

CDC Report on Marriage/Divorce

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Compared with unmarried people, married men and women tend to have lower mortality, less risky behavior, more monitoring of health, more compliance with medical regimens, higher sexual frequency, more satisfaction with their sexual lives, more savings, and higher wages.



Compared to married individuals, divorced persons exhibit lower levels of psychological well-being, more health problems, greater risk of mortality, more social isolation, less satisfying sex lives, more negative life events, greater levels of depression and alcohol use, and lower levels of happiness and self-acceptance. The economic consequences of divorce can be severe for women ... the loss of the ex-husband's income often results in a severe loss of income per capita.



Adverse outcomes accrue to children of divorce and children raised in single-parent families ... Even when the mother does remarry, studies suggest that children in stepfamilies have similar risks of adverse outcomes as children in single-parent families: both groups of children do worse than children living with two biological parents in terms of academic achievement, depression, and behavior problems such as drug and alcohol abuse, premarital sexual intercourse, and being arrested.



Single-parent families have lower levels of parental involvement in school activities and lower student achievement, compared to two-parent families. Children raised in single-parent families are more likely to drop out of high school, have lower grades and attendance while in school, and are less likely to attend and graduate from college than children raised in two-parent families. They are more likely to be out of school and unemployed and are also more likely to become single parents themselves, than children raised in two-parent families ... children of divorce score lower on measures of self-concept, social competence, conduct, psychological adjustment and long-term health.



In the US during the second half of the twentieth century, the proportion of people's lives spent in marriage declined due to postponement of marriage to later ages and higher rates of divorce. The increase in nonmarital cohabiting has also contributed to the decline in the proportion of people's lives spent in marriage. Increasing rates of cohabitation have largely offset decreasing rates of marriage.



Observations: (1) No wonder "*the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence ... Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously*" (Mal 2:16). It is wrong to selfishly abandon our mates and/or children because it is traumatic and injurious to them. This is why the Lord stringently restricts divorce with the possibility of remarriage (Mt 19:9). "*Marriage is honorable among all ... but fornicators and adulterers God will judge*" (Heb. 13:4).

(2) God's way is *always* best. We must believe this in spite of conventional wisdom which often says the opposite. We do not believe the Bible because scientific data supports it but because we know the Author. But it *is* affirming when the data and the word harmonize. Now if we would only *listen*.