

# Fact Sheet



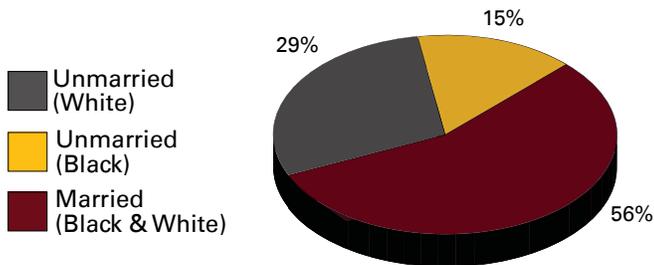
Commission on  
Fatherhood



## Father Absence in Ohio

According to the Ohio Department of Health, in 2009 approximately 44 percent of the children born in Ohio were born to non-married mothers. That's slightly above the national average of 42 percent. About 2 out of every 5 Ohio children live in homes without fathers.

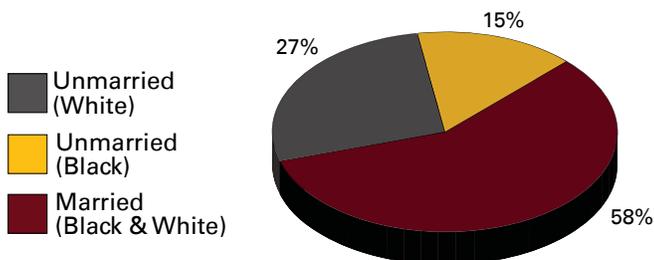
### Ohio Married vs. Unmarried Births



Nationwide, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 24 million children—1 out of 3—live in homes without their biological fathers.

- 1 out of 3 children nationally live in homes without fathers.
- 2 out of 3 African American children live in homes without fathers.

### U.S. Married vs. Unmarried Births



According to the National Center for Health Statistics, out of 4.3 million total births in 2009, about 1.7 million were out-of-wedlock births. This represented an increase of more than 25 percent from just five years before. In 2007, 28 percent of white women had babies out of wedlock, compared to nearly 72 percent of black women and more than 51 percent of Latino women.

### Children in father-absent homes are:

- Five times more likely to live in poverty
- Three times more likely to fail in school
- Two times more likely to develop emotional or behavioral problems
- Two times more likely to abuse drugs
- Two times more likely to be abused and neglected
- Two times more likely to be involved in crime
- Three times more likely to commit suicide

### Children with involved fathers have:

- Better cognitive outcomes, even as infants
- Higher self-esteem and less depression as teenagers
- Higher grades, test scores and overall academic achievement
- Lower levels of drug and alcohol use
- Higher levels of empathy and other pro-social behavior
- More economic stability
- Fewer problems with the judicial system
- Healthier child development
- More support from their paternal relatives.