

Almost half of the children in the U.S. are deprived of the lifelong benefits of two parents who share the parenting throughout the first 18 years of their children's lives. Who are children living with? <sup>42</sup>

- 55%** mother & father - 4% unmarried
- 21%** single mother - half divorced & half never married
- 14%** mom & stepdad
- 5%** neither parent
- 2%** mom & her boyfriend
- 2%** single dad
- 1%** dad & stepmom
- .5%** dad & his girlfriend

Only 15%- 20% of parents share parenting after divorce. <sup>6,9,15</sup> Existing legal procedures & attitudes of people who influence the decisions about children's living arrangements often make shared parenting harder to achieve. <sup>25, 26,33,43-47</sup>

Research brochure by Dr. Nielsen ©



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## SHARED PARENTING ©

### FACTS AND FICTION

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### FICTION

Most children are satisfied with the amount of time they spend (or spent) with their fathers after their parents divorce.

As long as the mother has enough money, children don't pay a price for having too little or no contact with their father.

Most divorced or never married parents are too hostile to share parenting or to benefit from programs on co-parenting.

Shared parenting is bad for infants or young children because they should not be separated overnight from their mother.

When parents share parenting, children are worse off financially because their dad pays much less child support.

Shared parenting is less important than good mothering because fathers know so much less about raising kids than moms do.

Most divorced fathers are not interested in sharing more of the parenting.

Children dislike shared parenting if they actually have to live part time in both parents' homes, moving back & forth.

### FACT

The vast majority of children say they want – or wanted - more time with their fathers after their parents stopped living together. **Kids want more shared parenting.** <sup>1-16</sup>

Kids with too little fathering are more likely to have problems throughout their lives related to father absence than kids whose fathers remained actively involved after the parents stop living together. <sup>1-17</sup>

Parents generally cooperate more after attending shared parenting programs. Only 10-15% are in high conflict. <sup>18-22</sup>

Very young children should not be away from either parent for more than a few days & are able to spend nights in each parent's home. <sup>23-26</sup>

Fathers who share parenting are the most likely to pay child support, spend additional money on their kids, & contribute to college educations. <sup>27, 28, 33, 9</sup>

Fathers contribute as much as mothers to children's well-being, even if their ways of parenting are different. <sup>12, 17, 29-31</sup>

The overwhelming majority of divorced fathers want more time with their children & more shared parenting. <sup>32- 39</sup>

Kids who live part time with each parent after divorce prefer this to living only with one parent. <sup>2, 10, 40, 41</sup>

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