

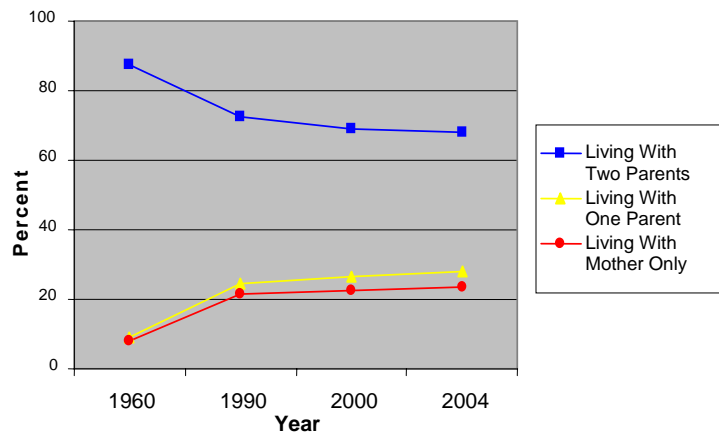
Implications for Fathers' Partners

- Greater contact between a nonresident father and his child is associated with higher quality parenting from the resident mother.^{xv}
- Mothers' satisfaction with the nonresident father's contact with the child can remain high even when there is conflict over visitation. Increased contact may lead to more conflict, but increased contact also is associated with greater satisfaction.^{xvi}
- Among unemployed mothers, a positive relationship with the nonresident father has been found to be associated with decreased depressive symptoms.^{xvii} However, higher depressive symptoms among mothers have been found to be associated with a nonresident fathers' absence in their child's life.^{xviii}

Trends in Nonresident Fatherhood Over Time

Table 1 and **Figure 1** show that the proportion of children living with two parents has decreased since the 1960s. At the same time, the proportion of children living with one parent has increased, and the majority of those children are living with their mother only.

Figure 1. Percentage of Children Under 18 Years of Age by Living Arrangement, Selected Years, 1960-2004



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 Years Old: 1960 to Present." Table CH-1. Internet Release Date: September, 21 2006.

Table 1. Percentage of Children Under 18 Years of Age by Living Arrangement, Selected Years, 1960-2004

Living Arrangement	1960	1990	2000	2004
Living With Two Parents	87.7	72.5	69.1	67.8
Living With One Parent	9.1	24.7	26.7	28
Living with Mother Only	8	21.6	22.4	23.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Current Population reports, P20-537. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau, 2001

Differences in Nonresident Fathers of Infants by Subgroup

This section draws on Child Trends' analyses of data collected as part of the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study. Note that the study is not based on a representative sample of the entire U.S. population, but on survey responses of parents in cities with populations over 200,000.

Differences by Sex

Table 2 shows that higher proportions of males are nonresident parents of infants than are females.

Table 2. Gender of Nonresident and Resident Parents of Infants

Gender of Parent	Nonresident Parent	Resident Parent
Male	14.8	85.3
Female	0.3	99.7

Source: The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, 12-month Follow-Up (Child Trends' analyses, 2007)

Differences by Age

Table 3 shows that the majority of nonresident fathers of infants are 24 years of age or younger, whereas about 77 percent of resident fathers are 25 years of age and older.

Table 3. Percentage Nonresident and Resident Fathers of Infants by Age

Age	Nonresident Fathers	Resident Fathers
<20	16.5	4.1
20-24	37.6	19
25-29	23	24.6
30-34	10.4	25.9
35+	12.5	26.4

Source: The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, 12-month Follow-Up (Child Trends' analyses, 2007)

Differences by Education Level

Table 4 shows that, compared with resident fathers, larger proportions of nonresident fathers have less than a high school education.

Table 4. Percentage of Nonresident and Resident Fathers of Infants by Education Level

Education Level	Nonresident Fathers	Resident Fathers
Less than HS	37.3	24.2
HS 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)

Differences by Race/Ethnicity

Table 5 shows that the majority of nonresident fathers of infants are non-Hispanic blacks. Non-Hispanic whites comprise the majority of resident fathers.

Table 5. Percentage of Nonresident and Resident Fathers of Infants by Race/Ethnicity

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	6.5

Source: The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, 12-month Follow-Up (Child Trends' analyses, 2007)

Differences by Marital Status

Table 6 shows that among unmarried, noncohabiting fathers, the majority of nonresident and resident fathers of infants have no romantic relationship with the mother of their child.

Table 6. Percentage of Nonresident and Resident Fathers of Infants by Relationship Status

Marital Status	Nonresident Fathers	Resident Fathers
Romantic involvement, not cohabiting	20.2	21.4
Divorced/ Separated	10.8	6.5
No relationship	69	72.2

Source: The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, 12-month Follow-Up (Child Trends' analyses, 2007)

Differences by Employment Status

Table 7 shows that the majority of nonresident and resident fathers of infants are employed. However, a larger percentage of nonresident fathers of infants are unemployed than are resident fathers of infants.

Table 7. Percentage of Nonresident and Resident Fathers of Infants by Employment Status

Employment Status	Nonresident Fathers	Resident Fathers
Employed	69.7	88.8
Not Employed	30.3	11.2

Source: The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, 12-month Follow-Up (Child Trends' analyses, 2007)

Differences by Income Level

Table 8 shows that among nonresident fathers, the largest percentage earn less than \$20,000, whereas among resident fathers, the smallest proportion earns this amount.

Table 8. Percentage of Nonresident and Resident Fathers of Infants by Income Level, 2005

Family Income	Nonresident Fathers	Resident Fathers
Less than \$20,000	44.3	17.8
\$20,000-49,999	31.5	41
\$50,000-74,999	16.7	20.1
\$75,000+	7.5	21.2

Source: The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, 12-month Follow-Up (Child Trends' analyses, 2007)

Definitions and Measurement

Fathers and mothers were classified as nonresident parents in the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study if they reported that their child lives with them half of the time or less. Respondents were classified as employed if they reported doing regular work for pay in the past week, or, if on vacation, the week before vacation.

Data Sources

Tables and charts documenting nonresident parenthood among men and women were gathered from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, 12-month follow-up (Fragile Families). Fragile Families is a nationally representative longitudinal survey of births in cities with populations over 200,000. The survey has a sample of 5,000 families. Interviews with fathers and mothers were conducted

separately at the child's birth and also when the child was one, three, or five years old. Sixty-eight percent of the fathers who participated at baseline also participated in the three-year follow-up survey.^{xix} The sample of fathers is representative of urban men in cities with a population over 200,000.

Data Limitations

Because some parents were not living with each other at the time of the follow-up survey, fathers and mothers were interviewed up to 14 months apart in some cases. Therefore, relationship status and income may be different between parents.^{xx} Another limitation to the Fragile Families data is that fathers' reports of their own behavior may be different, when compared with mothers' reports of fathers' behavior.

Resources

- The **National Fatherhood Initiative** provides research and outreach to help children through increasing father commitment: <http://www.fatherhood.org>
- The **United States Department of Health and Human Services** provides programs and research about fatherhood development and the importance of fathers for children: <http://fatherhood.hhs.gov/>
- The **National Center on Fathers and Families** provides research on father involvement and child well-being aimed at improving children's lives through the positive participation of their fathers: <http://www.ncoff.gse.upenn.edu/>
- **The National Center for Fathering** conducts research and provides resources to increase involvement of fathers in the lives of children: <http://www.fathers.com>

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