



Fathers in Slovenia

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Ever more fathers are present at birth: in 1991 the share was 9.2%, while by 2005 it has grown to 68.3%. However, in Osrednjeslovenska and Goriška regions only two out of ten mothers give birth without fathers being present while in Koroška, Pomurska and Spodnjeposavska regions the share is a half.

Statistical data on fathers are scarce; most of them are collected with population censuses and some are collected from annual records of births and acknowledgement of paternity.

42% of men aged 15+ are fathers

Statistically speaking, at censuses fathers are only those men who live in families with children. It is not important whether they live with wives, partners or alone. Statistically speaking, biological fathers not living with their children are not counted as fathers.

At the census in March 2002, 338,621 fathers living with children were registered. Most of the fathers lived in families with wives and children (87%), slightly less than 9% of fathers lived with partners and children and 4% of fathers were single parents and lived alone with children.

Average size of single-father families was 2.3 members

At the 2002 census the average size of families with children was 3.4 members. Married-parents families had 3.7 members, cohabiting families had 3.5 members and single-parent families had the fewest members.

Single-father families are not very common but their number is on the rise. At the 1981 census single-father families represented 2.3% of all families with children, at the 1991 census the share was 3.1% and at the 2002 census 3.4%. At the 2002 census the average size of single-father families was 2.3 members.

Most fathers have secondary education and are employed

At the 2002 census two thirds of fathers had secondary education, less than 15% of fathers had elementary education and 16% of fathers had tertiary education; of the latter, 0.8% were masters of science/arts and 0.5% were doctors science/arts.

Two thirds of fathers were employed, 10% were self-employed, a fifth was retired and 7% were unemployed. At the 2002 census 180 fathers declared that they were homemakers.

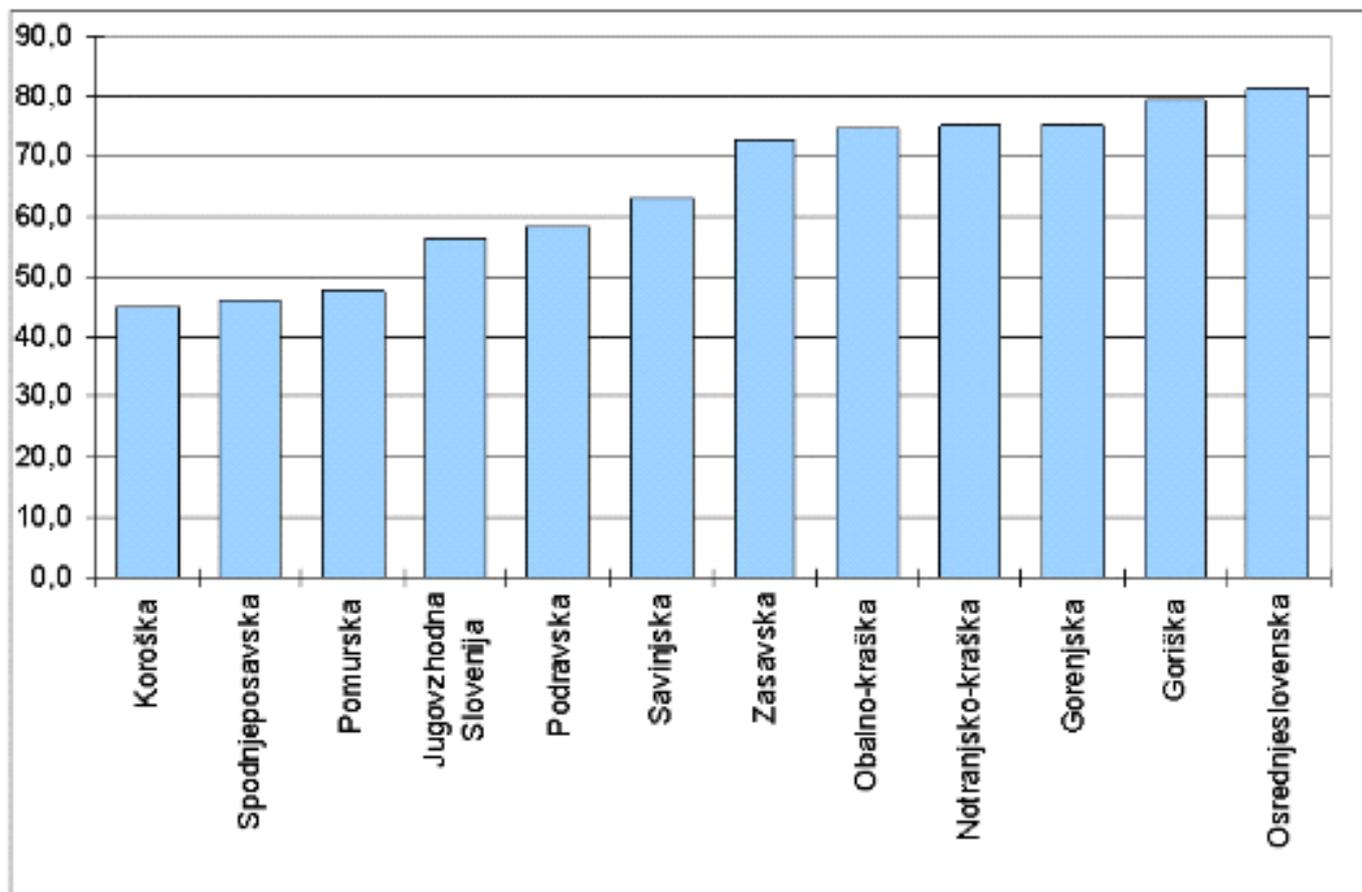
In 2005 the average father was 33 years old when his child was born

Parents of newborns are getting older. In 1985 a father was on average 29 years old (mother 25.5) at childbirth, ten years later he was two years older (31.0) and in 2005 he was 33. On average, fathers are just over three years older than mothers. Two thirds of fathers of children born in 2005 were 30 to 40 years old. Very few fathers were younger than 25 (only 7%).

Fathers at birth

Ever more fathers decide to be present at birth. According to the Institute of Public Health, their share increased from 9.2% in 1991 to 68.3% in 2005. However, as regards the presence of fathers at birth there are substantial differences among regions. In Osrednjeslovenska and Goriška regions only two out of ten mothers give birth without fathers being present while in Koroška, Pomurska and Spodnjeposavska regions the share is a half.

Chart 1. Percentage of fathers present at birth, statistical regions, 2005



Source

Institute of Public Health, 2005

Paternal leave is used by almost two thirds of fathers

In Slovenia fathers have been able to use paternal leave since 2003. Paternal leave was introduced gradually; its full duration of 90 days was implemented in January 2005. Fathers can use this leave until their children are eight years old, of which 15 days have to be used during the mothers' maternity leave. Every year about two thirds of fathers decide to participate in early childcare with their spouses/partners. The shares of fathers using paternity leave are the lowest in North-eastern Slovenia and the highest where fertility is relatively high. This probably means that in the environments in which more fathers decide to participate in early childcare more partners decide to have second or third children.

In 2005, 7.3% of children from divorced marriages were assigned to fathers

Among married couples that divorced, slightly less than 60% have underage or dependent children. Most of the children are assigned to mothers but ever more children are assigned to both parents. In 2005 almost 11% of dependent children from divorced marriages were given to both fathers and mothers and 7.3% were given to fathers alone.

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