

National Center for Family & Marriage Research

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+ Mission

Research

Training

Dissemination

+ Goal

To improve our understanding of how family structure is linked to the health and well-being of children, adults, families, and communities and to inform policy development and programmatic responses.

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BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

+ Fast Facts on American Fathers



Most childless men expect to be fathers. In 2017, **76%** of childless men expected to have a child and **34%** of fathers expected to have another child. ([FP-21-14](#))



The average age at which men became fathers has increased to **27.5**. Men are, on average, about **three years older** than women when their first child is born. ([FP-19-28](#))



On average, fathers at the end of their childbearing years (aged 40 to 44) had **1.8 children**. ([FP-19-29](#))



The mean age at first birth for men was **highest** among Whites (**28.5**) and **lowest** among Hispanics (**25.4**). ([FP-19-28](#))



Married men expect to have their first child sooner than single or cohabiting men. Over half (**58%**) of married men, **16%** of cohabiting men, and **4%** of single men expected to have their first child within the next two years. ([FP-22-06](#))



Among men over age 45 to 49 the mean age at **last** birth was in their mid-thirties. The age was **highest** among men who identified as multiracial (**36 years old**) or some race/ethnicity other than Hispanic, White, or Black and **lowest** among White and Black men (**34 years old**). ([FP-22-05](#))



Nearly one-quarter (**22%**) of fathers lived apart from at least one of their children; **78%** of fathers lived with all their children. ([FP-22-22](#))



Fathers with a college degree most often lived with all of their children (**89%**) whereas **63%** of fathers with less than a high school education lived with all of their children. ([FP-22-22](#))



The share of single fathers living alone was much smaller than the share of single mothers living alone (**3%** compared to **9%**). However, among single parents, the share of fathers living with another adult was similar to that of mothers (**70%** compared to **69%**). ([FP-22-17](#))



About one-quarter (**23%**) of men aged 40-44 were childless in 2016 compared to **15%** of men in 1987/1988. ([FP-19-29](#))



The proportion of married men who had a child before their first marriage increased from **19%** among men married in the 1990s to **27%** in the 2010s. ([FP-20-14](#))

+ Family Profiles

Original reports summarizing and analyzing nationally representative data with the goal to provide the latest analysis of U.S. families. These profiles examine topics related to the NCFMR's core research themes.

<https://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/resources-by-topic/fathers.html>

<https://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/family-profiles.html>