

# Numbers

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## Quantify

How would you numerically quantify the issues threatening life and family? Would that paint an accurate picture of the heart of the matter? What would the numbers mean? Here are just a few examples.

- Half of American children will live in a single parent household at some point in their childhood <sup>i</sup>
- Single parents head a third of family households with children under 18 <sup>ii</sup>
- Since the 1980's the number of children born to unmarried women per year has quadrupled <sup>iii</sup>
- This generation has three times more single mothers than the last <sup>iv</sup>
- Daily in America over a thousand babies are born to teen mothers <sup>v</sup>
- Daily in America almost four thousand babies are born to unmarried mothers <sup>vi</sup>
- Three quarters of Americans say 'fatherlessness' is the most significant social issue facing America today <sup>vii</sup>
- 75% of teenage pregnancies are from single parent homes <sup>viii</sup>
- More than half of all youths incarcerated for criminal acts lived in one-parent families when they were children <sup>ix</sup>
- 63% of suicides are individuals from single parent families <sup>x</sup>
- 75% of pregnancy resource center clients experience fatherlessness as children
- 65% of the children born to pregnancy resource center clients will be fatherless

Numbers plus what can be reasonably observed equals a bleak summation of the trajectory we are on. Even the purest research based numeric evidence doesn't paint a clear picture of the root of the problems we face. What numbers like these really mean is there is something fundamentally wrong with our approach to family and life.

## Possibilities

Rather than merely quantify the down side, consider the possibilities of the up side. What kind of numbers would indicate the kind of change you would like to see?

- Healthier, happier families
- Fewer fatherless children
- Fewer children born to unmarried women
- Increased monetary contributions to hosting organizations
- Increased volunteer at hosting organizations
- Increased community involvement and awareness
- Significantly increased male volunteers
- Increased couple volunteers
- Participants positively connected with local churches
- Increased church involvement
- Decrease the numbers of single parents
- Increased emphasis upon family structures in hosting organizations
- Participants who convert into Family Coaches
- Children who witness effective servant hood

These changes are not only possible, they are happening though Birth of a Family .

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<sup>1</sup> State of America's Children Yearbook 2000, CDF

<sup>ii</sup> US Census Bureau, Household and Family Statistics

<sup>iii</sup> National Survey of American Families

<sup>iv</sup> US Census Bureau, Household and Family Statistics

<sup>v</sup> State of America's Children Yearbook 2000, CDF

<sup>vi</sup> State of America's Children Yearbook 2000, CDF

<sup>vii</sup> <sup>viii</sup> David Blankenhorn, founder and president of the Institute for American Values

<sup>ix</sup> Children In Need: Investment Strategies...Committee for Economic Development

<sup>x</sup> Children's Defense Fund

<sup>xi</sup> FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin-Investigative Aid