

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ultimate goal of all research is not objectivity, but truth.

Helen Deutsch

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National Center for Health Statistics (<http://cdc.gov/nchs/www>)
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (<http://www.samhsa.gov>)
The Bureau of Justice Statistics (<http://www.ojp.usdop.gov/bjs>)
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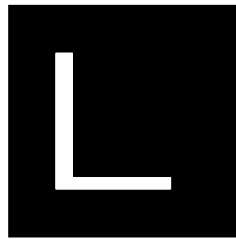
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GAINING GROUND

A Profile of American Women in the Twentieth Century

Trends in Selected Indicators of Women's Well-Being



BEVERLY
LAHAYE
INSTITUTE

A Report By
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America set sail
On the
Stormy voyage
Of the
Twentieth century.

Margaret Leech
Referring to Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration
In the Days of McKinley
1959

*If we could first know where we are,
And whither we are tending,
We could better judge what to do,
And how to do it.*

Abraham Lincoln
Springfield, Illinois
June 17, 1858

Section I: Introduction

In the 19th century, the French observer Alexis de Tocqueville attributed the strength and prosperity of the American people to the “superiority of their women.” Singular praise indeed. As we begin the 21st century, America is as prosperous as it has ever been. There is a question however that begs asking: Is there still such a dynamic relationship between America and its women? And has that relationship been a reciprocal one?

This report documents the trends in well-being of American women in the 20th century in seven categories: demographics, health, family, education, economics, attitudes and religion. While women have made phenomenal strides forward in life-expectancy, economics, education, and in maternal health, the areas of personal well-being are cause for concern.

The human drama of birth, life, and death is far more than mere numbers. But step back. Consider the broad outlines and contours revealed by the trends reported in this study: Behind the data you can see an incredible mosaic of the lives of American women in the 20th century. Landmark events have reshaped American culture and society, and thus the lives of American women. Changes in the population reflect the effects of wars, waves of immigration, epidemics, advances in medical technology, economic booms and depressions. Then, in turn, these historic events have effected dramatic shifts in attitudes, values, and cultural norms.

In these fundamental paradigm shifts, we can see the results of forces that have been at work changing the landscape, altering forever what once was . . . into what is today.

At the intersection of these turbulent forces resides the societal institution that historian Christopher Lasch has called our “haven in a heartless world” – the American family. And, for many, home has been a fortress providing refuge against the relentless vicissitudes of history. But for others, home is no longer their castle: The strength of the American family has eroded seriously in the 20th century, particularly in the post-World War II period. Despite certain recent hopeful signs, there can be little doubt that a crisis is in the making if the trend in radical individualism continues.

An intrinsic component of our humanity lies in our social connectedness; the most fundamental expressions of this are the institutions of marriage and the family. But the trends in marital status and “living arrangements” data reveal that the cultural norms of the post-World War II period have significantly reshaped marriage and the role of family in America.

Decay, whether in the natural or the social realm, is a tenacious and merciless adversary. Equally dangerous is the invisible, paralyzing lassitude of ennui. Reclaiming the married two-parent family for the children of the 21st century will require a concerted sustained effort, or the forces of deconstruction and postmodernism will continue their ruinous onslaught.

If we hope to respond convincingly to this challenge, we must understand the forces that are shaping our society. As in all of history, citizens must navigate dangerous rapids of change. The stream of American popular culture is swirling with violence and death. Abrasive elements are slowly and relentlessly assaulting the character of American society wearing down and reshaping those features that buttress moral restraint and responsibility. It is by no means certain at the beginning of the 21st century whether virtue will flourish or whether decadence will overwhelm and prevail. It is clear, however, that for women and children to have a safe and healthy future, the forces of virtue will have to carry us forward.

The Past: Foundation of our Future

The question we must ask, in the face of the historical data, is whether the picture is one of overall progress, or whether on balance entropy is prevailing. Will we see a continuation of the boundless energy, amazing productivity, and endless possibilities that have grown from the fertile soil of liberty and moral virtue cultivated by earlier generations? Or, is a waning supply of moral capital leading to an increasingly more brittle, vulnerable society – a society that, having lost vitality and cohesion, is rushing onward to an uncertain future? If our society becomes like a building with a cracked foundation, it may, at best, gradually crumble, becoming a tired shadow of its former greatness; at worst, it may collapse dramatically under the onslaught of unanticipated challenges, of which history provides many examples.

Certainly data from the end of the century indicates that we are living longer and more comfortably, but just as surely with less and less connectedness, despite the technological advancements that afford us unparalleled opportunities for instant communication. At the beginning of the century young people were constrained to remain single by economic considerations and demographic circumstances. In contrast many of today’s singles – the growing multitude of unmarried persons not living with any related individual – have the economic resources to marry, but they lack other essential elements that make for strong marriages.

Some are scarred by their parents’ failure to sustain an enduring marriage; others, wounded by their own promiscuity and unable to imagine a happy shared life, lack the will to attempt a life-long commitment. Some think a family is in their future; they assume it will happen eventually . . . *someday*. However, many of today’s young people – during the period of life with the best odds of marriage and childbearing – are influenced by our materialistic culture to focus on career advancement and unencumbered lifestyles, thus ignoring their window of opportunity for establishing a family. Others, who desire marriage and children, are living in a culture that has been stripped of the social networks provided by extended family and community and are left adrift and lonely, simply unable to find a suitable mate.

One important cultural and social marker is the shift in the ratio of males to females – which historically has changed dramatically and sometimes quickly on a massive scale. Wars, natural disasters and epidemics kill hundreds of thousands in relatively short periods of time – for example, today’s culture is familiar with the pervasive demographic effects of the Baby Boom generation. But for a previous generation, the seminal event was the Great Flu Epidemic of 1918, that swept away 200,000 people in one month alone. This epidemic was unusual in its severity – both here in the United States and around the world – and in the fact that it took a larger than normal proportion of its victims from those in the prime of life, ages 20 to 40.

The effects of changes in the pace and character of family formation – the marriage rate, the divorce rate, the married and unmarried birthrate, cohabitation, and single motherhood – come more slowly, often taking one or more generations to play out. These effects, combined with changing roles for women in the economy and society at large, produce a picture of society as the 21st century begins, that is enormously different from the culture that prevailed 100 years before.

While advances in the practice of medicine brought down the maternal death rate in a phenomenally short period of time, the effects of certain other changes become evident only gradually over a long period. The Great Depression, followed by all-out mobilization for World War II, shook the nation like a series of earthquakes in slow motion, alternatively decreasing and increasing marriage, divorce, and child-bearing on a massive scale. It also lays the ground work for radical changes, both in cultural expectations and the legal and judicial framework of society, in the second half of the century. We are discovering that when the foundation shifts, the framework is weakened and, often, the walls soon tumble.

A Century of Progress. . . or Decline?

The trends of the 20th century are affecting marriage and child-bearing in four areas: (1) **potential** – war, demographic and other trends determine the male-female ratio and thus the presence or absence of possible mates; (2) **feasibility** – economic conditions, and the availability of advanced health care technology, affect the viability of choosing marriage; (3) **motivation** – cultural values and norms affect attitudes toward marriage; and (4) **desirability** – the value ascribed to marriage and child-bearing, as opposed to the pursuit of careers, leisure, or other activities that compete for time and resources determine whether marriage is a priority.

The picture that evolves as we examine the data is one of complex inter-relatedness. It is not possible to classify events simply as cause and effect: An outcome in one generation becomes a cause in the next. Thus marriage, or the lack thereof, may be an effect of economic conditions. Marriage then affects fertility. Then, in turn, the subsequent changes in population effect the labor supply and rate of economic growth in the next generation.

So, was it a century of progress? Certainly in the areas of health, education and job opportunities American women enjoyed tremendous opportunities and improvement. Life expectancy alone increased dramatically. The lowered risk of death during childbirth is nothing short of astonishing. Educational opportunities have expanded enormously. Job opportunities have increased, and equal pay for equal work is a near reality.

Still, what of quality of life? Are women doomed to a treadmill life of two jobs – career and homemaking – the “second shift” drudgery that mimics the toll taken on pioneer women who grew old before their time? To the loneliness of demographic singleness and the degradation of bar-hopping? To the betrayal of being usurped during middle age by a trophy wife? Women are living longer . . . but to what end? To spend many years in assisted-living with occasional visits from family and younger friends?

Connectedness has decreased markedly even among younger women. Having been affected by the loss and pain of divorce as children, the Baby Boomers did not marry to the degree that their parents did, and the aptly-named current generation, “Generation Why?” even less so – the percentage of singles has returned to the levels that existed in the late 19th century, a far less prosperous time when income levels were far lower and a much smaller percentage of men could afford to support a family.

What an irony: In an age of unparalleled economic prosperity and opportunity, a large percentage of women are not able to find a man willing to make the commitment of being a husband and the investment of being a father of longed-for children. Some women are choosing single motherhood . . . some cohabitation . . . still others resort to the cold embrace of brave-new-world technology.

Today, women prepare for childbirth by painting a nursery; in an earlier age they wrote heartwrenching goodbye letters to loved ones in case they did not survive childbirth. In the first half of this century, advances in medical science brought relief from this omnipresent specter of motherless children and widowed husbands. The scourge of maternal mortality has been reduced by *more than 90 percent*.

But sadly counteracting that wave of progress, there’s been a riptide of decline. Children today still face the stark reality of families torn asunder – not by death, but by divorce. A loss that some child psychologists tell us wounds more deeply than death. Since 1968, the ravages of divorce have severed more families **each and every year** than did maternal deaths in childbirth throughout the entire period from 1915 to 1998; although many point to no-fault divorce as the virus spreading this epidemic, the beginning of the rising tide of divorce predates that legal change. The law responded to, and then accelerated, a more elemental change in mores: So, too, then we must look to the culture we ourselves have created to fashion a cure.

Media Messages

The message from the media is a seductive current swirling around us – life is all about exploring, experimenting, excitement . . . being the perpetual adolescent. No strings, moving on, the thrill of the surf. So what if you get burned – you haven’t lived if you don’t have memories of some wild times. Forget about the scars – it’s the memories of those moments of joyous madness that make life real.

Ironically, another generation was looking for “the real thing.” Today, you “gotta keep it real.” But have we lost the navigational system that points the way to the “real deal”?

One thing remains consistent, throughout time and across the years of history: Our humanity, from somewhere deep inside of us, calls us toward the meaning, the authenticity, that lies in lasting relationships. Even though the price is life-time commitment and life-time obligation, the appeal of relationship calls us to shed our freedom and independence and put our hands on the rudder of responsibility.

Our humanity drives us to take up a life-long relationship of interdependence; then it requires that we put the other person's needs and happiness ahead of our own. It is not without justification that we speak of the "bonds" of love. Love and obligation are inseparable. The obligation to provide and care for a loved one can be the North Star that guides us through the ethical dilemmas of our contemporary "throw-away" culture.

To be bonded to others is the essence of family, of connectedness. It is the very premise of social order. Unrelatedness is the very antithesis of family and social order.

The expression "unrelated individual," though not a particularly felicitous one, is the term used by the Census Bureau to designate someone who does not live in a "family group." This does not necessarily mean they are living alone – although about 70 percent do – but simply that they do not live with anyone with whom they have a legal relationship. They may hold very dear the person or persons with whom they live, but they are not obligated to care for the needs of those people. No commitment binds them. For many, no shared history bonds them.

The last 40 years have seen the percentage of persons living as unrelated individuals increase from six to 16 percent of all persons. By 1999 only 66 percent of the population lived in a married couple family. At what point does this institution cease to have enough critical mass to provide the foundational structure and stability of the social order? At what point does the tide of unrelatedness – fed by waves of unrestrained, excitement-addicted, narcissistic individualism – rise so high that it floods the societal levy being maintained by the remnant who are grounded in the bonds of love and connectedness?

The High Ground: Justice and Virtue

We see now, as Lincoln admonished us, "where we are" and "whither we are tending." It has indeed been a century of progress; but that progress is threatened by advancing decay. It is instructive to see what the data show of the nearly 50 million unmarried women at the end of the 20th century. Of the total number of "unrelated" women, more than one out of five lived in poverty. Of those with school-age children under 18, more than one-third lived in poverty. By contrast, less than one out of twenty married-couple families lived below poverty level.

Thus, while the indicators show substantial improvement in well-being for women over the last half of the previous century, the deterioration in marriage and family has produced significant disparities. While indicators of positive well-being such as life expectancy, per capita income, education and home ownership have increased, so have indicators that are not indicative of well-being – such as divorce, out-of-wedlock births, poverty and incarceration.

Standing at the dawn of a new century, our nation is reaping unprecedented prosperity accompanied, ironically, by a lack of connectedness. We have enough wealth to ensure compassion and to pursue justice, but our lack of connectedness is withering both our capacity for compassion and our passion for justice.

We would do well to remember history – our own history to be sure, but also the chronicles of defunct civilizations. Our Founders read those histories, and they believed that only a society built on the sure foundation of virtue and braced by justice would endure. They echoed the philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who asked: “Where is the man who owes nothing to the land in which he lives? He owes to it the most precious thing possessed by man, the morality of his actions and the love of virtue.”

We would do well to remember the words of admonition the prophet Amos leveled at the ancient Israelites when they, too, were a mighty and prosperous nation. They had “built houses of well-hewn stone” and “planted pleasant vineyards.” But in so doing they had also turned away from being a virtuous people and inflicted injustice on the poor. Amos told the Israelites they would not enjoy their homes and their vineyards because they had turned “justice into bitterness and cast righteousness down to the earth.”

Justice and Virtue . . . Does the past illumine for us how “better to judge what to do?” As the Israelites faced the decay and possible destruction of their prosperity, Amos issued a challenge that rings out across the centuries separating us: “*Let justice roll on like a river and righteousness like a never-failing stream . . .*”

There is much to learn from this booklet of trends affecting women. The data within this compilation is just a beginning. But one lesson is inescapable: The well-being of women in America is inextricably linked to the strengthening of the American family.

*American women are not the only people
In the world who manage to lose track
Of themselves, but we do seem to
Mislaid the past in a singularly
Absent-minded fashion.*

Elizabeth Janeway
Pulitzer Prize winning writer
1971

Section II: Population Trends

In terms of population trends, the 20th century has been good for women. But lest we “lose track” of ourselves, as Elizabeth Janeway put it in the above quote, this section provides a detailed tracking of the population trends affecting women. Before getting into the specifics, some aspects stand out and an overview will provide a context within which to view the data.

Women’s Longevity: Thanks to advances in medical science, nutrition and sanitation, women are living longer. At the beginning of the century the median age of women (the point at which half are younger and half older) was just above 22 years; now it is almost 37 years – the highest level in history. Men are not faring quite as well. In 1900, the median age for men was slightly higher than women at a bit over 23 years, but by 2000 their median age was lower than women’s at about 35 years.

Changing Birthrates: Births in the United States followed predictable ups and downs until the Great Depression of the early 1930s. Birthrates continued to decline through the mid-30s and did not reverse until the economy began to improve. From the low of 1936, the birthrate increased until the birth control pill changed the dynamics of childbearing. With a few minimal upticks, the birthrate continued to decline through the 1970s – especially after *Roe v. Wade* overturned abortion laws throughout the nation. While birthrates continue to decline among married couples, the sky-rocketing increase in out-of-wedlock births is the defining characteristic of the demographics of the 20th century. In terms of its social and cultural impact, the unmarried birthrate is the demographic nightmare of the century.

Shifts in Age Distribution: Another demographic factor has had significant impact on women – the fact that women are living longer has inexorably changed the age distribution of the female population. At the beginning of the century, over two-thirds of the women were under 30; now that population group numbers only 40 percent. In contrast, women over 65 were a fraction of the population early in the century, but now that number is close to 20 percent. The ramifications of this dynamic have yet to be addressed by our culture.

Death Rates: Death rates, too, reflect the cultural dynamics. This century has treated women far more kindly than it has men. This is especially apparent during the mid-teen years to the mid-thirties when the rate of death for men is 2 to 3 times higher than that of women. The major factor affecting women’s death rates is the decline in maternal mortality. Beginning in the 1940s, deaths from complications of pregnancy and childbirth dropped precipitously. This decline is unquestionably one of the great achievements of the 20th century. Not only did the rates of death go down, they declined during one of the nation’s most difficult periods of economic depression and military unrest. The decline in infant mortality has been dramatic, too, and would have been miraculous except for the unprecedented increase in unwed births.

Table 1. –Population Estimates for the United States, by Sex: 1900 – 2000

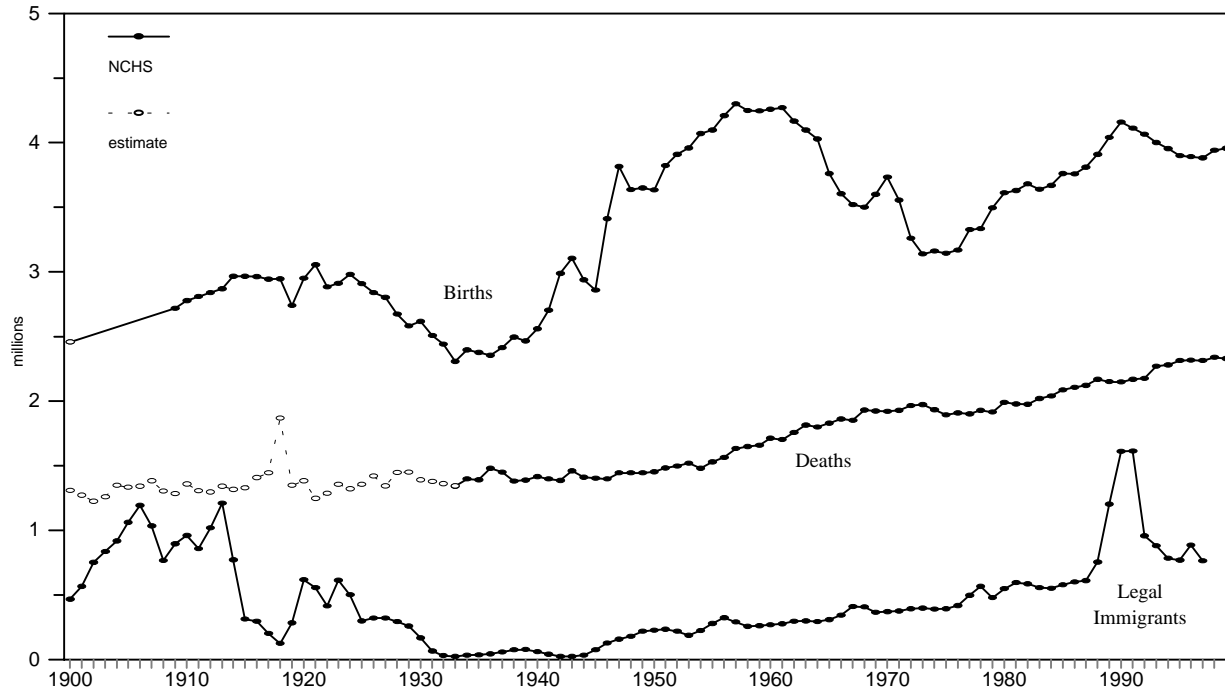
Year	Females		Males		Both Sexes	
	Number (In 1,000)	Percent Increase	Number (In 1,000)	Percent Increase	Number (In 1,000)	Percent Increase
1900	37,227	21.8	38,867	21.2	76,094	20.7
1910	44,853	20.5	47,554	22.4	92,407	21.4
1920	52,170	16.3	54,291	14.2	106,461	15.2
1930	60,780	16.5	62,297	14.7	123,077	15.6
1940	65,770	8.2	66,352	6.5	132,122	7.3
1950	76,422	16.2	75,849	14.3	152,271	15.3
1960	91,352	19.5	89,320	17.8	180,672	18.7
1970	104,698	14.6	100,354	12.4	205,052	13.5
1980	116,826	11.6	110,399	10.0	227,225	10.8
1990	127,825	9.4	121,613	10.2	249,438	9.8
2000	140,619	10.0	134,511	10.6	275,130	10.3
	Percent of Total	Median Age	Percent of Total	Median Age	Percent of Total	Median Age
1900	48.9	22.4	51.1	23.3	100.0	28.1
1910	48.5	23.5	51.5	24.6	100.0	29.5
1920	49.0	24.7	51.0	25.8	100.0	25.3
1930	49.4	26.2	50.6	26.7	100.0	26.5
1940	49.8	29.0	50.2	29.1	100.0	29.0
1950	50.2	30.5	49.8	29.9	100.0	30.2
1960	50.6	30.3	49.4	28.7	100.0	29.5
1970	51.1	29.3	48.9	26.8	100.0	28.0
1980	51.4	31.3	48.6	28.8	100.0	30.0
1990	51.2	34.0	48.8	31.6	100.0	32.8
2000	51.1	36.9	48.9	34.6	100.0	35.8

Note: Armed forces overseas are excluded prior to 1940, but included 1940 to 1979. For 1980 and after totals are for resident population and exclude armed forces overseas.

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; 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," Internet release date August 25, 2000 (<http://www.census.gov>).

- The median age is that age which divides the population into two equal groups, one half being older and one half being younger. With advances in medical science, nutrition, and sanitation, the median age of women followed an upward trend from 1900 to 1955. Then with large growth in number of children born in the baby boom after World War II, the median age declined until 1971 going from 30.7 to 29.2. Subsequently it has risen to the current level of 36.9, the highest ever.
- The fact that women made up less than half the population in the early decades of the century is largely the effect of immigration. In the last 30 years of the 19th century, men made up 61 percent of the 7.2 million immigrants arriving in America. Some 13.3 million immigrants came to America during the surge of immigration from 1900 until the summer of 1914 when the onset of WWI greatly slowed immigration. Of this total, 9.2 million (over 68 percent) were men.

Figure 1. –Components of Population Change for the United States: 1900 – 2000



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

- The rise and fall in the number of children born each year reflects numerous influences. The dip in 1919 was the effect of the great 1918 influenza epidemic that resulted in 550 thousand deaths nationwide. The return of the armed forces at the end of WWI brought a small uptick in births in 1921 but for the rest of the Roaring 20s the number of births declined as the birthrate dropped by over 25 percent. With the onset of the Great Depression unemployment rose from 3.2 percent in 1929 to 24.9 percent in 1933 and the decline in the birth rate continued dropping another 15 percent by 1936.
- In the first half of the 1940s the United States was involved with WWII and then in the early 1950s, the Korean War. Driven by the enormous need for defense goods, the American economy came back to life and child-bearing increased as the birthrate increased 62 percent from its low in 1936 to its peak in 1957.
- The development of oral contraception—the pill—in the early 1960s contributed to a sharp decline in the birthrate; this decline in the rate of childbearing reduced the number of children born annually by 18 percent from 1961 to 1968. Following a brief uptick from 1968 to 1970, the number of births again began to decline as Hawaii and New York started a trend by repealing their abortion laws in 1970. Then on January 22, 1973 the U.S Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Roe v. Wade* which overturned abortion laws nationwide. When the birthrate reached its minimum in 1976, it was only 53 percent of its peak level in 1957.
- The effect of recessions on births in the post-WWII period has been modest and has largely been overshadowed by the effects of other factors. Only the minor dip in the number of births in 1983 reflects the effect of the recession of 1981-82, the most severe since the Great Depression. The increase in the rate of growth of births from 1986 to 1990 was primarily due to a large increase in out-of-wedlock childbearing. Of the 400 thousand increase in births during this period, 71 percent (nearly 290 thousand) were unwed births. After peaking in 1990 births declined until 1997 because the **decrease** in married births was twice as large as the **increase** in unmarried births producing a net decrease in the total number of births.

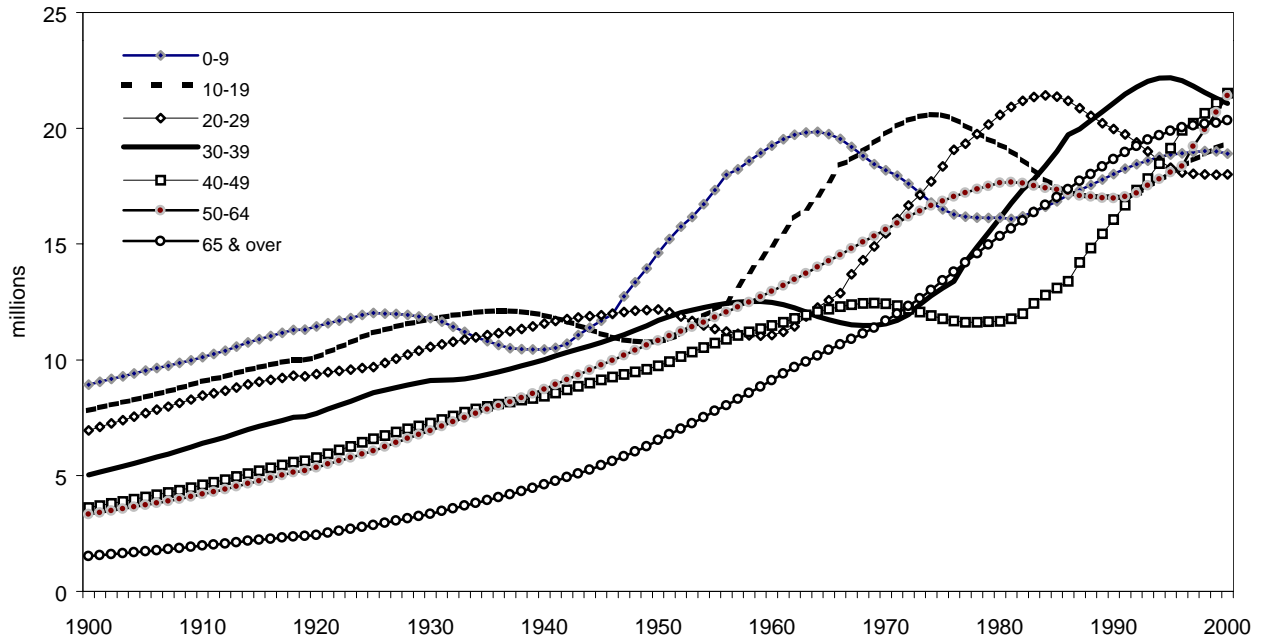
Table 2. –Female Population, by Age and Ratio to Male Population: 1900 – 2000

	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Number of Females (in millions)											
Total	37.2	44.9	52.2	60.8	65.8	76.4	91.4	104.7	116.8	127.8	140.6
0-14	12.9	14.7	16.7	17.8	16.2	20.1	27.6	28.4	25.1	26.4	28.6
15-19	3.8	4.6	4.8	5.8	6.1	5.3	6.6	9.5	10.4	8.7	9.7
20-24	3.7	4.5	4.7	5.6	5.9	5.9	5.6	8.5	10.7	9.4	9.1
25-29	3.2	4.0	4.7	5.0	5.7	6.3	5.5	6.9	9.9	10.6	9.0
30-34	2.7	3.3	4.0	4.6	5.2	5.9	6.1	5.9	9.0	11.0	9.9
35-39	2.4	3.1	3.7	4.5	4.8	5.8	6.4	5.7	7.2	10.1	11.2
40-44	2.0	2.5	3.1	3.9	4.4	5.2	5.9	6.1	6.0	9.0	11.4
45-49	1.6	2.1	2.6	3.4	4.1	4.6	5.5	6.3	5.7	7.0	10.1
50-54	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.9	3.5	4.2	4.9	5.8	6.1	5.8	8.9
55-59	1.1	1.3	1.7	2.2	2.9	3.6	4.3	5.2	6.1	5.5	6.9
60-64	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.8	2.4	3.0	3.7	4.6	5.4	5.7	5.6
65 & over	1.5	2.0	2.4	3.3	4.6	6.5	9.1	11.7	15.3	18.7	20.3
Percent of Total Females											
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-14	34.8	32.7	32.1	29.2	24.7	26.3	30.2	27.1	21.5	20.7	20.4
15-19	10.2	10.1	9.2	9.5	9.3	6.9	7.3	9.1	8.9	6.8	6.9
20-24	10.0	10.0	9.0	9.1	9.0	7.7	6.1	8.2	9.1	7.3	6.4
25-29	8.7	8.8	9.0	8.2	8.6	8.2	6.0	6.6	8.5	8.3	6.4
30-34	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.9	7.8	6.7	5.6	7.7	8.6	7.0
35-39	6.3	6.8	7.1	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.0	5.4	6.1	7.9	8.0
40-44	5.4	5.6	6.0	6.4	6.7	6.8	6.5	5.9	5.1	7.1	8.1
45-49	4.4	4.7	5.1	5.6	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.0	4.9	5.5	7.2
50-54	3.7	4.0	4.3	4.7	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.2	4.6	6.3
55-59	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.7	4.4	4.8	4.7	5.0	5.3	4.3	4.9
60-64	2.4	2.4	2.7	3.0	3.6	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.7	4.4	4.0
65 & over	4.1	4.4	4.7	5.5	7.0	8.6	10.0	11.2	13.1	14.6	14.5
Number of Males per 100 Females											
Total	104	106	104	102	101	99	98	96	94	95	96
0-14	102	102	102	103	103	104	103	104	105	105	105
15-19	99	100	99	99	101	102	102	103	103	105	106
20-24	98	102	96	97	98	98	100	101	100	104	104
25-29	104	108	99	98	97	97	98	99	99	101	99
30-34	109	111	104	100	98	96	97	97	98	99	98
35-39	112	111	111	103	99	97	96	96	97	98	99
40-44	114	113	109	107	101	99	96	95	96	97	98
45-49	114	114	116	109	104	100	97	94	95	96	97
50-54	114	118	116	110	107	100	97	93	92	94	95
55-59	108	115	112	109	106	101	96	92	89	91	92
60-64	105	110	113	107	103	100	91	88	86	87	90
65 & over	103	102	103	103	98	91	85	74	72	74	80

Note: Armed forces overseas are excluded prior to 1940, but included 1940 to 1970. For 1980 and thereafter totals are for resident population and exclude armed forces overseas.

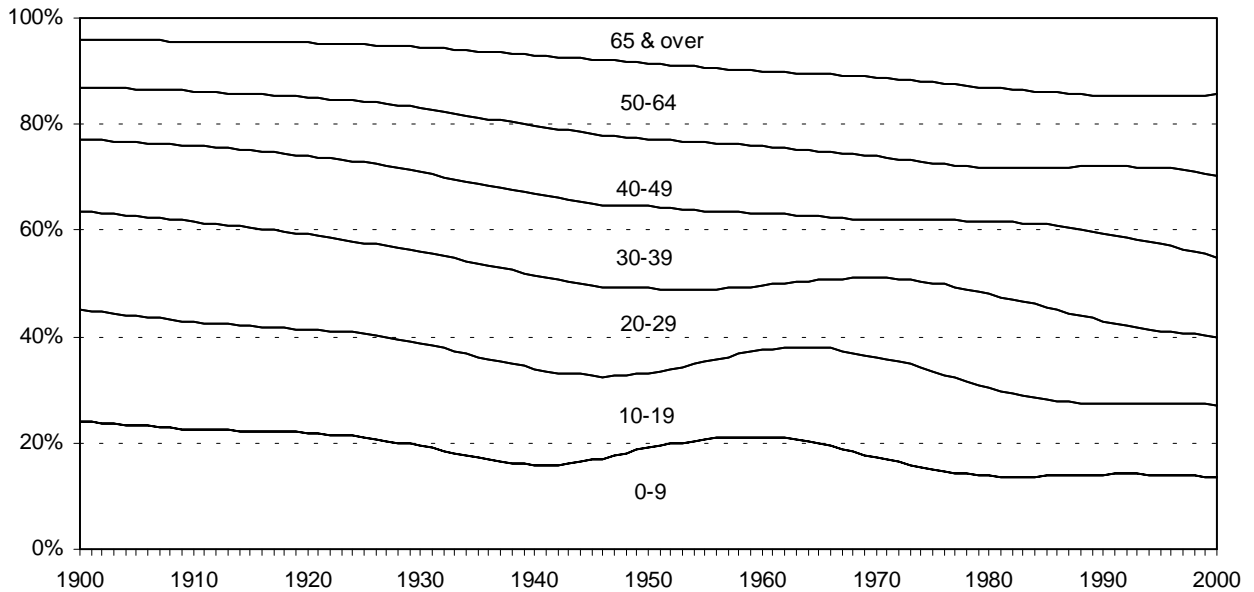
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970; Current Population Reports*, No. 311, 917, and 1095; and "Resident Population Estimates of the United States by Age and Sex, April 1, 1990 to July 1, 1999 with Short-Term Projection to July 1, 2000," Internet release date August 25, 2000 (<http://www.census.gov>).

Figure 2.1. –Female Population, by Age Groups: 1900 – 2000



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census *Current Population Reports*, No. 311, 917, and 1095; 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,” Internet release date August 25, 2000.

Figure 2.2. –Age Distribution of the Female Population: 1900 – 2000



Source: See Figure 2.1.

- Figure 2.1. illustrates how the effects of large decreases and increases in the birth rate echo through the various population groups producing waves of second round effects on population growth many years later. In Figure 2.2. we see that the female population under thirty decreased from about 64 percent in 1900 to only 40 percent in 2000.

Table 3. –Life Expectancy, Deaths and Death Rates by Sex and Age: 1900 – 1998

	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1998
Life expectancy at birth											
Female	48.3	51.8	54.6	61.6	65.2	71.1	73.1	74.7	77.4	78.8	79.5
Male	46.3	48.4	53.6	58.1	60.8	65.6	66.6	67.1	70.0	71.8	73.8
Deaths (1,000)											
Female	614 ^e	614 ^e	657 ^e	632 ^e	626	625	736	843	915	1,035	1,180
Male	666 ^e	700 ^e	699 ^e	748 ^e	791	828	976	1,078	1,075	1,113	1,157
Age-adjusted death rates per 1,000 standard (1940) population											
Female	17.0	14.6	13.7	11.4	9.4	6.9	5.9	5.3	4.3	3.9	3.7
Male	18.6	16.9	14.7	13.5	12.1	10.0	9.5	9.3	7.8	6.8	5.9
Crude death rates per 1,000 current-year population											
Female	16.5	13.7	12.6	10.4	9.5	8.2	8.1	8.1	7.9	8.1	8.5
Male	17.9	15.6	13.4	12.3	12.0	11.1	11.0	10.9	9.8	9.2	8.8
Female death rates per 1,000 in specified age group											
Under 1	145.4	117.6	80.7	60.7	47.7	28.5	23.2	18.6	11.4	8.6	6.8
1 - 4	19.1	13.4	9.5	5.2	2.7	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3
5 -14	3.9	2.9	2.5	1.5	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
15-24	5.8	4.2	5.0	3.2	1.8	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
25-34	8.2	6.1	7.1	4.4	2.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7
35-44	9.8	7.9	8.0	6.1	4.5	2.9	2.3	2.3	1.6	1.4	1.4
45-54	14.2	12.1	11.7	10.6	8.6	6.4	5.3	5.2	4.1	3.4	3.1
55-64	25.8	23.7	22.4	21.2	18.0	14.0	12.0	11.0	9.3	8.8	7.9
65-74	53.6	52.4	50.5	46.8	42.2	33.3	28.7	25.8	21.4	19.9	19.7
75-84	118.8	117.4	115.9	106.6	103.7	84.0	76.3	66.8	54.4	48.8	48.3
85 & up	255.2	246.0	244.7	221.4	227.6	191.9	190.1	155.2	147.5	142.7	144.3
Male death rates per 1,000 in specified age group											
Under 1	179.1	145.5	103.6	77.0	61.9	37.3	30.6	24.1	14.3	10.8	8.2
1 - 4	20.5	14.6	10.3	6.0	3.1	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.4
5 -14	3.8	3.0	2.8	1.9	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2
15-24	5.9	4.8	4.8	3.5	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.2
25-34	8.2	6.9	6.4	4.9	3.4	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.5
35-44	10.7	10.0	8.2	7.5	5.9	4.3	3.7	4.0	3.0	3.1	2.6
45-54	15.7	15.2	12.6	13.6	12.5	10.7	9.9	9.6	7.7	6.1	5.4
55-64	28.7	28.7	24.6	26.6	26.1	24.0	23.1	22.8	18.2	15.5	13.0
65-74	59.3	58.7	54.5	55.8	54.6	49.3	49.1	48.7	41.1	34.9	31.4
75-84	128.3	127.4	122.1	119.1	121.3	104.3	101.8	100.1	88.2	78.9	70.2
85 & up	268.8	255.8	253.0	236.7	246.4	216.4	211.9	178.2	188.0	180.6	167.6

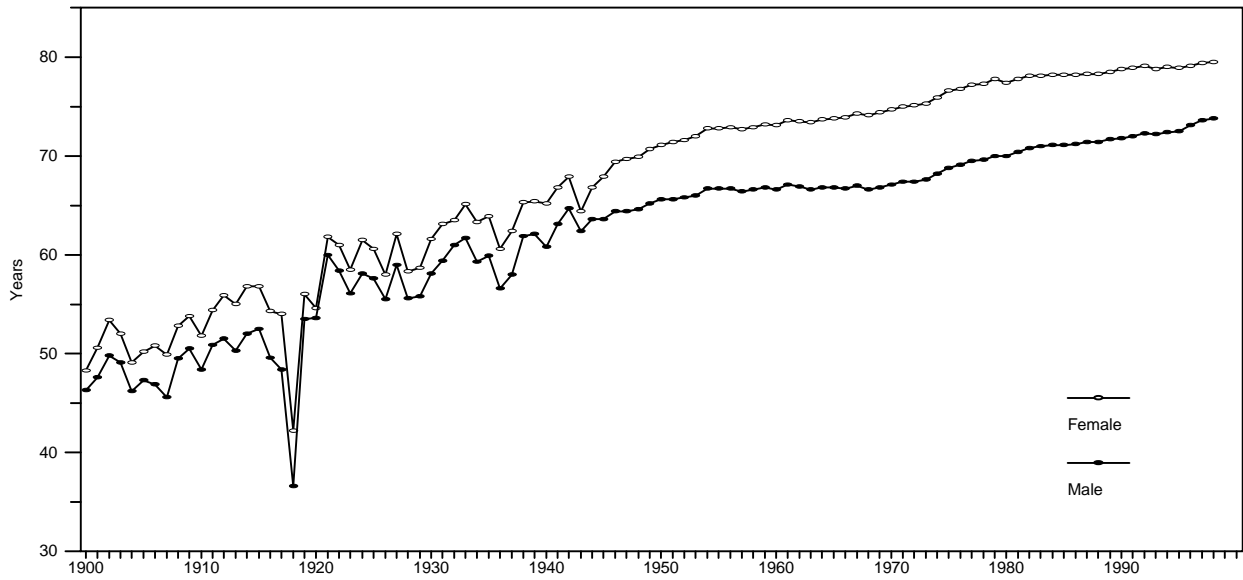
^e Denotes estimates based on death rates times total population.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*; National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, No. 11, July 24, 2000.

- During the first two decades of the 20th century the age-adjusted female death rates were between 83 and 93 percent of male rates. After that female rates declined more rapidly than male rates so that by 1979 the age-adjusted female death rate was only 55 percent of the male rate. Over the last 20 years declines in male rates have exceed 23 percent while the decline in female rates has been only about 12 percent; consequently by 1998 the female rate rose to 63 percent of the male rate.
- Though at fairly low levels compared with older men, the death rates of males in the 15-24 and 25-34 age groups run 2 to 3 times as high as those for females of the same age.



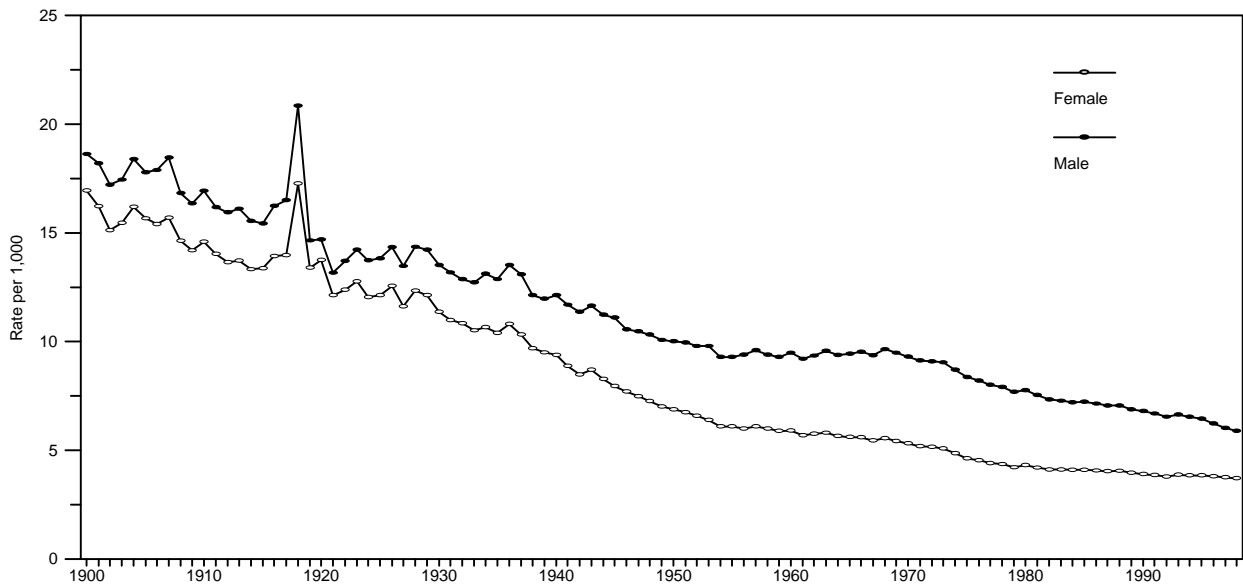
Figure 3.1. –Life Expectancy at Birth, by Sex: 1900 – 1998



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, No. 11, July 24, 2000.

- Life expectancy at birth for any given year represents the average number of years that a group of infants would live if they were to experience throughout their lifetimes the age-specific death rates that prevailed in the year they were born. Increases in life expectancy are one measure of improvement in physical health. Due to a 78 percent decrease in their age-adjusted death rate, women's life expectancy at birth has increased during the 20th Century from 48.3 years in 1900 to 79.5 years in 1998.
- The difference in life expectancy between females and males increased from 2 years in 1900 to nearly 8 years in the 1970s. Subsequently the difference has narrowed to a little under 6 years.

Figure 3.2. –Age-Adjusted Death Rates, by Sex: 1900 – 1998



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, No. 11, July 24, 2000.



Health has its science as well as disease.

Elizabeth Blackwell, 1860
First Woman Physician in the U.S.

*Thousands upon thousands of persons have studied disease.
Almost no one has studied health.*

Adele Davis, 1954
American Nutritionist

Section III: Health Trends

Ask the average American about women's health over the past century and you will probably hear an entirely upbeat assessment. The science of health has come into its own since the time of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, who is quoted above. Things have changed dramatically, too, since Adele Davis' time – the study of health is a preoccupation not just of doctors, but physical trainers, sports enthusiasts and the average woman who jogs or works out.

While there have been incredible advances in medical science that have had positive impact on women's health, there have also been lifestyle and cultural influences that have been detrimental to women's health. Women's health seems to be reflecting the increased stress of modern life as more and more women have entered the work force and have taken on responsibilities that have, in the past, been more typically male occupations and jobs.

And, in spite of the fitness emphases of recent decades, more and more women are losing the battle of the bulge. At the other end of the spectrum, the problems of anorexia and bulimia are yet to be conquered.

Heart Disease and Cancer: During the second half of the century, around a third of women's deaths have been from heart disease, although deaths from heart disease have declined with the lifestyle alterations – low-fat diet and increased exercise – that have become part of the culture since the 1980s. Cancer, on the other hand, has hovered at about 15-20 percent of women's deaths and while it seems to be leveling off a little in recent years, has actually crept upward since the 1980s. The areas of cancer increase are in breast cancer – which dipped in the late 1980s only to go back up and hover just under its highest rates of 90-110 cases per 100,000 women – and lung and bronchial cancer that have nearly doubled since the mid 1970s – from 20 new cases per 100,000 women to about 40 cases per 100,000 women. Colorectal and skin cancers have also increased as have lymphomas. The prevalence of pap smear testing has greatly increased early detection of cervical cancer. Death rates from breast cancer have decreased in every age bracket. After age 65, cancer is the leading cause of death for women – with lung cancer and breast cancer being the most prevalent causes.

Other Diseases: While the old communicable diseases – diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, and measles – have been virtually eradicated, the new scourge is sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Syphilis doubled during the late 1980s, but has since declined to the lowest level on record, thanks to modern medicines. Gonorrhea, however, skyrocketed in the 20 years of the 1960s to the 1980s and, while it has declined, it is still unacceptably high. A major STD problem for women today is chlamydia, which can cause pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy and infertility. Chlamydia appears to be on the increase – with a significant growth in the number of cases during the late 1990s.

HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus: It is quite instructive to note the relative occurrences of other diseases in comparison to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). From the attention it gets and the resources devoted to research of the disease, one would expect that HIV would rank among the top killers of men and women. Instead, HIV incidence is in the single digits for women and while it was in the low double digits for men in the early 1990s, it is now in the single digits for men, too.

Injuries and Other External Causes of Death: Death from external causes has remained relatively constant or declined for women during the last half of the century – injuries have decreased rather dramatically, accidents and suicides are slightly down, and homicides have slightly increased. For men, however, death from external causes is a mixed picture. Deaths from injuries and accidents have gone down, suicides have remained about the same, but homicides have increased.

Table 4.1. –Infant Death Rate and Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates by Race

	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1998
Infant death rate per 100,000 children under 1 year	16,240	13,180	9,230	6,900	5,490	3,300	2,700	2,142	1,288	972	751
Infant mortality rate per 100,000 live births											
Total	—	—	8,580	6,460	4,700	2,920	2,600	2,000	1,260	920	720
White ²	—	—	8,210	6,010	4,320	2,680	2,290	1,780	1,100	760	595
Black ²	—	—	13,130 ¹	9,950	7,290	4,390	4,430	3,260	2,140	1,800	1,431
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (ICD categories 630-676)											
Total	850 ³	690 ³	799	673	376	83	37	22	9	8	7
White ²	—	—	760	609	320	61	26	14	7	5	5
Black ²	—	—	1,295 ¹	1,140 ¹	782	223	104	60	22	22	17

¹ Estimated based on the rate for non-White.

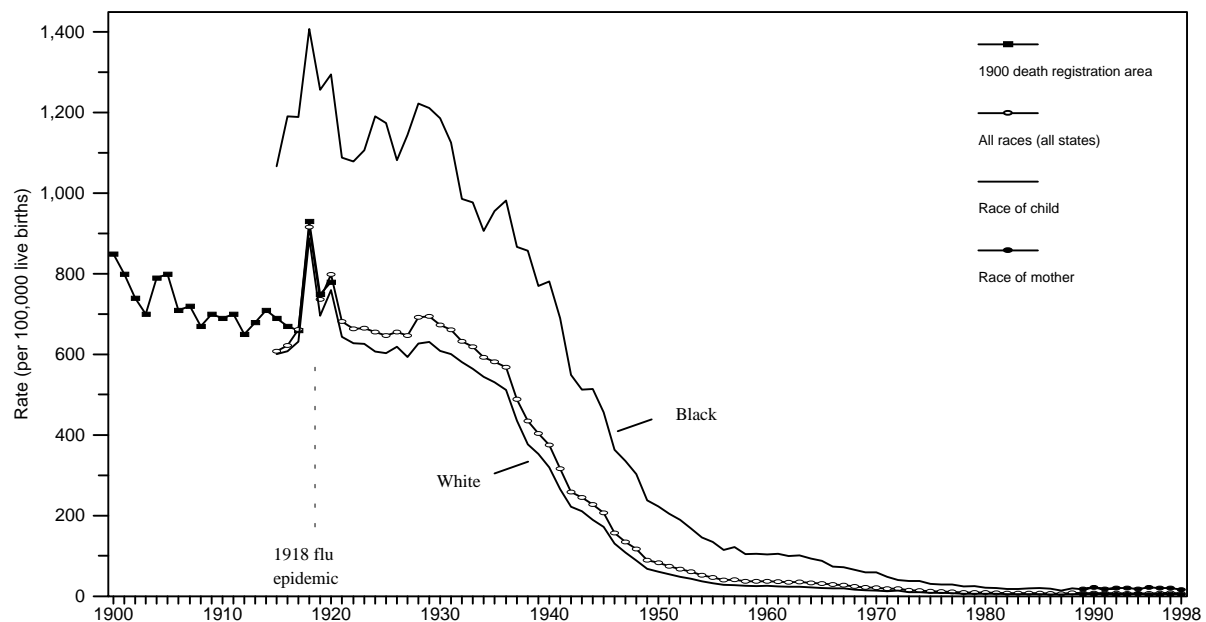
² Racial classification based on the race of the child through 1980; thereafter, it is based on the race of the mother.

³ Based on data from those states which comprised the Death Registration Area in 1900.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau Publications, R.M. Woodbury, *Maternal Mortality: the Risk of Death in Childbirth and from all the Diseases Caused by Pregnancy and Confinement*, 1926, reprinted in I. Loudon, *Death in Childbirth*, (New York, 1992); National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States*, annual and *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, No. 11, July 24, 2000.

- The maternal mortality rate represents the number of deaths associated with deliveries and complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium per 100,000 live births. The decline in the maternal mortality rate is one of the great miracles of the 20th Century; it is notable that a large part of the decline occurred during one of the most difficult periods of depression and war in our national history: maternal mortality dropped from 673 in 1930, the onset of the Great Depression, down to 157 by 1946, the year following the end of World War II. The fact that this dramatic decline of nearly 77 percent began during a period of rapidly escalating poverty would seem to point unambiguously to advances in medical science as the predominant cause of the reduction of maternal deaths, not an improvement in economic conditions.

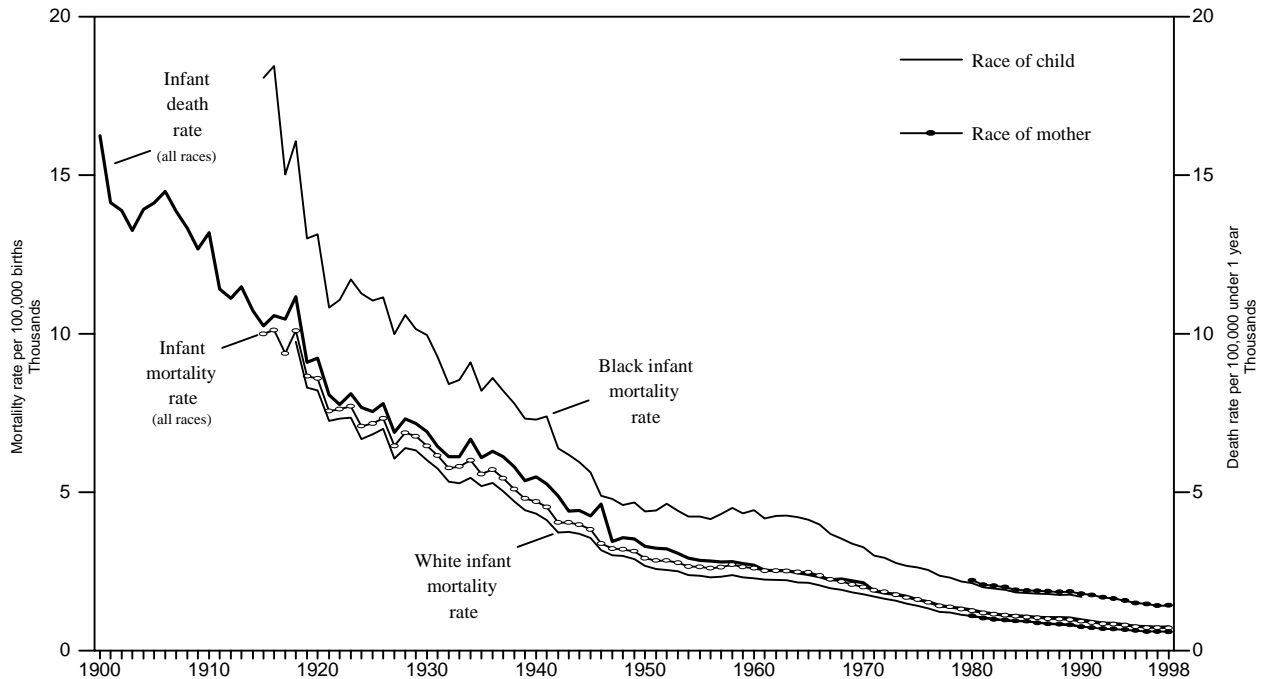
Figure 4.1. –Maternal Mortality Rates by Race: 1900 – 1998



Note: Prior to 1940, Black maternal mortality rate is estimated based on non-White rate.

Source: See Table 4 above.

Figure 4.2. – Infant Death and Mortality Rates, by Race: 1900 – 1998



Note: The Black infant mortality rate for 1915 to 1927 is estimated from the non-White rate.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States*, annual and *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, No. 11, July 24, 2000.

- The infant death rate represents the number of deaths of children under 1 year of age per 100,000 children under 1 year of age as of July 1. By comparison, the infant mortality rate represents the number of deaths of children under 1 year of age (exclusive of fetal deaths) per 100,000 live births where the infant deaths occurring in the specified year are related to the number of live births occurring during that same year. The first rate relates deaths to the child population and second to the number of live births.
- The death rate of children under 1 year of age declined from 16,240 per 100,000 children in 1900 to 751 in 1998, a decrease of more than 95 percent.
- The infant mortality rate declined from 9,990 per 100,000 live births in 1915 (the first year for which data are available) to 720 in 1998, a decrease of almost 93 percent.
- From 1980 to 1998, the infant mortality rate for children under 1 year whose mother was black decreased by 790 deaths per 100,000 live births: the rate was 2,220 in 1980 and 1,431 in 1998.
- From 1980 to 1998, the infant mortality rate for children under 1 year whose mother was white decreased by 495 deaths per 1,000 live births: the rate was 1,090 in 1980 and 595 in 1998.
- Because of the larger drop in the black rate than the white, the gap between the black and white infant mortality rates has declined from 1,130 in 1980 to 836 in 1998.
- In 1960 the U.S. ranked 12th in the world for low infant-mortality rates. By 1994 the U.S. was ranked 25th. According Gopal Singh, a researcher at NCHS, "The decline in the infant mortality rate would have been greater if not for a rising number of out-of-wedlock births."

**Table 4.2. –Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Selected Causes of Death, by Sex
United States: Selected Years, 1950 – 1998**

	1950 ¹	1960 ¹	1970	1980	1985	1990	1995	1998
Female								
	Deaths per 100,000 resident population							
All causes	688.4	590.6	532.5	432.6	410.3	390.6	385.2	372.5
Natural causes	649.2	556.2	492.2	400.1	382.2	363.5	359.1	346.8
Diseases of heart	233.9	205.7	175.2	140.3	127.4	108.9	100.4	93.3
Ischemic heart disease	na	na	na	98.8	84.2	70.2	61.9	55.6
Cerebrovascular diseases	86.0	74.7	60.8	37.6	30.0	25.7	24.8	23.6
Malignant neoplasms	120.8	111.2	108.8	109.2	111.7	112.7	110.4	105.5
Trachea, bronchus, and lung	3.9	5.7	9.5	17.6	21.8	25.6	26.9	27.0
Colorectal	na	16.9	15.4	13.4	12.6	11.3	10.6	9.9
Breast	22.2	22.3	23.1	22.7	23.3	23.1	21.0	18.8
Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	2.9	3.5	5.4	8.9	12.5	14.7	17.1	18.1
Pneumonia and influenza	22.0	21.8	16.7	9.8	10.1	11.0	10.4	11.0
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	5.8	6.9	9.8	7.9	6.1	5.3	4.6	4.4
Diabetes mellitus	17.1	15.0	14.4	10.0	9.4	11.1	12.4	12.3
HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)	na	na	na	na	na	2.1	5.2	2.2
External causes	39.1	34.4	40.4	32.5	28.1	27.0	26.1	25.8
Unintentional injuries	31.7	26.8	28.2	21.8	18.7	17.9	17.5	17.8
Motor vehicle-related injuries	10.7	11.0	14.4	11.8	10.5	10.7	10.0	9.9
Suicide	4.9	5.0	6.8	5.4	4.9	4.5	4.1	4.0
Homicide and legal intervention	2.5	2.6	3.7	4.5	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.2
Male								
All causes	1,001.6	949.3	931.6	777.2	723.0	680.2	646.3	589.4
Natural causes	892.1	850.7	814.6	675.5	637.9	595.8	567.0	516.1
Diseases of heart	383.8	375.5	348.5	280.4	250.1	206.7	184.9	166.9
Ischemic heart disease	na	na	na	214.8	179.6	144.0	123.9	108.9
Cerebrovascular diseases	91.9	85.4	73.2	44.9	35.5	30.2	28.9	26.6
Malignant neoplasms	130.8	143.0	157.4	165.5	166.1	166.3	156.8	147.7
Trachea, bronchus, and lung	18.4	32.0	47.5	56.9	58.1	58.5	53.0	49.5
Colorectal	na	18.6	18.7	18.3	17.9	16.8	15.3	14.3
Prostate	13.4	13.1	13.3	14.4	14.7	16.7	15.4	13.2
Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	6.0	13.7	23.4	26.1	28.1	27.2	26.3	25.9
Pneumonia and influenza	30.6	35.0	28.8	17.4	18.4	18.5	16.5	16.3
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	11.4	14.5	20.2	17.1	13.7	12.2	11.0	10.3
Diabetes mellitus	11.4	12.0	13.5	10.2	10.0	12.3	14.4	15.2
HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)	Na	na	na	na	na	17.7	26.2	7.2
External causes	109.4	98.5	117.0	101.7	85.2	84.4	79.3	73.4
Unintentional injuries	83.7	73.9	80.7	64.0	51.8	47.7	44.1	43.0
Motor vehicle-related injuries	36.4	34.5	41.1	34.3	27.3	26.3	22.7	21.6
Suicide	17.3	16.6	17.3	18.0	18.8	19.0	18.6	17.2
Homicide and legal intervention	8.4	7.9	14.9	17.4	12.8	16.3	14.7	11.3

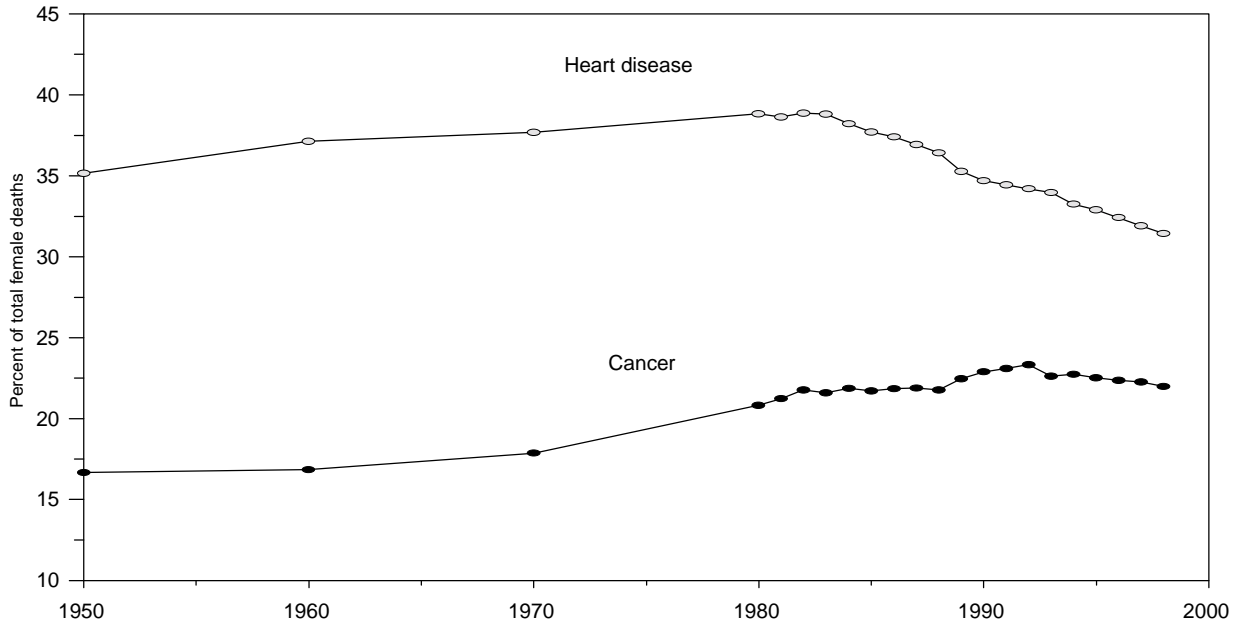
¹ Includes deaths of persons who were not residents of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Note: Rates are age adjusted to the 1940 U.S. standard million population.

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

- The age-adjusted death rate for heart disease decreased by 60 percent from 1950 to 1998. Without the adjustment for the increase in the percentage of elderly in the female population, however, the crude death rate for heart disease has only declined marginally and is still the number one source of death among women – it accounted for nearly 32 percent of all female deaths in 1998. Cancer now has a larger age-adjusted death rate but is the second leading cause of female deaths; it accounted for 22 percent of all female deaths in 1998.

Figure 4.3. –Percentage of Female Deaths Due to Heart Disease and Cancer Selected Years, 1950 – 1998



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Health, United States*, 2000 and National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics*, annual and *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, No 11, July 24, 2000 and earlier reports.

- The age-adjusted death rate for heart diseases for men runs from 60 to 100 percent higher than for women.

Table 4.3. –Death Rates for Diseases of Heart, by Sex: Selected Years, 1950 – 1998

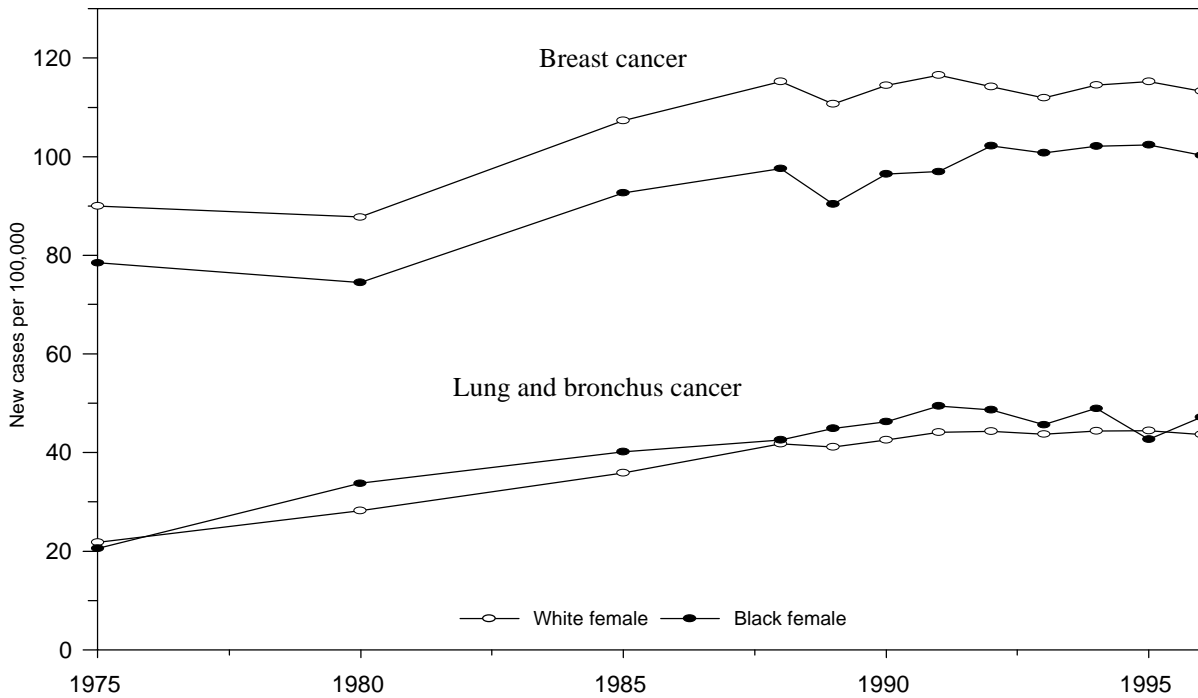
Age	Deaths per 100,000 resident population									
	1950 ¹	1960 ¹	1970	1980	1985	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998
Female										
All ages, age adjusted	233.9	205.7	175.2	140.3	127.4	108.9	103.8	101.6	98.2	93.3
All ages, crude	288.4	300.6	304.5	305.1	305.2	281.8	275.8	278.5	275.5	268.3
Under 1	2.9	5.4	10.9	20.0	22.0	18.3	17.0	16.7	15.7	16.1
1-4	1.2	1.1	1.6	2.5	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.4	1.3
5-14	2.2	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7
15-24	6.7	3.7	2.3	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1
25-34	16.2	11.3	7.7	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.4	6.0	5.6	5.8
35-44	55.1	38.2	32.2	21.4	18.3	15.1	16.1	17.2	16.8	17.3
45-54	177.2	127.5	109.9	84.5	74.4	61.0	58.1	57.1	56.9	52.8
55-64	510.0	429.4	351.6	272.1	252.1	215.7	204.9	195.8	189.3	173.9
65-74	1,419.3	1,261.3	1,082.7	828.6	746.1	616.8	587.8	566.3	543.8	522.6
75-84	3,872.0	3,582.7	3,120.8	2,497.0	2,220.4	1,893.8	1,776.1	1,741.3	1,674.7	1,579.5
85 and over	8,796.1	9,016.8	7,591.8	7,350.5	7,037.6	6,478.1	6,264.0	6,252.7	6,108.0	5,876.6
Male										
All ages, age adjusted	383.8	375.5	348.5	280.4	250.1	206.7	195.1	188.5	178.8	166.9
All ages, crude	423.4	439.5	422.5	368.6	344.1	297.6	287.2	284.3	277.4	268.0

¹ Includes deaths of persons who were not residents of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Note: Rates are age adjusted to the 1940 U.S. standard million population.

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

Figure 4.4. –Age-Adjusted Breast Cancer and Lung and Bronchus Cancer Incidence Rates for Females, By Race



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

Table 4.4. –Female Death Rates for All Malignant Neoplasm, By Age Selected Years, 1950 – 1998

Age	Deaths per 100,000 resident population									
	1950 ¹	1960 ¹	1970	1980	1985	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998
All ages, age adjusted	120.8	111.2	108.8	109.2	111.7	112.7	111.8	111.1	108.8	105.5
All ages, crude	136.8	136.4	144.4	163.6	175.7	186.0	188.2	190.5	190.2	187.7
Under 1	7.6	6.8	5.0	2.7	3.2	2.2	2.2	1.6	2.4	1.9
1-4	10.8	9.3	6.7	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.3	2.4
5-14	6.0	6.0	5.2	3.6	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.3
15-24	7.6	6.5	6.2	4.8	4.3	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.7
25-34	22.2	20.1	16.7	14.0	13.2	12.6	12.9	12.3	12.6	11.7
35-44	79.3	70.0	65.6	53.1	49.2	48.1	46.5	44.1	42.9	42.1
45-54	194.0	183.0	181.5	171.8	165.3	155.5	147.0	143.1	135.2	128.2
55-64	368.2	337.7	343.2	361.7	381.8	375.2	369.7	360.7	349.6	331.6
65-74	612.3	560.2	557.9	607.1	645.3	677.4	686.5	694.7	685.2	675.2
75-84	1,000.7	924.1	891.9	903.1	937.8	1,010.3	1,025.6	1,057.5	1,060.0	1,048.6
85 and over	1,299.7	1,263.9	1,096.7	1,255.7	1,281.4	1,372.1	1,394.1	1,397.1	1,426.8	1,412.5

¹ Includes deaths of persons who were not residents of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Note: Rates are age adjusted to the 1940 U.S. standard million population.

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

Table 4.5. –Age-Adjusted Cancer Incidence Rates for Females for Selected Cancer Sites, By Race: Selected Years, 1973 – 1995

	1973	1975	1980	1985	1990	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
White female	Number of new cases per 100,000 resident population ¹									
All sites	295.1	310.5	311.3	343.8	356.3	356.8	349.9	354.6	351.9	347.1
Colon and rectum	41.7	42.9	44.7	45.9	40.2	38.5	37.8	37.0	36.6	35.5
Colon	30.3	30.9	32.9	34.0	30.1	28.7	28.0	27.8	27.5	25.9
Rectum	11.5	12.0	11.8	12.0	10.1	9.8	9.8	9.3	9.0	9.6
Pancreas	7.5	7.1	7.3	8.1	7.7	8.0	7.3	7.6	7.3	7.1
Lung and bronchus	17.8	21.8	28.2	35.9	42.5	44.4	43.8	44.5	44.2	43.7
Melanoma of skin	5.9	6.9	9.4	10.5	11.4	11.9	11.7	12.1	12.9	13.2
Breast	84.4	90.0	87.8	107.2	114.4	114.4	112.2	114.8	115.0	113.3
Cervix uteri	12.8	11.1	9.1	7.6	8.3	7.9	7.7	7.2	6.5	7.0
Corpus uteri	29.5	33.7	25.3	23.1	23.1	22.8	22.2	22.8	22.7	21.8
Ovary	14.6	14.4	14.0	15.1	16.1	15.8	15.7	14.9	15.2	15.3
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	7.6	8.5	9.2	11.4	12.9	12.9	12.8	13.5	12.6	12.7
Black female										
All sites	283.7	296.5	304.8	323.7	342.7	345.3	338.5	345.5	330.0	336.1
Colon and rectum	41.8	43.5	49.6	45.9	49.5	46.1	44.8	46.9	43.9	41.8
Colon	30.0	32.7	41.2	36.0	38.6	36.2	36.6	37.1	35.3	32.9
Rectum	11.8	10.8	8.5	9.9	10.9	9.9	8.2	9.7	8.6	8.9
Pancreas	11.6	11.6	13.0	11.3	10.3	13.0	12.1	12.0	12.3	10.8
Lung and bronchus	20.9	20.6	33.8	40.2	46.9	49.1	46.0	49.3	42.9	47.2
Breast	69.0	78.5	74.3	92.5	97.7	102.6	101.0	101.9	101.3	100.3
Cervix uteri	29.9	28.0	19.0	15.9	13.9	11.3	11.3	11.6	11.4	10.6
Corpus uteri	15.0	17.1	14.1	15.4	14.6	14.6	14.8	15.8	15.7	15.7
Ovary	10.5	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.2	10.7	11.1	12.5	9.7	8.5
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	5.5	4.2	6.0	7.1	9.3	8.4	8.1	7.2	9.1	9.5

¹ Age adjusted by the direct method to the 1970 U.S. population.

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

Table 4.6. –Female Death Rates for Malignant Neoplasm of Breast, By Age Selected Years, 1950 – 1998

	1950 ¹	1960 ¹	1970	1980	1985	1990	1994	1995	1996	1998
Age	Deaths per 100,000 resident population									
All ages, age adjusted	22.2	22.3	23.1	22.7	23.3	23.1	21.3	21.0	20.2	18.8
All ages, crude	24.7	26.1	28.4	30.6	32.8	34.0	32.7	32.6	31.8	30.2
Under 25	*	*	*	*	0.0	*	*	*	0.0	*
25-34	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6
35-44	20.8	20.2	20.4	17.9	17.5	17.8	15.2	15.0	14.2	13.4
45-54	46.9	51.4	52.6	48.1	47.1	45.4	41.6	41.4	38.8	35.8
55-64	70.4	70.8	77.6	80.5	84.2	78.6	69.8	69.8	67.4	62.2
65-74	94.0	90.0	93.8	101.1	107.8	111.7	105.6	103.3	99.1	93.3
75-84	139.8	129.9	127.4	126.4	136.2	146.3	145.9	142.0	139.8	131.4
85 and over	195.5	191.9	157.1	169.3	178.5	196.8	197.5	203.7	204.9	194.7

0.0 denotes greater than zero but less than 0.005; * denotes based on fewer than 20 deaths.

¹ Includes deaths of persons who were not residents of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Note: Rates are age adjusted to the 1940 U.S. standard million population.

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

Table 4.7. –Death Rates for Malignant Neoplasm of Trachea, Bronchus, and Lung By Sex and Age: Selected Years, 1950 – 1998

Sex and Age	1950 ¹	1960 ¹	1970	1980	1985	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998
	Deaths per 100,000 resident population									
Female										
All ages, age adjusted	3.9	5.7	9.5	17.6	21.8	25.6	26.4	26.6	26.9	27.0
All ages, crude	4.5	4.7	11.9	24.3	31.7	39.4	41.8	43.2	44.6	45.7
Under 25	0.1	0.0	0.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
25-34	0.5	5.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
35-44	1.9	3.2	6.1	6.5	5.6	5.2	5.3	4.7	5.1	5.3
45-54	5.8	9.2	21.0	33.7	35.2	34.5	31.5	29.6	28.2	26.0
55-64	13.6	15.4	36.8	72.0	92.1	105.0	105.7	102.8	99.9	97.6
65-74	23.3	24.4	43.1	102.7	141.8	177.6	191.1	199.4	204.9	211.3
75-84	32.9	32.8	52.4	94.1	131.7	190.1	211.4	231.6	246.4	257.2
85 and over	28.2	38.8	50.0	91.9	100.2	138.1	156.0	167.4	185.6	197.8
Male										
All ages, age adjusted	18.4	32.0	47.5	56.9	58.1	58.5	56.0	54.2	51.8	49.5
All ages, crude	19.9	35.4	53.4	68.6	72.5	75.1	73.4	72.3	70.6	69.3

0.0 denotes greater than zero but less than 0.005; * denotes based on fewer than 20 deaths.

¹ Includes deaths of persons who were not residents of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Note: Rates are age adjusted to the 1940 U.S. standard million population.

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

- Among women 65-74, cancer is the leading cause of death accounting for a little better than one-third of all female deaths in this age group. Lung cancer was the leading causes of cancer death of women in this age group and accounted for 31 percent of cancer deaths; breast cancer was the second leading cause of cancer deaths and accounted for close to 14 percent.

Table 4.8. –Female Death Rates for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases By Age: Selected Years, 1980 – 1998

Age	1980	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998
	Deaths per 100,000 resident population									
All ages, age adjusted	8.9	9.8	11.4	12.8	14.0	14.7	15.5	17.1	17.6	18.1
All ages, crude	15.0	16.9	20.7	23.9	27.0	29.2	31.8	35.9	38.0	40.2
Under 1	1.3	1.2	1.2	*	1.2	1.2	*	1.1	*	*
1-4	*	0.5	0.4	*	*	*	0.4	*	*	*
5-14	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3
15-24	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
25-34	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.8
35-44	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.7	2.1	2.0
45-54	7.7	8.0	8.0	8.7	8.6	8.8	7.9	8.7	8.4	8.2
55-64	27.6	28.8	33.6	36.7	39.4	40.3	41.0	43.1	42.4	40.5
65-74	67.1	76.0	89.3	100.7	109.2	112.3	120.7	133.4	136.7	143.0
75-84	98.7	114.1	143.5	169.1	194.1	214.2	233.4	265.2	280.4	295.8
85 and over	138.7	146.7	187.3	214.8	251.3	286.0	317.6	368.8	406.7	444.7

* Based on fewer than 20 deaths.

Note: Rates are age adjusted to the 1940 U.S. standard million population.

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

**Table 4.9. –Selected Notifiable Disease Rates, According to Disease
United States, Selected Years 1950 – 1998**

Disease	1950	1960	1970	1980	1985	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998
	Cases per 100,000 population									
Diphtheria	3.8	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hepatitis A	–	–	27.9	12.8	10.0	12.6	9.1	10.3	11.7	8.6
Hepatitis B	–	–	4.1	8.4	11.5	8.5	6.3	4.8	4.0	3.8
Lyme disease	–	–	–	–	–	–	3.9	5.0	6.2	6.4
Pertussis (whooping cough)	79.8	8.2	2.1	0.8	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.8	2.9	2.7
Poliomyelitis, total	22.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rubella (German measles)	–	–	27.8	1.7	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Rubeola (measles)	211.0	245.4	23.2	6.0	1.2	11.2	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.0
Salmonellosis, excluding typhoid fever	–	3.9	10.8	14.9	27.4	19.5	16.0	16.6	17.2	16.2
Shigellosis	15.5	6.9	6.8	8.4	7.1	10.9	9.4	11.4	9.8	8.7
Tuberculosis ¹	–	30.8	18.3	12.3	9.3	10.3	10.5	9.4	8.0	6.8
Sexually transmitted diseases: ²										
Syphilis	146.0	68.8	45.3	30.5	28.4	54.5	44.3	31.6	20.1	14.2
Chlamydia ³	–	–	–	–	17.4	160.8	183.4	194.5	192.9	236.6
Gonorrhea ⁴	192.5	145.4	297.2	445.1	383.0	277.5	197.2	165.7	123.2	132.9
	Number of cases (thousands)									
Diphtheria	5.8	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hepatitis A	–	–	56.8	29.1	23.2	31.4	23.1	26.8	31.0	23.2
Hepatitis B	–	–	8.3	19.0	26.6	21.1	16.1	12.5	10.6	10.3
Lyme disease	–	–	–	–	–	–	9.9	13.0	16.5	16.8
Pertussis (whooping cough)	120.7	14.8	4.2	1.7	3.6	4.6	4.1	4.6	7.8	7.4
Poliomyelitis, total	33.3	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rubella (German measles)	–	–	56.6	3.9	0.6	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4
Rubeola (measles)	319.1	441.7	47.4	13.5	2.8	27.8	2.2	1.0	0.5	0.1
Salmonellosis, excluding typhoid fever	–	6.9	22.1	33.7	65.3	48.6	40.9	43.3	45.5	43.7
Shigellosis	23.4	12.5	13.8	19.0	17.1	27.1	23.9	29.8	26.0	23.6
Tuberculosis ¹	–	55.5	37.1	27.7	22.2	25.7	26.7	24.4	21.3	18.4
Sexually transmitted diseases: ²										
Syphilis	217.6	122.5	91.4	68.8	67.6	135.0	112.9	82.3	53.2	38.0
Chlamydia ³	–	–	–	–	25.8	323.7	409.6	451.8	490.6	607.6
Gonorrhea ⁴	286.7	258.9	600.1	1,004.0	911.4	690.0	502.8	419.6	326.8	355.6

¹ Case reporting for tuberculosis began in 1953. Data prior to 1975 are not comparable with subsequent years data because of changes in reporting criteria effective in 1975.

² Newly reported civilian cases prior to 1991; includes military cases beginning in 1991. For 1950, data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

³ Chlamydia was non-notifiable in 1994 and earlier years. For 1998, cases for New York based exclusively on those reported by New York City.

⁴ Data for 1994 do not include cases from Georgia.

Notes: The total resident population was used to calculate all rates except sexually transmitted diseases, for which the civilian resident population was used prior to 1991. For sexually transmitted diseases, 1997 population estimates were used to calculate 1998 rates.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Summary of Notifiable Diseases, United States, 1998. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*; 47(53); National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention. *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 1998*.

- Since 1950, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, and measles have largely been eradicated through programs of vaccination. The rate of tuberculosis cases in 1998 was less than one-quarter of the rate in 1960.
- The rate of syphilis nearly doubled from 1985 to 1990 but has since declined to 14.2 cases per 100,000, the lowest level on record. Between 1960 and 1970 the rate for gonorrhea doubled and then between 1970 and 1980 it increased again by nearly 50 percent. Since then it has been reduced by about 70 percent.
- If left untreated gonorrhea and chlamydia – which became notifiable after 1994 and showed a large increase from 1996 to 1998 – can cause pelvic inflammatory disease and may result in ectopic pregnancy or infertility.

*That we have not made any respectable attempt to meet the
Special educational needs of women in the past is the clearest
Possible evidence of the fact that our educational objectives
Have been geared exclusively to the vocational patterns of men.*

Betty Friedan
The Feminine Mystique
1963

Section IV: Educational Trends

As the data in this report indicate, by the time Betty Friedan wrote her discussion of the “problem without a name” women already were moving ahead rapidly in terms of education. In the intervening years, they have taken giant steps forward, outpacing men in many categories.

High School Graduation Rates: The number of Americans graduating from high school has increased dramatically over the past 50 years. In 1940 only 26 percent of women earned a high school diploma. By 1998 the proportion had grown to nearly 83 percent. Women have long outperformed men at the high school level – in large part because the dropout rate for women is lower.

Graduate Degrees: Now, women are moving ahead of men as graduates at the college and graduate level, too. During the past 20 years, they have moved ahead of men in numbers of bachelor’s and master’s degrees earned. During that time, women have increased their number of doctoral degrees by 10 percentage points. Prior to 1970, few women earned medical and law degrees; these high prestige and high compensation professions were heavily male dominated. In the past 30 years, however, women have made major advances in the fields of medicine and law and now earn around 40 percent of the degrees in those fields. It is possible that women will reach parity with men in earning medical and law degrees within the first decade of the 21st century.

Disparities Between Men and Women: The increasing disparity between men’s and women’s educational levels brings to mind the remarks of noted psychologist Kenneth Keniston, “If we are to have new women . . . then they will require new men. If women move toward high levels of development, from which they have in the past been blocked, then men will have to change, so as to be able to love such women without threat and without fear.” Keniston’s warning seems especially appropriate because we are seeing the effects of educational and employment disparities between men and women, particularly in the Black population. Increasingly, these disparities are affecting all population groups.

Table 5.1. –High School Graduates and Earned Degrees Conferred: 1900 – 1997

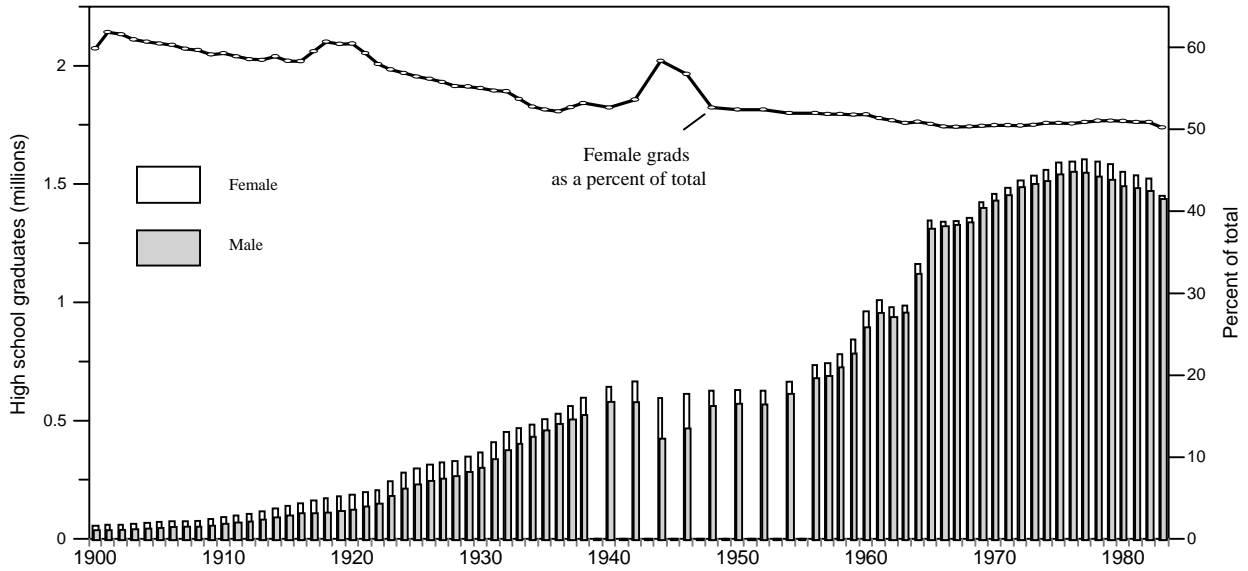
	Year of Graduation										
	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1997
High School Graduates											
	Numbers in thousands										
Total	94.9	156.4	311.3	666.9	1,221.5	1,199.7	1,858.0	2,889.0	3,043.0	2,586.3	2,608.5
Men ¹	38.1	63.7	123.7	300.4	578.7	570.7	895.0	1,430.0	1,491.0	–	–
Women ¹	56.8	92.8	187.6	366.5	642.8	629.0	963.0	1,459.0	1,552.0	–	–
percent	59.9	59.3	60.3	55.0	52.6	52.4	51.8	50.5	51.0	–	–
Bachelor's degrees conferred											
Total	27.4	37.2	48.6	122.5	186.5	432.1	392.4	792.3	929.4	1,051.3	1,172.9
Men	22.2	28.8	32.0	73.6	109.5	328.8	254.1	451.1	473.6	491.7	520.5
Women	5.2	8.4	16.6	48.9	77.0	103.2	138.4	341.2	455.8	559.6	652.4
percent	19.1	22.7	34.2	39.9	41.3	23.9	35.3	43.1	49.0	53.2	55.6
Master's degrees conferred											
Total	1.6	2.1	4.3	15.0	26.7	58.2	74.4	208.3	298.1	324.3	419.4
Men	1.3	1.6	3.0	8.9	16.5	41.2	50.9	125.6	150.7	153.7	180.9
Women	0.3	0.6	1.3	6.0	10.2	17.0	23.5	82.7	147.3	170.6	238.5
percent	19.1	26.4	30.2	40.4	38.2	29.2	31.6	39.7	49.4	52.6	56.9
Doctor's degrees conferred											
Total	0.4	0.4	0.6	2.3	3.3	6.4	9.8	29.9	32.6	38.4	45.9
Men	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.9	2.9	5.8	8.8	25.9	22.9	24.4	27.1
Women	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.6	1.0	4.0	9.7	14.0	18.7
percent	6.0	9.9	15.1	15.4	13.0	9.6	10.5	13.3	29.7	36.4	40.8
Medicine (M.D.) degrees conferred											
Total	–	–	–	–	–	5.6	7.0	8.3	14.9	15.1	15.6
Men	–	–	–	–	–	5.0	6.6	7.6	11.4	9.9	9.1
Women	–	–	–	–	–	0.6	0.4	0.7	3.5	5.2	6.5
Percent	–	–	–	–	–	10.4	5.5	8.4	23.4	34.2	41.4
Law (LL.B. or J.D.) degrees conferred											
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	9.2	14.9	35.6	36.5	40.1
Men	–	–	–	–	–	–	9.0	14.1	24.9	21.1	22.5
Women	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.2	0.8	10.8	15.4	17.5
Percent	–	–	–	–	–	–	2.5	5.4	30.2	42.2	43.7

¹ Since 1983, the number of high school graduates has not been reported by gender.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*; National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics*, 1999.

- Women have long outperformed men at the high school level and during the last 20 years of the 20th Century have moved ahead of men in terms of the shares of Bachelor's and Master's degrees earned. Since 1980 women have increased their share of doctoral degrees earned from just under 30 percent to a little over 40 percent.
- Enormous strides have been made toward parity in both Medicine and Law. As recently as 1970, women received less than 10 percent of the degrees in both of these high-prestige, high-compensation areas. In the last 30 years women have made major advances and are now earning more than 41 percent of the degrees in Medicine and nearly 44 percent of the degrees in Law. If women advance in the next ten years as much as they did during the last ten, they will achieve parity in these two areas before the end of the current decade.

Figure 5.1. –High School Graduates, by Sex: 1900 – 1983

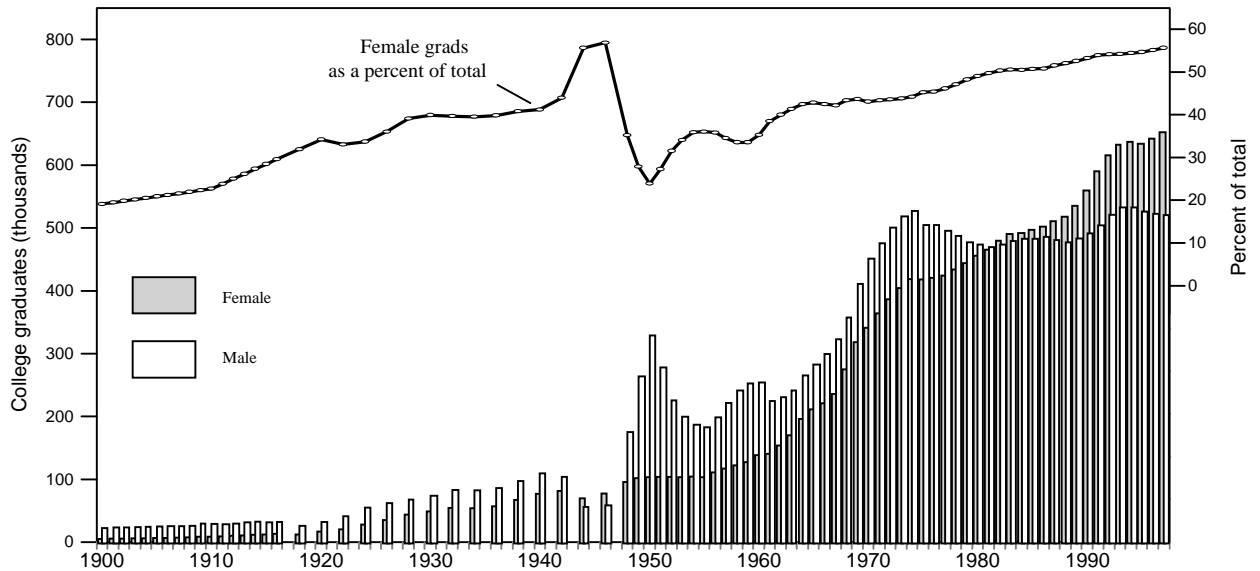


Note: Data on the number of high school graduates by sex is not reported after 1983.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*; National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics*, 1999.

- Young women have traditionally had lower high-school dropout rates than men and hence account for a larger share of graduating seniors. The up-tick in the proportion of female graduates during World War II came despite a decrease in the number of females graduating since the decline in males was more than 3.5 times as large as the decline for females.

Figure 5.2. –College Graduates, by Sex: 1900 to 1997



Source: See Figure 5.2 above.

- The drop in the proportion of female college graduates following the end of World War II did not come from a decline in the number of women but was due to the surge in male enrollment as veterans returned to complete their education financed by the G.I. bill. Since 1982 women graduates have outnumbered men.

Table 5.2. –Years of School Completed by Women 25 Years Old & Over: 1940 – 1998

Years	Total ³ Females 25 & over	Elementary school		High school		College	
		0 to 4 years	5 to 8 Years	1 to 3 years	4 years	1 to 3 years	4 years or more
Numbers in millions							
1940 ¹	37.3	4.6	16.8	5.8	6.0	2.3	1.4
1950 ¹	44.9	4.4	15.8	7.8	10.1	3.4	2.3
1960	51.5	3.8	15.7	10.2	14.3	4.6	3.0
1970	57.5	2.7	12.6	10.3	21.6	5.6	4.7
1980	69.0	2.2	9.8	10.0	27.9	9.8	9.4
1990	82.1	1.8	7.2	9.5	33.7	14.8	15.1
1998	89.8	1.4	5.2	8.8	31.6	22.7	20.1
Percent of total							
1940 ²	100.0	12.4	45.5	15.9	16.4	6.1	3.8
1950 ²	100.0	10.1	36.1	17.9	23.1	7.7	5.2
1960	100.0	7.3	30.4	19.7	27.7	9.0	5.8
1970	100.0	4.7	21.9	18.0	37.5	9.7	8.2
1980	100.0	3.2	14.2	14.5	40.4	14.2	13.6
1990	100.0	2.2	8.8	11.5	41.0	18.0	18.4
1998	100.0	1.6	5.8	9.7	35.2	25.3	22.4

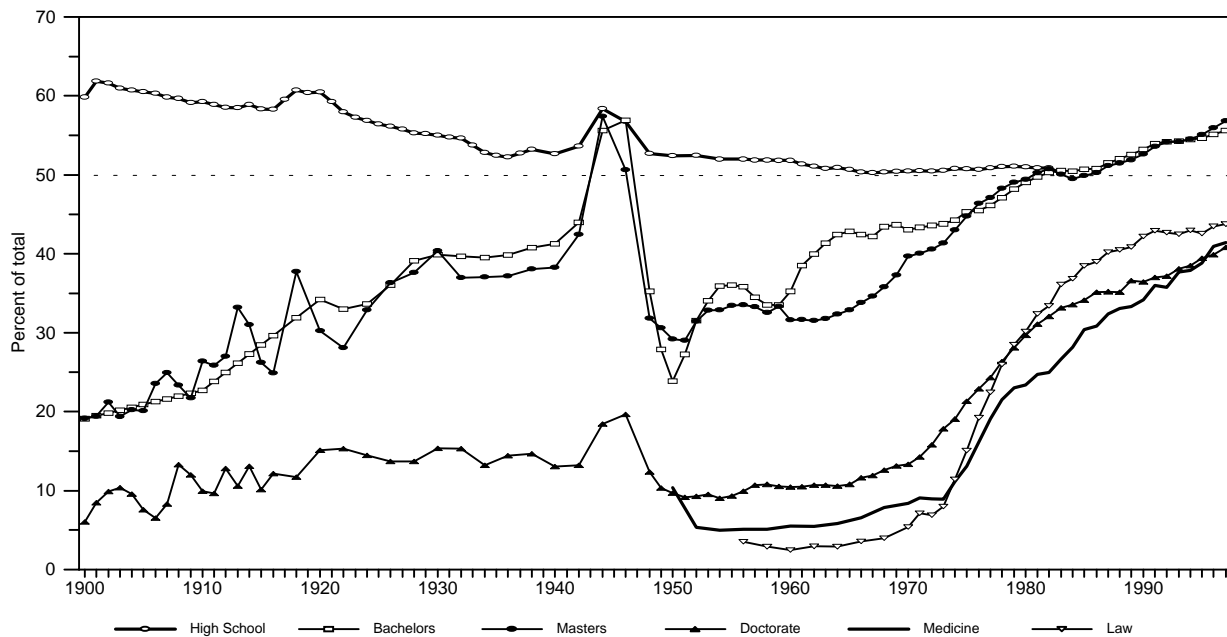
¹ Total includes persons who did not report on years of school completed.

² Percent of persons who reported on years of school completed.

³ Noninstitutional population, excluding members of the Armed Forces living in Barracks.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 to 1998 March Current Population Survey, 1960 Census of Population, 1950 Census Population, and 1940 Census of Population (resident population). Internet Release date: December 10, 1998

Figure 5.3. –Proportion of Degrees Conferred Received by Women: 1900 – 1997



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*; National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 1999*.

- In 1940 only 26 percent of women 25 years of age and over were at least high school graduates but by 1998 the proportion had risen to nearly 83 percent.

*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.

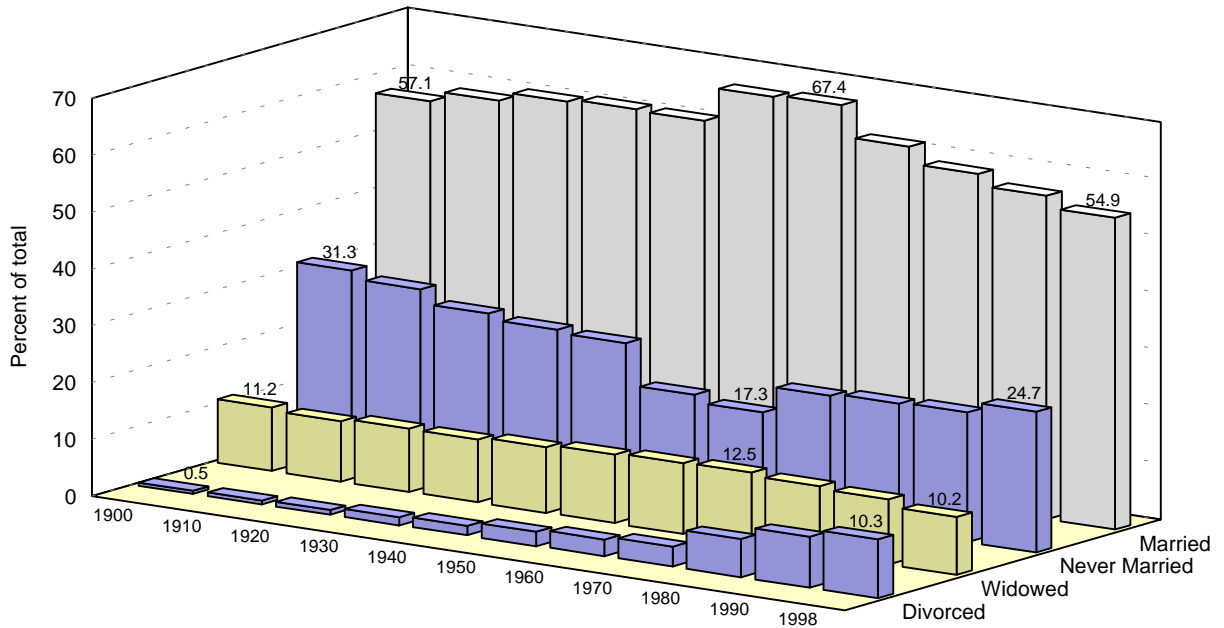
Table 6. –Marital Status of Women 15 Years of Age and Over: 1900 – 1998

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

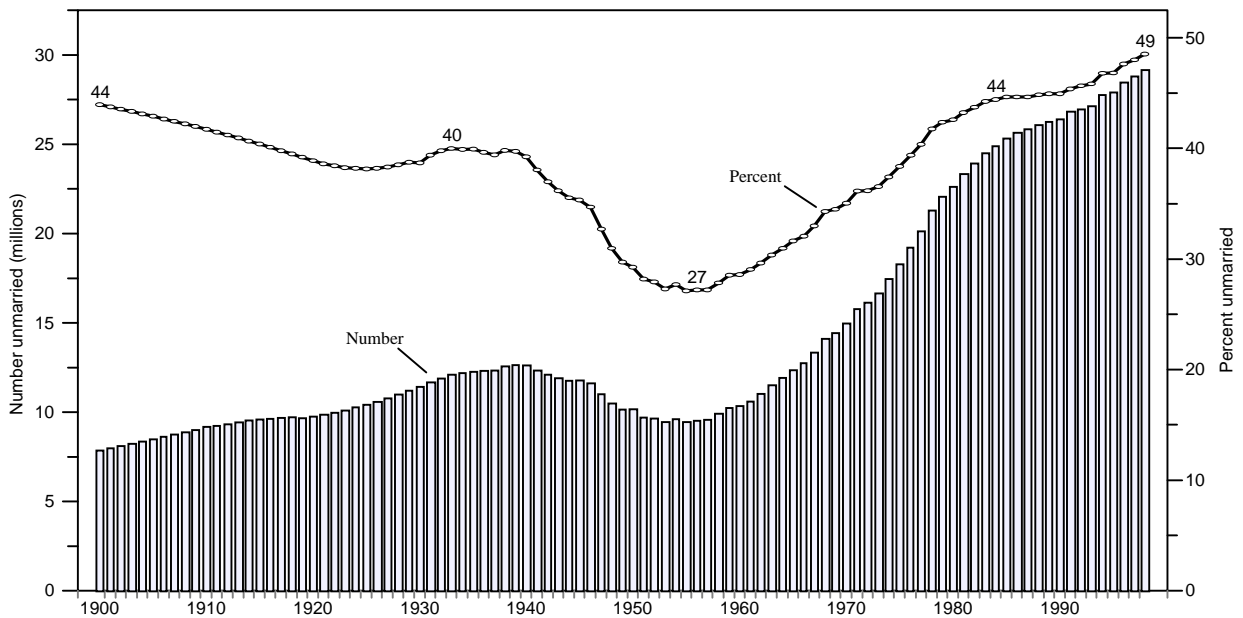
- The proportion of unmarried women, after declining significantly as a percentage of all women in the 15 years following World War II, have since risen to an all time high of a little over 45 percent in 1998 (see Figure 6.2). In 1900 never-married women comprised a little over 31 percent of all women 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.

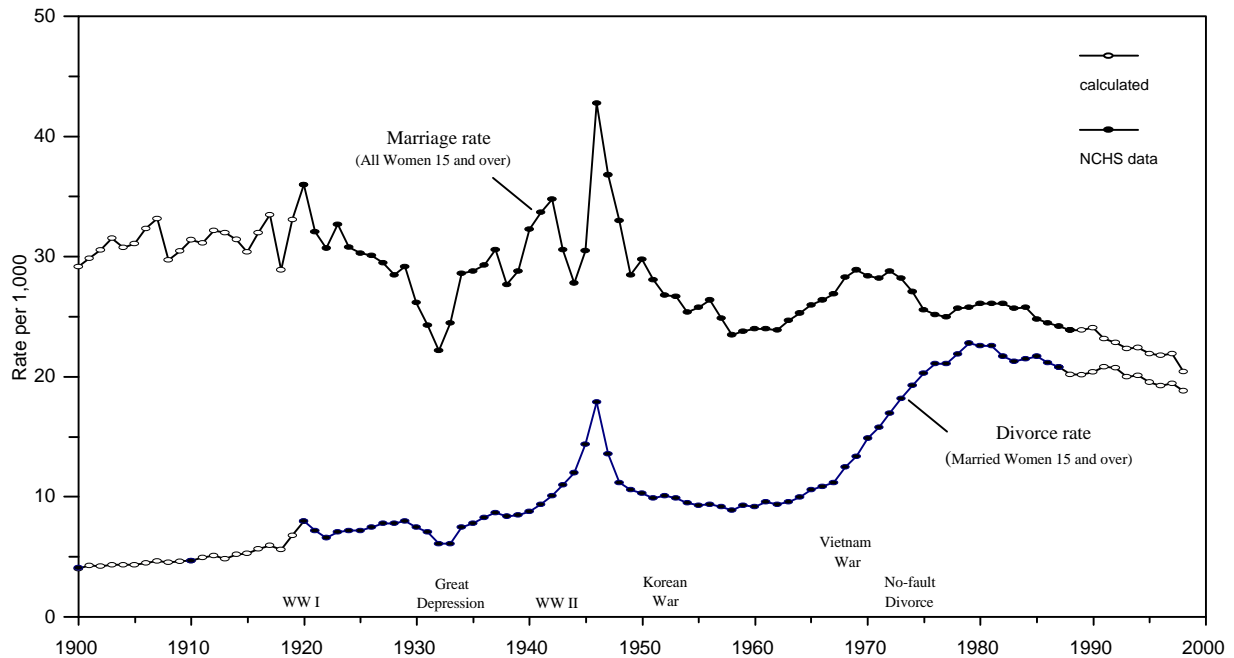
Table 7.1. –Marriage and Divorce in the United States: 1900 – 1998

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.

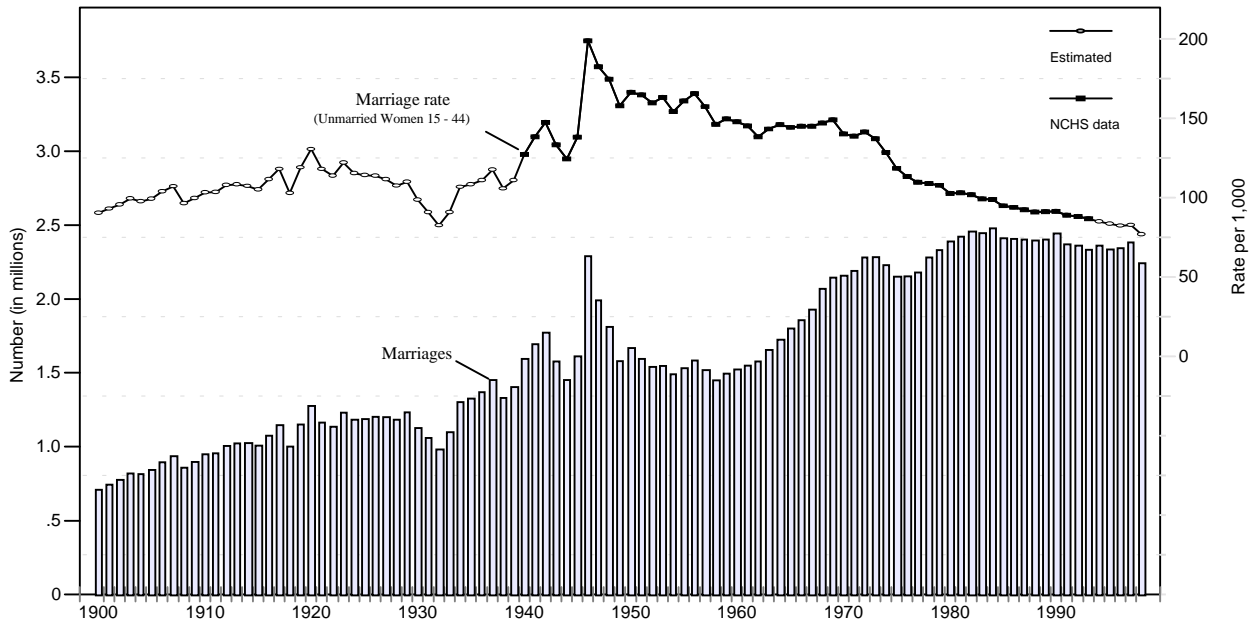
Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*; National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States*, annual, and the *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 47, No. 21, July 6, 1999 and earlier reports.

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.

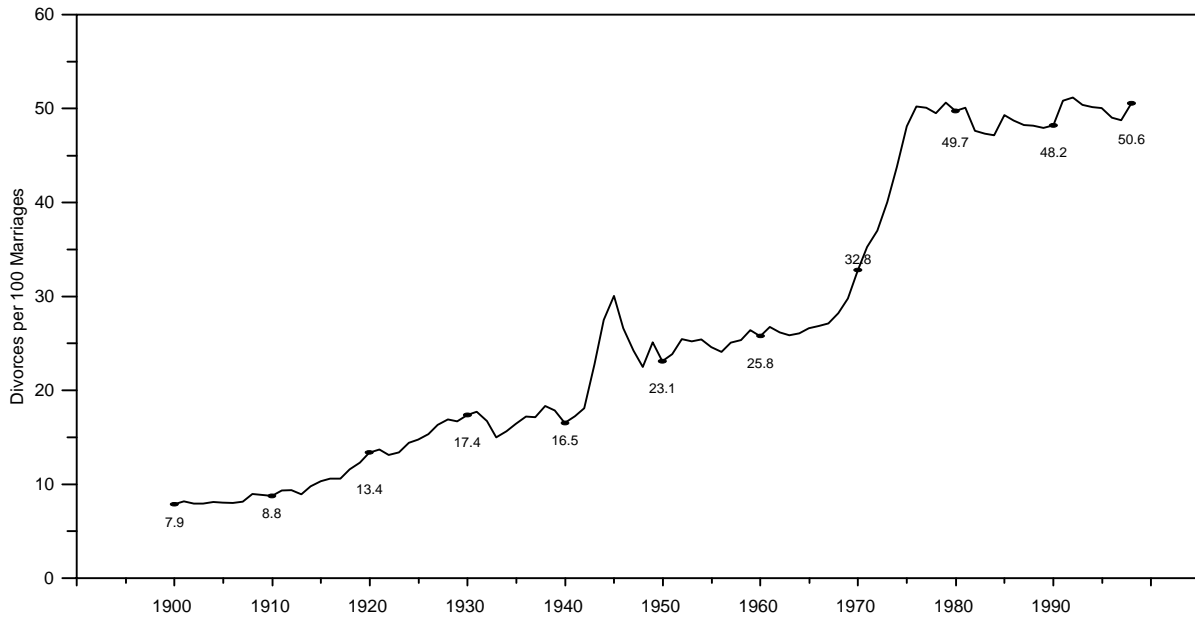
- In the last 30 years, the number of marriages has increased and decreased while the number of unmarried women 15 to 44 years of age has increased steadily. Thus despite the unparalleled prosperity of the late 1990s, marriage rates declined by the end of the decade to a level lower than that seen even 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.

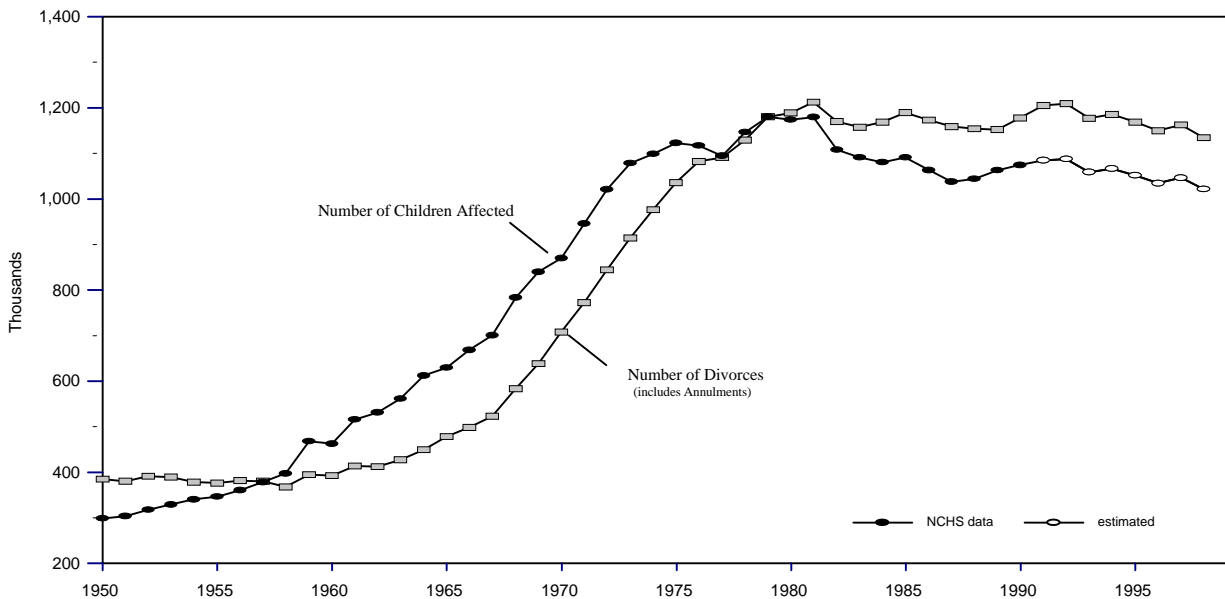
Figure 7.3. –Number of Divorces per 100 Marriages, 1900 – 1998



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.

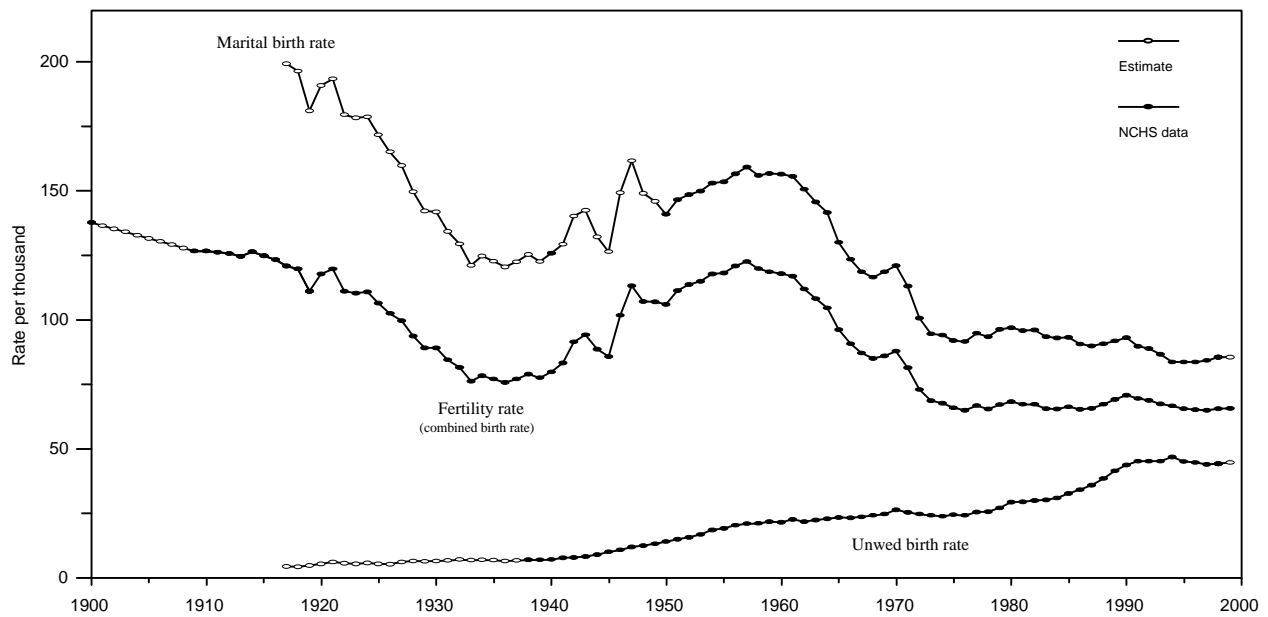
² Total births and the fertility rate for 1900 calculated based on the total population birth rate for that year.

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.

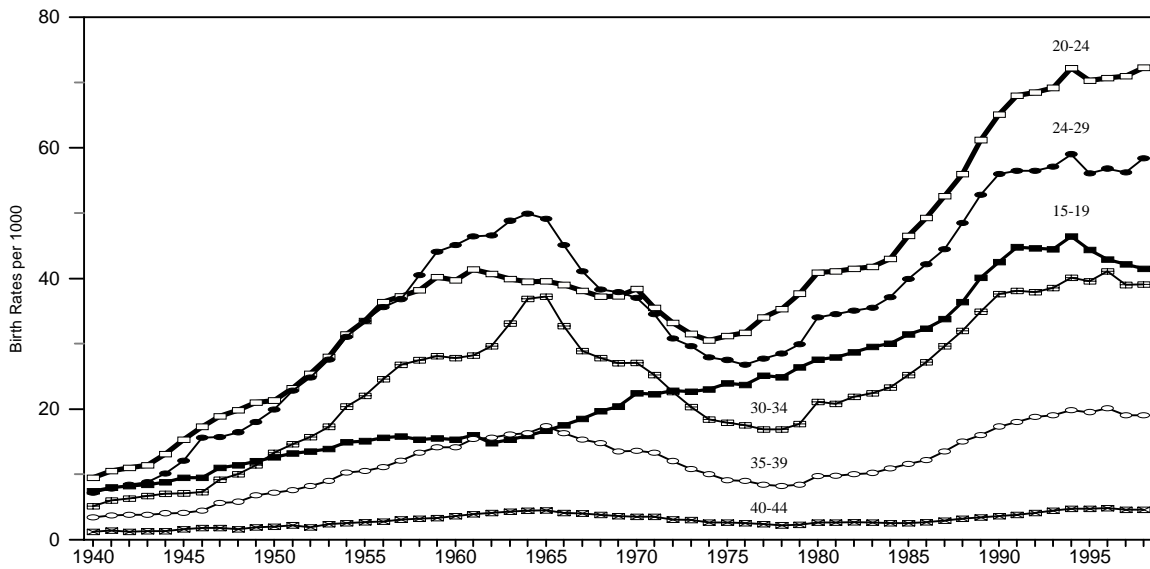
Figure 8.1. –Fertility Rate and Birth Rates by Marital Status: 1900 – 1999



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

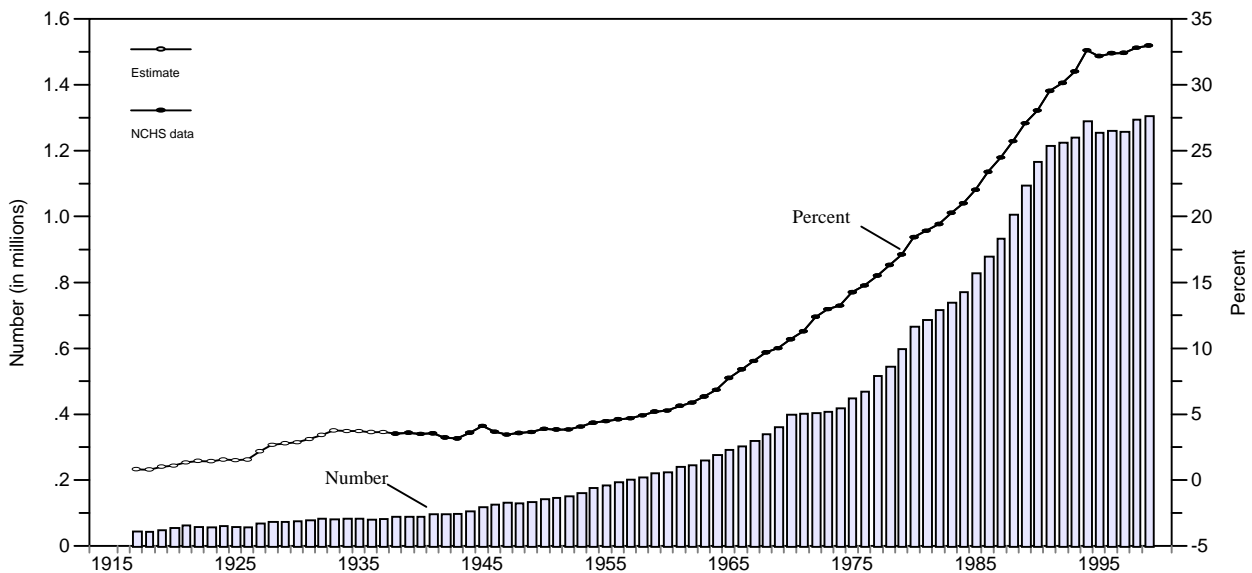
Figure 8.2. –Births per 1,000 Unmarried Women by Age Groups, 1940 –1998



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.

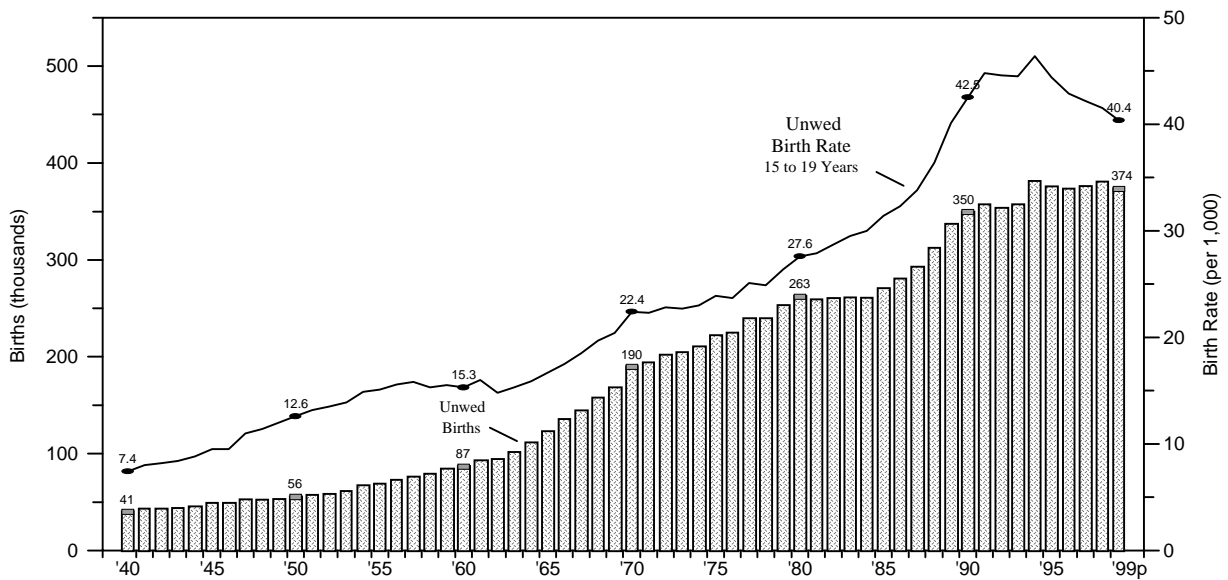
- Unwed birth rates in all age groups except among 15 to 19 year olds, began to decline in the early-to mid-1960s following with a lag the behavior of married birth rates. The effect of the legalization of abortion in the early 1970s is clearly apparent in all age groups except the ages 15-19 and the 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.

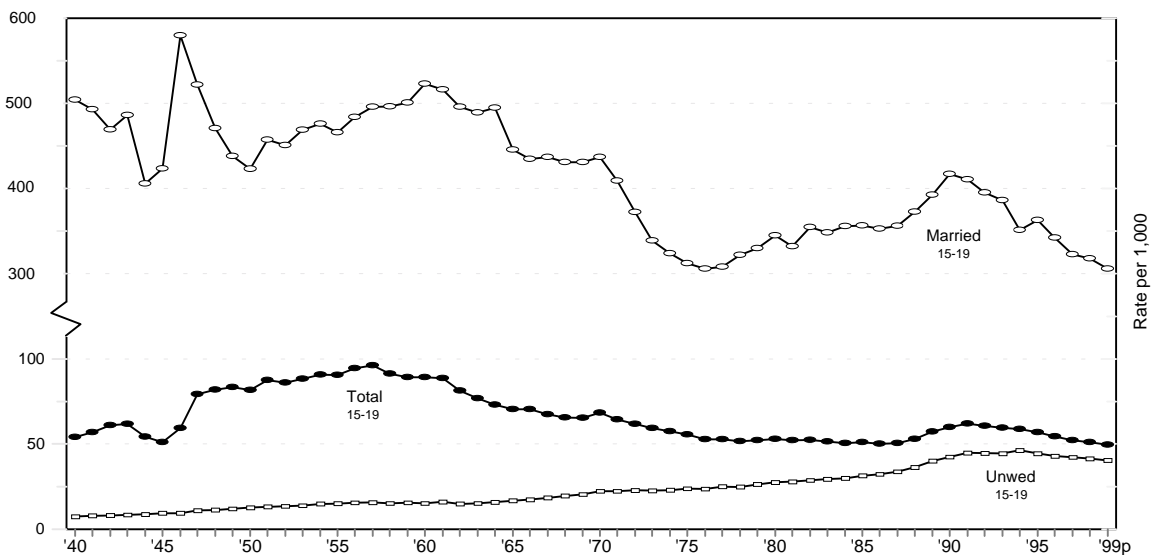
Figure 8.4. –Births and Birth Rate of Unmarried Women 15 to 19, 1940 –1999



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.

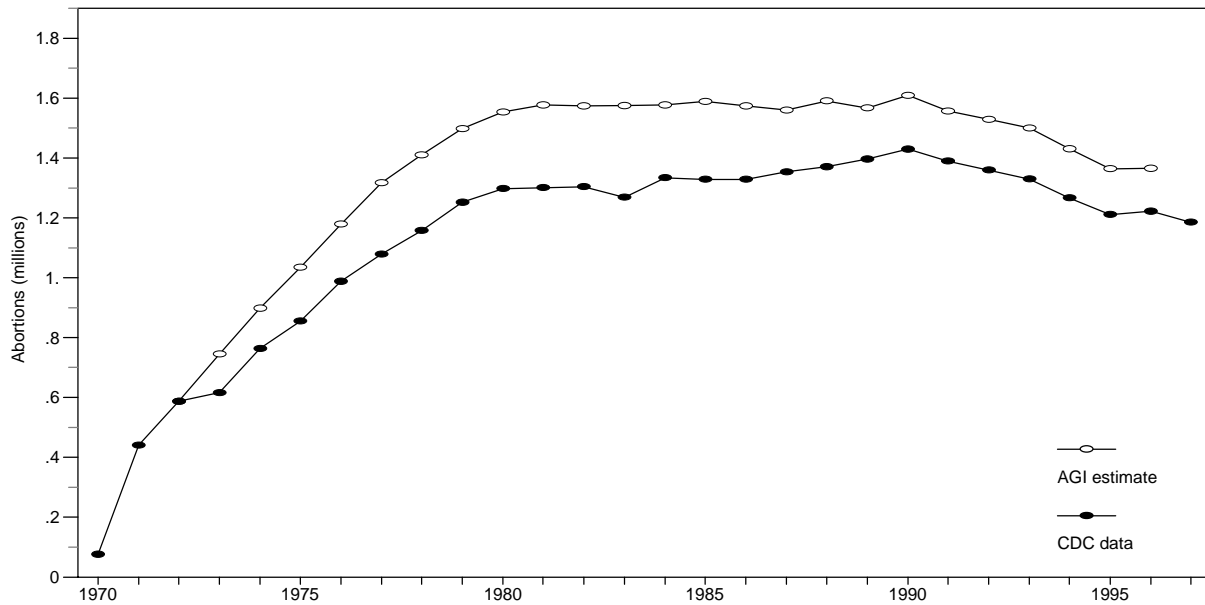
⁵ For 1973-75 data indicate number of living children.

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.

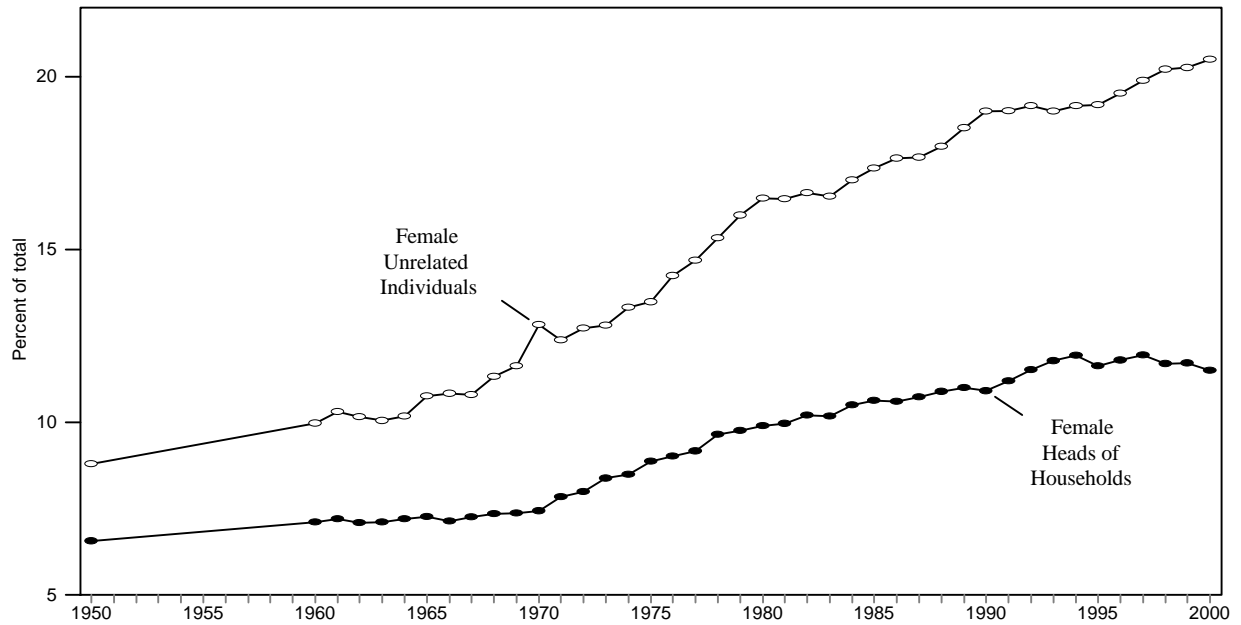
⁴ A cohabiting couple without children can be either a non-family household of two unrelated persons of the opposite sex sharing living quarters (POSSLQs) or, if the woman has one or more children, then she and any children constitute a family since there is a blood relationship.

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.

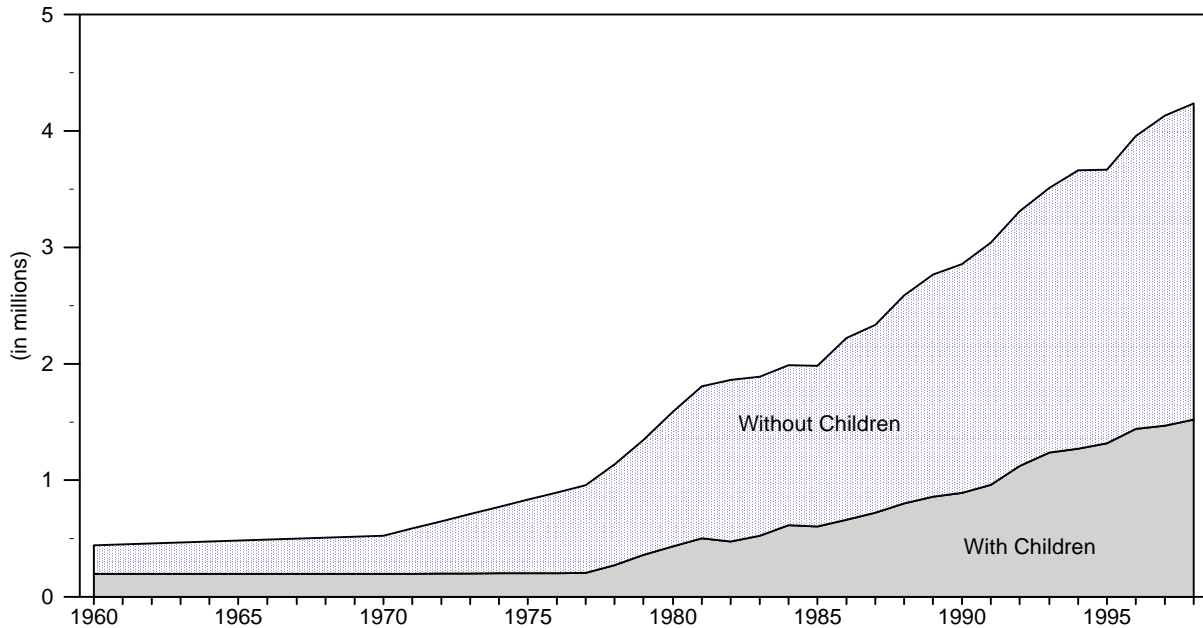
Figure 9.1. –Percentage of Unrelated Women and Women who Head Households



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

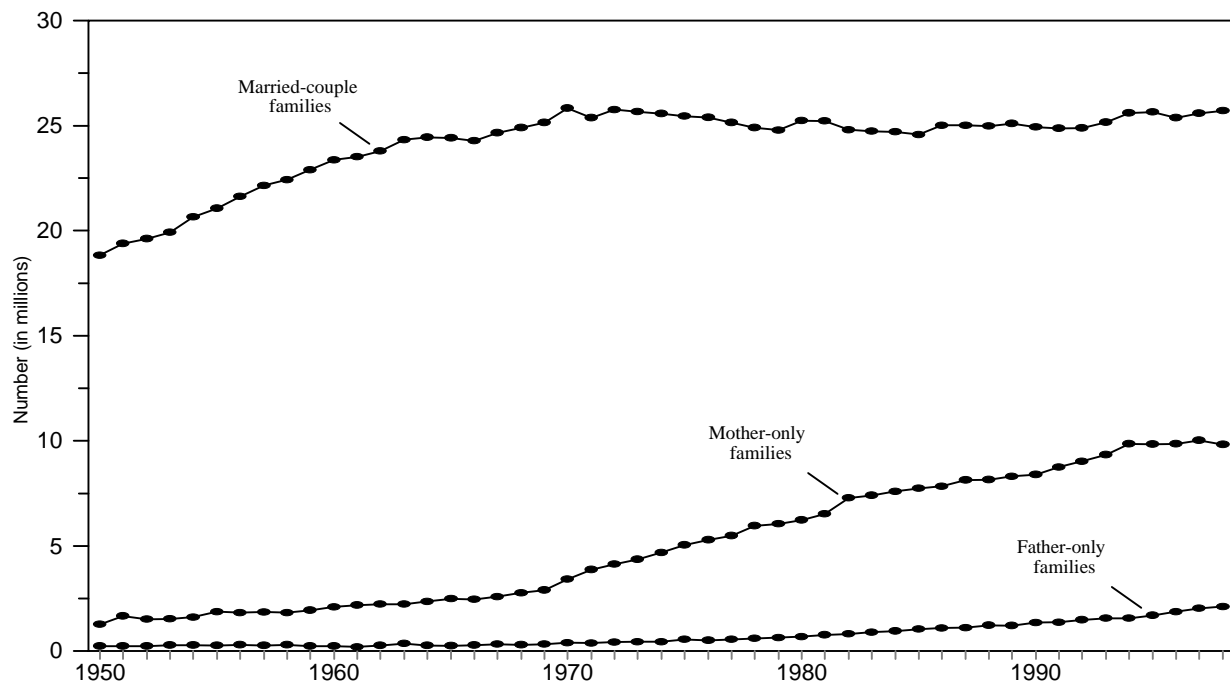
	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Numbers in millions											
Total	20.3	23.2	25.7	27.1	29.6	31.1	32.2	33.4	34.7	37.2	37.5
One-parent	1.5	2.1	2.3	2.7	3.8	5.6	6.9	8.8	9.7	11.5	11.8
Mother-only	1.3	1.9	2.1	2.5	3.4	5.0	6.2	7.7	8.4	9.8	9.7
Father-only	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.0	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.

*The embattled gates to equal rights
Indeed opened up for modern women,
But I sometimes think to myself:
That is not what I meant by freedom;
It is only 'social progress.'*

Helen Deutsch
Confrontations with Myself
1973

*It is worst than folly
Not to recognize the truth,
For in it lies
The tinder for tomorrow.*

Pearl S. Buck
1942

Section VI: Economic Trends

Since 1950 per capita income (adjusted for inflation) has more than doubled. There are two sides of this economic boom for America's women. One group of women is benefiting from the prosperity. But the economy is bypassing the second group completely.

The Good News: A fascinating aspect of the good economic times is what is happening among the mothers of children under 6 years of age; they are leaving their full or part time employment to stay home with their pre-school children. In the past when the numbers of working women declined it was in periods of economic recession – early 1970s and early 1980s. The currently dip in the trend of women with young children working either full or part time is the first such downturn during economic prosperity. Apparently, these women are choosing to stay home with their children even though there are jobs available if they want to continue working. Economic prosperity is allowing them to do what they want to do – stay home and raise their children themselves.

The Bad News: During this time of unprecedented economic prosperity, however, there is a group missing out on the positive benefits. The disintegration of America's social structure is preventing large segments of the population from enjoying the booming economy because family breakdown and poverty are siamese twins. Take a moment to look at the poverty that is associated with single mother families. Among the 50 million unmarried American women, 1 in 3 female-headed households with children live in poverty as compared with the 1 in 10 without children who live in poverty – and that number is double the number in poverty among married couples. Among those who live alone, 1 in 5 live in poverty.

The Economic and Social Costs: While family breakdown is primarily a tragedy for those closest to the breakup, it is also a tragedy whose tentacles stretch out to affect the entire nation. The combined annual federal and state spending to support single parent families is around \$150 BILLION. Even so, that large sum of money is but the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the total cost of family disintegration and the resulting social chaos. Because the breakdown of the family is a root cause of crime and violence, physical and drug abuse, poverty and welfare dependence, as well as emotional problems such as depression and suicide, experts estimate that these social ramifications cost the American government (and, ultimately, taxpayers) tens of billions of dollars annually.

Table 10. –Employment Status of Women, by Marital Status and Presence and Age of Children: 1960 – 1999

	Total			With any children								
	Single	Married	Other	Total			Children 6 to 17 only			Children under 6		
				Single	Married	Other	Single	Married	Other	Single	Married	Other
In Labor Force (millions)												
1960 ¹	5.4	12.3	4.9	—	6.6	1.5	—	4.1	1.0	—	2.5	0.4
1965 ¹	5.9	14.7	5.3	—	8.0	1.7	—	4.8	1.2	—	3.1	0.6
1970	7.0	18.4	5.9	—	10.2	1.9	—	6.3	1.3	—	3.9	0.6
1975	8.6	21.4	7.0	0.3	11.5	2.8	0.1	7.0	1.8	0.2	4.5	1.0
1980	11.2	24.9	8.8	0.6	13.7	3.6	0.2	8.4	2.6	0.3	5.2	1.0
1985	12.9	27.7	10.3	1.1	14.9	4.0	0.4	8.5	2.9	0.7	6.4	1.1
1990	14.0	31.0	11.2	1.5	16.5	4.2	0.6	9.3	3.0	0.9	7.2	1.2
1995	15.0	33.6	12.0	2.1	18.0	4.6	0.8	10.2	3.3	1.3	7.8	1.3
1999 ²	17.5	34.3	13.0	3.1	17.9	4.6	1.2	10.6	3.3	1.8	7.2	1.3
Labor Force Participation Rate ³												
1960 ¹	44.1	30.5	40.0	—	27.6	56.0	—	39.0	65.9	—	18.6	40.5
1965 ¹	40.5	34.7	38.9	—	32.2	58.1	—	42.7	64.5	—	23.3	48.1
1970	53.0	40.8	39.1	—	39.7	60.7	—	49.2	66.9	—	30.3	52.2
1975	57.0	44.4	40.8	42.2	44.9	62.1	61.1	52.2	67.9	37.0	36.7	54.0
1980	61.5	50.1	44.0	52.0	54.1	69.4	67.6	61.7	74.6	44.1	45.1	60.3
1985	65.2	54.2	45.6	51.6	60.8	71.9	64.1	67.8	77.8	46.5	53.4	60.3
1990	66.4	58.2	46.8	55.2	66.3	74.2	69.7	73.6	79.7	48.7	58.9	63.6
1995	65.5	61.1	47.3	57.5	70.2	75.3	67.0	76.2	79.5	53.0	63.5	66.3
1999 ²	68.1	61.6	49.4	73.4	70.1	80.4	82.6	77.1	81.7	68.1	61.8	77.0
Employment (millions)												
1960 ¹	5.1	11.6	4.6	—	6.2	1.3	—	3.9	0.9	—	2.3	0.4
1965 ¹	5.5	14.0	5.0	—	7.5	1.6	—	4.7	1.1	—	2.8	0.5
1970	6.5	17.5	5.6	—	9.6	1.8	—	6.0	1.2	—	3.6	0.6
1975	7.5	19.5	6.4	0.2	10.4	2.4	0.1	6.5	1.6	0.2	3.9	0.8
1980	10.1	23.6	8.2	0.4	12.8	3.3	0.2	8.1	2.4	0.2	4.8	0.9
1985	11.6	26.1	9.4	0.9	13.9	3.5	0.3	8.1	2.6	0.5	5.9	0.9
1990	12.9	29.9	10.5	1.2	15.8	3.8	0.5	8.9	2.7	0.7	6.9	1.1
1995	13.7	32.3	11.3	1.8	17.2	4.2	0.7	9.8	3.1	1.1	7.3	1.2
1999 ²	16.2	33.4	12.3	2.7	17.3	4.3	1.1	10.4	3.1	1.6	7.0	1.1
Unemployment rate ⁴												
1960 ¹	6.0	5.4	6.2	—	6.0	8.4	—	4.9	6.8	—	7.8	12.5
1965 ¹	7.1	5.1	5.4	—	6.2	8.5	—	3.8	6.6	—	9.8	12.4
1970	7.1	4.8	4.8	—	6.0	7.2	—	4.8	5.9	—	7.9	9.8
1975	12.6	8.5	8.9	23.9	9.8	12.5	20.2	7.1	9.9	26.1	13.9	17.3
1980	10.3	5.3	6.4	23.2	5.9	9.2	15.6	4.4	7.9	29.2	8.3	12.8
1985	10.2	5.7	8.5	23.8	6.6	12.1	15.4	5.5	10.6	28.5	8.0	16.1
1990	8.2	3.5	5.7	18.4	4.2	8.4	14.5	3.8	7.7	20.8	4.8	10.2
1995	8.7	3.9	5.8	16.6	4.3	8.1	11.8	3.6	7.1	19.5	5.3	10.8
1999 ²	7.4	2.8	5.0	11.7	2.9	6.2	8.9	2.4	4.5	13.6	3.7	10.7

Notes: All data are from the March Current Population Survey. Married refers only to those whose husband is present. Other refers to widowed, divorced, or separated.

¹ For 1960 and 1965, civilian noninstitutional persons 14 and over, thereafter 16 years old and over.

² Data not strictly comparable with data for years prior to 1997.

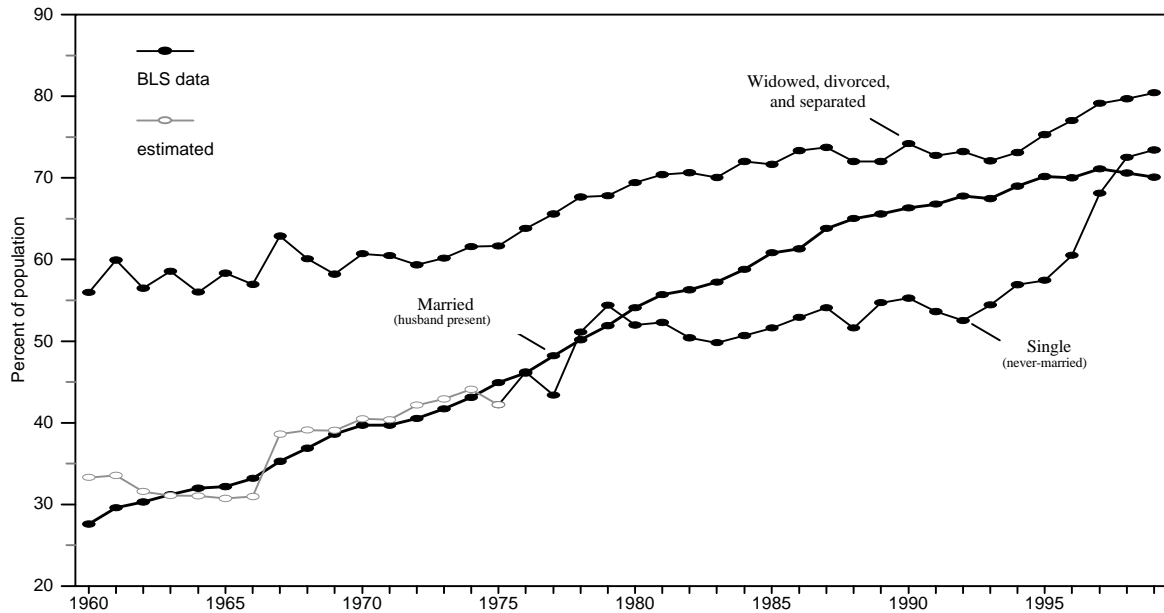
³ Percent of women in each specified group.

⁴ Percent of civilian labor force in each specified group.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Bulletin 2307*; and unpublished data.

- Labor force participation rates have increased steadily in the post-Baby-Boom era. Of particular note are the sharp increases by unmarried women with children under 6 in the period from 1990 to 1999 as states implemented measures to curtail their welfare programs. The rate for single mothers rose nearly 20 percentage points and for other unmarried women (widows, divorced, and separated) the increase was over 13 percentage points.

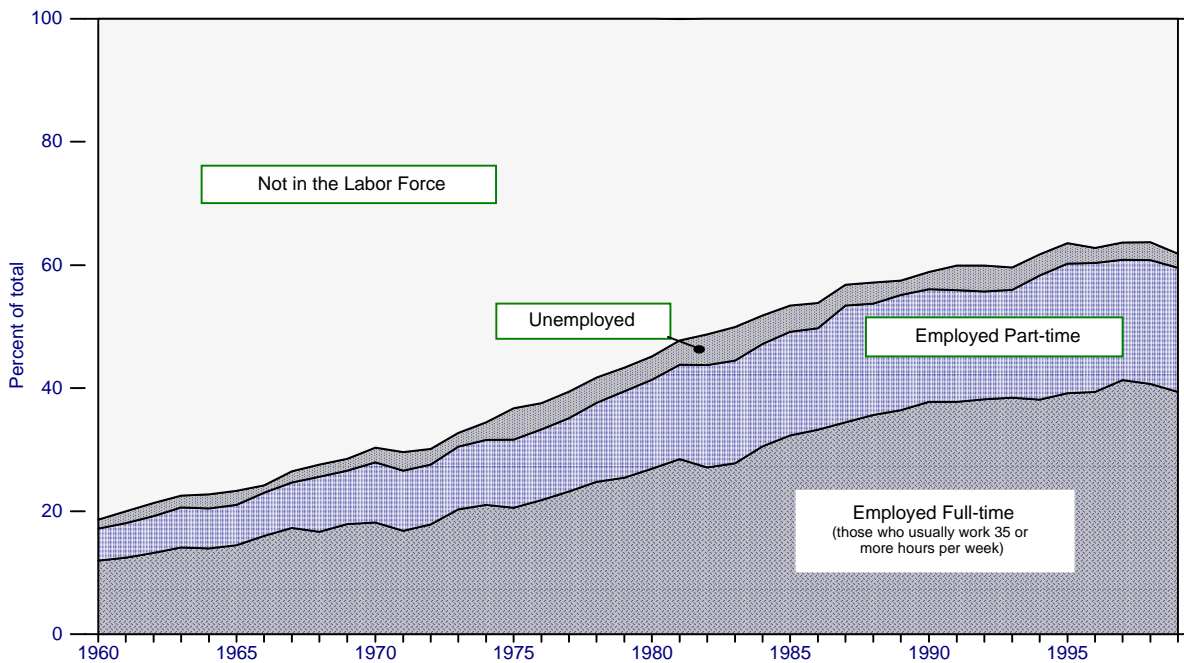
Figure 10.1. –Labor Force Participation of Women with Children under 18



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor Force Statistics Derived from the Current Population Survey, 1948-87*, Bulletin 2307, August 1988 and unpublished CPS data.

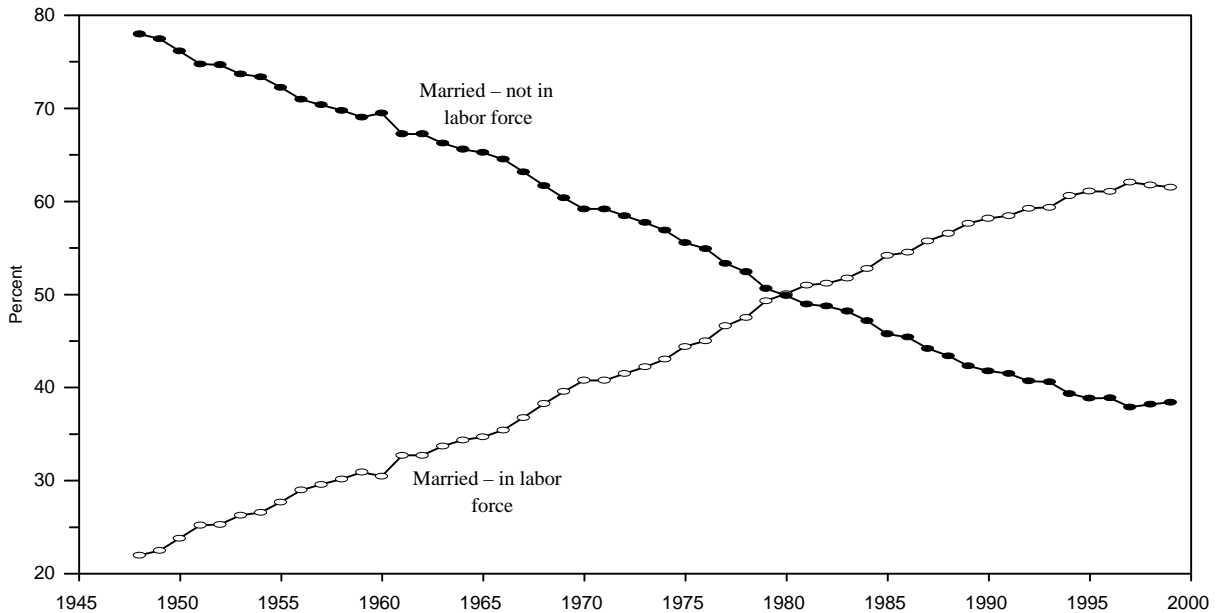
- After seeing little change from the late 1970s to the early 1990s, the labor force participation rate for single mothers turned up sharply and moved higher than the married rate which shows some signs of a possible reversal of trend after moving upward steadily during the entire post-World War II period.

Figure 10.2. –Employment Status of Married Women with Children Under 6 Years of Age



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor Force Statistics Derived from the Current Population Survey, 1948-87*, Bulletin 2307, August 1988 and unpublished CPS data.

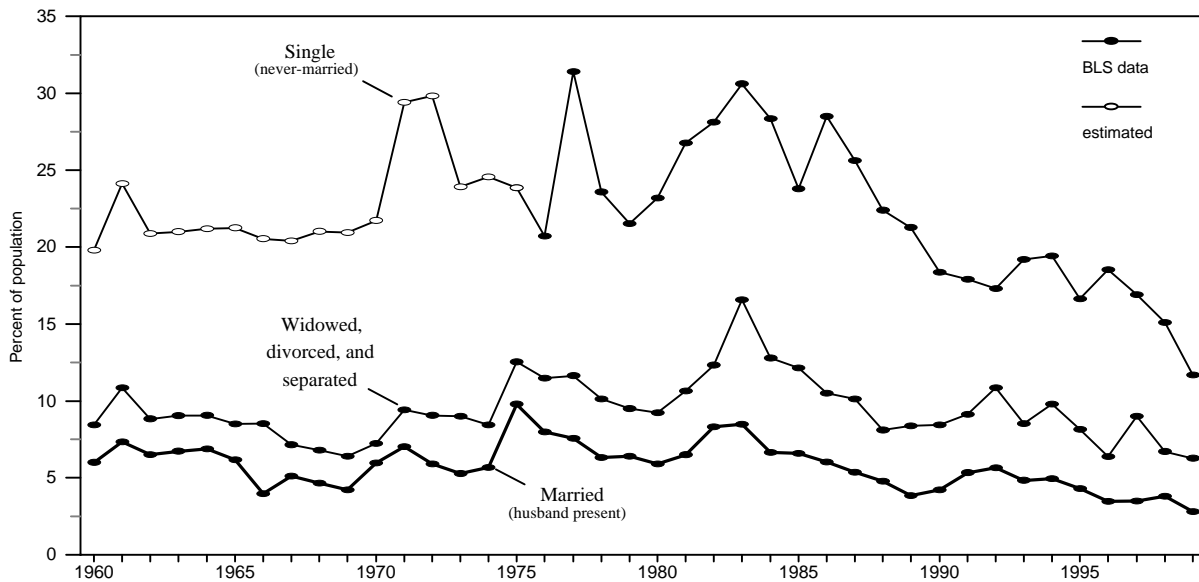
Figure 10.3. –Married Women by Labor Force Participation, 1948 – 1999



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor Force Statistics Derived from the Current Population Survey, 1948-87*, Bulletin 2307, August 1988 and unpublished CPS data.

- Both the number and percentage of married women (husband present) in the labor force have followed an upward trend in the post-World War II period. In 1948, 22 percent of married women were in the labor force. In 1980 the percentage of married women in the labor force equaled those who were not. In both 1998 and 1999, despite a booming economy that pushed unemployment rates of women to record lows, the percentage of married women in the labor force went down, the first time it has ever declined two years in a row.

Figure 10.4. –Unemployment Rates of Women with Children, by Marital Status



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor Force Statistics Derived from the Current Population Survey, 1948-87*, Bulletin 2307, August 1988 and unpublished CPS data.

Table 11. –Median Income, by Work and Marital Status and Sex: 1947 – 1998

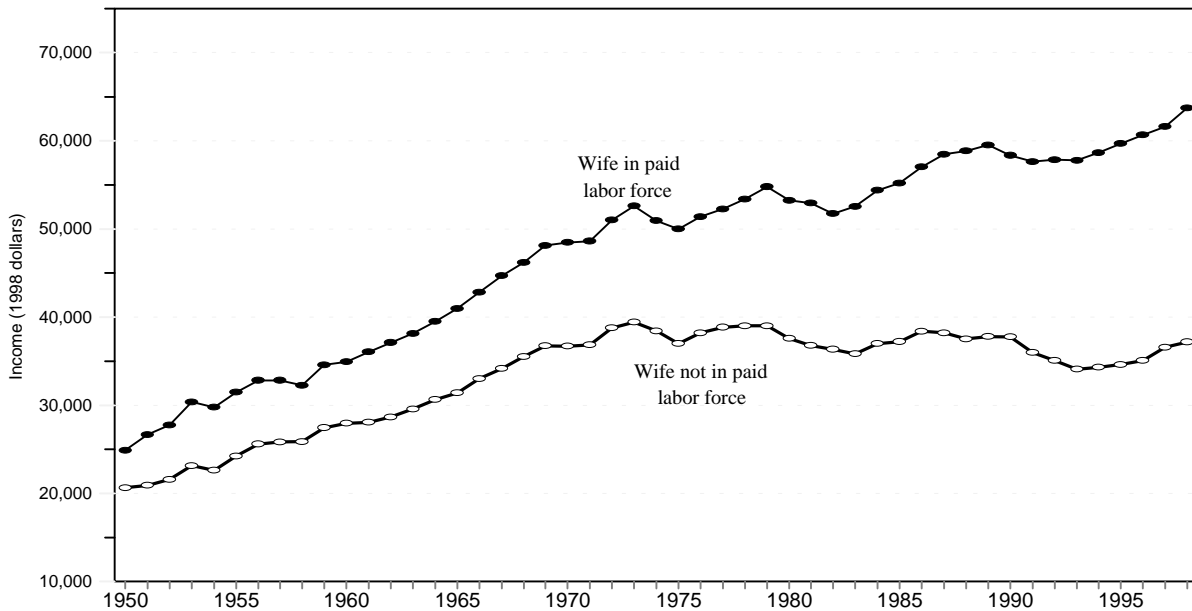
Year	Married Couple Families						Unrelated Individuals		Year-round, Full-time Workers	
	Total	Wife Not in Paid Labor Force		Householder spouse not present		Male	Female	Males per Females	Ratio of Median Earnings	
		Wife in Paid Labor Force	Wife Not in Paid Labor Force	Male	Female					
In thousands of 1998 dollars										
1947	\$20.9	—	—	\$19.8	\$14.6	\$10.4	\$6.8	—	—	
1950	21.4	24.9	20.6	19.4	12.0	10.3	6.1	—	—	
1955	25.8	31.5	24.2	23.5	13.8	11.2	7.1	—	—	
1960	29.7	34.9	27.9	24.6	15.0	13.6	7.8	3.11	60.5	
1965	34.6	41.0	31.4	29.3	16.8	14.8	9.0	2.86	59.8	
1970	41.5	48.5	36.7	35.6	20.1	18.5	10.1	2.33	59.2	
1975	43.1	50.0	37.0	37.7	19.9	19.5	11.9	2.10	59.7	
1980 ¹	45.8	53.2	37.6	34.7	20.6	22.0	13.5	1.82	60.5	
1985	47.1	55.2	37.2	34.3	20.7	23.1	15.3	1.64	65.0	
1990	49.8	58.3	37.7	36.2	21.1	22.9	15.9	1.55	71.1	
1995	50.3	59.7	34.6	32.5	21.1	22.2	15.9	1.48	73.8	
1996	51.6	60.7	35.1	32.8	20.7	22.8	15.8	1.48	74.3	
1997	52.4	61.6	36.6	33.5	21.4	23.2	16.4	1.46	73.8	
1998	54.2	63.8	37.2	35.7	22.2	25.1	17.0	1.47	74.1	

¹ People 15 years old and over beginning with March 1980, and people 14 years old and over as of March of the following year for previous years.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, “Money Income in the United States: 1999,” P60-209, September 2000.

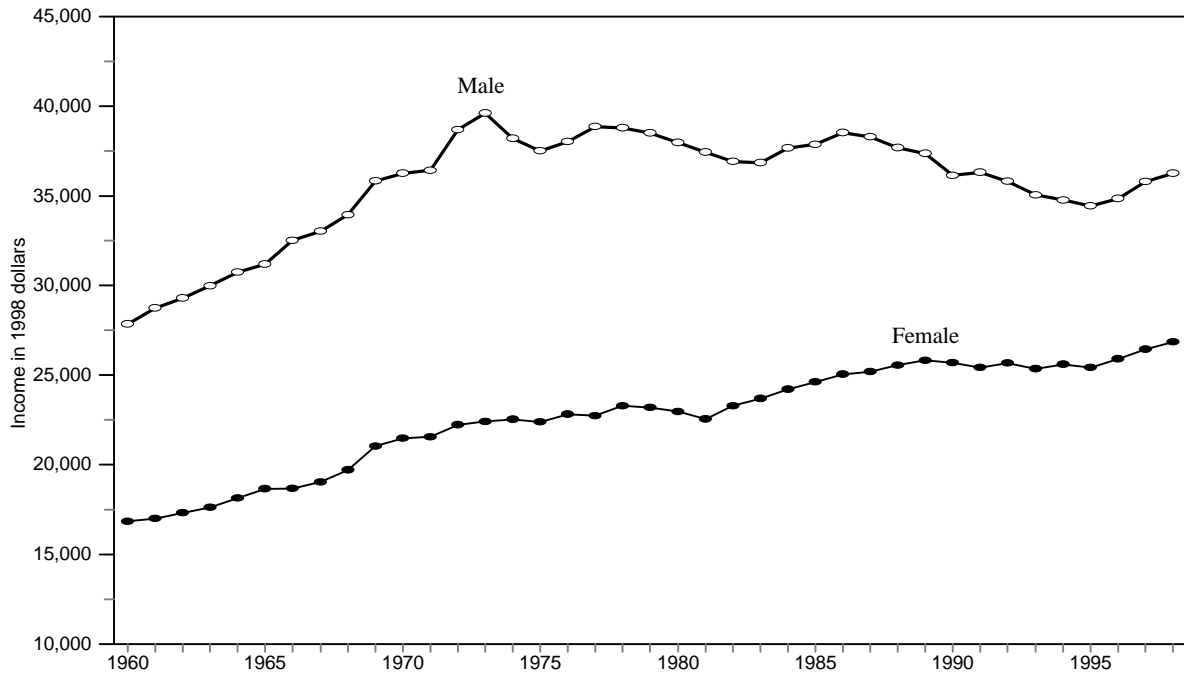
- Until the mid-1970s married couples with the wife in the paid labor force had a median income that ranged from 25 to 30 percent higher than those where the wife was not in the paid labor force. Since then the gap has widened steadily and now stands at better than 70 percent.

Figure 11.1. –Median Income of Married Couples, by Wife’s Work Status: 1947 – 1998



Source: See Table 11.

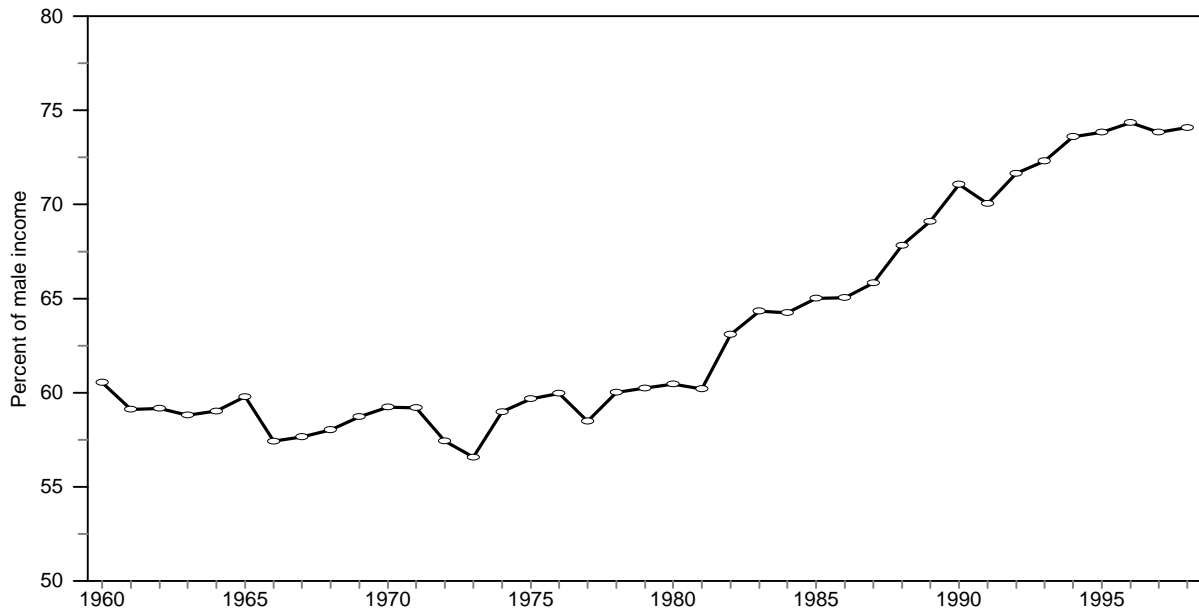
Figure 11.2. –Median Money Earnings of Year-Round, Full-Time Workers, by Sex



Source: See Table 11.

- The gap between median earnings of women and men who work year-round, full-time has narrowed substantially since 1973 when male earnings peaked and began trending downward. The upward trend of women’s earnings was interrupted in the early 1980s by recession and again during the entire first half of the 1990s but resumed an upward trend in the late 1990s. The ratio now stands at 74 percent, up from a low of 57 percent in 1973.

Figure 11.3. –Ratio of Female to Male Median Earnings for Year-Round, Full-Time Workers



Source: See Table 11.

Table 12. –Poverty Rates by Age and Sex and Families with Children: 1960 – 1999

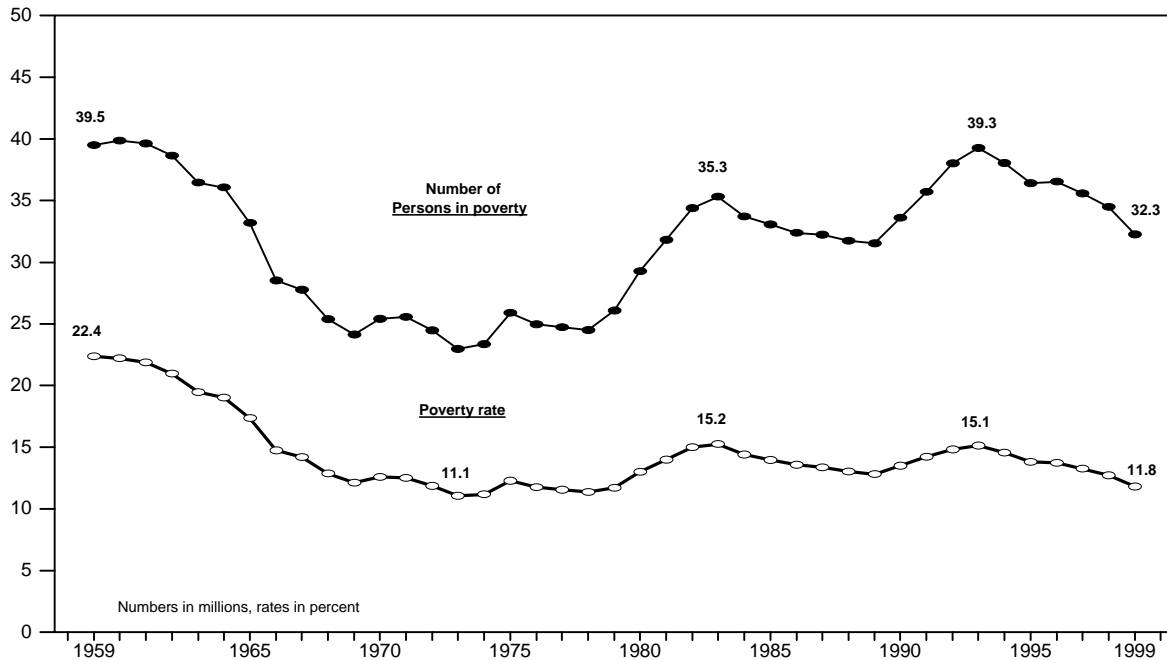
	All persons	Under 18	18-64	65 & over	All persons in families	Unrelated individuals	Married Couples with children	Female-headed household children	Male-headed household children	Female	Male
1960	22.2	26.9	–	–	20.7	45.2	–	56.3	–	–	–
1965	17.3	21.0	17.0	35.2	15.8	39.8	–	52.2	–	–	–
1970	12.6	15.1	9.0	24.6	10.9	32.9	–	43.8	–	14.0	11.1
1975	12.3	17.1	9.2	15.3	10.9	25.1	7.2	44.0	11.7	13.8	10.7
1980	13.0	18.3	10.1	15.7	11.5	22.9	7.7	42.9	18.0	14.7	11.2
1985	14.0	20.7	11.3	12.6	12.6	21.5	8.9	45.4	17.1	15.6	12.3
1990	13.5	20.6	10.7	12.2	12.0	20.7	7.8	44.5	18.8	15.2	11.7
1992	14.8	22.3	11.9	12.9	13.3	21.9	8.6	46.2	22.5	16.6	12.9
1994	14.5	21.8	11.9	11.7	13.1	21.5	8.3	44.0	22.6	16.3	12.8
1995	13.8	20.8	11.4	10.5	12.3	20.9	7.5	41.5	19.7	15.4	12.2
1996	13.7	20.5	11.4	10.8	12.2	20.8	7.5	41.9	20.0	15.4	12.0
1997	13.3	19.9	10.9	10.5	11.6	20.8	7.1	41.0	18.7	14.9	11.6
1998	12.7	18.9	10.5	10.5	11.2	19.9	6.9	38.7	16.6	14.3	11.1
1999	11.8	16.9	10.0	9.7	10.2	19.1	6.3	35.7	16.2	13.2	10.3

Note: Children refers to all related children.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, “Poverty in the United States, 1999,” P60-210, September 2000.

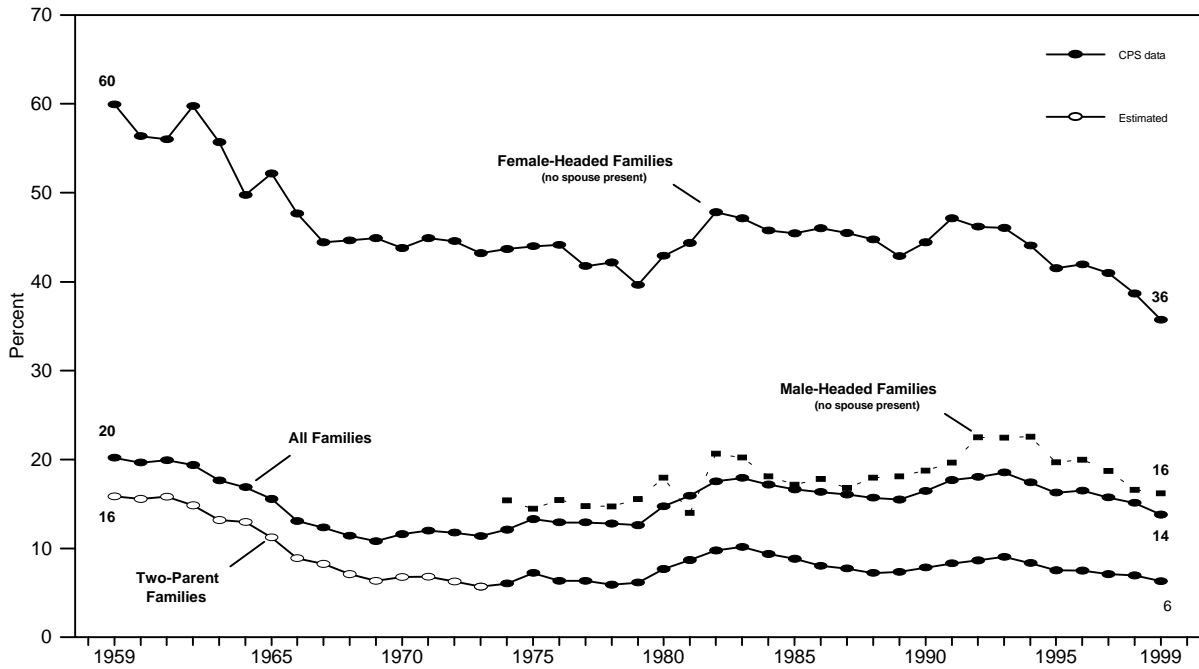
- The poverty rates for those 65 and over and for female-headed households with children reached record lows in 1999. From 1993 to 1999, the number of persons in poverty has declined by 7 million, an 18 percent decrease.

Figure 12.1. –Number in Poverty and Poverty Rate in the United States: 1959 – 1999



Source: See Table 12.

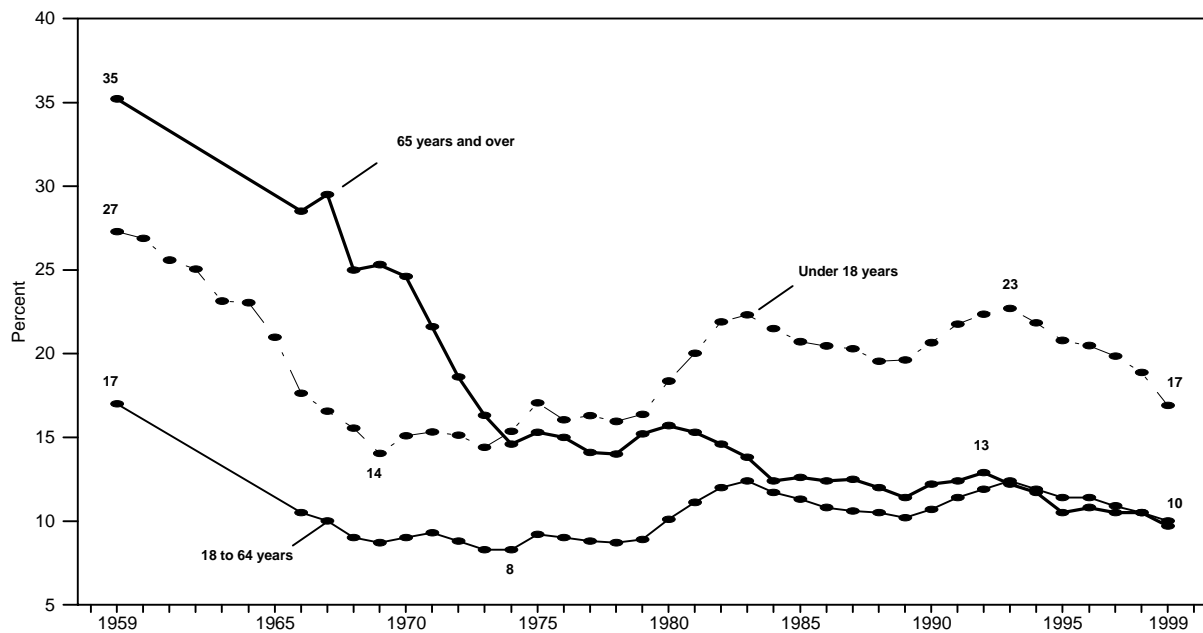
Figure 12.2. –Poverty Rates of Families with Related Children under 18



Source: See Table 12.

- The poverty rates for female-headed households with children have been 5 to 7 times those of married couples with children for the last 25 years.

Figure 12.3. –Poverty Rates in the United States by Age: 1959 – 1999



Source: See Table 12.

*The worst and best are both inclined
To snap like vixens at the truth;
But, o, beware the middle mind
That purrs and never shows a tooth!*

Elinor Wylie
Nonsense Rhyme

Section VII: Attitudinal Trends

Women have influenced their time in history in both subtle and overt ways. In this section, we will examine a variety of areas where attitudes are more indicative of trends than data.¹

Women and Politics: Although American women did not attain universal suffrage until passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920, women were interested and active in the public arena to one degree or another from the earliest days of the Republic.

In March, 1776, while John Adams was serving as a delegate to the Continental Congress, his wife, Abigail, urged him only half-seriously in a letter to “remember the ladies” when fashioning a “new code of laws” for the fledgling nation:

[I]n the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.

That your sex are naturally tyrannical is a truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute; but such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up the harsh title of master for the more tender and endearing one of friend. Why, then, not put it out of the power of the vicious and the lawless to use us with cruelty and indignity with impunity. Men of sense in all ages abhor those customs, which treat us only as the vassals of your sex.²

John Adams’ response reveals that, although he was among those who had “willingly [given] up the harsh title of master for the more tender and endearing one of friend,” he did not seriously entertain her proposal to explicitly address the rights of women in the Declaration of Independence. The exchange also reveals that one of the most prominent of America’s “Founding Mothers,” far from being unaware or uninterested in politics, desired that women have a stake in the new nation.

Women and Revolution: Women have been active in public life throughout American history. During the Revolutionary War, for example, they supported the troops by providing clothing and other supplies, and they organized boycotts of British goods. For example, on October 25, 1774, in Edenton, North Carolina, a group of 51 ladies, in response to the British government’s refusal to lift the tax on tea, held what has become known as the “Edenton Tea Party.” They drank tea made from a local plant and signed a pledge declaring, “We, the Ladys of Edenton, do hereby solemnly engage not to conform to the Pernicious Custom of Drinking Tea,” and that “We, the aforesaid Ladys will not promote ye wear of any manufacture from England until such time that all acts which tend to enslave our Native country shall be repealed.”³ The incident was depicted in British news accounts accompanied by a very unflattering cartoon of the “Ladys of Edenton.”

Women and Social Movements: Throughout the 19th century women were active in various social movements that altered the political landscape of America, including the Abolitionist Movement, the movement for free public education, and the movement to create better working conditions for men and women and to pass child labor laws. Women did, in fact, have the right to vote in certain limited cases even before the 19th century, and several states granted women the right to vote in school board elections.⁴

Women and Voting: Even after passage of the 19th Amendment, women did not immediately begin voting in large numbers, though women who reached voting age after 1920 were more likely to vote than older women.⁵ Voter turnout was lower among women than men in every presidential election until 1980, when pollsters began to detect what has become known as a “gender gap.” In every presidential election since then, voter turnout has been higher among women than among men.⁶

Differences among men and women with respect to party preference also began to emerge in the early 1980’s. According to Gallup Poll data, in 1981, for example, the Democrats held a 19 percentage point lead over Republicans among women, compared with only 12 percentage points among men.⁷ Women have been more likely ever since to support Democrats than Republicans.⁸

In 1996, President Clinton received 54 percent of the women’s vote, compared with Dole’s 38 percent and Ross Perot’s 7 percent. Among men, the difference between Clinton (43 percent) and Dole (44 percent) was marginal. (Perot received 10 percent of the male vote.) Further, Clinton received a *majority* of the women’s vote in every age group.⁹

The gender gap is most pronounced among men and women who are college educated. In the 1992 election, 52 percent of college-educated women leaned Democratic, whereas 51 percent of college-educated men preferred Republicans. Among men and women with no college, both men and women leaned Democratic, but the gender gap was insignificant.¹⁰

Although the voting patterns of American women as a group do differ from those of American men as a group, a closer look at the numbers reveals more subtle divisions among women, especially when it comes to married vs. single women. Married women are more likely to vote for Republicans, while single women tend to vote for Democrats.¹¹ Feminists have used the gender gap very effectively to persuade politicians to address “women’s issues,” as defined by feminists. But there is often a disconnect between this definition and that of the average American woman about what constitutes “women’s issues.”

Women and Feminism: Despite the claims of women who call themselves “feminists” to speak for American women as a whole, most American women are not particularly comfortable with the title. Part of the explanation may be the lack of consensus about the very meaning of the term, but many women simply do not find any common ground between their lives and the agenda of radical feminist groups like the National Organization for Women.

In her book, *Feminism is Not the Story of My Life*, Elizabeth Fox-Genovese puts it this way:

The story of a woman’s life lies at the core of the discomfort with feminism, because most women still hope to fit their new gains at work and in the public world into some version of the story of marriage and family that they have inherited from their mothers. Thus, many women who shudder at the mounting reports of sexual abuse and violence against women favor a strengthening of marriage and family rather than an increase in sexual permissiveness. And the growing numbers of working mothers especially worry about what is happening to children in a world in which most mothers work

outside the home. Women who still see marriage and children as central to their sense of themselves have retreated from feminism because they do not believe that feminists care about the problems that most concern them or because they believe that feminists favor policies they cannot support, such as abortion, affirmative action, or women in combat.¹²

In fact, the views of most American women on issues that form the cornerstone of the radical feminist agenda do not follow the feminist line at all.

Women and Abortion: Increased sexual autonomy and unrestricted access to abortion have remained at the heart of feminist orthodoxy since the 1960's, yet the views of most Americans have remained fairly conservative about such matters since the mid-1970's. When the Gallup Organization asked Americans in 1975 if abortions should be "legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances or illegal under all circumstances," about 20 percent of Americans favored either the "legal under any circumstances" or the "illegal under all circumstances" view.

Although in the years since the permissive view (legal under any circumstances) has topped 30 percent in some recent years, the majority of Americans, including a majority of women – has consistently supported the middle view – that abortion should be legal only under certain circumstances. And the number of men and women who favor some restrictions goes up sharply when the discussion turns to abortions performed after the first three months of pregnancy.¹³

In one survey from 1992, some 68 percent of women who fit a "feminist" profile believed that abortion is purely a "matter of personal choice," while only 25 percent of women who fit the "non-feminist" profile held a similar position. Similarly, only 5 percent of "feminist" women versus 21 percent of "non-feminist" women believed that abortion "should never be permitted."¹⁴

Women and Sexual Freedom: Remarkably, despite the overwhelming increase in sexual permissiveness during the 1970's and 1980's, women's attitudes about premarital sex have not reflected the feminist vision of radical sexual individualism, either. When asked, "Do you think it is wrong for people to have sex relations before marriage, or not?" exactly the same majority—53 percent of American women said that it was "wrong" in 1973 and in 1987.¹⁵ In recent years, however, the percentage of all Americans who say it is "wrong" has dropped to only 40 percent; 56 percent of Americans surveyed in 1998 said it was "not wrong."¹⁶

Women and Work: In 1936, when Gallup first began asking the question, "Should a married woman earn money if she has a husband capable of supporting her?" a solid majority—82 percent of Americans responded, "No."¹⁷ In 1993, when Americans were asked "Do you approve of a married woman holding a job in business or industry if her husband is able to support her?" the percentage of Americans expressing *approval* was even higher—86 percent.¹⁸

It would seem that the question of whether or not women should have a career has long since been put to rest, at least as far as American public opinion is concerned. Yet many American women, especially once they become mothers, struggle with competing demands of home and work, and most wind up feeling caught in a "time crunch" that often leaves them less and less time with their families.

A recent survey of American adults, "Women's Voices 2000," conducted for Lifetime Television and the Center for Policy Alternatives, found that the most often-cited solution to the decline in moral values was spending more time with their children, yet 59 percent of women respondents with children under 6 said it is harder than it was 4 years ago to balance family and work demands. Moreover, this was true of women in every subgroup.¹⁹

The standard feminist solution to the problem of competing work and family demands is expanded access to “quality, affordable child care.” The reasoning goes that, if only women had access to quality professional day care, they would feel free to leave their children with caring, qualified professionals and expand their professional horizons unencumbered by the guilt of leaving their children with someone else. Further, in the feminist model of quality childcare, the burden for seeing to it that good day care is available falls heavily – even primarily – on the government.

Yet for a majority of working parents, though childcare is often a necessity, it is not their first choice when it comes to what they regard as best for their children. This was what the nonprofit organization Public Agenda found recently when it conducted a survey of working parents on the subject.

Labor Department statistics indicate that almost two-thirds of mothers with preschool children worked at least part time in 1997, in contrast to 80 percent of mothers who stayed home with their children in 1960.²⁰ Yet the Public Agenda report, “Necessary Compromises,” found that parents still believe that having a parent stay at home with young children is the best possible arrangement for the care and development of young children. Where this isn’t possible, most parents said that care by a close relative is the next best solution. Moreover, a majority of parents surveyed believe that they should bear most of the responsibility for childcare. Only 22 percent believe that the government should bear this responsibility. And 74 percent of parents believe that they should foot the bill for childcare as well.²¹

In short, parents believe they are best equipped to impart a sense of moral values to their children. Deborah Wadsworth, President of Public Agenda, puts it this way:

...[P]arents talked again and again about their desire to raise “good kids,” and their need to arm their child against a world filled with casual temptations, careless role models, and dangers that seemed a distant threat to previous generations. To do this – to implant the values, the moral sensibilities, and the sense of self-respect they believe their children need – they trust no one as much as themselves.²²

Women and Religion: One of the most enduring subjects of public opinion polls over the past few decades has been the religious beliefs of Americans, and most polls tend to indicate that an extremely high number of Americans believe in God. In fact virtually all Americans answer yes to the question whether they “believe in God or a universal spirit.”

The figure was 96 percent in 1996, according to Gallup’s Princeton Religious Research Center, and this percentage has changed little in half a century.²³

According to a number of other broad measures, religious faith in America appears to be alive and well:²⁴

- 9 in 10 Americans say they have never doubted the existence of God.
- 8 in 10 believe in a Judgment Day.
- 8 in 10 believe God still works miracles
- 7 in 10 believe in life after death
- Weekly attendance rates for religious services in America have remained relatively stable over the past 30 years, hovering around 40 percent since about the late 1960’s.
- Bible reading appears to have made a comeback in recent years fueled, apparently, by greater commitment among blacks, low-income individuals, and men.²⁵
- Slightly more than half of adults (54 percent) give money to a church in any given month, including 61 percent of adults over 55.²⁶

On the other hand, by some other measures, America's spiritual health may not be as robust as it could be:

- Americans who describe religion as "very important" in their lives declined from 75 percent in 1952 to 54 percent in 1987.²⁷
- The percentage of Americans who express absolute certitude about the existence of God has declined in recent years from 87 to 72 percent in the period from 1952 to 1996, according to one measure.²⁸
- Church attendance rates, though relatively stable over the long term, have declined since the early 1990's from about 50 percent to about 40 percent.²⁹
- Despite the emergence of the Christian men's movement in recent years, by a number of measures – church and Sunday school attendance, Bible reading and church volunteerism – men's overall involvement in the church has declined in recent years.³⁰

Men & Women: By several measures, American women tend to be more involved in church life than men, serving as the "backbone" of the American church:³¹ Leon Podles' *The Feminization of the Church*, laments this over-dependence upon women and sees the trend as ominous and self-perpetuating – as the church becomes more feminine and seems to repudiate masculinity, he believes it increasingly will be less appealing to boys and men.

- Women are 29 percent more likely than men to attend church services in any given week.
- Women are 33 percent more likely to volunteer at a church.
- Women are 57 percent more likely to participate in adult Sunday school.
- Women are 56 percent more likely to disciple others.
- Women are 23 percent more likely to read the Bible.

A recent survey by Barna³² shows the importance of women to the spiritual climate of the United States. Nearly half (48 percent) of all women in the U.S. report that they are "born again" and 9 out of 10 identify themselves as Christian (compared to 83 percent of men who say that they are). This means that while most (9 out of 10) Protestant churches and all Catholic churches are headed by a male senior pastor, the congregations are overwhelmingly female and these women are shouldering the day-to-day church responsibilities (teaching classes, discipleship, leadership, etc). There are disturbing cracks in women's undergirding of the church. Burnout among women is becoming a major problem and over the past year, Barna reports that there has been a 21 percent decline in the percentage of women who volunteer to help. At the same time, personal Bible study has increased and nearly 90 percent of women profess being "deeply spiritual."

¹ The author expresses appreciation to Heide Trask Wood, BLI's Research Fellow, who researched this section of the report.

² Miriam Schneir, ed., *Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings* (New York: Vintage Books, 1972), 3-4.

³ *Edenton, N.C.* - pamphlet (Edenton, N.C.: Chowan Herald Print, 1937).

⁴ M. Margaret Conway, Gertrude A. Steuernagel and David W. Ahern, *Women and Political Participation: Cultural Change in the Political Arena* (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 1997), 8-9.

⁵ Conway, 8.

⁶ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, *Voting and Registration in the Election of November, 1992*, Series P-20, no. 466, Table A; and Bureau of the Census, *Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1996*, Series P-20, no. 504, Table 1.

⁷ *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion 1982* (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, Inc.: 1982), analysis by Andrew Kohut, President, The Gallup Organization, Inc., 35.

⁸ Barbara Norrander, "The Evolution of the Gender Gap," *Public Opinion Quarterly* 63 (Winter 1999): 566+.

⁹ Exit polls reported in "Portrait of the Electorate," *New York Times*, November 10, 1996, 16, cited in Conway, 139.

¹⁰ *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion 1992*, Survey #GO 322010, July 24-26, 134-135.

¹¹ Charlotte Hays, "Showdown at Gender Gap: Guys and Gals and Votin'," *The Women's Quarterly*, Spring 2000.

¹² Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, *Feminism is Not the Story of My Life: How Today's Feminist Elite Has Lost Touch with the Real Concerns of Women* (New York: Doubleday, 1996), 16-17.

¹³ *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion 1975*, Survey 927-K, April 4-7; *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion 1980*, Survey 159-G, July 11-14; *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion 1988*, Special Telephone Survey; *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion 1992*, Survey GO 222035, January 16-19.

¹⁴ Conway, 69; Table 4-4, calculated from data in the 1992 American National Election Study.

¹⁵ *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion 1973*, Survey 874-K, July 6-9; *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion 1987*, Survey 287-G, July 10-13.

¹⁶ *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion 1998*, Survey GO124977 (CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll), Nov. 20-22.

¹⁷ *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion 1936*, Survey 45, August 3-8.

¹⁸ *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion 1993*, Survey GO 422008 (CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll), August 23-25.

¹⁹ "Women's Voices 2000," A project of the Center for Policy Alternatives and Lifetime TV, Lake Snell Perry & Associates, American Viewpoint, Linda Faye Williams of the University of Maryland at College Park, and Insight Research (September, 2000), 4, 6, and 11.

²⁰ "Survey Finds Parents Don't Trust Day Care," *Washington Post* (Reuters report) 8/23/00, A2.

²¹ Steve Farkas, Ann Duffett and Jean Johnson, etc., "Necessary Compromises: How Parents, Employers and Children's Advocates View Child Care Today" (New York: Public Agenda, Aug. 2000), 10-13.

²² "Necessary Compromises," 39.

²³ George Bishop, "Americans' Belief in God," *Public Opinion Quarterly* 63 (Fall 1999): 421+.

²⁴ George Gallup, Jr. and Jim Castelli, *The People's Religion: American Faith in the 1990's* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1989), 3-4, 31.

²⁵ "The State of the Church, 2000," Report by Barna Research Group Ltd., Ventura, California, posted on Barna Research Online website, March 21, 2000.

²⁶ "The State of the Church, 2000."

²⁷ Gallup and Castelli, 36. According to more recent reports from the Barna Research Group, however, two thirds of Americans say that their faith is very important to them (Barna, 2000).

²⁸ This question was first asked in a survey conducted by Ben Gaffin and Associates in 1952. The question was asked again in 1965 by Gallup in a survey sponsored by *Catholic Digest*, and again in 1996 by Princeton Survey Research Associates in a survey sponsored by the Pew Research Center. However, another long-term trend that reported the number of Americans who said they "never doubt the existence of God" went up from 60 percent in 1987 to 71 percent in 1997, according to a report by the Pew Research Center. (Bishop, 1999)

²⁹ Barna, 2000.

³⁰ Barna, 2000.

³¹ "Women Are the Backbone of the Christian Congregations in America," Report by Barna Research Group Ltd., Ventura, California, posted on Barna Research Online website, March 6, 2000.

³² Barna, 2000.

Section VIII: Historical Events

	Cultural	Political/Legal	Economic	Other
1900-1950	<p>Carry Nation, one of first women activists – wages campaign against saloons</p> <p>American Boy Scouts founded–1910</p> <p>American Girl Scouts founded –1912</p> <p>Kinsey Report published–1948</p>	<p>The 19th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified guaranteeing women the right to vote–1920</p> <p>Nellie Taylor Ross elected as the first woman governor–1924</p> <p>The Equal Pay for Equal Work bill is introduced To Congress –1945</p>	<p>Depression and financial panic started–1907</p> <p>Stock Market crash–1929</p> <p>Great Depression 25% unemployment–1932</p> <p>Gold standard abandoned–1933</p> <p>National minimum wage –1938</p>	<p>First successful flight–1903</p> <p>The first telephone talk–1915</p> <p>The first sound-on-film motion picture–1923</p> <p>First atomic bomb–1945</p>
1950s	<p>Montgomery bus boycott–1956</p> <p>Rock & Roll music takes a hold in the late 1950s</p> <p>Suburban population increased 44% during the 50s.</p> <p>The first lesbian organization founded–1955</p>	<p>Segregation banned–1954</p> <p>Interstate Highway System begun–1956</p> <p>Civil Rights Commission Set up –1958</p> <p>The number of men And women voting is equal for the first time–1957</p>	<p>Recession–1953-54 6% unemployment</p> <p>Recession–1958-59 7.5% unemployment</p> <p>Micro-chip–1959</p> <p>Photocopier–1959</p> <p>Mainframe computer use by business spreads</p>	<p>Pocket-sized transistor radios developed–1952</p> <p>Television broadcasting became nationwide–1952</p> <p>Jet air travel began</p> <p>Baby boom peaked–1957</p>
1960s	<p>Rachael Carson's <i>Silent Spring</i> launches Environmental movement–1962</p> <p><i>The Feminine Mystique</i> by Betty Friedan–1963</p> <p>Mini skirts spread from England to U.S.–1965</p> <p>Woodstock–1969</p>	<p>School Prayer banned–1963</p> <p>Vietnam War–1964-73</p> <p>NOW founded–1966</p> <p>Endangered Species Act–1967</p> <p>Truth in Lending Act–1968</p>	<p>Recession–1960-61 7% unemployment</p> <p>Typewriter–1961</p> <p>Microwave oven–1967</p> <p>Pampers introduced–1968</p> <p>Recession–1969-70 7% unemployment</p>	<p>Birth Control pills approved for marketing in the United States–1961</p> <p>Griswold v. Connecticut, Supreme Court overturns state laws prohibiting the prescription or use of contraceptives by married couples</p>

Note: Sharon Couchoud provided research assistance for this compilation of landmark events.

	Cultural	Political/Legal	Economic	Other
1970s	<p>Spread of no-fault divorce</p> <p>The National Black Feminist Organization–1973</p> <p>The National Association of Working Women–1973</p> <p>Concerned Women for America–1978</p>	<p>Clean Air Act–1970</p> <p>New York liberalized Its abortion law–1970</p> <p>Roe v. Wade abortion legalized–1973</p>	<p>Wage and Price Controls–1971</p> <p>Federal Express–1972</p> <p>Recession–1973-75 9% unemployed 12% inflation</p> <p>2nd oil price hike–1978-79 14% inflation</p>	<p>The United Nations "Decade for Women" begins–1976</p> <p>CAT scanners introduced– 1974</p> <p>Word processors–1974</p> <p>Walkman portable radio introduced–1979</p>
1980s	<p>Political Correctness spreads through American Universities</p> <p>AIDS epidemic hits U.S.</p> <p>Testing of the abortifacient RU486 begins in France & China in 86'and is approved in 88'</p>	<p>Sandra Day O'Conner, first woman appointed to the Supreme Court–1981</p> <p>Surgeon General's report On smoking–1982</p> <p>The Supreme Court rules sexual harrassment illegal in workplace–1986</p>	<p>Recession–1980 8% unemployment 12.4% inflation</p> <p>Cellular phones–1983</p> <p>Macintosh computer</p> <p>Compact disc–1985</p> <p>Stock market crashes largest one-day loss in history–1987</p>	<p>MRI machines–1982</p> <p>Space shuttle Challenger explodes killing entire crew–1985</p> <p>FDIC takes over 80% of Continental Illinois Bank assuming a record of \$4.5 billion of loans–1985</p>
1990s	<p>Christian Coalition develops into a strong political force</p> <p>Allegations of sexual harassment are the focus of the Senate confirmation hearing of Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas–1991</p> <p>The Supreme Court rules that college athletic programs must actively involve equal numbers of men and women to qualify for federal support</p> <p>Senate fails to convict President Clinton on either of the two articles of impeachment–1999</p>	<p>Congress adopts the Gender Equity in Education Act</p> <p>Americans with Disabilities Act–1990</p> <p>A record number of women run for public office and win in 1993 20.4% of state legislators; 3 governors, 11 lieutenant governors, 8 attorneys general, 13 secretaries of state, 19 state treasurers. 6 women in Senate, 48 in the House</p>	<p>Recession –1990 8% unemployment</p> <p>Dow declines 634 points July-October–1990</p> <p>Gulf War–1991</p> <p>NATO bombs Serbia over ethnic cleansing in Kosova–1999</p>	<p>Internet expands Dramatically</p> <p>U.S. prisons have 1.3 million inmates twice as many in 1980</p> <p>U.S. women attain success in Olympics</p>

Section IX: Conclusion

The American writer and poet, Angela Morgan, wrote about the promise of the 20th century. In the poem we quote on page 70, she interpreted the signals to mean that women would “rise” to their appropriate place of status and significance. For her, that place was “nobler.” The goal, then, at the outset of the century was for women to rise to a nobler position.

As we reviewed the century through the analysis of data, tracking the important trends for women, we kept coming back to the central question: Are women today stronger and more noble? Have all our strivings and progress during this phenomenal century made us better women? Certainly, we are, on the whole, healthier; we live longer and remain in better health into old age. We have more professional degrees, and we make more money. But, we are still burning out too often, and our freedom and independence has come at a high cost in terms of connectedness – the biggest price women have paid is in the area of marriage and family.

Early on, feminism promised “free” sex. It also promised careers without consequences for children. Many women have found that they’ve paid an exorbitant price tag for both. The “free” sex brought on a scourge of sexually transmitted diseases, abortion, cohabitation and disconnectedness. Others have found their jobs to be an unbearable burden, and, too often, the fast track has turned into an out-of-control treadmill.

One fascinating finding of the report is that some women are refusing to have their children and families pay the price of their careers any longer. The trend in women’s employment status has currently taken a downward turn – the first such dip this century in times of prosperity (previous drops were in the early 1970s and 1980s, both times of recession) – and there is a corresponding increase in the number of women not in the labor force. This trend appears to be a matter of women choosing to stay at home, since the economy is such that women who want to work can find jobs.

Some spirituality is taking the form of paganism, Wicca, goddess worship, New Age and the like. But, the majority of American women are strengthening their faith through studying the Bible and worshipping God.

The promise of the 21st century rests on whether America reverses the disintegration of the family. We are fast approaching a point of no return with growing numbers of single parent families. The restoration of marriage and the family is no longer a luxury that would be nice; it is a necessity for the survival of American civil society. It is necessary for the future well-being of America’s women and children. The task is too big to be handled merely with secular resources; it will also take faith-based approaches and men and women of faith. Even many secular pundits are acknowledging that America needs a true spiritual revival. There can be no more important lesson for the women of the 21st century than this message that is such a clarion call from our *Profile of American Women in the Twentieth Century*.

The signals of the century

Proclaim the things

that are to be –

The rise of woman to her place,

The coming of a nobler race.

Angela Morgan
American writer and poet

Janice Shaw Crouse, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, The Beverly LaHaye Institute

After serving in the White House as a George Bush Presidential Speechwriter, Janice built her own company, Crouse Communications, a political analysis and public relations firm serving organizations in the United States and throughout the world. In 1999 she accepted the challenge of launching the Beverly LaHaye Institute.

A recognized authority on presidential communication, cultural, family and women's issues, Dr. Crouse's editorials, columns and articles have appeared in major newspapers, journals and magazines. She is also a frequent public speaker addressing conference, college, community, business and civic audiences. She drafted and edited *The Christian Women's Declaration* now in its eighth printing and endorsed by hundreds of women from across the nation and across denominations. She has been featured in articles in various media: *Christianity Today*, *Marriage Partnership*, and *The Washington Times*. Several of her speeches have been published in *Vital Speeches of the Day*, and she has been interviewed or has appeared as a commentator on numerous radio and television programs.

Dr. Crouse's academic roots run deep. She was Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Taylor University and professor and debate coach at Ball State University and Asbury College. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees at Asbury College. She is also on the Board of Directors for Good News. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Task Force to Combat Violence Against Women and the Task Force Against Sexual Trafficking of Women. She edited and produced the *Jubilee Appeal*, an evangelical declaration, and position papers on the major issues on the agenda of the Eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Harare, Zimbabwe. In addition, she helped lead a 6-member team of evangelicals at the WCC Festival and Assembly in Harare.

In addition to directing the Beijing Project of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, which sent a 9-member team to the 1995 Fourth United Nations' World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, she edited and produced the *Beijing Bulletin*, a daily report on the conference, and the *Re-Imagining Rebuttal* (a critique of the 1995 Re-Imagining event in Minneapolis) and the *Jubilee Journal* (a critique of the WCC-Harare Assembly). She is a contributing author for *Essential Practices*, writer of the chapter on "Faith." At BLI she has covered United Nations conferences and the major political conventions by writing commentaries, available on the web at www.beverlylahayeinstitute.org.

Dr. Crouse has been a recipient of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year and National Leadership awards. She and her husband, Gil, live in the Washington, D.C. area.

The Beverly LaHaye Institute: A Center for Studies in Women's Issues

Founded in May, 1999, the BLI was established to analyze the factors affecting women into the 21st century. Believing in the unity of truth, the Institute recognizes the power of accurate data and sound analysis to inform and substantiate policy positions. BLI is named in honor of Mrs. Beverly LaHaye, founder and Chairman of the Board for Concerned Women for America (CWA), the nation's largest public policy women's organization. The BLI is the "think tank" and research arm of CWA. Through professional quality research and education, the Beverly LaHaye Institute stands strong in defense of the family and biblical values. To these ends, the Institute will:

- Conduct basic and applied research that will help preserve and strengthen America's families
- Sponsor policy forums where experts will discuss issues relevant to women and families
- Analyze social science behavioral research and data to highlight facts that substantiate Judeo-Christian values and lifestyle principles
- Write and present briefs on relevant issues confronting legislative bodies
- Write and disseminate opinion editorials and press releases about contemporary issues
- Provide literature reviews and annotated bibliographies
- Build and maintain a web site providing research and information to the public
- Provide family and cultural indicators
- Compile social and demographic data
- Publish position papers, reports and monographs
- Provide commentary on relevant issues for media and other public forums

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