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Father Engagement – FACT SHEET

1. Dads play indispensable roles that cannot be measured in dollars and cents:
	1. nurturer,
	2. mentor,
	3. disciplinarian,
	4. moral instructor,
	5. and skills coach
2. In 1960, fewer than 10 million children did not live with their fathers. Today, the number is nearly 25 million.
3. Studies show that children who grow up without responsible fathers are:
	1. significantly more likely to experience poverty,
	2. perform poorly in school,
	3. engage in criminal activity, and
	4. abuse drugs and alcohol
4. Children of low-income parents who are in prison suffer disproportionate rates of many severe social problems including:
	1. substance abuse,
	2. gang involvement,
	3. early childbearing and
	4. delinquency (information obtained on 5/29/12 from the US Department of Health and Human Services <http://fatherhood.hhs.gov/factsheets/fact20020426.htm>)
5. Today, too many of America’s children – both inside and outside the child welfare system – are growing up without a father in their lives
6. At least 65% of children placed into the child welfare system were not living with their birth fathers at the time of placement, and even after placement their fathers and paternal relatives are not involved in planning their cases.
7. Studies show that children who have a father-figure in their lives are more likely to do better in school and less likely to commit crimes as adults. (Information obtained on 5/29/12 from the fatherhood initiative <http://www.americanhumane.org/children/programs/fatherhood-initiative/>)