

# Father's Day Factoids

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## How Many Fathers?

### 64.3 million

Estimated number of fathers across the nation; Indiana has an estimated 1.35 million fathers.

### 85 percent

Among the 30.2 million fathers living with children younger than 18, 85 percent live with their biological children only. In addition, 11 percent live with stepchildren, 4 percent with adopted children and fewer than 1 percent with foster children.

### 41 percent

Percentage of fathers who are part of married-couple families with children younger than 18.

### 2.5 million

Number of single fathers in the United States in 2006, up from 400,000 in 1970. Currently, among single parents living with their children, 19 percent are men. Of single fathers:

- 8 percent are raising three or more children younger than 18.
- About 42 percent are divorced, 38 percent are never married, 16 percent are separated and 4 percent are widowed. (There is no significant difference between the percentages of single fathers who are divorced or never married.)
- 16 percent live in someone else's home.
- 27 percent have an annual family income of \$50,000 or more.

## What to Get for Dad

A good place to buy dad a tie or a shirt might be one of Indiana's 152 men's clothing stores. Other items high on the list of Father's Day gifts are tools such as hammers, wrenches and screwdrivers. You could buy such items for dad at one of the state's 351 hardware stores or 143 home centers. Or check out Indiana's 471 sporting goods stores, good places to purchase traditional gifts for dad such as fishing rods and golf clubs.



The idea of a public Father's Day holiday was conceived by Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Wash., while she listened to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart, a widowed Civil War veteran who was left to raise his six children on a farm. A day in June was chosen for the first Father's Day celebration — June 19, 1910, proclaimed by Spokane's mayor because it was the month of Smart's birth. The first presidential proclamation honoring fathers was issued in 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Father's Day has been celebrated annually since 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it permanent.

## Mr. Mom

### **159,000**

Estimated number of stay-at-home dads nationally in 2006. These married fathers with children younger than 15 have remained out of the labor force for at least one year primarily so they can care for the family while their wives work outside the home. These fathers cared for 283,000 children. Among these stay-at-home dads, 60 percent had two or more children, and 40 percent had an annual family income of \$50,000 or more.

### **11.3 million**

Number of preschoolers whose mothers are employed. Of those, 25 percent are regularly cared for by their father during their mother's working hours. This amounted to 2.9 million children.

## Dining with Daddy

### **30 percent**

Percentage of children younger than 6 living with married parents in 2003 who ate breakfast with their fathers every day. The corresponding number for children living with unmarried fathers was 41 percent.

### **64 percent**

Percentage of children younger than 6 living with married parents who ate dinner with their fathers every day. The corresponding number for children living with unmarried fathers was 66 percent.