



February 7-14

National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

A national campaign to help marriage
which benefits children and reduces poverty

"We have launched highly effective public education campaigns on much less momentous issues, from smoking to recycling...For now, the decline in marriage is our most ignored national crisis..."
TIME Magazine commentary
March 5, 2012

The Benefits of Marriage:

- ▶ Married adults live longer lives, have better health, and greater personal happiness.
- ▶ Children raised by both parents at home perform better in school, have less addiction, less teen pregnancy and less trouble with the law.
- ▶ Marriage is the unsung anti-poverty program.
- ▶ Single motherhood is greatest cause for poverty among women and children.
- ▶ Married adults have more wealth and financial stability.
- ▶ Healthy marriage saves U.S. taxpayers—costs \$112 billion per year for divorce and unwed childbearing.

We Can Do Better

Huge decline in married adults: from 79% in 1970 to 57% in 2013

US births to unwed mothers grew from 5% in 1960 to an alarming 41% in 2008

White, working-class, U.S. children living with both parents declined from 96% in 1962 to only 37% in 2004

Never-married Americans soared nearly 4-fold from 21 million in 1970 to 77 million in 2012

Teen birth rate for girls when their father leaves before they are 6-yrs-old is 35%. 7 times the rate from when fathers stay married.

Boys without fathers at home are twice as likely to end up in prison

Children Need Both Parents

What Can You Do?

- ▶ Find a marriage class or event near you on the NMW National Calendar!
- ▶ Mobilize your organization to start a new marriage class or host a special event.
- ▶ Help build a groundswell of marriage education across the nation, and post your info for free with us!
- ▶ Launch a National Marriage Week USA Celebration in your town!

Marriage Reduces Poverty

We'd have 25% less poverty today if we had the marriage rates we had in 1970

Only 2 % chance of poverty if you finish high school, work fulltime, & postpone marriage/child bearing until age 21. 77% chance of poverty if you don't do these 3 things.

In U.S., marriage drops probability of child poverty by 82%