

# A Systematic Review of the Content of Mother-Daughter Reproductive Health Communication

Adejoke B. Ayoola, PhD, RN<sup>1</sup>, Elise Veurink, and Barbara Timmermans, PhD, RN<sup>1</sup>  
(1) Department of Nursing, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA



## Introduction

Early adolescence (13–15 years old) is characterized by more sex-based discussions with mothers than fathers. Mothers are at a unique position to teach their daughters about the reproductive system and its related changes such as ovulation and the menstrual cycle. The aim of this study was to examine the content of mother-daughter sexual and reproductive health communication.

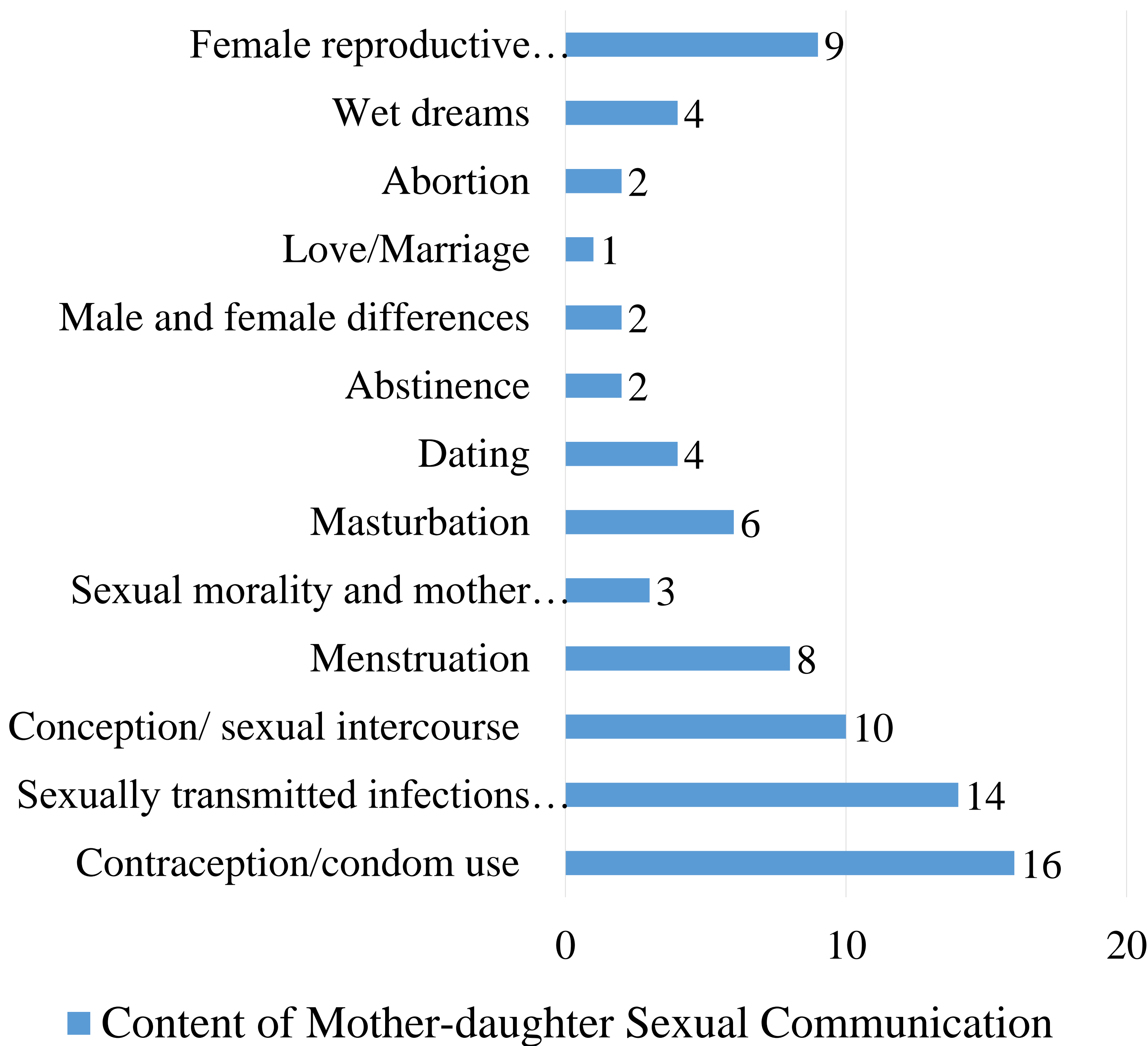
## Methods

A systematic review of 10 databases including PubMed, MEDLINE, CINAHL, and more was conducted. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) statement guided the conduct of the review. Various search terms were used including maternal communication, adolescent sexual behavior, reproductive health, and mother interaction. Studies were included if they were published in the last 50 years, were conducted in the U.S., and studied communication between mother-daughter dyads.

## Results

Characteristics of Reviewed Studies		% (n = 20)
Study Design	Quantitative	65.0% (13)
	Qualitative	20.0% (4)
	Quantitative/qualitative	15.0% (3)
Level of Evidence	I – Systematic Review of RCT	0% (0)
	II—Single RCT	20.0% (4)
	III- Quasi-Experimental	10.0% (2)
	IV – Single correlational studies	40.0% (8)
	VI – Simple qualitative and descriptive	30.0% (6)
Sample size	≥ 200	55.0% (11)
	100-199	20.0% (4)
	50-99	25.0% (5)
Age Range	Daughters	9-20 years
	Mothers	36-46 years
Race/Ethnicity	African American/African	60.0% (12)
	Hispanic/Latino	55.9% (11)
	Asian American/Asian	5.0% (1)
	Caucasian/White	30.0% (6)
Socioeconomic Status	Low Income	25.0% (5)
	Middle or High Income	15.0% (3)
	Not Reported	60.0% (12)
Sampling	Convenience	75.0% (15)
	Random	25.0% (5)

## Results



## Conclusions

Partnership within the neighborhoods through active involvement of resident community health workers and local agencies are successful means of recruiting low-income women from ethnic minority group into a community-based health promotion program.

## References

Bynum, M. S. (2007). African American mother-daughter communication about sex and daughters' sexual behavior: Does college racial composition make a difference? *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 13(2), 151–160. <http://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org.lib-proxy.calvin.edu/10.1037/1099-9809.13.2.151>

Dilorio, C., Kelley, M., & Hockenberry-Eaton, M. (1999). Communication about sexual issues: mothers, fathers, and friends. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 24(3), 181–189. [http://doi.org/10.1016/S1054-139X\(98\)00115-3](http://doi.org/10.1016/S1054-139X(98)00115-3)

of Adolescent Research, 7(1), 59–79. <http://doi.org/10.1177/074355489271005>