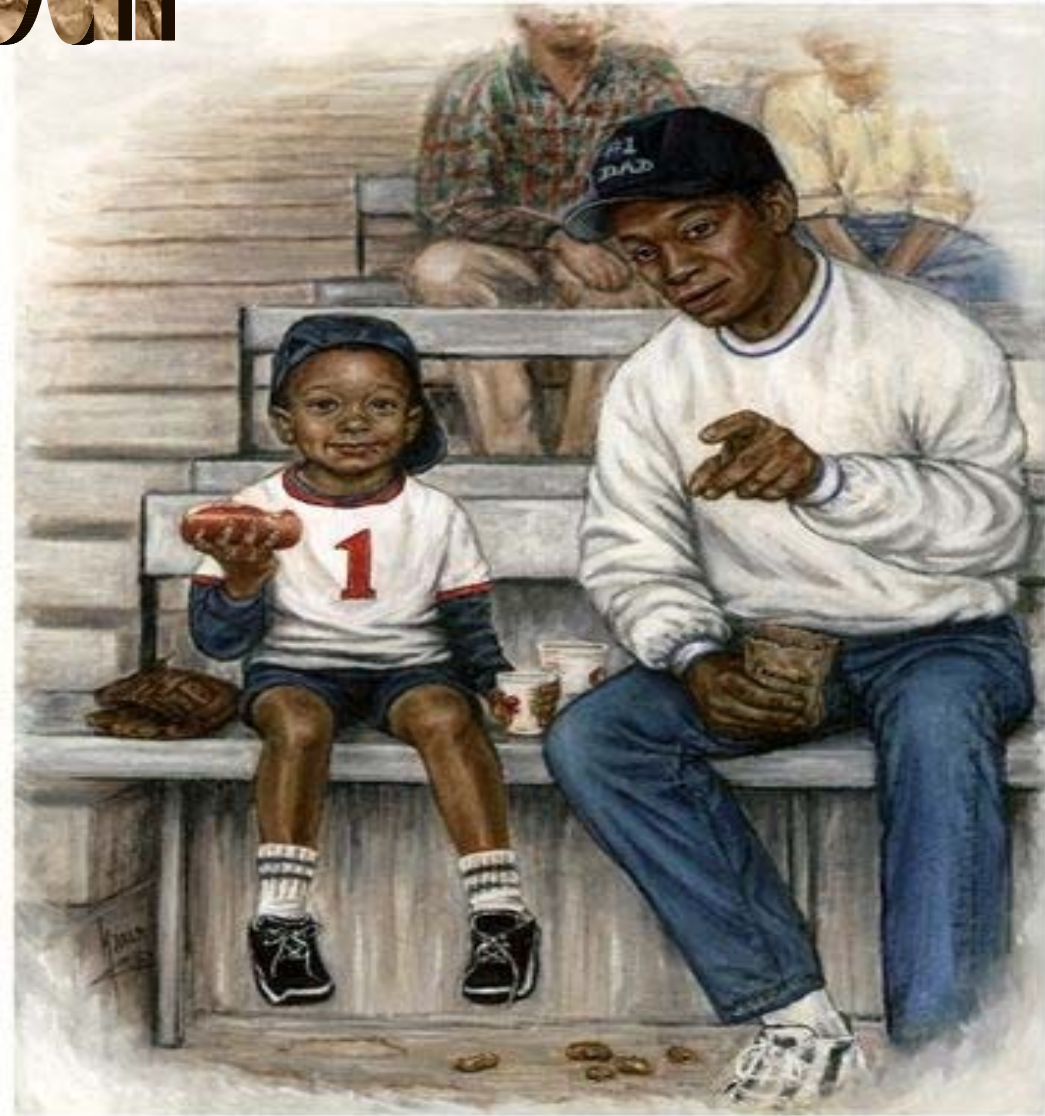


# Fatherhood!

A Powerful

Resource In CWS



# **Why Do We Need Fathers?**

Through research and practice, we know that fathers' play a critical role in the development of their children that differs from a mothers' role.

# Some Statistics

## 2000 Census Data

70% of all urban families have absent fathers, compared to 25% of households nationwide.

**Research compiled in the  
Responsible Fatherhood  
Act of 1999 (reported to  
the U.S. Senate)  
finds that:**

**Nearly 36% of children  
live apart from their  
biological fathers.**

**40% of children who live in households without fathers have not seen their father in at least one year;  
50% have never visited their father's home.**



**Compared to children who live with their biological fathers, those who do not are:**

- 1. 5 times more likely to live in poverty.**
- 2. More likely to bring weapons & drugs into the classroom.**

- 3. Twice as likely to commit crime.**
- 4. Twice as likely to drop out of school.**
- 5. Twice as likely to be abused.**
- 6. More likely to commit suicide.**



- 7. More than twice as likely to abuse drugs and alcohol.**
- 8. More likely to become pregnant as teenagers.**



# **Our Culture and the System**

# **Society's Perceptions & Attitudes about:**

**Absent fathers**

**Deadbeat dads**

**Incarcerated fathers**

**Gangs**

**Substance abuse**

**Domestic violence**

# **Social Evolution**

- **Agrarian to Industrial Society.**
- **The ‘tender years’ doctrine (British).**
- **African-American families impacted by slavery.**
- **Native Indian families impacted by loss of homeland.**

# **AFDC & It's Precursors**

- **Mother's pension of 1911.**
- **Except by most states by 1932.**
- **1935 AFDC created.**

**AFDC effectively worked to eliminate fathers from poor families.**

**Out of Wedlock Marriages  
Skyrocketed**

# **Social Events**

- **War**
- **'50's – Ozzie and Harriett**
- **'60's & '70's**
- **'80's - Father's rights movement.**
- **'90's - The Promise Keepers & Million Man March**
- **Lately? –The federal 'Fatherhood Initiative**
- **Bill Cosby – states opinion**



**What Does This Mean For  
Our Organizations  
&  
Practice?**

# **Father-Friendly Organizations**



**Does your organization  
include  
father-friendly  
practices?**

# **Assessment Guide on Father Inclusive Practices**



**National Practitioners Network  
for Fathers & Families**

# **“The Fathering Indicators Framework”**

**The National Center on Fathers &  
Families**



**Factors to Consider in  
Assessing Fathers Skills**

# Seven Core Learnings

- Fathers Care
- Father presence matters
- Joblessness and unemployment
- Systemic barriers
- Co-parenting
- Role transitions
- Intergenerational learning

# Father Presence

- Includes
  - father engagement
  - availability
  - responsibility



# Caregiving

Providing nurturance and performing routine tasks necessary to maintain children's emotional well-being, physical health, and appearance.

# **Children's Social competence & Academic Achievement**

Actively engaging with children  
and others in developing and  
enhancing their social  
competence academic  
achievement.

# **Cooperative Parenting**

Fathers, mothers, and other caregivers establishing a supportive, cooperative interdependent relationship aimed at optimal child development.

# **Fathers' Healthy Living**

Providing a role model through healthy lifestyle, education and appropriate social behaviors that teach work and personal ethics, as well as social norms, to help children grow and become productive members of society.

# **Material & Financial Contributions**

Engaging in consistent activities  
that provide material and  
financial support to children.

**National Center on Fathers &  
Families**

**Graduate School of Education  
University of Pennsylvania**



# **Achieving Better Outcomes**

**Safety**  
**Permanency**  
**Well Being**

# **Service Provision to Meet Fathers' Unique Needs**

**Community partners can assist in providing a variety of services to increase a father's capacity for responsibility.**

# **Question:**

Will Father Focused Services and Father Friendly Organizations help decrease the disproportional representation of African American children in our system?