The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE

Partners (Continued from Page 16)

much more to insist he uses a condom."

But that would not explain why these girls are less likely to abort or why they are more likely to tell researchers that their pregnancies were intended, said Lindberg,

speculating that they may have more confidence in their older partners' ability to provide for them and their future children.

employed or educated than teen dads," she said.

study will clarify earlier work that found most teen-age mothers had older partners - data seized by some lawmakers who blamed "He is more likely to be predatory older men for the problems of teen pregnancy.

For example, the 1996 Researchers hope the welfare reform law called for

states to step up prosecutions of statutory rape, and some members of Congress have cited this data in arguing that girls should be required to get parental consent for abortions or birth control.

Policy makers may still want to focus on the relationships between teenage girls with older partners, despite their small numbers, because of their greater likelihood of ending up with children.

The Guttmacher Institute receives most of its funding from large foundations,

though a small amount comes from Planned Parenthood of America. Its public policy institute focuses on reproductive health issues and publishes the journal. Independent researchers review articles before publication.



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