

# Facts about Missouri

## 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:

Missouri: The number of single-parent families rose from 19.5% in 1990 to 24.3% 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

## Polk County:

The number of single-parent families rose from 13.5% in 1990 to 18.8% in 2000.

The percentage of students enrolled in free or reduced lunch rose from 46.9% in 2001 to 53.2% 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.

Polk County: from 278 in 2001 to 391 in 2005, this is about a 40.6% 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:

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, 2005

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

Missouri Kids Count, 2006

## Polk County:

The percentage of births to unmarried mothers was 28.8% (105 out of 364 births) in 2005.

MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services, 2005

In 2005, the rate of births to teens (ages 15-19) was 34.5 per 1,000.

Missouri Kids Count, 2006

© 2007 Forest Institute of Professional Psychology

2885 W. Battlefield Road, Springfield, Missouri 65807 - 417.823.3469 - cwtg.ozarksmarriagematters.org

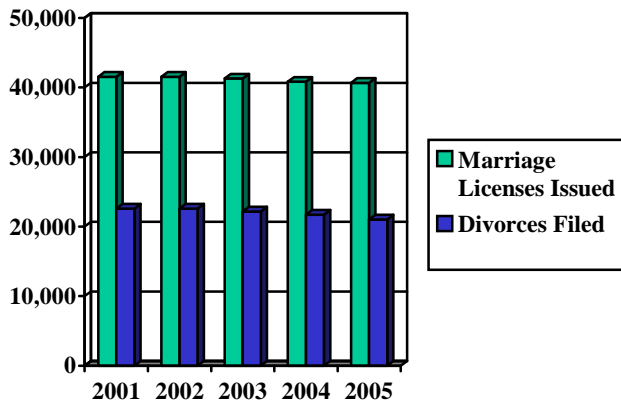
Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant: 90CT0121

## Marriage and Divorce

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

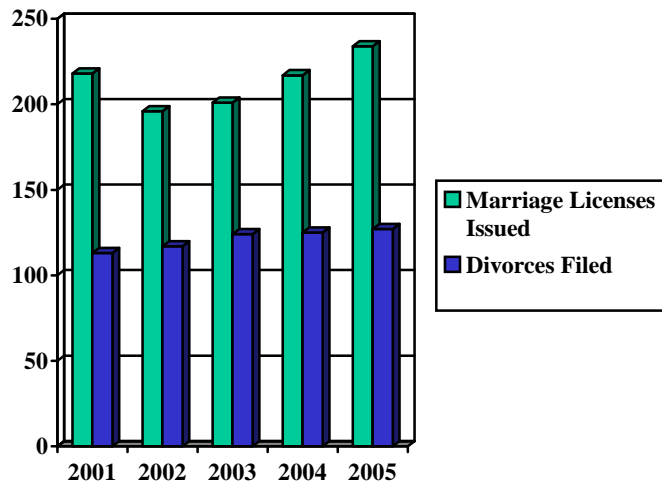
Linda Waite & Maggie Gallagher  
The Case for Marriage

### Missouri:



Missouri Vital Statistics, 2006

### Polk 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