

# Why Marriage Matters in America

## Social Health

Better Health – Physical & Mental  
Less Injury, Illness, Disability  
Longer Life  
Children Physically Healthier  
Children Emotionally Healthier  
Lower Infant Mortality  
Lower Child Abuse  
Lower STD Rates

## Children's Achievement

Greater Overall Success in School  
Better Reading Abilities  
More Likely to Attend College  
More Likely to Get High Status Job  
Less Likely to Divorce When Married  
More Likely to Marry

## Overall Social Impact

Better Parent/Child Relationship  
Lower Crime Rates  
Lower Domestic Violence  
Lower Teen Pregnancy  
Lower Juvenile Delinquency  
More Educated Citizens  
Higher Home Ownership  
Higher Property Values  
Higher Income and Savings

**Marital Success**

**VS**

**Marital Failure**

## Social Health

Higher Teen Alcohol/Drug Rates  
More Domestic Violence  
More Sexual Assault  
Teens More Sexually Active  
Teens More Likely to Smoke  
Teens More Likely to Use Drugs  
Greater Overall Violence  
High Stepparent/Other Sexual Abuse  
Greater Depression  
Higher Rates of Suicide

## Children's Achievement

More Likely to Repeat a Grade  
More Likely to Be Expelled  
More Likely Developmental Problems  
More and Worse Social Problems  
Lower Reading, Spelling & Math Scores  
Low Self-Confidence & Self-Esteem  
Difficulty with Peer Pressure Relationships  
More Likely to Drop Out of School

## Overall Social Impact

Increased Out of Wedlock Births  
Higher Delinquency & Crimes  
Higher Risk of Being Crime Victim  
More Violent Crimes  
More Teens Carrying Weapons  
More Crimes Leading to Jail  
Increased Need for Social Services  
Higher Risk of Poverty



[www.CaMarriage.com](http://www.CaMarriage.com)

Source: Administration for Children and Families, Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.  
[www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/benefits](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/benefits)  
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