Couple-Level Pregnancy Intentions and Subsequent Relationship Formation and Dissolution

Jennifer Manlove, Mindy E. Scott, Nicole R. Steward, Erin Schelar

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Overview

The aim of this project is to examine relationship-level consequences of unintended births. These analyses compare relationship transitions for mothers and fathers who did not intend to become pregnant (both mistimed and unwanted) with those couples who intended to get pregnant when they did. We examine both mother and father intentions, before and after controls. Our relationship outcomes are measured as transition to a less committed relationship for married and cohabiting couples and a transition to a more committed relationship for cohabiting couples. We are interested in examining the association between mother and fathers' pregnancy intentions, as well as couples' agreement about their pregnancy intentions, and relationship formation and dissolution, and how relationship quality mediates this association.

Conceptual Framework

These analyses will be informed by two theoretical frameworks – a *life course approach* that explains the timing and consequences of parent's fertility and family formation decisions, as well as a *family systems perspective* that explains men's and women's interactions with each other and their children in the context of the family.

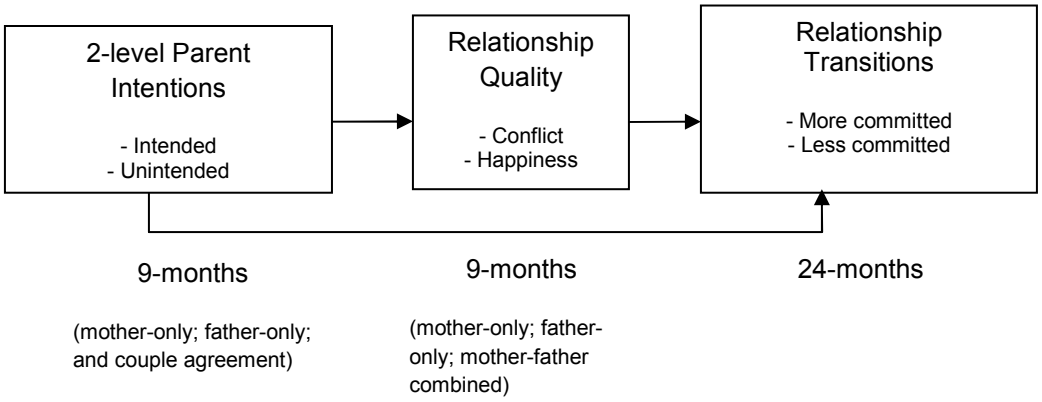
The *life course* perspective as it relates to pregnancy intentions reflects processes that highlight the sequence of significant life events related to childbearing (Elder, 1998). The timing of the onset of parenthood is a powerful organizer of the men and women's parental roles and an important life course transition that accounts for parents' attitudes towards family formation. The life course perspective posits that the effects of life course transitions (such as the transition to a birth) can be understood only in the context of a system of relationships in which couples exist (Bengston & Allen, 1993). As such, the family context and the mother-father relationship are the primary settings for their fertility decisions and family formation attitudes. The life course perspective also posits that family members' lives are interdependent, emphasizing that parents' decisions (both fathers and mothers) and circumstances affect the well-being of all other family members (Elder, 1994).

The *family systems* perspective posits that the family is comprised of a number of sub-systems, including the father-mother dyad, the mother-child dyad, and the father-child dyad (McHale et al., 2002). Using this framework, the couple dyad is viewed as one subsystem in the family (Cox & Paley, 2003; McHale et al., 2002), and the quality of the couple relationship is associated with how mothers and fathers coordinate their efforts to deal with issues related to childrearing (Lindsey, Caldera, & Colwell, 2005) and the stability of their relationship. Subjective assessments that both mothers and fathers may have about a pregnancy may affect the quality and stability of relationships that parents have with each other. Following both the life course and family systems frameworks, we consider mother's and fathers' relationship quality as a

potential pathway through which men's and women's pregnancy intentions may influence subsequent relationship transitions.

Figure 1 below provides a conceptual framework to guide the analyses for the project. In preliminary work we have found a direct association between mother's and father's pregnancy intentions and relationship transitions, as well as between intentions and later relationship quality (The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 2008)This model also shows the expected mediating influence of relationship quality (happiness and conflict) on subsequent relationship transitions.

Figure 1. Conceptual Model



We use data from the 9-month and 24-month waves of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) which provide rich individual and couple characteristics for men and women who, at the initial point of data collection, had a birth in the previous nine months. Information on the parents' relationship histories, as well as pregnancy intentions, parental relationship quality, and child outcomes, are collected from both of the biological parents where possible. We measure relationship status transitions for couples between the 9- and 24-month interviews.

Background

Pregnancy intentions are often measured as both the timing and wantedness of conception reported at birth. Pregnancies can either be intended (planned at the time of conception), mistimed (not wanted at the time of conception, but wanted eventually), or unwanted (not wanted at the time of conception or ever in the future), with mistimed and unwanted pregnancies considered unintended. Previous studies find that nearly 31 percent of women have ever had an unintended birth (Chandra et al., 2005). In our data, pregnancy intentions are reported after the birth, i.e., retrospectively. Although some scholars question the validity of intention measures reported after a birth (see, for example, Sable, 1999), research testing the validity of these retrospective measures find that pregnancy intentions measured after birth do not produce biased estimates when compared to those measured closer to the time of conception (Joyce, Kaestner, and Korenman, 2002).

Over the last 20 years researchers have examined the impact of women's pregnancy intentions on maternal and child outcomes (Pulley, Klerman, Tang, and Baker, 2002). Findings indicate that women with unintended pregnancies are less likely to engage in appropriate prenatal care (Hellerstedt et al., 1998), have a higher risk for a premature birth (Hummer et al., 1995; Mohllajee et al., 2007) or a low birth-weight baby (Hummer et al., 1995; Sable et al., 1997; Sable and Wilkinson, 2000; Pulley et al., 2002; Mohllajee et al., 2007), and are less likely to breast feed (Dye et al., 1997; Joyce, Kaestner, and Korenman, 2000; D'Angelo et al., 2002; Korenman, Kaestner, and Joyce, 2002; Taylor and Cabral, 2002; David, 2006). Children born to women that did not intend the pregnancy are less likely to have excellent health (Crissey, 2005), and report lower psychological wellbeing (Baydar, 1995; Axinn, Barber, and Thornton, 1998) and lower levels of self-esteem (Axinn, Barber, and Thornton, 1998). Pregnancy intentions have also been associated with greater childhood physical abuse (Zuravin, 1991), lower quality mother-child relationships (Barber, Axinn, and Thornton, 1999), and teenage delinquency (Joyce, Kaestner, and Korenman, 2000; Hay and Evan, 2006). Additionally, women who give birth after an unintended pregnancy themselves report lower levels of mental health (Hardee et al., 2004; Grussu, Quatraro, and Nasta, 2005). Some recent research indicates that fathers' pregnancy intentions may also have implications for families and children (Bronte-Tinkew, Scott, & Horowitz, Forthcoming; Bronte-Tinkew, Ryan, Carrano, & Moore, 2007; Bronte-Tinkew, Scott, Horowitz, & Lilja, 2009; Rogers & Speizer, 2007) although these findings are just emerging and need to be extended.

For the purposes of this study, we focus on the implications of having an unintended pregnancy for couples' relationship stability and the role of the mother-father relationship in mediating this association. Work done with married couples suggests that after an unplanned pregnancy, both partners' marital satisfaction is lower (Cox, Paley, Burchinal, & Payne, 1999), and parents who have a birth resulting from an unplanned pregnancy are more likely to have higher levels of relationship conflict and unhappiness (The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 2008). These findings suggest a direct link between pregnancy intentions and father-mother relationship quality following a birth. The quality of the father-mother relationship has been found to decline after the birth of a child in general (Crohan, 1996; Henderson & Brouse, 1991) and this decline may be more extreme if one or both of the parents face an unintended pregnancy (National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2008). We hypothesize that higher conflict and lower happiness resulting from experiencing an unintended birth will make couples far more likely to consider ending their relationship, resulting in greater odds of a relationship transition following the birth. In contrast, we hypothesize that couples' positive pregnancy intentions will increase their relationship happiness and lower relationship conflict, resulting in greater stability and commitment within the relationship.

Previous research has established an association between pregnancy intentions and negative individual, child and relationship outcomes but none has explicitly examined the direct and indirect pathways through which couples' intentions may impact relationship transitions. Another limitation of prior research on the role of pregnancy intentions is that it often examines agreement or disagreement in mothers' and fathers' reports of pregnancy intentions using maternal reports of fathers' pregnancy intentions, rather than fathers' reports of their own intentions. We contribute to the literature in two main ways: 1) by looking at the associations of

mother's and father's individual and joint pregnancy and couple's relationship stability; and 2) by examining how relationship happiness and conflict may mediate this association.

Data and Methods

This study will use data from the first two waves of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), a nationally representative longitudinal study of about 11,000 children born in 2001. The ECLS-B, conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics, collected information when the children were aged approximately 9 months (Round 1) and 24 months (Round 2). It includes over-samples of important populations such as Asians and American Indians, low to moderately low-birth weight infants, and twins. ECLS-B data include numerous child and family characteristics, including the child's biological parents self-reports of their pregnancy intentions, and the status and quality of the relationship between the parents over time.

For analyses examining associations between mother's and father's pregnancy intentions and relationship transitions by 24 months, the sample was drawn from the Round 2 sample of children. We exclude cases where data on the mother and father's pregnancy intentions were missing.

Measures

Relationship Transition Outcome Measures

Relationship transitions are measured by (1) the dissolution of a married or cohabiting relationship between 9 and 24 months; and (2) the transition from cohabitation to marriage between 9 and 24 months among cohabiting couples.

Relationship status at 9-months: Relationship status at 9-months is measured by a three-level variable of the mother's relationship relative to the biological father based on an ECLS-B composite variable of marital status at birth and the household roster: 1=married; 2=cohabiting; and 3=neither married nor cohabiting.

Relationship status at 24 months: Relationship status at 24-months is also a three-level variable of the mother's relationship relative to the biological father based on an ECLS-B composite variable of marital status at the time of the second interview, the household roster, and the mother's relationship history: 1=married; 2=cohabiting; and 3=neither married nor cohabiting.

Relationship change: To create measures of relationship change we compared the relationship status at 9-months to the relationship status at 24 months to determine whether married and cohabiting couples transitioned to more or less committed relationships between the two surveys. If a couple did transition in or out of a relationship the coding was as follows: 1) Moves from a marriage or cohabitation to an outside union were categorized as a transition to a less stable relationship, as was the move from a marriage to a cohabitation; 2) Moves from cohabitation to marriage were categorized as a transition to a more stable relationship.

Pregnancy Intentions

Pregnancy intentions are measured by both the biological mother and father report of the wantedness and timing of the child reported at birth. Biological father indicators were gathered from either the resident father survey (if the resident father was the biological father) or the non-resident father survey. At the 9-month interview both the biological mother and father reported if the pregnancy was 1=wanted (intended); 2=mistimed; or 3=unwanted. Mistimed and unwanted pregnancies were combined to develop a measure of unintendedness. An agreement on intentions measure was developed where 1=both the mother and father intended the pregnancy; 2=pregnancy was unintended for the mother; intended by father; 3=pregnancy was unintended for the father, intended by the mother; and 4=pregnancy was unintended for both the mother and father.

Relationship Quality Mediators

Relationship quality is measured by two variables for both the mother and father. For households where both biological parents are present, each partner is asked to rate relationship happiness and conflict.

Relationship happiness: Measures for relationship happiness were created from a single item on relationship happiness of whether or not the individual was "very happy" in the relationship (range 0-1).

Relationship conflict: The rating of relationship conflict was created by summing the number of items (out of 10 possible) that the individual reports arguing with their partner about very often: drinking; other men/women; chores and responsibilities; their children; money; not showing love and affection; sex; religion; leisure time; and in-laws.

Controls

For these analyses, we will control for the following child characteristics, individual parent characteristics, and couple characteristics:

Child characteristics: We control for the child's age at the 9-month interview, the race/ethnicity of the child, gender, if the child was part of a multiple birth, and if the child was disabled.

Father and mother's characteristics: For each parent, we control for their age at birth, the highest grade of school that they completed and the number of previous children they had. Additionally, for the father we created a control for if he works full-time or is a student, and for the mother if she worked in the 12 months previous to the pregnancy and lived with her parents through age 16.

Couple characteristics: We also created measures to control for couple characteristics, including the highest parent level of education, if they lived below the poverty level, if English was the primary language spoken in their home, changes in their relationship status between birth and the

9-month interview, as well as an indicator of the interval between the 9-month and 24-month interview dates.

Analysis

For our analyses we plan to model relationship transitions for samples of married and cohabiting couples. Our first model will examine the transition to a less committed relationship for cohabiting and married biological parents. We will use respective parent and couple controls for mothers and fathers according to whose intentions are measured in the model. Our first set of models will examine 2-level mother-only intentions. The second set of models will use 2-level father-only intentions, and the third set of models will examine the combination of mother and father intentions. We will then run similar models for a sample of cohabiting biological parents to predict the transition to a more committed relationship (marriage). We plan to include mother and father happiness and conflict separately and in combination as mediators.

Preliminary Findings

In preliminary analyses, we examined the direct association between mothers' and fathers' individual and joint pregnancy intentions and relationship change and stability between conception, birth and 24-months. Women who have an unintended pregnancy are more likely to transition to a less committed relationship within the first 24 months of their child's life (see Table 1). Findings also indicate that men with an unintended pregnancy within a cohabiting relationship are less likely to marry their partner by the time of the birth compared with men who intended the pregnancy (see Table 2). Among cohabiting couples, those in which fathers did not want the pregnancy are more likely to dissolve that relationship by the time of the birth than if the father intended the pregnancy. Net of controls, there are no differences by father intentions on whether relationships became more or less committed by two years after the birth.

When examining couples' joint pregnancy intentions, we find that those cohabiting couples in which neither parent intended the birth are most likely to dissolve that relationship between conception and birth (see Table 3). Also among cohabiting couples, if neither parent intended the pregnancy, couples are less likely to marry and more likely to dissolve the relationship by the time of birth than couples in which both parents intended the pregnancy, or in couples where just the mother intended the pregnancy. Likewise, among married couples, those in which neither parent intended the pregnancy are more likely to dissolve the relationship by the time of the birth (and by two years after the birth) than couples in which both parents intended the pregnancy or just the mother intended the pregnancy.

We have also conducted preliminary analyses on the association between mothers' and fathers' pregnancy intentions and relationship happiness and conflict for co-residential parents. In terms of mothers' pregnancy intentions, mothers and fathers reported lower relationship happiness and greater relationship conflict 9 months and 24 months after the birth of a child when the mother did not intend the birth (see Table 4). The results are similar when we look at fathers' intentions (see Table 5). Couples in which neither parent intended the birth, or in which the mother intended the birth, but the father did not, have lower mother and father reports of relationship quality than couples in which both partners intended the birth (Table 6).

Next Steps

Examining the direct associations between pregnancy intentions and relationship transitions and quality as outcomes provide insight into how these processes may be interrelated. In our analyses, we have established these direct associations, and will next examine whether mother-father relationship happiness and conflict at the individual and couple-level mediate the association between pregnancy intentions and relationship dissolution for married and cohabiting couples, and increases in relationship stability and commitment for cohabiting couples two years after the birth of a child. Our initial analyses focused on relationship change and stability between conception, birth and 2 years, but the current paper will focus specifically on relationship transitions between 9-months and 2 years, after controlling for relationship change between birth and 9-months. We will present results from bivariate analyses as well as from multivariate path analyses examining the direct and indirect associations between mother's and father's individual and joint pregnancy intentions, relationship quality, and relationship transitions.

Table 1. ECLS-B Parent relationship changes and stability between conception and birth and conception and 24 months, by mother intentions, with and without controls.1

	Unweighted N	Mother Self-Report of Intendedness-2 Level **Birth** Intended	Unintended[A]		Unweighted N	Mother Self-Report of Intendedness-2 Level **24-Months** Intended	Unintended[A]	
Cohabiting at Conception		16.3%	31.4%	*		15.8%	30.9%	*
More Committed	317				337			
without controls		25.0%	15.3%	*		32.9%	23.1%	*
with controls		32.4%	21.1%	*		43.8%	32.9%	*
Less Committed	217				306			
without controls		8.5%	19.3%	*		16.1%	35.3%	*
with controls		7.5%	14.5%	*		13.0%	24.0%	*
Stable	1,106				580			
without controls		66.5%	65.4%			51.0%	41.7%	*
with controls		62.9%	63.6%			47.2%	42.1%	
N=	1,640	851	789		1,223	643	580	
Married at Conception		74.3%	34.4%	*		74.9%	34.2%	*
Less Committed	61				109			
without controls		0.8%	3.5%	*		1.7%	6.7%	*
with controls		12.2%	24.0%	*		5.9%	10.9%	*
Stable	4,573				4,066			
without controls		99.2%	96.5%	*		98.3%	93.3%	*
with controls		87.8%	76.0%	*		94.1%	89.1%	*
N=	4,634	3,771	863		4,175	3,485	737	

[1] Estimates with controls are based on predicted probabilities from multivariate models that control for mother, child, and gradparent characteristics of children born in 2001, by pregnancy intendedness.

[A]Comparison between the unintended category and intended category

* p <.05

Table 2. ECLS-B Parent relationship changes and stability between conception and birth, and between conception and 24-months, by father's intentions, with and without controls.1

		Father Self-Report of 2-Level Intendedness **Birth**				Father Self-Report of 2-Level Intendedness **24-Months**		
	Unweighted N	Intended	Unintended[A]		Unweighted N	Intended	Unintended[A]	
Cohabiting at Conception		15.8%	27.2%	*		14.8%	27.2%	*
More Committed	234				249			
without controls		30.1%	18.2%	*		36.9%	31.1%	
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)		41.7%	26.9%	*		51.9%	44.7%	
with controls (including maternal intentions)		42.3%	30.6%	*		52.6%	48.8%	
Less Committed	63				97			
without controls		4.7%	13.3%	*		10.9%	21.2%	*
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)		3.7%	8.4%	*		7.0%	10.0%	
with controls (including maternal intentions)		3.9%	6.8%			7.4%	9.0%	
Stable	683				370			
without controls		65.2%	68.5%			52.2%	47.7%	
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)		58.4%	64.2%			46.0%	47.3%	
with controls (including maternal intentions)		57.8%	63.2%			45.8%	46.6%	
N=	980	402	578		716	296	420	
Married at Conception		78.9%	52.2%	*		79.7%	51.8%	*
Less Committed	19				41			
without controls		0.5%	1.5%			1.0%	3.3%	*
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)		1.9%	3.0%			2.9%	5.0%	
with controls (including maternal intentions)		2.7%	2.4%			3.7%	4.4%	
Stable	3,576				3,139			
without controls		99.5%	98.5%			99.0%	96.7%	*
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)		98.1%	97.0%			97.1%	95.0%	
with controls (including maternal intentions)		97.3%	97.6%			96.3%	95.6%	
N=	3,595	2,299	1,296		3,180	2,053	1,127	

[1] Estimates with controls are based on predicted probabilities from multivariate models that control for child, couple-level, father, and mother characteristics of children born in 2001, by pregnancy intendedness.

[A]Comparison between the unintended category and intended category

* p <.05

Table 3. ECLS-B Parent relationship changes and stability between conception and birth, and between conception and 24-months with and without controls.[1]

		Parent Agreement on Intendedness														
		Both parents think birth is intended		Intended by father, not by mother[A]		Intended by mother, not by father[B]		Unintended by both parents[C]		Intended by father, not by mother vs. Intended by mother, not by father[D]		Unintended by both parents vs. Intended by mother, not by father[E]		Unintended by both parents vs. Intended by father, not by mother[F]	
	Unweighted N														
Between Conception and Birth															
Cohabiting at Conception		13.1%		34.3%	*	22.4%	*	32.2%	*	*		*			
More Committed	234														
without controls		33.5%		21.4%	*	22.5%	*	15.1%	*						
with controls		48.0%		33.2%	*	34.9%	*	24.2%	*			*			
Less Committed	63														
without controls		2.5%		10.4%		8.1%		17.2%	*						
with controls		1.9%		6.8%	*	5.0%		10.3%	*			*			
Stable	683														
without controls		64.1%		68.2%		69.5%		67.8%							
with controls		54.6%		61.8%		63.0%		62.6%							
N=	980	295		107		233		345							
Married at Conception		82.7%		52.3%	*	66.2%	*	37.5%	*	*		*		*	
Less Committed	19														
without controls		0.3%		3.0%		0.1%		4.2%	*			*			
with controls		13.0%		24.4%	*	4.8%		20.8%	*	*		*			
Stable	3,576														
without controls		99.7%		97.0%		99.9%		95.8%	*			*			
with controls		87.0%		75.6%	*	95.2%		79.2%	*	*		*			
N=	3,595	2,104		195		880		416							
Between Conception and 24-Months															
Cohabiting at Conception		12.0%		34.5%	*	23.1%	*	31.5%	*	*		*			
More Committed	249														
without controls		40.7%		27.0%		36.7%		26.6%	*						
with controls		56.7%		44.2%		53.4%		40.4%	*						
Less Committed	97														
without controls		6.0%		23.7%	*	15.4%	*	25.8%	*						
with controls		4.5%		13.9%	*	7.8%		13.3%	*						
Stable	370														
without controls		53.4%		49.3%		47.9%		47.6%							
with controls		42.5%		40.4%		41.9%		44.7%							
N=	716	224		72		170		250							
Married at Conception		83.8%		51.3%	*	65.2%	*	37.7%	*	*		*		*	
Less Committed	41														
without controls		0.5%		7.0%	*	1.0%		7.4%	*	*		*			
with controls		1.3%		5.7%	*	1.6%		6.4%	*	*		*			
Stable	3,139														
without controls		99.5%		93.0%	*	99.0%		92.6%	*	*		*			
with controls		98.7%		94.3%	*	98.4%		93.6%	*	*		*			
N=	3,180	1,892		161		762		365							

[1] Estimates with controls are based on predicted probabilities from multivariate models that control for child, mother, father, and grandparent characteristics of children born in 2001, by pregnancy intentions.

[A]Comparison between intended by both parents and intended only by father

[B]Comparison between intended by both parents and intended only by mother

[C]Comparison between intended by both parents and unintended by both parents

[D]Comparison between intended only by father and intended only by mother

[E]Comparison between intended only by mother and unintended by both parents

[F]Comparison between intended only by father and unintended by both parents

*p<.05

Table 4. ECLS-B Parent relationship quality outcomes by mother intentions, with and without controls[1]

	Mother's self-report of Intendedness-2 Level		
	Pregnancy Intended	Pregnancy Unintended[A]	
Relationship Quality			
Mother reports relationship is very happy, 9 months[2]			
no controls	80.8%	65.0%	*
with controls	79.0%	66.0%	*
Mother reports arguing very often with partner, 9 months[2]			
no controls	18.0%	30.0%	*
with controls	19.4%	28.7%	*
Father reports relationship is very happy, 9 month[2]			
no controls	74.5%	59.0%	*
with controls	73.4%	60.8%	*
Father reports arguing very often with partner, 9 months[2]			
no controls	23.4%	33.0%	*
with controls	24.8%	31.3%	*
Mother reports relationship is very happy, 24 months[2]			
no controls	78.0%	63.0%	*
with controls	75.9%	63.0%	*
Mother reports arguing very often with partner, 24 months[2]			
no controls	24.5%	33.9%	*
with controls	25.9%	31.8%	*
Father reports relationship is very happy, 24 month[2]			
no controls	74.5%	59.7%	*
with controls	71.7%	59.6%	*
Father reports arguing very often with partner, 24 months[2]			
no controls	23.6%	33.1%	*
with controls	24.1%	29.6%	*

[1] Estimates with controls are based on predicted probabilities from multivariate models that control for mother, child and grandparent characteristics of children born in 2001, by pregnancy intendedness

[2] Valid only for households in which both biological mother and father reside.

[A]Comparison between the unintended category and intended category

*p<.05

Table 5. ECLS-B Parent relationship quality outcomes by father's intentions, with and without controls[1]

	Father self-report of Intendedness-2 Level		
	Pregnancy Intended	Pregnancy Unintended[A]	
Relationship Quality[2] (Residential fathers only)			
Father reports relationship is very happy, 9 month			
no controls	76.5%	61.7%	*
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)	75.5%	62.9%	*
with controls (including maternal intentions)	74.6%	64.2%	*
Father reports arguing very often with partner, 9 months			
no controls	22.0%	30.9%	*
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)	23.4%	30.3%	*
with controls (including maternal intentions)	23.7%	29.6%	*
Mother reports relationship is very happy, 9 months			
no controls	81.7%	70.4%	*
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)	80.2%	71.3%	*
with controls (including maternal intentions)	79.2%	73.1%	*
Mother reports arguing very often with partner, 9 months			
no controls	17.1%	25.2%	*
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)	18.8%	24.5%	*
with controls (including maternal intentions)	19.4%	23.2%	*
Father reports relationship is very happy, 24 month			
no controls	75.9%	5.4%	*
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)	72.9%	62.7%	*
with controls (including maternal intentions)	72.0%	64.4%	*
Father reports arguing very often with partner, 24 months			
no controls	21.8%	32.4%	*
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)	22.5%	30.5%	*
with controls (including maternal intentions)	22.6%	29.9%	*
Mother reports relationship is very happy, 24 months			
no controls	79.1%	67.9%	*
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)	77.3%	68.0%	*
with controls (including maternal intentions)	75.8%	70.5%	*
Mother reports arguing very often with partner, 24 months			
no controls	23.7%	31.2%	*
with controls (excluding maternal intentions)	25.1%	29.8%	*
with controls (including maternal intentions)	25.5%	28.6%	

[1] Estimates with controls are based on predicted probabilities from multivariate models that control for child, couple-level, father, and mother characteristics of children born in 2001, by pregnancy intendedness

[2] Valid only for households in which both biological mother and father reside.

[A] Comparison between the unintended category and intended category

*p<.05

Table 6. ECLS-B Parent relationship quality outcomes, with and without controls[1]

	Parent Agreement on Intendedness											
	Both parents think birth is intended	Intended by father, not by mother[A]		Intended by mother, not by father[B]		Unintended by both parents[C]		Intended by father, not by mother vs. Intended by mother, not by father[D]	Unintended by both parents vs. Intended by mother, not by father[E]	Unintended by both parents vs. Intended by father, not by mother[F]
Relationship Quality[2] (Residential fathers only)										
Father reports relationship is very happy, 9 month										
no controls	77.8%	66.1%	*	66.3%	*	55.5%	*		*	*
with controls	76.5%	67.3%	*	66.5%	*	57.8%	*		*	*
Father reports arguing very often with partner, 9 months										
no controls	21.1%	28.5%	*	28.5%	*	34.2%	*		*	
with controls	22.8%	27.4%		29.0%	*	32.0%	*			
Mother reports relationship is very happy, 9 months										
no controls	84.1%	62.3%	*	73.7%	*	65.9%	*	*	*	
with controls	82.6%	63.2%	*	73.9%	*	67.9%	*	*		
Mother reports arguing very often with partner, 9 months										
no controls	15.2%	32.4%	*	23.0%	*	28.2%	*	*	*	
with controls	16.9%	31.3%	*	23.1%	*	26.2%	*			
Father reports relationship is very happy, 24 month										
no controls	77.4%	61.3%	*	66.8%	*	59.3%	*		*	
with controls	74.7%	59.0%	*	65.4%	*	58.8%	*			
Father reports arguing very often with partner, 24 months										
no controls	20.8%	30.6%	*	31.0%	*	34.0%	*			
with controls	21.8%	27.1%		29.5%	*	30.5%	*			
Mother reports relationship is very happy, 24 month										
no controls	81.4%	58.8%	*	72.8%	*	61.6%	*	*	*	
with controls	80.0%	57.9%	*	72.5%	*	61.6%	*	*	*	
Mother reports arguing very often with partner, 24 months										
no controls	22.6%	33.6%	*	28.1%	*	35.0%	*		*	
with controls	24.2%	29.7%		27.1%		32.1%	*			

[1] Estimates with controls are based on predicted probabilities from multivariate models that control for child,couple-level, father, and mother characteristics of children born in 2001, by pregnancy intendedness.

[2] Valid only for households in which both biological mother and father reside.

[A]Comparison between intended by both parents and intended only by father

[B]Comparison between intended by both parents and intended only by mother

[C]Comparison between intended by both parents and unintended by both parents

[D]Comparison between intended only by father and intended only by mother

[E]Comparison between intended only by mother and unintended by both parents

[F]Comparison between intended only by father and unintended by both parents

*p<.05

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