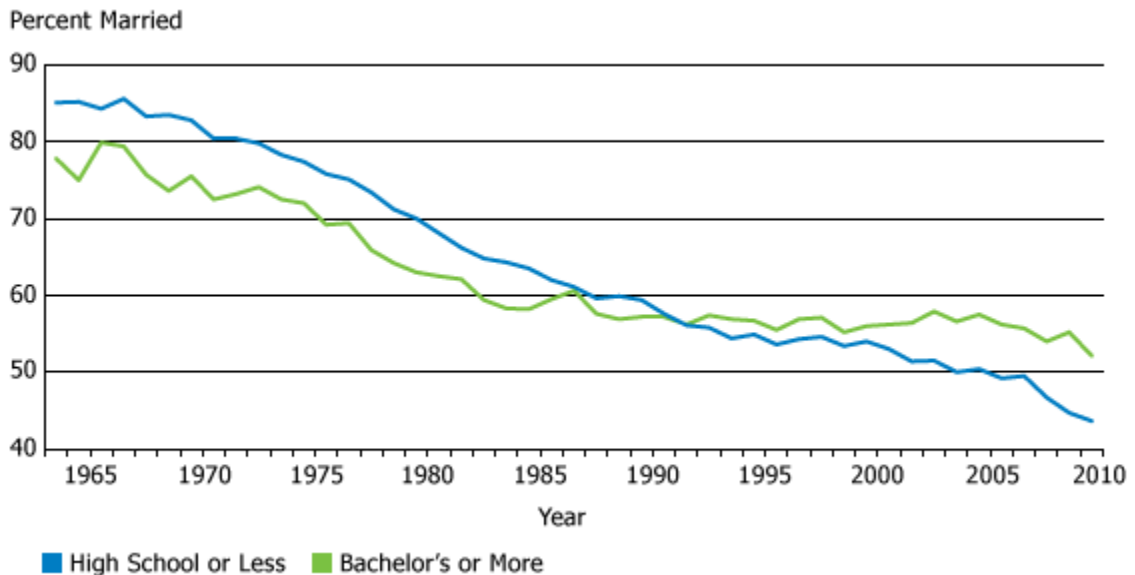


Marriage Trends Among American Adults

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Quarter /'kwɔːrtər/ (Noun) One of four equal parts.
Example: She ate a quarter of the pizza and saved the rest for later.
2. Census /'sɛnsəs/ (Noun) An official count or survey of a population.
Example: The government conducts a census every ten years to gather information about the country's residents.
3. Unmarried /ʌn'mærɪd/ (Adjective) Not having a spouse or partner.
Example: Many young adults today choose to remain unmarried until they are financially stable.
4. Adult /'ædʌlt/ (Noun) A fully grown person who is no longer a child.
Example: When you turn 18, you legally become an adult and can vote in elections.
5. Stable /'steɪbl/ (Adjective) Firm, steady, and not likely to change or collapse.
Example: After years of hard work, she finally has a stable job and a comfortable life.



A **quarter** of Americans aged 40 have never been married, according to 2021 data from the US **Census** Bureau — the highest number since records began. The number of unmarried American 40-year-olds has been increasing for a while. In 1980, just 6% of 40-year-olds were **unmarried**, but the number has increased by around 5% every 10 years since.

The report, which was done by the Pew Research Center, found that 40-year-old men are more likely than women to be unmarried. It also found that 33% of those with only a high school education were unmarried, compared with 18% of 40-year-olds with a university degree.

It might be that Americans' views on marriage have changed. People used to think of marriage as the first step to becoming an **adult**. People got married young, and it was thought of as a way to start a family and build a **stable** life.

But now marriage is something people might do after they have already achieved some success in their lives. They might want to have a certain amount of money, or have a good career before they get married.

A 2022 survey by the National Marriage Project also found the average age at which Americans first get married has increased. In 1970, the average age at which people first got married was 23 for men, and 21 for women. But by 2021, this increased to about 30 for men, and 28 for women.

DISCUSSION

1. What role does financial stability play in people's decisions about when to get married and start a family?
2. How do cultural and religious beliefs shape attitudes towards marriage and influence individuals' choices regarding marital status?
3. What are some potential benefits and challenges of long-term relationships without formal marriage, and how do different cultures view such relationships?
4. How do changing economic conditions and societal expectations impact the timing and nature of relationships and marriages?
5. How do family and peer influences affect individuals' decisions about marriage and their perceptions of its importance?