

Dear Friends,

Today we report on new research on the effects of economic inequality on family formation; on the instability of cohabiting families; and on the marital satisfaction of Army couples.

NEW RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Income Inequality and Nonmarital Births

Greater economic inequality decreases the proportion of men and women who marry prior to their first birth, [according to](#) Andrew Cherlin of Johns Hopkins University and colleagues.



The Instability of Cohabitation

Despite its growing popularity, parental cohabitation undercuts children's stability almost as much as single parenthood. Laurie DeRose of the Institute of Family Studies offers an [interesting analysis](#) of [new statistical research](#) by Susan Brown of Bowling Green State University and colleagues.



Marital Satisfaction among Army Couples

Deployment prior to marriage lowers marital satisfaction among Army couples, especially if the soldier experienced combat trauma. However, the negative effects of deployment on marital satisfaction do not accumulate over time, [reports](#) Benjamin Karney of UCLA and Thomas Trail of RAND Corporations.

MARRIPEDIA ENTRIES RELATED TO THESE FINDINGS

- 1) [“Effects of Out-of-Wedlock Birth on Children”](#)
- 2) [“Cohabitation and Future Marital Stability”](#)
- 3) [“Effects of Out-of-Wedlock Birth on Society”](#)

With an eye to the future of America,

Pat Fagan

Director of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI)