

Father's Day: June 15, 2008



Courtesy of Aliceswndrland/Flickr.com

The idea of Father's Day was conceived by Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Wash., while she listened to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart, a widowed Civil War veteran who was left to raise his six children on a farm. A day in June was chosen for the first Father's Day celebration — June 19, 1910, proclaimed by Spokane's mayor because it was the month of 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. Father's Day has been celebrated annually since 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it permanent.

64.3 million

Estimated number of fathers across the nation.

Source: unpublished data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation



Courtesy of Paxton Holley/Flickr.com

Remembering Dad

A good place to buy dad a tie or a shirt might be one of 8,685 men's clothing stores around the country (as of 2005).

Source: [County Business Patterns](#)

Other items high on the list of Father's Day gifts are tools such as hammers, wrenches and screwdrivers. You could buy some of these items for dad at one of the nation's 14,257 hardware stores or 5,925 home centers (as of 2005).

Source: [County Business Patterns](#)

23,195

Number of sporting goods stores in 2005. These stores are good places to purchase traditional gifts for dad, such as fishing rods and golf clubs.

Source: [County Business Patterns](#)

More than 74 million Americans participated in a barbecue in the last year — it's probably safe to assume many of these barbecues took place on Father's Day.

Source: [Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008](#)



Courtesy of Pophought/Flickr.com

Mr. Mom

159,000

Estimated number of stay-at-home dads in 2006. These married fathers with children younger than 15 have remained out of the labor force for at least one year primarily so they can care for the family while their wives work outside the home. These fathers cared for 283,000 children. Among these stay-at-home dads, 60 percent had two or more children, and 40 percent had an annual family income of \$50,000 or more.

Source: [America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2006](#)

25%

Among the nation's 11.3 million preschoolers whose mothers are employed, the percentage who are regularly cared for by their father during their mother's working hours. This amounted to 2.9 million children.

Source: [Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Spring 2005](#)

How Many Fathers?

26.5 million

Number of fathers who are part of married-couple families with children younger than 18 in 2006.

- 22 percent are raising three or more children younger than 18 (among married-couple family households only).
- 2 percent live in someone else's home.

Source: [America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2006](#)

2.5 million

Number of single fathers in 2006, up from 400,000 in 1970. Currently, among single parents living with their children, 19 percent are men.



Courtesy of Noriko Cooper/Dreamstime.com

- 8 percent are raising three or more children younger than 18.
- About 42 percent are divorced, 38 percent are never married, 16 percent are separated and 4 percent are widowed. (There is no significant difference between the percentages of single fathers who are divorced or never married.)
- 16 percent live in someone else's home.
- 27 percent have an annual family income of \$50,000 or more.

Source: [America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2006](#)

85%

Among the 30.2 million fathers living with children younger than 18, the percentage who lived with their biological children only. In addition, 11 percent lived with stepchildren, 4 percent with adopted children and fewer than 1 percent with foster children.

Source: [Living Arrangements of Children: 2004](#)



Child-Support Payments

31%

Percentage of custodial fathers who were due child support. They numbered 678,000.

Source: [Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support](#)

\$2.4 billion

Amount of child support received by custodial fathers in 2005; they were due \$3.3 billion. In contrast, custodial mothers received \$22.4 billion of the \$34.7 billion in support that was due.

Source: [Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support](#)

43%

Percentage of custodial fathers who received all child support that was due, not significantly different from the corresponding percentage for custodial mothers. Fathers received an average of \$6,210 in child support in 2005, compared with \$5,981 for mothers. (These figures are not statistically different from one another.)

Source: [Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support](#)

36%

Percentage of custodial fathers with child support agreements or awards.

Source: [Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support](#)

72%

Percentage of custodial fathers receiving noncash support, such as gifts or coverage of expenses, on behalf of their children. The corresponding proportion for mothers was 59 percent.

Source: [Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support](#)

Dining with Daddy

30%

Percentage of children younger than 6 living with married parents in 2003 who ate breakfast with their fathers every day. The corresponding number for children living with unmarried fathers was 41 percent.

Source: [A Child's Day](#)



Courtesy of Rumble Pie/Flickr.com

64%

Percentage of children younger than 6 living with married parents who ate dinner with their fathers every day. The corresponding number for children living with unmarried fathers was 66 percent.

Source: [A Child's Day](#)

Kind Words from Dad

63%

Percentage of children younger than 6 living with married parents who were praised three or more times a day by their fathers. The corresponding number for children living with unmarried fathers was 57 percent.

Source: [A Child's Day](#)

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

African-American History Month (February)
Super Bowl XLII (Feb. 3)
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)
Women's History Month (March)
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/
St. Patrick's Day (March 17)
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)
Older Americans Month (May)
Cinco de Mayo (May 5)
Mother's Day (May 11)
Hurricane Season Begins (June 1)
Father's Day (June 15)
The Fourth of July (July 4)
Anniversary of Americans with
Disabilities Act (July 26)

Back to School (August)
Labor Day (Sept. 1)
Grandparents Day (Sept. 7)
Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
Unmarried and Single Americans Week (Sept. 21-27)
Halloween (Oct. 31)
American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month
(November)
Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27)
The Holiday Season (December)

Editor's note: The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. *Facts for Features* are customarily released about two months before an observance in order to accommodate magazine production timelines. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: 301-763-3030; fax: 301-763-3762; or e-mail: pio@census.gov.