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# FORUM NOTES

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**The Benefits of Marriage**

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## **Marriage is Good for Us!**

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### **How Marriage Benefits Children**

- Children living with married parents are much safer than children living with single parents, because they are less likely to be aborted and less likely to be abused or neglected.[\[1\]](#)
- Compared to children in single-parent families, children raised in married-parent homes have better emotional and physical health[\[2\]](#) and engage in fewer risky behaviors, such as premarital sex, substance abuse, delinquency, and suicide.[\[3\]](#)
- Children with married parents do better academically and fare better economically.[\[4\]](#)
- Children raised in intact homes are less likely to cohabit and more likely to view marriage positively and maintain life-long marriages.[\[5\]](#)

### **How Marriage Benefits Adults**

- Married people have better emotional and physical health and live longer than do unmarried people.[\[6\]](#)
- Married couples have greater incomes than do single adults, and the longer they stay married, the more wealth they accumulate.[\[7\]](#)
- Married couples enjoy greater sexual satisfaction than do unmarried people.[\[8\]](#)
- Married women are safer than unmarried women. Never-married, cohabiting, separated, and divorced women experience higher rates of domestic violence than do married women.[\[9\]](#)

### **How Marriage Benefits Society**

- Marriage helps ensure that human life is protected and cherished, since married women are less likely to abort their children than are unmarried women.[\[10\]](#)
- Marriage makes homes safer places to live, because it curbs social problems such as domestic violence and child abuse.[\[11\]](#)
- Communities with more married-parent families are safer and more attractive places to live, because they are less likely to have substance abuse and crime among young people. [\[12\]](#)
- Marriage is the best antidote to poverty and welfare dependency.[\[13\]](#)



• Married people are more likely to be healthy, productive, and engaged citizens, benefiting businesses and, ultimately, the economy.[\[14\]](#)

### END NOTES

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SOURCE: Family Research Council

