SPIRIT-FILLED VINE SEMINAR

THE STATE OF THE FAMILY

Husbands. Wives. Men. Women. Children.
Today's adults were yesterday's children.

22.2 MILLION

Children under 21 living with one parent while the other lives elsewhere. [1]

48,824

U.S. lives lost to suicide in 2024. [4]

1 IN 5

High school students who seriously considered attempting suicide in 2023. [5]

Statistics and source review | Prepared October 5, 2026

01 / FAMILY STRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL STRAIN

Marriage, parents & family life

The condition of the family includes adults and children together. The figures below describe living arrangements, marital breakdown, poverty, and financial support.

Finding	Population, date and source
22.2 million children / 27.1% lived with one parent while their other parent lived elsewhere.	U.S. children under 21; 2022. Census. [1]
5.6 million children in custodial-parent families lived in poverty, approximately one in four.	Children under 21 in these families; 2022. Census. [1]
22.6% vs. 12.6% family poverty rates: custodial mothers compared with custodial fathers.	2022. Census. Overall custodial-parent family poverty: 20.7%; all families with children under 21: 11.3%. [1]
78.2% mothers / 21.8% fathers among custodial parents.	13.9 million custodial parents; 2022. Census. [1]
24.5% of custodial parents owed child support received none; **$12.5 billion** in support went unpaid.	2022. Census. [1]
69% women / 31% men initiated divorces in Rosenfeld's study.	Research presented in 2015. Initiation or desire for breakup, not a national court-filing count. [2]

Reading the numbers: Custodial-parent figures include never-married and separated parents, as well as divorce. Custody shares do not measure fathers' contact, parenting time, or which parent caused a breakup.

02 / THE ADULTS WERE CHILDREN TOO

Women, men & adult wellbeing

Finding	Population, date and source
26.4% of women / 19.7% of men experienced any mental illness in the past year.	U.S. adults 18+; 2022. NIMH / NSDUH. Includes mild through severe conditions. [3]
10.3% of women / 6.2% of men experienced a major depressive episode in the past year.	U.S. adults 18+; 2021. NIMH / NSDUH. [6]
17.7% of women / 8.4% of men used antidepressants during the past 30 days.	U.S. adults 18+; 2015-2018. CDC. The series' 30-31 million women estimate is not verified. [7]
20.5% antidepressant use among divorced, separated or widowed adults, versus **12.3%** among married adults or those living with a partner.	Adults 20+; 2015-2018. Never-married adults: 10.8%. Both sexes combined. [8]
38,977 males / 9,847 females died by suicide. Males accounted for approximately **80%** of the total.	U.S.; 2024. Total: 48,824 deaths. Male share calculated from CDC counts; includes all ages. [4]
4,657 men died from work injuries, approximately **92%** of all fatal work injuries.	U.S.; 2024. Total: 5,070; women: 413. Male share calculated from BLS counts. [9]

Reading the numbers: These findings are not specific to husbands or wives unless marital status is stated. Treatment use is not a measure of moral failure. Mental illness, depressive episodes, and medication use are different measures and must not be added together. These data do not establish a single cause for suffering.

03 / SADNESS, DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE RISK

Children, teens & young adults

U.S. high school students, 2023. Sadness and suicidal behavior refer to the previous 12 months; poor mental health refers to the previous 30 days. CDC. [5]

Experience	All	Girls	Boys
Persistent sadness or hopelessness	39.7%	52.6%	27.7%
Poor mental health most of the time or always	28.5%	38.8%	18.8%
Seriously considered attempting suicide	20.4%	27.1%	14.1%
Attempted suicide	9.5%	12.6%	6.4%

Additional finding	Population, date and source
20.1% experienced a major depressive episode: **29.2% of girls / 11.5% of boys**.	U.S. adolescents 12-17; 2021. NIMH / NSDUH. [6]
50.6% increase in emergency visits for suspected suicide attempts among girls ages 12-17.	February 21-March 20, 2021, versus the same period in 2019; CDC surveillance. [10]
Third leading cause of death: suicide among people ages **15-29 worldwide**.	Global estimates for 2021. WHO. The age range is 15-29, not 15-27. [11]

Reading the numbers: The survey describes all high school students, not only children of divorced parents. The 50.6% increase is for suspected suicide-attempt emergency visits over a specific comparison period, not all mental health emergencies. WHO's ranking is global, not a U.S. ranking.

04 / FAMILY BACKGROUND AND LOSS OF FREEDOM

Incarceration & forced marriage

Verified prison survey findings

Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates; published December 2021. Table 13 covers adult male and female state and federal prisoners together. [12]

Childhood living arrangement	Share of prisoners
Lived most of the time with both parents	35.5%
Lived most of the time with one parent	46.8%
Mother only (included within one-parent total)	41.1%
Father only (included within one-parent total)	5.2%
Grandparents	9.2%
Other relatives	3.9%
Foster home, agency or institution	2.9%

85% claim: published attribution, original study unverified

A Minnesota Department of Health fact sheet repeats that 85% of incarcerated youth grew up in fatherless homes. Its underlying original study, sample, date and definition were not verified in this review. It should not be described as 85% of all children or adult men in prison. [13]

22 million people in forced marriages worldwide

Estimated number living in forced marriage on any given day in 2021, an increase of 6.6 million since 2016. ILO, Walk Free and IOM; report published in 2022. Freely accepted arranged marriage is a different category. [14]

Reading the numbers: Childhood residence does not establish whether a person had contact with a nonresident father, and does not prove father absence caused incarceration.

05 / MARRIAGE, FATHER ABSENCE AND FAMILY OUTCOMES

Series claims needing verification

The following figures were discussed or found in the series notes. They are preserved here as research leads, not established current national statistics. Conflicting versions are shown rather than silently reconciled. [S]

Claim in the series	Verification issue
First marriages: **40%, 40-50%, 50%+, or 60-70%** end in divorce.	Different cohorts, periods and measures are not identified. Adding cohabitation breakups does not establish a divorce rate.
Second marriages: **60-67%, 67-70%, 73%, or 80%** end in divorce; third marriages worse.	Conflicting figures; no precise original study attached. A supporting older note also gives 73% for third marriages.
64% of divorced mothers remarry at higher rates than fathers; **80% of divorced people remarry**.	Original tables, time since divorce and populations needed.
70-80% of men lose everything when marriage ends.	No defined statistical outcome or supporting population.
55% of husbands initiate divorce in marriages under ten years.	Supporting document cites Rosenfeld broadly; the specific finding was not verified.
33-40% had not seen their father in a year; **83%** did not see him weekly; only **17%** did; fewer than one-third had monthly overnight stays.	Notes attribute these to Furstenberg and Nord (1985). Original study and population need checking; not current national figures.
85% adult prisoners; 72% juvenile murderers; 70% institutionalized youth; 63% youth suicides; 71% dropouts; 90% homeless/runaway youth came from fatherless homes.	Original studies, dates and definitions not verified. Notes also use 55-60%, 70% and 90% for prisoners, sometimes switching populations.

06 / HEALTH, FINANCIAL STRAIN AND COMPARISON LIMITS

Additional claims in the notes

Claim in the series	Verification issue
Father-absent children: **4 times the poverty risk**; boys **twice the incarceration risk**; drug abuse doubles; teen pregnancy and suicide attempts triple.	Comparison groups, ages, years and original studies are not specified. Use the verified Census poverty figures on page 2.
26% of women take psychiatric medication.	Appears in a video citation in Part 6. Date, sample and drug categories are missing; do not confuse with 26.4% mental illness prevalence.
20% of adolescents need anxiety help; **20%** cannot obtain mental health care; **70-80%** receive inadequate treatment.	Different measures with incomplete study references; not verified as women-only findings.
124% increase in youth mental health hospitalizations, 2016-2022; **31%** increase in mental health emergency visits.	Original dataset and exact periods need checking. The verified 50.6% suicide-attempt visit comparison is on page 4.
Young adults: **15.1%** mental health crisis; **4 in 10 Gen Z** need help; college-age **37%** depression, **32%** anxiety, **11%** suicidal thoughts.	Definitions, survey populations and source dates needed. These include both sexes.
Single mothers: **48.5%** assistance, **38%** SNAP, **40%** medical coverage, **17%** housing, **8%** rent, **85%** school meals; other notes give **66.4%, 81.7%, 37.8%**.	Different denominators and eligibility versus receipt may be mixed. Original tables needed.
10-11 million single-parent households, **80%** mother-led; approximately **28%** single-mother poverty.	Date and household definitions needed. These are not interchangeable with custodial-parent figures.
Roughly **2 million** in prisons/jails; **$70-130 billion annually** or **$2.5 billion weekly**.	Facility coverage, year and included costs need verification. $2.5 billion/week equals $130 billion/year.

07 / REFERENCE DIRECTORY 1 OF 2

Sources & research notes

[1] U.S. Census Bureau
Custodial Parents and Their Child Support: 2022. Published 2025; Tables 1-2, Appendix Table 1 and poverty discussion.
Open source

[2] Michael J. Rosenfeld / American Sociological Association
Who Wants the Breakup? Gender and Breakup in Heterosexual Couples; research presented in 2015. ASA reported 69% women / 31% men.
Open source

[3] National Institute of Mental Health
Mental Illness. Adult prevalence from 2022 NSDUH; 26.4% females, 19.7% males.
Open source

[4] CDC / National Center for Health Statistics
Changes in Suicide Rates in the United States From 2023 to 2024. Data Brief 572; Table 1. Final 2024 counts.
Open source

[5] CDC
Mental Health and Suicide Risk Among High School Students and Protective Factors: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2023. Table 2.
Open source

[6] National Institute of Mental Health
Major Depression. Adult and adolescent past-year estimates from 2021 NSDUH.
Open source

[7] CDC / National Center for Health Statistics
Antidepressant Use Among Adults: United States, 2015-2018. Data Brief 377; September 2020.
Open source

08 / REFERENCE DIRECTORY 2 OF 2

Sources & research notes

[8] CDC
QuickStats: Antidepressant Medications by Sex and Marital Status, NHANES 2015-2018. October 23, 2020.
Open source

[9] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics, 2024. Table A-7.
Open source

[10] CDC
Emergency Department Visits for Suspected Suicide Attempts, January 2019-May 2021. June 18, 2021.
Open source

[11] World Health Organization
Suicide fact sheet, updated August 28, 2026. Global age 15-29 mortality ranking uses 2021 estimates.
Open source

[12] Bureau of Justice Statistics
Profile of Prison Inmates, 2016. December 2021; Table 13.
Open source

[13] Minnesota Department of Health
Fathers fact sheet. Repeats the 85% incarcerated-youth claim. Search-accessible text located; full PDF and underlying original study not verified.
Open source

[14] ILO, Walk Free and International Organization for Migration
Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage. September 12, 2022; estimates for 2021.
Open source

[S] Series notes reviewed
Marriage: For God's Sake & the Children's Sake, main notes across Parts 1-20 and supporting notes including Who Really Files for Divorce - Truth by the Numbers. OneDrive folder supplied by Greg Lancaster. Figures on pages 6-7 are claims from these notes, not verified primary-source findings.

Scope and use
This report compiles the statistics discussed in this conversation and relevant family-health claims from the series. It is not a census of every number, theological claim or cultural statement in the series. Figures retain their original dates and populations. Approximate percentages calculated from counts are labeled. Association does not establish causation; these data do not assign blame to an individual spouse or family.