

THE KENTUCKY MARRIAGE ATTITUDES STUDY

2004 BASELINE SURVEY

OCTOBER 2004

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This document serves as the project report for the 2003-2004 Research Activity Award granted to provide benchmark measures regarding attitudes about marriage in Kentucky. The study was designed to provide insight and direction for interventions if such actions are initiated and as means by which to evaluate outcomes of potential future relationship education interventions and/or marriage initiatives. The Research Center for Families and Children at the University of Kentucky has focused efforts toward gathering and reporting data regarding attitudes about marriage rather than promoting specific programs or positions.

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Research results reported here are findings from a Kentucky-wide survey funded by a Research Activity Award from the College of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky. Views reported here do not reflect attitudes of the University of Kentucky, the College of Agriculture, the Research Center for Families and Children, or individual members of the research team, but rather attitudes of respondents throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to provide benchmark measures regarding attitudes about marriage in Kentucky. This study is not a political poll or partisan effort although some politically sensitive opinions on controversial issues were gathered.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

In May 2004, the Research Center for Families and Children in cooperation with the Survey Research Center (both at the University of Kentucky) gathered data from throughout the Commonwealth. A majority of the questions for the survey were similar to questions developed as part of the 2001 *Oklahoma Baseline Survey on Marriage and Divorce* (Johnson & Stanley, 2001). The Oklahoma survey has been adapted as a whole or in part for use in other statewide surveys regarding marriage attitudes.

The sample consisted of 830 non-institutionalized Kentuckians 18 years of age or older randomly selected for telephone interview. The study's margin of error is approximately ± 3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Demographic, economic, and community-based characteristics of respondents were gathered for use in

conjunction with reported attitudes about marriage, divorce, relationship education, state marriage initiatives, and same sex marriage issues. Results from the Kentucky Marriage Attitudes Survey were then compared to results from the Oklahoma, Utah, and Florida marriage attitude surveys.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The race/ethnicity of the sample was predominantly Caucasian (93%) with more women (65%) than men participating. Respondents' ages ranged from 18 to 89. Approximately one-half of the respondents (53%) had no children under 18 living at home.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Thirty-one percent (31%) of the respondents had a high school diploma, 30% held a bachelor's or graduate degree. Fourteen percent (14%) had a GED or had not finished high school. Half of the respondents (52%) were employed full-time outside the home, and 23% were retired.

Household income levels ranged from under \$10,000 annually to \$90,000 and more. Twenty-two percent (22%) of the respondents reported a household income of less than \$20,000 compared to 23% of respondents reporting their household income as \$70,000 or more.

COMMUNITY-BASED CHARACTERISTICS
Over one-third (37%) of the respondents reported living in Kentucky's small towns, with 34% living in cities and suburbs, and 29% living in rural areas.

Most, 90%, were registered voters. Respondents self-identified as 51% affiliated with the Democratic Party, 43% with the Republican Party, and 6% as Independents.

RELATIONSHIP CHARACTERISTICS AND HAPPINESS

Of the 826 respondents providing such information, nearly two-thirds (62%) of those surveyed were married at the time of the study; 14% were single, never married; and 24% were not currently married. Most (91%) reported they were "very happy" or "pretty happy" with their current marital status.

Over half (60%) of those surveyed that were currently or previously married, entered marriage for the first time by the age of 21. Twelve percent (12%) did so in the age range of 14-17. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of the 709 respondents who were currently or previously married had married only once.

ATTITUDES ABOUT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Most people in the sample of Kentuckians (87%) viewed *divorce as a serious national problem*, with a greater percentage of females than males reporting this opinion. Generally, the older the age group, the greater the percentage indicating divorce as a serious problem. Ninety-one percent (91%) of married respondents compared to 73% of single never married

respondents reported divorce as a serious problem.

A majority of responding Kentuckians (69%) disagreed with the statement, "*When there are children in the family, parents should stay married even if they do not get along.*" A greater percentage of women and respondents who had never or had previously been married disagreed. A greater percentage of respondents with household incomes of \$20,000 or below disagreed.

Three quarters (75%) of Kentuckians surveyed agreed "strongly" or "somewhat" with the statement, "*Sure, divorce is bad, but a lousy marriage is even worse.*" A greater percentage of females (82%) agreed than males (75%).

Sixty-one percent (61%) of respondents believe that "*Society would be better off if divorces were harder to get.*" A greater percentage of respondents who were currently married, older, and white agreed with the statement.

As age categories increased, a greater percentage of respondents agreed that "*People who have children together ought to be married.*" Overall, 73% of respondents agreed. A greater percentage of respondents who were white, male, currently married, and with higher household income (\$50,000 and above) agreed with the statement.

A majority (55%) of surveyed Kentuckians disagreed or strongly disagreed that "*It is okay for romantically involved people who are not married to live together.*" However, a greater percentage of respondents who were male, younger (65% of those aged 18 to

29), and never married agreed with the statement.

ATTITUDES TOWARD MARRIAGE POLICY ISSUES

Persons responding to the Kentucky survey were asked about their attitudes regarding three marriage policy issues of current interest.

Over three-quarters (78%) of the respondents disagreed with the statement that *“Marriage between same sex couples should be recognized by law in Kentucky,”* with 71% of the sample registering strong disagreement.

Within age categories, generally speaking, as age groups increased the percentage of responding Kentuckians who strongly disagreed with same sex marriage recognition also increased. Responding Kentuckians who are single, never married had a greater percentage than other marital categories that agreed (34%--22% strongly agreed and 12% agreed) with recognition of marriage between same sex couples. Yet, a majority, (53%) of single, never married Kentuckians strongly disagreed with the statement. Seventy-five percent (75%) of married and 72% of not currently married respondents strongly disagreed.

In general, as level of education increased the disagreement with same sex marriage decreased. Among responding Kentuckians with a high school degree or less, 75% strongly disagreed with the statement. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of respondents with a graduate or professional degree strongly disagreed with legalizing same sex marriage in Kentucky.

Respondents of all three political affiliations disagreed with legalizing same sex marriages, with a greater percentage of respondents who reported a Republican affiliation disagreeing (83%).

When asked if *“Civil unions between same sex couples should be recognized by law in Kentucky,”* nearly three-quarters (72%) of Kentuckians disagreed. Those aged 60-69 showed the highest percentage of disagreement (73%) while those aged 18-29 had the lowest percentage of disagreement (42%). However, within each age category, as the age group declined, the percentage strongly agreeing with the statement consistently increased from 6% to 19%.

Those currently or previously married reported a higher percentage of disagreement (at 69% and 64%, respectively) with recognition of same sex civil unions than did those never married. Among the latter, the percentage of those who strongly disagreed (44%) nearly matched that of those who reported agreement or strong agreement (43%).

Generally, as education level category increased, the strong disagreement with legal recognition of civil unions decreased. All education levels had a majority of respondents that strongly disagreed with legal recognition of civil unions between same sex couples except for those holding a graduate or professional degree. Only 46% of these respondents strongly disagreed.

A majority of each of the political affiliations strongly disagreed with legal recognition of civil unions between same

sex couples. Responding Kentuckians who indicated Democrat, 55%, Independents, 60%, and Republicans, 76%, strongly disagreed with the statement. When strongly agree and agree responses were combined, respondents identifying as Democrats and Independents indicated that 30% and 32%, respectively, were in agreement with the statement. Thirteen percent (13%) were in agreement for those indicating a Republican affiliation.

A majority of responding Kentuckians, 72%, are in favor of amending the Kentucky Constitution as indicated by their response to the following question: *"Are you in favor of amending the Kentucky Constitution to provide that only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be a marriage in Kentucky, and that a legal status identical to or similar to marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized?"*

The percentage of respondents who supported the amendment increased as age category increased. As educational level increased the percentage of respondents in each educational category that supported the amendment decreased—from 79% in favor among those who had not finished high school or had a GED to 56% of the respondents in the highest educational level (graduate or professional degree) who were in favor of the amendment.

Although a majority of respondents in each income bracket favored the amendment, in general, respondents with higher household incomes reported a lower percentage of agreement. Respondents indicating they were Democrats and Independents (64%)

reported a lower percentage of agreement than respondents indicating they were Republicans (82%).

THE MARRIAGE INITIATIVE MOVEMENT

Two questions in The Kentucky Marriage Attitude Survey focused on the recent efforts by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families to encourage healthy marriages through marital relationship education and state initiatives to support healthy marriages.

This study was designed to provide insight and direction for interventions if such actions are initiated and as means by which to evaluate outcomes of potential future relationship education interventions and/or marriage initiatives. However, efforts have been focused toward gathering and reporting data regarding attitudes about marriage rather than promoting specific programs.

When asked, *"Would you consider using relationship education, such as workshops or classes, to strengthen your relationship?"* 43% of Kentucky respondents agreed.

A greater percentage of people in their thirties (62%) and those with higher education (51% of those with graduate or professional degrees) supported this idea.

In answer to the question: *"How would you feel about a statewide initiative to promote marriage?"* a clear majority of participants (64%) reported that a statewide initiative to promote marriage was "a very good idea" or a "good idea".

Thirty-one percent (31%) answered that such an initiative was “a bad idea” or “a very bad idea”. A greater percentage of females than males responded favorably to a marriage initiative, and married respondents indicated support (72%) more strongly than previously or never married Kentuckians (62% and 64%, respectively).

The higher the level of education, the lower the percentage of support for a marriage initiative—79% of those with a high school diploma reported support compared to 59% with graduate or professional degrees. Among respondents reporting annual income in the \$10,000-\$19,999 range, 79% indicated that a statewide marriage initiative was a good or very good idea and 54% of persons in the highest income category, \$90,000 a year or greater, reported a statewide marriage initiative as a good or very good idea.

STATE COMPARISONS

Beginning in 2001 with Oklahoma, several states have conducted baseline surveys focusing on marriage and divorce issues.

Divorce is viewed as a very serious problem by those surveyed in Kentucky (57%), Utah (62%), and Oklahoma (67%).

In contrast, respondents disagreed that parents who do not get along should stay married when there are children in the family, as reported in Kentucky (69%), Oklahoma (62%), and Utah (58%). The results in the Florida survey were more evenly divided, where 40% strongly agreed/agreed and 45% strongly disagreed.

A majority of respondents agreed that a lousy marriage is worse than a divorce, as reported in Florida (73%), Kentucky (75%), Oklahoma (69%), and Utah (63%).

Oklahomans reported the highest percentage of agreement (69%) with the idea that society would be better off if divorces were harder to get. A majority of Kentucky and Utah participants also agreed (62% and 58%, respectively).

Survey respondents in all four states agreed that people who have children together ought to be married, as reported in Kentucky (73%), Utah (70%), Florida (67%), and Oklahoma (66%).

There was less agreement in regard to romantically involved individuals living together. A slight majority of Florida’s respondents (51%) agreed that living together is okay. In contrast, Kentuckians (55%) and Oklahomans (54%) disagreed with cohabitation with only 33% of Utah’s respondents sharing that opinion.

The response to consideration of relationship education was lower in Kentucky (43%) than in Oklahoma (66%), Utah (75%), and Florida (79%).

Kentuckians were also less amenable to a statewide marriage initiative with 65% responding favorably in comparison to those in Florida (67%), Oklahoma (85%), and Utah (87%). Worded somewhat differently, the question in the Oklahoma, Utah, and Florida studies added the goal of reducing divorce.

THE KENTUCKY MARRIAGE ATTITUDES STUDY

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THE STUDY

In 1996, Congress determined that marriage is an essential institution of a successful society and promotes the interests of children. (www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/about/mission.html).

Using that information, the Bush administration, along with the Administration for Children and Families, established the Healthy Marriage Initiative to encourage and promote healthy marriages. Some states have conducted statewide surveys to gather baseline measures of marriage attitudes among their citizens.

In 2001, the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative, in conjunction with Oklahoma State University's Bureau for Social Research, released *Marriage in Oklahoma: 2001 Baseline Statewide Survey on Marriage and Divorce* (Johnson & Stanley, 2001) (1).

Florida's survey was conducted in 2003 and reported as *Family Formation in Florida* (Karney, Garvan, & Thomas, 2003) (2). Utah, also in 2003, reported findings of their study as *Marriage in Utah: 2003 Baseline Statewide Survey on Marriage and Divorce* (Schramm, Marshall, Harris & George, 2003) (3).

Oklahoma's study was conducted to learn more about attitudes and behavior related to marriage, divorce, and family formation in Oklahoma and as part of

the evaluation for the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative already in place. Florida and Utah conducted their surveys in an effort to determine their citizens' opinions on marriage, as well as to determine whether marriage initiatives were needed.

The purpose of the Kentucky research project is to provide the baseline measurement of marriage attitudes of the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This study is not a political poll or partisan effort although some politically sensitive opinions on controversial issues were gathered.

ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT

In addition to the executive summary, this report consists of five main sections. The first section provides background information; methodology of the study; and description of sociodemographic characteristics of the sample, as well as, marital and relationship characteristics of respondents. The second section initiates reporting of survey results focusing on attitudes regarding marriage and relationships. The third section provides attitudes toward marriage policy issues. The fourth section addresses the marriage initiative movement. The fifth section provides comparisons of Kentucky findings with findings from other states that have conducted similar studies.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

In an effort to better understand Kentuckians' attitudes about marriage, in May 2004 the Research Center for Families and Children in cooperation with the Survey Research Center, both at the University of Kentucky, asked many of the same questions being addressed in other states regarding marriage attitudes. This report provides results from the statewide 2004 Baseline Survey of Marriage Attitudes in Kentucky. (4)

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

A majority of the questions for the Kentucky survey were edited versions of selected questions developed as part of the 2001 Oklahoma Marriage Initiative Statewide Baseline Survey. The Oklahoma survey has been adapted as a whole or in part for use in other statewide surveys regarding marriage attitudes. Additional questions were included in this survey to gauge Kentuckians' perceptions regarding same sex marriages, civil unions, and a constitutional amendment to appear on the November 2004 ballot in Kentucky's general election.

Demographic, economic, and community-based characteristics of respondents were also gathered for use in conjunction with reported attitudes about marriage, divorce, relationship education, state marriage initiatives, and marriage policy issues. When respondents' characteristics were found to be statistically significantly related to their attitudes, those results were reported. For example, when males significantly differed from females on a response, then the gender-based differences in the responses to the question were reported.

Additionally, results from The Kentucky Marriage Attitudes Survey were compared to results from the recent Oklahoma, Utah, and Florida marriage attitude surveys.

SAMPLING PROCEDURES

This survey was administered by the University of Kentucky Survey Research Center as part of the 2004 Kentucky Survey—an annual statewide survey. Households were selected using a modified list-assisted Waksberg-Mitofsky random-digit dialing procedure, which ensures every residential telephone line in Kentucky has an equal probability of being called.

Survey respondents were non-institutionalized Kentuckians 18 years of age or older. Calls were made from April 14 through May 17, 2004. The survey had a response rate for eligible participants of 37%. The sample consisted of 830 completed interviews. The margin of error is approximately ± 3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Demographic, economic, and community-based characteristics of the sample were reported.

Table 1 includes race/ethnic background, gender, marital status, age, and number of children less than 18 years of age who live in the household.

Table 2 provides economic characteristics of the respondents. While educational level is often considered a demographic characteristic, here it is included as an

economic characteristic, given the universally recognized relationship between educational level and wages. Other economic characteristics reported were employment status, and household income level.

Table 3 reports community-based characteristics broadly defined to include political affiliation and community size.

Note that throughout this report percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Respondents’ reported their race/ethnic background as 93% Caucasian, 4% African American, and 1% Hispanic. See Table 1.

Women outnumbered men—65% of the respondents were female.

Sixty-two percent (62%) of respondents indicated they were currently married, with 24% having been married at some previous time, but were now unmarried, i.e., not currently married.

Of all respondents, those identified as not currently married were divorced (13%), widowed (9%), or separated (2%). Single, never married respondents were 14% of the sample.

Respondents ranged in age from 18-89, with 13% of the respondents between 18 and 29 years of age, 16% were in their thirties, 24% were in their forties, and 22% were in their fifties. Twenty-four percent (24%) of respondents were 60 years of age or older—10% of the sample was 70 or more years of age.

The number of children less than 18 years of age who resided in the household ranged from 0 to 5 with 53% of households having no children under 18 living in the home. Twenty-three percent (23%) had one child under 18 at home, 16% had two children at home, 7% had three, and 2% had four or more children under 18 in the household.

Variable	%
Race	
White	93
African American	4
Hispanic	1
Other	2
Gender	
Female	65
Male	35
Marital Status	
Married	62
Divorced	13
Widowed	9
Never Married	14
Separated	2
Age	
18-29	13
30-39	16
40-49	24
50-59	22
60-69	14
70+	10
Number of Children at Home	
0	53
1	23
2	16
3 or more	9

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Regarding educational level, 11% of respondents had less than a high school degree, and an additional 31% had a high school diploma. Thirty percent (30%) of respondents had a college education with a bachelor's degree or higher. See Table 2.

Variable	%
Education	
Grade school only	4
Some high school	7
GED	3
High school diploma	31
1 or 2 years college	16
Junior college	4
Vocational-technical	3
3 or 4 years college	3
Bachelor's degree	14
Some graduate school	2
Graduate degree	14
Employment	
Full-time	52
Part-time	11
Retired	23
Unemployed	14
Household Income	
Under \$10,000	9
\$10,000-\$19,999	13
\$20,000-\$29,999	13
\$30,000-\$39,999	14
\$40,000-\$49,999	12
\$50,000-\$69,999	16
\$70,000-\$89,999	10
\$90,000 and more	13

Employment status indicated 52% of respondents worked full-time outside the home and 23% were retired.

The distribution of household income indicates that 9% of respondents reported an income of \$10,000 or less, and 13% were between \$10,000 and \$19,999. Another 13% had household income between \$20,000 and \$29,999. Twelve percent (12%) were between \$40,000 and \$49,999. Sixteen percent (16%) of respondents had income in the range of \$50,000 through \$69,999, with 23% of the households reporting a total household income of \$70,000 or more.

COMMUNITY-BASED CHARACTERISTICS

Ninety percent (90%) of respondents were registered to vote. Regarding respondents' self-identified political affiliation, 51% indicated they were Democrats, 43% were Republicans, and 6% were Independents.

The size of the community in which respondents reported living indicated that 13% lived in a rural farm area, and another 16% lived in a rural, non-farm area. The largest percentage, 37%, lived in a small town; while, 34% lived in a city or a city's suburb.

Variable	%
Political Affiliation	
Democrat	51
Independent	6
Republican	43
Community Size	
Rural area - farm	13
Rural area - non-farm	16
Small town	37
Suburb	11
City	23

RELATIONSHIP CHARACTERISTICS AND HAPPINESS

Among all respondents who replied regarding their marital status (n=826), 62% reported they were currently married (n=512), 24% of respondents were not currently married (n=197) and 14% were single, never married (n=117) (Table 1). When asked,¹

“How happy are you about your current marital status?”

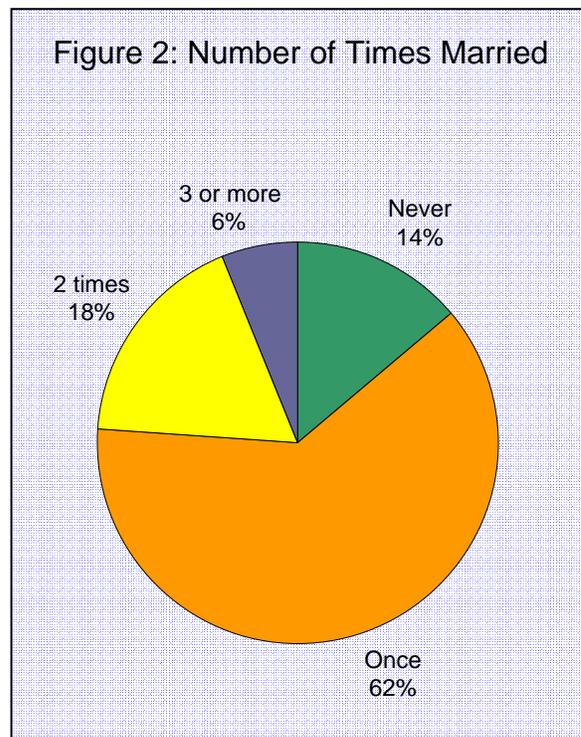
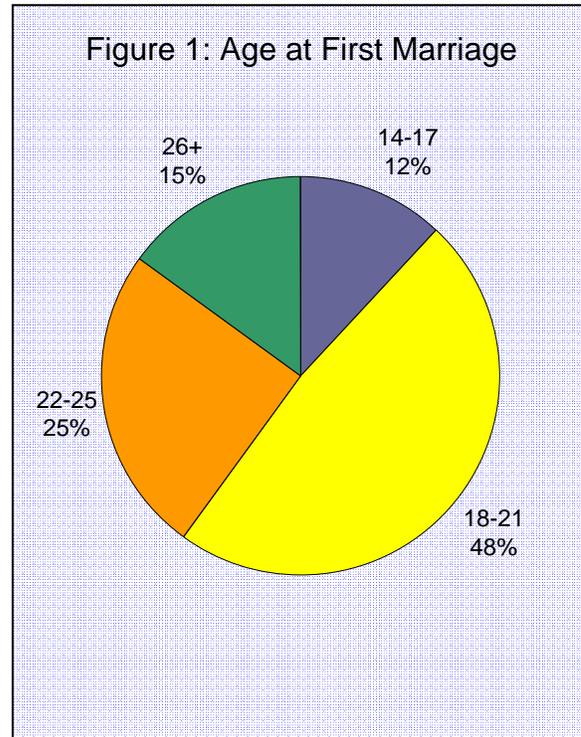
Sixty-seven percent (67%) reported they were “very happy” and 24% were “pretty happy.”

Among all respondents who reported having been or currently in a marriage (n=709), approximately 60% were married for the first time by the age of 21. Twelve percent (12%) were first married at ages 14-17 and 48% were first married at 18-21 years of age. For the remaining 40% who married later, 25% married in the age range of 22-25 and 15% married at age 26 or older (Figure 1).

Most married or previously married respondents had been married only one time. Of the 709 respondents who were either currently or previously married, 72% had been married only once, 21% had been married twice, and 7% reported having been married 3 or more times. These figures are not represented in chart form.

Of the 830 respondents, 62% (n=512) were currently married, 13% (n=110) indicated that they were currently in a main relationship other than currently married, and 24% (n=199) indicated that

they were neither married nor in a relationship.



¹ The actual wording of each question is provided, as indicated by the statement in quotation marks.

When unmarried respondents—both single never married and not currently married (n=314) were asked:

“Do you have a main relationship involvement, such as a man or a woman you think of as a steady, a lover, or the like?”

Thirty-five percent (35%, n=110) of respondents reported “Yes.”

Of these individuals in a main relationship other than marriage (n=110), 35% (n=38; less than 5% of the sample) indicated that they were cohabiting or living with the person.

When all respondents who had indicated that they had a main relationship (n=628), including those who were married, were asked:

“How happy are you with your current relationship?”

Most respondents reported that they were “very happy” (78%) and another 19% considered themselves “pretty happy” leaving only 3% indicating they were “not too happy” with their current relationship.

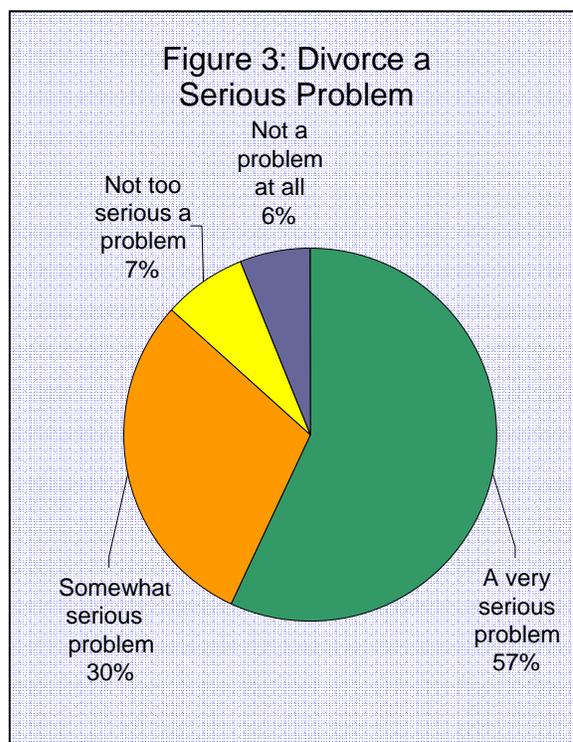
ATTITUDES ABOUT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

The discussion of findings included in this section, as in the previous section, reflects respondents’ responses to specific questions asked in the survey.

Only demographic and/or economic characteristics found to be statistically significantly related to the question are reported.

“Some people think that divorce is a serious national problem. Other people think that divorce is not a serious problem at all. How about you?”

Most people in the sample of Kentuckians (87%) view divorce as a serious national problem. Over half of respondents (57%) saw divorce as a very serious national problem and another 30% saw it as a somewhat serious problem (Figure 3).



A greater percentage of female (89%) than male (81%) respondents considered divorce a serious problem (Table 4).

Generally, the older the age range the greater the percentage of the age group that reported considering divorce a problem. Among persons 60 and older, 93% considered divorce a serious national problem. Within the 18-29 age

group 79% percent considered divorce to be a problem.

Married (91%), previously, but not currently married (84%), and single, never married (73%) respondents indicated divorce was a serious problem (Table 4).

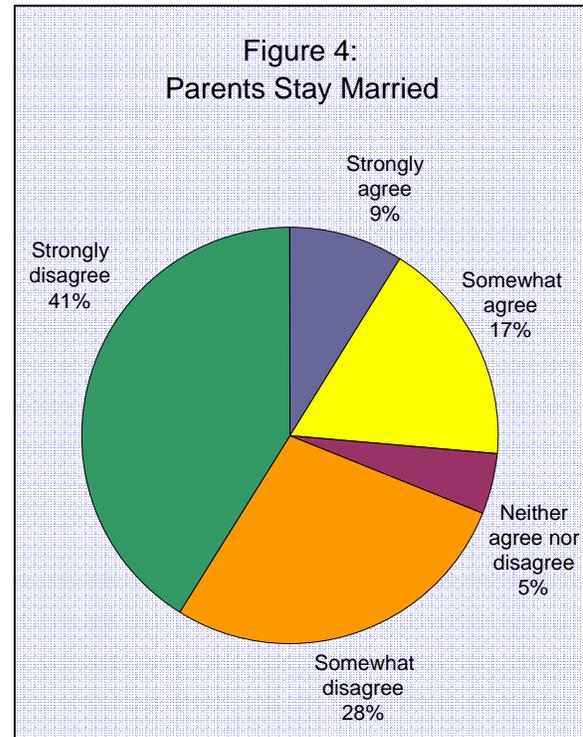
Variable	n	A Problem	Not a Problem
Gender**			
Female	534	89	11
Male	285	81	19
Age**			
18-29	109	79	21
30-39	130	86	14
40-49	191	83	17
50-59	181	90	11
60-69	117	93	7
70+	80	93	8
Marital Status**			
Married	510	91	9
Not married	192	84	16
Single	114	73	27

** indicates significance at the 0.01 level

“When there are children in the family, parents should stay married even if they do not get along.”

A majority of responding Kentuckians (69%) disagreed that when there are children in the family, parents should stay married even if they do not get along. See Figure 4.

Nine percent (9%) strongly agreed that parents should stay married, and 17% somewhat agreed.



Variable	n	Agree	Disagree
Gender**			
Female	500	23	77
Male	272	37	63
Marital Status**			
Married	473	32	68
Not Married	187	21	79
Single	109	20	80
Income**			
<\$9,999	61	21	79
\$10,000-19,999	82	20	81
\$20,000-29,999	83	25	75
\$30,000-39,999	92	23	77
\$40,000-49,999	70	30	70
\$50,000-69,999	98	31	69
\$70,000-89,999	64	30	70
\$90,000+	80	36	64

** indicates significance at the 0.01 level

A greater percentage of females disagreed with the statement that parents should stay married when there were children. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of females disagreed, compared to 63% of males. See Table 5.

A greater percentage of single, never married respondents disagreed that parents should stay married (80%), compared to 79% of not currently married, and 68% of married respondents.

Within income categories, respondents within the lowest ranges of annual household income categories had the highest levels of disagreement with 81% of those with household income in the range of \$10,000 to \$19,999 and 79% of respondents with household income less than \$10,000 disagreeing.

“Sure, divorce is bad, but a lousy marriage is even worse.”

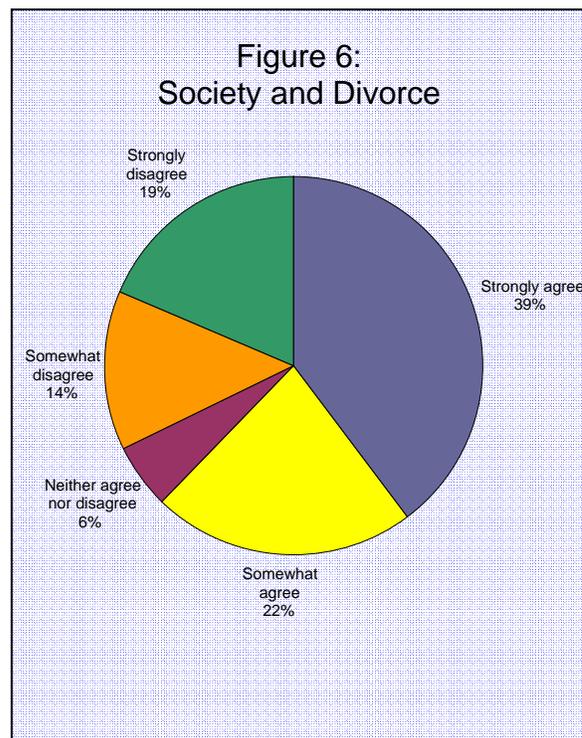
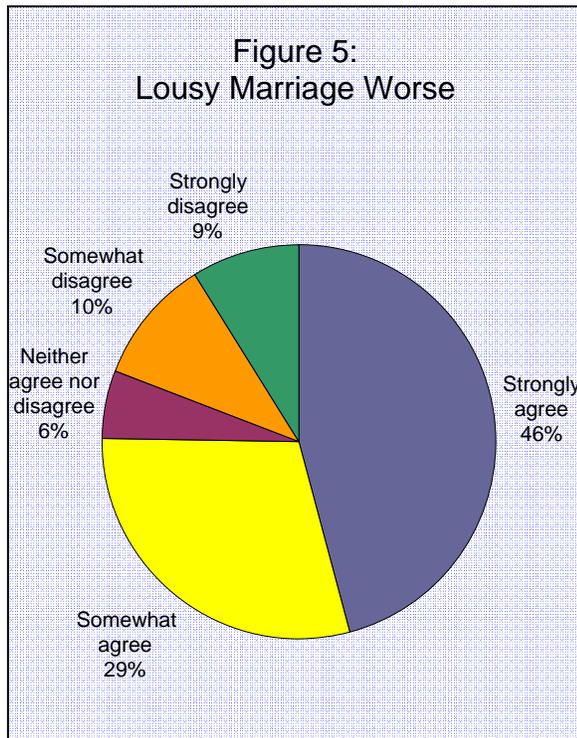
Three-fourths (75%) of adult respondents in the Kentucky survey indicated that they believe that a lousy marriage is worse than a divorce. See Figure 5.

Variable	n	Agree	Disagree
Gender*			
Female	500	82	18
Male	266	75	25

* indicates significance at the 0.05 level

A greater percentage of females agreed with this statement regarding divorce (82%) compared to 75% of males. See Table 6.

“Society would be better off if divorces were harder to get.”



Sixty-one percent (61%) of responding Kentuckians believe that society would be better off if divorces were harder to get. See Figure 6.

Variable	n	Agree	Disagree
Age**			
18-29	99	50	51
30-39	122	68	32
40-49	178	60	40
50-59	177	69	31
60-69	108	78	22
70+	74	76	24
Marital Status**			
Married	477	71	29
Not married	185	59	41
Single	103	54	46
Race**			
White	688	68	32
Nonwhite	56	45	55

** indicates significance at the 0.01 level

Only half (50%) of respondents in the 18-29 age group agreed with the statement. See Table 7.

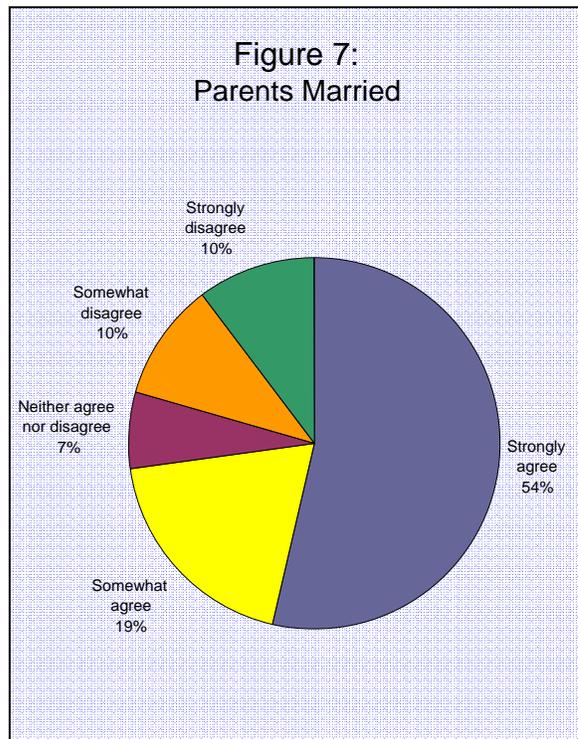
Respondents in their sixties indicated the highest percentage within any age group to agree with 78% indicating agreement with the statement.

A greater percentage of married respondents agreed with the statement than their not currently married or single counterparts—71% compared to 59% and 54%, respectively.

Regarding race, whites (68%) were more likely to agree that society would be better off if divorces were harder to get, compared to 45% of non-whites.

“People who have children together ought to be married.”

While a majority of adult respondents in Kentucky (73%) believed that people who have children together ought to be married, one-fifth (20%) disagreed. Seven percent (7%) of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. See Figure 7.



A greater percentage of males (82%) compared to 76% of females agreed that people who have children together ought to be married. See Table 8.

As age categories increased, respondents within each age category were more likely to agree that people with children ought to be married.

Ninety-one percent (91%) of those over 70 years of age agreed with the statement, compared to 58% of

responding Kentuckians 18-29 years old.

Variable	n	Agree	Disagree
Gender*			
Female	496	76	24
Male	275	82	18
Age**			
18-29	104	58	42
30-39	122	69	31
40-49	176	77	23
50-59	168	85	15
60-69	109	86	14
70+	81	91	9
Marital Status**			
Married	476	83	17
Not married	182	73	27
Single	110	65	36
Race*			
White	691	79	21
Nonwhite	55	66	35
Income**			
<\$9,999	58	71	29
\$10,000-19,999	81	79	21
\$20,000-29,999	87	66	35
\$30,000-39,999	90	71	29
\$40,000-49,999	70	74	26
\$50,000-69,999	102	81	19
\$70,000-89,999	62	84	16
\$90,000+	80	88	13

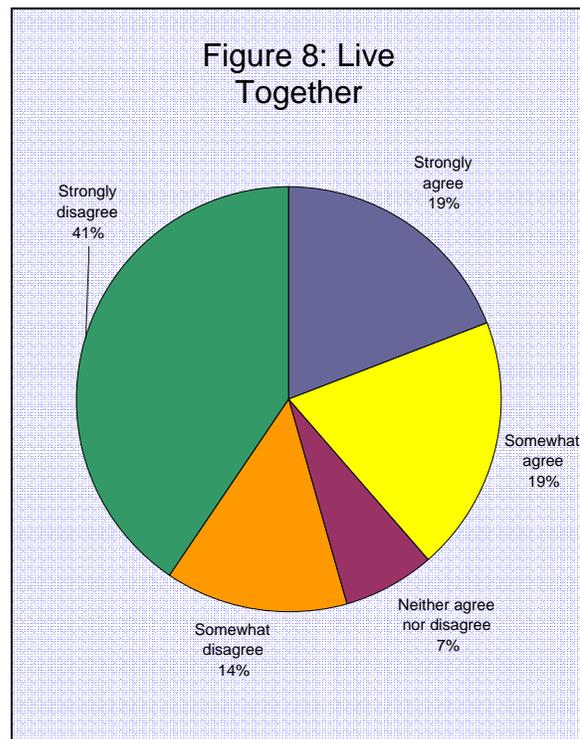
* indicates significance at the 0.05 level
 ** indicates significance at the 0.01 level

Married respondents had the greatest percentage that agreed with the statement with 83% indicating agreement compared to 73% of persons not currently married, and 65% of single, never married respondents. A greater percentage of white respondents were also more likely to agree—79% compared to 66% of non-white

respondents. Responding Kentuckians within the highest income group (\$90,000 and above) indicated the greatest percentage of agreement (88%) with the statement that people who have children together ought to be married.

“It is okay for romantically involved people who are not married to live together.”

A majority of surveyed Kentuckians disagreed with the statement that it is okay for romantically involved people who are not married to live together. Slightly over half of responding adults in Kentucky (55%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement—38% agreed or strongly agreed (Figure 8).



Male respondents expressed a higher percentage of agreement than females—47% compared to 39%, respectively (Table 9).

Acceptance of cohabitation increased as the age group declined. Sixty-five percent (65%) of 18-29 year olds agreed with the statement regarding acceptance of cohabitation compared to only 14% of persons 70 or older.

Variable	n	Agree	Disagree
Gender*			
Female	499	39	62
Male	265	47	53
Age**			
18-29	107	65	35
30-39	123	55	45
40-49	176	47	53
50-59	171	33	67
60-69	100	23	77
70+	77	14	86
Marital Status**			
Married	472	35	65
Not married	177	42	58
Single	112	66	34
* indicates significance at the 0.05 level			
** indicates significance at the 0.01 level			

A large majority of single, never married respondents thought it was okay for couples to live together. Sixty-six percent (66%) agreed with the statement regarding acceptability of cohabitation, compared to 35% of married, and 42% of respondents not currently married.

ATTITUDES TOWARD MARRIAGE POLICY ISSUES

In April 2004, the Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 245, allowing a constitutional amendment

referendum to be placed before Kentuckians on the November 2004 ballot.

The referendum on the ballot to be voted on by Kentuckians will pose the question: "Are you in favor of amending the Kentucky Constitution to provide that only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be a marriage in Kentucky, and that a legal status identical to or similar to marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized?"

The issue of same sex marriage is the focus of a major debate taking place during the 2004 elections, not only in Kentucky but also across the nation.

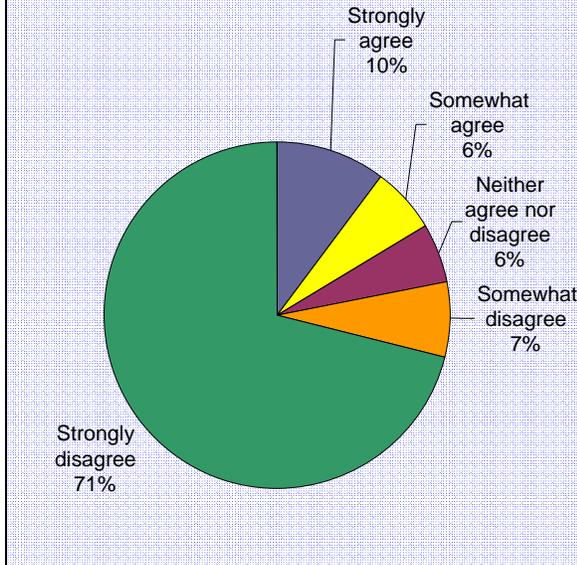
Persons responding to the Kentucky survey expressed their attitudes regarding the three marriage policy questions.

Demographic and economic characteristics, as well as, political affiliation from the community-based characteristics were found to be statistically significantly related to one or more of the marriage policy questions and are reported where appropriate.

“Marriage between same sex couples should be recognized by law in Kentucky.”

Over three-fourths (78%) of responding Kentuckians do not believe that marriage between same sex couples should be legally recognized in the state—71% strongly disagreed that same sex marriage should be recognized by law in Kentucky, 7% somewhat disagreed, and 16% agreed (Figure 9).

Figure 9:
Same Sex Marriage



Kentuckians of all age groups disagreed with the legal recognition of same sex marriage. Within age categories, generally speaking, as age groups increased the percentage of responding Kentuckians who strongly disagreed with same sex marriage recognition also increased. Within the age category of 18–29 year olds, 55% disagreed with the statement. The percentage was greatest in the 60-69 age group where 82% strongly disagreed with the statement. However, for respondents 70 and over the percentage dropped back to 77% who strongly disagreed as indicated also for the age range of 50-59 years of age. See Table 10.

Responding Kentuckians who are single, never married had a greater percentage than other marital categories

that agreed (34%--22% strongly agreed and 12% agreed) with recognition of marriage between same sex couples. Yet, a majority, (53%) of single, never married Kentuckians strongly disagreed with the statement. Seventy-five percent (75%) of married and 72% of not currently married respondents strongly disagreed.

In general, as level of education increased the disagreement with same sex marriage decreased. Among responding Kentuckians with a high school degree or less, 75% strongly disagreed with the statement.

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of respondents with a graduate or professional degree strongly disagreed with legalizing same sex marriage in Kentucky.

A majority of respondents within each of the three political affiliations strongly disagreed with the statement regarding marriage between same sex couples in Kentucky.

Responding Kentucky Democrats and Independents had similar levels of disagreement (61% and 62%, respectively). Respondents indicating a Republican affiliation had a greater percentage that strongly disagreed with the statement at 83%. When strongly agree and agree responses were combined, respondents indicating that they were Democrats and Independents were both at 24% with 8% of Republicans who agreed with the statement.

**Table 10
Same Sex Marriage**

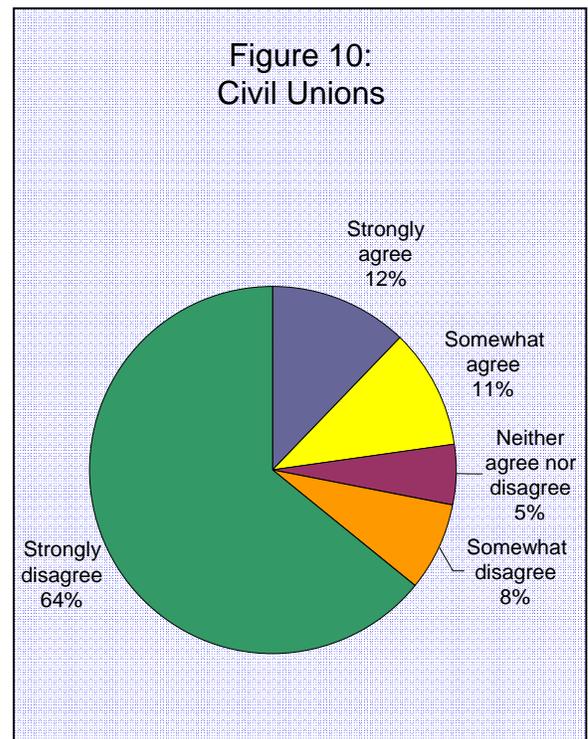
	Variable	n	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Age**	18-29	108	19	12	7	7	55
	30-39	129	10	7	5	12	67
	40-49	192	9	8	7	7	69
	50-59	181	11	2	4	6	77
	60-69	117	7	3	6	3	82
	70+	82	10	5	2	6	77
Marital Status**	Married	508	8	6	5	7	75
	Not married	194	11	3	7	6	72
	Single	116	22	12	7	7	53
Education*	Grade/GED	108	10	6	2	7	75
	H.S. Diploma	248	8	4	5	8	75
	Some college	198	11	9	5	2	73
	BA/some grad	125	9	8	8	8	67
	Graduate	116	16	7	8	12	57

* indicates significance at the 0.05 level
 ** indicates significance at the 0.01 level

“Civil unions between same sex couples should be recognized by law in Kentucky.”

Similarly, 72% disagreed or somewhat disagreed that civil unions between same sex couples should be recognized by law in Kentucky—64% strongly disagreed and 8% somewhat disagreed. See Figure 10.

Generally, as age categories increased the percentage of respondents within each age group increased in disagreement with the statement regarding civil unions between same sex couples. Within the 18-29 age group, 42% strongly disagreed with the statement. All other age groups had a majority that strongly disagreed.



Disagreement peaked within the 60-69 age group at 73% and declined at 70 years and older to 69%. Within each age category, as age group declined, the percentage strongly agreeing with the statement consistently increased from 6% to 19%. See Table 11.

A majority of married as well as previously, but not currently married Kentuckians strongly disagreed with

legal recognition of civil unions, 69% and 64%, respectively. In contrast, only 44% of single, never married respondents strongly disagreed and 24% of single never married respondents strongly agreed—43% of single, never married respondents agreed with the statement when strongly agreed (24%) and agreed (19%) are combined.

**Table 11
Civil Unions**

	Variable	n	Strongly Agree %	Agree %	No Opinion %	Disagree %	Strongly Disagree %
Age**	18-29	109	19	20	8	10	42
	30-39	131	12	13	4	9	63
	40-49	194	12	13	6	5	64
	50-59	180	12	6	4	8	71
	60-69	112	11	5	5	7	73
	70+	81	6	10	5	10	69
	Marital Status**	Married	509	10	9	4	8
Not married		190	11	11	7	8	64
Single		117	24	19	6	7	44
Education**	Grade/GED	107	11	10	4	5	70
	H.S. Diploma	246	7	5	5	10	72
	Some college	200	11	12	5	7	66
	BA/some grad	123	19	14	5	7	56
	Graduate	116	20	18	7	10	46
Political Affiliation**	Democrat	402	17	13	6	9	55
	Independent	47	19	13	2	6	60
	Republican	343	5	8	5	7	76

** indicates significance at the 0.01 level

Generally, as education level category increased, the strong disagreement with legal recognition of civil unions decreased. All education levels had a majority of respondents that strongly

disagreed with legal recognition of civil unions between same sex couples except for those holding a graduate or professional degree. Only 46% of these respondents strongly disagreed.

At the bachelor's/some graduate education level and graduate or professional degree level, combining strongly agree and agree results in 33% and 38%, respectively, generally agreeing with the statement.

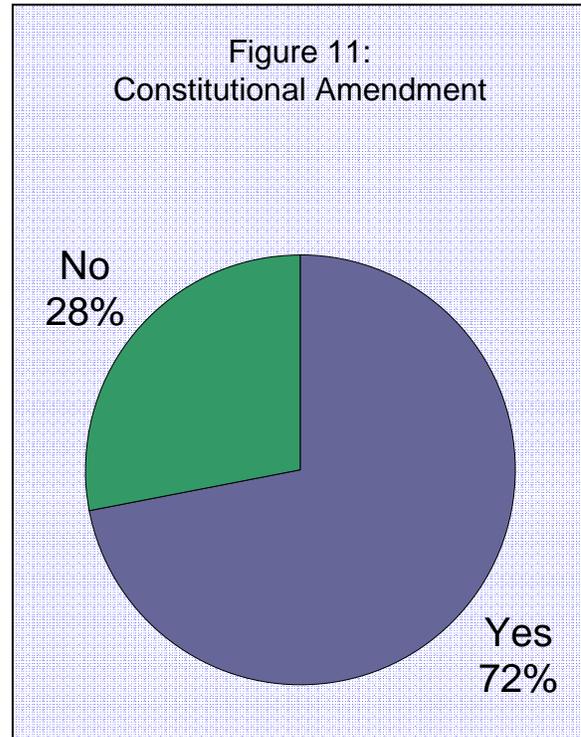
A majority of each of the political affiliations strongly disagreed with legal recognition of civil unions between same sex couples. Responding Kentuckians who indicated Democrat, 55%, Independents, 60%, and Republicans, 76%, strongly disagreed with the statement. When strongly agree and agree responses were combined, respondents identifying as Democrats and Independents indicated that 30% and 32%, respectively, were in agreement with the statement. Thirteen percent (13%) were in agreement for those indicating a Republican affiliation.

“Are you in favor of amending the Kentucky Constitution to provide that only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be a marriage in Kentucky, and that a legal status identical to or similar to marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized?”

A majority of responding Kentuckians, 72%, is in favor of amending the Kentucky Constitution. See Figure 11.

In general, as age category increased, the percentage favoring amending the state constitution increased from 64% in the 18-29 age group to a high of 79% in the category of 70 years of age and older.

While a majority of responding Kentuckians in all education level



categories responded in the affirmative regarding amending the Kentucky constitution, the percentage that indicated favoring the amendment decreased as education level category increased. See Table 12.

Fifty-six percent (56%) of those with a graduate or professional degree support amending the constitution, while 79% with less than a high school diploma were in favor of doing so.

The relationship between income and the proposed amendment of the Kentucky constitution is, with two exceptions, that a declining percentage of respondents within higher income level categories favor amending the Kentucky constitution. Eighty percent (80%) of the less than \$10,000 category favored amending the constitution. Within the income category of \$90,000 or more, 60% favored the amendment.

Regarding political affiliation, Democrats and Independents were similar in their support of the proposed state constitutional amendment, with 64% in favor of the amendment.

Among responding Kentuckians, 82% of those indicating their political affiliation as Republican supported the amendment.

Table 12
Constitutional Amendment

Variable	n	No %	Yes %
Age*			
18-29	103	36	64
30-39	127	30	70
40-49	191	28	72
50-59	176	29	71
60-69	105	23	77
70+	76	21	79
Education**			
Grade/GED	101	21	79
H.S. Diploma	238	24	77
Some college	194	26	74
BA/some grad	121	34	66
Graduate	111	44	56
Income*			
<\$9,999	55	20	80
\$10,000-19,999	82	23	77
\$20,000-29,999	85	32	68
\$30,000-39,999	94	26	75
\$40,000-49,999	76	30	70
\$50,000-69,999	107	33	67
\$70,000-89,999	65	25	75
\$90,000+	85	40	60
Political Affiliation**			
Democrat	381	37	64
Independent	45	36	64
Republican	338	18	82

* indicates significance at the 0.05 level
** indicates significance at the 0.01 level

THE MARRIAGE INITIATIVE MOVEMENT

In an effort to encourage states to strengthen marriages, Congress has been working, as part of welfare reform reauthorization "... to encourage the formation and maintenance of healthy two parent married families and responsible fatherhood" (www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/02welfare-book-05.html, 09/08/2004).

According to the definition provided by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), a healthy marriage is

- mutually enriching, and both spouses have a deep respect for each other;
- a mutually satisfying relationship that is beneficial to the husband, wife, and children (if present); and
- a relationship that is committed to ongoing growth, use of effective communication skills, and use of successful conflict management skills.

Selected statements regarding what the Administration for Children and Families' Healthy Marriage Initiative is not about include:

- coercing anyone to marry or remain in unhealthy relationships,
- stigmatizing those who choose divorce, or
- promoting the initiative as a panacea for achieving positive outcomes for child and family well-being.

According to ACF, "The Healthy Marriage Initiative is about helping couples, who have chosen marriage for themselves, gain greater access to marriage education services on a voluntary basis where they can acquire

the skills and knowledge necessary to form and sustain a healthy marriage.” (www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/about/mission.html, 06/29/2004).

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services continues to provide a facilitating role in promoting the Healthy Marriage Initiative within each state (www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/about/mission.html, 06/29/2004).

At the national level, the initial focus of the healthy marriage initiative was on promoting healthy marriages through welfare reform and within portions of the population receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). However, the healthy marriage movement is spreading to the general population.

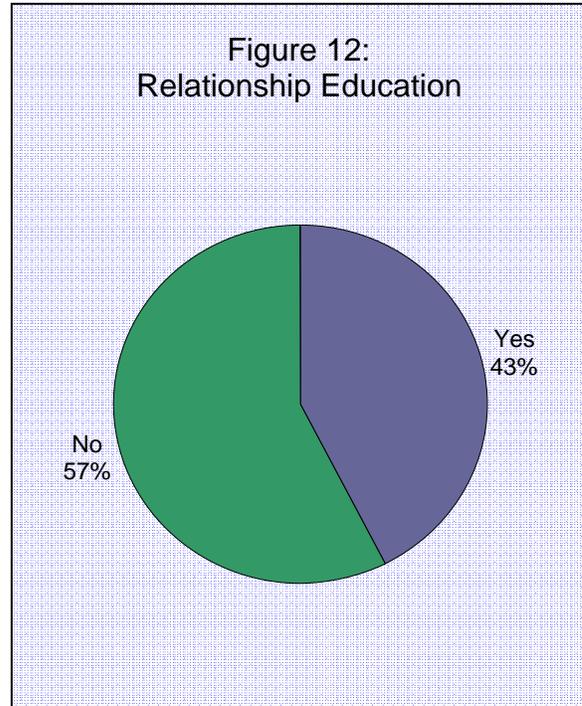
Key components of the Healthy Marriage Initiative are relationship education and encouragement of states to establish marriage initiatives. Two questions on the Kentucky Marriage Attitude Survey addressed these issues.

“Would you consider using relationship education, such as workshops or classes to strengthen your relationship?”

Among responding Kentuckians, 43% would consider relationship education. See Figure 12.

The age group that indicated the largest percentage who would consider relationship education were those in their thirties, with 62% saying they would do so. No other age group had a majority that would consider relationship

education. After the thirties age group, willingness to consider relationship education declined (Table 13).



**Table 13
Relationship Education**

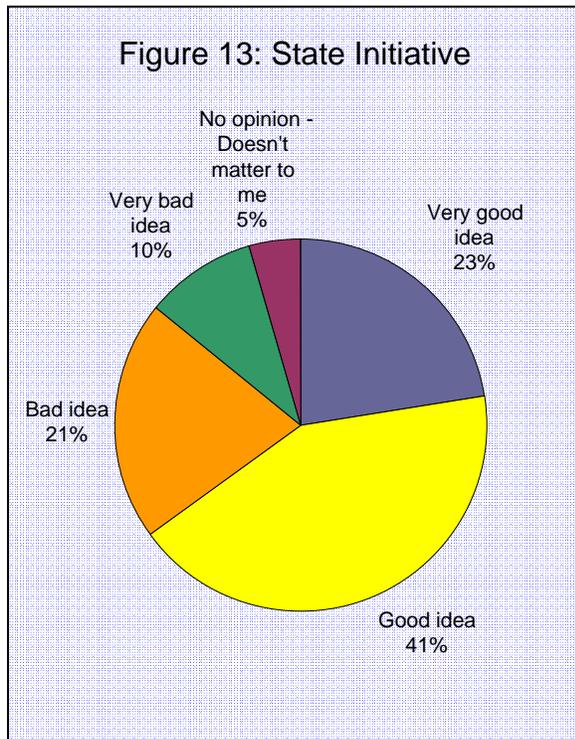
Variable	n	No %	Yes %
Age**			
18-29	93	53	47
30-39	106	38	62
40-49	156	56	44
50-59	146	62	38
60-69	69	73	28
70+	39	77	23
Education**			
Grade/GED	67	75	25
H.S. Diploma	186	60	40
Some college	161	55	45
BA/some grad	98	54	47
Graduate	88	49	51

** indicates significance at the 0.01 level

Consideration of relationship education increased with level of education. Twenty-five percent (25%) of responding Kentuckians with less than a high school diploma would consider it, compared to 51% of those with a graduate or professional degree.

“How would you feel about a statewide initiative to promote marriage?”

Sixty-four percent (64%) of respondents felt that a statewide initiative to promote marriage was a very good idea or a good idea. Thirty-one percent (31%) thought it was a bad idea or a very bad idea. See Figure 13



A greater percentage of females responding to the survey (71%) thought it was a good or very good idea compared to 63% of males (Table 14).

Variable	n	Good Idea %	Bad Idea %
Gender*			
Female	492	71	29
Male	269	63	37
Marital Status**			
Married	476	72	28
Not Married	172	62	38
Single	110	64	36
Education**			
Grade/GED	97	66	34
H.S. Diploma	228	79	22
Some college	185	67	34
BA/some grad	121	62	38
Graduate	106	59	41
Income*			
<\$9,999	55	69	31
\$10,000-19,999	79	79	22
\$20,000-29,999	80	66	34
\$30,000-39,999	89	74	26
\$40,000-49,999	76	71	29
\$50,000-69,999	105	69	31
\$70,000-89,999	65	70	31
\$90,000+	81	54	46

* indicates significance at the 0.05 level
** indicates significance at the 0.01 level

Married respondents also supported a statewide marriage initiative with 72% of married respondents in support, compared to 62% of not currently married respondents, and 64% of single, never married respondents.

Regarding education, persons with a graduate or professional degree indicated the lowest percentage of responding Kentuckians who supported a statewide marriage initiative (59%). Respondents with a high school diploma indicated the greatest percentage (79%) of support for a statewide marriage initiative.

There was no easily discernable pattern between support of a statewide initiative and income. Among respondents reporting annual income in the \$10,000-\$19,999 range, 79% indicated that a statewide marriage initiative was a good or very good idea and 54% of persons in the highest income category, \$90,000 a year or greater, reported a statewide marriage initiative as a good or very good idea.

STATE COMPARISONS

In 2001, Oklahoma was the first state to conduct a statewide baseline survey focusing on marriage and divorce. Researchers involved in the Oklahoma study encouraged other states to conduct similar scientific surveys and offered their survey to those who chose to use it. Florida and Utah, in 2003, used all or parts of the Oklahoma survey in addition to adding other questions. For comparison purposes, the Kentucky Marriage Attitude Survey also selected and modified questions from the Oklahoma survey for this May 2004 survey. Figures combining bar charts and tables that provide comparisons across states of interest are provided in Appendix A.

“Some people think that divorce is a serious national problem. Other people think that divorce is not a serious problem. How about you?”

Respondents in Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Utah all agreed that divorce is a very serious or somewhat serious problem (Figure A1).

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of Kentucky’s respondents identified divorce as a very serious problem, compared to 67% of

Oklahoma’s respondents, and 62% of Utah’s respondents—30% in Kentucky viewed divorce as a somewhat serious problem, compared to 26% in Oklahoma, and 29% in Utah.

“When there are children in the family, parents should stay married even if they do not get along.”²

A majority of respondents in Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Utah disagreed that parents should stay married when there are children in the family if they do not get along. In Kentucky, 69% of respondents disagreed with the statement (Figure A2).

Sixty-two percent (62%) of Oklahoma’s respondents disagreed, as did 58% of Utah’s respondents. Florida had a similar statement that read, “When parents are arguing a lot, it is better for the children if they divorce.” In response, 40% of respondents strongly agreed/agreed and 45% strongly disagreed.

“Sure, divorce is bad, but a lousy marriage is even worse.”²

A majority of respondents agreed that a lousy marriage is worse than a divorce. Seventy-five percent (75%) of Kentucky’s respondents agreed, compared to 73% of respondents in Florida, 69% in Oklahoma, and 63% percent in Utah. See Figure A3.

“Society would be better off if divorces were harder to get.”

Oklahoma’s respondents reported the highest percentage indicating that they believe that society would be better off if divorces were harder to get. Sixty-nine

percent (69%) agreed with the statement, compared to 62% in Kentucky's survey and 58% in Utah's. See Figure A4.

“People who have children together ought to be married.”

Respondents in all four states had similar responses regarding the statement that parents who have children together ought to be married. Seventy-three percent (73%) of Kentucky's respondents agreed. Among respondents in Oklahoma, 66% agreed, 70% in Utah, and 67% in Florida. See Figure A5.

“It is okay for romantically involved people who are not married to live together.”²

Respondents in Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Utah had similar views regarding this statement. Fifty-five percent (55%) of responding Kentuckians and 54% of Oklahoma's respondents disagreed with the statement regarding living together. Thirty-three percent (33%) of Utah's respondents disagreed. In contrast, a slight majority of Florida's respondents, 51%, agreed with the statement. See Figure A6.

“Would you consider using relationship education, such as workshops or classes, to strengthen your relationship?”

There was a rather large difference between surveyed Kentuckians' willingness to consider relationship education compared to those of the other states' respondents. Only 43% of responding Kentuckians would consider relationship education to strengthen

their relationship, compared to 66% reported by Oklahomans, 75% of Utahans surveyed, and 79% of Floridians. See Figure A7.

“How do you feel about a statewide initiative to promote marriage?”²

The states also had varying attitudes in regard to a statewide marriage initiative to promote marriage. Sixty-five percent (65%) of responding Kentuckians believed a state initiative was a very good idea or a good idea compared to 67% in the Florida survey, 85% for respondents in Oklahoma, and 87% in Utah's survey. See Figure A8.

It is important to note that Oklahoma and Utah's question added the goal of reducing divorce. Additionally, Florida's question was worded slightly differently, stating “How would you feel about the idea of the government developing programs to strengthen marriages and reduce divorces?” Some variation in responses could be attributed to the differences in the wording of the question. Additionally, Oklahoma's survey was conducted in 2000—2 years after the state had begun marriage initiative activities.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study has been to provide benchmark measures regarding attitudes about marriage in Kentucky. Research efforts have been focused toward gathering and reporting data that measured attitudes rather than about promoting specific programs or positions. The report is set forth as a report of baseline measures for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

² Where indicated wording varies across states.

NOTES

(1) **Oklahoma Marriage Initiative Statewide Baseline Survey**

The Oklahoma Marriage Initiative (OMI) Statewide Baseline Survey was constructed on behalf of the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative (OMI) by a group of researchers comprising the OMI Research Advisory Group in conjunction with the Oklahoma State University's Bureau for Social Research. It was the first statewide survey on marriage. Findings from Oklahoma's baseline survey were reported in *Marriage in Oklahoma: 2001 Baseline Statewide Survey on Marriage and Divorce* (Johnson & Stanley, 2001).

The survey consisted of 123 questions administered by phone interview to individuals 18 years of age or older. The telephone calls were placed to Oklahoma households and resulted in a 95% confidence level with a margin of error of ± 3 percentage points. In an effort to be representative of low-income families, additional interviews were completed with state Medicaid clients.

For further information see *Marriage in Oklahoma: 2001 Baseline Statewide Survey on Marriage and Divorce* (Johnson & Stanley, 2001). www.okmarriage.org/downloads/media/survey_report.pdf

(2) **Baseline Survey of Family Experiences and Attitudes in Florida**

The 2003 Baseline Survey of Family Experiences and Attitudes in Florida was conducted through the Department of Psychology and the Survey Research Center at the University of Florida. Data were collected through telephone

interviews with individuals 18 years old or older, during the last half of 2003.

The total survey consisted of 6012 interviews across five independent samples. The sample of interest for comparison with findings from the Kentucky survey were 4008 residents of Florida identified through random-digit dialing. The sample was also stratified to over-sample blacks, Hispanics, and low-income groups—adjustments were made to ensure final estimates were representative of the state. A second sample of 500 Florida residents was randomly sampled from the roster of current Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients.

For further information see Karney, B. R., Garvan, C., W., and Thomas, M., S., (2003). *Family Formation in Florida: 2003 Baseline Survey of Attitudes, Beliefs, and Demographics Relating to Marriage and Family Formation*. www.phhp.ufl.edu/~uspringe/FMP/Publications/REPORT.pdf

(3) **Utah's 2003 Baseline Statewide Survey on Marriage and Divorce**

Questions on the 2003 Utah Baseline Survey used the original questions from the Oklahoma Baseline Survey with additional questions regarding mental health. Results were based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of the Bureau for Social Research at Oklahoma State University.

The study is based on a statewide Utah sample of 1,316 adults, 18 years of age or older. Data were collected between February and April 2003. Based on the total sample, at the 95% confidence

level, the error was ± 2.67 percentage points.

The Utah study used two samples. The first sample was of randomly selected households in Utah—a random-digit telephone sample. The second sample was randomly drawn from a list of current recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

For comparisons with findings from the Kentucky data, the Utah full weighted sample of 1,316 respondents was used.

For further information see Schramm, D. G., Marshall, J. P., Harris, V.W., and George, A. (2003). *Marriage in Utah: 2003 Baseline Statewide Survey on Marriage and Divorce*. Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Workforce Services. www.UtahMarriage.org

(4) **Kentucky Marriage Attitudes Survey**

The Kentucky Marriage Attitudes Survey was developed from modified, selected questions from the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative Statewide Baseline Survey by a research team from the Research Center for Families and Children at the University of Kentucky. The data were

gathered by the University of Kentucky Survey Research Center as part of the annual Kentucky Survey. Households were selected using a modified list-assisted Waksberg-Mitofsky random-digit dialing procedure that ensures every residential telephone line in Kentucky has an equal probability of being called.

Survey respondents were non-institutionalized Kentuckians 18 years of age or older. Calls were made from

April 14 through May 17, 2004. The survey had a response rate for eligible participants of 37%. The sample consisted of 830 completed interviews. The margin of error is approximately ± 3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Suggested citation:

Heath, C. J., Bradford, K., Whiting, J., Brock, G., and Foster, S. (2004). *The Kentucky Marriage Attitudes Study: 2004 Baseline Survey*. Lexington, KY: University of Kentucky Research Center for Families and Children.

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www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/about/mission.html, 06/29/2004

www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/02/welfare-book-05.html, 09/08/2004)

APPENDIX A

Figure A1: Divorce a Serious Problem

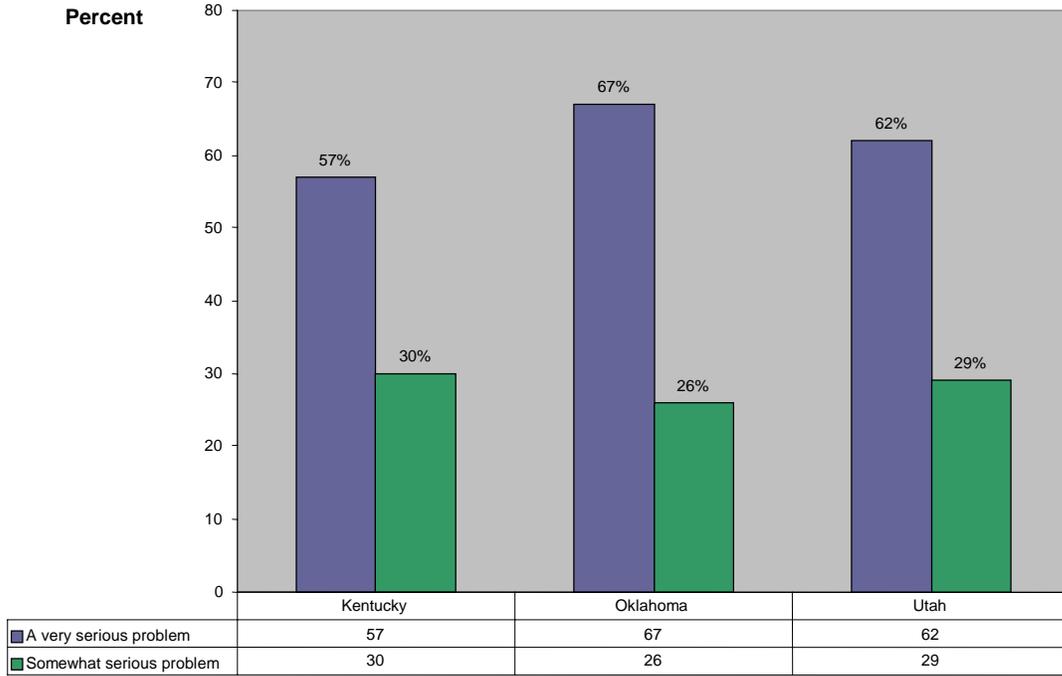


Figure A2: Parents Stay Married

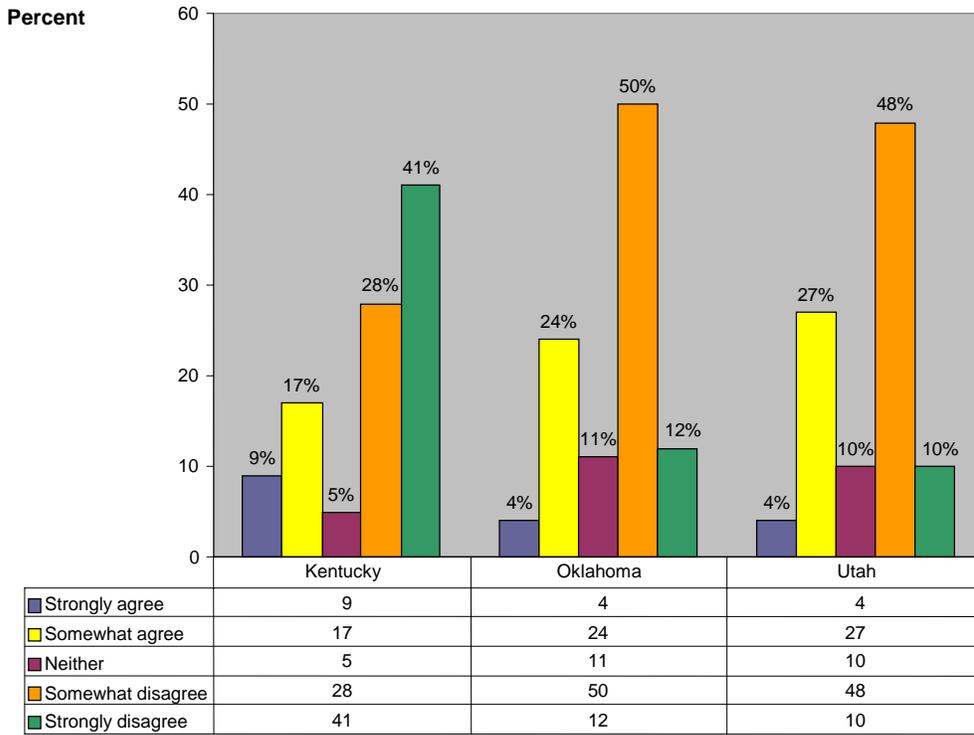


Figure A3: Lousy Marriage Worse

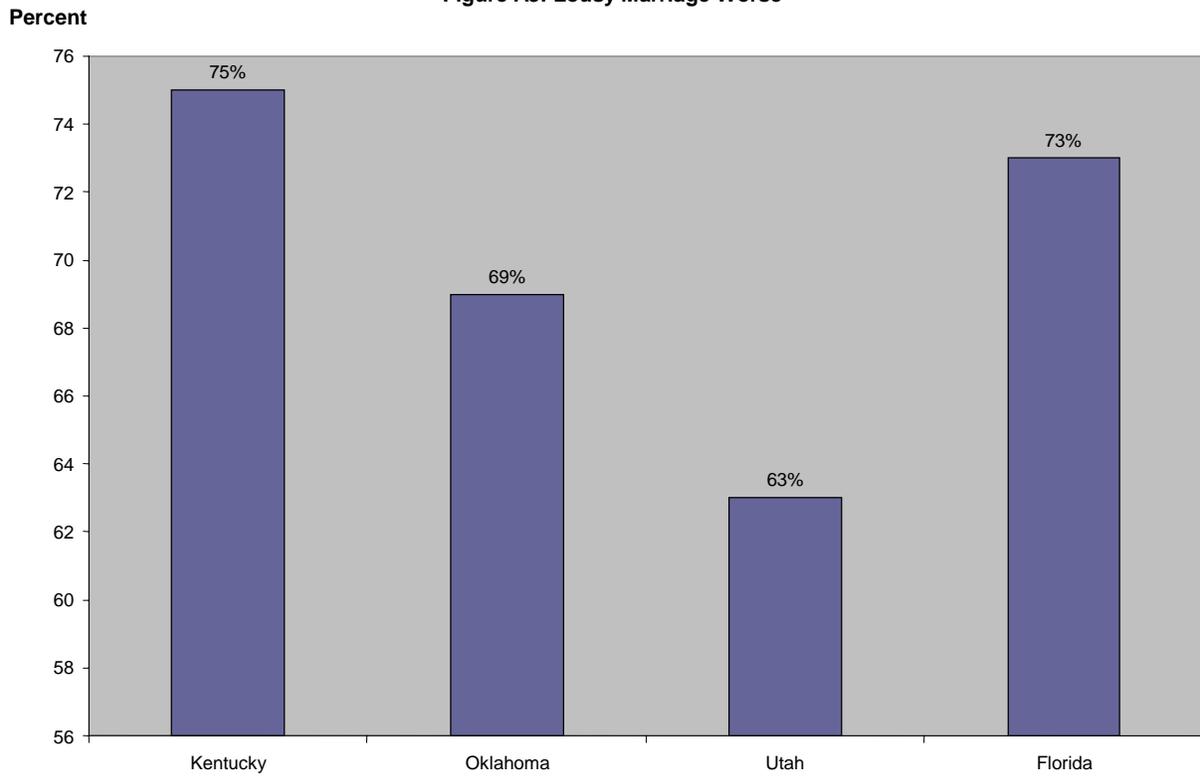


Figure A4: Society and Divorce

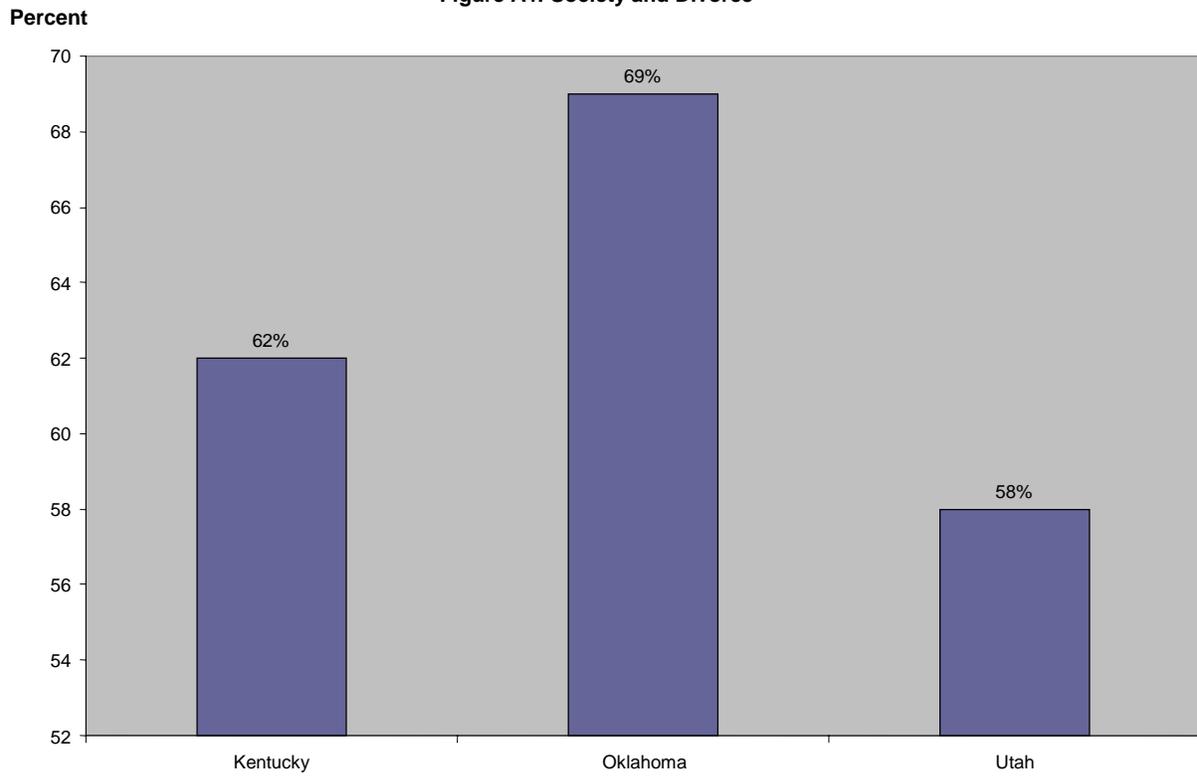


Figure A5: Parents Married

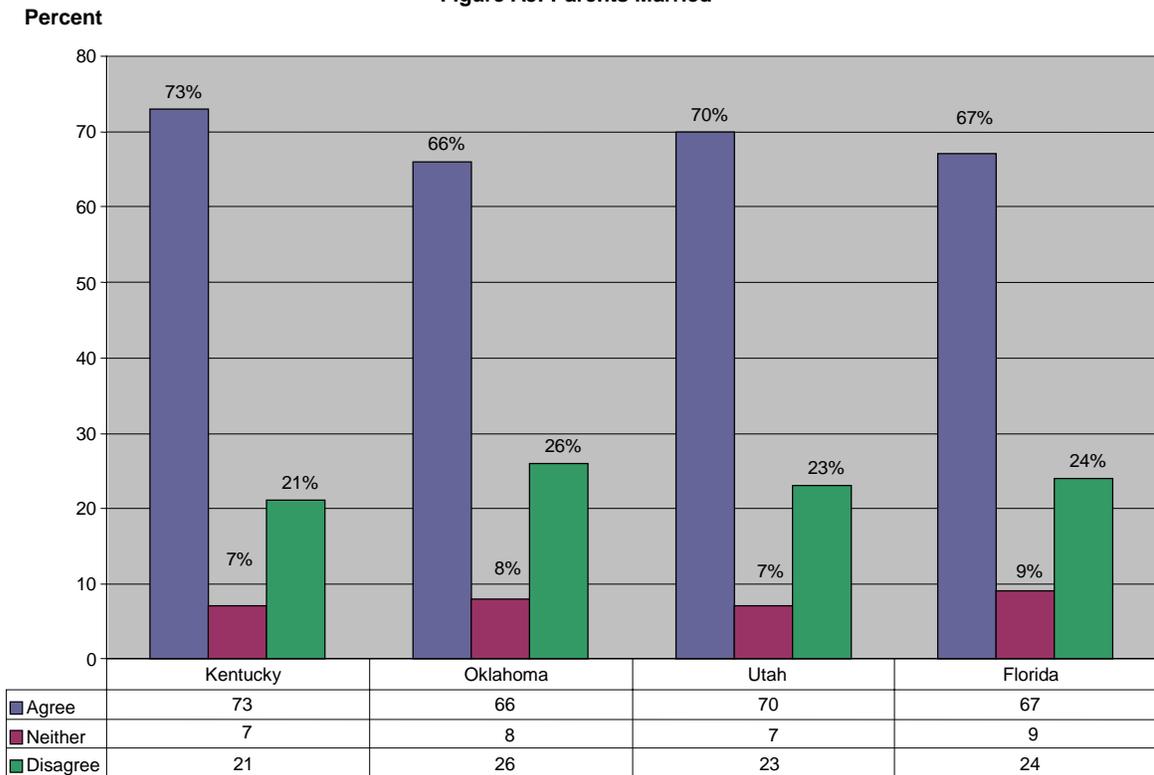


Figure A6: Live Together

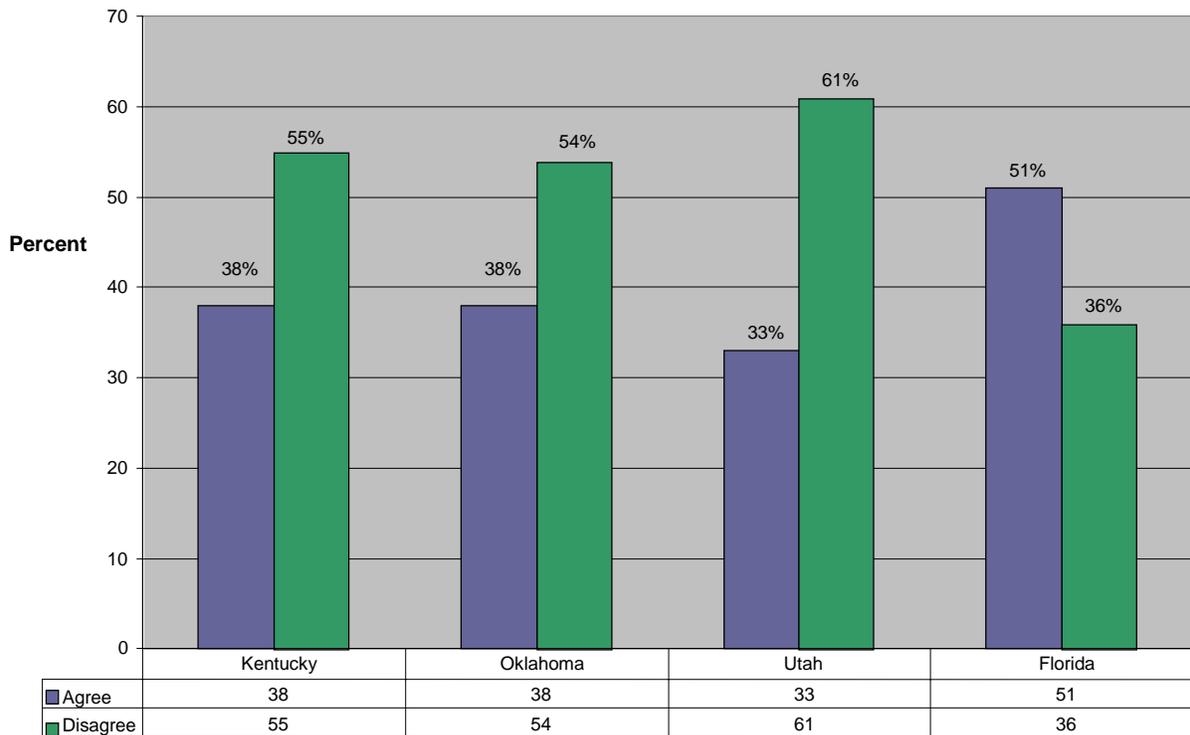


Figure A7: Relationship Education

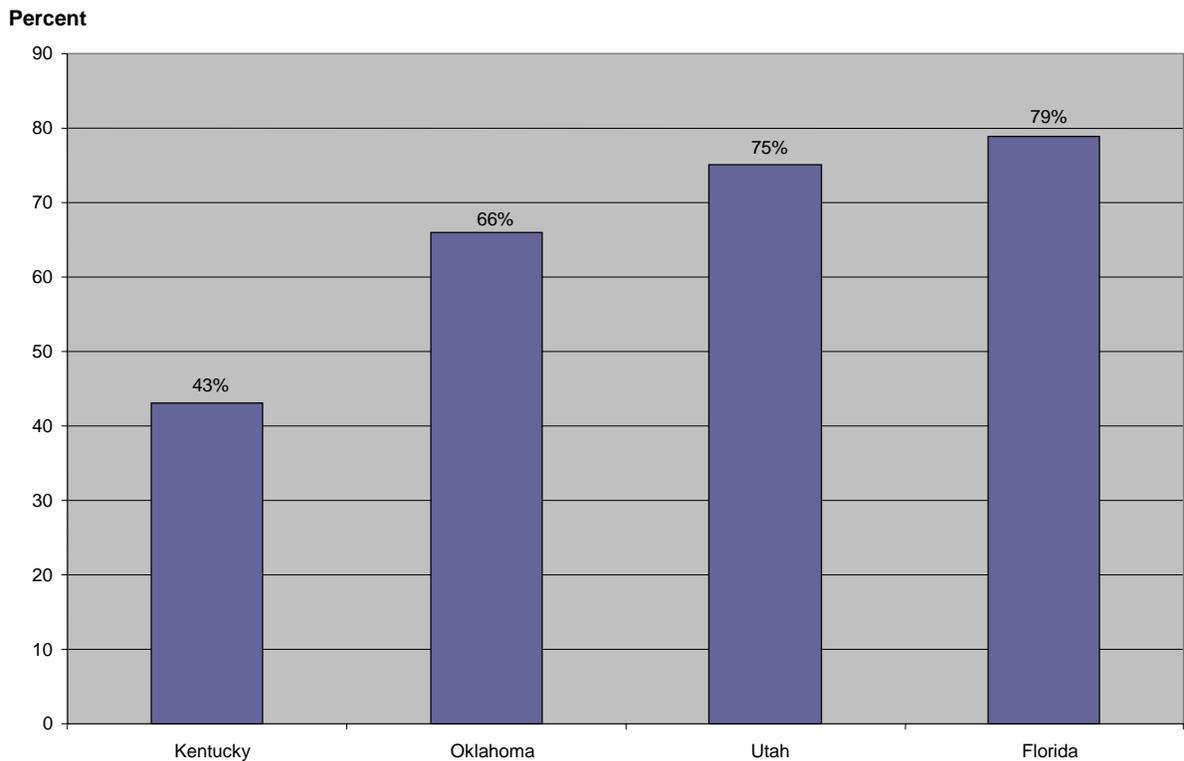
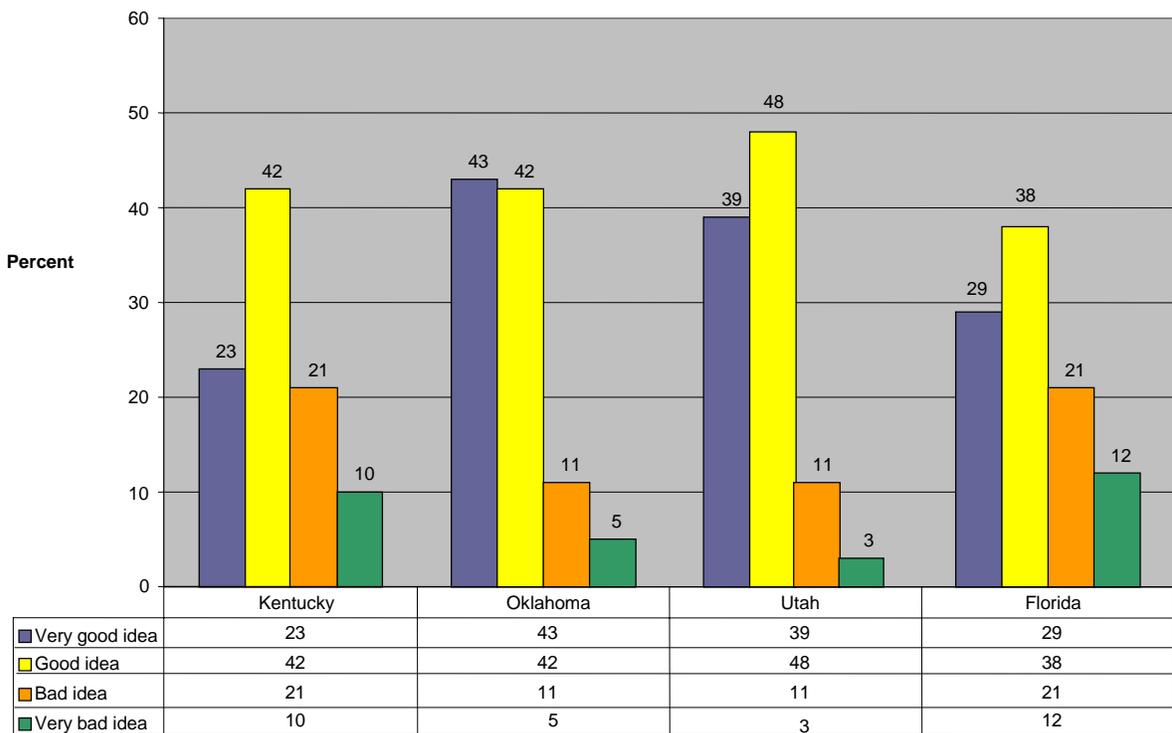


Figure A8: State Marriage Initiative



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RESEARCH CENTER FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY.**

**THE AUTHORS WANT TO EXPRESS SINCERE APPRECIATION AND
GRATITUDE TO
DR. RONALD E. LANGLEY,
DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS OF STAFF, TIME, AND SKILLS WITHOUT
WHICH THIS STUDY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.**



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