

## Mothers and Fathers Matter

### **The Importance of Fathers in the Healthy Development of Children**

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Administration for Children & Families

#### **Author**

Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, U.S. Children's Bureau Rosenberg, Jeffrey., Wilcox, W. Bradford.

#### **Description**

This article is found on the [childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov) website. It highlights the fact that the U.S. Federal Government recognizes the importance of the father's presence (male in gender) in their children's lives.

#### **Quotes**

"Fathers are far more than just 'second adults' in the home," he says. "Involved fathers bring positive benefits to their children that no other person is as likely to bring."

#### **Read the Article**

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/fatherhood/chaptertwo.cfm> (Summary)

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/fatherhood/fatherhood.pdf> (Full Document)

### **Do Mothers and Fathers Matter? The Social Science Evidence on Marriage and Child Well-Being**

Institute for Marriage and Public Policy

#### **Author**

Maggie Gallagher & Joshua K. Baker

#### **Description**

This article highlights the vast amount of research gathered in the past several decades acknowledging the importance of children raised by both their mother and father. It also describes the limited amount of research that is available on the outcomes of same-gender parents.

#### **Quote**

"Marriage is an important social good associated with an impressively broad array of positive outcomes for children and adults alike. . . [W]hether American society succeeds or fails in building a healthy marriage culture is clearly a matter of legitimate public concern."

#### **Read the Article**

<http://www.marriedebate.com/pdf/MothersFathersMatter.pdf>

## Why Marriage Matters: Twenty-One Conclusions from the Social Sciences

Institute for American Values: Center for Marriage and Families

### Author

William J. Doherty, William A. Galston, Norval D. Glenn, John Gottman, Barbara Markey, Howard J. Markman, Steven Nock, David Popenoe, Gloria G. Rodriguez, Isabel V. Sawhill, Scott M. Stanley, Linda J. Waite, and Judith Wallerstein

### Description

This article is referenced in the previous article, “Do Mothers and Fathers Matter?” It is an attempt to succinctly summarize the large body of scientific research on the importance of marriage, “in our family and social system.”

### Quote

“But we believe good social science, despite its inherent limitations, is a better guide to social policy than uninformed opinion or prejudice. The public and policy makers deserve to hear what research suggests about the consequences of marriage and its absence for children and adults. This report represents our best judgment of what the current social science evidence reveals about the importance of marriage in our social system.”

### Read the Article

<http://media1.razorplanet.com/share/511538-7984/siteDocs/WhyMarriageMatters21.pdf>  
(2002)

<http://www.americanvalues.org/bookstore/pub.php?pub=81> (2011 Updated Version for purchase)

<http://familyscholars.org/2010/11/11/why-marriage-matters/> (Summary)

## Marriage from a Child’s Perspective: How Does Family Structure Affect Children, and What Can We Do about It?

Child Trends Research Brief

### Author

Kristin Anderson Moore, Ph.D., Susan M. Jekielek, M.A., and Carol Emig, M.P.P.

### Description

This article provides a summary of research and trends surrounding the effects of “family structure on children.” It also talks briefly about the implications for public policy.

### Quote

“First, research clearly demonstrates that family structure matters for children, and the family structure that helps children the most is a family headed by two biological parents in a low-conflict marriage. Children in single-parent families, children born to unmarried mothers, and children in stepfamilies or cohabiting relationships face higher risks of poor outcomes than do children in intact families headed by two biological parents. Parental divorce is also linked to a

range of poorer academic and behavioral outcomes among children. There is thus value for children in promoting strong, stable marriages between biological parents.”

#### Read the Article

<http://www.childtrends.org/files/marriagerb602.pdf>

## The Breakdown of Family

### The Evolution of Divorce

National Affairs

#### Author

W. Bradford Wilcox

#### Description

Looking at the ramifications of the sexual revolution of the 1960's should help give us a snapshot of what the “soul-mate model” of marriage can do to a society.

#### Quote

“But the psychological revolution's focus on individual fulfillment and personal growth changed all that. Increasingly, marriage was seen as a vehicle for a self-oriented ethic of romance, intimacy, and fulfillment. In this new psychological approach to married life, one's primary obligation was not to one's family but to one's self; hence, marital success was defined not by successfully meeting obligations to one's spouse and children but by a strong sense of subjective happiness in marriage — usually to be found in and through an intense, emotional relationship with one's spouse. The 1970s marked the period when, for many Americans, a more institutional model of marriage gave way to the “soul-mate model” of marriage...

...Thirty years later, the myth of the good divorce has not stood up well in the face of sustained social scientific inquiry — especially when one considers the welfare of children exposed to their parents' divorces.”

#### Read the Article

<http://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-evolution-of-divorce>

### The American Family, 1988–2028: Looking Back and Looking Forward

Institute for American Values: Center for Marriage and Families

#### Author

David Popenoe, Professor of Sociology Emeritus and Co-Director of the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University

#### Description

Marriage rates have decreased in the past several decades and the family has weakened. The results have proved detrimental. This article provides a look at our nation's perception and concern for this problem since the 1980s.

### Quote

“Family trends of recent years have been largely generated by a distinctive set of cultural values that have come to be labeled ‘secular individualism.’ This value set, which already predominates in the northern European nations, consists of the gradual abandonment of religious attendance and beliefs, a strong leaning toward ‘expressive’ values that are preoccupied with personal autonomy and self-fulfillment, and a political emphasis on egalitarianism and the tolerance of diverse lifestyles. An established empirical generalization is that the greater the dominance of secular individualism in a culture, the more fragmented the families. As America continues to move in this cultural direction—as by all current empirical evidence it is—the family can be expected to continue to weaken.”

### Read the Article

<http://www.americanvalues.org/pdfs/researchbrief13.pdf>

## Considering the Ramifications of Redefining Marriage

### Protecting Marriage to Protect Children

Los Angeles Times: Opinion

### Author

David Blankenhorn

### Description

This article is written by a liberal Democrat explaining the purpose of marriage and the negative consequences of redefining marriage, specifically breaking the natural bond between children and their biological parents.

### Quote

“Marriage as a human institution is constantly evolving, and many of its features vary across groups and cultures. But there is one constant. In all societies, marriage shapes the rights and obligations of parenthood. Among us humans, the scholars report, marriage is not primarily a license to have sex. Nor is it primarily a license to receive benefits or social recognition. It is primarily a license to have children...”

...But changing the meaning of marriage to accommodate homosexual orientation further and perhaps definitively undermines for all of us the very thing -- the gift, the birthright -- that is marriage's most distinctive contribution to human society. “

### Read the Article

<http://articles.latimes.com/2008/sep/19/opinion/oe-blankenhorn19>

## **(How) Will Gay Marriage Weaken Marriage as a Social Institution: A Reply to Andrew Koppelman**

University of St. Thomas Law Journal

### **Author**

Maggie Gallagher

### **Description**

Gallagher's critical response to Andrew Koppelman's article that describes how "arguments against gay marriage are failing." She begins her arguments by clarifying the definition and purpose of marriage and proceeds to answer some of the central questions surrounding the same-sex marriage debate.

### **Quote**

"Court-created same-sex marriage will transform our shared, public meaning of the world "marriage." It will disconnect marriage from any further relationship with its great historic task of making the next generation and connecting those children to both their mothers and fathers..."

### **Read the Article**

<http://ir.stthomas.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1047&context=ustlj> (Gallagher)

<http://www.law.northwestern.edu/faculty/fulltime/koppelman/DeclineandFall.pdf>  
(Koppelman)

## **Gay Marriage vs. American Marriage**

City Journal

### **Author**

Kay S. Hymowitz

### **Description**

This article provides a unique perspective on the subject of same-sex marriage. It considers the founders of this nation and their emphasis on self-government. They believed marriage and the family unit, which binds parents with their children, would be the best place for cultivating moral children and healthy civic involvement. The article describes how same-sex marriage actually tears children away from their biological parents and goes against our founders' intentions for marriage and the nation.

### **Quote**

"Widespread divorce and illegitimacy fracture into pieces the Founders' ideals of the self-governing family. Republican marriage had been a great experiment to harness a universal family bond into the service of a particular view of human freedom. Every society has some kind of marriage to tie parents and their offspring together, but only the American form of marriage strove to allow individuals the greatest amount of freedom within that tie. Little did the Founders expect that their most treasured ideal, freedom, would eventually be turned against the institution that they most prized for promoting that liberty by nurturing free citizens."

### Read the Article

[http://www.city-journal.org/html/14\\_3\\_gay\\_marriage.html](http://www.city-journal.org/html/14_3_gay_marriage.html)

## Prepared Statement of Maggie Gallagher

Drake Law Review, Volume 58, 2010

### Author

Maggie Gallagher

### Description

Gallagher attempts to shed light on some of the key points of those people opposing same-sex marriage. She wants to diffuse the idea that opposition to same-sex marriage is rooted in discrimination.

### Quote

“So why is the law involved? What is the public purpose? Why is the government involved in marriage? The history of family law in this country provides a clear answer, historically speaking. The answer, which may strike postmodern ears as very odd, is described repeatedly in a very long line of Supreme Court and lower court decisions: the primary public purpose of marriage was to regulate sexual relationships that could create children.”

### Read the Article

[http://www.marriedebate.com/pdf/drake-law-review\\_vol-58-2010.pdf](http://www.marriedebate.com/pdf/drake-law-review_vol-58-2010.pdf)

## There Just Isn't Enough Research on Children Being Raised in a Same-Sex Parent Home to Conclude "The Kids are Alright"

## Lesbian and Gay Parenting

American Psychological Association

### Author

Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns

### Description

This article has been included to show that the research on the subject of lesbian and gay parenting is limited in its extent and there are no guarantees that “The Kids will be alright.”

Please note the final paragraph that concludes this article.

### Quote

It should be acknowledged that research on lesbian and gay parents and their children, though no longer new, is still limited in extent. Although studies of gay fathers and their children have been conducted (Patterson, 2004), less is known about children of gay fathers than about children of lesbian mothers. Although studies of adolescent and young adult offspring of lesbian and gay parents are available (e.g., Gershon et al., 1999; Tasker & Golombok, 1997; Wainright et al., 2004),

relatively few studies have focused on the offspring of lesbian or gay parents during adolescence or adulthood. Although more diverse samples have been included in recent studies (e.g., Golombok et al., 2003; Wainright et al., 2004), many sources of heterogeneity have yet to be systematically investigated. Although two longitudinal studies have been reported (Gartrell et al., 1996, 1999, 2000; Tasker & Golombok, 1997), longitudinal studies that follow lesbian and gay parent families over time are still needed. Thus, although a considerable amount of information is available, additional research would further our understanding of lesbian and gay parents and their children.”

### Read the Article

<http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/parenting-full.pdf>

## Lesbian Mothers Think Their Children Are All Above Average

American Thinker

### Author

Janice Shaw Crouse

### Description

A critical response to a published study by the National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study which claims that “children of lesbian mothers do better than children from a married-mom-and-dad family.” The article cites reasons for the study being skewed and inaccurate.

### Quote

The "study" is neither objective nor comprehensive. There are three major problems with it:

- 1) The "research" consists of the mothers' opinions about their own children;
- 2) Only 77 lesbian couples participated in the "study," and they were not typical parents in other regards. An earlier NLLFS report described the sample population as Caucasian (93 percent), predominantly college-educated (67 percent), mostly middle- and upper-class (82 percent), professional or managers (85 percent), and earning a median household income of \$85,000; and
- 3) the study did not consist of a random sample -- all the participants were volunteers recruited via posted announcements in women's bookstores, at lesbian events, and in lesbian newspapers in three major metropolitan areas (Boston, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco).

### Read the Article

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/06/lesbian\\_mothers\\_think\\_their\\_ch.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/06/lesbian_mothers_think_their_ch.html)

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/peds.2009-3153v1.pdf> (Original Study)