

Single parents in France: Heterogeneities in household characteristics around birth

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elfe Etude Longitudinale Française depuis l'Enfance

Figure 3: Father present at the birth, by

Not present - Not recognizing

■ Present - Recognizing

Non-residential fatherhood

- De-standardization of families and changing family structures (Pailhé et al., 2014).
- Increasing percentage of children not living with both parents, usually the father.
- Variation of children's engagement with their non-residential fathers.

The French context

- Postponement of age at maternity.
- Around half of the children are born outside marriage.
- 18% single parent households (OECD, 2014).

Data: French longitudinal study of children (ELFE)

- 18,500 newborn children.
- Maternity and 2 months: information from mother.
- 2 months: Households with non-residential fathers.
- Fathers who do not live (permanently) in the household of the child: N=1,102.

Method: Latent Class Analysis (LCA)

- N=939
- Indicators:
- Parents in romantic relationship?
- Father's physical presence at the birth.
- Father recognized the child.
- First child.

- Mothers' immigration status.
- Mothers' age.
- Mothers' education.
- Mothers' professional status.
- Income per household-member.

How many single parent households exist in France with children of the age of 2 months?

Table 1: Family situation of children at 2 months	Proportion
Living permanently with two parents	91,3%
Living permanently with the mother	8,6%
Parents in relationship	2,0%
- Father does not cohabit permanently	1,6%
- Father non-cohabiting	0,4%
Parents not in relationship	6,6%
- Parents separated, in contact	6,5%
- Father unknown, no contact between the parents	0,1%
Different situation (Fostered child, child in the hospital,)	0,1%
Total	100%

What types of households with non-resident fathers exist?

Higher SES household, first child

- Parents not in romantic relationship (96%)
- First child (85%)
- Born in France (83%)
- Low/medium/high education (35%, 26%, 39%)
- Employed (92%)
- Medium/high income (38%, 55%)

Figure 1: Types of households

with non-resident fathers

13%

28%

15%

20%

24%

Low SES household, mother born in France

- Parents not in romantic relationship (96%)
- Born in France (77%)
- Medium age (50%, 25-35)
- Basic education (80%)
- Inactive (77%)
- Low income (53%)

Low SES household, first child, mother born in France

- Father recognized the child (65%)
- Parents not in romantic relationship (87%)
- First child (77%)
- Born in France (77%)
- Young age (77% < 25)
- Basic education (75%)Inactive (92%)
- Low income (46%)
- ,

High SES household, parents inromantic non-cohabitingchildParentsrelation

- relationshipParents in romantic relationship (75%)
- Born in France (87%)
- Middle age (67%)
- Highly educated (71%)
- Employed (70%)
- High income (80%)

Lower middle class, previous child

- Parents not in romantic relationship (77%)
- Previous child (79%)
- Medium, higher age (57%, 25-34; 39% >34)
- Basic educational attainment (58%)
- Inactive (60%)
- Low/medium income (55%/36%)

latent class 100% 99% 18% 100% 55, hother child, mother or middle born in born in born in born in class, previous child cohabiting relationship Figure 4: Father recognizing the child and present at birth, by latent class 9% 1% 16% 100% 99% 18% 18% 18% 100% 53% 18% 100% 53% 100% 53% 21% 100% 55, first child, mother middle born in born in France child, mother child, mother born in born in France class, previous child cohabiting relationship Figure 4: Father recognizing the child and present at birth, by latent class 100% 100

How does non-resident fathers' involvement differ across households?

Figure 2: Father recognizing the child, by

Conclusion and discussion

born in

France

Low SES, first

child, mother

• Non-residential fatherhood around birth is a non-marginal phenomenon in France.

High SES,

parents in

cohabiting

relationship

romantic non-

- Heterogeneity in terms of SES background (5 typologies) and mother-father relationship.
- Group of better-off single mothers: specificity of France?

Lower

• What will the groups tell us about father involvement and child well-being in the future?

References

France

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Higher SES,

first child

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