

Statistics & Facts

Relationships/Marriage/Divorce

The average couple waits 6 years before seeking help for marital problems.⁽¹⁾

2 years after ending marriage counseling, studies find 25% of couples are worse off than they were when they started. 4 years later, up to 38% are divorced.⁽²⁾

The divorce rate of first marriages is close to 50%.⁽³⁾

75% of divorced people remarry.⁽⁴⁾

67% of second marriages⁽⁵⁾ and 74% of third marriages end in divorce.⁽⁶⁾

Nearly 20% of marriages fail by the 5-year mark.⁽⁷⁾

50% of all first marriages don't make it to the 20th anniversary.⁽⁸⁾

The divorce rate doubled between 1990 and 2009 among adults 50 and older in the U.S.⁽⁹⁾ The most common reasons include verbal, physical or emotional abuse as well as alcohol or drug abuse; differences in values and lifestyle choices; shift in social attitude toward marriage and divorce, making shedding one's marriage easily accepted and easy; increased longevity and attention to personal happiness. Other contributing factors include: people are now facing another 40 years with their spouse rather than 20 or so a few generations ago; financial independence of women; children have flown the coupe, and couples who "stayed together for the sake of the kids" now have the freedom to split; and onset of "double menopause."

Bad marriages and divorce are silent killers of Corporate America's bottom line. It's estimated that companies lose \$6 billion annually due to lost productivity stemming from marriage, divorce, and relationship problems.⁽¹⁰⁾

Assuming that a worker and his/her co-workers make the same amount of money and their superior makes 125%-150% more than the workers, a divorcing employee costs approximately 21% of his/her annual salary in lost productivity.⁽¹¹⁾

Divorce disrupts the workplace more than drugs or alcohol.⁽¹²⁾ Research indicates that divorce can disrupt the productivity of an individual worker for as long as three years⁽¹³⁾ and work-loss time of an average of 168 hours/four full weeks annually.⁽¹⁴⁾

Sources:

- (1) John Gottman, Ph.D./The Gottman Institute; http://www.gottman.com/marriage/self_help/
- (2) The New York Times, Science Section, 4/19/05, "Married With Problems? Therapy May Not Help" by Susan Gilbert; http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/19/health/psychology/19coup.html?_r=1
- (3), (7), (8), The National Marriage Project
- (4) "For Richer or Poorer", Illustration By Sarah Wilkins, in January/February 2005 issue of Mother Jones
- (5), (6) Jennifer Baker, Forest Institute of Professional Psychology, Springfield, Missouri; <http://answers.google.com/answers/threadview?id=363986>
- (9) National Center For Family and Marriage Research at Ohio's Bowling Green State University
- (10) "Marriage & Family Wellness: Corporate America's Business," marriage commission research report by Life Innovations, Inc.
- (11) John Curtis, Ph.D., author of "Happily Un-Married" and "The Business of Love"
- (12) The College of Family Life Extension