

Love, Poverty, and Marriage—
 Scott Stanley with Marline Pearson and George Young
 Smart Marriages 2005

- Raley & Bumpass (2003), researchers of sociology at the University of Texas, studied lifetime probabilities of divorce among several different ages, races, and education levels.
 - Half of all marriages will dissolve, but this statistic does not tell the whole story.
 - Divorce breakdown by education

-- Not high school grad: 60%	-- Some college: 53%
-- High school Grad: 51%	-- College grad: 36%

- Fein (2004), a Senior Associate of ABT Associates Inc, asked the question: Are the economically disadvantaged less likely to get and stay married?
 - Important Findings:
 - People with economic disadvantages are likely to marry eventually, but these marriages are more unstable.
 - Among the upper-middle class, couples have babies after they are married; women from disadvantaged or minority backgrounds tend to have babies before marriage.

- Lichter, Batson, & Brown (2004), researchers of sociology at the Ohio State University, examined marital expectations, desires, and behaviors of single and cohabiting unmarried mothers.
 - Disadvantaged and minority women expect to marry in the future, so their unmarried status is not due to a lack of desire.

- Karney (2003), a researcher at RAND, conducted a baseline survey in Florida. This study had three aims: 1) describe family structures in Florida, 2) describe Floridian attitudes toward the family, and 3) to identify correlates to healthy family relationships.
 - Important Findings
 - Sixty-five percent of unmarried residents would like to be married some day and 39% have plans to marry in the next two years.
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) recipients are the most likely to desire a marriage (85%).

- Loss of Marriage...
 - Removes from the equation what is arguably the most powerful socializing force for responsible behavior in men.
 - Removes from couples the most potent symbol of a boundary around their union.
 - Significantly lessens the likelihood that fathers will identify with their children because of the easily broken bond with the mother.

- *Within My Reach*TM
 - Other relationship education programs are attended as a couple.
 - *Within My Reach*TM focuses on helping *individuals* achieve their goals in relationships, family, and marriage.

- Overarching Goals of *Within My Reach*TM
 - Help those in viable relationships to cultivate, protect, and stabilize their unions, and to marry if desired.
 - Help those in damaging relationships to leave safely at some point.
 - Help those desiring a romantic relationship and/or marriage in the future to choose partners wisely.

- Three Major Sections of *Within My Reach*TM
 - Understanding relationships, risk, and choices.
 - Maintaining and building relationships.
 - Moving forward toward goals Within My Reach.