
October 2023

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THE LATEST

The Two Parent Privilege: How Americans Stopped Getting Married and Started Falling Behind

The surprising story of how declining marriage rates are driving many of the country's biggest economic problems. In *The Two-Parent Privilege*, Melissa S. Kearney makes a provocative, data-driven case for marriage by showing how the institution's decline has led to a host of economic woes—problems that have fractured American society and rendered vulnerable populations even more vulnerable. By confronting the critical role that family makeup plays in shaping children's lives and futures, Kearney offers a critical assessment of what a decline in marriage means for an economy and a society—and what we must do to change course.

[Read more...](#)

(**Ed. Note:** Read reviews and discussions about *The Two-Parent Privilege* below)



The Indispensable Institution

A new book may relax the taboo in policy circles on discussing the importance of two-parent families.

[Read more...](#)



Children Will Benefit If We Face This Fact: Married Parents Are Ideal

If we want to build a healthy society in which everyone has the best possible chance to flourish, we need to be able to say that bad things are bad. You might be thinking that this is self-evident. But let's talk about family structure. The evidence is overwhelming that the decline of marriage over the past few decades has been very bad for children and, by extension, society. For various reasons, however, this truth is too often left unsaid.

[Read more...](#)

The One Privilege Liberals Ignore

American liberals have led the campaign to reduce child poverty since Franklin Roosevelt, and it's a proud legacy. But we have long had a blind spot. We are often reluctant to acknowledge one of the significant drivers of child poverty — the widespread breakdown of family — for fear that to do so would be patronizing or racist. But just as you can't have a serious conversation about poverty without discussing race, you also can't engage unless you consider single-parent households.

[Read more...](#)

Liberals Don't Like Talking Up Marriage. Here's How They Can Start.

Every American ought to have equal access to marriage. Statistically speaking, it's one of the best ways for parents to give their kids a leg up.

[Read more...](#)



The Ultimate Privilege? Two Parents

Kearney's is an intervention against the on-going silence around the problem of family breakdown, an appeal to members of her socioeconomic class to finally take it seriously.

[Read more...](#)

NEWS YOU CAN USE



News flash: Opposites don't actually attract

Despite some conventional wisdom to the contrary, opposites don't actually attract. That's the takeaway from a sweeping CU Boulder analysis of more than 130 traits and including millions of couples over more than a century. "Our findings demonstrate that birds of a feather are indeed more likely to flock together," said first author Tanya Horwitz, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience and the Institute for Behavioral Genetics (IBG). The study, [published today](#) in the journal "Nature Human Behaviour," confirms what individual studies have hinted at for decades, defying the age-old adage that "opposites attract."

[Read more...](#)

To Be Happy, Marriage Matters More than Career

When I'm around young adults, I like to ask them how they are thinking about the big commitments in their lives: what career to go into, where to live, whom to marry. Most of them have thought a lot about their career plans. But my impression is that many have not thought a lot about how marriage will fit into their lives. There are mountains of evidence to show that intimate relationships, not career, are at the core of life, and that those intimate relationships will have a downstream effect on everything else you do.

[Read more...](#)



Machine Learning Uncovers Predictors Of Relationship Quality

Given the powerful implications of relationship quality for health and well-being, a central mission of relationship science is explaining why some romantic relationships thrive more than others. This large-scale project used machine learning to predict relationship quality. The study findings imply that the sum of all individual differences and partner experiences exert their influence on relationship quality via a person's own relationship-specific experiences, and effects due to moderation by individual differences and moderation by partner-reports may be quite small.

[Read more...](#)

TOOLS YOU CAN USE



How Are Young People Doing? Let's Ask!

How do we know what young people are experiencing in their homes, schools, and communities? How can we learn what they need to develop resilience and thrive? We ask them! Search Institute has spent decades developing valid, reliable youth surveys that can help structure conversations and support organizational commitment to positive youth development. Here are a few tips for carrying out a successful youth survey.

[Read more...](#)

The logo for GAMENGUIDE, with "GAMEN" in white and "GUIDE" in red, set against a dark grey rectangular background.

How To Navigate Discussions About Consent And Healthy Relationships

Navigating discussions about consent and healthy relationships with your teenagers can be a complex and delicate task. As parents, we play a crucial role in shaping their understanding of trust, communication, and respect in relationships. In a world where unhealthy relationships and violence can have detrimental effects on their social and emotional development, it is essential to equip our teenagers with the necessary knowledge and skills to form safe and healthy connections with others.

[Read more...](#)

WEBINAR



October 11, 2023

Three Years Later: The Impact of Relationship Smarts Plus on Youth in Georgia

What happens when you teach teens to navigate their romantic relationships? Is there a difference between boys and girls? Does dose or content matter?

Join Drs. Alamillo and Doran of Mathematica as they share the insights of a randomized study of Georgia students who participated in two versions of the [Relationship Smarts PLUS](#) program. They will discuss the impact on students' relationship skills, attitudes, knowledge, experiences, and the quality of their relationships one and three years later.

As part of the sustained effort by the Administration for Children and Families to expand available evidence on healthy marriage and relationship education programs, Mathematica and its partner, Public Strategies, conducted the Strengthening Relationship Education and Marriage Services evaluation to help identify strategies for improving the delivery and effectiveness of HMRE programs.

More Than Conquerors, Inc. near Atlanta, Georgia, received a federal grant in 2015 to deliver Relationship Smarts PLUS Version 3.0 to youth in high schools. The impact study compared students who were offered two different versions of the curriculum—the full 12-lesson version and a shortened 8-lesson version—against a control group of students who were not offered any programming.

Dr. Savasuk-Luxton will also share details about the content taught during the Relationship Smarts PLUS program.

Objectives: Participants will be able to:

1. Differentiate between the content of the full 12-lesson version and the shortened 8-lesson version of Relationship Smarts PLUS.
2. Analyze the impacts of offering Relationship Smarts PLUS to high school students.
3. Understand how HMRE programs can increase their chances of having a lasting impact on students' relationship outcomes.

Presenters: Dr. Julia Alamillo and Dr. Elizabeth Doran of Mathematica, with Dr. Rachel Savasuk-Luxton, The Dibble Institute

Who should attend: Healthy relationships program managers and staff, pregnancy prevention grantees, dating violence programs, FCS teachers, health teachers, and policy makers.

When: October 11, 2023 @ 1:00pm PT / 4:00pm ET

Duration: 60 minutes

Cost: Free!

[Register Now >](#)

FUNDING STREAMS



Autism Speaks Local Impact Grant

Deadline: October 6, 2023

Autism Speaks' Local Impact Grant program supports community programs throughout the United States that provide people with autism with fulfilling social and educational experiences.

[Read more...](#)

(**Ed. Note:** [Mike's Crush](#) is an innovative curriculum/video program teaches young people with autism how to establish healthy and safe relationships with their peers, including friendship and romantic relationships.)



Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Evidence-Based and Community-Defined Evidence Practices Round Five: Early Intervention Programs and Practices

Deadline: November 3, 2023

As part of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI), the CA Dept. of

Health Care Services (DHCS), in partnership with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (Commission), released a Request for Application (RFA) on Sept 13, 2023, seeking proposals for the fifth round of grant funding totaling up to \$80 million to scale early intervention programs available to children, youth, parents, and caregivers.

[Learn more...](#)

(**Ed. Note:** both [Love Notes](#) and [Mind Matters](#) are listed on the Los Angeles County's [Prevention and Early Intervention Programs and Resources](#) List.)

Rape Prevention Education: PeRPEtual (Promoting Equity in RPE Through Understanding, Action, and Leadership)

Deadline: November 30, 2023

This five-year funding opportunity requires that recipients build infrastructure for sexual violence (SV) prevention; develop/enhance a state/territory action plan; implement community- and societal-level SV prevention strategies that promote health equity; and utilize data to inform action. Completing these activities should lead to increased capacity to promote health equity, capacity to implement/evaluate SV prevention at the community- and societal-levels, increased partner and community awareness of effective prevention strategies, and increased partner coordination to prevent SV.

[Learn more...](#)

(**Ed. Note:** [Relationship Smarts PLUS](#) is currently being used for Rape Prevention Education in California!)

Grants to Support New Investigators in Conducting Research Related to Preventing Interpersonal Violence Impacting Children and Youth

Deadline: December 1, 2023

The purpose of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01) is to provide support for an intensive, supervised (mentored) career development experience in violence prevention research leading to research independence. NCIPC supports K01 grants to help ensure the availability of an adequate number of trained scientists to address critical public health research questions to prevent violence and injury. Applicants must propose a research project that addresses at least one of the research priorities in the interpersonal violence prevention section of the NCIPC Research Priorities as they relate to violence impacting children or youth.

[Learn more...](#)

Research Grants for Preventing Violence and Violence Related Injury (R01)

Deadline: December 1, 2023

Funds are available to conduct studies focused on preventing all forms of community violence involving youth or young adults (ages 10-34 years), including assaults, homicides, violence between groups, and threats/use of weapons. The primary objectives we wish to achieve with this initiative are: (1) Effectiveness research to evaluate innovative approaches with the potential for immediate or near immediate benefits (i.e., within 6 months) for reducing community violence and racial/ethnic inequities in risk for community violence. (2) Effectiveness research to evaluate innovative place-based prevention approaches for reducing community violence and racial/ethnic inequities in risk for community violence. (3) Effectiveness research to evaluate approaches that improve the social or structural conditions that contribute to community violence and racial/ethnic inequities in risk for community violence. Applicants are asked to clearly indicate in the application's Abstract which objective, or combination of objectives, the research proposal intends to address.

[Learn more...](#)

FORECASTED



General Departmental Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (GDSRAE)

Estimated Post Date: April 19, 2024

The purpose of the GDSRAE Program is to fund projects to implement sexual risk avoidance education that teach participants how to voluntarily refrain from non-marital sexual activity. The services are targeted to participants that reside in areas with high rates of teen births and/or are at greatest risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The goals of GDSRAE are to empower participants to make healthy decisions, and provide tools and resources to prevent pregnancy, STIs, and youth engagement in other risky behaviors.