

Summary of 570 News Radio Interview with Ron Haskins
September 14, 2005 at 1:20 PM - Toronto/Kitchener, Ontario by Gary Doyle

Interviewer Gary Doyle introduces the Future of Children:

Q: Children from two-parent families are better off emotionally, economically and socially.

Ron: "Most marriages, even if they have conflicts, there are not insuperable problems. And children will be better off—more likely to go to school, not be delinquent."

Q: Has this changed?

Ron: "An interesting history. For many years, thought that divorce was OK... Then the scholarly world produced studies that kids recovered... But when studies followed children for years and years after divorce, it became overwhelmingly clear that children are better off."

Q: Because of more poverty?

Ron: "That's a part of it... But studies that have controlled for income show there is still left-over effect on children's development and income."

Q: What's the data?

Ron: "This is a journal which refers to scores of studies... And there is almost unanimous agreement that marriage is the best environment for children. Your listeners can find it online at www.futureofchildren.org."

Q: Even children in same-sex marriages are better off?

Ron: "There is one of the more balanced reviews, . . . but it would not be correct to say that children are worse off or that there are no negative effects."

Q: The research validates the family.

Ron: "Yes it does. One author, Paul Amato, argued that parents should stay together for the sake of marriage. At the time, he was ridiculed by some professionals. And in this journal he estimates the costs to society of divorce and the savings to society of parents staying together. Children, families and society all would be better off if parents stayed together."

Q: There's so much divorce out there...

Ron: "Divorce rates leveled off in the US in the mid-1980s, but marriage rates have been

falling and more low-income children are born out of wedlock. 70% of black children are born out of wedlock."

Q: The study is fascinating. If you want to read more, see www.futureofchildren.org.