

THE REALITY OF UNDERAGE MARRIAGE



Up to 80% Divorce Rate

Marriage, in which one or more parties are minors, is more likely to end in divorce. In fact, the divorce rate is approximately 80% in those instances.



Lack of Education

- teens who marry are 50% more likely to drop out of high school
- teens who marry are 31% more likely to live below the poverty line.



Difficulty Accessing Help

- minors who marry often cannot access domestic violence shelters & related services.
- they are unable to file for protection orders.
- minors cannot seek legal counsel from an attorney because they cannot legally enter into a contract.
- emancipation does not guarantee access to these services.



Best Practices

- Studies show that when pregnant teens remain unmarried the mother and child fair better long term.
- teen moms have more support from family and the ability to access healthcare and education, tend to have fewer children in succession.



Together We Can End Child Marriage

Manning, W. D., & Cohen, J. A. (2015). Teenage Cohabitation, Marriage, and Childbearing. Population research and policy review, 34(2), 161–177. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-014-9341-x>

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