



Did you know that married adults live longer lives, have better health, and greater personal happiness? Children who are raised by a married mother and father perform better in school, have fewer addictions, fewer teen pregnancies, and less trouble with the law. Research clearly shows that marriage boosts measures of human well-being for children, women, and men:

- Only 4% of homes with a married mother and father are on food stamps at any given time, while 28% of single-mother homes are on food stamps.
- 78% of married people own their own home, while only 41% of cohabitating adults do.
- Married men benefit from an average annual economic “marriage premium” of at least \$15,900 per year compared to their unmarried peers.

The seismic shift in family structure over the course of the past few decades has broadened income gaps and deepened class divides. The *New York Times* highlighted sociological evidence of the impact of marriage on wealth, status, health, and happiness in an important article, “Two Classes, Divided by ‘I Do’”. Scholars at the National Marriage Project – a nonpartisan, interdisciplinary initiative at the University of Virginia – explain marriage as a “wealth-generating institution,” which is true for people of every race.

Research shows that marriage is the unsung anti-poverty program. Learn how to get help for yourself, help others or form a marriage committee at [www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org](http://www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org).

*(Local initiatives can be printed on back page.)*



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