+ Fast Facts on American Fathers

1. Most 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)

2. 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)

3. Married fathers experience fatherhood about 4 years later than cohabiting fathers and about 3.3 years later than single fathers. (FP-19-28)

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

5. The highest average age at fatherhood was among men with a master's degree or higher (32.3 years old) and lowest was among men with less than a high school diploma (23.9 years old). (FP-19-28)

6. Men aged 40-44 reported having 1.8 children in 2016 and it has been relatively stable over the last decade. (FP-19-29)

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

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

9. In 2018 4% of fathers were single parents in contrast to 17% of mothers. (FP-19-21)