

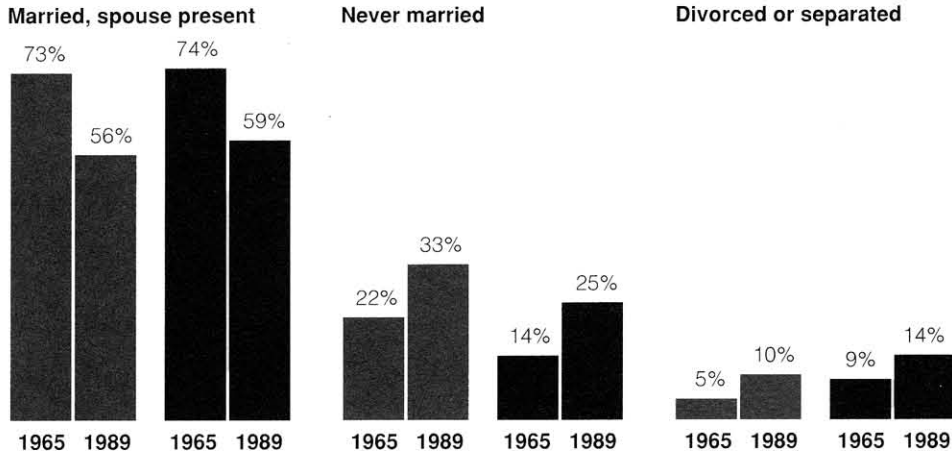
# THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF MARRIAGE

Marriage has fallen in favor over the last generation. People are marrying later, and they are "unmarrying" each other in record numbers. More children are raised outside of married households than ever before. Because married people behave differently (see following pages), the marriage decline has broad effects on U.S. society.

## Marital status over time

Persons ages 18-54

■ Men ■ Women

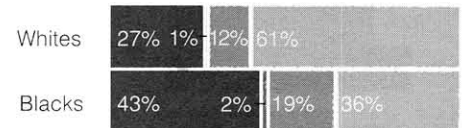


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## Marital status of whites and blacks, 1989

Persons ages 18-54

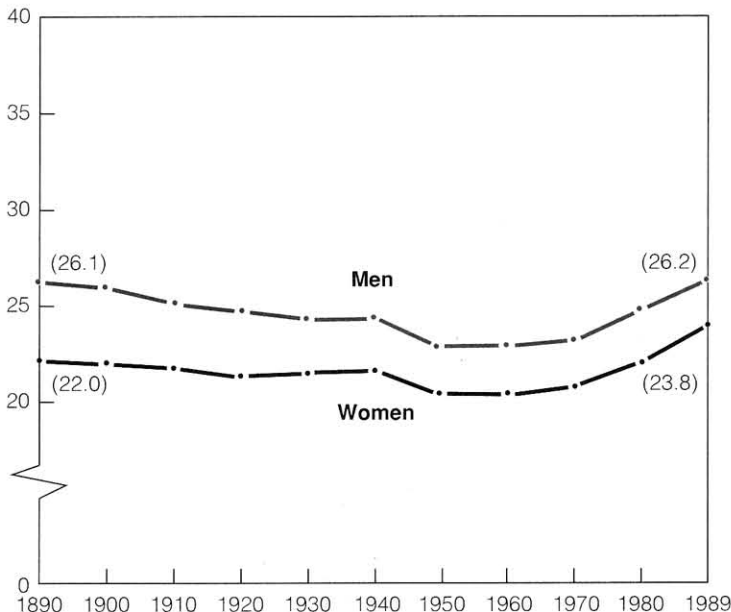
■ Never-married ■ Widowed  
■ Divorced or separated ■ Married, spouse present



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## Median age at first marriage

Years

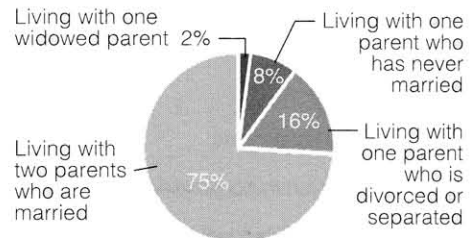


Median age at first marriage

	Men	Women
1890	26.1	22.0
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
1950	22.8	20.3
1960	22.8	20.3
1970	23.2	20.8
1980	24.7	22.0
1989	26.2	23.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

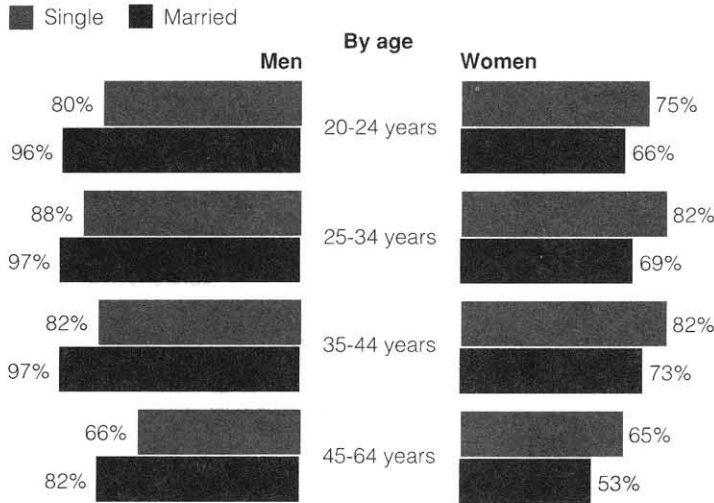
## Children living with married and non-married parents, March 1989



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Married households produce far higher incomes than unmarried counterparts. While married women are less likely to be in paid employment than unmarried ones, married men are more likely to be employed than single men.

### Labor force participation by marital status, 1988



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Work "Effort" and Marital Status, 1990

#### Average weekly hours at work, employed persons 16 and older

Married men	43.9 hours
Never-married men	37.8
Married women	35.6
Never-married women	34.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

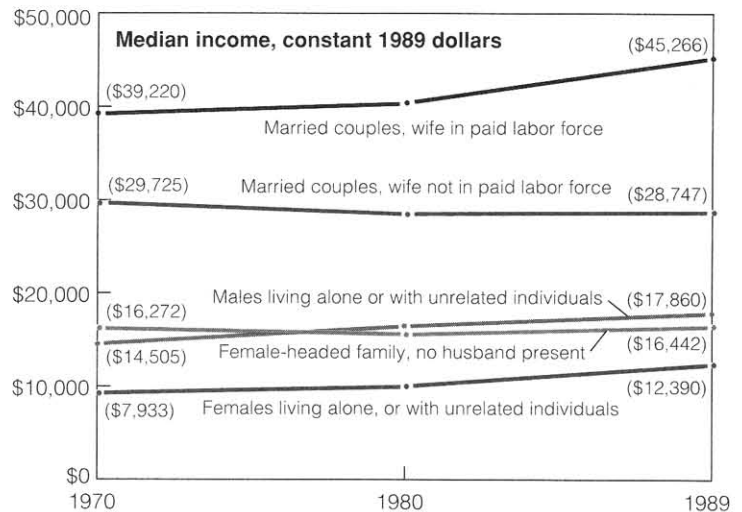
### Income Earned by Similar Married and Unmarried Households, 1989

#### Median income of households headed by high school graduates

	Age of householder		
	Under 25	25-44	45-64
Married-couple households	\$24,565	\$38,057	\$45,332
Female-headed family households	8,660	16,346	27,399
Households of unrelated individuals	18,740	23,859	19,395

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

### Economic fortunes of married and unmarried households



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Marriage is an arrangement associated with avoiding poverty and accumulating wealth. In addition it is an equalizer: married couples vary comparatively little in income. Judging from homeownership rates, the institution may also encourage community-mindedness.

## Degrees of Income Inequality in Married Versus Unmarried Households

### Gini ratios for 1989 income data

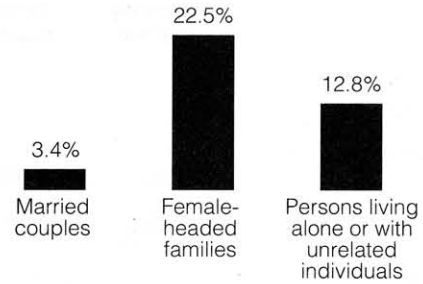
Married-couple households	.368
Female-headed families	.450
Males living alone	.450
Females living alone	.428

0 = Absolute equality of income distribution among all households within the category  
1 = Absolute inequality of income distribution

**Note:** Gini ratios measure how close a given distribution of income is to absolute equality or inequality.

**Source:** U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## Marriage and incidence of poverty, 1989



**Note:** Rates are calculated after the effects of all taxes, government transfers, and home equity returns are included, using CPI-U-XI poverty thresholds.

**Source:** U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## Marriage and Wealth, 1988

### Median net worth of various household categories, by age of householder

	Under 35	35-54	55-64
Married couples	\$12,041	\$60,611	\$120,158
Male-headed households	4,959	17,055	34,722
Female-headed households	1,378	10,945	40,796

**Source:** U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## Median Family Incomes, 1989

### Married-couple families

White	\$39,208
Black	30,650
Hispanic	27,382

### Female-headed families (with one or more children)

White	\$14,864
Black	10,283
Hispanic	10,074

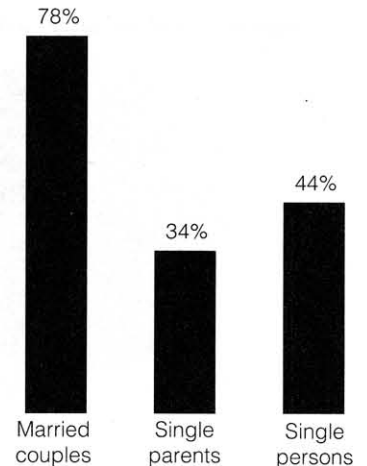
### Mother works

White	\$15,021
Black	10,749
Hispanic	9,522

**Source:** U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## Marital status and home ownership, 1989

### Percent of households owning homes



**Source:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

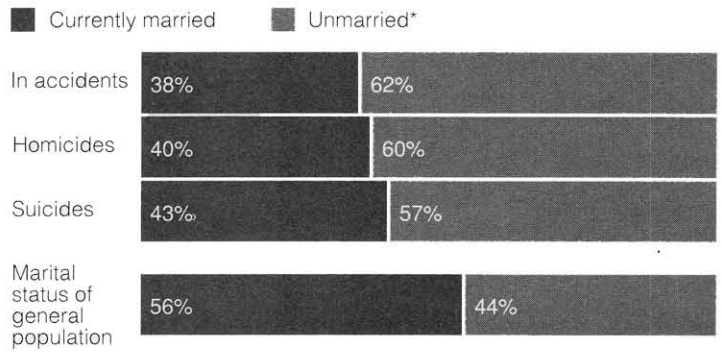
Behaviorally, married persons are quite different from both divorced and never-married individuals. Important elements of these differences, of course, stem from factors other than marital status itself. For example, people who have never married are disproportionately young; and young people are disproportionately both victims and perpetrators of crime.

## Marriage and Health Habits

	Currently married	Never-married
<b>Percent of population reporting that they</b>		
Are 20% or more above desirable weight	26%	15%
Are currently a smoker	28	27
Drank five or more alcoholic drinks in one day at least five times in last year	21	40
<b>Annual household spending on alcohol, per adult</b>	\$134	\$183*

**Note:** \* This figure includes divorced, separated, and widowed as well as never-married persons. Smoking figure is for 1987; alcohol spending is for 1989; other data are for 1985.  
**Source:** U.S. National Center for Health Statistics; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

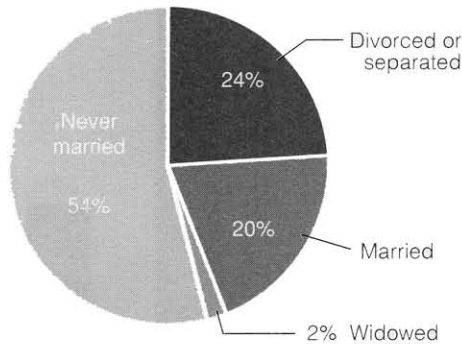
## Marital status and violent death, 1988



**Note:** \* Unmarried=widowed, divorced, and never-married.  
**Source:** U.S. National Center for Health Statistics.

## Marital status and crime, 1986

Composition of state prison inmate populations



**Source:** U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

## Marital status and crime victimization, 1988

Crimes experienced per 1,000 persons ages 12 and older



**Source:** U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics.