Marriage Increases Wealth

**Issue:** Intact marriages between biological mothers and fathers are closely tied with economic well-being and a strong marketplace. Specifically, marriage is associated with increased employment, savings/net worth, and income.

**Employment**
- People who are not married and have less education work the fewest hours per year.²
- The income of married adults exceeds the income of unmarried adults at every education level.³
- Married males earn 44 percent more than their unmarried counterparts. This exceeds the male college premium (34 percent).⁴

**Savings and Net Worth**
- Married couples save more than unmarried couples.⁵
- Married households have larger median net worths than other family structures.⁶

**Income**
- Intact married families have the largest annual income of all family structures with children under 18, even when accounting for family size.⁸
- The marriage premium produces an annual income increase of approximately 9 percent for men.⁹
- Median weekly earnings for married women and men are higher than the earnings of the divorced, never married, separated, and widowed.¹⁰
- Married couples file less than half of all income-tax returns, but pay nearly three-quarters of all income taxes.¹¹

**Conclusion:** The intact, married family naturally increases wealth and decreases poverty. MARRI research available online shows that marriage is a key component to improving the marketplace.
“Married two-parent families,” “married-couple families,” and similar terms within this document all refer to families in which there is a married mother and father present. Note, according to the US Census Bureau, “Family households and married-couple families do not include same-sex married couples even if the marriage was performed in a state issuing marriage certificates for same-sex couples.”


http://econlog.economist.com/archives/2012/01/the_college_pre.html


For example, “U.S. Social Policy Dependence on the Family Derived from the Index of Belonging”, “Non-Marriage Reduces U.S. Labor Participation: The Abandonment of Marriage Puts America at Risk of a Depression”, and “164 Reasons to Marry”