

Attitudes toward Marriage and the Family among Japanese Singles

Overview of the Results of the Thirteenth Japanese National Fertility Survey,
Singles

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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 survey on unmarried persons that was conducted along with the 13th Survey.

(2) *Survey Procedures and Collection of Questionnaires*

This is a national sample survey of unmarried persons aged 18 to 49 in Japan, 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 unmarried persons residing in those districts aged 18 to 49 were the subjects of this survey.

This survey was carried out by distributing numbered questionnaires which were later sealed and collected. Of the 12,482 distributed questionnaires (the number of subjects surveyed), 9,900 questionnaires were collected, yielding a response rate of 79.3% (84.6% for a previous survey). However, 1,166 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 actually 8,734, making the valid response rate 70.0% (75.3% for a previous survey) (**Table 1**). This report presents the results and analysis of data collected from never-married males and females aged 18 to 34, from among the valid returns (**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	12,482
Number of questionnaires collected	9,900 (response rate 79.3%)
Number of valid questionnaires	8,734 (valid response rate 70.0%)

Table 2 The number of never-married persons, by age and sex

Age	The number of never-married persons in the 13th Survey		(Reference)The number of never-married persons in the 12th Survey	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	4,002 (100.0%)	3,583 (100.0%)	4,665 (100.0%)	3,938 (100.0%)
18-34 Subtotal	3,139 (78.4%)	3,064 (85.5%)	3,897 (83.5%)	3,494 (88.7%)
18-19	422 (10.5%)	541 (15.0%)	706 (15.1%)	591 (15.0%)
20-24	1,025 (25.6)	1,187 (33.1)	1,405 (30.1)	1,394 (35.4)
25-29	1,025 (25.6)	834 (23.3)	1,124 (24.1)	1,012 (25.7)
30-34	667 (16.7)	502 (14.0)	662 (14.2)	497 (12.6)
35-39	412 (10.3)	255 (7.1)	323 (6.9)	211 (5.4)
40-44	270 (6.7)	161 (4.5)	232 (5.0)	136 (3.5)
45-49	181 (4.5)	103 (2.9)	213 (4.6)	97 (2.5)

1. Marriage as a Choice: Investigating a trend among the young to avoid marriage

(1) The desire to marry

The proportion of never-married persons who intend to marry has remained at around 90 percent

The proportion of never-married persons who think they will marry someday had tended to decrease by small increments in recent years; however, the decrease ceased after the previous survey (2002). The result of this survey continues to show a figure of around 90% for both males and females. For the never-married intending to remain single all their lives (“Will never marry”), the proportion has increased slightly for males to about 7%, whereas

it has remained at about 5 percent for females (Table 1-1).

The number of never-married persons who are concerned about the age of marriage has increased

Among the never-married persons who intend to marry, the number of those wanting to marry by a certain age had tended to decrease in recent years; however, the trend changed in the previous survey (2002). The current survey shows a small increase, reaching almost the same percentage as those who state that they do not mind not marrying unless they can find an ideal partner (Figure 1-1).

Table 1-1 Never-married persons’ intention to marry, by survey

【 Male 】

Considering marriage from a lifelong perspective	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
Intend to marry someday	95.9 %	91.8	90.0	85.9	87.0	87.0
Do not intend to ever marry	2.3	4.5	4.9	6.3	5.4	7.1
Not known	1.8	3.7	5.1	7.8	7.7	5.9
Total (18-34) (Number of cases)	100.0 % (2,732)	100.0 (3,299)	100.0 (4,215)	100.0 (3,982)	100.0 (3,897)	100.0 (3,139)

【 Female 】

Considering marriage from a lifelong perspective	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
Intend to marry someday	94.2 %	92.9	90.2	89.1	88.3	90.0
Do not intend to ever marry	4.1	4.6	5.2	4.9	5.0	5.6
Not known	1.7	2.5	4.6	6.0	6.7	4.3
Total (18-34) (Number of cases)	100.0 % (2,110)	100.0 (2,605)	100.0 (3,647)	100.0 (3,612)	100.0 (3,494)	100.0 (3,064)

Question: “Taking a lifelong perspective, which is your idea about marriage?”

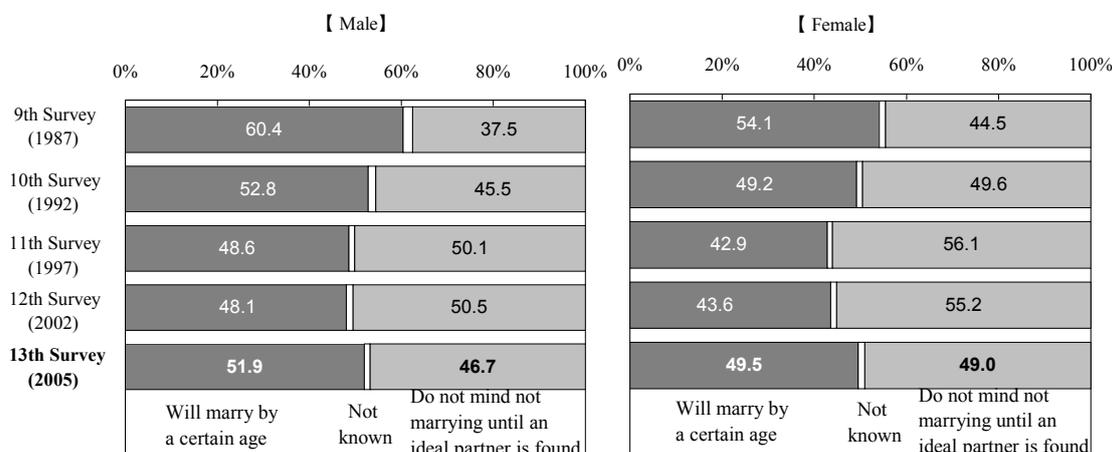
1. Intend to marry someday 2. Do not intend to ever marry

Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34. See Appendix Table 1 (at the end of the document) for detailed numerical values by age.

The attitude of trying to delay marriage persists
 With the exception of females in their late 20s, there is an increasing tendency to answer “have no intention of marrying yet” among the never-

married, when asked about marriage within a year. This means that those who are consciously trying to delay marriage continue to increase (**Table 1-2, Figure 1-2**).

Figure 1-1 Views on marriage of never-married persons who intend to marry, by survey



Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34 who answered “Intend to marry someday.” See **Appendix Table 2** (at the end of the document) for detailed figures.

Table 1-2 Proportion of never-married persons who answered “Have no intention of marrying yet”

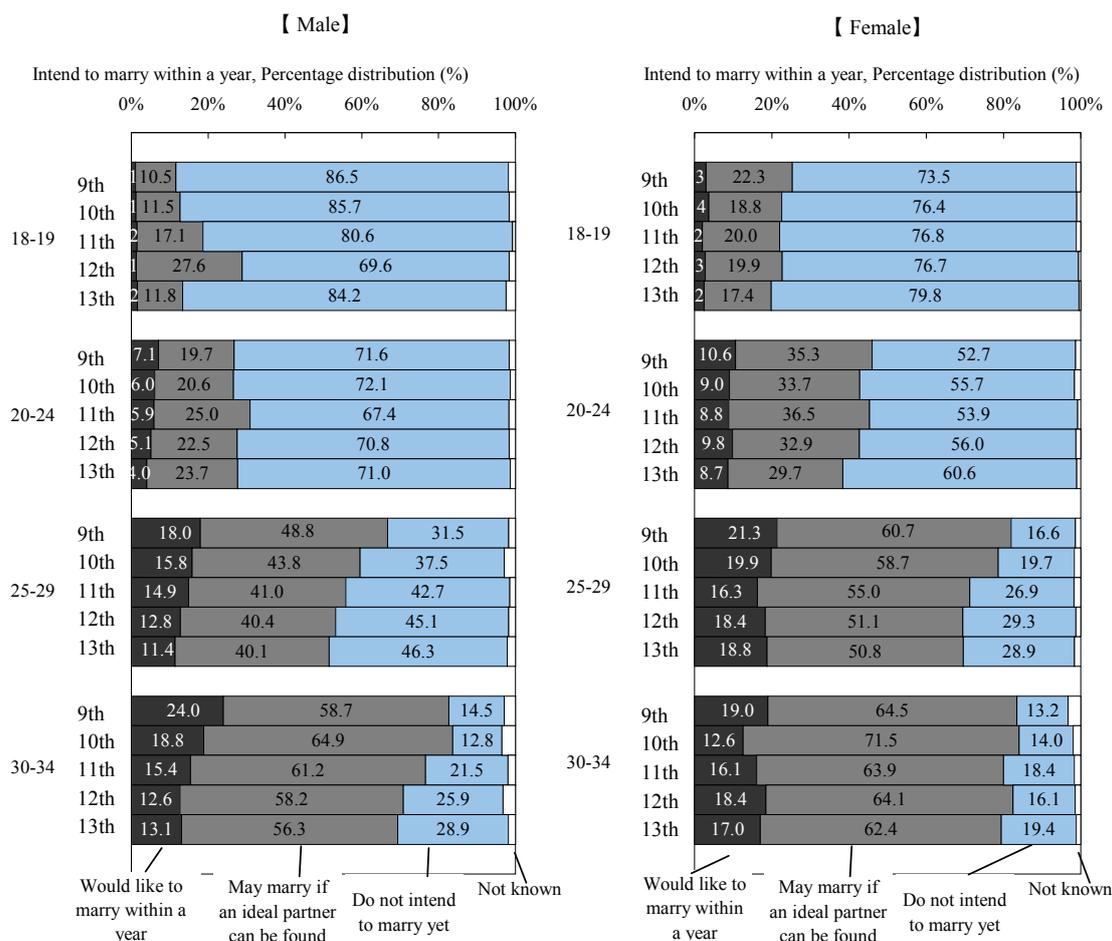
Age	Male					Female				
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
18-19	86.5 %	85.7	80.6	69.6	84.2	73.5 %	76.4	76.8	76.7	79.8
20-24	71.6	72.1	67.4	70.8	71.0	52.7	55.7	53.9	56.0	60.6
25-29	31.5	37.5	42.7	45.1	46.3	16.6	19.7	26.9	29.3	28.9
30-34	14.5	12.8	21.5	25.9	28.9	13.2	14.0	18.4	16.1	19.4
Total (18-34)	57.3 %	59.3	56.5	55.9	56.0	49.5 %	50.7	47.7	46.3	48.8
Reference (35-39)	-	9.8	13.9	20.6	22.3	-	12.6	13.6	16.0	12.8

Question: “What do you think about getting married within a year from now?”

1. Would like to marry within a year
2. May marry if an ideal partner can be found
3. Do not intend to marry yet

Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34 who have answered “Intend to marry someday.” See **Appendix 3** (at the end of the document) for the respective proportions of those who answer “Intend to marry within a year” and “May marry if an ideal partner can be found.” For reference, the data for ages 35-39 is provided when available (starting with the 10th survey).

Figure 1-2 Intention to marry within a year, by survey and age group

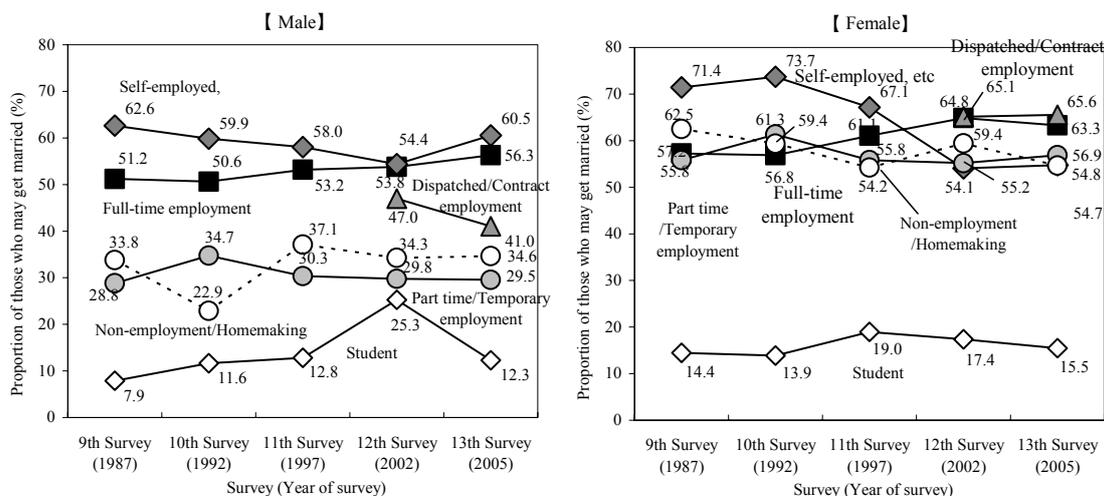


The desire to marry varies among males, depending on employment status

The proportion of males who answer either “Would like to marry within a year” or “May marry if an ideal partner can be found” among those responding “Intend to marry someday” greatly varies, depending on their employment status. This tendency is more pronounced among those who are self-employed or in family business, and those who are full-time employees. Non-full-time employees (part-timers, temporary employees) tend to be less

motivated to get married than those who are non-employed or homemakers. The difference is not as profound among women as it is in men, except for students; however, the proportion of those who are self-employed or engaged in family-owned business, who had been highly motivated to get married, has decreased, indicating that never-married persons in full-time employment or dispatched/contract employment have relatively stronger desire to marry (**Figure 1-3**).

Figure 1-3 Change in the proportion of never-married persons who may get married within a year, by employment status



Note: The numerical values in the figures above show, among single people aged 18-34 responding “Intend to marry someday,” the proportion of those who “Would like to marry within a year” or “May marry if an ideal partner can be found.” The category of Dispatched/Contract employment was first introduced in the 12th Survey. See **Appendix Table 5** (at the end of the document) for details on employment status.

Table 1-3 Views on the merits of marriage and of single life for never-married persons, by survey

		Male					Female				
		9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
For you now, marriage has:	Some merits	69.1 %	66.7	64.6	62.3	65.7	70.8 %	71.4	69.9	69.4	74.0
	No merits	25.4	29.1	30.3	33.1	28.6	24.7	25.2	25.5	26.3	21.5
	Not known	5.5	4.2	5.1	4.6	5.7	4.5	3.4	4.6	4.3	4.5
Total		100.0 %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
For you now, single life has:	Some merits	83.0 %	83.6	82.7	79.8	83.8	89.7 %	89.0	88.5	86.6	87.2
	No merits	10.7	11.2	11.6	14.6	10.3	5.4	7.4	7.2	8.6	7.6
	Not known	6.3	5.2	5.7	5.6	5.9	4.9	3.6	4.3	4.8	5.1
Total		100.0 %	100.0	100.0	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)	(2,605)	(3,647)	(3,612)	(3,494)	(3,064)

Questions: “For you now, does marriage have any merits?”

1. There are merits 2. There is no merit

“Conversely, for you now, does single life have any merits that a married life does not have?”

1. There are merits 2. There is no merit

Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34.

(2) The merits of marriage and of remaining single

Never-married persons who consider that “marriage has merits” slightly increase

The proportion of single people who feel marriage has merits increases slightly: 65.7% for males and 74.0% for females. Conversely, 28.6% of males and 21.5% of females consider that marriage has

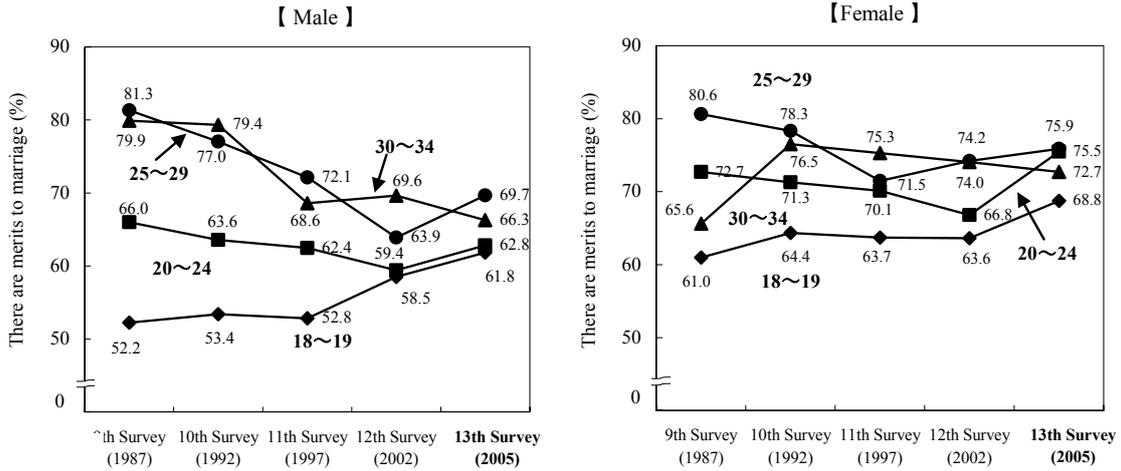
no merits. On the other hand, the percentage of those who consider single life as having merits is 83.8% for males and 87.2% for females, showing that considerably more individuals see merits in remaining single than those who see merits in marriage, and the former proportion has also slightly increased (**Table 1-3**).

Views on the merits of marriage are gradually becoming more unified

The merits of marriage have traditionally been recognized more strongly by those in their late 20s, which has declined in recent years as younger cohorts recognizing the merits of marriage increased, showing that a lessening in the

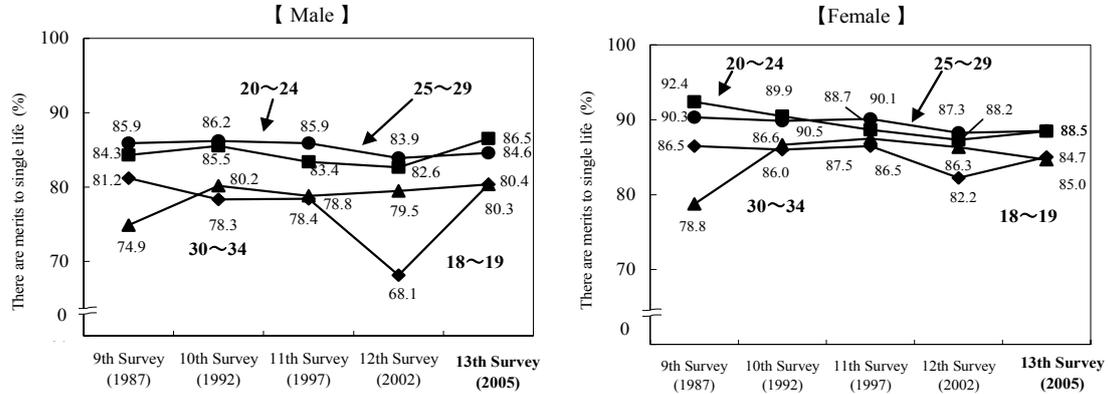
difference by age in how both males and females feel about the merits of marriage (Figure 1-4). On the other hand, there is little difference by age, as has always been the case, and not much change by survey in how they feel about the merits of single life (Figure 1-5).

Figure 1-4 Change in the proportion of never-married persons who consider that “there are merits to marriage,” by age



Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34.

Figure 1-5 Change in the proportion of never-married persons who consider that “there are merits to single life,” by age



Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34.

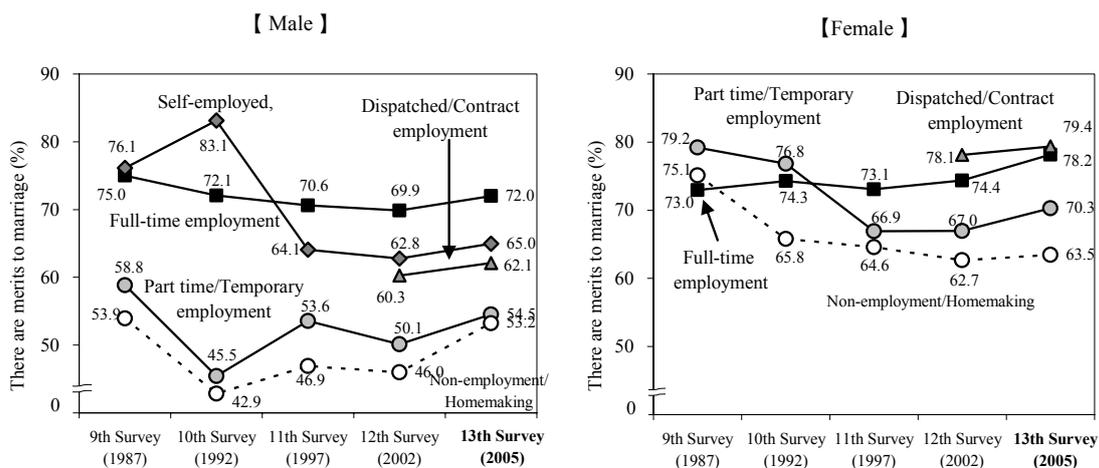
The merits of marriage are strongly recognized among full-time employees

How people feel about the merits of marriage differ according to employment status, especially among males (Figure 1-6). For full-time employees, the proportion of those who feel that there are merits is stable at around 70%, greatly differing from the 40%-50% of non-employed persons/homemakers and non-full-time employees (part-timers and temporary employees). In recent years, the difference by employment status in the proportion of females who feel that there are merits of marriage is becoming prominent: highest among full-timers and dispatched/contract employees, followed by non-full-time employees and non-employed persons/homemakers.

“Having one’s own children and family” as a merit of marriage shows a marked increase

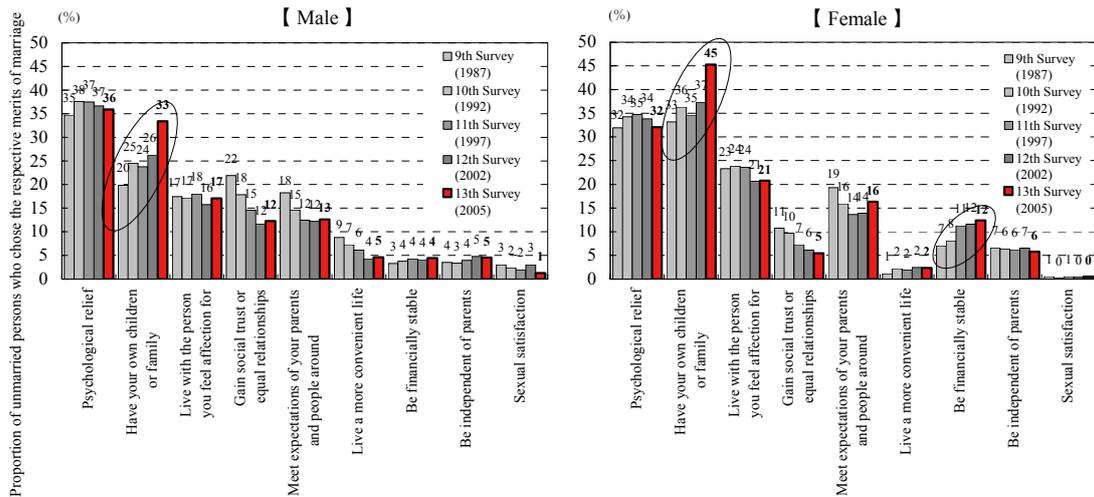
As a merit of marriage, “Psychological relief” is chosen most frequently by males, while “Having one’s own family” is chosen most frequently by females. The number of never-married persons (both males and females) who select the latter also increases markedly in the current survey. The third most selected choice is “Live with the person you feel affection for” for both males and females, suggesting internal aspects are important as a merit of marriage for never-married persons. On the other hand, with respect to the practical aspects of marriage, both “Gain social trust or equal relationships” and “Live a more convenient life,” which had tended to decline for males, remain unchanged in the current survey. For females, besides the increase in “meeting the expectations of parents and people around,” those who choose “Financial stability” also show a slight increase (Figure 1-7).

Figure 1-6 Change in the proportion of never-married persons who consider that “there are merits to marriage,” by employment status



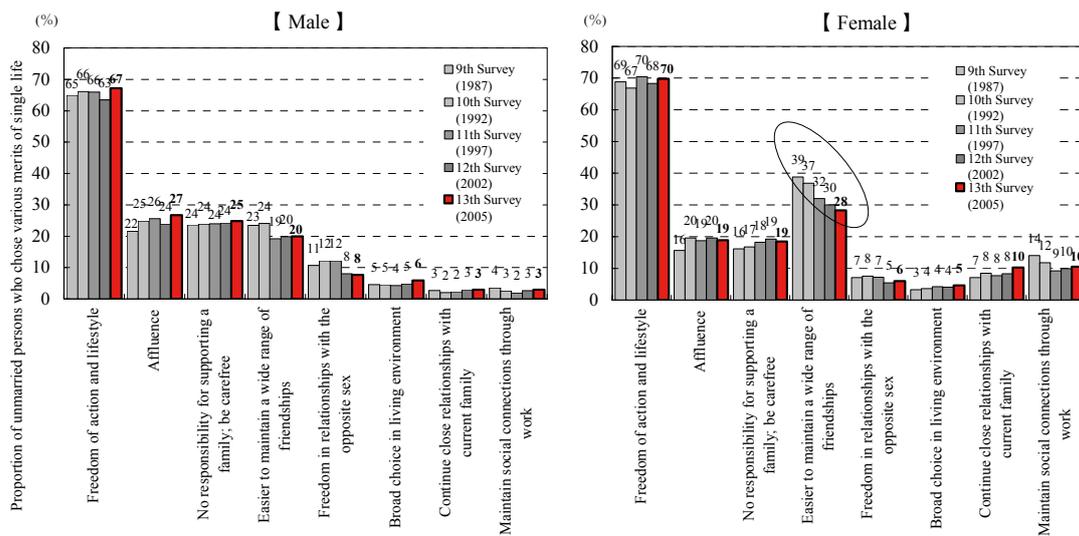
Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34. “Students” for both males and females and “Self-employed/engaged in family-owned business” for females are excluded. See Appendix Table 5 (at the end of the document) for the details on employment status.

Figure 1-7 The merits of marriage, by survey



Note: Shows the proportion of never-married subjects aged 18-34 who regard each item (up to two choices) as the main merit of marriage.

Figure 1-8 The merits of single life, by survey



Note: Shows the proportion of the never-married subjects (aged 18-34) who regard each item (up to 2 choices) as the main merit of single life.

The most attractive part of single life is “freedom” “Freedom in actions or lifestyles” is overwhelmingly chosen as the merit of single life by both males and females. “Affluence”, “No responsibility to support family; be carefree,” or “Easier to maintain a wide range of friendships” are among the other popular merits chosen. This pattern has hardly changed from the previous surveys. This

indicates that never-married subjects consistently feel that marriage would restrict their actions, lives and friendships, and add the mental burden of supporting a family. However, the number of females who choose “Wide range of friendships” as a merit has been gradually decreasing, suggesting a weakening in the feeling of constraint in marriage (Figure 1-8).

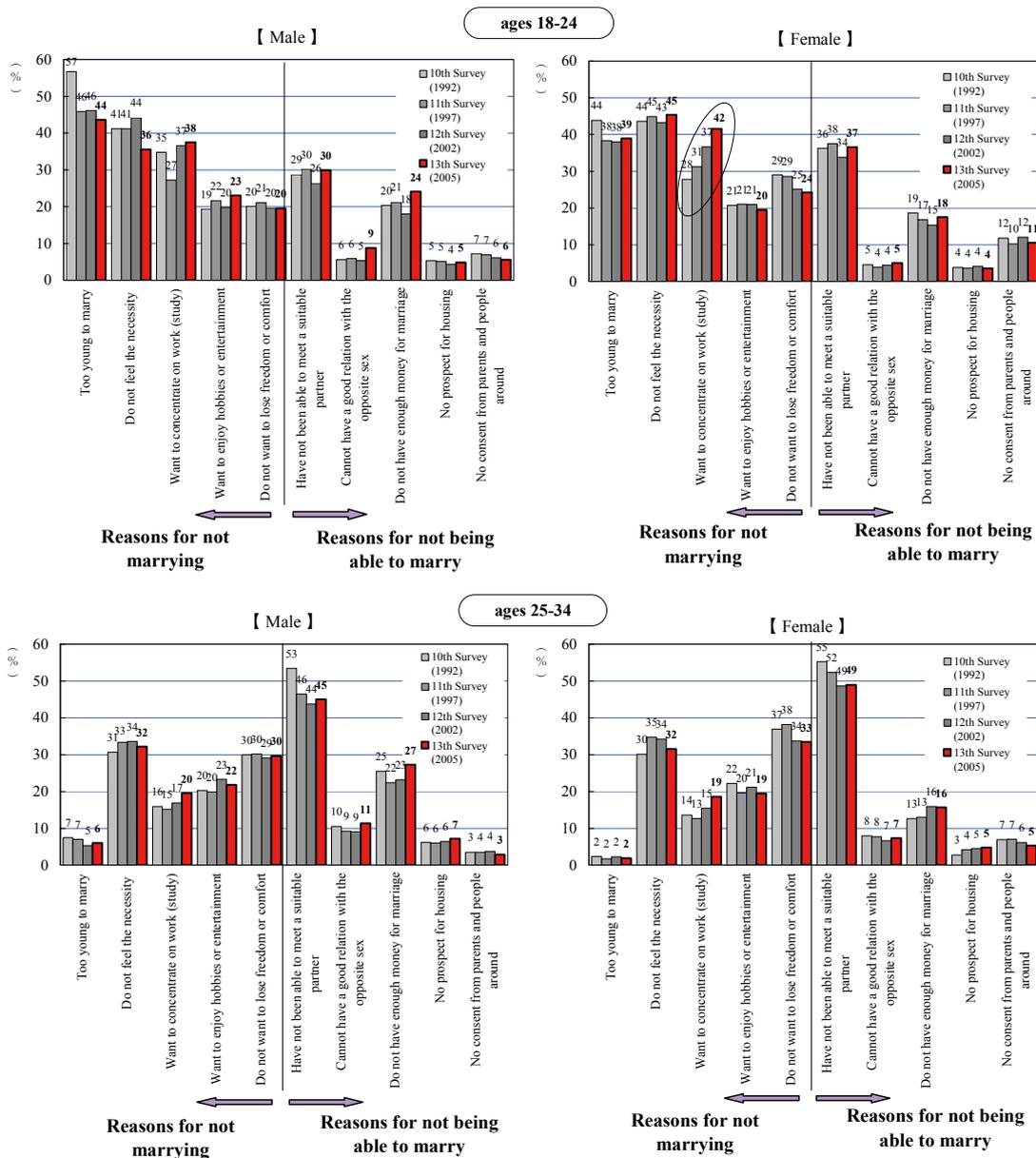
(3) Why do they not get married?

Constraints include the lack of positive reasons to get married and the absence of an ideal partner after the age of 25

When asked about the reasons for staying single, the most frequently cited responses by young people under the age of 25 include the lack of a need for marriage, such as “Too young to marry” or “Do not feel the necessity,” the presence of deterrent factors, such as “work” or “hobby/entertainment,” and the lack of positive reasons for marriage, such as “Do not want to lose freedom or comfort.” On the other hand, about half of the respondents over 25 years of age select “Cannot meet an acceptable

partner” as a reason, although many of them still cite “Do not feel the necessity” and “Do not want to lose freedom or comfort” as reasons, and the latter is chosen more frequently than by younger respondents. The current survey shows a slight change in the overall trend, represented by an increase in the responses of “Have not been able to meet a suitable partner” or, for males, “Do not have enough money for marriage”, reversing the previous trend of decrease. At the same time, the number of young respondents who choose “Want to concentrate on work” has been steadily increasing, which is particularly prominent among women (Figure 1-9).

Figure 1-9 Reasons for staying single, by age group



Note: Shows the proportion (%) of never-married subjects who regard each item as a reason for not getting married (up to three choices).

2. Partnership: Changes in Male/Female Relationships

(1) Relationships with the opposite sex

Contact with the opposite sex remains at a low level

The proportion of never-married males who answer “not in a relationship with the opposite sex” accounts for the majority at 52.5%. The proportion of females who choose the same answer has increased slightly (by 4.4 percent) to 44.7%, barely less than half, from the previous survey, indicating that contact with the opposite sex

remains at a low level (Table 2-1). Meanwhile, the proportion of never-married persons who have a potential marriage partner between the age of 18 and 24 (fiancé/fiancée or boyfriend/girlfriend) is 20.5% for males and 27.3% for females (Figure 2-1). The declining tendency in the earlier surveys is slightly shifted upward, whereas no dramatic change in women has been observed from the previous surveys, except for a rather big change among women in the age group 30-34.

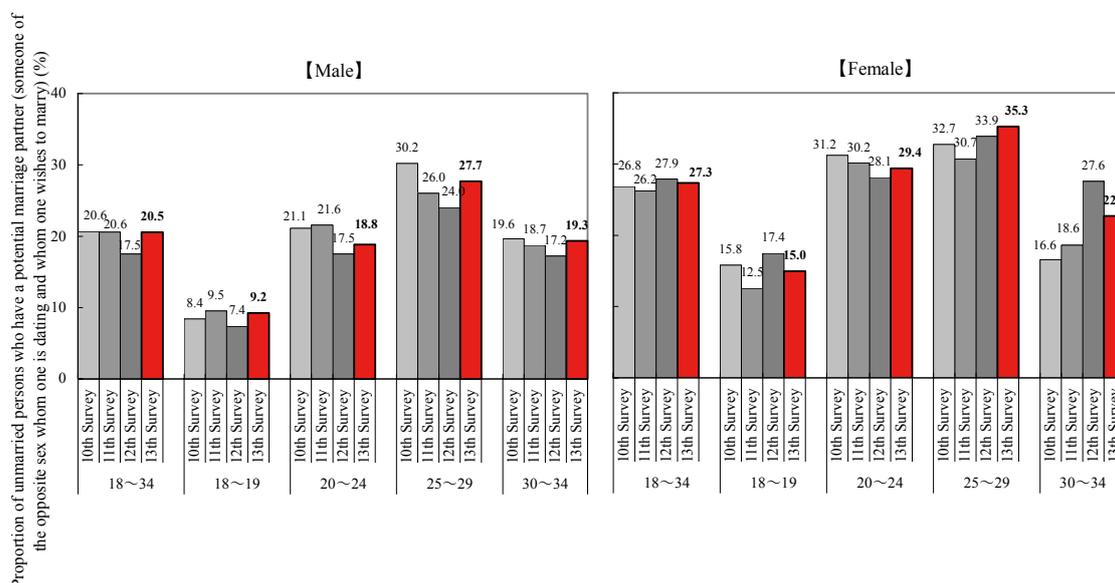
Table 2-1 Relationships with the opposite sex for never-married subjects, by survey

Relationships with the opposite sex	Male					Female				
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
Have a fiancé/fiancée	2.9 %	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.9	4.6 %	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.8
In a relationship with the opposite sex as lovers	19.4	23.1	23.3	22.4	24.3	26.2	31.6	31.6	33.1	31.9
In a relationship with the opposite sex as friends	23.6	19.2	15.3	11.3	14.0	25.4	19.5	15.9	12.4	12.9
Not in any relationship with the opposite sex	48.6	47.3	49.8	52.8	52.2	39.5	38.9	41.9	40.3	44.7
Not known	5.5	7.2	8.7	10.9	6.6	4.3	6.3	6.8	10.2	5.7
Total (18-34)	100.0 %	100.0	100.0	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)	(2,605)	(3,647)	(3,612)	(3,494)	(3,064)

Question: “Is there a person of the opposite sex you are in a relationship with?”

Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34.

Figure 2-1 Never-married persons who have a potential marriage partner, by age group and survey



Note: The figure shows the proportion of never-married persons who have potential marriage partner (someone of the opposite sex whom one is dating and whom one wishes to marry) among those who are in a relationship with the opposite sex. Respondents are never-married persons aged between 18 and 24 who have answered that they are in a relationship with the opposite sex (including fiancé/fiancée).

(2) Cohabitation

Those who have experienced cohabitation have reached 10 percent for those in their late 20s to 30s. 7.9% of males and 7.3% of females among the never-married have answered that they have experienced cohabitation, either currently or formerly, which have shown a tendency to increase in recent years, albeit only slightly. The increase is particularly prominent for the age groups of 25-29 and of 30-34, at 11.5% and 9.9% for males and 10.1% and 10.6% for females for the respective age groups, reaching 10% for females in the 30-34 age group for the first time. However, the numbers of never-married males and females who are currently continuing to cohabit have declined from

the previous survey except for females in the age group 30-34, indicating that they are still a minority (Table 2-2).

(3) Sexual experience and contraception

The increase in sexual experience of the never-married has become leveled

Never-married subjects who answer that they have sexual experience is 58.2% (59.8% in the previous survey) for males and 52.1% (55.4% in the previous survey) for females. The figures for females, which have tended to increase in the earlier surveys, seem to have reached the ceiling, indicating the same pattern observed of males in the previous survey (Figure 2-2).

Table 2-2 Proportion of never-married subjects who have experienced cohabitation, by survey and age group

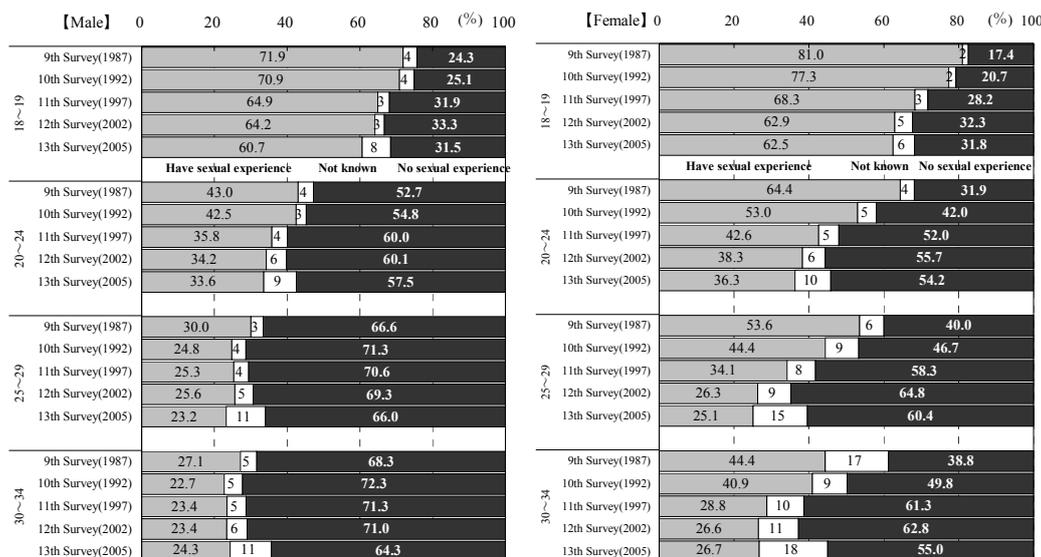
Age	Male					Female				
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
18-19	1.2% (0.5)	0.9 (0.2)	0.6 (0.5)	1.8 (0.8)	0.9 (0.5)	1.9% (0.8)	1.3 (0.8)	2.6 (1.0)	3.0 (1.7)	1.7 (1.1)
20-24	3.5 (1.0)	4.2 (1.3)	4.5 (2.1)	6.0 (2.8)	5.7 (2.5)	2.7 (0.8)	3.1 (1.1)	4.4 (2.3)	7.5 (2.7)	6.7 (2.2)
25-29	3.3 (0.7)	6.7 (1.3)	7.1 (1.7)	10.3 (2.8)	11.8 (2.2)	4.1 (0.0)	4.5 (1.4)	5.3 (1.0)	10.0 (3.0)	10.1 (2.9)
30-34	5.0 (1.5)	7.1 (1.6)	6.0 (1.9)	6.9 (1.8)	9.9 (1.3)	4.4 (0.6)	6.1 (1.6)	7.6 (1.5)	8.2 (1.4)	10.6 (3.0)
Total (18-34) (Number of cases)	3.2% (0.9) (3,299)	4.5 (1.1) (4,215)	4.8 (1.7) (3,982)	6.7 (2.3) (3,897)	7.9 (1.9) (3,133)	2.8% (0.7) (2,605)	3.1 (1.1) (3,647)	4.6 (1.7) (3,612)	7.6 (2.4) (3,494)	7.3 (2.3) (3,064)

Question: "Have you ever cohabited (lived with a partner without legally registering marriage)?"

1. No, 2. Yes, formerly, but not now, 3. Yes, I am [cohabiting] now

Note: The figures in this table show the percentages of those who have experienced cohabitation (options 2 or 3). The figures in parentheses show the percentage of those who are now cohabiting (option 3).

Figure 2-2 Percentage of never-married subjects who have sexual experience, by survey and age group



Question: "Have you ever had sexual intercourse with the opposite sex?" 1. Yes 2. No

The options in the 13th Survey are: 1. Yes, in the past one year

2. Yes, in the past, but not in the past one year 3. No

Note: See Appendix Table 4 (at the end of the document) for detailed figures.

More than 80% of those who have sexual experience use contraception

The study asked never-married persons between 18 and 34 whether they used contraception at their most recent sexual encounter, and 84.7% of males and 82.4% of females answered yes. With respect to contraceptive methods, the use of condoms is predominant, cited by 80.3% of males and 73.7% of females. The use of birth-control pills is cited by 0.8% of males and 1.4% of females (Table 2-3).

3. Desired Image of Marriage: What kind of marriage is being sought?

(1) Desired age of marriage

The rising trend of the desired age of marriage seems to have reached the ceiling

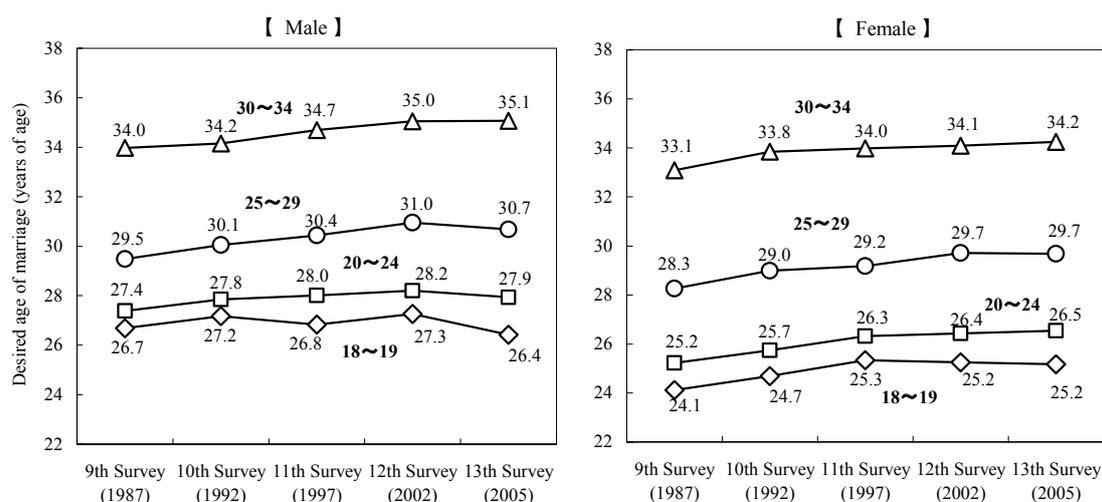
The age at which never-married subjects want to marry (average desired age of marriage) had been rising in nearly all of the age groups up until the current survey, but it has generally stopped rising in this survey and even shows a declining tendency in males (Figure 3-1).

Table 2-3 Percentage of sexually active never-married persons using contraception, by age

Age	Total (Number of cases)	Used contraception	(Re-listed) Method (Multiple Answers)			Did not use contraception	Not known	Total (Number of cases)	Used contraception	(Re-listed) Method (Multiple Answers)			Did not use contraception	Not known
			Condom	Birth-control pill	Other					Condom	Birth-control pill	Other		
13th Survey (2005)														
Total (18~49)	100.0% (2,382)	83.0	78.0	1.0	5.9	16.0	1.1	100.0% (1,887)	81.7	71.8	1.4	11.4	17.1	1.2
Total (18~34)	100.0% (1,827)	84.7	80.3	0.8	5.3	14.6	0.7	100.0% (1,595)	82.4	73.7	1.4	10.0	16.5	1.1
18~19	100.0 (133)	86.5	82.7	0.0	5.3	13.5	0.0	100.0 (172)	83.1	80.8	0.6	4.1	16.3	0.6
20~24	100.0 (589)	87.3	83.7	1.2	5.3	12.1	0.7	100.0 (643)	83.4	74.8	2.0	9.0	15.4	1.2
25~29	100.0 (676)	85.4	80.5	0.9	5.2	13.8	0.9	100.0 (504)	83.1	72.8	1.8	11.7	15.9	1.0
30~34	100.0 (429)	79.7	74.6	0.2	5.4	19.6	0.7	100.0 (276)	78.3	68.5	0.0	12.7	20.3	1.5
35~39	100.0 (267)	82.4	74.2	1.5	9.4	16.1	1.5	100.0 (145)	80.0	62.8	1.4	20.0	19.3	0.7
40~44	100.0 (179)	75.4	68.7	1.7	9.5	20.7	3.9	100.0 (89)	79.8	70.8	0.0	12.4	18.0	2.3
45~49	100.0 (109)	67.0	64.2	1.8	1.8	31.2	1.8	100.0 (58)	70.7	43.1	3.5	27.6	27.6	1.7
(Reference) 11th Survey (1997)														
Total number under the age of 35	100.0% (2,395)	76.4	-	-	-	19.5	4.2	100.0% (1,823)	70.5	-	-	-	26.1	3.5

Note: Subjects are never-married persons of the age groups noted above who have sexual experiences. "Other" in the category of "Method" includes "Ogino Method/ Basal Temperature Method" and "coitus interruptus". The figures in the category of method are the result of multiple answers, showing the percentage of the total. The 11th survey (1997) did not ask about the method. The use of low-dose birth control pills was approved in Japan in 1999.

Figure 3-1 Change in the desired age of marriage, by age group



Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34 who responded "Intend to marry someday".

The tendency of desiring a partner close in age has halted for females.

The desired age gap with a partner had tended to narrow for both males and females in recent years, with an increasing number of never-married persons desiring a partner with a small age difference (particularly a partner of the same age). However, this current survey shows a certain halt in this tendency, suggesting the end of a trend (Figure 3-2).

(2) Desirable life course

More never-married women choose “managing both work and family” as an ideal and expected life course, and about 30% of men expect women to manage both work and family

With respect to both the course of life that never-married women hold as ideal (ideal life course) and the life course that they expect will become a reality (expected life course), the proportions choosing “managing both work and family” have increased. On the other hand, the proportion of those who choose the “return to work” course has decreased. With respect to the expected life course, both the declining tendency of the proportions choosing the

“full-time housewife” course and the increasing tendency of the proportions choosing the “single and working” course continue. With respect to the life course that men desire of women, the proportions choosing “managing both work and family” has reached nearly 30%, and those who desire the housewifery course for women stand at 13%, continuing a trend of rapid decrease (Figure 3-3).

Description of life course:

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

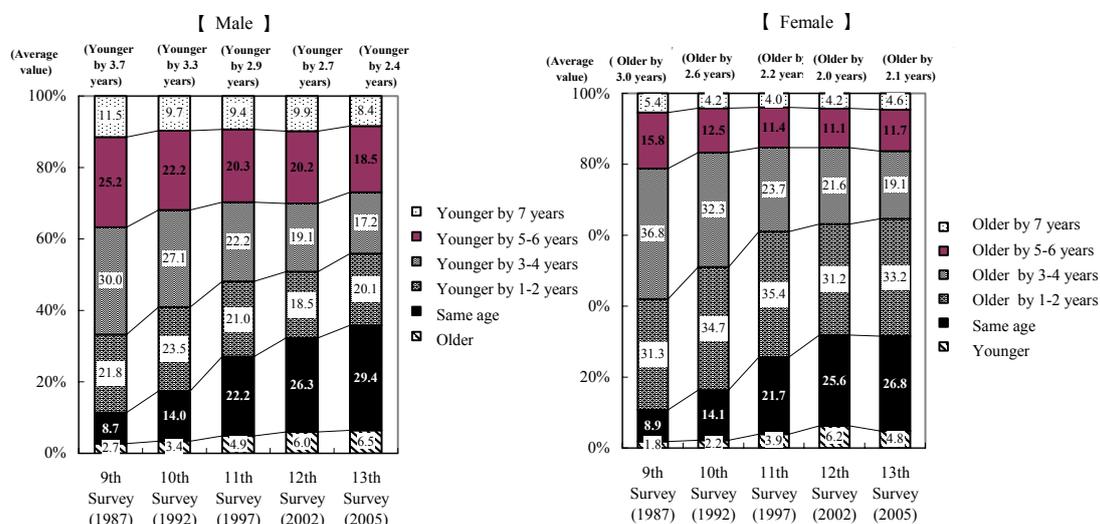
“Return-to-work”: to get married and have children, leave work upon marriage or childbirth, return to employment after finishing with child rearing

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

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

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

Figure 3-2 Desirable difference in age with the marriage partner, by survey and age group



Note: Subjects are never-married persons (aged 18-34) who answered “Intend to marry someday”. The difference in age with the desirable marriage partner is the difference between the age at which a subject wants to marry and the age of his/her desired spouse. The figure excludes “not known.” Dates in parentheses show the average desired difference in age. Actual differences in age of married couples obtained from the surveys on married couples (for married couples who got married during the five years previous to each survey) are 2.9 years in the 9th Survey (1987), 2.6 years in the 10th Survey (1992), 2.4 years in the 11th Survey (1997), 1.7 years in the 12th Survey (2002), and 1.7 years in the 13th Survey (2005).

Figure 3-3 Ideal/Expected life courses of never-married women and women’s life courses that men consider desirable, by survey

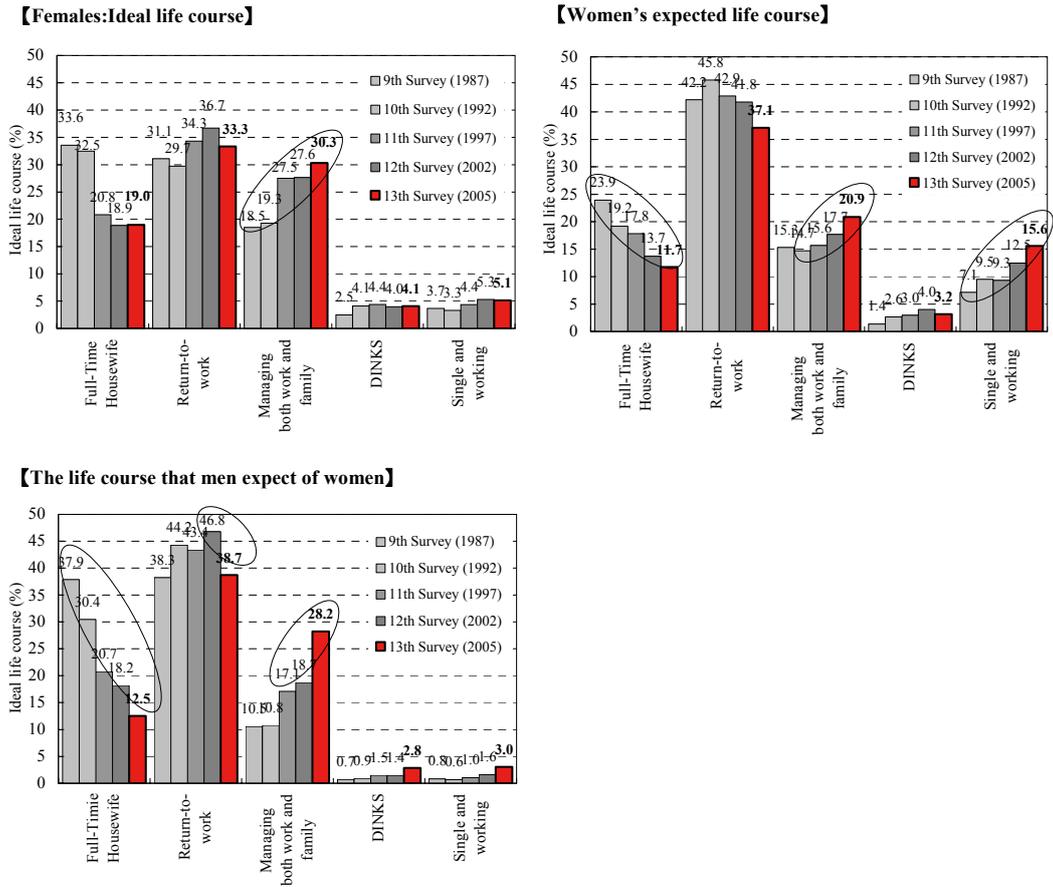
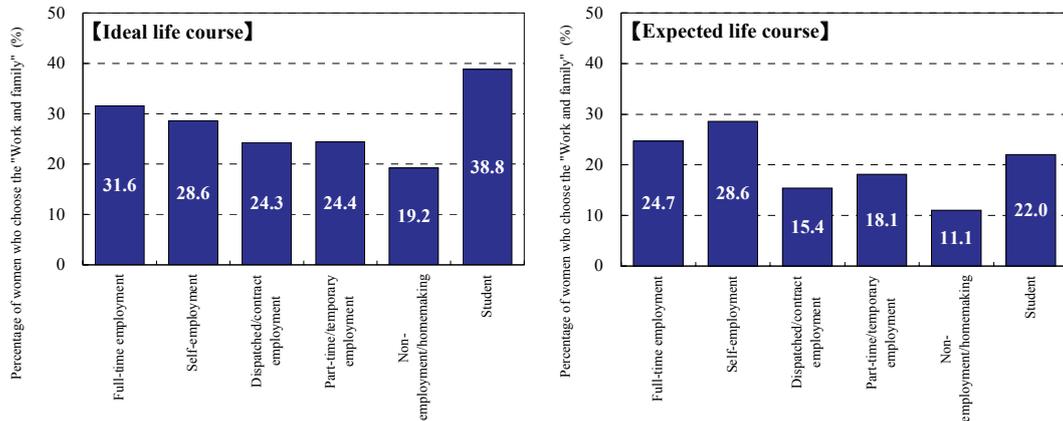


Figure 3-4 Percentage of never-married women who choose the “Work and family” life course as ideal and expected life course, by employment status



Note: Subjects are never-married women aged 18-34. The proportion of those who choose the “Work and family” course as ideal life course is 30.0% and as expected life course is 20.9% in total. See **Appendix Table 5** (at the end of the document) for details about employment status.

More women with stable employment choose “managing both work and family”

With the exception of students, never-married women who have stable employment, such as full-time employment (full-time workers) and self-employment, tend to choose “Managing both

work and family” as both ideal and expected life courses. However, except for self-employment, there is a gap between ideal and expected life courses with regard to the “Work and family” course, indicating many find it difficult to realize the ideal course of life (**Figure 3-4**).

(3) Desired number of children

The desired number of children has stopped decreasing

The average desired number of children for never-married persons who “intend to marry someday” has been decreasing since the launch of the survey in 1982, but it ceases to fall in the current survey with desired number of children at 2.07 (2.05 in the previous survey) for males and 2.10 (2.03

previously) for females (Table 3-1). The relative frequency of the desired number of children does not exhibit much change from the previous survey (2002) (Figure 3-5). It used to be that men wanted more children than women, but the gap has gradually narrowed, and for the first time, the number of children women desire exceeds the number of children men desire.

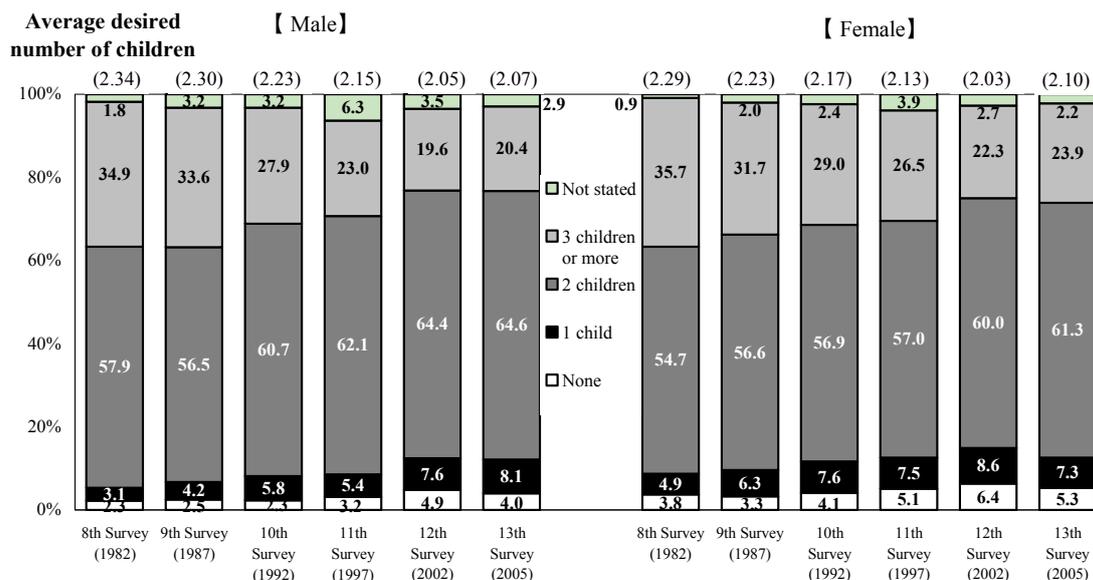
Table 3-1 Average desired number of children by survey and age

【 Male】						
Age	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
18~19	2.32	2.30	2.19	2.21	2.18	2.15
20~24	2.35	2.30	2.25	2.15	2.05	2.11
25~29	2.37	2.30	2.22	2.14	1.99	2.05
30~34	2.30	2.26	2.21	2.13	1.98	2.01
Total (18~34)	2.34	2.30	2.23	2.15	2.05	2.07
(Number of cases)	(2,573)	(2,929)	(3,672)	(3,203)	(3,270)	(2,652)

【 Female】						
Age	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
18~19	2.35	2.29	2.20	2.25	2.13	2.23
20~24	2.34	2.26	2.22	2.16	2.09	2.18
25~29	2.18	2.18	2.10	2.13	1.98	2.03
30~34	1.90	1.83	1.90	1.76	1.87	1.84
Total (18~34)	2.29	2.23	2.17	2.13	2.03	2.10
(Number of cases)	(1,970)	(2,371)	(3,212)	(3,093)	(3,001)	(2,698)

Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34 who answered “Intend to marry someday.” When the average desired number of children is 5 or more, it is counted as 5.

Figure 3-5 Desired number of children of never-married persons, by survey



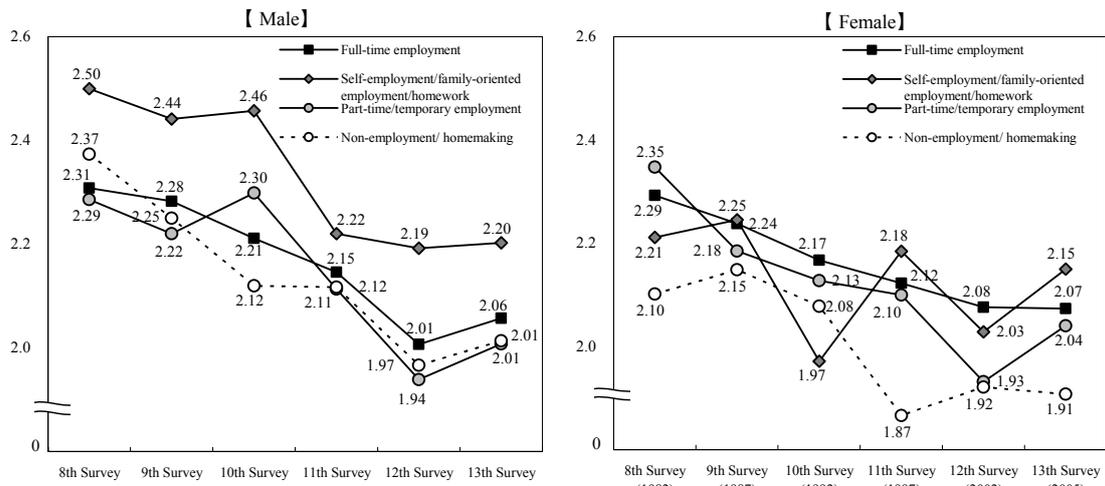
Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-24 who have answered “Intend to marry someday.” The figures in parentheses at the top of the graph indicate the average number of children desired.

Self-employed men and men and women with many siblings desire to have many children

Considering the desired number of children of the never-married by employment status, it is found that self-employed males in particular desire a lot of children, and those who are non-employed or homemakers (both males and females) tend to desire few children (**Figure 3-6**). Non-full-time employees (male and female part-timers and

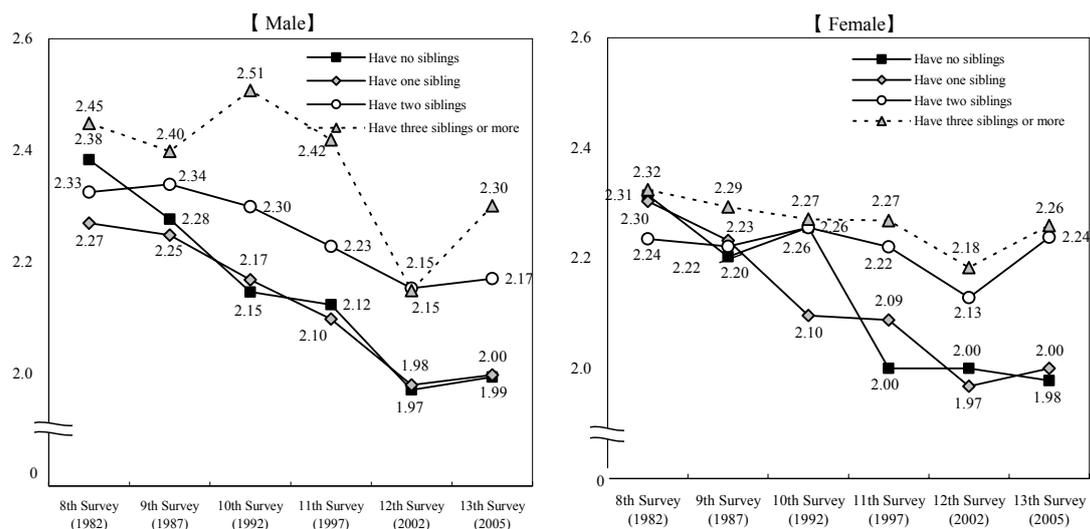
temporary workers) desire fewer children than self-employed workers, although the gap is small. With respect to the desired number of children according to the number of siblings of the subjects, subjects who have more than three siblings tend to desire more children than those who do not have any sibling or have just one. The more recent the survey is, the more prominent this tendency is (**Figure 3-7**).

Figure 3-6 Desired number of children of never-married persons, by employment status



Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34. When the average number of children desired is 5 or more, it is counted as 5. See **Appendix Table 5** (at the end of the document) for details of employment status.

Figure 3-7 Desired number of children of never-married persons, by number of siblings



Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34. When the average number of children desired is 5 or more, it is counted as 5.

4. Lives and views of never-married persons: Profiles of young people

(1) Co-residence with parents and employment status

Percentage of never-married persons living with parents has remained unchanged

The percentage of males who live with their parents (rate of living with parents) increased from the 11th Survey (1997) to the 12th Survey (2002), but it stops changing in the current Survey. The percentage of women living with their parents tends to vary by age: there is a decrease in the rate of living with parents for the 18-24 age group and an increase for the 30-34 age group (Table 4-1).

Never-married men's rate of living with parents varies by employment status

Considering never-married men's rate of living with parents by employment status, it can be seen that the rate is high for part-time/temporary employees, those who are self-employed/in family-owned business, and non-employed or homemakers (around 80%). It is low for full-time employees and students (around 60%). Women's rate of living with parents does not differ much by employment status, except for students; nonetheless, it is relatively high for non-employees/homemakers and part-time/temporary employees, and low for full-time employees and self-employed persons and those engaged in family-owned business (Table 4-2, Figure 4-1).

Table 4-1 Percentage of never-married persons living with parents, by survey and age group

【 Male】						
Age	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
18~19	71.7%	75.2	65.6	66.0	59.8	70.1
20~24	68.2	68.5	59.7	66.7	72.4	72.0
25~29	71.5	69.9	63.5	64.3	70.3	69.0
30~34	67.3	71.4	68.0	63.9	72.4	69.9
Total (18~34)	69.6%	70.4	62.8	65.5	69.5	70.3
Reference (35~39)	-	-	63.5	64.1	73.4	68.7
【 Female】						
Age	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
18~19	83.7%	80.1	73.2	70.5	71.6	65.1
20~24	84.7	77.6	78.2	73.8	77.0	76.5
25~29	79.4	78.9	80.0	79.4	78.5	81.8
30~34	64.8	70.0	69.2	72.1	76.1	79.3
Total (18~34)	82.0%	78.0	76.7	74.5	76.4	76.4
Reference (35~39)	-	-	65.2	69.1	74.4	70.2

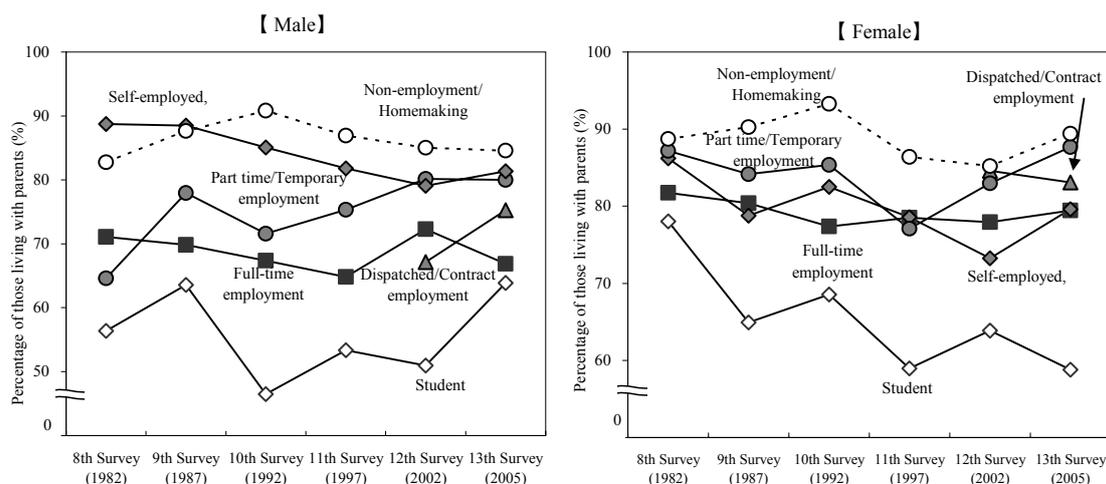
Note: If the subjects live with either of their parents, they are considered to be "living with parents."

Table 4-2 Percentage of never-married persons living with parents, by survey and employment status

【 Male】						
Employment status	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
Full-time employment	71.1%	69.8	67.4	64.8	72.3	66.9
Self-employment/Family-owned business	88.7	88.5	85.1	81.8	79.1	81.4
Dispatched/Contract employment	-	-	-	-	67.1	75.3
Part-time/Temporary employment	64.6	77.9	71.6	75.3	80.1	80.0
Non-employment/ Homemaking	82.8	87.6	90.8	86.9	85.0	84.6
Student	56.4	63.6	46.5	53.3	50.9	63.9
Total (18~34)	69.6%	70.4	62.8	65.5	69.5	70.3
【 Female】						
Employment status	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
Full-time employment	81.7%	80.4	77.4	78.5	77.9	79.5
Self-employment/Family-owned business	86.2	78.8	82.5	78.6	73.3	79.6
Dispatched/Contract employment	-	-	-	-	84.6	83.1
Part-time/Temporary employment	87.2	84.2	85.4	77.1	83.0	87.7
Non-employment/ Homemaking	88.7	90.3	93.3	86.4	85.2	89.4
Student	78.0	64.9	68.6	58.9	63.9	58.8
Total (18~34)	82.0%	78.0	76.7	74.5	76.4	76.4

Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34. If they live with either of their parents, they were considered to be "living together." The classification of "Dispatched/contract employment" was added after the 12th Survey. See Appendix Table 5 (at the end of the document) for details on employment status.

Figure 4-1 Percentage of never-married persons living with parents, by survey and employment status



Note: Table 4-2 is expressed in a graph here. See Table 4-2 for numerical values.

Table 4-3 Health status of never-married women with respect to pregnancy/childbirth, by age

Age	Total (Number of cases)	(Multiple Answers)							Have no problems as those listed on the left	Not known	(Reference) [Answers of] Wives from the Survey on Married Couples
		Have some kind of problems	Have problems with menstruation (period)	Have gynecological disorders	Have menopausal symptoms	Have problems with sex life	Have concerns about infertility	(Prone to miscarriage)			
Total (18~49)	100.0% (3,583)	20.4%	14.2	4.5	0.8	0.6	2.8	-	64.9	14.8	24.3
Total (18~34)	100.0% (3,064)	19.3%	15.0	3.7	0.2	0.5	2.8	-	66.1	14.6	21.2
18~19	100.0% (541)	14.4%	12.9	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.7	-	71.7	13.9	-
20~24	100.0 (1,187)	19.6	16.3	3.0	0.0	0.6	2.0	-	65.7	14.7	17.9
25~29	100.0 (834)	21.1	15.5	4.4	0.1	0.8	4.0	-	64.4	14.5	19.7
30~34	100.0 (502)	20.9	13.2	6.6	1.0	0.2	3.8	-	63.8	15.3	22.4
35~39	100.0 (255)	23.9	10.2	8.6	0.8	0.8	4.3	-	57.7	18.4	19.5
40~44	100.0 (161)	21.7	6.8	9.3	2.5	0.6	1.9	-	61.5	16.8	26.2
45~49	100.0 (103)	39.8	11.7	11.7	16.5	1.9	1.9	-	51.5	8.7	31.9
(Reference) [Answers of] Wives from the Survey on Married Couples											
Total (Younger than 50)	100.0% (5,932)	24.3%	8.5	8.7	5.1	3.7	(4.1)	2.1	59.0	16.7	
Total (Younger than 35)	100.0% (1,916)	21.2%	10.1	6.3	0.3	3.8	(8.7)	2.7	64.4	14.4	

Note: Subjects are never-married women belonging to the above age groups. Gynecological disorders include ovulation disorder, ovarian cyst, fibroid, infectious disease, and so on. The option 'Other' is not presented. The results of 'Wives' in the reference are those of first-time married couples. The item "Concerns about infertility" is asked in a separate question in the Survey on Married Couples; the corresponding item in this question is "prone to miscarriage."

(2) Women's Health

One out of five never-married women has problems
 It is found that one out of five (19.3%) never-married women aged 18-34 has the problems or disorders associated with pregnancy and childbirth

shown in the table below. The most frequently cited problems are those associated with menstruation (15%), and among women in their 30s, an increasing number are concerned about gynecological disorders or infertility (Table 4-3).

(3) Views and ideas on marriage and family
Views supporting marriage and family have
apparently regained momentum

With respect to the views related to marriage and family, overall positive opinions on staying single waver, while support for family and marriage has apparently regained momentum. Supporters for “(1) not desirable to remain single, (2) men and women should marry if they live together, (6) it

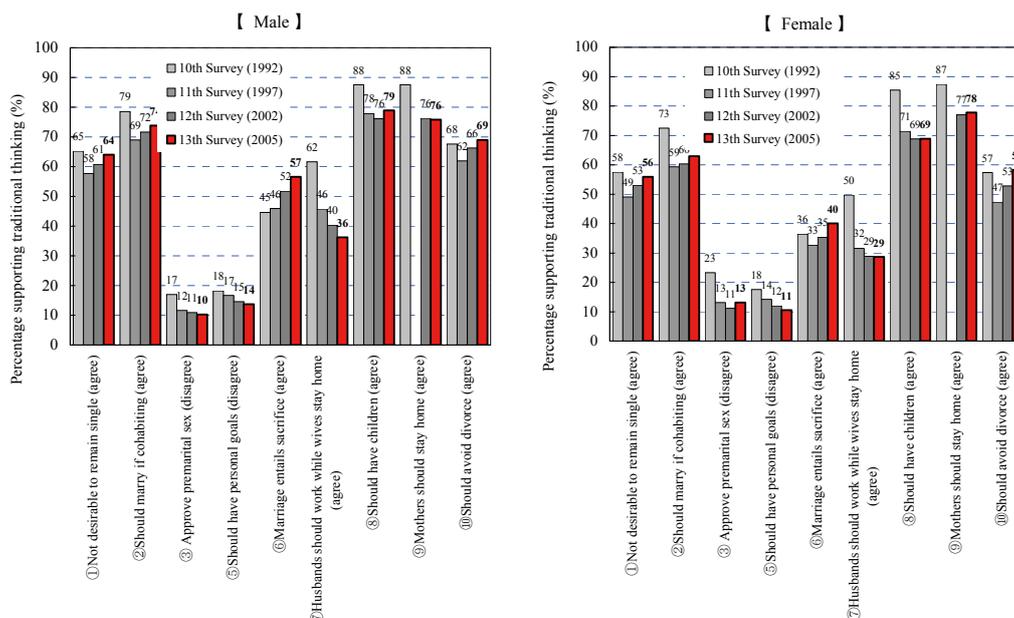
is natural that marriage entails sacrifice, (8) one should have children, and (10) divorce should be avoided” have increased, whereas the number of those who think that “(7) husbands should work and wives should take care of the home” continues to decrease and the number of those who support the idea that “(5) one should have personal goals after marriage” continues to increase (Table 4-4, Figure 4-2).

Table 4-4 Views on marriage and family (13th Survey)

Views on marriage and family	【 Male 】		【 Female 】	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
① It is not desirable to remain single for one's entire life	64.0 %	30.3	56.0 %	39.7
② Men and Women should marry if they live together	73.9	20.5	62.9	32.7
③ Unmarried couples may have sexual intercourse if they love each other	83.7	10.3	82.1	13.2
④ Manhood and womanhood are necessary to some extent in any society	85.6	8.9	84.4	11.5
⑤ One ought to have personal goals even after getting married, other than those of the partner or other members of the family	80.2	13.7	84.9	10.6
⑥ It is natural that one should sacrifice half of one's own personality or lifestyle for the family	56.7	37.5	40.1	55.4
⑦ Husbands should work and wives should take care of the home after marriage	36.2	58.1	28.7	66.9
⑧ One should have children if one gets married	78.9	15.0	68.9	26.2
⑨ It is desirable that mothers should not work and should stay home at least when their children are young	75.9	18.6	77.8	18.2
⑩ No one should get divorced for a small reason such as incompatible personalities	69.0	25.3	58.3	37.1

Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34. Sample size is 3,139 cases for males and 3,064 cases for females for ①-⑩. Option ④ is newly added in the 13th Survey.

Figure 4-2 Views on marriage and family, by survey



Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34. “Agree” represents the proportion of those who chose either “Strongly agree” or “Agree to some extent.” The same applies to “Disagree.” In this Figure, “Agree” in each item indicates support for traditional thinking, and “Disagree” opposition to traditional thinking. These percentages together show an orientation in support of the traditional family. See Appendix Table 6 (at the end of the document) for detailed numerical values.

An overall positive opinion on the marriage and childrearing of people around

There is no obvious difference between men and women in the views on parents' marital relationship and the marriage and childrearing of marital relationships of siblings and friends. The percentage of those who answer that their fathers did a lot of housework is around 20% for both males and females, and 60-70% of the respondents have heard that marriage and childrearing was hard work from people around and from the mass media. More than half have positive opinions (feeling envious, thinking that they look happy) on the marital relationships/marriage of parents and friends, substantially

more than otherwise (Table 4-5).

Those who have positive opinions on the marriage and childrearing of others have a rather strong intention to marry

The following observation is made when juxtaposing respondents' assessment of the marriage/childrearing of parents and friends, and the difference in their intention to marry within the year: Males and females who have a positive assessment of the marriage and childrearing parents and friends tend to choose "would like to marry" or "may marry if an ideal partner can be found", indicating a high desire for marriage.

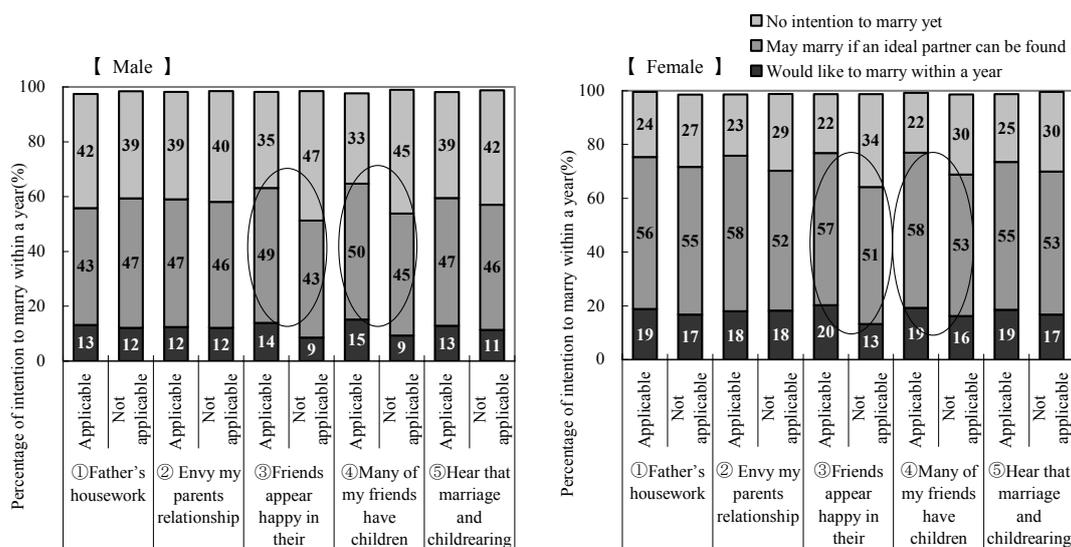
Table 4-5 Assessment of the marriage and childrearing of people around

Assessment of the marriage and childrearing of people around		Applicable (Total)			Not applicable (Total)			Not relevant	Not known
		Applicable	Somewhat applicable	Not applicable	Somewhat not applicable	Not applicable			
① My father did a lot of house work when I was a child	Male	24.6 %	9.1 %	15.5	57.5 %	20.6 %	36.9	13.1 %	4.8 %
	Female	22.2	8.2	14.0	57.2	18.5	38.8	16.5	4.0
② I envy the type of marital relationship my parents have	Male	49.7	15.2	34.4	37.6	21.2	16.3	7.6	5.2
	Female	51.4	19.5	31.9	35.8	18.8	17.0	8.3	4.5
③ Friends around me who are married appear happy	Male	49.3	14.4	34.9	28.1	19.1	9.0	17.1	5.5
	Female	54.2	15.7	38.5	25.9	18.5	7.4	15.3	4.5
④ Many of the friends and siblings in my generation have children	Male	32.1	12.1	20.0	46.2	25.4	20.8	16.5	5.3
	Female	34.0	12.9	21.1	46.7	25.9	20.8	15.2	4.1
⑤ I often hear from my friends and the mass media that marriage and childbirth/childrearing is hard work	Male	64.8	25.6	39.2	22.9	15.8	7.1	6.7	5.6
	Female	70.9	29.9	41.0	21.1	14.7	6.3	3.7	4.4

Question: "Please indicate with a circle in the column on the right next to each item, from ① through ⑤, when it is applicable to you. When there are no persons applicable for any one item, please circle the number 5 (not relevant)."

Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34. The number of cases is 3,139 males and 3,064 females.

Figure 4-3 Intention to marry within a year, by assessment of marriage and childrearing of people around



Note: Subjects are never-married persons aged 25-34 who have answered that "Intend to marry someday." The number of cases is 1,460 males and 1,189 females.

Summary

The National Fertility Survey is a national representative sample survey with the objectives of investigating and measuring the actual situations, background and views of marriage and childbirth 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 single people conducted as part of the 13th Survey.

The survey was conducted as of the date of June 1, 2005, over single persons aged between 18 and 49 throughout the country. The number of distributed questionnaires was 12,482, with 8,734 valid questionnaires (valid collection rate 70.0%). Among them 6,203 subjects of never-married males and females aged 18 to 34 are mainly analyzed in this paper on subjects such as:

- (1) Socio-economic attributes of unmarried persons
- (2) Intention and views regarding marriage
- (3) Aspects related to relationships with the opposite sex
- (4) Aspects related to women's lives and health
- (5) Views on life course and the number of children
- (6) Views and assessment of matters related to marriage and family

Points of the survey results are summarized as follows. The * mark indicates a new item in the present round of the survey.

1. The Choice of Marriage: Exploring young people's avoidance of marriage

The proportion of never-married persons who intend to marry has remained at around 90 percent; the attitude of trying to delay marriage persists; non-regular employees and unemployed never-married males tend less to desire to marry or feel that there are merits to marriage

- 1) The proportion of never-married persons who think that they "Intend to marry someday" or "Will marry by a certain age," which had been on a decreasing trend in the past surveys, stays the same or rises slightly (**Table 1-1, Figure 1-1**). However, with respect to marriage now, the number of never-married persons who answer "Do not intend to marry yet" has continued to increase in major age groups (**Table 1-2, Figure 1-2**). When the figures are considered by employment status, it is notable that the desire to marry tends to be strong among male full-time employees and self-employed persons,

while it tends to be less strong among non-regular employees and unemployed persons (**Figure 1-3**).

- 2) The proportion of never-married persons who think there are merits to marriage has increased slightly (**Table 1-3**). This is because there are more respondents, mostly those who are younger, who think that "having one's own children and family" is a merit (**Figure 1-7**). The percentage of those who feel that there are merits to marriage also varies depending on employment status, and the percentage tends to be high among full-time employees and low among non-regular employees and unemployed persons (**Figure 1-6**).

With respect to the reason for staying single, "Want to concentrate on work" has continued to increase, particularly among young females

- 1) As for reasons why never-married persons stay single, "Want to concentrate on work" has increased continuously, which is particularly prominent among young females. When compared to the previous Survey, "Have not been able to meet a suitable partner" has slightly increased and "Do not have enough money for marriage" has slightly increased among males (**Figure 1-9**).

2. Partnership: Changes in Relationships between Men and Women

Continuing low level of contact with the opposite sex; slight increase in respondents who have experienced cohabitation among those aged over 25; leveling in the increase in sexual experience of the never-married

- 1) More than half of never-married males and more than 40% of females are not in a relationship with the opposite sex, and the percentage has increased slightly among females in this Survey, indicating that contact with the opposite sex remains at a low level. However, this Survey shows an increase in the proportion of never-married males who have a partner they'd like to marry, which had previously been on a decline (**Table 2-1, Figure 2-1**).
- 2) Never-married males and females who answer that they are living together with a partner of the opposite sex is about 2% and are a minority, but the percentage of those who have experienced cohabitation in the past has slightly increased, reaching nearly 10% among those in their 20s for both males and females (**Table 2-2**).
- 3) The rate of never-married persons with sexual experience had been on an increase, and it was particularly notable among females. However,

the rate has ceased to rise in this Survey for both males and females (**Figure 2-2**). The rate of practicing contraception is more than 80% for both males and females, and most of them used condoms (**Figure 2-3***).

3. *Desired Image of Marriage: –What kind of marriage is being sought?*

The rising trend of the desired age of marriage seems to have reached the ceiling; the tendency of desiring a partner close in age has also halted for females

- 1) The desired age of marriage for never-married persons had been on a rise, but it seems to have stopped rising in this Survey, and it shows a slight decrease among males (**Figure 3-1**).
- 2) Both males and female had tended to desire a partner with a small age difference, but the current Survey shows a certain halt in this tendency for women, suggesting the end of a trend (**Figure 3-2**).

More never-married women choose “managing both work and family” as the ideal life course; tendency of increase in men who desire this life course for women

- 1) With respect to both the course of life that never-married women hold as ideal and the life course that they expect will become a reality, the proportions choosing managing both work and childrearing have increased. With respect to the life course which men desire of women, the proportion choosing “managing both work and family” has reached nearly 30%, and there is also a rapid and continuing decrease in men who find it desirable for women to take the “housewifery” course. Never-married women who choose “managing both work and family” as ideal and expected life course are mainly found among those in stable employment such as full-time employment, although a certain gap exists between the ideal and expected course of life (**Figure 3-3, 3-4**).

The desired number of children of never-married persons has stopped decreasing; it varies depending on employment status and the number of siblings they have

- 1) The number of children that never-married people want to have has been generally decreasing in recent years, but the decline seems to have halted for both males and females in the current Survey. Further, the desired number of children among females exceeds that of males for the first time (**Table 3-1**).
- 2) Self-employed males tend to desire more chil-

dren and non-regular employees and unemployed persons/homemakers (both male and female) tend to desire fewer children. The desired number of children also varies depending on the number of siblings the never-married persons have; those who have more than three siblings tend to desire more children than those who have none or one sibling (**Figure 3-7***).

4. *Lives and views of never-married persons: Profiles of young people*

Percentage of never-married persons living with parents has remained unchanged

- 1) The percentage of males who live with their parents has increased in the recent past, but it stops changing in this Survey. The corresponding percentage of females varies depending on age, and the rate of living with parents among those aged 30-34, which had traditionally been low, has shown a tendency to increase in this Survey (**Table 4-1**).
- 2) The rate of males’ living with parents varies depending on employment status. It is high for unemployed persons/homemakers, self-employed persons, and part-time/temporary employees (around 80%), and it is low for full-time employees and students (around 60%). As for females, the difference according to employment status is small, except for students. Still, it tends to be high for unemployed persons/homemakers and part-time/temporary employees (**Table 4-2, Figure 4-1**).

One out of five never-married women has problems related to pregnancy/childbirth

- 1) One out of five never-married women aged 18-34 has problems or disorders associated with pregnancy and childbirth. The most common problems are associated with menstruation, and many of those in their 30s are concerned about gynecological disorders or infertility (**Figure 4-3***)

Views supporting marriage and family have apparently regained momentum; those who have positive opinions about marriage and child-rearing tend to have a rather strong intention to marry

- 1) With respect to the views related to marriage and family, a positive view on family and marriage has returned. Supporters for ideas such as “Not desirable to remain single,” “Men and women should marry if they live together,” “It is natural that marriage entails sacrifice,” “One should have children,” and “Divorce should be avoided” have increased, whereas the number

of those who think that husbands should work and wives should take care of the home has continued to decrease (Table 4-4, Figure 4-2).

- The percentage of those who answer that their fathers did a lot of housework is around 20% for both males and females, and 60-70% of the subjects have heard that marriage and child-

rearing is hard work from people around and from the mass media. More than half have expressed “envy” or the view that “they look happy” about the marital relationships/marriage of parents and friends, which is substantially more than those otherwise (Table 4-5*, Figure 4-3*).

[APPENDIX]

Table 1 Intention to marry, by survey and age group

Intention of marriage	【 Male 】						【 Female 】					
	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
1. Will marry someday												
Total (18-49)	95.9 %	91.8	87.6	83.5	84.8	83.8	94.2 %	92.9	86.6	86.0	85.2	86.1
18-34 Subtotal	95.9	91.8	90.0	85.9	87.0	87.0	94.2	92.9	90.2	89.1	88.3	90.0
18-19	96.0	90.0	87.5	85.5	88.4	88.4	95.5	93.5	88.8	87.6	85.8	89.5
20-24	97.1	92.6	90.9	86.7	88.3	87.7	97.5	95.1	92.0	90.7	90.9	91.5
25-29	95.8	93.9	92.0	87.1	86.3	88.0	92.5	91.8	89.9	87.1	87.7	91.8
30-34	92.4	86.9	87.0	80.9	83.8	83.7	72.7	75.6	83.8	88.7	85.1	84.3
35-39	—	—	80.5	80.1	81.1	81.8	—	—	63.0	69.1	76.8	73.3
40-44	—	—	66.7	71.4	74.1	70.0	—	—	42.9	46.7	52.9	57.8
45-49	—	—	50.0	51.4	63.4	53.6	—	—	27.8	36.4	38.1	45.6
2. No intention to marry at all												
Total (18-49)	2.3 %	4.5	7.0	8.3	7.0	9.4	4.1 %	4.6	8.5	7.2	6.9	8.5
18-34 Subtotal	2.3	4.5	4.9	6.3	5.4	7.1	4.1	4.6	5.2	4.9	5.0	5.6
18-19	1.8	5.7	6.2	7.2	5.0	5.2	2.6	4.7	5.5	6.1	6.1	7.2
20-24	1.2	3.6	4.5	5.5	4.7	6.8	1.9	2.8	3.9	4.1	3.9	4.5
25-29	2.9	3.6	3.2	5.5	5.3	6.9	4.0	5.6	5.5	5.4	4.2	4.1
30-34	5.1	8.3	7.5	9.6	7.3	9.0	23.6	16.9	12.6	5.5	8.5	9.2
35-39	—	—	11.0	12.5	9.3	10.9	—	—	29.0	20.8	9.5	16.9
40-44	—	—	25.4	18.5	15.1	17.0	—	—	49.2	33.3	28.7	29.2
45-49	—	—	44.4	32.0	23.9	34.3	—	—	60.8	46.6	37.1	41.7
3. Not known												
Total (18-49)	1.8 %	3.7	5.5	8.2	8.2	6.8	1.7 %	2.5	4.9	6.8	7.9	5.4
18-34 Subtotal	1.8	3.7	5.1	7.8	7.7	5.9	1.7	2.5	4.6	6.0	6.7	4.3
18-19	2.2	4.3	6.4	7.2	6.7	6.4	1.9	1.9	5.7	6.3	8.1	3.3
20-24	1.7	3.8	4.6	7.7	7.0	5.5	0.6	2.2	4.2	5.2	5.2	4.0
25-29	1.4	2.5	4.8	7.4	8.4	5.1	3.5	2.6	4.6	7.5	8.0	4.1
30-34	2.4	4.8	5.5	9.5	8.9	7.3	3.6	7.5	3.6	5.8	6.4	6.6
35-39	—	—	8.5	7.3	9.6	7.3	—	—	8.0	10.1	13.7	9.8
40-44	—	—	7.9	10.1	10.8	13.0	—	—	7.9	20.0	18.4	13.0
45-49	—	—	5.6	16.6	12.7	12.2	—	—	11.4	17.0	24.7	12.6

Question: Taking a lifelong perspective, which is your idea about marriage??"

- Intend to marry someday
- Do not intend to ever marry

Subjects: Never-married males and females aged 18-34. The results from the 10th Survey and onwards of the age group 35-49 are given as a reference.

Table 2 Views on marriage (age of marriage; ideal), by survey and age group

Survey	Age	【 Male 】				【 Female 】					
		Total	(Number of cases)	I intend to marry by a certain age	I will wait for an ideal partner	Not known	Total	(Number of cases)	I intend to marry by a certain age	I will wait for an ideal partner	Not known
9th Survey (1987)											
Total (18-34)											
		100.0 %	(3,027)	60.4	37.5	2.1	100.0 %	(2,420)	54.1	44.5	1.3
	18-19	100.0	(541)	57.9	39.9	2.2	100.0	(601)	56.9	42.1	1.0
	20-24	100.0	(1,355)	61.8	36.3	1.8	100.0	(1,271)	57.5	41.5	1.0
	25-29	100.0	(785)	63.1	34.5	2.4	100.0	(427)	47.3	50.6	2.1
	30-34	100.0	(346)	52.3	45.4	2.3	100.0	(121)	28.9	67.8	3.3
10th Survey (1992)											
Total (18-34)											
		100.0 %	(3,795)	52.8	45.5	1.6	100.0 %	(3,291)	49.2	49.6	1.3
	18-19	100.0	(739)	49.9	48.7	1.4	100.0	(780)	55.0	44.0	1.0
	20-24	100.0	(1,673)	55.2	43.4	1.4	100.0	(1,640)	51.2	47.4	1.4
	25-29	100.0	(953)	53.3	44.8	1.9	100.0	(664)	44.3	54.5	1.2
	30-34	100.0	(430)	47.7	50.0	2.3	100.0	(207)	26.6	72.0	1.4
11th Survey (1997)											
Total (18-34)											
		100.0 %	(3,420)	48.6	50.1	1.3	100.0 %	(3,218)	42.9	56.1	1.1
	18-19	100.0	(531)	47.6	51.2	1.1	100.0	(531)	44.3	54.8	0.9
	20-24	100.0	(1,460)	51.0	48.2	0.8	100.0	(1,591)	46.9	52.2	0.9
	25-29	100.0	(1,001)	49.7	48.9	1.5	100.0	(791)	40.6	58.2	1.3
	30-34	100.0	(428)	38.8	58.6	2.6	100.0	(305)	25.2	72.8	2.0
12th Survey (2002)											
Total (18-34)											
		100.0 %	(3,389)	48.1	50.5	1.4	100.0 %	(3,085)	43.6	55.2	1.3
	18-19	100.0	(624)	47.6	50.5	1.9	100.0	(507)	50.5	47.9	1.6
	20-24	100.0	(1,240)	50.2	48.9	1.0	100.0	(1,267)	48.2	50.2	1.6
	25-29	100.0	(970)	48.6	50.1	1.3	100.0	(888)	42.2	57.2	0.6
	30-34	100.0	(555)	43.1	54.8	2.2	100.0	(423)	24.1	74.5	1.4
13th Survey (2005)											
Total (18-34)											
		100.0 %	(2,732)	51.9	46.7	1.3	100.0 %	(2,759)	49.5	49.0	1.4
	18-19	100.0	(373)	52.3	46.1	1.6	100.0	(484)	50.6	48.1	1.2
	20-24	100.0	(899)	52.8	46.3	0.9	100.0	(1,086)	54.9	43.8	1.3
	25-29	100.0	(902)	54.9	43.6	1.6	100.0	(766)	50.4	47.9	1.7
	30-34	100.0	(558)	45.5	53.0	1.4	100.0	(423)	33.1	65.5	1.4

Question: From a lifelong perspective, which opinion on marriage is closest to your thinking??"

- Intend to marry by a certain age
- Do not mind not marrying until an ideal partner is found

Subjects: Never-married persons aged 18-34 who have answered “Intend to marry someday.”

Table 3 Intention to marry within a year, classified by survey and age group

Survey Age	【 Male 】					【 Female 】				
	Total (Number of cases)	Would like to marry within a year	May marry if an ideal partner can be found	Do not intend to marry yet	Not known	Total (Number of cases)	Would like to marry within a year	May marry if an ideal partner can be found	Do not intend to marry yet	Not known
9th Survey (1987)										
Total (18-34)	100.0 % (3,027)	10.8	30.1	57.3	1.9	100.0 % (2,420)	11.0	38.0	49.5	1.4
18-19	100.0 (541)	1.1	10.5	86.5	1.8	100.0 (601)	3.0	22.3	73.5	1.2
20-24	100.0 (1,355)	7.1	19.7	71.6	1.6	100.0 (1,271)	10.6	35.3	52.7	1.3
25-29	100.0 (785)	18.0	48.8	31.5	1.8	100.0 (427)	21.3	60.7	16.6	1.4
30-34	100.0 (346)	24.0	58.7	14.5	2.9	100.0 (121)	19.0	64.5	13.2	3.3
10th Survey (1992)										
Total (18-34)	100.0 % (3,795)	9.0	29.6	59.3	2.0	100.0 % (3,291)	10.2	37.6	50.7	1.5
18-19	100.0 (739)	1.2	11.5	85.7	1.6	100.0 (780)	3.7	18.8	76.4	1.0
20-24	100.0 (1,673)	6.0	20.6	72.1	1.3	100.0 (1,640)	9.0	33.7	55.7	1.6
25-29	100.0 (953)	15.8	43.8	37.5	2.9	100.0 (664)	19.9	58.7	19.7	1.7
30-34	100.0 (430)	18.8	64.9	12.8	3.5	100.0 (207)	12.6	71.5	14.0	1.9
11th Survey (1997)										
Total (18-34)	100.0 % (3,420)	9.0	33.0	56.5	1.5	100.0 % (3,218)	10.2	40.9	47.7	1.2
18-19	100.0 (531)	1.5	17.1	80.6	0.8	100.0 (531)	2.1	20.0	76.8	1.1
20-24	100.0 (1,460)	5.9	25.0	67.4	1.7	100.0 (1,591)	8.8	36.5	53.9	0.8
25-29	100.0 (1,001)	14.9	41.0	42.7	1.5	100.0 (791)	16.3	55.0	26.9	1.8
30-34	100.0 (428)	15.4	61.2	21.5	1.9	100.0 (305)	16.1	63.9	18.4	1.6
12th Survey (2002)										
Total (18-34)	100.0 % (3,389)	7.8	34.4	55.9	1.9	100.0 % (3,085)	12.3	40.3	46.3	1.2
18-19	100.0 (624)	1.3	27.6	69.6	1.6	100.0 (507)	2.8	19.9	76.7	0.6
20-24	100.0 (1,240)	5.1	22.5	70.8	1.6	100.0 (1,267)	9.8	32.9	56.0	1.3
25-29	100.0 (970)	12.8	40.4	45.1	1.8	100.0 (888)	18.4	51.1	29.3	1.2
30-34	100.0 (555)	12.6	58.2	25.9	3.2	100.0 (423)	18.4	64.1	16.1	1.4
13th Survey (2005)										
Total (18-34)	100.0 % (2,732)	8.0	34.2	56.0	1.8	100.0 % (2,759)	11.7	38.4	48.8	1.1
18-19	100.0 (373)	1.6	11.8	84.2	2.4	100.0 (484)	2.5	17.4	79.8	0.4
20-24	100.0 (899)	4.0	23.7	71.0	1.3	100.0 (1,086)	8.7	29.7	60.6	1.0
25-29	100.0 (902)	11.4	40.1	46.3	2.1	100.0 (766)	18.8	50.8	28.9	1.6
30-34	100.0 (558)	13.1	56.3	28.9	1.8	100.0 (423)	17.0	62.4	19.4	1.2

Question: "What do you think about getting married within a year from now?"

1. Would like to marry within a year
2. May marry if an ideal partner can be found
3. Do not intend to marry yet

Subjects: Never-married persons aged 18-34 who have answered "Intend to marry someday"

Table 4 Sexual experience of never-married persons, by survey and age group

【 Male 】															
Age	Do not have sexual experience					Have sexual experience					Not known				
	9th (1987)	10th (1992)	11th (1997)	12th (2002)	13th (2005)	9th (1987)	10th (1992)	11th (1997)	12th (2002)	13th (2005)	9th (1987)	10th (1992)	11th (1997)	12th (2002)	13th (2005)
18-19	71.9%	70.9	64.9	64.2	60.7	24.3%	25.1	31.9	33.3	31.5	3.8%	4.0	3.2	2.6	7.8
20-24	43.0	42.5	35.8	34.2	33.6	52.7	54.8	60.0	60.1	57.5	4.2	2.7	4.2	5.6	9.0
25-29	30.0	24.8	25.3	25.6	23.2	66.6	71.3	70.6	69.3	66.0	3.4	3.9	4.1	5.1	10.8
30-34	27.1	22.7	23.4	23.4	24.3	68.3	72.3	71.3	71.0	64.3	4.5	5.1	5.3	5.6	11.4
Total(18-34)	43.1%	41.5	35.7	35.3	31.9	53.0%	55.0	60.2	59.8	58.2	4.0%	3.5	4.2	4.9	9.9
Reference(35-39)	—	26.4	26.1	24.8	26.5	—	70.1	70.4	69.4	64.8	—	3.5	3.5	5.9	8.7
【 Female 】															
Age	Do not have sexual experience					Have sexual experience					Not known				
	9th (1987)	10th (1992)	11th (1997)	12th (2002)	13th (2005)	9th (1987)	10th (1992)	11th (1997)	12th (2002)	13th (2005)	9th (1987)	10th (1992)	11th (1997)	12th (2002)	13th (2005)
18-19	81.0%	77.3	68.3	62.9	62.5	17.4%	20.7	28.2	32.3	31.8	1.6%	1.9	3.5	4.7	5.7
20-24	64.4	53.0	42.6	38.3	36.3	31.9	42.0	52.0	55.7	54.2	3.7	5.1	5.4	6.0	9.5
25-29	53.6	44.4	34.1	26.3	25.1	40.0	46.7	58.3	64.8	60.4	6.5	8.9	7.6	8.9	14.5
30-34	44.4	40.9	28.8	26.6	26.7	38.8	49.8	61.3	62.8	55.0	16.9	9.3	9.9	10.7	18.3
Total(18-34)	65.3%	56.3	43.5	37.3	36.3	30.2%	38.3	50.5	55.4	52.1	4.5%	5.4	6.1	7.3	11.7
Reference(35-39)	—	41.3	30.9	28.4	21.6	—	48.6	57.1	61.6	56.9	—	10.1	12.1	10.0	21.6

Question: "Have you ever had sexual intercourse with the opposite sex?" 1. Yes 2. No The options in the 13th Survey are: 1. Yes, in the past one year 2. Yes, in the past, but not in the past one year 3. No Subjects are never-married persons aged 18-34 (data on those aged 35-39 are provided as a reference).

Table 5 Employment status, by survey

Employment status (Position as a worker/employee)	【 Male 】						【 Female 】					
	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)
Full-time employment	63.7%	62.7	61.7	57.7	45.2	47.9	66.4%	65.6	66.1	54.4	44.5	40.8
Self-employment/ Family-owned business, etc.	8.5	7.4	3.7	5.8	5.5	5.6	2.7	2.5	1.1	2.3	2.5	1.6
Dispatched/Contract employment	-	-	-	-	1.9	6.3	-	-	-	-	4.8	10.6
Part-time/Temporary employment	2.4	2.1	2.1	7.7	10.9	10.5	3.7	3.9	4.5	14.1	16.3	13.5
Non-employment/Homemaking	3.2	2.7	2.3	3.3	7.0	6.4	9.7	7.1	5.3	5.7	8.1	6.8
Student	21.2	23.6	28.7	21.0	23.3	20.5	16.0	19.7	21.8	20.4	18.7	24.3
Other/Not known	1.1	1.5	1.5	4.5	6.2	2.8	1.5	1.2	1.2	3.0	5.1	2.3
Total (18-34)	100.0%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
(Number of cases)	(2,732)	(3,299)	(4,215)	(3,982)	(3,897)	(3,139)	(2,110)	(2,605)	(3,647)	(3,612)	(3,494)	(3,064)

Subjects: Never-married persons aged 18-34. The category of “Dispatched/Temporary employment” is newly added after the 12th Survey.

Table 6 Views on marriage and family, by survey

Views on marriage/family	Survey	【 Male 】			【 Female 】		
		Agree	Disagree	Not stated	Agree	Disagree	Not stated
① It is not desirable to remain single for one's entire life	10th Survey(1992)	65.3%	29.1	5.6	57.6	38.4	4.0
	11th Survey(1997)	57.7	36.0	6.2	49.1	45.7	5.2
	12th Survey(2002)	60.9	31.0	8.1	53.0	40.2	6.8
	13th Survey(2005)	64.0	30.3	5.7	56.0	39.7	4.3
② Men and women should marry if they live together	10th Survey(1992)	78.5	16.5	5.0	72.6	23.5	3.9
	11th Survey(1997)	69.0	24.9	6.0	59.3	35.9	4.8
	12th Survey(2002)	71.6	21.0	7.4	60.3	33.6	6.1
	13th Survey(2005)	73.9	20.5	5.6	62.9	32.7	4.4
③ Unmarried couples may have sexual intercourse if they love each other	10th Survey(1992)	77.5	17.0	5.5	72.6	23.4	4.0
	11th Survey(1997)	81.8	11.7	6.6	81.3	13.2	5.5
	12th Survey(2002)	81.1	10.9	8.0	82.2	11.1	6.7
	13th Survey(2005)	83.7	10.3	6.1	82.1	13.2	4.7
④ Manhood and womanhood are necessary to some extent in any society	13th Survey(2005)	85.6	8.9	5.5	84.4	11.5	4.1
⑤ One ought to have personal goals even after getting married, other than those of the partner or other members of the family	10th Survey(1992)	76.4	18.2	5.4	78.3	17.6	4.1
	11th Survey(1997)	76.5	16.7	6.8	80.3	14.2	5.5
	12th Survey(2002)	77.3	14.7	8.1	81.3	12.1	6.7
	13th Survey(2005)	80.2	13.7	6.1	84.9	10.6	4.5
⑥ It is natural that one should sacrifice half of one's own personality or lifestyle for the family	10th Survey(1992)	44.7	49.4	5.9	36.4	58.9	4.7
	11th Survey(1997)	45.9	47.7	6.4	32.6	62.3	5.1
	12th Survey(2002)	51.8	40.4	7.9	35.4	58.1	6.5
	13th Survey(2005)	56.7	37.5	5.8	40.1	55.4	4.5
⑦ Husbands should work and wives should take care of the home after marriage	10th Survey(1992)	61.7	32.5	5.8	49.7	45.8	4.5
	11th Survey(1997)	45.8	47.8	6.4	31.5	63.5	5.0
	12th Survey(2002)	40.3	51.8	7.9	28.9	64.7	6.3
	13th Survey(2005)	36.2	58.1	5.6	28.7	66.9	4.4
⑧ One should have children if one gets married	10th Survey(1992)	87.5	6.8	5.7	85.4	9.9	4.7
	11th Survey(1997)	77.9	15.3	6.8	71.5	23.3	5.2
	12th Survey(2002)	76.2	15.6	8.3	68.8	24.4	6.8
	13th Survey(2005)	78.9	15.0	6.0	68.9	26.2	4.9
⑨ It is desirable that mothers should not work and should stay home at least when their children are young	10th Survey(1992)	87.5	7.0	5.5	87.4	8.2	4.4
	11th Survey(1997)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	12th Survey(2002)	76.4	15.8	7.9	77.1	16.7	6.2
	13th Survey(2005)	75.9	18.6	5.5	77.8	18.2	4.0
⑩ No one should get divorced for a small reason such as incompatible personalities	10th Survey(1992)	67.7	26.4	5.9	57.4	37.8	4.8
	11th Survey(1997)	62.0	31.4	6.7	47.3	47.3	5.3
	12th Survey(2002)	66.4	25.7	7.9	52.8	40.4	6.8
	13th Survey(2005)	69.0	25.3	5.6	58.3	37.1	4.5

Question: “There are many opinions about marriage, the relationship between men and women, family, and having children, and the opinions listed below ①-⑩ are some examples. What do you think about each of the opinions? Please mark a circle in the column on the right where applicable.” 1. Strongly agree 2. Agree to some extent 3. Disagree to some extent 4. Strongly disagree.

Subjects: Never-married persons aged 18-34. Number of cases are: 4,215 males and 3,647 females for the 10th Survey, 3,982 males and 3,612 females for the 11th Survey, 3,897 males and 3,494 females for the 12th Survey, and 3,139 males and 3,064 females for the 13th Survey. The percentage of “Agree” is the sum of the answers of “Absolutely agree” and “Agree to some extent.” The same applies to “Disagree.”