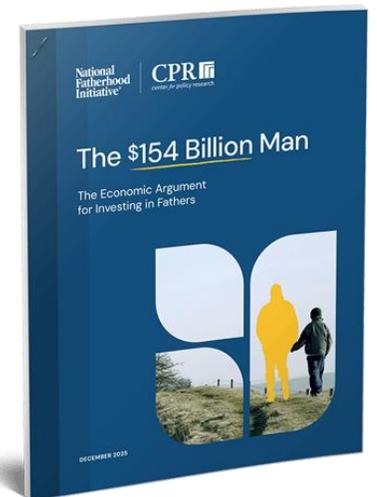


From Data to Action: Using The *\$154 Billion Man* Report to Support Greater Investments in Fathers

March 17, 2026



Presenters



Main Presenters:



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President
National Fatherhood Initiative®



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Director
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Panelists



Guest Panel:



Richard V. Reeves

President

American Institute for Boys and Men



Kimberly A. Dent

Executive Director

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood



Sherry Richardson

**Title V Family Engagement
Manager**

**Georgia Department of Public Health,
Division of Women, Children, and
Nursing Services**

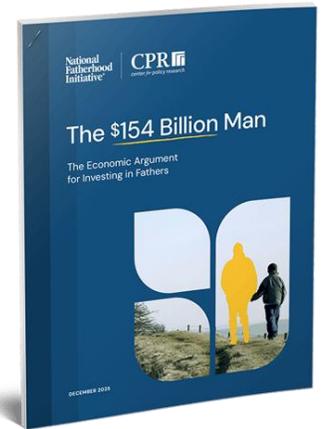
Download the Report



To Download the Report, Please Visit:

<http://www.fatherhood.org/154-Billion-Report>

<https://centerforpolicyresearch.org/publications/the-154-billion-man-the-economic-argument-for-investing-in-fathers/>



About National Fatherhood Initiative®



Our Mission

National Fatherhood Initiative® increases father involvement by **equipping** communities and human service organizations with the training, programs, and resources they need to be **father inclusive**.

Our Vision

Our vision is that all communities and human service organizations are **proactively** father inclusive so that every child has an involved, responsible, committed father in their life.

**National
Fatherhood
Initiative®**

About National Fatherhood Initiative®



Capacity-Building Partnerships with Communities and Organizations

- National, regional, & state “network-based” organizations
- State and county agencies
- Direct-service providers in communities



Ready-Made and Customized Solutions

- Programs and Resources – Everything you need to engage fathers at any capacity
- Training – Staff training, program facilitator training, and individual certificate training
- Collaborative Services – Organizational assessments and community mobilization
- Technical Assistance – As needed



About Center for Policy Research



Center for Policy Research (CPR) is a 45-year-old Colorado-based 501 (c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of children, families, and communities by evaluating programs and policies designed to help them and disseminating research findings to service providers and policymakers.

- CPR's work includes research on:
 - Mediation in family disputes
 - Domestic violence and survivor safety
 - Family-centered child support programs
 - Homelessness
- CPR's fatherhood work focuses on:
 - Job programs for low-income fathers
 - Parenting time and child support
 - State policies and programs that support fathers
 - The creation and direction of Fatherhood Research and Practice Network (www.frpn.org)

About Center for Policy Research



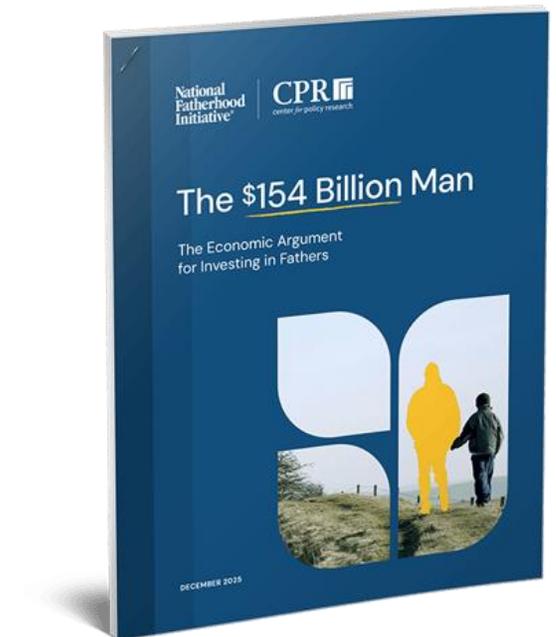
CPR's research has had an impact at the local, state, and national levels:

- Groundbreaking research on divorce, custody, and child protection mediation to establish mediation as a non-adversarial practice in family courts and child welfare agencies nationwide
- Contributing to the creation of the 1997 federal Access and Visitation grant program
- Supporting the 2016 federal modernization rule allowing incarcerated parents to reduce or suspend child support orders during incarceration
- Informing the 2024 federal rule on funding NCP employment programs
- Helping more than 25 states adopt low-income and shared-parenting adjustments to child support guidelines

Agenda



- Overview of the Report
- How To Use the Report
- Discussion with Panelists
- Q&A



Overview of the *\$154 Billion Man Report*



Updates NFI's 2008 *One Hundred Billion Dollar Man* report on federal expenditures for father-absent (single mother-headed) households in 14 major government assistance programs in 2006



Improves the reliability of the 2006 data



Compares 2018 expenditures for the same 14 programs

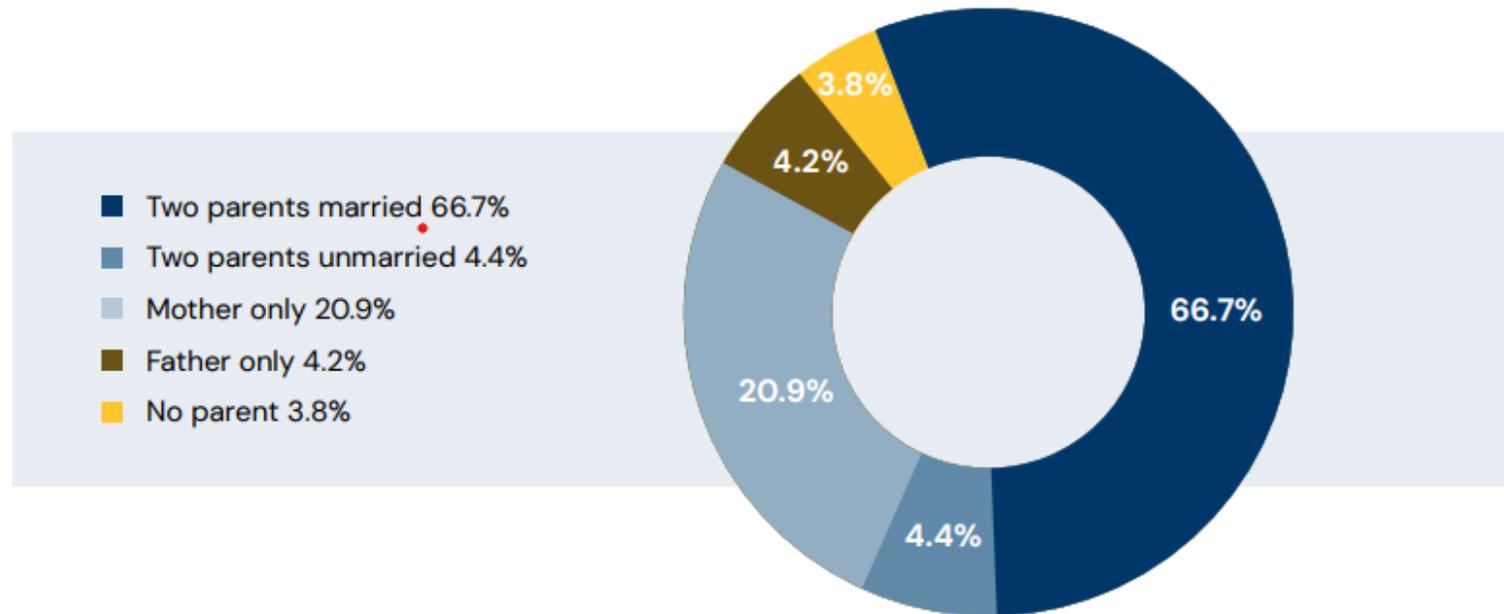


Includes recommendations to strengthen the economic position of fathers and promote positive engagement in their children's lives

Living Arrangements of Children



FIGURE 2. Living Arrangements of Children, 2023

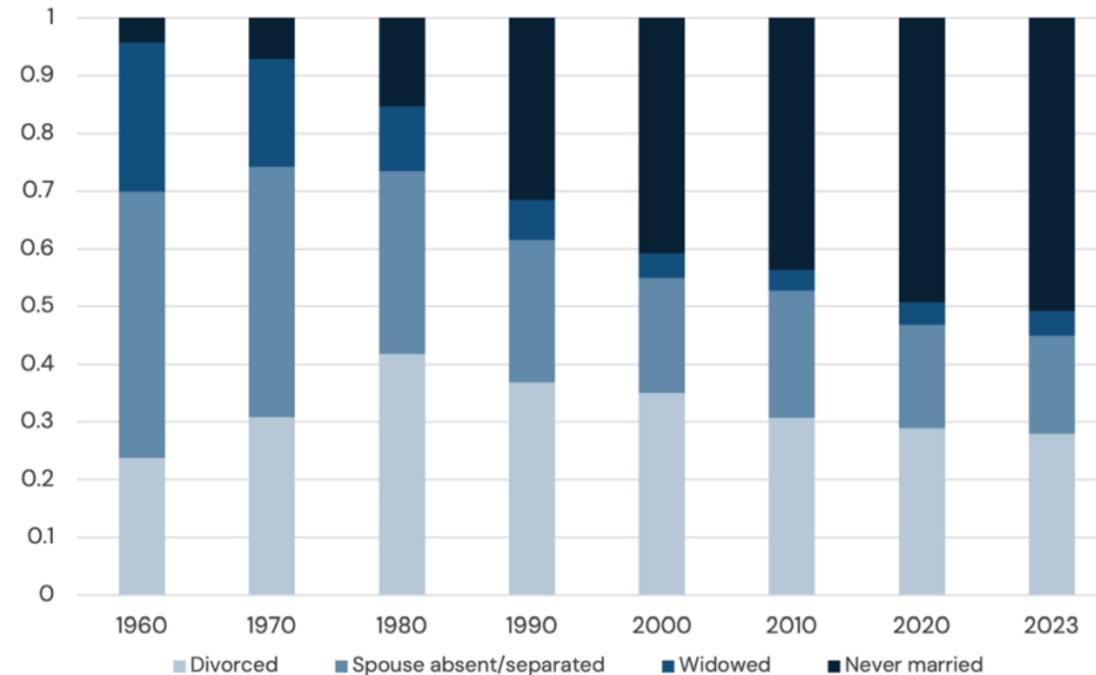


Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2023). *Living arrangements of children under 18 years and marital status of parents by age, sex, and selected characteristics of the child for all children: 2023* (Table C-3). Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2023/demo/families/cps-2023.html>.

Composition of Single Mother-Headed Households



FIGURE 3. Single Mother-Headed Households 1960–2023



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *Children under 18 years living with mother only, by marital status of mother: 1960 to 2014* (Table CH-5). Retrieved from <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/families/time-series/children/ch5.xls>.

U.S. Census Bureau (2020). *Living arrangements of children under 18 years and marital status of parents by age, sex, and selected characteristics of the child for all children: 2020* (Table C-3). Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/demo/families/cps-2020.html>.

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Comparison of Household Types



	Single Mother-Headed Households	Married Households
 College Education	Lower rates of college education for mothers and fathers	Higher rates of college education for mothers and fathers
 Fathers' Real Earnings (1980–2019)	Decline for non-college-educated fathers (\$45->\$41k)	Increase for college-educated fathers (\$58->\$78k)
 Median Household Income	Median HH income of \$48,098	Median HH income of \$102,308
 Race/Ethnicity	38% White, non-Hispanic	62% White, non-Hispanic
 Poverty Rate	Rate of poverty of 23.3%	Rate of poverty of 6.9%
 Government Assistance Usage	50% use at least one gov't assistance program per month	14.7% use at least one gov't assistance program per month

Child Outcomes



Correlates of Father Absence

- Poorer academic performance
- Lower adult employment and earnings
- Higher rates of incarceration, teen pregnancy, behavioral problems, substance abuse

Impact of Government Programs

- Improved academic performance
- Increase in adult employment and earnings
- Reductions in behavioral problems
- Improvements in adult health

Methods



Two main data sources:

- The federal budget
- The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)



Analysis included 14 government assistance programs that provide income, nutrition, health, early childhood, and energy/housing support



Estimated the total program costs that go to single mother-headed households for 2006 and 2018



Adjusted all costs to 2018 dollars (to account for inflation)

Main Findings



In 2018, federal expenditures for the 14 government assistance programs for single mother-headed households totaled \$154.2 billion.

This is a 54.5% increase in real dollar expenditures for the same 14 programs in 2006.

This is an underestimate of the true cost.

All three types of single mother-headed households (never married, separated/divorced, widowed) receive a variety of benefits in proportion to their incidence in the SIPP sample.

Recommendations



Policies and programs are needed to:

- ❑ Help reduce the costs and stress associated with child-rearing
- ❑ Enhance the economic position of fathers
- ❑ Address racism and other structural inequities in the economy
- ❑ Better engage fathers in family services

Recommendations



Research is needed on:

- ❑ Educational programs to enhance coparenting and father involvement
- ❑ Father participation in all types of family services and programs
- ❑ Household type and race-ethnicity of participants in government programs
- ❑ Types of policies and programs that build fathers' economic capacity
- ❑ Return on investment for father-supportive policies and programs

How to Use the Report



Many Uses to Benefit Your Work

- ❑ **Raise awareness internally and externally about the importance of a father's presence.**

Share the report with staff, board members, and the media.

- ❑ **Secure public and private support for father-supportive policies and funding for local and statewide fatherhood and family-strengthening initiatives.**

Share the report with policy makers, funders, and donors. Highlight the importance of government programs that support and invest in child well-being and invest in fathers.

- ❑ **Bolster the research and evaluation literature in what works in strengthening child, family, and community well-being.**

Advocate for these reforms. The report shows the economic consequences of family instability while ensuring that mothers' and children's safety remain a priority.

- ❑ **...And more ways in the *'How To Use the Report'* section located at the end of the report.**

Panelist Discussion



Guest Panel:



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**Title V Family Engagement
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**Georgia Department of Public Health,
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Q&A



Thank You!



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