

Dear Friends,

The media got it wrong again. A study reaffirming the benefits of marriage was misrepresented by reporters to make the “case” for cohabitation. But the social sciences do not lie. As the following research shows, marriage and religion are *still* irreplaceable.

NEW BLOG



Cohabitation is NOT the Same as Marriage

A well-conducted study shows that transitions into relationships, especially direct marriage, alleviate emotional distress. Though some interpreted this study to mean that cohabitation is the same as marriage, this is not what the study showed. Read MARRI’s commentary [here](#).

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



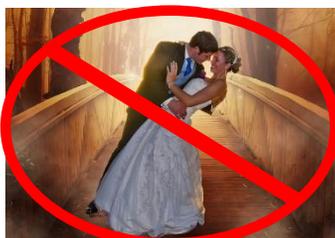
Americans Want Christmas and Religion

A new [Rasmussen Report](#) shows that 76% of American adults believe Christmas should be celebrated in public schools (15% disagree) and 54% of Americans say there’s not enough religion in public schools (12% say there’s too much). Read about the importance of religion on [Marripedia](#).



Infants and Toddlers in Washington D.C.

This *Child Trends* [report](#) evaluates the state of early infancy and toddlerhood in the District of Columbia, arguing that home environments are key to future success. Read about the role of the family environment on [Marripedia](#).



Marriage Penalties in the Welfare State

Douglas Besharov and Neil Gilbert argue that marriage, a fundamental social good, will flourish naturally once the government ceases to impose obstacles like marriage penalties. Read the report [here](#) and read more about marriage penalties on [Marripedia](#).



Not All Scientists are Atheists---By a Long Stretch

In the largest worldwide survey and interview study on the intersection of faith and science, researchers found that only a minority of scientists believe that religion and science are in conflict. Read more about the study [here](#) and read more about how religion contributes to education on [Marripedia](#).

NEW ON MARRIPEDIA



Effects of Abortion on Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The legalization of abortion led to an increase in sexual activity outside of marriage, which led to a significant increase in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). [Read the entire entry!](#)

Sincerely,

Patrick Fagan

Director of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI)

P.S. This will be our last Faith and Family Findings until 2016. We wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!