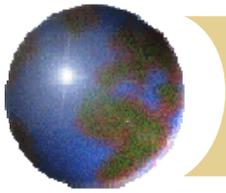


**Bigamy is having one spouse too many.**

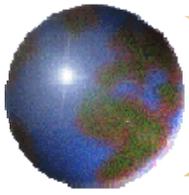
**- Monogamy is the same.**

**Source: Oscar Wilde *Happiness***



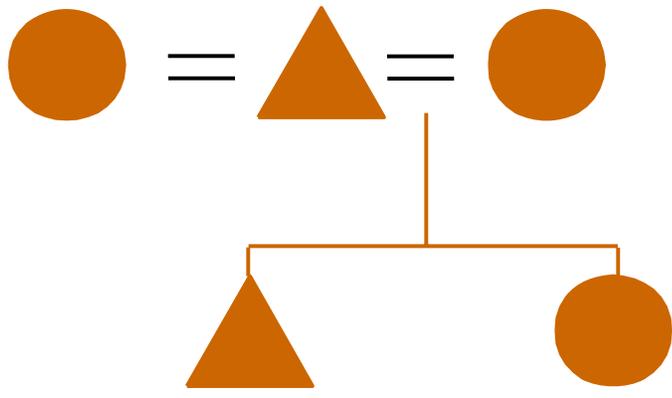
## Murdock's Functions of the Family

- Nuclear family satisfies sexual needs and diminishes the disruptive force of sexual competition;
- Protects the female during her relatively long pregnancy and during months and years of lactation;
- Essential for child rearing and enculturation; and
- Leads to a sexual division of labor which makes subsistence more efficient

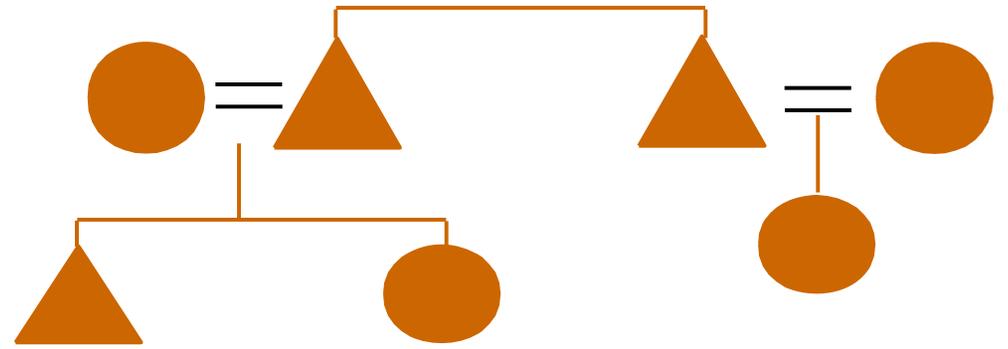


# Basic Family Forms

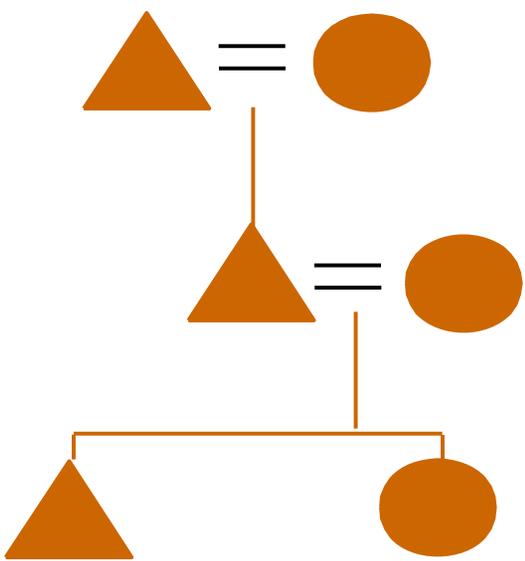
polygynous



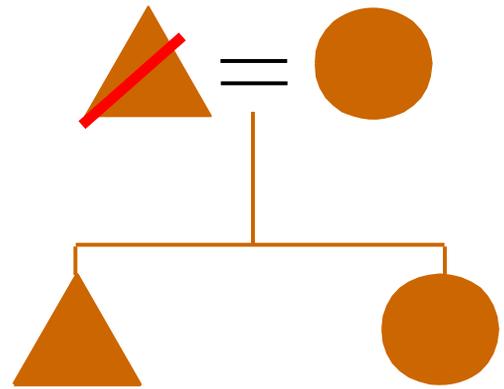
joint - 2 couples of same generation

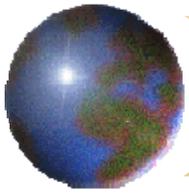


stem - 3 generations



matrifocal

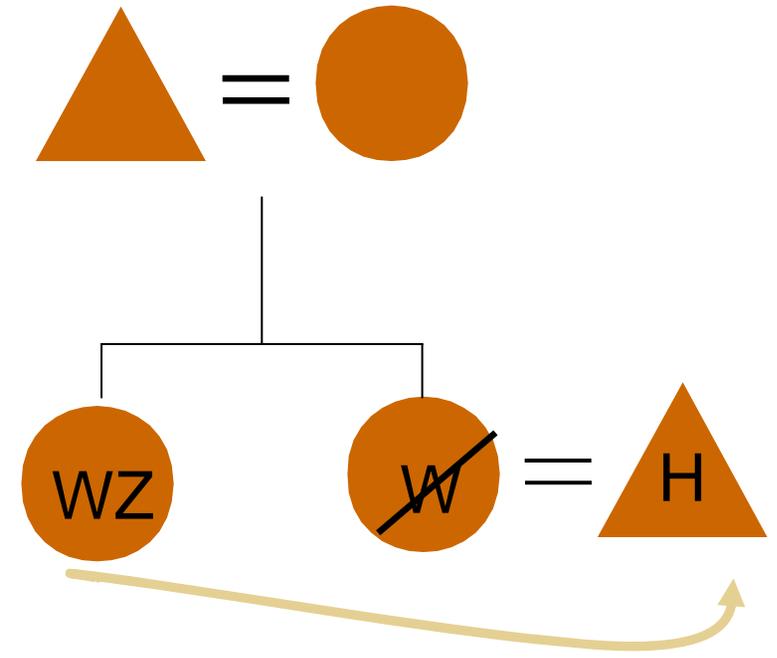
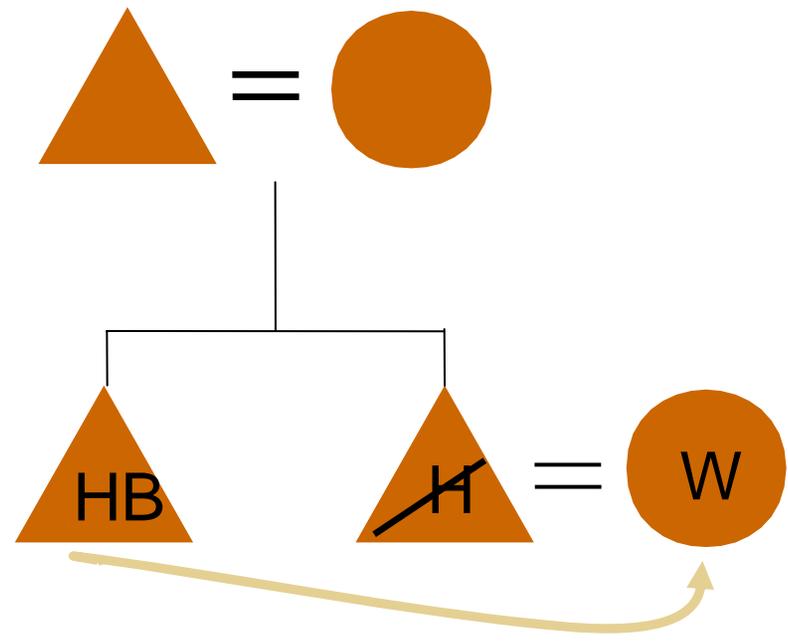


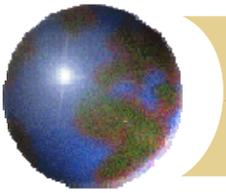


# Levirate and Sororate Marriages

**Levirate:** if a woman's husband dies, she must marry her dead husband's brother

**Sororate:** if a man's wife dies, he marries his dead wife's sister





# *Determinants of Marriage Forms*

## ● **Monogamy**

- Ecologically imposed monogamy
- Socially imposed monogamy

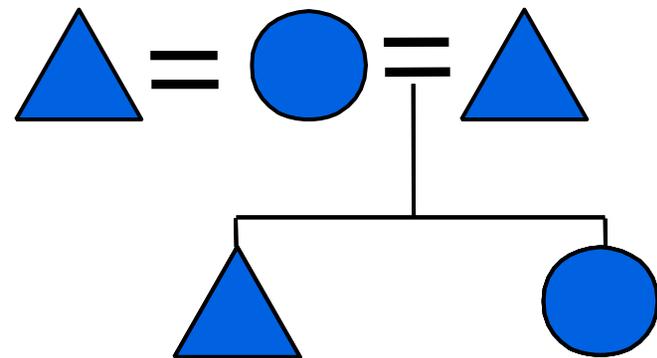
## ● **Polygyny**

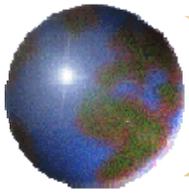
- Resource defense
- Male status

## ● **Polyandry**

## ● **Marriage statistics:**

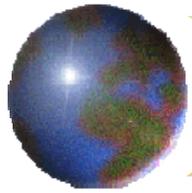
- 83.5% of all societies permit polygyny;
- 16% require monogamy; and
- 0.5% permit polyandry.





## *Explanations of Levirate and Sororate Marriages*

- Maintains a political alliance between two groups
- Provides optimal care for a child who has lost a mother or father



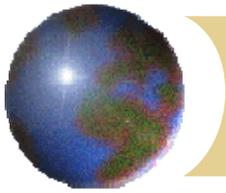
# The "Burden" of Marriage

Cross-culturally marriage has the following minimum attributes:

- ↗ Reproduction and care of children
- ↗ Sexual exclusivity
- ↗ Economic cooperation

In our society we expect much more, such as:

- ↗ love
- ↗ companionship
- ↗ joint recreational activities
- ↗ emotional support
- ↗ career support
- ↗ common social circle



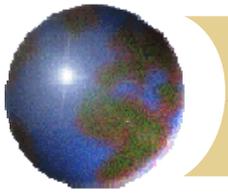
# US Marriage: Changing Cultural Views

## *Traditional*

1. Mandatory economic & political institution
2. Parents could control whom their children could marry
3. Production of children important
4. Husband dominates wife
5. Coverture

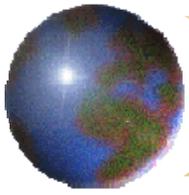
## *Modern*

1. Based on love and the pursuit of happiness
2. Free choice in marriage
3. Production of children optional
4. Co-dominance between spouses
5. Equal economic rights



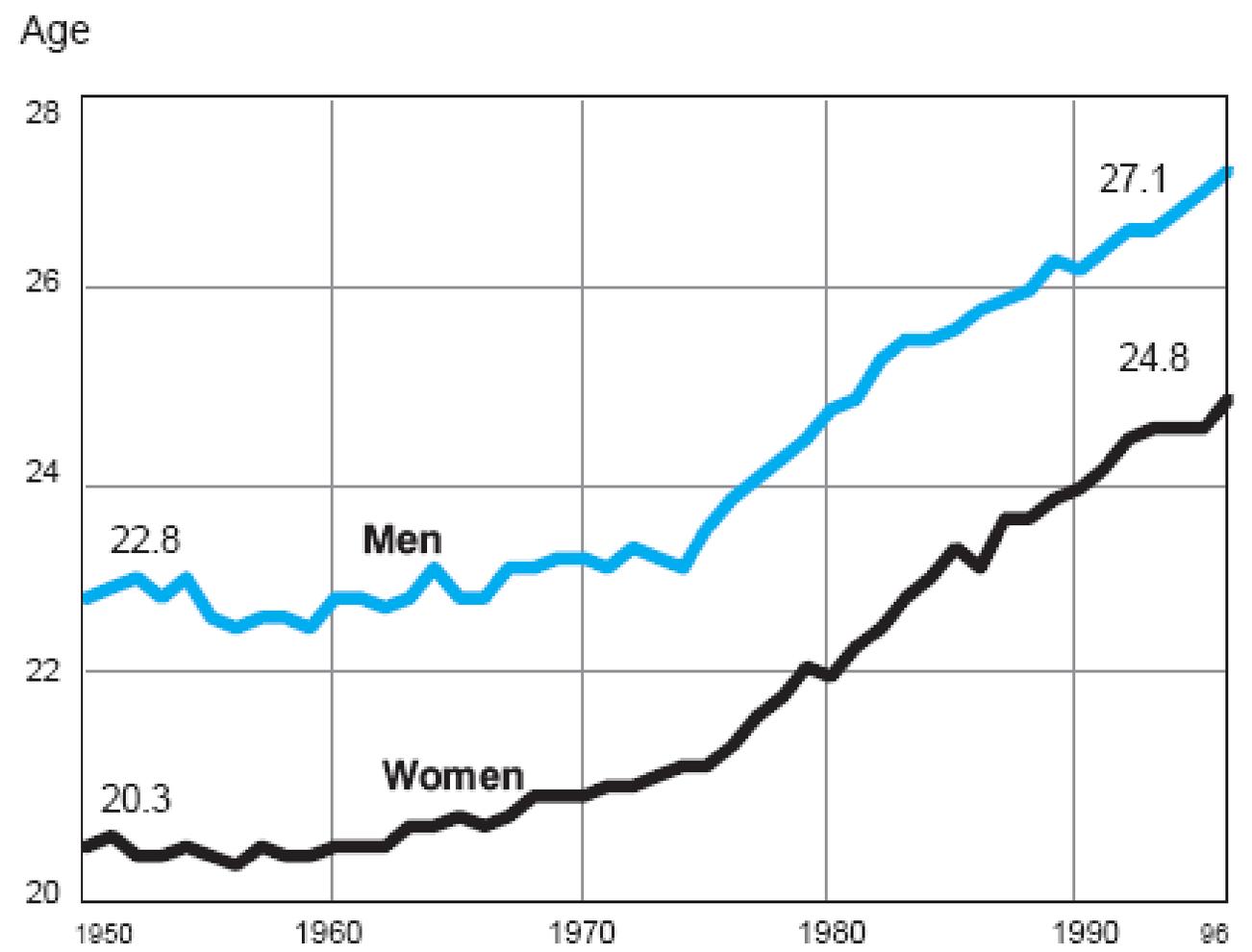
## *Current Trends in US Marriage*

- Later marriage
- Fewer marital births & more non-marital births
- Higher divorce rates
- More children reared by single parents and/or step parents
- Smaller household size
- And the impact of the above and other factors on children

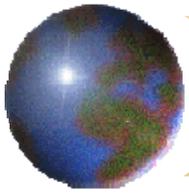


# Marriage is Later

Figure 2.  
**Median Age at First Marriage, by Gender: 1950 to 1996**

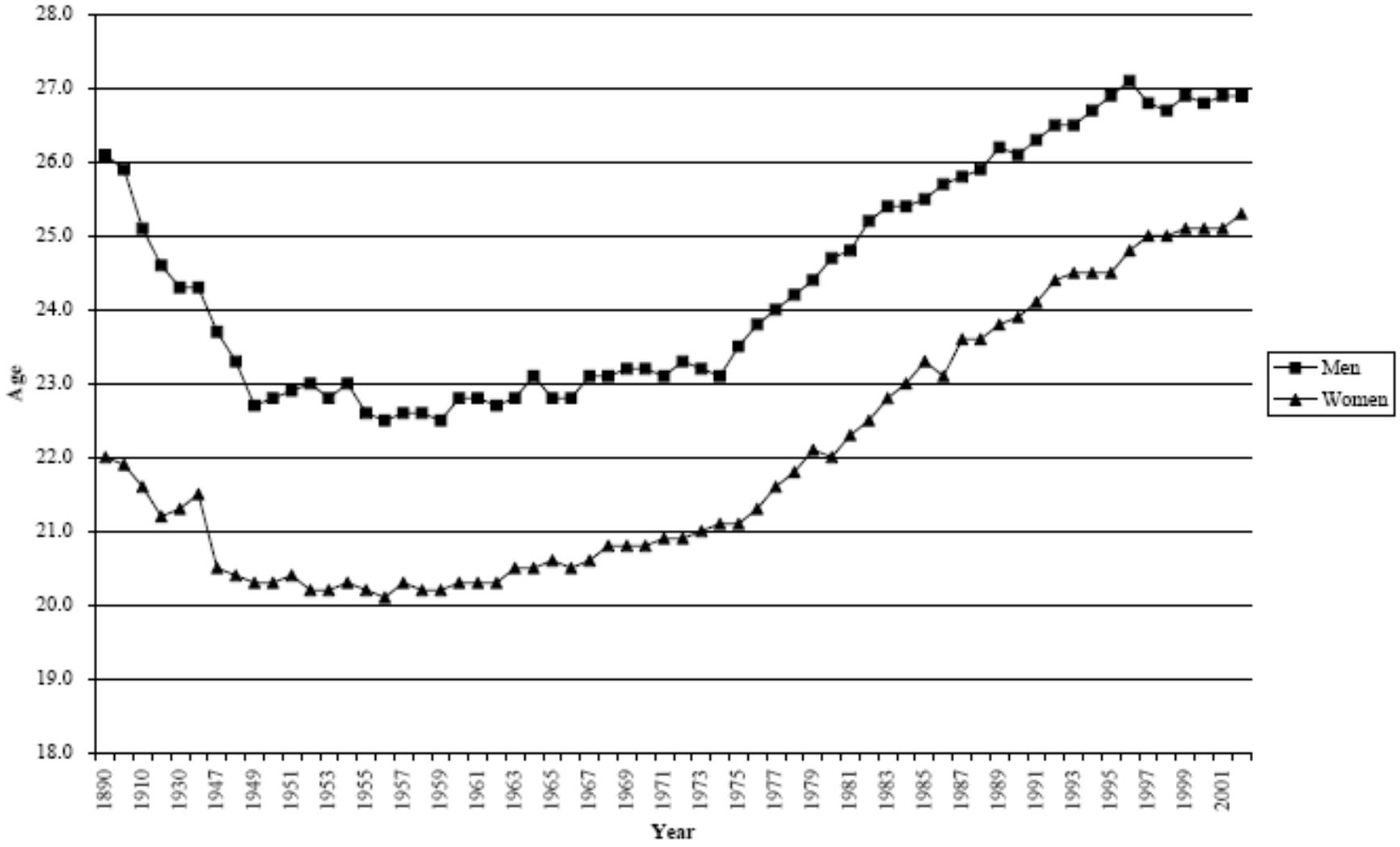


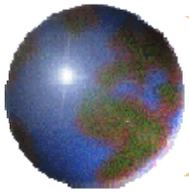
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census



# Or, is it? Median Age at Marriage through a longer time-span (USA)

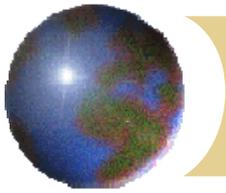
Median Age at First Marriage, 1890-2002





# *Family Demographic Changes*

	<b>1970</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>Change</b>
Marital births	3,332,000	2,693,000	-19%
Non-marital births	399,000	1,249,000	+223%
Women 40-44 never married	5.4%	9.9%	+83%
Men 40-44 never married	7.5%	15.6%	+108%
Single parent families	3,271,000	9,491,000	+190%
Children living with unmarried couples	196,000	1,520,000	+665%
Single mothers who have never married	9.1%	42.2%	+363%

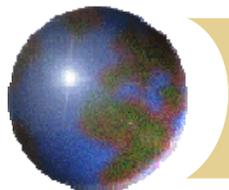


# Children & Parents

Table C.  
**Children by Presence of Parents: 1970 and 1996**  
(Numbers in thousands)

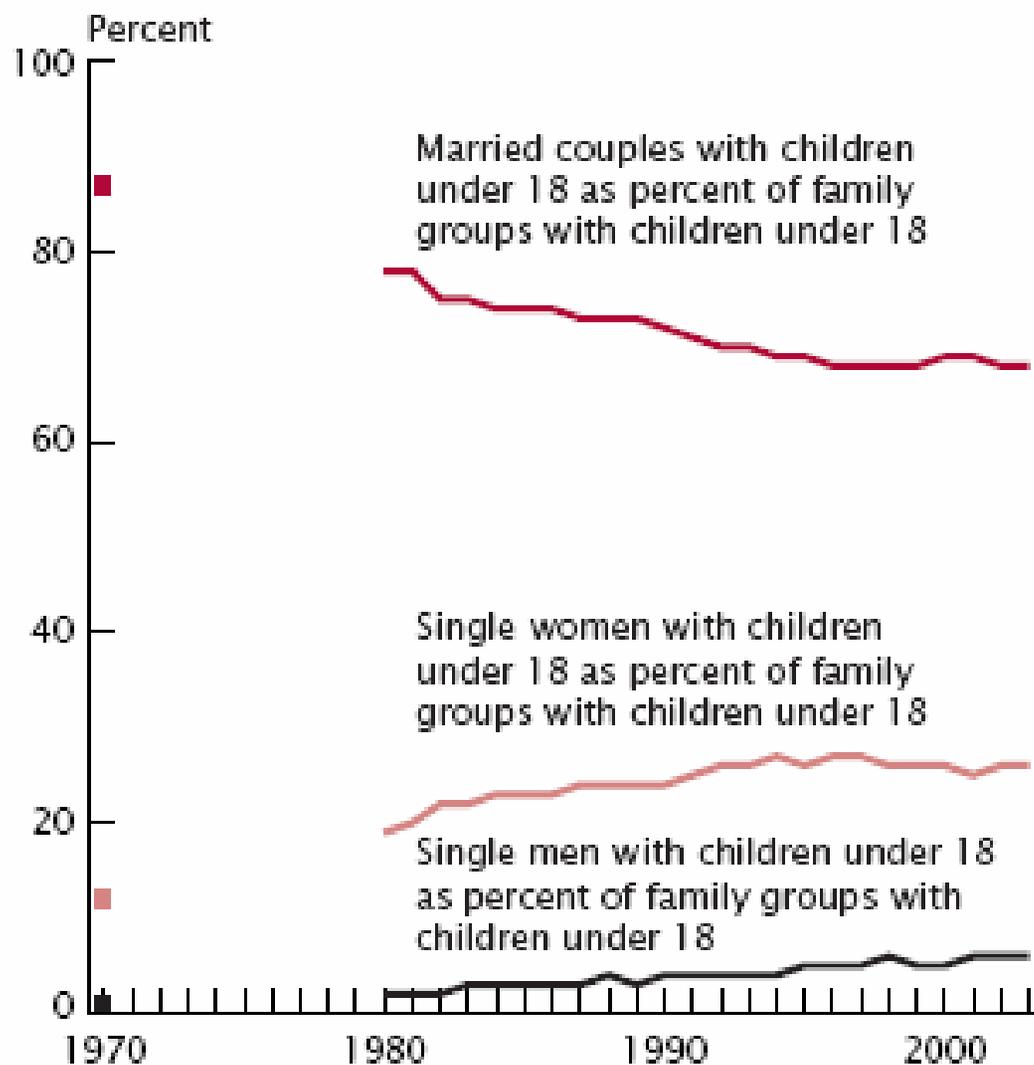
Living arrangements	1996	1970
Children under 18 years .....	70,908	69,162
Percent living with:		
Two parents .....	68.0	85.2
One parent .....	27.9	11.9
Mother only .....	24.0	10.8
Father only .....	3.9	1.1
Neither parent .....	4.1	2.9

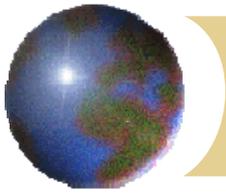
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census



*Current  
Distribution of  
Children by  
Marriage:  
Married  
Couples, Single  
Mother, &  
Single Father*

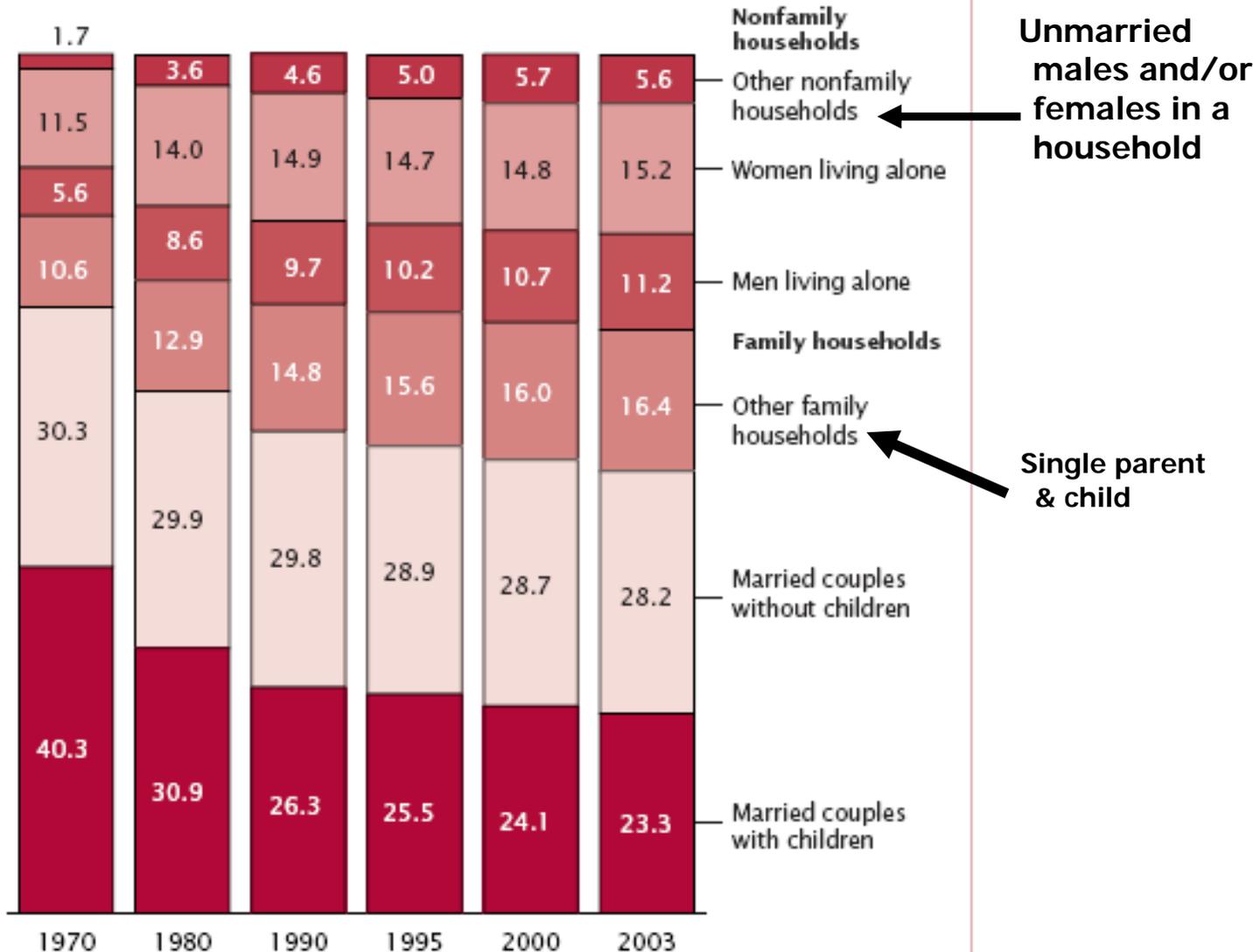
Figure 1.  
**Family Groups with Children by  
Type of Family Group: 1970 to 2003**



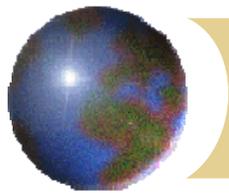


# Overall Household Trends

Figure 2.  
**Households by Type: 1970 to 2003**  
(Percent distribution)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements: 1970 to 2003.

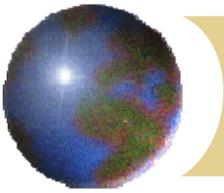


# Family House hold Size

Figure 3.  
**Households by Size: 1970 to 2003**  
(Percent distribution)

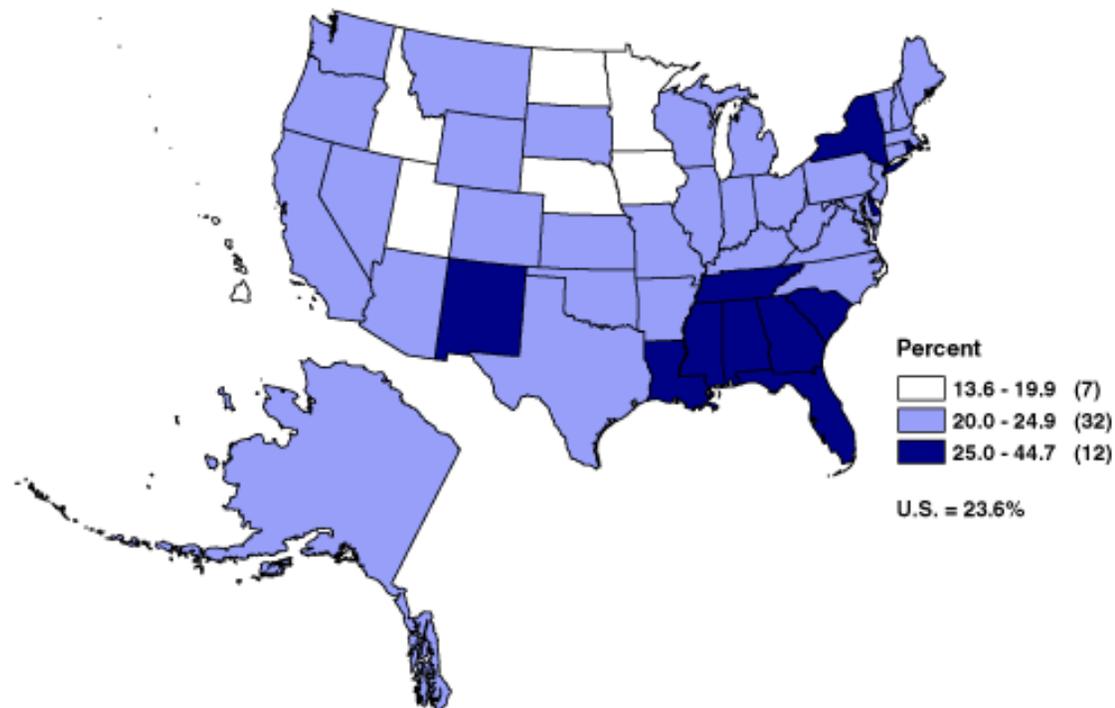


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey; March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements: 1970 to 2003.



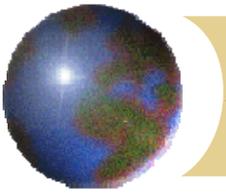
# *Children & Single Parent Families*

Percent of Children Living in Single Parent Families 2000  
United States



Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Regional Economic Information System  
Prepared by: University Outreach and Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis - (OSED)

Map Generated on 5.02.03



## *Consequence of Being Reared without a Father*

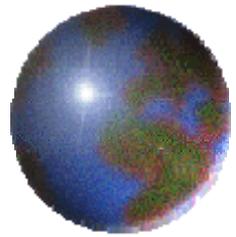
### ● More likely to:

- ❑ not have finished high school
- ❑ be teen mothers
- ❑ have emotional problems
- ❑ suffer abuse and neglect
- ❑ be incarcerated
- ❑ have fewer trips to the doctor
- ❑ be unemployed

● About half of these differences are a consequence of poverty while the rest appears to be lack of two parents in the household

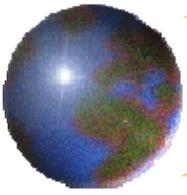
● These difference disappear if mother earns more than \$50,000/year.

- Source: Sara McLanahan and Gary Sandefur. 1994. *Growing Up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

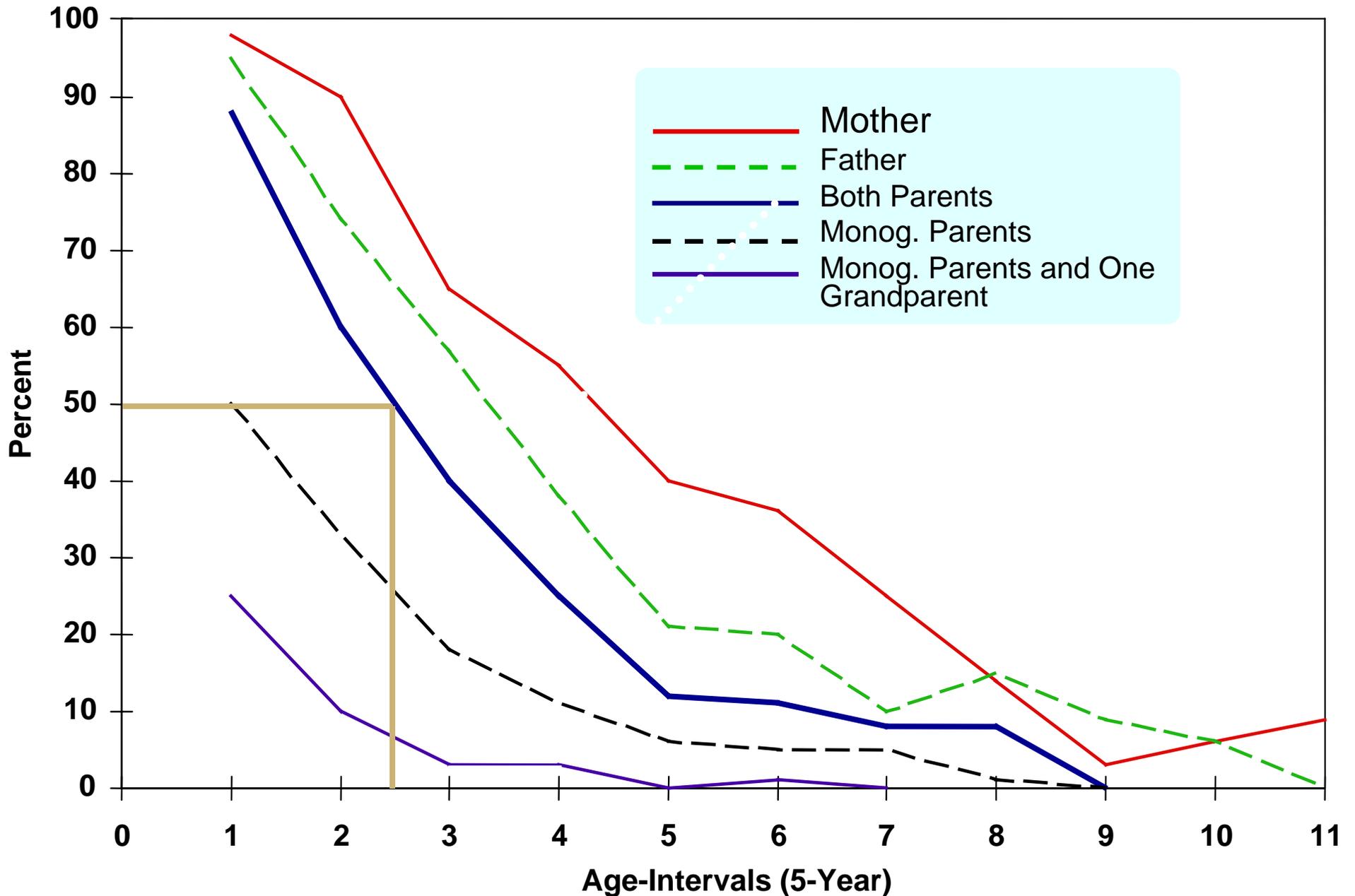


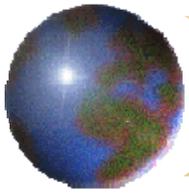
*Are modern marital and  
family trends unusual  
crossculturally?*

Some answers



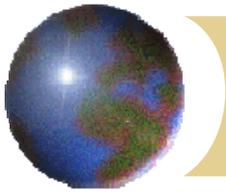
# Decay of the Nuclear Family: Percent By Age of Children With Coresident Parents (n=1,326)





# Causes of Nuclear Family Decay

- ❑ Mortality rate and which is affected by
  - Age differences between spouses
    - ⇒ Husbands are older than wives. The older the husband the more likely a child will lose his father. (In the case of the Yanomamö husbands are 5-8 years older than wives.)
  - Age at marriage
    - ⇒ The younger parents are at the time of marriage the less likely a child will lose a parent
- ❑ Divorce rate



# Tribal Divorce Rates: (Barnes' 'C' Ratio)

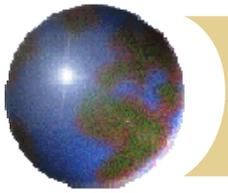
## Notes:

\*Our estimate based on available quantitative data.

\*\*Mean of male and female rates.

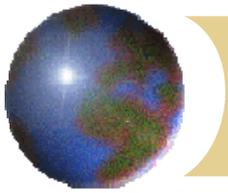
\*\*\*Proportion of divorce rate per 1000 to marriage rate per 1000. Barnes' 'C' ratio is rarely, if ever, calculated for modern societies. Our measures here should very closely match a 'C' ratio.

Group	Rate	Location
Kanuri	64	Africa
Ndembu	61	Africa
Kofyar	*48	Africa
Malaysia (rural)	48	S.E. Asia
Java (rural)	47	S.E. Asia
Yoruba	46	Africa
Konda Valley Dani	45	New Guinea
Luvale	45	Africa
Lamba	42	Africa
Bakweri	42	Africa
Irigwo	*40	Africa
Herero	40	Africa
Gonga	38	Africa
Ngoni (Fort Jameson)	37	Africa
Yao	35	Africa
Soga	*35	Africa
Huli	**33	New Guinea
Raiapu Enga	**33	New Guinea
Ngoni	29	Africa
Elti	29	New Guinea
Somali	28	Africa
Mambwe	28	Africa
Tonga (Plateau)	28	Africa
Ganda	27	Africa
Tonga (Gwembe)	26	Africa
Kyaka Enga	23*	New Guinea
Yanomamö	20	S. America
Kawelka	19	New Guinea
South Fore	**14	New Guinea
Telefolmin	**15	New Guinea
Shona	11	Africa
Palestinian Arabs	8	Middle East
United States Rates		
1920	***13	van den Berghe 1979:202
1940	***17	van den Berghe 1979:202
1960	***26	van den Berghe 1979:202
1970	***33	van den Berghe 1979:202
1975	***43	van den Berghe 1979:202



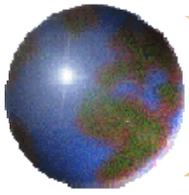
## *Yanomamö Marriage Statistics*

- 75% of marriage end as a result of divorce and 25% end as a result of death
- Men tend to be 5-8 years older than their wives
- An individual will have 2.92 spouses throughout their lifetime
- Marriage that end with the death of a spouse average 12.8 years in duration and those that end in divorce last 6.4 years
- First marriages tend to be the least stable and last marriage the most stable

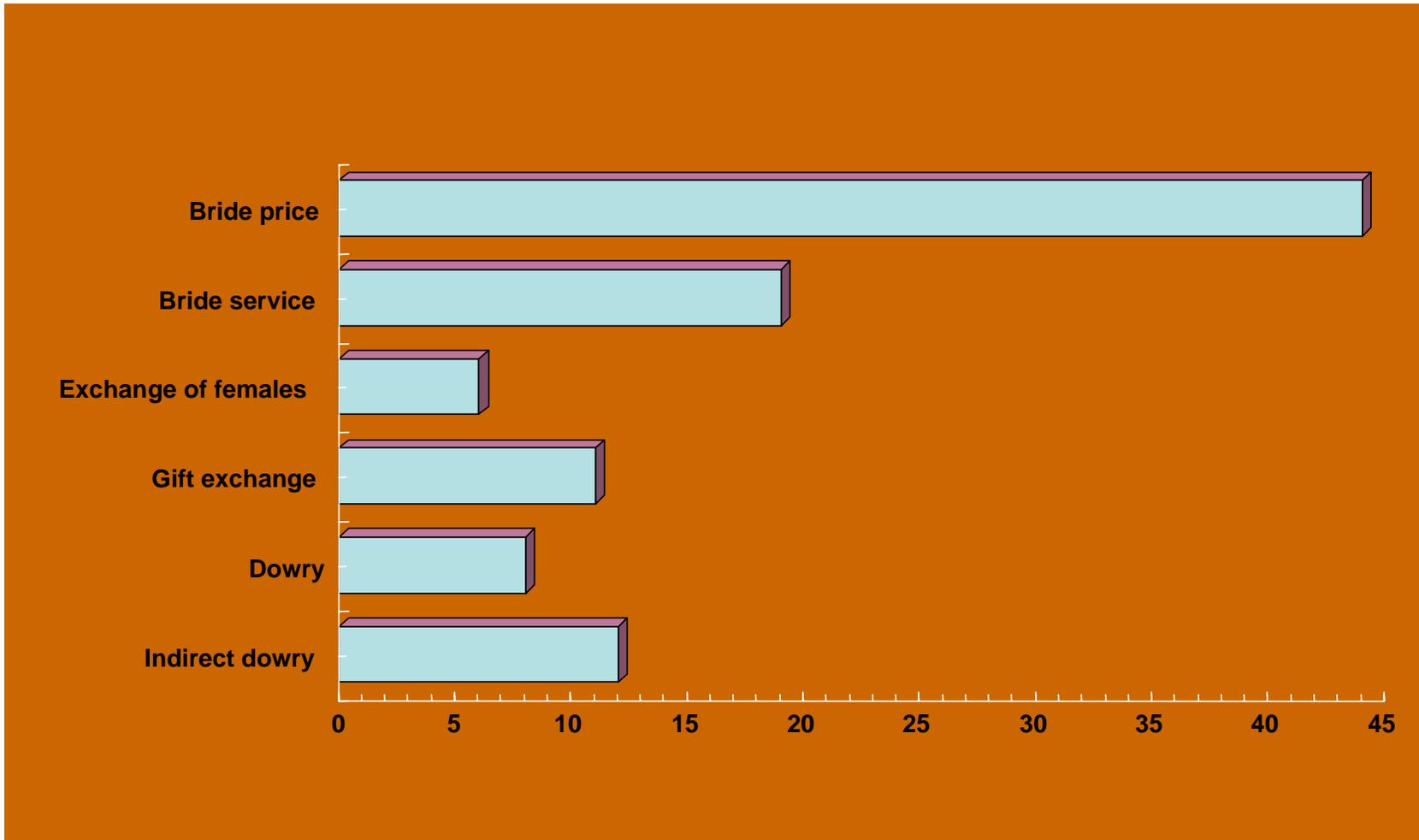


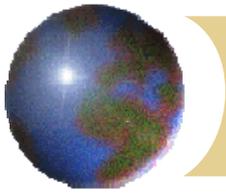
# *Factors Influencing Divorce*

- In general, two factors allow women to leave poor marriages:
- Female economic autonomy (the degree to which women are important economic producers)
- Strong kin support (the presence of kin who can assist divorced women)



# Distribution of Economic Transactions in Marriage: 75% of all societies have one of these transactions





# Coverture

Under the common law of England and in the states following the common law in the United States, a single woman, or *feme sole*, became known upon her marriage as a *feme covert*.

During the period of her marriage (or coverture), she lost many of her rights to ownership and control of property. **The husband became the owner of all personal property owned by the wife before marriage or acquired by her thereafter; he also had the right to control her real property and all of her earnings. The wife had no power to contract, to sue, or even to be sued in her own name.**

Coverture was based on the patronizing and discriminatory notion that, because of their "natural" and "proper" timidity and delicacy, married women needed to be protected.

Beginning in Mississippi in 1839, some states began to make statutory changes in the common law of coverture by granting married women increased legal rights. New York's 1848 married women's statute, which limited the scope of coverture, was the first law to gain widespread attention.

