Fast Facts on American Marriages

In 2018, more than 1.5 million women married for the first time, with a rate of 44.5 first marriages per 1,000 never-married women. (FP-20-01)

From 1991 to 2017, first marriage rates declined among women under age 30 (especially teens) but increased for women over age 30 (especially women 50+). (FP-19-05)

The median age at first marriage in the United States increased steadily from a record low in the 1950s, when it was just over 20 for women and 22 for men. By 2018, the median age had reached record highs of almost 28 for women and nearing 30 for men. (FP-19-06)

About half of all adults are currently married, with just under half (47%) of all households composed of married couples. (FP-19-14; FP-19-26)

Between 1980 & 1991, women’s median age at first marriage was consistently younger than women’s median age at first birth. Since 1991, the median age at first marriage was consistently older than the median age at first birth. (FP-17-22)

Although spouses have the same level of education in about half of all marriages, instances in which the wife has more education than the husband are more common among newlyweds compared to those who have been married longer. (FP-18-18)

The majority of high school seniors (76%) expect to marry, but 6 in 10 do not expect to do so within the next five years. (FP-19-11; FP-19-12)

Remarriage rates have declined over the past few decades, by about 50% for women and nearly 60% for men. (FP-19-17)

Among all women who married in 2017, 27% were entering a remarriage. (FP-19-08)

Seven in ten high school seniors agree that cohabitation is a good testing ground for marriage. (FP-19-10)