

Marriage and Children Statistics

Impact on Daughters

- “Daughters raised outside of intact marriages are approximately three times more likely to end up young, unwed mothers than are children whose parents married and stayed married.”
Why Marriage Matters, page 3

Dr. Judith Wallerstein:

- “Early sex was very common among girls in the divorced families and has been described in several national studies. In our study, one in five had her first sexual experience before the age of 14. Over half were sexually active with multiple partners during their high school years. In the comparison group, the great majority of girls postponed sex until the last year of high school or their early years of college.”
The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce, Judith Wallerstein, PhD, p. 189

Children with Married Parents Do Better

- Half as likely to drop out of high school
- More likely to go to college & to graduate
- Half as likely to have a teen birth
- Less likely to have emotional problems

Adult Children from Divorced Parents are:

- 70% more likely to have circulatory problems
- 56% more likely to show signs of mental illness
- 27% more likely to report chronic aches and pains
- 26% more likely to rate their overall health as poor
(The Case For Marriage, Waite and Gallagher)

Excerpts from “Marriage As Public Policy: Why Public Officials Should Support Marriage By: Judge James E. Sheridan