

Scot McKay (00:00.27)

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Alright, how's it going, gentlemen? This is your main man, Scot McKay, coming at you again with another Snippet From The Summit as part of the Mountaintop Podcast from X & Y Communications. On my EduMcKaytion Substack this week, which you can head to by going to <https://scotmckay.substack.com>, I published an article on how we as men should probably just ignore surveys and studies that show who gets the girl and who doesn't. After all, studies measure average people.

Be a "big four" man, rise above average, and all the studies in the world, even if their overall data is accurate, won't apply to you. But as it turns out, there's even another level in support of my main premise there. One of the favorite stats to weaponize on the part of attraction and relationship pessimists is that one about how 67% of second marriages end in divorce.

Well, as it turns out, the outlet marriage science did the research and there's no study behind that figure at all. Now, Psychology Today published an article in twenty twelve that casually mentioned that figure without backing it up at all. And since it's a widely trusted outlet, people just went along with it, especially if it served their cynical red pill viewpoint, right? Now, as it turns out, the red pill in this case was actually the blue pill.

Hence the danger of confirmation bias when evaluating relationship statistics. Here are the real stats. The best long running federal survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics puts the real lifetime second marriage divorce rate at 39.1%, which is lower than the BLS figure of forty six percent for first marriages. So see, there you go.

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Second marriages actually have a statistically significant lower divorce rate than first marriages. Now, in fairness to those of you who will fact check me on this, it's also true that the US Census Bureau shows more second marriages fail per thousand in any given year than first marriages, which appears to contradict the numbers I just gave. But remember, people enter second marriages eight point one years older on average than

An annual divorce risk falls steeply with marriage duration, right? So the adjusted comparison still indeed flatters remarriage. Simply put, the fact that people in first marriages have been married for a far longer time on average overall influences the stats tremendously. Now, expand the scope out both within this study and to other studies over the years, and the second marriage divorce rate data varies by age and

education level, and steady work history also. Nuances like what caused the first breakup, for example, criminal action, profound mental illness, standing up to a narcissist, etc., along with maturity level, maybe religious conversion experiences, etc., are untouched and unconsidered by virtually all of these narrowly focused studies.

So a second marriage isn't necessarily a repeat experiment of the first. The people conducting the experiment and the conditions under which they're conducting it may be profoundly different. For our part, statistically, Emily and I simply become two previously divorced people in a second marriage. That blanket statement says nothing about what unique extenuating factors ended either first marriage, in our case, it was severe mental illness on the part of our

respective former spouses, or the extent to which two people who needed self-work fixed the root cause of their relationship failures or not before traipsing into a second marriage. Now, after 20 years together, our own outcome is favorable vis a vis what the second marriages fail lore out there would lead

someone to assume. What's the takeaway here, gentlemen? Again, as my recent Substack suggested,

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Ignore all the studies anyone would seek to weaponize against you and your potential success with women. Whether they're right or wrong, accurate or not, whether they demonstrate something positive or negative about your potential chances for success with women. Just choose the right woman for the right reasons. Be the "big four" man you are, and you and your honey go be connectable together. Then the chances are you're gonna beat all the odds.

Want to talk about this or anything else? scot@mountaintoppodcast.com. Be good out there. As always, visit mountaintoppodcast.com for more.