

Men and fatherhood: Who are today's fathers?

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

Table 1.1 Men's fatherhood status

| | |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Base: All men aged 16+</i> | |
| | |
| Fatherhood status | % |
| Father co-resident with dependent children - couple | 25 |
| Father co-resident with dependent children - lone | 1 |
| Father not living with any dependent age children | 38 |
| Non-father (never had biological/adopted children and is not living with any dependent children) | 36 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>20741</i> |

Biological versus social fatherhood

Table 1.2 Has ever fathered a biological child, by fatherhood status

Base: All men aged 16+

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | Total |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Has ever fathered a biological child? | % | % | % | % | % |
| Yes | 97 | 99 | 94 | 0 | 61 |
| No | 3 | 1 | 6 | 100 | 39 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>5367</i> | <i>187</i> | <i>8078</i> | <i>7088</i> | <i>20720</i> |

Table 1.3 Types of resident dependent children, by fatherhood status

Base: All fathers living with dependent age children

| Types of children | % |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Lives with biological child | 94 |
| Lives with step child | 11 |
| Lives with adopted child | 1 |
| Lives with foster child | + |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>5919</i> |

%s do not add up to 100 as more than one answer option can apply

Table 1.4 Relationship with dependent residential child, by fatherhood status

Base: All men aged 16+

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | Total |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Relationship with residential child/ren | % | % | % | % | % |
| Biological only | 88 | 96 | 0 | 0 | 23 |
| Biological and other children | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Other children only | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| No dependent children | 0 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 74 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | 5369 | 187 | 8083 | 7102 | 20741 |

Table 1.5 Age group, by fatherhood status (column percentage)

Base: All men aged 16+

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | Total |
|------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Mean | 40.5 | 44.5 | 61.5 | 32.5 | 45.6 |
| Median | 40.0 | 44.0 | 62.0 | 27.0 | 44.0 |
| Age group | % | % | % | % | % |
| 16 to 19 | + | 0 | + | 18 | 7 |
| 20 to 24 | 2 | + | 1 | 23 | 9 |
| 25 to 29 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 9 |
| 30 to 34 | 14 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 8 |
| 35 to 39 | 21 | 16 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 40 to 44 | 22 | 28 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| 45 to 49 | 18 | 19 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 50 to 59 | 13 | 19 | 25 | 7 | 15 |
| 60 to 69 | 2 | 6 | 29 | 4 | 13 |
| 70+ | + | 1 | 29 | 4 | 12 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | 5369 | 187 | 8083 | 7102 | 20741 |

Table 1.6 Age group, by fatherhood status (row percentage)

Base: All men aged 16+

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | <i>Unweighted base</i> |
|------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|------------------------|
| Age group | % | % | % | % | N |
| 16 to 19 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 98 | 1372 |
| 20 to 24 | 6 | + | 3 | 91 | 1532 |
| 25 to 29 | 24 | 1 | 7 | 39 | 1609 |
| 30 to 34 | 44 | 1 | 7 | 49 | 1735 |
| 35 to 39 | 61 | 1 | 9 | 28 | 1936 |
| 40 to 44 | 58 | 2 | 17 | 22 | 2005 |
| 45 to 49 | 48 | 2 | 31 | 19 | 1851 |
| 50 to 59 | 21 | 1 | 62 | 16 | 3158 |
| 60 to 69 | 3 | + | 84 | 12 | 2945 |
| 70+ | + | + | 89 | 11 | 2596 |
| Total | 25 | 1 | 38 | 36 | 20741 |

Who are fathers?

Table 1.7 Marital status, by fatherhood status

Base: All men aged 16+

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | Total |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|------------|-------|
| Marital status | % | % | % | % | % |
| Married/ Civil partnership | 80 | 2 | 69 | 16 | 52 |
| Living as couple | 20 | 0 | 7 | 15 | 13 |
| Widowed/ survivor | 0 | 11 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| Divorced | + | 37 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| Separated | 0 | 19 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Never married | + | 31 | 5 | 66 | 26 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | 5368 | 187 | 8079 | 7098 | 20732 |

Table 1.8 Age of youngest child in household, by fatherhood type

Base: All fathers living with children aged under 16

| | Fatherhood type | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| | Couple father with dependent child | Lone father with dependent child | Total |
| Age of youngest child | % | % | % |
| 0 to 2 | 35 | 5 | 35 |
| 3 to 4 | 14 | 10 | 14 |
| 5 to 11 | 32 | 41 | 32 |
| 12 to 15 | 18 | 43 | 19 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>5018</i> | <i>155</i> | <i>5173</i> |

Table 1.9 Number of dependent children in household, by fatherhood type

Base: All fathers living with dependent age children

| | Fatherhood type | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| | Couple father with dependent child | Lone father with dependent child | Total |
| Number of children | % | % | % |
| 1 | 42 | 59 | 43 |
| 2 | 40 | 29 | 40 |
| 3 | 13 | 11 | 13 |
| 4 or more | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>5336</i> | <i>184</i> | <i>5520</i> |

Table 1.10 Ethnic group, by fatherhood status

Base: All men aged 16+

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | Total |
|------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Ethnic group | % | % | % | % | % |
| White British | 81 | 87 | 92 | 81 | 85 |
| White Irish | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| White other | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| Mixed | 1 | 1 | + | 1 | 1 |
| Indian | 4 | + | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Pakistani | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Bangladeshi | 1 | 1 | + | 1 | 1 |
| Asian other | 1 | 0 | + | 1 | 1 |
| Caribbean | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| African | 2 | 3 | + | 2 | 1 |
| Other | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | 5366 | 187 | 8074 | 7097 | 20724 |

Table 1.11 NS-SEC group, by fatherhood status

Base: All men aged 16 to 64 in current employment

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | Total |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| NS-Sec group | % | % | % | % | % |
| Management & professional | 49 | 45 | 40 | 42 | 44 |
| Intermediate | 6 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 7 |
| Small employers & own account | 13 | 15 | 18 | 8 | 13 |
| Lower supervisory & technical | 12 | 16 | 13 | 11 | 12 |
| Semi-routine, routine | 19 | 21 | 24 | 29 | 24 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>4433</i> | <i>110</i> | <i>3070</i> | <i>4145</i> | <i>11758</i> |

Table 1.12 Highest educational attainment, by fatherhood status

Base: All men aged 16+

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | Total |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Highest qualification | % | % | % | % | % |
| Higher degree | 12 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 10 |
| First degree | 17 | 16 | 10 | 16 | 14 |
| Diploma in higher education | 8 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Other higher | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| A level or equivalent | 9 | 6 | 6 | 20 | 12 |
| GSCE/O level or equivalent | 26 | 24 | 17 | 26 | 22 |
| CSE | 7 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Standard or lower - Scotland | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Other | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| None | 16 | 27 | 42 | 13 | 25 |
| Still at school - no qualifications | 1 | + | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>5368</i> | <i>187</i> | <i>8074</i> | <i>7095</i> | <i>20724</i> |

Table 1.13 Tenure, by fatherhood status

Base: All men aged 16+

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | Total |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Tenure | % | % | % | % | % |
| Own outright | 9 | 12 | 51 | 21 | 30 |
| Mortgage | 64 | 35 | 26 | 39 | 40 |
| LA rent | 8 | 24 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Housing association rent | 5 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| Private rent | 13 | 16 | 7 | 24 | 15 |
| Other | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>5357</i> | <i>187</i> | <i>8063</i> | <i>7076</i> | <i>20683</i> |

Table 1.14 Economic status, by fatherhood status

Base: All men aged 16 to 64

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | Total |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Mean age | 40.3 | 44.0 | 52.5 | 30.1 | 39.4 |
| Median age | 40.0 | 44.0 | 55.0 | 26.0 | 40.0 |
| Economic status | % | % | % | % | % |
| Working full-time ¹ | 82 | 55 | 62 | 55 | 65 |
| Working part-time ² | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Unemployed | 8 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 9 |
| Economically inactive ³ | 5 | 27 | 22 | 27 | 19 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>5267</i> | <i>180</i> | <i>4559</i> | <i>6587</i> | <i>16593</i> |

¹ Working full time is defined as working 30 or more hours – not including over time

² Working part time is defined as working 1 to 29 hours – not including over time

³ Economically inactive includes all status' except employment or unemployment including: retirement, studying, training scheme, looking after family home etc

Table 1.15 Average working hours⁴, by fatherhood status

Base: All men aged 16 to 64 – who are in employment or self-employed

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | Total |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|---------------|
| Working hours | Mean | Mean | Mean | Mean | Mean |
| Overall | 44.0 | 42.0 | 42.4 | 39.1 | 41.7 |
| Working full-time | 45.6 | 44.5 | 45.4 | 43.9 | 44.9 |
| Working part-time | 19.0 | [20.7] | 17.5 | 15.8 | 16.8 |
| Working hours | Median | Median | Median | Median | Median |
| Overall | 42.0 | 40.0 | 40.0 | 40.0 | 40.0 |
| Working full-time | 43.0 | 42.0 | 42.0 | 40.0 | 42.0 |
| Working part-time | 20.0 | [20.0] | 20.0 | 16.0 | 18.0 |
| <i>Unweighted base: total</i> | <i>4478</i> | <i>110</i> | <i>3088</i> | <i>4184</i> | <i>11860</i> |
| <i>Unweighted base: FT</i> | <i>4104</i> | <i>97</i> | <i>2749</i> | <i>3419</i> | <i>10369</i> |
| <i>Unweighted base: PT</i> | <i>376</i> | <i>14</i> | <i>336</i> | <i>765</i> | <i>1491</i> |

⁴ Including hours of overtime

Table 1.16 Long working hours, by fatherhood status

Base: All men aged 16 to 64 – who are in employment or self-employed

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | Total |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Long working hours | % | % | % | % | % |
| Works less than 48 hours, per week | 69 | 77 | 71 | 78 | 73 |
| Works 48 hours or more, per week | 31 | 23 | 29 | 22 | 27 |
| Works less than 60 hours, per week | 90 | 93 | 90 | 94 | 91 |
| Works 60 hours or more, per week | 10 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 9 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>4478</i> | <i>110</i> | <i>3088</i> | <i>4184</i> | <i>11860</i> |

Non-resident fathers

Table 1.17 Has a non-resident child aged less than 16, by fatherhood status

Base: All men aged 16+

| | Father co-resident with dependent children (couple) | Father co-resident with dependent children (lone) | Father not living with any dependent children | Non-father | Total |
|---|---|---|---|------------|-------|
| Has a non-resident child aged under 16? | % | % | % | % | % |
| Yes | 5 | 13 | 9 | 0 | 5 |
| No | 95 | 87 | 91 | 100 | 95 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | 5337 | 185 | 8058 | 7083 | 20663 |

Table 1.18 Types of resident dependent children, by fatherhood status

Base: All fathers with a non-resident child/ren less than 16 years old

| Types of children | % |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Lives with dependent children | 29 |
| Does not live with dependent children | 71 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | 1053 |

Table 1.19 Contact with non-resident child

Base: All fathers with a non-resident child/ren less than 16 years old

| | Non-resident child only | Resident and non-resident children | Total |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------|
| How often visits, sees or contacts child | % | % | % |
| Never | 10 | 21 | 13 |
| A few times a year | 11 | 10 | 11 |
| Once a month or less | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Several times a month | 11 | 17 | 13 |
| About once a week | 22 | 19 | 21 |
| Several times a week | 25 | 17 | 23 |
| Almost everyday | 14 | 8 | 12 |
| Shared care (50/50) | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>759</i> | <i>291</i> | <i>1050</i> |

Comparing fathers and mothers

Table 1.20 Age of youngest child in the household

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

| | Father – couple | Father – lone | Mother – couple | Mother – lone | Total |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| 0 to 2 | 35 | 6 | 35 | 26 | 33 |
| 3 to 4 | 14 | 9 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| 5 to 11 | 32 | 41 | 33 | 38 | 34 |
| 12 to 15 | 18 | 44 | 18 | 22 | 19 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>4960</i> | <i>155</i> | <i>6304</i> | <i>2379</i> | <i>13792</i> |

Table 1.21 Number of children in the household

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

| | Father – couple | Father – lone | Mother – couple | Mother – lone | Total |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| One | 38 | 52 | 36 | 51 | 39 |
| Two | 43 | 33 | 45 | 33 | 42 |
| Three or more | 19 | 15 | 19 | 16 | 19 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>4963</i> | <i>154</i> | <i>6305</i> | <i>2373</i> | <i>13795</i> |

Table 1.22 Working status

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

| | Father – couple | Father – lone | Mother – couple | Mother – lone | Total |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| Working full-time | 82 | 55 | 30 | 23 | 51 |
| Working part-time | 5 | 6 | 35 | 24 | 20 |
| Unemployed | 8 | 11 | 3 | 16 | 7 |
| Economically inactive | 5 | 27 | 32 | 37 | 22 |
| <i>Unweighted base</i> | <i>4911</i> | <i>152</i> | <i>6260</i> | <i>2364</i> | <i>13687</i> |