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## FP-15-10 Remarriage & Stepfamilies

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# Remarriage & Stepfamilies



Bart Stykes & Karen Benjamin Guzzo

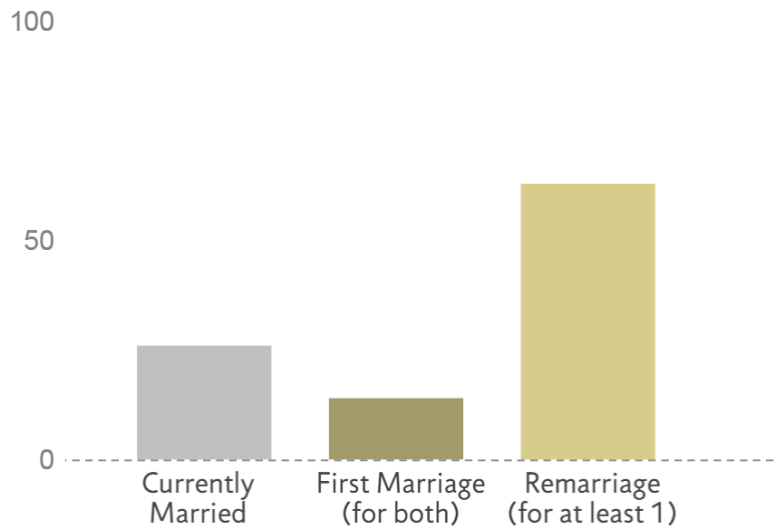
Many recently married men and women are not entering marriage for the first time. Although the remarriage rate itself has declined since 1990 (see FP-15-08), about two in five of recently married brides or grooms have been married before (Lewis & Kreider, 2015; Livingston, 2014). High levels of nonmarital childbearing and divorce in the U.S. mean that many of these brides and grooms in remarriages have children from prior relationships. This profile documents the prevalence of remarriages that include stepchildren, emphasizing the various types of remarried stepfamilies. We rely on the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), which collects detailed fertility and union histories among women under age 45 and also includes information about women's partners' past childbearing and union experiences.

For additional NCFMR resources on remarriage, please visit our resources by topic page. [↪](#)

## Prevalence of Stepfamilies among the Currently Married

- About one in four marriages (26%) include stepchildren. <
- First marriages typically do not include stepchildren (14%). <
- In contrast, the majority (63%) of remarriages include stepchildren. <

Figure 1. Share of Marriages with Stepchildren

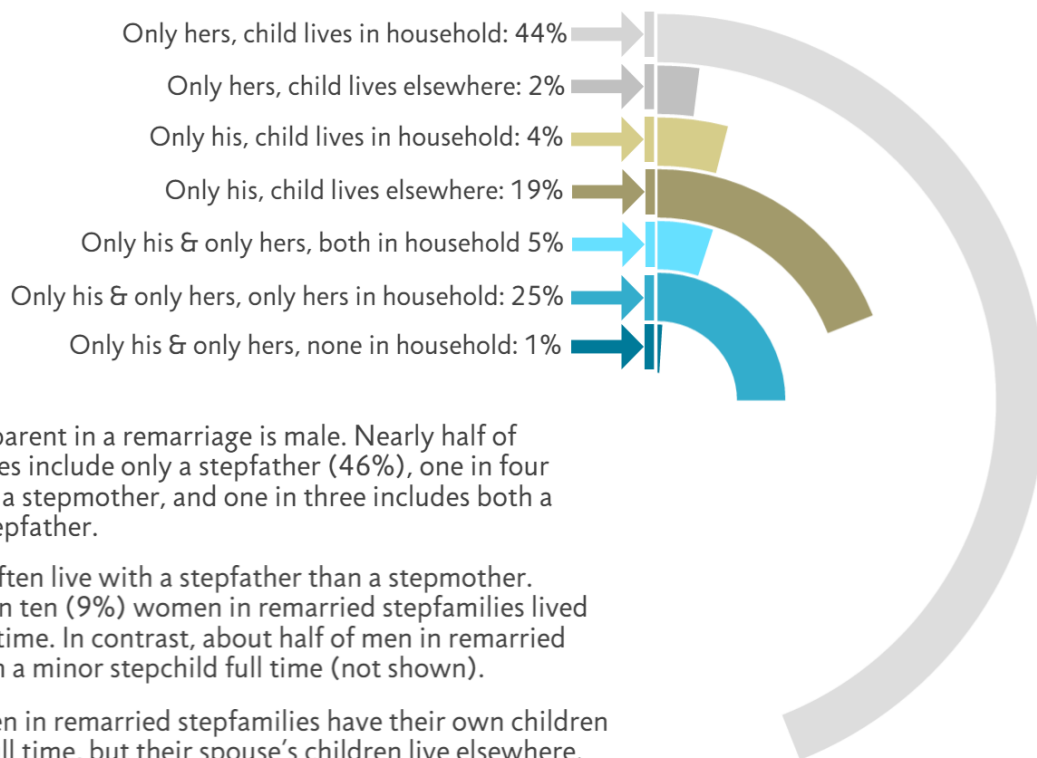


For additional information about the data used in this profile, please visit the National Survey of Family Growth webpage. [↪](#)

## Types of Remarried Stepfamilies

Remarried stepfamilies are families in which at least one member of the couple is remarried and at least one member of the couple has children with someone other than their current spouse.

Figure 2. Different Forms of Stepfamilies: His and Hers Resident and Non-Resident Children



- Most often the stepparent in a remarriage is male. Nearly half of remarried stepfamilies include only a stepfather (46%), one in four (23%) includes only a stepmother, and one in three includes both a stepmother and a stepfather.
- Stepchildren more often live with a stepfather than a stepmother. Approximately one in ten (9%) women in remarried stepfamilies lived with a stepchild full time. In contrast, about half of men in remarried stepfamilies live with a minor stepchild full time (not shown).
- One-fourth of women in remarried stepfamilies have their own children living in the house full time, but their spouse's children live elsewhere.
- Almost one in five (19%) women in remarried stepfamilies do not have biological children and have stepchildren living elsewhere most of the time.

### References:

- Data: 2006-2013 Pooled National Survey of Family Growth, Female Respondent File.
- Lewis, J. M. & Kreider, R. M. (2015). *Remarriage in the United States*. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC. American Community Survey Reports, ACS-30.
- Livingston, G. (2014). *Four-in-ten couples are saying "I do," again*. Pew Research Center, Washington, DC (November).
- Stewart, S. D. (2007). *Brave new stepfamilies: Diverse paths toward stepfamily living*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.

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