

Dear Friends,

This week we share with you an invaluable resource—[The Decomposition of the American Family](#), an interactive tool that allows users to view that state of the American family from 1940-2013. We also highlight new research on the effects of cohabitation across the world, on the benefits of marriage for stress, and on Americans' views of religious groups.

## [NEW BLOG](#)

### **MARRI's User-Friendly Demographic Tool**

Over the next few weeks we will introduce you to different tools and resources in the MARRI website. Today we introduce you to a tool that permits you to pick out the charts you want to see at the national or state level (your own state for instance) on a number of outcomes such as poverty and welfare. [Continue Reading...](#)

## [NEW RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS](#)



### **World Family Map: Cohabitation**

Childbearing within cohabiting unions contributes to instability in children's lives, [according](#) to an international report commissioned by the Social Trends Institute and colleagues.



### **Marriage Decreases Stress**

Married people have lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol than never married or previously married people, and have a faster decline in cortisol as the day progresses. Low cortisol levels among married individuals help explain why married people are generally healthier, [reports](#) researchers at Carnegie Mellon University.



### **Americans Warm Up to Religious Groups**

U.S. adults rate religious groups more warmly than in the past, giving particularly warm ratings to Jews and Catholics, [according](#) to the Pew Research Center.

## **MARRIPEDIA ENTRIES RELATED TO THESE FINDINGS**

- 1) "[Cohabitation and Future Marital Stability](#)"
- 2) "[Effects of Marriage on Mental Health](#)"
- 3) "[Effects of Religious Practice on Society](#)"

## **NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE**

If you have not had a chance to browse MARRI's new website, I highly recommend doing so. In addition to our new resource, [The Decomposition of the American Family](#), [marri.us](http://marri.us) offers a uniquely informative library of social science research.

With an eye to the child, the future of America,

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