



Marriage Matters

Although researchers have often speculated that being raised in a home with married parents matters to children, the numbers are now rolling in and pointing to marriage as being a key factor in the growth and well being of children. The Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI) has provided a sneak preview of some studies that reveal the true impact of marriage.

Marriage Trends

In 1970, 78.6% of adults between the ages of 20 and 54 were married.
In 2008, only 60.3% of adults in that age group were married.
These numbers indicate a nearly 19% decline in people choosing to marry.

Poverty

67% of children living in poverty are from homes in which parents were never married.
12% of children in poverty are from homes in which parents are in their first marriage.

Expulsion from School

4.3% of children who have ever been expelled are from single mother families.
1% of children who have ever been expelled are from intact married families.

Average Math/English GPA

The GPA of students who come from homes in which parents were never married is 2.5.
The GPA for students who come from homes in which parents are married is 2.9.

Drug Use

17.99% of teens who never attend church use hard drugs.
7.72% of teenagers who attend church on a weekly basis or more report using hard drugs.

Number of Sex Partners

Girls who never attend church have on average 1.55 sex partners.
Girls who attend church on a weekly basis or more have on average 0.61 sex partners.

For more information, check out the full report on [America's Marriage Index](#).

LIFE Runners... do you have a passion for life and running?

Combine your passions and make a difference... come to an informational meeting about LIFE Runners, Monday, February 6th, from 7 – 8 PM, at St. Joseph's Church, 218 10th Street South, Moorhead. For more information about LIFE Runners, go to www.Run.LIFEGroup413.org/about or email Steve at steve@lifegroup413.org. Remember, bring your running friends with you!

Looking for tips on a healthy marriage?

Check out daily marriage tips from foryourmarriage.org.

Giving Hearts Day

Put life first on
Tuesday,
February 14th

Please support
FirstChoice Clinic!

24 Hours to Give!
www.impactgiveback.org

"Be intentional about talking to your teenagers about marriage."
- americanvalues.org

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