

Fact Sheet



Commission on
Fatherhood

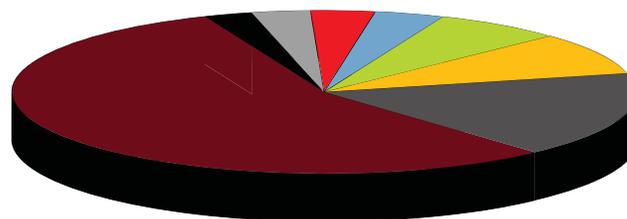


Questions to ask before... Becoming a Father

1. Are you ready to commit for life to the mother of your children? Whether you are married or not, when you have a child with someone, you will be connected for life.
2. Are you ready to spend time with your child? Fathers make a huge difference in the lives of their children. Kids raised without their dad are 2 to 3 times more likely to be poor, use drugs, drop out of school and end up in prison.
3. Do you know how to be a "good father"? The kind of relationship you had with your own father will affect the kind of father you are to your children. Make sure you are ready to nurture, guide and provide for your children. They need to know that you love them unconditionally, just the way they are.
4. Are you ready to put your own wants aside? Once you have children, all of your decisions must be guided by what is in their best interest. You must be prepared to put them first.
5. Are you prepared to be a role model? Kids watch everything you do. Because your kids are depending on you, you have to live a healthy lifestyle. Good fathers don't just tell their children how to live; they show them through their actions every day.

6. Are you ready to make a financial investment in your child? It is estimated to cost \$152,340 to raise a child from birth to age 18. If you include the price of attending a public college, the cost increases to \$230,700.

\$16,529: Cost of Baby's First Year in Ohio



Daycare \$9,216	Housing \$2,800	Formula \$1,350
Diapers \$1,104	Transportation \$629	Clothing \$520
Healthcare \$510	Miscellaneous \$400	

These figures are averages drawn from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2010 Annual Report "Expenditures on Children by Families." (PDF)

To learn more about how to become the best father you can be, visit www.fatherhood.ohio.gov.

*Are you ready to make a
commitment for a lifetime?*