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Economic Implications of Divorce

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Research shows that over half of all marriages end in divorce. This paper examines the economic implications of divorce for women and men in American society. The paper highlights the differences in living standards for men and women that result from divorce and how responsibilities of supporting children affect economic outcome. Research suggests that although men tend to be displeased with the outcomes of divorce settlements, men's standard of living increases after divorce. In contrast, women tend to be satisfied with the outcomes of divorce settlements while their living standards actually decline. Women usually obtain custody of children in divorce settlements. This paper examines the financial burden brought on by child custody and the child support payments system and its implication on a woman’s standard of living.