

### Trend Statistics

British fathers now undertake approximately nearly half of all childcare; According to a 2007 EOC study, mothers recorded an average of 2 hours 32 minutes per day looking after their own children, compared with 2 hours 16 minutes by fathers.

EOC, Completing the Revolution: The Leading Indicators (London, 2007)

The number of divorces in Great Britain more than doubled between 1958 and 1969, from around 24,000 to around 56,000. After 1969 divorce became legal in Northern Ireland and between 1970 and 1972, the number of divorces in the UK rose from 63,000 to 125,000.

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- Children live in an increasing variety of family structures. Parents separating can create lone-parent families or by remarriage or cohabitation, where stepfamilies may be created. Following a separation, children tend to stay with their mother meaning that the majority (84 per cent) of stepfamilies in
- Great Britain in 2006 consisted of a stepfather and a natural mother compared with 10 per cent of families with a stepmother and a natural father (Table 2.11). The proportion of children living with their natural mother and a stepfather remained fairly stable (between 83 and 88 per cent) over the last ten years, whereas there were considerable fluctuations in the proportion of children living with their natural father and a stepmother. Between 1991/92 and 1996/97 the proportion of children staying with their natural father doubled, from
- 6 per cent to 12 per cent, although this proportion has since decreased. In 2006, 6 per cent of stepfamilies comprised children from both partners' previous relationships.

Office for National Statistics, Social Trends No.38, page 22

The proportion of children in Great Britain living in a two-parent family unit has remained steady since the late 1990s and was 76 per cent in Q2 2007, compared with more than 90 per cent in 1972.

Office for National Statistics, Social Trends No.38, page 19