

PERCEPTIONS OF UNWED MOTHERS
CONCERNING SEX AND MEN

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest problems facing today's teenagers and their parents is premarital pregnancy. More than two-fifths of the illegitimate children in the United States are born to teenage mothers (McConnell, 1969).

Out-of-wedlock pregnancies in general, and teenage out-of-wedlock pregnancies in specific, have been receiving an increasing degree of attention. Their numbers have been increasing, not only in absolute quantity, but as a percentage of the total number of delivered live births as well. In the United States in 1938, 87,900 pregnancies were reported as occurring among unwed mothers, comprising 3.6 percent of the total number of live births for that year. By 1960, the figure had reached approximately 225,000 and represented 5.2 percent of that year's births. For 1965, the figure had grown to 291,000 or 7.7 percent of the total births. In that year, 129,100 of the reported out-of-wedlock pregnancies occurred among individuals under the age of 20. Since 1965, the over-all figures have continued to rise in spite of a slight decline in numbers among women over the age of 20. There is no sign of a leveling-off in the teenage group at present (Osofsky, 1970).

The United States Bureau of Census (1966, 1970) reported the number of girls per thousand who were bearing illegitimate children during specific times as follows: 89.5 in 1940, 117.4 in 1945, 141.6 in 1950,

183.3 in 1955, 240.3 in 1962, 259.4 in 1963, 275.7 in 1964, 291.2 in 1965, 302.4 in 1966, and 339.2 in 1968.

While it is generally agreed that the rate of illegitimate births in the school age group is not increasing (it remains at about two percent of the potential teenage childbearers), the total number of these births has been and is increasing because of the overall increase in the age group--now the largest in the country (Teacher Opinion Poll, 1970). The bulk of the 60 percent of illegitimate births born to women over the age of 20 are repeated illegitimate births--representing recidivism (Goodman, 1969).

In addition, as large as these figures are, they do not come close to representing the actual total. Many pregnancies escape inclusion in the reports. Pregnancies of women who are either married or separated, but extramaritally pregnant, are not listed. Conceptions preceding marriage (as many as 25 percent of all first pregnancies) are similarly not listed. Further, records are deliberately falsified in order to protect pregnant women. And, finally, since the records only report infant deliveries, the large number of out-of-wedlock pregnancies which are terminated by therapeutic or illegal abortion are not considered in the statistics. Thus, the already staggering figures grossly understate the problem (Osofsky, 1970; McConnell, 1969; Deubin, 1970).

The increasing problem of unwed mothers can be more effectively dealt with if more knowledge and understanding is gained concerning the situation of the unwed mother. Specifically, more information is needed concerning the unwed mother's perceptions concerning men and sex and the etiological factors which might determine these perceptions.

It was to this purpose that the present study was addressed. In order to obtain such information, a questionnaire, which was constructed by Murray (1971), and which was composed of fixed alternative type questions, was administered to 207 unwed mothers who were residents of homes for unwed mothers. The sample represented six different localities in the United States. A detailed description of the questionnaire is included in the appendix. The questionnaire, presented in the appendix, is a modification of the original questionnaire constructed by Murray in that it includes only those questions which were relevant to the present study.

Purposes of the Study

The general purposes of this study were to investigate perceptions of unwed mothers concerning sex and men and to relate these perceptions to various demographic and familial factors.

The specific purposes of this study were:

1. To develop an instrument, the attitude toward the Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Sex Scale (hereafter referred to as the FPS Scale) in order to measure the perceptions of unwed mothers toward sex.
2. To develop an instrument, the Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Men Scale (hereafter referred to as the FPM Scale) in order to determine the perceptions of unwed mothers toward men.
3. To determine if perception of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex was significantly related to: (a) religion, (b) race, (c) size of residence, and (d) perception of

primary source of affection during childhood.

4. To determine if there was a significant relationship between perception of what is most desired from a sexual relationship and: (a) region of country, (b) education of respondent, (c) happiness of childhood relationship with parents, (d) age, (e) marital status, and (f) perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby.
5. To determine if the FPS Scale scores were significantly related to: (a) region of the country, (b) perception of source of primary influence on attitudes toward sex, (c) perception of what is most desired from a sexual relationship, and (d) perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby.
6. To determine if the FPM Scale scores were significantly related to: (a) region of the country, (b) perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby, and (c) present relationship with alleged father of the baby.
7. To determine if there was a significant relationship between FPS Scale scores and each of the following: (a) FPM Scale scores, and (b) Family Unity Scale scores.
8. To determine if there was a significant relationship between FPM Scale scores and Family Unity Scale scores.

CHAPTER II

RELATED LITERATURE

Possible Reasons for Unwed Pregnancy

There are many possible reasons for unwed pregnancy, which Shiller (1969, page 3) has stated in the following way:

She was proving her love . . . she only did it to please her boyfriend . . . she had a subconscious desire to have a child . . . she'd had too much to drink . . . her friends were doing it He was married . . . he didn't want to marry her . . . he was too young for responsibility . . . he disappeared. The reasons are many but the results are the same: an unmarried mother.

Teacher Opinion Poll (1970) and Osofsky (1970) concur that most studies show that no single factor--age, education, race, socioeconomic status, family, or personality pattern--accounts for out-of-wedlock pregnancies. A host of personal, social, and psychological issues may contribute to an individual becoming pregnant under apparently undesirable circumstances.

Family Attitudes

According to Washburn (1967) the ways in which family attitudes can contribute to unwed pregnancy are: (a) the impulsive girl who comes from a home that has been oversubmissive; (b) the rebellious girl who comes from a home where parents are critically demanding, distrustful and punishing; and (c) the neglected girl where no one has taken

the time or trouble to form a personalized, caring relationship with her.

Socioeconomic Status

Hunter (1969, page 40) believes that socioeconomic status may be a primary factor in illegitimate births.

In a house without other valuables, babies become the valued objects. Poor women have babies not only to increase their relief checks, but because in their bleak world, babies are the only dependable source of happiness. In the ghetto, men are transient, and older children are trouble. As babies grow up, they, too, rapidly become a problem--noisy, dirty, aggressive. Therefore, it is necessary always to have another infant in the house--a warm, cuddly, consoling creature who will accept all your devotion and do nothing in return to bring you anguish.

Goodman (1969) suggests that there is evidence that the unwed mother problem is basically related to socioeconomic causes rather than racial causes. White and nonwhite in the same economic circumstances have the same problem. The problem of illegitimacy is highly concentrated in the urban communities and had the highest frequency of first occurrence in teenage girls between the ages of 15 and 19. The bulk of the illegitimate births born to women over the age of 20 are repeated illegitimate births.

Attempts to Fulfill Certain Basic Needs

McConnell (1969, page 82) reports that among unwed mothers, "There is a starving for affection, being close to someone. Intercourse is often an incidental part--they want to sleep in someone's arms."

Siddall (1971) states that a girl may have strong feelings of inadequacy as a female, and may attempt to confirm her femininity or prove

her ability to bear children by becoming pregnant. Vincent (1961) states that pregnancies of unmarried women often represent attempts to become married and to obtain husbands.

The first illegitimate pregnancy, according to Church (1965), results from attempts to fulfill certain basic needs and as long as these remain unfulfilled, other unwed pregnancies are likely to occur. Garland and Hyland (1966) state the following reasons for out-of-wedlock pregnancy: (a) need to find fulfillment in the female and mother roles; (b) need to achieve personal identity; and (c) need to resolve unsatisfactory parent-child relationships.

Derbyshire's research (1967) indicates that many Negroes attempt to gain social and sexual status by having children within or without wedlock. Kelly (1963) concurs by pointing out that many girls in high school try to achieve socially by attempting to demonstrate their adequacy and success in sexual and reproductive roles. Townsend (1967) also points out that social status, so significant to the girl who is in school, is in part dependent on academic status and that those who cannot achieve this way try to demonstrate their adequacy and success in sexual and reproductive roles. Good Housekeeping (1968) reports that unwed mothers: (a) are usually lonely; (b) are immature; (c) long for affection; and (d) have sibling rivalry.

Lack of Knowledge

Siddall (1971) reports that ignorance accounts for many pregnancies. It is not uncommon for a girl to believe she can not get pregnant the first time she has intercourse. Some girls engage in intercourse knowing the risk of pregnancy, but still clinging to the fantasy

it won't happen to them. Improper use of contraceptive devices accounts for some unwed pregnancies. Lack of knowledge concerning the biological reproductive roles of females and males also leads to unwed pregnancy; many females do not know when there is a risk of pregnancy and when there is not. Some couples rely on "old-wives tales" and home remedies for preventing and remedying pregnancy, but discover too late their information was not effective.

However, other factors may be involved, and many undesirable teenage pregnancies, including those among supposedly unconcerned, low-income groups, can be prevented if meaningful counseling, sex education, and contraception are made available. It would seem that both societal and humanistic considerations dictate more availability of such services for these relevant individuals.

Characteristics of Unwed Mothers

Most of society feels that the unwed mother is a female of grossly different characteristics than the female who marries and then becomes pregnant; however, research has not been able to support this idea. Only one characteristic has been found to be really significant and that is that persons of low per capital income have a higher illegitimacy rate than all others (Goodman, 1969).

Often emotional instability is assumed to be the basic cause for unwed pregnancy, and it is often assumed that the majority of unwed mothers are neurotic and unstable persons; however, Siddall (1971) reports that most of the pregnant girls who seek help at health services do not require professional help beyond resolution of the immediate crisis. There is little evidence to suggest that, as a group, they are

more emotionally troubled than the rest of the female population.

Promiscuous sexual behavior is often attributed to unwed mothers. It has been argued that as a group, unwed mothers are sexually promiscuous and that their promiscuity produces illegitimate children who must, in large part, be supported by welfare. However, according to a recent study of 205 New York City mothers (10 percent of them white) fewer than half of them turn out that way. Although half of the women were less than 20 years old when they had their first child, close to a third had no other children. Only one-third of the mothers had been on public assistance for a year or longer. Holmes (1969) and Siddall (1971) concur that as for blatant promiscuity, the statistical evidence points the other way: three-fourths of those unwed mothers who had more than one child were made pregnant by the man who fathered their first child or the man they later married, and only four percent of the girls became pregnant by as many as three different men (Holmes, 1969).

Shanmugan (1970) carried out unstructured and structured interviews of one hundred unmarried mothers at the Queen Victoria Hospital during 1968. He found that 74 had known their partners for more than six months before coitus took place, 67 learned nothing about sex from their parents or school, 42 had poor knowledge of contraception, and in 27 cases the father was dead or divorced. Sixty-five were unable to talk easily with either parent and only 10 felt they were very close to either parent. Such findings leads one to believe that these girls are more uninformed and lonely than they are promiscuous.

Some authorities have suggested that girls who allow themselves to become premaritally pregnant are girls who do not value themselves and do not feel anyone cares for them or cares what they do. However, no

current research was found to support this idea. Barker (1969) in her dissertation compared the self-esteem of 50 unwed mothers with 50 married pregnant women and 50 single women who had never been pregnant. The results indicated that there was no significant difference in the self-esteem level of the three groups. It was also found that the unwed mother was as well-adjusted to society as the other two groups. The personality variables for the three groups were compiled and it was found that above all the unwed mother was a confident person, exhibited some immaturity and vulnerability, and showed some need for protectiveness and support. She felt that she was physically attractive and somewhat impulsive yet revealed some social timidity. There were traces of anxiety, inconvenience, and purposelessness. The average unwed mother in this study was 19, a high school graduate, lived at home with both parents whose income was equally over and under \$7,500, averaged two siblings, and had no particular niche in sibling position. The conclusion in Barker's (1969) study was that all of the results pointed to the normality of the unwed mother.

An assumption by some is that the unwed mother is a nonconformist and a nonconcernalist. However, evidence does not support this assumption. Shiller (1969) found that instead of being the tough rebel who does not care about convention, many unmarried mothers turn out to be extremely conservative in their attitudes. In fact, some, finding themselves in this predicament, trapped through their own ignorance or romantic fantasies, develop a tolerance and sympathy for others they never had before.

Vincent (1960) states that unmarried mothers use sex (or sexual enticement in the larger sense) as a means to obtain other goals. For

example, sex is used to obtain dates, companionship, an expense account, upward mobility and possible marriage.

Illegitimacy rates have been increasing at all socioeconomic levels. However, the illegitimacy rates in deprived areas have skyrocketed, with the highest percentage in central Harlem (Smith, 1971).

A study released in 1968 by the National Center for Health Statistics estimated the illegitimacy rate for nonwhite women was approximately 10 times higher than the rate for white women (Shiller, 1969 and Furstenberg, 1970). This year an estimated 200,000 American girls under 18 will give birth; nearly two-thirds of the girls will be married by the time of delivery. Of the 200,000, 60 percent are white, 40 percent are nonwhite (Teacher Opinion Poll, 1970). Even though the rate of illegitimacy is 10 times higher among nonwhites than white, the majority of illegitimate children are still white.

About 20,000 expectant mothers are served annually in maternity homes--less than 10 percent of all mothers who bear children out of wedlock. Only a few of these are teenagers. As for adoption, 70 percent of white children born out of wedlock were adopted as compared to five percent of nonwhite children. Thus, the nonwhite girl remains in the community with her own baby (Goodman, 1969).

Problems Faced During Pre-Marital Pregnancy

There are many problems that face every unwed, pregnant female but during the teenage years these problems can be tremendous. Pregnant teenagers, and especially those who are economically poor and/or nonwhite, have traditionally represented high risk individuals in many ways. Their medical prognoses have been poor. School achievement has

been limited. Roles in the community have been disappointing--with low productivity and high community expense being frequently encountered (Osofsky, 1970).

The majority of the researchers and authors in the area of unwed pregnancy agree that the problems facing the single, pregnant teenager are tremendous, but there are several different ways of describing these problems. Birdwhestell (1971) considers pregnancy in the teenage years a converging crisis of three types--life stage, life span, and life style--as the pregnant student attempts to establish coping behavior in a radically shifted identity struggle. While adolescence has been described as a time of moratorium which our culture permits teenagers before they are required to make lasting commitments about their lives, the pregnant teenager is often precipitated into commitments without consciously having chosen her options.

In all premarital pregnancies some pressing questions are raised. Howard (1970) believes the questions appear on at least three levels: the practical (Where shall the girl go to have her baby? How will it be financed? What ought to be done with the baby?); the psychological (Who will be a friend and confidant to the expectant mother? Who will advise her? Who will listen to her side of things--her feelings and hopes and fears?); and the moral (Is premarital sex right or wrong?).

The Teacher Opinion Poll (1970) states that the school-age pregnant girl, whether married or not, must face three life crises at once--the transition from adolescence to adulthood, the acceptance of her role as a mother or as a wife and mother, and the physical changes and the emotional upheaval accompanying pregnancy. These girls share medical, social, and educational problems. Medically they have many more

complications with pregnancy and delivery than older women; as a group, they have more cases of toxemia and a greater incidence of prematurely born babies. Also, many teenage pregnant girls suffer from some degree of anemia, gain too much weight during pregnancy and/or suffer from elevated blood pressure. School age pregnant girls are also high risks socially. They may be forced into an early unwanted marriage. It is estimated that 50 to 85 percent of all marriages between school-age youths are complicated by pregnancy. Statistics show this age group has a divorce rate three or four times higher than those who marry older.

Holmes (1970) and Teacher Opinion Poll (1970) concur that pregnancy is the largest known cause of dropouts among secondary school girls. Withdrawal from school can frustrate a girl's future hopes and plans, greatly affect her earning power when and if she enters the working force, and leave her with a feeling that both school authorities and fellow students have rejected her. It may also mean separation from her peers at a time in life when peer group associations are most important to her. Recently several cities realizing the special problems of pregnancy and the inadequacy of the homebound approach have developed special schools for unwed pregnant schoolgirls.

Attitudes Toward Sex

To a large extent, attitudes toward sex influence sexual behavior. Therefore, one can not overlook the importance of attitudes toward sex. Bell (1963) states that social penalties for the girl "who is found out" continue to be severe in American society. She has been reared in a society which stresses the values of virginity, and to a great extent

she internalizes the values so that their violation is often also an internal personal violation. Consequently, the girl commonly has a high sense of guilt. The internalized values of chastity are probably the strongest female deterrents to sexual intercourse.

Burgess and Wallin (1953) found that about one-third of the engaged women reacted unfavorably to their engaged partner telling them of previous sexual experiences. They also found that 86.8 percent of the girls did not feel it was "right" to have intercourse before marriage. Bell and Buerkle (1961) found that out of a large number of college girls, when asked about intercourse during engagement, 35 percent said it was wrong, 48 percent said it was generally wrong, and 17 percent said it was right in many situations.

Bell and Blumberg (1960) reported that 50 percent of the females in a study in contrast to 25 percent of the males felt that they had gone "too far" during a date when they had intercourse. About one-third of the females indicated they wished they had been more intimate in their relationships. In fact, about three-fourths of the males indicated they wished they had been more intimate in their relationships. Over one-third of the females and less than one-third of the males who had gone steady and who had done any petting expressed guilt over their behavior. General attitudes toward sex are rather relaxed and yet they portray sex as what one, or a couple, makes of it.

Attitudes of Unwed Mothers Toward Unwed Fathers

Missildine (1966) found that whether the unwed mother's relationship with the child's father is as casual as a blind date or a more enduring relationship, she is frequently uninterested in him as a person.

Vincent (1962) reported that unwed mothers may accuse the alleged fathers of "deception," "betrayal," and "desertion," but they usually assure them a protective anonymity by being unwilling to identify them. Young (1954) reports that very few unmarried mothers are interested in men. Often they select a man who offers them neither security nor genuine affection. Bernstein and Hale (1965) found that a number of girls talked bitterly of their lovers and said, "He used me."

Time (1971, page 48) reports that even those unwed mothers who scorn marriage as an anachronism often live with their child's father. Most single mothers want eventual legal ties, provided the price is not too high. As a Boston mother, whose lover proved to be a heroin addict explains, "I used to believe marriage was important for a name for my son, but it is not important enough for me to marry a junkie. I want a good marriage when I marry."

The related literature seems to indicate the following observations:

1. Certain family attitudes such as: oversubmissiveness, demanding, distrusting, punishing and neglect, appear to be associated with unwed pregnancy.
2. Pregnancies of unmarried women often represent attempts to fulfill certain basic emotional needs.
3. Lack of knowledge accounts for many unwed pregnancies.
4. Persons of low per capital income have a higher illegitimacy rate than all others.
5. Evidence indicates that unwed mothers, as a whole, are no more emotionally disturbed than the rest of the female population.

6. Pregnancy is the largest known cause of dropouts among secondary school girls.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

Selection of Subjects

The 207 subjects of this study were residents of the Home of Redeeming Love and Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City; Florence Crittenton Homes of Little Rock, Arkansas and Los Angeles, California; Fairhaven Home, Sacramento, California; Ft. Wayne Children's Home, Woodhave Unit, Fort Wayne, Indiana; and the St. Agnes Home, West Hartford, Connecticut. Each girl in the homes mentioned above was given the opportunity to participate in this study. The subjects were between 12-35 years of age. The majority were white, Protestant and represented all sections of the United States.

Letters requesting assistance in administering the questionnaire were sent to the Directors of Maternity Homes, which were listed in a national directory of homes for unwed mothers. An attempt was made to obtain the cooperation of homes which would represent the various regions of the United States. Within each region of the United States, the homes were selected randomly. Those homes which indicated a willingness to cooperate were included in the study. The questionnaires were administered during the fall (September, October, and November) of 1970.

Description of Instrument

The questionnaire included fixed alternative type questions which were designed to secure information concerning: (a) background characteristics such as age and religious preference, perceptions concerning sex, and perceptions concerning men.

Duncan's Socioeconomic Index (1961) was employed as a means of classifying the occupations of parents of participants. The occupational categories represented by parents in this study were as follows: (a) professional-managerial, (b) clerical-sales, (c) skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labor, (d) farm-ranch and (e) welfare. The major scales utilized in the questionnaire were the Family Unity Scale (Murphy, 1968), the Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Sex Scale, and the Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Men Scale. Each of these scales will now be briefly discussed.

Family Unity Scale

The Family Unity Scale used for this study was developed by Murphy (1968). The purpose of the use of the scale was to determine if there is a significant relationship between Family Unity Scale scores and each of the following: (a) primary source of affection during childhood, (b) primary influence towards attitudes on sex, (c) type of discipline during childhood, and (d) happiness of childhood relationship with parents.

The Family Unity Scale is a 10-item Lickert-type scale including alternating positive and negative statements. The alternative responses to these questions were: (a) strongly agree, (b) agree, (c) neutral,

(d) disagree, and (e) strongly disagree. In all responses a high rating of five was given for the most positive response.

As an index of the validity of the Family Unity Scale, Murphy (1968) reported that an item analysis indicated all 10 items in the scale were significantly discriminating at the .001 level. Also, a split-half coefficient of .06 was obtained for the Family Unity Scale.

Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Sex Scale

The Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Sex Scale (FPS), which was developed for this study, is a collection of four alternating negative and positive statements portraying sex as: (a) an expression of love, (b) a problem, (c) involving deceit and exploitation, and (d) promoting close and meaningful relationships. These statements are used to measure the respondent's favorableness of perceptions toward sex. Each of the four items in this Likert-type scale is characterized by five degrees of response: (a) strongly agree, (b) agree, (c) neutral, (d) disagree, and (e) strongly disagree. The answers are scored so that the most favorable response is given the highest score and the least favorable response, the lowest score. The items for this scale were constructed by Murray (1971).

Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Men Scale

The Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Men Scale (FPM), which was developed for this study, is a collection of 11 alternating negative and positive statements concerning such aspects of perceptions of men as responsibility, consideration for others, feelings for others, respect, understanding, values, affection and sex. These statements are

used to measure the respondent's favorableness of perceptions toward men. Each of the 11 items in this Likert-type scale is characterized by five degrees of response: (a) strongly agree, (b) agree, (c) neutral, (d) disagree, and (e) strongly disagree. The answers are scored so that the most favorable response is given the highest score and the least favorable response, the lowest score. The items for this scale were constructed by Murray (1971).

Analysis of Data

A percentage and frequency count was used to analyze the various background characteristics of the respondents.

The chi-square test was used in an item analysis of the FPS and FPM Scales in order to determine if the items significantly discriminated between those respondents falling in the upper and lower quartiles on the basis of total scale scores. The split-half method was used to measure the reliability of the items in these scales.

The analysis of variance was utilized to examine the following null hypotheses:

1. There is no significant difference in Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Sex Scale scores according to: (a) region of the country, (b) perception of source of primary influence on attitudes toward sex, (c) perception of what is most desired from a sexual relationship, and (d) perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby.
2. There is no significant difference in Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Men Scale scores according to: (a) region of the country, (b) perception of previous relationship with alleged

father of the baby, and (c) present relationship with alleged father of the baby.

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to test the following null hypotheses:

3. There is no significant relationship between Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Sex Scale scores and each of the following:
 - (a) Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Men Scale scores and
 - (b) Family Unity Scale scores.
4. There is no significant relationship between Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Men Scale scores and Family Unity Scale scores.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Description of the Subjects

A detailed description of the 207 subjects who participated in this study is presented in Table I. Their ages ranged from 12-35 years with the greatest percentage (41.35%) in the age group 16-18 years of age. Ninety-one percent of the sample was white. Over 28 percent of the subjects were from a small town under 25,000. The majority of the respondents were single (97.58%), were of the Protestant faith (74.36%) and were from the State of Oklahoma (56.32%). A majority of the respondents' parents had achieved a high school education (38.65%) and 37.38 percent of the respondents received a high school education. In addition to this, 16.5 percent had two or more years of college. The age characteristics of these respondents tend to coincide with Lowrie's (1965) observation that the great majority of illegitimate pregnancies occur among teenage girls. This study agrees with Washburn (1967) that unwed mothers were not predominantly of low socio-economic status nor predominantly of any one particular socio-economic stratum.

The Item Analysis

In order to obtain an index of the validity of the items in the FPM Scale and the FPS Scale, the chi-square test was utilized to determine if each item significantly differentiated those subjects scoring in

TABLE I
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS

Variable	Classification	No.	Percent
Age	12-15	32	15.38
	16-18	86	41.35
	19-21	64	30.77
	22-25	23	11.06
	26-29	2	.96
	30-35	1	.48
Religious Preference	Catholic	49	25.13
	Protestant	145	74.36
	Jewish	0	0
	Morman	1	0.51
Size of Residence	Farm or Country	17	8.25
	Town under 25,000	59	28.64
	City 25,000-50,000	43	20.87
	City 50,000-100,000	38	18.45
	Over 100,000	49	23.79
Area of United States	Northeastern	38	20.00
	Southeastern	20	10.53
	Pacific Coast	25	13.16
	Oklahoma	107	56.32
Race	White	191	91.83
	Black	14	6.73
	Indian	2	0.96
	Other	1	0.48
Education Level Completed by Respondents	Less than 8th	4	1.94
	8th but not 9th	7	3.40
	Some high school	78	37.86
	Graduated from high school	77	37.38
	2 or more college years	34	16.50
	Graduated from college	4	1.94
Graduate work	2	0.97	
Educational Attainment of Principal Earner of Family Income	Graduate work	23	11.11
	Completed college	10	4.83
	2 or more college years	40	19.32
	Completed high school	80	38.65
	Completed 9th grade but didn't graduate	21	10.14
	Completed 8th grade	23	11.11
	Less than 8th grade	10	4.83

TABLE I (Continued)

Variable	Classification	No.	Percent
Occupation of Principal Earner of Family Income	Professional	66	33.85
	Clerical	24	12.31
	Skilled, unskilled	84	43.08
	Farmers	15	7.69
	Welfare	6	3.08
Marital Status	Single	202	97.58
	Widowed	0	0
	Divorced	5	2.42

the upper quartile and those subjects scoring in the lower quartile on the basis of the total scores. All of the items on the FPS and FPM Scales were found to be significantly discriminating at the .001 level as indicated by Tables II and III. Split-half reliability coefficients, computed with the Spearman-Brown Correction Formula, of +.97 (for the FPS Scale) and +.99 (for the FPM Scale) were obtained in determining an index of the reliability of the items in the two scales.

Examination of Major Hypotheses

The chi-square test was utilized to examine the following hypotheses:

1. There is no significant difference in perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex according to: (a) religion, (b) race, (c) size of residence, and (d) perception of primary source of affection during childhood.

TABLE II

ITEM ANALYSIS BASED ON COMPARISONS OF THE UPPER QUARTILE
AND LOWER QUARTILE OF TOTAL FPS SCALE SCORES

Item	df	χ^2	Level of Sig.
1. Sex is primarily an expression of love and emotional closeness between two individuals	2	37.67	.001
2. Sex is primarily a problem in life	3	62.38	.001
3. Sex usually involves deceit and exploitation of others	3	69.73	.001
4. Sex usually makes a relationship between a man and woman closer and more meaningful	3	68.02	.001

TABLE III

ITEM ANALYSIS BASED ON COMPARISON OF THE UPPER QUARTILE AND LOWER QUARTILE OF TOTAL FPM SCALE SCORES

Item	df	χ^2	Level of Sig.
1. Men generally try to see things from the other person's point of view	3	35.11	.001
2. Men generally are not honest in expressing their true feelings	3	63.44	.001
3. Men generally behave responsibly toward others	2	42.82	.001
4. Men generally tend to "put on a front" and not really be themselves	4	73.00	.001
5. Men generally are considerate of others	2	70.95	.001
6. Men generally do not have a high degree of self-respect	3	44.97	.001
7. Men generally express respect toward others	2	73.49	.001
8. Men generally are not understanding of others	3	68.53	.001
9. Men generally are guided by the value of being genuinely concerned about the welfare of others	2	51.59	.001
10. Men generally are not very loving or affectionate	2	47.23	.001
11. With respect to women, men generally are only interested in sex	3	53.51	.001

2. There is no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to: (a) size of residence, (b) education of respondent, (c) happiness of childhood relationship with parents, (d) age, (e) marital status, and (f) perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby.

Hypothesis I (a): There is no significant difference in perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex according to religion. As Table IV indicates, a chi-square value of 1.80 was obtained indicating that there is no difference in perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex according to religion.

TABLE IV

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF INFLUENCE ON ATTITUDES TOWARD SEX ACCORDING TO RELIGION*

Perception of Source of Major Influence	Catholic		Protestant		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
1. Parents	12	25	27	19.7	1.80	n.s.
2. Peers	27	56.3	78	56.9		
3. School, Church, Books, Magazines and Movies**	3	6.3	17	12.4		
4. Other	6	12.5	15	10.9		

* df = 4

** Represents collapsed categories

Hypothesis I (b): There is no significant difference in perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex according to race. As Table V indicates, a chi-square value of 7.93 was obtained indicating that there is no significant difference in perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex according to race.

Hypothesis I (c): There is no significant difference in perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex according to size of residence. As Table VI indicates, a chi-square value of 9.86 was obtained indicating that there is no significant difference in perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex according to size of residence.

Hypothesis I (d): There is no significant difference in the perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex according to perception of primary source of affection during childhood. As Table VII indicates, there was a significant difference at the .05 level of significance in the perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex according to perception of primary source of affection during childhood. The biggest difference was that more than twice as many of those that listed father and other as the major source of affection (34.5%) than those who listed mother as the major source of affection (16.9%) perceived other as being the major influence on attitudes toward sex. Another interesting difference was that almost twice as many who listed mother as the major source of affection (21.2%) than those who listed father and other (12.1%) perceived parents as the major source of influence on attitudes toward sex.

TABLE V
 CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF THE PRIMARY SOURCE
 OF INFLUENCE ON ATTITUDES TOWARD SEX ACCORDING TO RACE*

Perception of Source of Major Influence	White		Negro		Indian		Other		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
1. Parents	37	20.5	3	21.4	0	0	0	0	7.93	n.s.
2. Peers	99	55	10	71.4	2	100	1	100		
3. School, Church, Books, Magazines and Movies**	22	12.2	1	7.1	0	0	0	0		
4. Other	22	12.2	0	0	0	0	0	0		

* df = 9

** Represents collapsed categories

TABLE VI

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF INFLUENCE ON ATTITUDES TOWARD SEX ACCORDING TO ~~SIZE OF~~ RESIDENCE*

Perception of Source of Major Influence	Rural Area		25-50,000		50-100,000		Over 100,000		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
1. Parents	14	20.0	6	14.6	5	13.2	15	32.6		
2. Peers	38	54.3	26	63.4	21	55.3	26	56.5	9.86	n.s.
3. Other**	18	25.7	9	22.0	12	31.6	5	10.9		

*df = 6

**Represents collapsed categories

TABLE VII

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF THE
 PRIMARY SOURCE OF INFLUENCE ON ATTITUDES TOWARD SEX
 ACCORDING TO PERCEPTION OF PRIMARY SOURCE OF
 AFFECTION DURING CHILDHOOD*

Perception of Source of Major Influence	Major Source of Affection				X ²	Level of Sig.
	Mother		Father and Other			
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
1. Parents	25	21.2	7	12.1		
2. Peers	73	61.9	31	53.4	7.50	.05
3. Other**	20	16.9	20	34.5		

* df = 2

** Represents collapsed categories

These results suggest that the major source of influence on attitudes toward sex is significantly associated with the major source of affection during childhood.

Hypothesis II (a): There is no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to size of residence. As Table VIII indicates, there was a significant difference in the perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to size of residence at the .02 level of significance. The greatest difference was that 30.4 percent of those girls from a rural area desired emotional closeness from a sexual relationship and only 5.7 percent of those girls from cities of 100,000 in population desired emotional closeness from a sexual relationship. It was also interesting to note that the larger the city the greater the uncertainty of what is desired from a sexual relationship. Only 44.3 percent of those respondents from a rural area were uncertain about what they desired from a sexual relationship as compared to 69.8 percent of those respondents from a city of over 100,000 in population. The finding that a significantly higher proportion of respondents from a rural area desired emotional closeness from a sexual relationship than did those respondents from more urbanized areas may be explained by the thesis that emotional closeness is more expected and more prevalent in interpersonal relationships in general in the rural areas than is the case in the more anonymous and impersonal urban areas (Landis, 1970).

The finding that the larger the size of the residence the respondent came from the greater was the uncertainty about what is desired from a sexual relationship may be due to a greater degree of uncertainty

TABLE VIII

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF WHAT IS MOST DESIRED
FROM A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP ACCORDING TO SIZE OF RESIDENCE*

Perception of What Is Most Desired	Rural Area		25-100,000		Over 100,000		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
1. Emotional Closeness	24	30.4	8	14.8	3	5.7	15.60	.02
2. Physical Satisfaction	9	11.4	5	9.3	6	11.3		
3. Companionship	11	13.9	6	11.1	7	13.2		
4. Uncertain	35	44.3	35	64.8	37	69.8		

*df = 6

and insecurity associated with interpersonal relationships in urban areas.

Hypothesis II (b): There is no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to education of respondent. As Table IX indicates, there was a significant difference in the perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to education of respondent at the .01 level of significance. The greatest difference was that almost three times as many girls who had not finished high school (30.7%) were uncertain about what they desired from a sexual relationship as compared to 11.99 percent of the college girls who were uncertain about what they most desired from a sexual relationship. Of those girls who had attended college, 52.5 percent desired emotional closeness from a sexual relationship as compared to 36.4 percent of those girls who had not completed high school. The finding that a significantly greater proportion of respondents who had not finished high school were uncertain about what they most desired from a sexual relationship may suggest that these respondents had not received enough education to have formulated as clearly in their own minds what they expected of themselves and what they expected in their relationships with others, including sexual relationships, as had those respondents who had graduated from high school or attended college.

Hypothesis II (c): There is no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to happiness of childhood relationship with parents. As Table X indicates, a chi-square value of 3.17 was obtained indicating that there is no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual

TABLE IX

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF WHAT IS MOST DESIRED
FROM A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP ACCORDING TO EDUCATION OF RESPONDENT*

Perception of What Is Most Desired	Did Not Finish High School		Completed High School		Attended College		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
1. Emotional Closeness	32	36.4	29	49.1	27	52.5		
2. Physical Satisfaction and Companionship**	23	33.0	27	41.8	5	35.6	15.20	.01
3. Uncertain	31	30.7	21	9.1	7	11.9		

*df = 4

**Represents collapsed categories

TABLE X

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF WHAT IS MOST DESIRED FROM A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP ACCORDING TO HAPPINESS OF CHILDHOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH PARENTS*

Perception of What Is Most Desired	Happy		Undecided		Unhappy		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
1. Emotional Closeness	31	34.8	22	40.0	23	39.0	3.17	n.s.
2. Physical Satisfaction	37	41.6	19	34.5	19	32.2		
3. Companionship	12	13.5	7	12.7	12	20.3		
4. Uncertain	9	10.1	7	12.7	5	8.5		

*df = 6

relationship according to happiness of childhood relationship with parents.

Hypothesis II (d): There is no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to age. As Table XI indicates, a chi-square value of 11.47 was obtained indicating that there is no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to age.

Hypothesis II (e): There is no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to marital status. As Table XII indicates, a chi-square value of 1.79 was obtained indicating that there is no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to marital status.

Hypothesis II (f): There is no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to perceptions of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby. As Table XIII indicates, a chi-square value of 7.57 was obtained indicating that there is no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to perceptions of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby.

The Analysis of Variance was utilized to examine the following hypotheses:

3. There is no significant difference in Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Sex Scale scores according to: (a) region of country, (b) perception of source of primary influence on attitudes toward sex, (c) perception of what is most desired from a sexual relationship, and (d) perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby.

TABLE XI

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF WHAT IS MOST
DESIRED FROM A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP ACCORDING TO AGE*

Perception of What Is Most Desired	Age Groups of Respondents								X ²	Level of Sig.
	13-15		16-18		19-21		22-30			
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
1. Emotional Closeness	8	9.0	40	44.9	25	28.1	16	18.0		
2. Physical Satisfaction and Companionship**	8	14.3	25	44.6	16	28.6	7	12.5	11.47	n.s.
3. Uncertain	14	23.7	21	35.6	21	35.6	3	5.1		

*df = 6

**Represents collapsed categories

TABLE XII

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF WHAT IS MOST
DESIRED FROM A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP ACCORDING TO MARITAL STATUS*

Perception of What Is Most Desired	Single		Divorced		Widowed		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
1. Emotional Closeness	87	98.9	1	1.1	0	0	1.70	n.s.
2. Physical Satisfaction	10	10.0	0	0	0	0		
3. Companionship	44	95.7	2	4.3	0	0		
4. Uncertain	57	96.6	2	4.3	0	0		

*df = 6

TABLE XIII

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF WHAT IS MOST DESIRED FROM
A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP ACCORDING TO PERCEPTION OF PREVIOUS
RELATIONSHIP WITH ALLEGED FATHER OF THE BABY*

Perception of What Is Most Desired	Casual Rel.		Close Friendship Relationship		Love Rel. of Some Dur.		Uncertain		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
1. Emotional Closeness	9	10.1	10	11.2	57	64.0	13	14.6		
2. Physical Satisfaction and Companionship**	7	12.5	9	16.1	30	53.6	10	17.9	7.57	n.s.
3. Uncertain	3	5.1	9	15.3	30	50.8	17	28.8		

* df = 6

** Represents collapsed categories

4. There is no significant difference in Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Men Scale scores according to: (a) region of country, (b) perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby, and (c) present relationship with alleged father of the baby.

Hypothesis III (a): There is no significant difference in FPS Scale scores according to region of country. As Table XIV indicates, the Analysis of Variance reveals that there was no significant difference in FPS Scale scores according to region of country.

Hypothesis III (b): There is no significant difference in FPS Scale scores according to perception of source of primary influence on attitudes toward sex. As Table XV indicates, the Analysis of Variance reveals that there was no significant difference in FPS Scale scores according to perception of source of primary influence on attitudes toward sex.

Hypothesis III (c): There is no significant difference in FPS Scale scores according to perception of what is most desired from a sexual relationship. As Table XVI indicates, an F Score of 9.88 was obtained indicating a significant difference existed in FPS Scale scores according to perception of what is most desired from a sexual relationship at the .001 level of significance. Those who desired physical satisfaction from a sexual relationship received the highest mean FPS Scale score reflecting the most positive perceptions toward sex, while those who were uncertain as to what they most desired from a sexual relationship received the lowest FPS Scale score, reflecting the least positive perception toward sex. The finding that those who most desired physical satisfaction from a sexual relationship reflected the most positive perceptions toward sex seems to suggest that these respondents

TABLE XIV

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN FPS SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO REGION OF THE COUNTRY

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Region</u>				
1. Northeastern	38	15.88		
2. Southeastern	20	15.35	0.64	n.s.
3. Pacific Coast	25	15.24		
4. Oklahoma	107	14.85		

TABLE XV

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN FPS SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO PERCEPTION OF SOURCE OF PRIMARY
INFLUENCE ON ATTITUDES TOWARD SEX

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Primary Influence</u>				
1. Mother	34	14.65		
2. Father	6	15.00		
3. Peers	112	15.20	0.19	n.s.
4. School	7	15.14		
5. Church	8	15.50		
6. Books and Magazines	5	15.40		
7. Movies and Other	22	15.22		

TABLE XVI

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN FPS SCALE SCORES ACCORDING
TO WHAT IS MOST DESIRED FROM A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>What Is Most Desired From Sexual Relationship</u>				
1. Emotional Closeness	89	16.19		
2. Physical Satisfaction	10	16.30	9.88	.001
3. Companionship	46	14.96		
4. Uncertain	59	13.74		

have a positive attitude toward sex, in and of itself, and do not view sex as a way of obtaining other goals. It should be noted that only a small number of respondents (10) reported physical satisfaction and may not be very representative. It could be assumed that a person who enters into a sexual relationship for physical satisfaction and purely physical needs would have a more positive attitude toward sex than a person who was uncertain why they entered into a sexual relationship or a person who used sex to obtain companionship.

Hypothesis III (d): There is no significant difference in FPS Scale scores according to perceptions of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby. As Table XVII indicates, an F Score of 3.24 was obtained indicating a significant difference in FPS Scale scores according to perceptions of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby at the .05 level of significance. Those who maintained a love relationship of some duration with the alleged father of the baby received the highest mean FPS Scale score, reflecting the most positive perception toward sex, while those who maintained a close friendship with the alleged father of the baby received the lowest mean FPS Scale score, reflecting the least positive perception toward sex. The finding that those respondents who reported a love relationship of some duration with the alleged father reflected the most positive perception toward sex is logical in that it suggests that the respondent's sexual experience with the alleged fathers was in the context of a caring relationship characterized by love and affection.

TABLE XVII
 F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN FPS SCALE SCORES ACCORDING
 TO PERCEPTION OF PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP
 WITH ALLEGED FATHER OF THE BABY

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Previous Relationship With Alleged Father</u>				
1. Casual Relationship	20	14.20		
2. Close Friendship Rel.	28	14.18		
3. Love Relationship of Some Duration	119	15.80	3.24	.05
4. Uncertain About Rel.	32	14.66		
5. Other	8	14.25		

Hypothesis IV (a): There is no significant difference in FPM Scale scores according to region of the country. As Table XVIII indicates, the Analysis of Variance reveals that there was no significant difference in FPM Scale scores according to region of the country.

Hypothesis IV (b): There is no significant difference in FPM Scale scores according to perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby. As Table XIX indicates, the Analysis of Variance reveals that there was no significant difference in FPM Scale scores according to perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby.

TABLE XVIII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN FPM SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO REGION OF THE COUNTRY

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Region</u>				
1. Northeastern	38	37.58		
2. Southeastern	20	37.00		
3. Pacific Coast	25	34.20	2.21	n.s.
4. Oklahoma	107	34.47		

TABLE XIX

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN FPM SCALE SCORES ACCORDING
TO PERCEPTION OF PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH
ALLEGED FATHER OF THE BABY

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Previous Relationship With Alleged Father</u>				
1. Casual Relationship	20	35.35		
2. Close Friendship Rel.	28	33.79		
3. Love Relationship of Some Duration	119	36.08	0.72	n.s.
4. Uncertain About Rel.	32	34.59		
5. Other	8	34.25		

Hypothesis IV (c): There is no significant difference in FPM Scale scores according to present relationship with alleged father of the baby. As Table XX indicates, an F Score of 4.50 was obtained indicating a significant difference in FPM Scale scores according to present relationship with alleged father of the baby at the .001 level of significance. Those who described the present relationship with the alleged father as that of love received the highest mean FPM Scale score, reflecting the most positive perception toward men, while those who presently feel dislike toward the father, received the lowest mean FPM Scale score, reflecting the least positive perception toward men. It is logical that those respondents who described their present relationship with the alleged father as that of love would also reflect the most positive perceptions toward men in general. There would seem to be a tendency for the quality of the present relationship with the father to greatly influence the perceptions toward men in general.

The Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient test was utilized to examine the following hypotheses:

Hypothesis V: There is no significant correlation between FPS Scale scores and: (a) FPM Scale scores, and (b) Family Unity Scale scores. As Table XXI indicates, the FPS Scale scores were significantly correlated with the FPM Scale scores (.001 level of significance) and with the Family Unity Scale scores at the .05 level of significance. The more positive the FPS Scale scores, the more positive were both the FPM Scale scores and the Family Unity Scale scores. These findings suggest that perceptions toward sex develop in a large context and are largely influenced by one's experiences with and perceptions of the

TABLE XX

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN FPM SCALE SCORES ACCORDING
TO PRESENT RELATIONSHIP WITH ALLEGED FATHER OF THE BABY

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Present Relationship With Alleged Father</u>				
1. Disgust	13	32.69		
2. Disappointment	41	34.71		
3. No Particular Feeling	51	34.31	4.50	.001
4. Love	54	38.78		
5. Dislike	25	31.88		
6. Consider Him a Friend	22	36.64		

TABLE XXI

CORRELATION OF FPS SCALE SCORES TO FPM SCALE SCORES
AND FAMILY UNITY SCALE SCORES

Description	Pearson r Scores		Level of Sig.
	FPS Scores	FPM Scores	
FPM Scale Scores	.53		.001
Family Unity Scale Scores	.14		.05

opposite sex as well as by the quality of family relations which one has experienced in his family of orientation.

Hypothesis VI: There is no significant correlation between FPM Scale scores and Family Unity Scale scores. As Table XXII indicates, the FPM Scale scores were significantly correlated with the Family Unity Scale scores at the .05 level of significance. The more positive the FPM Scale scores, the more positive were the Family Unity Scale scores. This finding suggests the importance of positive and cohesive family relationships (within one's family of orientation) in contributing to healthy, positive perceptions of the opposite sex.

TABLE XXII

CORRELATION OF FPM SCALE SCORES TO FAMILY UNITY SCALE SCORES

Description	<u>Pearson r Scores</u> FPM Scale Scores	Level of Sig.
Family Unity Scale Scores	.14	.05

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

The general purpose of this study was to investigate perceptions of unwed mothers concerning sex and men and to relate these perceptions to various demographic and familial factors.

The sample was composed of 207 residents of maternity homes in various areas of the United States. The majority of the subjects were white, Protestant, from Oklahoma and between the ages of 12-36. The data were obtained during the Fall of 1970.

The questionnaire used in this study included the following: (a) a general information section, (b) the Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Sex Scale, (c) the Favorableness of Perceptions Toward Men Scale, and (d) the Family Unity Scale.

A percentage and frequency count was used to analyze background information. The chi-square test was used to determine if the perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex were significantly related to: (a) religion, (b) race, (c) size of residence, and (d) perception of primary source of affection during childhood. The chi-square test was also used to determine if there was a significant relationship between perception of what is most desired from a sexual relationship and: (a) size of residence, (b) education of respondent, (c) happiness of childhood relationship with parents, (d) age, (e) marital status, and (f) perception of previous relationship with alleged

father of the baby.

The Analysis of Variance was utilized to determine if the FPS Scale scores were significantly related to: (a) region of the country, (b) perception of what is most desired from a sexual relationship, and (d) perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby. The Analysis of Variance was also used to determine if the FPM Scale scores were significantly related to: (a) region of the country, (b) perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby, and (c) present relationship with alleged father of the baby.

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was employed to determine if a significant relationship existed between FPS Scale scores and: (a) FPM Scale scores, and (b) Family Unity Scale scores. The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was also employed to determine if there was a significant relationship between FPM Scale scores and Family Unity Scale Scores.

The results of this study were as follows:

1. All of the items in the FPS and FPM Scales were found to be significantly discriminating at the .001 level of significance.
2. There was no significant difference in perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex according to religion.
3. There was no significant difference in perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex according to race.
4. There was no significant difference in perceptions of the primary source of influence of attitudes toward sex according to size of residence for the major part of life.
5. There was a significant difference in the perceptions of the primary source of influence on attitudes toward sex according to

perception of primary source of affection during childhood at the .05 level of significance.

6. There was a significant difference in the perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to size of residence at the .02 significance.

7. There was a significant difference in the perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to education of respondent at the .01 level of significance.

8. There was no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to happiness of childhood relationship with parents.

9. There was no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to age.

10. There was no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to marital status.

11. There was no significant difference in perceptions of what is most desired from a sexual relationship according to perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby.

12. There was no significant difference in FPS Scale scores according to region of the country.

13. There was no significant difference in FPS Scale scores according to perception of source of primary influence on attitudes toward sex.

14. There was a significant difference in FPS Scale scores according to perception of what is most desired from a sexual relationship at the .001 level of significance.

15. There was a significant difference in FPS Scale scores

according to perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby at the .05 level of significance.

16. There was no significant difference in FPM Scale scores according to region of the country.

17. There was no significant difference in FPM Scale scores according to perception of previous relationship with alleged father of the baby.

18. There was a significant difference in FPM Scale scores according to present relationship with alleged father of the baby at the .001 level of significance.

19. FPS Scale scores were significantly correlated with FPM Scale scores at the .001 level of significance and with the Family Unity Scale scores at the .05 level of significance.

20. The FPM Scale scores were significantly correlated with the Family Unity Scale scores at the .05 level of significance.

The results of this study suggest that unwed mothers' perceptions concerning sex are not greatly influenced by such background factors as race and religion. The study does indicate that perceptions concerning sex are significantly associated with perceptions of the opposite sex and with the quality of relationships within the family of orientation.

It is recommended that future studies be designed in such a manner that it would be possible to obtain the perceptions of women concerning sex and men before they became pre-maritally pregnant. This might be done by conducting a longitudinal study investigating such perceptions of high school freshmen, and then doing follow-up study of those girls who became pre-maritally pregnant. It also might be desirable to do a

follow-up study two to five years after the delivery of the illegitimate child to determine if perceptions change significantly.

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A P P E N D I X

General Information

Your cooperation in this research project is greatly appreciated. The absence of your name assures anonymity. Please check or fill in answers as appropriate to each question. The blanks at the extreme left of the page are for purposes of coding (do not fill in). Begin with item 4.

_____ 1. - 3. _____ (do not fill in)

_____ 4. Age	_____ 1. 13-15	_____ 5. 26-29
	_____ 2. 16-18	_____ 6. 30-35
	_____ 3. 19-21	_____ 7. 35-40
	_____ 4. 22-25	

_____ 5. Religious Preference

_____ 1. Catholic

_____ 2. Protestant

_____ 3. Jewish

_____ 4. Mormon

_____ 6. Where do you live?

_____ 1. On a farm or in the country

_____ 2. Small town under 25,000 population

_____ 3. City of 25,000 to 50,000 population

_____ 4. City of 50,000 to 100,000 population

_____ 5. Over 100,000 population

_____ 7. In what state do you claim your residence? _____

_____ 8. Race

- _____ 1. White
- _____ 2. Negro
- _____ 3. Indian
- _____ 4. Other

_____ 9. Educational level which you have completed?

- _____ 1. Less than grade 8
- _____ 2. Completed 8th, but haven't attended 9th
- _____ 3. Attended high school, but didn't graduate
- _____ 4. Graduated from high school
- _____ 5. Attended college two or more years
- _____ 6. Graduated from 4-year college
- _____ 7. Completed graduate work

_____ 10. What is the highest educational attainment of the principal earner of your family's income?

- _____ 1. Completed graduate work for a profession
- _____ 2. Graduated from a 4-year college
- _____ 3. Attended college or university for two or more years
- _____ 4. Graduated from high school
- _____ 5. Attended high school, completed grade 9, but did not graduate
- _____ 6. Completed grade 8, but did not attend beyond grade 9
- _____ 7. Less than grade 8

_____ 11. What is the occupation of the head of your family? _____

_____ 12. Who expressed the most affection toward you while you were growing up?

- _____ 1. Mother
- _____ 2. Father
- _____ 3. A brother
- _____ 4. A sister
- _____ 5. Other _____
specify

_____ 13. Were your attitudes toward sex influenced primarily by

- _____ 1. Mother
- _____ 2. Father
- _____ 3. Friends of your age level
- _____ 4. School
- _____ 5. Church
- _____ 6. Books and magazines
- _____ 7. Movies
- _____ 8. Other _____
specify

_____ 14. What do you most desire from a sexual relationship?

- _____ 1. Emotional closeness
- _____ 2. Physical satisfaction
- _____ 3. Companionship
- _____ 4. Uncertain

_____ 15. Was your relationship with the father of the baby you are now carrying?

- _____ 1. A casual relationship
- _____ 2. A close friendship relationship
- _____ 3. A love relationship of some duration

- _____ 4. Uncertain about relationship
- _____ 5. Other _____
specify
- _____ 16. How do you feel now toward the father of the baby you are
now carrying?
- _____ 1. Disgust
- _____ 2. Disappointment
- _____ 3. No particular feeling one way or the other
- _____ 4. Love
- _____ 5. Dislike
- _____ 6. Consider him a friend
- _____ 17. What is your marital status?
- _____ 1. single
- _____ 2. divorced
- _____ 3. widowed

For each item below indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree by circling the response which best describes your feelings.

The response code is as follows: SA - strongly agree; A - agree; N - neutral; D - disagree; SD - strongly disagree.

- _____ 18. SA A N D SD Sex is primarily an expression of love and
emotional closeness between two individuals.
- _____ 19. SA A N D SD Sex is primarily a problem in life.
- _____ 20. SA A N D SD Sex usually involves deceit and exploitation
of others.
- _____ 21. SA A N D SD Sex usually makes a relationship between a
man and woman closer and more meaningful.

- _____ 22. SA A N D SD Men generally try to see things from the other person's point of view.
- _____ 23. SA A N D SD Men generally are not honest in expressing their true feelings.
- _____ 24. SA A N D SD Men generally behave responsibly toward others.
- _____ 25. SA A N D SD Men generally tend to "put on a front" and not really be themselves.
- _____ 26. SA A N D SD Men generally are considerate of others.
- _____ 27. SA A N D SD Men generally do not have a high degree of self respect.
- _____ 28. SA A N D SD Men generally express respect toward others.
- _____ 29. SA A N D SD Men generally are not understanding of others.
- _____ 30. SA A N D SD Men generally are guided by the value of being genuinely concerned about the welfare of others.
- _____ 31. SA A N D SD Men generally are not very loving or affectionate.
- _____ 32. SA A N D SD With respect to women, men generally are only interested in sex.
- _____ 33. Which of the following indicates your relationship with your parents during childhood?
- _____ 1. Very happy _____ 2. Happy
- _____ 3. Undecided _____ 4. Unhappy
- _____ 5. Very unhappy

FAMILY UNITY SCALE

Directions: Circle the rated responses that you feel characterized your family the majority of the time. Responses are SA - strongly agree; A - agree; N - neutral; D - disagree; SD - strongly disagree. Whenever possible refrain from using neutral - N. The blanks at the left are for coding (do not fill in). Since your name is not required, be as frank in your answers as possible.

- _____ 34. SA A N D SD We seldom took vacations together as a whole family.
- _____ 35. SA A N D SD I always felt free to ask my parents for advice.
- _____ 36. SA A N D SD Everyone in my family enjoys different type of recreation and we seldom did things together.
- _____ 37. SA A N D SD If I were in a situation where I really needed help, I feel my family would readily come to my aid.
- _____ 38. SA A N D SD When I was younger, my parents were seldom around when I needed to talk to them or get advice.
- _____ 39. SA A N D SD My parents usually enjoyed listening to me about my experiences.
- _____ 40. SA A N D SD I seem to feel little affection toward my parents.
- _____ 41. SA A N D SD I feel my parents enjoyed having me around.
- _____ 42. SA A N D SD As I grow older I have less regard for my parent's values.
- _____ 43. SA A N D SD When decisions that affected the entire family were made, everyone discussed the issue and offered their opinion.
- _____ 44. SA A N D SD I felt I was loved by all members of my family.

VITA

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Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: PERCEPTIONS OF UNWED MOTHERS CONCERNING SEX AND MEN

Major Field: Family Relations and Child Development

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