

Full text open access online (Since 2010)

©  Kamla-Raj JSSA 2023

PRINT: ISSN 0976-6634 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6764

J Sociology Soc Anth, 14(1-2): 1-13 (2023)

DOI: 10.31901/24566764.2023/14.1-2.388

## **The Teenage Boys' Experiences of the Effects of Biological Father Absence on Their Well-being: A Descriptive Phenomenological Inquiry**

Hadebe Nondumiso<sup>1</sup>, Gutura Priscilla<sup>2</sup> and Sithole Mbongeni<sup>3</sup>

*<sup>1</sup>Department of Social Work, University of Zululand, KwaDlangezwa, South Africa*

*E-mail: <sup>1</sup><HadebeN@unizulu.ac.za, ORCID: 0000-0002-5990-1124>*

*<sup>2</sup>Department of Social Work and Criminology, University of Pretoria,  
Pretoria, South Africa*

*E-mail: <sup>2</sup><Priscilla.gutura@up.ac.za, ORCID: 0000-0002-7135-6210>*

*<sup>3</sup>Department of Social Work, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa*

*E-mail: <sup>3</sup><sitholem3@ukzn.ac.za, ORCID: 0000-0003-4075-0677>*

**KEYWORDS** Biological Father. Descriptive Phenomenology. Experiences. Father Absence. Residential Father. Teenage Boys

**ABSTRACT** Father absence is a global social phenomenon that has a detrimental social, economic and behavioural effect in the lives of children. The purpose of this paper is to explore and discuss the negative effects of biological father absence on teenage boys. A qualitative descriptive phenomenological design was used to conduct a study involving learners from two high schools situated in Northern KwaZulu-Natal, in South Africa. Twenty participants from the age of 13 to 19 years were recruited through a purposive sampling method. The ecological systems theory was adopted as an explanatory lens. Data was collected through interviews and analysed through thematic analysis. The main findings of the study were that teenage boys experienced emotional and financial challenges, misused drugs and other substances, became involved in criminal activities, and displayed poor academic performances. The study concluded that the father absence contributes to negative outcomes on teenage boys.