

Marriage Then Carriage?

Marital and Fertility Patterns Among Women by Birth Cohort

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BACKGROUND

- Women are delaying marriage, with an increasing number opting out entirely.¹ While these changes are seen among all racial and Hispanic origin groups, Black women have experienced pronounced changes in their marital patterns.²
- Women are also delaying fertility, largely attributed to reduced birth rates among teenage mothers and mothers in their twenties. This fertility trend generally holds true when examined by race and Hispanic origin, however; White women tend to be older at the birth of their first child than their counterparts.³
- It is not clear how these changing patterns interact, specifically among recent birth cohorts of women. Yet, significant changes in initial family formation may be most evident among White women, as their non-marital fertility has been increasing while remaining stable for other groups.⁴

Among White, non-Hispanic women, those born in the 1970s were **more** likely to have *had child(ren), then married* than those born in the 1940s.

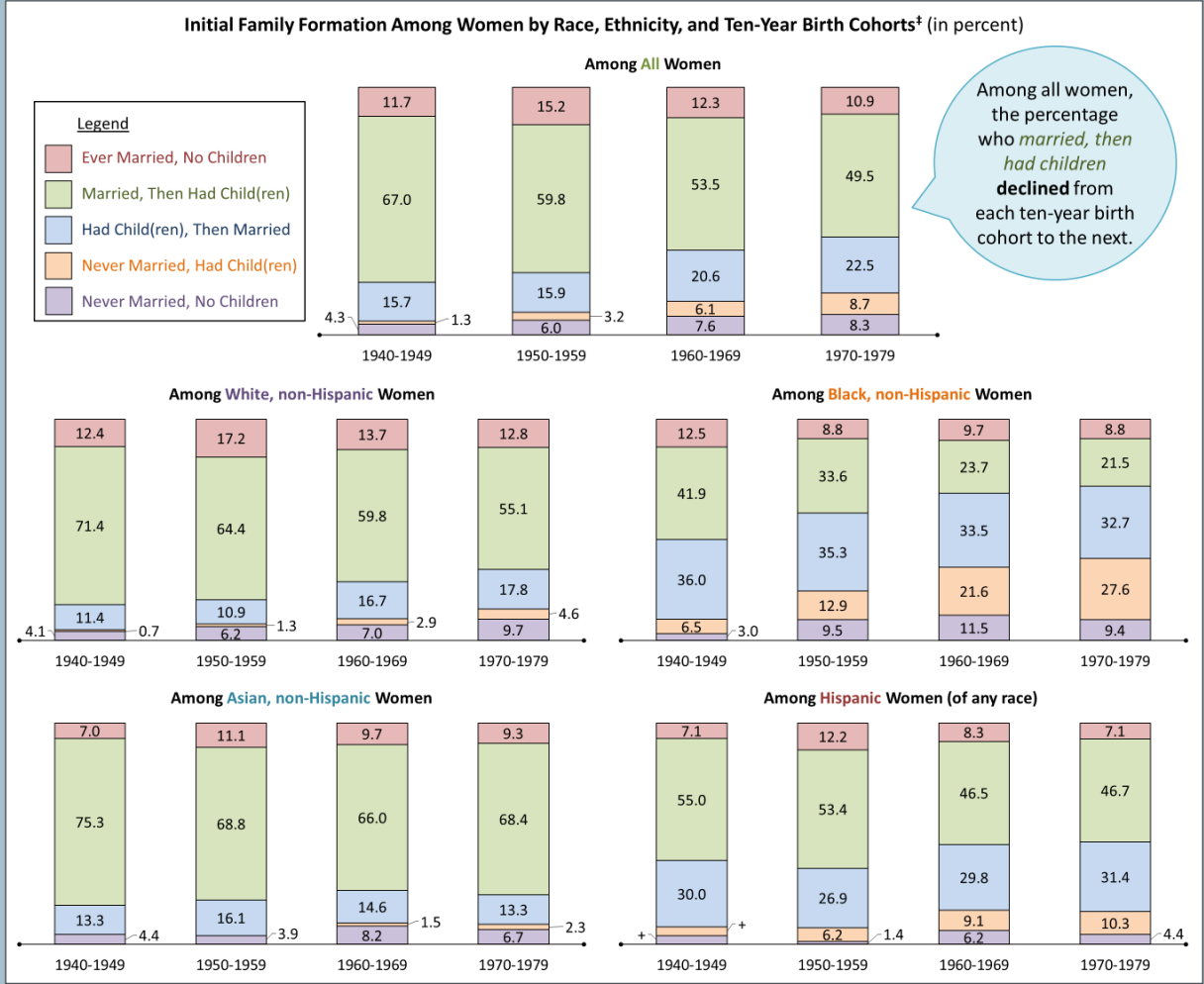
HYPOTHESES

- H1:** The percentage who *never married* – both *those who had children* and *those who did not* – will **increase** from each cohort to the next.
- H2:** While the percentage of women who *married, then had child(ren)* will **decrease**, the percentage who *had child(ren), then married* will **increase** from each cohort to the next.

The percentage who *had child(ren), then married* **did not differ** across birth cohorts for Black, non-Hispanic, Asian, non-Hispanic and Hispanic women.

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[†] Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group, such as Asian, may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone or in-combination concept). The body of this poster (text and figures) presents data using the first approach (race alone).
+ Suppressed for disclosure avoidance.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 Survey of Income and Program Participation

DATA AND SAMPLE

- The 2022 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).
- Women born 1940 to 1979.

VARIABLE NOTES

- Adults are included as having children if they have had at least one biological child.
- Timing is captured using age in months at first birth and at first marriage.
- Had child(ren), then married* includes those whose first child was born in at least two months before month of first marriage.
- Married, then had child(ren)* includes those whose first child was born in the month prior to, or the month of first marriage.

Among Black, non-Hispanic and Hispanic women, the percentage in each of the initial family formation groups **did not differ** between those born in the 1960s and those born in the 1970s.

FINDINGS AND SUMMARY

- The percentage of all women who *never married and had child(ren)* **increased** from each birth cohort to the next.
- Among White, non-Hispanic women, there was a **decrease** in the percentage of who *married, then had child(ren)* and an **increase** in the percentage who *never married and had child(ren)* from each birth cohort to the next.
- Among Black, non-Hispanic women, those born in the 1940s were the **least** likely to be *never married and had child(ren)* and *never married and not had children*.
- The *ever married and did not have children, married, then had child(ren), had child(ren), then married, and never married and did not have children* rates **did not differ** across birth cohorts for Asian, non-Hispanic women.
- Among Hispanic women, while those born in the 1940s were **more** likely to have *married, then had child(ren)* than their counterparts born in the 1970s, there is **not a consistent decline** from each birth cohort to the next.



This poster is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion. Any views expressed are those of the authors and not those of the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Data Management System (DMS) number: P-7516454, Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB-FY24-POP001-0042. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing, and, unless otherwise noted, all comparisons are statistically significant at the 10 percent significance level. Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. For technical documentation and more information about SIPP data quality, please visit the SIPP website's Technical Documentation page at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation.html.>

