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FERTILITY INDICATORS: 1970

- Birth rates
- Cohort fertility
- Age structure and marital status
- Fertility by social and economic characteristics
- Childspacing
- Illegitimacy
- Birth expectations

U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE
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the Census

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Fertility Indicators: 1970

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to draw together statistics from various sources to provide the user with a convenient and comprehensive portrayal of trends and differentials in fertility in the United States. These sources include the Bureau of the Census, the National Center for Health Statistics, and privately conducted surveys.

The focus in this report is on trends and differentials in fertility during the last decade; however, in some tables, time series extending back 50 years are shown to provide perspective.

Because the measures of fertility used in the report and the interpretation of these measures may not be familiar to the reader, the tables in each section are preceded by a brief discussion of methodology.

Following is a summary of the major trends and differentials in fertility in the United States:

1. **Recent trends in fertility.** In 1969 and 1970 the number of births increased slightly after having declined each year from 1961 to 1968. In 1968, birth rates reached their lowest levels in the past 25 years. During the past decade, the annual birth rates for white women and women of Negro and other races have declined at about the same rate.

It now appears that women born in the early 1930's will complete their childbearing with the highest fertility since women born in the 1880's. Women born in the late 1940's are starting childbearing at a much slower pace than women who were born 10 years earlier, although it is not yet apparent whether the decline reflects changes in the timing of childbearing or changes in eventual completed family size. Both factors may be involved.

2. **Age structure and marital status.** At present (and for another decade to come), the age structure is becoming more favorable to fertility because the small birth cohorts of the Depression have already passed through the prime childbearing ages and are being replaced with the larger birth cohorts born following the Second World War. The annual number of marriages has increased rapidly during the past few years as these "baby-boom" cohorts have entered the young adult ages. After reaching low points in the late 1950's, the median ages at first marriage for men and women have increased slightly during the past decade.

3. **Fertility by social and economic characteristics.** Among ever-married women who have nearly completed childbearing (women 35 to 44 years old), Negroes have higher fertility than whites. While a larger percentage of Negro women are childless, a much larger percentage have had five or more children.

Fertility is higher among women living on farms than among women living elsewhere and is lower in metropolitan areas than in nonmetropolitan areas. Fertility is no longer higher in the South than in the remainder of the Nation.

There is an inverse relation between fertility and female labor force participation and between fertility and family income. Wives of white-collar workers have lower fertility than wives of blue-collar workers.

There is a sharp inverse relation between fertility and educational attainment. Women with only an elementary school education on the average have about one child more than women with a college education. The levels of fertility among white women and Negro women who have completed high school are about the same.

4. **Childspacing.** Between the late 1940's and early 1960's, the median number of months between first marriage and first birth and between first birth and second birth declined as women stepped up the pace of their childbearing. (Data for the late 1960's are not yet available.) The interval between first marriage and first birth is longer among women with some college education than among women who did not complete high school.

5. **Birth expectations.** Between 1955 and 1967, the average number of total children expected by white wives declined slightly suggesting that the recent decline in fertility among young women reflects more than just a change in the timing pattern of fertility. Among wives in the middle childbearing ages (25 to 34), the percent of expected children already born and the percent of wives expecting no more births increased between 1955 and 1967.

On the average, young Negro wives expect to have about the same total number of children as white wives; however, given the much higher fertility to date of these young Negro wives, their expectations may be unrealistically low.

6. **Illegitimacy.** During the 1960's, the number of illegitimate births increased steadily; however, the increase was due more to the rapid increase in the number of unmarried women in the childbearing ages than to the increase in the rate of illegitimacy among these women. The illegitimacy rate among Negro and other races has declined during the past decade, but is still several times as high as the white rate. At present, more than one-quarter of all births of Negro and other races are illegitimate.

7. **Contraception and attitudes toward abortion.** The proportion of white wives 18 to 39 years old who had ever used contraception increased between 1955 and 1965. At the latter date, the proportion of wives who had ever used contraception was slightly lower among wives of Negro and other races than among white wives. Within a decade of its introduction, oral contraception had become the most popular method; however, only about one-quarter of all wives in the childbearing ages who had ever used contraception had used oral contraception most recently.

In 1965, the majority of wives under age 55 approved of abortion when pregnancy seriously endangered a woman's health, but disapproved of abortion if the only reason was that a couple did not want any more children. In general, wives with some college education were more favorable toward abortion than wives with an elementary or high school education.

SOURCES AND RELIABILITY OF THE DATA

Sources of data. The estimates are based on data obtained from the censuses of the population; Current Population Surveys; the Survey of Economic Opportunity; vital statistics reports; unpublished data from the National Center for Health Statistics; and several nongovernmental sources. A complete list of the references is given in the section, "References for Tables."

Data for 1969 from the Current Population Survey are based on a sample spread over 449 areas comprising 863 counties and independent cities with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 50,000 occupied households are eligible for interview each month. Of this number, 2,250 occupied units, on the average, are visited but interviews are not obtained because the occupants are not found at home after repeated calls or are unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 50,000, there are also about 8,500 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be interviewed.

For the 1965 data, the CPS sample was interviewed in 357 sample areas comprising 701 counties and independent cities. Approximately 35,000 occupied households were eligible for interview each month. Of this number, 1,500 occupied units on the average were visited but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were not found at home after repeated

calls or were unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 35,000, there were also about 5,000 sample units in an average month which were found to be vacant or otherwise not to be enumerated.

The estimating procedure used in the Current Population Survey involves the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates are based on statistics from the previous decennial census of population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces. To these figures were added the members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post, and the institutional population.

The 1967 Survey of Economic Opportunity sample was interviewed in the same areas as the 1965 CPS sample, but the sample selected within these areas differed in size and composition. Approximately 29,000 occupied households were eligible for interview. Of this number, about 2,500 of the occupied units were visited but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were not found at home after repeated calls or were unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 29,000, there are also about 6,000 sample units which were visited but were found to be vacant or otherwise not to be interviewed. The sample was selected to have a disproportionately large sample of Negroes. The weights applied to each sample case were adjusted to reflect this. This sampling procedure results in more reliable estimates for Negroes but at the expense of reduced reliability for estimates for all races and for whites.

Vital statistics data are provided by the National Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. These data are drawn from a number of published and unpublished studies, some of which are based on samples and some on complete counts of vital statistics records. The data in table 23 from the Monthly Vital Statistics Report are based on a 0.1 percent sample of birth records; all other data from the Monthly Vital Statistics Reports are based on complete counts.

The appropriate decennial census publications provide descriptions of the sample designs used in the 1950 and 1960 Decennial Censuses. The data in table 11 for the years 1950 and 1960 are from 20 percent and 25 percent samples of these censuses. The 1960 census data in tables 12 through 17 are based on a 5-percent sample.

Reliability of the estimates. Estimates based on a sample may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and of reporting as well as being subject to sampling variability.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability; that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the whole of the population is surveyed. The standard errors on estimated percentages and estimated rates of children ever born are inversely related to the size of the base; that is, the smaller the size of the base, the larger the relative standard error.

The standard errors for data obtained from samples of the decennial censuses and samples of at least 20 percent of vital statistics records are considered unimportant in the evaluation employed in this report. All other sample estimates shown in the report have standard errors which were considered in the analyses. The conclusions stated in this report involving sample data are considered significant at the 95 percent confidence level. To test other findings which may be apparent in these tables, the standard errors should be considered. To find these standard errors, the reader should refer to the publications listed in the section, "References for Tables."

Data obtained from the Current Population Surveys, vital statistics reports, decennial censuses, and from the nongovernmental sources are not entirely comparable. This is due in large part to differences in interviewer training and experience and in the differing survey processes. This is an additional component of error not reflected in the standard error tables.

Nonsampling errors and other limitations. In this report, the term "Negro and other races" is used to describe persons of all races other than white. Data are shown for Negro and other races whenever data for Negroes alone are not available or are not available over the period of time shown.

Generally, statistics for the national population of Negro and other races reflect the condition of the Negro population since about 92 percent of the population of "Negro and other races" is Negro.

In several tables, data are presented for the white and Negro populations but not for all races combined. Here, statistics for the white population tend to reflect the condition of the total population since about 88 percent of the total population is white.

Vital statistics data on births are adjusted for underregistration through 1959 when it was estimated that the percent completeness of birth registration was 98.8 for the total population, 99.3 for whites, and 96.2 for Negro and other races. Vital statistics data include Alaska beginning in 1959 and Hawaii beginning in 1960. The population bases used for the computation of annual birth rates are not adjusted for undercount. It is estimated that in the 1960 census, the enumeration for women 15 to 44 years old was 98.0 percent complete for all races, 98.8 percent complete for whites, and 92.6 percent complete for Negro and other races.¹ Thus, the annual birth rates shown in this report are slightly higher than the rates that would have been obtained if corrected population bases had been used. The data in tables 5, 6, 7, and 19 are based on birth cohorts of women and include estimates of births corrected for underregistration and population bases corrected for undercount.

Among women ever married 14 years old and over in the 1960 census, 6 percent did not report on children ever born. Allocations for nonresponse were made by computer and were based on the responses of women who were similar to the nonreporting women in age and in other selected characteristics. In the Current Population Survey, in which nonresponse rates on children ever born are typically 1 percent to 2 percent, allocations are made in the same way. A content evaluation study of the 1960 census, in which data on children ever born for women not reporting in the census were obtained by reinterview methods, indicated that the allocation procedure worked well.

Never-married women are not asked about their fertility for reasons of public relations. Because of the social stigma attached to illegitimacy, some ever-married women may under-report births occurring before marriage, and some never-married women who have borne children may report themselves as presently or previously married. Comparison with vital statistics data indicates that the errors introduced by these two phenomena generally are small.

Another source of error results from the fact that the number of children ever born is sometimes given incorrectly, particularly by older women. A birth record check following the 1960 census indicated that the net error in the average number of children ever born for all ever-married women is small (overstatements and understatements are largely offsetting).

For a detailed discussion of nonsampling errors in data on children ever born, see Clyde V. Kiser, Wilson H. Grabill, and Arthur A. Campbell, Trends and Variations in Fertility in the United States (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1968), Appendix B.

¹U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, Vol. I, Part 1, table U and table 46.

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I. MEASURES OF PERIOD FERTILITY AND COHORT FERTILITY

Measures of fertility may be grouped into two categories; period measures and cohort measures. Period measures of fertility refer to births occurring in a specified time interval, usually a calendar year. The simplest of the period measures is the crude birth rate, defined as the number of births per year per 1,000 population. The crude birth rate is widely used, but it is unsatisfactory for most demographic analysis because of its lack of specificity: only a small portion of the population can bear children. This situation is recognized in the general fertility rate, defined as the number of births per year per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years old. The choice of ages reflects the fact that over 99 percent of all births in the United States occur to women in this age span. Fertility varies greatly by age, even within the childbearing ages, and thus it is also useful to compute age-specific birth rates for women 15 to 19, 20 to 24, and so on.

While these measures of fertility are useful, they are difficult to relate to family size. This situation is remedied with the total fertility rate (another period measure), defined as the number of births that 1,000 women would have in their lifetime if at each year of age they experienced the birth rates occurring in the specified calendar year. Alternatively, the total fertility rate may be defined as the sum of the age-specific birth rates for women by single years of age. Thus, for example, the total fertility rate of 2,477 in the United States in 1968 means that women experiencing the age-specific fertility rates of 1968 throughout their lifetimes would have an average of just under 2.5 children per woman.

Until the start of the "baby boom" following the Second World War, it was widely believed that period measures provided a complete portrayal of fertility trends. However, it is now understood that period measures alone are inadequate because while they reflect the effects of social and economic conditions on fertility during the short term, they are insensitive to long-term considerations. The likelihood of a woman having a child in any given year is determined not only by present conditions but also by her entire history of childbearing. Thus, for example a woman who in 1947 was age 35 and who had borne one child was much more likely to have had a second birth in the following year than a woman age 35 in 1968.¹ The average woman age 35 in 1968 had lived her adult life during a period of economic prosperity and relative social stability which presented few obstacles to rearing two children. The average woman age 35 in 1947 had lived her adult life during the Depression and the Second World War and thus was more likely to have had only one child. With the return of peace and prosperity in the late 1940's, rearing a second child became feasible for perhaps the first time in her life.

The fertility histories of actual groups of women are portrayed with cohort measures of fertility where a cohort is defined by the occurrence of a specific event in a specific time period. Thus, for example, a demographer might analyze the fertility history of the female birth cohort of 1933. In analyses of cohort fertility, the cumulative fertility of women at various ages and the distribution of women by parity (the number of children ever born) are of particular interest.

¹Unpublished data, National Center for Health Statistics.

The number of births in the United States increased from 3,502,000 in 1968 to 3,718,000 in 1970 following a decline of several years. From 1956 through 1961, the annual number of births exceeded 4.2 million for the only time in the nation's history. The decline between 1961 and 1968 was 18 percent with over half of this decline occurring in the 1964 to 1966 period. In contrast, there was a 75 percent increase in the number of births between the late 1930's, when fertility was abnormally low due to the effects of the Depression, and the late 1950's, when the so-called "baby boom" following the Second World War reached its peak. Prior to this, the decline in the number of births between the early 1920's and the late 1930's was the first sustained decrease in the nation's history.

The crude birth rate increased slightly from 17.5 in 1968 to 18.2 in 1970 after declining 30 percent from 24.9 in the late 1950's. The figure for the 1950's is the highest recorded since the early 1920's and represents a 32 percent increase over the rate of 18.8 in the late 1930's. The crude birth rate of 17.5 in 1968 was the lowest in the nation's history.

Trends in the general fertility rate and total fertility rate have paralleled trends in the crude birth rate during the past 50 years; however, because of changes in the proportion of the population comprised of women in the childbearing ages and changes in the age distribution of females within the 15 to 44 age span, the magnitudes of changes in the three rates have differed somewhat. In 1970, the total fertility rate, which controls best for the effects of changes in age structure on fertility, was about 11 percent higher than it was during the late 1930's.

Table 1. BIRTHS, CRUDE BIRTH RATE, GENERAL FERTILITY RATE, AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATE: FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES 1920 TO 1969 AND SINGLE-YEAR DATA 1960 TO 1970

Year	Births (thousands)	Crude birth rate ¹	General fertility rate ²	Total fertility rate ³
FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES:				
1965-1969 ⁴	3,592	18.2	89.4	⁵ 2,632
1960-1964.....	4,164	22.4	112.2	3,459
1955-1959.....	4,236	24.9	120.6	3,690
1950-1954.....	3,882	24.9	113.0	3,337
1945-1949.....	3,474	24.1	103.1	2,985
1940-1944.....	2,859	21.2	87.6	2,523
1935-1939.....	2,421	18.8	77.4	⁵ 2,235
1930-1934.....	2,453	19.7	82.1	⁵ 2,376
1925-1929.....	2,761	23.2	98.4	⁵ 2,840
1920-1924.....	2,955	26.8	114.1	⁵ 3,248
SINGLE-YEAR DATA:				
1970 ⁴	3,718	18.2	87.6	⁵ 2,472
1969 ⁴	3,571	17.7	85.8	⁵ 2,447
1968.....	3,502	17.5	85.7	2,477
1967.....	3,521	17.8	87.6	2,573
1966.....	3,606	18.4	91.3	2,736
1965.....	3,760	19.4	96.6	2,928
1964.....	4,027	21.0	105.0	3,208
1963.....	4,098	21.7	108.5	3,333
1962.....	4,167	22.4	112.2	3,474
1961.....	4,268	23.3	117.2	3,629
1960.....	4,258	23.7	118.0	3,654
PERCENT CHANGE:				
1955-1959 to 1968.....	-17	-30	-29	-33
1935-1939 to 1955-1959.....	+75	+32	+56	+65
1920-1924 to 1935-1939.....	-18	-30	-32	-31

¹Births per 1,000 population.

²Births, regardless of age of mother, per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years old.

³The number of births that 1,000 women would have in their lifetime if, at each year of age, they experienced the birth rates occurring in the specified calendar year.

⁴Data for 1969 and 1970 are provisional.

⁵Estimated for use in this report. The estimates for 1969 and 1970 assume that the proportionate distribution of 5-year age-specific birth rates in 1968 remained unchanged. This assumption is subject to error, and as a result the apparent small changes in the total fertility rate from 1968 to 1970 do not warrant emphasis.

Between the early 1920's and 1968, births of Negro and other races rose from 13 percent to 17 percent of the national total. Among Negro and other races, the number of births nearly doubled between the early 1930's and the early 1960's and then declined by 11 percent by 1968. Among whites, the decline in the number of births from the peak in the late 1950's to 1968 was 19 percent.

During the past 50 years, the various fertility rates of Negro and other races have been higher than the corresponding rates for whites, although the proportionate differences at any date have differed somewhat depending on which rate is used. In general the differentials in fertility rates increased between the early 1920's and late 1930's, decreased between the late 1930's and late 1940's, and increased again between the late 1940's and late 1950's. Since the late 1950's, these differentials have fluctuated without any pronounced change. There was a slight narrowing of the differentials between 1965 and 1968; however, it is too early to say whether or not this narrowing is the start of a long-term trend.

The differences in fertility between whites and Negro and other races have been discussed in proportionate terms, but they may be considered in absolute terms as well. In this regard, the total fertility rate is most satisfactory; however, the limitations of this measure (mentioned in the introduction to this section) should be kept in mind. In the early 1920's, women of Negro and other races were having children at a rate such as to yield an average of about 0.6 more children per woman than white women were having. This difference changed little through the late 1940's, when it was 0.6 children per woman, but then increased rapidly to a peak of 1.2 in the late 1950's. In 1968 the differential was down to 0.8 children per woman.

Table 2. BIRTHS, CRUDE BIRTH RATE, GENERAL FERTILITY RATE, AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATE, BY RACE: FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES 1920 TO 1964 AND SINGLE-YEAR DATA 1965 TO 1968

Race and year	Births (thousands)	Crude birth rate ¹	General fertility rate ¹	Total fertility rate ¹
WHITE:				
1968.....	2,912	16.6	81.5	2,368
1967.....	2,923	16.8	83.1	2,453
1966.....	2,993	17.4	86.4	2,609
1965.....	3,124	18.3	91.4	2,790
1960-1964.....	² 3,503	21.4	107.3	3,331
1955-1959.....	3,586	23.6	115.4	3,549
1950-1954.....	3,321	23.8	108.9	3,221
1945-1949.....	3,017	23.4	100.7	2,916
1940-1944.....	2,477	20.4	85.2	2,460
1935-1939.....	2,081	18.0	74.7	³ 2,164
1930-1934.....	2,117	18.9	79.6	³ 2,303
1925-1929.....	2,388	22.4	95.7	³ 2,770
1920-1924.....	2,568	26.0	111.4	³ 3,167
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES:				
1968.....	589	24.2	114.9	3,197
1967.....	598	25.0	119.8	3,385
1966.....	613	26.1	125.9	3,615
1965.....	636	27.6	133.9	3,891
1960-1964.....	² 660	30.6	148.5	4,375
1955-1959.....	650	34.8	160.4	4,716
1950-1954.....	561	33.9	144.6	4,185
1945-1949.....	457	30.3	122.5	3,485
1940-1944.....	382	27.5	107.0	3,010
1935-1939.....	340	25.9	98.9	³ 2,744
1930-1934.....	337	26.6	101.7	³ 2,949
1925-1929.....	373	30.9	120.6	³ 3,306
1920-1924.....	387	34.4	135.0	³ 3,771
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES AS A PERCENT OF WHITE:				
1968.....	(⁴)	146	141	135
1967.....	(⁴)	149	144	138
1966.....	(⁴)	150	146	139
1965.....	(⁴)	151	146	139
1960-1964.....	(⁴)	143	138	131
1955-1959.....	(⁴)	147	139	133
1945-1949.....	(⁴)	129	122	120
1935-1939.....	(⁴)	144	132	127
1920-1924.....	(⁴)	132	121	119

¹See table 1 for definition.

²Includes estimate for New Jersey which did not require that race be reported in 1962 and 1963.

³Estimated for use in this report.

⁴Percents shown only for rates.

While age-specific birth rates increased between the early 1940's and late 1950's and then decreased between the late 1950's and 1968--just as the crude birth rate, general fertility rate, and total fertility rate did--the changes in age-specific birth rates have been far from uniform. The increases in the earlier period were more pronounced in the younger childbearing ages (15 to 19, 20 to 24, and 25 to 29) while the declines in the past decade have been somewhat greater among women in the older childbearing ages (30 to 34, 35 to 39, and 40 to 44).

As a result of these changes, the median age of mothers at childbearing implied by these age-specific birth rates dropped from 26.5 in the early 1940's to 25.5 in the late 1950's. In 1968, the figure was also 25.5.

Table 3. BIRTH RATES FOR WOMEN 15 TO 44 YEARS OLD, BY AGE: FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES 1940 TO 1959 AND SINGLE-YEAR DATA 1960 TO 1968

(Rates per 1,000 women in specified age group)

Year	Age of woman					
	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44
1968.....	66.1	167.4	140.3	74.9	35.6	9.6
1967.....	67.9	174.0	142.6	79.3	38.5	10.6
1966.....	70.6	185.9	149.4	85.9	42.2	11.7
1965.....	70.4	196.8	162.5	95.0	46.4	12.8
1964.....	72.8	219.9	179.4	102.9	50.5	13.8
1963.....	76.4	231.2	185.8	106.2	51.3	14.2
1962.....	81.2	243.7	191.7	108.9	52.7	14.8
1961.....	88.0	253.7	197.9	113.3	55.6	15.6
1960.....	89.1	258.1	197.4	112.7	56.2	15.5
1955-1959.....	92.6	254.9	196.7	116.8	58.9	16.0
1950-1954.....	86.8	217.3	179.2	110.9	55.5	15.6
1945-1949.....	71.0	186.2	159.6	105.4	56.5	16.1
1940-1944.....	57.6	152.4	135.7	91.6	49.5	15.4
PERCENT CHANGE:						
1955-1959 to 1968.....	-29	-34	-29	-36	-40	-40
1940-1944 to 1955-1959.....	+61	+67	+45	+28	+19	+4

The trends in age-specific birth rates have been roughly similar among whites and Negro and other races since the early 1940's. For both groups age-specific birth rates increased up to the late 1950's, and have since declined.

In contrast, the levels of age-specific birth rates for the two groups have differed greatly. The ratio of the birth rate for Negro and other races to the birth rate for whites has been greatest at the extremes of the child-bearing ages (15 to 19 and 40 to 44). Among women in the middle of the child-bearing ages (e.g., 25 to 29), the proportionate differences in the birth rates for the two groups have been much smaller.

Table 4. BIRTH RATES FOR WOMEN 15 TO 44 YEARS OLD, BY RACE AND AGE: FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES 1940 TO 1964 AND SINGLE-YEAR DATA 1965 TO 1968

(Rates per 1,000 women in specified age group)

Race and year	Age of woman					
	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44
WHITE:						
1968.....	55.3	162.6	139.7	72.5	33.8	8.9
1967.....	57.3	168.8	140.7	76.5	36.6	9.8
1966.....	60.8	179.9	146.6	82.7	40.0	10.8
1965.....	60.7	189.8	158.8	91.7	44.1	12.0
1960-1964.....	72.5	235.3	186.9	105.6	50.8	14.0
1955-1959.....	81.7	248.3	192.9	113.9	56.5	15.2
1950-1954.....	75.4	211.8	177.3	109.5	53.9	14.9
1945-1949.....	61.1	182.5	161.1	105.7	55.8	15.6
1940-1944.....	48.4	149.0	137.5	91.9	48.8	14.8
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES:						
1968.....	133.3	200.8	144.8	91.2	48.6	15.0
1967.....	135.2	212.1	155.9	99.1	52.4	16.8
1966.....	135.5	228.9	169.3	107.9	57.7	18.4
1965.....	136.1	247.3	188.1	118.3	63.8	19.2
1960-1964.....	146.8	283.7	213.5	132.2	71.5	21.6
1955-1959.....	169.6	300.7	225.0	140.4	78.0	22.9
1950-1954.....	165.8	257.0	194.9	121.9	68.1	22.2
1945-1949.....	141.2	214.3	148.4	102.0	62.3	21.4
1940-1944.....	127.3	179.1	121.2	89.8	55.4	21.4
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES AS A PERCENT OF WHITE:						
1968.....	241	123	104	126	144	169
1955-1959.....	208	121	117	123	138	151
1940-1944.....	263	120	88	98	114	145

The fertility of birth cohorts of women dropped steadily from the cohort of 1880-1884 to the cohort of 1905-1909 which had an average of less than 2.3 children per woman, the lowest figure in the nation's history. (Data from other sources indicate that cohort fertility dropped throughout most of the 19th century and that the average number of children ever born per woman in colonial times was probably about 8.)¹ The cohort of 1915-1919 started childbearing more slowly than the cohort of 1905-1909, reflecting the ages of women in these cohorts during the Depression and the Second World War, but women in the 1915-1919 cohort, who lived a considerable part of their childbearing ages in the prosperous years following the Second World War, completed childbearing with a higher average number of children per woman.

The tempo of early childbearing among subsequent cohorts increased rapidly, reaching a peak with the 1935-1939 cohort which had an average of 1.7 children per woman at age 25, almost double the figure for the 1910-1914 cohort.

The declines in period rates of fertility during the 1960's (table 1) are reflected in different portions of the childbearing ages for different cohorts of women. For example, the 1935-1939 cohort, which had easily the highest fertility at age 25, added fewer children between age 25 and 30 than did the 1930-1934 cohort. As a result, the average numbers of children per woman at age 30 for these two cohorts were almost equal. It now seems likely that the 1930-1934 cohort will finish childbearing with the highest fertility of any cohort born in the first half of the 20th century. (See also table 29 for data on birth expectations.)

Among birth cohorts of the 1940's, there has been a pronounced decline in the cumulative fertility of women at age 20 and age 25. It is too early to determine to what extent these declines might herald a drop in the completed fertility of women presently in the young childbearing ages and to what extent these declines reflect a later pattern of childbearing, although it seems likely that both factors are involved.

¹Wilson H. Grabill, Clyde V. Kiser, and Pascal K. Whelpton, The Fertility of American Women (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1958), Chapter 2.

Table 5. NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 1,000 WOMEN AT FIVE-YEAR AGE INTERVALS FOR BIRTH COHORTS OF WOMEN: FIVE-YEAR BIRTH COHORTS 1880 TO 1949 AND SINGLE-YEAR BIRTH COHORTS 1930 TO 1949

Birth cohort of women ¹	Cumulative births per 1,000 women to specified age					
	20 years	25 years	30 years	35 years	40 years	50 years
FIVE-YEAR COHORTS:						
1945-1949.....	373					
1940-1944.....	457	1,521				
1935-1939.....	465	1,722	2,588			
1930-1934.....	407	1,557	2,531	3,032		
1925-1929.....	299	1,264	2,177	2,741	2,987	
1920-1924.....	277	1,062	1,892	2,462	2,752	
1915-1919.....	248	910	1,603	2,107	2,385	2,464
1910-1914.....	269	890	1,480	1,951	2,223	2,304
1905-1909.....	305	1,000	1,566	1,955	2,209	2,288
1900-1904.....	300	1,106	1,754	2,158	2,388	2,469
1895-1899.....	(NA)	1,146	1,909	2,385	2,646	2,731
1890-1894.....	(NA)	(NA)	2,000	2,575	2,909	3,018
1885-1889.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,681	3,102	3,244
1880-1884.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	3,258	3,436
SINGLE-YEAR COHORT:						
1949.....	340					
1948.....	352					
1947.....	347					
1946.....	409					
1945.....	417					
1944.....	431	1,353				
1943.....	430	1,413				
1942.....	459	1,524				
1941.....	480	1,628				
1940.....	487	1,691				
1939.....	481	1,714	2,471			
1938.....	479	1,735	2,554			
1937.....	464	1,730	2,605			
1936.....	454	1,729	2,652			
1935.....	448	1,704	2,659			
1934.....	438	1,675	2,649	3,097		
1933.....	427	1,633	2,619	3,100		
1932.....	407	1,550	2,526	3,027		
1931.....	384	1,480	2,445	2,972		
1930.....	377	1,449	2,415	2,966		

NA Not available.

¹For technical reasons, the birth cohorts of women are based on the fiscal year preceding the calendar years by which the birth cohorts are identified. For example, the birth cohort of 1940 includes women born July 1, 1939, through June 30, 1940. See U.S. National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics-Special Reports, Selected Studies*, Vol. 51, No. 1, 1960, *Fertility Tables for Birth Cohorts of American Women*, by Pascal K. Whelpton and Arthur A. Campbell.

The proportion of women remaining childless throughout their lives exceeded 20 percent for the cohorts of 1900-1914. It is unlikely that this percentage was exceeded at any prior time in the nation's history. For subsequent cohorts the figure will fall sharply. Among women in the 1935-1939 cohort, only 11.5 percent were still childless at age 30, and this percentage will decline even further before these women complete their childbearing.

The proportions of women childless at age 20 and at age 25, which reached low points for women born around 1940, have been increasing for women born during the 1940's; however, it is too early to say if these trends foretell a future increase in the proportion of women remaining childless or merely a pattern of later childbearing. It is quite possible that both factors are involved.

Table 6. PERCENT OF WOMEN CHILDLESS AT FIVE-YEAR AGE INTERVALS FOR BIRTH COHORTS OF WOMEN: FIVE-YEAR BIRTH COHORTS 1880 TO 1939 AND SINGLE-YEAR BIRTH COHORTS 1940 TO 1949

Birth cohort of women ¹	Percent of women childless at specified age					
	20 years	25 years	30 years	35 years	40 years	50 years
1949.....	74.1					
1948.....	73.6					
1947.....	74.2					
1946.....	70.6					
1945.....	70.6					
1944.....	69.9	31.9				
1943.....	70.0	31.0				
1942.....	68.1	28.2				
1941.....	66.8	26.2				
1940.....	66.2	25.1				
1935-1939.....	67.2	23.8	11.5			
1930-1934.....	70.7	27.5	13.3	9.6		
1925-1929.....	77.0	33.9	16.9	12.3	10.9	
1920-1924.....	79.0	40.7	19.3	13.0	11.2	
1915-1919.....	80.6	49.1	28.6	20.4	18.0	17.6
1910-1914.....	79.1	51.1	33.4	24.7	21.5	20.9
1905-1909.....	76.4	46.5	32.5	25.7	22.7	22.1
1900-1904.....	76.8	42.9	28.6	23.6	21.6	21.1
1895-1899.....	(NA)	42.1	26.5	21.4	19.9	19.5
1890-1894.....	(NA)	(NA)	26.2	20.6	18.8	18.4
1880-1884.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	18.7	18.2

NA Not available.

¹See table 5 for the definition of a birth cohort.

In addition to changes during the past several decades in the average number of children ever born per woman, there have been pronounced changes in the distribution of women by the number of children ever born. For example, the cohorts of 1880-1884 and 1915-1919 each completed childbearing with about 18 percent of women remaining childless, but while 30.1 percent of the 1880-1884 cohort had 5 or more children, only 13.5 percent of the 1915-1919 cohort had 5 or more children.

Inclusion of more recent cohorts requires comparison at a younger age. While the parity distribution of a cohort of women may change considerably during the latter years of childbearing, it already appears likely that a higher percentage of the cohorts of the 1930's will complete childbearing with 5 or more children than any other cohorts since those of the 1890's.

Table 7. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTH COHORTS OF WOMEN AT SELECTED AGES, BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN: FIVE-YEAR BIRTH COHORTS 1880 TO 1939

Age and birth cohort of women ¹	Percent distribution by number of children ever born					
	None	1	2	3	4	5 or more
30 YEARS						
1935-1939.....	11.5	13.9	26.5	22.7	13.3	12.1
1930-1934.....	13.3	13.8	26.5	21.9	12.6	11.9
1925-1929.....	16.9	18.1	28.4	19.0	9.4	8.3
1920-1924.....	19.3	24.3	28.7	15.1	6.7	6.0
1915-1919.....	28.6	25.6	23.6	11.4	5.4	5.4
1910-1914.....	33.4	26.5	19.9	9.6	5.1	5.5
1905-1909.....	32.5	25.7	19.3	10.1	5.9	6.6
1900-1904.....	28.6	24.6	19.9	11.6	7.2	8.1
1895-1899.....	26.5	23.1	19.9	12.5	8.3	9.6
1890-1894.....	26.2	21.2	19.3	13.2	9.3	10.8
50 YEARS						
1915-1919.....	17.6	18.1	24.4	16.7	9.7	13.5
1910-1914.....	20.9	20.8	23.1	14.3	8.2	12.7
1905-1909.....	22.1	22.5	21.5	12.7	7.7	13.5
1900-1904.....	21.1	21.6	20.1	12.9	8.3	16.0
1895-1899.....	19.5	19.5	18.9	13.3	9.3	19.4
1890-1894.....	18.4	17.2	17.5	13.5	10.2	23.3
1885-1889.....	18.7	16.2	15.3	12.5	10.2	27.2
1880-1884.....	18.2	15.5	14.6	11.7	9.8	30.1

¹See table 5 for the definition of a birth cohort.

II. AGE STRUCTURE AND MARITAL STATUS

While period measures and cohort measures provide a comprehensive picture of levels and trends in fertility, they do not give explicit recognition to two important population characteristics: age structure and marital status. Among women in the childbearing ages, birth rates vary with age of woman and birth rates at each age are much greater for married women than for unmarried women. The tables in this section present data on age structure and marital status pertinent to an analysis of fertility while the accompanying texts mention some cases in which changes in these characteristics have influenced trends in fertility.

During the past 50 years, the total population and the number of women in the childbearing ages have usually been increasing at different rates so that the proportion of the total population comprised of these women has fluctuated considerably. Between 1940 and 1960, the total population increased about 36 percent while the number of women in the childbearing ages increased only 13 percent and, as a result, dropped from 24.3 percent to 20.1 percent of the total population.

Changes in age structure among women in the 15 to 44 age group have also been pronounced. From 1920 to 1950, 35 percent to 38 percent were in the 20 to 29 age group in which birth rates are highest (table 3), but in 1960 the corresponding figure was down to 30.6 percent. By 1969, the figure had risen to 35.7 percent as the "baby boom" cohorts had begun to enter the prime child-bearing ages.

The 32-percent increase in the crude birth rate between the late 1930's and late 1950's (table 1) appears all the more striking because changes in age structure during the period were conducive to a sharp decline in the crude birth rate.

**Table 8. SELECTED AGE DATA FOR WOMEN IN THE CHILDBEARING AGES:
1920 TO 1960 AND 1969**

Subject	Year					
	1969	1960	1950	1940	1930	1920
WOMEN, 15 TO 44 YEARS						
Number.....thousands..	41,606	36,079	34,206	32,035	29,242	24,756
Percent of total population...	20.6	20.1	22.7	24.3	23.8	23.4
Percent distribution by age:						
Total, 15 to 44 years.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
15 to 19 years.....	22.0	18.3	15.5	19.2	19.8	19.2
20 to 24 years.....	19.6	15.3	17.2	18.4	18.9	19.2
25 to 29 years.....	16.1	15.3	18.3	17.6	17.0	18.4
30 to 34 years.....	13.7	16.9	17.2	16.1	15.6	15.9
35 to 39 years.....	13.7	17.7	16.7	15.0	15.5	14.9
40 to 44 years.....	14.9	16.4	15.0	13.6	13.2	12.4

The annual number of marriages in the United States increased during the 1960's, and since 1968 the number has exceeded 2,000,000. While the number of marriages has historically been of some use in explaining trends in the number of births in succeeding years, this relationship can no longer be assumed because of the extent to which women now control both the quantity and timing of their fertility. From the late 1940's to the late 1950's, marriages decreased 18 percent, and births increased 22 percent. Between the late 1950's and late 1960's, marriages increased 29 percent while births decreased 15 percent.

The median age at first marriage dropped sharply for both men and women following the Second World War. Since the late 1950's, these medians have risen about one-half of a year.

Table 9. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF MARRIAGES AND MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE, BY SEX: FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES 1940 TO 1969 AND SINGLE-YEAR DATA 1965 TO 1970

Year	Total marriages ¹ (thousands)	Median age at first marriage ²	
		Men	Women
FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES:			
1965-1969.....	³ 1,960	23.0	20.7
1960-1964.....	1,605	22.8	20.4
1955-1959.....	1,516	22.6	20.2
1950-1954.....	1,567	22.9	20.3
1945-1949.....	1,857	⁴ 23.2	⁴ 20.4
1940-1944.....	1,619	⁵ 24.3	⁵ 21.5
SINGLE-YEAR DATA:			
1970.....	³ 2,179	23.2	20.8
1969.....	³ 2,146	23.2	20.8
1968.....	2,069	23.1	20.8
1967.....	1,927	23.1	20.6
1966.....	1,857	22.8	20.5
1965.....	1,800	22.8	20.6

¹At present, first marriages constitute about three-fourths of all marriages for both men and women.

²Medians are based on data from the 1940 census and the Current Population Survey. Medians based on marriage registration data would be slightly different. See section, "References for Tables."

³Data for 1969 and 1970 are provisional.

⁴Median is for 1947-1949.

⁵Median is for 1940.

Trends in median age at first marriage may be considered also on a cohort basis. Among white women, the median age at first marriage dropped from 22.0 for the 1910-1919 cohort to 20.1 for the 1930-1939 cohort. For women of Negro and other races, the decline shown in table 10 is not statistically significant. The overall pattern of earlier entry into marriage for all races combined was an important factor underlying the sharp increase in the cumulative fertility of young women noted in the discussion of table 5.

The data in table 10 indicate a positive relationship between educational attainment and median age at first marriage. The median age at first marriage has typically been about 3 years higher for women with some college education than for women who did not complete high school.¹

Table 10. MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE FOR WOMEN BY YEAR OF BIRTH, RACE, AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: BIRTH COHORTS OF 1910-1919, 1920-1929, 1930-1939, AND 1940-1944

Race and educational attainment	Birth cohort of women			
	1910-1919	1920-1929	1930-1939	1940-1944
WHITE				
Total.....	22.0	20.9	20.1	20.2
Not a high school graduate.....	20.5	19.6	18.5	18.0
High school, 4 years.....	22.6	21.2	20.1	20.0
College, 1 year or more.....	24.0	22.5	21.9	21.4
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES				
Total.....	21.1	20.3	19.8	20.0
Not a high school graduate.....	20.9	19.4	18.8	18.8
High school, 4 years.....	21.4	21.2	20.9	20.1
College, 1 year or more.....	(B)	(B)	22.5	23.0

B Figure does not meet standards of reliability due to small base.

¹These statements, which are based on data from the Current Population Survey are not statistically significant for all groups shown in table 10, but are supported by census data. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, Final Report (PC(2)-4D, Age at First Marriage, table 9.

Changes in the marital status of women in the childbearing ages may also be portrayed with the proportions single (never-married) by age. These proportions changed little between 1920 and 1940 and then declined sharply between 1940 and 1960. Between 1960 and 1969 the proportions single increased among women under 25. Since 1940 the frequency of spinsterhood among women 30 to 44 years old has declined sharply.

The data for women by single years of age show the changes in the proportions single in the ages at which most women first marry. In 1969 when the median age at first marriage was 20.8, the interquartile range of ages was 18.9 to 23.2, meaning that one-half of all women first married in this age range.

Table 11. PERCENT OF WOMEN SINGLE 15 TO 44 YEARS OLD, BY AGE:
1920 TO 1960 AND 1969

Age of woman	Year					
	1969 ¹	1960	1950	1940	1930	1920
FIVE-YEAR AGE GROUPS, 15 TO 44 YEARS						
15 to 19 years.....	88.8	83.9	82.9	88.1	86.8	87.0
20 to 24 years.....	35.7	28.4	32.3	47.2	46.0	45.6
25 to 29 years.....	10.7	10.5	13.3	22.8	21.7	23.0
30 to 34 years.....	6.1	6.9	9.3	14.7	13.2	14.9
35 to 39 years.....	5.3	6.1	8.4	11.2	10.4	11.4
40 to 44 years.....	4.9	6.1	8.3	9.5	9.5	
SINGLE YEARS OF AGE, 18 TO 24 YEARS						
18 years.....	83.5	75.6	75.4	82.3	80.0	80.0
19 years.....	69.4	59.7	62.4	73.0	70.2	70.3
20 years.....	55.9	46.0	49.8	62.8	60.5	60.0
21 years.....	42.8	34.6	39.9	54.4	52.9	52.5
22 years.....	32.6	25.6	30.4	46.2	45.0	44.9
23 years.....	23.9	19.4	24.0	38.7	38.1	38.3
24 years.....	18.5	15.7	19.6	32.9	32.4	33.0

¹Three-year average, 1968-1970.

III. FERTILITY BY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS DURING THE 1960'S

In contrast to the first section in which levels and trends in fertility were discussed, the focus in this section is on what demographers commonly refer to as "differential fertility." These differentials reflect the fact that the number of children a woman has in her lifetime is influenced by various social and economic characteristics including--among others--type of residence, educational attainment, labor force status, the occupation of her husband, and the income of her family.

The material in this section is limited to the past decade. Vital statistics data are not available by the social and economic characteristics of mothers, and thus the data are drawn entirely from the 1960 Census of Population and the January 1969 Current Population Survey which included an inquiry on children ever born.

Between 1960 and 1969, the number of children ever born per 1,000 women of all races increased among women above age 30 and declined among women below age 30. This statement applies also to women ever married, suggesting that changes in fertility during the past decade have been due mostly to changing patterns of fertility within marriage and that changes in marriage patterns have been of secondary importance.

These generalizations are also true for white women; however, among Negroes the pattern of fertility change in the 1960's was somewhat different. Increases in the number of children ever born per 1,000 Negro women occurred for both total women and women ever married above age 30; however, among women in the 25 to 29 age group there was no significant change. Among Negro women 20 to 24 years old, a decline in fertility occurred for both total women and women ever married.

Table 12. CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 1,000 WOMEN 15 TO 49 YEARS OLD, BY AGE, RACE, AND MARITAL STATUS: 1960 AND 1969

Marital status and age	All races		White		Negro	
	1969	1960	1969	1960	1969	1960
TOTAL WOMEN						
15 to 19 years.....	74	127	66	117	129	208
20 to 24 years.....	720	1,030	682	993	1,027	1,320
25 to 29 years.....	1,878	2,007	1,825	1,960	2,308	2,383
30 to 34 years.....	2,760	2,452	2,723	2,398	3,141	2,882
35 to 39 years.....	3,056	2,518	2,969	2,471	3,748	2,905
40 to 44 years.....	2,958	2,407	2,894	2,362	3,488	2,758
45 to 49 years.....	2,662	2,247	2,630	2,200	2,975	2,603
WOMEN EVER MARRIED						
15 to 19 years.....	644	791	572	725	1,131	1,258
20 to 24 years.....	1,103	1,441	1,026	1,370	1,794	2,030
25 to 29 years.....	2,104	2,243	2,022	2,171	2,846	2,835
30 to 34 years.....	2,932	2,633	2,875	2,564	3,490	3,190
35 to 39 years.....	3,205	2,680	3,106	2,625	3,971	3,139
40 to 44 years.....	3,081	2,564	3,017	2,515	3,606	2,949
45 to 49 years.....	2,787	2,402	2,750	2,354	3,144	2,761

Among ever-married women 35 to 44 years old (who are estimated to have completed about 97 percent of their childbearing), there have been pronounced changes in parity distribution over the past decade. For both whites and Negroes, the percentages of women with no children or one child have declined while the percentages with four or more children have risen sharply.

There have also been pronounced changes in the parity distribution of ever-married women in the 20 to 24 age group during the 1960's. The proportion childless has increased from about one-fourth to one-third while the proportions with two, three, four, and five or more children have all declined. These changes have occurred also for white women, but the changes in parity distribution shown for Negro women may be due to sampling variability. As noted in the discussion of table 6, it is too early to determine to what extent changes in the timing of fertility and in completed family size underlie the changes in the parity distribution of young women over the past decade.

Table 13. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN EVER MARRIED 20 TO 24 YEARS OLD AND 35 TO 44 YEARS OLD BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, BY RACE: 1960 AND 1969

Age and number of children	All races		White		Negro	
	1969	1960	1969	1960	1969	1960
20 TO 24 YEARS						
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None.....	34.5	24.1	36.3	25.0	19.1	17.0
1.....	34.5	32.9	35.0	33.8	29.2	25.0
2.....	21.4	26.1	21.1	26.3	24.1	24.7
3.....	6.7	11.2	5.8	10.6	15.0	16.5
4.....	2.0	3.9	1.4	3.2	7.6	9.5
5 or more.....	0.9	1.8	0.5	1.1	5.1	7.3
35 TO 44 YEARS						
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None.....	7.6	12.6	6.9	11.6	13.0	22.2
1.....	11.2	16.1	10.9	16.0	13.8	17.6
2.....	23.5	26.5	24.9	27.8	12.3	14.6
3.....	21.6	19.5	22.8	20.5	11.7	11.1
4.....	15.7	11.4	16.1	11.7	13.4	8.5
5 or 6.....	13.4	9.2	13.0	8.8	16.1	12.0
7 or more.....	7.0	4.8	5.4	3.7	19.7	13.9

Between 1960 and 1969, the number of children ever born per 1,000 ever-married women 35 to 44 years old increased by about 20 percent (from 2,625 to 3,141). In general, this increase occurred among both white women and women of Negro and other races in all regions of the country and in all types of residence. (The increases shown for women living on farms and for women of Negro and other races living outside central cities and in nonmetropolitan areas may be due to sampling variability.)

In 1960, the fertility of women in the South was greater than the fertility of women in other regions; however, the increase between 1960 and 1969 was less in the South than in other regions, and in 1969 fertility in the South was close to the national level.

Throughout the decade the fertility of women living on farms has exceeded the fertility of women living elsewhere, and the fertility of women in metropolitan areas has been lower than the fertility of women in nonmetropolitan areas.

Table 14. REGION AND TYPE OF RESIDENCE—CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 1,000 WOMEN EVER MARRIED 35 TO 44 YEARS OLD, BY RACE: 1960 AND 1969

Subject	All races		White		Negro and other races	
	1969	1960	1969	1960	1969	1960
All women.....	3,141	2,625	3,059	2,572	3,743	3,065
REGION OF RESIDENCE						
Northeast.....	2,989	2,392	2,943	2,400	3,408	2,294
North Central.....	3,261	2,673	3,240	2,679	3,474	2,594
South.....	3,157	2,815	2,955	2,648	4,080	3,567
West.....	3,142	2,560	3,103	2,538	3,570	2,820
FARM-NONFARM RESIDENCE						
Nonfarm.....	3,105	2,561	3,025	2,519	3,683	2,909
Farm.....	3,773	3,472	3,636	3,266	(B)	5,563
METROPOLITAN-NONMETROPOLITAN RESIDENCE						
Metropolitan.....	3,039	2,431	2,970	2,410	3,478	2,595
In central cities.....	3,042	2,340	2,913	2,311	3,425	2,468
Outside central cities.....	3,036	2,519	3,000	2,491	3,655	3,123
Nonmetropolitan.....	3,342	3,000	3,226	2,879	4,575	4,206

B Figure does not meet standards of reliability due to small base.

Between 1960 and 1969, the number of children ever born per 1,000 ever-married women 35 to 44 years old increased for women in and not in the labor force and for women employed full time and part time. These increases occurred among both white women and women of Negro and other races.

There is a pronounced inverse relation between the amount of time worked and fertility, even though the fertility data reflect the experience of the two preceding decades while data on labor force and employment status are for a single point in time. In 1969, fertility was 27 percent higher for women not in the labor force than for women working full time.

For both white wives and wives of Negro and other races, there has been an inverse relation between fertility and family income, although in 1960 there was a slight upturn in fertility for white wives in families with incomes of \$15,000 and over. The determination of whether or not an upturn existed in 1969 would require data for an equally select group (perhaps wives in families with incomes of \$25,000 or more).

Table 15. LABOR FORCE STATUS AND FAMILY INCOME—CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 1,000 WOMEN EVER MARRIED 35 TO 44 YEARS OLD, BY RACE: 1960 AND 1969

Subject	All races		White		Negro and other races	
	1969	1960	1969	1960	1969	1960
LABOR FORCE STATUS						
All women.....	3,141	2,625	3,059	2,572	3,743	3,065
Labor force.....	2,876	2,191	2,799	2,138	3,321	2,501
Employed.....	2,852	2,174	2,778	2,123	3,285	2,485
Full time.....	2,667	2,031	2,611	1,996	2,980	2,257
Part time.....	3,160	2,500	3,052	2,421	3,844	2,919
Unemployed.....	3,424	2,499	3,303	2,446	(B)	2,708
Not in labor force.....	3,388	2,918	3,288	2,845	4,365	3,744
FAMILY INCOME						
Wives of household heads..	3,125	2,671	3,061	2,618	3,758	3,255
Under \$3,000 ¹	3,746	3,506	3,536	3,226	4,210	4,269
\$3,000 to \$4,999 ¹	3,712	2,939	3,502	2,869	4,480	3,306
\$5,000 to \$7,499 ¹	3,256	2,658	3,166	2,640	3,833	2,916
\$7,500 to \$9,999 ¹	3,055	2,481	3,014	2,477	3,640	2,578
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	2,953	2,381	2,954	2,377	2,767	{ 2,500
\$15,000 and over.....	2,847	2,530	2,865	2,530		

B Figure does not meet standards of reliability due to small base.

¹For 1960, the first four income groups are Under \$2,000, \$2,000 to \$4,999, \$5,000 to \$6,999, and \$7,000 to \$9,999.

Differentials in the fertility of wives by occupation of husband are not subject to simple generalizations as was the case with labor force status of women and family income because occupation is a characteristic with no obvious ranking (e.g., where should farmers be placed). Wives of farmers and farm laborers have typically had high fertility, and wives of white collar workers (the professional, managerial, clerical, and sales groups) have typically had lower fertility than wives of blue collar workers (craftsmen, operatives, service workers, and laborers). In 1960 wives of upper white collar workers (the professional and managerial groups) had slightly higher fertility than wives of lower white collar workers. The 1969 data are based on a much smaller sample and do not permit corresponding comparisons.

Table 16. MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF HUSBAND—CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 1,000 WIVES 35 TO 44 YEARS OLD, BY RACE: 1960 AND 1969

Major occupation group of husband	All races		White		Negro and other races	
	1969	1960	1969	1960	1969	1960
Total, husband employed in civilian labor force.....	3,122	2,645	3,057	2,596	3,782	3,216
Professional, tech., & kind. workers	2,927	2,410	2,938	2,417	3,070	2,198
Managers, offs., & props., exc. farm	2,906	2,434	2,892	2,431		
Clerical and kindred workers.....	2,699	2,304	2,681	2,302	2,928	2,340
Sales workers.....	2,947	2,358	2,921	2,354		
Craftsmen, foremen, & kind. workers.	3,113	2,624	3,084	2,607	3,514	3,001
Operatives and kindred workers.....	3,373	2,775	3,277	2,730	3,927	3,156
Service workers, incl. priv. hshld..	3,157	2,527	3,017	2,483	3,677	2,703
Laborers, exc. farm and mine.....	3,671	3,140	3,321	3,008	4,461	3,458
Farmers and farm managers.....	3,592	3,354	3,581	3,170	(B)	5,572
Farm laborers and foremen.....	4,607	4,311	(B)	3,988	(B)	5,078

B Figure does not meet standards of reliability due to small base.

While the number of children ever born per 1,000 ever-married women 35 to 44 years old increased among women at all educational levels between 1960 and 1969, the more striking fact is the sharp inverse relation between fertility and educational attainment. This inverse relation has been more pronounced for women of Negro and other races than for white women.

The number of children ever born per 1,000 ever-married women 20 to 24 years old declined between 1960 and 1969 among white women and women of Negro and other races; however, this decline did not occur at all educational levels. For women who did not complete high school, there was no significant change. For women with at least 4 years of high school, the declines were about 25 percent both for whites and for Negro and other races. As a result, the inverse relation between fertility and educational attainment for these young women has become even stronger during the past decade.

Table 17. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT—CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 1,000 WOMEN EVER MARRIED 20 TO 24 YEARS OLD AND 35 TO 44 YEARS OLD, BY RACE: 1960 AND 1969

Age and years of school completed	All races		White		Negro and other races	
	1969	1960	1969	1960	1969	1960
20 TO 24 YEARS						
All women.....	1,103	1,441	1,026	1,370	1,745	1,999
Elementary: Less than 8 years	2,155	2,166	1,992	2,005	(B)	2,589
8 years.....	1,932	1,981	1,804	1,891	(B)	2,451
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	1,816	1,852	1,652	1,779	2,536	2,257
4 years.....	959	1,227	938	1,202	1,201	1,530
College: 1 to 3 years.....	595	910	583	890	739	1,177
4 years or more..	327	547	301	535		
35 TO 44 YEARS						
All women.....	3,141	2,625	3,059	2,572	3,743	3,065
Elementary: Less than 8 years	4,156	3,478	4,018	3,368	4,591	3,738
8 years.....	3,712	2,861	3,477	2,823	4,784	3,137
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	3,366	2,658	3,232	2,613	3,985	3,002
4 years.....	2,903	2,373	2,883	2,373	3,169	2,376
College: 1 to 3 years.....	2,898	2,361	2,901	2,373	2,861	2,149
4 years or more..	2,729	2,233	2,784	2,277	2,169	1,651

B Figure does not meet standards of reliability due to small base.

Data on differential fertility, expanded to include all women instead of only ever-married women, can also be shown with regard to their implications for population replacement. In 1969, the fertility of all groups of women included in table 18 was above replacement level while the fertility of a few groups of Negro women was roughly double replacement level.

Table 18. REPLACEMENT INDEX FOR WOMEN 35 TO 44 YEARS OLD, BY RACE AND SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMAN: 1969

Subject	Replacement index ¹		
	All races	White	Negro
Total.....	145	142	175
REGION OF RESIDENCE			
Northeast.....	134	133	153
North Central.....	153	152	166
South.....	147	138	191
West.....	146	144	162
FARM-NONFARM RESIDENCE			
Nonfarm.....	143	140	172
Farm.....	179	172	(B)
METROPOLITAN-NONMETROPOLITAN RESIDENCE			
Metropolitan.....	140	137	162
In central cities.....	137	131	159
Outside central cities.....	141	140	172
Nonmetropolitan.....	156	151	216
YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED			
Elementary: Less than 8 years.....	190	184	211
8 years.....	171	160	221
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	159	153	184
4 years.....	135	134	148
College: 1 to 3 years.....	135	135	141
4 years or more.....	117	120	(B)
LABOR FORCE STATUS			
Labor force.....	129	125	153
Not in labor force.....	161	157	208

B Figure does not meet standards of reliability due to small base.

¹A replacement index of 100 indicates that by the end of the childbearing ages, women will have born exactly the number of female children required to replace themselves in the following generation. For method of computation, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 203, "Fertility of the Population: January 1969."

1957
1958
1959
1960

CEAC

IV. CHILDSPACING

As mentioned in the discussions of several earlier tables, fertility trends during the past 50 years have reflected changes both in completed fertility and in the timing of fertility. Timing patterns of fertility can be portrayed with cumulative measures at various ages or durations of marriage and with measures of spacing where the focus is on the interval between two events (e.g., the length of time between a woman's first and second births). These measure of timing can be compared for women with different social and economic characteristics.

In addition, vital statistics data permit the computation of another useful measure: birth probability. A birth probability is defined as the number of births per year per 1,000 women (of specified age) with a specified number of children ever born at the beginning of the year. Thus, for example, the birth probability in 1968 for women 20 to 24 years old who had already borne two children was 167, meaning that one out of every six of these women had a third birth during 1968.

The birth probabilities for almost all groups of women by age and parity decreased between the early 1920's and late 1930's, increased between the late 1930's and late 1950's, and decreased again between the late 1950's and 1968. Despite this similarity in the trends of birth probabilities, the patterns of change have differed considerably. For women with five or more children, birth probabilities declined more than 50 percent between the early 1920's and 1968, even though some small increases occurred between the late 1930's and late 1950's. In contrast, the birth probabilities for one-parity women have fluctuated sharply with no discernible long-term trend.

Between the late 1950's and 1968, the declines in birth probabilities among women with four or more children (regardless of age) almost all exceeded 50 percent. Among women with zero to three children, the birth probabilities typically declined between 20 and 50 percent. The one notable exception occurred among zero-parity women above 25 years old where the birth probabilities have changed little. This pattern is consistent with the possibility of a pattern of later (delayed) marriage and childbearing during the 1960's as mentioned earlier.

Table 19. BIRTH PROBABILITIES FOR WOMEN 15 TO 44 YEARS OLD, BY AGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN: FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES 1920-1924, 1935-1939, 1955-1959, AND SINGLE-YEAR DATA 1968

(Number of births during year per 1,000 women with specified number of children ever born at beginning of year)

Number of children ever born and year	Age of woman					
	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44
None:						
1968.....	55	138	135	75	26	5
1955-1959.....	71	187	137	68	28	5
1935-1939.....	42	86	74	43	16	3
1920-1924.....	51	115	95	49	21	5
One:						
1968.....	237	231	194	100	35	6
1955-1959.....	348	330	249	121	44	8
1935-1939.....	224	185	115	61	24	4
1920-1924.....	247	228	155	89	39	8
Two:						
1968.....	(B)	167	116	65	24	5
1955-1959.....	355	269	176	99	43	9
1935-1939.....	271	216	120	62	29	6
1920-1924.....	356	272	175	106	54	13
Three:						
1968.....	(B)	184	104	60	27	7
1955-1959.....	(B)	291	184	111	57	15
1935-1939.....	(B)	280	172	87	42	10
1920-1924.....	(B)	316	228	135	77	21
Four:						
1968.....	(B)	206	111	65	34	10
1955-1959.....	(B)	345	217	133	73	22
1935-1939.....	(B)	323	215	118	59	15
1920-1924.....	(B)	289	258	165	100	29
Five:						
1968.....	(B)	(B)	137	79	45	15
1955-1959.....	(B)	(B)	267	175	100	31
1935-1939.....	(B)	(B)	273	173	95	25
1920-1924.....	(B)	(B)	309	221	142	42
Six:						
1968.....	(B)	(B)	166	95	55	21
1955-1959.....	(B)	(B)	316	215	127	40
1935-1939.....	(B)	(B)	291	201	118	34
1920-1924.....	(B)	(B)	361	255	170	52
Seven or more:						
1968.....	(B)	(B)	(B)	143	96	41
1955-1959.....	(B)	(B)	(B)	292	204	79
1935-1939.....	(B)	(B)	(B)	278	210	80
1920-1924.....	(B)	(B)	(B)	295	258	106

B Figure does not meet standards of reliability due to small base.

Between the late 1940's and early 1960's the median number of months between first marriage and first birth and between first birth and second birth declined for white women. For subsequent intervals there were no significant changes. During this same period, the median number of months between first marriage and first birth was positively related to educational attainment among both white women and women of Negro and other races.

Table 20. MEDIAN NUMBER OF MONTHS BETWEEN BIRTHS OF CHILDREN OF FIRST TO FOURTH ORDER, BY RACE AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF WOMAN: BIRTHS OCCURRING 1945 TO 1964

Birth order and educational attainment of women	Births occurring in specified years					
	White				Negro and other races	
	1960-1964	1955-1959	1950-1954	1945-1949	1955-1964	1945-1954
FIRST MARRIAGE TO FIRST BIRTH¹						
Total.....	14.2	15.7	17.9	18.4	7.6	9.4
Not a high school graduate.....	12.8	13.7	16.2	16.5	5.4	8.0
High school, 4 years.....	14.2	15.9	18.0	18.9	} 9.9	12.1
College, 1 year or more.....	17.2	19.1	22.2	22.0		
FIRST BIRTH TO SECOND BIRTH						
Total.....	25.7	27.7	30.8	32.6	23.1	23.4
Not a high school graduate.....	24.4	28.7	30.1	31.8	22.2	23.4
High school, 4 years.....	26.2	27.2	31.7	32.9	} 25.4	23.5
College, 1 year or more.....	26.3	27.7	29.4	33.8		
SECOND BIRTH TO THIRD BIRTH						
Total.....	31.7	32.0	31.7	33.1	23.0	23.8
Not a high school graduate.....	30.5	31.6	31.6	33.6	22.4	25.0
High school, 4 years.....	32.3	32.1	32.0	31.7	} 25.3	22.0
College, 1 year or more.....	32.2	32.6	31.1	33.8		
THIRD BIRTH TO FOURTH BIRTH						
Total.....	30.9	30.3	29.5	32.0	22.3	23.9
Not a high school graduate.....	29.6	31.0	30.1	33.3	22.0	24.0
High school, 4 years.....	31.7	30.2	28.7	32.1	} 23.1	23.8
College, 1 year or more.....	32.2	28.5	29.6	(B)		

B Figure does not meet standards of reliability due to small base.

¹Instances in which first births preceded first marriage were treated as negative intervals in computing median intervals.

Among white women the median number of months between first marriage and first birth and between subsequent births in the early 1960's was less for families with incomes under \$6,000 per year than it was for families with higher incomes. The income data in this table refer to 1964,¹ and thus, given fluctuations and long-term changes in income, it is not surprising that birth intervals prior to the early 1960's do not exhibit significant differentials.

Table 21. MEDIAN NUMBER OF MONTHS BETWEEN BIRTHS OF CHILDREN OF FIRST TO FOURTH ORDER FOR WIVES OF CIVILIAN HOUSEHOLD HEADS, BY RACE AND FAMILY INCOME: BIRTHS OCCURRING 1945 TO 1964

Birth order and family income	Births occurring in specified years					
	White				Negro and other races	
	1960-1964	1955-1959	1950-1954	1945-1949	1955-1964	1945-1954
FIRST MARRIAGE TO FIRST BIRTH¹						
Total.....	14.5	15.9	18.1	18.6	7.8	9.4
Under \$6,000.....	12.4	14.6	16.5	17.2	6.5	8.2
\$6,000 and over.....	17.1	16.7	19.4	19.3	12.8	13.7
FIRST BIRTH TO SECOND BIRTH						
Total.....	25.9	28.0	31.0	32.6	22.7	24.1
Under \$6,000.....	23.5	27.6	30.2	30.2	22.1	23.3
\$6,000 and over.....	27.8	28.2	31.5	33.5	26.6	26.7
SECOND BIRTH TO THIRD BIRTH						
Total.....	31.6	32.1	31.6	32.5	22.8	23.4
Under \$6,000.....	28.3	29.5	30.8	32.1	22.0	23.3
\$6,000 and over.....	33.7	33.5	32.1	32.9	28.4	(B)
THIRD BIRTH TO FOURTH BIRTH						
Total.....	31.2	30.3	29.2	32.3	21.5	24.4
Under \$6,000.....	28.8	29.2	28.0	32.4	21.1	23.5
\$6,000 and over.....	33.4	31.0	29.8	32.3	(B)	(B)

B Figure does not meet standards of reliability due to small base.

¹Instances in which first births preceded first marriage were treated as negative intervals in computing median intervals.

¹More precisely, income data relate to a 12-month period which on the average, ended in April 1965. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 186. "Marriage, Fertility, and Childspacing: June 1965."

The cumulative number of first births per 1,000 women at various durations since first marriage (12 months, 24 months, etc.) increased from the first marriage cohort of the 1940's to the first marriage cohort of the early 1960's, reflecting the stepped-up pace of early childbearing following the Second World War. The differences in timing by educational attainment are shown by the fact that the largest differences in cumulative first births per 1,000 ever-married women between those not completing high school and those with some college education typically have occurred within 24 months of marriage.

Table 22. CUMULATIVE FIRST BIRTHS PER 1,000 WOMEN, BY INTERVAL SINCE FIRST MARRIAGE, RACE, AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: FIRST MARRIAGE COHORTS 1940 TO 1964

Educational attainment and interval since first marriage	Year in which woman first married					
	White			Negro and other races ¹		
	1960-1964	1950-1959	1940-1949	1960-1964	1950-1959	1940-1949
TOTAL						
Before marriage.....	36	31	23	276	276	182
After marriage: 12 months.....	416	370	274	605	609	461
24 months.....	673	649	542	751	751	619
60 months.....	859	849	794	(NA)	846	757
120 months.....	(X)	910	872	(X)	875	805
NOT A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE						
Before marriage.....	67	54	35	451	326	229
After marriage: 12 months.....	499	453	325	730	675	496
24 months.....	773	704	587	848	779	643
60 months.....	946	870	808	(NA)	858	751
120 months.....	(X)	917	872	(X)	879	789
HIGH SCHOOL, 4 YEARS						
Before marriage.....	29	24	15	116	196	85
After marriage: 12 months.....	416	354	257	491	504	387
24 months.....	676	642	535	661	706	569
60 months.....	840	843	793	(NA)	827	770
120 months.....	(X)	913	882	(X)	869	838
COLLEGE, 1 YEAR OR MORE						
Before marriage.....	9	11	17	(1)	(1)	(1)
After marriage: 12 months.....	299	265	202	(1)	(1)	(1)
24 months.....	521	567	455	(1)	(1)	(1)
60 months.....	779	824	761	(1)	(1)	(1)
120 months.....	(X)	887	846	(1)	(1)	(1)

NA Not available. X Not applicable.

¹Data for "high school, 4 years", and "college, 1 year or more", are combined.

In the 1964 to 1966 period, about 22 percent of all legitimate first births were premaritally conceived. The proportion was about twice as high for women of Negro and other races as for white women. In addition the proportion was inversely related to age of mother, educational attainment, and family income. The higher proportion among women with 1 to 3 years of high school than among women with an elementary level education is explained in part by the fact that women with some high school who become pregnant are likely to drop out of school.

Among women with 4 or more years of college or with family incomes of \$10,000 and over, the median interval between first marriage and legitimate first birth is about 2 years.

Table 23. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN BY INTERVAL BETWEEN FIRST MARRIAGE AND LEGITIMATE FIRST BIRTH, BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS: BIRTHS OCCURRING 1964 TO 1966

Subject	Interval between first marriage and legitimate first birth					
	All intervals	Under 8 months	8 to 11 months	12 to 23 months	24 to 59 months	60 months or more
Total.....	100.0	21.6	21.6	28.7	20.3	7.8
RACE						
White.....	100.0	19.5	21.6	29.8	21.2	7.9
Negro and other races.....	100.0	41.6	21.9	17.9	11.4	7.2
AGE OF MOTHER						
15 to 19 years.....	100.0	42.4	27.7	25.6	4.2	0.2
20 to 24 years.....	100.0	14.5	20.8	34.9	27.3	2.6
25 to 29 years.....	100.0	3.7	13.3	19.7	36.3	26.9
30 to 34 years.....	100.0	1.7	13.7	15.3	18.8	50.5
35 to 44 years.....	100.0	1.9	11.5	15.4	13.8	57.4
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Elementary school.....	100.0	21.2	23.9	26.7	19.4	8.8
High school, 1 to 3 years.	100.0	31.6	22.1	26.7	11.4	8.2
High school, 4 years.....	100.0	20.7	21.8	29.5	21.2	6.8
College, 1 to 3 years.....	100.0	18.1	21.3	30.6	21.3	8.6
College, 4 years or more..	100.0	7.5	18.5	27.7	35.9	10.5
FAMILY INCOME						
Under \$3,000.....	100.0	37.5	28.1	25.5	6.8	2.2
\$3,000 to \$4,999.....	100.0	23.3	21.9	31.2	17.7	6.0
\$5,000 to \$6,999.....	100.0	17.6	21.2	31.3	22.3	7.5
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	100.0	11.5	17.8	28.6	30.5	11.5
\$10,000 and over.....	100.0	8.2	14.4	25.4	33.9	18.1

V. ILLEGITIMACY

Because of the increase in illegitimacy during the past generation and because illegitimacy is more frequent in situations characterized by family instability and poverty, there is a general interest in levels and trends in illegitimacy. Estimates of illegitimate births and rates of illegitimacy in the United States are prepared annually on the basis of vital statistics registration data from those States reporting births by legitimacy status. In 1968, legitimacy status was reported in 40 States and the District of Columbia.

The quality of illegitimacy statistics is affected both by the completeness of birth registration and by the accuracy with which the legitimacy item is completed. For example, some of the recent increase in illegitimate births may be due to improvements in the registration of all births, associated in turn with increased rates of hospital deliveries. Although an evaluation of the accuracy with which the legitimacy question is completed has not been undertaken, undoubtedly some women do succeed in reporting their illegitimate children as legitimate. Both of these factors probably vary among different segments of the population, for example, by race and socioeconomic status. It is likely, for example, that misreporting of legitimacy status is more widespread among women in higher socioeconomic groups because these women have more opportunity to underreport the incidence of illegitimate births. Unfortunately, statistics are not available to document such variations in quality.

There are two basic measures of illegitimacy. The first is the illegitimacy rate which relates the number of illegitimate births to the number of unmarried women in the childbearing ages. The second is the illegitimacy percentage which relates the number of illegitimate births to all births. Changes in the marital status of women in the childbearing ages affect these measures differently, and thus both measures need to be considered in a discussion of levels and trends in illegitimacy.

Between the early 1940's and 1968, the number of illegitimate births and the illegitimacy rate more than tripled. After increasing rapidly from the early 1940's to the late 1950's, the illegitimacy rate has increased slowly during the past decade. The number of illegitimate births has continued to increase rapidly partly because of the sharp increase in the number of unmarried women in the childbearing ages (from 10.3 million in 1960 to 13.9 million in 1968).

Since 1940 the number of illegitimate births of Negro and other races has exceeded the number of white illegitimate births, and the illegitimacy rate of Negro and other races has been several times higher than the white illegitimacy rate; however, these differentials have narrowed during the 1960's. The illegitimacy rate for Negro and other races, after nearly tripling between 1940 and 1961, declined by 14 percent between 1961 and 1968.

Table 24. ESTIMATED ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND ILLEGITIMACY RATES, BY RACE: FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES 1940 TO 1959 AND SINGLE-YEAR DATA 1960 TO 1968

Year	Illegitimate births (thousands)			Illegitimacy rate ¹		
	All races	White	Negro and other races	All races	White	Negro and other races
1968.....	339	155	184	24.4	13.2	86.6
1967.....	318	142	176	23.9	12.5	89.5
1966.....	302	133	170	23.4	12.0	92.8
1965.....	291	124	168	23.5	11.6	97.6
1964.....	276	114	161	23.0	11.0	97.2
1963.....	259	105	155	22.5	10.5	97.1
1962.....	245	95	150	21.9	9.8	97.5
1961.....	240	91	149	22.7	10.0	100.8
1960.....	224	83	142	21.6	9.2	98.3
1955-1959.....	202	71	130	20.8	8.6	94.6
1950-1954.....	155	56	99	16.1	} 26.1	271.2
1945-1949.....	127	57	70	11.8		
1940-1944.....	97	43	54	8.0		
PERCENT CHANGE:						
1955-1959 to 1968.....	+68	+118	+42	+17	+53	-8
1940-1944 to 1955-1959	+108	+65	+141	+160	⁴ +139	⁴ +166

¹Illegitimate births, regardless of age of mother, per 1,000 unmarried women 15 to 44 years old.

²Illegitimacy rate for 1950.

³Illegitimacy rate for 1940.

⁴Percent change, 1940 to 1955-1959.

During the past generation, illegitimacy rates have increased among women throughout the childbearing ages. Most of the increase occurred between the early 1940's and late 1950's. The illegitimacy rate for women 15 to 19 years old has continued to increase throughout the 1960's; however, the illegitimacy rates for older women have all been declining for at least 3 years.

The slight increase in the illegitimacy rate for women 15 to 44 years old between 1965 and 1968 (table 24) is due to changes in the age composition of unmarried women in the 15 to 44 age group. There was an increasing proportion in the 15 to 19 age group, the only age group in which the illegitimacy rate increased. Had the age composition of unmarried women 15 to 44 years old remained unchanged from 1965 to 1968, the illegitimacy rate would have declined slightly.

Table 25. ESTIMATED ILLEGITIMACY RATES FOR WOMEN 15 TO 44 YEARS OLD, BY AGE: FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES 1940 TO 1959 AND SINGLE-YEAR DATA 1960 TO 1968

Year	Age of woman					
	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44 ¹
1968.....	19.8	37.3	38.6	28.2	14.9	3.8
1967.....	18.6	38.3	41.4	29.2	15.4	4.0
1966.....	17.5	39.1	45.6	33.0	16.4	4.1
1965.....	16.7	39.9	49.3	37.5	17.4	4.5
1964.....	15.8	39.9	50.2	37.2	16.3	4.4
1963.....	15.2	40.3	49.0	33.2	16.1	4.3
1962.....	14.8	40.9	46.7	29.7	15.6	4.0
1961.....	15.9	41.7	46.5	28.3	15.4	3.9
1960.....	15.3	39.7	45.1	27.8	14.1	3.6
1955-1959.....	15.5	37.1	38.1	25.8	12.2	3.0
1950-1954.....	13.6	25.9	25.2	16.3	8.5	2.2
1945-1949.....	10.7	18.5	15.6	9.0	5.3	1.7
1940-1944.....	8.2	11.1	8.5	6.2	3.7	1.3
PERCENT CHANGE:						
1955-1959 to 1968.....	+28	+1	+1	+9	+22	+27
1940-1944 to 1955-1959.....	+89	+234	+348	+316	+230	+131

¹Illegitimate births to women age 40 and over per 1,000 unmarried women 40 to 44 years old.

Between the early 1940's and 1968, the percent illegitimate of total births increased from 3.6 percent to 9.7 percent. For white births the increase was from 1.8 percent to 5.3 percent while for births of Negro and other races, the increase was from 16.8 percent to 31.2 percent. In contrast to the illegitimacy rate, the percent illegitimate of total births has increased more rapidly in the 1960's than in the two preceding decades. The increase in the 1960's is due to the decline in total (mainly marital) fertility, which reduced the base for the illegitimacy percentage, and to the increase in the percentage of women in the childbearing ages who were unmarried. This figure increased from 29 percent in 1960 to 34 percent in 1968.

Table 26. ESTIMATED PERCENT ILLEGITIMATE OF TOTAL BIRTHS, BY RACE: FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES 1940 TO 1959 AND SINGLE-YEAR DATA 1960 TO 1968

Year	All races	White	Negro and other races
1968.....	9.7	5.3	31.2
1967.....	9.0	4.9	29.4
1966.....	8.4	4.4	27.7
1965.....	7.7	4.0	26.3
1964.....	6.9	3.4	24.5
1963.....	6.3	3.1	23.6
1962.....	5.9	2.7	22.9
1961.....	5.6	2.5	22.3
1960.....	5.3	2.3	21.6
1955-1959.....	4.8	2.0	20.9
1950-1954.....	4.1	1.7	18.7
1945-1949.....	3.8	2.0	17.0
1940-1944.....	3.6	1.8	16.8
PERCENT CHANGE:			
1955-1959 to 1968.....	+102	+165	+49
1940-1944 to 1955-1959.....	+33	+11	+24

During the past generation, the percent illegitimate of total births increased among women throughout the childbearing ages although the pattern of increase by age has varied considerably. Among women age 25 and over, the percentages have increased fairly steadily. For women in the 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 age groups the percentages increased more rapidly in the 1960's than in the two preceding decades. In 1968, more than one-fourth of all births to women 15 to 19 years old were illegitimate.

Table 27. ESTIMATED PERCENT ILLEGITIMATE OF TOTAL BIRTHS TO WOMEN 15 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY AGE: FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES 1940 TO 1959 AND SINGLE-YEAR DATA 1960 TO 1968

Year	Age of woman					
	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 and over
1968.....	26.7	8.3	3.9	4.1	4.7	5.1
1967.....	24.2	7.8	4.0	3.9	4.4	4.6
1966.....	21.9	7.1	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.3
1965.....	20.8	6.8	4.0	3.7	4.0	4.3
1964.....	19.0	6.1	3.6	3.3	3.6	3.9
1963.....	17.4	5.7	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.7
1962.....	15.7	5.4	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.4
1961.....	15.5	5.1	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.2
1960.....	14.8	4.8	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.1
1955-1959.....	14.2	4.5	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.8
1950-1954.....	13.4	3.9	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.2
1945-1949.....	13.9	3.9	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.7
1940-1944.....	13.5	3.5	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.6
PERCENT CHANGE:						
1955-1959 to 1968.....	+88	+84	+44	+64	+81	+82
1940-1944 to 1955-1959.....	+5	+29	+80	+92	+73	+75

In 1968, when 9.7 percent of all births were illegitimate, 16.2 percent of first births were illegitimate. Among white women 10.2 percent of first births were illegitimate while for women of Negro and other races, the corresponding figure was 48.1 percent.

In the same year, 62.9 percent of all illegitimate births were first births. The corresponding figures for white women and women of Negro and other races were 72.9 percent and 54.4 percent, respectively.

Table 28. BIRTHS BY LEGITIMACY STATUS, BIRTH ORDER, AND RACE: 1968

Race and birth order	Total births (thousands)	Illegitimate births (thousands)	Percent illegitimate of total births ¹	Percent distribution of illegitimate births by birth order ^{1 2}
ALL RACES				
Total births ³	3,502	339	9.7	100.0
First births.....	1,311	213	16.2	62.9
Second births.....	918	56	6.1	16.6
Third births.....	539	26	4.8	7.7
Fourth births.....	308	15	5.0	4.5
Fifth births and over.....	423	28	6.7	8.4
WHITE				
Total births ³	2,912	155	5.3	100.0
First births.....	1,104	113	10.2	72.9
Second births.....	788	20	2.5	12.8
Third births.....	458	9	2.0	5.9
Fourth births.....	254	5	2.0	3.4
Fifth births and over.....	306	8	2.6	5.1
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES				
Total births ³	589	184	31.2	100.0
First births.....	208	100	48.1	54.4
Second births.....	130	36	28.0	19.7
Third births.....	81	17	21.1	9.2
Fourth births.....	53	10	18.8	5.4
Fifth births and over.....	117	20	17.4	11.1

¹Percentages based on unrounded numbers.

²Excludes the small number of births for which birth order was not stated.

³Includes the small number of births for which birth order was not stated.

Between 1955 and 1967, the average number of total children expected among wives 18 to 24 years old dropped from 3.2 to 2.9, suggesting that the recent decline in fertility among young women will be reflected in a smaller completed family size. The percentage of expected children already born among wives age 25 and over has increased; however, among wives 18 to 24 years old the percentage appears to have declined between 1960 and 1967 which is indicative of the recent delay in childbearing discussed earlier. Between 1955 and 1967 the percentage of wives who expected no more children increased in each age group. In 1967, more than half of all wives 25 to 29 years old did not expect to have any more children.

Table 29. SELECTED DATA ON THE BIRTH EXPECTATIONS OF WHITE WIVES 18 TO 39 YEARS OLD BY AGE, FOR WIVES REPORTING: 1955, 1960, 1965, AND 1967

Subject and year	Age of wife			
	18 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39
AVERAGE NUMBER OF BIRTHS TO DATE				
1967.....	1.1	2.3	3.0	3.1
1965.....	1.3	2.4	3.0	3.1
1960.....	1.3	2.3	2.6	2.7
1955.....	1.1	1.9	2.3	2.6
AVERAGE NUMBER OF TOTAL CHILDREN EXPECTED				
1967.....	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.2
1965.....	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.3
1960.....	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.0
1955.....	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9
PERCENT OF EXPECTED CHILDREN ALREADY BORN¹				
1967.....	39	75	93	97
1965.....	41	73	87	95
1960.....	44	70	82	91
1955.....	35	62	78	89
PERCENT OF WIVES EXPECTING NO MORE CHILDREN¹				
1967.....	22	56	85	94
1965.....	24	51	74	89
1960.....	15	37	58	76
1955.....	14	33	56	75

¹Percentages based on unrounded data.

Among wives 18 to 24 years old in 1967, the average numbers of total children expected by whites (2.9) and by Negroes (2.8) were not significantly different, despite the fact that Negro wives had already borne an average of 1.8 children compared to 1.1 children for white wives. As a result, 64 percent of the children expected by Negro wives 18 to 24 years old had already been borne (as opposed to 39 percent for white wives), and 42 percent of these Negro wives did not expect to have any more children (as opposed to 22 percent for white wives).

Given the substantially higher average number of children already born among Negro wives 18 to 24 years old than among white wives in this age group and given the differentials in fertility by race and various social and economic characteristics (as discussed in Section III), it is extremely unlikely that these two groups of women will conclude childbearing with the same fertility.

Table 30. SELECTED DATA ON THE BIRTH EXPECTATIONS OF WIVES 18 TO 39 YEARS OLD BY RACE AND AGE, FOR WIVES REPORTING: 1967

Subject and race	Age of wife			
	18 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39
AVERAGE NUMBER OF BIRTHS TO DATE				
All races.....	1.2	2.3	3.0	3.2
White.....	1.1	2.3	3.0	3.1
Negro.....	1.8	3.0	3.9	4.2
AVERAGE NUMBER OF TOTAL CHILDREN EXPECTED				
All races.....	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.3
White.....	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.2
Negro.....	2.8	3.4	4.3	4.2
PERCENT OF EXPECTED CHILDREN ALREADY BORN¹				
All races.....	41	76	93	97
White.....	39	75	93	97
Negro.....	64	88	92	98
PERCENT OF WIVES EXPECTING NO MORE CHILDREN¹				
All races.....	24	58	84	94
White.....	22	56	85	94
Negro.....	42	73	77	95

¹Percentages based on unrounded data.

VII. CONTRACEPTION AND ATTITUDES TOWARD ABORTION

The extent to which American women control both the quantity and timing of their childbearing provides evidence of the success which they practice contraception. Just as there are differentials in fertility by social and economic characteristics, there are differentials in women's attitudes toward contraception and in the success with which they practice contraception. In fact, these differentials with regard to contraception account for part of the observed differentials in fertility. Unfortunately, there are no reliable data on the extent of abortion in the United States, and thus the coverage here is limited to information on attitudes toward abortion.

The data in this section are drawn from the first Growth of American Families Study (1955), which was limited to white women, and from the National Fertility Study (1965).

Between 1955 and 1965, there were increases in the percentages of white wives 18 to 39 years old who had ever used contraception or who had ever used or expected to use contraception. At the latter date, 90 percent of white women and 86 percent of women of Negro and other races were included in this category. For both white women and women of Negro and other races, the percent who have ever used contraception or who have ever used or expect to use contraception is lowest among women with an elementary education.

Table 31. PERCENT OF WIVES 18 TO 39 YEARS OLD WHO HAVE EVER USED OR EXPECT TO USE CONTRACEPTION, BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS: WHITE WIVES, 1955 AND 1965, AND WIVES OF NEGRO AND OTHER RACES, 1965

Subject	White				Negro and other races	
	Have ever used		Have ever used or expect to use		Have ever used	Have ever used or expect to use
	1965	1955	1965	1955	—	—
			1965	1955	1965	1965
Total.....	84	70	90	79	77	86
AGE						
18 to 24 years.....	84	68	94	84	85	93
25 to 29 years.....	86	73	93	83	82	90
30 to 34 years.....	84	73	88	79	74	84
35 to 39 years.....	81	65	84	69	65	71
CHILDREN EVER BORN						
None.....	56	42	75	59	55	67
1.....	81	71	90	82	68	73
2.....	89	78	92	84	85	91
3.....	91	81	93	87	82	87
4.....	90	73	94	78	91	96
5.....	90	67	93	74	76	90
6 or more.....	81	57	84	65	76	84
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Elementary school.....	65	49	75	59	58	71
High school, 1 to 3 years..	83	66	88	76	79	87
High school, 4 years.....	86	74	92	83	83	91
Some college.....	88	85	94	88	85	88

In 1965, about one-fifth of white couples and Negro couples who had ever used contraception had used oral contraception most recently. Within 10 years after its introduction, the pill was the leading method of contraception among white couples. In 1955, about 74 percent of white couples who had ever used contraception had used the condom, rhythm, or the diaphragm most recently. In 1965, the corresponding figure was only 45 percent.

Table 32. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF COUPLES WHO HAVE EVER USED CONTRACEPTION, BY METHOD OF CONTRACEPTION USED MOST RECENTLY: WHITE COUPLES, 1955 AND 1965, AND NEGRO COUPLES, 1965

Method of contraception	White		Negro
	1965 ¹	1955 ²	1965 ¹
Total.....	100	100	100
Pill.....	23	-	21
Condom.....	19	27	16
Rhythm.....	14	22	2
Diaphragm.....	12	25	5
Douche.....	7	8	22
Withdrawal.....	6	7	4
Jelly alone.....	2	4	4
Other single methods.....	5	2	11
Multiple methods.....	12	5	14

-Represents zero.

¹For 1965, couples with wife under 45 years old.

²For 1955, couples with wife 18 to 39 years old.

In 1965, the percentages of white wives who were using or who had ever used oral contraceptives were slightly higher than the corresponding percentages for Negro women, although the percentages of white and Negro wives who reported that they had ever used or may use oral contraceptives were about the same.

While the data in table 33 suggest a positive correlation between educational attainment and the use of oral contraceptives, the more striking fact is that the acceptance of oral contraceptives is much lower among women with an elementary school education than among women with 1 to 3 years of high school.

Table 33. PERCENT OF WIVES UNDER 45 YEARS OLD WHO ARE USING, HAVE EVER USED, OR MAY USE ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES, BY RACE, AGE, PARITY, AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: 1965

Subject	Now using		Have ever used		Have ever used or may use	
	White	Negro	White	Negro	White	Negro
Total.....	16	12	27	19	45	43
AGE						
Under 20 years.....	30	17	45	22	74	44
20 to 24 years.....	32	17	49	30	68	65
25 to 29 years.....	22	23	38	25	60	56
30 to 34 years.....	14	12	25	18	44	46
35 to 39 years.....	8	5	15	9	35	29
40 to 44 years.....	5	2	9	9	20	12
CHILDREN EVER BORN						
None.....	16	4	29	8	52	24
1.....	17	10	31	19	49	43
2.....	18	14	28	22	47	50
3.....	16	14	26	23	44	46
4.....	16	23	26	29	44	54
5 or more.....	10	11	20	15	36	40
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Elementary school.....	9	3	13	6	28	27
High school, 1 to 3 years....	16	12	27	19	43	45
High school, 4 years.....	16	17	26	25	47	49
College, 1 to 3 years.....	19	16	33	24	53	46
College, 4 years or more....	22	21	38	29	57	50

In 1965, a large majority of married women under age 55 approved of abortion if pregnancy seriously endangered a woman's health. About one-half approved of abortion if a woman had good reason to believe the child might be deformed or if a woman had been raped. A large majority disapproved of abortion in cases where the woman was not married or the couple could not afford another child or the couple did not want any more children.

Table 34. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF MARRIED WOMEN UNDER 55 YEARS OLD, BY ATTITUDE TOWARD ABORTION, FOR SELECTED REASONS: 1965

Reason	Approve of abortion	Do not approve of abortion	Don't know and no response
If the pregnancy seriously endangered the woman's health.....	87	11	2
If the woman was not married.....	13	84	3
If the couple could not afford another child...	11	87	2
If the couple did not want any more children...	8	91	1
If the woman had good reason to believe the child might be deformed.....	50	46	4
If the woman had been raped.....	52	42	6

Among married women under age 55 in 1965, the percentage approving of abortion for all reasons (those listed in table 34) was higher for those with some college education than for those who did not proceed beyond high school, although only about one-sixth of women with 4 or more years of college approved of abortion for all reasons. White women and women of Negro and other races had similar attitudes toward abortion.

Table 35. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF MARRIED WOMEN UNDER 55 YEARS OLD, BY ATTITUDE TOWARD ABORTION, BY RACE, AGE, AND EDUCATION ATTAINMENT: 1965

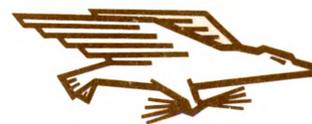
Subject	Approving of abortion for all reasons ¹	Approving of abortion for at least one reason ¹	Opposing abortion for any reason ¹
Total.....	8	83	9
RACE			
White.....	8	83	9
Negro and other races.....	7	81	12
AGE			
Under 25 years.....	7	84	9
25 to 34 years.....	6	84	10
35 to 44 years.....	9	83	8
45 to 54 years.....	10	81	9
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT			
Elementary school.....	7	76	17
High school, 1 to 3 years.....	7	85	8
High school, 4 years.....	7	86	7
College, 1 to 3 years.....	11	81	8
College, 4 years or more.....	17	78	5

¹The reasons are those listed in table 34.

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