

Dear Friends,

This week we highlight new research on the importance of the parent-child bond for children’s health, on the effects of divorce on religious disaffiliation, and on the value of monthly “date nights” for married couples.

New Blog

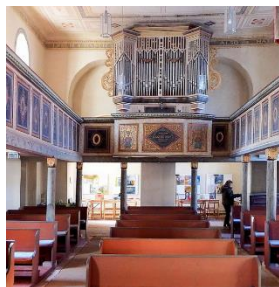
America suffers from a poverty crisis—but not the sort that can be alleviated by food stamps or free healthcare. America’s poverty lies within the family—a poverty of belonging in marriage between fathers and mothers. The biggest cause of poverty is rejection (splitting apart) between parents. [Continue reading...](#)

NEW RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Parent-Child Bond, Socioeconomic Status, and Health

Although growing up in a high socioeconomic status improves children’s health outcomes, a poor parent-child bond eliminates these health benefits, [reports](#) Matthew Andersson of Baylor University.



Religious Disaffiliation Linked to Parents’ Divorce

Children raised by divorced parents more frequently identify as “religiously unaffiliated” as compared to children raised by married parents. Among those who do retain their religious affiliation, children raised by divorced parents attend religious services less frequently, [according](#) to Betsy Cooper and colleagues of the Public Religion Research Institute.



Date Nights Make Married Couples Happier

Married couples who went out on monthly date nights were significantly less likely to separate than married couples who did not go out at all. Date nights made no difference for cohabiting couples, who are already significantly more likely than married couples to break-up, [reports](#) Harry Benson of the UK's Marriage Foundation.

MARRIPEDIA ENTRIES RELATED TO THESE FINDINGS

- 1) [“Effects of Divorce on Children’s Health”](#)
- 2) [“Effects of Religious Practice on Marriage”](#)

3) [“Cohabitation and Future Marital Stability”](#)

Event of Interest: Sexuality, Integrity, and the University

Sexuality, Integrity, and the University is the Love and Fidelity Network's 9th Annual Conference. The most anticipated event of the year by students and alumni, the conference connects students, young professionals, and supporters with leading scholars and experts to strengthen their ability to articulate their support for marriage, family, and sexual integrity. [Learn more here.](#)

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

Pat Fagan

Director of the MARRI Project