

Fatherhood is foundational to strong families, and strong families are essential to a strong Nation. An absent father affects all aspects of a child's life, including socio-cognitive development, socio-emotional development, academic performance, and criminality. Unfortunately, the effects of fatherlessness are far too visible throughout America, including in the **District of Columbia**.

THE PREVALENCE OF FATHERLESSNESS IN THE U.S. AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- According to 2023 census data, approximately **18 million children in the U.S.** live without a biological father, stepfather, or adoptive father present in the home.
 - **Nearly 1 in 3** children in the United States is raised by a single parent, which is the highest rate of single-parent homes in the **world**.
 - **Nationally, more than 80%** of children in single-parent homes live with their mothers.
- **Fatherlessness is all too common in the District of Columbia, too.**
 - **49%** of children in D.C. are living in **single-parent homes**.
 - **504 children reside in foster care** in D.C. – living with neither parent.

FATHERLESSNESS AND EDUCATION

- Research shows that a father's involvement in their child's schooling **results in** higher grades and a lower likelihood of students repeating a grade.
- When children have an actively involved father, they are **33% less likely to drop out of school and 43%** more likely to get A's.

FATHERLESSNESS, POVERTY, AND GOVERNMENT DEPENDENCE

- Children without fathers at home are **4x more likely** to live in poverty.
 - Approximately **21,000 children live in poverty**—**17%** of all children in the state.
 - **46,000** children are in families **receiving public assistance** in D.C.