

TRENDS AND DIFFERENTIALS IN THE AMERICAN AGE AT MARRIAGE

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The age at marriage has undergone remarkable changes in the United States during the last two decades. These include the sharp decline in the age at marriage during the decade 1940–1950, a slight continuation of this trend in 1950–1960, and significant changes in the marriage patterns for subgroups of the population during both decades. Each decade was unique and distinctive in its influence on the historic trends relating to the age at marriage. Together, the two decades seem outstanding in introducing a new early marriage pattern into the changing structure of the family.

RECENT TREND

First Marriage

The earliest reliable estimates of the average age at marriage in the United States are available for the year 1890, when the median age at first marriage was 26.1 years for males and 22.0 years for females (Table 1). The next 50 years saw a gradual decline in these ages to 24.4 and 21.5, respectively, in 1940, with a slight interruption of the trend during the 1930s. The decline in the age at marriage was faster among males than among females, thus reducing

TABLE I. TRENDS IN MEDIAN AND QUARTILE AGES AT FIRST MARRIAGE FOR THE UNITED STATES TOTAL POPULATION AND SUBGROUPS*

Census Year	Males					Females				Difference in Male and Female Median Ages
	Median	First Quartile Q ₁	Third Quartile Q ₃	Inter- quartile Range Q ₃ - Q ₁	Median	First Quartile Q ₁	Third Quartile Q ₃	Inter- quartile Range Q ₃ - Q ₁	Median	
Total population										
1890	26.1				22.0					4.1
1900	25.9				21.9					4.0
1910	25.1	22.2	31.6	9.4	21.6	19.1	26.5	7.4		3.5
1920	24.5	21.5	30.3	8.8	21.2	18.8	25.9	7.1		3.3
1930	24.2	21.7	29.3	7.6	21.3	18.8	25.7	6.9		2.9
1940	24.4	21.9	29.1	7.2	21.5	19.0	25.9	6.9		2.9
1950	22.9	20.9	26.6	5.7	20.2	18.4	23.0	4.6		2.7
1960	22.3	20.4	25.8	5.4	20.0	18.4	22.4	4.0		2.3
Urban										
1940	24.7	22.2	29.4	7.2	22.2	19.6	26.9	7.3		2.5
1950	23.0	21.0	26.7	5.7	20.6	18.7	23.5	4.8		2.4
1960	22.3	20.4	25.8	5.4	20.1	18.5	22.6	4.1		2.2
Rural nonfarm										
1940	23.5	21.3	27.7	6.4	20.4	18.5	24.1	5.6		3.1
1950	22.4	20.7	25.4	4.7	19.3	17.9	21.6	3.7		3.1
1960	22.2	20.3	25.2	4.9	19.3	18.0	21.2	3.2		2.9
Rural farm										
1940	24.3	21.7	29.7	8.0	20.7	18.5	24.3	5.8		3.6
1950	23.2	21.0	27.5	6.5	19.5	18.1	22.1	4.0		3.7
1960	23.3	21.1	27.8	6.7	20.2	18.7	22.6	3.9		3.1
Nonwhites										
1940	22.9	20.7	28.3	7.6	20.2	18.1	24.6	6.5		2.7
1950	22.6	20.2	26.5	6.3	19.6	17.8	23.0	5.2		3.0
1960	22.7	20.5	27.3	6.8	20.3	18.5	23.6	5.1		2.4

* The medians and quartiles are computed from the census data on marital status by single years of age. If P is the proportion of the population who ever marry—here taken to be the proportion ever married in the age group 45 to 54—the median age is the age at which the proportion ever married is exactly P/2. It is obtained by interpolating between the proportions ever married by single years of age.

Sources: computed from 1. U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population: 1960, Detailed Characteristics*—U. S. Summary, Final Report PC(1)-1D, Washington, D.C., 1963, pp. 424-434. 2. U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population: 1960, Vol. II, Characteristics of the Population, Part 1: U. S. Summary*, Washington, D.C., 1953, pp. 179-188. 3. U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population: 1940, Vol. IV, Characteristics by Age, Part 1: U. S. Summary*, Washington, D.C., pp. 17-20 and 22-24. Data for 1890 and 1900 are taken from: 4. U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports—Population Characteristics*, Series P-20, No. 122, March 22, 1963, Washington, D.C., p. 2.

the interval between the median ages of husband and wife from 4.1 years in 1890 to 2.9 years in 1940. The greatest decline in the age at marriage, however, occurred for both sexes during the next decade, 1940-1950. After 1950, the marital age declined slightly,¹

but once again more for males than for females. In 1960 the male and female median ages at marriage were 22.3 and 20.0, respectively, narrowing down the difference between their average ages to 2.3 years.

These median ages are computed from the proportion of ever-married persons in the population by single years of age, available from the census. Another possible evidence is the marriage registration data based on the issuance of marriage licenses. The latter source, however, is incomplete in the United States, and the two differ slightly in the ideas they convey about the age at marriage. Whereas the median age computed from the census is largely independent of the population age distribution, the one derived from the registration data is directly affected by the changes in the age structure of the population. The registration median rests on the experience of people of all ages marrying at a given time, while the census figure depends excessively on people whose present age is close to the median age. Both measures can be affected by migration.

The registration data in the United States provide only limited information by way of trend in the age at marriage. What is available for the recent period is confined to 22 reporting states for the period 1955-1959 (Table 2). However, this confirms the decline in

TABLE 2. MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE BY SEX FROM REGISTRATION DATA FOR 22 REPORTING STATES, 1955-1959

<i>Year</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Difference</i>
1955-59	22.9	20.2	2.7
1955 ↓	23.2	20.4	2.8
[1956	23.1	20.3	2.8
1957	22.9	20.2	2.7
1958	22.6	20.0	2.6
↑1959	22.6	20.0	2.6
1959 (Adj)*	22.7	20.4	2.3

* Standardized for the 1950 population age distribution, adjusting for the change in the population age distribution between 1950 and 1960. Actually the adjustment was carried out with the data on 27 reporting states, for which the number of marriages by age and sex were available (same source, p. 60), but otherwise had the same unadjusted median ages in 1959 as the 22 states to which the rest of the data belong.

Source: National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1959*, Vol. I, Section 2, Washington, D.C., p. 19.

the age at marriage for both males and females, though the result could be influenced by the changes in the population age distribution. The 1959 registered median age at first marriage was, therefore, adjusted to conform to the 1950 population age distribution, accounting for the change in the age distribution between 1950 and 1960. For males the adjustment leaves the 1959 median age unaltered, whereas for females the 1959 adjusted median age coincides with the actual median age for 1955. Thus the decline in the registered median age from 1955 to 1959 can be explained to some extent by the changing age distribution for females, but not for males. This is consistent with our earlier finding based on the census data that the age of males at first marriage continued to decline

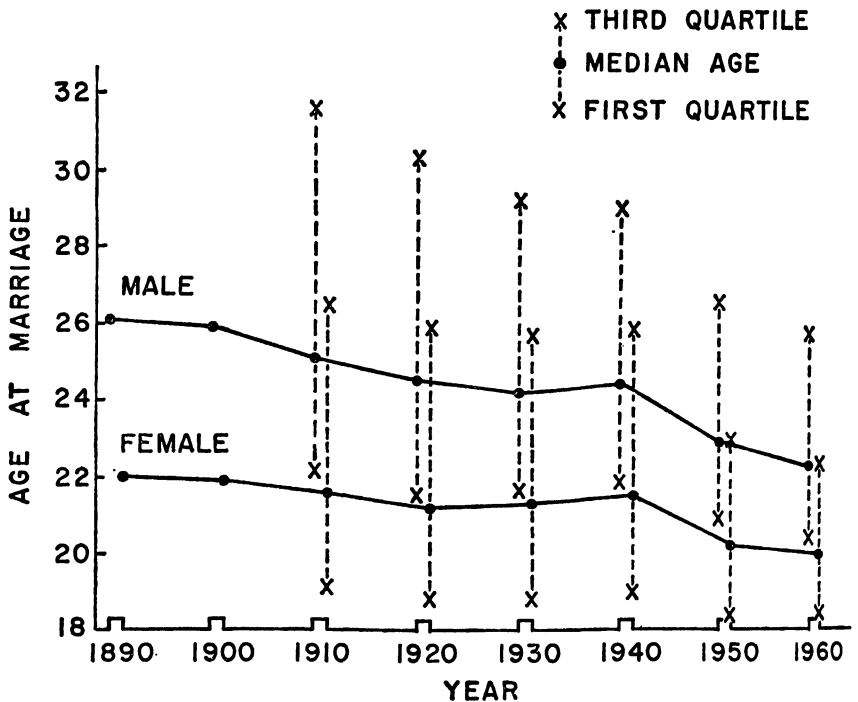


Figure 1. Trends in the median and quartile ages at first marriage and interquartile ranges for males and females.

through 1960 at a rate faster than that of females, and that the change in the marriage habits of females, as indicated by the median age, was not very substantial. The observed decline in the registered median age at marriage among females was due to the change in the age distribution of the population as a result of increased fertility in the early 1940s, which eventually raised the proportion of marriageable girls in the early ages—ages at which it is still too early for boys to marry. As the bigger hump of the postwar “baby-boom” has yet to enter the marriageable ages, in itself it will soon have a tendency to lower the registered median age at first marriage for both men and women. Moreover, inherent in the growth of population is the tendency for boys and girls to be closer together in age at marriage. As the swelling numbers of each successive cohort of girls first become available for marriage, the earlier cohorts of boys are relatively smaller and hence numerically unable to respond completely. This may lead girls to find their choice among relatively younger boys. Also, female competition for marriage partners is thus enhanced, and the mere consciousness of this fact may result in earlier marriages for both sexes.

To give some idea of the distribution of the marriage ages, Table 1 gives the first and third quartiles, which are the ages at which 25 per cent and 75 per cent, respectively, of those who ever marry are married. The shifts in the entire marriage age distributions toward earlier ages is obvious from the general declines in both quartiles for either sex. During the decade 1950–1960 the first quartile age at marriage continued to decline for males, but not for females. This again supports the previous claim of increasing popularity of young marriages among males during this later period. Strikingly enough, the tendency toward earlier marriages for both sexes is accompanied by another trend exhibited by the continuous fall in the interquartile range, which suggests concentration of marriages within a narrower range of ages. In other words, the age at marriage as a cultural norm seems to be passing through the same process of standardization which has hitherto affected other aspects of the American way of life (Figure 1).

Remarriage

Remarriages constitute a substantial proportion of all marriages in the United States. According to a population survey conducted in 1953, 30 per cent of all marriages from January 1950 to April 1953 were remarriages for either party, and in 13 per cent of all marriages both parties had been married before.² There has been an increasing trend in the proportion of remarriages since about the time of World War I, as a result of an increased contribution of divorced men and women to remarriages.³

The data available on the age at remarriage are more restrictive than those for first marriages, being limited to information from marriage registration and special surveys. These are greatly affected both by the changing age distribution of eligible persons for remarriage, and by the inconsistencies in the number of reporting states. The available data suggest a trend toward increase in the age at remarriage since 1947 (Table 3). This may be due in small part

TABLE 3. MEDIAN AGE AT REMARRIAGE BY SEX, 1947-1953 AND 1955-1959*

Year	Median Age at Remarriage	
	Groom	Bride
1947	37.1	32.0
1948	37.3	31.8
1949	39.0	32.3
1950	39.0	33.9
1951	39.5	32.9
1952	39.9	35.4
1953	41.3	33.3
1955	39.1	34.5
1956	39.4	34.9
1957	39.7	35.3
1958	39.7	35.3
1959	39.5	35.2

* The median ages for 1947-53 and 1955-59 are derived from different sources and are not comparable. The former are based on a survey covering the entire country and refer to remarriages occurring between January 1947 and June 1954. The latter are based on the registration data for 22 reporting states.

Sources: 1. National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics—Special Reports*, Vol. 45, No. 12, Sept. 9, 1957, Washington, D.C., p. 332. 2. National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1959*, Vol. I, Section 2, Washington, D.C., p. 19.

TABLE 4. MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE AND REMARRIAGE BY SEX AND RACE, FOR 27 REPORTING STATES IN 1959*

Race	First Marriage		Remarriage	
	Groom	Bride	Groom	Bride
All races	22.6	20.0	39.8	35.4
White	22.5	19.9	39.3	35.1
Nonwhite	23.2	20.5	42.9	37.6
Negro	23.0	20.4	43.0	37.8
other races	25.9	22.4	39.7	32.1

* The median ages are computed from data by single years of age.

Source: National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1959*, Vol. I, Section 2, Washington, D.C., p. 19.

to a rise in the number of third and higher remarriages. More likely, it is partly due to the changing age distribution of remarriage eligibles, as verified by standardizing the 1959 median age at remarriage for the 1950 age distribution of remarriage eligibles for 27 reporting states.⁴ The observed median ages for the bride and the groom, which were 35.4 and 39.8, respectively, were reduced to 34.3 and 39.2 on standardization. Thus, in the long run, with the decreasing proportion of widowed persons among remarriage eligibles affecting their age distribution, a long-term trend toward earlier age at remarriage may be expected. It is possible that the age at remarriage around 1947 was unduly low on account of the marriage boom and the early marriages of the 1940s, many of which ultimately proved to be unstable as revealed by a corresponding rise in the divorce rate in the immediate subsequent period.⁵ The excess of these young divorced persons in the population could result in the earlier age at remarriage in the corresponding period. The increasing trend in the age at remarriage since 1947 could then only be a return to the original more stable pattern.

The remarriage rate is higher among nonwhites than among whites, and yet the age at remarriage is higher among the former (Table 4). The higher age at remarriage of nonwhites seems to be due to: 1. the greater proportion of widowed persons among the nonwhites who remarry, for widowed persons generally have a later

age at remarriage than do divorced persons; and 2. the fact that the median age of husband and wife at the time of divorce is about 2.4 years higher among nonwhites than among whites.⁶

DIFFERENTIALS IN THE AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE

The age at first marriage discussed in the earlier part of this paper refers to the national average which, of course, is subject to variation between subgroups of the population. For a better understanding of the age at marriage, including the national trends themselves, we shall deal here with regional and racial variations.

Rural-Urban Differences

The decade 1950–1960 was significant in introducing a new phase of the rural-urban differential in age at marriage, distinct for each sex (Table 1 and Figure 2). Among males, both in 1940 and 1950, there was very little difference in the age at marriage as between the urban and rural farm populations. The age was relatively earlier in the rural nonfarm areas. During the same period, urban females had a higher median age at marriage compared to the two rural subgroups which were similar in this respect. However, between 1940 and 1950, the rate of decline in the age at marriage was the fastest in the urban areas, which continued for another decade during 1950–1960. In 1960, among males, the urban age at marriage was close to that of the rural nonfarm population, which has characteristically remained the lowest. The rural farm age at marriage was relatively higher.

The discussion of rural-urban differentials in marital age during 1950–1960 is complicated by the change in the farm definition, which reduced the rural farm population 14 years old and over by about 20 per cent.⁷ Since the reduction mainly added to the rural nonfarm category, it left those most characteristic of the agrarian situation. This may have contributed to the sharp rise in the age at marriage of rural farm females. However, a part of the explanation seems to lie in the inadequacy of our index, the median age at marriage computed from the proportion of single persons

in the population by age, which evidently is affected by rural-urban migration. The rural farm group is particularly vulnerable in this respect because of its relatively smaller size. It is true that the economic stagnation in the rural farm sector during the earlier half of the last decade may have contributed to postponement of marriage.⁸ The same could also induce migration of single persons to cities, and the two trends would have opposite effects on the median age at marriage. However, the latter half of the decade, and particularly the semi-depression of 1957-1958, was relatively harder on the urban and the rural nonfarm population, and especially the new entrants into the labor market. This may have caused return migration from the young and unmarried floating population in the

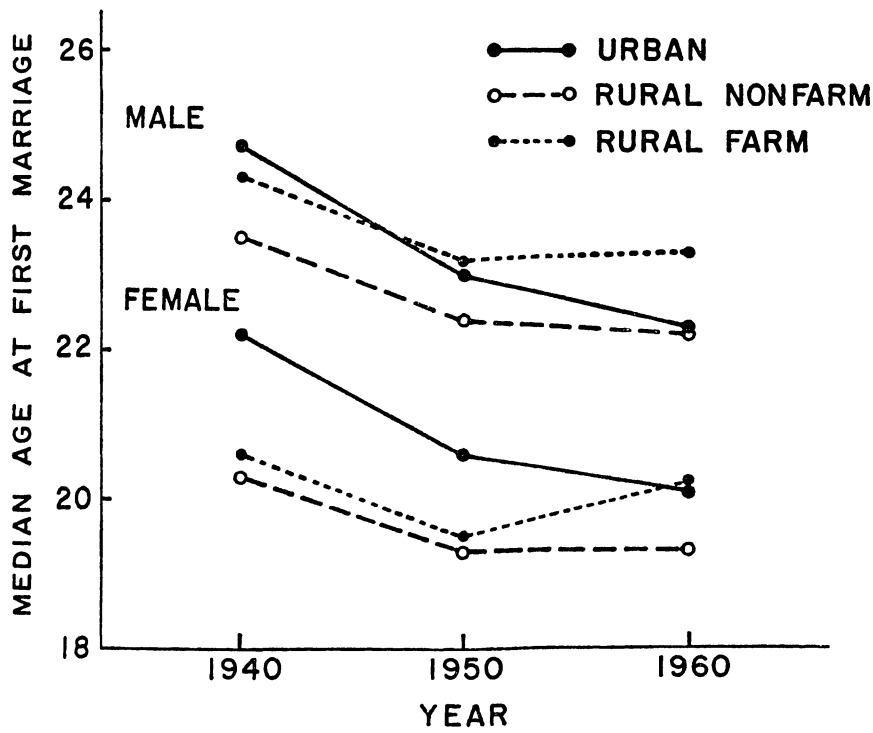


Figure 2. Trends and differentials in the age at marriage for each sex by type of residence.

cities, and probably arrested the migration of the new aspirants into the cities. This could account for the rise in the rural farm median age at marriage, which is conspicuous for females.

Racial Variation

Nonwhite women consistently had a median age at first marriage about one year lower than that for white women until the early 1940s, after which the difference became smaller.⁹ Most of the reduction in the difference was brought about by the fall in the age at marriage among whites. In 1950, nonwhites still had a younger median age at first marriage for both males and females (Table 1), but by 1960 the situation was reversed. This resulted from the continued decline in the marital age of white males, whereas among females it was the rise in the nonwhite age at marriage which contributed the major change. The reversal is also observed when the survey or registration data are considered.¹⁰ However, in this situation, the reason seems to be the fall in the age at marriage among whites for both sexes. As mentioned earlier, this interpretation is influenced by the changing age distribution of the population during this period, which has had a definite effect on the female registered age at marriage. The distinctly higher dispersion in the age at marriage of nonwhites compared to whites is striking. In 1950, it was due to a relatively higher proportion of nonwhite men and women marrying in their teens. This was no longer true in 1960, when the proportion marrying during their teens was almost identical for the two races. However, the greater variability in the age at marriage of nonwhites was maintained by the relatively higher proportion of these men and women marrying in their thirties or later.

Geographical Variation

Prominent in the geographical variation is the relatively late marriage in the northeast region as compared to the early marriage pattern of the South.¹¹ The pattern is repeated in 1959, when again a higher age at marriage is observed among states in the northeast region, for both sexes, and for both whites and nonwhites (Table 5

TABLE 5. MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE BY SEX, COLOR, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION, FOR 29 REPORTING STATES IN 1959

Geographic Division and State	Color*	Median Age at First Marriage		Geographic Division and State	Color*	Median Age at First Marriage		
		Groom	Bride			Groom	Bride	
All reporting states	T†	22.7	20.1	Georgia	T†	22.0	19.5	
	W	22.7	20.1		W	21.9	19.3	
	N	23.2	20.6		N	22.5	20.3	
New England: Connecticut	T†	24.0	21.5	Maryland	T†	22.8	19.9	
	W	24.0	21.5		W	22.6	19.6	
	N	24.7	22.3		N	24.6	21.8	
Maine	T	22.5	19.7	Virginia	T	22.8	20.7	
New Hampshire	T	22.7	20.1		W	22.7	20.7	
Rhode Island	T	23.4	21.2		N	23.2	20.6	
Vermont	T	22.6	19.9	East South Central: Alabama	T	22.0	19.2	
Middle Atlantic: New York (excl. N.Y. City)	T	23.4	20.7		W	21.9	18.9	
	W	23.3	20.7		N	22.7	20.0	
	N	24.0	21.6	Mississippi	T	22.0	19.2	
Pennsylvania	T†	23.8	21.5		W	22.0	19.1	
	W	23.8	21.5		N	21.9	19.3	
	N	24.3	21.6	Tennessee	T	22.1	19.6	
East North Central: Michigan	T	22.6	20.0		W	22.1	19.6	
	W	22.5	20.0		N	22.6	20.3	
	N	24.0	20.6	West South Central: Louisiana	T	22.2	19.5	
Wisconsin	T	23.0**	20.5**		W	22.2	19.4	
	W	22.1	19.7		N	22.4	19.9	
	Kansas	T†	22.0	19.5	Mountain: Idaho	T	21.5	18.9
W	22.0	19.5	Montana	T		22.7	19.6	
N	22.8	19.9	Utah	T		22.2	19.5	
Nebraska	T	22.6	20.1	Wyoming	T	22.6	19.6	
South Dakota	T	22.8	19.9	Pacific: California	T	22.6	19.9	
South Atlantic: Delaware	T	22.8	20.5		W	22.5	19.8	
	W	22.7	20.5		N	24.2	21.0	
	N	23.6	20.9	Oregon	T	22.0	19.5	
Florida	T	22.9	20.0		Alaska	T†	23.4	19.8
	W	22.8	19.8		W	23.0	19.7	
	N	23.4	20.7	N	24.5	20.0		

* T stands for total population, W for whites and N for nonwhites.

† Data include marriages for which color was not stated.

** Includes previously annulled marriages.

(The median ages are computed from data by single years of age by place of occurrence. Whites and nonwhites are shown separately for those states in which the 1950 population for nonwhite formed 10 per cent or more of the total or numbered 50,000 or more.)

Source: National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1959*, Section 2, Washington, D.C., p. 21.

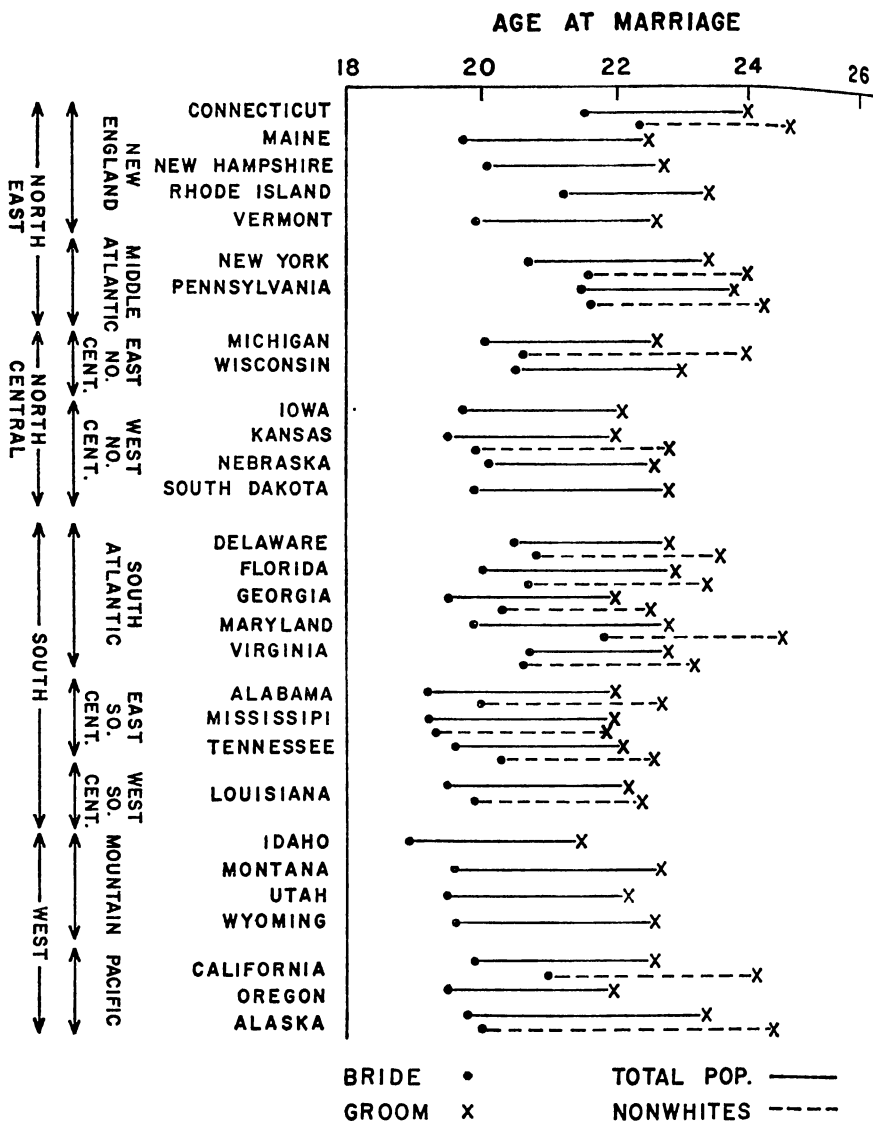


Figure 3. Median age at first marriage of bride and groom by geographic division for the total population as well as nonwhites.

and Figure 3). Even when dealing with individual states, the analysis has to be carried out in a broader regional context, since the marriages for individual states are likely to be affected by the inter-

state migration for marriage. This is particularly important with the special characteristics of these migrant marriages, which seek to avoid difficulties in their own state. Among whites, the states with distinctly higher age at marriage for both males and females were Connecticut, New York (excluding New York City), Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island, all of which belong to the northeast region. Among nonwhites, in addition to the northeast, all reporting states (with the exception of Georgia) in the South Atlantic, namely, Delaware, Florida, Maryland, and Virginia, and California in the Pacific region, had a relatively higher median age at marriage. Usually, the states with a higher age at marriage of the groom were also those where the age at marriage of the bride was high. As a result, there is almost no geographical variation in the difference between bride and groom in median age at marriage. Even between the states, the difference varies within the relatively narrow range of 2.0 to 3.1 years for whites and 2.2 to 3.4 years for nonwhites. Consistent with the earlier finding, nonwhites are seen to have a higher median age at marriage in 1959 in all reporting states, excepting males in Mississippi and females in Virginia.

CONCLUSION

Although this paper traces the historic trends in the age at marriage in the United States, one of its main objectives is to analyze the trends after 1950 in the context of a sharp decline in the age at marriage during the decade 1940–1950.¹² For the period after 1950, data from the dual sources of census and registration provide ample evidence of continued decline in the age at marriage among males, though the magnitude of change was small compared to the earlier decade. Among females, the age at marriage computed from the census did not show any substantial change after 1950; the registration data did suggest a decline in the median age at marriage, but this was an outcome of the changing age distribution which had an increased proportion of young marriageable girls. The narrowing of the interquartile range (the span of ages within

which 50 per cent of all marriages take place) over the last half century or more indicates that the age at marriage in the United States is undergoing a process of standardization whereby people tend to marry within a smaller span of ages.

Although remarriages constitute an increasing proportion of all marriages in the United States, the age at remarriage has been rising since 1947. This may seem contradictory, especially when the former fact is due to an increased contribution of divorced persons to remarriages, who generally have an earlier age at remarriage than the widowed. Standardization suggests that the rise in the age at remarriage is at least partly due to the changing age distribution of remarriage eligibles. It is possible that the age at remarriage around 1947 was unduly low because of the excess of young divorced persons in the population following the marriage boom and early marriages of the 1940s, many of which proved to be short-lived. The increase in the age at remarriage since 1947 may then be only a return to the original more stable pattern.

The trends in the age at marriage vary significantly for various subgroups of the population. As a result, the last decade saw the introduction of new intergroup patterns in the age at first marriage. Among the urban, rural farm, and rural nonfarm populations, the urban showed the fastest decline in the age at marriage for two consecutive decades from 1940–1960. Hence, by 1960 urban areas were no longer characterized by relatively late marriage, whereas the age at marriage continued to remain the lowest in rural nonfarm populations.

The decline in the age at marriage during the decade 1950–1960 was entirely due to the country's white population. Nonwhite males showed no trend, while nonwhite females showed a rise in the age at marriage. This had the effect of reversing the traditional pattern of racial differential in the age at first marriage. For the first time, around 1960, the age at marriage was lower among whites than among nonwhites, and the same pattern was repeated in almost each state. The geographic variation reveals no substantial deviation from the earlier pattern of relatively late marriage in the northeast region.

REFERENCES

¹ This is based on the median ages at first marriage computed from the 1960 census, and is in disagreement with the Current Population Survey (CPS) data. The CPS shows no change in the median age at first marriage since 1950, though there is general agreement for earlier years. The former seems consistent with other evidences which will be considered presently. For the CPS median ages, see U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports—Population Characteristics*, Washington, D. C., Series P-20, No. 122, March 22, 1963, p. 2.

² Monahan, Thomas P., *Changing Nature and Instability of Remarriages*, *Eugenics Quarterly*, 5, 76, June, 1958.

³ Jacobson, Paul H., *AMERICAN MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE*, New York, Rinehart and Company, Inc., 1959, p. 71.

⁴ The data on age at remarriage by single years of age were taken from U. S. National Office of Vital Statistics, *VITAL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES*, 1959, Washington, D. C., Vol. I, p. 60.

⁵ Jacobson, *op. cit.*, p. 90, Table 42.

⁶ U. S. National Office of Vital Statistics, *VITAL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES*, 1959, Washington, D. C., Vol. I, Section 2, p. 22.

⁷ U. S. Bureau of the Census, *CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS—POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS*, Washington, D. C., Series P-20, No. 105, p. 3, November 2, 1960.

⁸ The median total money incomes of families and unrelated individuals in households increased by 0.7 per cent in the rural farm and 23.9 per cent in urban and rural nonfarm areas during 1950–1954, whereas these percentages were 37.9 and 20.2, respectively, during 1954–1958. Cf. U. S. Bureau of the Census, *CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS*, Washington, D. C., Series P-60, No. 35, p. 34, Table 34, January 5, 1961.

⁹ Glick, Paul C., *AMERICAN FAMILIES*, New York, U. S. Bureau of the Census, The Census Monograph Series, 1957, p. 58.

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¹⁰ The median ages at first marriage among whites and nonwhites were, respectively, 24.2 and 23.8 for males, and 20.8 and 20.5 for females, for marriages between January 1947 and June 1954; computed from U. S. National Office of Vital Statistics, VITAL STATISTICS—SPECIAL REPORTS, Washington, D. C., Vol. 45, No. 12, September 9, 1957, pp. 339–341. The median ages for 1959 have been presented earlier in Table 4.

¹¹ This can be seen from the data on the age at marriage of couples with first marriage between January 1947 and June 1954 in U. S. National Office of Vital Statistics, VITAL STATISTICS—SPECIAL REPORTS, Washington, D. C., Vol. 45, No. 12, September 9, 1957, p. 313.

¹² Certain concomitants of these trends in the age at marriage are discussed separately in Rele, J.R., Some Correlates of the Age at Marriage in the United States, *Eugenics Quarterly*, 12, 1–6, March, 1965.

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