

# KIDS IN CRISIS: MINISTERING TO CHILDREN FROM MODERN FAMILIES

Presented by: Wayne Stocks | [wayne@divorceministry4kids.com](mailto:wayne@divorceministry4kids.com) | cell: (614) 206-8974

## The Statistics Are Right!!!

1. What percentage of children in the United States reach age 17 having lived with their always married biological parents since the time of their birth (or shortly thereafter)? \_\_\_\_\_ %
2. In what year did the number of children impacted by their parents' divorce first exceed one million kids? \_\_\_\_\_
3. From 1970 to 2012, the number of cohabiting couples with children has increased by what percentage? \_\_\_\_\_ %
4. How many children lived in single parent homes in 2012? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What percentage of remarriages involve children? \_\_\_\_\_ %
6. What % of children will live in a stepfamily before reaching age 18? \_\_\_\_\_ %
7. What % of births to women under 30 were births to single mothers? \_\_\_\_\_ %
8. Of first children born to unmarried mothers, what percentage have a half sibling by age 10? \_\_\_\_\_ %
9. How many more kids lived with their grandparents in 2010 than did in 1970? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What percentage of counties in the United States include a gay household with children? \_\_\_\_\_ %



<http://IAmAChildOfDivorce.com>  
@ChildOfDivorce



<http://Hope4HurtingKids.com>  
@Hope4HurtKids  
[Pinterest.com/Hope4HurtKids](https://www.pinterest.com/Hope4HurtKids)



<http://DivorceMinistry4Kids.com>  
@DivorceMin4Kids

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## *Your Definition of Family*

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## *A New Definition of Family*

<http://waynestocks.com/2014/09/27/a-new-definition-of-family/>



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## Resource Guide

### A. Books

1. Flesberg, Evon O. *The Switching Hour: Kids of Divorce Say Good-bye Again*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2008.
2. Hart, Archibald D. *Helping Children Survive Divorce: What To Expect, How To Help*. Dallas: Word Pub., 1996.
3. Marquardt, Elizabeth. *Between Two Worlds: The Inner Lives of Children of Divorce*. New York: Crown Publishers, 2005.
4. Pearce, Lisa, and Melinda Lundquist Denton *A Faith of Their Own: Stability and Change in Religiosity of America's Adolescents*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
5. Root, Andrew. *The Children of Divorce: The Loss of Family as the Loss of Being*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2010.
6. Stocks, Wayne. "Dealing with the Effects of Divorce on Kids: A Parent and Children's Worker Guide." *Divorce Ministry 4 Kids*, October 31, 2012. (<http://divorceministry4kids.com/2012/dealing-with-the-effects-of-divorce-on-kids/>)
7. Wallerstein, Judith S., Julia Lewis, and Sandra Blakeslee. *The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce: A 25 Year Landmark Study*. New York: Hyperion, 2000.

### B. Programs

1. Divorce Care 4 Kids (<http://DC4K.org>)
2. I Am A Child of Divorce Support Groups (<http://iamachildofdivorce.com/groups/>)
3. The Big D: Divorce Through the Eyes of a Teen (<http://sonsetpointministries.com/thebigdinfo/>)
4. Chained No More (<http://robynministries.com/chainednomore>)
5. Divorce Care (<http://www.divorcecare.org/>)

### C. Websites

1. Ministering to Children from Modern Families
  - a) Divorce Ministry 4 Kids (<http://DivorceMinistry4Kids.com>)
  - b) DC4K Blog (<http://blog.dc4k.org/>)
  - c) Association of Marriage & Family Ministry (<http://www.amfmonline.com/>)
2. For Children from Modern Families
  - a) I Am a Child of Divorce (<http://iamachildofdivorce.com>)
  - b) The Hope Line for Teens & Young Adults (<https://www.thehopeline.com/>)
3. Mentoring
  - a) Double Duty Dads from the National Fatherhood Initiative (<http://www.fatherhood.org/double-duty-dad>)
  - b) National Mentoring Project (<http://www.mentoring.org/>)
  - c) The Mentoring Project (<http://www.thementoringproject.org/>)
  - d) Youth Mentoring from ParentingMinistry.org (<http://www.parentingministry.org/index.php/youth-mentoring-resources>)

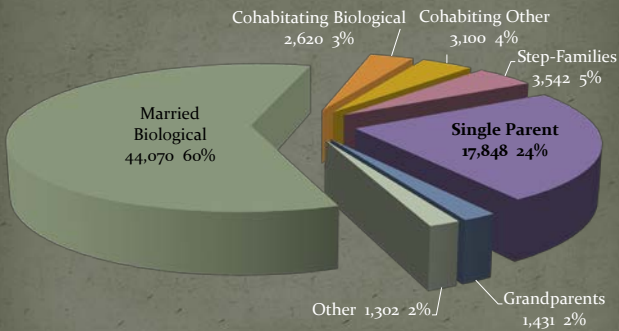


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## The "Take-Aways"

### Children's Living Arrangements: 2013 (000's)



Source: FAM1.B Family structure and children's living arrangements: Detailed living arrangements of children by gender, race and Hispanic origin, age, parent's education, and poverty status, 2013

### Today's Families are Different

"The proliferation of varieties of family structures in recent decades means that everything church leaders accepted as true about families can no longer be taken for granted."

- Does the Shape of Families Shape Faith?

### Evaluating Your Approach to Families

- Consider your view of family
- Look at every program, ministry and event
- Search for imbalance
- Consider modern families
- Make a Plan

### Seven Specific Things You Can Offer

- Preparation
- Relationship
- Emotional Guidance
- Retreat
- Celebration
- Mentorship / Follow Up
- Hope

### How The Church Can Help

- Serve Kids / Serve Family
  - Programs
  - Practical Service
- Create a Community
  - Intergenerational
  - New Story (Rites of Passage)
- Mentorship
  - Organized / Organic
  - Service Opportunities

### The Talk [Immediately / Months / Year(s)]

- What are they feeling?
  - Shock / Grief / Anxiety
- What are they going through?
  - Chaos / Change / Adjustment
- What should you say?
  - I'm Here For You / Your Feelings Are ok / God Loves You
- What should you do?
  - Be Available / Empathize / Mentor
- What shouldn't you do?
  - Try to Fix It / Minimize It / Assume It's All ok
- What do they need?
  - Solid Ground / Understanding / Hope

