

## Demography of the family



# Family and Marriage

# Family and marriage

## What is “a” family?

- **Unit of economic activity**  
Pooled economic resources  
Inheritance of property  
Domain for unpaid labor
- **Unit of emotional/social support**  
Dependable support network
- **Unit of human reproduction**  
E.g. matrilineal and patrilineal descent
- **Unit of romantic/sexual involvement**  
Romantic love  
Sexual partnership
- **Unit of socialization/customs**



# Family and marriage

## Marriage



- ∴ Formal relationship between two or more people
- ∴ Viewed as having intention of permanence
- ∴ *Institutionally recognized*  
Religion, government, community

## Marriage & family

Marriage is often culturally bound to ideas of family

- ∴ Sex, child rearing, love, economic union, ...
- ∴ Neither a strict criterion for nor result of family formation
- ∴ Frameworks exist to *reconcile* marriage and family  
I.e. “common-law” marriage



# Family and marriage

## Diversity of family forms

- ∴ Monogamy versus polygamy  
Polyandry, polygyny
- ∴ Monogamy versus polyamory
- ∴ Single-parent versus two-parent
- ∴ Same-gender versus different-gender
- ∴ Nuclear versus extended
- ∴ Married versus unmarried
- ∴ Biological versus chosen
- ∴ ...



# Demography of Family

# Demography of family

## **Family is central concern for demographers**

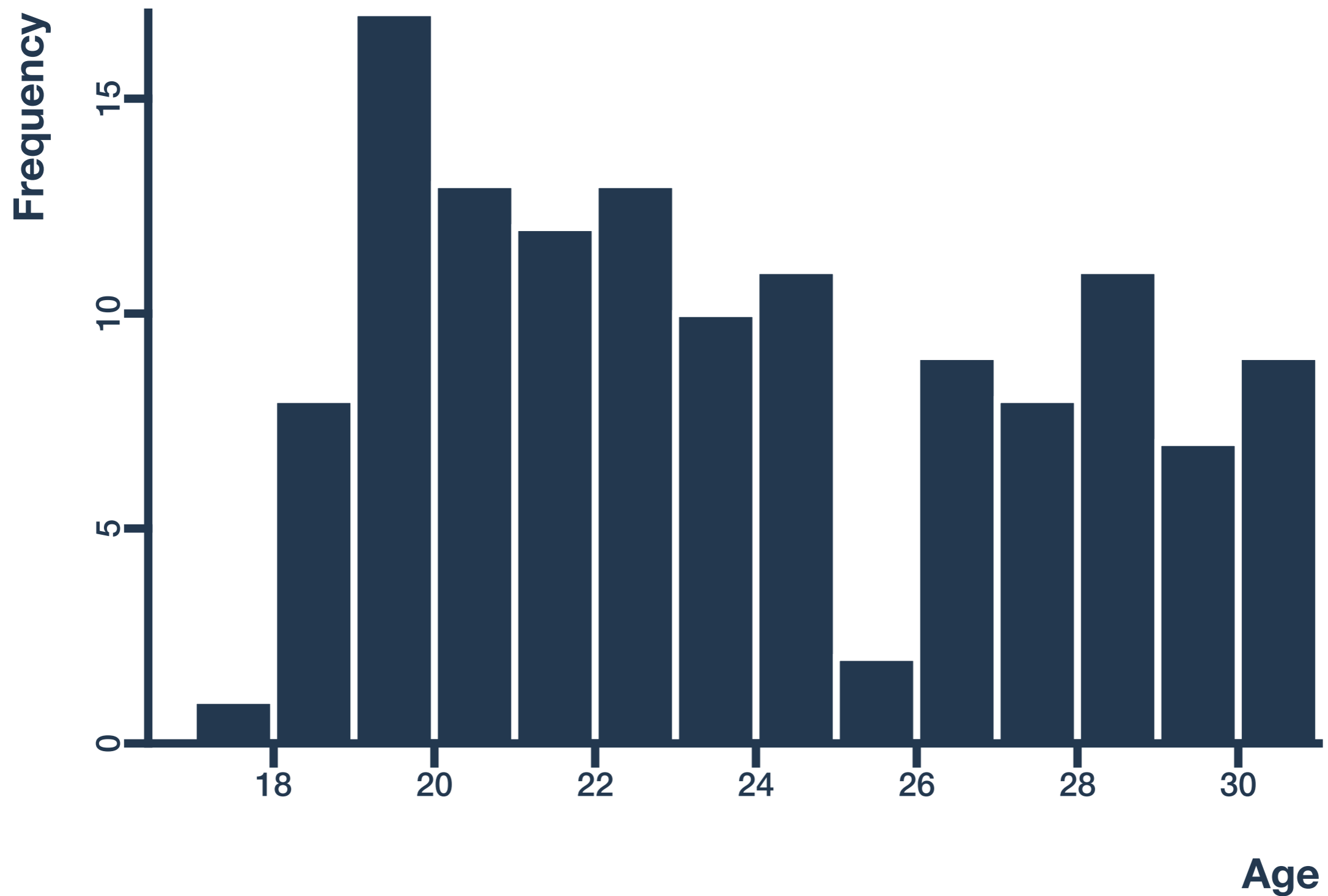
- Family forms affect patterns of fertility and migration
- Norms and culture deeply influenced by family
- Legal, economic, and other social factors both influence and are influenced by family

## **Some descriptive data...**

# Demography of family

## Mean age of first birth across 131 countries

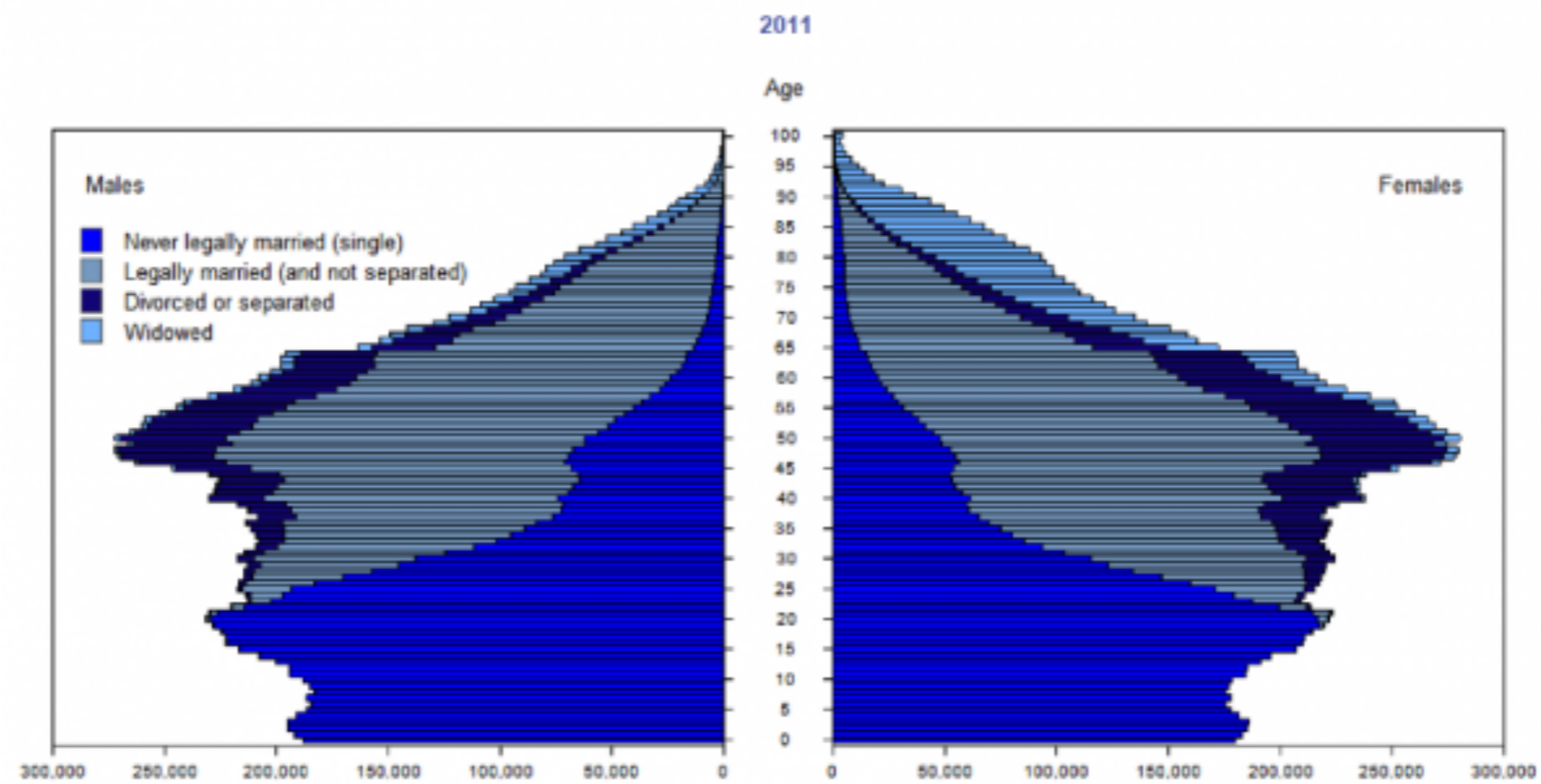
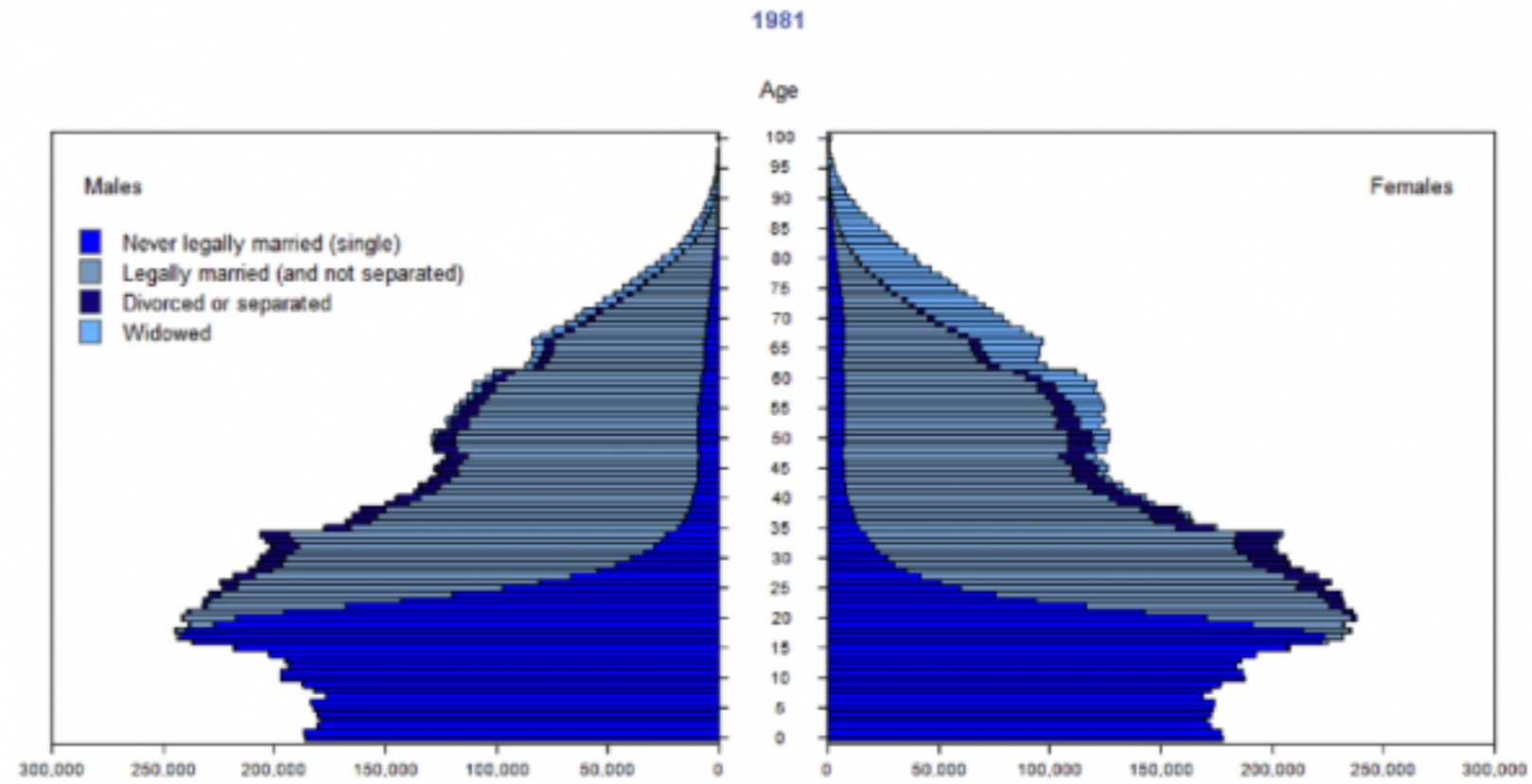
CIA World Factbook 2017





# Demography of family

Population pyramids of legal marital status by single year of age and sex, Canada, 1981 and 2011



# Image credit



Photo from [Densho Digital Repository](#)



Photo by unknown author via [Wikimedia](#)



Photo by Nicolás Gavidia via [Wikimedia](#)



Photo by Manar Hussain via [Flickr](#)



Photo by Edward S. Curtis via [Wikimedia](#)



Photo from [Mitt Romney's Twitter feed](#)



Photo by unknown author via [Wikimedia](#)



Promotional photo for [The Addams Family \(1991\)](#)