

Family Living

Divorce Gap Narrows Over Time

Adult Children of Divorced Parents More Likely Than Predecessors to Stay Married

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CHICAGO - Adult children of divorced parents are less likely to dissolve their own marriages than they were two decades ago, researchers say.

While divorce has become more accepted in American society, the gap in the divorce rates of adults who were raised in broken homes and those from intact families has also narrowed, according to a study presented during the American Sociological Association's annual meeting in Chicago this week.

The research was based on a National Opinion Research Council survey of 21,963 adults that spanned more than 20 years.

In 1973, children of divorce were nearly three times more likely than

their counterparts from intact families to divorce, the study said. By 1996, that number was down to 50 percent more likely.

Nicholas Wolfinger, a sociologist at the University of Utah who authored the study, said the trend will probably continue into the next century as the children of recent divorces grow into adulthood.

"Thirty or 50 years ago divorce was so rare, so unacceptable, that only the worst marriages broke up," Wolfinger said Wednesday. "Of course, the children of those marriages carried the experiences of growing up in terrible family circumstances with them into their own marital relationships."

Now, couples generally opt for divorce before their children have to

witness the devastation and therefore have the opportunity to have healthier relationships, he said.

Another factor in the decline is that fewer adult children of divorced parents are getting married at all, the study found. That is a turnaround from the mid-70s, when the same group was 36 percent more likely to get married than children of intact families.

Wolfinger said divorce still has an effect on the next generation's relationships.

"I don't think that the divorce rates for people from divorced families and intact families will ever be the same," he said. "Divorce will always be hard on kids. It's just not nearly as hard on them as it used to be."



Dominos makes surprise delivery to "one of our many," community's unsung heroes.

Pictured (left to right) Sean Foley, Domino's Pizza, Linda White, Exec. Dir. Blazer's Boys & Girls Club, Yvette Davis, Volunteer, Boys & Girls Club, Jon Ferguson, Domino's Pizza.

Meal Income Guidelines Announced

The Oregon Department of Education announced the policy for free and reduced meals for students in schools participating in the National School Lunch Breakfast Programs. Free and reduced-price meals are available for students under eligibility requirements determined by household size and income. Qualifying students receive the meals without charge or at a reduced price of no more than 40 cents for lunch and 30 cents for breakfast. Last year approximately 44 percent of the approximately 177,000 students eating school lunches daily received meals free, while about 11 percent paid reduced prices. Children from households whose income is at or below these levels are eligible for free or reduced meals.

In August, Adult and Family Services will send a notice/certification letter to household receiving Food Stamps and/or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits advising School Lunch/Breakfast Milk Programs. The school can accept this notice/certification letter from students in lieu of the application form. No other application or verification of eligibility is required for that student.

Households that receive free or reduced-priced benefits must report to the school when their income increases more than \$50 per month or \$600 per year, when there are decreases in household size, or when they no longer receive Food Stamps or TANF ben-

Meal Income Guidelines For Reduced Meals

Household Size	Annual	Month	Week
1	15,244	1,271	294
2	20,461	1,706	394
3	25,678	2,140	494
4	30,895	2,575	595
5	36,112	3,010	695
6	41,329	3,445	795
7	46,546	3,879	896
8	51,763	4,314	996
For each additional Family member add	+5,217	+435	+101

Free Meals

Household Size	Annual	Month	Week
1	10,712	893	206
2	14,378	1,199	277
3	18,044	1,504	347
4	21,710	1,810	418
5	25,376	2,115	488
6	29,042	2,421	559
7	32,708	2,726	629
8	36,374	3,032	700
For each additional Family member	+3,666	+306	+71

efits. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household can contact the school to see if it is

eligible for benefits. In some cases, foster children are eligible for meal benefits regardless of household income.

Prepare for Back-to-School With a Dental Checkup

With less than a month left of summer vacation parents are preparing for that all-important first day of school. Remember to add a visit to your family dentist to the "To Do" list of school preparations. "Just like physical exam, dental checkups are a key part of preparing children for going back to school since teeth and gums change during the Wonder Years," explained Dr. Connie Masuoka, president of the Multnomah Dental Society. By the age of six, a child's jaws are growing to make room for permanent (adult) teeth. During the next six years, the primary (baby) teeth will be replaced with permanent teeth. With regular dental check-ups your dentist can make sure a primary tooth has not been lost too early - before the permanent tooth is ready to appear. If the tooth is lost too soon nearby teeth

can tip or move into the vacant spot, not leaving room for the permanent tooth to grow properly. To avoid this problem, your dentist may recommend using a space maintainer to reserve space for the permanent tooth. "Some people may think baby teeth are not important. The fact is that these teeth help your child to chew properly, speak clearly and they guide the permanent teeth into the correct position," stated Dr. Masuoka besides monitoring the development of your child's teeth, the dental checkup allows the dentist to exam your child's gums. According to the Academy to the Academy of Periodontology, gum disease is becoming more of an issue for children during their formative years. Ninety-seven percent of school-aged children now experience some degree of gingivitis, the early stage of gum

disease characterized by swollen, bleeding gums. Childhood gum disease is preventable with daily brushing, flossing and regular visits to the dentist. Parents should check their child's toothbrush for blood and report any they see to the dentist. If left untreated, gingivitis can progress to a more serious form of juvenile gum disease that can cause bone loss under the teeth or extreme pain and heavy bleeding. A visit to your dentist will set your child off on the right foot for the coming school year. It is also also a lesson in good finances because regular dental visits translate into early detection and less expensive, cost-effective treatment. Delayed exams and treatment can result in dental disease that can do more damage be more costly in the long run.



SUMMER EVENTS

Flatlands
Thursday, July 15

Theresa Demerest & Good Company
Thursday, July 22

Songwriters in the Round with Craig Carothers
Sunday, July 25 at 7:30pm - \$7.00 admission

The Jack McMahon Band
Thursday, July 29

The Jessie Samsel Band
Thursday, August 5 at 7pm

Retta & the Smart Fellas
Thursday, August 12

UNCF Fundraiser with Tom Grant
Tuesday, August 17

I & I
Thursday, August 19



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Jefferson Democrats:

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age, other than their families. One without the other at this point can be real hard to maintain. Without a family supporting you it can become very hard to stay focused on your education and you can get sidetracked very easily. Some students will just quit if they feel that they are doing everything on their own, so everyone in the family needs to get involved in their child's education. This will make things easier for everyone.

Let's make Jefferson High School a place where students will want to come for years to come. "Let's change the critics thoughts and the viewers opinions," says Jesse McCoun.

What a turnaround it would be if the media would just for once see the progress the school is making and the students that are willing to give 110% everyday to make a change.

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