Family Demography

1) What is family demography or demography of families?

2) Nuptiality
   a. Marriage, Divorce, Cohabitation (?)

3) Family structure, living arrangements
   (& changes therein)
AMERICAN FAMILIES: 1900 UNTIL TODAY

- Increase in premarital sex and divorce, delayed marriage
- Drop in birth rate
- New, rebellious youth culture
- Growing economic independence of women
- Shift in marriage from economic partnership to companionship and emotional satisfaction
- Increase in privacy among family members
  - Rise of individualism beginning
  - Birthrate decline
  - Adult life expectancy increased
  - More apartments were built for independent living
UNIQUE FAMILY ERAS:

THE GREAT DEPRESSION
- Delays in marriage & childlessness
- 1 in 5 never had children (1 in 10 norm)
  - Divorce rate fell because people could not afford it.

WORLD WAR II
- People marry and reproduce as soon as economic circumstances permit. (Norman Ryder)
Unique Family Eras: Post War Baby Boom

• Early Marriage
  – Typical age at first marriage: 20 for women and 23 for men

• Fertility Increase
  – Baby Boom: Total Fertility Rate reached a high of 3.6
    Due to
    • Earlier Age of Childbearing,
    • Make-up Fertility of Depression and WW II generations
    • More Children, higher birth order
The second demographic transition: definition

- Below replacement fertility (at least in Europe)
- Package of associated family behaviors
- Debate
- Posited explanations
  - Changes in economic circumstances – esp. women
  - Value change – individuation, self-fulfillment
The Second Demographic Transition

• Phase I. (Beginning in the 1960’s)
  – Upward Divorce Trend Accelerated
  – Fertility Decline
  – Delay of Marriage (Foregone?)

• Phase II (1970-1985)
  – Premarital Cohabitation
  – Non marital Childbearing

• Phase III (mid 1980s and beyond)?
  – Divorce Plateau?
  – Post 30 Fertility Recuperation (in some countries)?
Proportion of marriages begun in each year that will end in divorce, 1867 to 1985.

Source: Cherlin (1992, Figure 1-6)
Figure 2.1
Percentage never married among men and women aged 20 to 24
AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE

Figure 1. Median Age at Marriage, 1890–2002

Trends in Fertility Rates

Total Fertility Rates

- 1800
- 1820
- 1840
- 1860
- 1880
- 1900
- 1920
- 1940
- 1960
- 1980
- 1997
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Cohabitation, international comparison

Percent of women cohabiting prior to marriage by age 25
PERCENT POPULATION 20-29 NEVER MARRIED, BY SEX AND RACE

Source: DHHS (1995, Figure III-6)
Premarital Cohabitation – Trends
Proportion of newlyweds who cohabited prior to marriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Marriage</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1965-74</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-79</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-84</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-89</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-94</td>
<td>56</td>
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Divorce Rate, Per 1,000 Married Women 15+
Proportion of marriages begun in each year that will end in divorce, 1867 to 1985.

Source: Cherlin (1992, Figure 1-6)
OTHER MAJOR CHANGES IN THE U.S. FAMILY OVER THE PAST 40 (+) YEARS

• More sex outside of marriage
• More remarriage/stepfamilies
The Second Demographic Transition

• Changes in family in US generally not unique
  – Increases in marital disruption, cohabitation, age at marriage, and nonmarital childbearing are widely shared across industrialized societies.

• US distinct among industrialized societies
  – Highest divorce rates.
  – Highest share of single (non cohabiting) mothers with children
    • 50% of all births are non marital in Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland, but most are in cohabiting unions. U.S. has higher percent of births outside unions.
    • US’s higher divorce rate, and lower rates of cohabitation
PROPORTION OF ALL BIRTHS THAT ARE NONMARITAL, 1960-2000

Percent of Births


Iceland  Sweden  USA  Austria  Norway  UK  Hungary  Italy  Japan
Explanations of the Second Demographic Transition:

- Continuation of Long Term Secular Trends Going On for Over a Century in the West
- Anchored in Individuating and Atomizing Forces
  - Changes in culture
  - Industrialization and market economy
- Other Structural Forces
- Potential Feedback Loops
Changes in Culture Behind the Second Demographic Transition

- Rising Individualism: Legitimacy of “self-interest” as criteria for decision-making
- Consumerism: Increasing material aspirations
- Weakening of normative imperatives governing family life
- Secularization of culture and family life
- Less moral stigma
- Women’s movement
- The sexual revolution
PERCENT DISAGREEING WITH MEASURES OF FAMILY ATTITUDES

Source: Thornton (1989, Tables 1, 3, 4)
Other Structural Changes Behind the Second Demographic Transition

- Education Trends
- Technological innovation in birth control
- Political
  - Legalization of Abortion (1973)
  - Divorce Laws
Economic Changes Behind the Second Demographic Transition

- Decline in family functions with Industrialization

- Women’s economic independence
  - Employment and wages
  - Delay marriage and fertility to establish careers
  - Welfare

- Men’s deteriorating economic prospects
  - Major economic restructuring. Loss of manufacturing jobs in urban centers.
    - High unemployment rates (men over 20, Jan. 2004): whites=4.5%; blacks=9.6%
    - Men’s declining wages
Participation in the Labor Force by Married Women

The graph shows the participation rate of married women in the labor force from 1950 to 2002. The rates are categorized by whether or not the husband has children under 18, with children 6–17, under 6, or all married women. The graph indicates an increasing trend for all categories over time.