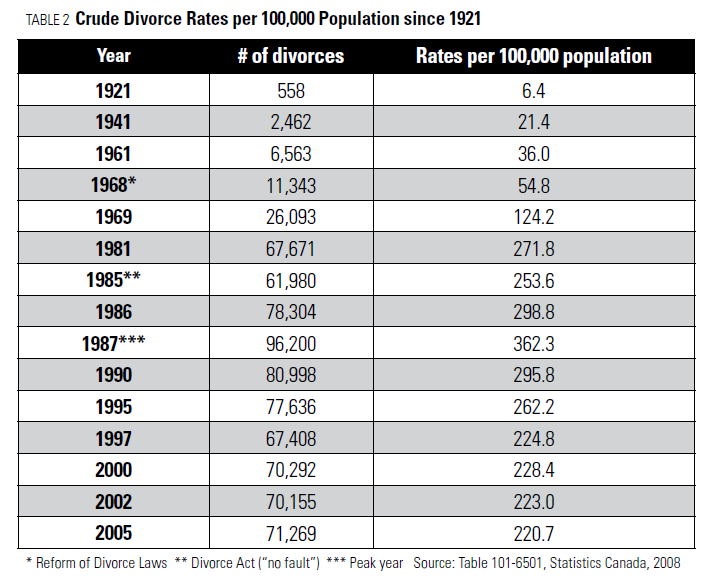
Divorce in Canada & the impact on children

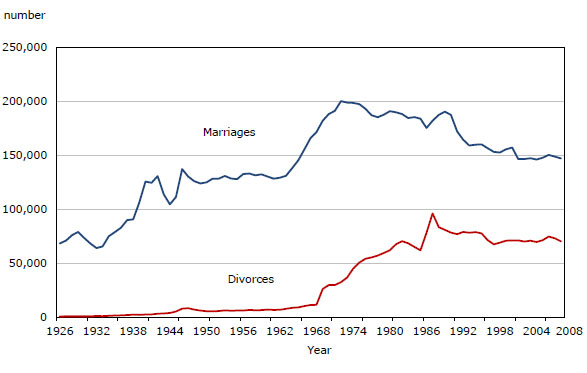
**Some statistics**

* The expected percentage of divorce for recent marriages (ending before their 30th wedding anniversary) has increased slightly from 36.1 % in 1998 to 37.9 % in 2004, and 38% in 2008. Essentially 2% since you were born.
  + This differs from province to province
  + The lowest rates are in Newfoundland [21.6%] and the highest rates are in Quebec [48%]
* However, these rates include repeats, in 2005 16% of divorced men had already divorced once before – same for 15% of women.
  + Probability for divorce is higher for remarriage than for first marriage
* Rates for first marriage are closer to 33%

Up or down?

* Divorce rates dropped substantially in the 1990s and have remained at this lower level with minor yearly fluctuations.

Especially when you look at Crude Rates per 100 000

[](http://www.google.ca/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CAcQjRw&url=http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2012001/article/11634-eng.htm&ei=n2a1VNiQEI2xyASxiYCgDw&bvm=bv.83339334,d.cWc&psig=AFQjCNG_0fhaPgCrro4864q1B1Jc7j8OOw&ust=1421260788564823)

* 1968 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* 1985 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* 1987 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Which way are we going?**

* Whether rates will go up or down depends on socio economic, political, cultural & demographic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* as well as individual preferences & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why it may start to increase…

* Risk factors for higher levels of divorce include whether or not couples \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and whether or not their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + More young people plan \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + There are more “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” today who will be growing up and marrying in the future

What about the children?

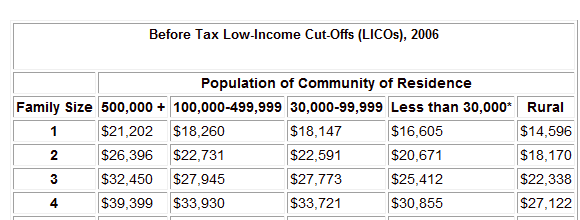
* Research shows that some children adjust to their parents’ separation or divorce better than other children.
* The 2 most salient (notable) negative consequences of divorce are…
  1. an increased risk of poverty
  2. an increased risk for the development of problems for the children involved

**1. An increased risk of poverty**

* The economic resources available for parenting are often \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_after divorce
  + divorced women and their children are the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people in Canada
  + within 2 years of a divorce /separation \_\_\_\_\_\_% women had experienced a decrease in household income compared to \_\_\_\_% of men [conversely a rise by 9% of women and 29% of men]
    - However, in a decade where most families have two breadwinners, men who divorce lose far more financially than in the past, especially those married to high earning women
* For families already burdened by poverty – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the children are at the time of divorce the more likely they are to be poor
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have an income that is **40% below** the poverty line\* – DIRE POVERTY
  + \_\_\_\_% of all female lone parent families lived in poverty in 2004 while many hovered just one step above

**LICO Low Income Cut Offs**

* This is a measure that changes based on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* It is what the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” is measured by, families that make \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than this are considered to be living in poverty



|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Before Tax Low Income Cut Offs (LICO), 2010** | | | | | |
| **3** | $34, 646 | $29, 836 | $29, 652 | $27, 132 | $23, 849 |
| **4** | $42, 065 | $36, 266 | $36, 003 | $2632, 943 | $28, 957 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**2. An increased risk of problems for children**

* Although most children do *\_\_\_\_* experience serious problems as a result of divorce, it is a strong risk factor and a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Divorce is above all, an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ transition that can create lingering feelings of sadness, longing, worry, and regret that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ psychological and social functioning
* Average differences \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but children whose parents are divorced are *more likely* to
  + Suffer from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, anxiety & other emotional disorders [ 10 of 14 girls and 4 of 13 boys at FFSS according to Metheral (2014) ]
  + Exhibit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ including hyperactivity, aggressiveness, fighting and hostility
  + Become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and remain in school for a shorter period of time
  + Experience \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whose parents divorced during their childhood and teen years, tend to…
  + Have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not married) more often, particularly during adolescence
  + Achieve \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Be more often \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Have more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Are more likely to have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and to report a less happy childhood
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (affects schooling due to money)

**Important note…**

* Some of these negative effects would have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before the divorce
* Many of these consequences are actually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* They do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, they are only at a greater risk of developing problems
* There is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Sources of these negative outcomes**

1. Poverty
2. Diminished parenting
3. Parental conflict
4. Pre existing problems
5. Genetics





**Poverty**

Typical negative outcomes of children of divorce essentially resemble   
those of children in poverty

Additional stressors may include…

* needing to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or living conditions
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ neighbourhood, more delinquency
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* possibly more noise and pollution
* children and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ may be affected
* more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* parent who works long hours to make ends meet and is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

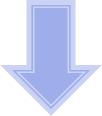
**Diminished Parenting**

Diminished parenting occurs when divorce creates a series of stressors particularly   
for the custodial parents

Some abandon responsibilities and some become “pals”

This can result in parent(s) who are…

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* suffering from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* spending time looking for a new mate and therefore \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Also, can result in stressors and preoccupations that diminish…

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Also, can result in increased…

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



**Parental Conflict**

Parents who continue or begin quarreling & verbally abusing each other in front   
of their children cause *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

When children are caught in the middle, this can result in…

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Aggressiveness & other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parental hostility during the marriage provide unhealthy role models

* Children \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that disagreements can only be solved by fighting

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* can occur when one parent more or less brainwashes a child against the other & prevents that parent from seeing the child and the child from loving that parent

* this can have dire consequences for the child’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the future

*Divorces that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for children*

However, when the parents are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is seen by the child as very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* It also indicates a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or which may not be the best example for the child for their own future relationships

**Pre-existing Problems**

* Some parents already have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which has been negative for the children,
  + This \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when the parents separate
  + Parent may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, troubled personality
* Divorce just seems to make this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Genetics**

Lastly, a proportion of people who divorce do so because they are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people

* These parents pass on these \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to any biological offspring
* These children run the risk of being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and then live in a conflict ridden home that is disorganized, and fosters their negative predispositions
* When divorce happens in these situations the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – vicious circle

*BUT.. Nothing is fixed in stone!*

**Does Age or Gender Make a Difference?**

* Early research seemed to indicate that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ might experience \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than girls.
  + Children between the ages of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ may be the most negatively affected because they are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and their changing family situation.
  + In the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, boys are more likely to be aggressive and get into fights,
  + while girls are more likely to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* But by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, both boys and girls are more likely to engage in negative conduct and experience bouts of sadness.
  + Adolescent girls are likely to be involved in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, leading to a greater risk of teenage pregnancy and teen parenting,
  + Then there are some girls who emerge out of the divorced, mother-headed households as exceptionally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + This is true for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Debates are on-going about the negative effects and the extent of the damage…** Some conflicting findings…

**Wallerstein vs Hetherington**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Judith Wallerstein   * \_\_\_\_ of all children suffer serious long term consequences from their parent’s divorce   + poor social and emotional development, poor school results, substance abuse and having their own marriages end in divorce, affects a child’s ability to trust others and makes it difficult for them to commit | E. Mavis Hetherington   * children of divorce can be divided into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ groups… winners, survivors and losers   + losers thankfully are the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the groups according to her research * research show that after \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the majority of children of divorce are functioning reasonably well   + her studies reveal that for every young adult from a divorced family who is experiencing problems, there are four who are not * Her statistics show that \_\_\_\_% of children of divorce have serious social, emotional, or psychological problems, compared to \_\_\_\_% of children who come from intact homes * Most single mothers are  providing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  for their children & should  be celebrated |

**Parent’s ability to co-operate**

* Parent’s ability to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ affects the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the children
* Divorces can be characterized by parents who are either

1. High conflict
2. Business like
3. Friendly

* Parents who are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cause a lot less stress for their children and therefore less trauma



**There is no such thing as a typical divorce**

* Each family goes through their own process
* Some find it really hard while others find it a new beginning
* It is a developmental process that unfolds over time
  + it begins when parents begin to contemplate divorce, continues through the divorce till the creation of a post-divorce family

What really counts?

No matter what the family structure is it is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that is the most important factor in a child’s adjustment in life

* Children who have at least one positive, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ parent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are likely to be competent and well-adjusted during childhood and later in life