

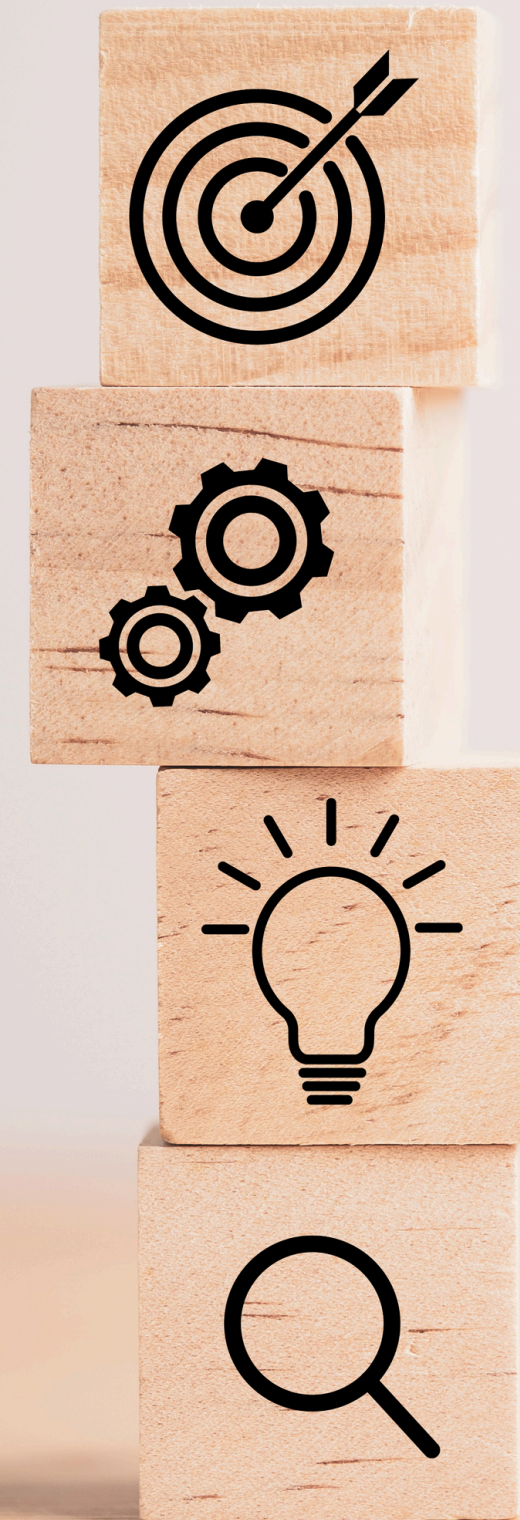
Strengthening Families Through Father Involvement

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OBJECTIVES

- 01 Explain key historical trends and root causes of father absence
- 02 Identify the social and developmental consequences of father absence
- 03 Recognize the multifaceted benefits of father involvement
- 04 Describe the key barriers to father engagement and demonstrate practical strategies for engaging fathers effectively



FRAMING THE ISSUE

Root Causes of Increased Father Absence

Divorce Rates

Increase in births out of wedlock

Historical Data

1960–1990: Rise from 17% to 36% of children in father-absent homes





CONSEQUENCES OF FATHER ABSENCE



Increased Poverty Risk



Poor Academic Outcomes



Behavioral and Mental Health Issues



Delinquency and Youth Crime

EMERGENCE OF THE FATHERHOOD MOVEMENT

Research and Advocacy Response

- National Fatherhood Initiative
- Other organizations providing Fatherhood Resources

Shift from Problem Identification to Solution-Oriented Focus

- Promotion of father inclusion and education
- Government and social service provider attention



BENEFITS OF FATHER INVOLVEMENT: FOR CHILDREN

Academic achievement

Verbal and emotional development

Self-esteem and behavior regulation

Positive gender-role modeling



Fatherhood Inspiration





BENEFITS OF FATHER INVOLVEMENT: FOR FAMILY DYNAMICS

Lighter load for mothers

Healthier pregnancies and post-partum outcomes

Reduction in harmful behaviors during pregnancy

BENEFITS OF FATHER INVOLVEMENT: FOR FATHERS THEMSELVES

Greater sense of purpose

Better emotional well-being



BARRIERS TO FATHER ENGAGEMENT IN SERVICES

Barrier #1

Gender dynamics in
service providers

Barrier #2

Cultural norms

Barrier #3

Complex family
dynamics



BARRIERS FOR PRACTITIONERS

Practitioner biases and discomfort

Lack of training and tools

Institutional gaps

HOW PRACTITIONERS CAN EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE FATHERS

Contact them between visits to see how they are doing

National Fatherhood Initiative

Understand the Father

Create a father-friendly environment in office space

Incentivize Fathers



HOW PRACTITIONERS CAN EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE FATHERS, CONT.

Train and prepare staff

Employ fatherhood coordinators or collaborate with male-focused organizations

Involve mothers as allies in recruitment and ask them about barriers to father involvement



CONCLUSION

Call to action for service providers and systems

Invest in training

Redesign programs for inclusivity

Embrace fatherhood as a critical piece of family well-being



THANK YOU!



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<https://sworps.org/index.php/technology/tennessee-strong-families-support-team/>