

Women and Marriage*

“An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.” Proverbs 31:10-11

Social science shows that marriage benefits everyone involved. Mothers especially procure a number of advantages from marriage:

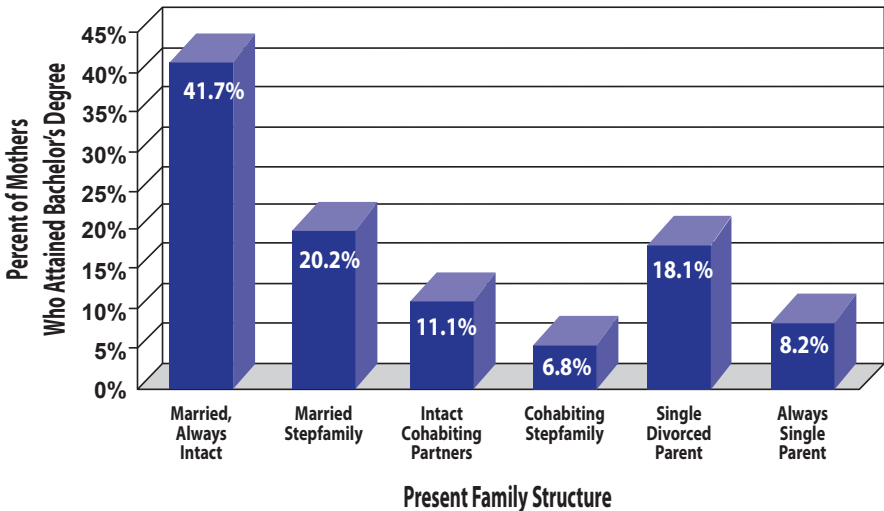
- Married mothers report more love and intimacy in their relationships than cohabiting or single mothers.
- Married mothers report less depression, more support from their husbands, and more stable relationships than cohabiting mothers.
- Married women are more likely to value the importance of having their own children than remarried, divorced, separated, or single adults are.
- Married mothers behave more positively toward their infants and create better home environments than cohabiting or single mothers.
- For women, marriage is the safest protection against abuse from men.

Mothers, religious involvement benefits you in many ways. Is there anyone you can encourage to marry rather than cohabit?

The accompanying graph shows that mothers who are married are more likely to have earned a bachelor's degree than mothers who are not married. Encouraging marriage is a deliberate good on behalf of women.

“Mothers Who Have Attained a Bachelor’s Degree”

Source: National Survey of Family Growth (2002)



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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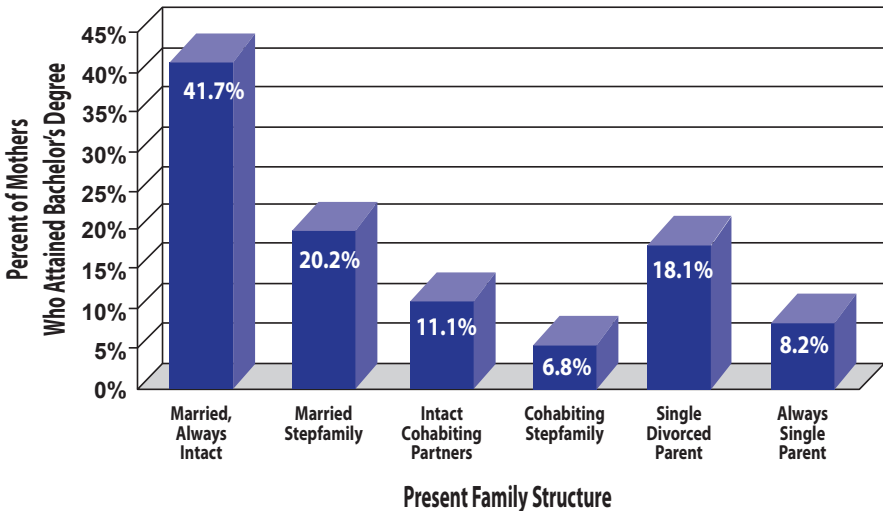
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