

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

Special Studies

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Issued August 1976

Premarital Fertility

Births
While Single

Births Conceived
Before First Marriage

Births Conceived
After First Marriage

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



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PREMARITAL FERTILITY

INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of this report is to present selected highlights and findings from the 1970 census on the fertility of single women and of women who married while pregnant. Topics covered include the proportion of women who had children while single, the extent to which these women subsequently married, and their age at marriage. Also featured are data on women who had a first child at an interval soon enough after marriage to imply a premarital conception and data for the great majority of women who had their first child at an interval long enough after marriage that did not imply a premarital conception. The findings include comparisons by characteristics such as race, educational attainment, the current (1970) life style as indicated by the occupation of the woman and her husband (if any), family income in 1969, and poverty status. Some information is also presented on the proportion of unmarried mothers who eventually married and on the stability of the marriages of women who married after a premarital conception. An appendix discusses how fertility histories were derived from census questionnaire items and indicates the extent of nonreporting and other limitations of the data.

The source notes shown with the tables in this report indicate where the data originated, but in most cases some manipulation of information was involved to obtain differences between figures, derivations of percentages, etc. Hence, the reader should not expect to find exactly the same detail in the source tables.

AN OVERVIEW

Table 1 presents data on the timing of the first child for women who were born in 1930 to 1934. The purpose of the table is to indicate some of the many points of view from which a given set of cross-classifications can be examined. All of the parts of table 1 were derived from the much briefer table 2. The birth cohort of 1930 to 1934 was essentially nearing the end of its lifetime childbearing at the time of the census in 1970. It had participated in the Nation's pre-1957 trend (since reversed) toward early marriage and childbearing. Among the highlights shown by the data in table 1 are:

1. In general, 94 of each 100 women in the cohort had ever married, indicating that marriage was nearly universal.

2. Even the few women who remained single were mothers in some instances. That happened for 18.8 percent of the women who remained single. By race, the proportions were 10.3 percent for Whites and 55.5 percent for Blacks.

3. Overall, 6.7 percent of the women in the cohort of 1930 to 1934 had become mothers while single. That occurred for 4.5 percent of the Whites and 23.1 percent of the Blacks.

4. A large majority of the women who became mothers while single subsequently married. That occurred with 83.2 percent of women of all races, 87.6 percent of Whites and 76.6 percent of Blacks who were single at the time their first child was born.

5. Although some women became mothers while single, they were outnumbered among Whites by women who were pregnant at marriage but married before the child was born. Among Whites, 62.9 percent of the women with a premaritally conceived first child married before the child was born. Among Blacks, however, only 31.6 percent married before the child was born; the rest married later or remained single.

6. As has been customary for many generations in this country, motherhood continued to follow marriage in most cases. Including the women with a child born shortly after marriage as well as those who waited for a longer time, 94.8 percent of the White mothers and 73.5 percent of the Black mothers had their first child after marriage.

7. The differences between Whites and Blacks in marriage customs and the timing of births are thought to reflect many factors such as attitudes and job opportunities or economic considerations as well as knowledge of and the efficient use of family planning practices. Whatever the causes, the results show that 9.2 percent of Whites and 16.7 percent of Blacks became mothers 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage rather than the more usual 3 or more quarters (9 months or more) after marriage.

Table 1 (and also other tables in this report) show spacing intervals in terms of the number of calendar quarters that elapsed between two or more events because events recorded in the 1970 census were dated in terms of calendar quarter (January to March, April to June, July to September, November to December) and year. Day and/or month was not obtained.

Table 1. TIMING OF FIRST MARRIAGE AND FIRST BIRTH, FOR WOMEN BORN IN 1930 TO 1934, BY RACE

Subject	All races	White	Black
Women born in 1930 to 1934.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ever married by age 37.....	94.0	94.5	90.3
Still single at age 37.....	6.0	5.5	9.7
Women born in 1930 to 1934.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mother by 1970.....	88.3	88.6	86.9
While single.....	6.7	4.5	23.1
While ever married.....	81.6	84.0	63.8
Childless in 1970.....	11.7	11.4	13.1
Women childless in 1970.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ever married by age 37.....	58.5	57.2	66.9
Still single at age 37.....	41.5	42.8	33.1
Mothers by 1970.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
First child born 3 or more calendar quarters after marriage of mother.....	83.3	86.1	61.2
First child born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage of mother.....	9.1	8.7	12.3
Mother married after birth of first child.....	6.3	4.5	20.4
Mother still single at age 37.....	1.3	0.6	6.2
Mothers while ever married.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
First child born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage...	9.9	9.2	16.7
First child born 3 or more calendar quarters after marriage.	90.1	90.8	83.3
Mothers with first child conceived before marriage.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Child born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage.....	54.6	62.9	31.6
Mother married after birth of child.....	37.8	32.5	52.4
Mother still single at age 37.....	7.6	4.6	16.0
Mothers while single.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mother married after birth of child.....	83.2	87.6	76.6
Mother still single at age 37.....	16.8	12.4	23.4
Women still single at age 37.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Childless in 1970.....	81.2	89.7	44.5
Mother by 1970.....	18.8	10.3	55.5

Source: Table 2, infra.

Table 2. FIRST BIRTHS BEFORE AND AFTER FIRST MARRIAGES, FOR WOMEN BORN IN 1930 TO 1934, BY RACE

Subject	All races		White		Black	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Women born in 1930 to 1934.....	5,740,168	100.0	4,992,997	100.0	653,986	100.0
First child born while mother was single...	384,044	6.7	227,148	4.5	150,976	23.1
Mother subsequently married by age 37....	319,551	5.6	198,992	4.0	115,633	17.7
Mother still single at age 37.....	64,493	1.1	28,156	0.6	35,343	5.4
First child born after mother's marriage...	4,683,942	81.6	4,194,502	84.0	417,231	63.8
0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage..	462,445	8.1	385,666	7.7	69,650	10.7
3 or more calendar quarters after marriage.	4,221,497	73.5	3,808,836	76.3	347,581	53.2
Childless in 1970.....	672,181	11.7	571,347	11.4	85,779	13.1
Ever married by age 37.....	393,170	6.8	326,943	6.5	57,421	8.8
Still single at age 37.....	279,011	4.9	244,404	4.9	28,358	4.3

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, tables 1, 27, and 88. Division by calendar quarters estimated from the experience of the 1950 to 1954 marriage cohort. Some of the detail for all races estimated by prorating the sum of data for Whites and Blacks to add to known totals for women of all races.

PROPORTIONS OF WOMEN WHO HAVE HAD CHILDREN WHILE SINGLE

Table 3 presents summary data from the 1970 census for birth cohorts of women (single and ever married combined). Among the women in the several birth cohorts of 1920-24 to 1940-44, the usual pattern was for about 5 percent of the White women to have had at least one child while single. Among White women who had children, the usual pattern was for almost 6 percent of the first births to have occurred while the mother was single. Much higher percentages appear in the data for the birth cohorts of 1945 to 1949 and 1950 to 1954 because many of their eventual lifetime first births within marriage were yet to come.

In contrast to the near-stability in the percentages just cited for White women in the cohorts of 1920-24 to 1940-44, Black women had large increases in the proportions with a child born before marriage, from 14 percent in the cohort of 1920 to 1924 to 31 percent in the cohort of 1940 to 1944. Among Black mothers, the corresponding range by cohorts was from 18 to 38 percent.

The data in table 3 should be interpreted with awareness that the true incidence of births before marriage is likely to be even higher because of misreporting of some dates or events. Although most respondents probably reported the date of a legal marriage, the 1970 census did not ask about the legality of marriage, and some persons may have reported the approximate date when a consensual marriage or an informal arrangement began. In the preparation of the edited tape files used for tabulations, any woman whose relationship to the household head was "wife" was automatically coded as "now married," and a marriage date was allocated if none was given on the enumeration records.

Vital statistics of the United States can be used for a rough partial check on the figures from the 1970 census, although the data are not strictly comparable. For example, in the year 1962 some 34 States reported on the legitimacy of births by race and order of birth. (New Jersey did not ask race in 1962; the other missing States did not ask about legitimacy when registering births.) In these 34 States, 6.3 percent of White first births and 44.8 percent of the other first births (mostly Black) were illegitimate. These figures correspond reasonably well to the data in table 1 for the 1940 to 1944 birth cohort of women, wherein 6.3 percent of the White first

births and 38.3 percent of the Black first births were classified as occurring to mothers who were single at the time of birth. The 1940 to 1944 cohort of women was around age 20 (close to the median age of single women at the birth of their first child) shortly before and after the year 1962. It should be noted, however, that the vital statistics on illegitimate births include not only births to single mothers but also births to widowed and divorced women and perhaps to some women who were separated from their husband.

The 1970 census materials on first births before marriage can also be examined from a calendar period point of view instead of a cohort point of view. Consider the births that occurred in the calendar period 1965 to 1969. According to the data shown in table 68 of the 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, White women surviving to 1970 had 5,244,648 first births during the years 1965 to 1969, of which 8.5 percent occurred to mothers who were single at the time of the birth. Among Blacks, the corresponding figures were 903,279 first births of which 47.4 percent occurred to mothers who were single. In contrast, birth registration data from reports on *Vital Statistics of the United States* indicate that 5,303,088 White first births and 879,339 Black first births occurred in the years 1965 to 1969. The proportions of first births that were illegitimate were available from vital statistics for 1969 but not for earlier years. In 1969, 10.1 percent of first births among Whites and 52.6 percent among Blacks were reported to be illegitimate.

Some women who became mothers while single had more than one child. Table 4 shows what happened among the mothers who were still single at the time of the 1970 census. By 1970, 28.9 percent of the never-married White mothers 14 to 54 years old had 2 to 4 children and another 7.8 percent had 5 or more as compared with 63.3 percent who stopped at one live birth. Among Blacks, the corresponding figures were 37.3 percent with 2 to 4 children ever born, 8.7 percent with 5 or more, and 54.0 percent with only one live birth. The figures include both the many young recent mothers and the fewer older ones who have had more time in which to have more than one child. The largest numbers of never-married mothers occur in the 5-year age group 20 to 24 for Whites (123,417) and Blacks (164,862). Largely because of attrition to the single population as women eventually marry, table 4 shows that there were only a little over half as many mothers who were still single at ages 25 to 29 than at ages 20 to 24.

Table 3. PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO WERE CHILDLESS AND PROPORTION WHO WERE MOTHERS WITH FIRST CHILD BORN BEFORE MARRIAGE, FOR WOMEN BORN IN 1920 TO 1954, BY RACE AND AGE

Race, birth cohort, and age in 1970	Number of women	Percent				Percent of first births occurring while single	
		Total	Childless	With first birth			
				While single	After marriage		
ALL RACES							
Women born in--	Age in 1970:						
1950 to 1954.....	15 to 20.....	9,441,641	100.0	90.4	3.5	6.1	36.5
1945 to 1949.....	20 to 25.....	8,252,175	100.0	53.6	7.5	38.9	16.2
1940 to 1944.....	25 to 30.....	6,785,777	100.0	22.8	7.9	69.3	10.2
1935 to 1939.....	30 to 35.....	5,839,079	100.0	13.2	8.0	78.8	9.2
1930 to 1934.....	35 to 40.....	5,740,168	100.0	11.7	6.7	81.6	7.6
1925 to 1929.....	40 to 45.....	6,156,829	100.0	12.8	6.5	80.7	7.5
1920 to 1924.....	45 to 50.....	6,266,117	100.0	15.0	5.8	79.2	6.8
WHITE							
Women born in--	Age in 1970:						
1950 to 1954.....	15 to 20.....	8,105,867	100.0	92.3	1.7	6.0	22.1
1945 to 1949.....	20 to 25.....	7,197,461	100.0	55.8	4.4	39.8	10.0
1940 to 1944.....	25 to 30.....	5,916,673	100.0	23.2	4.9	71.9	6.4
1935 to 1939.....	30 to 35.....	5,059,874	100.0	13.2	5.1	81.7	5.9
1930 to 1934.....	35 to 40.....	4,992,997	100.0	11.4	4.6	84.0	5.2
1925 to 1929.....	40 to 45.....	5,415,876	100.0	12.5	5.0	82.5	5.7
1920 to 1924.....	45 to 50.....	5,599,009	100.0	14.4	4.9	80.7	5.7
BLACK							
Women born in--	Age in 1970:						
1950 to 1954.....	15 to 20.....	1,211,817	100.0	77.4	16.0	6.6	70.8
1945 to 1949.....	20 to 25.....	938,540	100.0	36.5	30.4	33.1	47.9
1940 to 1944.....	25 to 30.....	761,182	100.0	18.8	31.0	50.2	38.2
1935 to 1939.....	30 to 35.....	682,485	100.0	12.9	29.1	58.0	33.4
1930 to 1934.....	35 to 40.....	653,986	100.0	13.1	23.1	63.8	26.6
1925 to 1929.....	40 to 45.....	655,775	100.0	15.9	17.7	66.4	21.0
1920 to 1924.....	45 to 50.....	599,484	100.0	20.3	14.4	65.3	18.1

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, tables 1 and 93.

Table 4. MOTHERS 15 TO 54 YEARS OLD WHO WERE STILL SINGLE IN 1970 BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, RACE, AND AGE

Race and age	Never-married mothers	Percent			
		Total	1 child	2 to 4 children	5 or more children
ALL RACES					
Total, 14 to 54 years....	1,001,832	100.0	58.0	33.7	8.2
14 to 17 years.....	118,022	100.0	86.8	13.2	-
18 and 19 years.....	142,078	100.0	77.6	21.3	1.2
20 to 24 years.....	296,283	100.0	64.6	32.2	3.2
25 to 29 years.....	156,875	100.0	44.9	45.3	9.9
30 to 39 years.....	158,982	100.0	34.9	44.8	20.3
40 to 54 years.....	129,592	100.0	39.8	42.0	18.3
WHITE					
Total, 14 to 54 years....	414,704	100.0	63.3	28.9	7.8
14 to 17 years.....	38,141	100.0	79.9	20.1	-
18 and 19 years.....	55,644	100.0	80.9	16.8	2.3
20 to 24 years.....	123,417	100.0	73.7	21.7	4.7
25 to 29 years.....	63,951	100.0	56.0	35.2	8.8
30 to 39 years.....	66,665	100.0	45.3	40.6	14.1
40 to 54 years.....	66,886	100.0	44.9	39.6	15.6
BLACK					
Total, 14 to 54 years....	561,141	100.0	54.0	37.3	8.7
14 to 17 years.....	75,904	100.0	89.8	10.2	-
18 and 19 years.....	82,655	100.0	75.2	24.3	0.4
20 to 24 years.....	164,842	100.0	57.7	40.0	2.2
25 to 29 years.....	89,035	100.0	36.9	52.4	10.7
30 to 39 years.....	88,697	100.0	27.1	47.7	25.2
40 to 54 years.....	60,008	100.0	34.3	44.2	21.5

- Represents zero.

Source: Table 3 and 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, tables 104 and 107.

NEVER-MARRIED MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN PRESENT

Never-married mothers under age 25 less often than older mothers were recorded as having some or all of their children living with them. Evidently the young mothers more often than older mothers either gave up the children for adoption or placed them temporarily with relatives or in foster homes. In general, Black mothers of all ages were more likely to keep their children than were White mothers, perhaps because foster homes or adoption prospects may be harder to find. Differences are most marked when comparisons are made for mothers who have had several children, but they also exist for one-child mothers.

In 1970 the smallest proportions with children present occurred among White never-married mothers 14 to 17 years old. In that age group, 21.3 percent of the one-child mothers and only 3.3 percent of those with 2 to 4 children had at least one child living with them (table 5). Among Blacks the comparable figures for the age group 14 to 17 were 24.6 percent with a child present among women with one child ever born and 31.9 percent among those with 2 to 4 children ever born.

The proportions with children present increased through ages 18 and 19 and 20 to 24, reaching the highest level at ages 25 to 39. The proportions decline sharply after age 40 because many of the children have grown up and left home.

Among White women in the age group 25 to 29 where the proportion with children present was high, 48.4 percent of the one-child women and 57.2 percent of the women with 2 to 4 children ever born had at least one child present.

Among Black women, the peak proportions with at least one child present occurred in age group 30 to 39 years and involved 50.4 percent of the one-child mothers and 66.7 percent of the mothers with 2 to 4 children ever born.

Table 5 also contains data for the relatively few women never married who have had 5 children or more. The table shows that Black women with large families were keeping their children more often than were White women with large families.

Table 5. PRESENCE OF CHILDREN FOR MOTHERS 14 TO 54 YEARS OLD IN 1970 WHO WERE STILL SINGLE, BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, RACE, AND AGE

Subject	Women, 14 to 54 years	Age of woman					
		14 to 17 years	18 and 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 to 29 years	30 to 39 years	40 to 54 years
WHITE							
Single women with 1 child ever born:							
Number.....	262,398	30,474	44,990	90,908	35,810	30,208	30,008
Percent with only child present.....	35.5	21.3	26.8	38.4	48.4	45.3	28.9
Percent with only child absent.....	64.5	78.7	73.2	61.6	51.6	54.7	71.1
Single women with 2 to 4 children:							
Number.....	119,817	7,667	9,358	26,747	22,490	27,087	26,468
Percent with all children present.....	22.6	2.6	12.8	24.8	34.7	29.4	12.5
Percent with some children present.....	10.2	0.8	3.9	8.6	12.5	11.0	13.9
Percent with all children absent.....	67.2	96.6	83.3	66.6	52.8	59.6	73.6
Single women with 5 or more children:							
Number.....	32,489	-	1,296	5,762	5,651	9,370	10,410
Percent with all children present.....	5.8	-	-	1.8	4.6	11.7	4.1
Percent with some or all children absent.	94.2	-	100.0	98.2	95.4	88.3	95.9
BLACK							
Single women with 1 child ever born:							
Number.....	302,995	68,150	62,194	95,170	32,850	24,041	20,590
Percent with only child present.....	38.1	24.6	35.0	44.7	48.4	50.4	30.9
Percent with only child absent.....	61.9	75.4	65.0	55.3	51.6	49.6	69.1
Single women with 2 to 4 children:							
Number.....	209,356	7,754	20,104	65,998	46,687	42,294	26,519
Percent with all children present.....	42.4	20.7	34.1	46.1	51.7	49.1	18.9
Percent with some children present.....	15.8	11.2	8.5	12.5	15.5	17.6	28.9
Percent with all children absent.....	41.7	68.1	57.4	41.4	32.8	33.3	52.2
Single women with 5 or more children:							
Number.....	48,790	-	357	3,674	9,498	22,362	12,899
Percent with all children present.....	27.2	-	6.2	26.0	39.5	30.9	12.7
Percent with some or all children absent.	72.8	-	93.8	74.0	60.5	69.1	87.3

- Represents zero.

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, tables 104 and 107.

MARRIAGE PROSPECTS OF WOMEN WHO HAD CHILDREN WHILE SINGLE AND OF OTHER WOMEN

The cohort of women born in 1930 to 1934 has been chosen for the purpose of illustrating marriage prospects. The cohort born in 1930 to 1934 comprises women who were 35 to 40 years old as of April 1, 1970; they were old enough for nearly all of the cohort's lifetime first marriages and first births to have already occurred. Younger cohorts would have less complete experience and older cohorts would have less recent experience. This group is especially significant because the women born in 1930 to 1934 were around age 20 (close to the median age at marriage) in 1950 to 1954, which was a period when women were marrying at the youngest age on record and when the Nation's annual birth rate was approaching the post-World War II peak (reached in 1957). Although a younger average age at first marriage might be thought to have the effect of reducing the number of women at risk of having a child before marriage, vital statistics also showed a trend toward a higher incidence of illegitimate births. The pill and the IUD were not on the market during the 1950's, and no State had yet liberalized its laws regarding induced abortion. Hence, the cohort of women born in 1930 to 1934 probably has included one of the largest numbers of women with at least one child born before marriage.

Among all women born in 1930 to 1934, 94.0 percent had married by age 37. By race, the proportions were 94.5 percent for Whites and 90.3 percent for Blacks. Among women in this birth cohort who had a

child while single, 87.6 percent of the Whites and 77.6 percent of the Blacks subsequently married by the 1970 census date. Proportions cited for all women in the cohort involve marriage experience from age 14 to age 37, whereas proportions for women who had a child while single involve the shorter period of marriage prospects after, the age at which the woman became a mother. A more careful examination of data by age would show that single women who have had children are not necessarily at a serious disadvantage in prospects for marriage. This is demonstrated in the section on "Age of mothers at birth of their first child."

For the cohort of 1930 to 1934, the highest proportions ever married by age 37 occurred among the women who were mothers, including the many who became mothers after marriage as well as the few who were mothers before marriage. A combined proportion of 99 percent of the White mothers and 94 percent of the Black mothers had ever married as of 1970. Conversely, the lowest proportions occurred among the women who were still childless by age 37. As of 1970, only 58 percent of the childless White women and 69 percent of the childless Black women had ever married.

From the data just cited, it is clear that the lifetime probabilities of marriage were much greater among the women who had children while single than among the women who remained childless.

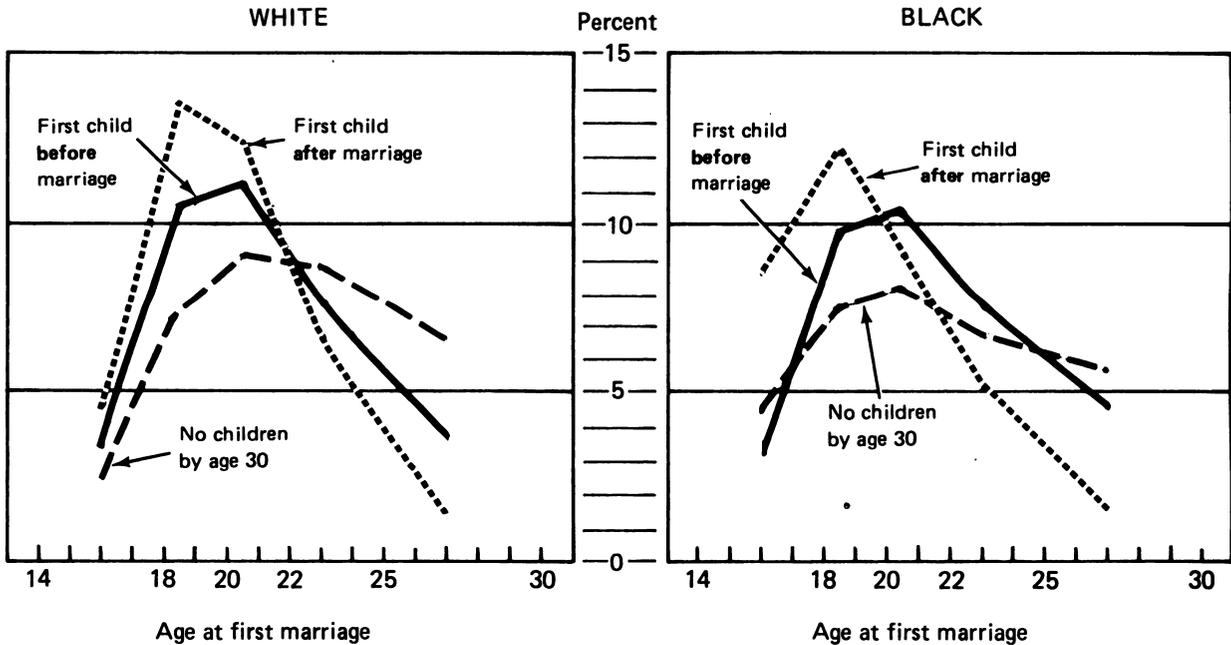
AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE

Age at first marriage is a topic that can be viewed from the standpoint of either birth cohorts of women or of marriage cohorts. The birth cohorts used here are old enough for most of the marriages that will ever happen in the lifetime of the cohort to have already occurred. Of course, many of the marriages will not have occurred recently. Nevertheless, a study of age at marriage for women who thereafter remained childless can best be made with marriages that are not recent. Data are presented in figure 1 for women 30 to 54 years old in 1970 who first married by age 30, with childbearing tallied (intentionally) only to age 30. Those were women in the birth cohorts of 1916 to 1940.

Figure 1 illustrates the general principle that women who have their first child after marriage tend to be selective of those who married at relatively young ages. Among women who had their first child after marriage, there was much concentration around their modal ages at marriage (18 and 19). Women who remained childless after marriage were more widely distributed by age at marriage, with considerable proportions married at ages much older than the modal age. The general pattern holds for Whites and Blacks alike, although the magnitudes differ.

Figure 1. Age at Marriage and Timing of the First Child

(For women 30 to 54 years old in 1970. Marriage and first births limited in this chart to events occurring by age 30)



Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B,

For marriage cohorts, data on premarital pregnancies are available from the 1970 census not only for women who had children before the first marriage began but also for women who conceived a child before marriage but married 0 to 2 calendar quarters before their first child was born.

Two selected marriage cohorts are shown in table 6. One consists of women who married for the first time in 1965 to 1969, regardless of any subsequent changes in marital status from separation, widowhood, divorce, or remarriage. The other marriage cohort consists of women who first married in 1950 to 1954. Both cohorts

have had their full experience with premarital pregnancies, of course. Additional postmaritally conceived first births will occur in years after 1970; these additional births will somewhat alter the distributions by age at first marriage from those shown for women who were still childless at the time of the 1970 census. A rough idea of things to come might be that about 20 percent of White women first married in 1965 to 1969 will have their first child in the years after the 1970 census date as will 6 percent of the Black women. For the cohort of 1950 to 1954, comparable estimates are that 2 percent of the White and 3 percent of the Black women will have their first child after the 1970 census date. These projections are based on computations which assume that 7 percent of the White women in the two marriage cohorts and 9 percent of the Black women will remain childless in their lifetime. (The assumptions are based on data from tables 6 and 7 of the 1970 census report PC(2)-3A which show that ever-married women age 35 to 39 had those levels of childlessness.)

The data on marriage cohorts in table 6, like those above on birth cohorts of women, show that the women who had their first child after marriage usually married at a relatively young age. The marriage data in table 6 show further that women who had their first child 0 to 2 calendar quarters after the marriage began included a larger proportion who married at age 14 to 17 than that for women who waited at least 3 calendar quarters to have their first child. Among Whites and Blacks alike and in both the more recent and older marriage cohorts of women, young brides (14 to 19 years old) comprised substantially more than half of all women who married 0 to 2 calendar quarters before their first child was born. This did not necessarily mean, however, that most young brides were premaritally pregnant. For example, among White brides who first married at ages 14 to 17 in 1965 to 1969, only 32 percent had a premaritally conceived first child; the other 68 percent were still childless as of 1970. But, among those brides who were ever premaritally pregnant, 89 percent married before the child was born. Among Black brides at ages 14 to 17, 54 percent were ever premaritally pregnant, and among those premaritally pregnant, 67 percent married before the child was born.

Among the relatively few brides who married for the first time at ages 30 and over in 1965 to 1969, 31 percent of the Whites and 58 percent of the Blacks had a premaritally conceived first birth; among those who were premaritally pregnant, 26 percent of the Whites

and 50 percent of the Blacks had that first child before marriage—some of them long before. It is not known how many of these older brides were legally marrying the fathers of their children after a long consensual relationship and how many were marrying another man.

Among White women who first married in 1965 to 1969, the median age at first marriage was highest (22.6 years) for those who had a child before marriage and lowest (19.3) for those who had their first child early (0 to 2 calendar quarters) after marriage. For those who had no premaritally conceived first child, the median age at first marriage was 20.7 years. These findings suggest that the median age of White women who had a child before marriage was generally about 2 years later than that for women with no premaritally conceived first child and about 3 years later than that for women who had their first child very early after marriage. The patterns of median age at first marriage for Black women are essentially similar, being respectively 21.9 years (premarital child), 19.3 years (first child 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage), and 20.7 years (no premaritally conceived first child). Blacks, however, had higher proportions than Whites with first marriages at ages 14 to 17, even when there was no first child recorded as being premaritally conceived.

The data in table 7 for women who first married in 1965 to 1969 typify patterns of birth rates which have prevailed among earlier cohorts and which will likely prevail in the future. Thus, the proportion of women with a first child born shortly after marriage is highest for brides who were 14 to 17 years old at marriage. Thereafter, the proportions decline among women of successively older marriage ages. Conversely, a pattern of lowest proportion with a first child born before marriage occurs among women who married at ages 14 to 17 and thereafter the proportions increase among women of successively older ages at marriage. When premaritally conceived first child birth rates are considered (adding together births occurring before marriage and those occurring shortly after marriage), a U-shaped pattern emerges: the premaritally conceived first child birth rates per 1,000 women decline from a relatively high level among women who first married at ages 14 to 17 to a low point just before marriage age 25. The trend then turns upwards, with the women who first married at ages 30 and over having about as high a rate as that for women who first married at ages 14 to 17.

Table 6. AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE OF WOMEN WITH AND WITHOUT PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED CHILDREN, FOR WHITE AND BLACK WOMEN WHO FIRST MARRIED IN 1965 TO 1969 AND IN 1950 TO 1954

Subject	Total women	With a premaritally conceived child		Without a premaritally conceived child	
		Child born before marriage	Child born 0 to 2 quarters after marriage	Still childless, 1970	First child born 3 or more quarters after marriage
WHITE					
Married in 1965 to 1969					
Women.....	6,371,631	378,360	956,542	1,695,577	3,341,152
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14 to 17 years.....	13.6	8.0	25.7	5.9	14.7
18 and 19 years.....	29.3	18.8	36.1	22.3	32.4
20 and 21 years.....	26.0	19.4	21.3	32.2	25.5
22 to 24 years.....	18.8	17.8	11.0	25.3	18.3
25 to 29 years.....	7.4	15.0	4.1	6.1	6.8
30 years and over.....	4.9	21.0	1.8	8.2	2.3
Median age.....(years)..	20.5	22.6	19.3	21.4	20.2
Married in 1950 to 1954					
Women.....	5,383,822	179,597	432,655	498,672	4,272,898
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14 to 17 years.....	17.9	14.7	27.1	6.4	19.4
18 and 19 years.....	24.1	18.2	28.6	10.4	26.8
20 and 21 years.....	20.6	16.9	18.8	11.8	23.0
22 to 24 years.....	17.8	12.3	13.1	15.9	19.4
25 to 29 years.....	11.0	14.2	7.9	16.8	11.0
30 years and over.....	8.7	23.8	4.5	38.6	0.5
Median age.....(years)..	20.8	22.0	19.6	26.6	20.3
BLACK					
Married in 1965 to 1969					
Women.....	780,295	228,771	174,306	119,969	257,249
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14 to 17 years.....	17.6	10.6	28.4	5.7	22.0
18 and 19 years.....	25.8	20.9	33.4	17.4	28.9
20 and 21 years.....	20.4	19.7	18.5	23.5	21.0
22 to 24 years.....	16.3	17.9	10.7	22.0	16.0
25 to 29 years.....	10.1	14.3	5.6	13.8	7.6
30 years and over.....	9.8	16.6	3.4	17.5	4.4
Median age.....(years)..	20.6	21.9	19.3	22.5	19.9
Married in 1950 to 1954					
Women.....	639,655	98,182	113,452	76,946	351,075
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14 to 17 years.....	26.0	15.3	35.0	11.5	29.4
18 and 19 years.....	20.3	20.5	24.4	9.6	21.3
20 and 21 years.....	16.1	18.8	14.8	10.7	17.0
22 to 24 years.....	14.4	16.7	12.4	15.0	14.3
25 to 29 years.....	11.4	13.1	7.2	18.1	10.7
30 years and over.....	11.8	15.7	6.3	35.1	7.3
Median age.....(years)..	20.5	21.5	19.2	25.9	19.9

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, tables 27 and 36.

Table 7. PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED FIRST BIRTHS PER 1,000 WOMEN, WHO FIRST MARRIED IN 1965 TO 1969, BY RACE AND AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE

Race and age at first marriage	Women first married in 1965 to 1969	Premaritally conceived first births per 1,000 women			
		Total	Born before marriage	Born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage	
				Rate	Percent of total
ALL RACES					
Total.....	7,276,343	244	85	159	65.2
14 to 17 years.....	1,012,427	350	55	295	84.3
18 and 19 years.....	2,089,812	254	58	196	77.2
20 and 21 years.....	1,839,916	196	65	131	66.8
22 to 24 years.....	1,355,878	176	82	94	53.4
25 to 29 years.....	579,340	248	158	90	36.3
30 years and over.....	398,970	362	301	61	16.9
WHITE					
Total.....	6,371,631	210	59	151	71.9
14 to 17 years.....	863,828	320	35	285	89.1
18 and 19 years.....	1,867,074	223	38	185	83.0
20 and 21 years.....	1,657,649	167	44	123	73.7
22 to 24 years.....	1,200,265	144	56	88	61.1
25 to 29 years.....	473,582	202	119	83	41.1
30 years and over.....	309,233	312	256	56	17.9
BLACK					
Total.....	780,295	517	293	224	43.3
14 to 17 years.....	137,309	538	177	361	67.1
18 and 19 years.....	201,172	527	238	289	54.8
20 and 21 years.....	159,532	484	282	202	41.7
22 to 24 years.....	127,240	468	321	147	31.4
25 to 29 years.....	78,897	540	416	124	23.0
30 years and over.....	76,145	575	498	77	13.4

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, table 36.

AGE OF MOTHERS AT BIRTH OF FIRST CHILD

As was pointed out above, women who marry after the birth of their first child are generally older at the time of marriage than women who marry before the birth of their first child. In terms of average age at childbirth, however, they comprise the youngest group. For example, among White mothers born in 1935 to 1939, the mean age at childbirth was 19.4 years for those who married after the child was born and 22.0 for those who married before the child was born (table 8). Oldest at childbirth among Whites were the minority of mothers who remained single, with a mean age at childbirth of 23.5 years. Among Blacks, the corresponding figures were 18.5 years at childbirth for the women who married after the child was born, 21.0 years for those who married before the first child was born, and 19.9 for the mothers who remained single.

Relatively few of the women who married after the birth of the first child had that child at ages over 25. In contrast, far more of the women who married before having a child had their first child at such ages. The mothers who remained single were even older, at least among the Whites.

The data in table 8 were manipulated to produce the left-hand part of the exhibit below which shows the approximate proportions of mothers who married after the birth of their first child, by age at childbirth. Of

course, the older the age at childbirth, the less time the women had to marry by the 1970 census date. Still, the results shown in the left half of the exhibit may be a clue to the extent to which a late age at childbirth was adversely associated with the marriage prospects of the single mothers as compared with those who were young at childbirth.

Also shown in the right half of the exhibit, are the results from computations for women born in 1935 to 1939, regardless of motherhood, derived from table 1 of the 1970 census report PC(2)-3B. It should be kept in mind that data measured from the start of an age like 14 years rather than from an age group like 14 to 19 years gave the women more time in which to have married by the 1970 census date. Regardless, it appears by comparing the left half with the right half of the exhibit that age at birth of an illegitimate child may not much impair the marriage prospects of White unmarried mothers as compared with all White women of almost the same age. For Black women there is some impairment at ages under 25. It is not known why a relatively large proportion subsequently marrying (45.9 percent) appears for Black single women ages 30 to 34 at childbirth when only 27.1 percent of all Black women at the start of age 30 subsequently married. A similar pattern for ages 30 to 34 appears in data for Black women in the cohort of 1930 to 1934 (not shown here).

Women Born in 1935 to 1939

Mothers while single			All women		
Age at birth of first child	Percent of mothers who married by 1970		Single at start of age-	Percent of women (regardless of motherhood) who married by 1970	
	White	Black		White	Black
14 to 19.....	98.4	78.9	14.....	93.9	88.1
20 to 24.....	83.3	69.9	20.....	87.0	80.3
25 to 29.....	59.6	53.1	25.....	64.8	56.7
30 to 34.....	27.4	45.9	30.....	28.7	27.1

Table 8. AGE AT BIRTH OF FIRST CHILD FOR WHITE AND BLACK MOTHERS BORN IN 1930 TO 1939, BY WHETHER MOTHER MARRIED BEFORE THE CHILD WAS BORN

Subject	Number of mothers	Percent by age at birth of first child					Mean age at birth of child	
		Total	14 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34		35 to 39
WHITE								
Mother born in 1935 to 1939....	4,392,503	100.0	30.3	50.9	15.9	3.0	...	21.9
Child born before marriage:								
Mother married later.....	220,490	100.0	55.3	36.3	7.6	0.8	...	19.4
Mother never married.....	37,739	100.0	19.6	43.0	28.1	9.3	...	23.5
Child born after marriage.....	4,134,274	100.0	29.0	51.7	16.2	3.1	...	22.0
Mother born in 1930 to 1934....	4,421,650	100.0	21.8	53.0	18.8	5.2	1.2	22.7
Child born before marriage:								
Mother married later.....	198,992	100.0	48.4	38.6	9.9	2.7	0.4	20.2
Mother never married.....	28,156	100.0	24.4	32.4	24.7	14.5	4.1	24.0
Child born after marriage.....	4,194,502	100.0	20.5	53.8	19.2	5.3	1.2	22.7
BLACK								
Mother born in 1935 to 1939....	594,131	100.0	48.9	36.4	11.8	2.9	...	20.2
Child born before marriage:								
Mother married later.....	147,011	100.0	67.2	27.0	5.0	0.7	...	18.5
Mother never married.....	51,381	100.0	51.3	33.2	12.8	2.7	...	19.9
Child born after marriage.....	395,739	100.0	41.8	40.4	14.1	3.8	...	21.0
Mother born in 1930 to 1934....	568,207	100.0	38.5	39.7	14.6	5.7	1.6	21.4
Child born before marriage:								
Mother married later.....	115,633	100.0	54.8	33.4	8.6	2.6	0.5	19.5
Mother never married.....	35,343	100.0	33.9	35.8	20.5	8.0	1.9	22.2
Child born after marriage.....	417,231	100.0	34.3	41.7	15.7	6.4	1.9	21.9

... Not applicable.

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, table 88.

STABILITY OF MARRIAGES

The relative stability of marriage for women with and without a premaritally conceived child can be inferred from data on the subsequent marital status of these women. Table 9 presents 1970 census data for women who first married in 1965 to 1969 and for women who first married in 1950 to 1954. The data for women married in 1965 to 1969 are useful for indicating that sizable changes in the marital status of women can and do occur very soon after the marriages began. The data for 1950 to 1954 yield clues to what happens over a longer period.

Most of the women married in 1965 to 1969 would be within a few years of age 23 as of 1970 and those married in 1950 to 1954 would be within a few years of age 38. Marital disruptions up to age 40 would normally have a near-maximum depressing effect on the lifetime fertility of women; consequently, there is little need from the viewpoint of fertility analysis to use data for a yet older cohort of women than the cohort of 1950 to 1954. Among the women who are still young (in the cohort of 1965 to 1969), the effect of a marital disruption on lifetime fertility would depend partly on the timing and incidence of subsequent remarriages. The data for the older cohort help to suggest what the incidence of remarriages may be in the future for the younger cohort.

Marriages of women who have had a child before marriage are much less stable than those of women who are not premaritally pregnant. Among the women (all races combined) who first married in 1965 to 1969, only 77.3 percent of those who had a child before marriage were still living with their first husband at the 1970 census date or were married but living apart from their husband for reasons other than a marital disruption. The remaining 22.8 percent of the recently married women with a child born before marriage already had a marital disruption by 1970. Among the recently married women who were not premaritally pregnant, about 91.4 percent were either living with their first husband in 1970 or had a husband absent for reasons other than separation, widowhood, or divorce. Thus, the incidence of marital disruptions in the short time between 1965 to 1969 and the 1970 census date was much greater among the women who had children before marriage than among the women who were not premaritally pregnant at marriage.

A third group of women in the 1965 to 1969 marriage cohort consists of women who were premaritally pregnant but who married before the first child was born. That group closely resembles the women without a premaritally conceived child in respect to stability of marriage, in sharp contrast with the group of women who had children before marriage. For example, 81.6 percent of the women in this third group were still living with their first husband in 1970 as compared with corresponding values of 85.5 percent for women not premaritally pregnant and 70.9 percent for those with children born before marriage. This third group, with a first child born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after the marriage began, is the group that contains any women who married in order to legitimize a premaritally conceived first child even if the couple may have had no intention of remaining married. But the proportion divorced by 1970 is only a little higher (3.6 percent) for the women who married while pregnant than for the women who were not premaritally pregnant (3.0 percent).

The general pattern of greater stability of marriage among women who were not premaritally pregnant and less stability among women who had children before marriage applies to data for Whites as well as for Blacks and to women married in 1965 to 1969 as well as to women married in 1950 to 1954. The pattern is likely to be applicable to other cohorts.

Among White women who first married in 1950 to 1954 and were not premaritally pregnant, 76.9 percent were still living with their first husband in 1970 and 11.1 percent were living with a subsequent husband. That is a total of 88.0 percent living with a husband. There was a corresponding proportion of 88.4 percent living with a husband in 1970 among women married in 1965 to 1969. Remarriages thus enabled the women in the older cohort to have as large a proportion with a husband present as occurred in the younger cohort. Among White women who had children before marriage, the total proportions with a husband present in 1970 were 79.1 percent for those first married in 1965 to 1969 and 76.7 percent for those married in 1950 to 1954.

Among Black women who were not premaritally pregnant at their first marriage in 1950 to 1954, 52.4 percent were still living with their first husband as of 1970 and 11.5 percent were living with a husband from a remarriage. That makes a total of 63.9 percent with a

husband present, compared with a corresponding total of 75.7 percent for women not premaritally pregnant at their first marriage in 1965 to 1969. It would seem that Black women less often than White women remarry after their first marriage ends. The pattern applies also to women who had children before their first marriage. Among Black women who had children before a first marriage in 1950 to 1954, a total of 55.8 percent had a first or subsequent husband present in 1970 as compared with 70.1 percent for the 1965 to 1969 Black cohort and with the 76.7 percent cited above for White women with children born before their first marriage in 1950 to 1954.

Among White women who first married in 1965 to 1969, the highest rate of first births occurring shortly after marriage involved women classified in the 1970 census as "separated" (table 10). That group had 263 first births per 1,000 women 0 to 2 calendar quarters after the marriage began, compared with the next highest rate of 170 for White women who obtained a divorce soon after marriage and of 151 for the entire marriage cohort of White women. Among White women who first married in 1950 to 1954, the rates were much smaller, with "highest" rates of 119, 89, and 89 found among the separated, divorced, and remarried women, respectively. The lowest rates for first births occurring to White women soon after the marriage began involved

women classified in 1970 as widows (the rates were 117 for the 1965 to 1969 cohort and 60 for the 1950 to 1954 cohort). Those reported as widows, however, were by far the most fertile group in terms of rates of first births occurring before the first marriage began; the rates were 252 for the 1965 to 1969 cohort and 105 for the 1950 to 1954 cohort. Table 10 does not show data by age of women, but the widows in 1970 surely were much older on the average than the other women in the same marriage cohort who also had marriage disruptions; thus, the widows surely had much more time before their first marriage in which to have had a child while single.

Among Black women first married in 1965 to 1969, the highest rate of first births 0 to 2 months after the marriage began was 250 per 1,000 women for those who were still married in 1970 but whose husband was absent in military service or for reasons other than marital discord. The rate was 230 for the women who were separated, 229 for divorced women, and 220 for women in intact first marriages. Among Blacks, far higher rates usually occurred for first births before the first marriage than for first births shortly after marriage. The highest rates of births before marriage for the 1965 to 1969 cohort of Black women were 415 for women in intact remarriages and 412 for widows.

Table 9. STABILITY OF MARRIAGE AS OF 1970, FOR WOMEN WHO FIRST MARRIED IN 1965 TO 1969 AND IN 1950 TO 1954, BY RACE AND WHETHER WOMAN HAD A PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED FIRST BIRTH

(Percent distribution. Bases can be derived from table 10)

Race and marital status	Total women	Without a premaritally conceived first child	With a premaritally conceived first child		
			Total	Born before first marriage	Born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after first marriage
ALL RACES					
First married in 1965 to 1969....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Husband present in 1970:					
Wife married once.....	83.7	85.5	77.8	70.9	81.6
Wife married more than once.....	2.3	2.0	3.2	5.3	2.1
Married, husband absent:					
Separated.....	3.6	2.6	6.7	8.6	5.7
Other.....	6.0	5.9	6.2	6.4	6.1
Widowed.....	1.2	1.0	2.1	4.1	1.0
Divorced.....	3.2	3.0	4.0	4.8	3.6
First married in 1950 to 1954....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Husband present in 1970:					
Wife married once.....	73.4	74.8	64.9	52.7	71.0
Wife married more than once.....	11.4	11.1	13.4	16.2	12.1
Married, husband absent:					
Separated.....	3.6	3.1	6.5	9.5	5.0
Other.....	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.5	2.2
Widowed.....	3.8	3.5	5.9	11.2	3.2
Divorced.....	5.8	5.6	7.0	7.9	6.5
WHITE					
First married in 1965 to 1969....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Husband present in 1970:					
Wife married once.....	85.1	86.4	80.3	72.1	83.4
Wife married more than once.....	2.4	2.0	3.6	7.0	2.3
Married, husband absent:					
Separated.....	2.7	2.1	4.9	5.3	4.7
Other.....	5.5	5.6	5.1	5.1	5.1
Widowed.....	1.1	0.9	1.9	4.7	0.9
Divorced.....	3.2	3.0	4.2	5.7	3.6
First married in 1950 to 1954....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Husband present in 1970:					
Wife married once.....	76.1	76.9	69.4	57.6	74.2
Wife married more than once.....	11.5	11.1	14.5	19.1	12.6
Married, husband absent:					
Separated.....	2.1	1.9	3.1	3.4	3.0
Other.....	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.3	1.9
Widowed.....	3.3	3.1	4.8	10.6	2.5
Divorced.....	5.3	5.2	6.2	6.9	5.8
BLACK					
First married in 1965 to 1969....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Husband present in 1970:					
Wife married once.....	71.6	74.2	69.1	67.7	70.9
Wife married more than once.....	1.7	1.5	1.9	2.4	1.2
Married, husband absent:					
Separated.....	11.5	9.2	13.7	15.1	11.8
Other.....	9.7	10.0	9.4	8.3	10.8
Widowed.....	2.2	1.8	2.6	3.1	1.9
Divorced.....	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.4
First married in 1950 to 1954....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Husband present in 1970:					
Wife married once.....	51.5	52.4	49.8	44.8	54.1
Wife married more than once.....	11.1	11.5	10.1	11.0	9.4
Married, husband absent:					
Separated.....	16.7	15.8	18.7	19.5	18.1
Other.....	3.2	3.3	3.0	2.9	3.2
Widowed.....	8.0	7.5	9.0	12.3	6.1
Divorced.....	9.5	9.6	9.3	9.5	9.1

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, tables 27, 37, and 38.

Table 10. PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED FIRST BIRTHS PER 1,000 WOMEN WHO FIRST MARRIED IN 1965 TO 1969 AND IN 1950 TO 1954, BY MARITAL STATUS IN 1970 AND RACE

Race and marital status	Number of women	Premaritally conceived first births per 1,000 women			
		Total	Born before marriage	Born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage	
				Rate	Percent of total
ALL RACES					
First married in 1965 to 1969...	7,276,343	244	85	159	65.2
Husband present in 1970:					
Wife married once.....	6,087,132	227	72	155	68.3
Wife married more than once.....	165,627	342	196	146	42.7
Married, husband absent:					
Separated.....	264,396	451	201	250	55.4
Other.....	434,634	252	91	161	63.9
Widowed.....	89,405	416	285	131	31.5
Divorced.....	235,149	302	126	176	58.3
First married in 1950 to 1954...	6,103,154	137	46	91	66.4
Husband present in 1970:					
Wife married once.....	4,482,405	121	33	88	72.7
Wife married more than once.....	697,997	161	65	96	59.6
Married, husband absent:					
Separated.....	220,210	248	121	127	51.2
Other.....	116,669	163	60	103	63.2
Widowed.....	233,929	211	135	76	36.0
Divorced.....	351,944	166	63	103	62.0
WHITE					
First married in 1965 to 1969...	6,371,631	210	59	151	71.9
Husband present in 1970:					
Wife married once.....	5,423,531	198	50	148	74.7
Wife married more than once.....	150,381	321	176	145	45.2
Married, husband absent:					
Separated.....	170,868	380	117	263	69.2
Other.....	349,804	196	55	141	71.9
Widowed.....	70,621	369	252	117	31.7
Divorced.....	206,426	273	103	170	62.3
First married in 1950 to 1954...	5,383,822	114	33	81	71.1
Husband present in 1970:					
Wife married once.....	4,095,316	104	25	79	76.0
Wife married more than once.....	618,205	144	55	89	61.8
Married, husband absent:					
Separated.....	110,542	174	55	119	68.4
Other.....	93,501	130	43	87	66.9
Widowed.....	179,833	165	105	69	36.4
Divorced.....	286,425	132	43	89	67.4
BLACK					
First married in 1965 to 1969...	780,295	517	293	224	43.3
Husband present in 1970:					
Wife married once.....	558,548	497	277	220	44.3
Wife married more than once.....	13,320	571	415	156	27.3
Married, husband absent:					
Separated.....	89,832	615	385	230	37.4
Other.....	75,541	501	251	250	49.9
Widowed.....	17,237	603	412	191	31.7
Divorced.....	25,817	527	298	229	43.5
First married in 1950 to 1954...	639,655	331	153	178	53.8
Husband present in 1970:					
Wife married once.....	329,462	320	133	187	58.4
Wife married more than once.....	70,863	303	152	151	49.8
Married, husband absent:					
Separated.....	107,114	371	178	193	52.0
Other.....	20,397	316	138	178	56.3
Widowed.....	51,165	371	235	136	36.7
Divorced.....	60,654	325	154	171	52.6

Source: 1970 census PC(2)-3B, tables 27, 37, and 38.

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

Tables 11 and 12 present data on education in relation to the timing of first births. Table 11 shows age at first marriage for women who married in 1965 to 1969. Table 12 presents birth rates for the same marriage cohort. The general patterns in these two tables would apply also to other marriage cohorts although the magnitudes would vary somewhat.

The data in table 11 exhibit the well-documented tendency for the average age at first marriage to increase for women with successively higher levels of educational attainment. Also exhibited is the general exception to that tendency which occurs among White women who drop out of high school before graduation. These women had a younger average age at marriage than that among women with less education. Many of these women may have left school in order to contract a marriage before a child was born.

Within each educational group shown in the table, mothers who married before their first child was born had the lowest average (median) age at first marriage. The average for White women ranged from 18.6 years for those with 1 to 3 years of high school to 22.9 years for those with 5 years of college or more. The next higher average in each educational group involved women who married after the birth of their first child. Here, the average ranged from 20.3 years for White women with 1 to 3 years of high school to 23.7 years for those with 5 years of college or more.

At the time marriages occur, there is no way of foretelling from marriage or census records which brides will thereafter remain childless and which brides will become

mothers and when. On a hindsight basis, however, the census materials indicate clearly that the women who remain childless after marriage are quite selective of those who married at an advanced age. In almost every educational and racial group of women, the women who were still childless at the time of the 1970 census had an older average age at marriage than the women who became mothers (table 11).

The highest rates of first births before marriage involve women who completed 0 to 8 years of elementary school (table 12). But the highest rates of births shortly after marriage involve the women who were high school dropouts (1 to 3 years of high school). White women who were high school dropouts had a slightly higher rate of first births 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage (rate of 243) than occurred among Blacks (rate of 236); this was one of the very rare exceptions to a general pattern of higher rates among Blacks than among Whites. That happened largely because White women who were premaritally pregnant more often married before the child was born than did Black women. But more of the Black women were premaritally pregnant. The total rate of premaritally conceived first births per 1,000 women who first married in 1965 to 1969 peaked at 346 for White high school dropouts and at 631 for Blacks. The lowest rates were for women with 5 years of college or more (61 for Whites and 189 for Blacks).

A point of special interest is the fact that women with five years of college or more had slightly higher rates of first births before marriage than the women who terminated their education with 4 years of college. In this respect, the women with 4 years of college were somewhat more responsive to social pressures to avoid premarital motherhood than were women with graduate school training.

Table 11. AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED AND WHETHER MARRIED BEFORE THE BIRTH OF FIRST CHILD, FOR WHITE AND BLACK WOMEN 30 TO 54 YEARS OLD WHO FIRST MARRIED BY AGE 30

(Childbearing data limited in this table to events prior to age 30)

Years of school completed, race, and timing of first birth	Women 30 to 54 years old	Percent by age at first marriage					Median age at first marriage
		Total	14 to 19	20 and 21	22 to 24	25 to 29	
ELEMENTARY, 0 TO 8 YEARS							
White							
Married before first birth.....	2,767,337	100.0	60.9	17.8	14.6	6.7	18.9
Married after first birth.....	204,028	100.0	40.2	19.4	20.5	19.9	21.0
Married, no child by age 29.....	593,072	100.0	33.3	16.3	20.8	29.6	22.1
Black							
Married before first birth.....	505,424	100.0	67.5	14.5	11.6	6.3	18.4
Married after first birth.....	121,380	100.0	36.1	20.1	20.8	23.1	21.4
Married, no child by age 29.....	178,575	100.0	42.4	20.8	17.7	24.1	21.0
HIGH SCHOOL, 1 TO 3 YEARS							
White							
Married before first birth.....	4,048,228	100.0	65.1	17.7	12.4	4.7	18.6
Married after first birth.....	241,043	100.0	46.9	19.3	17.6	16.2	20.3
Married, no child by age 29.....	737,867	100.0	34.6	18.4	21.1	25.9	21.7
Black							
Married before first birth.....	537,296	100.0	66.9	15.7	11.7	5.6	18.5
Married after first birth.....	152,018	100.0	36.7	20.3	21.7	21.2	21.3
Married, no child by age 29.....	146,216	100.0	37.5	16.5	19.2	26.7	21.5
HIGH SCHOOL, 4 YEARS							
White							
Married before first birth.....	8,247,098	100.0	43.5	28.2	21.0	7.3	20.5
Married after first birth.....	370,822	100.0	30.9	24.9	24.8	19.4	21.5
Married, no child by age 29.....	722,798	100.0	21.1	20.4	26.3	32.3	23.0
Black							
Married before first birth.....	450,389	100.0	51.0	24.1	17.3	7.6	19.9
Married after first birth.....	95,371	100.0	24.5	23.9	26.4	25.1	22.2
Married, no child by age 29.....	127,390	100.0	27.6	18.6	22.0	31.7	22.5
COLLEGE, 1 TO 3 YEARS							
White							
Married before first birth.....	2,081,447	100.0	27.8	34.6	27.9	9.7	21.3
Married after first birth.....	83,121	100.0	20.6	28.4	29.7	21.2	22.1
Married, no child by age 29.....	488,546	100.0	14.4	19.4	29.0	37.1	23.7
Black							
Married before first birth.....	111,790	100.0	39.7	26.8	23.2	10.3	20.8
Married after first birth.....	18,142	100.0	21.9	21.8	29.7	26.5	22.6
Married, no child by age 29.....	34,156	100.0	20.3	17.7	25.6	36.3	33.4
COLLEGE, 4 YEARS							
White							
Married before first birth.....	1,012,966	100.0	10.8	26.6	47.5	15.2	22.8
Married after first birth.....	35,162	100.0	7.9	19.8	44.5	27.9	23.5
Married, no child by age 29.....	279,945	100.0	7.1	12.8	34.4	45.7	24.6
Black							
Married before first birth.....	53,112	100.0	24.2	20.3	37.9	17.6	22.4
Married after first birth.....	5,147	100.0	13.0	18.6	33.9	34.5	23.6
Married, no child by age 29.....	21,201	100.0	14.5	12.6	28.7	44.1	24.4
COLLEGE, 5 YEARS OR MORE							
White							
Married before first birth.....	369,718	100.0	14.1	23.5	42.4	20.0	22.9
Married after first birth.....	13,564	100.0	11.2	15.9	41.1	31.8	23.7
Married, no child by age 29.....	162,830	100.0	7.6	12.3	30.0	50.1	25.0
Black							
Married before first birth.....	29,117	100.0	22.6	21.2	37.1	19.2	22.5
Married after first birth.....	2,853	100.0	16.0	22.3	29.5	32.2	23.2
Married, no child by age 29.....	16,912	100.0	12.1	10.8	30.0	47.2	24.7

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, table 92.

Table 12. PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED FIRST BIRTHS PER 1,000 WOMEN WHO FIRST MARRIED IN 1965 TO 1969, BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED AND RACE

Race and years of school completed	Women first married in 1965 to 1969	Premaritally conceived first births per 1,000 women			
		Total	Born before marriage	Born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage	
				Rate	Percent of total
ALL RACES					
Total.....	7,276,343	244	85	159	65.2
Elementary: 0 to 8 years.....	496,436	385	216	169	43.9
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	1,287,331	397	156	241	60.7
4 years.....	3,405,718	233	71	162	69.5
College: 1 to 3 years.....	1,208,268	170	42	128	75.3
4 years.....	674,153	86	24	62	72.1
5 years or more.....	204,437	69	26	43	62.3
WHITE					
Total.....	6,371,631	210	59	151	71.9
Elementary: 0 to 8 years.....	383,991	331	166	165	49.8
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	1,039,313	346	103	243	70.2
4 years.....	3,035,630	205	51	154	75.1
College: 1 to 3 years.....	1,104,480	151	32	119	78.8
4 years.....	623,197	76	20	56	73.7
5 years or more.....	185,020	61	23	38	62.3
BLACK					
Total.....	780,295	517	293	224	43.3
Elementary: 0 to 8 years.....	96,098	603	418	185	30.7
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	226,065	631	395	236	37.4
4 years.....	330,009	483	247	236	48.9
College: 1 to 3 years.....	84,101	400	167	233	58.3
4 years.....	35,591	219	86	133	60.7
5 years or more.....	8,431	189	100	89	47.1

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, table 29.

MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF HUSBAND

White women whose husbands are nonfarm laborers and Black women whose husbands are farm workers typically have the highest rates of premaritally conceived first births. Those whose husbands are professional, technical, and kindred workers have the lowest rates. For example, among Whites who first married in 1965 to 1969 and were living with an employed civilian husband at the time of the 1970 census, the range was from a high of 274 premaritally conceived first births per 1,000 wives of nonfarm laborers to a low of 122 for wives of professional and kindred workers (table 13). Among Blacks, the range was from a high of 612 for

wives of farm workers (569 for nonfarm laborers) to a low of 317 for wives of professional workers. Among Blacks, but not Whites, first births occurring before marriage of the mother were far more common than births shortly after marriage. For Whites and Blacks alike, the rates of premaritally conceived first births occurring 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage were lower among wives of farm workers than among wives of any other blue-collar occupational group of husbands, indicating that the wives of farm workers less often married "in time" to avoid a premarital birth.

Table 13. PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED FIRST BIRTHS PER 1,000 WOMEN WHO FIRST MARRIED IN 1965 TO 1969, BY RACE OF WOMAN AND MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF EMPLOYED HUSBAND

(Data limited to women living with an employed civilian husband in 1970)

Race of woman and occupation of husband	Women first married in 1965 to 1969	Premaritally conceived first births per 1,000 women			
		Total	Born before marriage	Born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage	
				Rate	Percent of total
ALL RACES					
Total, husband employed.....	5,415,829	232	74	158	68.1
Professional, technical, and kindred workers...	1,052,557	129	32	97	75.2
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	428,273	176	56	120	68.2
Clerical, sales, and kindred workers.....	815,314	198	55	143	72.2
Crafts and kindred workers.....	1,120,622	254	77	177	69.7
Operatives, including transport.....	1,203,427	300	102	198	66.0
Laborers, except farm.....	349,339	333	122	211	63.4
Farm workers.....	131,468	257	100	157	61.1
Service workers, including private household...	314,829	272	104	168	61.8
WHITE					
Total, husband employed.....	4,841,502	204	53	151	74.0
Professional, technical, and kindred workers...	989,114	122	28	94	77.0
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	409,497	170	51	119	70.0
Clerical, sales, and kindred workers.....	743,563	178	41	137	77.0
Crafts and kindred workers.....	1,029,740	234	61	173	73.9
Operatives, including transport.....	1,022,793	261	70	191	73.2
Laborers, except farm.....	276,799	274	70	204	74.5
Farm workers.....	116,483	217	64	153	70.5
Service workers, including private household...	235,513	221	63	158	71.5
BLACK					
Total, husband employed.....	490,401	497	277	220	44.3
Professional, technical, and kindred workers...	38,085	317	132	185	58.4
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	13,235	360	204	156	43.3
Clerical, sales, and kindred workers.....	61,094	432	219	213	49.3
Crafts and kindred workers.....	76,769	502	286	216	43.0
Operatives, including transport.....	167,212	530	295	235	44.3
Laborers, except farm.....	67,217	569	331	238	41.8
Farm workers.....	12,920	612	410	202	33.0
Service workers, including private household...	53,869	507	293	214	42.2

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, table 30.

RESIDENCE

Urban and rural areas seem to vary only slightly in respect to the proportion of women who have had a premaritally conceived first child, at least among Whites (table 14). Nationally, about one out of every five of the White women who first married in 1965 to 1969 had a premaritally conceived first child. For White women, the proportion varied from 19.6 percent in the suburbs (urban fringe) of cities of 50,000 inhabitants or more to 22.8 percent in rural-nonfarm areas. More than 70 percent of the premaritally conceived White children were born after the marriage.

Among Blacks, about half of the women who first married in 1965 to 1969 had a premaritally conceived first child. The proportion varied from 47.9 percent in the urban fringe areas to 56.2 percent in rural-nonfarm areas. About two-fifths of the premaritally conceived Black children were born after marriage.

Data for all races combined sometimes yield a very different pattern from that shown for each race separately in table 14. In terms of data for all races com-

bined, it appears that women in central cities of urbanized areas were less successful in avoiding births before marriage and births shortly after marriage than were women in other urban areas, rural-nonfarm areas, and rural-farm areas. But in terms of data for each racial group separately the women in central cities were more successful than the women in these other areas. The different patterns converged because Blacks comprised a much higher proportion of the all races population of central cities of urbanized areas than they did of the population of these other areas.

Table 14 shows that the South had the lowest rate of any region in respect to premaritally conceived first births among Whites (181 per 1,000), and the North Central region had the highest rate (230 per 1,000). Both extremes were due to variations in births 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage rather than from variations in births before marriage.

Unlike the Whites, Blacks in the South had the highest rate of premaritally conceived first births (542 per 1,000), and Blacks in the Northeast region had the lowest rate (474 per 1,000).

Table 14. PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED FIRST BIRTHS PER 1,000 WOMEN WHO FIRST MARRIED IN 1965 TO 1969, BY RESIDENCE AND RACE

Race and residence	Women first married in 1965 to 1969	Premaritally conceived first births per 1,000 women			
		Total	Born before marriage	Born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage	
				Rate	Percent of total
ALL RACES					
United States.....	7,276,343	244	85	159	65.2
Central cities of urbanized areas....	2,527,017	264	105	159	60.2
Urban fringe.....	1,945,688	210	62	148	70.5
Other urban.....	1,156,279	245	80	165	67.3
Rural nonfarm.....	1,517,042	253	86	167	66.0
Rural farm.....	130,317	242	79	163	67.4
Northeast.....	1,615,502	233	79	154	66.1
North Central.....	1,978,302	253	77	176	69.6
South.....	2,351,758	242	101	141	58.3
West.....	1,330,781	245	79	166	67.8
WHITE					
United States.....	6,371,631	210	59	151	71.9
Central cities of urbanized areas....	1,971,144	202	60	142	70.3
Urban fringe.....	1,825,952	196	52	144	73.5
Other urban.....	1,057,653	221	61	160	72.4
Rural nonfarm.....	1,395,984	228	67	161	70.6
Rural farm.....	120,898	219	63	156	71.3
Northeast.....	1,440,866	208	58	150	72.1
North Central.....	1,794,830	230	57	173	75.2
South.....	1,938,031	181	58	123	68.0
West.....	1,197,904	228	67	161	70.6
BLACK					
United States.....	780,295	517	293	224	43.3
Central cities or urbanized areas....	498,031	510	288	222	43.5
Urban fringe.....	90,020	479	265	214	44.7
Other urban.....	83,867	540	314	226	41.9
Rural nonfarm.....	100,233	562	326	236	42.0
Rural farm.....	8,144	544	302	242	44.5
Northeast.....	155,471	474	267	207	43.7
North Central.....	165,729	506	283	223	44.1
South.....	394,950	542	311	231	42.6
West.....	64,145	492	271	221	44.9

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, table 28.

AGE AT PREMARITAL CHILDBIRTH AND INTERVAL TO SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE OF MOTHER

Table 15 presents 1970 census data based on first births to single women in 1955 to 1959. The first births occurred 11 to 15 years before the 1970 census date, so it is likely that most of the women who would ever marry after the birth of their first child had done so by 1970.

As shown by the table, the great majority of first births to single mothers occurred to mothers who were under age 25. However, roughly nine-tenths of the young White mothers and three-fourths of the young Black mothers subsequently married by 1970. The percentages of mothers subsequently marrying after the birth of their child steadily declined as the ages of the mothers increased, to an apparent low point of 41.7 percent among White women who first became mothers at ages 35 to 39 and 37.1 percent among Blacks of those ages. As the table shows, very few single women became mothers at ages 40 to 44.

Among women who married after the birth of their first child, only about a third of the Whites and a fourth of the Blacks did so within a year after the birth. The average (median) interval was 2.05 years for Whites and 2.61 years for Blacks. There was a tendency, more marked among Whites than among Blacks, for young mothers to have a shorter spacing interval between premarital first births and marriages than that for older mothers.

The table does not show median ages at childbirth, but by computation it can nonetheless be determined that women who remained single and those who had a waiting period of 5 or more years from birth of the first child to first marriage were generally older at childbirth than those who married sooner after childbirth. The pattern can be inferred from the following percentages of women who were 15 to 19 years of age at the birth of their first premarital child:

Timing of marriage <u>after</u> birth of the first child	Percentage of mothers while single who were age 15 to 19 when their first child was born		
	All races	White	Black
Total.....	51.3	46.6	57.9
Still single, 1970.....	37.4	23.3	47.9
Total married after child was born.....	55.0	50.7	61.9
Less than 1 year.....	54.4	52.4	60.6
1 and 2 years.....	58.9	55.3	63.3
3 and 4 years.....	60.6	53.8	65.3
5 years or more.....	47.9	41.2	59.3

Table 15. INTERVAL FROM BIRTH OF PREMARITAL FIRST CHILD TO SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE OF MOTHER, FOR BIRTHS OCCURRING IN 1955 TO 1959, BY RACE AND AGE OF MOTHER AT CHILDBIRTH

Race and age of mother at childbirth	Premarital first births		Mothers ever married by 1970 by interval between birth of first child and marriage of the mother					
	Number ¹	Percent whose mother married by 1970	Total	Less than 1 year	1 or 2 years	3 or 4 years	5 years or more	Median interval (years)
ALL RACES								
Total.....	510,100	78.8	100.0	30.9	29.2	14.5	25.4	2.31
15 to 19 years.....	261,400	84.5	100.0	30.5	31.3	16.0	22.1	2.25
20 to 24 years.....	151,800	81.4	100.0	33.3	27.1	12.5	27.1	2.23
25 to 29 years.....	51,100	69.6	100.0	28.1	28.1	12.5	31.3	2.56
30 to 34 years.....	25,300	53.2	100.0	24.0	24.0	16.0	36.0	3.25
35 to 39 years.....	14,300	38.9	100.0	28.6	19.0	14.3	38.1	3.34
40 to 44 years.....	6,200	46.6	100.0	19.5	17.1	7.3	56.1	5.00+
WHITE								
Total.....	278,800	85.1	100.0	35.6	27.4	13.0	24.1	2.05
15 to 19 years.....	129,900	92.6	100.0	36.8	29.9	13.8	19.5	1.88
20 to 24 years.....	92,600	87.5	100.0	37.1	25.7	11.4	25.7	2.00
25 to 29 years.....	29,800	76.7	100.0	30.4	26.1	13.0	30.4	2.50
30 to 34 years.....	14,700	54.8	100.0	23.5	17.6	17.6	41.2	4.01
35 to 39 years.....	8,300	41.7	100.0	26.7	20.0	13.3	40.0	3.50
40 to 44 years.....	3,500	48.3	100.0	20.7	6.9	6.9	65.5	5.00+
BLACK								
Total.....	223,100	71.4	100.0	24.2	32.0	17.2	26.6	2.61
15 to 19 years.....	129,200	76.3	100.0	23.7	32.7	18.1	25.4	2.61
20 to 24 years.....	56,000	73.2	100.0	25.7	31.1	15.8	27.3	2.56
25 to 29 years.....	19,600	58.7	100.0	24.0	31.4	15.7	28.9	2.66
30 to 34 years.....	10,300	48.9	100.0	23.3	32.2	13.3	31.1	2.66
35 to 39 years.....	5,600	37.1	100.0	28.8	18.2	21.2	31.8	3.28
40 to 44 years.....	2,600	42.9	100.0	12.8	32.9	9.6	44.7	3.90

¹Numbers are approximate.

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, table 68.

FAMILY INCOME

Table 16 presents data by family income for wives of household heads.¹ The findings confirm the expected tendency for fewer women to have premaritally conceived children as family income increases.

The data by family income are shown separately for wives in the labor force and wives not in the labor force. The separate treatment makes possible the examination of variations by income without a bias that would otherwise result from some concentration of working wives at intermediate or high family-income levels, and of wives not in the labor force at lower family-income levels.

The data in table 16 show that wives who are not in the labor force have had more premaritally conceived first births than working wives. This holds true both for births before marriage and for births shortly after marriage. Among Whites, a higher proportion of wives with low family incomes than of wives with high family

incomes had a marital resolution for a premartial pregnancy. For example, among working White women with a premarital conception and a 1969 family income of less than \$4,000, some 76.0 percent had married before the birth of a premaritally conceived child as compared with 52.9 percent of those with a family income of \$20,000 or more. It should be noted, however, that the proportions of wives who had premaritally conceived first births tended to vary inversely with family income.

Table 17 presents data on the ratio of family income to the poverty level. That ratio involves a comparison of the family income with a poverty index adopted by a Federal Interagency Committee in 1969. The index provided a range of income cutoffs or "poverty thresholds" adjusted to such factors as family size, sex and age of the family head, and farm-nonfarm residence. For example, the average poverty threshold was \$3,743 in 1969 for a nonfarm family of four persons and \$2,383 for a nonfarm family of two. The rate of premaritally conceived first births turns out to be considerably higher for the women in a poverty status (ratio of less than 1.00) than is shown in the preceding table for women with low family income (less than \$4,000). This finding reflects the fact that, other things being equal, the more children women have had, the more likely they are to be below the poverty level.

¹The family composition is as of April 1970, but the income is for the calendar year 1969. Family income in the 1970 census comprises the sum of the incomes of each family member 14 years old and over.

Table 16. PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED FIRST BIRTHS PER 1,000 WIVES OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS, WIFE FIRST MARRIED IN 1965 TO 1969, BY LABOR FORCE STATUS, RACE OF WIFE, AND FAMILY INCOME

Race, labor force status, and family income	Wives first married in 1965 to 1969	Premaritally conceived first births per 1,000 womens			
		Total	Born before marriage	Born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage	
				Rate	Percent of total
ALL RACES					
Wife in labor force.....	2,802,394	172	61	111	64.5
Less than \$4,000.....	202,996	231	84	147	63.6
\$4,000 to \$5,999.....	304,187	222	81	141	63.5
\$6,000 to \$7,999.....	430,691	207	70	137	66.2
\$8,000 to \$9,999.....	491,792	193	63	130	67.4
\$10,000 to \$11,999.....	453,794	166	58	108	65.1
\$12,000 to \$14,999.....	482,918	132	50	82	62.1
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	314,451	104	41	63	60.6
\$20,000 or more.....	121,565	102	49	53	52.0
Wife not in labor force.....	3,179,996	275	86	189	68.7
Less than \$4,000.....	472,281	329	119	210	63.8
\$4,000 to \$5,999.....	534,648	323	102	221	68.4
\$6,000 to \$7,999.....	657,845	301	86	215	71.4
\$8,000 to \$9,999.....	589,785	268	75	193	72.0
\$10,000 to \$11,999.....	402,903	231	67	164	71.0
\$12,000 to \$14,999.....	281,842	194	62	132	68.0
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	154,785	173	62	111	64.2
\$20,000 or more.....	85,907	176	77	99	56.3
WHITE					
Wife in labor force.....	2,476,207	139	38	101	72.7
Less than \$4,000.....	166,086	171	41	130	76.0
\$4,000 to \$5,999.....	257,152	165	40	125	75.8
\$6,000 to \$7,999.....	376,280	170	42	128	75.3
\$8,000 to \$9,999.....	437,133	160	41	119	74.4
\$10,000 to \$11,999.....	406,028	138	38	100	72.5
\$12,000 to \$14,999.....	435,536	109	35	74	67.9
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	285,903	86	31	55	64.0
\$20,000 or more.....	112,089	87	41	46	52.9
Wife not in labor force.....	2,884,293	252	66	186	73.8
Less than \$4,000.....	394,552	287	81	206	71.8
\$4,000 to \$5,999.....	464,097	292	72	220	75.3
\$6,000 to \$7,999.....	598,313	280	67	213	76.1
\$8,000 to \$9,999.....	549,663	254	63	191	75.2
\$10,000 to \$11,999.....	380,837	222	59	163	73.4
\$12,000 to \$14,999.....	267,803	183	54	129	70.5
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	146,595	164	56	108	65.9
\$20,000 or more.....	82,433	171	74	97	56.7
BLACK					
Wife in labor force.....	284,244	458	261	197	43.0
Less than \$4,000.....	33,060	532	301	231	43.4
\$4,000 to \$5,999.....	42,605	547	328	219	40.0
\$6,000 to \$7,999.....	49,044	494	288	206	41.7
\$8,000 to \$9,999.....	48,350	476	257	219	46.0
\$10,000 to \$11,999.....	42,161	421	243	178	42.3
\$12,000 to \$14,999.....	70,745	372	205	167	44.9
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	22,183	318	178	140	44.0
\$20,000 or more.....	6,096	319	182	137	42.9
Wife not in labor force.....	239,231	541	312	229	42.3
Less than \$4,000.....	66,371	576	342	234	40.6
\$4,000 to \$5,999.....	58,949	564	327	237	42.0
\$6,000 to \$7,999.....	50,070	540	311	229	42.4
\$8,000 to \$9,999.....	31,595	515	287	228	44.3
\$10,000 to \$11,999.....	16,275	456	250	206	45.2
\$12,000 to \$14,999.....	9,631	455	253	202	44.4
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	4,652	469	259	210	44.8
\$20,000 or more.....	1,688	361	249	112	31.0

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, table 32 and 33.

Table 17. PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED FIRST BIRTHS PER 1,000 WIVES OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS, WIFE FIRST MARRIED IN 1965 TO 1969, BY RATIO OF FAMILY INCOME TO POVERTY LEVEL, BY LABOR FORCE STATUS OF WIFE AND RACE

Race, labor force status, and ratio of family income to poverty level	Wives first married in 1965 to 1969	Premaritally conceived first births per 1,000 women			
		Total	Born before marriage	Born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage	
				Rate	Percent of total
ALL RACES					
Wife in labor force....	2,802,394	172	61	111	64.5
Less than 1.00.....	103,104	351	161	190	54.1
1.00 to 1.49.....	148,757	328	135	193	58.8
1.50 to 1.99.....	220,468	299	121	178	59.5
2.00 to 2.99.....	591,620	246	82	164	66.7
3.00 or more.....	1,738,445	107	35	72	67.3
Wife not in labor force	3,179,996	275	86	189	68.7
Less than 1.00.....	309,731	404	173	231	57.2
1.00 to 1.49.....	366,067	385	143	242	62.9
1.50 to 1.99.....	460,871	350	105	245	70.0
2.00 to 2.99.....	974,699	280	74	206	73.6
3.00 or more.....	1,068,628	163	44	119	73.0
WHITE					
Wife in labor force....	2,476,207	139	38	101	72.7
Less than 1.00.....	75,272	254	74	180	70.9
1.00 to 1.49.....	117,214	243	65	178	73.3
1.50 to 1.99.....	183,128	239	71	168	70.3
2.00 to 2.99.....	512,722	209	54	155	74.2
3.00 or more.....	1,587,871	91	26	65	71.4
Wife not in labor force	2,884,293	252	66	186	73.8
Less than 1.00.....	245,265	345	114	231	67.0
1.00 to 1.49.....	309,152	345	102	243	70.4
1.50 to 1.99.....	411,393	328	84	244	74.4
2.00 to 2.99.....	902,989	268	62	206	76.9
3.00 or more.....	1,015,494	157	40	117	74.5
BLACK					
Wife in labor force....	284,244	458	261	197	43.0
Less than 1.00.....	25,752	637	418	219	34.4
1.00 to 1.49.....	28,603	673	417	256	38.0
1.50 to 1.99.....	34,233	621	392	229	36.9
2.00 to 2.99.....	70,993	504	277	227	45.0
3.00 or more.....	124,663	300	147	153	51.0
Wife not in labor force	239,231	541	312	229	42.3
Less than 1.00.....	56,061	660	431	229	34.7
1.00 to 1.49.....	48,442	637	392	245	38.5
1.50 to 1.99.....	40,999	572	306	266	46.5
2.00 to 2.99.....	57,874	458	242	216	47.2
3.00 or more.....	35,855	321	141	180	56.1

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, tables 34 and 35.

MARRIAGE COHORTS

Tables 18 to 21 present several types of information for cohorts of women who first married in 5-year periods between 1950 and 1969. The tables show that the incidence of premaritally conceived births has increased among the successive cohorts. Confirmatory evidence of an increase appears in vital statistics. For example, the following average ratios of illegitimate live births per 1,000 total live births were derived from **Vital Statistics of the United States, 1970, Vol. 1, table I-29**, National Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare:

Year	White	All other races
1965 to 1969.	48.1	294.1
1960 to 1964.	28.0	229.8
1955 to 1959.	20.0	208.7
1950 to 1954.	17.0	187.1

As shown in table 18, not only the incidence of first births before marriage but also of births occurring shortly after marriage increased from cohort to cohort. Among Whites, the increase in total premaritally conceived first births was from 114 per 1,000 women in the 1950 to 1954 marriage cohort to 210 in the 1965 to 1969 cohort. For women of Spanish origin, the increase was from 182 to 305, and for Blacks it was from 331 to

517. Because the increases were in essentially similar proportions for children born before marriage and for those born after marriage, there generally was little change in the proportion of premaritally conceived first births that occurred after marriage. An exception to that stability exists among Black women and women of Spanish origin in the 1950 to 1954 cohort where the proportion of timely marital resolutions is higher than that for the following cohorts.

As shown in table 19, sizable proportions of every cohort of premarital mothers have had more than one child before marriage. This pattern was most pronounced among the younger cohorts.

The rates in table 20 on the incidence of premaritally conceived births of second and higher order fall short, and often far short, of the rates of premaritally conceived first births shown in table 18. For example, women (all races) who first married in 1965 to 1969 had 85 first births per 1,000 women before marriage but only 59 births of second and higher order.

The data in table 21 indicate that as the order of birth increases for premaritally conceived children, there is an increase in the percentage of unmarried mothers who have another child. That table also shows that after the birth of the first child, and especially after the birth of the second child before marriage, there no longer are anywhere near as large variations by race and Spanish origin in the proportions of mothers who have another child.

Table 18. PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED FIRST BIRTHS PER 1,000 WOMEN WHO FIRST MARRIED IN 1950 TO 1969, BY YEAR OF FIRST MARRIAGE, RACE, AND SPANISH ORIGIN

Spacing of first birth and year of first marriage	All races	White	Black	Spanish origin ¹
TOTAL PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED FIRST BIRTHS				
1965 to 1969.....	244	210	517	305
1960 to 1964.....	225	194	477	266
1955 to 1959.....	195	165	434	237
1950 to 1954.....	137	114	331	182
CHILD BORN <u>BEFORE</u> MARRIAGE				
1965 to 1969.....	85	59	293	127
1960 to 1964.....	76	51	271	109
1955 to 1959.....	68	47	236	96
1950 to 1954.....	46	33	153	68
CHILD BORN <u>AFTER</u> MOTHER'S MARRIAGE				
1965 to 1969.....	159	151	224	178
1960 to 1964.....	149	143	206	157
1955 to 1959.....	127	118	198	141
1950 to 1954.....	91	81	178	114
PERCENT BORN <u>AFTER</u> MARRIAGE				
1965 to 1969.....	65.2	71.9	43.3	58.4
1960 to 1964.....	66.2	73.7	43.2	59.0
1955 to 1959.....	65.1	71.5	45.6	59.5
1950 to 1954.....	66.4	71.1	53.8	62.6

¹May be of any race.

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, table 27.

Table 19. PREMARITAL BIRTHS BY ORDER OF BIRTH, FOR BIRTHS TO WOMEN WHO SUBSEQUENTLY FIRST MARRIED IN 1950 TO 1969, BY RACE, SPANISH ORIGIN, AND YEAR OF FIRST MARRIAGE

Race, Spanish origin, and year of first marriage	Premarital births	Mean order of birth	Distribution by order of birth					
			Total	First child	Second child	Third child	Fourth child	Fifth and higher order
ALL RACES								
1965 to 1969.....	1,047,275	1.69	100.0	59.3	20.1	9.5	5.0	6.2
1960 to 1964.....	790,650	1.69	100.0	59.1	20.3	9.8	4.9	5.8
1955 to 1959.....	638,700	1.57	100.0	63.7	19.9	8.5	3.9	4.0
1950 to 1954.....	411,498	1.46	100.0	68.7	16.6	6.5	3.3	4.9
WHITE								
1965 to 1969.....	599,218	1.58	100.0	63.1	18.9	8.9	4.4	4.6
1960 to 1964.....	444,987	1.61	100.0	62.3	19.5	9.1	4.4	4.7
1955 to 1959.....	376,893	1.52	100.0	65.8	18.9	8.0	3.5	3.8
1950 to 1954.....	257,056	1.43	100.0	69.9	15.3	6.4	3.4	5.1
BLACK								
1965 to 1969.....	424,509	1.85	100.0	53.9	21.8	10.3	5.8	8.2
1960 to 1964.....	330,005	1.83	100.0	54.8	21.4	10.9	5.6	7.3
1955 to 1959.....	249,226	1.65	100.0	60.7	21.6	9.1	4.3	4.3
1950 to 1954.....	145,832	1.49	100.0	67.3	18.8	6.6	3.0	4.3
SPANISH ORIGIN¹								
1965 to 1969.....	90,521	1.80	100.0	55.4	20.7	10.5	5.8	7.5
1960 to 1964.....	69,490	1.89	100.0	52.9	20.9	11.0	6.1	9.1
1955 to 1959.....	52,351	1.78	100.0	56.0	21.2	10.7	5.8	6.3
1950 to 1954.....	30,588	1.61	100.0	62.0	18.9	8.5	4.5	6.0

¹May be of any race.

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, table 27.

Table 20. PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED BIRTHS OF SECOND AND HIGHER ORDER PER 1,000 WOMEN WHO FIRST MARRIED IN 1950 TO 1969, BY YEAR OF FIRST MARRIAGE, RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN

Spacing of premaritally conceived births of second and higher order and year of first marriage	All races	White	Black	Spanish origin ¹
TOTAL PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED BIRTHS OF SECOND AND HIGHER ORDER				
1965 to 1969.....	77	46	328	133
1960 to 1964.....	68	39	295	120
1955 to 1959.....	54	33	215	95
1950 to 1954.....	29	18	110	54
CHILD BORN <u>BEFORE</u> MARRIAGE				
1965 to 1969.....	59	35	251	102
1960 to 1964.....	53	32	223	97
1955 to 1959.....	39	25	153	75
1950 to 1954.....	21	15	75	42
CHILD BORN <u>AFTER</u> MOTHER'S MARRIAGE				
1965 to 1969.....	18	11	77	31
1960 to 1964.....	15	7	72	23
1955 to 1959.....	15	8	62	20
1950 to 1954.....	8	3	35	12
PERCENT BORN <u>AFTER</u> MARRIAGE				
1965 to 1969.....	24.1	24.7	23.4	23.0
1960 to 1964.....	22.8	21.5	24.2	18.9
1955 to 1959.....	27.0	25.2	29.2	21.3
1950 to 1954.....	25.8	21.1	32.6	22.9

¹May be of any race.

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, table 27.

Table 21. PREMARITAL PARITY PROGRESSIONS OF WOMEN WHO SUBSEQUENTLY FIRST MARRIED IN 1950 TO 1969, BY RACE, SPANISH ORIGIN, AND YEAR OF FIRST MARRIAGE

Race, Spanish origin, and year of first marriage	Percent advancing from specified premarital parities			
	0 to 1 parity	1 to 2 parity	2 to 3 parity	3 to 4 parity
ALL RACES				
1965 to 1969.....	8.5	33.9	47.2	53.0
1960 to 1964.....	7.6	34.4	48.4	50.0
1955 to 1959.....	6.8	31.3	42.5	45.6
1950 to 1954.....	4.6	24.1	39.3	51.2
WHITE				
1965 to 1969.....	5.9	29.9	47.1	49.7
1960 to 1964.....	5.1	31.3	46.5	48.2
1955 to 1959.....	4.7	28.7	42.4	43.4
1950 to 1954.....	3.3	21.9	41.6	54.0
BLACK				
1965 to 1969.....	29.3	40.4	47.4	56.7
1960 to 1964.....	27.1	39.1	50.9	51.5
1955 to 1959.....	23.6	35.5	42.2	47.8
1950 to 1954.....	15.3	28.0	34.8	45.7
SPANISH ORIGIN ¹				
1965 to 1969.....	12.7	37.4	50.5	55.3
1960 to 1964.....	10.9	39.6	52.7	55.3
1955 to 1959.....	9.6	37.8	50.7	53.6
1950 to 1954.....	6.8	30.5	44.8	53.5

¹May be of any race.

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, table 27.

OCCUPATIONS OF WOMEN

Two types of data on the employment status and occupations of women are shown in tables 22 and 23. Table 22 presents data for a birth cohort of women born in 1930 to 1934, many of whom probably married around age 20 in 1950 to 1954. Only 5.7 percent of these women were still single by age 38. Table 23 presents data for a marriage cohort of women first married in 1965 to 1969. The members of the marriage cohort undoubtedly were much younger, on the average, than the members of the birth cohort, and they were much more likely to have young children to care for.

The birth cohort in table 22 shows first births per 1,000 women by age 38 and all births per 1,000 women while single. The final column presents an indicator which shows the approximate level of the proportion of first births that occurred while the mother was single. The indicator shows all births occurring to single mothers as a percentage of all first births, regardless of the mother's marital status. It is a maximum indicator because the numerator of the proportion may include second and higher order births. For example, it appears from the table that among White women, those who worked as nonfarm laborers had the highest percentage of first births while single (14.0 percent or less). White women who were professional, technical, and kindred

workers had the lowest percentage of first births while single (only 6.0 percent or less). Among Blacks, 27.6 percent (or less) of the mothers who were professional, technical, and kindred workers had their first child while single, as did 79.0 percent (or less) of those who were farm workers.

The marriage cohort table shows considerably lower rates of first births before marriage per 1,000 women than are shown in the birth cohort table for all births while single per 1,000 women. For example, the rate is 293 for all Black women in the marriage cohort table but 506 in the birth cohort table. The fact that many women had more than one child while single and that many of these women never did marry undoubtedly accounts for a large part of the difference between the rates.

The occupational groups shown in tables 22 and 23 can be ranked from high to low in accordance with the magnitudes of the rates of births while single. Following is a list of the relative rankings that result when occupations are compared. The rankings differ between the two tables because they measure somewhat different types of behavior, but both tend to have similar patterns.

WHITE WOMEN

Laborers, except farm.....	1.....
Operatives, including transport.....	2.....
Service workers, including private household.....	3.....
Crafts and kindred workers.....	4.....
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	5.....
Farm workers.....	6.....
Sales workers.....	7.....
Clerical workers.....	8.....
Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....	9.....

Table 22

Table 23

1.....	3
2.....	4
3.....	5
4.....	2
5.....	6
6.....	1
7.....	7
8.....	
9.....	8

BLACK WOMEN

Farm workers.....	1.....
Service workers, including private household.....	2.....
Laborers, except farm.....	3.....
Operatives, including transport.....	4.....
Crafts and kindred workers.....	5.....
Sales workers.....	6.....
Clerical workers.....	7.....
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	8.....
Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....	9.....

1.....	1
2.....	3
3.....	5
4.....	4
5.....	2
6.....	7
7.....	
8.....	6
9.....	8

Table 22. PROPORTION MARRIED BY AGE 38 AND BIRTHS PER 1,000 WOMEN BEFORE MARRIAGE, FOR WOMEN BORN IN 1930 TO 1934, BY RACE, EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP

Race, employment status, and occupation group	Women born in 1930 to 1934 (a)	Percent ever married by age 38 (b)	Births per 1,000 women by age 38		Ratio column d/c (percent)
			First births (c)	All births while single (d)	
ALL RACES					
Total, all women.....	5,740,168	94.3	885	125	14.1
Employed women.....	2,676,986	91.2	838	127	15.2
Professional, technical, and kindred workers...	451,175	86.2	775	69	8.9
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	99,585	88.5	791	93	11.8
Sales workers.....	167,178	95.0	889	88	9.9
Clerical and kindred workers.....	891,798	91.1	819	75	9.2
Crafts and kindred workers.....	53,606	92.0	842	138	16.4
Operatives, including transport.....	447,350	93.6	877	165	18.8
Laborers, except farm.....	29,313	91.9	867	204	23.5
Farm workers.....	23,007	92.5	901	220	24.4
Service workers, including private household...	513,974	92.6	881	242	27.5
Unemployed, Armed Forces, not in labor force....	3,063,182	97.0	926	123	13.3
Wives of household heads, not in labor force...	2,597,820	99.9	953	78	8.2
WHITE					
Total, all women.....	4,992,997	94.8	888	74	8.3
Employed women.....	2,255,466	91.3	836	74	8.9
Professional, technical, and kindred workers...	386,419	85.6	770	46	6.0
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	91,854	88.3	786	80	10.2
Sales workers.....	156,020	95.2	892	74	8.3
Clerical and kindred workers.....	814,819	91.2	818	55	6.7
Crafts and kindred workers.....	46,786	92.1	843	99	11.7
Operatives, including transport.....	372,336	94.1	880	107	12.2
Laborers, except farm.....	22,978	92.4	864	121	14.0
Farm workers.....	17,787	93.9	898	78	8.7
Service workers, including private household...	346,467	94.0	888	101	11.4
Unemployed, Armed Forces, not in labor force....	2,737,531	97.7	931	74	7.9
Wives of household heads, not in labor force...	2,402,716	99.9	955	58	6.1
BLACK					
Total, all women.....	653,986	90.7	872	506	58.0
Employed women.....	377,399	90.3	853	443	51.9
Professional, technical, and kindred workers...	56,175	91.5	812	224	27.6
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	6,194	90.4	849	286	33.7
Sales workers.....	9,265	92.3	829	315	38.0
Clerical and kindred workers.....	65,068	90.7	840	313	37.3
Crafts and kindred workers.....	6,025	91.3	837	448	53.5
Operatives, including transport.....	65,887	91.0	861	490	56.9
Laborers, except farm.....	6,123	89.7	878	522	59.5
Farm workers.....	4,661	86.8	917	724	79.0
Service workers, including private household...	158,001	89.5	869	557	64.1
Unemployed, Armed Forces, not in labor force....	276,587	91.2	898	592	65.9
Wives of household heads, not in labor force...	155,365	99.8	927	368	39.7

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, tables 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, and 20.

Table 23. PREMARITALLY CONCEIVED FIRST BIRTHS PER 1,000 WOMEN WHO FIRST MARRIED IN 1965 TO 1969, BY MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF EMPLOYED WOMEN AND RACE

Race, employment status, and occupation group	Women first married in 1965 to 1969	Premaritally conceived first births per 1,000 women			
		Total	Born before marriage	Born 0 to 2 calendar quarters after marriage	
				Rate	Percent of total
ALL RACES					
Total, all women.....	7,276,343	244	85	159	65.2
Employed women.....	3,241,224	188	73	115	61.2
Professional, technical, and kindred workers...	701,577	94	32	62	66.0
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	58,289	174	81	93	53.4
Clerical, sales, and kindred workers.....	1,548,327	163	50	113	69.3
Crafts and kindred workers.....	41,372	312	178	134	42.9
Operatives, including transport.....	378,290	308	140	168	54.5
Laborers, except farm.....	26,415	338	168	170	50.3
Farm workers.....	13,857	403	238	165	40.9
Service workers, including private household...	473,097	293	132	161	54.9
Unemployed, Armed Forces, not in labor force.....	4,035,119	289	95	194	67.1
Wives of household heads, not in labor force...	3,179,996	275	86	189	68.7
WHITE					
Total, all women.....	6,371,631	210	59	151	71.9
Employed women.....	2,823,078	150	47	103	68.7
Professional, technical, and kindred workers...	637,738	78	24	54	69.2
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	53,822	153	70	83	54.2
Clerical, sales, and kindred workers.....	1,397,886	135	35	100	74.1
Crafts and kindred workers.....	35,501	275	150	125	45.5
Operatives, including transport.....	302,071	254	96	158	62.2
Laborers, except farm.....	20,754	286	127	159	55.6
Farm workers.....	9,266	300	154	146	48.7
Service workers, including private household...	366,040	226	72	154	68.1
Unemployed, Armed Forces, not in labor force.....	3,548,553	258	69	189	73.3
Wives of household heads, not in labor force...	2,884,293	252	66	186	73.8
BLACK					
Total, all women.....	780,295	517	293	224	43.3
Employed women.....	368,446	472	268	204	43.2
Professional, technical, and kindred workers...	50,218	284	134	150	52.8
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	3,429	407	250	157	38.6
Clerical, sales, and kindred workers.....	131,289	442	210	232	52.5
Crafts and kindred workers.....	5,251	568	377	191	33.6
Operatives, including transport.....	69,836	546	329	217	39.7
Laborers, except farm.....	5,359	523	316	207	39.6
Farm workers.....	4,137	622	421	201	32.3
Service workers, including private household...	98,927	544	355	189	34.7
Unemployed, Armed Forces, not in labor force.....	411,849	557	315	242	43.4
Wives of household heads, not in labor force...	239,231	541	312	229	42.3

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, tables 31, 32, and 33.

APPENDIX

SOURCES AND LIMITATIONS OF DATA

The materials in this report were derived largely from the 1970 census report PC(2)-3B, **Childspacing and Current Fertility**. The fertility data in the PC(2)-3B report were based on replies to a question on number of children ever born to a woman and on the recorded birth dates of children who were living with her at the time of the census, supplemented by estimates of birth dates for any children who had died or left home. In an effort to alert the reader to some of the limitations of the data and to assist students who may wish to make a more extensive analysis, this appendix presents information not limited to materials from the PC(2)-3B report.

Children ever born. To a very large degree, the reliability of the materials on family building practices depends on the accuracy of the data on number of children ever born to each woman. There is a considerable body of evidence on the quality of the data from: (1) Successive censuses and sample surveys, (2) comparisons of census or survey data with vital statistics, and (3) occasional matchings of census records with birth registration records for individual women. These sources indicate that the data are imperfect but are of a quality that should be adequate for most purposes. Three brief examples are presented here.

Example 1. Consistency from census to census

Census and age of woman	Number of women (all races)	Children ever born per 1,000 women
1940: age 40-44...	4,327,860	2,501
1950: age 50-54...	4,077,240	2,497
1960: age 60-64...	3,718,944	2,503
1970: age 70-74...	3,115,737	2,499

Note: Single women were treated as childless in example 1, to match the practice in censuses before 1970.

The 1970 census was the first decennial census of the United States in which single women had an opportunity to answer a question on number of children ever born. Previous censuses limited the question to women

Example 2. Census data compared with cohort data from **Vital Statistics of the United States, 1970**, which involved cumulations of birth rates from age to age on a cohort basis

Age of women	Children ever born per 1,000 women		
	1970 census, April 1 (a)	Vital statistics, January 1 (b)	Ratio (a)/(b)
15-19.....	108	78	1.38
20-24.....	736	688	1.07
25-29.....	1,793	1,751	1.02
30-34.....	2,644	2,711	0.98
35-39.....	3,016	3,138	0.96
40-44.....	2,950	3,069	0.96

Note: Children of single women are included in example 2.

Example 3. Data from the 1960 Census Content Evaluation Study, for women ever married whose census record was matched with the birth registration record for her latest child

Race and age of woman	Number of women	Number of children ever born	
		Census record	Birth registration record
WHITE			
Age 14-44.....	456	1,184	1,189
Age 45 and over....	363	1,283	1,320
Other races			
Age 14-44.....	42	165	172
Age 45 and over....	19	83	82

Note: For further details, see appendix B, Trends and Variations in Fertility in the United States, By Kiser, Grabill, and Campbell, Harvard University Press, 1968.

who had ever been married. (The data for ever-married women in previous censuses were not limited to births after marriage, however. Women were expected to include any births occurring before the first marriage, and many did so.) A facsimile of the question on number of children ever born as asked on the 1970 census enumeration schedule is shown below (note the absence of any mention of marital status):

(Asked only of persons born before April 1956)

25. <i>If this is a girl or a woman— How many babies has she ever had, not counting stillbirths? Do not count her stepchildren or children she has adopted.</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	<input type="radio"/>								
	9	10	11	12	or more	None			<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>						

The 1970 census utilized a self-enumeration approach in areas containing about two-thirds of the Nation's population and a conventional approach in other areas. Under the self-enumeration approach, the enumeration schedules were distributed by mail with the respondents instructed to mail the completed schedules back. Enumerators and field offices made follow-up calls when the schedules were not returned or were incomplete. In the conventional enumeration areas, enumerators obtained information by direct interview. Occasionally, the respondent could not be reached after repeated callbacks, in which case an "Individual Census Report" form was left for the person to complete and mail back. The enumerators were instructed not to ask the question on number of children ever born when interviewing a never-married woman unless she had sons or daughters

living with her. They were, however, to ask the question of all women who had ever been married and to follow up nonresponses of such women on forms that were mailed back. In practice, about as large a proportion of single women reported on number of children ever born in conventional enumeration areas as in self-enumeration areas. Tables A-1 and A-2 present pertinent data on the proportions of women who reported on number of children ever born.

Among single women 15 years old and over in the 5-percent sample used for the PC(2)-3B report, 98.7 percent of the Whites and 86.3 percent of the Blacks had no sons or daughters living with them and thus were not expected to answer in an interview situation the question on number of children ever born. Responses were nonetheless obtained for about 71 percent of the White and 69 percent of the Black single women with no children living with them. 82 percent of the White and 92 percent of the Black women reported on number of children ever born, after all followup efforts. For about 3 percent of the reporting White single women with sons or daughters present and for about 1 percent of the reporting Blacks with children present, the answer was "none" for number of children ever born, probably because some had adopted children.

For women ever married, regardless of whether any own children were present, the corresponding proportions reporting on number of children ever born were 95 percent of the White and 90 percent of the Black women.

Table A-1. Percent Reporting on Number of Children Ever Born, For Single Women 15 Years Old and Over, by Race, Whether Own Children Are Present, Urban-Rural Residence, and Type of Enumeration Area

Presence of children and residence	Mail out/mail back enumeration areas			Conventional enumeration areas		
	All races	White	Black	All races	White	Black
NO OWN CHILDREN PRESENT						
Number of women.....	9,908,695	8,613,333	1,174,607	5,251,784	4,563,274	591,464
Percent reporting.....	70.7	71.1	68.5	68.8	68.8	68.8
Central cities of urbanized areas...	69.2	69.6	68.3	71.5	71.7	69.3
Urban fringe.....	72.1	72.3	68.1	70.9	70.9	70.9
Other urban.....	72.8	73.0	69.5	70.6	70.8	68.4
Rural.....	71.9	71.9	73.2	66.2	65.9	68.7
ONE OR MORE OWN CHILDREN PRESENT						
Number of women.....	302,770	98,209	202,203	141,176	54,044	83,154
Percent reporting.....	89.0	83.4	91.7	86.8	79.0	91.9
Central cities of urbanized areas...	90.6	86.6	91.9	87.1	79.7	91.3
Urban fringe.....	83.8	79.3	89.9	83.2	81.1	85.7
Other urban.....	88.8	85.0	93.1	88.9	81.5	93.3
Rural.....	81.9	76.9	90.9	85.5	77.1	91.4

Source: Unpublished tabulation records from the 1970 census.

Table A-2. Proportion of White and Black Women Who Reported on Number of Children, Ever Born For Single Women by Whether Own Children Were Living With Them and For Women Ever Married, by Age of Woman

Race and age	Single				Ever married	
	No children present		One or more own children present			
	Number of women	Percent reporting	Number of women	Percent reporting	Number of women	Percent reporting
WHITE						
Total, 15 years and over.....	13,176,607	70.3	152,253	81.8	53,802,703	94.8
15 to 19 years.....	7,139,422	71.8	24,169	89.5	974,138	90.1
20 to 24 years.....	2,512,342	73.6	45,904	89.9	4,723,005	94.5
25 to 34 years.....	938,766	69.0	46,070	77.2	10,040,439	95.7
35 to 44 years.....	526,164	65.7	19,990	74.7	9,823,505	95.9
45 years and over.....	2,059,913	62.8	16,120	69.1	28,241,616	94.3
BLACK						
Total, 15 years and over.....	1,766,043	68.6	285,385	91.7	5,788,738	89.5
15 to 19 years.....	1,032,455	69.2	51,950	94.9	140,015	84.0
20 to 24 years.....	331,585	72.6	84,810	93.2	539,262	89.1
25 to 34 years.....	158,615	66.0	91,122	90.5	1,198,895	90.8
35 to 44 years.....	77,011	61.9	37,839	92.1	1,196,955	91.0
45 years and over.....	166,377	61.7	19,664	82.3	2,713,611	88.6

Source: 1970 census report PC(2)-3A, tables A-1 and A-4.

Reports of number of children ever born were more often obtained from Black unmarried mothers than for Black women ever married. Among Whites, the reverse occurred. Some sensitivity to the question on children ever born may be inferred from the successively smaller proportions of women in the older groups of single women who answered the question. The most complete reporting occurred among women under age 25; the least occurred among women 35 years old and over. No similar inverse pattern of relationship appears in the data for women ever married.

As is explained in appendix D of the PC(2) series of reports, most of the missing characteristics for a person were supplied during the process of editing the 1970 census schedules. The general procedure was to assign an entry that was consistent with the response that was made by another person with similar characteristics who reported on the subject.

The computer edit program stored in a matrix a running record of information for each person processed who had the combinations of characteristics called for by the matrix and who also had an acceptable entry for the topic of interest. This information was changed each time a new person's acceptable data were processed. When data for a person were processed who needed an

allocation for the topic of interest, the computer consulted the matrix to determine what had most recently been recorded for a person with characteristics like those of the person needing an allocation. The information in the matrix was then used to make the allocation.

Tables A-3 and A-4 show the layout of the matrices that were generally used for 5-percent sample data on number of children ever born in the 1970 census report PC(2)-3A. One change was made, however, for purposes of the PC(2)-3B report. Before tabulating data for that report, women in subfamilies and also single women who were heads of households were reallocated as having as many children ever born as they had own children present when the new number would exceed the old allocated number (a reported number was not changed, of course).

Birth dates of children. The compilation of a complete roster of birth events for each woman required birth dates for any children living with the woman and any children who had died or left home. The birth dates of the children present were known, but the dates had to be estimated for the absent children. The number of absent children for whom estimated birth dates were needed was obtained by subtracting the number of children present from the number of children ever born

Table A-3. Matrix For Allocation of Number of Children Ever Born, For Women Ever Married 14 Years Old and Over

Race and number of years since first marriage	Wife of household head		Female head of household		Other women in household ¹	Women in group quarters ¹
	No own children present ¹	One or more own children present ²	No own children present ¹	One or more own children present ²		

WHITE

0 and 1 years.....
 2 years.....
 3 years.....
 4 years.....
 5 years.....
 6 to 10 years.....
 11 to 15 years.....
 16 to 20 years.....
 21 to 25 years.....
 26 to 30 years.....
 31 to 40 years.....
 41 to 50 years.....
 50 years and over.....

Matrix content:

¹Store number of children ever born and assign same as needed.

²Store the difference between the number of own children present in the home and the number of children ever born. (If the difference is negative, store "0" instead of negative difference. Note that codes for children ever born terminate with the category "12+." If the allocation produces 13 or more children, code as "12+.") When a woman with no report on children ever born needs an allocation, count the number of children present and add to that the matrix "difference" to get an assigned total children ever born.

BLACK AND OTHER RACES

0 and 1 years.....
 2 years.....
 3 years.....
 4 years.....
 5 years.....
 6 to 10 years.....
 11 to 15 years.....
 16 to 20 years.....
 21 to 25 years.....
 26 to 30 years.....
 31 to 40 years.....
 41 to 50 years.....
 50 years and over.....

**Table A-4. Matrix For Allocation of Number of Children Ever Born, For Women Never Married
14 Years Old and Over**

Race and age of woman	Female head of household		Other women in households	Women in group quarters
	No own children present	One or more own children present		
WHITE	BLACK AND OTHER RACES			
14 and 15 years old:	14 and 15 years old:			
Enrolled in school.....	Enrolled in school.....			
Not enrolled.....	Not enrolled.....			
16 years old:	16 years old:			
Enrolled in school.....	Enrolled in school.....			
Not enrolled.....	Not enrolled.....			
17 years old:	17 years old:			
Enrolled in school.....	Enrolled in school.....			
Not enrolled.....	Not enrolled.....			
18 years old:	18 years old:			
Enrolled in school.....	Enrolled in school.....			
Not enrolled.....	Not enrolled.....			
19 years old:	19 years old:			
Enrolled in school.....	Enrolled in school.....			
Not enrolled.....	Not enrolled.....			
20 years old:	20 years old:			
Enrolled in school.....	Enrolled in school.....			
Not enrolled.....	Not enrolled.....			
21 years old:	21 years old:			
Enrolled in school.....	Enrolled in school.....			
Not enrolled.....	Not enrolled.....			
22 to 24 years old.....	22 to 24 years old.....			
25 to 29 years old.....	25 to 29 years old.....			
30 years and over.....	30 years and over.....			
	Matrix content:			
	Store number of children everborn and assign as needed.			

to the woman. A system developed by Maurice J. Moore of the Fertility Statistics Branch was used to estimate the birth dates in a way that allowed the birth dates for absent children to be in positions before, between, and after the birth dates of children present—with logical interbirth spacings maintained.

The assignments of birth dates of absent children were made with the aid of matrices that stored, for guide purposes, data on childspacing patterns for women who had all of their children ever born living with them. When the computer encountered data for a woman who had absent children, it consulted the matrix to make the assignment. If an ever-married woman with children absent also had children present, the computer kept unchanged the spacings of children present and used the matrix guide data to position and space the dates for absent children. For single women, age of woman at childbirth was used as a control for spacing of births. The assignments for the relatively few single women over age 39 in 1970, however, were made incorrectly in the edit specifications. Therefore, these assignments did not properly translate the matrix-stored data into correct ages of women at childbirth, with the result that single women over age 39 were generally assigned too many recent births and too few births for the time when they were young. The data for the many single women under age 39 were not subject to that bias.

Information on children present involved the use of responses on household relationship obtained in the 1970 census for all persons related to the head of the household. That information was not available on the computer tapes for persons not related to the household head, who were all treated as "unrelated individuals" even though some may actually have had a wife or children present. It was also not available for persons living in group quarters. Experience with the 1940, 1950, and 1960 censuses had shown, however, that only a small proportion of persons unrelated to a household head or in group quarters had a spouse or child present; consequently, the 1970 census computer operations for reports on families were simplified by limiting the data on family relationship to persons related to the household head.

Calendar quarters. The questionnaires used in the 1970 census reports contained information on the calendar quarter and year of birth of each person and quarter and year of marriage. Therefore, the data available did not permit tabulations in terms of monthly intervals; if such data had been available they would have been utilized for this report. The calendar quarters were the periods from January to March, April to June, July to

September, and October to December. When two dates or more were compared, the broad intervals overlapped somewhat. For example, consider two quarters: January to March 1969 and July to September 1969: in terms of census tabulations that would be an interval of "2 calendar quarters." The midpoints of the two quarters are February 14 and August 15, which is an interval of exactly 6 months. But the extreme range can be from 1½ months before February 14 to 1½ months after August 15, or an interval of 9 months. And the shortest range can be from the end of March to the beginning of July, or an interval of just over 3 months.

If one assumes a random distribution of events, the 2-calendar-quarter interval should average out at about 6 months for a large group of persons, with about 75 percent of the events concentrated within a fraction (3/4) of a month on each side of the midpoint of 6.0 months.

Characteristics of single women reporting on number of children ever born. Tables A-5 and A-6 present data on the distributions of single women by the numbers of children ever born that were actually reported, by relationship of the woman to the head of the household and by years of school completed.

As may be seen from table A-5, about 73 percent of reporting White single women who were heads of households reported that they had borne no children, in contrast to 13 percent of reporting Black single women. Moreover, 21 percent of the White single women who were heads of households and 80 percent of the Black women who were household heads had own children living with them; these figures of 21 and 80 percent include women not reporting on children ever born as well as women reporting. Among women related to the head as a child or as another relative, by far the most usual response was that they had borne no children.

It should also be of interest that among reporting women who were not related to household heads and among reporting women in group quarters, by far the modal response was that they were childless. These relationship groups were the ones for which presence or absence of own children was not available from the relationship coding system adopted for the 1970 census.

Table A-6 indicates that single women with less than 8 years of elementary school were one of the groups most likely to have had some children. About 18 percent of the reporting Black women and 5 percent of the reporting White women with that amount of education had borne three children or more as compared with 2 percent of Blacks and 1 percent of Whites with 4 years of college or more.

Table A-5. Single Women 15 Years Old and Over, by Relationship to Household Head, Reported Number of Children Ever Born, and Whether Own Children Are Present

Subject	Total	Head	Child	Other relative	Not related	In group quarters
WHITE						
Single women, number.....	13,328,360	458,097	8,526,736	831,727	2,158,901	1,353,399
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No own children present....	98.9	78.9	99.4	99.1	...	...
With own children present..	1.1	21.1	0.6	0.9	...	...
Percent Reporting on Children Ever Born						
Single women, total..	70.5	65.9	69.3	64.9	70.8	82.4
No own children present....	70.3	62.2	69.1	64.7	...	...
With own children present..	85.1	79.4	95.7	90.2	...	...
Percent by Reported Number of Children Ever Born						
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None.....	96.1	73.1	97.5	90.8	95.5	98.6
1 child ever born.....	2.1	14.3	1.5	3.9	2.3	0.6
2 children ever born.....	0.8	6.8	0.4	1.8	0.9	0.2
3 or more children.....	1.0	5.8	0.6	3.5	1.2	0.6
BLACK						
Single women, number.....	2,051,428	221,934	1,256,341	247,500	219,697	105,956
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No own children present....	86.1	20.0	92.9	92.6	...	...
With own children present..	13.9	80.0	7.1	7.4	...	...
Percent Reporting on Children Ever Born						
Single women, total..	71.8	86.0	69.5	71.4	69.7	74.3
No own children present....	68.6	72.0	67.4	69.8	...	...
With own children present..	91.7	89.5	96.2	91.5	...	...
Percent by Reported Number of Children Ever Born						
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None.....	70.6	13.4	80.0	71.8	76.7	91.0
1 child ever born.....	15.0	25.9	13.4	17.0	13.6	5.0
2 children ever born.....	6.4	20.9	4.0	5.6	5.1	1.6
3 or more children.....	8.0	39.7	2.6	5.6	4.6	2.5

... Not applicable.

Source: Unpublished data from the 1970 census.

Table A-6. Single Women 15 Years Old and Over, by Years of School Completed, Reported Number of Children Ever Born, and Whether Own Children Are Present

Subject	Total	Elementary		High school		College	
		0 to 7 years	8 years	1 to 3 years	4 years	1 to 3 years	4 years or more
WHITE							
Single women, number.....	13,328,860	873,720	1,107,781	5,008,177	3,333,651	1,978,219	1,027,312
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No own children present....	98.9	96.2	99.0	99.2	98.5	99.5	99.6
With own children present..	1.1	3.8	1.0	0.8	1.5	0.5	0.4
Percent Reporting on Children Ever Born							
Single women, total..	70.4	56.4	67.2	70.3	70.5	76.1	75.4
No own children present....	70.3	56.6	66.9	70.1	70.2	76.1	75.3
With own children present..	81.8	52.2	88.1	90.6	92.5	82.1	77.3
Percent by Reported Number of Children Ever Born							
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None.....	96.2	88.8	94.8	97.4	94.7	97.9	98.2
1 child ever born.....	2.1	4.3	2.3	1.6	3.2	1.2	0.9
2 children ever born.....	0.7	2.3	1.1	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.3
3 or more children.....	1.0	4.7	1.8	0.6	1.1	0.5	0.6
BLACK							
Single women, number.....	2,051,428	279,425	194,862	869,756	477,883	174,030	55,472
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No own children present....	86.1	84.4	87.9	86.7	82.0	92.3	94.8
With own children present..	13.9	15.6	12.1	13.3	18.0	7.7	5.2
Percent Reporting on Children Ever Born							
Single women, total..	71.8	60.9	70.1	72.2	76.5	75.3	73.5
No own children present....	68.5	57.7	66.9	68.8	72.6	73.8	72.9
With own children present..	91.7	78.2	93.2	94.5	94.5	93.2	84.0
Percent by Reported Number of Children Ever Born							
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None.....	70.6	59.0	72.1	72.3	65.4	84.0	90.4
1 child ever born.....	15.0	15.1	11.9	13.7	20.6	11.5	7.0
2 children ever born.....	6.4	8.3	6.2	6.2	7.7	2.4	1.1
3 or more children.....	8.0	17.6	9.8	7.7	6.2	2.1	1.5

Source: Unpublished data from the 1970 census.

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