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Study: Fathers Make Significant Strides

However, fatherlessness remains a major issue for Americans

According to a survey by the National Center for Fathering, the vast majority of Americans are aware of the critical and irreplaceable role that fathers play in the lives of their children. The survey indicates that fathers are addressing the critical need for their involvement and, over the last ten years, have made significant strides. Encouragingly, the *Fathering in America* study finds that fathers have made double-digit percentage gains in their involvement with their children in a number of areas. However, it is also clear that significant issues remain.

An overwhelming percentage of Americans agree that fathers play a unique and irreplaceable role in their child’s life and that father absence is the most significant social issue facing America:

	<u>% Agreeing</u>
○ Fathers make a unique contribution to their child’s life.	92%
○ It is important for children to live in a home with both their mother and father.	89%
○ The most significant family or social problem facing America is the physical absence of the father from the home.	70%

Americans recognize that significant progress has been made on a number of fronts related to fathers and fathering:

	Percentage Point Change
○ Dads are eating one or more meals with their family each day.	+ 19 points
○ Employers recognize the strain fathers face between the demands of family and the demands of work.	+13 points
○ Most fathers feel comfortable discussing spiritual issues with their children.	+10 points
○ Most fathers know what’s going on in their children’s lives.	+6 points

Dads are feeling better about fulfilling their role as fathers:

	Percent Satisfied
○ Satisfaction with your relationship with your children	95%
○ Satisfaction with your ability to talk to your children	94%
○ Satisfaction with yourself as a father	89%

Despite the promising progress, the study also finds that several significant issues remain for American fathers:

- 97% of respondents believe that fathers need to be more involved in their children's education.
- Half believe that most fathers do not know what is going on in their child's lives.
- One-third of respondents believe that men do not have a clear picture of what it means to be a good father.

The *Fathering in America* study asserts that the American people understand the vital role that fathers play in their children's lives. Compared to a similar study by the National Center for Fathering in 1999, fathers have shown significant improvement in their involvement with their children. Nevertheless, the report shows that there are many areas in which fathers can increase their involvement in their children's lives.

Contact the National Center for Fathering or see www.fathers.com/research for the complete report.

About National Center for Fathering

The National Center for Fathering is a non-profit research and education organization whose vision is to see every child with an involved father or father figure. Based in Kansas City, its mission is to inspire and equip men through research, training, programs and resources to be the fathers, grandfathers and father figures their children need. The Center's website at *fathers.com* serves as the portal to its many initiatives including Championship Fathering, WATCH D.O.G.S., the Father-Daughter Summit, Fathering Court, and training for dads and father trainers and coaches. Its CEO, Carey Casey, is the author of *Championship Fathering* (May, 2009).