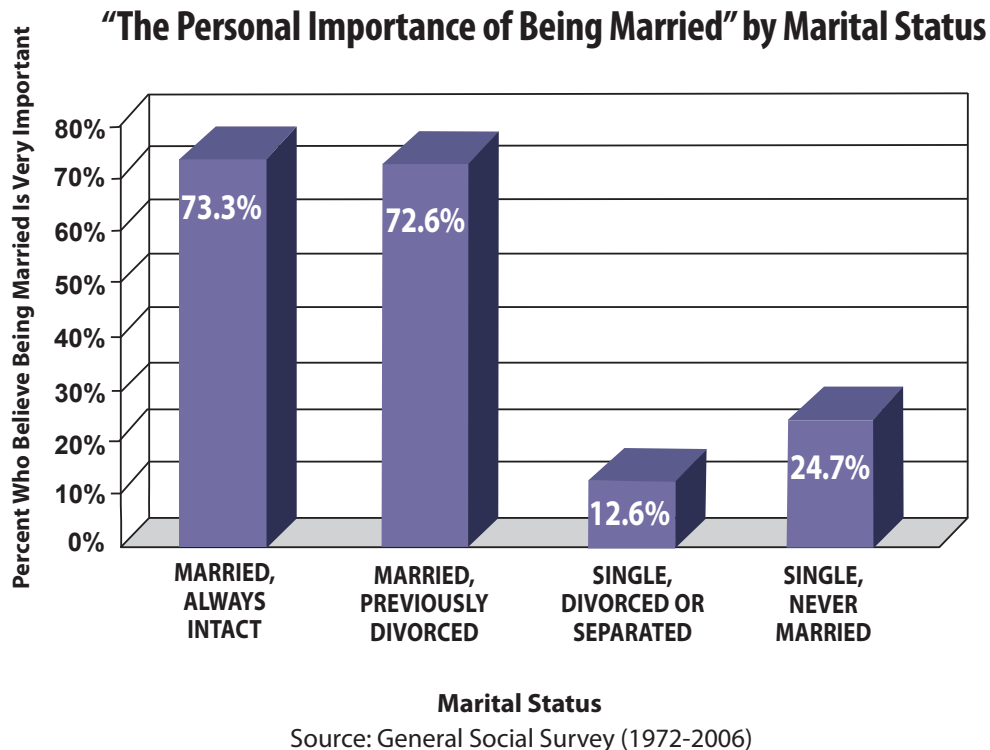




Mapping America™

Marriage, Religion, and the Common Good – Number 83

“The Personal Importance of Being Married” by Marital Status



Married adults are more likely than unmarried adults to report that being married is personally very important to them.

Description: According to the General Social Survey (GSS), 73.3 percent of always-intact married adults report that being married is either very important to them or one of the most important values they hold, followed by 72.6 percent of married, previously-divorced adults, 24.7 percent of single, never-married adults, and 12.6 percent of single, divorced or separated adults.¹

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¹ This chart draws on data collected by the General Social Survey, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.

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