<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/Wellness/daughters-breed-divorce-boys-blessing-daughters-curse/story?id=11804444>

**Couples With Daughters More Likely to Divorce**ABC NewsOctober 5, 2010

According to census data, having a daughter might boost a couple's risk of divorce.

Researchers found that:

> couples with sons are more likely to stick together,

> unmarried pregnant couples were more likely to marry if the baby was going to be a boy.

>  [divorced mothers](http://health.abcnews.go.com/sw/wl-how-parents-can-help-kids-through-a-divorce) of boys are more likely to remarry and stay remarried.

Since the data on more than 3 million adults from [U.S. Census data](http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Wellness/working-early-death/story?id=11781365&page=6):

> it's likely this effect is not just a statistical fluke,

> but the “hows” and “whys” of this phenomenon are open to debate.

Thought Question:

1. How does this divorce statistic relate to relate to “gender stereotypes” and gender selection?

(full text below, not required reading)

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**Couples With Daughters More Likely to Divorce**ABC NewsOctober 5, 2010

Oct. 6, 2010&#151; -- Little girls may be sugar and spice and everything nice, but having a daughter might boost a couple's risk of divorce, according to past census data.

Not only did researchers find that couples with sons are more likely to stick together, unmarried pregnant couples were more likely to have shotgun weddings if the baby was going to be a boy and [divorced mothers](http://health.abcnews.go.com/sw/wl-how-parents-can-help-kids-through-a-divorce) of boys are more likely to remarry and stay remarried.

Does this mean that daughters are [matrimonially risky](http://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/wireStory?id=11769897) and sons are marriage saviors? Not so fast, psychologists say.

In the original 2003 research on the topic, economists Gordon Dahl, from the University of California-San Diego, and Enrico Moretti, at UC Berkeley, found that couples with a **first-born girl** were about **5 percent** more likely to divorce than parents of a first-born boy. When there are as many as **three daughters** that difference spiked to **10 percent**.

Given that the researchers drew from data on more than 3 million adults from [U.S. Census data](http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Wellness/working-early-death/story?id=11781365&page=6), it's likely this effect is not just a statistical fluke, but the hows and whys of this phenomenon are open to debate.

From one perspective, there could be something about boys that makes parents want to stick it out, either because they [enhance marital relations](http://health.abcnews.go.com/sw/wl-the-truth-about-kids-and-divorce) or make the prospect of a fatherless home more frightening.

More recently, however, psychologists have debated whether daughters might make [mothers more willing to leave a bad marriage](http://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/video/dating-rumors-surround-50-cent-chelsea-handler-11802028) because they provide social support that empowers their mom.