

## Divorce and Poverty\*

*“Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.”*

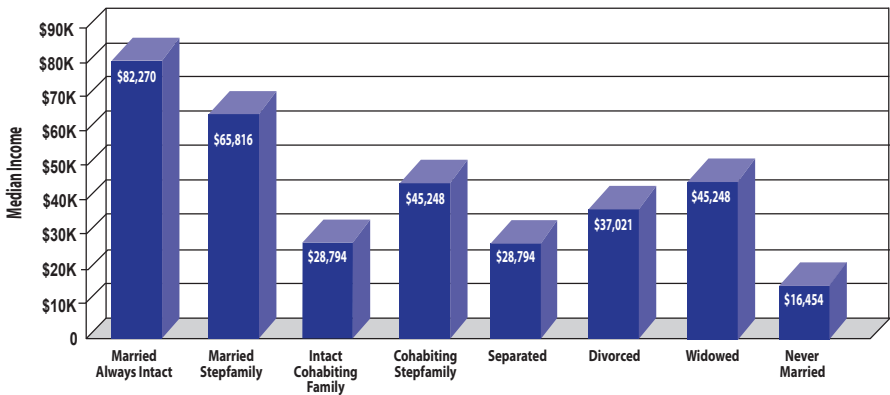
*Proverbs 11:28*

**Social science research shows that marriage brings financial benefits while divorce has negative financial consequences:**

- The households of divorced women have less than half the income of their continuously-married counterparts.
- The household income of a child’s family dropped, on average, by about 52 percent following a divorce.
- Household income for a mother and children fell by 40 to 45 percent following a divorce. Additionally, their food consumption decreased by 17 percent.

**Marriage benefits every member of the family. What is the next step you can take to make your marriage better?**

**Median Income of Households  
 with Children by Family Structure, 2009**



The accompanying graph shows the economic boost of marriage. It seems that encouraging marriage may be a way to effectively fight poverty in our local communities – productivity and higher income provide families with stability and upward mobility.

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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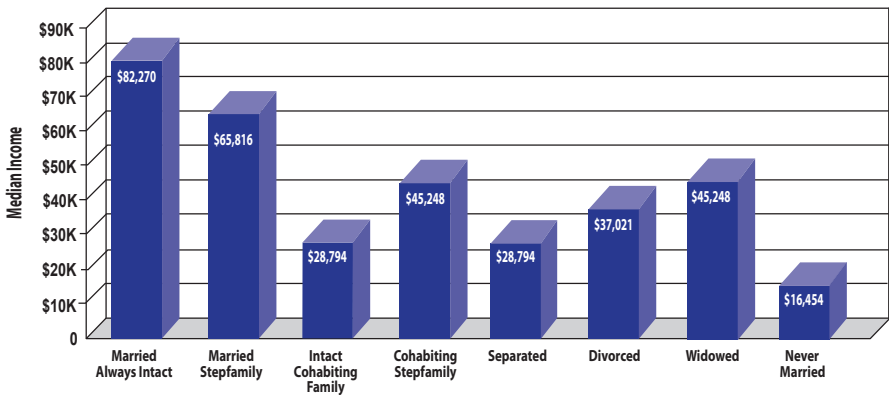
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