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.¹

Daughters with uninvolved fathers are 111% more likely to be teen parents.¹

Women with uninvolved fathers are 92% more likely to fail in their marriages.¹

Men with uninvolved fathers are 35% more likely to fail in their marriages.¹

Children from father-absent homes make up 63% of youth suicides.¹

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.²

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.

In America, 24 million children (34%) live without their biological father¹ . . .

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

You can make a difference!

For more information, contact:

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

www.worcestercountyfathersandfamilynetwork.org

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

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.

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.

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.

**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

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.


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**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

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