

Marriage Process and Fertility of Japanese Married Couples

Overview of the Results of the Thirteenth Japanese National Fertility Survey,
Married Couples

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Introduction

(1) The Purpose and History of the Survey

The National Institute of Population and Social Security Research carried out the 13th Japanese National Fertility Survey (National Survey on Marriage and Birth in Japan) in June 2005. The survey is conducted to determine the current situations and backgrounds, which are not available in other public statistics, of marriage and/or the fertility of married couples, and to obtain the basic data necessary for relevant policies and future population projections. The first (prewar) National Fertility Survey was carried out in 1940, followed by the second one (postwar) in 1952. After that, it has been conducted every five years investigating on marriage and birth of married couples. Since the 8th Survey (1982), a survey of unmarried persons has been undertaken simultaneously with the survey of married couples. In the meantime, the 13th Survey was brought forward two years ahead of schedule to 2005, in order to ensure high reliability of the analysis results by enabling comparison with the results of the 2005 Population Census of Japan on basic items. This report covers the 13th Survey on married couples.

(2) Survey Procedures and Collection of Questionnaires

This is a national sample survey of wives of married couples under the age of 50 in Japan (i.e. the respondents are wives), as of June 2005. The survey areas were 700 districts selected by systematic sampling from the 1,056 districts surveyed in the Comprehensive Survey of Living Condition of the People on Health and Welfare, 2005 (carried out by the Statistics and Information Department of the Minister's Secretariat in the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare), which had been drawn by stratified random sampling from the districts covered in the 2000 Population Census. All married women residing in those districts under the age of 50 were the subjects of this survey.

This survey was carried out by distributing numbered questionnaires, which were later sealed and collected. Of the 7,976 distributed questionnaires (the number of subjects surveyed), 7,296 questionnaires were collected, yielding a response rate of 91.5% (92.9% for the previous survey). However, 460 of the collected questionnaires that were not properly filled-out were considered invalid and excluded from the total. Thus, the number of valid questionnaires was 6,836, for a valid collection rate of 85.7% (87.8% for the previous survey) (**Table 1**). This report presents the results from 5,932 first-marriage couples (**Table 2**).

Table 1 The number of distributed questionnaires and the number/rate of valid collected questionnaires

State of collection of questionnaires	
Number of subjects surveyed	7,976
Number of questionnaires	7,296 (response rate 91.5%)
Number of valid questionnaires	6,836 (valid response rate 85.7%)

Table 2 Number of cases by basic attributes (for first-marriage couples)

Age of wife	Number of cases	Duration of marriage	Number of cases
Under 20	3 (0.1%)	Less than 5 years	1,076 (18.1%)
20-24	134 (2.3)	5-9	1,240 (20.9)
25-29	574 (9.7)	10-14	1,305 (22.0)
30-34	1,205 (20.3)	15-19	1,090 (18.4)
35-39	1,372 (23.1)	20-24	905 (15.3)
40-44	1,350 (22.8)	25 year or more	265 (4.5)
45-49	1,294 (21.8)	Not known	51 (0.9)
Total	5,932 (100.0%)	Total	5,932 (100.0%)

1. Getting Married

(1) Ages at first-marriage/first encounter and the length of courtship

The age of the first encounter is higher, the length of courtship has lengthened and the trend of later marriage further strengthened

The average age at which couples met for the first time has increased for both husbands and wives of

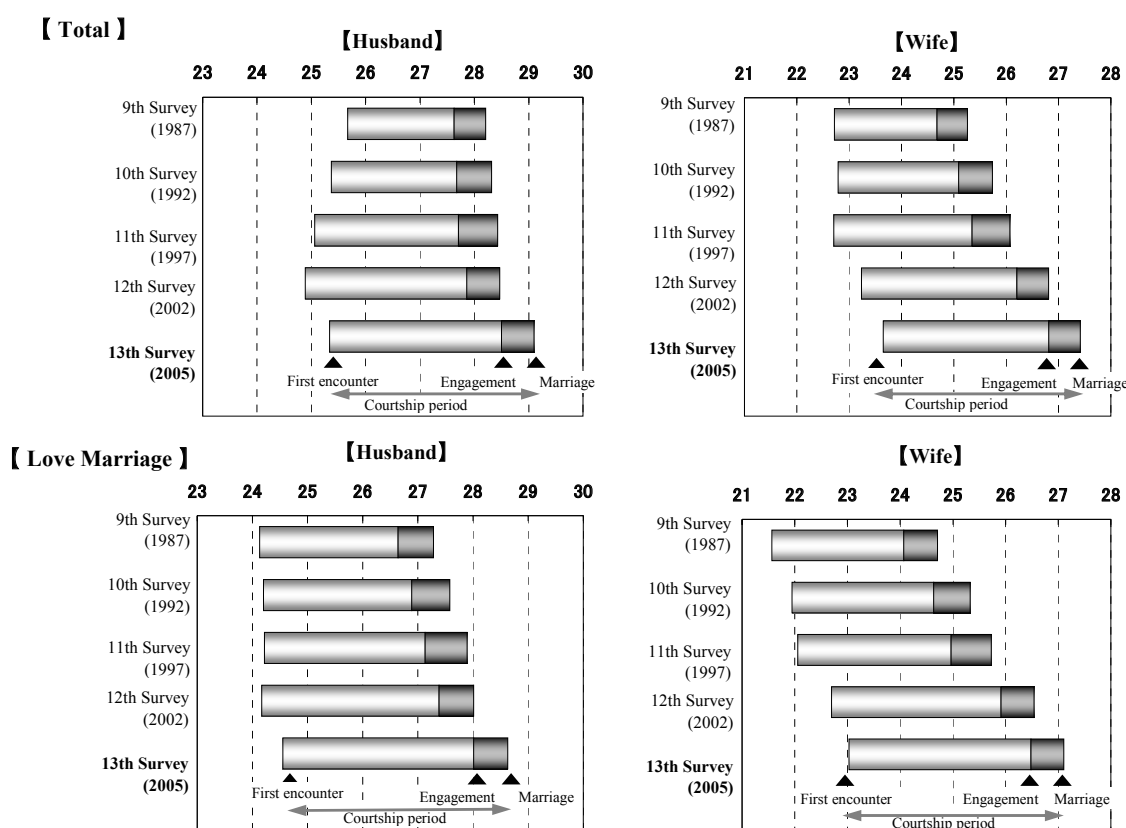
couples (Table 1-1, Figure 1-1). There is a continuing increase in the length of courtship (from the first encounter to marriage). The courtship period is 1.2 years (48%) longer than 18 years ago (9th Survey). As a result of these changes, the average age at first marriage has continued to rise, with continuing increase in the proportion of later marriage.

Table 1-1 Average age at first encounter and first marriage, average length of courtship, and the average difference in age of couples, by survey

Survey (Year of survey)	Husband		Wife		Average length of courtship	Average difference in age of couples
	Average age at first encounter	Average age at first marriage	Average age at first encounter	Average age at first marriage		
Total						
9th Survey (1987)	25.7	28.2	22.7	25.3	2.5	2.5
10th Survey(1992)	25.4	28.3	22.8	25.7	2.9	2.9
11th Survey(1997)	25.1	28.4	22.7	26.1	3.4	3.4
12th Survey(2002)	24.9	28.5	23.2	26.8	3.6	1.7
13th Survey(2005)	25.3	29.1	23.7	27.4	3.8	1.7
Love marriage						
9th Survey (1987)	24.1	27.3	21.6	24.7	3.1	2.6
10th Survey(1992)	24.2	27.6	21.9	25.3	3.4	2.3
11th Survey(1997)	24.2	27.9	22.1	25.7	3.7	2.2
12th Survey(2002)	24.2	28.0	22.7	26.5	3.8	1.5
13th Survey(2005)	24.6	28.6	23.0	27.1	4.1	1.5

Note: The data are for first-marriage couples who were married during the five years prior to each survey (excluding couples whose processes of marriage were not known). See Table 1-2 for "Love Marriage." Number of cases (total/love marriage): 9th Survey (1,289/975), 10th Survey (1,342/1,102), 11th Survey (1,145/997), 12th Survey (1,221/1,090), 13th Survey (885/774).

Figure 1-1 The average pattern of first marriage, by survey



Note: This is a graphic display of Table 1-1.

Table 1-2 Frequency distribution of the ways/places couples meet, by survey

Survey (Survey year)	Total	Love marriage							Arranged marriage	Other/Not known
		At the workplace or through work	Through friends or siblings	At school	Around town or during a trip	Through a club or an adult education class	Through a part-time job	Childhood friend/neighbor		
8th Survey (1982)	100.0 %	25.3 %	20.5	6.1	8.2	5.8	-	2.2	29.4 %	2.5 %
9th Survey (1987)	100.0	31.5	22.4	7.0	6.3	5.3	-	1.5	23.3	2.7
10th Survey (1992)	100.0	35.0	22.3	7.7	6.2	5.5	4.2	1.8	15.2	2.0
11th Survey (1997)	100.0	33.5	27.0	10.4	5.2	4.8	4.7	1.5	9.7	3.1
12th Survey (2002)	100.0	32.9	29.2	9.3	5.4	5.1	4.8	1.1	6.9	5.2
13th Survey (2005)	100.0	29.9	30.9	11.1	4.5	5.2	4.3	1.0	6.4	6.8

Note: Subjects for this analysis are first-marriage couples who were married during the five years prior to each survey. “Arranged marriage” means “Through an arranged introduction” or “Through a matrimonial agency.” In the 8th and 9th surveys, “Through a part-time job” was not included in the options. Number of cases: 8th Survey (1,298), 9th Survey (1,421), 10th Survey (1,525), 11th Survey (1,304), 12th Survey (1,488), 13th Survey (1,076).

(2) How do couples meet?

The number of couples who met at the workplace has decreased, and those who met through friends and siblings top the list

The most common way to meet a future spouse is “Through friends/spouse,” exceeding 30% for

the first time and overtaking “At the workplace or through work” as the top answer. This is followed by “At school,” accounting for about 10%. These first three answers account for about 70% of how and where couples meet, indicating that the majority of couples meet in everyday activities (**Table 1-2**).

Historical transformation from arranged marriage to love marriage

The results of the past seven surveys indicate that the process of marriage has gone through a major transformation during the 60 years after the war. The proportion of arranged marriage, which exceeded 70% in prewar times, has consistently fallen since then. In the late 1960s, it was surpassed by love marriage, and has been below 10% of total marriages since the mid 1990s (**Figure 1-2**).

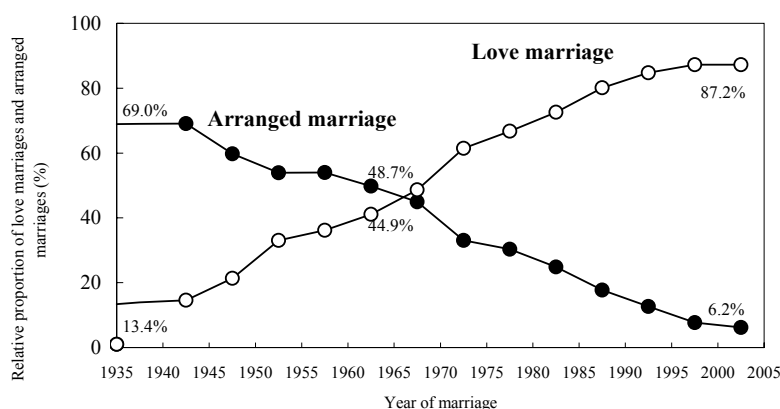
2. Fertility of Married Couples

(1) Completed fertility (the final number of children a couple has)

The average number of children for married couples who have reached the end of reproductive age decreases to 2.09

Completed fertility of married couples (the average number of children of couples with 15-19 years of marriage) greatly declined after the war, and reached 2.2 in 1972 (6th Survey). Since then, it had remained fairly stable at this level for almost three decades up until the current Survey, in which it declines to 2.09. Since the couples in this generation were married in the later half of the 1980s, it is evident that the decline occurs in the process of childbearing of the couples married after this period (**Table 2-1**).

Figure 1-2 Changes in the frequency distribution of love marriage and arranged marriage, by year of marriage



Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples. See **Appendix Table 1** (at the end of the document) for the numeric values of each year.

Table 2-1 Completed fertility, by survey (Duration of Marriage: 15-19 years)

Survey (Survey year)	Completed fertility
1st Survey (1940)	4.27
2nd Survey (1952)	3.50
3rd Survey (1957)	3.60
4th Survey (1962)	2.83
5th Survey (1967)	2.65
6th Survey (1972)	2.20
7th Survey (1977)	2.19
8th Survey (1982)	2.23
9th Survey (1987)	2.19
10th Survey (1992)	2.21
11th Survey (1997)	2.21
12th Survey (2002)	2.23
13th Survey (2005)	2.09

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples who have been married for 15-19 years (excluding couples for whom the number of children is not known).

The number of couples with three children decreases, whereas that of couples with none or one child increases

The number of children couples have has hardly changed since the 7th Survey; couples with 2 children make up the majority. This trend continues in the current Survey. However, in this Survey, the number of couples who have none or one child has slightly increased, whereas that of couples with three children has decreased (**Table 2-2**).

(2) *Number of children of couples in the childbearing period (number of children by duration of marriage)*

The average number of children has decreased for couples married five years or more

Considering the average number of children by duration of marriage, a decrease is found among couples who have been married 5 years or longer. The number of births of the couples who have been married for less than five years has slightly increased, as it did in the previous survey (**Table 2-3**).

Table 2-2 Distribution of number of births, by survey (Duration of marriage: 15-19 years)

Survey (Survey year)	None	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children or more	Completed fertility (± Standard Error)	(Number of cases)
7th Survey (1977)	3.0%	11.0	57.0	23.8	5.1	2.19人 (±0.023)	(1,427)
8th Survey (1982)	3.1	9.1	55.4	27.4	5.0	2.23 (±0.022)	(1,429)
9th Survey (1987)	2.7	9.6	57.8	25.9	3.9	2.19 (±0.019)	(1,755)
10th Survey (1992)	3.1	9.3	56.4	26.5	4.8	2.21 (±0.019)	(1,849)
11th Survey (1997)	3.7	9.8	53.6	27.9	5.0	2.21 (±0.023)	(1,334)
12th Survey (2002)	3.4	8.9	53.2	30.2	4.2	2.23 (±0.023)	(1,257)
13th Survey (2005)	5.6	11.7	56.0	22.4	4.3	2.09 (±0.027)	(1,078)

Note: Same as Table 2-1. Data of the past surveys were re-calculated for the purpose of comparison. See **Appendix Table 2** (at the end of the document) for the number of births to the couples who have been married for less than 15 years.

Table 2-3 Average number of births, by duration of marriage

Duration of marriage	7th Survey (1977)	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
0-4	0.93	0.80	0.93	0.80	0.71	0.75	0.80
5-9	1.93	1.95	1.97	1.84	1.75	1.71	1.63
10-14	2.17	2.16	2.16	2.19	2.10	2.04	1.98
15-19	2.19	2.23	2.19	2.21	2.21	2.23	2.09
20 years or longer	2.30	2.24	2.3	2.21	2.24	2.32	2.30

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples (excluding couples who did not state the number of births). Data of the past surveys were re-calculated for the purpose of comparison.

(3) Comparison by wives' birth cohorts

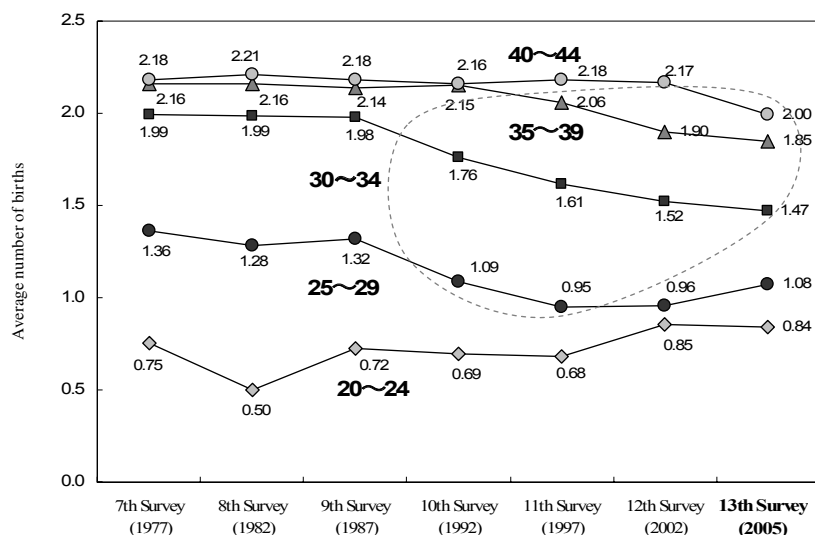
The number of children born to the couples with wives born in the 1960s has decreased

Considering the average number of births by the age of the wife, it is found that the decrease first appeared around 1990 (between the 9th and 10th Surveys) for those aged between 25 and 34. Since then, the decline has continued for those over 35

years of age (**Figure 2-1**). However, the figures among those in their 20s have begun to show an increase from a previously stable level.

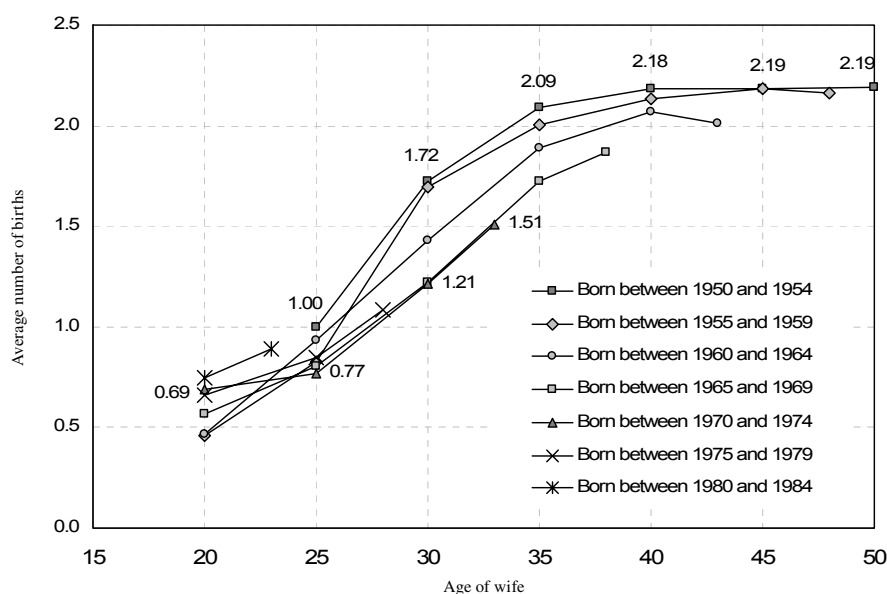
Analyzing these trends by the wife's birth cohort, it is found that the fertility of married couples started to decline when the cohort born in the 1960s reached their late 20s (**Figure 2-2**).

Figure 2-1 Change in the average number of births, by age of wife



Note: In this figure, the area enclosed by a dashed line indicates that a decline in average number of children of married couples can be observed.

Figure 2-2 Average number of births according to the age of wife, by the wife's birth cohort (year of birth)



Note: Comparison of the average number of children born to married women (wives) in each age group, classified by birth cohort. The numerical values indicate those born between 1950 and 1954 and between 1970 and 1975. See **Appendix Table 3** (at the end of the document) for complete figures.

3. Views on the Number of Children

(1) Ideal number of children and intended number of children

Both ideal number of children and intended number of children show a declining trend

The current survey shows that the average ideal number of children is lower than that in the previous survey for every group denoting different durations of marriage, with the total number recording less than 2.5 for the first time (Table

3-1, Figure 3-1, 3-2, 3-3). The number of children the couples actually intend to have (average intended number of children) continued to decline since the 9th Survey (1987), recording 2.11, which is also lower than the previous survey. While the intended number of children ceases to fall for the young couples under 10 years of marriage duration, the decrease is obvious for couples who have been married between 10 and 19 years (Table 3-2, Figure 3-1, 3-2, 3-3).

Table 3-1 Average ideal number of children, by survey and duration of marriage

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

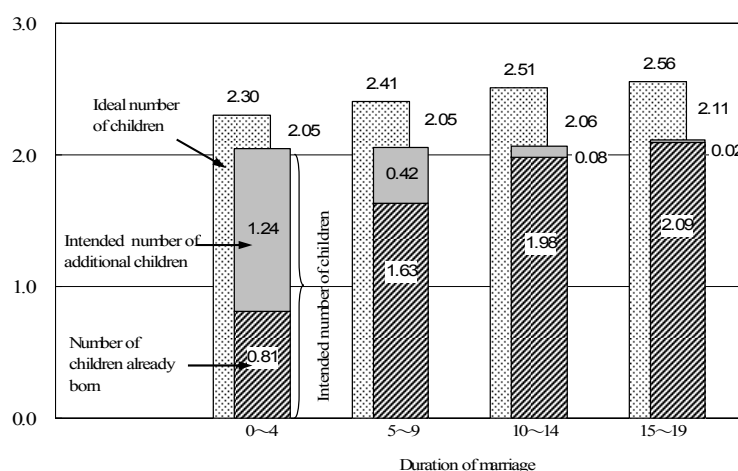
Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples. Data of the previous surveys have been re-calculated for the purpose of comparison.

Table 3-2 Average intended number of children, by survey and duration of marriage

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

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples. Data of the previous surveys have been re-calculated for the purpose of comparison.

Figure 3-1 Average ideal and intended number of children, by duration of marriage



Note: Graphic representation of the result of the 13th Survey compiled from Table 3-1 and Table 3-2. Duration of marriage of 20 years or longer is excluded.

Figure 3-2 Change in the average ideal and intended number of children, by survey

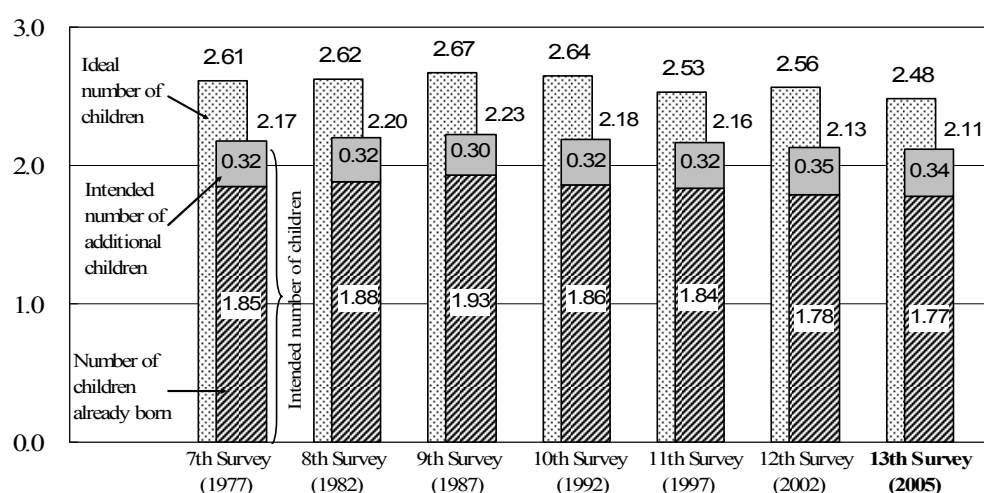
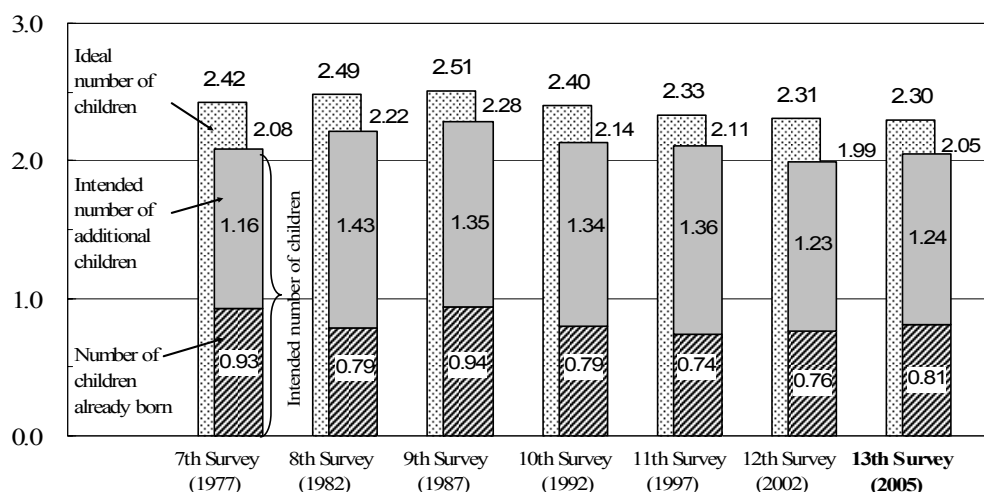


Figure 3-3 Change in the average ideal and intended number of children, by survey: Couples married for 0 to four years



The intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children among couples who already have two children

Considering the ideal and intended number of children of the couples who already have some children, it can be seen that the intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children

among couples who have two children, while the intended number of children generally corresponds to the ideal number of children for couples with three children. For couples who have more than four children, the ideal number of children becomes less than the number of children they already have (Figure 3-4).

Figure 3-4 Average ideal and intended number of children, by the number of children already born

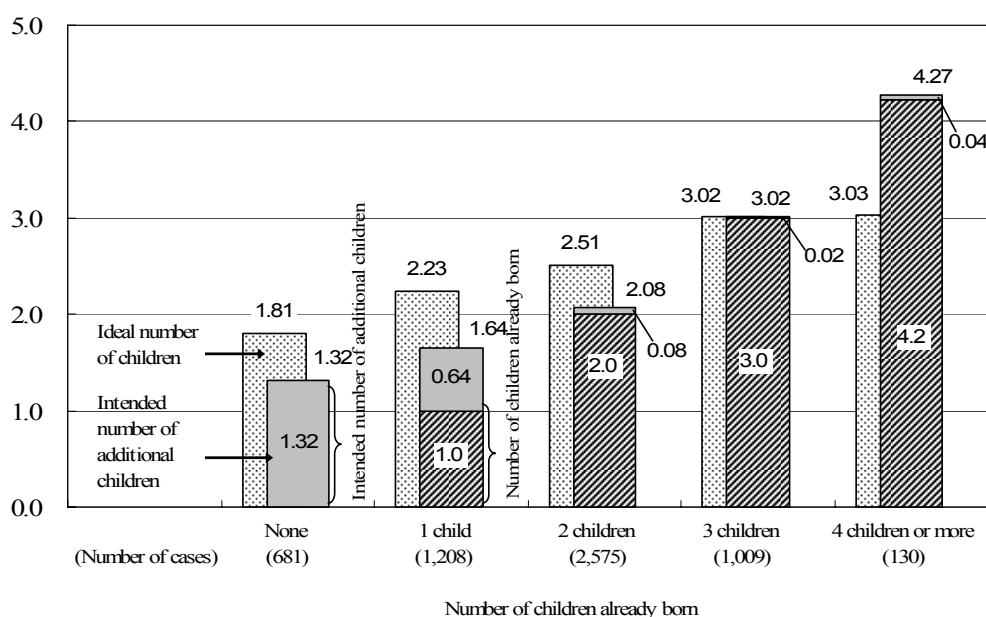


Table 3-3 Reasons why the intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children, classified by age of wife

(Multiple Answers)

Age of wife (Number of cases)	It costs too much to raise and educate children	Hate to bear children at older age	Can't bear mentally/physically the burden of childrearing anymore	Interference with one's job or business	Health reasons	Want to have a child but can't conceive one	House is too small	Can't gain husband's cooperation with household chores and childrearing	Social environment is not suitable for children to grow up without worry	Want the last child to grow up before the husband retires	Husband does not want it	Want to cherish the life of couple or oneself
25-29 (115)	83.5%	6.1	20.0	27.8	4.3	7.8	20.0	20.0	16.5	5.2	13.0	13.0
30-34 (329)	78.7	18.2	24.6	21.9	12.5	10.6	19.8	19.1	18.2	7.0	12.5	11.9
35-39 (464)	75.0	40.1	26.5	17.9	16.4	16.8	17.9	17.0	16.2	8.0	9.7	8.6
40-49 (897)	54.0	49.2	18.2	14.3	20.8	19.5	11.1	9.1	10.5	9.9	5.5	5.7
Total (1,825)	65.9%	38.0	21.6	17.5	16.9	16.3	15.0	13.8	13.6	8.5	8.3	8.1
Total of the 12th Survey (2,134)	62.9%	33.2	21.8	17.1	19.7	15.7	14.6	12.1	20.4	9.6	7.2	11.5

Note: The percentage of couples whose intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children is 35.3% (excluding not stated). The figures under 25 years of age are excluded, although they are included in the total. See **Appendix Table 4** (at the end of the document) for the complete figures.

(2) Reasons why the intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children

The most cited reason why the intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children is "It costs too much"

Couples list "It costs too much to raise and educate children" most frequently as a reason why they do not have the ideal number of children. The number of couples in the age group between 25 and

39 who cite this reason is greater than that in the previous Survey. "Interference with one's job or business" exceeds 20% for the age group between 25 and 34. The number of respondents who cited "Can't gain husband's cooperation with household chores and childrearing" and "Husband does not want it" increased in the group up to 40 years of age (**Table 3-3**. See **Appendix Table 4** for the comparison with the previous Survey between the age groups).

The reason why the couples cannot realize their ideal of a large number of children is because of economic factors and the reason why couples have a small number of children is because they cannot conceive a child

Among cases in which the intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children, the majority of the couples (55.3%) state that the ideal number is three but the intended number two, and they tend to cite the reason as "It costs too much" (74.7%). This is followed by couples whose ideal number is two and intended number one (20.4%). An increasing number of couples cite the reason for this gap as "Want to have a child but cannot conceive one" (26.9%), whereas a decreasing number of couples cite "Cost" (54.8%). In general, the couples whose intended number of children is small (none or one child) tend to cite "Want to have a child but cannot conceive one" as a major reason, and the couples whose intended number is two or more and ideal number is more than two or more tend to cite "Cost" and "Small house" (Table 3-4).

4. Child-rearing Conditions

(1) Wives' employment and fertility

The proportion of wives who raise children while working is under twenty percent for those who have been married less than five years and forty percent for those who have been married between five and nine years

Among wives who were employed before marriage and have been married for less than 5 years, 45.5% are still employed and 53.9% are housewives, and the proportion of working mothers is 18.6%, among which only 11.0% are in regular employment. When compared to the previous Survey, the proportion of working mothers has increased among those who have been married for 5-9 years, indicating a tendency of more women returning to work while their children are still small. However, the range of increase is small for regularly employed mothers; so, the great majority of the increase is believed to be due to the increase in mothers in non-regular employment. Among couples who have been married for 10-14 years, the proportion of working mothers (54.4%) is higher than that of non-working mothers (36.8%) (Table 4-1, Figure 4-1).

Table 3-4 Reasons why the intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children, by different combinations of intended and ideal numbers of children

(Multiple Answers)

Combination of intended and ideal number of children	Couples whose intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children	(Number of cases)	Reasons why they do not have the ideal number of children								
			It costs too much to raise and educate children	Hate to bear children at older age	Can't bear mentally/physically the burden of childrearing anymore	Interference with one's job or business	Health reasons	Want to have a child but can't conceive one	House is too small	Can't gain husband's cooperation with household chores and childrearing	Social environment is not suitable for children to grow up without worry
Ideal: one or more – Intended: none	4.1%	(74)	21.6%	37.8	4.1	6.8	16.2	58.1	1.4	4.1	10.8
Ideal: two – Intended: one	20.4	(372)	54.8	36.3	18.8	17.7	19.1	26.9	9.9	14.8	15.9
Ideal: three or more – Intended: one	6.5	(119)	33.6	44.5	20.2	13.4	26.1	41.2	9.2	10.9	10.1
Ideal: three – Intended: two	55.3	(1,010)	74.7	36.8	23.4	18.8	15.4	9.0	16.0	13.8	13.5
Ideal: four or more – Intended: two	5.8	(105)	80.0	40.0	22.9	21.0	21.9	7.6	27.6	21.0	22.9
Ideal: four or more – Intended: three	7.9	(145)	72.4	44.1	25.5	13.8	11.0	4.1	23.4	13.8	6.9
Total	100.0	(1,825)	65.9	38.0	21.6	17.5	16.9	16.3	15.0	13.8	13.6

Note: The reasons with less than 10% of responses in total are omitted.

**Table 4-1 Employment of wife, with or without children, by survey/duration of marriage
(For wives who were employed before marriage)**

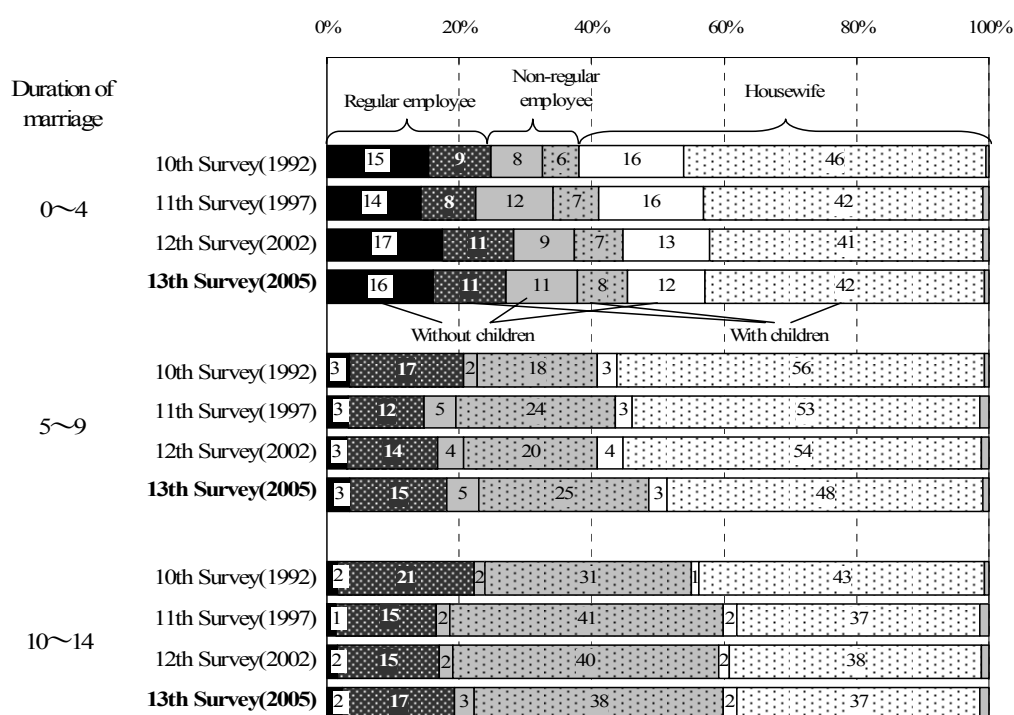
Duration of marriage/Survey (Survey year)		Total (Number of cases)	Employment status of wife					
			Working		Regular employment (re-listed)		Housewife	
			Without children	With children	Without children	With children	Without children	With children
0~4	10th Survey(1992)	100.0 % (1,462)	23.3 %	14.8	15.5	9.3	15.7	45.6
	11th Survey(1997)	100.0 (1,215)	26.0	15.1	14.3	8.1	15.7	42.3
	12th Survey(2002)	100.0 (1,281)	26.6	18.1	17.5	10.7	13.0	41.3
	13th Survey(2005)	100.0 (935)	26.8	18.6	16.1	11.0	11.8	42.1
5~9	10th Survey(1992)	100.0 (1,473)	5.6	35.3	3.4	17.2	2.8	55.7
	11th Survey(1997)	100.0 (1,219)	8.0	35.6	3.2	11.6	2.5	52.5
	12th Survey(2002)	100.0 (1,160)	6.8	34.1	2.9	13.9	3.8	54.3
	13th Survey(2005)	100.0 (1,107)	8.3	40.2	3.4	14.7	2.8	47.7
10~14	10th Survey(1992)	100.0 (1,512)	3.2	51.7	1.7	20.6	1.3	43.1
	11th Survey(1997)	100.0 (1,223)	3.4	56.3	1.4	15.1	2.0	36.7
	12th Survey(2002)	100.0 (1,124)	3.6	55.5	1.5	15.5	1.6	38.2
	13th Survey(2005)	100.0 (1,132)	5.4	54.4	2.3	16.9	2.0	36.8

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples whose wives were employed before marriage (excluding couples for whom the number of children is not known). The current working status of the wife is defined as follows:

Working: employed before marriage and employed now

Regular employment: In regular employment before marriage and in regular employment now ("regular" employees include dispatched employees and contract employees). Housewife: employed before marriage and not employed now. Those for whom employment status is not known are included in the total. The proportion of wives who were working before marriage was 91.6% in the 10th Survey, 93.5% in the 11th Survey, 84.8% in the 12th Survey, and 86.0% in the 13th Survey.

**Figure 4-1 Employment status of wife, with or without children, by survey/duration of marriage
(For wives who were employed before marriage)**



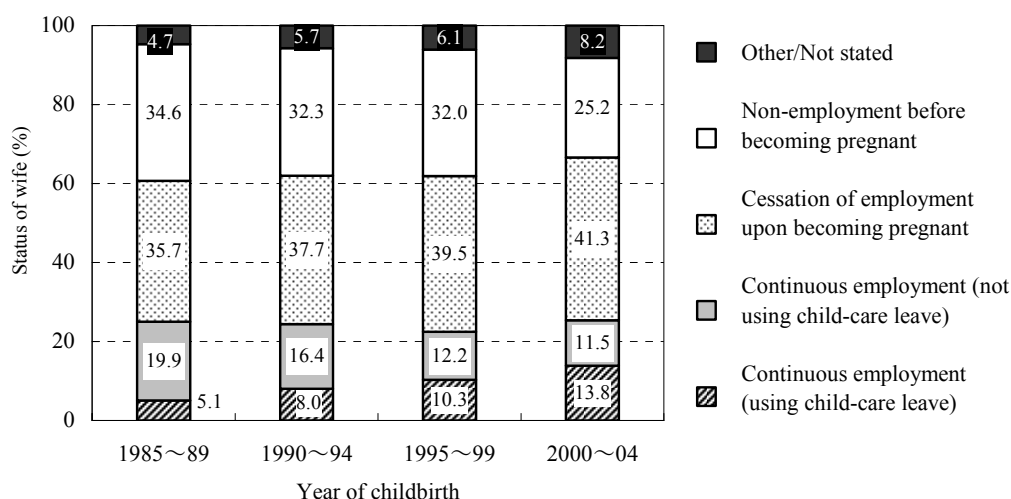
The number of wives who continue working after giving birth has not increased

When investigating the employment status of wives who have given birth to their first child, it is found that the number of women who continued working using child-care leave has increased, while the number of those who continued working has remained at the same level of around 25% since the later half of the 1980s (**Figure 4-2**).

There is no significant difference in the number of births according to the wife's employment history

No significant difference is found in the relationship between the wife's employment history and the number of births among the couples with a child one year of age or older. The current Survey shows that when wives continue to hold regular jobs and the duration of the marriage is under five years or between five and nine years, there is a tendency to have slightly fewer children. However, no clear difference is found for the couples who have been married for 10-14 years and 15-19 years (**Table 4-2**).

Figure 4-2 Employment of wives who have given birth to the first child, by year of childbirth



Note: The figures of the 12th and 13th surveys for the first-marriage couples with a child aged one or over are combined.

The wife's employment history at the time of childbirth is defined as follows:

Continuous employment (using child-care leave): Employed before becoming pregnant with the first child, took child-care leave and returned to work when the first child was one year old.

Continuous employment (not using child-care leave): Employed before becoming pregnant with the first child, employed at the time the first child was one year old, without taking child-care leave.

Cessation of employment upon becoming pregnant: Employed before becoming pregnant with the first child and non-employed at the time the first child was one year old.

Non-employment before becoming pregnant: Not employed before becoming pregnant with the first child and not employed at the time the first child was one year old.

Table 4-2 Average number of births for couples who have a child aged 1 or over, by wife's employment history, and survey and duration of marriage

Duration of marriage/ survey (Survey year)		Total	Wife's employment history				Number of cases
			Continuous employment pattern	Continuous regular employment pattern (listed again)	Return-to- work pattern	Housewifery pattern	
0~4	10th Survey(1992)	1.39	1.35	1.35	1.60	1.35	678
	11th Survey(1997)	1.31	1.29	1.31	1.46	1.30	477
	12th Survey(2002)	1.30	1.27	1.29	1.24	1.31	579
	13th Survey(2005)	1.39	1.28	1.29	1.38	1.43	422
5~9	10th Survey(1992)	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.01	2.03	1,314
	11th Survey(1997)	1.97	2.00	1.93	1.94	1.95	1,007
	12th Survey(2002)	1.93	1.94	1.89	1.85	1.93	998
	13th Survey(2005)	1.85	1.76	1.68	1.85	1.94	936
10~14	10th Survey(1992)	2.32	2.41	2.34	2.26	2.29	1,407
	11th Survey(1997)	2.25	2.20	2.07	2.22	2.29	967
	12th Survey(2002)	2.16	2.19	2.17	2.17	2.11	1,034
	13th Survey(2005)	2.15	2.19	2.15	2.17	2.21	1,005
15~19	10th Survey(1992)	2.29	2.35	2.29	2.27	2.20	1,561
	11th Survey(1997)	2.30	2.41	2.28	2.26	2.27	947
	12th Survey(2002)	2.32	2.33	2.19	2.34	2.28	991
	13th Survey(2005)	2.22	2.26	2.24	2.27	2.17	844

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples with a child aged 1 or over where the wife was working before marriage (excluding the couples who did not state the number of children).

The wife's work history is defined as follows:

Continuous employment pattern: Employed before marriage, employed after bearing first child, employed now

Continuous regular employment pattern: Regularly employed before marriage, regularly employed after bearing first child, regularly employed now (including dispatched/contract employment)

Return-to-work pattern: Employed before marriage, non-employed after bearing first child, employed now

Housewifery pattern: Employed before marriage, non-employed after bearing first child, non-employed now

The total includes those with other work histories and those for whom the employment history is not known.

See **Appendix Table 5** (at the end of the document) for the patterns of work history.

(2) Utilization of child-care support systems and facilities

Use of child-care leave has expanded, though a disparity exists by the size of the company

The proportion of the couples with a child aged 1 or over who have used any kind of child-care support systems or facilities is 39.4%. As for wives who continue to be regularly employed before and after childbirth, 89.6% of them have used some kind of systems or facilities; particularly high is the rate of use of the childbirth leave system (76.2%)

and child-care leave system (47.1%) (**Table 4-3**) and the use of the latter is on the rise (**Figure 4-3**). However, the utilization of these systems and facilities varies, depending on the size of the company: the percentage of those who have used the system is high in large companies and the public sector (**Table 4-3**). The utilization rate of support systems and facilities is also high for couples who cannot receive support from their parents (**Figure 4-4**).

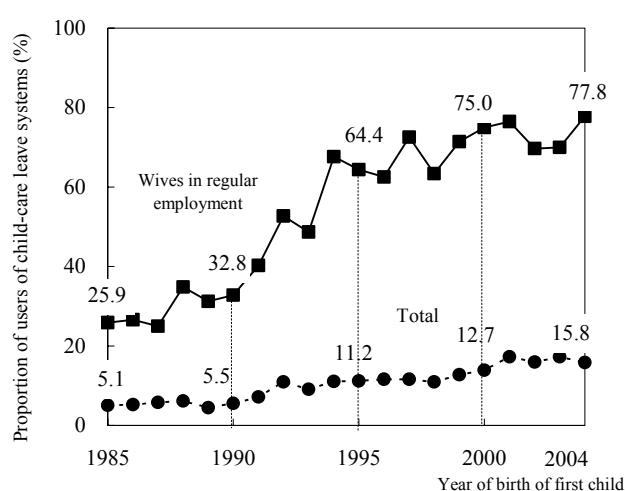
Table 4-3 Systems/Facilities used at the birth of the first child (for couples who have a child aged 1 or over)

(Multiple Answers)

Year of birth of wife / Number of employees at workplace		Number of cases	Prenatal/ Postnatal leave system	Child-care leave system	Child-care time system/Short working hours system	Licensed public daycare	Licensed private daycare	Non-licensed daycare facilities	In-house day nursery	Private family daycare homes/Babysitters, etc.	Community child-care support centers and family support centers	Temporary care at nursery schools/kindergarten, etc.	None of the above
Total		(4,731)	16.7 %	8.9	2.9	11.2	6.6	3.0	1.1	1.6	6.3	8.5	56.0
Those who continue to be regularly employed	Total	(753)	76.2 %	47.1	16.1	31.7	20.3	5.8	4.6	4.9	2.5	7.8	9.2
	Wife's year of birth												
	1955~59	(181)	72.4 %	30.9	12.7	25.4	16.6	4.4	1.7	6.1	-	9.9	14.4
	1960~64	(191)	75.9	37.2	14.7	30.4	25.1	5.8	5.2	3.7	2.1	5.8	7.9
	1965~69	(174)	75.9	52.9	17.2	33.9	18.4	5.7	7.5	6.3	1.1	5.2	8.0
	1970~74	(145)	80.7	66.2	20.7	35.9	20.7	7.6	4.8	4.8	6.9	11.7	4.8
	After 1975	(62)	79.0	64.5	16.1	38.7	21.0	6.5	3.2	1.6	4.8	6.5	11.3
	Number of employees at wife's workplace (at the point when the first child became 1 year old)												
	1~29	(154)	60.4 %	28.6	4.5	22.7	19.5	5.8	1.3	6.5	1.3	9.1	16.2
	30~99	(106)	66.0	36.8	7.5	25.5	19.8	2.8	5.7	1.9	1.9	8.5	17.0

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples with a child aged 1 or older. Here, "Those who continue to be regularly employed" is defined as those who were in regular employment at the two time-points: one, "when the pregnancy of the first child became known" and two, "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.

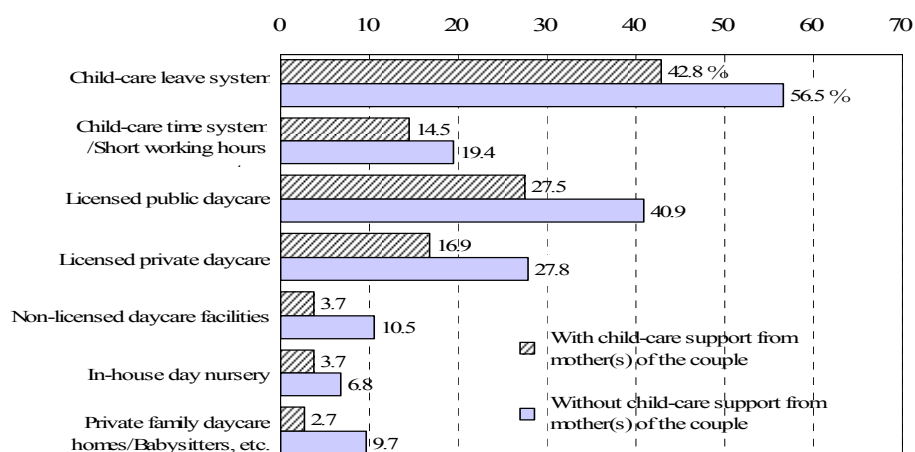
Figure 4-3 Proportion of users of child-care leave systems, by year of childbirth (First child/Wives in continuous regular employment)



Note: Subjects are wives who continue to be in regular employment listed in Table 4-3.

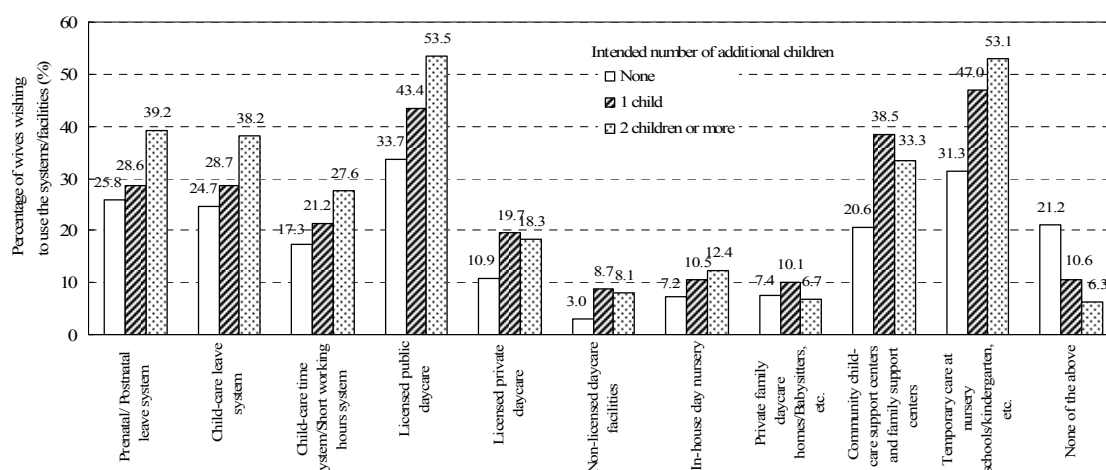
Figures are calculated by combining the data for the couples in the 12th and 13th Surveys.

Figure 4-4 Use of child support systems/facilities by the availability of parental assistance (First child/Wife in continuous employment)



Note: Subjects are wives who continue to be in regular employment listed in **Table 4-3**. “With child-care support from mother(s) of the couple” refers to the cases where the mother of the wife and/or the husband provided child-care help daily or frequently until the first child became 3 years old.

Figure 4-5 Systems and facilities the couples want to use when a child is born in the future, by the intended number of additional children (Multiple Answers)



Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples. Those for whom the intended number of additional children is not known are omitted.

The higher the intended number of additional children is, the more couples desire to use short working hours system, daycare centers, and temporary care centers

With respect to the intention of using systems and facilities when a child is born in the future, the more children the couples intend to have in the future, the stronger the intention of using child-birth/childcare leave, and daycare or temporary care centers (**Figure 4-5**).

(3) Parental Assistance in Childcare and Fertility

The availability of child-care assistance by the couple's parent(s) determines the number of births in the future

When child-care assistance was given by the mother(s) of the couple for the first child, the additional number of births afterwards tends to be higher (Figure 4-6).

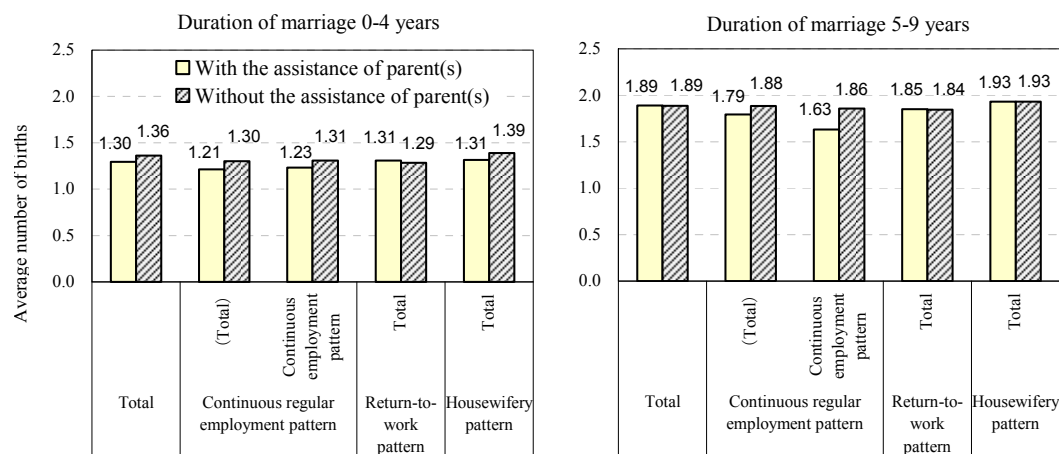
5. Health as Related to Pregnancy and Child-birth

(1) Concerns about infertility and treatment experience

One out of four couples have worried about infertility; slightly less than half of the childless couples have concerns

The percentage of couples who have worried/are worried about infertility remains at the same level as the previous survey at 25.8% (26.1% in the previous survey). The percentage reaches 44.7% (previous survey 48.2%) for childless couples. The percentage of the couples who have undergone (or are undergoing) treatment is 13.4% in total and 24.3% for childless couples (Figure 5-1).

Figure 4-6 Average number of births with/without child-care assistance given by the couple's mother(s), by duration of marriage/employment history (for couples with a child aged 1 or over)



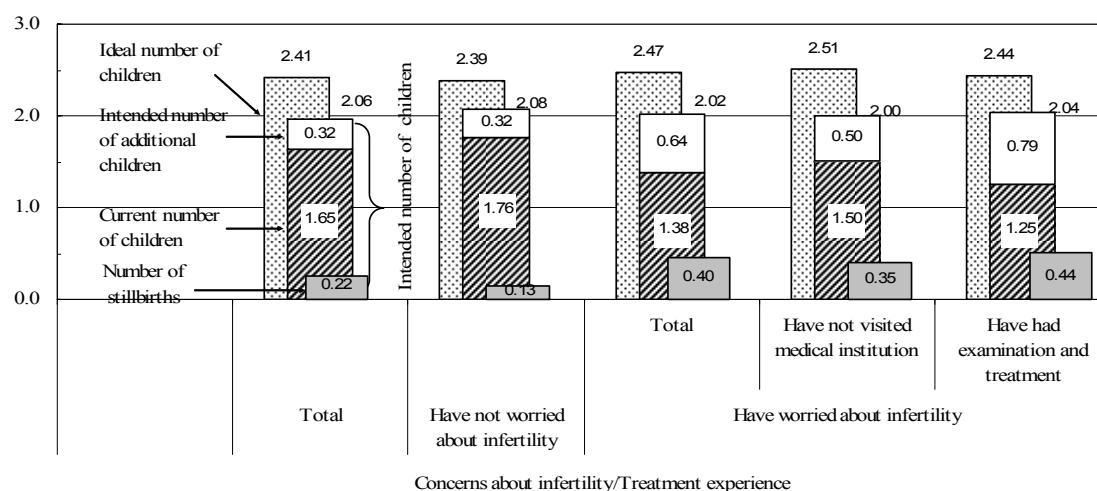
Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples with a child aged 1 or over, and the wife was employed before marriage (excluding those who did not state the number of children). Calculation is made by combining the data of the 12th and 13th Surveys. "With assistance" is defined as the child-care assistance given "frequently" or "on a daily basis" by the mother of the wife and/or the husband until the first child became 3 years old. See the footnote of Table 4-2 for employment history.

Table 5-1 Concerns about infertility and treatment experience, by presence/absence of child and wife's age

With/without child Age of wife		Total (Number of cases)	Concerns about infertility/treatment experience						Not Known
			Have never worried about infertility	Have worried about infertility	Have not visited medical institution	Have undergone examination or treatment	(Re-listed) Are undergoing treatment	Not Stated	
Total	Total	100.0% (5,932)	63.8%	25.8	12.1	13.4	1.3	0.4	10.4
	20~29	100.0 (708)	66.7	24.0	13.4	10.0	2.4	0.6	9.3
	30~39	100.0 (2,577)	61.9	29.8	15.3	14.1	1.9	0.4	8.3
	40~49	100.0 (2,644)	64.8	22.4	8.7	13.5	0.3	0.2	12.8
Childless couples	Total	100.0 (745)	49.0	44.7	19.6	24.3	6.9	0.8	6.3
	20~29	100.0 (215)	64.2	33.0	15.8	16.3	5.1	0.9	2.8
	30~39	100.0 (345)	46.4	46.1	20.3	24.6	10.1	1.2	7.5
	40~49	100.0 (184)	35.9	56.0	22.8	33.2	2.7	0.0	8.2
(Reference) 12th Survey									
Total		100.0% (6,949)	58.3%	26.1	13.0	12.7	1.2	0.4	15.6
Childless couples		100.0 (881)	41.2	48.2	21.7	25.5	7.5	1.0	10.6

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples. Data for couples with wives aged under 19 are not shown, but are included in the total. "Have worried" includes "are worried at present," and "have undergone examination or treatment" includes "are undergoing at present."

Figure 5-1 Ideal and intended number of children, number of current children and stillbirths, by concerns about infertility/treatment experience (Duration of Marriage: 5-9 years)



Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples, excluding those for whom the ideal, intended, current number of children and number of stillbirths are not known.

The couples who have worried about infertility tend to have fewer children and more stillbirths
When the ideal/intended number of children, births (number of current children) and stillbirths are compared by the presence of concerns about infertility and treatment experience, there is not much difference in the ideal number and intended number of children, but the couples who worry about infertility tend to have fewer children and more stillbirths (**Figure 5-1**).

(2) Health of wife as related to pregnancy and childbirth

One out of four wives has health issues associated with pregnancy and childbirth

It is found that one out of four wives (24.3%) has some health issues and disorders related to pregnancy and childbirth, as shown in the Table below. When considered by employment status, more wives with long working hours tend to have problems or disorders than those who are not employed or who work shorter hours (**Table 5-2**).

Couples with wives who have health issues tend to have fewer births and fewer additional children they intend to have

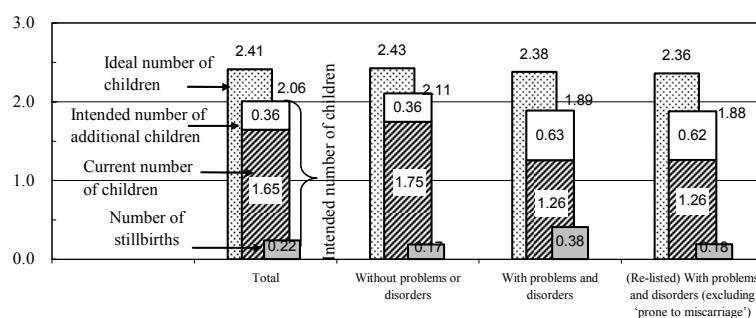
When the ideal/intended number of children, births (current number of children) and stillbirths are compared by wife's health related to pregnancy and childbirth, the couples with wives having health issues tend to have fewer births and fewer additional children they intend to have (**Figure 5-2**).

Table 5-2 Health as related to pregnancy and childbirth, by wife's age/working hours

Wife's age Working hours	Total (Number of cases)		Have some kinds of problems (Multiple Answers)	(Multiple Answers)					Have no problems or disorders listed on the left	Not known
				Problems with periods	Have gynecological disorders	Have menopausal symptoms	Have problems with sex life	Prone to miscarriage		
Total	100.0%	(5,932)	24.3%	8.5	8.7	5.1	3.7	2.1	59.0	16.7
Age of wife										
20~24	100.0%	(134)	17.9%	11.2	2.2	0.0	3.7	1.5	67.9	14.2
25~29	100.0	(574)	19.7	10.8	5.4	0.2	3.1	1.9	65.9	14.5
30~34	100.0	(1,205)	22.4	9.6	7.2	0.4	4.2	3.2	63.2	14.4
35~39	100.0	(1,372)	19.5	6.6	8.5	0.4	3.9	2.5	63.9	16.6
40~44	100.0	(1,350)	26.2	8.5	10.9	4.8	4.6	2.3	54.6	19.2
45~49	100.0	(1,294)	31.9	8.2	10.3	17.4	2.4	0.6	50.3	17.8
Wife's working hours per week (Women aged 30-39)										
Non-employed	100.0%	(1,160)	20.2%	7.6	7.7	0.3	3.4	3.3	66.0	13.9
0-19 hours	100.0	(231)	19.9	7.4	6.5	1.3	3.9	0.9	60.6	19.5
20-29 hours	100.0	(293)	20.8	9.6	7.9	0.3	4.8	2.7	64.9	14.3
30-39 hours	100.0	(240)	21.7	8.3	6.7	0.4	5.4	2.9	65.4	12.9
40-49 hours	100.0	(407)	22.6	8.1	10.1	0.5	4.2	3.2	63.9	13.5
50 hours or longer	100.0	(107)	26.2	8.4	10.3	0.0	6.5	1.9	56.1	17.8

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples. The data of wives aged 15-19 (3 cases) and of those for whom the number of working hours is not known are not shown, but they are included in the total. Gynecological disorders include ovulation disorder, ovarian cyst, fibroid, endometriosis, and infectious diseases. The option "Other" is not shown.

Figure 5-2 Ideal, intended, current number of children, and stillbirths, by health status of wife (Duration of Marriage: 5-9 years)



Wife's health status related to pregnancy and childbirth

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples, excluding those for whom the ideal, intended and current number of children and stillbirths are not known. The item, "With problems and disorders (excluding 'prone to miscarriage')," that's listed here again, indicates the figure for wives who respond that they have health issues other than being prone to miscarriage.

Table 6-1 Wife's views on marriage and family

Views on marriage and family		Agree		Disagree		Not known	Total (Number of cases) (5,932)	
		Absolutely agree	Agree to some extent	Absolutely disagree	Disagree to some extent			
① It is not desirable to remain single for one's entire life	52.2 %	12.1	40.1	39.8 %	8.6	31.2	8.1 %	100.0 %
② Men and Women should marry if they live together	68.9	18.9	50.1	24.0	6.4	17.6	7.1	100.0
③ Unmarried couples may have sexual intercourse if they love each other	77.2	27.6	49.6	15.4	3.2	12.2	7.4	100.0
④ Manhood and womanhood are necessary to some extent in any society	85.6	39.8	45.8	7.7	1.7	6.0	6.8	100.0
⑤ One ought to have personal goals even after getting married, other than those of the partner or other members of the family	81.1	30.7	50.4	11.6	1.2	10.4	7.3	100.0
⑥ It is natural that one should sacrifice half of one's own personality or lifestyle for the family	40.4	5.6	34.8	52.5	14.0	38.5	7.1	100.0
⑦ Husbands should work and wives should take care of the home after marriage	28.7	3.3	25.4	63.9	25.9	38.0	7.3	100.0
⑧ One should have children if one gets married	71.2	19.4	51.8	20.9	7.6	13.3	7.9	100.0
⑨ It is desirable that mothers should not work and should stay home at least when their children are young	71.8	22.7	49.1	21.4	6.6	14.8	6.8	100.0
⑩ No one should get divorced for a small reason such as incompatible personalities	51.0	12.7	38.2	41.2	12.1	29.1	7.9	100.0

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples

6. Wives' Views on Marriage and Family

(1) Pattern of married women's views

The current Survey investigated the views of wives concerning marriage, family and male-female relations and the relationship between these views and childbirth.

Views of married women: A view of the family that gives priority to children while valuing personal goals

More than three quarters of the wives agree to the following views (Table 6-1): "(3) Approve

premarital sex," "(4) Manliness and womanliness are necessary" and "(5) Should have personal goals after marriage." About 40% of them approve of staying single throughout one's life (1) and getting divorced (10) and approximately half of them disagree with the idea "Marriage entails sacrifice (6)." While about 60% disagree with the idea "(7) Husbands should work and wives should stay home," approximately 70% agree to the ideas that [if married, one] "(8) Should have children" and "(2) Should marry if cohabiting."

(2) Changes in married women's views

When looking at the change in views since the 10th Survey (1992), the increasing trend of seeing marriage based on a freedom-oriented notion has halted, whereas the number of those who adopt the traditional view positively has increased slightly. However, the view of the family regarding on children continues to change.

Fluctuations in the changing trend of views on marriage thus far

The percentage of those who think that “(1) Stay single throughout one’s life is not desirable,”

which has been on the decline until the previous Survey, increases in this Survey. The decline in the percentage of those who agree with the idea of “(2) Marriage instead of cohabitation” and the increase in the percentage of those who agree with the idea of “(3) Approve premarital intercourse,” which had been observed until the previous Survey, are not prominent in this Survey. The percentage of those who think “(10) Divorce is not desirable (no graphic figure is presented)” has drastically declined between 1992 and 1997, but no significant change has been observed since then.

Figure 6-1 It is not desirable to remain single for one's entire life

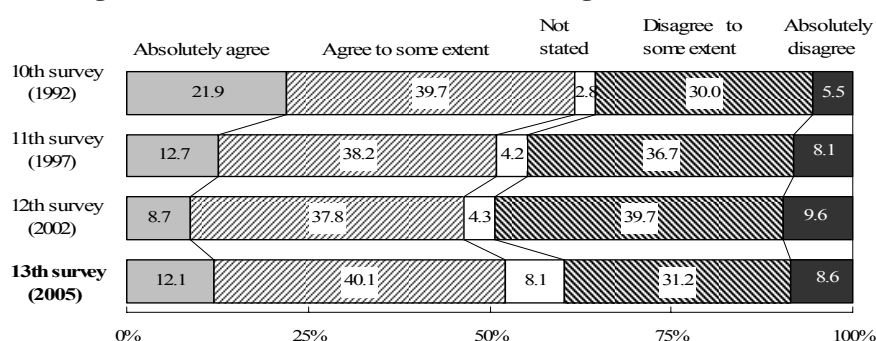


Figure 6-2 Men and women should marry if they live together

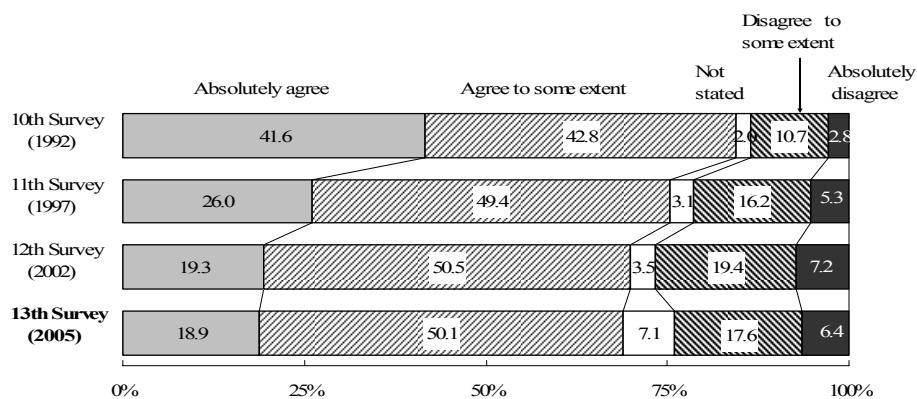
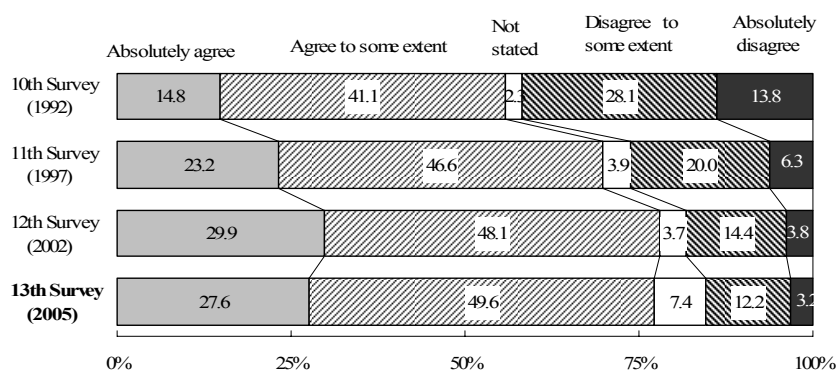


Figure 6-3 Unmarried couples may have sexual intercourse if they love each other



Fluctuations in the attitudes towards marital life

The percentage of those who agree with the idea of “(5) Should have personal goals even after marriage” had been on the rise until the last Survey; however, this is not seen in this Survey. The idea

that “(6) Marriage entails sacrifice” continues to decline between 1992 and 1997, and rises after that. However, the percentage of those who support the idea of “(8) Should have children” has continued a decreasing trend.

Figure 6-4 It is natural that one should sacrifice half of one's own personality or lifestyle for the family

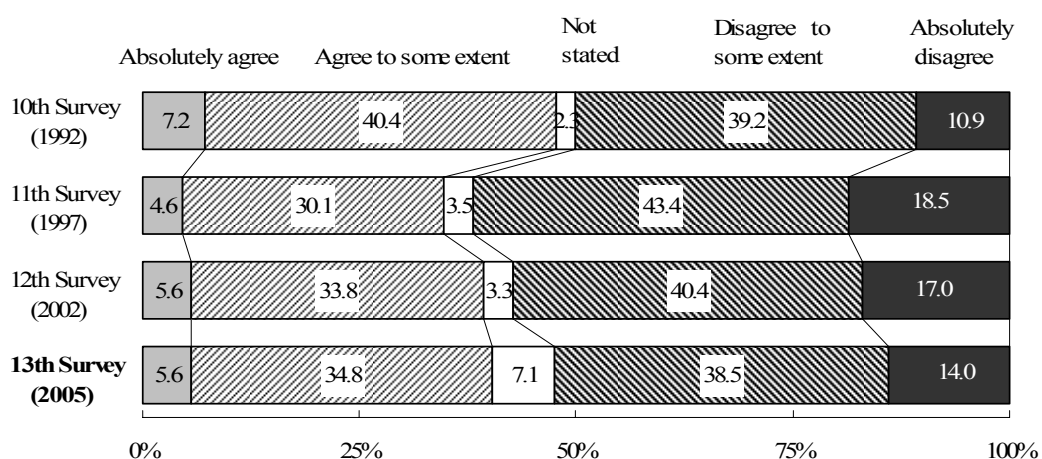
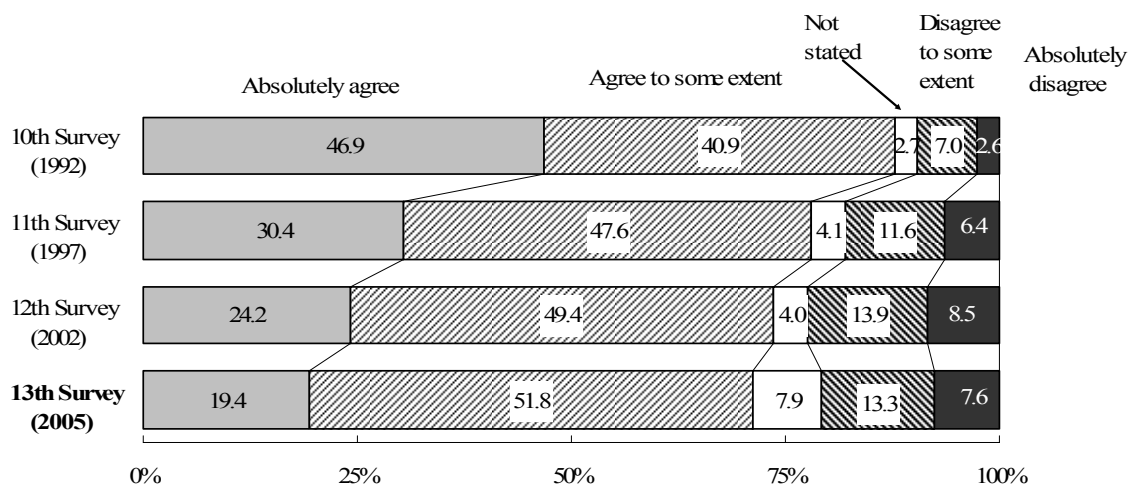


Figure 6-5 One should have children if one gets married



Fluctuations in the trend of changes in the views of the roles of husband and wife thus far, and stability in the trend of change in the opinion on the role of mothers

The percentage of those who support the idea of a separation of roles between husband and wife, “(7)

Husband should work while wife stays home,” has been decreasing until the current Survey, which shows a slight increase in support. The supporters of the opinion, “(9) Desirable that mothers stay home” has continued to decline.

Figure 6-6 Husbands should work and wives should take care of the home after marriage

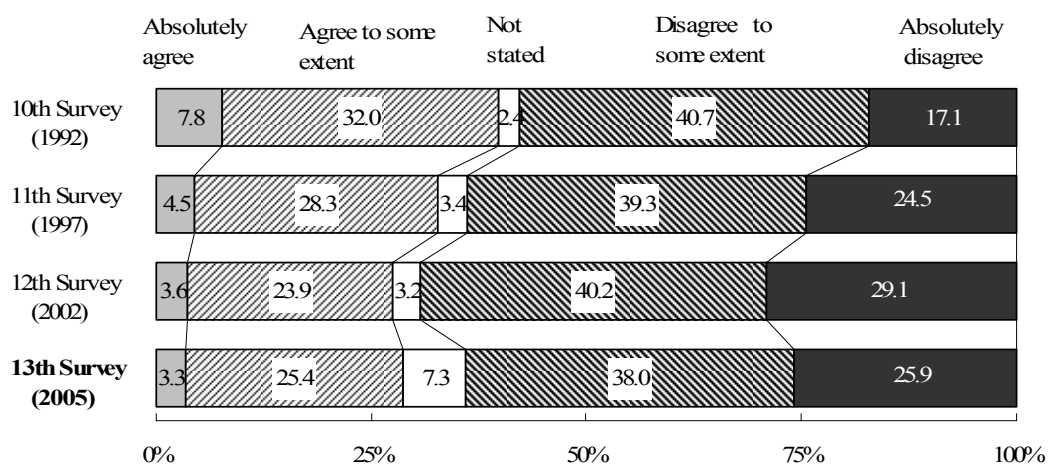
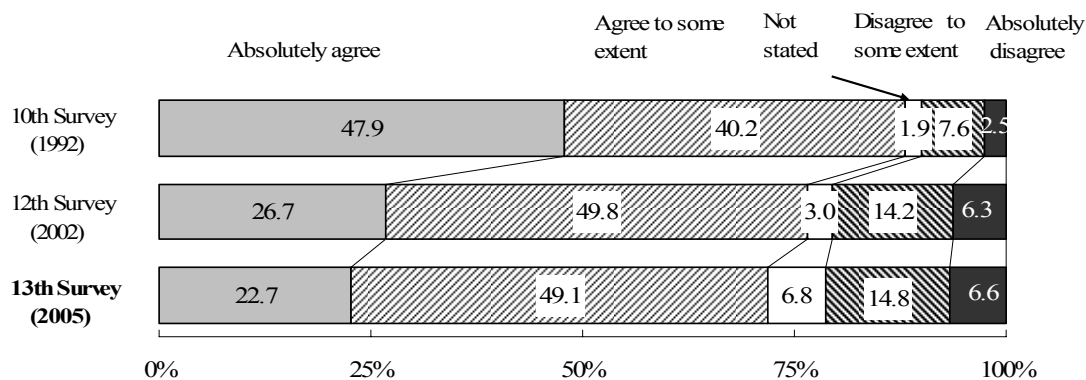


Figure 6-7 It is desirable that mothers should not work and should stay home at least when their children are young



Summary

The National Fertility Survey is a national representative sample survey with the objectives of investigating and measuring the current situations, background and views of marriage and fertility of married couples in Japan, and obtaining the basic data necessary for the formulation of relevant policies and the understanding of demographic trends. The Survey consists of a survey on single people and a survey on married couples. This report covers the results of the survey on married couples conducted as part of the 13th Survey.

The survey was conducted as of the date of June 1, 2005, over married couples with wives aged under 49 throughout the country. The number of distributed questionnaires was 7,976, with 6,836 valid questionnaires (valid collection rate 85.7%). Among them 5,932 subjects of the first-marriage couples are analyzed in this paper on subjects such as:

- (1) Socio-economic attributes of married couples
- (2) Aspects related to the marriage process
- (3) Aspects related to history of pregnancy/childbearing of married couples
- (4) Married couples' views on the number of children
- (5) Aspects related to child-rearing conditions (employment status of wife, use of systems and facilities, support from parents)
- (6) Aspects of health as associated with pregnancy/childbirth
- (7) Wives' views on marriage and family

Points of the survey results are as follows. The table and the figure with an * mark indicates new survey items in this round of the survey.

Marriage of Couples

The age of the first encounter has become higher, period of courtship lengthened and the trend towards later marriage further strengthened

As a result of increase in the age of first encounter of couples (both males and females) and a lengthened period of courtship, the trend of late marriage is further advanced (**Table 1-1**).

The number of couples who met at the workplace decreases, and the largest number met through friends and siblings

The most common place to meet a future spouse is "Through friends/spouse," exceeding 30% for the first time, and overtaking "At the workplace or through work" (less than 30%) as the top answer (**Table 1-2**).

Fertility of Married Couples

The number of children of married couples who are finished with childbearing has decreased

Completed fertility of married couples has been stable at around 2.2 during the 1970s, but it declines to 2.09 in the current Survey, which targeted couples who got married in the latter half of the 1980s (**Table 2-1**). The percentage of couples with three children has decreased, whereas the percentage of those with none or one child has increased slightly (**Table 2-2**).

The number of births has decreased for couples in the period of family formation

Couples married between 5 – 14 years and who are still in the period of family formation also tend to have fewer children (**Table 2-3**).

Fertility of couples with wives born in the 1960s has declined

Considering the birth cohort of wife (year of birth), it can be seen that the fertility of couples with wives born in the 1960s has decreased. However, the decline in fertility of couples with wives born in the 1970s has somewhat ceased (**Figure 2-2**).

Views on the Number of Children

Decrease in the ideal number of children, and continuation of a trend of decrease in the intended number of children, albeit on a small scale

The ideal number of children (average number of children considered ideal) decreases, recording less than 2.5 for the first time (2.48 in this Survey and 2.56 in the previous survey) (**Table 3-1, Figure 3-1**). The number of children the couples actually intend to have (average intended number of children) continues to decrease, recording 2.11 (2.13 in the previous Survey) (**Table 3-2, Figure 3-1**).

The most cited reason why the intended number of children falls short of the ideal number of children is "It costs money to raise a child"

With respect to the reasons why couples do not have the ideal number of children, "it costs too much to raise and educate children" is cited most frequently (65.9%), followed by the issue of age (38.0%), and mental and physical burden (21.6%) (**Table 3-3**). In general, many of the couples who have a high ideal number of children but cannot actually have them cite economic reasons, and many of the couples who intend to have fewer children cite "because they cannot conceive one" (**Table 3-4***).

Child-Rearing Conditions

Under 20% of wives who have been married for less than 5 years raise children while working

The proportion of wives married less than 5 years who are employed while engaging in child-rearing is under 20% (18.6%), and many wives stop working upon childbirth. The number of wives who return to work increases (**Table 4-1, Figure 4-1, Figure 4-2**). The final number of children seems uncorrelated with employment work history of wives, but the number is relatively low for young couples with employed wives (**Table 4-2**).

Use of child-care leave has increased, though a disparity exists depending on the size of the company

Among couples with wives in regular employment, the younger the couple is, the higher the rate of taking child-care leave. However, there is a disparity in the rate of usage, depending on the size of the company one is employed in; the larger company is, the higher the rate of use is (**Table 4-3**). In general, the use of child-support systems and facilities is frequent among the couples with little support from their parents (**Figure 4-4**). The more children the couples want to have in the future, the more they want to use the systems (**Figure 4-5***).

Health related to pregnancy and childbirth

One out of four couples have worried about infertility: 13% of couples have experienced examination/treatment

One out of four couples (25.8%) has worried about infertility and 13.4% of them have gone through infertility examination or treatment (**Table 5-1**). There is little difference between the ideal and intended number of children for the couples who have worried about infertility, but they tend to have fewer children and more stillbirths (**Figure 5-1***).

One out of four wives has health issues associated with pregnancy and childbirth

One out of four wives (24.3%) has some health issues and disorders related to pregnancy and childbirth. When compared by employment status, women with longer working hours tend to have problems or disorders, compared with those without work or with short working hours (**Table 5-2***). Wives with health issues have fewer children and also show a tendency to intend to have fewer children (**Figure 5-2***).

**Views of Wives on Marriage and Family
Signs of fluctuation in the trend of changes thus far in the views of married women**

Married women today generally value personal goals and at the same time, exhibit a view of the family that places the child(ren) at the center. However, the current Survey shows the halting of changes observed so far in many items, indicating therefore an incipient fluctuation in the flow of changing views (**Table 6-1**).

[APPENDIX]

Table 1 Percentage of love marriage/arranged marriage, by year of marriage

Year of marriage	Total (Number of cases)	Love marriage	Arranged marriage	Other/Not known
1930~39	100.0 % (583)	13.4 %	69.0	17.7
1940~44	100.0 (556)	14.6	69.1	16.4
1945~49	100.0 (960)	21.4	59.8	18.9
1950~54	100.0 (992)	33.1	53.9	13.0
1955~59	100.0 (1,275)	36.2	54.0	9.9
1960~64	100.0 (1,578)	41.1	49.8	9.1
1965~69	100.0 (1,819)	48.7	44.9	6.4
1970~74	100.0 (2,078)	61.5	33.1	5.5
1975~79	100.0 (1,485)	66.7	30.4	2.9
1980~84	100.0 (1,519)	72.6	24.9	2.5
1985~89	100.0 (1,547)	80.2	17.7	2.1
1990~94	100.0 (1,312)	84.8	12.7	2.6
1995~99	100.0 (1,474)	87.2	7.7	5.1
2000~05	100.0 (1,182)	87.2	6.2	6.6

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples. The results are based on the data of the 7th Survey (for 1930-1939 to 1970-1974), the 8th Survey (for 1975-1979), the 9th Survey (for 1980-1984), the 10th Survey (for 1985-1989), the 11th Survey (for 1990-1994), the 12th Survey (1995-1999), and the 13th Survey (2000-2005).

Table 2 Percentage of married couples, by duration of marriage, number of births, and survey

Survey (Survey years)	Total (Number of cases)	None	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children or more
Duration of Marriage						
0~4						
7th Survey (1977)	100.0 % (1,841)	28.2 %	50.8	20.4	0.7	0.0
8th Survey (1982)	100.0 (1,291)	39.0	42.4	17.9	0.7	0.0
9th Survey (1987)	100.0 (1,408)	31.9	44.7	22.0	1.2	0.1
10th Survey(1992)	100.0 (1,521)	38.9	43.4	17.2	0.5	0.1
11th Survey(1997)	100.0 (1,273)	42.6	44.7	12.1	0.6	0.0
12th Survey(2002)	100.0 (1,468)	40.0	46.6	12.4	1.0	0.1
13th Survey(2005)	100.0 (1,062)	38.3	44.7	15.8	1.1	0.0
5~9						
7th Survey (1977)	100.0 (1,957)	4.2	17.3	61.8	15.2	1.5
8th Survey (1982)	100.0 (1,757)	4.3	16.0	61.1	17.4	1.1
9th Survey (1987)	100.0 (1,608)	4.7	15.0	60.6	18.4	1.2
10th Survey(1992)	100.0 (1,549)	8.6	18.1	55.8	15.7	1.7
11th Survey(1997)	100.0 (1,276)	10.3	21.0	53.6	13.9	1.2
12th Survey(2002)	100.0 (1,325)	10.5	23.6	51.5	13.4	1.0
13th Survey(2005)	100.0 (1,233)	11.3	26.7	51.1	10.1	0.9
10~14						
7th Survey (1977)	100.0 (1,637)	3.5	11.2	55.5	25.6	4.2
8th Survey (1982)	100.0 (1,642)	2.6	10.2	59.8	24.1	3.4
9th Survey (1987)	100.0 (1,920)	3.4	9.9	58.7	24.3	3.7
10th Survey(1992)	100.0 (1,642)	4.8	9.5	51.9	30.1	3.7
11th Survey(1997)	100.0 (1,287)	5.5	11.6	54.2	25.2	3.6
12th Survey(2002)	100.0 (1,280)	5.0	16.3	52.3	23.2	3.2
13th Survey(2005)	100.0 (1,288)	7.6	15.5	51.7	22.3	3.0

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples (excluding those for whom the number of children is not known) who have been married for less than 15 years.

Table 3 Average number of births, by wife's year of birth and by survey

Age of wife / year of birth wife	1925~ 1929	1930~ 1934	1935~ 1939	1940~ 1944	1945~ 1949	1950~ 1954	1955~ 1959	1960~ 1964	1965~ 1969	1970~ 1974	1975~ 1979	1980~ 1984
22.5~27.5						1.00	0.83	0.94	0.81	0.77	0.85	0.89
27.5~32.5					1.70	1.72	1.69	1.43	1.22	1.21	1.09	
32.5~37.5				2.11	2.10	2.09	2.01	1.89	1.73	1.51		
37.5~42.5			2.18	2.19	2.14	2.18	2.13	2.07	1.87			
42.5~47.5		2.22	2.20	2.24	2.15	2.19	2.18	2.01				
47.5~50	2.39	2.20	2.18	2.20	2.11	2.19	2.16					

Note: The results are based on the data from the 7th Survey (1977) to the 13th Survey (2005). Numbers in bold represent the 13th Survey. Those under 22.5 were not shown because of the small number in the sample. Since the interval between the 12th Survey and 13th Survey is short, the number of children given in the 13th Survey was taken at the time when the wife was two years younger than those listed in the Table (for example, "22.5-27.5 years of age" in the Table corresponds to "20.5-25.5 years of age" in the 13th Survey.)

**Table 4 Reasons why couples do not intend to have the ideal number of children;
Why the intended number is less than the ideal number**

(Multiple Answers)

Age of wife		Number of cases	It costs too much to raise and educate children	Hate to produce children at older age	Can't bear mentally/physically the burden of childrearing anymore	Interference with one's job or business	Health reasons	Want to have a child but can't conceive one	House is too small	Can't gain husband's cooperation with household chores and childrearing	Social environment is not suitable for children to grow up without any worry	Want the last child to grow up before the husband retires	Husband does not want it	Want to cherish the life of the couple or oneself	Other
13th Survey	Under 25	(20)	80.0%	—	20.0	20.0	—	—	15.0	25.0	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
	25~29	(115)	83.5	6.1	20.0	27.8	4.3	7.8	20.0	20.0	16.5	5.2	13.0	13.0	13.0
	30~34	(329)	78.7	18.2	24.6	21.9	12.5	10.6	19.8	19.1	18.2	7.0	12.5	11.9	11.2
	35~39	(464)	75.0	40.1	26.5	17.9	16.4	16.8	17.9	17.0	16.2	8.0	9.7	8.6	8.2
	40~44	(485)	56.3	52.8	20.8	14.6	21.9	20.4	12.6	10.5	9.7	12.0	7.2	7.2	5.2
	45~49	(412)	51.2	44.9	15.0	13.8	19.7	18.4	9.5	7.5	11.4	7.5	3.4	3.9	9.2
Total		(1,825)	65.9%	38.0	21.6	17.5	16.9	16.3	15.0	13.8	13.6	8.5	8.3	8.1	8.5
12th Survey	Under 25	(21)	81.0%	4.8	14.3	33.3	23.8	—	14.3	19.0	19.0	4.8	14.3	14.3	—
	25~29	(186)	81.7	7.5	16.7	15.1	11.8	5.4	20.4	13.4	28.0	6.5	8.6	18.3	7.0
	30~34	(417)	75.5	16.5	25.7	21.8	15.1	12.9	18.0	9.4	27.1	6.2	8.2	17.3	6.5
	35~39	(525)	59.2	42.1	25.5	18.1	19.0	16.2	16.2	13.5	20.2	12.4	7.0	13.0	6.7
	40~44	(516)	57.8	40.7	20.3	15.1	23.6	20.5	13.0	12.2	17.1	11.6	6.2	8.9	4.7
	45~49	(469)	53.1	41.4	18.3	14.1	23.0	17.3	9.2	11.9	15.6	8.7	6.8	4.9	4.5
Total		(2,134)	62.9%	33.2	21.8	17.1	19.7	15.7	14.6	12.1	20.4	9.6	7.2	11.5	5.6

Note: Couples whose intended number of children is less than their ideal number were surveyed. Because of multiple answers, the sum exceeds 100%.

Table 5 Couples with a child aged 1 or over, by wife's employment history, survey and duration of marriage

Length of marriage / Survey (Survey year)		Total (Number of cases)	Wife's employment history				Other / Not known
			Continuous employment pattern	Continuous regular employment pattern (listed again)	Return-to- work pattern	Housewifery pattern	
0~4	10th Survey(1992)	100.0% (678)	18.7%	11.7	6.2	66.7	8.4
	11th Survey(1997)	100.0 (477)	19.3	12.8	7.3	65.6	7.8
	12th Survey(2002)	100.0 (579)	21.8	15.0	7.3	63.0	7.9
	13th Survey(2005)	100.0 (422)	22.0	15.6	6.9	58.3	12.8
5~9	10th Survey(1992)	100.0 (1,314)	21.7	12.7	15.9	52.1	10.3
	11th Survey(1997)	100.0 (1,007)	20.8	11.2	17.8	53.6	7.8
	12th Survey(2002)	100.0 (998)	22.9	13.3	14.5	54.6	7.9
	13th Survey(2005)	100.0 (936)	23.0	12.8	20.3	45.3	11.4
10~14	10th Survey(1992)	100.0 (1,407)	24.2	12.0	27.9	37.4	10.6
	11th Survey(1997)	100.0 (967)	22.1	9.6	35.1	36.7	6.1
	12th Survey(2002)	100.0 (1,034)	23.4	11.6	34.1	36.8	5.7
	13th Survey(2005)	100.0 (1,005)	20.3	11.1	36.0	34.8	8.9
15~19	10th Survey(1992)	100.0 (1,561)	29.7	13.8	39.9	21.7	8.7
	11th Survey(1997)	100.0 (947)	24.4	10.3	41.9	27.3	6.3
	12th Survey(2002)	100.0 (991)	28.4	12.7	43.7	22.7	5.2
	13th Survey(2005)	100.0 (884)	25.0	11.5	46.0	22.6	6.4

Note: Subjects are first-marriage couples with a child aged 1 or over where the wife was employed before marriage (excluding the couples for whom the number of children is not known).

The wife's employment history is defined as follows:

The wife's work history is defined as follows:

Continuous employment pattern: Employed before marriage, employed after bearing first child, employed now

Continuous regular employment pattern: Regularly employed before marriage, regularly employed after bearing first child, regularly employed now (including dispatched/contract employment)

Return-to-work pattern: Employed before marriage, non-employed after bearing first child, employed now

Housewifery pattern: Employed before marriage, non-employed after bearing first child, non-employed now

The total number includes those of other working patterns and those whose working histories are not known.