

News

Ginger Knox Coauthors Article in *Future of Children* Journal on Fragile Families

The Fall 2010 issue of the *Future of Children* journal, published by the Brookings Institution and Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, features an article coauthored by Ginger Knox, Director of MDRC's Family Well-Being and Children's Development Policy Area:

- **“Marriage and Fatherhood Programs”** by Phillip A. Cowan, Carolyn Pape Cowan, and Virginia Knox

The article is part of a **volume** focusing on “fragile families,” defined as couples who are unmarried when their children are born. Compared with more traditional families, these fragile families face greater risks in terms both of family stability and of economic security — risks that can imperil child well-being. In this issue of *Future of Children*, experts explore various aspects of fragile families and fashion policy recommendations to both reduce the number of children born into fragile families in the first place and to ensure that children born into fragile families receive the support they need to grow into healthy, productive adults.

In their article on marriage and fatherhood programs, the Cowans and Knox consider whether interventions for working-class or middle-class fathers or couples that have shown benefits for family members and their relationships might be helpful to fragile families. Because evidence suggests that couple-oriented programs also have a positive effect on father involvement, and programs that work with nonresident fathers do not typically have strong co-parenting components, the authors suggest that thoughtful integration of couple and fatherhood interventions might increase their power to reduce the risks and enhance the protective factors for children's development and well-being.