

# Dads Matter: The Data Proves It

The consequences of fatherlessness — measured in crime, poverty, addiction, and broken futures — cost taxpayers **\$154 billion every year**. But the flip side is equally powerful: when fathers are present and committed, children thrive. The science is clear, and the mission is urgent.

<b>\$154B</b>	<b>5x</b>	<b>40%</b>
Annual taxpayer cost of father absence in the U.S.	more likely children in fatherless homes will live in poverty	of all U.S. births are now to unmarried women

Sources: \$154 Billion Man Report, National Fatherhood Initiative; Institute for Family Studies; Child Trends / National Vital Statistics Reports

## 6 REASONS FATHERS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

1

### Children Are Entitled to Their Father's Love

Biology promises every child a father. Marriage is the proven way to deliver on that promise — binding parents to each other and to the children they create. A father's committed love cannot be replaced.

2

### Fathers Give Their Children Identity

A child is an eternal witness to the love of his mother and father. No other person can answer the deepest questions of a child's origin, worth, and purpose the way a father can.

3

### Fathers Determine a Child's Trajectory

A father's daily presence predicts college graduation, low-conflict relationships, avoidance of divorce, and prevention of teen pregnancy. Children without fathers face higher rates of disease, abuse, crime, and poverty.

4

### Fatherhood Is the Antidote to Toxic Masculinity

Fathers who treat mothers with respect model for sons how to treat women — and show daughters what healthy relationships look like, making them less likely to enter violent or unhealthy relationships.

5

### #DadJokes, Humor & Play Fuel Success

Fathers spend significantly more one-on-one time in stimulating, playful activity. Roughhousing with dad teaches children to regulate emotions and handle aggressive impulses — a skill that pays dividends for life.

6

### Fathers Are the Ultimate First Responders

When danger threatens the family, dad faces it down. Because fathers are physically powerful, they are uniquely positioned to protect their families — morally as well as physically — channeling strength into service.

## CHILDREN WITH DADS IN THE HOME ARE MORE LIKELY TO:

✓ Earn Better Grades	✓ Avoid Depression
✓ Stay Free of Drugs	✓ Stay Out of Jail
✓ Have Higher Earnings Later in Life	✓ Reach Developmental Milestones on Time

\* \$154 Billion Man Report, National Fatherhood Initiative | + Institute for Family Studies: "New Research Confirms Having Married Parents Helps Kids Get Ahead"

## Join the Men Matter Campaign

Your gift to the Ruth Institute equips fathers, strengthens families, and pushes back against a culture that tells men they don't matter. The data says otherwise — and so do we.