

Non- Resident Parent Facts

A US study comparing 'joint custody' and 'noncustodial' fathers indicated that the former paid more in child support than the latter (refuting a belief some espouse that shared parenting can be used as a bargaining counter to reduce the non-resident parent's payments to the other parent).

J A Arditti (1992) Differences between fathers with joint custody and noncustodial fathers American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 62 pp 186-195 (see especially p 194).

A Cambridge University longitudinal study took issue with the myth that non-resident fathers often simply fade away from the children's lives:

- Some 60 per cent of fathers who rarely saw their children were in dispute with ex-wives about the frequency contact.
- Nearly half the fathers who never had children staying overnight described ongoing disagreements with their ex-wives, often centred around new partners.
- In most cases, the new partner identified by fathers as the source of conflict was that of the ex-wife - in other words, a potential or actual stepfather.
- Of the fathers who had seemingly 'dropped out' by 1992, 74 per cent wished to change what was, for them, an unsatisfactory situation.

Janet Walker, Peter McCarthy and Bob Simpson Renegotiating Fatherhood Relate Centre for Family Studies February 1997

An ONS Survey indicated that:

- Overall, at least half of all children surveyed had some form of contact (direct or indirect) with their non-resident parent at least once a week.
- 43% of children in the resident parent sample and 59% of children in the non-resident parent sample had direct contact with their non-resident parent at least once a week.
- A further nine per cent of children in the resident parent sample and 18% of children in the non-resident parent sample had indirect contact at least once a week.
- A fifth (21%) of children in the resident parent sample and a tenth (10%) of children in the non-resident parent sample had direct contact with their non-resident parent less than once a week.
- Less than a twentieth of children have indirect contact less than once a week (4% for children in the resident parent sample and 3% of children in the non-resident parent sample).
- 93% of resident parents are female and 89% of Non-Resident Parents (NRP) are male.
- A quarter (24%) of children in the resident parent sample and 10% of children in the non-resident parent sample have no direct or indirect contact with their non-resident parent.

Alison Blackwell & Fiona Dawe NON-RESIDENT PARENTAL CONTACT Based on data from the National Statistics Omnibus Survey for The Department for Constitutional Affairs October 2003