

# The Father Absence Crisis in America

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A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, light blue, white) extending from the right side of the page towards the center.



There is a crisis in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 24 million children in America—one out of three—live without their biological dad in the home.

Consequently, there is a “father factor” in nearly all of the societal issues facing America today. We must realize there is a father absence crisis in America and begin to raise more involved, responsible, and committed fathers.

# Research shows when a child grows up in a father-absent home, he or she is...

## 1) Four Times More Likely to Live in Poverty

- Children in father-absent homes are almost four times more likely to be poor. (U.S. Census Bureau)



## 2) More Likely to Suffer Emotional and Behavioral Problems

- Children of single mothers show higher levels of aggressive behavior than children born to married mothers. (Journal of Marriage and Family)



## 3) Two Times Greater Risk of Infant Mortality

- Infant mortality rates are nearly two times higher for infants of unmarried mothers than for married mothers. (National Center for Health Statistics)



#### 4) More Likely to go to Prison

- One in five prison inmates had a father in prison. (Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs)



#### 5) More Likely to Commit Crime

- Study of juvenile offenders indicated that family structure significantly predicts delinquency. (Journal of Youth and Adolescence)



#### 6) Seven Times More Likely to Become Pregnant as a Teen

- Teens without fathers are twice as likely to be involved in early sexual activity and seven times more likely to get pregnant as an adolescent. (Child Development Journal)



## 7) More Likely to Face Abuse and Neglect

- Compared to children living with married biological parents, those whose single parent had a live-in partner had more than 8 times the rate of maltreatment overall, over 10 times the rate of abuse and more than 6 times the rate of neglect. (Child's Bureau)



## 8) More Likely to Abuse Drugs and Alcohol

- Youth are more at risk of first substance use without a highly involved father. (Social Science Research)
- Adolescents whose fathers were drug abusers revealed that paternal smoking and drug use lead to strained father-child relationships. This weakened relationship led to greater adolescent maladjustment with family and friends and a higher risk for adolescent drug use and smoking. Fathers who smoke cigarettes were less likely to enforce antismoking rules for their children and had weaker bonds in terms of adolescent admiration and emulation. (Pediatrics)



### 9) Two Times More Likely to Suffer Obesity

- Obese children are more likely to live in father-absent homes than are non-obese children. (National Longitudinal Survey of Youth)



### 10) Two Times More Likely to Drop Out of High School

- Students living in father-absent homes are twice as likely to repeat a grade in school. (U.S. Department of Education)
- Father involvement in schools is associated with the higher likelihood of their children getting mostly A's. (U.S. Department of Education)
- In the typical elementary school classroom of 20 students, 7 of them—over 33 percent—are growing up without their biological father in the home. (U.S. Census Bureau)



# THE FATHER ABSENCE CRISIS IN AMERICA

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**There is a crisis in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 24 million children in America—one out of three—live without their biological father in the home. Consequently, there is a “father factor” in nearly all of the societal ills facing America today. Research shows when a child is raised in a father-absent home, he or she is affected in the following ways...**

**POVERTY**

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**4X GREATER  
RISK OF  
POVERTY**

**BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS**

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**MORE LIKELY  
To Have  
BEHAVIORAL  
PROBLEMS**



**MOM-CHILD HEALTH**

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**2X GREATER  
RISK OF  
INFANT  
MORTALITY**

**INCARCERATION**

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**MORE LIKELY  
TO GO  
TO PRISON**



**CRIME**

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**MORE LIKELY  
TO COMMIT  
CRIME**

**TEEN PREGNANCY**

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**7X MORE LIKELY  
TO BECOME  
PREGNANT  
AS TEEN**

**CHILD ABUSE**

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**MORE  
LIKELY  
TO FACE**



**ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

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**MORE LIKELY  
TO ABUSE  
DRUGS  
AND ALCOHOL**

**CHILD OBESITY**

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**2X MORE LIKELY  
TO SUFFER  
OBESITY**



**EDUCATION**

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**2X MORE LIKELY  
TO DROP OUT OF  
HIGH SCHOOL**