

Dear Friends,

This week we highlight new research on U.S. fertility rates, on the effects of family breakdown on policy considerations, and on the link between economic stability and union formation.

NEW RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Fertility Rates Drop to Lowest on Record

Fertility rates among U.S. women aged 15 to 44 have hit an [all-time low](#), with general fertility rates declining more than 10 percent since 2007, to fewer than six babies born for every 100 women in this age group, in the first quarter of 2016, according to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention. Explore other group-specific fertility trends on the CDC's [interactive dashboard](#).



Changing U.S. Family Patterns

The retreat from marriage and rise in family instability—particularly among minorities and the less-educated—pose important problems for policymakers. Researchers from the Population Reference Bureau, a high quality think tank from the sexually-liberal tradition, [synthesize](#) well the complex state of the American family. Though their public policy solutions are thoughtful they are limited to the liberal. However on the integrity of the federal survey system they advocate a significant correction to the American Community Survey (an annual 1 percent sample of the US population). This correction would restore the recently diminished usefulness of the survey for researchers of the American family.



Labor Market Effects on Union Formation in Italy

Economic uncertainty encourages cohabitation whereas employment stability boosts marriage, [report](#) Italian researchers at the University of Florence.

MARRIPEDIA ENTRIES RELATED TO THESE FINDINGS

- 1) [“Fertility and Religious Practice”](#)
- 2) [“State of the Family in America”](#)
- 3) [“Effects of Family Structure on the Economy”](#)

With an eye to the future of America,

Pat Fagan

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