



# FATHERLESSNESS IN TEXAS

Jack Brewer | August 25, 2022

Fatherhood is foundational to strong families, and strong families are essential to a strong nation. An absent father affects all aspects of a child's life, from socio-cognitive and socio-emotional development to academic performance and criminality. Unfortunately, the effects of fatherlessness are visible in the state of **Texas**.

## FATHERLESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES

- ★ Approximately **18.4 million** children in the United States live without a biological father, stepfather, or adoptive father present in the home.
- ★ **23%** of children in the United States are raised by a single parent. This is more than three times the world average (**7%**) of children raised by a single parent, and the highest rate of any country on Earth.
- ★ Approximately **41%** of children are born to unwed mothers. For women under age 30, the unwed birth rate increases to **53%**.
- ★ Fathers are absent in approximately 80% of single-parent homes.
- ★ Fatherless children are **more likely to suffer from** psychosocial development issues, live in poverty, drop out of school, engage in school violence, abuse substances, and enter the juvenile justice system.
- ★ **63%** of youth suicide victims, **90%** of all homeless and runaway children, **70%** of juveniles in state-operated institutes, **85%** of youths in prisons, and **80%** of rapists come from fatherless homes.

## FATHERLESSNESS IN TEXAS

- ★ In 2019, nearly **2.5 million** children, or 35% of all children in Texas, lived in a single-parent home.
  - This number included equates to nearly 1.4 million Hispanic or Latino children (**40%** of all Hispanic or Latino children in Texas), **490,000** Black children (**60%** of all Black children in Texas), and **495,000** white children (**23%** of all white children in Texas).
- ★ In 2020, unmarried women gave birth to 155,363 children, or **42%** of all births.
- ★ Nearly **1.4 million** children in Texas have one or more emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions.
- ★ **—22,641** children were born to teenage mothers in Texas in 2020, for a rate of **22 teen births per 1,000**.
- ★ Approximately **204,000** female-headed households, or 28% of all female-headed households in Texas, receive child support.

## JUVENILE CRIME DATA IN TEXAS

- ★ Approximately **494,521** children in Texas have a parent who was incarcerated. This includes **181,292** Hispanic or Latino children and **177,901** white children.



## EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN TEXAS

- ★ Approximately 434,000 Texas youths ages 16 to 24 are not working or attending school, for 12% of all Texas youth and young adults.
- ★ 25% of Hispanic children, 23% of Black children, and 12% of white children who attend public high school in Texas do not complete their education.

