DID YOU KNOW?

Fathers who are active in their children’s upbringing can significantly benefit their children’s early development, academic achievement and wellbeing.

A father’s involvement before his child is born may play an important role in preventing death during the first year of life.

- Infants with absent fathers were more likely to be born with lower birth weights, to be preterm and to be small for gestational age.

- Regardless of race or ethnicity, the neonatal death rate of father-absent infants was nearly four times that of their counterparts with involved fathers.

- The risk of poor birth outcomes was highest for infants born to African American women whose babies’ fathers were absent during their pregnancies. Even after adjusting for socioeconomic differences, these babies were seven (7) times more likely to die in infancy than babies born to Hispanic and Caucasian women in the same situation.

- Obstetric complications contributing to premature births, such as anemia, chronic high blood pressure, eclampsia and placental abruption, were more prevalent among women whose babies’ fathers were absent during pregnancy.

- Expectant mothers in the father-absent group tended to be younger, more likely to never have given birth, more likely to be African American, and had a higher percentage of risk factors like smoking and inadequate prenatal care than mothers in the father-involved group.