

# **Divorces: Analysis of Changes**

**United States, 1969**

Analysis of divorce statistics for 1968 and 1969, increases of divorces in 1963-69 by characteristics of the divorcing couples, and data on several variables for which information was collected for the first time.

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# DIVORCES: ANALYSIS OF CHANGES

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## NATIONAL AND STATE DATA

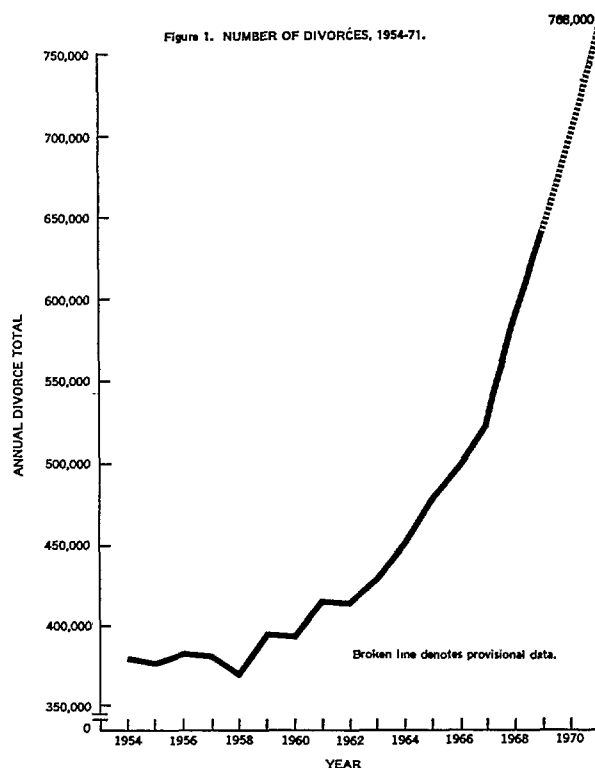
### Increase in Divorces

The increase in divorces that began in 1963 accelerated considerably in 1968 and 1969 (figure 1). During the 2-year period the national total, including the reported annulments, increased by 22 percent (from 523,000 in 1967 to 639,000 in 1969), the same percentage increase that occurred during the preceding 4-year period (from 428,000 in 1963 to 523,000 in 1967).

The 1969 national divorce total was 5 percent higher than the former all-time peak of 610,000 in 1946, which occurred during the unsettled conditions after World War II and was followed by an abrupt decline. The provisional divorce totals for 1970, 1971, and 1972, 715,000, 768,000, and 839,000, respectively, indicate continued rapid growth in the number of divorces. The rates also grew substantially (table 1).

After a pronounced increase in the divorce totals and rates due to World War II and the post-war adjustments, rates declined and by 1955 reached a plateau, when the rate per 1,000 population varied only between 2.1 and 2.3. These approximately level rates lasted for 9 years, 1955-63. The lowest point was reached in 1958, when the divorce total was 368,000, and the divorce rate was 2.1 per 1,000 population and 8.9 per 1,000 married women. When compared with 1958 figures, divorces by 1969 had increased 74 percent and the rates had increased a little over 50 percent.

The increases in the few last years are due in part to two factors: (1) the increase of the pop-



ulation of the United States, particularly of the married population, and (2) changes in the composition of the population in favor of subgroups with high divorce rates, such as married persons in their teens and twenties. Increases beyond this must be attributed to more obscure causes such as changes in social, psychological, and attitudinal variables.

If the 1963 rate of 2.3 divorces per 1,000 total population had remained in effect, the 1969

national total would have been 464,000 and the increase would have been 36,000, only 17 percent of the actual increase of 211,000. To estimate the impact of the changes in the size and age composition of the married population on the increase of the divorce totals, a set of estimated age-specific divorce rates based on 1965 data was applied to the married female population estimated annually by the Bureau of the Census. In that manner, hypothetical divorce totals were obtained, determined exclusively by the size and composition of the married population, with a constant age-specific likelihood of divorce. Annual changes in these data were subtracted from the observed changes in order to estimate the amount due to causes other than the population (table 2). Since 1963, the highest proportion of the total annual increase in divorces which may be attributed to changes in the size and composition of the population was estimated to be 35 percent, and for most years this proportion varied from 20 to 27 percent. Conversely, the proportion of increase attributed to other factors was estimated to vary for most years from 73 to 80 percent. The whole increase from 1963 to 1969 amounted to 211,000 decrees, or 49 percent of the total for 1963. Over 80 percent of this number was not accounted for by changes in population.

### International Comparisons

Since 1962 or 1963 the divorce rate increased not only in the United States, but also in most other countries that report divorce data to the Statistical Office of the United Nations. A selection from rates published by that office (table 3) indicates increases in almost all countries shown in the table, with particularly pronounced increases in the U.S.S.R. and in Scotland where rates doubled. The rate did not increase in four countries out of 25: it declined in Portugal, Egypt, Israel, and Romania. Despite those few exceptions, the increase in divorce was practically worldwide.

### Persons Involved in Divorce

Family disruption by judicial decree is usually measured by numbers of decrees granted

and by rates based on them. Another approach is to use the number of persons directly and intimately involved. Each divorce or annulment involves at least two persons, the husband and the wife. In addition, most divorces involve children of the couple, particularly minor children living with the couple before separation. The sum of these three categories—husbands, wives, and children—represents the total number of persons involved (table 4).

The number of persons involved has almost doubled since 1953, from 1,110,000 to 2,118,000. It was over 1 million for all years since 1953 and reached 1½ million in 1964 and 2 million in 1969. The rate of persons involved per 1,000 total population varied from 6.5 to 7.3 for the years 1953-62, but increased to 9.8 in 1968 and 10.5 in 1969.

### Regional Differences

During the last few years the number of divorces increased in all regions and divisions and in practically all States. Some of the increases may be due to improved methods of registration. From 1967 to 1968 only North Dakota showed a decline and from 1968 to 1969 only Indiana and Texas. From 1967 to 1969, divorces tripled in New York, where the divorce laws were liberalized, and increased 74 percent in Delaware, 61 percent in Hawaii, 52 percent in South Carolina, 51 percent in Massachusetts, 44 percent in New Jersey, 31 percent in Washington, and 30 percent in Indiana (table 5). Most of these States had divorce rates well below the national level. Greatest increases of the divorce totals were found in the Middle Atlantic (61 percent), New England (34 percent), and East North Central Divisions (24 percent).

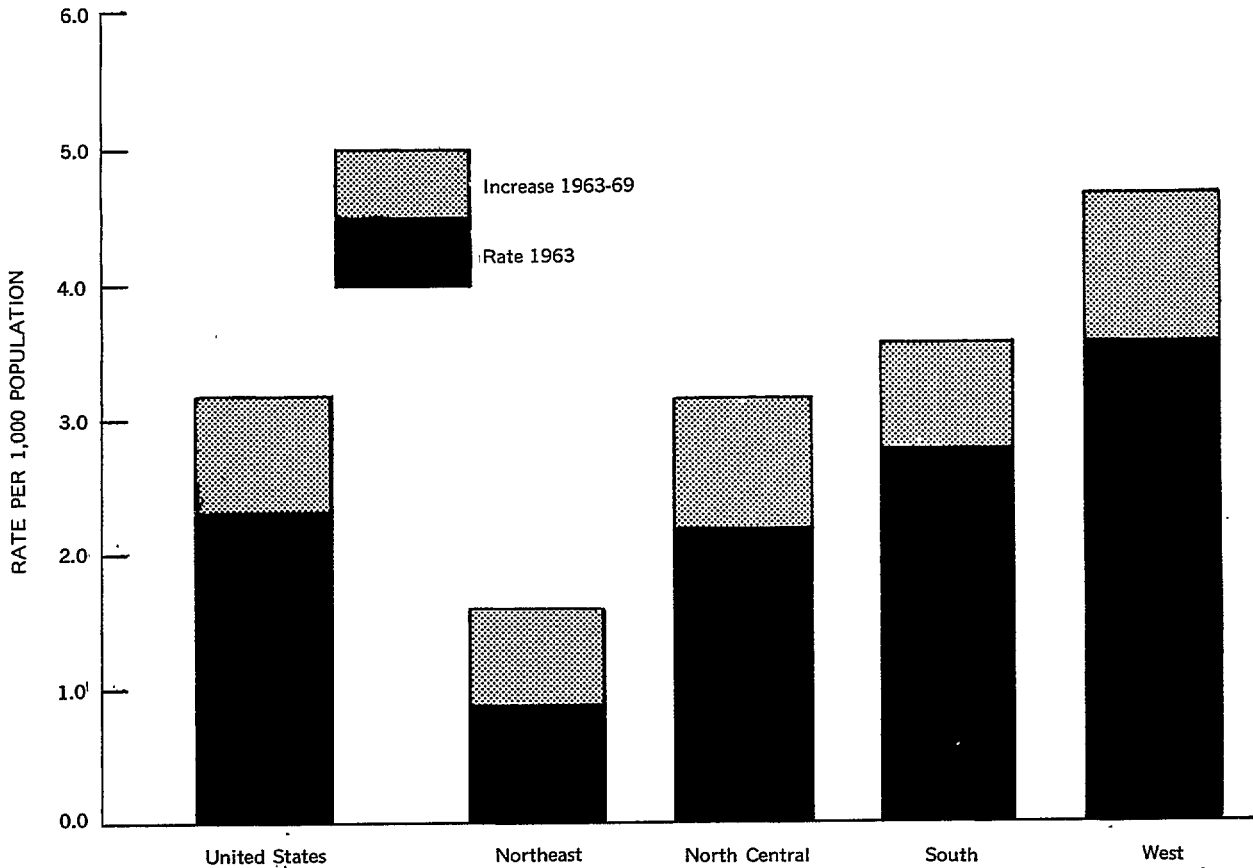
The divorce situation in individual States or other areas can best be described and comparisons can be made by use of percents of increase. However, from the national viewpoint, the amount of increase that contributes to the national increase is important. From 1967 to 1968 the national divorce total increased by 61,000 and from 1968 to 1969 by 55,000, a combined increase of 116,000. To this increase, the Northeast contributed 26,000; the North Central, 33,000; the South, 31,000; and the West, 25,000.

The increase in New York is of particular interest, as rarely if ever has such a rapid increase in divorce taken place. The divorce law was changed in 1966 introducing new legal grounds for decree, making it easier to obtain a divorce, and declaring invalid divorces of State residents thereafter granted in Mexico. This law became effective in September 1967, and the number of divorces and annulments doubled from 7,136 in 1967 to 14,861 in 1968 and tripled to 21,184 in 1969. The rate grew accordingly from 0.4 to 0.8 to 1.2. Thus, in spite of the exceptional increase, the New York rate for 1969 was less than one-half of the national rate. The increase in New York did not result in comparable declines in Nevada or other States where, reputedly, many New York couples divorced before the reform, though data on Mexican divorces are unavailable. It seems that the 14,000 increase in New York

represented an addition to the national total rather than a change in its geographic distribution. In 1967 and earlier years more than one-third of all divorces and annulments granted in New York were annulments. It could be anticipated that after the reform the number of annulments would decline, but in 1968 it increased. The number declined in 1969, however, resulting in a 1967-69 decline of 13 percent. In spite of this decline and of the increase in divorces, in 1969 the annulments represented 10 percent of total divorces and annulments combined, the highest such State percentage in the Nation.

During the period 1967-69, divorce rates increased in all regions, divisions, and States, for which rates could be computed, except Texas, where the rate was the same for both years (figure 2 and table 6). The rate was not computed for one division and for two States. In all four regions,

Figure 2. DIVORCE RATES: UNITED STATES AND EACH REGION, 1963 AND 1969.





in six divisions, in 29 States, and in the District of Columbia the rate increased by 0.5 per 1,000, or more. From 1967 to 1968 the rate increased in all States for which it was computed, except North Carolina and North Dakota where it did not change; from 1968 to 1969 there were 44 increases, three declines (in Indiana, Kentucky, and Texas), and no change in two States (South Dakota and Vermont).

The number of annual increases of State divorce rates more than doubled during the 1960's: from 1960 to 1961 increases were found in 21 States and from 1961 to 1962, in 19 States, as compared with 47 increases from 1967 to 1968 and 44 increases from 1968 to 1969 (table A).

#### Divorce-Registration Area

Statistical information other than annual totals is obtained from a limited number of States known as the divorce-registration area (DRA) (figure 3). The DRA was organized in 1958 when it included 14 States and three outlying areas. It grew to 22 States and the Virgin Islands in 1963 (Alaska and Hawaii, admitted to the DRA as outlying areas, had become States). The DRA did not change for 5 years, 1963-67, but since 1967 several important additions have taken place. Four States were added in 1968 (California, Connecticut, Illinois, and Vermont), and two States in 1969 (Kentucky and New York, including New York City). As the result of this growth, divorces and annulments granted in the DRA represented 54 percent of the national total in 1968 and 59 percent in 1969. This percentage was about 20 in 1958 and about 35 in the years 1963-67.

It is difficult to determine how representative DRA data are of national data, as no parallel figures for the two areas exist, except the crude divorce rates and a few figures for 1960. The divorce rate for the DRA was slightly lower (by 0.1 or 0.2) than that for the United States for the years 1958-67, but both rates became identical in 1968 and in 1969. The 1960 figures on characteristics indicate that values for the DRA were not very different from those for the Nation. The median duration of marriage at divorce was slightly lower for the DRA than for the Nation (7.1 and 7.2 years, respectively). On the other hand, the

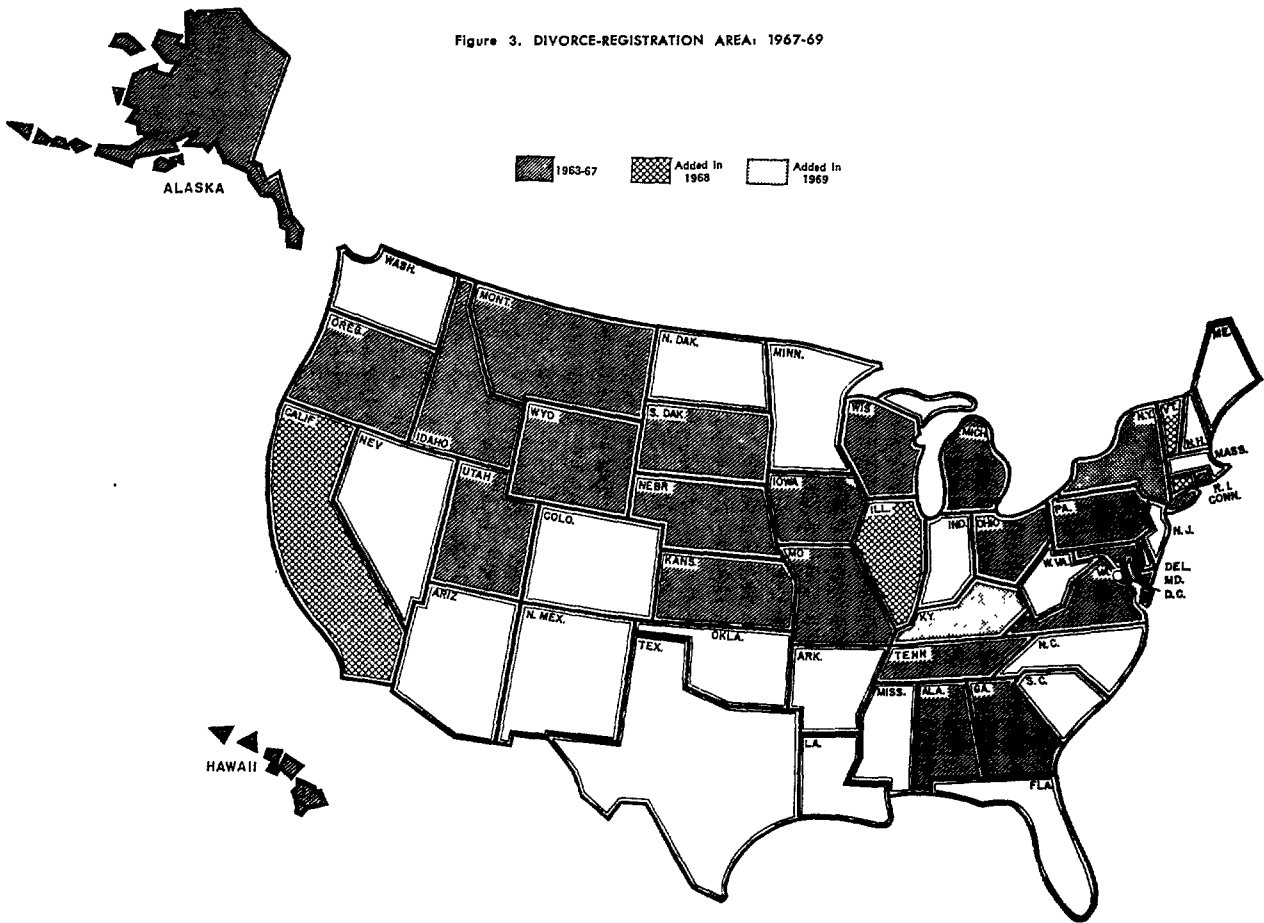
Table A. Number of increases and declines of State divorce rates from preceding year: the 50 States and District of Columbia, 1960-69

Year	Divorce rate—			
	In- creased	De- clined	Did not change	Not com- puted
	Number of States			
1968-69--	44	3	2	2
1967-68--	47	-	2	2
1966-67--	37	2	10	2
1965-66--	33	10	6	2
1964-65--	24	9	16	2
1963-64--	32	3	14	2
1962-63--	25	8	17	1
1961-62--	19	13	18	1
1960-61--	21	9	18	3

proportion of divorced couples reporting children was higher in the DRA (60.1 and 56.7 percent, respectively), and so was the mean number of children per decree (1.20 and 1.18, respectively). The percentages of couples married and divorced in the same State were 56.9 for the DRA and 57.5 for the United States. The addition of the new States since 1960 may have heightened the similarity between the two sets of data.

One of the criteria for the admission of a State to the DRA is a statistical report form conforming closely in content to the Standard Certificate of Absolute Divorce or Annulment recommended by the Public Health Service. As of 1968 several new statistical items were included in the Standard Certificate. These are: (1) living children—total number, (2) approximate date couple separated, (3) if previously married, how many marriages ended by death, or divorce or annulment, and (4) education—specify highest grade completed. By 1969 a number of States had revised their divorce certificate forms to conform to the new standard, but the quality of reporting of the new items varied considerably among these States. Some information on the new items is presented in this report.

Figure 3. DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA: 1967-69



## CHARACTERISTICS OF DIVORCING HUSBANDS AND WIVES

### Age at Time of Decree

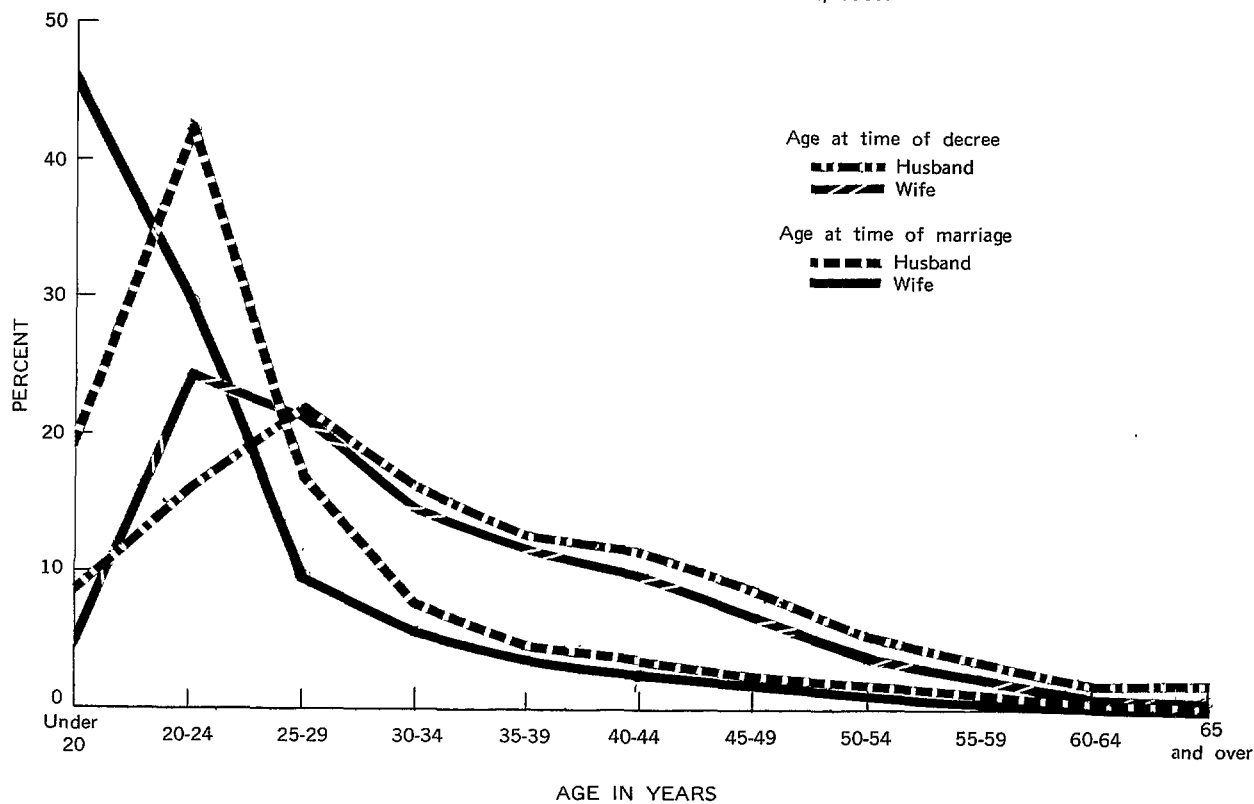
The 1969 data on age of husband and wife are more complete than those for earlier years. A slow improvement of the reporting in many States that have been in the DRA for several years and the addition of six States with satisfactory reporting helped to raise the level of completeness of age reporting in the DRA from 54 percent in 1963 to 76 percent in 1969. Detailed information on this subject is given in the technical notes of the appendix.

The percentage distribution of divorces and annulments by age of husbands and wives was computed for the DRA and 20 States with satisfactory reporting (figure 4 and table 7). The modal

age groups at time of divorce were 25-29 years for husbands and 20-24 years for wives. These two groups included, respectively, 22 and 24 percent of all decrees granted in the DRA. For husbands the modal age group was the same as that for the DRA in all States except one (Kentucky), but in six States (California, Connecticut, Hawaii, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) wives in the age group 25-29 years were more numerous than those in the age group 20-24 years.

After the modal group, percentages of divorces declined with increasing age for both husbands and wives, but small numbers, about 2 percent of divorcing husbands and 1 percent of wives, were 65 years and older. On the other extreme of the age distribution, 1 percent of husbands and 4 percent of wives who divorced were still in their teens.

Figure 4. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DIVORCES BY AGE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE AT TIME OF DECREE AND AT TIME OF MARRIAGE: DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA, 1969.



Divorces of husbands and wives in their twenties increased more than those of any other age group (figure 5 and table B). The percent increases from 1963 to 1969 were estimated to be 67 for the husbands and wives 20-24 years old and over 70 for those 25-29 years old, as compared with an overall increase of 46 percent. Smallest changes were experienced by the teenagers. All percentages refer to the total of 22 States that participated in the DRA in both 1963 and 1969.

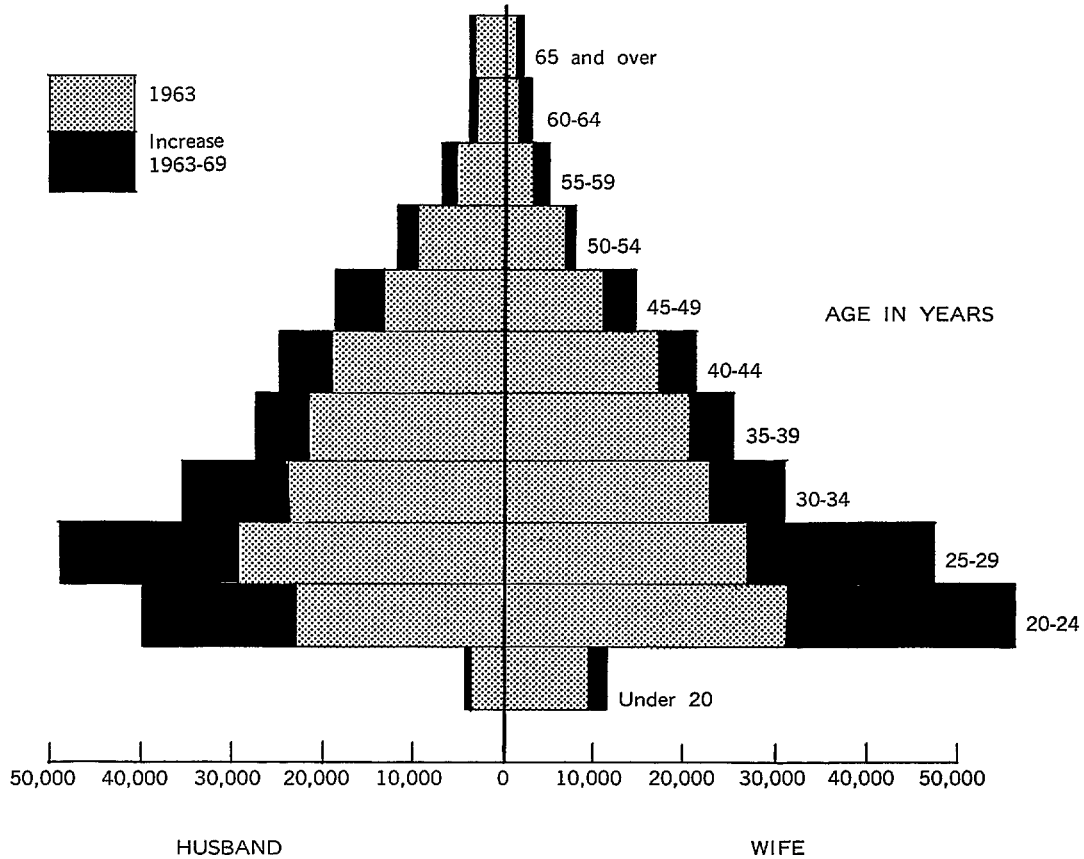
Increases in divorce affected the age-specific divorce rates as estimated for 1969 for the United States (table C). For both men and women the rate was highest in the early twenties (34.0 and 30.7 per 1,000, respectively) and declined with age to 1.9 and 1.4, respectively, for persons 65 years and older. The rates for the teenagers (19.0 and 28.2, respectively) were lower than for the age group 20-24 years old, and the difference was very pronounced for men. The 1969 rates were higher

than those estimated for 1965<sup>1</sup> for all age groups, except the teenagers.

In 1968 the median age at decree for the DRA was 33.9 years for husbands and 30.5 years for wives. In 1969 it was slightly lower: 33.5 years for husbands and 30.1 years for wives (table 8). In 1969 the median age for individual reporting States varied for husbands from 31.4 (in Kansas and Kentucky) to 35.7 years (in New York) and for wives from 28.5 (in Kansas and Iowa) to 32.6 years (in New York). There seems to be a geographic factor in this variation, with high medians in the reporting States in the New England, Middle Atlantic, and Pacific Divisions and low medians in reporting States in the West North Central, East South Central, and Mountain Divisions.

<sup>1</sup>National Center for Health Statistics: Divorce statistics analysis, United States, 1964 and 1965. *Vital and Health Statistics*. PHS Pub. No. 1000-Series 21-No. 17. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Oct. 1969. table 8.

Figure 5. DIVORCES BY AGE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE AT TIME OF DECREE: TOTAL OF 22 STATES, 1963 AND 1969.



Median ages at divorce indicate a tendency toward younger ages since the present increase began. Medians for the DRA as a whole declined for husbands from 34.8 years in 1963 to 33.5 years in 1969 and for wives from 31.3 to 30.1 years. These declines occurred despite the high medians in some of the newly added States, particularly California, New York, and Connecticut. For individual States there were many more annual declines than annual increases, and, when 1969 medians are compared with those for 1963, out of 22 such comparisons, there were 18 declines for both husbands and wives.

#### Age at Marriage

Almost one-fifth of all men and almost one-half of all women who were divorced in the DRA in 1969 had married while in their teens, and a

further 40 percent of men and 30 percent of women had married in their early twenties (figure 4 and table 9). Thus, about 60 percent of divorced men were married when under 25 years of age, about 30 percent while in the age group 25-39 years, and less than 10 percent when 40 years old and older; for women the comparable percentages were 75, 20, and 6, respectively. In the years 1963-69, numbers of divorcing husbands and wives who were under 25 years old at time of marriage increased more than those of persons who were older. The percent increases for husbands were 57 and 29 and for wives 51 and 30, respectively (figure 6 and table D).

The likelihood of divorce by age at marriage is difficult to determine from registration data, as the distribution of the total married population by age at current marriage is unknown and rates

Table B. Percent increases in divorces, by age of husband and wife at time of decree: total of 22 States in the divorce-registration area in 1963-69

Age at time of decree	Percent increase	
	Husband	Wife
Total-----	45.8	45.8
Under 20 years-----	-0.5	14.2
20-24 years-----	67.1	66.5
25-29 years-----	71.6	76.3
30-34 years-----	54.0	39.0
35-39 years-----	28.7	25.0
40-44 years-----	29.8	29.0
45-49 years-----	37.1	35.3
50-54 years-----	27.1	20.0
55 years and over-----	16.7	34.4

cannot be computed. A source of information about age at marriage in the population can be found in the annually prepared age distribution of brides and grooms married in a uniform group of 22 States, covering the years 1954-69. About three-fourths of all couples divorced in 1969 were married during that period. If the pattern of the age at marriage of the married population in the DRA was similar to that which would have resulted from the ages of brides and grooms married in the 22 States during the 16-year period, 1954-69, the highest and the lowest annual percentages for each age group represent the range into which a given age-at-marriage category could be expected to fall.

The percent distribution of husbands divorced during 1969 in the DRA by age at marriage falls within the range provided by the group of 22 States in all cases, except for the youngest age group, men married in their teens, who are overrepresented among the divorced, and for the oldest age group, men married when 45 years

Table C. Estimated number of divorces and divorce rates, by age of husband and wife at time of decree: United States, 1969

[Rates computed per 1,000 married population in each age-sex group. For estimating procedures, see appendix]

Age at time of decree	Husband		Wife	
	Number of divorces	Divorce rate	Number of divorces	Divorce rate
Total-----	639,000	13.8	639,000	13.4
Under 20 years-----	5,800	19.0	27,900	28.2
20-24 years-----	102,000	34.0	153,700	30.7
25-29 years-----	139,800	27.7	136,200	24.3
30-34 years-----	102,700	21.8	89,800	17.8
35-39 years-----	81,600	17.0	73,700	14.6
40-44 years-----	73,300	14.1	63,200	11.7
45-54 years-----	90,600	9.3	68,800	7.1
55-64 years-----	32,100	4.3	20,200	3.1
65 years and over-----	11,200	1.9	5,500	1.4

Figure 6. DIVORCES BY AGE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE AT MARRIAGE: TOTAL OF 22 STATES, 1963 AND 1969.

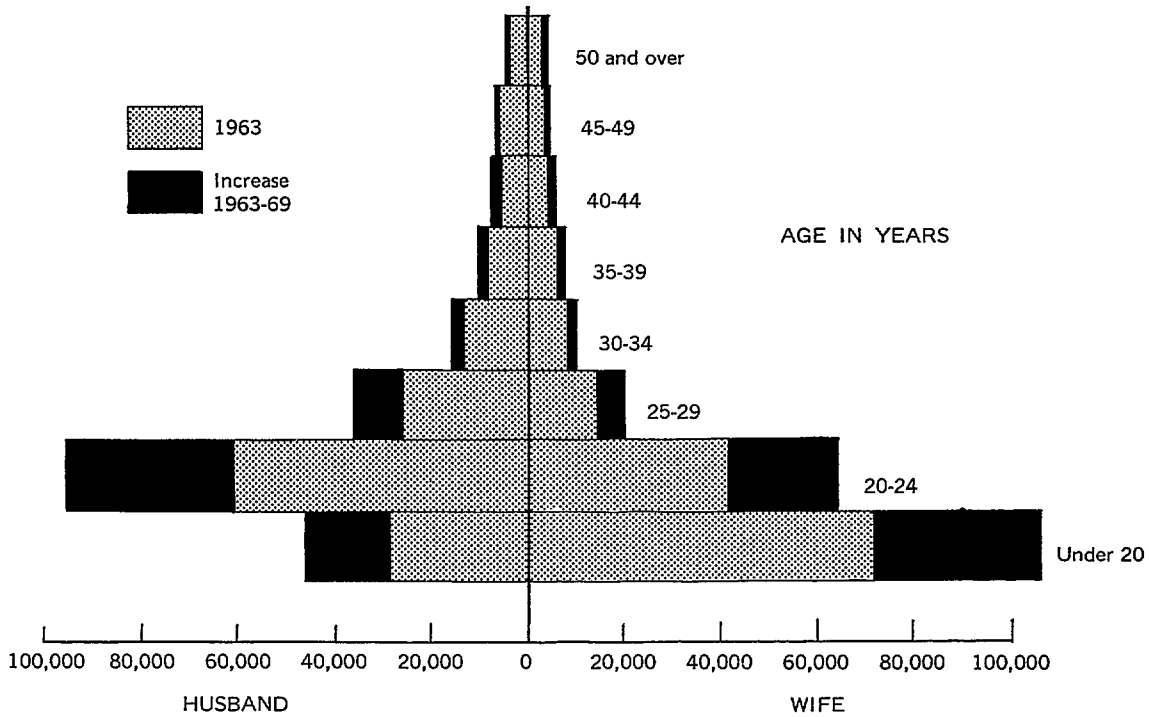


Table D. Percent increases in divorces, by age of husband and wife at marriage: total of 22 States in the divorce-registration area in 1963-69

Age at marriage	Percent increase	
	Husband	Wife
Total-----	45.8	45.8
Under 20 years-----	59.0	49.5
20-24 years-----	56.1	54.8
25-29 years-----	37.1	35.3
30-34 years-----	20.8	27.9
35-39 years-----	26.8	24.3
40-44 years-----	35.5	25.6
45 years and over-----	19.8	26.1

old and older, who are underrepresented (table E). Thus, the likelihood of divorce is above average for those who marry very young, is below average for those who marry in their middle forties or later, and does not differ significantly from the average for the very broad group, those married at ages 20 through 44, who represent about 75 percent of all men who divorced in 1969. For women the situation is less clear cut: those married in their teens are overrepresented, while those married at ages 20-24, 35-44, and 45 and over are underrepresented. Thus the likelihood of divorce seems to be above average when the bride is very young, but below average when she is in her early twenties or 35 years old and older. The fact that the oldest age group of brides and grooms is underrepresented among those who divorce may be due in part to higher death rates for older people, which tend to lower their proportion in the married population.

Table E. Percent distribution of divorces in 1969 and highest and lowest annual percentages of marriages during 1954-69 by age at marriage of men and women: divorce-registration area for divorces and a uniform group of 22 States for marriages

[States included in the uniform group reporting marriages are listed in the appendix]

Age at marriage	Men			Women		
	Divorces	Marriages		Divorces	Marriages	
		Highest per-centage	Lowest per-centage		Highest per-centage	Lowest per-centage
Total -----	100.0	...	...	100.0	...	...
Under 20 years -----	19.2	15.6	11.0	45.8	41.6	32.5
20-24 years -----	42.9	46.9	42.0	29.6	39.8	31.9
25-29 years -----	16.5	20.1	15.2	9.5	10.9	8.0
30-34 years -----	7.7	8.3	6.5	5.3	6.0	4.6
35-44 years -----	8.2	8.8	7.8	6.0	7.5	6.1
45 years and over -----	5.5	9.8	8.8	3.7	7.0	6.2

A publication of the U.S. Bureau of the Census based on data obtained from a Survey of Economic Opportunity presents average annual probabilities of divorce per 1,000 married persons 14-69 years old, married once, by age at first marriage, and other characteristics. From these data the inference is made that "persons who marry when they are relatively young are about twice as likely to obtain a divorce as persons who marry when they are older."<sup>2</sup>

For the DRA in 1969, the median age at marriage was 23.6 years for divorced husbands and 20.7 years for divorced wives, and in 1968, 23.7 and 20.7 years, respectively (table 10). The variation in the State median ages at marriage is narrow, much narrower than comparable variation for age at time of decree. When Alaska and Hawaii are excluded (both these States have very high median ages at marriage and at time of de-

creed), the difference between the highest and the lowest State median ages at marriage in 1969 was 1.8 years for divorced husbands and 2.5 years for divorced wives, while comparable differences for median ages at time of decree were 5.7 and 4.5 years.

From 1963 to 1969, median age at marriage of both husbands and wives showed a tendency toward decline that was stronger for husbands than for wives. This tendency can be observed in medians for individual States rather than in DRA medians. State medians for consecutive years were compared, and 136 comparisons were obtained. For husbands there were 39 increases, 74 declines, and 23 cases where there was no change. For wives, the comparable figures were 55, 64, and 17. For the 22 States for which medians are available for both 1963 and 1969, the change between these 2 years represented 19 declines for husbands and 15 declines for wives. Values for the total DRA for 1968 and 1969 showed increases when compared with those for 1967 and 1966, but these increases may be due to the inclusion of new States, with medians higher than

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census: Social and economic variations in marriage, divorce, and remarriage: 1967. *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, No. 223. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Oct. 7, 1971. p. 1.

those for the DRA as a whole. This was the case of California and Illinois; these two States represented over one-third of all divorces for which age at marriage was known.

### Race

For the 27 reporting States (Ohio does not report the race of divorced spouses) about 90 percent of divorced husbands and wives were white, almost 10 percent were Negro, and about 1 percent belonged to other races (table 11). Divorces for white persons and for Negroes increased at a very similar rate from 1963 to 1969: for men, 45 and 44 percent, respectively. The percentage increase for other races was higher, 57 percent, but numbers were small. Similar percentages were observed for women.

White persons accounted for over 90 percent of divorcing persons in 13 States, between 80 and 90 percent in six States, and about 50 percent in Hawaii; in eight States the reporting was incomplete. The States with less than 90 percent of white persons were southern and border States (Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri), States with large industrial cities (New York, Illinois), and outlying States (Alaska, Hawaii).

The percentage of Negroes among persons granted divorces ranged from one-half of 1 percent in Idaho and Montana to 17 percent in Virginia. This percentage was over 10 in five States (Illinois, Missouri, New York, Tennessee, and Virginia) and between 5 and 10 percent in seven States (California, Connecticut, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin).

Persons of races other than white and Negro comprise a very small proportion of divorced husbands and wives in all States except Hawaii, where about 50 percent of those who divorced belonged to the other races; Alaska, where this percentage was over 10; and Montana, where it was 5 percent.

Data are not available for national or near-national divorce rates by race. However, it was possible, by using 1969 divorce data with 1970 census data, to compute approximations of crude divorce rates by race for 16 States (table F). These approximations were obtained by relating the number of divorces in 1969 by race of husband to the total population in the respective racial

groups, without regard to sex or marital status (see appendix). The slight inaccuracy resulting from use of the 1970 enumerated population with the 1969 divorces does not affect the usefulness of the rates in showing the relationship of the divorce rates for the three racial groups—white, Negro, and other races. Basing the divorce rates on the married population, however, would in-

Table F. Approximations of divorce rates, by race of husband: 16 divorce-registration States, 1969

[For computation procedures, see appendix]

Area	Rate per 1,000 population in racial group		
	White	Negro	Other races
Total, 16 States-----	2.9	3.0	1.4
3 Northeastern States-----	1.3	1.6	0.3
Connecticut-----	1.8	2.8	0.8
New York-----	1.1	1.5	0.3
Vermont-----	1.8	15.4	-
6 North Central States-----	2.9	4.2	1.2
Illinois-----	3.2	4.1	1.0
Iowa-----	2.5	5.8	1.6
Kansas-----	3.5	5.2	2.5
Missouri-----	3.7	4.4	0.5
Nebraska-----	2.2	5.5	0.4
Wisconsin-----	1.6	3.5	1.6
3 Southern States-----	3.2	2.5	0.6
Kentucky-----	3.1	2.7	-
Tennessee-----	4.1	2.9	0.6
Virginia-----	2.5	2.2	0.8
4 Western States-----	4.2	3.9	1.6
Alaska-----	5.5	5.1	3.2
California-----	4.2	3.9	1.0
Hawaii-----	4.0	5.3	2.3
Montana-----	4.0	6.5	4.4



crease the rates for Negro relatively more than the rates for white, as a smaller proportion of the Negro population is married.

In the 16 reporting States combined, rates for white and Negro were almost equal, 2.9 and 3.0, respectively, per 1,000 population, but this similarity is misleading, as differences between the two rates were pronounced in each State included in the table. In all reporting States in the two northern regions, the rates for white were lower than those for Negro, while in the reporting southern States the rates for Negro were uniformly lower than for white. In the South, the area of their original settlement, Negroes had low divorce rates when compared with white persons, but when they moved to the northern cities the situation was reversed. It must be noted that

the western States did not fit into this pattern, since the California rate for white was higher than that for Negro. The third racial group, all other races combined, had lower divorce rates, often very much lower, than those for either white or Negro in all reporting States except Montana.

In the DRA in 1968 and 1969, almost 90 percent of divorced couples were white; about 10 percent belonged to other races, including Negroes; and 1 percent were interracial—one spouse was white and the other was not (table G).

The number of reported interracial divorces for the DRA increased from 585 in 1963 to 906 in 1967, to 2,457 in 1968, and to 2,815 in 1969. Part of the increase from 1967 to 1969 was due to the addition of new States to the DRA, but even with-

Table G. Number and percent distribution of divorces by race of husband and wife: divorce-registration area, Hawaii, and other States, 1968 and 1969

Race of husband and wife	1969			1968		
	DRA	Hawaii	Other States	DRA	Hawaii	Other States
	Number					
Total-----	378,095	2,314	375,781	315,957	1,865	314,092
Both white-----	244,383	886	243,497	198,121	700	197,421
Both other than white-----	27,580	896	26,684	21,749	741	21,008
Husband white, wife other than white-----	1,370	304	1,066	1,124	264	860
Husband other than white, wife white-----	1,445	217	1,228	1,333	156	1,177
Race not stated for either or both-----	103,317	11	103,306	93,630	4	93,626
	Percent distribution					
Total <sup>1</sup> -----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Both white-----	88.9	38.5	89.4	89.1	37.6	89.5
Both other than white-----	10.0	38.9	9.8	9.8	39.8	9.5
Husband white, wife other than white-----	0.5	13.2	0.4	0.5	14.2	0.4
Husband other than white, wife white-----	0.5	9.4	0.5	0.6	8.4	0.5

<sup>1</sup>Race not stated not included in total.

out the newly added States a decided increase was evident (from the 906 in 1967 to 1,083 in 1968 and 1,284 in 1969). Thus, for this uniform group of 22 States that constituted the DRA in 1963 through 1967, the number of interracial divorces more than doubled from 1963 to 1969, grew by 42 percent from 1967 to 1969, and grew by 19 percent from 1968 to 1969. Increases of similar size were found also for interracial marriages reported from States in the marriage-registration area: these marriages more than doubled from 1963 to 1967 and increased 40 percent from 1967 to 1969.

The highest proportion of interracial divorces and marriages in 1969 was found in Hawaii, about 20 percent in both cases. The largest number of interracial divorces, 1,050, was reported from California, followed by 521 in Hawaii. California does not report race on marriage certificates, but Hawaii does and in 1969 reported the largest number of interracial marriages, 1,790.

#### Number of Times Spouses Had Been Married

Over 70 percent of the divorcing husbands and wives about whom information is available had been married only once, about 20 percent had been married twice, and about 6 percent three times or more. The variability among States was very pronounced: the proportion of men married only once ranged from 64 percent (in Idaho) to 86 percent (in New York and Rhode Island); that of men married twice ranged from 12 percent (in Rhode Island) to 25 percent (in Oregon); and that of men married three times or more ranged from 2 (in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Rhode Island, and New York) to 12 percent (in Alaska and Idaho). Similar variability is found among wives (table 12).

The proportion of couples married only once is slightly higher among divorcing husbands than among wives, and it has a pronounced geographic distribution. States of the Northeastern Region have the highest proportions of couples married once—in all five reporting States these represented above 80 percent for both husbands and wives. States in the West Region have the lowest proportions of couples married only once—less than 70 percent in all reporting States except Hawaii.

Divorces of husbands and wives who had married only once increased from 1963 to 1969 at a higher proportion than those of persons married twice, while divorces of persons married three times or more were affected least by the increase.

#### Number of Times Spouses Had Been Widowed and Divorced

Of all items newly included in the revised Standard Certificate of Absolute Divorce or Annulment, the item "if previously married, how many marriages ended by death and by divorce or annulment" has been least well reported. This item is applicable only to persons who have been married more than once, comprising about one-fourth of all divorced husbands and wives. In 1969, 12 DRA States had not yet added the item to their certificate forms, and the reporting was very incomplete in the States that had added the item, except for California. The statistics for that State are shown in table 13.

In California, many more divorcing husbands and wives had been previously divorced than widowed, the ratio for husbands being 8 formerly divorced to 1 formerly widowed and for wives, 6 to 1. The numbers of persons who had been both divorced and widowed are small, 4 percent for husbands and 6 percent for wives. For about 6,500 cases information is available about former divorces, but not about deaths of former spouses. It seems likely that in many such cases husbands and wives have never been widowed, as experience with other variables indicates that a negative answer is more likely not to be recorded than an occurrence.

#### Education

In 1969, 16 of the 28 DRA States had the education item on their divorce certificates, but in some States the reporting was incomplete. Median years of school completed were prepared for 10 States (table 14). They showed very little variation, particularly for husbands, where they varied from 12.2 to 12.5 years. For wives, the variation was slightly more pronounced—from 11.9 to 12.5. Variations of quartiles are also small, particularly for husbands.

Table H. Median years of school completed for men and women at time of marriage and at time of divorce: 8 registration States, 1969

State	Men		Women	
	At time of marriage	At time of divorce	At time of marriage	At time of divorce
California-----	12.7	12.4	12.6	12.5
Hawaii-----	12.8	12.5	12.8	12.5
Illinois-----	12.6	12.2	12.5	12.2
Kansas-----	12.8	12.3	12.7	12.3
Nebraska-----	12.8	12.3	12.7	12.3
Rhode Island-----	12.7	12.2	12.6	12.1
Utah-----	13.5	12.4	12.9	12.5
Vermont-----	12.6	12.2	12.6	11.9

For eight States median years of school completed at time of marriage could be compared with median years of education at time of divorce. Comparison of the two corresponding medians (table H) shows that median education of persons who marry is slightly higher than that of persons who divorce. Though differences between medians are small, between 0.1 and 1.1 years, the generalization holds for both men and women in each of the eight States, in spite of the fact that many brides and grooms marry while in school and their years of school completed are likely to increase. Thus, the comparison of median years of school completed of divorcing persons with analogical medians for brides and grooms indicates that those who divorce are, on the average, less educated than those who marry in the same year.

The great majority of divorcing husbands and wives had high school education, and in most States over 40 percent had finished high school; about 20 percent had college education; and comparatively few had only elementary education (table 15). Persons with education of less than 1 year of elementary school represent an insignificant fraction of the divorcing spouses, and in no State was the percentage more than 0.8. More divorcing husbands than wives had high school

education, and more wives than husbands had elementary or college education. The percentage of high school educated husbands varied, depending on the State, from 65 to 73, and that of wives varied from 58 to 64; thus the highest percentage for wives was lower than the lowest percentage for husbands. The differences between husbands and wives with elementary and college education are less drastic but also clear cut.

The reporting Northeastern States, Connecticut, New York, and Vermont, had among their divorcing population the highest proportions of persons with elementary education and lowest proportions with college education, while in the two reporting Pacific States, California and Hawaii, the opposite was true. Percentages of persons with high school education were highest in Nebraska and New York.

The distribution by education of husbands and wives divorced in the reporting States was compared with that of the population of the United States, 20-54 years of age.<sup>3</sup> The age group 20-54 was selected because only few divorces (about 8

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census: Educational attainments, March 1969. *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, No. 194. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Feb. 19, 1970.

Table J. Percent distribution of the population of the United States aged 20-54 years by years of school completed and lowest and highest State percentages for each education category for men and women divorced in 7 divorce-registration States,<sup>1</sup> 1969

Education	Percent distribution of U.S. population aged 20-54 years <sup>2</sup>	State percentage for divorced persons	
		Lowest	Highest
<u>MEN</u>			
Total-----	100.0	...	...
<u>Elementary school</u>			
0-7 years-----	8.9	<sup>3</sup> 1.8	<sup>3</sup> 3.7
8 years-----	8.4	3.4	13.1
<u>High school</u>			
1-3 years-----	16.7	20.0	28.4
4 years-----	35.7	38.4	49.2
<u>College</u>			
1-2 years-----	12.0	7.3	13.3
3-4 years-----	11.7	5.1	8.7
5 years or more-----	6.6	0.9	3.7
<u>WOMEN</u>			
Total-----	100.0	...	...
<u>Elementary school</u>			
0-7 years-----	7.2	<sup>3</sup> 3.7	<sup>3</sup> 6.4
8 years-----	7.1	4.6	20.7
<u>High school</u>			
1-3 years-----	18.4	16.4	25.4
4 years-----	45.4	33.1	44.5
<u>College</u>			
1-2 years-----	10.4	6.5	12.9
3-4 years-----	9.1	5.9	10.4
5 years or more-----	2.4	2.2	6.0

<sup>1</sup>California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Kansas, Nebraska, New York, and Vermont.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census: Educational Attainments, March 1969. Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 194. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Feb. 19, 1970.

<sup>3</sup>Elementary school, 1-7 years.

percent) occur in the population younger and older than this group. The comparison is valid only if the married population in the reporting States age group 20-54 has an education distribution similar to that of the same age group in the entire population of the Nation, including the unmarried.

When national percentages of men, by education, were compared with the highest and lowest State percentage for every educational category, a well-defined pattern emerged (table J). For men on both extremes of the distribution, those who have not completed elementary school and those with 3 years or more of college, percentages in the total population were higher than the highest State percentage for divorced husbands. For men with high school education the contrary was true; their percentage in the total male population was smaller than any State percentage for divorced men in that education category. National percentages of the two intermediate groups, men with 8 years of elementary school and those with 1-2 years of college, fall within the range set by percentages for the reporting States. This seems

to indicate that men with very little education have a comparatively low likelihood of divorce; this likelihood grows with increasing education to a maximum in the groups that have attended or completed high school and declines for those who have college education.

No discernible pattern was found for the wives, population percentages for almost all education categories falling within the range set by the lowest and highest percentage for the reporting States. Thus it seems that the likelihood of divorce depends more on the education of husbands than on that of wives. This could be expected, as the social and economic status of the couples is mostly associated with the education and occupation of the head of the family.

## CHILDREN OF DIVORCED COUPLES

### Divorce Rates by Number of Children Reported

National divorce rates by number of children reported under 18 years of age were estimated

Table K. Estimated number of divorces and divorce rates, with percent change, by reported number of children under 18 years of age: United States, 1960 and 1969

[For estimating procedures, see appendix]

Number of children	1969		1960		Percent change of rate 1960-69
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
All divorces-----	639,000	17.4	393,388	11.5	+51.3
Decrees with no children-----	252,000	25.6	159,165	18.7	+36.9
Decrees with children-----	387,000	14.4	208,421	8.9	+61.8
1 child-----	150,000	17.2	84,711	11.4	+50.9
2 children-----	119,000	14.4	63,927	8.6	+67.4
3 children-----	65,000	12.7	35,586	7.9	+60.8
4 children-----	31,000	11.4	14,674	6.0	+83.3
5 children-----	13,000	10.7	9,523		
6 children or more-----	10,000	10.4			
Number of children not stated----	-	...	25,802	...	...

<sup>1</sup>The 1969 rate for couples with 4 children or more was 11.0.

for 1969 (table K). The estimate was prepared on the assumption that the national distribution of divorces by number of children was identical with that found for the DRA. The detailed methodology used for the estimation of these rates is described in the appendix.

The 1969 rates can be compared with those for 1960, published in the report "Children of Divorced Couples."<sup>4</sup> The divorce rate for couples with no children under 18 was in both years higher than the rate for couples that reported children, though this difference declined somewhat during the 9-year period: in 1960 the rate for childless couples was more than twice as high as that for couples with children (18.7 and 8.9 per 1,000), but in 1969 it was only about 78 percent higher (25.6 and 14.4). For both years, rates declined with increasing numbers of children: in 1960, from 11.4 per 1,000 for couples with one child to 6.0 for those with four children or more; in 1969, from 17.2 for couples with one child to 10.4 for those with six children or more.

The 1969 divorce rates by number of children reported were in all cases higher than comparable rates for 1960. The rates for divorces with no children under 18 years of age increased much less than the rate for all couples reporting children: 37 and 62 percent, respectively. Increases in divorce rates for couples reporting children under 18 became more pronounced as the number of children increased.

From 1963 to 1969, the number of divorcing couples reporting no children under 18 years of age increased more than couples reporting children, 52 and 42 percent, respectively. The percentage increase declined to a minimum of 32 percent for three-child families, but was larger for those with more children. The increase was particularly pronounced for couples with six children or more, as their numbers grew 62 percent (figure 7 and table L). When 1963 data on children under 18 years of age are compared with those for 1967 and 1967 data are compared with those for 1969, percents of increase show a similar but less regular pattern.

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<sup>4</sup>National Center for Health Statistics: Children of divorced couples, United States, selected years. *Vital and Health Statistics*. PHS Pub. No. 1000-Series 21-No. 18. Public Health Service, Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Feb. 1970. table 5.

## All Living Children and Children Under 18 Years of Age

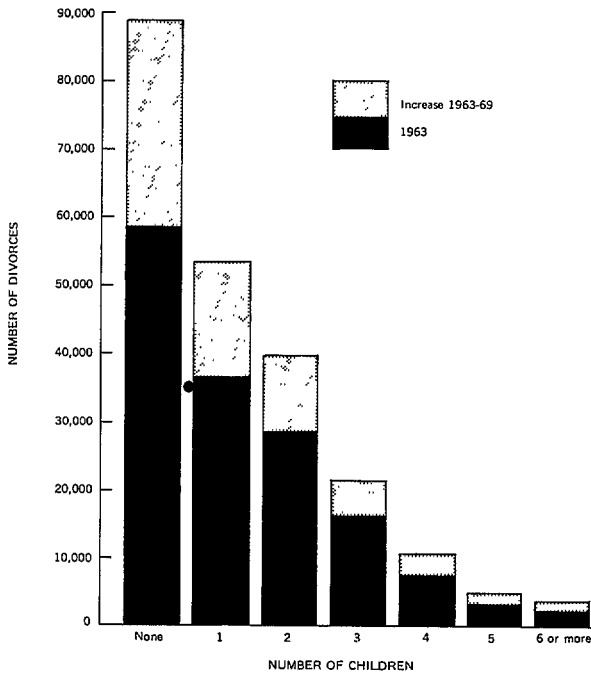
A new item of information regarding children was recently added to the certificates of most DRA States: the total number of living children, irrespective of age. This statistic can be compared with the routinely collected statistics on children under 18 years of age. The percentage of divorced couples with no children is naturally lower than the percentage with no children under 18 years of age (table 16). In the great majority of reporting States the same is true for the percent of couples with one child. On the other hand, percents for the two-children category, or that with any larger number of children, are higher when all children are counted.

The percent of couples with all children 18 years old or older is obtained by subtracting the percent of couples with no living children from the percent of those with no children under the age of 18 years (table M). Couples with children under 18 years old may or may not have some children 18 years old or older, but their numbers cannot be ascertained. Couples with all children 18 years old or older represent only about 5 percent of all divorcing couples. This proportion is higher in the East than in other parts of the country. In the East it varies from 6.7 in Connecticut to 9.3 in Maryland, while in other parts of the country the range falls between 2.4 percent in Utah to 5.3 in Hawaii. Thus, for couples with all children 18 years old or older, the highest percentage outside the East is lower than the lowest in the East. These differences are probably associated with longer duration of marriage at divorce in most eastern States.

## Children and Duration of Marriage

The number of children in a family is associated with the duration of marriage—everything else being equal, the more years of married life throughout the childbearing age of the wife, the more children are likely to be born. The median duration of marriage increased with added children, from 3.8 years for couples with no children to 13.8 for those with three children or more (table N).

Figure 7. DIVORCES BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN REPORTED: TOTAL OF 22 STATES, 1963 AND 1969.



For children under 18 years of age the general rule has to be qualified, as some or all children of couples with a long duration of marriage are likely to be over 18 years of age and, hence, are not reported. The median number of children increased from 0.6 when the duration was less than 1 year to 2.7 children when the marriage had lasted 10-14 years, but it declined to 2.2 when the marriage had lasted 15 years or more. No children were reported by 17 percent of couples married 10-14 years, and this percentage increased to 29 when the duration was still longer (figure 8).

#### Children Involved in Divorce

In the foregoing sections the discussion centered on divorces classified by the number of children reported, whether of all living children or of those under 18 years of age. The following

Table L. Percent increases of divorces, by reported number of children under 18 years of age: total of 22 States in the divorce-registration area in 1963-69

Number of children under 18 years of age	Percent increase		
	1963-69	1963-67	1967-69
Total --	45.8	22.3	19.2
None -----	51.6	24.3	22.0
1 child -----	46.4	19.0	23.0
2 children ---	40.4	20.8	16.2
3 children ---	31.5	18.9	10.6
4 children ---	41.2	27.8	10.5
5 children ---	53.9	33.0	15.7
6 children or more -----	62.2	34.8	20.3

paragraphs deal with the number of children involved, which was estimated from the divorces classified by number of children reported using methods described in the appendix.

In 1969, an estimated 840,000 children under 18 were involved in divorces and annulments granted in the United States, 11.9 per 1,000 children of that age. A tentative national estimate of all living children of couples divorced in 1969 was 1,004,000, and 164,000 of them, or 16 percent, were 18 years old or older. The rate for all children was 5.0 per 1,000 total population, and that for grownup children 18 years old and older was 1.3 per 1,000 population of that age group. Thus five persons of each 1,000 in the United States, or one-half of 1 percent, had parents who divorced in 1969.

The number of children under 18 involved in divorce has been growing rapidly for many years (table O). The 1969 figure represents an increase of 7 percent over the figure for 1968 (784,000), 20 percent over that for 1967 (701,000), and 58 percent since 1962 (532,000). The total for 1953 was 330,000, and during the 17-year period, 1953-69, it increased by 510,000 or 155 percent.

Table M. Percent distribution of divorcing couples by presence and absence of specified categories of children: 18 divorce-registration States, 1969

State	All divorcing couples	No reported children under 18 years			Reported children under 18 years
		Total	No living children	All children 18 years and over	
Total, 18 States-----	100.0	38.9	32.3	6.6	61.1
Alaska-----	100.0	39.8	35.4	4.4	60.2
Connecticut-----	100.0	30.1	23.4	6.7	69.9
Hawaii-----	100.0	35.5	30.2	5.3	64.5
Idaho-----	100.0	40.7	37.4	3.3	59.3
Illinois-----	100.0	41.3	37.3	4.0	58.7
Iowa-----	100.0	37.3	32.8	4.5	62.7
Kansas-----	100.0	40.1	35.7	4.4	59.9
Maryland-----	100.0	36.6	27.3	9.3	63.4
Michigan-----	100.0	39.6	36.2	3.4	60.4
Nebraska-----	100.0	35.5	31.2	4.3	64.5
New York-----	100.0	37.3	28.6	8.7	62.7
Pennsylvania-----	100.0	39.1	30.7	8.4	60.9
Rhode Island-----	100.0	32.2	25.4	6.8	67.8
Tennessee-----	100.0	45.3	41.3	4.0	54.7
Utah-----	100.0	35.1	32.7	2.4	64.9
Vermont-----	100.0	26.4	17.8	8.6	73.6
Wisconsin-----	100.0	30.5	25.7	4.8	69.5
Wyoming-----	100.0	41.2	38.1	3.1	58.8

Table N. Percent distribution of divorces by duration of marriage at time of decree and median duration of marriage by number of children under 18 years of age: divorce-registration area, 1969

Duration of marriage at time of decree	All divorces	Number of children under 18 years of age			
		None	1	2	3 or more
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1 year-----	5.2	11.3	1.7	0.5	0.4
1-2 years-----	17.8	30.7	20.3	3.1	1.1
3-4 years-----	16.0	18.2	26.0	12.4	2.4
5-9 years-----	24.6	17.4	27.1	40.2	22.3
10-14 years-----	13.8	6.1	8.6	19.7	31.6
15 years or more-----	22.6	16.3	16.4	24.0	42.3
Median <sup>1</sup> -----	6.9	3.8	5.4	9.2	13.8

<sup>1</sup>Medians computed from grouped data.



This is a much larger increase than that of the national divorce and annulment total, which grew 64 percent (figure 9). Hence, the mean number of children per decree increased from 0.85 in 1953 to 1.34 in 1968 and 1.31 in 1969. For 12 years, 1953-64 this mean grew, reaching 1.36 in 1964, but afterwards several annual declines could be observed. The 1.31 mean for 1969 was equal to that for 1963 and smaller than any later figure.

Another measure of the number of children involved is the rate per 1,000 children under 18 years of age. This rate was 11.9 in 1969, 11.1 in 1968, 9.9 in 1967, 8.2 in 1963, and 6.4 in 1953. The 1969 rate represented an increase of 7 percent over that for 1968, 20 percent over that for 1967, 45 percent over that for 1963, and 86 percent over that for 1953.

The number of children under 18 involved in divorce and annulment cases increased from 1967 to 1969 in all States for which such comparison was possible; from 1967 to 1968 and from 1968 to 1969 the number increased in almost all States. The same can be said about the rate per 1,000 children under 18 years of age (table 17). The mean number of children per decree was changing in the opposite direction, with declines in 14 of 22 States from 1967 to 1969 and in 18 of 26 States from 1968 to 1969. This indicates that the number of decrees was increasing more rapidly than the number of children involved. In the United States, percent increases were as follows:

	1968-69	1967-69
Divorces -----	9.4	22.2
Children -----	7.1	19.8

Figure 8. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DIVORCES BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE AT TIME OF DECREE BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE: DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA, 1969.

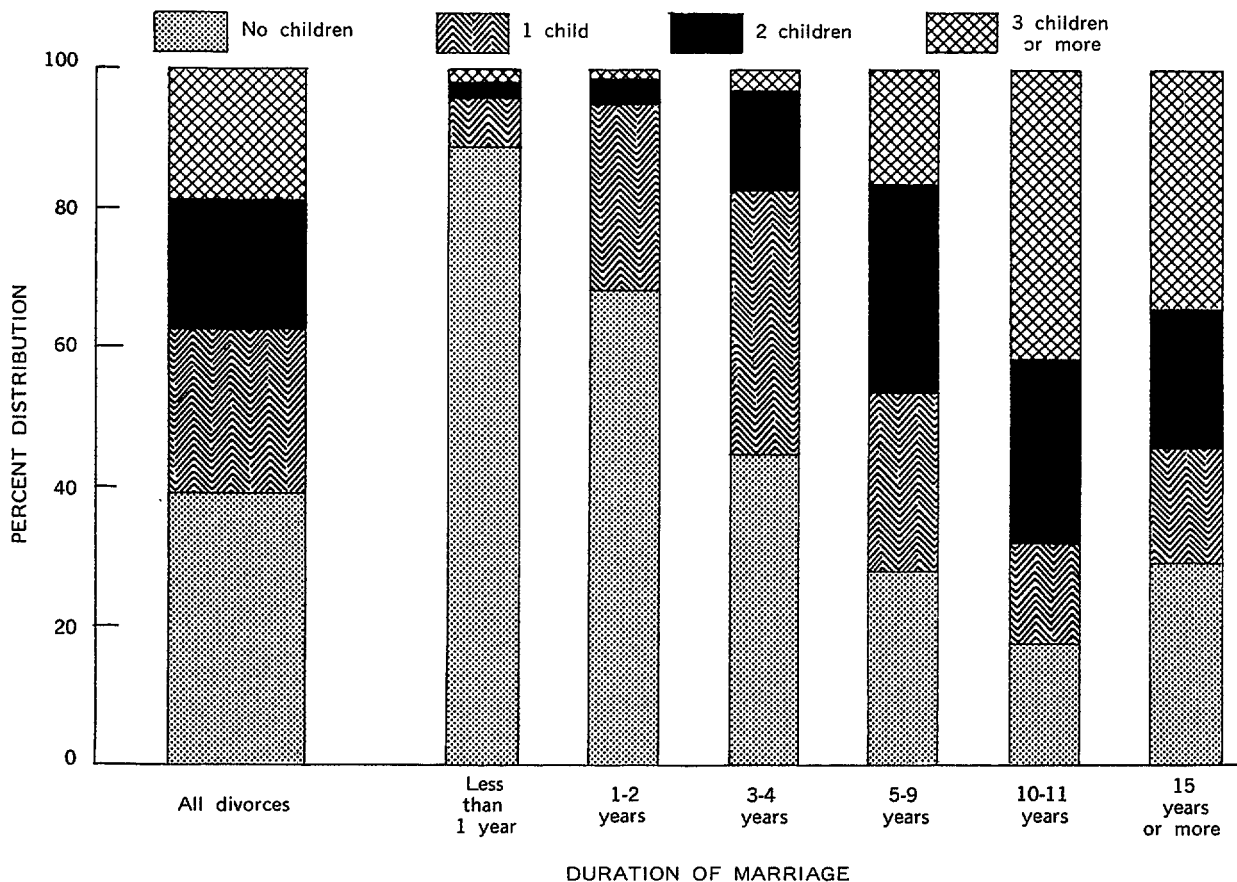


Table O. Estimated number of children under 18 years of age involved in divorces and rate per 1,000 children: United States, 1953-69

Year	All divorces	Number of children under 18 years of age	Average number of children per decree	Rate per 1,000 children
1969-----	639,000	840,000	1.31	11.9
1968-----	584,000	784,000	1.34	11.1
1967-----	523,000	701,000	1.34	9.9
1966-----	499,000	669,000	1.34	9.5
1965-----	479,000	630,000	1.32	8.9
1964-----	450,000	<sup>1</sup> 613,000	1.36	8.7
1963-----	428,000	<sup>1</sup> 562,000	1.31	8.2
1962-----	413,000	<sup>1</sup> 532,000	1.29	7.9
1961-----	414,000	<sup>1</sup> 516,000	1.25	7.8
1960-----	393,000	403,000	1.18	7.2
1959-----	395,000	468,000	1.18	7.5
1958-----	368,000	398,000	1.08	6.5
1957-----	381,000	379,000	0.99	6.4
1956-----	382,000	361,000	0.95	6.3
1955-----	377,000	347,000	0.92	6.3
1954-----	379,000	341,000	0.90	6.4
1953-----	390,000	330,000	0.85	6.4

<sup>1</sup>Revised.

In the 18 States that report both the total number of living children and the number of children under 18 years, 279,500 children of divorced couples were involved in divorce cases (table 18). This number includes 236,200 children under 18 years, 85 percent of the total, and 43,300, or 15 percent, grownup children, those 18 years old or older. The latter percentage varied from 9 in Utah to 22 in Maryland. For all reporting States combined, the mean number per decree for all living children was 1.57, for children under 18 years of age the mean for the 18 States was 1.33, and for grownup children it was 0.24.

## DURATION OF MARRIAGE

### Duration of Marriage to Divorce

The duration of marriage at time of divorce became shorter in recent years, when the divorce rate was increasing. From 1967 to 1969, the median duration declined in the DRA but, as new

States were added both in 1968 and 1969, DRA figures for these years are not comparable. For this reason data for individual States are compared, 22 States for which data are available for the 1967-69 period and four further States for the years 1968-69 (table 19). The changes in the median duration of these States are shown below.

	1967-69	1967-68	1968-69
Total-----	22	22	26
Increases-----	3	10	5
Declines-----	19	9	20
No change-----	-	3	1

The decline from 1967 to 1969 and from 1968 to 1969 is evident, but from 1967 to 1968 more increases than declines can be observed. In spite of this, median duration declined from 1967 to 1968; because most increases were very small, six out of 10 were only one-tenth of a year and only one decline was of that size. In these comparisons

Figure 9. DIVORCES AND CHILDREN INVOLVED: UNITED STATES, 1954-69.

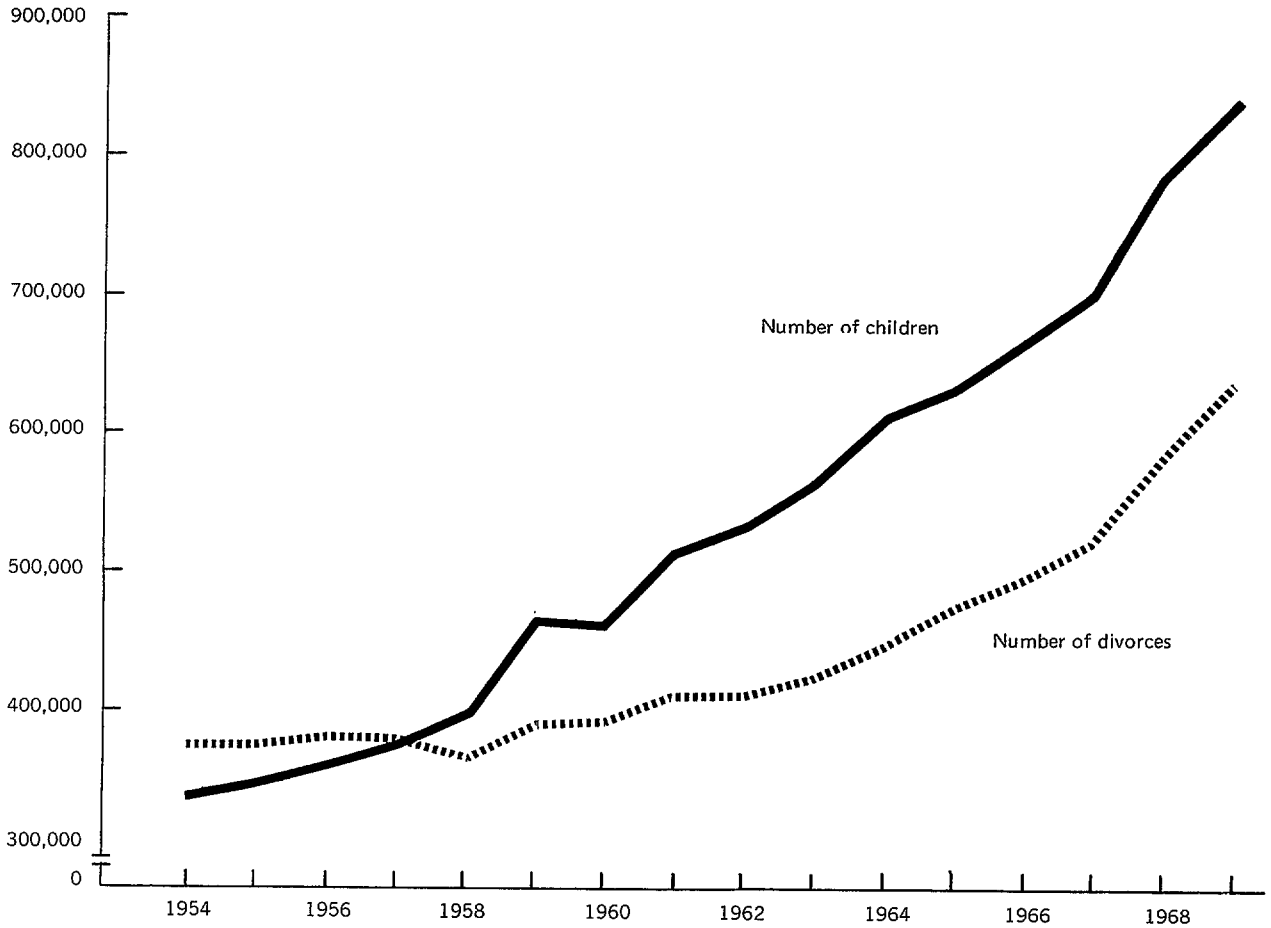
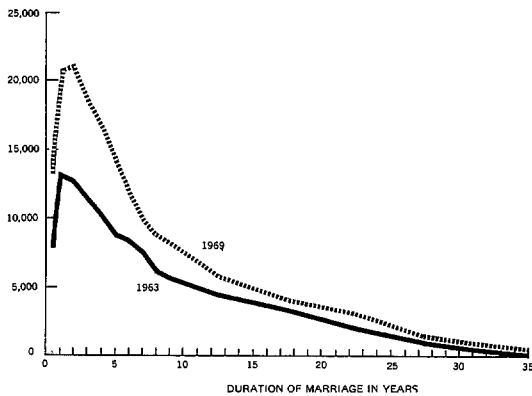


Figure 10 DIVORCES BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE AT TIME OF DECREE: TOTAL OF 22 STATES, 1963 AND 1969.



the average size of the increases was 0.19 years, but that of declines was almost twice as large, 0.37 years.

The shorter median duration of marriage to decree is associated with pronounced increases in the number of divorces with comparatively short duration of marriage (figure 10). From 1963 to 1969, in the 22 States that participated in the DRA throughout the entire period, divorced couples married less than 5 years increased 62 percent, while those married 5 years or longer increased 37 percent. About one-half of the total numerical increase comprised couples married for less than 5 years. The longer the duration, the smaller the increase, reaching a minimum of 17 percent

Table P. Percent increases of divorces by duration of marriage at time of decree: total of 22 States in the divorce-registration area in 1963-69

Years of duration of marriage at time of decree	Percent increase		
	1963-69	1963-67	1967-69
Total--	45.8	22.3	19.2
Less than 1 year-----	64.7	35.8	21.3
1-2 years----	62.1	26.1	28.4
3-4 years----	60.5	28.9	24.5
5-9 years----	44.6	19.5	21.0
10-14 years--	31.9	18.7	11.2
15-19 years--	17.2	6.9	9.6
20-24 years--	52.5	27.9	19.2
25-29 years--	44.4	36.1	6.1
30 years or more-----	24.5	15.0	8.2

for couples married 15-19 years. The number of marriages that had lasted still longer increased more—those with 20-24 years of duration grew 53 percent (table P). A similar pattern can be observed in the change from 1963 to 1967 and from 1967 to 1969.

In 1969, in all DRA States combined, 25 percent of all divorces were granted within 3.2 years after marriage, 50 percent within 6.9 years, and 75 percent within 14.1 years. These figures are, however, dependent on States that participate in the DRA, as the variation among States is very pronounced. This variation is due in part to laws of individual States making it more or less difficult and time consuming to obtain a divorce.

### Separation

Information about the approximate date the divorced couple separated was included in the 1968 revision of the Standard Certificate, and, using these data, the duration of marriage to

separation and the duration of separation to decree were tabulated for 16 States. This is the first time since 1906 that the information about separation has been included in national divorce statistics. Data on separation were collected on a nationwide basis for the period 1887-1906, and this item has not been repeated since. It must be emphasized that data refer not to all separations but only to those that ended in divorce during a given calendar year. Data on separation of couples that never divorce cannot be obtained from vital registration, and it is impossible to determine whether the duration of marriage to separation for couples that never divorce is similar to that for couples that eventually divorce. Separation of a married couple is an event independent of legal norms though, during the interval between separation and divorce or annulment, the couple may or may not have obtained any of the limited decrees, variously called divorce from bed and board (or a mensa et thoro), legal separation, separate maintenance, or by some other name.

The modal duration of marriage to separation was less than 1 year. In the 12 States for which percent distribution was prepared (table 20), between 9.2 and 18.6 percent of all divorced couples separated within less than 1 year after marriage. In three of these States (California, Kansas, and Missouri) over 10 percent of all divorced couples separated within less than 6 months after marriage. The percentages of duration of marriage to separation decline with added years of duration, but small numbers of divorced couples separated after 30 years or more of marriage.

The median duration of marriage to separation varied in the reporting States between 4.2 and 6.7 years; the first quartiles varied between 1.5 and 2.8 years, and the third quartile between 9.6 and 14.4 years (table 21). As this variation is independent of the State laws, other factors must cause the differences.

There is a strong inverse relationship between the mean duration of marriage at separation and the divorce rate, high medians being associated with low rates and vice versa (table Q). A comparable relationship exists between mean duration at decree and the divorce rate, as shown

Table Q. Number of States, by size of divorce rate and length of median duration of marriage at time of separation: total of 16 selected States, 1969

Median duration of marriage at time of separation	Total States	Divorce rate per 1,000 population		
		Under 2.0	2.0-3.4	3.5-5.4
Total---	16	5	6	5
Less than 4.5 years--	5	-	1	4
4.5-5.5 years-----	7	1	5	1
5.6-6.7 years-----	4	4	-	-

in the report "Increases in Divorce: United States, 1967." Since at present data are available from a limited number of States, the generalizations are tentative and should be verified when data from more States become available.

The duration of separation to divorce differs from that of marriage to separation in being highly influenced by States laws governing divorce. States that require a certain time period to elapse before a legal ground for divorce arises, or those that grant interlocutory divorce decrees, which become final after 6 months or 1 year, tend to have comparatively long periods of separation. Thus the separation lasted less than 1 year only for 3.3 percent of all couples divorced in Virginia but for 76.3 percent of couples divorced in Kansas (table 22). The median duration was less than a year in eight States, between 1 and 2 years in seven States, and more than 2 years in only one State. A very small number of couples were divorced after 15 years or more of separation.



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Table 1. Divorces and divorce rates with percent changes from preceding year: United States, 1940-72

[For population bases, see appendix]

Year of occurrence	Number of divorces	Rate per 1,000—		Percent change		
		Total population	Married women	Number of divorces	Rate per 1,000—	
					Total population	Married women
1972 <sup>1</sup>	839,000	4.0	---	+9.2	+8.1	---
1971 <sup>1</sup>	768,000	3.7	15.7	+7.4	+5.7	+4.7
1970 <sup>1</sup>	715,000	3.5	15.0	+11.9	+9.4	+11.9
1969	639,000	3.2	13.4	+9.4	+10.3	+7.2
1968	584,000	2.9	12.5	+11.7	+11.5	+11.6
1967	523,000	2.6	11.2	+4.8	+4.0	+2.8
1966	499,000	2.5	10.9	+4.2	-	+2.8
1965	479,000	2.5	10.6	+6.4	+4.2	+6.0
1964	450,000	2.4	10.0	+5.1	+4.3	+4.2
1963	428,000	2.3	9.6	+3.6	+4.5	+2.1
1962	413,000	2.2	9.4	-0.2	-4.3	-2.1
1961	414,000	2.3	9.6	+5.3	+4.5	+4.3
1960	393,000	2.2	9.2	-0.5	-	-1.1
1959	395,000	2.2	9.3	+7.3	+4.8	+4.5
1958	368,000	2.1	8.9	-3.4	-4.5	-3.3
1957	381,000	2.2	9.2	-0.3	-4.3	-2.1
1956	382,000	2.3	9.4	+1.3	-	+1.1
1955	377,000	2.3	9.3	-0.5	-4.2	-2.1
1954	379,000	2.4	9.5	-2.8	-4.0	-4.0
1953	390,000	2.5	9.9	-0.5	-	-2.0
1952	392,000	2.5	10.1	+2.9	-	+2.0
1951	381,000	2.5	9.9	-1.1	-3.8	-3.9
1950	385,000	2.6	10.3	-3.0	-3.7	-2.8
1949	397,000	2.7	10.6	-2.7	-3.6	-5.4
1948	408,000	2.8	11.2	-15.5	-17.6	-17.6
1947	483,000	3.4	13.6	-20.8	-20.9	-24.0
1946	610,000	4.3	17.9	+25.8	+22.9	+24.3
1945	485,000	3.5	14.4	+21.3	+20.7	+20.0
1944	400,000	2.9	12.0	+11.4	+11.5	+9.1
1943	359,000	2.6	11.0	+11.8	+8.3	+8.9
1942	321,000	2.4	10.1	+9.6	+9.1	+7.4
1941	293,000	2.2	9.4	+11.0	+10.0	+6.8
1940	264,000	2.0	8.8	+5.2	+5.3	+3.5

<sup>1</sup>Provisional.

Table 2. Changes in the annual number of divorces from preceding year and cumulative changes since 1955: United States, 1955-70

Year of occurrence	Number of divorces	Change		
		Total	Due to population change	Due to change in age-specific rates
Annual data				
1970 <sup>1</sup> -----	715,000	+76,000	+9,000	+67,000
1969-----	639,000	+55,000	+11,000	+44,000
1968-----	584,000	+61,000	+1,000	+60,000
1967-----	523,000	+24,000	+6,000	+18,000
1966-----	499,000	+20,000	+7,000	+13,000
1965-----	479,000	+29,000	+7,000	+22,000
1964-----	450,000	+22,000	+5,000	+17,000
1963-----	428,000	+15,000	+4,000	+11,000
1962-----	413,000	-1,000	+8,000	-9,000
1961-----	414,000	+21,000	-1,000	+22,000
1960-----	393,000	-2,000	+3,000	-5,000
1959-----	395,000	+27,000	+5,000	+22,000
1958-----	368,000	-13,000	+3,000	-16,000
1957-----	381,000	-1,000	-1,000	-
1956-----	382,000	+5,000	+3,000	+2,000
1955-----	377,000	...	...	...
Cumulative data				
1970 <sup>1</sup> -----	7,440,000	+338,000	+70,000	+268,000
1969-----	6,725,000	+262,000	+61,000	+201,000
1968-----	6,086,000	+207,000	+50,000	+157,000
1967-----	5,502,000	+146,000	+49,000	+97,000
1966-----	4,979,000	+122,000	+43,000	+79,000
1965-----	4,480,000	+102,000	+36,000	+66,000
1964-----	4,001,000	+73,000	+29,000	+44,000
1963-----	3,551,000	+51,000	+24,000	+27,000
1962-----	3,123,000	+36,000	+20,000	+16,000
1961-----	2,710,000	+37,000	+12,000	+25,000
1960-----	2,296,000	+16,000	+13,000	+3,000
1959-----	1,903,000	+18,000	+10,000	+8,000
1958-----	1,508,000	-9,000	+5,000	-14,000
1957-----	1,140,000	+4,000	+2,000	+2,000
1956-----	759,000	+5,000	+3,000	+2,000
1955-----	377,000	...	...	...

<sup>1</sup>Provisional data.



Table 3. Divorce rates per 1,000 total population: United States and selected foreign countries, 1962-69

[Countries are listed according to the size of their latest available divorce rate]

Country	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
United States-----	3.17	2.93	2.65	2.55	2.47	2.35	2.27	2.22
U.S.S.R.-----	2.56	2.72	2.74	2.77	1.56	1.47	1.30	1.34
Hungary-----	<sup>1</sup> 2.13	2.08	2.07	2.03	2.01	1.95	1.82	1.73
United Arab Republic (Egypt) <sup>2</sup> -----	1.94	<sup>1</sup> 1.89	1.85	2.10	2.17	2.15	2.11	2.03
Denmark-----	1.83	1.56	1.43	1.40	1.37	1.37	1.38	1.38
East Germany-----	<sup>3</sup> 1.69	<sup>3</sup> 1.68	1.55	1.50	1.44	1.51	1.33	1.36
Czechoslovakia-----	<sup>1</sup> 1.66	1.51	1.39	1.42	1.32	1.20	1.22	1.20
Sweden-----	1.52	1.42	1.36	1.32	1.24	1.20	1.12	1.17
Austria-----	1.35	1.32	1.21	1.19	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.12
England and Wales-----	1.04	0.93	0.88	0.80	0.78	0.72	0.67	0.61
German Federal Republic-----	---	1.03	1.00	0.92	0.93	0.91	0.84	0.82
Poland-----	1.01	0.91	0.85	0.77	0.75	0.67	0.64	0.59
Switzerland-----	0.96	0.91	0.86	0.82	0.84	0.83	0.82	0.83
Japan-----	0.90	0.87	0.84	0.81	0.79	0.75	0.73	0.75
Australia-----	0.89	0.89	0.82	0.85	0.75	0.71	0.69	0.68
Israel-----	0.84	0.87	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.89	0.95	0.92
Scotland-----	0.81	0.92	0.58	0.68	0.51	0.46	0.43	0.39
France-----	0.76	0.73	0.75	0.74	0.72	0.69	0.63	0.65
Netherlands-----	0.71	0.64	0.59	0.55	0.50	0.51	0.49	0.48
Belgium-----	0.67	0.63	0.63	0.61	0.59	0.58	0.56	0.51
Mexico-----	0.62	0.54	0.72	0.65	0.58	0.49	0.48	0.45
Canada-----	---	<sup>1</sup> 0.55	0.55	0.51	0.46	0.45	0.41	0.36
Romania-----	0.35	0.20	<sup>4</sup> 0.00	1.35	1.94	1.86	1.92	2.04
Venezuela-----	---	0.23	0.25	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.22
Portugal-----	0.05	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.08

<sup>1</sup>Provisional.

<sup>2</sup>Includes "revocable divorces" among the Moslem population which are similar to legal separations.

<sup>3</sup>Includes data for East Berlin.

<sup>4</sup>0.00 indicates rate greater than 0 but less than 0.005.

Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook, 1968 and 1971.

Table 4. Number and rate of persons involved in divorces: United States, 1953-69

Year of occurrence	Number of divorces	Persons involved				Rate per 1,000 population
		Number				
		Total	Spouses	Children under 18 years of age	Mean per decree	
1969-----	639,000	2,118,000	1,278,000	840,000	3.31	10.5
1968-----	584,000	1,952,000	1,168,000	784,000	3.34	9.8
1967-----	523,000	1,747,000	1,046,000	701,000	3.34	8.8
1966-----	499,000	1,667,000	998,000	669,000	3.34	8.5
1965-----	479,000	1,588,000	958,000	630,000	3.32	8.2
1964-----	450,000	1,513,000	900,000	613,000	3.36	7.9
1963-----	428,000	1,418,000	856,000	562,000	3.31	7.5
1962-----	413,000	1,358,000	826,000	532,000	3.29	7.3
1961-----	414,000	1,344,000	828,000	516,000	3.25	7.3
1960-----	393,000	1,249,000	786,000	463,000	3.18	7.0
1959-----	395,000	1,258,000	790,000	468,000	3.18	7.1
1958-----	368,000	1,134,000	736,000	398,000	3.08	6.5
1957-----	381,000	1,141,000	762,000	379,000	2.99	6.7
1956-----	382,000	1,125,000	764,000	361,000	2.95	6.7
1955-----	377,000	1,101,000	754,000	347,000	2.92	6.7
1954-----	379,000	1,099,000	758,000	341,000	2.90	6.8
1953-----	390,000	1,110,000	780,000	330,000	2.85	7.0

Table 5. Number of divorces and percent changes from preceding year: United States, each region, division, and State, 1967-69

Area	Number of divorces			Percent change	
	1969	1968	1967	1968-69	1967-68
United States <sup>1</sup> -----	639,000	584,000	523,000	+9.4	+11.7
Region: <sup>1</sup>					
Northeast-----	77,000	65,000	51,000	+18.5	+27.5
North Central-----	177,000	162,000	144,000	+9.3	+12.5
South-----	225,000	211,000	194,000	+6.6	+8.8
West-----	159,000	145,000	134,000	+9.7	+8.2
Division:					
New England-----	24,268	22,253	21,167	+9.1	+22.5
Middle Atlantic-----	53,180	43,131	33,053	+23.3	+30.5
East North Central <sup>1</sup> -----	131,107	119,703	105,888	+9.5	+13.0
West North Central-----	45,483	41,909	38,419	+8.5	+9.1
South Atlantic-----	99,400	90,487	82,412	+9.9	+9.8
East South Central-----	46,859	43,231	38,887	+8.4	+11.2
West South Central <sup>2</sup> -----	76,683	75,528	69,458	+1.5	+8.7
Mountain <sup>3</sup> -----	47,279	42,817	39,691	+10.4	+7.9
Pacific-----	110,862	102,643	92,895	+8.0	+10.5
New England:					
Maine-----	3,392	3,105	3,060	+9.2	+1.5
New Hampshire-----	2,280	2,073	1,752	+10.0	+18.3
Vermont-----	793	760	654	+4.3	+16.2
Massachusetts-----	10,787	9,993	7,130	+7.9	+40.2
Rhode Island-----	1,267	971	871	+30.5	*
Connecticut-----	5,749	5,351	4,700	+7.4	+13.9
Middle Atlantic:					
New York-----	21,184	14,861	7,136	+42.5	+108.3
New Jersey-----	10,416	7,944	7,249	+31.1	+9.6
Pennsylvania-----	21,580	20,326	18,668	+6.2	+8.9
East North Central:					
Ohio-----	35,558	31,619	29,611	+12.5	+6.8
Indiana-----	23,396	23,593	18,044	-0.8	+30.8
Illinois-----	35,974	32,119	28,814	+12.0	+11.5
Michigan-----	28,347	25,405	23,620	+11.6	+7.6
Wisconsin-----	7,832	6,967	5,799	+12.4	+20.1
West North Central:					
Minnesota-----	7,551	6,704	6,188	+12.6	+8.3
Iowa-----	6,958	6,464	6,076	+7.6	+6.4
Missouri-----	17,578	16,474	14,521	+6.7	+13.4
North Dakota-----	910	868	909	+4.8	-4.5
South Dakota-----	1,255	1,245	1,090	+0.8	+14.2
Nebraska-----	3,275	3,010	2,890	+8.8	+4.2
Kansas-----	7,956	7,144	6,745	+11.4	+5.9
South Atlantic:					
Delaware-----	1,550	1,023	891	+51.5	+14.8
Maryland-----	8,827	8,151	7,413	+8.3	+10.0
District of Columbia-----	2,313	2,204	1,877	+4.9	+17.4
Virginia-----	11,417	10,677	9,682	+6.9	+10.3
West Virginia-----	4,772	4,243	3,985	+12.5	+6.5
North Carolina-----	12,872	12,461	11,983	+3.3	+4.0
South Carolina-----	5,435	4,518	3,584	+20.3	+26.1
Georgia-----	17,315	15,590	14,347	+11.1	+8.7
Florida-----	34,899	31,620	28,650	+10.4	+10.4
East South Central:					
Kentucky-----	9,833	9,821	7,768	+0.1	+26.4
Tennessee-----	15,374	13,472	12,698	+14.1	+6.1
Alabama-----	14,146	12,918	11,966	+9.5	+8.0
Mississippi-----	7,506	7,020	6,455	+6.9	+8.8
West South Central:					
Arkansas-----	9,152	8,483	8,108	+7.9	+4.6
Louisiana <sup>3</sup> -----	4,885	3,826	3,149	*	*
Oklahoma-----	15,728	14,367	12,862	+9.5	+11.7
Texas-----	46,918	48,852	45,339	-4.0	+7.7
Mountain:					
Montana-----	2,806	2,598	2,361	+8.0	+10.0
Idaho-----	3,506	3,278	3,183	+7.0	+3.0
Wyoming-----	1,722	1,610	1,552	+7.0	+3.7
Colorado-----	8,996	8,552	7,950	+5.2	+7.6
New Mexico <sup>2</sup> -----	3,539	2,585	1,545	*	*
Arizona-----	11,918	10,701	10,142	+11.4	+5.5
Utah-----	3,841	3,390	3,250	+13.3	+4.3
Nevada-----	10,951	10,103	9,708	+8.4	+4.1
Pacific:					
Washington-----	16,815	15,789	12,836	+6.5	+23.0
Oregon-----	8,643	8,258	7,603	+4.7	+8.6
California-----	81,546	75,416	69,846	+8.1	+8.0
Alaska-----	1,516	1,315	1,159	+15.3	+13.5
Hawaii-----	2,342	1,865	1,451	+25.6	+28.5

<sup>1</sup>Data are estimated.

<sup>2</sup>Data are incomplete.

Table 6. Divorce rates: United States, each region, division, and State, 1960-69

[Rates per 1,000 population in each area. See appendix]

Area	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
United States <sup>1</sup>	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2
Region:										
Northeast	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.9
North Central	13.2	12.9	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.2	12.2	12.1	12.2	12.1
South	13.6	13.4	13.1	13.0	12.9	12.8	12.8	12.7	12.8	12.8
West	14.7	14.3	14.1	14.0	14.0	13.8	13.6	13.6	13.5	13.4
Division:										
New England	2.1	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Middle Atlantic	1.4	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
East North Central	13.3	13.0	12.7	12.6	12.5	12.3	12.2	12.2	12.3	12.1
West North Central	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
South Atlantic	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1
East South Central	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.2	*
West South Central	3.9	3.9	3.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mountain	*	*	*	*	15.0	*	14.9	14.9	14.5	14.2
Pacific	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1
New England:										
Maine	3.5	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.2
New Hampshire	3.2	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.8
Vermont	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Massachusetts	2.0	1.8	1.3	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1
Rhode Island	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1
Connecticut	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0
Middle Atlantic:										
New York	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
New Jersey	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Pennsylvania	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3
East North Central:										
Ohio	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.4
Indiana <sup>1</sup>	4.6	4.7	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	2.7
Illinois	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.6	2.2
Michigan	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1
Wisconsin	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.9
West North Central:										
Minnesota	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
Iowa	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Missouri	3.8	3.6	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7
North Dakota	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9
South Dakota	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Nebraska	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5
Kansas	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2
South Atlantic:										
Delaware	2.9	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.6
Maryland	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.7
District of Columbia	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Virginia	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9
West Virginia	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.9
North Carolina	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3
South Carolina	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3
Georgia	3.7	3.4	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3
Florida	5.5	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	3.9
East South Central:										
Kentucky	3.0	3.1	2.4	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.4	*
Tennessee	3.9	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.5
Alabama	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.7	5.3	5.3
Mississippi	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
West South Central:										
Arkansas	4.6	4.3	4.1	3.8	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.2	*
Louisiana	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Oklahoma	6.1	5.7	5.1	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.6
Texas	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6
Mountain:										
Montana	4.0	3.7	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0
Idaho	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.9
Wyoming	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.7	3.9	4.0
Colorado	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.1	2.7
New Mexico	*	*	*	*	3.6	*	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.0
Arizona	7.0	6.4	6.2	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.3	5.0	3.7
Utah	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4
Nevada	24.0	22.5	22.3	21.4	23.0	28.3	24.8	27.1	26.4	29.6
Pacific:										
Washington	4.9	4.8	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.3
Oregon	4.3	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.2
California	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1
Alaska	5.4	4.8	4.3	4.1	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.5
Hawaii	2.9	2.4	1.9	1.2	1.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.0

<sup>1</sup>Data are estimated.  
<sup>2</sup>Data are incomplete.

Table 7. Percent distribution of divorces by age of husband and wife at time of decree: divorce-registration area and 20 registration States, 1969

[Percents were not computed for States where the reporting of age was less than 75 percent complete]

Area	All divorces and annulments	Age at time of decree										
		Under 20 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45-49 years	50-54 years	55-59 years	60-64 years	65 years and over
Husband												
Divorce-registration area-----	100.0	0.9	16.0	21.9	16.1	12.8	11.5	8.8	5.4	3.4	1.6	1.7
Alaska-----	100.0	0.3	16.1	23.6	16.6	13.7	11.4	8.6	5.0	2.9	1.3	0.3
California-----	100.0	0.5	12.8	21.7	16.2	13.5	11.9	9.9	6.2	3.6	1.6	2.1
Connecticut-----	100.0	0.2	12.0	22.6	17.0	13.3	12.5	9.4	6.7	3.4	1.7	1.1
Hawaii-----	100.0	0.1	11.4	21.4	17.5	14.4	12.5	9.5	6.4	3.1	2.0	1.6
Idaho-----	100.0	2.1	17.8	23.9	13.7	11.8	10.7	8.0	5.0	3.3	2.0	1.6
Illinois-----	100.0	0.8	15.7	22.3	16.6	13.1	11.5	8.8	4.3	3.9	1.3	1.8
Iowa-----	100.0	1.8	20.8	22.6	15.6	11.6	9.9	7.2	4.8	2.9	1.5	1.2
Kansas-----	100.0	1.7	21.6	22.5	14.6	11.4	9.6	7.7	5.0	2.4	1.8	1.7
Kentucky-----	100.0	1.8	22.4	21.2	13.6	11.6	10.2	7.4	4.0	3.4	2.2	2.2
Missouri-----	100.0	1.3	19.3	21.3	14.9	12.5	10.8	8.3	5.1	2.7	1.7	2.0
Montana-----	100.0	1.3	18.7	20.7	16.0	11.7	9.8	9.0	5.1	3.8	2.1	1.7
Nebraska-----	100.0	0.8	21.8	22.2	14.5	12.5	10.0	7.6	4.1	2.9	1.8	1.8
New York-----	100.0	0.5	10.9	19.2	17.5	13.1	13.8	10.4	6.2	4.3	2.1	2.0
Oregon-----	100.0	1.0	16.5	21.5	16.5	12.3	10.3	7.9	6.5	3.9	1.9	1.9
Pennsylvania-----	100.0	0.7	16.6	20.8	15.8	13.0	11.3	9.3	5.4	3.9	1.9	1.3
Rhode Island-----	100.0	0.3	12.6	22.5	16.9	12.4	12.9	10.4	5.8	3.3	1.8	1.2
Tennessee-----	100.0	2.2	20.9	22.3	15.2	10.6	9.6	7.5	5.2	3.2	1.2	2.0
Vermont-----	100.0	0.4	11.6	22.6	19.3	11.8	11.2	10.0	5.7	4.4	1.7	1.2
Virginia-----	100.0	0.5	15.1	22.7	17.0	12.2	11.3	9.3	5.8	2.7	1.6	1.7
Wisconsin-----	100.0	0.3	15.5	22.1	17.0	13.2	12.1	7.9	5.1	3.5	1.5	1.7
Wife												
Divorce-registration area-----	100.0	4.4	24.1	21.3	14.1	11.5	9.9	6.9	3.8	2.1	1.0	0.9
Alaska-----	100.0	4.3	26.9	21.6	15.1	11.6	9.4	5.8	3.1	1.7	0.3	0.3
California-----	100.0	2.5	21.6	22.0	14.3	12.0	10.2	8.5	4.4	2.5	1.0	1.0
Connecticut-----	100.0	1.9	21.3	22.5	15.3	11.7	11.0	8.0	4.5	2.3	1.0	0.5
Hawaii-----	100.0	2.1	19.3	23.7	16.2	12.8	12.7	6.1	4.0	1.9	0.8	0.5
Idaho-----	100.0	6.9	25.9	22.8	13.0	9.7	8.3	5.8	3.7	2.3	1.0	0.7
Illinois-----	100.0	4.5	24.4	22.2	13.8	11.6	10.1	6.0	3.7	2.0	0.8	0.9
Iowa-----	100.0	6.4	29.0	20.7	13.4	9.8	8.3	5.5	3.4	1.9	1.1	0.7
Kansas-----	100.0	7.3	28.6	20.1	12.4	9.0	9.3	6.5	3.1	2.0	1.0	0.8
Kentucky-----	100.0	9.2	27.1	19.0	11.9	10.4	7.9	6.1	4.0	2.0	1.1	1.3
Missouri-----	100.0	6.7	26.9	19.3	13.2	10.4	10.1	5.7	3.4	2.1	1.0	1.2
Montana-----	100.0	6.2	26.4	20.6	13.4	9.5	8.6	7.1	4.2	2.2	1.0	0.7
Nebraska-----	100.0	5.6	28.6	20.5	13.0	10.4	8.5	6.1	3.7	2.1	0.7	0.8
New York-----	100.0	2.2	19.6	20.1	15.7	13.0	12.2	8.2	4.4	2.8	1.3	0.6
Oregon-----	100.0	4.1	25.3	22.0	13.5	10.8	8.2	7.3	4.4	1.6	1.6	1.1
Pennsylvania-----	100.0	3.7	23.9	21.5	13.8	12.2	10.2	6.9	4.0	2.1	1.1	0.7
Rhode Island-----	100.0	2.1	21.5	22.2	15.2	12.0	9.8	8.3	4.6	2.2	1.3	0.7
Tennessee-----	100.0	8.8	26.7	19.8	13.6	9.8	8.5	5.5	2.8	2.5	1.1	0.9
Vermont-----	100.0	2.6	21.9	24.0	13.5	12.2	9.5	9.2	3.2	2.4	0.8	0.7
Virginia-----	100.0	3.4	23.0	21.2	15.4	12.1	10.5	7.2	3.7	1.7	1.4	0.5
Wisconsin-----	100.0	2.0	24.8	23.2	14.4	11.6	10.2	5.9	4.0	1.8	0.9	1.1

Table 8. Median age of husband and wife at time of decree: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962-69

Area	Median age of husband at time of decree							
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Divorce-regis- tration area---	33.5	33.9	33.6	33.8	34.1	34.0	34.8	34.5
Alabama <sup>1</sup> -----	30.0	30.0	40.8	34.2	35.8	34.6	35.5	35.0
Alaska-----	33.0	<sup>1</sup> 31.9	<sup>1</sup> 30.9	<sup>1</sup> 32.9	<sup>1</sup> 34.1	<sup>1</sup> 33.6	<sup>1</sup> 35.6	<sup>1</sup> 34.6
California-----	34.6	35.2	---	---	---	---	---	---
Connecticut-----	34.5	35.1	---	---	---	---	---	---
Georgia-----	30.7	31.1	32.2	31.8	33.0	<sup>1</sup> 31.9	<sup>1</sup> 33.0	<sup>1</sup> 32.1
Hawaii-----	34.9	35.2	36.3	37.3	36.2	34.7	35.8	36.3
Idaho-----	32.2	32.7	32.3	31.4	33.0	32.7	32.4	34.0
Illinois-----	33.4	33.5	---	---	---	---	---	---
Iowa-----	31.5	32.0	32.5	32.3	33.2	32.8	33.0	33.9
Kansas-----	31.4	33.1	32.3	31.9	33.6	33.3	33.5	34.0
Kentucky-----	31.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Maryland-----	33.8	33.7	33.7	<sup>1</sup> 34.2	<sup>1</sup> 34.5	34.5	<sup>1</sup> 36.4	34.6
Michigan <sup>1</sup> -----	33.7	32.8	34.9	33.9	34.4	36.1	32.5	33.3
Missouri-----	32.7	32.6	33.5	33.7	34.1	34.2	34.9	34.1
Montana-----	32.9	33.2	33.5	34.1	33.6	33.3	35.1	33.4
Nebraska-----	31.8	32.3	32.6	32.6	32.4	33.6	33.6	<sup>1</sup> 35.0
New York-----	35.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ohio <sup>1</sup> -----	32.9	34.6	33.6	35.0	35.2	34.0	37.0	34.6
Oregon-----	33.3	33.6	33.8	35.1	34.8	34.7	35.3	35.4
Pennsylvania-----	33.8	34.9	35.0	34.5	34.8	35.3	35.5	36.1
Rhode Island-----	34.4	34.7	35.1	<sup>1</sup> 30.0	34.9	35.4	35.0	---
South Dakota <sup>1</sup> -----	33.1	33.0	33.9	35.2	29.1	32.3	32.3	36.1
Tennessee-----	31.5	32.0	32.5	32.7	32.3	32.9	34.2	34.5
Utah-----	31.6	32.1	31.9	28.5	31.1	31.1	31.6	31.8
Vermont-----	34.0	33.7	---	---	---	---	---	---
Virginia-----	33.4	34.6	34.1	31.6	34.9	34.1	34.9	34.2
Wisconsin-----	33.5	34.4	34.5	35.0	34.8	35.0	35.4	37.5
Wyoming <sup>1</sup> -----	33.1	31.3	33.5	35.8	32.3	32.5	31.5	40.0

<sup>1</sup>Computed from data less than 50 percent complete.

Table 8. Median age of husband and wife at time of decree: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962-69--Con.

Area	Median age of wife at time of decree							
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Divorce-regis- tration area---	30.1	30.5	30.1	30.4	30.5	30.6	31.3	31.0
Alabama <sup>1</sup> -----	28.1	28.8	35.8	26.3	32.1	34.5	31.3	31.3
Alaska-----	29.4	<sup>1</sup> 28.2	<sup>1</sup> 27.1	<sup>1</sup> 29.3	<sup>1</sup> 29.8	<sup>1</sup> 29.0	<sup>1</sup> 30.2	<sup>1</sup> 28.3
California-----	31.4	31.9	---	---	---	---	---	---
Connecticut-----	31.4	32.3	---	---	---	---	---	---
Georgia-----	28.2	28.3	28.8	28.5	29.4	<sup>1</sup> 28.7	<sup>1</sup> 29.8	<sup>1</sup> 29.0
Hawaii-----	31.5	31.9	32.7	34.0	32.8	31.3	32.6	32.8
Idaho-----	28.8	29.0	28.8	28.0	29.2	28.9	28.6	30.4
Illinois-----	29.7	29.9	---	---	---	---	---	---
Iowa-----	28.5	28.9	29.2	29.4	29.4	29.4	29.8	30.5
Kansas-----	28.5	29.1	29.1	28.9	30.1	29.7	30.1	30.6
Kentucky-----	28.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Maryland-----	30.4	30.3	31.3	<sup>1</sup> 30.9	<sup>1</sup> 30.5	31.1	<sup>1</sup> 33.0	31.6
Michigan <sup>1</sup> -----	30.5	29.6	31.4	31.2	30.8	32.4	33.2	29.8
Missouri-----	29.3	29.6	29.9	30.0	30.5	30.7	31.1	30.4
Montana-----	29.2	29.5	29.3	30.3	29.9	29.3	30.9	29.9
Nebraska-----	28.8	29.4	29.6	29.5	29.0	29.8	29.8	<sup>1</sup> 31.2
New York-----	32.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ohio <sup>1</sup> -----	30.0	31.2	30.1	31.6	31.6	31.6	33.5	31.7
Oregon-----	29.7	29.8	30.4	31.4	31.8	31.4	31.5	32.6
Pennsylvania-----	30.3	31.4	31.7	31.5	31.8	32.0	32.3	32.2
Rhode Island-----	31.4	31.7	32.4	32.1	32.4	32.7	32.7	---
South Dakota <sup>1</sup> -----	29.7	29.7	28.9	30.2	26.9	27.8	28.1	31.4
Tennessee-----	28.7	28.9	29.3	29.2	28.8	29.4	30.1	29.7
Utah-----	28.7	28.8	28.4	28.5	28.0	27.8	28.6	28.7
Vermont-----	30.6	30.9	---	---	---	---	---	---
Virginia-----	30.8	31.3	30.8	31.6	31.3	30.8	31.8	30.8
Wisconsin-----	30.0	31.3	31.3	32.0	31.8	31.8	32.2	34.7
Wyoming <sup>1</sup> -----	30.3	27.7	30.6	32.3	27.0	28.2	26.2	32.5

<sup>1</sup>Computed from data less than 50 percent complete.

Table 9. Percent distribution of divorces by age of husband and wife at marriage: divorce-regis-  
tration area and 20 registration States, 1969

[Percents were not computed for States where the reporting of age was less than 75 percent complete]

Area	All di- vorses and annul- ments	Age of husband at marriage						
		Under 20 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45 years and over
Divorce-registration area-----	100.0	19.2	42.9	16.5	7.7	4.8	3.4	5.5
Alaska-----	100.0	13.5	41.3	17.3	11.0	6.0	4.9	6.0
California-----	100.0	16.4	40.9	16.8	8.9	5.7	4.1	7.2
Connecticut-----	100.0	15.2	49.7	18.9	6.6	4.0	2.2	3.3
Hawaii-----	100.0	13.2	42.0	21.0	9.1	5.3	3.7	5.7
Idaho-----	100.0	14.5	40.3	17.5	9.6	5.5	4.8	7.8
Illinois-----	100.0	17.6	43.0	17.6	8.3	4.7	3.6	5.1
Iowa-----	100.0	22.9	42.4	14.4	7.4	4.9	3.0	5.1
Kansas-----	100.0	21.8	43.5	14.3	6.9	4.6	3.3	5.6
Kentucky-----	100.0	25.7	39.8	13.8	6.7	4.6	3.0	6.4
Missouri-----	100.0	22.0	40.0	14.1	8.0	5.5	3.9	6.4
Montana-----	100.0	12.7	43.1	17.8	9.1	5.5	4.2	7.5
Nebraska-----	100.0	17.3	47.7	17.0	5.7	4.1	2.8	5.5
New York-----	100.0	15.3	47.8	18.7	8.2	4.2	2.2	3.6
Oregon-----	100.0	16.9	39.9	18.3	8.0	5.2	4.1	7.6
Pennsylvania-----	100.0	20.6	46.8	16.3	6.2	4.2	2.1	3.7
Rhode Island-----	100.0	16.3	49.4	19.3	7.0	3.3	1.9	2.8
Tennessee-----	100.0	25.5	39.3	15.6	6.5	3.7	3.3	6.0
Vermont-----	100.0	19.5	47.8	16.1	7.4	3.8	2.2	3.2
Virginia-----	100.0	24.1	44.8	15.2	6.4	3.4	2.4	3.6
Wisconsin-----	100.0	16.9	49.0	16.4	7.0	4.0	2.5	4.1



Table 9. Percent distribution of divorces by age of husband and wife at marriage: divorce-registration area and 20 registration States, 1969—Con.

[Percents were not computed for States where the reporting of age was less than 75 percent complete]

Area	All divorces and annulments	Age of wife at marriage						
		Under 20 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45 years and over
Divorce-registration area-----	100.0	45.8	29.6	9.5	5.3	3.6	2.4	3.7
Alaska-----	100.0	41.5	29.3	10.7	5.6	6.2	2.7	4.0
California-----	100.0	40.7	29.6	10.5	6.7	4.4	3.1	4.9
Connecticut-----	100.0	42.1	38.7	8.7	3.9	3.1	1.4	2.2
Hawaii-----	100.0	34.7	36.4	13.9	5.9	4.1	2.4	2.7
Idaho-----	100.0	41.0	30.5	10.4	5.4	4.0	3.9	4.8
Illinois-----	100.0	45.1	29.9	10.2	5.2	3.3	2.9	3.4
Iowa-----	100.0	50.2	27.3	8.7	4.8	2.9	2.4	3.6
Kansas-----	100.0	49.5	27.4	8.5	4.7	3.7	2.3	3.9
Kentucky-----	100.0	52.4	24.5	7.7	4.9	3.0	2.7	4.7
Missouri-----	100.0	48.1	26.4	9.2	5.0	4.2	2.4	4.7
Montana-----	100.0	41.2	30.7	10.1	5.7	4.4	2.7	5.2
Nebraska-----	100.0	46.2	31.8	8.2	4.8	3.1	2.5	3.3
New York-----	100.0	43.6	34.2	10.3	5.3	2.9	1.3	2.4
Oregon-----	100.0	44.0	26.8	11.0	6.2	4.1	2.9	5.1
Pennsylvania-----	100.0	48.9	32.7	8.0	4.3	3.0	1.2	2.0
Rhode Island-----	100.0	44.8	36.7	8.7	4.0	2.1	1.9	1.8
Tennessee-----	100.0	52.7	24.3	9.0	4.0	3.2	2.5	4.3
Vermont-----	100.0	51.4	30.4	8.5	4.2	1.9	2.0	1.5
Virginia-----	100.0	52.3	28.5	7.7	4.7	3.4	1.5	1.8
Wisconsin-----	100.0	48.1	33.8	7.1	3.8	2.3	1.7	3.1

Table 10. Median age of husband and wife at marriage: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962-69

Area	Median age of husband at marriage							
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Divorce-regis- tration area---	23.6	23.7	23.5	23.5	23.7	23.7	23.9	24.0
Alabama <sup>1</sup> -----	22.8	23.3	24.7	24.2	24.3	23.6	24.5	26.7
Alaska-----	24.4	125.3	125.1	125.4	127.7	127.2	127.6	126.7
California-----	24.1	24.3	---	---	---	---	---	---
Connecticut-----	23.5	23.7	---	---	---	---	---	---
Georgia-----	23.2	23.2	23.1	23.2	23.4	123.3	123.4	123.9
Hawaii-----	24.4	24.7	24.9	26.0	25.6	24.6	25.3	25.1
Idaho-----	24.4	24.4	24.0	24.0	24.4	24.3	24.2	24.5
Illinois-----	23.8	23.8	---	---	---	---	---	---
Iowa-----	23.2	23.2	23.3	23.2	23.6	23.6	23.7	24.0
Kansas-----	23.2	23.2	23.7	23.7	24.0	24.0	24.1	24.2
Kentucky-----	23.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Maryland-----	23.3	23.2	22.9	123.2	123.3	23.3	123.5	23.3
Michigan <sup>1</sup> -----	22.6	22.6	23.1	23.0	22.9	23.6	22.8	23.4
Missouri-----	23.5	23.6	23.8	23.8	24.0	24.0	24.0	23.8
Montana-----	24.3	24.5	24.7	24.5	24.6	24.8	25.0	24.6
Nebraska-----	23.4	23.6	23.6	23.8	23.6	23.9	23.9	124.4
New York-----	23.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ohio <sup>1</sup> -----	23.6	23.6	23.7	24.0	24.0	23.7	24.4	24.2
Oregon-----	24.2	23.9	24.1	24.5	24.5	24.3	24.9	24.5
Pennsylvania-----	23.1	23.2	23.3	23.2	23.5	23.7	23.4	23.8
Rhode Island-----	23.4	23.3	23.6	23.5	23.2	23.7	23.6	---
South Dakota <sup>1</sup> -----	24.0	23.1	23.7	24.2	23.0	23.8	24.0	24.2
Tennessee-----	23.1	23.0	23.1	23.2	23.2	23.1	23.6	24.2
Utah-----	23.2	23.3	23.2	23.1	23.3	23.4	23.5	23.7
Vermont-----	23.2	23.2	---	---	---	---	---	---
Virginia-----	22.9	23.2	23.1	23.3	23.2	23.5	23.6	23.8
Wisconsin-----	23.4	23.5	23.6	23.6	23.7	23.8	24.0	24.9
Wyoming <sup>1</sup> -----	24.0	23.5	23.9	25.7	24.1	24.1	23.3	25.0

<sup>1</sup>Computed from data less than 50 percent complete.

Table 10. Median age of husband and wife at marriage: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962-69—Con.

Area	Median age of wife at marriage							
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Divorce-regis- tration area---	20.7	20.7	20.3	20.3	20.4	20.4	20.6	20.7
Alabama <sup>1</sup> -----	19.1	19.4	19.5	20.4	19.6	21.3	22.1	19.8
Alaska-----	<sup>1</sup> 21.5	<sup>1</sup> 22.1	<sup>1</sup> 21.8	<sup>1</sup> 22.6	<sup>1</sup> 23.4	<sup>1</sup> 23.1	<sup>1</sup> 23.3	<sup>1</sup> 22.1
California-----	21.6	21.6	---	---	---	---	---	---
Connecticut-----	21.0	21.2	---	---	---	---	---	---
Georgia-----	20.0	19.9	19.6	21.0	19.9	<sup>1</sup> 19.8	<sup>1</sup> 19.9	<sup>1</sup> 20.3
Hawaii-----	22.1	22.5	22.6	23.7	23.5	22.2	22.5	22.9
Idaho-----	21.5	21.3	21.2	20.7	21.3	21.3	21.2	21.6
Illinois-----	20.8	20.7	---	---	---	---	---	---
Iowa-----	20.0	19.8	19.9	20.0	20.2	20.1	20.1	20.3
Kansas-----	20.1	20.0	20.7	20.7	20.8	21.0	20.9	21.4
Kentucky-----	19.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Maryland-----	20.4	20.3	19.6	<sup>1</sup> 21.0	<sup>1</sup> 19.5	19.6	<sup>1</sup> 19.7	20.1
Michigan <sup>1</sup> -----	19.5	19.3	19.9	20.9	19.3	19.6	21.2	20.5
Missouri-----	20.4	20.8	20.3	20.2	20.7	20.7	20.2	20.4
Montana-----	21.4	21.4	21.5	21.6	21.6	21.8	21.7	21.4
Nebraska-----	20.6	20.7	20.7	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.4	<sup>1</sup> 21.1
New York-----	20.9	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ohio <sup>1</sup> -----	20.7	20.7	20.8	21.4	21.0	21.0	21.5	21.0
Oregon-----	21.1	20.8	20.9	21.0	21.6	21.0	21.6	22.0
Pennsylvania-----	20.2	20.0	20.4	20.3	20.5	20.1	20.6	20.4
Rhode Island-----	20.7	20.5	21.1	21.0	20.6	21.4	20.9	---
South Dakota <sup>1</sup> -----	20.1	19.9	19.5	20.8	18.8	20.5	20.5	20.1
Tennessee-----	19.7	19.6	19.7	20.9	19.6	19.5	19.9	19.9
Utah-----	20.0	19.9	19.9	21.0	19.9	19.8	19.8	20.6
Vermont-----	19.8	19.8	---	---	---	---	---	---
Virginia-----	19.7	19.9	19.8	21.0	19.6	20.2	20.4	20.4
Wisconsin-----	20.3	20.5	20.5	20.6	21.0	20.8	20.9	22.0
Wyoming <sup>1</sup> -----	20.5	20.2	19.8	22.3	20.0	19.7	19.7	22.0

<sup>1</sup>Computed from data less than 50 percent complete.

Table 11. Percent distribution of divorces by race of husband and wife: divorce-registration area and 20 registration States, 1969

[Percentages were not computed for States where the reporting of age was less than 75 percent complete]

Area	All di- vorces	Husband			All di- vorces	Wife		
		White	Negro	Other races		White	Negro	Other races
Divorce-registration area-----	100.0	89.4	9.6	0.9	100.0	89.5	9.4	1.1
Alaska-----	100.0	85.4	3.0	11.6	100.0	82.2	2.7	15.0
California-----	100.0	92.4	6.7	1.0	100.0	92.4	6.4	1.2
Connecticut-----	100.0	90.8	8.9	0.2	100.0	91.2	8.7	0.2
Hawaii-----	100.0	51.6	1.7	46.6	100.0	47.9	1.1	51.0
Idaho-----	100.0	98.3	0.5	1.2	100.0	98.6	0.5	0.9
Illinois-----	100.0	83.9	15.8	0.2	100.0	84.2	15.4	0.4
Iowa-----	100.0	97.1	2.7	0.2	100.0	97.4	2.4	0.2
Kansas-----	100.0	92.5	6.9	0.6	100.0	92.7	6.6	0.7
Kentucky-----	100.0	93.4	6.6	-	100.0	93.4	6.6	-
Missouri-----	100.0	87.9	12.1	0.1	100.0	87.9	12.0	0.1
Montana-----	100.0	94.9	0.5	4.6	100.0	94.5	0.4	5.1
Nebraska-----	100.0	93.2	6.6	0.1	100.0	93.1	6.3	0.6
New York-----	100.0	84.5	15.2	0.3	100.0	84.9	14.8	0.3
Oregon-----	100.0	97.9	1.4	0.8	100.0	97.7	1.3	1.1
Pennsylvania-----	100.0	90.7	9.3	-	100.0	90.6	9.4	0.1
Rhode Island-----	100.0	96.0	3.6	0.5	100.0	96.0	3.6	0.5
Tennessee-----	100.0	88.0	12.0	0.0	100.0	87.8	12.0	0.2
Vermont-----	100.0	98.5	1.5	-	100.0	98.4	1.5	0.1
Virginia-----	100.0	83.2	16.6	0.2	100.0	83.1	16.5	0.4
Wisconsin-----	100.0	93.1	6.2	0.7	100.0	93.4	6.0	0.7

Table 12. Percent distribution of divorces by number of this marriage of husband and wife at time of decree: divorce-registration area and 19 registration States, 1969

[Percents were not computed for States where the reporting of the number of this marriage was less than 75 percent complete]

Area	All divorces	Number of this marriage of husband			All divorces	Number of this marriage of wife		
		First	Second	Third or more		First	Second	Third or more
Divorce-registration area---	100.0	74.2	19.8	6.0	100.0	73.6	19.9	6.5
Alaska-----	100.0	64.6	23.9	11.5	100.0	63.9	23.6	12.5
California-----	100.0	67.8	23.8	8.4	100.0	66.3	23.8	9.9
Connecticut-----	100.0	83.0	14.7	2.3	100.0	83.8	13.9	2.3
Hawaii-----	100.0	76.8	17.6	5.6	100.0	76.2	17.7	6.2
Idaho-----	100.0	63.9	24.3	11.8	100.0	60.2	27.1	12.7
Illinois-----	100.0	76.4	18.8	4.8	100.0	76.1	18.3	5.6
Iowa-----	100.0	71.2	21.4	7.4	100.0	72.4	19.3	8.3
Kansas-----	100.0	72.0	20.6	7.4	100.0	70.4	22.2	7.4
Kentucky-----	100.0	74.0	20.6	5.3	100.0	72.8	21.8	5.4
Missouri-----	100.0	68.3	22.7	9.0	100.0	69.3	23.1	7.6
Montana-----	100.0	68.4	23.2	8.3	100.0	67.2	23.6	9.2
New York-----	100.0	85.6	12.6	1.8	100.0	86.8	11.8	1.5
Oregon-----	100.0	65.4	24.5	10.0	100.0	65.3	23.9	10.7
Pennsylvania-----	100.0	84.7	13.4	2.0	100.0	84.5	13.8	1.7
Rhode Island-----	100.0	85.9	12.3	1.8	100.0	85.1	13.7	1.2
Tennessee-----	100.0	69.7	23.5	6.8	100.0	70.6	22.2	7.1
Vermont-----	100.0	85.0	13.0	2.1	100.0	84.6	13.9	1.6
Virginia-----	100.0	82.6	15.1	2.3	100.0	80.7	16.3	2.9
Wisconsin-----	100.0	82.7	14.7	2.5	100.0	82.0	15.1	2.9

Table 13. Divorces by number of times husbands and wives have been previously widowed and divorced: California, 1969

Number of times divorced	Number of times widowed				
	Total	Never	Once	Twice or more	Not stated
	Husband				
Total-----	81,520	60,300	2,310	210	18,700
Never-----	48,460	47,080	1,010	60	310
Once-----	16,000	9,450	550	20	5,980
Twice-----	3,840	2,160	150	40	1,490
3 times or more-----	1,400	670	110	-	620
Not stated-----	11,820	940	490	90	10,300
	Wife				
Total-----	81,520	59,620	3,260	260	18,380
Never-----	47,500	46,010	1,040	70	380
Once-----	16,230	9,570	1,060	80	5,520
Twice-----	4,410	2,470	220	60	1,660
3 times or more-----	1,400	670	60	-	670
Not stated-----	11,980	900	880	50	10,150

Table 14. Median and quartile years of school completed for husband and wife at time of divorce: 10 divorce-registration States, 1969

[Medians and quartiles not computed for States where reporting of education was less than 50 percent complete]

State	Husband			Wife		
	First quartile	Median	Third quartile	First quartile	Median	Third quartile
Alaska-----	11.4	12.4	12.9	11.6	12.5	13.0
California-----	11.5	12.4	12.9	11.5	12.5	13.4
Connecticut-----	10.7	12.3	12.8	9.7	12.1	12.8
Hawaii-----	11.6	12.5	13.1	11.5	12.5	13.6
Illinois-----	10.5	12.2	12.8	10.2	12.2	12.8
Kansas-----	10.9	12.3	12.9	10.7	12.3	12.9
Nebraska-----	11.2	12.3	12.9	10.8	12.3	12.9
New York-----	10.7	12.3	12.8	9.9	12.2	12.8
Rhode Island-----	10.4	12.2	12.7	9.9	12.1	12.7
Vermont-----	10.1	12.2	12.8	8.9	11.9	12.7

Table 15. Percent distribution of divorces by years of school completed for husband and wife: 7 divorce-registration States, 1969

[Percents were not computed for States where reporting of education was less than 75 percent complete]

State	All divorces and annulments	No schooling	Elementary school			High school			College			
			Total	1-7 years	8 years	Total	1-3 years	4 years	Total	1-2 years	3-4 years	5 years or more
Husband												
California-----	100.0	0.6	6.1	2.8	3.4	71.9	23.4	48.4	21.4	13.0	6.8	1.7
Connecticut-----	100.0	0.1	10.1	2.5	7.6	71.5	28.4	43.1	18.2	10.3	6.3	1.6
Hawaii-----	100.0	0.6	7.2	3.8	3.4	66.5	20.0	46.5	25.7	13.3	8.7	3.7
Kansas-----	100.0	0.1	9.4	1.8	7.7	71.7	25.3	46.4	18.8	12.0	5.2	1.6
Nebraska-----	100.0	-	8.1	2.0	6.2	72.6	25.8	46.8	19.3	12.5	5.9	0.9
New York-----	100.0	0.3	12.9	3.7	9.3	72.3	23.2	49.2	14.4	7.3	5.1	2.0
Vermont-----	100.0	-	16.7	3.6	13.1	65.3	26.9	38.4	18.0	11.8	5.1	1.2
Wife												
California-----	100.0	0.8	8.5	3.8	4.6	63.6	20.0	43.6	27.2	12.9	10.4	3.9
Connecticut-----	100.0	0.2	19.8	5.7	14.1	60.3	25.4	35.0	19.7	7.8	8.0	3.8
Hawaii-----	100.0	0.6	10.7	5.9	4.8	60.9	16.4	44.5	27.8	11.5	10.3	6.0
Kansas-----	100.0	0.1	14.9	3.8	11.1	62.3	20.4	41.9	22.7	12.2	7.3	3.3
Nebraska-----	100.0	0.1	13.2	3.7	9.5	64.2	23.2	41.0	22.4	12.2	7.6	2.6
New York-----	100.0	0.2	19.2	6.4	12.7	64.2	24.2	40.0	16.5	6.6	5.9	4.0
Vermont-----	100.0	0.3	26.1	5.4	20.7	57.6	24.5	33.1	16.0	6.5	7.3	2.2



Table 16. Percent distribution of divorces by total number of living children and number of children under 18 years of age: 19 divorce-registration States, 1969

[Percents computed for States reporting total number of living children]

State	All divorces and annulments	Number of children reported						
		None	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
<u>Alaska</u>								
All children-----	100.0	35.4	21.8	19.1	11.3	6.7	3.1	2.6
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	39.8	22.6	19.5	8.9	5.4	2.0	1.8
<u>California</u>								
All children-----	100.0	37.7	21.8	20.5	11.2	5.2	1.9	1.8
Children under 18 years-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<u>Connecticut</u>								
All children-----	100.0	23.4	21.8	24.2	16.0	7.2	4.3	3.0
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	30.1	23.2	23.5	13.1	5.0	3.1	2.0
<u>Hawaii</u>								
All children-----	100.0	30.2	20.2	18.7	13.7	8.6	4.7	3.9
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	35.5	20.8	17.8	12.9	6.9	3.5	2.6
<u>Idaho</u>								
All children-----	100.0	37.4	23.6	18.4	10.4	6.7	2.1	1.5
Children under 18 years <sup>1</sup> -----	100.0	40.7	23.7	18.1	9.4	5.6	1.6	0.9
<u>Illinois</u>								
All children-----	100.0	37.3	21.6	18.7	11.4	6.2	2.8	2.1
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	41.3	23.0	17.5	9.7	5.3	1.8	1.3
<u>Iowa</u>								
All children-----	100.0	32.8	23.4	19.8	12.4	5.5	3.4	2.6
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	37.3	24.2	18.7	10.9	4.4	3.0	1.4
<u>Kansas</u>								
All children-----	100.0	35.7	23.4	19.1	11.0	5.6	2.6	2.6
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	40.1	25.0	17.9	9.0	4.6	1.9	1.5
<u>Maryland</u>								
All children-----	100.0	27.3	27.2	21.7	12.0	6.6	2.8	2.4
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	36.6	27.2	19.0	9.3	5.2	1.9	0.8
<u>Michigan</u>								
All children-----	100.0	36.2	19.8	18.6	12.2	6.7	3.2	3.5
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	39.6	21.6	17.6	10.6	5.7	2.6	2.3

<sup>1</sup>Number of children affected by decree.

Table 16. Percent distribution of divorces by total number of living children and number of children under 18 years of age: 19 divorce-registration States, 1969—Con.

[Percents computed for States reporting total number of living children]

State	All divorces and annulments	Number of children reported						
		None	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
<u>Nebraska</u>								
All children-----	100.0	31.2	23.2	19.6	12.3	7.2	3.8	2.7
Children under 18 years <sup>1</sup> -----	100.0	35.5	24.0	19.1	10.6	6.1	2.8	2.0
<u>New York</u>								
All children-----	100.0	28.6	23.9	22.4	13.5	6.4	2.9	2.2
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	37.3	24.8	19.3	11.6	4.3	1.7	1.1
<u>Pennsylvania</u>								
All children-----	100.0	30.7	25.7	20.0	12.2	5.9	2.9	2.5
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	39.1	24.9	17.7	10.3	4.8	2.1	1.1
<u>Rhode Island</u>								
All children-----	100.0	25.4	23.9	23.9	13.4	7.9	3.3	2.2
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	32.2	23.9	22.3	11.0	6.4	2.7	1.5
<u>Tennessee</u>								
All children-----	100.0	41.3	23.3	17.7	9.2	4.4	2.1	1.9
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	45.3	23.7	17.1	7.9	3.3	1.5	1.1
<u>Utah</u>								
All children-----	100.0	32.7	22.8	17.5	11.9	8.5	3.5	3.1
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	35.1	23.8	17.5	11.6	7.1	2.8	2.2
<u>Vermont</u>								
All children-----	100.0	17.8	20.4	22.9	17.2	9.4	7.2	5.2
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	26.4	20.7	22.4	15.0	7.2	4.8	3.5
<u>Wisconsin</u>								
All children-----	100.0	25.7	22.2	20.9	13.9	8.1	3.9	5.3
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	30.5	24.4	20.2	11.9	6.9	3.1	2.9
<u>Wyoming</u>								
All children-----	100.0	38.1	18.8	18.4	12.1	7.1	3.0	2.5
Children under 18 years-----	100.0	41.2	22.3	17.7	10.4	5.2	1.6	1.6

<sup>1</sup>Number of children affected by decree.

Table 17. Number of children under 18 years of age involved in divorces, mean number of children, and rate: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1967-69

[For estimating method, see appendix]

Area	Children involved			Mean children per decree			Rate per 1,000 children		
	1969	1968	1967	1969	1968	1967	1969	1968	1967
Divorce-registration area--	494,900	421,300	248,300	1.31	1.33	1.33	10.9	11.0	9.4
Alabama-----	16,800	16,200	14,800	1.18	1.24	1.23	13.1	12.4	11.2
Alaska-----	2,000	1,800	11,500	1.32	1.37	1.29	16.1	15.0	12.7
California <sup>2</sup> -----	112,700	103,400	---	1.38	1.37	---	16.6	15.3	---
Connecticut-----	9,100	8,400	---	1.57	1.57	---	8.9	8.3	---
Georgia-----	18,800	17,100	16,700	1.09	1.10	1.16	10.9	10.0	9.8
Hawaii-----	3,600	2,600	<sup>3</sup> 2,100	1.56	1.39	1.45	11.8	8.6	7.1
Idaho <sup>4</sup> -----	4,400	4,100	3,900	1.26	1.25	1.24	16.7	15.5	14.6
Illinois-----	46,000	41,600	---	1.27	1.29	---	11.9	10.8	---
Iowa-----	9,600	9,600	8,800	1.37	1.46	1.44	10.0	9.9	8.9
Kansas-----	10,000	9,600	<sup>5</sup> 9,600	1.26	1.35	1.42	12.7	12.1	11.9
Kentucky-----	11,000	---	---	1.11	---	---	9.7	---	---
Maryland-----	11,300	10,700	10,400	1.28	1.31	1.40	8.2	7.8	7.7
Michigan-----	39,700	35,200	33,100	1.40	1.39	1.40	12.3	10.8	10.2
Missouri-----	20,700	19,900	17,300	1.18	1.21	1.19	13.2	12.7	11.0
Montana-----	3,900	3,600	3,300	1.39	1.39	1.40	15.2	13.8	12.5
Nebraska <sup>4</sup> -----	4,900	4,500	4,500	1.47	1.50	1.55	9.7	8.8	8.7
New York-----	27,900	---	---	1.31	---	---	4.7	---	---
Ohio-----	48,100	43,200	41,000	1.35	1.38	1.38	12.6	11.4	10.8
Oregon-----	11,000	10,400	10,000	1.28	1.26	1.32	16.3	15.3	14.7
Pennsylvania-----	27,600	26,400	25,300	1.28	1.30	1.36	7.2	6.8	6.5
Rhode Island-----	1,900	1,600	1,200	1.50	1.65	1.39	6.4	5.4	4.0
South Dakota-----	2,000	2,100	1,700	1.60	1.69	1.56	8.2	8.5	6.6
Tennessee-----	16,700	15,900	<sup>6</sup> 14,800	1.10	1.19	1.18	12.2	11.5	10.7
Utah-----	5,800	5,300	5,500	1.51	1.56	1.69	13.5	12.3	12.8
Vermont-----	1,500	1,400	---	1.90	1.84	---	9.8	9.3	---
Virginia-----	13,700	12,900	11,400	1.21	1.23	1.18	8.3	7.9	7.0
Wisconsin-----	12,000	11,700	9,400	1.64	1.68	1.62	7.9	7.6	6.0
Wyoming-----	2,200	2,100	2,000	1.28	1.30	1.29	18.8	17.8	16.5

<sup>1</sup>Number of children under 21 affected.

<sup>2</sup>Number of living children of this marriage.

<sup>3</sup>Number of children under age 20.

<sup>4</sup>Number of children affected by decree.

<sup>5</sup>Number of children.

<sup>6</sup>Number of children under 18 of this marriage.

Table 18. Estimated number of all children of divorced couples and percent distribution by age: 19 divorce-registration States, 1969

[Included are States reporting total number of living children. For estimating methods, see appendix]

State	All divorces and annulments	Number of children			Percent distribution			Mean children per decree		
		Total	Under 18 years	18 years and over	Total	Children under 18 years	Children 18 years and over	Total	Under 18 years	18 years and over
Total <sup>1</sup> -----	177,977	279,500	236,200	43,300	100.0	84.5	15.5	1.57	1.33	0.24
Alaska-----	1,516	2,300	2,000	300	100.0	87.0	13.0	1.52	1.32	0.20
California-----	81,520	112,800	---	---	100.0	---	---	1.38	---	---
Connecticut-----	5,780	10,900	9,100	1,800	100.0	83.5	16.5	1.89	1.57	0.31
Hawaii-----	2,314	4,300	3,600	700	100.0	83.7	16.3	1.85	1.56	0.30
Idaho-----	3,502	4,900	<sup>2</sup> 4,400	500	100.0	89.8	10.2	1.40	1.26	0.14
Illinois-----	36,330	53,200	46,000	7,200	100.0	86.5	13.5	1.46	1.27	0.20
Iowa-----	7,032	11,100	9,600	1,500	100.0	86.5	13.5	1.58	1.37	0.21
Kansas-----	7,958	11,800	10,000	1,800	100.0	84.7	15.3	1.48	1.26	0.23
Maryland-----	8,835	14,400	11,300	3,100	100.0	78.5	21.5	1.63	1.28	0.35
Michigan-----	28,360	45,400	39,700	5,700	100.0	87.4	12.6	1.60	1.40	0.20
Nebraska-----	3,332	5,500	<sup>2</sup> 4,900	600	100.0	89.1	10.9	1.65	1.47	0.18
New York-----	21,320	34,900	27,900	7,000	100.0	79.9	20.1	1.64	1.31	0.33
Pennsylvania-----	21,580	34,000	27,600	6,400	100.0	81.2	18.8	1.58	1.28	0.30
Rhode Island-----	1,264	2,200	1,900	300	100.0	86.4	13.6	1.74	1.50	0.24
Tennessee-----	15,175	19,400	16,700	2,700	100.0	86.1	13.9	1.28	1.10	0.18
Utah-----	3,841	6,400	5,800	600	100.0	90.6	9.4	1.67	1.51	0.16
Vermont-----	788	1,800	1,500	300	100.0	83.3	16.7	2.28	1.90	0.38
Wisconsin-----	7,328	14,400	12,000	2,400	100.0	83.3	16.7	1.97	1.64	0.33
Wyoming-----	1,722	2,600	2,200	400	100.0	84.6	15.4	1.51	1.28	0.23

<sup>1</sup>Excludes California.

<sup>2</sup>Number of children affected by decree.

Table 19. Median duration of marriage prior to divorce: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1967-69

[Medians computed on data by single years]

Area	Median duration of marriage in years		
	1969	1968	1967
Divorce-registration area-----	6.9	7.0	7.1
Alabama-----	5.6	6.1	6.2
Alaska-----	5.6	5.9	5.8
California-----	6.9	7.1	---
Connecticut-----	8.9	9.0	---
Georgia-----	5.2	5.5	6.1
Hawaii-----	7.3	7.0	7.0
Idaho-----	5.0	4.9	5.3
Illinois-----	6.7	6.7	---
Iowa-----	5.7	6.1	6.3
Kansas-----	5.4	5.9	5.9
Kentucky-----	5.8	---	---
Maryland-----	9.2	8.8	9.9
Michigan-----	7.1	7.3	7.8
Missouri-----	5.6	5.7	6.0
Montana-----	5.6	5.7	5.5
Nebraska-----	6.2	6.7	6.9
New York-----	9.4	---	---
Ohio-----	6.7	7.2	7.1
Oregon-----	5.8	6.0	5.9
Pennsylvania-----	8.5	9.1	9.0
Rhode Island-----	9.1	9.0	8.9
South Dakota-----	6.6	7.3	7.0
Tennessee-----	5.7	5.9	5.8
Utah-----	5.5	5.8	5.6
Vermont-----	9.1	9.0	---
Virginia-----	8.4	8.8	8.8
Wisconsin-----	8.0	8.6	8.1
Wyoming-----	4.9	5.0	5.5

Table 20. Percent distribution of divorces by duration of marriage prior to separation of divorcing couples: 12 divorce-registration States, 1969

[Percents were not computed for States where the reporting of the date of separation was less than 75 percent complete]

State	All divorces	Duration of marriage						
		Less than 6 months	6-11 months	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
California-----	100.0	11.4	6.1	10.6	9.2	7.6	6.5	5.2
Connecticut-----	100.0	5.3	4.4	9.1	8.5	7.6	6.9	6.3
Hawaii-----	100.0	8.2	6.1	11.1	9.1	8.2	7.6	5.8
Illinois-----	100.0	9.5	6.4	11.5	9.5	8.3	6.8	5.4
Kansas-----	100.0	10.3	7.1	11.8	10.6	8.4	6.4	5.0
Michigan-----	100.0	8.0	5.8	12.4	9.6	8.1	5.9	5.3
Missouri-----	100.0	11.0	7.6	12.2	10.0	7.4	6.5	5.4
Nebraska-----	100.0	7.6	6.0	10.5	9.5	8.0	7.9	6.0
New York-----	100.0	8.2	6.4	10.7	8.9	8.1	5.9	6.0
Vermont-----	100.0	6.5	4.5	7.6	9.8	6.2	5.3	6.8
Virginia-----	100.0	7.1	4.3	10.0	10.6	8.5	6.9	5.0
Wisconsin-----	100.0	5.2	4.0	9.1	8.8	8.8	6.8	5.6

Table 20. Percent distribution of divorces by duration of marriage prior to separation of divorcing couples: 12 divorce-registration States, 1969—Con.

[Percents were not computed for States where the reporting of the date of separation was less than 75 percent complete]

State	Duration of marriage—Con.								
	6 years	7 years	8 years	9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30 years or more
California-----	4.5	4.3	3.0	3.2	11.6	7.6	5.7	2.3	1.1
Connecticut-----	5.1	3.9	4.0	3.1	14.5	10.5	6.1	3.3	1.4
Hawaii-----	5.5	4.5	4.7	2.5	11.7	7.6	4.7	2.0	0.8
Illinois-----	4.9	4.0	3.6	3.6	11.3	7.1	5.0	1.9	1.2
Kansas-----	4.2	4.1	3.1	2.8	9.6	6.7	5.8	2.3	1.7
Michigan-----	4.3	4.0	4.0	3.7	11.4	8.8	5.1	2.3	1.3
Missouri-----	3.9	3.5	3.0	3.0	10.8	7.1	4.8	2.5	1.3
Nebraska-----	4.2	4.4	3.2	3.3	11.9	8.1	5.3	2.5	1.7
New York-----	4.8	4.2	3.7	2.7	11.7	9.9	5.7	2.1	1.0
Vermont-----	5.6	5.5	3.3	4.3	12.4	9.9	6.9	3.9	1.7
Virginia-----	4.7	4.3	3.5	4.5	13.3	7.9	5.7	2.5	1.1
Wisconsin-----	4.8	4.3	3.7	4.4	13.3	9.5	7.3	2.5	2.0

Table 21. Median and quartile duration of marriage(in years)prior to separation and of separation prior to divorce: 16 divorce-registration States, 1969

[Median and quartiles not computed for States where reporting of the date of separation was less than 50 percent complete]

State	Marriage to separation			Separation to divorce		
	First quartile	Median	Third quartile	First quartile	Median	Third quartile
Alaska-----	1.7	4.2	9.6	0.3	0.6	1.2
California-----	1.7	4.8	11.4	1.3	1.7	2.3
Connecticut-----	2.7	6.4	13.7	0.7	1.3	2.6
Hawaii-----	2.0	5.0	10.8	0.8	1.5	2.4
Idaho-----	1.5	4.2	10.1	0.2	0.4	1.0
Illinois-----	1.8	4.7	10.7	0.4	0.9	1.9
Kansas-----	1.6	4.3	10.6	0.2	0.5	1.0
Michigan-----	1.9	5.0	11.7	0.7	1.1	2.0
Missouri-----	1.5	4.3	10.7	0.3	0.6	1.4
Nebraska-----	2.1	5.1	11.9	0.3	0.6	1.2
New York-----	2.0	5.3	12.4	1.0	2.3	4.5
Rhode Island-----	2.8	6.7	14.4	0.8	1.5	2.6
Tennessee-----	1.5	4.4	10.8	0.3	0.6	1.4
Vermont-----	2.7	6.6	14.0	1.3	1.8	2.7
Virginia-----	2.3	5.5	12.1	1.4	1.8	2.9
Wisconsin-----	2.8	6.4	13.6	0.6	0.9	1.6



Table 22. Percent distribution of divorces by duration of separation prior to divorce: 12 divorce-registration States, 1969

[Percents were not computed for States where the reporting of the date of separation was less than 75 percent complete]

State	All divorces	Duration of separation								
		Less than 6 months	6-11 months	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15 years or more
California-----	100.0	4.7	2.6	62.1	17.1	6.5	2.2	3.6	0.8	0.5
Connecticut-----	100.0	10.5	31.3	26.4	10.6	6.5	4.1	7.4	2.1	1.1
Hawaii-----	100.0	17.8	12.9	39.0	14.7	5.7	3.0	4.7	1.1	1.2
Illinois-----	100.0	33.7	20.2	23.2	7.7	3.5	2.3	5.3	1.9	2.1
Kansas-----	100.0	52.1	24.2	13.0	4.9	1.8	1.1	1.9	0.7	0.3
Michigan-----	100.0	14.2	32.4	27.9	10.9	4.7	1.9	4.8	1.5	1.7
Missouri-----	100.0	47.2	21.1	15.5	6.1	2.5	1.7	3.6	1.2	1.1
Nebraska-----	100.0	45.1	26.6	15.7	5.2	2.1	1.4	3.0	0.6	0.2
New York-----	100.0	8.8	16.3	19.4	16.0	11.1	6.9	13.7	4.2	3.6
Vermont-----	100.0	1.3	10.8	50.3	17.5	7.0	4.5	5.6	2.0	1.0
Virginia-----	100.0	1.9	1.4	57.1	15.4	8.2	4.0	7.7	2.4	2.0
Wisconsin-----	100.0	16.0	43.9	24.5	6.5	2.8	1.3	4.1	0.6	0.2

## APPENDIX

### TECHNICAL NOTES

The term "divorce," as used in this report, includes absolute divorces and annulments of marriage unless it is clear from the text that only absolute divorces are meant. Various types of limited divorces (divorces from bed and board, legal separations, separate maintenance, etc.) are excluded in all cases.

Data are based on national divorce statistics, annually published in *Vital Statistics of the United States*, Volume III (Volume I for years prior to 1960) except table 3, showing rates for foreign countries, taken from the *Demographic Yearbook* of the United Nations, and data on interracial divorces and on the new items,

which are based on work tables prepared in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

State totals for all years are received in NCHS annually from the vital statistics offices of all 50 States and the District of Columbia. National, regional, and divisional totals are prepared from the State figures. Rates for the United States, individual States, and other areas are prepared in NCHS.

All information other than totals is tabulated in NCHS from samples of divorce certificates selected from microfilms of all certificates provided annually by the States participating in the divorce-registration

FORM APPROVED  
BUDGET BUREAU NO. 68-81904

**U.S. STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF  
ABSOLUTE DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT**

LOCAL FILE NUMBER STATE FILE NUMBER

TYPE, OR PRINT IN PERMANENT INK  
SEE HANDBOOK FOR INSTRUCTIONS

<b>HUSBAND</b>	1 HUSBAND—NAME <small>FIRST MIDDLE LAST</small>		2a RESIDENCE—STATE		2b COUNTY	2c CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION		2d INSIDE CITY LIMITS <small>(SPECIFY YES OR NO)</small>						
	2e STREET AND NUMBER		3 STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A., NAME COUNTRY)		4 DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)									
	5a WIFE—NAME <small>FIRST MIDDLE LAST</small>		5b RESIDENCE—STATE		5c COUNTY	5d CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION		5e INSIDE CITY LIMITS <small>(SPECIFY YES OR NO)</small>						
	5f STREET AND NUMBER		6 STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A., NAME COUNTRY)		7 DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)									
<b>WIFE</b>	8a PLACE OF THIS MARRIAGE—COUNTY		8b STATE (IF NOT IN U.S.A., NAME COUNTRY)		8c DATE OF THIS MARRIAGE (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)		8d APPROXIMATE DATE COUPLE SEPARATED (MONTH, YEAR)							
	9a LIVING CHILDREN—TOTAL NUMBER		9b UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE		10 PLAINTIFF <small>HUSBAND, WIFE, OTHER (SPECIFY)</small>									
	11a ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF—NAME		11b ADDRESS <small>(STREET OR R.F.D. NO., CITY OR TOWN, STATE, ZIP)</small>											
	12 I CERTIFY THAT THE MARRIAGE OF THE ABOVE NAMED PERSONS WAS DISSOLVED ON:		13a MONTH DAY YEAR		13b TYPE OF DECREE—ABSOLUTE DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT (SPECIFY)		13c DECREE GRANTED TO HUSBAND, WIFE, OTHER (SPECIFY)							
<b>DECREE</b>	14a LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DECREE (SPECIFY)		14b COUNTY OF DECREE		14c DATE OF RECORDING (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)									
	14d COURT OFFICIAL—SIGNATURE		14e TITLE OF COURT OFFICIAL		14f COURT—NAME									
<b>CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION</b>														
<b>HUSBAND</b>	15 RACE—HUSBAND <small>WHITE, NEGRO, AMERICAN INDIAN, ETC. (SPECIFY)</small>		16 NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE <small>FIRST, SECOND, ETC. (SPECIFY)</small>		17 IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED HOW MANY ENDED BY <small>DEATH DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT (SPECIFY IF NONE)</small>		18 EDUCATION—SPECIFY HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED <table border="1" style="font-size: x-small; width: 100%;"><tr><td>ELEMENTARY</td><td>HIGH SCHOOL</td><td>COLLEGE</td></tr><tr><td>18, 1, 2, 3, 4, 06 81</td><td>(1), 2, 3, OR 41</td><td>(1), 2, 3, 4, OR 5+1</td></tr></table>		ELEMENTARY	HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE	18, 1, 2, 3, 4, 06 81	(1), 2, 3, OR 41	(1), 2, 3, 4, OR 5+1
	ELEMENTARY	HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE											
18, 1, 2, 3, 4, 06 81	(1), 2, 3, OR 41	(1), 2, 3, 4, OR 5+1												
19 RACE—WIFE <small>WHITE, NEGRO, AMERICAN INDIAN, ETC. (SPECIFY)</small>		20 NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE <small>FIRST, SECOND, ETC. (SPECIFY)</small>		21 IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED HOW MANY ENDED BY <small>DEATH DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT (SPECIFY IF NONE)</small>		22 EDUCATION—SPECIFY HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED <table border="1" style="font-size: x-small; width: 100%;"><tr><td>ELEMENTARY</td><td>HIGH SCHOOL</td><td>COLLEGE</td></tr><tr><td>18, 1, 2, 3, 4, . . . OR 81</td><td>(1), 2, 3, OR 41</td><td>(1), 2, 3, 4, OR 5+1</td></tr></table>		ELEMENTARY	HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE	18, 1, 2, 3, 4, . . . OR 81	(1), 2, 3, OR 41	(1), 2, 3, 4, OR 5+1	
ELEMENTARY	HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE												
18, 1, 2, 3, 4, . . . OR 81	(1), 2, 3, OR 41	(1), 2, 3, 4, OR 5+1												

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Figure 1. STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF ABSOLUTE DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT.

Table I. Sampling rates and sampling errors of estimated percentages: divorce-registration area, 1968 and 1969, and each registration State, 1969

Area and year	Sampling rate	Sampling error of percentages			
		1 or 99	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
Divorce-registration area:					
1969 (28 States)-----	...	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
1968 (26 States)-----	...	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Registration States, 1969:					
Alabama-----	1/10	0.2	0.8	1.1	1.3
Alaska-----	All records	...	...	...	...
California-----	1/10	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5
Connecticut-----	1/2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7
Georgia-----	1/5	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Hawaii-----	All records	...	...	...	...
Idaho-----	1/2	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.9
Illinois-----	1/10	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Iowa-----	1/2	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
Kansas-----	1/2	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.6
Kentucky-----	1/5	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.0
Maryland-----	1/5	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.1
Michigan-----	1/10	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.9
Missouri-----	1/5	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.8
Montana-----	All records	...	...	...	...
Nebraska-----	1/2	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.9
New York-----	1/10	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.0
Ohio-----	1/10	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Oregon-----	1/5	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.1
Pennsylvania-----	1/10	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.0
Rhode Island-----	All records.	...	...	...	...
South Dakota-----	All records	...	...	...	...
Tennessee-----	1/5	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Utah-----	1/2	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.9
Vermont-----	All records	...	...	...	...
Virginia-----	1/5	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.9
Wisconsin-----	1/2	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.6
Wyoming-----	All records	...	...	...	...

SOURCE: MVSR "Divorce Statistics, 1969."

area. In 1968, 26 States participated in the DRA, and New York and Kentucky were added in 1969. The divorce certificates of States included in the DRA are patterned after the U.S. Standard Certificate of Absolute Divorce or Annulment, which was revised in 1968 (figure I), but as yet not all States have revised their forms to include the four items added to the Standard Certificate in the 1968 revision.

The sampling rate for individual States was designed to obtain State samples containing at least 1,000 records. Four different sampling rates are used: all records, 1/2, 1/5, and 1/10. All figures estimated from the sample, except for States where all records were used, have sampling errors. The sampling rates and the 1969 sampling errors of percentages are shown in table I.

Percentages and medians were computed excluding figures with information not stated. As variables were reported with a varying degree of completeness, percent distributions for individual States were computed only if information was reported in at least 75 percent of all records, and medians were computed if it was reported in at least 50 percent of records. An exception is made here only for age medians routinely computed for all DRA States and published in *Vital Statistics of the United States*, but age medians are footnoted when based on less than 50 percent of cases. The 1969 percent completeness of reporting variables is shown in table II for the DRA and each State, and the trend in the completeness of five selected variables for the DRA is shown in table III.

Table II. Percent completeness of reporting demographic characteristics: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1969

Area	Routinely collected items						Recently added items			
	Average of the 5 items	Age at decree <sup>1</sup>	Race <sup>1</sup>	Number of this marriage <sup>1</sup>	Duration of marriage	Children under 18 years of age	How previous marriages ended <sup>1</sup>	Educa-tion <sup>1</sup>	All liv-ing chil-dren	Date of sepa-ration
Divorce-regis-tration area--	83.0	76.0	72.9	74.0	97.5	94.7	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Alabama-----	43.3	2.0	27.4	3.7	98.9	84.8	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Alaska-----	92.3	85.6	90.2	88.7	99.6	97.4	4.2	61.3	74.4	62.0
California-----	<sup>3</sup> 92.0	92.2	93.9	87.4	94.8	<sup>3</sup> 91.6	75.2	90.6	91.6	93.8
Connecticut-----	97.2	95.0	99.0	98.2	98.4	95.4	3.9	94.6	97.2	89.5
Georgia-----	74.9	65.8	72.2	65.0	85.8	86.0	0.1	0.4	(2)	(2)
Hawaii-----	99.1	97.9	99.6	99.5	99.9	98.7	34.1	93.2	99.0	87.9
Idaho-----	87.1	78.6	83.0	78.1	97.3	98.6	(2)	(2)	96.5	73.8
Illinois-----	94.0	94.0	89.0	93.1	98.0	95.8	3.2	62.7	80.9	75.7
Iowa-----	99.2	99.6	99.7	99.3	99.0	98.6	9.1	(2)	99.0	(2)
Kansas-----	95.5	91.8	94.2	93.2	99.2	99.0	35.3	89.3	99.2	89.1
Kentucky-----	91.3	84.3	92.6	84.9	97.3	97.5	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Maryland-----	76.4	67.3	68.5	67.1	99.3	80.0	(2)	(2)	90.3	(2)
Michigan-----	46.8	24.7	3.9	7.1	99.8	99.2	1.5	4.5	95.9	79.6
Missouri-----	98.8	97.8	98.7	99.1	99.3	99.0	(2)	(2)	(2)	96.0
Montana-----	98.4	98.4	99.8	98.0	99.0	97.1	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Nebraska-----	<sup>4</sup> 79.4	98.1	99.3	(2)	99.8	99.9	(2)	94.7	99.8	96.9
New York-----	93.3	79.3	97.2	94.2	98.9	97.8	16.5	83.1	98.4	87.8
Ohio-----	<sup>4</sup> 57.9	41.8	(2)	49.4	99.4	99.2	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Oregon-----	86.8	89.9	77.2	75.2	99.5	92.4	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Pennsylvania-----	87.7	83.4	80.9	80.8	99.2	94.3	(2)	(2)	97.6	(2)
Rhode Island-----	89.9	94.8	82.2	80.8	98.1	93.7	7.5	71.1	95.6	73.3
South Dakota-----	56.9	22.9	41.6	21.5	98.9	99.4	(2)	(2)	(2)	19.4
Tennessee-----	98.7	97.5	99.7	99.2	98.5	98.8	14.6	44.6	97.4	73.1
Utah-----	71.8	72.3	71.1	70.3	70.5	74.7	6.1	43.5	61.5	39.5
Vermont-----	96.3	94.9	93.8	98.7	99.0	95.1	2.3	87.3	97.6	88.3
Virginia-----	99.4	98.7	100.0	99.6	99.3	99.6	(2)	3.4	(2)	97.0
Wisconsin-----	99.6	99.2	99.9	99.6	99.5	99.8	0.1	(2)	99.9	95.3
Wyoming-----	46.4	7.1	18.9	7.8	99.6	98.6	1.4	5.7	79.3	9.9

<sup>1</sup>Percent completeness for husband; corresponding percentages for wives are similar.

<sup>2</sup>Not reportable.

<sup>3</sup>Children under 18 years of age not reportable in California; all living children were tabulated instead.

<sup>4</sup>The average for the 4 reportable items is 99.3 percent in Nebraska and 72.4 in Ohio.

The number of children under 18 years of age involved in divorce was estimated for individual States from the number of divorces classified by children reported. This was done by distributing proportionally cases with children not stated and multiplying the number of divorces with a given number of children reported by that number (i.e., the number of divorces with one child reported was multiplied by 1; the number of divorces with two children reported, by 2, etc.) and adding the products. To obtain the national estimate, the average number of children per decree in a group

of 16 States was applied to the national total of divorces and annulments.

The tentative national estimates of all children of divorced couples and of children 18 years old and older were obtained by multiplying the national divorce total by the mean numbers of all children and of grownup children per decree in the 18 reporting States combined (table 18). The national divorce total was also multiplied by the mean number of children under 18 in the same group of States, and a ratio between the

Table III. Percent completeness of reporting selected demographic characteristics: divorce-registration area, 1960-69

Year	Number of States in DRA	Average of the 5 characteristics	Characteristic				
			Age of husband at time of decree	Race of husband	Number of this marriage of husband	Duration of marriage at time of decree	Number of children under 18 years of age
1969-----	28	83.0	76.0	72.9	74.0	97.3	94.7
1968-----	26	80.9	74.0	70.6	71.3	96.0	92.6
1967-----	22	75.7	64.5	58.4	63.1	97.4	95.3
1966-----	22	75.5	63.5	58.2	62.7	97.6	95.6
1965-----	22	74.8	62.1	58.7	61.5	97.4	94.3
1964-----	22	71.5	58.3	58.1	54.7	96.1	90.3
1963-----	22	70.2	53.8	56.2	52.6	97.1	91.3
1962-----	21	73.0	56.6	61.9	56.2	97.6	92.6
1961-----	20	75.5	63.4	70.2	57.2	96.8	90.1
1960-----	18	72.2	58.8	68.9	51.1	95.6	86.5

product and the national estimate was used to adjust the two other estimates.

Table E shows age percentages for brides and grooms married in a uniform group of 22 States in the years 1954-69. Percent distributions from which these percentages were taken were published annually in *Vital Statistics of the United States*, Volume III, 1963 through 1969. The 22 States included are: Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming. Prior to 1965, data for New York excluded New York City. Tabulations are prepared only for the entire group of States, and it is impossible to exclude any State from the group. Therefore, in table E, data on marriages and on divorces refer to two different groups of States, though 19 States are both in the DRA and in the uniform group of States.

Divorce rates for the United States, 1940-69, shown in table 1, were computed per 1,000 total population and per 1,000 married women 15 years of age and over enumerated as of April 1940, 1950, and 1960 and estimated as of July 1 for the remaining years. The total population for 1941-46 includes Armed Forces abroad. Rates in table 6 are per 1,000 total resident population in the respective areas, enumerated as of April 1960 and estimated as of July 1 for the remaining years.

Divorce rates by age of husband and wife at time of decree and by number of children reported under 18 years of age were prepared using as numerators the 1969 national annual total distributed by age, or by number of children, according to percentages observed

for the DRA. Denominators for rates by age were taken from No. 198, Series P-20, *Current Population Reports*, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Denominators for rates by number of children were prepared from data on families and subfamilies found in *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, Nos. 198 and 200, by adding up information for all types of families and subfamilies with married head distributed by number of children. Number of married couples without children under 18 could not be obtained by this method, because figures are not available on childless married persons living apart from their spouses. The denominator for the category with no children was obtained by subtracting all married couples with children from all married women, age under 55.

This age limit was used, as very few females age 55 and older have children under 18 (families with female head, age 55 and over, included only 2.2 percent of all children under 18 in families with female head). By omitting from the denominator married females 55 years old and older, the rate for couples with no children was made more comparable to rates for couples with children. The same age limitation has been used for preparing 1960 divorce rates by number of reported children under 18 years of age.

The approximate divorce rates by race of husband were prepared by using as numerators the divorces during 1969 in the 16 DRA States where reporting of race was at least 89 percent complete. In States where completeness was less than 99 percent, cases with race not stated were distributed proportionally.

Numbers of divorces granted to Negroes and persons of other races were very small in some report-

ing States. They were under 20 for Negroes in Vermont and Montana and for other races in Connecticut, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Tennessee. No divorces were granted to persons of other races in Vermont and Kentucky.

The denominators used to compute the rates are 1970 State population figures by race published in table 27 of *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1971*,

U.S. Bureau of the Census. As denominators refer to a different year than numerators, the rates must be considered approximations, but differences between the 2 years could be expected not to affect the relative magnitude of rates for the racial groups of the same State.



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