



# The State of Our Unions 2009: MONEY & MARRIAGE

*The State of Our Unions* is an annual report on the social health of marriage in America, co-published by the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia and the Center for Marriage and Families at the Institute for American Values. Each issue tracks major social indicators of the health of marriage, analyzes the forces affecting married life in the U.S., and identifies cultural and policy strategies to strengthen this vital institution.

In the 2009 issue on “Money and Marriage,” top scholars from around the nation focus on how the Great Recession is impacting marriage. Among the findings: Financial conflict is proving to be a top predictor of divorce. At the same time, divorce fell during the first full year of the Great Recession – the first annual dip since 2005 – evidence that the challenges of job losses, foreclosures and depleted retirement accounts may be driving some couples to stick together.

The issue also contains a debate about the so-called “mancession” – that is, the fact that joblessness has hit working class men particularly hard – and its possible impact on marriage. One scholar suggests that more time for men at home will help spark a new era of gender equality in marriage, while another offers survey data showing that men who work fewer hours than their wives tend to report they are less happy in their marriages.

More information about *The State of Our Unions*, as well as a free PDF of the document is available at [www.stateofourunions.org](http://www.stateofourunions.org). Printed single copies of the report are \$15.00 plus shipping and handling. Volume discounts are available. Please refer to the chart below.



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