



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance

NRFC Quick Statistics

2007



www.fatherhood.gov

Fathers and Fertility

Father's Age at First Child's Birth by Educational Attainment, 2002

Education	Number of Fathers (000s)	Average Age	Less than 20 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-44 years
All*	28,554	25.1	15.3%	35.4%	28.6%	20.7%
No high school diploma or GED	4,661	22.8	22.2%	50.8%	19.1%	7.9%
High school diploma or GED	10,735	24.0	17.2%	43.6%	26.1%	13.1%
Some college, no bachelor's degree	6,798	25.4	12.4%	34.9%	34.2%	18.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	5,685	29.4	2.7%	9.1%	37.7%	50.5%

*Education statistics are limited to men aged 22-44, "All" category includes men aged 15-21 as well.

Source: Martinez GM, Chandra A., Abma JC, Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women From Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(26). 2006.

- The average age at first birth is higher for fathers with higher educational levels.
- In 2002, about half (50.8 percent) of men with no high school diploma or GED had their first child between the ages of 20 and 24 while about half (50.5 percent) of those with a bachelor's degree or higher had their first child between 30 and 44 years of age.
- Compared to those with a high school education or higher, fathers with less than a high school education were more likely to have their first child while still a teenager.

Father's Age of First Child's Birth for Fathers by Race/Ethnicity, 2002

Race/Ethnicity	Number of Fathers (000s)	Mean Age	Less than 20 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-44 years
All*	28,554	25.1	15.3%	35.4%	28.6%	20.7%
Hispanic or Latino	5,652	23.3	19.4%	48.1%	21.1%	11.4%
Non-Hispanic White	16,998	26.1	11.0%	30.8%	33.3%	24.9%
Non-Hispanic Black	3,439	23.5	24.8%	41.7%	20.2%	13.4%

*Includes men of other or multiple races and origin groups, not shown separately.

Source: Martinez GM, Chandra A., Abma JC, Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women From Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(26). 2006.

- In 2002, non-Hispanic white fathers reported a higher mean age at the birth of their first child (26.1 years) than non-Hispanic black fathers (23.5 years) and Hispanic fathers (23.2 years).
- About one in four non-Hispanic black fathers had their first child as a teenager (24.8 percent) compared to only 11 percent of non-Hispanic white fathers.
- About one in four non-Hispanic white fathers had their first child when they were 30-44 years of age (24.9 percent).

Birth Rates by Age of Father, 1980 – 2004
(Rates are live births per 1,000 men in specified group)

Age of Father	Year					
	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2004
15-54 years¹	57.0	55.6	58.4	51.0	50.0	48.8
15-19 years²	18.8	18.0	23.5	23.9	19.8	17.0
20-24 years	92.0	81.2	88.0	83.9	82.1	72.4
25-29 years	123.1	112.3	116.4	103.2	106.5	104.9
30-34 years	91.0	91.1	97.8	90.7	99.5	102.5
35-39 years	42.8	47.3	53.0	50.4	56.3	61.7
40-44 years	17.1	18.1	21.0	20.3	22.2	23.9
45-49 years	6.1	6.6	7.5	7.0	7.3	7.7
50-54 years	2.2	2.5	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.4
55 years and over	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3

¹ Rates computed by relating total births, regardless of age of father, to men aged 15-54 years.

² Rates computed by relating total births of fathers under 20 years of age to men aged 15-19 years.

Source: Table 21. Birth rates by age and race of father: United States, 1980-2004 in Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Sutton PD, et al. *Births: Final Data for 2004*. National Vital Statistics Reports; Vol 55 No. 1. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2006.

- Between 1980 and 2004, 1990 marked the highest birth rate for men aged 15-54 years (58.4 live births per 1,000 men). Since 1990, the birth rate has decreased to 48.8 live births per 1,000 men, about a 14 percent decrease from the 1980 birth rate.
- The birth rate for teenage men exceeded 20 live births per 1,000 men in the 1990s but by 2004 had decreased below the 1980 rate.
- Between 1980 and 2004, the birth rate remained highest for men aged 25-29.

- During this time period the birth rate for men under 30 years of age fell while the birth rate for men aged 30-49 increased.

Total Births By Father's Education Level, 1997-2002

Education Level	Number of Births (000s)	%Total
Total*	19,117	
No high school diploma or GED	3,051	16.0%
High school diploma or GED	6,641	34.7%
Some college, no bachelor's degree	4,947	25.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	4,478	23.4%

*Limited to men 20-44 year of age at time of interview.

Source: Martinez GM, Chandra A., Abma JC, Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women From Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(26). 2006.

- Most births that occurred between 1997 and 2002 were to fathers with a high school diploma/GED or higher (84 percent).
- Fathers with no high school diploma/GED had the fewest number of births and the smallest percentage (16.0 percent).

Total Births By Father's Income, 1997-2002

Percent of Poverty Level	Number of Births (000s)	%Total
Total*	19,748	
0-149 percent	6,288	31.8%
150-299 percent	6,245	31.6%
300 percent or higher	7,215	36.5%

*Limited to men 20-44 year of age at time of interview.

Source: Martinez GM, Chandra A., Abma JC, Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women From Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(26). 2006.

- A little over 63 percent (63.4 percent) of births were to fathers with incomes less than 300 percent of the poverty level.

Total Births By Father's Marital or Cohabiting Status, 1997-2002

Marital or cohabitating status at child's birth	Number of Births (000s)	%Total
Total*	19,962	
Married to child's mother	14,267	71.5%
Cohabiting with child's mother	3,955	19.8%
Living alone or apart from mother of child	1,740	8.7%

*Limited to men 15-44 year of age at time of interview.

Source: Martinez GM, Chandra A., Abma JC, Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women From Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(26). 2006.

- Most (71.5 percent) of births occurring between 1997 and 2002 were to fathers who were married to the mothers of their children.
- If the child was born out of wedlock, fathers were more likely to be cohabitating with the child's mother (19.8 percent) than living apart from her (8.7 percent).

Number of Births Fathered by One or More Partners, 2002

Number of Births/Partners	% of Men Aged 15-44 in 2002
No Births	53.3%
1 Birth	17.1%
2+ Births, Single-Partner Fertility	21.4%
2+ Births, Multiple-Partner Fertility	8.2%

Note: Data drawn from 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, sample limited to men 15-44 years of age.
Source: Logan, C., Manlove, J., Ikramullah, E., Cottingham, S. (2006). *Men Who Father Children with More Than One Woman: A Contemporary Portrait of Multiple-Partner Fertility* (Publication No. 2006-10). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

- In 2002, nearly one-half (46.7%) of men aged 15-44 had fathered a child.
- Almost 39% of men aged 15-44 had had children with a single partner.
- Eight percent of men aged 15-44 had experienced multiple-partner fertility; that is, they had fathered children with more than one mother.

Prevalence of Multiple-Partner Fertility by Age, 2002

Age	% Experienced Multiple Partner Fertility
25 years	5%
30 years	8%
35 years	12%
40 years	15%

Note: Data drawn from 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, sample limited to men 15-44 years of age.
Source: Logan, C., Manlove, J., Ikramullah, E., Cottingham, S. (2006). Men Who Father Children with More Than One Woman: A Contemporary Portrait of Multiple-Partner Fertility (Publication No. 2006-10). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

- The proportion of men who have fathered children with more than one woman increases with age.
- In 2002, by age 25 an estimated 5 percent of men had experienced multiple-partner fertility, this percentage increased to 15% by the age of 40.

Prevalence of Multiple-Partner Fertility by Marital Status, 2002

Marital Status At Time of Births	% of Men Who Have Experienced Multiple Partner Fertility
Nonmarital Only	29%
Marital Only	24%
Nonmarital 1st Birth and Marital Subsequent Birth(s)	30%
Marital 1st Birth and Nonmarital Subsequent Birth(s)	16%

Note: Data drawn from 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, sample limited to men 15-44 years of age.
Source: Logan, C., Manlove, J., Ikramullah, E., Cottingham, S. (2006). Men Who Father Children with More Than One Woman: A Contemporary Portrait of Multiple-Partner Fertility (Publication No. 2006-10). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

- In 2002, approximately 70 percent of men who had fathered children with different women (multiple-partner fertility) were married to at least one of the women involved.
- The majority of men who experienced multiple-partner fertility were not married when their first child was born (59 percent), including 29 percent who only fathered children outside of marriage.
- Almost one-half (46 percent) of men experiencing multiple-partner fertility fathered at least one child outside of marriage and at least one child within marriage.

Prevalence of Multiple-Partner Fertility by Race/Ethnicity, 2002

Race/Ethnicity	% Experienced Multiple Partner Fertility
Non-Hispanic White	14%
Non-Hispanic Black	32%
Hispanic	17%

Note: Data drawn from 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, sample limited to men 15-44 years of age.
Source: Logan, C., Manlove, J., Ikramullah, E., Cottingham, S. (2006). Men Who Father Children with More Than One Woman: A Contemporary Portrait of Multiple-Partner Fertility (Publication No. 2006-10). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

- In 2002, one in three non-Hispanic black men (32 percent) had children with more than one woman compared with 17 percent of Hispanic men and 14 percent of non-Hispanic white men.

Number of Children Fathered by Age, 2002

Current Age	Total Men (000s)	Number of Children Fathered			
		Zero	One	Two	Three or More
All (Ages 15-44)	61,147	53.3%	17.1%	16.1%	13.5%
15-19 Years	10,208	98.1%	1.6%	-	-
20-24 Years	9,883	82.6%	11.3%	4.5%	1.6%
25-29 Years	9,226	55.0%	20.2%	15.2%	9.6%
30-34 Years	10,138	37.1%	26.9%	22.8%	13.1%
35-39 Years	10,557	29.2%	22.4%	27.0%	21.4%
40-44 Years	11,135	22.4%	19.9%	25.0%	32.7%

Source: Martinez GM, Chandra A., Abma JC, Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women From Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(26). 2006.

- In 2002, over half of men (53.3 percent) aged 15-44 had not fathered a child and only 1.6% of men aged 15-19 had fathered a child. By age 44, nearly four out of five men (77.6 percent) had fathered at least one child.
- Over 17 percent of men had fathered one child and over 16 percent of men had fathered two children.
- Of men aged 15-44 in 2002, only 13.5 percent had fathered 3 or more children.
- Older men, those in the 40 to 44 age range, were far more likely to have fathered three or more children (32.7 percent).

Number of Children Fathered by Education Level, 2002

Education Level	Total Men (000s)	Number of Children Fathered			
		Zero	One	Two	Three or More
All*	61,147	53.3%	17.1%	16.1%	13.5%
No high school diploma or GED	6,355	26.7%	21.3%	20.3%	31.8%
High school diploma or GED	15,659	31.5%	23.7%	23.9%	21.0%
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,104	48.1%	19.7%	19.2%	13.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	11,901	52.2%	19.3%	18.3%	10.2%

* Education statistics are limited to men aged 22-44. "All" category includes teenage men as well.

Source: Martinez GM, Chandra A., Abma JC, Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women From Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(26). 2006.

- In 2002, men ages 22 to 44 with higher levels of education were less likely to have fathered a child.
- Only one in ten (10.2 percent) of men with a bachelor's degree or higher had fathered three or more children as compared to one in three men (31.8 percent) with no high school diploma or GED.
- Fathers of all education levels were more likely to have fathered just one or two children as opposed to three or more.

Number of Children Fathered by Marital or Cohabiting Status, 2002

	Total Men (000s)	Number of Children Fathered			
		Zero	One	Two	Three or More
All	61,147	53.3%	17.1%	16.1%	13.5%
Currently married	25,808	21.3%	24.9%	29.1%	24.8%
Currently cohabitating	5,653	45.3%	25.3%	13.7%	15.7%
Never married, not cohabitating	25,412	92.8%	5.1%	1.4%	0.7%
Formerly married, not cohabitating	4,274	22.2%	30.5%	28.1%	19.2%

Note: Sample limited to men aged 15-44.

Source: Martinez GM, Chandra A., Abma JC, Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women From Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(26). 2006.

- In 2002, men who were both never married and non-cohabitating were the most likely to have fathered no children (92.8 percent).
- More than three-quarters of currently married and formerly married (and not cohabitating) men had fathered one or more children (78.7 percent and 77.8 percent respectively).

- Over one half of currently cohabitating men had fathered one or more children (54.7 percent).

Number of Children Fathered by Race/Ethnicity, 2002

	Total Men (000s)	Number of Children Fathered			
		Zero	One	Two	Three or More
All*	61,147	53.3%	17.1%	16.1%	13.5%
Hispanic/Latino	10,188	44.5%	17.3%	17.4%	20.8%
Non-Hispanic White	38,738	56.1%	17.1%	16.1%	10.7%
Non-Hispanic Black	6,940	50.5%	17.9%	15.6%	16.1%

Note: Sample limited to men aged 15-44.

*Includes men or other or multiple race and origin groups, not show separately

Source: Martinez GM, Chandra A., Abma JC, Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women From Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(26). 2006.

- In 2002, non-Hispanic white men were the least likely across racial/ethnic groups to have fathered a child (43.9 percent).
- Hispanic men were the more likely to have fathered a child (55.5 percent) than non-Hispanic white men (43.9 percent) and non-Hispanic black men (49.5 percent).
- About one in five Hispanic men had fathered three or more children (20.8 percent).

Number and Percent of Fathers with a Premarital First Birth by Age at Birth and Cohabiting Status, 2002

Age at Birth	All Fathers Aged 15-44 in 2002 (000s)	Currently or Formerly Married to Child's Mother	Premarital First Birth		
			Subtotal	Within Cohabiting Union	Living Alone or Apart from the Mother
All Ages	28,554	66.2%	33.8%	18.2%	15.6%
Under 20 years	4,374	37.7%	62.3%	26.3%	36.0%
20-24 years	10,113	52.2%	47.8%	27.1%	20.7%
25-29 years	8,162	81.9%	18.1%	11.4%	6.8%
30-44 years	5,905	89.6%	10.5%	6.2%	4.2%

Source: Martinez GM, Chandra A., Abma JC, Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women From Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(26). 2006.

- In 2002, about one third (33.8 percent) of fathers had had their first child out of wedlock.

- Teen fathers were the more likely to have had a premarital first birth (62.3 percent), compared to older fathers.
- Fathers who had a premarital birth as a teenager were more likely to be living apart from the mother (36.0 percent) while older fathers with a premarital birth were more likely to have been in a cohabitating union.

**Number and Percent of Fathers with a Premarital First Birth,
by Income and Cohabiting Status, 2002**

Percent of Poverty Level	All Fathers Aged 15-44 in 2002 (000s)	Currently or Formerly Married to Child's Mother	Premarital First Birth		
			All Fathers with Premarital First Birth	Within Cohabiting Union	Living Alone or Apart from the Mother
All*	28,554	66.2%	33.8%	18.2%	15.6%
0-149 percent	7,157	48.3%	51.8%	31.4%	20.3%
150-299 percent	8,553	65.0%	35.0%	19.6%	15.4%
300 percent or higher	12,674	77.9%	22.1%	9.9%	12.3%

*Income information is limited to men 20-44, "All" includes men 15-19 as well.

Source: Martinez GM, Chandra A., Abma JC, Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women From Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(26). 2006.

- Men living below 150 percent of the poverty level were more likely than those with higher income to have a premarital first birth (51.8 percent).
- Men with lower incomes (below 150 percent of the poverty level) were more likely to have a premarital first birth and more likely to live alone or apart from the mother (20.3 percent) than men with higher incomes.

Number and Percent of Fathers with a Premarital First Birth by Race/Ethnicity and Cohabiting Status, 2002

Race/Ethnicity	All Fathers Aged 15-44 in 2002 (000s)	Currently or Formerly Married to Child's Mother	Premarital First Birth		
			All Fathers with Premarital First Birth	Within Cohabiting Union	Living Alone or Apart from the Mother
All*	28,554	66.2%	33.8%	18.2%	15.6%
Hispanic or Latino	5,652	51.7%	48.4%	32.1%	16.2%
Non-Hispanic White	16,998	77.2%	22.8%	12.4%	10.4%
Non-Hispanic Black	3,439	36.7%	63.3%	24.2%	39.1%

*Includes men of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.

Source: Martinez GM, Chandra A., Abma JC, Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women From Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(26). 2006.

- In 2002, non-Hispanic black fathers (63.3 percent) and Hispanic fathers (48.4 percent) were more likely to have a premarital first birth than non-Hispanic white fathers (22.8 percent).
- At the time of the first premarital birth, non-Hispanic black fathers were more likely to be living apart from the mother (39.1 percent) than in a cohabitating union (24.2 percent).
- At the time of the premarital birth, Hispanic fathers were more likely to be within a cohabitating union (32.1 percent) than living apart from the mother (16.2 percent).

Resident Father's Pregnancy Intentions for Children Born in 2001 by Age

Pregnancy Intentions	Percent of Fathers				
	All Resident Fathers	Less than 20 Years Old	20 -24 Years Old	25-34 Years Old	35 and Older
Did not want pregnancy	25.2%	38.1%	27.1%	21.9%	28.9%
Wanted pregnancy sooner	9.9%	5.1%	4.7%	8.7%	13.9%
Wanted pregnancy later	18.6%	32.2%	31.9%	18.7%	12.5%
Pregnancy occurred at the right time	46.3%	24.6%	36.3%	50.7%	44.6%

Source: Child Trends Analyses, 2001 Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), 9-month Resident Father Survey.

- At the time their child was 9 months old, one in four resident fathers (25.2 percent) reported not having wanted the pregnancy. Teenage fathers were the most likely age group to report that they did not want the pregnancy (38.1 percent).
- Almost half of fathers (46.3 percent) reported that the pregnancy occurred at the right time. Teenage fathers were less likely than other fathers to report that the pregnancy occurred at or about the right time (24.6 percent).
- Younger fathers (<24 years) were more likely to report having wanted the pregnancy later (about 32 percent) than were fathers aged 25-34 and 35 and older (18.7 percent and 12.5 percent respectively).

Resident Father's Pregnancy Intentions for Children Born in 2001 by Race/Ethnicity

	Percent of Fathers			
	All Resident Fathers*	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black
Did not want pregnancy	25.2%	25.9%	20.3%	34.1%
Wanted pregnancy sooner	9.9%	7.4%	11.2%	8.4%
Wanted pregnancy later	18.6%	19.8%	18.9%	21.7%
Pregnancy occurred at the right time	46.3%	46.9%	49.7%	36.0%

*Includes fathers of other ethnicities, not shown separately.

Source: Child Trends Analyses, 2001 Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), 9-month Resident Father Survey.

- At the time their child was 9 months old, one in four resident fathers (25.2 percent) reported not having wanted the pregnancy. Non-Hispanic black fathers were more likely (34.1 percent) to report not wanting the pregnancy.
- Most (46.3 percent) of all fathers reported that the pregnancy occurred at the right time. Non-Hispanic black fathers were less likely to report that the pregnancy occurred at the right time (36.0 percent).
- Non-Hispanic black fathers were the most likely across racial and ethnic groups to report wanting the pregnancy to occur later (21.7 percent).