



Working with Teen Dads: An Opportunity to Change Futures

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Young Dads in Healthy Families New York

1. How many young fathers are there?
2. Who are these young dads?
3. What disadvantages do young fathers face?

Information is taken from an analysis of a sample of families enrolled in HFNY from May, 2007 to December, 2008 and interviews of 9 father advocates conducted in fall 2008.



Father Presence in HFNY Families

- 1848 families enrolled in HFNY in 2008.
- 982 families listed a Primary Caretaker 2 at enrollment.
- 753 families (40.7% of 1848) listed a biological father as Primary Caretaker 2.
- 230 fathers in the home (31.0% of 742 fathers with marital data) are married.



Young Dads in HFNY

| Age | Number |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Under 22 years | 131 (18.6%) |
| 22 years and older | 575 (81.4%) |
| Total* | 706 |

* For fathers with age data.

- Less than 20% of fathers in the home at enrollment are young adults.
- 524 families (28.4% of 1848) had a biological mother who was 19 years or younger.
- The number of young fathers in HFNY is much smaller than the number of teen mothers.



Who Are the Young Dads? Race and Ethnicity

| Race / Ethnicity | Younger Fathers | Older Fathers |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| White | 79 (61.7%) | 291 (51.3%) |
| Black | 14 (10.9%) | 90 (15.9%) |
| Hispanic | 27 (21.1%) | 162 (28.6%) |
| Other* | 8 (6.3%) | 24 (4.2%) |
| Total^ | 128 | 567 |

* Including Asian, Native American, and other ethnicities.

^ For fathers with both age and race / ethnicity data.

- More of the younger fathers are white, and fewer are black or Hispanic, compared to the older fathers.
- Even so, more than one-third of the younger fathers are not white, and nearly one-half of the older fathers are not white.



Who Are the Young Dads?

Nativity

| Nativity | Younger Fathers | Older Fathers |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| USA | 109 (83.2%) | 415 (72.2%) |
| Other Country | 22 (16.8%) | 160 (27.8%) |
| Total | 131 | 575 |

- More of the younger fathers were born in the USA compared to the older fathers.
- However, about one-fourth of all the fathers (182 of 706) were born outside of the United States.
- Overall, HFNY fathers are a diverse group, both racially and in terms of national origin. However, the younger fathers are slightly less diverse.



Young Fathers' Disadvantages: Education

| Educational Attainment | Young Fathers | Older Fathers |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Less than HS | 69 (53%) | 201 (54%) |
| HS grad/GED | 48 (36%) | 246 (34%) |
| Postsecondary* | 13 (10%) | 102 (18%) |
| Bar above higher | 0 | 18 (3%) |
| Total [†] | 130 | 567 |

*Total includes both vocational and college

[†]Total includes grandfathers

- Considerably more younger fathers lack a high school diploma compared to older fathers.
- However, both groups of fathers, for the most part, have low educational attainment.



Young Fathers' Disadvantages: Education

| School Enrollment* | Younger Fathers | Older Fathers |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Not Enrolled | 52 (75.4%) | 186 (92.5%) |
| Enrolled | 17 (24.6%) | 15 (7.5%) |
| Total | 69 | 201 |

* For those fathers without a HS diploma or GED.

- More of the younger fathers who lack a HS diploma or GED are currently enrolled in school, compared to the older fathers.
- However, in both cases, most of the fathers who lack a HS diploma or GED are not currently enrolled in an education program.
- Overall, the HFNY fathers, both younger and older, have substantial educational disadvantages.



Young Fathers' Disadvantages: Employment

| Current Employment | Younger Fathers | Older Fathers |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Not Employed | 48 (36.9%) | 176 (30.8%) |
| Employed | 82 (63.1%) | 396 (69.2%) |
| Total [^] | 130 | 572 |

[^] For those fathers with both age and employment data.

- A slightly larger percentage of younger fathers are unemployed compared to older fathers.
- In both cases, about two-thirds of fathers are employed.
- Most Father Advocates interviewed (6 of 9) noted that employment is a major concern for the fathers with whom they work.



Young Fathers' Disadvantages: Employment

| Worked in Last Year* | Younger Fathers | Older Fathers |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Not Employed | 27 (62.8%) | 77 (47.8%) |
| Employed | 16 (37.2%) | 84 (52.2%) |
| Total^ | 43 | 161 |

* For those fathers without a current job.

^ For those fathers with both age and full employment data.

- A much larger percentage of younger fathers compared to older fathers have been unemployed for at least a year.
- Even for older fathers, almost half have been unemployed for at least one year.
- Referrals for employment services were used by all the Father Advocates interviewed.



Young Fathers' Disadvantages: Employment

| Looked for Work in Last Year* | Younger Fathers | Older Fathers |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Did not Look | 16 (34.8%) | 60 (37.8%) |
| Looked | 30 (65.2%) | 99 (62.2%) |
| Total^ | 46 | 159 |

* For those fathers without a current job.

^ For those fathers with both age and full employment data.

- Similar percentages of younger and older fathers haven't looked for work in the last year.
- At least one-third of fathers haven't looked for work in the last year.
- Overall, HFNY fathers face high rates of unemployment, with a large percentage of fathers experiencing long term unemployment.
- In addition, a substantial percentage of unemployed fathers have essentially dropped out of the labor force.



Young Fathers' Disadvantages: Employment

Median Weekly Wages for Fathers in Home*

| | Median Wages | Std. Deviation | Total^ |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------|
| Younger Fathers | \$262.50 | \$243.88 | 82 |
| Older Fathers | \$320.00 | \$316.85 | 396 |

* For those fathers with a current job.

^ For those fathers with age, employment, and wage data.

- Compared to older fathers, younger fathers have considerably lower weekly earnings.
- However, both older and younger fathers have very low earnings.
- Many of the Father Advocates (5 of 9) stated that the fathers were immediately most interested in the HFNY program's ability to help with their tangible needs.



Young Fathers' Disadvantages: Employment

Work Hours of Fathers in Home*

| Work Hours | Younger Fathers | Older Fathers |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Part-time | 29 (35.4%) | 72 (18.2%) |
| Full-time | 38 (46.3%) | 266 (67.2%) |
| Over-time | 15 (18.3%) | 58 (14.6%) |
| Total^ | 82 | 396 |

* For fathers with a current job.

^ For fathers with age, employment, and hours data.

Part-time is less than 35 hours per week.

- A much smaller percentage of younger fathers work full-time compared to older fathers.
- However, in both cases, the percentage of fathers working part-time is fairly high.
- For the most part, when HFNY fathers work, they still experience disadvantages, with very low earnings and high rates of part-time employment.



Young Dads: Challenges and Opportunities

- Although HFNY reaches many teen mothers, there are many young fathers who need to be engaged.
- HFNY's young fathers are a diverse group of various races and national origins.
- As with older fathers, young dads face significant disadvantages in education, employment, and earnings.
- However, young fathers are especially disadvantaged and at risk of not making a complete transition into adulthood (education and employment).
- Given these challenges, how do we reach, engage, and help young men be involved fathers?

