

# THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty" II COR. 3:17

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## Most of us are the marrying kind, census says

■ Report says 9 in 10 Americans will wed at least once; education levels are tied to marital likelihood, success.

By Genaro C. Armas

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The more educated you are, the more likely you are to marry.

Among younger men, having an older wife is becoming more common.

And while half of first marriages end in divorce, nine of 10 Americans are expected to say "I do" at least once in their lives, a Census Bureau report released Thursday shows.

The report, from a 1996 survey, provides "comprehensive, historically rich data" on marriage and

divorce, said University of Michigan sociologist Pamela Smock. In the main, she said, "it confirms things that many American people are aware of."

Among the long-held trends reinforced in the census report:

■ While divorce has become more common, so has the tendency for divorcees to remarry. First marriages that end in divorce typically last about eight years.

■ Younger generations of Americans are delaying marriage until later in life.

"People no longer feel they have to rush down the aisle," said Mar-

shall Miller, co-founder of the Boston-based Alternatives to Marriage Project. "The earlier people are married, the more likely they are to get divorced."

Which partly explains why more educated people tend to stay married, Miller said. His rationale: they are more mature when they tie the knot, and presumably have spent more time courting their future spouse.

In the fall of 1996, 92 out of 1,000 never-married men ages 25 to 44 with a bachelor's degree got married within a year, compared with 59 out of 1,000 men of the same age with just a high school degree.

And, among never-married

women ages 25 to 44 with a college degree, 15 out of 1,000 divorced within a year, compared with 30 out of 1,000 women with just a high school diploma.

Long-held stereotypes of family makeup are slowly dissolving, said David Popenoe of the National Marriage Project, a think tank at Rutgers University. The group studies marriage trends and ways of strengthening marriage, he said.

"In the past, guys would look for a stay-at-home housewife," he said. "Young guys today are looking for someone with some money — and that requires an education."

Roughly nine out of 10 Americans are expected to marry in their

lifetime, the report projected. While still high, it's a change from the 1950s, when everyone was expected to get married, said Thomas Coleman, executive director of the Los Angeles-based American Association of Single People.

Other highlights:

■ About 38 percent of women in their first marriage, who married between 1945 and 1964, were the same age or older than their husbands, compared with 48 percent of once-married women who tied the knot between 1970 and 1989.

■ About 50 percent of first marriages for men under age 45 may end in divorce, compared with roughly 47 percent for women in the same age group.

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## Census Bureau: 90% to marry at least once

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In the fall of 1996, 92 out of 1,000 never-married men age 25 to 44 with a bachelor's degree got married within that past year, compared with 59 out of 1,000 men of the same age with just a high school degree.

And women who graduated from college were less likely to divorce in the previous year than those who just had a high school education.

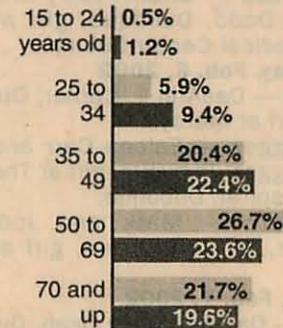
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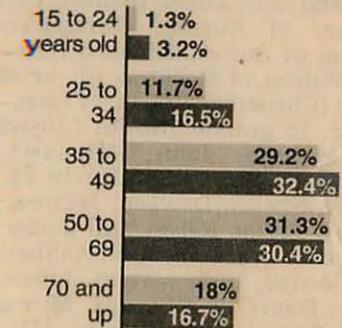
## TYING AND UNTYING THE KNOT

More than 90 percent of Americans are expected to be married at least once in their lives, but more than half first time marriages end in divorce. Within three years, half of those divorcees are remarried.

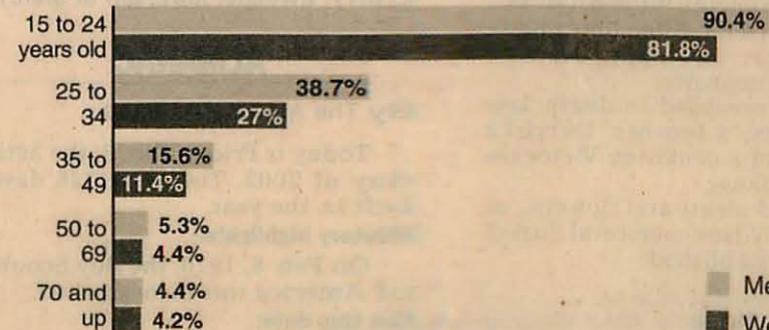
### Married two or more times



### Divorced



### Never married



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

AP



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# The more educated a person is, the more likely to get married

Census study also shows  
that younger people  
are delaying marriage

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Among younger men, having an older wife is becoming more common.

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The report, from a 1996 survey, provides "comprehensive, historically rich data" on marriage and divorce, said University of Michigan sociologist Pamela Smock. In the main, she said, "it confirms things that many American people are aware of."

The report also comes as the Bush administration weighs how

to change the 1996 welfare overhaul, which must be renewed this year. President Bush's 2003 budget proposal included \$100 million for experimental programs aimed at encouraging women on welfare to get married.

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"People no longer feel they have to rush down the aisle," said Marshall Miller, a co-founder of Alternatives to Marriage Project, which is based in Boston. "The earlier people are married, the more likely they are to get divorced."

Which partly explains why more educated people tend to stay married, Miller said. His rationale: They are more mature when they tie the knot and presumably have spent more time courting their future spouse.

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Long-held stereotypes of family makeup are slowly dissolving, said David Popenoe of the National Marriage Project, a think tank at Rutgers University. The group studies marriage trends and ways of strengthening marriage, he said.

"In the past, guys would look for a stay-at-home housewife," he said. "Young guys today are looking for someone with some money — and that requires an education."

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# The Boston Globe

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## Marriage rate rises with education

Latest census gives 'rich data' on splits, splices

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that advocates equal treatment of unmarried and married Americans. "The earlier people are married, the more likely they are to get divorced."

That partly explains why people with more education tend to stay married, Miller said. His rationale is that more educated people are more mature when they marry and presumably have spent more time counting their future spouse.

For example, among never-married women ages 25 to 44 with a college degree, 15 out of 1,000 divorced within a year, compared with 30 out of 1,000 women with just a high school diploma.

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A study released earlier this week by the Brookings Institution, a think tank in Washington, also noted that suburban neighborhoods are no longer dominated by "married-with-children" families.

Twenty-nine percent of suburban households were "non-family" — singles or elderly people living alone, for instance — while 27 percent were made up of married couples with children.

"Elected officials and corporate CEOs need to pay more attention to the wants and needs of unmarried Americans, especially since this constituency keeps growing," Coleman said.

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