

NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 026 - Folder 005

Family - Family Report [2]

MEMORANDUM

TO: TOM FREEDMAN, MARY L. SMITH
FROM: DREW HANSEN
RE: REPORT ON THE FAMILY
DATE: JULY 25, 1997

SUMMARY

Attached are some demographic statistics that might be relevant to a possible report on the family. The first set of attached data are the modern counterparts to some of the statistics used in the Moynihan report. A memorandum summarizing the second set of attached data follows. The second set of attached data are some other modern demographic trends that are affecting the family. The following is a table of contents for the rest of the packet.

MOYNIHAN REPORT STATISTICS (MODERN COUNTERPARTS)

The Moynihan report argued that the black family was in crisis due to the influences of slavery, reconstruction, urbanization, unemployment, and low wages. The signs of the crisis in the black family were high rates of divorce/separation, illegitimate births, and female-headed families. The results of the crisis were welfare dependency, matriarchal families, educational failure of black youth, delinquency and crime, inability to enter the armed forces, and alienation among young black men.

A. Causes of family crisis

1. Employment status of males, 1960-1995
2. Minimum wage, 1950-1996
3. Poverty threshold, 1959-1995
4. Ability of minimum-wage worker to support a family at poverty threshold, 1961-1995

B. Signs of family crisis

1. Marital status of persons 15 years and over, by age and sex, 1994
2. Ratio of births to unmarried women, 1940-1992
3. Household composition, 1940-1994

C. Results of family crisis

1. Receipt of AFDC by family status: 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992
2. Family structure of persons in juvenile institutions, 1987

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AFFECTING THE FAMILY

Summary memo

Marriage and Divorce (data)

- Marital status, 1970-1995
- Median age at first marriage, by sex: 1890-1994
- Percent distribution of marriages, by marriage order: 1970-1988
- Marriages and divorces, 1950-1994
- Divorces per 1,000 marriages
- Percent never married, by age and sex: 1970, 1980, 1990, 1994

Household Composition (data)

- Household composition, 1970-1994
- Unmarried-couple households, by presence of children: 1970-1994
- Children under 18 years old, by presence of parents: 1970-1995
- Living arrangements of young adults, 1970-1995
- Proportion of children in single-parent situations living with a separated, divorced, or never-married parent: 1960, 1970, 1975, and 1980-1994 ✓

Women in the Labor Force (data)

- Employment status of the civilian population, 1960-1995 (female) ✓
- Marital status of women in the civilian labor force, 1960-1995
- Labor force participation rate for women, by marital status and presence and age of children, 1960-1995
- Labor force participation rate of women with children under 6, by marital status: 1960-1995

Out-of-Wedlock Births (data)

- Birth rates for married and unmarried women: 1940, 1950, 1955, 1960-1992 ✓
- Births to unmarried women, 1970-1993
- Births to unmarried women, selected countries, 1970-1992

Economic Diversity Among Families (data)

- Median income among families, by type of family in constant (1994) dollars: 1970-1994

Employment status of males, 1960 to 1995

Year	Total male	Employed	Emp/pop. ratio	Unemp.	Unemp %	Not in labor %	not in labor force
1960	46388	43904	78.9	2486	5.4	9274	16.7
1970	51228	48990	76.2	2238	4.4	13076	20.3
1980	61453	57186	72	4267	6.9	17945	22.6
1985	64411	59861	70.9	4521	7	20058	23.7
1990	69011	65104	72	3906	5.7	21367	23.6
1992	69964	64440	69.8	5523	7.9	22306	24.2
1993	70404	65349	70	5055	7.2	22927	24.6
1994	70817	66450	70.4	4367	6.2	23538	24.9
1995	71360	67377	70.8	3983	5.6	23818	25

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996

Minimum Wage for Non-Farm Workers, 1950-1996

<i>Year</i>	<i>Laws prior to 1966</i>	<i>1966 and later</i>
1950	\$0.75	
1956	\$1.00	
1961	\$1.15	
1963	\$1.25	
1967	\$1.40	\$1.00
1968	\$1.60	\$1.15
1969	\$1.60	\$1.30
1970	\$1.60	\$1.45
1971	\$1.60	\$1.60
1974	\$2.00	\$1.90
1975	\$2.10	\$2.00
1976	\$2.30	\$2.20
1977	\$2.30	\$2.30
1978	\$2.65	\$2.65
1979	\$2.90	\$2.90
1980	\$3.10	\$3.10
1981	\$3.35	\$3.35
1990	\$3.80	\$3.80
1991	\$4.25	\$4.25
1992	\$4.25	\$4.25
1993	\$4.25	\$4.25
1994	\$4.25	\$4.25
1995	\$4.25	\$4.25
1996	\$4.25	\$4.25

Note: "prior to 1966" applies to workers covered prior to 1961 amendments and, after 1965, to workers covered by 1961 amendments. "1966 and later" applies to workers newly covered by amendments of 1966, 1974, and 1977, and Title IX of Education amendments of 1972.

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996

Avg. Poverty Threshold for a Family of Four, Constant Dollars: 1959-1995

<i>Year</i>	<i>Poverty Threshold</i>
1959	\$2,973
1960	\$3,022
1961	\$3,054
1962	\$3,089
1963	\$3,128
1964	\$3,169
1965	\$3,223
1966	\$3,317
1967	\$3,410
1968	\$3,553
1969	\$3,743
1970	\$3,968
1971	\$4,137
1972	\$4,275
1973	\$4,540
1974	\$5,038
1975	\$5,500
1976	\$5,815
1977	\$6,191
1978	\$6,662
1979	\$7,412
1980	\$8,414
1981	\$9,287
1982	\$9,862
1983	\$10,178
1984	\$10,609
1985	\$10,989
1986	\$11,203
1987	\$11,611
1988	\$12,092
1989	\$12,674
1990	\$13,359
1991	\$13,924
1992	\$14,335
1993	\$14,763
1994	\$15,141
1995	\$15,569

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports,
"Poverty in the United States: 1995" Series P60, No. 194.

Ability of Minimum-wage Worker to Support a Family of Four at the Poverty Threshold, 1961-1995

<i>Year</i>	<i>Minimum Wage</i>	<i>Annual Earnings</i>	<i>Poverty Threshold</i>	<i>Earnings/Pov.</i>
1961	\$1.15	\$2,300	\$3,054	0.75
1962	\$1.15	\$2,300	\$3,089	0.74
1963	\$1.25	\$2,500	\$3,128	0.80
1964	\$1.25	\$2,500	\$3,169	0.79
1965	\$1.25	\$2,500	\$3,223	0.78
1966	\$1.25	\$2,500	\$3,317	0.75
1967	\$1.40	\$2,800	\$3,410	0.82
1968	\$1.60	\$3,200	\$3,553	0.90
1969	\$1.60	\$3,200	\$3,743	0.85
1970	\$1.60	\$3,200	\$3,968	0.81
1971	\$1.60	\$3,200	\$4,137	0.77
1972	\$1.60	\$3,200	\$4,275	0.75
1973	\$1.60	\$3,200	\$4,540	0.70
1974	\$2.00	\$4,000	\$5,038	0.79
1975	\$2.10	\$4,200	\$5,500	0.76
1976	\$2.30	\$4,600	\$5,815	0.79
1977	\$2.30	\$4,600	\$6,191	0.74
1978	\$2.65	\$5,300	\$6,662	0.80
1979	\$2.90	\$5,800	\$7,412	0.78
1980	\$3.10	\$6,200	\$8,414	0.74
1981	\$3.35	\$6,700	\$9,287	0.72
1982	\$3.35	\$6,700	\$9,862	0.68
1983	\$3.35	\$6,700	\$10,178	0.66
1984	\$3.35	\$6,700	\$10,609	0.63
1985	\$3.35	\$6,700	\$10,989	0.61
1986	\$3.35	\$6,700	\$11,203	0.60
1987	\$3.35	\$6,700	\$11,611	0.58
1988	\$3.35	\$6,700	\$12,092	0.55
1989	\$3.35	\$6,700	\$12,674	0.53
1990	\$3.80	\$7,600	\$13,359	0.57
1991	\$4.25	\$8,500	\$13,924	0.61
1992	\$4.25	\$8,500	\$14,335	0.59
1993	\$4.25	\$8,500	\$14,763	0.58
1994	\$4.25	\$8,500	\$15,141	0.56
1995	\$4.25	\$8,500	\$15,569	0.55

*Minimum wage in laws prior to 1961

*Annual earnings assuming a 40hr week and a 50-week year.

Sources: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, "Poverty in the United States: 1995" Series P60, No. 194.

Marital Status of Persons 15 Years and Over, by Age and Sex

	Total (15+)	15-17yrs	18-19yrs	20-24yrs	25-29yrs	30-34yrs
<i>Both sexes</i>	200800	10814	6916	18559	19626	22320
Never married	54873	10668	6527	13631	8387	5525
Married, spouse present	10523	76	292	4168	9361	13379
Married, spouse absent	6730	36	66	421	749	1063
*separated	4755	25	38	287	540	801
*other	1975	10	27	134	210	262
Widowed	13295	0	5	16	38	86
Divorced	17379	13	26	323	1091	2067
<i>Percent</i>						
Never married	27.3%	98.8%	94.4%	73.4%	42.7%	24.8%
Married, spouse present	54.0%	0.7%	4.2%	22.5%	47.7%	60.8%
Married, spouse absent	3.4%	0.3%	0.9%	2.3%	3.8%	4.8%
*separated	2.4%	0.2%	0.6%	1.5%	2.7%	3.6%
*other	1.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.7%	1.1%	1.2%
Widowed	6.6%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%
Divorced	8.7%	0.1%	0.4%	1.7%	5.6%	9.3%
<i>Male</i>	96768	5546	3462	9221	9765	11108
Never married	30228	5502	3375	7469	4910	3298
Married, spouse present	54261	28	64	1546	4152	6491
Married, spouse absent	2807	11	16	112	270	449
*separated	1780	8	9	66	171	301
*other	1026	4	7	46	98	148
Widowed	2222	0	2	5	9	6
Divorced	7250	5	5	89	424	864
<i>Percent (Male)</i>						
Never married	31.2%	99.2%	97.5%	81.0%	50.3%	29.7%
Married, spouse present	56.1%	0.5%	1.8%	16.8%	42.5%	58.4%
Married, spouse absent	2.9%	0.2%	0.5%	1.2%	2.8%	4.0%
*separated	1.8%	0.1%	0.3%	0.7%	1.8%	2.7%
*other	1.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	1.0%	1.3%
Widowed	2.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Divorced	7.5%	0.1%	0.1%	1.0%	4.3%	7.8%
<i>Female</i>	104032	5268	3454	9338	9861	11212
Never married	24645	5187	3152	6162	3476	2228
Married, spouse present	54261	48	228	2622	5209	7089
Married, spouse absent	3924	24	50	309	480	614
*separated	2975	18	29	220	368	500
*other	949	7	20	89	111	113
Widowed	11073	0	3	11	29	80
Divorced	10129	9	21	234	667	1202
<i>Percent(female)</i>						
Never married	23.7%	98.5%	91.2%	66.0%	35.3%	19.9%
Married, spouse present	52.2%	0.9%	6.6%	28.1%	52.8%	63.2%
Married, spouse absent	3.8%	0.5%	1.4%	3.3%	4.9%	5.5%
*separated	2.9%	0.3%	0.8%	2.4%	3.7%	4.5%
*other	9.0%	0.1%	0.6%	0.9%	1.1%	1.0%
Widowed	10.6%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.7%
Divorced	9.7%	0.2%	0.6%	2.5%	6.8%	10.7%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census
 Current Population Reports
 Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1994. Series P20, No. 484.

35-39yrs	40-44yrs	45-54yrs	55-64yrs	65-74yrs	75-84yrs	85+	Total, 18+	
21970	19557	29522	20737	18087	9857	2835	189986	
3514	2164	2077	980	775	386	218	44185	
14527	13494	21197	14875	11499	4671	785	108447	
1035	968	1143	659	375	160	55	6695	
786	730	811	446	220	56	16	4729	
250	238	333	212	155	105	39	1965	
167	177	841	1828	4171	4258	1707	13295	
2728	2754	4264	2396	1267	382	69	17366	
16.0%	11.1%	7.0%	4.7%	4.3%	3.9%	7.7%	23.3%	
66.1%	69.0%	71.8%	71.7%	63.6%	47.4%	27.7%	57.1%	
4.7%	4.9%	3.9%	3.2%	2.1%	1.6%	2.0%	3.5%	
3.6%	3.7%	2.7%	2.2%	1.2%	0.6%	0.6%	2.5%	
1.1%	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	1.1%	1.4%	1.0%	
0.8%	0.9%	2.8%	8.8%	23.1%	43.2%	60.2%	7.0%	
12.4%	14.1%	14.4%	11.6%	7.0%	3.9%	2.4%	9.1%	
10892	9651	14454	9933	7924	3888	924	91222	
2094	1255	1185	539	390	147	64	24727	
7140	6644	10900	7733	6174	2859	530	54233	
463	460	462	301	179	66	16	2795	
338	319	279	179	91	17	2	1772	
125	141	184	122	88	49	15	1023	
31	31	137	327	695	681	299	2221	
1164	1262	1770	1033	486	135	15	7245	
19.2%	13.0%	8.2%	5.4%	4.9%	3.8%	7.0%	27.1%	
65.5%	68.8%	75.4%	77.9%	77.9%	73.5%	57.4%	59.5%	
4.3%	4.8%	3.2%	3.0%	2.3%	1.7%	1.8%	3.1%	
3.1%	3.3%	1.9%	1.8%	1.1%	0.4%	0.2%	1.9%	
1.1%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.3%	1.6%	1.1%	
0.3%	0.3%	0.9%	3.3%	8.8%	17.5%	32.3%	2.4%	
10.7%	13.1%	12.2%	10.4%	6.1%	3.5%	1.6%	7.9%	
11078	9906	15068	10805	10163	5969	1911	98765	
1420	909	892	440	386	240	153	19458	
7387	6850	10296	7142	5324	1811	255	54214	
572	508	681	358	196	94	39	3899	
447	411	532	267	129	38	15	2957	
125	97	149	90	67	56	24	942	
135	146	705	1501	3476	3577	1409	11073	
1563	1492	2494	1364	781	247	55	10120	
12.8%	9.2%	5.9%	4.1%	3.8%	4.0%	8.0%	19.7%	
66.7%	69.2%	68.3%	66.1%	52.4%	30.3%	13.3%	54.9%	
5.2%	5.1%	4.5%	3.3%	1.9%	1.6%	2.0%	3.9%	
4.0%	4.1%	3.5%	2.5%	1.3%	0.6%	0.8%	3.0%	
1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%	1.3%	1.0%	
1.2%	1.5%	4.7%	13.9%	34.2%	59.9%	73.7%	11.2%	
14.1%	15.1%	16.6%	12.6%	7.7%	4.1%	2.9%	10.2%	

Total, 65+

30779

1379

16954

591

292

299

10137

1178

4.5%

55.1%

1.9%

0.9%

1.0%

32.9%

5.6%

12736

601

9564

262

110

152

1675

636

4.7%

75.1%

2.1%

0.9%

1.2%

13.1%

5.0%

18043

779

7390

329

182

147

8462

1082

4.3%

41.0%

1.8%

1.0%

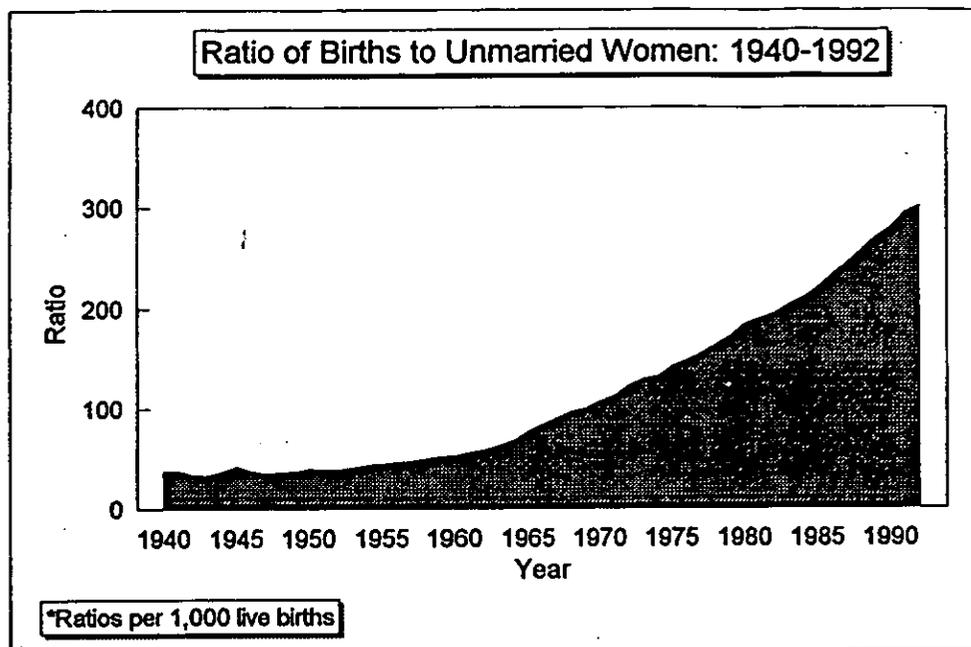
0.8%

48.9%

6.0%

Ratio of Births to Unmarried Women: United States, 1940-1992

Year	Ratio
1940	37.9
1941	38.1
1942	34.3
1943	33.4
1944	37.6
1945	42.9
1946	38.1
1947	35.7
1948	36.7
1949	37.4
1950	39.8
1951	39.1
1952	39.1
1953	41.2
1954	44
1955	45.3
1956	46.5
1957	47.4
1958	49.6
1959	52
1960	52.7
1961	56.3
1962	58.8
1963	63.3
1964	68.5
1965	77.4
1966	83.9
1967	90.3
1968	96.9
1969	100.2
1970	106.9
1971	112.9
1972	123.7
1973	129.8
1974	132.3
1975	142.5
1976	147.8
1977	155
1978	163.2
1979	171.1
1980	184.3
1981	189.2
1982	194.3
1983	202.8
1984	210
1985	220.2
1986	233.9



1987	244.9
1988	257.1
1989	270.8
1990	280.3
1991	295.3
1992	301.3

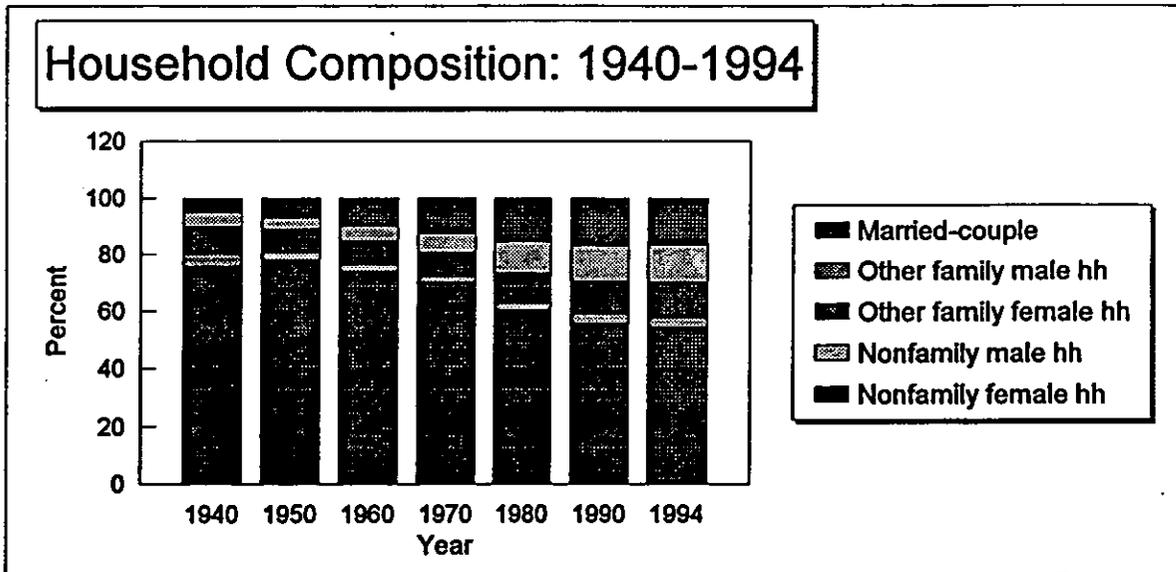
Source: Vital Statistics of the United States, 1992 vol. 1: Natality. USDHHS, 1996
Ratio: births per 1,000 live births

Household Composition: 1940-1994

	Married-couple Family	Other family Male hh	Other family Female hh	Nonfamily Male hh	Nonfamily Female hh
1940	76	4.3	9.8	4.6	5.3
1950	78.2	2.7	8.3	3.8	7
1960	74.3	2.3	8.4	5.1	9.8
1970	70.5	1.9	8.7	6.4	12.4
1980	60.8	2.1	10.8	10.9	15.4
1990	56	3.1	11.7	12.4	16.8
1994	54.8	3	12.8	12.8	16.6

hh=householder

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.
Household and Family Characteristics: March 1994." Series P20, No. 483



Receipt of AFDC by Family Status: 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992

	Avg. monthly Number *thousands	Percent	Ever Number *thousands	Percent
1992	11862	4.7%	15111	6.0%
In families	11590	5.3%	14677	6.8%
*married-couple	3012	1.7%	4881	2.8%
*female householder, no spouse present	8287	22.4%	9485	26.0%
Unrelated individuals	272	0.8%	434	1.3%
1991	11869	4.7%	15714	6.4%
In families	11544	5.4%	15156	7.1%
*married-couple	3001	1.8%	4664	2.7%
*female householder, no spouse present	8257	23.2%	10028	28.5%
Unrelated individuals	325	0.9%	558	1.6%
1990	10573	4.3%	12847	5.3%
In families	10329	4.9%	12469	6.0%
*married-couple	2495	1.5%	3874	2.3%
*female householder, no spouse present	7576	22.3%	8233	25.3%
Unrelated individuals	245	0.7%	378	1.1%
1987	10385	4.3%	13432	5.7%
In families	10052	4.8%	12890	6.3%
*married-couple	2544	1.5%	3758	2.2%
*female householder, no spouse present	7366	22.5%	8889	27.5%
Unrelated individuals	332	1.0%	542	1.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Current Population Reports

Program Participation 1990 to 1992* Series P70, No. 41, and

Program Participation 1991 to 1993 Series P70, No. 46.

Family Structure of Persons in Juvenile Institutions, 1987

Family structure *Total* *Under 18yrs*

Person lived with:

Both parents	29.8%	27.8%
Mother only	48.4%	50.2%
Father only	5.6%	5.9%
Grandparents	10.0%	10.3%
Other relative	2.8%	2.4%
Friends	0.2%	0.2%
Foster home	1.6%	1.6%
Agency or Institution	0.1%	0.2%
Other	1.4%	1.3%

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, "Survey of Youth in Custody, 1987."

MEMORANDUM

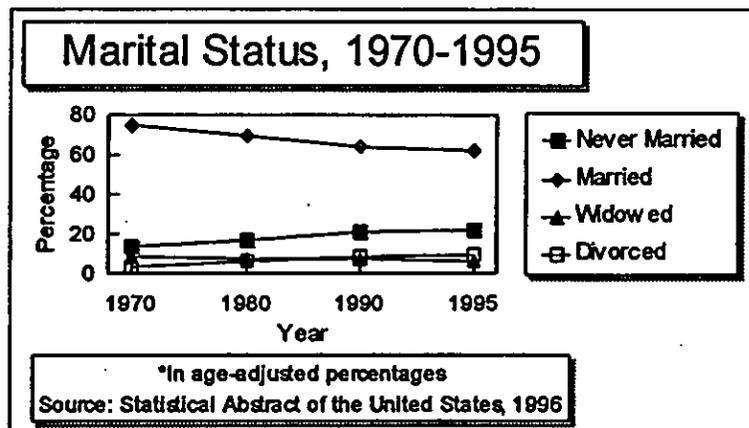
TO: TOM FREEDMAN, MARY L. SMITH
FROM: DREW HANSEN
RE: DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AFFECTING THE FAMILY
DATE: JULY 24, 1997

Summary

In the past few decades, several demographic trends have had a significant effect on the American family. The comparative decrease in marriage and increase in divorce, the entry of women into the paid labor force, and the rise in the rate of out-of-wedlock births have been contributing factors to the current inequality among American families.

Marriage, Divorce, and Family Structure

The marital status of the population has changed significantly since 1970. The percentage of Americans who are married is decreasing, while the percentage of Americans who are unmarried

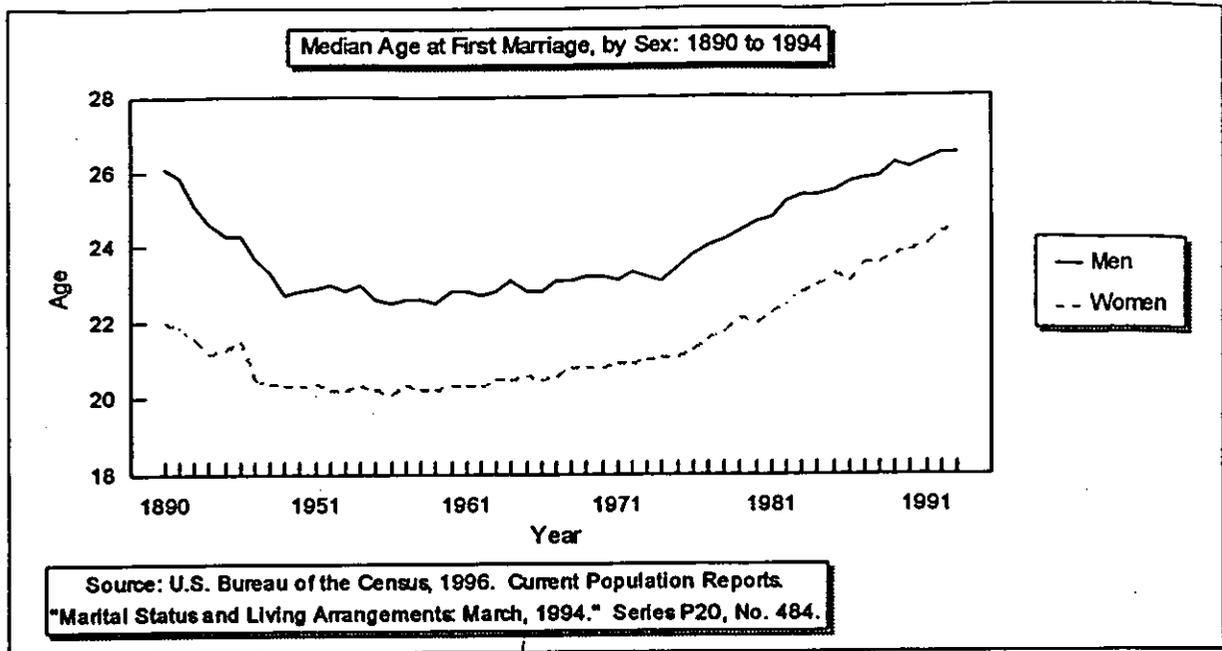


is increasing. In 1970, almost three-quarters of the population was married (74.2%) while only a small percentage (3.4%) was divorced. By 1995, the percentage of the population who were married had dropped to 62%, while the percentage divorced had almost tripled to 9.4%. The percentage of people who were "never-married" increased during the same period, from 14.2% in 1970 to 22.4% in 1995.

The rise in the proportion of Americans who are never-married is especially notable when examined by age group. In 1970, only 35.8% of women and 54.7% of men from 20 to 24 years of age had never married. In 1994, almost two-thirds of women and over 80% of men in this age group had never married. Similar trends have occurred in almost every age cohort in the past two decades.¹

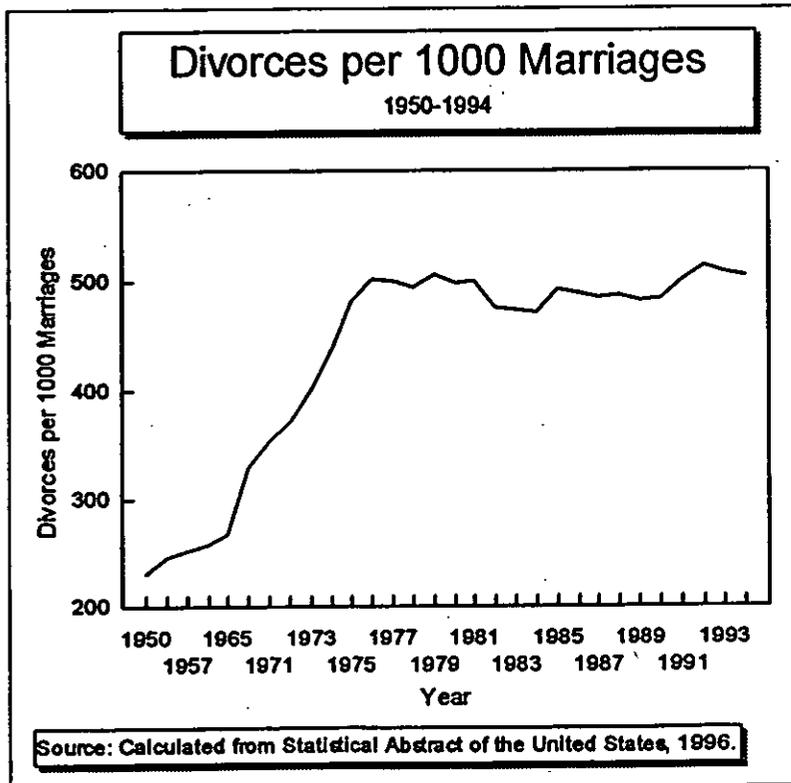
Americans in the 1990s are delaying marriage until a much older age than their counterparts of

¹U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1996. *Current Population Reports*. "Marital Status and Living Arrangements, March 1994." Series P20, No. 484.



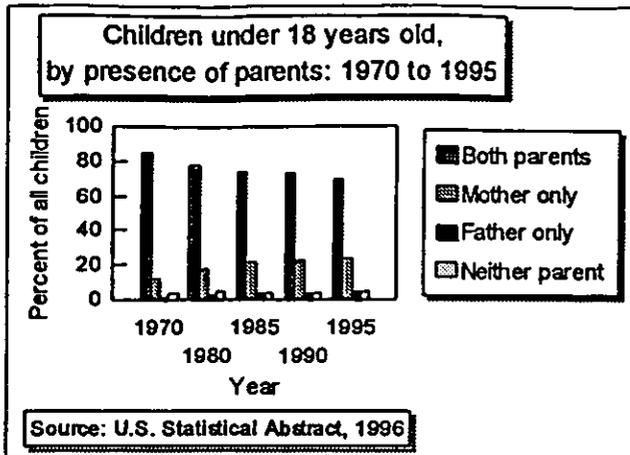
twenty years ago. Americans today get married at an older age than any other generation of Americans since the 1890s. The median age at first marriage has been increasing gradually since the 1960s, and in 1994 reached all-time highs of 26.7 years of age for men and 24.5 years of age for women.

Divorces increased rapidly in the 1960s and 1970s but have slowed since then. In fact, after peaking at 5.3 divorces per 1,000 Americans in 1981, divorce rates are down slightly in the past few decades. Marriages have been decreasing somewhat since the early 1970s.



The result of these changes is that there are more divorces for every marriage now than there were in the 1950s. In 1950, there were 231 divorces for every thousand marriages. By 1994, that figure had more than doubled. There is now about one divorce for every two marriages in the United States.

These changes in marriage and divorce patterns, as well as other social and economic changes,



have restructured the family composition of many Americans. Fewer and fewer children are living in two-parent homes, and more and more children are living with a single parent, who is almost always the mother. The proportion of children in single-parent situations who are living with separated parents has diminished somewhat from the mid-1970s. The proportion of children in single-parent situations who are living with divorced parents has remained more or less constant since the mid-1970s. But the proportion of children in single-parent

situations who are living with parents who have never married has increased markedly. Children in never-married single parent families were only 4.2% of all children in single parent families in 1960, but were 35.8% of all children in single-parent families in 1994. The proportion of children in such families increased by about 300% from 1970 to 1980, and by over 200% from 1980 to 1990.²

There are also more unmarried couples per married couple now than there have ever been before. In 1970, there was only one unmarried couple for every 100 married couples. In 1994, there were seven unmarried couples for every 100 married couples.³ In addition, more children are living with these unmarried couples than ever before. In 1970, 196,000 unmarried couples were living with children under 15 years of age. In 1994, about 1.3 million couples who were not married were living with children who were under 15.

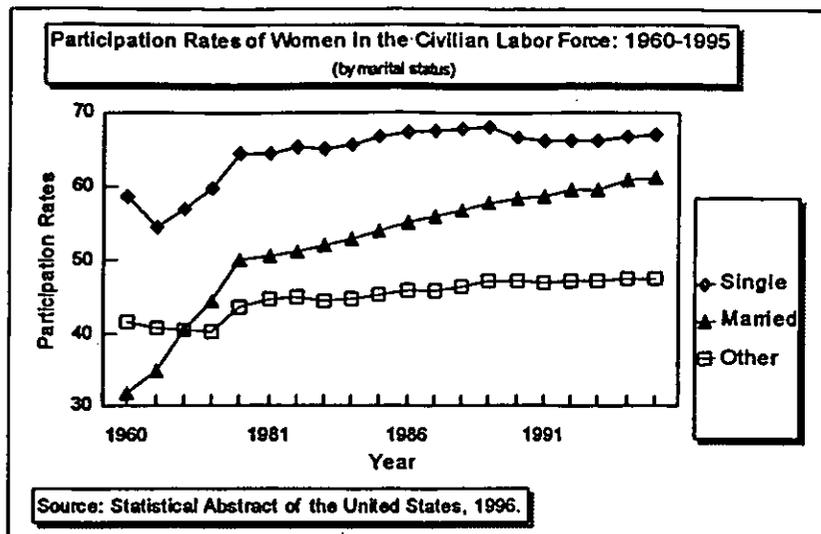
Women's Employment

One trend that many analysts speculate is driving some of the changes in family structure in the last few decades is the entry of women, especially married women, into the labor force. In 1960, there were about 36 women employed out of every 100 women in the population. But by 1990, there were about 57 women employed for every 100 women in the United States.⁴ Much of this increase is due to the higher rates of labor force participation among married women. In 1960, under a third of married women (31.9%) were employed. By 1990, that figure had almost doubled, increasing to 61%.

²Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996.

³U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*. "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1994." Series P20, No. 484.

⁴Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996.



This increase was especially pronounced among women with children under 6 years of age. The proportion of married women with children under 6 who were employed increased over 300% between 1960 and 1995. Similar trends, though not nearly as dramatic, have occurred among single women and women who are neither married nor single with children under 6 years of age.⁵

Out-of-Wedlock Births

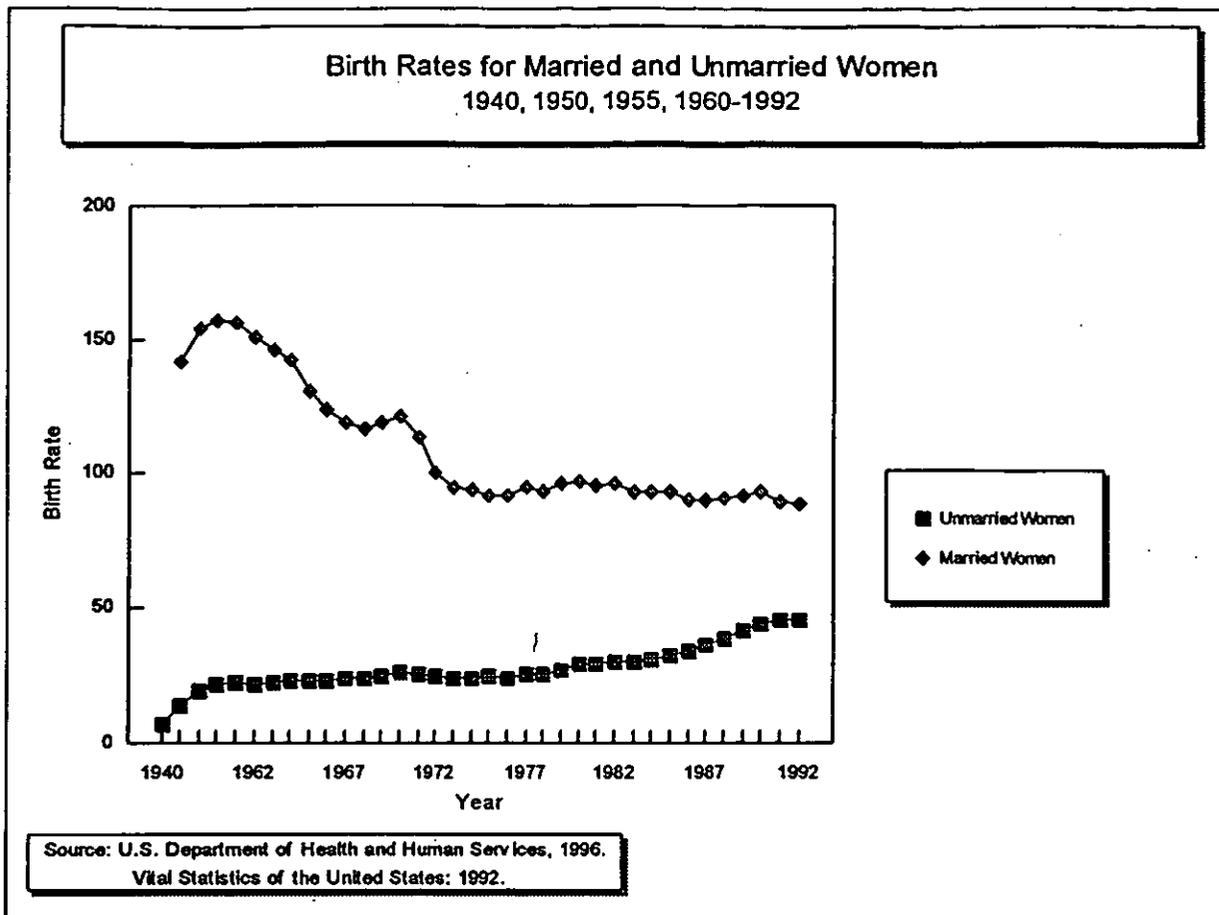
In recent decades, much attention has been focused on the rise of the proportion of children in the United States who are born out of wedlock. The so-called “illegitimacy rate” has been increasing since the 1950s at a rapid pace. In 1950, about 40 of every 1,000 babies born in the United States were born out of wedlock. By 1992, about 300 of every 1,000 babies born in the United States were out-of-wedlock births -- an increase of over 700%. Conservatives repeatedly haul out this statistic as evidence of the declining moral standards of Americans, blaming the sexual revolution and the Great Society anti-poverty programs for the rise in the illegitimacy rate.⁶

What most commentators seem to miss, however, is that the rise in the illegitimacy rate is not due to a sudden explosion of promiscuous sexual behavior among unmarried individuals. Instead, it is driven by declining birth rates among married couples. While birth rates for unmarried women have been undeniably increasing for several decades, birth rates for married women have fallen precipitously since the 1950s. These two trends combined have led to the dramatic increase in the illegitimacy rate since the 1950s.

Contrary to popular perception, most babies born outside of marriage are not born to teenage mothers. About 70% of all children born outside of marriage in 1993 were born to mothers who were over 20 years old. Teenage mothers today account for a much smaller proportion of out-of-wedlock births than they did in 1970. Unmarried women who are under 15 accounted for only .9% of all births to unmarried mothers in 1993, down from 2.4% in 1970. Unmarried women

⁵Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996.

⁶See William J. Bennett, “What to Do About the Children,” *Commentary*, March 1995.



who are 15-19 accounted for 28.8% of all births to unmarried mothers in 1993, down from 47.8% in 1970.⁷

It appears that the trends affecting the illegitimacy rate in the United States have affected most Western industrialized nations in the past few decades. Births to unmarried mothers have increased relative to births to married mothers in Sweden, France, Britain, and other nations during the same time period as they have increased in the United States. The United States is participating, to some extent, in a worldwide tendency toward more births occurring out of wedlock.⁸

Inequality Among Families

The interaction of these trends and others has led to growing inequality among American families. Several types of family structure have much higher median incomes than other types of family structure. By far the most economically successful family structure in 1994 was a married family

⁷Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996.

⁸U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1995. *Current Population Reports*. "Fertility of American Women: June, 1994." Series P20, Vol. 482.

with a wife in the paid labor force. Such a family had a median income of \$53,309. On the other end of the spectrum, the least economically successful family structure was a family headed by a female householder who did not have a husband present. These families only had a median income of \$18,236. Families headed by a male householder with no wife, by contrast, had a median income of \$27,751.⁹

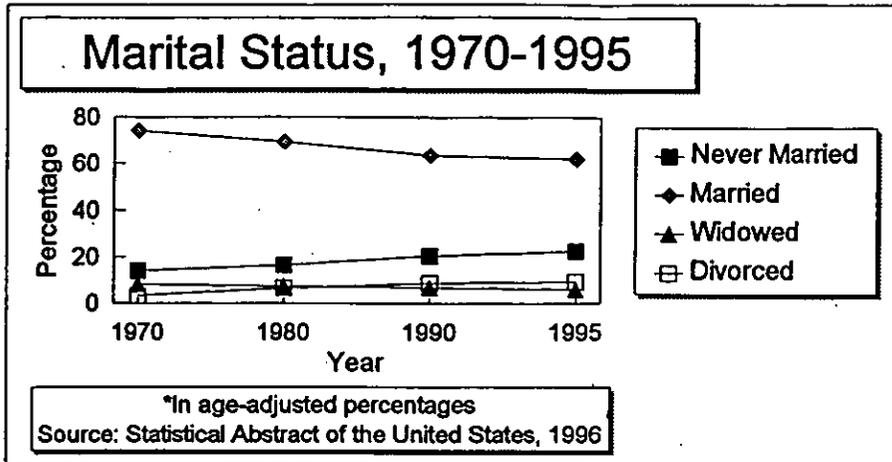
Conclusion

The shape of the “typical” American family has changed considerably since the 1950s. Americans are marrying less and marrying at older ages. Their children are living in a wide variety of families, from two-parent married families to single-mother households to the households of unmarried couples. More women, especially married women, are working in the paid labor force than ever before. The illegitimacy rate has increased, but it has increased primarily because of declining birthrates among married couples. All of these trends have contributed to the current state of inequality among American families.

⁹Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996.

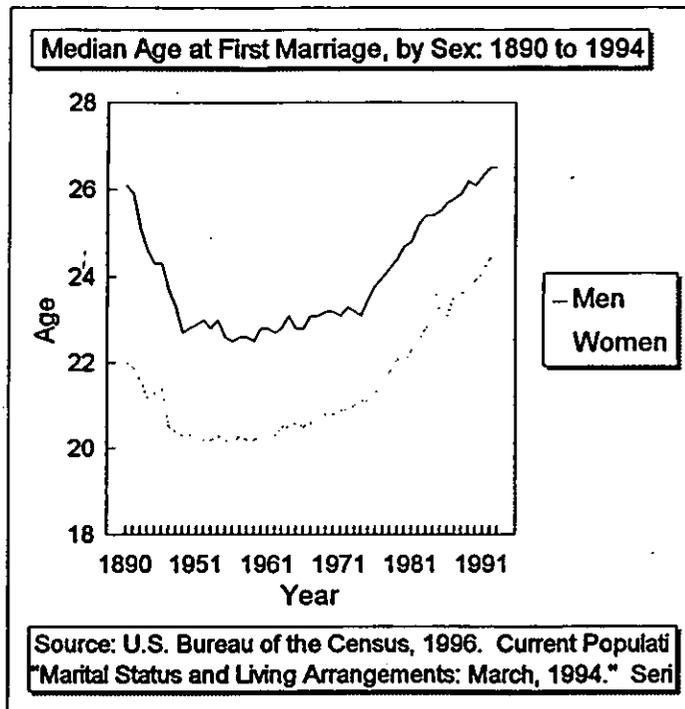
Marital Status, 1970-1995

Status	1970	1980	1990	1995
Never Married	14.1	16.5	20.6	22.4
Married	74.2	69.3	63.7	62
Widowed	8.3	7.6	6.9	6.1
Divorced	3.4	6.6	8.7	9.4



Median Age at First Marriage, by Sex: 1890-1994

	Men	Women
1890	26.1	22
1900	25.9	21.9
1910	25.1	21.6
1920	24.6	21.2
1930	24.3	21.3
1940	24.3	21.5
1947	23.7	20.5
1948	23.3	20.4
1949	22.7	20.3
1950	22.8	20.3
1951	22.9	20.4
1952	23	20.2
1953	22.8	20.2
1954	23	20.3
1955	22.6	20.2
1956	22.5	20.1
1957	22.6	20.3
1958	22.6	20.2
1959	22.5	20.2
1960	22.8	20.3
1961	22.8	20.3
1962	22.7	20.3
1963	22.8	20.5
1964	23.1	20.5
1965	22.8	20.6
1966	22.8	20.5
1967	23.1	20.6
1968	23.1	20.8
1969	23.2	20.8
1970	23.2	20.8
1971	23.1	20.9
1972	23.3	20.9
1973	23.2	21
1974	23.1	21.1
1975	23.5	21.1
1976	23.8	21.3
1977	24	21.6
1978	24.2	21.8
1979	24.4	22.1
1980	24.7	22
1981	24.8	22.3
1982	25.2	22.5
1983	25.4	22.8
1984	25.4	23
1985	25.5	23.3
1986	25.7	23.1
1987	25.8	23.6



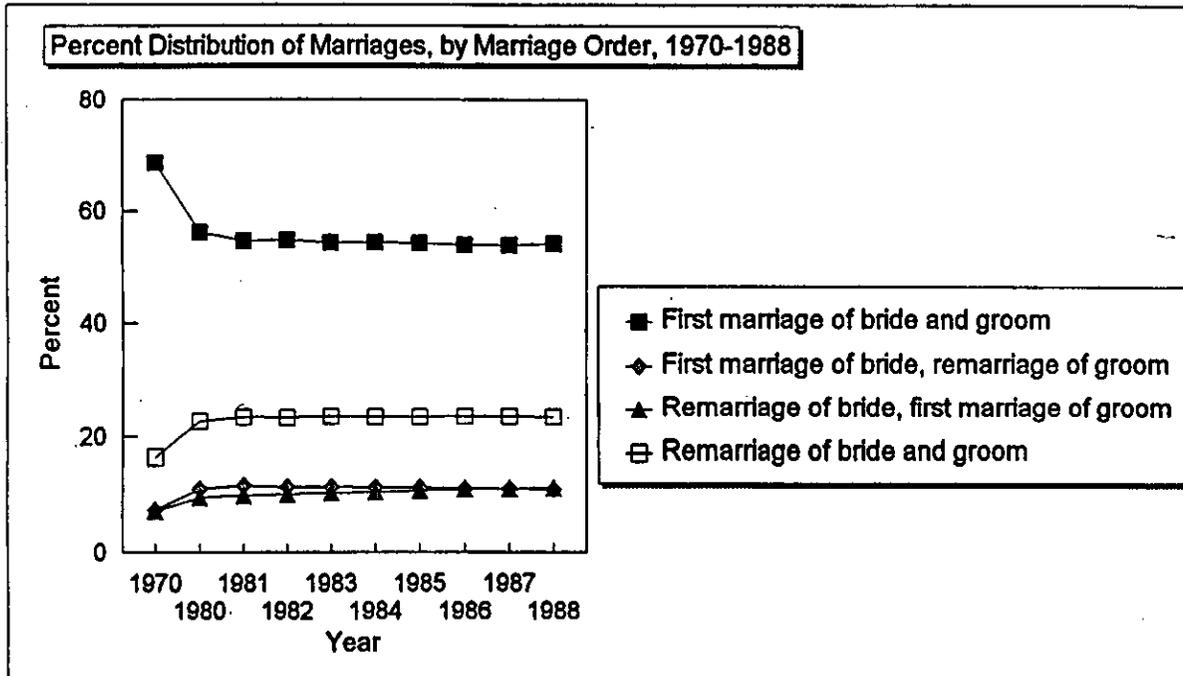
1988	25.9	23.6
1989	26.2	23.8
1990	26.1	23.9
1991	26.3	24.1
1992	26.5	24.4
1993	26.5	24.5
1994	26.7	24.5

Source: Table A-2 (above) Current Population Reports P20-484,
Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1994, US Census, Feb. 1996

Percent Distribution of Marriages, by Marriage Order: 1970 to 1988

	1970	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
First marriage of bride and groom	68.6	56.2	54.7	54.8	54.4	54.4	54.3	53.9	53.9	54.1
First marriage of bride, remarriage of groom	7.6	11.3	11.8	11.6	11.6	11.5	11.5	11.3	11.3	11.1
Remarriage of bride, first marriage of groom	7.3	9.8	10.1	10.3	10.5	10.7	10.9	11.2	11.3	11.4
Remarriage of bride and groom	16.5	22.7	23.4	23.3	23.5	23.4	23.4	23.6	23.5	23.4

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996.

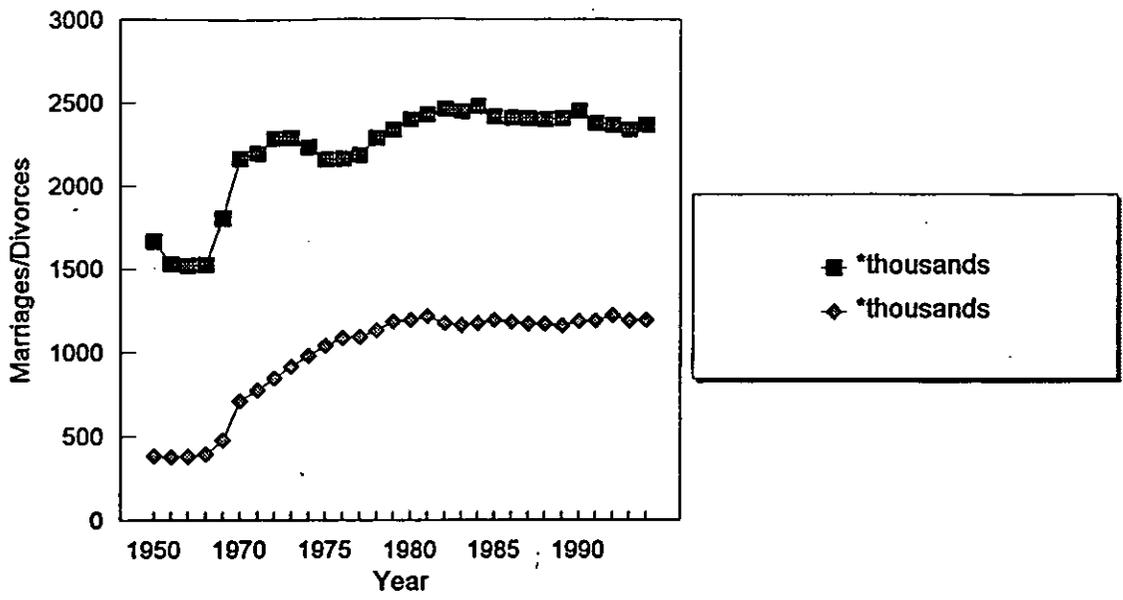


Marriages and Divorces, 1950-1994

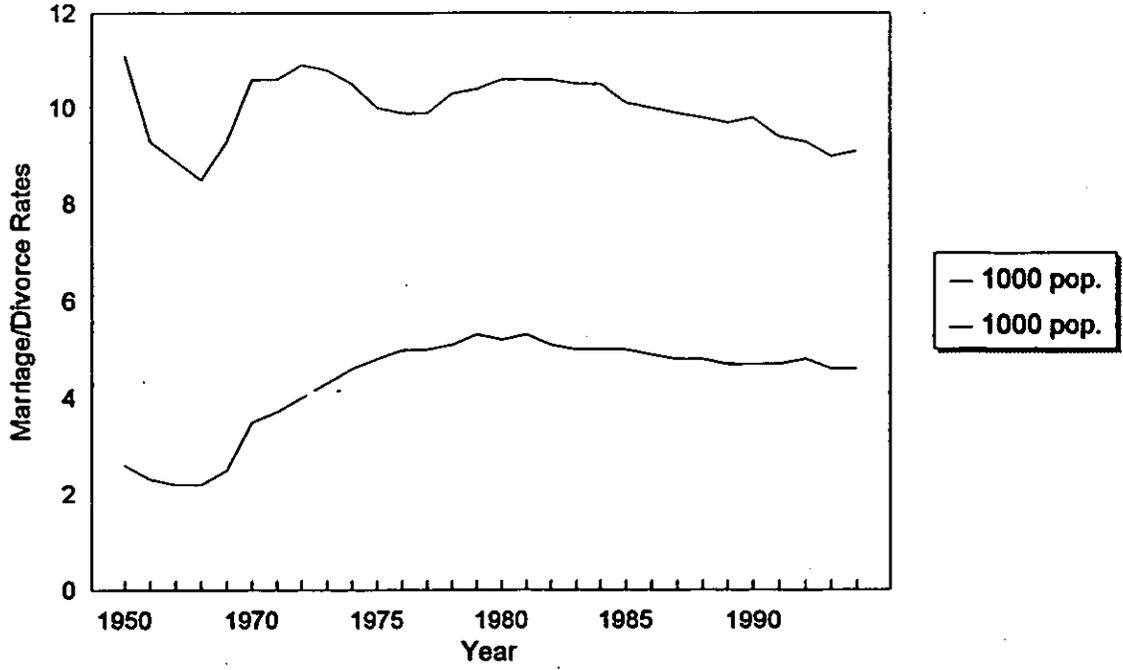
	Marriages *thousands	Divorces *thousands	Marriages/ 1000 pop.	Divorces/ 1000 pop.
1950	1667	385	11.1	2.6
1955	1531	377	9.3	2.3
1957	1518	381	8.9	2.2
1960	1523	393	8.5	2.2
1965	1800	479	9.3	2.5
1970	2159	708	10.6	3.5
1971	2190	773	10.6	3.7
1972	2282	845	10.9	4
1973	2284	915	10.8	4.3
1974	2230	977	10.5	4.6
1975	2153	1036	10	4.8
1976	2155	1083	9.9	5
1977	2178	1091	9.9	5
1978	2282	1130	10.3	5.1
1979	2331	1181	10.4	5.3
1980	2390	1189	10.6	5.2
1981	2422	1213	10.6	5.3
1982	2456	1170	10.6	5.1
1983	2446	1158	10.5	5
1984	2477	1169	10.5	5
1985	2413	1190	10.1	5
1986	2407	1178	10	4.9
1987	2403	1166	9.9	4.8
1988	2396	1167	9.8	4.8
1989	2403	1157	9.7	4.7
1990	2443	1182	9.8	4.7
1991	2371	1187	9.4	4.7
1992	2362	1215	9.3	4.8
1993	2334	1187	9	4.6
1994	2362	1191	9.1	4.6

Source: No. 90 "Live Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces: 1950 to 1994"
Statistical Abstract of the United States, U.S. Dept of Commerce, October, 1996

Marriages and Divorces, 1950-1994

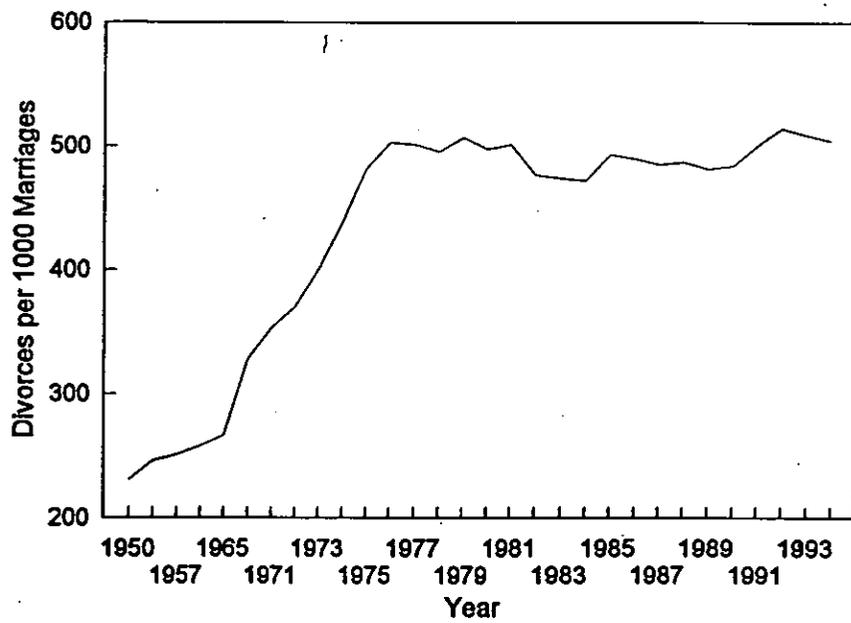


Marriage and Divorce Rates per 1,000 Population, 1950-1994



Divorces per 1000 Marriages

1950-1994



Source: Calculated from Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996.

Percent Never Married, by Age and Sex: 1970, 1980, 1990, 1994

Women

	1970	1980	1990	1994
20 to 24 years	35.8	50.2	62.8	66
25 to 29 years	10.5	20.9	31.1	35.3
30 to 34 years	6.2	9.5	16.4	19.9
35 to 39 years	5.4	6.2	10.4	12.8
40 to 44 years	4.9	4.8	8	9.2
45 to 54 years	4.9	4.7	5	5.9
55 to 64 years	6.8	4.5	3.9	4.1
65 years and older	7.7	5.9	4.9	4.3

Men

	1970	1980	1990	1994
20 to 24 years	54.7	68.8	79.3	81
25 to 29 years	19.1	33.1	45.2	50.3
30 to 34 years	9.4	15.9	27	29.7
35 to 39 years	7.2	7.8	14.7	19.2
40 to 44 years	6.3	7.1	10.5	13
45 to 54 years	7.5	6.1	6.3	8.2
55 to 64 years	7.8	5.3	5.8	5.4
65 years and older	7.5	4.9	4.2	4.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1996.

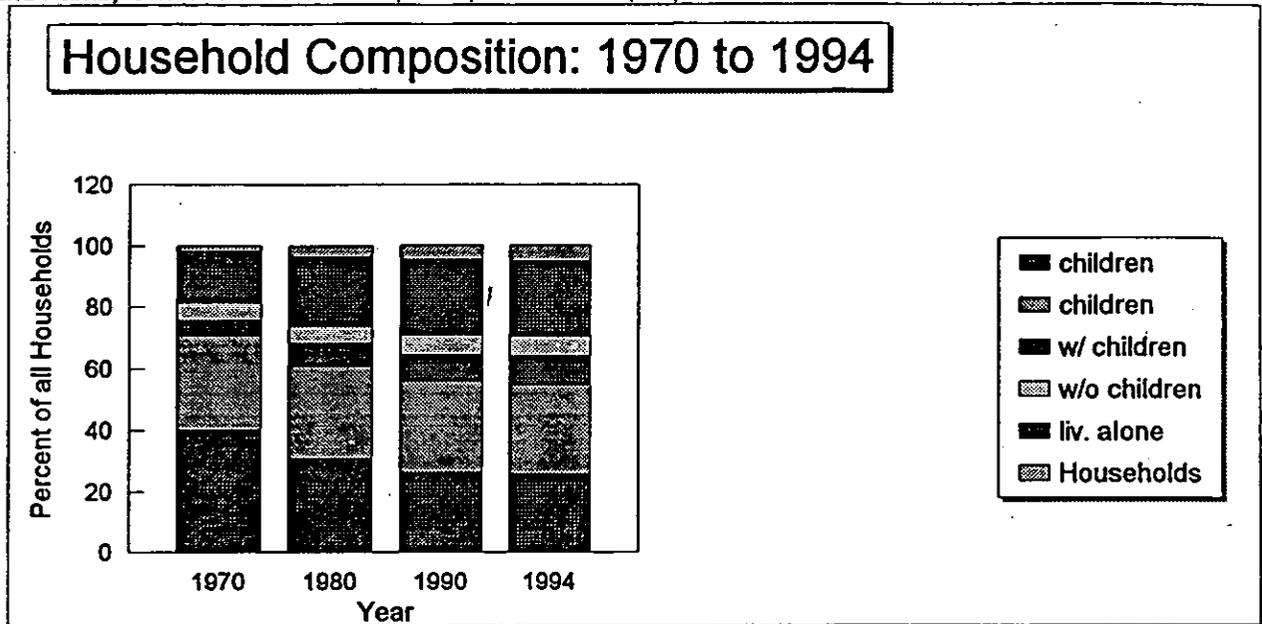
Current Population Reports.

Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1994." Series P20, No. 484.

Household Composition: 1970 to 1994

	Married w/ children	Married w/o children	Other fam. w/ children	Other fam. w/o children	Persons liv. alone	Other Nonfam. Households
1970	40.3	30.3	5	5.6	17.1	1.7
1980	30.9	29.9	7.5	5.4	22.7	3.6
1990	26.3	29.8	8.3	6.5	24.6	4.6
1994	25.8	29	9.2	6.6	24.3	5.2

Source: Figure 1, Household Composition: 1970 to 1994, Current Population Reports P20-483, Household and Family Characteristics: March, 1994, U.S. Census, Sept. 1995



Unmarried-couple Households, by Presence of Children: 1970 to 1994

Year	Total Marr. Couples	Unmarried Couples Total	w/o children <15	w/ children <15	Ratio unmarr. couples per 100 marr. couples
1970	44593	523	327	196	1
1980	49714	1589	1159	431	3
1985	51114	1983	1380	603	4
1990	53256	2856	1966	891	5
1994	54261	3661	2391	1270	7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1996

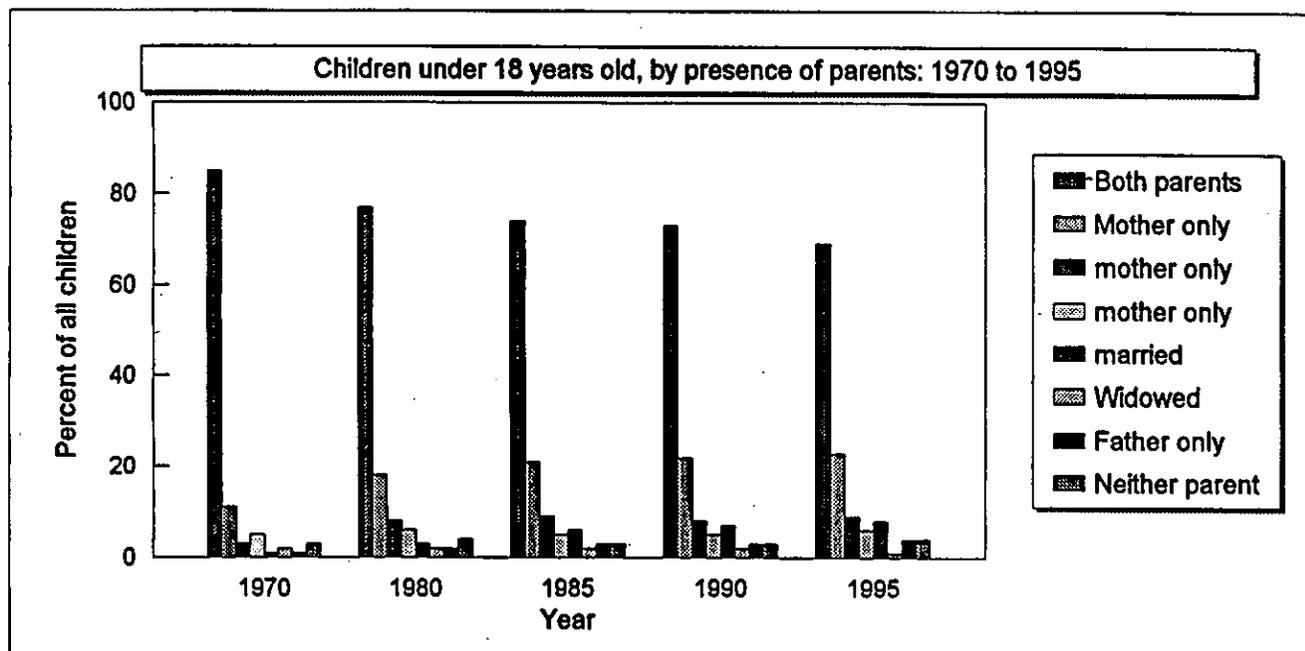
Current Population Reports.

Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1994." Series P20, No. 484.

Children Under 18 Years Old, by Presence of Parents: 1970 to 1995

	Both parents	Mother only	Divorced mother only	Married mother only	Never married	Widowed	Father only	Neither parent
1970	85	11	3	5	1	2	1	3
1980	77	18	8	6	3	2	2	4
1985	74	21	9	5	6	2	3	3
1990	73	22	8	5	7	2	3	3
1995	69	23	9	6	8	1	4	4

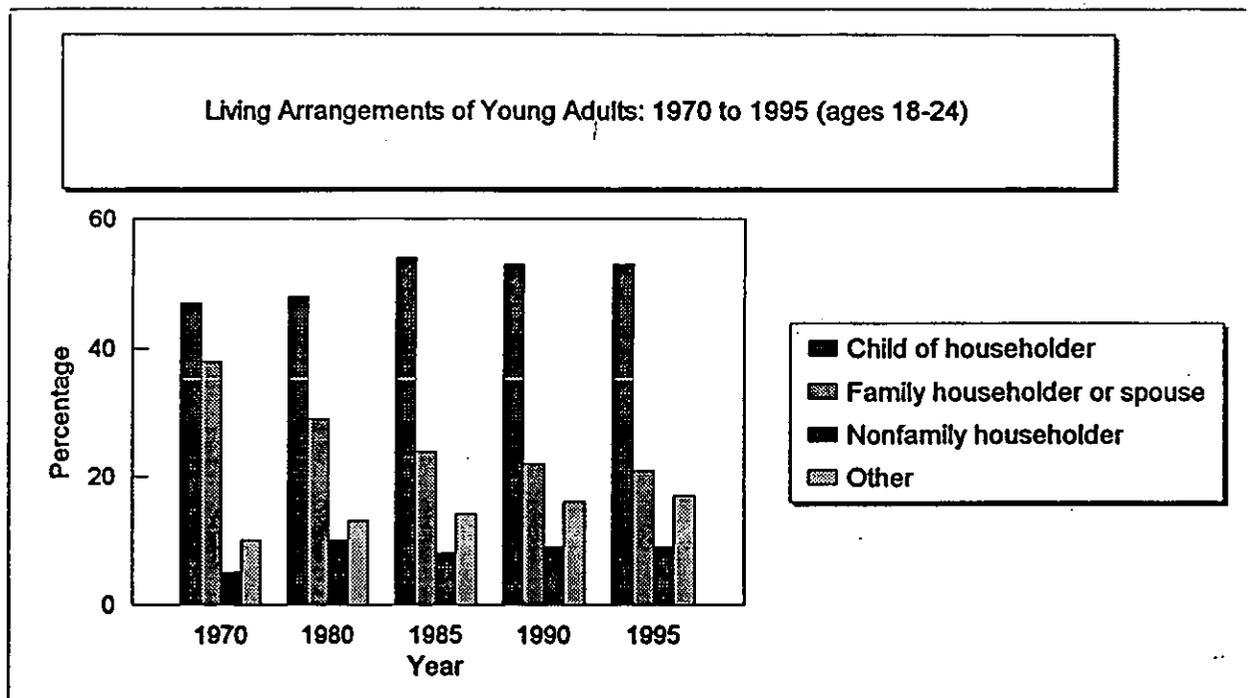
Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996.



Living Arrangements of Young Adults: 1970-1995

	1970	1980	1985	1990	1995
<i>Ages 18-24</i>					
Child of householder	47	48	54	53	53
Family householder or spouse	38	29	24	22	21
Nonfamily householder	5	10	8	9	9
Other	10	13	14	16	17
<i>Ages 25-34</i>					
Child of householder	8	9	11	12	12
Family householder or spouse	83	72	68	65	63
Nonfamily householder	5	12	13	13	13
Other	4	7	9	11	13

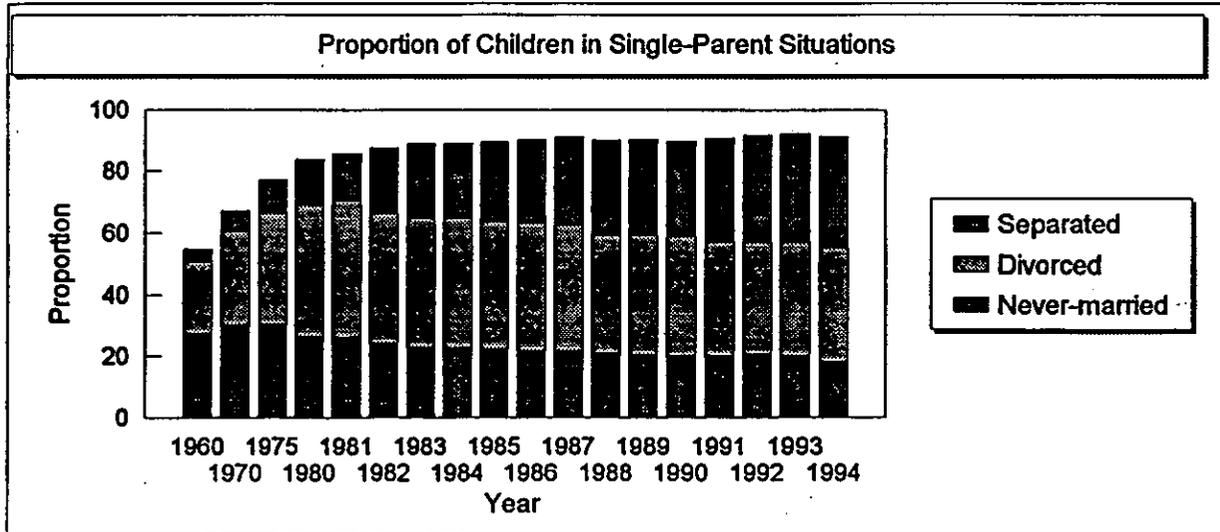
Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996.



**Proportion of Children in Single-Parent Situations
Living with a Separated, Divorced, or Never-Married Parent:
1960, 1970, 1975, and 1980-1994**

	Separated	Divorced	Never-married
1960	27.6	23	4.2
1970	30.3	30.2	6.8
1975	30.5	35.9	10.7
1980	26.7	42.4	14.6
1981	26.7	43.8	15.2
1982	24.5	42	21
1983	22.9	42	24
1984	23	41.9	24
1985	22.5	41.2	25.7
1986	21.9	41.6	26.6
1987	21.9	40.7	28.5
1988	21.1	38.3	30.5
1989	20.4	38.9	30.9
1990	20.3	38.6	30.6
1991	20.2	36.8	33.5
1992	20.8	36.6	34.2
1993	20.2	37.1	35
1994	18.4	37	35.8

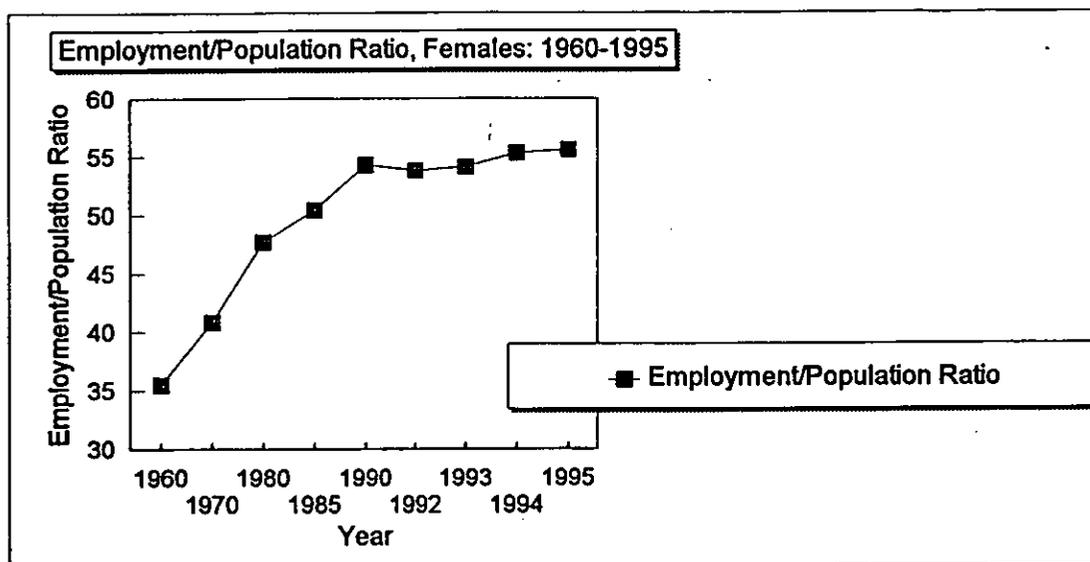
Source: Table E (name above), Current Population Reports P20-484,
Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March, 1994, U.S. Census, Feb 1996



Employment status of the civilian population: 1960 to 1995 (female)

	Total	Employed	Emp./Pop.	Unemp.	Unemp. %	Not in labor force	Not in labor force %
1960	23240	21874	35.5	1366	5.9	38343	62.3
1970	31543	29688	40.8	1855	5.9	41239	56.7
1980	45487	42117	47.7	3370	7.4	42861	48.5
1985	51050	47259	50.4	3791	7.4	42686	45.5
1990	56829	53689	54.3	3140	5.5	41957	42.5
1992	58141	54052	53.8	4090	7	42394	42.2
1993	58795	54910	54.1	3885	6.6	42711	42.1
1994	60239	56610	55.3	3629	6	42221	41.2
1995	60944	57523	55.6	3421	5.6	42462	41.1

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996.



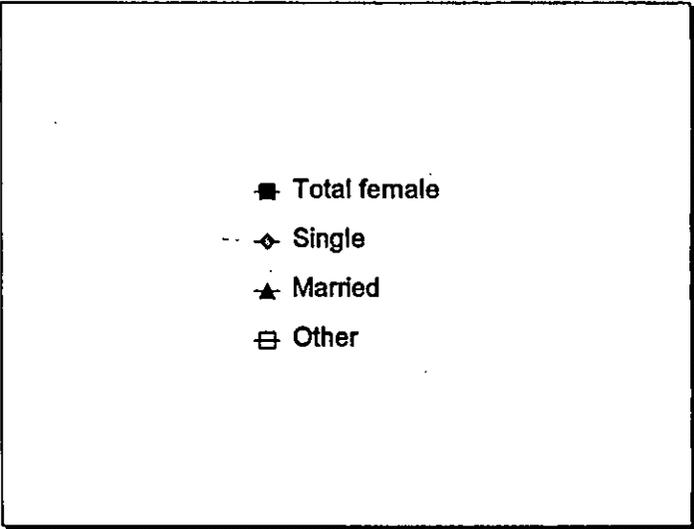
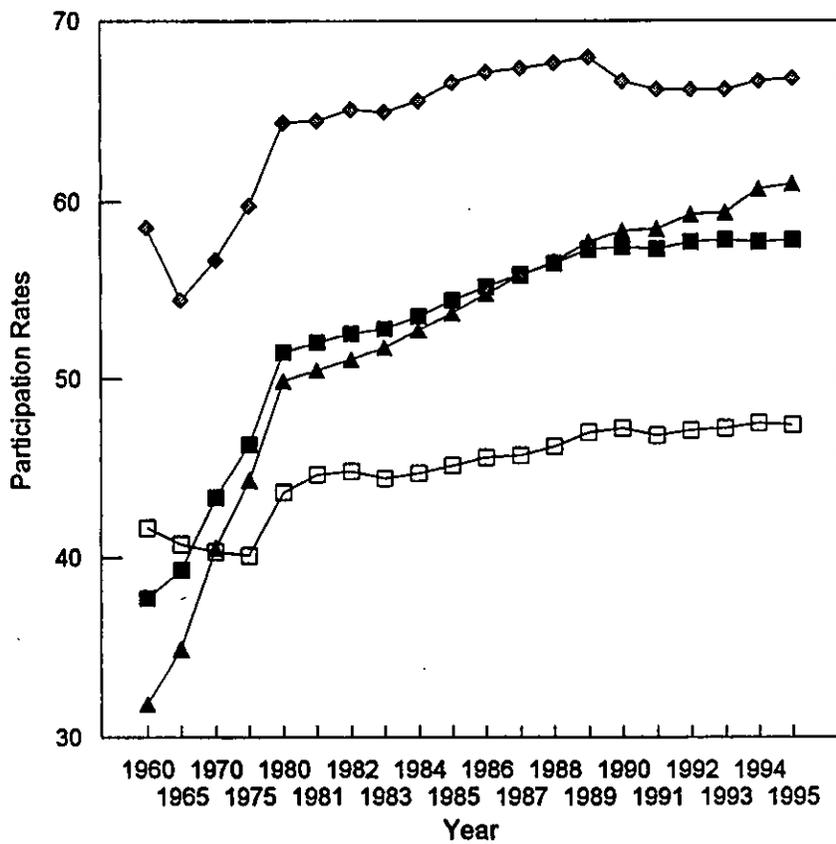
Marital status of women in the civilian labor force: 1960 to 1995 (thousands)

	Total Female Labor Force	Single	Married	Other	Total female partic. rate	Single partic. rate	Married partic. rate	Other partic. rate
1960	23240	5410	12893	4937	37.7	58.6	31.9	41.6
1965	26200	5976	14829	5396	39.3	54.5	34.9	40.7
1970	31543	7265	18475	5804	43.3	56.8	40.5	40.3
1975	37475	9125	21484	6866	46.3	59.8	44.3	40.1
1980	45487	11865	24980	8643	51.5	64.4	49.9	43.6
1981	46696	12124	25428	9144	52.1	64.5	50.5	44.6
1982	47755	12460	25971	9324	52.6	65.1	51.1	44.8
1983	48503	12659	26468	9376	52.9	65	51.8	44.4
1984	49709	12867	27199	9644	53.6	65.6	52.8	44.7
1985	51050	13163	27894	9993	54.5	66.6	53.8	45.1
1986	52413	13512	28623	10277	55.3	67.2	54.9	45.6
1987	53658	13885	29381	10393	56	67.4	55.9	45.7
1988	54742	14194	29921	10627	56.6	67.7	56.7	46.2
1989	56030	14377	30548	11104	57.4	68	57.8	47
1990	56829	14612	30901	11315	57.5	66.7	58.4	47.2
1991	57178	14681	31112	11385	57.4	66.2	58.5	46.8
1992	58141	14872	31700	11570	57.8	66.2	59.3	47.1
1993	58795	15031	31980	11784	57.9	66.2	59.4	47.2
1994	60239	15333	32888	12018	57.8	66.7	60.7	47.5
1995	60944	15467	33359	12118	57.9	66.8	61	47.4

Other* = widowed, divorced, separated

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996

Participation Rates of Women in the Civilian Labor Force: 1960-1995
(by marital status)



**Labor force participation rate for women,
by marital status and presence and age of children, 1960-1995**

	Total	Single	Total	Married	Total	Other	Single	w/ children	Married	w/ children	Other	w/ children
1960	44.1	30.5	40	na	27.6	56						
1970	53	40.8	39.1	na	39.7	60.7						
1980	61.5	50.1	44	52	54.1	69.4						
1985	65.2	54.2	45.6	51.6	60.8	71.9						
1990	66.4	58.2	46.8	55.2	66.3	74.2						
1992	64.7	59.3	46.7	52.5	67.8	73.2						
1993	64.5	59.4	45.9	54.4	67.5	72.1						
1994	65.1	60.6	47.3	56.9	69	73.1						
1995	65.5	61.1	47.3	57.5	70.2	75.3						

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States (?), 1996

child 6-17 Single	child 6-17 Married	child 6-17 Other	child <6 Single	child <6 Married	child <6 Other
na	39	65.9	na	18.6	40.5
na	49.2	66.9	na	30.3	52.2
67.6	61.7	74.6	44.1	45.1	60.3
64.1	67.8	77.8	46.5	53.4	59.7
69.7	73.6	79.7	48.7	58.9	63.6
67.2	75.4	80	45.8	59.9	60.5
70.2	74.9	78.3	47.4	59.6	60
67.5	76	78.4	52.2	61.7	62.2
67	76.2	79.5	53	63.5	66.3

Labor Force Participation Rate of Women with Children Under 6, by Marital Status: 1960 to 1995

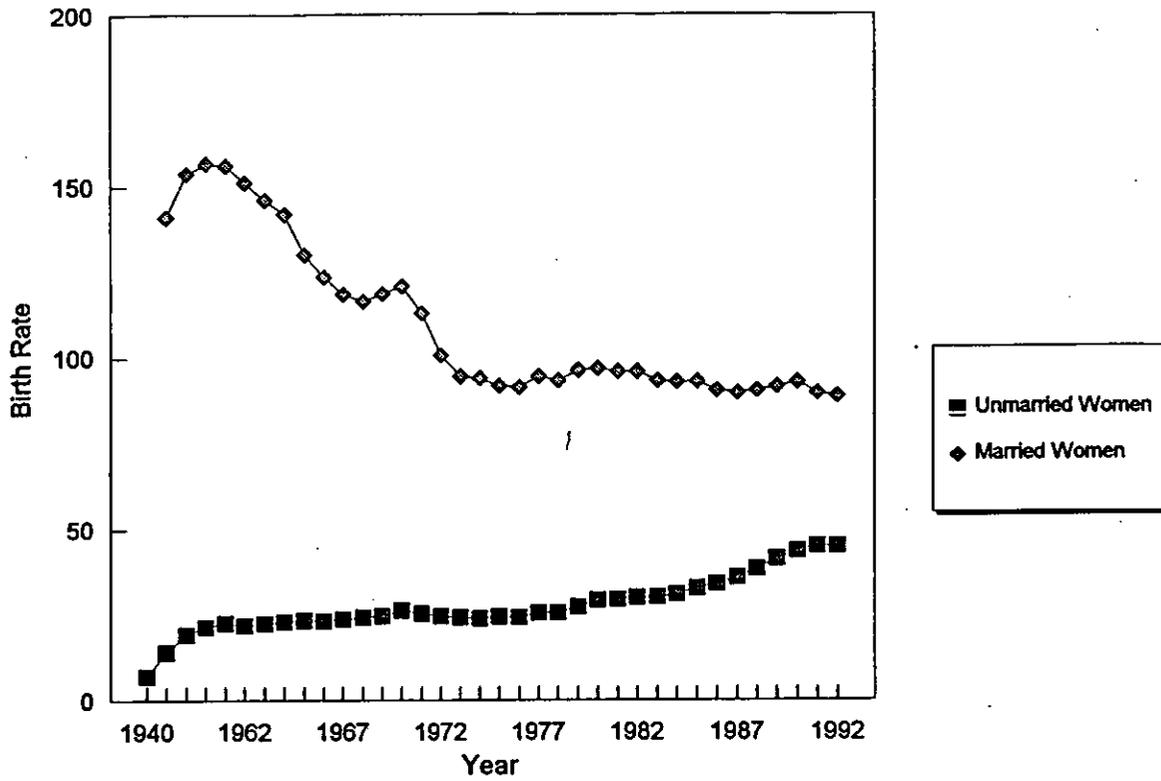
Year	Single	Married	Other
1960	NA	18.6	40.5
1970	NA	30.3	52.2
1980	44.1	45.1	60.3
1985	46.5	53.4	59.7
1990	48.7	58.9	63.6
1992	45.8	59.9	60.5
1993	47.4	59.6	60
1994	52.2	61.7	62.2
1995	53	63.5	66.3

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1995

Birth Rates for Married and Unmarried Women 1940, 1950, 1955, 1960-1992

	Unmarried	Married
1940	7.1	
1950	14.1	141
1955	19.3	153.7
1960	21.6	156.6
1961	22.7	155.8
1962	21.9	150.8
1963	22.5	145.9
1964	23	141.8
1965	23.4	130.2
1966	23.3	123.6
1967	23.7	118.7
1968	24.3	116.6
1969	24.8	118.8
1970	26.4	121.1
1971	25.5	113.2
1972	24.8	100.8
1973	24.3	94.7
1974	23.9	94.2
1975	24.5	92.1
1976	24.3	91.6
1977	25.6	94.9
1978	25.7	93.6
1979	27.2	96.4
1980	29.4	97
1981	29.5	96
1982	30	96.2
1983	30.3	93.6
1984	31	93.1
1985	32.8	93.3
1986	34.2	90.7
1987	36	90
1988	38.5	90.8
1989	41.6	91.9
1990	43.8	93.2
1991	45.2	89.9
1992	45.2	89

Birth Rates for Married and Unmarried Women 1940, 1950, 1955, 1960-1992

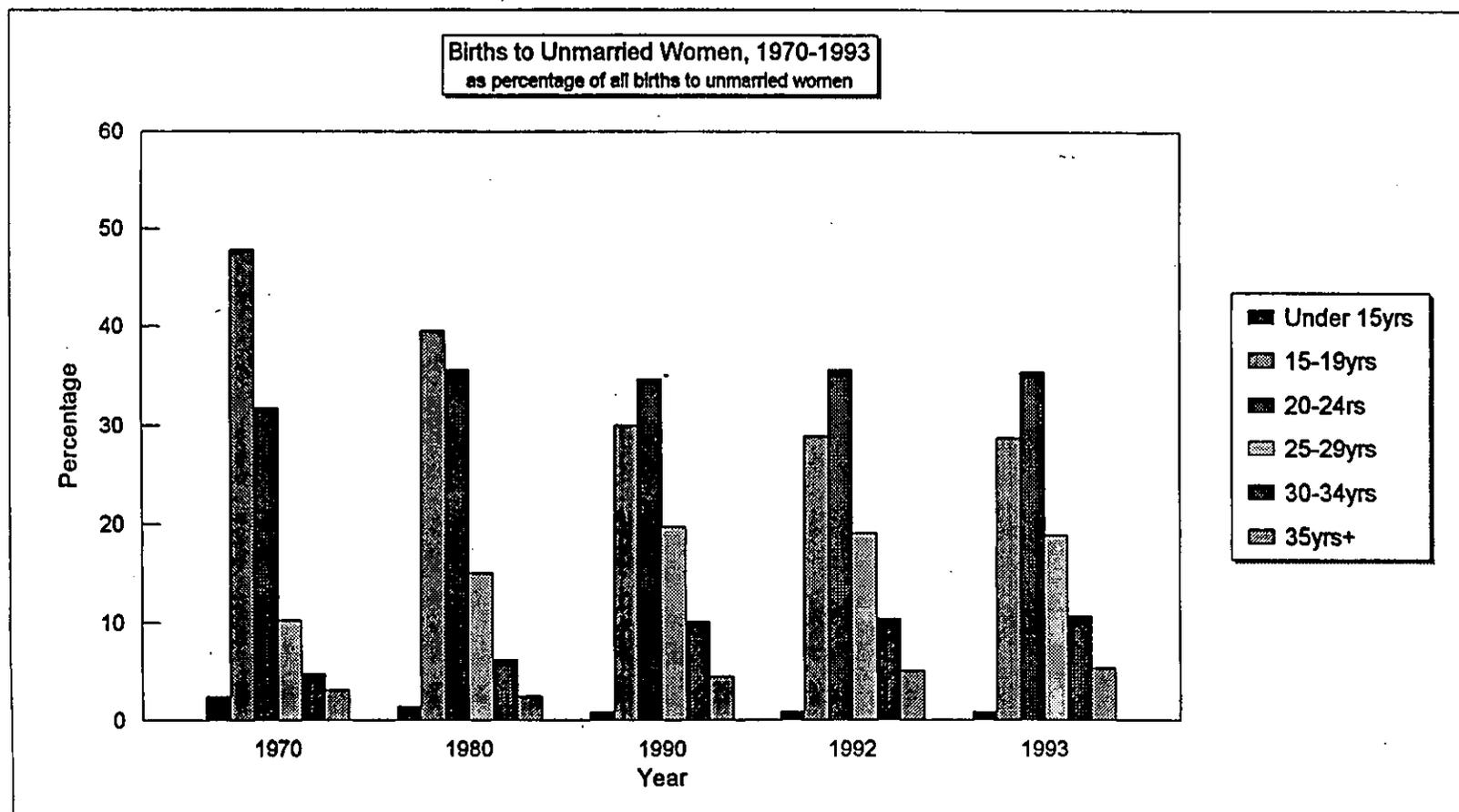


Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1996.
Vital Statistics of the United States: 1992.

Births to Unmarried Women, 1970-1993
 (by age group, as % of births to unmarried women))

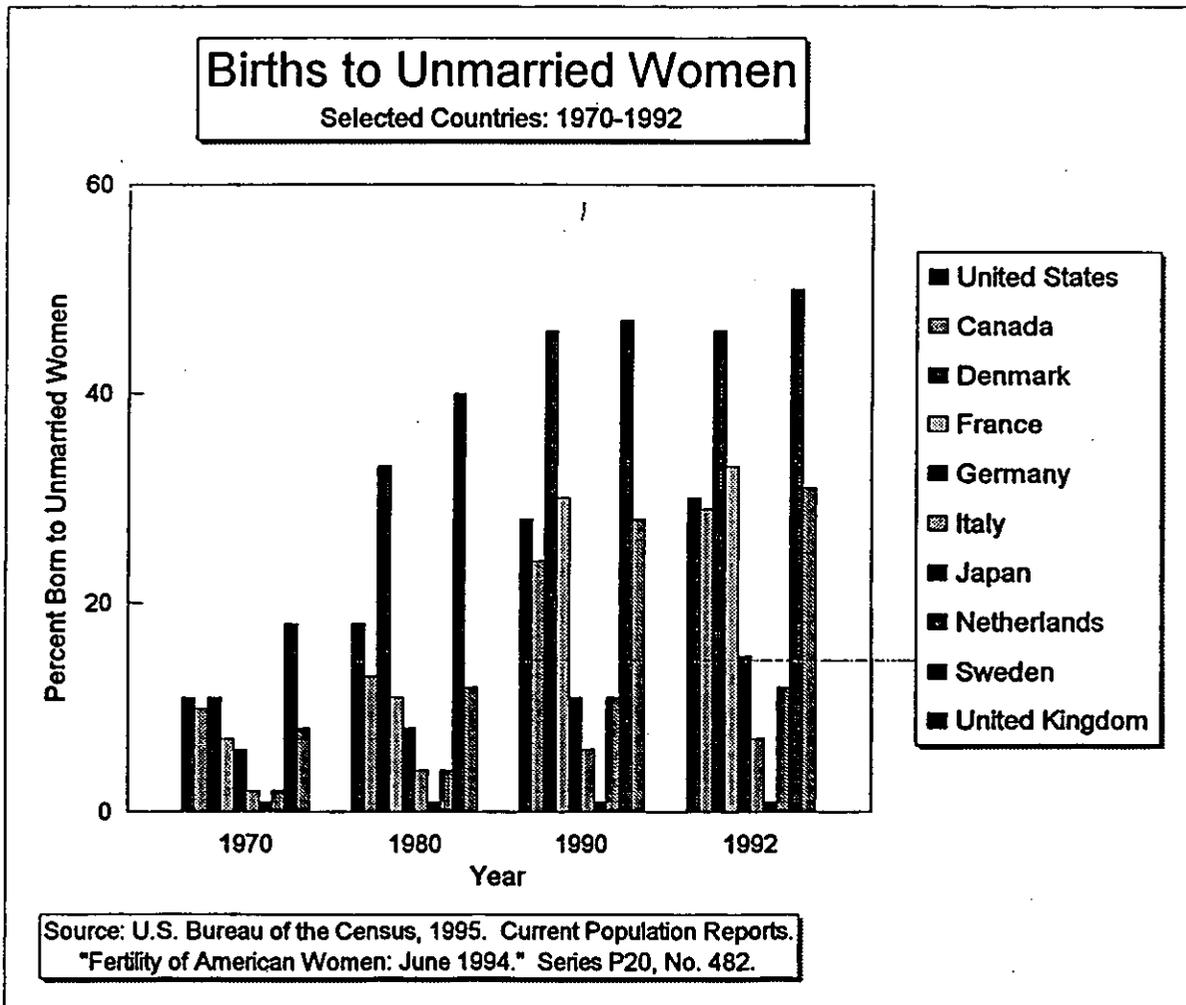
	Under 15yrs	15-19yrs	20-24rs	25-29yrs	30-34yrs	35yrs+
1970	2.4	47.8	31.8	10.2	4.8	3.1
1980	1.4	39.5	35.6	15	6.2	2.4
1990	0.9	30	34.7	19.7	10.1	4.5
1992	0.9	28.9	35.6	19.1	10.4	5.1
1993	0.9	28.8	35.4	18.9	10.7	5.4

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996



Births to Unmarried Women, Selected Countries: 1970 to 1992

	1970	1980	1990	1992
United States	11	18	28	30
Canada	10	13	24	29
Denmark	11	33	46	46
France	7	11	30	33
Germany	6	8	11	15
Italy	2	4	6	7
Japan	1	1	1	1
Netherlands	2	4	11	12
Sweden	18	40	47	50
United Kingdom	8	12	28	31



**Median Income of Families, by Type of Family
in Constant (1994) Dollars: 1970 to 1994**

Year	Total	Married, Wife in Total Married paid labor force	Married, Wife not in paid labor force	Male hh, no wife present	Female hh, no husband present
1970	35407	37735	44051	33386	18276
1980	37857	41671	48402	34163	18742
1981	36825	41228	48107	33431	18027
1982	36326	40335	47036	33018	17803
1983	36574	40600	47774	32571	17541
1984	37703	42238	49449	33637	18262
1985	38200	42835	50177	33822	18814
1986	39833	44359	51851	34891	18453
1987	40403	45502	53163	34754	19155
1988	40327	45586	53504	34100	19225
1989	40890	46070	54100	34357	19651
1990	40087	45237	53040	34317	19199
1991	39105	44607	52413	32725	18163
1992	38632	44249	52578	31873	17984
1993	37905	44106	52515	30992	17890
1994	38782	44959	53309	31176	18236