

In Washington, Marriage Drops the Probability of Child Poverty by 85 Percent

The rapid rise in out-of-wedlock child bearing is a major cause of high levels of child poverty in Washington.

Some 33.7 percent of single mothers children were poor in 2008 compared to 5.2 percent of married couples with children.

Single-parent families with children are more than six times more likely to be poor than families in which the parents are married.

The higher poverty rate among single-mother families is due both to the lower education levels of the mothers and the lower income due to the absence of the father.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006–2008 data.

PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN THAT ARE POOR

