

# STATE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FATHERS

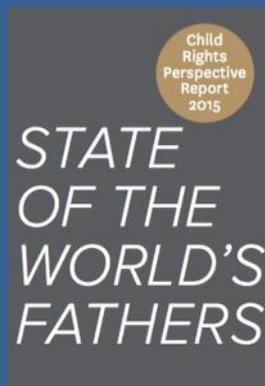
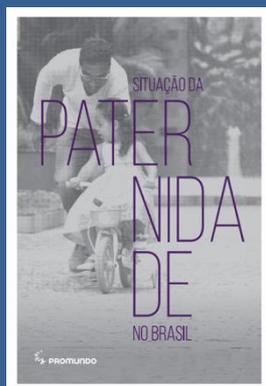
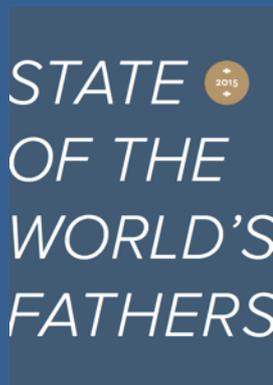
2018

SONKE GENDER  
JUSTICE

HUMAN SCIENCES  
RESEARCH COUNCIL

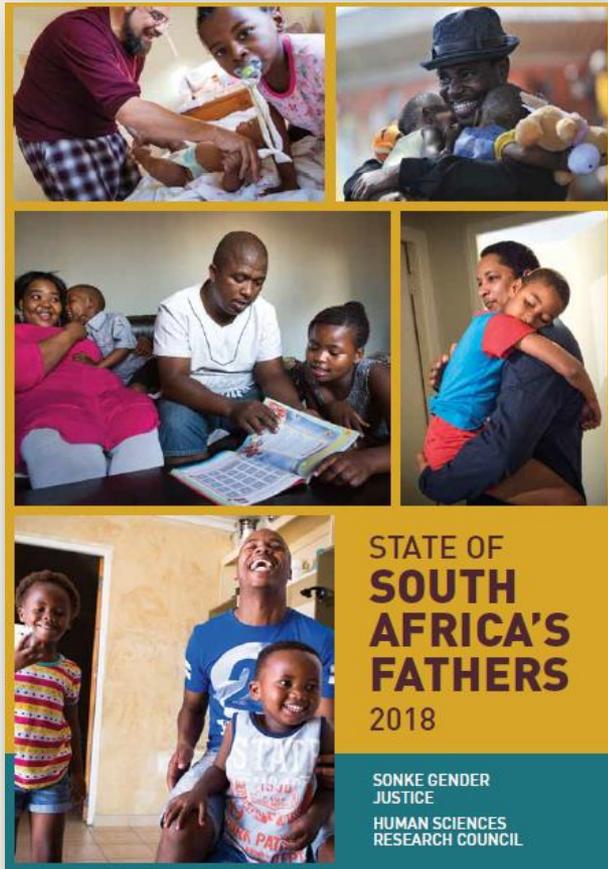
Eric Miller

# First ever State of the World's Fathers 2015



- Analyzed global research on **why** men's participation as fathers and caregivers matters
- For **women, children, men themselves and societies**
- Affirmed that **we do not adequately measure** men's participation in caregiving
- Contributed to new paternity and parental leave policies and bills in 3 countries

# Goals of State of South Africa's Fathers report 2018



- A facilitator of a broader narrative on fatherhood in SA.
- An advocacy document, to improve policies and programmes that support father's involvement.
- **To track parents' use of parental leave**

- Absent Fathers = biological father that is not residing with children.
- Fatherhood is about much more than the presence of a biological father in a household.

- Absent Fathers = biological father that is not residing with children.
- Fatherhood is about much more than the presence of a biological father in a household.
- How involved are non resident fathers?
- How involved are social fathers?

- Absent Fathers
- Non-resident and co-resident fathers
- Social Fatherhood
- Father Involvement
- Providership
- Care

## KEY TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

### ABSENT FATHERS

This term is used to refer to a father that is neither physically living in the same household as his child, nor involved in the child's life. While it is often used in writings about fatherhood to refer to the absence of a biological father in the household where the child lives, it can also refer to a non-biological or social father being absent.

### RESIDENCY

Residency status of fathers refers to whether the child and father live in the same household, or not.

### CO-RESIDENT FATHERS

Statistics South Africa regards a father as co-resident when he sleeps in the same household for four or more days per week. This definition is used to estimate co-residency of a biological father with his child.

### NON-RESIDENT FATHERS

Non-resident fathers is counted by Statistics South Africa when a father is away from home for four or more days per week. Non-resident fathers may still be involved in a child's life.

### SOCIAL FATHERHOOD

A social father is a person that takes on the responsibility and role of being a father to a child, but who is not the biological male parent of the child. The status of fatherhood is therefore a social status rather than a biological one, and may be actively sought by and/or ascribed to the person by their family or community. One person could be a biological father to one child and a social father to another.

### FATHER INVOLVEMENT

Involvement is used as an overarching term for several categories of interaction between fathers and children that include – but are not limited to – emotional support, communication, financial support and caregiving.

### PROVIDER

Being a provider includes the important provision of financial support for a child's wellbeing and health such as providing for food, clothing, housing and education. This notion of 'being a provider' also extends further to include other resources such as the attentive time together, care work, educational support, and emotional support.

### CARE

The word 'care' is used in several ways in this report: 'caring about' refers to paying attention to feelings of affection and concern about another, 'caring for' refers to taking responsibility for the wellbeing of another, and 'caregiving' refers to the competent engagement in physical care work such as feeding or washing.

### ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S VOICES IN THIS REPORT

*Fathers in Africa is a non-profit company championing the role of responsible fatherhood and challenging the traditional "man box" approach to socialising young boys.*

*Much of the research on fatherhood in South Africa has excluded the voices of children, but Fathers in Africa's national essay contest, annually since 2013, aims to hear those important voices.*

*The essay subject – "What my father means to me" – evokes an emotional response in every child, regardless of their circumstances. Every year the cries from the hearts of 1,000s of children are heard as they verbalise (through written word) their feelings, sometimes very articulately, and most times with absolute raw honesty. Some of these essays are published in this report. For more information, see [www.fathers.co.za](http://www.fathers.co.za).*

# What percentage of men are fathers?

About 53% of the total adult male population aged 18 – 59 years (17,527,315).

**Just over half of the number of adult men in the country are likely to be biological fathers.**



*Time to Care  
Wessel is the father of two children. Here he is changing his son's first diaper of the day, while his daughter plays along. This picture was taken during the month of paid paternity leave that he took as an*

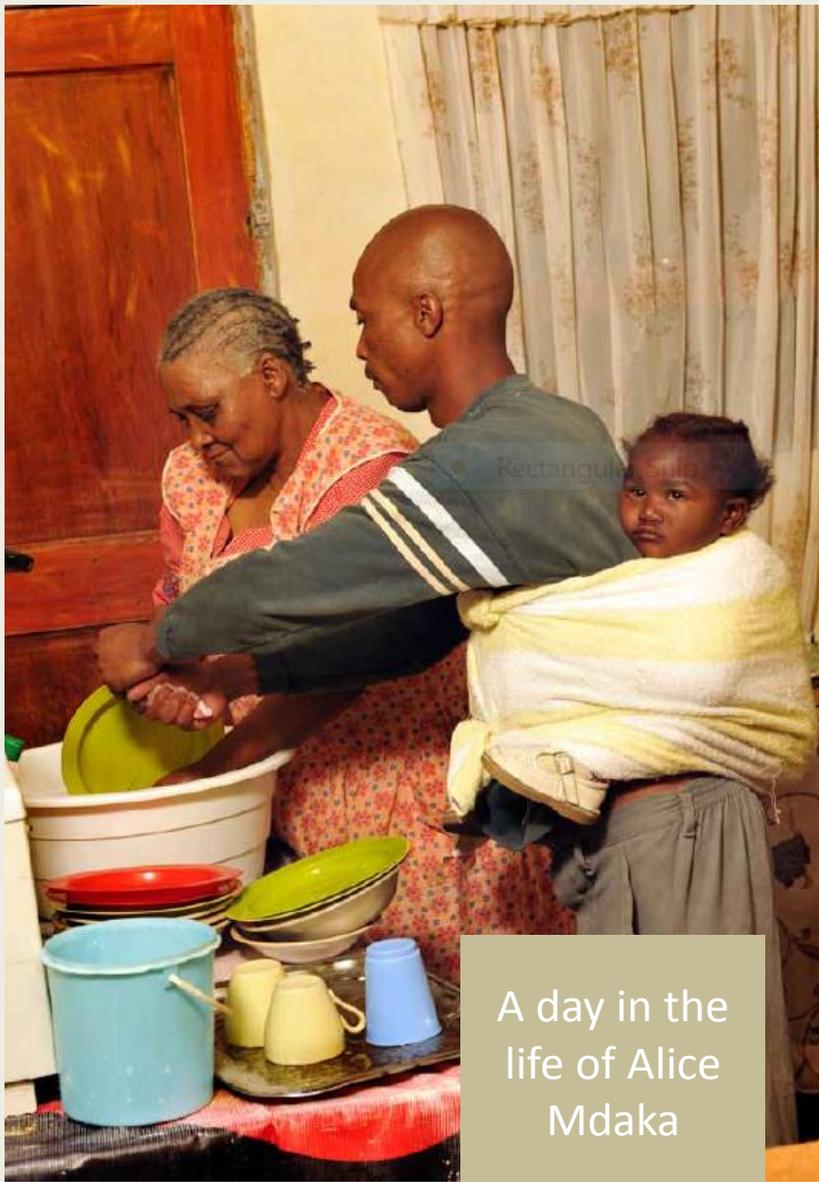
# Policy timeline for Fatherhood in South Africa

## KEY MOMENTS FROM RECENT POLICY AND LAW DEVELOPMENTS THAT AFFECT FAMILIES AND FATHERHOOD

1994	First democratic elections of South Africa
1996	Constitution of the Republic of South Africa
1998	Maintenance Act 99 of 1998
1997	Basic Conditions of Employment Act 75 of 1997 (maternity leave)
1998	Recognition of Customary Marriages Act 120 of 1998 Domestic Violence Act 116 of 1998
2001	Draft National Policy Framework for Families
2005	Children's Act 38 of 2005
2006	Civil Union Act 17 of 2006 (legal recognition for same-sex couples)
2007	Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007
2012	White Paper on Families in South Africa
2015	National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy
2018	Labour Laws Amendment Bill (parental leave provisions)

**“The father as patriarch has long been a respected figure in southern African society. Over the years, socio-cultural and, later, political changes have undermined the authority of African men and their status within the family.” (Lesejane, 2006).**

**Fatherhood was a position that was connected to, and dependent on, other kin members, and not a position that an individual would usurp through use of power.**



A day in the  
life of Alice  
Mdaka

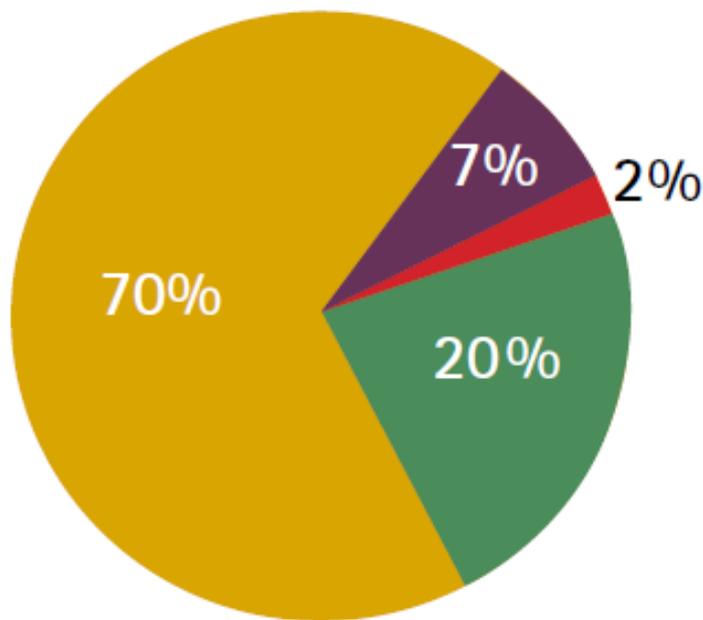
Grandmother Alice Mdaka, supports the ten people living in her small three bedroom Khayelitsha township house on her monthly R1200 pension.

This is supplemented by an additional R400 monthly she earns by selling items she knits, and another R400 contribution from her daughter who receives a state medical grant.

The entire family subsists on this total R2000 monthly. (2009)

# Children's residency by household

Fig. 3 Children's residency in different household types, 2016



## TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD

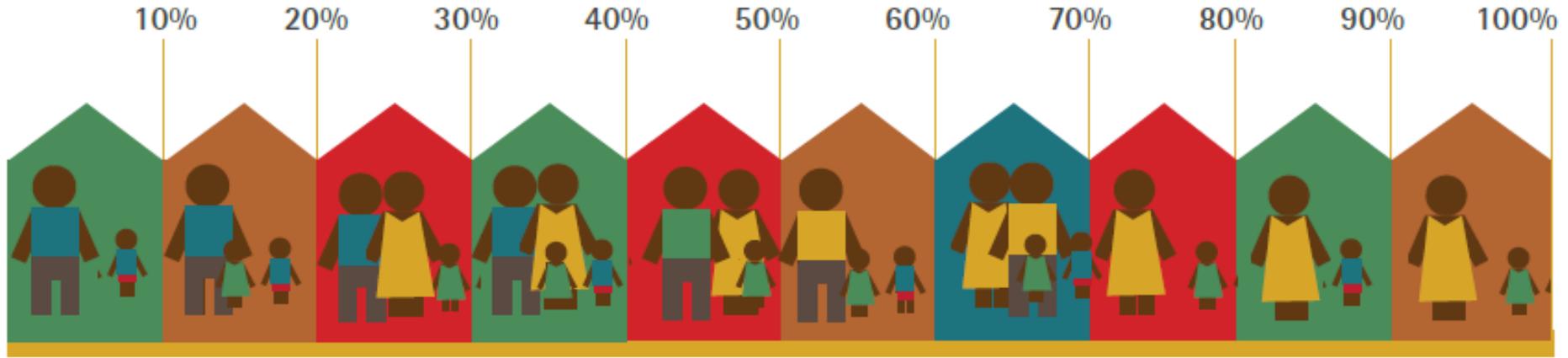
## OCCUPANTS

Childed couple	Only parents and children, interpreted as nuclear family.
Lone parent	Only single parent and children.
Extended household	Parents, children and other members
Composite	At least one person not related to the household head

Source: Statistics South Africa (2017) General Household Survey 2016/ Pretoria. Stats. SA. [Analysis by Debbie Budlender]

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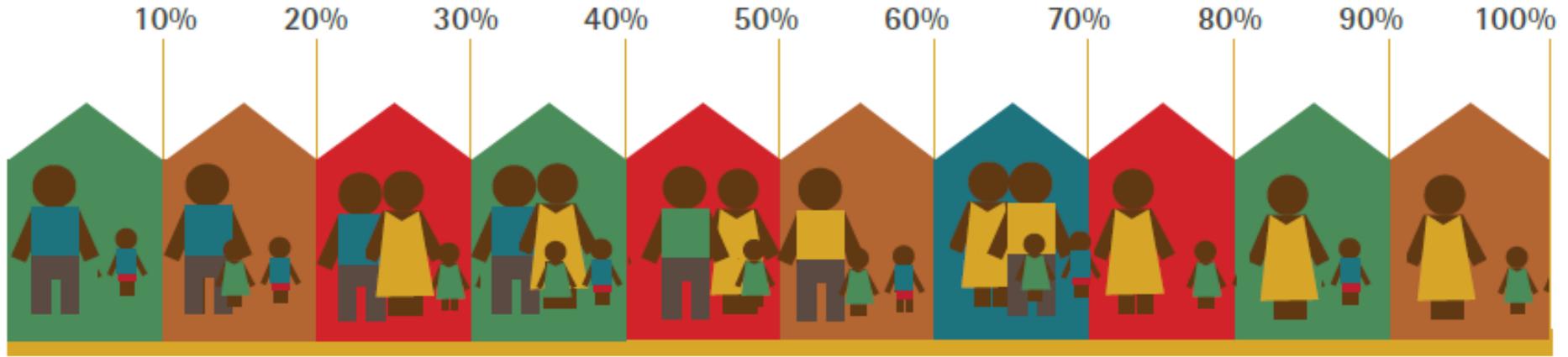
Fig.1 Social fathering: children's co-residence with biological fathers and other adult man



**36%** live with their biological father in the same household

Source: Statistics South Africa (2017) General Household Survey 2016. Pretoria: Stats. SA. [Analysis by Debbie Budlender]

Fig.1 Social fathering: children's co-residence with biological fathers and other adult man



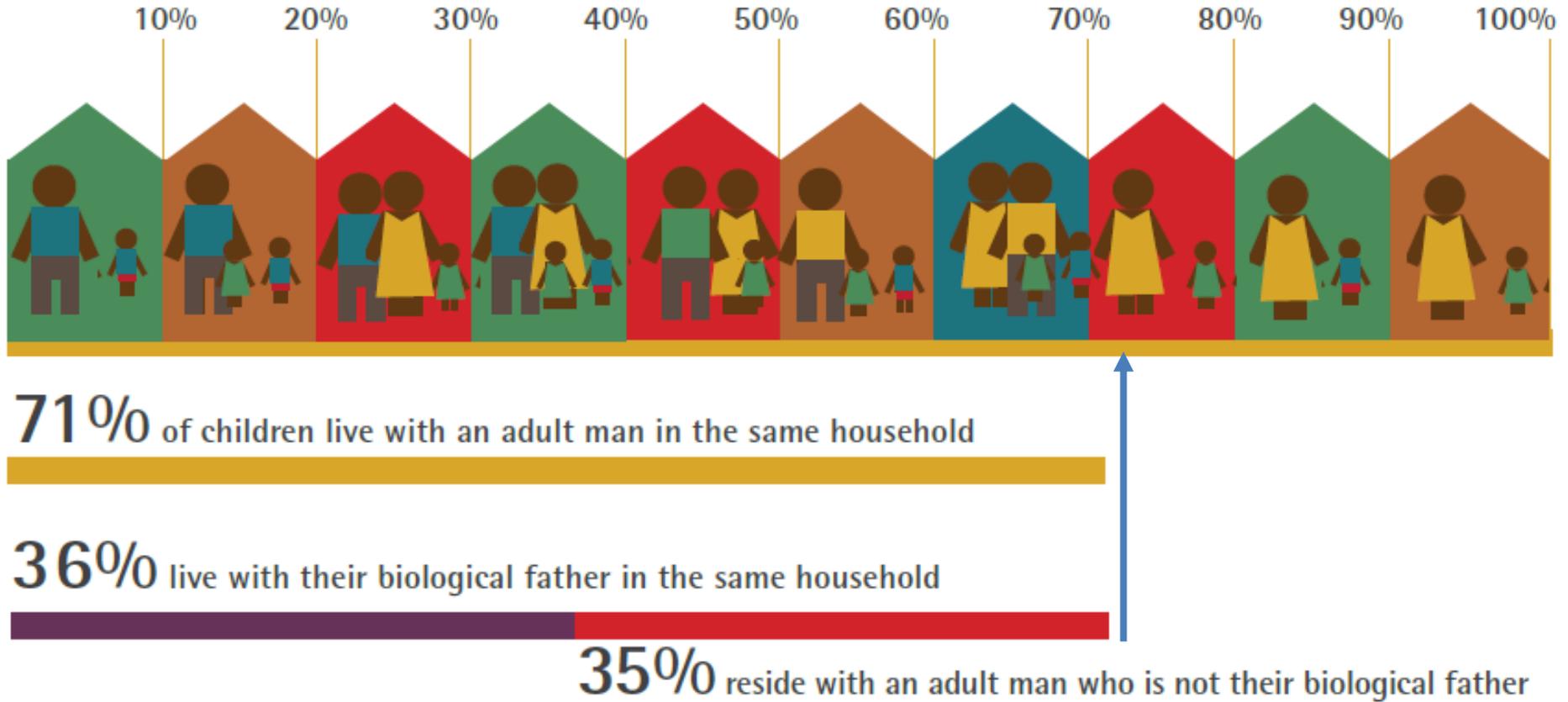
**36%** live with their biological father in the same household



**35%** reside with an adult man who is not their biological father

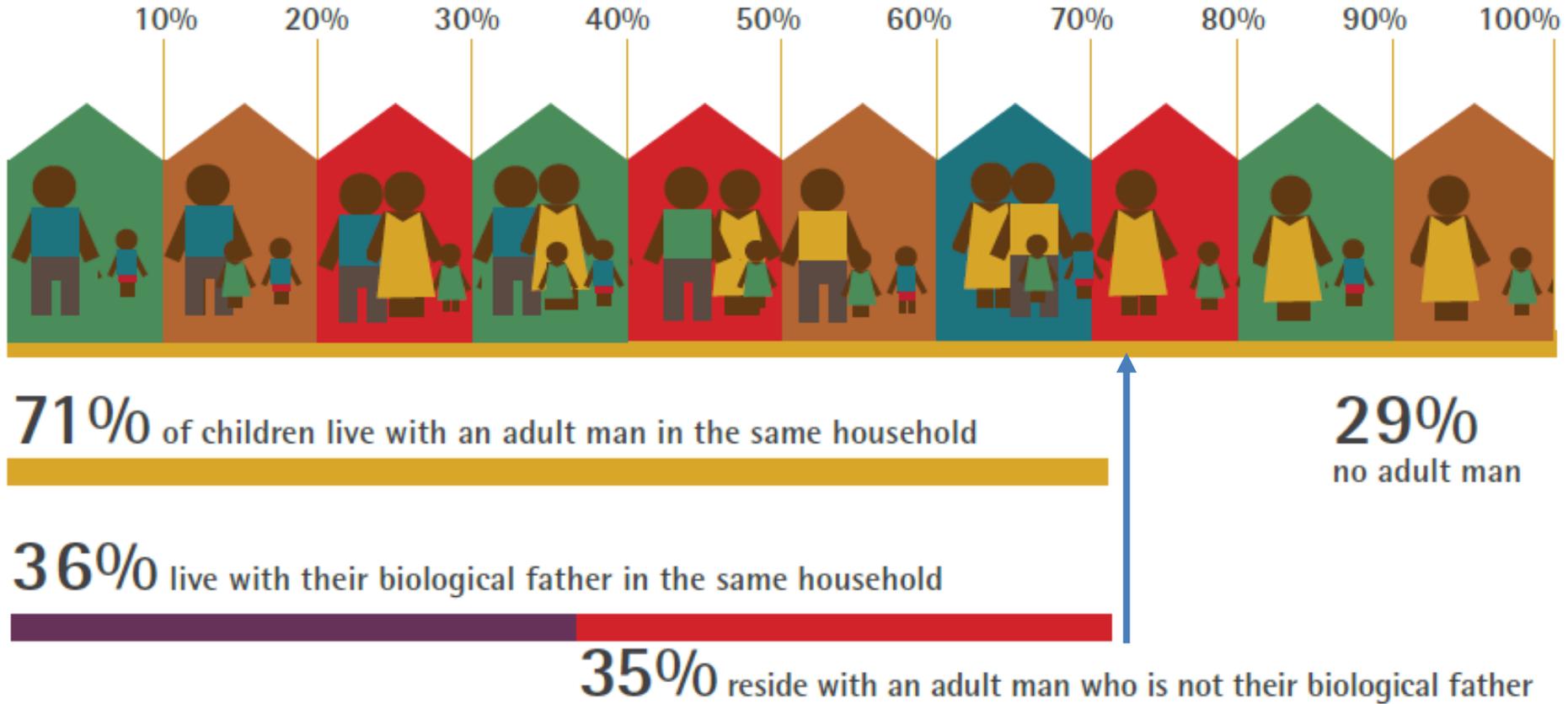
Source: Statistics South Africa (2017) General Household Survey 2016. Pretoria: Stats. SA. [Analysis by Debbie Budlender]

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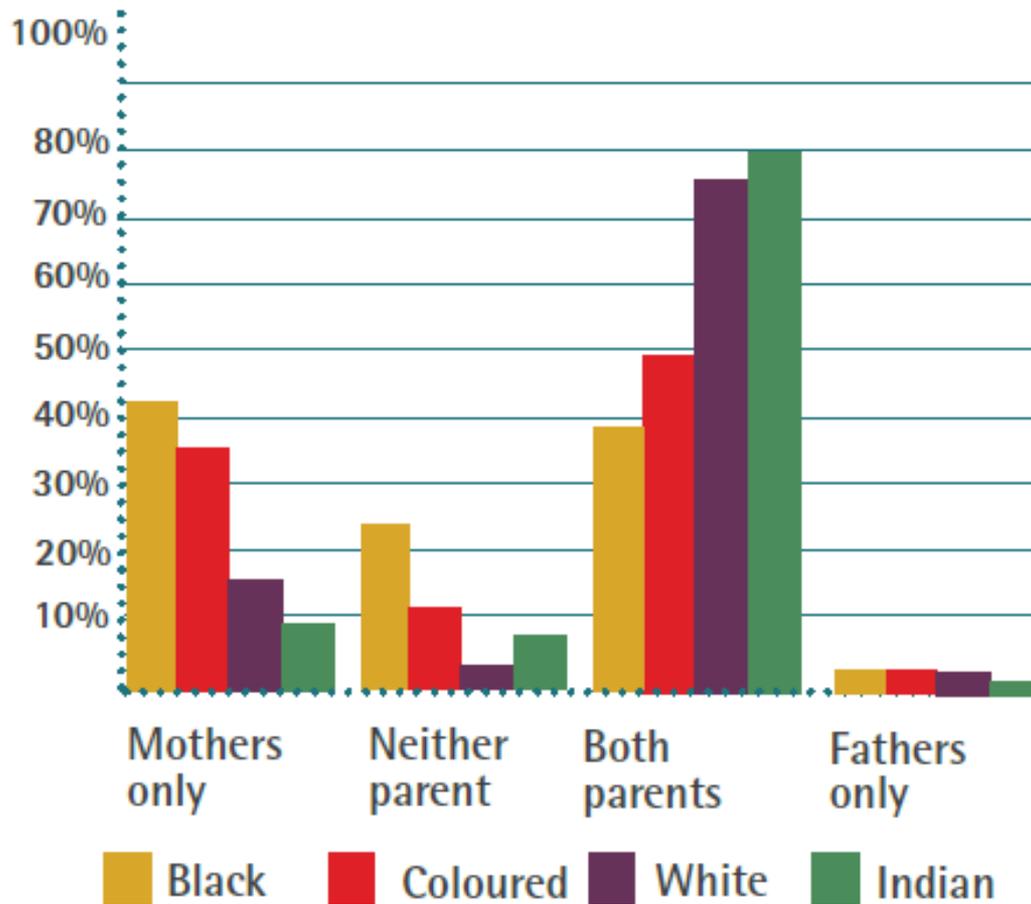
# The role of BoMalome (Social father)

- *Bomalome as guardians*
- *Bomalome as nurturers*
- *Bomalome as links to family lineage*
- *Bomalome as more than financial providers*

I would say my uncle is the one person I can talk to and discuss important matters about us men you know; we are very close like that.

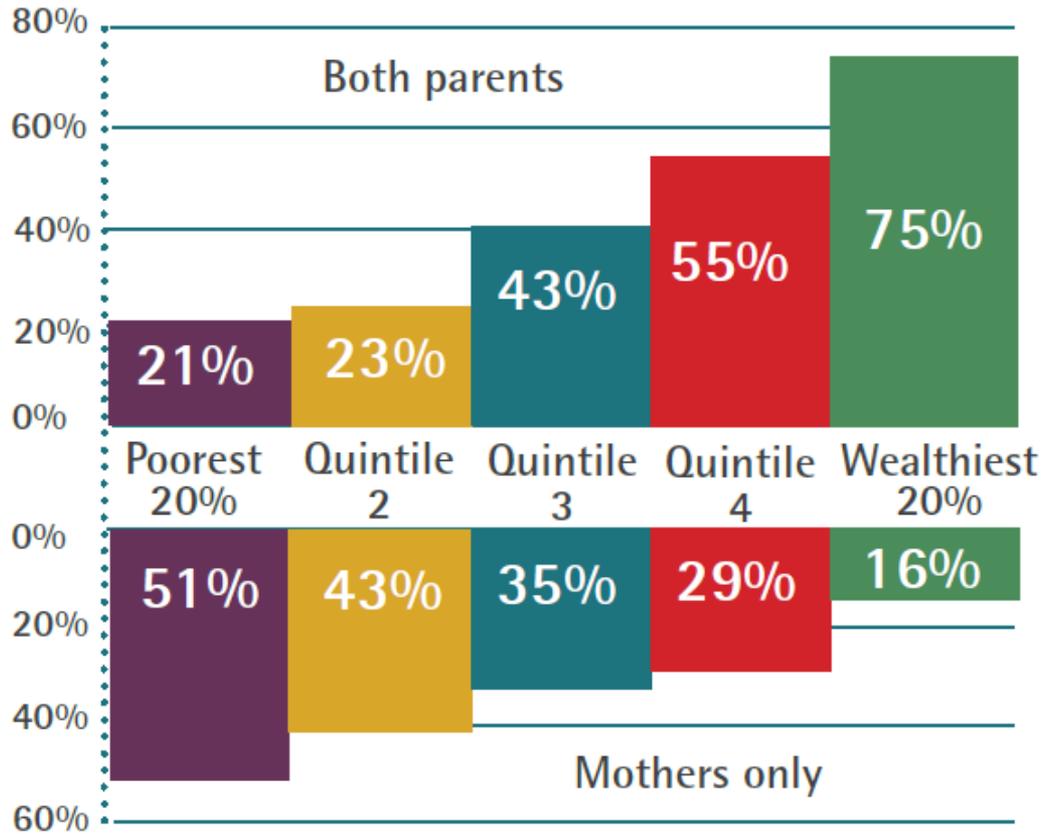
(Male participant)

Fig. 7 Children's co-residence by race, 2016



Source: Statistics South Africa (2017) General Household Survey 2016. Pretoria: Stats SA. [Analysis by Debbie Budlender]

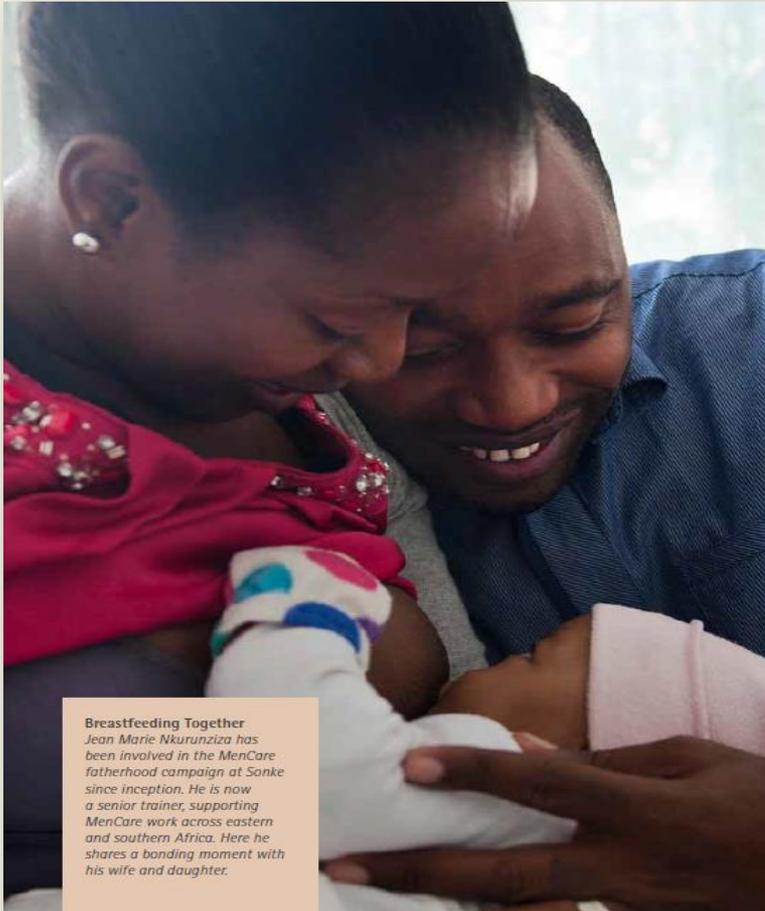
Fig. 8 Children's co-residence by income, 2016



Source: Statistics South Africa (2017) General Household Survey 2016. Pretoria: Stats SA. [Analysis by Debbie Budlender]

# Case Study

## Fatherhood in the first 1000 days



**Breastfeeding Together**  
Jean Marie Nkurunziza has been involved in the MenCare fatherhood campaign at Sonke since inception. He is now a senior trainer, supporting MenCare work across eastern and southern Africa. Here he shares a bonding moment with his wife and daughter.

Fathers in this study who were present at the birth, and who supported the mother financially during pregnancy, were significantly more involved in caring for the infant during the first year of life

# Fatherhood in the first 1000 days

Fig. 11 The benefits of fathers' involvement in the first 1,000 days

1

Healthy pregnancy



2

Maternal mental health and wellbeing



3

Infant care and wellbeing



4

Bonding between father and child



5

Better relationship between mother and father



6

Mothers access health services more



7

Fathers are healthier and more connected socially



8

Long term involvement between father and child



# Men and the Child Support Grant

- **Men don't use the CSG any differently**
- When men receive the CSG, their households are not more likely to spend money on alcohol, tobacco and gambling compared to households where women receive the CSG.
- **The education level and emotional health of caregivers**, as well as the **province of residence**, are more influential than the gender of the caregiver in determining household spending on these items.

# Labour Laws Amendment Bill:

- Maternity leave remains, with slight increase in maximum allocation to 66% of standard leave for parents.
- Paid Parental leave of 10 days for parents that do not qualify for maternity leave. The largest group of parents that fall in this category are fathers, so in effect we will now have paternity leave available.



# Labour Laws Amendment Bill:

- Language Gender neutral i.e. 'parental leave'. Allows for all genders and sexual orientations.
- Adoption leave of 10 weeks for adoptive parents and parents who commission a surrogacy, from the day of placement.



## RECOMMENDED LEAVE STRUCTURE

Type of Leave	Parent 1	Parent 2	Structure	UIF
Peri-natal leave	10 working days	10 working days	Minimum of 10 working days before and maximum of 10 working days after the birth or placement of the child	100% of salary claimed
Parental leave	6 months not shared	6 months not shared	Within the first 3 years of the child's life or from placement, Up to 1 month prior to the birth of child in the case of pregnancy;	75% of the salary claimed by both parents

# Policy implementation suggestions

1. Enact parental leave provisions, and track parents' use of leave.
2. Continue and expand men's use of CSG.
3. Link maintenance system and family plan for separating couples better, to offer more options than money.
4. Improve health facility norms and standards to support men's involvement in maternal and infant health.

# Resources for FBO's



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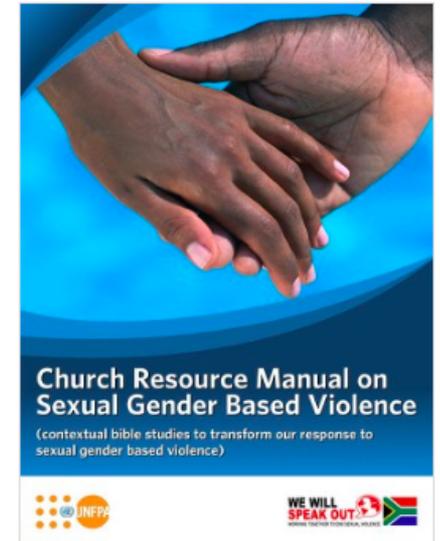
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## Church Resource Manual on Sexual Gender Based Violence

**Contextual bible studies to transform our response to sexual gender based violence**

19 JAN 18 **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, RELIGION & CULTURE**

This book has different Bible studies, chosen by individuals who have worked on contextual Bible studies and are aware of the issues of sexual violence and gender justice that churches are grappling with in 21st Century South Africa. A self-discovery tool helps you identify which areas you may benefit from addressing first. If you score low in a particular area during the self-discovery, you can then use the relevant Bible study to look at this issue in more detail. The Bible studies follow a clear layout. You may wish to photocopy the self-discovery pages and Bible study pages to give to others in the group.



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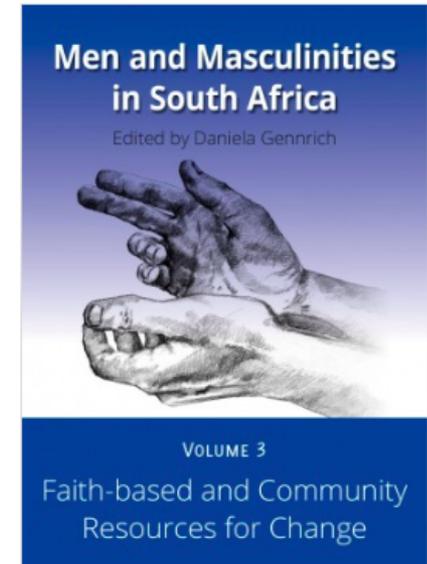
# Men and Masculinities in South Africa – Volume 3

## Faith-based and Community Resources for Change

5 MAY 13 **RELIGION & CULTURE**

**Gennrich, D. (2013). *Men and Masculinities in South Africa Volume 3: Faith-based and Community Resources for Change*. PACSA and Sonke Gender Justice: South Africa.**

Almost twenty years into South Africa's democratic era, the process of transformation to social justice has only just begun. The Bill of Rights in our celebrated Constitution includes gender rights as an essential part of our shared vision for racial, class and gender equality and justice. And yet, prejudice and violence against women, children and sexual minorities continue. Male domination persists in society, and many doctrines and practices of churches reinforce the patriarchal tradition. But there are also signs of hope: the numbers of women in leadership positions are increasing; many organisations are working for gender justice; gender-based violence has become a national concern; and there is evidence that attitudes are slowly changing.

[DOWNLOAD PDF](#)

**Bongani and Sindiso**  
*These two featured in the HSRC Fatherhood Project: between 2005 to 2007. This image was used in the promotion of the MenCare Global Fatherhood campaign. Sadly, after the photoshoot, Bongani separated from his family, and did not remain involved in fatherhood.*



# Thank you

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