

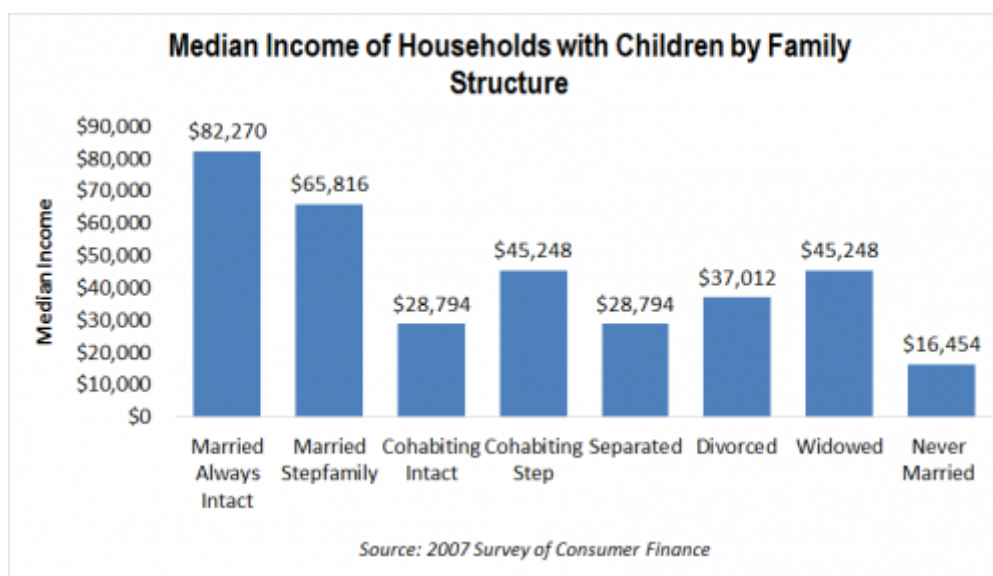
Effects of Stepfamilies on Financial Stability

1. Income

Remarriage increases a divorced parent's family income; though it is still **lower** than that of the always-intact married family (Chart 1). In the United States during the 1970s, approximately one in five women remarried within a year after a divorce. Remarriage improves the average woman's post-divorce economic situation.¹⁾ In Europe, the income of divorced European women who do remarry increases by 26 percent.²⁾

2. Net Worth

Men who remarry after divorce have 29 percent **less net worth** than continuously-married men.³⁾ Though remarriage after divorce brings an increase in household net worth, many remarried spouses choose to keep money in separate accounts rather than pooling all their resources, indicating some fall-out from their earlier experience of divorce.⁴⁾



¹⁾ Greg J. Duncan and Saul D. Hoffman, "A Reconsideration of the Economic Consequences of Marital Dissolution" *Demography* 22, no. 4 (1985): 488

²⁾ Caroline Dewilde and Wilfred Uunk, "Remarriage as a Way to Overcome the Financial Consequences of Divorce- A Test of the Economic Need Hypothesis for European Women," *European Sociological Review* 24, no. 3 (2008): 403.

³⁾ Janet Wilmoth and Gregor Koso, "Does Marital History Matter? Marital Status and Wealth Outcomes among Preretirement Adults," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 64, no. 1 (2002): 261.

⁴⁾ Judith Treas, "Money in the Bank: Transaction Costs and the Economic Organization of Marriage," *American Sociological Review* 58, no. 5 (1993): 732.

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