

Table 6.1 Current marital status

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 and men age 15-54 by current marital status, according to age and residence, India, 2019-21

Age	Marital status							Total	Number of respondents
	Never married	Currently married	Married, <i>gauna</i> not performed	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Deserted		
URBAN WOMEN									
15-19	92.5	7.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	100.0	34,543
20-24	52.8	46.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	100.0	36,555
25-29	17.4	80.7	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.1	100.0	38,272
30-34	4.3	91.8	0.0	2.1	0.6	1.0	0.1	100.0	34,392
35-39	2.1	91.8	0.0	3.9	0.7	1.2	0.2	100.0	33,869
40-44	1.7	89.6	0.0	6.8	0.5	1.1	0.3	100.0	28,657
45-49	1.2	85.3	0.0	11.5	0.6	1.1	0.3	100.0	28,991
Total	25.9	69.4	0.1	3.3	0.4	0.8	0.1	100.0	235,279
URBAN MEN									
15-19	98.9	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	5,290
20-24	87.6	12.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	100.0	5,248
25-29	51.8	46.7	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.0	100.0	4,975
30-34	21.3	77.7	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.1	100.0	4,729
35-39	6.2	91.8	0.0	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.0	100.0	4,667
40-44	3.7	94.5	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.1	100.0	3,878
45-49	3.7	94.1	0.0	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.0	100.0	4,065
50-54	2.7	94.4	0.0	2.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	100.0	2,985
Total age 15-49	42.6	56.2	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	100.0	32,852
Total age 15-54	39.3	59.4	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.0	100.0	35,837
RURAL WOMEN									
15-19	84.5	14.6	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	100.0	88,000
20-24	32.8	65.9	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	100.0	82,885
25-29	7.3	90.5	0.1	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.1	100.0	78,873
30-34	1.9	94.5	0.0	2.3	0.3	0.8	0.1	100.0	65,992
35-39	1.0	93.6	0.0	4.1	0.4	0.8	0.2	100.0	63,683
40-44	0.9	90.4	0.0	7.0	0.4	1.0	0.2	100.0	53,130
45-49	0.6	87.2	0.0	10.8	0.3	0.9	0.2	100.0	56,272
Total	22.5	73.2	0.2	3.0	0.3	0.6	0.1	100.0	488,836
RURAL MEN									
15-19	97.7	2.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	11,095
20-24	73.5	25.4	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	100.0	9,136
25-29	35.4	63.3	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.0	100.0	9,220
30-34	11.7	86.8	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.0	100.0	8,379
35-39	3.8	94.2	0.1	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.2	100.0	8,361
40-44	1.9	95.6	0.0	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.1	100.0	6,968
45-49	1.8	95.8	0.1	1.4	0.2	0.7	0.1	100.0	7,132
50-54	1.0	95.4	0.1	2.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	100.0	5,711
Total age 15-49	37.1	61.4	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.1	100.0	60,291
Total age 15-54	34.0	64.3	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.1	100.0	66,002

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Table 6.1 Current marital status—*Continued*

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 and men age 15-54 by current marital status, according to age and residence, India, 2019-21

Age	Marital status							Total	Number of respondents
	Never married	Currently married	Married, <i>gauna</i> not performed	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Deserted		
TOTAL WOMEN									
15-19	86.7	12.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	100.0	122,544
20-24	38.9	59.9	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	100.0	119,440
25-29	10.6	87.3	0.1	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.1	100.0	117,145
30-34	2.7	93.6	0.0	2.2	0.4	0.9	0.1	100.0	100,384
35-39	1.4	93.0	0.0	4.0	0.5	1.0	0.2	100.0	97,552
40-44	1.2	90.1	0.0	7.0	0.4	1.0	0.2	100.0	81,787
45-49	0.8	86.5	0.0	11.1	0.4	0.9	0.2	100.0	85,264
Total	23.6	72.0	0.2	3.1	0.3	0.7	0.1	100.0	724,115
TOTAL MEN									
15-19	98.1	1.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	16,385
20-24	78.7	20.5	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	100.0	14,384
25-29	41.1	57.5	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.0	100.0	14,195
30-34	15.2	83.5	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	100.0	13,109
35-39	4.6	93.4	0.1	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.1	100.0	13,029
40-44	2.5	95.2	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.1	100.0	10,846
45-49	2.5	95.2	0.0	1.3	0.4	0.6	0.1	100.0	11,197
50-54	1.6	95.0	0.1	2.5	0.4	0.4	0.1	100.0	8,695
Total age 15-49	39.1	59.6	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.1	100.0	93,144
Total age 15-54	35.9	62.6	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.1	100.0	101,839

**Table 6.2 Age at first marriage**

Percentage of women age 15-49 and men age 15-54 who were first married by specific exact ages, percentage never married, and median age at first marriage and first cohabitation with spouse, according to current age, India, 2019-21

Current age	Percentage first married by exact age:					Percentage never married	Number of respondents	Median age at first marriage	Median age at first cohabitation
	15	18	20	21	25				
WOMEN									
15-19	1.7	na	na	na	na	87.3	122,544	a	a
20-24	4.8	23.3	43.1	na	na	39.2	119,440	a	a
25-29	9.0	32.2	52.8	61.4	83.0	10.6	117,145	19.7	19.8
30-34	13.7	39.6	58.3	66.4	86.6	2.8	100,384	19.1	19.2
35-39	16.1	45.5	64.0	71.1	88.3	1.4	97,552	18.4	18.6
40-44	18.2	47.7	66.4	73.6	89.6	1.2	81,787	18.2	18.4
45-49	17.8	47.0	65.7	72.6	89.0	0.9	85,264	18.3	18.4
20-49	12.6	38.0	57.3	na	na	10.8	601,571	19.2	19.3
25-49	14.5	41.7	60.8	68.5	87.0	3.8	482,132	18.8	18.9
MEN									
15-19	0.1	na	na	na	na	98.3	16,385	a	a
20-24	0.2	2.6	7.8	na	na	79.0	14,384	a	a
25-29	0.7	4.7	12.3	17.7	42.9	41.2	14,195	a	a
30-34	1.3	7.2	15.2	21.0	47.8	15.3	13,109	25.3	25.3
35-39	1.6	9.8	20.3	26.4	54.0	4.7	13,029	24.4	24.4
40-44	1.6	9.0	19.1	26.7	54.5	2.6	10,846	24.3	24.3
45-49	1.7	8.7	19.9	26.6	54.8	2.5	11,197	24.3	24.3
50-54	1.8	8.7	18.3	24.6	53.5	1.7	8,695	24.5	24.5
20-49	1.1	6.8	15.4	na	na	26.6	76,759	a	a
25-49	1.3	7.8	17.1	23.4	50.4	14.5	62,375	24.9	24.9

na = Not applicable due to censoring

a = Omitted because less than 50 percent of the women or men were married or began living with their spouse before reaching the beginning of the age group.

Table 6.3.1 Median age at first marriage: Women

Median age at first marriage among women age 20-49, by current age, according to background characteristics, India, 2019-21

Background characteristic	Age						Women age 20-49	Women age 25-49
	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49		
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	a	21.3	20.5	19.8	19.5	19.3	a	20.1
Rural	a	19.1	18.4	17.9	17.6	17.8	18.6	18.2
<b>Schooling</b>								
No schooling	18.1	17.5	17.0	16.9	16.9	17.3	17.2	17.1
<5 years complete	18.2	17.6	17.3	17.2	17.4	17.6	17.5	17.4
5-7 years complete	18.5	18.1	17.8	17.8	17.7	18.0	18.0	17.9
8-9 years complete	19.1	18.9	18.9	18.6	18.6	18.8	18.9	18.8
10-11 years complete	19.7	19.4	19.6	19.6	19.7	20.0	19.6	19.6
12 or more years complete	a	23.0	22.8	22.7	22.3	22.5	a	22.8
<b>Religion</b>								
Hindu	a	19.7	19.0	18.3	18.1	18.2	19.1	18.7
Muslim	a	19.5	18.9	18.4	18.3	18.3	19.1	18.7
Christian	a	22.5	21.9	21.2	21.2	21.5	a	21.7
Sikh	a	22.8	21.5	20.8	20.3	20.4	a	21.2
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	a	20.3	20.8	19.4	19.6	18.6	a	19.7
Jain	a	24.7	23.0	22.3	22.4	22.1	a	22.7
Other	a	19.4	19.3	18.9	19.8	19.5	19.7	19.4
<b>Caste/tribe</b>								
Scheduled caste	a	19.4	18.7	17.9	17.6	17.7	18.8	18.3
Scheduled tribe	a	19.3	18.7	18.2	18.1	18.4	18.9	18.6
Other backward class	a	19.6	18.9	18.3	18.1	18.2	19.1	18.7
Other	a	20.5	19.9	19.3	19.0	18.9	19.9	19.6
Don't know	18.6	18.1	17.8	17.6	17.5	17.3	17.9	17.8
<b>Wealth quintile</b>								
Lowest	18.8	17.9	17.3	17.2	17.3	17.5	17.7	17.5
Second	19.8	18.6	17.9	17.4	17.3	17.6	18.2	17.8
Middle	a	19.4	18.6	18.1	17.7	17.9	18.8	18.4
Fourth	a	20.5	19.9	18.9	18.5	18.4	19.8	19.3
Highest	a	22.8	21.8	20.8	20.2	19.7	a	21.1
Total	a	19.7	19.1	18.4	18.2	18.3	19.2	18.8

a = Omitted because less than 50 percent of the women were married before reaching the beginning of the age group

Table 6.3.2 Median age at first marriage: Men

Median age at first marriage among men age 25-54, by current age, according to background characteristics, India, 2019-21

Background characteristic	Age						Men age 25-49
	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	a	27.0	26.1	25.9	25.8	26.0	a
Rural	a	24.4	23.5	23.5	23.3	23.8	24.1
<b>Schooling</b>							
No schooling	22.6	21.7	21.2	21.6	22.4	23.1	21.9
<5 years complete	22.4	22.3	22.1	22.7	22.5	23.3	22.4
5-7 years complete	23.3	23.2	23.0	23.1	23.5	24.0	23.2
8-9 years complete	24.6	24.5	24.3	23.9	24.1	24.8	24.3
10-11 years complete	a	25.6	25.5	25.3	25.0	25.2	a
12 or more years complete	a	28.0	27.6	27.6	27.0	26.8	a
<b>Religion</b>							
Hindu	a	25.3	24.3	24.3	24.1	24.5	24.9
Muslim	a	25.1	24.4	23.9	24.4	24.2	24.7
Christian	a	26.6	26.6	25.8	27.5	26.6	a
Sikh	a	26.1	25.4	24.2	24.3	24.1	a
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	a	27.4	26.6	26.9	24.5	25.1	a
Jain	a	28.4	21.8	26.9	27.5	25.6	a
Other	23.8	25.3	a	22.7	27.3	24.5	a
<b>Caste/tribe</b>							
Scheduled caste	a	24.7	23.4	23.8	23.2	23.1	24.1
Scheduled tribe	24.5	23.8	23.1	22.7	23.5	23.9	23.6
Other backward class	a	25.5	24.5	24.1	24.3	24.4	25.0
Other	a	26.2	25.7	25.4	25.2	25.5	a
Don't know	a	22.9	22.8	24.7	23.2	20.9	24.1
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	22.9	22.0	21.7	22.1	22.3	23.3	22.2
Second	24.2	23.7	22.8	22.9	23.3	23.6	23.4
Middle	a	24.8	24.1	23.9	23.7	24.3	24.6
Fourth	a	26.6	25.8	25.5	24.9	24.6	a
Highest	a	27.7	27.0	26.7	26.1	26.3	a
Total	a	25.3	24.4	24.3	24.3	24.5	24.9

a = Omitted because less than 50 percent of the men were married before reaching the beginning of the age group

Table 6.4 Age at first marriage by state/union territory

Percentage of women age 18-29 who were first married by exact age 18 and percentage of men age 21-29 who were first married by exact age 21, by residence and state/union territory, India, 2019-21

State/union territory	Women			Men		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
<b>India</b>	16.5	28.4	24.7	9.2	18.5	15.2
<b>North</b>						
Chandigarh	8.6	*	8.5	(0.0)	*	(0.0)
Delhi	13.4	12.1	13.3	9.2	*	9.1
Haryana	12.8	17.0	15.6	14.2	13.3	13.6
Himachal Pradesh	7.6	7.1	7.2	(10.5)	4.8	5.5
Jammu & Kashmir	2.9	6.3	5.5	5.0	7.7	7.1
Ladakh	4.2	6.2	5.8	*	18.8	16.2
Punjab	9.8	10.3	10.1	8.8	8.8	8.8
Rajasthan	16.1	26.9	24.5	13.8	27.9	23.9
Uttarakhand	13.7	14.4	14.2	13.5	13.1	13.3
<b>Central</b>						
Chhattisgarh	10.9	17.0	15.5	6.1	15.1	13.0
Madhya Pradesh	15.5	28.8	25.3	10.2	28.4	23.6
Uttar Pradesh	12.6	20.8	18.8	13.6	20.2	18.4
<b>East</b>						
Bihar	29.2	42.4	40.3	16.2	27.7	24.9
Jharkhand	22.3	38.5	34.7	10.0	25.7	21.8
Odisha	18.2	23.0	22.2	7.6	13.0	11.9
West Bengal	27.5	48.9	42.3	9.0	24.4	19.7
<b>Northeast</b>						
Arunachal Pradesh	18.2	21.0	20.5	15.7	22.3	21.2
Assam	20.9	33.7	31.9	16.0	19.1	18.6
Manipur	12.1	16.2	14.7	13.9	17.7	16.0
Meghalaya	10.8	21.5	19.2	(9.3)	21.4	19.0
Mizoram	4.6	14.6	8.9	6.6	17.1	10.4
Nagaland	5.1	7.5	6.6	5.6	3.3	4.2
Sikkim	12.8	16.2	14.6	*	13.9	6.8
Tripura	32.2	41.5	39.0	(7.1)	20.9	17.2
<b>West</b>						
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	26.4	29.3	27.9	16.3	(11.0)	13.2
Goa	8.3	5.7	7.2	9.3	(0.0)	5.9
Gujarat	13.8	25.3	20.6	13.0	32.1	24.2
Maharashtra	16.6	29.9	23.6	7.6	10.0	8.8
<b>South</b>						
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	17.0	19.1	18.2	*	5.4	5.4
Andhra Pradesh	25.7	36.5	33.0	9.8	13.7	12.4
Karnataka	18.3	26.2	23.1	3.1	5.4	4.5
Kerala	5.3	9.6	7.6	0.0	1.9	1.1
Lakshadweep	3.9	3.7	3.8	*	*	(0.0)
Puducherry	8.6	7.2	8.1	5.9	*	3.7
Tamil Nadu	10.9	15.6	13.3	4.3	3.9	4.1
Telangana	20.2	31.8	27.3	10.2	14.7	12.9

Note: Figures in parenthesis are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

Table 6.5 Consanguineous marriages

Percent distribution of ever-married women age 15-49 by relationship to current (last) husband before their marriage, and percentage married to a blood relative, according to background characteristics, India, 2019-21

Background characteristic	First cousin		Second cousin	Uncle	Other blood relative	Brother-in-law	Other non-blood relative	Not related	Total	Percentage married to a blood relative	Number of women
	Father's side	Mother's side									
Age											
15-19	4.9	5.6	0.8	0.4	3.0	0.8	3.7	80.8	100.0	14.7	15,584
20-24	4.4	4.3	0.7	0.3	2.5	0.7	2.3	84.8	100.0	12.2	72,660
25-29	4.0	4.1	0.7	0.3	2.1	0.6	1.9	86.5	100.0	11.0	104,679
30-34	3.8	3.7	0.6	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.6	87.7	100.0	10.2	97,617
35-39	4.0	3.9	0.6	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.3	87.5	100.0	10.7	96,200
40-44	3.9	3.7	0.5	0.3	1.7	0.4	1.2	88.2	100.0	10.2	80,766
45-49	3.9	3.7	0.5	0.3	1.4	0.5	1.0	88.6	100.0	9.9	84,534
Residence											
Urban	4.1	4.1	0.6	0.3	1.9	0.4	1.8	86.7	100.0	11.0	174,237
Rural	4.0	3.9	0.6	0.3	1.9	0.6	1.5	87.2	100.0	10.7	377,803
Schooling											
No schooling	3.7	3.7	0.6	0.3	1.7	0.6	1.1	88.4	100.0	9.9	156,879
<5 years complete	4.2	4.2	0.6	0.2	2.1	0.4	1.7	86.6	100.0	11.3	34,866
5-7 years complete	4.8	4.5	0.6	0.3	2.1	0.5	1.6	85.5	100.0	12.4	84,089
8-9 years complete	3.7	3.8	0.7	0.3	2.2	0.5	2.1	86.7	100.0	10.7	88,781
10-11 years complete	4.6	4.6	0.6	0.3	2.1	0.6	1.7	85.5	100.0	12.2	68,869
12 or more years complete	3.6	3.6	0.5	0.2	1.9	0.4	1.9	87.8	100.0	9.8	118,556
Religion											
Hindu	3.7	3.6	0.5	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.6	87.8	100.0	10.1	452,343
Muslim	5.9	6.2	1.2	0.3	2.2	0.8	1.5	81.9	100.0	15.8	72,039
Christian	4.3	4.3	0.6	0.6	2.2	0.5	2.3	85.2	100.0	11.9	12,444
Sikh	1.4	1.5	0.4	0.4	1.1	0.2	1.3	93.7	100.0	4.8	8,521
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	7.1	4.7	0.3	0.1	2.4	0.1	1.8	83.6	100.0	14.5	3,432
Jain	2.6	3.0	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.5	1.1	91.5	100.0	6.9	1,206
Other	1.9	2.3	0.4	0.1	2.4	0.2	2.1	90.6	100.0	7.2	2,055
Caste/tribe											
Scheduled caste	4.1	3.9	0.6	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.6	87.1	100.0	10.8	120,271
Scheduled tribe	3.5	3.7	0.4	0.2	2.1	0.4	2.5	87.2	100.0	9.9	51,283
Other backward class	4.5	4.6	0.6	0.4	2.0	0.6	1.3	86.0	100.0	12.1	237,147
Other	3.4	2.9	0.6	0.2	1.8	0.4	1.8	88.8	100.0	8.9	139,026
Don't know	3.1	2.9	1.1	0.2	2.0	1.0	2.1	87.6	100.0	9.3	4,313
Wealth quintile											
Lowest	2.7	2.4	0.4	0.2	1.8	0.5	1.9	90.1	100.0	7.5	104,454
Second	3.9	3.9	0.6	0.3	2.1	0.5	1.6	87.1	100.0	10.8	110,981
Middle	4.9	5.0	0.6	0.3	2.1	0.6	1.5	84.8	100.0	13.0	113,723
Fourth	4.9	4.8	0.6	0.4	2.0	0.5	1.5	85.3	100.0	12.7	114,422
Highest	3.5	3.5	0.6	0.3	1.7	0.4	1.6	88.4	100.0	9.6	108,460
Total	4.0	4.0	0.6	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.6	87.1	100.0	10.8	552,040

**Table 6.6 Consanguineous marriages by state/union territory**

Percent distribution of ever-married women age 15-49 by relationship to current (last) husband before their marriage, according to state/ union territory, India, 2019-21

State/union territory	First cousin		Second cousin	Uncle	Other blood relative	Brother-in-law	Other non-blood relative	Not related	Total	Percentage married to a blood relative
	Father's side	Mother's side								
<b>India</b>	4.0	4.0	0.6	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.6	87.1	100.0	10.8
<b>North</b>										
Chandigarh	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.9	96.5	100.0	1.7
Delhi	1.8	1.5	0.6	0.1	1.5	0.2	2.4	91.9	100.0	5.5
Haryana	1.3	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.4	1.2	94.7	100.0	3.7
Himachal Pradesh	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.1	2.4	95.9	100.0	1.6
Jammu & Kashmir	3.9	4.6	2.0	0.1	1.1	0.1	0.7	87.6	100.0	11.6
Ladakh	5.4	5.6	2.7	0.1	2.0	0.1	1.6	82.5	100.0	15.8
Punjab	1.4	1.4	0.3	0.4	1.1	0.2	1.3	93.8	100.0	4.7
Rajasthan	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.7	94.3	100.0	4.7
Uttarakhand	1.0	1.8	0.4	0.1	1.0	0.6	1.1	94.1	100.0	4.2
<b>Central</b>										
Chhattisgarh	1.5	1.8	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.2	1.0	94.3	100.0	4.5
Madhya Pradesh	1.8	1.9	0.4	0.2	1.6	0.2	1.3	92.7	100.0	5.8
Uttar Pradesh	3.7	3.1	0.8	0.2	2.2	1.1	1.1	87.8	100.0	10.0
<b>East</b>										
Bihar	1.6	2.0	0.4	0.3	1.7	0.7	1.1	92.2	100.0	6.1
Jharkhand	1.2	1.4	0.3	0.3	1.3	0.5	0.9	94.2	100.0	4.3
Odisha	3.0	3.2	0.5	0.5	5.6	0.4	6.9	80.0	100.0	12.7
West Bengal	1.1	1.2	0.3	0.0	0.8	0.2	3.1	93.2	100.0	3.5
<b>Northeast</b>										
Arunachal Pradesh	0.4	1.4	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.6	6.1	89.8	100.0	3.5
Assam	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.1	1.7	0.2	4.7	91.8	100.0	3.3
Manipur	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	3.2	95.6	100.0	1.2
Meghalaya	1.7	0.1	0.3	0.2	2.7	0.1	3.2	91.7	100.0	4.9
Mizoram	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2	98.8	100.0	1.0
Nagaland	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.1	3.6	94.1	100.0	2.1
Sikkim	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	7.5	91.8	100.0	0.5
Tripura	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.1	1.3	0.1	5.1	92.3	100.0	2.5
<b>West</b>										
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1.4	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.2	96.8	100.0	2.8
Goa	1.0	2.3	0.6	0.1	1.7	0.1	1.0	93.2	100.0	5.7
Gujarat	2.4	2.1	0.3	0.2	1.3	0.2	1.1	92.4	100.0	6.4
Maharashtra	6.8	4.8	0.5	0.1	2.6	0.1	1.7	83.4	100.0	14.8
<b>South</b>										
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.9	3.5	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.1	1.9	90.9	100.0	7.1
Andhra Pradesh	10.5	11.6	1.3	1.0	2.0	0.7	0.5	72.3	100.0	26.4
Karnataka	9.6	13.9	0.5	0.2	2.5	0.1	0.5	72.8	100.0	26.6
Kerala	1.9	1.3	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.8	94.7	100.0	4.4
Lakshadweep	5.4	1.4	0.9	0.0	0.4	0.0	3.6	88.3	100.0	8.1
Puducherry	7.6	7.6	1.0	1.2	1.8	0.4	3.0	77.5	100.0	19.2
Tamil Nadu	10.0	11.2	1.5	1.2	4.0	0.1	1.3	70.8	100.0	27.9
Telangana	9.9	5.3	0.1	1.0	2.0	4.7	0.7	76.3	100.0	18.2



**Table 6.7 Age at first sexual intercourse**

Percentage of women age 15-49 and men age 15-54 who had first sexual intercourse by specific exact ages, percentage who never had intercourse, and median age at first intercourse, according to current age, India, 2019-21

	Percentage who had first sexual intercourse by exact age:						Percentage who never had sexual intercourse	Number of respondents	Median age at first sexual intercourse
Current age	15	18	20	21	22	25			
WOMEN									
15-19	1.2	na	na	na	na	na	84.9	122,544	a
20-24	3.4	21.0	42.5	na	na	na	37.3	119,440	a
25-29	6.5	29.2	51.8	60.7	67.2	81.6	9.9	117,145	19.8
30-34	9.7	36.3	57.5	65.9	72.2	85.0	2.5	100,384	19.2
35-39	11.3	42.0	63.3	71.0	76.2	87.0	1.3	97,552	18.6
40-44	12.8	43.9	65.2	73.2	78.2	88.0	1.1	81,787	18.5
45-49	12.7	44.5	65.7	73.5	78.4	88.6	0.8	85,264	18.4
20-49	8.9	35.0	56.6	na	na	na	10.2	601,571	19.3
25-49	10.3	38.5	60.0	68.2	73.9	85.7	3.5	482,132	18.9
MEN									
15-19	0.7	na	na	na	na	na	92.3	16,385	a
20-24	0.3	4.6	15.2	na	na	na	64.0	14,384	a
25-29	0.6	4.9	13.6	20.2	26.5	49.3	31.7	14,195	a
30-34	1.0	5.9	14.8	22.2	28.1	49.2	11.2	13,109	25.1
35-39	1.0	7.3	18.3	25.7	32.5	53.0	3.6	13,029	24.5
40-44	1.1	7.0	17.8	26.5	33.6	53.3	2.0	10,846	24.5
45-49	0.6	6.1	17.2	24.9	31.3	53.6	1.8	11,197	24.5
50-54	0.7	5.6	14.6	22.3	29.0	51.8	1.2	8,695	24.8
20-49	0.7	5.9	16.0	na	na	na	20.9	76,759	a
25-49	0.8	6.2	16.2	23.7	30.2	51.5	11.0	62,375	24.8

na = Not applicable due to censoring

a = Omitted because less than 50 percent of the women or men had intercourse before reaching the beginning of the age group

Table 6.8.1 Median age at first sexual intercourse: Women

Median age at first sexual intercourse among women age 20-49, by current age, according to background characteristics, India, 2019-21

	Current age						Women	Women
Background characteristic	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	age 20-49	age 25-49
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	a	21.4	20.6	19.8	19.6	19.3	a	20.2
Rural	a	19.2	18.6	18.2	18.0	18.1	18.8	18.5
<b>Schooling</b>								
No schooling	18.4	17.8	17.5	17.3	17.4	17.6	17.6	17.5
<5 years complete	18.3	17.8	17.7	17.6	17.7	17.7	17.8	17.7
5-7 years complete	18.6	18.3	18.2	18.1	18.1	18.2	18.2	18.2
8-9 years complete	19.2	19.0	18.9	18.8	18.8	19.0	19.0	18.9
10-11 years complete	19.8	19.5	19.7	19.6	19.8	20.1	19.7	19.7
12 or more years complete	a	23.0	22.8	22.6	22.3	22.5	a	22.8
<b>Religion</b>								
Hindu	a	19.8	19.1	18.6	18.4	18.4	19.2	18.9
Muslim	a	19.5	18.9	18.5	18.4	18.2	19.0	18.8
Christian	a	22.5	21.7	20.9	21.0	21.0	a	21.5
Sikh	a	22.8	21.6	20.8	20.4	20.3	a	21.2
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	a	20.2	20.3	19.1	19.3	18.6	20.0	19.5
Jain	a	24.7	23.0	22.0	22.5	21.5	a	22.7
Other	a	19.2	18.9	19.0	19.7	19.3	19.5	19.2
<b>Caste/tribe</b>								
Scheduled caste	a	19.5	18.8	18.2	18.0	17.9	18.9	18.5
Scheduled tribe	a	19.3	18.7	18.4	18.3	18.4	18.9	18.7
Other backward class	a	19.7	19.1	18.6	18.5	18.4	19.2	18.9
Other	a	20.6	19.9	19.4	19.1	18.9	20.0	19.6
Don't know	18.9	18.6	18.2	17.7	17.5	17.7	18.2	18.0
<b>Wealth quintile</b>								
Lowest	18.9	18.2	17.7	17.6	17.8	17.8	18.1	17.8
Second	19.8	18.7	18.2	17.8	17.7	17.9	18.5	18.2
Middle	a	19.5	18.8	18.3	18.0	18.1	18.9	18.6
Fourth	a	20.6	19.9	19.0	18.7	18.5	19.9	19.4
Highest	a	22.9	21.9	20.8	20.2	19.8	a	21.2
Total	a	19.8	19.2	18.6	18.5	18.4	19.3	18.9

a = Omitted because less than 50 percent of the women had intercourse before reaching the beginning of the age group

Table 6.8.2 Median age at first sexual intercourse: Men

Median age at first sexual intercourse among men age 25-54, by current age, according to background characteristics, India, 2019-21

Background characteristic	Current age						Men age 25-49
	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	a	26.5	25.8	26.0	25.7	26.2	a
Rural	24.5	24.3	23.8	23.6	23.8	24.1	24.0
<b>Schooling</b>							
No schooling	22.5	21.8	21.3	21.9	22.8	23.0	22.1
<5 years complete	22.6	22.4	22.8	22.8	22.7	23.5	22.6
5-7 years complete	22.8	23.2	23.1	23.2	23.5	24.5	23.1
8-9 years complete	24.1	24.5	24.5	24.2	24.7	25.1	24.4
10-11 years complete	24.7	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.1	25.5	a
12 or more years complete	a	27.7	27.6	27.4	26.9	27.3	a
<b>Religion</b>							
Hindu	a	25.1	24.5	24.4	24.4	24.7	24.7
Muslim	24.9	24.8	24.2	24.2	24.5	24.2	24.6
Christian	a	26.1	25.6	25.7	26.7	26.7	a
Sikh	a	24.9	25.5	24.0	24.0	24.8	a
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	24.4	25.9	25.0	26.6	24.6	26.2	a
Jain	a	28.6	22.5	27.8	25.6	26.1	a
Other	23.6	25.3	a	22.9	27.3	26.8	a
<b>Caste/tribe</b>							
Scheduled caste	24.5	24.6	23.7	23.7	23.8	23.9	24.1
Scheduled tribe	23.5	23.9	22.9	22.7	23.0	23.0	23.2
Other backward class	a	25.3	24.6	24.2	24.4	24.7	24.8
Other	a	25.7	25.6	25.6	25.4	25.6	a
Don't know	a	22.6	24.9	24.8	26.6	26.6	24.8
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	22.4	22.2	22.0	22.2	22.8	23.2	22.3
Second	23.6	23.7	23.2	23.0	23.5	24.0	23.4
Middle	a	24.8	24.2	24.1	24.1	24.5	24.5
Fourth	a	26.3	25.9	25.6	24.8	25.0	a
Highest	a	27.4	26.7	26.5	26.1	26.6	a
Total	a	25.1	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.8	24.8

a = Omitted because less than 50 percent of the men had intercourse before reaching the beginning of the age group

Table 6.9.1 Most recent sexual activity: Women

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by timing of last sexual intercourse, according to background characteristics, India, 2019-21

Background characteristic	Timing of last sexual intercourse					Never had sexual intercourse	Total	Number of women	Median number of days since last sexual intercourse <sup>3</sup>
	Within the last week	Within the last 4 weeks <sup>1</sup>	Within 1 year <sup>2</sup>	One or more years	Missing				
<b>Age</b>									
15-19	6.3	2.1	4.6	0.4	1.7	84.9	100.0	18,240	7.7
20-24	28.3	11.4	16.2	1.4	5.7	37.0	100.0	17,809	7.3
25-29	42.6	19.7	18.1	2.7	7.2	9.6	100.0	17,398	7.1
30-34	46.7	23.8	16.6	4.3	6.1	2.5	100.0	15,295	7.0
35-39	39.9	26.9	18.4	7.5	6.1	1.3	100.0	14,558	7.5
40-44	30.7	28.3	22.9	11.5	5.7	0.9	100.0	11,973	10.8
45-49	21.6	25.0	25.0	18.8	8.4	1.1	100.0	12,741	21.2
<b>Marital status</b>									
Never married	0.2	0.4	1.8	0.7	0.8	96.2	100.0	25,505	a
Currently married	42.3	25.5	22.0	3.9	6.3	0.0	100.0	77,729	7.5
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	0.9	1.8	9.8	64.7	22.3	0.5	100.0	4,780	a
<b>Marital duration<sup>4</sup></b>									
0-4 years	46.3	18.1	25.7	1.0	8.7	0.1	100.0	13,721	7.7
5-9 years	48.4	22.6	19.6	1.3	8.0	0.0	100.0	13,895	7.6
10-14 years	50.2	25.5	16.5	2.5	5.3	0.0	100.0	12,875	7.6
15-19 years	45.5	28.5	18.4	3.5	4.2	0.0	100.0	11,782	7.6
20-24 years	36.3	29.8	23.1	5.7	5.1	0.0	100.0	11,276	7.9
25 or more years	26.3	29.6	28.3	9.9	5.9	0.0	100.0	12,920	7.8
Married more than once	39.3	26.0	23.7	4.5	6.5	0.0	100.0	1,261	7.6
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	29.5	18.9	14.9	6.8	5.1	24.8	100.0	34,839	7.6
Rural	31.0	18.3	17.5	5.4	6.0	21.8	100.0	73,175	7.7
<b>Schooling</b>									
No schooling	33.4	23.4	21.6	10.0	7.7	3.8	100.0	24,485	10.3
<5 years complete	37.4	22.2	18.4	9.4	6.4	6.2	100.0	5,715	7.6
5-7 years complete	35.3	21.0	18.3	6.6	6.1	12.6	100.0	14,547	7.6
8-9 years complete	30.0	16.2	14.9	4.0	4.5	30.4	100.0	19,237	7.4
10-11 years complete	25.9	15.5	13.0	4.3	4.9	36.5	100.0	16,278	7.5
12 or more years complete	27.2	15.4	14.5	3.2	4.9	34.8	100.0	27,751	7.5
<b>Religion</b>									
Hindu	30.5	18.9	17.0	5.9	5.5	22.2	100.0	87,179	7.7
Muslim	31.5	16.9	15.3	5.0	6.4	24.9	100.0	15,138	7.5
Christian	25.5	16.0	16.2	7.6	9.6	25.1	100.0	2,495	7.8
Sikh	31.8	18.1	14.5	5.6	4.3	25.7	100.0	1,908	7.4
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	30.3	16.8	13.9	7.7	9.4	21.9	100.0	652	7.8
Jain	29.7	22.5	12.6	7.1	0.0	28.0	100.0	214	7.4
Other	31.8	17.7	15.8	6.6	4.0	24.1	100.0	428	7.6

Continued...

**Table 6.9.1 Most recent sexual activity: Women—*Continued***

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by timing of last sexual intercourse, according to background characteristics, India, 2019-21

Background characteristic	Timing of last sexual intercourse					Never had sexual intercourse	Total	Number of women	Median number of days since last sexual intercourse <sup>3</sup>
	Within the last week	Within the last 4 weeks <sup>1</sup>	Within 1 year <sup>2</sup>	One or more years	Missing				
<b>Caste/tribe</b>									
Scheduled caste	30.8	17.9	16.8	5.7	5.6	23.1	100.0	23,427	7.7
Scheduled tribe	32.9	18.4	14.7	5.6	6.5	22.0	100.0	9,909	7.4
Other backward class	28.9	18.4	18.0	6.0	5.7	23.0	100.0	47,251	7.9
Other	32.2	19.1	14.9	5.8	5.4	22.5	100.0	26,733	7.5
Don't know	30.9	18.0	18.6	5.0	11.2	16.3	100.0	694	7.5
<b>Wealth quintile</b>									
Lowest	31.3	17.0	18.4	5.4	6.9	20.9	100.0	19,904	7.8
Second	30.5	17.2	17.8	5.7	6.1	22.6	100.0	22,049	7.8
Middle	29.8	18.9	16.7	6.3	5.7	22.6	100.0	22,252	7.7
Fourth	30.2	18.9	15.6	6.1	5.3	23.9	100.0	22,376	7.6
Highest	30.8	20.2	15.0	5.6	4.6	23.7	100.0	21,432	7.5
Total	30.5	18.5	16.7	5.8	5.7	22.8	100.0	108,014	7.7

a = Omitted because less than 50 percent of women ever had sexual intercourse

<sup>1</sup> Excludes women who had sexual intercourse within the last 1 week

<sup>2</sup> Excludes women who had sexual intercourse within the last 1 and 4 weeks

<sup>3</sup> Among those who have ever had sexual intercourse

<sup>4</sup> Excludes women who are not currently married

Table 6.9.2 Most recent sexual activity: Men

Percent distribution of men age 15-49 by timing of last sexual intercourse, according to background characteristics, India, 2019-21

Background characteristic	Timing of last sexual intercourse					Never had sexual intercourse	Total	Number of men	Median number of days since last sexual intercourse <sup>3</sup>
	Within the last week	Within the last 4 weeks <sup>1</sup>	Within 1 year <sup>2</sup>	One or more years	Missing				
Age									
15-19	1.5	1.0	4.3	0.6	0.3	92.3	100.0	16,385	a
20-24	12.7	5.5	12.5	4.1	1.2	64.0	100.0	14,384	15.5
25-29	33.3	11.3	14.9	5.0	3.7	31.7	100.0	14,195	5.7
30-34	46.4	19.2	13.8	5.2	4.2	11.2	100.0	13,109	5.3
35-39	47.5	24.6	12.4	6.4	5.5	3.6	100.0	13,029	5.7
40-44	42.7	29.0	12.5	7.4	6.3	2.0	100.0	10,846	7.1
45-49	34.3	30.3	17.2	8.4	7.9	1.8	100.0	11,197	7.8
Marital status									
Never married	1.0	2.0	7.8	3.2	0.6	85.3	100.0	36,503	a
Currently married	48.9	25.4	14.9	5.2	5.6	0.0	100.0	55,475	5.7
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	2.2	2.4	21.8	51.3	21.5	0.8	100.0	1,165	a
Marital duration <sup>4</sup>									
0-4 years	53.6	17.7	20.4	3.8	4.4	0.1	100.0	10,571	6.9
5-9 years	52.9	22.8	14.5	4.9	4.8	0.0	100.0	10,670	5.7
10-14 years	54.0	25.7	10.4	4.4	5.5	0.0	100.0	9,990	5.4
15-19 years	47.7	28.9	11.6	6.1	5.7	0.0	100.0	8,988	5.9
20-24 years	38.9	31.6	16.4	6.7	6.5	0.0	100.0	7,056	8.4
25 or more years	30.5	32.7	19.9	7.2	9.7	0.0	100.0	3,940	14.1
Married more than once	51.9	25.9	11.9	5.0	5.4	0.0	100.0	4,259	8.3
Residence									
Urban	27.8	15.2	12.2	5.1	3.2	36.4	100.0	32,852	7.4
Rural	30.5	16.3	12.2	5.0	4.2	31.9	100.0	60,291	7.3
Schooling									
No schooling	38.1	20.3	14.1	7.4	6.7	13.4	100.0	9,982	6.9
<5 years complete	42.3	21.3	12.7	5.8	5.5	12.5	100.0	5,842	5.9
5-7 years complete	37.2	18.8	12.3	5.6	4.9	21.1	100.0	12,082	6.1
8-9 years complete	27.5	15.4	11.4	4.4	3.4	37.9	100.0	18,472	7.2
10-11 years complete	25.8	14.2	11.2	4.6	3.1	41.1	100.0	16,735	7.2
12 or more years complete	24.6	13.5	12.4	4.4	2.9	42.2	100.0	30,032	7.4
Religion									
Hindu	29.8	16.2	12.8	4.9	3.5	32.9	100.0	73,632	7.1
Muslim	29.5	15.1	9.0	5.1	5.2	36.1	100.0	14,633	6.0
Christian	23.7	14.8	11.4	7.5	6.4	36.1	100.0	2,426	7.5
Sikh	33.6	12.0	11.5	5.1	2.7	35.0	100.0	886	4.9
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	29.3	17.8	14.8	5.5	2.6	29.9	100.0	1,017	7.6
Jain	28.7	11.9	6.7	9.1	0.2	43.3	100.0	280	5.3
Other	23.7	9.3	27.4	5.4	5.3	29.0	100.0	269	20.5

Continued...

**Table 6.9.2 Most recent sexual activity: Men—*Continued***

Percent distribution of men age 15-49 by timing of last sexual intercourse, according to background characteristics, India, 2019-21

Background characteristic	Timing of last sexual intercourse					Never had sexual intercourse	Total	Number of men	Median number of days since last sexual intercourse <sup>3</sup>
	Within the last week	Within the last 4 weeks <sup>1</sup>	Within 1 year <sup>2</sup>	One or more years	Missing				
<b>Caste/tribe</b>									
Scheduled caste	30.9	16.6	12.9	5.1	3.8	30.7	100.0	18,977	7.1
Scheduled tribe	31.1	15.7	13.0	5.6	5.1	29.5	100.0	8,441	7.0
Other backward class	28.5	16.3	12.7	4.6	3.3	34.6	100.0	38,986	7.2
Other	29.8	14.9	10.6	5.3	4.3	35.0	100.0	26,244	6.4
Don't know	28.2	12.1	9.9	5.9	7.2	36.7	100.0	496	4.9
<b>Wealth quintile</b>									
Lowest	32.0	15.6	11.8	5.2	5.8	29.6	100.0	15,606	7.2
Second	29.7	16.1	12.3	5.0	3.7	33.1	100.0	18,497	7.4
Middle	28.9	15.8	12.6	5.3	3.7	33.8	100.0	19,829	7.4
Fourth	29.3	16.3	11.7	5.0	3.3	34.4	100.0	20,658	7.3
Highest	28.5	15.5	12.5	4.6	3.1	35.7	100.0	18,553	7.3
Total age 15-49	29.6	15.9	12.2	5.0	3.8	33.5	100.0	93,144	7.1
Age 50-54	23.2	29.2	23.1	13.1	10.2	1.2	100.0	8,695	7.3
Total age 15-54	29.0	17.0	13.1	5.7	4.4	30.7	100.0	101,839	7.3

a = Omitted because less than 50 percent of men ever had sexual intercourse

<sup>1</sup> Excludes men who had sexual intercourse within the last 1 week

<sup>2</sup> Excludes men who had sexual intercourse within the last 1 and 4 weeks

<sup>3</sup> Among those who have ever had sexual intercourse

<sup>4</sup> Excludes men who are not currently married