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MARRIAGE & RELIGION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Illustrating the way God made man

Marriage and Domestic Violence*

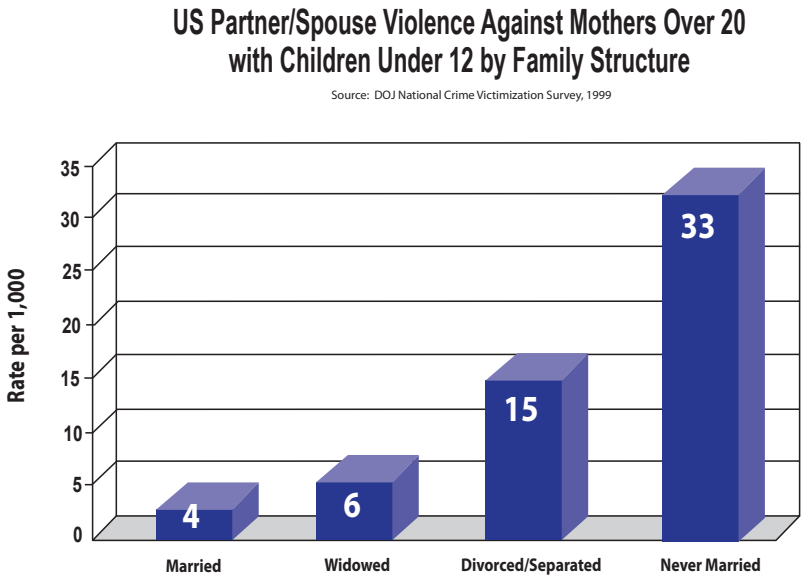
"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Romans 12:18–20

Social science research demonstrates that marriage reduces domestic violence:

- Marriage is the safest environment for adult women.
- Married women are much less likely than cohabiting women to be abused by their partner.
- Married men are less likely to murder their partner than cohabiting men.
- Domestic violence against married mothers is lower than domestic violence against always-single mothers.

Marriage benefits women and communities. What one thing can you do to share this information with community leaders?

The following chart shows that married mothers are far less likely than mothers from any other family structure, particularly those that have never been married, to experience domestic violence.



For links to the research behind these statements, please visit www.marri.us/churchbulletins

*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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THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
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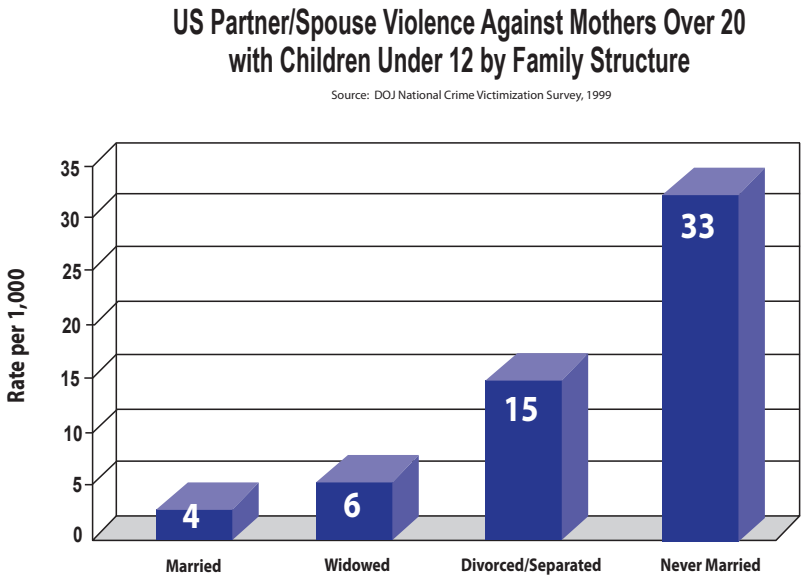

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