

Facts about Lawrence County

Father Involvement

Nationally, “over the past thirty years, the rise in violent crime parallels the rise in families abandoned by fathers”.

Patrick Fagan
The Heritage Foundation, 1995

On a national level, “children living in two-parent homes are...44% less likely to be physically abused, 47% less likely to suffer physical neglect, 43% less likely to suffer emotional neglect, and 55% less likely to suffer some form of child abuse”.

Hon. Rick Santorum
The Heritage Foundation, 2003

Missouri:

The percentage of single-parent families rose from 23% in 1990 to 28% in 2000.

The percentage of students enrolled in free or reduced lunch rose from 37% in 2001 to 41.7% in 2005.

Missouri's Kids Count, 2006

Lawrence County:

The number of single-parent families rose from 1,211 in 1990 to 1,817 in 2005.

The percentage of students enrolled in free or reduced lunch rose from 45.4% in 2001 to 51.3% in 2005.

Missouri's Kids Count, 2006

Juvenile Children Receiving Mental Health Services for Serious Emotional Disturbance:

Missouri: from 28,029 in 2001 to 45,449 in 2005, this is about a 62% increase.

Lawrence County: from 256 in 2001 to 426 in 2005, this is about a 66% increase within four years.

Kids Count Missouri, 2006



Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies

“I asked Oklahoma State University and Oklahoma University to examine the question of why Oklahoma was poor...[The] economists said, ‘You have too much divorce, too many out-of-wedlock births...’”

Frank Keating
Former Oklahoma Governor

Missouri:

In 2005, 37.8% of births (29,669 out of 78,547 births) in Missouri were to unmarried women.

MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services, 2006

In 2005, the rate of births to teens (ages 15-19) was 42.4 per 1,000.

Missouri's Kids Count, 2006

Lawrence County:

The percentage of births to unmarried mothers was 32.5% (160 out of 492 births) in 2005.

MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services, 2006

In 2005, the rate of births to teens (ages 15-19) was 51.1 per 1,000.

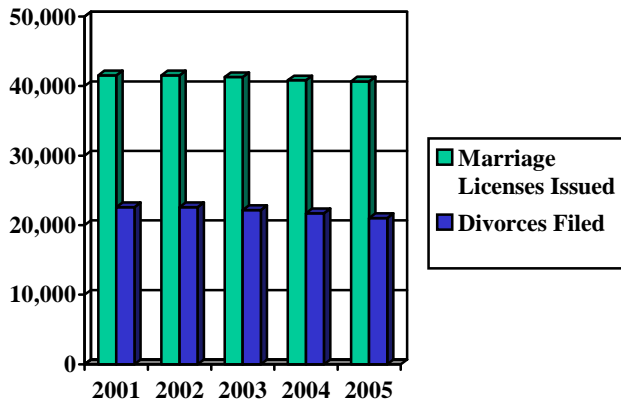
Missouri's Kids Count, 2006

Marriage and Divorce

Nationally, “spouses who said they were quite unhappy with their marriage *who stayed married* were much happier five years later”.

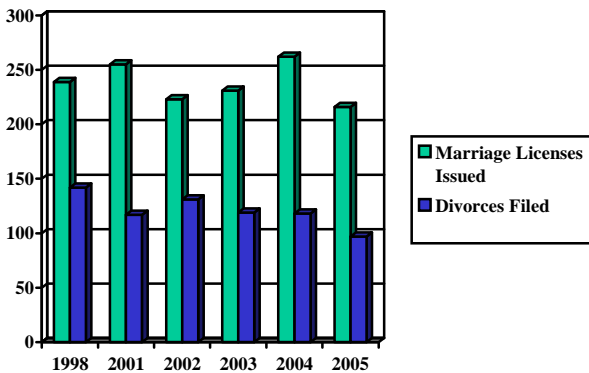
Linda Waite & Maggie Gallagher
The Case for Marriage

Missouri:



Missouri Vital Statistics, 2006

Lawrence County:



Missouri Vital Statistics, 2006

To help couples, who choose marriage for themselves, develop the skills and knowledge to form and sustain healthy marriages.

Administration for Children and Families –
Healthy Marriage Mission Statement