Family Facts
from the National Survey of Family Growth

Since 1973, the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) has been the premier source of high quality data on a wide range of important topics related to family formation, fertility, and reproductive health. Here are some examples of data collected by the study the last time it was conducted in 2011-2015.

Current Use of Contraception

The most popular methods of contraception used by women aged 15-44 in the U.S. were the pill, female sterilization, and the condom.

Marriage and Cohabitation

The percentage of women 15-44 who are currently in their first marriage has gone down over the past several decades, from 40% in 1995 to 36% in 2011-2015. Over that same period of time, a higher percentage of women were cohabiting – 7% in 1995 increasing to 13% in 2011-2015.

Usual source of care

15% of women and 30% of men do not have a place where they usually go when they are sick or need advice about health.
Number of Biological Children

Among men 40-44 years old, 20% have not fathered any children and 29% have fathered 3 or more children. Among women 40-44 years old, 15% have not had any children and 34% have given birth to 3 or more children.

Fathers’ Living Arrangements with Their Children

75% of fathers live with all of their children aged 18 or younger, 14% do not live with any of their children and 10% live with some and not others.

Breastfeeding

More than 75% of babies born in 2011 through 2013 were breastfed to some extent. 57% were breastfed for 3 months or longer.