

FAST FACTS: *WHY* Healthy relationships **MATTER**

- Men in healthy relationships live longer, on average, than unmarried men.
- Children raised by a mother and father in a healthy relationship are less likely to contract STDs.
- Children raised by a mother and father in a healthy relationship are less likely to be victims of sexual abuse.
- Women in healthy relationships are less likely to commit or attempt suicide.
- Women in healthy relationships are less likely to be victims of domestic violence.
- Men in healthy relationships are less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol.
- Men and women in healthy relationships are more likely to be physically and emotionally healthy.
- Communities with a high percentage of couples in healthy relationships see a decreased rate of migration.
- Communities with a high percentage of couples in healthy relationships see a higher rate of home ownership.
- Communities with a high percentage of couples in healthy relationships see a lower rate of juvenile delinquency.
- Communities with a high percentage of couples in healthy relationships see a lower need for social service.
- Children raised by a mother and father in a healthy relationship are less likely to misbehave in school.
- Children raised by a mother and father in a healthy relationship are more likely to attend college.
- Children raised by a mother and father in a healthy relationship are less likely to get divorced when they get married.
- “Children living in households with unrelated adults are nearly 50 times as likely to die of inflicted injuries as children living with two biological parents, according to a study of Missouri

abuse reports, published in the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2005” and reported by the Washington Post.

- “Girls whose parents divorce are at a significantly higher risk of sexual assault, whether they live with their mother or their father”, -from the Washington post

From www.options.org:

- In an argument when your heart rate goes over 100 beats a minute, you are incapable of hearing what your partner is trying to tell you.

From “The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing”, Institute for American Values, ©2008:

- “Family fragmentation costs U.S. taxpayers at least \$112 billion per year, or more than \$1 trillion each decade.” (Page 5)
- Texas...recently appropriated \$15 million over two years for marriage education and other programs to increase stable marriage rates. If this program succeeds in increasing stably married families by just three-tenths of 1 percent, it will be cost effective in its returns to Texas taxpayers. (Page 6)
- 68.3% of U.S. Children are residing in two parent families, down from 85.2% in 1970. (Page 7)
- “Marriage is more than a moral or even social institution; it is also an economic one, a generator of social and human capital, especially when it comes to children.” (Page 8)
- Single-mother households with incomes less than 200 percent of the poverty line are 2.9 times more likely to receive cash assistance than married households earning less than 200 percent of the poverty line.(page 26)
- In Washington State 63.5% of children in poverty are living in an unmarried household. (p.37)