

Dear Friends,

This week we highlight new research on the economic value of religion, possible causes for the strained relationship between nonresident fathers and their children, and the effects of paid maternity leave on infant development and mothers' parenting stress.

NEW RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



The Socioeconomic Contributions of Religion to American Society

Religion contributes *at least* \$378 billion annually to the U.S. economy, [according to the first quantitative national calculation](#) of the economic worth of religion. When considering its human capital contributions, religion's value approximates one third of America's GDP, reports Brian and Melissa Grimm.



Nonresident Fathers, Child Support Debt, and Parental Involvement

The poor relationship between nonresident fathers who are behind on their child support and the child's biological mother results in a poorer relationship between the nonresident father and his children, [reports](#) Kimberly Turner of Child Trends and Maureen Waller of Cornell University.



Stress of Paid Maternity Leave in Korea

Employed mothers who took paid maternity leave had more developed infants than those who did not take leave; however, mothers who took leave experienced somewhat more parenting stress than their counterparts, according to a [study](#) of Korean mothers by Woosang Hwang and Eunjoo Jung of Syracuse University.

MARRIPEDIA ENTRIES RELATED TO THESE FINDINGS

- 1) [“Effects of Religious Practice on Charity”](#)
- 2) [“Effects of Divorce on Family Relationships”](#)

With an eye to the future of the family in America,

Pat Fagan
Director of the MARRI Project