Defining Dad: Resident Fathers’ Latent Classes of Fathering Attitudes

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Research Questions
• What attitudes toward fathering do fathers hold?
• Do these attitudes differ by social class?

Results
Distribution of Resident Fathers’ Fathering Attitudes, by Class

- The larger proportion of fathers endorse involved fathering, as a whole and by class.
- Adaptive involved fathering is unique to nonprofessional fathers.

Definition of fathering attitudes:
1. Resistant involved fathering—believe fathers should not be as involved as mothers in care.
2. Adaptive involved fathering—believe financial provision is more important.
3. Involved fathering—believe fathering is rewarding and consequential for children.

Conclusion
• The larger proportion of fathers endorse involved fathering, as a whole and by class.
• Adaptive involved fathering is unique to nonprofessional fathers.

Source: 2001-2002 Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey-Birth Cohort

This work is from the author’s dissertation, and was completed before her tenure with the U.S. Census Bureau. The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.