

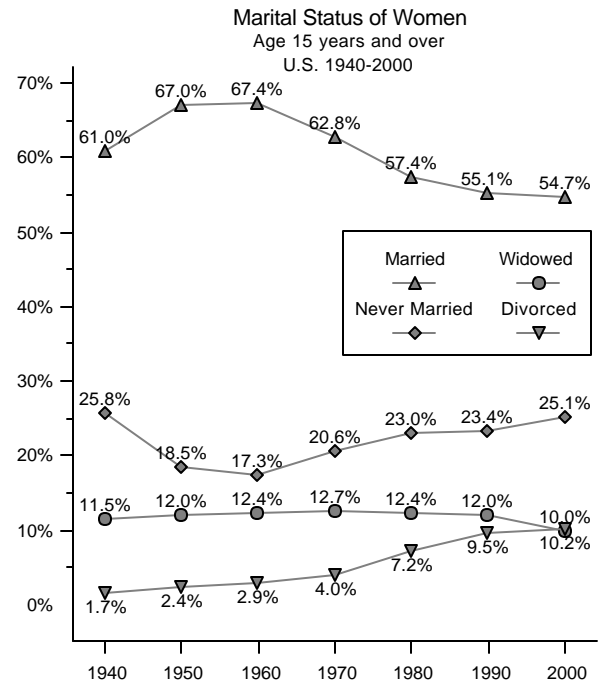
Fact Sheet

MARITAL STATUS OF U.S. WOMEN

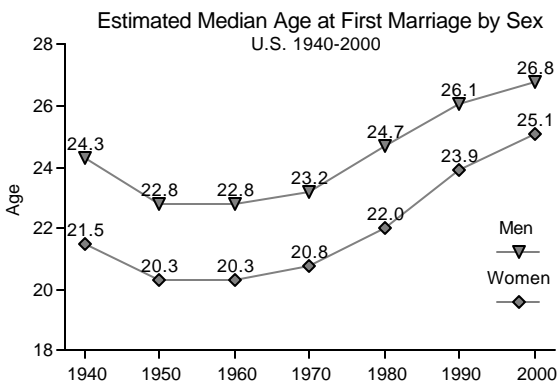
Marital Status of Women

The proportion of U.S. women age 15 years and over who are married, single (never married), widowed or divorced has varied over the decades.

- The highest levels of married and the lowest levels of never married women occurred in 1950 and 1960.
- Divorce has become more widespread. Ten percent (10.2%) of women were divorced in 2000, compared to less than 2 percent (1.7%) in 1940.
- Larger proportions of women were widowed than men. In 2000, the percent of women who were widowed was 4 times higher than the percent of men who were widowed (10.0% vs. 2.5%).



Median Age of First Marriage by Sex



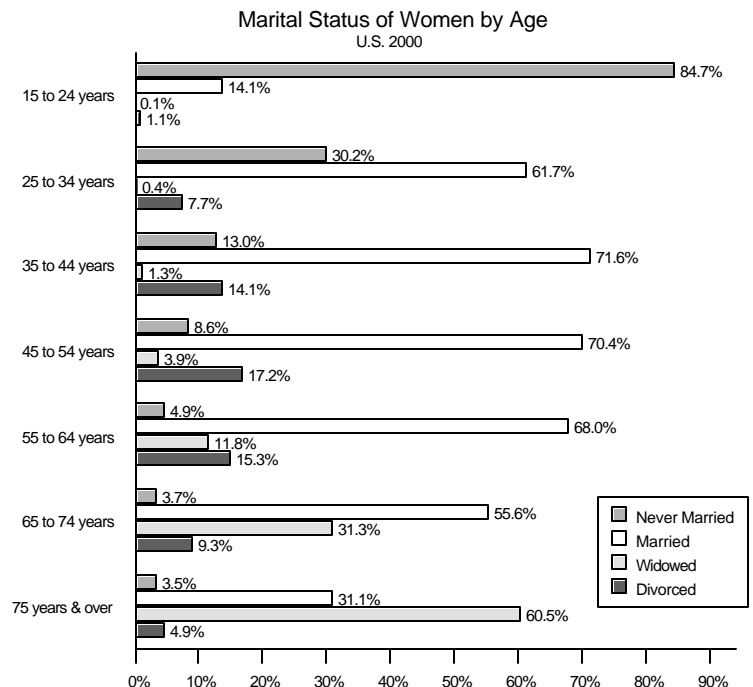
U.S. women have a lower median age at first marriage than men.

- Median age of first marriage decreased significantly after 1940 and was lowest in 1950 and 1960.
- Since 1960, median age of first marriage has increased for both sexes. In 2000, the age was 25.1 years for women and 26.8 years for men.

Marital Status of Women by Age

The marital status of U.S. women varies widely by age.

- In 2000, 84.7 percent of women age 15 to 24 years were never married. In comparison, 13.0 percent of women age 35 to 44 years were never married. The percentage of women who were never married decreases as age increases and remains relatively constant for those age 55 years and over.
- In 2000, the proportion of women who were married was highest for women age 35 to 44 years. Similar proportions of women age 45 to 54 years and age 55 to 64 years were married. In 2000, approximately 7 in 10 women age 35 to 64 years were married.
- In 2000, over 3 in 10 women age 65 to 74 years and 6 in 10 women age 75 years and over were widowed. The proportion of women who were widowed increased significantly after age 45 to 54 years.
- In 2000, 17.2 percent of women age 45 to 54 years were divorced, the highest proportion of divorced women in all age groups.



Data compiled from the U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports.