

Will Young-Adult Relationship Trends Lower U.S. Divorce Rate?

By: Scott D Stewart

<http://www.azdivorceattorneyblog.com/>

<http://www.sdsfamilylaw.com/>

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According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, Maricopa County made up more than 63 percent of 2008 Arizona divorces. That rate is high, but as most already know, the general divorce rate in the entire U.S. is high. The rate has gone down somewhat in this economy, and based on the new common dating and marriage practices, some sources think that today's young adults might impact the [divorce](#) rate even more.

What about dating and marriage has changed for the current marrying generation?

The average age when men and women get married has gone up compared to past generations who married in their early twenties. That alone instills confidence among some who believe this fact means that couples are more mature to successfully understand and handle a marriage. Marrying later in life also allows individuals to better figure out who they are and what they want before committing to a life with someone.

Long-term dating equals forever marriage?

Apparently, one does not have to be a relationship professional to understand the importance of maturity and self-discovery when it comes to marriage. More young couples around the country are part of decade-long relationships with no immediate wedding in the future. And that approach is no accident.

Studies show that more than ever before, young adults are putting marriage off in order to try to test and prepare their relationships for the legal, forever commitment. Couples want to live together, finish school, earn a certain income and basically experience the ups and downs of life as couples before deciding to make their unions official. That way, they have a better idea of what a marriage would mean for them as couples and individuals and whether the commitment is realistic for them.

Where art thou romance?

Sure, the long-term dating trend does not scream whimsy and romance, but perhaps marriage success is a more positive focus for twenty-somethings to have. The baby-boomers who raised

them divorced at a record-setting rate, likely affecting how their children approach dating and marriage. Perhaps the current marrying generation is merely trying to apply what they have learned from the many failed marriages of their baby-boomer parents.

Obviously, whether applying those lessons results in a lower divorce rate in the future remains to be seen.

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