

Dear Friends,

The two-biological-parent family that lives together provides the best outcomes for children. However, less than half of America's children experience this good. This week we highlight new studies on the different impacts of resident versus non-resident fathers; on state measures of child well-being; and on Americans' views of cohabitation.

NEW RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Involvement of Resident versus Non-Resident Fathers

Children with resident fathers enjoy greater financial security and spend more time with their fathers. Among children with non-resident fathers, poorer fathers spend less time with their children than higher-income fathers—a double deprivation. Marcia Carlson of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and colleagues conducted [the research](#).



State Trends in Child Well-Being

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's [Kids Count Data Book](#), an annual report on children, provides state by state data and comparisons (despite shortcomings on family structure data). This year it highlights improvements in education and health and declines in economic and family wellbeing. We recommend the study.



Cohabitation in America

Although cohabitation has gained acceptance as the new pre-marital norm, religious communities continue to resist this practice (somewhat). The [Barna Group provides helpful graphical insights](#) into Americans' views of cohabitation.

MARRIPEDIA ENTRIES RELATED TO THESE FINDINGS

- 1) [“Effects of Divorce on Financial Stability”](#)
- 2) [“State of the Family across the States”](#)

3) [“Effects of Religious Practice on Sexual Activity”](#)

With an eye to the future of America,

Pat Fagan

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