

UNITED FAMILIES
INTERNATIONAL

**DIVORCE:
100 REASONS
NOT TO...**





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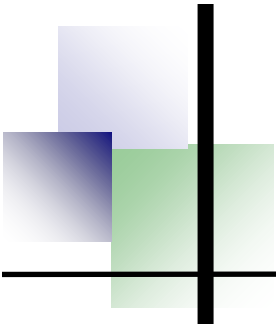
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INTRODUCTION

Marriage is central to families and is the cornerstone upon which healthy and progressive societies are built. Although necessary in extreme cases of abuse, divorce negatively impacts husbands, wives and children. Society's lack of understanding of the fundamental nature of marriage has brought about a retreat from this crucial institution. Societal approval of alternatives to marriage, “no-fault” divorce, the concept of disposable marriages, the rise in social insurance programs that make individuals less dependent on families, and the lack of societal pressure to marry and stay married have all coalesced to perpetuate the attitude that divorce is a viable solution to marital discord and a means to ensure individual happiness. When marriages and families are healthy, communities thrive; when marriages break down, communities break down. Governments and societies should promote marriage and conflict resolution, not dissolution of the family unit, when relational problems arise.

POSITION STATEMENT

United Families International supports laws, policies and programs that strengthen marriage and discourage divorce (except in extreme cases of abuse). We also extend a hand of compassion and help to individuals and households whose circumstances fall short of the ideal.



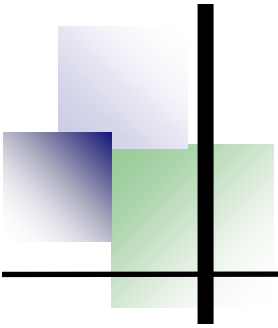


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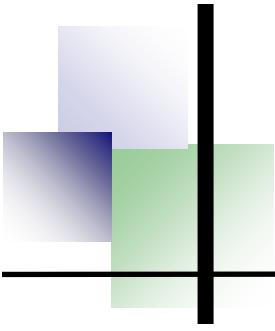
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For decades, societies have been participating in a great social science experiment regarding divorce. Disposable marriages and shattered lives have been the end result. Society's cavalier attitude towards marriage and divorce is not a positive phenomenon and has perpetuated a cycle of failed marriages and a lengthy list of associated social problems detrimental to children and to adults. Divorce is not a solo act, nor is it a victimless phenomenon. There is no debate that divorce has brought enormous physical, emotional, and economic harm to families.

Governments have a great stake in responding to an epidemic divorce rate. Indeed, governments can never create enough safety-net programs to compensate for such comprehensive failure in marriage. Divorce prevention should be a high priority around the globe, beginning with a renewed effort to provide positive pre-marriage training, crafting public policy to strengthen existing marriages and to create social and cultural environments supportive of the commitment to marriage. We must reverse the decades of marital decline by not buying into the divorce culture, notions of same-sex marriage, or any form of contemporary sexual liberation. We must regenerate a culture that understands the significance of marriage between a man and a woman and by doing so, we give our children back their lives and their most basic human right — a natural family with their biological mother and father.



GENERAL IMPACT ON CHILDREN

1. **“Compared to children who are raised by their [biological] married parents, children in other family types are more likely to achieve lower levels of education, to become teen parents, and to experience health, behavior and mental health problems.”**

Mary Parke, [Are Married Parents Really Better for Children?](#) (Washington, DC, Center for Law and Social Policy, May 2003), and William J. Doherty, et.al., *Why Marriage Matters: Twenty-One Conclusions from the Social Sciences* (New York: Institute for American Values, 2002): 8.

2. **A study done in 2005 showed that children who grow up in a home with two married parents “are less likely to experience a wide range of cognitive, emotional, and social problems” in both childhood and adulthood when compared to children in other family structures.**

Paul R. Amato, “The Impact of Family Formation Change on the Cognitive, Social and Emotional Well-Being of the Next Generation,” *The Future of Children: Marriage and Child Well-Being*, 15, 2 (2005): 75-97.

3. **As adults, children from intact marriages report being closer to their mothers on average than do children of divorce.**

Paul R. Amato and Alan Booth, *A Generation At Risk: Growing Up in an Era of Family Upheaval* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1997): 78-79.

4. **“Children whose parents divorce report having poor relationships with both parents. “[Nicholas Zill’s] research shows that 65 percent of those young people whose parents divorced reported poor relationships with their fathers, compared to 9 percent of those whose parents did not divorce. ... [and] some 30 percent from divorced families reported poor relationships with their mothers, compared with 16 percent in the nondivorced group.”**

John Gottman with Joan Declaire, *Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child* (New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 1997), 144. Dr. Gottman is referencing Nicholas Zill, Donna Ruane Morrison, and Mary Jo Coiro, “Long-Term Effects of Parental Divorce on Parent-Child Relationships, Adjustment, and Achievement in Young Adulthood,” *Journal of Family Psychology*, 7, 1(1993): 91-103.

5. **“Several researchers acknowledge that ‘children fare better in married, nuclear families’.”**

Jeanne H. Hilton and Stephen Desrochers, “Children’s Behavior Problems in Single-Parent and Married-Parent Families: Development of a Predictive Model,” *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, 37 (2003): 13-34



CRIME

6. **Those living in a step-family or with a single mother at age 10 were more than twice as likely to be arrested by age 14 than were those living with both biological parents.**

Chris Coughlin and Samuel Vuchinich, "Family Experience in Preadolescence and the Development of Male Delinquency," *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 58 (1996): 491-501.

7. **In four out of five statistical models, a county's divorce rate was a statistically significant predictor of the homicide rate. "On average, higher levels of the percentage of the population divorced are associated with larger homicide rates within counties over time."**

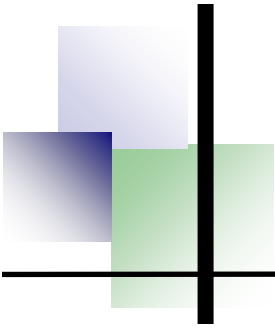
Julie A. Phillips, "The Relationship Between Age Structure and Homicide Rates in the United States, 1970 to 1999," *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 43 (2006): 230-260.

8. **Family structure predicted five types of crime: drug offenses, violence, property offenses, traffic offenses, and drunk driving. Taking into account other significant explanatory variables, the research study showed that a child's living in a broken home as the only independent predictor of all these types of criminality.**

Andre Sourander et al., "Childhood Predictors of Male Criminality: A Prospective Population-Based Follow-up Study from Age 8 to Late Adolescence," *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 45 (2006): 578-586.

9. **The US National Longitudinal Survey of Youth shows how boys raised outside of an intact marriage are, on average, more than twice as likely as other boys to go to jail. The rate rises three times for boys with step-parents, to the same level as that for boys without parents at all, although the latter tend to come from far more difficult circumstances.**

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



SEXUAL ACTIVITY

- 10. Women who lived in a non-traditional family structure for a period of time are more likely to have premarital pregnancy, cohabit before marriage, marry young, receive less education, and marry someone who also has less education compared to someone who lives in a traditional family structure.**

Jay D. Teachman, "The Childhood Living Arrangements of Children and the Characteristics of Their Marriages," *Journal of Family Issues*, 25 (2004): 86-111.

- 11. Family structure is strongly associated with an adolescent's risk of sexual activity, even when considering ethnicity, sex, and socioeconomic status. "Youths living with one parent had significantly higher rates of first sex than those living with both biological parents."**

Dawn M. Upchurch et al., "Gender and Ethnic Differences in the Timing of First Sexual Intercourse" *Family Planning Perspectives*, 30, 3 (1998): 124.

- 12. Rates of teenage pregnancy were seven to eight times higher among father-absent girls than among father-present girls. "Father absence was an *overriding* risk factor for early sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy. Conversely, father presence was a major protective factor against early sexual outcomes, even if other risk factors were present." (emphasis added)**

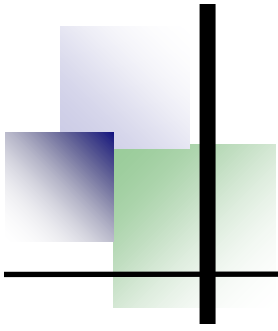
Bruce J. Ellis et al., "Does Father Absence Place Daughters at Special Risk for Early Sexual Activity and Teenage Pregnancy?" *Child Development*, 74 (2003): 818.

- 13. "Women whose parents separated between birth and 6 years of age experienced nearly twice the risk (hazard) of early menarche, were at more than four times greater risk of early sexual intercourse, and were at two and a half times greater risk of early pregnancy when compared with women from intact families..."**

Robert J. Quinlan, "Father Absence, Parental Care, and Female Reproductive Development," *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 24 (2003): 382.

- 14. Teens living with both biological parents are much less likely to have experienced sexual intercourse than were peers living in broken homes.**

Christopher R. Browning, Tama Leventhal, and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, "Neighborhood Context and Racial Differences in Early Adolescent Sexual Activity," *Demography*, 41 (2004): 697-720.



15. **Young women were less likely to have had sex by all three ages [15,18, and 20] ... if they lived with both parents at age 14 years.” Young women who are not living with both parents (at age 14) were almost twice as likely to have sex by age 15, are more than twice as likely to have had sex by age 18, and more than three times as likely to have had sex by age 20.**

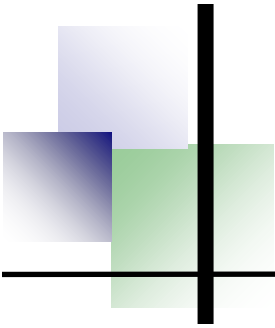
Rachel K. Jones, Jacqueline E. Darroch, and Sushella Singh, “Religious differentials in the sexual and reproductive behaviors of Young Women in the United States,” *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 36 (2005): 283.

16. **“Our findings indicate that an overwhelming 50% of teenage fathers had experienced parental separation or divorce during their early childhood.”**

Louisa H. Tan and Julie A. Quinlivan, “Domestic Violence, Single Parenthood, and Fathers in the Setting of Teenage Pregnancy,” *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 38 (2006): 206.

17. **Children who experienced their parent’s divorce were more likely to endorse pre-marital sex, approve of cohabitation, have a negative attitude toward marriage, and prefer a smaller family size than children with continuously married or widowed parents. This effect was even stronger for children whose divorced mothers re-married.**

William G. Axinn, Arland Thornton, "The Influence of Parents' Marital Dissolutions on Children's Attitudes Toward Family Formation," *Demography*, 33, 1 (1996): 66-81.



SUBSTANCE ABUSE

18. **A national study on drug abuse found “that the risk of drug, use, including problem use, is highest among adolescents in father-custody families (father-only and father-stepmother families)... The risk of drug use is lowest in mother-father families.”**

John P. Hoffmann and Robert A. Johnson, “A National Portrait of Family Structure and Adolescent Drug Use,” *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 60 (1998): 633.

19. **Adolescents from divorced backgrounds are almost twice as likely to use cocaine as are children raised in intact married families.**

Robert Rector, Kirk Johnson, America Peterson, “The Positive Effects of Marriage: A Book of Charts” The Heritage Foundation (April 2002): 36. Taken from the [National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health Wave II](#), 1996.

20. **Youth who come from divorced backgrounds broken homes are twice as likely to report using cocaine and marijuana than those youth who come from intact families.**

National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health, Wave I, 1995.

21. **Addicts were significantly more likely than non-addicts to come from a broken home (57 percent versus 20 percent) with an absent father (45 percent vs. 15 percent). They were also more likely to be separated or divorced themselves.**

Louis A. Cancellaro, David B. Larson, and William P. Wilson "Religious Life of Narcotic Addicts" *Southern Medical Journal* 75, 10 (1982): 1166-1168.

22. **Twenty-five percent of children of divorce used drugs and alcohol before age 14 compared with nine percent of the comparison group.**

Judith Wallerstein, Julia M. Lewis and Sandra Blakeslee, *The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce: A 25 Year Landmark Study* (New York: Hyperion, September 2000).



EDUCATION

- 23. In studies involving more than 25,000 children, those who lived with only one parent had lower GPA's, lower college aspirations, poor attendance records, and higher dropout rates than students who lived with both parents.**

Sara McLanahan, Sara and Gary Sandefur, *Growing up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1994).

- 24. One study observed that students from families with both biological parents do better in school. "Students from intact families outperformed students from the other family structures with GPAs in excess of 17% higher."**

Barry D. Ham, "The Effects of Divorce and Remarriage on the Academic Achievement of High School Seniors," *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 42 (2004): 159-178.

- 25. Living in a father-absent home is a major contributing factor to school dropout rates.**

Suet-Ling Pong and Dong-Beom Jr., "The Effects of Change in Family Structure and Income on Dropping Out of Middle or High School," *Journal of Family Issues*, 21 (2000): 147-169.

- 26. Children in step-families are more likely to drop out of high school, become unwed teenage mothers, and less likely to hold steady jobs as young adults as are children who grew up with both parents still married to each other.**

Sara McLanahan and Gary Sandefur, *Growing up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps*, (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press 1994) 88-91.

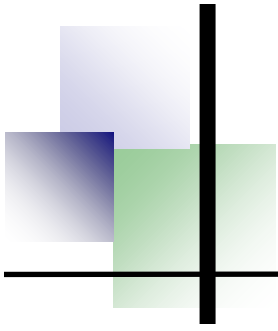
- 27. Adolescents who have lived apart from one of their parents during some period of their childhood are twice as likely to drop out of high school, twice as likely to have a child before age 20, and one-and-a half times as likely to be 'idle' [out of school or out of work] in their late teens and early 20's.**

Sara McLanahan, Sara and Gary Sandefur, *Growing up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1994).



MENTAL & PHYSICAL OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN

28. **“Research during the last decade continued to show that children with divorced parents, compared with children with continuously married parents, score lower on a variety of emotional, behavioral, social, health, and academic outcomes, on average.”**
Paul R. Amato, “Research on Divorce: Continuing Trends and New Developments,” *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72 (2010): 650-666.
29. **“...adults with divorced parents tend to obtain less education, have lower levels of psychological well-being, report more problems in their own marriages, feel less close to their parents (especially fathers), and are at greater risk of seeing their own marriages end in divorce.”**
Paul R. Amato, “Research on Divorce: Continuing Trends and New Developments,” *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72 (2010): 650-666.
30. **Children whose parents divorce or separate have a shorter life on average. Children “who experienced parental divorce or separation before age 21 tended to have a shorter life span, by more than 4 years, than children who did not experience parental divorce.”**
J.E. Schwartz et. al., “Childhood sociodemographic and psychosocial factors as predictors of mortality across the life-span. *American Journal of Public Health*, 85 (1995): 1243.
Leslie R. Martin et. al., “Longevity Following the Experience of Parental Divorce,” *Social Science & Medicine* 61 (2005): 2177-2189.
31. **Dutch scholars showed that “even years after the parental divorce, adolescents and young adults still show increased levels of internalized and externalizing problem behaviors, compared to their peers of intact families.” Internalized problem behaviors included depression, feeling tense, nervous, feeling unhappy and dejected, and thoughts of suicide. Externalized problem behaviors included risky health habits such as smoking, alcohol consumption, and use of other drugs. Externalized problem behaviors also included delinquent behaviors such as violent crime, vandalism, and theft of items.**
Inge VanderValk et. al., “Family Structure and Problem Behavior of Adolescents and Young Adults: A Growth-Curve Study,” *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 34 (2005): 533-546.



32. Five years after divorce, over-one-third of children suffers from moderate to severe depression.

J. Herbie DiFonzo, "No-Fault Marital Dissolution: The Bitter Triumph of Naked Divorce," *San Diego Law Review*, 519 (1994): 552.

33. "Children living with single mothers or with mothers and stepfathers were more likely than those living with both biological parents to have repeated a grade of school, to have been expelled, to have been treated for emotional or behavioral problems in the year preceding interview, and to have elevated scores for behavioral problems and health vulnerability. Compared to children living with both biological parents, children of divorce experienced an increased risk of accidental injury, and those living with a single mother were at increased risk of asthma."

Deborah A. Dawson, "Family Structure and Children's Health and Well-Being: Data from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey on Child Health," *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 53 (1991): 573.

34. "Children exposed to parental separation during childhood had elevated risks of a range of adolescent problems, including substance abuse or dependence, conduct or oppositional disorders, mood and anxiety disorders, mood and anxiety disorders, and early-onset sexual activity."

David M. Fergusson, John Horwood and Michael T. Lynsky, "Parental Separation, Adolescent Psychopathology, and Problem Behaviors," *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 33 (1994): 1122.

35. When divorce occurs in the lives of six-to eight-year-old children, a large portion of these children will experience persistent feelings of sadness and a need for constant reassurance about their performance in many of life's tasks. This anxiety continues to appear in their later lives.

Judith S. Wallerstein, "Children of Divorce: Report of a 10-Year Follow-up of Early-Latency-Age Children," *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 57 (1987): 199-211.



CHILD EMOTIONAL STATE AND SUICIDE

36. **A 33-year study revealed that children who experienced a parental divorce in their childhood or adolescence were likely to experience emotional problems such as depression or anxiety well into their twenties or early thirties.**

Andrew J. Cherlin et al., "Effects of Parental Divorce on Mental Health Throughout the Life Course," *American Sociological Review*, 63 (1998): 239-249.

37. **"...[children] reported that they were forced to take on adult responsibilities as a child, felt lonely during childhood, experienced family events and holidays as stressful, felt unsafe at home because their fathers were not around, missed their fathers, and felt torn between their mothers' and fathers' households."**

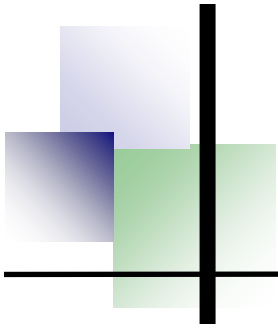
Paul R. Amato. Research on Divorce: Continuing Trends and New Developments. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72. (2010): 650-666.

38. **In their 25-year landmark study of the children of divorce, researchers found that in many social agencies, nearly three-quarters of the children in treatment were from divorced families. Since most children are young when their parents split up, the divorce makes no sense to children and is seen as bizarre, frightening and terrifying. Some children blame themselves for the divorce. These children have trouble resolving conflict because they witnessed parents unable to model conflict resolution. As children of divorce grow up and choose partners of their own, they lack a central image of the intact family. In its place, they confront a void that threatens to swallow them whole.**

Judith Wallerstein, Julia Lewis and Sandra Blakeslee, *The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce: A 25 Year Landmark Study*. (Hyperion: New York) 2000. pp. 33, 37, 56, 91, 150, 298, 302.

39. **"Divorce wreaks havoc with the psychological stability of many children. Immediately upon the breakup of their families through divorce, children experience reactions ranging from anger, fear, and sadness to yearning, worry, rejection, conflicting loyalties, anger," and list goes on of psychological problems.**

Patrick F. Fagan and Robert Rector, "[The Effects of Divorce on America](#)," The Heritage Foundation, Backgrounder #1373 (June 5, 2000): 13.



40. **A 10-year longitudinal study done by the National Survey of Children found that divorce was associated with a higher incidence of severe mental health problems in children ages 7-16— including depression, withdrawing from friends and family, aggressiveness, impulsiveness, or hyperactive behavior; and either withdrawing from participation in the classroom or becoming disruptive.**

Patrick F. Fagan and Robert Rector, "[The Effects of Divorce on America](#)," The Heritage Foundation, Backgrounder #1373 (June 5, 2000): 13.

41. **A study of teen suicides in California found that in 52 percent of the cases investigated, the decedent's parents were divorced or separated.**

Franklyn L. Nelson, "Youth Suicide in California: A Study of Perceived Causes and Interventions" *Community Mental Health*, 24 (1998): 31-42.

42. **"...young adults with divorced parents were especially likely to describe their childhoods as being difficult, wish that they had spent more time with their fathers, feel that their fathers do not love them, and worry about both parents attending important events such as weddings and graduations."**

Paul R. Amato. Research on Divorce: Continuing Trends and New Developments. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72 (2010): 650-666.



ADULT/PARENT EMOTIONAL STATE AND SUICIDE

43. **A 1998 study of research done in 17 nations found that married men and women report significantly higher levels of happiness than do unmarried people. This is supported by many more research studies as well.**

Steven Stack and Ross Eshleman, "Marital Status and Happiness: A 17-Nation Study" *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 60 (1998): 527-530.

44. **"Studies conducted prior to 2000 have shown that divorced men and women report lower levels of physical and mental health, on average, than do their married counterparts (Amato, 2000). Research during the last decade has reinforced previous work by showing that divorced individuals, compared with married individuals, exhibit more symptoms of depression and anxiety, more health problems, more substance use, and a greater risk of overall mortality."**

Paul R. Amato. Research on Divorce: Continuing Trends and New Developments. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72 (2010): 650-666.

45. **Marriage is associated with lower levels of depressive symptoms in both Japan and in the United States. This study underscores the importance of spousal presence in mitigating the expression of depressive symptoms.**

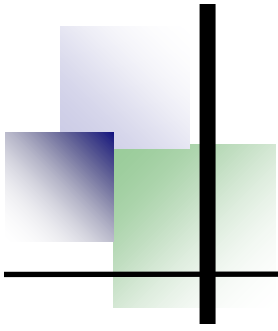
Hidehiro Sugisawa et al., "The Impact of Social Ties on Depressive Symptoms in U.S. and Japanese Elderly," *Journal of Social Issues*, 58 (2002): 785-804.

46. **"[T]hose who were separated/divorced [in 1993-1994] report significantly higher levels of depression than those who remained married."**

Kei M. Nomaguchi, "Are There Race and Gender Differences in the Effect of Marital Dissolution on Depression?" *Race, Gender & Class* 2,1 (2005): 11-30.

47. **"The adjusted odds of depression for men whose relationship ended were about three times those of men who remained with their spouse; for women, the adjusted odds of depression after a break-up were about two and a half times greater."**

Michelle Rotermann, "Marital Breakdown and Subsequent Depression," Statistics Canada (2007): 39.



48. **“The transition from marriage to divorce or separation was associated with an increase in depression and a decline in reported happiness in comparison to remaining married. Those who separated or divorced also reported less personal mastery, less positive relations with other, less purpose in life... and less self-acceptance.”**

Nadine F. Marks and James D. Lambert, “Marital Status Continuity and Change Among Young and Midlife Adults: Longitudinal Effects on Psychological Well-Being,” *Journal of Family Issues*, 19 (1998): 673.

49. **“Not until the sixth year after a divorce are most family members emotionally and mentally back on their feet.”**

E. Mavis Hetherington, “For Better or for Worse: Divorce Reconsidered,” quoted in Washington Post, “Study finds families function after parents say ‘I don’t’,” Susan Levine, February 2002.

50. **The rate of suicide among the divorced/separated/widowed is higher than the rate of those who are married.**

Kate Fairweather-Schmide, et al., “Baseline Factors Predictive of Serious Suicidality at Follow-up: Findings Focusing on Age and Gender from a Community-Based Study,” *BioMedCentral Psychiatry*, 10 (2010): 41.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

- 51. Children living with both parents have a much lower risk of being physically neglected or abused than children in single-parent homes. The rate of neglect of children living with single parents was more than twice that of children living with both parents, and the rate of abuse was 35 percent higher for children in single-parent homes.**

Andrea J. Sedlak and Diane D. Broadhurst, *The National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. (1996): 5-19.

- 52. An analysis of child abuse cases in a nationally-represented sample of 42 countries found that children from single-parent families are more likely to be victims of physical and sexual abuse than children who live with both biological parents. Compared to their peers living with both parents, *children living in single-parent homes faced:***

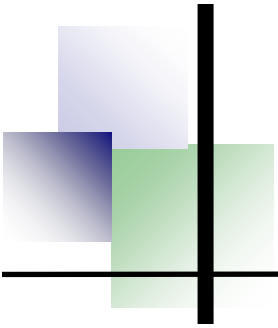
- 77 percent greater risk of being physically abused;
- 87 percent greater risk of being harmed by physical neglect;
- 165 percent greater risk of experiencing notable physical neglect;
- 74 percent greater risk of suffering from emotional neglect;
- 80 percent greater risk of suffering from serious injury as a result of abuse;

Overall, 120 percent greater risk of being endangered by some type of child abuse.

Andrea Sedlak and Diane Broadhurst, *The Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect: Final Report*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect, Washington D.C. (September 1996).

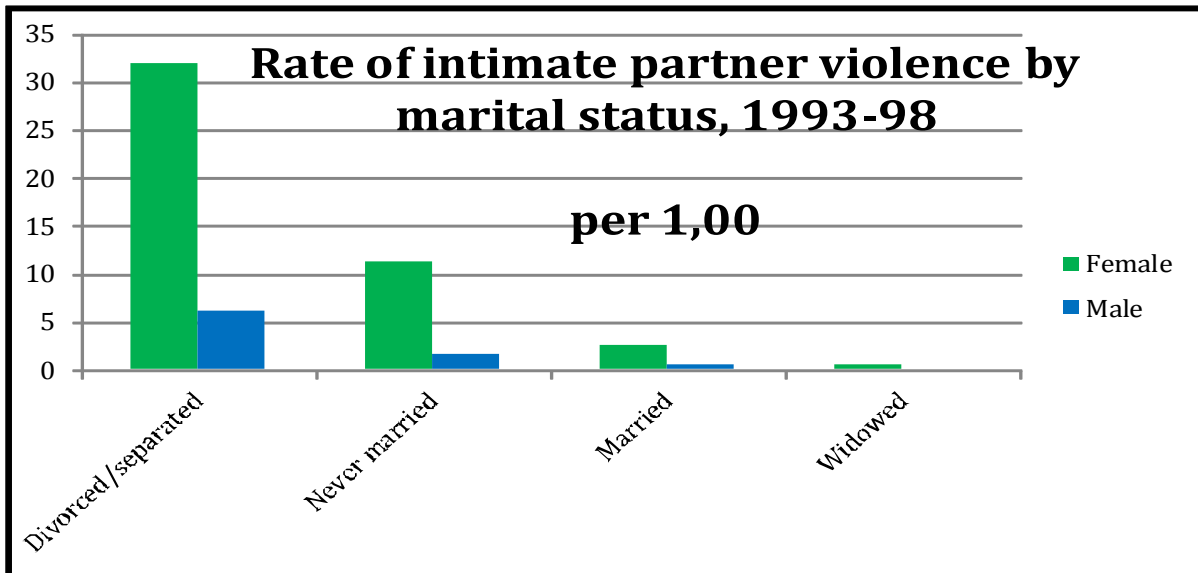
- 53. An analysis done by the U.S. Department of Justice found that violent behavior among men is strongly linked to marital status. For example, from 1979-1987, about 57,000 women per year were violently assaulted by their husbands. But 200,000 women per year were assaulted by their boyfriends and 216,000 by ex-husbands. Of all the violent crimes against women committed by intimates during this period, about 65 percent were committed by either boyfriends or ex-husbands, compared with 9 percent by husbands.**

Carolyn Wolf Harlow, *Female Victims of Violent Crime*, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington D.C. (1991): 1-2.



54. A 2000 Department of Justice report showed that married and widowed women had the lowest rates of violent abuse by an intimate partner. Divorced and cohabiting women had the highest rates of violent abuse by their ex-spouse, or boyfriend, followed by never-married women.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Intimate Partner Violence*, National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. (May 2000): 5.



55. From 1993-2010, women who were married were consistently less likely than divorced, widowed, separated, and never married women to be abused by an intimate partner.

U.S. Department of Justice. [Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2010](#). By Shannan Catalano. November 2012. p. 1-16.

56. "In 2010, the rate of intimate partner violence for married females...was about four times less than the rates for never married females ... about three times less than the rate for divorced or widowed females... and about 30 times less than the rate for separated females.

U.S. Department of Justice. [Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2010](#). By Shannan Catalano. November 2012. p. 6.



STANDARD OF LIVING (QUALITY OF LIFE)

57. Two-thirds of unhappily married spouses *who stay married* reported that their marriages improved within five years. Also, “the most unhappy marriages reported the most dramatic turnarounds. Among those who rated their marriages as very unhappy, almost eight out of ten who avoided divorce are happily married five years later.”

Linda Waite, Don Browning, William Doherty, Maggie Gallagher, Ye Luo, and Scott M. Stanley, “Does Divorce Make People Happy? Findings from a Study of Unhappy Marriages,” (New York: Institute for American Values, 2002): 4-5.

58. “In the book ‘The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier and Better Off Financially’, [research] reveals... that married men and women live happier, healthier, and more financially secure lives, and even have ‘more and better sex.’ The authors argued – using a broad range of indexes- that ‘being married is actually better for you physically, materially, and spiritually than being single or divorced.’”

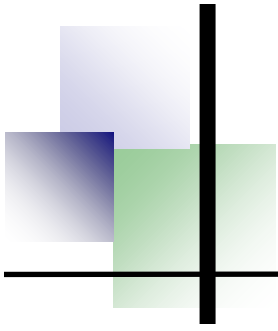
Maddi Gillel, (2013, January 1). [*Marriage — Not Really Such a Mystery*](#). Quoting Waite, L.J., Gallagher, M. (2000). *The Case for Marriage: why married people are happier, healthier, and better off financially*. New York, NY. Broadway Books.

59. “Married adults were generally found to be healthier than adults in other marital status categories.”

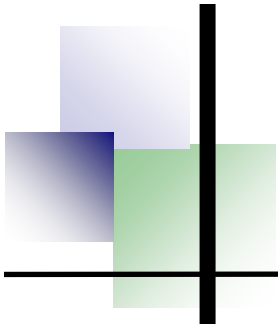
Charlotte Schoenborn, “Marital Status and Health: United States, 1999-2002,” *Advance Data from Vital and Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 351 (2004): 1.

60. The US National Longitudinal Survey of Youth showed that “married respondents experience per person net worth increases 77 percent over single respondents. Additionally, their wealth increases on average 16 percent for each year of marriage. ... being married almost doubled wealth (+93 percent) while becoming divorced reduced wealth by three-quarters (-77 percent) compared to being single.”

Jay Zagorsky, “Marriage and Divorce’s Impact on Wealth,” *Journal of Sociology*, 41, 4 (2005): 406, 419.



61. **Contrary to claims that divorce impoverishes women but enriches men, divorce was found to render negative economic consequences on both men and women. White women experience an income loss on average of 22 percent following divorce, while the income loss among white divorced men on average of 10 percent.**
Atlee L. Stroup and Gene E. Pollock, "Economic Consequences of Marital Dissolution," *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage* 22 (1994): 37-54.
62. **Researchers reason that marriage fosters the accumulation of wealth because "it provides institutionalized protection, which generates economies of scale, task specialization, and access to work-related fringe benefits, which lead to rewards like broader social networks, and higher savings rates."**
Janet Wilmoth and Gregor Koso, "Does Marital History Matter? Marital Status and Wealth Outcomes among Preretirement Adults," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 64 (2002): 266.
63. **"Both white and black children experience large reductions in income when their parents divorce." White children see their family income fall by approximately 30 percent during the two years after a parental divorce and black children see if fall by 53 percent.**
Marianne E. Page and Ann Huff Stevens, "Understanding Racial Differences in the Economic Costs of Growing Up in a Single-Parent Family" *Demography*, 42 (2005): 75-90.
64. **The U.S. Census Bureau reports that "separations and divorces are often followed by sharp reductions in income due to the loss of a spouse. While 12 percent of recently separated men were below poverty, 29 percent of recently separated women were below poverty."**
Rose M. Kreider and Jason M. Fields, "[Number, Timing, and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: 1996](#)," Current Population Reports, P70-80, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, (2001): 14.
65. **"One of every three divorces in the United States resulting in the physical separation of a father from his children plunges the mother and children into poverty. Father absence due to marital failure is a primary cause of poverty in the United States."**
David Blankenhorn, "[The Marriage Problem](#)," *American Experiment Quarterly*, Spring 2003, citing Suzanne M. Birch, Lekha Subaiya, and Joan R. Kahn, "The Gender Gap in the Economic Well-Being of Nonresident Fathers and Custodial Mothers," *Demography* 35, 2 (1999): 195-203.



66. **“According to a 2003 study, divorce costs the United States \$33.3 billion per year. This total includes direct costs to federal and state government for child support enforcement, Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, food stamps, and public housing; it also includes indirect costs for correctional facilities, taking care of single elderly, unwed childbearing, drug problems, delinquency, and other social problems related to divorce. The ‘average’ divorce costs state and federal governments \$30,000 in direct and indirect costs.”**

Direct quote from the Family Research Council, [*Deterring Divorce*](#), quoting David G. Schramm, "What Could Divorce Be Costing Your State? The Costly Consequences of Divorce in Utah: The Impact on Couples, Communities, and Government," A Preliminary Report, June 25, 2003, Publication in Process, Department of Family, Consumer, and Human Development, Utah State University.

67. **Married men and women experience the highest level of life satisfaction (73%), relative to all other family arrangements. Divorced and separated individuals had, on average, the lowest levels of life satisfaction (64%). Marriage elevates life satisfaction by about four points, a statistically significant effect.**

M. D. R. Evans and Jonathan Kelley, "Effect of Family Structure on Life Satisfaction: Australian Evidence," *Social Indicators Research* 69 (2004): 303-349.

68. **Individuals who were not continuously married had significantly less household wealth than those who remained married throughout life. Average household wealth of unmarried adults was 63 percent lower than that of married adults.**

Janet Wilmoth and Gregor Koso, "Does Marital History Matter? Marital Status and Wealth Outcomes Among Preretirement Adults," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 64(2002): 254-268.



HEALTH OF ADULTS WHO DIVORCE

69. **Researchers in Finland have uncovered evidence implicating “stressful life events” in breast carcinogenesis. The five major life events studied included death of husband, divorce/separation, personal illness or injury, loss of job, death of a family member or friend. In statistical tests using multivariable models, it was divorce/separation that stood out as the stressful life event most likely to predict breast cancer.**

Kirsi Lillberg et al., “Stressful Life Events and Risk of Breast Cancer in 10,808 Women: A Cohort Study,” *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 157 (2003): 415-423.

70. **“Marriage is associated with physical health, psychological well-being, and low mortality. Compared to people who are divorced, separated, single, or widowed, the married have better overall well-being. This overall positive effect is *strong and consistent*.”**

Catherine E. Ross et al., “The Impact of the Family on Health: The Decade in Review,” *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 52 (1990): 1061.

71. **Unmarried individuals have higher rates of mortality than individuals who are married. Unmarried individuals’ mortality rate is about 50 percent higher for women and 250 percent higher for men.**

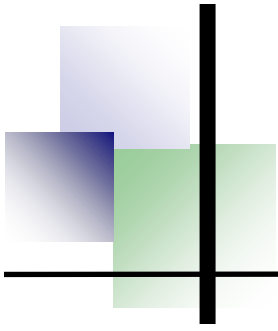
Catherine E. Ross et al., “The Impact of the Family on Health: The Decade in Review,” *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 52 (1990): 1059-1078.

72. **Marriage was associated with better health across all major health domains and across all types of conditions within health domains. Of the non-married groups, divorcees had the worst overall health profiles. Divorce had even more deleterious health consequences for women than for men.**

Amy Mehraban Pienta, Mark D. Hayward, and Kristi Rahrig Jenkins, "Health Consequences of Marriage for the Retirement Years," *Journal of Family Issues* 21, 5 (2000): 559-586.

73. **Studies indicate that, "the emotional trauma of divorce stresses the body, [thereby] lowering the immune system's defenses to physical disease.**

Kelcolt-Glaser, J.K., Fisher, L., Ogrocki, P., Stout, J.C., Spelcher, C.E. and Glaser, R., “Marital quality, marital disruption and immune function”, *Psychomatic Medicine*, 49 (1987): 13-34. Cited in: Divorce and Health, Rocky Mountain Family Council Fact Sheet.



74. Three separate studies found "higher rates of infectious disease and cancer among persons undergoing marital disruption."

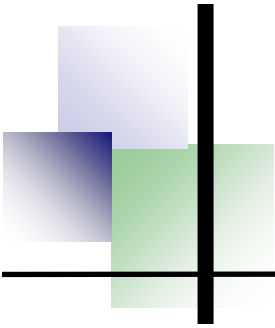
Somers, A.R., "Marital status, health and the use of health and use of health services," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 241 (1979) :1818-1822. Cited in: Divorce and Health, Rocky Mountain Family Council Fact Sheet.

75. Researchers suggest that "divorce may have a negative effect on the mental health, [of divorced men] including increased negative affect, reduced sense of purpose and identity, and altered relationships with children and community..."

Karen A. Matthews and Brooks B. Gump, "Chronic Work Stress and Marital Dissolution Increase Risk of Posttrial Mortality in Men From the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial," *Archives of Internal Medicine*, 162 (2002): 309.

76. Marriage is associated with better health across major health domains. Those who are divorced "generally have the poorest health profiles" in their retirement years.

Amy Mehraban Pienta, Mark Hayward and Kristi Rahrig Jenkins, "Health Consequences of Marriage for the Retirement Years," *Journal of Family Issues*, 21, 5 (July, 2000): 570.



CIRCLE OF DIVORCE

77. **“One study found that when the wife, alone had experienced a parental divorce, the odds of divorce increased by more than half (59%), but when both spouses experienced parental divorce, the odds of divorce nearly tripled (189%).”**
The National Marriage Project, “Ten Important Research Findings on Marriage and Choosing a Marriage Partner,” November 2004. Citing Jay D. Teachman, “The Childhood Living Arrangements of Children and the Characteristics of Their Marriages,” *Journal of Family Issues*, 25 (2004): 86-111.
78. **Children whose parents divorce are especially likely to divorce themselves because they have lost “faith in marital permanence.” Data clearly implicates a loss of commitment to the ideal of marital permanence as the reason for the high divorce rates among the children of divorce.**
Mavis Hetherington, “For Better or for Worse: Divorce Reconsidered,” quoted in Washington Post, “Study finds families function after parents say ‘I don’t,’” Susan Levine, February 2002.
79. **A study that tracked two generations found that children of divorce are twice as likely to divorce as are the children of continuously married parents.**
Paul R. Amato and Danelle D. DeBoer, “The Transmission of Marital Instability across Generations: Relationship Skills or Commitment to Marriage?” *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 63 (2001): 1038-1051.
80. **Children who come from a family of divorced parents are 40% more likely to get a divorce themselves compared to children from intact families.**
Nicholas Wolfinger, *Understanding the Divorce Cycle*, Cambridge University Press, 2005.
81. **“Having divorced parents increases the conditional odds of divorce by 27%...”**
Matthus Kalmijn, Paul M. De Graaf, and Anne-Rigt Poortman, “Interactions Between Cultural and Economic Determinants of Divorce in The Netherlands,” *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 66 (2004): 75-89.





CAUSES OF DIVORCE

82. Dutch scholars report that “full-time working women have 29% higher odds of divorce than nonworking women.” On the opposite side, “the more hours the husband works, the less likely a divorce.”

Matthus Kalmijn, Paul M. De Graaf, Anne-Rigt Poortman, “Interactions Between Cultural and Economic Determinants of Divorce in The Netherlands,” *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 66 (2004): 85.

83. While female employment was generally associated with a higher risk of relationship dissolution--whether couples were married or cohabiting--women who worked in a family business or who work in their homes were no more likely to experience relationship dissolution than women who did not work. Specifically, female employment outside of a family setting weakened marriage.

Karen Price Carver and Jay D. Teachman, "Female Employment and First Union Dissolution in Puerto Rico," *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 55 (1993): 686-698.

84. A recent study found that married couples who “disagree about finances almost every day had an estimated 69%” increased risk of divorce when compared “to those who never argue about finances.”

Jeffrey Dew, Sonya Britt, and Sandra Huston, “Examining the Relationship Between Financial Issues and Divorce,” *Family Relations*, 61 (2012): 615-628.

85. Compared to those who have never divorced or separated, men and women who have had a divorce in the past are twice as likely to have an extramarital affair.

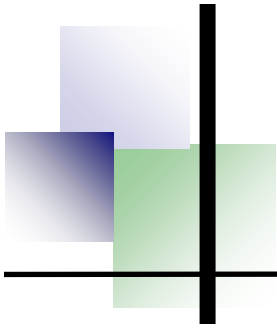
M. W. Wiederman, “Extramarital Sex: Prevalence and Correlates in a National Survey,” *Journal of Sex Research*, 34, 2 (1997): 167-174.

86. Infidelity is one of the most commonly cited complaints in divorce cases with adultery being one of the main reasons for divorce.

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, “Making Marriage Last,” (2006).

87. The loss of commitment to the ideal of marital permanence was one of the reasons for high divorce rates among the adult children of divorce.

Paul R. Amato and Danelle D. DeBoer, "The Transmission of Marital Instability Across Generations: Relationship Skills or Commitment to Marriage?" *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 63 (2001): 1038-1051.



- 88. Women who adhere to feminist ideology (participation in women’s liberation groups, using one’s maiden name, voting for far-left political parties, etc.) have a 52 percent higher risk of divorce than do women with traditional values.**

Matthus Kalmijn, Paul M. De Graaf, Anne-Rigt Poortman, “Interactions Between Cultural and Economic Determinants of Divorce in The Netherlands,” *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 66 (2004): 75-89.

- 89. “Where people live in relatively homogeneous religious settings (and are presumably more tightly bound together), divorce is lower...”**

Larry C. Mullins et al., “The Impact of Religious Homogeneity on the Rate of Divorce in the United States,” *Sociological Inquiry* 74 (2004): p. 351.

- 90. Married couples that attend religious services on a weekly basis have a one-third lower divorce rate than those who do not.**

David B. Larson, James P. Sawyers and Susan S. Larson, “The Costly Consequences of Divorce: Assessing the Clinical, Economic and Public Health Impact of Marital Disruption in the U.S.” (Rockville, Maryland: National Institute for Healthcare Research 1995): 26.

- 91. According to an analysis of a 17-year study of marriages and families, infidelity, “incompatibility, drug use, changes in self or spouse, and communication issues are the top reasons cited for causes of divorces.**

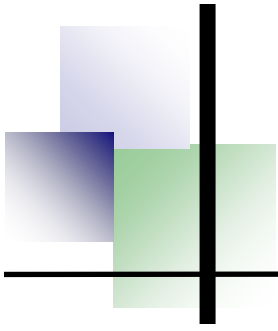
Paul R. Amato, and Denise Previti, "People's Reasons for Divorcing: Gender, Social Class, the Life Course, and Adjustment," *Journal of Family Issues*, 24, no. 5 (2003): 602-626,

- 92. Women more commonly cite infidelity, alcohol and drugs, and/or abuse as the cause of their divorce while men more commonly cite poor communication. Men were also more likely to cite communication problems or not knowing the cause of the divorce.**

Paul R. Amato, and Denise Previti, "People's Reasons for Divorcing: Gender, Social Class, the Life Course, and Adjustment," *Journal of Family Issues*, 24, no. 5 (2003): 602-626,

- 93. Sixty-two percent of divorce lawyers at a 2002 meeting of American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers cited that the Internet in one-way or another as a reason for divorce.**

Jill C Manning, "The Impact of Internet Pornography on Marriage and the Family: A Review of the Research," *Sexual Addictions & Compulsivity*, 13 (2006): 131-165.



94. Sixty-eight percent of divorce cases cited one spouse finding a new “love interest” on the Internet according to divorce lawyers at the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Jill C Manning, "The Impact of Internet Pornography on Marriage and the Family: A Review of the Research," *Sexual Addictions & Compulsivity*, 13 (2006): 131-165,

95. Fifty-six percent of cases cited one spouse being obsessed with pornographic websites.

Jill C Manning, "The Impact of Internet Pornography on Marriage and the Family: A Review of the Research," *Sexual Addictions & Compulsivity*, 13 (2006): 131-165.

96. Forty-seven percent of cases cited one spouse spending too much time on the computer.

Jill C Manning, "The Impact of Internet Pornography on Marriage and the Family: A Review of the Research," *Sexual Addictions & Compulsivity*, 13 (2006): 131-165,

97. Thirty-three percent of cases cited too much time spent in chat rooms that are a sexualized nature.

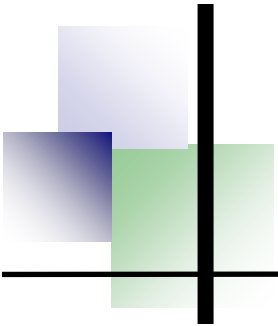
Jill C Manning, "The Impact of Internet Pornography on Marriage and the Family: A Review of the Research," *Sexual Addictions & Compulsivity*, 13 (2006): 131-165.

98. When a woman cohabits with more than one person before they get married they are 40% more likely to get a divorce than if they had not cohabitated.

Daniel T. Lichter, Zhenchao Qian, "Serial Cohabitation: Implications for Marriage, Divorce, and Public Policy," Brown University Population and Training Center, 2007.

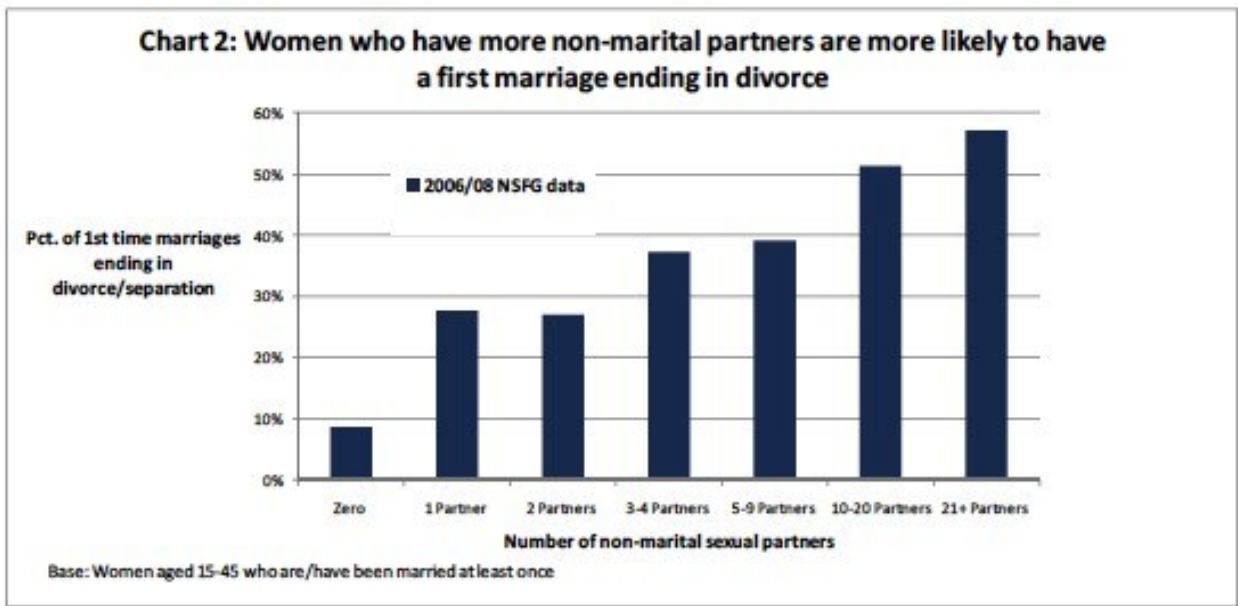
99. Women who marry as virgins have a far lower risk of divorce. One study stated, “women who were sexually active prior to marriage faced a considerably higher risk of marital disruption.”

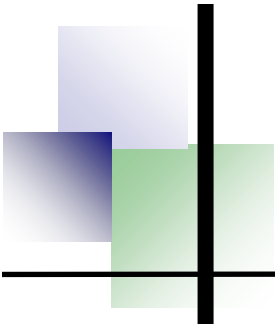
Joan R. Kahn, and Kathryn London, "Premarital Sex and the Risk of Divorce," *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 53 (1991): 845-855.



100. **Studies show that the more non-marital sexual partners women have, the more likely they are to have their first marriage and subsequent marriages end in divorce.**

(Chart obtained from [The Social Pathologist](#) blog and was produced in order to replicate a report from [The Heritage Foundation](#).)





ABOUT UNITED FAMILIES INTERNATIONAL

United Families International (UFI) is a 501(c)(3) public charity devoted to maintaining and strengthening the family as the fundamental unit of society. By strengthening the family, the basic building block of society; communities, states and nations are strengthened. UFI is not affiliated with any governments, religious organizations or political parties.

Mission of UFI:

United Families International is devoted to maintaining and strengthening the family. By strengthening the family, communities, states and nations are strengthened.

We strengthen the family by promoting:

Family: Respect for existing law, political structure, religion and cultural norms that preserve the family.

Marriage: Respect for marriage between a man and a women founded on chastity before marriage and fidelity in marriage

Life: Respect for the sanctity of human life including unborn children.

Parents: Respect for the right and obligation of parent to love protect, provide for and teach their children.

Sovereignty: Respect for the sovereign rights of each individual nation as we work in the world community to protect the common good of individual families.

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