

Young fathers in South Africa: An analysis of the demographic and socioeconomic determinants



BY: Tlangelani Makamu

STUDENT NUMBER: 1852977

SUPERVISED BY: Dr Nicole De Wet

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DECLARATION

I, **Tlangelani Loneck Makamu**, declare that this research report is my own original work and where otherwise appropriate referencing has been made. And it is being submitted in partial fulfilment for the Masters of Arts in Demography and Population Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. To the best of my knowledge, this work has not been submitted before in part or in full of any other degree or examination at this or any other university.



13th day of August 2019

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my late father Mahabela Mackson Makamu who always supported me and taught me the essence of hard work and not giving up. I further extend the dedication to my son Lonene Makamu who brought some sense of hope in my life by his birth in 2018. Lastly, this work is dedicated to my supervisor Dr Nicole De Wet who was vital in the inception of this work and the end of it; your guidance, expertise, support and time is highly appreciated.

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ABSTRACT

Background: Young fatherhood has been observed to occur in high, middle and low income countries and contribute to the global problem of early parenting. Young fatherhood does not only affect the individual, child or partner but also the different spheres in society at large. Research has shown that young fathers also experience negative social and health outcomes resulting from early parenting. These negative consequences are but not limited to being an absent father, school drop-out or poor school performance, increased risks of contracting HIV/AIDS and STIs, and high unemployment.

Objectives: The first objective of this study was to identify the levels of young fathers across the select demographic and socioeconomic factors in South Africa. Lastly, to examine the selected demographic and socioeconomic factors associated with young fatherhood in South Africa.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study that analysed secondary data from the South African National HIV Prevalence, HIV Incidence, Behaviour and Communication Survey (SABSSM) conducted in 2008 and 2012. The study had a weighted sample size of 365, 845 young fathers and a study population of 4,474,345 young males aged 15-24. The analyses approach was in two fold; bivariate and multivariate analysis. The bivariate analyses addressed the first objective using chi-square cross tabulation. The last objective was analysed using binary logistic regression for the multivariate analysis.

Results: The proportion of young fathers in South Africa varied across the nine (9) provinces, with a majority residing in the Western Cape (20%) and Gauteng (18%). The percentage of young fathers by place of residence was high in urban areas (75%) compared to 25% in rural areas. The highest proportion of young fathers (52%) were unemployed while only 12% were still at school and 36% were employed. Controlling for other characteristics, the unadjusted regression analysis on employment status showed that young males who were still at school are more likely to become a young father than young males who were unemployed. While young males who are employed were less likely to be a young father when compared to young males who were unemployed. The unadjusted logistic regression found that young males from the Eastern Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal were more likely to become a young father

when compared to young males from the Western Cape. The association for the other provinces was not statistically significant.

Conclusion: The study findings have established which demographic and socioeconomic determinants are associated with being a young father in South Africa. The overall conclusion that can be drawn from this study is; young fathers in South Africa are confronted by various challenges such as poor educational attainment, unemployment and lack of condom use.

Keywords: *Young fathers, young fatherhood, early parenting and South Africa*

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the background of the study, emphasizing the problem of being a young father in South Africa. And identifying the main objective of the study and highlight why this study was conducted.

1.2 Background

Early parenting is not only a prominent social concern in developing countries, but has also been a concern in developed countries. Some of the developed countries which have been outstandingly challenged by early parenting are United States of America, England and New Zealand (Sedgh et al., 2015). In sub-Saharan Africa 29 of 51 countries have been reportedly challenged by early parenting in particular of young people aged 15-24 (Rizzo, 2014). Some of these notable countries highly challenged by early parenting in the region are Niger, Mozambique, South Africa and Uganda.

Though high prevalence of early parenting is recorded in most African countries, there is lack of quantitative studies on young fathers particularly in South Africa that have yielded results that are generalizable and this has since been reported as under-represented in research (Makofane, 2015). And relative to research on young mothers, there is relatively little research on young fathers, which has caused a disparity in addressing early parenting for young males and females. In sub-Saharan Africa studies that have focused on young fathers have not yet looked at profiling the socioeconomic characteristics of young fathers.

The lack of quantitative studies on young fathers has resulted in a dearth of statistics that reports the level of young fathers, particularly those who are aged 15-24 years. This reality was further acknowledged by a study counting fathers in South Africa which reported that there is currently no data that describes all men who are fathers or identify changes thereof overtime (Hosegood & Madhavan, 2012). However, South Africa has been estimated to have 67.2% of men aged 15-49 who are biological fathers (Richter et al., 2010). This was observed as one of the highest numbers of fathers when compared to other African countries. Other African countries with the highest level of fathers aged 15-49 were Mozambique (66%), Uganda (63%), Zambia (60%) and Nigeria (57%) (Richter et al., 2010).

Early parenting for males aged 15-24 has been observed to have negative consequences which at most affects this age group in different ways as most of them are still at school while trying to financially provide for their children. A number of studies found that the consequences of early parenting for young males (15-24) are but not limited to school drop-out or poor school performance, increased risks of contracting HIV/AIDS and STIs, school absenteeism and high unemployment (Macleod & Tracey, 2010; Mkhwanazi, 2010; Ntini & Sewpaul, 2017; Strunk, 2008).

1.3 Problem Statement

Early debut to parenting for males aged 15-24 years has been identified as a crucial negative determinant of various social and health outcomes. Some of the notable negative outcome of early parenting has been reported to consist of failure to provide financially for their children and an engagement in various adverse risky behaviours (Morris & Rushwan, 2015). These risky and delinquent behaviours range from alcohol and drug abuse, criminal activities and risky sexual behaviour (Cundy, 2016; Mkhwanazi, 2010). South Africa has one of the highest numbers of absent fathers when compared to other countries, and early parenting is one of the underlying contributor to this problem. Absenteeism of a male parent has been observed to have significant economic and psychological implications for the wellbeing of a child and both parents (Richter et al., 2010). For example, a study found that male children engage in more delinquent behaviour if there is no father figure in their lives (Cobb-Clark & Tekin, 2011).

If young fathers remain a neglected research group without intervention, their perceptions of being present in their children's lives when they can only provide financially will undoubtedly continue to exacerbate the number of absent fathers when they fail to provide financially (Panday et al., 2009). On the other hand, failure to provide financially for their children will subsequently lead to some young fathers dropping out of school in order to find a job that can allow them to provide financially and be present in their children's lives. It is therefore, necessary to know the socioeconomic characteristics of young father in South Africa in order to come up with programmes that are informed and can be aimed at supporting young fathers at school to prevent them dropping out of school or engaging in risky behaviours. This would

afford a conducive environment for young fathers to get a good education and successively get a stable job to provide for their children and be present in their lives.

These negative outcomes have contributed to South Africa not achieving some of its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (Mulaudzi et al., 2016). And If negative outcomes such as the increased risks of contracting HIV/AIDS and STIs is not addressed among young fathers; this might contribute to South Africa not achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 by 2030 of ending the AIDS epidemic (Buse & Hawkes, 2015).

From the available literature in South Africa, the level of young fathers across the demographic and socioeconomic factors remains an unexplored area. This has resulted in not knowing who these young fathers in South Africa are. Additionally, the association between the demographic and socioeconomic factors of young fathers also remains unknown. And knowing the level of young fathers and the association between the determinants thereof, will help in empowering and supporting them during this period which is characterised by negative outcomes. These are the two main observed research gaps on young fathers the study has addressed.

1.4 Justification

The UNFPA (2013) has placed early parenting as one of the noticeable impediment that directly and negatively affects the successful achievement of some national and international policy mandates. In order to address challenges that are faced by young fathers in South Africa, there is a need for studies that are generalizable and profiling the socioeconomic characteristics of young fathers the same way the socioeconomic characteristics of young mothers have been profiled. Part of this call is a result of young fathers also experiencing negative outcomes during this phase in their lives.

These negative outcomes do not only affect young fathers but extends to their children, partner, families and the different spheres of society. The limited literature on the profile of young fathers in South Africa has led to the formulation of policies such as the South African Schools Act (1996) which has been critiqued for its emphasis on young mothers, and not addressing the challenges faced by young fathers who are still at school (Ramulumo & Pitsoe, 2013). This policy is mainly criticised for ensuring

that young females who become parents while they are still at school are supported in order to remain in school during pregnancy and to return to school post-pregnancy.

The findings that this study has generated are expected to inform policy interventions specifically aimed at addressing the negative outcomes of early parenting in South Africa in particular that of young fathers as it has been overlooked in the existing policy landscape of early parenting. A better understanding of the demographic and socioeconomic features of young fathers can contribute to South Africa achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Furthermore, contributing to addressing the WHO published guidelines in 2011 with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) on preventing early pregnancies and reducing poor reproductive outcomes (Chandra-Mouli et al., 2013). The lack of generalizable studies on the determinants that are associated with being a young father, has resulted in guidelines that have overlooked the need to comprehensively empower young males to prevent unplanned fatherhood and how to cope with being a young father while still at school and financially providing for their children.

The availability of generalizable studies on young fathers will be of importance in having programmes and policy interventions in place for young fathers, that will help them stay in school and get a better education that will offer them better employment opportunities and afford them an opportunity to provide for their children which will result in less absent fathers in South Africa. As a study has reported that most young fathers are absent in their children's life because of failing to provide financially for them (Madiba & Nsiki, 2017). Having programmes and interventions in place for young people inclusive of young fathers can contribute to social and economic development in South Africa. Subsequently contribute to the achievement of the National Development Plan's (NDP) vision where opportunities are determined not by birth, but by ability, education and hard work (NDP, 2030). More especially achieve the goal on young people, which centres on giving them better education opportunities that will contribute to eradicating poverty.

1.5 Research Question and Sub-Questions

1.5.1 Main Research Question

- What are the demographic and socioeconomic factors associated with young fatherhood in South Africa?

1.5.1.1 Sub- Questions

1. What are the levels of young fathers across the demographic and socioeconomic factors in South Africa?
2. What are the demographic and socioeconomic factors associated with being a young father in South Africa?

1.6 Research Objective and Sub-Objectives

1.6.1 Main Research Objective

- To examine the demographic and socioeconomic factors associated with young fatherhood in South Africa.

1.6.1.1 Sub-Objectives

1. To identify the levels of young fathers across the demographic and socioeconomic factors in South Africa;
2. To examine the demographic and socioeconomic factors associated with being a young father in South Africa.

1.7 Definition of terms

1.7.1 Young fatherhood- is a social, human and cultural role, whose significance changes over time and the content of the role also shifts (Richter & Morrell, 2006).

1.7.2 Young father- In this study it refers to a young male between the ages of 15-24 years and has reported being a biological father (Amoo., 2012a).

1.7.3 Young male- In this study a young male refers to a male between the ages of 15-24 years of age (Martinez at al., 2006).

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a review of studies that have been conducted on young fathers. The review was divided into three sections which focused on young fathers in developed countries, sub-Saharan Africa and South Africa. The sections were divided into three in order to review what has been found on the socioeconomic characteristics of young fathers in developed countries, sub-Saharan Africa and South Africa. This chapter also discussed the theoretical and conceptual framework that underpinned the study and the hypothesis that the study tested.

2.2 Young fathers in developed countries

Early parenting is not only high in developing countries, but remains a concern also in developed countries which has since made it a global social problem (Ramulumo & Pitsoe, 2013). A large proportion of young father's research stems from the United States which largely focused on socially disadvantaged fathers, where higher rates of fatherhood have been evident overtime (Lau Clayton, 2016).

A study conducted in the United States found that European American court involved youth in the sample were as likely to become teen fathers as their African American counterparts. However, an in-depth examination of the social ecologies of these court showed that youth revealed significant racial differences, with African American males reporting more prior offences, delinquent peer association, traumatic pasts, risky sexual behaviour and educational risks as compared to European American youth who reported greater involvement in substance abuse (Khurana & Gavazzi, 2011a).

Various studies conducted in the United States report a well-established relationship between adolescent fatherhood and delinquent behaviour (Landers et al., 2014). With many studies showing up to a third of incarcerated juveniles are young fathers (Khurana & Gavazzi, 2011b; Landers et al., 2014). In contrary, another study found that teenage fatherhood decreases years of schooling and the likelihood of receiving a high school diploma (Fletcher & Wolfe, 2012). However, studies in South Africa presents different evidence which is discussed under South African literature on young fathers. These studies failed to look at what are the socioeconomic characteristics of being a young father which is important in knowing their profile.

However, a qualitative study conducted in England points to poor family background, unhappiness at home or at school, and low expectations for the future as factors associated with high birth rates (Sedgh et al., 2015). A study conducted in Finland found that bullying other children frequently was significantly associated with becoming a young father independently of being victimized (Lehti et al., 2012). Historical studies in developed and developing countries have found young fathers to be absent and not involved in their children's lives. However, recent studies have found young fathers to be significantly involved in the lives of their children, despite their own struggles (Enderstein & Boonzaier, 2015).

The existing difference between the historic and recent studies has been alluded to young fathers change in perception of the meaning of fatherhood. Today, young fathers now perceive fatherhood as an opportunity to challenge stereotypes of being perceived as irresponsible and absent. The change in perception of the meaning of fatherhood by young fathers has led to young fathers not entirely seen as invisible. To further justify the difference, a recent study found that respondents alluded to being able to garner trust and respect from the community only after having had children (Mathur et al., 2016). Though early parenting for young males has been seen to have negative outcomes, a study has shown that positive outcomes do result from early fatherhood as it is a potential transformative force in the construction of masculinities which include provision, protection and caring (Enderstein & Boonzaier, 2015).

The review of studies on young fatherhood conducted in developed did not focus on profiling the socioeconomic characteristics of young fathers. Instead, studies mainly focused on the negative outcomes of young fatherhood and causes thereof. Leaving a gap to understand the relationship between the demographic and socioeconomic factors associated with being a young father.

2.3 Young fathers in sub-Saharan Africa

It has been observed that African youth are sexually active at an early age when compared to the youth from developed countries (Bhatasara et al., 2013). The high prevalence of risky sexual behaviour characterised by lack of condom use has resulted in majority of young people in sub-Saharan Africa being parents at an early age than expected. Sub-Saharan Africa has been estimated to have the highest rates of

adolescent pregnancy when compared to other regions in the world. Early parenting in the region does not only impact young mothers but young fathers are impacted too.

These young fathers are further disadvantaged by a lack of policies and programmes tailored to support them during fatherhood. As a result of lack of policy and programme support for young fathers, a study recommended that there should be greater efforts to engage men in family-based interventions (Hosegood & Madhavan, 2012). However, for this engagement policy intervention to be effective it requires detailed data on the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of young fathers.

However, a notable study conducted in Uganda found that respondents unequivocally reported that becoming a father was instrumental in establishing their masculine role and identity within the family and community (Mathur et al., 2016). The respondents alluded to being able to garner trust and respect from the community only after having had children. This finding was consistent with the earlier study that found that being a young father was seen as a potential transformative force in the construction of masculinities which include provision, protection and caring (Enderstein & Boonzaier, 2015).

A study that was conducted focusing on rural areas in South Africa reported that young males who were not yet young fathers planned to have children while still in their teenage years (Hendricks et al., 2010). Their reasons for doing so were largely cantered around wanting to leave a legacy, keep a partner, and wanting to be seen as fashionable amongst their peers (Hendricks et al., 2010). Studies in developed countries found that young fathers want to challenge stereotypes of being perceived as irresponsible and absent. Thus, perception or meaning of young fatherhood is different from young fathers who are from developed and developing countries. This could be a result of differences in cultural practices between these countries.

A study conducted by Amoo (2012) found that young fathers are more likely to live in deprived areas, and suffer unemployment and lack access to healthcare services. This finding is consistent with the findings of a study conducted in sub-Saharan Africa which also found that adolescents from the rural areas were 1.206 times more likely to be fathers compared to urban residents (Amoo et al., 2017). However, the same study also found that the positive association between rural place of residence and adolescent fatherhood in the past shifted to urban residents in 2010-2014 (Amoo et

al., 2017). Hence the need for a determinant study in South Africa to examine the association between young fathers and their place of residence if it has shifted or not.

According to a study conducted in sub-Saharan Africa, adolescents that have attained secondary and tertiary education, and who are professionals and skilled labourers were less likely to father a child as adolescents (Amoo et al., 2017). However, nothing is known about the educational attainment of young fathers. This was partially consistent with findings from other qualitative studies in South Africa as they have found that young fathers do not usually drop-out of school as young mothers do as they seem to attain secondary education. South Africa needs a similar study which will look at the association between being a young father and their level of education.

In Côte d'Ivoire a study found that parents of young fathers usually continue to take care of the young father, his child and as well as the young mother if they are still together (Tchetché, 2013). However, other studies in sub-Saharan Africa have indicated that young people from middle and rich wealth families are 0.785 and 0.496 times less likely to be young fathers compared to those from poor wealth families (Amoo et al., 2017). Considering the fact that parenting in its nature has financial implications, it thus makes it highly unlikely for parents of young fathers from poor wealth families to be able to take care of the entire family inclusive of the young father, mother and their child.

In sub-Saharan Africa, little appears to be known about the demographic and socioeconomic determinants of young fathers. This has resulted in limited knowledge on the profile of young fathers and could be a contributing factor to sub-Saharan Africa having the highest prevalence of early parenting when compared to other regions in the world. It is important to know who these young fathers are and this is possible through analysing their demographic and socioeconomic determinants.

2.4 Young fathers in South Africa

In South Africa, early parenting among young people is not excessively high but has been unstable over the years and remains a major public health concern. Part of the concern stems from the youth making up a large proportion of the population in the country (Ntini & Sewpaul, 2017). However, a study conducted in South Africa has shown a steady increase in teenage pregnancy levels done through charting recent teenage pregnancy levels and further showed statistical differences in provincial levels

of teenage pregnancy (Mkwananzi, 2017). Proving that even though the level of teenage pregnancy might not be as high like it is in other sub-Saharan Africa, early parenting remains a major concern to the future development prospects of the country.

Early parenting among the youth in South Africa has been found to be a major contributor to a never ending cycle of ill-health and poverty (Jonas et al., 2016). A study was consistent with this finding as it found that the cycle of poverty may lead young fathers to be unable to support their children financially and affecting their ability of being present (Madiba & Nsiki, 2017). This has a possibility of leaving young fathers frustrated and thus engaging in illegal means so they can be able to provide financially for their children (Chideya & Williams, 2014). The failure of these young fathers to financially care for their children can result in them either continuing with school or dropping out of school to improve their financial status (Madiba & Nsiki, 2017). A study conducted in KwaZulu-Natal found that young parents who are the primary caregivers to their children are also significantly more likely to leave school than those who have a caregiver and in most instances the grandparents are the secondary caregiver if they are not working (Grant & Hallman, 2008).

Studies have reported conflicting findings on the educational attainment of young fathers. Other studies found that after young males become fathers while still at school fathers their grades are most likely to drop and as a result they are usually behind with their grades (Madiba & Nsiki, 2017; Panday et al., 2009). In contrary to the aforementioned study, Chideya and Williams (2014) found that young males who become young fathers while still at school end up dropping out of school and they alluded this to the pressure young fathers have of providing financially for their children as a cause. A qualitative study conducted on young fathers who are students at a South African university, also found that young fathers who were part of the study attested to the difficulty of studying full time and caring for their children financially (Chili & Maharaj, 2015a).

This difficulty was observed to have a negative impact on their academic performance. From the reviewed literature in South Africa, there is an insignificant difference in the consequences of early parenting for young mothers and young fathers. In South Africa, a study showed that early parenting subjects both young fathers and mothers to be expelled from school by their principals despite the presence of the constitution

and other policies (Ramulumo & Pitsoe, 2013). There has been a lack of advocacy for young fathers when it comes to the rights of young fathers while they are still at school.

In a study conducted by Panday and colleagues (2009) they found that young fathers acknowledged that the caring role of a father is overtaken by a need to provide financially for their child. The findings were consistent with what Enderstein and Boonzaier (2015) found and they indicated that young fathers tend to structure their personal goals and relationships with providing emotionally and financially. This further highlights the pressure young fathers encounter when it comes to financially providing for their children. Most of these young fathers are still dependent on their families for financial support and yet expected to still provide financially for their children.

Contrary to previous studies indicating young fathers as absent and not involved, studies in South Africa have indicated young fathers are often engaged in their children's lives even if they do not live together (Clark et al., 2015). However, for some young father's failure to pay damages to their partner's family restricted their interactions with their children even though they wanted to be actively involved in the upbringing of their children (Chili & Maharaj, 2015b). The above discussion clearly shows that the concept of father absence is embedded in socio-economic and political contexts and it is complex, and should be defined with care.

The review of South African literature on young fathers attest to what Swartz and Bhana (2009) indicated in their study; that studies that have focused on young fathers have looked on issues of young fathers from the perspective of young mothers. Other studies focused on young father's own experiences and the links between early fatherhood and negative life outcome. This has created a gap for a determinant study in South Africa that will analyse the demographic and socioeconomic factors of young fathers. A gap this study intended to address.

2.5 Theoretical and conceptual framework

2.5.1 Theoretical framework

The theoretical underpinning of this study will be the proximate determinants of fertility which builds on the work of Davis & Blake (1956) and Bongaarts (1978). According to Bongaarts (1978), indirect determinants such as socioeconomic, cultural and environmental factors operate on the biological and behavioural factors known as the

intermediate variables in order to directly affect fertility. This theory postulate that in analysing the determinants of fertility one may well start with factors directly connected with the process of reproduction. Bongaarts (1978) recommended the following simple diagram when studying the relationships among the determinants of fertility:

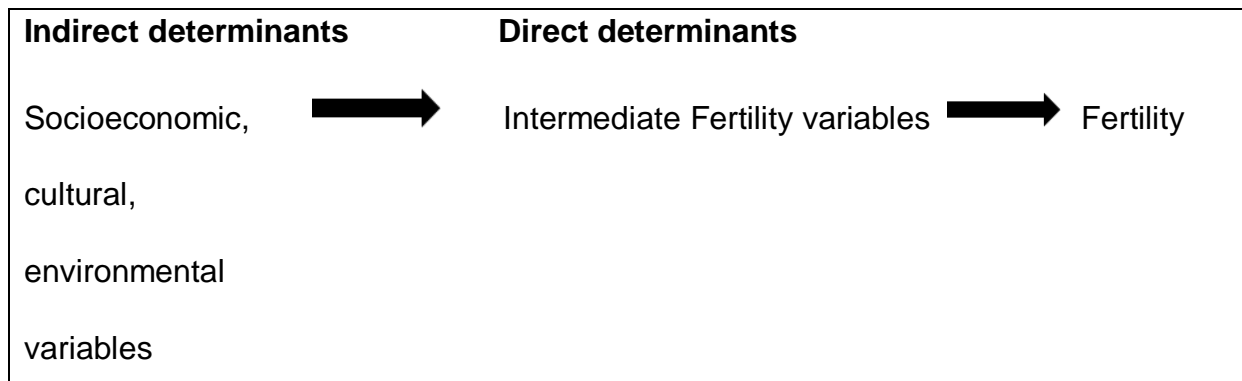


Figure 1 Bongaarts (1978) proximate determinants of fertility

2.5.2 Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework of this study was adopted from the Bongaarts proximate determinants of fertility. It has been primarily adopted to study and illustrate how the demographic and socioeconomic factors are associated to directly and indirectly affect the level of young fathers in South Africa. The selected variables which will be studied and are either indirectly or directly associated with the process of reproduction for this study are age, condom use and education. Davis and Blake (1956) termed these factors the intermediate variables.

According to this conceptualization, both individual level variables and proximate variables can contribute to a young male (15-24) either being a young father or not. In this study individual level variables include race, place of residence, province of residence, marital status and employment status. This framework will be useful in analysing how the individual level variables influence being a young father through the aforementioned proximate factors. Therefore, this theory is relevant for this study; as it will afford the researcher an opportunity to further analyse the relationship between individual level factors and proximate factors in determining the research outcome being young fathers. This will allow a substantial insight into the impact of demographic and socioeconomic factors on young fathers.

In the framework below, the individual factors are shown to work through the proximate factors in influencing males aged 15-24 years in either being a young father or not in South Africa.

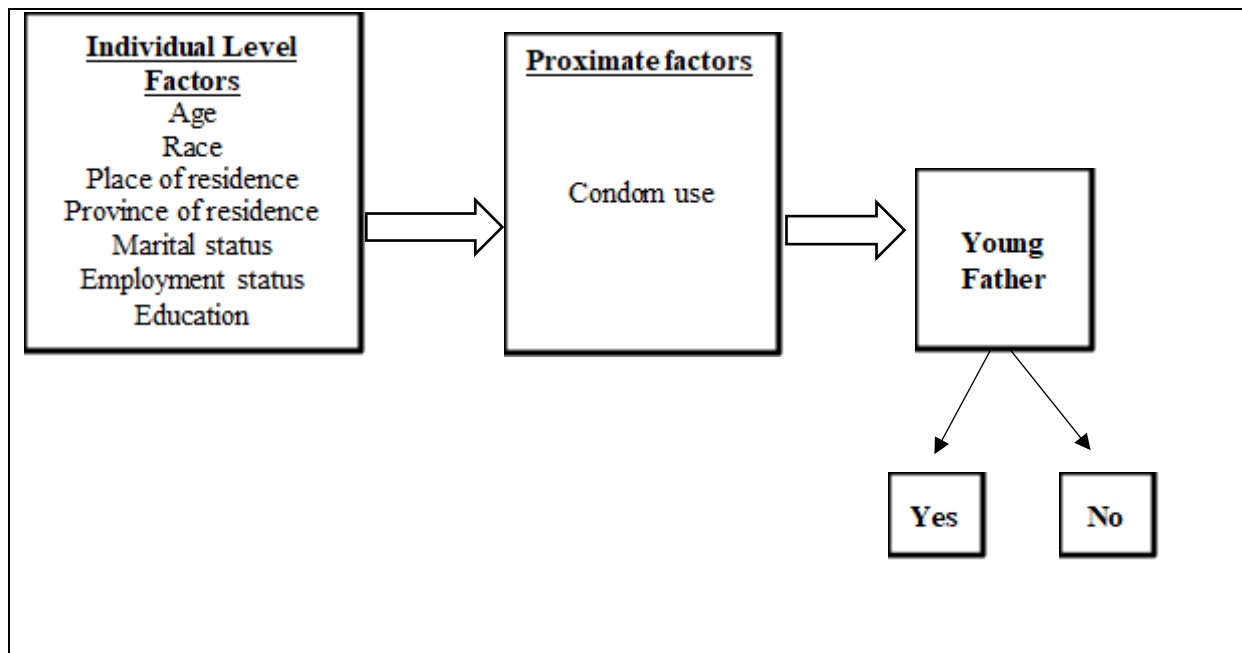


Figure 2 Conceptual framework adopted from Bongaarts (1978) proximate determinants of fertility

2.6 Hypothesis

The hypothesis of this study was non-directional, and from assessing the selected frameworks above, the following hypothesis was tested:

H0: There is an association between various demographic and socioeconomic factors and the probability of being a young father.

H1: There is no association between various demographic and socioeconomic factors and the probability of being a young father.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

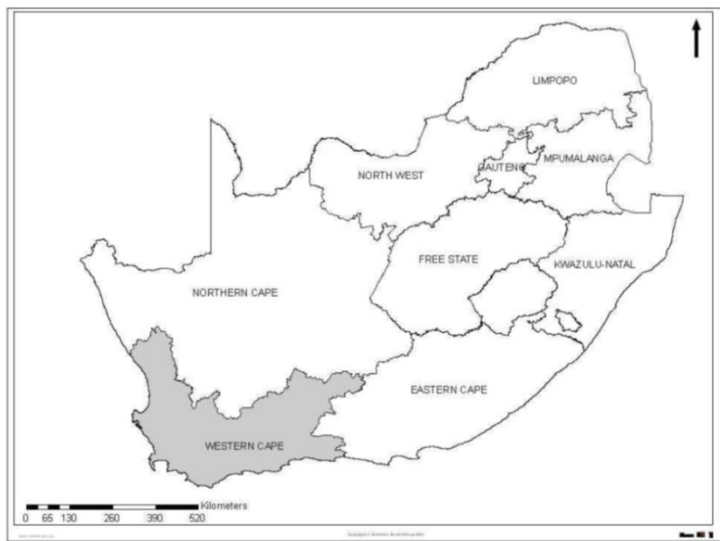
This chapter presents an overview of the study area, data source used, sample size, study population proceeded by variables used and ethics management. Moreover, the chapter gives an outline of data management and data analysis as per the study objectives.

3.2 Data source

The study used the South African National HIV Survey (SABSSM) for 2008 and 2012 conducted by Human Sciences Research council (HSRC) that allow for tracking of HIV and associated determinants over time. The 2008 and 2012 datasets were merged for the purposes of analysis and increasing the sample size of the study. The SABSSM is a nationally representative survey including individuals of all ages living in South Africa, including infants less than 2 years of age. The survey used the HSRC master sample. The master sample is defined as a selection, for the purpose of repeated community or household surveys, of a probability sample of census enumeration areas throughout South Africa that are representative of the country's provincial, settlement and racial diversity.

3.3 Description of the study area

The study was set in South Africa which is situated in the bottom most area of Africa. The country is made up of nine provinces namely; Limpopo, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, North West, KwaZulu-Natal and Free State. In 2015, the population of South Africa was estimated at 54.96 million people across the nine provinces of the country (Statistics South Africa, 2015).



Source: Statistics South Africa (2011)

Figure 3.3.1 Map of South Africa

3.4 Study sample and population

This was a cross-sectional study involving young males aged 15-24 who are asked if they are a biological parent on both the SABSS surveys. The weighted sample size of the study was 4 474 345. The study had 365 845 (8%) young males were young fathers in the study while 4 108 500 (92%) males recorded not being a young father. Males aged 15-24 years were the focus of the analysis of this study.

3.5 Variables

3.5.1 Outcome variable

The main outcome variable that was analysed in this study was being a young father. Being a biological father in both datasets (2008 and 2012) was defined differently. In the 2008 dataset being a young father was defined by asking the question “how many children of your own do you have who are still alive?” And any participant who answered to have a child was then categorised as a young father and respondents who had no (0) child were then categorised as none-fathers. Therefore, being a biological father was then used as an inclusion criteria and having no child was used as an exclusion criterion in the 2008 dataset. In the 2012 dataset, being a young father was defined by asking “are you the biological parent of this child?” The inclusion criteria for this question was when a respondent answered yes and the exclusion

criteria was when a respondent answered no. The two questions were renamed and recoded into a binary outcome and then appended to make them a single variable. Thereafter, the questions were used as a proxy and were categorised into two groups; being a biological father (coded as “Yes”) and not being a biological father (coded as “No”). This study only analysed responses of young males between the ages of 15-24 years who reported being a biological father.

3.5.2 Individual and household variables

The individual and household variables which were studied are outlined on table 3.4.3 below. The outline included the variable code, variable name, original codes and how these variables were coded in this study.

Table 3.5.3: Table showing the description and management of study variables

Variable code	Variable name	Original codes	How variables will be coded in this study
agegrp HS_6	Age	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	15-19 (1) 20 - 24 (2)
race q1_3	Race	African White Coloured Indian Other	African (1) White (2) Coloured (3) Indian (4) Other (5)
rq104 q1_7	Marital status	Married - Civil – magistrate	Married (Civil, magistrate,

		Married - Traditional - lobola or dowry Married – Religious Married - Civil and traditional – lobola Married - Civil and religious Single Divorced or separated Living together or not married Widower or Widow Civil Unions Other	traditional, religious, living together and lobola/dowry) (1) Living with partner (civil unions and living together) (2) Single (divorced/separated, widower/widow and other) (3)
rq106 q1_13	Employment status	Unemployed, looking for work Unemployed, not looking for work Work in informal sector, not looking for work Sick or disabled and unable to work Student or pupil or learner Self-employed - full time - 40 hours or more Self-employed - part time - less than 40 hours Employed part time - if none of the above Employed full time - 40 hours or more Other	Unemployed (unemployed looking/not looking for work, sick/disabled) (1) Employed (work in informal sector, self-employed full time/part time and employed full time/part time) (2) At School (student/learner) (3)
prov province	Province of residence	Limpopo Gauteng Mpumalanga Free State	Limpopo (1) Gauteng (2) Mpumalanga (3) Free State (4)

		North West Northern Cape Western Cape Eastern Cape KwaZulu-Natal	North West (5) Northern Cape (6) Western Cape (7) Eastern Cape (8) KwaZulu-Natal (9)
geo geo	Place of residence	Urban formal Urban informal Tribal area Rural formal	Urban area (urban formal and urban informal) (1) Rural area (tribal area and rural formal) (2)
rq181 education	Highest educational attainment	No schooling Grades 0 to 7 Grades 8 to 11 Grade 12 Some post school studies Further degrees completed	No education (no schooling) (1) Primary (grades 0 to 7) (2) Secondary (grades 8 to 12) (3) Higher (Post school studies and further degrees) (4)
rq106 rq48	Condom use	Yes No	Yes (1) No (2)

3.6 Statistical Analysis plan

In order to be able to address the main research question of the study, each of the research objectives were addressed with the use of various statistical tests which are outlined below. STATA 15 software was used for data management and analysis.

Objective 1: To identify the levels of young fathers across the demographic and socioeconomic factors in South Africa

For this objective, bivariate logistic regression method was used for one independent variable and the outcome variable. This assisted in modelling the odds ratio describing the pairwise association between the two binary responses in relation to several covariates. Chi-square cross tabulation of the main outcome variable and each explanatory variable was generated to identify the level of young fathers across the demographic and socioeconomic factors. The results are presented with the use of frequency and percentage distributions. The Chi-square equation is:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

Where f_o = the observed frequency

And f_e = the expected frequency if NO relationship existed between the variables

The bivariate logistic regression equation that will be used is:

$$P(Y) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(b_0 + b_1x)}}$$

P: probability of Y occurring

e: natural logarithm base

b_0 : interception at y-axis

b_1 : line gradient

X_1 predicts the probability of Y.

Objective 2: To examine the association between demographic and socioeconomic factors among young fathers aged 15-24 years old in South Africa

This objective was attained by using multivariate regression method. The selected appropriate method for this objective was the logistic regression method. This was useful in getting odds ratios in the presence of more than one explanatory variable. This further allowed the researcher to study the impact of each explanatory variable on the odds ratio of being a young father. The main advantage of using this method was avoiding confounding effects by analysing the association of all variables together (Sperandei, 2014). The basic logistic regression equation that was used for multivariate analysis for the selected independent variables and the outcome variable (categorical) is:

$$Li = \alpha + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \dots + \beta_k X_{ki}$$

Where: Li = dependent variables

α = constant

β_k = regression coefficients

X = independent variables

3.7 Ethical considerations

This study analysed two secondary datasets conducted in 2008 and 2012 respectively. The datasets were accessed on the HSRC website wherein registration was undergone in order to have permission to use the datasets. Permission to access and use the datasets was granted by HSRC. These datasets used did not identify personal information or the names of the research participants. Therefore, anonymity and confidentiality of the study respondents were guaranteed in this work.

Table 3.8 Dissemination of findings in conferences

Proposed conferences	Conference dates	Title of paper	Action
Population Association of South Africa (PASA)	18-20/07/2018	Young fathers in South Africa: An analysis of the demographic and socioeconomic determinants	Abstract accepted and paper presented at the conference
Faculty of Health Sciences Research Day 2018	06/09/2018	Young fathers in South Africa: An analysis of the demographic and socioeconomic determinants	Abstract accepted and paper presented at the conference
Demography and Population Studies Mini-Conference and Doctoral Dissemination Seminar	07/11/2018	Young fathers in South Africa: An analysis of the demographic and socioeconomic determinants	Abstract accepted and paper presented at the conference

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS

4.1 Descriptive Statistics Results

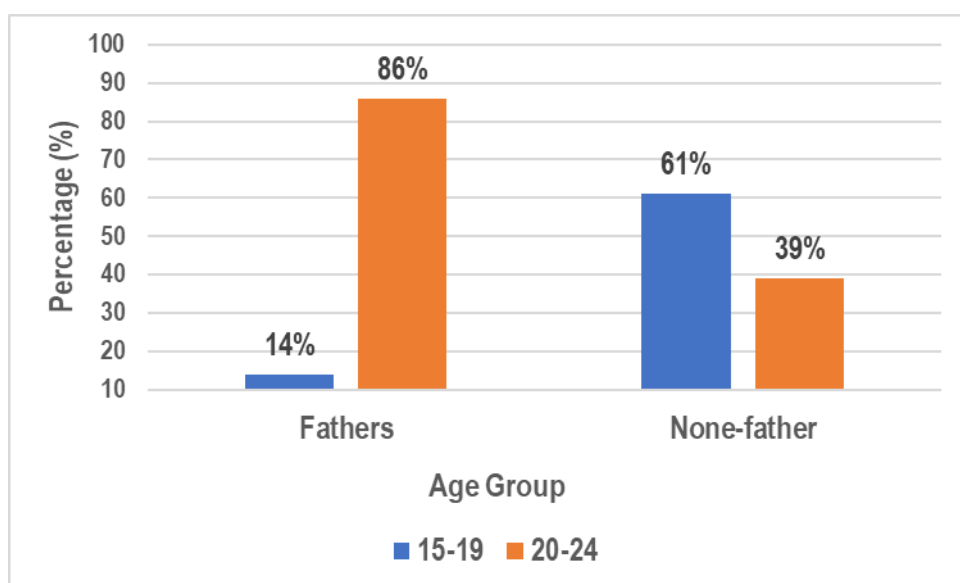


Figure 4.1.1: Young fathers by age group in South Africa

Figure 4.1.1 presents the level of young fathers by age group in South Africa. As shown on the figure, the majority of young fathers in South Africa are in the 20-24 age group as 86% were found to be a young father while 14% of young fathers were between the ages of 15-19 years. The figure also shows that 61% of males aged 15-19 years were not young fathers whereas 39% of males aged 20-24 were also not young fathers. The findings mean that a majority of young fathers in South Africa are between the ages of 20-24 years.

● Young fathers

○ None-fathers

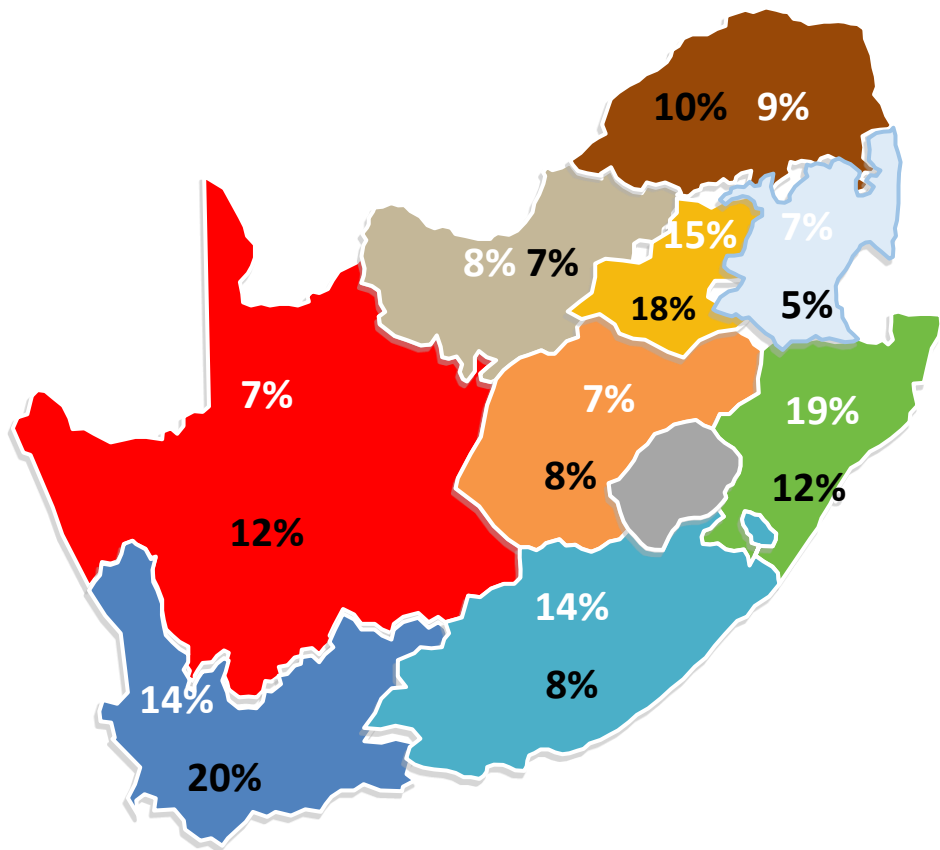


Figure 4.1.2: Young males and fathers by province of residence

Figure 4.1.2 presents the level of young males aged 15-24 years across the nine (9) provinces of South Africa. The table shows that 20% of young fathers were from the Western Cape, 18% Gauteng, 12% Northern Cape, 12% Kwa-Zulu Natal, 10% Limpopo, 8% Free State, 8% Eastern Cape and 5% Mpumalanga. Even so, for those who were none fathers the table shows that 19% were from Kwa-Zulu Natal, 15% Gauteng, 14% Western Cape, 14% Eastern Cape, 9% Limpopo, 8% North West, 7% Northern Cape, 7% Free State and 7% from Mpumalanga. There seems to be a higher prevalence of young fathers in the urban economic centres of South Africa.

Table 4.1.3: The demographic and socioeconomic characteristics by young father's status in South Africa.

Demographic and Socioeconomic characteristics by young fathers status				
Characteristics	Fathers		None-Fathers	
	N	%	N	%
Total	365845	100	4108500	100
Race	N	%	N	%
African	300730	63	3415458	61
White	11119	3	288608	9
Coloured	51185	30	313507	19
Indian	2812	4	90927	11
Marital Status	N	%	N	%
Married	41423	11	54343	1
Living together	22125	3	18582	1
Single	302297	86	4035575	98
Employment Status	N	%	N	%
Employed	119224	36	893869	21
Unemployed	191679	52	576134	16
At School	54942	12	2638497	63
Level of Education	N	%	N	%
No Education	1808	1	29424	1
Primary Education	14315	7	524278	11
Secondary Education	317559	87	3298802	82
Higher Education	32164	5	255996	6
Place of Residence	N	%	N	%
Urban area	236119	75	2548231	71

Rural area	129727	25	1560269	29
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Table 4.1.3 presents the level of young fathers in South Africa across the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. When looking at the race of young fathers in South Africa, the table shows that the majority of young fathers were Africans, as 60% of them indicated to be a young father. Furthermore, 30% of young fathers in South Africa were Coloured, while 4% were Indian and 3% White. On the other hand, the table further shows the disaggregation of young males who were non-fathers and 61% were Africans, 19% Coloured, 11% Indian and 9% White.

Moreover, on marital status of males aged 15-24, the table shows that for those who are young fathers 86% were single, 11% married and 3% living together. And for those who were not young fathers 98% were single, 1% married and 1% were living together. The results mean that young males between the ages of 15-24 years are single regardless of whether they are a young father or not. The table further shows that 52% of young fathers in South Africa were unemployed, 36% employed and 12% were still at school. Whereas those who were not young fathers 63% were still at school, 21% employed and 16% were unemployed. There seems to be a low prevalence of young fathers who are still at school with a majority of them being unemployed. The opposite was observed on non-fathers as most of them were still at school and a few were unemployed.

Lastly, the table shows that of those who were young fathers in South Africa 87% had a secondary education, 7% primary education, 5% higher education and 1% had no education. On the other hand, those who were not young fathers 82% had secondary education, 11% primary education, 6% higher education and 1% had no education. The results showed that young males between the ages of 15-24 years in South Africa have at least a secondary education. And 75% of young fathers in South Africa are from urban areas while 25% are from rural areas. Whereas 71% of those who were not a young father were from urban areas and 29% from rural areas. There seems to be a high prevalence of young males between the ages of 15-24 years who reside in urban areas than rural areas.

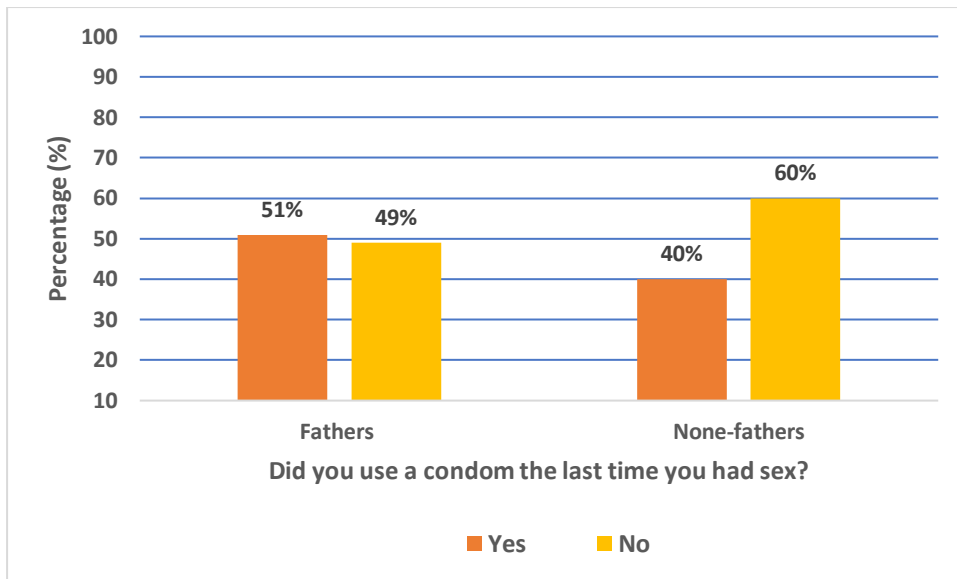


Figure 4.1.4: Young father's status by consistent condom use during their last sex in South Africa.

Figure 4.14 shows young father's status by consistent condom use during their last sex in South Africa. Consistent condom use was made an indicator of focus in this study as the use of condom directly impacts the fertility of young males. The figure shows that 49% of young fathers did not use a condom during their last sex while 60% of non-fathers reported not using a condom. However, 51% of young fathers used a condom during their last sex and 40% of non-fathers used a condom during their last sex. There seems to be a high prevalence of non-fathers in South Africa who didn't use a condom during their last sex.

4.2 Inferential Statistics Results

Table 4.2.1: Unadjusted logistic regression model showing the odds of associated with being a young father by select characteristics in South Africa.

Characteristics of the Sample	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Employment Status				
Unemployed	RC			
Employed	0.56	0.002	0.38111	0.81058
At School	8.92	0.000	5.22728	15.23539
Education Status				
No education	RC			
Primary Education	1.50	0.709	0.17854	12.60247
Secondary Education	0.90	0.921	0.11636	6.98824
Higher Education	1.27	0.828	0.14420	11.25265
Marital Status				
Married	RC			
Living together	0.78	0.722	0.20648	2.98157
Single	8.66	0.000	4.58177	16.36719
Province of residence				
Western Cape	RC			
Eastern Cape	2.66	0.006	1.32970	5.31145

Northern Cape	0.83	0.549	0.44247	1.54321
Free State	1.22	0.567	0.61543	2.42529
KwaZulu-Natal	2.18	0.011	1.19614	3.95865
North West	1.65	0.173	0.80226	3.39403
Gauteng	1.25	0.431	0.72025	2.15726
Mpumalanga	2.05	0.082	0.91244	4.59824
Limpopo	1.37	0.344	0.71433	2.62654
Condom use				
No	RC			
Yes	0.64	0.008	0.45737	0.88663
Race of young fathers				
African	RC			
White	3.47	0.016	1.25736	9.55795
Coloured	0.66	0.028	0.45426	0.95583
Indian	2.41	0.027	1.10305	5.27730
Place of residence				
Urban area	RC			
Rural area	1.25	0.254	0.85296	1.82678

RC=Reference Category, Test was run at 95% significance level, *= $p<0.05$ **= $p<0.01$

Table 4.2.1 presents the unadjusted binary logistic regression showing the odds associated with being a young father in South Africa across the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics.

As perceived on the table, the results yielded a significant outcome for young males who were employed and those who are still at school. Meaning, young employed males are 44% less likely to father a child than unemployed young males. On the other hand, young males who are still at school are more likely (8.92) to be a young father than young males who are out of school and unemployed (p-value 0.000).

The results also show a statistical significant outcome for young males aged 15-24 years who were single in South Africa. Implying that, single young males are more likely (8.66) to be a young father than young males who are married (the reference category). Moreover, when looking at the province of residence, statistical significant results were observed in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. Young males from the Eastern Cape are 2.66 (p-value 0.006) times more likely to become a young father than young males from the Western Cape (the reference category).

On the other hand, young males from KwaZulu-Natal province are 2.18 (p-value 0.011) times more likely to become a young father than young males from the Western Cape. The results were also statistically significant for young males who used a condom during their last sexual encounter, and their odds were 0.64 (p-value 0.008) times less likely to become a young father than young males who didn't use a condom during their last sexual encounter in South Africa (the reference category).

Lastly, statistical significant results were observed for young males who were coloured, Indian and white. Wherein, the odds of a coloured male aged 15-24 years in South Africa was 0.66 (p-value 0.028) times less likely to become a young father than young males who were African (the reference category). Moreover, white males were 3.47 (p-value 0.016) times more likely to become a young father than males who were African. And, Indian males were 2.41 (p-value 0.027) times more likely to become a young father than males who were African in South Africa.

Table 4.2.2: Adjusted logistic regression model showing the odds of young fathers by select characteristics in South Africa.

Characteristics of the Sample	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Employment Status				
Unemployed	RC			
Employed	0.47	0.000	0.31278	0.7180928
At School	8.52	0.000	4.90164	14.82387
Education Status				
No education	RC			
Primary Education	0.88	0.909	0.09840	7.861111
Secondary Education	0.40	0.388	0.04841	3.246259
Higher Education	0.59	0.653	0.06160	5.730312
Marital Status				
Married	RC			
Living together	1.54	0.581	0.33142	7.175459
Single	7.92	0.000	3.55166	17.6557
Province of residence				
Western Cape	RC			
Eastern Cape	1.66	0.193	0.77329	3.584445
Northern Cape	0.44	0.020	0.21928	0.879201

Free State	0.90	0.809	0.39512	2.064033
KwaZulu-Natal	1.14	0.735	0.54028	2.393578
North West	1.33	0.511	0.56663	3.133261
Gauteng	1.08	0.823	0.54941	2.122887
Mpumalanga	1.11	0.831	0.42065	2.938381
Limpopo	0.65	0.324	0.27865	1.525017
Condom use				
Yes	RC			
No	0.93	0.707	0.64056	1.352684
Race				
African	RC			
White	8.36	0.000	2.66133	26.27667
Coloured	1.11	0.689	0.66659	1.84672
Indian	5.29	0.001	1.99401	14.02252
Place of residence				
Urban area	RC			
Rural area	1.13	0.652	0.66738	1.907429

RC=Reference Category, Test was run at 95% significance level, *= $p<0.05$ **= $p<0.01$

Table 4.2.2 presents the adjusted binary logistic regression showing the odds associated with being a young father in South Africa across the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. Adjusted binary logistic regression as observed on the table, yielded significant outcome for young males who are employed and those who

are still at school. As observed from table 4.2.2, young males who are employed were less likely (0.47) to become a young father than young males who were unemployed (the reference category). On the other hand, the odds of young males who are still at school are 8.52 (p-value 0.000) times more likely to become a young father than young males who are unemployed.

Additionally, the results also show a statistical significant outcome for young males aged 15-24 years who were single in South Africa. Implying that, the odds of single males aged 15-24 years are 7.92 (p-value 0.000 times) times more likely to become a young father than young males who were married (the reference category). The province of residence only yielded statistical significant results for Northern Cape Province. As the odds of young males aged 15-24 from the Northern Cape are 0.44 (p-value 0.020) times less likely to become a young father than young males from the Western Cape (the reference category).

Finally, the table also showed a statistical significant results for males who were Indian and White. Wherein, the odds of a white young male were 8.36 (p-value 0.000) times more likely to become a young father than males who were African (the reference category). In addition, Indian young males were 5.29 (p-value 0.001) times more likely to become a young father than young males who were African in South Africa.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION

5.1 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter was to present the study findings. In presenting this discussion, the discussed findings were unified and integrated within the context of what is known about young fathers globally.

5.2 Discussion

The study focused on young fathers between the age group of 15-19 years and 20-24 years. The study found that a majority of young fathers in South Africa are between the ages of 20-24 years, with a few between the ages of 15-19 years. In South Africa, most studies have focused on young fathers between 15-19 years, and part of this could be that most of these studies looked at teenage fathers opposed to young fathers (Madiba, 2017).

This study observed that a majority of young fathers in South Africa reside in the Gauteng and Western Cape provinces. This finding was not consistent with previous studies that were reviewed. The available literature in South Africa showed that majority of young males who were fathers would either come from three provinces with the highest poverty rates. These provinces are KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Limpopo (Armstrong et al., 2008). Considering previous studies conducted in South Africa, the expectation was that a majority of the young fathers would reside in the poorest provinces. The expectation is further justified by what a number of studies found a positive association existing between poverty and young fatherhood (Chideya & Williams, 2014; Madiba & Nsiki, 2017; Mathur et al., 2016). This positive association is not only observed in developing countries, studies in developed countries also reported a positive association between poverty and young fatherhood (Landers et al., 2015; Lau Clayton, 2016).

Though Gauteng and Western Cape provinces are regarded as the richest provinces in South Africa; studies have shown that there is a socio-economic fragmentation existing in these provinces (Rogerson & Nel, 2016; Toit & Bowers, 2014). This fragmentation is mainly characterised by a lot of the youth living in disadvantaged areas which are densely populated and are commonly known as informal settlements. A contributing factor to most young fathers coming from the Western Cape can be

understood through a study that was conducted in informal settlements in Cape Town. The study found that young males in these areas were more likely to have multiple sexual partners and they practised unsafe sex (Kaufman et al., 2014). Additionally, studies have shown a high prevalence of sexual risky behaviour among young males in Gauteng (Dietrich et al., 2013; Nattrass et al., 2012). Even though these provinces are not the poorest in the country, the above explanations then provide an understanding as to why a majority of young fathers are from these two provinces. A finding of a study conducted in these two provinces further justified this finding, as it reported that the nature of societies found in these provinces usually exposes young people to engage in risky sexual behaviour such as lack of consistent condom use and substance abuse among young males (Frank et al., 2008).

The finding on place of residence of young fathers in South Africa was unexpected. The expectation was that a majority of young fathers in South Africa would be from rural areas. And this expectation was largely informed by previous studies conducted across South Africa which reported a majority of young fathers were from rural areas than urban areas (Chideya & Williams, 2014; Madiba & Nsiki, 2017; Richter & Morrell, 2006). However, it is important to note that these studies employed a qualitative research design and there was no evident study particularly in South Africa that explored the association between place of residence and young fatherhood across the nine provinces.

This result further brings some justification on the earlier discussed finding on the province of residence of young fathers in South Africa. Studies conducted in Cape Town and Johannesburg have shown that these provinces are highly characterised by urban areas than rural areas; hence studies on early parenting in these provinces indicated that most young parents usually come from urban areas than rural areas (Clark et al., 2015; Roets, 2014). Since majority of young fathers were from Gauteng and the Western Cape provinces it would then make sense for most of them being from urban areas than rural areas.

However, this finding was in contrary with a more recent multi-country study conducted in sub-Saharan Africa; mainly because of differences in the sample sizes in these studies. The multi-country study found a positive association between rural place of residence and adolescent fatherhood and a negative association between urban place

of residence and adolescent fatherhood (Amoo et al., 2017). This could be a result of most countries in Africa highly characterised by rural areas than urban areas when compared to South Africa. A Possible contributing factor to most young males becoming young fathers in urban areas in South Africa, can be understood through a study conducted in urban areas in Johannesburg which detailed how risky sexual behaviour is prevalent among young males in urban areas which range from early sexual debut and lack of condom use among other risky sexual behaviours (Brahmbhatt et al., 2014).

It can then be reasoned that, young males from urban areas are more likely to have an early sexual debut that increases their chances of being a young father than males from rural areas who might have a delayed sexual debut. A study that was conducted in rural areas in South Africa reported that young males who were not yet young fathers planned to have children while still in their teenage years (Hendricks et al., 2010). And when their reasons for doing so were interrogated it was found that they wanted to leave a legacy, keep a partner, and wanting to be seen as 'fashionable' amongst their peers (Hendricks et al., 2010). Early exposure to risky sexual behaviour is then observed as a determinant of fatherhood for young males in urban areas. While on the other hand masculinity was a determinant of fatherhood for young males in rural areas. Meaning, this finding was consistent with the hypothesis of the study as there is an association between the place of residence and being a young father in South Africa.

This study found that a number of young fathers in South Africa did not use a condom during their last sexual intercourse. This finding is consistent with another study conducted in South Africa which reported a low prevalence of condom use among males aged 15-24 years (Moyo et al., 2008). The inconsistent condom use among young fathers is usually influenced by their peers and the social environment they live in which is mostly characterised by substance abuse and gender based violence among other factors (Beksinska et al., 2012).

A study conducted in KwaZulu-Natal found that factors associated with poor condom use were described as signifying trust between partners, and young women feared introducing condoms because of accusations of infidelity and consequent abuse. However, contraception and HIV prevention was described as the responsibility of

woman by young fathers (Enderstein & Boonzaier, 2015). This practise might ensure that the female partner does not fall pregnant but might open a window of opportunity for infectious diseases such as STIs and HIV which are already a burden to the ill health of young people in South Africa.

This finding was consistent with a study that used a male recode datasets of the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) (2000-2014) for Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Zambia which yielded similar results. The study reported a decrease in the practice of condom use among young males between 15-24 years across the countries under study (Amoo et al., 2017). This further proves that the decrease in condom use for young males and fathers is not only a problem in South Africa but appears to be a regional problem in sub-Saharan Africa. And for a region that is the epicentre of HIV and AIDS epidemic it then becomes a major concern when young people increasingly engage in unprotected sex. This is worrying as the region has an estimated 2.1 million young people living with HIV in 2016 (UNITAID, 2017). And given the high prevalence of HIV infection among young people in South Africa; in order to achieve the SDG 3 of ending the epidemic by 2030, young fathers will also need to be central in achieving goal.

Today, South Africa is a country highly challenged by unemployment and of great concern is youth unemployment. In 2018, of the 10.3 million persons aged 15–24 years in South Africa, 32.4% were unemployed (Statistics SA, 2018). This study was consistent with Statistics South Africa's report on youth unemployment, as this study also found that a majority of young males aged 15-24 years who reported to be a father in the study were unemployed. An estimated 65% of young males in South Africa who are unemployed have never held a job (Cloete, 2015). For young fathers, this mean that those who are currently unemployed might continue to find it difficult to financially provide for their children.

Although there are various reasons for youth unemployment such as lack of higher education or skills, lack of experience, inappropriate ways of searching for a job, and lack of career guidance in schools (Cloete, 2015). The state of unemployment in the country is most likely to negatively impact the prospects of young fathers getting a job and supporting their children. Thus programmes should be in place such as subsidised day care for young fathers to ease the burden of providing financially for their children.

This study found that most of these young fathers were no longer at school and most had some secondary education while a few had a tertiary qualification. This is a concern because males between 19-24 years are expected to at least be studying in a tertiary institution. However, access to tertiary education in South Africa is still problematic together with completing it. This finding was consistent with a study conducted by Swartz and Bhana (2009), the study found that a majority of the young fathers in their study had lower educational attainment. The reason why majority of young fathers are unemployed cannot be alluded to their low educational attainment. As mentioned above, the high youth unemployment rate in South Africa affects not only those without a formal qualification but also those with a formal qualification. This is a concern when young fathers are acknowledging that the caring role of a father is overtaken by a need to provide financially for their child (Panday et al., 2009). Therefore, failure to provide financially might contribute to absenteeism in their children's life (Chideya & Williams, 2014).

The study found that most of the discussed outcomes are usually experienced by young Black Africans opposed to the other racial groups. Part of this could be that, Black Africans are the largest proportion in the South African population. For instance, the South African 2011 Census, estimated that there were 79,195.6 Africans per 100,000 population, 8,923 Coloured per 100,000 population, 8,866 Whites per 100,000 population and 4,829 were Indians per 100,000 (Statistics SA, 2011). Even in this study, most young males were Black Africans. It then stands to reason that most young fathers in South Africa are black African males.

5.10 Strength of the research design and results

This study was one of the few studies in South Africa on young fathers that has employed a quantitative research design. Quantitative studies are important mostly on areas which are under researched like young fathers particularly in generalizing the results to the cohort of young males between the ages of 15-24 years in South Africa. Moreover, the available literature on young fathers never looked at the determinants of being a young father in South Africa. And part of this has left out young fathers in policies aimed at early parenting. Thus, the results of this study will help policy makers in South Africa understand the determinant's of being a young father and will be able to make informed decisions in incorporating young fathers on programmes and

policies to prevent early parenting that has been identified to have negative social and health outcomes.

CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATION, POLICY IMPLICATION AND LIMITATIONS

6.1 Conclusion

This study has identified the socioeconomic and demographic determinants associated with being a young father in South Africa. It was found that young fathers face various socioeconomic challenges such as poor educational attainment, unemployment and lack of condom use. During this phase of early parenting, young fathers need support as this phase is highly characterised by various social predicaments and a prominent one being failure to provide financially for their children (Neale, 2016). And these predicaments were being determined by young fatherhood and not a determinant of being a young father. These various social predicaments have a likelihood of leading young fathers to engage in substance use, gang involvement, and violent behaviour which has been shown to be prevalent during early fatherhood (Cundy, 2016).

Young males particularly in urban areas should receive age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education before they become fathers to build their decision-making skills regarding their sexual behaviour. This will contribute in preventing unplanned fatherhood, and avoid STIs, including HIV. These efforts would contribute in achieving SDG 3 by 2030 in South Africa. Moreover, they need to be supported with programmes that will enable them to get education and find sustainable jobs. Part of these programmes can comprise of subsidised day care that would ease some of their financial responsibilities.

The subsidised day care would provide some form of relief especially when considering the argument made by Panday and colleagues (2009) who found that young fathers acknowledged that the caring role of a father is overtaken by a need to provide financially for the child. Madiba and Nsiki (2017) also alluded to the fact that failure of these young fathers to financially care for their children resulted in some dropping out of school to improve their financial status in order to care for their children. The subsidised day care would be ideal as the study found that a majority of the young fathers don't have higher education which can offer them better employment. Jobs centres would also be recommended as they will assist them with how to look for a job and applying for learnerships that will allow them to get a stipend while getting a

qualification and taking care of their children financially. Initiatives such as young fathers peer group support and early parenting awareness campaign for young males to make them aware and prepare with early parenting challenges.

According to the results, these programmes should be prioritised in the Western Cape and Gauteng as majority of young fathers are found in these provinces. The failure of young fathers to support their children financially has been found to contribute to most of them being absent in their children's lives (Chili & Maharaj, 2015). Thus having this programmes would assist in addressing the problem of absent young fathers in South Africa (Padi et al., 2014). One major contributing factor to young fathers being absent in their children's life is a result of them defining or seeing the role of a father revolving around financially providing for their children (Chideya & Williams, 2014).

This study has shown the determinants associated with early parenting for young males and females in South Africa appears to be different. Further ascertaining that young fathers are face with an array of challenges during this phase of their lives. And when looking at the policy landscape of early parenting in South Africa, it has been criticised for not supporting young fathers. Thus, policies such as the South African Schools Act (1996) and the WHO guidelines on preventing early pregnancies should also consider to address the determinants associated with being a young father. These efforts would yield positive contribution to the socioeconomic development of the country and further achieving the NDP vision of ensuring that the goal of giving young people better education opportunities that will contribute to the eradication of poverty.

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1 Study recommendations

According to the results of this study, it is then recommended that surveys which focus on fertility should incorporate young males. This would help in providing a more reliable estimation of how many young males in South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa are young fathers. Having reliable data on the level of young fathers would strengthen policies and programmes around young fatherhood. Furthermore, future studies can look into the age in which most males become young fathers this would help in understanding the age at which young males are most likely to become a young father. Programmes that are age appropriate and comprising of comprehensive sexuality education should be in place for these young males to build their decision-making skills

regarding their sexual behaviour, prevent unplanned fatherhood, and avoid STIs, including HIV.

Again, future studies should also look at who are the mothers of the children of these young fathers, are they in the same age group or not. This would help in understanding the decision making power around using protection during sexual intercourse. There is a need to understand why young fathers, who are unemployed continue to not use condoms and risk having more children who they cannot afford to care for. The study further found that young fathers in South Africa are from urban areas opposed to rural areas. Few studies from the observed literature have looked at the place of residence of young fathers in South Africa and this then presents a research gap wherein studies can explore the relationship between place of residence and being a young father in detail.

The study yielded some unexpected results wherein it found that, young White and Indian males between the ages of 15-24 years were more likely to become a young father in South Africa. Studies should also look into incorporating young White and Indians males in studies of early parenting in order to explore the determinants behind their likelihood. As most studies have focused on young African males and this research has shown that young White and Indian males are more likely to become a young father than African males. Lastly, most studies on young fathers have employed a qualitative research design with a limited number of studies using a quantitative design. Future research should also focus in conducting quantitative studies that will be able to generate results that can be generalizable to the study population.

A finding from this study further substantiate that attention should be placed in urban male adolescent than only focusing on rural male adolescent. Factors influencing these young males in urban areas can further be explored to better understand whether the determinants of being a young father for urban males and rural males are the same or not.

The phase of early parenting for young males between the 15-24 years has been observed to be characterised by negative social and health outcomes affecting not only the father but their children too. However, when considering the policy and programme landscape around early fatherhood, there is still an existing gap of programmes and policies which are aimed at addressing the negative outcomes and

most importantly supporting young fathers. The implementation of the aforementioned programmes and policies when considering the South African context of early fatherhood are thus recommended.

6.3 Policy implication

The results of this study would be of interest to the Department of Health, Social Development and the Department of Basic Education in South Africa. The results of this study have shown the importance of incorporating young fathers in policies of early parenting in South Africa. For instance, the South African School Act of 1997, which has been criticized for only supporting young not to drop out of school should also provide the same support to young fathers (Ramulumo & Pitsoe, 2013). This study has shown that a number of young fathers are still at school. Therefore, policies such as the South African School Act of 19997 can help address this disparity. The WHO guidelines on preventing early pregnancies should also consider the determinants associated with being a young father and empower young males to prevent unplanned fatherhood. Literature has shown that young males who become fathers while still at school are more likely to drop in their academic performance. And the phase of young fatherhood comes with pressure of financially providing for their children. These two negative outcomes can contribute to some young fathers dropping out of school which has negative implications to the socioeconomic development of South Africa. Thus, amending this act would help keep most young males in school and better their prospects of getting a higher education.

Furthermore, the Department of Health and Social Development can start a joint programme that can mobilize young fathers in South Africa to help them cope with the challenges associated with being a father at an early age and further empower young fathers to make positive decisions when it comes to their sexual relationships. The aforementioned is important because the study has established that young males after being a young father they continue engaging in risky sexual behaviour and literature shows that the period of being a young father is characterised by negative social and health outcomes.

6.4 Limitations

6.4.1 Study limitations

As like any other study, this study too was prone to limitations. The first notable limitation of the study was that not all variables at individual, household and community levels were available for use in this study. This has since limited the overall analysis as the study was unable to do a contextual analysis of young fathers in South Africa.

Additionally, the only data source that could be used to identify young fathers was the HSRC SABSSM data for 2008 and 2012. And generally, studies on fertility are faced with over-counting and under-counting in particular of children born to young males, which was a limitation in reporting the level of young fathers in South Africa for this study. A possible reason to over-counting and under-counting of children born to young males could be that unlike young females where it can be ascertained that they are a parent, it is difficult to ascertain with young males.

This study was further limited in its inability to determine causality of young fathers aged 15-24 in South Africa. Similarly, the study will be unable to ascertain if information on the fertility of sampled young males aged 15-24 in the study was affected by recall bias.

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Synopsis of young father's literature

Table 0.1

Author (s)	Title and Year	Theory	Study design	Data source (s)	Method (s)	Level of analysis	Results/Findings	Gaps
Amoo Emmanuel Olagunju	Emerging teen fatherhood and its implication for national development (2012)	No	Quantitative	Interviews with 20 teen-males.	Logistic regression	Individual	The study found that teenager's involvement in sexual activities is positively associated with paternal income and mother's education. It found that respondent that used protection during sex such as condoms, pills and local herbs were less likely to have multiple sexual partners compared to teenagers who use no form of protection.	The study failed to address the association between adolescent fatherhood and socioeconomic factors. Furthermore, the study failed to address the level of teenage fathers in Nigeria but found that being a teen father will have negative development effects.
Emmanuel O Amoo, Angie Igbinoba, David Imhonopi, Olufunmilayo O Banjo,	Trends, drivers and health risks of adolescent fatherhood in sub-Saharan Africa (2017)	No	Quantitative	The study used male recode datasets of DHS (2000-2014) for	Logistic regression	Multi-national	The study found that the positive association between rural place of residence and adolescent	The study didn't explore the vulnerability of adolescent males to early parenting. The study didn't clarify

Chukwuedozie K Ajaero, Joshua O Akinyemi, David Igbokwe and Lukeman B Solanke				Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Zambia			fatherhood. The study further found a decrease in the practice of multiple sexual partners, condom use, and overwhelming knowledge on STIs, HIV and AIDS among the adolescent studied.	whether the 3 selected countries are a representative sample for sub-Saharan Africa.
Sandra Bathasara, Tafadzwa Chevo and Talent Changadeya	An exploratory study of male adolescent sexuality in Zimbabwe: The case of adolescents in Kuwadzana Extension, Harare (2014)	Yes- Social constructionist theory	Qualitative	Interviews with 40 adolescent boys aged 16-19	In-depth interviews and key informant interviews	Individual	The study found the influences of popular discourses of masculinities, gender relations, male sexuality and sexual expectations whilst recognizing adolescent agency and interactional dynamics in constructing sexual reality.	The study didn't explain the determinants that influences the popular discourse on gender and male sexuality.
Yeukai Chideya and Fatima Williams	Adolescent fathers: exploring their perception of their role as parent	No	Qualitative	Interviews with 10 adolescent fathers of Hanover Park, Khayelitsha, Samora Machel and	In-depth interviews	Individual	The study found that adolescent fathers from developing countries who are from low socio-economic background also face challenges	The study failed to look at the impact of fatherhood on the lives of these adolescent males. And it failed to clearly state the research gap that

				Gugulethu in Cape Town.			which can be further researched.	can be further researched.
Kim Jonas, Rik Crutzen, Bart van den Borne, Ronel Sawpaul and Priscilla Reddy	Teenage pregnancy rate and association with other health risk behaviour: a three wave cross sectional study among South African school-going adolescents (2016)	No	Quantitative	A total of 31 816 South African School going adolescents between 11-19 years of age were interviewed.	Three cross sectional surveys	National	The study found that sexual intercourse among adolescents in South Africa has decreased between 2002 and 2011. However, the study found that pregnancy among girls who have ever had sex increased between 2002 and 2008 to only decrease in 2011.	The study failed to recognize risky behaviour such as substance use among adolescent fathers. It further failed to provide a motivation for the three wave survey and did no base their work on a theory.
Sphiwe Madiba and Carol Nsiki	Teen fathers perceptions and experiences of fatherhood: A qualitative exploration with in school teen fathers in a rural district in South Africa (2017)	No	Qualitative	Interviews with 25 teen fathers aged 16-19 years between August and September 2014 from two high schools in a rural district in Limpopo province.	In-depth interviews	Individual	The study found that fathering for young fathers was limited to providing financially for their child. Most were transformed by the experience of being a young father. The lack of financial means to support their children were significant barriers to involvement in the life of their	The study utilized a small sample that cannot be generalized to all young fathers in SA. The study did not address why adolescent father's perception of a good father is limited to providing financially. The study also failed to use a theory to justify its findings.

							children and mother.	
Carmen Lau Clayton	The lives of young fathers: A review of selected evidence	No	Quantitative	Statistical evidence from large-scale survey of young fathers in the UK	Systematic review of literature on young fathers in the UK	National	The paper found that fathering for young fathers is dependent on a number of complex and often interlinking factors such as education, training and employment opportunities, relationship with the baby's mother, support levels from maternal and paternal grandparents, resident arrangement and access to formal service provision many of which can become barriers to overcome.	The study failed to explain some of the barriers adolescent fathers encounter for universal provision such as midwifery and health visiting. The study didn't address the health aspects associated with adolescent fathers.
Sanyukta Mathura, Jenny Higginsb, Nityanjali Thummalacheettya, Mariko Rasmussena, Laura Kelleye, Neema	Fatherhood, marriage and HIV risk among young man in Uganda (2016)	No	Mixed methods	Life-history interview data	Interviews with 30 HIV positive and HIV negative young men aged 15-24	Individual	The study found that young man consistently reported the desire for fatherhood as a cornerstone of masculinity and	The study was unable to discern major differences in the early life experiences of HIV-positive and negative young men,

Nakyanjod, Fred Nalugodad and John Sanellia					years in rural Uganda.		transition to adulthood. Yet, most were unable to realize their marital intentions.	possibly because of the sample size issues.
Nolwazi Mkhwanazi	Understanding teenage pregnancy in post-apartheid SA (2010)	No	Qualitative	Formal interviews with young and old, male and female inhabitants of Nyanga township in Cape Town.	Observations and key informant interview	Individual	The study found that despite the negative perception of teenage pregnancy within the township, particular social and cultural circumstances provided a fertile ground for early parenting.	The study was unable to explain why the management of teenage pregnancy played a functional and critical role in maintaining and reproducing social norms and ideals regarding intergenerational relationships, which ultimately ensured that the rates of early child bearing remained high.
Sibusiso Mkhwanazi	Teenage pregnancy in SA: Setting a new research agenda (2017)	Yes-Ecology theory	Quantitative	Statistical associations from previous research on teenage pregnancy	Systematic review of literature on teenage pregnancy	National	The study found a steady increase in teenage pregnancy levels through charting recent teenage pregnancy levels and showed statistical differences in provincial levels of teenage pregnancy.	The study didn't examine the variables occurring at individual and social level. The study failed to provide evidence of the teenage pregnancy increase in SA.

Thobeka Ntini and Vishanthie Sewpaul	School-going teenage mothers and fathers: Gender challenges and the negotiation of learner-parent roles (2017)	Yes-anti-oppressive and emancipatory theory	Qualitative	Interviews with 11 teenage parents from a secondary school in a Durban township.	Focus group and semi-structured individual interviews	Individual	The study found that financial challenges and disruption in schooling were major concerns. Positive experiences were also born out of their challenging circumstances. There was a clear difference in the experiences of young fathers and mothers.	The study didn't highlight the cause of the differences that exist between young mothers and fathers. And the results cannot be inferred to early parenting because of the small sample.
Mathieu Tchetché	Fatherhood with the contemporary male youth in Abidjan (Cote D'ivoire): the realities of construction, deconstruction and reconstruction (2013)	Yes-constructivism	Mixed methods	200 youth aged 15-30 years with experience of fatherhood between 14-19 years.	Questionnaires	Individual	The study found that increasing modernization and media exposure, along with the decline in the authority of parents and elders. It further found that the undermining of societal and cultural rules that was controlling and informing adolescents sexuality has diminished.	The study didn't look at the determinants of young adolescents engaging in risky sexual behaviour.

Tsoaledi Daniel Thobejane	Factors contributing to teenage pregnancy in S.A: The case of Matjitjileng village (2015)	No	Qualitative	Interviews with 20 young parents of Matjitjileng village	In-depth interviews	Individual	The study found that most of the teenagers fell pregnant at the age of 16 and 19 years. It found that most of them fell pregnant because of lack of parental guidance and role models in the village.	The study failed to explain how the majority of teen mothers failed to cope with parenthood. And the findings of the study cannot be generalizable.
Mashudu Ramulumo and Victor Pitsoe	Teenage pregnancy in South African schools: Challenges, Trends and policy issues (2013)	No	Quantitative	Literature review on teenage pregnancy	Systematic review of teenage pregnancy	National	The study found that schools face the challenge of learner pregnancies on a daily basis and they required by law and policy to keep the pregnant learner at school. The study further found that despite the presence of the constitution and policy, principals continue to expel pregnant learners at school.	The study didn't suggest ways in which parents of adolescents can improve their communication skills when it comes to talking about sexual matters with their children to empower them makes safe decisions when it comes to their sexual relationships.
Panday S, Makiwane M, Ranchod C and Letsoalo T	Teenage pregnancy in SA: with a specific focus	No	Quantitative	Desktop review of literature supported by	Literature review focused on studies conducted in	National	The study found that despite the growing research on fatherhood in	The study didn't address ways in which researchers can contribute to

	with school going learners			secondary analysis	2000 and 2008 but also includes seminal works prior to 2000		SA, scant data is available both locally and internationally on young fatherhood. Available international literature suggests that the profile of young fathers is not different from that of young mothers as they tend to come from low income homes, poor school performance, low educational attainment and seldom have financial resources to support the child and the mother.	the scant literature available on young fathers.
Monica J Grant and Kelly K Hallman	Pregnancy-related school dropout and prior school performance in KZN (2008)	No	Quantitative	2001 survey the transitions to adulthood in the context of AIDS in SA.	Questionnaires	Provincial	The study found that prior schooling discontinuities defined as instances of non-pregnancy-related grade repetition or temporal withdrawals from school are strongly	The study failed to acknowledge the coping mechanisms of young parents who do not drop out of school.

							associated with a young women's likelihood of later becoming pregnant while enrolled at school, dropping out of school when they become pregnant and not returning to school when following a pregnancy related dropout. Young woman who are the primary caregivers to their children are also significantly more likely to leave school than those who have another caregiver when they are at school.	
Monica Landers, Ojmarrh Michel and Erica Coates	Teenage fatherhood as a potential turning point in the lives of delinquent youth (2014)	No	Quantitative	National longitudinal survey of youth	Fixed-effects negative binomial regression	National	The results indicated that non-residential fatherhood placed delinquent teens at greater odds for future arrest compared to residential fatherhood. Furthermore,	The study ignored the possibility of the positive effect that fatherhood poses for the subpopulation.

							delinquent teens when residing with their children reported less offending behaviours such as marijuana use and drug distribution, compared to periods where they did not reside with their children.	
Ason M Fletcher and Barbara L Wolfe	The effects of teenage fatherhood on young adult outcome (2012)	No	Quantitative	National longitudinal study of adolescent health and national survey of family growth	Multinomial logistics regression	National	The study found that being a teenage father decreases the years of schooling and the likelihood of receiving a high school diploma and increases general educational development receipt. Teenage fatherhood also appeared to increase early marriage and cohabitation and has mixed short term effects on several labour outcomes.	The research estimates are necessarily limited to short term effects of teenage fatherhood. Although the sample is small and likely a subsample of teenage males involved in a pregnancy. The study found it difficult to match the pregnancy outcomes in its dataset to national estimates because there are few informative datasets containing

								pregnancy outcomes for young fathers.
Gilda Sedgh, Lawrence Finer, Akinrinola Bankole, Michelle Eilers and Susheela Singh	Adolescent pregnancy, birth and abortion rates across countries: levels and recent trends (2015)	No	Quantitative	The data sources used for each component in each country are UNPD Interpolation (2009), UNICEF (2011), Office for National Statistics (2011) and UNSD (2009)	Bivariate analysis of two continuous variables	Multi-national	The study found that among the 21 countries with complete statistics, the pregnancy rate among 15-19 years old adolescents was high in the United States and the lowest rate was in Switzerland. Rates were also higher in some former soviet countries with incomplete statistics. They were also high in Mexico and sub-Saharan African countries with complete information.	The study only includes countries for which estimates of both birth and abortion are available. Rates and trends could be different in countries that are not included in this study.
Atika Khurana and Stephen M Gavazzi	Juvenile delinquency and adolescent fatherhood (2010)	Yes-Ecological systems model	Quantitative	Interviews with 2931 male youth between 11-19 years in November 2002 and May 2005	The data instrument tool used was 132-item GRAD, version 1.0	Provincial	The study found that the European American court involved youth in the sample were as likely to become teen fathers as their African American counterparts.	The study was unable to report on more specific circumstances related to teen fathers, including the ability to determine the timing of fathering

							<p>However, an in-depth examination of the social ecologies of these court showed that youth revealed significant racial differences, with African American males reporting more prior offences, delinquent peer association, traumatic pasts, risky sexual behaviour and educational risks as compared to European American youth who reported greater involvement in substance abuse.</p>	<p>in relation to the youth's experiences of various risk events and behaviours. Also, unknown is the accuracy of youth self-report of their paternity status as well as the degree of their involvement with their children which may be affecting their levels of risks and needs.</p>
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