



RELATIONSHIPS

Effects of Divorce on Society

Divorce adversely affects society by

1. Diminishing the child's future competence.
2. Weakening the family structure.
3. Contributing to early sexual experimentation leading to increased costs for society.
4. Adversely affecting religious practice—divorce diminishes the frequency of religious worship.
5. Diminishing a child's learning capacity and educational attainment.
6. Reducing the household income.
7. Increasing crime rates and substance use, with associated societal and governmental costs ([Waite and Gallagher 2000](#)).
8. Increasing risk for school suspensions, “Persons in Need of Supervision” status, binge drinking, and marijuana use ([Demuth and Brown 2004](#); [Eckenrode, Mrcynyszyn, and Evans 2008](#); [Osborne, Manning, and Stock 2007](#)).
9. Increasing emotional and mental health risks, including suicide.

Relationship Quality and Marital Status Among U.S. Adults With Children

	In a loving and supportive relationship	Fought two or more times in the past 30 days
Not married or living with partner, but in an exclusive relationship	61%	41%
Living with partner but not married	69%	46%
Married and living with partner	83%	26%

The first item codes a relationship as strong and loving if rated a 7 or higher on a zero-to-10 scale, where 10 is the strongest and most loving relationship they can imagine and zero the least. The second item asks: "In the past 30 days, how many days have you felt like you could not speak to your spouse/partner because you were angry with them or they were angry with you?"

Sample size is 5,881 U.S. adults who are in an exclusive relationship and live with at least one child aged 3 to 19, from the Gallup Familial and Adolescent Health Survey, June-July 2023.

[Get the data](#) • [Download image](#)

GALLUP

Cashing in

In 2005, the most comprehensive study on the economics of marriage was published. Written by Jay Zagorsky, the report, *Marriage and Divorce's Impact on Wealth*, closely followed the net worth of individuals throughout their 20s, 30s and early 40s, and found that the wealth of married respondents increased by around 14 percent for each year they were wed. "Compared to being single, married people almost doubled their wealth, increasing it over 93 percent," said Zagorsky.



Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.





These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deut. 6:6-9 (NIV)





For I too was a son to my father, still tender, and cherished by my mother. Then he taught me, and he said to me, “Take hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands, and you will live.

Proverbs 4:3-4 (NIV)





Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown.

Proverbs 4:5-9 (NIV)





But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”

Ruth 1:16-17 (NIV)





Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV)





Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

John 1:12 (NIV)





If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:5 (NIV)





If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:17-18 (NIV)





And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

