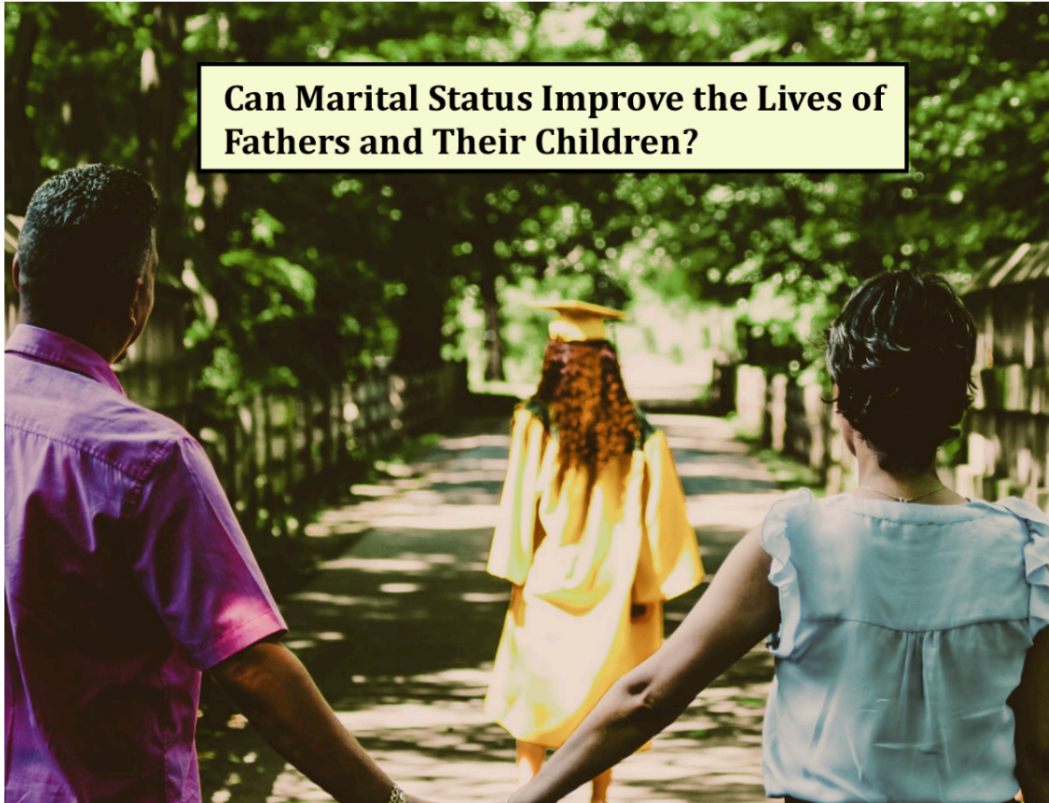


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FAITH & FAMILY

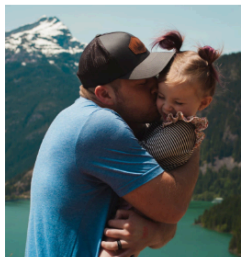
Can Marital Status Improve the Lives of Fathers and Their Children?



"I have an amazing father, but I spent the majority of my life missing him. After my parents divorced when I was two, he went from being a fulltime dad to a visitor, leaving me with bits and pieces of his time, attention, and support. Our relationship was characterized by weekend visits, phone calls, and child support payments, and, at times, it was negatively influenced by my parents' romantic partners. Our limited time together, which I shared with his new family, never felt like enough for either one of us. At one point when I was still young, he became so frustrated over his inability to be the father I deserved that he briefly considered walking away from my life."

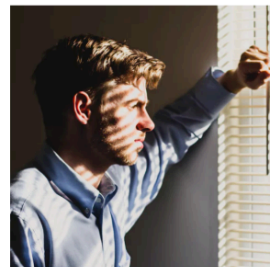
[Alyssa Elhage](#)

Most Men Desire to Be Fathers



Nearly 90% of males aged 15-44 [desire](#) to have children in the future. Half of men in their early 40s who are childless continue to want children.

Obstacles in Single Fatherhood



A growing number of [unmarried and non-residential fathers](#) are unable to be highly involved in their children's lives. They lack the educational qualifications and job

Magnitude of Marriage Premium



[Married men](#) age 28- 30 make [\\$15,900 more](#) than single young men. Married men age 44-46 make [\\$18,800 more](#) than single middle-aged men. The marriage premium is not limited by [race or education](#) level. Black married men earn at least \$12,500 more than single men, and men with a high school degree or less make \$17,000 more than their single peers.



Married men [work more hours](#) and, on average, earn 18%–19% more. Married biological [fathers](#) also exhibit strong commitment, work effort, and strong identity as providers. Only married residential biological fathers experience a [fatherhood wage premium](#).

Share of Two-Parent Households Benefits Communities



Neighborhoods largely composed of [two-parent families](#) increase children's odds of moving from the 25th income percentile in childhood to the 40-44th percentile as adults. The number of single- headed homes in a neighborhood decreases children's odds of moving out of poverty.

opportunities to provide for their children or struggle with mental health issues, are substance abusers or have a criminal history ([92%](#) of incarcerated parents are fathers).

Marital Status and Residency Improve Paternal Quality



The majority of fathers report that men are better fathers when they are [married](#) to the mother of their children. By contrast,

Inter-generational Benefits of Intact Families



Children from [intact families](#) have higher levels of education, work and income, and have higher odds of getting married. Married couples from intact families earn at least \$42,000 more annually than unmarried couples from broken families.

Married Two-Parent Families Stimulate Economic Growth



Data from over 90 countries shows that despite factors like education and population size, high shares of married two-parent families [increase](#) national GDP.

An [interactive visual](#) of these trends is available at IFS.

household savings, educational attainment, and reduces crime.



Explore more research about [the effects of marriage on society](#) at [Marripedia.org](#).

BLOG: Father and Son, Phase 4: Early Adolescence



The good father will help his son to see that that adolescence is the great transition from childhood to adulthood. It is like an iceberg: Though much can be seen on top, the bulk of what is going on lies deep below the surface --- for everyone involved, the teenager as well as his parents, teachers and friends.

It is a period of growing self-knowledge about his mind, body and emotions; of learning about learning; of choosing which skills to develop and of where this all fits in his future life. Even more important, it is a period of learning about how to live well with others: Figuring out what makes some people good and attractive, what makes them comfortable to be with, as friends, as work colleagues, and as members of different communities --- family, sports teams, religious groups, schools and clubs. In other words, figuring out the nature of virtue in others. [Continue reading here.](#)

For the good of the child --- the future of America,

Pat Fagan, Ph.D.

Director of the MARRI Project

Catholic University of America

