

# FACTS for FEATURES



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April 29, 2004

## Father's Day: June 20



The idea of Father's Day originated with Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Wash., while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Dodd wanted to honor her father, William Smart, a widowed Civil War veteran who raised his six children by himself on a rural farm. June was chosen for the first Father's Day celebration — proclaimed in 1910 by Spokane's mayor — because it was the month of William Smart's birth. The first presidential proclamation honoring fathers was issued in 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. It has been celebrated annually since 1971.

### 66.3 million

Estimated number of fathers in the United States today. (From unpublished data.)

#### Father's Day Gifts



- Neckties lead the list of Father's Day gifts. A good place to buy dad a tie or a shirt might be one of nearly 11,000 men's U.S. clothing stores. Sales at men's clothing stores exceeded \$750 million in both May and June of last year.

<[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/county\\_business\\_patterns/000926.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/county_business_patterns/000926.html)> <<http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>>

- Other popular items for Father's Day include those found in dad's toolbox, such as hammers, wrenches and screwdrivers. You could buy these items at any of the nation's 14,837 hardware stores.

<[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/county\\_business\\_patterns/000926.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/county_business_patterns/000926.html)>

### 22,468



Number of sporting goods stores in the United States. These stores are good places to visit for such traditional gifts for dad as fishing rods and golf clubs.

<[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/county\\_business\\_patterns/000926.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/county_business_patterns/000926.html)>

**Mr. Mom**



## 105,000

Estimated number of “stay-at-home” dads. These are married fathers with children under 15 who are not in the labor force primarily so they can care for family members while their wives work outside the home. Stay-at-home dads care for 189,000 children.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/children/001125.html>>

## 2 million

Number of preschoolers whose fathers care for them more hours than any other child-care provider while their mothers are at work. This is a ratio of about 1-in-5 preschoolers of employed mothers.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/ppl-168.html>>

### How Many Fathers?



## 25.8 million

Number of fathers in married-couple families with their own children under 18.

Among these —

- # 2-in-10 are raising three or more of their own children under 18.
- # 1-in-10 are raising their own infants under age 1.
- # 1-in-8 are under 30.
- # 4 percent are 55 or over.
- # 2 percent live in the home of a relative or a nonrelative.
- # 6-in-10 have an annual family income of \$50,000 or more.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/000436.html>>

## 2.0 million

Number of single fathers, up from 393,000 in 1970. Currently, 1-in-6 single parents is a single father, compared with 1-in-10 in 1970.

Among these fathers —

- # 10 percent are raising three or more of their own children under 18.
- # 45 percent are divorced; 34 percent have never married; 17 percent are married with an absent

spouse; and 4 percent are widowed.

- # 10 percent are raising their own infants under age 1. (This percentage is not significantly different from the corresponding rate for fathers in married-couple families.)
- # 22 percent are under 30.
- # 5 percent are 55 or over. (This percentage is not significantly different from the corresponding rate for fathers in married-couple families.)
- # 13 percent live in the home of a relative or a nonrelative.
- # 24 percent have an annual family income of \$50,000 or more.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/000436.html>

### **3-in-10**

The ratio of children under 18 living with their single father and his unmarried partner. In contrast, only 1-in-10 children who lived with their single mother shared the home with mom's unmarried partner.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/children/001125.html>



### **Dining with Daddy**

**60%**

Percentage of children under 6 years old living with married parents who eat dinner on a daily basis with their fathers.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/p70-89.pdf>

**24%**

Percentage of children under 6 years old living with married parents who eat breakfast on a daily basis with their fathers. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/p70-89.pdf>

**88%**

Percentage of children under 6 years old living with married parents who are praised by their fathers at least once a day. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/p70-89.pdf>

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 19)/  
African American History Month (February)  
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)  
Women's History Month (March)  
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/  
St. Patrick's Day (March 17)

Back to School (August)  
Labor Day (Sept. 6)  
Grandparents Day (Sept. 12)  
Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)  
Halloween (Oct. 31)  
American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May)  
Older Americans Month (May)  
Mother's Day (May 9)  
Father's Day (June 20)  
The Fourth of July (July 4)  
Anniversary of Americans With Disabilities Act (July 26)

(November)  
Veterans Day (Nov. 11)  
Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 25)  
The Holiday Season (December)

**Editor's note:** Some of the preceding data were collected in surveys and, therefore, are subject to sampling error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: (301) 763-3030; fax: (301) 457-3670; or e-mail: <pio@census.gov>.