



# The importance of father involvement

Children who grow up with involved fathers are

**39%**

More likely to earn mostly A's in school<sup>1</sup>

**45%**

Less likely to repeat a grade<sup>1</sup>

**60%**

Less likely to be suspended or expelled from school<sup>1</sup>

**2X**

As likely to go to college or find stable employment after high school<sup>2</sup>

**75%**

Less likely to have a teen birth<sup>2</sup>

**80%**

Less likely to spend time in jail<sup>2</sup>



Children who grow up with absent fathers are

At greater risk of infant mortality<sup>3</sup>

More likely to drop out of high school<sup>6</sup>

More likely to have behavioral problems<sup>4</sup>

More likely to become pregnant as a teenager<sup>7</sup>

More likely to abuse drugs and alcohol<sup>5</sup>

More likely to commit a crime and go to prison<sup>8</sup>

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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.I. 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) Hoffmann, J. (2002). The Community Context of Family Structure and Adolescent Drug Use. Journal of Marriage and Family 64, 314-330. (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.