

# FERTILITY TRENDS AND DIFFERENTIALS AMONG NONWHITES IN THE UNITED STATES

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**N**EARLY sixteen million people or slightly over one-tenth of the population of the United States were classified by the 1950 Census as nonwhite. The great majority of these, nearly 96 per cent, were Negroes. The American Indians formed the next largest group, but these numbered only a little over one-third of a million and comprised only 2.2 per cent of the nonwhites.

The Japanese and the Chinese were in third and fourth places, respectively, but each group had less than 1 per cent of the total nonwhite population. The "all other" group also comprised less than 1 per cent of the nonwhites and included Filipinos, Koreans, East Indians, and other nonwhite groups.

Thus, whereas the present paper relates to trends and differentials in the fertility of nonwhites in the United States it actually deals primarily with Negroes. The paper relates to nonwhites as a whole because in most instances the data are not available for the several subdivisions separately. In a few instances, as in data from the 1940 and 1910 Censuses, the materials relate to Negroes rather than to nonwhites.

Although recent data are not available for each of the nonwhite groups separately, it is probable that each nonwhite group mentioned above is more fertile than the whites. In fact, as indicated in Table 1, the cumulative fertility rates of the nonwhites other than Negroes surpassed those of Negroes at certain ages within urban and rural-nonfarm areas and

<sup>1</sup> From the Milbank Memorial Fund. For a briefer version of this paper, *see*: Kiser, Clyde V.: *Fertility Characteristics of the Nonwhite Population in the United States*. A paper in *Bulletin de l'Institut International de Statistique*, Tome 36, Actes de la 30<sup>e</sup> session de l'Institut International de Statistique, Stockholm, 1957, Section démographique. (In press.)

The author utilizes some of the data that are in a forthcoming 1950 Census Monograph, Grabill, W. H.; Kiser, C. V.; and Whelpton, P. K.: *THE FERTILITY OF AMERICAN WOMEN*. New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1958. He emphasizes that his co-authors of the monograph are in no way responsible for any errors of fact or interpretation in the present paper.

RESIDENCE AND RACE-NATIVITY	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
<i>United States</i>							
Native White	547	1,029	1,628	2,040	2,223	2,335	2,457
Foreign-Born White	661	998	1,401	1,839	2,128	2,273	2,452
Negro	921	1,474	1,931	2,250	2,450	2,619	2,767
Other Races	a	1,459	1,965	2,829	3,505	4,173	4,171
<i>Urban</i>							
Native White	501	910	1,460	1,824	1,937	2,001	2,096
Foreign-Born White	554	934	1,325	1,746	2,028	2,183	2,369
Negro	901	1,327	1,639	1,797	1,868	2,040	2,250
Other Races	a	1,061	1,373	2,126	2,696	3,115	3,158
<i>Rural Nonfarm</i>							
Native White	610	1,218	1,860	2,327	2,542	2,661	2,773
Foreign-Born White	a	1,247	1,730	2,190	2,569	2,665	2,808
Negro	967	1,678	2,472	2,895	3,202	3,236	3,093
Other Races	a	1,806	2,433	3,375	3,960	4,699	a
<i>Rural Farm</i>							
Native White	586	1,305	2,171	2,734	3,136	3,408	3,587
Foreign-Born White	a	1,222	1,831	2,573	3,251	3,259	3,460
Negro	931	1,906	2,950	3,977	4,530	4,701	4,840
Other Races	a	a	2,892	3,760	a	a	a

Table 1. Children ever born per 1,000 ever-married women, by race-nativity, residence, and age. United States, 1950.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: Adapted from U. S. Bureau of the Census: *FERTILITY*, Special Report, P-E No. 5C, Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1955, Table 12.

<sup>a</sup> Ratio is not shown because base is under 4,000.

were only slightly lower than those of Negroes in rural-farm areas. Special studies have indicated relatively high fertility of the various groups. In a recent study, for instance, Hadley estimated an average annual birth rate of about 32 per 1,000 population among American Indians in the United States for the period 1949-1953 inclusive.<sup>2</sup> The average rate for whites during this period was about 24.

### TRENDS IN FERTILITY

The central fact regarding trends in the fertility of nonwhites in the United States is the large increase that has occurred in recent years. Figure 1, based on Table 2, presents crude birth rates per 1,000 population by color for the United States for

<sup>2</sup> Hadley, J. Nixon: *The Demography of the American Indians. The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, May, 1957, 311, p. 29.

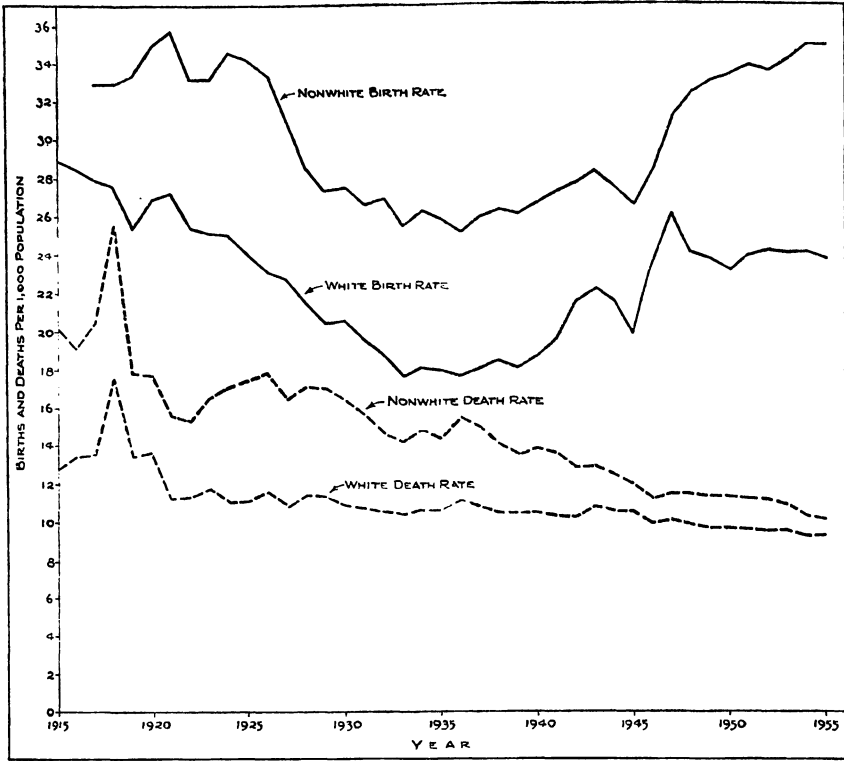


Fig. 1. Crude birth and death rates per 1,000 population by color. United States, 1915-1955. (See Table 2.)

the period 1917-1955. The rates are from the National Office of Vital Statistics and they were adjusted for under-registration. The rates for whites and nonwhites were remarkably parallel until 1947. In most of the thirty years during 1917-1947, the crude birth rate for the nonwhites was about six points above that for the whites. However, whereas the birth rate for whites culminated in a conspicuous peak in 1947, that for nonwhites continued to rise. Only twice during 1946-1955 did the crude birth rate for the nonwhites fail to be higher than that of the preceding year. In 1955, the crude birth rate per 1,000 population was about 35 for nonwhites as compared with 24 for whites.

When the annual births are related to women of childbearing age (15-44) the nonwhites exhibit year by year increases during the 1946-1955 period without exception. In this case the

prominence of the 1947 peak for the whites is diminished somewhat and the annual increases in the fertility rates of the whites since 1950 are also emphasized. (Figure 2 and Table 3.)

The general trends of the reproduction rates of whites and nonwhites since 1940 are similar to those of the general fertility rates just described. (Figure 3 and Table 3.) However, the magnitude of the current reproduction rates for the nonwhites is little short of amazing. In 1940 the net reproduction rate for whites was almost exactly at replacement requirements and that for the nonwhites was only about 21 per cent above

Table 2. Crude birth and death rates per 1,000 population in the United States, by color, 1915-1955.<sup>1</sup>

YEAR	BIRTH		DEATH		YEAR	BIRTH		DEATH	
	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite		White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite
1915	28.9		12.9	20.2	1935	17.9	25.8	10.6	14.3
1916	28.5		13.4	19.1	1936	17.6	25.1	11.1	15.4
1917	27.9	32.9	13.5	20.4	1937	17.9	26.0	10.8	14.9
1918	27.6	33.0	17.5	25.6	1938	18.4	26.3	10.3	14.0
1919	25.3	32.4	12.4	17.9	1939	18.0	26.1	10.3	13.5
1920	26.9	35.0	12.6	17.7	1940	18.6	26.7	10.4	13.8
1921	27.3	35.8	11.1	15.5	1941	19.5	27.3	10.2	13.5
1922	25.4	33.2	11.3	15.2	1942	21.5	27.7	10.1	12.7
1923	25.2	33.2	11.7	16.5	1943	22.1	28.3	10.7	12.8
1924	25.1	34.6	11.0	17.1	1944	20.5	27.4	10.4	12.4
1925	24.1	34.2	11.1	17.4	1945	19.7	26.5	10.4	11.9
1926	23.1	33.4	11.6	17.8	1946	23.6	28.4	9.8	11.1
1927	22.7	31.1	10.8	16.4	1947	26.1	31.2	9.9	11.4
1928	21.5	28.5	11.4	17.1	1948	24.0	32.4	9.7	11.4
1929	20.5	27.3	11.3	16.9	1949	23.6	33.0	9.5	11.2
1930	20.6	27.5	10.8	16.3	1950	23.0	33.3	9.5	11.2
1931	19.5	26.6	10.6	15.5	1951	23.9	33.8	9.5	11.1
1932	18.7	26.9	10.5	14.5	1952	24.1	33.6	9.4	11.0
1933	17.6	25.5	10.3	14.1	1953	24.0	34.1	9.4	10.8
1934	18.1	26.3	10.6	14.8	1954	24.1	34.9	9.1	10.1
					1955	23.8	34.7	9.2	10.0

<sup>1</sup> The birth rates were adjusted for underregistration and for births in States not in birth registration area prior to 1933. The birth rates for 1917-19 and 1941-46 are based on population including Armed Forces overseas.

The death rates are not strictly comparable with the birth rates in that they were not adjusted for underregistration and neither were they adjusted for States not in the death registration area prior to 1933. Historically, however, the registration of deaths has been more complete than that of births and both birth and death registration areas have included all the States since 1933.

See United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare: *VITAL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1955*, Vol. 1, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1957, Tables AB and BH.

replacement requirements. In 1955, the net reproduction rate of the nonwhites was 2,097 per 1,000 females. In other words, if the age-specific fertility and mortality rates of the nonwhites

in 1955 were continued indefinitely, they would eventually result in a doubling of the population per generation from births. In 1955 the whites exhibited a net reproduction rate of 1,613 per 1,000 females, signifying the potentiality of a 61 per cent increase in population per generation from births. Needless to say, few people would expect these potentialities ever to be realized. Few would expect the age-specific fertilities of 1955 to continue indefinitely for either the whites or nonwhites. However, the figures are cited because they emphasize again the profound changes in fertility rates that have

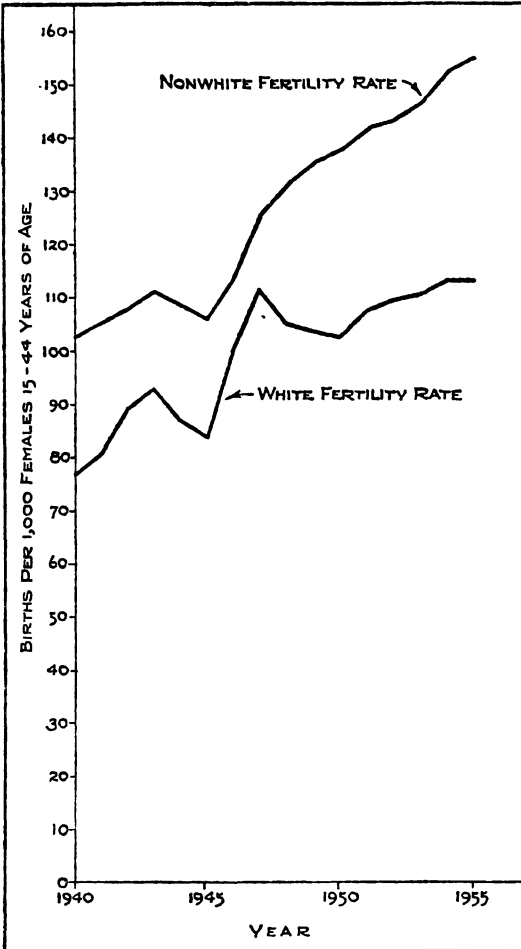


Fig. 2. General fertility rates: Annual births per 1,000 females, by color. United States, 1940-1955. (See Table 3.)

occurred in the United States since 1940, especially among the nonwhites.

The same type of situation is also pointed up by the intrinsic birth and death rates for the years 1940-1955. (Figure 4 and Table 3.) In 1940 the intrinsic birth and death rates for the

whites were the same, 14.9 per 1,000 population. This reflects a true rate of natural increase of 0 which in turn is analogous to the net reproduction rate of 1,000. For the nonwhites in 1940 the intrinsic birth and death rates were 22.7 and 15.4, respectively. These reflect a true rate of natural increase of 7.3 per 1,000 per year and accompanying a net reproduction rate of 21 per cent above replacement requirements per generation for the nonwhites.

The trends of the intrinsic birth rates by color are in the nature of the case rather similar to those of the general fertility

Table 3. Annual general fertility rates, reproduction rates, and intrinsic rates of birth and death, by color, United States, 1935-1955.

YEAR	ANNUAL NUMBER LIVE BIRTHS PER 1,000 WOMEN 15-44 <sup>1</sup>		REPRODUCTION RATES				INTRINSIC RATES <sup>2</sup>			
			Gross <sup>2</sup>		Net <sup>2</sup>		Birth		Death	
	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite
1935			1,059	1,350	958	1,108				
1936			1,039	1,317	945	1,090				
1937			1,049	1,363	959	1,137				
1938			1,078	1,381	990	1,161				
1939			1,052	1,373	970	1,162				
1940	77.1	102.4	1,082	1,422	1,002	1,209	14.9	22.7	14.9	15.4
1941	80.7	105.4	1,131	1,458	1,052	1,242	15.8	23.6	13.9	14.7
1942	89.5	107.6	1,250	1,487	1,171	1,293	18.0	24.2	12.1	13.4
1943	92.3	111.0	1,294	1,543	1,211	1,348	18.8	25.7	11.7	12.9
1944	86.3	108.5	1,214	1,520	1,139	1,334	17.3	25.2	12.5	12.5
1945	83.4	106.0	1,175	1,493	1,106	1,323	16.5	24.7	12.7	12.2
1946	100.4	113.9	1,406	1,600	1,331	1,435	20.4	24.8	10.1	11.5
1947	111.8	125.9	1,568	1,766	1,492	1,594	23.1	27.4	8.7	10.0
1948	104.3	131.6	1,468	1,846	1,401	1,680	21.7	28.7	9.2	9.3
1949	103.6	135.1	1,461	1,906	1,396	1,741	21.2	29.6	9.1	8.9
1950	102.3	137.3	1,446	1,940	1,387	1,780	21.0	29.8	9.0	8.5
1951	107.4	141.9	1,532	2,025	1,471	1,864	22.5	31.1	8.4	8.0
1952	109.8	143.1	1,577	2,059	1,514	1,894	23.1	31.3	8.0	7.9
1953	110.6	147.0	1,603	2,114	1,543	1,955	23.7	31.8	7.8	7.4
1954	113.1	152.9	1,657	2,212	1,598	2,058	24.3	33.1	7.4	6.8
1955	113.2	155.1	1,671	2,251	1,613	2,097	24.7	33.6	7.2	6.6

<sup>1</sup> United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare: Births by Age of Mother, Race, and Live-Birth Order. *Vital Statistics—Special Reports*, 46, No. 18, October 11, 1957, p. 465 (rates adjusted for underregistration).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 469 (rates adjusted for underregistration).

<sup>3</sup> *Population Index*, 23, No. 2, April, 1957, pp. 171-172; 24, No. 2, April, 1958.

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rates and the gross reproduction rates. The intrinsic birth and death rates for whites in 1955 were 24.7 and 7.2, reflecting a true rate of natural increase of 17.5. The intrinsic birth and

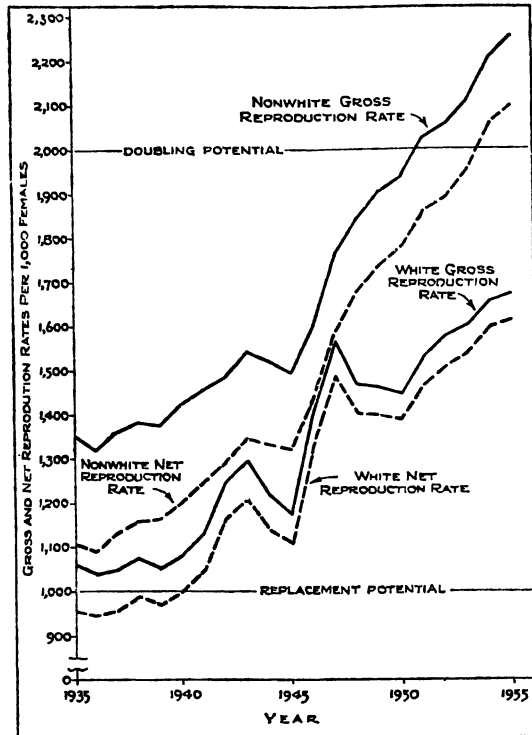


Fig. 3. Gross and net reproduction rates per 1,000 females by color. United States, 1935-1955. (See Table 3.)

death rates for nonwhites were 33.6 and 6.6, reflecting a true rate of natural increase of 27.0. It will be noticed that the net reproduction rate for the nonwhites in 1955 was 2,097 per 1,000 females or somewhat above the requirements for potential doubling of the population per generation.

Three points may be noted regarding the trends in the intrinsic death rate. In the first place, for both whites and nonwhites the intrinsic death rate for 1955 was only half as high, or less than half as high, as that for 1940. In the second place, the decline in the intrinsic death rate since 1940 has been steadier for the nonwhites than for the whites. This is because the nonwhites had the dual advantages of (a) more constant reductions in mortality risks and (b) younger age structures in the stable populations. In the third place, since 1949, the intrinsic death rate for nonwhites has been slightly lower than that for whites. This can be accounted for by the difference in age distributions of the stable populations mentioned above. Finally, it may be noted that prior to 1947 the intrinsic death rates generally exceeded the crude death rates for whites and

nonwhites. Since 1947 the situation has been reversed and intrinsic death rates were lower than the crude death rates. This reversal is what one would expect in a change from a declining to a rising birth rate. In 1955, the intrinsic birth rates were about the same as the crude birth rates for both whites and nonwhites.<sup>3</sup>

The data presented thus far on trends have been based upon the annual registrations of births and deaths. The rates have related to total populations and to total women of childbearing age. Hence, the trends in the crude birth rates, general fertility rates, reproduction rates, and intrinsic rates have reflected changes in marriages as well as trends in marital fertility. We may turn now to fertility data available from the Censuses of 1910, 1940, and 1950 for further information regarding trends in fertility, the relevance of trends in nuptiality, and fertility differentials among the nonwhites as compared with the whites.

<sup>3</sup> Possibly 1955 marked the first time in our vital statistics history that the intrinsic birth rate was a little higher than the crude birth rate for whites.

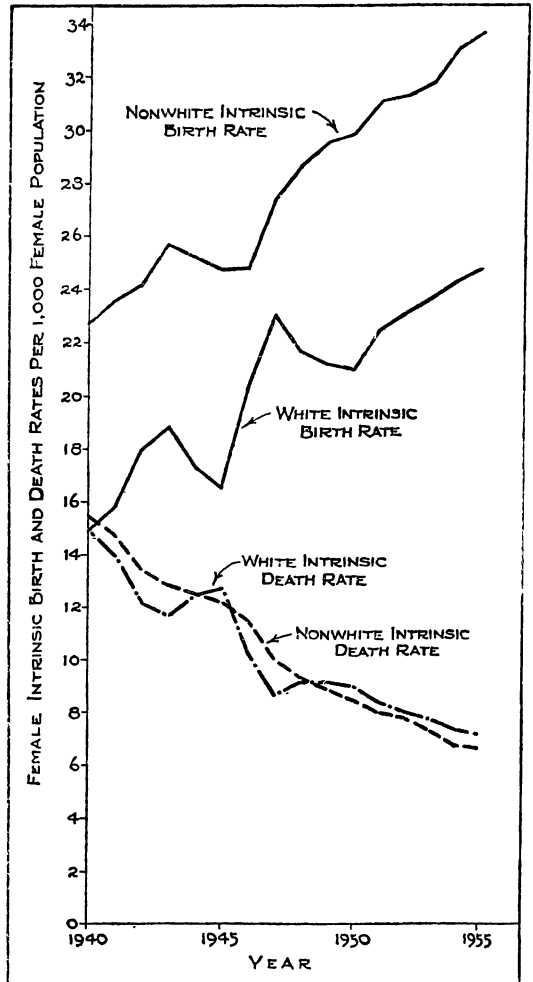


Fig. 4. Female intrinsic birth and death rates per 1,000 female population. United States, 1940-1954. (See Table 3.)



TRENDS IN PROPORTIONS MARRIED

There were substantial increases during 1940–1950 in the proportions ever-married among nonwhite women under 35 years of age. However, these increases were smaller than those for whites. For instance, among nonwhite women 20–24 years old the proportion ever-married was 63 per cent in 1940 and 69 per cent in 1950. Among the whites the corresponding percentages were 52 in 1940 and 68 in 1950. (See Table 4.)

As among the whites the increases in proportions ever-married nonwhites at young ages were larger in the “upper” than in the “lower” socioeconomic classes. Thus among nonwhite women 20–24 years of age reporting 4 or more years of college, the proportion ever-married was 26 per cent in 1940 and 37 per cent in 1950. Among those women of similar age of elementary school status, the proportion ever-married was 69 per cent in 1940 and 74 per cent in 1950.<sup>4</sup>

Among the women who were ever-married the proportions described as “married once and husband present” were higher in 1950 than in 1940 for both whites and nonwhites of given

Table 4. Percentage of all women that were ever married and percentages of the ever-married women that were classified as “married once and husband present,” by color and age, United States 1940 and 1950.<sup>1</sup>

AGE	PER CENT OF ALL WOMEN THAT WERE EVER MARRIED				PER CENT OF EVER-MARRIED WOMEN CLASSIFIED AS MARRIED ONCE AND HUSBAND PRESENT			
	White		Nonwhite		White		Nonwhite	
	1940	1950	1940	1950	1940	1950	1940	1950
15-19	11.1	16.7	18.8	21.3	77.6	86.2	66.4	73.4
20-24	51.7	68.2	63.1	68.7	80.0	86.3	64.8	68.3
25-29	77.0	87.0	81.1	85.6	79.0	83.6	58.9	62.6
30-34	85.2	90.8	87.8	91.5	76.3	81.6	52.6	57.8
35-39	88.5	91.5	91.7	93.3	72.9	78.5	47.2	52.9
40-44	90.1	91.5	93.8	94.3	69.9	75.2	43.1	47.2
45-49	91.1	91.6	94.9	95.0	66.7	72.3	40.2	42.0

<sup>1</sup> Source: Computed from data in U. S. Bureau of the Census: FERTILITY, Special Report, P-E No. 5C, Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1955. Tables 4 to 7 inclusive.

<sup>4</sup> See Grabill, Wilson H.; Kiser, C. V.; and Whelpton, P. K.: THE FERTILITY OF AMERICAN WOMEN. New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1958, pp. 184–188.

ages. The 1940–1950 increases were of fairly similar magnitude by color so the differentials by color remained essentially the same.

The proportion of unbroken first marriages tended to be substantially lower among nonwhite than among ever-married women. Furthermore the decrease in the proportion of unbroken first marriages with advancing age tended to be sharper among the nonwhites than among the whites. For example, among ever-married white women the proportion classified as “married once and husband present” ranged from 86 per cent at ages 15–19 to 72 per cent at ages 45–49. Among the nonwhites the corresponding proportions extended from 73 per cent at ages 15–19 to 42 per cent at ages 45–49. The sharper declines with advancing age in the proportion of unbroken first marriages among the nonwhites is due partly to the impact of mortality of husbands and partly to the greater impact of separation.

#### FERTILITY RATES AND PER CENT CHANGES, 1940–1950

Table 5 presents cumulative fertility rates (children ever born per 1,000 ever-married women) by age, color, and residence for 1910, 1940, and 1950 and per cent change in these rates during 1940–1950.<sup>5</sup>

Among both whites and nonwhites there were increases at young ages and decreases at older ages during 1940–1950 in average number of children ever born. The generally lower fertility rates for 1950 than for 1940 among ever-married women 35 years of age and over simply means that for these women the baby boom came too late to offset the long-time decline in size of family among women of those ages. There were increases in *current fertility* rates at all ages of the childbearing

<sup>5</sup> Questions regarding number of children ever born (excluding stillbirths) were asked of all ever-married women in the 1910 census, of a 5 per cent sample of the ever-married women in the 1940 Census and of a three and one-third per cent sample in the 1950 Census. In Table 5 the 1950 data by residence follow the old (1940) definition of urban. Also, the 1940 data in Table 5 were revised by the Bureau of the Census to include estimates of the number of children ever born to ever-married women who made no report.

Table 5. Children ever born per 1,000 ever-married women in 1910, 1940 and 1950, and per cent change in rates, 1940-1950 by color, urban-rural residence, and age of the woman.

AGE OF WOMAN	WHITE				NONWHITE			
	Children Ever Born per 1,000 Women			Per Cent Change 1940-1950	Children Ever Born Per 1,000 Women			Per Cent Change 1940-1950
	1910 <sup>a</sup>	1940 <sup>b</sup>	1950 <sup>b</sup>		1910 <sup>a</sup>	1940 <sup>b</sup>	1950 <sup>b</sup>	
<b>UNITED STATES</b>								
15-19	699	541	548	1.3	836	716	917	28.1
20-24	1,344	946	1,028	8.7	1,754	1,248	1,473	18.0
25-29	2,099	1,418	1,620	14.2	2,739	1,800	1,932	7.3
30-34	2,880	1,928	2,034	5.5	3,592	2,270	2,272	0.1
35-39	3,683	2,379	2,218	-6.8	4,577	2,681	2,476	-7.6
40-44	4,263	2,720	2,329	-14.4	5,527	3,056	2,660	-13.0
45-49	4,594	2,969	2,456	-17.3	6,183	3,288	2,803	-14.8
<b>URBAN</b>								
15-19	591	477	493	3.4	681	673	898	33.4
20-24	1,129	774	893	15.4	1,216	982	1,312	33.6
25-29	1,757	1,155	1,434	24.2	1,766	1,329	1,605	20.8
30-34	2,414	1,600	1,804	12.8	2,315	1,674	1,771	5.8
35-39	3,137	1,986	1,935	-2.6	3,018	1,970	1,848	-6.2
40-44	3,721	2,312	2,011	-13.0	3,802	2,335	2,038	-12.7
45-49	4,070	2,566	2,136	-16.8	4,503	2,397	2,241	-6.5
<b>RURAL NONFARM</b>								
15-19	748	593	608	2.5	874	763	947	24.1
20-24	1,471	1,088	1,192	9.6	1,959	1,288	1,664	29.2
25-29	2,279	1,650	1,804	9.3	3,109	2,009	2,424	20.7
30-34	3,044	2,182	2,242	2.7	3,913	2,544	2,888	13.5
35-39	3,804	2,620	2,422	-7.6	4,783	3,047	3,151	3.4
40-44	4,246	2,949	2,541	-13.8	5,570	3,349	3,235	-3.4
45-49	4,514	3,192	2,657	-16.8	6,208	3,671	3,113	-15.2
<b>RURAL FARM</b>								
15-19	768	582	590	1.4	892	736	927	26.0
20-24	1,594	1,254	1,303	3.9	1,994	1,591	1,901	19.5
25-29	2,618	2,025	2,166	7.0	3,346	2,600	2,943	13.2
30-34	3,660	2,796	2,731	-2.3	4,566	3,476	3,959	13.9
35-39	4,635	3,463	3,134	-9.5	5,829	4,156	4,502	8.3
40-44	5,290	3,879	3,401	-12.3	6,966	4,522	4,714	4.2
45-49	5,610	4,054	3,579	-11.7	7,534	4,900	4,861	-0.8

<sup>a</sup> United States Bureau of the Census: POPULATION: DIFFERENTIAL FERTILITY, 1940 and 1910, *Fertility by States and Large Cities*, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1943, Table 4 (pp. 15-17). 1910 urban-rural figures adjusted to 1940 classification. The 1910 data relate to ever-married white and nonwhite women reporting on children ever born.

<sup>b</sup> United States Bureau of the Census: FERTILITY—*Special Report*, P-E No. 5C, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1955, Tables 4 and 6, pp. 23-26. Urban-rural residence in 1950 by old definition partly estimated. Data for 1940 revised by Census Bureau to include estimates of children ever born for women who made no report. In this table the 1940 data relate to whites and nonwhites rather than to native whites and Negroes.

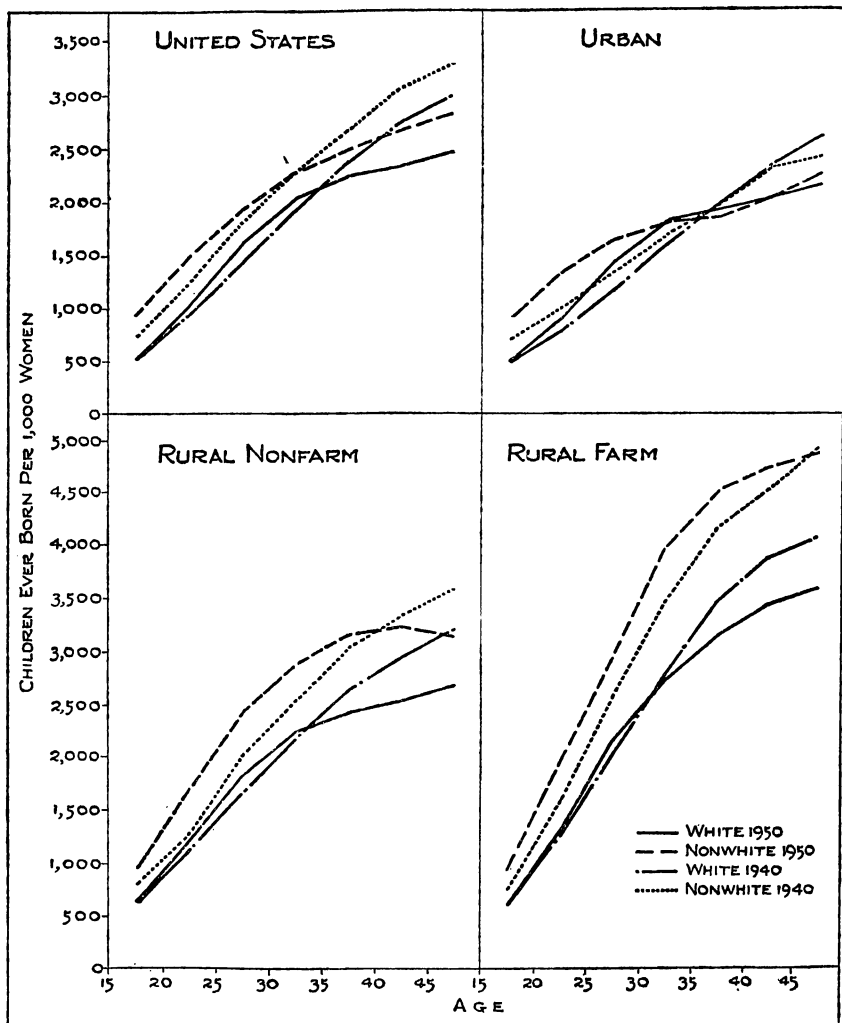


Fig. 5. Children ever born per 1,000 ever-married women, by color, age and urban-rural residence. United States, 1940 and 1950. (See Table 5.)

span, as indicated by annual registration data and by fertility ratios relating to children under 5 years of age.

Among ever-married white women, the 1940-1950 maximum increases in age-specific fertility tended to come at ages 25-29, among nonwhites the maximum tended to come at younger ages, 15-19 or 20-24. Thus among urban ever-married women 15-19 years of age the 1940-1950 increase in fertility was 3 per

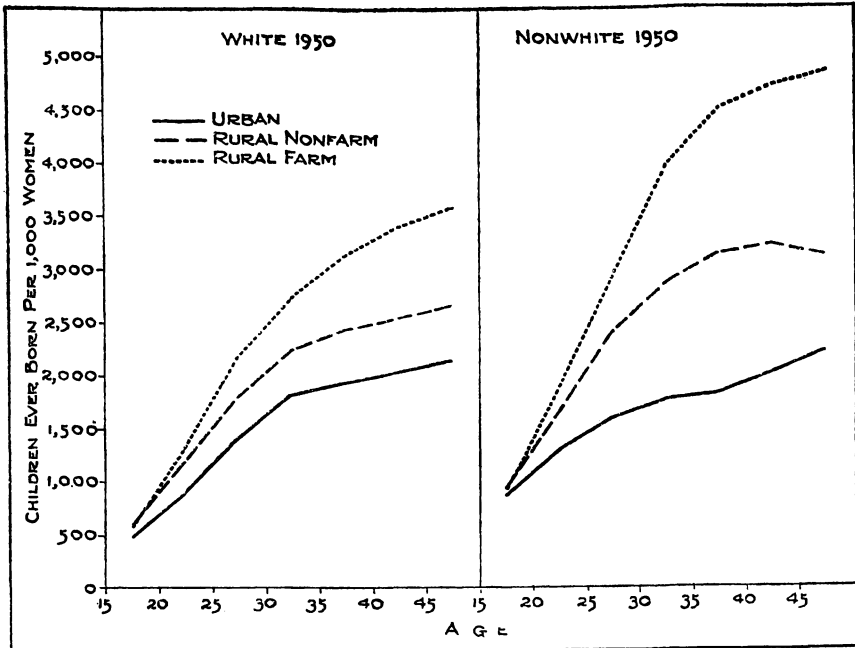


Fig. 6. Urban-rural differentials in fertility among white and nonwhite ever-married women, by age. United States, 1950. (See Table 5.)

cent for the whites and 33 per cent for the nonwhites. At ages 20-24, the increase was 15 per cent for whites and 34 per cent for nonwhites. At ages 25-29, the increase was 24 per cent for whites and 21 per cent for nonwhites. Among whites and nonwhites the percentage increases in fertility at the young ages tended to be higher in urban than in rural areas.

As noted in Figure 5, in the United States as a whole and also within the rural areas the average number of children ever born to ever-married women of given ages was consistently higher for the nonwhites than for the whites in both 1940 and 1950. Within the urban areas the fertility rates for nonwhites fell below those for whites at ages 30-34 and 35-39 in 1950. The rates were also lower for urban nonwhites than for urban whites at ages 35-39 and 45-49 in 1940.

The differentials in fertility by color tended to be smallest in urban areas and largest in rural-farm areas (Figure 5.) Also, the differentials in fertility by residence tended to be

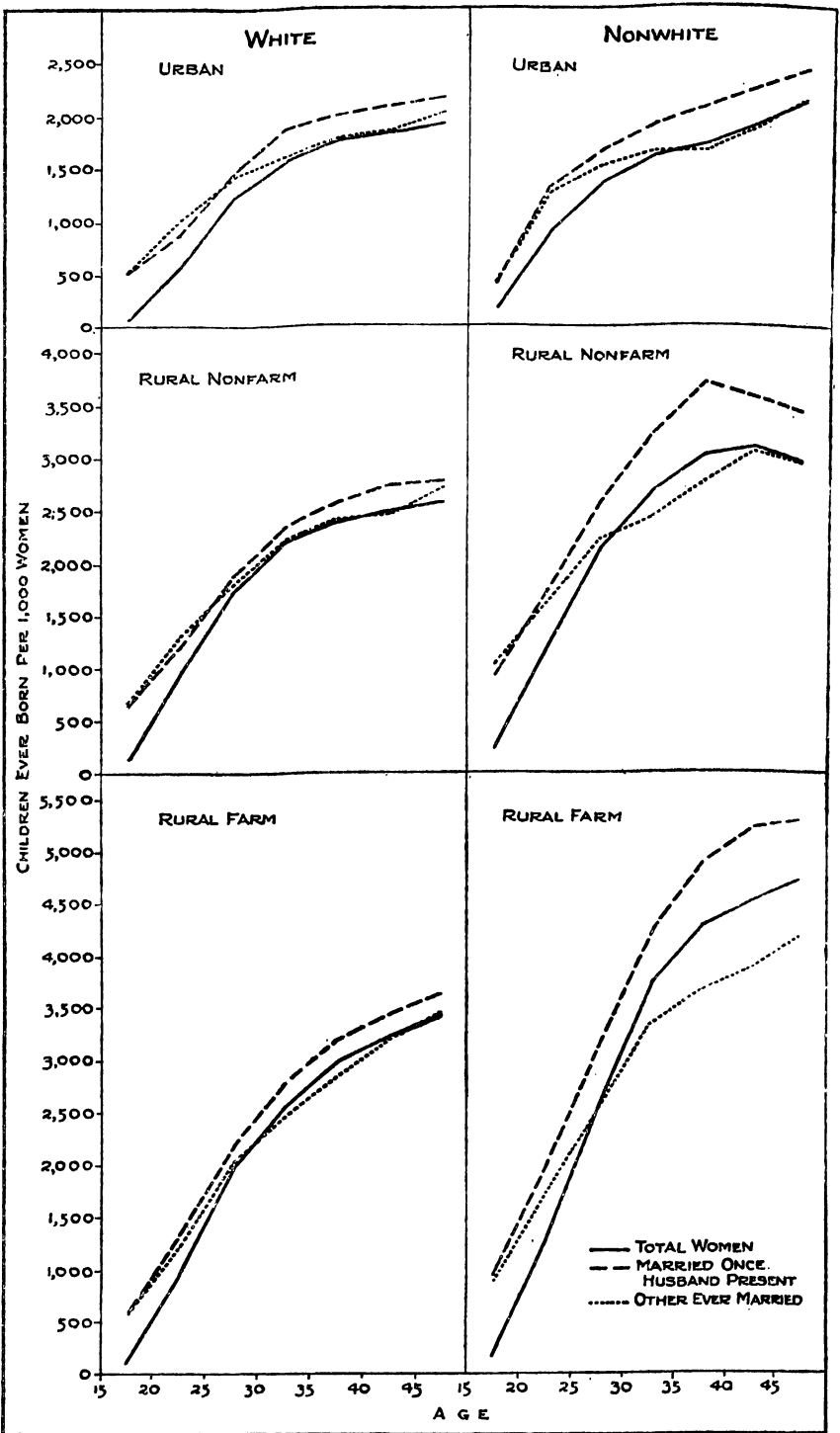


Fig. 7. Children ever born per 1,000 women of specified marital status, by color, age, and urban-rural residence. United States, 1950.  
 Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census: FERTILITY, Special Report, P-E, No. 5C, Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1955. Table 1.

wider for nonwhites than for whites. (Figure 6.) In general, these situations held true for both 1940 and 1950.

In a previous section it was noted that broken marriages are more prevalent for nonwhites than for whites. It may also be noted from Figure 7 that in all types of residence the fertility differential between the "married once and husband present" and the "other ever-married women" is wider for the nonwhites than for the whites.

As expected, among both whites and nonwhites the fertility rates for the unbroken first marriages tend to be highest at all ages except 15-24 when the rates for this group and the "other ever-married" are much the same. Also as expected, at ages below 30 the fertility rates for "all women" tend to fall in lowest position because they are influenced by the inclusion of single women. After age 30, however, the fertility rates for the "other ever-married" fall into lowest position; by that age the rate for "all women" is not greatly affected by the presence of unmarried women.

#### TRENDS AND DIFFERENTIALS IN FERTILITY RATIOS

Figure 8 presents fertility ratios by residence, age, and color for 1940 and 1950. The fertility ratios relate to "number of own children under five years old per 1,000 ever-married women." They are derived from the rosters of children residing in the households enumerated in the Census. Largely on the basis of the data regarding "relationship to the head of the household" children other than "own" children were eliminated from the data. The processing and tabulation of the data for fertility ratios of this type were restricted to the women who were also in the fertility samples.

Fertility ratios have the advantage of reflecting current fertility more sensitively than do the cumulative fertility rates. However, they have the disadvantage of being affected by the timing of births. In the nature of the case they may not be very indicative of trends in size of completed family. In 1950, the fertility ratios for nonwhites in the United States as a whole

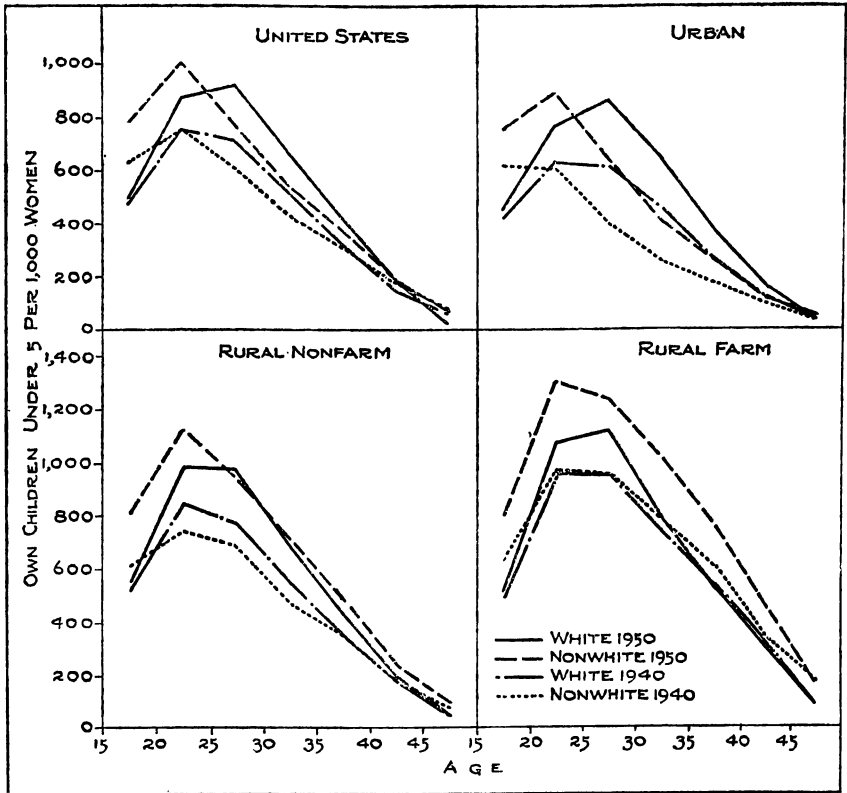


Fig. 8. Number of own children under five years old per 1,000 ever-married women, by color, age, and urban-rural residence. United States, 1940 and 1950.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census: *FERTILITY*, Special Report, P-E, No. 5C, Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1955. Tables 36 and 37.

tended to surpass those for whites at ages under 25 and to fall below those for whites at older ages. This pattern was especially pronounced in the urban areas. Within rural nonfarm areas the fertility ratios for the nonwhites exceeded those for whites at ages under 25 and thereafter there was little difference by color. Within the rural farm areas the fertility ratios for the nonwhites surpassed those for whites at all ages.

The 1940-1950 increases in fertility ratios, like those in cumulative fertility rates, were much larger for nonwhite than for white women under 25 years of age. As noted in Figure 9, the urban-rural differentials in fertility ratios among women



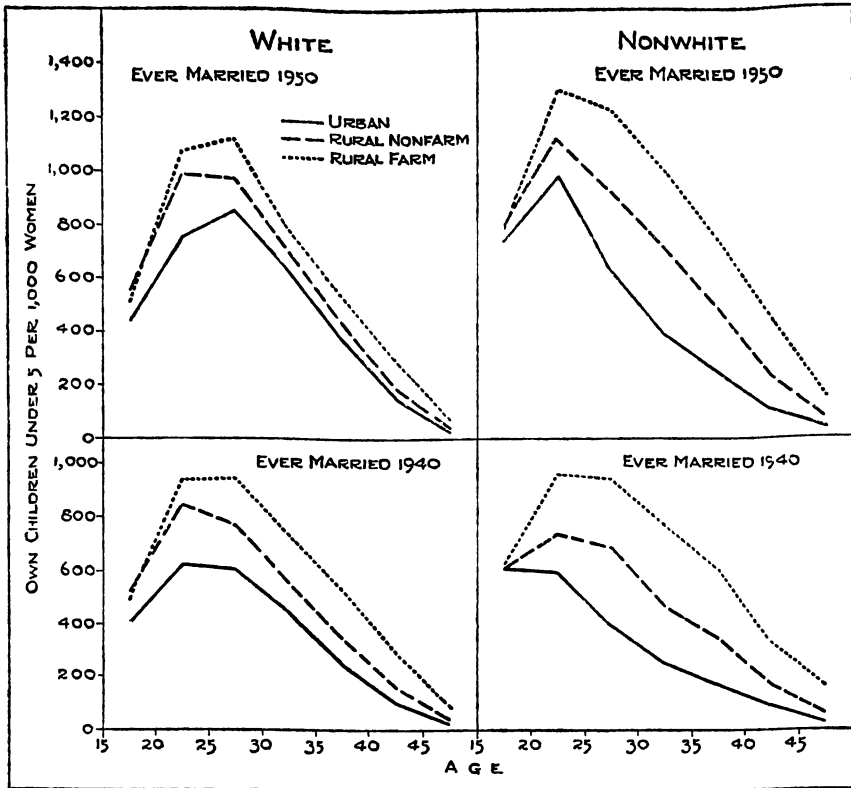


Fig. 9. Urban-rural differentials in fertility ratios among white and non-white ever-married women. United States, 1940 and 1950.  
 Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census: FERTILITY, Special Report, P-E, No. 5C, Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1955. Tables 36 and 37.

under 25 underwent little change and were essentially the same for whites and nonwhites. However, among women 25 years of age and over there was a greater contraction of the urban-rural differentials in fertility ratios among the whites than among the nonwhites during 1940-1950. The urban-rural differentials in fertility ratios were somewhat wider for nonwhites than for whites in 1940; they were *much* sharper for nonwhites than for whites in 1950.

#### TREND IN CHILDLESSNESS OF THE NONWHITES

Much of the sharp increase in the fertility of nonwhite women at young ages has stemmed from remarkable declines

in childlessness since 1940. For instance, among urban non-white ever-married women 20–24 years of age the cumulative fertility rate was 34 per cent higher in 1950 than in 1940. However, among nonwhite ever-married *mothers* of this age the average number of children ever born was actually lower in 1950 than in 1940. The explanation is the marked reduction in the proportion reporting that they never had a live-born child. In 1940, nearly one-half (46 per cent) of the urban non-white ever-married women 20–24 years old gave this report. In 1950, only one-third (32.5 per cent) were reported as childless.<sup>6</sup>

The proportions childless among ever-married women in 1910, 1940, and 1950 are shown by color, age, and urban-rural residence in Table 6 and Figure 10. In certain respects the data complement the trends and differentials in fertility rates. For both whites and nonwhites, at all ages and within each type of residence, the proportions childless were considerably larger in 1940 than in 1910. Also, there was in general a sharp drop in proportions childless among young women during the 1940–1950 decade. The declines were in evidence at all ages under 35 but they were most pronounced at ages under 25. At

<sup>6</sup> A statement regarding the data on childlessness is in order. The 1910 percentages may be a little too low for two reasons. They are based upon women reporting, and subsequent tests have indicated that childless women are overly represented among those not reporting and hence underrepresented among those reporting. Secondly, since the 1910 Census contained parallel questions regarding number of children ever born and number of children living there may have been some greater tendency erroneously to include stillbirths in the number of children ever born than was the case in subsequent censuses. However, neither the non-reports nor the erroneous inclusion of stillbirths in 1910 are believed to be major deficiencies.

The non-reports on children ever born and the selection of childless couples into the non-report category probably were more frequent in the 1940 census than any other. Most of the published fertility data from the 1940 Census, including those on fertility in relation to occupational and educational status, are based upon women reporting. As the notes indicate, however, the data presented in Tables 5 and 6 were revised to include estimates of children ever born to women not reporting.

Because of certain improvements in schedule design, the proportion of women in the fertility sample failing to report on children ever born was considerably smaller in 1950 than in 1940. However, all of the 1950 data were processed before publication to include estimates of the number of children for women not reporting. For a more adequate description, see Grabill, W. H.; Kiser, C. V.; and Whelpton, P. K.: *THE FERTILITY OF AMERICAN WOMEN*. New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1958, Appendix A and Appendix B.

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ages 40-44 and 45-49 the proportions childless were generally higher in 1950 than in 1940. The increase in childlessness at the older ages is the counterpart of the lower cumulative fertility rates in 1950 than in 1940 for women of virtually completed fertility. It will be noted that in 1950 the proportion childless for the urban nonwhites 20-24 years of age was virtually the same as that of women 45-49 years of age. Among urban white women the percentage childless at ages 30-34 was lower than at any older age. This again reflects the previous era of lower fertility and relatively high proportions childless. As the younger women move through the childbearing ages they will replace the older cohorts of relatively high proportions childless.

As for differentials in childlessness by color, we may note that in 1950 as in 1940 the proportion childless tended to be lower for nonwhites than for whites at ages under 25 and higher for nonwhites than for whites at older ages. The relatively high proportion of childlessness among nonwhites of middle age may represent the last stages of an era of phenomenally high proportions childless among the nonwhite married couples.

The census data for 1910 indicated somewhat higher proportions childless among nonwhites than among the whites in urban areas. However, there were relatively few nonwhites in urban areas in 1910. There was no question on number of children ever born in the 1920 and 1930 Censuses. However, Notestein's analysis of 1930 Census data for the East North Central States pertaining to children under 10 years of age per marriage of 5 to 9 years duration, indicated that the problem of childlessness among Negroes, especially in larger cities, was well entrenched in the 1920 decade.<sup>7</sup>

Comparisons of 1940 data on children ever born are not available by size of city, but in the urban areas as a whole the

<sup>7</sup> For the total area, the proportion of the marriages with no children under 10 years old in residence was about 45 per cent for Negroes, about twice the proportion (23 per cent) for native whites. In cities of 250,000 and over, the percentage without children was about 53 for Negroes and 28 for native whites. See Notestein, F. W.: Differential Fertility in the East North Central States. The Milbank Memorial Fund *Quarterly*, xvi, No. 2, April, 1938, p. 180.

Table 6. Percentages childless among ever-married women by color, urban-rural residence, and age. United States, 1910, 1940, and 1950.

AGE OF WOMAN	WHITE			NONWHITE		
	1910 <sup>1</sup>	1940 <sup>2</sup>	1950 <sup>2</sup>	1910 <sup>1</sup>	1940 <sup>2</sup>	1950 <sup>2</sup>
UNITED STATES						
15-19	43.5	56.2	55.4	39.5	47.0	38.1
20-24	24.2	40.1	34.0	24.1	38.3	28.6
25-29	16.8	29.5	20.1	19.5	34.1	29.6
30-34	13.4	22.4	15.8	16.4	30.8	30.2
35-39	11.5	18.7	17.5	13.2	28.6	31.9
40-44	10.4	16.6	18.9	10.4	25.4	29.6
45-49	9.6	16.1	19.5	8.7	23.4	28.1
URBAN						
15-19	50.6	60.9	58.9	47.6	48.5	38.2
20-24	30.7	47.4	39.1	36.8	46.4	32.5
25-29	22.1	35.3	23.1	31.4	42.5	34.3
30-34	17.9	26.6	17.9	27.4	38.3	35.1
35-39	14.9	22.0	19.6	22.2	35.2	37.5
40-44	12.8	19.1	20.8	17.3	31.3	33.7
45-49	11.5	18.4	21.3	13.4	29.7	31.9
RURAL NONFARM						
15-19	40.4	52.3	51.3	37.2	45.6	37.8
20-24	20.1	33.6	27.3	21.3	37.6	22.9
25-29	13.4	24.1	16.6	15.6	29.9	21.3
30-34	10.8	18.7	13.5	12.8	26.5	23.2
35-39	9.8	16.1	15.8	10.7	24.7	24.0
40-44	10.1	14.9	17.9	8.3	21.5	26.0
45-49	9.3	14.7	18.7	8.0	18.4	24.6
RURAL FARM						
15-19	38.7	53.1	53.2	37.0	46.2	38.0
20-24	16.8	27.7	24.7	16.6	27.6	20.0
25-29	9.3	16.6	12.7	11.6	20.1	16.8
30-34	6.8	11.8	10.0	8.5	16.1	14.4
35-39	6.2	10.3	10.9	6.7	15.4	15.5
40-44	6.0	9.6	12.4	5.8	14.1	15.6
45-49	6.1	9.9	12.9	5.2	13.2	15.3

<sup>1</sup> United States Bureau of the Census: *POPULATION: DIFFERENTIAL FERTILITY, 1940 and 1910, Fertility by States and Large Cities*, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1943, Table 4 (pp. 15-17). 1910 urban-rural figures adjusted to 1940 classification. The 1910 data relate to ever-married white and nonwhite women reporting on children ever born.

<sup>2</sup> United States Bureau of the Census: *FERTILITY—Special Report, P-E No. 5C*, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1955, Tables 4 and 6, pp. 23-26. Urban-rural residence in 1950 by old definition partly estimated. Data for 1940 revised by Census Bureau to include estimates of children ever born for women who made no report. In this table the 1940 data relate to whites and nonwhites rather than to native whites and Negroes.

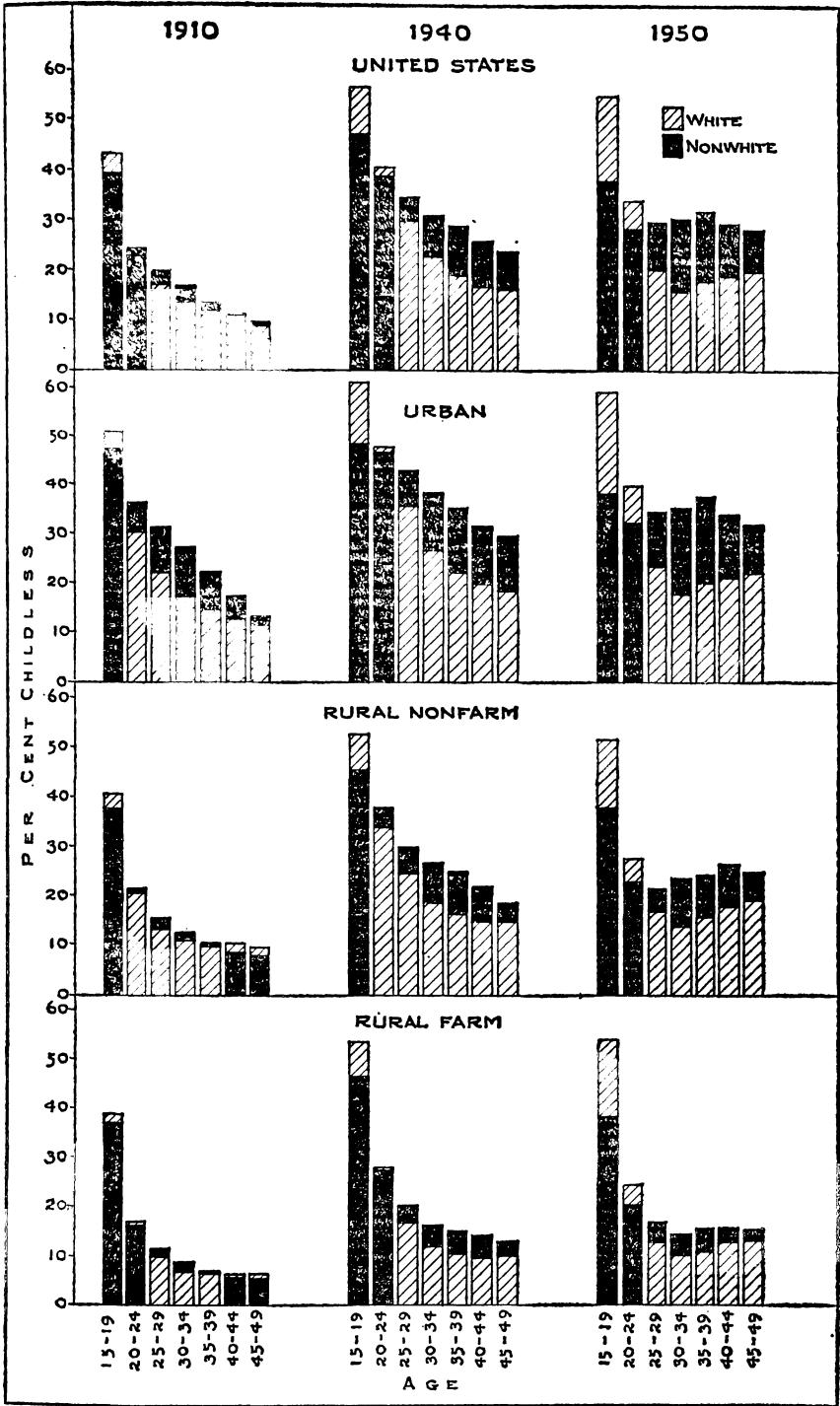


Fig. 10. Percentages childless among ever-married women, by color, age and urban-rural residence. United States, 1910, 1940, and 1950. (See Table 6.)

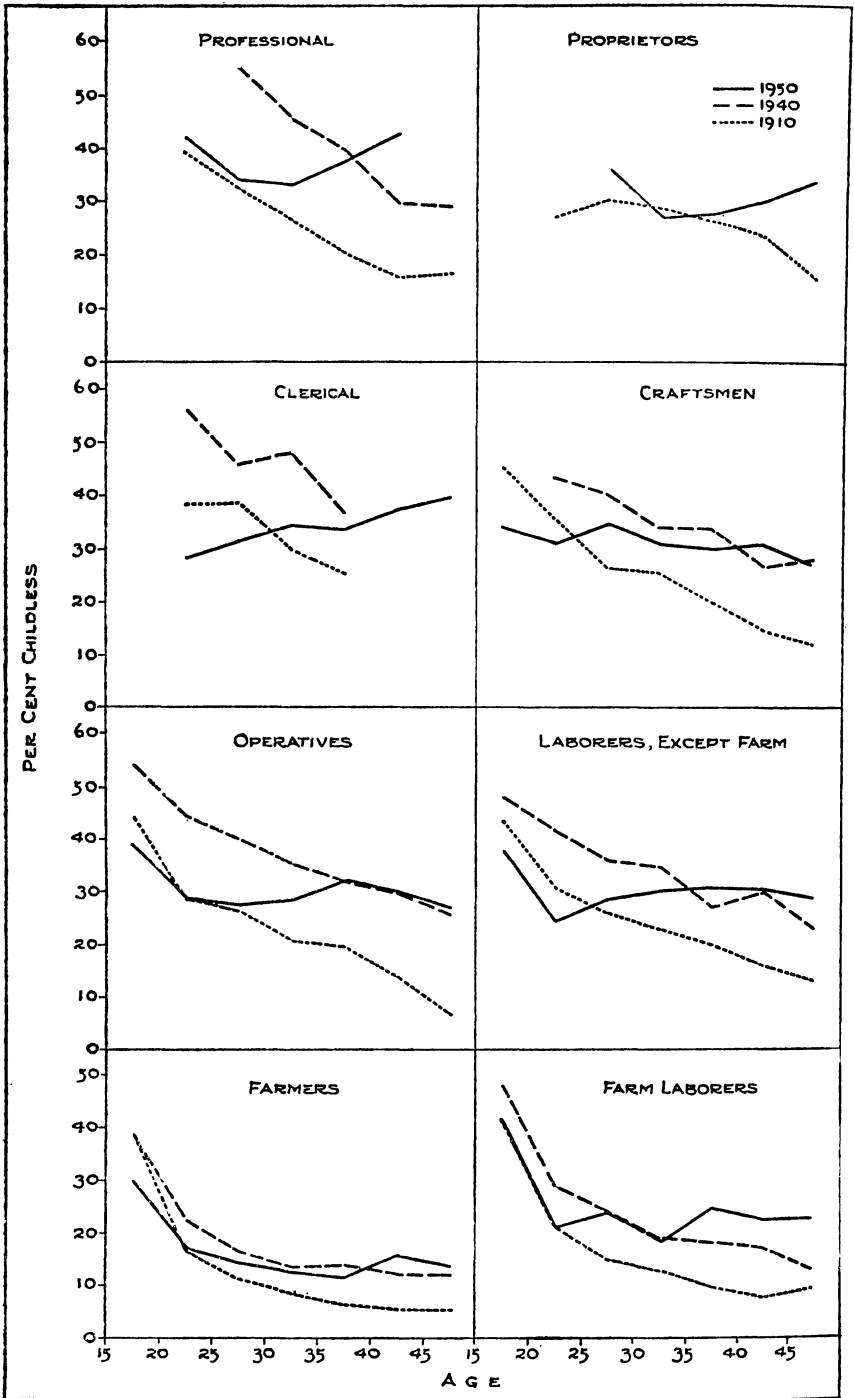


Fig. 11. Percentages childless among Negro women in 1910 and 1940, and nonwhite women in 1950, married once and husband present, by age of women and major occupation group of the husband. United States, 1910, 1940, and 1950. (See Table 7.)

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proportion childless among the nonwhites tended to be considerably higher than that of whites after age 25. The differential still existed in 1950. However, the sharp declines in proportions childless among young nonwhites appears to portend a narrowing of the differential. In 1950 the proportion

Table 7. Percentages childless among Negro women in 1910 and 1940 and nonwhite women in 1950. Women married once and husband present by age of woman and occupation group of the husband. United States, 1910, 1940, and 1950.<sup>1</sup>

OCCUPATION GROUP AND YEAR	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
<i>Professional</i>							
1910	—	39.1	32.9	26.7	20.3	16.1	16.8
1940	—	—	55.9	45.6	39.6	29.7	29.6
1950	—	42.5	34.3	33.0	37.5	42.9	—
<i>Proprietors</i>							
1910	—	27.7	30.7	28.9	26.7	23.3	15.6
1940	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1950	—	—	36.6	27.8	28.4	30.5	34.4
<i>Clerical</i>							
1910	—	38.4	38.7	29.8	25.1	—	—
1940	—	56.2	45.9	48.4	36.4	—	—
1950	—	28.4	31.8	34.1	33.8	37.7	39.4
<i>Craftsmen</i>							
1910	45.5	35.4	26.0	25.0	19.4	14.3	11.5
1940	—	43.1	40.2	33.5	33.3	26.3	27.8
1950	33.5	30.9	34.8	30.7	29.2	30.6	27.3
<i>Operatives</i>							
1910	44.4	28.6	26.4	20.9	19.6	13.9	6.9
1940	53.7	44.4	40.0	35.3	31.9	29.8	25.7
1950	39.0	28.8	27.5	28.8	32.5	30.3	26.7
<i>Service Workers</i>							
1910	55.6	42.6	39.7	37.3	31.6	27.7	22.8
1940	53.0	51.9	47.4	45.5	41.8	35.0	34.6
1950	42.5	30.9	35.7	38.6	39.9	34.8	33.0
<i>Laborers, Exc. Fm.</i>							
1910	43.6	30.7	25.7	22.3	19.4	15.1	12.9
1940	48.0	41.7	35.8	34.2	26.9	29.9	22.8
1950	37.5	24.2	28.1	30.4	30.3	30.5	28.7
<i>Farmers</i>							
1910	38.3	16.4	11.1	8.2	6.5	5.5	5.2
1940	38.6	22.8	16.2	13.1	13.4	12.0	11.7
1950	29.2	16.9	14.1	12.4	11.6	15.1	13.8
<i>Farm Laborers</i>							
1910	41.5	21.6	14.7	12.6	9.8	7.7	9.4
1940	48.1	28.9	24.0	19.0	18.4	17.1	12.4
1950	41.6	21.6	23.6	18.5	24.4	22.4	22.3

<sup>1</sup> Sources: U. S. Bureau of the Census: POPULATION: DIFFERENTIAL FERTILITY 1940 and 1910, FERTILITY BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE, Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1947. Tables 12 and 14.

U. S. Bureau of the Census: FERTILITY, Special Report, P-E, No. 5C, Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1955. Table 29.

childless among the nonwhites 20-24 years of age was actually lower than that of nonwhites 35-39 and 40-44 years of age.

The trends in childlessness among nonwhite women in the United States as a whole since 1910 are shown by occupation group of the husband in Figure 11 and Table 7. These data relate to women of specific age and classified as "married once and husband present." Among women under 25, the proportions childless were generally much higher in 1940 than in 1910 and much lower in 1950 than in 1940. The 1940-1950 declines in childlessness were particularly marked for the wives of professional and clerical workers. However, at all occupational levels represented the proportions childless at ages under 25 in 1950 were about as low as, or lower than, the proportions observed for 1910. The declines in childlessness were least marked among wives of farmers and farm laborers; in these classes childlessness had not been particularly high in 1940.

#### PROPORTIONS WITH LARGE FAMILIES

Despite their handicap of relatively high proportions child-

Table 8. Per cent distribution of women according to number of children ever born, by color and age of woman. Woman married once and husband present. United States, 1950.<sup>1</sup>

COLOR AND AGE	TOTAL	NONE	1	2	3	4	5 OR MORE
<i>White</i>							
15-19	100.0	55.3	36.4	7.1	0.9	0.2	0.1
20-24	100.0	34.3	38.9	19.9	5.2	1.2	0.4
25-29	100.0	19.4	31.1	29.5	12.3	4.5	3.0
30-34	100.0	14.4	23.0	31.4	16.7	7.7	6.7
35-39	100.0	15.9	20.1	28.4	16.6	8.6	10.4
40-44	100.0	17.5	19.9	25.4	15.3	9.0	12.9
45-49	100.0	18.2	19.1	23.6	14.8	9.0	15.4
<i>Nonwhite</i>							
15-19	100.0	38.4	37.7	18.8	4.3	0.6	0.1
20-24	100.0	27.1	29.1	22.9	12.1	5.4	3.5
25-29	100.0	28.6	20.5	16.7	11.8	9.3	13.0
30-34	100.0	28.7	17.8	13.9	10.8	7.8	21.1
35-39	100.0	29.9	15.6	12.0	9.1	7.7	25.7
40-44	100.0	28.7	15.8	12.4	9.7	6.7	26.8
45-49	100.0	27.3	13.8	12.6	10.5	7.6	28.1

<sup>1</sup> Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census: FERTILITY, Special Report, P-E No. 5C, Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1955, p. 21.



less at ages 25 and over the fertility of nonwhites even at these ages tended to surpass that of whites in 1950. The explanation is the relatively high proportion of couples with large families. For instance, as indicated in Table 8, among women 30-34 years old "married once and husband present," the nonwhites had twice the proportion of childless couples but over three times the proportion of couples with five or more live births that the whites had. Among the whites, 14 per cent were childless, nearly one-fourth (23 per cent) reported one child, nearly one-third (31 per cent) reported two children, about one-fourth (24 per cent) reported three or four, and 7 per cent reported 5 or more. Among the nonwhites of similar age, 29 per cent were childless, 18 per cent reported one child, 14 per cent reported two, 19 per cent reported three or four, and 21 per cent reported five or more.

#### DIFFERENTIALS IN FERTILITY

The nonwhites are more heavily concentrated in the lower socio-economic levels than are the whites. Furthermore, the socio-economic differentiation that does exist appears to be accompanied by less variations in fertility among the nonwhites. In Figure 12 numbers of children ever born per 1,000 women "married once and husband present" are shown by color, age, residence, and education of the woman in 1950. In Figure 13 comparable materials are presented by occupation group of the husband. Data for four age groups are given in Tables 9 and 10. Some of the fertility rates for the nonwhites of given age, education, and residence are somewhat erratic because of small numbers. This may account in part for the more complete and more clear-cut inverse relation of fertility to educational attainment among the whites than the nonwhites. This also holds in the classification by occupation group of the husband.

One exception to the sharper differentials among the whites than the nonwhites is afforded by urban wives of College 4+, College 1-3, and High School 4 status. The nonwhite women

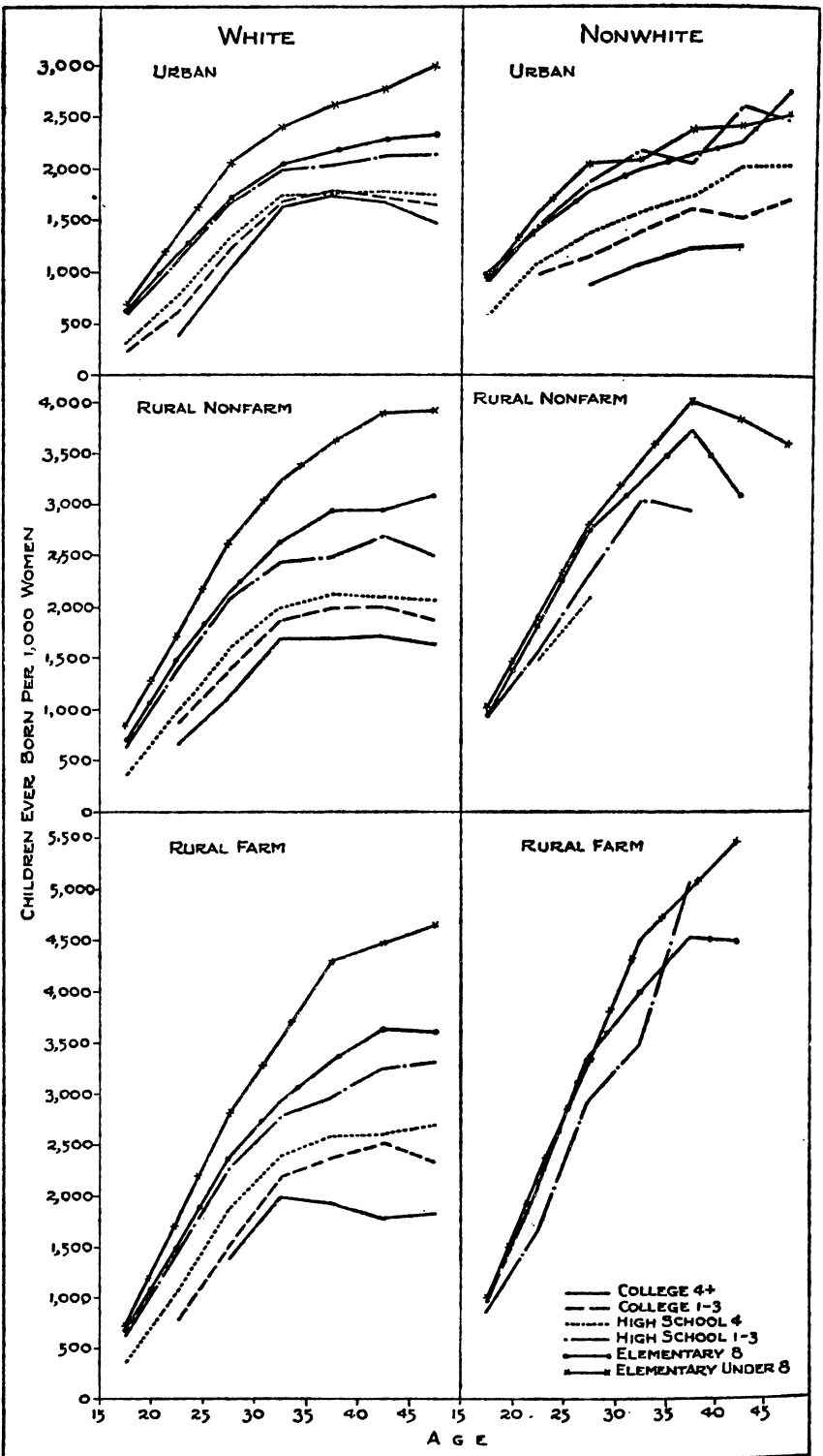


Fig. 12. Children ever born per 1,000 women "married once and husband present," by color, age, urban-rural residence and educational attainment of the woman. United States, 1950. (See Table 9.)

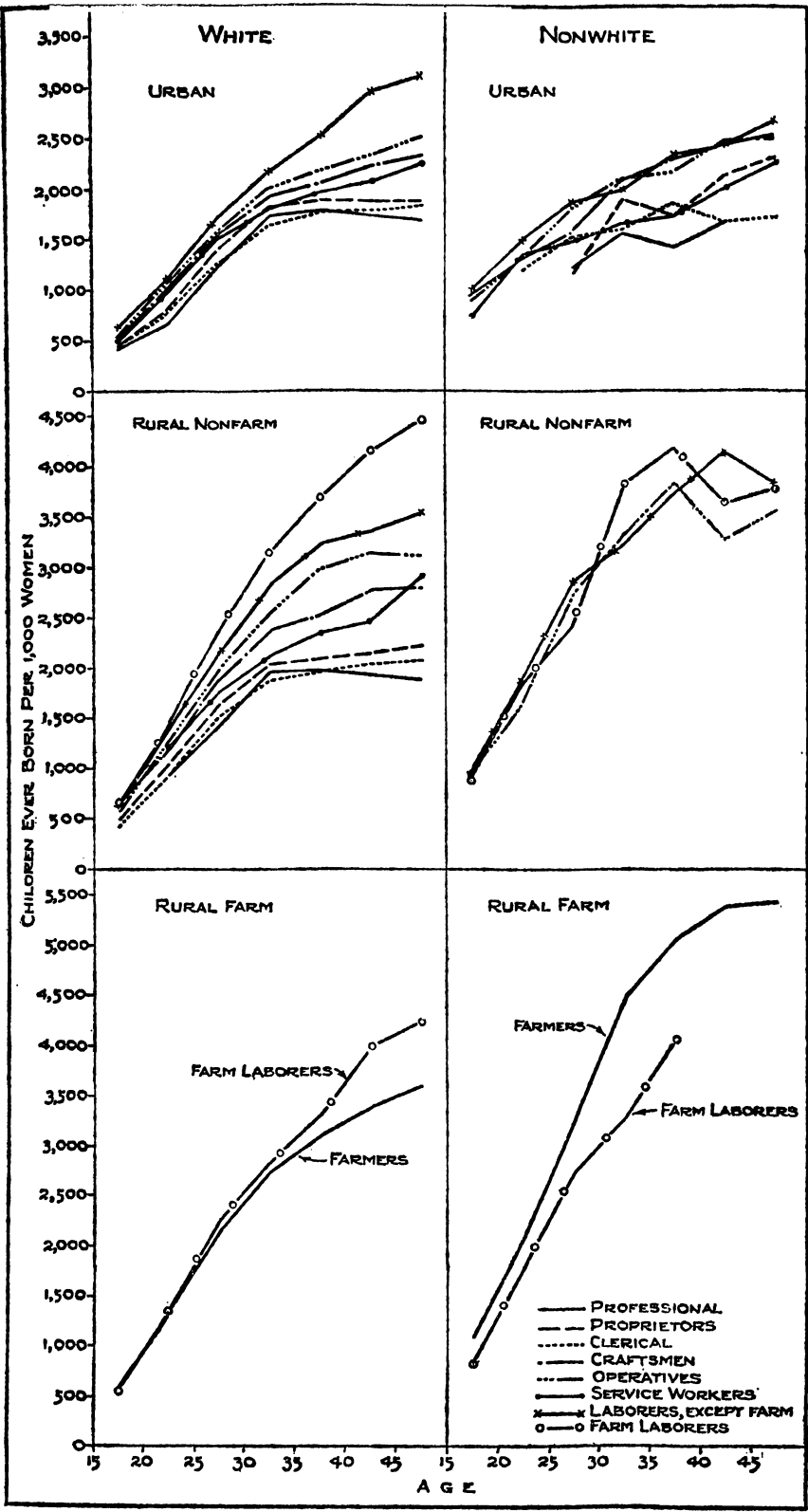


Fig. 13. Children ever born per 1,000 women "married once and husband present," by color, age, and urban-rural residence of the woman and by major occupation group of the husband. United States, 1950. (See Table 10.)

in these categories exhibit sharper variations in fertility than do the whites. Attention may also be called to the fact that within rural farm areas the relative position of the rates for wives of farmers and farm laborers differs by color. (Figure 13.) Among the whites, the fertility of farm laborers surpasses that of farmers. Among the nonwhites the reverse is the case.

Some of the comparisons of whites and nonwhites with respect to fertility that were presented in previous pages were affected by the differences by color in socio-economic status. The question may be asked regarding the comparisons by color among women of similar educational attainment and of similar rank with respect to husband's occupation. Also, since there are differences by color in proportions childless, it is well to

Table 9. Children ever born per 1,000 women of selected ages married once and husband present, by color, urban-rural residence and education of the woman, United States, 1950.<sup>1</sup>

RESIDENCE AND EDUCATION OF THE WOMEN	WHITE				NONWHITE			
	20-24	25-29	35-39	45-49	20-24	25-29	35-39	45-49
<i>Urban</i>								
College 4+	373	1,047	1,746	1,454	•	876	1,215	•
College 1-3	614	1,250	1,791	1,660	972	1,169	1,642	1,729
High School 4	777	1,342	1,781	1,749	1,080	1,379	1,735	2,045
High School 1-3	1,120	1,665	2,034	2,149	1,455	1,871	2,051	2,496
Elementary 8	1,175	1,731	2,173	2,339	1,450	1,800	2,147	2,769
Elem. Under 8	1,363	2,068	2,630	3,013	1,573	2,051	2,397	2,507
<i>Rural Nonfarm</i>								
College 4+	642	1,119	1,680	1,630	•	•	•	•
College 1-3	863	1,374	1,987	1,863	•	•	•	•
High School 4	975	1,586	2,112	2,053	1,471	2,094	•	•
High School 1-3	1,358	2,077	2,471	2,486	1,551	2,342	2,949	•
Elementary 8	1,460	2,143	2,938	3,063	1,818	2,786	3,747	•
Elem. Under 8	1,702	2,630	3,600	3,875	1,912	2,817	4,003	3,571
<i>Rural Farm</i>								
College 4+	•	1,393	1,939	1,808	•	•	•	•
College 1-3	797	1,536	2,357	2,336	•	•	•	•
High School 4	1,070	1,860	2,553	2,661	•	•	•	•
High School 1-3	1,438	2,260	2,954	3,303	1,652	2,902	5,079	•
Elementary 8	1,501	2,379	3,320	3,598	2,059	3,338	4,547	•
Elem. Under 8	1,788	2,806	4,275	4,624	2,188	3,294	4,993	5,461

<sup>1</sup> Source: United States Bureau of the Census: FERTILITY—Special Report, P-E No. 5C, Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1955, Tables 21 and 23. (See Figure 12 for charting of age-specific rates in 15-49 span).

• Rate is not shown because base is under 4,000.

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present the comparisons with respect to fertility rates among mothers (those bearing at least one child) as well as to all married women considered.

In Figure 14 each of six panels is devoted to a given educational group of urban ever-married women. Within each panel, fertility rates are shown by age for white and nonwhite ever-married women and for white and nonwhite ever-married mothers. The following points stand out:

1. At all educational levels the fertility rates for nonwhite ever-married women surpass those for white women at ages under 25 or 30 and fall below at older ages.
2. At virtually all ages and at all educational levels except College 4+, the fertility rates of nonwhite mothers exceed those of white mothers.

Table 10. Children ever born per 1,000 women of selected ages in unbroken first marriages by color and urban-rural residence of the wife and major occupation group of the husband, United States, 1950.<sup>1</sup>

RESIDENCE AND HUSBAND'S OCCUPATION	WHITE				NONWHITE			
	20-24	25-29	35-39	45-49	20-24	25-29	35-39	45-49
<i>Urban</i>								
Professional	670	1,234	1,794	1,678	a	1,242	1,426	a
Proprietors	832	1,410	1,898	1,897	a	1,184	1,730	2,309
Clerical	766	1,262	1,760	1,866	1,197	1,536	1,857	1,719
Craftsmen	972	1,543	2,064	2,320	1,310	1,583	2,292	2,561
Operatives	1,019	1,589	2,161	2,514	1,310	1,816	2,196	2,550
Service Wkrs.	959	1,518	1,956	2,283	1,350	1,464	1,716	2,266
Laborers, Ex. Fm.	1,070	1,717	2,514	3,127	1,498	1,855	2,324	2,670
<i>Rural Nonfarm</i>								
Professional	913	1,436	1,971	1,873	a	a	a	a
Proprietors	1,020	1,615	2,091	2,215	a	a	a	a
Clerical	914	1,519	1,959	2,079	a	a	a	a
Craftsmen	1,199	1,875	2,539	2,793	a	a	a	a
Operatives	1,275	1,986	2,951	3,107	1,641	2,735	3,844	3,557
Service Wkrs.	1,225	1,773	2,353	2,915	a	a	a	a
Laborers, Ex. Fm.	1,363	2,157	3,224	3,515	1,853	2,851	3,742	3,833
Farm Laborers	1,420	2,379	3,681	4,456	1,849	2,446	4,174	3,759
<i>Rural Farm</i>								
Farmers	1,331	2,146	3,098	3,568	2,080	3,237	5,070	5,413
Farm Laborers	1,333	2,245	3,790	4,235	1,786	2,740	4,074	a

<sup>1</sup> Source: United States Bureau of the Census: FERTILITY—Special Report, P-E No. 5C, Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1955, Tables 28 and 29. (See Figure 13 for charting of age-specific rates in 15-49 span).

<sup>a</sup> Rate is not shown because base is under 4,000.

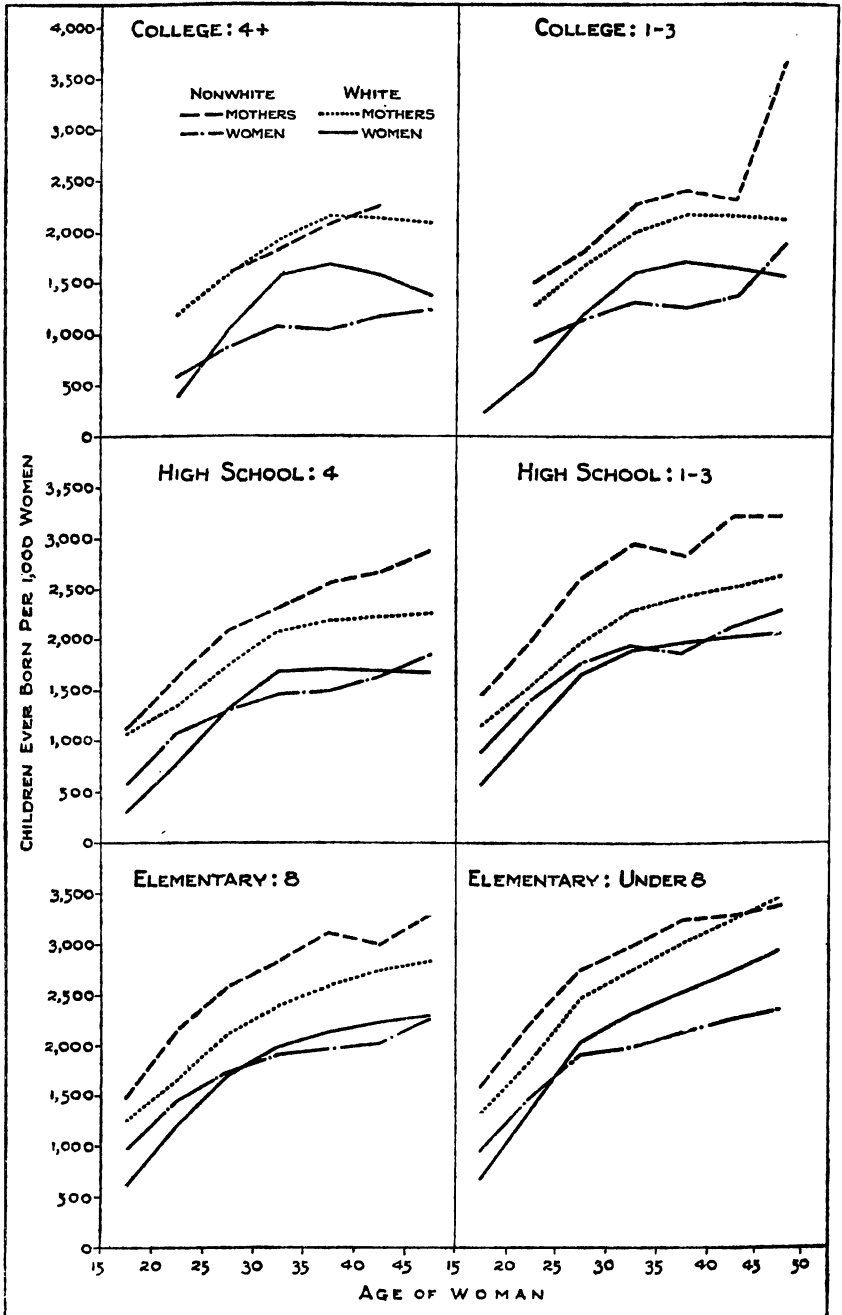


Fig. 14. Children ever born per 1,000 urban white and nonwhite ever-married women and ever-married mothers, by age and educational attainment. United States, 1950.  
 Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census: *FERTILITY*, Special Report, P-E, No. 5C. Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1955. Tables 20 and 22.

3. The two preceding statements are reconciled by the fact that nonwhite wives over 25 or 30 years of age exhibit both higher proportions childless and higher proportions with large families than do the whites of similar age and education. For instance, among urban women 35 to 39 years old in 1950, "married once and husband present," and of college 1-3 status, the proportion childless was 23 per cent for the whites and 41 per cent for the nonwhites. However, the proportion with five or more children was 3.1 per cent for the whites and 10 per cent for the nonwhites. (Figure 15 and Table 11.)

Similar situations with respect to occupation group of the husband are apparent in Figure 16. For each of six occupation groups, the fertility rates for nonwhite women (married once and husband present) are about as low as, or lower than, those for white women. Among the mothers the fertility rates are consistently higher for the nonwhites than for the whites.

*Parity Progression Ratios* may also be used to point up the differences between whites and nonwhites with respect to fertility behavior. These are shown by education of the woman in Table 12 and for two educational groups in Figure 17. They are shown by occupation of the husband in Table 13 and for two occupational groups in Figure 18. When derived from distributions of women by number of children ever born, as in the present data, parity progression ratios simply indicate the percentage of women ever of  $N$  parity who had ever progressed to  $N + 1$  parity.

Among the youngest women considered (20-24) the 0-to-1 parity progression ratios for nonwhites exceeded those for whites at all occupational levels and for all high school graduates. At ages 25 and over, the 0-to-1 parity progression ratios for nonwhites fall below those for whites at virtually all educational and occupational levels. The 1-to-2 ratios for nonwhites tend to surpass those for whites at ages under 30 and to fall below those for whites at older ages. The 2-to-3, 3-to-4, and 4-to-5 parity progression ratios tend to be strikingly higher for nonwhites than for whites of all ages and classes.

Table 11. Percentage distribution of white and nonwhite women by number of children ever born, according to age and educational attainment. Women married once and husband present of selected ages. Urban areas of the United States, 1950.<sup>1</sup>

AGE AND EDUCATION OF WOMAN	WHITE						NONWHITE					
	None	1	2	3	4	5+	None	1	2	3	4	5+
<i>Age 20-24</i>												
College 4+	68.3	26.8	4.3	0.5	0.0	0.1	<sup>a</sup> 35.7	<sup>a</sup> 38.3	20.3	4.3	<sup>a</sup> 1.3	<sup>a</sup> 0.0
College 1-3	52.0	36.2	10.4	1.2	0.1	0.1	32.2	39.4	6.8	1.7	0.5	0.5
High School 4	42.2	40.6	14.6	2.2	0.2	0.0	27.5	28.5	25.1	12.1	4.7	2.2
High School 1-3	28.1	41.4	23.0	6.0	1.1	0.3	31.1	27.4	20.7	12.3	4.3	4.1
Elementary 8	28.3	38.5	23.5	7.7	1.6	0.5	31.0	23.5	20.3	13.8	6.8	4.5
Elementary Under 8	25.9	34.9	24.1	9.8	3.5	1.9	44.8	32.7	16.5	3.3	1.9	0.8
<i>Age 25-29</i>												
College 4+	33.0	38.3	22.3	4.8	1.2	0.4	38.2	29.0	19.2	7.4	4.8	1.3
College 1-3	26.6	35.1	29.0	7.4	1.3	0.6	36.0	25.6	19.1	10.3	6.1	2.9
High School 4	23.1	35.4	30.0	8.9	1.8	0.8	31.7	20.3	16.9	10.9	10.2	10.0
High School 1-3	16.0	32.5	31.4	13.3	4.6	2.3	32.1	22.6	15.7	10.9	9.6	9.1
Elementary 8	18.1	30.9	26.9	14.4	6.2	3.5	29.4	20.2	15.4	12.0	9.1	13.9
Elementary Under 8	16.3	25.1	25.7	16.3	8.6	8.1	45.2	19.8	20.6	7.1	2.8	4.4
<i>Age 35-39</i>												
College 4+	19.3	21.5	35.5	16.7	4.4	2.5	40.7	18.7	16.2	8.3	6.7	9.5
College 1-3	19.0	22.5	33.8	16.2	5.6	3.1	37.5	20.5	13.1	10.5	9.4	9.0
High School 4	19.4	24.3	32.2	14.6	5.8	3.6	33.6	18.6	16.9	9.1	6.8	14.9
High School 1-3	16.5	22.5	30.6	15.9	8.0	6.5	36.7	18.9	10.0	9.1	7.9	17.2
Elementary 8	16.0	20.3	29.1	18.2	8.2	8.2	34.4	16.4	13.5	9.0	7.0	19.6
Elementary Under 8	14.0	17.8	25.2	17.7	10.4	15.0	52.9	13.5	10.3	7.1	3.9	12.2
<i>Age 45-49</i>												
College 4+	30.7	24.0	26.5	11.5	5.0	2.3	34.1	17.6	13.0	17.1	4.6	13.5
College 1-3	25.6	25.1	26.2	14.7	4.5	4.0	34.4	18.4	10.3	11.2	6.6	19.1
High School 4	23.4	25.1	28.0	12.8	5.9	4.9	28.2	18.2	10.5	13.0	10.7	20.3
High School 1-3	18.6	22.0	26.6	14.9	8.2	9.7	22.2	16.4	12.8	13.0	7.0	19.9
Elementary 8	18.1	20.1	25.0	15.0	9.1	12.7	28.2	10.5	17.3	13.0	10.7	20.3
Elementary Under 8	13.2	15.8	21.6	17.0	11.6	20.9	32.0	18.6	12.8	9.8	7.0	19.9

<sup>1</sup>Computed from numerical distributions in U. S. Bureau of the Census: Fertility—Special Report, P-E No. 5C, Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1953, Tables 21 and 23.

<sup>a</sup>Ratio is not shown because base is under 4,000.



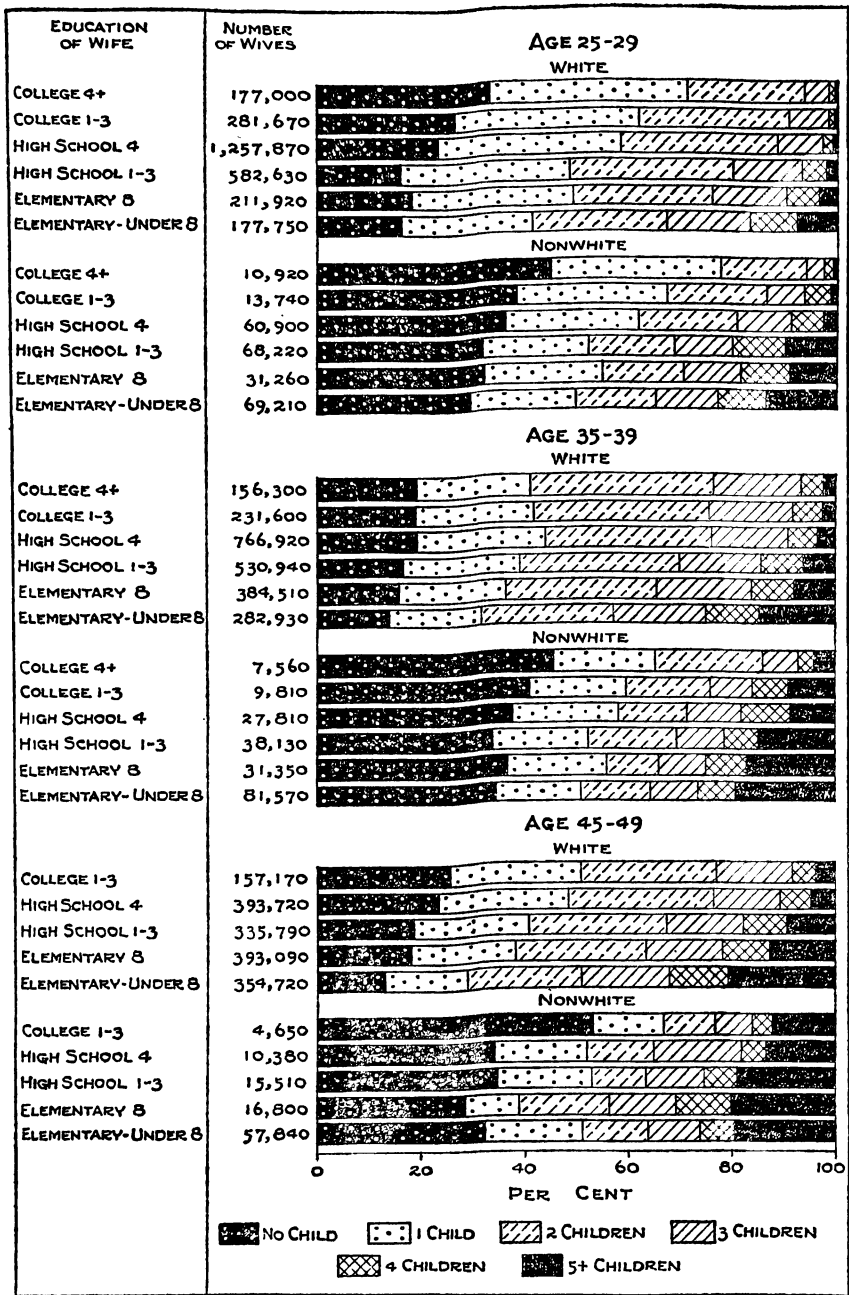


Fig. 15. Percentage distribution of white and nonwhite women "married once and husband present" by number of children ever born, by age and educational attainment. Urban areas of the United States, 1950. (See Table 11.)

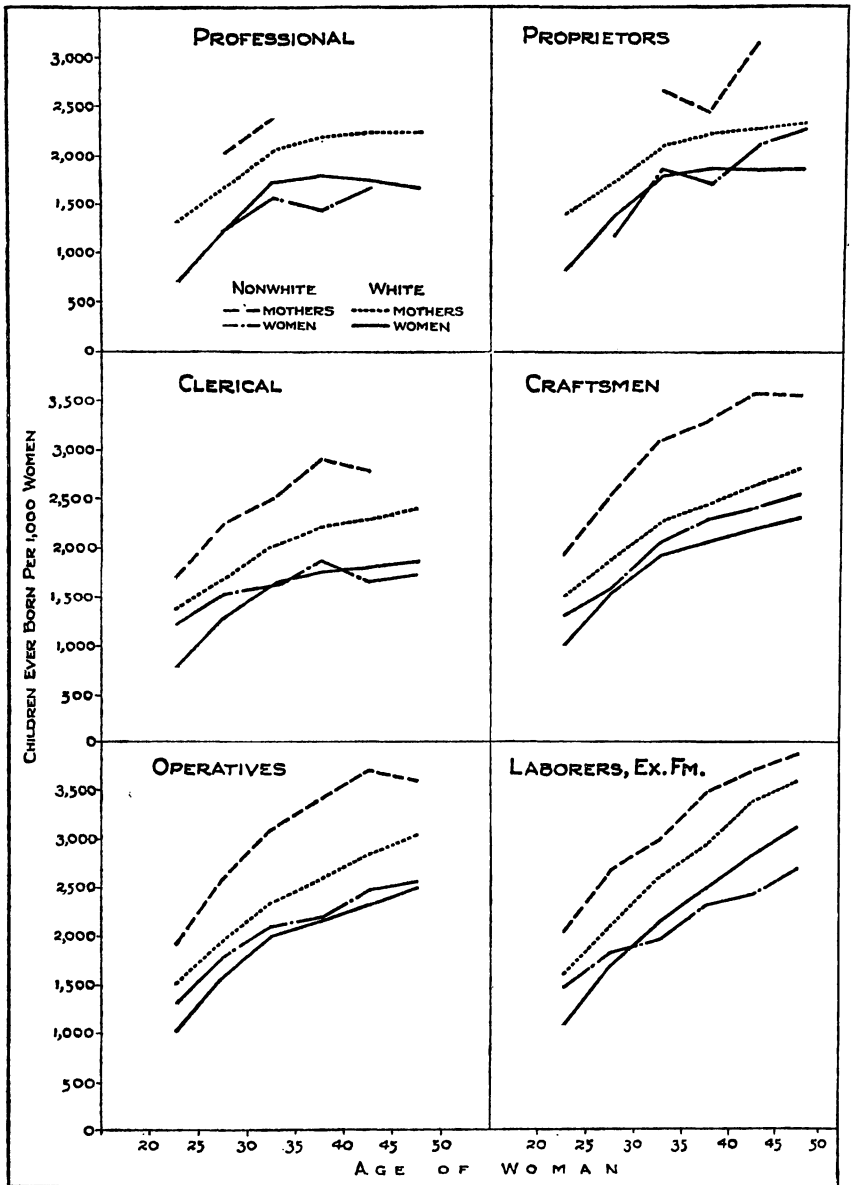


Fig. 16. Children ever born per 1,000 white and nonwhite women and mothers, married once and husband present, by age of wife and major occupation group of the husband. Urban areas of the United States, 1950.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census: FERTILITY, Special Report, P-E, No. 5C, Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1955. Tables 28 and 29.

# Fertility Trends and Differentials among Nonwhites 183

Situations similar to the above are also found in 1950 Census data relating to per cent of women reporting one or more children under one year of age in the 1950 Census, according

Table 12. Parity progression ratios, by color, age and education of ever-married women in urban areas of the United States, 1950.<sup>1</sup>

AGE AND PARITY PROGRESSION	COLLEGE 4+		COLLEGE 1-3		HIGH SCHOOL 4		HIGH SCHOOL 1-3		NONE OR ELEMENTARY	
	White	Non-white	White	Non-white	White	Non-white	White	Non-white	White	Non-white
<i>Age 20-24</i>										
0 to 1 Parity	31.2	45.5	48.3	61.7	57.8	67.0	71.6	71.1	73.2	67.6
1 to 2 Parity	16.1	"	24.7	38.8	29.7	43.2	42.3	60.7	49.8	62.4
2 to 3 Parity	13.2	"	13.0	25.0	15.0	31.9	25.4	41.6	34.6	52.6
3 to 4 Parity	"	"	"	"	11.8	32.3	21.0	35.6	28.7	46.7
4 to 5 Parity	"	"	"	"	"	"	25.6	32.5	32.2	37.7
<i>Age 25-29</i>										
0 to 1 Parity	66.0	54.0	72.5	64.1	76.3	62.5	82.8	69.0	82.0	69.1
1 to 2 Parity	43.0	40.5	51.3	50.0	52.9	57.8	61.1	68.3	65.7	68.0
2 to 3 Parity	22.2	"	24.5	37.8	28.5	47.8	40.4	61.2	51.4	64.7
3 to 4 Parity	23.5	"	20.8	"	22.4	45.9	34.6	61.8	46.1	63.1
4 to 5 Parity	"	"	28.2	"	28.4	37.6	33.9	48.6	44.0	55.4
<i>Age 30-34</i>										
0 to 1 Parity	80.7	58.9	81.1	58.4	81.6	63.4	84.0	66.5	83.9	66.8
1 to 2 Parity	63.6	50.0	66.0	61.9	66.7	63.4	70.4	67.5	72.7	66.7
2 to 3 Parity	32.5	"	36.8	52.8	38.3	53.0	47.4	67.1	55.7	66.9
3 to 4 Parity	25.2	"	27.8	"	33.1	48.1	43.1	68.9	50.8	66.0
4 to 5 Parity	26.3	"	29.1	"	32.0	58.4	40.4	64.1	49.0	67.6
<i>Age 35-39</i>										
0 to 1 Parity	78.5	50.2	78.6	52.4	78.6	58.5	81.9	65.8	83.2	64.8
1 to 2 Parity	70.9	60.4	70.1	59.6	67.5	63.4	71.2	68.4	75.7	69.0
2 to 3 Parity	40.2	"	42.4	59.2	43.0	64.0	50.9	61.2	58.8	69.2
3 to 4 Parity	31.0	"	35.1	"	40.2	58.3	48.1	66.5	53.7	71.9
4 to 5 Parity	35.6	"	35.8	"	39.2	50.2	45.4	63.1	55.2	72.1
<i>Age 40-44</i>										
0 to 1 Parity	73.1	51.9	76.8	58.5	76.4	61.8	81.3	66.3	82.6	68.3
1 to 2 Parity	67.9	59.5	67.2	59.0	65.7	63.0	70.3	65.4	75.8	66.9
2 to 3 Parity	40.8	"	41.6	61.9	45.1	55.9	53.6	72.5	62.4	67.5
3 to 4 Parity	35.6	"	38.4	"	44.7	64.5	51.3	65.9	59.3	70.5
4 to 5 Parity	34.2	"	39.8	"	44.4	71.4	49.4	73.3	58.6	70.4
<i>Age 45-49</i>										
0 to 1 Parity	66.7	50.3	72.8	51.6	74.9	64.3	79.8	70.6	82.9	69.4
1 to 2 Parity	63.0	"	62.4	75.3	65.9	67.0	71.2	65.1	77.1	70.6
2 to 3 Parity	40.5	"	45.9	"	46.2	69.7	55.3	72.8	65.4	70.1
3 to 4 Parity	39.6	"	36.6	"	45.7	57.5	55.4	65.8	63.4	70.6
4 to 5 Parity	33.9	"	48.1	"	45.4	"	54.0	71.8	61.6	69.8

<sup>1</sup>The parity progression ratios were computed from distributions of women by number of children ever born. They indicate the percentage of women ever of parity *N* who ever progressed to parity *N* + 1.

Derived from U. S. Bureau of the Census: FERTILITY, Special Report, P-E No. 5C, Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1955, Tables 20 and 22.

\* Ratio not shown because base is under 4,000.

Table 13. Parity progression ratios by color and age of woman and occupation group of the husband, women married once and husband present. Urban areas of the United States, 1950<sup>1</sup>

AGE AND PARITY PROGRESSION	PROFESSIONAL		PROPRIETORS		CLERICAL		CRAFTSMEN		OPERATIVES		SERVICE WORKERS		LABORERS, Exc. F.M.	
	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite
<i>Age 20-24</i>														
0 to 1 Parity	51.2	a	58.5	a	56.4	71.5	64.9	68.0	67.4	68.8	65.7	69.2	66.9	73.3
1 to 2 Parity	26.7	a	35.7	a	30.2	46.5	38.9	53.8	38.6	52.9	37.1	56.9	42.1	60.8
2 to 3 Parity	13.1	a	15.4	a	15.7	34.0	22.5	46.6	24.9	44.7	19.2	36.7	31.5	46.4
3 to 4 Parity	a	a	14.8	a	16.0	a	18.8	a	23.4	41.1	a	46.8	25.0	35.0
4 to 5 Parity	a	a	a	a	a	a	23.4	a	26.1	29.9	a	a	a	38.8
<i>Age 25-29</i>														
0 to 1 Parity	73.7	61.1	79.6	63.0	75.1	68.3	81.1	62.1	80.6	69.9	80.4	63.4	80.6	68.8
1 to 2 Parity	51.6	53.5	55.7	a	50.4	63.5	59.3	65.1	60.1	67.9	56.7	61.2	63.1	69.8
2 to 3 Parity	24.4	a	28.1	a	26.8	55.2	35.4	64.1	38.7	62.5	36.2	57.4	44.8	63.8
3 to 4 Parity	17.8	a	26.5	a	21.4	51.8	30.0	57.8	36.5	62.5	30.8	51.9	41.8	64.0
4 to 5 Parity	20.3	a	24.3	a	23.9	a	34.0	53.0	35.4	52.0	38.1	51.4	43.5	50.9
<i>Age 30-34</i>														
0 to 1 Parity	84.1	65.2	85.8	70.3	81.5	63.7	85.1	66.7	85.4	67.9	82.0	60.4	83.0	66.4
1 to 2 Parity	69.3	67.5	71.9	58.4	65.5	73.3	71.4	73.5	71.6	71.8	69.1	66.9	73.8	66.1
2 to 3 Parity	36.1	a	38.4	a	36.3	50.0	45.9	65.3	49.2	69.7	44.4	67.2	55.8	72.4
3 to 4 Parity	26.7	a	32.3	a	31.5	a	41.2	72.0	43.7	66.9	41.9	58.1	53.2	66.7
4 to 5 Parity	28.8	a	28.3	a	33.1	a	36.5	65.1	41.2	65.2	38.7	60.8	52.1	66.2
<i>Age 35-39</i>														
0 to 1 Parity	82.0	59.1	84.3	70.2	79.9	64.2	84.1	69.5	83.2	64.3	78.9	59.4	84.9	66.9
1 to 2 Parity	72.8	a	73.3	61.0	69.2	67.6	73.4	70.8	74.8	77.2	73.5	66.8	77.7	72.5
2 to 3 Parity	41.0	a	42.9	a	43.3	72.2	51.1	66.2	54.6	69.4	52.9	66.3	59.9	73.6
3 to 4 Parity	32.1	a	37.4	a	40.6	a	46.9	77.7	50.1	70.4	45.6	68.5	62.4	71.4
4 to 5 Parity	35.9	a	37.1	a	40.3	a	46.5	69.8	49.9	69.1	44.6	63.0	58.0	72.4
<i>Age 40-44</i>														
0 to 1 Parity	78.2	55.6	81.6	67.7	78.4	59.7	83.0	67.6	82.0	67.5	80.4	65.3	83.9	65.4
1 to 2 Parity	70.3	a	71.5	79.1	69.1	66.9	74.0	73.5	74.1	72.0	71.5	66.1	80.2	73.7
2 to 3 Parity	44.4	a	45.2	a	44.6	a	56.1	71.9	60.3	69.7	57.2	60.9	68.8	76.3
3 to 4 Parity	38.9	a	42.7	a	45.2	a	52.9	76.5	57.5	71.4	53.0	69.5	67.1	73.4
4 to 5 Parity	37.8	a	38.3	a	46.9	a	52.1	69.3	57.6	74.8	48.4	69.0	60.5	73.6
<i>Age 45-49</i>														
0 to 1 Parity	75.0	a	80.2	62.2	77.6	59.2	82.4	72.0	82.7	70.7	78.9	66.0	86.8	68.9
1 to 2 Parity	68.7	a	69.4	a	69.2	a	75.1	74.7	76.6	71.3	72.6	67.5	83.1	80.8
2 to 3 Parity	45.2	a	48.6	a	49.2	a	60.3	77.2	63.2	70.6	60.7	73.7	70.0	70.8
3 to 4 Parity	40.0	a	45.3	a	48.5	a	57.4	67.5	63.2	70.2	63.1	71.7	69.5	70.6
4 to 5 Parity	40.8	a	48.5	a	52.2	a	56.6	a	60.4	77.1	57.4	70.7	66.7	77.9

<sup>1</sup> See note, Table 12. Computed from FERTILITY, Special Report, P-E No. 5C, op. cit., Tables 28 and 29.

a Ratio is not shown because base is under 4,000.

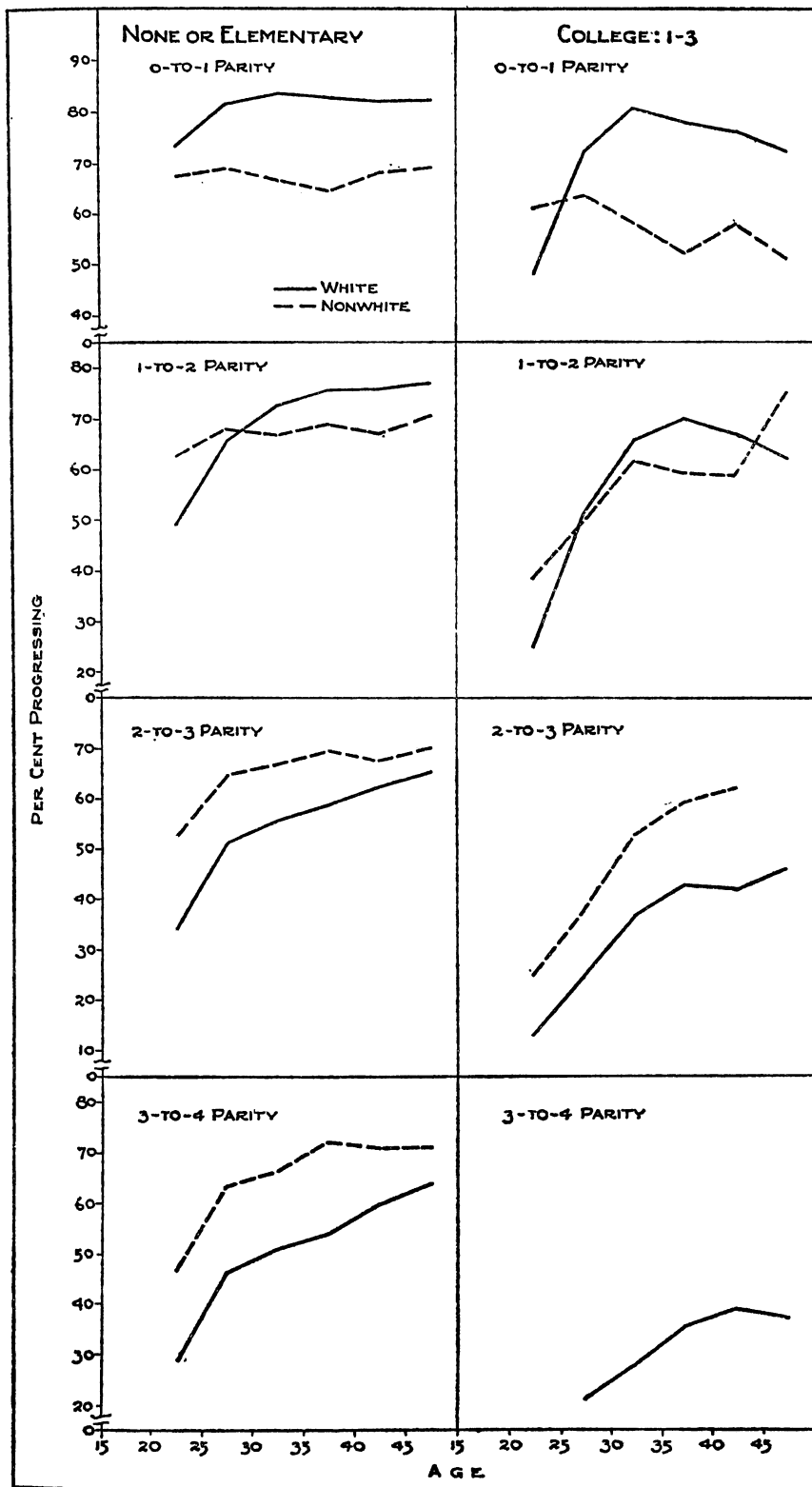


Fig. 17. Parity progression ratios: Per cent of women on  $N$  parity; ever progressing to  $N+1$  parity; white and nonwhite ever-married women of specified education, age, and parity. Urban areas of the United States, 1950.

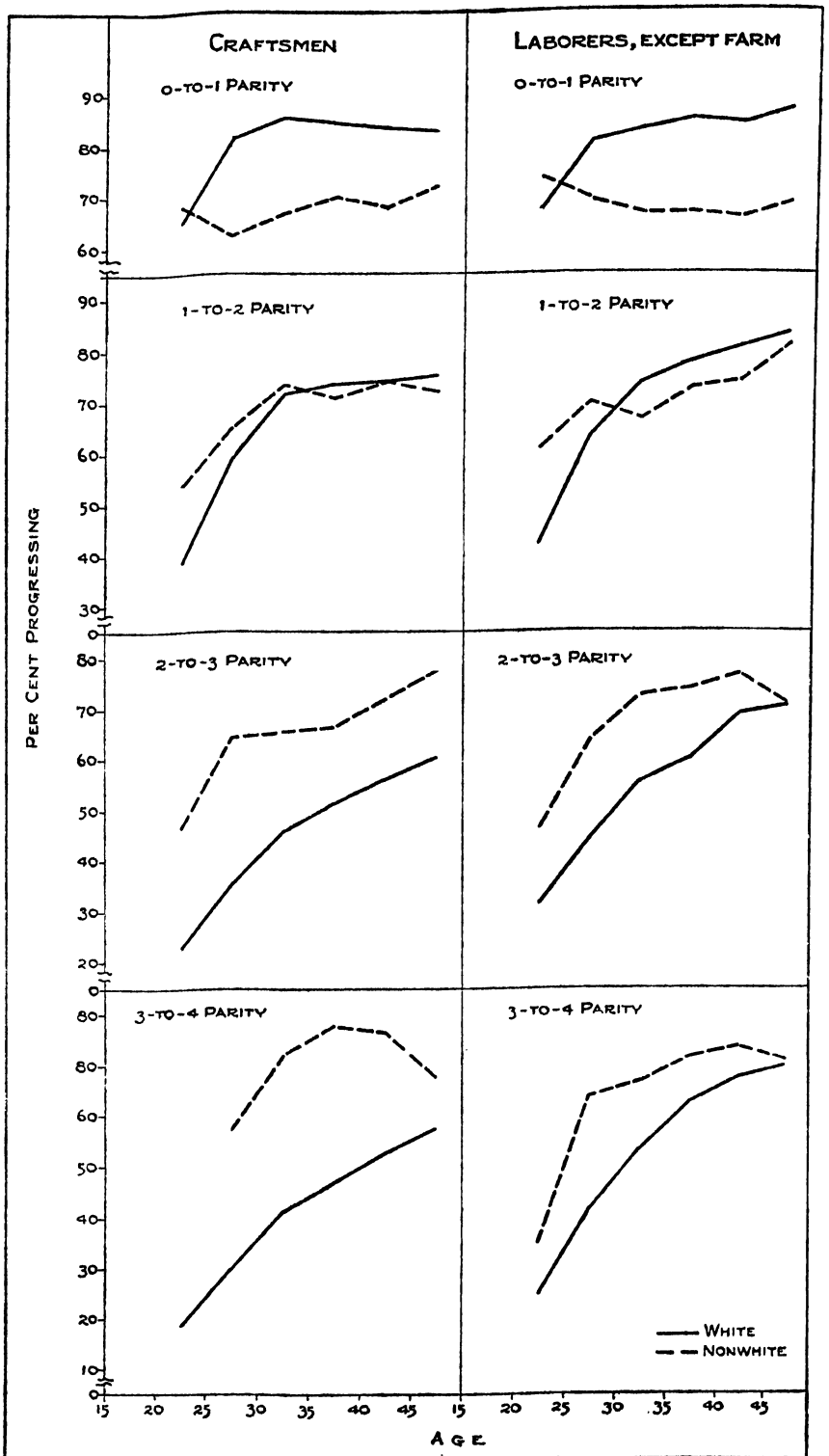


Fig. 18. Parity progression ratios: Per cent of women of  $N$  parity ever progressing to  $N+1$  parity, white and nonwhite women "married once and husband present," of specified age and parity of the woman and major occupation group of the husband. Urban areas of the United States. (See Table 13.)

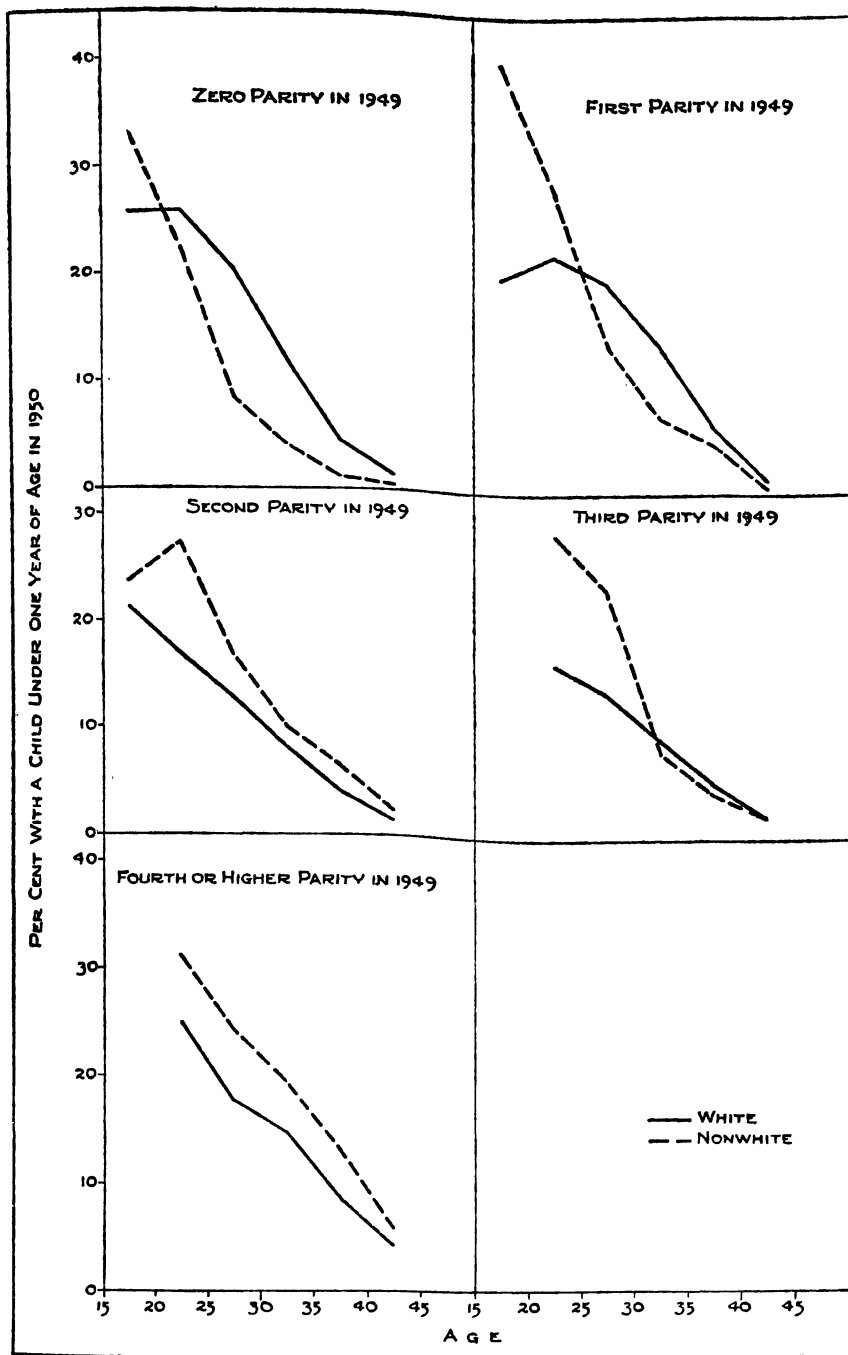


Fig. 19. Percentage of women reporting a child under one year of age in the 1950 Census, according to parity of the woman in 1949, by color, and age of the woman in 1950. Urban areas of the United States, 1950. (See Table 14.)

to parity of the women in 1949. Thus, among women of zero parity in 1949 the proportion having one or more children under one year of age in 1950 tended to be lower for nonwhites than for whites, except at youngest ages (15-19). Among women of first parity status in 1949 the proportion having a child under one year of age in 1950 was lower for nonwhites than for whites except at ages under 25. For higher parities the proportion having one or more children under one year old tended to be higher for nonwhites than for whites. (Figure 19 and Table 14.)

**FERTILITY RATIOS BY EDUCATION OF WIFE AND MAJOR  
OCCUPATION GROUP OF HUSBAND**

Table 15 presents number of own children under five years

Table 14. Percentage of women with a child under one year of age in 1950, according to parity of the woman in 1949, by color, residence, and age of the woman. Women married once and husband present. United States, 1950.<sup>1</sup>

RESIDENCE AND PARITY IN 1949	WHITE						NONWHITE					
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44
	URBAN											
0	25.9	25.8	20.5	11.9	4.3	1.3	33.1	22.3	8.4	4.0	1.1	0.5
1	20.1	22.5	19.8	13.9	6.2	1.3	40.5	28.4	14.0	7.2	4.6	0.5
2	21.3	16.9	12.7	8.0	3.9	1.2	23.7	27.3	16.8	9.9	6.4	2.2
3	—	16.4	13.5	9.2	4.9	1.9	—	28.6	23.2	8.0	4.2	2.0
4+	—	24.9	17.8	12.2	8.6	4.2	—	31.4	24.3	19.4	13.2	5.9
	RURAL NONFARM											
0	28.6	29.4	20.2	10.4	4.8	1.2	31.7	26.2	10.0	1.5	3.6	0.7
1	24.5	26.2	20.3	12.0	5.9	1.4	30.8	33.6	18.2	5.9	2.7	0.6
2	22.0	17.3	13.5	8.3	4.3	1.5	—	28.1	20.3	11.4	6.0	0.7
3	—	19.5	13.5	8.4	5.7	1.9	—	29.7	19.7	15.2	—	1.4
4+	—	21.0	19.9	13.7	10.2	4.6	—	29.9	27.3	22.5	18.0	6.6
	RURAL FARM											
0	28.4	29.9	20.8	10.2	3.6	3.6	32.4	28.9	10.8	4.5	1.7	0.4
1	25.7	27.6	24.3	14.1	6.0	2.0	32.6	35.8	23.0	15.3	0.5	0.7
2	—	20.4	17.4	9.1	4.9	1.8	—	34.2	22.6	10.9	3.8	—
3	—	21.4	17.2	11.0	6.2	2.4	—	34.2	26.8	14.4	4.6	2.2
4+	—	19.3	19.5	16.7	11.5	6.4	—	27.8	34.9	25.7	20.7	9.6

<sup>1</sup> Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census: FERTILITY, Special Report, P-E No. 5C. Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1955, Tables 30 and 31.



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old per 1,000 urban women of selected ages in unbroken first marriages, by color and education of the wife and occupation group of the husband. It will be noted that among the women 20-24 years of age the inverse relation of fertility ratios to education and occupation is fairly well marked among both whites and nonwhites. The whites 30-39 and the nonwhites 30-34 years old exhibit a fairly marked *direct* relation of fertility ratios to educational attainment insofar as the women of high school and college status are concerned. By occupation the fertility ratios for wives of professional men are relatively high at the ages mentioned for whites and nonwhites.

As previously noted, since fertility ratios are based upon children born during the preceding five years they reflect current fertility quite sensitively but they are also much influenced by timing of births. Although women 30-34 years of age who graduated from College outrank other educational groups with respect to number of children under five years old, they were outranked by most other educational groups with respect to

Table 15. Children under five years old per 1,000 women of selected ages, married once and husband present, by color and education of the woman and occupation of the husband. Urban areas of the United States, 1950.<sup>1</sup>

EDUCATION OF WIFE AND OCCUPATION OF HUSBAND	WHITE				NONWHITE			
	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39
<i>Education of Wife</i>								
College 4+	346	883	914	573	a	632	648	298
College 1-3	580	932	808	465	892	655	543	388
High School 4	722	918	703	411	912	755	503	374
High School 1-3	967	901	613	351	1,113	779	489	344
Elementary 8	970	900	619	355	987	742	515	287
Elemen. Under 8	1,066	984	679	420	1,045	796	511	381
<i>Occupation of Husband</i>								
Professional	615	931	852	498	a	755	576	386
Proprietors	743	914	722	405	a	530	610	357
Clerical	704	883	709	413	962	771	515	331
Craftsmen	861	926	652	373	993	687	544	340
Operatives	889	928	646	379	968	808	549	342
Service Wkrs.	847	939	635	386	1,009	685	438	264
Laborers, Ex. Fm.	914	972	700	451	1,122	793	470	412

<sup>1</sup> Source: United States Bureau of the Census: FERTILITY, Special Report, P-E No. 5C, Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1955. Tables 44, 45, 48 and 49.

<sup>a</sup> Ratio is not shown because base is under 4,000.

number of children ever born. Thus we have the situation of educational attainment being inversely related with cumulative fertility rates and at least to some extent directly related with fertility ratios among white married women, 30-39 years old, and among nonwhite married women 30-34 years old.

#### CONCOMITANTS OF INCREASE IN NONWHITE FERTILITY

The increase in fertility among the young nonwhites in this country since 1940, and especially that since 1950, has taken place in the context of increasing urbanization through accelerated migration from rural to urban areas. It has occurred in the context of great improvements in occupational opportunity, educational attainment, physical health, general levels of living, and citizenship status.

Among nonwhite ever-married women 20 to 24 years of age about 47 per cent were in urban areas and 34 per cent were in rural-farm areas in 1940. In 1950, 65 per cent were in urban areas (old definition) and 16 per cent were in rural-farm areas. The proportion of these women that had completed 4 years of high school or had further education was 11 per cent in 1940 and 23 per cent in 1950. Among nonwhite women of this age and in unbroken first marriages, the proportion whose husbands were in white collar occupations (professional, proprietary, and clerical) was 3 per cent in 1940 and 8 per cent in 1950. The proportions with husbands in unskilled and agricultural occupations was 66 per cent in 1940 and 46 per cent in 1950.

The great improvements in health of the nonwhites in recent years is indicated by the declines in the crude death rate and declines in the death rate from *selected* causes which previously were especially high among the nonwhites. The death rates of nonwhites from tuberculosis, for instance, have tumbled from high levels during the past 20 years.

Possibly of particular relevance to the decrease of childlessness among young nonwhites since 1940 have been the gains in the control of venereal disease through new medical dis-

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coveries and through community education. Figure 20 points up a dramatic reduction since 1940 in the death rates from syphilis among the nonwhites. Figure 21 indicates a striking reduction in the ratio of fetal deaths to live births among nonwhites since 1930.

Data from the Eastern Health District of Baltimore have pointed up at once the higher incidence of venereal diseases among Negroes than whites and the existence of a downward trend in the incidence of venereal diseases among Negroes even during the thirties.<sup>8</sup>

There are really no adequate empirical data that would indicate how much cause and effect interrelation exists between the national trends in (a) control of venereal diseases among nonwhites and (b) reduction in childlessness and increase in fertility of young nonwhite couples.<sup>9</sup> However, the medical or clinical relationship appears to be clear-cut. It was described briefly by Taylor, Wyon, and Gordon, as follows:

Certain diseases, especially the venereal infections, produce pathological changes which decrease chances of conception. Gonorrhea is an important cause of sterility in women by causing salpingitis and cervicitis, with the added probability that purulent discharges in the vagina are spermicidal. The male suffers the acute effects of urethritis and the chronic effects of

<sup>8</sup> Skeleton figures are as follows:

Cases of Syphilis per 1,000 Population, All Ages.

	White		Nonwhite	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1932	2.19	1.48	29.0	29.5
1935	1.73	1.58	22.6	24.5
1940	1.55	0.82	23.5	21.4

See Turner, Thomas B.: Dyar, Robert, Clark, E. G., and Birkhead, Mary Footner: Studies on Syphilis in the Eastern Health District of Baltimore City. *American Journal of Hygiene*, 37, 1943, p. 273.

<sup>9</sup> Although the term nonwhite is used, childlessness has not been unusually prevalent among the nonwhites other than Negroes.

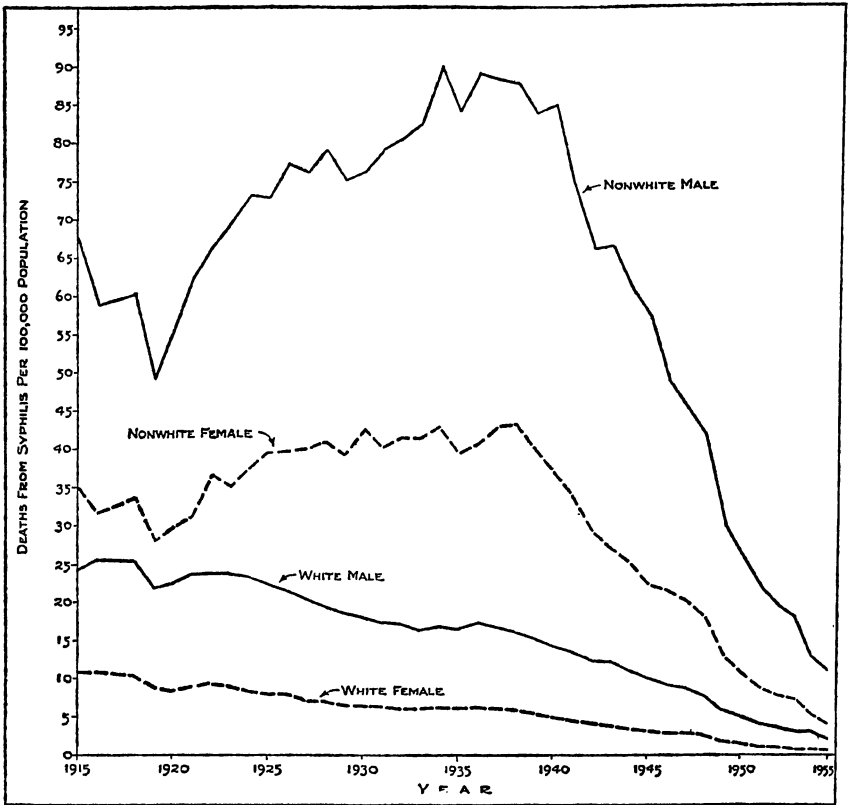


Fig. 20. Annual number of reported deaths from syphilis by color and sex. Rates adjusted for age. United States, 1915-1954.  
 Source: U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare: *Vital Statistics*—Special Report, 43, No. 3, May 15, 1956. Table 1.

orchitis and epididymitis. Syphilis limits successful pregnancies by causing abortion and miscarriage, as do malaria and other major febrile illnesses.<sup>10</sup>

There are small bodies of data affirming the relatively low pregnancy rates and relatively low proportion of pregnancies terminating in live births among Negro women with syphilis as compared with those without syphilis. In her article, "Syphilis and Uncontrolled Fertility," published in 1941, Stix adduces data from her own studies in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, and from two other studies. Her own series of

<sup>10</sup> Carl E. Taylor, M.D., John B. Wyon, M.B., and John E. Gordon, M.D.: *Ecologic Determinants of Population Growth*. The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly, xxxvi, No. 2, April, 1958, p. 115.

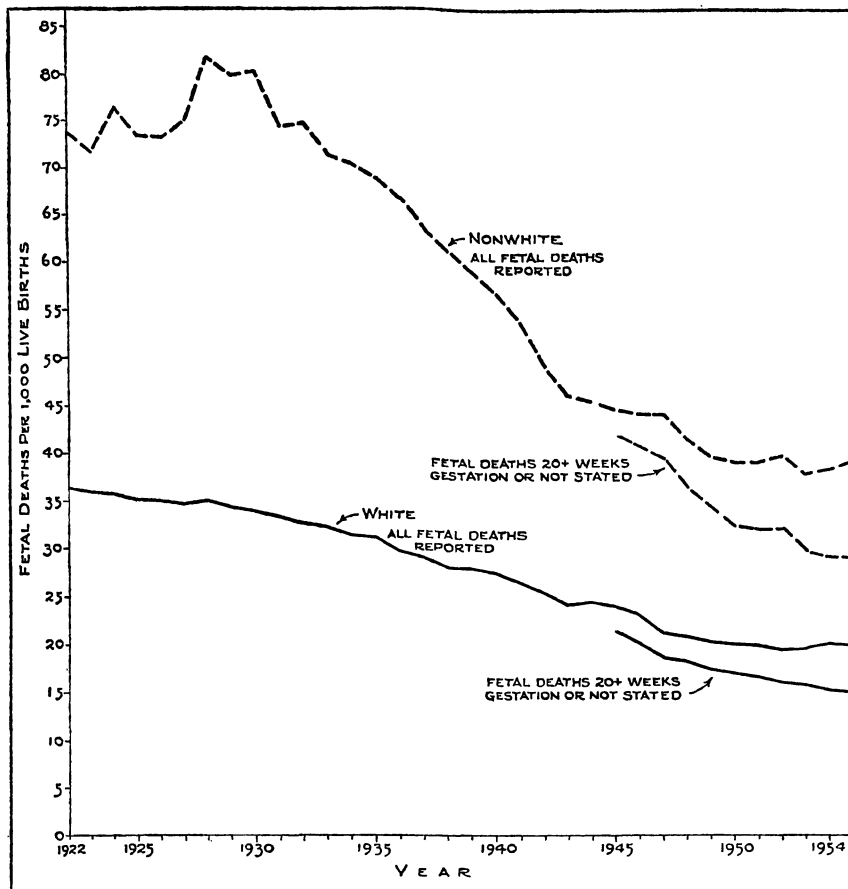


Fig. 21. Annual number of fetal deaths per 1,000 live births reported in the registration area of the United States, by color, 1922-1955. Source: United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare: *VITAL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1955*, Vol. 1, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1957. Table AT.

cases were 457 Negro women referred to the Spartanburg Maternal Health Clinic for contraceptive advice. Of these, 25 per cent had three- or four- plus Wasserman and/or Kahn reactions, and an additional 6 per cent had one- or two- plus reactions.

Stix's comparisons were between 241 women without any pathology which might be expected to affect fertility and 111 women with syphilis but free from serious pelvic or endocrine pathology. The pregnancy rates of the women with syphilis

were consistently and significantly lower than those of women without pathology. The difference was especially striking insofar as rates of first pregnancy are concerned. The pregnancy rate per 100 years of noncontraceptive exposure to the risk of first pregnancy was about 43 per cent lower for the women with syphilis than for those free from syphilis. The rates for later pregnancies were on the average 19 per cent lower for the syphilitic women than for those without syphilis or history thereof. Furthermore, the percentage of pregnancies terminating in involuntary wastage was twice as high (25.7 per cent) among the women with syphilis as among those without syphilis (13.1 per cent). Stix reported substantiating findings from a series of data from New York in 1923 and from Tipton County, Tennessee, in 1930.<sup>11</sup>

Writing in 1944, Samuel L. Siegler, (obstetrician and gynecologist in Brooklyn) stated

The existence of syphilis in the mother, either hereditary or transmitted by the husband, is a cause of abortion in about 7 per cent of cases. The incidence of syphilis varies in different countries and in different groups, and statistics seem to indicate that it is roughly ten times greater in the Negro woman than in the white woman, both in the pregnant and nonpregnant. The history of these patients usually reveals a number of abortions, premature labors, and finally, the delivery of a full-term child either macerated or with congenital syphilis.<sup>12</sup>

Although it seems likely that a cleanup of venereal infection during the past 10 to 15 years has been a material factor in the decrease in childlessness and increase in fertility of young non-white couples, there are doubtless other factors in the problem.

<sup>11</sup> See Stix, R. K.: Syphilis and Uncontrolled Fertility. *The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 42, No. 2, August 1941, pp. 296-303.

Crabtree, J. A. and Bishop, E. L.: Syphilis in a Rural Negro Population in Tennessee. *American Journal of Public Health*, 22, 1932, pp. 157-162.

Health Work for Mothers and Children in a Colored Community. New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. Publication 131, 1924. Tables VIII and IX.

<sup>12</sup> Siegler, Samuel L.: FERTILITY IN WOMEN. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1944, p. 427.

One may well ask, for instance, why childlessness was not particularly high among nonwhites in 1910 and why it increased some time after that date. The writer thinks it likely that the disproportionate amount of childlessness among the Negroes was part and parcel of the early stages of urbanization of the Negro. To some extent the family and personal disorganizations involved in that transition may have been manifested in instability of marriage and increases in venereal diseases and consequent involuntary childlessness.

However, there are two other broad classes of contributing factors and these too may be considered in the context of urbanization. These are (1) selection and (2) voluntary childlessness. With respect to selection, various studies have indicated that couples without children find it easier to move to the city than do those with children. It seems likely that the factor of selection was more important in the early stages of Negro migration than at present. It may have been a more important factor in 1930 and 1940 than in 1950.

As for voluntary childlessness among the nonwhites, several studies of the role of contraception in differential fertility carried out during the thirties and forties suggested that Negroes of the laboring class did not practice contraception very much or very effectively.<sup>13</sup> These observations underlay the hypothesis that the high degree of childlessness among urban Negroes was involuntary and probably symptomatic of medical sterility. This interpretation is consonant with the hypothesis that much of the recent increases in fertility of the young nonwhite couples is attributable to a cleanup of infection from venereal disease. Whatever that situation may be it is likely that voluntary factors account for the high proportion childless among the nonwhite wives of college status or those married to men in professional and clerical occupations.

Among the nonwhites as among the whites, late marriage accounts for some of the high degree of childlessness in the

<sup>13</sup> Beebe, Gilbert W.: *Differential Fertility by Color for Coal Miners in Logan County, West Virginia*. The Milbank Memorial Fund *Quarterly*, 19, No. 3, October 1939, pp. 189-195.

so-called upper classes. There is no doubt that among these groups the deliberate practice of contraception is more common than in other groups. It also seems likely that among all groups the knowledge and use of means of family limitation was more widespread in 1950 than in 1940. That there have been marked increases in the fertility rates of young nonwhite couples would seem to be the result of (a) increases in proportions of couples without medical impairments of fecundity and (b) a greater degree of encouragement to have children than in the years preceding 1940.

#### SUMMARY

Nearly 16 million people were enumerated as nonwhites in the 1950 Census of the United States. Nearly 96 per cent of these were Negroes. During 1940–1955 the crude birth rate increased by 28 per cent for whites and by 30 per cent for nonwhites. The 1940–1955 increases in the gross reproduction rates were 54 per cent for whites and 58 per cent for nonwhites. For both whites and nonwhites the cumulative fertility rates, based on total number of children ever born, were lower in 1950 than in 1940 for women 35 years of age and over; they were higher in 1950 than in 1940 for women under 35 years old. The maximum increases came at ages 25–29 for whites and at ages 15–19 and 20–24 for nonwhites.

Much of the increase in fertility of the young nonwhites has been due to a remarkable decline of childlessness. In 1940, and probably during the preceding 20 years, the proportions childless were conspicuously high among Negroes in urban areas, particularly in large cities. In 1950 the proportions childless were still higher among nonwhites than whites 25 years of age and over; they were lower among nonwhites than whites below age 25. Possibly the former problem of childlessness among urban nonwhites originated in (a) heavy selection of childless couples moving to cities and (b) personal and family disorganization including much venereal infection in the first stages of urbanization. Whatever may have been the reasons for the rise



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and subsequent decrease of childlessness among young Negroes in the United States since 1910, it is apparent that the recent declines in childlessness and the recent increases in fertility of young nonwhite couples have occurred during a period of medical discoveries and community action for reduction of venereal disease. They have occurred in the context of advances in the economic, educational, and civic status of the nonwhites in the United States.

The trends and differentials in fertility of nonwhites by educational attainment of the wife and occupation group of the husband have been much the same as those observed for whites. In general, the 1940–1950 per cent increases in proportions married at young ages and the increases in marital fertility of young women were directly associated with socio-economic status. Nevertheless, the inverse relation of fertility to socio-economic status still existed in 1950 among nonwhites as well as whites.