

Marrying Out

One-in-Seven New U.S. Marriages is Interracial or Interethnic

RELEASED JUNE 4, 2010; REVISED JUNE 15, 2010

Paul Taylor, Project Director
Jeffrey S. Passel, Senior Demographer
Wendy Wang, Research Associate
Jocelyn Kiley, Research Associate
Gabriel Velasco, Research Analyst
Daniel Dockterman, Research Assistant

MEDIA INQUIRIES CONTACT:
Pew Research Center's
Social & Demographic Trends Project
202.419.4372
<http://pewsocialtrends.org>

PewResearchCenter
A Social & Demographic Trends Report

Marrying Out

One-in-Seven New U.S. Marriages Is Interracial or Interethnic

By Jeffrey S. Passel, Wendy Wang and Paul Taylor

Executive Summary

This report is based primarily on two data sources: the Pew Research Center's analysis of demographic data about new marriages in 2008 from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) and the Pew Research Center's analysis of its own data from a nationwide telephone survey conducted from October 28 through November 30, 2009 among a nationally representative sample of 2,884 adults. For more information about data sources and methodology, see page 31.

Key findings:

- A record 14.6% of all new marriages in the United States in 2008 were between spouses of a different race or ethnicity from one another. This includes marriages between a Hispanic and non-Hispanic (Hispanics are an ethnic group, not a race) as well as marriages between spouses of different races – be they white, black, Asian, American Indian or those who identify as being of multiple races or “some other” race.
- Among all newlyweds in 2008, 9% of whites, 16% of blacks, 26% of Hispanics and 31% of Asians married someone whose race or ethnicity was different from their own.
- Gender patterns in intermarriage vary widely. Some 22% of all black male newlyweds in 2008 married outside their race, compared with just 9% of black female newlyweds. Among Asians, the gender pattern runs the other way. Some 40% of Asian female newlyweds married outside their race in 2008, compared with just 20% of Asian male newlyweds. Among whites and Hispanics, by contrast, there are no gender differences in intermarriage rates.
- Rates of intermarriages among newlyweds in the U.S. more than doubled between 1980 (6.7%) and 2008 (14.6%). However, different groups experienced different trends. Rates more than doubled among whites and nearly tripled among blacks. But for both Hispanics and Asians, rates were nearly identical in 2008 and 1980.
- These seemingly contradictory trends were both driven by the heavy, ongoing Hispanic and Asian immigration wave of the past four decades. For whites and blacks, these immigrants (and, increasingly, their U.S.-born children who are now of marrying age) have enlarged the pool of potential spouses for out-marriage. But for Hispanics and Asians, the ongoing immigration wave has also enlarged the pool of potential partners for in-group marriage.

- There is a strong regional pattern to intermarriage. Among all new marriages in 2008, 22%¹ in the West were interracial or interethnic, compared with 13% in both the South and Northeast and 11% in the Midwest.
- Most Americans say they approve of racial or ethnic intermarriage – not just in the abstract, but in their own families. More than six-in-ten say it “would be fine” with them if a family member told them they were going to marry someone from any of three major race/ethnic groups other than their own.
- More than a third of adults (35%) say they have a family member who is married to someone of a different race. Blacks say this at higher rates than do whites; younger adults at higher rates than older adults; and Westerners at higher rates than people living in other regions of the country.

¹ The share of intermarriages for Hawaii and for the Western region of the United States have been revised slightly from an earlier version of this report released June 4, 2010.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	ii
Section I. Overview	1
Section II. Inter-marriage by Race and Ethnicity	8
Section III. Inter-marriage Trends	21
Section IV. Attitudes about Inter-marriage	26
Appendices	
Methodology	31
Additional charts	34
State and Regional Rates	37

I. Overview

A record 14.6% of all new marriages in the United States in 2008 were between spouses of a different race or ethnicity from each other, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of new data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

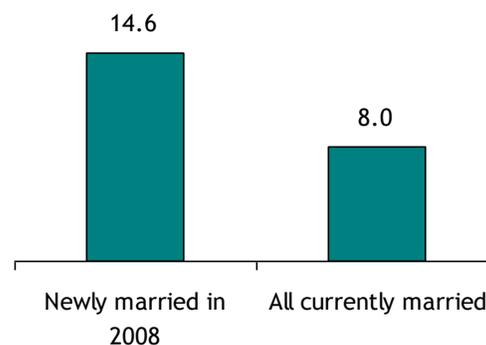
That figure is an estimated six times the intermarriage² rate among newlyweds in 1960 and more than double the rate in 1980. This dramatic increase has been driven in part by the weakening of longstanding cultural taboos against intermarriage and in part by a large, multi-decade wave of immigrants from Latin America and Asia.

In 1961, the year Barack Obama's parents were married, less than one in 1,000 new marriages in the United States was, like theirs, the pairing of a black person and a white person, according to Pew Research estimates. By 1980, that share had risen to about one in 150 new marriages. By 2008, it had risen to one-in-sixty.

Pairings: Even with that sharp increase, however, black-white couplings represented only about one-in-nine of the approximately 280,000 new interracial or interethnic marriages in 2008. White-Hispanic couples accounted for about four-in-ten (41%) of such new marriages; white-Asian couples made up 15%; and white-black couples made up 11%. The remaining third consisted of marriages in which each spouse was a member of a different minority group or in which at

Racial and Ethnic Intermarriage in the U.S., 2008

% married to someone of a different race/ethnicity



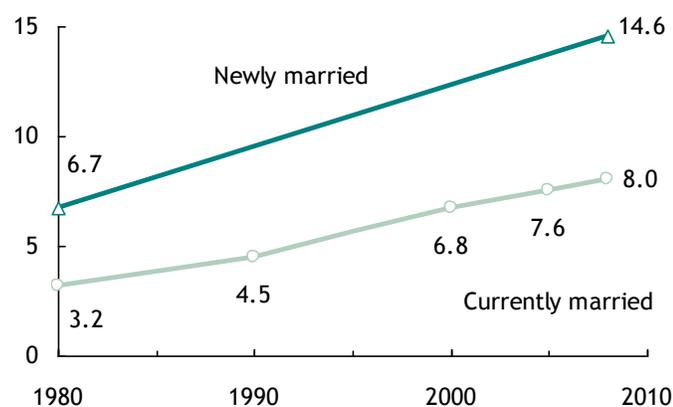
Note: "Newly married" refers to people who got married in the 12 months before the survey.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Intermarriage Trend, 1980-2008

% married someone of a different race/ethnicity



Source: Newly married numbers are from 1980 Census and 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). Currently married numbers are from 2005 and 2008 ACS and U.S. Decennial Census data, based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

² "Intermarriage" refers to marriages between a Hispanic and non-Hispanic ("interethnic") or marriages between white, black, Asian, American Indian or those who identify as multiple races or some other race ("interracial"). All racial groups in this study are non-Hispanic. For more details see Page 6.

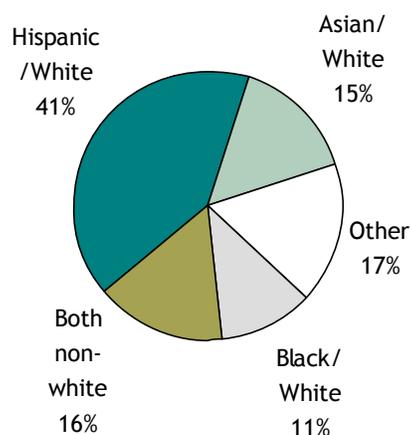
least one spouse self-identified as being American Indian or of mixed or multiple races.

Race, Ethnicity and Immigration: Of the 3.8 million adults who married in 2008, 9% of whites, 16% of blacks, 26% of Hispanics and 31% of Asians married someone whose race or ethnicity was different from their own. For whites these shares are more than double what they had been in 1980 and for blacks they are nearly triple. For Hispanics and Asians, by contrast, these rates are little changed from 1980. High levels of Hispanic and Asian immigration over the past several decades helped drive both seemingly contradictory trends. For whites and blacks, the new immigrants and (increasingly) their now grown U.S.-born children have enlarged the pool of potential partners for marrying outside one's own racial or ethnic group. But for Hispanics and Asians, the ongoing immigration wave has greatly enlarged the pool of potential partners for in-group marrying.

Gender: Among blacks and Asians, there are stark differences by gender in the tendency to marry outside their own racial group. Some 22% of all black male newlyweds in 2008 married outside their race, compared with just 9% of black female newlyweds. Among Asians, the gender pattern runs the opposite way. Some 40% of Asian female newlyweds in 2008 married outside their race, compared with just 20% of Asian male newlyweds.

Among whites and Hispanics, by contrast, there are no gender differences in intermarriage rates. About 9% of both male and female white newlyweds in 2008 married a nonwhite spouse, and about a quarter of both male and female Hispanic newlyweds in 2008 married someone who is not Hispanic.

Intermarriage Types, Newly Married Couples in 2008



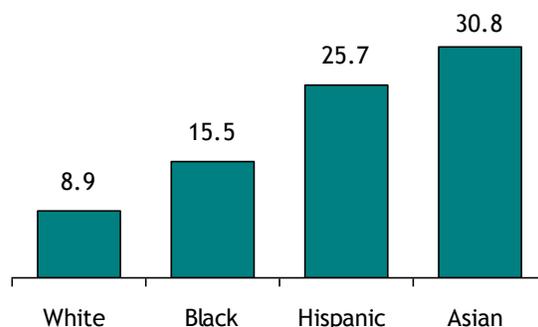
Note: "Newly married" refers to people who got married in the 12 months before the survey. All groups (other than Hispanic) are non-Hispanic. "Other" includes American Indian, mixed race, or "some other" race.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Intermarriage Rates, by Race and Ethnicity

% of newlyweds in 2008 who married someone of a different race/ethnicity



Note: "Newlyweds" refers to people who got married in the 12 months before the survey. All groups (other than Hispanic) are non-Hispanic single races.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

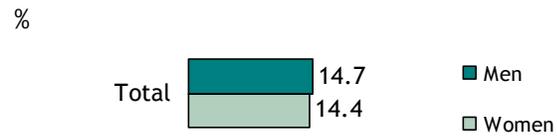
PewResearchCenter

States and Regions: Intermarriage in the United States tilts West. About one-in-five (22%) of all newlyweds in Western states married someone of a different race or ethnicity in 2008, compared with 13% in the South and Northeast and 11% in the Midwest. All nine states with out-marriage rates of 20% or more in 2008 are situated west of the Mississippi River: Hawaii (48%); Nevada (28%); Oregon (24%); Oklahoma (23%); California (22%); New Mexico (22%); Colorado (21%); Arizona (21%); and Washington (20%). (See Appendix III for a 50-state table).

Regional out-marriage patterns vary in other ways. For example, blacks who live in the West are three times as likely to out-marry as are blacks who live in the South and twice as likely as blacks in the Northeast or Midwest. Among Hispanics, by contrast, the highest rate of out-marriage is in the Midwest (41%) reflecting a general tendency for out-marriage rates to be higher among smaller groups. As for Asians, relatively few live in the South, but those who do are more likely to out-marry (37%) than are those who live in other regions. The nation's most populous state, California, presents the following anomaly: in 2008, white (20%) and black (36%) newlyweds were more likely to out-marry than were Hispanics (18%). In all other states where data are available for these groups, the reverse was true—Hispanic newlyweds out-married at higher rates than did whites or blacks. (See appendix for states and regional table or click <http://pewsocialtrends.org/docs/index.php?docid=19> for an interactive map)

Education: Marrying out is more common among adults who attended college than among those who did not, but these differences are not large. Of

Intermarriage Rates among Newlyweds, by Gender, 2008



No gender difference for these groups...



Big gender difference for these groups...



Note: All groups (other than Hispanic) are non-Hispanic.
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Education and Intermarriage

% of newlyweds who married someone of a different race/ethnicity, 2008

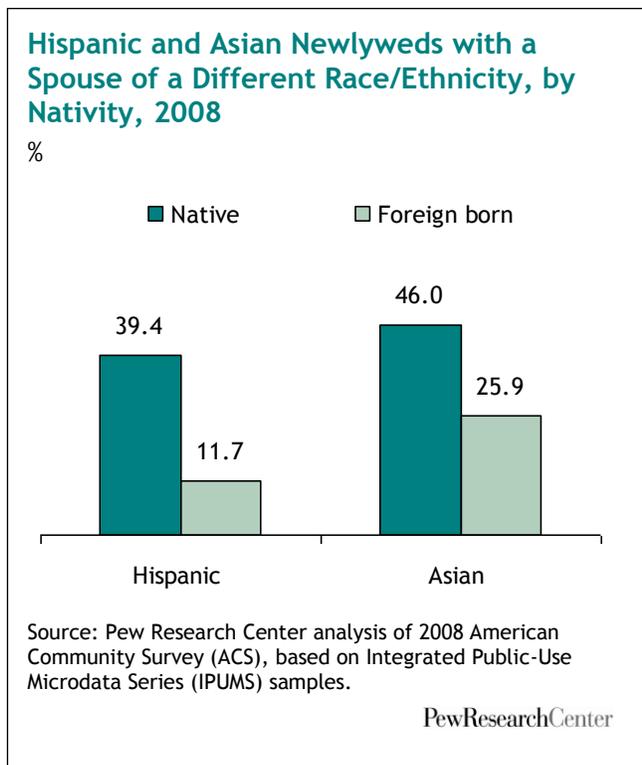


Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

all newlyweds in 2008, 15.5% of those who attended college married outside their race or ethnicity, compared with 13.5% of those who completed high school and 11.0% of those who did not complete high school.

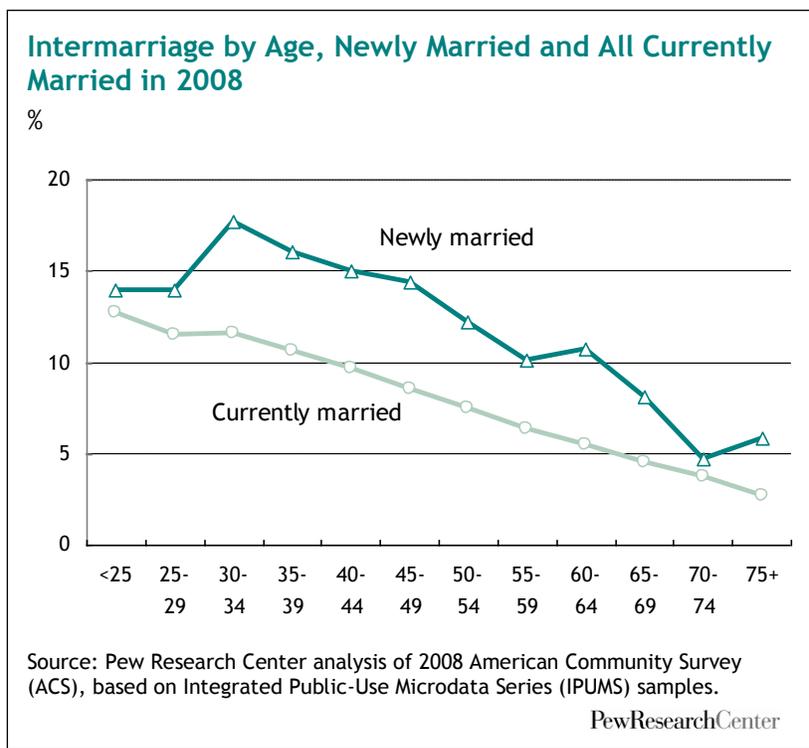
Nativity Status: Marrying out is much more common among native-born adults than among immigrants. Native-born Hispanics are more than three times as likely as the foreign born to marry a non-Hispanic. The disparity among native- and foreign-born Asians is not as great, but it is still significant; native-born Asian-Americans are nearly twice as likely as those who are foreign born to marry a non-Asian. Here again, there are sharp gender differences. Among Asian men, the native born are nearly four times as likely as the foreign born to marry out. Among Asian women, the native born are only about 50% more likely than the foreign born to marry a non-Asian.



All Current Marriages:

Another way to measure trends in intermarriage is to look at the full universe of all currently married adults (regardless of when they married). In 2008, a record 8% of currently married adults had a spouse of a different race or ethnicity. In 1980, this figure was 3.2%.

Age Patterns: In the currently married population, intermarriage is strongly correlated with age. Some 13% of all currently married adults ages 25 or younger have married out. That share declines in a linear fashion as the age of the



married adult rises. Among married adults ages 75 and older, just 3% have married out.

Among newlyweds in 2008, however, the relationship of intermarriage and age is not as strong. The intermarriage rate is around 15 % for newlyweds under age 50 (the vast majority of all newly weds). Rates decline among newlyweds over age 50.

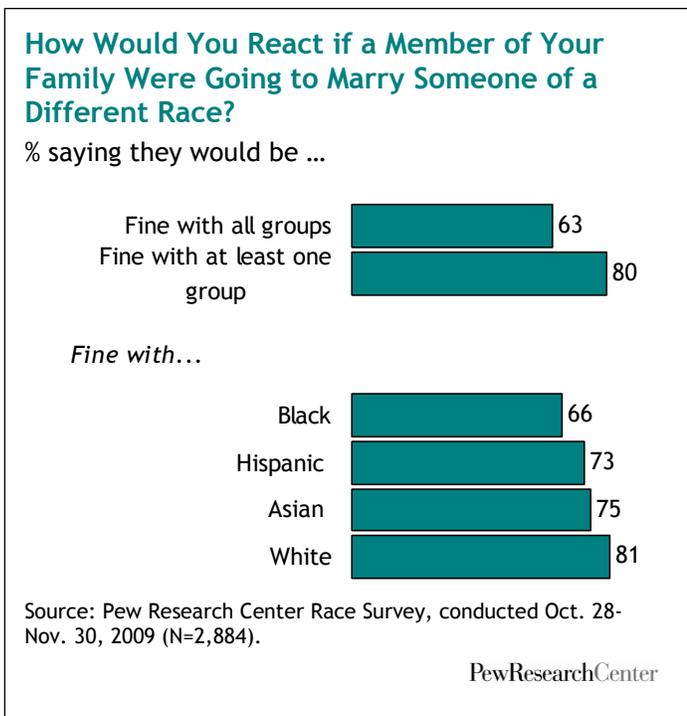
The Fading of a Taboo: Today’s attitudes and behaviors regarding intermarriage represent a sharp break from the not-too-distant past. For most of this nation’s history, a majority of states had anti-miscegenation laws that made it illegal for whites and nonwhites to marry. Many states repealed these laws after World War II, and the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in *Loving v. Virginia* in 1967 had the effect of declaring unconstitutional anti-miscegenation laws in the 15 states where they were still on the books.

However, attitudinal and behavioral change did not come overnight. As of 1987—two decades after the Supreme Court ruling—just 48% of the public said it was “OK for whites and blacks to date each other.” By 2009, that share had grown to 83%. Acceptance has risen among all age cohorts, but it is highest among young adults. Among adults ages 18 to 32, 93% approve; among adults ages 64 and older, 68% approve.³

As for attitudes about interracial marriage, a 2009 Pew Research survey posed that question in explicitly personal terms: “How do you think you would react if a member of your family told you they were going to marry a [white American/African-American/Hispanic-American/Asian-American]? Would you be fine with it, would it bother you but you would come to accept it, or would you not be able to accept it?”

Survey respondents were asked about all major racial and ethnic groups except their own. Overall, 63% said it would be fine with them if a family member married “out” to all three other major racial and ethnic groups tested in the survey, and 80% said they would be fine with a new member of their family who came from at least one of the “out” groups.

The survey found that acceptance of out-marriage to whites (81%) is somewhat higher than is acceptance of out-marriage to Asians (75%), Hispanics (73%) or blacks (66%). The survey also showed the flip side of the same coin: Black respondents are somewhat more accepting of all forms of intermarriage than are white or



³ See Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, “Independents Take Center Stage in Obama Era: Trends in Political Values and Core Attitudes: 1987-2009,” May 21, 2009 (<http://people-press.org/report/517/political-values-and-core-attitudes>).

Hispanic respondents. More than seven-in-ten blacks (72%) say it would be fine with them if a family member chose to marry someone who was white, Hispanic or Asian. By contrast, 61% of whites and 63% of Hispanics say they would be fine with a family member marrying someone from any of the other groups.

These racial gaps in acceptance have narrowed in the past decade. Compared with responses to the same questions in 2001, whites have grown somewhat more accepting of interracial marriage and blacks somewhat less.

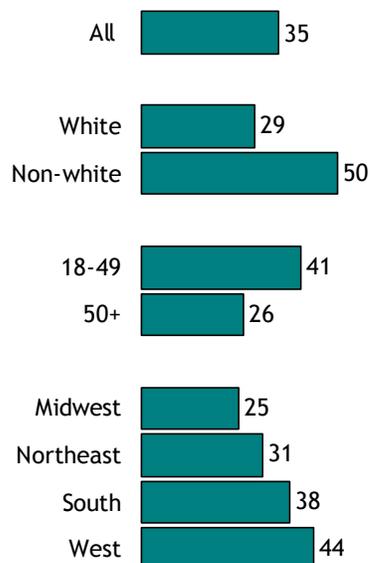
All in the Family: About a third (35%) of all adults say they have an immediate family member or close relative who is married to someone of a different race, according to a newly released Pew Research Center survey finding. Whites are less likely than nonwhites to say this (29% versus 50%), and those ages 50 and over are less likely to say this than those under age 50 (26% versus 41%). Also, 44% of adults living in the West say a family member is in an interracial marriage, compared with 38% of those in the South, 31% in the Northeast and 25% in the Midwest.

A Note on Terminology

In this report, the terms “intermarriage” and “marrying out”⁴ refer to marriages between a Hispanic and a non-Hispanic (Hispanics are an ethnic group, not a racial group) or marriages between non-Hispanic spouses who come from the following different racial groups: white, black, Asian, American Indian, mixed race or some other race. All designations are based on self-descriptions by individuals on U.S. Census forms. For the years 2000 and later, when individuals could self-identify on census forms as having more than one race, the race groups include only persons reporting a single race. In these years, there is also another group—persons reporting two or more races. The term “Asian” includes native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. “American Indian” includes Alaska Natives. The terms “black” and “African-American” are used interchangeably in this report, as are the terms “Hispanic” and “Latino.” All references

Do You Have an Immediate Family Member or Close Relative Married to Someone of a Different Race?

% saying “Yes”



Source: Pew Research Center Survey, conducted Nov. 12-15, 2009 (N=1,003).

PewResearchCenter

⁴ In popular usage, these phrases may also encompass different pairings from the ones described in this report. For example, some people might use these terms to describe a marriage between someone of Irish origin and someone of Italian origin; or between a Protestant and a Catholic; or between a Christian and a Jew. Those usages were probably more common in the past than now, but within certain ethnic or religious population enclaves, they persist. For the purposes of this report, however, the term “marrying out” (and the analysis that accompanies the term) is limited to marriages among spouses of different races or marriages between a Hispanic and non-Hispanic.

in this report to whites, blacks, Asians and American Indians refer to the non-Hispanic portions of those groups.

A Note on Methodology

Data on the currently married population are drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Surveys (ACS) of 2005 and 2008 and from Decennial Censuses of 1980, 1990 and 2000. For the newly married population, data are available only from the 2008 ACS and the 1980 Decennial Census. In 2008, the newly married population was defined as people who reported getting married in the 12 months prior to the survey. The 1980 Census provides the year of marriage for individuals' first marriage only, not their current marriage. So, the newly married couples for 1980 reported here consist only of those marriages in which either the bride or groom was marrying for the first time. While this means that the 1980 data do not include all new marriages that year, it is not likely to have a significant impact on the comparisons presented between rates of intermarriage in 1980 and 2008. About 90% of the married population in 1980 included one or both spouses in a first marriage and the intermarriage rates for those in first marriages differed little from all married persons. Further, comparisons are not between absolute numbers of intermarriages in 1980 and 2008 but between the share of all new marriages in each of those two years that were intermarriages.

Acknowledgements

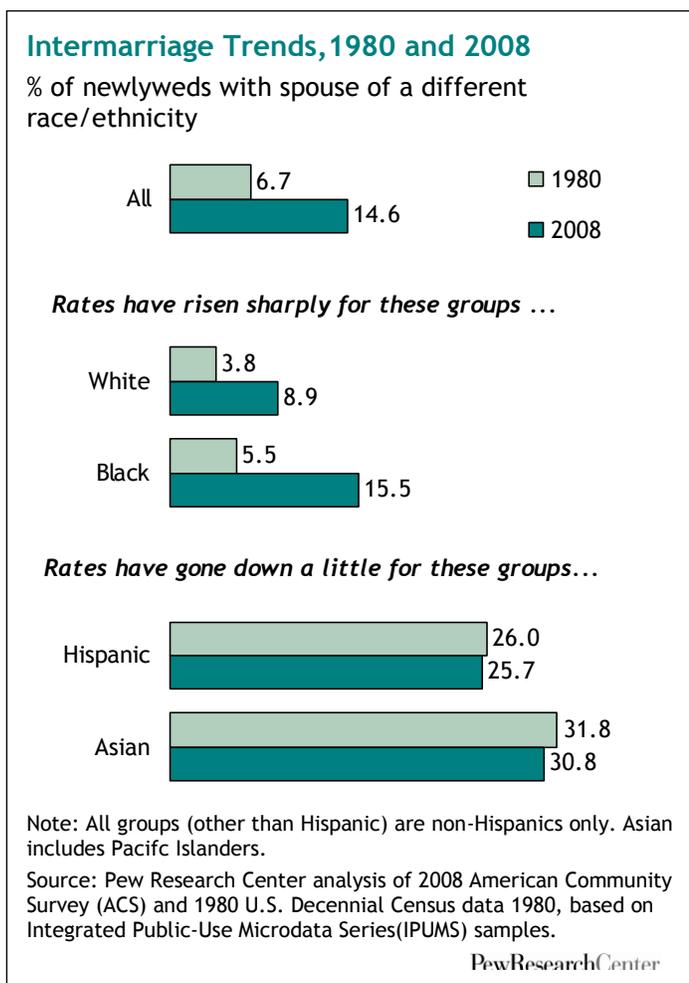
Section IV of this report on attitudes about intermarriage is based on an analysis and write-up of a 2009 Pew Research survey by Jocelyn Kiley, research associate at Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Number checking for this report was done by Daniel Dockterman, research assistant, and Gabriel Velasco, research analyst.

II. Intermarriage by Race and Ethnicity

Even though intermarriage in the United States has grown much more common in recent decades for the population as a whole, different groups have experienced different trends. Since 1980, rates of new intermarriages have gone up sharply for whites and blacks but were virtually unchanged for Hispanics and Asians.

These trends are not as paradoxical as they seem at first blush. Indeed, they all flow in large part from the same underlying demographic change—the big influx since 1965 of Hispanic and Asian immigrants.

These immigrants and their offspring have vastly increased the pool of potential spouses for out-marriage by whites and blacks. At the same time, they have increased the pool of potential spouses for in-marriage by Hispanics, who now comprise 16% of the nation's population, and Asians, who comprise 5% of the population.



Three major immigration waves have occurred in U.S. history. In their racial and ethnic compositions, the first two were strikingly different from the third. Nearly 90% of the 33 million immigrants who came during the first two waves (in the late 19th and early 20th centuries) were white Europeans.⁵ They changed the country in many ways, but they did not enlarge the pool of potential partners for interracial marriage by whites. (Nor for blacks, who were barred by law from marrying whites.)

The modern immigration wave, by contrast, has enlarged the intermarriage pool. It has brought 40 million⁶ new immigrants—of whom 50% are Hispanic and 25% Asian—to the U.S. since 1965. This ongoing wave is now mature enough to have produced a large second generation born in the United States, many of

⁵ See Pew Hispanic Center, “Between Two Worlds: How Young Latinos Come of Age in America,” Dec 11, 2009 (<http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=117>)

⁶ While the modern wave has brought more new immigrants, in absolute numbers, than the first two waves combined, the earlier waves produced much higher shares of immigrants per 1,000 native-born population because there were many fewer people living in the country at the time.

whom are themselves now of marrying age. These children of immigrants are intermarrying at much higher rates than their parents.

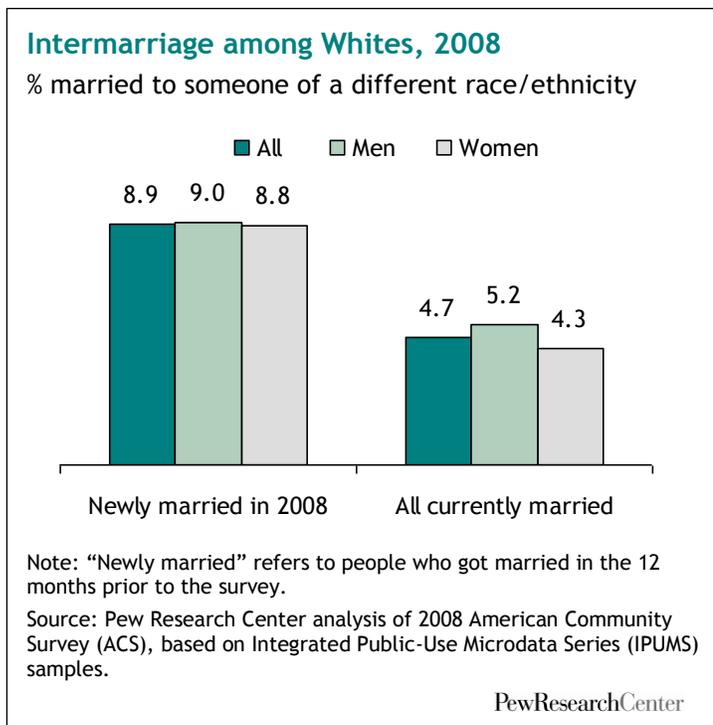
All of these demographic changes have produced an American population tapestry that is more racially and ethnically diverse than ever before. But the compositional changes would not have produced such a sharp increase in intermarriage rates unless norms and attitudes changed at the same time.

The remainder of this section analyzes trends in intermarriage through the lens of each of the nation's four biggest racial/ethnic groups—whites, blacks, Hispanics and Asians. Section III looks at intermarriage trend data from the census by using a different methodology. Section IV looks at public attitudes about intermarriage, using Pew Research survey data.

Whites

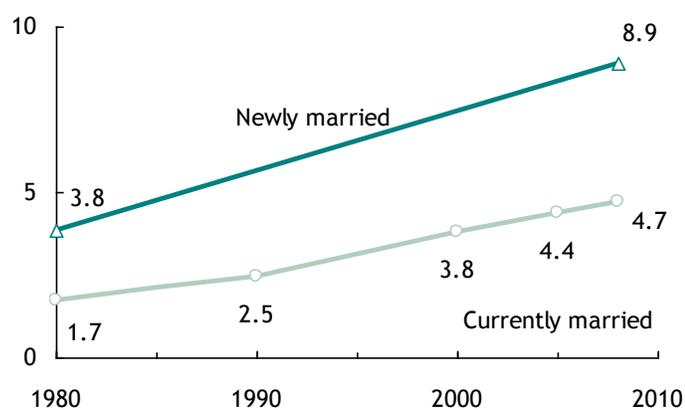
Among the estimated 2.7 million white newlyweds in 2008, nearly one-in-ten (8.9%) married a nonwhite spouse. The share is similar for men and women. For all whites who were currently married (for whatever duration) in 2008, 4.7% were married to someone of a different race or ethnicity.

While there has been a sharp rise in the share of whites marrying outside their race in the past several decades, this increase has occurred from a very low starting point. In 1960, only an



Intermarriage Trends among Whites, 1980-2008

% married someone of a different race/ethnicity



Source: Newly married numbers are from 1980 Census and 2008 American Community Survey(ACS). Currently married numbers are from 2005 and 2008 ACS and U.S. Decennial Census data, based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series(IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

estimated 1.3% of white newlyweds had a nonwhite spouse. After nearly half a century, the proportion increased to about 9% in 2008.

Driven by the increase in new intermarriages each year, the share of all married whites with a nonwhite spouse has also increased. Just 1.7% of whites were married to nonwhites in 1980. By 2008, that figure nearly tripled to 4.7%. Still, of the four racial and ethnic groups studied in this report, whites remain the least likely to marry outside their group. (This may be the result of different cultural norms among different groups, but to some extent it may also be a byproduct of simple arithmetic: As the nation's majority population, whites have many more potential partners for in-marrying than do members of minority groups.)

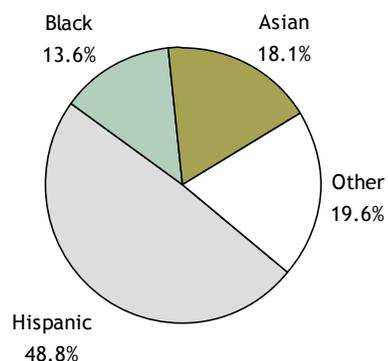
With whom do whites out-marry?

Among white newlyweds in 2008 who married outside their racial group, nearly half (49%) married someone of Hispanic origin, while 18% married an Asian, 14% married a black person and the rest married someone of a mixed race, an American Indian or some other race.

Among whites who out-married in 2008, there were different patterns by gender in the race of their spouses. More than a quarter of white men (27%) married an Asian woman, and about 7% married a black woman. In contrast, 20% of white women married a black man, while just 9% married an Asian man.

A slightly higher proportion of white women than white men married a Hispanic person (51% versus 46%), and a similar share of each gender married someone in the "other" group.

Among Whites Who "Out-Married" in 2008, Race/Ethnicity of Spouse



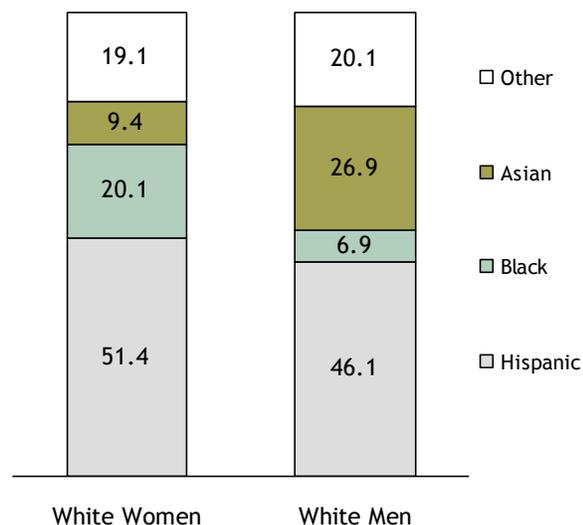
Note: "Other" includes American Indian, two or more races and "some other" races. All groups (other than Hispanic) are non-Hispanic.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Among Whites Who "Out-Married" in 2008, Race/Ethnicity of Spouse

% married to someone of a different race/ethnicity in the previous 12 months



Note: "Other" includes American Indian, two or more races and "some other" races.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Blacks

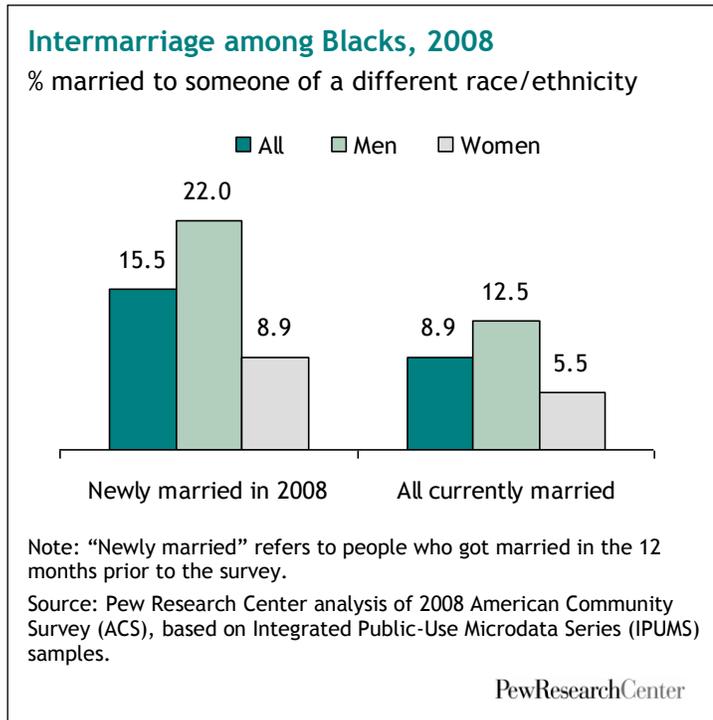
Among the estimated 362,000 African-Americans who were newlyweds in 2008, nearly one-in-six (15.5%) married someone who was not black. The share of out-marriage among men was more than twice the share among women. Some 22% of black male newlyweds in 2008 married someone of a different race or ethnicity, compared with 8.9% of black female newlyweds that same year.

For all blacks who are currently married, about 9% are married to someone of a different race or ethnicity. Again, the share of blacks with a non-black spouse is higher for men than for women. One-in-eight (12.5%) married black men have a non-black spouse, compared with 5.5% of married black women.

Trends

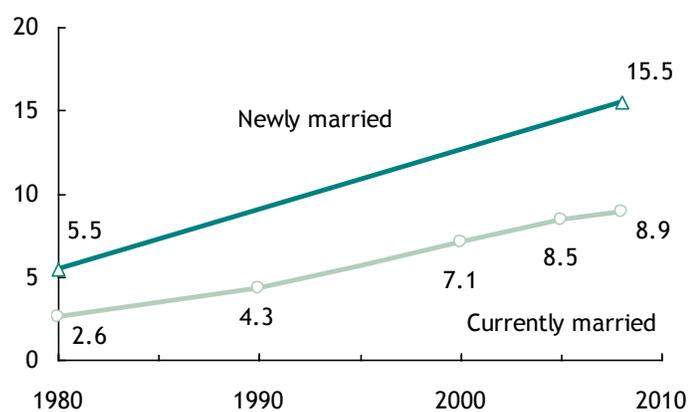
As with whites, the rate of interracial marriage among blacks had been very low until fairly recently. Only about 1% of black newlyweds married outside their race in 1960 (at a time when such marriages were still illegal in many states). The rate has gone up dramatically over the past several decades and reached the all-time high of nearly 15.5% in 2008.

Driven by the increase in new intermarriages each year, the share of all married blacks with a non-black spouse has also risen sharply, more than tripling since 1980. Among all currently married blacks, some 8.9%



Intermarriage Trends among Blacks, 1980-2008

% married to someone of a different race/ethnicity

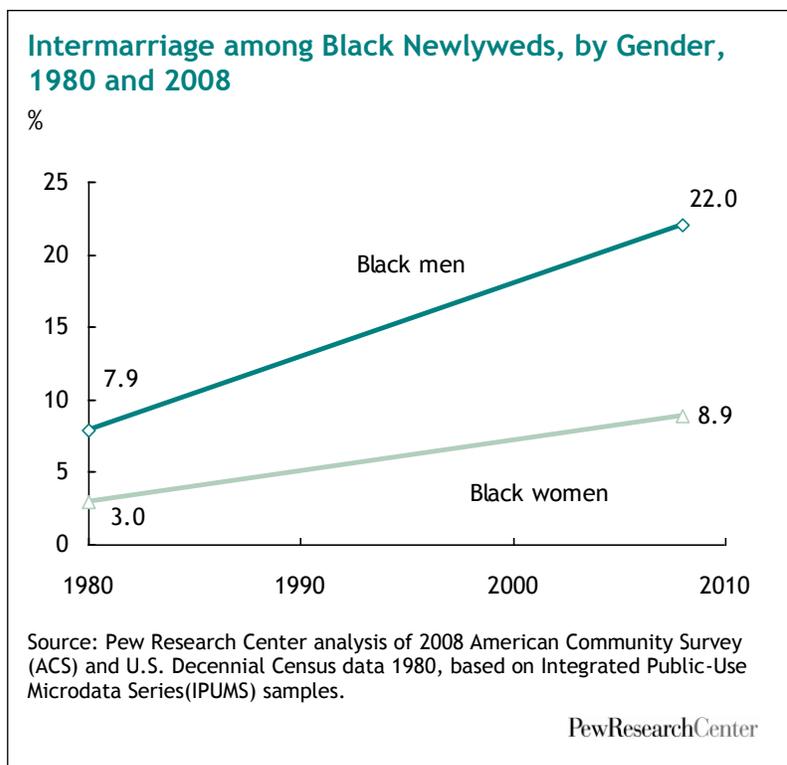


Source: Newly married numbers are from 1980 Census and 2008 American Community Survey(ACS). Currently married numbers are from 2005 and 2008 ACS and U.S. Decennial Census data, based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series(IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

were married to a non-black in 2008, up from 2.6% in 1980.

Among blacks, men are more likely than women to marry outside their race, and this gender disparity has grown progressively larger over the decades. In 1960, an estimated 1.3% of black male and 0.9% of black female newlyweds married non-blacks. Rates of intermarriage have increased for both over time, but the increase has been more pronounced among black men. By 2008, 22% of black male newlyweds and 8.9% of black female newlyweds married someone who was not black.



With whom do blacks out-marry?

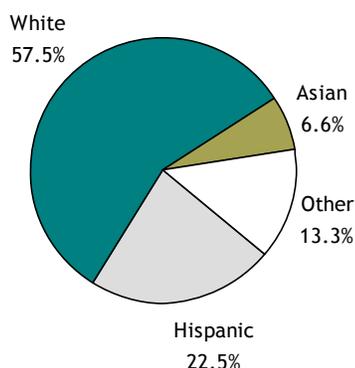
Among black newlyweds in 2008, more than half (58%) married a white person and over one-in-five (23%) married a Hispanic. Just 7% married an Asian, and the rest (13%) married someone of a mixed race, an American Indian or some other race.

Despite the sizable gender gap in the rate of “marrying out,” black men and women in new intermarriages have similar racial patterns in their spousal partners. Nearly six-in-ten of each gender married a white spouse. Close to a quarter of black women (24%) and 22% of black men married a Hispanic person. A small minority married an Asian spouse (7% for men and 6% for women), and the rest married someone in the “other” category.

The decline of marriage among blacks

All of these trends have played out against the backdrop of sharply declining overall marriage rates among young blacks. In 2007, just 33% of black women ages 30 to 44 were married, down from 62% of the comparable age group in 1970. Among black men in this age range, just 44% were married in 2007, down from 74% in 1970. Rates for young whites also declined during this period, but not by as much: in 2007, 67% of white women and 63% of white men in this age group were married.⁷

Among Blacks Who Out-Married in 2008, Race/Ethnicity of Spouse



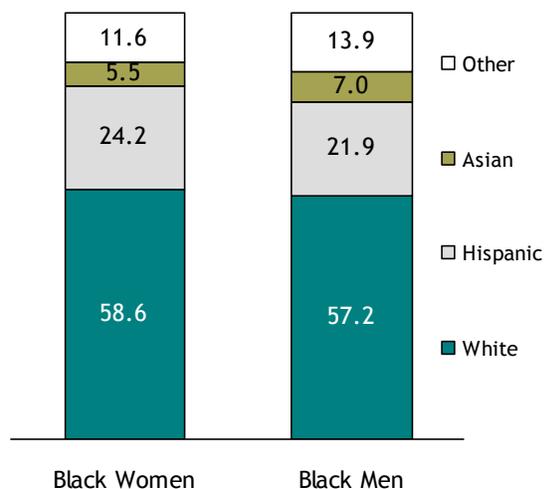
Note: “Other” includes American Indian, two or more races and “some other” races.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Among Black Women and Men Who Out-Married in 2008, Race/Ethnicity of Spouse

% married to someone of a different race/ethnicity in the previous 12 months



Note: “Other” includes American Indian, two or more races and “some other” races.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

⁷ See Pew Social & Demographic Trends, “Women, Men and the new Economics of Marriage,” January 19, 2010 (<http://pewsocialtrends.org/pubs/750/new-economics-of-marriage>).

Hispanics

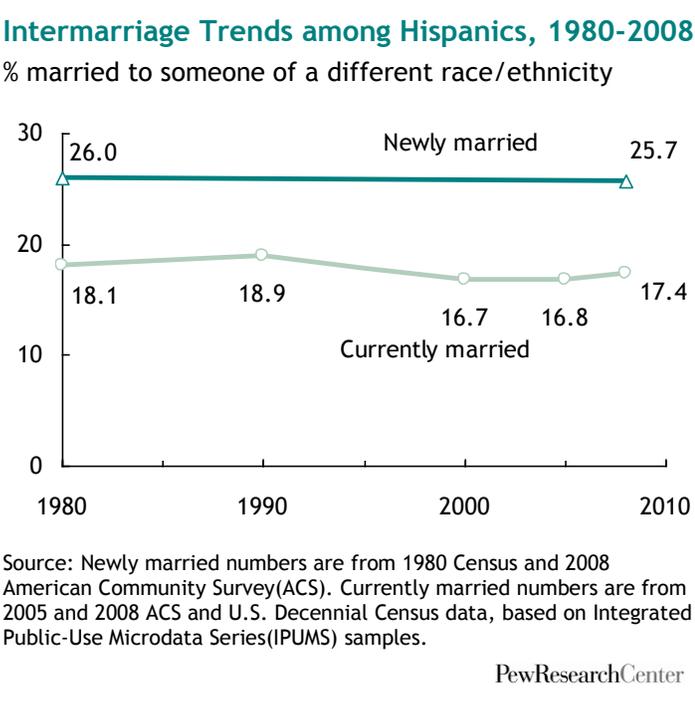
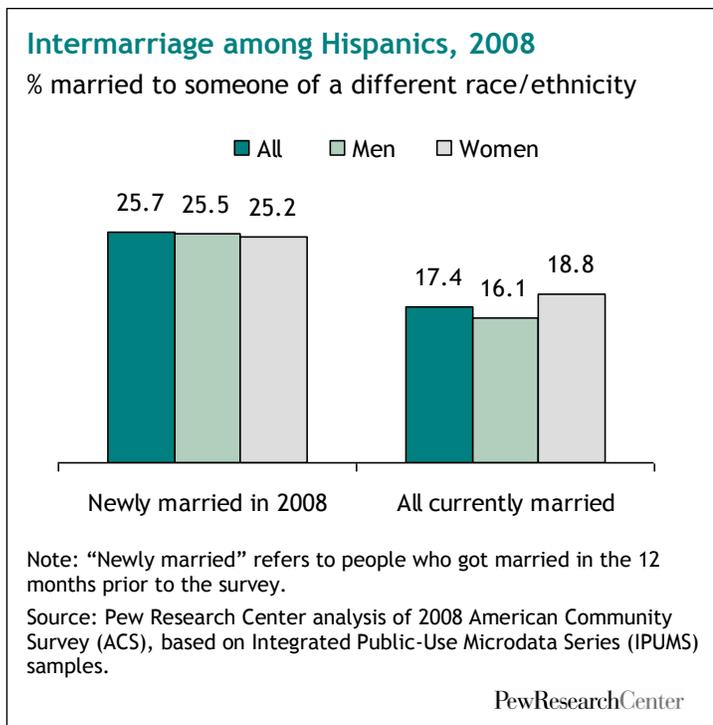
Among the estimated 563,000 Hispanic newlyweds in 2008, about a quarter (26%) married someone who was not Hispanic, and this share is similar for men and women. For all Hispanics who are currently married, about 17% are married to someone of a different race or ethnicity. The share of Hispanics with a non-Hispanic spouse is slightly higher for women than for men. About 19% of married Hispanic women have a non-Hispanic spouse, compared with about 16% of married Hispanic men.

Trends

Intermarriage rates among Hispanic newlyweds were virtually identical in 2008 (25.7%) and 1980 (26%).

Likewise, the shares of intermarriages among all currently married Hispanics were very similar in 1980 and 2008.

However, this apparent constancy masks a number of underlying dynamic changes. As we will show in Section III by using other data from other U.S. censuses, it appears that between the years 1980 and 2008, Hispanic intermarriage rates dipped for a period of time before rebounding after about 2000. Further, trends differed substantially for U.S.-born Hispanics and immigrants while the nativity composition of the population changed in ways that offset the changing marriage patterns.

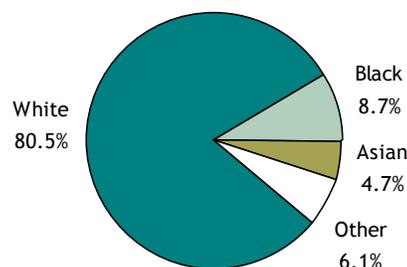


With whom do Hispanics out-marry?

Among Hispanics newlyweds who intermarried in 2008, the vast majority (81%) married a white person. About one-in-ten (9%) married a black person, and 5% married an Asian. The rest (6%) married someone of a mixed race, an American Indian or some other race.

Hispanic men and women in mixed marriages have a slightly different pattern in the racial profile of their spouses. More than eight-in-ten (83%) Hispanic men who out-married in 2008 married a white spouse, compared with 78% of Hispanic women. Among Hispanic female newlyweds who out-married in 2008, some 13% married a black spouse, compared with just 5% of Hispanic male newlyweds.

Among Hispanics Who Out-Married in 2008, Race/Ethnicity of Spouse



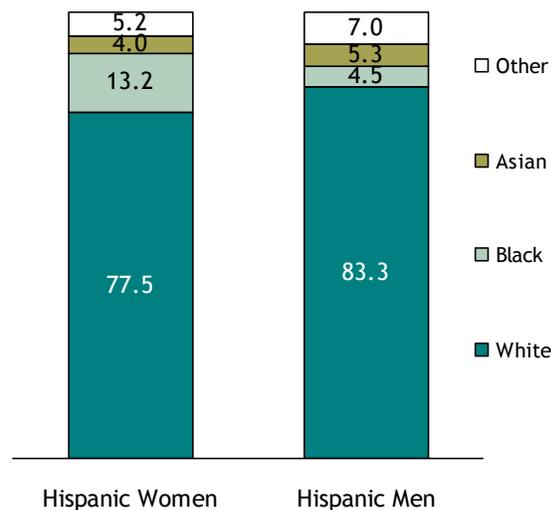
Note: "Other" includes American Indian, two or more races and "some other" races.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Among Hispanic Women and Men Who Out-Married in 2008, Race/Ethnicity of Spouse

% married to someone of a different race/ethnicity in the previous 12 months



Note: "Other" includes American Indian, two or more races and "some other" races. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

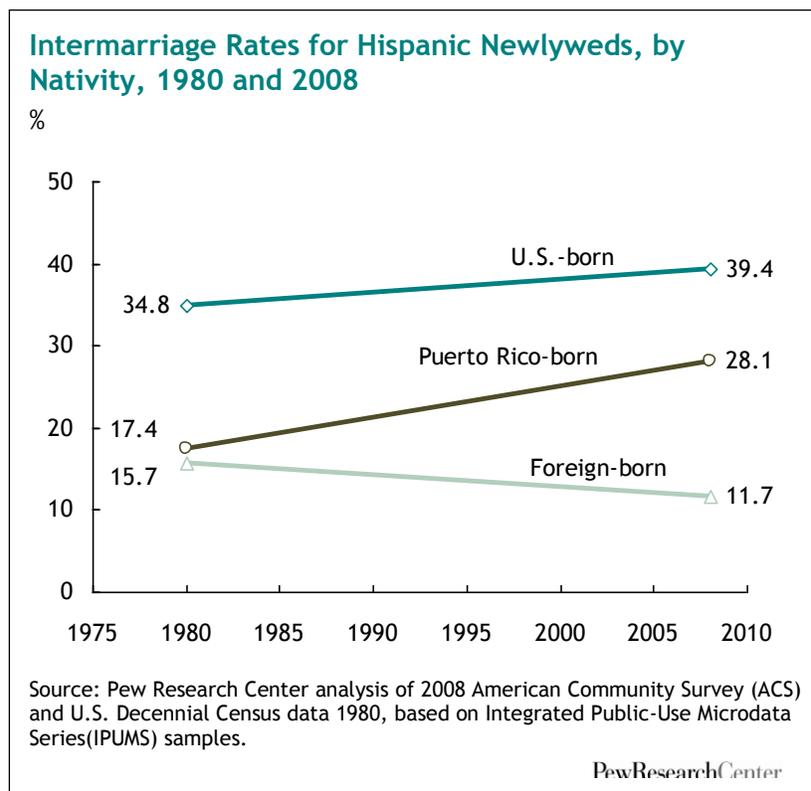
Natives vs. Foreign-born Hispanics

Hispanics born in the fifty states of the U.S. have a higher intermarriage rate than do those born in Puerto Rico and a much higher rate than those born in a foreign country. In 2008, nearly four-in-ten (39%) U.S.-born Hispanic newlyweds married someone who was not Hispanic, compared with about 28% of Hispanics who were born in Puerto Rico and just 12% of those who were born abroad.

The intermarriage trends for these three groups are somewhat different as well. The share of both U.S.-born and Puerto Rico-born Hispanic newlyweds who married non-Hispanics rose

between 1980 and 2008, although at different rates. The share of Puerto Rican-born Hispanic newlyweds marrying a non-Hispanic went up by about 60% while the rise among those born in the 50 states was much more modest at about 13%.

Meantime, the share of foreign-born Hispanics newlyweds marrying non-Hispanics has declined slightly from 15.7% in 1980 to 11.7% in 2008. As a backdrop, the share of foreign-born Hispanics among the overall married Hispanic population has increased from 40% in 1980 to about 60% in 2008. This compositional change—driven by ongoing high levels of Hispanic immigration—helps explain why the overall Hispanic intermarriage rate has been stable during this period in spite of an increase in the rate at which native-born Hispanics marry non-Hispanics.



Asians

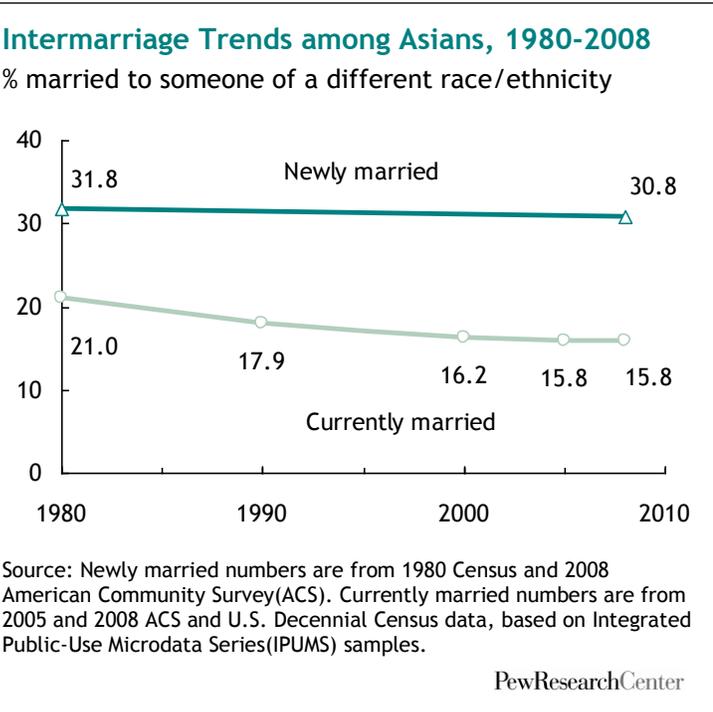
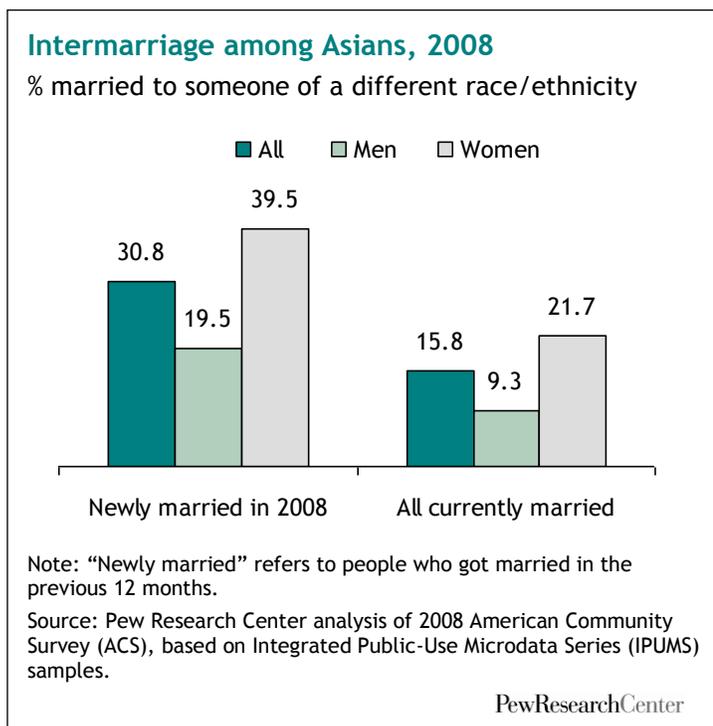
Among the estimated 186,000 Asian newlyweds in 2008, more than three-in-ten (31%) married someone who was not Asian. The rate of out-marriage among female Asian newlyweds was twice that of male newlyweds. Nearly four-in-ten (39.5%) Asian women who married in 2008 married someone of a different race/ethnicity, compared with 19.5% of Asian men.

For all Asians who are currently married, about 16% are married to someone of a different race or ethnicity. Here, too, the share of Asians with a non-Asian spouse is much higher for women than for men. More than one-in-five (22%) married Asian women have a non-Asian spouse, compared with 9% of married Asian men.

Trends

Overall, intermarriage rates among Asian newlyweds declined slightly in the period under study -- to 30.8% in 2008 from 31.8% in 1980.

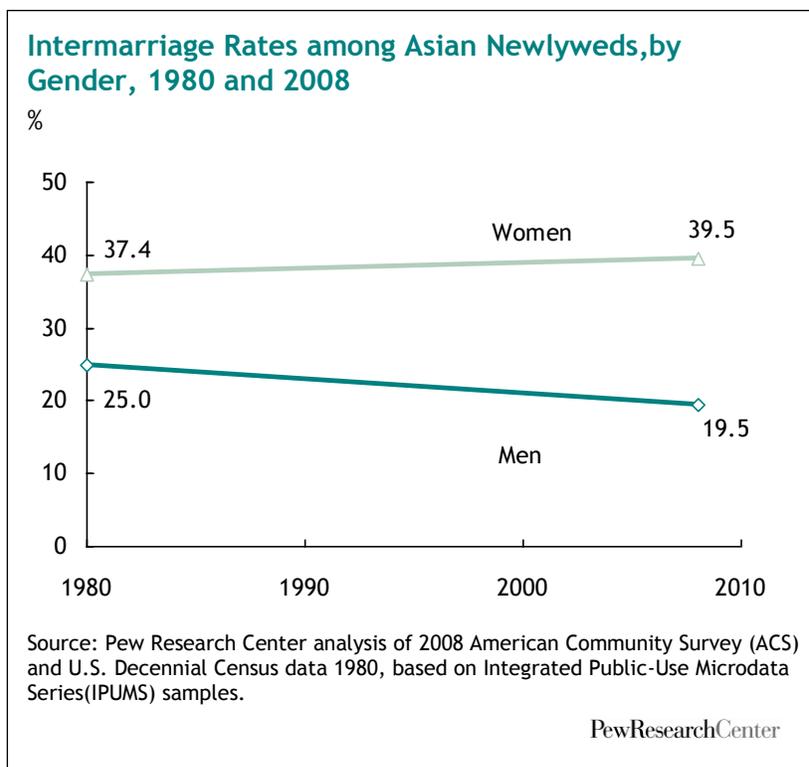
Similarly, the share of all currently married Asians with a non-Asian spouse declined to 15.8% in 2008 from 21% in 1980. This decline appears linked to compositional changes in the Asian population. As a result of the on-going wave of Asian immigration, the percentage foreign-born among married Asians increased from 72% in 1980 to 87% in 2008. Asian immigrants tend to intermarry at lower rates than do U.S.-born Asians, driving



the overall intermarriage percentage down.

The gender gap in Asian rates of out-marriage has grown larger over time. Back in 1980, about 37% of Asian female newlyweds married non-Asians, compared with about 25% of newly married Asian men.

The rate of intermarriage increased slightly for newly married Asian women between 1980 (37.4%) and 2008 (39.5%). In contrast, the share of intermarriage for newly married Asian men declined from 25% in 1980 to 19.5% in 2008.

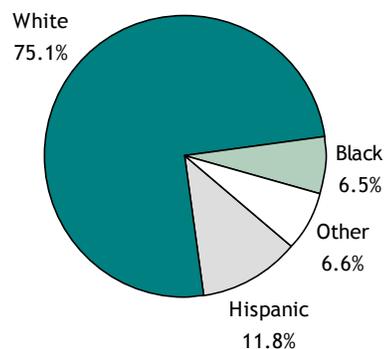


With whom do Asians out-marry?

Among Asian newlyweds who intermarried in 2008, a majority (75%) married a white person, followed by 12% who married a Hispanic, 7% who married a black and 7% who married someone of a mixed race, American Indian or other race.

Despite the big gender gap in the rate of “marrying out,” Asian men and women in intermarriages have similar patterns in the race of their spouses. The majority of both genders married a white person, with Asian women (77%) slightly more likely to do so than Asian men (71%). Asian women are also slightly more likely than their male counterparts to marry someone who is black (7% versus 5%). In contrast, the proportion marrying a Hispanic spouse is higher for Asian men than Asian women (18% versus 10%).

Among Asians Who Out-Married in 2008, Race/Ethnicity of Spouse



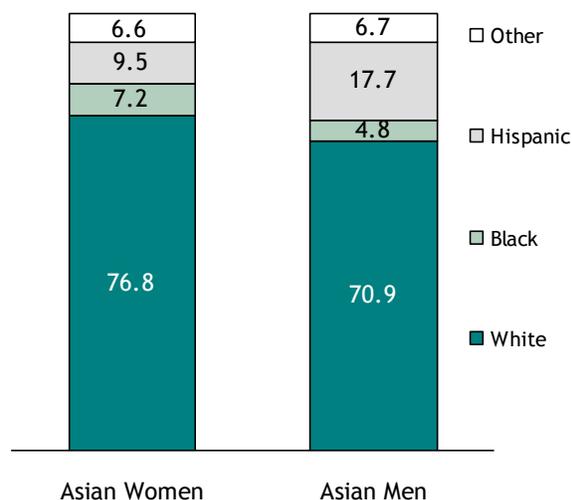
Note: “Other” includes American Indian, two or more races and “some other” races.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Among Asian Women and Men Who Out - Married in 2008, Race/Ethnicity of Spouse

% married to someone of a different race/ethnicity in the previous 12 months



Note: “Other” includes American Indian, two or more races and “some other” races.

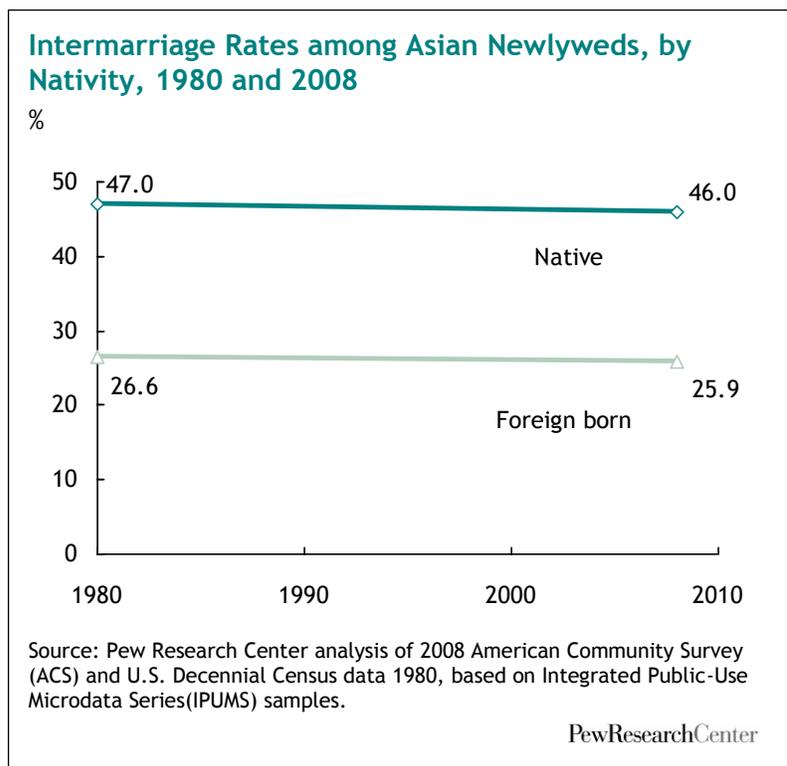
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Native- vs. Foreign-born Asians

Asians born in the United States have a much higher intermarriage rate than do those who were born in other countries. In 2008, close to half (46%) of U.S.-born Asian newlyweds married a non-Asian person, compared with about 26% of their counterparts who are foreign born.

The intermarriage rates for both groups were nearly identical in 1980 and 2008. However, as with Hispanics, these rate similarities in those two years appear to hide a more complex story that involves gender differences and a trend that dipped downward during the 1990s and rebounded starting around the turn of the century. The next section of the report uses an alternative methodology that allows for a closer examination of these changes over time.



III. Intermarriage Trends

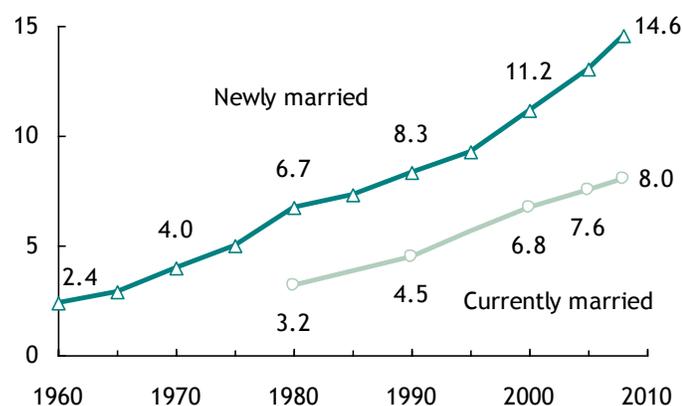
All modern censuses in the U.S. have collected information on the marital status of the population but only two — the decennial census of 1980 and the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey of 2008 — asked respondents when they married. These data on date of marriage permit us to determine who married in the year before the survey. Most of the time trend charts in the first two sections of this report are based on comparisons of the rates of intermarriage among new marriages in 1980 and 2008.

Data from the decennial censuses of 1990 and 2000 and the ACS of 2005 and 2008 permit us to track overall changes in the currently married population but do not allow us to directly assess changing patterns in new marriages. Moreover, our ability to assess changes before 1980 is limited because of the nature of available census data.⁸

However, because the 2008 and 1980 data tell us when people got married, we can estimate the intermarriage rates for years between 1980 and 2008 from the 2008 ACS and for years before 1980 from the 1980 Census. These “look back” responses are the basis for year-to-year trends in intermarriage

Intermarriage Trend, 1960-2008

% married someone of a different race/ethnicity

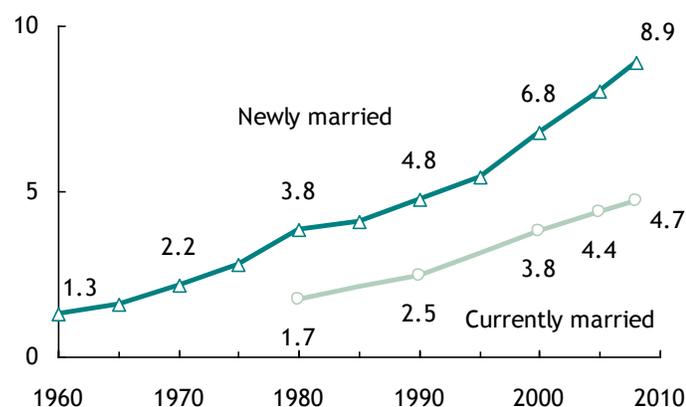


Source: Newly married numbers for 1980 and earlier are calculated from 1980 Census, and other numbers are calculated from 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). Currently married numbers are from 2005 and 2008 ACS and U.S. Decennial Census data, based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Intermarriage Trends among Whites, 1960-2008

% married to someone of a different race/ethnicity



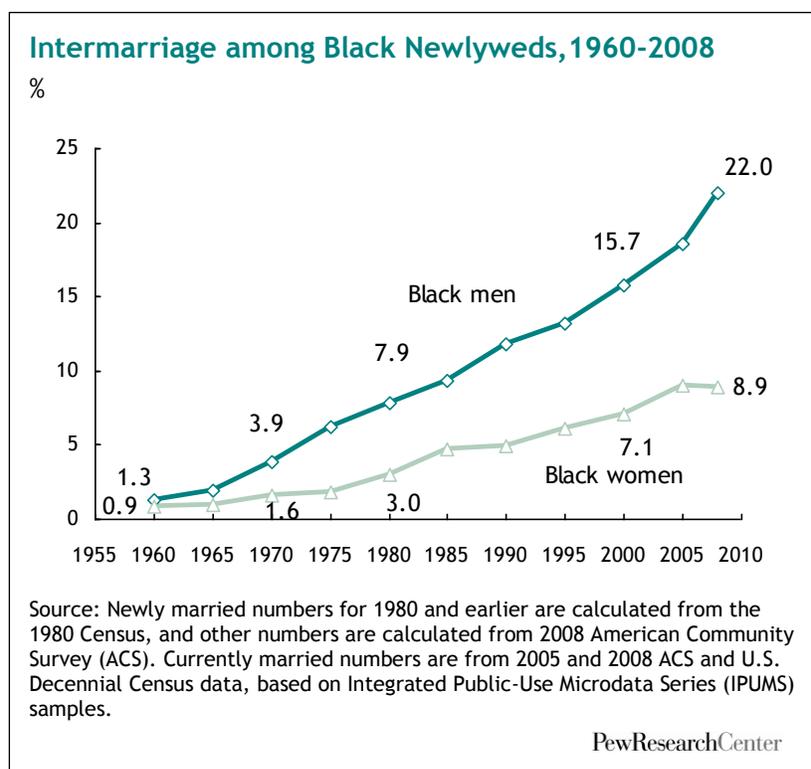
Source: Newly married numbers for 1980 and earlier are calculated from the 1980 Census, and other numbers are calculated from the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). Currently married numbers are from 2005 and 2008 ACS and U.S. Decennial Census data, based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

⁸ Prior to the 1980 Census there was no universal identifier for the Hispanic population so assessments of intermarriage in 1970 and earlier censuses are limited to interracial patterns but not interethnic patterns.

rates from 1960 to 2008 shown in this section⁹.

These historic trends should be treated as estimates subject to more limitations than other data presented in this report.¹⁰ However, they do appear to capture the overall trends. When we compare the estimates for marriages in 1980 based on the 2008 ACS looking back with the contemporaneous estimates from the 1980 Census, the levels and patterns of intermarriage rates are very similar. In addition, a further look back from 2008 to marriages occurring decades earlier, in the 1960s and 1970s, show very similar trends to the shorter look back from 1980.



This “look-back” method allows us to present a fuller and more detailed picture of the way rates have changed over the past several decades. And it enables us to see that for two groups – Hispanics and Asians – rates of intermarriage among newlyweds appear to have dipped during the 1990s and rebounded in the past decade.

Here are two of the key trends we can identify using this “look back” approach:

- Intermarriages in the U.S. comprised just 2.4% of all new marriages in 1960 – about one-sixth the 14.6% rate in 2008. This small share in 1960 reflects the fact that there were prevailing social and/or legal taboos against black-white marriages. It also reflects the fact Hispanics and Asians were a far smaller share of the population then than they are now.

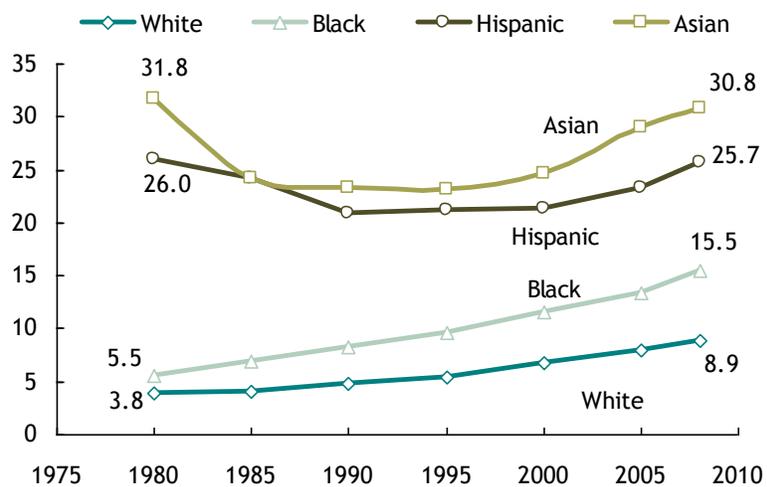
⁹ Because we are tracking marriage patterns in the U.S., the intermarriage rates for immigrants are based only on marriages occurring in the United States. Immigrants who married before they came to the U.S. are excluded from these calculations (but not from the rates for the entire currently married population).

¹⁰ The “look back” methodology only captures marriages that are still in existence at the time of the census or survey. We do not observe those dissolved by divorce or death of a spouse. Since the goal of our analysis is to compare rates of intermarriage over time not absolute numbers, this limitation would be problematic only if intermarriages dissolve at higher rates or more quickly than in-group marriages and distort the trends over time. It is not clear if this is the case, but our historical comparisons do not suggest major distortions.

- Since 1980, intermarriage rates for both Hispanics and Asians have undergone a similar U-shaped trend. Rates declined during the 1980s, leveled off during the 1990s and have rebounded during the 2000s – to the point where they are now nearly identical to what they had been in 1980.

Intermarriage Trends among Newlyweds by Race and Ethnicity, 1980 to 2008

% of newly married whose spouse is of a different race/ethnicity



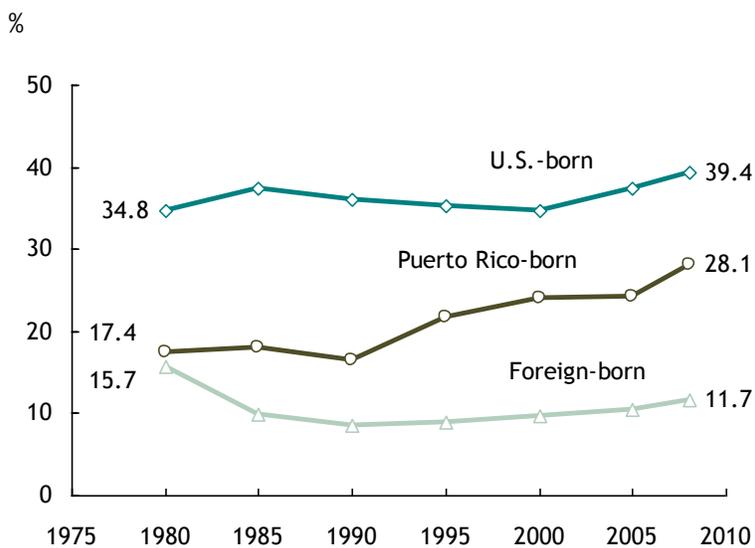
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) and 1980 U.S. Decennial Census data, based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

The changing overall patterns of Hispanic and Asian intermarriage, including these U-shaped trend lines, are affected greatly by compositional changes within the Hispanic and Asian population resulting from ongoing immigration. During the 1980s, heavy immigration flows from both Latin America and Asia increased the ratio of immigrants-to-native born among adult Latinos and Asians living in the U.S. Because immigrants marry out at lower rates than do the native born, this had the effect of reducing overall intermarriage rates within these groups.

However, by the 1990s the rate of increase in the foreign-born adult populations slowed and by the 2000s, another demographic change took hold. Even as new immigration was continuing, the U.S.-born children of the Hispanic and Asian immigrants who had arrived since the 1970s were now starting to enter their “marriage years” in large numbers. As they did, they created a growing pool of native-born Hispanics and Asians who were more inclined than their parents’ generation to out-marry. The share of immigrants among younger adults peaked in the early 2000s for Hispanics and in

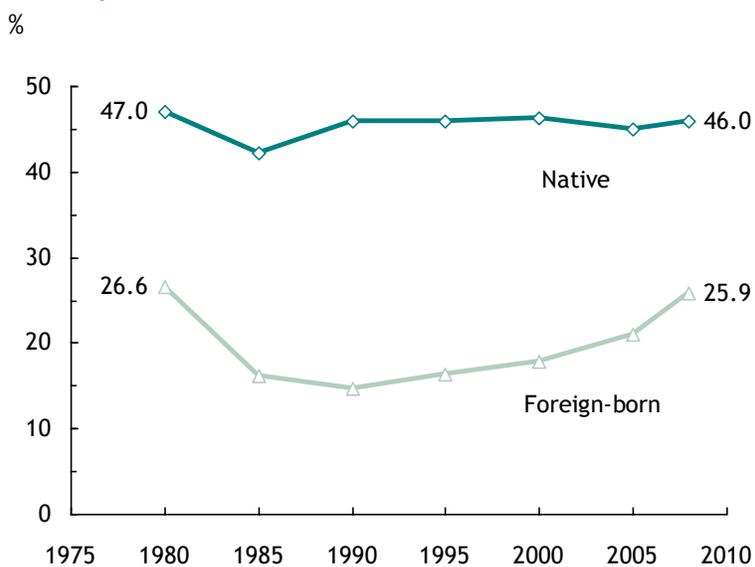
Intermarriage Rates for Hispanic Newlyweds, by Nativity, 1980-2008



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2005-2008 American Community Survey (ACS) and U.S. Decennial Census data, based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Intermarriage Rates among Asian Newlyweds, by Nativity, 1980-2008



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2005-2008 American Community Survey (ACS) and U.S. Decennial Census data, based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

2000 or earlier for Asians. By 2008 the share of immigrants among younger Hispanic and Asian adults had dropped back to 1990 levels.

Partly as a result of these compositional changes, the dropping intermarriage rates for both Hispanics and Asians rebounded so that intermarriage rates for marriages occurring in 2008 were above those for marriages in the 1990s and 2000s and roughly at the levels seen in 1980.

IV. Attitudes about Intermarriage

Most Americans say they approve interracial or interethnic marriage – and not just in theory, but in their own families. More than six-in-ten (63%) say it “would be fine” with them if a member of their family told them they were going to marry someone from *any* of three groups other than their own tested in a nationwide Pew Research Center survey conducted in November 2009. However, the survey also found some racial and ethnic differences—both in how accepting respondents of different racial and ethnic groups are toward intermarriage and in the degree to which intermarriage to a member of each group is accepted.¹¹

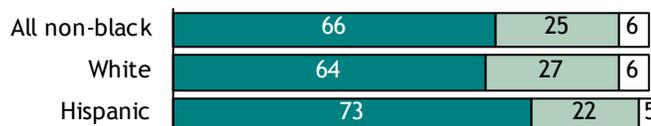
Of the four groups tested in the survey, openness to a family member’s marriage to an African-American ranks lowest. About two-thirds of non-blacks (66%) say they would be fine with it. By contrast, about three-quarters of non-Hispanics (73%) say they would be fine with a marriage to a Hispanic-American. A similar percentage of non-Asians (75%) say the same about marriage to an Asian-American, and more than eight-in-ten nonwhites (81%) say they would be fine with a family member’s marriage to a white

Most of Public Is OK with Racial Intermarriage in their Family

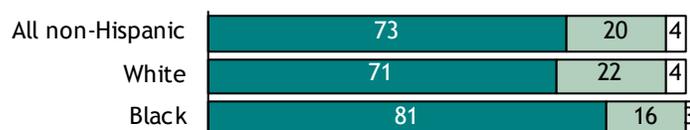
If a member of your family were to marry _____, would you ... ?

■ Be fine with it □ Be bothered, but accept it □ Not accept it

An African American



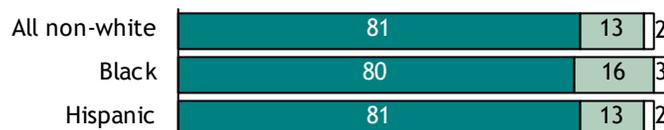
A Hispanic American



An Asian American



A White American



"Fine" to all



Note: Whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Blacks include only non-Hispanic blacks. Hispanics are of any race. “Don’t know” responses not shown. Q50a-d.

¹¹ This section is based on findings from a Pew Research telephone survey of a nationally representative sample of 2,884 adults conducted from Oct. 28 through Nov. 30, 2009. A version of this section appeared in Pew Research report, “Blacks Upbeat about Black Progress, Prospects.” Jan 12, 2010 (<http://pewsocialtrends.org/pubs/749/blacks-upbeat-about-black-progress-obama-election>).

American.

Overall, blacks are the most accepting of intermarriage—72% say it would be fine with them if a family member chose to marry someone who was white, Hispanic or Asian. By contrast, 61% of whites and 63% of Hispanics say they would be fine with a family member marrying someone from any of the other groups.

Lower levels of acceptance of marriage to any other racial or ethnic group among whites are driven in part by attitudes toward a family member marrying an African-American (64% fine), but whites are also less likely than blacks to approve of marriage to an Asian-American (73% versus 80% fine) or a Hispanic-American (71% versus 81% fine).

Latinos are also somewhat less likely than blacks to accept interracial marriage; while Hispanics are about equally likely as blacks to accept a family member's marriage to a white American (81% versus 80% fine) or an Asian-American (76% versus 80% fine), blacks are more likely than Hispanics to accept black/Hispanic intermarriage (73% of Hispanics and 81% of blacks would be fine with this).

Interracial Marriage More Widely Accepted than Marriage to an Atheist

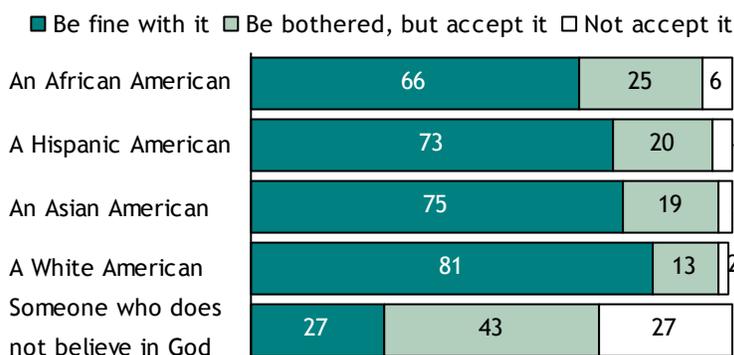
In contrast to the high rates of acceptance of marriage to those of a different racial or ethnic group, the majority of Americans affiliated with a religion would have a difficult time with a family member's decision to marry someone who does not believe in God. Almost seven-in-ten of those associated with a religion say they would either not accept such a marriage (27%) or would be bothered by it before coming to accept it (43%). Just 27% say they would be fine with a relative's decision to marry someone who did not believe in God.

Among people who are affiliated with a religion, blacks, who are the most likely to be accepting of interracial marriage, are more likely than

whites or Hispanics to express discomfort with marriage to an atheist. This racial difference is driven to some degree by religiosity. Overall, those who regularly attend religious services are less likely to approve of marriage to someone who does not believe in God (16% of believers who attend services at least weekly say they "would be fine" with a marriage to someone who does not believe in God, compared with 36% of those who attend less frequently), and blacks are more likely than whites to regularly attend religious

Fewer Would Accept Marriage to Someone who Doesn't Believe in God

If a member of your family were to marry someone who does not believe in God, would you ...



Note: Based on responses of individuals who are not a part of the group being asked about. "Don't know" responses not shown. Q50a-e.

PewResearchCenter

services. Among high-attending believers, whites are somewhat less likely than blacks, and much less likely than Hispanics, to approve of marriage to an atheist (11% of white high-attenders, 16% of black high-attenders and 35% of Hispanic high-attenders say it “would be fine” if a relative married someone who does not believe in God). Among believers who attend less frequently, whites (36%) and Hispanics (41%) are more likely than blacks (26%) to approve of such a marriage.

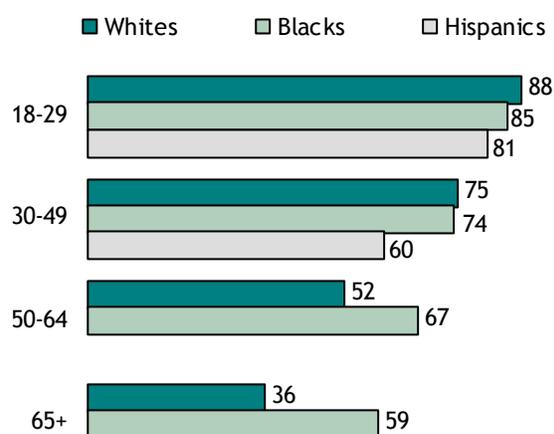
Age and Marriage outside of One’s Own Racial/Ethnic Group

The overall differences between white and black attitudes toward marriage are primarily the result of differences among older Americans. Regardless of race, younger Americans (18- to 29-year-olds) overwhelmingly say they would be fine with a family member’s marriage to someone in another ethnic or racial group, with no significant racial differences among this age group. And while 30- to 49-year-olds are somewhat less likely to be accepting of interracial marriage than are younger people, the opinions of whites ages 30-49 are comparable to those of blacks in that age group.

Across racial groups, racially conservative views about interracial marriage are strongly correlated with age. Americans ages 50 and over, and particularly those 65 and over, are considerably less accepting of interracial marriage than those in younger age groups. While this is true of blacks, it is more strongly pronounced among whites. Just over half of whites ages 50-64 (52%) and only 36% of whites 65 and older say they would be fine with a relative marrying someone from any other racial groups (this is 15 points and 23 points less than blacks in their age groups, respectively).

Young of All Racial and Ethnic Backgrounds Are More Supportive of Interracial Marriage

% of those who would be fine with a relative’s marriage to someone of any other race/ethnicity



Note: Whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Blacks include only non-Hispanic blacks. Hispanics are of any race. Insufficient cases of Hispanics ages 50-64 and 65+ for analysis. Question wording (asked about race/ethnic groups other than respondent’s): How do you think you would react if a member of your family told you they were going to marry ... (an African-American/a Hispanic-American/an Asian-American/a white American)? Would it be fine with you, would it bother you but you would come to accept it, or would you not be able to accept it? Q50a-d. Shown here: the percentage who say “it would be fine” with them to all three other ethnic/racial groups.

PewResearchCenter

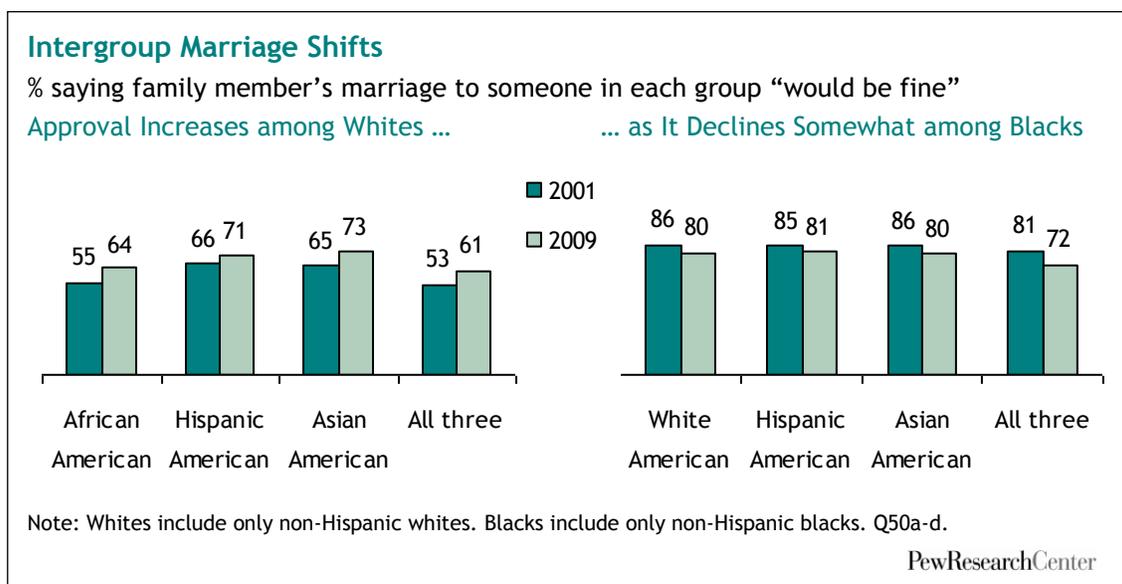
For whites, blacks and Hispanics, older respondents express greater discomfort with the possibility of a family member marrying someone of a difference race or ethnic group. Resistance to a family member marrying an African-American is especially strong among older whites; just 55% of those ages 50-64 and 41% of those 65 and older say they “would be fine” with this. By contrast, more than seven-in-ten older blacks (76% of those ages 50-64 and 71% of those 65 and older) say they would be fine with a family member marrying a white American; among blacks ages 18-29, 89% would be fine with it. And among older whites, acceptance of a relative’s marriage to an African-American lags behind acceptance of a family member’s marriage to Hispanic- or Asian-Americans. Among 18- to 29-year-olds there are no differences by race of respondent in the acceptance of marriage to those in other racial and ethnic groups.

If a Family Member Married Someone Who is ____...						
% saying “would be fine with it”						
	An African American	A Hispanic American	An Asian American	A white American	All three other	N
Whites						
18-29	88	92	93	--	88	177
30-49	79	82	83	--	75	428
50-64	55	65	65	--	52	425
65+	41	53	58	--	36	391
Blacks						
18-29	--	93	91	89	85	157
30-49	--	81	84	80	74	240
50-64	--	76	74	76	67	250
65+	--	69	61	71	59	146
Hispanics						
18-29	88	--	93	96	81	115
30-49	72	--	76	78	60	154

Note: Whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Blacks include only non-Hispanic blacks. Hispanics are of any race. Insufficient cases of Hispanics ages 50-64 and 65+ for analysis. Q50a-d.

Whites Grow More Accepting of Interracial Marriage

While blacks remain the most accepting of interracial marriage, approval is on the rise among whites. The proportion of whites who now say they “would be fine” with a relative’s marriage to a member of a different racial or ethnic group is up 8 percentage points since 2001. To some extent, this is the result of a decline in racially conservative attitudes across all generational cohorts, but it is also driven by the more racially liberal views of younger whites today.



At the same time, black approval of interracial marriage has declined somewhat over the same period. In 2001, more than eight-in-ten (81%) blacks reported they would be fine with a relative’s marriage to someone from any other group. Today, 72% say this. This decline is evident in black attitudes about intermarriage to all three other groups.

APPENDICES:

I. Methodology

Data Sources: Data on the currently married population and new marriages are from tabulations done by the Pew Research Center using microdata (i.e., individual records) from the Decennial Censuses of 1980, 1990, and 2000 and the American Community Surveys (ACS) of 2005 and 2008. The microdata files were obtained from the IPUMS-USA database¹² (<http://www.ipums.org/>). For the three decennial censuses, the data are a 5% sample of the population; for the ACS, each is a 1% sample.¹³

Married Population: The currently married population is selected as individuals whose marital status is “married, spouse present.” The spouse must be present in the dataset to ascertain his/her race, Hispanic origin, and nativity. In these datasets all married couples are opposite sex. Linkages of individual records for the spouses was done by IPUMS which supplies “attached variables.” For the analyses reported here, the attached variables included the spouse’s age, race, Hispanic origin, nativity, and year of immigration.

Newly Married Population: The newly married population is a subset of the currently married population drawn from the 2008 ACS and the 1980 Census. The 2008 ACS was the first to include questions relating to date of marriage. One question asked respondents if they had been married (or divorced or widowed) in the “past 12 months.”¹⁴ Those saying they had married are the basis for our analyses of “newlyweds” and “new marriages” in 2008. Further questions asked how many times the respondent has been married and in what year the most recent marriage occurred. The latter question supplied information on year of marriage used in the “look back” analyses in Section III.

Definition of the newly married population in the 1980 Census required a slightly different approach to data analysis. The 1980 Census asked respondents if they had been married once or more than once, the month and year of marriage (*first* marriage in the case of multiple marriages), and if the first marriage had ended by the death of the other spouse. The IPUMS dataset does not include the year of marriage, but rather the respondent’s age at marriage and the quarter of the year in which the marriage occurred and the quarter of the year in which the respondent was born. With this information, we derived the year in which the first marriage occurred and identified persons whose first marriage occurred in the year before the census.

Marriages in which one or both spouses had been married only once were assigned as having occurred in the year reported by the spouse married only once. Marriages in which both spouses had been married more than once could not be assigned a year of marriage. This group was excluded from the analyses of the

¹² Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2010.

¹³ IPUMS files are available for earlier US censuses, but the 1980 Census is the first to collect information on Hispanic origin from the entire population. This information is required for the intermarriage analyses reported here. For earlier censuses, IPUMS has created a variable to identify the Hispanic origin population, but spouses are always assigned the same Hispanic category so the data for 1970 and earlier cannot be analyzed in the same manner as subsequent censuses.

¹⁴ Because each year’s ACS is an aggregation of 12 monthly samples, responses to this question cannot be assigned to a specific year or set of months. Thus, we report the marriages as occurring in the “previous year.”

newly married population and from the look back at historical trends. Marriages with both spouses married more than once represented about 10% of the married population (3% and 6% of Hispanics and Asians respectively). The multiply-married group was somewhat more likely to be U.S.-born and intermarried than the population in “first” marriages. Inter-marriage rates for this group were about one-third higher than the rest of the population, with rates for Asians and Hispanics being even higher.

Look Back Analysis: The classification of marriages by the years in which they occurred served as the basis for the look back analyses. Some further specifications were used to sharpen the analyses. Because our focus is changes in marriage patterns within the U.S. population, we excluded from the look back analyses immigrants who were married when they arrived in the U.S. This exclusion was accomplished using the year of immigration variable supplied by IPUMS. For 2008, marriages involving immigrants with year of marriage greater than their year of immigration were excluded from the look back analyses. To smooth out variations due to sampling and reporting errors, the estimates reported for 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2005 are based on marriages occurring in three-year periods centered on the reported year. For 1980, the information on date of immigration was collected in intervals rather than for single years. Because of this limitation, the look back was done only for marriages occurring in 1960, 1965, 1970, and 1975 including only immigrants arriving before the year of marriage.

Weighting: All of the estimates for marriages, currently married population, and people getting married are based on weighted data from the IPUMS microdata files. The Census Bureau provides the weights based on a complicated weighting process so that the resulting estimates reflect the actual population. In the data from the 1980 Census, the weights for each person in a husband-wife couple are forced to be equal. This is not the case for the data files from the ACS or the 1990 and 2000 Censuses. Consequently, the number and characteristics of wives estimated using their husbands’ weights will be different from the same estimates based on the wives’ weights; similarly for characteristics of men estimated from their wives’ weights. In this report, estimates for each gender are based on their own weights; estimates for couples or both sexes combined are an average of estimates based on husbands’ and wives’ weights; estimates for nativity groups are based on individual weights regardless of gender.

Race and Ethnic Groups: Individuals are identified as Hispanic or non-Hispanic with a direct question on Hispanic origin. The wording and placement of the question have changed somewhat over the 1980-2008 period, but the underlying concept has remained essentially unchanged. Individuals who are not Hispanic are further subdivided by race group. Throughout the period of analysis, we use data for whites, black, Asians and Pacific Islanders¹⁵ (“Asians”), American Indians and Alaska natives (“American Indians”) and a residual category usually labeled as “Some Other Race.”

Beginning with the 2000 Census, individuals could choose to identify with more than one group in response to race question; about 4.6 million non-Hispanics or slightly less than 2% of the non-Hispanic population chose more than one race. We treat these people as an additional racial grouping and reserve the specific races listed above for persons identifying as a single race only. This change in data collection methods may

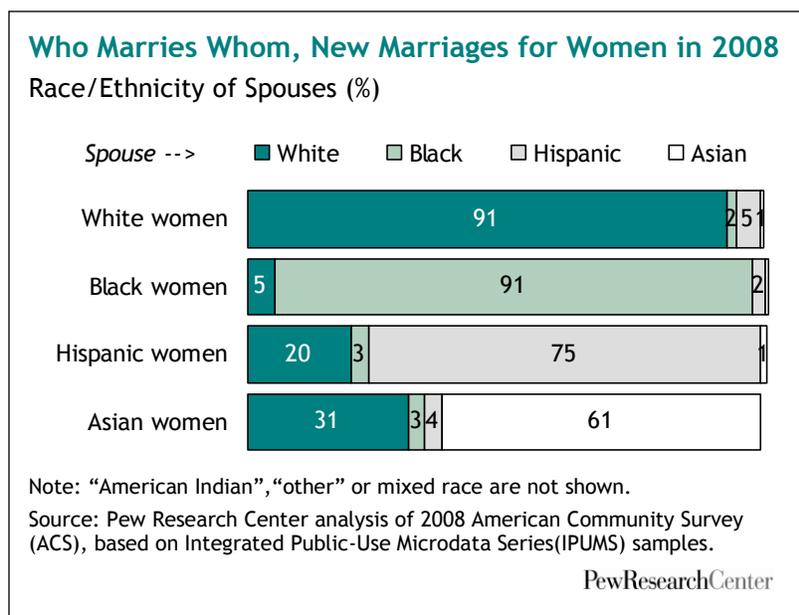
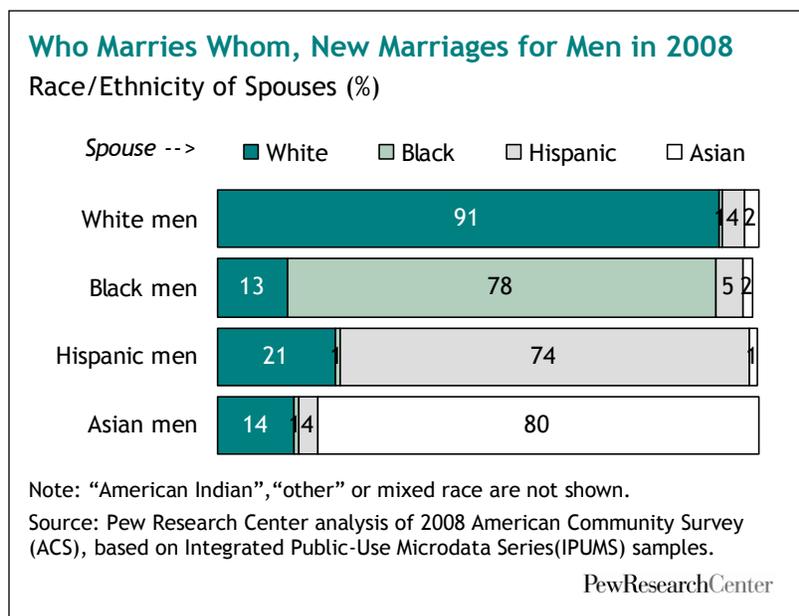
¹⁵ Beginning with the 2000 Census, these two groups were separated and labeled “Asian” and “Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders.”

have accounted for a significant share of the increase in intermarriage observed in the currently married population between 1990 and 2000. In the 2000 Census, about 720,000 or 19% of the 3.8 million marriages with spouses of a different race were between a non-Hispanic person reporting a single race and a non-Hispanic person reporting more than one race. Had the race question remained the same as in 1990, some of these interracial marriages in 2000 would not have been so classified. This type of marriage accounted for almost half of the increase in interracial marriages between 1990 and 2000. In 2008, roughly the same number of interracial marriages, about 700,000, are between single and multiple-race non-Hispanics. They represent a somewhat smaller share (15%) of the 4.6 million interracial marriages in 2008.

Survey Methodology

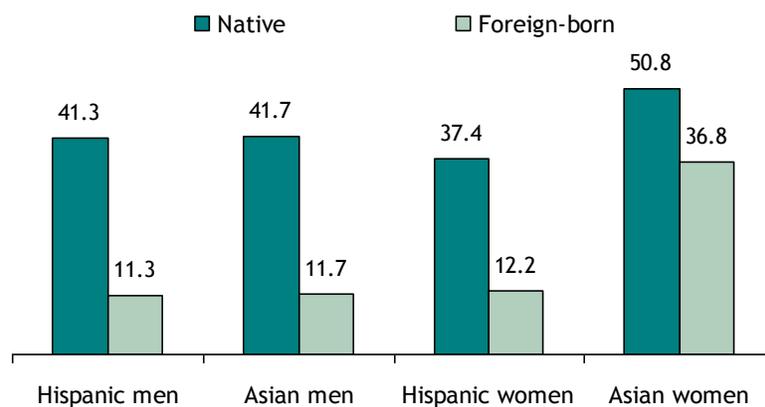
The survey findings presented in Section IV of this report are based on a Pew Research Center telephone survey conducted on landlines and cell phones from October 28 through November 30, 2009 among a nationally representative sample of 2,884 adults. Interviews were conducted in English or Spanish. In order to allow for a detailed analysis of attitudes within the African-American community, the survey included an over-sample that brought the total number of non-Hispanic black respondents to 812. The margin of error is plus-or-minus 3.0 percentage points for the full sample and plus-or-minus 4.5 percentage points for the African-American sample. The survey also included 376 Hispanics of any race, with a margin of error of plus-or-minus 7.5 percentage points for this group. The margin of error for whites is 3.5 percentage points.

II. Additional charts



New Marriages for Hispanics and Asians in 2008, Native vs. Foreign Born

% married someone of a different race/ethnicity in the past 12 months

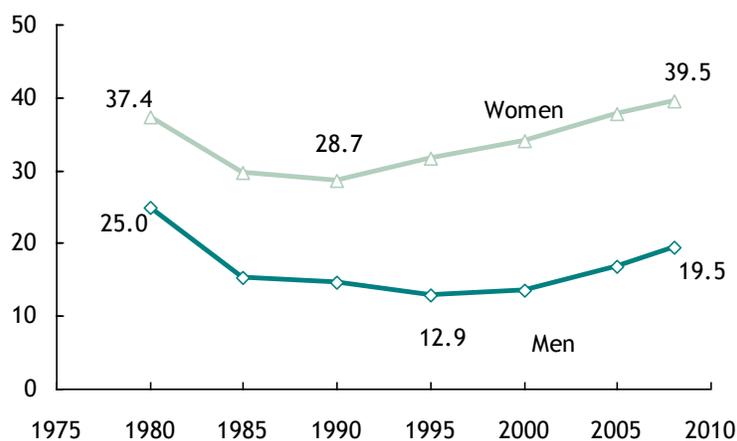


Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Intermarriage Rates among Asian Newlyweds, by Gender, 1980-2008

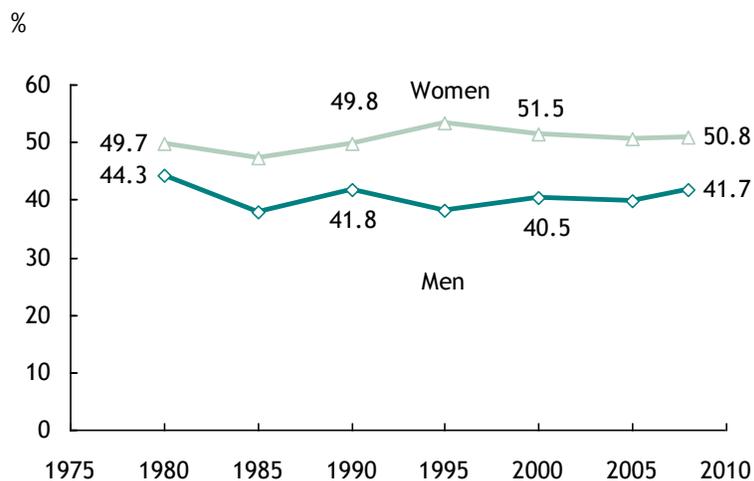
%



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2005-2008 American Community Survey (ACS) and U.S. Decennial Census data, based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

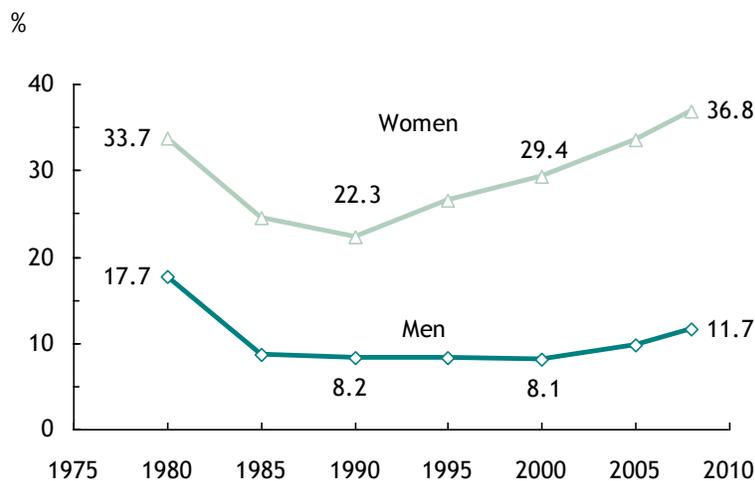
Intermarriage Rates among Asian U.S.-Born Newlyweds, by Gender, 1980-2008



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2005-2008 American Community Survey (ACS) and U.S. Decennial Census data, based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

Intermarriage Rates among Asian Foreign Born Newlyweds, by Gender, 1980-2008



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2005-2008 American Community Survey (ACS) and U.S. Decennial Census data, based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

PewResearchCenter

III. Percent of Newlyweds with Spouse of a Different Race/Ethnicity, by Race for States and Regions, 2008¹⁶

State or Region	Race/Ethnic Group				
	Total	Hispanic	White*	Black*	Asian*
U.S., Total	14.6%	25.7%	8.9%	15.5%	30.8%
Northeast	12.6%	28.9%	7.4%	17.4%	22.9%
Midwest	10.7%	41.0%	5.5%	17.3%	30.6%
South	13.2%	23.0%	8.4%	11.9%	36.8%
West	21.6%	23.4%	15.5%	38.0%	31.1%
Alabama	10%	z	6%	13%	z
Alaska	z	z	z	z	z
Arizona	21%	25%	15%	z	z
Arkansas	8%	z	4%	z	z
California	22%	18%	20%	36%	27%
Colorado	21%	35%	14%	z	z
Connecticut	14%	z	8%	z	z
Delaware	z	z	z	z	z
Dist. of Columbia	z	z	z	z	z
Florida	16%	25%	10%	17%	z
Georgia	12%	z	7%	10%	z
Hawaii	48%	z	z	z	z
Idaho	12%	z	7%	z	z
Illinois	13%	24%	7%	11%	z
Indiana	10%	z	5%	z	z
Iowa	10%	z	6%	z	z
Kansas	13%	z	7%	z	z
Kentucky	8%	z	5%	z	z
Louisiana	9%	z	6%	5%	z
Maine	7%	z	3%	z	z
Maryland	8%	z	5%	5%	z
Massachusetts	11%	z	6%	z	z
Michigan	11%	z	5%	z	z
Minnesota	9%	z	5%	z	z
Mississippi	5%	z	3%	5%	z
Missouri	10%	z	5%	z	z
Montana	11%	z	z	z	z
Nebraska	13%	z	7%	z	z
Nevada	28%	z	22%	z	z
New Hampshire	6%	z	3%	z	z
New Jersey	17%	26%	11%	18%	z
New Mexico	22%	22%	20%	z	z
New York	13%	25%	9%	11%	23%
North Carolina	11%	z	6%	9%	z
North Dakota	10%	z	5%	z	z
Ohio	9%	z	5%	17%	z
Oklahoma	23%	z	15%	z	z
Oregon	24%	z	14%	z	z
Pennsylvania	11%	z	6%	z	z
Rhode Island	15%	z	z	z	z
South Carolina	10%	z	6%	z	z
South Dakota	10%	z	5%	z	z
Tennessee	9%	z	5%	z	z
Texas	18%	19%	15%	14%	33%
Utah	12%	z	7%	z	z
Vermont	z	z	z	z	z
Virginia	13%	z	8%	15%	z
Washington	20%	z	12%	z	z
West Virginia	13%	z	7%	z	z
Wisconsin	10%	z	5%	z	z
Wyoming	z	z	z	z	z

Notes: "Newlyweds" are persons who got married in the 12 months prior to the survey.

* Not Hispanic, single race.

z -- less than 5,000 couples (for total) or 10,000 persons (for race groups).

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), based on Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) samples.

¹⁶ Note (June 15, 2010): This table is a corrected version of the original posting. Data for Hawaii, the West Region, and the United States have been changed slightly.