

Study: The cheaper the engagement ring, the more successful the marriage

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ATLANTA (WJLA) - Results of a new research study suggest that the cost of your engagement ring may say a lot about the future success - or failure - of your marriage.

The study, conducted by economics professors at Emory University in Atlanta, surveyed 3,000 U.S. adults who had been married at some point in their lives.

Results suggest that the higher the cost of the engagement ring, the shorter the marriage. Likewise, less expensive rings were often tied with longer and more successful marriages.

Specifically, results indicated that men who spent between \$2,000 and \$4,000 on their engagement rings were 1.3 times more likely to get divorced than men who spent between \$500 and \$2,000.

Men who spent \$500 or less, though, were also more likely to get divorced.

Survey responses from women who had received an engagement ring in their lifetime seemed to match up - women who had received big or very expensive rings had a higher rate of divorce than those who had received moderately priced rings.

Similarly, couples who had expensive weddings were more likely to experience stress related to finances or debt, and had higher rates of divorce. Couples who spent \$20,000 or more on their weddings were 3.5 times more likely to get divorced than those who spent between \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The average wedding in the U.S. these days costs \$30,000.

Researchers theorized that heavy advertising and marketing campaigns by wedding-related businesses and retailers contributes to the rising amount of spending on weddings, and consequently, the high amount of stress and rising divorce rate.