

*The automobile had not yet come in
and the family had not yet gone out.*

Suzanne LaFollette
1971

*This changing world is rolling
towards the abyss of self-destruction
with a breathtaking rapidity.*

Madam Chiang Kai-shek
International Women's Conference
Sydney, Australia
1938

*Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted
is the most terrible poverty.*

Mother Teresa
Time Magazine
Dec. 29, 1979

Section V: Family Trends

If there is one characteristic that defines the 20th century it is the disintegration of the family. The American family has eroded seriously in the 20th century, particularly in the post-World War II period. In 1999 only 66 percent of the population lived in a married couple family. Divorce now severs more families every year than the total number of maternal deaths did from 1915 to 1998. Cohabitation has dramatically increased, as has the number of women living as “unrelated individuals.”

Connectedness: We are all familiar with the problems of divorce, cohabitation and single motherhood. A less acknowledged problem is the steady, unrelenting growth in the number of unmarried women who either live alone or as “unrelated individuals.” During the twentieth century, not only did marriages fail, couples declined to get married, and men and women progressed through serial “hook-ups.” There was also a significant increase in the number of women who remained single and alone. As a result, at the end of the century the number of married women as a porportion of all women was at the lowest level ever recorded, and the number of unmarried women, after declining until the early 1980s, is now inching upward; it is now 24.7 percent compared to the peak at the beginning of the century at 31.3 percent. Widowhood has remained relatively constant. Divorce, which dramatically increased throughout most of the century, leveled off after the 80s, but still fluctuates at around 50 percent . The result is that a significant number of women live isolated and alone with less and less “connectedness” in an era where technology offers unparalleled opportunities for instant communication. The loneliness resulting from a lack of connectedness was recognized by Mother Teresa as a type of poverty in the above quote from *Time Magazine*.

Impact of Family Breakdown on Children: The most distressing aspect of the breakdown of the family is the impact on children. Unwed births have increased precipitously and remain at unprecedented levels. Currently over one-third of American children are born out-of-wedlock. The ramifications for American culture are staggering. The only ray of hope in the picture is the recent downturn in out-of-wedlock births among teenagers – they seem to be getting the abstinence message since abortions have also declined among teens.

Abortion: Since legalization of abortion in 1973, there have been over 35 million legal abortions performed. Almost half of these abortions are to women who have had previous abortions and nearly 80 percent are to unmarried women. While over 10 percent of pregnancies of married women end in abortion (11.3 percent), nearly half of all pregnancies of unmarried women end in abortion (45.8 percent). The tragedy of abortion is compounded by the fact that at the end of the century, a significant percent of the women over 35 have not experienced childbirth and many of these would gladly adopt the unwanted baby of a woman considering abortion.

Households without an Adult Male Presence: At the beginning of the 21st century, well over one-third of American women live in a household without an adult male presence. Despite the value of independence and self-sufficiency, the overall impact of living without masculine influence and assistance cannot be considered a positive outcome for women – especially when children are involved. If this trend continues we can expect quite negative ramifications for all of American culture.

Cohabitation: In 1998 there were more than 10 times as many women cohabiting as in 1960. If the present trends continue, the number will more than double by 2010. Distressingly, the number of cohabiting couples with children continues to climb. While the number of cohabiting couples with children remained fairly constant from the 60s through the mid 70s before beginning to edge upward, the numbers were beginning to seriously increase in the 80s. The upward trend is not as steep as among cohabiting couples without children, but its steady climb impacts the lives of far too many children and women. Research indicates that cohabiting relationships are unstable – usually lasting a mere 18 months.

Mother-Only and Father-Only Families: Since the early 1970s, the number of married-couple families has remained relatively constant and the increase in household arrangements has been in the continued increase in the number of mother-only families and the less-steep increase in the number of father-only families. To put it more bluntly, since 1970 the growth in family groups with children came ENTIRELY from one-parent families, especially mother-only ones. In the previous two decades, most of the growth in the number of family groups with children was the result of growth in the number of married-couple families (7 million out of the total 9.6 million increase from 1950 to 1970). But from 1970 to 2000, the number of married couples with children remained essentially unchanged and all of the growth (nearly 8 million) in family groups with children came from one-parent families: mother-only families nearly tripled and father-only grew to 5 times its 1970 level. It is no coincidence that the increase in single parent families corresponds to the increase in such societal problems as child poverty and crime. In addition, the increase in single parenting has fed welfare dependence; far too often, welfare must close the financial gaps when a marriage or cohabitation arrangement falls apart.

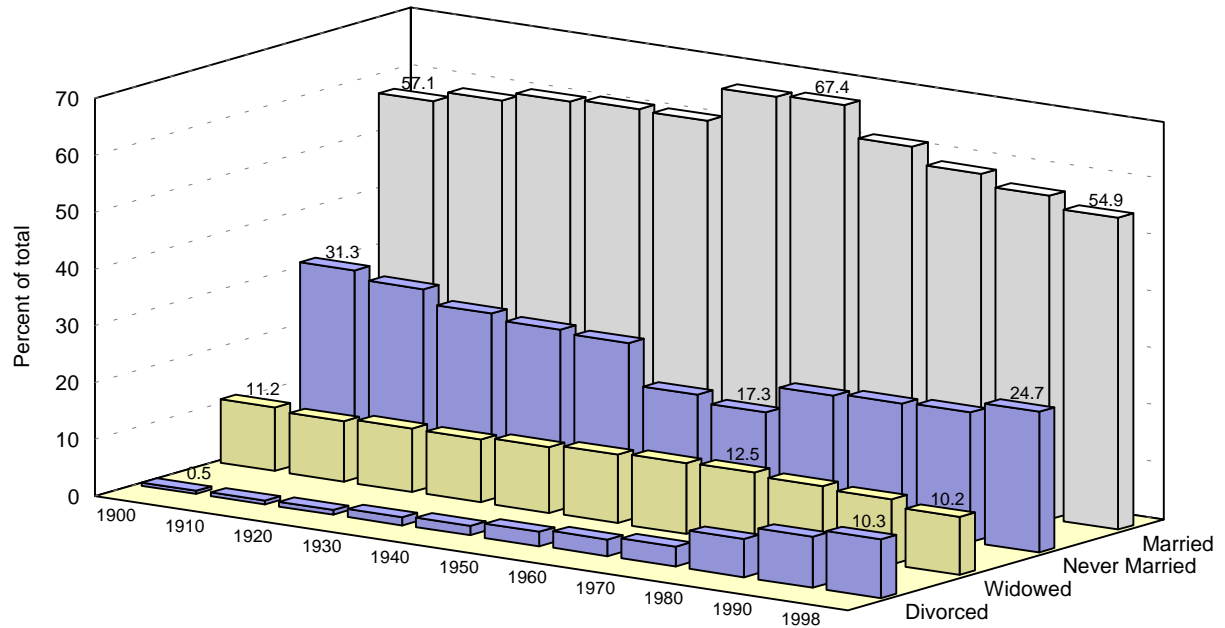
Table 6. –Marital Status of Women 15 Years of Age and Over: 1900 – 1998

Years	Total	Married	Unmarried			
			Total	Never Married	Widowed	Divorced
Numbers in millions						
1900 ¹	24.2	13.8	10.4	7.6	2.7	0.1
1910 ¹	30.0	17.7	12.3	8.9	3.2	0.2
1920 ¹	35.1	21.3	13.8	9.6	3.9	0.3
1930 ¹	42.8	26.2	16.6	11.3	4.7	0.6
1940	49.4	30.1	19.3	12.8	5.7	0.8
1950	56.1	37.6	18.5	10.4	6.7	1.4
1960	63.6	42.9	20.7	11.0	7.9	1.9
1970	77.8	48.1	29.6	17.2	9.7	2.7
1980	89.9	53.0	37.0	20.2	10.8	6.0
1990	99.8	56.8	43.0	22.7	11.5	8.8
1995	105.0	59.0	46.0	24.7	11.1	10.3
1996	106.0	58.9	47.1	25.5	11.1	10.5
1997	107.1	58.8	48.2	26.1	11.1	11.1
1998	108.2	59.3	48.8	26.7	11.0	11.1
Percent of total						
1900	100.0	57.1	42.9	31.3	11.2	0.5
1910	100.0	59.0	41.0	29.8	10.6	0.6
1920	100.0	60.7	39.3	27.4	11.1	0.8
1930	100.0	61.2	38.8	26.4	11.1	1.3
1940	100.0	61.0	39.0	25.8	11.5	1.7
1950	100.0	67.0	33.0	18.5	12.0	2.4
1960	100.0	67.4	32.6	17.3	12.4	2.9
1970	100.0	61.9	38.1	22.1	12.5	3.5
1980	100.0	58.9	41.1	22.5	12.0	6.6
1990	100.0	56.9	43.1	22.8	11.5	8.9
1995	100.0	56.2	43.8	23.5	10.6	9.8
1996	100.0	55.6	44.4	24.1	10.4	9.9
1997	100.0	54.9	45.1	24.3	10.3	10.4
1998	100.0	54.9	45.1	24.7	10.2	10.3

¹ A small number classified as “status not reported” have been distributed in the same proportions as those whose marital status was reported.
 Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970, Current Population Reports*, Series P20-514, “Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1998 (Update)” and earlier reports. Internet release date: January 7, 1999

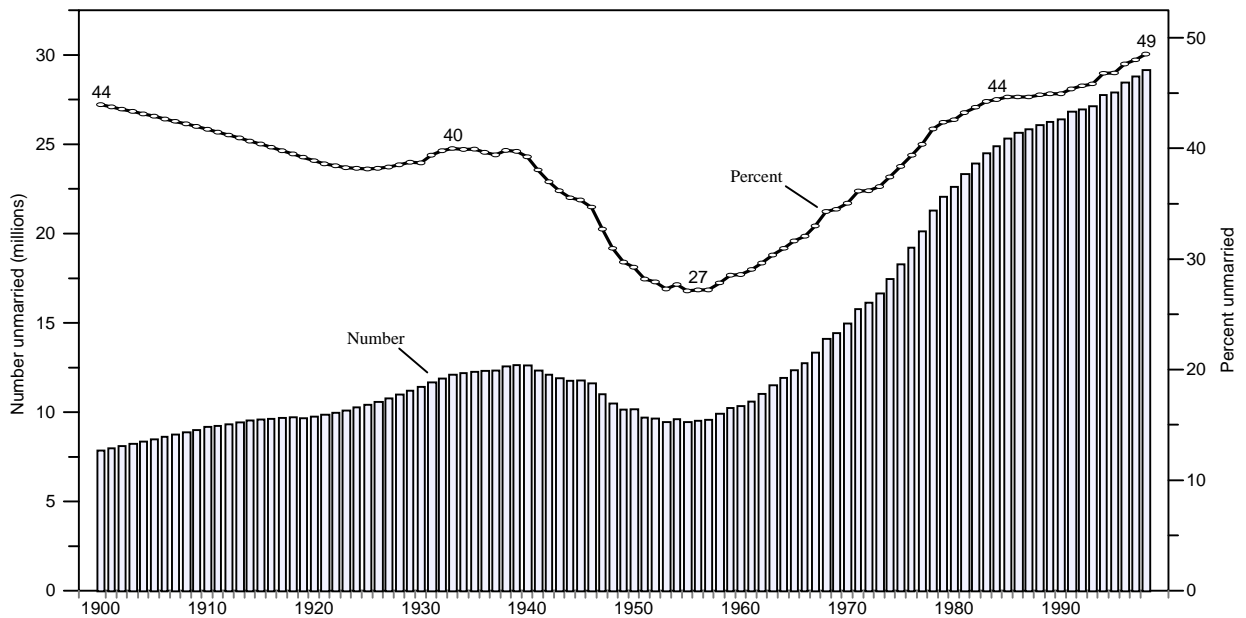
- The proportion of unmarried women, after declining significantly as a percentage of all women in the 15 years following World War II, have since risen to an all time high of a little over 45 percent in 1998 (see Figure 6.2). In 1900 never-married women comprised a little over 31 percent of all women 15 years of age and over and were 73 percent of all unmarried women. From this peak level, they declined to 25 percent of all women and 55 percent of the unmarried in 1998.
- In 1900 widows made up 26 percent of unmarried women (11 percent of all women). This proportion increased to 38 percent in 1960. Subsequently their proportion of the unmarrieds has declined to 23 percent.
- The number and percentage of divorced women has been on an upward trend throughout the century but the rate of growth sharply accelerated with the advent of no-fault divorce in the early 1970s. The percentage of divorced women nearly doubled between 1970 and 1980 going from 3.5 percent of all women to 6.6 percent. After taking another jump from 1980 to 1990, growth in the percentage of divorced women has slowed significantly.
- The years following World War II saw the proportion of married women reach the highest levels of the century. Between 1970 and 1998, however, the marriage rate for unmarried women 15-44 declined nearly 50 percent reducing married women as a proportion of all women to less than 55 percent, the lowest level ever recorded. Note that this 30-year trend has continued through several recessions and two extended periods of prosperity.

Figure 6.1. –Marital Status of Women 15 Years of Age and Over: 1900 – 1999



Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970, Current Population Reports, Series P20-514, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1998 (Update)"* and earlier reports. Internet release date: January 7, 1999

Figure 6.2. –Number and Percent of Unmarried Women 15 – 44 Years: 1900 – 1998



Note: Prior to 1940 the numbers for the years between the decennial censuses, are obtained by interpolation.
Source: See Figure 6.2 above.

- The proportion of unmarried women of child bearing age (15-44) as a percentage of all women 15-44 is at the highest level ever (49 percent); the trend continues upward though at a slower rate than in the 1960s and 1970s.

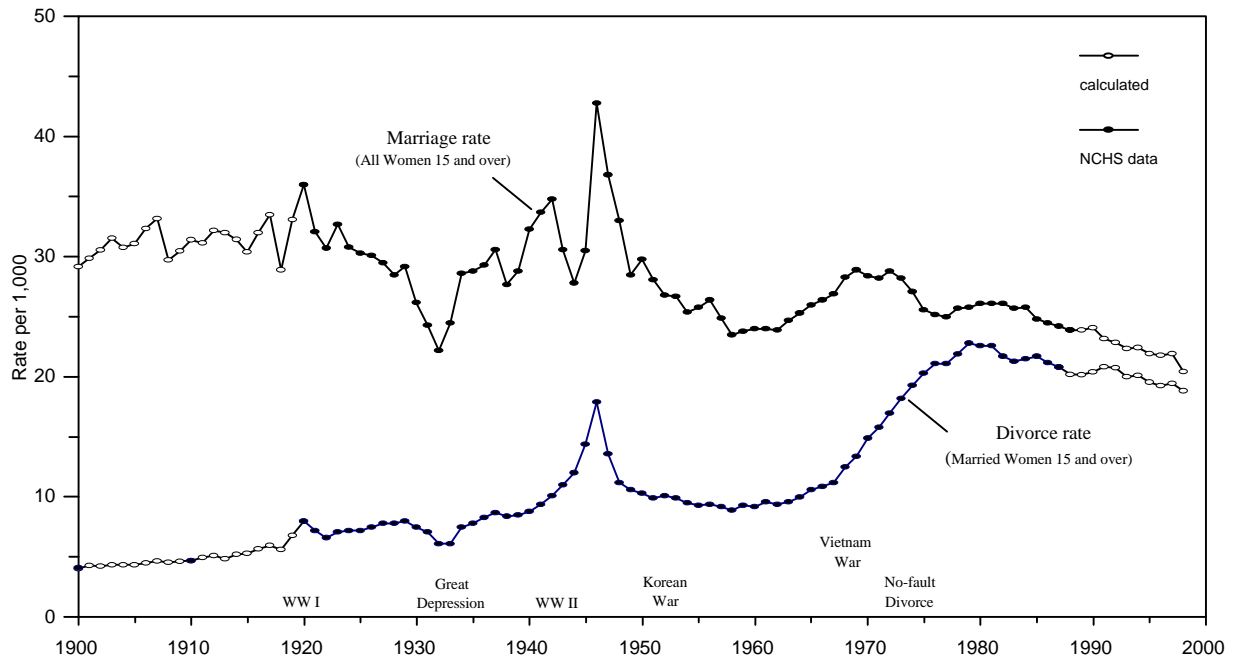
Table 7.1. –Marriage and Divorce in the United States: 1900 – 1998

Year	Number of Marriages (in thousands)	Number of Divorces and Annulments (in thousands)	Divorces per 100 Marriages	Marriage rate per 1000 Women 15 & over	Divorce rate for Married Women 15 & over	Median age of Bride at First Marriage	Median age of Groom at First Marriage
1900	709	56	7.9	29.2	4.0	21.9	25.9
1910	948	83	8.8	31.4	4.7	21.6	25.1
1920	1,274	171	13.4	36.0	8.0	21.2	24.6
1925	1,188	175	14.8	30.3	7.2	–	–
1930	1,127	196	17.4	26.2	7.5	21.3	24.3
1935	1,327	218	16.4	28.8	7.8	–	–
1940	1,596	264	16.5	32.3	8.8	21.5	24.3
1945	1,613	485	30.1	30.5	14.4	20.8	23.9
1950	1,667	385	23.1	29.8	10.3	20.3	22.8
1955	1,531	377	24.6	25.8	9.3	20.2	22.6
1960	1,523	393	25.8	24.0	9.2	20.3	22.8
1965	1,800	479	26.6	26.0	10.6	20.6	22.8
1970	2,159	708	32.8	28.4	14.9	20.8	23.2
1975	2,153	1,036	48.1	25.6	20.3	21.1	23.5
1980	2,390	1,189	49.7	26.1	22.6	22.0	24.7
1985	2,413	1,190	49.3	24.8	21.7	23.3	25.5
1990	2,443	1,178	48.2	24.1	20.4	23.9	26.1
1995	2,336	1,169	50.0	22.0	19.6	24.5	26.9
1998 <i>p</i>	2,244	1,135	50.6	20.5	18.9	25.0	26.7

Note: Data in standard typeface are from Bureau of the Census and the National Center for Health Statistics reports. Data in italics have been computed from numerators and denominators drawn from Census and NCHS reports.

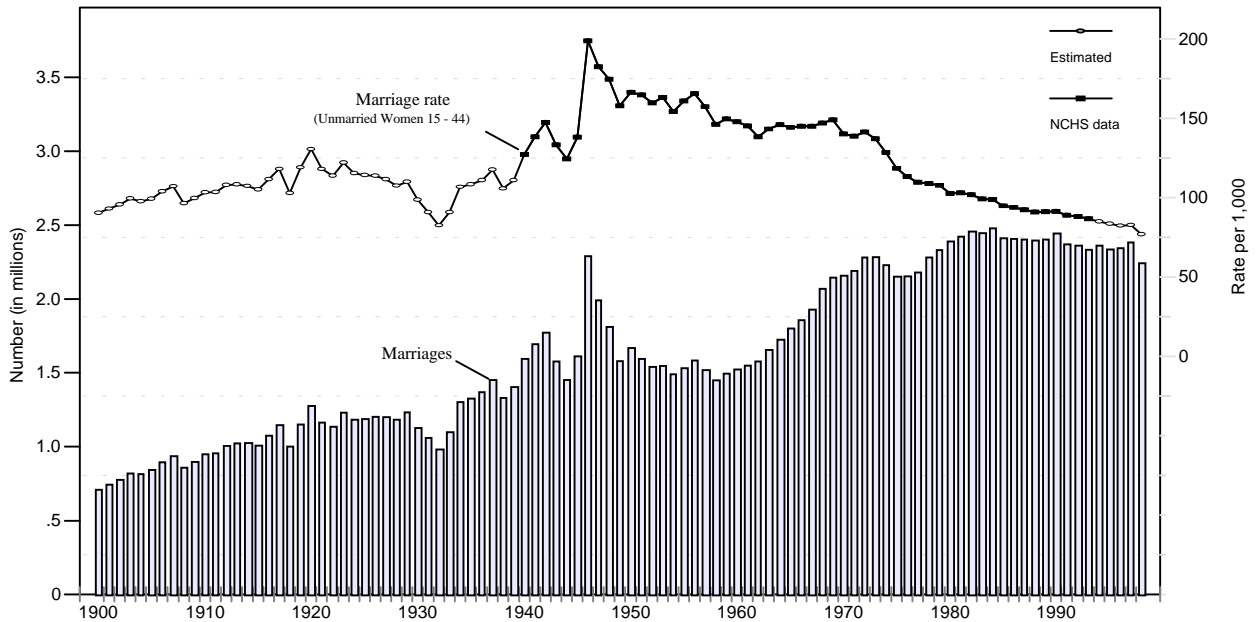
Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*; National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States*, annual, and the *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 47, No. 21, July 6, 1999 and earlier reports.

Figure 7.1. –Marriage and Divorce Rates in the United States: 1900 – 1998



Source: See Table 7.

Figure 7.2. –Marriages and Marriage Rates of Unmarried Women 15 – 44 Years



Note: The marriage rate presented here relates all marriages, regardless of the bride's age to the number of unmarried women 15-44 years of age; the denominators for the marriage rates in this exhibit, the number of unmarried women 15-44 are presented in Figure 6.2 above.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*, and National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States*, annual, and the *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 47, No. 21, July 6, 1999 and earlier reports.

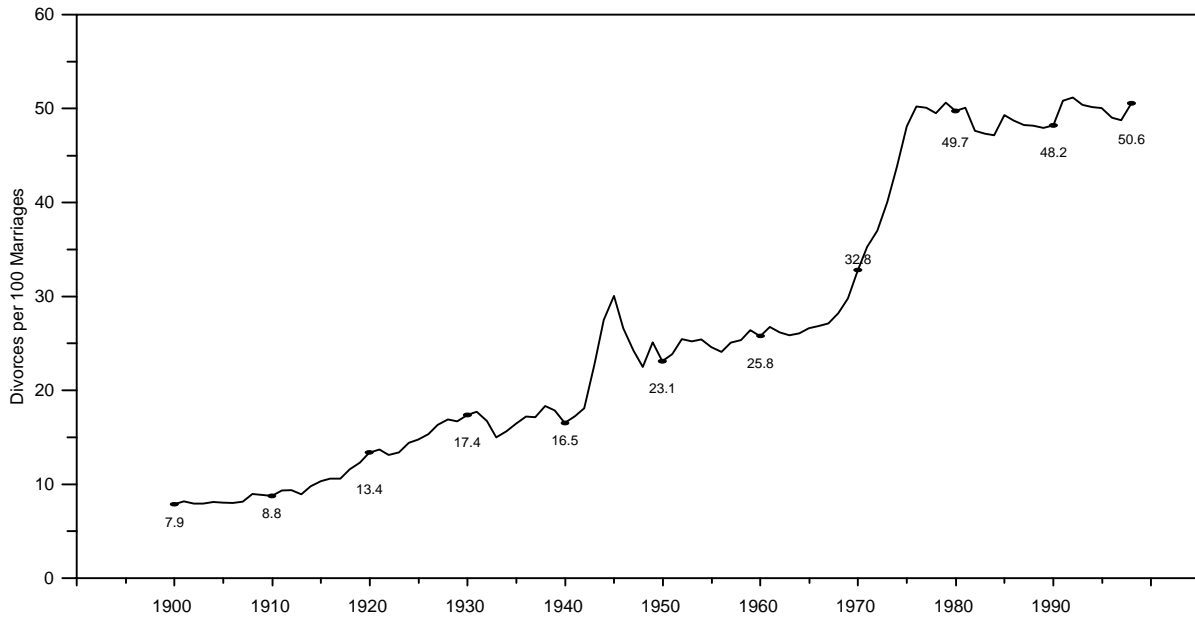
- In the last 30 years, the number of marriages has increased and decreased while the number of unmarried women 15 to 44 years of age has increased steadily. Thus despite the unparalleled prosperity of the late 1990s, marriage rates declined by the end of the decade to a level lower than that seen even in 1933, the worst year of the Great Depression. In 1970 there were a little under 2.2 million marriages as compared to 15 million unmarried women 15 to 44 for a marriage rate of 76.5 per thousand. In 1998 there were over 2.2 million marriages as compared to 29 million unmarried women 15 to 44 for a marriage rate of 45.3 per thousand.
- The number of unmarried men per 100 unmarried women in the 25 to 34 age group declined from 141 per 100 in 1960 to 120 per 100 in 1998. Older age groups' male-female ratio, however, increased in the last 20-30 years.

Table 7.2. –Number of Unmarried Males per 100 Unmarried Females, by Age Groups

Year	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 & up	15 & over	15-44
1900	122	155	116	77	52	111	128
1910	127	162	117	85	57	116	133
1920	122	149	111	85	58	109	126
1930	123	140	105	81	59	105	124
1940	123	129	93	76	56	99	120
1950	132	128	80	62	49	90	122
1960	122	141	90	63	42	83	119
1970	114	126	78	66	40	78	111
1980	113	116	80	66	39	81	110
1990	111	126	91	71	53	84	111
1998	110	120	109	83	65	87	112

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*, *Current Population Reports*, Series P20-514, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1998 (Update)" and earlier reports. Internet release date: January 7, 1999.

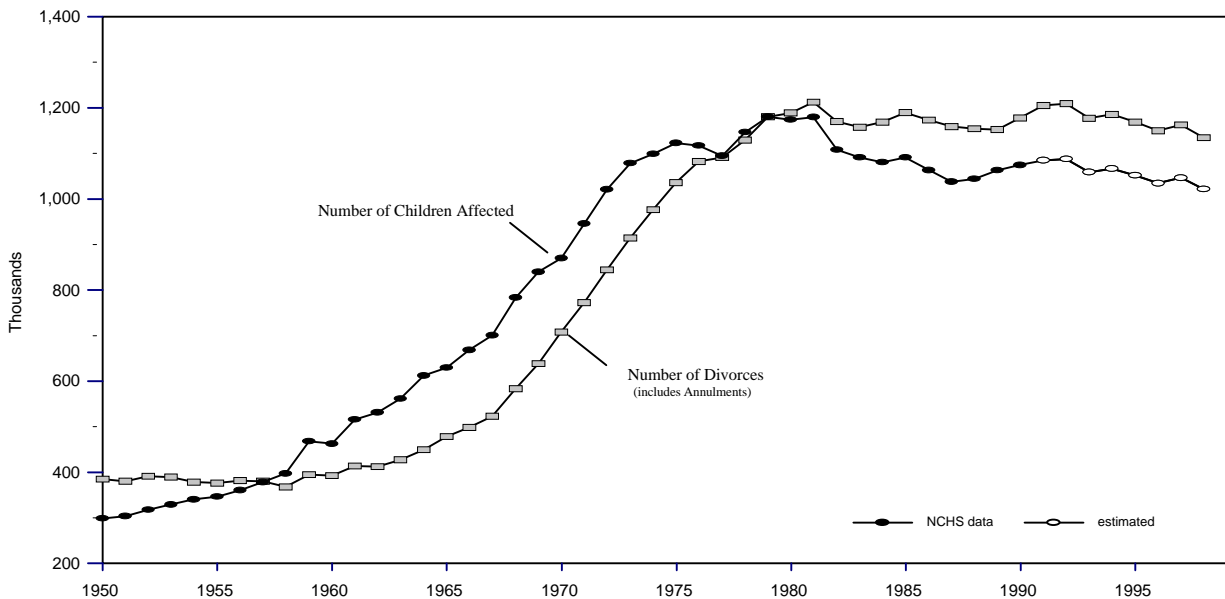
Figure 7.3. –Number of Divorces per 100 Marriages, 1900 – 1998



Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*, and National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States*, annual, and the *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 47, No. 21, July 6, 1999 and earlier reports.

- The rapid increase in the ratio of divorces to marriages beginning in 1970 marks the introduction of no-fault divorce.
- With parallel declines in marriage and divorce rates during the last 20 years, the trend in the number of divorces per 100 marriages has been flat with the ratio fluctuating a little above and below 50 per hundred.

Figure 7.4. –Number of Divorces and Children Affected: 1950 – 1998



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, “Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths,” *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 47, No. 21, 1999 and earlier reports.

Table 8.1. –Births and Birth Rates by Marital Status: 1900 – 1999

	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1999 ¹
Births (all races)											
Numbers in thousands											
Total births	2,458 ²	2,777	2,950	2,618	2,559	3,632	4,258	3,731	3,612	4,158	3,958
Marital births	—	—	2,896	2,543	2,470	3,490	4,034	3,333	2,947	2,993	2,653
Unwed births	—	—	54 ³	76 ³	90	142	224	399	666	1,165	1,305
percent of total	—	—	1.1 ³	2.9 ³	3.5	3.9	5.3	10.7	18.4	28.0	33.0
Birth rates											
Per thousands											
Population	32.3	30.1	27.7	21.3	19.4	24.1	23.7	18.4	15.9	16.7	14.5
Fertility rate (15-44)	137.9 ²	126.8	117.9	89.2	79.9	106.2	118.0	87.9	68.4	70.9	65.8
Marital rate (15-44)	—	—	191.1 ³	142.0 ³	125.9	141.0	156.6	121.1	97.0	93.2	85.7
Unwed rate (15-44)	—	—	5.5 ³	6.6 ³	7.1	14.1	21.6	26.4	29.4	43.8	44.8

¹ Data for 1999 are provisional.

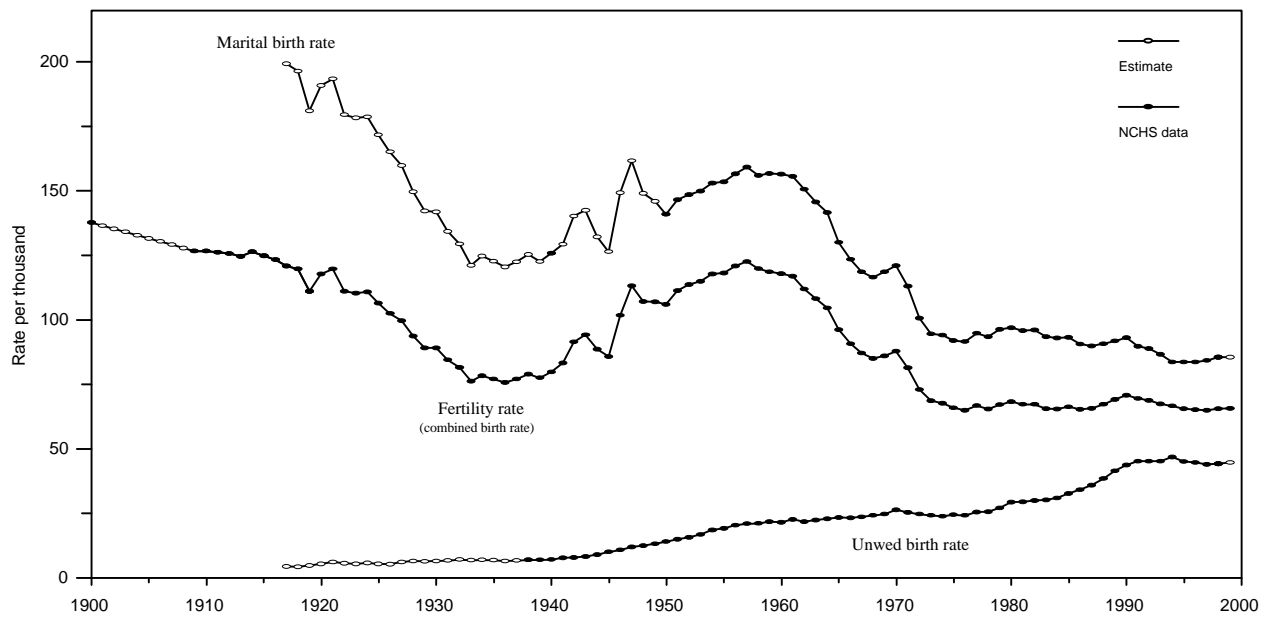
² Total births and the fertility rate for 1900 calculated based on the total population birth rate for that year.

³ Total marital and unwed births estimated on the basis of data from the birth registration area.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*, National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States*, annual and *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 48, No. 14, August 8, 2000 and earlier reports.

- The fertility rate refers to the ratio of total births to the number of women 15 to 44 years of age. It is a weighted average of the marital and unwed birth rates where the weights are the proportions of married and unmarried women 15 to 44.

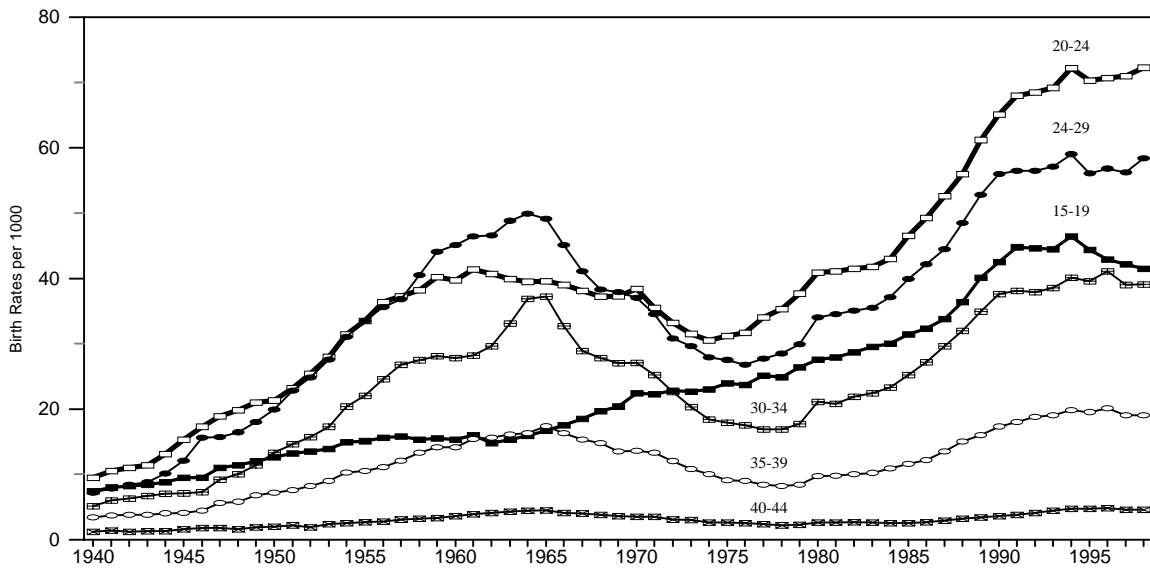
Figure 8.1. –Fertility Rate and Birth Rates by Marital Status: 1900 – 1999



Source: See Table 8 above.

- From the height of the baby boom in 1957, the married birth rate declined by 43 percent by 1976; this drop coincides with the introduction of the “pill,” i.e., oral contraception.
- The growth in the unwed birth rate was temporarily slowed in the 1970s by the legalization of abortion. The late 1980s, however, saw the unwed birth rate make a sharp increase before leveling off in the 1990s

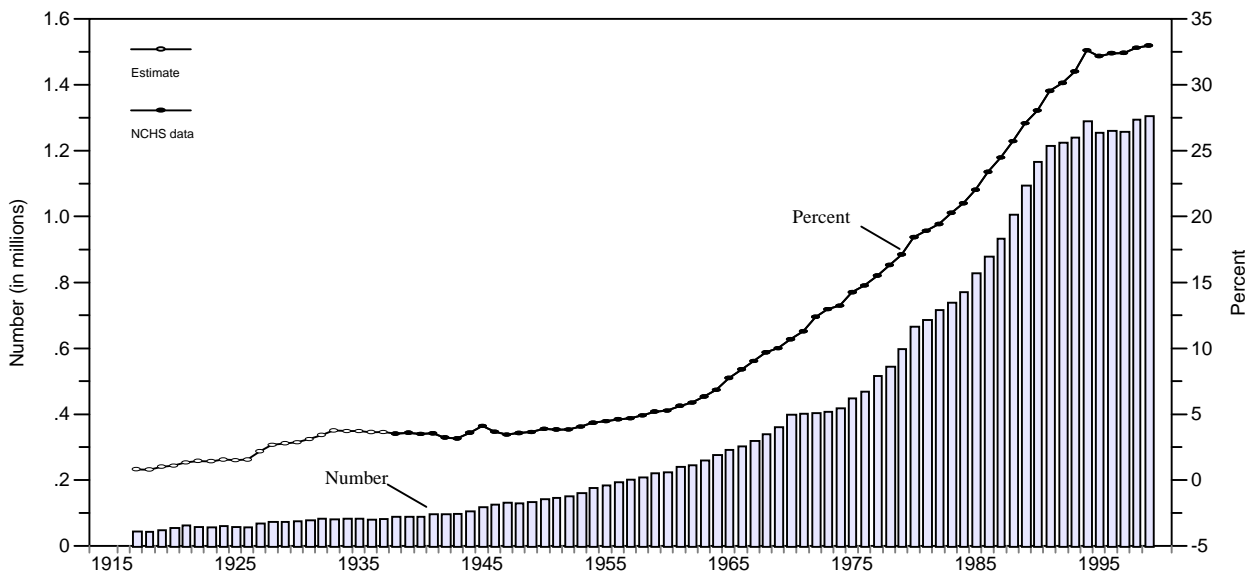
Figure 8.2. –Births per 1,000 Unmarried Women by Age Groups, 1940 –1998



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States*, annual, and the *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 48, No. 14, August 8, 2000 and earlier reports.

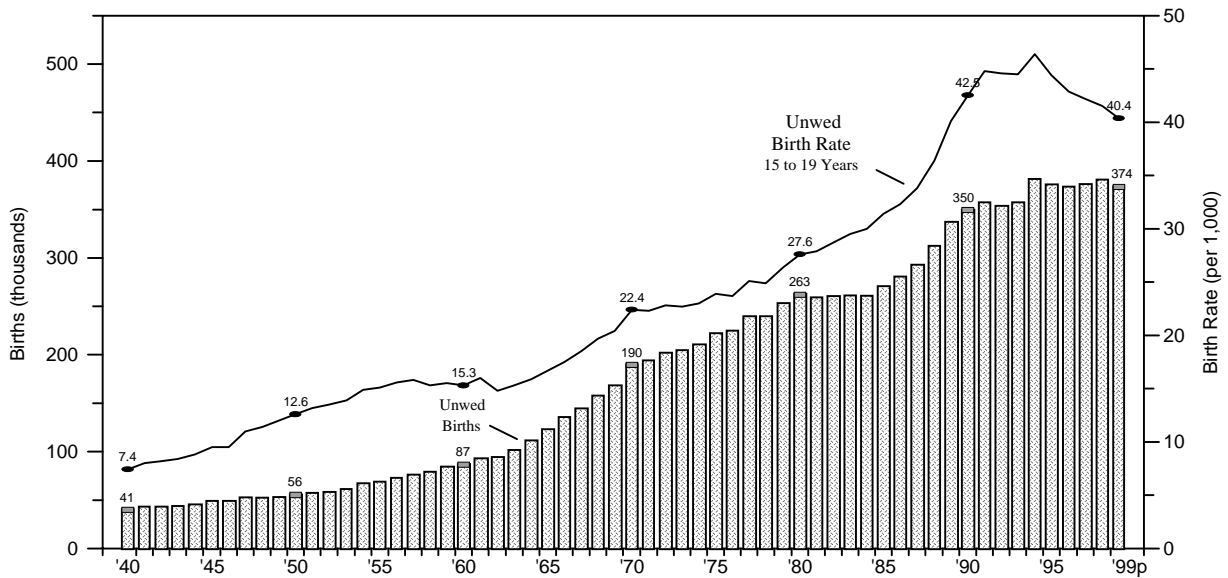
- Unwed birth rates in all age groups except among 15 to 19 year olds, began to decline in the early-to mid-1960s following with a lag the behavior of married birth rates. The effect of the legalization of abortion in the early 1970s is clearly apparent in all age groups except the ages 15-19 and the 40-44 – in this latter group the rate declined 27 percent between 1973 and 1978 which can also be clearly seen when graphed on a less compressed scale. Abortion appears to have arrested the increase in unwed birth rates for only about a decade.
- The middle and late 1980s saw a sharp increase in unwed birth rates which in the early 1990s moderated in all age groups except for the 15-19 year olds whose rate, after 50 years of increase, began to decline.

Figure 8.3. –Number and Percentage of Births to Unmarried Women, 1917 – 1999



Source: See Figure 8.2.

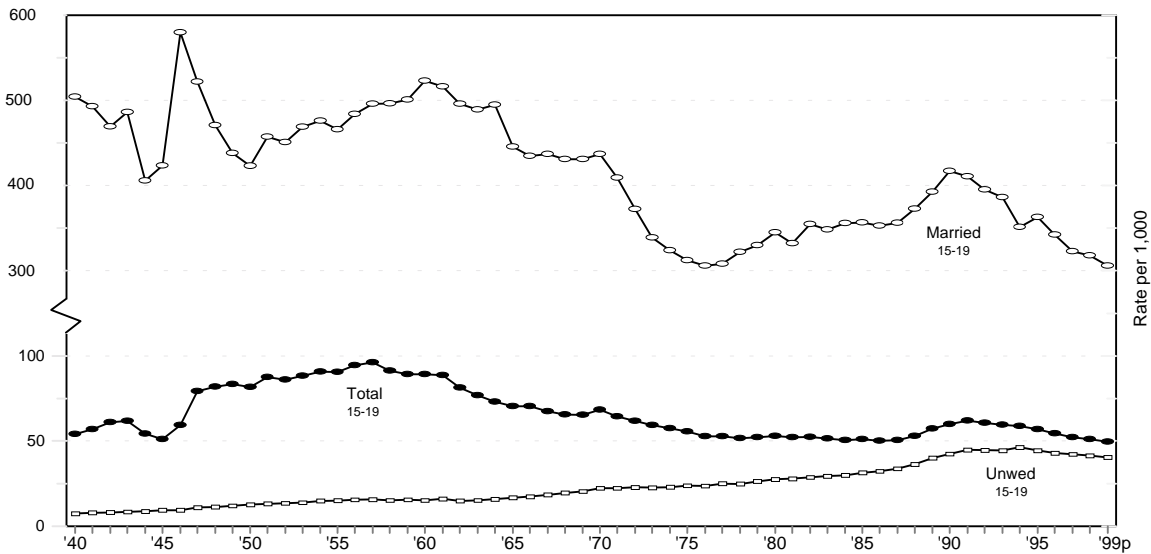
Figure 8.4. –Births and Birth Rate of Unmarried Women 15 to 19, 1940 –1999



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States*, annual, and the *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 48, No. 14, August 8, 2000 and earlier reports.

- The birth rate of unmarried teens 15 to 19 year old began a 4-year decline in 1995 after being on an upward trend since 1940, the earliest date at which we have information on teen births. This decline in the birth rate came when the number of births reached a plateau while the number of unmarried teens continued to increase.
- The birth rate of married teens exhibited the same decline from 1960 to 1975 as seen in the overall married birth rate. Beginning in the mid-1970s, however, married teen birth rates—in contrast to the overall married birth rate—began to increase until reaching a peak in 1990. They have since declined by 27 percent back to their 1976 level.

Figure 8.5. –Birth Rates of Women 15 to 19 by Marital Status, 1940 – 1999



Source: See Figure 8.4.

**Table 8.2. –Legal Abortions and Abortion Ratios, By Selected Characteristics
United States, Selected Years 1973 – 1997**

	1973	1975	1980	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1997
	Number of legal abortions reported in thousands											
Abortions	616	855	1,298	1,304	1,334	1,328	1,371	1,430	1,359	1,267	1,222	1,185
Previous induced abortions	Percent distribution ¹											
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0	na	81.9	67.6	63.7	60.5	59.3	57.8	57.1	55.1	54.8	54.7	50.8
1	na	14.9	23.5	24.9	25.7	26.3	26.9	26.9	27.4	27.2	26.9	29.1
2	na	2.5	6.6	8.2	9.4	9.6	10.4	10.1	11.0	11.1	11.2	12.3
3 or more	na	0.7	2.3	3.2	4.3	4.8	4.9	5.9	6.5	7.0	7.2	7.8
Abortion ratios	Abortions per 100 live births ²											
All ages	19.6	27.2	35.9	35.4	36.4	35.4	35.2	34.5	33.5	32.1	31.4	30.5
Under 15	123.7	119.3	139.7	120.0	143.9	116.3	94.9	84.4	79.0	70.4	72.3	72.9
15-19	53.9	54.2	71.4	66.5	69.7	65.0	62.4	51.5	44.0	41.5	41.5	40.7
20-24	29.4	28.9	39.5	38.0	39.9	38.0	37.4	37.7	37.6	36.4	35.5	34.4
25-29	20.7	19.2	23.7	23.5	22.6	22.1	21.4	22.0	22.2	22.2	22.7	22.3
30-34	28.0	25.0	23.7	23.0	20.0	19.8	18.8	19.1	18.3	17.2	16.5	16.0
35-39	45.1	42.2	41.0	37.1	33.4	31.3	28.0	27.3	25.6	23.4	22.0	20.8
40 and over	68.4	66.8	80.7	75.0	64.0	59.0	51.4	50.1	45.4	41.2	37.6	35.0
Race												
White ³	32.6	27.7	33.2	30.4	28.8	26.9	25.9	25.8	23.6	21.7	20.2	19.3
Black ⁴	42.0	47.6	54.3	55.6	47.5	48.8	48.9	52.1	51.8	53.8	55.5	54.3
Marital status												
Married	7.6	9.6	10.5	9.7	9.3	10.2	8.8	8.9	8.4	7.9	7.8	7.3
Unmarried	139.8	161.0	147.6	142.2	126.7	95.8	102.7	87.9	79.0	68.9	65.5	65.7
Previous live births ⁵												
0	43.7	38.4	45.7	48.2	45.9	41.5	37.7	35.8	32.7	30.9	28.7	26.8
1	23.5	22.0	20.2	22.0	21.9	21.5	21.8	23.0	22.9	22.3	22.3	22.0
2	36.8	36.8	29.5	32.4	32.0	30.5	30.4	31.7	31.9	30.9	31.1	30.8
3	46.9	47.7	29.8	32.2	31.3	29.7	29.1	30.2	30.8	30.8	31.5	31.2
4 or more ⁶	44.7	43.5	24.3	25.4	24.4	22.4	21.9	27.1	25.5	23.3	24.9	24.7

¹ Excludes cases for which the previous number of induced abortions is unknown.

² For calculation of ratios according to each characteristic, abortions with the characteristic unknown have been distributed in proportion to abortions with the characteristic known.

³ For 1989 and later years, white race includes women of Hispanic ethnicity.

⁴ Before 1989 black race includes races other than white.

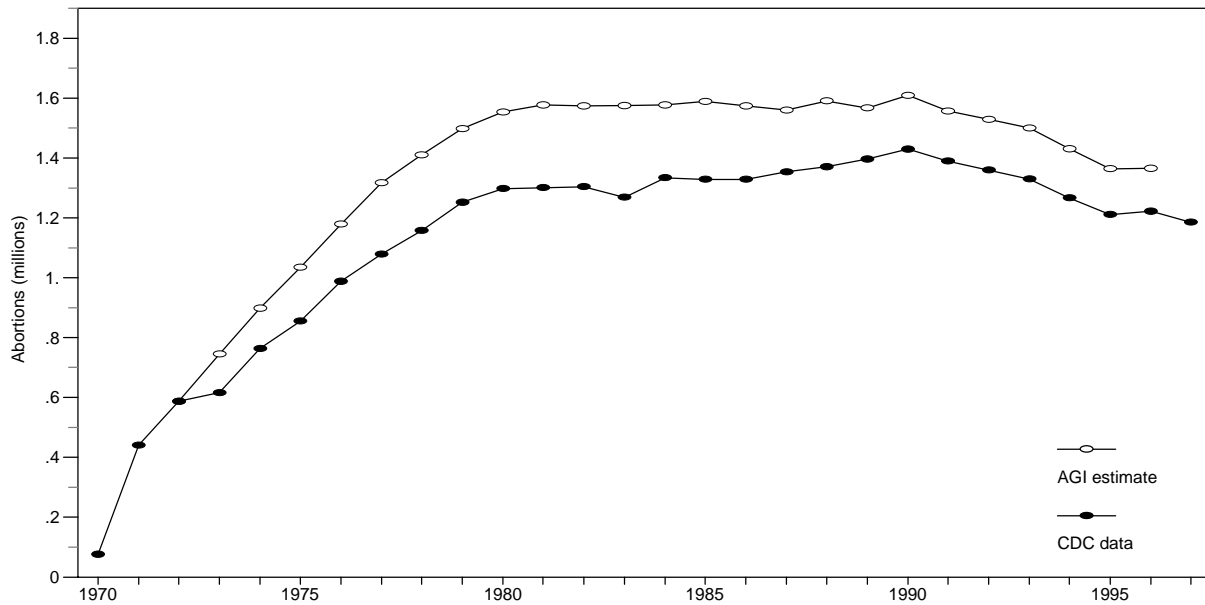
⁵ For 1973-75 data indicate number of living children.

⁶ For 1975 data refer to four previous live births, not four or more; for five or more previous live births, the ratio was 47.3.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Health, United States*, 2000.

- Since the Supreme Court struck down state anti-abortion statutes in 1973, there have been between 35 and 40 million legal abortions performed. Since peaking in 1990 the number of abortions has been on the decline decreasing by 17 percent by 1997, a drop of nearly 245 thousand. From 1978 to 1990 the percentage of pregnancies being intentionally terminated by abortion fluctuated in a range of 23 to 24 percent but since then has declined steadily every year and by 1997 reached approximately 21 percent of all pregnancies (the number of total pregnancies used here is estimated based on the assumption of an average unintended fetal loss equal to 15 percent of live births).
- Between 1980 and 1997 the ratio of abortions to live births for married women declined 30 percent and for unmarried women the ratio declined by more than 55 percent. Unmarried women reduced the percentage of pregnancies being intentionally aborted from approximately 56 percent in 1980 to 36 percent in 1995 where it has remained through 1997.

Figure 8.6. –Legal Abortions: United States, 1970 – 1997



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Health, United States*, 2000 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: *Abortion Surveillance*, Vol. 48, No. SS-4, July 1999 and earlier reports; the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

Table 8.3. –Women 15-44 Years of Age Who Have Not Had at Least One Live Birth, By Age: United States, Selected Years 1960-98

Year ¹	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years
	Percent of women					
1960	91.4	47.5	20.0	14.2	12.0	15.1
1965	92.7	51.4	19.7	11.7	11.4	11.0
1970	93.0	57.0	24.4	11.8	9.4	10.6
1975	92.6	62.5	31.1	15.2	9.6	8.8
1980	93.4	66.2	38.9	19.7	12.5	9.0
1985	93.7	67.7	41.5	24.6	15.4	11.7
1986	93.8	68.0	42.0	25.1	16.1	12.2
1987	93.8	68.2	42.5	25.5	16.9	12.6
1988	93.8	68.4	43.0	25.7	17.7	13.0
1989	93.7	68.4	43.3	25.9	18.2	13.5
1990	93.3	68.3	43.5	25.9	18.5	13.9
1991	93.0	67.9	43.6	26.0	18.7	14.5
1992	92.7	67.3	43.7	26.0	18.8	15.2
1993	92.6	66.7	43.8	26.1	18.8	15.8
1994	92.6	66.1	43.9	26.2	18.7	16.2
1995	92.5	65.5	44.0	26.2	18.6	16.5
1996	92.5	65.0	43.8	26.2	18.5	16.6
1997	92.8	64.9	43.5	26.2	18.4	16.6
1998	93.1	65.1	43.0	26.1	18.3	16.5

¹ As of January 1.

Notes: Data are based on cohort fertility. See Appendix II, Cohort fertility. Percents are derived from the cumulative childbearing experience of cohorts of women, up to the ages specified. Data on births are adjusted for underregistration and population estimates are corrected for underregistration and misstatement of age. Beginning in 1970 births to persons who were not residents of the 50 States and the District of Columbia are excluded.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1998*, Vol.1, Natality.

Table 9.1. –Living Arrangements of Women 15 Years of Age and Over: 1940 – 2000

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
	Numbers in millions								
Women 15 and over	49.4	56.1	63.6	77.8	89.9	95.3	99.8	105.0	110.3 ¹
Living as:									
Child or Other Relative	—	6.5	8.0	10.9	13.3	13.7	13.6	13.3	14.6 ¹
Married couple ¹									
Total	30.1	37.6	42.9	48.1	53.0	54.4	56.8	59.0	60.6 ¹
Spouse not present	1.6	1.5	2.4	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.5	4.0	4.1 ¹
Spouse present	28.5	36.0	40.5	45.4	49.8	51.1	53.3	54.9	56.5 ¹
With children under 18 ²	—	19.4	24.1	26.1	25.6	25.0	25.5	26.4	26.4
Unmarried	19.3	18.5	20.7	29.6	37.0	40.8	43.0	46.0	49.8 ¹
Householder–nsp ³	3.6	3.7	4.5	5.6	8.7	10.1	10.9	12.2	12.7
With children under 18 ²	—	—	2.5	3.4	6.0	6.8	7.4	8.7	8.7
Cohabiting Couple ⁴	—	—	0.4	0.5	1.6	2.0	2.9	3.7	4.7 ¹
With children under 15	—	—	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.3	—
Unrelated individuals ⁵	4.3	4.9	6.3	9.6	14.5	16.5	19.0	20.2	22.6
Living alone	—	—	—	7.3	11.3	12.7	14.1	14.6	15.6
	Percent distribution								
Women 15 and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Living as:									
Child or Other Relative	—	11.6	12.5	14.0	14.8	14.4	13.6	12.6	13.3 ¹
Married couple ¹									
Total	61.0	67.0	67.4	61.9	58.9	57.1	56.9	56.2	54.9 ¹
Spouse not present	3.2	2.7	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.8	3.7 ¹
Spouse present	57.8	64.3	63.7	58.4	55.4	53.6	53.3	52.3	51.2 ¹
With children under 18 ²	—	34.6	37.9	33.5	28.5	26.3	25.5	25.1	23.9
Unmarried	39.0	33.0	32.6	38.1	41.1	42.9	43.1	43.8	45.1 ¹
Householder–nsp ³	7.3	6.6	7.1	7.2	9.7	10.6	10.9	11.6	11.5
With children under 18 ²	—	—	4.0	4.4	6.7	7.2	7.5	8.3	7.9
Cohabiting Couple ⁴	—	—	0.7	0.7	1.8	2.1	2.9	3.5	4.3 ¹
With children under 15	—	—	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.3	—
Unrelated individuals ⁵	8.8	8.8	9.9	12.4	16.1	17.4	19.0	19.2	20.5
Living alone	—	—	—	9.4	12.6	13.3	14.1	13.9	14.1

¹ The value for 2000 is an estimate.

² Refers to all related children which includes not only own children but other related children as well. The value for related children of married couples in 1950 is estimated from the number of own children.

³ Householder, no spouse present, refers to a woman who heads a household where a household includes any other related family members and all the unrelated persons who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied as a separate living quarters; i.e., when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and there is access to a kitchen.

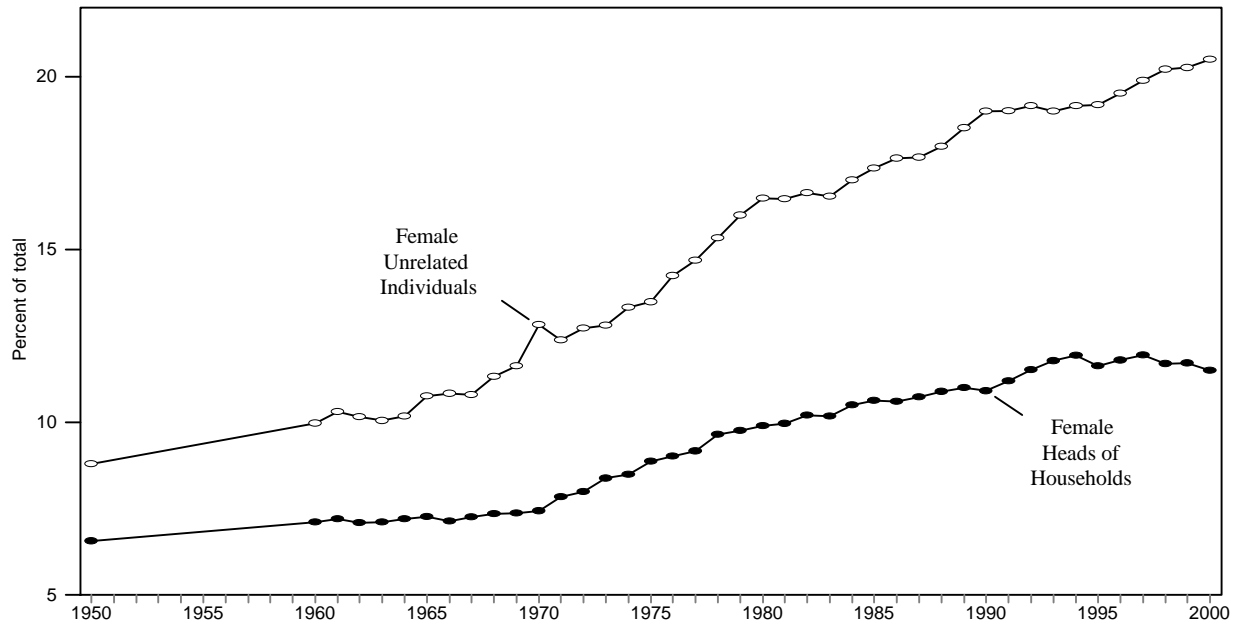
⁴ A cohabiting couple without children can be either a non-family household of two unrelated persons of the opposite sex sharing living quarters (POSSLQs) or, if the woman has one or more children, then she and any children constitute a family since there is a blood relationship.

⁵ An unrelated individual refers to a person (other than an inmate of an institution) who is not living with any relatives; such a person may be a head of a household or may live in a household headed by some other unrelated individual.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*; *Current Population Reports*, No. 311, 917, and 1095; "Population Estimates" and "Resident Population Estimates of the United States by Age and Sex, April 1, 1990 to July 1, 1999 with Short-Term Projection to July 1, 2000;" *Current Population Reports*, Series P20-514, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1998 (Update)"; *Current Population Reports*, Series P60-209, "Money Income in the United States, 1999," September 2000; and *Current Population Reports*, Series P60-210, "Poverty in the United States, 1999," September 2000 and earlier reports in the P20 and P60 series.

- The percentage of women 15 and over living with a husband peaked at over 64 percent in 1950. The percentage of women who are heading households with no spouse present or who are living as unrelated individuals in non-family households has increased from 16 percent in 1940 to 32 percent in 2000. These figures do not take into account the 3 to 4 percent of adult females who are the children of and are living with their mothers who are female heads of households. This brings to well over one-third the percentage of females living in households without an adult male present to contribute, not just financially, but to the entire symphony of family life.

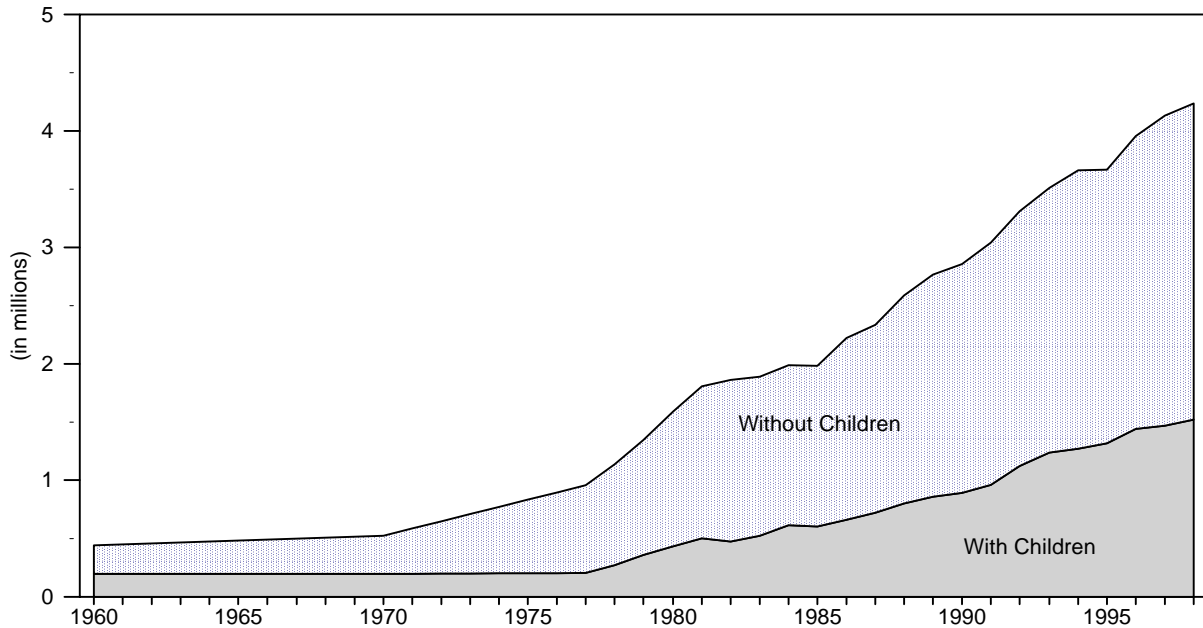
Figure 9.1. –Percentage of Unrelated Women and Women who Head Households



Source: See Table 9.

- The percentage of all women 15 and over who are cohabiting has gone from less than one percent in 1960 to better than 4 percent in 1998. In 1998 there were more than 10 times as many women cohabiting as in 1960. If the present trend continues, the number will more than double by 2010.

Figure 9.2. –Number of Cohabiting Couples, 1960 – 1998



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P20-514, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1998 (Update)."

Table 9.2 –All Family Groups with Own Children Under 18 Years: 1950 – 2000

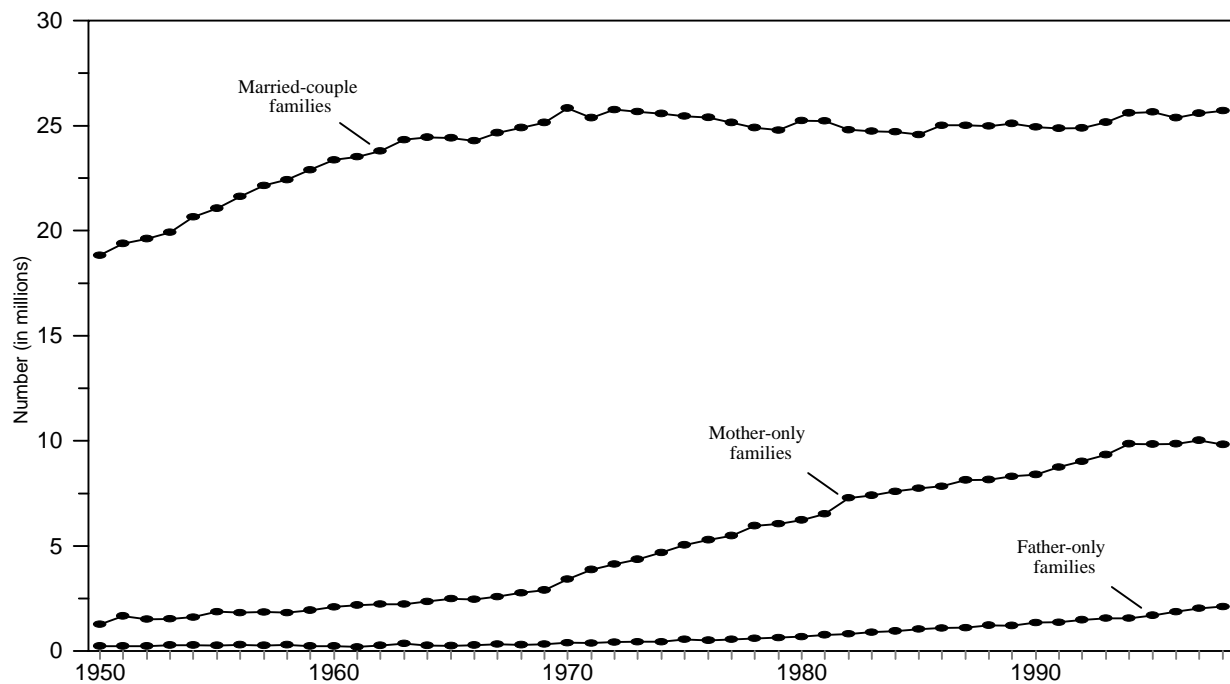
	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Numbers in millions											
Total	20.3	23.2	25.7	27.1	29.6	31.1	32.2	33.4	34.7	37.2	37.5
One-parent	1.5	2.1	2.3	2.7	3.8	5.6	6.9	8.8	9.7	11.5	11.8
Mother-only	1.3	1.9	2.1	2.5	3.4	5.0	6.2	7.7	8.4	9.8	9.7
Father-only	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.4	1.7	2.1
Married couples	18.8	21.1	23.4	24.4	25.8	25.4	25.2	24.6	24.9	25.6	25.7
Percent distribution											
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
One-parent	7.4	9.2	9.1	10.1	12.9	18.1	21.5	26.3	28.1	31.0	31.6
Mother-only	6.3	8.1	8.2	9.2	11.5	16.2	19.4	23.2	24.2	26.5	26.0
Father-only	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.8	2.1	3.1	3.9	4.6	5.6
Married couples	92.6	90.8	90.9	89.9	87.1	81.9	78.5	73.7	71.9	69.0	68.4

Note: Family groups with children include all parent-child situations (two-parent and one-parent): those that maintain their own household (family households with own children); those that live in the home of a relative (related subfamilies); and those that live in the home of a nonrelative (unrelated subfamilies). Data for the years prior to 1980 are not strictly comparable to that for 1980 onward due to differences in identifying subfamilies. Values for 2000 are estimated from year 2000 CPS data from the *Current Population Report*, P60-210.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, P20-515, "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1998 (Update)" and earlier reports.

- From 1950 to 1970 most of the growth in the number of family groups with children was the result of growth in the number of married-couple families (7 million out of the total 9.6 million increase during those 20 years). But from 1970 to 2000 the number of married couples with children remained essentially unchanged and all of the growth (nearly 8 million) in family groups with children came from one-parent families: mother-only families nearly tripled and father-only grew to 5 times its 1970 level.

Figure 9.3 –All Family Groups with Own Children Under 18 Years: 1950 – 2000



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, P20-515, "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1998 (Update)" and earlier reports.

