



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

DEFINING PROBLEMS. SHAPING SOLUTIONS.

Pregnancy, Parenting, and Romantic Relationships

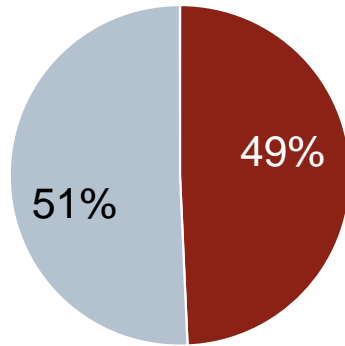
Brooke Stevenson
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Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

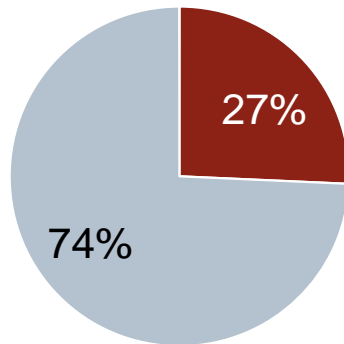
Pregnancy History (Females)

Ever been pregnant



■ Yes ■ No

Ever given birth

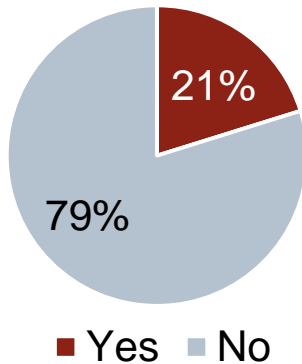


■ Yes ■ No

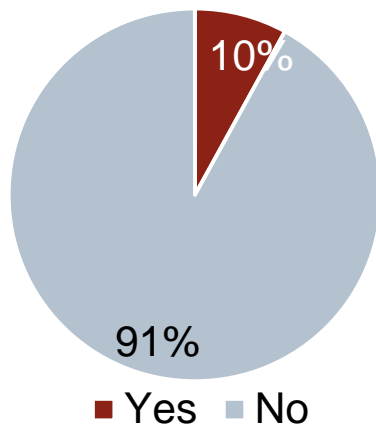
- Since the last interview...
 - 33% of females had become pregnant
 - 21% of females gave birth
- Among females who got pregnant since last interview...
 - 33% wanted to get pregnant
 - 37% did not want to get pregnant
 - 24% were not seen by a doctor or nurse during their first trimester

History of Impregnating Females (Males)

Ever gotten a female pregnant



Ever fathered a child



- Since the last interview...
 - 13% of males had gotten a female pregnant
 - 7% of males fathered a child that was born
- Among males who impregnated females since last interview...
 - 29% did want to father a child
 - 37% did not want to father a child

Children and Parenting

All Youth (<i>n</i> =611)	Males		Females	
	n	%	n	%
Not a parent	222	90.5	268	72.8
Has a living child ***	22	9.5	99	27.2

*** Statistically significant difference ($p < .001$)

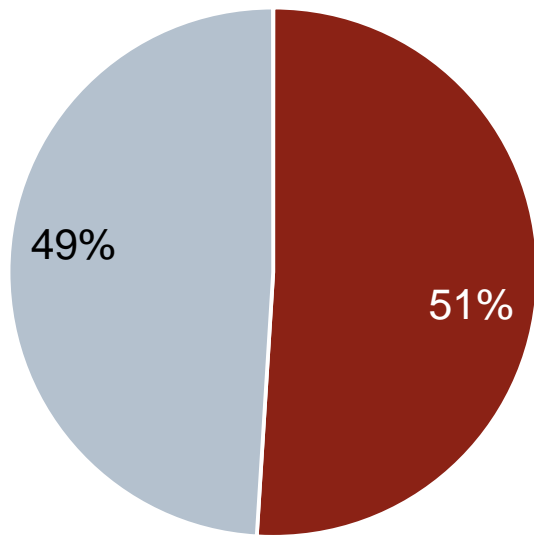
Children and Parenting

Parents (<i>n</i> =121)	Males		Females	
	n	%	n	%
Number of living children				
1 child	22	100	87	90.8
2 children	0	0.0	12	9.2
Respondent lives with all children ***	10	42.7	86	88.2
At least one child is a dependent of the court	3	14.6	13	15.5

*** Statistically significant difference ($p < .001$)

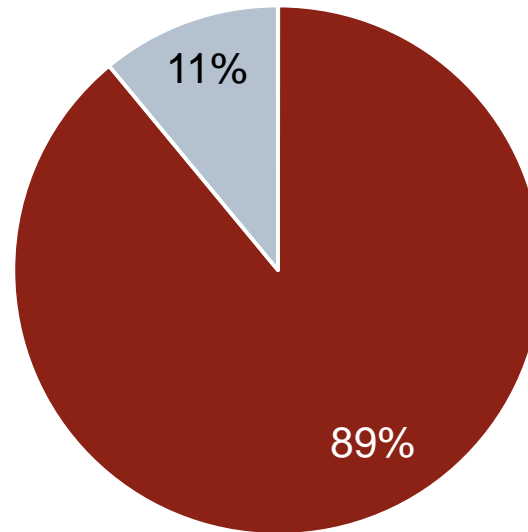
Romantic Relationships

Currently in a romantic relationship



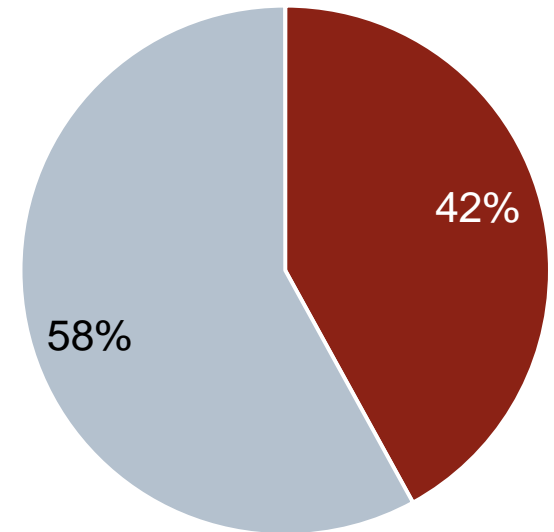
- Yes
- No

Relationship with current partner



- Steady basis
- Not on a steady basis

Lives with partner

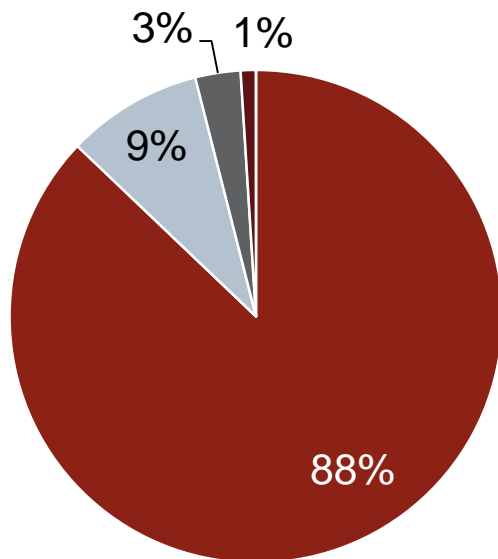


- Yes
- No

Love, Happiness, and Commitment

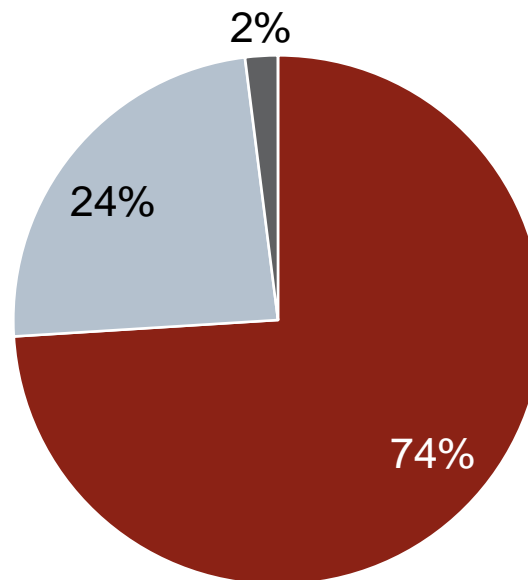
- Most youth felt a lot of love for their partner, were committed to their partner, and were “fairly” or “very happy” in their relationship.

Love for partner



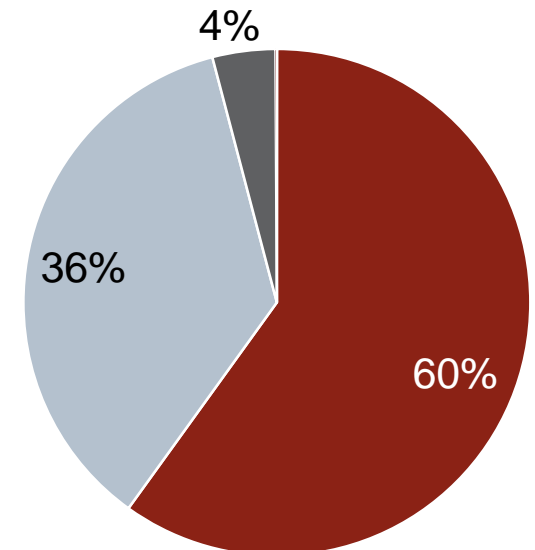
- A lot
- Somewhat
- A little
- Not at all

Happy in relationship



- Very
- Fairly
- Not too

Committed to partner



- Completely
- Very
- Somewhat
- Not at all

Relationship Quality

- About 9 in 10 youth in a romantic relationship “agree” or “strongly agree” that...
 - Their partner listens
 - Their partner expresses love and affection
 - Their partner is encouraging
 - They trust their partner to be faithful
 - They are satisfied with their sex life
- Most youth did not report experiencing criticism or manipulation in their relationship

Summary

- Females were more likely to have gotten pregnant than males were to have gotten a partner pregnant
- Females were more likely than males to be a parent, and if they were a parent, to be living with their children
- Few children were involved with the child welfare system
- Over half of youth were in romantic relationships, and most of these relationships had a high level of commitment and satisfaction