

Utah Marriage Commission

Quick Facts:

- Divorce & unmarried childbearing costs Utah taxpayers at least \$276 million a year in public services
- Utah averages 23,000 marriages/year & 10,000 dissolutions with over 50% involving children
- Marriage is associated with reduced rates of alcohol & substance abuse for both adults & teens
- Children whose parents divorce have higher rates of psychological distress & mental illness
- A child who is not living with his or her own two married parents is at greater risk of child abuse

Sources:
Benjamin Scafidi, Principal Investigator, *The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce & Unwed Childbearing*, 2008, pg 38

UDOH, *Utah's Vital Statistics, Marriages and Divorces 2009 and 2010, Technical Report No. 275*, March 2012

W. Bradford Wilcox, et al., *Why Marriage Matters, Third Edition*, 2011

Our mission is to provide educational services to help all individuals and couples form and sustain healthy relationships and enduring marriages.

The Marriage Commission is Not about:

- Defining Marriage
- Coercing anyone to marry or remain in unhealthy relationships
- Withdrawing supports from single parents or diminishing the important work of single parents
- Stigmatizing those who choose divorce
- Limiting access to divorce

SOME OF OUR SERVICES

- Consulting with Department of Human Services programs for integration of relationship skills education
- Partnering with agencies to provide relationship skills education in local Utah communities
- Maintaining a website (StrongerMarriage.org) to provide research-based information and online educational resources statewide
- Promoting the *Adult Roles & Financial Literacy* high school course
- Distributing the *Utah Marriage Handbook*
- Providing curriculum training to family life educators

FY15 4-MONTH APPROPRIATION RESULTS (Sept 15-Jan 31)

- Contracts for services & evaluation have been established with USU Washington County Extension, Utah Valley University, & Weber State University.
- In just four months, 680 individuals have participated in an 8-10 hour course of evidence-based curriculum. 101 educators have been trained and certified to teach.
- Class locations (Partnerships) have been formed with Head Start, Domestic Violence Shelters, Public Schools, Habitat For Humanity, Kids on the Move, etc. serving high-risk/low-income couples & individuals. Classes have been taught, in English and Spanish, by professors and family life students totaling 774 volunteer hours valued at approximately \$13,440.
- StrongerMarriage.org currently averages 32,927 visits/month, 725,822 hits, and 7,583 social media followers.

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION

Utah Marriage Commission • 801-538-3909

