

The Fifteenth Japanese National Fertility Survey in 2015
 Marriage Process and Fertility of Married Couples
 Attitudes toward Marriage and Family among Japanese Singles
 Summary of the Survey Results on Married Couples/ Singles

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The results of this Survey are also posted on the website of the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research. The website version comes with an appendix showing detailed figures.
 (URL for survey results page) http://www.ipss.go.jp/ps-doukou/j/doukou15/doukou15_gaiyo.asp

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[Instructions for use]

(1) Explanation of symbols

Quantity zero	—
Data not applicable	...
Less than one unit	0, 0.0

(2) Fractions of less than one unit are rounded to the nearest unit. For this reason, the aggregate of the figures does not always make up the "Total".

Overview of the Survey

(1) The Purpose and History of the Survey

The National Institute of Population and Social Security Research conducted the 15th Japanese National Fertility Survey (Shussho doko kihon chosa) in June 2015. The survey is conducted to determine the current situations and background to marriage and/or fertility of married couples, which are not available in other public statistics, and also to obtain the basic data necessary for developing relevant policies and projecting the future population. The first National Fertility Survey was carried out in 1940 (prewar) and the second one in 1952 (postwar). Since then, it has been conducted every five years, investigating process of marriage and fertility of married couples. Since the 8th Survey (1982), a survey of singles has been conducted simultaneously with that of married couples. This report is a summary of the results of the 15th Survey of singles and married couples.

(2) Survey Procedures and Data Collection

In this study, the survey of singles is based on a national sample of singles aged 18 or more but less than 50, and the survey of married couples is based on a national sample of married couples with wives in Japan under 50 years old as of June 1, 2015 (i.e. the respondents are wives). The survey was conducted in 900 districts selected by systematic sampling from the 1,106 districts where the Comprehensive Survey of Living Condition of the People on Health and Welfare, 2015 was conducted by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. The 1,106 districts were originally selected by a stratified random sampling procedure from the 2010 Population Census tracts. All singles aged 18 or more but less than 50 and all married women under 50 years old residing in these 900 districts were the targeted subjects of the survey of singles and the survey of married couples, respectively¹.

This study was conducted by self-enumeration method. The questionnaires were distributed by survey staff, and the respondents placed the completed questionnaire in the envelopes provided before they were collected by the staff. In the survey of singles, of the 11,442 distributed questionnaires (the number of subjects surveyed), 9,674 questionnaires were collected, yielding a response rate of 84.5% (the figure was 80.6% for the previous survey). However, 922 of the collected questionnaires that were not properly filled out were considered invalid and were excluded from the analysis. Thus, the number of valid questionnaires was 8,752 and the valid collection rate was 76.5% (74.3% for the previous survey). In the survey of married couples, of the 7,511 distributed questionnaires (the number of subjects surveyed), 6,867 questionnaires were collected, yielding a response rate of 91.4% (the figure was 91.2% for the previous survey). Likewise, 269 of the collected questionnaires that were not properly filled out were considered invalid and were excluded from the analysis. Thus, the number of valid questionnaires was 6,598 and the valid collection rate was 87.8% (86.7% for the previous survey).

This report presents the results of analysis based primarily on the responses of never-married men and women aged 18 to 34 for the survey of singles, and the results of analysis based on the responses of first-marriage couples for the survey of married couples*.

[* In this report, the term "first-marriage couples" will be used to refer to couples for whom the current marriage is the first one for both husband and wife.]

¹ Among the households included in the districts subject to this study, households included in the unit areas subject to the income questionnaire survey in the Comprehensive Survey of Living Condition of the People on Health and Welfare, 2015 have been excluded from the scope of this study.

Table 1 Number of distributed questionnaires, number of questionnaires returned, number of valid cases and response rate

	Singles survey	Married couples survey
Number of subjects surveyed	11,442	7,511
Number of questionnaires returned	9,674 (response rate 84.5%)	6,867 (response rate 91.4%)
Number of valid cases	8,752 (valid response rate 76.5%)	6,598 (valid response rate 87.8%)

Table 2 Number of never-married persons, by age and sex (survey of singles)

Age	Number of never-married persons in the 15th survey		(Reference) Number of never-married persons in the 14th survey	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	3,942 (100.0 %)	3,424 (100.0 %)	5,040 (100.0 %)	4,276 (100.0 %)
Subtotal(18-34)	2,705 (68.6)	2,570 (75.1)	3,667 (72.8)	3,406 (79.7)
18-19	419 (10.6)	381 (11.1)	435 (8.6)	530 (12.4)
20-24	923 (23.4)	1,023 (29.9)	1,359 (27.0)	1,371 (32.1)
25-29	788 (20.0)	754 (22.0)	1,076 (21.3)	895 (20.9)
30-34	575 (14.6)	412 (12.0)	797 (15.8)	610 (14.3)
35-39	458 (11.6)	323 (9.4)	613 (12.2)	427 (10.0)
40-44	445 (11.3)	299 (8.7)	479 (9.5)	270 (6.3)
45-49	334 (8.5)	232 (6.8)	281 (5.6)	173 (4.0)

Table 3 Number of first-marriage couples by basic characteristic (survey of married couples)

Age of wife	Number of married couples in the 15th survey	(Reference)
		Number of married couples in the 14th survey
Total	5,334 (100.0 %)	6,705 (100.0 %)
Under 20	4 (0.1)	2 (0.0)
20-24	75 (1.4)	132 (2.0)
25-29	397 (7.4)	520 (7.8)
30-34	820 (15.4)	1,122 (16.7)
35-39	1,203 (22.6)	1,744 (26.0)
40-44	1,547 (29.0)	1,602 (23.9)
45-49	1,288 (24.1)	1,583 (23.6)

Duration of Marriage	Number of married couples in the 15th survey	(Reference)
		Number of married couples in the 14th survey
Total	5,334 (100.0 %)	6,705 (100.0 %)
Less than 5 years	894 (16.8)	1,136 (16.9)
5-9	1,064 (19.9)	1,340 (20.0)
10-14	1,141 (21.4)	1,517 (22.6)
15-19	1,241 (23.3)	1,392 (20.8)
20-24	716 (13.4)	991 (14.8)
25 years or more	152 (2.8)	267 (4.0)
Not known	126 (2.4)	62 (0.9)

Section I Summary on Singles

1. Marriage as an Option

(1) Intention of getting married

The proportion of never-married persons who intend to marry remains slightly below 90%

The proportion of never-married persons who intend to marry someday is still high: 85.7% for men and 89.3% for women in the age group between 18 and 34. On the other hand, the proportion of never-married people who responded "Do not intend to ever marry" continued to slightly increase: 12.0% for men and 8.0% for women.

Table I-1-1 Never-married persons' intention to marry from lifelong perspective, by survey

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

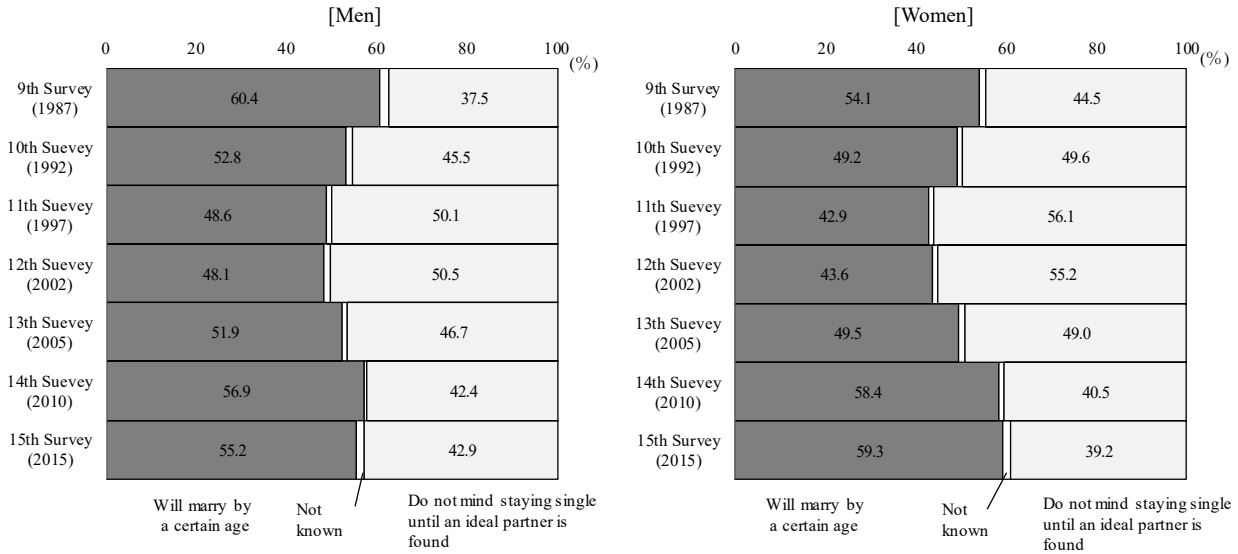
Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34.

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

More than half of never-married persons intend to get married by a certain age

Among the never-married persons who intend to marry, the proportion of respondents wanting to marry by a certain age had decreased throughout the 1990s and at one point fell below the proportion of respondents who stated that they "do not mind staying single until an ideal partner is found," but in the 13th Survey (2005), the trend reversed upwards, and in the current survey, more than half of both men and women responded that they intend to marry by a certain age.

Figure I-1-2 Views on marriage among never-married persons who intend to marry, by survey



Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34 who answered "Intend to marry someday." Number of cases were as follows: 3,027 men and 2,420 women in the 9th Survey; 3,795 men and 3,291 women in the 10th Survey; 3,420 men and 3,218 women in the 11th Survey; 3,389 men and 3,085 women in the 12th Survey; 2,732 men and 2,759 women in the 13th Survey; 3,164 men and 3,044 women in the 14th Survey; and 2,319 men and 2,296 women in the 15th Survey.

Question: "From a lifelong perspective, which matches your ideas about marriage?" (1. Will marry by a certain age, 2. Do not mind not staying single until an ideal partner is found.)

Never-married persons who intend to marry within a year slightly increased among men in all age groups and women in their late 20s

The proportion of singles with the intention of getting married within a year* was higher among women than men throughout all survey periods. Compared with the previous survey, the proportion slightly increased among men in all age groups, including men aged 18-34, 45.5% of whom wanted to get married within a year. The trend varied among women in different age groups; the proportion increased slightly only among women in their late 20s.

* The proportion of singles with the intention of getting married within a year is the sum of never-married persons who responded "would like to marry within a year" and "may marry if an ideal partner can be found (within a year)."

Table I-1-3 Intention to marry within a year, by survey and age

Intention to marry within a year	【 Men 】							【 Women 】						
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
Intend to get married within a year														
Total (18 ~ 34 years)	40.8 %	38.7	42.0	42.2	42.1	43.3	45.5	49.0 %	47.8	51.1	52.6	50.1	53.2	52.6
18 ~ 24 years	22.5	22.3	27.6	28.0	23.5	26.0	26.9	39.3	36.2	39.5	37.0	32.7	35.1	33.6
25 ~ 29 years	66.8	59.6	55.8	53.2	51.6	53.5	58.3	82.0	78.6	71.3	69.5	69.6	72.0	73.4
30 ~ 34 years	82.7	83.7	76.6	70.8	69.4	70.0	73.9	83.5	84.1	80.0	82.5	79.4	84.4	82.7
Do not intend to get married yet														
Total (18 ~ 34 years)	57.3 %	59.3	56.5	55.9	56.0	55.5	52.6	49.5 %	50.7	47.7	46.3	48.8	45.6	45.9
18 ~ 24 years	75.8	76.2	70.9	70.4	74.8	73.5	71.3	59.4	62.4	59.6	62.0	66.5	63.6	64.6
25 ~ 29 years	31.5	37.5	42.7	45.1	46.3	44.4	39.0	16.6	19.7	26.9	29.3	28.9	27.2	25.7
30 ~ 34 years	14.5	12.8	21.5	25.9	28.9	28.6	25.1	13.2	14.0	18.4	16.1	19.4	13.9	15.3
Total (Number of cases)	(3,027)	(3,795)	(3,420)	(3,389)	(2,732)	(3,164)	(2,319)	(2,420)	(3,291)	(3,218)	(3,085)	(2,759)	(3,044)	(2,296)

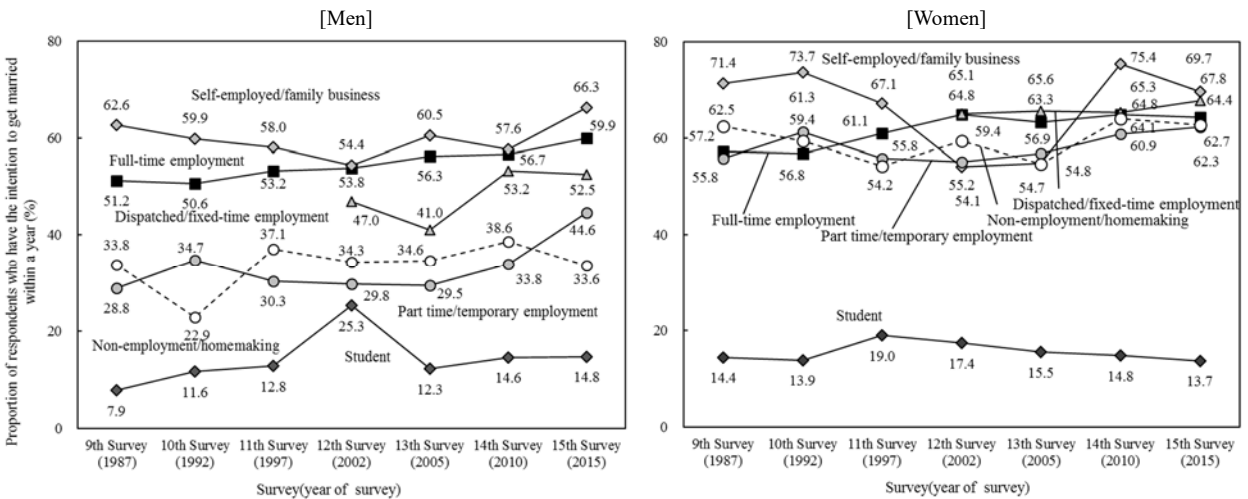
Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34 who answered "Intend to marry someday."

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). Respondents who selected "Not known" were omitted from the proportion but included in the total number of cases.

Men's intention to marry within a year varies with their employment status

Looking at the proportion of never-married people who have the intention to get married within a year by employment status, significant differences in attitude are seen among men: the percentage tends to be high among self-employed/family business workers and full-time employees, but low among part-timers, temporary employees, unemployed/staying home (helping out with household chores), etc. Such differences are not observed among women, except for students.

Figure I-1-4 Change in the percentages of never-married persons who have the intention to get married within a year, by survey and employment status



Note: The percentages in the figures above indicate the proportion of respondents stating that they "Would like to marry within a year" or "May marry if an ideal partner can be found (within a year)," among never-married people aged 18-34 responding that they "Intend to marry someday." The classification of "dispatched/fixed-time employment" was first added as an option in the 12th Survey ("contract employee" was added from the 13th Survey).

(2) The merits of marriage and of remaining single

Proportion of never-married persons who consider that "marriage has merits": Around 60% level for men and 70%-80% for women

The percentage of single men who feel that being married brings benefits has been hovering at around the 60% level. The proportion of women who believe marriage to be beneficial has continued to increase slightly since the 2000s and reached 77.8% in this survey.

Table I-1-5 Views on the merits of marriage for never-married persons, by survey

Views on the merits of marriage	[Men]							[Women]						
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
For you now, marriage has:														
Some merits	69.1 %	66.7	64.6	62.3	65.7	62.4	64.3	70.8 %	71.4	69.9	69.4	74.0	75.1	77.8
No merits	25.4	29.1	30.3	33.1	28.6	34.3	33.3	24.7	25.2	25.5	26.3	21.5	22.0	20.7
Not known	5.5	4.2	5.1	4.6	5.7	3.3	2.4	4.5	3.4	4.6	4.3	4.5	2.8	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	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)	(3,299)	(4,215)	(3,982)	(3,897)	(3,139)	(3,667)	(2,705)	(2,605)	(3,647)	(3,612)	(3,494)	(3,064)	(3,406)	(2,570)

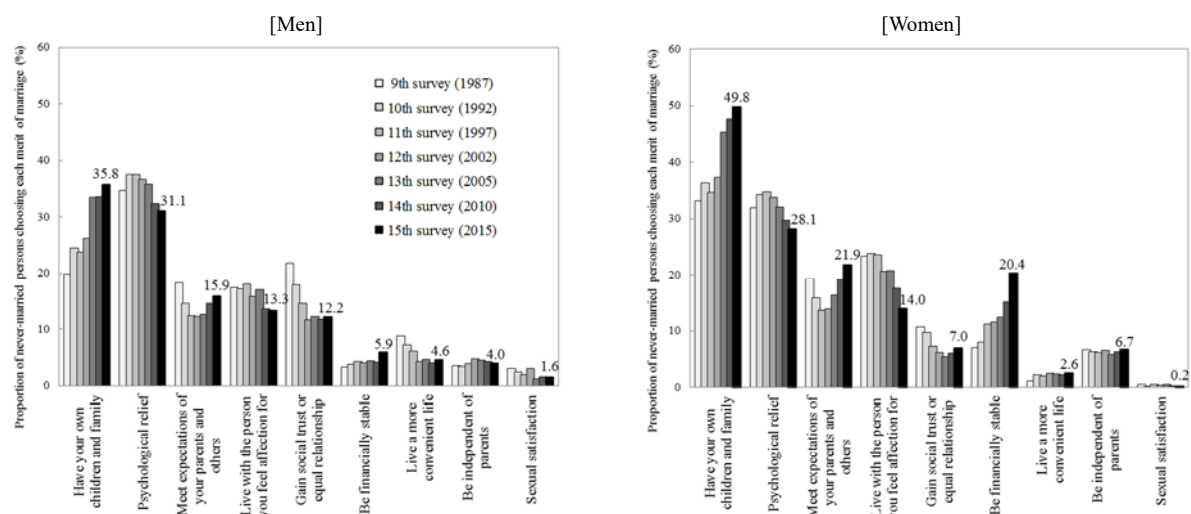
Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34.

Question: "For you now, does marriage have any merits?" (1. There are merits, 2. There are no merits)

"Having one's own children and family" as a merit of marriage is on a rising trend. The number of women who chose "(to) be financially stable" increased as well.

Taking a look at the specific benefits of getting married, both men and women who mentioned "have your own children and family" have continued to be on the increase more or less consistently since the 9th Survey (1987). Since the 2000s, respondents who chose "psychological relief" and "live with the person you feel affection for" have been on the decrease, whereas those who chose "meet expectations of your parents and others" have been on the increase. Also, the proportion of women who chose "(to) be financially stable" has been on the increase, exceeding 20% for this first time in this survey.

Figure I-1-6 Proportion of never-married respondents choosing each "merit of marriage", by survey



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

"Single life has merits": Around 80% level for both men and women

The percentage of never-married persons who consider that "single life has merits" remains high for both men and women, at 83.5% and 88.7%, respectively.

Table I-1-7 Views on the merits of single life for never-married persons, by survey

Views on the merits of single life	[Men]							[Women]						
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
For you now, single life has:														
Some merits	83.0 %	83.6	82.7	79.8	83.8	81.0	83.5	89.7 %	89.0	88.5	86.6	87.2	87.6	88.7
No merits	10.7	11.2	11.6	14.6	10.3	15.6	13.8	5.4	7.4	7.2	8.6	7.6	9.2	9.5
Not known	6.3	5.2	5.7	5.6	5.9	3.4	2.7	4.9	3.6	4.3	4.8	5.1	3.2	1.8
Total (Number of cases)	100.0 (3,299)	100.0 (4,215)	100.0 (3,982)	100.0 (3,897)	100.0 (3,139)	100.0 (3,667)	100.0 (2,705)	100.0 (2,605)	100.0 (3,647)	100.0 (3,612)	100.0 (3,494)	100.0 (3,064)	100.0 (3,406)	100.0 (2,570)

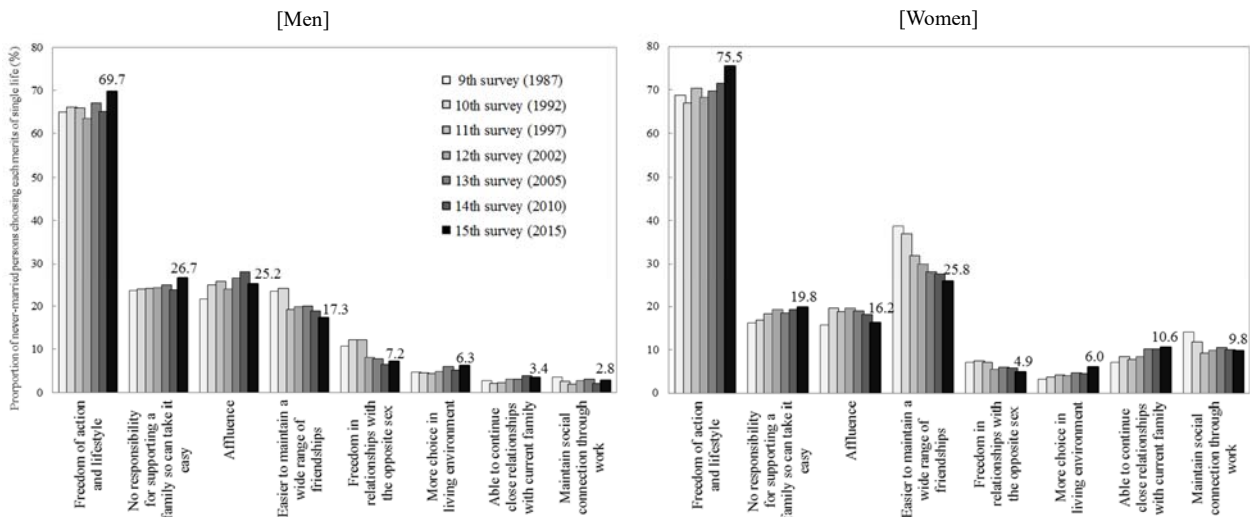
Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34.

Question: "Conversely, for you now, does single life have any merits that married life does not offer?" (1. There are merits, 2. There are no merits.) (This question was asked after the question about the merits of marriage.)

The biggest merit of single life is "freedom in actions or lifestyles"

"Freedom in actions or lifestyles" was by far the most chosen merit of single life by both men and women, accounting for 69.7% of men and 75.5% of women. Other than this merit, a relatively large number of never-married respondents chose "affluence," "no responsibility for supporting a family so can take it easy," and "easier to maintain a wide range of friendships". This trend has hardly changed since the 9th Survey (1985). Never-married respondents' feeling that marriage would restrict their actions, lifestyles, financial situations, friendships, etc. is strongly-rooted. However, the view that marriage would impose constraints on friendships has been diminishing among women.

Figure I-1-8 Proportion of never-married respondents choosing each "merit of single life", by survey



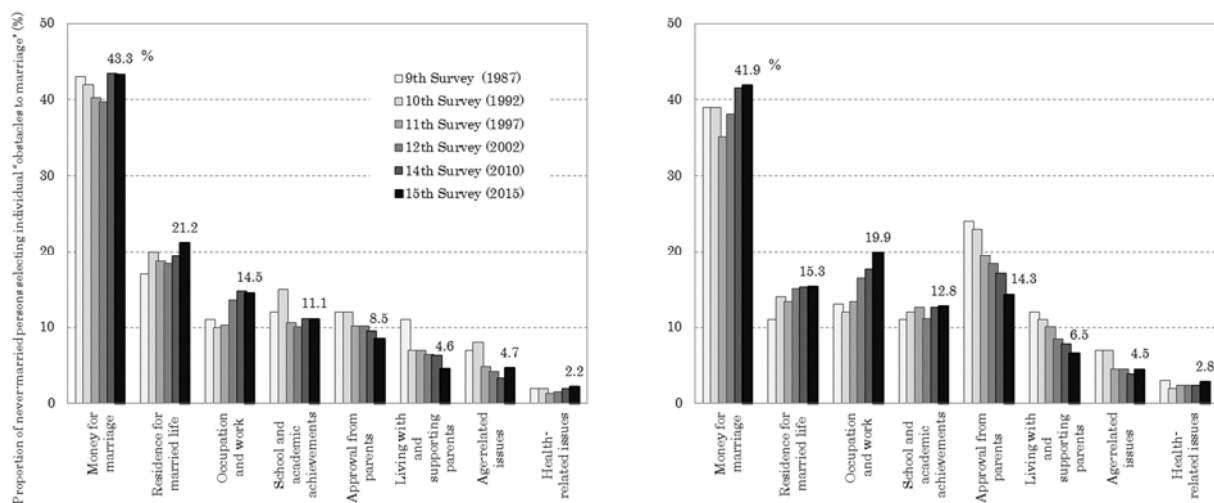
Note: The graphs show the percentage of never-married respondents aged 18-34 who regard each item as a primary merit of single life (respondents were allowed to choose up to 2 items). The percentages shown on the graph are those of the 15th Survey.

(3) Hurdles to marriage and reasons for staying single

Most often selected answer as an obstacle to marriage: "Money for marriage"

The survey asked never-married people who intend to get married what they saw as potential obstacles if they were to get married within a year. "Money for marriage" was the most often selected answer by both men and women (43.3% of men, 41.9% of women), the percentage of which was more or less at the same level as in the previous survey. While the proportion of respondents who mentioned "occupation and work" as an obstacle to marriage has increased, those who consider "approval from parents" and "living with and supporting parents" as obstacles to marriage has decreased. This trend is pronounced especially among women.

Figure I-1-9 Proportion of never-married persons choosing each "obstacle to marriage", by survey
[Men] [Women]



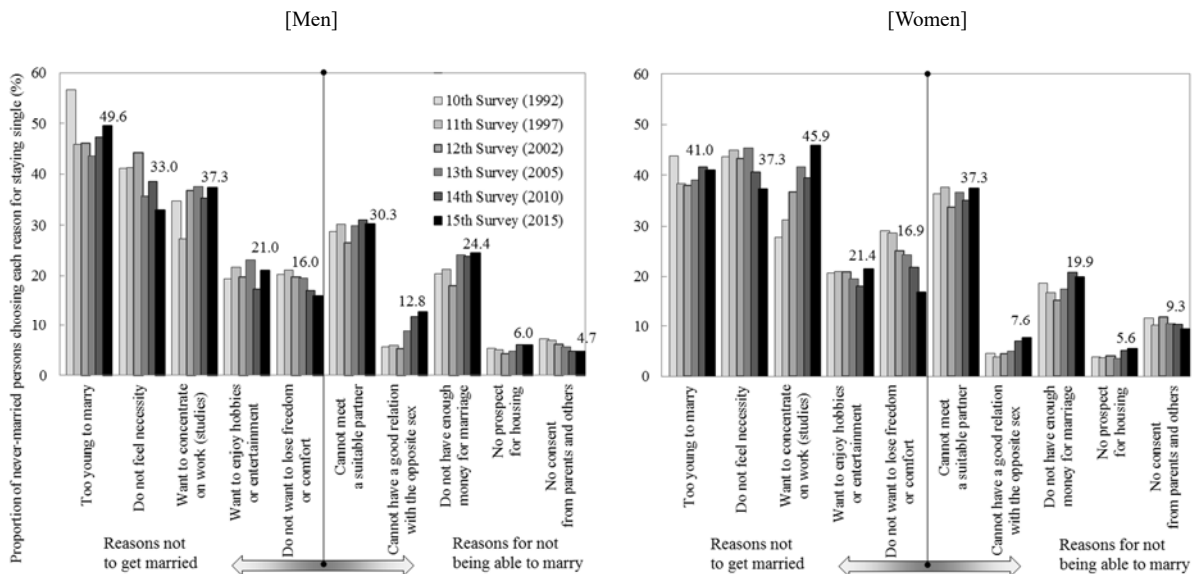
Note: The graphs show the percentage of never-married people aged 18-34 who consider each item as a primary obstacle to marriage (respondents were allowed to choose up to 2 items). The percentages shown on the graph are those of 15th Survey. The proportion of never-married people who answered that there are obstacles to getting married within a year were 67.1% for men and 69.2% for women in the 9th Survey, 67.9% and 71.3% in the 10th Survey, 65.0% and 67.8% in the 11th Survey, 64.5% and 70.1% in the 12th Survey, 68.1% and 71.5% in the 14th Survey, and 68.3% and 70.3% in the 15th Survey.

Reasons for staying single: Lack of positive reasons to get married and, after the age of 25, not being able to find a suitable partner

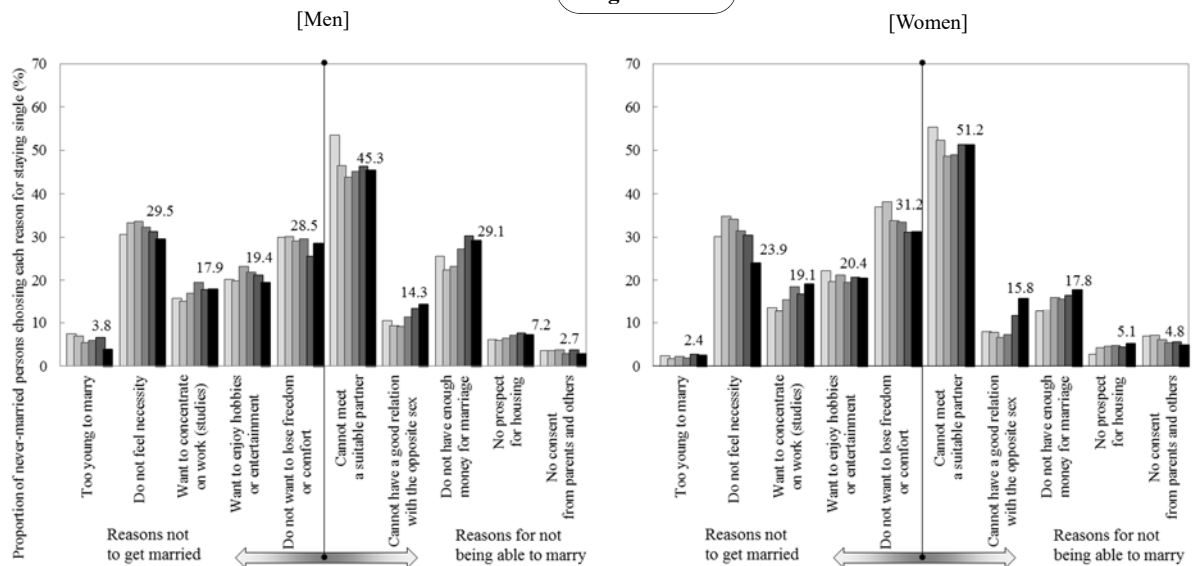
When never-married people who have the intention to get married were asked about the reasons for staying single, the most frequently cited responses by young people (18 to 24 years of age) were "too young to marry," "do not feel the necessity," "want to concentrate on work (studies)" and other such reasons reflecting the lack of positive motivation to get married (i.e., "reasons not to get married"). In this survey, "want to concentrate on work (studies)" was selected by an increasing number of women in particular, and was the top reason in the age group between 18 and 24 years old. On the other hand, in the age group between 25 and 34 years old, the focus shifted to "cannot meet a suitable partner" and other such conditions for marriage not being met (i.e., "reasons for not being able to marry"). That said, even in this age group, many never-married people "do not want to lose freedom or comfort" and "do not feel the necessity".

Figure I-1-10 Proportion of never-married persons choosing each "reason for staying single", by survey and age

Ages 18-24



Ages 25-34



Note: The graphs show the percentage of never-married respondents aged 18-34 who regard each item as a reason for staying single (respondents were allowed to choose up to 3 items). The percentages shown on the graphs are the results of the 15th Survey.

Question: "What are the reasons why you are currently single? Please select up to 3 reasons that you consider to be most applicable to your situation from the following options and enter the numbers in the answer column to the right. (If you have already decided to get married, please enter 12 in the "Primary reasons" field.)"

(4) Changes in intention among never-married persons who do not intend to get married

Approx. 40% of men and half of women with no intention of getting married did "intend to marry someday" in their past experience

When never-married people who responded "do not intend to ever marry" (see 1.(1)) were asked if they have ever had the intention to get married someday, 41.4% of men and 50.7% of women in the age group between 18 and 34 responded "Yes".

Table I-1-11 Whether never-married persons with no intention of getting married did "intend to marry someday" in their past experience: 15th Survey (2015)

Age	(Proportion of never-married persons with no intention of getting married)	[Men]					[Women]					
		Total	(Number of cases)	Yes	No	Not known	Total	(Number of cases)	Yes	No	Not known	
18~24	9.2 %	100.0 %	(123)	39.8 %	56.9	3.3	6.1 %	100.0 %	(85)	48.2 %	50.6	1.2
25~34	14.7	100.0	(201)	42.3	55.7	2.0	10.3	100.0	(120)	52.5	47.5	-
Total (18~34)	12.0	100.0	(324)	41.4	56.2	2.5	8.0	100.0	(205)	50.7	48.8	0.5

Note: The figures are for never-married persons who responded "Do not intend to ever marry" to the question "From a lifelong perspective, which matches your ideas about marriage?" The proportion of never-married persons who responded "Do not intend to ever marry" in each age group is shown in the "Proportion of never-married persons with no intention of getting married" column of the table. The respective proportions of "Yes", "No" and "Not known" represent the distribution of responses by such never-married persons to the question below.

Question: "Regardless of your current feelings, have you ever had the intention to get married someday?" (1. Yes, 2. No).

Never-married persons who may change their mind in the future to "intend to marry someday": 40%-50%

When never-married people who responded "do not intend to ever marry" were asked about the possibility of changing their mind in the future in regards to their intention of getting married, the proportion of those who responded "Generally likely"* was 44.1% and 49.8% for men and women, respectively.

* The proportion of those who responded "Generally likely" is the sum of never-married persons who responded "Very likely" and "Likely".

Table I-1-12 Possibility of never-married persons with no intention of getting married changing their mind in the future to "intend to marry someday": 15th Survey (2015)

Age	Total	Number of cases	Generally likely	Generally likely		Generally unlikely	Generally unlikely		Not known
				Very likely	Likely		Very unlikely	Unlikely	
[Men]									
18~24	100.0 %	(123)	41.5	13.0	28.5	46.3	17.1	29.3	12.2
25~34	100.0	(201)	45.8	12.9	32.8	49.8	15.9	33.8	4.5
Total (18~34)	100.0	(324)	44.1	13.0	31.2	48.5	16.4	32.1	7.4
[Women]									
18~24	100.0 %	(85)	52.9	9.4	43.5	43.5	17.6	25.9	3.5
25~34	100.0	(120)	47.5	5.8	41.7	45.8	25.8	20.0	6.7
Total (18~34)	100.0	(205)	49.8	7.3	42.4	44.9	22.4	22.4	5.4

Note: The figures are for never-married persons who responded "Do not intend to ever marry" to the question "From a lifelong perspective, which matches your ideas about marriage?" The proportion of never-married persons who responded "Do not intend to ever marry" in each age group is shown in the "Proportion of never-married persons with no intention of getting married" column in Table I-1-11. The respective proportions of "Generally likely", "Generally unlikely" and "Not known" represent the distribution of responses by such never-married persons to the question below.

Question: "What is the possibility of you changing your mind in the future to "intend to marry someday"?" Please circle one of the applicable options. (1. Very likely, 2. Likely, 3. Unlikely, 4. Very unlikely).

2. Relationships with the Opposite Sex

(1) Relationships with the opposite sex

The proportion of singles without any relationship with the opposite sex increased: 70% of men and 60% of women

The proportion of never-married persons who stated that they are "not in a relationship with the opposite sex" has increased since the previous survey for both men and women, from 61.4% in the previous survey to 69.8%, and from 49.5% in the previous survey to 59.1%, respectively (Tables I-2-1 and I-2-2). Moreover, singles who are not involved in a romantic relationship and do not want to date anyone accounted for 30.2% of men and 25.9% of women (Table I-2-2). Meanwhile, the proportion of never-married persons who have a potential marriage partner accounts for 16.0% of all men (18.4% in the previous survey) and 24.5% (27.0% in the previous survey) of all women.

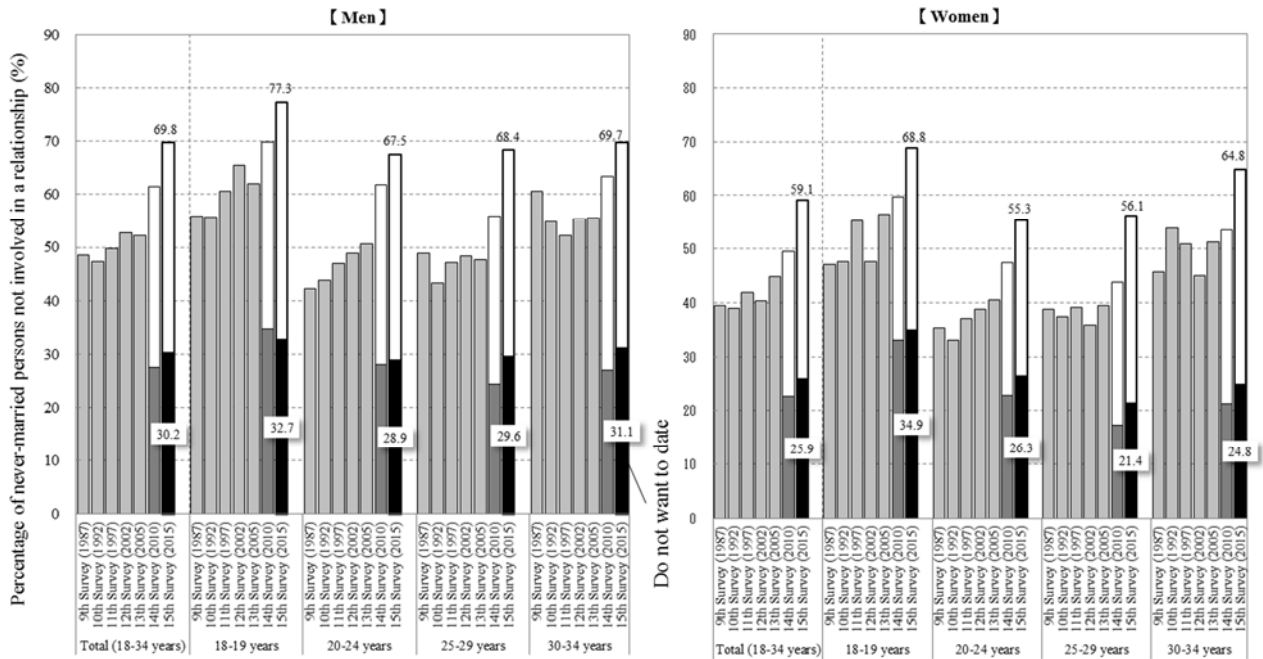
Table I-2-1 Relationships with the opposite sex among never-married respondents, by survey

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

Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34. "Potential marriage partner" includes fiancé/fiancée. Respondents who selected "Not known" in regards to whether they "Want to get married to the person you are dating" or "Want to be in a relationship" were omitted from the proportion but included in the table.

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

Figure I-2-2 Percentage of never-married persons not involved in a relationship and their desire to date, by survey and age



Note: Same as Table I-2-1. The graphs indicate the percentage of never-married persons not involved in romantic relationship (fiancé/fiancée, lovers, friends of opposite sex). The question on the desire to date was asked in the 14th and 15th Surveys only. The percentages shown on the graphs are those of the 15th Survey.

Question: "Are you currently engaged in a relationship with a person of the opposite sex?" If not, "do you want to have relationships with the opposite sex?" (1. Want to be in a relationship, 2. Do not want to be in a relationship with the opposite sex in particular)

(2) Sexual experience

Proportion of never-married persons with no sexual experience takes an upward turn

The proportion of never-married persons who have no sexual experience with the opposite sex had been on the decrease for both men and women until the first half of the 1990s. However, this trend plateaued for men in the latter half of the 1990s and women in the early 2000s, after which the proportion of never-married persons with no sexual experience took an upward turn. In this survey, the percentage of never-married persons who responded that they did not have any sexual experience increased compared to the previous survey in all age groups of both sexes except never-married men in their early 30s.

Table I-2-3 Proportion of never-married persons with no sexual experience, by survey and age

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

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

Question: "Have you ever had sexual intercourse with a member of the opposite sex?" (1. Yes, 2. No)

The options in the 13th Survey were: 1. Yes, during the past year, 2. Yes, in the past, but not during the past year, 3. No.

Almost 90% of never-married men and women with sexual experience use contraception

When never-married persons aged 18-34 who have sexual experience were asked whether they had used contraception in their most recent sexual experience, 89.1% of men and 87.4% of women responded that they had used contraception.

Table I-2-4 Contraception usage status of never-married persons with sexual experience, by age: 15th Survey (2015)

Age	【 Men 】					【 Women 】				
	Total	(Number of cases)	Used contraception	Did not use contraception	Not known	Total	(Number of cases)	Used contraception	Did not use contraception	Not known
18~19	100.0 %	(98)	90.8	9.2	-	100.0 %	(78)	88.5	10.3	1.3
20~24	100.0	(451)	91.6	7.1	1.3	100.0	(504)	89.7	9.5	0.8
25~29	100.0	(513)	90.4	8.2	1.4	100.0	(462)	87.7	11.5	0.9
30~34	100.0	(403)	84.1	13.2	2.7	100.0	(249)	81.9	16.1	2.0
Total (18-34)	100.0	(1,465)	89.1	9.3	1.6	100.0	(1,293)	87.4	11.5	1.1
(Reference) 13th Survey(2005)										
Total of 18-34	100.0	(1,827)	84.7	14.6	0.7	100.0	(1,595)	82.4	16.5	1.1
(Reference) 11th Survey (1997)										
Total of 18-34	100.0	(2,395)	76.4	19.5	4.2	100.0	(1,823)	70.5	26.1	3.5

Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34 who have sexual experience with a person of the opposite sex.

(3) Cohabitation

Percentage of never-married people in their early 30s who have experienced cohabitation is just over 10%

The percentage of never-married people who have experienced cohabitation with a person of the opposite sex without being married had been increasing until the 13th Survey (2005). Although it had taken a downward turn once in the 14th Survey (2010), it took an upward turn in some age groups in this survey. The proportions of respondents with cohabitation experience in their early 30s were 10.4% for men (8.9% in the previous survey) and 11.9% for women (9.3% in the previous survey).

Table I-2-5 Proportion of never-married respondents who have experienced cohabitation, by survey and age group

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

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

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

3. Desired Image of Marriage

(1) Desired age of marriage

Desired age of marriage has almost peaked

The age at which never-married respondents want to marry (average desired age of marriage) has tended to almost peak in all age groups for both men and women. The average desired age of marriage of the never-married from age 18 to 34 was 30.4 years old for men (30.4 years old in the previous survey) and 28.6 years old for women (28.4 years old in the previous survey).

Table I-3-1 Average desired age of marriage of never-married persons, by survey and age

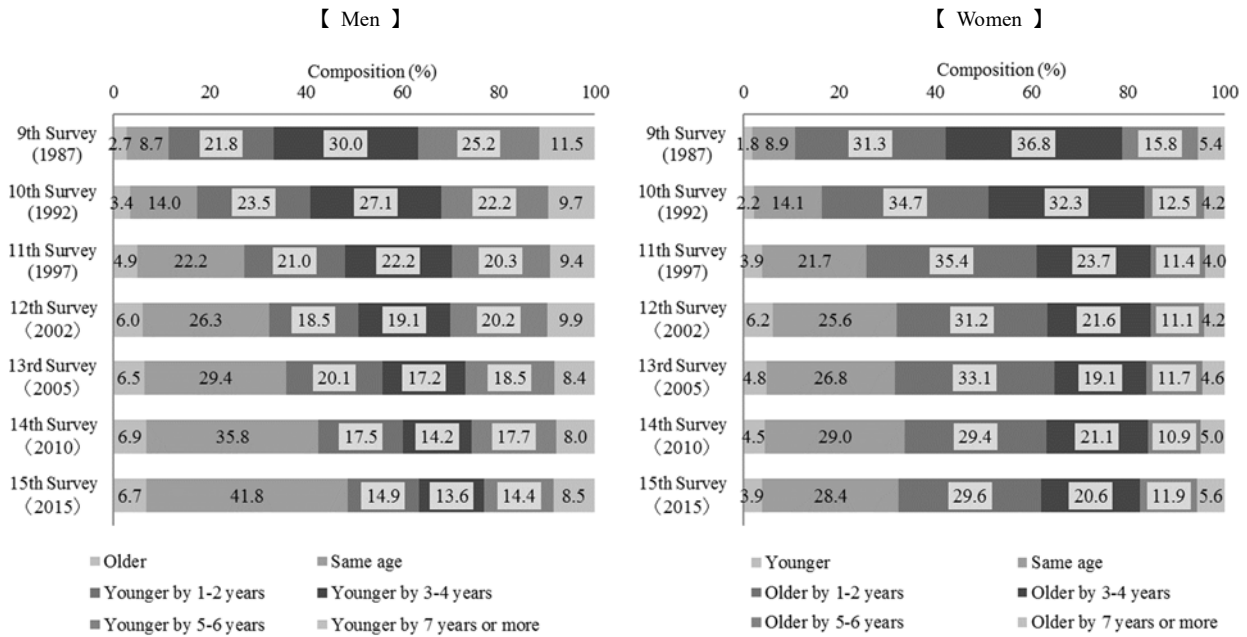
Age		9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
Men	18-19	26.7	27.2	26.8	27.3	26.4	27.3	27.3
	20-24	27.4	27.8	28.0	28.2	27.9	28.4	28.4
	25-29	29.5	30.1	30.4	31.0	30.7	31.0	31.0
	30-34	34.0	34.2	34.7	35.0	35.1	35.4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

Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34 who responded "Intend to marry someday." (Does not include respondents whose desired age of marriage is not known). Desired age of marriage was calculated as follows: if the desired age of marriage was 50 years old or more, it was deemed to be 50 years old, and if the desired age of marriage was less than the respondent's age as at the time of the survey, it was deemed to be the respondent's age as at the time of the survey. The average is calculated by adding 0.5 years to the desired age of marriage, because the survey asked age in years.

Men's tendency of desiring a partner of similar age is becoming stronger

Taking a look at the desired age gap with a marriage partner, the proportion of never-married persons desiring a partner with a small age difference has been on the increase for both men and women in recent years. In particular, there is an increasing number of men seeking a partner of "Same age", accounting for 41.8% of the male respondents in this survey (35.8% in the previous survey).

Figure I-3-2 Composition of difference in age with marriage partner desired by never-married persons, by survey



Note: The figures are for never-married persons (aged 18-34) who answered "Intend to marry someday." (Does not include respondents whose desired age of marriage is not known.) The difference in age with the desirable marriage partner is the age difference between a respondent and his/her desired spouse, as desired by the respondent. The numbers do not include "Not known" responses. The actual average difference in age of married couples according to the 15th Survey (2015) on married couples was 2.2 years (couples who got married within five years prior to the survey).

(2) Desirable life course

Women's realistic expectations: "Full-time housewife" decreased while "Managing both work and family" increased

As the ideal course of life (ideal life course), never-married women who chose "managing both work and family" has been on a modest uptrend since the 1990s, during which those who selected "full-time housewife" decreased. When asked about their realistic expectations (intended life course), never-married women who chose "full-time housewife" have continued to decrease to this day, accounting for 7.5% of respondents in this survey. Instead, the proportion of respondents who selected "managing both work and family" and "single and working" has been on the increase. The percentage of never-married women who chose "single and working" exceeded 20% for the first time and reached 21.0% in this survey.

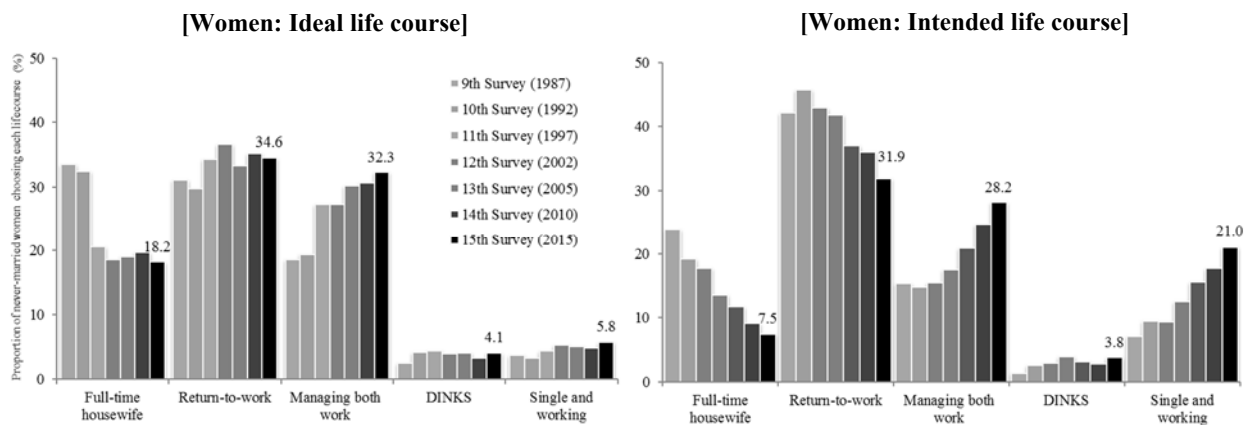
Course of life desired by men for their partners: "Managing both work and family" increased in place of "full-time housewife"

There has been a continued downtrend in "full-time housewife" and a continued uptrend in "managing both work and family" as the life course of women desired by never-married men as their future partners, as with the case of the intended life course among never-married women. While the proportion of men wishing to have spouses who are full-time housewives dropped to about 10% (10.1%), the percentage of men wishing to have wives who earn money and take care of family matters overtook the former group around 2000 and reached 33.9% in this survey.

Description of life course:

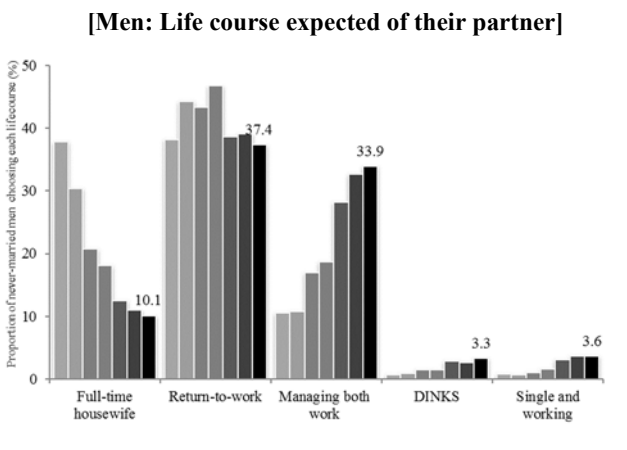
- "Full-time housewife": Get married and have children, leave work upon marriage or childbirth, and not to be employed afterwards
- "Return-to-work": Get married and have children, leave work upon marriage or childbirth, return to employment after finishing with child rearing
- "Managing both work and family": Get married and have children, continue working throughout one's life
- "DINKS": Get married but don't have children, continue working throughout one's life
- "Single and working": Do not get married, continue working throughout one's life

Figure I-3-3 Ideal/Intended life courses of never-married women and women's life courses that men expect of their partners, by survey



Note: Figures shown are never-married persons aged 18-34. Proportions of "other" and "not known" are omitted. Number of cases by survey (men, women): 9th Survey (2605, 3299), 10th Survey (3647, 4215), 11th Survey (3612, 3982), 12th Survey (3494, 3897), 13th Survey (3064, 3139), 14th Survey (3406, 3667), 15th Survey (2705, 2570).

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

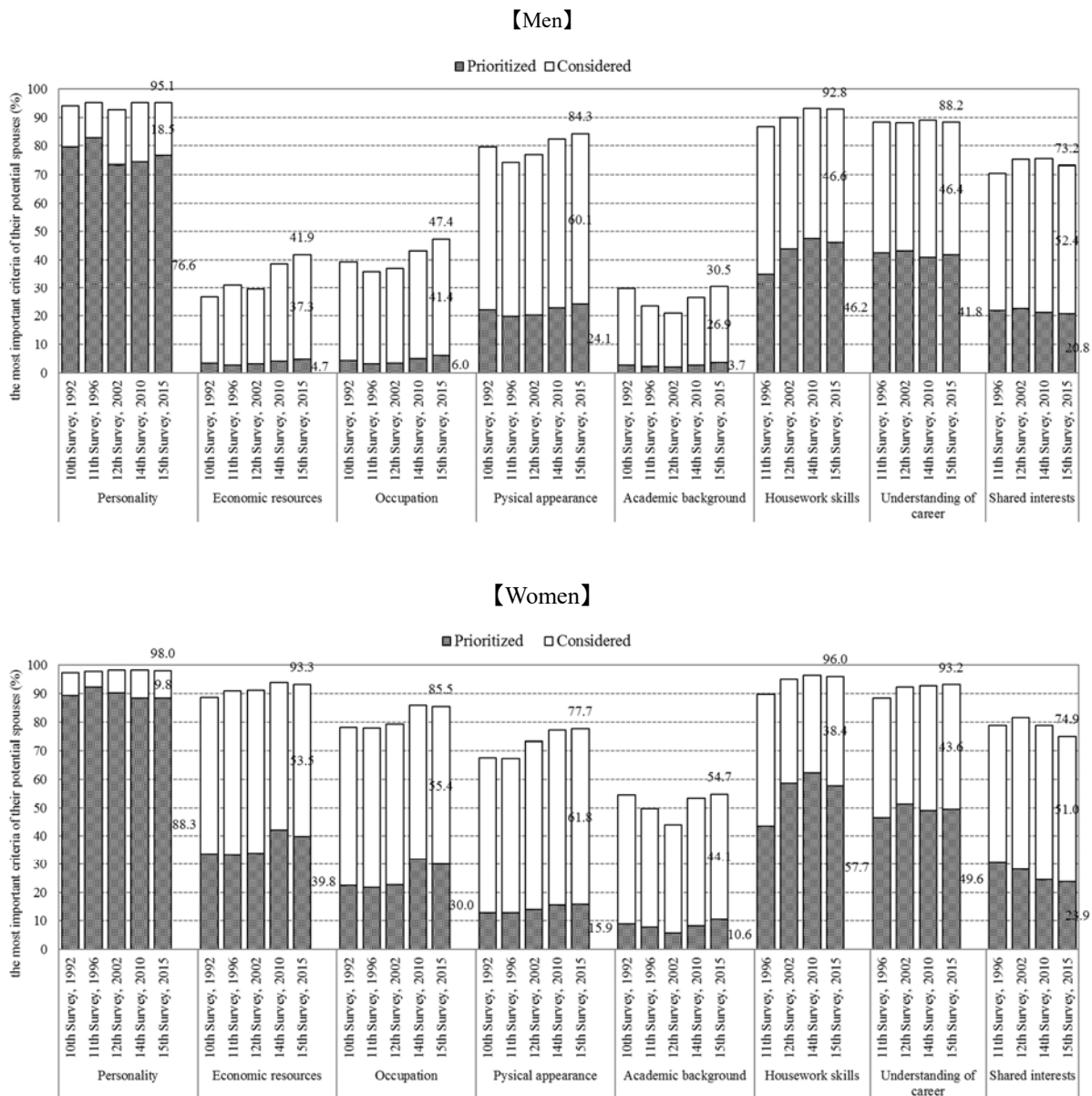


(3) Requirements of potential spouses

"Personality" was considered or prioritized the most by both men and women as a criterion of their potential spouses, followed by "Housework and parenting skills"

Among never-married people who intend to get married, the group of respondents who consider or prioritize "(1) Personality" as a criterion of their potential spouse is the largest for both men and women. A large majority of never-married persons also consider or prioritize "(6) Housework and parenting skills" and "(7) Understanding of one's career". In addition, a high proportion of both men and women consider or prioritize "(4) Physical appearance" and "(8) Shared interests", and the proportion of women who consider or prioritize "(2) Economic resources" and "(3) Occupation" is even higher. That said, the proportion of men who consider or prioritize "(2) Economic resources" and "(3) Occupation" has also been increasing in recent years.

Figure I-3-4 Proportion of respondents who consider/prioritize each criterion for potential spouse, by survey



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

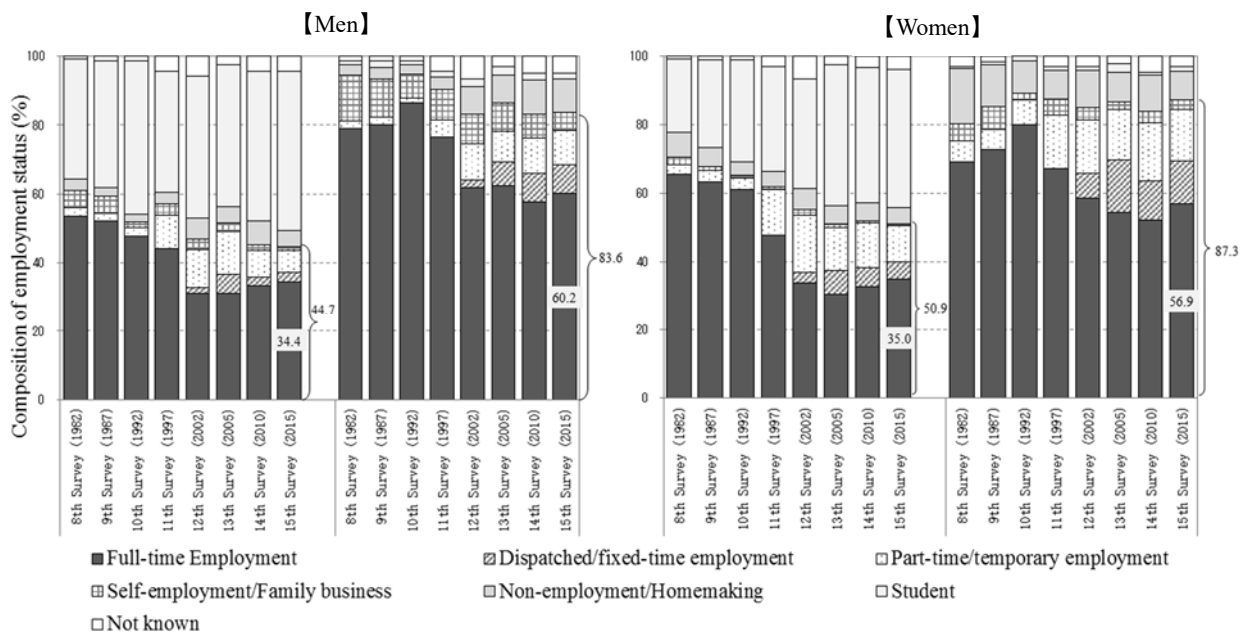
4. Lives and Views of Never-Married Persons

(1) Employment and co-residence with parents

More than 80% of never-married persons aged 25-34 are employed

An investigation of the employment status of never-married persons revealed that the proportion of respondents who are employed in one way or another was 44.7% among men and 50.9% among women aged 18 to 24 years, and 83.6% among men and 87.3% among women aged 25 to 34 years. The proportion of respondents in full-time employment has been at the 30% level in the age group from 18 to 24 and at around 60% in the age group from 25 to 34, for both men and women.

Figure I-4-1 Employment status of never-married persons, by survey and age



Note: The graph is based on the data for never-married persons aged 18-34. The classification of "dispatched/fixed-time employment" was first added as an option in the 12th Survey (contract employee was also added to same classification from the 13th Survey).

The percentage of never-married persons living with parents remains unchanged

Since the 2000s, the percentage of never-married persons who live with their parents has hovered at around 70% for men and about 75% for women. Taking a look at their employment status, the proportion of full-time employees living with parents is particularly low for both men and women.

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

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

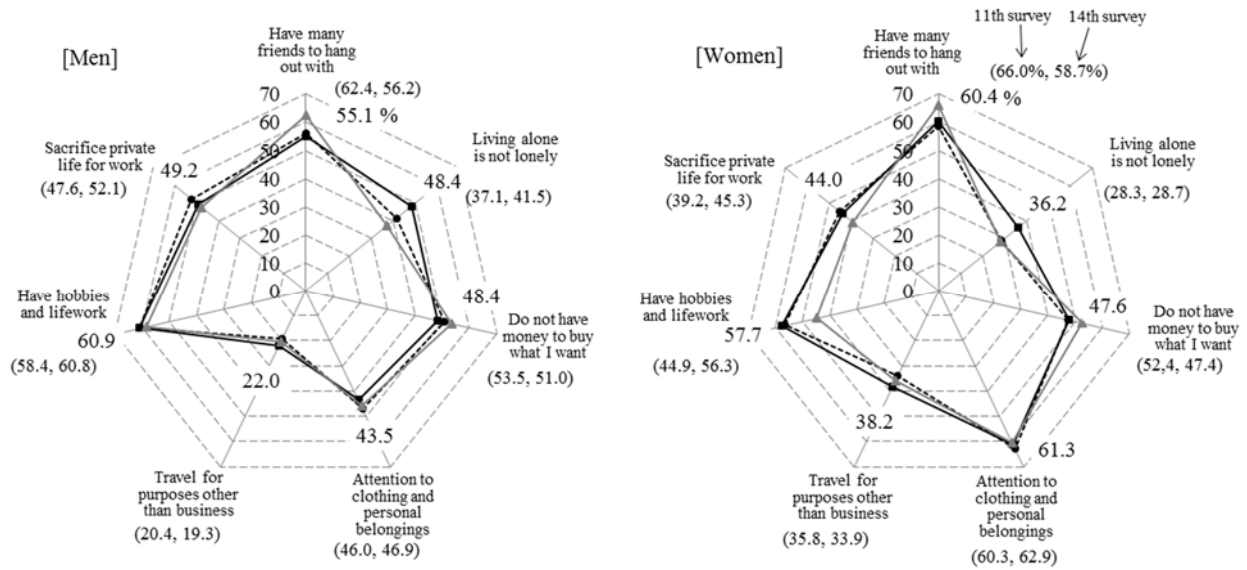
Note: Same as Table I-4-1. Total includes respondents whose employment status is unknown.

(2) Lifestyle of the never-married

More never-married men and women feel that they won't feel lonely even if they continue to live alone

When never-married persons were asked about their lifestyle including social life, consumption, work and purpose in life, there was a high proportion of women who responded that they "pay special attention to clothing and personal belongings" (61.3% and 38.2%, respectively) and men who responded "won't feel lonely even if I continue to live alone" (48.4%). Compared to the results of the 14th Survey (2010), the proportion of both men and women who responded "won't feel lonely even if I continue to live alone" increased by approx. 7 percentage points.

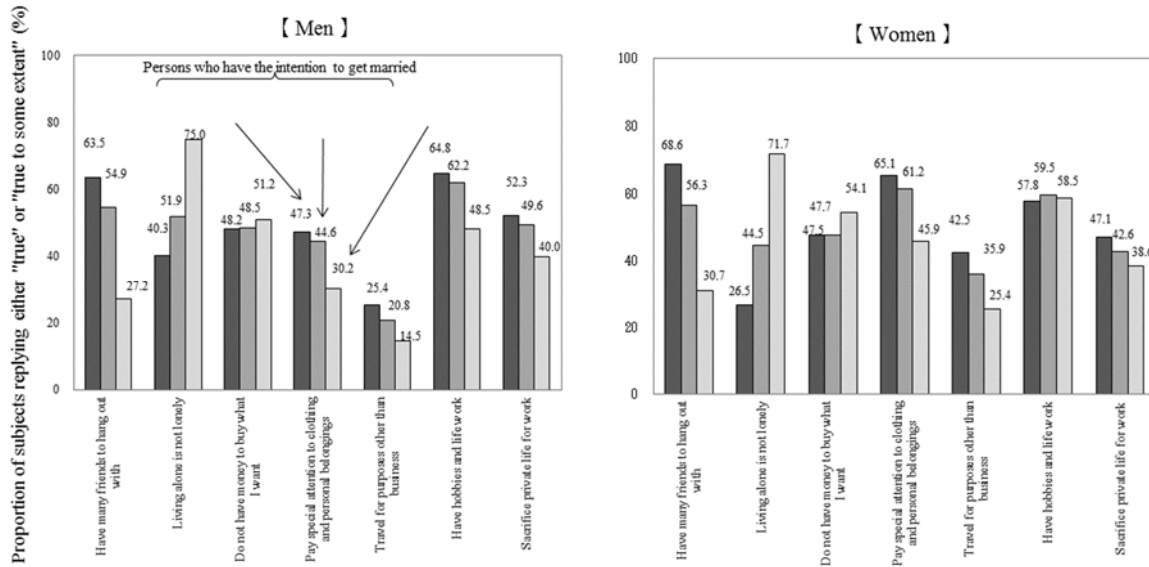
Figure I-4-3 Actual condition of lifestyle of singles, by survey



Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34. The graphs show the sum of the respective proportions of respondents who selected "true" and those who selected "true to some extent" in percentage (%). The figures in the 11th Survey and the 14th Survey are shown in parentheses. Number of cases: 3,982 men and 3,612 women in the 11th survey, 3,667 men and 3,406 in the 14th Survey, and 2,705 men and 2,570 women in the 15th survey.

Comparing the results by the intention of getting married, respondents who have a strong desire to get married tend to have an active life in general. However, the proportion of women who have hobbies and lifework hardly varies with the desire to get married.

Figure I-4-4 Actual conditions of lifestyle of never-married, by intention of getting married: 15th Survey (2015)



Note: The figures are for never-married persons aged 18-34. The graphs show the sum of the respective proportions of respondents who selected "true" and those who selected "true to some extent" in percentage (%).

Section II Summary of Married Couples

1. Marriage Process

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

Couples are meeting one another at older ages, the length of courtship has lengthened, and the trend of later marriage has further strengthened

With regards to first-marriage couples who got married in the past five years, the average age at which couples met for the first time increased for both husbands and wives to 26.3 years old and 24.8 years old, respectively (Table II-1-1). The average courtship period (from the time of first encounter to marriage) was 4.3 years, which is 1.8 years (71%) longer than that in the 9th Survey (1987), when the question on courtship period was first included in the survey. The proportion of couples who met before turning 25 (Table II-1-2) has fallen to 46.5% for husbands and 53.9% for wives; there is a general tendency for couples to meet at later stages in their lives. As a result of these changes, the average age at first marriage has continued to increase, indicating a continuing trend of delaying marriage.

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

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

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

Table II-1-2 Age at which the couples met (% distribution), by survey

Age of couples when they first met	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
Husband							
By age 20	14.3 %	14.7	17.8	16.9	16.4	17.7	15.0
By age 25	43.9	49.4	53.3	55.2	49.9	49.6	46.5
By age 30	79.9	81.1	81.6	82.7	82.5	77.3	73.0
By age 35	96.5	95.4	94.8	95.7	93.8	91.3	87.4
Median age at first encounter	25.8	25.1	24.5	24.1	25.0	25.1	25.5
Wife							
By age 20	27.8 %	26.4	27.9	25.3	23.2	24.4	19.9
By age 25	71.5	72.4	71.8	68.0	63.7	57.4	53.9
By age 30	94.5	94.3	93.6	90.8	89.7	82.6	80.1
By age 35	98.8	99.1	98.9	98.7	97.9	95.4	94.3
Median age at first encounter	22.3	22.4	22.3	22.8	23.3	23.7	24.3

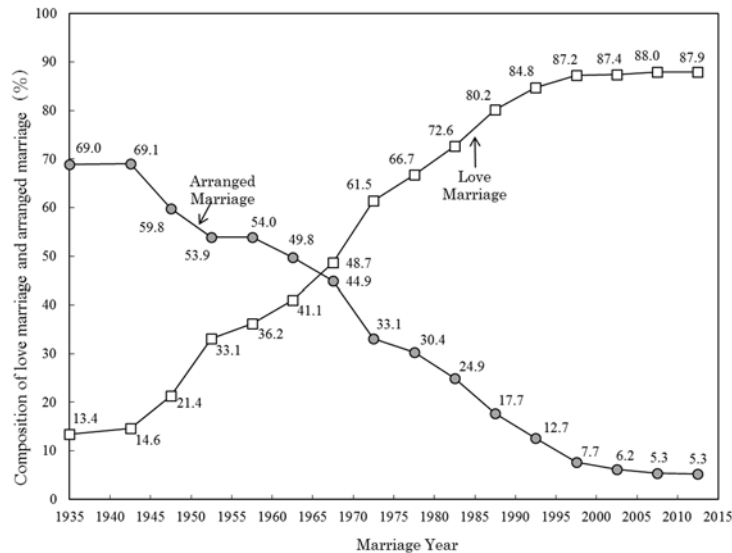
Note: Same as Table II-1-1. The median age at first encounter refers to the age at which half of the respondents who ultimately got married had already encountered their future spouses.

(2) How did couples meet?

Arranged marriages accounted for 5.3% of all marriages

Taking a look at the trends in love marriages and arranged marriages by the year in which couples got married, arranged marriages had accounted for approx. 70% in the prewar period but consistently decreased thereafter and was overtaken by love marriages in terms of composition at the end of the 1960s. Arranged marriages have since been on the decrease throughout the 20th century, and in the mid-1990s, arranged marriages fell below 10% of all marriages, and was only 5.3% between 2010 and 2014.

Figure II-1-3 Changes in the composition of love marriage and arranged marriage by year of marriage



Note: Figures shown are for couples for whom the marriage is the first one for both husband and wife. Based on 7th Survey (1970-74 from 1930-39), 8th Survey (1975-79), 9th Survey (1980-84), 10th Survey (1985-89), 11th survey (1990-94), 12th survey (1995-99), 13th survey (2000-04), 14th survey (2005-09) and 15th survey (2010-14). As to how/where couples met, data was compiled by classifying those who responded "through an arranged introduction" or "through a marriage match-making agency" into "Arranged marriage", and those who gave other responses—i.e., "At school", "At the workplace or through work", "Childhood friend/neighbor", "Through various activities (hobbies, etc.) or an adult education class", "Through friends or siblings", "Around town or during a trip" or "Through a part-time job"—into "Love marriage". Couples who responded "Other" or "Not known" to the question on the ways/places they met were included in the composition but omitted from the graph. The composition by way/place couples met is shown in Table III-2-3.

2. Fertility of Married Couples

(1) Completed number of children (Average final number of children born to married couples)

Completed number of children of married couples remains below 2

In this survey, the completed number of children of married couples is defined as the average number of children born to couples who have been married for a duration of 15 to 19 years (i.e., number of years since marriage), and the figure is regarded as the average of the final number of children born to married couples.

The completed number of children of married couples decreased significantly during the post-World War II period and reached 2.20 in the 6th Survey (1972). It stabilized and remained fairly constant for the next 30 years until the 12th Survey (2002) when the figure reached 2.23.

Since then, however, it began to decline again, dropping first to 2.09 in the 13th Survey (2005) and then to 1.96 in the 14th Survey, falling below 2 for the first time.

In this survey, the completed number of children of married couples was 1.94, falling short of 2 again as in the previous survey. Note that the couples married for 15 to 19 years in this survey belong to the cohort who got married in the second half of the 1990s.

Table II-2-1 Completed number of children of couples, by survey (Duration of marriage: 15 to 19 years)

Survey (Survey year)	Completed number of children
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
14th Survey (2010)	1.96
15th Survey (2015)	1.94

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

Number of married couples with one child increases

Since the 7th Survey (1977), more than half of the married couples have had two children and this has remained unchanged in the current survey as well. However, the percentage of married couples with three or more children has declined since the previous survey, while the percentage of couples with only one child ("the only child") has increased.

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

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

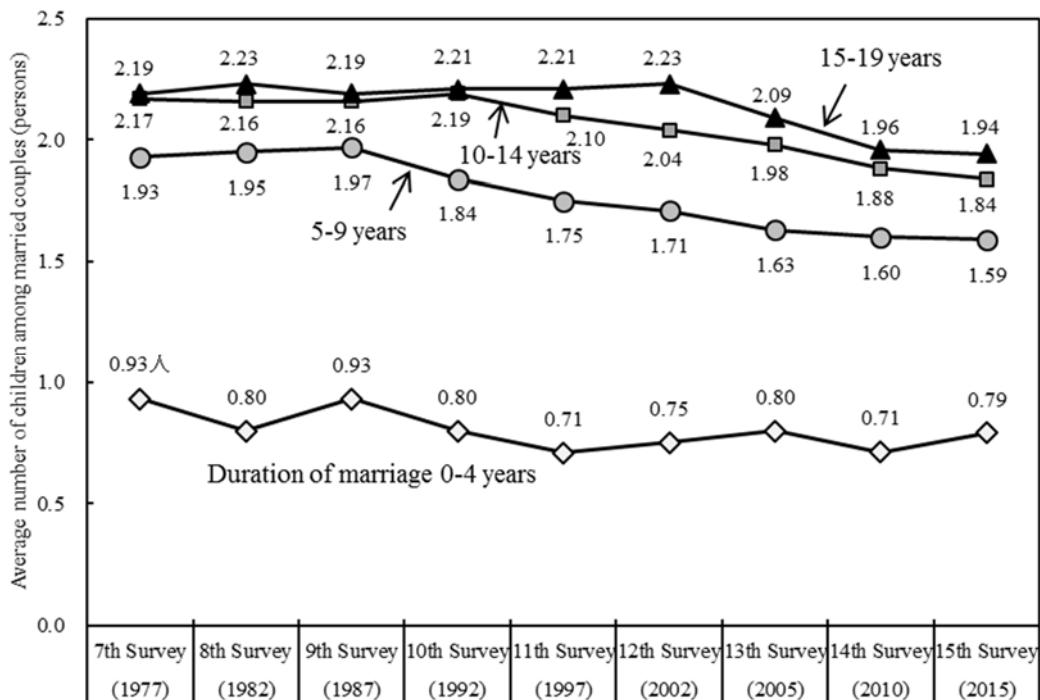
Note: Same as Table II-2-1.

(2) Number of children of couples in the childbearing process (Number of children by duration of marriage)

Number of children decreases among couples married for 5 years or more

Taking a look at the average number of children by duration of marriage, the number of children among couples married for 5 years or more has decreased since the previous survey (2010).

Figure II-2-3 Average number of children among married couples, by survey and duration of marriage

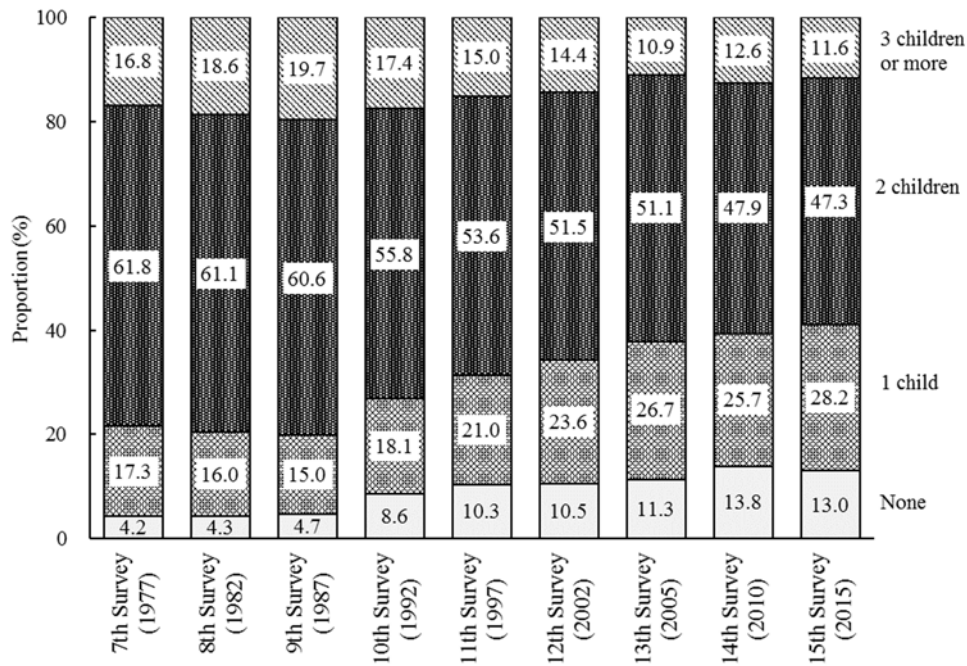


Note: Figures shown are for first-marriage couples (excluding couples who did not state the number of children). Figures shown in the graphs are those of the 15th Survey.

Proportion of couples married for 5 to 9 years with one child increases

Taking a look at the distribution of the number of children among couples married for 5 to 9 years or more in the childbearing process, the proportion of married couples with one child has continued to increase since the 10th Survey (1992), whereas the proportion of married couples with two children has been on the decrease.

Figure II-2-4 Changes in number of children among married couples, by survey (% distribution)
(Duration of marriage: 5 to 9 years)



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

3. Contraception, Infertility, and miscarriage/Stillbirths

(1) Contraception

39.8 % of married couples do contraception.

As for the practice of contraception at the time of the present survey, 39.8% of married couples do contraception. If 28.4%, which is the proportion of married couples who have practiced contraception in the past, is added to this rate, approximately 70% of wives have experienced contraception. The current proportion of total numbers of couples who do contraception has been the lowest one since the 7th survey (1977).

Table II-3-1 Contraceptive practices, classified by age of wife: 15th Survey (2015)

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

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

The main method of contraception is still condom.

As for the percentage of contraception currently done by married couples by method, condom is overwhelmingly high, amounting to 77.4%, followed by coitus interruptus (withdrawal) (17.7%). Although use of pills (oral contraceptive) was 2.3%, showing a slight increase from the last survey (13th survey (2005)), all other methods, except condom, exhibit a declining trend.

Table II-3-2 Methods of contraception currently practiced, classified by age of wife: 15th Survey (2015)

(Multiple Answers)

Method of contraception	Current age of wife (Number of cases)						total (2,121)	(Reference) 13th Survey (2005) Total (3,198)
	20-24 (25)	25-29 (169)	30-34 (327)	35-39 (509)	40-44 (662)	45-49 (427)		
Condom	96.0 %	82.2	81.7	75.6	78.4	71.9	77.4	75.4
Ogino method/Basal body temperature method	-	1.2	4.0	3.1	4.2	2.6	3.3	6.3
IUD (Ring, coil, loop)	-	-	0.6	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.6
Pill (oral contraceptive)	4.0	4.7	3.7	2.0	1.8	0.9	2.3	1.9
Coitus interruptus (withdrawal)	12.0	13.6	14.7	20.8	14.5	23.2	17.7	22.0
Male sterilization	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.7
Female sterilization	-	1.2	0.9	2.0	3.3	3.3	2.4	2.7
Other	-	0.6	1.5	1.4	2.7	4.0	2.3	2.3
Not stated	-	1.2	0.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	0.8	0.9
(Re-listed)								
Method through medical institution	4.0	5.9	5.2	4.9	6.8	5.6	5.8	6.8

Note: Figures shown are for first-marriage couples who are currently practicing contraception. Method through medical institution means any method that involves IUD, pills or male/female sterilization. Those under the age of 20 were omitted because of few samples, though they (4 cases) are included in the total. As multiples answers were permitted, the total value exceeds 100%.

(2) Concerns about infertility and treatment experience

More than one-third of married couples have been worried about infertility, and this percentage reached 55.2% for childless couples.

The proportion of married couples who have been (or are currently) worried about infertility has increased from 31.1% in the last survey to 35.0%. This percentage reaches 55.2% (52.2% in the last survey) for childless couples. The percentage of the couples who have undergone (or are currently undergoing) examination and/or treatment is 18.2% overall (and 16.4% for those currently undergoing), and 28.2% for childless couples (and 28.6% for those currently undergoing).

Table II-3-3 Concerns about infertility and treatment experience, by presence/absence of child and age of wife:15th Survey (2015)

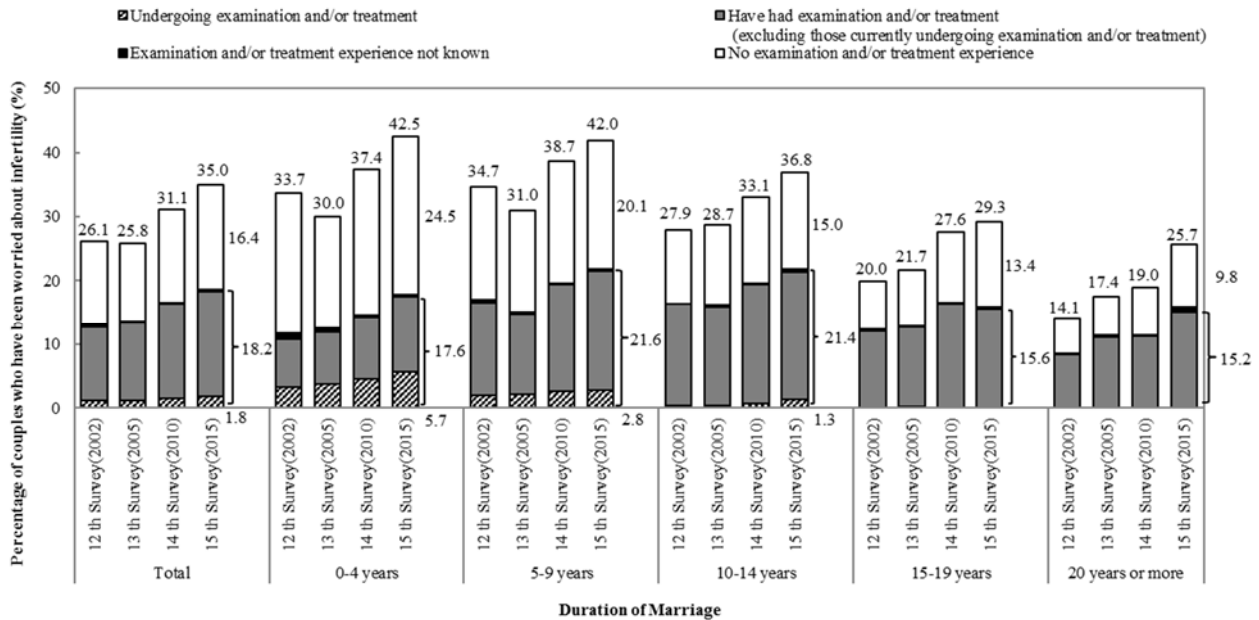
With/without child Age of wife		Total (Number of cases)	Concerns about infertility/treatment experience							Not stated
			Have never worried about infertility	Have worried about infertility	(Re-listed) Currently worried	Have not visited medical institution	Have undergone examination or treatment	(Re-listed)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

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

The number of couples who have been worried about infertility or have undergone treatments is on the increase

29.3% of married couples who have been married for 15 to 19 years have been worried about infertility and 15.6% of them have had an examination and/or treatment. In every category of duration of marriage, the percentage of married couples who have experienced infertility examination and/or treatment is on a rise, when compared with the results of the past surveys.

Figure II-3-4 Percentages of couples who have been worried about infertility and treatment experience, by survey and duration of marriage



Note: Figures shown are for first-marriage couples. The couples whose duration of marriage is not known are included in the total.

(3) Experience of miscarriages and stillbirths

15% of married couples have experienced a miscarriage and/or stillbirth in the past

Among all couples, 15.3% had experienced a miscarriage and/or stillbirth, and 3.0% had more than one such experiences.

Table II-3-5 Percentages of couples who have experienced at least one/more than one miscarriage and/or stillbirth, by survey and duration of marriage

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

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

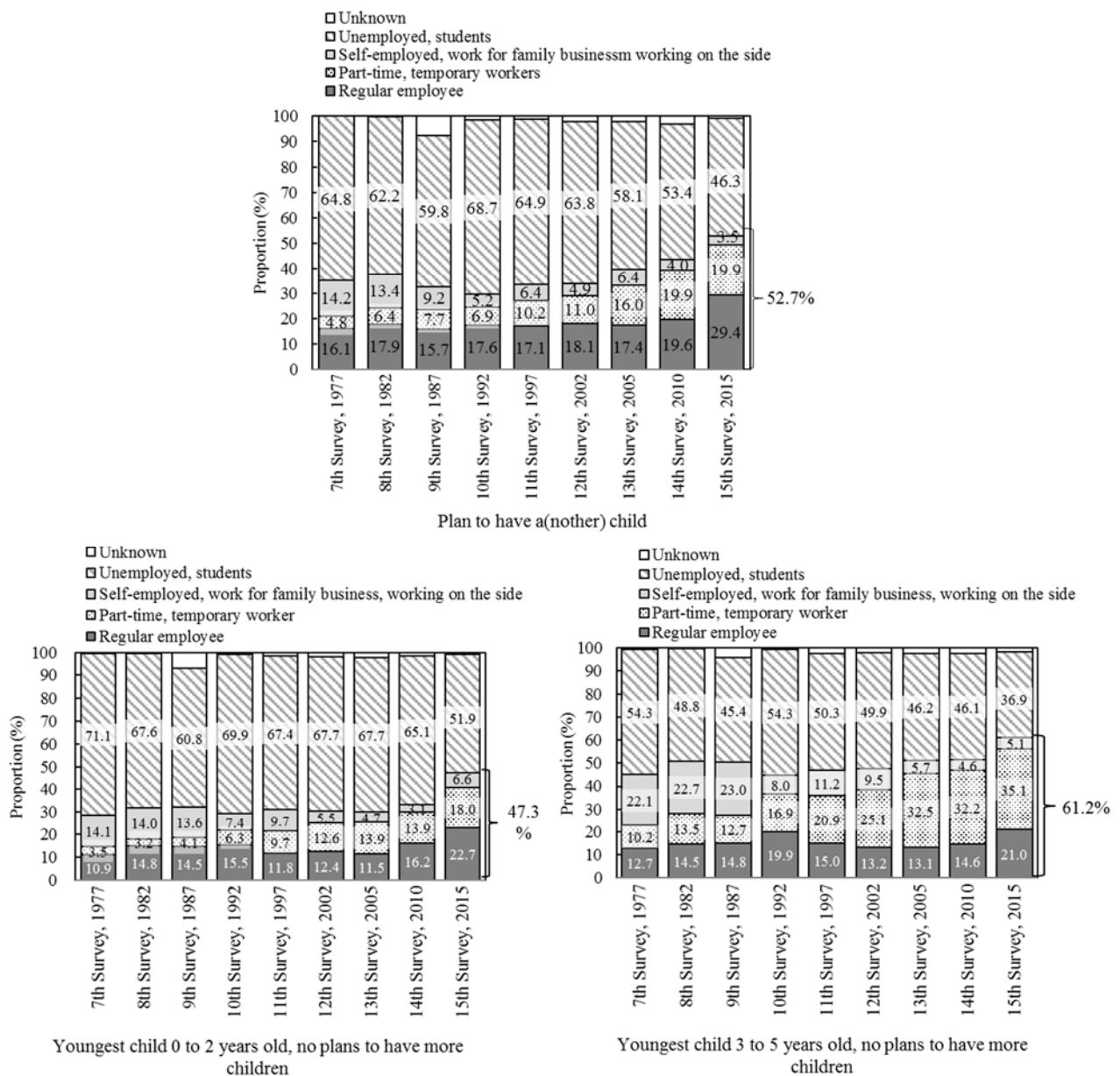
4. Child-rearing Conditions

(1) Wives' employment and fertility

The employment rate of wives who have a child/children is on the increase at all life-stages.

Examining the employment situation of wives who gave birth to a child by the life-stage after giving birth (i.e., by intention to have additional children and by age of the youngest child), 52.7% of wives of couples who wish to have an additional child are working; 29.4% among them are regular employees, 19.9% part-time or temporary workers, and the remaining, self-employed. Among couples without any intention to have an additional child, 47.3% of wives whose youngest child is 2 years old or younger are working. The figure is 61.2% for wives with youngest child aged 3 to 5. Looking at the changes in approximately 40 years since the 7th survey (1977), the employment rate of wives is on a rising trend at any of the life stages.

Figure II-4-1 Employment situation of wife, by survey and life-stage after giving birth



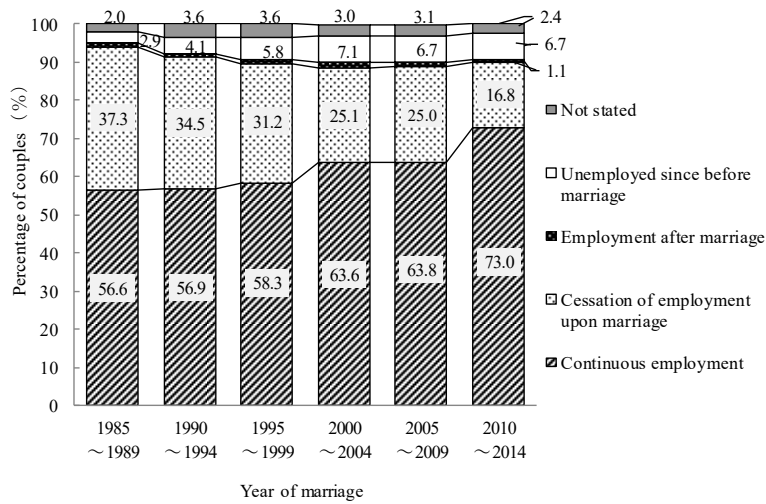
Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples with at least one child (excluding pregnant wives).

Users of child-care leave have increased, and the rate of continuous employment after giving birth has also increased

Looking at the employment situation of wives before and after getting married, the number of wives who left their jobs upon marriage has decreased and the proportion of wives who continued working after getting married exceeded 70% (Figure II-4-2).

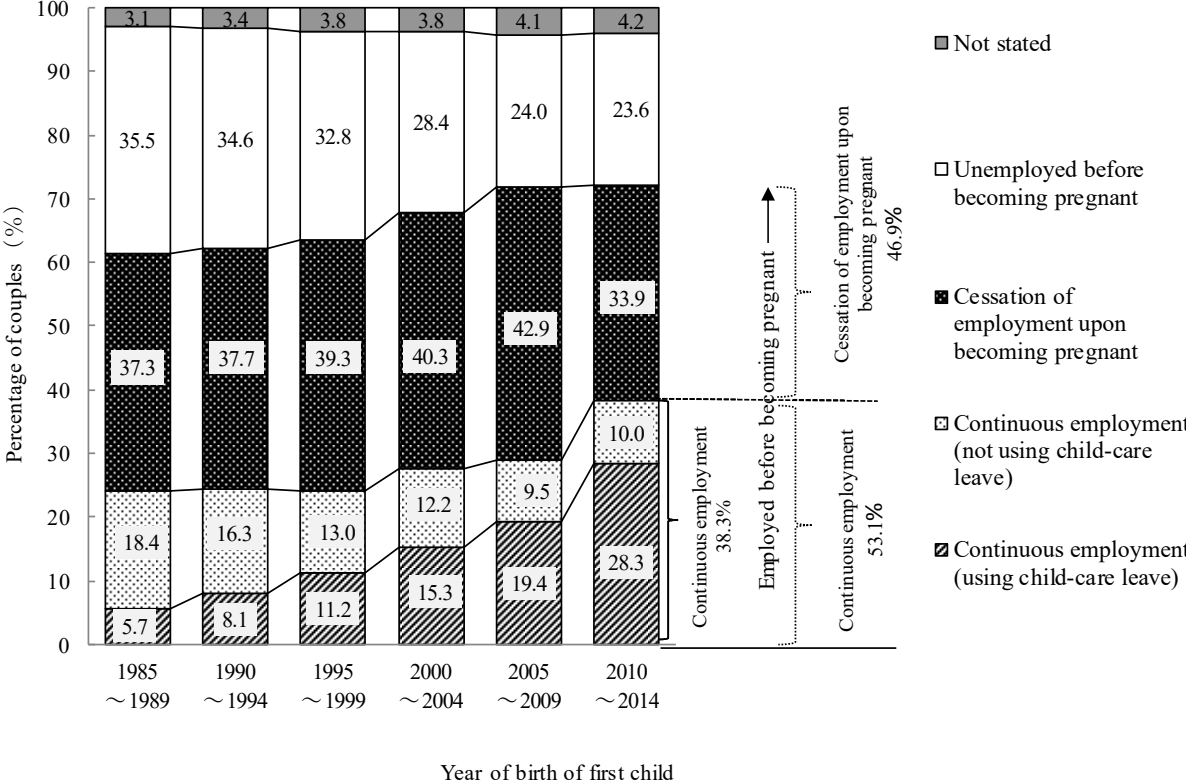
Looking at the change in employment situation of wives before and after giving birth to their first child (Figure II-4-3), while the employment rate of wives before getting pregnant remained over the 70% level, the proportion of wives who left their jobs due to pregnancy decreased. The proportion of wives who continued to be employed after giving birth to their first child increased by approximately 10 percent from 29.0% in 2005 - 2009 to 38.3% in 2010 - 2014.

Figure II-4-2 Change in employment situation of wives before and after getting married, by year of marriage



Note: The figures are shown for first-marriage couples in shorter than 15 years after their marriage in 11th, 13rd, 14th, and 15th survey (the number of cases is 13,882). Change in employment shows change in the employment status of wives before and after their marriage. See "Glossary" at the end of the report for details.

Figure II-4-3 Change in employment situation of wives before and after giving birth to their first child, by year of birth of the first child



Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples with the first child aged 1 or older and below 15. Data obtained in the 12th to 15th surveys were aggregated (12,719 cases). Change in employment shows change in the employment status of wives when they became aware of their pregnancy and when their child became 1 year old. For details, see "Glossary" at the end of the report.

Considering only the wives who were working before getting married and before becoming pregnant respectively, proportion of wives who continued working after getting married increased by approximately 21 percent from 60.3% in the latter half of the 1980s to 81.3% in the 2010s. The proportion of wives who continued working after giving birth to their first child had stayed around 40%, but it has risen to 53.1% in 2010-14. Compared to this, the proportion of wives who continued working after giving birth to their second or third child has stayed around 80%. The proportion of wives who continued working by using child-care leave systems increased dramatically, regardless of whether they gave birth to their first, second or third child.

Table II-4-4 Percentages of wives who continued working after getting married/giving birth and proportion of wives who continued working by using child-care leave systems
(Wives who were already working when they decided to get married or when they found out their pregnancy)

Year of marriage / year of child birth	Before and after getting married	Before and after giving birth to the 1st child (using childcare leave)	Employment status before getting pregnant with 1st child			Before and after giving birth to the 2nd child	Before and after giving birth to the 3rd child
			Reguler employee	Part-time, temporary worker	Self-employed, work for family business, working on the side		
1985~1989	60.3 %	39.2 (9.2)	40.7 (13.0)	23.7 (2.2)	72.7 (3.0)	...	...
1990~1994	62.3	39.3 (13.0)	44.5 (19.9)	18.2 (0.5)	81.7 (4.3)	81.9 (16.3)	84.3 (17.6)
1995~1999	65.1	38.1 (17.6)	45.5 (27.8)	15.2 (0.8)	79.2 (-)	76.8 (28.8)	78.1 (19.1)
2000~2004	71.7	40.5 (22.6)	52.4 (37.5)	18.1 (2.2)	71.4 (2.5)	79.2 (33.5)	77.0 (27.6)
2005~2009	71.8	40.3 (27.0)	56.5 (46.3)	17.6 (4.7)	71.1 (2.2)	76.3 (43.2)	81.0 (30.7)
2010~2014	81.3	53.1 (39.2)	69.1 (59.0)	25.2 (10.6)	73.9 (8.7)	78.1 (51.3)	79.1 (45.0)

Note: Same as Figure II-4-2 and Figure II-4-3. Percentage of wives who continued working shows the percentage of wives who continued working after getting married/giving birth among wives who were working at the time of marriage or pregnancy. Numbers in parentheses indicate the proportion of wives who continued working by using child-care leave systems.

86% of wives who are not working after giving birth to their last child wish to work, mostly as a part-time or temporary worker, for economic reasons.

When wives of couples with a child/children under 15 years old, who were not working at the time of survey, were asked whether they were willing to work, 86.0% of them answered that they wished to work at some point. Looking at those wives by age of their youngest child, 12.4% of those with a child aged 0 to 2 and 17.8% of those with a child aged 3 to 5 answered "want to start working as soon as possible."

Table II-4-5: Wives who are currently not working and wish to work, by age of their youngest child:
15th Survey (2015)
(Wives of couples with no plan to have another child)

Age of youngest child	(Number of cases)	Wish to work				No intention to work in the future	Other	Not stated
		Wish to work	Wish to work as soon as possible	Wish to work a little later	Wish to work sometime, but no particular time in mind			
0-2	(267)	91.4 %	12.4	35.6	43.4	4.9	1.5	2.2
3-5	(202)	92.1	17.8	27.7	46.5	6.9	-	1.0
6-8	(167)	85.6	22.8	13.8	49.1	12.0	1.2	1.2
9-14	(270)	76.3	24.4	9.3	42.6	20.7	1.5	1.5
Total	(906)	86.0	19.1	22.0	44.9	11.4	1.1	1.5

Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples with no plan to have another child whose youngest child is under 15 years old, with a wife who is currently not working (excluding currently pregnant wives).

When we asked wives who were not working at the time of survey but wished to work about the employment status they desire, 87.5% answered "part-time or temporary worker (Table II-4-6)." As for the biggest reason for wishing to work, 52.1% indicated economic reasons (the total of those who selected any of the following reasons as the biggest reason: "for having my own income," "for child's education," "for living expenses," "for saving money" or "for retirement") (Table II-4-7).

Table II-4-6 Employment status desired by currently unemployed wives with a child/children: 15th Survey (2015)

Desired employment status	Proportion
Regular employee	7.7 %
Part-time employee, part-time worker, temporary worker, special contract or contract worker	87.5
Self-employed, work for family business, working on the side	4.3
Not stated	0.5
Total	100

Note: Same as Table II-4-5. Limited to wives who wish to work. The number of cases is 783.

Table II-4-7 The biggest reason for wishing to work of currently unemployed wives with a child/children:
15th Survey (2015)

The biggest reason for wishing to work	Proportions
Economic reasons	52.1 %
For child's education	18.8
For living expenses	15.6
For saving money	8.0
For having own income	9.6
For retirement	0.1
Have time to work now (will have time to work)	8.0 %
Wish to use my experience and skills	3.4
Wish to expand places to be and human relationship	1.5
Other	0.4
Not know	34.5

Note: Same as Table II-4-6 Figures shown are proportions of wives who selected the respective reason as the biggest reason among multiple reasons selected.

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

98% of wives who continue to be regularly employed have used some kind of support systems/ facilities

The proportion of couples with the first child aged 3 or older and under 15, who have used some kind of child-care support systems or facilities before the child became 3 years old is 80.2%. In particular, as for those who continued to be regularly employed after childbirth, 98.1% of them have used some kind of systems or facilities. The utilization of prenatal/postnatal leave system (90.7%) and child-care leave system (83.6%) is particularly high.

When looked at this rate by year of birth of wife, the younger the generation, the higher the utilization rate. Looking at the rate of utilization of prenatal/postnatal leave system, child-care leave system for wives, child-care time system and short working hours system, by the scale of wife's work place in terms of number of employees, the rate tends to be high for those working in large-scale companies and the public service sector. Note that husbands seldom use child-care leave system, child-care time system or short working hour system.

Table II-4-8 Child-care support systems/facilities used before the first child is 3 years old:
15th Survey (2015) Total number and number of those who continue to be regularly employed

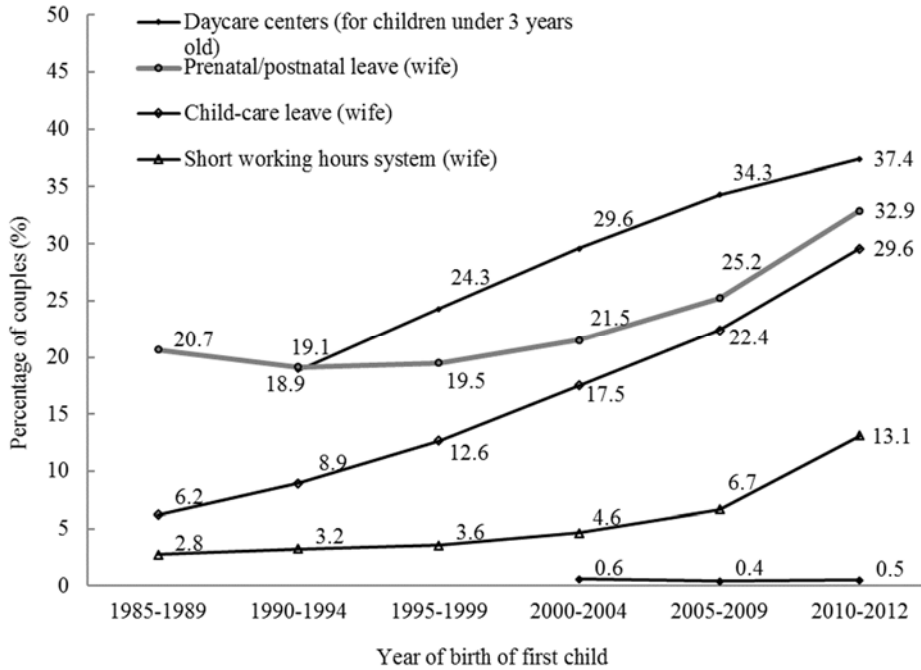
	Year of the first birth/ Wife's year of birth/ Size of the wife's workplace	The number of cases	Utilizing either systems or facilities	Utilizing either systems or facilities														None of the above	The average number of utilization	
				Parental/postnatal leave system	Child-care leave (wife)	Child-care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

Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples with the first child aged 3 or older and under 15. "Those who continue to be regularly employed" is defined as those who were in regular employment at the two time-points: "when the pregnancy of the first child became known" and "when the first child became one year old." Those who did not state the number of employees at their work place were omitted, but they are included in the total.

Utilization of child-care support systems and facilities is on the increase

The rate of usage of daycare centers for child(ren) under 3 years old by couples whose first child was born in the 1990 or later and is 3 years old or older and under 15 years old has been increasing, and the rate of usage of daycare for the first child born in early 2010s was 37.4%. The number of wives who used child-care leave systems has also been increasing. While 29.6% of wives used those systems since 2010, the rate of usage of those systems by husbands do not even reach 1%.

Figure II-4-9 Proportion of users of child support systems/facilities before the first child is 3 years old, by year of birth of the first child



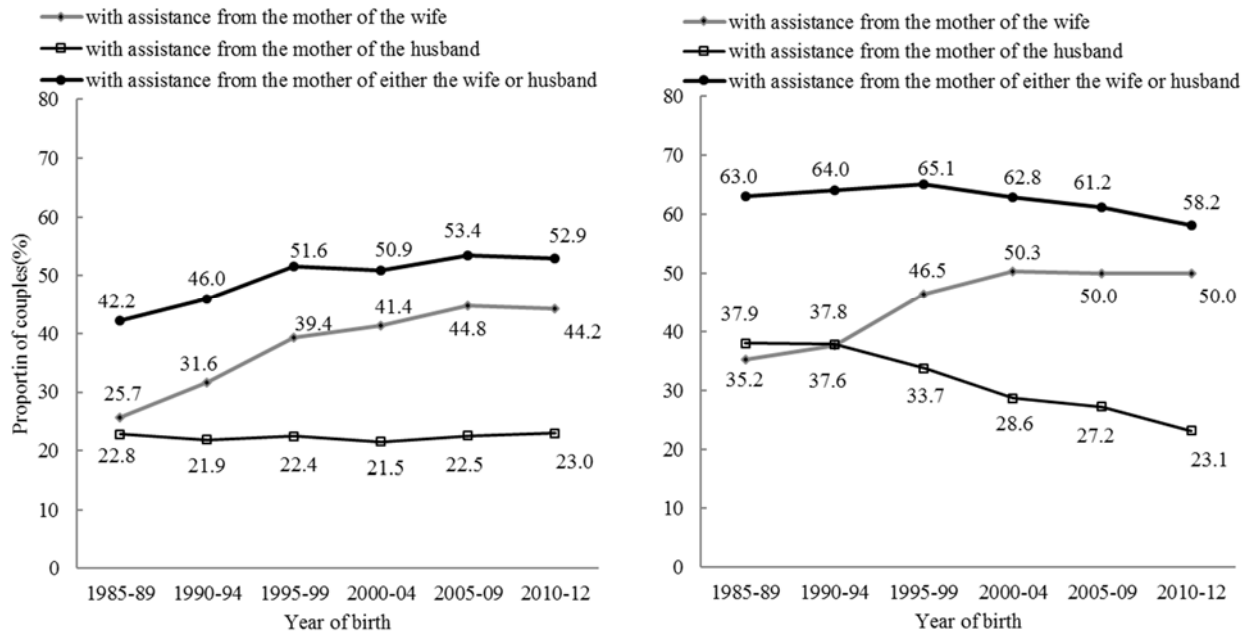
Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples with the first child aged 3 years or older and under 15 years. Data obtained in the 12th to 15th surveys were aggregated. However, the data for child-care leave by husbands is from the 14th and 15th surveys only. As for daycare, only comparative data from the 13th, 14th and 15th surveys was used. Daycare centers includes licensed daycares, certified/approved daycare facilities, in-house daycare facilities and other daycare facilities, but excludes temporary care at nursery school, kindergarten, etc.

(3) Childcare assistance from grandmothers

Approximately half of all couples surveyed received child-care assistance from husband's and/or wife's mothers (grandmothers of children)

The proportion of couples who received child-care assistance from one or both of their mothers (grandmothers of children) for their first child born between 1980s and 1990s before the first child is 3 years old (those who responded that they received child-care assistance "on a daily basis" or "frequently") had been on the increase, but leveled off at around 50% since 2000, and was 52.9% after 2010. This rate is slightly higher (58.2%) if wives were employed when the first child was 1 year old. As to whether they receive help from wives' or husbands' mothers, the proportion of couples who received help from wives' mothers (grandmothers of children) has been increasing, while the proportion of couples who received help from husbands' mothers (grandmothers of children) has been decreasing.

Figure II-4-10 Percentages of couples who received child-care assistance from mothers of couples (grandmothers of children) before the first child is 3 years old, by the year of birth of the first child
 Total
 Wives employed when children is 1 year old



Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples with the first child aged 3 or older and under 15. Data obtained in the 12th to 15th surveys were aggregated. The percentage of "With assistance from the mother" represents the proportion of couples who received child-care assistance from the mother of the husband or wife "on a regular basis" or "frequently."

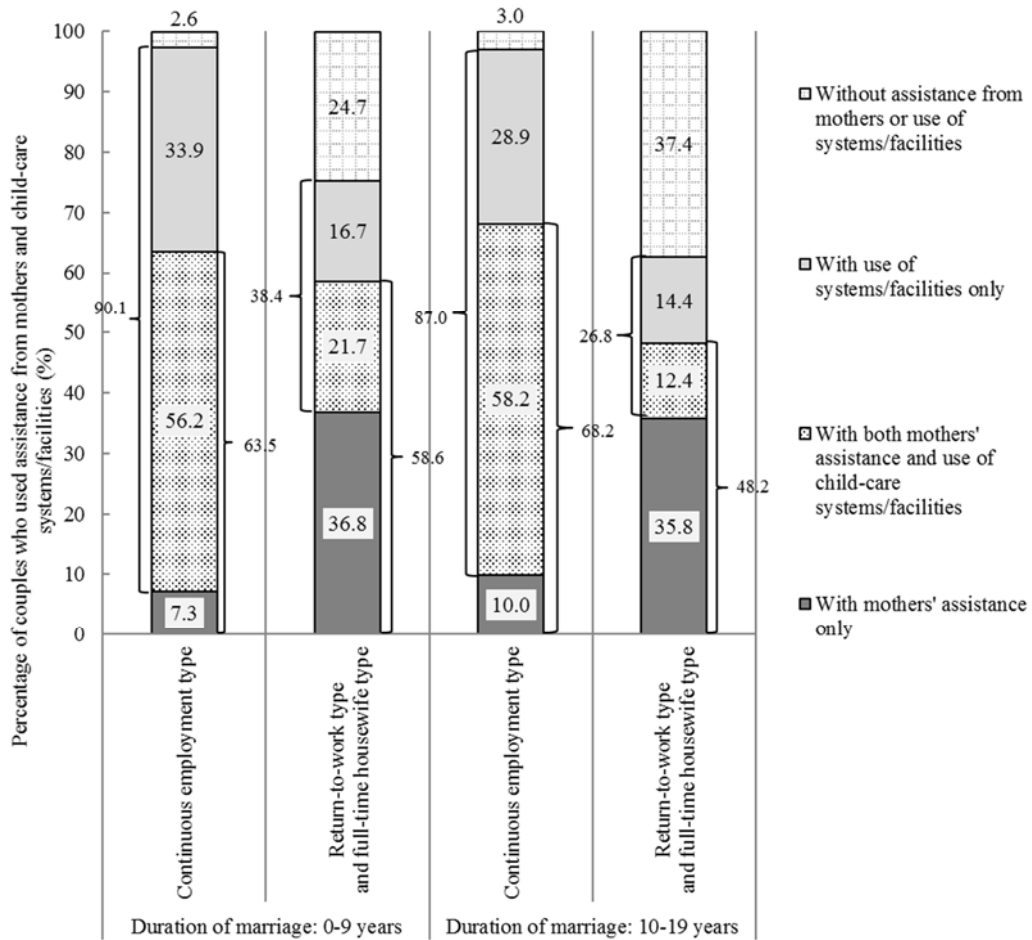
For wives who continue to be employed, in addition to child-care assistance from mothers (grandmothers of children), support systems/facilities play an important role

Looking at the circumstances of receiving assistance from mothers (grandmothers of children) and using child-care support systems/facilities among couples with child(ren) aged 3 or older, by type of work history of wives, almost all couples falling under continuous employment type received assistance from mothers (grandparents of children) or used support systems/facilities (97.4% for couples whose duration of marriage is 0 to 9 years and 97% for 10 to 19 years). In contrast, in cases other than the continuous employment type (i.e., return-to-work type and full-time housewife type), these rates are lower (75.3% for couples whose duration of marriage is 0 to 9 years and 62.6% for 10 to 19 years).

In the case where the duration of marriage is 0 to 9 years, although the proportion of couples who received assistance from their mothers (grandmothers of children) remains approximately 60% regardless of whether wives continued to be employed, the proportions of couples who used support systems/facilities were 38.4% for return-to-work type and full-time housewife type, and 90.1% for continuous employment type. Similarly, the rate of usage of support systems/facilities only was 33.9% for continuous employment type, which was high compared to 16.7% for return-to-work type and full-time housewife type.

In the case where the duration of marriage is 10 to 19 years, while the proportion of couples who received child-care assistance from their mothers (grandmothers of children) was 48.2% for return-to-work type and full-time housewife type, and 68.2% for continuous employment type, the proportion of couples who used support systems/facilities was 26.8% for return-to-work type and full-time housewife type, and 87.0% for continuous employment type. The difference between these types in the case of couples who used support systems/facilities is greater than that in the case of couples who received child-care assistance from their mothers (grandmothers of children). Similarly, the rate of usage of support systems/facilities only for return-to-work type and full-time housewife type was 14.4%, while that for continuous employment type was 28.9%. This indicates that for those falling under continuous employment type, in addition to child-care assistance from their mothers (grandmothers of children), usage of support systems/facilities plays an important role.

Figure II-4-11 Usage of assistance from mothers (grandmothers of children) and child-care systems/facilities before the first child is 3 years old, by work history and duration of marriage: 15th Survey (2015)

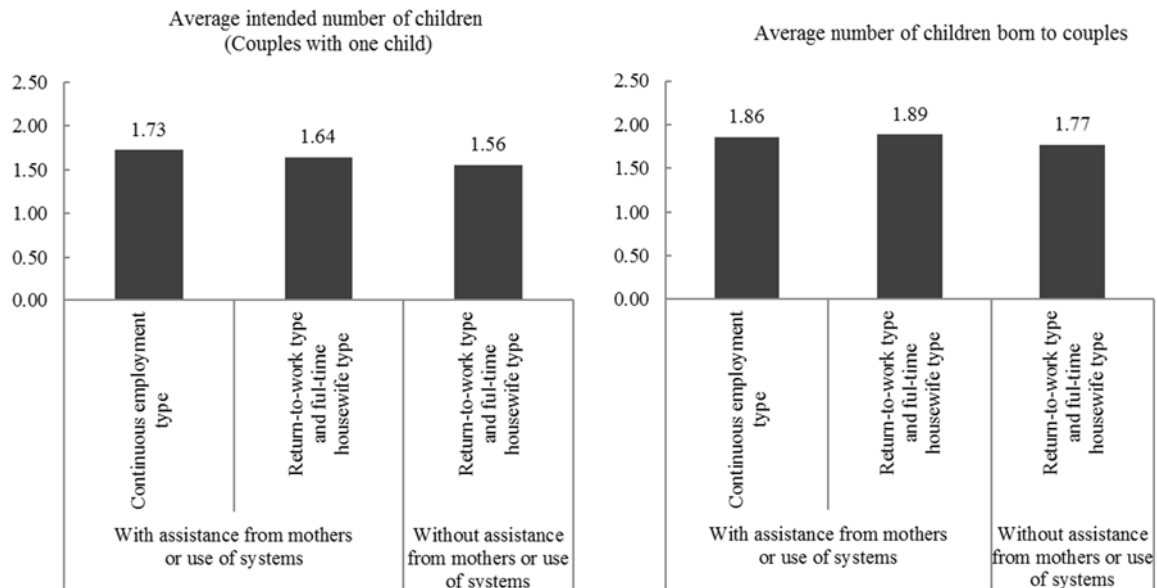


Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples with child(ren) aged 3 or older (excluding the couples who did not state the number of children or intended number of children, or cases in which the assistance from their mothers and use of support systems is not known or not applicable), where the wife's work history falls under either continuous employment type (duration of marriage 0-9 years: 233 cases and duration of marriage 10-19 years: 471 cases), or return-to-work type or full-time housewife type (duration of marriage 0-9 years: 471 cases and duration of marriage 10-19 years: 1,109 cases). Work history of wives were classified by the employment status of wives at the time they became pregnant with the first child, at the time the first child became 1 year old, and at the time of survey. For details, see "Glossary" at the end of the report. The same explanation in Table II-4-10 applies to "With mother's assistance." "With use of child-care systems/facilities" refers to cases where couples used at least one of the systems/facilities in Table II-4-8, except "Child-care support center, gathering space and other community exchange and consultation center."

Even return-to-work types and full-time housewife type have low level of childbearing intentions when child-care support is not available

The average intended number of children of couples with a child/children aged 3 or older, who have been married for less than 10 years, classified by type of work history of wives, indicates that the average intended number of children for both return-to-work type wives and full-time housewife type wives is low, if no child-care support, such as assistance from mothers and support system, is available. Furthermore, when the average intended number of children of all couples who have been married for less than 10 years is looked at, by type of wives' work history, the number is the highest for return-to-work type wives and full-time housewife type wives who received child-care support, followed by continuous employment type wives who received child-care support.

Figure II-4-12 Average intended number of children and average number of children born to couples, by work history and usage of child-care assistance from mothers (grandmothers of children) and child-care systems/facilities
15th Survey (2015) (Couples who have been married for less than 10 years)



Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples with a child/children aged 3 or older who have been married for less than 10 years (excluding the couples who did not state the number of children or intended number of children, or cases where the situation of support from mothers or use of systems is not known or not applicable), where the wife's work history falls under either the continuous employment type, return-to-work type, or full-time housewife type. Work history of wife is classified by employment status of the wife when the first child was born, when the first child became 1 year old, and at the time of the survey. For details, see "Glossary" at the end of this report. The same explanation in Table II-4-10 applies to "With assistance from mothers." "With use of child-care systems/facilities" refers to cases where couples used at least one of the systems/facilities listed in Table II-4-8, except "Child-care support center, gathering space and other community exchange and consultation center." Number of cases for the graph on the left (couples with one child) (227); number of cases for the graph on the right (836)

Section III
**Summary on Common Items of Singles
and Married Couples**

1. Ideas about Children

(1) Desired number of children and desired combination of boys and girls of never-married persons

The number of children desired by both never-married men and never-married women has decreased

The average number of children desired by never-married women who intend to marry, which had been increasing since the 12th survey (2002), decreased by 0.1 children from 2.12 children in the previous survey to 2.02 children in this survey. As for never-married men, this number has been mostly showing a declining trend since the 8th survey (1982), and in this survey, went below 2.0 children for the first time and was 1.91 children.

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

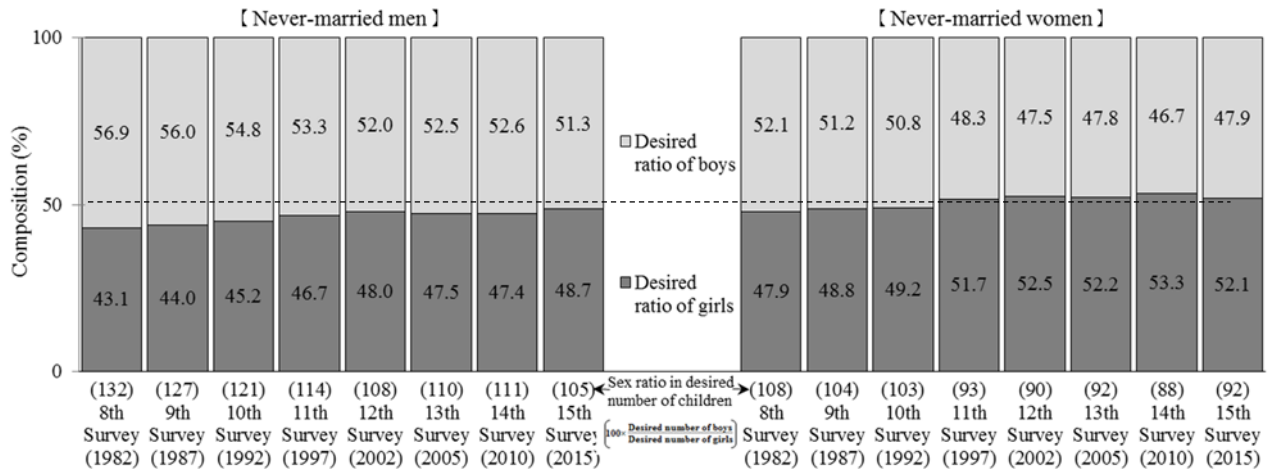
	Age	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
【Men】	18-19 years	2.32	2.30	2.19	2.21	2.18	2.15	2.09	1.97
	20-24 years	2.35	2.30	2.25	2.15	2.05	2.11	2.09	1.95
	25-29 years	2.37	2.30	2.22	2.14	1.99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

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

The tendency of never-married women to desire girls continues

As for the composition of girls and boys in the desired number of children of never-married persons who intend to marry, both men and women used to show their preference to have boys. However, since the 11th survey (1997), a majority of women prefer to have girls. On the contrary, since the 12th survey (2002), slightly more men have indicated their desire to have boys, and this tendency remain unchanged. In recent years, both men and women who have never been married prefer to have children of the same sex as themselves.

Figure III-1-2 Composition of total desired number of boys and girls of never-married persons, by survey



Note: The figures shown are for never-married persons aged 18-34 who "intend to marry someday," whose desired number of children is 1 or more, and who have specific preference for combinations of boys and girls. This graph shows the composition of the total number of boys and girls obtained from the responses on desired combinations of boys and girls; figures in parentheses under the graph indicate the sex ratio (the ratio of the desired number of boys to the desired number of girls set to 100); the stronger the preference for girls the smaller the figure.

(2) Ideal number of children, intended number of children and combination of boys and girls of married couples

Both the ideal number of children and intended number of children of married couples reached record low

The average ideal number of children (ideal number of children) of married couples surveyed decreased by 0.1 from the previous survey to 2.32 children, which have been the lowest in the past. The average intended number of children of married couples (intended number of children) also continued to decrease from the previous survey and was 2.01 children, which was also record low.

Table III-1-3 Average ideal and intended number of children of married couples, by survey and duration of marriage

(1) Average ideal number of children

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

(2) Average intended number of children

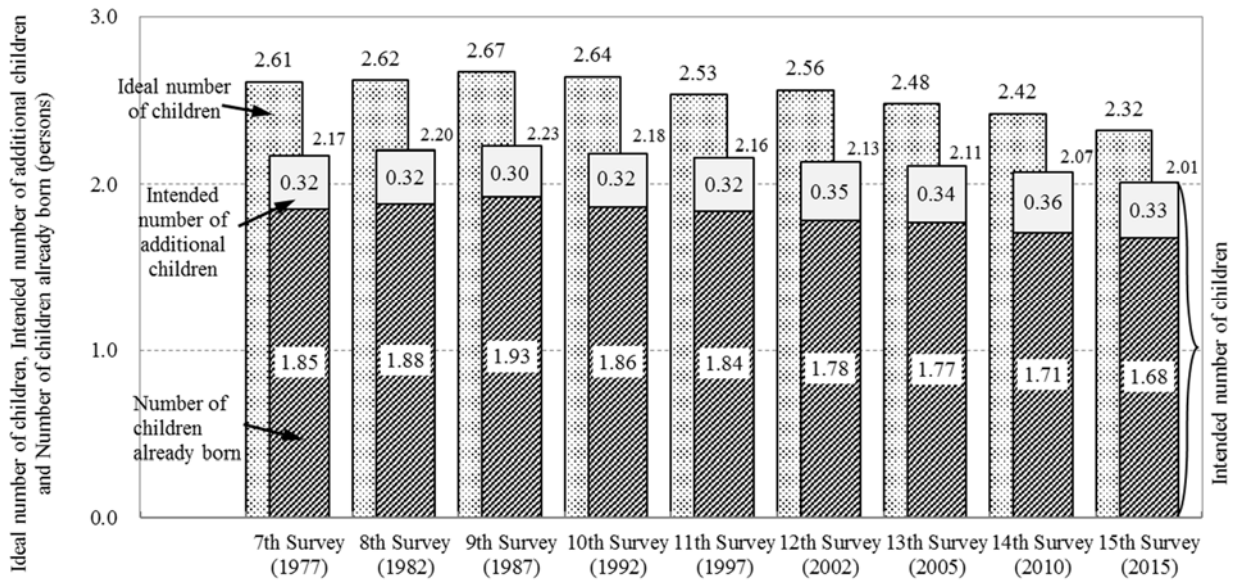
Duration of marriage	7th Survey (1977)	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	12th Survey (2002)	13th Survey (2005)	14th Survey (2010)	15th Survey (2015)
0-4 years	2.08	2.22	2.28	2.14	2.11	1.99	2.05	2.08	2.04
5-9 years	2.17	2.21	2.25	2.18	2.10	2.07	2.05	2.09	2.03
10-14 years	2.18	2.18	2.20	2.25	2.17	2.10	2.06	2.01	1.92
15-19 years	2.13	2.21	2.19	2.18	2.22	2.22	2.11	1.99	1.96
20 years or longer	2.30	2.21	2.24	2.18	2.19	2.28	2.30	2.23	2.13
Total	2.17	2.20	2.23	2.18	2.16	2.13	2.11	2.07	2.01
(Number of cases)	(8,129)	(7,784)	(8,024)	(8,351)	(6,472)	(6,564)	(5,603)	(6,462)	(5,099)

Note: Figures shown are for first-marriage couples (with wives under 50 years old). The intended number of children was calculated by adding the number of children already born and the number of additional children intended. In cases where the ideal number or intended number of children was 8 or more, it was counted as 8 in calculation of average ideal or intended number of children (excluding the number of cases where the number of ideal or intended children was not stated.) The figures under "total" include data of couples whose duration of marriage is not known.

Question for ideal number of children:

"What is the ideal number of children for you as a couple?" Intended number of (additional) children: "Please answer the following questions on your plans for additional children in the future. Circle the appropriate numbers for (1) the number of children and (2) the desired timeframe to have the next child."

Figure III-1-4 Change in the average ideal and intended number of children of married couples, by survey

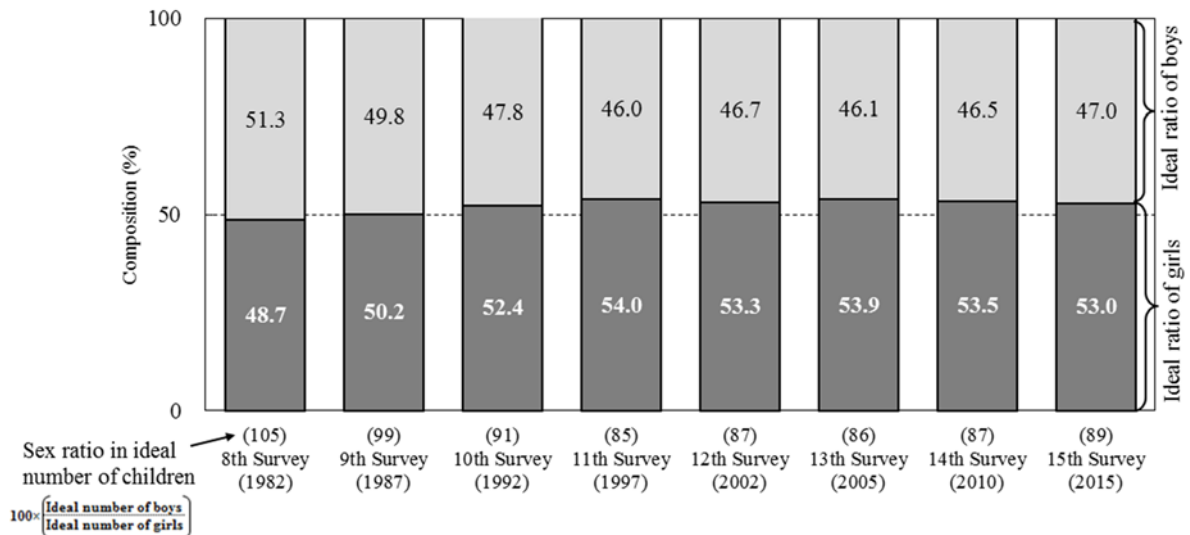


Note: Same as Table III-1-3.

The tendency of married couples to desire girls remains unchanged

Looking at the trend of the sex ratio in the ideal number of children of couples, the tendency to desire girls has taken root, and since the 11th survey (1997), the sex ratio in ideal number of children (figures in parenthesis in the Figure below) has remained at the same level, between 85 and 89. As for a specific combination of boys and girls desired, the proportion of couples who desire "1 boy and 1 girl" (ideal number of children: 2) is continuously on a rise, and was 90.9% in this survey.

Figure III-1-5 Composition of total desired number of boys and girls of married couples, by survey

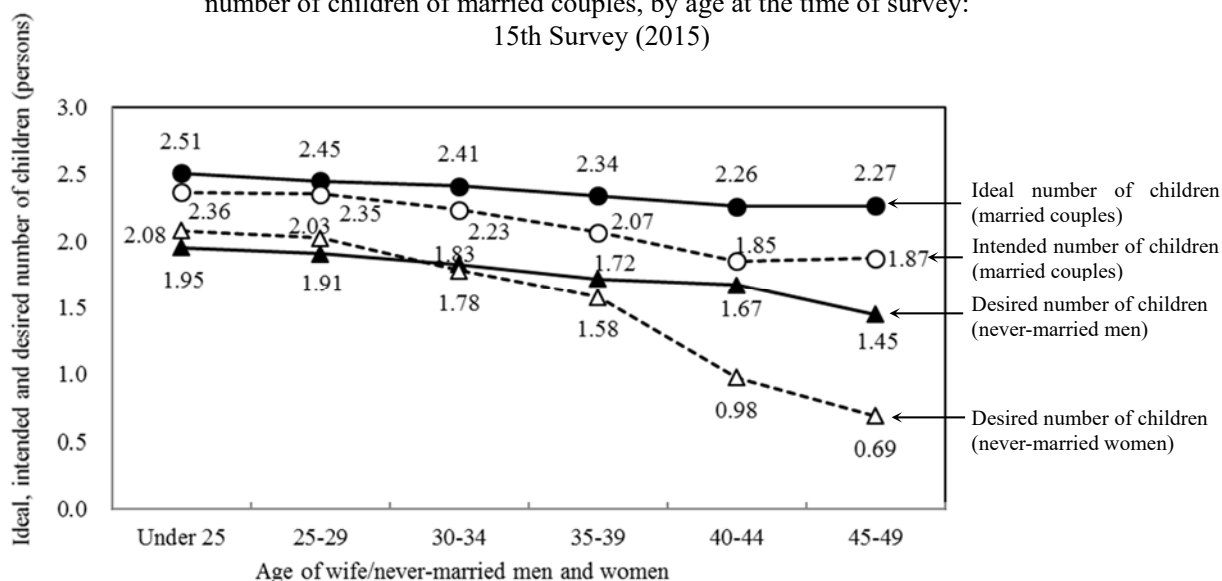


Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples whose ideal number of children is 1 or more and who have specific preferences for combinations of boys and girls. This graph shows the breakdown of the total number of boys and girls obtained from the responses on ideal combinations of boys and girls; figures in parentheses under the graph indicate the sex ratio (the ratio of the ideal number of boys to the ideal number of girls set to 100); the stronger the preference for girls the smaller the figure.

The ideal and intended number of children of married couples tend to be higher than the desired number of children of never-married persons

Comparing the average desired number of children of never-married men and women who responded "Intend to marry someday" and the average ideal and intended number of children of first-marriage couples, by age (for couples, by age of wife), indices of couples are higher than those of never-married persons for all age groups. While there is very little difference between the ideal number of children of couples and the desired number of children of never-married men by age group, the intended number of children of couples and desired number of children of never-married women start to decline at 35-39 age group, and this decline is particularly notable for never-married women over 40 years of age.

Table III-1-6 Average desired number of children of never-married persons and average ideal and intended number of children of married couples, by age at the time of survey:
15th Survey (2015)



Note: The figures shown are for never-married men and women aged 18-49 who responded "Intend to marry someday" and first-marriage couples with wives under 50 years old. In cases where average ideal or intended number of children was 8 or more, it was counted as 8, and where average desired number of children was 5 or more, it was counted as 5 (in both cases, excluding cases where the number was not stated)

(3) Reasons for having children

The reason for having children for both never-married persons and married couples is "Life will be fun and rich with children"

When we asked never-married persons who answered "1 or more" to the question of desired number of children, why they wish to have children, both male and female respondents chose the option "Life will be fun and rich with children" at a highest frequency. However, response was different between men and women as to the option selected at the second highest frequency: never-married men selected "It is natural to marry and have children," and never-married women selected "Wish to have children of a person I love."

Table III-1-7 Reasons for having children of never-married persons, by age: 15th Survey (2015)

(Multiple answers)

Age	(Number of cases)	Life will be fun and rich with children	It is natural to marry and have children	Wish to have children of a person I love	Children support our future society	Children stabilize relationship between married couples	Children support our life after retirement	Husband, parents or other people around me want us to have children	We will be recognized by having children	Other
[Never-married men]										
18-24	(1,007)	67.6 %	48.0	39.0	21.4	19.1	14.0	7.3	4.6	3.2
25-34	(983)	67.2	48.3	39.9	18.6	18.6	14.6	9.9	6.2	2.5
Subtotal (18-34)	(1,990)	67.4	48.1	39.4	20.0	18.8	14.3	8.6	5.4	2.9
35-44	(490)	62.7	47.6	35.7	27.1	21.2	21.8	12.7	8.6	4.3
45-49	(115)	66.1	55.7	27.0	26.1	21.7	26.1	10.4	6.1	1.7
Total (18-49)	(2,595)	66.5	48.4	38.2	21.6	19.4	16.3	9.4	6.0	3.1
[Never-married women]										
18-24	(1,155)	75.6 %	37.6	55.8	18.6	20.1	18.8	9.9	2.7	3.7
25-34	(874)	73.0	40.5	56.2	20.5	22.5	22.7	16.7	4.3	4.5
Subtotal (18-34)	(2,029)	74.5	38.8	56.0	19.4	21.1	20.5	12.8	3.4	4.0
35-44	(277)	66.8	38.6	46.9	22.7	18.1	27.1	10.8	8.7	5.8
45-49	(34)	55.9	50.0	67.6	8.8	8.8	17.6	2.9	2.9	5.9
Total (18-49)	(2,340)	73.3	39.0	55.1	19.7	20.6	21.2	12.4	4.0	4.3

Note: The figures shown are for never-married persons aged 18-49 who responded "Intend to marry someday," whose desired number of children is 1 or more. The selection rate does not include respondents who did not state the reason. As multiples answers were permitted, the total value exceeds 100%.

Similarly, when we asked married couples who responded "1 or more" to the question of ideal number of children, why they wish to have children, the respondents chose the option "Life will be fun and rich with children" at a highest frequency, as in the case of never-married persons. The reason selected at the second highest frequency was "It is natural to marry and have children" and the higher the age of wife, the higher the frequency. In contrast, as for the option selected at the third highest frequency, which was "Wish to have children of the person I love," the younger the age of wife, the higher the frequency.

Table III-1-8 Reasons for having children of married couples, by age of wife: 15th Survey (2015)

(Multiple answers)

Age	(Number of cases)	Life will be fun and rich with children	It is natural to marry and have children	Wish to have children of a person I love	Children support our future society	Children stabilize relationship between married couples	Children support our life after retirement	Husband, parents or other people around me want us to have children	We will be recognized by having children.	Other
Under 25	(70)	72.9 %	41.4	57.1	8.6	25.7	25.7	14.3	4.3	7.1
25-34	(1,116)	77.5	43.3	48.6	18.7	20.3	21.1	17.9	5.1	7.5
35-44	(2,396)	79.4	48.2	35.3	21.6	19.9	19.5	13.1	5.0	5.8
45-49	(1,065)	77.5	56.1	30.6	22.1	19.4	17.2	9.7	6.2	6.0
Total	(4,647)	78.4	48.7	37.7	20.8	20.0	19.5	13.5	5.3	6.3
(Reference) 13th Survey (2005) Total (18-49 years)	(5,488)	78.8	59.6	34.7	21.5	27.1	18.9	12.8	6.1	6.6

Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples who answered that the ideal number of children is 1 or more. The selection rate does not include respondents who did not state the reason. As multiple answers were permitted, the total value exceeds 100%.

(4) Reasons why couples do not realize their ideal number of children

Background for the intended number of children of married couples to be lower than the ideal number of children:

Economic reasons are prominently cited by younger age groups

The most frequently cited reason why the intended number of children of married couples is less than the ideal number of children is still "it costs too much to raise and educate children" (56.3% in total). In particular, a large number of young couples with wives aged under 35 (around 80%) have selected this reason. Also it is to be noted that the options "It will interfere with my work" and "Can't bear mentally/physically the burden of childrearing anymore" are more frequently cited by couples in their thirties compared with other age groups.

Table III-1-9 Reasons why couples do not realize their ideal number of children, by age of wife: 15th Survey (2015)(Couples whose intended number of children is less than their ideal number of children)

(Multiple answers)

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

Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples whose intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children. The selection rate does not include respondents who did not state the reasons for difference between ideal and intended numbers of children. As multiples answers were permitted, the total value exceeds 100%. The percentage of couples whose intended number of children is less than their ideal number of children is 30.3% (excluding those whose intended and ideal numbers were not stated).

The reasons why couples cannot realize their ideal number of children of 3 or more is primarily economic reasons

74.0% of couples whose intended number of children is zero despite their ideal number of children is 1 or more selected "Want to have a child but can't conceive one" as the reason. The highest proportion of couples whose ideal number of children is 3 or more chose "It costs too much" as the reason for not being able to realize their ideal number of children, followed by "Hate to bear children at older age," "Can't bear the burden of childbearing," "Interfere with job" and "House is too small."

Table III-1-10 Reasons why couples do not realize their ideal number of children, by combination of boys and girls in the ideal and intended numbers of children: 15th Survey (2015) (Couples whose intended number of children is less than their ideal number of children)

(Multiple answers)

Combination in which the intended number of children is less than the ideal number of children	Breakdown of couples whose intended number of children is less than their ideal number of children (Number of cases)	Reasons why couples do not realize their ideal number of children											
		Economic reasons			Age/physical reasons			Burden of child rearing	Reasons related to husbands			Other	
		It costs too much to raise and educate children	Interference with one's job or business	House is too small	Hate to bear children at older age	Want to have a child but can't conceive one	Health reasons	Can't bear mentally/ physically the burden of childrearing anymore	Can't gain husband's cooperation with household chores and childrearing	Want the last child to grow up before the husband retires	Husband does not want it	Social environment is not suitable for children to grow up without worry	Want to cherish the life of couple or oneself
Ideal: 1 or more/ Intended: none	6.1 % (77)	15.6 %	6.5	1.3	39.0	74.0	24.7	9.1	2.6	2.6	3.9	6.5	9.1
Ideal: 2 or more/ Intended: 1	39.2 (491)	43.8	11.8	6.1	42.4	34.8	17.5	14.1	11.6	6.5	9.4	5.7	4.9
Ideal: 3 or more/ Intended: 2 or more	54.7 (685)	69.8	18.7	16.1	38.1	9.8	14.7	21.0	9.6	8.3	7.7	6.1	6.3
Total	100.0 % (1,253)	56.3 %	15.2	11.3	39.8	23.5	16.4	17.6	10.0	7.3	8.1	6.0	5.9

Note: Same as Table III-1-9.

(5) Expected educational attainment to a child

Never-married women tend to expect higher educational attainment to their child than their male counterparts.

When we asked never-married men and women about educational attainment they expect to (their own) child, "university" was most frequently cited, regardless of child's sex.

It appears that never-married women tend to expect higher educational attainment to their child than their male counterparts. In particular, the difference in expectation between never-married women and men is noticeable for those aged 25-29: 83.1% of never-married women aged 25-29 expect a "male child" to have "university or higher (university or graduate school)" education and 71.7% of them expect a "female child" the same (while 72.6% of never-married men aged 25-29 expect a "male child" to have "university or higher (university or graduate school)" education and 63.6% of them expect a "female child" the same).

Table III-1-11 Never-married persons' expectation for the level of education to male and female child, by age: 15th Survey (2015)

Sex of child/ Age of wife			Total	Expected level of education for their child							
				University or higher	Graduate school	University	Junior college, technical college	Special school	High school or Junior high school	Other or Unknown	
Expected level of education for a male child	Never-married men	20-24 years	100.0 %	72.1 %	3.4	68.7	1.1	5.3	17.1	4.4	
		25-29 years	100.0	72.6	4.7	67.9	1.5	4.9	16.3	4.7	
		30-34 years	100.0	69.7	5.4	64.3	1.9	7.1	16.7	4.6	
		Subtotal 18-34 years	100.0	71.8	5.0	66.8	1.3	5.5	16.7	4.7	
		Subtotal 35-49 years	100.0	61.0	3.2	57.7	1.5	7.5	22.9	7.1	
		Total 18-49 years	100.0	69.0	4.5	64.5	1.3	6.0	18.3	5.3	
	Never-married women	20-24 years	100.0	77.8	2.4	75.4	1.3	4.3	12.2	4.5	
		25-29 years	100.0	83.1	3.4	79.6	1.2	6.9	6.0	2.8	
		30-34 years	100.0	74.4	4.0	70.3	1.4	6.3	10.7	7.2	
		Subtotal 18-34 years	100.0	78.4	2.8	75.6	1.3	5.4	10.5	4.4	
		Subtotal 35-49 years	100.0	75.1	4.2	70.9	2.3	7.9	6.5	8.2	
		Total 18-49 years	100.0	77.8	3.1	74.7	1.5	5.8	9.8	5.1	
Expected level of education for a female child	Never-married men	20-24 years	100.0	65.7	2.1	63.6	4.9	8.1	15.0	6.3	
		25-29 years	100.0	63.6	2.4	61.2	5.5	9.3	15.1	6.5	
		30-34 years	100.0	60.5	2.1	58.5	8.4	8.4	16.7	6.1	
		Subtotal 18-34 years	100.0	64.1	2.5	61.6	5.8	8.3	15.5	6.3	
		Subtotal 35-49 years	100.0	52.5	1.7	50.7	6.7	9.0	22.2	9.6	
		Total 18-49 years	100.0	61.1	2.3	58.8	6.0	8.5	17.2	7.1	
	Never-married women	20-24 years	100.0	66.0	1.5	64.5	7.7	9.9	12.9	3.4	
		25-29 years	100.0	71.7	2.1	69.6	6.7	11.1	8.1	2.4	
		30-34 years	100.0	58.8	1.7	57.1	11.0	11.5	11.0	7.8	
		Subtotal 18-34 years	100.0	66.6	1.6	65.0	7.5	10.5	11.6	3.9	
		Subtotal 35-49 years	100.0	60.0	3.3	56.7	11.9	10.7	8.0	9.4	
		Total 18-49 years	100.0	65.3	1.9	63.4	8.3	10.5	10.9	4.9	

Note: The figures shown are for never-married persons aged 18-49 who responded "Intended to marry someday." Never-married persons under 20 years old were omitted to be listed in this table, but included in the total. The number of cases: Never-married men aged 20-24 (814), 25-29 (657), 30-34 (479), 18-34 (2,320), 35-49 (802), 18-49 (3,121); Never-married women aged 20-24 (935), 25-29 (668), 30-34 (347), 18-34 (2,296), 35-49 (522), 18-49 (2,818)

Question: "How much education do you want your child to obtain?" Please circle the applicable number. If you don't have a male or a female child, please answer by supposing that you have (1) a male child and (2) a female child." (Choices: 1. Junior high school, 2. High school, 3. Special school (post-secondary), 4. Junior college, technical college, 5. University, 6. Graduate school, 7. Other)

"University" was most frequently cited by married couples as expected educational attainment to their child, regardless of child's sex

When we asked married couples about educational attainment they expect for (their own) child, "university" was most frequently cited, regardless of child's sex (71.5% for a male child and 57.3% for a female child), and more than 80% of couples wish their child to continue higher education after graduating from high school.

When looked at this by age of wife, the proportion of wives in their 30's who wish a "female child" to have "university or higher" education is slightly higher than other age groups: over 60% (60.8%) of this age group selected either "graduate school" or "university."

The proportion of couples who wish their "female child" to have "university or higher" education has increased, when compared to that in the 10th survey

In the 10th survey (1992), "junior college and technical college" was most frequently cited (38.5%) by couples as the level of education they wish for a "female child." In contrast, in the 15th survey (2015), "university or higher (graduate school or university)" increased (to 59.2%), exceeding "junior college or technical college" (10.6%).

As for a "male child," the proportion of couples who wish a "male child" to have "university or higher" education was 76.4% which shows no significant change from the 10th survey (73.9%).

Table III-1-12 Married couple's expectation for the level of education of their male and female child, by age of wife: 15th Survey (2015)

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

Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples. Couples with wife under 20 years of age (4 couples) are omitted in this table, but included in the total number. The number of cases: 15th survey: 20-29 years old (472), 30-39 years old (2,023), 40-49 years old (2,835), total (under 50 years old) (5,334); 10th survey: Total (under 50 years old) (8,844)

Question:

10th Survey: "How much education do (did) you want your child to obtain?" (If you do not have a male or female child, please answer to both (male and female child) by supposing that you have both. (Choices: 1. Junior high school, 2. High school, 3. Junior college, technical college, 4. University or Graduate school, 5. Other)

15th Survey: "How much education do (did) you and your spouse want your child to obtain? Please circle the applicable number. If you do not have a male or a female child, please answer by supposing that you do have (1) a male child and (2) a female child." (Choices: 1. Junior high school, 2. High school, 3. Special school (post-secondary), 4. Junior college, technical college, 5. University, 6. Graduate school, 7. Other)

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

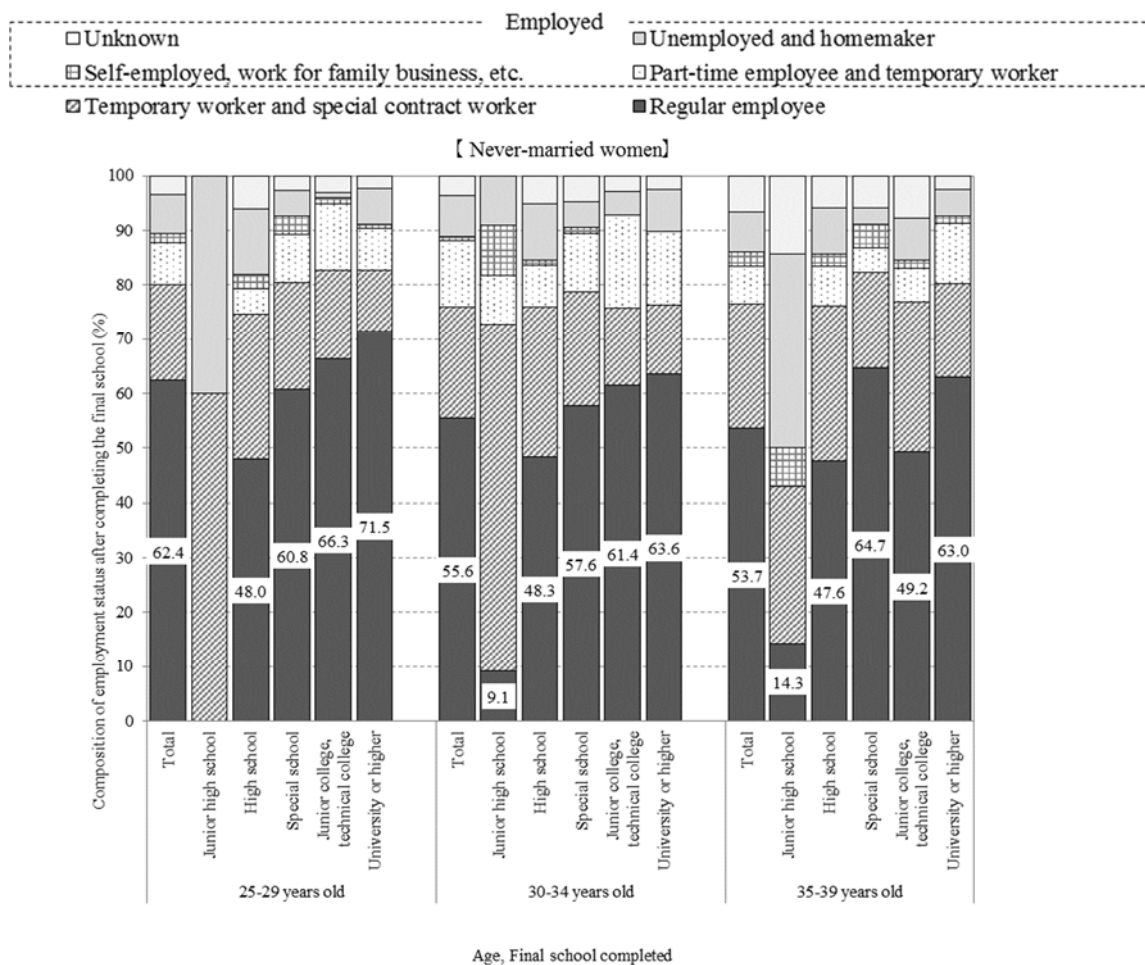
(1) Employment status after completing the final school

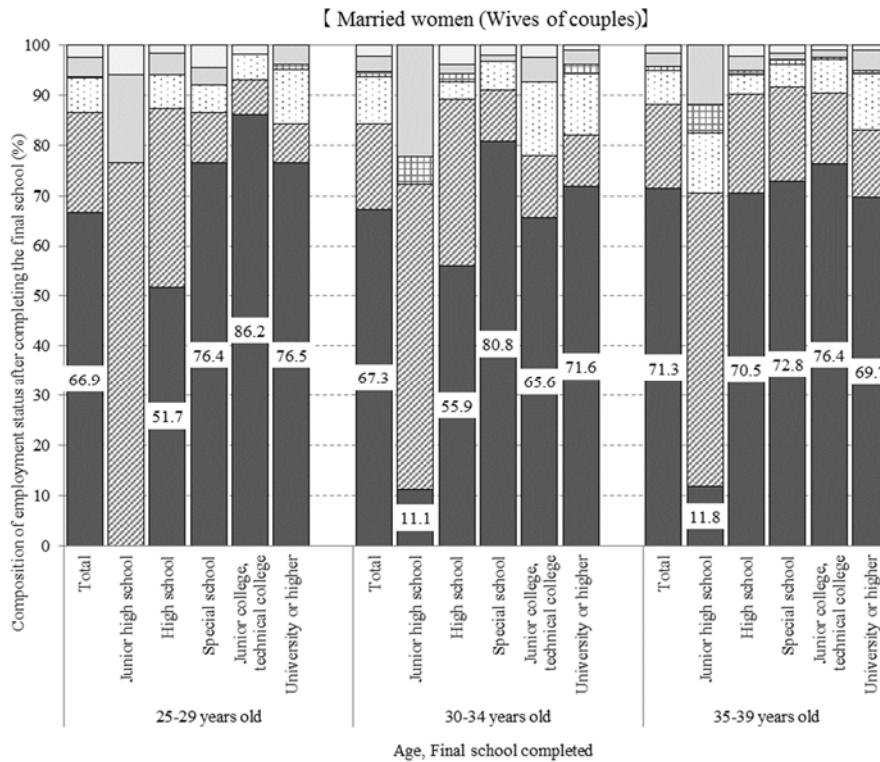
The proportion of married women who were employed as a regular employee after completing the final school is higher than that of never-married women

Looking at the employment status after completing the final school, by age, 66.8% of married women (wives of married couples) aged 20 to 29 were employed as a regular employee at that time. This proportion is higher (62.4%) for never-married women. This tendency is also seen in 30 to 34 years old age group, and 35 to 39 years old age group, as well as in all categories of final school completed.

Figure III-2-1 Composition of employment status after completing the final school, by age and the final school completed

15th Survey (2015): Never-married women and married women (wives of married couples)





Note: The figures shown are for never-married women and wives of first-marriage couples, 25 to 39 years old, excluding those who are students. Those whose "final school completed" is not stated are omitted, but included in the total.

(2) How did singles or couples meet their partner

Approximately 70% of singles and married couples met their partner at the workplace, through friends or siblings or at school.

Looking at the ways in which never-married persons met their dating partner, "at school" is the most common response for both men (27.7%) and women (23.7%), followed by "through friends or siblings" (20.6% of men and 20.9% of women) and "at the workplace or through work" (18.6% of men and 21.5% of women). These top three account for approximately 70%.

As for the ways in which married couples met their partner, "through friends or siblings" and "at workplace or through work" accounts for approximately 30% (30.8% and 28.2% respectively), followed by "at school" (11.7%). These top three account for approximately 70% of the total married couples, which is common to never-married persons even though the order is different.

Table III-2-2 The ways and/or places never-married persons met their dating partner: 15th Survey (2015)

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

Note: The figures shown are for never-married persons aged 18 to 34 who are involved in romantic relationship (fiancé/fiancée, lovers or friends of opposite sex).

Table III-2-3 The ways and/or places married couples met, by survey

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

Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples who got married within five years prior to each survey. "Arranged marriage" means marriage "through an arranged introduction" or "through a marriage match-making agency." In the 8th and 9th surveys, "through a part-time job" was not included in the options.

(3) Contact experience with children and views on marriage of others

Contact experience with children and views on marriage of others differ between never-married men and never-married women

Contact experience with children and views on married life of friends differ between never-married men and never-married women. In general, women have more opportunities to have contact with children (38.8% for men and 48.8% for women) and have positive views on married life of their friends (46.5% for men and 58.5% for women). No difference between men and women is seen in responses to the question about relationship between their parents, and about half of them have positive views.

Table III-2-4 Contact experience with children and views on marriage of others, by age of never-married persons: 15th Survey (2015)

Experience / Surroundings	Age	[Never-married men]				[Never married women]			
		Yes	No	N/A	Not stated	Yes	No	N/A	Not stated
① Had (have) many opportunities to contact with babies and small children	18-24 years	38.1 %	57.7	...	4.2	46.7 %	50.8	...	2.5
	25-34 years	39.5	56.6	...	3.9	51.2	46.1	...	2.7
	Total(18-34 years)	38.8	57.2	...	4.0	48.8	48.7	...	2.6
② Envy the relationship parents have	18-24 years	51.4	39.5	6.6	2.5	51.1	37.7	9.5	1.6
	25-34 years	51.0	40.5	6.5	2.0	51.5	37.9	8.4	2.1
	Total(18-34 years)	51.2	40.0	6.6	2.2	51.3	37.8	9.0	1.9
③ Married friends around me look happy	18-24 years	35.8	31.2	30.7	2.3	49.8	21.3	27.3	1.6
	25-34 years	57.0	33.5	7.8	1.8	69.0	25.0	4.4	1.6
	Total(18-34 years)	46.5	32.3	19.1	2.0	58.5	23.0	16.9	1.6
④ Many of my friends and siblings of similar age have a child/children	18-24 years	16.4	51.5	29.9	2.2	23.9	49.6	25.1	1.5
	25-34 years	42.2	49.8	6.3	1.7	53.5	39.6	5.1	1.7
	Total(18-34 years)	29.4	50.6	18.0	2.0	37.3	45.1	16.0	1.6

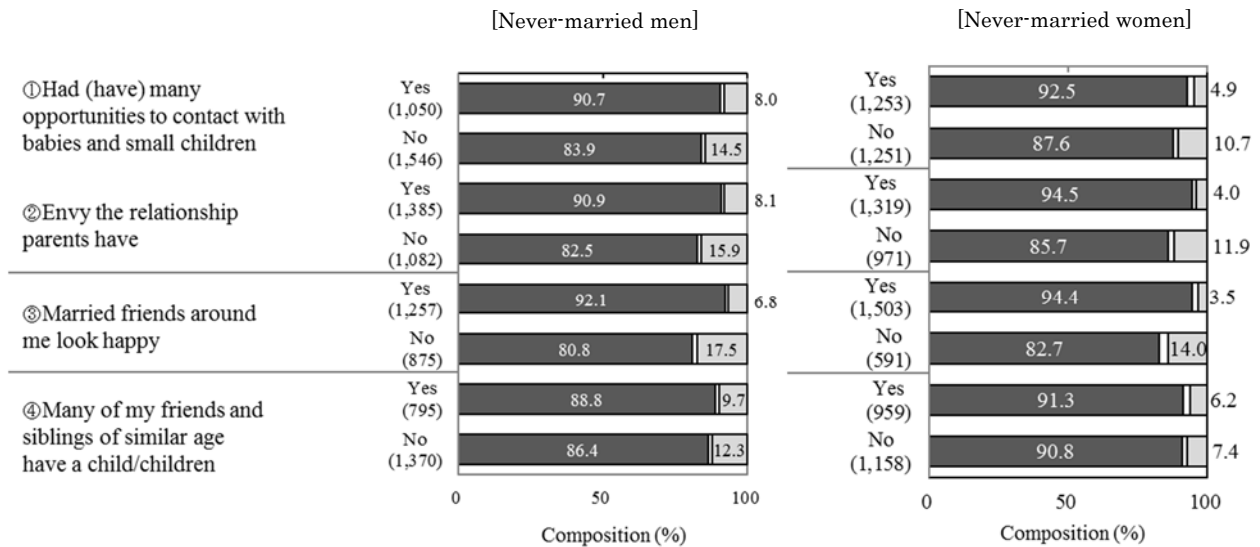
Note: The figures shown are for never-married men and women aged 18 to 34. The number of cases of each age group: 18-24 years old (Men 1,343, Women 1,404); 25-34 years old (Men 1,363, Women 1,166).

Question: "We ask you about some familiar situations. Please circle each number that is applicable to you on the right column for the questions (1) to (4) below. If you do (did) not have a person that is applicable to the question, circle 5." (1. Yes 2. Generally yes 3. Generally no 4. No 5. Not applicable)

Never-married persons who had (have) many opportunities to have contact with children or have positive views on the marriage of their parents or friends have higher desire to marry

Looking at whether or not contact experience with children and views on marriage of their parents and friends influence never-married persons' intention to marry from lifelong perspective, the proportion of those who responded that they "intend to marry someday" is higher, if they had many opportunities to have contact with babies and small children and have positive views on marriage of their parents and friends.

Figure III-2-5 Never-married persons' intention to marry from lifelong perspective, by presence / absence of contact experience with children and views on marriage of others: 15th Survey (2015)



Note: The figures shown are for never-married men and women aged 18 to 34. The figures in parentheses show the number of cases.

Contact experience with children of married women varies depending on the age at first-marriage and married women have generally positive views on marriage of others

Comparing the proportion of first-marriage wives who have been married for less than 10 years as to whether or not they have had many opportunities to have contact with children before they got married (those who selected "Yes" to the question), by age at their first marriage, wives who got married when they were under 25 years old showed the highest proportion. The proportion of wives who thought that friends who were already married before they got married looked happy is highest (67.5%) for wives who got married at the age of 25 to 34. This indicates that many wives who got married at this age had positive views on marriage.

Table III-2-6 Presence / absence of contact experience with children and views on marriage of others, by age at first-marriage:
15th Survey (2015) (Wives of couples who have been married for less than 10 years)

Experience / Surroundings	Wife's age at first-marriage	Total	Yes	No	N/A	Not known
① Had many opportunities to contact with babies and small children	Under 25 years	100.0 %	51.7	45.5	...	2.8
	25-34 years	100.0	40.7	56.3	...	3.0
	35 years or older	100.0	44.6	52.2	...	3.2
	Subtotal (Wives 18-34 years)	100.0	43.1	53.9	...	3.0
	Total (Wives under 50 years)	100.0	43.3	53.7	...	3.0
② Envied the relationship parents had	Under 25 years	100.0	47.6	42.5	7.6	2.3
	25-34 years	100.0	46.8	45.2	5.3	2.8
	35 years or older	100.0	47.8	45.7	3.2	3.2
	Subtotal (Wives 18-34 years)	100.0	47.0	44.6	5.8	2.7
	Total (Wives under 50 years)	100.0	47.0	44.7	5.6	2.7
③ Married friends around me looked happy	Under 25 years	100.0	52.9	34.6	10.2	2.3
	25-34 years	100.0	68.1	26.7	2.4	2.8
	35 years or older	100.0	60.2	36.0	1.1	2.7
	Subtotal (Wives 18-34 years)	100.0	64.7	28.4	4.1	2.7
	Total (Wives under 50 years)	100.0	64.3	29.2	3.8	2.7
④ Many of my friends and siblings of similar age had a child/children	Under 25 years	100.0	30.5	53.7	13.5	2.3
	25-34 years	100.0	42.5	52.2	2.6	2.7
	35 years or older	100.0	60.8	35.5	1.1	2.7
	Subtotal (Wives 18-34 years)	100.0	39.8	52.5	5.0	2.6
	Total (Wives under 50 years)	100.0	41.8	50.9	4.6	2.6

Note: The figures shown are for wives of first-marriage couples who have been married for less than 10 years (under 50 years old). The numbers of cases: Total (wives under 50 years old) (1,958), Subtotal (wives 18-34 years old) (1,772), Age at first-marriage under 25 years old (393), 25-34 years old (1,379) and over 35 years old (186) Wives whose age at first-marriage is not known are omitted, but they were included in the total.

Question: "We ask you about some familiar situations. Please circle each number that is applicable to you on the right column for the questions (1) to (4) below. If you do (did) not have a person that is applicable to the question, circle 5. (1. Yes 2. Generally yes 3. Generally no 4. No 5. Not applicable)

The more contact with children experienced, the higher the number of children desired

The average desired number of children of never-married persons who responded "Yes" to the question "Had (have) many opportunities to have contact with babies or small children" tend to be higher than those who answered "No." The difference was particularly greater among never-married women. Similarly, wives of couples who have been married for less than 10 years and had lots of contact experience tend to have higher number of average ideal and intended number of children.

Table III-2-7 Average desired, ideal and intended number of children of never-married men and women and married women (who has been married for less than 10 years), by presence / absence of contact experience with children: 15th Survey (2015) Never-married men and women (18-34 years old) and wives of married couples (18-34 years old)

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

Note: The figures shown are for never-married persons aged 18-34 who responded "Intend to marry someday", and for wives of first-marriage couples (aged 18-34, duration of marriage 0-9 years). In cases where the desired number of children was 5 or more, it was counted as 5 in calculation of average desired number of children. In cases where the ideal or intended number of children was 8 or more, it was counted as 8 in calculation of average ideal or intended number of children (excluding cases not stated). "Contact experience with children" of wives is the answer to the situation of before marriage.

3. Views on Marriage and Family

(1) Views on marriage and family of never-married persons

30% of both never-married men and women agree with the view, "husbands should work outside and wives should take care of the home"

Looking at the views of never-married persons on marriage, family and male-female relationship, 80% of both never-married men and women agreed with the following three views: "(3) Approve premarital intercourse, " (4) Manliness and womanliness are necessary," and "(5) Should have personal goals," and 70% of them agreed with the following two views: "(2) Marriage instead of cohabitation," and "(9) Mothers should stay home." 80 to 90% of women and 70 to 80% of men agree with the view, "(13) Better to give birth in the 20's."

In contrast, 30 to 40% of men and women agree with the view, "(11) It is all right to have children even without getting married," and approximately 30% of men and women agree with the view, "(7) Husbands should work and wives should stay home."

Views that are supported more by men than women were: "(6) Marriage entails sacrifice"(12% difference), "(10) Should avoid divorce" (9% difference), "(8) One should have children " (8% difference), "(1) Staying single throughout one's life is not desirable" (7% difference), and "(12) Men should prioritize time at home than success" (6% difference).

Table III-3-1 Views of never-married persons on marriage and family; 15th Survey (2015)

Views on marriage and family	[Never-married men]			[Never-married women]		
	Agree	Disagree	Not known	Agree	Disagree	Not known
① It is not desirable to remain single for one's entire life	64.7 %	32.8	2.5	58.2 %	40.2	1.6
② Men and women should marry if they live together	74.8	22.9	2.4	70.5	27.8	1.7
③ Unmarried couples may have sexual intercourse if they love each other	86.1	11.1	2.8	83.2	14.8	1.9
④ Manhood and womanhood are necessary to some extent in any society	84.4	13.2	2.4	82.5	15.7	1.8
⑤ One ought to have personal goals even after getting married, other than those of the partner or other members of the family	83.8	13.2	3.0	88.4	9.8	1.8
⑥ It is natural that one should sacrifice half of one's own personality or lifestyle for the family	59.3	38.1	2.7	47.2	51.0	1.8
⑦ Husbands should work and wives should take care of the home after marriage	30.7	66.5	2.8	28.6	69.5	1.9
⑧ One should have children if one gets married	75.4	21.9	2.7	67.4	30.6	2.0
⑨ It is desirable that mothers should not work and should stay home at least when their children are young	69.8	27.6	2.6	73.0	25.3	1.7
⑩ No one should get divorced for a small reason such as incompatible personalities	69.2	28.0	2.8	59.7	38.3	2.0
⑪ It is all right to have children even if one is not married	32.3	64.9	2.8	34.6	63.7	1.7
⑫ It is important for married men to spend time with family than succeeding in business	70.0	26.8	3.2	63.9	33.1	3.0
⑬ Women should have the first child in their 20s	75.3	21.6	3.1	80.1	17.9	2.0

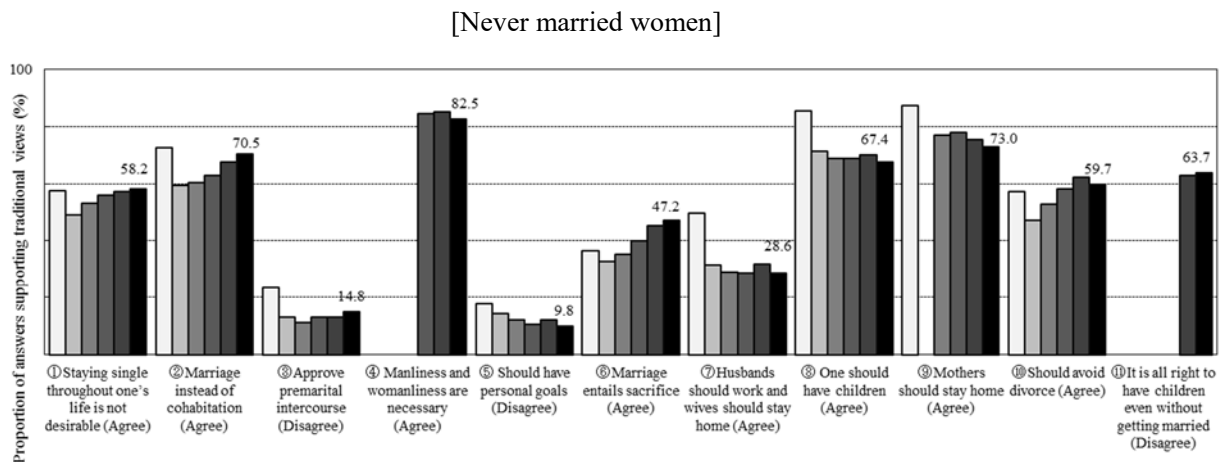
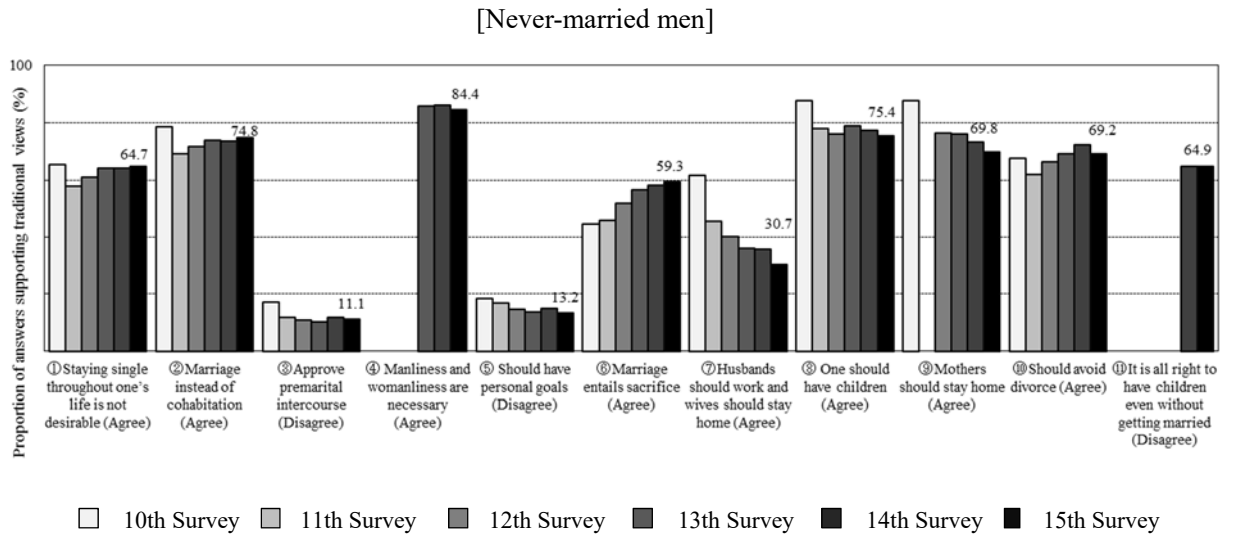
Note: The figures shown are for never-married persons aged 18 to 34. The number of cases: men (2,705); women (2,570)

Since 2000, trends of never-married persons have been not to support "Mothers should stay home" and to support "Marriage entails sacrifice"

Looking at changes in the views on marriage and family of never-married persons since the 10th survey (1992), the proportion of men who agree with "(6) Marriage entails sacrifice" (answer supporting traditional views) has been continuously increasing, while the proportion of men who agree with (7) Husbands should work and wives should stay home" and "(9) Mothers should stay home" (both are answers supporting traditional views) has been continuously decreasing. If only the 11th (1997) and later surveys are looked at, "(1) Staying single throughout one's life is not desirable" and "(2) Marriage instead of cohabitation" (answers supporting traditional views) have been increasing.

When women are looked at, although there is no item that shows changes to the same direction since the 10th survey (1992), the proportion of women who agree with the views, "(8) One should have children" and "(9) Mothers should stay home" (answers supporting traditional views) are mostly on the decrease. If only the 11th (1997) and later surveys are looked at, "(1) Staying single throughout one's life is not desirable," "(2) Marriage instead of cohabitation" and "(6) Marriage entails sacrifice" (answers supporting traditional views) have been increasing.

Figure III-3-2 Views of never-married persons on marriage and family, by survey (proportion of those supporting traditional views)



Note: The figures shown are for never-married persons aged 18 to 34. The values denote proportion of the total of responses "Absolutely agree (disagree)" and "Agree (disagree) to some extent," as the proportion of subjects supporting traditional views using the proportion of subjects who chose "Agree" for items (1), (2), (4), (6), (7), (8), (9) and (10), and "Disagree" for items (3), (5) and (11). Number of cases: 10th survey men (4,215); women (3,647); 11th survey men (3,982); women (3,612); 12th survey men (3,897); women (3,494); 13th survey men (3,139); women (3,064); 14th survey men (3,667); women (3,406); 15th survey men (2,705); women (2,570). Item (4) was added from the 13th Survey (2005) and item (11) was added from the 14th Survey (2010). Item (3) was not included in the 11th Survey (1997). The figures on the graph show subjects in the 15th Survey.

(2) Wives' views on marriage and family

"Approve premarital intercourse," "Manliness and womanliness are necessary," "Should have personal goals even after marriage," and "Better to give birth in the 20's" are highly supported by wives

Looking at wives' views on marriage and family, over 80% wives support the following views: (3) Approval premarital intercourse,"(4) Manliness and womanliness are necessary," "(5) Should have personal goals" and "(13) Better to give birth in the 20's." 60 to 70% of wives support "(2) Marriage instead of cohabitation," "(8) One should have children," "(9) Mothers should stay home" and "(12) Men should prioritize time at home than success" and 50 to 60% of wives support "(1) Staying single throughout one's life is not desirable" and "(10) Should avoid divorce." The views that did not receive majority support were "(6) Marriage entails sacrifice " (40 to 50%), "(11) It is all right to have children even without getting married" (30 to 40%) and "(7) Husbands should work and wives should stay home" (20 to 30%).

Table III-3-3 Wives' views on marriage and family: 15th Survey (2015)

Views on marriage and family	Total Number of cases (5,334)	Agree			Disagree			No response	14th survey	
		Total	Absolutely agree	Agree to some extent	Total	Absolutely disagree	Disagree to some extent		Agree	Disagree
① It is not desirable to remain single for one's entire life	100.0 %	54.5 %	9.7	44.8	41.3 %	10.7	30.6	4.2 %	57.3 %	38.3 %
② Men and Women should marry if they live together	100.0	69.3	15.8	53.5	27.0	7.3	19.7	3.7	72.3	23.6
③ Unmarried couples may have sexual intercourse if they love each other	100.0	87.5	34.2	53.3	8.8	1.5	7.3	3.7	82.6	13.4
④ Manhood and womanhood are necessary to some extent in any society	100.0	85.3	28.4	56.9	10.9	2.5	8.4	3.8	88.4	8.0
⑤ One ought to have personal goals even after getting married, other than those of the partner or other members of the family	100.0	85.0	24.7	60.3	10.7	1.2	9.5	4.3	84.0	11.8
⑥ It is natural that one should sacrifice half of one's own personality or lifestyle for the family	100.0	48.4	6.2	42.2	47.8	12.3	35.5	3.9	46.4	49.7
⑦ Husbands should work and wives should take care of the home after marriage	100.0	27.3	2.7	24.6	69.0	27.4	41.6	3.7	31.9	64.0
⑧ One should have children if one gets married	100.0	66.6	12.3	54.3	28.9	10.7	18.2	4.4	71.2	24.3
⑨ It is desirable that mothers should not work and should stay home at least when their children are young	100.0	63.7	14.4	49.3	32.5	10.2	22.3	3.8	69.5	26.5
⑩ One should not get divorced for a small reason such as incompatible personalities	100.0	52.3	10.7	41.6	43.8	12.4	31.4	3.9	54.9	40.7
⑪ It is okay to have children even if one is not married	100.0	35.3	7.7	27.7	60.6	15.5	45.1	4.0	36.4	59.6
⑫ For a married man, it is more important to spend time with his family than to be successful at work	100.0	60.0	9.4	50.6	35.0	3.1	31.9	5.0	...	...
⑬ If woman were to give birth to the first child, it is better to do so when she is in her 20's	100.0	81.9	29.2	52.6	14.1	3.1	11.0	4.0	...	...

Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples. Items (12) and (13) are new items added in the 15th Survey.

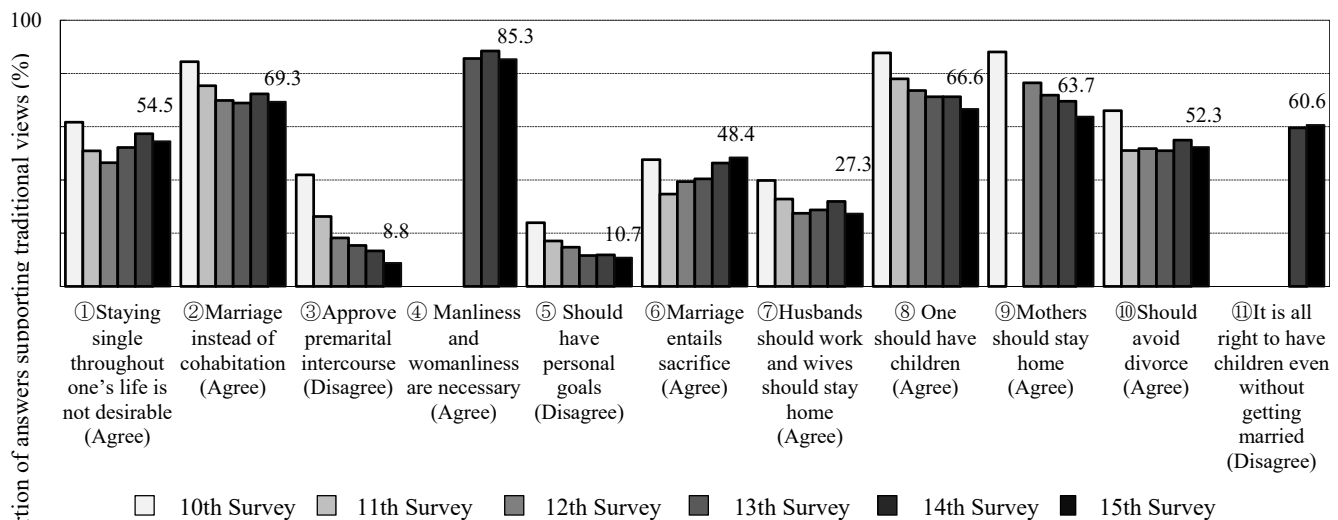
Wives who support the views, "One should have children," "Mothers should stay home" and who do not support "one ought to have personal goals even after getting married" and "Approve premarital intercourse" have been decreasing, which indicates their tendency to depart from traditional views

Looking at the changes in wives' views since the 10th Survey (1992), their tendency to depart from traditional views was observed in all the items in the 1990s. From the 2000s, however, the direction of change started to vary depending on the item.

Four items, "(3) Approve premarital intercourse," "(5) Should have personal goals," "(8) One should have children" and "(9) Mothers should stay home," continued to move in the same direction, i.e., declining support for the traditional way of thinking.

On the contrary, the proportion of wives who agree with "(6) Marriage entails sacrifice" has been increasing, except one-time decrease from 1992 to 1997. "(10) Should avoid divorce" has stayed at the same level, except one-time decrease of support from 1992 to 1997. Historical changes in other items are not clear.

Figure III-3-4 Changes in wives' views on marriage and family, by survey: 15th Survey (2015)



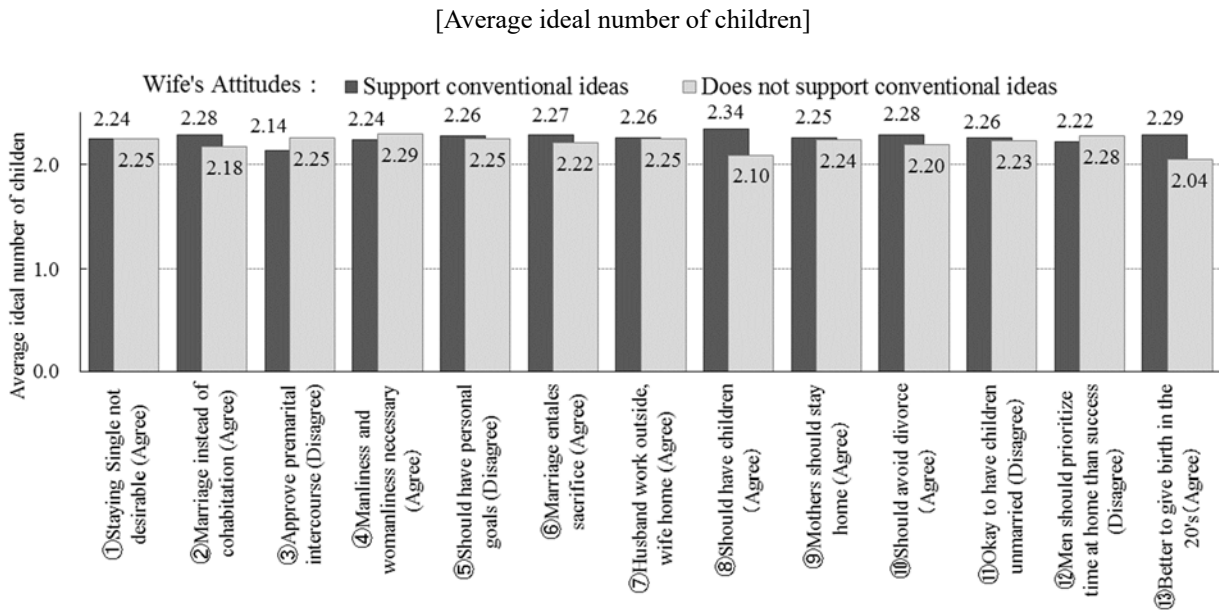
Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples. The values denote proportion of the total of responses "Absolutely agree (disagree)" and "Agree (disagree) to some extent," as the proportion of subjects supporting traditional views using the proportion of subjects who chose "Agree" for items (1), (2), (4), (6), (7), (8), (9) and (10), and "Disagree for items (3), (5) and (11). The figures on the graph show subjects in the 15th Survey. Number of cases: 10th survey (8,844); 11th survey (7,354); 12th survey (6,949); 13th survey (5,932); 14th survey (6,705); 15th survey (5,334)

The ideal and intended number of children are greater among couples where wives adopt traditional views

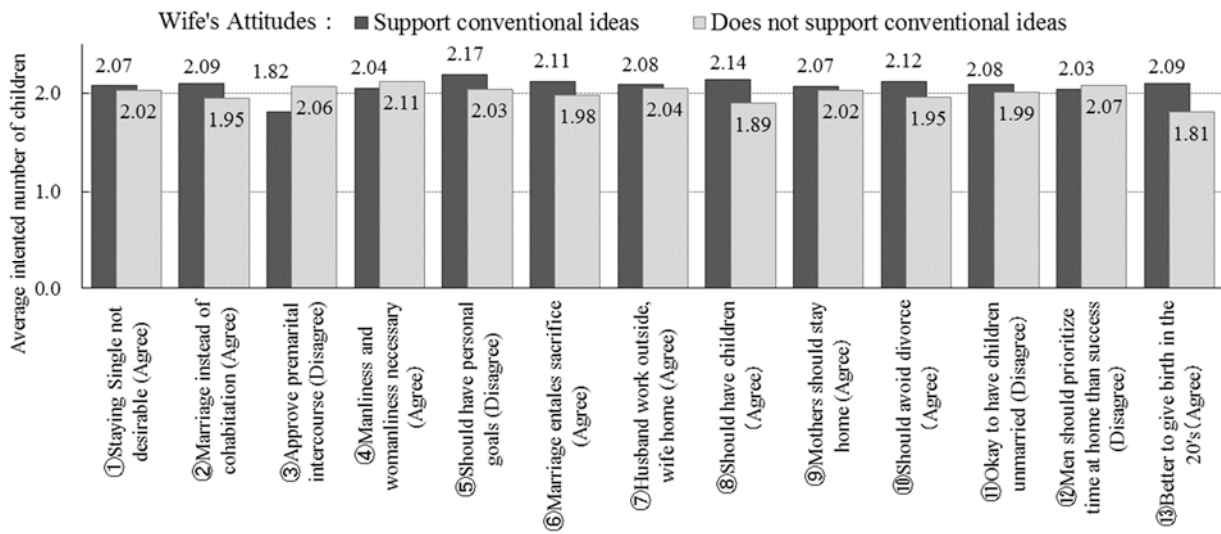
The ideal number of children and intended number of children were compared between wives of couples who have been married for 0 to 4 years who support traditional views on marriage and family and those who do not. Both average ideal number of children and average intended number of children are higher among wives who support traditional views (left bar graph) in comparison to those who do not support traditional views. The ideal number of children and average intended number of children of wives who agree with the views, "(8) One should have children," "(10) Should avoid divorce," and "(13) Better to give birth in the 20's" are particularly higher.

However, the average ideal number of children and average intended number of children of wives who agree with the view, "(4) Manliness and womanliness are necessary" and disagree with the view, "(12) Men should prioritize time at home than success" (in both cases, they support traditional views) are lower than those of wives who do not support traditional views, indicating insufficient relationship between wives' traditional views and childbearing intentions.

Figure III-3-5 Average ideal and intended number of children, by wives' views on marriage and family (whether they support or do not support traditional views): 15th Survey (2015) (Wives with duration of marriage 0-4 years)



[Average intended number of children]



Note: The figures shown are for first-marriage couples whose duration of marriage is 0-4 years. For items (1), (2), (4), (6), (7), (8), (9) and (10), those responding "Absolutely agree" and "Agree to some extent" are classified as the group supporting traditional views, while those responding "Disagree to some extent" and "Absolutely disagree" are classified as the group not supporting traditional views. The grouping for (3), (5), (11) and (12) are reversed. "Agree" or "Disagree" in parentheses in each item in the horizontal axis shows the answer supporting traditional views. Each bar graph shows the group supporting traditional views on the left side (darker color) and the group not supporting traditional views on the right side (lighter color) in comparing the average ideal number of children and average intended number of children.

(3) Views on marriage and family: Comparison between never-married women and married women (wives of married couples)

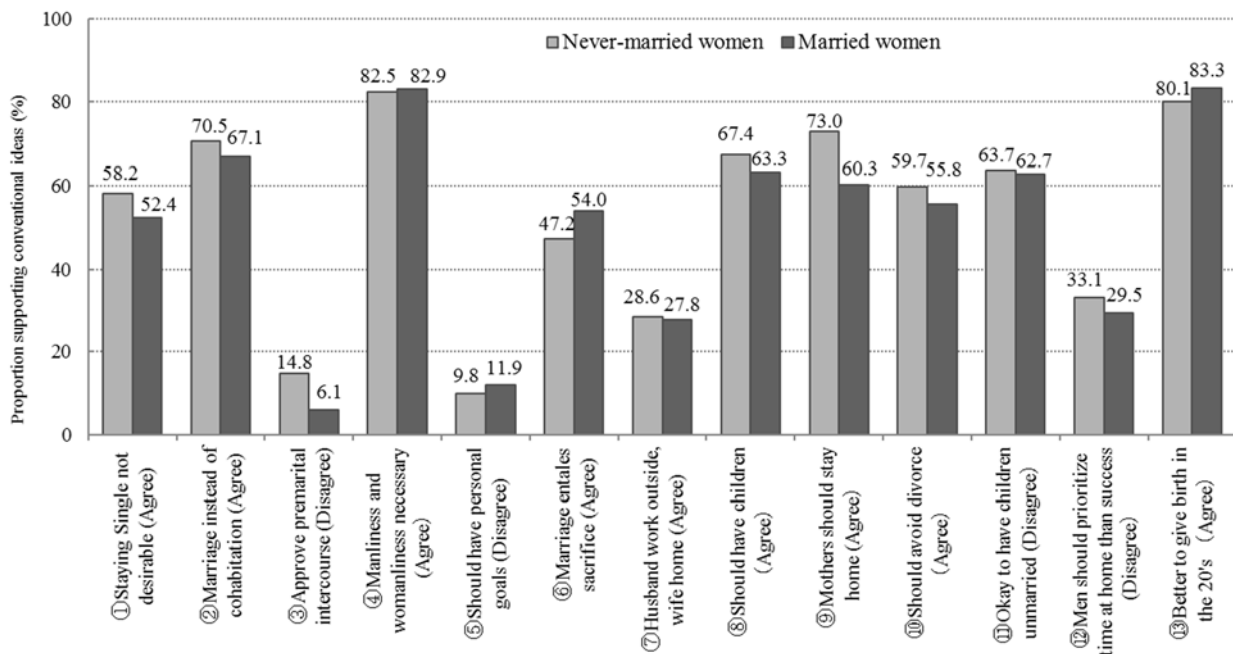
Never-married women tend to support traditional views on marriage and childbearing intentions more than married women

When views of never-married women and married women (wives of couples) (both aged 18 to 34) on marriage and family are compared, the proportion of those who support "(1) Staying single throughout one's life is not desirable," "(2) Marriage instead of cohabitation," "(8) One should have children," "(9) Mothers should stay home," and "(11) Should avoid divorce" is higher for never-married women than married women.

The proportion of those who disagree "(3) Approve premarital intercourse" and "(12) Men should prioritize time at home than success" is higher for never-married women than married women. Generally speaking, never-married women tend to support traditional views on marriage and childbearing intentions more than married women. In particular, this tendency that never-married women support traditional views more than married women can be seen from the fact that 13% more never-married women agree with the view, "(9) Mothers should stay home" and 9% more never-married women disagree with the view "(3) Approve premarital intercourse," compared with married women. The proportion of those who support traditional views in other items is also 3% or more higher for never-married women.

The proportion of never-married women agreeing with "(6) Marriage entails sacrifice" and "(13) Better to give birth in the 20's" was higher by 7% and 3% respectively, than that of married women. Married women support traditional views more in relation to the way life should be after marriage and the age suitable for childbirth.

Figure III-3-6 Views on marriage and family, by marital status: 15th Survey (2015)
(Never-married women and married women, 18-34 years old)



Note: The figures shown are for never-married women and married women (wives of first-marriage couples) aged 18 to 34. The values denote proportion of the total of responses "Absolutely agree (disagree)" and "Agree (disagree) to some extent," as the proportion of subjects supporting traditional views using the proportion of subjects who chose "Agree" for items (1), (2), (4), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10) and (13), and "Disagree" for items (3), (5), (11) and (12). Number of cases: never-married women (2,570); Married women (1,296)

[Glossary]

Love marriage/arranged marriage

Love marriage and arranged marriage in this survey report are defined by how and where couples meet. Couples who answered "at school," "at the workplace or through work," "childhood friend/neighbor," "through various regular activities (sports, music, hobbies, etc. outside school) or an adult education class," "through friends or siblings," "around town or during a trip," or "through a part-time job" to questions on the ways/places they meet are classified as love marriage. Those who replied "arranged marriage" or "through marriage match-making agencies" are classified as an arranged marriage.

Completed number of children

The number of children a couple has at the point when sufficient time has elapsed after getting married and they no longer continue having children is called the completed number of children, and the fertility level at this point is called the completed fertility. In the case of Japan, couples seldom have additional children after 15 years have passed after getting married. Thus, in this survey report, the average number of children born to couples who have been married for 15 to 19 years is used to indicate the completed number of children.

Change in employment status of wife before and after getting married

In this survey report, changes in the working status of the wife before and after the marriage are de-fined as follows:

Continuous employment: employed when marriage decision was made and also employed immediately after marriage

Cessation of employment upon marriage: employed when marriage decision was made and unemployed immediately after marriage

Employment after marriage: unemployed when marriage decision was made and employed immediately after marriage

Unemployed since before marriage: unemployed when marriage decision was made and un-employed immediately after marriage

Change in employment status of wife before and after giving birth

In this survey report, change in the working status of the wife before and after giving birth is de-fined as follows for couples for whom each of the first to third children is 1 year old or older:

Continuous employment (using child-care leave): employed when finding out about pregnancy, took child-care leave, and employed when the child was one year old

Continuous employment (not using child-care leave): employed when finding out about pregnancy, employed at the time the child was one year old, without taking child-care leave

Cessation of employment upon becoming pregnant: employed when finding out about pregnancy and unemployed at the time the child was one year old

Unemployed since before becoming pregnant: unemployed when finding out about pregnancy and unemployed at the time the child was one year old

Work history of wife

In this survey report, the wife's work history is defined as follows for couples whose first child is 1 year old or older:

Continuous employment type: employed when marriage decision was made, employed when the first child became 1 year old, employed at the time of the survey

Return-to-work type: employed when marriage decision was made, unemployed when the first child became 1 year old, employed at the time of the survey

Full-time housewife type: employed when marriage decision was made, unemployed when the first child became 1 year old, unemployed at the time of the survey

This survey result is also available on the Department of Population Dynamics Research, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research's website.
The website also contains tables showing detailed figures.

(Research result webpage URL) *PC version site

http://www.ipss.go.jp/ps-doukou/j/doukou15/doukou15_gaiyo.asp

