statistics of marriage

fewer people are marrying than ever before, lowest since 1920

people are marrying later

more people remarrying

50.6% over the age og 16 get married

40% of marriages end in divorce

the average length of marriages in the US is 7-8 years

in 2012 one third of marriages were remarr-iages

couples are now less likely to marry in a church in 1981 60% of marriages took places in a religious ceremony but now in 2012 it has dropped to 30%

Key words

divorce	the legal ending of a marriage by a court
cohabit	living with someone your in a relationship with but not married
house wife	where the woman main role is to care for the family and keep the house clean
breadw inners	the person who brings home the money to support their family financially (traditionally the male)

reasons for changing patterns of marriage

fewer people are marrying - due to the secularization, decline in stigma about getting married

people marrying later - more people want to spend time in education

re-marrying - increase in divorce = increase in re-marrying

church wedding - couples less likely to marry in church - secularisation

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why do people marry

most people marry because of love and companionship

90% of those who are married and 73% of those living with a partner say love was a major factor in their decision

want to make a formal commitment, it made sense financially, wanted to test the relati-onship, it was convenient for them or they or their partner were pregnant

what effect marriage has on society

marriage enhances the ability to become a parent

married people are more likely to give and receive support from their parents

higher quality of parent and child relati-onship

children with happy married parents tend to do better in school

married households work, earn and save at higher rate than other households

sociological arguments on marriage

feminists	would see declining marriages as a good thing, because traditional marriages are patriarchal and oppress women
new rights / functiona-lists	marriage is used for primary socialisation, stable home
post modernists	the decline of marriage and increase in divorce reflects where individual choice is central to life

Marriage trends

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