

TABLE 1. Selected characteristics of married women aged 20–24, by timing of marriage

Characteristic	Married early (N=5,277)	Married late (N=3,037)
Mean age (yrs.)	22.0	22.0
Median yrs. of schooling completed	na	9.0
Worked before marriage	31.0	27.0***
Worked in past 12 months	52.2	29.9***
Resides in rural area	84.5	62.5***
Lives in nuclear family	42.9	25.5***
Participates in civic/social activities	21.2	20.9
Confided in peers on personal matters before marriage	36.0	53.0***
Mean household wealth index score	13.6	20.0***
Mean spousal age difference (yrs.)	9.4	6.5***

***p<.001. Notes: All values are percentages unless otherwise indicated. na=not applicable (because more than 50% of respondents had no formal education).