

	<b>Negative Effects of Father Absence</b>	<b>Positive Effects of Father Involvement</b>
<u><b>Prenatal effects on mothers</b></u> 1. Obtaining Prenatal 2. Distress and Depression 3. Smoking 4. Breastfeeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unmarried women less likely to obtain prenatal care<sup>33</sup></li> <li>• More likely to smoke<sup>26</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adolescent mother's experience less depression when infants father involved<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Can influence moms to quit<sup>35</sup></li> <li>• Fathers influence the breastfeeding decision<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>
<u><b>Prenatal Effect on Infants</b></u> 1. Infant Mortality 2. Birth Weight 3. Breastfeeding 4. SIDS/Resp. Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.8 increased risk of mortality<sup>22</sup></li> <li>• Infants born to single mothers more likely to have LOW birth weight infants<sup>33</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fathers participation in prenatal activities were assoc. with HIGHER birth weights<sup>21</sup></li> <li>• More likely to be breastfed<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• 30% lower risk of SIDS if mom not smoking</li> </ul>
<u><b>General Health and Healthcare</b></u> 1. Poverty 2. Health Care Access/Visits 3. Safety 4. Child Abuse 5. Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 times likely to be poor<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Significantly less likely to use preventive and illness related ambulatory care<sup>11</sup></li> <li>• 20-30% Higher probability of experiencing accidents, injuries, poisonings<sup>29</sup></li> <li>• Greater risk of being involved in dangerous or unhealthy behaviors when these behaviors are influenced by peers<sup>24</sup></li> <li>• Father absence is one of the most common predictors of child abuse<sup>31</sup></li> <li>• Risk of Neglect is doubled<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1997, 65% of children living in father absent homes lived in poverty</li> <li>• A father's involvement in the physical care of his child before the age of 3, significantly reduces the probability that he will sexually abuse that child.</li> </ul>
<u><b>Cognitive and Emotional Development</b></u> 1. General Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More developmental delays<sup>34</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premature infants whose fathers spent more time playing with them had better cognitive outcomes at age 3<sup>35</sup></li> </ul>

2. Anger Management 3. Delay gratification		
<b><u>Social Development</u></b>	<b>Negative Effects of Father Absence</b>	<b>Positive Effects of Father Involvement</b>
1. Separation Anxiety 2. Empathy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children exhibit LESS ANXIETY or crying when separated from a parent<sup>5, 20</sup></li> <li>• Father involvement in child care is “the most important factor” in developing empathy</li> </ul>
<b><u>Mental Health</u></b>		
1. Father Hunger* (boys ages 1-2 yrs) 2. Antisocial behaviors (fighting, lying, cheating, criminal activity) 3. Depression 4. Conduct Disorder 5. Suicide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique to father absent toddlers<sup>23</sup></li> <li>• Increased risk of development antisocial behaviors<sup>27</sup></li> <li>• Increased risk<sup>19</sup></li> <li>• Increased risk<sup>18</sup></li> <li>• Increased risk<sup>9</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less likely to engage in stealing, truancy, and drug use<sup>8</sup></li> <li>• Lower occurrence of psychological distress in teens whose fathers were close.<sup>16</sup></li> </ul>
<b><u>Risky Business</u></b>		
1. Tobacco Use 2. Illegal Drug Use 3. Alcohol Use 4. Risky Sexual Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.6-1.8 times more likely to use tobacco<sup>30</sup></li> <li>• Increased risk<sup>32</sup></li> <li>• 1.5-1.9 times more likely to use alcohol<sup>30</sup></li> <li>• More likely to engage in pre-marital sex<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with “hands-on” fathers (fathers who are involved, se reasonable household rules...) are much LESS likely to use drugs<sup>25</sup></li> <li>• The closer the relationship between an adolescent and the father, the less likely the adolescent was to report substance abuse.<sup>10</sup></li> </ul>

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