

Marriage and Women's Health*

*"The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down."
Proverbs 14:1*

Social science research details numerous health benefits that marriage confers upon women and children.

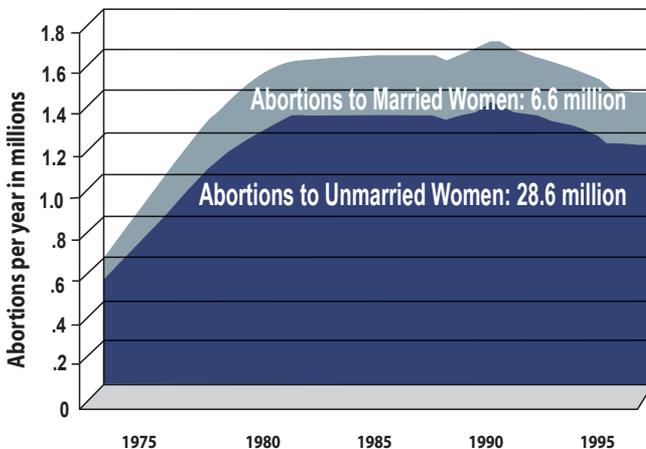
- Married women rate their health better than do divorced, separated, and widowed women.
- Married women are more likely than separated, divorced, or widowed women to take care of their health by being active and using preventative care, regardless of their level of income.
- Married mothers practice better prenatal care and are more likely to avoid harmful practices during pregnancy than unmarried mothers are.
- Unmarried mothers are much more likely to have low birth weight children.
- Married women are very much less likely to abort their children than are unmarried women.

Being a mother and having children is a tremendous task, but every child deserves a married mother. How can you get this message across to all the teenagers and young people in your circle of influence?

This graph depicts the distribution of abortions by the end of the 20th century. Married couples are less likely to abort their children, largely because of the stability marriage offers. One way to fight abortion is to champion marriage.

Estimated Surgical Abortions in the US by Marital Status, 1972-1997

Source: Heritage calculations, based on data from Henshaw et al., "Characteristics and Private Contraceptive Use of U.S. Abortion Patients," Family Planning Perspectives, 1989; and Alan Guttmacher Institute.



For links to the research behind these statements, please visit 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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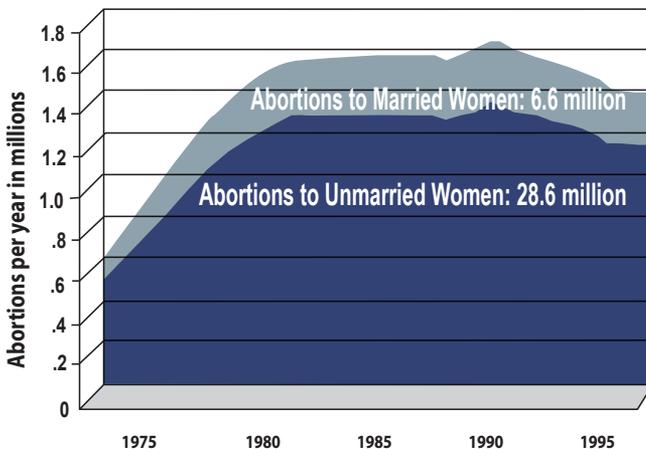
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