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Life Phases

 Thursday, August 13, 2009 at 11:20pm | [Edit Note](#) | [Delete](#)
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OK, well, because I have been having this conversation a lot lately with various people, I thought I would post the real way I think about my life goals and plans and desires.

For some reason people make a lot of assumptions that because I talk about wanting marriage and kids that I would jump on top of things suddenly or like there is something wrong with wanting those things, when there is nothing wrong with wanting things to look forward to in life.

If I was that kind of irresponsible, then I would already have those things, but I don't operate that way. My life doesn't happen by accident to me. When I date someone I like, I still think rationally, I take my time, I plan and I think things through, before I get myself into situations where I need to later try to shift and work around things. I don't believe in creating fires that have to keep being put out. I just take better care so there are no fires! When fires do happen, I adjust and I work with it as it is, and I make a new plan. That is where I am at with my life right now. I am adjusting to the economy and the changes in my industry. I am adjusting to the dating world and being single and where I am at in my life. I adjust because we cannot control these things. I can only be accountable and responsible for me.

And I have a very good ability of thinking and doing things from a logical perspective even when I am emotionally charged and/or upset. So, this is my logic and how I have always WANTED my life to go, although I did want it to be sooner rather than later in my life, this is the same plan I have stuck to and am sticking too, because I believe in the plan! :)

The reason I haven't had good luck with the plan is because I haven't met a man whom I feel I CAN fully trust, have confidence in, and enjoy without needing to take care of him, worry about his extracurricular activities, give up too much of myself to make it work out, etc. When I DO meet a man whom I enjoy, who enhances my life, and whom I believe will be a good father, who enjoys learning and being good at life like I do, then and only then will I feel confident enough to settle down with someone. In the meantime, I am settled down myself and I like it this way, with no drama :) I don't enjoy dating or being single, but I do enjoy being happily free to be me...

Life Phase:

I am in the Beginning and also Middle Adulthood phase...

I'm going to college for Nursing. Then, after I'm done with Nursing college (3.5 years), marriage and children is next on my list of things to do. I hope to meet Mr. Right and slowly become settled down into Full-Grown Adulthood during the next like 2-5 years.

My game plan if I could have anything I want would be to devote the next 3.5 years to getting my RN/BSN, then CRNA, while dating hoping to find the one, then devote my non-working time to my relationship and other aspects of my life that I enjoy. In order to do well in Nursing school, which is one of the hardest programs, especially Anesthesiology, I don't want to have distractions, like high maintenance relationships or kids. Later, after being in a happy and content long-term relationship for at least 2 years, then I'd like to get engaged, have a cost-efficient medium sized very elegant picnic-style country wedding, live blissfully married for a while having fun with my husband without kids, then like another couple years later have a child, maybe two kids.

That is the way I believe is the best and proper way to go about life, responsibly making good, conscious choices, not letting life happen TO me! We will see what tomorrow brings though because I am totally sometimes spontaneous too and who knows I could meet Mr. Right tomorrow and he may think differently than I do! It's all about compromising and doing things for the betterment of the relationship. Happy happy joy joy :) LOL

The phases, and social roles, of the modern American lifecycle can be summarized as follows:

Childhood (pueritia, age 0-20). Social role: growth (receiving nurture, acquiring values).

Kristen's Notes

Life Phases

Aug 13, 2009

The perfect age difference

Aug 12, 2009

LIFE PLAN – NATIONAL STATISTICS AND AVERAGES FOR QnA's – Psychology and Sociology Info – Opinions – Theories and Philosophies

Aug 12, 2009

HOW TO WIN A WOMAN 101

Aug 11, 2009

CODE OF CONDUCT

Aug 11, 2009

Correcting The 3 Common Errors Men Make In Dating

Aug 11, 2009

QUESTIONS

Jul 31, 2009

Notes about Kristen

It is the dawning of the age of aquarius.

by [Kahlil Calavas \(notes\)](#)
Written about 6 months ago

Rene' needs

by [Rene' Prysok-Trisilla \(notes\)](#)
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The bucket list!

by [Rene' Prysok-Trisilla \(notes\)](#)
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Young Adulthood (iuventus, age 21–41).

Social role: vitality (serving institutions, testing values).

Personally, I describe this as three phases –

Beginning, Middle, Full–Grown Adulthood.

Beginning is in college, experimenting with life, learning about life and other people, experiencing things for the first time, casually dating, partying a lot, going to bars, hanging out with friends more than anything else, and this is the most selfish phase of adulthood.

Middle is like after college, starting out in career, dating, maybe in a long–term relationship, but not married, no kids, focused on improvements and goals, less selfish, but still learning how to make it all work out.

Full–Grown Adulthood is a responsible adult, financially secure, married, has kids, has had the same job for a long time, very stable person.

Midlife (virilitas, age 42–62). Social role: power (managing institutions, applying values).

Elderhood (senectus, age 63–83). Social role: leadership (leading institutions, transferring values).

Late Elderhood (age 84+). Social role: dependence (receiving comfort from institutions, remembering values).

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The perfect age difference

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Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 8:55pm | [Edit Note](#) | [Delete](#)

AGE DIFFERENCES IN DATING TRENDS

By Kristen Mae Lee
August 12, 2009

Age is just a number and in dating, it is "normal" to meet people where you are and it is "normal" that you date someone with similar interests, background, goals, and needs, so that is why people usually date other people near their age.

I've been reading about this topic because the men I like and the men who like me are almost never anywhere near my own age. The age groups that hit on me in the last three years have been 22–24 and 27–28, and 31, 43, 50! None of those numbers are anywhere near my own age. So, it defaults to who do I have the most in common with?

Supposedly age is an indicator of what you may have in common with someone. The second is to know what you are attracted to, understand what you want in a partner and a relationship, and confirm that these things are in agreement before you choose to spend time with someone.

According to statistics, 3.5 is the average age difference between married couples and all over the internet and with the people I know of, the real life age gap is between 3 years and 12 years, with few more dramatic cases like Huh Hefner, Demi Moore, and Madonna, and other not famous people who live real lives and have huge age gaps in their relationships.

The trends also indicate that the older a person is, the people they desire are younger because people are all generally attracted to people in their 20's.

I have friends who would NEVER date anyone younger than they are. I have friends who would never cross the 3 year age gap. I have friends who don't even think about age. There are drastic differences in what is COMFORTABLE for people.

For me, personally. Ideally, I would LIKE to be with a man who is my own age who still looks at least as good as I do and whom I have a lot in common with, single, no kids, wants kids, has a zest and joy for life, is easy-going and fun to be around, and who looks damn good in his jeans!!! However, the reality is that most men my age are already statistics and that is not my fault or anything I can change. I am single with no kids and I prefer to date men who are single with no kids. I WANT to experience things in life for the first time with the man I fall in love with and marry. I am still very much young, carefree, vivacious, energetic, passionate, sweet, fun, and

goofy, so I can and enjoy being around guys that I have these things in common with.

I am most attracted to men in their late 20's, early 30's. I like they way they look and act, and I am physically drawn to the level of confidence and maturity (and equal lack thereof) that they possess. We are on the same page and have the most in common. IF I already had any kids, that number would probably rise to mid to late thirties because those are the men that already have kids.

What is the BIGGEST I would personally date and/or have dated comfortably between both parties? I fall into the category of 15 being the absolute max. Within that age gap, there ARE moments when one or both parties is questioning what other people think if there is more than a 10 year age gap.

I date men within a 10–14 years gap than me a lot. No one has ever acted like their is any gap or anything wrong durig our time together. We have tons of fun together. The ONLY negative impact has ever been what our friends have said to us.

This means that unless there is an actual problem of abuse, mistreatment, pain or drama within the relationship, there is nothing "wrong" with and nothing to be said or done about it.

Therefore, I would say that in this day and age, from what I know and what the research says, that men and women can and DO date people with a comfortable age gap of 12.5 years at the most, so that no moments are negatively influenced by other people AND that other people should learn to keep their negative thoughts and their issues to themselves when two people are fine together.

I would like to meet a man who is around 30 ish and awesome, who has no kids and has life skills and relationship skills, has worked out his kinks and issues, and is actively seeking a woman to marry and have kids with in the next 2–3 years. He needs to have been through some things, been there done taht, experienced extreme loss so he appreciates green grass when he has it. He needs to make good enough money that he is comfortable with what he makes, can and does take great care of himself, has the eagerness and desire to protect, take care of, love and respect me, and who enjoys seeing me happy, so he makes conscious efforts to ensure my happiness and enhance my life in various ways. I may have a lot more to offer because I have worked a lot more on it, but these are the things that make me happy and the things on my checklist of what really makes me FEEL like I COULD and would be able to be comfortable and happy long-term with someone.

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Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 9:14am | [Edit Note](#) | [Delete](#)

OK, I am developing the results of my years of research and personal learning into the life plan guide for my "book" and this is what I have been working on all night... Comments are welcomed, particularly constructive ones :)

In an effort to summarize what this "note" is all about:

An Entire Manual Guide To Living Life – A LIFE PLAN – NATIONAL STATISTICS AND AVERAGES FOR QnA's about everything from sex to kids to death and money – Psychology and Sociology Info – Opinions – Theories and Philosophies – It's a whole buncha info and it is a rough draft so far... (((This is info from various sources and my own notes and ideas mixed in one big melting pot, as all my blogs always are!!!!)))

10 reasons men don't want to get married YET – #1

<http://www.examiner.com/x-1782-Philadelphia-Marriage-Examiner-y2009m5d10-10-reasons-men-dont-want-to-get-married-YET--1>

Wedding Priestess has been hearing a lot of people talking recently about the fact that men don't want to get married. What is true, it seems, is that men are marrying later (average age is 28 these days.) Depending where you are that means the men in your cohort will be younger or older... So if you're looking to marry, you might want to look for a man who is most likely to want to get married. (Hint, there are still a lot of men getting married at 22. That means that there are a lot of other men who aren't getting married until their mid-30s!)

Although in a survey, responses from the married men painted a positive picture of marriage – 94 percent said they were happier married than single, and 73 percent said their sex life was better. (Read the article.)

But another article discussed a project researchers of the National Marriage Project at Rutgers conducted focus group discussions with 60 single, heterosexual men of different backgrounds, ranging in age from 25 to 33. The study reveals that the top 10 reasons why men won't commit are. We're going to go through them day by day. The things they say will surprise you a bit. Some may discourage you. But that's not the point. The point is to look for what these studies are saying is true and find someone who has moved past some of these sticking points.

WP understands it's a hard balance. There are a few things that push women toward marriage
 Our biology: we're constructed to combine relationship and sex. We emit hormones to connect us to the fathers of our babies.
 Our environment: maybe the recession will stop this a bit, but the press toward marriage has been horrendous. Marriage, it's not just for the couple any more; it's an industry.
 Our baby clocks: the earlier women marry, the better their fertility. We may not be ready for marriage then, but our bodies are.
 But what about men? Here's reason #1 listed in the study:
 1 They can get sex without marriage more easily than in times past.
 The article quotes Audrey Chapman on Reason #1. She's a relationship therapist, author of Getting Good Loving and Mansharing and a radio talk show host of "The Audrey Chapman Show" on radio station WHUR-FM 96.3 out of Washington, D.C., which tackles issues between Black men and women had the following cheery insight: the sexual revolution, which corresponds to reason number 1, hasn't exactly benefited women in their search for finding a husband.
 "All that stuff that grandma said about 'Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free?' is true. Women are making it too easy for men. They're giving sex away.
 "Now that there's more competition, women think that sex is the ticket to get a man when in fact it's a sure fire way not to get him at all," Chapman reveals.
 "When men get lonely, all they have to do is call up one of their many women. And they call the one that they're going to be able to spend the night with."
 She says that nowadays it is common for many men to have a variety of women to cater to their various needs, including sex, companionship, conversation and even meals. "Men can get all the comforts they need without making it legal."
 Finding the right person to marry isn't a game. You want to marry the right person and not "get someone to marry you," no matter how wonderful that someone is. You're playing for keeps. You want to get married and stay married. You don't want to outwit someone; you want to marry someone. Divorce is far more costly than you can conceive of in 'way too many ways. So you want to find the guy that wants to get married and be the woman he wants to marry. Rather than proving this study wrong, why don't you use the very good information they're offering about men? This is really saying to us that men and women are not alike. It's not saying men don't want to be married. It's saying they want to be married when it's right for them.

That may mean not always being available in a whole host of ways. It also means looking for men who are ready to fall in love with the women they'll want to marry. That'll give us something to delve into when we're done here!

In the meantime, you can't move to happily and healthily ever after without the "I do." So let's see what's up with the men in our lives!

Why men wait longer to get married
 Jet, Sept 30, 2002
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1355/is_15_102/ai_92524792/

Ladies, have you ever wondered why your significant other hasn't popped "the question" yet? According to a recently released study conducted at Rutgers University in Piscataway, NJ, the average male is delaying his first marriage until he reaches 27, the oldest recorded age in the nation's history. The average woman on the other hand tends to marry when she is 25 years old.

((((
 What is the average age at which men get married in the US?
 What is the average age at which men get married in the US? "The most recent US census bureau data available lists the average age for men as 27.1
 I looked it up on <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/tabMS-2.pdf>
 And the basics of the records shown are:
 2003 Men 27.1 Women 25.3
 1989 - 2002 Men 26 Women 24-25
 1982 - 1988 Men 25 Women 21-22
 1977 - 1981 Men 24 Women 22
 1947 - 1976 Men 22-23 Women 20
 1890 - 1946 Men 24-26 Women 22-22

And
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/files/counting-paper.pdf>
 Table 4 first shows the distribution of household characteristics of opposite-sex and same-sex couples. The findings indicate that unmarried opposite-sex householders tend to be younger than both married opposite-sex and unmarried same-sex householders. The average age of unmarried opposite-sex householders is approximately 37 years while for the other two couple types, it is 50 years and 47

years, respectively. The difference between the householder and partner for these three types of couples is between 1 and 2 years. The data also show that 51 percent of unmarried opposite-sex couples are between the ages of 15 to 34 years, compared with only 17 percent and 19 percent of married opposite-sex and unmarried same-sex couples, respectively. Reflecting their younger age, a much smaller proportion unmarried opposite-sex couples report both partners with at least a Bachelor's degree than the other two couple types.

Looking at another family composition indicator, about 43 percent of both of the opposite-sex couples report children living with them in the household compared with 21 percent of male-partnered unmarried couples and 31 percent of female-partnered unmarried couples.

Unmarried same-sex couples have the highest reported household income at \$103,000 and unmarried opposite-sex couples report the lowest average household income at just under \$64,000. Among the same-sex couples, male-partnered couples reported a household income of \$111,000 compared with \$95,000 for female-partnered households.²¹ While married opposite-sex couples are least likely to have both spouses employed (50 percent), they are most likely to report owning their home (83 percent).

Couples reporting that they are unmarried partners also had higher levels of educational attainment than those reporting they were spouses for both males and females. Regardless of the gender of the householder, at least 50 percent of unmarried partners had the householder with at least a Bachelor's degree compared with less than 40 percent of those couples assigned from spouse responses.

Nation's Population Growing Older, More Diverse

The U.S. Census Bureau's newly released national population estimates show that our nation is becoming older and more racially and ethnically diverse. The estimates found that nearly half (47 percent) of the nation's children younger than five were a minority in 2008, with 25 percent being Hispanic. For all children under 18, 44 percent were a minority and 22 percent were Hispanic.

The U.S. population is also growing older: the median age reached 36.8 in 2008, up 1.5 years since 2000. There were 38.9 million people 65 and older in 2008, comprising 12.8 percent of the total population. Of this group, 5.7 million were 85 years old and older. In 2000, 12.4 percent of the total population was 65 and older. You can find these facts and more, in our 2008 Population Estimates!

What did I personally learn from studying the data?

- 1) Most people get married by age 30 (60% are married by age 30 and only 5% are divorced by age 30.)
- 2) The divorce rate is A LOT lower than I expected it to be according to all the media hype (median only 9% divorced ages 30-40)
- 3) MOST people in this country DO get and STAY married.
The percentage of never married is less than 20% at highest rate at age 39 and by age 49 almost 88% of the population has been married and less than 85% have EVER been divorced.
- 4) Marriage seems to last from ages 29-55, which is 26 years!!!
- 5) IF they can hold out that long, the percentage of getting divorced drastically changes to only 11.3%, which means almost 90% will remain married until death.
- 6) I confirmed that the average age to get married is before 30 with 60% married and less than 7% ever divorced and less than 29% never married (yet).
- 7) The U.S. population is growing older and more educated, and THAT is why the age of marriage has gotten older. Easy sex and the negative media/hollywood hype about marriage is only feeding it in even more negative ways.
- 8) Unmarried opposite-sex couples report the lowest average household income at just under \$64,000 while. Stay single, be poorer!
- 9) About 43 percent of both of the opposite-sex couples report children living with them in the household.
- 10) . The average age of that 19.9% of unmarried opposite-sex householders is approximately 37 years.
- 11) Reflecting their younger age, a much smaller proportion unmarried opposite-sex couples report both partners with at least a Bachelor's degree than the other two couple types.
- 12) The U.S. population is also growing older: the median age reached 36.8 in 2008
- 13) Most people die between ages 65 - 85.
- 14) 83% of American's own homes.
- 15) 50% of households have one spouse stay-at-home, regardless of whether or not they have children.
- 16) 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 20, 26 (future guesstimates going up similarly would be \$K 42, 74, 138) thousands of dollars between 1963 - 2008, so every year you wait to buy a home means you will pay enormous inflation!
- 17) In 1963, the average home cost \$18-19K while now the average home costs \$262K (including the land!) Home prices have literally and seriously become inflated ridiculously exponentially. If a home cost \$18K in 1963, \$240K in 2008, that house will cost DOUBLE in just 3 years by 2012!!!!
- 18) Average length of relationships 4 years.

National statistics which state that 2 years is the average dating time before marriage.

Almost 70% of people first have sex between ages 16–20.

90% of people do NOT have sex with more than one person a year. The median number of lifetime female sexual partners for men is 7. The median number of male partners for women is 4.

19) Teens in the United States are more likely to have sexual intercourse before age 15 and have shorter and more sporadic sexual relationships than teenagers in Canada, France, Great Britain and Sweden. As a result, they are more likely to have more than one partner in a given year.

- Data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) suggest that the fear of increasing rates of teenage sexual behavior may be unfounded. For example:

- Teenagers seem to be waiting longer to have intercourse. For example, the percentage of 12th–grade U.S. students who reported having had intercourse declined from 66.7% in 1991 to 60.5% in 2001.

- Teens may be replacing intercourse with more alternatives they perceive as safer. For example more than 50% of U.S. teens ages 15 to 19 have engaged in oral sex.

This number increases to almost 70% for those who are 18 and 19.

- Only 11% have anal sex.

The most recent data from the CDC (released in June 2007) compiled sexual behavior data from adults (aged 20–59) but asked a few questions about teenage sexual behavior. Results include:

- 16% of adults reported first having sex before they were 15 years old.

- 15% of adults said they abstained from sex until they were 21 years of age.

Nationally, more than half of teenagers are virgins until they are at least 17 years of age

1 in 20 adults in America has sex more than three times a week

Sex in America

- 134,000 new cases of syphilis are occurring each year, the highest infection rate in 40 years.

- 1.3 million new gonorrhea cases occur annually.

- 24 million new cases of human papilloma virus (HPV) occur annually, including a high percentage among teens.

- 63% of all sexually transmitted disease (STD) cases occur among people less than 25 years of age.

- AIDS is the leading killer of Americans between the ages of 25 and 44.

- Condoms provide virtually no protection against an STD called the human papilloma virus (HPV). HPV is the most common medical problem seen by gynecologists and causes almost all cervical cancer in the U.S.

Sex, Lies and HIV

- 34% of men and 10% of women have told lies in order to have sex.

- 68% of men and 59% of women have been involved with more than one person that their current partner doesn't know about.

- 47% of men and 42% of women would understate the number of their previous partners in order to convince someone to have sex.

"Sex, Lies and HIV," *The New England Journal of Medicine*, (March 15, 1990) -- the results of a study of 665 southern California college students

"Facts on Reproductive Rights," from the National Organization for Women

- The Pill fails 6.2% of the time.

- The condom fails 14.2% of the time.

- The diaphragm fails 15.6% of the time.

- Spermicide fails 26.3% of the time.

"Early college–age women show the highest percentage of contraceptive failure during the first 12 months of use (25.9%). Later college–age women rank second, not far behind (18.0%)."

Jones and Forrest, *Family Planning Perspectives*, (Jan/Feb 1992), p. 16

Medical Institute for Sexual Health statistics:

- Today there are over 20 significantly prevalent sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) with 12 million newly infected persons each year. (Facts in Brief, New York: The Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1993)

- It is estimated that 1 in 5 Americans is now infected with a viral STD. (ibid)

- 63% of chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhea infections occur in persons under age 25. (ibid)

- 80% of people who have a sexually transmitted disease experience no noticeable symptoms!!!! (Moscicki, B., et al, "The Use and Limitations of Endocervical Gram Stains..." *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 157:1, July, 1987)

- Condoms have a poor record for prevention of pregnancy, with failure rates of up to 13% or more per year. (Jones, E.F., and Forrest, J.D., "Contraceptive Failure in the

United States: Revised Estimates..., " Family Planning Perspectives, 21:3, May/June 1989)

- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has referred to condoms as "an antiquated system of birth control." (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Newsletter, March, 1991)
- A meta-analysis of condom effectiveness from in vivo studies by Dr. Susan Weller suggests a 31% failure rate in preventing HIV transmission. (Weller, Susan, "A Meta-Analysis of Condom Effectiveness in Reducing Sexually Transmitted HIV," Social Science and Medicine, 36:12, 1993)
- "It is a disservice to encourage the belief that condoms will prevent sexual transmission of HIV." (ibid)

updated 6:39 p.m. ET June 22, 2007

NEW YORK – It's a question that often prompts a boastful answer or a bashful one: How many sex partners have you had?

Now the federal government says it has authoritative statistics, documenting that men are far more likely to play the field than women.

A new nationwide survey, using high-tech methods to solicit candid answers on sexual activity and illegal drug use, finds that 29 percent of American men report having 15 or more female sexual partners in a lifetime, while only 9 percent of women report having sex with 15 or more men.

The median number of lifetime female sexual partners for men was seven; the median number of male partners for women was four.

The survey, released Friday, is based on data collected from 1999 to 2002 for the National Center for Health Statistics, a branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In previous federal surveys on these topics, participants were asked questions in face-to-face interviews. (This test was done in a private room, by a machine, with as much time as participants wanted to answer each question.)

The survey found only about 11% of never-married adults had remained chaste. (this number is inconsistent with the 96% who have had sex!)

Among the other findings:

- * About 96% of U.S. adults have had sex.
- * 16% of adults first had sex before age 15, while 15% abstained from sex until at least age 21. (which means that 69% of people first have sex between ages 16-20)
- * The proportion of adults who first had sex before age 15 was highest for non-Hispanic blacks (28%) compared to 14% for both Mexican-Americans and non-Hispanic whites.
- * Six percent of blacks abstained from sex until age 21 or older, fewer than Mexican-Americans (17%) or non-Hispanic whites (15%).
- * Black men and women were more likely to report having 15 or more partners in a lifetime (46% and 13%, respectively) than other racial or ethnic groups.
- * 17% of men and 10% of women reported having two or more sexual partners in the past year. Which means that almost 90% of people do NOT have sex with more than one person a year.
- * 25% of women and 17% of men reporting having no more than one partner of the opposite sex in their lifetime.
- * 26% of men and 17% of women have tried cocaine or other street drugs (not including marijuana) at some time in their life. 7% of men and 4% of women had done so within the past 12 months.
- * Non-Hispanic whites had a higher percentage of ever using cocaine or street drugs (23.5 percent) than blacks (18 percent) or Mexican-Americans (16 percent).
- * Adults who were married or had more than a high school education were less likely to use street drugs than others.

The survey, formally titled the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, did not include the homeless, prisons inmates or other institutionalized adults.

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So why are men waiting longer to get married?

Researchers of the National Marriage Project at Rutgers conducted focus group discussions with 60 single, heterosexual men of different backgrounds, ranging in age from 25 to 33. The study reveals that the top 10 reasons why men won't commit are:

1. They can get sex without marriage more easily than in times past.
2. They can enjoy the benefits of having a wife by cohabitating rather than marrying.
3. They want to avoid divorce and its financial risks.
4. They want to wait until they are older to have children.

5. They fear that marriage will require too many changes and compromises.
6. They are waiting for the perfect soul mate and she hasn't appeared yet. (((and perfection doesn't exist. The illusion of that "one" who just clicks will fade every time. Men actually marry the woman they are dating when the man personally changes and feels like she is the one because he is ready to feel that way.)))
7. They face few social pressures to marry.
8. They are reluctant to marry a woman who already has children.
9. They want to own a house before they get a wife. (((which is something two people should do together so they both feel comfortable as it is theirs jointly and it begins a new phase in their life as a couple)))
10. They want to enjoy single life for as long as possible.

William July II, author of *Understanding the Tin Man: Why So Many Men Avoid Intimacy, and Brothers, Lust and Love*, says that the new study is "right on target" and believes reason number 9 relates to his theory that one of the explanations for why men are waiting longer to get married is that they want to be financially stable first. (((yet an unfortunate reality is that a solid feeling of financial stability never comes for most people. most people always still feel the need for more of one thing or another and that someday may never come. Are you going to keep putting off your life forever?! Make a reasonable, achievable plan and stick with it, so that you can enjoy your life every day, not someday in the future. http://www.ehow.com/how_4499430_become-financially-stable-six-months.html)))

(((Also, another note from me about this topic... men have loftier goals at 22 that they come to grips with not accomplishing at age 35, which causes a lot of wasted life and frustration between those two ages... Men don't actually FEEL successful until they are in their 40's and it has nothing to do with actual success or so-called financial stability. It has to do with them accepting their lives and themselves as is and developing confidence with who they are. Society has put a financial pricetag on male confidence and a physical label on a woman's confidence that twist us up and can waste a whole lotta great years in between the wanting and the being our PERSONAL best, which really has nothing to do with the Jones's.)))

"Men feel high pressure to focus on careers and financial stability," he states. "That's directly tied to the belief that men fill the role of provider and protector. Therefore, his number-one mission is often career-based and he builds the rest of his life around it.

"If a man hasn't taken off in his career, or at least feels that he's moving along the path, his self-esteem could be hampered. As a result, he may not feel he is living up to the role of provider/protector and therefore doesn't want to be married."

July, says that his new book *What Men Want Women To Know But Can't Tell Them*, scheduled for release in December, touches on some of the very topics given in the study. He says that women who read this study will learn a lot about men and how they think.

For instance, July adds that another example of why men are prolonging the walk down the aisle is because of reason number 4, which notes that men don't feel the urgency of the "biological clock" that women do because men are able to reproduce later in life.

"Men have a longer window of opportunity for having children and don't feel compelled by that factor."

Audrey B. Chapman, relationship therapist and author of *Getting Good Loving and Mansharing*, agrees with the study's detailed findings that the sexual revolution, which corresponds to reason number 1, hasn't exactly benefited women in their search for finding a husband.

"All that stuff that grandma said about 'Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free?' is true. Women are making it too easy for men. They're giving sex away.

"Now that there's more competition, women think that sex is the ticket to get a man when in fact it's a sure fire way not to get him at all," Chapman reveals.

(((no matter whether a woman "puts out or not, a man will not stay, a relationship will not endure, as long as the man does not have the right frame of mind and perspective about himself and his own life before he even gets the girl. In all actuality, when he is ready, the right girl seems to magically appear. That is because it has nothing to do with the best girl for him or the best girl at all. It has to do with who he is at that time with that girl. And this works both ways for men and women.)))

"When men get lonely, all they have to do is call up one of their many women. And they call the one that they're going to be able to spend the night with."

She says that nowadays it is common for many men to have a variety of women to

cater to their various needs, including sex, companionship, conversation and even meals. "Men can get all the comforts they need without making it legal."

Chapman, host of "The Audrey Chapman Show" on radio station WHUR-FM 96.3 out of Washington, D.C., which tackles issues between Black men and women, suggests that the possibility of divorce and a man's fear of responsibility, which relate to reasons number 3 and 5, are valid factors for delaying marriage.

"I've had men say that they don't think marriage works," Chapman says. "They look around at their friends who have married young and their parents and their aunts and uncles and they don't think those people are very happy. Divorce does have an impact on a man's decision."

In her latest book, *Seven Attitude Adjustments For Finding A Loving Man*, Chapman writes: "Many Black men are not encouraged by the women who raise them to face the consequences of choices that they make. In other words, they are not taught to become responsible adults. These men are usually taken care of as little boys and never told to respond to the needs of others including women's."

She told JET, "I think that the pressure [Black men] feel being raised in female head of households and with very few men in their lives, played a role in the early developmental years (ages 7-15). It plays a big role in their confusion about how they are supposed to relate once they become men themselves and function in relationships with women."

Wilmington, DE, psychologist Dr. Alvin L. Turner also agrees with reason number 5 and believes that it takes time for men to view marriage as a positive experience and that they may not recognize the significance of it until they are older.

He says, "As children men don't fantasize about being married--girls do. It takes a while for us to begin to appreciate that marriage is valuable for us and not just for women."

"It's easy to see that marriage happens when you fall in love with someone, but even then many men will marry because they want to keep the woman from marrying someone else. So it becomes a way of protecting their investment basically rather than looking at it as something that's valuable for themselves."

Turner reveals that the benefits of men being married are often overlooked. "The fact of the matter is that married men actually live longer than single men. Married men are happier and healthier than single men, but for some reason this is not the kind of information that most men know about."

"Most men believe that they are happier if they are `not' married. They think they're able to get more sex and that they are going to be more financially successful [if they're single]. It's not true. It's a mythology that is believed in our culture."

Turner reveals that by seeking out what he calls "corrective experiences," men can learn to appreciate and even anticipate marriage.

The corrective experiences, which consist of men learning to be comfortable with their own sensitivity and learning to be monogamous, can assist men in growing past the historical and cultural barriers that have prevented [men] from being successfully married.

For women wondering how to get their men to commit sooner, July suggests that they simply remain patient.

"I can't emphasize enough how important it is for women to accept the point at which a man says he currently is in his life because that determines his entire outlook on everything," July stresses. "If he's ready, marriage sounds great. If he's not, it sounds like a prison sentence. It's better to couple with a man who feels ready than to try to `make ready' a man."

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----- So, the best life plan is: -----

Most people SHOULD be striving for -

Build 3 great lifetime friendships who accept each other totally 100%, build each other up and enhance each others lives, who are there for each other no matter what happens, blessings, tragedies and everything in between.

Average high school GPA 3.16 and 3.22 for college.

Test scores SAT verbal scores over 500 82%, SAT math scores over 500 77%, ACT scores over 18 99%, SAT verbal scores over 600 33%, SAT math scores over 600 22%, ACT scores over 24 44%, SAT verbal scores over 700 4%, SAT math scores over 700 1%, ACT scores over 30 4%

So, you could have 1 high school sweetheart and have your first sexual experiences with that person beginning the exploration process no sooner than age 16, after you two have built trust and had some great times together, so it is actually worthwhile! The second relationship would be in college with 1–2 other short term wildly amazing experiences (that do NOT have to include intercourse) in college. Then there's a solid 2 years to be alone and become your personal best and be totally independent, single, carefree and working on your career and life skills between the ages of 22–24. Before you meet the one you will marry, there could be another relationship that lasts somewhere in between ages 25–28. Between 29–30, date the person you will marry. 30 is your proposal. You get married before your 31st birthdays.

Get happily married for life after accomplishing your personal goals, which should be learning: Education, personality, morals, values, beliefs, proper etiquette, civility training, modesty, health wellness and nutrition, image development for self and others, customer service, sexual harassment training, philosophies, and other life skills, such as excellent personal hygiene, self-esteem and proper attire, hobbies to keep your moods in check, excellent interviewing and communication skills for all circumstances you will encounter throughout your lifetime, household chores like cooking and repairing things that need fixing, bill paying and finance, how to use power tools, successful partnership, relationships, chivalry and romance, and taking care of yourself and others skills. Before you have children, you should also learn parenting, First Aid and CPR skills, AND you SHOULD be able to pay for your children's college by the time the children each reach age 16.

You should strive to at least earn a Bachelor's degree with a 3.22 GPA.

You should have a salary range goal of at least \$64,000 combined income and it is unlikely you will have an income of over \$111K whether you couple-up or not because most people earn between \$50–75K, and the largest portions of the rest earn less than that. More than twice as many men make \$5–30K more than women as women make \$5–30K more than men, meaning men still DO make a lot more than women.

Buy a home together when you get married at age 30.
If you want to keep up with the Jones's, your home should cost you around \$262K.

Take one vacation and have one staycation each year to keep ahold of your joy.

Do not miss more than 2 days of work per year, for any reason.

You should have 2 non-career jobs before/during college and no more than 2 career jobs after college, UNLESS you are making upward strides in your career path that are adding to your resume significantly.

You should have 1–2 charities that are close to your heart, to which you devote at least 10% of your personal time to every single week.

You should be giving away at least 10% of your money to help others, and or to your spiritual connection.

You should save one million dollars toward your retirement if you expect to live a decent life and not have to work forever and if you are the less ambitious type, you will still need a minimum of a half million just to barely survive from 65 til death, whether you can work after 65 or not.

Every single paycheck, you should be saving at least 10% of your pay into a short-term savings account in case of any kind of emergency, like a funeral, an incapacitating or debilitating injury, unexpected breakdowns or troubles, etc. You never know what may happen and you NEED to be prepared for anything because when something does happen, it will be too late!

You could also try to save another percentage of your pay toward goals, dreams, and or things you want to be able to have, do, get, etc for your future. You do not want to be living for today and come to regret that you were never able to do this or that because you weren't thinking clearly about how to plan ahead.

No more than half of what you have left should go toward having a roof over your head. Then, AFTER you have paid yourself and done the necessary future building (including your points for eternity), then you can use the rest of what you earn by working to take care of living expenses and having an allowance to get you to your next paycheck. Bills get paid in order of more important to your overall survival first, and the frillier, less important things you want but don't actually NEED to survive come later. It is called delayed gratification and it will be your best friend after the first time you needed it and didn't do it! The most important things are a roof over your head, food and water, electricity, a method of communication, such as a telephone, legally required expenses like insurance, and then the other things such

as transportation, entertainment (includes cable and going out money), and clothes, hygiene, household expenses (includes household purchases too).

Most people have 1-2 children. You should have alone couple time to enjoy being married, learn and build your one-on-one relationship, and then to learn parenting skills BEFORE having kids. Stop using birth control and start hoping to build a family after you have been married for 2-3 years, which means you have been together for at least 5 years. This means, you would have your first child around age 33. Perhaps you may want to have a second child a year or two later. Your kids will be 33-35 years younger than you are, you and they will be better prepared and better taken care of, and everyone can enjoy the whole experience a whole lot more. Your kids will begin college when you are in your fifties, so you can afford their college and you will have had your fun, and everyone involved will enjoy every phase of your life and their lives.

You will have grandkids in your 60's, a perfectly appropriate age to be a grandparent! You will be able to rock in your rocking chair watching 3 generations of your family happily enjoying life together.

Those who stay married from age 30 until age 55 increase their chances of lasting marital bliss to almost 90% and stay married forever.

Most people die around age 75, so you can plan your 45th wedding anniversary together, and maybe even a 50th!

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I still need to work on the bibliography, but all of this information is from google searches, mostly from the U.S. Census Bureau government site, msn, about.com, and links and details were added along the writing for the rest.

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