

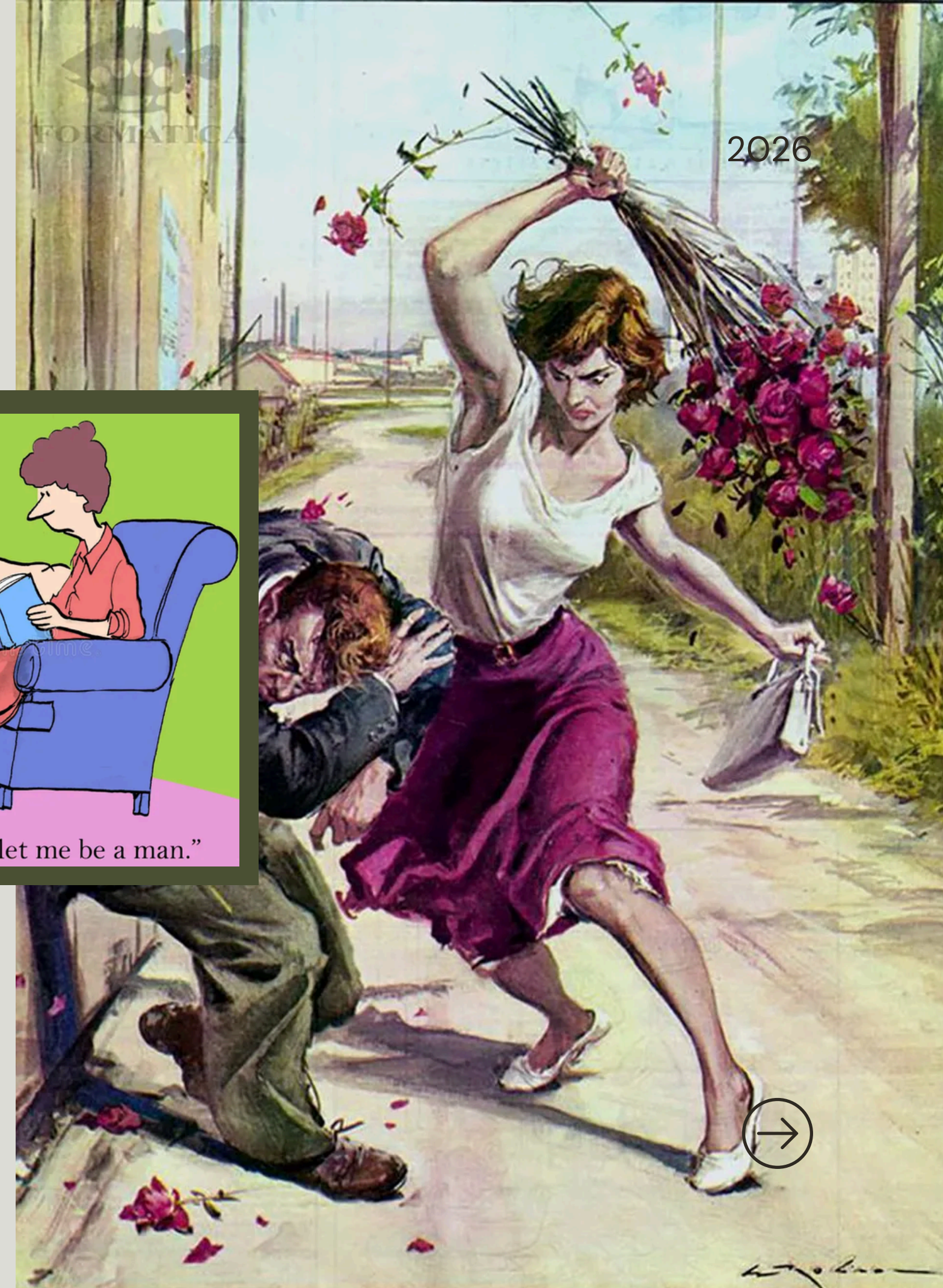
THE FEMALE REJECTION OF
MARRIAGE & MOTHERHOOD
FOR INDEPENDENCE.



IDENTIFYING CULTURAL SHIFTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Currently, there is a lot of tension between men and women as gender roles and expectations have become blurred over time. Through feminist efforts and the invention of birth control, women are now choosing to seek out higher education and powerful careers. Women have become disillusioned by the classic power structures of marriage and motherhood, choosing rather to stay single or abstinent. There is this ever growing sentiment that having a man in your life often times ruins it. Or that in order to be in a healthy, heterosexual relationship, women often have to sacrifice more of themselves than the man does. This is a sort of rebellion against the expected emotional and physical labor women take on when they become wives and mothers. It is also a reaction to economic pessimism and environmental concerns. It is now more acceptable than ever for a woman to say she has no plans on getting married or having children until she can find a partner who is truly her equal.



HEADLINES

Men? Maybe Not.

The election made clear that America's gender divide is stark.
What's a heterosexual woman to do?

OPINION

Is Having a Boyfriend Embarrassing Now?

BY CHANTÉ JOSEPH

October 29, 2025

The Trouble With Wanting Men

Women are so fed up with dating men that the phenomenon even has a name: heterofatalism. So what do we do with our desire?

Shall I Be Mother?

Difficult moms in the news, a taxonomy of bad moms in fiction



TELL THE BEES

OCT 07, 2025

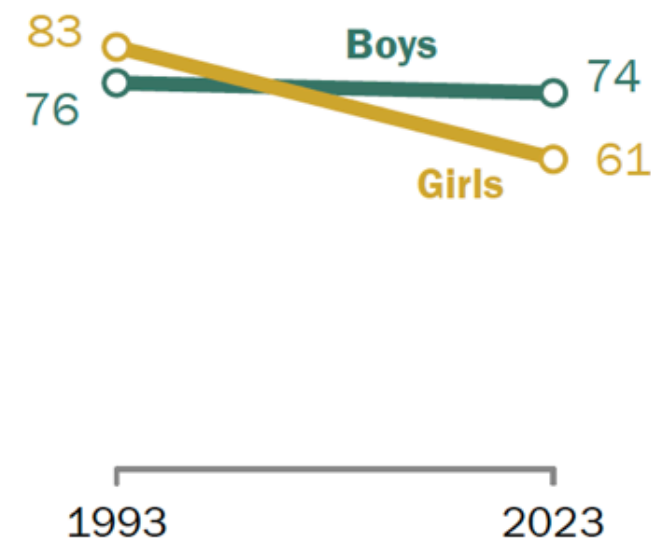
Why Aren't More People Marrying? Ask Women What Dating Is Like.

Nov. 11, 2023

RESEARCH

Girls are now less likely than boys to say they want to get married

% of 12th graders saying they are most likely to **choose to get married** in the long run



Note: 12th graders who say they are already married (<0.5%) are excluded from this analysis.

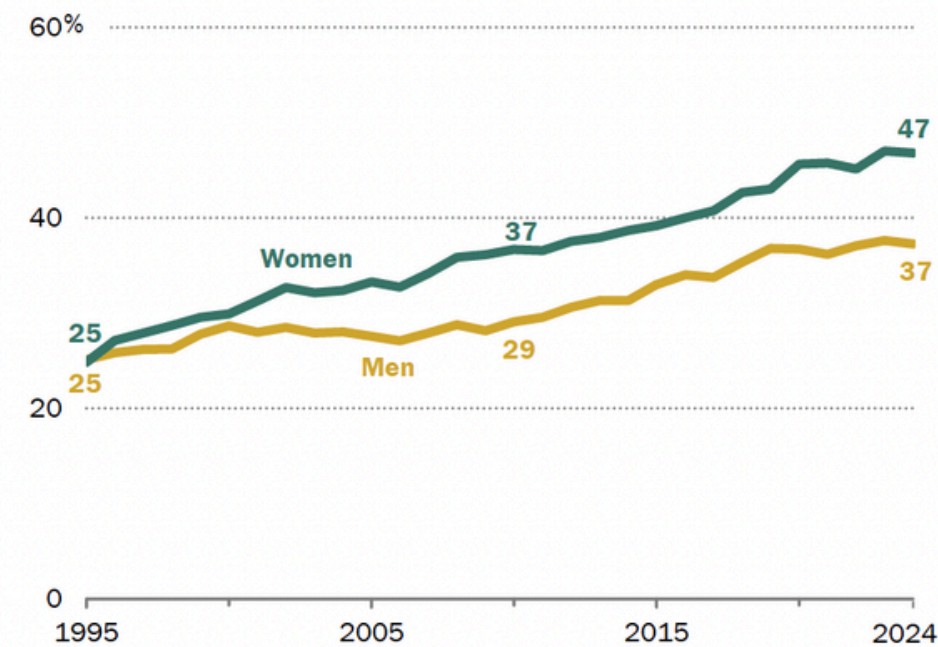
Source: Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of American Youth (12th-Grade Survey), 1993 and 2023.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

12th Grade Girls are Less Likely to Say they want to get married.

U.S. women have outpaced men in bachelor's degree completion for decades

% of 25- to 34-year-olds with a bachelor's degree



Note: Values are labeled for 1995, 2010 and 2024.

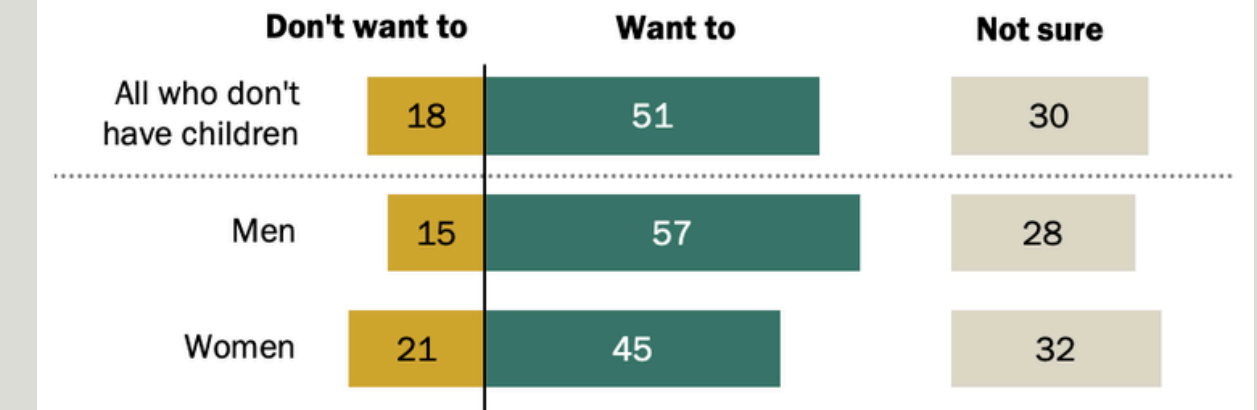
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1995-2024 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (IPUMS).

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Women are More Highly Educated than Men.

Young men without children are more likely than young women to say they want to be parents someday

Among young adults who **do not have children**, % saying they ___ have children someday

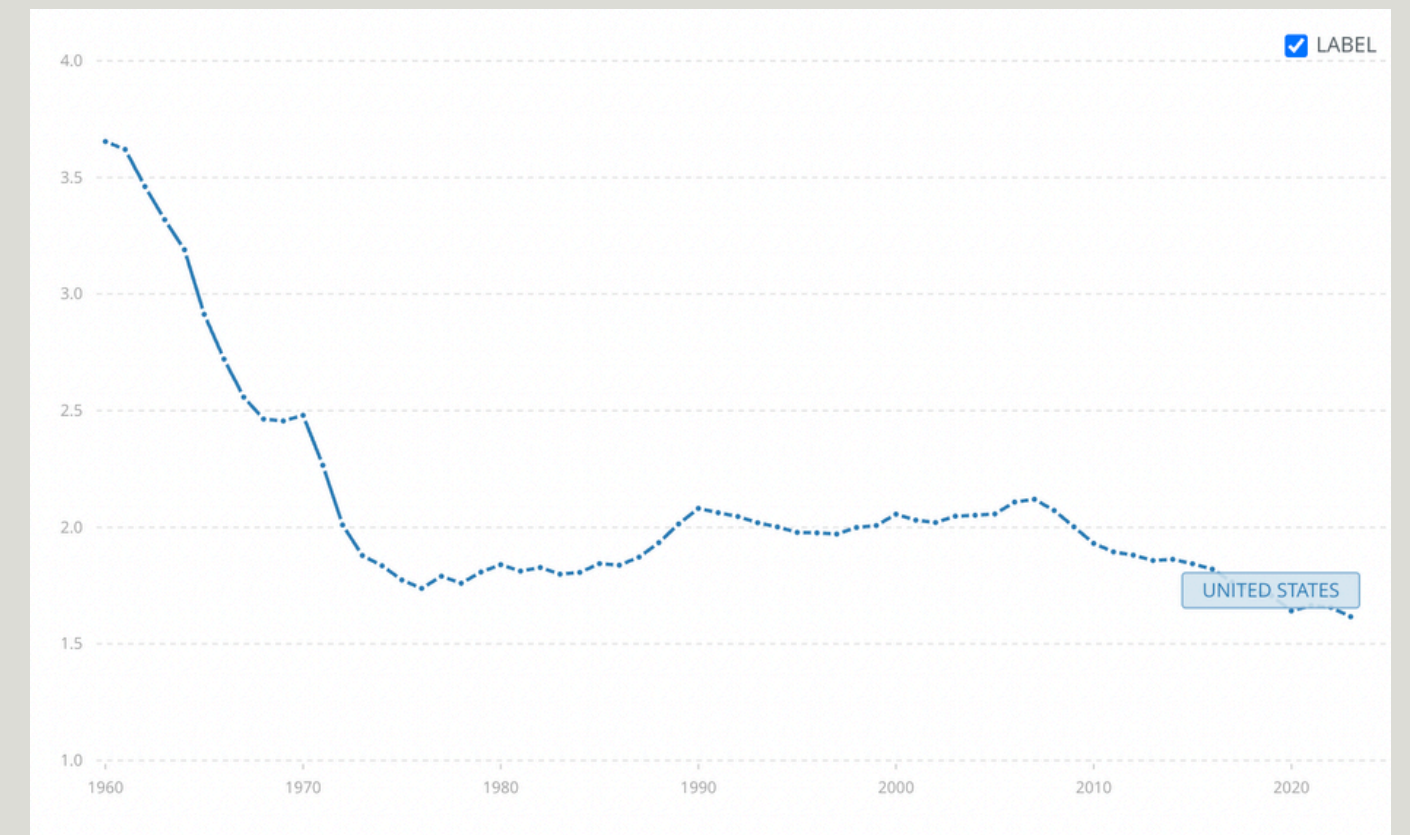


Note: Young adults include those ages 18 to 34 who have a living parent. Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. young adults conducted Oct. 24-Nov. 5, 2023.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

More Men than Women Want to be Parents



The US Fertility Rate is Currently 1.6 (Births per Women)

WHY IT MATTERS

This data all supports that women no longer totally buy into the idea of a perfect man or marriage. This completely reframes how women evaluate their own lives and what they prioritize. Success is defined by individual achievement: education, career advancement, strong community, financial independence, and personal fulfillment. They expect relationships to add to their lives, not complete them. There's now permission to say "I'm better off alone than in a bad relationship," which is raising female relationship expectations in a way that men haven't had dealt with historically.

