A Caring Biological Father: Critical Link to Improving the Health of Children

1. Teenage Pregnancy
A teenage girl from a father-absent household is 5 times more likely to become a teen mother (Ref. 1).

2. Delayed or No Prenatal Care
Babies born out of marriage are 4-5 times more likely to have received no prenatal care (Ref. 2).

3. Higher Infant Morbidity and Mortality
Unmarried women have a higher risk of lower birth weight infants (Ref. 3). One reason why the U.S. infant mortality rate is so high, compared to other countries, is the high number of young, unmarried mothers (Ref. 4).

4. More Childhood Health Problems
Children in father-absent homes have a higher rate of (Ref. 5):
- asthma
- anxiety/depression
- headaches
- behavioral problems
- injuries

5. Teenage Risk-Taking
Teens in father-absent families are at greater risk for (Ref. 6):
- illegal drug use
- tobacco
- alcohol
- suicide

6. Sexual Experimentation
A girl whose father is absent is 3 times more likely to engage in sexual relations by the time she turns 15 years old (Ref. 7).

References:

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