

Bill as Introduced

HB 380 - AS INTRODUCED

2011 SESSION

11-0451

05/09

HOUSE BILL **380**

AN ACT exempting the commission on the status of men from repeal on June 30, 2011 and adding a duty to the commission.

SPONSORS: Rep. W. Smith, Rock 18; Rep. Nevins, Rock 15; Rep. Sapareto, Rock 5; Rep. L. Perkins, Rock 14; Rep. Oligny, Rock 8

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill exempts the commission on the status of men from repeal on June 30, 2011 and directs the commission to examine the social and economic consequences of the absence of fathers from the home.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through~~].
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Eleven

AN ACT exempting the commission on the status of men from repeal on June 30, 2011 and adding a duty to the commission.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

- 1 1 Commission on the Status of Men; Reinstatement. Pursuant to 2009, 144:87, I(a), the
2 commission on the status of men, established in RSA 19-I, is hereby reinstated.
- 3 2 New Paragraph; Duties of the Commission on the Status of Men. Amend RSA 19-I:4 by
4 inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:
- 5 IV. Identifying the economic and social costs of the absence of fathers from the home and the
6 steps the state can take to reduce those costs. The commission shall make an interim report of its
7 findings and recommendations regarding this issue to the governor and council, the commissioner of
8 administration services, the president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representative
9 on or before October 1, 2011.
- 10 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Speakers

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 380

BILL TITLE: exempting the commission on the status of men from repeal on June 30, 2011 and adding a duty to the commission.

DATE: 2/8/11

LOB ROOM: 306 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 1:05 pm

Time Adjourned: 2:00 pm

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. McGuire, Hawkins, Sytek, Day, Gould, Pratt, Vita, Perkins, Winter, Bowers, Whitehead, Hansen, Proulx, P. Schmidt, Pilotte, Jeudy and Sullivan.

Bill Sponsors: Rep. W. Smith, Rock 18; Rep. Nevins, Rock 15; Rep. Sapareto, Rock 5; Rep. L. Perkins, Rock 14; Rep. Oligny, Rock 8

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Will Smith – Introduction

Rep. Smith _____ area – Help _____ 63% from fatherless homes – 80% incarcerated use – no father. What should the state do?

Rep. Whitehead – Would it not be more appropriate – make youths _____

Rep. Smith – Motivated by continuity

Rep. Bowers – What has committee done so far?

Rep. Smith – Many bills have been introduced to the committee

Rep. Pilotte – Status – Absence of father or absence of biological father

Rep. Jeudy – How many committee members

Rep. Smith – 2002- 6 members of comm..

Chris Evans – Without a father at home – 40% budget – out of that 70% - no father

Rep. L. Perkins – ~~Chris~~ has tried to approach Attorney General's office.
Preschool children didn't have father in the home almost 100%

This committee has no authority - just volunteers

Rep. Perkins – AG office and legislative law

Greg Brede – G.A.L. CSM

Rep. Gould – Expire

Greg Brede – Current Session

Rep. Sapareto – Strongly supports CSM (Commission of Status of Men)

Mike Geanoulis – Legislation that can decrease father involvement

*Fatherhood Initiative (pg. 11 sums it up)

HB 2 -1009 (Com Com – Committee on Committees)

*Could operate outside the city on its own

Wants a study on domestic violence on men

Scott Meyer – Costs – Speakers/Advertising – 1st commission in nation – Another 1st for New Hampshire?

Respectfully submitted,



Carol M. Vita, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 380

BILL TITLE: exempting the commission on the status of men from repeal on June 30, 2011 and adding a duty to the commission.

DATE: 2/8/11

LOB ROOM: 306

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 105

Time Adjourned: 2PM

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. McGuire, Hawkins, Syter, Day, Gould, Pratt, Vita, Perkins, Winter, Bowers, P. Brown, Hansen, Proulx, P. Schmidt, Pilotte, Jeudy and Sullivan.

R. WHITEHEAD

Bill Sponsors: Rep. W. Smith, Rock 18; Rep. Nevins, Rock 15; Rep. Sapareto, Rock 5; Rep. L. Perkins, Rock 14; Rep. Oligny, Rock 8

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep Will Smith - INTRODUCTION

* Rep CHRIS EVANS

Rep L. PERKINS

* Greg Breda

Rep Sapareto - Ways & Means

* MIKE GEANOUSS - COMMISSION ON STATUS OF MEN

SCOTT METZ, PHD (COSM)

mid Area - ^{suicides} Help 63% from Fatherless Homes
80% incarcerated use - no father
What should the state do?

Rep Whitehead would it not be more appropriate
make youths

W. Smith - motivated by continuity -

Bowers What has comm. done so far

Smith Many bills have been introduced to the ~~legislature~~
Committee

Rep. PILEATE STATUS - ABSENCE of Father or absence of
BIOLOGICAL FATHER

Rep. Jeech How many comm. the members

~~Rep. Smith~~ 2002 - 6 members of comm.

CHRIS EVANS - Without a father at home -

40% - budget - out of that 70% - no father

Rep. Day

~~Rep. ... SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM~~

Rep. L. Perkins - Community has tried to approach A.G. office -

DATE N. Orleans - Pre school children didn't have
father in the home - almost 100%

This committee has no authority - just volunteers

Rep Perkins - A.G. office + legislative law

Greg Breda - G.A. CSM -

Rep Gouard - EXPIRE?

G Breda - CURRENT SESSION

Rep Day

⊛ Commission of Status of Men

Rep Zanone - Strongly supports CSM
MIKE ~~⊛~~ - Legislation that can decrease father ~~involvement~~
BEARDULLS involvement

Fatherhood
* Fatherhood Initiative (pg 11 runs it up)

HB 2-1009 (Com com - Committee or committees)

Member, ⊛ Would operate outside the city on it's own

Wants a study on domestic violence on men
(DOGS DADA OF GREAT STUDENTS)

SCOTT MEYER COSTS - SPEAKERS / ADVERTISING

1ST COMMISSION IN NATION - Another 2ND for NH?

Testimony

Scott Maym PH.D

**David Lauren
Attorney at Law
20 Gates Road, Unit 24
Marlborough, NH 03455
603-876-3560**

February 8, 2011

State Representative Carol McGuire
Chair - Executive Depts. and Administration
State House
Concord, NH

RE: HB 380

Dear Chair McGuire and Members of the Committee:

As Chair of the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men, I am writing to urge your strong support of HB 380. In my years as a member of the Commission, I have come to recognize the many benefits it provides to everyone in the State by virtue of its concentration on issues that have broad impact for all men in the State. Please accept my apology for not being here in person but my work as an attorney precludes me from attending.

The Commission has addressed topics ranging from educational issues that negatively impact boys and young men, to health issues affecting men, including the high incidence of male suicide. The Commission has also played a leading role in bringing attention to the negative impact that a lack of a strong father-figure has on young boys, as well as the overall negative financial impact such a lack means to the State.

The Commission on the Status of Men is proud to say that we recently welcomed our first female member. Elaine Holden, an educator, reading specialist, and owner of her own business, has clearly articulated the issues that boys face in the educational system. The fact that more boys drop out of school, and, according to recent statistics, fewer boys are now at the University of New Hampshire than girls, clearly demonstrates that there are many issues affecting boys and men that must be addressed.

The Commission on the Status of Men addresses those issues. **We do it without any State funding.** We rely on private donations to further our efforts. We have produced regular reports on our work. We have invited guests to address the Commission - guests ranging from the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, to representatives from the New Hampshire Dept. of Health and Human Services.

I respectfully urge this Honorable Committee to report HB 380 to the floor of the house with a recommendation of "Ought to Pass."

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
David Lauren, Esq.

*Mike
Plano US*

the costs of father absence

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Steven L. Nock

Steven Nock passed away on January 20, 2008, shortly after completing this report. He was a Commonwealth Professor, Professor of Sociology, and Director of the Marriage Matters project at the University of Virginia. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1976.

Mr. Nock authored books and articles about the causes and consequences of change in the American family. He has investigated issues of privacy, unmarried fatherhood, cohabitation, commitment, divorce, and marriage. His most recent book, *Marriage in Men's Lives*, won the William J. Good Book Award from the American Sociological Association for the most outstanding contribution to family scholarship in 1999.

He focused on the intersection of social science and public policy concerning households and families in America.

Mr. Nock taught courses on the family at the introductory and advanced undergraduate, and advanced graduate levels. He won the 1991-1992 All-University Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

His latest research was the Marriage Matters project, which examines the legal innovation known as Covenant Marriage in Louisiana, Arizona, and Arkansas.

This report is dedicated to the memory of Steven L. Nock

Christopher J. Einolf

Chris Einolf received a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Virginia in 2006. In addition to sociology of the family, Dr. Einolf studies charitable giving and volunteering. In the fall of 2008, he will begin a position as Assistant Professor in the School of Public Service at DePaul University.

About National Fatherhood Initiative

National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), founded in 1994, works in every sector and at every level of society to engage fathers in the lives of their children. NFI is one of the leading producers of research on the causes and consequences of father absence, public opinion on family issues, and trends in family structure and marriage. NFI's flagship research publication, *Father Facts*, is the leading source of fatherhood information and statistics for the press, public policy experts, and government officials. NFI's *Pop's Culture: A National Survey of Dads' Attitudes on Fathering* and *With This Ring: A National Survey on Marriage in America* are two of the most comprehensive national surveys that have been published in recent years on American attitudes towards fatherhood and marriage. NFI's national public service advertising campaign promoting father involvement has generated television, radio, print, Internet, and outdoor advertising valued at over \$500 million. Through its resource center, FatherSOURCE™, NFI offers a wide range of innovative resources to assist fathers and organizations interested in reaching and supporting fathers. Through its "three-e" strategy of educating, equipping, and engaging, NFI works with businesses, prisons, churches, schools, community-based organizations, hospitals, and military installations to connect organizations and fathers with the resources they need to ensure that all children receive the love, nurture, and guidance of involved, responsible, and committed fathers.

This study, the first of its kind, provides an estimate of the taxpayer costs of father absence. More precisely, it estimates the annual expenditures made by the federal government to support father-absent homes. These federal expenditures include those made on thirteen means-tested antipoverty programs and child support enforcement, and the total expenditures add up to a startling \$99.8 billion.

1 Father absence has risen greatly in the last four decades.

Between 1960 and 2006, the number of children living in single-mother families went from 8 percent to 23.3 percent, and 34 percent of children currently live absent their biological father.

2 Father absence contributes to family poverty.

In 2003, 39.3 percent of single-mother families lived in poverty, but only 8.8 percent of father-present families lived in poverty. Some, but not all, of the poverty of single-mother families is a result of father absence.

- This is the first study to date* to estimate the cost of father absence to U.S. taxpayers via federal expenditures on programs to assist single-mother families.

* To the best of the authors' knowledge as of June, 2008.

3 The Federal Government spent at least \$99.8 billion providing assistance to father-absent families in 2006.

\$99.8 billion is the amount the Federal government spent on thirteen means-tested benefit programs and on child support enforcement for single mothers. These programs include the Earned Income Tax Credit, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), child support enforcement, food and nutrition programs, housing programs, Medicaid, and the State Children's Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP).

4 The \$99.8 billion cost is a conservative estimate, as it leaves out 3 significant, but hard to measure, sources of costs:

- Federal benefits programs that benefit whole communities, or that benefit individuals regardless of income.
- Indirect costs related to the poor outcomes of children of single-mother families, such as greater use of mental and physical health services, and a higher rate of involvement in the juvenile justice system.
- Long-term costs in reduced tax income due to the lower earnings of children of single-parent families, and long-term costs due to the higher incarceration of children of single-parent families.

5 Because single mothers differ from married mothers in a number of ways that contribute to poverty,

it is difficult to determine how much of the \$99.8 billion in expenditures is a *direct* consequence of father absence versus a consequence of the other factors that contribute to the poverty of single-mother homes. However, since father absence has become so widespread and there are \$99.8 billion worth of *direct* costs to taxpayers associated with it, policymakers should devote more attention to reducing father absence.

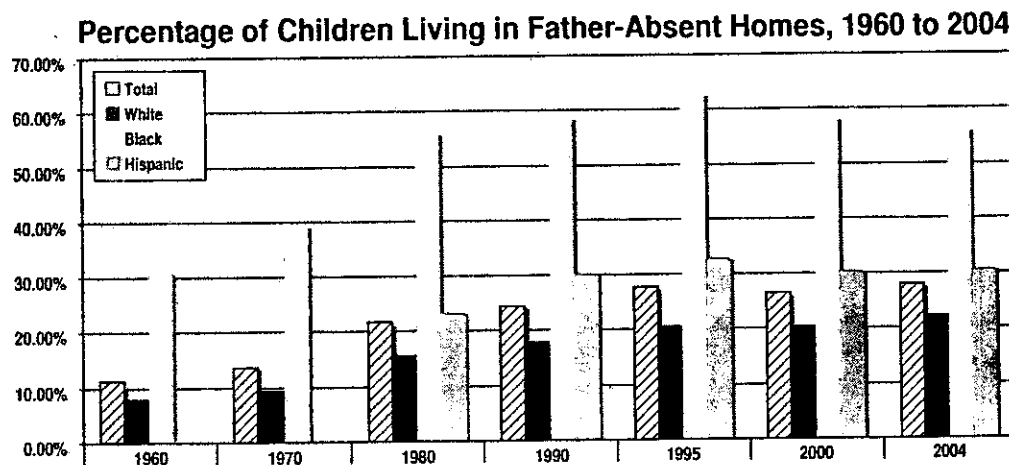
Further research is needed to more thoroughly calculate both the direct and indirect costs (such as increased use of mental health services and higher incarceration rates for children from father-absent homes) that result from father absence. These costs may be significant and could be used to better inform policymakers of specific policy recommendations for combating father absence.

Introduction

In 1960, about one in thirteen children in American under age 18 (8.0 percent) lived with his or her mother and no father. In 2006, the fraction was one in four (23.3 percent).¹ Furthermore, 34 percent of children live absent their biological father.² Today, half of all children³, and 80 percent of African American children, can expect to spend at least part of their childhood living apart from their fathers.⁴ This dramatic increase in the living arrangements of children is part of a larger demographic revolution that has attracted extensive interest and research. The short story is that in the course of about half a century, many of the foundational patterns of children's living arrangements have been altered. In almost all cases, those changes involve growing impermanence for children, fewer adults, greater chances of poverty, and weak inter-generational connections. A profound change in the order of events in the lives of adults is the primary reason. Adults now marry much later than they did forty years ago, and many forgo marriage in favor of informal, usually temporary cohabiting relationships. The result is predictably high rates of births to single women (currently about 34 percent of births), and births to cohabiting couples, some of whom subsequently marry, some of whom separate. Add these to the high divorce rate in America, and the statistics cited above are much more understandable.⁵

To help place the changing patterns of children's living arrangement in historical perspective, the following graph (Figure 1) shows the percentage of American children (under age 18) living in homes absent a biological, step, or adoptive father. As the chart indicates, the past 40 years has seen a meteoric rise in the overall fraction of children living with a mother only, although it has leveled off in very recent years.⁶

FIGURE 1. Percentage of Children Living in Father-Absent Homes, 1960 to 2004



¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2007, Households and Families, Historical Statistics, Table CH1. <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/ch1.csv>

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2005, The Living Arrangements of Children: 2001. Kreder, Rose, and Fields, Jason.

³ Bumpass, L.L. and J.A. Sweet. "Children's Experience in Single-Parent Families: Implications of Cohabitation and Marital Transitions." *Family Planning Perspectives*, 21 (1989): 256-260.

⁴ "Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1996." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* 46, no. 11, Supplement (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, June 30, 1998); see also, "Turning the Corner on Father Absence in Black America: A Statement from the Morehouse Conference on African-American Families," Atlanta, GA: Morehouse Research Institute & Institute for American Values (June 1999): 4.

⁵ Andrew J. Cherlin, 2005, "American Marriage in the Early Twenty-First Century," *The Future of Children* 15(2):33-55. http://www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/03_FOC_15-2_fa05_Cherlin.pdf.

For a discussion of the changing order of cohabitation, birth, and marriage, see Larry Wu and Kelly Musick, 2007, "Stability of Marital and Cohabiting Unions Following a First Birth," CCPR-019-06, California Center for Population Research, online resource: http://www.ccpr.ucla.edu/ccprwpsseries/ccpr_019_06.pdf.

⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2007, Current Population Reports, Annual Household and Economic Supplements, Table CH-2. <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>.

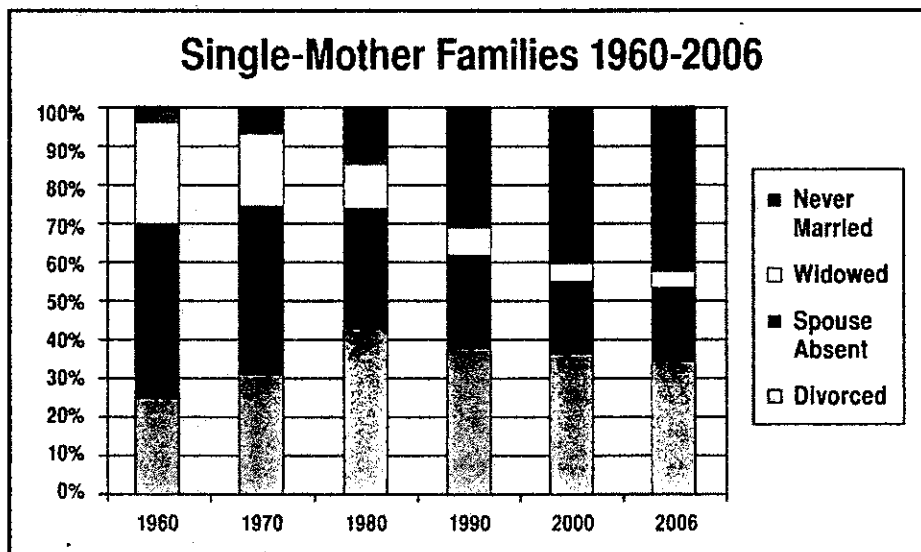
father absence: the causes & costs

Given the changing living arrangements of children, it is not surprising that much concern in recent years has focused on the possible effects of father absence in children's lives. This literature is large and growing. Our objective in this report is to tackle a related topic. We ask, "How much money does father absence cost U.S. taxpayers?"

By "father absence," we refer to families where a biological, adoptive, or stepfather does not live in the same household with his children. Fathers may be either fully or partially absent from family life. Fathers may be fully absent because of their death, their incarceration, or their abandonment of their families. The category of partially absent fathers includes fathers who live in a different household due to divorce or separation. It also includes fathers who were never married to and no longer live with their children's mother, but who maintain some contact with their children. In most respects, therefore, a study of father absence is also a consideration of female-headed families.

The most common reasons for father absence today are divorce, out-of-wedlock births, and incarceration. In the past, widowhood accounted for a greater proportion of father-absent households than today, but currently widows make up only 3.6 percent of female-headed families. The following table (Figure 2) traces the changing composition of mother-headed households in America since 1960.⁷ Most evident is the growth of never-married mother households and the decline in widowed-mother households. Single-mother households with absent husbands are a declining, yet significant fraction of single-mother households. Some such families are formed when a father is incarcerated. In all likelihood, the reason for the single-mother family matters in terms of the associated need for assistance from others. Divorce, for example, may not cause the same level of economic distress as unmarried motherhood, because divorced fathers pay more child-support than never-married fathers.⁸

FIGURE 2. Single-Mother Families 1960-2006



⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2006, Current Population Reports, Table CH-5, "Children Under 18 Years Living With Mother Only, by Marital Status of Mother." <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/in-fam/ch5.csv>.

⁸ Meyer, D., and Judi Bartfield. "Patterns of Child Support Compliance in Wisconsin." *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 60 (May, 1998): 309-318.

The first question is how father absence, *per se*, might have any predictable costs. Beyond the extensive and difficult-to-measure emotional costs that events such as a divorce, a separation, or a series of impermanent relationships involving one or several different men may have for a child's development, we are focused solely on the financial costs. These arise largely as a result of a lack of income to sufficiently provide for a child and mother. The absence of a father often means a loss of his income. As we show later in this report, most scientists who have investigated the implications of family structure (especially single-mother households) have shown that the negative outcomes seen for children from father-absent homes can be attributed primarily, but not exclusively, to the lower average incomes enjoyed by such families.

The effect of father absence on family income is well-documented and strong. In 2003, 39.3 percent of single-mother families lived in poverty, but only 8.8 percent of father-present families lived in poverty.⁹ In 2005, the median household incomes of married couples with children and single-mothers were \$65,906 and \$27,244, respectively.¹⁰

However, since some absent fathers are themselves poor, their presence would not lift all poor single-mother families out of poverty. A series of studies, using advanced statistical methods, have estimated how many families would leave poverty if more fathers were present with their children. Thomas and Sawhill (2002) estimated that 65.4 percent of single-mother families would leave poverty if marriage



rates returned to 1971 levels. Sigle-Rushton and McLanahan (2002) estimated that 46.5 percent of unwed single mothers would leave poverty if they were married to the father of their children. Thus, while the exact number of single-mother families that would leave poverty is unknown, the best available studies suggest that a large percentage would no longer be living in poverty if the father of their children were present and contributing his income to the household budget.¹¹

Higher levels of poverty are strongly related to greater use of federal means-tested programs by single-mother families. These include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, food stamps, school lunch, Head Start, and public housing. Also, the majority of the federal funding for child support enforcement goes towards enforcement of payments from absent fathers to custodial mothers.

Since single mothers are much more likely than married mothers to live in poverty, they rely on various government assistance programs much more than married parents, and use government means-tested benefit programs at a higher rate than two-parent families. The cost to the government of funding these programs is substantial. Some of the costs created by father absence, therefore, are related to provision of services through means-tested programs. One should keep in mind, however, that not all of this cost is a direct result of father absence, as single mothers differ from married mothers in many other ways. For example, single mothers are less educated, have lower-paying jobs, and come from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, on average, than married

⁹ 2004 Green Book, G-39.

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, 2006, *Current Population Reports*, P60-231; and Internet site http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/aminic/new01_000.htm.

¹¹ Adam Thomas and Isabel Sawhill, 2002, "For Richer or for Poorer: Marriage as an Antipoverty Strategy," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 21(4): 587-99; Wendy Sigle-Rushton and Sara McLanahan, 2002, "For Richer or Poorer?: Marriage as Poverty Alleviation in the United States," *Population* 57(3): 509-528.

mothers. These factors contribute to the high rate of poverty among single mothers independent of the absence of a father in the household.

We are not able to provide direct estimates for many costs generated by father-absence that do not appear until later in life (e.g., long-term costs of increased incarceration of children from such families, poorer health, etc.). Nor are we able to estimate the costs to states and localities. This report provides estimates of the direct costs (in expenditures) to the federal government for households in which there is no father. As such, it is a conservative low-bound estimate of total costs. To our knowledge, this is the first study to date to estimate the cost of father absence to U.S. taxpayers via federal expenditures. We rely on the existing published literature on the effects of father absence on poverty and other measurable outcomes.

The direct costs of father absence.

Fourteen major federal government programs provide assistance to households based on their income level. These programs are the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), child care subsidies for women in TANF, federal funding for child support enforcement, Supplemental Security Insurance for low-income disabled children, food stamps, subsidized school breakfasts and lunches, the Women's, Infants and Children nutrition program (WIC), Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP),



Head Start, heating and energy assistance, public housing, and Section 8 rental subsidies.

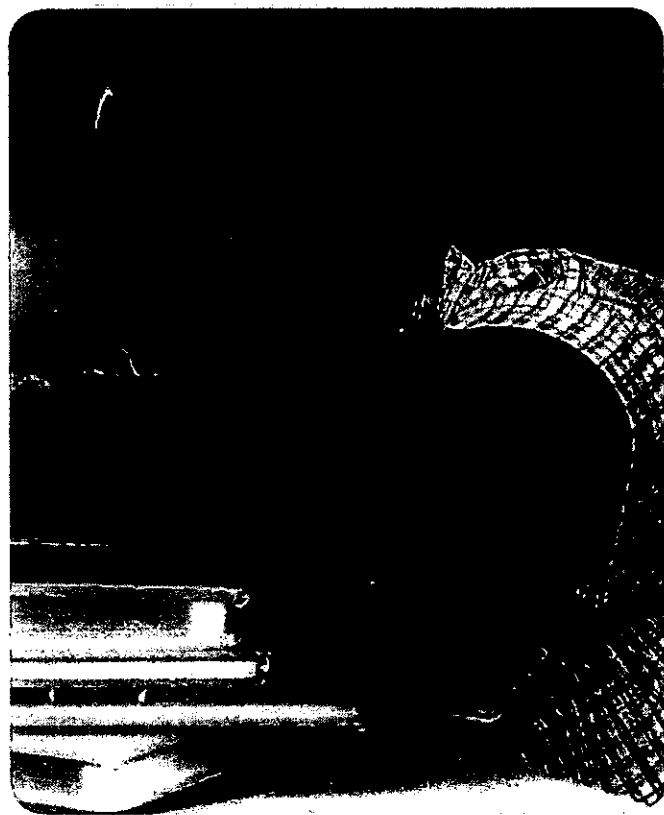
Children of single mothers pay their *own* costs for the absence of a father, as well. Such children do less well in school than children of two-parent families, have more emotional and behavioral problems, have worse physical health, are more likely to use drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and are more likely to become delinquent; teenage girls in single-mother households are more likely to become pregnant, and teenage boys in single-mother households are more likely to become teen fathers. In the long run, adults who grew up in single-mother households attain lower levels of education, earn less, are more likely to be incarcerated, are more likely to have out-of-wedlock births, and are more likely to be divorced. These events are, themselves, also associated with higher demands on collective resources. Therefore, father absence has both immediate and long-term costs. We are only able to consider the immediate costs. By doing so, our estimates are considerably lower than would be obtained by adding the two.

The indirect costs of father absence.

While the absence of a father creates many problems for mothers and children, not all of these problems carry a financial cost to the government. Other problems do carry costs, but ones which are difficult or impossible to calculate purely in dollar terms. While the cost of father absence estimated in this paper is high, it is only a fraction of the total cost to the government, and an even smaller fraction of the total cost to society.

Some of what most would regard as negative outcomes of father absence are emotional, and are difficult to quantify in dollar terms. In the event of a divorce, for example, the stress that divorce and abandonment places on mothers, the feelings of loss that father absence places on children, the absence of emotional support from fathers, and the risks to the physical and emotional health of divorced fathers are examples of such costs. In the long run, children from single-mother families may feel anger or resentment towards their fathers, or may have weak adult relationships with their fathers. They are also more likely to have relationship difficulties as adults and get divorced. While a significant source of suffering, these negative effects do not carry a financial cost by themselves.

There are also consequences of father absence that have implied indirect consequences for government programs. The literature on this subject is extensive, and there is a



debate over the degree to which government support of single-mother families would be affected even if the fathers were present.¹² Overall, however, children of fatherless families use mental health services at a higher rate than children of two-parent families, have more behavior problems at school, and are more likely to enter the juvenile justice system. They do less well at school, and schools may have to make additional efforts to educate them. Their higher use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, and their poorer physical and mental health, may cause them to use medical services more than children of two-parent families.

In the long run, the negative effects on child development may cause children from fatherless families to incur costs as adults. Children of single-mother families have lower educational attainment and lower wages, which translates into lower tax revenue and higher use of government services. Children of father-absent families are more likely to be incarcerated. Children of father-absent families are less likely to care for their fathers when they become elderly, and the government takes on some of the cost of caring for these men.

What this study measures and how.

Calculating the indirect costs of father absence is extremely complex, and requires many untested assumptions. Such an effort is beyond the scope of our study. Maynard (1996) and Hoffman (2006) calculated some of the indirect costs of teen pregnancy, but their studies involved a team of researchers who spent hundreds of hours doing original research.¹³ Calculating these indirect costs will be left to future studies.

The most obvious effect of father absence is the effect it has on household income, and the corresponding increase in single-mother households' use of means-tested benefit programs. The best overall aggregate estimate available is that 20.1 percent of single mothers would leave poverty if marriage rates returned to what they were in 1970.¹⁴

¹² For a review of this debate, see Paul R. Amato, 2005, "The Impact of Family Formation Change on the Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Well-Being of the Next Generation," *Future of Children* 15(2): 75-96.

¹³ Rebecca Maynard, ed., 1996, *Kids Having Kids: Economic Costs and Social Consequences of Teen Pregnancy* (Washington, DC: Urban Institute); and Saul Hoffman, 2006, *By the Numbers: the Public Cost of Teen Childbearing* (Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy).

¹⁴ Thomas and Sawhill, 2002 (note 9).

In a comprehensive review of federal programs that have assisted children over the last three decades, a recent report by the Urban Institute lists over one hundred programs.¹⁵ Some of these programs are no longer in existence. Others provide services to whole communities, not individual households, and a change in the poverty structure of single parent families would not affect the amounts these programs spend. There are fourteen programs for which eligibility is determined by the income level of the household. If more single mothers were married and had the father's income as part of the household income, the government would be able to spend less on these means-tested programs.

Few of these fourteen programs provide services only to single-mother households. Rather they assist families of various compositions, including those without children. The Appendix (page 14) lists sources and calculation methods for how much each program spends on single-mother households alone. Figure 3, on the following page, lists the name of each federal means-tested program that provides benefits to single-mother families, and the total cost to the government of providing those benefits to single-mother families.

The basic logic we followed was to first determine the total federal expenditures on a particular program. We then determined the fraction of program participants who are in fatherless homes (sometimes this was done for households, sometimes for individuals). This fraction (or multiplier) was then used to arrive at an estimate of the total program costs that go to fatherless households.

Children of fatherless families ...have more behavioral problems at school.



¹⁵ Adam Carasso, Eugene Steuerle, and Gillian Reynolds, 2007, Kids' Share 2007: How Children Fare in the Federal Budget (Washington, DC: Urban Institute).

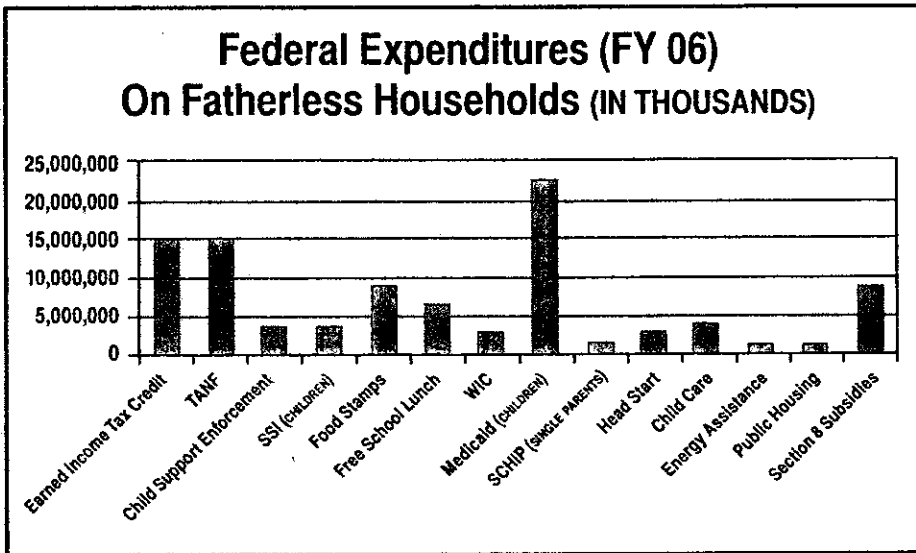
FIGURE 3.
Annual Spending by Public Programs for Fatherless Families In FY 2006

Total Expenditures (FY 2006) for Fatherless Households			
Program Type and Name	Total Program Budget (IN MILLIONS)	Percent Father-Absent Families	Cost of Services to Father-Absent Families (MILLIONS)
INCOME SUPPORT:			
Earned Income Tax Credit	\$36,166	41.0	\$14,828
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families	\$17,140	87.5	\$14,998
Child Support Enforcement	\$4,268	89.5	\$3,820
Supplemental Security Income (CHILDREN)	\$6,948	56.3	\$3,912
NUTRITION:			
Food Stamps	\$34,745	26.8	\$9,312
School Lunch	\$9,665	69.2	\$6,688
Women, Infants, and Children	\$5,363	55.2	\$2,960
HEALTH:			
Medicaid (CHILDREN)	\$31,900	71.0	\$22,649
SCHIP (SINGLE-PARENTS)	\$4,539	35.0	\$1,589
SOCIAL SERVICES:			
Head Start	\$6,851	48.2	\$3,302
Child Care	\$4,981	87.5	\$4,358
HOUSING:			
Energy Assistance	\$3,160	37.0	\$1,169
Public Housing	\$3,564	37.0	\$1,319
Section 8 Rental Subsidies	\$24,037	37.0	\$8,894
TOTAL:	\$193,327		\$99,798

SOURCES. All program expenditures are from the 2007 or 2008 Federal Budget of the United States (for FY 2006 expenditures). All multipliers (percentage female-headed households) are explained and cited in the Appendix (page 14).

Our tabulations indicate that the federal government spent \$99.8 billion in fiscal year 2006 for direct services for fatherless households. The largest areas of expenses were Medicaid (\$22.6 billion), TANF (\$15.0 billion), and EITC (\$14.9 billion). Health care for father-absent households was \$24.2 billion, about 4.7 percent of the \$516 billion the federal government spent in FY 2006 on Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP (see Figure 4 below). The total spent on federal means-tested benefits programs for single-mother households (all programs except SCHIP, Medicaid, child support enforcement, and SSI) amounted to \$50.0 billion, about one-fifth of the \$250 billion the federal government spent on safety net programs in FY 2006. The \$99.8 billion spent directly on assistance to single-mother households amounted to nearly 4 percent of the total FY 2006 federal budget of \$2.7 trillion.¹⁶

FIGURE 4. Federal Expenditures (FY 06) on Fatherless Households



Developmental outcomes for children and long-term costs.

The negative outcomes of children from single parent families follow them into adulthood. Government programs are likely to be involved at varying states of these young adults' lives. We cannot estimate the prevalence of such involvement, of course. However, we outline the main themes that are more likely to characterize the development of young adults who lived in fatherless homes than those who lived with two biological parents. These are important to recognize because a more comprehensive accounting of the costs of fatherlessness would need to factor these into the findings.

Children of fatherless families are less likely to attend college, are more likely to have children out of wedlock, and are less likely to marry; those who do marry are more likely to divorce. While these negative outcomes have primarily emotional and social costs, many long-term outcomes also have a financial cost. Children from single-mother households earn less as adults than children from two-parent families. Children from single-mother households are more likely to be poor as adults and use government services. They are more likely to be incarcerated, and their incarceration poses a steep cost to federal and state governments.

While the immediate, short-term costs of father absence are high, the long-term costs are likely to be much higher. However, the current state of knowledge of these costs is not adequate to estimate these costs, even as an approximation. Future researchers may wish to approach this subject. Maynard (1996) and Hoffman (2006) have used sophisticated methods to estimate the long-term public costs of teen pregnancy, and their methods form a good model for researchers who wish to estimate the long-term public costs of father absence.¹⁷

* Matt Fledler, 2007, "Where Do Our Tax Dollars Go?" Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, accessed December 2007 from <http://www.cbpp.org/4-10-07tax2.htm.1>

¹⁷ See note 26.

Reduced income:

The research on whether children raised in fatherless households go on to earn less than others has not reached consensus. Children from single-parent families tend to earn less than children from intact families, and their reduced

income would make them higher users of government services. However, there is much disagreement over the causes and extent of these differences. Some researchers found no consistent and statistically significant differences in adult earnings once background factors are accounted for.¹⁸ Others have found differences for some gender and racial groups but not others.¹⁹ While the cost to government in lost tax revenue through reduced earnings is potentially large, the research to date is too incomplete and inconsistent to draw any conclusions about the existence or size of this cost.

Adult criminal activity and incarceration:

Adult children of single-mother families are more likely to be incarcerated, even when a wide range of other factors of their families of origin and social status are statistically controlled.²⁰



Divorce and single parenthood:

Children from divorced families are more likely to be divorced themselves.²¹ Adult daughters of divorced families are more likely to have an out-of-wedlock birth.²²

Mental health and emotional well-being:

Children of divorced families are more likely to suffer from mental health and emotional problems in adulthood.²³

Less likely to care for parents in old age:

Children of divorced parents are less likely to have close relationships as adults with their fathers,²⁴ are less likely to give or receive financial assistance to and from their fathers,²⁵ and are less willing to let a sick or aging father live with them.²⁶

Children from divorced families are more likely to be divorced themselves.

¹⁸ Grogger and Bonan 1995 (note 17); Kevin Lang and Jay L. Zagorsky, 2001, "Does Growing Up With A Parent Absent Really Hurt?" *Journal of Human Resources* 36(2): 253-273.

¹⁹ Paul R. Amato and Bruce Keith, 1991, "Separation from a Parent during Childhood and Adult Socioeconomic Attainment," *Social Forces* 70: 187-208; Mary Ann Powell and Toby L. Parcel, 1999, "Effects of Family Structure on the Earnings Attainment Process: Differences by Gender," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 59: 418-433.

²⁰ Cynthia C. Harper and Sara S. McLanahan, 2004, "Father Absence and Youth Incarceration," *Journal of Research on Adolescence* 14(3): 369-397.

²¹ Paul R. Amato, 1996, "Explaining the Intergenerational Transmission of Divorce," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 58: 628-640; Amato and Booth, 1997 (note 11); Larry L. Bumpass, Theresa C. Martin, and James A. Sweet, 1991, "The Impact of Family Background and Early Marital Factors on Marital Disruption," *Journal of Family Issues* 12: 22-42; Jay D. Teachman, 2002, "Childhood Living Arrangements and the Intergenerational Transmission of Divorce," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 64: 717-29; J. S. Tucker, H. S. Friedman, J. E. Schwartz, M. H. Chiqui, C. Tomlinson-Keasey, D. L. Wingard, and L. R. Martin, 1997, "Parental Divorce: Effects on Individual Behavior and Longevity," *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 73: 381-191; Nicholas H. Wolfinger, 2000, "Beyond the Intergenerational Transmission of Divorce: Do People Replicate the Patterns of Marital Instability They Grew Up With?" *Journal of Family Issues* 20: 1061-1086.

²² Lawrence Wu, 1996, "Effects of Family Instability, Income, and Income Instability on the Risk of a Premarital Birth," *American Sociological Review* 61: 386-406.

²³ Paul R. Amato and Juliana M. Sobolewski, 2001, "The Effects of Divorce and Marital Discord on Adult Children's Psychological Well-Being," *American Sociological Review* 66: 900-21.

²⁴ Amato and Sobolewski, 2001 (note 35).

²⁵ Frank F. Furstenberg, Jr., Saul D. Hoffman, and Laura Shrestha, 1995, "The Effect of Divorce on Intergenerational Transfers: New Evidence," *Demography* 32(3): 319-333.

²⁶ Frances K. Goldscheider and Leora Lawton, 1998, "Family Experiences and the Erosion of Support for Intergenerational Coresidence," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 60: 623-632.

This study found that U.S. taxpayers pay \$99.8 billion each year in federal services to fatherless households. While this is a large amount of money, it represents only a fraction of the total cost of father absence to society. Given the size of this cost, policy efforts to promote father involvement, marital stability, and father payment of child support appear to be justified. While *specific* policy recommendations or policy interventions are beyond the scope of this study, it is hoped that by calling attention to the costs of father absence, this study will encourage further research, debate, and recommendations on this critical public issue.

While single-mother families receive a much larger amount of federal benefits than two-parent families, it is not certain how much of this difference can be attributed to father absence. Single mothers differ from married mothers in many respects, which further increase their reliance on federal means-tested benefits programs. On average, single mothers are less educated than married mothers, are from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, live in worse neighborhoods, have fewer job skills, are in worse physical and mental health, are more likely to be unemployed, and are more likely to be members of a minority group. All of these differences are associated with poverty, and explain the use of benefits programs independent of any effect of father absence.

Accordingly, while it is not possible to estimate the exact amount of anti-poverty spending that would be saved if fathers remained with their families, available data suggest that it may be substantial. The best available estimates suggest that 65.4 percent of single-mother families would leave poverty if marriage rates returned to 1971 levels, and that 46.5 percent of unwed mothers would leave poverty if they married the fathers of their children. While a reduction of this size in the number of single-mother families would be unrealistic, the data suggest that even a small reduction in the number of father-absent families would bring a large savings in federal anti-poverty spending.



Fatherlessness is a complex phenomenon produced by many circumstances and situations. Some are related to choices people make about fertility, marriage, and cohabitation. But others are the result of unexpected events, illnesses, or incarceration. Each produces a household structure lacking a father. But in all likelihood, the dynamics of these differing types of households vary in important ways. For some, fatherlessness is a relatively temporary arrangement, while for others a lifestyle. Some non-resident fathers are active in the lives of their children, while others are either unable or unwilling to be involved in their children's lives. In fact, 30 percent of children living apart from their fathers have no contact with their father at all, and an additional 31 percent have in-person, phone, or letter contact with their fathers less than once per month.²⁷ Additionally, not all fatherless households include mothers who want to live with the other parent (and vice-versa).

Given the persistence of this household structure, we must now turn our attention to rigorous research designed to uncover the reasons for the varying types of fatherless families. It is very likely that fatherlessness has different meanings and implications for those of differing social classes. For example, we do not yet understand why some immigrant groups typically arrive in intact families only to see high rates of fatherlessness in subsequent generations. The wide racial, ethnic, and social class differences observed in fatherlessness should be the basis of questions for the next generation of research on this topic.

²⁷ Stewart, Susan D. "Nonresident Parenting and Adolescent Adjustment: The Quality of Nonresident Father-Child Interaction." *Journal of Family Issues*, 24 (March 2003): 217-244.

appendix: cost calculations

1. State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP):

35 percent of the expenditures on SCHIP go to single-parent households (not necessarily single-mother) households. Without evidence to pro-rate this statistic, we used the 35.0 percent unchanged for our estimates.

Source: "Congressionally mandated evaluation of the State Children's Health Insurance Program." Final Report to Congress, October 26, 2005. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

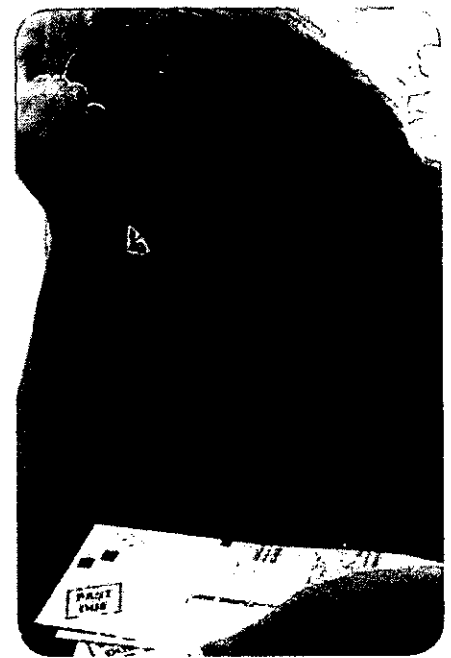
2. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):

We relied on research by Bruce D. Meyer, 2007, "Welfare, The Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Labor Supply of Single Mothers, its Effects, and Possible Reforms." Paper presented at the "From Welfare to Work" conference organized by the Economic Council of Sweden, May 7, 2007. His tabulations showed that 41 percent of EITC recipients live in fatherless households.

3. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):

TANF provides cash assistance to families living below the poverty line. It has strict work requirements and a time limit. It replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) after the 1996 welfare reform legislation. The most recent TANF report with data on female-headed household is the Fifth Annual Report, which uses FY 2001 data. It estimates that 87.5 percent of TANF recipients are non-widowed single mothers.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. 2004. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families: Fifth Annual Report to Congress. Accessed on-line, December 2007, at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/annualreport5/>.



4. Supplemental Security Income (SSI):

SSI provides cash assistance to low-income elderly, blind, and disabled persons. Only a minority of SSI recipients are children, but they account for \$6,832 million. The most recently available source for the percentage of child SSI recipients living in single-mother families is Rupp et al. (2005-2006), based on data from a large 2001-2002 survey of SSI recipients. They estimate that 56.3 percent of SSI children live in female-headed households. See also, 2007 Annual Report of the SSI Program, Table IV.C2.

Sources: Rupp, Kalman, Paul S. Davies, Chad Newcomb, Howard Iams, Carrie Becker, Shanti Mulpuru, Stephen Ressler, Kathleen Romig, and Baylor Miller. 2005/2006. "A Profile of Children with Disabilities Receiving SSI Benefits: Highlights from the National Survey of SSI Children and Families." Social Security Bulletin 66(2): 21-36.

5. Food Stamps:

Of the 26.7 million people, living in 11.7 million households, who received food stamps in FY 2006, 3,526,000 were headed by a single female. The average monthly benefit was \$297 for single-mother households, and the average period that single-mother households received benefits was 8.9 months. From this, one can calculate the total yearly benefit for single-mother households at $3,526,000 * 297 * 8.9 = 9,320,275,800$, or \$9.3 billion. This is about one quarter of the total food stamp budget.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis, Nutrition, and Evaluation. Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: Fiscal Year 2006, FSP-07-CHAR, by Kari Wolkowitz. Project Officer, Jenny Genser. Alexandria, Virginia: 2007.

6. Child Nutrition (school lunch):

Any child at a participating school may purchase a meal through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk programs. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals, for which students can be charged no more than 40 cents. (For the period July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, 130 percent of the poverty level is \$26,845 for a family of four; 185 percent is \$38,203.) According to the USDA, 69.2 percent of the children who participate in the free school lunch program live in single-mother households.

Source: Constance Newman and Katherine Rawlston, 2007, "Profiles of Participants in the National School Lunch Program: Data From Two National Surveys." United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Economic Bulletin #17. An electronic report available at www.ers.usda.gov, downloaded December 2007.



7. WIC:

The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides food, health care referrals, and nutrition education to pregnant women and mothers of children up to five years of age. Services are provided to women in households at or below 185 percent of poverty level. The most recent data available show that 55.2 percent of WIC recipients live in father-absent households.

Source: Bureau of the Census, 1995, "Statistical Brief: Mothers who Receive WIC Benefits: Fertility and Socioeconomic Characteristics." Accessed December 2007 at www.census.gov/apsd/www/statbrief/sb95_29.pdf. See also Nancy R. Burstein, Mary Kay Fox, Jordan B. Hiller, Robert Kornfeld, Ken Lam, Cristofer Price, and David T. Rodda, 2000, WIC General Analysis Project: Profile of WIC Children. Washington, DC: United States Department of Agriculture. Accessed 12/07 at www.fns.usda.gov/oane.

55.2% of WIC recipients live in father-absent households.

8. Medicaid:

SOURCE: Table 4A: Mothers 15 to 44 Years by Medicaid Participation Status, Age, and Family Characteristics: 2001, www.census.gov/population/socdemo/fertility/p70-102/Table4A.xls. Internet release date: November 9, 2005

9. Head Start:

90 percent of Head Start recipients are poor; the other 10 percent are disabled. The most recent survey of family composition of Head Start households (2003 data) found that 53.6 percent of Head Start households have a father absent. This was very similar to the 52.2 percent of families with a father absent in the 2000 data. So 53.6 percent of 90 percent of the head start budget is for children in poor single-mother families, or 48.2 percent of the total.

Source: Zill, Nicholas, Alberto Sorongon, Kwang Kim, and Cheryl Clark. 2006. Faces 2003 Research Brief: Children's Outcomes and Program Quality in Head Start. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Accessed 12/07 at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/hs/faces/reports/research_2003/research_2003.pdf.

Nearly 4 out of 10 of the households using public housing...are female-headed households with children.



10. Child Care and Development Block Grant, Child Care Entitlement to States:

These programs provide funding for child care programs for adults enrolled in TANF to support their efforts to find employment. Eligibility for these programs is directly related to enrollment in TANF, so we use the TANF estimate of 87.5 percent of recipients being female heads of household.

11. Public Housing and Section 8 Rental Assistance:

Public housing refers to units owned by the government, which are rented to low-income families at a very low rate, usually a percentage of the family's income. The Section 8 program provides low-income individuals and families with rental vouchers, and also pays for a percentage of a family's rent in privately owned rental units designated for low-income families. Thirty-seven percent of the households using public housing and Section 8 rental assistance are female-headed households with children.

Source: Public and Indian Housing Resident Characteristics Report, November 2007. At <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/systems/pic/50058/rcr/>, accessed 12/07.

12. Low-Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):

There are no data on how many recipients are female-headed households, so we use the same 37.0 percent estimate from the public and section 8 housing.

Greg Brede

NH HOUSE OF REPS PUBLIC INPUT Tues Feb 8 @ 1:00 LOB Rm 306

HB 380 exempting the Commission on the Status of Men from repeal on June 30, 2011 and adding a duty to the commission. Exec Depart and Admin

SPONSORS: Rep. W. Smith, Nevins, Sapareto, L. Perkins, Oigny,

I support this Bill.

I have presented concerns before the CSM and am please to inform you that these are captured on the CSM web sites under Meeting minutes.

The Commission on the Status on Men has done outstanding work in the past and is not funded by the tax payers. The 2010 Biannual Report captures concerns raised by men in NH and is submitted directly to the Governor for review. The Governor can only act on bills passed by the House and Senate, BUT CAN BE INFORMED OF ISSUES THROUGH THE CSM.

The 2010 Biannual Report has identified concerns related to the challenges many NH Men are currently faced with. Currently, there are several House Bills associated with the concerns brought before the CSM and that if passed, would address many of the issues identified by the 2010 Biannual Report. For example:

HB 512 (education requirements for certification as a guardian ad litem) addresses the need for GALs to be trained in Parental Alienation. Court approved divorce decrees document the occurrence of alienation and estrangement and defer to a GAL to facilitate the parent child reunification efforts. How can a GAL perform this Court order is they are not trained in PAS?

HB 506 (criminal penalty for knowingly making a false allegation of abuse or neglect) False allegation currently go un-notice and unpunished, prevent a father from being in their child's life and extracts the child support out of his paycheck.

436 and 614 Performance Audit of the GAL Board

563 Revising the child support guidelines based on foster care reimbursement rates.

591 Shared Parenting – What a practical way to eliminate excess court litigation; eliminate the need for a GAL, therapists and endless attorney's billings and allow children to be part of both of their parent's lives; a goal I have heard from many.

There are 20 bills proposed for the 2011 Legislative Session associated with issue that have been elevated to the CSM. If the CSM is retained and populated with individuals that advocate for these positive changes, the voices of the Men of NH have the ability to be heard and properly addressed.

Is there any other Commission that is generating this much activity in the current Legislative Session that being considered to be eliminated?

Greg Brede
Chesterfield, NH


	BILL #	TITLE	PRIME SPONSOR	COMMITTEE	PUBLIC INPUT DATE
1	<u>HB563</u>	revising the child support guidelines based on foster care reimbursement rates.	OLIGNY	C&FL	
2	<u>HB81</u>	relative to public members of the guardian ad litem board.	OLIGNY	C&FL	13-Jan
4	HB52	relative to grounds for modification of parental rights and responsibilities	JOHNSON	C&FL	13-Jan
4	<u>HB512</u>	relative to education requirements for certification as a guardian ad litem.	OLIGNY	C&FL	
5	<u>HB380</u>	exempting the commission on the status of men from repeal on June 30, 2011 and adding a duty to the commission	W SMITH	EX DEPT AND ADMIN	2/8 @ 1:00
6	HB591	relative to the determination of parental rights based on the best interest of the child; relative to grounds for modification of an order regarding parental rights and responsibilities, and relative to grandparent and stepparent visitation rights.	OLIGNY	C&FL	
7	HB 538	establishing a reporting system for court decisions relative to the determination of parental rights and responsibilities and the appointment of guardians ad litem.	OLIGNY	JUDICIAL	2/10 @10:30
8	<u>HB436</u>	establishing a committee to study the guardian ad litem board	CHRISTIANSEN	JUDICIAL	2/10 @2:30
9	<u>HB614</u>	requiring a performance audit of the guardian ad litem board and guardian ad litem services.	GILE	JUDICIAL	2/10 @ 11
10	HB538	establishing a reporting system for court decisions relative to the determination of parental rights and responsibilities and the appointment of guardians ad litem.	OLIGNY	JUDICIAL	
11	<u>HB506</u>	relative to false allegations of child abuse	INGBRETSON	C&FL	
12	<u>HB435</u>	establishing a committee to study joint parenting decisions.	CHRISTIANSEN	C&FL	
13	<u>HB415</u>	relative to access to abuse and neglect investigation records pending a child custody dispute.	INGBRETSON	C&FL	
14	<u>HB315</u>	relative to appointment of attorneys by judges, marital masters, and judicial officers.	SOLTANI	JUDICIAL	2/3/2011 1:30
15	<u>HB314</u>	relative to judicially appointed officials.	SOLTANI	JUDICIAL	2/3/2011 1:00
16	<u>HB259</u>	requiring the supreme court to adopt rules of evidence for the judicial branch family division.	SHEFFERT	JUDICIAL	2/3/2011 11:00
17	<u>HB599</u>	relative to appointments and reappointments of marital masters.	SOLTANI	JUDICIAL	2/10 @ 2
18	<u>HB597</u>	revising the child support guidelines based on an income shares model of calculating child support.	MORAN	C&FL	
19	<u>HB587</u>	relative to grounds for divorce for persons with minor children.	HOOPER	C&FL	
20	HB151	public review of Marital Masters	ROWE	JUDICIAL	1/27/2011


Commission on the Status of Men


Meeting Minutes

Here you can download the official minutes from meetings of the NH Commission on the Status of Men.




This page lists minutes from the beginning of 2009 to date. For older minutes please visit our Meeting Minutes [Archive](#) page.


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[Meeting Minutes - February 27, 2009](#) 


[Meeting Minutes - March 27, 2009](#) 

[Meeting Minutes - April 24, 2009](#) 

- [Attachment 1: NH Attorney General Response re: RSA 633 enforcement](#) 
- [Attachment 2: Steps in the Child Welfare System](#) 
- [Attachment 3: Steps in the Juvenile Justice System](#) 


[Meeting Minutes - May 29, 2009](#) 

- [Attachment 1: Letter to President Obama](#) 




[Meeting Minutes - August 28, 2009](#) 

- [Attachment 1: 3rd Annual Parent Advocacy Day](#) 

[Meeting Minutes - September 25, 2009](#) 

- [Attachment 1: NHCSM Logo Draft](#)
- [Attachment 2: NH Children's Alliance Network Application](#)
- [Attachment 3: Parent Advocacy Day 2009](#) 

[Meeting Minutes - October 30, 2009](#) 


- [Attachment 1: Officer Duties](#) 
- [Attachment 2: NFI Letter of Support](#) 
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[Meeting Minutes - December 4, 2009 \(November/December\)](#)

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- Attachment 2: NHCSM Logo Draft 2
- Attachment 3: NHCSM Logo Draft 3


Meeting Minutes - January 29, 2010 


- Attachment 1: Letter Re: GAL Training - Greg Brede Testimony (1) 
- Attachment 2: Letter Re: GAL Training - Greg Brede Testimony (2) 


Meeting Minutes - February 26, 2010 


- Attachment 1: Poster - NH Parent Advocacy Day 2010 


Meeting Minutes - March 26, 2010 


- Attachment 1: Email to Councilor John Shea Re: CSM nominations
- Attachment 2: Note to Neal Boutin Re: 2010 New England Fathering Conference
- Attachment 3: Letter from Greg Brede to NH GAL Board 

Meeting Minutes - April 30, 2010 

- Attachment 1: 2010 Parental Advocacy Day registration form 


Meeting Minutes - May 27, 2010 

Meeting Minutes - June 25, 2010 

Meeting Minutes - October 29, 2010 

Multimedia: Recordings of a few of our meetings are available for download

- Dr. Murray Straus - June 2004 and June 2006 CSM presentations: domestic violence.
- Dr. Warren Farrell - September 2007 presentation - *The Boy Crisis*

 This symbol indicates the document is in Portable Document Format (PDF). To view files, you will need the Adobe Reader which is available for free from [Adobe](http://www.adobe.com).

*Rep. Sapareto
Mike Glennon '05*

THE STATUS OF MEN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

FINAL REPORT
OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO STUDY
THE STATUS OF MEN

FEBRUARY 15, 2001



THE NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE STATUS OF MEN was created by the legislature this past summer in response to a variety of concerns over the rapidly deteriorating status of men and boys in New Hampshire.

The Committee was enabled by passage of HB 553 (Chapter 272, Laws of 2000), effective June 12, 2000.

Membership consisted of three members from the House of Representatives and two members of the public appointed by the Speaker of the House:

Representative David A. Bickford, Chair
Representative William R. Zolla
Representative Gary R. Gilmore
George V. Alexander
Michael J. Geanoulis, Sr.

DUTIES of the Committee:

1. Examine issues and effects of cultural biases and stereotyping beginning with childhood experiences and progress in public schools, and extending to include a study of male suicide and adult concerns such as family relations, promoting education and policies which bring fathers and children closer together.
2. Study health problems unique to men or which predominately affect men, and make appropriate recommendations.
3. Promote initiatives and programs that will enable men to develop career skills and continue their education so that they become productive and responsible citizens.

The Committee, with this report, meets the legislative requirement to report its findings and recommendations for proposed legislation to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate President, the House Clerk, the Senate Clerk, the Governor, and the state library on or before February 15, 2001.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE STATUS OF MEN wishes to recognize the cooperation and expertise of the many specialists and state agencies that contributed to the substance of this report. Without their cooperation and assistance, this report would not have been possible.

Joel J. Anderson and Ann V. FitzGerald, Legislative Researchers
Chuck Rhoades, author of "A Study of Men and Their Health"
Dr. Murray A. Straus, PhD, Director, Family Research Lab, UNH
Philip F. Nadeau, Director, Youth Development Center
Gary Fowler, Administrative Office of the Courts
Mary W. Temke, PhD, UNH Cooperative Extension, Family Connections Project
The Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health Statistics and Data Management
The Department of Education
The Department of Corrections

The National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) provided special value with its booklet, "Father Facts," third edition. No serious study of the fatherless problem would be complete without the publications and resources of NFI, a 501c3 organization:

The National Fatherhood Initiative
One Bank Street, Suite 160
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-948-0599 (phone)
301-948-4325 (fax)
<http://www.fatherhood.org>
nfi1995@aol.com

The Family in America Studies of the Howard Center deserves recognition for its vast concentration of family research, as well. Their Digital Archive was especially valuable in providing for a deeper understanding of contemporary social dynamics:

The Howard Center
934 North Main Street
Rockford Illinois 61103
1-815-964-5819
<http://www.profam.org>
allan@profam.org

Special thanks, also, go to the members of the public who took valuable time away from their place of employment in order to bring us a higher sense of urgency for those problems described herewith.

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OVERVIEW

Over the past several decades, men and their families have experienced significant changes due to the restructuring of family roles, increasing health problems, educational deficiencies, and new economic and social pressures. This report provides a snapshot of the lives of men and boys in New Hampshire, details the following problem areas, and recommends the creation of a permanent commission on the status of men.

- Boys have inferior reading scores, lower graduation rates, and are in need of special educational services at unprecedented rates. Men are increasingly less likely to pursue and complete secondary degrees. Men are participating less in university graduate programs.
- Men have increasing problems with their health. Men are now dying a full 10 years sooner than women in New Hampshire with higher mortality rates beginning at birth. The suicide rates for boys, young fathers and older men range from four to ten times higher than that of women.
- In the area of crime and behavior problems, males have higher arrest rates and incarceration rates. They are more likely to be victims of homicides. In New Hampshire's Youth Development Center, 80% of incarcerated youths came from homes absent their biological father.
- Nationwide, 40% of America's children live in a home absent their biological father. Fatherlessness is considered by growing numbers of social thinkers to be our foremost social problem. Fatherless children have a higher likelihood of welfare dependency. A strong link exists between father absence and substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, and educational failure. Children having a poor or non-existent relationship with their biological father have lower scores in moral development and overall wellness.

RECOMMENDATION

This committee recommends immediate passage of HB 587 relative to the establishment of a commission on the status of men.

The deteriorating condition of males should be officially recognized as a serious problem by the state of New Hampshire. Much needs to be done in the way of outreach and prevention to reduce both the suicide rates and the mortality rates of men. An improvement in the physical and mental health of men would, by association, improve the wellness of children and families.

Programs should be developed to improve the educational prospects for children—especially boys. Given the high level of father absence and its negative implications, special emphasis should be provided for the importance of biological fathers in the lives of children. Outreach programs and proposed legislation need to be developed having a special emphasis on the need to improve the condition of the father/child relationship.

Benefits are difficult to estimate, but such a commission would more than justify its costs. Reduced suicide rates and better health for men will translate into savings through higher productivity and a reduced need for a variety of state-funded services. Higher father involvement will translate into reduced incarceration rates for both juveniles in the near term, and adults in the longer term, each of which costs the state about \$20,000 annually per inmate. The committee further believes higher father involvement will translate into a reduction in the need for child support collections services costing the state \$9 million annually as well as reducing a variety of welfare costs to the state.

DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM AREAS

THE STATUS OF MEN'S HEALTH

"I get an annual physical every 16 years."

Anonymous response to a seacoast men's health research survey.

Dr. William Pollack of the Harvard Medical School and Center for Men at McLean Hospital believes the health care of males in America should be elevated to emergency status. "Between boys' suicide rates, dropout rates and homicide rates, and men's self-destructive behaviors, generally, we have a real crisis in America."¹

In 1920, a difference of about one year existed between the average death rates of men and women.² Something is happening to men's health that no one predicted.

Mortality Rates

This committee discovered that New Hampshire men are dying a full ten years sooner than women. The latest New Hampshire Bureau of Health Statistics and Data Management showed a full ten-year difference in the life expectancy of men and women. A New Hampshire man's lifespan, in 1998, was 69.8 years while a woman's was 79.8 years.³

Prostate Cancer

About one in four prostate cancer cases strikes a man during his prime working years, under the age of 65. In 1998, the American Cancer Society reported a 23 percent rise in the prostate cancer death rate over a twenty year period. Another man is told he has prostate cancer every 3 minutes.

Much attention and funding has been rightfully given to the devastation of breast cancer, and that effort should not be abated in any way. But prostate cancer is a debilitating killer, as well. With the exception of skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer. In statistical terms, prostate cancer is a little less deadly, claiming about 10 percent fewer lives than breast cancer, but prostate cancer receives 300 percent less funding.⁴

The US Postal Service has a matching funds program for the sale of breast cancer stamps to combat breast cancer. A similar fund-matching program for prostate cancer is also needed to combat prostate cancer.

Suicide

The most telling, and saddest indicator heralding the precipitous decline of males comes to us in the form of suicide statistics.

In studies performed by the World Health Organization for the period 1979 through 1994 and the National Center for Health Statistics for the same period, the ratio of suicides between males and females in the United States was 4.9 to 1.0.

Recent data shows the incidence of suicide has risen steadily since 1979. Of the 31,000 suicides in the United States, 25,000 of them are males according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

While the suicide rate for 15 to 34 year-old women has declined significantly, the rate for men has increased. This rate holds steady through the age of 60, then again increases dramatically through the age of 85 where the suicide rate for males is ten times that of females.⁵

In a study of 146 adolescent friends of 26 adolescent suicide victims, teens living in single-parent families are not only more likely to commit suicide but also are more likely to suffer from psychological disorders.⁶

The reduced status of a man with his family and children has deadly implications, as well. According to the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, "Divorced or separated men are more than twice as likely to kill themselves as men who remain married." By comparison, the suicide rate for divorced men is almost ten times higher than the suicide rate for divorced women.⁷

Some social scientists are beginning to speculate that there are "slow" forms of suicide such as substance abuse and criminal behavior that are not recorded as suicides.

The suicide rate in New Hampshire exceeds that of the United States on a per capita basis. Of the 139 suicide victims in an average year in New Hampshire 110 are males.⁸

Fatherless Children, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse

A study of preschool children admitted to New Orleans hospitals as psychiatric patients found that nearly 80 percent came from fatherless homes.⁹

The absence of the father from the home affects significantly the behavior of adolescents and results in greater use of alcohol and marijuana.¹⁰ Fatherless children are at a dramatically greater risk of drug and alcohol abuse.¹¹

Boys who grow up in father-absent homes are more likely than those in father present homes to have trouble establishing appropriate sex roles and gender identity.¹²

Fatherlessness, Self Destructive Behavior and Crime

The likelihood that a young male will engage in criminal activity doubles if he is raised without a father and triples if he lives in a neighborhood with a high concentration of single-parent families.¹³ One study of adolescents charged with murder found that seventy-two percent grew up absent their biological fathers.¹⁴

A study of men accused of rape found that sixty percent grew up absent their biological fathers.¹⁵ Sociologist David Blankenhorn concludes that fatherlessness is a primary generator of violence among young men.¹⁶ The research is clear...the one human being most capable of curbing the antisocial aggression of a boy is his biological father.¹⁷

The New Hampshire example reflects national findings on the link between fatherlessness and the instability of children. A typical juvenile incarcerated at the Department of Youth Development Services (DYDS) was committed because of multiple

offenses including assault. His/her biological parents were divorced, separated, or never married with the mother as primary caregiver. He/she was identified as educationally disabled with a history of suspensions and school disciplinary actions. Two-thirds were medicated with drugs like prozac or ritalin. Problems identified were self-esteem, familial relationships, assaultive behavior, poor decision making skills, substance abuse, and being the subject of abuse.

A central theme was absence of a significant and positive adult role model. Eighty percent of incarcerated youths came from homes where the biological father was absent. DYDS administrator Phil Nadeau told us that if a child didn't know where one of his/her parents was, it was usually the father. All of the committed female youths came from homes absent their biological father.¹⁸

At the Lake's Region Correctional Facility, A "Family Connections Project" of the UNH extension service administered by Mary Temke, Ph.D., male inmates were found to be very concerned about their families and children. They wanted to be better fathers. Many inmates themselves grew up without their fathers. Virtually all the men took parenting classes while in prison whether or not they had a relationship with their children.¹⁹ Incarcerated men are denied requests for continuing relationships with their children while, by comparison, incarcerated women are given court approval for those same requests.²⁰

Temke said that men have poor attitudes about their status as nurturers and providers and should see themselves as being more important for their children than they do now. On a scale of one to ten on importance for children, she rated both mothers and fathers as ten.²¹

THE STATUS OF MEN'S EDUCATION

"Educationally speaking, boys are the weaker gender."

Christina Hoff Sommers, PhD

Much is said about schools shortchanging girls in our educational systems. Conventional wisdom holds that girls are in a crisis.²² While there is, indeed, much that can be done to improve educational systems overall, this committee found an even bigger crisis for boys.

High School Performance

Dr. Michael Gurian, psychotherapist and author of "The Wonder of Boys," claims from his short list, that two boys are learning disabled for every one girl; boys' grades are worse than girls'; and there are six boys with attention deficit disorder to every one girl.²³

In an in-depth study of education, Christina Hoff Sommers found that girls are eclipsing boys almost universally. Boys excel in sports but they get poorer grades. They have lower educational aspirations; participate less in confidence measures like student government, honor societies, school newspapers, and debating clubs. Boys read fewer books than girls, and study abroad at lower rates. The typical boy is a year and a half

behind the typical girl in reading and writing; he is less committed to school and less likely to go to college. Girls outperform boys in artistic and musical ability.²⁴

Boys, meanwhile, have the edge in school suspensions, being held back, and dropping out. More boys than girls cut classes and fail to do homework assignments.

Boys' SAT scores are higher but this is because boys with limited ability are less motivated to take the test and drag down the scores.²⁵

While boys have a slight edge in National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math and science scores of 5 and 8 points respectively, girls outperform boys by 14 points in reading and 17 points in writing.

In New Hampshire, those NAEP scores for boys are slightly below the national average: 15 points for reading and 18 points for writing.²⁶ In 1997, there were 20,152 New Hampshire boys coded for special education while for girls, the total was 9651—a ratio of about two to one.²⁷

Post Secondary Education

At the University of New Hampshire in 1998, the male undergraduate population (4,746) was below that of females (5,337) by about 10%. The percent increase since 1987 for men was 13.6% while for women, by comparison, the increase was 16.4%.

The most dramatic indicators for men's lower participation in higher education occur at the graduate level. Male graduate students account for less than 40 percent of all graduate students at the University System of New Hampshire.

Men have significantly lower participation in all levels of higher education in comparison to women. If the discrepancy between male and female enrollment patterns continues, and there is no evidence to suggest they will not, the face of higher education will be forever changed.²⁸

Twenty percent of employed men had bachelor's degrees in 1995. By comparison, twenty-three percent of employed women had bachelors degrees. The difference is expected to widen over time.²⁹

Men account for only 12 percent of New Hampshire elementary school teachers and 43 percent of high school teachers.³⁰

Fatherlessness and Educational Failure

To avoid the risk of losing the reader of this report with an overabundance of material facts on the link between fatherlessness and the educational failure of children, the serious student is simply asked to review the research items presented in Christina Hoff Sommers' "The War Against Boys," Simon & Schuster (2000) and the "Father Facts" booklet published by the National Fatherhood Initiative referenced in the acknowledgements. It should suffice to state here, for the purposes of this report, that fatherless children are twice as likely to drop out of school.³¹

THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF MEN

"Industrial communities are beginning to do more poorly by their male children in the present as they did more poorly by their female children in the past."

Lionel Tiger
Anthropologist

There has been a new trend developing in the economic status of men over the past 30 years or so—down.

The growth in jobs for men is declining. "Nonemployment"—being effectively out of the labor force altogether—doubled for men twenty-five to fifty-five years of age between 1970 and 1994 in the United States.³²

MIT economist Lester Thurow has described how the median wage of American males between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-four has decreased in real terms by 25 percent, and one-third of them earn less money than is needed to keep a family of four at or above the poverty line.³³

Government policy may be unwittingly creating perverse incentives for traditional family formation and the decline of males. Author Lionel Tiger coins the term "bureaugamy" to describe government options in family formation with which marginal wage-earners are unable to compete in economic terms.³⁴ According to the CATO Institute, wage-equivalent government welfare benefits exceeded the minimum wage by as much as 200 percent, or more, in many areas of the country including New Hampshire.³⁵

Child Support Compliance Problems

In New Hampshire, 93% of those paying child support through the Office of Child Support Services are fathers. The Census Bureau reports that 66 percent of mothers with a child support award who did not receive payment from the father said it was because fathers were unable to pay.³⁶ The average amount of child support paid by non-custodial parents remains relatively unchanged over time in spite of increased enforcement.³⁷

The New Hampshire Office of Child Support Services (OCSS) issues periodic news releases claiming increasing effectiveness by collecting more money than ever before. Actually, what drives the numbers up, for the most part, are ever increasing caseloads and a law that adds people to the roles even if they are compliant and make timely payments.³⁸

Misleading releases imply success that cannot be justified by the facts. Even as caseloads constantly increase, current child support collections rates remain mired around 65 percent representing compliance rates that are not much improved over the years, in spite of glowing reports and increased enforcement.³⁹ The arrearage account has grown to more than \$200 million for New Hampshire alone. It is a fact that the Office of Child Support Services has transferred less than 37 percent of amounts owed by obligor parents from both current and arrearage accounts to obligee parents.⁴⁰

Misleading releases only serve to postpone the day when meaningful solutions are conceived--solutions that revolve around feelings, the natural inclination of parents to support their children,⁴¹ and a realistic approach to the costs of two households.

This committee found a direct relationship between father involvement and compliance with child-support orders.⁴² Since more than 90 percent of fathers who have a relationship with their children pay child support,⁴³ and since fathers who have no parenting time have compliance rates hovering around 40 percent, or less,⁴⁴ this committee believes one solution for improved support for children, in both emotional and economic terms, lies in the adjustment of policies that discourage father involvement.

Few statistics in the literature of divorce have been cited more frequently in the justification of child support guidelines than Lenore Weitzman's claim that the average divorced woman experiences a 73 percent decline in living standards while her former husband experiences a 42 percent *increase* in living standards.^{45 46} In statistical analysis of national income data, Stroup & Pollock found that the Weitzman "generalizations" do not hold. The researchers concluded that a woman's loss averaged 22 percent and that the average man suffered a *loss* of about 10 percent.⁴⁷

THE STATUS OF FATHERS

"The single biggest social problem in our society may be the growing absence of fathers from their children's homes because it contributes to so many other social problems... Without a father to help guide, without a father to care, without a father to teach boys to be men, and to teach girls to expect respect from men, it's harder... "

President Bill Clinton
University of Texas Speech
Austin Texas, October 16, 1995

Dr. Louis Sullivan, former U. S. Secretary of Health & Human Services, declared fatherlessness to be America's number one social problem. Tonight, more than 24 million of America's children will go to bed in a home absent their biological father.⁴⁸ More than one-half of all children who don't live with their father have never been in their father's home.⁴⁹ Twenty-six percent of absent fathers live in a different state than their children.⁵⁰ The United States is now the world leader in fatherless families.⁵¹

When the family unit breaks down, if it ever formed to begin with, the father's role as reflected in court decrees, social policy, and even by fathers' themselves, seems somewhat marginal. Fathers often vacate the family home on their own initiative.

In 1996 there were 11.7 million single parent families nationwide. Mothers headed 9.85 million and 1.86 million were headed by fathers.⁵² The probability that today's marriage will end in divorce is calculated to be about 60 percent.⁵³ Recent statistics from New Hampshire reflect national trends. Here, there were about 6,000 divorces and 10,000 marriages in 1998.⁵⁴

Fathers get sole physical custody of their children in only 15% of cases with most of those coming by default. In 1997, New Hampshire sole physical custody awards totaled 2,334 for the mother and 397 for the father.⁵⁵

This committee could not get divorce decree details on the allocation of parenting time but anecdotal evidence suggests a typical custody order provides for every other weekend of "visitation" for the father. This may be a reflection of RSA 458:17, IV "...the other parent shall be awarded physical custody rights during all periods of the time heretofore referred to as 'visitation'."

Researchers discovered that many fathers separated from their children found it difficult to maintain a close and loving relationship with their children; and that contact between fathers and children soon diminishes after divorce.⁵⁶ In a national study of 14 to 21 year-olds, 50 percent of unwed fathers had significantly decreased the amount of time spent with their children over a five-year period.⁵⁷

In a nationally representative sample of 11 to 16-year-old children living in father-absent households, almost half had not seen their father in the last twelve months.⁵⁸ In a 1990 survey, only one-third of father-absent children reported seeing their fathers at least once a week.⁵⁹ Nearly one in five children in father-absent families had not seen their fathers for five years.⁶⁰

In basic terms, cultural presumptions have held, since 1900 or so, that there should be a strict division of labor within the family unit: mothers as nurturers, fathers as providers. It was assumed that everything a child became was the result of the maternal primary care taking role with paternal breadwinning a necessary supplement. As a result, mothers came to be seen as biologically predisposed to care taking and socialization, while fathers became "the forgotten contributor to child development."⁶¹

When 1500 CEOs and human resource directors were asked how much leave is reasonable for a father to take after the birth of a child, 63 percent indicated "none."⁶² This committee found little that could justify the status quo of a father routinely living a life separate from his children.

Stepparents or Substitute Fathers

Although stepfamilies often have an economic advantage over single-parent families, the children of stepfamilies have as many behavioral problems as the children of single-parent families, and in some instances more.⁶³ Fatal abuse, serious abuse, and neglect are lowest in households with married biological parents and highest in households in which a biological parent cohabits with someone who is not biologically related.⁶⁴

In a Wall Street Journal article conveniently entitled "Fatherless Boys Grow Up To Be Dangerous Men," Maggie Gallagher outlines research from Princeton and the University of California demonstrating that each year spent without his dad in the home increases the odds of a boy's future incarceration by about 5 percent.⁶⁵ Moreover, boys living in stepparent families were almost three times as likely to face incarceration as boys from intact families.⁶⁶ Family structure was a more important factor than income.⁶⁷

Children care more about a relationship with biological parents than stepparents. Children have ongoing fantasies about their biological parents reuniting.⁶⁸ In stepfamilies, emotional and behavioral problems of children more than doubles.⁶⁹

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

According to data supplied by the New Hampshire Administrative Office of the Courts, there were 6,441 petitions for relief of domestic violence filed in 1999. Most resulted in temporary or permanent restraining orders against men. Of the 2403 permanent restraining orders outstanding on November 8, 2000, 85% were against men. In domestic violence allegations, the accused are routinely removed from their homes to the street on short notice with nowhere to go.

Murray A. Straus, Ph.D., co-director of the University of New Hampshire's Family Research Lab, told us that women have equally high assault rates with their partners. Men should have been more involved in the formulation of domestic violence prevention and protocols.⁷⁰

This committee feels that the best way to achieve quality solutions for the problem of domestic violence is to include all members of society in the dialogue on a sex neutral basis.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

"Just as the last third of the twentieth century was about creating equal opportunity for women as workers, so the first third of the twenty-first century will be about creating equal opportunity for men as parents. Neither goal will be achieved until both goals are achieved."

From "Father and Child Reunion"
Warren Farrell, Ph.D.

This committee found the wellness of men, and by association, the wellness of their families and children, especially boys, to be in a serious state of decay-- a kind of deterioration that is not readily discernable to the casual observer. The decline is somewhat bewildering. The fatherlessness rates, suicide rates and mortality reports seemed like gross errors because men are supposed to be strong.

Some men came forward to complain there was very little in the way of services available for severely stressed men. Most men, however, suffer in silence. Many seem to be looking after their own wellness as though it mattered not whether they lived or died. In expressions of powerlessness and depression, men are neglecting and killing themselves at alarming rates. Alarming, especially, if we still believe men to be important for children and families. The declining status of males, and, as a result, the decline of those associated with them, remains mired in obscurity.

Dr. Temke recommends programs for the children of incarcerated parents that provide for a continuing and meaningful relationship with their parents, regardless of the parents' sex.

Dr. Straus recommends developing prevention and intervention protocols for domestic violence problems that incorporate safeguards for the sanctity of family relationships on a sex neutral basis.

The research reflects a world of difference between the children whose fathers are involved with them and those whose fathers are not. Earlier, a sampling of such research

was presented to make the point that father absence was not good for children or families. To end on a positive note, and to encourage higher paternal involvement, a sampling of research is here presented to demonstrate the inverse: a father's presence can be good for children and families:

- A nationally representative sample of 1,600 10-13 year olds found that children who shared important ideas with their fathers and who perceived the amount of time they spent with their fathers as excellent had fewer behavior problems and lived in a more cognitively stimulating home.⁷¹
- Premature infants whose fathers spent more time playing with them had better cognitive outcomes at age 3.⁷²
- A survey of more than 20,000 parents found that when fathers are involved in their children's education including attending school meetings and volunteering at school, children were more likely to get A's, enjoy school, and participate in extracurricular activities and less likely to have repeated a grade.⁷³
- Under joint custody arrangements, child support compliance rates zoomed to a very high level: 93 percent by fathers' reports; 89 percent by mothers' reports.⁷⁴
- Having loving parents teens can talk with helps reduce teen pregnancy.⁷⁵
- Fathers (especially) are very influential in the decision not to have sex.⁷⁶
- Whether the outcome variable is cognitive development, sex-role development, or psychosocial development, children are better off when their relationship with their father is close and warm.⁷⁷

HISTORY

In 1998, House Bill 1377 was first introduced to the New Hampshire Legislature asking for the establishment of a full Commission on the Status of Men. It failed to gain the approval of the House Finance Committee. The following year the effort was repeated under House Bill 553. After a detailed inspection of such evidence as burgeoning male mortality, suicide, educational failure and fatherless rates, the House was moved to share the sense of urgency of the bill's sponsor, Representative David Bickford, and recommended passage on June 23, 1999 by a vote of 210 to 76.

The Executive Departments Committee of the Senate amended the bill. In the ensuing House/Senate committee of conference convened to iron out differences over the bill, it was agreed that a chartered House committee should study alleged problems in further detail, make further recommendations as necessary, and come back to the Legislature by February 15, 2001 with a full report. It passed the Legislature in this form and was signed into law by the Governor in June, 2000.

The duties of this committee were to be threefold: To examine, study and promote, as explained in the duties requirements of HB 553. Due to the overwhelming nature of the problems uncovered, however, this committee could do little by way of "promotion" or "prevention" because of time and resource constraints. This committee could not, for example, explore causes and prevention for the heartbreak of suicide; nor could it promote higher levels of father involvement for children. Furthermore, many items on the list of topics this committee hoped to examine were not readily available.

This report, therefore, is simply a summary of the most urgent problems.

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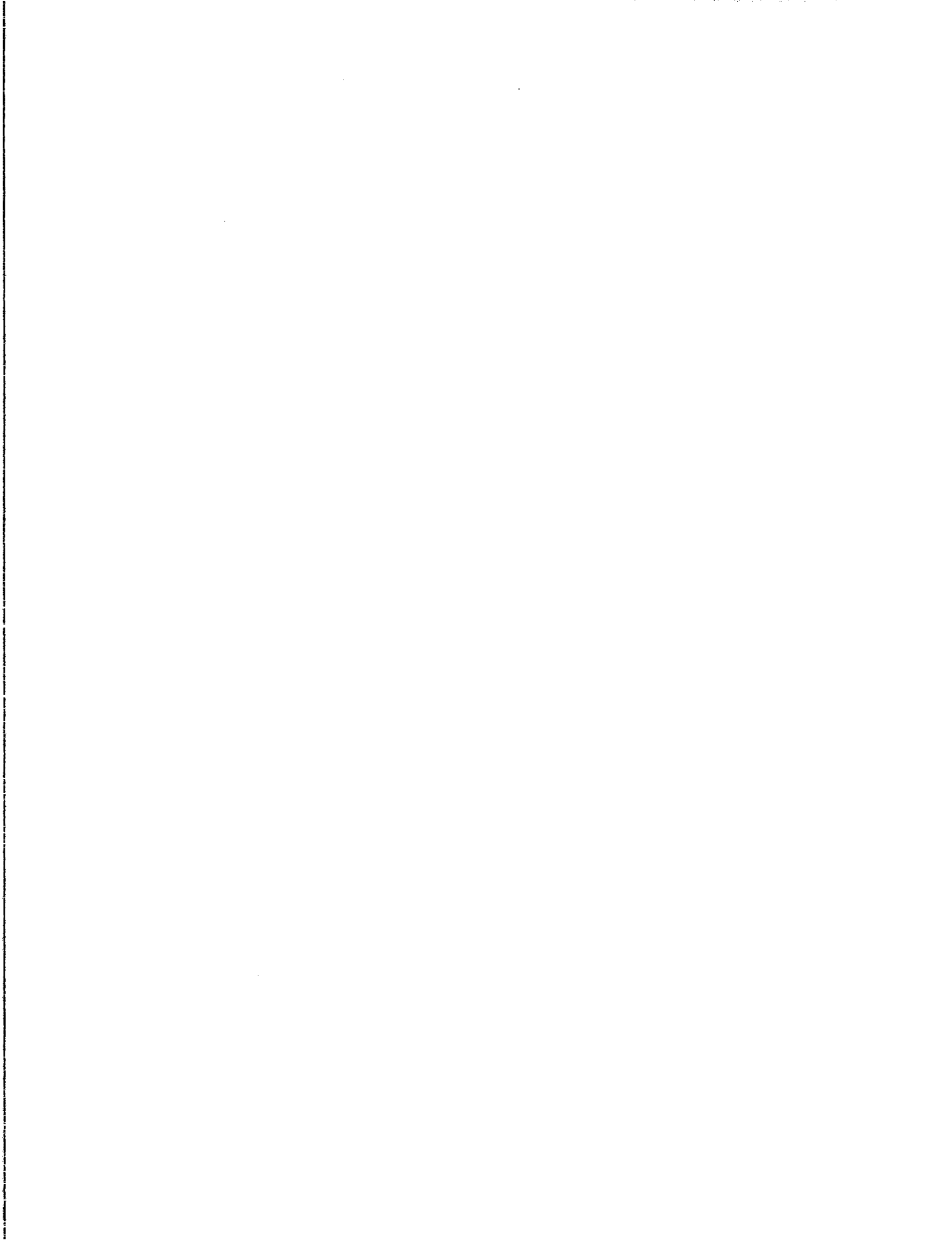
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Mike Jeannotis
HB 380

THE STATUS OF MEN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

FIRST BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF MEN

<http://www.nh.gov/csm/>

NOVEMBER 1, 2005

CHARTER

The General Court recognizes that men are an important resource for families and children, and wishes to explore the causes and consequences of a variety of social, economic, and health problems facing men, and to have recommendations for relief made available to the public. Specifically, the General Court recognizes that fatherlessness is a severe social problem and that New Hampshire children who have a poor or non-existent relationship with their father are the largest users of a variety of state-funded services. In addition, men whose average life expectancy was formerly on a par with that of women are now dying 10 years sooner, with much higher rates of suicide and mortality from the 15 leading causes of diseases and accidents. Educationally, the General Court recognizes the need to address the relatively poor performance of boys in the areas of reading and comprehension and to increase the grade passage rate for boys while encouraging the pursuit of post-secondary degrees. The New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men was therefore created by the legislature to address and reverse the deteriorating status of men and boys in New Hampshire.

The Commission was enabled by passage of HB587-FN-A (Chapter 267:2, Laws of 2002, effective July, 1, 2002).

Membership consists of seven members appointed by the Governor:

- Joseph H. Mastromarino, MD, Chair
- Scott A. Garman, Secretary
- Alfred Lerandean
- Marshall D. Hickok
- Stephen H. Gorin
- Michael J. Geanoulis
- Larry Colby, Treasurer (*resigned, May 2005. No replacement has been appointed as of the date of this report, 1 November 2005*)

Duties of the Commission shall include but not be limited to:

- Examining issues and effects of cultural biases and stereotyping, beginning with childhood experiences and programs in public schools, and extending to include a study of male suicide and adult concerns such as family relations, promoting education and policies which bring fathers and children closer together.
- Studying health problems unique to men or which predominately affect men, and making appropriate recommendations.
- Promoting initiatives and programs that will enable men to develop career skills and continue their education so that they may become productive and responsible citizens.

The Commission, with this report, meets the legislative requirement to report its activities, findings, and recommendations for the general court and the administration pursuant to Chapter 19-I, on or before November 1, 2005.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MEN wishes to recognize the cooperation and expertise of the many specialists and state agencies who contributed to the substance of this report. Without their cooperation and assistance, this report would not have been possible.

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Lee Newman, Executive Director, SAFE-NH
Linda Sheldon, NH State Office of Information Technology
Dr. Murray A. Straus, PhD, Co-Director, Family Research Lab, UNH
Tom Andrew, MD, Chief Medical Examiner, State of New Hampshire
The Department of Education
The Department of Health & Human Services
 Office of Child Support Enforcement
 Bureau of Health Statistics and Data Management
 Youth Detention Center
The National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI)
The New Hampshire State Library
The Upham-Walker House

We are deeply grateful to the members of the public who took valuable time away from their personal obligations in order to bring us a better sense of the problems described herein.

We are especially indebted to our spouses, loved ones, families, and friends for their tolerance, support, suggestions, and advocacy during this period.

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

There are those who contend that men continue to enjoy marked advantages, and always have benefited from the initial patriarchal construction of western society. However, the predominant role of financial provider to the family, coupled with shifting demands of society, evolved to require that on average, men spend a significantly increasing amount of time in work activities (as compared to women in similar "full-time" jobs), and that they engage in considerably more demanding and dangerous career choices. Men respond as "doers" both as a result of societal conditioning and neurobiologic differences and tend to pursue their goals without the significant processing, forethought, discussion, and counseling than women tend to engage in. For better or worse, men have come to value tenaciousness of intent and singularity of purpose as opposed to the measured decision by consensus that women more frequently subscribe to. To imply that these multiple negative male outcomes are gender-specific denies the profound effect they have on our wives, our daughters, and society, both locally and globally.

That men would need help by way of a chartered Commission to improve their status seemed counterintuitive given the popular image of men as independent, self-sufficient survivors, able to overcome the most difficult of life's challenges on their own. Modern pressures, however, find men and their families experiencing significant difficulties due to evolving values, health problems, growing educational deficiencies, and new socio-economic family standards. This report calls attention to serious problems in the lives of New Hampshire men and boys that, prior to the establishment of this Commission, were "off of the radar screen" in terms of their negative impact on society.

- Boys continue to have inferior reading and comprehension scores and lower graduation rates. Men are much less likely to pursue secondary degrees and university graduate programs.
- The suicide rates for boys, young fathers, and older men range from four to ten times higher than that of women, depending on such factors as age, marital status, and emotional well-being. The general health of men is seen as in a serious crisis according to Dr. William Pollack of the Harvard Medical School Center for Men.
- Men, for a variety of reasons, continue to have problems keeping up with court-ordered child support payments in spite of, or possibly because of, well-intentioned federal mandates designed to improved family wellness.
- Fatherlessness, according to growing numbers of social thinkers, is among our most serious social problems. Fatherless children have a higher dependency on expensive state-funded services such as welfare, DCYF/Foster Care programs, child support enforcement, special education services, detention centers, etc. There appears to be a strong link between father absence and a wide variety of pathologies, including juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and educational failure. Children having a poor or non-existent relationship with their natural father have lower wellness levels in the areas of safety, health, education, and economic security.
- Men are often portrayed as the primary cause of domestic violence. However, the research reveals this problem as more complex than is commonly thought, and the subject will be

treated in detail in this report.

- For the reader's convenience, the Commission's **recommendations will appear in bold face** throughout the body of this report and the **Summary of Recommendations** section on page 33.

Commissioner Stephen Gorin would like it known that although he shares authorship of this document, he does not necessarily agree with some portions of the sections of this report dealing with Fatherhood Issues, Child Support, and Domestic Violence.

HISTORY

In 1998, House Bill 1377 was first introduced to the New Hampshire Legislature, asking for the establishment of a full Commission on the Status of Men (CSM). It failed to gain the approval of the House Finance Committee. The following year, the effort was repeated under House Bill 553. After a detailed inspection of preliminary evidence, including burgeoning male mortality, suicide, educational failure, and fatherless rates, the House was moved to share the sense of urgency of the bill's sponsor, Representative David Bickford, and recommended passage on June 23, 1999 by a vote of 210 to 76.

The Senate Executive Departments Committee then amended the bill. In the ensuing House/Senate committee of conference convened to iron out differences, it was agreed to create a Legislative Committee to Study the Status of Men (LCSSM) to review these alleged problems in further detail, make recommendations as necessary, and come back to the Legislature by February 15, 2001 with a full report. The bill passed the Legislature in this form and was signed into law by the Governor in June, 2000.

The duties of the LCSSM were threefold: To examine, study, and promote, as explained in the duties requirements of HB 553. The LCSSM noted with some alarm the rapidly deteriorating status of men in New Hampshire. This deterioration begins with the increasing rates of fatherlessness, includes marked and accelerating trends of sub-par reading scores, dropout rates, higher crime and incarceration rates, lower graduation rates, lower rates of enrollment in secondary and graduate degree programs, and progresses through the second highest child support rate in the nation, perceived negative disparities in the Family Court system, and perceived use of false or exaggerated claims of domestic violence in divorce cases to deprive men of their families, homes, and possessions without appropriate due process, lack of a legislative presence due to gross inequities of funding compared to women's programs, and culminates in significantly fewer programs geared towards preventive health services for men, a paucity of support groups for men in general, relative under-funding of health issues which affect primarily men, markedly higher suicide rates than women, and ultimately resulting in mortality rates that are higher than those of women beginning at birth and ending with a life span that is significantly less than women in New Hampshire.

Due to the overwhelming nature of the problems uncovered, the LCSSM could do little by

way of "promotion" or "prevention" because of time and resource constraints. The LCSSM could not, for example, explore causes and prevention for the heartbreak of suicide; nor could it promote higher levels of father involvement with their children or improve the education deficit of boys. Furthermore, many items on the list of topics the LCSSM hoped to examine were not readily available and recommended establishing a Commission on the Status of Men (CSM) to promote initiatives, programs, and further study.

Early in 2001, Representative David Bickford filed HB587-FN-A for the purpose of establishing a commission on the status of men (CSM) and appropriating \$69,561 to facilitate its duties. After passing the House, the Senate amended the bill months later by stripping its funding. HB587 and the unfunded Commission on the Status of Men became effective the following year on July 1, 2002.

Because of many delays in the membership nominations process, the Commission on the Status of Men was not able to hold its first meeting until October 31, 2003, over a year after it became effective under the law. In addition, the ability of the CSM to perform its prescribed duties pursuant to RSA-19I:4 is considerably compromised by lack of funding.

To facilitate the promotion of programs and to treat the problems described in this report, this Commission needs to be funded as originally intended under HB587 (2001). **This Commission, therefore, recommends that the state provide adequate funding to finance an Executive Director, support personnel, office, supplies, telephone, computer and other office equipment.**

MEN'S HEALTH

RSA 19-I charges the Commission on the Status of Men with "[s]tudying health problems unique to men or which predominantly affect men, and making appropriate recommendations." The Commission has taken tentative steps to address these issues. Members of the Commission have met with a representative of the Men's Health Network (<http://www.menshealthnetwork.org>) and distributed some of the Network's literature. We expect to focus further on health issues during the next year.

Health issues remain a central concern for men in New Hampshire. In a study of New Hampshire men, Rhoades (2000) noted that due to gender roles, (i.e. "the attitudes, behaviors and expectations that American culture assigns to males and females") many men find it difficult to acknowledge their own vulnerability and lack of knowledge and seek needed health care. A 2002 report by the Endowment for Health on "social and cultural barriers to accessing health and health care in New Hampshire" noted:

Mortality rates from all causes (cancer, diabetes, heart disease, injuries, suicide etc.) are significantly higher for men than women. A number of studies document a disparity between men and women's health status and health seeking behaviors. According to one

study, 70% of the uninsured men surveyed did not have a regular physician. Minority men are most likely to be uninsured and are at the highest risk. The study indicates that health care providers are missing opportunities to incorporate preventive care and anticipatory guidance in the illness or injury related visits most common among men. Additionally, screenings for prostate and colorectal cancers are not as well subsidized or funded as breast and cervical cancer screening for women. Other gender considerations include depression and suicidal ideation related to gender identification (especially in adolescents) and the issues of domestic and sexual violence.
(http://www.endowmentforhealth.org/theme_social/resources_view.asp?K=4&T=P&R=M).

These issues are compounded by the reality that many men in New Hampshire do not have health insurance. In 2002-3, 12% of non-elderly New Hampshire men had no health insurance (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2005). Studies show that the health of individuals without insurance "is worse than it would otherwise be if they were insured" and "providing health insurance to uninsured adults would result in improved health, including greater life expectancy" (IOM, 2002, p. 5).

Nationwide, approximately 9% more men will develop prostate cancer in 2005 than women will develop breast cancer. However, according to estimates by the American Cancer Society 2005 Surveillance Research (<http://www.pccnc.org/CAFF2005f4PWsecured.pdf>), this percentage of men in New Hampshire will be markedly increased to 29%, or over three times the national average! According to these projections for 2005, 890 women will be diagnosed in New Hampshire with breast cancer, whereas 1,150 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. New Hampshire is not alone in its lack of commitment or action: The federal government spends approximately seven times more on breast cancer research than on prostate cancer research (\$550 million versus \$80 million, in 1996 there was \$12,000 in research dollars spent for each death from breast cancer versus \$2,000 in research dollars for each death from prostate cancer www.prostateaction.org/resources). The causes of this disparity are manifold, but certainly New Hampshire lags at executive and legislative initiatives to guarantee that insurers provide coverage, and that the state provide programs for those men who are uninsured, for the appropriate screening tests for prostate cancer similar to the long-mandated coverage and programs specifically to screen for breast and other cancers that affect primarily women. In fact, the huge disparity may reflect the effectiveness of these early detection and screening programs for breast cancer which have been put in place by state government. This glaringly underlines the failure to make a similar investment in men's health. When the few bills attempting to correct the situation in New Hampshire have been defeated by the (predominantly male) legislature, the causes of the failure of that legislation are unclear, but the results are anything but: Men are suffering and dying needlessly in New Hampshire due to the inaction of good people who apparently have been led to believe that legislative activity designed to primarily benefit men is somehow not appropriate politically, financially, or otherwise. Every preventable death, male or female, lessens us as a society by virtue of our preceding lack of leadership, vision, commitment, and action. **The Commission recommends that the State of New Hampshire take steps to reduce the disparity between the investment in women's health issues and men's health issues, and**

to design programs concentrating on addressing in a gender-neutral manner those conditions and diseases with the highest incidence and the highest rates of morbidity and mortality.

Men in New Hampshire continue to kill themselves at much higher rates than their female counterparts. With a relatively small statewide population, it is difficult to document specific trends with accurate statistical significance. From a statistical standpoint, such small numbers skew widely the death rate for suicide. In 2001, the death rate of suicide in New Hampshire resulted in a ranking of number 17 of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia, whereas in 2002, the difference of 35 deaths from suicide caused the ranking to drop to number 39. This year may result in a smaller number of overall deaths from suicide in New Hampshire if the trend through mid-October continues (data from Dr Tom Andrew, Chief Medical Examiner). However, 85% of these deaths were male, a higher percentage than the national ratio of male suicides to overall suicides. The causes of the higher suicide rate for males are numerous, complex, and interdependent. **The Commission recommends that the State of New Hampshire provide further directed study and proactive intervention programs, including educational programs at the elementary school level directed at bolstering the self-esteem of boys and helping them develop increased coping skills and new approaches to personal and interpersonal conflict, coupled with increased prevention programs directed at those segments of our society most likely to succeed in committing suicide.**

Table A: Suicide in New Hampshire by Gender and Age, 2002-2005

AGE GROUP	2002		2003		2004		2005 to date	
	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE
10 - 20	3	13	2	8	4	6	0	4
21 - 25	1	9	3	9	1	8	1	3
26 - 30	2	8	0	8	1	9	0	4
31 - 35	1	11	4	10	2	8	1	3
36 - 40	3	13	6	12	4	9	2	5
41 - 45	6	12	4	12	6	10	1	5
46 - 50	1	14	3	14	3	16	2	7
51 - 55	3	11	2	15	1	9	1	6
56 - 60	1	7	2	14	7	7	1	6
61 - 65	0	6	3	7	0	8	0	3
66 - 70	2	4	2	4	1	4	1	4
71 - 75	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
76 - 80	0	6	0	5	1	2	1	3
81 - 85	0	2	0	5	1	2	0	2
86 - 90	0	1	0	4	0	3	0	2
91 - 95	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
	24	119	32	128	32	105	11	61
Total for the Year		143		160		137		72 to date
% Male Victims		83.20%		80.50%		76.60%		84.70%

FATHERHOOD ISSUES

Public Comments

The CSM meetings were open to the public for comment and discussion. Early on, fathers came forward to complain about abnormal relationships with their children and unfair treatment in family court. Many complained about child support guidelines that seemed inflated and did not allow them to live on their remaining income; lawyers who seemed uncaring; perceptions that lawyers were not effectively fighting for them; an inability to get redress for emotional and physical abuse inflicted on them and their children; misleading and inaccurate testimony being brought to the legislature by professional court advocates who had no regard for the importance of the father/child relationship; being made to feel like a criminal in the courtroom; judges avoiding or ignoring the negative impact of father absence on children; the need for men's support groups and counseling for men; perjury and false accusations being used as weapons to render fathers impotent in court; the manufacture of acrimony to secure custody; Guardian ad Litem who don't care about the father/child connection; the process of divorce being used as a money-making proposition (money going to lawyers and other members of the "divorce industry" that could have been used, instead, for the welfare of the children); the permanent nature of "temporary" orders; the misleading and inaccurate perception that domestic violence is primarily a male responsibility; insufficient services for male victims of domestic violence; and feelings of suicide as the ultimate solution.

Second wives, mothers, grandmothers, teachers, and girlfriends came forward to validate many of the complaints being brought by men. One second wife reported levels of stress so severe that both she and her disenfranchised husband were forced into the welfare system. A school nurse told us that most of the children to which she administers medication like Ritalin and Prozac come from homes where the connection with one of the parents (usually the father) was compromised.

The Status of Fathers

As women have had difficulty establishing their role as important contributors to the workplace, men have had difficulty establishing themselves as important nurturers for their families and children. While the status of fathers and fatherless rates in New Hampshire are difficult to quantify, this Commission finds little reason to hope that the problem is much improved over what it was in 2001, when the Legislative Committee to Study the Status of Men (LCSSM) discovered that the U.S. is the world's leader in fatherless families. Nationally, 40% - or about 24 million children - go to bed in homes absent their biological father on any given night (with the possible exception of every other weekend) according to the latest available data. (<http://www.nh.gov/csm/publications.html>)

The fatherless problem, along with its link to the pathology of dysfunctional and disadvantaged children, seems as an invisible elephant in the room. There seems to be

widespread casual regard to the notion that caring and involved fathers are ordinarily beneficial for the safety, health, economic security, education, and overall wellness of children.

In some places, fathers are even billed as villains to be avoided. In a public lecture entitled "Sexually Abusive Fathers," the University of New Hampshire's Family Research Lab (FRL) once produced a rightful attempt to get relief from the sexual abuse of children. However, it was noted by the speaker during the presentation that stepfathers or live-in boyfriends are six times more likely than natural fathers to commit such heinous acts. Children are typically best protected from sexual abuse, not by a father's absence, but by his presence. (David Blankenhorn, *Fatherless America*, New York, Basic Books, 1995; See also the *Father Facts* Booklet available from <http://www.fatherhood.org>; and the *Garbage Generation* by Dan Amneus at <http://www.mugu.com>)

On May 19, 2005, Judge Edwin Kelly told the Child and Family Law Committee that sole custody rates for fathers are holding steady at about 10% for uncontested cases (15% for contested cases), while mother's custody rates hovered around 66% for uncontested cases (75% for contested cases). The balance, 24% and 10% respectively, were awarded joint custody. (http://www.nhcustody.org/NH_custody_statistics.htm) This may reflect a mindset that says fathers should be restricted to the breadwinner role while mothers should be restricted to the caretaking role.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, women are projected to comprise 47 percent of the total labor force in 2012 (as they did in 2003). There were 64.7 million employed women in the U.S. in 2004. Seventy-four percent worked full time, while the remaining 26 percent worked part time. (<http://www.dol.gov/wb/stats/main.htm>) Given the plethora of evidence documenting the benefits of involved fathers with their children, and the present rate of female participation in the workforce, the custody imbalance between fathers and mothers seems difficult to justify. **This commission suggests that the Governor of New Hampshire issue a proclamation declaring that both parents are equally important for their children.**

The Importance of Fathers

Studies have conclusively shown that children who receive higher levels of attention and interaction with their natural fathers are healthier and better psychologically adjusted than children without fathers or with uninvolved fathers. Whether the outcome is cognitive development, sex-role development, or psycho-social development, children are better off when their relationship with their father is close and secure. (Lamb, M.E. *The Father's Role: Applied Perspectives*. New York: J. Wiley, 1986)

Fathers who were affectionate, spent time with their children, and had a positive attitude were more likely to have securely attached infants. (Cox, M.J., et.al. *Prediction of Infant-Father and Infant-Mother Attachment*. *Developmental Psychology* 28 (1992): 474-483.)

Children with involved fathers are more confident and less anxious when placed in

unfamiliar settings, better able to deal with frustration, better able to adapt to changing circumstances and breaks from their routine, and better able to gain a sense of independence and an identity outside the mother/child relationship. Father-child interaction has been shown to promote a child's physical well-being, perceptual abilities, and competency for relatedness with others, even at a young age. (Krampe and Fairweather. *Journal of Family Issues* 14.4, December 1993: 572-591)

Children whose fathers were highly involved in their schools were more likely to do well academically, to participate in extracurricular activities, and to enjoy school, and were less likely to have ever repeated a grade or been expelled compared to children whose fathers were less involved in these schools. This effect held for both two-parent and single-parent households, and was distinct and independent from the effect of mother involvement. (Source: Nord, Christine Windquist. *Students Do Better When Their Fathers Are Involved At School* NCES 98-121. Washington, D.C.: US DOE, National Center for Education Statistics, 1998)

Father involvement correlates with fewer behavior problems exhibited by their children. This finding holds after controlling for the level of maternal involvement. (Amato and Rivera. *Paternal Involvement and Children's Behavior Problems*. *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 61 (1999):375-384)

Fatherless children score lower on tests and have lower grade point averages. Family scholar Barbara Dafoe Whitehead says, "Even after controlling for race, income and religion, scholars find significant differences in educational attainment between children who grow up in intact families and children who do not." Fatherless children are twice as likely to drop out of school. (US Health & Human Services. National Center for Health Statistics. *Survey on Child Health*. Washington, DC: GPO, 1993)

In a study of 75 toddlers it was found that children who were attached to their fathers were better problem-solvers than children who were not securely attached to their fathers. Children whose fathers spent a lot of time with them and who were sensitive to their needs were found to be better adapted than their peers whose fathers were not as involved. (Esterbrooks, M. Ann and Wendy Goldberg. *Toddler Development in the Family: Impact of Father Involvement and Parenting Characteristics*. *Child Development* 55 (1984): 740-752)

On the 25th of October, 2005, we were informed that of the 80 dysfunctional youths incarcerated at the New Hampshire Youth Development Center, 63 (or 79%) came from homes absent their biological father.

It would be impossible to give a complete accounting of the importance of caring fathers for children with this report. The serious student is simply encouraged to type "The Importance of Fathers" in any internet search engine. (See also the fourth edition of the *Father Facts* Booklet available at <http://www.fatherhood.org>; and the LCSSM report at <http://www.nh.gov/csm/publications.html>)

Researchers have discovered an undeniable connection between fatherlessness and a wide variety of pathological disadvantages accruing to children, yet modern court decrees, social policy, and even fathers themselves, reflect mindsets and attitudes that serve to disconnect natural fathers from their children. **This commission recommends that research on the father's role in child development, some of which is listed in the bibliography herewith, be given the widest possible publicity and attention.**

This commission should be funded to enable the production of Public Service Announcements and brochures designed to promote education and policies which would bring fathers and children closer together pursuant to RSA 19-I:4."

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Men came forward during our public meetings to allege unfair treatment in family court domestic violence proceedings, and to allege that unsubstantiated charges of domestic violence were being improperly used as tools to place them at a distinct disadvantage in civil matters before family court. This, and other testimony, led us to investigate the problem of domestic violence (DV) in greater detail.

A Marital Master explained to the Task Force on Family Law that the word on the street was that a woman can readily gain immediate possession of the children, home and other assets by filing an "emergency" ex-parte domestic violence petition, claiming to be in fear of her safety. The accused may then have an immediate restraining order placed against him on a "temporary" basis even though he may not have been given an immediate opportunity to be heard in his defense. This procedure, commonly referred to as the "silver bullet" because of its efficiency and effectiveness, is difficult to challenge and may represent a loophole in the family court system that is being exploited. Temporary orders, it seems, have a way of evolving into permanency because of the difficulty in proving perjury or one's own innocence, especially in those 50% of cases where the parties are mutual contributors to the problem; and because of crowded dockets, time and costs involved.

According to the NH Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, New Hampshire has seen anywhere from 4 to 7 thousand petitions for DV relief annually in recent years - the vast majority being filed against men. It is not unusual, since judges are prone to err on the side of caution, for DV ex-parte petitions to be granted immediately on the justification that an "emergency" exists. Court statistics on domestic violence have proved to be difficult to obtain, but one report from the Administration Office of the Courts, a 1999 study funded by the State Justice Institute, indicates that an overwhelming majority of such petitions are granted. In the Salem and Littleton jurisdictions, 98% and 100% of ex-parte DV petitions for restraint of the defendant were immediately granted in 1999, according to the report. These orders are often issued in the absence of the accused having an immediate opportunity to be heard in his defense.

In an effort to better understand the domestic violence problem, this commission invited Dr. Murray Straus, PhD, DV expert and co-founder of the Family Research Lab at the University of New Hampshire to speak to us. In brief, Dr. Straus told both the Men's Commission and the Task Force on Family Law (TFFL) that most domestic violence education and advocate training programs have unfairly referred to the perpetrator as "him" and the victim as "her" over the years, which constitutes a gender bias. Much of the education and dialogue, furthermore, has inappropriately discounted, dismissed, or denied the estimated one-third to one-half of all domestic violence victims who are male. Such stereotyping has had a negative impact on men's status with their families, and devalues the problem of abused men and children. Dr. Straus further indicated that female aggression rates - equal to or exceeding that of men - should be treated equally serious if only as a matter of safety for women, and that men stay in abusive relationships for many of the same reasons claimed by women. His presentation can be accessed at http://www.nh.gov/csm/dv_straus.html. See also Professor Fiebert's collection of DV research abstracts at <http://www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm>.

Efforts to get relief from the domestic violence problem have been unduly influenced by special interests who have successfully sold the problem as solely a responsibility of males over the years. The whole truth on this emotionally-charged dichotomy isn't being fully revealed. It's as if it didn't matter that there are male victims; and worse, that only males should be seen as aggressive because female assaults are not viewed as a problem. That in any case, only women shall get relief. The federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides one such example of gender exclusiveness. As its title indicates, only women shall benefit from government intervention. No one was allowed to testify on behalf of male victims at any legislative hearing on VAWA enactment or renewal proceedings, so powerful is this bias against men.

One-sided reporting comes in many forms and can have long-lasting effects. As long ago as 1981, Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz reported that 1.8 million women *and 2.0 million men* were assaulted by their partner. From that data, half-truths evolved like the one that appears on the website of the American Judges Association: "Every 15 seconds a woman is battered somewhere in the United States." (<http://aja.ncsc.dni.us/domviol/page2.html>) Nothing is ever published about the "real surprise" (to quote the researchers); the even shorter time span (14 seconds) between assaults by women on their partners, or the equal number of closed doors hiding the other half of the story. (Straus, Gelles and Steinmetz, *Behind Closed Doors: Violence in the American Family*, Anchor Books, 1981)

Judges and criminal justice professionals, who ordinarily can be trusted to be impartial and unbiased arbiters of the truth, can be unwitting accomplices in the dissemination of DV half-truths and exaggerations. In the annual report of the NH Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee (DVFRC), for example, the DV problem is introduced in the overview with the statement: "between three and four million women are beaten by their husbands every year." Men were likewise implicated in the abuse and murder of children. Yet there are no references about the number of men or children assaulted or murdered by intimates in their overview. The DVFRC is chaired and administered by judges, criminal justice professionals, and others, who should be aware of the entire set of facts on such matters. A U.S. DOJ report, "Murder in Families," states

that women were over half of the defendants (55%) in the murder of their offspring; and a "2003 Child Maltreatment" report showed that a child is **twice** as likely to be abused by its mother than by its father: 40.8% of child abuse victims in 2003 were abused by mothers acting alone, while 18.8% of victims were abused by fathers acting alone.

(http://www.nhcustody.org/My_Homepage_Files/child_maltreatment.html and <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/mif.htm>)

An organization called RADAR (Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting) has identified 12 serious flaws with present domestic violence policy:

- Abuses the truth. A recent VAWA-funded report documented that 1.5% of women and 0.9% of men were physically or sexually assaulted by a partner in the previous year. The report further notes that one-fifth of these men - as well as two-fifths of the women - were injured as a result of the assault. (*Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence*, <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/181867.pdf>, p. iii-iv)
- Blatantly discriminates against men. Most DV programs violate men's constitutional right to equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment. None of the billions of VAWA dollars have been spent to help male victims of DV. Lee Newman, executive director of SAFE-NH, an experienced New Hampshire organization that provides services for DV victims regardless of gender, and who outreaches to male victims, receives an estimated 12% of New Hampshire's crisis calls, but does not receive any state or federal funding.
- Takes children away from their fathers. VAWA laws and the courts unwittingly encourage women to make questionable allegations of domestic violence on an "emergency" basis while petitioning for divorce and custody of the children. In New Hampshire, a father who has ever had a restraining order filed against him can easily be rendered ineligible for shared parenting duties and responsibilities of his children. In written testimony to the Child and Family Law Committee for HB351 (2003) hearings, a Marital Master states, in part: "Unfortunately, requests for ex-parte relief are based upon many circumstances, some of which are made only for the purpose of obtaining an advantage in litigation."
- Blurs the distinction between violent crime and verbal arguments. The National Research Council notes that "Rigorous inquiry into violence against women is precluded when scholars fail to distinguish among what constitutes an act of violence, abuse, or battering." (*Advancing the Federal Research Agenda on Violence Against Women*, <http://books.nap.edu/catalog/10849.html>, p. 26)
- Allows uncritical use of restraining orders. Judges will typically issue restraining orders based only on the word of the alleged victim, without allowing the accused an immediate opportunity to present his or her side of the argument. And many state laws define "violence" so broadly as to allow restraining orders to be issued on the flimsiest pretext. In New Hampshire, the standard of evidence is "Upon a showing of immediate and present danger of abuse,..." [RSA 173-B:4]. One judge told the Task Force on Family Law (TFFL) that he was confident he could discern the truth at ex-parte hearings in the defendant's absence by the demeanor of the plaintiff and that he was well educated on the problem of domestic violence. An attending prosecuting attorney, moreover, responded to a question about the NH Constitution, [Article 15, which provides that "No subject shall

be held to answer for any crime or offense until the same is formally described to him...and to be fully heard in his defense"] by saying that Article 15 does not apply to subjects in civil matters. He further provided ex-parte justification by citing in *re: Jason*, a supreme court decision that allowed ex-parte testimony. (In *re: Jason* the court upheld ex-parte testimony on the trustworthiness of a policeman. It should be noted, however, that unlike domestic violence or civil proceedings, the policeman in *re: Jason* had no personal interest at stake in the outcome of the decision).

- Provides incentives for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors. Local authorities are encouraged to implement policies for mandatory reporting, mandatory arrest, and "no-drop" prosecutions. This Commission concurs with a Feminist Majority Foundation report recommending that domestic violence programs should abandon such rigid and unfair practices because they often end up harming families (*Safety & Justice for All: Examining the Relationship between the Women's Anti-Violence Movement and the Criminal Legal System*. http://www.ms.foundation.org/user-assets/PDF/Program/safety_justice.pdf, pp. 12-16)
- Federal laws pre-empt existing state law enforcement programs. New Hampshire currently has strong partner assault laws. The federal Violence of Crime Act already addresses the issue of domestic violence. VAWA spends \$1 billion a year to duplicate existing programs.
- Politicizes the judiciary. VAWA provides funding for judicial education which in practice can amount to prejudiced-loaded rants. In one training session in New Jersey, judges were instructed: "Your job is not to become concerned about all the constitutional rights of the man that you're violating as you grant a restraining order. Throw him out on the street, give him the clothes on his back and tell him, 'See ya' around.'" (<http://www.ejfi.org/DV/dv-10.htm>)
- Funds ideologically-based treatment programs. The National Academy of Sciences recently concluded that domestic violence programs are frequently "driven by ideology and stakeholder interests rather than by plausible theories and scientific evidence of cause." (*Advancing the Federal Research Agenda on Violence Against Women*, <http://books.nap.edu/catalog/10849.html>, p. 6)
- VAWA represents an over-reaching of federal power and unwarranted government interference into the personal relationships of intimate partners. The Supreme Court has condemned parts of VAWA as representing federal intrusion into an area of law that falls squarely within the domain of the states (*United States v. Morrison*, 2000). (<http://www.oyez.org/oyez/resource/case/1261/>)
- Corrupts family violence research. Researchers often seek to bias the outcome of their research by interviewing only women, by slanting the wording of questions, or by selectively reporting research findings. Murray Straus, PhD, of the Family Research Lab at UNH, told the Task Force on Family Law that domestic violence researchers are known to leave out material facts about assaultive women in their reports. (*The Controversy over Domestic Violence by Women: A Methodological, Theoretical, and Sociology of Science Analysis*. <http://www.menweb.org/straus21.htm>)

During the June, 2005 meeting of the Commission, the following resolution was passed

regarding VAWA: **"The Commission on the Status of Men supports the renewal of the Violence Against Women Act only if it is made gender-neutral in language, intent, and application."**

The September issue of *Psychology of Women Quarterly* published a special report on Female Violence Against Intimate Partners, spotlighting the possibility that present DV policy may be poorly conceived - serving to pour gasoline on fires that could be quenched with a more reasonable approach. (*Psychology of Women Quarterly*, September 2005 <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/pwqu/29/3;jsessionid=caztNaNVav367wpbZy> See also **Appendix A** for abstract summaries of the articles.) The Commission supports and reaffirms conclusions reported by these DV researchers:

1. Women are just as likely as men to engage in physical aggression towards their intimate partners: "Directly relevant to the theme of this volume, the later research revealed that males and females reported equally high levels of direct aggression in interaction with romantic partners." (See Deborah South Richardson article)
2. DV is a problem in lesbian relationships, which refutes the "DV is how the patriarchy maintains power and control over women" theory. (See article by Kimberly F. Balsam and Dawn M. Szymanski)
3. DV is a complex social phenomenon which defies simplistic ideological explanations: "These results indicate that women's physical aggression toward male partners cannot be understood using a unitary explanation." (See the Nicola Graham-Kevan and John Archer article)

This collection could be helpful in convincing lawmakers and family courts that women can be equally aggressive as men; and that the removal of fathers in one-sided ex-parte proceedings might prove to be little more than a counterproductive exercise in control and a grievous miscarriage of justice.

CHILD SUPPORT

Problems with child support compliance persist for both male and female obligors. The reasons are varied and obscure: Flagrant irresponsibility, insufficient earnings; resentment that the system discourages the parent/child connection - or even alienates that connection; being estranged from one's own children (or not being properly attached to begin with); income-based guidelines and the widespread concern that money supposedly destined for the children ends up elsewhere; and feelings of misplaced responsibility. One disgruntled man expressed the latter by saying he adequately provided for his children prior to an unwanted divorce, but being ordered to support his children - an act of love he had been doing voluntarily for years - compounded by a reduced role as "visitor" to his own children, was a crushing blow to his self esteem, initiative, and sense of responsibility. His position was that if the courts could see their way clear to take his children from where they were decently provided for to begin with, without just cause, then the courts should be held responsible for the support of his children.

According to the latest data from the NH Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE form 157, 2004), compliance rates for all accounts and for all obligors, male and female, remain mired around 65%. In other words, for every dollar obligor mothers and fathers were ordered to pay, an average of 65 cents was actually received by the obligee - a rate that has remained relatively constant over the years. Overall compliance rates have increased only slightly since the enactment of the 1985 Family Support Act, a federal law requiring most states to establish OCSE offices as a condition that qualified them to receive federal funding for social programs. In 1985, before the days of "deadbeat" posters, license revocations, and jail sentences, the compliance rates for all obligors with child support orders hovered around 60% for all accounts.

An increase of 5% in compliance rates over 20 years might be seen as statistically insignificant when viewed in the light of the millions spent for enforcement programs and the gradual increase of shared parenting arrangements and higher levels of father involvement. Stanford Braver's research found that when a parent *feels like* a parent to his or her child (a condition best facilitated by parental involvement and shared parenting), compliance rates can exceed 90%. Should expensive OCSE enforcement programs be credited with the 5% increase in compliance rates over 20 years? Or should the credit go, instead, to the courts' increased use of shared parenting arrangements in custody actions and higher rates of father involvement? Further study and more data is needed to answer these questions. (Braver, Sanford & O'Connell, Diane *Divorced Dads: Shattering the Myths*, NY: Tarcher/Putnam, 1998. See also **Appendix D - A Proposal to Estimate and Improve the Success of OCSE.**)

While there has been a significant increase in the percent of cases having child support orders because of OCSE initiatives, there has also been a corresponding increase in the number of children born to unwed parents. (<http://www.ncpa.org/pd/social/pd041801b.html>)

Present policy may be sending the wrong message to both independent-minded women who shun "oppressive" marriages in increasing numbers; and to men who are getting inappropriate messages about their role as fathers. While there has been a steady increase in the birthrate of children to adult single women over the past dozen years or more - government efforts to encourage father involvement, except to obtain social security numbers, is limited to enforcement of support that could be garnered by encouraging parents to work together for their children's needs. Marriage is seen as an oppressive risk to be avoided by growing numbers of women (and men). Gloria Steinem expressed this philosophy best using simplistic terms: "Women need men like fish need bicycles." Marriage, formerly held to be the best way to provide for the needs of children, seems less attractive for women having at their disposal government "family" support and enforcement services; and less attractive for men who wish to avoid the 50% odds of ending up as defendants in a divorce court that dispenses the gold mine, the mineshaft and the children in unfair proportions.

A more meaningful measure of OCSE collections effectiveness might be seen in terms of the absolute numbers of children in the system, and the total dollars collected per child. The NH OCSE caseload totaled slightly more than 23,000 in 1989, while in 2004, the figure stood at

approximately 40,000 - about an 80% increase. In terms of absolute numbers, the problem of improperly supported children is actually far greater than 5% compliance rate increases can compensate for - and far greater than it might otherwise be under more traditional mating conditions - because of a near-doubling of the numbers of children in the system (who are not properly attached to both of their natural parents). The measure of collections in terms of inflation-adjusted dollars per child over the years could not be obtained as of this date, but if the empirical evidence is any indication, the results will prove disappointing here, as well.

Braver formally rediscovered what we all should have known to begin with: Parents have a natural inclination to support their children in a meaningful and caring way with the important caveat that they feel like parents to their children - that they are involved with their children. The millions spent on support enforcement might have been better spent on programs that encourage mothers and fathers to be more careful about the way they bring children into the world, and to encourage intimate involvement of both the mother and the father with their children when they do. **This Commission recommends that the state sponsor and promote educational programs that teach young men and women about the need for children to have two caring natural parents meaningfully involved in their lives, with an emphasis on the indispensable role of the father in child development.**

OCSE should consider modifying its policy of enforcing only the support portion of family court decrees to include the parenting aspects of those decrees as well. And the state should finance this Commission so that it may conduct a detailed study of the causes of the child support arrearage problem.

THE TASK FORCE ON FAMILY LAW

A representative from the Commission on the Status of Men was assigned to a seat on the Task Force on Family Law (TFFL) in September, 2003. A year earlier, the legislature had created the Task Force effective May, 2002. Its duties included developing proposals for a non-adversarial system for families undergoing a divorce and other family matters. The final report can be accessed at <http://www.nhbar.org/pdfs/FamLawTFRep04CL.pdf>.

The TFFL made many valuable recommendations for such things as parenting plans, modified court procedures, alternative dispute resolutions, and language changes in the law. It appears that the TFFL might have made significant progress in neutralizing the win-lose atmosphere in family courts that otherwise worsens an already difficult scenario. If its recommendations are followed, family courts may evolve into a win-win system that facilitates communication, compromise, and recognition that both parents are equally important for their children.

For many disenfranchised male veterans of the family courts, however, it seems that most of the problems they faced will remain unchanged. Of primary concern is the fear that the

suggested improvements will be trumped by "manufactured acrimony" and "silver bullet" restraining orders now being issued, literally, by the thousands - many on one-sided testimony. Men are wondering, with considerable suspicion, how lawyers and other officers of the court, many of whom have traditionally relied on adversarial proceedings and a winning reputation to attract clients and income, will work in good faith to reduce the hostilities associated with custody actions going forward.

Many men remain worried that a bias against them as parents will still exist in spite of TFFL recommendations for mediation and parenting plans. They worry that women will still be able to secure control of the children by reacting with hostility toward shared parenting proposals, and then petitioning for "emergency" restraining orders to neutralize the possibility of shared parenting. One member expressed such concerns best by saying: "I feel pain for the fathers who lose their children in family court, but I'd fight like a wildcat to keep from losing mine." That the TFFL purposefully avoided the topic of shared parenting rights and responsibilities did nothing to alleviate these fears.

The VAWA-funded NH Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (CASDV) provided testimony that was shown to be false (after the vote) about "joint custody being repealed as unworkable" (in some states), and made the unsubstantiated charge that "80% of men who seek shared parenting fit the profile of a batterer," which may have contributed to the TFFLs refusal to look at or report on the benefits of equal custody for children, in spite of a legislative intent to review such matters. It was also stated on numerous occasions during TFFL meetings that shared parenting and mediation should not be considered "if the parents cannot get along". An attempt to redress the vacuum in the debate over shared parenting by way of a minority expression for the TFFL report was rejected by a majority of TFFL members present. The TFFL minutes twice reflect the fact that its report shall not include a minority expression. These challenges, in addition to others rooted in gender bias against fathers, resulted in a senate rejection of HB61 (2005), a bill that would have provided for continuing the TFFL.

Minority Expression

It is reported, with some disappointment, that the TFFL was in disagreement with the following resolution passed by this Commission on September 29, 2004:

"The New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men finds and declares that it should be the public policy of this state that frequent and continuing contact between minor children and both parents, if the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage, is ordinarily beneficial to the children. This Commission also finds that it is in the public interest as well as to children and families to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibility of child rearing. This Commission recommends that a rebuttable presumption of joint physical custody should be supported and encouraged."

The following minority expressions were also rejected by the TFFL. This Commission feels that these items should be included in any dialogue over the best interests of children and

continuing parent-child relationships. The starting point in any child custody action should be that both parents are *equally* important for their children until *clear and convincing evidence* proves otherwise. (Historically, the starting point has been reversed: i.e., parents begin by fighting for sole custody).

1. **Parenting time should be "Maximized"**. The parties should anticipate, in a custody action absent a parent's inability to maximize their parenting time, that those administering or supervising domestic cases (i.e., family court) will make every effort to maximize the time parents have with their children to avoid rendering either of the parties a loser in the action, and to maximize the likelihood that children will have both natural parents involved in a meaningful way. The highest and best form of maximized time, while not always possible, is an equitable split in the time each parent has with the children. Children want, love, and need two parents.
2. **Child support guidelines should be based on child costs**. This Commission recognizes the contribution to acrimony inherent in New Hampshire's income-based child support guidelines and recommends that child support guidelines be based on child costs - not on the income of either parent; and that alimony, where necessary, be treated as a separate line item.
3. **Absent fault grounds, the financial burden of family breakdown should be shared equally by the parties**. Since a family that splits inherits a significant reduction in living standards because of the need for dual accommodations, etc, the parties should be advised that higher participation in the workplace by *both* parties may be required if living standards are to be maintained.
4. **Judges and prosecutors should attend educational conferences on domestic violence structured to avoid the present gender bias that ignores or downplays domestic violence by women against both men and children**. Another serious source of acrimony in domestic relations can be traced to domestic violence policy and education. Much of the literature and protocols on DV have inaccurately introduced the problem as the responsibility of males over the past dozen years, or more. Judges and prosecutors are attending DV conferences, the agenda for which is being controlled by an unbalanced view of the problem by leaving out critical information and perspectives about domestic violence against men and children. This has resulted in thousands of men being unfairly forced out of their homes annually on one-sided testimony in "emergency" civil proceedings.
5. **Properly trained Case Evaluators should screen each domestic violence case with the goal of arriving at possible alternative solutions**. According to Linda Mills, author of *Insult to Injury*, many women regret losing control when the criminal justice system gets involved. Present policy blurs the distinction between a common verbal disagreement and a physical assault. Any possibility for reconciliation and counseling evaporates under such conditions. Mills also states, as did Dr. Murray Straus who spoke to us, that in fully half of all DV incidents, both parties are mutual contributors to the problem, and that in many of these cases, neutral evaluation might influence a more meaningful outcome through counseling, third-party communications, and compromise. Dr. Straus further stated that the issuance of restraining orders on one-sided testimony during the

restructuring of the family is unwise.

6. **Evidentiary standards and procedure should be reviewed and revised in domestic violence cases.** Testimony from involved interested parties should not be held as trustworthy at so-called "emergency" ex parte hearings. Orders (temporary or permanent) should not be issued against any defendant without first affording him or her immediate opportunity to respond. Men, and fathers who care about the relationship with their children, are being ordered from their homes and children, literally by the thousands, at "emergency" DV hearings in which restraining orders are petitioned for by women with secondary gain who claim to be in fear of physical harm. The testimony is often held as trustworthy in the absence of the defendant, who is most often a man unaware of the proceeding, and has no immediate opportunity to testify on his own behalf, or face his accuser. Present policy is unfair, counterproductive, and inflammatory. RSA 173:B, and any other chapter so written, should be modified by removing such sentences as, "Upon a showing of immediate and present danger of abuse.... with or without notice to the defendant," and replacing it with, "Upon a showing of clear and convincing evidence that abuse has occurred, or is about to occur....no order should be issued without first hearing from the defendant."
7. **All Domestic Violence protocols and state-sponsored reports should be modified to change references about male assault rates to include also the female assault rates.** The literature should portray the fact that domestic violence is a two-way street.

PATERNITY FRAUD AND CERTIFICATES OF BIRTH

Paternity Fraud is a growing concern for men and children everywhere. It can spawn considerable grief for the men who may or may not be emotionally attached to a child they later discover was fathered by another; and possibly unsettling for children who may discover the false nature of their paternity. Such problems can become grievously complicated as in the case of the Auburn, Maine man who was denied parenting time by the state to a child on which DNA tests proved was fathered by another man, yet was still ordered by the state to pay child support. (http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/special/may/4_24special.htm, Auburn man ordered to pay support for child that's not his, Portsmouth Herald, April 24, 2005.)

Paternity fraud is defined as the wrong man being named by the mother as the father of her child for purposes of deceit. It is noteworthy that there is no such thing as "maternity fraud" and that this is an issue that exclusively exists as a problem that men may face.

Paternity fraud is a growing problem for both men who should have a higher level of confidence on the paternity of their children, and for the children who need a reliable history of both parents for the maintenance of their physical and emotional health. The Blood Bank Association, and Lee Newman, administrator of Safe-NH, report that just under 30% of paternity tests proved negative for fathers who were fingered to be the sire of their girlfriend's child. Carnell Smith, a paternity fraud expert who administers <http://www.paternityfraud.com>, reports that slightly more than 30% of the cases he sampled proved negative. Smith strongly advises

young men not to sign paternity statements until DNA testing proves positive for them.
(<http://www.expertclick.com/search/outsideurl.cfm?groupID=6854>)

This Commission has on its agenda, "Certificates of Birth." It will be exploring the possibility of recommending changes in the birth certificate laws under RSA 5-C:11 that may increase the likelihood of children knowing who their fathers are, of reducing the odds of children not having their legitimate fathers named on their birth certificates, and to enhance the possibility that natural fathers and children may be brought closer together.

EDUCATION

The status of boys and young men in education has been attracting increased attention by education experts in recent years. This surprises many people, who may have heard that schools "shortchange" girls and assumed that boys were doing just fine. In fact, while many people became aware of the fact that girls were behind boys in math and science education, an even wider gender gap remained hidden; that of reading and writing skills, where boys are the ones at a stark disadvantage.

The low educational status of males is especially disturbing given how little has been done to recognize and equip them to better succeed in their schooling. Gender inequities are immediately seen from prekindergarten and continue through postsecondary education. As educational success has become increasingly critical in an information-driven society, the consequences of leaving males behind continue to worsen.

Early Childhood Education

The challenges that boys face in school can be traced back as early as prekindergarten. A 2005 Yale University report showed that nationally, boys are 4.5 times more likely than girls to be expelled from prekindergarten programs. Also noteworthy in this study is the observation that "The increased likelihood of boys to be expelled over girls was similar across all ethnicities, except for African-Americans, where boys accounted for 91.4% of the expulsions."
(*Prekindergarteners Left Behind: Expulsion Rates in State Prekindergarten Systems*. Walter S. Gilliam, PhD, Yale University Child Study Center. May 2005 Report.)

Reading Scores

Reading scores from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) demonstrate that in New Hampshire, male students are significantly behind females in this fundamental skill, and that this gap worsens over time. Using the most recent data (2005), we see that the percentage gap between boys and girls who are below the Basic reading level jumps from

five points in Grade 4 to ten points in Grade 8. The percentage of boys who are reading below the Proficient level jumps from 65% to 69% between Grade 4 and Grade 8, while for girls this value decreases by one percentage point (from 57% to 56%).

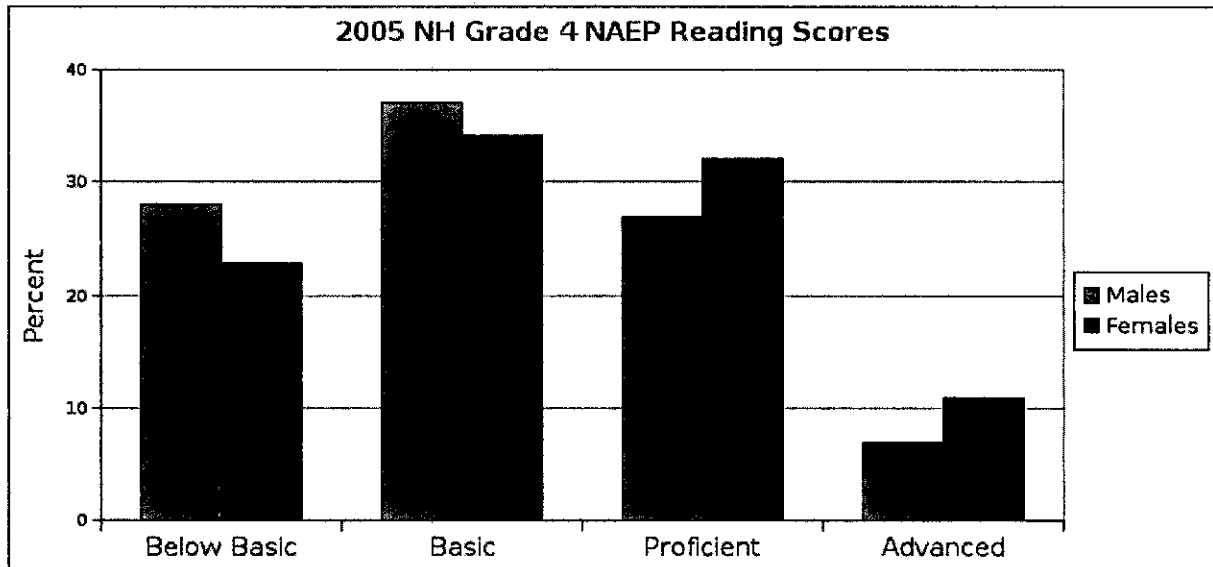


Table 1E: New Hampshire Grade 4 NAEP Reading Scores, 2005

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Below Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Males	28%	37%	27%	7%
Females	23%	34%	32%	11%

Source: The Nation's Report Card, National Assessment of Educational Progress

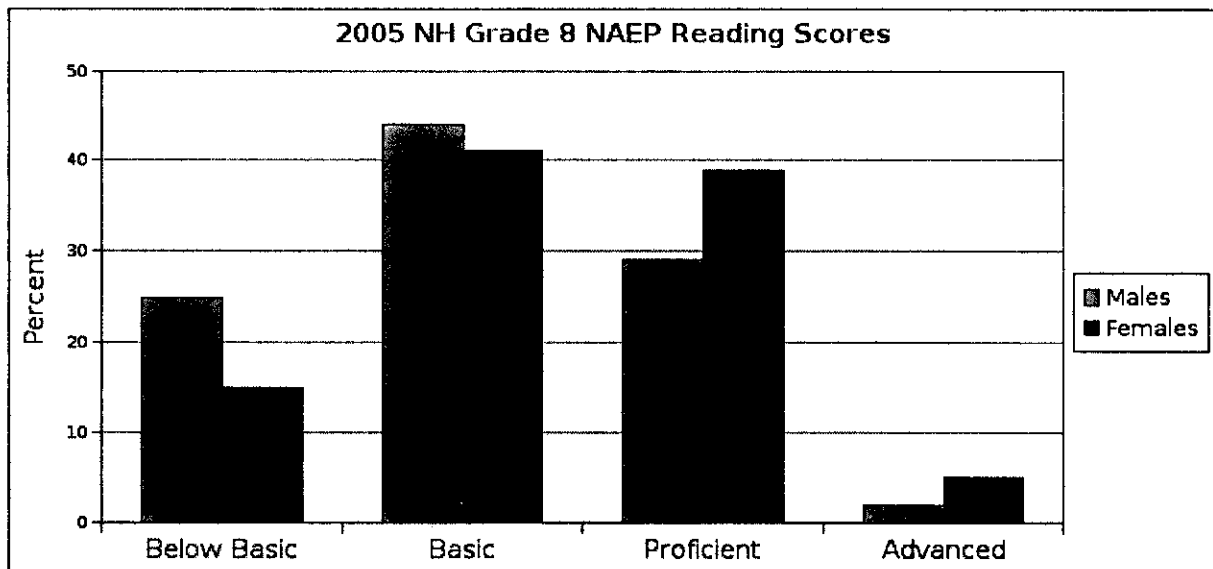


Table 2E: New Hampshire Grade 8 NAEP Reading Scores, 2005

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Below Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Males	25%	44%	29%	2%
Females	15%	41%	39%	5%

Source: The Nation's Report Card, National Assessment of Educational Progress

Mathematics Scores

The 2005 NAEP scores in Mathematics for New Hampshire students demonstrate that the math gap between boys and girls is much smaller than the reading gap.

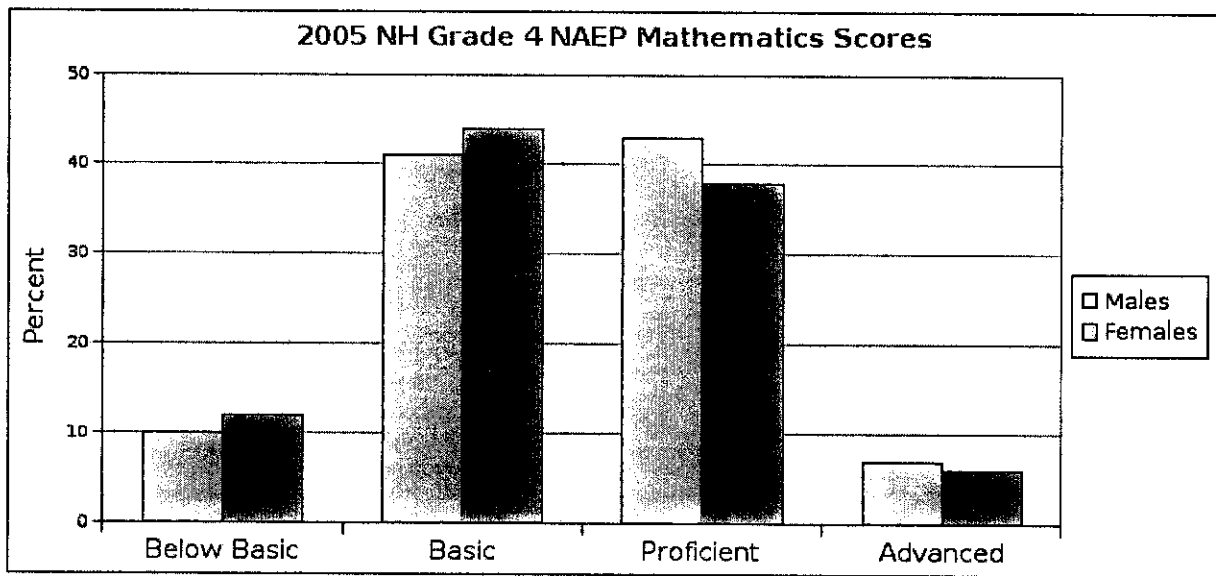


Table 3E: New Hampshire Grade 4 Mathematics Scores, 2005

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Below Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Males	10%	41%	43%	7%
Females	12%	44%	38%	6%

Source: The Nation's Report Card, National Assessment of Educational Progress

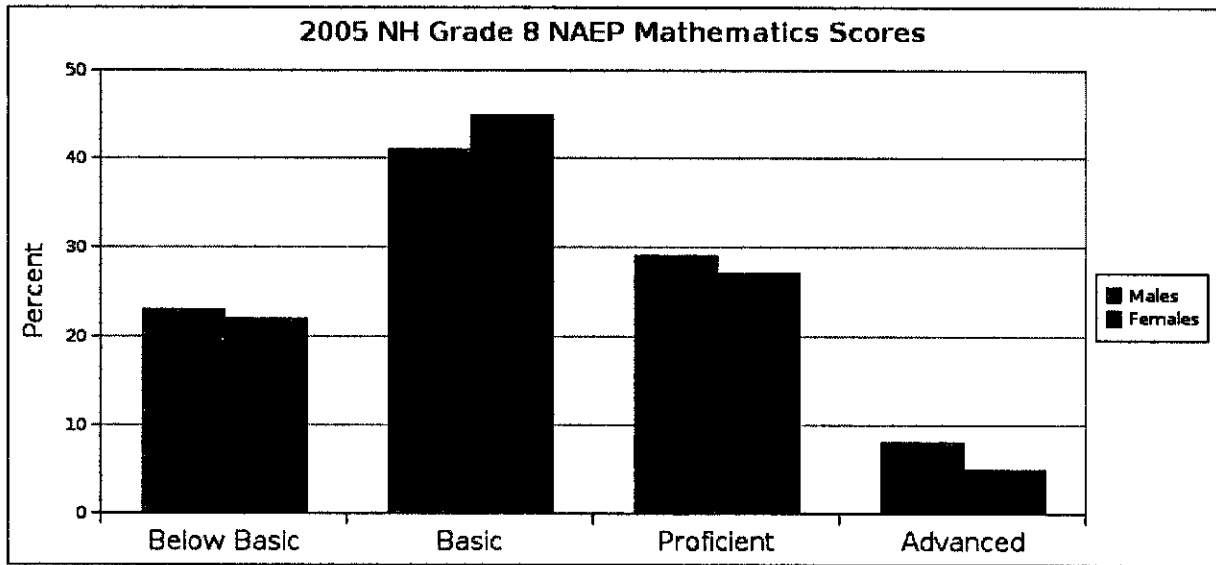


Table 4E: New Hampshire Grade 8 Mathematics Scores, 2005

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Below Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Males	23%	41%	29%	8%
Females	22%	45%	27%	5%

Source: The Nation's Report Card, National Assessment of Educational Progress

Teachers

Another trend many educators are concerned about is the disproportionately low number of male teachers in public schools. The National Education Association reports that nationally, 1 in 5 public school teachers are men. In public elementary schools, this ratio is 1 in 9. The number of male teachers has been dropping consistently since approximately 1981, when 33% of public school teachers were men. (*Status of the American Public School Teacher*, National Education Association 2001 Report.) In 2003, the NEA reported that "the number of male teachers now stands at a 40-year low." (*Male Teacher Fact Sheet*, 2003. National Education Association. <http://www.nea.org/teachershortage/03malefactsheet.html>) **This Commission agrees with the NEA's recommendations for increasing the number of male teachers:**

- **Raising teacher salaries.** "States with the highest salaries tend to have the highest proportion of male teachers."
- **Focus recruitment efforts during high school.** "Initiatives to identify prospective teachers early in their academic careers have proved successful. Secondary school surveys, career counseling, and college prep courses can help boost enrollment."
- **Encourage current teachers to promote teaching as a career to their male students.** "NEA asked the nation's teachers to select, from a list of options, the principal reason they originally decided to become a teacher. The influence of a teacher in elementary or

secondary school was the 4th most frequently chosen reason (32 percent). Most notably, teachers under 30 gave this reason with greater frequency than did teachers over 30 (39% vs. 31%)."

(The above quotes are from: *Male Teacher Fact Sheet*, 2003. National Education Association. <http://www.nea.org/teachershortage/03malefactsheet.html>)

Secondary Education

The New Hampshire Partnership for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education Research (NH PAPER) surveyed high school seniors from 56 public and eight private high schools in the state regarding their future plans after completing high school. The 2004 survey found that young women (67%) were much more likely to plan to attend a 4-year college after graduating than young men (55%). For students who did not plan to continue their education after high school, 58% said that they had made this decision in the 11th or 12th grade (21% and 37%, respectively). Also noteworthy in this report is the finding that "female public high school seniors reported significantly higher grade point averages in English, foreign languages, arts and music, business studies and computer studies than did male public school seniors. Male public school seniors did not report higher grade point averages than female seniors in any subject." (*Measuring Aspirations and Participation*, 2004 Survey. New Hampshire Partnership for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education Research. <http://www.nhpaper.org>)

Young men also do not make it through secondary education at the same rate as young women. The U.S. Department of Education reports that in 2001 the high school dropout rate is higher for men (12.2%) than women (9.3%). (SE) An even greater gender disparity exists when looking at Hispanic men and women (31.6% vs. 22.1%). (*Digest of Education Statistics*, 2002. U.S. Department of Education)

Postsecondary Education

Male students are a minority on college and university campuses in New Hampshire, as well as nationally. Women began outnumbering men in postsecondary education by the mid-1970s, and this trend has continued to this day, where women make up approximately 60% of all undergraduate students. The following data shows that this trend also exists at the University of New Hampshire:

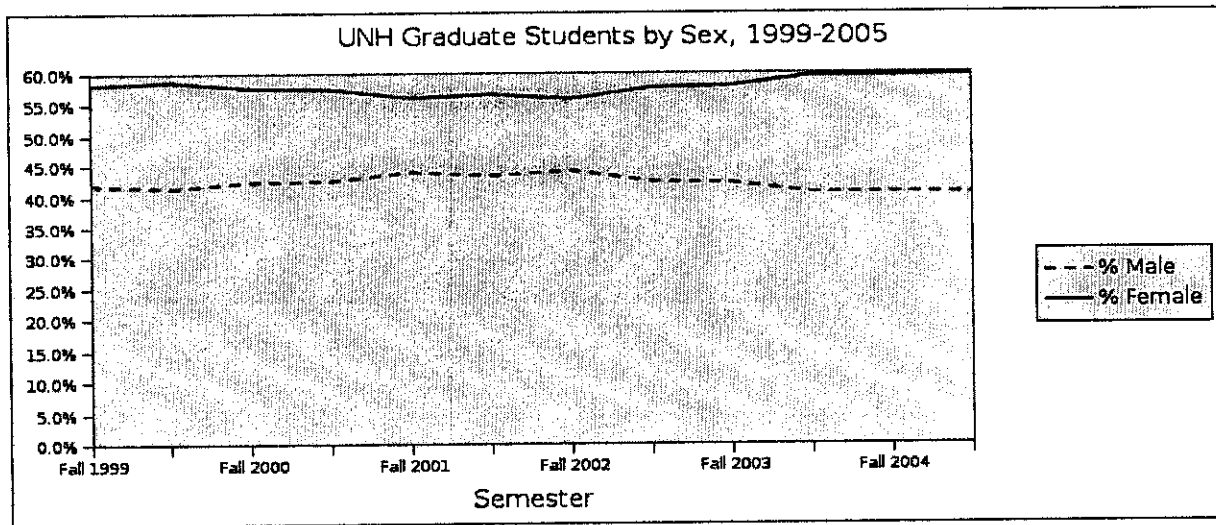


Table 5E: UNH, Durham - Graduate Students by Sex, 1999-2005

Semester	Total	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Fall 1999	1746	730	41.8%	1016	58.2%
Spring 2000	1734	717	41.3%	1017	58.7%
Fall 2000	2078	880	42.3%	1198	57.7%
Spring 2001	2020	859	42.5%	1161	57.5%
Fall 2001	2004	880	43.9%	1124	56.1%
Spring 2002	2009	871	43.4%	1138	56.6%
Fall 2002	2159	953	44.1%	1206	55.9%
Spring 2003	2134	904	42.4%	1230	57.6%
Fall 2003	2324	979	42.1%	1345	57.9%
Spring 2004	2310	937	40.6%	1373	59.4%
Fall 2004	2407	977	40.6%	1430	59.4%
Spring 2005	2368	958	40.5%	1410	59.5%

Source: University of New Hampshire Institutional Research

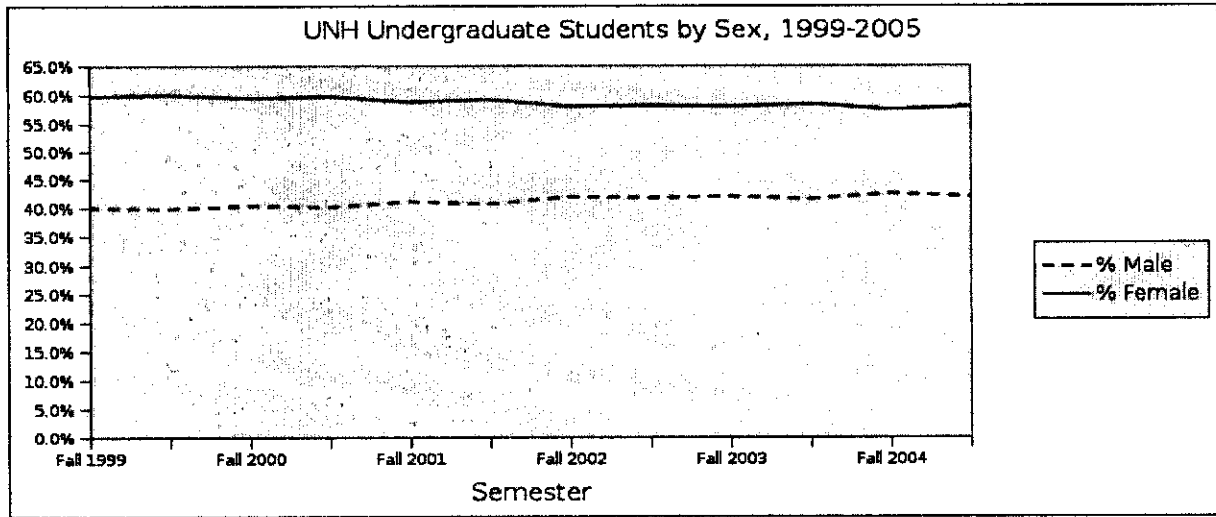


Table 6E: UNH, Durham - Undergraduate Students by Sex, 1999-2005

Semester	Total	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Fall 1999	9741	3911	40.1%	5830	59.9%
Spring 2000	9331	3730	40.0%	5601	60.0%
Fall 2000	9722	3937	40.5%	5785	59.5%
Spring 2001	9311	3747	40.2%	5564	59.8%
Fall 2001	9893	4074	41.2%	5819	58.8%
Spring 2002	9504	3875	40.8%	5629	59.2%
Fall 2002	10350	4348	42.0%	6002	58.0%
Spring 2003	10002	4184	41.8%	5818	58.2%
Fall 2003	10408	4375	42.0%	6033	58.0%
Spring 2004	10011	4164	41.6%	5847	58.4%
Fall 2004	10470	4456	42.6%	6014	57.4%
Spring 2005	10007	4208	42.1%	5799	57.9%

Source: University of New Hampshire Institutional Research

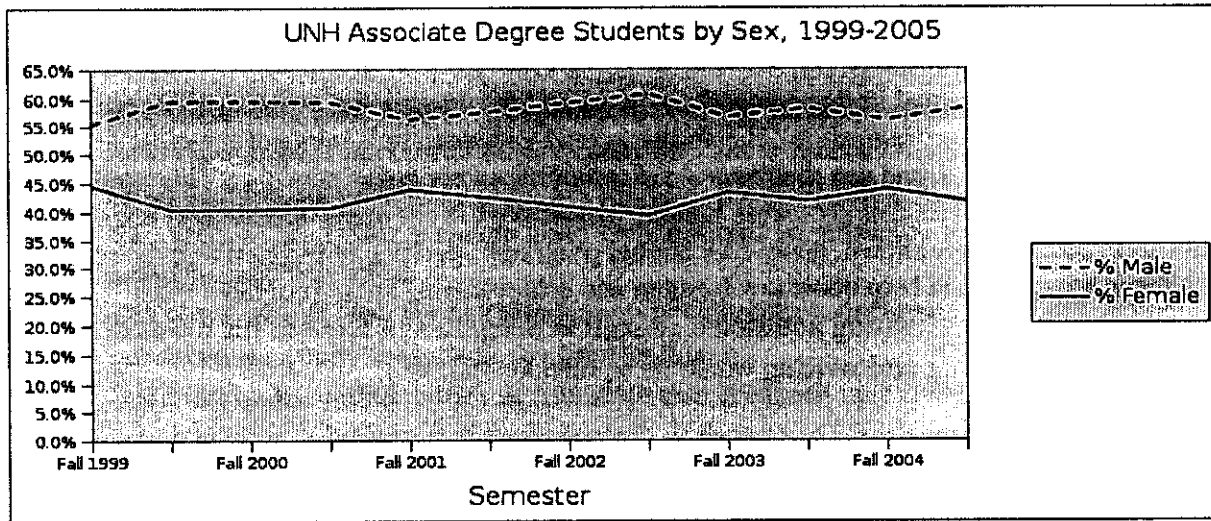


Table 7E: UNH, Durham - Associate Degree Students by Sex, 1999-2005

Semester	Total	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
Fall 1999	478	265	55.4%	213	44.6%
Spring 2000	443	264	59.6%	179	40.4%
Fall 2000	517	308	59.6%	209	40.4%
Spring 2001	470	279	59.4%	191	40.6%
Fall 2001	507	285	56.2%	222	43.8%
Spring 2002	462	266	57.6%	196	42.4%
Fall 2002	517	306	59.2%	211	40.8%
Spring 2003	466	283	60.7%	183	39.3%
Fall 2003	529	300	56.7%	229	43.3%
Spring 2004	462	269	58.2%	193	41.8%
Fall 2004	472	265	56.1%	207	43.9%
Spring 2005	422	246	58.3%	176	41.7%

Source: University of New Hampshire Institutional Research

Education Conclusions

The data presented in this report show that a serious educational problem exists for boys and young men in New Hampshire. The ability to read and write well is one of the most fundamental life-skills, and one that boys are disproportionately doing poorly at. This needs to be remedied. When the fact that girls were lagging behind boys in the areas of math and science education became well-known, many educational programs specifically targeted at girls in these academic areas arose to help boost involvement and achievement. These programs were extremely successful. **Creating additional education programs tailored to the needs of boys in the areas of reading and writing** would be an obvious first step.

The reasons behind the low enrollment levels of young men in colleges and universities are not well understood. Certainly, improving the overall academic achievement of boys earlier on in education will increase the number of college-bound secondary students. **Resources such as the NH PAPER survey should be expanded to cover an accurate sampling of all high school students in the state, and focus on identifying the reasons why male students are deciding to forgo higher education.**

Finally, it is a recommendation of this Commission that awareness of the problems boys face in our schools become a greater focus in the education community and the public. Many educators see the problems that boys face on a daily basis, but do not have enough support from the general public to take stronger actions to help correct these inequities.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission on the Status of Men recommends and suggests that:

- **The state provides adequate funding to finance an Executive Director, support personnel, office, supplies, telephone, computer and other office equipment.**
- **The State of New Hampshire take steps to reduce the disparity between the investment in women's health issues and men's health issues, and to design programs concentrating on addressing in a gender-neutral manner those conditions and diseases with the highest incidence and the highest rates of morbidity and mortality.**
- **The State of New Hampshire provide further directed study and proactive intervention programs, including educational programs at the elementary school level directed at bolstering the self-esteem of boys and helping them develop increased coping skills and new approaches to personal and interpersonal conflict, coupled with increased prevention programs directed at those segments of our society most likely to succeed in committing suicide.**
- **Educational programs be promoted that teach young men and women about the**

need for children to have two caring natural parents meaningfully involved in their lives, with an emphasis on the role of the father in child development.

- The Office of Child Support Enforcement modify its policy of enforcing only the financial support portion of family court decrees to include the parenting aspects of those decrees, as well.
- Research on the father's role in child development be given the widest possible publicity and attention.
- The Governor of New Hampshire issue a proclamation declaring that both natural parents are equally important for their children.
- It should be the public policy of this state that frequent and continuing contact between minor children and both parents, if the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage, is ordinarily beneficial to the children. This commission also finds that it is in the public interest as well as to children and families to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibility of child rearing; and that a rebuttable presumption of joint physical custody be supported and encouraged.
- Parenting time should be "maximized".
- Child support guidelines should be based on child costs.
- OCSE should consider modifying its policy of enforcing only the support portion of family court decrees to include the parenting aspects of those decrees as well.
- Absent fault grounds, the financial burden of family breakdown should be shared by the parties on an equal basis.
- Judges, prosecutors and other court personnel should attend educational conferences on domestic violence (DV) structured to avoid the present gender bias that ignores or discounts domestic violence by women against both men and children.
- Properly trained Case Evaluators should screen each domestic violence case with the goal of arriving at mutually agreeable solutions in an atmosphere of communication and compromise.
- Evidentiary standards and procedure should be reviewed and revised in domestic violence cases.
- State-sponsored reports and protocols on domestic violence should be modified to change references about male assault rates to include also the female assault rates.
- The number of male public school teachers should be increased by raising teacher salaries, promoting male teacher recruitment in high schools, and encouraging current teachers to take an active role in recruiting young men as teachers.
- Create additional education programs tailored to the needs of boys in the areas of reading and writing.
- Resources such as the NH PAPER survey should be expanded to cover an accurate sampling of all high school students in the state, and focus on identifying the reasons why male students are deciding to forgo higher education.
- Awareness of the problems boys face in our schools should become a greater focus in

the education community and the public.

- **Funding be provided this commission to finance an executive director, supplies, telephone, office and computer equipment; and to enable the production of brochures and public service announcements designed to improve and promote health, education and policies which would bring fathers and children closer together pursuant to RSA 19-I:4.**

APPENDIX A

Summary Abstracts of Articles from the Fall issue of the Psychology of Women

FEMALE VIOLENCE AGAINST INTIMATE PARTNERS: AN INTRODUCTION - Irene Hanson Frieze

This special issue addresses some of the contradictions found in the research literature on intimate partner violence. Much of this work is concerned with the problems of severely battered women. However, other research indicates that women can be just as violent as their partners. Articles in this issue begin to explore some of the ways that women express intimate partner violence and argue that there is more than one type of partner violence. Motives and other correlates of violence are examined and future research directions are outlined.

THE MYTH OF FEMALE PASSIVITY: THIRTY YEARS OF REVELATIONS ABOUT FEMALE AGGRESSION - Deborah South Richardson

This article reviews an extensive program of research that has examined gender differences in aggressive behavior. Early research in the aggression laboratory that was designed to explain why females were non aggressive actually revealed that females did respond to provocation and that they could not accurately be depicted as passive individuals. Subsequent studies that examined both indirect and direct aggression revealed that women were at least as likely as men to employ indirect aggressive strategies and that the nature of relationship is a better determinant of aggressive action than gender. Directly relevant to the theme of this volume, the later research revealed that males and females reported equally high levels of direct aggression in interaction with romantic partners.

COURTSHIP BEHAVIORS, RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE, AND BREAKUP PERSISTENCE IN COLLEGE MEN AND WOMEN - Stacey L. Williams, Irene Hanson Frieze

This study assessed college men's (n= 85) and women's (n= 215) courtship persistence behaviors (approach, surveillance, intimidation, mild aggression), which have been linked to stalking, and examined their relations to initial courtship interest, relationship development, and future violence and persistence, while also exploring the role of gender in these relations. Findings showed individuals performed surveillance when initially more interested than the other. Whereas approach behaviors were positively associated with relationship establishment, surveillance and intimidation were negatively associated. As predicted, results showed continuity in persistence and violence over the course of dating relationships. For both genders, courtship mild aggression predicted relationship violence, and persistence behaviors predicted similar persistence at breakup. Early behaviors may foreshadow violence and stalking-related behaviors in both men and women.

RELATIONSHIP QUALITY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN WOMEN'S SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS: THE ROLE OF MINORITY STRESS - Kimberly F. Balsam, Dawn M. Szymanski

Despite a large body of literature addressing relationship quality and domestic violence in women's same-sex relationships, few studies have empirically examined how stress specific to living as a lesbian or bisexual woman might correlate with these relationship variables. Degree of outness, internalized homophobia, lifetime and recent experiences of discrimination, butch/femme identity, relationship quality, and lifetime and recent experiences of domestic violence were assessed in a sample of 272 predominantly European American lesbian and bisexual women. Lesbian and bisexual women were found to be comparable on most relationship variables. In bivariate analyses, minority stress variables (internalized homophobia and discrimination) were associated with lower relationship quality and both domestic violence perpetration and victimization. Outness and butch/femme identity were largely unrelated to relationship variables. Path analysis revealed that relationship quality fully mediated the relationship between internalized homophobia and recent domestic violence.

INVESTIGATING THREE EXPLANATIONS OF WOMEN'S RELATIONSHIP AGGRESSION - Nicola Graham-Kevan and John Archer

This study investigated explanations of women's partner aggression in a sample of 358 women. Women completed measures of physical aggression, control, and fear. Three explanations of women's partner aggression were explored: (a) that its use is associated with fear, (b) that it is reciprocal, and (c) that it is coercive. Each explanation received partial support, with multivariate analysis showing that collectively they explained significant proportions of the variance in women's self-reported use of physical aggression toward their male partners. These results indicate that women's physical aggression toward male partners cannot be understood using a unitary explanation.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY COLLEGE WOMEN WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A HISTORY OF VICTIMIZATION - Kelly N. Graves, Stacy M. Sechrist, Jacquelyn W. White1, and Matthew J. Paradise

Using a longitudinal design, the current study explored intimate partner violence perpetration among 1,300 college women within the context of one's history of physical and sexual victimization across 4 years of college. Structural equation modeling indicated that sexual victimization does not predict concurrent use of women's intimate partner violence but does predict subsequent use of women's intimate partner violence during the later years of college. In contrast, physical victimization is associated positively with concurrent use of women's intimate partner violence but is negatively associated with subsequent use of women's intimate partner violence for women. Furthermore, the negative relationship of victimization to subsequent perpetration primarily is due to those with high levels of victimization histories. The present study provides the first model of intimate partner violence within the context of victimization history using longitudinal data. The findings indicate that women's intimate partner violence

perpetration is not context-free, but rather is influenced by their own physical and sexual victimization histories.

PRECURSORS AND CORRELATES OF WOMEN'S VIOLENCE: CHILD ABUSE TRAUMATIZATION, VICTIMIZATION OF WOMEN, AVOIDANCE COPING, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS - Tami P. Sullivan, Katharine J. Meese, Suzanne C. Swan¹, Carolyn M. Mazure, and David L. Snow

Path modeling assessed (a) the influence of child abuse traumatization on women's use of violence and their experiences of being victimized, (b) the association of these three variables to depressive and post traumatic stress symptoms, and (c) the indirect pathways from women using violence and their being victimized to psychological symptoms through avoidance coping. Among 108 primarily African American women recruited from the community who used violence with a male partner, women's use of violence, but not their experiences of being victimized, was predicted by child abuse traumatization. Women's use of violence did not directly or indirectly predict symptomatology. In contrast, child abuse traumatization and women's experiences of being victimized were predictive of both depressive and post traumatic stress symptoms, and being victimized also was related indirectly to depressive symptoms through avoidance coping.

RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE AMONG ADOLESCENT MOTHERS: FREQUENCY, DYADIC NATURE, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR RELATIONSHIP DISSOLUTION AND MENTAL HEALTH - Stephanie Milan and Jessica Lewis, Kathleen Ethier, Trace Kershaw and Jeannette R. Ickovics

This article examines whether the frequency, dyadic nature, and potential implications of relationship violence differ in parenting ($n= 163$) and nulliparous (i.e., never given birth; $n= 165$) adolescent females from low-income, urban communities. We found the frequency and dyadic nature of violence did not differ between parental status groups. Over half of the adolescents in both groups reported relationship violence in the past year, with female-enacted violence more common than male-enacted violence. However, significant group differences emerged in the relationship between violence and subsequent relationship dissolution and mental health. Higher levels of female-enacted violence predicted relationship dissolution among nulliparous adolescents but predicted increases in depression in parenting adolescents. Findings highlight the need for violence prevention programs tailored specifically to the developmental and contextual needs of adolescent mothers.

AN INVESTMENT MODEL ANALYSIS OF RELATIONSHIP STABILITY AMONG WOMEN COURT-MANDATED TO VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS - Deborah L. Rhatigan, Todd M. Moore, Gregory L. Stuart

This investigation examined relationship stability among 60 women court-mandated to violence interventions by applying a general model (i.e., Rusbult's 1980 Investment Model) to predict intentions to leave current relationships. As in past research, results showed that Investment

Model predictions were supported such that court-mandated women who reported lesser relationship satisfaction, greater alternatives, and fewer investments in current relationships endorsed lower levels of commitment and greater intentions to leave those relationships. Secondary analyses showed that court-mandated women's violence perpetration and experiences of being victimized were minimally related to model factors or women's intentions to leave. Taken together, results of this study provide additional evidence that general models should be used to predict relationship termination decisions among women involved in violent relationships, and violence experiences alone do not affect that decision.

A POSTMODERN APPROACH TO WOMEN'S USE OF VIOLENCE: DEVELOPING MULTIPLE AND COMPLEX CONCEPTUALIZATIONS - Maureen C. McHugh, Nichole A. Livingston, and Amy Ford

We review the research on intimate partner abuse and, in particular, the articles in this issue, from within a feminist and postmodern framework. Research on women's use of violence is reviewed in terms of how researchers have constructed and measured violence and have conceptualized intimate partner violence (IPV) and gender. What and how we measure determines what we find (McHugh & Cosgrove, 2005). We call for new conceptualizations of intimate violence and for more complex constructions of gender. We offer a postmodern perspective on gender and IPV arguing that interpersonal violence always involves gender, that approach and method influence results, and that men and women use violence in both similar and different ways.

APPENDIX B

CHILDREN LIKELY TO BE BETTER ADJUSTED IN JOINT VS SOLE CUSTODY
ARRANGEMENTS IN MOST CASES, ACCORDING TO REVIEW OF RESEARCH
American Psychological Association

March 24, 2002

<http://www.apa.org/releases/custody2.html>

Living Situation Not As Influential As Time Spent With Parent

WASHINGTON - Children from divorced families who either live with both parents at different times or spend certain amounts of time with each parent are better adjusted in most cases than children who live and interact with just one parent, according to new research on custody arrangements and children's adjustment.

Psychologist Robert Bauserman, Ph.D., of AIDS Administration/Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in Baltimore, Maryland conducted a meta-analysis of 33 studies between 1982 to 1999 that examined 1,846 sole-custody and 814 joint-custody children. The studies compared child adjustment in joint physical or joint legal custody with sole-custody settings and 251 intact families. Joint custody was defined as either physical custody - where a child spends equal or substantial amounts of time with both parents or shared legal custody - where a child lives with primarily one parent but both parents are involved in all aspects of the child's life. This article will appear in the March issue of the Journal of Family Psychology, published by the American Psychological Association (APA).

Children in joint custody arrangements had less behavior and emotional problems, had higher self-esteem, better family relations and school performance than children in sole custody arrangements. And these children were as well-adjusted as intact family children on the same measures, said Bauserman, "probably because joint custody provides the child with an opportunity to have ongoing contact with both parents."

These findings indicate that children do not actually need to be in a joint physical custody to show better adjustment but just need to spend substantial time with both parents, especially with their fathers, said Bauserman. Also, joint custody couples reported less conflict, possibly because both parents could participate in their children's lives equally and not spend the time arguing over childcare decisions. Unfortunately a perception exists that joint custody is more harmful because it exposes children to ongoing parental conflict. In fact, the studies in this review found that sole-custody parents reported higher levels of conflict.

It is important to recognize that the results do not support joint custody in all situations. When one parent is abusive or neglectful or has a serious mental or physical health problem, sole-custody with the other parent would clearly be preferable, said Bauserman. The judges, lawyers,

social workers, psychologists and other professionals involved in divorce counseling and litigation should be aware of these findings to make informed decisions of what environment is best for a child in a custody situation.

Furthermore, to address the question of how much the parents' emotional health compared with the custody arrangement influenced the children's adjustment, Bauserman explained that custody arrangement seemed to have more influence. By statistically controlling for past parental conflict (which indicates parental maladjustment), the joint custody children still were significantly better adjusted. This result was also found in other studies cited in Bauserman's review. More primary research is needed, said Bauserman, "on the past and current adjustment of joint custody and sole custody parents before this question can be completely answered." Article:

"Child Adjustment in Joint-Custody Versus Sole-Custody Arrangements: A Meta-Analytic Review," Robert Bauserman, Ph.D., AIDS Administration/Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Journal of Family Psychology , Vol 16, No. 1.

Full text of the article is available from the APA Public Affairs Office or at <http://www.apaorg/journals/releases/fam16191.pdf>

Robert Bauserman, PhD, can be reached by telephone at 410-767-4322

APPENDIX C

Paternal Involvement and Children's Health: A Longitudinal Study

Kathleen A. Foley, University of Pennsylvania and Frank F. Furstenberg, University of Pennsylvania

CONCLUSIONS

Whereas previous studies have had difficulty demonstrating that fathers matter to the well being of their children, our results provide strong evidence that fathers do, in fact, count for important measures of physical and mental health. Both male and female children who felt close to a father in adolescence were significantly more likely to report better physical and mental health outcomes at age 27 net of their physical and mental health when they were teenagers. In addition, we found that losing a close father relationship between early childhood and adolescence had significant negative implications for both physical and mental health. Our lack of significant findings for depression at age 27 in light of earlier positive findings at age 20 (Furstenberg and Harris 1993) suggests that the beneficial effects of having a close father diminish over time for depression.

The fact that we were able to demonstrate statistically significant benefits of father closeness on several children's physical and mental health in adulthood, despite our small sample, points to the advantages of using longitudinal data. First, we include data on all types of fathers, including surrogate, step and non-residential fathers as opposed to just biological fathers. Second, we asked the children themselves to rate their relationship with their fathers rather than relying on mother reports. Not only may mother's reports be an inaccurate reflection of the child's feelings, but they may also be influenced by the mother's own opinion of and relationship with the father. Thus, future studies may benefit from asking children directly about their relationships with their biological father and other father figures who may or may not be co-resident with the child.

Our inability to find a significant effect of paternal contact on children's physical and mental health should not be overlooked. While there is some evidence that more paternal involvement is better than less involvement for mental health in adulthood, we found no evidence that resident fathers mattered more than non-resident fathers. Given the small percentage of low income inner city children who have long term residential fathers (Coley 1999), this finding is good news. In conjunction with our results showing the advantages of close paternal relationships, this finding implies that close, loving fathers, whether they be residential or not, matter for their children's later well being.

While it is unwise to read too much into these rather preliminary results, it seems clear that one way public policy can help inner city children is to assist fathers in staying involved with their children throughout adolescence. Reporting on preliminary findings from the Fragile Families Study, McLanahan (1999) suggests that public policy take advantage of the window of opportunity present at the time of a child's birth to keep enthusiastic fathers active in their

children's lives. The results of our study here second that notion.

APPENDIX D

A PROPOSAL TO ESTIMATE AND IMPROVE THE SUCCESS OF THE OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Reports sent to the public on the effectiveness of child support enforcement programs have traditionally relied on two factors: (A) total dollars collected year to year, and (B) a ratio of dollars collected divided by the dollars spent to administer and enforce collections (State of New Hampshire Child Support Services, Performance Audit Report, 1995). These methods of analysis may send a false sense of effectiveness because total caseloads and dollars ordered rise in tandem with dollars collected, and the administrative ratio is difficult to interpret in terms of success (i.e., how many child support dollars would still be collectible in the absence of any administrative costs).

Factors A & B do not show the complete picture. NH Compliance rates consistently remain mired at less than 65% for all accounts and all obligors, even as totals collected rise--hardly significant when compared with rates that hovered at around 60% for all accounts way back in 1985, or the 90% compliance rates for involved parents (Braver, 1998). When viewed in terms of absolute numbers of children involved, the poverty problem for children is even worse because a 5% increase in compliance cannot compensate for, say, an 80% increase in the numbers of children in the system.

The key to the proper support of children, in both economic and overall wellness--as S. Braver reports in *Divorced Dads: Shattering the Myths*, 1998-- is greater attention to the parental involvement factor for both divorced and never married parents. But more data is needed, as prescribed below, to better define the problem and the need:

I. An in-depth accounting of the listed items to have a better handle on success/failure of enforcement programs:

- a) Total amounts ordered yr to yr since 1986 for all accounts.
- b) Total amounts collected yr to yr since 1986 for all accounts.
- c) Percent total success rates yr to yr for all accounts in terms of both dollars collected and obligors in full compliance.
- d) Dollars collected in terms of dollars collected per child for all accounts yr to yr since 1986. (Nominal & inflation adjusted)
- e) Total arrearages for all accounts accumulative yr to yr since 1986 and present overall arrearage total.
- f) An assessment on the extent to which support enforcement officers conducted investigations and enforcement pertaining to visitation as prescribed by occupational job description code 8945-17.
- g) Total cases and total children yr to yr to discover the problem in terms of absolute

numbers of children in the system.

- h) Total dollars yr to yr that were charged off as noncollectable and overall total of noncollectable dollars.

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Mike Jeannot LCS

HB 380

THE STATUS OF MEN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF MEN

<http://www.nh.gov/csm/>

FEBRUARY 1, 2008

CHARTER

The General Court recognizes that men are an important resource for families and children, and wishes to explore the causes and consequences of a variety of social, economic, educational, and health challenges facing men, and to have recommendations for relief made available to the public. Specifically, the General Court recognizes that fatherlessness is a severe social problem and that New Hampshire children who have a poor or nonexistent relationship with their father are the largest users of a variety of state-funded services. See enabling legislation HB 587-FN-A (Chapter 267:2, Laws of 2002, effective July, 1, 2002), and the PURPOSE thereof.

In addition, men whose average life expectancy was formerly on a par with that of women are now dying on average 10 years sooner, with much higher rates of suicide and mortality from the 15 leading causes of diseases and accidents. Educationally, the General Court recognizes the need to address the disproportionately poor performance of boys in the areas of reading and comprehension and to increase the grade passage rate for boys, while encouraging the pursuit of postsecondary degrees. The New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men was therefore created by the legislature to address and reverse the deteriorating status of men and boys in New Hampshire.

Membership consists of seven members appointed by the Governor:

- Joseph H. Mastromarino, MD, Chair
- Scott A. Garman, Secretary
- David A. Lauren, Esq, Treasurer
- Larry K. Colby
- Michael J. Geanoulis
- Marshall D. Hickok, Esq
- Scott R. Meyer, PhD

Duties of the Commission include, but are not limited to:

- Examining issues and effects of cultural biases and stereotyping, beginning with childhood experiences and programs in public schools, and extending to include a study of male suicide and adult concerns such as family relations, promoting education and policies which bring fathers and children closer together, including in school settings.
- Studying health problems unique to men or which predominately affect men, and making appropriate recommendations.
- Promoting initiatives and programs that will enable men to develop career skills and continue their education so that they may become productive and responsible citizens.

The Commission, with this report, meets the legislative requirement to report its activities, findings, and recommendations for the general court and the administration pursuant to RSA 19-I.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MEN wishes to recognize the following, who either contributed to the substance of the report or supported the functioning of the Commission:

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Barry Bodell, NH Administrative Services

Representative David A. Bickford

Representative Karen McRae

University of New Hampshire, Institutional Research Department

Thom Linehan, UNH Extension Services, Family Education

Dr. Elaine Holden and The Reading Foundation

John Stephen, former Commissioner, Health & Human Services (H&HS)

Neil Bouton, H&HS Division of Child Support Services

Warren Farrell, PhD

Justice Gerard Boyle

John Sias and the NH Prostate Cancer Coalition

RADAR (Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting)

<http://www.mediaradar.org>

Dr. Murray A. Straus and the UNH Family Research Lab

Lee Newman and SAFE-NH

<http://www.safe-nh.org>

Dr. Stevan Gressit

Representative Mary Gile and the Children, Youth and Family Committee

The Upham-Walker House

The New Hampshire State Library

Members of the public who took valuable time away from their personal obligations to bring us a better sense of the concerns described herein.

The Commission would also like to thank the following former members of the Commission, whose terms ended before the completion of this report:

Stephen Gorin, PhD

Alfred Lerandeau

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The State of New Hampshire has demonstrated the capacity to serve as a national leader through the progressive creation of The Commission on the Status of Men. New Hampshire appears to be the only state in the United States to have created a commission to focus on these crucial concerns.

Since this Commission is groundbreaking in nature, it is susceptible to some of the types of misperceptions that frequently accompany innovative endeavors. Specifically, some of the issues that this Commission is studying and exploring are highly controversial in nature. While this Commission welcomes input from any and all parties - including those who take issue with items we are addressing - we are equally concerned that efforts are made to better clarify the mission, goals and objectives of this Commission.

The Commission on the Status of Men seeks to encourage government and community agencies to present an accurate and balanced view of the experiences of males in our state. We do so in order to highlight the changing status of men and boys in the new millennium. We are concerned about issues that include but are not limited to such things as the father/child relationship, male role models for children who lack consistent male role models in their lives, the nature, quality and challenges involved in pre-k, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education of boys and young men, factors in the workplace that impact men's roles in their families, the impact of social policy on the ability of males to develop across the lifespan in ways that promote biological, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual health.

This Commission believes that the ability to examine quality data regarding the status of men in our state and in the United States will enable New Hampshire to be able to forecast the ways in which such issues will impact our citizens. Specifically, determining how to best shape social policies and program funding to address the current issues related to promoting healthy male development will result in improved quality of life for men and resultant male behaviors. In turn, this will create higher quality relationships between boys and girls, men and their children, men and women, and men and their families. In addition, it will lead to a higher level of high school completion and college graduation, a more physically and emotionally healthy workforce, and an even greater number of active, productive and engaged men in our communities. The end result will be a better quality of life for all citizens in New Hampshire.

HISTORY

In 1998, House Bill 1377 was introduced to the New Hampshire Legislature, aiming to establish a Commission on the Status of Men (CSM). It failed to gain the approval of the House Finance Committee. The following year, the effort was repeated under House Bill 553. After a detailed inspection of preliminary evidence, including burgeoning male mortality, suicide, educational failure, and fatherless rates, the House was moved to share the sense of urgency of the bill's sponsor, Representative David Bickford, and recommended passage of the bill on June 23, 1999 by a vote of 210 to 76.

The Senate Executive Departments Committee then amended the bill. In the ensuing

House/Senate committee of conference, it was agreed to create a Legislative Committee to Study the Status of Men (LCSSM) to review these alleged problems in further detail, make recommendations as necessary, and return to the Legislature by February 15, 2001 with a full report. The bill passed the Legislature in this form and was signed into law by the Governor in June, 2000.

The duties of the LCSSM were threefold: To examine, study, and promote the duties requirements of HB 553. The LCSSM noted with some alarm the rapidly deteriorating status of men in New Hampshire. This deterioration begins with increasing rates of father absence in a children's lives, which correlates with accelerating trends of:

- Disproportionally low reading scores
- Increased school dropout rates
- Lower rates of enrollment in secondary and graduate degree programs
- Higher crime and incarceration rates

Among adult men, the LCSSM also noted:

- Relative under-funding of health issues which primarily affect men, particularly in regard to preventative health services for men
- Markedly higher suicide rates for men than women, as well as mortality rates that are higher than those of women, resulting in a life span that is significantly shorter than women in New Hampshire
- A lack of support groups for men in general
- Perceived negative disparities in the family court system
- That New Hampshire has the second highest child support rate in the nation
- Perceived use of false claims of domestic violence in divorce cases, which served to deprive men of their families, homes, and possessions without appropriate due process

Due to the overwhelming nature of the problems uncovered, the LCSSM could do little by way of "promotion" or "prevention" because of time and resource constraints. The LCSSM could not, for example, explore causes and prevention for the heartbreak of suicide; nor could it promote higher levels of father involvement with their children, or improve the education deficit of boys. Furthermore, many items on the list of topics the LCSSM hoped to examine were not readily available and so recommended establishing a Commission on the Status of Men (CSM) to promote initiatives, programs, and further study.

Early in 2001, Representative David Bickford filed HB 587-FN-A for the purpose of establishing a Commission on the Status of Men (CSM) and appropriating \$69,561 to facilitate its duties. After passing the House, the Senate amended the bill months later by stripping its funding. HB 587 and the unfunded Commission on the Status of Men became effective the following year on July 1, 2002. The Commission held its first meeting on October 31, 2003.

ESTABLISHED COMMITTEES

The following committees were internally established to organize responsibilities in critical areas of the Commission's work.

Public Initiatives

Objectives: To bring in representatives from various institutions, including public schools and the court system, to organize public hearings and promote initiatives in all areas of the Commission's mission.

Improving the Father/Child Connection

Objectives: To study the importance of fathers to children and families, and to investigate the link between fatherless children and the need for a variety of state-funded services.

The Status of Boys and Young Men in Education

Objectives: To research and report on the educational status of males in schools, ranging from early childhood education through postsecondary education.

The Status of Men's Health

Objectives: To research and report on the health status of men during all stages of men's lives.

EDUCATION

This Commission's first biennial report in 2005 received attention for highlighting the gender gaps in education for New Hampshire students. Areas of greatest concern were in the lower reading scores of boys and lower college/university attendance rates of young men. The fact that boys and young men are struggling in these and other areas is slowly gaining traction in public awareness, and is recently receiving increased attention by education researchers. The following is a small snapshot of the current state of this problem and a comparison with 2005 data.

Reading Scores

Reading scores from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) demonstrate that while slight improvements have been achieved in the scores of both boys and girls, the gender gap has not changed. Their 2007 report, *The Nation's Report Card*, notes that nationally, "the 7-point score gap between [boys and girls] was not significantly different from the gaps in 2005 or in 1992."

A continuing area of concern is that the gender gap between boys and girls widens dramatically between Grades 4 and 8 in the most critical reading level, *Below Basic*. This

difference for New Hampshire students is six percentage points at Grade 4, but widens to ten percentage points by Grade 8.

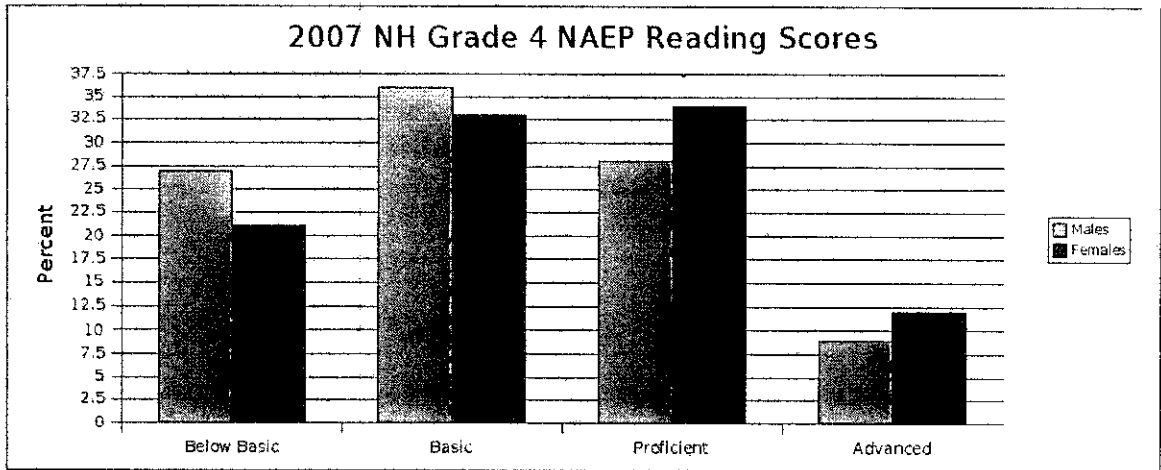


Table 1E: New Hampshire Grade 4 NAEP Reading Scores, 2007

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Below Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Males	27%	36%	28%	9%
Females	21%	33%	34%	12%

Source: The Nation's Report Card 2007, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

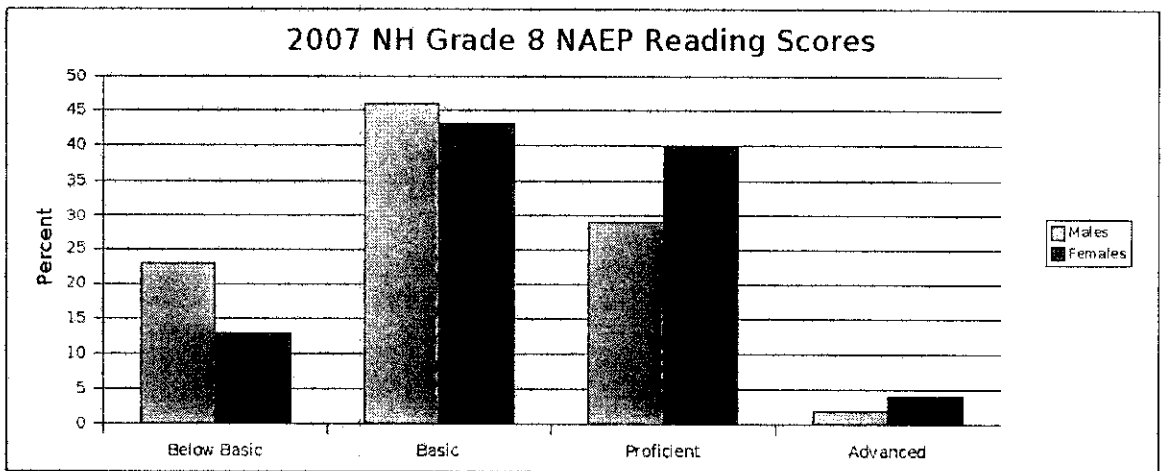


Table 2E: New Hampshire Grade 8 NAEP Reading Scores, 2007

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Below Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Males	23%	46%	29%	2%
Females	13%	43%	40%	4%

Source: The Nation's Report Card 2007, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Mathematics Scores

The 2007 NAEP scores in Mathematics for New Hampshire students demonstrate that the math gap between boys and girls is much smaller than the reading gap. In further contrast to the *Below Basic* level in reading scores, the gender gap (in favor of boys this time) is only two percentage points at Grade 4, and narrows to one percentage point by Grade 8.

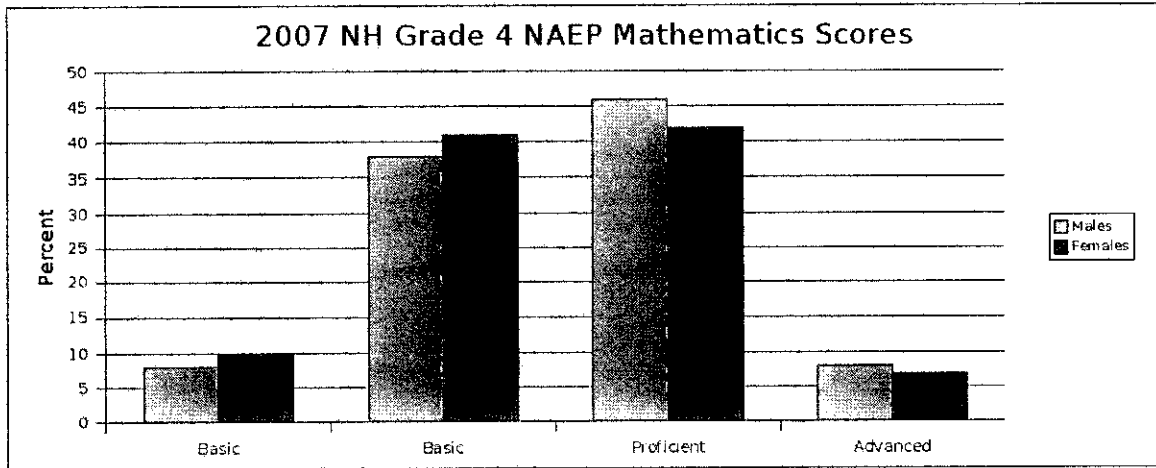


Table 3E: New Hampshire Grade 4 NAEP Mathematics Scores, 2007

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Below Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Males	8%	38%	46%	8%
Females	10%	41%	42%	7%

Source: *The Nation's Report Card 2007, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)*

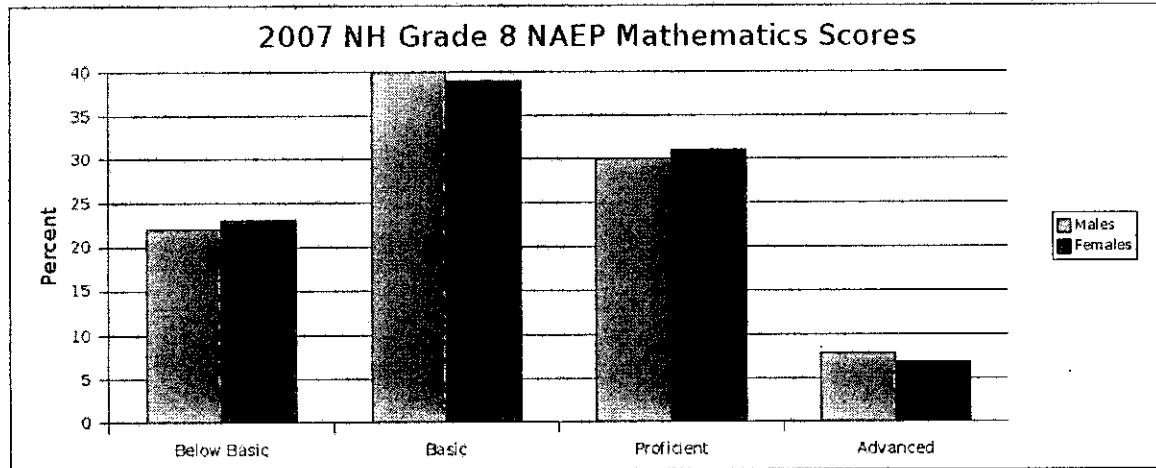


Table 4E: New Hampshire Grade 8 NAEP Mathematics Scores, 2007

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Below Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Males	22%	40%	30%	8%
Females	23%	39%	31%	7%

Source: *The Nation's Report Card 2007, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)*

Postsecondary Education

Data from the University of New Hampshire Institutional Research department shows a significant disparity between the numbers of male and female students enrolled. At the undergraduate and graduate level, the data shows that young men comprise only 40-43% of the student population. Only in the Associate Degree program is this trend reversed, where men were 60% of the student population. The following charts illustrate that there has been little change in these trends since 2000.

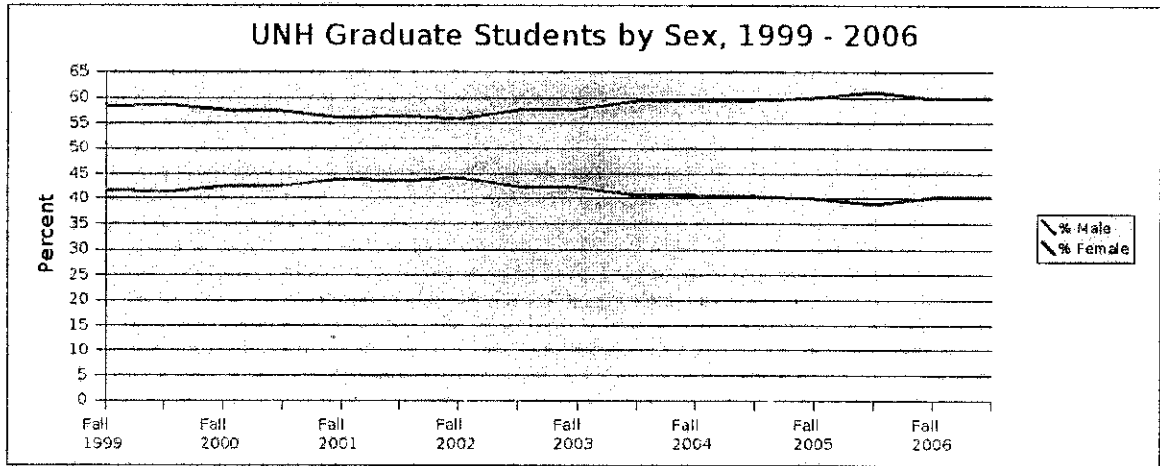


Table 5E: UNH, Durham - Graduate Students by Sex, 1999-2005

Semester	% Male	% Female
Fall 1999	41.8	58.2
Spring 2000	41.3	58.7
Fall 2000	42.3	57.7
Spring 2001	42.5	57.5
Fall 2001	43.9	56.1
Spring 2002	43.4	56.6
Fall 2002	44.1	55.9
Spring 2003	42.4	57.6
Fall 2003	42.1	57.9
Spring 2004	40.6	59.4
Fall 2004	40.6	59.4
Spring 2005	40.5	59.5
Fall 2005	40.0	60.0
Spring 2006	38.8	61.2
Fall 2006	40.2	59.8
Spring 2007	40.1	59.9

Source: University of New Hampshire Institutional Research

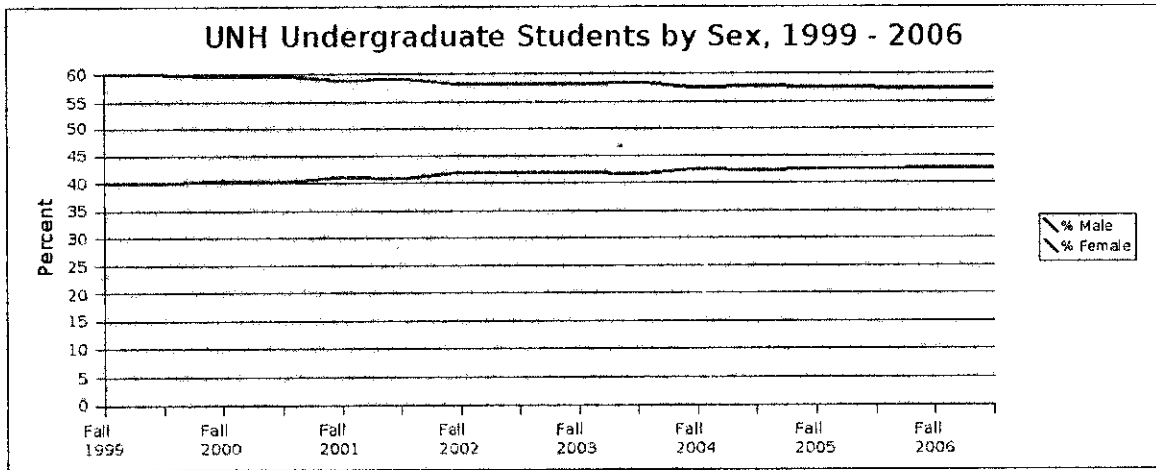


Table 6E: UNH, Durham - Undergraduate Students by Sex, 1999-2005

Semester	% Male	% Female
Fall 1999	40.1	59.9
Spring 2000	40.0	60.0
Fall 2000	40.5	59.5
Spring 2001	40.2	59.8
Fall 2001	41.2	58.8
Spring 2002	40.8	59.2
Fall 2002	42.0	58.0
Spring 2003	41.8	58.2
Fall 2003	42.0	58.0
Spring 2004	41.6	58.4
Fall 2004	42.6	57.4
Spring 2005	42.1	57.9
Fall 2005	42.6	57.4
Spring 2006	42.5	57.5
Fall 2006	42.8	57.2
Spring 2007	42.6	57.4

Source: University of New Hampshire Institutional Research

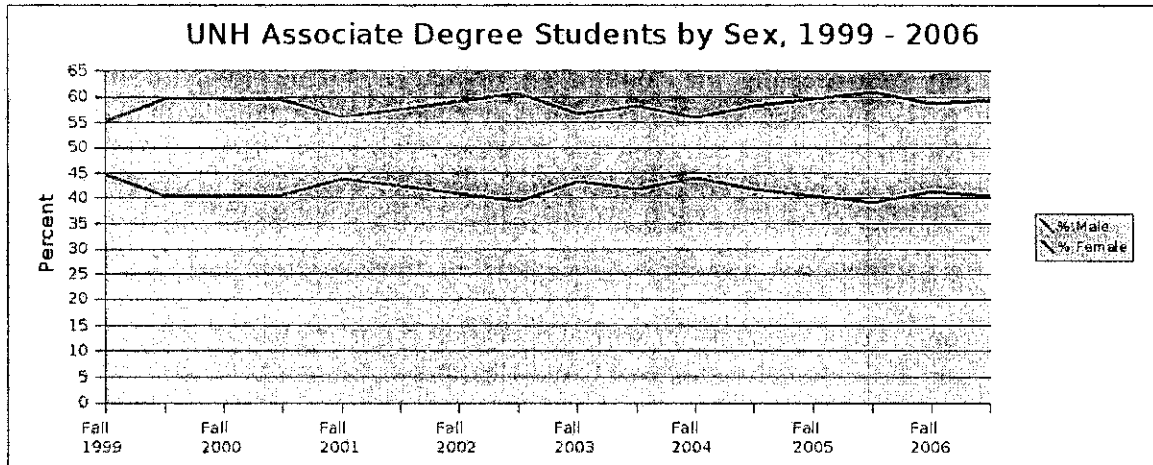


Table 7E: UNH, Durham - Associate Degree Students by Sex, 1999-2005

Semester	% Male	% Female
Fall 1999	55.4	44.6
Spring 2000	59.6	40.4
Fall 2000	59.6	40.4
Spring 2001	59.4	40.6
Fall 2001	56.2	43.8
Spring 2002	57.6	42.4
Fall 2002	59.2	40.8
Spring 2003	60.7	39.3
Fall 2003	56.7	43.3
Spring 2004	58.2	41.8
Fall 2004	56.1	43.9
Spring 2005	58.3	41.7
Fall 2005	59.6	40.4
Spring 2006	60.9	39.1
Fall 2006	58.8	41.2
Spring 2007	59.5	40.5

Source: University of New Hampshire Institutional Research

The Commission is concerned with the long-term ramifications of such enrollment figures – that fewer young men than women are enrolled in traditional four-year programs within the University of New Hampshire. In the 21st century, education plays a more important role in a person's success than ever before. The Commission is dedicated to collect further data in order to investigate the reasons for this enrollment disparity, and to provide recommendations for eventually achieving parity.

Reading Learning Disabilities

During its July 2006 meeting, the Commission invited Dr. Elaine Holden from *The Reading Foundation* as a guest speaker. Dr. Holden is an education specialist with over 30 years of experience, and for ten years has co-owned *The Reading Foundation*, based in Amherst, NH. *The Reading Foundation* is a private educational program which specializes in working with students who have learning disabilities, particularly reading-related disabilities and dyslexia. Dr. Holden provided the Commission with some information of value to policymakers:

- Boys make up 3/4 of all students in special education programs nation-wide.
- Research from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) has found that about 80% of U.S. students with learning disabilities specifically have reading disabilities as their primary or only disability.
- About 11% of NH school-age children experience chronic ear infections during the time they are learning the basics of language. This simple health issue can block or distort the sounds of language and hinder efforts to learn how to read.
- Even though women are now well integrated into the workforce, men by and large still feel cultural pressure to earn more money and serve as primary breadwinners for their families. In response to this pressure, most men thus see the private sector - not teaching - as the area to pursue their careers.
- Dr. Holden discussed an anecdote about a man who went into teaching late in his life after he felt he had been a successful breadwinner for his family. He explained that he went into teaching because he felt he could finally "afford to do it."
- Dr. Holden expressed concern that, to the best of her knowledge, the Reading Recovery Program, used in many NH public schools, had no longitudinal research supporting its effectiveness.
- Dr. Holden recommended that there be a stronger recruitment effort to get men into early childhood education and general reading education teaching careers. Raising teacher salaries is one way of helping to do this. She also saw a strong need for cultural support in viewing men as nurturers, even in the home.

Education Conclusions

According to the data presented above, almost no change has occurred in the status of New Hampshire boys and young men in educational performance, and therefore this report will echo the conclusions it included in 2005.

Given the widespread success of special programs to increase the performance of girls in mathematics over the past ten years, **the Commission recommends further study and implementation of educational programs tailored to the needs of boys in reading and writing to help close the reading gap.**

Also, while the Commission notes that more information about the status of boys in education is becoming available, it **encourages higher visibility of the low educational status of boys and young men in both the media and among education policymakers.**

THE STATUS OF FATHERS

In a speech before the World Congress of Families, former director of the U.S. Administration on Children and Families, Dr. Wade Horn, stated that one out of every three children in America is living in a home without his or her natural father. One out of every three children in America will go to bed tonight without a father to read them a story, bring them a glass of water, kiss them good night, or comfort them if they have a bad dream.

The problem of fatherlessness is getting worse, not better. By some estimates, 60 percent of American children born in the 1990s will live a significant portion of their childhood in a home without their natural father present. Indeed, for the first time in America's history, the average expected experience of childhood now includes a significant amount of time living without one's natural father. According to Dr. Horn, the causes of this shift include high rates of divorce and children born out of wedlock. See http://www.worldcongress.org/wcf3_spkrs/wcf3_horn.htm.

The Importance of Fathers

As stated in the Commission's previous report, lack of father presence has been linked to systemic problems such as poverty, high school dropout rates, crime, adolescent drug use, teenage pregnancy, and a higher demand for a variety of state-funded services. Worse still, children who grow up fatherless are more likely to commit suicide than those with a father present. (See "Father Facts," a compendium of research excerpts available via <http://www.fatherhood.org>)

According to Dr. Horn, one of the editors of the 2004 *Father Facts* booklet, it seems clear that children growing up without their father in the home face an increased risk of developing significant problems. This does not mean that all children who grow up in fatherless homes will encounter problems. Indeed, many of them will do just fine. But research indicates that fatherless children face more obstacles than those who grow up with both a mom and a dad, and are at greater risk for a host of developmental problems.

In a world comprised of females and males, the need for children to have healthy role models of both sexes is of great value. Some authors have asserted that single mothers are capable of raising exceptional men without the influence of the biological father (Drexler, 2005). Given the number of dedicated and competent single mothers, this is true for many children.

However, randomly conducted research, some of which is referenced in our earlier reports, suggests that significant numbers of children will suffer lower wellness levels when their biological father is absent from their lives. Such children are more likely to be impoverished, physically abused, sexually abused, and develop behavioral problems requiring psychiatric treatment and medication. See Horn & Sylvester, *Father Facts* 4th Edition, National Fatherhood Initiative, pp 103 – 152. Available via <http://www.fatherhood.org>.

On a related note, a report from the National Center for Education Statistics released in July of 2006 indicates that children with involved fathers fare better because they are less likely

to fail or repeat a grade, more likely to do their homework, more likely to become involved in school extracurricular activities, and more likely to attend a college or university. The report, *Fathers of U.S. Children Born in 2001: Findings from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study*, by Avenilla, Rosenthal, and Tice, can be seen at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006002>.

What About Dads?

One study from the Urban Institute found that most foster children were not living with their fathers at the time they were removed from their homes. While in foster care, these children may experience even less contact with their nonresident fathers. The study examined child welfare practices with respect to identifying, locating, and involving fathers of children in foster care and found that nonresident fathers are often not involved in case planning, and nearly half were never contacted by the child welfare agency. See *What About the Dads?* at <http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=411316>.

In light of this finding, the Commission strongly recommends that the New Hampshire Division of Children, Youth and Families identify and report to the legislature data regarding how many nonresident fathers they have attempted to contact and to what extent (number of attempts), and detail the methods of the attempts to contact them in order to participate in case planning for their child.

This Commission has also discovered that the Division of Child Support Services removed a job-description requirement for enforcement officers to redress violations of court-ordered parenting provisions. Given what we know about the persistently low compliance rates of disenfranchised dads, **this Commission recommends that DCSS should review its decision to modify the job description. Due to the importance of the father-child connection, we further recommend that DCSS enforce court ordered parenting provisions with the same level of diligence used to enforce child support orders.** The Commission feels that considerable savings to the taxpayer could be achieved with a higher level of encouragement for father involvement in most areas of child-welfare policy. Research has discovered 90% compliance of court ordered child support by fathers who are involved with their children. (Braver, 1998)

Parental Alienation Syndrome

During its February 2007 meeting, the Commission invited Dr. Stevan Gressit to talk about issues related to Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS). Parental Alienation Syndrome is defined by Dr. Richard Gardner as

“a disorder that arises primarily in the context of child-custody disputes. Its primary manifestation is the child's campaign of denigration against a parent, a campaign that has no justification. It results from the combination of a programming (brainwashing) parent's indoctrinations and the child's own contributions to the vilification of the target parent.”

Dr. Gressit is a psychiatrist from Maine and a former staff member of the Women's

Prison of NH. Dr. Gressit stated that in his professional work, he has seen many cases of parental alienation, which seem to be most often directed against fathers. This alienation frequently involves visitation interference against fathers, and he is concerned that the family court system is not sufficiently recognizing the need for both parents in children's lives.

Dr. Gressit described that he has seen in his practice children of divorced or separated parents who are learning the lesson that court orders are not consistently enforced in family courts. The lesson that the court's orders are not respected is then internalized and applied in the context of criminal courts when the child is older and getting involved in criminal behavior. Dr. Gressit does not believe that anyone in law enforcement, in New Hampshire or Maine, has ever enforced visitation orders, and this has made the flaunting of these orders commonplace. In light of this assertion, **the Commission recommends that the legislature request that the court system report on methods and outcomes of efforts to enforce visitation orders in New Hampshire.**

In his practice, Dr. Gressit also noted that he has seen many custodial mothers move from New Hampshire to Maine in order to move their children away from their fathers - a component of parental alienation. He has been involved with the first legislative effort in Maine to deal specifically with Parental Alienation Syndrome, and consulted with New Hampshire DHHS Commissioner John Stephen to promote legislation (HB 1585) that would address enforcement of parenting time violations.

Dr. Gressit noted that his caseload has an over-representation of children from single parent homes who are having problems because of a poor or non-existent relationship with the other parent, usually the father. He believes that a child who has two parents with differing rules and disciplining approaches is generally significantly better off than a child who is cut off from a parent by way of parental alienation.

Dr. Gressit has compiled numerous reports and research related to parental alienation, which can be found on the Commission's web site in a compressed archive form at http://www.nh.gov/csm/pas_gressitt.html.

Paternity

An attempt is being made to determine the extent to which the father is not named on the birth certificate, along with an estimate of the numbers of such certificates which show the father's surname to be different from that of the child. This information is important to children for medical and genetic reasons. It's also important to assess and understand, for emotional reasons related to identity and for possible prevention efforts, all of the conditions under which children and their natural dads are disconnected from each other.

Birth Certificates

There are a few areas in birth-related laws that make it possible for the father to be left unnamed on the child's birth certificate.

For example, under the authority of RSA 5-C:19X, the mother, without a stated reason, can refuse to give information regarding the father of the child, and the hospital shall then enter "not stated" on the birth record "for all information pertaining to the father of the child."

While there may be valid reasons for not listing the natural father on any birth certificate, the state of New Hampshire should examine whether such reasons are better governed by law and not by personal fiat. This Commission feels that ordinarily, every child should be able to trace his or her paternity and therefore resolves as follows:

The Commission on the Status of Men supports, in principle, the inclusion of the father's name on a child's birth certificate, while recognizing there are certain instances where public policy might dictate non-inclusion.

The Commission recommends that the legislature review the birth certificate laws under RSA 5-C:19 to determine the extent to which such laws should be modified to increase the likelihood that fathers and their children would be brought closer together. This may include a study of how the impact of such inclusion or omission of father identity relates to child development.

Paternity Fraud

Paternity fraud is defined by Carnell Smith as the act of falsely naming a man to be the biological father. Anecdotal evidence suggests that paternity fraud remains a growing concern, both for the father who later discovers that his alleged child was actually fathered by another man, and for the child who should have a reliable history of his paternity for reasons of emotional health and medical history.

A number of sources find that, for those who undergo a paternity test, as many as 30% prove negative for the alleged father. (The Blood Bank Association, Carnell Smith of www.paternityfraud.com, Lee Newman of www.safe-nh.org).

A number of states have passed laws allowing men to dis-establish paternity under these fraudulent circumstances. Some suggest that in an effort to safeguard the stability of children, men should not sign paternity papers until testing can ascertain with certainty who the father is. This Commission has tabled this sensitive issue for future deliberation.

A Discussion with DHHS Commissioner John Stephen

A number of questions and issues were discussed with then Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Commissioner John Stephen, including:

- The percent of children living in a home absent their natural father in both the general population and the population of those requiring state-funded services for comparison purposes.
- The need for dialogue with father's groups to better facilitate the father/child connection.
- Whether the need exists for compliant obligors to be governed by expensive child support

services and wage assignment.

- The need to quantify the extent to which fatherless families represent an expense to the state, especially in foster care, TANF and adoption cases.
- The percent of birth certificates being created that have the father's surname unlisted or different from that of the child - both from the general population and the population of those requiring state-funded services for comparison purposes.
- Information about the Ad-hoc Committee on Marriage which met, or is meeting, on a regular basis at the Brown Building in Concord.
- The role of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence in lobbying activities on legislation unrelated to domestic and sexual violence.

A recurring theme in these discussions was that data on these issues would be difficult to obtain, so it was suggested that a liaison be established between the Commission and H&HS. This liaison's purpose would be to explore ways to address the issue of fatherless and how it impacts children and families, and to collect needed data to examine these issues on an ongoing basis. A follow-up letter requesting related information was sent to Commissioner Stephen in April, 2006. See *Appendix B* for a copy of this letter.

Given the importance of each of this discussion, a transcript of the meeting was made and may be downloaded from the Commission's web site at http://www.nh.gov/csm/downloads/NHCSM_John_Stephens_DHHS_Transcript.pdf.

Child Support

Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) RFP for Access and Visitation

The Commission received a Request for Proposal, 08-DCSS-AV-03, requesting bids to develop a supervised visitation center. Commissioner Geanoulis proposed that the Commission become involved in this RFP process. The purpose of the Commission's involvement would be to improve child well being (and child support collections rates) by strengthening the father/child connection, and making such visitation centers more welcoming to fathers. Stanford Braver's research shows compliance rates of 90% and above for fathers who still feel like fathers to their children. Presently, DCSS reports 64% compliance rates - a rate that has been relatively stable over twenty years in spite of increased enforcement efforts.

The Commission is willing to provide forms of technical assistance to community agencies interested in writing proposals in response to such RFPs. In addition, the Commission encourages DHHS to continue to fund such initiatives and collect feedback from participants to identify ways of improving these programs.

Neil Boutin, NH Division of Child Support Services

Neil Boutin, Manager of Parenthood Programs for the NH Division of Child Support Services (DCSS), told the Commission in a meeting that a voluntary in-hospital paternity acknowledgment program is used in more than 25 hospitals throughout the state. The program finds that 90% of the time when children are born, the father is present, regardless of whether the

parents are married or not.

In this program, a nurse then explains to the parents the benefits of establishing paternity at that time, and offers an affidavit for unmarried parents to confirm paternity and have the father's name listed on the birth certificate. Mr. Bouton noted that New Hampshire is one of the top ten states in the country in establishing paternity.

Mr. Bouton outlined a number of programs that the DCSS offers related to the Commission's mission of bringing fathers and children closer together. These included programs to help fathers become able to afford to pay their child support, programs to help keep incarcerated fathers in touch with their children, and to generally increase access of noncustodial parents (often fathers) with their children.

Mr. Bouton noted that only about 35% of NH cases involve DCSS. The only time DCSS gets involved is when required to via a court order. This poses some problems in understanding issues surrounding child support, because data on cases not handled by DCSS is unavailable. Mr. Bouton suggested that the Commission could advocate that the courts keep records on the child support cases which are not ordered to go through DCSS.

Within DCSS cases, about 40% of cases are from unmarried parents, about 30% are from separated parents, and about another 30% are from divorced parents. The federal government has been pushing for mandatory wage assignments, and about 70% of DCSS cases involve wage assignment.

Mr. Bouton distributed materials from DCSS, including videos on such topics as

- Mediation
- Co-parenting and developing parenting plans
- The importance of maintaining child contact with both parents
- Positive parenting
- How to reduce conflict
- Child support and visitation information
- How to modify child support orders

Male Mentoring Programs

Discussions with advocates of male mentoring programs and human service administrators produced the impression that while father substitute initiatives can be a positive experience for boys and girls who lack paternal stability in their lives, such programs seem, on average, as a less than desirable alternative in cases where the natural father, absent compelling reasons to the contrary, can be made available by ordinary means.

Mentoring and other programs like foster care and adoption can, and should, be used to facilitate the best interests of children. But absent convincing evidence to the contrary, such programs should not be seen as sufficient supports for healthy youth development to allow for decreased efforts to promote, preserve and protect the father/child connection. Further, such

programs must be held to standards that best assure protection of youth in contacts with non-familial adult mentors. Such efforts should include criminal background checks, reference checks, close supervision and monitoring and youth safety training for participating youth and parent(s).

Anecdotal evidence and peer reviewed research suggest that father involvement is not being solicited in human service related cases like DCYF, TANF, Foster Care and adoption, where efforts to provide for children go forward without notice to the father, or even an invitation to encourage his participation. The Commission hopes to get more needed data on this issue in the future.

“Fathers Count” Event

An event to promote the ordinary importance of father involvement for families and children is a project that the Commission would like to move forward with. The proposed event would be titled "Fathers Count." However, to develop and run such an event requires considerably more resources to develop than this Commission has in its present form, and as such this event is still in the early planning stages. The Commission requests and welcomes help from the public to move this project forward.

USDA Women-Infants-Children (WIC) Program

It was brought to the attention of the Commission that the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a nutrition program called WIC (Women, Infants and Children) that is available to both mothers and fathers. However, that fact is not immediately obvious because of the title WIC, combined with the pamphlet cover materials depicting only women and children.

A government program that seeks to improve child and family wellness while portraying only women and children in that program sends inappropriate messages to fathers, who may begin to wonder about the extent to which they matter for their children and families. This Commission feels that fathers who are impoverished may also have nutritional needs for their children; that any government program providing for poor families ought to project in a manner that is equitable and fair; and that any program designed to improve family wellness should address both parents in a manner consistent with equity and neutrality. Out of these concerns the Commission sent a letter to the USDA asking for them to consider changing the way they market this program to the public. See *Appendix C* for a copy of the letter the Commission sent to the USDA.

NH Task Force on Work and Family

Commissioner Geanoulis, who represents the Commission on the recently formed Task Force and Work and Family (TFWF), reports that at the time of this report, the Task Force is just beginning its work. Commissioner Geanoulis has emphasized the need to encourage father involvement and healthy marriages, or healthy cohabitations, as the best way to combine family resources in efforts to obtain relief from work/family problems and reduce the need for

government programs.

Commissioner Geanoulis also asked the TFWF:

- To look at the difficulties some ordinary-income, non-resident fathers experience in keeping up with their child support payments.
- To examine the possibility that some government programs may be counterproductive in some efforts to involve both parents on work/family issues.
- To consider examining ways to have some marriages circumvent use of domestic violence intervention by the criminal justice system in lower level problem areas that might be effectively served with counseling, compromise, and improved communication. Such a shift should be considered only in situations where safety of all family members can be assured.

PUBLIC INPUT

A vast majority of the comments from the public came in the form of complaints about unfair treatment in family court.

One man came forward to state in no uncertain terms that he should not have been ordered to pay child support after being given primary custody of his child. Other obligors thought that child support orders in shared parenting arrangements seemed unfair - resembling a kind of hidden alimony.

Many men felt that restraining orders are being dispensed unfairly and that they should have been heard before such orders were allowed by the court.

A recurring theme was also that documented cases of perjury are not possible to redress. For example, the Commission has been told that prosecuting attorneys will not bring corrective action in cases of perjury. As a consequence, family courts are held in disrespect and regarded by many as a "liar's paradise."

Fathers have also complained that they are unable to get the police to enforce RSA 633:4, a law criminalizing the withholding of a child from a parent during his/her court assigned parenting time.

Stephen Baskerville, author and lecturer, describes much of what happens in today's family courts as the legacy of "No Fault" divorce laws in which men (and some women) can be criminalized for being involved in what might otherwise be considered ordinary disagreements. (See Baskerville, S. "Taken Into Custody: The War Against Fathers, Marriage, and the Family, 2007.")

MEN'S HEALTH

Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer continues to be a major health risk to men as they age. John Sias, president of the New Hampshire Prostate Cancer Coalition, reports:

This year [2007], more men in New Hampshire will be diagnosed with prostate cancer than women with breast cancer. Prostate Cancer is the greatest cancer killer of men over 50. More than 10,000 New Hampshire men will turn 50 this year and every year. The American Cancer Society predicts that 1,200 men in our state will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year. And another 140 will die from it. One of every six men will get prostate cancer sometime during his life.

One of the most important factors in preventing deaths by prostate cancer is early detection. The New Hampshire legislature is currently considering a bill, HB 560-FN, which would require health insurance providers in the state to cover prostate cancer screening for men aged 50+, and for men aged 45+ who are considered at high risk for the disease due to family history or other factors. Preventative breast cancer screenings are currently required to be covered in the same way. The Commission unanimously passed a resolution in support of this bill during its March 2007 meeting.

The Commission would also like to raise public awareness of prostate cancer support groups throughout the state, which currently meet monthly in Manchester, Lebanon, Nashua, Keene, and Concord. Details can be found on the NH Prostate Cancer Coalition web site at http://nhprostatecancer.org/pages/support_groups.html.

RECOMMENDATION: The Commission recommends the passage of bill HB 560-FN, which would require health insurance providers in the state to cover prostate cancer screenings for men aged 50+ and for men aged 45+ who are considered at high risk.

Domestic Violence

AOC Report on Domestic Violence Restraining Orders

An Administrative Office of the Court's report on domestic violence, developed under a grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI 96-076E-T-A-162, March, 1999), represents the latest official findings regarding the granting of ex-parte restraining orders in New Hampshire. These findings created a difference of opinion within the Commission.

Littleton and Salem data, while admittedly higher than the other districts measured, showed that the percentage of temporary restraining orders granted were 100% and 98%, respectively. Many of these orders were issued on an ex-parte basis, requiring the respondent to leave his or her home and family without the immediate opportunity to respond. Once this process is started, the respondent must deal with potential legal costs and face the difficulty of

proving one's innocence at a final hearing.

About one-fourth of emergency/temporary restraining orders were granted telephonically.

Members of the public have come forward to explain to the Commission how restraining orders were abused for the purpose of gaining an advantage in family court. While the Commission recognizes that restraining orders can serve a legitimate and necessary purpose, it also shares concerns with the public that abuse of these orders needs to be dealt with more effectively. Recognizing the impact of false allegations can have in proceedings in family court, the Commission encourages increased dialogue on this topic within the Bar Association to develop improvements in the restraining order system to help prevent abuses while preserving the protective role that such orders can serve.

Some Commissioners believe that judges need to err on the side of caution because of the possibility of murder or injury, and point out that the defendant has ten days to get into court for redress. Others, however, in citing the fact that two-thirds of those orders were eventually lifted, wondered about the wisdom of their issuance based on one-sided testimony to begin with; and the possibility that petitions for restraining orders should first provide for the immediate appearance of the defendant to answer and face his or her accuser. It was also argued that one-sided proceedings can be counterproductive, causing more harm than they prevent.

US House Resolution HRES 590

It was brought to the Commission's attention that U.S. House Resolution, HRES 590, in its rightful effort to solve the problem of domestic violence, wrongfully portrayed only men as perpetrators and women as victims. The resolution can be seen at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.RES.590>.

This issue was brought to light by a report from RADAR (Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting) outlining the reasons why HRES 590 is biased against men. The RADAR analysis can be found at <http://www.mediaradar.org/docs/RADARanalysis-HRES590.pdf>.

Accordingly, the Commission approved and issued a resolution which requests that statistics on male victimization be included in HRES 590:

Whereas the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men condemns violence against all segments of society, and

Whereas research indicates that victims of domestic violence include men and boys as well as women and girls, and

Whereas frequently the plight of male victims of domestic violence, whether it be the victimization of male partners in same sex or heterosexual relationships, or young boys is all too often overlooked when domestic violence is discussed, and

Whereas the inclusion of statistics detailing the incidence and effects of male victimization of domestic violence would serve to strengthen HRES590 by clearly demonstrating that domestic violence affects all societal segments,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men urges that the sponsors of HRES590 add to the language of the said Resolution statistics from federal agencies including but not limited to:

*Centers for Disease Control
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Administration for Children and Families
Department of Housing and Urban Development
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
National Center on Family Homelessness*

regarding the incidence of victimization of men and boys by domestic violence.

United Nations Resolution

A resolution created by RADAR (Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting), which points out biases and inaccuracies in a recent United Nations report on violence against women, was endorsed by the Commission along with 47 other co-signers around the country, including Dr. Murray Straus from the University of New Hampshire and Lee Newman's SAFE-NH organization. The resolution and its signatories can be found online at:
<http://www.mediaradar.org/docs/UN-ViolenceReport-Resolution.pdf>.

Dr. Murray Straus Testimony

Dr. Murray Straus, co-director of the University of New Hampshire Family Research Laboratory in Durham, NH, spoke with the Commission extensively on the subject of family violence and its impact on men. An audio recording of his testimony is available in MP3 format on the Commission's web site at http://www.nh.gov/csm/dv_straus.html.

Dr. Straus presented a new research paper on international partner violence among younger populations (university students)[1]. This study found that university student populations differ significantly from the general population in terms of dating violence. In fact, three to five times as much dating violence occurs in university student populations than in the general population. Dr. Straus found that even when married couples are compared, there is on average more violence among younger married couples when compared to older couples.

The findings of the International Dating Violence Study found that in cases of domestic assaults:

- Males were the sole perpetrators in 9.9% of these cases.
- Females were the sole perpetrators in 21.4% of these cases.
- Both parties mutually perpetrated domestic assaults in the remaining 68.6% of these

cases.

Dr. Straus explained to the Commission that police data and crime reports at best describe 1/80th of all domestic assaults, due to the circumstances required for cases to obtain police involvement. Police reporting of domestic violence against men is underreported due to numerous social factors. There are many examples Dr. Straus could cite where the reporting of male victimization is not taken seriously by authorities. He noted that many police training manuals still exist with gender bias, referring to the perpetrator exclusively as "he" or "him," and the victim as "she" or "her."

The Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS), developed by Dr. Straus in the 1970's, has been used in hundreds of family violence studies around the world, but domestic violence advocacy groups have made numerous attempts to find flaws in the CTS. Dr. Straus explained that criticisms of the CTS to date have not been based on empirical data and have not presented evidence to invalidate it.

Dominance, control, and the desire to correct unwanted or unacceptable behavior in a relationship are major factors in domestic violence. A noteworthy discovery is that these factors in domestic violence occur in about the same frequency in men and women. Additionally, there is no statistically significant difference between men and women in the initiation of domestic assaults.

See also a recent Centers for Disease Control study which found that reciprocal violence rates (i.e. both parties initiate violence) are about equal to the number of cases of non-reciprocal violence (i.e. one party is violent, one party is not). This is especially important because any policies that assume that all domestic violence involves a pure abuser and a pure victim are guaranteed to be inappropriate and likely to be harmful in the 50% of cases that are reciprocal. The second important point from the study is that in the other 50% of cases that are non-reciprocal, 70% involved violent women and non-violent men. Although on average men were more likely to inflict injury (presumably due to their larger size), a significant number of men sustained injuries inflicted by their female partners.
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/abstract/97/5/941>

Dr. Straus' studies have found that self defense is a factor, on average, in about 15% of domestic assault cases, and that it is a nearly equally a factor for men as it is for women. Most partner violence is not in self defense. New Hampshire's data on domestic homicides are somewhat different from the national FBI statistics on domestic homicides because the number of homicides in NH is so low.

The Commission notes that the rate of injury is closely associated with gender. Assaults by men are three times as likely to cause serious injury than those by women. Of partner homicides over the last 20 years, approximately one-third are perpetrated by women.

Dr. Straus explained that the reasons that social awareness of this research is so limited has to do with the way the media works. In its efforts to always present multiple, often opposing perspectives on issues, there is an obligation in media reporting to interview women's advocates

whenever a story about domestic violence research is printed. While this media model is useful in certain contexts, many people don't recognize that when it comes to reporting on scientific research, contrasting views presented in the news often come from sources without reliable or unbiased empirical data to back up their claims.

As a long term trend, since nationally represented data was being measured (in 1975, 1985, 1992, and 1995), there has been a decrease in overall domestic assaults. However, if you look at the data by gender, nearly all of the decrease is in partner violence rates by men - while partner violence rates by women have remained the same. This demonstrates that the efforts of the women's movement to raise awareness and prevent domestic assaults by men have been working, and that efforts need to be made to address assaults by women.

The Commission feels it would be useful for Dr. Straus to be invited to speak at any of the NH Attorney General's annual domestic violence conferences or to speak before any of the member organization of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, which to date has not occurred.

Dr. Straus suggested the following that might help the status of men in the area of domestic violence:

- That domestic violence awareness and prevention programs in public schools, some as early as middle school, be reviewed to ensure that they address violence by both men and women. Overwhelmingly these programs do not address violence by young women, which in fact is more frequent than violence by young males. The only program Dr. Straus is aware of that does address these issues is by Vangee Foshee at the University of North Carolina Medical School, and was sponsored by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- The creation of public service announcements that are balanced, and mention violence by women as well as men.
- That school-based violence prevention programs also raise awareness about the negative effects of parents spanking/using corporal punishment on children. Being spanked as a child has a significant correlation with committing partner violence later in life. Corporeal punishment establishes a moral understanding that hitting someone is a valid method of correcting unwanted behavior, which is the largest factor contributing to committing domestic violence as an adult. Mothers are substantially more likely to hit children, due to their increased childcare responsibilities. In addition, studies conclusively show that boys get hit more often and more severely than girls.

Teen Dating Violence

Lee Newman from Stop Abuse for Everyone (SAFE-NH) was invited to speak to the Commission. Mr. Newman distributed an article on teen dating violence (Sex Survey 'EyeOpening' For Local Parents, by Marilyn Brown. The Tampa Tribune, December 11, 2005). The article discussed a school district survey that found more male high school students (16%) than female (11.8%) reported being physically hurt by their significant others. It also found that 9% of male and almost 12% of female high school students reported that they had been

physically forced to have sex. SAFE-NH has prepared a Teen Dating Violence flyer to raise awareness with NH parents and outline warning signs to look for.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Since the publication of our last report, the Commission on the Status of Men has continued to gather and disseminate information on topics related to our mission. These include but are not limited to such things as:

- The importance of healthy father/child relationships.
- The status of boys and young men in education, ranging from early childhood to postsecondary education.
- Men's health issues, particularly widespread health issues such as prostate cancer.
- The impact of social policy on the ability of males to develop across the lifespan in ways that promote their biological, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual health.
- Factors in the workplace which impact men's roles in their families.

Further, we have continued to identify areas that require further study, areas in need of legislative and/or other forms of advocacy and intervention, and have provided a central place in our state government for people to address concerns regarding the status of men in New Hampshire.

This Commission deeply appreciates the ongoing interest and support shown to us by members of our government and private agencies, as well as by many of our citizens at large. We look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead, and are eager to make continued progress on serving our mission and the citizens of New Hampshire.

Recommendations

The second biennial report of the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men includes eight core recommendations. These core recommendations are as follows:

- 1. The Commission recommends further study and implementation of education programs tailored to the needs of boys in reading and writing to help close the reading gap.**
- 2. The Commission strongly recommends that the New Hampshire Division of Children, Youth and Families identify and report to the legislature data regarding how many non-resident fathers they have attempted to contact and to what extent (number of attempts), and detail the methods of the attempts to contact them in order to participate in case planning processes for their child.**
- 3. This Commission recommends that DCSS should review its decision to modify the job description for enforcement officers.**

- 4. Due to the importance of the father-child connection, we recommend that DCSS enforce court ordered parenting provisions with the same level of diligence used to enforce child support orders.**
- 5. The Commission recommends that the legislature request that the court system report on methods and outcomes of efforts to enforce visitation orders in New Hampshire.**
- 6. The Commission recommends that the legislature review the birth certificate laws under RSA 5-C:19 to determine the extent to which such laws should be modified to increase the likelihood that fathers and their children would be brought closer together. This may include a study of how the impact of such inclusion or omission of father identity relates to child development.**
- 7. The Commission recommends the passage of bill HB 560-FN, which would require health insurance providers in the state to cover prostate cancer screenings for men aged 50+ and for men aged 45+ who are considered at high risk.**
- 8. This Commission recommends that it should be funded in order to fulfill its mission as originally intended under HB 587 (2001) and HB 740 (2007). We recommend this in the interests of better fulfilling our mission and serving the citizens of New Hampshire.**

APPENDIX A: Bibliography

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APPENDIX B: Commission Letter to DHHS Commissioner John Stephen

April 2006

Dear Commissioner Stephen:

Thank you for appearing before our commission at our last meeting and for giving us some idea of how we might better accomplish our mission to relieve the problems of fatherlessness, elevated male suicide/mortality rates, and the inferior reading/comprehension scores of boys.

We are especially interested, with this request for help, in obtaining public support for our efforts to elevate the status of men and boys. But we need more data.

According to data we received from the Dept. of Vital Statistics, approximately 5% of all New Hampshire birth certificates do not name the father, and an additional 5% have the surname of the father different from that of the child's.

During the deliberations to create a Commission on the Status of Men (CSM), lawmakers charged that fatherless children were the largest users of state funded services, and they intended that a CSM might obtain some relief for the taxpayer by bringing fathers and children closer together pursuant to RSA 19-I:4. With what we know about the wellness of fatherless children from the national data for such statistics as poverty, suicide and educational failure, we suspect that there is an overrepresentation of fatherless children in domains such as DCSS, TANF, and DCYF.

We therefore request quantifiable data on the fatherless condition in each of these domains as we discussed at our March meeting. We realize that such data may be difficult to obtain, but anything you might provide will help:

- (1) Percent of birth certificates in which the father is not named.
- (2) Percent of birth certificates in which surnames are different.
- (3) Percent of households in which the natural father does not live.

Any data that will help us determine the extent to which the natural father is not involved, as you see the need, will be very helpful.

Sincerely,

Joseph Mastromarino, MD
Chair, NH Commission on the Status of Men

cc: Rep. David A. Bickford
M. Bishop
J. Williams

APPENDIX C: Commission Letter regarding the USDA Women-Infants-Children Program

1 August 2007

Mike Johanns
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

The Commission recently was asked about equity issues with the WIC (Women Infants & Children) nutrition program as administered by your Food and Nutrition Service. We subsequently reviewed and discussed these issues at our most recent meeting. As a result of that review, we are respectfully suggesting some fairly inexpensive but crucially important modifications in the way that this valuable program is presented to the public.

We note that while the program is available to poor fathers who have nutritional needs for their children as well as poor mothers, and that by law the program must be gender-neutral, that fact is not immediately obvious. Your publication describing the program feature women on the cover pages and introductory information, implying that this is a program for and about women and their children, and one must delve into it in greater detail to discover that poor fathers may qualify as well.

We believe, as we are sure that you do, that any program designed to improve family wellness should encourage parental involvement on an equal basis. To do otherwise sends inappropriate messages about family responsibilities and the core needs of children.

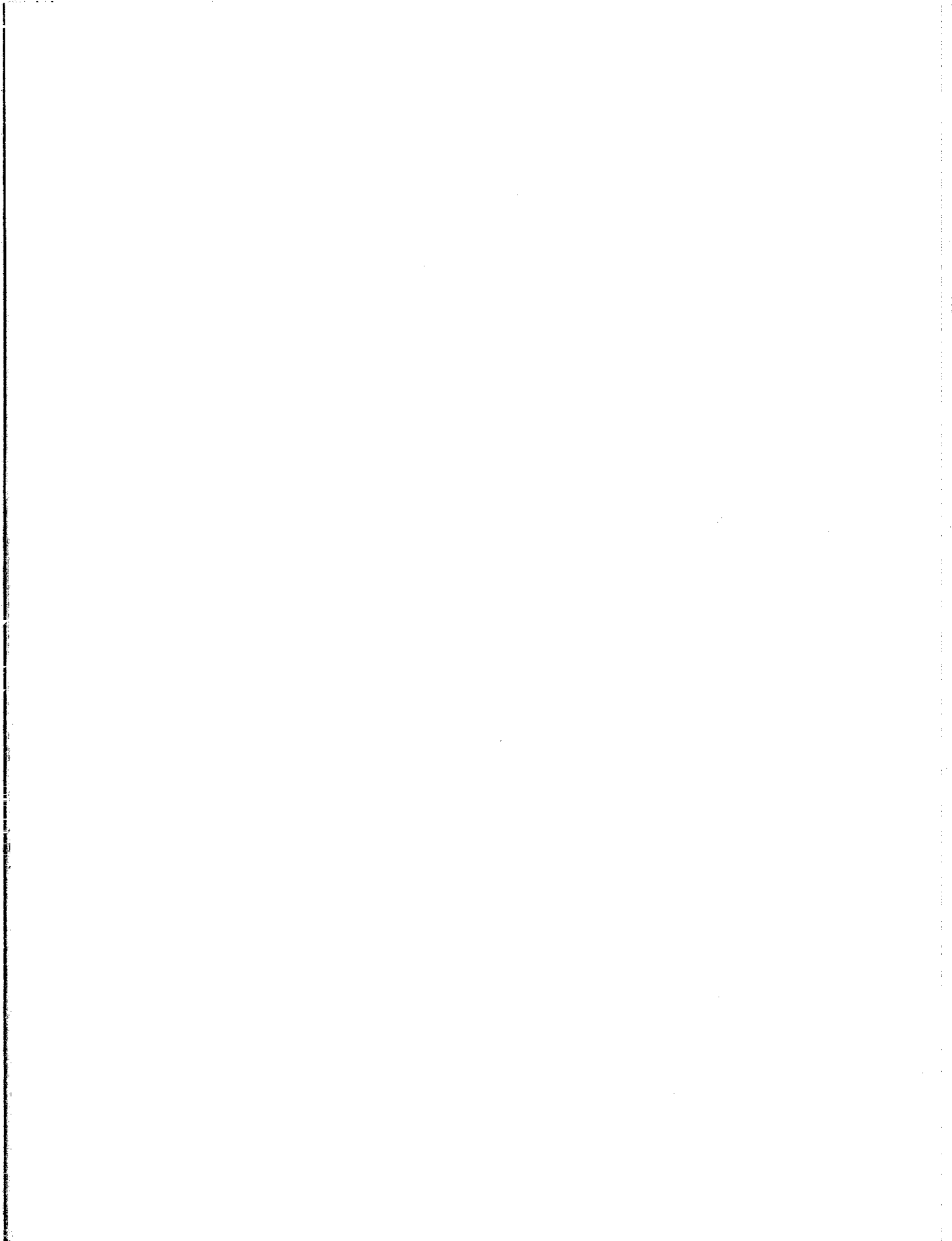
We thus ask that you consider:

1. Changing the WIC program name to PIC (Parents Infants and Children).
2. Changing the wording of PIC's mission statement to include "parents, infants and children..."
3. Modifying photographs, brochures, publications, websites in such a way as to portray both mothers and fathers on an equal basis.
4. Any other changes you deem appropriate to acknowledge the greater role that fathers play in the healthy development of their children, that publicize the gender-neutral administration of your programs, and that encourage (in text and photographs) the equal responsibility of both fathers and mothers in fostering a healthy environment for their children.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Mastromarino, MD
Chair, New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men
PO Box 654
Hampton, NH 03843

cc: John Salazar, F&NS Administrator
Food and Nutrition Service
3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302
John Stephen, NH H&HS Commissioner
Mike Geanoulis, Chair, CSM Father/Child Connection



Mike Jeannotis

HB 380

THE STATUS OF MEN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

**THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF MEN**

<http://www.nh.gov/csm/>

MARCH 2010

Mission Statement

The mission of the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men (CSM):

- To examine issues and effects of cultural biases and stereotyping, beginning with childhood experiences and progress in public schools, and extending to adult concerns such as family relations.
- To promote education and policies which bring fathers and children closer together, with an emphasis on the importance of the role of the father in child development.
- To examine physical and mental health problems unique to, or predominantly affecting men, including a study of male suicide, and make appropriate recommendations.
- To promote initiatives, programs and incentives that will enable men to continue their education and develop family and career skills to improve their ability to be productive and responsible citizens.

The CSM was established by the New Hampshire legislature in 2002, as described in RSA 19-I.

Membership consists of seven members nominated and approved by the Governor and Executive Council:

- Joe H. Mastromarino, MD, Chair
- David Lauren, Esq, Treasurer
- Larry Colby, Secretary
- Michael J. Geanoulis, Sr.
- Scott R. Meyer, PhD
- Robert Cameron Sinclair

One seat remains vacant since the resignation of Scott Garman in March, 2009.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The **NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MEN** wishes to recognize the cooperation and expertise of the many specialists and agencies who contributed to the substance of this report. With their cooperation and assistance, this commission is able to bring higher visibility and effectiveness for our mission to make things better for men and their families.

President Barack Obama – For his White House Forums on Responsible Fatherhood
Arne Duncan, Secretary, US Dept of Education
Michael K. Brown, Senior Assistant to the NH Attorney General
Grace Mattern, Director, NH Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
Jeff Drake, Monadnock Family Resource Center
All Pro Dad, Family First and the National Football League
John-Michael Dumais, Director, NH Parent Information and Resource Center
Elaine Holden, PhD, early education specialist, Rivier College
Nancy Notis, Marketing and Public Relations, Portsmouth Regional Hospital
The National Fatherhood Initiative
The National Center for Fathering
Attorney Jed Abraham
The Administration for Children and Families
NH Department of Information Technology – For graciously hosting our web site
Lisa Paone, HUB Family Resource Center, Dover NH

We are especially appreciative of former commissioner Scott Garman, who resigned last fall to move out of state, yet continues supporting us with his technical expertise as needed.

This commission is also grateful to the members of the public who took valuable time away from their personal obligations in order to bring us a better sense of the issues and problems described herein.

We are grateful to our spouses, loved ones, families, and friends for their tolerance, support, suggestions, and advocacy during this period.

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OVERVIEW

One of the areas highlighted in the 2nd Biennial Report was the intent to "...clarify commission goals and objectives." A great deal of care and energy over the last two years was devoted to those visions. Members offered and received facts and opinions on a wide range of topics related to our charge. At the same time, members worked to illuminate their own individual reactions to the topic at hand and to communicate their strongly held opinions in clear and respectful ways. It is one thing, for example, to review studies or receive testimony about the father-child connection, and quite another to do so in terms of personal experiences as a dad or a son. Commissioners worked hard to create an environment of trust where areas of member's personal stories could be positively brought to bear on public topics related to being male in New Hampshire.

It might seem counterintuitive for those who believe that fathers generally do not care about a meaningful connection with their children, but one study found many young fathers took pride in becoming fathers, giving themselves a new sense of purpose (Source: Natasha Cabrera, Jacqueline Shannon, Cheri Vogel, Catherine Tamis-LeMonda, Rebecca Ryan, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Helen Raikes, Rachel Cohen, *Low-Income Fathers' Involvement in their Toddler's Lives: Biological Fathers Early Head Start and Evaluation*, 2009; see also Kathryn Edin and Laura Lein, *Marginal Men: Fatherhood in the Lives of Low Income Unmarried Men*).

Complaints about family-related problems seemed to be an overriding concern. Even as men die sooner than women from the 15 leading causes of diseases and accidents, and are more likely to experience inferior school performance, issues about the difficulty of maintaining meaningful contact with their children far and away outweighed issues considered of lesser importance according to the public testimony we received over the last two years.

CULTURAL BIASES AND STEREOTYPING

White House Attention for Men and Boys Requested

The Commission became aware that the Obama administration created a White House Council on Women and Girls. Its mission will provide a coordinated federal response to the challenges confronted by women and girls. Given what we've discovered about the condition of men and boys, we were disappointed that the Obama administration was not aware that the condition of men and boys need improvement, as well. Accordingly, a letter was sent to the White House last summer praising the effort for women and girls, and asked for a similar Council for Men and Boys. See **Appendix A**.

RSA 633:4 and the Attorney General

The CSM, in response to concerns from parents being denied access to their children by their ex-partners, wrote to the Attorney General's office for clarification of RSA 633:4, a criminal code designed to protect a parent's right to his or her children. Some fathers complained that they were unable to get the police to enforce the code. A copy of the letter was sent to Police Chief Ted Smith of the NH Association of Police Chiefs, along with yet unanswered telephone requests for more information to help us better understand the problem. See **Appendix B: Attorney General Correspondence**.

Michael K. Brown, Senior Assistant to the Attorney General, acknowledged the CSM's letter concerning standardized and consistent enforcement of RSA 633:4, and stated that "where RSA 633:4 is not enforced his office would be interested to know the specifics of each case."

This is a positive development for fathers and mothers who might be encouraged by the prospects of improved protection of their court-ordered parenting time going forward. One commissioner, however, was not satisfied stating that the attorney general's office ought to be approached again asking for specific performance by all criminal justice departments to enforce the law as it is written.

Legal Aid

One dad, who could not afford a lawyer, described financial difficulty in keeping connected to his child by a "gatekeeper" mother who compromised lawful access to his child. The CSM is in the process of gathering a list of attorneys from the New Hampshire Bar Association for the purpose of obtaining pro bono representation that might help low income fathers maintain a better connection with their children. The CSM endeavors to educate and encourage all concerned about the ordinary benefits of a meaningful and caring father/child relationship.

Child Support Compliance Problems

A 2009 study and final report of the NH Child Support Guidelines can be accessed at the NH Department of Health and Human Services website (*NH Child Support Guidelines Review and Recommendations Report*, 2009. <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/DCSS/guidelines.htm>)

A similar study was undertaken in 2004 by a 12-member commission enacted by HB310 (2004), and made 17 recommendations that appear to be largely ignored. The CSM regrets that the 2009 report had the effect of de-emphasizing the 2004 report complete with its 17 recommendations that were not properly pursued, and failed to estimate child costs as it was charged to do. (*Recommendations of the NH Commission to Study Child Support*, 2004,

<http://www.nh.gov/csm/resources.html>)

As reported earlier, the CSM believes this area of policy deserves closer attention. Child support amounts collected by child support services as a percent of amounts ordered has remained mired around 60-65 percent for all accounts throughout the history of the those services (see the detail provided in our first biennial report, page 17,

http://www.nh.gov/csm/downloads/nh_status_of_men_2005.pdf and the annual OCSE federal reports available at the Division of Child Support Services). Given that compliance rates can exceed 90% when fathers have meaningful relationships with their children (Braver, 1998), policy and law ought to be modified in a way that might encourage fathers and children to be closer together as prescribed by our charge under RSA 19-I.

One Seacoast resident, who submitted a grievance by proxy because he could not afford to miss work, graphically described his conflict between the need to provide economic support for a son he loves very much and the periodic homelessness he suffers. After deductions for child support his net weekly income was \$148.22. This case highlights the possibility that some ordinary wage earners are unable to provide for a separate household and suffer economically as well as their former partners and children.

One man came forward to describe problems revolving around the discovery that he was not the biological father of an alleged son for whom he was ordered to support. His efforts to end child support payments and to bring charges against his former wife and her former mate for fraud were unsuccessful. After consulting with US Citizens against Paternity Fraud and discovering the growing severity of the problem, the CSM voted to support legislation that would protect children and families from the harmful effects of paternity fraud. See also Ruth Padawer, *Who Knew I Was Not the Father*, NY Times, Nov 22, 2009.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/22/magazine/22Paternity-t.html?_r=3&pagewanted=all

In a new kind of double jeopardy, a father who lost his job complained about an order to continue paying child support from a retirement account funded from income that had already been taxed for child support.

Are Domestic Violence Portrayals Impartial?

One member of the public, concerned about men being unfairly portrayed as the primary cause of domestic violence, submitted a compilation of studies entitled, *References Examining Assaults by Women on Their Spouses or Male Partners: An Annotated Bibliography* by Dr. Martin Fiebert. Fiebert's summary can be seen at: <http://www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm>

Grace Mattern, director of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV) submitted the report, *Violence Against Men in New Hampshire*, and told us that

men and boys suffer from domestic and sexual assault as well. One commissioner expressed regret that it was not obvious from the report that the safety record for children was better with involved and caring natural mothers and fathers, and that the sexual and physical abuse rates for children are higher where the biological father is not involved. The report can be seen at: <http://www.nhcadsv.org/Maureen/VAM%20Report%20Final.pdf>.

There was further concern over the controversy revolving around the fact that www.SAFE-NH.org, an organization that treats domestic violence problems on a sex-neutral basis, is not a member of the NH DV Coalition. The CSM remains committed to the ideal that all New Hampshire citizens deserve protection from harm and abuse whether caused by and/or victimized by a man or a woman.

A *US News and World Report* article, "Spanking Raises Chances of Risky, Deviant Sexual Behavior" by Amanda Gardner, 2/28/08, summarizes research from UNH professor Dr. Murray Straus and the UNH Family Research Laboratory. This research found that in addition to other damaging effects of childhood spanking, risky sexual behaviors and masochism-related sexual deviances are also likely consequences of corporal punishment. <http://health.usnews.com/usnews/health/healthday/080228/spanking-raises-chances-of-risky-deviant-sexual-behavior.htm>

Pedophiles, Louts and a Child's Best Interests

The stereotyping of men is an ongoing concern of the CSM. The status of men hit a new low at British Airways because of a policy that prohibits men from being seated next to children traveling alone. One man brought suit against the airline for being humiliated as a possible pedophile. No such policy exists for women.

Another sad example of fathers being portrayed as undesirable comes from an Associated Press article titled "*Father's Day: In Cards, Dad is A Lout*" which appeared in the Keene (NH) Sentinel on 5/23/08. Greeting cards, in addition to media outlets like television and movies, too often demean men and fathers as irrelevant dolts, and may even influence public policy.

Some fathers requested help to redress court decisions improperly founded because of bias, perjury, judicial error, and possible stereotyping. Some courts, lawyers, and guardian *ad litem*s apparently show callous regard for men's lawful rights and the father child connection, according to testimony we received. Three bills of address were introduced in the legislature in attempts to repair such grievances. House Address Bills **HA 1**, **HA 2** and **HA 3** call for the removal of Marital Master Michael Garner, Judge Lucinda Sadler, and Marital Master Philip Cross, respectively.

Suggestions for Guardian *ad litem* Education

A New Hampshire father of four and Senior Mechanical Engineer at the Vermont Nuclear Plant approached us for help to facilitate improvements in the training and education of Guardian *ad litem*s (GAL). He brought evidence suggesting that guardian *ad litem*s need to be more cautious about false allegations being used in the "gamesmanship" of child custody actions, and that emotional harm accrues to children who are victims of Parental Alienation. He told us that the GAL in his case recommended supervised visitation in spite of the fact that the court found no credible evidence that abuse had occurred.

According to Thoennes, et. al, there is disagreement over how many accusations are false, although most estimates range between 20% and 80%. Thoennes and her colleagues report that in 33% of the cases in their survey, no abuse was believed to have occurred. Abuse was believed likely in 50%, and in 17% no determination could be reached. In over 500 cases of sexual abuse allegations where expert consultation was provided over 6 years, 40% have been in divorce and custody disputes. Of the divorce and custody cases that have been adjudicated, in three-fourths there was no legal finding of abuse. That is, charges were dropped, never filed, the person was acquitted in criminal court, or there was a finding of no abuse in family or juvenile court. (Thoennes & Pearson 1988a, 1988b; Thoennes & Tjaden, 1990). Dwyer (1986) found that most professionals agree that the proportion of false allegations is likely to be highest when the allegation surfaces in a conflict over custody and visitation.

Other men have expressed concern about possible GAL bias for a variety of reasons. Pursuant to the foregoing, and our belief that the courts must always act in a fashion consistent with child safety and wellness, the following list of suggestions is herewith submitted. Supporting references are too numerous to cite here, so the reader is simply encouraged to type keywords like false allegations of physical, sexual abuse or parental alienation, and gamesmanship of divorce in any search engine:

1. GALs should have greater awareness about parental alienation and its harm to children.
2. GALs should receive ongoing education in how to make the best possible assessments in order to determine the veracity of accusations in contentious child custody disputes.
3. GALs should recommend a continuing parent/child connection during abuse determinations by way of court approved supervised visitation.
4. Since some fathers have difficulty with a relaxed connection with their children at traditional visitation settings, GALs should consider recommending forms of parent/child reunification alternatives to supervised visitation centers.
5. Where appropriate, GALs should recommend therapeutic enhanced visitation consistent with Supervised Visitation Network standards and policies.

BRINGING FATHERS AND CHILDREN CLOSER TOGETHER

Take Your Daughter and Son to Work Day

The CSM encourages fathers to serve as role models for their children by taking them to work on occasion. The official day was originally conceived by the Ms. Foundation for Women as Take Your Daughter to Work Day but has evolved to encourage both parents to take sons and daughters to work. Now known as Take Your Daughter and Son to Work Day, the CSM encourages both men and women to participate. The designated day is the fourth Thursday in April. For this year (2010), the date is April 22.

New England Fathering Conference

The CSM also participated in the annual New England Fathering Conference. The conference provides a variety of workshops for policy makers and fathers in the areas of health, education, involvement and the legal system. Commissioner Colby has been active as co-sponsor and organizer for almost a dozen years. The theme for this year's 11th annual conference in Newport, RI was "*Stronger Fathers, Stronger Communities: Supporting Men's Commitment to Their Children.*" New Hampshire is tentatively scheduled to host the Conference in 2012 and 2013—details to be announced.

NH Child Advocacy Network (NH CAN) and the Children's Trust Fund

The CSM was recently accepted as member and advisor with NH CAN and the New Hampshire Children's Trust Fund. Advisor status allows the commission to influence future topics of concern related to our mission.

Task Force on Work and Family (TFWF)

Commissioner Geanoulis, who represents the CSM on the TFWF, reports a growing awareness on the economic benefits for families where the father is involved. This commission appreciates TFWF efforts to improve flexibility, opportunities, child care and health benefits for both mothers and fathers in the workplace. Increasing opportunities for mothers in the workplace provides for improved economic conditions around the home and greater opportunities for fathers to be closer to their children. A TFWF report is due in November of this year (2010).

Communication with the NH Department of Health and Human Services

The CSM has requested help by way of a letter to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (H&HS) to facilitate our efforts to (1) get a better handle on state data related to

father absence, (2) estimate the costs of fatherlessness to the New Hampshire taxpayer, and (3) enhance the father/child connection by way of outreach, education and a permanent liaison to the CSM. See **Appendix C**.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

White House Community Forum on Responsible Fatherhood and Education Success

A White House Forum, held by President Obama's staffers in Manchester last September, was the second in a series to be held throughout the country for the purpose of encouraging higher levels of father involvement in the education of their children. Arne Duncan, Secretary of the US Department of Education, emphasized the importance of men's involvement in their children's education. The commission strongly supports this federal outreach.

One commissioner expressed regret that the title for these valuable forums implied fathers as irresponsible and suggested that the term "Responsible Fatherhood" be changed to "Father Involvement" so that the title reads, instead: "White House Community Forum on Father Involvement and Education Success." Obama staffers were advised about this concern by email.

NH Parent Information and Resource Center (NHPIRC)

John-Michael Dumais, director of the New Hampshire Parent Information and Resource Center visited us to stress the importance of the involvement of both parents in their children's education. The testimony of Mr. Dumais served to reinforce the data submitted in our earlier reports about the higher likelihood for educational success when the father demonstrates an interest in his children's education. See also the Education and Early Learning sections of the *Father Facts* booklet (5th edition) available from the Fatherhood Initiative website: <http://www.fatherhood.org>. Mr. Dumais encouraged CSM participation and support for the PIRC conference (March 2009): *Family Engagement in Education*. Commissioners Colby, Mastromarino, Geanoulis, Sinclair and other panelists presented at the seminar on the topic: *Fatherhood and Education: The Missing Link*.

Men and Early Education

Elaine Holden, PhD, who specializes in early education at Rivier College, encouraged us to do whatever possible to help men get more involved in the education of children, especially boys. The United States is falling behind educationally in the world. Nearly half of this country's mathematicians need to be imported from other countries. Holden further alleged that students need male role models; that men need more encouragement to become teachers; and that more

men should be involved in special education. Holden expressed regret that she has never met a male reading specialist. The CSM encourages and supports more involvement by men as volunteers, paid staff and active parents in the education of children.

Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)

At a recent White House Forum held in Manchester, NH last September, CSM members learned about a new initiative called Watch Dogs which is designed to encourage fathers and other father figures to get involved in their local schools. Conceived by the National Center for Fathering, and well received by school administrators, the program encourages fathers to form groups to go into their children's high schools and help facilitate the education of students by creating a presence that enhances safety and education. For more information see <http://www.fathers.com/> or call 888-540-DOGS (3647).

Wear Blue Day and Men's Health

The CSM noted a women's awareness campaign called Wear Red Day to raise awareness about heart disease risks among women and borrowed the idea for men's health awareness. Henceforth, September 1st will be designated as a Wear Blue Day to remind men about the need for an annual physical examination. By way of repetition from our earlier reports, men have higher death rates from the 15 leading causes of diseases and accidents.

The marketing department of the Portsmouth Regional Hospital was approached by the CSM for help in raising public awareness about male health problems. Thanks to CSM outreach, they have promised to develop a publicity program for men similar to those devised for women. See our previous reports about the poor status of men's health.

PROMOTING INITIATIVES PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES

Exploring the Causes and Consequences of Father Absence

In efforts "to bring fathers and children closer together" pursuant to our charge under RSA 19-I, the CSM will continue to explore the causes and consequences of father absence over the next biennium. Father absence is considered by some to be society's number one social problem. Accordingly, the CSM will give this particular issue higher priority going forward. The public is encouraged to assist us in this discovery process. In America, 24.35 million children (33.5%) live absent their biological father. (Source: Krieder, Rose and Fields. *Living Arrangements of Children*, 2001. *Current Population Reports*, P70-104. Table 1. Washington, D.C.: US Census Bureau, 2005).

The 100 Billion Dollar Man

This Commission feels it has the potential to reduce the demand for a variety of expensive state funded services, even if only partially successful in its mandate to bring fathers and children closer together. According to a report by the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), the annual public cost of father absence is 100 billion dollars nationally. (See *The Annual Public Costs of Father Absence*, <http://www.fatherhood.org/doclibrary/fatherabsencecost.pdf>)

New Hampshire's fatherless rates and share of that cost have yet to be determined. The CSM hopes to develop more detailed information going forward.

Fatherlessness is a complex phenomenon caused by a variety of circumstances including questionable choices - by both males and females - related to fertility, marriage, and cohabitation. Some non-resident fathers are active with their children. Some fathers are not, due to a variety of perverse incentives like father-substitute government programs, Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), and debilitating family court decisions that marginalize the father/child connection (See **Appendix D: NH Custody Statistics**). It is also true, we regret to say, that while some men travel long distances at considerable expense to see their children, others seem not to care and/or are not willing to marry. One man told us that his two sons prefer to have uncommitted relationships because of what they learned from their father's experience in family court. Another submitted his sentiments against marriage by way of an essay written by Attorney Jed Abraham entitled, "*No, high divorce rates and biased laws have made marriage a gamble for too many men.*" See: <http://www.fact.on.ca/news/news0005/in000529.htm>.

The CSM recognizes the ordinary importance of fathers as outlined in our previous reports, and dedicates itself to improving the chances for children to have a meaningful connection with both their natural fathers and mothers. Details about how to improve those chances have yet to be discovered - or rediscovered. But such details will likely revolve around the need to treat both sexes equally, to improve the dignity and respect of the court, and to recognize the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives. It seems counterproductive in both financial and emotional terms, for example, to be demonizing and jailing men for bringing children they cannot afford into the world while at the same time lionizing and subsidizing women for participating in the same. And it gives the Commission pause to wonder, given the ordinary advantages of father involvement, why mothers are still six times more likely than fathers to get custody of the children even as women participate in near equal numbers in the workplace. See **Appendix C** for the latest New Hampshire custody statistics.

For further information on the benefits of father involvement and, conversely, the disadvantages of father absence, see the 5th edition of *Father Facts*, available at <http://www.fatherhood.org>.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Commissioner Colby attended A 2009 Northeast Family Strengthening Conference sponsored by the ACF and returned with a wealth of encouragement from information gleaned at a seminar, *"Empowering Families: Tools for Healthy Marriage, Responsible Fatherhood and Family Finances,"* and a brochure, *"Healthy Marriage & Responsible Fatherhood Initiatives."*

In his keynote address, Tim Nelson described a study of low income fathers he conducted with his wife, Kathryn Edin (*Fatherhood in the Lives of Low Income Men*). They found that low income young men were pleased at becoming fathers despite overwhelming reasons not to be: poverty, crime, lack of education, etc. The majority of men in this study, corroborated by other studies, were that young men were happy about the prospects of becoming a father. That the "kids gave them something to live for" was a common theme. Concern was expressed about the general inflexibility of child support agencies and that they should give higher priority for encouraging co-parenting classes and improving dialogue between young moms and dads. He cited the harm done by denial of visitation both to the child and the father, and that fathering should ordinarily be encouraged - especially for fathers complying with their financial child support orders.

The workshops, *"Engaging Fathers in Child Welfare," "Parenting as Partners,"* and *"Beyond Blame,"* were relevant to our mission and provided a deeper understanding of the tools and questions we need to develop as a society to make things better for children and families. Why, for example, do young men and women put parenthood before marriage - even at the risk of poverty; and why can't dads who have no money get in-kind credit for child support? Shouldn't there also be a niche for treating young couples in abusive relationships who both demonstrate a desire to resolve their differences in a constructive way?

Parenting Classes for Dads

Jeff Drake of the Monadnock Family Resource Center has started a parenting class for dads. For more information contact: jdrake@mfs.org or jeff@successfulparents.com. The CSM supports all efforts to increase the abilities and skills needed to be a successful parent and encourages men, especially fathers of young children, to be the best parent they can be.

All Pro Dad

In one effort to help fathers be more involved with their children, the CSM established a link on its website to <http://www.allprodad.com> where a variety of resources are available such as free monthly breakfasts and other attractive activities. All Pro Dad is sponsored by Family First, a nonprofit organization which provides resources on marriage, parenting, and fatherhood. All Pro Dad is a discussion and support group for fathers (children are welcome at the meetings). Groups

meet once per month to share parenting advice and connect with each other. There is also an email list with daily parenting tips. All Pro Dad is affiliated with a small number of NFL teams who open their stadiums for a three hour event where dads and their children can meet with professional football players and coaches. The CSM encourages New Hampshire fathers to be involved with All Pro Dad and to help organize monthly breakfasts.

More Resources for Fathers

At a time when parental roles are changing—more women in the workplace, more stay-at-home dads, more complex family situations where the courts have a role—a variety of new family services are offering programs specifically targeting fathers. Good Beginnings of Sullivan County, <http://sullivancounty.goodbeginnings.net> recognizes the importance of fathers. Daddy and Me, <http://www.rochesterymca.org/campcory/daddy-and-me.aspx> specializes in camping programs for Dads to get away with their son(s) and/or daughter(s) to spend quality time together. The HUB Family Resource Center, <http://www.hubfamilies.org> and Monadnock Family Services in Keene, <http://www.mfs.org> recently received grants for nurturing father support. According to Lisa Paone, director of the Dover HUB, dads are getting a new sense of importance and relevance for their children as the result of such programs.

Legislation

Many bills are being introduced by the legislature that may impact the status of men. Inclusion of a bill in this list does not imply support or opposition and is submitted for informational purposes only.

- Bills of Address **HA 1**, **HA 2**, and **HA 3** (2010) were introduced in an effort to redress alleged unlawful actions of certain judges and marital masters.
- **HB 2** (2009) Section 144:87 Terminates or reorganizes the Commission on the Status of Men in June, 2011. The CSM strongly encourages continuation of the CSM in its present form in order to better serve men's wellness and, by extension, the wellness of their children and families.
- **HB 139** (2009) - relative to the determination of parental rights and responsibilities. The commission supports this bill as it would require the court to submit a written justification for denial of shared parenting petitions.
- **HB 207** (2009) - relative to modification of parental rights and responsibilities. The commission supports this bill as it might encourage a better connection between fathers (and mothers) and their children.
- **HB 209** (2009) - relative to enforcement of parenting plans. The commission supports this bill as it would amend the period of time in which the court reviews motions for contempt of court ordered parenting time from 30 days to ten days.

- **HB 230 (2010)** - Modifies the burden of proof in domestic violence allegations.
- **HB 1156 (2010)** - Codifies the best interests of children
- **HB 1165 (2010)** - Designed to enforce child support compliance by allowing the Division of Child Support Services access to internet service records.
- **HB 1178 (2010)** - Establishes a committee to study children and families. Representation from the Commission on the Status of Women was provided for while representation from the Commission on the Status of Men was not. This commission will ask for an amendment that will recognize the equal importance of men in any study of children and families.
- **HB 1197 (2010)** - Revises the child support formula in shared parenting cases.
- **HB 1215 (2010)** - Improves gender references in certain public assistance statutes.
- **HB 1216 (2010)** - Establishes the self-support reserve at 115 percent of the poverty level.
- **HB 1306 (2010)** - Requires judges to read marital master decisions.
- **HB 1307 (2010)** - Establishes hearings and terms for marital masters.
- **HB 1384 (2010)** - Establishes a suicide review committee.
- **HB 1420 (2010)** - Requires clarification of child support orders in certain cases.
- **HB 1424 (2010)** - Provides for a performance audit of the Division of Child Support Services. The bill should be modified to include annual collections rates for all accounts along with annual changes in numbers of children served since 1986.
- **HB 1491 (2010)** - Relative to child support and responsibility for extraordinary child-rearing expenses in cases of shared parenting.
- **HB 1510 (2010)** - Permits no-fault divorce only when no children are involved.
- **HB 1552 (2010)** - Requires application of the Melson Formula in the child support guidelines.

The commission was asked to discuss various marriage/civil union bills, but did not feel qualified. A minority held, however, that the commission should do whatever it can to facilitate the connection between children and both of their natural parents with an emphasis on the father given the fatherless rates these days.

Steps in the Juvenile Court Process and the Child Welfare System

Commissioner Colby, who is familiar with the child welfare system, believes it to be more complex and confusing than it needs to be. Accordingly, the CSM hopes to develop recommendations that might produce better outcomes for men and children going forward. See **Appendix E**

CONCLUSION SUMMARY AND GOALS

Based on some of the critical points in our initial overview for this report, issues including premature and preventable deaths of males, inferior school performance of males and difficulty of males being able to maintain meaningful contact with their children all suggest the need for the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men (CSM) to continue to move forward and serve as a model for our country to realize that ignoring such issues goes well beyond “doing the right thing” by males and appears to clearly link to issues of economic productivity in local, national and international spheres; creating informed and engaged male citizens in our communities most strikingly suggest possible threats to our national security to have less than physically and emotionally healthy as well as academically capable males in our workforce.

The most salient achievements of the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men during the biennium include, but are not limited to:

(1) Slow and steady progress in apparent elevated levels of interest, support and respect for the issues that are central to the mission of the CSM. Some examples include:

(a) Invitation of our Commission to have representation on the Legislative Taskforce on Work and Family and the White House Forum on Responsible Fatherhood.

(b) Acceptance of our Commission as contributors to the goals and missions of the New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network (NH CAN), the Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) and the Children’s Trust Fund.

(c) Recognition by the New Hampshire Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse that men can be victims as well.

(2) An increase in the numbers of people appearing before our Commission to provide public testimony in response to our invitation to address specific concerns as well as those who are seeking our input, collaboration and support for issues of importance to them. The latter group includes researchers working at UNH to re-examine issues in child support enforcement and an attorney who travels nationally regarding issues of paternity fraud prevention and intervention.

(3) Improvements in efficacy and effectiveness in outcomes within both public and private sector agencies that have decision making capacity over the lives of males of all ages in our state. Our communications with the Attorney General’s office regarding concerns over enforcement practices of laws such as RSA 633:4 and our efforts to communicate with the NH Association of Police Chiefs and the NH Department of Health and Human Services are examples of this.

Goals for the NH Commission on the Status of Men during the next Biennial Period include, but are not limited to:

(1) Encourage the Governor and Council and all members of the New Hampshire legislature to fully realize the crucial importance of the economic, social and political viability of the continuation of the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men. We remain a national leader, being the only state in the country with such a Commission. Based on data from reliable sources, furthermore, the depth of the threat to our state and nation to ignore the current problems plaguing males of all ages must be viewed as more than just one issue on the table at a time. The domino effect is potentially crippling. What we have discovered about how the cycle of fatherlessness and its connection with the instability of children, poor academic performance, school dropouts, substance abuse and associated crime (some of which harms or kills others) indicates that New Hampshire will have the ranks of our welfare cases and incarcerated males grow at tax payer expense, and reduce the number of skilled taxpayers in our workforce.

(2) Increase the number of advocacy contacts made by our Commission with the goal of engaging crucial members of our governmental and private agencies into meaningful dialogue which will result in clear action plans to address and attempt to remediate identified problems impacting males of all ages in our state on a timeline that is agreeable to all parties.

(3) Increase the representation of the CSM on other appropriate legislative task forces and at local, regional and national events related to our mission and goals.

(4) Emphasize the importance of our aforementioned suggestions for child support and guardian *ad litem*s and to help policy makers, court authorities and other agencies develop clear action plans to facilitate improved wellness levels for all family members.

(5) Continue efforts to gather and disseminate data on males in areas related to our mission with the goal of improving healthcare, mental health, education, access by male parents to their children, etc.

APPENDIX A: White House Letter

April 27, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to you on behalf of the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men. We applaud your administration's establishment of the White House Council on Women and Girls. It is our belief that the issues in our society that are unique to issues of biological sex and gender roles are worthy of special attention.

The intent of this letter is to respectfully request that your administration examine the issues that are particular to men and boys in our society including but not limited to those involving health and mental health care, educational attainment status and the father/child connection. Information regarding these types of issues can be found on our website which houses our biennial reports at www.nh.gov/csm. Your consideration of establishing a White House Council on Men and Boys is both urged and appreciated.

We are hopeful that the visions you have begun to move forward with that promise greater equity to all people than previously realized in our great nation will include issues of gender equity as well. To this end, our Commission is looking forward to your response regarding this important issue. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

[SIGNED]

Scott Meyer, MSW, Ph.D.
Commissioner

Cc: The Honorable John Lynch, Governor

APPENDIX B: NH Attorney General Correspondence; RSA 633:4

February 20, 2009

Kelly Ayotte
Attorney General's Office
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear General Ayotte:

During the last meeting of the NH Commission on the Status of Men it was determined that your help would be of great value regarding comments we have received about RSA 633:4. Testimony both written and verbal before the Commission has claimed that RSA 633:4 (attached) is not being enforced consistently and is being used to keep fathers with visitation rights away from their children.

After discussion of the issue at the January 30, 2009 Commission meeting in Concord we are requesting that you provide clarification. Would you be as kind as to respond in writing and/or at an appearance before the Commission to advise us as to your understanding of the law, the intent, and the use of RSA 633:4 in regards to parental contact with children.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and working with you on this important concern. If you have questions, I can be reached at:

352-7512 X4160
352-8126
lcolby@scshelps.org

For the NH Commission on the Status of Men, I am,

[SIGNED]

Larry Colby

cc: Joseph Mastromarino, Chair NHCSM
Chief Ted Smith, NH Association of Chiefs of Police

(continued)

APPENDIX B (continued):

**TITLE LXII
CRIMINAL CODE**

**CHAPTER 633
INTERFERENCE WITH FREEDOM**

Section 633:4

633:4 Interference With Custody. –

I. A person is guilty of a class B felony if such person knowingly takes from this state or entices away from this state any child under the age of 18, or causes any such child to be taken from this state or enticed away from this state, with the intent to detain or conceal such child from a parent, guardian or other person having lawful parental rights and responsibilities as described in RSA 461-A.

II. A person is guilty of a misdemeanor if such person knowingly takes, entices away, detains or conceals any child under the age of 18, or causes any such child to be taken, enticed away, detained or concealed, with the intent to detain or conceal such child from a parent, guardian or other person having lawful parental rights and responsibilities as described in RSA 461-A.

III. It shall be an affirmative defense to a charge under paragraph I or II that the person so charged was acting in good faith to protect the child from real and imminent physical danger. Evidence of good faith shall include but shall not be limited to the filing of a nonfrivolous petition documenting such danger and seeking to modify the custody decree in a court of competent jurisdiction within this state. Such petition must be filed within 72 hours of termination of visitation rights.

IV. The affirmative defense set forth in paragraph III shall not be available if the person charged with the offense has left this state with the child.

Source. 1983, 390:1. 1998, 292:2. 2005, 273:16, eff. Oct. 1, 2005.

APPENDIX B (continued):

**ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

33 CAPITOL STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

KELLY A. AYOTTE
ATTORNEY GENERAL



ORVILLE B. "BUDD" FITCH II
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 27, 2009

Mr. Larry Colby
N.H. Commission on the Status of Men
c/o Joseph Mastromarino
P.O. Box 654
Hampton, New Hampshire 03843-0654

Dear Mr. Colby:

Attorney General Kelly Ayotte asked me to respond to your letter regarding the enforcement of RSA 633:4.

As I am sure you are aware, the enforcement of RSA 633:4 (and most criminal laws) are in the first instance, within the jurisdiction of the local law enforcement agency involved and the local district or superior court. Each case turns on its unique set of facts and circumstances. If the Commission becomes aware of specific instances where RSA 633:4 is not being followed or is being misused, this office would be interested to know the specifics of each such case. Please feel free to forward any case materials and court orders to my attention for review. Please make your submissions as complete and comprehensive as you can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Brown".

Michael K. Brown
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Civil Bureau
(603) 271-3650

MKB/llm
cc: Kelly Ayotte

348798.doc

APPENDIX C: Letter to the NH Department of Health and Human Services



State of New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men

Joseph H. Mastromarino, M.D., Chairperson
P.O. Box 654, Hampton, N.H. 03843-0654
Tel: 601-2268 E-Mail: EmergencyMD@aol.com

July 10, 2008

Commissioner Nicholas Toumpas
NH DHHS Commissioners Office
129 Pleasant St
Concord, NH 03301-3857

Dear Commissioner Toumpas:

I am writing in follow-up to our letters to you of June in which we requested data about the costs of fatherless families to the state of New Hampshire and a permanent liaison to the Commission on the Status of Men to address these and other issues. We continue to look for a response from you about the various issues raised. Since that correspondence, The National Fatherhood Initiative has fortuitously published an authoritative article entitled "The Costs of Father Absence" which provides both focus and a framework for you to get this data for us, in keeping with our legislative mandate. I have enclosed a copy of the report for your reference. This report categorizes the expenditures using fourteen major government programs (Figure 3 on Page 10). We ask that you provide the New Hampshire data for these same fourteen programs. Gathering and presenting the information using this outline will both substantially decrease the effort to assemble this data and will increase its relevance by comparison with national figures.

This enclosed report conservatively estimates that the national costs of father absence (for only the fourteen government programs addressed) at almost **\$100 Billion dollars**. A careful reading of this rather brief report and reviewing the federal data referenced as the basis of their conclusions makes it clear that the costs are almost certainly underestimated.

I am sure that you find this report to be enormously helpful, and elucidation of the New Hampshire data and subsequent legislative response to address the issues may have immense potential impact on the New Hampshire budget process. It is very possible that the savings from implementing only a few changes will yield savings to the state on the order of the yearly budget deficit.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph H. Mastromarino, MD, Chair
NH Commission on the Status of Men

cc: Hon. Gov. John Lynch,
Members of Executive Council
with enclosure

APPENDIX D: NH Child Custody Statistics

NH DIVORCE AWARD OF CUSTODY OF MINOR CHILDREN ALL PHYSICAL CUSTODY CASES 2006 - 2008 NH Div. of Vital Records Administration 9/3/2009

Total Number of 2006 Divorces in NH = 5374

Physical Custody 2006	cases	% cases	children	% children
Mother Only	1621	64.38%	2783	64.35%
Father only	214	8.50%	367	8.49%
Joint	652	25.89%	1103	25.50%
Welfare	1	0.04%	1	0.02%
Split Mother & Father	30		1.19%	
Mother	38		0.88%	
Father	33		0.76%	
Split Mother & Welfare	0		0.00%	
Split Father & Welfare	0		0.00%	
TOTAL	2518	100.00%	4325	100.00%

Total Number of 2007 Divorces in NH = 5041

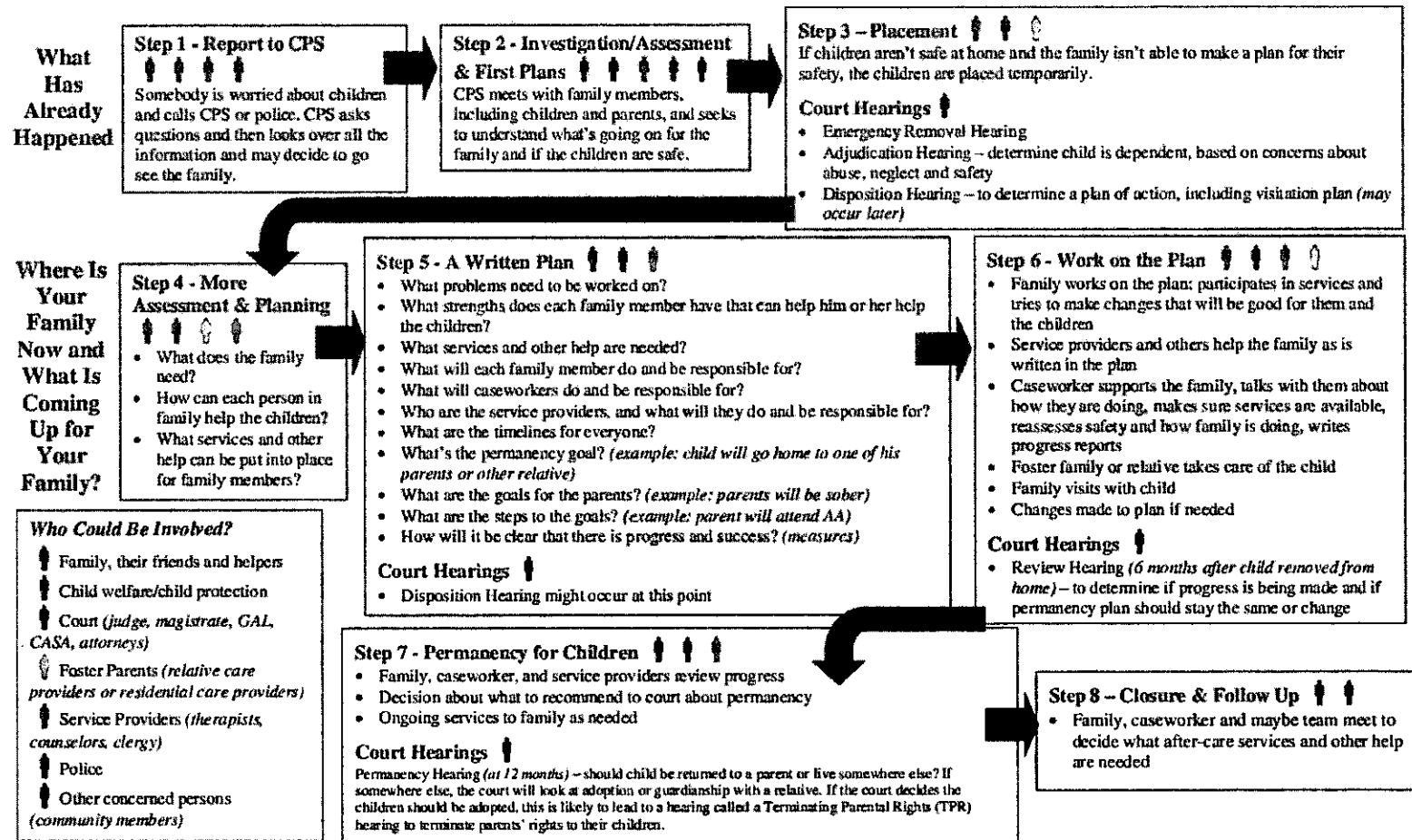
Physical Custody 2007	cases	% cases	children	% children
Mother Only	1494	61.99%	2545	61.79%
Father only	233	9.67%	395	9.59%
Joint	649	26.93%	1097	26.63%
Welfare	2	0.08%	4	0.10%
Split Mother & Father	30		1.24%	
Mother	36		0.87%	
Father	34		0.83%	
Split Mother & Welfare	1		0.04%	
Mother	1		0.02%	
Welfare	1		0.02%	
Split Father & Welfare	1		0.04%	
Father	2		0.05%	
Welfare	4		0.10%	
TOTAL	2410	100.00%	4119	100.00%

Total Number of 2008 Divorces in NH = 5082

Physical Custody 2008	cases	% cases	children	% children
Mother Only	1463	60.40%	2509	60.12%
Father only	208	8.59%	340	8.15%
Joint	724	29.89%	1260	30.19%
Welfare	1	0.04%	2	0.05%
Split Mother & Father	26		1.07%	
Mother	31		0.74%	
Father	31		0.74%	
Split Mother & Welfare	0		0.00%	
Split Father & Welfare	0		0.00%	
TOTAL	2422	100.00%	4173	100.00%

Steps in the Child Welfare System

When children go into placement and the plan is for the children to go home with their family (Reunification)





Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 380

BILL TITLE: exempting the commission on the status of men from repeal on June 30, 2011 and adding a duty to the commission.

DATE: February 16, 2011

LOB ROOM: 306

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:
Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:
Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Perkins

Seconded by Rep. Bowers

Vote: 13-2 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: NO

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Carol Vita, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 380

BILL TITLE: exempting the commission on the status of men from repeal on June 30, 2011 and adding a duty to the commission.

DATE:

2/16/11

LOB ROOM: 306

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Motions:

OTP OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

PERKINS

Seconded by Rep.

BOWERS

Vote:

(Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions:

OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote:

(Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE:

(REGULAR)

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent:

Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Carol Vita, Clerk

Rep Carol Vita

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Bill #: 380 Title: _____

PH Date: 2, 8, 11

Exec Session Date: 2, 16, 11

Motion: _____ Amendment #: _____

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
McGuire, Carol M, Chairman	✓	
Hawkins, Kenneth, V Chairman	✓	
Sytek, John J		✓
Day, Russell C	✓	
Gould, Kenneth H	✓	
Pratt, Calvin D		✓
Vita, Carol M, Clerk	✓	
Perkins, Lawrence B	✓	
Winter, Steven J	✓	
Bowers, Spec	✓	
Hansen, Peter T	✓	
Proulx, Mark L	✓	
Whitehead, Randall A	✓	
Schmidt, Peter B		A
Pilotte, Maurice L	✓	
Jeudy, Jean L	✓	
Sullivan, Daniel J		

TOTAL VOTE:

Printed: 1/28/2011

13

2

Committee Report

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 17, 2011

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND
ADMINISTRATION to which was referred HB380,**

**AN ACT exempting the commission on the status of men
from repeal on June 30, 2011 and adding a duty to the
commission. Having considered the same, report the
same with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO
PASS.**

Rep. Lawrence B Perkins

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION
Bill Number:	HB380
Title:	exempting the commission on the status of men from repeal on June 30, 2011 and adding a duty to the commission.
Date:	February 17, 2011
Consent Calendar:	NO
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

HB 380 would repeal a decision to remove the Commission on the Status of Men. The majority believes that this is an inopportune time for such a hasty decision. The CSM is an unfunded advisory committee that enlightens the legislator on such important issues as mortality rates, prostate cancer and fatherless homes.

Vote 13-2.

Rep. Lawrence B Perkins
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB380, exempting the commission on the status of men from repeal on June 30, 2011 and adding a duty to the commission. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Lawrence B Perkins for EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION. HB 380 would repeal a decision to remove the Commission on the Status of Men. The majority believes that this is an inopportune time for such a hasty decision. The CSM is an unfunded advisory committee that enlightens the legislator on such important issues as mortality rates, prostate cancer and fatherless homes. **Vote 13-2.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HB380 would repeal a decision^{is} to remove the Commission on the Status of Men. The majority believes that this an inopportune time for such a hasty decision. The CSM is an unfunded advisory committee that enlightens the legislator on such important issues as mortality rates, prostate cancer and fatherless homes.

Rep Perkins

Carol M. Quinn

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: EDVA

BILL NUMBER: HB 380

TITLE: _____

DATE: 2/16/11 CONSENT CALENDAR: YES NO

- OUGHT TO PASS
- OUGHT TO PASS W/ AMENDMENT
- INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
- INTERIM STUDY (Available only 2nd year of biennium)

Amendment No.

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

COMMITTEE VOTE: 13-2

- Copy to Committee Bill File
- Use Another Report for Minority Report

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
Rep. Carol M. Vita
For the Committee