STATISTICS OF PARENT DEATHS (CDC 2021 death rates)

From a purely practical and statistical standpoint, it is obvious that having two parents reduces the likelihood of a child becoming an orphan due to the death of one or both parents.

Using 30 for the age of mom when the baby is born (which is the median in the US), and using the same age for dad:

In 1000 single dad families, 67 will lose dad before child is 20 In 1000 single mom families, 36 will lose mom before child is 20 In 1000 mom&dad families, 2 will lose both parents before child is 20

So, having both parents reduces the likelihood of becoming an orphan from 6.7% or 3.6% to 0.2%.

This doesn't even tell the whole story, because we did not consider that a parent could become severely disabled without dying, or a parent could suffer from some addiction or moral failure resulting in incarceration, making it even more important to have two parents.

Naturally, giving birth earlier would reduce parent deaths, but young births bring other issues.

STATISTICS OF CHILDREN'S FAMILIES (2020 U.S. CENSUS)

70% of children live with 2 parents
11% of children live with mom
5% of children live with dad
2% of children live with a grandparent
2% of children live without parent or grandparent

This adds up to only 90% which makes no sense but there must be some explanation. It could be that 10% did not report but usually they would extrapolate to fill in this missing data.

30% of children are at risk due to being without one or both parents.