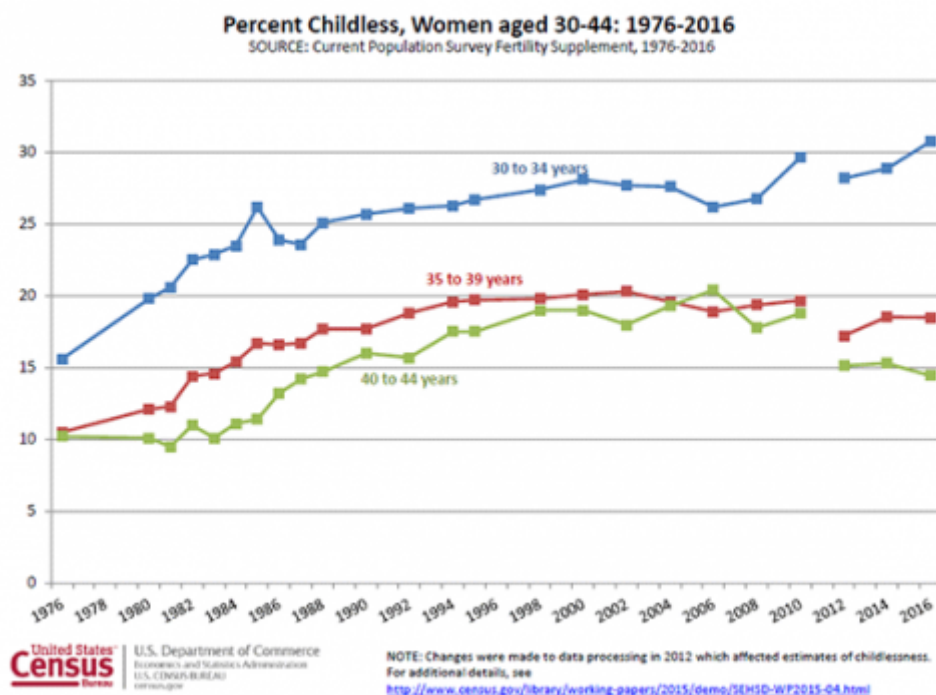


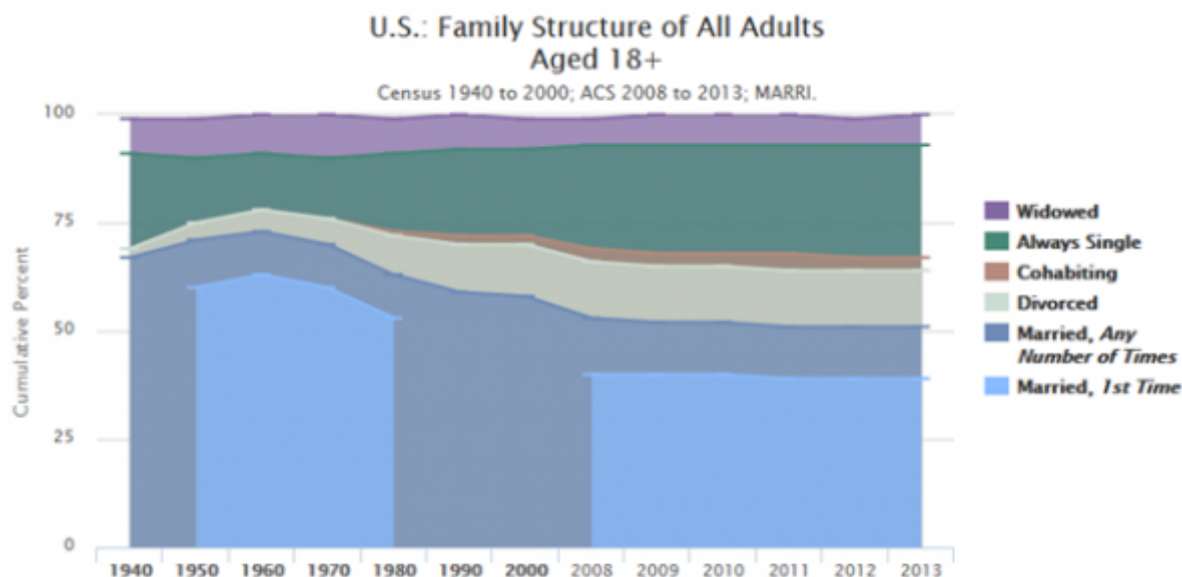
Fertility Trends

In 2016 the U.S. fertility rate hit a record low,¹⁾ and remains below replacement level.²⁾ Significant shifts in family formation have coincided with and contributed to changes in fertility trends in the United States. The rise in non-marital sexual intercourse, the contraceptive revolution, and decisions to postpone or altogether avoid marriage have resulted in fewer births per a woman and more childless women.³⁾



Marital Status

The share of never-married American adults remains at a historic high.⁴⁾ Young adults are increasingly delaying or even foregoing marriage, frequently opting for cohabitation instead.⁵⁾ Though births to unmarried women remains high—at 39.7 percent of all births in 2016⁶⁾—marriage is the most stable and secure environment to have children.⁷⁾

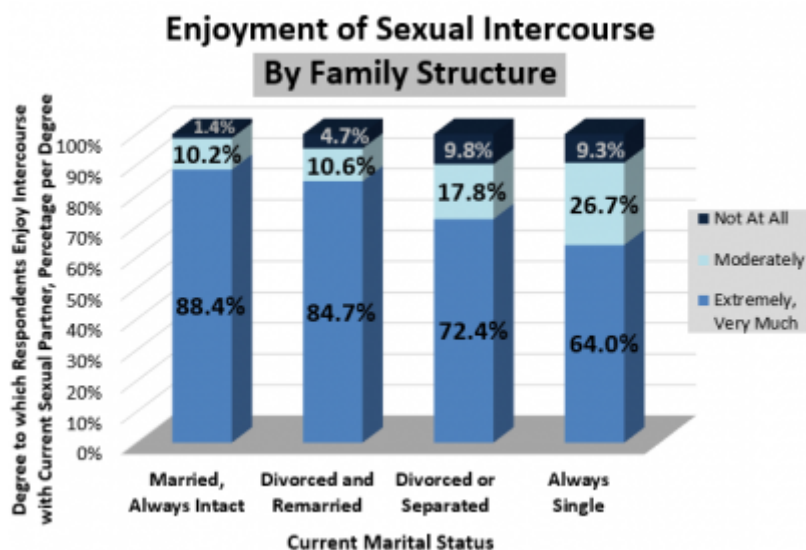


Sexual Frequency

Americans had less frequent sexual intercourse in the 2010s than in the 1990s, according to data from the 1989-2014 General Social Survey.⁸⁾ This overall decline in sexual frequency is largely a result of the decline in marriage, because married people tend to have sexual intercourse more frequently.⁹⁾

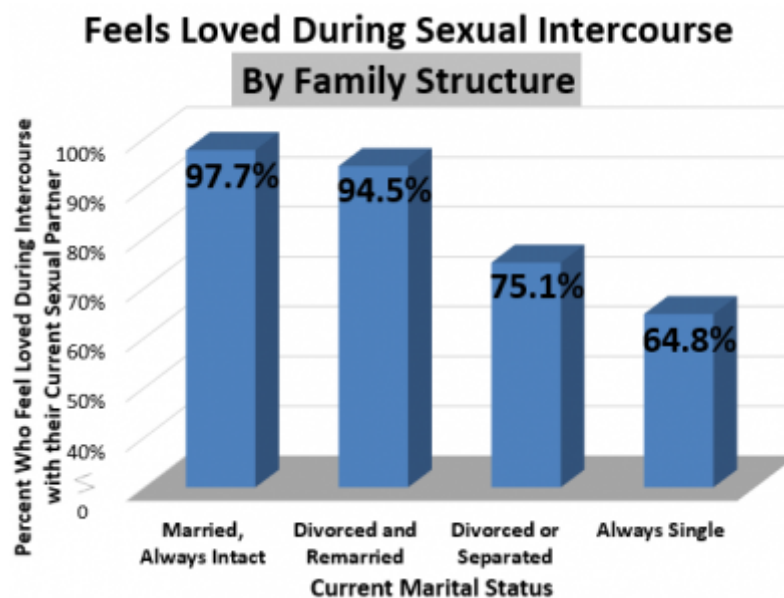
1. Related American Demographics

According to the National Health and Social Life Survey, those in always-intact marriages had the largest percentage of persons reporting that they “extremely” or “very” much enjoyed intercourse with their current sexual partner (88.4 percent). This enjoyment decreased in non-intact structures and among singles: 84.7 percent of those who were divorced and remarried; 72.4 percent of those who were divorced or separated; 64 percent of those who were always single report “extremely” or “very” much enjoying intercourse with their current sexual partner.¹⁰⁾



Those in always-intact marriages were most likely to report feeling loved during intercourse (97.7

percent), according to the National Health and Social Life Survey. Feeling loved decreases among those in non-intact family structures and singles: 94.5 percent of those who were divorced and remarried reported feeling loved during intercourse; 75.1 percent of those who were divorced or separated reported feeling loved; and 64.8 percent of those who were always single reported feeling loved during intercourse.¹¹⁾



1)

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2)

National Center for Health Statistics, Vital statistics of the United States, 2003, Volume I, Natality, Available from: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/vsus/vsus_1980_2003.htm.

3)

Keim, Sylvia, "Social Networks and Family Formation Processes" *Social Networks and Family Formation Processes* (2011).

4)

Pew Research Center, "Record Share of Americans Have Never Married" (September 2014), available at <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2014/09/24/record-share-of-americans-have-never-married/>.

5)

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6)

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7)

DeRose, Laurie, Mark Lyons-Amos, W. Bradford Wilcox, and Gloria Huarcaya, "The Cohabitation-Go-Round: Cohabitation and Family Instability Across the Globe," Social Trends Institute (2017), available at <http://worldfamilymap.ifstudies.org/2017/files/WFM-2017-FullReport.pdf>.

8)

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9)

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¹⁰⁾

Patrick F. Fagan and Althea Nagai, "Enjoyment of Sexual Intercourse", Marriage and Religion Research Institute, available at <http://marri.us/wp-content/uploads/MA-124.pdf>.
¹¹⁾

Patrick F. Fagan and Althea Nagai, "Feels Loved During Sexual Intercourse", Marriage and Religion Research Institute, available at <http://marri.us/wp-content/uploads/MA-125.pdf>.

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