

Abstract

Father absence during childhood and adolescence can have a significant impact on sexual maturation and on intimate relationships. As the specifics of sexual maturation and partner relationships differ between the sexes, it is important to examine the impact of father absence separately for men and women. The aim of this paper is to present the current state of knowledge on the impact of father absence on intimate relationships. Most research to date has focused on women, so this paper will focus on men. The theoretical part presents life-history theory as a theoretical framework to explain the variability in reproductive strategies depending on environmental conditions. Subsequently, sexual maturation and the environmental influences that affect it are described, as the timing of sexual maturation has implications for intimate relationships. The next section focuses on intimate relationships, specifically the impact of father absence on mating strategies and on relationship satisfaction. The aim of the research design is to test hypotheses about the effects of father absence and father relationship quality on the timing of sexual maturation, sociosexuality, and partner satisfaction in men. The results of previous studies are severely limited; therefore, possible directions for future research are suggested in the conclusion of the paper. New findings could be used in individual or couple psychotherapy practice and in educating the general public.