

Dear Friends,

This week we highlight research on out-of-wedlock birth trends among immigrants, the rise in shotgun marriages among certain populations, and the effects of cohabitation on one-sided relationship commitments.

NEW MARRIPEDIA ENTRY

Effects of Family Structure on Poverty

More than 15.8 million American children live below the official poverty line. Poverty is principally a problem of non-intact families. In 2015, five times as many single, female-headed families were in poverty compared to married-couple families. [Continue reading...](#)

NEW RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Unwed Births Decline for Immigrant Women

Births outside of marriage declined by 33 percent for U.S. immigrant women between 2008 and 2014. This trend will significantly shape America because foreign-born mothers are responsible for the nation's long-term growth in annual births, [reports](#) the Pew Research Center.



Shotgun Marriages Increase Among Vulnerable Populations

Shotgun marriages have increased substantially among black, young, and/ or low-educated mothers over the last two decades; however, shotgun marriages are quite resilient among these vulnerable subpopulations, [according](#) to researchers at Duke University.



Cohabiting and Asymmetrical Relationships

Couples who cohabited prior to marriage were significantly more likely to be in an asymmetrical relationship—a relationship in which one partner is considerably more committed than the other—than couples who did not cohabit, [reports](#) researchers from the University of Denver and Florida State University.

MARRIPEDIA ENTRIES RELATED TO THESE FINDINGS

- 1) ["Effects of Out-of-Wedlock Birth on Society"](#)
- 2) ["Cohabitation and Future Marital Stability"](#)

With an eye to the child, the future of America,

Pat Fagan

Director of the MARRI Project