

Stay-at-Home Fathers: Definition and Characteristics Based on 42 Years of CPS Data

Karen Z. Kramer
Department of Family Social Science
University of Minnesota
1985 Buford Ave.
290 McNeal Hall
St. Paul, MN 55108
Email: kkramer@umn.edu
Telephone: 651-489-8032

Jan B. McCulloch
Department of Family Social Science
University of Minnesota
1985 Buford Ave.
290 McNeal Hall
St. Paul, MN 55108
Email: jmccullo@umn.edu
Telephone: 612-624-1208

Abstract

Different conceptualizations of what constitutes a stay-at-home father household lead to different characteristics and different proportion of stay-at-home father households among all married couples households. In this paper we show the results of different definitions of stay-at-home father households. A strict estimate of such households defines a stay-at-home father household as a household with children in which the wife provides all the income and the husband provides no income and performs a majority of the household chores and child care. Less strict definitions range by the proportion of household income the wife earns (as long as it is above 50%) and by reason the husband is not working. Analysis is based on CPS data from 1968 to 2009 and examines the differences in the proportion and characteristics of stay-at-home father households when using different definitions and over time. We find that stay-at-home father households have fewer children, older children, and fewer children under age 5. We also find that mothers in stay-at-home father households are much more educated than their husbands. We also find that mothers in stay-at-home father households experienced the sharpest increase in education compared to all males and females in all types of households. Both mothers and fathers in stay-at-home father households are older than mothers and fathers in stay-at-home mother and dual-earner households. Finally, there is a very substantial increase in the amount of fathers who choose to stay at home to take care of home and family rather than being forced to stay-at-home because of inability to find work, illness, or disability.

Stay-at-Home Fathers: Definition and Characteristics Based on 40 Years of CPS Data

Stay-at-home father households are the least frequent and least studied form of household type income structure. Yet, stay-at-home father households are increasing in proportion in the last decades. One of the limitations of the literature on stay-at-home parents is the lack of clarity of what constitutes a stay-at-home parent household. Is it a household in which one parent works and the other one does not? Is it a household in which a single parent is the sole earner in the household? Or, does stay-at-home parent household are a spectrum of households in which one parent is the main provider, the one that works a full-time job, while the other parents is a secondary provider that works less than a full-time job?

The contribution of this paper is twofold. First, we show how different definition of stay-at-home father households lead to different proportions of such households and different characteristics of this household. Second, we follow the changes in the proportion and frequency of stay-at-home father households over 42 years, between 1968 and 2009, thus providing a mapping of stay-at-home father households over time. We do that using the Current Population Survey (CPS) and thus provide a representative and longitudinal estimate of what trends the United States has seen in the proportion and characteristics of stay-at-home father households in the last 4 decades.

INTRODUCTION

Research on stay-at-home father households has rarely been conducted, especially in United States. Few studies have largely focused on negative societal attitudes toward stay-at-home fathers who take care of their children as compared to the more positive societal attitudes

toward stay-at-home mothers who take on these responsibilities (Brescoll & Uhlmann, 2005; Bridges et al., 2002; Kaufman, 2005; Novack & Novack, 1996; Riggs, 1998). Similarly, studies have shown that career mothers were perceived more negatively than stay-at-home mothers in general, and specifically, were perceived as lower on parenting effectiveness and warmth than both career fathers and stay-at-home mothers (Brescoll & Uhlmann, 2005; Cuddy, Fiske, & Glick, 2004). In addition to the negative perceptions of career mothers by society as a whole, some career mothers also must confront a male spouse who often does not feel comfortable with a wife who earns more money or who would be characterized as the primary breadwinner (Novack & Novack, 1996). These findings suggest that stay-at-home father households face a double jeopardy; both the stay-at-home father and the career mother are perceived as deviating from their traditional roles as primary breadwinner and primary caregiver. The double jeopardy faced by both mothers and fathers in stay-at-home father households is evident in the perceptions of both men and women regarding the roles of men and women when they have children. Kaufman (2005) found that in a random sample of students, who were 18-22 years of age, only 12.8% of women stated that if given a choice, they would like spouses to stay at home with their children, compared with 47.2% of men who would like their spouses to stay at home.

Few differences between stay-at-home fathers and stay-at-home mothers were found in a study by Zimmerman (2000), the only study to the best of our knowledge that directly compared stay-at-home father households to stay-at-home mother households. Zimmerman (2000) found that one difference was focused on the reasons for staying home. Most stay-at-home mothers gave religious reasons for choosing to stay at home with children, while most stay-at-home fathers indicated they chose to stay-at-home. In addition, the decision to stay-at-home by mothers was a long-term decision, with no specific limit as to the duration of staying at home,

while stay-at-home fathers saw their role as stay-at-home parents as more temporal, with a specific duration (e.g. until the child is three years old). Finally, stay-at-home fathers in Zimmerman's (2000) study reported they felt more isolated, and experienced higher levels of boredom, greater feelings of loneliness, and lower social support than stay-at-home mothers.

Finally, it seems that gender role perceptions play a great role in the attitudes regarding stay-at-home father households. Less egalitarian gender role attitudes are related to more negative perceptions of both career mothers and stay-at-home fathers, or even fathers as primary caregivers, while more egalitarian gender role attitudes are related to more positive perceptions of career mothers and stay-at-home fathers and fathers as primary caregivers (Kaufman, 2005; Novack & Novack, 1996).

In sum, it seems that stay-at-home father households are not common for several reasons. First, perceptions toward stay-at-home fathers as well as career mothers are negative. Both males and females appear to perceive working fathers and stay-at-home mothers more favorably than they perceive stay-at-home fathers and career mothers. These negative perceptions are embedded in gender role expectations that the non-traditional stay-at-home father households violate. Second, mothers might have greater choice than fathers in deciding whether to stay-at-home or not. For example, stay-at-home fathers are much more likely to be subjected to negative societal perceptions if they choose to stay-at-home than mothers who choose to stay at home. To put it differently, mothers seem to have more leverage in choosing between work and home while fathers almost have no leverage and are expected to work. Third, the gender-based income gap between males and females means, that even if fathers overcome the negative societal perceptions of stay-at-home fathers and prefer to be the primary caregiver of children, economic

reasons might make this seem impossible. Household income is likely to be lower when a father stays at home than when a mother stays at home simply due to the significant gender income gap (Bittman et al., 2003; Marini & Fan, 1997). However, to date, no study reports the income gap between stay-at-home mother households and stay-at-home father households. Finally, stay-at-home fathers perceive their role as more temporal than stay-at-home mothers, making it less probable to observe such households, especially when using a cross-sectional design.

The societal perceptions of gender roles, the economic disadvantage of stay-at-home father households and the view of stay-at-home fathers of their state as temporal might indicate that we can expect characteristics of stay-at-home father households, and father and mother characteristics to be different than those of stay-at-home mother households and their members. We expect that fathers will be less willing to stay-at-home when they have a lot of children or when children are very young because social perceptions might be even more gender biased toward families with many children or with a very young child. We also expect that fathers will be more likely to stay-at-home when their wives have far greater earning potential. More specifically, a father will be more likely to stay at home when his wife has much higher education. Finally, we expect that over time more families would choose a stay-at-home household type rather than being forced into such type. We expect that as societal perceptions become more egalitarian and as women increase their education, and as such their earning potential, more families would choose a household income structure in which the husband stays at home to take care of the home and family and the wife works. We emphasize the choice families would make rather than being forced into stay-at-home father household by and inability of the husband to work due to disability, illness, or inability to find work.

METHOD

Sample

The March Current Population Surveys (CPS) provides a unique opportunity to estimate how different conceptualizations of stay-at-home father households change the proportion of stay-at-home father households in the U.S. population over time as well as the characteristics of the households and their members. The CPS is a monthly U.S. household survey conducted jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPS monthly survey includes a battery of labor force and demographic questions, and the March Annual Demographic File and Income Supplement includes additional variables that will be used in this study. In particular, the current study would utilize the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series of the Current Population Surveys (IPUMS-CPS; King, Ruggles, Alexander, Leicach, & Sobek, 2004) that coded variables identically between 1962 and 2009 to allow cross-time comparisons using the March CPS. The CPS provides information at the individual person and the household levels and as such is very well suited for the current study goals.

For the current study, we will use all available data from 1968 to 2009. Data before 1968 is missing many of the study's variables of interest. In addition, because the CPS March Supplement battery of questions has changed over time, some data are not available for certain years. A complete description of the availability of each variable, by year, appears in the Measures section.

Inclusion criteria

This study is focused on working husbands and wives with children, who are part of a dual-earner household, a stay-at-home mother household, or a stay-at-home father household. As such, we include only households with married couples, with at least one spouse working, and at least one child 18 years of age or under who resides in the household.

Measures

Stay-at-home father household. Stay-at-home father households are identified using 4 different definitions. The most restrictive definition identifies a stay-at-home father household as one in which the husband is not part of the labor force and had not received any income in the previous year, while his wife was working a full-time job for pay. Stay-at-home father households were those in which the husband indicated that he was not in the labor force and the wife indicated she was in the labor force and worked 35 hours or more.

In the second step we used households in which at least one of the household's members had income from work. We then divided the wife's income from salary and wages in the previous year by the total household income from salary and wages in the previous year. This created a variable with a score of 0 to 1, where 1 indicates a stay-at-home father household and zero indicates a stay-at-home mother household. Any score between 0 and 1 will indicate a dual-earner household. We excluded self-employed individuals because those can have a negative income. Based on the wife income proportion measure we defined three additional types of stay-at-home father household. The first includes households in which the wife earned 90% or more of the household income from salary and wages in the previous year, the second includes

households in which the wife earned 75% or more of the household income from salary and wages in the previous year, and the last one includes households in which the wife earned more than 50% of the household income from salary and wages in the previous year.

Stay-at-home mother and dual-earner households. The definition used in identifying stay-at-home father households is also used in identifying stay-at-home mother households. For example, if a stay-at-home father household is defined as one in which the wife earns all the household income from wages and salary, stay-at-home mother households will be a mirror definition of that, where the husband earns all the household income from wages and salary. The rest of the households in which both spouses are working, will be considered dual-earner households.

Household and Individual Characteristics

Education. Education is measured as an ordinal variable and takes the values of “1” for preschool or none, “2” for first thru fourth grade, “3” for fifth thru eighth grade, “4” for ninth grade, “5” to tenth grade, “6” for eleventh grade, “7” for twelfth grade, “8” for 1-3 years of college, and “9” for 4+ years of college. This measure is available for the entire period between 1968 and 2009.

Number of children. Number of children is measured directly by a variable that includes any biological, adopted, or step-children who reside in the household. This measure is available for the entire period between 1968 and 2009.

Number of children under age 5 in the household. The CPS provides a direct measure of the number of children under age 5 living in the household. As with the total number of children

this measure is available for the entire period between 1968 and 2009 and includes all biological, adopted, or step-children.

Year. Data for this study spans the period between 1968 and 2009. These 42 years were divided to four periods and each will be analyzed separately: 1968-1979, 1980-1989, 1990-1999, and 2000-2009 in order to examine whether there have been any trends in the characteristics of stay-at-home father households and their members.

Age. Husband and wife's age as well as the age of the youngest child in the household are used and are available for the entire period between 1968 and 2009.

Reason not working last year. The CPS provides information about the reason indicated by the respondents for not working last year. The reasons include "could not find work"; "ill or disabled"; "taking care of home/family"; "going to school"; "retired"; "in armed forces"; and "other". This question was asked for the entire period between 1968 and 2009.

RESULTS

We first present the change in the proportion of stay-at-home father households over time, based on the different definitions. Table 1a-d presents the proportion of stay-at-home fathers, stay-at-home mothers and dual-earner households across different definitions and different decades. Figure 1a-d present the findings from Tables 1a-d graphically. As can be seen, when using the most restrictive definition of stay-at-home father household (i.e. wife earns 100% of the household income) the proportion of stay-at-home father households increases steadily over time, from 1.2 percent between 1968 and 1979 to 3.4 percent between 2000 and 2009. When using the less restrictive definitions of stay-at-home father households, the percent of those

households is larger, and also shows an increase over time; from 1.3 percent between 1968 and 1979 to 3.9 percent between 2000 and 2009 when stay-at-home father household is defined as one in which the wife earns 90% or more of the household income; from 1.8 percent in between 1968 and 1979 to 5.6 percent between 2000 and 2009 when stay-at-home father household is defined as one in which the wife earns 75% or more of the household income; and, from 5.2 percent in between 1968 and 1979 to 18.6 percent between 2000 and 2009 when stay-at-home father household is defined as one in which the wife earns more than her husband.

Insert Table 1a-d about here

Insert Figures 1a-d about here

These results indicate that, first, stay-at-home father households are increasing in frequency. There are about three times as much stay-at-home father households between 2000 and 2009 than there were between 1968 and 1979. Second, the results might indicate that more families are choosing a stay-at-home father households rather than being forced to be a stay-at-home father household by external forces such as husband's disability or inability of the husband to find work. We examine this in more details in the next steps of the analyses when we present the characteristics of stay-at-home father households and compare them with those of stay-at-home mother and dual-earner households.

As we expected, stay-at-home father households are different in many characteristics from both stay-at-home mother and dual-earner households. Table 2 presents the results for the most restrictive definition of stay-at-home father households; households in which the wife earns the entire income and households¹. Results include the household level variables of household income from work, number of children, number of children age 5 and under, and average age of youngest child. At the individual level results are presented for age, education and reason for not working last year for husbands in stay-at-home father households and for wives in stay-at-home mother households.

Insert Table 2 about here

As can be seen in Tables 2, the income of stay-at-home father households is significantly lower than that of stay-at-home mother households, but this income gap is decreasing. Stay-at-home mother households, in which the husband is the sole earner, have an income that is \$37,190 greater than that of stay-at-home father households in which the wife is the sole earner between 1968 and 1979. In percentage terms, stay-at-home mother households have income that is 275 percent greater than that of stay-at-home father households. In the period between 2000 and 2009 the income gap between stay-at-home father and stay-at-home mother households dropped to \$34,378 and in percentage terms stay-at-home mother households have income that is 188 percent greater than that of stay-at-home father households. There are also significant

¹ Results for the other three definitions are not presented in the interest of space. They are available upon request from the corresponding author.

differences between stay-at-home father, stay-at-home mother and dual-earner households in the number of children in the household, number of children age five and under, and the age of the youngest child in the household. As can be seen in Figures 2a, stay-at-home father households and dual-earner households have significantly fewer children than stay-at-home mother households. Stay-at-home father households, as can be seen in Figure 2b also have fewer children age 5 and under, although the number of children age 5 and younger increases over time for stay-at-home father households, while it decreases for dual-earner households and is almost unchanged for stay-at-home mother households. Finally, Figure 2c shows that the youngest child at a stay-at-home father household tends to be much older than its counterparts in dual-earner households and stay-at-home mother households. Again, over time, the trend in the age of the youngest child for stay-at-home father households is downwards, in contrast to that of dual-earners and stay-at-home mother households.

Insert Figures 2a-c about here

Turning into the individual characteristics of stay-at-home father household's members, as compared to stay-at-home mother and dual-earner households' members we find that there are substantial differences between these three types of households. As can be seen in Table 2, both spouses in stay-at-home father households tend to be much older than their counterparts in stay-at-home mother households and dual-earner households. However, while the average age of spouses in stay-at-home mother households and dual-earner households increases over time, the age of both spouses in stay-at-home father households decrease over time. As can be seen in

Figure 3a, the age of stay-at-home fathers has dropped from 47.71 years between 1968 and 1979 to 45.14 between 2000 and 2009. Mothers' age at stay-at-home father households dropped from 41.60 years between 1968 and 1979 to 40.81 between 2000 and 2009. At the same time, the age of fathers at stay-at-home mother household increased from 36.87 years between 1968 and 1979 to 39.05 between 2000 and 2009 and among fathers in dual-earner households it increased even more dramatically from 37.04 years between 1968 and 1979 to 40.45 between 2000 and 2009. The age of mothers in stay-at-home mother and dual-earner households also increased dramatically: from 34.05 years between 1968 and 1979 to 36.68 years between 2000 and 2009 for mothers in stay-at-home mother households; and, from 34.23 years between 1968 and 1979 to 38.33 years between 2000 and 2009 for mothers in dual-earner households.

Insert Figures 3a about here

Figure 3b presents graphically the differences between the members of stay-at-home father, stay-at-home mother, and dual-earner households in education. Between 1968 and 1979 the education of both spouses in stay-at-home father households was the lowest compared to spouses in both stay-at-home mother and dual-earner households. In addition, wives in stay-at-home father household had higher level of education than their husbands, while husbands in stay-at-home mother households had higher level of education than their wives (spouses of dual-earner households had very similar education level). The difference in education between wives in stay-at-home father household and husbands in stay-at-home father households was by far, the largest among all household types. By 2000-2009 wives in stay-at-home father households were

second in their education only to dual-earners, surpassing members of stay-at-home mother households. In addition, the gap in education between husbands in stay-at-home father households and the rest of the spouses in different household types narrowed substantially.

Insert Figures 3b about here

The results strongly support a major shift among households from being forced into stay-at-home father household to choosing stay-at-home father household. As can be seen In Table 3, between 1968 and 1979, only 0.6 percent of fathers who did not work, while their wife was the sole earner, indicated they stayed at home to take care of home and family. Between 2000 and 2009 19.3 percent of stay-at-home fathers indicated that they stayed at home to take care of home and family. This very significant increase from virtually no fathers who stayed at home to take care of their children to almost one in five fathers who stayed at home to take care of their children indicates a major shift in the norms regarding stay-at-home fathers and the choice some families have in choosing a stay-at-home father household type. Another indication that more families are choosing stay-at-home father household type is the decrease in the percent of households that were forced into stay-at-home father household type. Between 1968 and 1979, 71.8 percent of fathers in stay-at-home father households indicated that they did not work either because they could not find a job or because they were too ill or disabled. By the period between 2000 and 2009 only 54.4 percent of fathers in stay-at-home father households indicated that they did not work either because they could not find a job or because they were too ill or disabled. Figures 4a and 4b present graphically the reason for staying at home for fathers in stay-at-home

father households and for mothers in stay-at-home mother households. As can be seen, the reasons given by mothers in stay-at-home mother households for not working have not changed substantially over time, with about 90 percent of mothers indicating they are not working because they take care of home and family.

Insert Table 3 about here

Insert Figures 4a-b about here

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study shed light on a type of household that has scarcely been studied, yet is becoming more frequent in the United States, stay-at-home father households. The influx of women to the labor force, the growing professionalism of women, the increasing gap between women and men's education and perhaps, growing egalitarian perceptions regarding work and family roles, changes the power structure and the roles in American families. We find that in a growing number of families, women are the sole earners and men choose to stay home and take care of home and family. This is in a stark contrast to families 30 and 40 years ago, where women were sole earners only when their husbands were not able to find a work due to an illness or disability.

The increase in the proportion of stay-at-home father households over time and the significant increase in the proportion of fathers that report they chose not to work so they can take care of home and family are not the only indication that stay-at-home father households are becoming more a matter of families choosing such household structure and less a matter families being forced into such household type. Between 1968 and 1979 mothers and fathers in stay-at-home father household were far less educated than mothers and fathers in both stay-at-home mother and dual-earner households. By 2000-2009, mothers in stay-at-home father households were second only to dual-earners in their educational level, and not by much. Fathers in stay-at-home father households, while still having the lowest educational level, significantly narrowed the gap from mothers and fathers in stay-at-home mother and dual-earner households. The increase in the education of the members of stay-at-home father households provides another support for the choice many families are making in becoming stay-at-home father households. The high education of the mothers assures that these households are more likely to have higher income. The higher education of the fathers indicates that, at least some of these fathers, choose to stay at home although they can find work and have high income potential. However, stay-at-home father households still have income that is far lower than that of stay-at-home mother households.

Other characteristics of stay-at-home father households are indicating that fathers who choose to stay at home still do it on their own terms, perhaps unlike stay-at-home mothers. Stay-at-home fathers are older, with older and fewer children, and are far less likely to stay home with children under five than both dual-earner and stay-at-home mothers. These findings indicate that fathers are less likely to choose to stay with their children when they are very young and require constant care. They are also less likely to choose and stay home in families that have many

children, again perhaps, because it requires too much effort that they are less willing to invest than mothers.

Our findings might indicate that there is a need for a finer-grained analysis of stay-at-home father households. While almost one out of five fathers indicate they are staying at home to take care of the house and family, still over 70 percent indicate, indirectly, that if they were able to, they would work. This might indicate that there are two types of stay-at-home father households; those who are choosing to stay at home and those who are not able to work because they can not find a job, or are too ill or disabled to work. It is possible that these two different kinds of households are also different in the characteristics of the household (income, characteristics of the children) and the individuals (age, education, occupation). Furthermore, it is possible that the distribution of household labor is different between these two types, with fathers who choose to stay at home taking greater part in household labor.

Several limitations of this study should be noted. First, we are unable to ascertain that in households in which the husband does not work and the wife does, the household takes greater role in household work and care giving for children. To put it differently, it is possible that some wives, while earning the entire household income, are also performing the majority of household work and child care. However, the changes in the reasons given by stay-at-home fathers for staying at home might indicate that this is not the case, at least for part of our sample. A second limitation is our inability to distinguish between different types of stay-at-home father households. In future studies we intend to perform this finer-grained analysis by differentiating families that are forced in a stay-at-home father household and families that choose stay-at-home father household type. Finally, future studies should try to explore the tilting point in which two

parent families decide that although both spouses are able to work (and to find work), the father stays at home while the wife participates in the labor force. Gender role theory, exchange theory, and feminist perspective might provide insights as to the conditions and power structure that would push families into choosing stay-at-home father household type. These conditions, as the findings of our study indicate, include number of children, age of children, number of children age five or younger and far higher earning potential for the wife compared to her husband.

REFERENCES

- Bittman, M., England, P., Sayer, L., Folbre, N., & Matheson, G. (2003). When does gender trump money? Bargaining and time in household work. *American Journal of sociology*, *109*, 186-214.
- Brescoll, V. L., & Uhlmann, E. L. (2005). Attitudes toward traditional and nontraditional parents. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, *29*, 436-445.
- Bridges, J. S., Etaugh, C., & Barnes-Farrell, J. (2002). Trait judgments of stay-at-home and employed parents: A function of social role and/or shifting standards? *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, *26*, 140-150.
- Cuddy, A. J. C., Fiske, S. T., & Glick, P. (2004). When professionals become mothers, warmth doesn't cut the ice. *Journal of Social Issues*, *60*, 701-718.
- Kaufman, G. (2005). Gender role attitudes and college students' work and family expectations. *Gender Issues*, *22*, 58-71.

- King, M., Ruggles, S., Alexander, T., Leicach, D., & Sobek, M. (2004). *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 2.0*. [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Population Center [producer and distributor], 2004.
- Marini, M. M., & Fan, P. L. (1997). The gender gap in earning at career entry. *American Sociological Review*, 62, 588-604.
- Novack, L. L., & Novack, D. R. (1996). Being female in the eighties and nineties: Conflicts between new opportunities and traditional expectations among white, middle class, heterosexual college women. *Sex Roles*, 35, 55-77.
- Riggs, J. M. (1998). Social roles we choose and don't choose: Impressions of employed and unemployed parents. *Sex Roles*, 39, 431-443.
- Zimmerman, T. S. (2000). Marital equality and satisfaction in stay-at-home mother and stay-at-home father families. *Contemporary Family Therapy*, 22, 337-354.

Table 1a: Percent of stay-at-home father^a, stay-at-home mother^b, and dual-earner^c households, 1968-2009, first definition

	Stay-at-home father household	Stay-at-home mother household	Dual-earner household	Total
1968-1979	1.2 (1,908)	47.7 (78,393)	51.1 (84,034)	100 (164,335)
1980-1989	2.1 (2,904)	32.6 (44,972)	65.3 (90,188)	100 (138,064)
1990-1999	2.8 (3,168)	25.6 (28,745)	71.6 (80,579)	100 (112,492)
2000-2009	3.4 (5,592)	25.7 (41,709)	70.8 (114,879)	100 (162,180)

Actual number in parentheses.

^a Stay-at-home father households are those in which the wife earns 100% of household income.

^b Stay-at-home mother households are those in which the husband earns 100% of household income.

^c Dual-earner households are those in which the none of the spouses earn 100% of household income.

Table 1b: Percent of stay-at-home father^a, stay-at-home mother^b, and dual-earner^c households, 1968-2009, second definition

	Stay-at-home father household	Stay-at-home mother household	Dual-earner household	Total
1968-1979	1.3 (2,218)	60.6 (99,669)	38.0 (62,448)	100 (164,335)
1980-1989	2.6 (3,528)	44.8 (61,885)	52.6 (72,651)	100 (138,064)
1990-1999	3.4 (3,785)	35.2 (39,641)	61.4 (69,066)	100 (112,492)
2000-2009	3.9 (6,396)	33.4 (54,124)	62.7 (101,660)	100 (162,180)

Actual number in parentheses.

^a Stay-at-home father households are those in which the wife earns 90% or more of household income.

^b Stay-at-home mother households are those in which the husband earns 90% or more of household income.

^c Dual-earner households are those in which the none of the spouses earn less than 10% of household income.

Table 1c: Percent of stay-at-home father^a, stay-at-home mother^b, and dual-earner^c households, 1968-2009, third definition

	Stay-at-home father household	Stay-at-home mother household	Dual-earner household	Total
1968-1979	1.8 (3,030)	74.2 (122,001)	23.9 (39,304)	100 (164,335)
1980-1989	3.6 (4,927)	60.8 (83,944)	35.6 (49,193)	100 (138,064)
1990-1999	4.8 (5,350)	50.3 (56,537)	45.0 (50,605)	100 (112,492)
2000-2009	5.6 (9,019)	46.6 (75,560)	47.8 (77,601)	100 (162,180)

Actual number in parentheses.

^a Stay-at-home father households are those in which the wife earns 75% or more of household income.

^b Stay-at-home mother households are those in which the husband earns 75% or more of household income.

^c Dual-earner households are those in which the none of the spouses earn less than 25% of household income.

Table 1d: Percent of stay-at-home father^a and stay-at-home mother^b households, 1968-2009, fourth definition

	Stay-at-home father household	Stay-at-home mother household	Total
1968-1979	5.2 (8,478)	94.8 (155,857)	100 (164,335)
1980-1989	10.3 (14,287)	89.7 (123,777)	100 (138,064)
1990-1999	15.6 (17,561)	84.4 (94,931)	100 (112,492)
2000-2009	18.6 (30,089)	81.4 (132,091)	100 (162,180)

Actual number in parentheses.

^a Stay-at-home father households are those in which the wife earns more than half of the total household income.

^b Stay-at-home mother households are those in which the husband earns more than half of the total household income.

Table 2: Frequencies, mean, and standard deviation of household and individual level variables, by household type

1968-1979 – Wife is sole earner				
	Total	SAHF	SAHM	Dual-earners
<i>Household characteristics</i>				
Household work income (2009 base)	62,340 (31,799)	21,143 (16,552)	58,333 (32,218)	67,013 (30,455)
Number of children in household	2.33 (1.32)	2.23 (1.35)	2.46 (1.36)	2.21 (1.27)
Number of children age five and under	.61 (.76)	.20 (.48)	.74 (.82)	.49 (.68)
Age of youngest child	6.40 (5.28)	10.24 (5.25)	5.60 (5.08)	7.05 (5.34)
<i>Individual characteristics</i>				
Age father	37.08 (9.58)	47.71 (12.85)	36.87 (9.38)	37.04 (9.53)
Age mother	34.23 (8.87)	41.60 (9.85)	34.05 (8.88)	34.23 (8.77)
Education father	6.66 (1.94)	5.31 (2.32)	6.70 (1.96)	6.65 (1.91)
Education mother	6.58 (1.70)	5.96 (1.99)	6.46 (1.72)	6.71 (1.66)
N (percent)	164,335 (100%)	1,908 (1.2%)	78,393 (48%)	83,034 (50.9%)

1980-1989 -- Wife is sole earner

	Total	SAHF	SAHM	Dual-earners
<i>Household characteristics</i>				
Household work income (2009 base)	62,565 (34,220)	21,922 (16,043)	53,320 (32,190)	68,484 (33,716)
Number of children in household	2.11 (1.07)	2.12 (1.15)	2.29 (1.17)	2.01 (1.00)
Number of children age five and under	.56 (.73)	.29 (.58)	.71 (.81)	.49 (.68)
Age of youngest child	7.00 (5.60)	9.98 (5.74)	6.07 (5.44)	7.37 (5.60)
<i>Individual characteristics</i>				
Age father	37.34 (9.01)	48.68 (12.22)	37.18 (9.28)	37.18 (8.64)
Age mother	34.72 (8.25)	39.98 (9.85)	34.49 (8.72)	34.66 (7.89)
Education father	7.11 (1.74)	6.00 (2.14)	6.94 (1.88)	7.22 (1.64)
Education mother	7.01 (1.56)	6.57 (1.76)	6.67 (1.73)	7.19 (1.43)
N (percent)	138,064 (100%)	2,904 (2.1%)	44,972 (32.6%)	90,188 (65.3%)

1990-1999 – Wife is sole earner

	Total	SAHF	SAHM	Dual-earners
<i>Household characteristics</i>				
Household work income (2009 base)	68,916 (47,358)	27,009 (24,739)	56,108 (50,591)	75,133 (45,030)
Number of children in household	2.06 (.99)	2.02 (1.04)	2.28 (1.12)	1.98 (.92)
Number of children age five and under	.54 (.72)	.34 (.61)	.74 (.81)	.48 (.67)
Age of youngest child	6.99 (5.47)	9.26 (5.65)	5.66 (5.12)	7.37 (5.49)
<i>Individual characteristics</i>				
Age father	38.23 (8.21)	43.69 (10.85)	37.54 (8.33)	38.26 (7.96)
Age mother	35.89 (7.54)	39.09 (8.26)	35.05 (7.87)	36.07 (7.34)
Education father	7.42 (1.59)	6.58 (1.96)	7.15 (1.89)	7.55 (1.42)
Education mother	7.38 (1.51)	7.04 (1.65)	6.91 (1.83)	7.56 (1.32)
N (percent)	112,492 (100%)	3,168 (2.8%)	28,745 (25.6%)	80,579 (71.6%)

2000-2009 – Wife is sole earner

	Total	SAHF	SAHM	Dual-earners
<i>Household characteristics</i>				
Household work income (2009 base)	85,459 (71,352)	39,014 (49,415)	73,392 (81,055)	92,101 (66,942)
Number of children in household	2.07 (.98)	1.99 (1.03)	2.28 (1.11)	1.99 (.91)
Number of children age five and under	.50 (.71)	.31 (.61)	.71 (.81)	.43 (.66)
Age of youngest child	7.48 (5.56)	9.46 (5.52)	5.88 (5.16)	7.97 (5.58)
<i>Individual characteristics</i>				
Age father	40.25 (8.57)	45.14 (11.02)	39.05 (8.57)	40.45 (7.96)
Age mother	37.99 (8.04)	40.81 (8.47)	36.68 (8.30)	38.33 (7.86)
Education father	7.64 (1.51)	7.14 (1.65)	7.44 (1.83)	7.74 (1.35)
Education mother	7.69 (1.46)	7.54 (1.47)	7.28 (1.81)	7.85 (1.28)
N (percent)	162,180 (100%)	5,592 (3.5%)	41,709 (25.7%)	114,879 (70.8%)

SAHF: Stay-at-home fathers; SAHM: Stay-at-home mothers; Standard deviations are in parentheses.

Education coding: 5=Grade 10; 6=grade 11; 7=grade 12; 8=1-3 years of college

Table 3: Reason for not working last year, by household type

	1968-1979		
	Total	SAHF	SAHM
Could not find work	1.5 (1,214)	11.2 (214)	1.3 (1,000)
Ill or disabled	3.0 (2,435)	60.6 (1,156)	1.6 (1,279)
Taking care of home/family	92.6 (74,325)	0.6 (11)	94.8 (74,314)
Other	2.9 (2,327)	27.6 (527)	2.3 (1,800)
Total	100 (80,301)	(1,908)	(78,393)
	1980-1989		
Could not find work	4.2 (2,016)	24.2 (702)	2.9 (1,314)
Ill or disabled	5.0 (2,408)	46.2 (1,341)	2.4 (1,067)
Taking care of home/family	86.9 (41,595)	3.9 (113)	92.2 (41,482)
Other	3.9 (1,857)	25.7 (748)	2.5 (1,109)
Total	100 (47,876)	(2,904)	(44,972)
	1990-1999		
Could not find work	3.3 (1,043)	15.5 (492)	1.9 (551)
Ill or disabled	8.4 (2,696)	51.0 (1,615)	3.8 (1,081)
Taking care of home/family	81.7 (26,085)	10.9 (344)	89.5 (25,741)
Other	6.6 (2,089)	22.6 (717)	4.8 (1,372)
Total	100 (31,913)	(3,168)	(28,745)
	2000-2009		
	Total	SAHF	SAHM
Could not find work	2.1 (982)	9.4 (525)	1.1 (457)
Ill or disabled	9.7 (4,608)	45.0 (2,518)	5.0 (2,090)
Taking care of home/family	80.8 (38,221)	19.3 (1,078)	89.1 (37,143)
Other	7.4 (3,490)	26.3 (1,471)	4.8 (2,019)

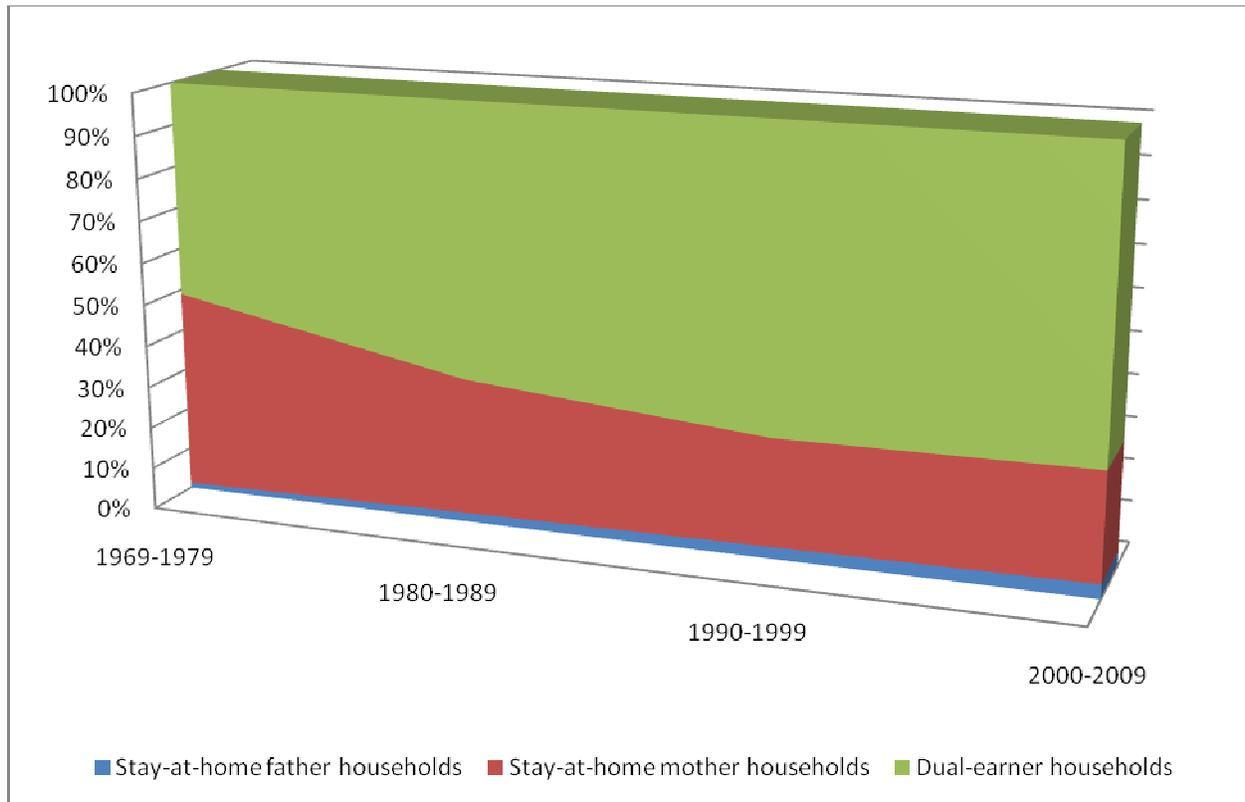
Total	100 (47,301)	(5,592)	(41,709)
-------	--------------	---------	----------

Actual number in parentheses.

SAHF - Stay-at-home father households are those in which the wife earns 100% of household income.

SAHM - Stay-at-home mother households are those in which the husband earns 100% of household income.

Figure 1a: Percent of stay-at-home father^a, stay-at-home mother^b, and dual-earner^c households, 1968-2009, first definition

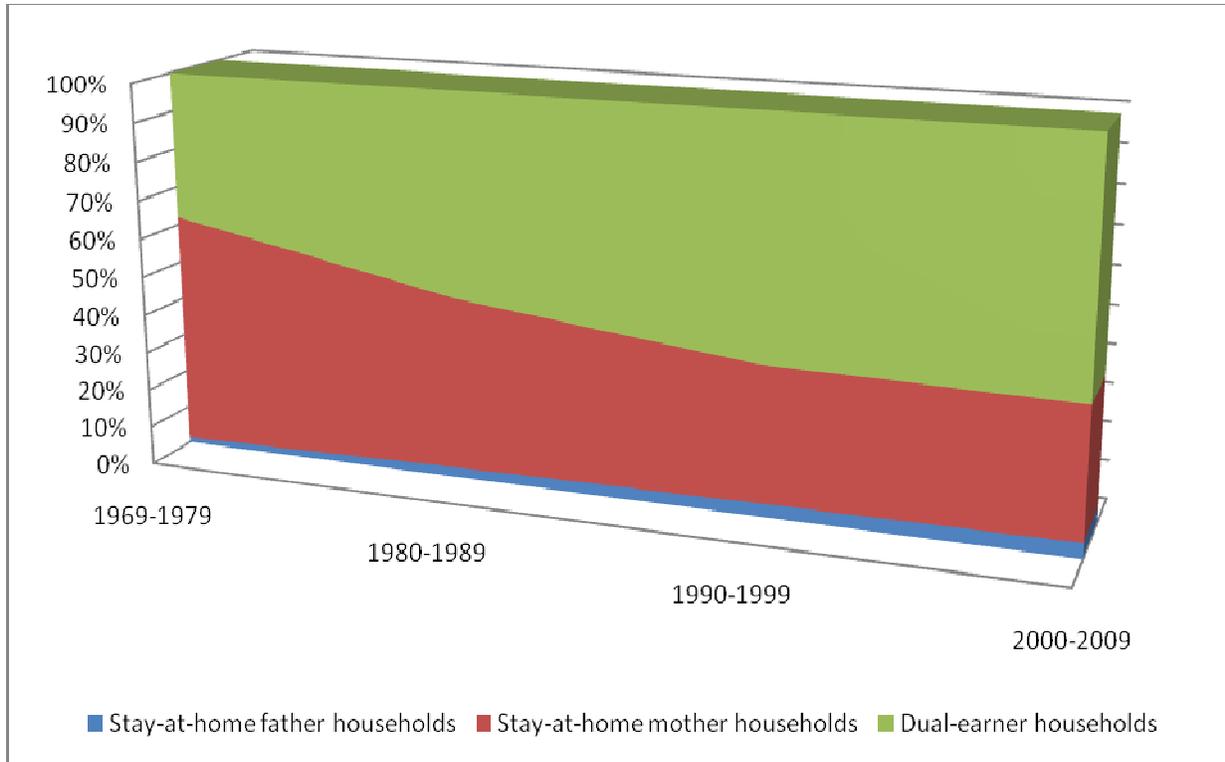


^a Stay-at-home father households are those in which the wife earns 100% of household income.

^b Stay-at-home mother households are those in which the husband earns 100% of household income.

^c Dual-earner households are those in which the none of the spouses earn 100% of household income.

Figure 1b: Percent of stay-at-home father^a, stay-at-home mother^b, and dual-earner^c households, 1968-2009, second definition

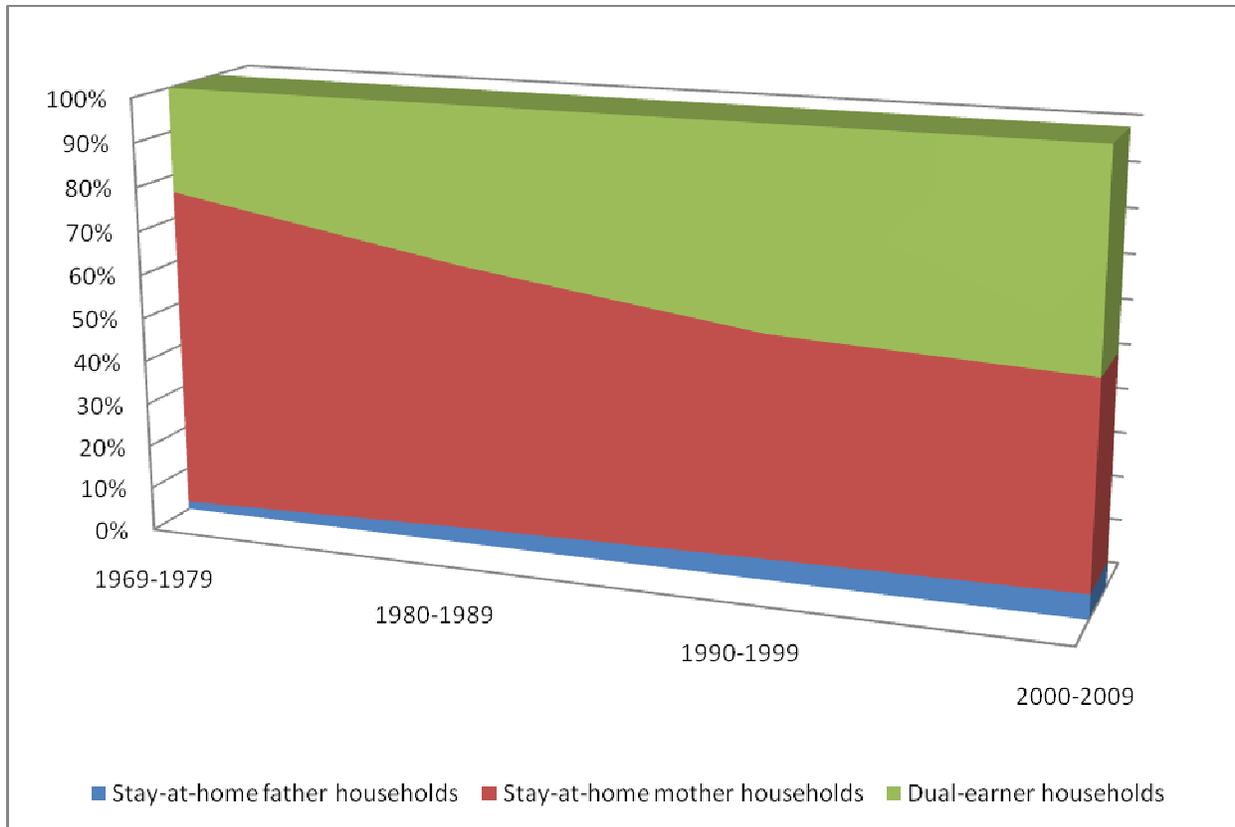


^a Stay-at-home father households are those in which the wife earns 90% or more of household income.

^b Stay-at-home mother households are those in which the husband earns 90% or more of household income.

^c Dual-earner households are those in which the none of the spouses earn less than 10% of household income.

Figure 1c: Percent of stay-at-home father^a, stay-at-home mother^b, and dual-earner^c households, 1968-2009, third definition

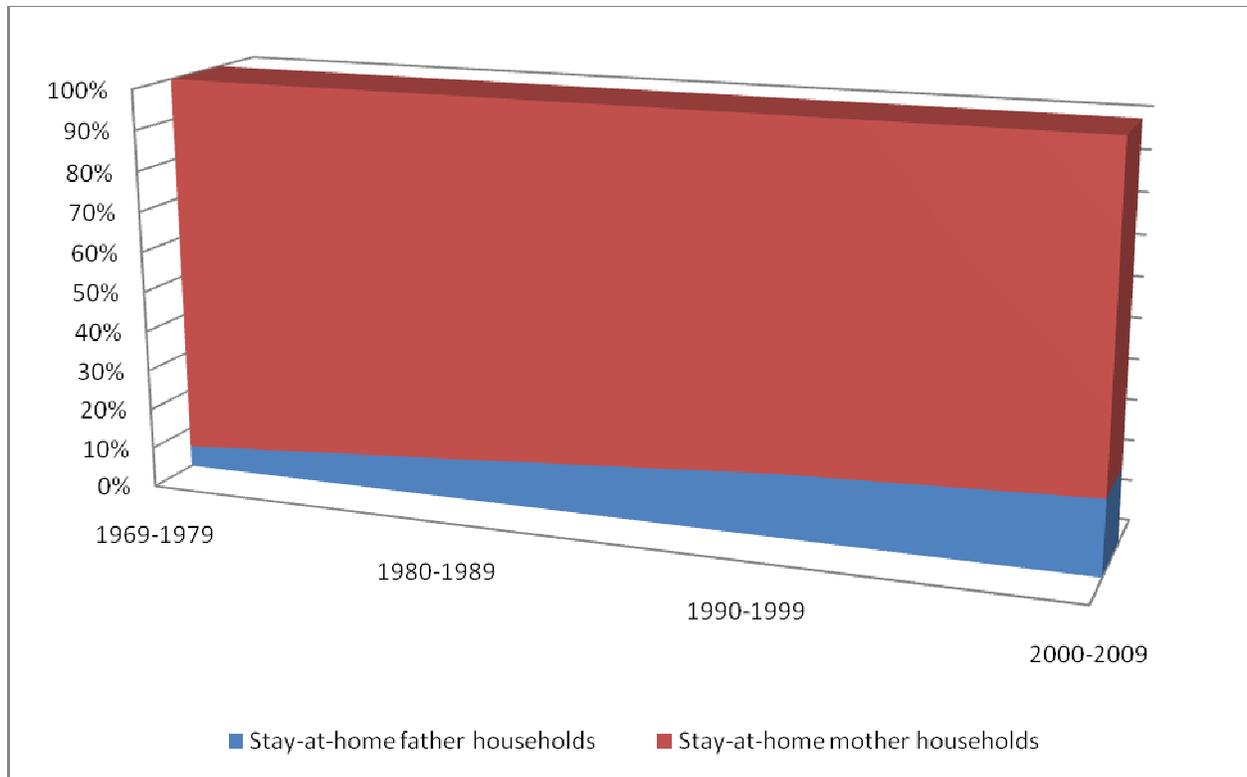


^a Stay-at-home father households are those in which the wife earns 75% or more of household income.

^b Stay-at-home mother households are those in which the husband earns 75% or more of household income.

^c Dual-earner households are those in which the none of the spouses earn less than 25% of household income.

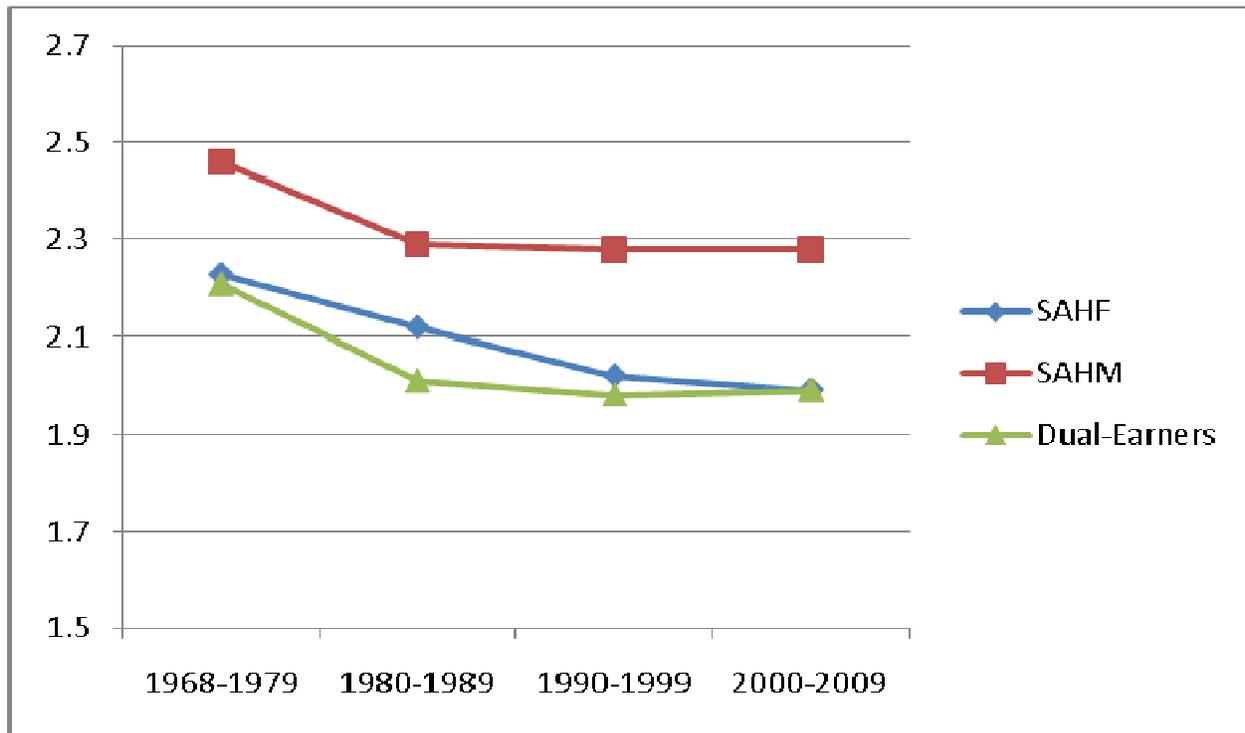
Figure 1c: Percent of stay-at-home father^a and stay-at-home mother^b households, 1968-2009, fourth definition



^a Stay-at-home father households are those in which the wife earns more than half of the total household income.

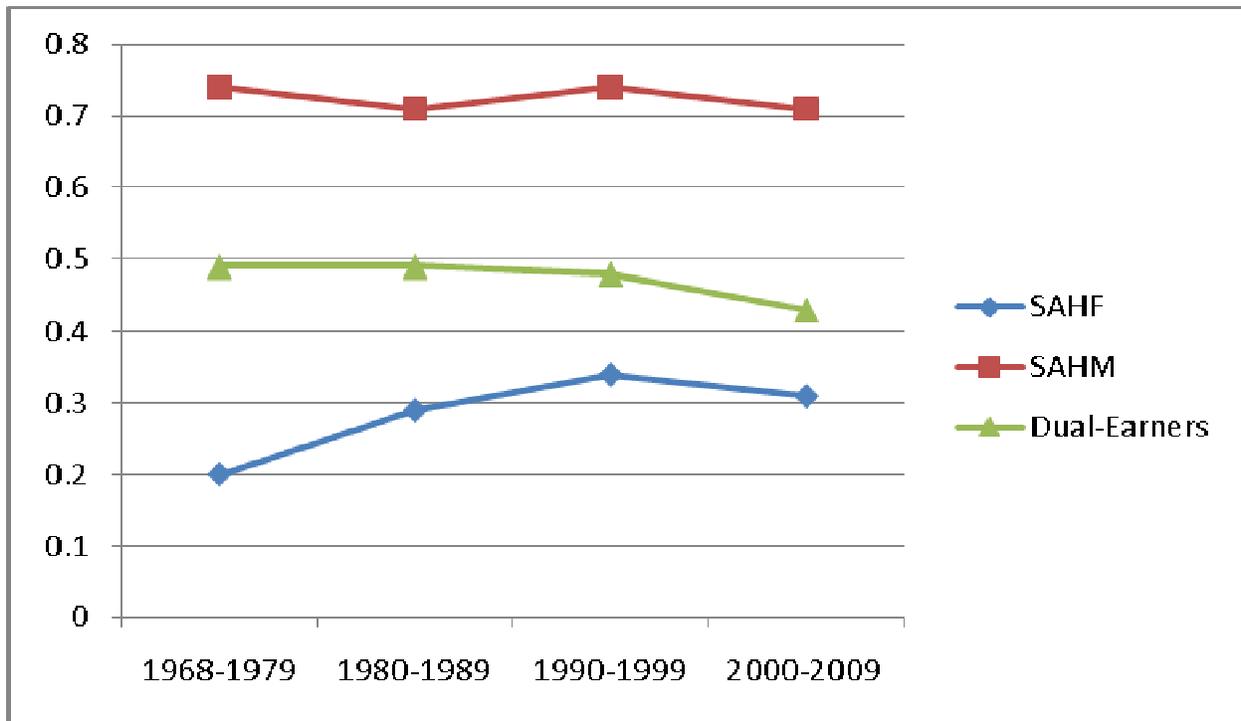
^b Stay-at-home mother households are those in which the husband earns more than half of the total household income.

Figure 2a: SAHF, SAHM, and dual-earner households number of children, by decade



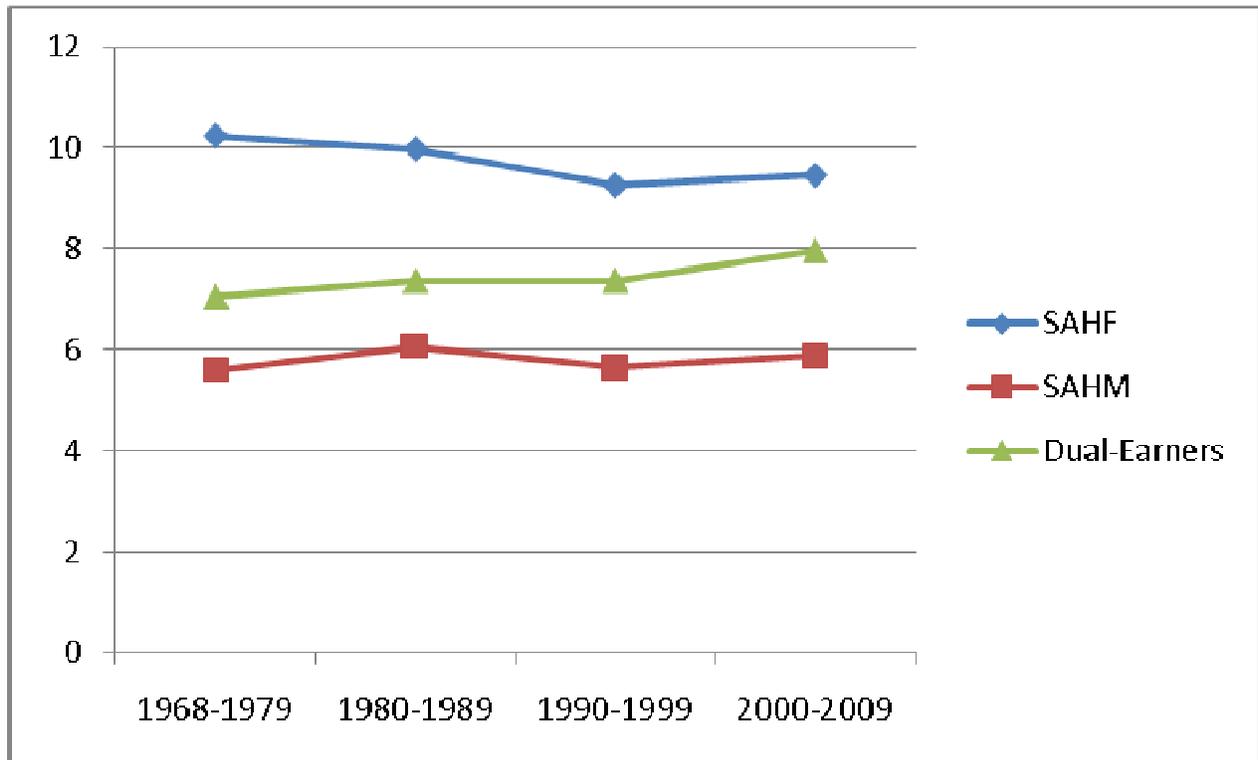
- SAHF: wife is sole earner; SAHM: husband is sole earner; Dual-earners: both spouses have income from work.
- Based on Table 2

Figure 2b: SAHF, SAHM, and dual-earner households number of children age 5 and under, by decade



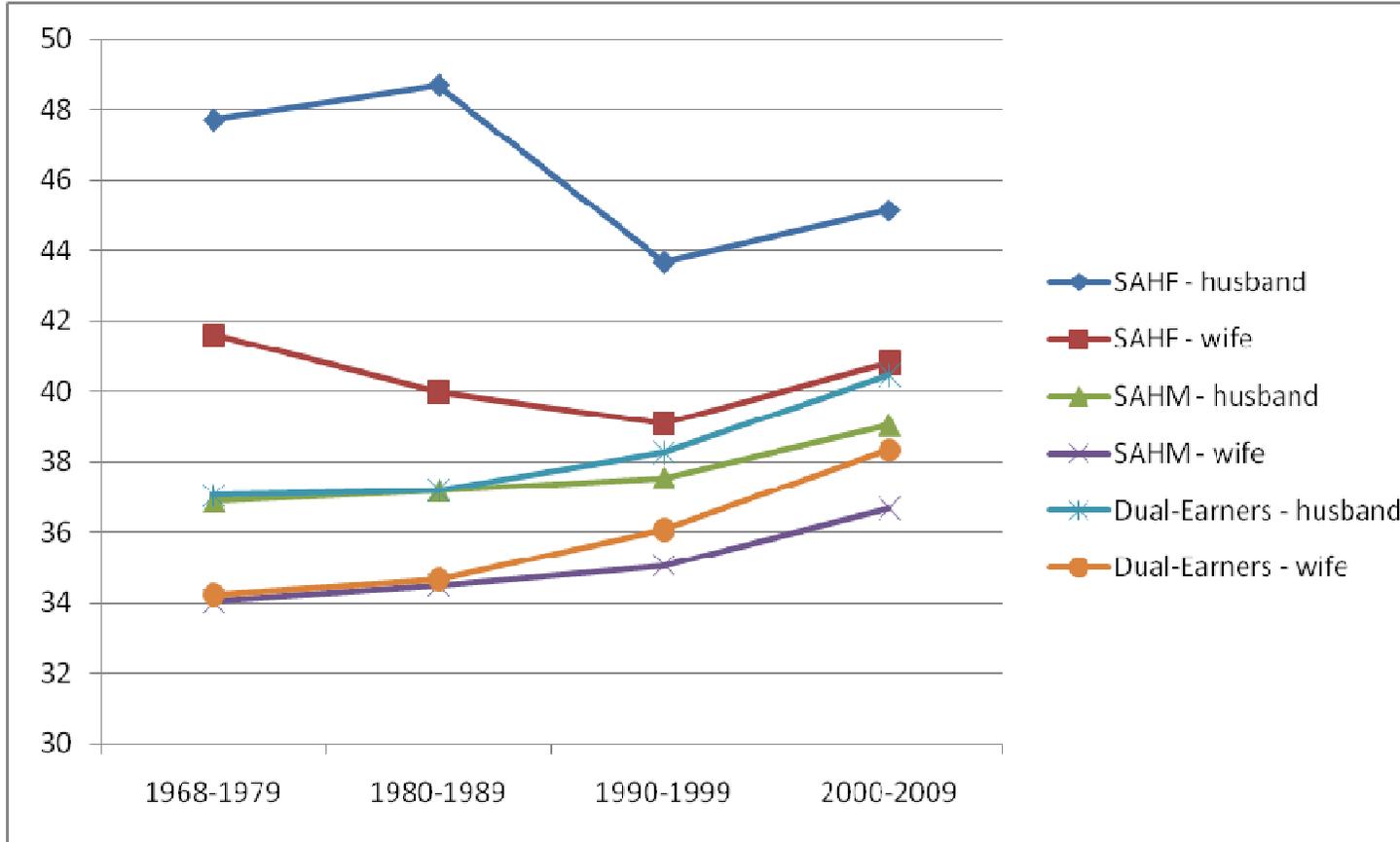
- SAHF: wife is sole earner; SAHM: husband is sole earner; Dual-earners: both spouses have income from work.
- Based on Table 2

Figure 2c: SAHF, SAHM, and dual-earner households age of youngest child, by decade



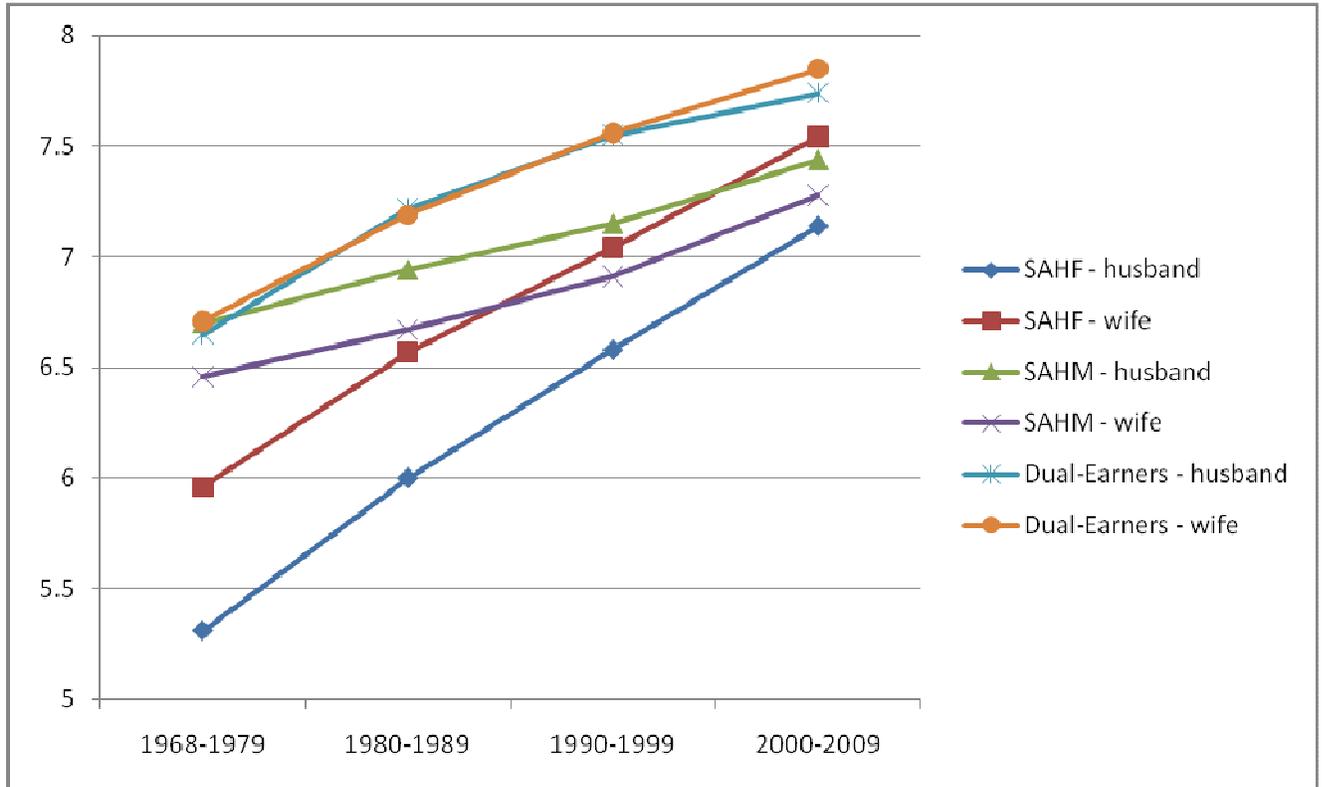
- SAHF: wife is sole earner; SAHM: husband is sole earner; Dual-earners: both spouses have income from work.
- Based on Table 2

Figure 3a: SAHF, SAHM, and dual-earner households age of husband and wife, by decade



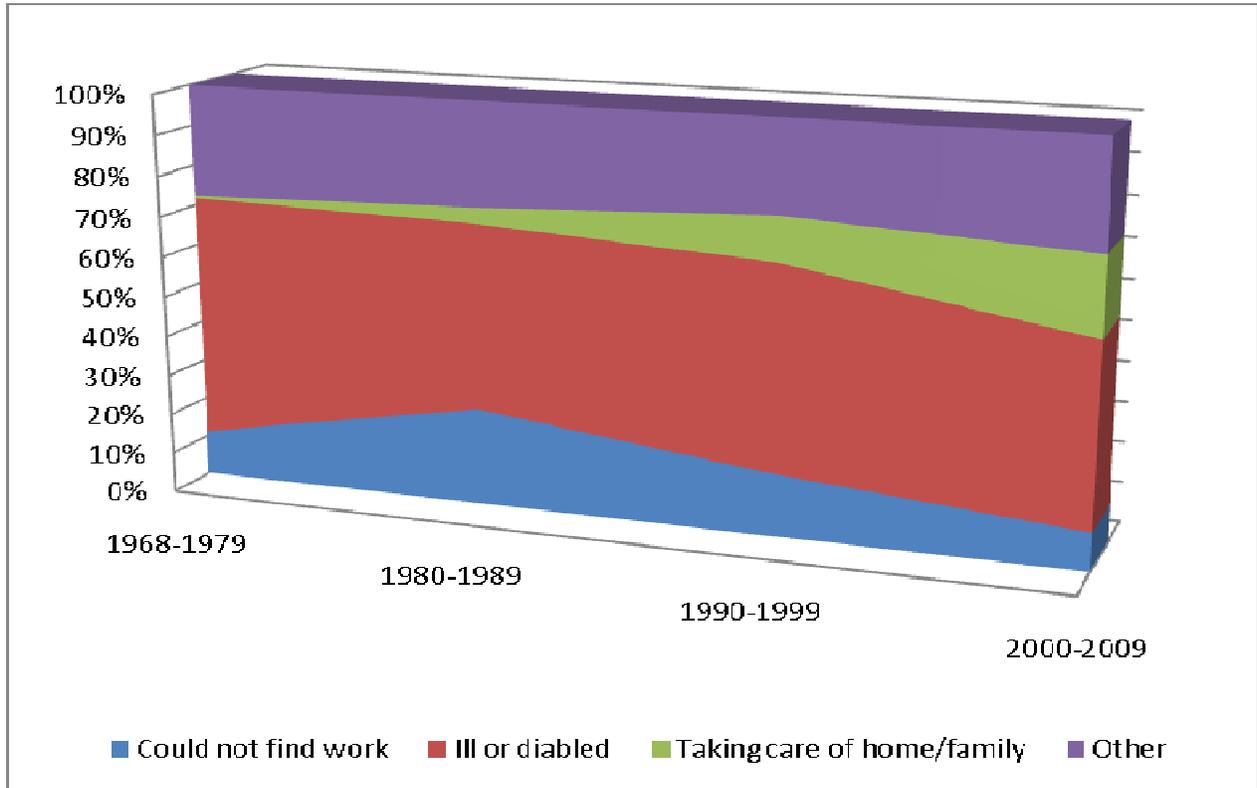
- SAHF: wife is sole earner; SAHM: husband is sole earner; Dual-earners: both spouses have income from work.
- Based on Table 1a-d

Figure 3b: SAHF, SAHM, and dual-earner households education of husband and wife, by decade



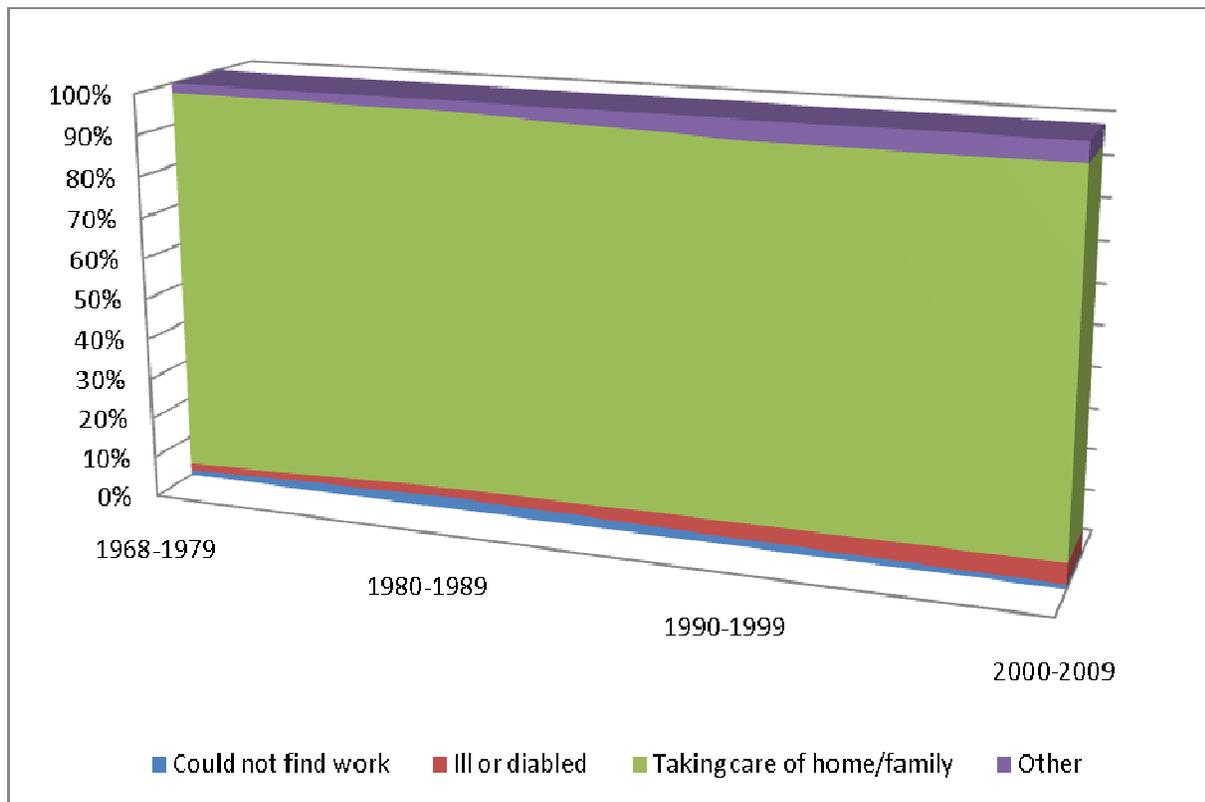
- SAHF: wife is sole earner; SAHM: husband is sole earner; Dual-earners: both spouses have income from work.
- Based on Table 1a-d
- Education coding: 5=Grade 10; 6=grade 11; 7=grade 12; 8=1-3 years of college

Figure 4a: Reasons for not working last year, fathers in stay-at-home father households, 1968-2009



- SAHF: wife is sole earner.
- Based on Table 3

Figure 4b: Reasons for not working last year, mothers in stay-at-home mother households, 1968-2009



- SAHM: husband is sole earner.
- Based on Table 3