Topic. Research has shown that the offspring of teen mothers are at risk of becoming early parents themselves and having births out-of-wedlock. The purpose of this research is twofold. First we examine, among the offspring of teen mothers, the individual, family, community and lifecourse characteristics that predispose them to have either an early or nonmarital birth themselves. We also seek to identify which characteristics may be related to the children of teen mothers delaying childbearing past age 20 and having children within wedlock. Second, among those having a first birth, we will also examine the probability of a subsequent teen or nonmarital birth.

Theoretical focus and expected findings. Borrowing from an ecological framework, we expect that child development is shaped through many contexts, including a child's own characteristics (such as gender), parenting and the home environment, peers, and through the community. A child's gender and race, attitudes towards conception, socio-economic disadvantage, and instability in living arrangements have all been linked to teen childbearing, and we expect them to be here. Characteristics shown to be associated with a lower risk of teen or nonmarital childbearing include strong parent-child relationships, parental involvement in schooling, having peers that are not sexually active, living in a two-parent family, and among females, having a partner who is not substantially older. We will assess many of these characteristics, with the aim of learning whether they may increase the likelihood of delaying childbearing or avoiding an out-of-wedlock birth, even among the offspring of teenage mothers. Life-course theory can also be informative here. While offspring of teen mothers tend to be at high risk of experiencing early parenthood themselves, it is possible that mothers may adopt behaviors over time that help buffer the impact of their early childbearing on their

offspring. For example, attaining a high school or college degree or maintaining a long-lasting marriage may help reduce the likelihood that a child of a teen mother will himself become an early parent. While these same factors may help distinguish teen parents who go on to have subsequent births from those who don't, we expect that the characteristics of offspring, and especially of their partners, may become particularly important in understanding who goes on to bear a subsequent child as a teen or out-of-wedlock.

Data and Research Methods. The proposed research uses data from the merged child-mother data of the NLSY79. This is an ideal dataset for the proposed research for a number of reasons: the dataset includes extensive fertility, employment, marital history and socio-demographic characteristics of the NLSY79 respondents, who make up our sample of teen mothers in our proposed research. The NLSY79 cohort consists of 12,686 youth who were ages 14-21 in 1979. Respondents were interviewed annually from 1979 through 1994, and biennially ever since. The repeated nature of the survey design allows us to detect when theoretically important changes may have occurred in a teen mother's lifecourse, such as gaining additional schooling or making marital transitions. Detailed information is also collected from the children of the NLSY79 mothers. The information is age-appropriate, consisting largely of developmental, academic and socio-emotional assessments when children are ages 0-14. When the children of the NLSY79 mothers turn 15, they are administered a Young Adult survey, which includes questions on sexual initiation, childbearing, relationships, and employment, to name a few. Since data from children and mothers can be linked, and has been collected repeatedly for over 20 years, the NLSY79 merged mother-child data is an ideal dataset for our proposed research.

Data is available for the age of the offspring of the NLSY79 mothers at the birth of each of their children (if any), and we use this data to determine whether offspring themselves had a child when they were under 20 years old. At every survey round after they turn 15, the young adult offspring of NLSY79 mothers are asked about their marital, dating, and cohabiting relationships. We have used this data to create marriage histories for each young adult. The marriage histories include the beginning and end dates, if any, of virtually all young adult marriages. We compared the marriage histories to the birth dates of all children born to the young adults, and this allowed us to determine whether each birth was a marital birth.

Using the data described above, we plan to run hazard models of the likelihood of having a teen birth, no teen birth or non-marital birth, or a non-marital non-teen birth among the offspring of NLSY79 teen mothers. We will also assess subsequent fertility among offspring who have had a first child. We will again run hazard models of the likelihood of having a subsequent teen birth, a subsequent nonmarital birth, or no subsequent teen or non-marital birth. Analyses will include a range of explanatory variables, as referenced in the above discussion.