



Fathers Matter – Pass It On

June 24, 2024

THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY
18 million **Fatherless** CHILDREN IN THE US



The United States has the
HIGHEST RATE

of children in single-parent households of any nation in the world.

FATHERLESS FAMILIES ARE

4x more likely to live in poverty

than that for married-couple families

Fathers are absent from



OF SINGLE-PARENT HOMES

FATHERLESS CHILDREN ARE

more likely to abuse drugs and show signs of delinquent behavior



- ★ Children from single-parent families are [twice as likely](#) to suffer from mental health problems as those living with married parents.
- ★ Data suggests [84% of homeless families are headed by women](#) and [90% of homeless and runaway children come from fatherless homes](#).
- ★ [63% of youth suicides](#) are from fatherless homes.
- ★ [85% of children](#) who exhibit behavior disorders are from fatherless homes.
- ★ [70% of juveniles](#) in state-operated institutions come from single-parent homes.
- ★ Most adolescents who enter the justice system have suffered from parental abandonment, substance abuse, or a dysfunctional household. In a study of 75 juvenile delinquents, [66% experienced fatherlessness](#), 20% had never lived with their father, and 25% had an alcoholic father.
- ★ In a study of 56 school shootings, [only 10 of the shooters \(18%\)](#) were raised in a stable home with both biological parents. 82% grew up in either an unstable family environment or grew up without both biological parents together.
- ★ Children living absent their biological father are [2 to 3 times more likely](#) to be expelled or suspended at some time.
- ★ Girls who feel closeness to their father are [75% less likely](#) to have a teen birth. One study showed girls whose father left the home before they were [5 years old were 8 times more likely](#) to become pregnant as adolescents.
- ★ Children who feel closeness to their father are [80% less likely](#) to spend time in jail.
- ★ 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.
- ★ Children in single-parent homes are [more likely](#) to have low self-esteem, depression, anxiety, and more suicidal thoughts and attempts.