

# Lack of father involvement

Compared to children raised with involved fathers:

Sons with uninvolved fathers are **300%** more likely to be incarcerated in state juvenile institutions.<sup>8</sup>

Daughters with uninvolved fathers are **111%** more likely to be teen parents.<sup>8</sup>

Women with uninvolved fathers are **92%** more likely to fail in their marriages.<sup>8</sup>

Men with uninvolved fathers are **35%** more likely to fail in their marriages.<sup>8</sup>

Children from father-absent homes make up **63%** of youth suicides.<sup>8</sup>

Children who live without their fathers are **2-3 times more likely** to be poor, use drugs, experience health, educational, emotional and behavioral problems, to be victims of child abuse and to engage in criminal behavior than those who live with their fathers.<sup>9</sup>

Source: See footnote 8, 9.

## Mission Statement

### Worcester County Fathers & Family Network

The mission of the Worcester County Fathers & Family Network is to promote responsible fatherhood and raise community awareness of the importance of fathers in the lives of their children. The Network's objectives are:

- Improving parenting skills
- Enhancing fathers' self awareness
- Expanding opportunities for training and employment to fulfill fathers' personal and financial responsibilities of caring for children.

# You can make a difference!

## Tips for Fathers

- *Be a role model*
- *Give praise, be supportive*
- *Set fair expectations that are clear and be consistent*
- *Talk to your kids*
- *Be patient*
- *Have a sense of humor*
- *Be a teacher*
- *Allow your child some space and privacy*
- *Respect your child's other parent*
- *Share emotional, physical and financial care of your children with their mother*

For more information, contact:

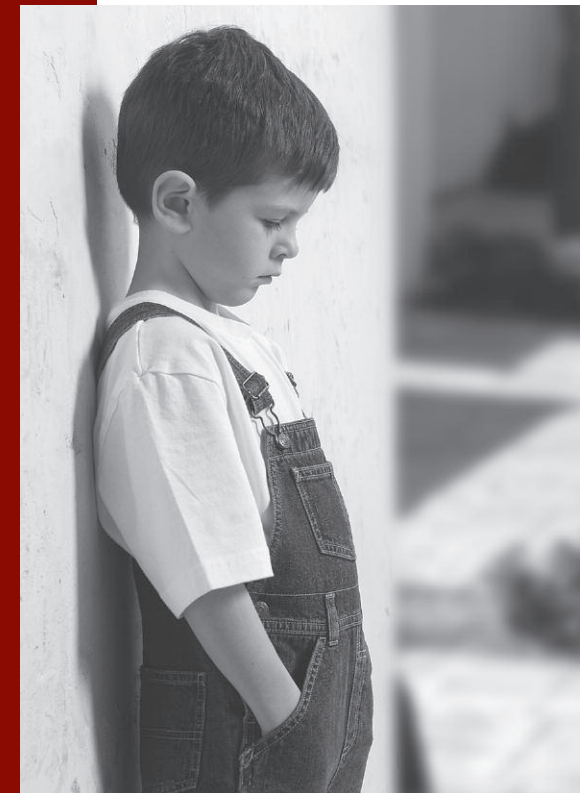


Family  Services  
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

31 Harvard Street, Worcester, MA 01609  
(508) 756-4646

[www.worcestercountyfathersandfamilynetwork.org](http://www.worcestercountyfathersandfamilynetwork.org)

Brochure funding provided, in part, by the Greater Worcester Community Foundation 2004



In America,  
24 million  
children (34%)  
live without  
their biological  
father<sup>1</sup>...



...but **dads**  
 can and do have  
 a **positive** effect  
 on their children.

Children with fathers or close relationships with adult males have:

- **Higher self-esteem**
- **Are better learners**
- **Are less likely to be depressed.**<sup>2</sup>

In a 26 year study, researchers found that the single most important childhood factor in developing empathy is dad's involvement. Fathers who spent time alone with their kids performing routine child care at least two times a week raised children who were the most compassionate adults.<sup>3</sup>

Children who have fathers who regularly engage them in physical play are more likely to be popular with other children than those whose fathers do not.<sup>4</sup>

Children with "hands-on" fathers (fathers who are involved, set reasonable house rules, monitor TV and internet use, etc.) are much less likely to use drugs than children with "hands-off" or absent fathers.<sup>5</sup>

**When a father plays a visible and nurturing role in his children's lives, the situation leads to better outcomes for his children and himself.**

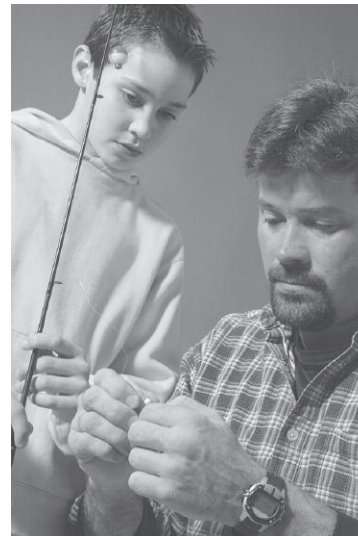
Children are **more likely** to:

- **Have stronger coping and adaptation skills**
- **Be better equipped to solve problems**
- **Stay in school longer**
- **Have longer lasting relationships**
- **Have higher work productivity**

And, fathers are **more likely** to:

- **Have better overall health**
- **Have higher self-esteem and a more positive self image**
- **Have more satisfaction with work**<sup>6</sup>

A survey of 870 adolescents showed, children who reported high levels of emotional support from parents will make wiser sexual decisions than those reporting low levels of support.<sup>7</sup>



**Worcester County Fathers and Family Information Resources**

**Children's Trust Fund: (888) 775-4KIDS**

**Dept. of Revenue Child Support**

**Enforcement: (800) 332-2733**

**First Call for Help: (508) 755-1233**

**MSPCC: (508) 767-3032**

**Parent Stress Hotline: (800) 632-8188**

**Worcester Family Ties Network:**

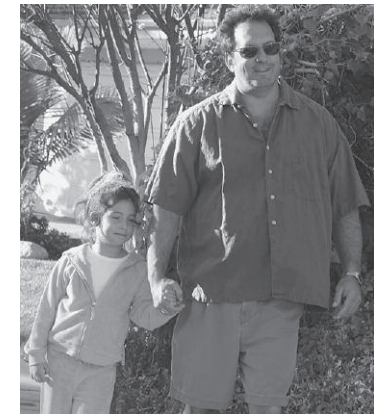
**(508) 799-3136**

**Worcester County Fathers &**

**Family Network: (508) 756-4646**

**Parents Helping Parents:**

**(800) 882-1250**



1 *Current Population Reports, Fall 1996* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau, 2001).

2 H. Dubowitz, "Father Involvement and Children's Functioning at Age 6," *Presentation to the Pediatric Academic Societies and the American Academy of Pediatrics* (Boston, MA: May 13, 2000).

3 R. Koestner, C. Franz, J. Weinberger, "The Family Origins of Empathic Concern: A Twenty-six Year Longitudinal Study," *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* (1990), 58,8.

4 C. B. Torppa, "The Importance of Fathers in Children's Asset Development," *The Ohio State University Extension* (2000).

5 The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, "National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse VI: Teens," *Conducted by QEV Analytics* (February 2001).

6 K. D. Pruett, *The Nurturing Father* (New York: Warner Books, 1987).

7 D. M. Upchurch, C. S. Aneshensel, C.A. Suckoff, L. Levy-Storms, "Neighborhood and Family Contexts of Adolescent Sexual Activity," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* (1999) 61,13.

8 Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (2003)

9 J. E. Richters, P. E. Martinez, "Violent Communities, Family Choices, and Children's Chances: An Algorithm for Improving the Odds," *Development and Psychopathology* (1993), 5, 18.

**Research Assembled by: Cheryl A. Briggs**