

## Influences of Family Relationships\*

*“Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.” Proverbs 1:8-9*

**Growing up or living in a married family greatly influences your ideals and worldview. Social science research illustrates the positive influence of family on individual values and choices.**

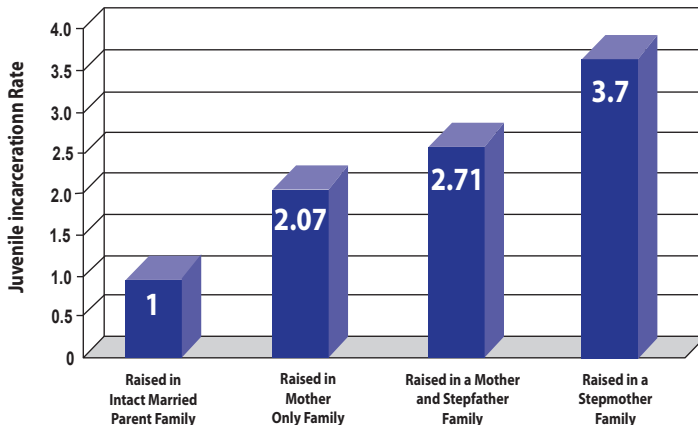
- Married adults are more likely to value having their own children, compared to adults of all other family structures.
- Children from intact married families are more likely to remain chaste.
- Though today only half of young adults raised in intact married families are likely to enter legal marriage as their first union, less than thirty percent of young adults who experienced their parents’ divorce will do so.
- Women raised in intact families are more likely to plan on having children than are daughters from divorced or step families.
- Both adults and youths raised in intact families are less likely than those from non-intact families to be charged by the police with a crime.

**Though your marriage is very powerful, there are many opposing cultural and community forces influencing your children. What are you doing to help them stay chaste until marriage, and how are you preparing them to stay married once they make their marriage vows?**

The following chart shows that teenagers raised in intact married families are much less likely to be incarcerated than those who are raised in stepmother families.

### Juvenile Incarceration Rate by Family Structure

Source: C. Harper and S. McLanahan, “Father Absence and Youth Incarceration,” ASA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, August, 1998  
Data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth



For links to the research behind these statements, please visit [www.marri.us/one-pagers/](http://www.marri.us/one-pagers/)

\*It bears emphasizing that these patterns hold for the groups involved, not for all the individuals who make up each group. There is naturally a wide variation among individuals.



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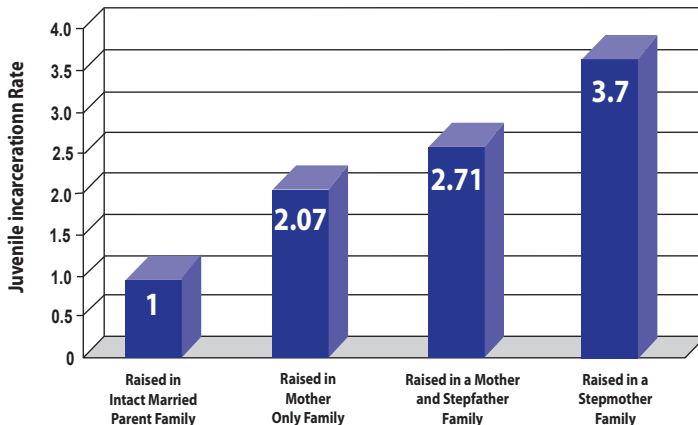
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