

Dear Friends,

Research this week shows that marital fertility is declining and non-marital fertility is rising. Why does this matter? Marriage—especially when accompanied by religious practice—is the great source of what economists call “human capital” but ordinary folk call “strengths.” Marriage also decreases child hunger, alleviates poverty, and improves job commitment and work ethic. Marriage and religious practice are natural cures to many of our social ills and the foundation of our future strengths.

## FEATURED ON MARRIPEDIA

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### Effects of Marriage on Workforce Participation

Entering marriage boosts husbands’ productivity and earnings, and the intact married family works more efficiently. Read the full entry on [Marrimedia.org](http://Marrimedia.org)!

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

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### Childlessness and Marital Status

Over the last 20 years childlessness has decreased among the unmarried and increased among the married, according to Huijing Wu, Susan L. Brown, and Krista K. Payne of Bowling Green State University. Read the report [here](#) and check out other family trends on [Marrimedia](http://Marrimedia).



### Child Hunger and Family Structure

According to the National Commission on Hunger, “Marriage has a significant impact on whether or not a household will experience hunger.” Read the [full report here](#) and learn about the effects of marriage on child poverty on [Marrimedia.org](http://Marrimedia.org).



### Attachment to God Improves Job Commitment

Blake V. Kent and colleagues of Baylor University [found](#) that people who see God as a “secure base” are more likely to be committed to and satisfied with their jobs. Read more about the [Effects of Religious Practice on Work Ethic](#) on Marrimedia.

Sincerely,

Patrick Fagan

Director of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI)