

Indicator 3. Marriage

Number and rate of marriages and median age at first marriage: 1950 to 1993

Year	Number of marriages, ¹ in thousands	Number of marriages ¹ per 1,000 unmarried women ² 15 to 44 years old	Number of first marriages per 1,000 never-married women			Median age at first marriage	
			18 and 19 years old	20 to 24 years old	25 to 44 years old	Male	Female
1950	1,667	166.4	—	—	—	22.8	20.3
1955	1,531	161.1	—	—	—	22.6	20.2
1960	1,523	148.0	208.4	263.9	—	22.8	20.3
1965	1,800	144.3	166.9	237.3	96.4	22.8	20.6
1970	2,159	140.2	151.4	220.1	82.5	23.2	20.8
1975	2,153	118.5	115.0	143.8	81.7	23.5	21.1
1980	2,390	102.6	87.3	119.8	74.9	24.7	22.0
1981	2,422	103.1	80.7	110.0	79.3	24.8	22.3
1982	2,456	101.9	78.5	111.9	80.7	25.2	22.5
1983	2,446	99.3	72.6	106.9	79.2	25.4	22.8
1984	2,477	99.0	72.1	104.4	80.5	25.4	23.0
1985	2,413	94.9	67.2	102.1	79.0	25.5	23.3
1986	2,407	93.9	63.7	99.6	79.1	25.7	23.1
1987	2,403	92.4	57.8	97.8	80.1	25.8	23.6
1988	2,396	91.0	55.6	97.9	79.1	25.9	23.6
1989	2,404	92.1	—	—	—	26.2	23.8
1990	2,448	93.3	—	—	—	26.1	23.9
1991	2,371	90.0	—	—	—	26.3	24.1
1992	2,362	88.2	—	—	—	26.5	24.4
1993	2,334	86.8	—	—	—	26.5	24.5

—Data not available.

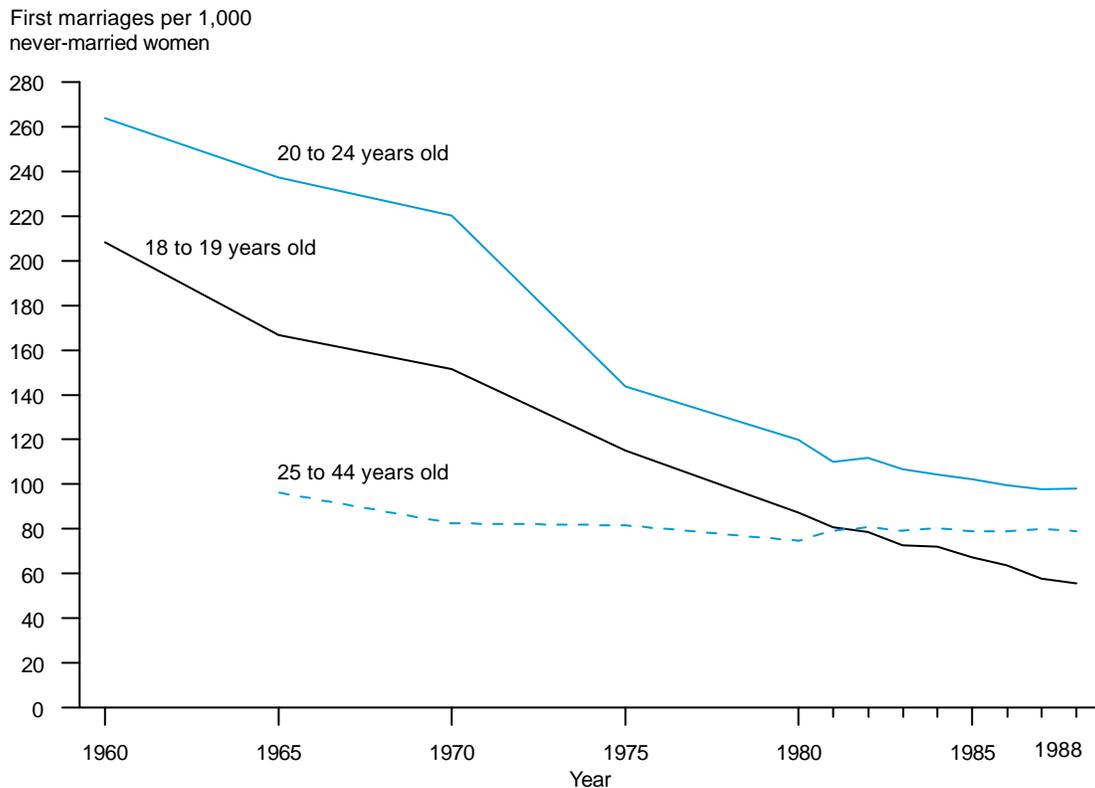
¹ Includes remarriages.

² Includes never married, divorced, and widowed women.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, various years; *Historical Statistics of the United States to 1975*; Current Population Reports, Series P-20, *Household and Family Characteristics*, no. 349, and *Marital Status and Living Arrangements*, nos. 468 and 478; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, various years; and *Vital Statistics of the United States*, various years.

Indicator 3. Marriage

Number of first marriages per 1,000 never-married women, by age: 1960 to 1988



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, various years; *Historical Statistics of the United States to 1975*; and Current Population Reports, Series P-20, *Household and Family Characteristics*, no. 349. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, various years; and *Vital Statistics of the United States*, various years.

People are getting married less and later. Between 1960 and 1993, marriage rates for 15- to 44-year-old women dropped by 41 percent. The average age for a woman at her first marriage rose from 20 in 1960 to 25 in 1993. Most of the increase occurred after 1970 and has continued through the most recent year. Young men, too, married later. The average age for first-time grooms rose from 24 in 1975 to 27 in 1992.