

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

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 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



WWW.CALIFORNIAMARRIAGES.ORG

Source: Administration for Children and Families, Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/benefits. California Healthy Marriages Coalition – A nonpartisan, coalition of coalitions. Copyright© 2007 California Healthy Marriages Coalition