

marri *Findings*

FAITH & FAMILY



The Complementary Influence of Mothers and Fathers on Daughter's Sexuality

Maternal Role: Recurrent High Quality Conversations

“My parents (specifically my mother) never shied away from telling me the truth about sexuality and everything it entails... To this day I can remember asking my mother things that made me blush and stutter, and she answering with such nonchalance that I forgot my embarrassment with the topic and let my curiosity take over. Without her honesty, I know this part of my life where hormones rage would have been so much harder.”-[Student Voices NY Times](#)



Strong Mother-Daughter Relationships Reduce Sexual Risks

High levels of [mother-daughter attachment](#) and [quality communication](#) protects girls' health by decreasing the risk of initiating sexual activity. Girls with low quality maternal relationships are more likely to have vaginal and/or anal sex.

Mothers Are More Likely to Initiate Communication About Sexual Matters

Sex communication is most effective when it is done early and regularly. Mothers are more likely to initiate conversations about sex and to show greater comfort with [sexual communication](#) than fathers- especially with daughters.

Paternal Role: Physical Presence, Emotional Security, and Personal Example



“My dad had been married to my mom for 25 years until 2006 when she passed away. He started talking to me about love, dating, and sex from early on...One of the biggest lessons I will always take with me is the way he treated my mum. These are the attributes I look for in a mate.”- [Gladys Situma](#)

Paternal Relationship Quality and Daughter's Romantic Relationships

[Father-daughter relationships](#) have a greater impact on daughter's romantic relationships than mother-daughter relationships. Father-daughter relationships that include [security, support, and communication](#), enable daughters to form and maintain intimate and fulfilling relationships with men.

Father Absence Impairs Intimate Relationships

Girls from father-absent homes experience less [secure attachment](#), greater avoidance patterns, and greater difficulty forming [lasting relationships](#) with males.

Paternal Responsiveness Empowers Daughters to Refuse Sex

[Emotionally responsive](#) fathers increase daughter's self-worth and the ability to refuse unwanted sex during adolescence and college.

Father Absence Accelerates Menarche and Increases Sexual Risks

Girls from [father-absent homes](#) experience accelerated [reproductive development](#) (earlier menarche), earlier sexual debut, and greater risks of teenage pregnancy and STIs. The consequences of [early menarche](#) are visible in low, middle and high-income countries.



Explore more research about the influence of parents on children's sexuality at Marrimedia.

BLOG: "The American Family's view of Itself."



Someone's else's [blog](#) was so informative it replaces mine this week: Karlyn Bowman of The American Enterprise Institute, a [veteran scholar of public opinion](#), condenses [BYU's annual survey 52-page report on the American Family](#) to one page, though I do recommend scanning the [report itself](#) for great charts on many key measures. Bottom line: Though marriage is still very important to three quarters of the nation --- for conservatives and for liberals --- there is still a lot of work to be done. [Continue reading here.](#)

For the good of the child --- the future of America,

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