



UK fathers in their first year: Factsheet 1

New dads are present

Politicians, professionals, members of the press, our friends, family and colleagues, sometimes talk as if large proportions of fathers are absent or not involved. In fact:

- 85% of parent-couples are married/ cohabiting when their baby is born; 11% live separately but are 'closely involved' or 'friends'. Only 4% are 'not in a relationship', and even in this group, 25% of the dads appear on the baby's birth certificate; 25% are still in touch with baby and mum nine months later.
- 95% of births are registered to two parents: in almost all cases a mother and father, with 0.1% registered to two mothers.
- Just 5% of families with two biological parents and no stepchildren, separate by the time the child is 21 months old.
- In families where both parents are living together nine months after the birth, only 6% moved into separate households by the time the child is aged 3.
- Among separated families, two-thirds of 'own household fathers' are in touch with the mother nine months after the birth – and in most cases (77%) seeing their child at least once a week.
- Even in the most disadvantaged areas, where 19% of families have mum and dad in separate households, two-thirds (64%) of fathers see the child at least weekly, and 25% every day

*These facts and insights are drawn from **Bringing Baby Home**, the Fatherhood Institute's evidence review about first-year fatherhood in the UK, funded by the Nuffield Foundation. For references and to read the full report, executive summary and recommendations, visit <http://www.fatherhoodinstitute.org/2022/contemporary-fathers-in-the-uk/>.*

Join the Fatherhood Institute's campaign to improve support for fathers, Time with Dad here: <http://www.fatherhoodinstitute.org/time-with-dad/>

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