

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND BIRTH CONTROL SABOTAGE:  
A REPORT FROM THE TEEN PARENT PROJECT<sup>1</sup>

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Introduction

Although recent research has contributed greatly to our knowledge of teen pregnancy and the conditions under which girls become parents, the relationship between teen girls' ability to control their reproductive behavior and the prevalence of domestic violence in their sexual relationships has been little explored. Previous work with domestic violence victims seeking to move from welfare to work led us to suspect that domestic violence may be causally related to teen pregnancy, and that this situation would be particularly acute for low-income teens. Therefore, the Center for Impact Research set out to see to what extent pregnancy among low-income teens was due to coerced and unprotected sexual relations, sabotage of birth control arrangements and the general pressure to choose between having children and the continuation of the relationship. Further, we thought that sabotage of birth control arrangements may in fact be one of the major reasons that many low-income girls are unable to complete high school education and leave welfare to work. The Teen Parent Project, then, was developed in order to

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