

Almost half of the children in the U.S. are deprived of the lifelong benefits of two parents who share the parenting throughout the first 18 years of their children's lives.
Who are children living with? ⁴²

- 55%** mother & father - 4% unmarried
- 21%** single mother - half divorced & half never married
- 14%** mom & stepdad
- 5%** neither parent
- 2%** mom & her boyfriend
- 2%** single dad
- 1%** dad & stepmom
- .5%** dad & his girlfriend

Children's Living Arrangements: 2009.
Census Bureau.

Research brochure by Dr. Nielsen ©



American Coalition for Fathers & Children

ACFC.ORG
Michael McCormick, Exec. Dir.
1-800-978-3237
mmccormick@acfc.org

SHARED PARENTING ©

FACTS & FICTION

Research Brochure by

© Dr. Linda Nielsen

Professor of Education
Wake Forest University
www.wfu.edu/~nielsen
Nielsen@wfu.edu

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ACFC. ORG
Michael McCormick, Exec. Dir
1-800-978-3237
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FICTION

Most children are satisfied with the amount of time they spend (or spent) with their fathers after their parents' divorce.

As long as the mother has enough money, children don't pay a price for having too little or no contact with their father.

Shared parenting is harmful for infants or young children because they should not be separated overnight from their mother.

When parents share parenting, children are worse off financially because their dad pays much less child support.

Children benefit more from living with their mothers because mothers have more impact on their well being than father do.

Most divorced fathers are not interested in having their children live with them more or spending more time together.

Most divorced or never married parents are too hostile to share parenting or to benefit from programs on co-parenting.

Shared residential custody fails for most families, thus creating unnecessary instability for children.

The general public is opposed to shared residential custody – a sentiment that is accurately reflected in our custody laws.

FACT

The vast majority of kids want – or wanted – more time living with their dads after their parents divorced. ¹⁻⁷

Children who live with both parents at least 33% of the time are equal or better on measures of psychological, academic, behavioral and social well being. ⁸⁻¹⁹

Preschoolers shouldn't be separated from either parent for more than a few days & can spend nights in both homes. ²⁰⁻²¹

Dads who share parenting are more likely to pay child support & spend more for things such as college. ^{22, 23}

Dads contribute as much to children's well being as moms do, even if their styles of parenting differ. ^{24, 14}

Most divorced dads want more time living together with their children. ²⁵⁻²⁹

Children benefit from shared residential custody even when their parents have ongoing verbal conflicts & are not on particularly friendly terms. ^{9,10,12,14,20}

Shared residential custody has been stable & successful for most parents. ^{10,16,30}

In recent public opinion polls men & women are overwhelmingly in favor of shared residential custody ^{31, 32}

Endnotes

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