



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

NRFC Quick Statistics



www.fatherhood.gov

Nonresident Fathers

Living Arrangements of Children Under Age 18, 1960-2004, Numbers in thousands

	Year					
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2004
Total Number	63,727	69,162	63,427	64,137	72,012	73,205
Two Parents	55,877 87.7%	58,939 85.2%	48,624 76.7%	46,503 72.5%	49,795 69.1%	49,603 67.8%
One Parent	5,829 9.1%	8,199 11.9%	12,466 19.7%	15,867 24.7%	19,220 26.7%	20,474 28.0%
Father Only	724 1.1%	784 1.1%	1,060 1.7%	1,993 3.1%	3,058 4.2%	3,402 4.6%
Mother Only	5,015 8.0%	7,452 10.8%	11,406 18%	13,874 21.6%	16,162 22.4%	17,072 23.3%
Neither Parent	2,021 3.2%	2,024 2.9%	2,337 3.7%	1,768 2.8%	2,997 4.2%	3,129 4.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 years Old: 1960 to the Present." Table CH-1. Internet Release Date September 21, 2006. National Fatherhood Initiative. (2007). *Father Facts 5*. Gaithersburg, MD: National Fatherhood Initiative. Pg 23

- Between 1960 and 2004, the percentage of children living in single-parent households increased from 9.1% to 28%.
- Between 1960 and 2004, most children living with only one parent lived in single-mother homes, as opposed to single-father homes.
- The percentage of children living with fathers only increased from 1.1% in 1960 to 4.6% in 2004, but remained consistently lower than the percentage of children living with mothers only.

**Percentage of Nonresident and Resident Fathers of Infants by Age,
Fragile Families 12-month Follow-Up (1999-2001)**

Age	Nonresident Fathers	Resident Fathers
<20 years	16.5%	4.1%
20-24 years	37.6%	19.0%
25-29 years	23.0%	24.6%
30-34 years	10.4%	25.9%
35+ years	12.5%	26.4%

Source: The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, 12-month Follow-Up (Child Trends' analyses, 2007)
Note: Data is representative of parents in cities with populations of 200,000 or more.

- The majority (54.1 percent) of nonresident fathers of infants are 24 years of age or younger, whereas 76.9 percent of resident fathers are 25 years of age or older.

**Percentage of Nonresident and Resident Fathers of Infants, by Education Level,
Fragile Families 12-month Follow-Up (1999-2001)**

Education Level	Nonresident Fathers	Resident Fathers
Less than high school	37.3%	24.2%
High school graduate	37.9%	33.5%
Some college +	24.8%	42.3%

Source: The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, 12-month Follow-Up (Child Trends' analyses, 2007)
Note: Data is representative of parents in cities with populations of 200,000 or more.

- Compared with resident fathers, a larger proportion of nonresident fathers of infants have less than a high school education (37.3 percent vs. 24.2 percent).

**Percentage of Nonresident and Resident Fathers of Infants, by Race/Ethnicity,
Fragile Families 12-month Follow-Up (1999-2001)**

Race/Ethnicity	Nonresident Fathers	Resident Fathers
Non-Hispanic White	18.6%	39.3%
Non-Hispanic Black	50.9%	21.5%
Hispanic	23.6%	32.8%
Other	7.0%	6.5%

Source: The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, 12-month Follow-Up (Child Trends' analyses, 2007)
Note: Data is representative of parents in cities with populations of 200,000 or more.

- The majority of nonresident fathers of infants are non-Hispanic blacks (50.9 percent). Non-Hispanic whites comprise the largest percentage of resident fathers (39.3 percent).

Satisfaction with Visits for Nonresident Fathers (Ages 15-44), by Age, 2002

	Percent who have contact with their children	Satisfaction with Visits*					Mean Level of Satisfaction
		1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	
Total	73.6%	41.1%	9.7%	16.5%	10.6%	22.2%	4.6
15-29 years	80.3%	38.5%	4.6%	16.7%	11.6%	28.5%	5.2
30-44 years	71.8%	41.8%	11.0%	16.4%	10.3%	20.5%	4.4

*Satisfaction scale goes from very dissatisfied (1) to very satisfied (10).

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 three in four nonresident fathers (73.6 percent) had contact with their children. A large percentage of fathers (41.1 percent), expressed dissatisfaction with their visits with their children, rating them only 1 or 2 on a 1 to 10 satisfaction scale.
- Older fathers, those 30-44 years of age, were more likely than younger fathers to rate their visits less than a 5 on the satisfaction scale (69.2 percent vs. 59.8 percent).

Frequency with which Fathers (Ages 15-44) with Children Under 5 Years of Age Fed and Ate Meals with their Children in the Last Four Weeks, by Living Arrangement, 2002

	Number of Men (000s)	Not at all	Less than once a week – About once a week	Several times a week	Every day
Resident father	13,995	1.9%	2.8%	21.5%	73.8%
Nonresident father	1,938	52.8%	20.0%	18.5%	8.7%

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, nearly three-quarters of fathers living with their children under 5 reported feeding their children or eating a meal with them every day (73.8 percent). By comparison only 8.7 percent of nonresident fathers reported eating meals with their children every day.
- More than half (52.8 percent) of nonresident fathers with young children reported that they did not eat with or feed their children at all in the past four weeks.

Frequency with which Fathers (Ages 15-44) with Children Ages 5-18 Ate Meals with their Children in the Last Four Weeks, by Living Arrangement, 2002

	Number of Men (000s)	Not at all	Less than once a week – About once a week	Several times a week	Every day
Resident father	18,251	1.9%	3.8%	22.8%	71.6%
Nonresident father	6,274	56.8%	24.7%	15.1%	3.4%

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, the majority of fathers living with their children ages 5-18 reported eating a meal with them every day (71.6 percent). By comparison only 3.4 percent of nonresident fathers reported eating meals with their children every day.
- More than half (56.8 percent) of fathers that did not live with their children reported that they did not eat with them at all in the past four weeks.

Frequency with which Fathers (Ages 15-44) with Children Under 5 Years of Age Bathed, Diapered or Dressed their Children in the Last Four Weeks, by Living Arrangement, 2002

	Number of Men (000s)	Not at all	Less than once a week – About once a week	Several times a week	Every day
Resident father	13,995	8.4%	9.3%	29.9%	52.5%
Nonresident father	1,938	55.9%	18.1%	18.3%	7.7%

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.

- Nonresident fathers with children under 5 years of age were far less likely to report bathing, diapering or dressing their children every day (7.7 percent) than fathers who did live with their children (52.5 percent).
- More than half (55.9 percent) of nonresident fathers with young children reported that they did not eat with or feed their children at all in the past four weeks.

Frequency with which Fathers (Ages 15-44) with Children Under 5 Years of Age Played with their Children in the Last Four Weeks, by Living Arrangement, 2002

	Number of Men (000s)	Not at all	Less than once a week – About once a week	Several times a week	Every day
Resident father	13,995	.9%	1.4%	16.6%	81.1%
Nonresident father	1,938	48.6%	17.4%	24.0%	10.0%

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 majority (81.1 percent) of resident fathers with children under 5 reported playing with their children everyday. By comparison, only 10 percent of nonresident fathers reported playing with their children every day and only 24 percent reported playing with their children several times a week.
- Almost half (48.6 percent) of nonresident fathers with children under 5 years of age reported that they did not play with their children at all in the past four weeks.

Frequency with which Fathers (Ages 15-44) with Children Under 5 Years of Age Read to their Children in the Last Four Weeks, by Living Arrangement, 2002

	Number of Men (000s)	Not at all	Less than once a week – About once a week	Several times a week	Every day
Resident father	13,995	17.2%	26.5%	31.0%	25.3%
Nonresident father	1,938	61.0%	22.0%	12.2%	4.9%

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.

- About one in four resident fathers (25.3 percent) with children under 5 years of age reported reading to their children every day. By comparison, less than 5 percent of nonresident fathers read to their children every day and 61 percent had not read to their children at all in the past four weeks.

Frequency with which Fathers (Ages 15-44) with Children Ages 5-18 Years Helped their Children with Homework or Checked that they did Homework in the Last Four Weeks, by Living Arrangement, 2002

	Number of Men (000s)	Not at all	Less than once a week – About once a week	Several times a week	Every day
Resident father	18,251	18.2%	24.3%	28.8%	28.7%
Nonresident father	6,274	73.6%	18.2%	4.8%	3.4%

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.

- Resident fathers were far more likely to report helping their children ages 5-18 with homework or checking that their children completed homework on a daily basis than nonresident fathers (28.7 percent vs. 3.4 percent).
- Almost three in four nonresident fathers (73.6 percent) reported that they did not help their children with homework or check that they did homework at all in the past four weeks.

Frequency with which Fathers (Ages 15-44) with Children Ages 5-18 Years Talked to their Children About Things that Happened During the Day in the Last Four Weeks, by Living Arrangement, 2002

	Number of Men (000s)	Not at all	Less than once a week – About once a week	Several times a week	Every day
Resident father	18,251	2.5%	10.4%	23.6%	63.6%
Nonresident father	6,274	42.2%	31.4%	18.3%	8.1%

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.

- More than half (63.6 percent) of fathers who lived with their children ages 5-18 reported that they talked to their children daily about things that happened during the day. By comparison, only 8.1 percent of nonresident fathers reported the same.
- More than four in ten nonresident fathers (42.2 percent) reported that they had not talked to their children ages 5-18 about daily occurrences in the past four weeks. Only 2.5 percent of resident fathers reported the same.

Frequency with which Fathers (Ages 15-44) with Children Ages 5-18 Years Took their Children to or from Activities in the Last Four Weeks, by Living Arrangement, 2002

	Number of Men (000s)	Not at all	Less than once a week – About once a week	Several times a week	Every day
Resident father	18,251	19.4%	26.9%	34.9%	18.8%
Nonresident father	6,274	72.2%	19.9%	5.0%	1.9%

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.

- About 3 in 4 nonresident fathers (72.2 percent) reported never having taken their children to or from activities in the past four weeks. By comparison, only 19.4 percent of resident fathers reported the same.