

2012

FP-12-02 Nonresident Father Visitation

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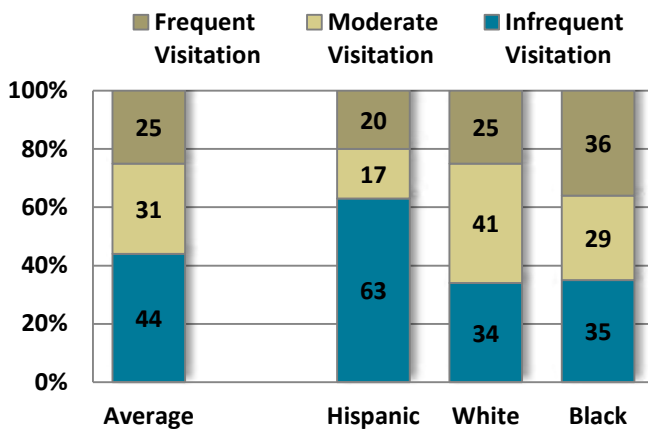
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Nonresident Father Visitation

Previous family profiles have examined fatherhood by discussing both the age that men become fathers and the total number of children that men have (FP-11-04, FP-11-10). This profile highlights the frequency of fathers' visitation with their nonresident children given the rise of complex family forms in the United States. Nationally representative data demonstrate the percentage of biological fathers (aged 15-45) reporting a biological nonresident child (18 or younger) has increased from approximately 22% in 1987/1988 to 27% in 2006/2010. For the purposes of this profile, *Infrequent Visitation* refers to seeing nonresident children "several times last year" or less and characterizes approximately two-fifths of nonresident fathers' reports of visitation. *Moderate Visitation* refers to seeing nonresident children either "1-3 times a month" or "approximately once a week" and describes nearly one-third of nonresident fathers' reports of visitation. *Frequent Visitation* refers to seeing nonresident children "several times a week" at least and accounts for one-quarter of nonresident fathers' reports of visitation.

Race/Ethnicity and Visitation

Figure 1. Nonresident Fathers' Visitation by Race/Ethnicity



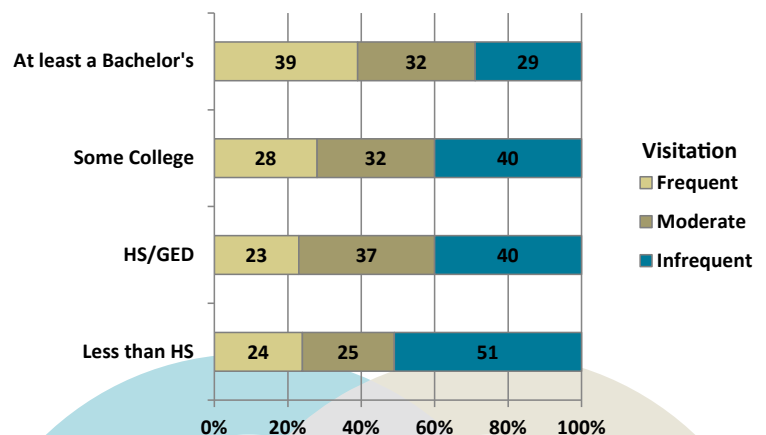
Source: NSFG 2006/2010
Significance Testing Conducted at p<0.05

- Approximately 35% of White and Black nonresident fathers report infrequent visitation. White and Black nonresident fathers are less likely to report infrequent visitation compared to their nonwhite and nonblack counterparts.
- Hispanic nonresident fathers are significantly more likely to report infrequent visitation (63%) than non-Hispanic fathers.
- Thirty-six percent of Black nonresident fathers report frequent visitation. Black fathers are more likely to report frequent visitation than both their White (25%) and Hispanic (20%) counterparts.

Educational Attainment and Visitation

- Fifty-one percent of nonresident fathers failing to earn a high school diploma or GED report infrequent visitation compared to 29% of college graduates.
- In general, nonresident fathers with lower levels of educational attainment are more likely to report infrequent visitation.
- The most highly educated nonresident fathers are more likely to report frequent visitation (39%) than their less educated counterparts.

Figure 2. Nonresident Fathers' Visitation by Educational Attainment



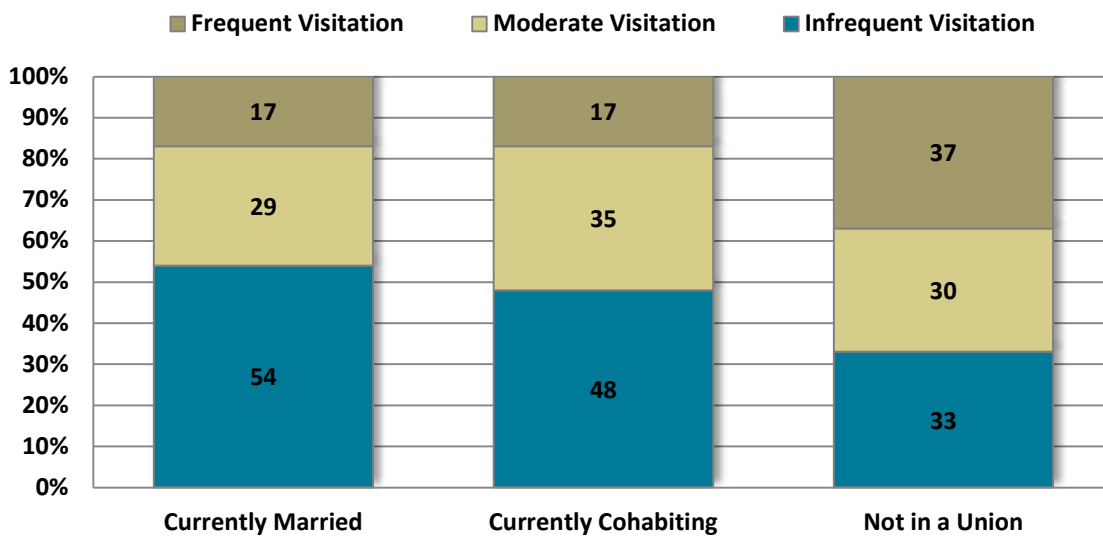
Source: NSFG 2006/2010
Significance Testing Conducted at p<0.05

Family Profiles examine topics related to NCFMR's core research themes. Data are presented at both the national and state levels using new data sources. Written for both researchers and broad communities, these profiles summarize the latest statistics on U.S. families.

Current Relationship Status and Visitation

- Nonresident fathers who are currently married or cohabiting report the highest percentages of infrequent visitation (54% and 48% respectively). In contrast, only 33% of single nonresident fathers report infrequent visitation. Nonresident fathers who are currently in a union are significantly more likely to report infrequent visitation with their nonresident children than single nonresident fathers.
- In addition, nonresident fathers in a union are less likely than single nonresident fathers to report frequent visitation. Thirty-seven percent of single nonresident fathers report frequent visitation compared to 17% of married and cohabiting fathers reporting frequent visitation.
- There is no significant difference in the frequency of visitation for married and cohabiting nonresident fathers.

Figure 3. Nonresident Fathers' Visitation by Current Relationships Status



Source: NSFG 2006/2010
Significance Testing Conducted at $p < 0.05$

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