

# THE STORY OF TEEN MOTHERHOOD IDENTITY: A NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

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# Purpose and Aim

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## □ Purpose

- ▣ Explore and describe construction of mother identity by pregnant teens

## □ Aims

- ▣ Aim 1: Explore the personal, social, and cultural construction of motherhood of young women participating in a teen mother and child program.
- ▣ Aim 2: Describe individual experiences, including personal, social, and cultural influences and talk contributing to the construction of mother identity.

# Theoretical framework and Methods

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- Narrative Analysis
  - ▣ Social construction
  - ▣ Understand events of life through narratives
  - ▣ Performance view of language
- Burkean Pentad

# Data collection- interviews

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## □ Sample N=9

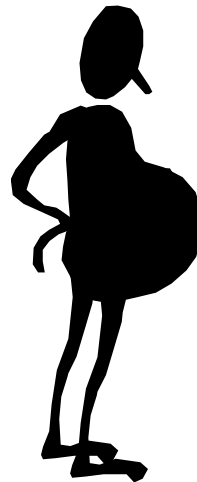
	Range	Mean
Teen Age (yrs)	15-18	16.8
Education completed (yrs)	8-12	10.2
Gestation (weeks)	14- 37 <sup>6</sup>	25 <sup>2</sup>

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>n</b>
Hispanic	5
White	3
>1 race	1
<b>Living arrangements</b>	
Maternal grandparent(s)	5
Paternal grandparent(s)	3
Foster parent	1
<b>Father of Baby involved</b>	
yes	7

# Narrative Analysis

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- Meta-story
  - ▣ The Test
  - ▣ Loss of My Body
  - ▣ In My arms



# The Test

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- Past oriented
- Stars
  - ▣ Teen mother
  - ▣ Pregnancy test
    - As many as 10 tests taken
      - “Because they come in a box of 10”
      - “Just to be sure”
- Reality of pregnancy
  - ▣ Concrete

# Loss of My Body

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- Focus on present
- Stars
  - ▣ Teen mother
  - ▣ Her physical body

# The Loss of My Body

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- Body is focus of tangible change
  - “ I don’t know, I didn’t think that I would gain as much weight as I have. Cuz, I try and put on my old clothes but, it’s depressing that I can’t fit into them anymore. My legs are like thunder thighs, I can’t pull up my pants any higher than my knees anymore. My old pants, I only have three pairs of pants now, and I used to have like over 25 pairs of pants.”





# In My Arms

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- Focus moves into the future
- Stars
  - ▣ Teen mother
  - ▣ Baby
    - Imagined and dreamed of child

# In My Arms

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## □ Hopes and dreams future

### □ Child

- “energetic, happy, jumping around everywhere, playful, always wanting to do something.”
- “I hope she is more like me than her dad. I hope she has all of both our good qualities.”

# In My Arms

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## □ Hopes and dreams of future

### ▣ Mothers

- “How I want it to be is, like, with me and Jacob having our own apartment and just like, you know, waking up and like taking care of her and going and doing things and stuff and Jacob going to school and everything and then coming home and like making dinner and like, you know, just the typical family stuff.”
- “So after I turn 18 and probably after the baby is born, I am going to get my GED and get into college classes.”

# Implications to Nursing

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- Disconnect from traditional/expected motherhood narrative
  - ▣ Baby is focus
    - Do what is “good for the baby”
  - ▣ Mother is vessel
    - Purpose is to sacrifice for child

# Implications to Nursing

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- Unique position to aid in construction of mother identity
  - ▣ Care and education
    - Prenatal, labor and delivery, postnatal
  - ▣ Resist negative images and myths
    - Do not represent experiences of teens
  - ▣ Anticipatory guidance
    - Support systems
    - Development

# Future Research

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- Grand narrative comparisons
  - Mass media
  - Teens
    - Parenting
    - Pregnant and not parenting
    - Non-parenting
- Longitudinal Study
  - Teen mother identity development
  - Focus groups

Questions?  
and  
Thank you

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