



Questions and Answers on Single Fathers' Work-Family Experiences

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How many single fathers are there?

- **Fact 1:** "Research Center Report (Livingston, 2013) recently announced that "the number of single father households has increased about nine-fold since 1960, from less than 300,000 to more than 2.6 million in 2011" (Coles, 2015:1)

How accustomed to housework are single fathers?

- **Fact 1:** "Fathers may not have performed these tasks as frequently when partnered, or they may lack easily accessible models for that kind of parenting" (Dufur, et al 2010:1104)

What challenges do single fathers face?

- **Fact 1:** "The social assumptions related to single fathers' ability to nurture and financially provide for their children create unique challenges." (Shipe, et al 2022:21)
- **Fact 2:** "Here, we encounter the paradox that fathers themselves ascribe mothers with a special role in the life of their children, while facing discrimination from institutions exactly due to this conviction" (Šori, 2019:1117)
- **Fact 3:** "Thus, single fathers' reports of parenting stress might reflect a greater mismatch between their expectations and their perceptions of available resources (e.g., less knowledge, less emotional, and instrumental support), relative to partnered fathers" (Carone, et al 2020:723)

Are single fathers treated differently than single mothers in the workplace?

- **Fact 1:** "He further compared his experience to that of his female colleagues, and concluded that it is the gendered expectation of men's uncompromised commitment to work that underlies this irritation" (Aimzhan, 2021:102)

- **Fact 2:** “Single fathers were rated less competent than single mothers...whereas childless men and women appeared comparably competent” (Steffens, Melanie; Preuß, Sabine; Scheifele, Carolin, 2019:299)

How does single fatherhood impact earnings?

- **Fact 1:** “I estimate that single fatherhood suppresses men’s annual income by more than \$8,000 per year, putting these men and their children at increased economic risk” (Alber, 2018:1063)

How does single fatherhood effect work participation?

- **Fact 1:** “Single fathers also appear to work 275.4 hours less per year. A large increase in housework hours (316.5 per year) suggests that the decreases in hours and wages may be due to the additional household responsibilities associated with sole parenting” (Alber, 2018:1078)

How do societal views affect single fathers?

- **Fact 1:** “The gendered role of being the sole provider coupled with pride leads many single fathers to rely on informal social networks (e.g., extended family or male-oriented support groups) over governmental systems for help with financial needs, educational understanding, medical advice, and general parenting concerns” (Shipe, et al 2022:21)

What differences in parenting quality are there in single father families?

- **Fact 1:** “Contrary to our first hypothesis, no differences were found across the four family types on parenting quality, fathers’ observed sensitivity and rough-and-tumble play quality, father-child mutuality, child psychological adjustment, and fathers’ psychological state” (Carone, et al 2020:723)
- **Fact 2:** “single fathers spent about 27 fewer minutes than single mothers in any child care ($p < .001$), a gender difference found in all types of child care activities except play ” (Lee, et al 2017:3443)
- **Fact 3:** “Single fathers in general are spending a greater share of their total nonmedical expenditures on food consumed away from home compared to both single mothers and married parent” (Zilo, 2009:616)

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