



The importance of father involvement

Children who grow up with involved fathers are

39%

More likely to earn mostly A's in school¹

45%

Less likely to repeat a grade¹

60%

Less likely to be suspended or expelled from school¹

2X

As likely to go to college or find stable employment after high school²

75%

Less likely to have a teen birth²

80%

Less likely to spend time in jail²



Children who grow up with absent fathers are

At greater risk of infant mortality³

More likely to drop out of high school⁶

More likely to have behavioral problems⁴

More likely to become pregnant as a teenager⁷

More likely to abuse drugs and alcohol⁵

More likely to commit a crime and go to prison⁸

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Sources: (1) Nord, C. & West, J. (2001) Fathers' and Mothers' Involvement in Their Children's Schools by Family Type and Resident Status. (NCES 2001-032). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2) Furstenberg, F.F. & Harris, K.M. (1993). When and why fathers matter: Impacts of father involvement on the children of adolescent mothers. Pp. 117-38 in Young Unwed Fathers: Changing Roles and Emerging Policies. Edited by R.J. Lerman and T.J. Ooms. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. (3) Gaudino Jr., J., Jenkins, B., & RoCHAT, R. (1999) No fathers' names: a risk factor for infant mortality in the State of Georgia, USA. *Social Science & Medicine*, 48(2), 253-265. (4) Howard, K., et al. (2006). Fathers' influence in the lives of children with adolescent mothers. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 20(3), 468-476. (5) Bronte-Tinkew, J., Moore, K., & Carrano, J. (2006) The father-child relationship, parenting styles, and adolescent risk behaviors in intact families. *Journal of Family Issues*, 27(6), 850-881; Coley, R. L., & Medeiros, B. L. (2007). Reciprocal longitudinal relations between nonresident father involvement and adolescent delinquency. *Child development*, 78(1), 132-147; Jordan, L. C., & Lewis, M. L. (2005). Paternal relationship quality as a protective factor: Preventing alcohol use among African American adolescents. *Journal of Black Psychology*, 31(2), 152-171. (6) McLanahan, S., Tach, L., & Schneider, D. (2013) The Causal Effects of Father Absence. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 39, 399-427. (7) Ellis, B., Bates, J., Dodge, K., Fergusson, D., Horwood, L., Pettit, G. & Woodward, L. (2003). Does Father Absence Place Daughters at Special Risk for Early Sexual Activity and Teenage Pregnancy? *Child Development* 74(3), 801-821. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8624.00569>. (8) Bronte-Tinkew, J., Moore, K., & Carrano, J. (2006) The Father-Child Relationship, Parenting Styles, and Adolescent Risk Behaviors in Intact Families. *Journal of Family Issues*, 27(6), 850-881.