

Dads Matter

Children whose fathers aren't present in their lives are more likely to:

- Live in poverty
- Become pregnant as teens
- Suffer obesity
- Drop out of high school
- Develop emotional or behavioral problems
- Be abused or neglected
- Go to prison
- Commit a crime
- Abuse drugs and alcohol

In contrast, 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
- Fewer problems with drugs and alcohol
- Fewer problems with the judicial system
- More support from their paternal relatives
- Healthier child development
- Higher levels of empathy
- More economic stability

Approximately two out of five children in Ohio live in homes without fathers, according to the Ohio Department of Health. Nationwide, about one out of three children live in homes without fathers, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. These statistics are troubling because the research is clear: Children with fathers who are present in their lives have much better outcomes than children who don't.*



What can you do?

If you're a dad, be engaged and involved, whether you live with your child(ren) or not.

If you're a mom, encourage your child(ren)'s father to be engaged and involved.

Support the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and your local fatherhood programs.

**Source: National Fatherhood Initiative*

fatherhood
.ohio.gov