

The Fifteenth Japanese National Fertility Survey in 2015
Marriage Process and Fertility of Married Couples
Attitudes toward Marriage and Family among Japanese Singles
 Highlights of the Survey Results on Married Couples/ Singles
 (March 2017)

Section I, Summary on Singles
1. Marriage as an Option

- The proportion of never-married persons who intend to marry someday is still high, which are 85.7%(previously, 86.3%) for men, 89.3%(previously, 89.4%) for women.

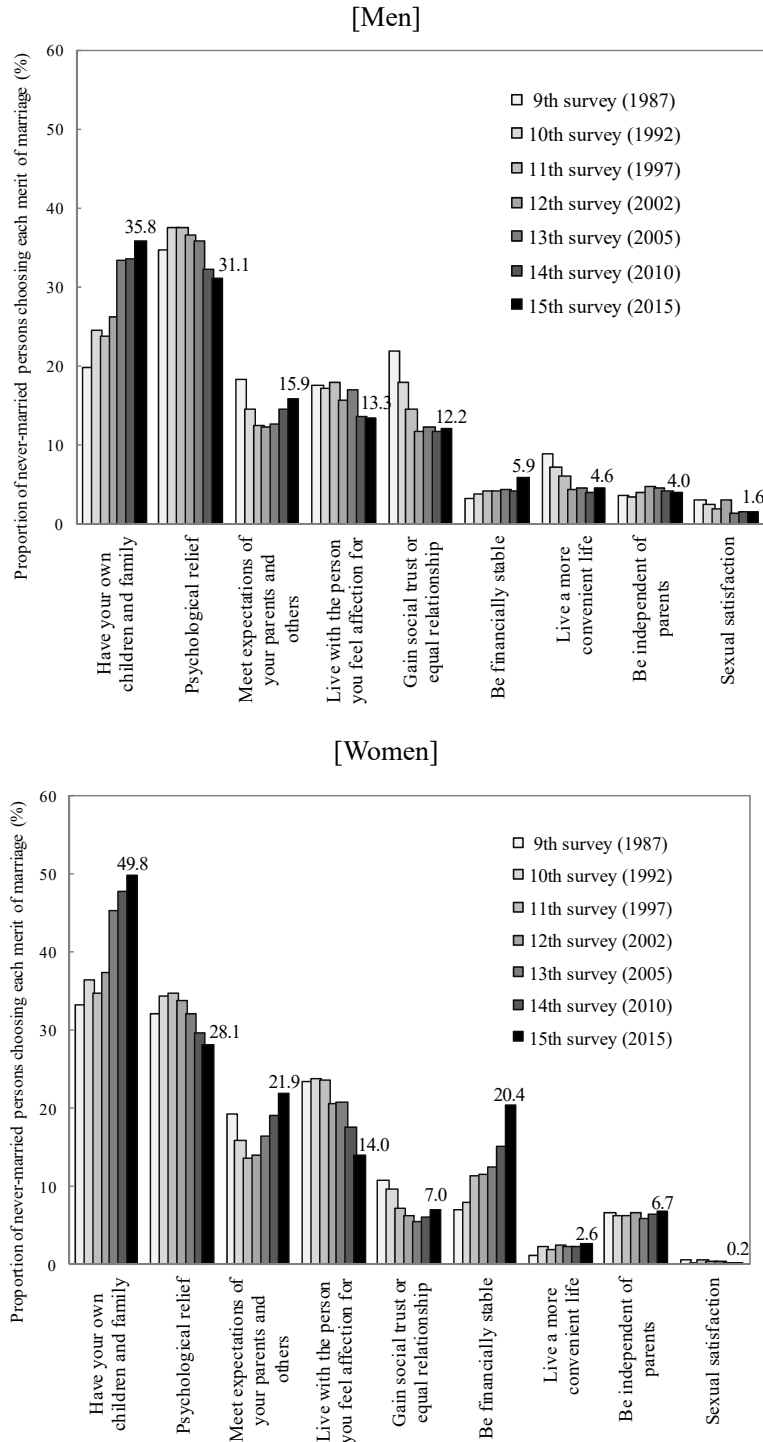
Table I-1: Never-married persons' intention to marry, by survey

Considering marriage from a lifelong perspective		9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
[Men]	Intend to marry someday	91.8 %	90.0	85.9	87.0	87.0	86.3	85.7
	Do not intend to ever marry	4.5	4.9	6.3	5.4	7.1	9.4	12.0
	Not known	3.7	5.1	7.8	7.7	5.9	4.3	2.3
	Total (18-34 years)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	(Number of cases)	(3,299)	(4,215)	(3,982)	(3,897)	(3,139)	(3,667)	(2,705)
[Women]	Intend to marry someday	92.9 %	90.2	89.1	88.3	90.0	89.4	89.3
	Do not intend to ever marry	4.6	5.2	4.9	5.0	5.6	6.8	8.0
	Not known	2.5	4.6	6.0	6.7	4.3	3.8	2.7
	Total (18-34 years)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	(Number of cases)	(2,605)	(3,647)	(3,612)	(3,494)	(3,064)	(3,406)	(2,570)

Question: "From a lifelong perspective, which matches your ideas about marriage?" 1. Intend to marry someday 2. Do not intend to ever marry.

- The proportion of never-married women who chose “(to) be financially stable” as a merit of marriage has increased from 15.1% to 20.4% in the last five years.

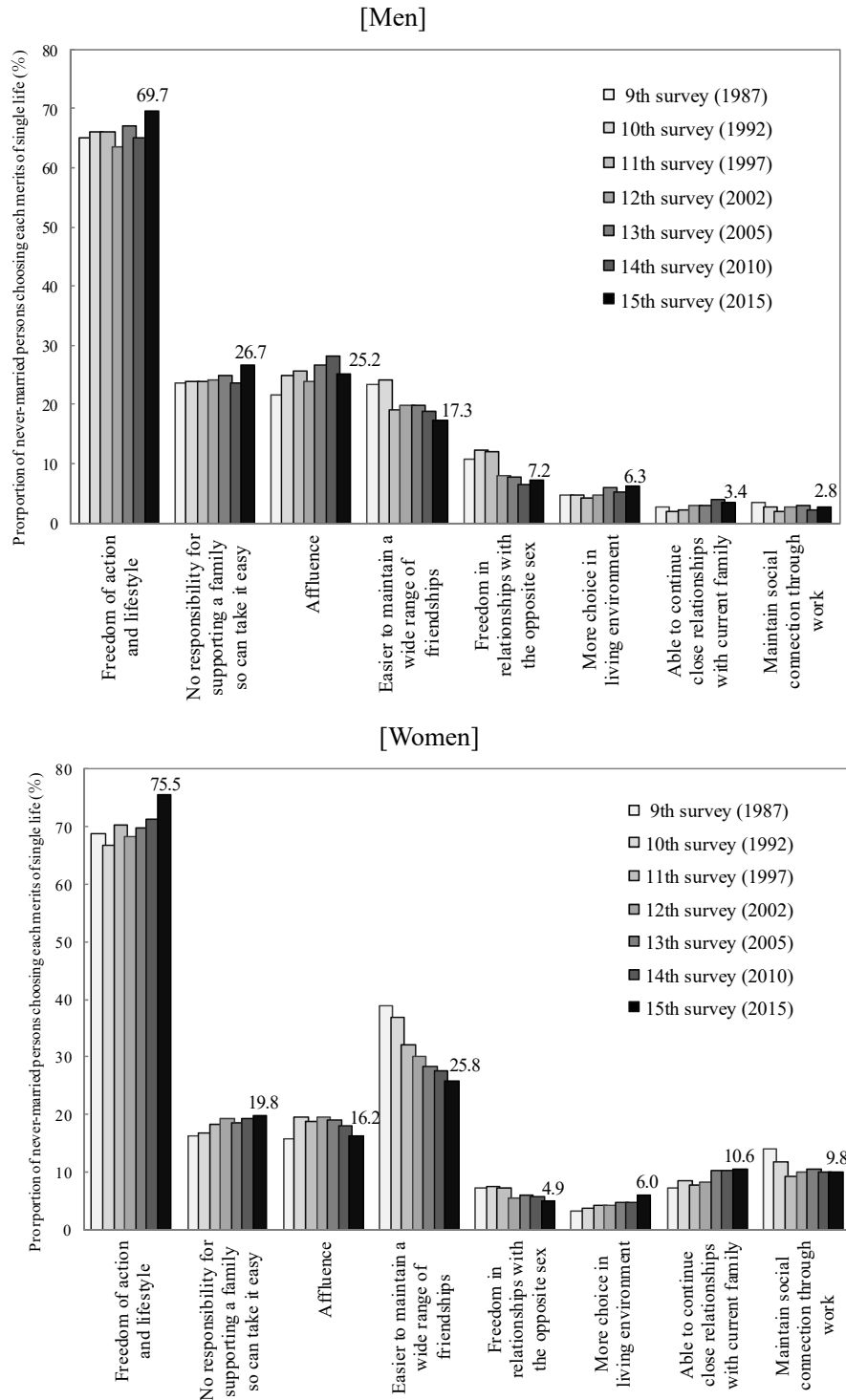
Figure I-1: Proportion of never-married respondents choosing each merit of marriage, by survey



Note: The graphs show the percentages of never-married respondents aged 18-34 who regard each item as primary merits of marriage (can choose up to 2 items). The percentages shown on the graphs are those of the 15th Survey.

- “Freedom of action and lifestyles” is by far the most frequently chosen merit of single life by both men (69.7%) and women (75.5%).

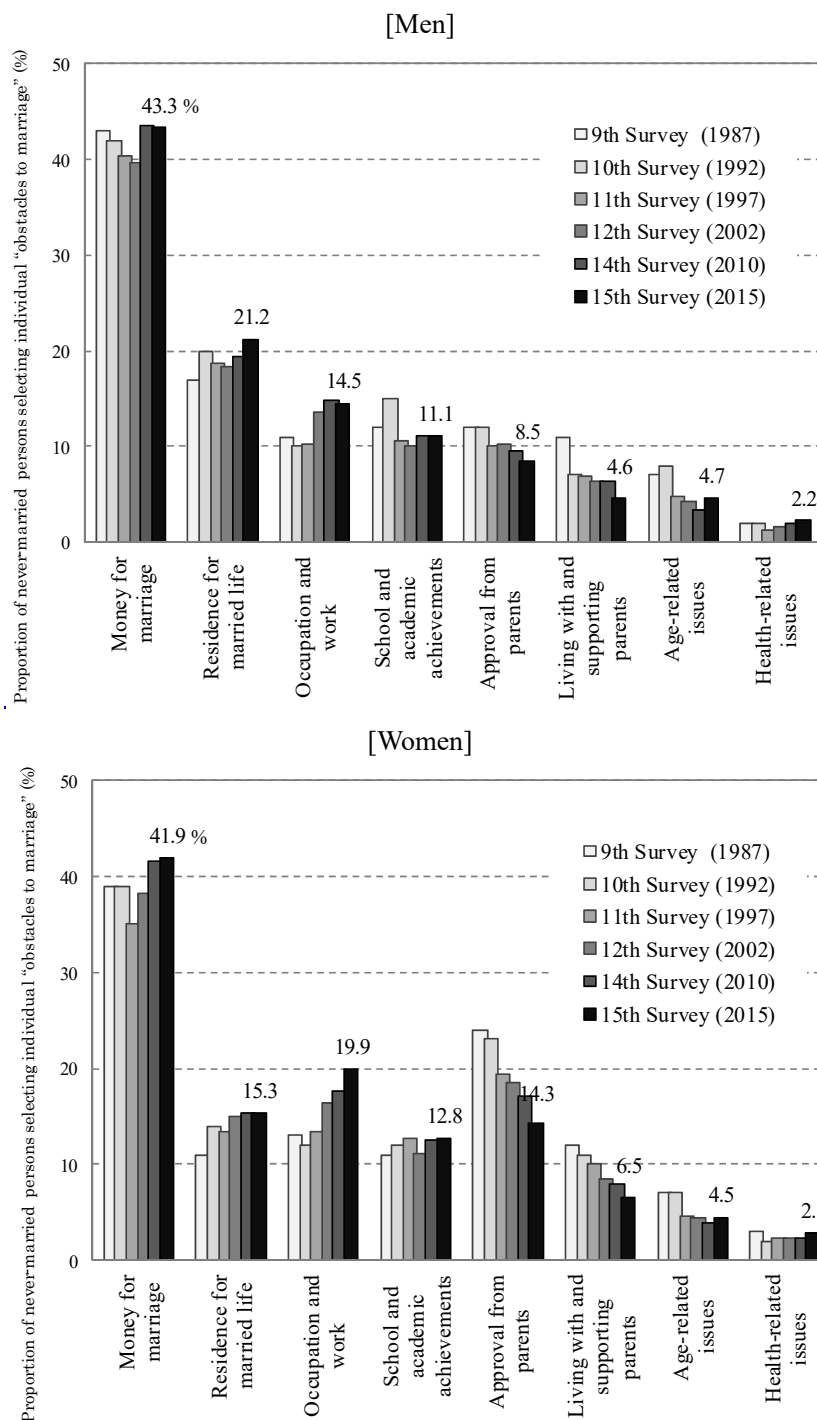
Figure I-2: Proportion of never-married respondents choosing each merit of single life, by survey



Note: The graphs show the percentages of never-married respondents aged 18-34 who regard each item as primary merits of single life (can choose up to 2 items). The percentages shown on the graphs are those of the 15th Survey.

- “Money for marriage” is the most often selected answer as an obstacle to marriage for both men (43.3%) and women (41.9%).

Figure I-3: Obstacles to marriage, by survey



Note: The graphs show the percentage of never-married people aged 18-34 who consider each item as a primary obstacle to marriage (respondents were allowed to choose up to 2 items). The percentages shown on the graphs are those of 15th Survey. The proportion of never-married people aged 18-34 who answered that there are certain obstacles to marriage were 67.1% for men and 69.2% for women in the 9th Survey, 67.9% and 71.3% in the 10th Survey, 65.0% and 67.8% in the 11th Survey, 64.5% and 70.1% in the 12th Survey, and 68.1% and 71.5% in the 14th Survey respectively.

2. Relationships with the opposite sex

- The proportion of singles without any relationship with the opposite sex increased: 69.8% (previously, 61.4%) for men and 59.1% (previously, 49.5%) for women.

Table I-2: Relationships with the opposite sex among never-married respondents, by survey

Relationships with the opposite sex Want to marry lover/have relationships with the opposite sex	【 Men 】						
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
Have a fiancé/fiancée	2.9 %	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.9	1.8	1.6
In a relationship with a person of the opposite sex as lovers	19.4	23.1	23.3	22.4	24.3	22.8	19.7
Want to get married	...	15.1	15.5	13.2	15.9	15.1	13.5
Am not considering marriage	...	7.7	7.3	8.7	8.1	7.4	5.8
In a relationship with a person of the opposite sex as friends	23.6	19.2	15.3	11.3	14.0	9.4	5.9
Want to get married	...	2.3	2.2	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.0
Am not considering marriage	...	16.4	12.6	9.1	11.9	7.6	4.6
Not in any relationship with the opposite sex	48.6	47.3	49.8	52.8	52.2	61.4	69.8
Want to be in a relationship	...	...	...	...	...	32.6	31.9
Do not want to date in particular	...	...	...	...	...	27.6	30.2
Not known	5.5	7.2	8.7	10.9	6.6	4.6	3.1
(Re-listed) Have a potential marriage partner	...	20.6	20.6	17.5	20.5	18.4	16.0
Total (18-34) (Number of cases)	100.0 % (3,299)	100.0 (4,215)	100.0 (3,982)	100.0 (3,897)	100.0 (3,139)	100.0 (3,667)	100.0 (2,705)
Relationships with the opposite sex Want to marry lover/have relationships with the opposite sex	【 Women 】						
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
Have a fiancé/fiancée	4.6 %	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.8	3.1	2.9
In a relationship with a person of the opposite sex as lovers	26.2	31.6	31.6	33.1	31.9	30.9	27.3
Want to get married	...	20.8	20.0	21.9	21.0	21.9	19.7
Am not considering marriage	...	10.4	11.2	10.4	10.2	8.5	7.1
In a relationship with a person of the opposite sex as friends	25.4	19.5	15.9	12.4	12.9	11.9	7.7
Want to get married	...	2.2	2.4	2.1	1.5	2.0	1.9
Am not considering marriage	...	16.6	12.9	9.9	11.3	9.6	5.3
Not in any relationship with the opposite sex	39.5	38.9	41.9	40.3	44.7	49.5	59.1
Want to be in a relationship	...	...	...	...	...	25.7	26.0
Do not want to date in particular	...	...	...	...	...	22.6	25.9
Not known	4.3	6.3	6.8	10.2	5.7	4.6	3.0
(Re-listed) Have a potential marriage partner	...	26.8	26.2	27.9	27.3	27.0	24.5
Total (18-34) (Number of cases)	100.0 % (2,605)	100.0 (3,647)	100.0 (3,612)	100.0 (3,494)	100.0 (3,064)	100.0 (3,406)	100.0 (2,570)

Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34. "Potential marriage partner" includes fiancé/fiancée.

Question: "Are you currently engaged in a relationship with a person of the opposite sex? If you are in a relationship with a person of the opposite sex, do you "want to marry the (closest) person you are dating?" If not, do you "want to have relationships with the opposite sex?"

- The proportion of never-married men and women without sexual experience is on the rise in the last five years (men 36.2 → 42.0%, women 38.7 → 44.2%).

Table I-3: Proportion of never-married persons who have never had sexual experience, by survey and age

Age	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
【Men】	18-19 years	71.9 %	70.9	64.9	64.2	60.7	72.8
	20-24 years	43.0	42.5	35.8	34.2	33.6	47.0
	25-29 years	30.0	24.8	25.3	25.6	23.2	31.7
	30-34 years	27.1	22.7	23.4	23.4	24.3	25.6
	Total (18-34 years)	43.1	41.5	35.7	35.3	31.9	42.0
	Reference (35-39 years)	...	26.4	26.1	24.8	26.5	27.7	26.0
【Women】	18-19 years	81.0 %	77.3	68.3	62.9	62.5	74.5
	20-24 years	64.4	53.0	42.6	38.3	36.3	46.5
	25-29 years	53.5	44.4	34.1	26.3	25.1	32.6
	30-34 years	44.4	40.9	28.8	26.6	26.7	31.3
	Total (18-34 years)	65.3	56.3	43.5	37.3	36.3	44.2
	Reference (35-39 years)	...	41.3	30.9	28.4	21.6	25.5	33.4

Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34. Number of cases: 3,299 men, 2,605 women in the 9th survey, 4,215 and 3,647 in the 10th survey, 3,982 and 3,612 in the 11th survey, 3,897 and 3,494 in the 12th survey, 3,139 and 3,064 in the 13th survey, 3,667 and 3,406 in the 14th survey, and 2,705 and 2,570 in the 15th survey. The proportion of respondents whose sexual experience is not known is included in computing the proportions but omitted from the table.

Question: "Have you ever had sexual intercourse with a member of the opposite sex?" (1. Yes, 2. No) The options in the 13th Survey were: 1. Yes, during the past year, 2. Yes, in the past, but not during the past year, 3.No.

- The percentage of never-married people who have experienced cohabitation with a person of the opposite sex is 10.4% for men, and 11.9% for women.

Table I-4: Proportion of never-married respondents who have experienced cohabitation, by survey and age group

Sex/age	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)	
[Men]	18-19 years	1.2 % (0.5)	0.9 (0.2)	0.6 (0.5)	1.8 (0.8)	0.9 (0.5)	0.5 (0.2)	1.0 (0.5)
	20-24 years	3.5 (1.0)	4.2 (1.3)	4.5 (2.1)	6.0 (2.8)	5.7 (2.5)	2.5 (0.9)	2.8 (1.3)
	25-29 years	3.3 (0.7)	6.7 (1.3)	7.1 (1.7)	10.3 (2.8)	11.8 (2.2)	8.6 (2.9)	7.6 (2.3)
	30-34 years	5.0 (1.5)	7.1 (1.6)	6.0 (1.9)	6.9 (1.8)	9.9 (1.3)	8.9 (1.6)	10.4 (2.3)
	Total (18-34 years)	3.2 (0.9)	4.5 (1.1)	4.8 (1.7)	6.7 (2.3)	7.9 (1.9)	5.5 (1.6)	5.5 (1.7)
	(Number of cases)	(3,299)	(4,215)	(3,982)	(3,897)	(3,139)	(3,667)	(2,705)
[Women]	18-19 years	1.9 % (0.8)	1.3 (0.8)	2.6 (1.0)	3.0 (1.7)	1.7 (1.1)	0.2 (-)	1.6 (0.5)
	20-24 years	2.7 (0.8)	3.1 (1.1)	4.4 (2.3)	7.5 (2.7)	6.7 (2.2)	5.0 (1.5)	4.9 (2.1)
	25-29 years	4.1 (-)	4.5 (1.4)	5.3 (1.0)	10.0 (3.0)	10.1 (2.9)	8.0 (2.1)	9.9 (2.1)
	30-34 years	4.4 (0.6)	6.1 (1.6)	7.6 (1.5)	8.2 (1.4)	10.6 (3.0)	9.3 (2.8)	11.9 (1.9)
	Total (18-34 years)	2.8 (0.7)	3.1 (1.1)	4.6 (1.7)	7.6 (2.4)	7.3 (2.3)	5.8 (1.6)	7.0 (1.8)
	(Number of cases)	(2,605)	(3,647)	(3,612)	(3,494)	(3,064)	(3,406)	(2,570)

Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34. The figures in this table show the percentages of subjects who have experienced cohabitation. The figures in parentheses show the percentages of respondents who were cohabiting as of the time of the survey.

Question: "Have you ever cohabited (lived with a partner without legally registering for marriage)?" (1. No; 2. Yes, in the past, but not now, 3. Yes, I am [cohabiting] currently)

3. Desired Image of Marriage

- The average desired age of marriage of the never-married from age 18 to 34 has peaked, which are 30.4 years old for men (previously, 30.4years old), 28.6 years old for women (previously, 28.4 years old).

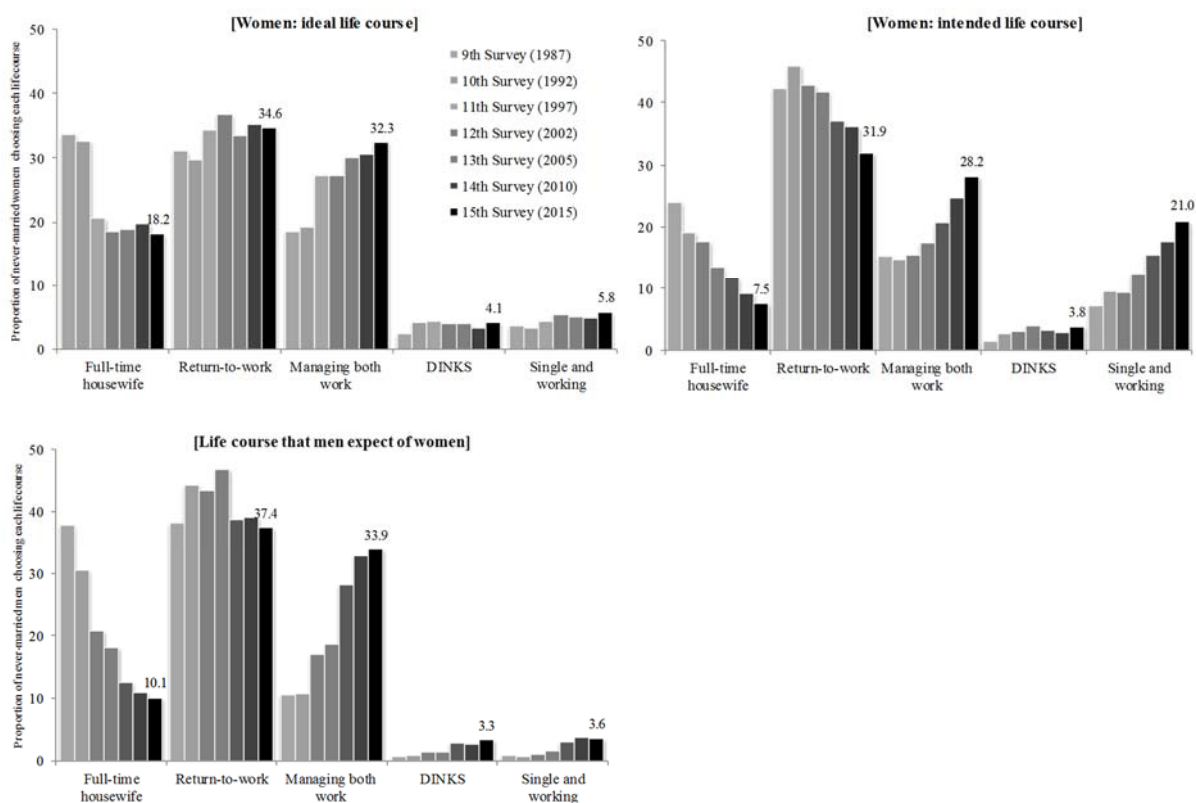
Table I-5: A Trend of Desired Age for Marriage of Never-Married Singles, by Survey and Respondents' Age

Age	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13rd Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)	
Man	18-19	26.7	27.2	26.8	27.3	26.4	27.3	27.3
	20-24	27.4	27.8	28.0	28.2	27.9	28.4	28.4
	25-29	29.5	30.1	30.4	31.0	30.7	31.0	31.0
	30-34	34.0	34.2	34.7	35.0	35.1	35.4	35.4
	Total (18-34)	28.4	28.9	29.3	29.8	30.0	30.4	30.4
	(Number of cases)	2,610	3,439	3,040	2,910	2,396	2,830	2,108
Women	18-19	24.1	24.7	25.3	25.2	25.2	25.5	26.1
	20-24	25.2	25.7	26.3	26.4	26.5	26.6	26.8
	25-29	28.3	29.0	29.2	29.7	29.7	29.8	29.8
	30-34	33.1	33.8	34.0	34.1	34.2	34.3	34.6
	Total (18-34)	25.6	26.5	27.4	28.1	28.1	28.4	28.6
	(Number of cases)	2,112	3,026	2,872	2,678	2,424	2,748	2,095

Note: The figures are shown for never-married singles who answered "intend to marry someday", excluding those whose desired age for marriage is unknown. Desired age for marriage is set 50 years old, if it is over 50 years old, and it is set same as the age as of the survey, if it is younger than the age as of the survey. The averaged desired age for marriage is calculated by adding 0.5 years to the answered age, because the survey asked age in years.

- The proportion of never-married women who choose “Full-time housewife” as an intended life course decreased from 9.1% to 7.5% in the last five years, whereas the proportion of those who choose “Managing both work and family”, or “Single and working” increased from 24.7% to 28.2%, and from 17.7% to 21.0% respectively.

Figure I-4: Ideal/Intended life courses of never-married women and women’s life courses that men expect of women, by survey



Note: Figures shown are never-married persons aged 18-34. Proportions of other and unknown are omitted. Number of cases (men, women): 9th Survey (2605, 3299) ,10th Survey (3647, 4215) 、 11th Survey (3612, 3982) ,12th Survey (3494, 3897) ,13th Survey (3064, 3139) ,14th Survey (3406, 3667) ,15th Survey (2705, 2570) .

Question: Ideal life course of women: (9th to 10th Surveys) “Regardless of your real life, what type of life do you consider to be ideal for you?” (11th to 15th Surveys) “What type of life is your ideal life?” Intended life course of women: (9th to 10th Surveys) “Looking back on your past, what type of life do you think you are actually likely to lead?” (11th to 15th Surveys) “What type of life do you think you are actually likely to lead, regardless of your ideal life?” The life course that men expect of women: (9th to 12th Surveys) “What type of life do you want women to lead?” (13th to 15th Surveys) “What type of life do you want your partner (or wife) to lead?”

***Description of life course:**

“Full-time housewife”: get married and have children, leave work upon marriage or childbirth, and not to be employed afterwards

“Return-to-work”: get married and have children, leave work upon marriage or childbirth, return to employment after finishing with child rearing

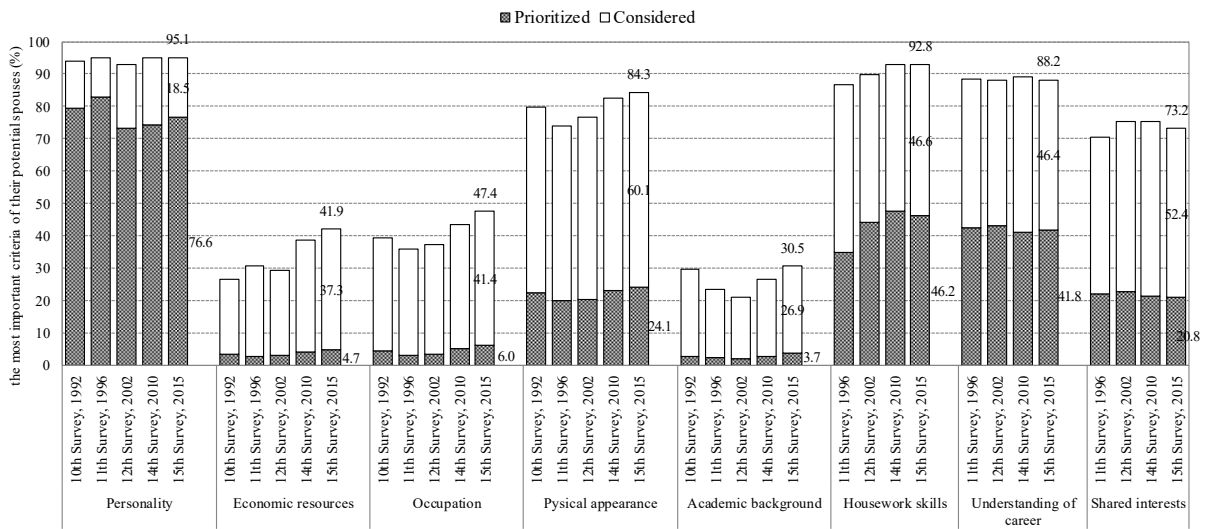
“Managing both work and family”: get married and have children, continue working throughout one’s life

“DINKS”: get married but don’t have children, continue working throughout one’s life

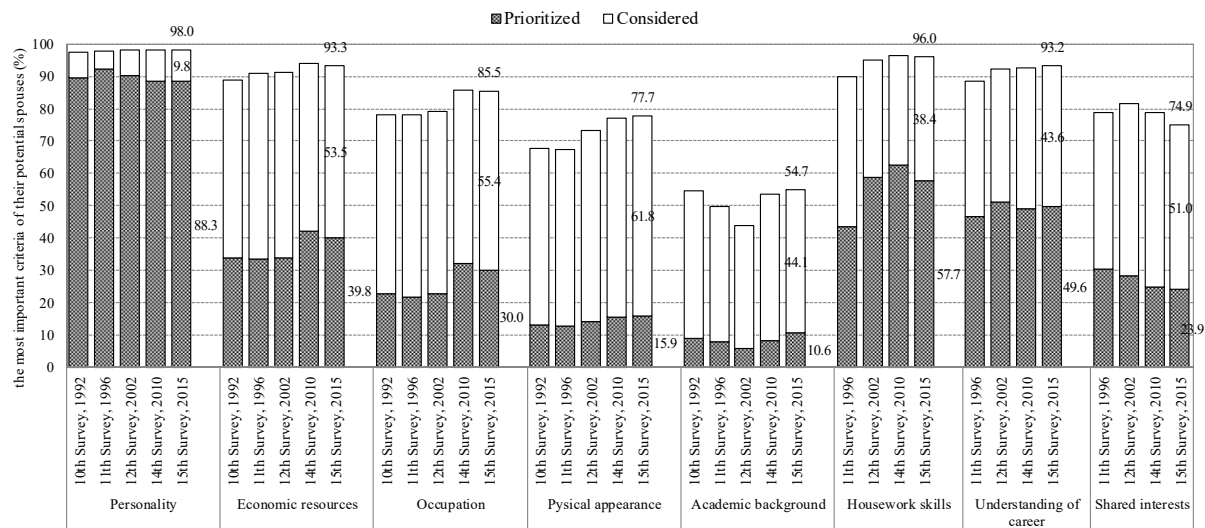
“Single and working”: do not get married, continue working throughout one’s life

- The large majority of never-married people who intend to get married emphasize “personality” as the most important criteria of their potential spouses, which is 95.1% among men, and 98.0% among women. “Housework and parenting skills” as the second important one, which is 92.8% among men and 96.0% among women.

Figure I-5 Prioritized and Considered Criteria of Their Potential Spouses by Survey
[Men]



[Women]



Note: The figures are shown for never-married singles from 18 to 34 years old who answered “intend to marry someday”.
Question: “To what degree do you prioritize the following items (1) to (8) in your choice of your future spouse? Please circle the appropriate number.” (1. Prioritize, 2. Consider, 3. Does not matter much).

4. Lives and Views of Never-Married Persons:

- The percentage of never-married persons living with parents remains unchanged (72.2% among men, 78.2% among women).

Table I-6: Percentage of never-married persons living with parents, by survey and employment status

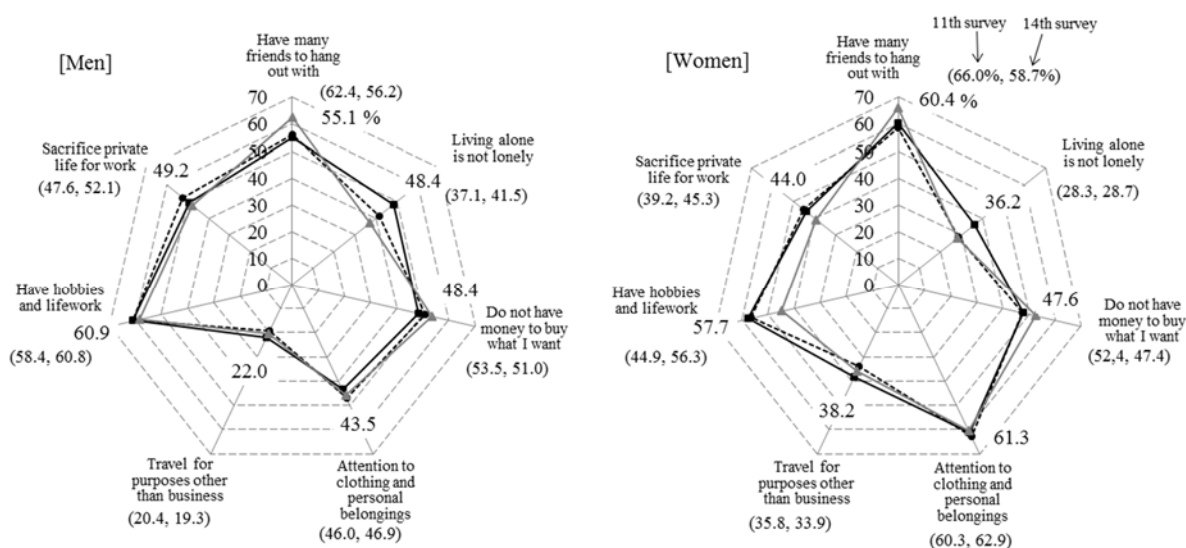
Employment status		8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
[Men]	Total (18-34 years)	69.6%	70.4	62.8	65.5	69.5	70.3	69.7	72.2
	Full-time Employment	71.1	69.8	67.4	64.8	72.3	66.9	66.7	64.7
	Self-employment/Family business	88.7	88.5	85.1	81.8	79.1	81.4	81.7	83.9
	Dispatched/fixed-time employment	...	...	...	...	67.1	75.3	73.3	83.3
	Part-time/temporary employment	64.6	77.9	71.6	75.3	80.1	80.0	83.7	81.4
	Non-employment/Homemaking	82.8	87.6	90.8	86.9	85.0	84.6	88.1	90.3
	Student	56.4	63.6	46.5	53.3	50.9	63.9	60.0	74.4
(Number of Cases)		(2,732)	(3,299)	(4,215)	(3,982)	(3,897)	(3,139)	(3,667)	(2,705)
[Women]	Total (18-34 years)	82.0%	78.0	76.7	74.5	76.4	76.4	77.2	78.2
	Full-time Employment	81.7	80.4	77.4	78.5	77.9	79.5	76.3	72.6
	Self-employment/Family business	86.2	78.8	82.5	78.6	73.3	79.6	80.6	80.5
	Dispatched/fixed-time employment	...	...	...	...	84.6	83.1	86.2	82.3
	Part-time/temporary employment	87.2	84.2	85.4	77.1	83.0	87.7	85.6	86.6
	Non-employment/Homemaking	88.7	90.3	93.3	86.4	85.2	89.4	86.9	86.8
	Student	78.0	64.9	68.6	58.9	63.9	58.8	67.8	80.5
(Number of Cases)		(2,110)	(2,605)	(3,647)	(3,612)	(3,494)	(3,064)	(3,406)	(2,570)

Note: The table is based on the data for never-married persons aged 18-34.

The classification of “dispatched/fixed-time employment” was first introduced in the 12th Survey (contract employee was added from the 13th Survey).

- The proportion of never-married persons who agreed with the statement that “living alone is not lonely” increased from 41.5 to 48.3% among men, 28.7 to 36.2% among women in the last five years.

Figure I-6: Lifestyle of singles, by survey



Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34. The graphs show the percentage of respondents responding either “true” or “true to some extent” to individual lifestyle-related questions. “Sacrifice private life for work” is answered by employed respondents only.

Section II Summary on Married Couples
1. Marriage Process

- The mean age at first encounter is 26.3 years old for husbands, and 24.8 years old for wives, both of which have increased from those in the five years ago (previously, 25.4 for husbands, 24.1 years old for wives). The average length of courtship is 4.3 years, which has been lengthened and the trend of later marriage has also been further strengthened.

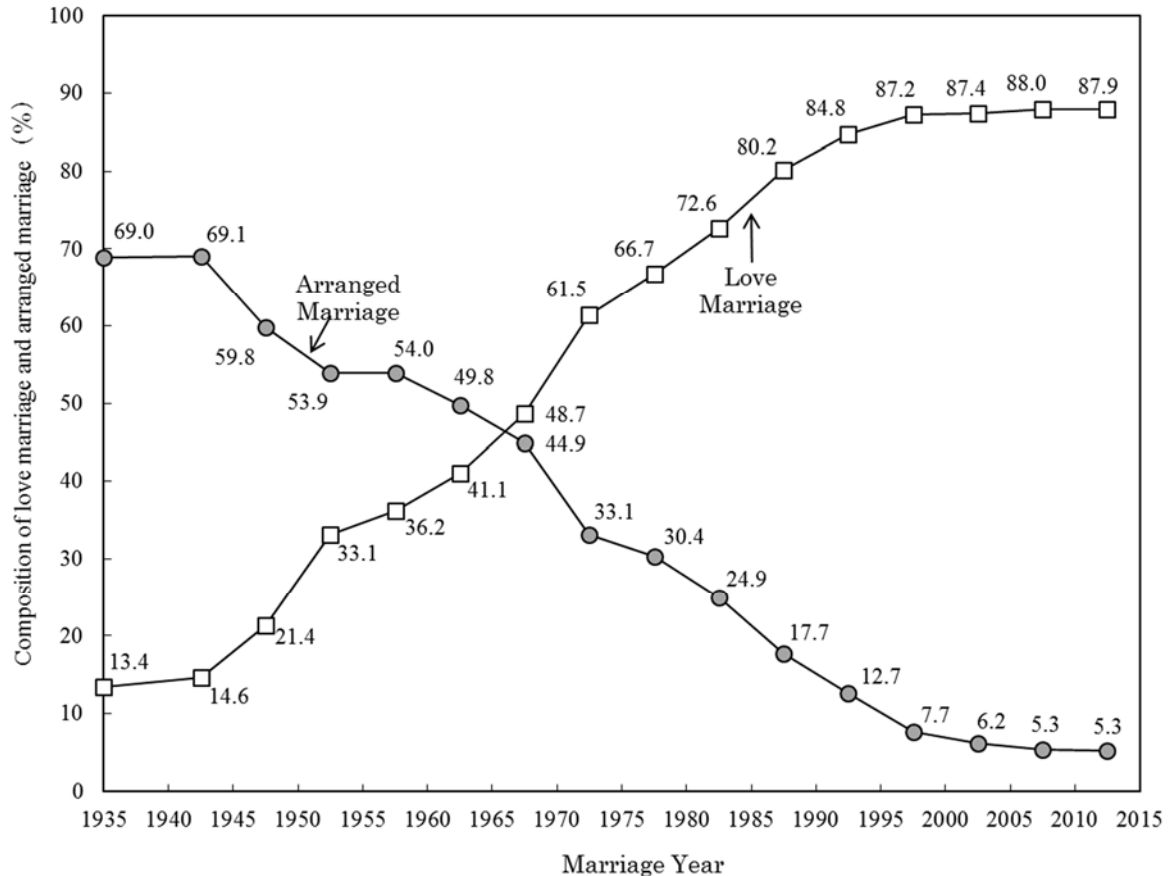
Table II-1: Mean ages at first encounter and first marriage and duration of courtship, by survey

Survey (Year of survey)	Husband		Wife		Duration of courtship
	Mean age at first encounter	Mean age at first marriage	Mean age at first encounter	Mean age at first marriage	
Total					
9th Survey (1987)	25.7	28.2	22.7	25.3	2.54
10th Survey (1992)	25.4	28.3	22.8	25.7	2.95
11th Survey (1997)	25.1	28.4	22.7	26.1	3.37
12th Survey (2002)	24.9	28.5	23.2	26.8	3.57
13th Survey (2005)	25.3	29.1	23.7	27.4	3.76
14th Survey (2010)	25.6	29.8	24.3	28.5	4.26
15th Survey (2015)	26.3	30.6	24.8	29.1	4.26
Love marriage					
9th Survey (1987)	24.1	27.3	21.6	24.7	3.15
10th Survey (1992)	24.2	27.6	21.9	25.3	3.38
11th Survey (1997)	24.2	27.9	22.1	25.7	3.67
12th Survey (2002)	24.2	28.0	22.7	26.5	3.84
13th Survey (2005)	24.6	28.6	23.0	27.1	4.07
14th Survey (2010)	24.9	29.3	23.6	28.1	4.48
15th Survey (2015)	25.4	30.0	24.1	28.7	4.55

Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples who got married within five years prior to each survey (excluding couples without data on process of marriage). "Love marriages" were determined by the ways/places couples meet (see "Glossary" at the end of the report). Number of cases (total/love marriage): 9th Survey (1,289/974), 10th Survey (1,342/1,102), 11th Survey (1,145/997), 12th Survey (1,221/1,090), 13th Survey (885/774), 14th survey (954/848), 15th survey (738/641).

- The proportion of arranged marriage, which represented approximately 70% of the total marriage before 1945, has been in the tendency of decreasing, and staying at the level less than 10% since the mid-1990s. (5.3% in 2010-2014).

Figure II-1: Changes in the composition of love marriage and arranged marriage



Note: Figures shown are for first-marriage couples who got married within five years prior to each survey.

Based on 7th Survey (1970-74 years from 1930-39 years), 8th Survey (1975-79), 9th Survey (1980-84), 10th Survey (1985-89), 11th survey (1990-94), 12th survey (1995-99), 13th survey (2000-04), 14th survey (2005-09), 15th survey (2010-14). "Arranged marriage" means "through an arranged introduction" or "through a marriage match-making agency." "Love marriage" means "At the workplace or through work", "Through friends or siblings", "At school", "Around town or during a trip", "Love Marriage through various activities (hobbies, etc.) or an adult education class", "through part time job" and "Childhood friend/neighbor."

2. Fertility of Married Couples

- Completed number of children of married couples (the average number of children born to couples who have been married for duration of 15 to 19 years) is kept to be under two (1.94 children) as was the same in the previously survey (1.96 children). The more than half of the married couples have more than two children, whereas the proportion of those who have one child is increasing from 15.9 to 18.6% in the last five years.

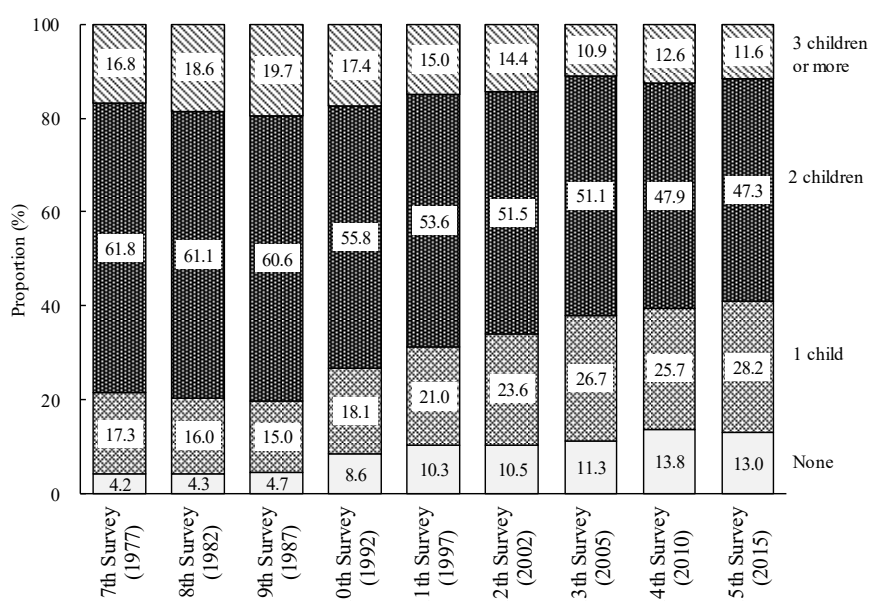
**Table II-2: Changes in number of children, by survey (% distribution)
(Duration of marriage: 15 to 19 years)**

Survey (Survey year)	Total	(Number of cases)	None	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children or more	Completed number of children
7th Survey (1977)	100.0 %	(1,427)	3.0 %	11.0	57.0	23.8	5.1	2.19
8th Survey (1982)	100.0	(1,429)	3.1	9.1	55.4	27.4	5.0	2.23
9th Survey (1987)	100.0	(1,755)	2.7	9.6	57.8	25.9	3.9	2.19
10th Survey (1992)	100.0	(1,849)	3.1	9.3	56.4	26.5	4.8	2.21
11th Survey (1997)	100.0	(1,334)	3.7	9.8	53.6	27.9	5.0	2.21
12th Survey (2002)	100.0	(1,257)	3.4	8.9	53.2	30.2	4.2	2.23
13th Survey (2005)	100.0	(1,078)	5.6	11.7	56.0	22.4	4.3	2.09
14th Survey (2010)	100.0	(1,385)	6.4	15.9	56.2	19.4	2.2	1.96
15th Survey (2015)	100.0	(1,232)	6.2	18.6	54.0	17.9	3.3	1.94

Note: Figures shown are for first-marriage couples who have been married for 15-19 years (excluding couples who did not state the number of children).

- The average number of children born to married couples whose birth process is incomplete, has decreased in the last five years.

**Figure II-2: Changes in number of children, by survey (% distribution)
(Duration of marriage: 5 to 9 years)**



Note: Figures shown are for first-marriage couples who have been married for 5-9 years (excluding couples who did not state the number of children).

3. Contraception, Infertility, and miscarriage/Stillbirths

- 39.8% of married couples do contraception, which has been the lowest one since the 7th survey (1977).

Table II-3: Contraceptive practices, classified by age of wife: 15th Survey (2015)

Age of wife	Contraceptive practice					Reference:currently practicing			
	Total (Number of cases)	Currently practicing	Currently not practicing		Not stated	7th Survey (1977)	9th Survey (1987)	11th Survey (1997)	13th Survey (2005)
			Have experience	No experience					
20-24	100.0% (75)	33.3%	34.7	22.7	9.3	48.2	49.4	45.6	47.8
25-29	100.0 (397)	42.6	35.3	14.9	7.3	58.6	60.6	53.4	54.4
30-34	100.0 (820)	39.9	33.4	18.2	8.5	69.2	72.2	59.1	52.1
35-39	100.0 (1,203)	42.3	26.8	20.5	10.3	66.6	73.9	68.3	58.4
40-44	100.0 (1,547)	42.8	23.6	20.6	13.1	49.8	67.9	66.4	56.7
45-49	100.0 (1,288)	33.2	30.0	19.2	17.6	20.9	44.7	53.4	48.2
Total	100.0 (5,334)	39.8	28.4	19.4	12.4	54.6	64.5	59.9	53.9

Note: Figures shown are for first-marriage couples. Those under the age of 20 were omitted because of few samples, though they (4 cases) are included in the total.

- The proportion of married couples who have been worried about infertility has increased from 31.1 to 35.0% in the last five years. Particularly, it reaches to more than the half, 55.2% (previously, 52.2%), if they don't have any child. Those who have had an examination and/or treatment increased from 16.4 to 18.2% as a whole, and from 28.6 to 28.2% among childless couples.

Table II-4: Concerns about infertility and treatment experience, by presence/absence of child and wife's age: 15th Survey (2015)

With/without child	Age of wife	Total (Number of cases)	Concerns about infertility/treatment experience							Not stated
			Have never worried about infertility	Have worried about infertility	(Re-listed) Currently worried	Have not visited medical institution	Have undergone examination or treatment	(Re-listed) Are undergoing treatment	Not stated	
Total	20-29	100.0% (472)	63.8	29.9	9.1	17.8	11.9	3.6	0.2	6.4
	30-39	100.0 (2,023)	55.4	38.5	8.9	19.5	18.6	3.1	0.4	6.1
	40-49	100.0 (2,835)	59.2	33.4	1.9	13.9	19.0	0.6	0.4	7.4
	Total	100.0 (5,334)	58.2	35.0	5.2	16.4	18.2	1.8	0.4	6.8
Childless couples	20-29	100.0 (146)	48.6	45.2	21.9	26.7	17.8	8.9	0.7	6.2
	30-39	100.0 (259)	31.7	64.1	42.5	29.7	32.8	15.8	1.5	4.2
	40-49	100.0 (293)	39.6	52.2	14.0	22.9	29.4	3.4	-	8.2
	Total	100.0 (698)	38.5	55.2	26.2	26.2	28.2	9.2	0.7	6.3
Couples with one Child	20-29	100.0 (189)	70.4	25.4	5.8	15.9	9.5	2.1	-	4.2
	30-39	100.0 (573)	45.4	49.2	10.3	24.1	24.8	3.3	0.3	5.4
	40-49	100.0 (565)	45.0	48.3	1.9	15.8	31.9	1.1	0.7	6.7
	Total	100.0 (1,331)	48.8	45.4	6.2	19.3	25.6	2.3	0.5	5.9
Reference: 14th survey	Total	100.0 (6,705)	59.4	31.1	5.5	14.5	16.4	1.5	0.2	9.5
	Childless	100.0 (914)	40.6	52.2	26.8	23.3	28.6	8.4	0.3	7.2

Note: Figures shown are for first-marriage couples. Those under the age of 20 were omitted because of few cases, though they (4 cases) are included in the total.

- The proportion of married couples who have experienced a miscarriage and/or stillbirth is 15.3%.

Table II-5: Percentage of couples who have experienced at least one/more than one miscarriage and /or stillbirth, by survey and duration of marriage

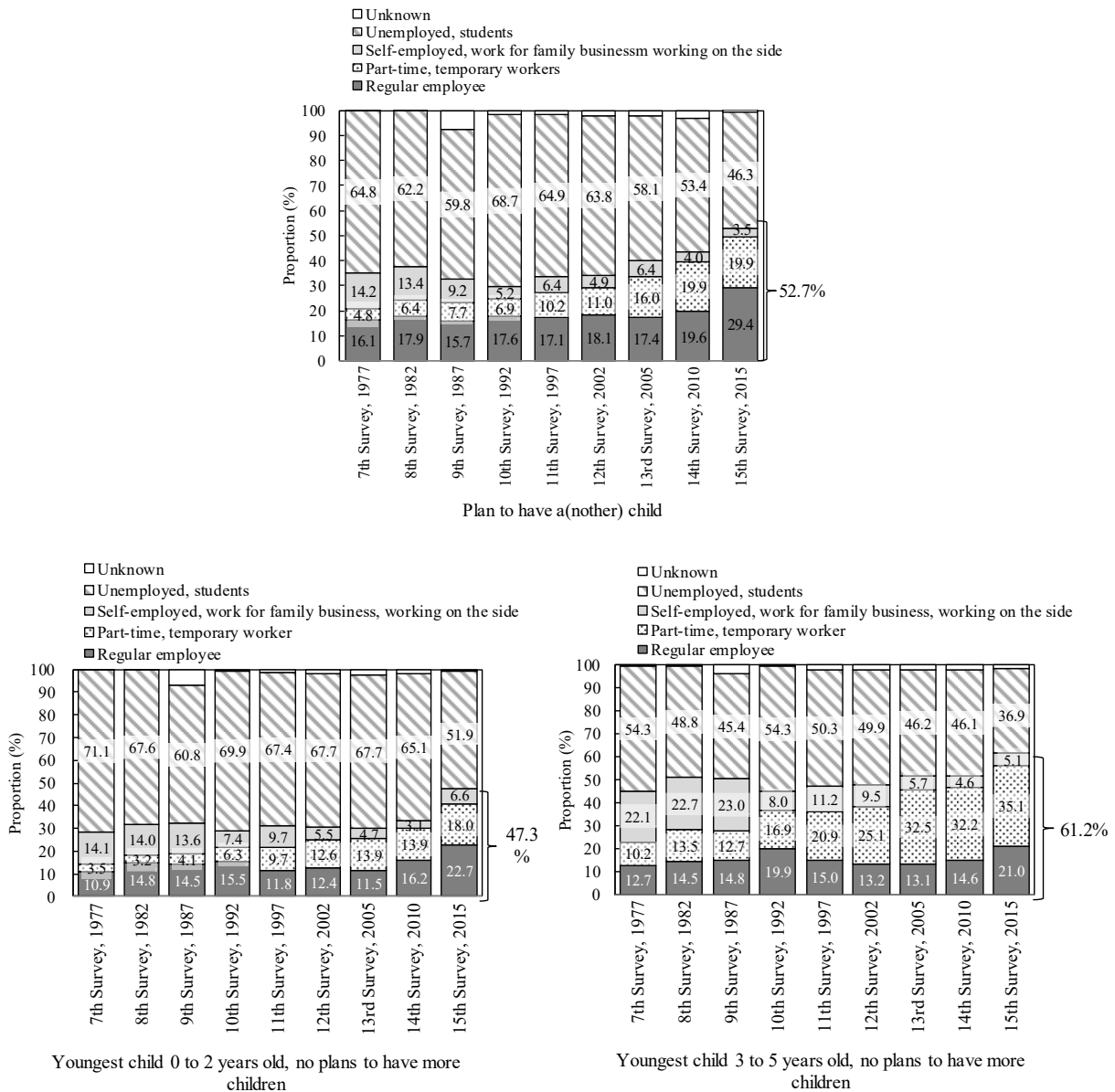
Duration of marriage	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
0-4 years	7.8 % (0.7)	8.2 (1.1)	9.7 (1.7)	10.2 (1.0)	6.9 (0.9)
5-9 years	16.6 (3.1)	16.3 (2.9)	16.8 (3.4)	16.8 (2.9)	17.8 (3.9)
10-14 years	17.3 (4.1)	18.0 (3.1)	19.7 (5.3)	19.1 (5.1)	15.7 (3.6)
15-19 years	18.6 (3.0)	16.0 (3.8)	18.8 (3.5)	17.9 (3.7)	18.1 (3.4)
20 years or longer	18.1 (3.4)	17.5 (3.2)	18.0 (3.5)	15.3 (4.1)	17.6 (3.0)
Total	15.8 (2.9)	15.0 (2.7)	16.7 (3.6)	16.1 (3.4)	15.3 (3.0)
(Number of cases)	(6,544)	(6,656)	(5,558)	(6,643)	(5,147)

Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples with complete information on the results of up to 5th pregnancy that are consistent with the number of live births. The figures shown are the proportions of couples that have experienced a miscarriage and /or stillbirth at least once. The proportions of couples that have experienced a miscarriage and/or stillbirth more than once are given in the parentheses. Miscarriages and stillbirths do not include artificially induced abortion. The couples whose duration of marriage is not known are included in the total.

4. Child-rearing Conditions

- 52.7% of wives who have at least one child, are working, even though they still want an additional baby. Among wives who have at least one child, but without any intention to have an additional baby, 47.3% and 61.2% of wives are working, when their youngest child is 0-2, 3-5 years old respectively.

Figure II-3: Employment Status of wife, by survey and life-stage after giving birth



Note: The figures are shown for first-marriage couples with at least one child (excluding pregnant wife).

- The proportion of wives who continued to work after their giving the first birth had stayed around 40%, but it has risen to 53.1% in 2010-14.

Table II-6: Percentages of wives who continued working after getting married/giving birth and pro-portion of wives who continued working by using child-care leave systems

Year of marriage / year of child birth	Before and after getting married	Before and after giving birth to the 1st child (using childcare leave)	Employment status before getting pregnant with 1st child			Before and after giving birth to the 2nd child	Before and after giving birth to the 3rd child
			Regular employee	Part-time, temporary worker	Self-employed, work for family business, working on the side		
1985～89年	60.3%	39.2 (9.2)	40.7 (13.0)	23.7 (2.2)	72.7 (3.0)	...	...
1990～94年	62.3	39.3 (13.0)	44.5 (19.9)	18.2 (0.5)	81.7 (4.3)	81.9 (16.3)	84.3 (17.6)
1995～99年	65.1	38.1 (17.6)	45.5 (27.8)	15.2 (0.8)	79.2 (-)	76.8 (28.8)	78.1 (19.1)
2000～04年	71.7	40.5 (22.6)	52.4 (37.5)	18.1 (2.2)	71.4 (2.5)	79.2 (33.5)	77.0 (27.6)
2005～09年	71.8	40.3 (27.0)	56.5 (46.3)	17.6 (4.7)	71.1 (2.2)	76.3 (43.2)	81.0 (30.7)
2010～14年	81.3	53.1 (39.2)	69.1 (59.0)	25.2 (10.6)	73.9 (8.7)	78.1 (51.3)	79.1 (45.0)

Note: The figures are shown for first-marriage couples in shorter than 15 years after their marriage in 11th, 12th, 13rd, 14th, and 15th survey (the number of cases is 13,893). These are the proportion of wives who continued working after getting married/giving birth among wives who had jobs at the time of marriage or pregnancy. Numbers in parentheses indicate the proportion of wives who continued working by using child-care leave systems.

- 80.2% of married couples utilized any child-care support for their first child. It is 98.1% among wives who continued to work as a regular worker after their birth.

Table II-7: Systems / facilities used before the first child is 3 years old, by employment status of wife: 15th Survey (2015)

Year of the first birth/ Wife's year of birth/ Size of the wife's workplace	The number of cases	Utilizing either systems or facilities	Parental/postnatal leave system	Child-care leave (wife)	Child-care leave (husband)	Child-care time system/short working hours system(wife)	Child-care time system/short working hours system(husband)	Licensed daycare facilities	Certified/approved daycare facilities	In-house daycare facilities	Other daycare facilities	Small daycare facilities	Baby sitter	Family support center	Temporary care at nursery school, kindergarten, etc.	Community center	None of the above	The average number of utilization
Total	(2,410)	80.2 %	26.3	22.7	0.5	7.1	0.2	24.1	3.7	2.7	5.1	0.5	0.8	3.6	10.6	49.5	19.8	1.57
Year of the first birth																		
2000-04	(983)	75.1	22.0	17.7	0.6	4.7	0.3	20.8	4.0	2.5	3.9	0.6	0.7	3.3	7.9	41.4	24.9	1.30
2005-09	(983)	82.6	27.8	24.5	0.4	6.8	0.2	25.8	2.7	2.8	5.8	0.5	0.6	3.9	12.4	53.0	17.4	1.67
2010-12	(444)	86.5	32.9	29.7	0.5	13.1	0.2	27.5	5.2	2.7	6.1	-	1.6	3.8	12.6	59.5	13.5	1.95
Wife's year of birth																		
1960-69	(188)	75.0	20.7	18.6	-	6.4	-	22.3	1.6	2.7	4.3	1.1	1.6	4.8	10.1	46.3	25.0	1.40
1970-74	(754)	80.9	27.1	22.5	0.8	7.6	0.4	22.9	3.6	1.7	6.1	0.7	1.5	3.3	10.3	49.1	19.1	1.58
1975-79	(860)	80.3	26.9	23.8	0.7	6.6	0.2	24.3	3.8	3.8	4.5	0.2	0.6	4.0	10.1	50.0	19.7	1.60
1980-93	(608)	80.9	26.5	22.5	-	7.4	0.2	25.7	4.3	2.3	4.8	0.3	0.2	3.1	11.8	50.2	19.1	1.59
Size of the wife's workplace (when 1st child is one year old)	(2,319)																	
Unemployed, students	(1,545)	74.5	5.0	2.7	0.3	0.3	0.1	10.4	2.6	1.2	3.6	0.3	0.6	3.6	11.7	58.8	25.5	1.01
1-29 employees	(200)	82.0	39.5	30.5	0.5	5.5	0.5	39.5	6.0	1.5	6.5	0.5	1.5	3.0	10.5	29.0	18.0	1.75
30-99 employees	(90)	91.1	68.9	62.2	2.2	14.4	-	55.6	6.7	2.2	6.7	1.1	-	5.6	10.0	35.6	8.9	2.71
100-299 employees	(127)	96.9	74.8	64.6	-	18.9	-	48.8	7.1	9.4	7.9	0.8	1.6	2.4	6.3	30.7	3.1	2.73
300-999 employees	(95)	94.7	85.3	86.3	-	35.8	1.1	55.8	5.3	14.7	7.4	-	1.1	6.3	7.4	35.8	5.3	3.42
over 1000 employees	(156)	97.4	87.2	80.8	1.3	35.3	0.6	62.2	5.8	7.7	10.9	0.6	1.9	1.9	9.0	28.8	2.6	3.34
Public	(77)	100.0	93.5	92.2	1.3	24.7	1.3	57.1	7.8	1.3	7.8	2.6	1.3	7.8	6.5	46.8	-	3.52
Regular employee																		
Total	(518)	98.1 %	90.7	83.6	1.2	28.0	0.8	55.2	7.1	6.9	7.9	1.0	1.2	4.2	6.4	34.2	1.9	3.28
Year of the first birth																		
2000-04	(186)	96.8 %	88.2	78.0	1.6	21.0	1.1	49.5	7.0	7.5	5.4	1.6	1.6	3.8	5.4	24.2	3.2	2.96
2005-09	(218)	99.1	92.7	87.6	0.9	25.7	0.5	60.6	5.5	6.9	8.3	0.9	0.5	3.7	6.9	35.8	0.9	3.36
2010-12	(114)	98.2	91.2	85.1	0.9	43.9	0.9	54.4	10.5	6.1	11.4	-	1.8	6.1	7.0	47.4	1.8	3.67
Wife's year of birth																		
1960-69	(34)	100.0 %	94.1	85.3	-	26.5	-	58.8	2.9	8.8	8.8	-	2.9	5.9	5.9	20.6	-	3.21
1970-74	(173)	97.1	90.8	82.7	2.3	28.9	1.7	57.2	6.4	4.0	8.7	1.7	1.7	4.0	5.8	26.0	2.9	3.22
1975-79	(193)	97.9	88.1	82.4	1.0	24.9	0.5	54.9	7.8	8.8	6.2	0.5	1.0	4.1	6.2	37.3	2.1	3.24
1980-93	(118)	99.2	94.1	86.4	-	32.2	-	51.7	8.5	7.6	9.3	0.8	-	4.2	7.6	44.9	0.8	3.47
Size of the wife's workplace (when 1st child is one year old)	(518)																	
1-29 employees	(80)	90.0	78.8	60.0	1.3	10.0	-	40.0	7.5	-	6.3	1.3	1.3	5.0	6.3	31.3	10.0	2.49
30-99 employees	(57)	100.0	89.5	82.5	3.5	19.3	-	52.6	7.0	3.5	7.0	-	-	5.3	8.8	42.1	-	3.21
100-299 employees	(87)	98.9	90.8	79.3	-	20.7	-	52.9	8.0	9.2	4.6	1.1	1.1	1.1	3.4	27.6	1.1	3.00
300-999 employees	(76)	100.0	93.4	94.7	-	40.8	1.3	53.9	6.6	15.8	7.9	-	1.3	7.9	5.3	39.5	-	3.68
over 1000 employees	(131)	99.2	94.7	88.5	1.5	41.2	0.8	65.6	6.9	9.2	11.5	0.8	1.5	2.3	8.4	27.5	0.8	3.60
Public	(73)	100.0	95.9	94.5	1.4	26.0	1.4	58.9	6.8	1.4	6.8	2.7	1.4	6.8	5.5	46.6	-	3.56

Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples with a child aged one or older. "Those who continue to be regularly employed" is defined as those who were in regular employment at the two time-points: "when the pregnancy of the first child became known" and "when the first child became one year old." Regular employees include "dispatched employees and contract employees." Those who did not state the number of employees at their work place were omitted, but they are included in the total.

- Around half of the married couples are supported by their mother/ mother in law (a grandmother of their child) in raising their first child. (52.9% in 2010-2012).

Figure II-4: Percentages of couples who received child-care assistance from mothers of couples (grandmothers of children) before the first child is 3 years old, by the year of birth of the first child



Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples with child(ren) 3 to under 15 years of age. Data obtained in the 12th to 15th surveys were aggregated.

Section III Summary on Common Items of Single and Married Couples
1. View on the Number of Children

- The average desired number of children of never-married single has decreased from 2.04 to 1.91 children for men, which has been less than two for the first time, and it decreased from 2.12 to 2.02 children for women.

Table III-1: Average desired number of children of never-married persons by survey and age

Age	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
[Men]								
18-19 years	2.32	2.30	2.19	2.21	2.18	2.15	2.09	1.97
20-24 years	2.35	2.30	2.25	2.15	2.05	2.11	2.09	1.95
25-29 years	2.37	2.30	2.22	2.14	1.99	2.05	2.05	1.91
30-34 years	2.30	2.26	2.21	2.13	1.98	2.01	1.92	1.83
Total(18-34 years) (Number of cases)	2.34 (2,573)	2.30 (2,929)	2.23 (3,672)	2.15 (3,203)	2.05 (3,270)	2.07 (2,652)	2.04 (3,084)	1.91 (2,263)
[Women]								
18-19 years	2.35	2.29	2.20	2.25	2.13	2.23	2.16	2.05
20-24 years	2.34	2.26	2.22	2.16	2.09	2.18	2.20	2.09
25-29 years	2.18	2.18	2.10	2.13	1.98	2.03	2.06	2.03
30-34 years	1.90	1.83	1.90	1.76	1.87	1.84	1.97	1.78
Total(18-34 years) (Number of cases)	2.29 (1,970)	2.23 (2,371)	2.17 (3,212)	2.13 (3,093)	2.03 (3,001)	2.10 (2,698)	2.12 (2,993)	2.02 (2,263)

Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34 who answered "Intend to marry someday." In cases where the desired number of children was 5 or more, it was counted as 5 in calculation of average desired number of children. The respondents who did not respond to the questions on the desired number of children are omitted from the table.

- The average ideal number of children, and intended number of children have both decreased from 2.42 to 2.32 children, from 2.07 to 2.01 children respectively, which have been the lowest in the past.

Table III-2: Average ideal and intended number of children, by survey and duration of marriage
(1) Average ideal number of children

Duration of marriage	7th Survey (1977)	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
0-4 years	2.42	2.49	2.51	2.40	2.33	2.31	2.30	2.30	2.25
5-9 years	2.56	2.63	2.65	2.61	2.47	2.48	2.41	2.38	2.33
10-14 years	2.68	2.67	2.73	2.76	2.58	2.60	2.51	2.42	2.30
15-19 years	2.67	2.66	2.70	2.71	2.60	2.69	2.56	2.42	2.32
20 years or longer	2.79	2.63	2.73	2.69	2.65	2.76	2.62	2.58	2.44
Total (Number of cases)	2.61 (8,314)	2.62 (7,803)	2.67 (8,348)	2.64 (8,627)	2.53 (7,069)	2.56 (6,634)	2.48 (5,634)	2.42 (6,490)	2.32 (5,090)

(2) Average intended number of children

Duration of marriage	7th Survey (1977)	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
0-4 years	2.08	2.22	2.28	2.14	2.11	1.99	2.05	2.08	2.05
5-9 years	2.17	2.21	2.25	2.18	2.10	2.07	2.05	2.09	2.03
10-14 years	2.18	2.18	2.20	2.25	2.17	2.10	2.06	2.01	1.92
15-19 years	2.13	2.21	2.19	2.18	2.22	2.22	2.11	1.99	1.96
20 years or longer	2.30	2.21	2.24	2.18	2.19	2.28	2.30	2.23	2.13
Total (Number of cases)	2.17 (8,129)	2.20 (7,784)	2.23 (8,024)	2.18 (8,351)	2.16 (6,472)	2.13 (6,564)	2.11 (5,603)	2.07 (6,462)	2.01 (5,099)

Note: Figures shown are for first-marriage couples. The intended number of children was calculated by adding the number of children already born and the number of additional children intended. In cases where the ideal or intended number of children was 8 or more, it was counted as 8 in calculation of average ideal or intended number of children. The figures under "total" include data of couples whose duration of marriage is not known.

- The most frequently cited reason why couples do not realize their ideal number of children is “it costs too much to raise and educate children”(56.3%), and secondary frequently cited one is “hate to bear children at older age”(39.8%).

Table: III-3: Reasons why couples do not realize their ideal number of children, by age of wife: 15th Survey (2015)

Age of wife (Number of cases)	Reasons why couples do not realize their ideal number of children											
	Economic reasons			Age/physical reasons			Burden of child rearing	Reasons related to husbands			Other	
	It costs too much to raise and educate children	Interference with one's job or business	House is too small	Hate to bear children at older age	Want to have a child but can't conceive one	Health reasons	Can't bear mentally/ physically the burden of childrearing anymore	Can't gain husband's cooperation with household chores and childrearing	Want the last child to grow up before the husband retires	Husband does not want it	Social environment is not suitable for children to grow up without worry	Want to cherish the life of couple or oneself
<30 (51)	76.5%	17.6	17.6	5.9	5.9	5.9	15.7	11.8	2.0	7.8	3.9	9.8
30-34 (132)	81.1	24.2	18.2	18.2	10.6	15.2	22.7	12.1	7.6	9.1	9.1	12.1
35-39 (282)	64.9	20.2	15.2	35.5	19.1	16.0	24.5	8.5	6.0	9.9	7.4	8.9
40-49 (788)	47.7	11.8	8.2	47.2	28.4	17.5	14.3	10.0	8.0	7.4	5.1	3.6
Total (1,253)	56.3	15.2	11.3	39.8	23.5	16.4	17.6	10.0	7.3	8.1	6.0	5.9
14th Survey (1,835)	60.4	16.8	13.2	35.1	19.3	18.6	17.4	10.9	8.3	7.4	7.2	5.6
13th Survey (1,825)	65.9	17.5	15.0	38.0	16.3	16.9	21.6	13.8	8.5	8.3	13.6	8.1

Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples whose intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children. The percentage of couples whose intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children is 30.3% (except for "not stated").

- The expected educational attainment most frequently cited by married couples to their daughter is “higher than university”, which has increased from 34.3 to 59.2% since 1992, and overtook “junior college”(10.6%), which was the most frequently cited one (38.5%) in 1992.

Table III-3: Couple's expectation for the level of education of their child, by age of wife: 15th survey (2015)

Sex of child	Age of wife	Total	Expected level of education for their child						
			Graduate school or University	Graduate school		Junior college	Special school	High school or Junior high school	Other or Unkown
				Graduate school	University				
Expected level of education for a male child	20-29 years	100.0 %	67.4	3.2	64.2	1.5	8.7	14.0	8.5
	30-39 years	100.0	77.3	4.4	72.9	1.1	5.6	7.4	8.6
	40-49 years	100.0	77.3	5.5	71.7	1.2	5.4	7.1	9.0
	Total(18-49 years)	100.0	76.4	4.9	71.5	1.2	5.8	7.8	8.8
Expected level of education for a female child	20-29 years	100.0 %	54.4	1.3	53.2	7.4	12.1	16.1	10.0
	30-39 years	100.0	60.8	2.4	58.4	11.4	9.6	8.6	9.6
	40-49 years	100.0	58.9	1.7	57.2	10.7	10.9	8.6	11.0
	Total(18-49 years)	100.0	59.2	1.9	57.3	10.6	10.5	9.3	10.4
Referenc:10th survey (1992)	Education of a male child	100.0	73.9	...	...	6.8	...	7.8	11.6
	Education of a female child	100.0	34.3	...	...	38.5	...	14.7	12.6

Note: Figures shown are for first-marriage couples. Respondents under 20 years old were omitted since there were only four corresponding cases. However, they were included in the total. The number of cases of 15th Survey:20 to 29 years old (472) , 30 to 39 years old (2,023) , 40 to 49 years old (2,835) ,18 to 49 years old (5,334) . The number of cases of 10th Survey:8,844(18 to 49 years old) .

Question: How much education do (did) you and your spouse want your child to obtain? If you do not have a male or a female child, please answer by supposing that you do have (1) a male child and (2) a female child. (The response to the question is referred as "expectation" in the table above).

2. Life Style, Dating, Marriage, and Giving Birth

- Approximately 70% of singles and married couples met their partner “at the workplace or through work”, “through friends or siblings”, and “at school”. (66.9% among single men, 66.1% among single women, and 70.7% among married couples).

Table III-4: The ways and/or places married couples met, by survey

Survey (Survey Year)	Total (Number of Cases)	Love marriage							Arranged marriage	Other	Unknown
		At the workplace or through work	Through friends or siblings	At school	Around town or during a trip	Love Marriage through various activities (hobbies, etc.) or an adult education class	Through part time job	Childhood friend / neighbor			
8th Survey (1982)	100.0 % (1,295)	25.3 %	20.5	6.1	8.2	5.8	...	2.2	29.4	0.3	2.2
9th Survey (1987)	100.0 (1,421)	31.5	22.4	7.0	6.3	5.3	...	1.5	23.3	1.9	0.8
10th Survey (1992)	100.0 (1,525)	35.0	22.3	7.7	6.2	5.5	4.2	1.8	15.2	1.6	0.3
11th Survey (1997)	100.0 (1,304)	33.5	27.0	10.4	5.2	4.8	4.7	1.5	9.7	1.9	1.2
12th Survey (2002)	100.0 (1,488)	32.9	29.2	9.3	5.4	5.1	4.8	1.1	6.9	3.0	2.2
13th Survey (2005)	100.0 (1,076)	29.9	30.9	11.1	4.5	5.2	4.3	1.0	6.4	4.5	2.3
14th Survey (2010)	100.0 (1,136)	29.3	29.7	11.9	5.1	5.5	4.2	2.4	5.2	4.8	2.0
15th Survey (2015)	100.0 (894)	28.2	30.8	11.7	5.7	4.8	3.8	1.6	6.4	5.0	2.0

Note: Figures shown are for first-marriage couples who got married within five years prior to each survey. In the 8th and 9th surveys, “through a part-time job” was not included in the options.

Table III-5: The ways and/or places couples met, by survey

Survey (Survey Year)	Total (Number of Cases)	At the workplace or through work	Through friends or siblings	At school	Around town or during a trip	Love Marriage through various activities (hobbies, etc.) or an adult education class	through part time job	Childhood friend/neighbor	through an arranged introduction	through a marriage match-making agency	Other	Unknown
Never-married men	100.0 % (737)	18.6 %	20.6	27.7	5.0	6.2	5.4	2.6	0.7	0.4	5.3	7.5
Never-married women	100.0 (976)	21.5	20.9	23.7	3.5	7.2	6.7	1.8	0.4	0.5	6.4	7.5

Note: The table is based on the data for never-married persons aged 18-34 who involved in romantic relationship (fiancé/fiancée, lovers, friends of opposite sex).

- The desired number of children of singles who have ever had a contact experience with children tends

to be larger, especially among women (2.14 vs 1.89).

- The ideal/ intended number of children of married couples with 10 years passage of time after their marriage tend to be larger among those with more such an experience, which are 2.45 vs 2.36 on ideal ones, and 2.32 vs 2.21 on intended one.

Table III-6: Average desired, ideal and intended number of children, by presence / absence of contact experience with children: 15th Survey (2015), never married persons (aged 18-34) and wife of married couple (aged 18-34, duration of marriage 0-9 years)

Subject/ indicator	Have had contact with small children	Average (Number of cases)	Subject/ indicator	Have had contact with small children	Average (Number of cases)
【Never-married men】 Desired number of children	Yes	2.00 (937)	【Couples】 Ideal number of children	Yes	2.45 (531)
	No	1.86 (1,267)		No	2.36 (572)
【Never-married women】 Desired number of children	Yes	2.14 (1,150)	【Couples】 Intended number of children	Yes	2.32 (528)
	No	1.89 (1,079)		No	2.21 (570)

Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34 who answered "Intend to marry someday", and for wife of first-marriage couples (aged 18-34, duration of marriage 0-9 years). In cases where the desired number of children was 5 or more, it was counted as 5 in calculation of average desired number of children. In cases where the ideal or intended number of children was 8 or more, it was counted as 8 in calculation of average ideal or intended number of children. "contact experience with children" of the wife is the answer to the situation of before marriage.

3. Views on Marriage and Family

- More than 80% of married women agreed with the following views: “Unmarried couples may have sexual intercourse if they love each other” (87.5%), “Manhood and womanhood are necessary to some extent in any society” (85.3%), “One ought to have personal goals even after getting married, other than those of the partner or other members of the family” (85.0%), and “One should give the first birth in her 20s” (81.9%).

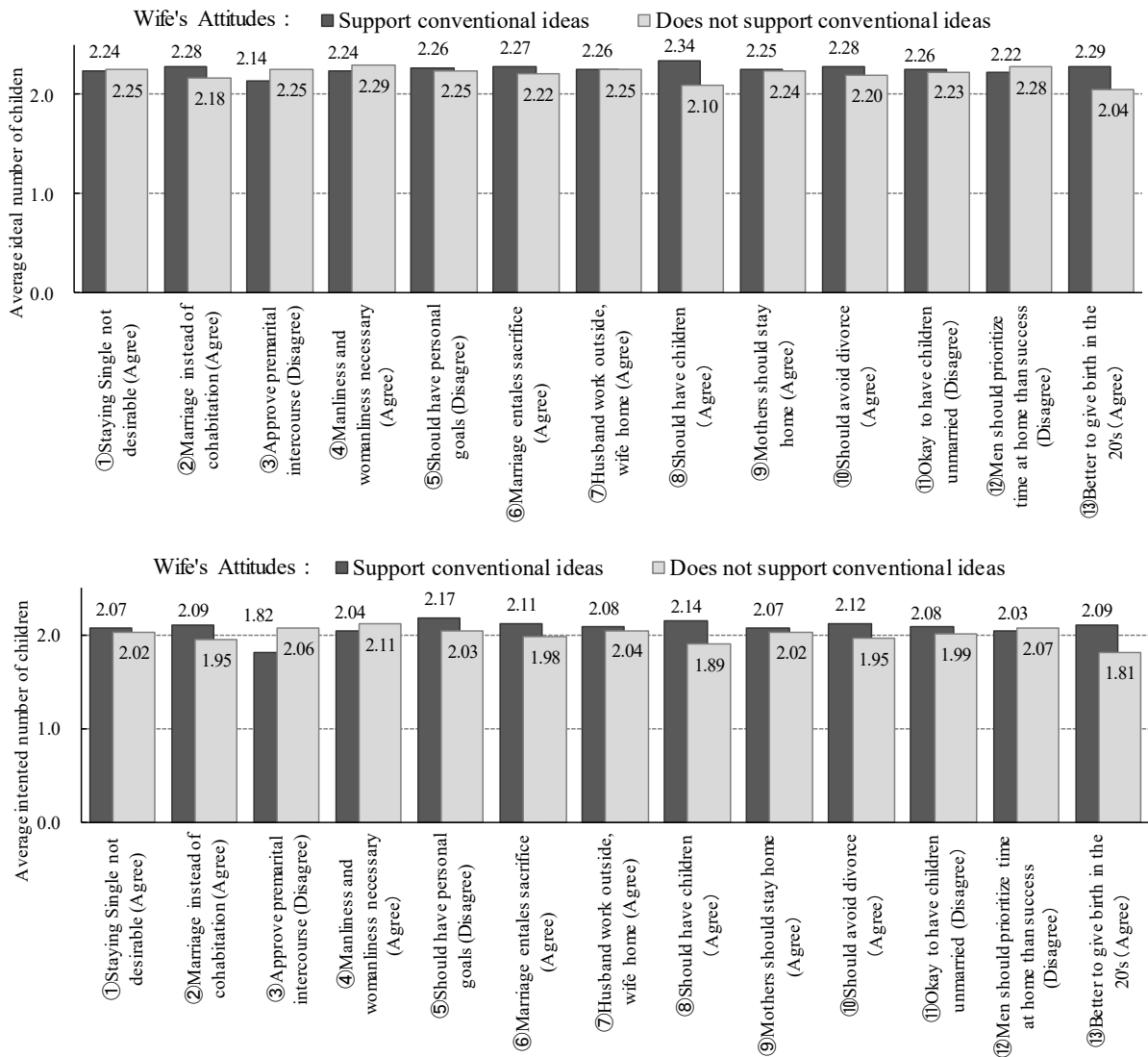
Table III-7: Wife’s views on marriage and family: 15th survey (2015)

Views on marriage and family	Total No. of cases (5,334)	Agree			Disagree			No respo nse	14th survey	
		Absolutely agree	Agree to some extent	Disagree to some extent	Absolutely disagree	No respo nse	Agree		Disagre e	
① It is not desirable to remain single for one's entire life	100.0 %	54.5 %	9.7	44.8	41.3 %	10.7	30.6	4.2 %	57.3 %	38.3 %
② Men and Women should marry if they live together	100.0	69.3	15.8	53.5	27.0	7.3	19.7	3.7	72.3	23.6
③ Unmarried couples may have sexual intercourse if they love each other	100.0	87.5	34.2	53.3	8.8	1.5	7.3	3.7	82.6	13.4
④ Manhood and womanhood are necessary to some extent in any society	100.0	85.3	28.4	56.9	10.9	2.5	8.4	3.8	88.4	8.0
⑤ One ought to have personal goals even after getting married, other than those of the partner or other members of the family	100.0	85.0	24.7	60.3	10.7	1.2	9.5	4.3	84.0	11.8
⑥ It is natural that one should sacrifice half of one's own personality or lifestyle for the family	100.0	48.4	6.2	42.2	47.8	12.3	35.5	3.9	46.4	49.7
⑦ Husbands should work and wives should take care of the home after marriage	100.0	27.3	2.7	24.6	69.0	27.4	41.6	3.7	31.9	64.0
⑧ One should have children if one gets married	100.0	66.6	12.3	54.3	28.9	10.7	18.2	4.4	71.2	24.3
⑨ It is desirable that mothers should not work and should stay home at least when their children are young	100.0	63.7	14.4	49.3	32.5	10.2	22.3	3.8	69.5	26.5
⑩ One should not get divorced for a small reason such as incompatible personalities	100.0	52.3	10.7	41.6	43.8	12.4	31.4	3.9	54.9	40.7
⑪ It is okay to have children even if one is not married	100.0	35.4	7.7	27.7	60.6	15.5	45.1	4.0	36.4	59.6
⑫ For a married man, it is more important to spend time with his family than to be successful at work	100.0	60.0	9.4	50.6	35.0	3.1	31.9	5.0	...	...
⑬ If woman were to give birth to the first child, it is better to do so when she is in her 20s	100.0	81.9	29.2	52.6	14.1	3.1	11.0	4.0	...	...

Note: The figures are for first-marriage couples. Item 12 and 13 are new ones in 15th survey.

- For wives with less than five years of marital duration, average ideal and intended numbers of children were greater for those who hold more conventional ideas compared to those who hold more liberal views.

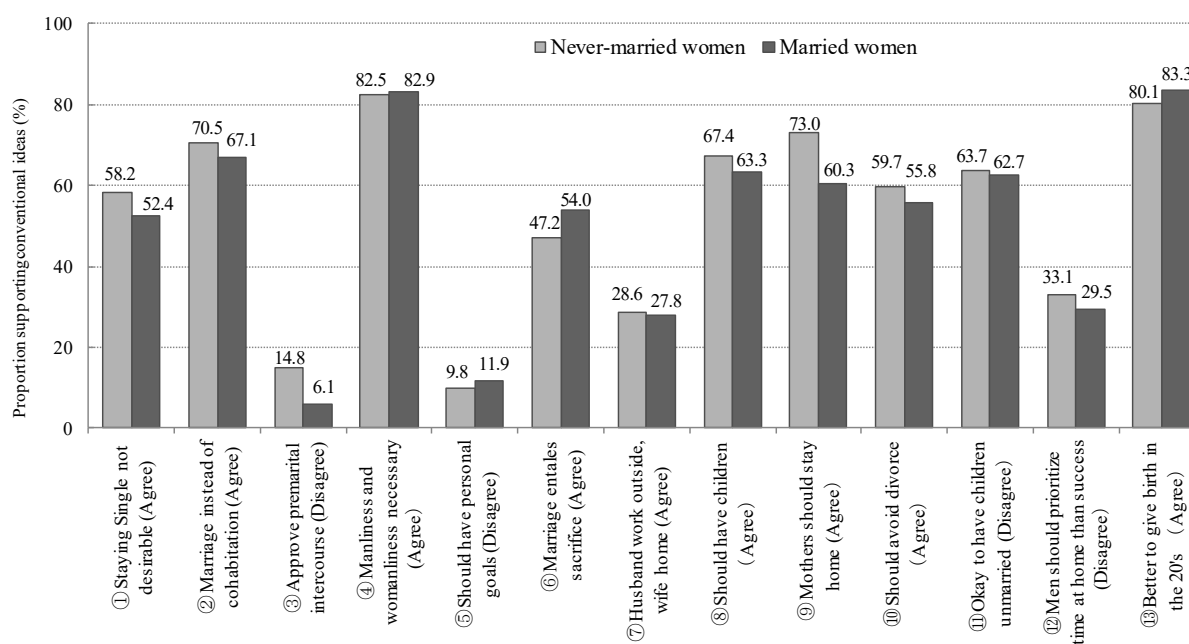
Figure III-1: Ideal and intended number of children, by wives' view on marriage and family (whether or not one supports conventional ideas) : 15th survey (2015) (Duration of marriage 0 to 4 years)



Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples whose duration of marriage is 0 to 4 years. Those responding “Agree” or “Agree to some extent” to the items are classified as the group supporting conventional ideas, except for items (3), (5), (11) and (12). Conversely, those who replied “Disagree” and “Disagree to some extent” to the same items were classified as the group not supporting conventional ideas. The grouping for (3), (5), (11) and (12) are reversed. Each bar graph shows the group supporting conventional ideas on the left side (darker color) and the group not conventional ideas on the right side (lighter color) in comparing the average ideal number of children and average intended number of children.

- Single women tend to be more conservative than married women in terms of attitudes to marriage or having children, whereas married women tend to be more conservative in terms of lifestyle after marriage and an appropriate age for giving birth.

Figure III-2: Women's view of marriage and family, by marital status: 15th survey (2015) (Never-married and married women, 18-34 years old)



Note: Figures are shown for 18-34 years old never-married women and married women (first-marriage). Those responding “Agree” or “Agree to some extent” to the items are classified as the group supporting conventional ideas, except for items (3), (5), (11) and (12). Conversely, those who replied “Disagree” and “Disagree to some extent” to the same items were classified as the group not supporting conventional ideas. The grouping for (3), (5), (11) and (12) are reversed. Number of cases: never-married women (2,570), married women (1,296).