

February 2020 Webinar

Exploring Social Poverty:

**Low-Income Populations and the Impact of Family and
Community Ties**

Presenter:

Sarah Halpern-Meehin, PhD

Associate Professor of Human Development and Family
Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Webinar Information

If you are unable to access audio through your computer, please use your phone:

+1 (562) 247-8422 /access code: 245-823-269

All attendees are muted.

Ways to participate

- 1, Type your questions in the “Questions” box at the end of the webinar for Q & A time.
2. There might be a “raise your hand” question.
3. There may also be poll questions.

This webinar will be archived at:

<https://www.dibbleinstitute.org/free-resources/webinars/>

Charlie and Helen Dibble





The Dibble Institute

Resources for Teaching Relationship Skills

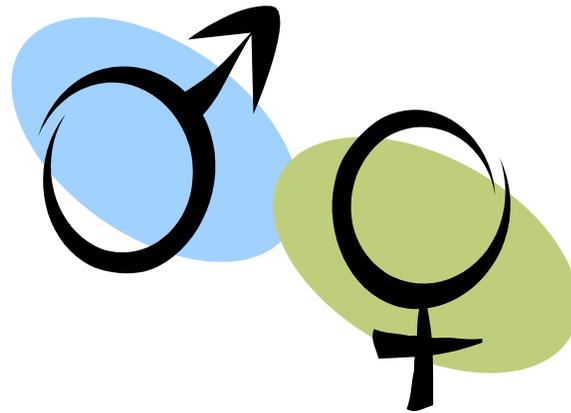
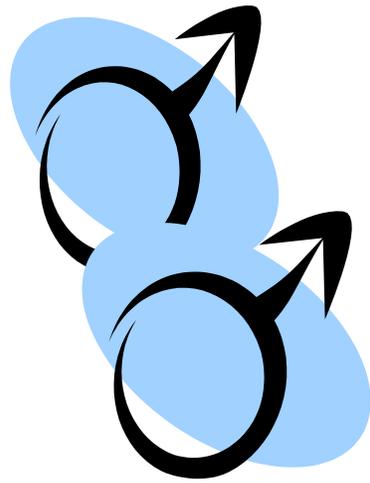
The Dibble Institute believes in research.



The Dibble Institute
believes in stable, healthy families.



The Dibble Institute believes
all people deserve respect.



PRESENTER:



Sarah Halpern-Meekin, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Human
Development and Family Studies at the
University of Wisconsin-Madison

The background of the slide features a close-up, low-angle shot of two hands reaching towards each other. The hands are positioned as if they are about to clasp or are in the process of clasp. The lighting is dramatic, with the hands appearing as dark silhouettes against a lighter, warm-toned background. The overall mood is one of hope, support, and human connection.

Social Poverty

Low-Income Parents and the Struggle for Family and Community Ties

Sarah Halpern-Meekin

University of Wisconsin - Madison





A REPORTER AT LARGE AUGUST 18, 2003 ISSUE

THE MARRIAGE CURE

Is wedlock really a way out of poverty?

By Katherine Boo

The government can't
"sprinkle magic dust on
poor unmarried parents,
hook them up and expect
poverty to disappear."
– Julieanne Malveaux, USA
Today

"Marriage will not fix
poverty."
– Rebecca Rosen,
The Atlantic

"a little noticed twist on
social engineering by
government."
– Alexandra Starr, Business
Week

The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of yellow smiley faces with black outlines and simple black features for eyes and a curved mouth. Two blue speech bubbles are overlaid on this background. The first speech bubble is on the left side, and the second is on the right side. Both contain white text.

“It was like Family Expectations put a phrase or a word above the problem we had. It was like ‘This is your problem here’ so now we knew how to take . . . what steps we needed to . . . take care of it, so that was definitely building us up stronger each week.”

- Robert, 21, first-time father

“With Family Expectations you get peace of mind. You’re around good, positive people. Nothing negative. Nothing.”

- Denelle, 30, mother of two





Study Description

Three waves of in-depth interviews

- 31 couples (total of 192 interviews)
- Wave 1: At program enrollment
 - Individual and couple interviews
- Wave 2: Three months after enrollment
 - Couple interviews
- Wave 3: One year after enrollment
 - Individual interviews

Family Expectations program in Oklahoma City

- Relationship education program teaching relationship skills (e.g., techniques for healthy disagreements & communication)
- For pregnant couples or those with a baby < 3 months old
- Group workshop setting with some case management & resource referrals
- Participation is voluntary, supported, & incentivized

Social Capital vs. Social Poverty

Social capital = social connections that are convertible into economic resources (e.g., job referrals, loans, a place to crash)



Vulnerability to Social Poverty

- Multiple transitions
 - Transition to adulthood
 - Transition to partnership
 - Transition to parenthood
- Instability undermines trust in self and partner





What is it like to take part in Family Expectations?



Short-term
impact of
Family
Expectations



Long-term impact of Family Expectations

How do
parents see
Family
Expectations
building their
relational
resources?



Assistance navigating transitions



Establish shared expectations/norms



Sense of shared commitment to building relationship



Social supports within program environment



Stronger sense of partnership as a relational resource



Implications for Relationship Programs

- Pair with services that address other needs, be they economic, education, or health-related
- Practitioners and curriculum developers need to be prepared to serve diverse families
- Reach individuals before they are pregnant or have children

A photograph of several people holding hands in a circle, symbolizing unity and support. The image is slightly blurred and has a soft, warm tone. The hands are the central focus, with some wearing white shirts and others in darker clothing. The background is out of focus, showing more people and what appears to be an outdoor setting.

Addressing Social Poverty

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Questions?????

The webinar will be available in three business days.

<https://www.dibbleinstitute.org/free-resources/webinars/>

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Second Wednesday Webinar

March 11, 2020

Update on the Mind Matters Evaluation

With

Becky Antle, MSSW, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Social Work and University Scholar at the
University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work and Marriage
and Family Therapy Program