

## **DIVORCE EDUCATION PROGRAM SUMMARY**

### **CALENDAR YEAR 2016**

The Divorce Education program is comprised of two different courses, Education and Orientation. Each course must be taken in order to meet the requirements set forth by the statute for divorcing parents with children under the age of eighteen. In calendar year 2016, parents had the option to take the course from nine face to face providers across the state or attend the Divorce Orientation class online. The Administrative Office of the Courts contracts with mental health professionals throughout the state to teach these face to face courses. In this last legislative session, a new bill was passed to also allow parents to attend a Divorce Education class online as well. This course was made available for parents June, 2017. Course information for both live and online courses can be found at <https://www.utcourts.gov/specproj/dived/> .

*Following this summary are the class evaluation data for the Orientation and Education “face to face” courses.*

#### **Divorce Orientation “face to face”**

In May 2007, the 1 hour Divorce Orientation course was made available to divorcing parents with children under the age of eighteen. The goal of the course is to educate parents regarding the effects of divorce including alternatives to divorce, resolving custody and support issues without filing for divorce, ways to strengthen the marriage, positive and negative consequences of divorce, mediation, collaborative law, litigation, post-divorce resources and the stages of marriage. The following is the number of parents who attended a live course in calendar year 2016.

- Total parents attending face to face Divorce Orientation in 2016: **7591**
- Monthly average of parents attending Divorce Orientation in 2016: **632**

#### **Divorce Education “face to face”:**

The Divorce Education course is a 2 hour course that began July 1, 1994. The goal of the course is to educate and sensitize divorcing parents to their children’s needs both during and after the divorce process. The curriculum also includes the following: helping children through divorce process, parental conflict and a child’s adjustment to divorce, stages of growth and development in children, children’s reactions to parents’ divorce based on age, helpful ways to communicate to children about divorce, grieving stages of divorce, parenting responsibilities cooperative behavior’s with an ex-spouse and additional resources to help parents at home. The following is the number of parents who attended a face to face course in calendar year 2016.

- Total parents attending face to face Divorce Education in 2016: **8700**
- Monthly average of parents attending Divorce Education in 2016: **725**

### **Divorce Orientation Online:**

As a result of House Bill 323, the Divorce Orientation course was developed as another option for divorcing parents with children under the age of eighteen. This course was developed in partnership with Utah State University and the Administrative Office of the Courts. This course became available for parents in January 2015. The curriculum for this course mirrors that curriculum used in the Divorce Orientation face to face course. The following is the number of parents who attended the online course in calendar year 2016.

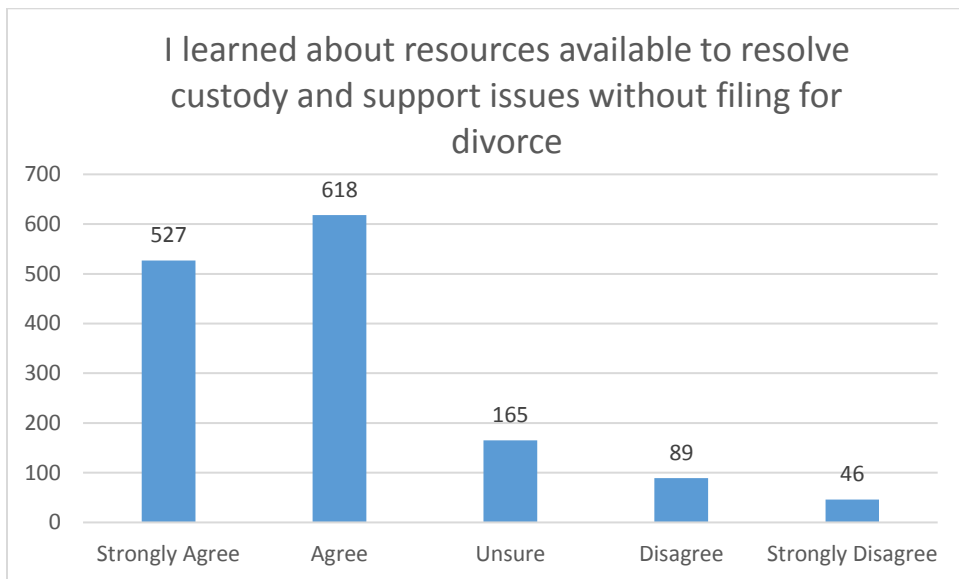
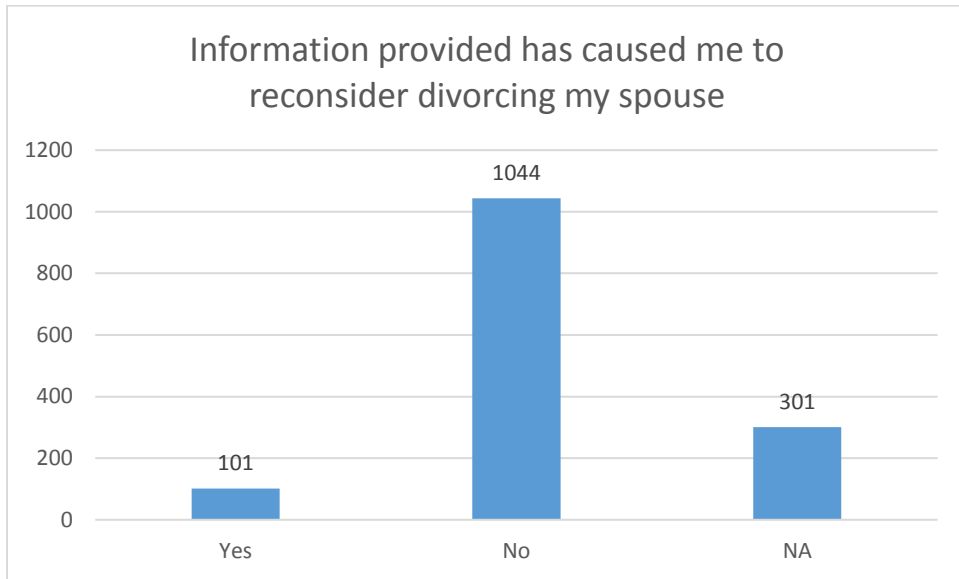
- Total parents attending Divorce Orientation online: **1494**
- Percentage of parents attending online course vs. face to face course: **16%**

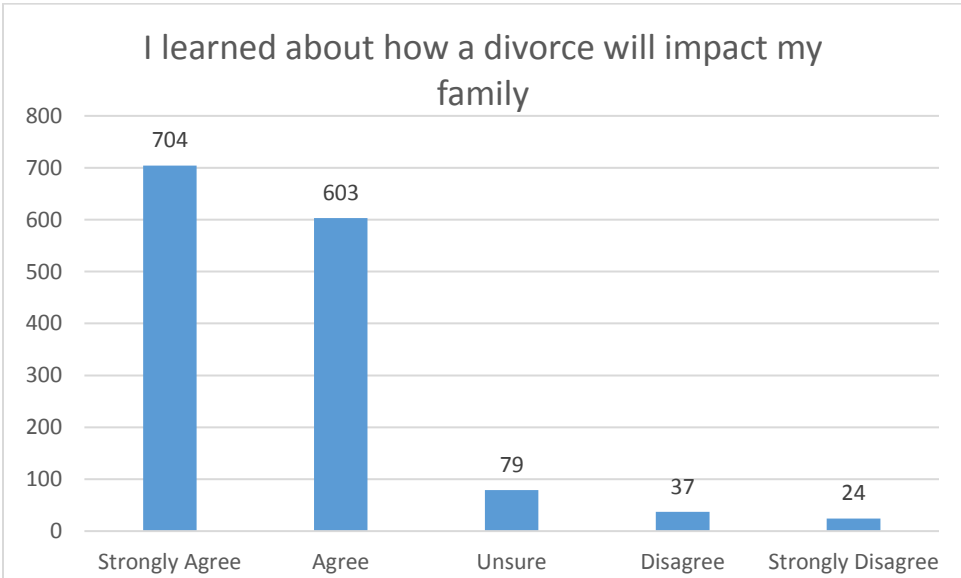
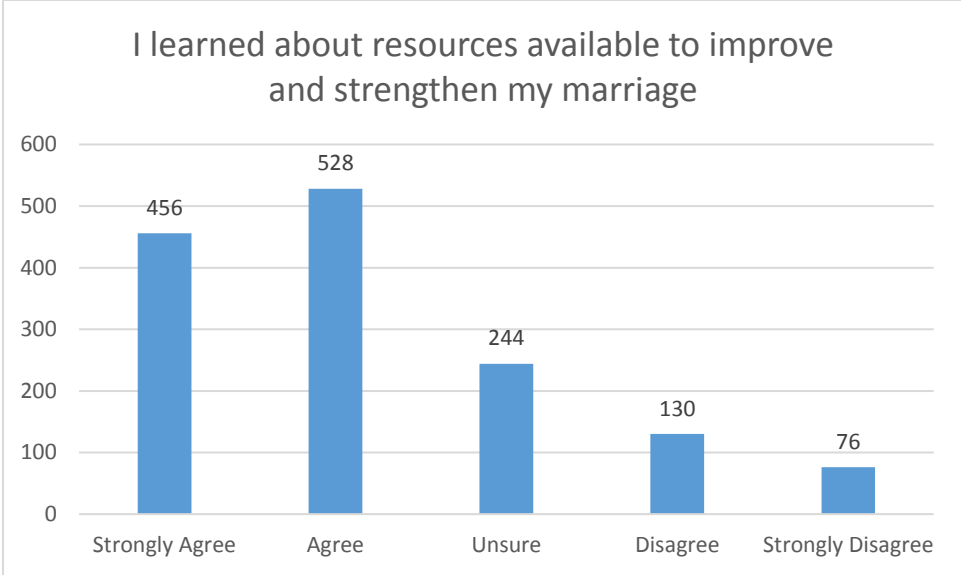
### **Divorce Education Online:**

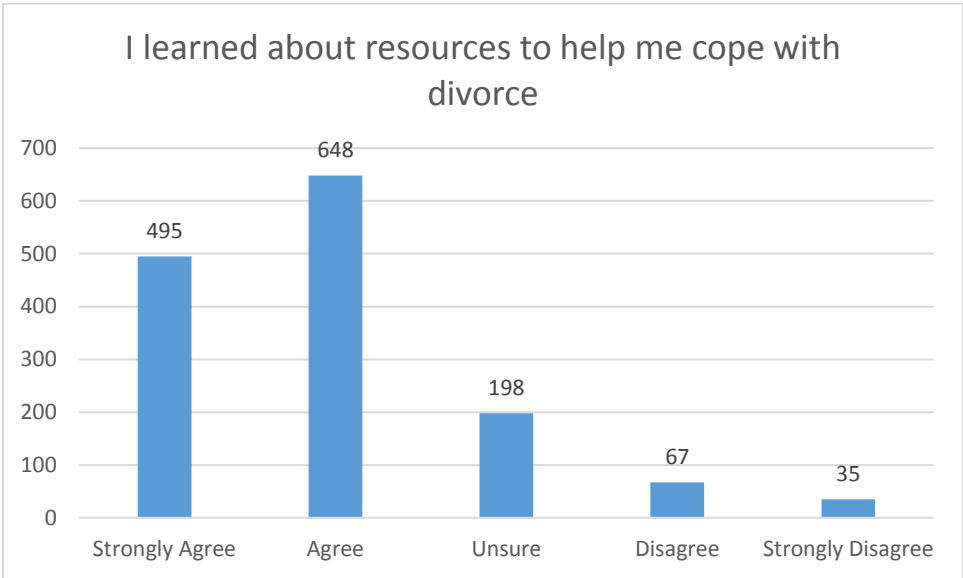
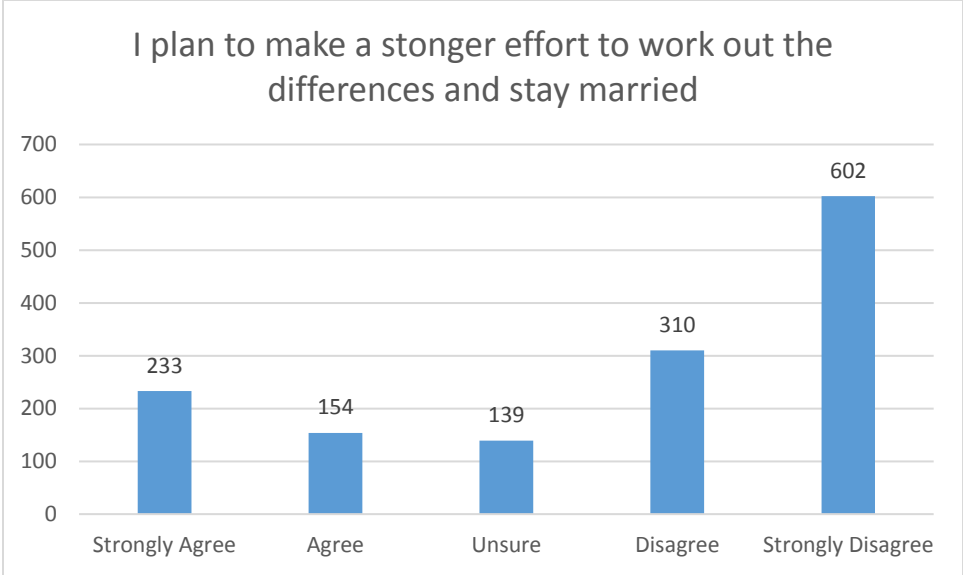
In June 2017, a Divorce Education course was made available for divorcing parents with children under the age of eighteen. This course was developed in collaboration with Utah State University and the Administrative Office of the Courts. Parents now have the ability to take both courses online. Data for this new course will be available in 2018.

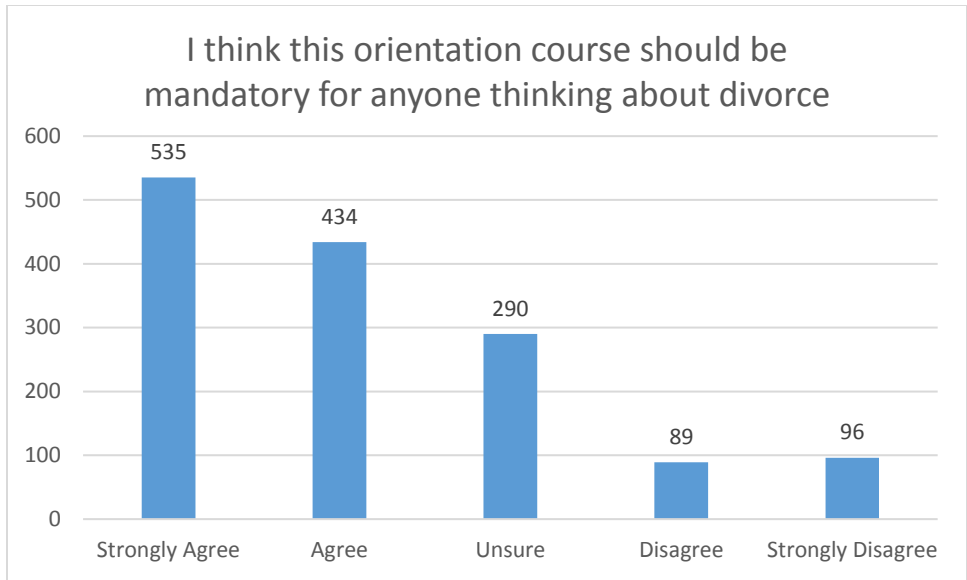
## Divorce Orientation “Face to Face” Data

The following information was derived from 1455 class evaluations completed by parents attending the “face to face” Divorce Orientation class in calendar year 2016.









**Divorce Education “Face to Face” Data**

The following information was derived from 2730 class evaluations completed by parents attending the “face to face” Divorce Education class in calendar year 2016.

