

# 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:

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

1990 and 2000 Census

There were 172.29 juvenile law referrals per 1,000 in 2000.

MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services, 2001

Child support enforcement collections in 2001 totaled \$403,122,972.

MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services, 2001

## Ozark County:

The number of single-parent families rose from 204 in 1990 to 385 in 2000.

1990 and 2000 Census

There were 89.57 juvenile law referrals per 1,000 in 2000.

MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services, 2001

Child support collections per capita were \$34.89 in 2001.

MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services, 2001



## 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 2001, 34.8% of births in Missouri were to unmarried women.

In 2000, the rate of births to teens was 27 per 1,000.

MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services, 2001

## Ozark County:

The percentage of births to unmarried mothers was 22.77% in 2001.

In 2001, the rate of births to teens (under 18) was 1.98%.

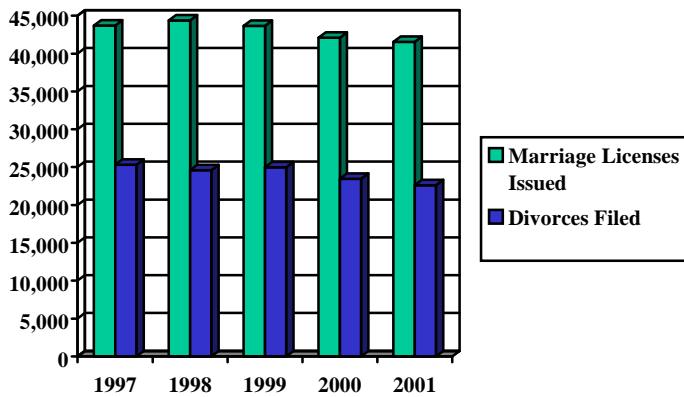
MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services, 2001

## Marriage and Divorce

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

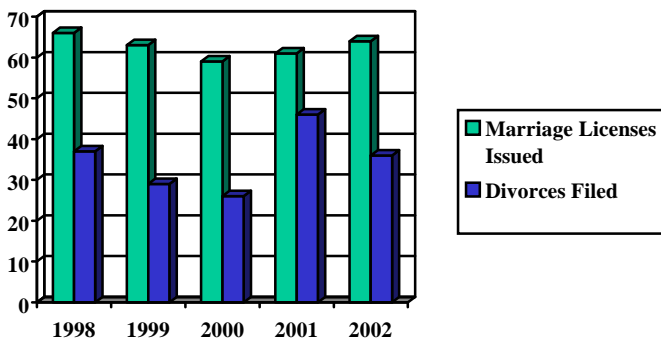
Linda Waite & Maggie Gallagher  
The Case for Marriage

### Missouri:



Missouri Vital Statistics, 2002

### Ozark County:



Missouri Vital Statistics, 2002

**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