



Divorce & Remarriage Facts

- 50% of couples will divorce during their lifetime with 33% of first marriages ending in divorce or separation within the first 10 years
- About 60% of divorces involve children under age 6
- 75% of divorced women remarry within 10 years, and 86% of them bring their biological children into their second marriage, making the biological mother and stepfather blended family constellation the most common
- It's predicted that by the end of this century, more Americans will be living in step families than in nuclear families
- Remarried families are more complex and at higher risk for dissolution than first families
- 60% of stepfamily-based second marriages end in divorce or separation
- Having adolescents in a divorced or remarried family increases the risk of family problems
- The majority of step-couples merge their families together with little knowledge of what to expect, common problems blended families experience, and potential solutions to the difficulties they face
- Older research indicated that children and adolescents of divorced and remarried families were at an increased risk for development of psychological, behavioral, physical, social, and academic problems
- Newer research shows that the vast majority of those affected by divorce and remarriage do not experience serious outcomes and are, in fact, resilient and able to cope with or even benefit from their life transitions
- 75-80% of children in divorced and remarried families are functioning within the normal range
- Parental conflict – whether occurring in divorced or nondivorced families – has the potential to negatively impact children's adjustment problems
- Finding ways to minimize parental conflict in divorced and in nuclear families is essential
- Understanding the protective factors that lead to resiliency in divorced and blended families is critical and much can be learned from the 80% who are doing it right