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The transition to early fatherhood National estimates based on multiple surveys

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VOLUME 18 - ARTICLE 12
PAGES 337 - 376

Date Received: 15 Jun 2007
Date Published: 29 Apr 2008

<http://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol18/12/>

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Abstract

This study provides systematic information about the prevalence of early male fertility and the relationship between family background characteristics and early parenthood across three widely used data sources: the 1979 and 1997 National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth and the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. We provide descriptive statistics on early fertility by age, sex, race, cohort, and data set. Because each data set includes birth cohorts with varying early fertility rates, prevalence estimates for early male fertility are relatively similar across data sets. Associations between background characteristics and early fertility in regression models are less consistent across data sets. We discuss the implications of these findings for scholars doing research on early male fertility.

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Keywords

[data quality](#), [fathers](#), [fertility](#), [life course](#), [teen childbearing](#)

Word count (Main text)

10138

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