

Shared Parenting Research

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Examples of successful equal parenting laws

In 2018, Kentucky enacted the country's first mandate of equally shared parenting when parents live separately. Results:

- Within two years family court filings dropped by more than 11%, not accounting for the population within the state, or the nationwide increase in divorce filings.
- Family court filings that involved domestic violence during those two years declined by nearly 700 cases, or 4% drop overall, a victory heralded by Kentucky domestic violence advocates.

Benefits to children:

- An analysis of **60-peer reviewed studies** by Wake Forest University's Dr. Linda Nielson found that children of separated families fare best when they share time equally between parents' homes.
- Unequal parenting schedules directly correlate with men checking out of their children's lives, studies find. Fatherlessness is attributed to more than 30 outcomes, including dropout, incarceration and drug use rates, teen sexual activity and pregnancy, poor academic performance and lifelong employment and relationship challenges.
- Studies find that dads with more parenting time with their kids are more likely to pay child support. In fact, at a recent committee hearing for a shared-parenting bill in Georgia, an administrator for that state's child support enforcement agency, advocated for a rebuttable presumption of equal parenting time in anticipation of increased federal pressure on states for child support compliance.

Benefits to women

- Moms for Shared Parenting recently conducted a **survey** of 2,279 U.S. single moms, and the findings were clear: The more equality moms have in their parenting schedules, the more they are likely to earn. In fact, single mothers with 50/50 parenting schedules are 324% more likely to earn \$100,000 than those with sole custody.
- The majority of single moms want 50/50 parenting schedules. Parenting equality is popular with single moms of all income levels.
- Single mothers believe that more parenting time equality would allow them to have more time to invest in their careers and earning — as well as overall wellbeing.

Benefits to men

When men are viewed by the law, courts and culture as equal parents, they engage more with their children, are happier and less prone to mental and physical health issues.

Benefits to the community

When separated and divorced moms and dads share parenting time and responsibilities equally, everyone wins.

- Single moms are freer to work and earn equally to single dads, which is good for employers, the economy, and lessens co-parenting conflict that burdens courts and increased dependency on child support.
- Family courts are less burdened by non-critical issues.
- Long-term, when children are supported by two loving parents, they are more likely to be citizens who contribute to — and not burden — on all of our public and private systems.