

Who are Nonresident Fathers? Demographic Characteristics of Nonresident Fathers

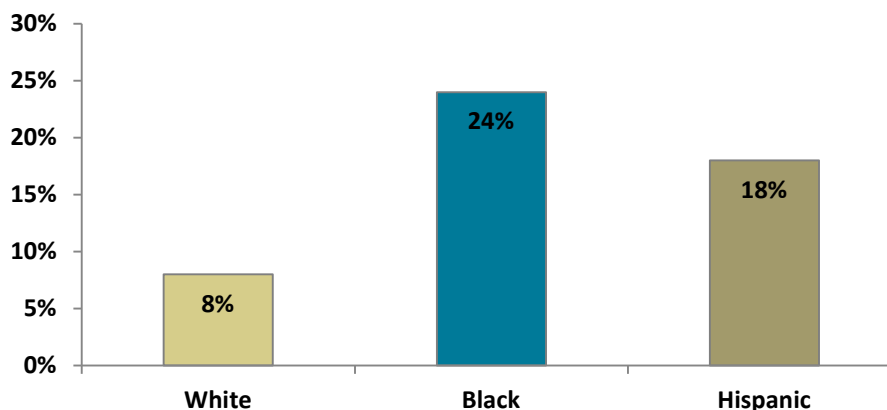
Approximately 27% of fathers report having at least one biological, nonresident child 18 or younger, according to estimates from the most recent round (2006-2010) of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), a nationally representative survey of men and women aged 15-44.

This profile presents a demographic portrait of nonresident fatherhood by describing the characteristics of nonresident fathers (15-44). Supplemental comparisons of nonresident fathers versus other men (15-44) without a nonresident child are also discussed. While this profile primarily focuses on the characteristics of nonresident fathers, a previous family profile “Nonresident Father Visitation” (FP-12-02) examines visitation across the demographic characteristics discussed in this profile.

Race/Ethnicity and Nonresident Fatherhood

- Black men are significantly more likely than any other racial/ethnic group to be nonresident fathers.
- The greatest difference in the prevalence of nonresident fatherhood is between Black and White men. Twenty-four percent of Black men report at least one nonresident child compared to 8% of White men.
- Hispanic men (18%) are also significantly more likely than White men (8%) to be nonresident fathers.
- Other analyses (not shown) demonstrate that nonresident fathers are disproportionately represented by minority men when compared to men who are not nonresident fathers. Among nonresident fathers, 23% are Black and 29% are Hispanic. In contrast, among men who are not nonresident fathers 12% are Black and 19% are Hispanic. Meanwhile, among nonresident fathers, 41% are White while 60% of men who are not nonresident fathers are White.

Figure 1. Percentage of Men (15-44) with a Nonresident Child by Race/Ethnicity



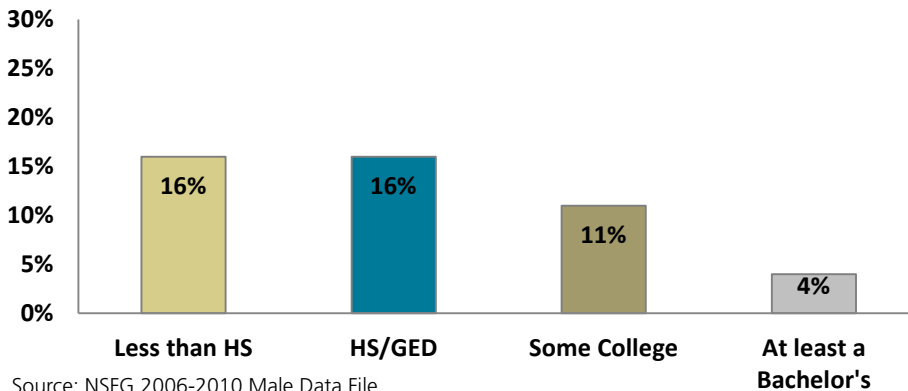
Source: NSFG 2006-2010 Male Data File
Significant Testing Conducted at $p < 0.05$

Family Profiles examine topics related to NCFMR's core research themes. Data are presented at both the national and state levels using new data sources. Written for both researchers and broad communities, these profiles summarize the latest statistics on U.S. families.

Educational Attainment and Nonresident Fatherhood

- Men reporting higher educational attainment (at least some college experience) are significantly less likely to report having a nonresident child. Only 4% of men with at least a bachelor’s degree are nonresident fathers.
- Levels of nonresident fatherhood are similar among the least educated men. Sixteen percent of men with either less than a high school diploma or a high school diploma/GED are nonresident fathers.
- Additional analyses (not shown) demonstrate that nonresident fathers report significantly lower levels of educational attainment compared to men who are not nonresident fathers. Only 6% of nonresident fathers (compared to 21% of men who are not nonresident fathers) have a Bachelor’s degree, whereas nearly two-fifths (37%) of nonresident fathers (compared to 29% of men without nonresident children) have less than a high school diploma.

Figure 2. Percentage of Men (15-44) with a Nonresident Child by Educational Attainment

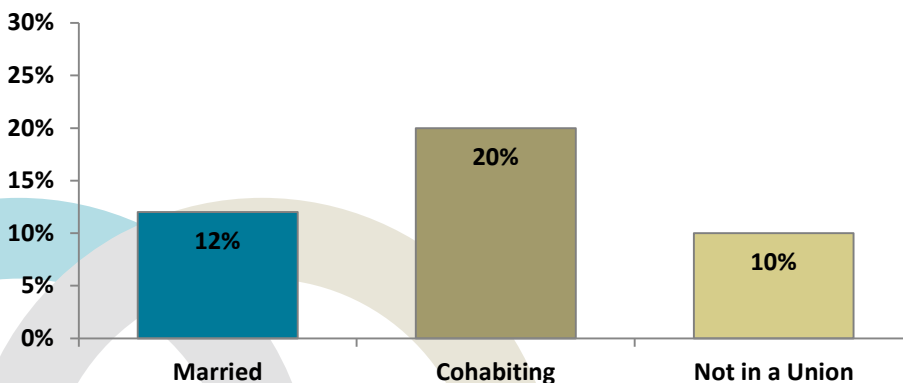


Source: NSFG 2006-2010 Male Data File
Significant Testing Conducted at $p < 0.05$

Current Relationship Status and Nonresident Fatherhood

- One-fifth of currently cohabiting men are nonresident fathers, making cohabiting men the most likely to be nonresident fathers.
- In contrast, only 10% of currently single men (those not living with a partner) and 12% of currently married men are nonresident fathers.
- Further analyses (not shown) illustrate that a significantly larger percentage of nonresident fathers are currently cohabiting (20%) compared to 12% of men without nonresident children. Two-fifths (41%) of nonresident fathers are currently single compared to half of men without nonresident children. Nearly two-fifths (38%) of both nonresident fathers and men without nonresident children are currently married.

Figure 3. Percentage of Men (15-44) with a Nonresident Child by Current Relationship Status



Source: NSFG 2006-2010 Male Data File
Significant Testing Conducted at $p < 0.05$

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