Tennessee Tech University

3910: Social Science Statical Analysis

Portfolio Statistical

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Summary

Title: The relationship between age and married couples desire to have more children.

Thesis: Age radically influences married couples desire to have more children due to economic, women's health, and sociological factors which directly impact a married couple's desire for children.

Thesis: How does age affect a married couple's desire to have more children?

Independent: Married Want No More Children (Abnomore)

Dependent: (Age)

Introduction

When it comes to marriage, traditionally, it was a few reasons; one of the biggest was for the structure and place to produce and raise children for the next generation. However, as society progresses and we are seeing more and more couples abstain from having children, what does that look like? Many couples may see children as too expensive to raise and too burdensome on their personal lives to have a child. The factor that makes every couple decide eventually that they can no longer want children is age. Age brings significant difficulty and a whole new set of issues that a couple may have to solve, especially once they reach past middle age. No one wants to be 50 years old and then decide to have another child or find out they are going to spend vast amounts of resources raising a baby, they may graduate high school while you may be dead or dying. Not to mention the health risks that will be posed on the mother for having a child at such an older age, and the risk the baby may face for being in such an aged body. Age is the most significant factor, regardless of whether you never want children or you want twelve of them; only a very few couples would dare suggest having babies in their older years. However, the question stands at what age do couples decide that producing offspring is no longer a part of the relationship? At what point in your life do you decide that time has made you no longer available to have a child?

Now if we dissect the data from sources we have some interesting facts that need to be addressed. The first is a mother's health and a mother's age during pregnancy is a significant factor for a couple to consider. "A woman's fertility levels, both natural and using medically-assisted reproduction methods, falls after the age of 30, (and drops significantly between 35 and 40 years of age with an inflection point at around 37), down to almost nil at 45 years of age" (Rossin, 2019). This sets another point in a woman's life where the married couple has to choose

whether or not to have children due to how a woman's fertility changes with age. So this leads to a strong hypothesis that the younger the married couple is the more children they are going to have due to health reasons being the woman's heigh in fertility and the future risks an older mother if they wait may face. However, health is the monolithic reason why desire may change for married couples to have more children they are socio-economical reasons as well that need to be considered.

When it comes to the economic reasons, it is essentially that children are very expensive to raise, especially as inflation has risen now; however, this would lead to false claims, since richer families have more resources, which would mean they would have more children. In fact, richer families have fewer children, and the poorer a family is, the higher the desire to have children. Tag vault talks about this in their article, and they list the facts of social norms, religious norms, and the lack of financial aid to afford effective contraception. "The effects of poverty on family size are complex and intertwined with socioeconomic factors. In communities facing economic hardship, the decision to have more children may be driven by cultural norms and religious beliefs. Limited access to education and contraception also contributes to higher fertility rates among poor communities."(Vault, 2019). Now, the reason why this is important is that it disproves that more wealth leads to higher birth rates, and the fact that when younger couples get married, they tend to take two roads. They either suffer economically or have more children due to these reasons, and the fact that a younger couple has a higher chance of conceiving a child. However, if a married couple decides to wait years later and become more affluent, they usually only have one or two children because of the mother's accelerated age, and with the plan in mind to "put all their eggs in one basket".

Now, in conclusion, Age does affect a married couple's desire to have more children due to their health, social, and economic reasons, which reinforces the importance of age. Age directly impacts the fertility of the mother, which in turn leads to younger mothers having more children earlier in life than later. Socially, there has always been a strong and firm tradition that a mother needs to have children while she is young, and in fact, that is how mothers and wives were picked by men. Finally, economically, the married couples who are older and decide to have their children later in age lead them to focus their resources on fewer children; however, younger couples that start having children suffer from less affluence due to the increase in children and lower economic standing common in the younger age brackets. All of the supporting factors still support that age is a significant, if not the leading, factor in how age affects married couples' desire to have more children

Frequency Distribution Analysis

The total number of respondents for the general social survey was 3,309. However, not everyone who took the survey answered all of the questions in relationship to the variables in the survey. For the independent variable, married and wants no more children, 1787 of the participants were missing leaving 1,522 who answered the question if they were married and

wanted no more children. For the dependent variable, age, the survey only 3,208 responded. The highest percentage of those who responded came from those who are from certain age brackets. These ages being 36,37, 39, 55, 60, 64, and 67, all but 60 had the same percentage of 2.1 percent, while age 60 represented 2.2 percent. Those that were 87 or older only represented .9 percent of the total survey. Of those who answered regarding married and wanting no more children 42.4 percent said they never married or wanted more children.

Frequencies

[DataSet1] C:\Users\Caleb\Downloads\GSS2024.sav

Statistics

		Married--wants no more children	Age of respondent
N	Valid	1522	3208
	Missing	1787	101

Frequency Table

Married--wants no more children

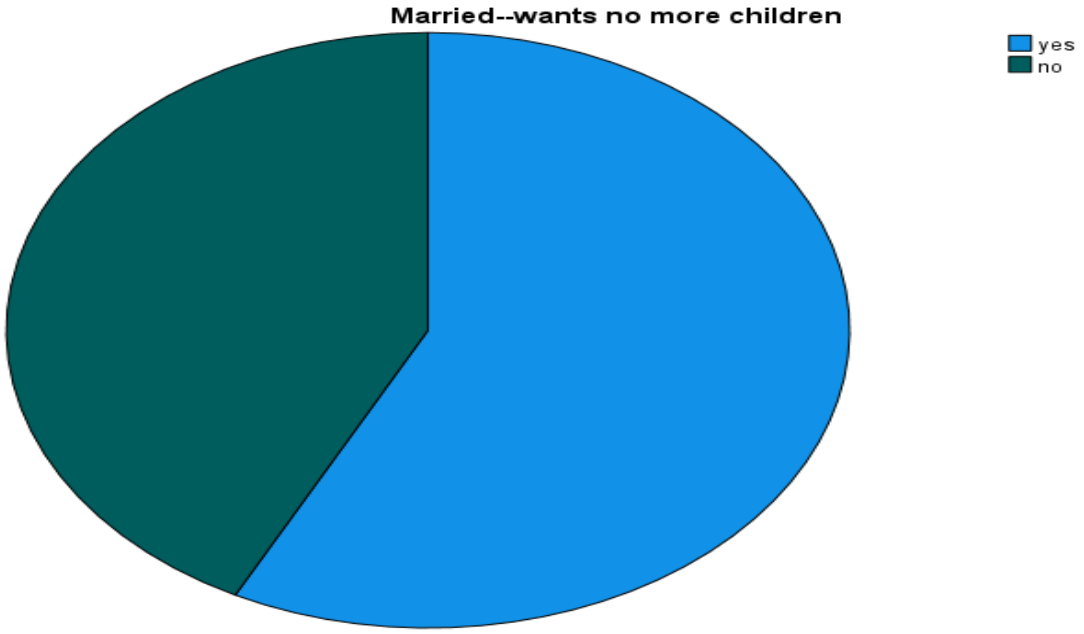
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	876	26.5	57.6	57.6
	no	646	19.5	42.4	100.0
	Total	1522	46.0	100.0	
Missing	iap	1694	51.2		
	no answer	18	.5		
	don't know	61	1.8		
	skipped on web	14	.4		
	Total	1787	54.0		
Total		3309	100.0		

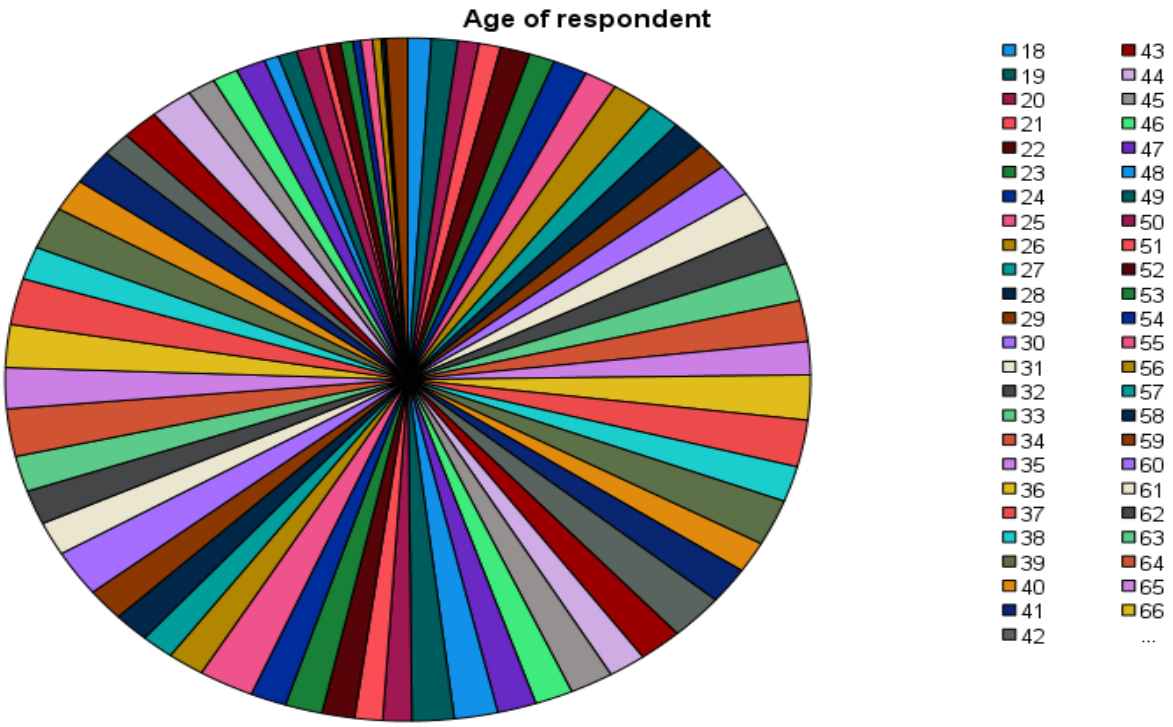
Age of respondent

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18	30	.9	.9	.9
	19	34	1.0	1.1	2.0
	20	27	.8	.8	2.8
	21	28	.8	.9	3.7
	22	38	1.1	1.2	4.9
	23	33	1.0	1.0	5.9
	24	44	1.3	1.4	7.3
	25	42	1.3	1.3	8.6
	26	54	1.6	1.7	10.3
	27	43	1.3	1.3	11.6
	28	44	1.3	1.4	13.0
	29	41	1.2	1.3	14.3
	30	50	1.5	1.6	15.8
	31	58	1.8	1.8	17.6
	32	59	1.8	1.8	19.5
	33	58	1.8	1.8	21.3
	34	62	1.9	1.9	23.2
	35	50	1.5	1.6	24.8
	36	68	2.1	2.1	26.9
	37	71	2.1	2.2	29.1
	38	54	1.6	1.7	30.8
	39	70	2.1	2.2	33.0
	40	47	1.4	1.5	34.4
	41	55	1.7	1.7	36.2
	42	70	2.1	2.2	38.3
	43	56	1.7	1.7	40.1
	44	48	1.5	1.5	41.6
	45	56	1.7	1.7	43.3
	46	49	1.5	1.5	44.9
	47	50	1.5	1.6	46.4
	48	56	1.7	1.7	48.2
	49	54	1.6	1.7	49.8
	50	37	1.1	1.2	51.0
	51	36	1.1	1.1	52.1
	52	42	1.3	1.3	53.4
	53	48	1.5	1.5	54.9
	54	46	1.4	1.4	56.4
	55	71	2.1	2.2	58.6
	56	47	1.4	1.5	60.0
	57	42	1.3	1.3	61.3
	58	46	1.4	1.4	62.8
	59	49	1.5	1.5	64.3
	60	70	2.1	2.2	66.5
	61	51	1.5	1.6	68.1
	62	52	1.6	1.6	69.7
	63	54	1.6	1.7	71.4
	64	72	2.2	2.2	73.6
	65	62	1.9	1.9	75.6
	66	65	2.0	2.0	77.6
	67	70	2.1	2.2	79.8
	68	50	1.5	1.6	81.3
	69	64	1.9	2.0	83.3
	70	49	1.5	1.5	84.9
	71	54	1.6	1.7	86.5
	72	37	1.1	1.2	87.7
	73	47	1.4	1.5	89.2

	73	47	1.4	1.5	89.2
	74	55	1.7	1.7	90.9
	75	36	1.1	1.1	92.0
	76	33	1.0	1.0	93.0
	77	38	1.1	1.2	94.2
	78	19	.6	.6	94.8
	79	24	.7	.7	95.5
	80	28	.8	.9	96.4
	81	11	.3	.3	96.8
	82	18	.5	.6	97.3
	83	16	.5	.5	97.8
	84	10	.3	.3	98.1
	85	15	.5	.5	98.6
	86	11	.3	.3	98.9
	87	3	.1	.1	99.0
	88	3	.1	.1	99.1
	89 or older	28	.8	.9	100.0
	Total	3208	96.9	100.0	
Missing	no answer	101	3.1		
Total		3309	100.0		

Pie Chart





Central Tendency Analysis

The number of people who answered both of the questions in the survey is 1522. The results show that those are in the top represented age brackets represent 14.8 percent of those included in the sample. Respondents who correlate with the independent variable represent 96.9 percent of the sample which suggests that the sample is a good representation of the populations educational level. The average age of the participants is 51.

Means

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Included		Excluded		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Age of respondent * Married--wants no more children	1476	44.6%	1833	55.4%	3309	100.0%

Report

Age of respondent

Married--wants no more children	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Sum	Median
yes	49.39	852	18.012	42081	49.00
no	52.99	624	18.175	33064	54.00
Total	50.91	1476	18.162	75145	51.00

Means

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Included		Excluded		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Married--wants no more children * Age of respondent	1476	44.6%	1833	55.4%	3309	100.0%

Report

Married--wants no more children

Age of respondent	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
18	1.64	11	.505
19	1.35	26	.485
20	1.29	14	.469
21	1.43	14	.514
22	1.20	15	.414
23	1.31	13	.480
24	1.13	16	.342
25	1.29	21	.463
26	1.28	25	.458
27	1.17	24	.381
28	1.43	23	.507
29	1.58	19	.507
30	1.24	21	.436
31	1.46	24	.509
32	1.50	22	.512
33	1.32	31	.475

34	1.45	29	.506
35	1.44	18	.511
36	1.41	32	.499
37	1.52	21	.512
38	1.50	22	.512
39	1.24	33	.435
40	1.38	13	.506
41	1.38	26	.496
42	1.48	31	.508
43	1.44	18	.511
44	1.43	28	.504
45	1.42	24	.504
46	1.55	20	.510
47	1.29	21	.463
48	1.41	22	.503
49	1.52	27	.509
50	1.24	17	.437
51	1.39	18	.502
52	1.47	19	.513
53	1.46	26	.508
54	1.35	20	.489
55	1.42	36	.500
56	1.36	25	.490
57	1.48	21	.512
58	1.45	20	.510
59	1.64	28	.488
60	1.52	25	.510
61	1.38	24	.495
62	1.38	24	.495
63	1.38	29	.494
64	1.42	33	.502
65	1.47	30	.507
66	1.47	36	.506
67	1.39	28	.497
68	1.46	26	.508
69	1.38	29	.494
70	1.40	20	.503
71	1.40	25	.500
72	1.53	15	.516
73	1.45	22	.510
74	1.46	26	.508
75	1.84	19	.375
76	1.41	17	.507
77	1.35	17	.493
78	1.36	11	.505
79	1.50	10	.527
80	1.42	12	.515
81	1.57	7	.535
82	1.40	10	.516
83	1.44	9	.527
84	1.80	5	.447
85	1.43	7	.535
86	1.86	7	.378
87	2.00	3	.000
88	2.00	1	.
89 or older	1.60	15	.507
Total	1.42	1476	.494

Hypothesis Testing

T-Test

The first of the two hypothesis test was a T test and the significant level for both tests is alpha level .05. The samples average age among the participants was 50.91 years. Now those who are married and wanted no more children accounted for approximately 42 percent. The respondents in the test answered evenly across the age groups which leads to the top age brackets listed to not be at or around the percentage of 42 percent. The data in this test suggests there is signficant number of people in specific age groups that are married and decided to want no more children. This T-test shows there is no statistically significant relationship between age and married and wanting no more children.

Chi-Square Test

The second hypothesis test conducted for this research is a chi-square test. The results of the chi-square test show that there is no strong statical relationship between age and married and wanted no more children. Failing to reject the null is evident because 11.8 percent of the expected cell frequency was below five which exceeds the expected count of 40 percent.

T-Test

Group Statistics

	Married--wants no more children	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Age of respondent	yes	852	49.39	18.012	.617
	no	624	52.99	18.175	.728

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
						Significance				95% Confidenc Differ
		F	Sig.	t	df	One-Sided p	Two-Sided p	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower
Age of respondent	Equal variances assumed	.013	.910	-3.775	1474	<.001	<.001	-3.596	.953	-5.465
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.770	1335.687	<.001	<.001	-3.596	.954	-5.468

Independent Samples Effect Sizes

		Standardizer[a]	Point Estimate	95% Confidence Interval Lower	Upper
Age of respondent	Cohen's d	18.081	-.199	-.302	-.095
	Hedges' correction	18.090	-.199	-.302	-.095
	Glass's delta	18.175	-.198	-.302	-.094

a. The denominator used in estimating the effect sizes.
Cohen's d uses the pooled standard deviation.
Hedges' correction uses the pooled standard deviation, plus a correction factor.
Glass's delta uses the sample standard deviation of the control group.

95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
Lower	Upper
-5.465	-1.728
-5.468	-1.725

Group Statistics

	Married--wants no more children	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Age of respondent	yes	852	49.39	18.012	.617
	no	624	52.99	18.175	.728

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means							
						Significance				95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	Sig.	t	df	One-Sided p	Two-Sided p	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
Age of respondent	Equal variances assumed	.013	.910	-3.775	1474	<.001	<.001	-3.596	.953	-5.465	-1.72
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.770	1335.687	<.001	<.001	-3.596	.954	-5.468	-1.72

Independent Samples Effect Sizes

		Standardizer[a]	Point Estimate	95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Age of respondent	Cohen's d	18.081	-.199	-.302	-.095
	Hedges' correction	18.090	-.199	-.302	-.095
	Glass's delta	18.175	-.198	-.302	-.094

a. The denominator used in estimating the effect sizes.
Cohen's d uses the pooled standard deviation.
Hedges' correction uses the pooled standard deviation, plus a correction factor.
Glass's delta uses the sample standard deviation of the control group.

Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Age of respondent * Married--wants no more children	1476	44.6%	1833	55.4%	3309	100.0%

Age of respondent * Married--wants no more children Crosstabulation

			Married--wants no more children		
			yes	no	Total
Age of respondent	18	Count	4	7	11
		Expected Count	6.3	4.7	11.0
	19	Count	17	9	26
		Expected Count	15.0	11.0	26.0
	20	Count	10	4	14
		Expected Count	8.1	5.9	14.0
	21	Count	8	6	14
		Expected Count	8.1	5.9	14.0
	22	Count	12	3	15
		Expected Count	8.7	6.3	15.0
	23	Count	9	4	13
		Expected Count	7.5	5.5	13.0
	24	Count	14	2	16
		Expected Count	9.2	6.8	16.0
	25	Count	15	6	21
		Expected Count	12.1	8.9	21.0

	26	Count	18	7	25
		Expected Count	14.4	10.6	25.0
	27	Count	20	4	24
		Expected Count	13.9	10.1	24.0
	28	Count	13	10	23
		Expected Count	13.3	9.7	23.0
	29	Count	8	11	19
		Expected Count	11.0	8.0	19.0
	30	Count	16	5	21
		Expected Count	12.1	8.9	21.0
	31	Count	13	11	24
		Expected Count	13.9	10.1	24.0
	32	Count	11	11	22
		Expected Count	12.7	9.3	22.0
	33	Count	21	10	31
		Expected Count	17.9	13.1	31.0
	34	Count	16	13	29
		Expected Count	16.7	12.3	29.0
	35	Count	10	8	18
		Expected Count	10.4	7.6	18.0
	36	Count	19	13	32
		Expected Count	18.5	13.5	32.0
	37	Count	10	11	21
		Expected Count	12.1	8.9	21.0
	38	Count	11	11	22
		Expected Count	12.7	9.3	22.0
	39	Count	25	8	33
		Expected Count	19.0	14.0	33.0

40	Count	8	5	13
	Expected Count	7.5	5.5	13.0
41	Count	16	10	26
	Expected Count	15.0	11.0	26.0
42	Count	16	15	31
	Expected Count	17.9	13.1	31.0
43	Count	10	8	18
	Expected Count	10.4	7.6	18.0
44	Count	16	12	28
	Expected Count	16.2	11.8	28.0
45	Count	14	10	24
	Expected Count	13.9	10.1	24.0
46	Count	9	11	20
	Expected Count	11.5	8.5	20.0
47	Count	15	6	21
	Expected Count	12.1	8.9	21.0
48	Count	13	9	22
	Expected Count	12.7	9.3	22.0
49	Count	13	14	27
	Expected Count	15.6	11.4	27.0
50	Count	13	4	17
	Expected Count	9.8	7.2	17.0
51	Count	11	7	18
	Expected Count	10.4	7.6	18.0
52	Count	10	9	19
	Expected Count	11.0	8.0	19.0
53	Count	14	12	26
	Expected Count	15.0	11.0	26.0

54	Count	13	7	20
	Expected Count	11.5	8.5	20.0
55	Count	21	15	36
	Expected Count	20.8	15.2	36.0
56	Count	16	9	25
	Expected Count	14.4	10.6	25.0
57	Count	11	10	21
	Expected Count	12.1	8.9	21.0
58	Count	11	9	20
	Expected Count	11.5	8.5	20.0
59	Count	10	18	28
	Expected Count	16.2	11.8	28.0
60	Count	12	13	25
	Expected Count	14.4	10.6	25.0
61	Count	15	9	24
	Expected Count	13.9	10.1	24.0
62	Count	15	9	24
	Expected Count	13.9	10.1	24.0
63	Count	18	11	29
	Expected Count	16.7	12.3	29.0
64	Count	19	14	33
	Expected Count	19.0	14.0	33.0
65	Count	16	14	30
	Expected Count	17.3	12.7	30.0
66	Count	19	17	36
	Expected Count	20.8	15.2	36.0
67	Count	17	11	28
	Expected Count	16.2	11.8	28.0

68	Count	14	12	26
	Expected Count	15.0	11.0	26.0
69	Count	18	11	29
	Expected Count	16.7	12.3	29.0
70	Count	12	8	20
	Expected Count	11.5	8.5	20.0
71	Count	15	10	25
	Expected Count	14.4	10.6	25.0
72	Count	7	8	15
	Expected Count	8.7	6.3	15.0
73	Count	12	10	22
	Expected Count	12.7	9.3	22.0
74	Count	14	12	26
	Expected Count	15.0	11.0	26.0
75	Count	3	16	19
	Expected Count	11.0	8.0	19.0
76	Count	10	7	17
	Expected Count	9.8	7.2	17.0
77	Count	11	6	17
	Expected Count	9.8	7.2	17.0
78	Count	7	4	11
	Expected Count	6.3	4.7	11.0
79	Count	5	5	10
	Expected Count	5.8	4.2	10.0
80	Count	7	5	12
	Expected Count	6.9	5.1	12.0
81	Count	3	4	7
	Expected Count	4.0	3.0	7.0

79	Count	5	5	10
	Expected Count	5.8	4.2	10.0
80	Count	7	5	12
	Expected Count	6.9	5.1	12.0
81	Count	3	4	7
	Expected Count	4.0	3.0	7.0
82	Count	6	4	10
	Expected Count	5.8	4.2	10.0
83	Count	5	4	9
	Expected Count	5.2	3.8	9.0
84	Count	1	4	5
	Expected Count	2.9	2.1	5.0
85	Count	4	3	7
	Expected Count	4.0	3.0	7.0
86	Count	1	6	7
	Expected Count	4.0	3.0	7.0
87	Count	0	3	3
	Expected Count	1.7	1.3	3.0
88	Count	0	1	1
	Expected Count	.6	.4	1.0
89 or older	Count	6	9	15
	Expected Count	8.7	6.3	15.0
	Count	852	624	1476
	Expected Count	852.0	624.0	1476.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	85.219[a]	71	.120
Likelihood Ratio	90.422	71	.060
Linear-by-Linear Association	14.123	1	<.001
N of Valid Cases	1476		

a. 17 cells (11.8%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .42.

Means

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Included		Excluded		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Married--wants no more children * Age of respondent	1476	44.6%	1833	55.4%	3309	100.0%

Report

Married--wants no more children

Age of respondent	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
18	1.64	11	.505
19	1.35	26	.485
20	1.29	14	.469
21	1.43	14	.514
22	1.20	15	.414
23	1.31	13	.480
24	1.13	16	.342
25	1.29	21	.463
26	1.28	25	.458
27	1.17	24	.381
28	1.43	23	.507
29	1.58	19	.507
30	1.24	21	.436
31	1.46	24	.509
32	1.50	22	.512
33	1.32	31	.475
34	1.45	29	.506
35	1.44	18	.511
36	1.41	32	.499
37	1.52	21	.512
38	1.50	22	.512
39	1.24	33	.435
40	1.38	13	.506
41	1.38	26	.496
42	1.48	31	.508
43	1.44	18	.511
44	1.43	28	.504
45	1.42	24	.504
46	1.55	20	.510
47	1.29	21	.463
48	1.41	22	.503
49	1.52	27	.509
50	1.24	17	.437
51	1.39	18	.502
52	1.47	19	.513
53	1.46	26	.508
54	1.35	20	.489
55	1.42	36	.500
56	1.36	25	.490
57	1.48	21	.512
58	1.45	20	.510
59	1.64	28	.488
60	1.52	25	.510
61	1.38	24	.495
62	1.38	24	.495
63	1.38	29	.494
64	1.42	33	.502
65	1.47	30	.507
66	1.47	36	.506
67	1.39	28	.497
68	1.46	26	.508
69	1.38	29	.494
70	1.40	20	.503
71	1.40	25	.500
72	1.53	15	.516

73	1.45	22	.510
74	1.46	26	.508
75	1.84	19	.375
76	1.41	17	.507
77	1.35	17	.493
78	1.36	11	.505
79	1.50	10	.527
80	1.42	12	.515
81	1.57	7	.535
82	1.40	10	.516
83	1.44	9	.527
84	1.80	5	.447
85	1.43	7	.535
86	1.86	7	.378
87	2.00	3	.000
88	2.00	1	.
89 or older	1.60	15	.507
Total	1.42	1476	.494

Conclusion

The two hypothesis tests, a t-test and a Chi-Square test, were conducted to examine the relationship between education and divorce. The t-test, using a 0.05 significance level, revealed there is no relationship between age and the desire to have more children, suggesting that age does not influence a couple's decision to have more children. In support of this the Chi-Square test also indicated there was no significant relationship. Although the expected count and the actual count is determined that the sample does represent the population the null was rejected. After a lot of review it is concluded that the results of the significance test were accurate and there is no statistical relationship between age and the desire to have more children.

Results and Findings

This study used 1,522 who were surveyed in the 2025 General Social Survey. They answered questions related to the variables age and the desire to have more children. Frequency distributions showed that the highest percentage age brackets equaled.9 percent and 42.4 percent never married or wanted more children. Measures of Central Tendency indicated that the average respondent age was 51 which was 14.8 percent of the total survey reflecting a more diverse pool of ages. The T-test revealed there was not a statically significant difference between age and the desire to have more children. This suggests that age is not a significant factor for married couples in deciding to have more children. In support of this the chi-square test also did not show a significant relationship between age and the desire to have more children. Due to the fact current research does not support a statical relationship the claim that age significantly impacts married couples desire to have more children is false.

References

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