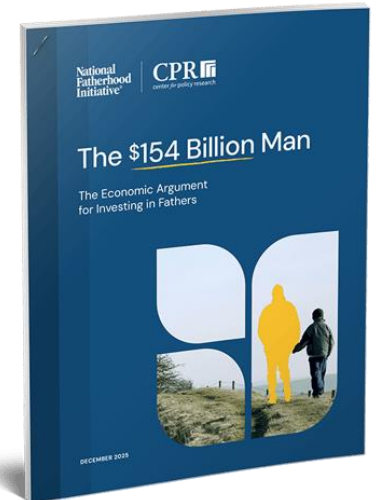


**From Data to Action:**  
Using The *\$154 Billion Man* Report  
to Support Greater Investments  
in Fathers



# Presenter



**Christopher A. Brown**

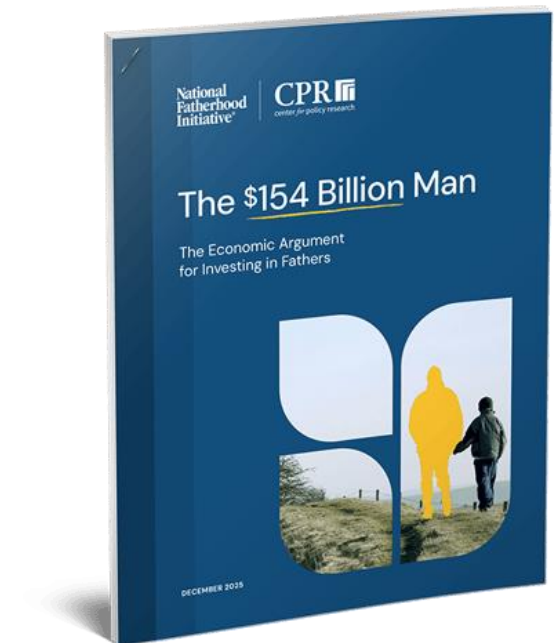
**President**

**National Fatherhood Initiative®**

# Agenda



- Brief Background on Collaborating Organizations
- Overview of the Report
- How To Use the Report
- Q&A



# 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 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](http://www.frpn.org))

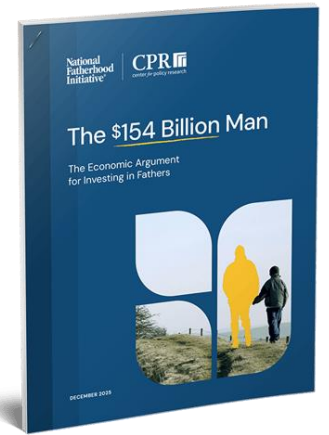
# Download the Report



**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/>**



# 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

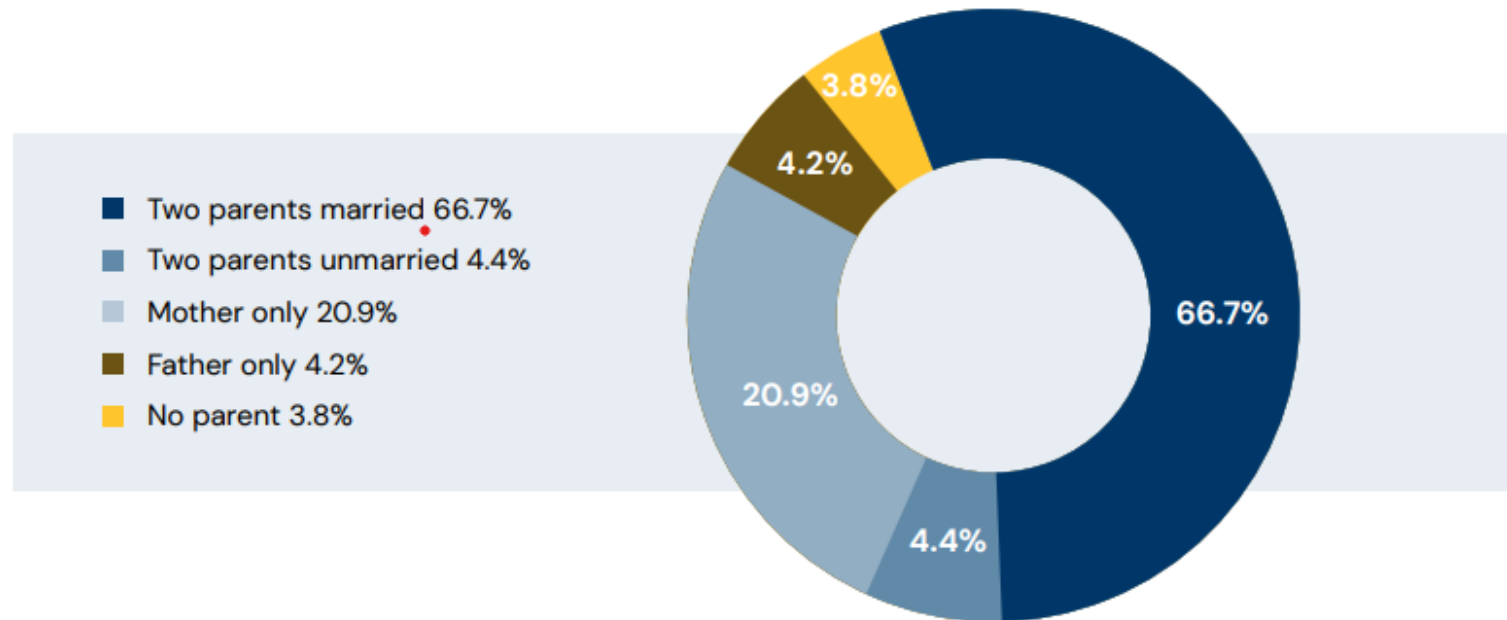


Includes recommendations to strengthen the economic position of fathers and promote positive engagement in their children's lives

# Living Arrangements of Children



**FIGURE 2. Living Arrangements of Children, 2023**

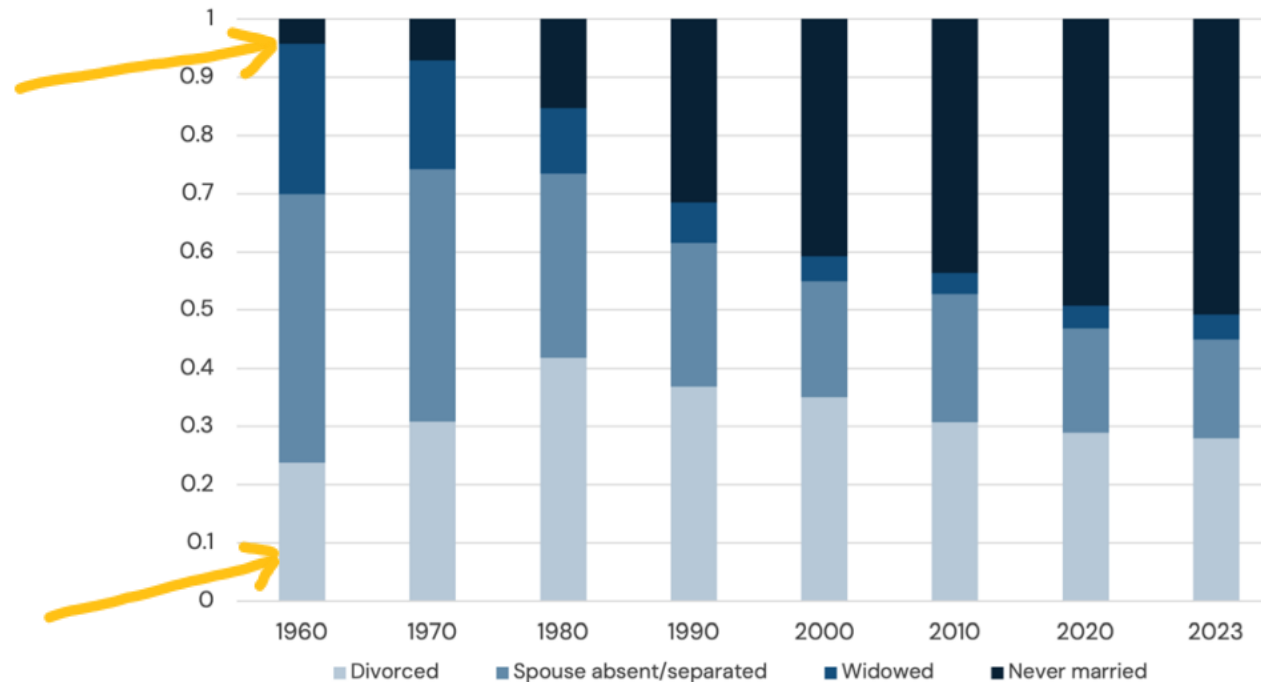


Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2023). *Living arrangements of children under 18 years and marital status of parents by age, sex, and selected characteristics of the child for all children: 2023* (Table C-3). Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2023/demo/families/cps-2023.html>.

# 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>.

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>.

# Comparison of Household Types



	Single Mother-Headed Households	Married Households
 <b>College Education</b>	Lower rates of college education for mothers and fathers	Higher rates of college education for mothers and fathers
 <b>Fathers' Real Earnings (1980–2019)</b>	Decline for non-college-educated fathers (\$45->\$41k)	Increase for college-educated fathers (\$58->\$78k)
 <b>Median Household Income</b>	Median HH income of \$48,098	Median HH income of \$102,308
 <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	38% White, non-Hispanic	62% White, non-Hispanic
 <b>Poverty Rate</b>	Rate of poverty of 23.3%	Rate of poverty of 6.9%
 <b>Government Assistance Usage</b>	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  
Pre-COVID



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.**

# How to Establish Father-Inclusive Efforts



## Many Ways

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### ❑ At the state level...

Fatherhood commissions in statute (OH), multi-agency initiatives (FL) , and single-agency initiatives (AL, CT, GA, OK, & TN).  
Avoid unfunded commissions, task forces, and collaboratives.

### ❑ At the local level...

Multi-sector county or city community mobilization initiatives (OH, IA, TX, & NYC), mayor's offices (Milwaukee & Philly),  
and NGO programs.

### ❑ Resources/handouts

'Funding for Government Agencies' and "Funding for NGOs."

Q&A



# Thank You!



## Questions About the Report? Contact:

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