

UK fathers in their first year

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 the resources section of our website.

Join the Fatherhood Institute's campaign to improve support for fathers, Time with Dad [here](#)