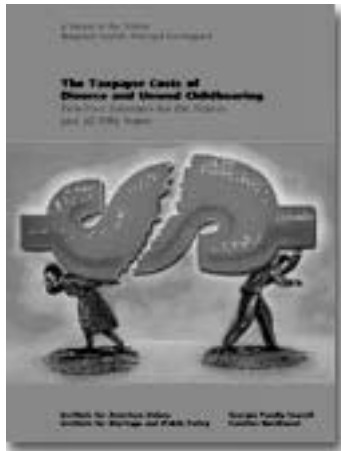


**New!**

# The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing

*First-Ever Estimates for the Nation and All Fifty States*



Each year family fragmentation costs American taxpayers a recurring sum of money. These costs are due to increased taxpayer expenditures for antipoverty, criminal justice and school nutrition programs, and through lower levels of taxes paid by individuals whose adult productivity has been negatively influenced by growing up in poverty caused by family fragmentation.

For the **first-time ever**, this study provides the a rigorous estimate of the costs to U.S. taxpayers of high rates of divorce and unmarried childbearing **both at the national and state levels**. It arrives at a figure in the billions of dollars that represents a minimum or “lower-bound” estimate. If, as research suggests is likely, marriage has additional economic and social benefits to children, adults, and communities—benefits that reduce the need for government services and that operate through mechanisms other than

increased income—then the actual taxpayer costs of the retreat from marriage are likely much higher.

Authored by Benjamin Scafidi of Georgia College & State University, *The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing* explains why policymakers may have an interest in supporting marriage in Section I. Sections II and III explain the methods used to estimate the taxpayer cost of family fragmentation by using evidence about the relationship between family breakdown and poverty. Section IV reveals the national estimate of the taxpayer cost. Estimated costs for individual states are found in appendix B.

*To order The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing, please return the form below, along with your payment, to: Institute for American Values, 1841 Broadway, Suite 211, NY, New York 10023; T. (212) 246-3942; F. (212) 541-6665; email: charity@americanvalues.org. All orders must be prepaid by credit card or check/money order. Libraries and institutions may use purchase orders.*

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