



Research Findings About Father Involvement¹

The following are some research findings about father involvement that are found in the book *Father Facts* published by the National Fatherhood Initiative:

‡ Seven in ten adults believe a child needs a home with both a father and a mother to grow up happy. (pg. 17)

‡ 85% of adults say that the number of children being born to single parents is either a “serious” or “critical” social problem. (pg. 17)

‡ In 1999, 72.2% of those polled in a national survey agreed that “the physical absence of the father from the home is the most significant problem facing America. This figure is up from 69.9% of respondents in 1992, but down from 79.1% in 1996. (pg. 17)

‡ Sixty-six percent of black children, 35 percent of Hispanic children, and 27 percent of white children are living in homes absent their biological father. (pg. 26)

‡ Half of black children (49%) live with single mothers, compared to one in four Hispanic children (25%), and one in six white children. (17%). (pg. 26)

‡ In a study of 799 families from the National Survey of Families and Households, fathers in two-parent biological families reported spending more time with their children and having higher family cohesion than did fathers in all other types of family structures. (pg. 27)

‡ Marital status is the strongest predictor of father presence/absence. (pg. 27)

‡ When asked to name the “adults you look up to and admire,” only 20 percent of children in single-parent families named their fathers, as compared with 52 percent of children in two-parent families. (pg. 27)

‡ Twenty-six percent of absent fathers live in a different state than their children. (pg. 27)

¹ Taken from: Horn, W.F., & Sylvester, T. (2002). *Father facts* (4th ed.). Gaithersburg, MD: National Fatherhood Initiative.



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† Ninety-six percent of respondents in a national survey agreed that parents should share equally in the childcare of their children. (pg. 98)

† Children whose parents divorce before they are 21 years old have shorter average life spans than children whose parents do not divorce. (pg. 130)

† A longitudinal study of over 1500 California adults found that those whose parents divorced died an average of four years sooner than their counterparts whose parents remained married. (pg. 130)

† Children in father-absent homes are five times more likely to be poor. In 1999, eight percent of children in married-couple families were living in poverty, compared to 42 percent of children in female-householder families. (pg. 131)

† A survey of teenage girls found that 76 percent said that their fathers were very or somewhat influential on their decision to have sex. (pg. 139)

† When married fathers are more involved in childrearing, their marriages are more likely to be stable because wives tend to be happier if the husband is strongly involved with the children. (pg. 143)

† Father-child interaction has been shown to promote a child's physical well-being, perceptual abilities, and competency for relatedness with others, even at a young age. (pg. 143)

† In a study of African-American male adolescents, boys living with both biological parents were more likely to cite their fathers as role models (96%), compared to only 44 percent of those not living with their fathers, and were more likely to stay in school. (pg. 143)

† A survey of African-American men revealed that men who had experienced a positive relationship with a father who cared and sacrificed for them are more likely to be responsible fathers themselves. (pg. 143)

² Taken from: Horn, W.F., & Sylvester, T. (2002). *Father facts* (4th ed.). Gaithersburg, MD: National Fatherhood Initiative.