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Fathers' Investments of Time and Money across Residential Contexts

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Background

- Major changes since 1960s:
 - Family patterns (divorce, cohabitation, nonmarital childbearing)
 - Rise in women's employment
 - Changing attitudes and norms
- Broadening and increased variety of fathering behaviors
- Two key domains of parenting – economic provision and parental involvement (i.e., money & time)

What Does It Mean To Be a Father Today?

- 'Breadwinning' (money)
- Paternal involvement (Lamb 1985):
 - Spending time (accessibility)
 - Engaging in activities
 - Taking responsibility for coordinating child's activities (doctor's visits, etc.)

→ Useful to understand how these key fathering domains are linked

Fathering across Residential Contexts

- The nature and meaning of the father role differ substantially across residential contexts
- *Resident fathers*
 - ‘Package deal’ in which various aspects of fathering go together to contribute to shared child
 - Expect that money and time are substitutes
- *Non-resident fathers*
 - ‘Contingent fathering’ in which access to child depends on money and mothers
 - Expect that money and time are complements

Past Research

- Resident fathers:
 - Negative relationship between fathers' employment and engagement (Knoester and Eggebeen 2007)
- Non-resident fathers:
 - Higher earnings (Lerman and Sorenson 2000) and child support payments (Nepomnyaschy 2007) linked to greater time involvement
- Limited research evaluating multiple measures of fathers' money and time and comparing resident and non-resident fathers

Our Paper: Research Qs

- 1) What is the prevalence of fathers' economic capacities/contributions and involvement with children, for resident and non-resident fathers?
- 2) How are fathers' econ. capacities/contributions and involvement with children linked, for resident and non-resident fathers?

Data – Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study

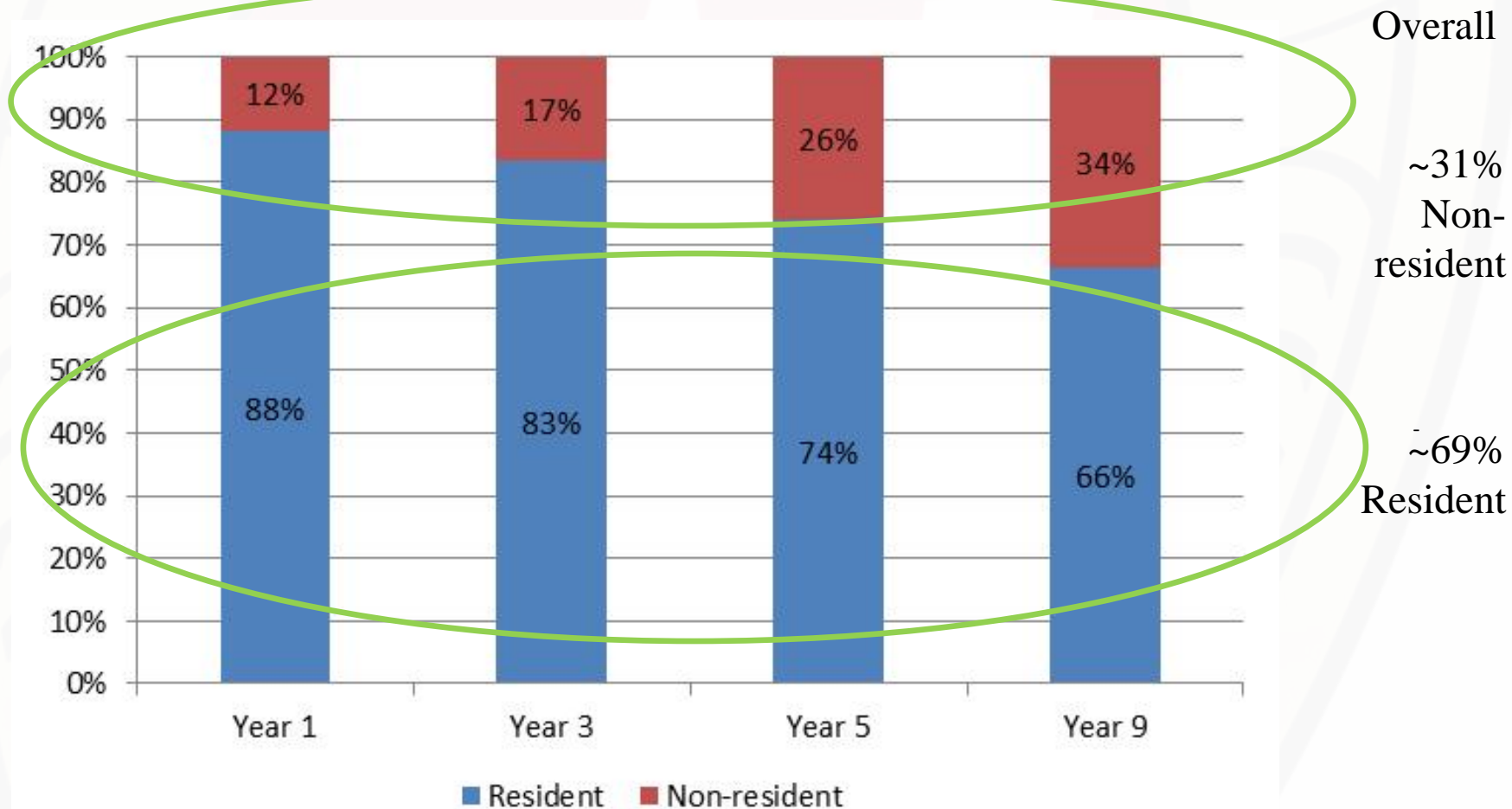
(PIs: McLanahan & Garfinkel)

- National study of ~5,000 urban births between 1998 and 2000
- Twenty U.S. cities of population 200k+
- Over-sample of nonmarital births (3,710) with comparison group of marital births (1,187)
- Follow-up interviews about 1, 3, 5 and 9 years after child's birth

Sample

- Interviewed fathers (about 4/5 of all births)
 - Interview did not occur in jail
 - Child lived with the biological mother
- Number of cases = 2,837 unique fathers; each father interviewed about 3 times
- Analyze resident and non-resident fathers separately

Fathers' Residence, Years 1, 3, 5 & 9



*Among interviewed fathers; figures are weighted and include both marital and nonmarital births.

Fathers' Economic Characteristics

Based on fathers' reports (both res. & non-res.):

- Work hours per week
- Work weeks per year
- Total annual earnings

Non-resident fathers only:

- Total child support paid per year (formal + informal)

Fathers' Involvement Measures

Based on mothers' reports (both res. & non-res.):

- *Spending time* (1+ hours/week); range = 1-5
- Frequency of *engaging in activities* past week (e.g., reading, playing with toys); range = 0-7 days
- *Sharing responsibility* for child activities (e.g., taking child to doctor); range = 1-4
- Composite measure (includes all 3 above)

Non-resident fathers only:

- *Number of days* saw child past month; range = 0-30

Other Variables

- *Fathers' characteristics:*

Married at focal child's birth, age, race/ethnicity, foreign born, lived with both parents at age 15, self-reported health status, religious attendance, depression, ever incarcerated, positive fathering attitudes, has child by another partner, number of children w/ child's mother

- *Other characteristics:*

- Child characteristics: Baby is boy, grandmother lives with child
- Mother's work hours over time
- Parents' relationship status over time

Methods

- Descriptive summaries of the levels of fathers' economic characteristics/contributions and involvement, by residence status
- Multivariate models to evaluate the how economic factors are associated with involvement, for resident versus non-resident fathers

Fathers' Characteristics, by Residence Status at Year 1

	Resident	Non-Resident
Race/ethnicity		
White non-Hispanic	37%	11%
Black non-Hispanic	27%	58%
Hispanic	31%	24%
Education		
Less than HS	22%	35%
HS degree	26%	37%
Some college	23%	26%
College degree	29%	1%

Fathers' Characteristics, by Residence Status at Year 1 (cont.)

	Resident	Non-Resident
	M* or %	M* or %
Age at child's birth (years)*	30.7	25.8
Foreign born	29%	12%
Lived with parents at 15	63%	40%
Depressive symptoms (CES-D, range=0-7)*	1.0	1.5
Positive fathering attitudes (range=1-4)*	3.8	3.6
Has previous child w/ other partner	21%	40%
Number of children w/ bio mother*	1.7	1.5
Ever incarcerated	12%	42%

Resident Fathers' Economic Characteristics and Involvement

	1-Year (88%)	3-Year (83%)	5-Year (74%)	9-Year (66%)
Fathers' Economic Characteristics				
Annual Earnings (\$ 2008)	\$39,513	\$57,007	\$58,678	\$64,281
Hours Worked per Week	45.6	45.3	46.1	43.4
Weeks Worked per Year	45.2	46.2	46.2	46.3
Fathers' Involvement				
Spent 1+ hours (range=1-5)	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Engagement (range=0-7)	3.9	3.8	3.3	3.5
Responsibility (range=1-4)	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5

Non-Resident Fathers' Economic Characteristics and Involvement

	1-Year (12%)	3-Year (17%)	5-Year (26%)	9-Year (34%)
Fathers' Economic Characteristics				
Annual Earnings (\$ 2008)	\$22,062	\$24,529	\$25,919	\$36,132
Hours Worked per Week	44.3	45.4	40.8	42.8
Weeks Worked per Year	37.3	39.1	40.3	41.9
Annual Child Support (\$ 2008)	\$1,832	\$2,681	\$2,441	\$2,907
Fathers' Involvement				
Spent 1+ hours (range=1-5)	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.5
Engagement (range=0-7)	1.9	1.5	1.0	1.1
Responsibility (range=1-4)	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.7
Days with Child (range=0-30)	13.2	9.7	8.8	7.6

What is the Relationship between Fathers' Money and Time?

	Resident		Non-Resident	
	RE	FE	RE	FE
A. Spent 1+ hours (range=1-5)				
Annual Earnings (\$ 2008) (\$10000s)	-		+	
Hours Worked per Week (10 hours)	-	-		
Weeks Worked per Year (10 weeks)	-	-	+	+
Annual Child Support (\$ 2008) (\$1000s)	NA	NA	+	
B. Engagement (range=0-7)				
Annual Earnings (\$ 2008) (\$10000s)	-	-		
Hours Worked per Week (10 hours)	-	-		
Weeks Worked per Year (10 weeks)	-	-		
Annual Child Support (\$ 2008) (\$1000s)	NA	NA	+	+
C. Responsibility (range=1-4)				
Annual Earnings (\$ 2008) (\$10000s)	-			
Hours Worked per Week (10 hours)	-		+	
Weeks Worked per Year (10 weeks)	-	-	+	+
Annual Child Support (\$ 2008) (\$1000s)	NA	NA	+	+

What is the Relationship between Fathers' Money and Time? (cont.)

	Resident		Non-Resident	
	RE	FE	RE	FE
D. Father Involvement Composite				
Annual Earnings (\$ 2008) (\$10000s)	-	-	+	
Hours Worked per Week (10 hours)	-	-		
Weeks Worked per Year (10 weeks)	-	-	+	
Annual Child Support (\$ 2008) (\$1000s)	NA	NA	+	+
E. Days Spent with Child Past Month (range=0-30)				
Annual Earnings (\$ 2008) (\$10000s)	NA	NA	+	+
Hours Worked per Week (10 hours)	NA	NA		
Weeks Worked per Year (10 weeks)	NA	NA	+	+
Annual Child Support (\$ 2008) (\$1000s)	NA	NA	+	+

Summary of Findings

- Resident fathers have much higher economic capacities and are more involved with children than non-resident fathers
- Fathers' money and time are related differently for resident versus non-resident fathers:
 - Resident: Trade-off between market work and fathering (substitutes); all investments 'count' and reinforce 'package deal'
 - Non-resident: No evidence that financial investment and time operate as substitutes; where significant, results suggest they are complements; fathers do 'double duty'

Limitations

- Urban sample
- Non-response, and interviewed fathers cannot be used to generalize to all fathers ('worst off' fathers are under-represented)
- Can't consider all aspects of father involvement
- Mothers' reports of father involvement (may underestimate) – but results are similar using fathers' reports
- Cannot address whether a causal relationship and cannot disentangle directionality

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