A number every one needs to know is 25.9 years old (US Census, 2006). In 2006, this was the median age at which American women were married for the first time. The context that surrounds this age is what makes it so very important to society.

This age falls in the third decade of women’s lives which is considered to be the peak fertility range for women (webmd.com). During the years surrounding 25.9, women have the best chances of becoming pregnant and carrying the unborn child to full term. Because monogamy is the socially accepted relationship behavior among Americans, and because marriage has been the customary step that is taken prior to a couple’s pregnancy, the correlation between getting married and starting a family is somewhat obvious.

Another interesting event that takes place at this age is the beginning of women’s careers or the conclusion of their formal education. If we assume a woman enters college immediately following her high school matriculation (between 17-18 years old) and completes her undergraduate degree in a timely manner (approx. four years), she will be 21 or 22 when she graduates. The five year gap between graduating from college and getting married is ideal for women to begin a career, or pursue a graduate degree. The combination of these events seems to encourage the independence of women.

What makes this number most important is that it’s an age my generation is quickly approaching. In the not so distant future my peers, along with myself, will be graduating. We will soon find ourselves in the transitional gap where careers will be decided, and we will be attempting to make the most of our biological clock. While 25.9 is only the median age for American women to get married, it is still a result of a strong trend in the behavior of women in the American society.