

Significant Statistics

Divorce, Remarriage, Cohabitation, and Children of Divorce

NON-NUCLEAR SOCIETY

Today the U.S. is a Non-nuclear society ---

Only about 35% of families are biological children living with both biological parents.

An estimated 65% of families today are either:

- Single parent families (divorced, widowed, singles parents who never married, and singles who adopt)
- Blended Families
- Adoptive families
- Foster families
- Cohabiting families
- Grandparents raising grandchildren

(from Single Adult Ministry - SAM)

In 1980 45% of households consisted of married couples with children (bio-family).

In 1998 that percentage had fallen to 26%. (General Social Survey (GSS) of the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.)

DIVORCE

Almost 20 million Americans—about 9.9% of the U.S. population—are currently divorced. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2006); (This does not count those who have remarried.)

Single-parent families rose to an all-time high in 2005 to 37% of families. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2006)

Born-again Christians divorce at virtually the same rate as the rest of the population.” (Barna Research)

The divorce rate for remarried and stepfamily couples varies but is at least 60%. Second marriages (with or without children) have a 60% rate of divorce and 73% of third marriages end in divorce. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2006)

Almost 65 percent of remarriages end in divorce. (U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics)

25% of all Americans have been divorced at some point (Barna, 2008.)

The average marriage in America lasts only 7 years. (U.S. Census Bureau)

REMARRIAGE

About 75% of those who divorce will eventually remarry (most within 2.5 years). (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2006)

Est. 1,300 new blended families are forming every day. (474,500 per yr.) (U.S. Census Bureau)

Over 50% of US families are remarried or re-coupled (cohabitating). (U.S. Census Bureau)

COHABITATION vs. MARRIAGE

The probability of a first marriage ending in separation or divorce within 5 years is 20 percent, after 10 years it is 33 percent.

The probability of a premarital cohabitation breaking up within 5 years is 49 percent, after 10 years it is 62 percent. (Barna, 2002)

CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

Thirty million children under the age of 13 are currently living with one biological parent and that parent's current spouse or partner. (U.S. Census Bureau)

Boys raised in single-parent homes are about twice as likely (and boys raised in stepfamilies three times as likely) to have committed a crime that leads to incarceration by the time they reach their early thirties. (*Why Marriage Matters*) <http://www.americanvalues.org/html/r-wmm.html>

Nearly 40% of children in our country will go to bed each night without their biological father in the home. (Blankenhorn, *Fatherless America* 1995)

One-third (1/3) of all children entering stepfamilies were born to an unmarried mother rather than having divorced parents. (National Survey of Families and Households)

Judith Wallerstein, a psychologist and author of SECOND CHANCES, 1989, Tickor & Fields, NY, NY and THE UNEXPECTED LEGACY OF DIVORCE: A 25-Year Landmark Study, 2000, Hyperion, NY, NY which followed 93 now-adult children for about 25 years on the affects from their parent's divorce.

Wallerstein reports that:

- Only 45 percent of children "do well" after divorce.
- 41% are doing poorly, worried, underachieving, deprecating (belittling), and often angry.
- Fifty percent of the women and 30 percent of the men were still intensely angry with their former spouses.
- "Most felt the lack of a template, a working model, for a loving relationship between a man and a woman."
- Divorced parents provide less time, less discipline, and are less sensitive to the children as they are caught up in their own divorce and its aftermath.
- Many parents are unable to separate their needs from the children's needs and often share too much of their personal life with their children, placing the children in a precarious emotional state, vulnerable to grandiosity (exaggerated emotions) or to depression within what is left of their families.
- The majority of parents of divorce are chronically disorganized and unable to parent effectively.
- As diminished parenting continues, it permanently disrupts the child's once normal emotional growth and functioning.

The percentage of children who live with both biological parents who remain married has dropped from 73% in 1972 to 51.7 % in 1998. (General Social Survey (GSS) of the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.)

The value of children, as well as the values for (instilled in) children has altered. (General Social Survey (GSS) of the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.)

CORPORATE

U.S. corporations lose well over \$10 billion each year due to problems resulting from stepchildren and working parents and other forms of marital stress, according to a workplace psychologist at Pace University in New York.

"Relationships between the children and parents in stepfamilies, which often include misunderstandings and unrealistic expectations, cause lost time, absenteeism and lower productivity at work," said Barry Miller, who counsels stepfamilies.

"Common as they are, divorced parents with a working step parent or working live-in partner are not helped through normal family counseling." From www.stepfamily.org