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## FP-13-17 Age Variation in the Remarriage Rate, 1990-2011

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# Age Variation in the Remarriage Rate, 1990-2011

Susan L. Brown & I-Fen Lin

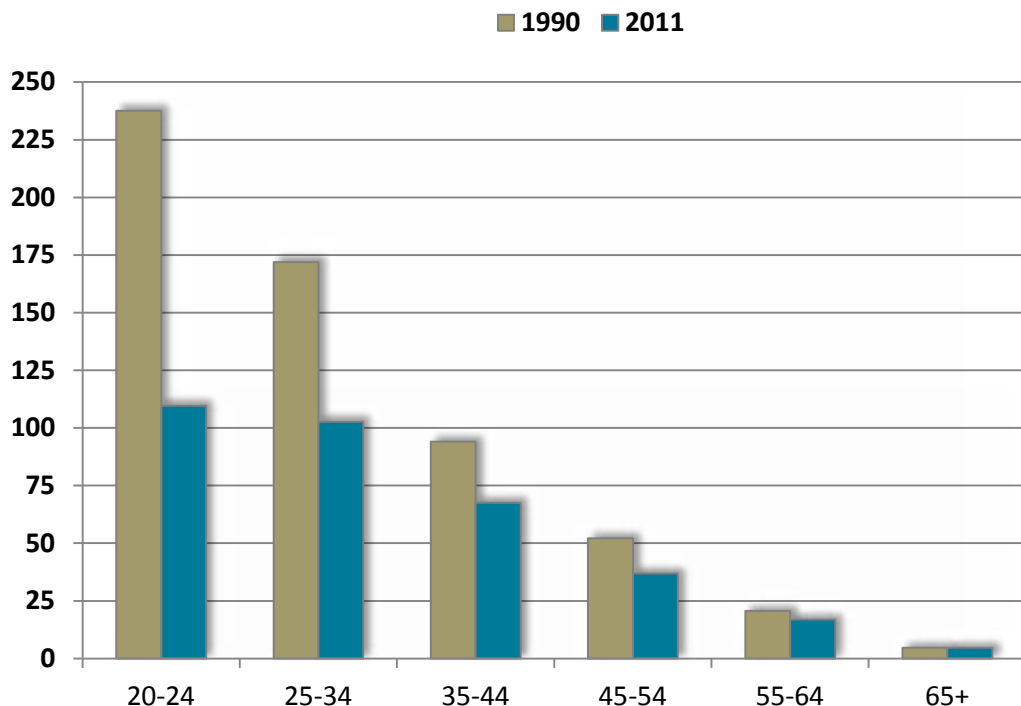
The remarriage rate in the U.S. has fallen dramatically over the past 20 years. In 1990, the remarriage rate was 50 per 1,000 previously marrieds (i.e., divorced or widowed) versus 29.4 per 1,000 in 2011 (see [FP-12-14 Remarriage Rate in the U.S., 2010](#)). Although this represents roughly a 40% decline in the overall remarriage rate, the magnitude of the change over time varies considerably by age group. Combining data from the 1990 U.S. Vital Statistics and the 2011 American Community Survey, this profile documents the change in the remarriage rate between 1990 and 2011 by 10-year age groups<sup>1</sup>.

## Remarriage Rates

In general, remarriage declines with age. The rate of the decline across different age groups is greater in 1990 than in 2011. The range of the remarriage rates across age groups has narrowed over the past 20 years.

- The drop in the remarriage rate is largest at the youngest ages.
  - Among those ages 20-24, the remarriage rate declined by 54% from 237.5 to 109.5 per 1,000 previously marrieds between 1990 and 2011.
  - For those ages 25-34, the remarriage rate fell by about 40% (from 171.9 to 102.5 per 1,000).
- At older ages, the remarriage rate has remained relatively stable over the past two decades.
  - The remarriage rate for previously marrieds ages 55-64 was 20.5 in 1990 and 16.9 in 2011.
  - Among previously marrieds ages 65 and older, the remarriage rate was unchanged at 4.6 per 1,000 in 1990 and 2011.

Figure 1. Remarriage Rates by 10-Year Age Groups



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, VitalStats, 1990 and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

<sup>1</sup>The youngest age group consists of only 5 years, ages 20-24, because the remarriage rate for people ages 15-19 is not available in the 1990 Vital Statistics.

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## Remarriage Rates by Gender

The trends in remarriage are more pronounced among men than women. Although the remarriage rate has declined over time regardless of gender, the decrease has been larger among men. At the youngest ages, women have higher remarriage rates than men. By age 25, men's remarriage rate exceeds that of women.

- The remarriage rate has declined among men for all age groups. Even for men 55-64, the decline is notable, with the remarriage rate falling 42% from 45.2 to 26.3 per 1,000.
- Among women, the remarriage rate has declined for those under age 45. For women over age 45, the remarriage rate has remained steady since 1990.
- In 1990, men had higher remarriage rates than women at every age group beginning at age 25.
- In 2011, men's higher remarriage rate compared with women lasted only through middle age. Men and women over age 45 have quite similar remarriage rates in 2011.
- The gender gap in the remarriage rate has narrowed in the past 20 years for all age groups except those 20-24. The reduction is especially large for people ages 45-64.

Figure 2. Remarriage Rates by 10-Year Age Groups, Men Only

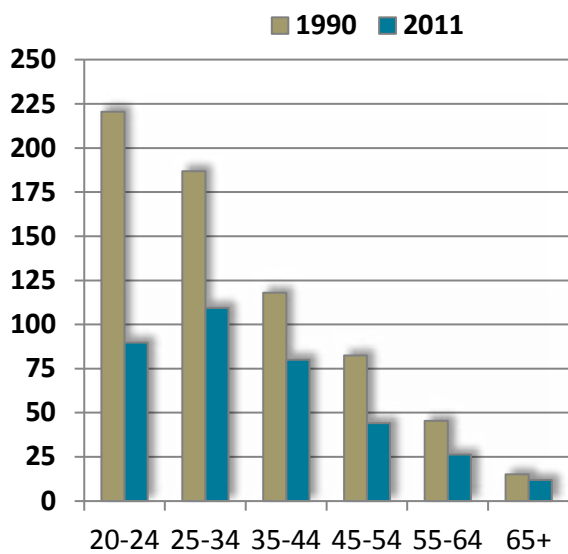
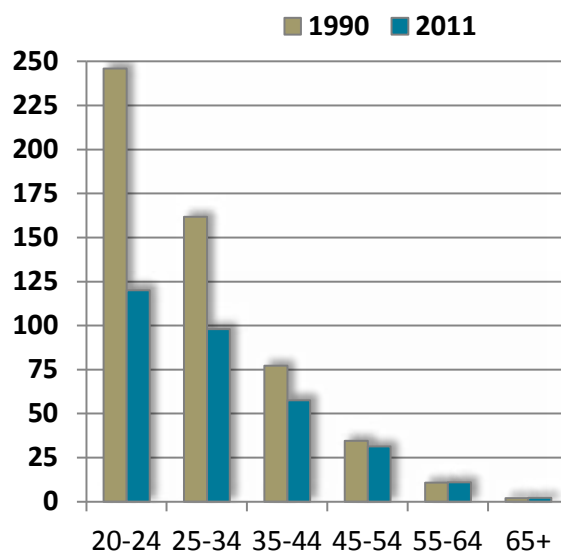


Figure 3. Remarriage Rates by 10-Year Age Groups, Women Only



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, VitalStats, 1990 and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

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