

Fathers' involvement with children

A father's presence has a huge impact on the development and wellbeing of their child. This paper includes a range of tables using data from the UK-wide survey Understanding Society (2009-11¹) which profile the things which parents do with children and the interactions between parents and children.

Table conventions

- All data has been weighted using survey weights, however weighted bases are not shown
- All percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole per cent
- Where the unweighted base is less than 50 cases the per cent is shown in square brackets and caution should be placed on this finding due to the small base size []
- Where the per cent is less than 0.5 but greater than 0 - a '+' symbol is shown
- Where there are no cases in the category a '0' is shown

¹ All data comes from Wave 1 of Understanding Society.

Table 1.1 How often spends time on leisure activities or outings with child/ren

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	Father – couple	Father – lone	Mother – couple	Mother – lone	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Never or rarely	5	12	4	9	6
Once a month or less	12	12	12	16	13
Several times a month	17	14	16	16	16
About once a week	33	31	28	25	30
Several times a week	25	22	27	23	26
Almost every day	7	8	13	10	10
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4963</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>6305</i>	<i>2373</i>	<i>13796</i>

Table 1.2 How often spends time on leisure activities or outings with child/ren, by age of youngest child

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-15	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Never or rarely	5	2	4	12	6
Once a month or less	8	8	13	23	13
Several times a month	11	15	19	21	16
About once a week	27	33	33	26	30
Several times a week	31	31	25	14	26
Almost every day	17	11	7	3	10
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4634</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>4662</i>	<i>2489</i>	<i>13796</i>

Table 1.3 How often spends time on leisure activities or outings with child/ren, by number of children

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	One child	Two children	Three or more children	Total
	%	%	%	%
Never or rarely	7	4	6	6
Once a month or less	10	13	16	13
Several times a month	13	18	20	16
About once a week	28	31	32	30
Several times a week	27	26	21	26
Almost every day	15	8	6	10
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>5184</i>	<i>5662</i>	<i>2949</i>	<i>13796</i>

Table 1.4 How often spends time on leisure activities or outings with child/ren, by work status

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	Working	Not working	Total
	%	%	%
Never or rarely	4	9	6
Once a month or less	12	14	13
Several times a month	17	13	16
About once a week	32	23	30
Several times a week	27	24	26
Almost every day	8	16	10
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>9046</i>	<i>4641</i>	<i>13796</i>

Table 1.5 How many evening meals eaten with child/ren in last week

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	Father – couple	Father – lone	Mother – couple	Mother – lone	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
None	4	5	4	4	4
1 – 2 times	15	11	10	8	12
3 – 5 times	22	25	18	17	20
6 – 7 times	59	60	68	70	64
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4965</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>6305</i>	<i>2369</i>	<i>13794</i>

Table 1.6 How many evening meals eaten with child/ren in last week, by age of youngest child

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-15	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
None	8	2	2	3	4
1 – 2 times	11	13	12	12	12
3 – 5 times	16	21	22	23	20
6 – 7 times	65	64	64	63	64
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4637</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>4660</i>	<i>2487</i>	<i>13794</i>

Table 1.7 How many evening meals eaten with child/ren in last week, by number of children

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	One child	Two children	Three or more children	Total
	%	%	%	%
None	6	2	3	4
1 – 2 times	10	13	11	12
3 – 5 times	19	21	19	20
6 – 7 times	64	64	66	64
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>5186</i>	<i>5659</i>	<i>2948</i>	<i>13794</i>

Table 1.8 How many evening meals eaten with child/ren in last week, by work status

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	Working	Not working	Total
	%	%	%
None	4	5	4
1 – 2 times	13	7	12
3 – 5 times	23	13	20
6 – 7 times	60	74	64
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>9043</i>	<i>4642</i>	<i>13794</i>

Table 1.9 How often talks to child/ren about things that matter to them

Base: If parent of resident child aged 5-15 year old

	Father – couple	Father – lone	Mother – couple	Mother – lone	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Most days	47	40	70	66	59
More than once a week	29	33	20	23	25
Less than once a week	15	17	7	6	10
Hardly ever	10	10	3	5	6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>3590</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>4651</i>	<i>1826</i>	<i>10206</i>

Table 1.10 How often talks to child/ren about things that matter to them, by age of youngest child

Base: If parent of resident child aged 5-15 year old

	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-15	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Most days	63	67	64	44	59
More than once a week	21	21	24	29	25
Less than once a week	9	7	8	16	10
Hardly ever	7	4	4	11	6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1755</i>	<i>1289</i>	<i>4652</i>	<i>2487</i>	<i>10206</i>

Table 1.11 How often talks to child/ren about things that matter to them, by number of children

Base: If parent of resident child aged 5-15 year old

	One child	Two children	Three or more children	Total
	%	%	%	%
Most days	56	60	61	59
More than once a week	24	25	24	25
Less than once a week	11	10	9	10
Hardly ever	8	5	5	6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	2763	4617	2826	10206

Table 1.12 How often talks to child/ren about things that matter to them, by work status

Base: If parent of resident child aged 5-15 year old

	Working	Not working	Total
	%	%	%
Most days	57	65	59
More than once a week	26	20	25
Less than once a week	11	6	10
Hardly ever	6	7	6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	6884	3237	10206

Table 1.13 How often quarrels with child/ren

Base: If parent of resident child aged 5-15 year old

	Father – couple	Father – lone	Mother – couple	Mother – lone	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Most days	20	27	28	30	25
More than once a week	26	22	25	25	25
Less than once a week	21	18	20	17	20
Hardly ever	33	33	28	28	30
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3593	139	4654	1825	10211

Table 1.14 How often quarrels with child/ren, by age of youngest child

Base: If parent of resident child aged 5-15 year old

	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-15	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Most days	33	34	25	15	25
More than once a week	23	27	27	22	25
Less than once a week	17	14	20	24	20
Hardly ever	26	24	28	38	30
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1780	1291	4650	2487	10211

Table 1.15 How often quarrels with child/ren, by number of children

Base: If parent of resident child aged 5-15 year old

	One child	Two children	Three or more children	Total
	%	%	%	%
Most days	19	25	32	25
More than once a week	21	27	26	25
Less than once a week	22	19	18	20
Hardly ever	38	29	24	30
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2762</i>	<i>4621</i>	<i>2828</i>	<i>10211</i>

Table 1.16 How often cuddles or hugs child/ren

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	Father – couple	Father – lone	Mother – couple	Mother – lone	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Never	2	3	+	1	1
Seldom	3	7	1	1	2
Sometimes	16	33	7	10	12
Very often	79	58	91	88	85
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4965</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>6306</i>	<i>2373</i>	<i>13799</i>

Table 1.17 How often cuddles or hugs child/ren, by age of youngest child

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-15	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Never	+	+	1	4	1
Seldom	+	1	1	7	2
Sometimes	4	5	13	26	12
Very often	95	94	85	62	85
<i>Unweighted base</i>	4639	2006	4663	2487	13799

Table 1.18 How often cuddles or hugs child/ren, by number of children

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	One child	Two children	Three or more children	Total
	%	%	%	%
Never	1	1	1	1
Seldom	2	2	2	2
Sometimes	10	12	14	12
Very often	86	85	84	85
<i>Unweighted base</i>	5186	5663	2949	13799

Table 1.19 How often praises child/ren

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	Father – couple	Father – lone	Mother – couple	Mother – lone	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Never	+	1	+	+	+
Seldom	2	4	+	1	1
Sometimes	21	27	11	14	16
Very often	76	68	89	85	82
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4960</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>6301</i>	<i>2372</i>	<i>13788</i>

Table 1.20 How often praises child/ren, by age of youngest child

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-15	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Never	1	+	+	1	+
Seldom	1	1	1	2	1
Sometimes	9	10	17	29	16
Very often	90	88	81	68	82
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4627</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>4663</i>	<i>2488</i>	<i>13788</i>

Table 1.21 How often praises child/ren, by number of children

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	One child	Two children	Three or more children	Total
	%	%	%	%
Never	1	+	+	+
Seldom	1	1	2	1
Sometimes	15	16	19	16
Very often	84	83	79	82
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>5179</i>	<i>5660</i>	<i>2948</i>	<i>13788</i>

Table 1.22 How often shouts at child/ren

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	Father – couple	Father – lone	Mother – couple	Mother – lone	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Never	13	8	10	8	11
Seldom	25	22	20	19	22
Sometimes	46	52	50	50	48
Very often	15	17	20	23	18
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4963</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>6306</i>	<i>2373</i>	<i>13797</i>

Table 1.23 How often shouts at child/ren, by age of youngest child

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-15	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Never	23	3	5	8	11
Seldom	22	19	20	27	22
Sometimes	42	56	52	47	48
Very often	13	22	23	18	18
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4637</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>4662</i>	<i>2488</i>	<i>13797</i>

Table 1.24 How often shouts at child/ren, by number of children

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	One child	Two children	Three or more children	Total
	%	%	%	%
Never	21	5	4	11
Seldom	26	21	15	22
Sometimes	41	53	52	48
Very often	11	21	29	18
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>5186</i>	<i>5663</i>	<i>2947</i>	<i>13797</i>

Table 1.25 How often slaps or spansks child/ren

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	Father – couple	Father – lone	Mother – couple	Mother – lone	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Never	75	80	74	74	74
Seldom	19	15	19	18	19
Sometimes	5	4	6	8	6
Very often	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4954</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>6296</i>	<i>2371</i>	<i>13775</i>

Table 1.26 How often slaps or spansks child/ren, by age of youngest child

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-15	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Never	72	60	74	90	74
Seldom	19	28	21	8	19
Sometimes	7	11	5	2	6
Very often	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4634</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>4651</i>	<i>2484</i>	<i>13775</i>

Table 1.27 How often slaps or spanks child/ren, by number of children

Base: If parent of resident child aged under 16 years old

	One child	Two children	Three or more children	Total
	%	%	%	%
Never	83	71	63	74
Seldom	13	21	27	19
Sometimes	4	6	10	6
Very often	1	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>5179</i>	<i>5651</i>	<i>2944</i>	<i>13775</i>

Table 1.28 How often helps child/ren with homework

Base: If parent of resident child aged 10-15 year old

	Father – couple	Father – lone	Mother – couple	Mother – lone	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Almost every day	12	21	27	25	21
At least once a week	44	32	44	38	43
At least once a month	17	18	10	9	13
Less often than once a month	8	4	4	6	6
Never or hardly ever	17	23	14	19	16
No homework	1	2	2	3	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2336</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>2997</i>	<i>1203</i>	<i>6641</i>