Knowing that your parents are always going to be there. Knowing that when you do something wrong, you are going to be accountable for it.” – 17 year old Megan Dreyer (p. 38)
- “Kids are killing kids because no one gives a damn anymore. Because for the past 20 years or so, parents have been doing one thing. They have been going out working and throwing their kids in front of the television. Go talk to your kids. Hug your kids. Kiss them on the forehead. Take them to get ice cream. Find out what they did in math class.” – 19 year old Gerald Atkins, Jr. (who is homeless now) (p. 27)

“The two men found that kids were not only dying to talk, but were dying to be heard.”

“I think it all goes back to the parents” – Andrew of Louisiana

“Whether they live on the streets or in affluent suburbs, many teens said they felt abandoned by their parents – if not physically, then emotionally.”

“That’s was one of the things that really stood out – kids said they wanted support from adults in their lives. And not just parents, but other adults as well,’ Aitcheson said.”

“While adolescent alienation may not be unique to this generation, a more violent means to express the feeling is new.”

“And almost unanimously, teenagers said they knew what was not the root of the problem, despite what parents and other authorities may believe.”

““They seem to like to point at the media and movies and cinema and all that stuff and I think that’s a bunch of crap,’ said Thomas Steffins of Colorado. ‘What I think is really doing it is a lot of bad parenting and stuff.’”

Richard Haas and Alex Aitcheson, Listen to Our Children (www.charitablealliances.org):

(“Voices of Children’s Crusade takes aim at congressional ears” Oct. 18, 1999, www.cnn.com)

“VOICES OF CHILDREN’S CRUSADE TAKES AIM AT CONGRESSIONAL EARS”

"Gerald Atkins, Jr. of Massachusetts 'because for the past 20 years parents have been doing one thing -- they've been going out working 40 hour weeks and throwing their kids in front of a television.'"

"I think it goes back to the parents' - Andrew Hermann of Louisiana. "Whether they live on the streets or in affluent suburbs, many teens said they felt abandoned by their parents - if not physically, then emotionally. "That is one thing that has stood out - kids said they wanted support from adults in their lives."

(Cnn.com "Voices of Children's Crusade takes aim at congressional ears" Oct. 18, 1999)

“WADING INTO MARRIAGE”

“The programs also took a toll on families. With unmarried mothers qualifying for more assistance than married mothers, out-of wedlock births rose from 7.7 percent of all births in 1965 to 32.6 percent in 1994, the most recent year for which comprehensive data are available.”

“Studies show that children who grow up without married parents are twice as likely to drop out of school and 50 percent more likely to become teenage parents themselves or abuse drugs.”

(Karla Dial, “Wading into marriage.” Focus On The Family Citizen, June 2002, p. 19)

“WHAT DO TODAY’S TEENS REALLY NEED?”

"Something that has helped the parent teen relationship in our family is that my parents have invested in a friendship with me and my siblings. They want to talk to us and hear what we think. They respect us, listen to us and put time into building relationships with us. That only makes me respect them more and want to hear what they have to say."

(Rebecca St. James, www.family.org "What do today's teens really need" by Rebecca St. James)

“WHAT DOES THE LATEST RESEARCH ABOUT FATHERS TELL US?”

“The following are just some of the latest findings presented by Child Trends researchers in ‘What Policymakers Need to Know About Fathers’ in the December 1998 issue of **Policy & Practice**, the journal of the American Public Human Services Associations (APHSA):”

“The Effects of Father Involvement (or Disengagement)”

- “Children growing up in families headed by a single mother are five times more likely than children in two-parent families to live in poverty.”
- “Children who do not live with their biological fathers are at a higher risk for poverty, school drop out, incarceration, and teen pregnancy.”
- “Boys with absentee fathers are twice as likely as boys in two-parent families to be incarcerated, regardless of variations in their parents' educational level, race/ethnicity, and income.”
- “But warm, supportive interactions with an engaged father or father-figure can benefit children both intellectually and socially. Even if interactions are infrequent or if the father does not live with the child, some positive effects can occur.”
- “Paternal praise (as opposed to harsh criticism or indifference) is associated with higher school achievement, higher educational goals, and better classroom behavior.”

(www.childtrends.org/n_aboutfathers.asp)

“WHAT MAKES A CHILD RESILIENT?”

“As long as sad little boys can find guns, schools must be vigilant. But at what price? Today it seems as though an arms race has begun in American high schools: as a tiny number of disaffected kids stockpiles guns and home-made bombs to mimic Columbine’s Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold (or at least threaten to), communities are investing millions of dollars to bring armed cops – er, ‘resource officers’ – to campus, along with metal detectors and security cameras.”

“Snitches are becoming angels. Last month in Ft. Collins, Colorado, two girls warned police about three students who were then discovered with weapons and plans to attack Preston Junior High.”

“According to the journal *Criminal Justice Ethics* more than 99.99% of U.S. public schools have never had a homicide of any kind, let alone a mass killing. In the 1992-93 school year, there were 54 violent deaths on campuses; last year there were 16.”

[David, 13, had been bullied] “David, with the help of his parents and a sympathetic principle at the private school to which he transferred, survived and slowly built his self-esteem.”

“Fine. But how? Kids aren’t talking to parents; parents are overtaxed if not absent; teachers are depleted by teaching, never mind mentoring. How? ‘It is a problem’ says Wolin [psychologist]. ‘So far resiliency has been good at describing a situation, but hasn’t been very prescriptive.’”
(Time, “What makes a child resilient?” March 19, 2001, p. 39)

“WHAT’S SO BAD ABOUT BULLIES?”

"Personal preference and feeling rather than Godly truth."

"Adolescent music and media fills the void left in the wake of parental silence and moral confusion by offering kids plenty of guidance and direction on how to handle interpersonal conflict."

(Walt Mueller, "What's so bad about bullies?" Fall 1999, Youth Culture @ 2000)

“WHITE HOUSE HOLDING CONFERENCE ON RAISING TEENS”

"Hillary Clinton: 'Studies are showing that for all their protest and swagger, teenagers need and want the everyday love, involvement and discipline of their parents.'"

"While it appears teens want to pull away, they actually want more time with their parents. I found that it was older children, not younger children, who felt that they didn't have enough time with their parents,' Ellen Galinsky, president of the Families and Work Institute"

"I think my father put me on the right path,' said 17 year old Edwin Speaker. He said he developed a close bond with his father by participating in activities together."

"You establish a bond by communicating with your child and convincing them it is okay to tell you about different things,' said Edd Speaker."

(cnn.com "White House holding conference on raising teens," May 2, 2000)

“WHY ARE KIDS SHOOTING KIDS?”

“Morality is civilization’s first line of defense. Police and the criminal justice system are the last line of defense for those relatively few who are not stopped by society’s other defenses. Unfortunately, there seem to be increasing numbers of people for whom morality means nothing.

“Some of this may be part of the general trends of our times. However, most people are unaware of how much of the breakdown of morality is not just a happenstance, but is part of a decades-long systematic undermining of moral norms by the schools themselves. There are educational gurus whose books and packaged programs have been put into schools across the country, devoted to counteracting the morality taught to children by their parents with fads that used to be called ‘values clarification’ and which now go by a variety of names.

“Most moral principles do not require any clarification, nor is clarification what these programs offer. Just what part of ‘Thou shalt not kill’ does anyone not understand? Is it rocket science to figure out what parents mean when they teach their children not to lie or steal?

“What ‘values clarification’ offered, and what similar programs continue to offer, is the prospect of having individuals – children at that – create their own morality, as they are supposed to create their own understanding of how to go about doing math. For years, our American school children have finished at or near the bottom in international tests of mathematics. So we know that this faddish approach to teaching math simply does not work.

“There is no reason to expect or believe that do it yourself morality is any more successful. But that is what underlies many programs that emphasize ‘decision making’ meaning creating your own norms for making decisions. That is the real message of programs that get sold to the public as ‘drug prevention,’ ‘sex education’ or whatever other false colors may be used.”

“The time is long overdue for parents and voters to stop buying the education establishment’s line and get the public schools out of business of indoctrinating students or using them as guinea pigs. But parents who themselves received a dumbed down education, garnished with psychobabble, may not be equipped to understand what is wrong with what is being done to their children or to have the backbone to be ‘judgmental’ about it. But if the fetish of being nonjudgmental means more to you than your children, then what kind of parent are you?”

(Human Events, “Why are kids shooting kids?”, Week of March 12, 2001, page 8)

“WHY ARE KIDS SO ANGRY?”

H. Chris Slane III, M.A. – Director of Research , 1999 - Family First (Tampa, Florida)

“According to a study in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*:

- Almost 1 in 3 children live in a single-parent household.
- 1 out of every 3 births in 1996 was to an unmarried mother.
- Parents spend 40% less time with their children today than a generation ago. (9) (John P. Robinson, “Caring for Kids,” *American Demographics* (July 1989): 52).
(p. 7)

“Consider this:

- An estimated 24.7 million children (36.3%) live absent their biological father.
- 4 out of every 10 cohabitating couples have children present, and of children born to cohabitating couples 4 out of 10 will see their parents marry.
- 26% of absent fathers live in a different state than their children.
- Children who live absent their biological fathers, on average, are more likely to be poor, experience educational, health, emotional, and psychological problems, be victims of child abuse, and engage in criminal behavior than their peers who live with their married biological mother and father.” (p. 10-11)

“A study conducted at the University of Washington found that children raised in divorced households had considerably more disciplinary problems than children in ‘maritally supported’ households.”

(21) (Carolyn Webster Stratton, “The Relationship of Marital Support, Conflict and Divorce to Parent Perceptions, Behavior and Childhood Conduct Problems,” *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 51 (May 1989): 417-430, p11)

“Statistical analysis revealed that ‘compared with matched control students, children who exhibited violent misbehavior in school were eleven times as likely not to live with their fathers and six times as likely to have parents who were not married.’”

(22) (Patricia Cohen and Judith Brook, “Family Factors Related to the Persistence of Psychopathology in Childhood and Adolescence,” *Psychiatry* (Nov. 1987)
(p. 11)

“In 1960 more than 80% of children lived with their mother and father. By 1990 however, only 58% of children live with their mother and father.”

(23) (U.S. Bureau of the Census, “Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage in the 1990’s,” *Current Population Reports*, series P-23, no. 180, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1992), tables M and N, 11-12)
(p. 11)

“The *Congressional Record* reported that a young male is twice as likely to engage in criminal behavior if he is raised without a father.”

(24) (June O’Neill, director of the Congressional Budget Office, *Congressional Record*, Aug. 8, 1995.) (p. 12)

“*American Demographics* reported that parents today spend roughly 40% less time with their children than did parents a generation ago.

(28) (John P. Robinson, “Caring for Kids,” *American Demographics* (July 1989): 52), (p. 12)

“Almost 20% of 6th through 12th graders have not had a good conversation lasting for at least 10 minutes with at least one of their parents in more than a month.”

(29) (Peter L. Bensen, *The Troubled Journey: A Portrait of 6th-12th Grade Youth* (Minneapolis: Search Institute, 1993), 84.), (p. 12)

“There’s a tremendous amount of research showing that parental inconsistency leads to kids being more aggressive, more deviant and more oppositional.”

(30) (Laura Shapiro, “The Myth of Quality Time,” *Newsweek*, May 12, 1997, 64.), (p. 13)

“WHY GRADE ‘A’ EXECES GET AN ‘F’ AS PARENTS”

“Six years ago when AT&T was in the throes of divesting its operating companies, Ma Bell conducted a survey of its managers and top executives and discovered that their kids caused these employees more stress and worry than anything else, including their careers.”

“Medsat Systems, an Ann Arbor, Michigan, healthcare information firm, discovered that some 36% of the children of executives undergo outpatient treatment for psychiatric or drug abuse problems every year, vs. 15% of the children of nonexecutives in the same companies. ‘They are so accustomed to functioning at a high level of control at the office that when they get home, they try to exert the same kind of control,’ says Susan Davies-Bloom, a Connecticut family therapist who treats senior managers.”

(“Why Grade ‘A’ Execs Get an ‘F’ As Parents” by Brian O’Reilly, *Fortune*, Jan. 1, 1990, pp36-37)

WORD QUOTABLES

- A. “‘If it is at all possible for mom to stay home longer...that may be a good thing.’ An almost apologetic Jane Waldfogel, one of the authors of a Columbia University study released last week that revealed mothers of newborns who work outside the home harm their children’s intellectual development. The study found that the average child of a mom who did not work outside the home more than 30 hours a week for the child’s first nine months scored at the 50th percentile on a school-readiness test at age 3. Children whose mothers did

work outside the home 30-plus hours per week scored at the 44th percentile—a ‘significant difference,’ said Ms. Waldfogel.”

B. “Early Maternal Employment’s Effects on Children”

(based on research by Jane Waldfogel, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, and Wen-Jui Han)

“Nationally, the share of mothers who returned to work before their child’s first birthday doubled from 1976 to 1998, from 31% to 59%. More recently, since welfare reforms were passed in 1996, approximately 1 million single mothers, many with young children, have entered the workforce. Consequently, the potential impact of maternal employment in a child’s life is a growing policy concern.”

- B. “The effects are more pronounced for children whose mothers display less sensitive care, children of married parents, and boys. Child care quality can buffer the negative effects, but not enough to offset them fully.”

(World Quotables on the Web, July 27, 2002, Volume 17, Number 28)

WORLD

“Dr. Marvin Olasky, professor of the University of Texas, Austin, has taught over 1,500 students in the last two years. He explained that so many students express skepticism and unbelief toward God and religion because they have been so hurt emotionally by their fathers. He writes, “Personal experience plays a role [lack of belief]. One student related tales of betrayed and concluded, ‘My governing belief is the only person you can really trust is yourself.’” Olasky goes on to say, “It’s hard for those who have never known a faithful father to trust our father in heaven.”

(World, May 9, 1998, p. 30)

“YET ANOTHER ONE!”

“Today’s kids desperately need moral guidance. They need to know right from wrong. And sadly, too many adults have abdicated their responsibility to teach kids values that respect life. In public schools, students are taught to ‘construct’ their own truths. And teachers are trained not to offer direction, lest they hamper a child’s autonomy. The results of such thinking have been explosive.”

(Chuck Colson “Yet Another One!”)

“YOUTH NEED HELP IN DEVELOPING MORAL COMPASS”

“What are the odds your teenager cheated on a school test? Or lied to you or a teacher? Or hit someone? Or showed up drunk? Odds are that your child did at least one of those unethical acts, according to a nationwide teen character study released this week. Called ‘Report Card on the Ethics of American Youth,’ the study looked at the behavior of 8,600 teens. Here are some of the findings:

- 7 in 10 students surveyed admitted cheating on a test at least once in the past year.
- 92% said they lied to their parents in the past year; 78% said they had lied to a teacher.
- Nearly one in six students said they had shown up for class drunk at least once in the past year.
- Sixty-eight percent admitted they had hit someone because they were angry.
- A relativistic ethic, coursing through our culture for at least 30 years, that has undermined any authority greater than self for deciding matters of right and wrong.”

(“Youth need help in developing moral compass” The Spokesman-Review.com, Sat. Oct. 21, 2000)

“YOUTHS FEEL PRESSURE, NEED SUPPORT”

“Children are suffering from the emotional disconnect with parents. A 1998 study done by the Larimer County Asset Building Coalition in Colorado found that more than 1 in 10 seventh through 12th graders ‘had suffered from depression in [just] the previous month or engaged in bulimic or anorexic behavior.’”

(The Coloradan, Ft. Collins, Mon. Sept. 27, 1999, “Youths feel pressure, need support” pg. A6)