Why Marriage Matters in America

**Social Health**
- Better Health – Physical & Mental
- Less Injury, Illness, Disability
- Longer Life
- Children Physically Healthier
- Children Emotionally Healthier
- Lower Infant Mortality
- Lower Child Abuse
- Lower STD Rates

**Children’s Achievement**
- Greater Overall Success in School
- Better Reading Abilities
- More Likely to Attend College
- More Likely to Get High Status Job
- Less Likely to Divorce When Married
- More Likely to Marry

**Overall Social Impact**
- Better Parent/Child Relationship
- Lower Crime Rates
- Lower Domestic Violence
- Lower Teen Pregnancy
- Lower Juvenile Delinquency
- More Educated Citizens
- Higher Home Ownership
- Higher Property Values
- Higher Income and Savings

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**Marital Success** vs **Marital Failure**

**Social Health**
- Higher Teen Alcohol/Drug Rates
- More Domestic Violence
- More Sexual Assault
- Teens More Sexually Active
- Teens More Likely to Smoke
- Teens More Likely to Use Drugs
- Greater Overall Violence
- High Stepparent/Other Sexual Abuse
- Greater Depression
- Higher Rates of Suicide

**Children’s Achievement**
- More Likely to Repeat a Grade
- More Likely to Be Expelled
- More Likely Developmental Problems
- More and Worse Social Problems
- Lower Reading, Spelling & Math Scores
- Low Self-Confidence & Self-Esteem
- Difficulty with Peer Pressure Relationships
- More Likely to Drop Out of School

**Overall Social Impact**
- Increased Out of Wedlock Births
- Higher Delinquency & Crimes
- Higher Risk of Being Crime Victim
- More Violent Crimes
- More Teens Carrying Weapons
- More Crimes Leading to Jail
- Increased Need for Social Services
- Higher Risk of Poverty

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www.CaMarriage.com

Source: Administration for Children and Families, Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.
www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/benefits
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