

The Men and Parenting Pathways Worldwide Survey

Participant Information Sheet

Date: 29th September 2016

Full Project Title: The Men and Parenting Pathways (MAPP) Worldwide Survey

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Project Managers: Bengianni Pizzirani and Laura Di Manno, School of Psychology, Deakin University

If you are a father and aged between 22 and 34 years, you are invited to take part in the MAPP Worldwide Survey conducted by investigators at Deakin University. This Information Sheet contains detailed information about the project that can help you make a fully informed decision about whether you are going to participate. Once you understand what the project is about and if you agree to take part in it, you can complete the online survey.

More information about the MAPP research program, this survey, and a PDF file of this Information Sheet available for download to keep for your records, are available at www.mappresearch.org/mapp-worldwide

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to better understand how children may influence the wellbeing, social life and work commitments of fathers. Women's psychological and mental health during parenthood has been researched extensively; however, much less research has been conducted with men. We would like to learn from men about the different ways they experience fatherhood, and to compare the psychological health of fathers across an international and multicultural sample of men. Understanding mental health and wellbeing during this time is important for the men, their families, partners, children or future children, social networks and workplaces.

Method

About 500 English-speaking men aged 22-34 years will be recruited for this study. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire that will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

The questionnaire can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

The questionnaire includes questions about your wellbeing, relationship status and quality, social network characterisation, social roles, social identity, personality and emotion regulation and indicators of mental health (e.g., anxiety, depressive symptoms) as well as demographic measures. Examples of questions include, "I can count on my friends when things go wrong," "I felt down-hearted and blue," and "I have felt annoyed".

All information collected from you will remain completely confidential. **Consent to participate in this study is implied by the submission of your online survey.**

Demands

This study will involve completing one questionnaire. The questionnaire will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. You will be able to complete this questionnaire in your own time.

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Risks and potential benefits to participants

There are no anticipated risks outside the normal day-to-day activities. While it is not expected, given that the questionnaires will include questions regarding issues such as anxiety and stress, there is a slight possibility that you may experience some concern or mild discomfort about your responses. While we would like you to complete all the survey questions, if you feel uncomfortable answering a particular question, you can skip it and move to the next part of the questionnaire. You are also able to withdraw at any time.

If you do participate and find that you are uncomfortable or overly worried about your responses to any of the questionnaire items, participants are advised to withdraw from participating in the project.

Participants will not incur any risk from withdrawing from the study.

You may also like to contact a local medical doctor or government or community organization that specializes in dealing with distress.

Expected benefits to the wider community

This study will provide a world first assessment of the psychological wellbeing of men during the peak age for first childbirth. This includes not only understanding the transition to fatherhood for men who have children during this time, but also the psychological transition for men who do not have children. This information will contribute to the evidence base regarding how we can help men manage this transition positively.

Privacy and confidentiality

You can be assured that you will not be identified in any way in the reporting of our results in publications and conference presentations. You will complete the survey online and notice that it is completed on a database called REDCap. REDCap is hosted by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia. Any information we collect from you that can identify you will remain confidential and will be held on secured files within MCRI and the School of Psychology at Deakin University, Australia.

Dissemination of results

Outcomes of the research in the form of publications will be posted on the study website - www.mappresearch.org, our Facebook account, and through our e-newsletter. A summary of the findings will be made available for any interested participants to read at the completion of the study. Please email mapp@deakin.edu.au if you would like to receive a copy of this report.

The findings of this research will be published in peer reviewed journals and conference proceedings.

Data will only be reported in aggregate form and hence no participants will be able to be individually identified.

Monitoring of this study

This study will be monitored through annual reports provided to the Faculty Ethics Committee.

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Payment

You will not be paid for your participation in this project.

Funding

This project is funded by a Central to Research Grant from the Faculty of Health, Deakin University, Australia, to the value of \$18,434.00 AUD.

Declarations of interest

The researchers conducting this study have no financial or other conflicts of interest to disclose.

Participation is voluntary

Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part you are not obliged to.

Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with Deakin University or your relationships with your co-workers, fellow supporters, club, workplace or organization in any way.

Before you make your decision to participate in this study, a member of the research team will be available to answer any questions you have about the research project. You can ask for further information about the study at any time.

Only participate in this study after you have had a chance to ask your questions and have received satisfactory answers.

Contact details

For further information about this study, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr Jacqui Macdonald, School of Psychology, Deakin University, 221 Burwood Hwy, Burwood VIC 3125, on +61 3 92 46 8 164, or email mapp@deakin.edu.au.

Ethical Guidelines

This project will be carried out according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) produced by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies. The ethics aspects of this research project have been approved by the Faculty of Health Human Ethics Advisory Group of Deakin University.

Complaints

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about your rights as a research participant, then you may contact:

The Manager, Ethics and Biosafety,
Deakin University, 221 Burwood Highway,
Burwood Victoria 3125,
Telephone: 03 9251 7129,
researchethics@deakin.edu.au
Please quote project number
[HEAG_G 192-2014].

If you would like to take part in the MAPP Worldwide Survey, please [CLICK HERE](#).