



**2010 Marriage Survey**

Marriage Matters Jackson



Information and planning that make the difference

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**The Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey included 43 questions about the perceptions of marriage in Jackson County. A total of 400 surveys were completed by Jackson County residents in November 2010.**

Of the 400 respondents who completed the survey, half were male and half were female, and the majority were between the ages of 25 and 64. Two-thirds of the respondents had a household income between \$25,000 and \$99,999. The majority of the respondents had a Caucasian/white ethnic background, while close to half of the respondents had received an associate’s degree, bachelor’s degree, or graduate degree. The most common ZIP codes where the respondents lived included: 49201 and 49203. Over two-thirds of respondents did not have any children under the age of 18 living in their household; however, two-thirds of those respondents who did have children under age 18 living in their household lived in a household with two biological parents.

There were 59 respondents who were male with children under age 18. Of those respondents, the majority had contact with their child daily.

Close to one-third of all respondents attended religious services once a week. Of the 400 respondents, 201 were married, 108 were single, 52 were widowed, 38 were divorced, and one refused to indicate their situation.

Respondents mostly agreed that the family is the main building block of a healthy community and children are impacted financially in a negative way by divorce, when asked questions regarding their opinion on marriage.

The majority of the single or widowed respondents were not currently living with someone with whom they were having a romantic relationship; however, half of the respondents did plan on getting married in the future.

The majority of the married respondents classified their marriage as a 4 or 5, meaning they felt their marriage was healthy. When respondents were asked if there were any programs or services that would be helpful to them in maintaining and keeping a healthy marriage, the most common response was church. Almost all of the respondents indicated their marriage was either extremely important or very important to them, and only a few married respondents had sought counseling or attended a workshop to strengthen their relationship in the past year. Just over seventy percent of the married respondents were married between the ages of 18 and 25, and close to ninety percent of the married respondents indicated that pregnancy was not a considering factor when they were married.

The majority of the divorced respondents had only been married once and were not currently living with someone with whom they were having a romantic relationship. The divorced respondents were asked a series of questions about the circumstances contributing to their divorce. The most common contributor to divorce was a lack of commitment by one or both persons to make it work. Half of the divorced respondents had sought services in the Jackson area to help their marriage.

Only one-third of divorced respondents wished they had worked harder, while over two-thirds wished their spouse had worked harder to save their marriage. Only one divorced respondent indicated that there was a program or service that would have helped them stay married, while the remaining respondents indicated that there were not any programs or services that would have helped their marriage, if offered in Jackson County.



## Executive Summary

When all 400 respondents were asked, "What local organizations in Jackson County come to mind that provide marriage or relationship assistance?", the most common responses included: church and Marriage Matters Jackson. When asked where they would send someone that they knew was looking for help with marital issues, the most common response included: religious/clergy. Over one-third of all respondents had heard of Marriage Matters Jackson, and of those respondents, the most common place they had seen or heard of it included: billboards, radio, and the newspaper. The most common words the respondents used to describe Marriage Matters Jackson included: counseling and helpful. When asked if Marriage Matters Jackson provided fun events and healthy relationship workshops, half of the respondents would consider attending.



Bethany Timmons, Community Solutions Director at United Way of Jackson County, had requested that Perspectives Consulting Group, Inc. assist Marriage Matters Jackson in understanding community attitudes and perceptions about marriage and reducing the divorce rate.

A marriage survey was also conducted in 2006. Comparisons have been made for questions that remained consistent from year-to-year.

A telephone survey was selected as the most appropriate method to meet the needs of Marriage Matters Jackson.

The information needs and objectives for this survey included:

- 1) Identify community attitudes and perceptions about marriage and divorce in Jackson County
- 2) Measure awareness of counseling and other services designed to strengthen families and marriages in Jackson County
- 3) Measure community understanding of the impact of marriage and divorce on Jackson County residents
- 4) Investigate if community members would support initiatives like counseling and in-school skills training to strengthen marriages and reduce the divorce rate in Jackson County

There are two main sections to the report: **Survey Results** and **Conclusions**. The **Survey Results** section includes the responses to all of the survey questions, generally grouped into categories. The **Conclusions** section outlines some of the implications of the research based upon the survey findings.





The Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey consisted of 43 questions. The survey included questions about community attitudes toward marriage, attitudes toward readiness, counseling, in-school skills and learning, understanding community needs, and some general demographic information. The information gathered from the survey will be used to help plan effective and efficient methods of encouraging marriage and impacting the divorce rate in Jackson County.

In addition, basic demographic information was gathered. The questions included various types of formats, including: yes/no, open-ended response, and pre-defined choices. The survey was developed based on input from Marriage Matters Jackson. Perspectives Consulting Group, Inc. assembled and ordered the survey questions. The survey instrument is included for reference in the **Appendices**.

## Survey Execution

The survey was conducted with residents of the Jackson County area. A total of 400 completed surveys were obtained from residents over the age of 18.

Households were randomly-selected and contacted until 400 surveys were completed. A total of 9,468 calls were made to obtain the 400 completions from all prefixes. Surveys were only completed with adults age 18 or over.

The survey interviewing took place in November 2010, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on weekdays. A pretest of eight surveys was completed, with no significant difficulties or problems noted. These pretest surveys are included in the final results. The survey took approximately five minutes to complete.

Based on the number of households in Jackson County, and the number of survey completions, a confidence level and confidence interval can be calculated. In statistical terms, the confidence level is the likelihood that, if the survey were replicated, the results would be the same. The confidence level for this survey was 95 percent, meaning that 95 times out of 100, this survey would produce substantially the same results as achieved this time.

The confidence interval is the range that any answer could vary from the actual value. This is the “+/- xxx percent” margin of error value that pollsters reference. In this case, the Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey has a confidence interval of +/- 5 percent. Therefore, the answer to any question on the survey is within plus or minus 5.0% of the actual value. When comparing two responses to the same question, any difference of less than 10.0% needs to be examined carefully, since statistically the difference could be considered negligible.



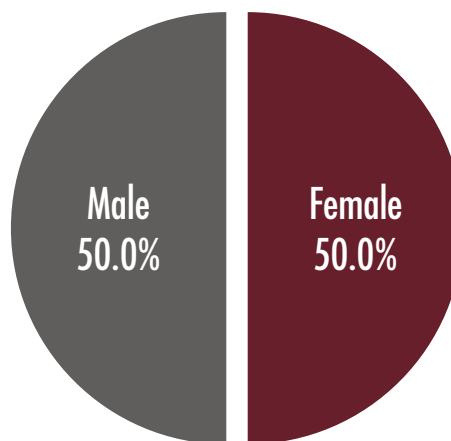


Respondent Profile

**Overview:** Of the 400 respondents who completed the survey, half were male and half were female, and the majority were between the ages of 25 and 64. Two-thirds of the respondents had a household income between \$25,000 and \$99,999. The majority of the respondents had a Caucasian/white ethnic background, while close to half of the respondents had received an associate’s degree, bachelor’s degree, or graduate degree. The most common ZIP codes where the respondents lived included: 49201 and 49203. Over two-thirds of respondents did not have any children under the age of 18 living in their household; however, two-thirds of those respondents who did have children under age 18 living in their household lived in a household with two biological parents. There were 59 respondents who were male with children under age 18. Of those respondents, the majority had contact with their child daily. Close to one-third of all respondents attended religious services once a week. Of the 400 respondents, 201 were married, 108 were single, 52 were widowed, 38 were divorced, and one refused to indicate their situation.

**Chart 1**  
Gender of Respondents

**Survey Results:** Of the 400 respondents who completed the survey, half (50.0%) were male, and half (50.0%) were female.



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 43



## Respondent Profile

**Chart 2**  
Age of Respondents

	2010 Respondents
18 to 24	10.5%
25 to 34	16.0%
35 to 44	19.0%
45 to 54	21.3%
55 to 64	15.5%
65 and over	17.8%

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 39

The majority of the respondents (71.8%) were between the ages of 25 and 64.

**Chart 3**  
Household Income of Respondents

	2010 Respondents
Less than \$15,000	8.5%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	10.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	16.3%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	16.3%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	17.8%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.8%
\$100,000 and over	5.8%
Refused	12.0%

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 42

Two-thirds of the respondents (63.2%) had a household income between \$25,000 and \$99,999. Forty-eight respondents (12.0%) did not provide their household income.



Chart 4

Ethnic Background of Respondents

The majority of the respondents (89.3%) had a Caucasian/white ethnic background.

2010 Respondents	
Caucasian/white	89.3%
African American/black	7.0%
Hispanic	2.0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.3%
American Indian/Native American	1.0%
Refused	0.5%

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 41

Chart 5

Education Level of Respondents

When respondents were asked what the highest degree or level of school was that they had completed, 46.5% of respondents indicated that they had received an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, or graduate degree.

Three respondents indicated other education levels not listed in the chart, which included:

- 6th grade
- Cosmetology
- Police Academy

2010 Respondents	
Some high school	5.5%
High school diploma	19.0%
Some college	25.3%
Associate's degree	9.0%
Bachelor's degree	28.0%
Graduate degree	9.5%
Other	0.8%
Refused	3.0%

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 38



## Respondent Profile

**Chart 6**  
ZIP Code of Respondents

	2010 Respondents
49201	24.5%
49203	22.5%
49202	11.5%
49230	8.0%
49240	5.5%
49269	3.5%
49254	2.8%
Other	21.8%

The most common ZIP codes where the respondents lived included: 49201 (24.5%) and 49203 (22.5%).

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 37

Eighty-seven respondents (21.8%) indicated other ZIP codes not listed in the chart, which included:

**9 Respondents**

49234  
49237  
49277  
49283

**8 Respondents**

49246

**7 Respondents**

49259  
49284

**6 Respondents**

49272

**5 Respondents**

49224  
49241

**3 Respondents**

49207



**2 Respondents**

49233  
49261  
49264  
49286

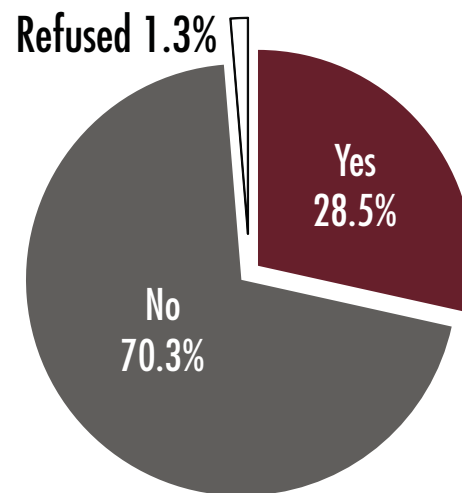
**1 Respondent**

49250  
49255

**Chart 7**

**Children Under Age 18 in Household**

Over two-thirds of respondents (70.3%) did not have any children under the age of 18 living in their household. Five respondents (1.3%) did not provide this information.

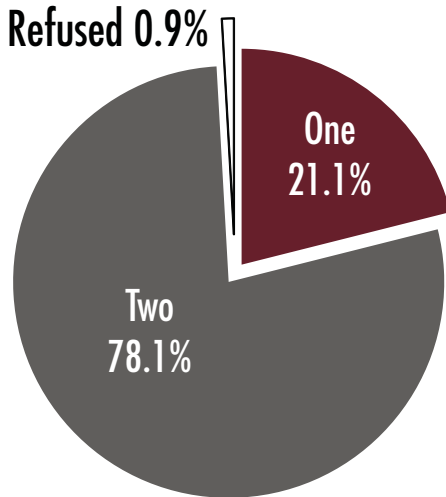


Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 33



## Respondent Profile

**Chart 8**  
Parents in Household



The 114 respondents with children under age 18 living in their household were asked if they lived in a one-parent or two-parent household. The majority of respondents (78.1%) lived in a two-parent household, compared to only 21.1% of respondents who lived in a one-parent household.

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 34

**Chart 9**  
Family in Household

	2010 Respondents
Both biological mother and father	65.8%
Only biological mother	17.5%
Only biological father	8.8%
Neither biological parent/Adopted	2.6%
Blended family	4.4%
Refused	0.9%

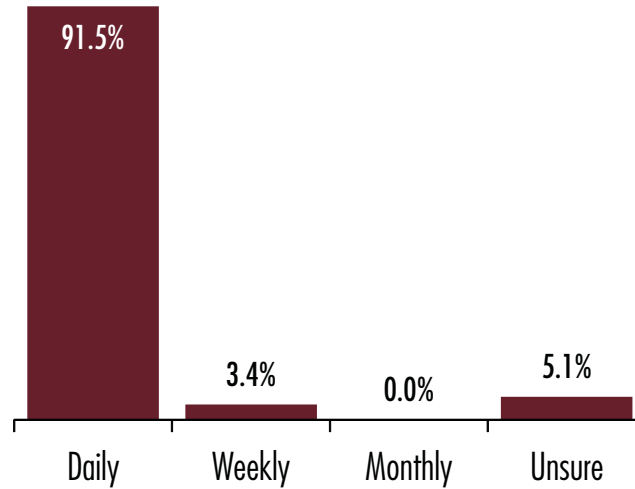
The 114 respondents with children under age 18 living in their household were asked if both the biological mother and father of the children were living in the household. Two-thirds of the respondents (65.8%) had both biological parents living in the household.

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 35



**Chart 10**  
Contact with Children

There were 59 respondents who were male respondents with children under age 18. Only these respondents were asked how frequently they had contact with their child or children. Over ninety percent of respondents (91.5%) had contact with their child daily.



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 36

**Chart 11**  
Attendance at Religious Services

Close to one-third of respondents (31.8%) attended religious services once a week, not including weddings, baptisms, or funerals. It is also interesting to note that 29.0% of respondents never attended church.

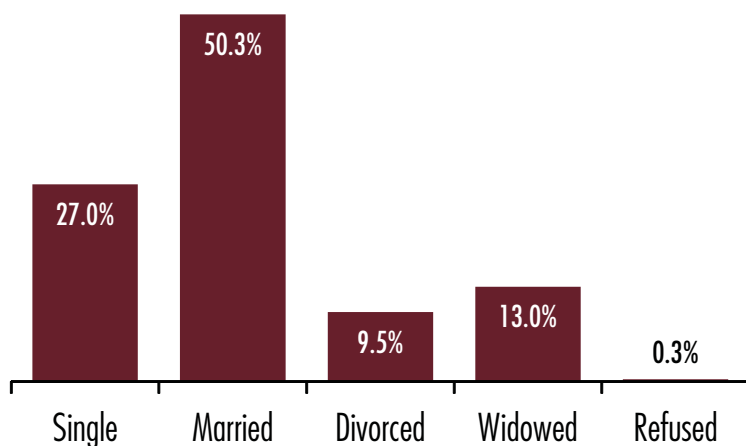
	2010 Respondents
More than once a week	4.8%
Once a week	31.8%
Monthly	12.3%
Several times a year	20.8%
Never	29.0%
Unsure	1.5%

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 40



## Respondent Profile

**Chart 12**  
Marital Status of Respondents



Respondents were then asked if they were currently single, married, divorced, or widowed. Of the 400 respondents, 201 were married (50.3%), 108 were single (27.0%), 52 were widowed (13.0%), and 38 were divorced (9.5%). One respondent (0.3%) refused to answer this question.

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 12



**Overview:** Respondents mostly agreed that the family is the main building block of a healthy community and children are impacted financially in a negative way by divorce, when asked questions regarding their opinion on marriage.

**Survey Results:** All of the 400 respondents who completed the 2010 Marriage Survey were asked a series of questions regarding their opinions on marriage.

For the following questions, respondents were asked to rate nine statements on a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 indicated "strongly disagree" and 4 indicated "strongly agree." An average was calculated for each statement. If every respondent indicated they strongly disagreed with the statements, the average would be 1.00, while if every respondent indicated they strongly agreed with the statements, the average would be 4.00.

Given the statistical accuracy of the study (+/- 5.0%), care needs to be taken when interpreting the data. Any two averages within 0.30 of each other are considered to be statistically equal. For example, the family is the main building block of a healthy community (3.28) and children are impacted financially in a negative way by divorce (3.09), have averages within the 0.30 margin of error, and should be considered statistically equal. If the survey were executed again, it is possible that the order of these responses would be different.



## Overall Opinion

Very similar to the 2006 Marriage Survey, the 2010 survey respondents mostly agreed with the following three statements:

- The family is the main building block of a healthy community
- Children are impacted financially in a negative way by divorce
- People who have children together ought to be married

**Chart 13**  
Statement Averages

	2010 Averages	2006 Averages
The family is the main building block of a healthy community	3.28	3.43
Children are impacted financially in a negative way by divorce	3.09	3.04
People who have children together ought to be married	2.96	3.11
It is important for couples to prepare for marriage through educational classes, workshops, or counseling, designed to help them get off to a good start	2.94	2.92
The Jackson area is a good place to be married	2.92	2.82
A household with a married couple is more financially stable than a household where a couple is not married	2.83	2.82
Divorce is a way for people to start over	2.65	2.67
When married people realize they no longer love each other, they should get a divorce, even if they have children	2.59	2.71
People who live together before marriage are likely to improve their chances for a good marriage	2.47	2.51

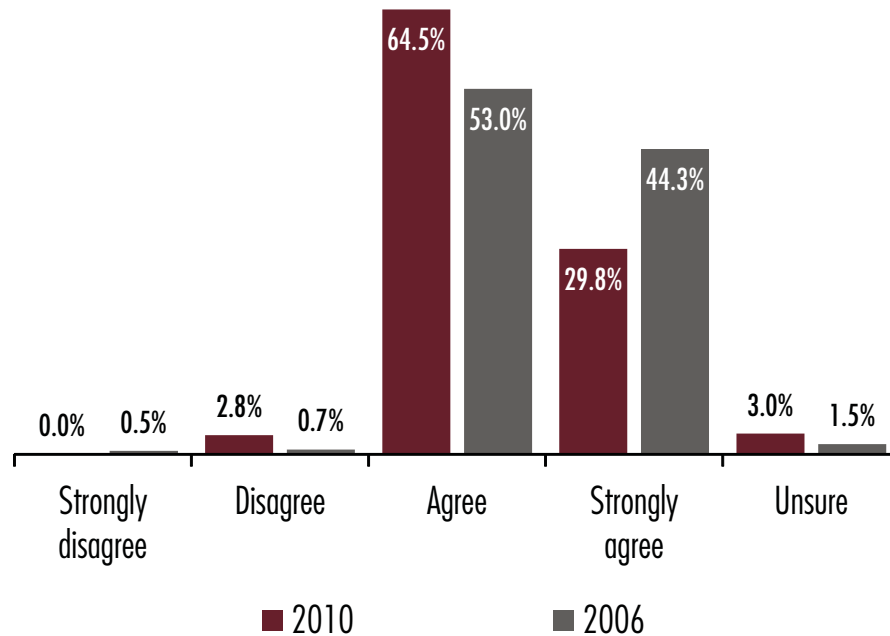
Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, questions 1 through 9



### The family is the main building block of a healthy community (388 respondents - 3.28 average)

The majority of the 2010 respondents (94.3%) either agreed or strongly agreed that the family is the main building block to a healthy community, compared to 97.3% of 2006 respondents.

Chart 14  
Family is Main Building Block



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 1

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average included: two-parent household (3.40), both biological parents in household (3.41), age 35 to 44 (3.40), household income \$50,000-\$74,999 (3.41), and married (3.35).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average included: high school diploma (3.12), age 65 and over (3.13), and widowed (3.16).

The average for the 2010 respondents (3.28) was significantly lower than the average for the 2006 respondents (3.43) and is statistically significant.

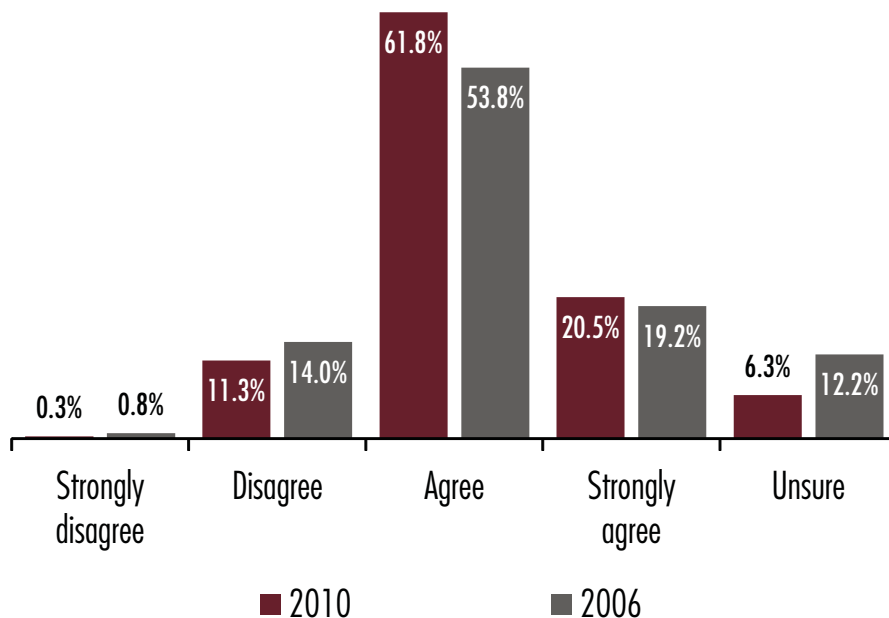


## Overall Opinion

### Children are impacted financially in a negative way by divorce (375 respondents - 3.09 average)

Over eighty percent of 2010 respondents (82.3%) either agreed or strongly agreed that children are impacted financially in a negative way by divorce, compared to 73.0% of 2006 respondents.

**Chart 15**  
Children Impacted Financially



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 7

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average included: household income \$50,000-\$74,999 (3.22).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average included: age 25 to 34 (2.91), never attended religious services (2.95), and single (2.97).

The average for the 2010 respondents (3.09) was slightly higher than the average for the 2006 respondents (3.04); however, the increase is not statistically significant.

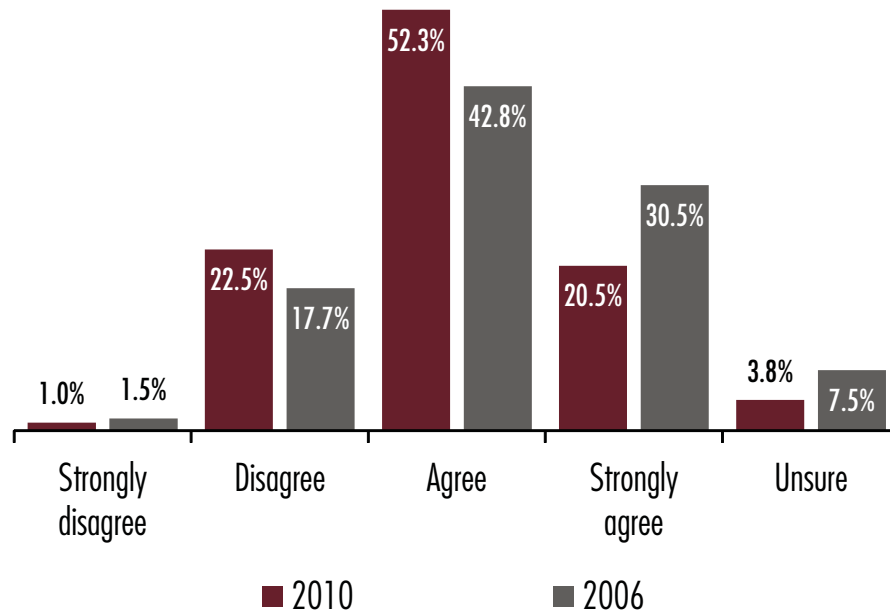


**People who have children together ought to be married (385 respondents - 2.96 average)**

Close to three-quarters of the 2010 respondents (72.8%) either agreed or strongly agreed that people who have children together ought to be married, compared to 73.3% of 2006 respondents.

Chart 16

People with Children Ought to be Married



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 7

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average included: age 65 and over (3.12), attended religious services more than once a week (3.32), attended religious services once a week (3.22), married (3.08), and widowed (3.14).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average included: one-parent household (2.63), biological mother in household (2.60), biological father (2.50), age 25 to 34 (2.72), attended religious services several times a year (2.80), never attended religious services (2.78), single (2.73), and divorced (2.73).

There was a strong correlation between, “people who have children together ought to be married” and “a household with a married couple is more financially stable than a household where a couple is not married.” The more respondents agreed that people who have children together ought to be married, the more likely they were to agree that a household with a married couple is more financially stable than a household where a couple is not married.

The average for the 2010 respondents (2.96) was significantly lower than the average for the 2006 respondents (3.11) and is statistically significant.



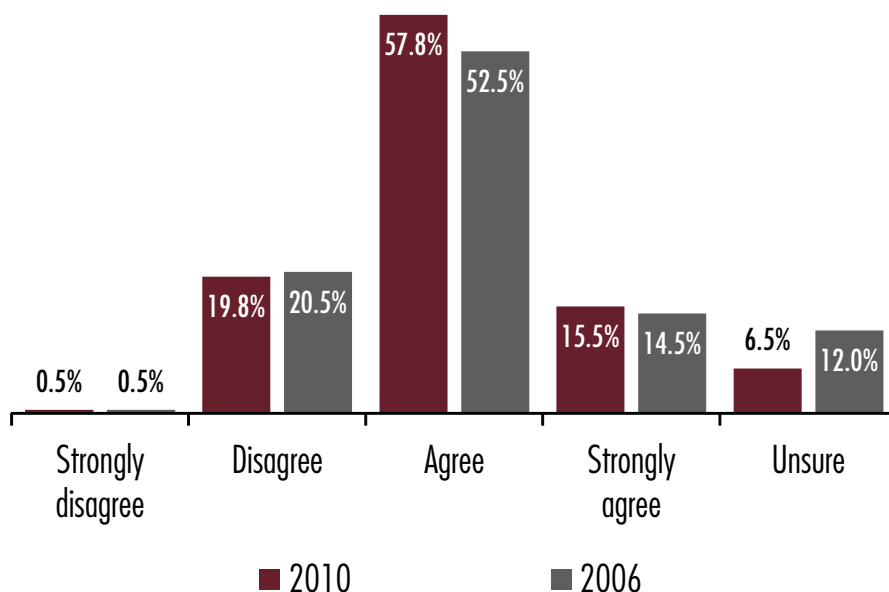
## Overall Opinion

### It is important for couples to prepare for marriage (374 respondents - 2.94 average)

Close to three-quarters of the 2010 respondents (73.3%) either agreed or strongly agreed that it is important for couples to prepare for marriage through educational classes, workshops, or counseling, designed to help them get off to a good start, compared to 67.0% of 2006 respondents.

Chart 17

#### Important to Prepare for Marriage



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 3

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average included: some college (3.11), attended religious services once a week (3.09), household income less than \$15,000 (3.13), and household income \$100,000 and over (3.29).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average included: high school diploma (2.79), age 25 to 34 (2.75), never attended religious services (2.79), and single (2.75).

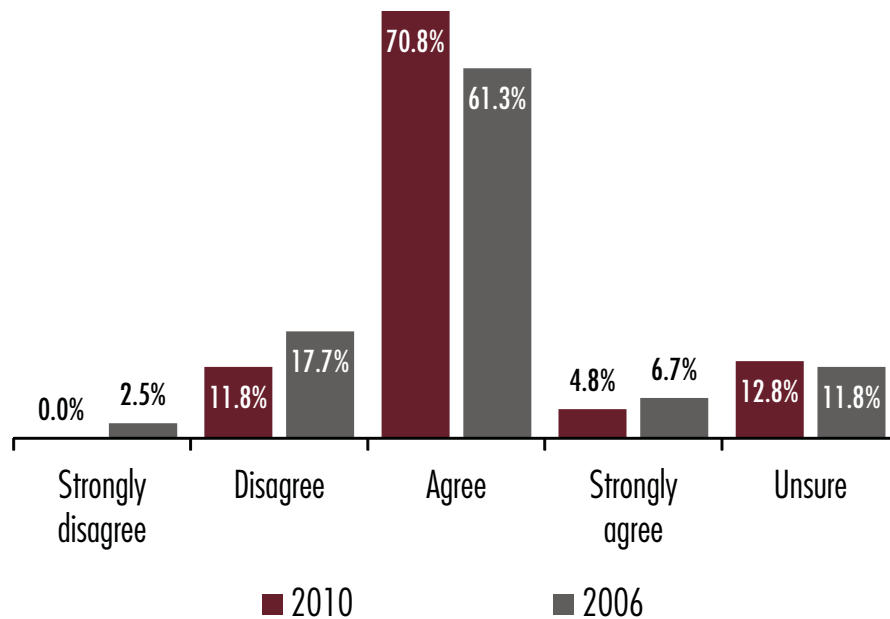
The average for the 2010 respondents (2.94) was slightly higher than the average for the 2006 respondents (2.92); however, the increase is not statistically significant.



**The Jackson area is a good place to be married (349 respondents - 2.92 average)**

Three-quarters of the 2010 respondents (75.6%) either agreed or strongly agreed that the Jackson area is a good place to be married, compared to 68.0% of 2006 respondents.

**Chart 18**  
**Jackson Area is a Good Place to be Married**



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 5

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average included: graduate degree (3.03), attended religious services once a week (3.03), household income \$35,000-\$49,999 (3.04), and household income \$50,000-\$74,999 (3.00).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average included: age 25 to 34 (2.77), never attended religious services (2.82), household income less \$15,000 (2.72), and household income \$15,000-\$24,999 (2.77).

The average for the 2010 respondents (2.92) was significantly higher than the average for the 2006 respondents (2.82) and is statistically significant.

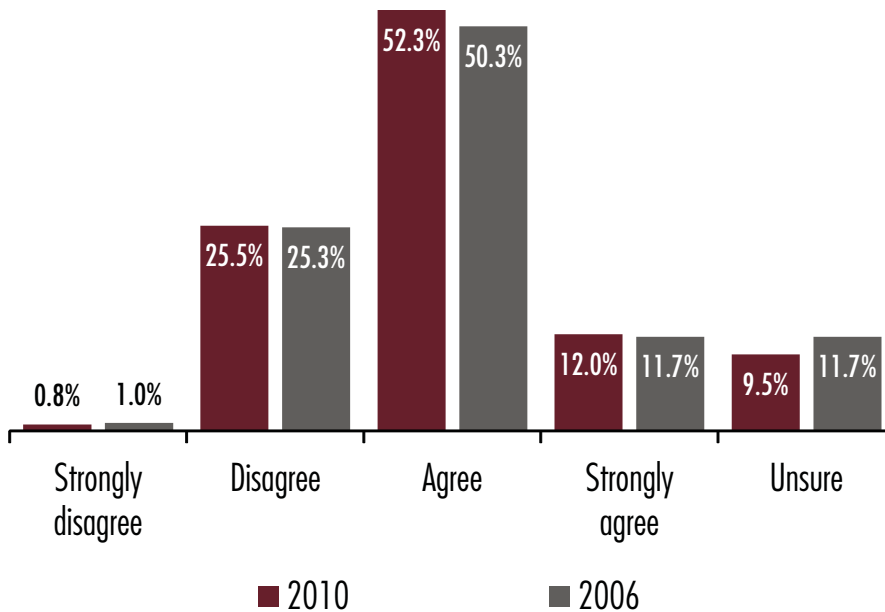


## Overall Opinion

### **A household with a married couple is more financially stable than a household where a couple is not married (362 respondents - 2.83 average)**

Two-thirds of the 2010 respondents (64.3%) either agreed or strongly agreed that a household with a married couple is more financially stable than one with a couple who is not married, compared to 62.0% of 2006 respondents.

**Chart 19**  
Married Couples More Financially Stable



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 6

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average included: ZIP code 49202 (3.02), some college (3.12), age 65 and over (2.98), attended religious services once a week (2.97), and widowed (3.00).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average included: bachelor's degree (2.69), age 25 to 34 (2.67), never attended religious services (2.65), and single (2.68).

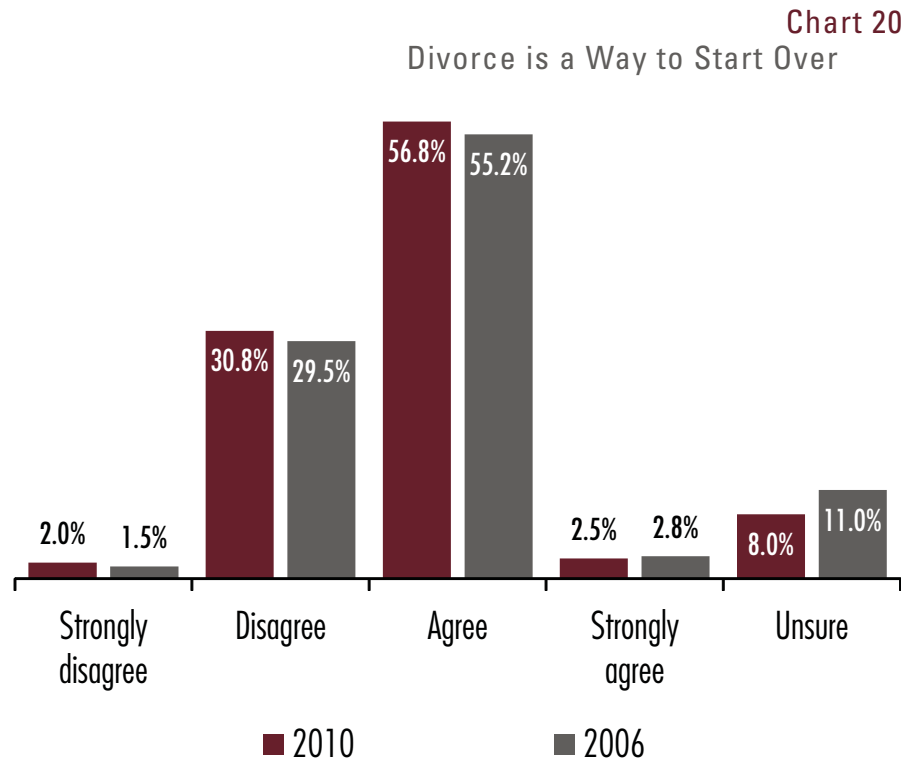
There was a strong correlation between, "a household with a married couple is more financially stable than a household where a couple is not married" and "people who have children together ought to be married." The more respondents agreed that a household with a married couple is more financially stable than a household where a couple is not married, the more likely they were to agree that people who have children together ought to be married.

The average for the 2010 respondents (2.83) was slightly higher than the average for the 2006 respondents (2.82); however, the increase is not statistically significant.



**Divorce is a way for people to start over (368 respondents - 2.65 average)**

Over half of the 2010 respondents (59.3%) either agreed or strongly agreed that divorce is a way to start over, compared to 58.0% of 2006 respondents.



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 9

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average included: biological father in household (3.00), ZIP code 49202 (2.80), age 25 to 34 (2.85), never attended religious services (2.79), African American/black ethnic background (2.89), household income \$75,000-\$99,999 (2.80), and single (2.83).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average included: attended religious services more than once a week (2.19), attended religious services once a week (2.53), Hispanic ethnic background (2.25), and married (2.56).

There was a strong correlation between, “divorce is a way for people to start over” and “when married people realize they no longer love each other, they should get a divorce, even if they have children.” The more respondents agreed that divorce is a way for people to start over, the more likely they were to agree that when married people realize they no longer love each other, they should get a divorce, even if they have children.

The average for the 2010 respondents (2.65) was slightly lower than the average for the 2006 respondents (2.67); however, the decrease is not statistically significant.

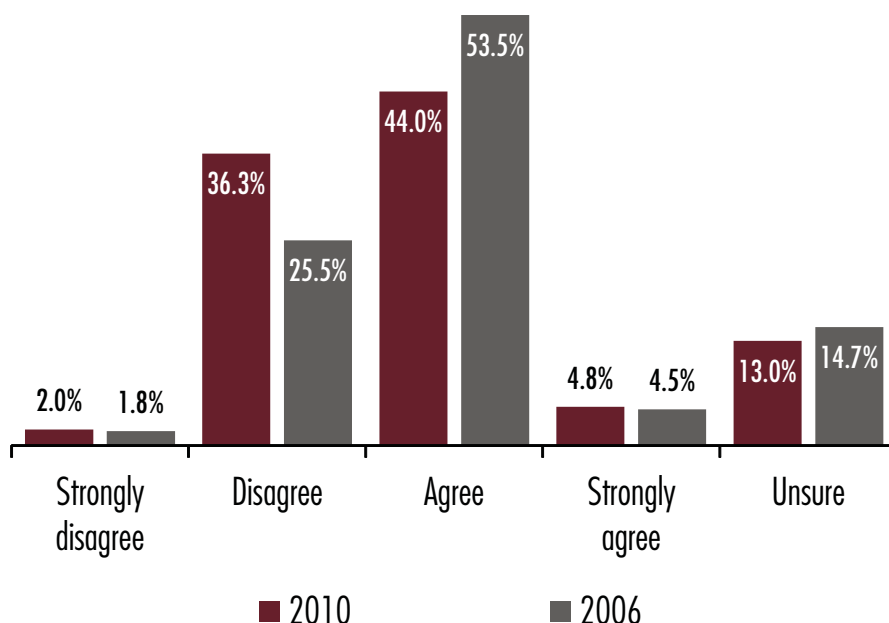


## Overall Opinion

### When married people realize they no longer love each other, they should get a divorce even if they have children (348 respondents - 2.59 average)

Close to half of the 2010 respondents (48.8%) either agreed or strongly agreed that married people should get a divorce if they no longer love each other, even if they have children, compared to 58.0% of 2006 respondents.

**Chart 21**  
Should Get Divorced



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 8

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average included: one-parent household (2.91), biological mother in household (3.00), age 18 to 24 (2.90), attended religious services monthly (2.82), attended religious services several times a year (2.73), household income less than \$15,000 (2.90), and single (2.76).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average included: attended religious services more than once a week (2.19), attended religious services once a week (2.40), married (2.46), and divorced (2.86).

There was a strong correlation between, "when married people realize they no longer love each other, they should get a divorce, even if they have children" and "divorce is a way for people to start over." The more respondents agreed that when married people realize they no longer love each other, they should get a divorce, even if they have children, the more likely they were to agree that divorce is a way for people to start over.

The average for the 2010 respondents (2.59) was significantly lower than the average for the 2006 respondents (2.71) and is statistically significant.

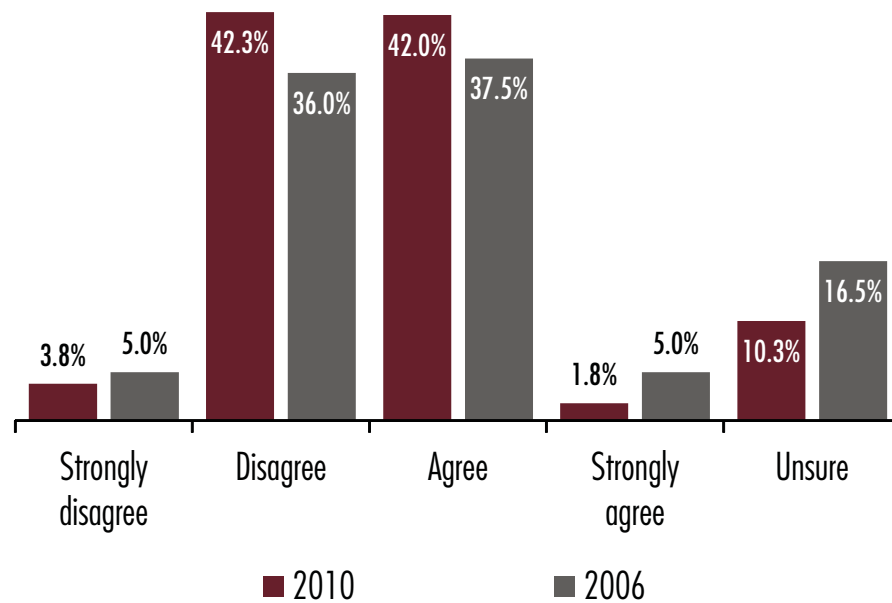


**People who live together before marriage are likely to improve their chances for a good marriage (359 respondents - 2.47 average)**

Close to half of the 2010 respondents (43.8%) either agreed or strongly agreed that living together before marriage improved chances for a good marriage, compared to 42.5% of 2006 respondents.

Chart 22

**Living Together Before Marriage Improves Chances**



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 4

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average included: blended family household (3.20), age 18 to 24 (2.77), age 25 to 34 (2.75), never attended religious services (2.69), African American/black (2.69), household income \$75,000-\$99,999 (2.67), and single (2.60).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average included: age 65 and over (2.15), attended religious services more than once a week (2.06), attended religious services once a week (2.23), and widowed (2.20).

The average for the 2010 respondents (2.47) was slightly lower than the average for the 2006 respondents (2.51); however, the decrease is not statistically significant.

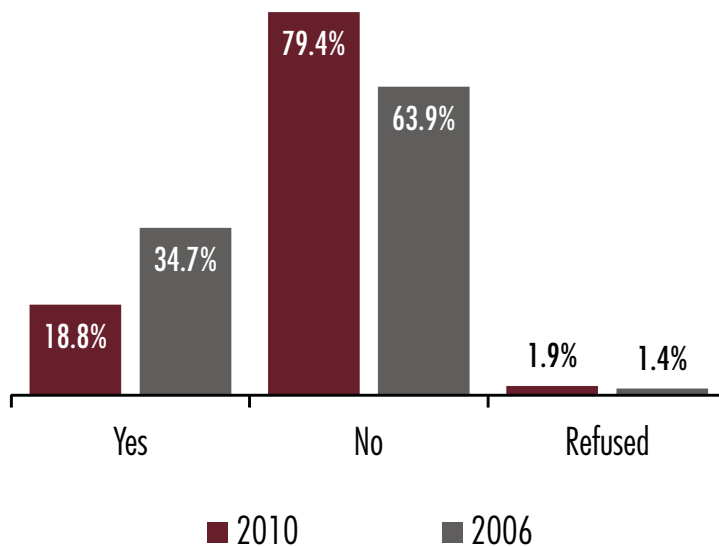


## Single or Widowed Respondents

**Overview:** The majority of the single or widowed respondents were not currently living with someone with whom they were having a romantic relationship; however, half of the respondents did plan on getting married in the future.

**Survey Results:** The 160 single or widowed respondents were asked a series of questions regarding relationships and marriage.

**Chart 23**  
Single - Living with Someone



The majority of the single or widowed respondents (79.4%) who completed the 2010 Marriage Survey were not currently living with someone with whom they were having a romantic relationship, which was an increase from 63.9% of respondents who completed the 2006 Marriage Survey.

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 13

Demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who were not currently living with someone with whom they were having a romantic relationship included: high school diploma (90.3%), age 65 and over (94.7%), attended religious services once a week (92.5%), household income \$15,000-\$24,999 (96.0%), and widowed (96.2%).

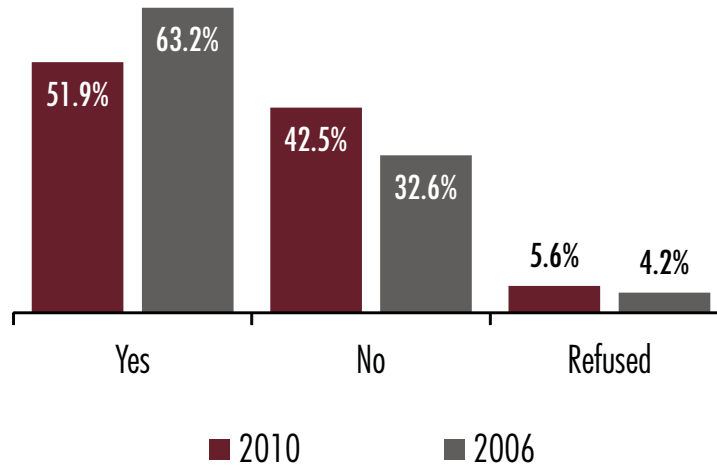
Demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who were not currently living with someone with whom they were having a romantic relationship included: age 25 to 34 (58.8%).



## Single or Widowed Respondents

Chart 24  
Plans for Marriage

When the single or widowed respondents were asked if they planned to get married in the future, 51.9% of the respondents indicated that they did plan on getting married, compared to 63.2% of 2006 respondents.



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 14

Demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who planned to get married in the future included: ZIP code 49201 (69.7%), bachelor's degree (75.0%), age 18 to 24 (94.6%), age 25 to 34 (94.1%), attended religious services several times a year (70.6%), and single (74.1%).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who planned to get married in the future included: high school diploma (29.0%), age 65 and over (2.6%), attended religious services once a week (28.3%), and widowed (5.8%).



## Married Respondents

**Overview:** The majority of the married respondents classified their marriage as a 4 or 5, meaning they felt their marriage was healthy. When respondents were asked if there were any programs or services that would be helpful to them in maintaining and keeping a healthy marriage, the most common response was church. Almost all of the respondents indicated that their marriage was either extremely important or very important to them, and only a few married respondents had sought counseling or attended a workshop to strengthen their relationship in the past year. Just over seventy percent of the married respondents were married between the ages of 18 and 25, and close to ninety percent of the married respondents indicated that pregnancy was not a considering factor when they got married.

**Survey Results:** The 201 respondents who were currently married were asked the following questions regarding their marriage.

With the understanding that all marriages have challenges, respondents were asked to rate their marriage on a scale of 1 to 5, with "5" meaning "healthy" and "1" meaning "not very healthy." An average was calculated for each statement. If every respondent answered "not very healthy," the average would be 1.00, while if every respondent answered "healthy," the average would be 5.00.



**How would you classify your marriage overall? (197 out of 201 respondents - 4.51 composite score)**

**Chart 25**  
Healthiness of Marriage

The majority of the 2010 married respondents (91.5%) classified their marriage as a 4 or 5, meaning they felt their marriage was healthy. There were 92.7% of the 2006 married respondents who also classified their marriage as a 4 or 5.

	2010 Respondents	2006 Respondents
1 - Not very healthy	0.0%	1.6%
2	1.0%	0.5%
3	5.5%	4.7%
4	33.8%	28.4%
5 - Healthy	57.7%	64.3%
Refused	2.0%	0.5%

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 15

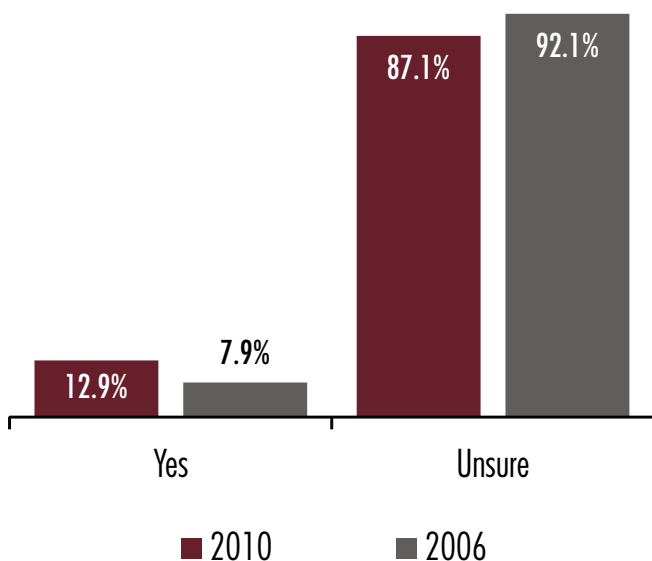
Demographic categories with a significantly higher average included: ZIP code 49201 (4.72).

There were no demographic categories with a significantly lower average.



## Married Respondents

**Chart 26**  
Programs or Services



When respondents were asked if there were any programs or services that would be helpful to them in preparing for, maintaining, and keeping a healthy marriage, 12.9% of 2010 married couples indicated programs or services, compared to 7.9% of 2006 respondents.

There were 26 respondents who named programs or services. The most common program or service among both 2010 married respondents and 2006 married respondents was church. Responses included:

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 16

**8 Respondents**

*Church*

**3 Respondents**

*Communication classes*

**2 Respondents**

*Marriage classes/counseling*

*Marriage Matters Jackson*

*Parenting classes*

**1 Respondent**

*Appreciation classes*

*Bible study*

*Religion*

*Citizen groups*

*Free babysitter for date night*

*Good economy*

*Lottery*

*Marriage enrichment*

*Money/budgeting workshop*

*On your knees praying*

*Reading bible*

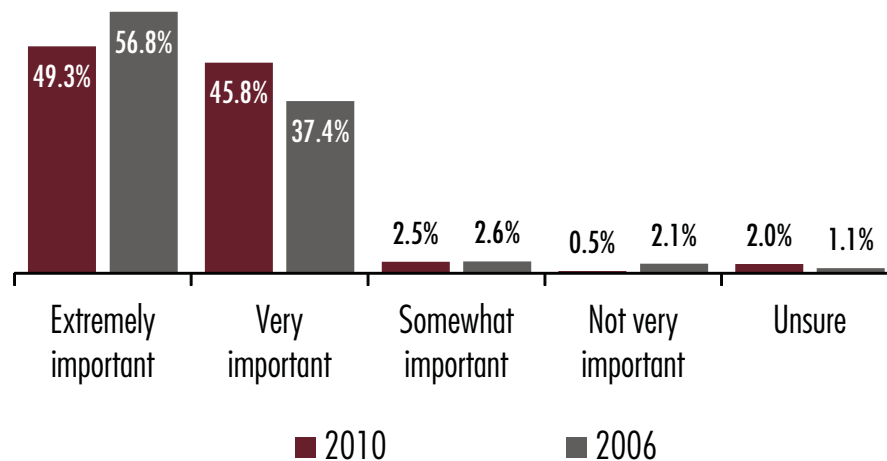
*Seminars*



Suppose that someone you knew very well and whose opinion you respected was asked how important your marriage was to you. Would that person say your marriage is: extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not very important. (197 out of 201 respondents - 1.53 average)

Married respondents were asked how someone they knew very well and whose opinion they respected would rate how important their marriage was to them. Almost all of the 2010 respondents (95.1%) indicated their marriage was either extremely important or very important. In 2006, 94.2% of the respondents felt the same way.

Chart 27  
Importance of Marriage



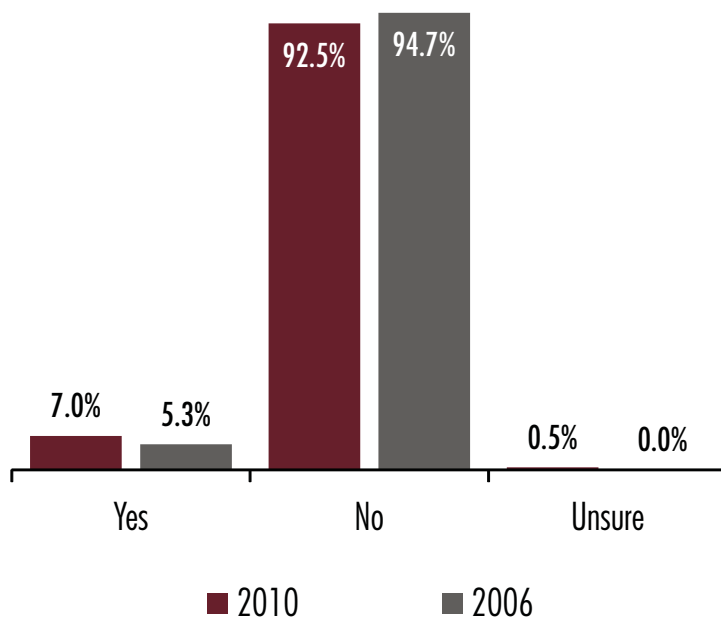
Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 17

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower average.



## Married Respondents

**Chart 28**  
Sought Counseling in Past Year



Seven percent (7.0%) of married respondents in 2010 had sought counseling or attended a workshop to strengthen their relationship in the past year, compared to only 5.3% of 2006 respondents.

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 18

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who did not seek counseling or attend a workshop to strengthen their relationship in the past year.

The 14 respondents who had sought counseling or attended a workshop to strengthen their relationship in the past year were asked to indicate where. Three respondents were unsure. Other responses included:

**6 Respondents**

*Church*

**3 Respondents**

*Marriage Matters Jackson*

**1 Respondent**

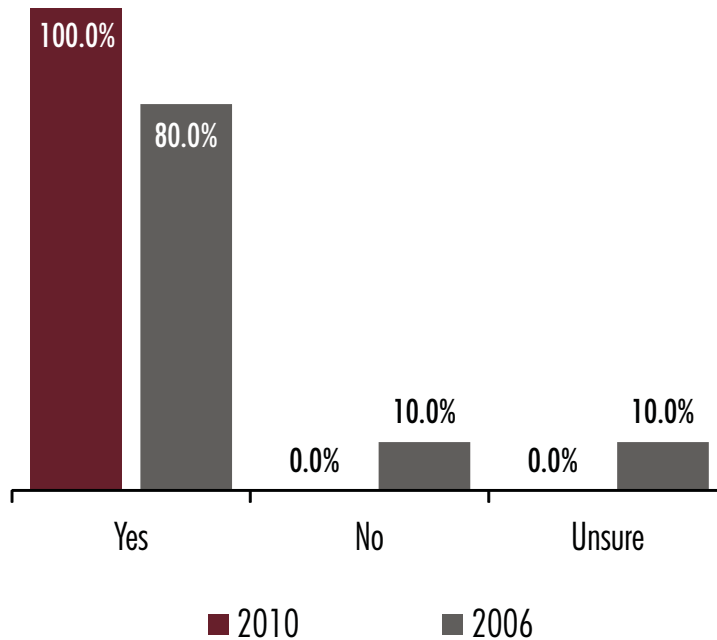
*Private counselor*

*Therapist*



Chart 29  
Satisfied with Assistance

The 14 respondents who sought counseling in 2010 were then asked if they were satisfied with the assistance they received. All 14 respondents were satisfied with their assistance in 2010, while only 80.0% of respondents in 2006 were satisfied.



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 19

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who were satisfied with their assistance in 2010.



## Married Respondents

**Chart 30**  
Age When Married

	2010 Respondents	2006 Respondents
Under 18	2.0%	1.1%
18 to 22	38.3%	37.4%
23 to 25	31.8%	32.6%
26 and over	27.4%	22.6%
Unsure	0.5%	6.3%

Just over seventy percent of the 2010 married respondents (70.1%) were married between the ages of 18 and 25, while the same percentage of 2006 respondents (70.0%) were also married between the ages of 18 and 25.

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 20

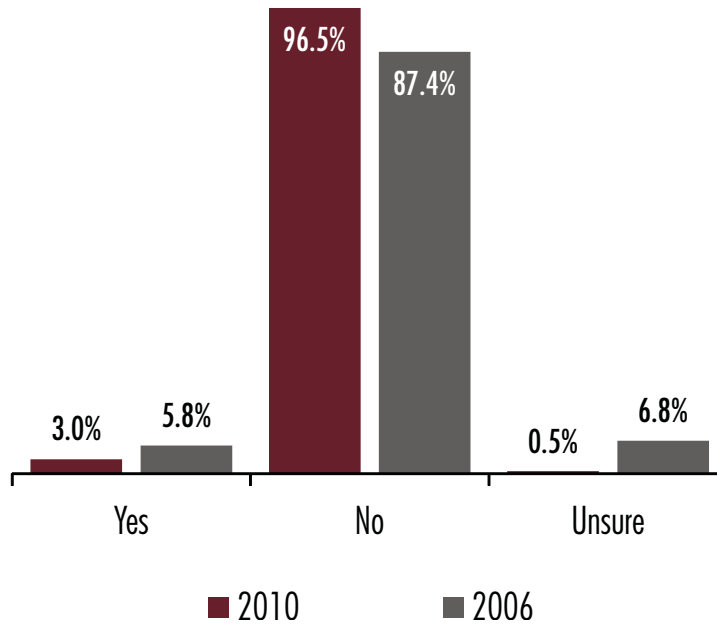
Demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who were married between the ages of 18 and 22 included: high school diploma (51.3%), and age 65 and over (48.3%).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who were married between the ages of 18 and 22 included: children under the age of 18 living in the household (26.9%), and age 35 to 44 (27.5%).



Chart 31  
Pregnancy a Factor

The 201 respondents who were currently married were asked if a current pregnancy was a factor in their decision to get married. Only three percent of 2010 married respondents (3.0%) said pregnancy was a factor in their marriage, compared to six percent of 2006 married respondents (5.8%).



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 21

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated that pregnancy was not a factor in their decision to get married.



## Divorced Respondents

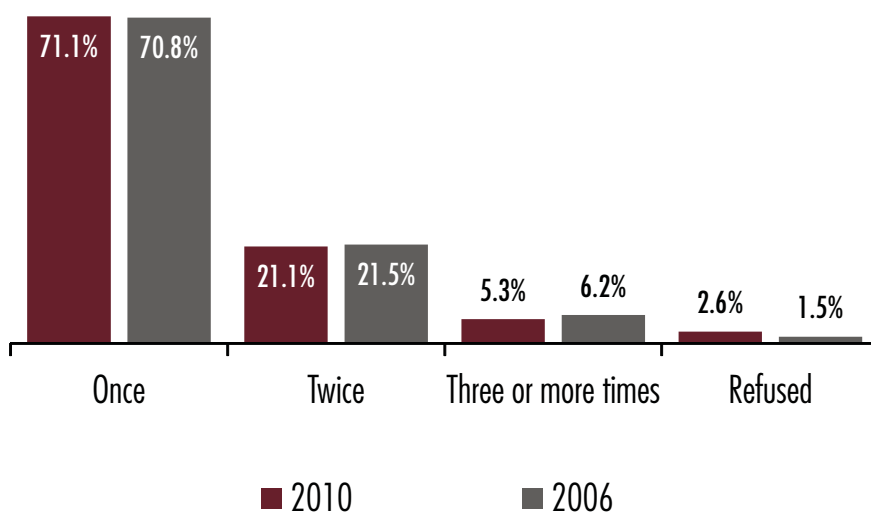
**Overview:** The majority of the divorced respondents had only been married once and were not currently living with someone with whom they were having a romantic relationship. The divorced respondents were asked a series of questions about the circumstances contributing to their divorce. The most common contributor to divorce was a lack of commitment by one or both persons to make it work. Half of the divorced respondents had sought services in the Jackson area to help their marriage.

Only one-third of divorced respondents wished they had worked harder, while over two-thirds wished their spouse had worked harder to save their marriage. Only one divorced respondent indicated that there was a program or service that would have helped them stay married, while the remaining respondents indicated that there were not any programs or services that would have helped their marriage, if offered in Jackson County.

**Survey Results:** Of the 400 respondents who completed the 2010 Marriage Survey, 38 were divorced. The following questions were only asked of the 38 divorced respondents.

Seventy percent of both divorced respondents in 2010 (71.1%) and divorced respondents in 2006 (70.8%) were married once.

**Chart 32**  
Number of Marriages



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 22

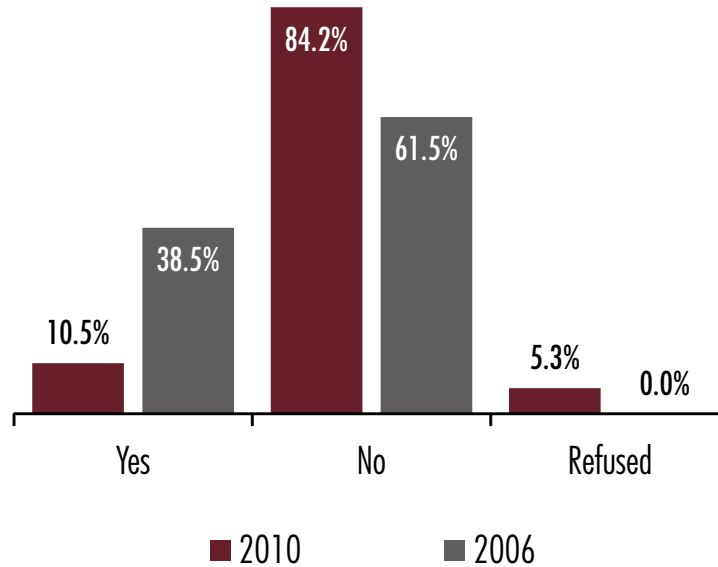
There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who were married once.



Chart 33

Divorced - Living with Someone

Eighty-four percent (84.2%) of divorced respondents in 2010 were not currently living with someone with whom they were having a romantic relationship, compared to only 61.5% of divorced respondents in 2006.



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 23

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who were not currently living with someone with whom they were having a romantic relationship.



## Divorced Respondents

The divorced respondents were asked a series of questions about the circumstances contributing to their divorce. Given a list of statements, respondents were asked to answer "yes" or "no" to whether the statement contributed to their divorce. "Lack of commitment by one or both persons to make it work" contributed to respondents' divorces most often in 2010, while "lack of support from family members" contributed to respondents' divorces least often. Similar to 2010, "lack of commitment by one or both persons to make it work" also contributed to 2006 respondents' divorces most often.

**Chart 34**  
Circumstances Leading to Divorce

	2010 Respondents	2006 Respondents
Lack of commitment by one or both persons to make it work	71.1%	46.2%
Too much conflict and arguing	63.2%	38.5%
Fell out of love	55.3%	NA**
Infidelity or extra-marital affairs	39.5%	36.9%
Financial problems or economic hardship	36.8%	21.5%
Little or no helpful pre-marital preparation	36.8%	9.2%
Getting married too young	23.7%	24.6%
Domestic violence	18.4%	15.4%
Religious differences	18.4%	0.0%
Lack of support from family members	15.8%	6.2%

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 24

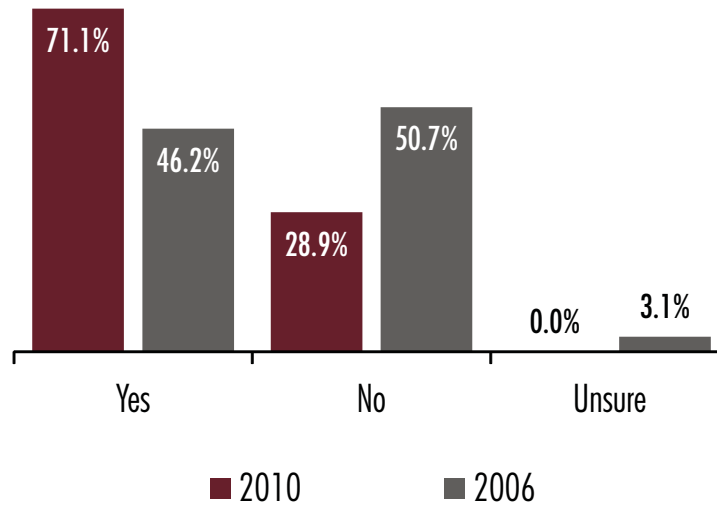
\*Chart totals more than 100%, as respondents were asked to answer each statement

\*\*This question was not asked on the 2006 Marriage Survey



Chart 35  
Lack of Commitment

When respondents were asked whether a lack of commitment by one or both persons contributed to their divorce, 71.1% of 2010 respondents and 46.2% of 2006 respondents indicated it did contribute to their divorce.



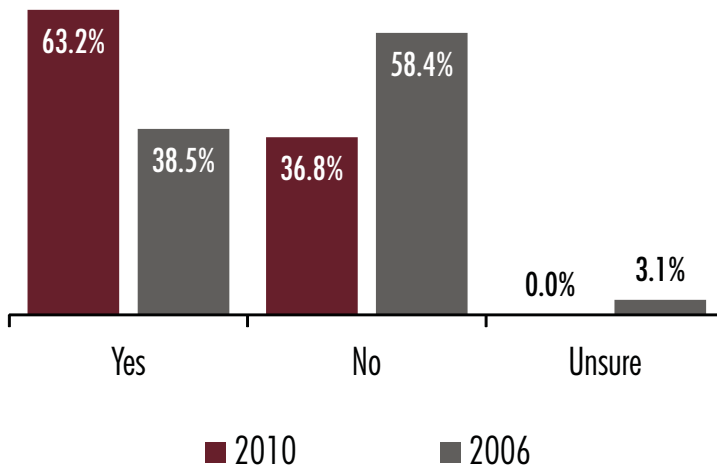
Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 24

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated a lack of commitment by one or both persons contributed to their divorce.



## Divorced Respondents

**Chart 36**  
Conflict and Arguing

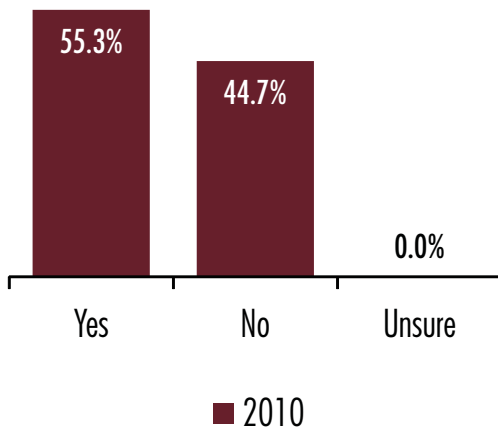


Too much conflict and arguing contributed to 63.2% of 2010 respondents' divorces and 38.5% of 2006 respondents' divorces.

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 24

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated too much conflict and arguing contributed to their divorce.

**Chart 37**  
Fell Out of Love



When 2010 divorced respondents were asked whether falling out of love had contributed to their divorce, over half (55.3%) indicated it had contributed to their divorce. This question was not asked on the 2006 Marriage Survey.

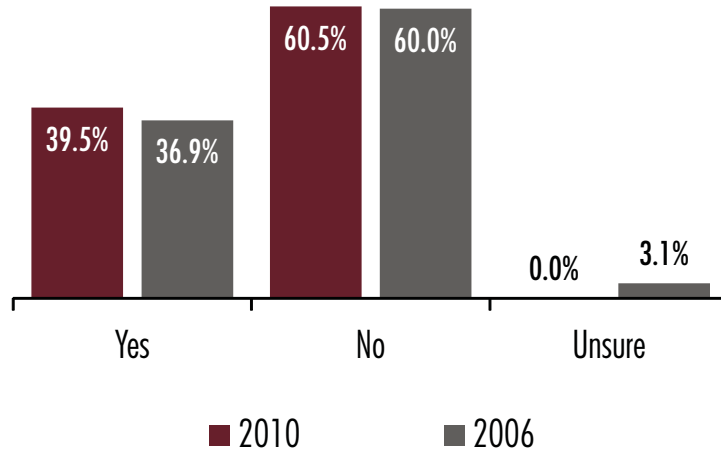
Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 24

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated falling out of love contributed to their divorce.



Chart 38  
Infidelity

When respondents were asked whether infidelity or extra-marital affairs had contributed to their divorce, 39.5% of 2010 respondents and 36.9% of 2006 respondents indicated it had contributed to their divorce.



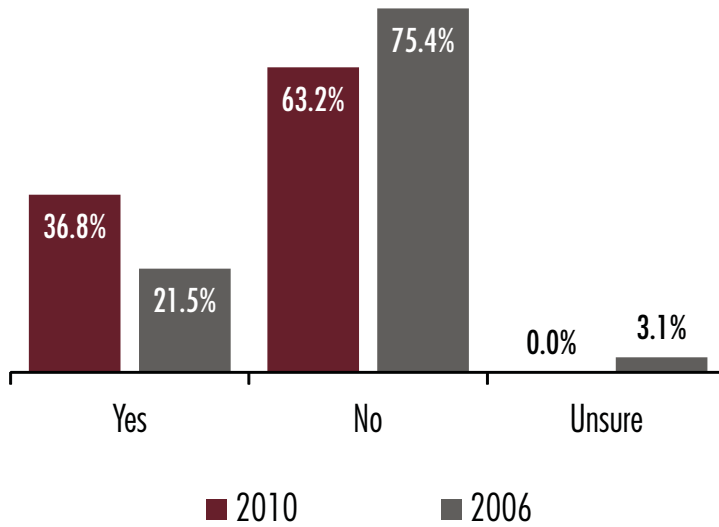
Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 24

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated infidelity or extra-marital affairs did not contribute to their divorce.



## Divorced Respondents

**Chart 39**  
Financial Hardship



One-third of 2010 respondents (36.8%) and 21.5% of 2006 respondents indicated financial problems or economic hardship contributed to their divorce.

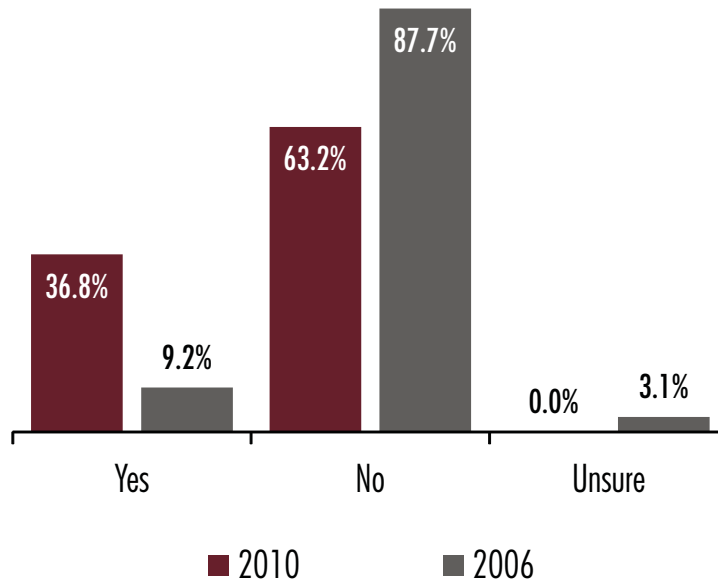
Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 24

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated financial problems or economic hardship did not contribute to their divorce.



Chart 40  
Little Pre-Marital Preparation

Little or no helpful pre-marital preparation contributed to 36.8% of 2010 respondents' divorces and only 9.2% of 2006 respondents' divorces.



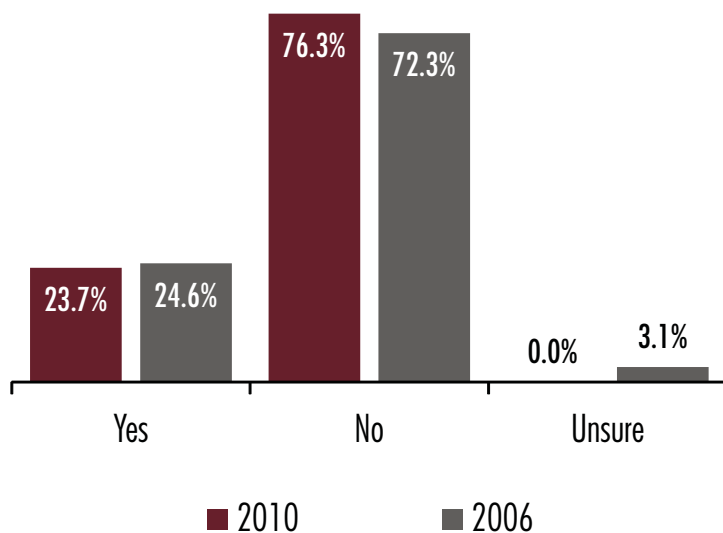
Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 24

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated little or no helpful pre-marital preparation did not contribute to their divorce.



## Divorced Respondents

**Chart 41**  
Getting Married Too Young



Getting married too young contributed to 23.7% of 2010 respondents' divorces and 24.6% of 2006 respondents' divorces.

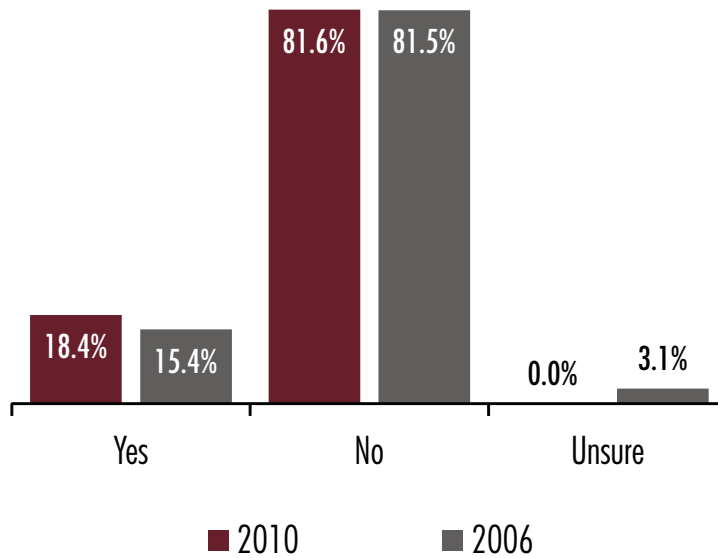
Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 24

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated getting married too young did not contribute to their divorce.



Chart 42  
Domestic Violence

Domestic violence contributed to 18.4% of 2010 respondents' divorces and only 15.4% of 2006 respondents' divorces.



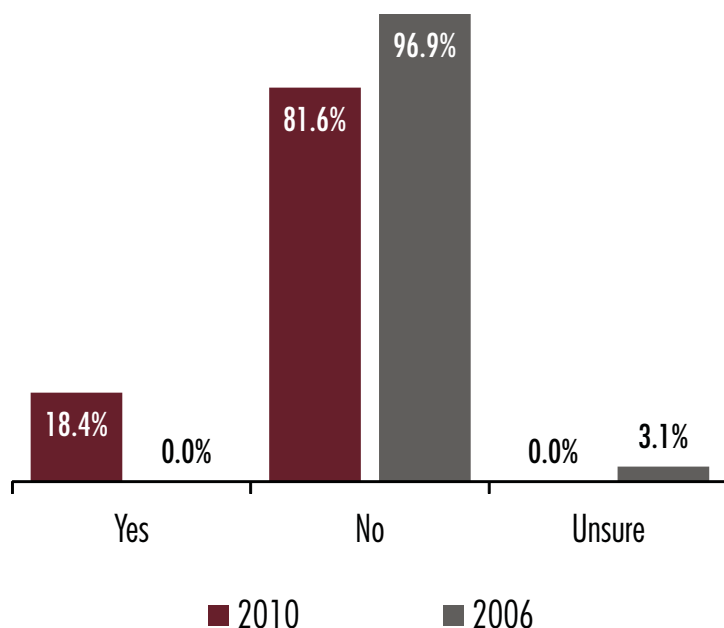
Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 24

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated domestic violence did not contribute to their divorce.



## Divorced Respondents

Chart 43  
Religious Differences



When respondents were asked whether religious differences had contributed to their divorce, 18.4% of 2010 respondents indicated it had contributed to their divorce. There were no respondents in 2006 who felt religious differences had contributed to their divorce.

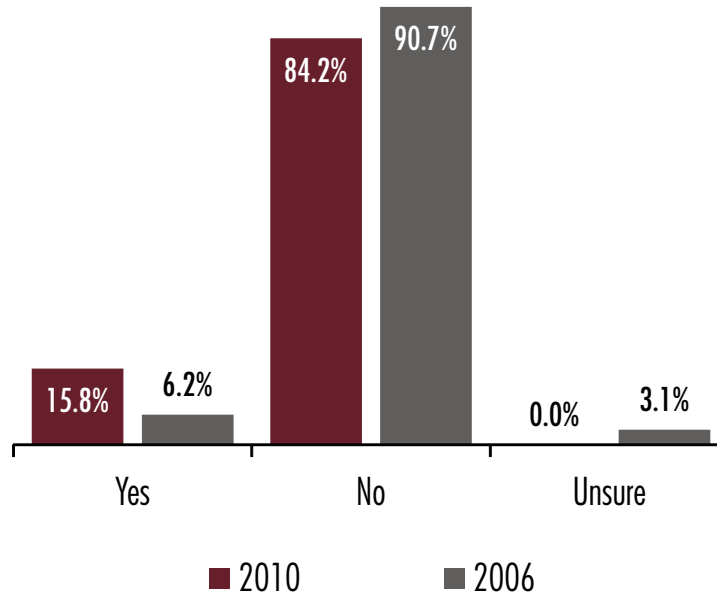
Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 24

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated religious differences did not contribute to their divorce.



**Chart 44**  
**Lack of Familial Support**

Just over fifteen percent (15.8%) of 2010 respondents and 6.2% of 2006 respondents indicated a lack of support from family members contributed to their divorce.



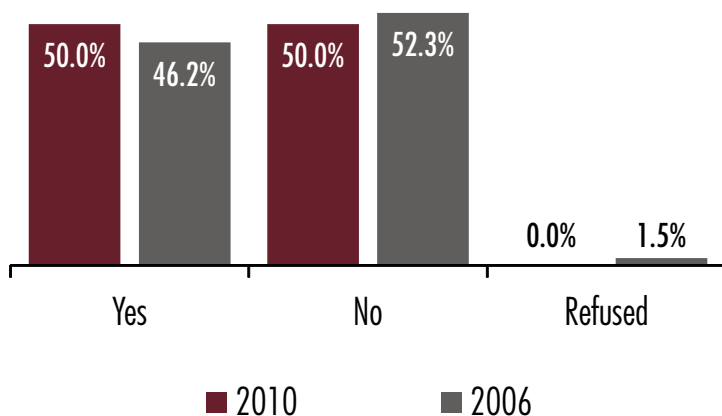
Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 24

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated a lack of support from family members did not contribute to their divorce.



## Divorced Respondents

Chart 45  
Sought Services in Jackson Area



The divorced respondents were then asked if they had sought services in the Jackson area. Exactly half of the 38 divorced respondents had sought services in the Jackson area in 2010, while only 46.2% of divorced respondents had sought services in 2006.

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 25

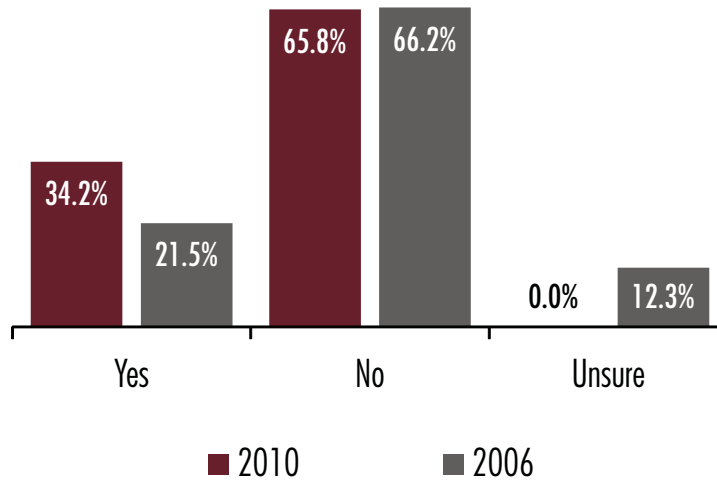
There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated they either sought services in the area or did not seek services in the area.



Chart 46

Wished They Had Worked Harder

When asked, "Do you wish that you, yourself, had worked harder to save your marriage?", 34.2% of divorced respondents in 2010 indicated that they wished they had worked harder, while only 21.5% of divorced respondents in 2006 felt the same way.



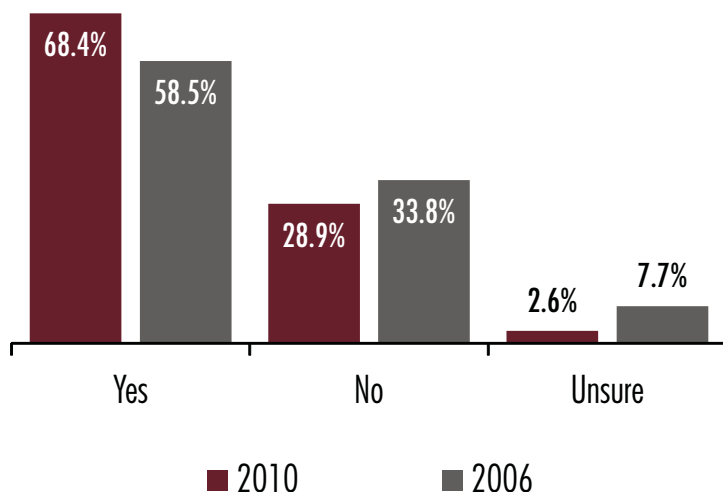
Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 26

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who did not wish that they had worked harder to save their marriage.



## Divorced Respondents

**Chart 47**  
Wished Spouse Had Worked Harder



Nearly seventy percent of divorced respondents in 2010 (68.4%) wished their spouse had worked harder to save their marriage, while only 58.5% of divorced respondents in 2006 felt the same way.

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 27

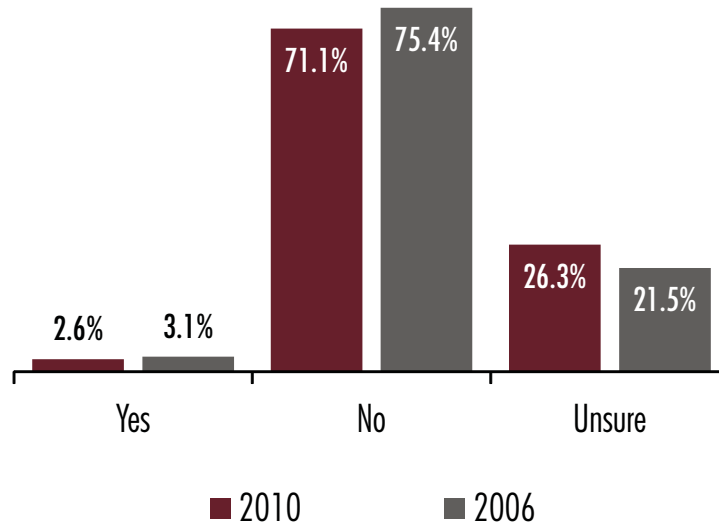
There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who wished their spouse had worked harder to save their marriage.



## Divorced Respondents

Chart 48  
Programs Offered

The 38 divorced respondents were then asked if there were any programs or services that would have helped them remain married, if offered in Jackson County. Only one respondent in 2010 indicated there was a program or service that would have helped them stay married, which was church. Seventy-one percent (71.1%) of respondents in 2010 said there were no programs or services that would have helped them remain married, if offered in Jackson County, and 10 respondents (26.3%) were unsure. Similar to 2010, there were only two respondents who said there were programs or services that could have helped their marriage in 2006.



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 28

There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher or lower percentage of respondents who indicated that there were no programs or services that would have helped them remain married.



## Awareness

**Overview:** When all 400 respondents were asked, “What local organizations in Jackson County come to mind that provide marriage or relationship assistance?”, the most common responses included: church and Marriage Matters Jackson. When asked where they would send someone that they knew who was looking for help with marital issues, the most common response included: religious/clergy. Over one-third of all respondents had heard of Marriage Matters Jackson, and of those respondents, the most common place they had seen or heard of it included: billboards, radio, and the newspaper. The most common words the respondents used to describe Marriage Matters Jackson included: counseling and helpful. Marriage Matters Jackson provides fun events and healthy relationship workshops, in which half of the respondents would consider attending.

All 400 respondents who completed the Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey were asked a series of questions regarding their awareness of marital assistance and Marriage Matters Jackson.

### Chart 49

#### Local Organizations that Provide Assistance

	2010 Respondents	2006 Respondents
Church	15.3%	9.7%
Marriage Matters Jackson	13.3%	0.0%
Catholic Social Services	1.3%	0.5%
United Way	1.3%	0.8%
Counseling	1.3%	0.8%
Lifeways	0.5%	3.3%
Religious organizations	0.8%	0.0%
Family Services	0.3%	1.0%
Other	2.8%	3.3%
None	51.0%	51.3%
Unsure	16.8%	30.0%

**Survey Results:** There are several area organizations that focus on marriage and relationships. Respondents were asked, “What local organizations in Jackson County come to mind that provide marriage or relationship assistance?” The most common responses from the 2010 respondents included: church and Marriage Matters Jackson, while the most common responses in 2006 included: church and Lifeways. The chart totals more than 100%, as respondents could name more than one organization in Jackson County.

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 10

\*Chart totals more than 100%, as respondents could give more than one response



Other organizations not listed in the chart and named by one respondent each included:

- Adam/Divorce counsel*
- Community Mental Health*
- Gay rights*
- Marriage Encounter*
- Marriage for Life*
- Queens*
- Religious counseling*

Demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who named local organizations in Jackson County that provide marriage or relationship assistance included: ZIP code 49230 (65.6%), high school diploma (64.5%), age 18 to 24 (64.3%), age 25 to 34 (62.5%), never attended religious services (69.0%), household income \$15,000-\$24,999 (69.2%), and single (72.2%).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who named local organizations in Jackson County that provide marriage or relationship assistance included: children under age 18 living in household (40.4%), ZIP code 49203 (40.0%), graduate degree (31.6%), attended religious services once a week (38.6%), and married (39.8%).



### Chart 50

#### Where to Turn for Help with Marital Issues

	2010 Respondents	2006 Respondents
Religious/Clergy	50.3%	37.0%
Counseling	31.5%	42.0%
Marriage Matters Jackson	8.8%	0.0%
Yellow pages	2.8%	2.2%
Other	6.8%	5.0%
Unsure	16.3%	13.8%

When all 400 respondents were asked where they would send someone that they knew who was looking for help with marital issues, the most common response in 2010 was: religious/clergy (50.3%), while the most common response in 2006 was: counseling (42.0%). The chart totals more than 100%, as respondents could name more than one place to go for help.

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 11

\*Chart totals more than 100%, as respondents could give more than one response

Other organizations not listed in the chart included:

**9 Respondents**

Family  
Friends

**3 Respondents**

Lawyer

**2 Respondents**

Internet  
United Way

**1 Respondent**

211 database  
611  
Another couple  
Catholic Social Services  
Doctor  
Dr. Phil  
Herself  
Himself  
Lifeways  
Marriage workshops  
Only to spouse



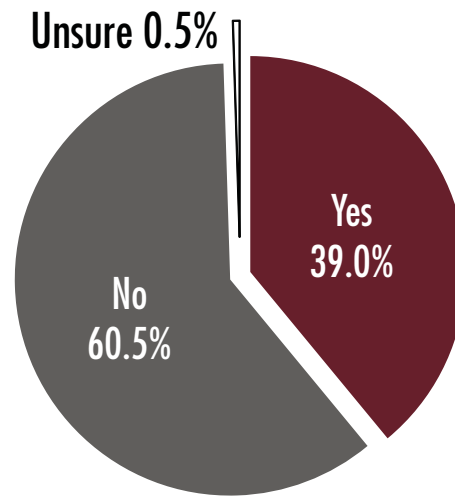
Demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who would send someone they knew to a religious/clergy for help with marital issues included: ZIP code 49230 (65.6%), age 55 to 64 (61.3%), attended religious services more than once a week (73.7%), attended religious services once a week (68.5%), and household income \$50,000-\$74,999 (64.8%).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who would send someone they knew to a religious/clergy for help with marital issues included: age 18 to 24 (16.7%), never attended religious services (27.6%), African American/black ethnic background (28.6%), household income less than \$15,000 (32.4%), and single (32.4%).

The following four questions were not asked on the 2006 Marriage Matters Survey; therefore, comparisons are not available.

**Chart 51**  
Heard of Marriage Matters Jackson

Thirty-nine percent of all 2010 respondents (39.0%) had heard of Marriage Matters Jackson.



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 29

Demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who had not heard of Marriage Matters Jackson included: ZIP code 49230 (81.3%), age 18 to 24 (71.4%), never attended religious services (75.0%), household income \$15,000-\$24,999 (72.1%), and single (75.0%).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who had not heard of Marriage Matters Jackson included: associate's degree (50.0%) and graduate degree (36.8%).



## Awareness

### Chart 52

#### Where Seen or Heard of Marriage Matters Jackson

	2010 Respondents
Billboard	54.5%
Radio	23.1%
Newspaper	21.2%
Church	13.5%
Friend	10.9%
Television	4.5%
Facebook	0.6%
Web site	0.0%
Other	8.3%
Unsure	3.2%

The 156 respondents who had seen or heard of Marriage Matters Jackson were then asked to indicate where they had seen or heard of it. The most common places the respondents had seen or heard of Marriage Matters Jackson included: billboards, radio, and newspapers. The chart totals more than 100%, as respondents could name more than one place they had seen or heard of Marriage Matters Jackson.

Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 30

\*Chart totals more than 100%, as respondents could give more than one response

Eighteen respondents indicated other places they had seen or heard of Marriage Matters Jackson. Five respondents were unsure. Other responses included:

#### **2 Respondents**

*United Way*

#### **1 Respondent**

*At work*

*Attended*

*Attended workshop*

*Buses*

*Co-worker*

*Family Life Radio*

*Family member attended*

*Flyer*

*Kids*

*Lecture*

*Word-of-mouth*



There were no demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who had seen or heard of Marriage Matters Jackson on a billboard.

Demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who had seen or heard of Marriage Matters Jackson on a billboard included: household income \$35,000-\$49,999 (37.0%).

When the 156 respondents who had seen or heard of Marriage Matters Jackson were asked what words came to mind when they thought of Marriage Matters Jackson, the most common responses included: counseling and helpful. Sixty-two respondents did not indicate any words that came to mind. Respondents could name as many words to describe Marriage Matters Jackson as they wished. Other responses included:

**13 Respondents**

*Counseling*

**12 Respondents**

*Helpful*

**4 Respondents**

*Good program*

**3 Respondents**

*Good thing*

**2 Respondents**

*Fun*

*Good*

*Good idea*

*Good organization*

*Healthy*

*Marriage*

*Marriage assistance*

*Marriage counseling*

**1 Respondent**

*A lot of people need it*

*Advocates marriages*

*Catholic*

*Charity*

*Church organization*

*Committed marriage*

*Community involvement in marriage*

*Community program for couples*

*Conservative*

*Couples*

*Couples counseling*

*Education for married people*

*Free*

*Free counseling for couples*

*God*

*Good charity*

*Good luck*



## Awareness

### **1 Respondent - continued**

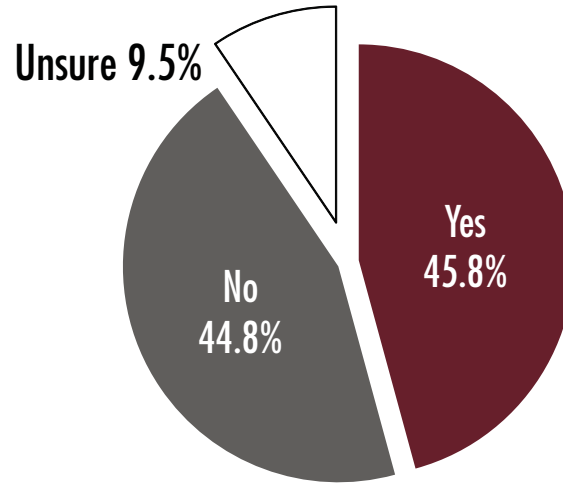
Good mix  
Good place  
Good place for help with marriage issues  
Good program for community  
Great for couples  
Great organization  
Great organization to prepare people for marriage  
Great thing because family is important  
Group activities  
Group that helps marriages  
Group that talks about marriage  
Help with families and relationships  
Helpful classes  
Helpful nonprofit for couples  
Helpful to those in need  
Helping people who have marriage issues  
Helping those with unhealthy marriages  
Her marriage  
Important for those seeking marriage assistance  
Insightful  
Keeping it together  
Looks like a fun program  
Marriage help  
Marriage matters to them  
Mom and dad  
Needed  
Nice for people who might need assistance  
Nonprofit  
Not for everyone  
Open-minded  
Organization for couples  
People wanting to strengthen marriage  
Place for marital help  
Place to go for relationship help  
Positive  
Prevent marriages from divorce  
Relationships  
Say "I do" every day  
Should gear toward children too  
Step toward correcting marriage  
Strengthening  
Strengthens marriages  
Try to help any way possible  
Very appropriate  
Very helpful  
Very helpful charity  
Very positive  
Waste of money  
Way for people to get together, gain help and knowledge about healthy relationships  
Wish divorce was not so easy  
Wishes her husband would go  
Wonderful program



Chart 53

### Attend Marriage Matters Jackson Event

Marriage Matters Jackson provides fun events and healthy relationship workshops. All 400 respondents were then asked if they would consider attending a Marriage Matters Jackson event or workshop. Close to half of the respondents (45.8%) would consider attending a Marriage Matters Jackson event or workshop.



Source: Marriage Matters Jackson - 2010 Marriage Survey, question 32

Demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who would consider attending a Marriage Matters Jackson event or workshop included: children under age 18 in household (63.2%), ZIP code 49203 (57.8%), bachelor's degree (67.0%), graduate degree (57.9%), age 25 to 34 (68.8%), age 35 to 44 (57.9%), attended religious services several times a year (60.2%), African American/black (57.1%), household income \$50,000-\$74,999 (59.2%), and household income \$75,000-\$99,999 (62.7%).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who would consider attending a Marriage Matters Jackson event or workshop included: high school diploma (22.4%), age 55 to 64 (32.3%), age 65 and over (8.5%), household income less than \$15,000 (35.3%), and widowed (11.5%).

The 179 respondents who would not consider attending a Marriage Matters Jackson event or workshop were asked why they felt this way. Thirty-five respondents were unsure. Other responses included:

**42 Respondents**  
*Does not see need for it*

**27 Respondents**  
*Too old*

**18 Respondents**  
*Not interested*



## Awareness

### **12 Respondents**

*No time*

### **11 Respondents**

*Does not see need for it, too old*

### **7 Respondents**

*Not married*

### **6 Respondents**

*Not necessary*

### **4 Respondents**

*Stable marriage*

### **2 Respondents**

*Widow*

*Does not see need for it, no time*

*Does not want to get married*

*Not in relationship*

### **1 Respondent**

*Disabled*

*Happily married*

*Know how their marriage works*

*Living apart*

*No transportation*

*Not getting married*

*Not getting remarried*

*Satisfied with marriage*

*Spouse disabled*

*Too conservative*

*Waste of money*



Based on the research results presented in the report, the following conclusions have been developed:

**Demographics:** Just over half of the survey respondents (50.3%) were married, up from 47.5% in 2006 and nearly identical to the 51.0% found by the 2006-2008 American Community Survey for Jackson County. It is important to note that the American Community Survey measures marital status from age 15 and older, while this survey was only conducted with respondents age 18 and over.

Nearly three-quarters of the survey respondents (69.5%) attended religious services at least once in the past year, which is slightly lower than the 74.5% of respondents who said they attended religious services at least once in the past year on the 2006 survey. The percentage of respondents who did not attend a religious service at all in the past year increased from 23.3% in 2006 to 29.0% in 2010.

**Opinions About Marriage:** Survey respondents were asked to rate their agreement with nine statements about marriage. The statement “The family is the main building block of a healthy community” had the strongest agreement of all nine statements, as 94.3% of survey respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement compared to 97.3% who strongly agreed or agreed in 2006. This is one of three statements that decreased in the level of agreement from 2006 to 2010. The other two statements that decreased were: “People who have children together ought to be married” and “When married people realize they no longer love each other, they should get a divorce, even if they have children.” The statement “The Jackson area is a good place to be married” increased in agreement between 2006 and 2010. Agreement with these statements was consistent for the other five statements between 2006 and 2010.

There were some significant differences in how single respondents and African American/black respondents answered these questions:

Single respondents agreed less often on two of the nine statements:

- People who have children together ought to be married
- The Jackson area is a good place to be married

Single respondents agreed more often on three of the nine statements:

- People who live together before marriage are likely to improve their chances for a good marriage
- When married people realize they no longer love each other, they should get a divorce, even if they have children
- Divorce is a way for people to start over

African American/black respondents agreed less often on two of the nine statements:

- People with children ought to be married
- The Jackson area is a good place to be married

African American/black respondents agreed more often on three of the nine statements:

- People who live together before marriage are likely to improve their chances for a good marriage
- When married people realize they no longer love each other, they should get a divorce, even if they have children
- Divorce is a way for people to start over



## Conclusions

**Single and Widowed Respondents:** Single and widowed respondents were asked two questions about their living situation and plans for marriage. Fewer than one in five (18.8%) single or widowed respondents were currently living with someone with whom they are having a romantic relationship, compared to over one-third (34.7%) in 2006. A similar decrease was noted for the percentage of single or widowed respondents who planned to get married in the future. In 2006, 63.2% of single and widowed respondents said “yes” they planned to get married in the future, while only 51.9% said “yes” in 2010.

**Married Respondents:** Overall, 50.3% of the survey respondents were married; however, only 21.4% of the African American/black respondents were married.

When asked how healthy their marriage was, 91.5% rated their marriage as a “4” or “5” on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not very healthy and 5 is healthy. Only 1.0% of married respondents rated their marriage a “1” or “2.” This is similar to the results noted in 2006, although a slightly lower percentage of married respondents rated their marriage a “5” in 2010, compared to 2006.

The percentage of respondents who sought counseling or attended a workshop to strengthen their marriage was nearly the same between 2006 at 5.3% and 2010 at 7.0%. However, in 2010, 12.9% of respondents said there would be programs or services that would be helpful to them in preparing for, maintaining, and keeping a healthy marriage, which is up significantly from 7.9% in 2006.

**Divorced Respondents:** While the percentage of divorced respondents married only once is nearly identical between 2006 (70.8%) and 2010 (71.1%), the percentage of respondents currently living with someone with whom they are having a romantic relationship has fallen from 38.5% in 2006 to 10.5% in 2010.

Divorced respondents were asked a series of 10 questions about the circumstances contributing to their divorce. The top reasons were “lack of commitment by one or both persons to make it work,” “too much conflict and arguing,” and “fell out of love.”

There were significant differences in the responses to most of these questions between 2006 and 2010, with the primary difference being the increase in the percentage of respondents who said each circumstance contributed to their divorce. For example, 46.2% of respondents said “lack of commitment by one or both persons to make it work” was a circumstance contributing to their divorce in 2006, while 71.1% named it in 2010.

Half of divorced respondents said they sought assistance before their divorce, up slightly from 46.2% in 2006. Nearly three-quarters (71.1%) of divorced respondents said there were no programs or services that would have helped them remain married, if offered in Jackson County. Only 2.6% said programs or services could have helped, and 26.3% were unsure.



**Awareness:** The percentage of respondents that could name organizations in Jackson County that come to mind that provide marriage or relationship assistance increased from 18.4% in 2006 to 32.2% in 2010. Churches were named most often (14.8%) followed closely by Marriage Matters Jackson at 13.3%. Since Marriage Matters Jackson did not exist by that name in 2006, it is not possible to make any comparisons between the 2006 and 2010 surveys.

When looking for help with marital issues, most respondents would turn to religious/clergy first (50.3%), followed by counseling (31.5%), and Marriage Matters Jackson (8.8%). Only 16.3% of respondents were unsure where they would turn for help.

Nearly four out of every 10 survey respondents (39.0%) had heard of Marriage Matters Jackson, a new question on the 2010 survey. The top places people had seen or heard of Marriage Matters Jackson were billboards, radio, and newspapers. More women (60.2%) saw billboards for Marriage Matters Jackson than men (46.0%), and billboards were noticed more by younger respondents (age 18-24 = 66.7%), than older respondents (age 65+ = 45.8%).

The respondents who had seen or heard of Marriage Matters Jackson were asked what words come to mind when they thought of Marriage Matters Jackson, and 60.3% named one or more words, while 39.7% were unable to name any words to describe Marriage Matters Jackson. The most common words named were: counseling, helpful, good program, and good thing. In total, the 94 respondents who named words named 81 different words.

All 400 survey respondents were asked if they would consider attending a Marriage Matters Jackson event or workshop, and 45.8% said they would. As expected, married respondents were most likely to attend (52.2%); however, single respondents followed just behind at 51.9%. There was more interest in attending Marriage Matters Jackson events or workshops at the higher household income levels, and less interest at the lower household income levels.





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**2010 Marriage Survey  
Marriage Matters Jackson**

**Project Dates:** August 11 2010 - December 17, 2010  
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