

Myth: Most custodial fathers have remarried

Most custodial fathers are **not** currently married (CPS). There is some question of the degree remarried custodial fathers obtained sole, primary, or partial custody of their children before or after they married again. It is possible that many fathers were unable to secure substantial custody of their children prior to re marrying.

Myth: Custodial fathers primarily receive custody of older boys

It is true that the children living in father-only families are older than those living in mother-only families; but, 17.5 percent of single father families include children younger than three, and about one-third contain a preschooler. Similarly, 44 percent of all children in such families are girls. In families headed by fathers, approximately 7.5 percent are in households headed by widowers, and 24.5 percent live in households headed by never-married fathers.

Unless otherwise stated, or shown as more current, information was extracted from

"Myths About Custodial Fathers", University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1992-1993

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Myth # 1: Custodial fathers' have high incomes

As early as 1985 it was known that many father-only families lived in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey [CPS]). More than 18% of all father-only families were poor, with almost half having incomes less than 50% of the poverty line. Another 21% had incomes no more than twice the poverty line. Even the poverty rate among fathers who were married with custody of children from a previous relationship was high. Estimates indicated nearly 12 percent of the families of these fathers were impoverished. Another 26.6 percent had incomes between 101% and 200% of poverty line. It has gotten progressively worse since.

Myth #2: There are not many custodial fathers

Many still believe the number is insignificant, even some researchers who use generic terms like "single head of household". However, this is not true. According to data from the CPS, in 2006, 35% of single householders were men. This number has been growing rapidly since 1959 but mostly after 1973, just four years after California legalized No Fault Divorce.

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