Marriages

Trends and Characteristics

United States

Analysis of national marriage data including trends over the past 100 years, recent changes, national estimates by age and sex, with special emphasis on more detailed statistics by selected characteristics for 1967.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service

Health Services and Mental Health Administration
National Center for Health Statistics
Rockville, Md.   September 1971

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

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MARRIAGES:

TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS

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INTRODUCTION

This is an analysis of national trends in marriages over a period of 100 years, with special emphasis on changes and characteristics in recent years. Crude rates for the period 1940-1967 are compared with rates for the "eligible population."

Until the mid-1950's the trend in the United States was toward earlier marriage and a narrowing of the age difference between bride and groom at first marriage. From 1956 to 1967 there was a gradual though not continuous increase in the median age at first marriage for both men and women.

National statistics for specific characteristics of brides and grooms are not available for the entire United States but are shown for the marriage-registration area (MRA), comprised of States with central files of marriage certificates and sufficiently complete and accurate reporting of demographic items on their records to warrant collection, processing, and publication in the official United States annual reports. Data from these States, along with data from several other States on the verge of admittance to the MRA, are the basis for the national estimates of marriages by age and sex shown in this report.

The national estimates for 1967 showed more marriages occurring in ages 20-24 than in any other age group. This was true for both men and women. In 1966 it was true only for men, as age group 15-19 led all others in number of marriages for women. Marriage rates were highest at ages 20-24 years for women and for ages 25-29 for men.

NATIONAL TREND

Numbers and Rates

The annual number of marriages in the United States has increased significantly since the end of the Civil War. The number doubled between 1867 and 1900 and more than doubled between 1900 and 1940. From 1940 to 1968 it increased about 30 percent. The general upward progression through the years has been largely the result of a growing population.

The marriage rate relating all marriages to total population has varied widely (figure 1). Over the past 100 years it has fluctuated under the influence of wars, changing economic conditions, the sex ratio of the marriageable population, and the number of potential brides and grooms present in the general population. The latter number depends primarily upon the size of the birth cohorts that are the source of the young persons entering the prime marriage ages and upon any backlogs of marriage eligibles that may buildup as a result of large numbers of postponed marriages. Such backlogs have been produced by wars and major economic crises.

Characteristically, the marriage rate has risen at the outset of a major war, declined during the course of the conflict, and increased sharply in the immediate postwar years. This was the experience during World Wars I and II and was probably true of the Civil War.[1]

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[1] Paul H. Jacobson, Ph.D., *American Marriage and Divorce*, Rinehart and Company, Inc., New York, 1959.
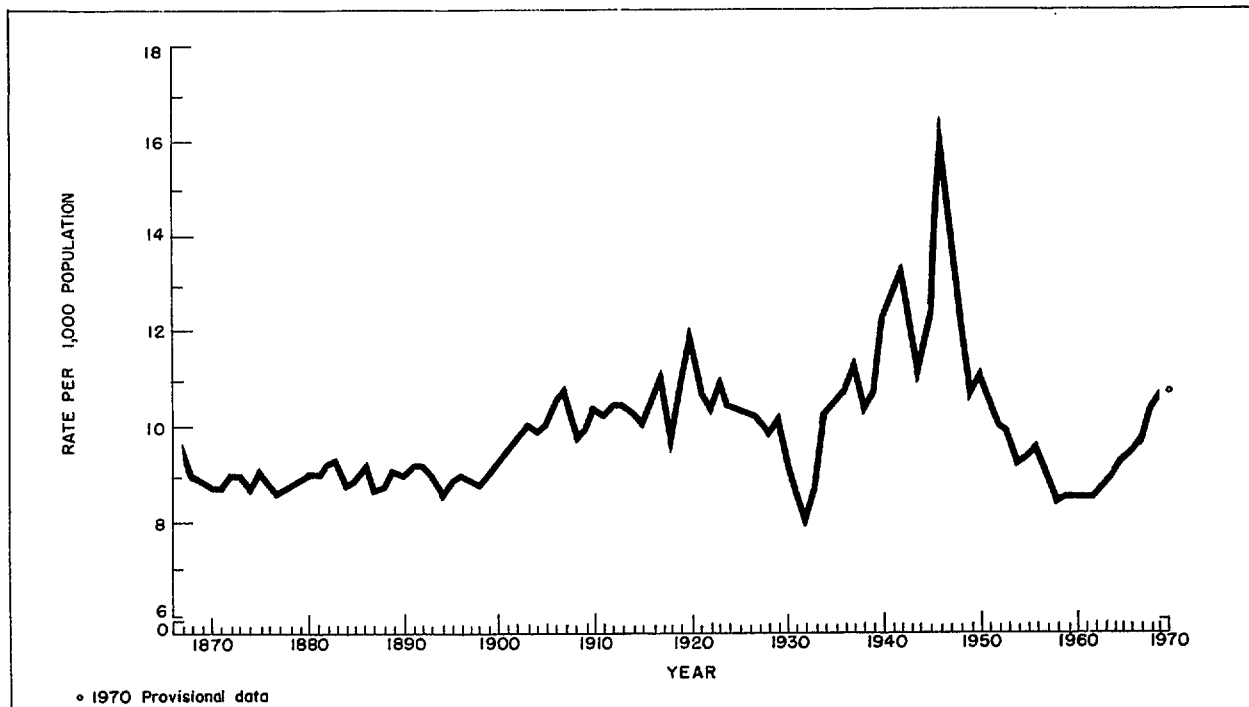
Figure I. Marriage rate: United States, 1867-1970

Economic recessions and depressions generally have had an inhibiting effect upon marriages as have shifts in the age-distribution of the population resulting in a smaller proportion of the population at the young adult ages.

From 1867 to 1900, a period of reconstruction and rapid industrial and urban growth, the marriage rate was relatively stable, staying within the bounds of 8.6 and 9.6 per 1,000 population. [2] Early in the twentieth century the marriage rate pushed upward, showing wider fluctuations at a higher level until the stock market crash in 1929. During this period, which encompassed World War I, the rate ranged from 9.6 to 12.0.

During the 1930's and '40's fluctuations in the marriage rate became even more pronounced. In 1932, at the depth of the depression, the

rate plunged to a low of 7.9, probably unprecedented in this country except perhaps during the Civil War. [1] By 1934 the rate had more than regained its predepression level and except for a slight setback during the 1938 recession continued to increase through 1942. Just how much of this upsurge was due to marriages postponed during the depression, how much to the maturing of the large birth cohorts of 1910-25, and how much to the onset of World War II is not clear but undoubtedly all contributed.

The impact of World War II is unparalleled in the history of the marriage rate for the United States. Just before and immediately after the United States' entry into the war the marriage rate rose sharply as young men sought to avail themselves of the deferred status granted to married men or simply to marry before leaving for overseas. From 1942 through 1944 the rate declined as active participation in the war increased and more and more men were out of the country. In 1945 the end of the war and the return of millions of men to civilian life precipitated an upsurge in marriages. In 1946 the

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[2] Estimates, based on incomplete data, published in table 7 of National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics--Special Reports*, Vol. 27, No. 10, pp. 171 and 172, Washington, D.C., 1947.

marriage rate reached 16.4, an unprecedented and to date unsurpassed peak. By 1949 the rate had returned to the pre-World War II level, dropping as rapidly as it had climbed. This marked the end of 20 years of the most frequent and pronounced fluctuations in the recorded history of the United States marriage rate.

The behavior of the marriage rate in the 1950's and '60's was quite distinct from that of earlier years. During this period, that was unmarred by an economic depression but plagued by two limited wars, the marriage rate did not exhibit the stability of the late 19th century nor the sharp fluctuations of the first half of the 20th century. It changed from a downswing in the 1950's to an upswing in the 1960's, but the change was gradual with small year-to-year differences. The major influences during these two decades were the depletion of the young unmarried population of the 1950's by the high marriage rates of the 1940's and the low birth rates of the 1930's; the Korean conflict (1950-1953); and the rapid buildup in the population of young men and women reaching marriageable ages in the 1960's as a result of the high birth rates following World War II.

The decline in the marriage rate precipitated primarily by the depletion of the unmarried population began in 1947. The downswing was interrupted by the beginning of the Korean conflict in 1950 but continued during and after the war. A post-war upsurge in marriages was conspicuously absent following the end of the Korean engagement in mid-1953 although slight increases occurred in 1955 and 1956. This general downswing in the marriage rate was followed by a short period of unprecedented stability. For four years (1959-1962) the marriage rate remained unchanged at 8.5 marriages per 1,000 population. Then began the continuous upswing still in progress but decelerating at the time this report went to press.

It is not surprising that the effect of the Korean conflict on the marriage rate was inconsequential when compared with the effect of World War II. For one thing, only a little over one-third as many men served in the Korean War as in World War II, and the immediate all-out mobilization of the country effected for World War II was not contemplated. In addition, the

opposite conditions prevailed immediately preceding the wars. Just before World War II there was a backlog of postponed marriages as a result of the depression. Also, in the 1940's there was a relatively large concentration of young men and women, born before the rapid decline in the birth rate, who were of ages where marriages are most numerous. The Korean War, on the other hand, not only followed the high marriage rates of the post-World War II period and the consequent sharp decrease in the unmarried population but occurred at a time when the population entering prime ages for marriage was diminishing as a result of the low birth rates of the 1930's.

The conflict in Vietnam, the longest ever fought by the United States, so far has exerted no measurable effect on the annual marriage rate. U.S. involvement progressed from a small number of military advisers in the 1950's to a peak strength of a little more than one-half million military personnel in 1969 (slightly greater than the peak strength for the Korean War). Perhaps because of the slow buildup and the relatively short tours of duty for many of the men involved, the conflict was not preceded by an upsurge in the marriage rate nor was there a decline when military forces built-up to peak strength. Instead, from 1963 to 1967 the marriage rate increased continuously under pressure of large numbers of young people maturing to marriageable ages. The annual increases for those years ranged from 2.1 to 3.5 percent. Data now available for 1968-70 show a marked increase in the marriage rate for 1968 (approximately 7 percent) but lesser increases for 1969 and 1970, about 2 and 1 percent, respectively.

Rates for the Eligible Population

The marriage rate relating all marriages to the entire population of the United States is a less precise measure of what is happening to the marriageable population than are rates based on populations with part or all of the "ineligibles" eliminated. The likelihood of marriage is understated by a rate based on a population diluted with persons not eligible for marriage. Such a dilution in the total population is

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accentuated when high birth rates produce a rapid buildup of children or when high marriage rates reduce substantially the number of unmarried persons. The former increases both the size of the total population and the number of ineligibles (in this case persons below marriageable age). The latter does not change the size of the total population but reduces the number of eligibles (the unmarried) at the same time that it increases the number of ineligibles (the married). Either can greatly reduce persons eligible for marriage as a proportion of the total population. As it does, the understatement by the rate based on the total population increases. When the reverse occurs and persons eligible for marriage account for a larger proportion of the total population, such as recently occurred when the post-World War II baby crop reached marriageable age, the understatement by the crude rate is reduced. Abrupt changes in the magnitude of this understatement may be misleading. They can exaggerate or minimize the rate of change of the marriage rate.

Occasionally someone questions why a rate as "crude" as the marriage rate per 1,000 total population is published instead of the more refined measures. Part of the answer is that data for computing the crude rates are frequently available when data for computing other rates are not. Computation of crude rates requires use only of the total number of marriages and the total population. Computation of rates for the unmarried of marriageable ages, on the other hand, requires data on the population distribution by age, sex, and marital status. In addition, the crude rate which measures the chance that an event will occur in the total population, has proved to be a useful indicator of general levels of occurrence in comparisons of different areas, and, if the composition of the population of a given area is not changing rapidly, it is an accurate indicator for year to year comparisons.

In figure 2 three marriage rates are charted: the rate for the entire population, the rate for unmarried women 15 years of age and over, and the rate for unmarried women 15 through 44 years of age. The latter is the most refined measure of the three because it relates marriages to that part of the population where
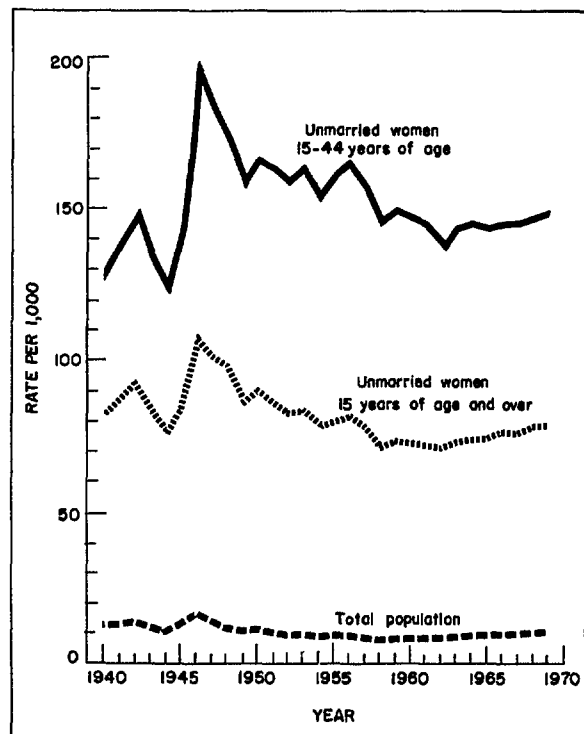
Figure 2. Marriage rates: United States, 1940-69

marriages are most frequent. Unmarried women past age 44 are certainly not ineligible for marriage, but they accounted for only about 7 percent of the marriages in 1967 while comprising nearly one-half of the population of unmarried women 15 and over.

Table 1 shows the annual number of marriages and the three marriage rates mentioned above. For most years from 1940 to 1967 the marriage rate per 1,000 population moved in the same direction as the number of marriages. One exception was 1953 when the number of marriages increased less than one-half of one percent from the preceding year and the rate decreased one percent. Other exceptions were 1960-62 when the number of marriages increased nearly 2 percent annually but the rate remained constant; the number of marriages and the total population were growing at about the same rate.

Of particular interest is the relationship of the rate for unmarried women 15 through 44 and the rate based on the entire population.

For the years 1941-44, 1946-57, and 1959, the increases in the marriage rate for unmarried women 15 through 44 were greater than the increases in the rate for the total population, and the decreases were smaller. In other words, the change in the crude rate understated the magnitude of the rises in rate for the eligible population and overstated the decreases.

For 1945, 1958, 1960-62, and 1964-67 (mainly years in contrast to those listed above when eligibles were increasing as a proportion of the total population), increases in the rate for the eligible population were smaller than increases in the rate for the entire population, and decreases were greater. Thus, changes in the crude rate overstated increases in the rate for eligibles and understated the decreases.

It is apparent, however, that from 1940 to 1967 the crude marriage rate was a reasonably good indicator of what was happening to the marriageable population. In only two years, 1953 and 1965, did it move in a direction opposite that taken by the rate for unmarried women 15 through 44 and many of the annual changes were quite similar for the two rates.

Median Age

Until the mid-1950's the trend in the United States was toward earlier marriage and a narrowing of the age difference between bride and groom at first marriage. This conclusion is reached by a review of median ages computed by the Bureau of the Census from estimates of the expected proportion of young people who will ever marry based on tabulations of marital status by age. They differ from the median ages based on marriage-registration data supplied by States in the marriage-registration area (MRA) for persons marrying during the given years. (A discussion of the marriage-registration area is given on p. 12). The Census series "can be interpreted as applying to the cohort born "n" years earlier, where "n" is the median age at first marriage."[3] Consequently, they are

not affected by changes in the age composition of the population as are the median ages computed from the marriage records of marriages performed during a given year. They are in fact the only series of median age at marriage available for the United States.

Data for 1890 show a median age at first marriage of 26.1 years for males and 22.0 for females, a difference of 4.1 years between the two.

By 1940 the median age had declined 1.8 years for males and one-half year for females and, because the age at first marriage declined faster for males than for females, the age difference narrowed to 2.8 years.

Between 1940 and 1950 the median age declined an additional 1.5 years for males and 1.2 for females, and the age difference decreased to 2.5 years.

From 1950 to 1956 the median age at first marriage declined three-tenths of a year for males and two-tenths for females and reached what so far has been an all-time low median age at first marriage of 22.5 for men and 20.1 for women. The difference between the median ages of men and women at first marriage in 1956 was 2.4 years.

From 1956 to 1967 there was a gradual though not continuous increase in the median age at first marriage for both men and women, reaching 23.1 and 20.6, respectively, in 1967, again a difference of 2.5 years between the two.

In other words, in 1967 men were marrying at ages about 3 years younger and women 1.4 years younger than in 1890 but six-tenths of a year and one-half of a year later, respectively, than in 1956. Also, in 1967, the age difference between bride and groom was much less than in 1890 but slightly more than in 1956.

Median ages from registration data are available for the MRA for recent years and for 22 reporting States from 1954 to date but cannot be assumed to describe the experience of the United States because of the incomplete coverage

[3] Bureau of the Census: Marital Status and Family Status, March 1968, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, No. 187, Page 8. U.S. Department of Commerce. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, August 11, 1969.

and the likelihood that the age distribution of the population of the MRA and of the reporting States differs from the age distribution of the population of the non-MRA and non-reporting States.

During the 5 years 1963-67 the median age of males marrying in the MRA, computed from registration data, was consistently lower than the median age for males computed from Census data for the entire United States. For five years the median age for females was also lower in the MRA but the difference was not as great as for males. Consequently, the MRA data for marriages performed show median ages for brides and grooms a little closer than is indicated by the Census data for the ever-married population of the United States.

Median age at first marriage by sex

Year	United States[1]		MRA	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1967------	23.1	20.6	22.6	20.5
1966------	22.8	20.5	22.6	20.3
1965------	22.8	20.6	22.5	20.4
1964------	23.1	20.5	22.4	20.4
1963------	22.8	20.5	22.5	20.3

[1]"Marital Status and Family Status, March 1968, "Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 187, August 11, 1969, Table C.

Married Population

In 1960, a larger proportion of the population of the United States was married than ever before. This was especially true of the young people. Between 1890 and 1940 a gradual increase was observed in the proportion married at the younger age groups. The greatest increase occurred during the 1940's as a result of the unprecedented high marriage rates of that period.

Another point of interest is that the decennial censuses of 1890 through 1930 showed a larger proportion of women married than of men.

In the 1940 census a slight reversal occurred with the proportions married very nearly equal (61.2 percent for men and 61.0 for women). In the 1950 and 1960 censuses the difference widened increasingly with a larger proportion of men married than women (table A).

At the time the 1940 census was taken, about 27 percent of the men in age group 20 to 24 were married; in 1950, 40 percent were married; in 1960, 46 percent were married. For women in the same age group, the increase was from 51 to 66 to 70 percent. From 1960 to 1967, the proportion married declined slightly for men and more decidedly for women 20 to 24; it also declined for men 30 to 34 and for women 65 and over. Slight increases in the proportion married were observed for the other age groups, the most pronounced being for men 25 to 29.

In the younger age groups proportionately more of the women than of the men are married while the reverse is true in the older age groups. In 1967, 65 percent of the women at ages 20 to 24 were married in contrast to only 45 percent of the men. From ages 25 through 54 the difference between the sexes in the proportion married is rather small. Although the reversal begins at earlier ages it becomes quite apparent for age group 55 to 64 where, in 1967, 85 percent of the men and only 67 percent of the women in the United States were married. The difference becomes more pronounced at later ages. Nearly· three-fourths of the men in age group 65 years and over were married in contrast to about one-third of the women.

This pattern reflects the earlier marriage and the longer life span of women and the greater likelihood of remarriage for men.

SEASONAL VARIATION

Marriages in this country by month of occurrence have a distinct seasonal pattern.[4] In 1967, June, August, and September, in that

[4]National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States,* Vol. III for 1967, Public Health Service, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1970, Table 1-4.

Table A. Percent of the population married, by age and sex: United States, 1890 to 1967

(Total number of persons in each age-sex group = 100.0)

Age and sex	1967	1960	1950	1940	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890
Women									
15 years and over----	---	67.4	67.0	61.0	61.1	60.6	58.9	57.0	56.8
15-19 years----------------	---	15.7	16.7	11.6	12.6	12.5	11.3	10.9	9.5
20-24 years----------------	65.1	69.5	65.6	51.3	51.6	52.3	49.7	46.5	46.7
25-29 years----------------	86.4	86.2	83.3	74.1	74.4	73.4	71.8	68.9	71.4
30-34 years----------------	89.5	88.7	86.2	80.4	81.5	80.1	79.0	78.0	79.8
35-44 years----------------	87.9	87.1	84.3	81.1	81.5	80.3	80.1	79.5	80.6
45-54 years----------------	82.1	79.9	77.6	76.0	75.2	74.1	74.8	73.9	73.9
55-64 years----------------	67.3	66.0	65.0	63.0	62.0	61.2	62.2	60.5	60.4
65 years and over---------	36.0	37.4	35.7	34.3	34.7	33.9	35.0	34.2	35.4
Men									
15 years and over----	---	71.2	68.9	61.2	60.0	59.2	55.8	54.5	53.9
15-19 years----------------	---	3.8	3.1	1.7	1.7	2.1	1.2	1.0	0.5
20-24 years----------------	45.2	45.9	39.9	27.4	28.1	28.3	24.0	21.6	18.9
25-29 years----------------	82.9	77.2	74.2	62.7	61.3	58.7	55.5	52.6	52.7
30-34 years----------------	85.5	85.7	84.3	77.2	76.0	73.2	71.4	69.8	71.3
35-44 years----------------	88.9	88.7	87.0	82.4	81.6	79.8	79.2	78.8	80.9
45-54 years----------------	89.1	87.8	85.7	82.8	81.6	81.0	81.5	82.2	84.3
55-64 years----------------	85.2	84.0	81.4	78.5	78.0	77.9	79.0	79.7	82.3
65 years and over---------	72.5	70.8	65.7	63.8	63.2	64.7	65.7	67.1	70.5

order, were the most popular months for marriage. June and August consistently rank first and second, respectively, but September held third place in only two of the five years from 1963 through 1967; in two years July ranked third, and in another December. The seasonal low for marriages occurs during the first part of the year. January, February, and March each regularly has fewer marriages than any of the other nine months. For the five years under review January had the lowest number of marriages of any month for two years, March for two, and February for one.

Marriages during the first four months of the year are affected by Lent, which shifts with the date of Easter and can begin as early as February 7 and end as late as April 25th. Marriages are less frequent among some religious groups during Lent with upsurges just before and just after the Lenten season.

In all regions of the country June and August are the favored months for marriages. December ranks much higher in the South and West than elsewhere but rankings for other months vary only slightly by geographic region.

The favorite month for marriage varies by age group. Young persons prefer June. In 1967, 12 percent of teenage brides and grooms were married in June. At the next age breakdown, 20-24, 13 percent married during June— the highest proportion for any age group in any month. Other months were chosen more frequently by older couples. For brides 30-34 and grooms 45-54 more marriages took place in December than in any other month; for brides 35-54 and grooms 55-64 July was the month selected most frequently (table B).

Remarriages are more evenly distributed throughout the year and present a different pattern by month than first marriages. In the MRA in 1967, December accounted for more of the remarriages than any other month (10.2 percent), and January for the least (6.5 percent). For first marriages, June accounted for the most (12.9 percent), and February for the least (5.7 percent).

Over one-half of all marriages are performed on Saturday. Consequently, the number of Saturdays in a given month influences the number of marriages performed in that month. More than three times as many marriages are performed on Saturday as on Friday, the next most popular day, and more than ten times as many as on Wednesday, the least popular day (figure 3). During 1967 marriages in the MRA by day of the week were as follows:

Day of week	Number of marriages	Percent distribution
Total	1,446,299	100.0
Sunday	130,266	9.0
Monday	85,034	5.9
Tuesday	66,209	4.6
Wednesday	65,234	4.5
Thursday	79,134	5.5
Friday	228,195	15.8
Saturday	792,227	54.8
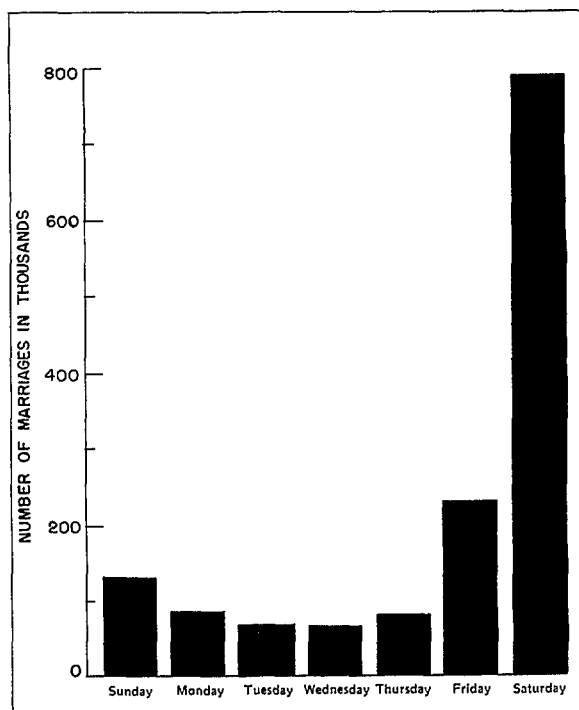
Figure 3. Marriages by day of the week: Marriage-registration area, 1967

GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION

Marriage rates in the United States consistently show distinct differences by geographic region (table 2). The West has the highest rate followed closely by the South. The Northeast has the lowest rate and the North Central the second lowest. Within regions, however, there is wide variation among States, particularly in the West. In 1967, rates for the western States ranged from 198.2 per 1,000 population in Nevada to 7.3 per 1,000 in Oregon. Except for the unusually-high rate in Nevada and the rate of 20.1 for Idaho, the range in rates for these States was from 7.3 to 12.0, quite similar to the range for the northeast States (from 7.0 to 13.4). These differences from State to State are largely accounted for by variations in State marriage laws and, to a lesser extent, in the age and sex composition of the populations.

Table B. Percent distribution of marriages, by month marriage was performed for brides and grooms, by age: Marriage-registration area, 1967

(Based on sample data)

Month of marriage	Total	Age of bride or groom							
		14-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over
		Percent distribution							
All brides----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
January-------------	6.0	6.6	5.4	5.7	5.5	6.8	6.6	7.3	7.7
February------------	5.9	6.6	5.2	5.7	6.3	6.2	6.6	5.4	6.0
March---------------	6.1	6.5	5.3	6.5	7.5	6.8	6.2	7.2	6.0
April---------------	7.7	7.7	7.5	8.1	8.4	8.0	8.4	8.8	7.9
May-----------------	7.3	6.8	7.1	7.7	8.8	8.3	8.1	8.5	7.6
June----------------	12.2	12.3	13.5	11.0	10.1	9.9	9.3	9.2	10.6
July----------------	9.8	10.0	9.7	9.6	9.1	10.1	10.2	9.0	8.8
August--------------	10.3	9.6	11.8	9.8	8.9	9.1	8.4	8.2	7.6
September-----------	10.2	10.1	11.0	9.8	9.4	8.1	9.7	9.5	9.2
October-------------	7.6	7.2	7.4	8.1	7.5	8.4	8.7	8.7	11.1
November------------	7.6	7.6	7.2	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.5	8.9	7.3
December------------	9.3	9.1	8.9	9.9	10.6	9.9	9.4	9.2	10.1
All grooms----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
January-------------	6.0	7.0	5.7	5.4	5.8	6.9	6.2	6.1	8.3
February------------	5.9	7.0	5.5	5.6	6.1	6.4	6.1	5.9	6.2
March---------------	6.1	6.8	5.6	5.8	6.6	6.9	7.2	7.1	6.1
April---------------	7.7	7.5	7.4	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.8	8.5
May-----------------	7.3	6.7	6.8	7.9	8.0	8.4	7.8	7.5	8.3
June----------------	12.2	12.1	13.3	12.3	10.3	10.3	9.3	8.6	10.9
July----------------	9.8	10.0	9.8	9.7	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.9	8.2
August--------------	10.3	9.6	11.4	10.1	9.2	9.1	9.1	8.6	7.4
September-----------	10.2	9.8	10.9	10.4	9.8	8.6	9.0	9.1	9.5
October-------------	7.6	7.3	7.1	8.2	8.1	7.6	8.9	9.5	9.0
November------------	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.7	8.0	8.0	8.7	9.1	8.3
December------------	9.3	8.9	9.2	8.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.6	9.4

Rates for each region, geographic division, and State are by place of occurrence; they relate marriages performed in the area, whether of residents or non-residents, to the population of that area. Marriages are reported by and subject to laws of the State where the ceremony is performed. Lenient marriage laws attract couples from out of State, particularly if adjoining States have more restrictive laws. A high marriage rate for a State is generally associated with a high proportion of marriages in which both bride and groom live outside the State. The major attractions are laws that permit marriages at young ages without parental consent, do not require a waiting period between the date

of the application for a license and issuance of the license or between license issuance and the ceremony, or do not require a medical examination.

This "attractiveness" has a two-pronged effect on the marriage rate computed by place of occurrence. It lowers the rates of the States from which the couples are drawn and raises the rates of the States to which they are attracted.

The ten States with the highest marriage rates in 1967 were Nevada (198.2), Idaho (20.1), South Carolina (19.8), Oklahoma (13.9), South Dakota (13.5), New Hampshire (13.4), Maryland (13.3), Georgia (12.7), Washington (12.0), and Alabama (12.0) (figure 4). Figures are available
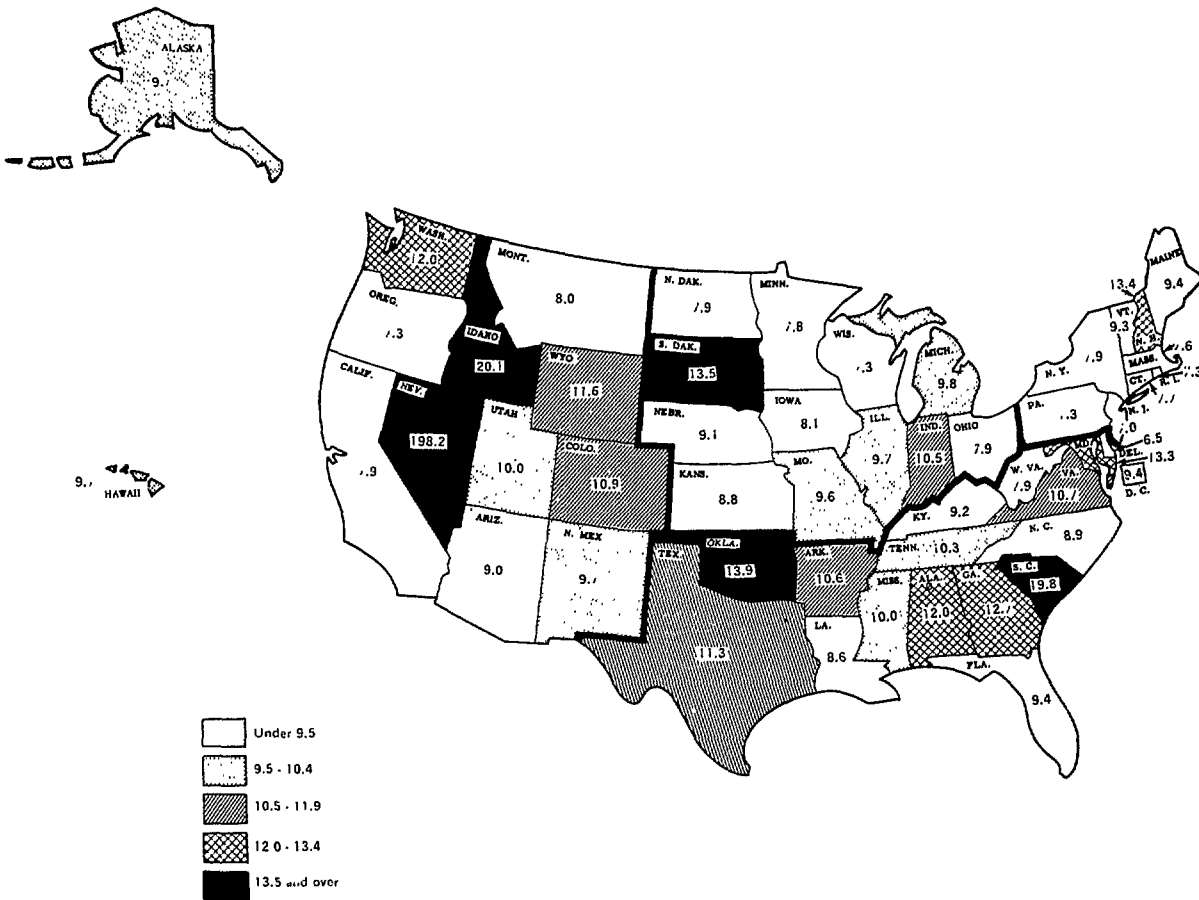
Figure 4. Marriage rates: Each State, 1967

for all of these States except Nevada, Oklahoma, and Washington to show that out-of-State couples account for a very high proportion of the marriages in each State. It is known that the same is true of Nevada, and Oklahoma and Washington are probably not exceptions.

Review of the marriage laws in effect for these States for most or all of 1967 reveals provisions that were more lenient in one or more respects than those of nearby States. Nevada stood in a class by itself with a rate of nearly 200 marriages per 1,000 resident population. It reported 4.5 percent of all marriages in the Nation in 1967 and recorded a rate almost ten times the figure for the next highest State (Idaho). It was the only State that required neither a medical examination nor a waiting period. It was also the only State where suit for divorce could be filed after residence of only 6 weeks, and even less under certain circumstances. In addition, the parties could remarry immediately after final decree.

Two of the States, Idaho and South Dakota, required no waiting period either before or after the license was issued while some of the adjoining States did. (The Idaho law was changed in 1967.)

Attractive provisions in the laws of the other States with high rates were concerned primarily with the age at which marriage could be contracted and the age at which parental consent was required. The laws of many States had provisions whereby younger parties could obtain a license under special circumstances (such as pregnancy) but the age at which a license could be obtained without raising the issue. of special circumstances seemed to be a much more important factor. South Carolina was one of only three States that permitted men as well as women 18 years old to marry without their parents' consent and was one of only four States where women could marry as young as age 14 with parental consent. Also, men in South Carolina could marry at age 16 if their parents agreed, while in many States they had to be 18. Additional attractions in South Carolina were the absence of a requirement for a physical examination or blood test, and a waiting period of only 24 hours. In Alabama, females age 14 and males 17 could marry with parental consent; the waiting period, a requisite in neighboring States, was not required.

In Oklahoma women could marry at age 15 if they had their parents' permission while in neighboring Kansas they had to be 18. New Hampshire was the only State where the law did not specify a minimum age below which marriage could not be contracted but instead required that males below age 20 and females below age 18 have permission of their parents and the judge. It was also one of the few States where men could marry at age 20 without parental consent. In Maryland girls could marry at age 18 without parental consent while in the neighboring States of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia consent was required. Also, in 1967 Maryland was one of only 4 States where a premarital physical examination was not required. In Georgia men did not need parental consent to marry unless they were under 19. Men could marry without parental consent below age 21 in only 5 other States.

A closer look at the State marriage rates and marriage laws would reveal other similar though less marked relationships between the two. Not until every State has a central file of marriage records and can provide records to be tabulated on a national basis by State of residence of the participants will it be possible to measure the rate at which residents of a State marry.

State marriage laws affect not only comparisons between States for a given year but when they are revised they affect year-to-year changes in the marriage rate of the given State and of adjoining States. For example, most States experienced a gradual increase in their marriage rate from 1963 through 1967 (table 2) with major exceptions accounted for by legislative changes. The decline in the marriage rate for Idaho in 1967 followed legislation that established a waiting period and raised the age limit for both males and females. A further decline was observed in the provisional 1968 rate for Idaho when the effect of the law was felt for the full year. The marriage rate for the District of Columbia also went against the national trend by declining in 1967; beginning January 1, 1967, a premarital test for venereal disease was required in the District of Columbia. In most of these instances compensating increases were observed in the marriage rates in adjoining States.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Lack of National Data

Analysis of recent increases in marriages in the United States is difficult because national data beyond simple counts of events by month, county, and State are not available. Interest in marriage trends among men and women at specific ages points up one of the most serious deficiencies in our marriage statistics. A series of age-sex-specific marriage rates for the entire United States does not exist, even for recent years. Such rates for the United States and each region were published for 1960 but the nearest

to national age-sex-specific marriage rates that have been computed and published annually are for the marriage-registration area (MRA).

Marriage-Registration Area

In 1965, 1966, and 1967 the MRA included 38 States and the District of Columbia (figure 5). For earlier years there were fewer States. (The Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are part of the MRA but are excluded from this report.) The MRA States are States with central files of marriage certificates and sufficiently complete and accurate reporting of demographic items on their records to warrant collection, processing, and
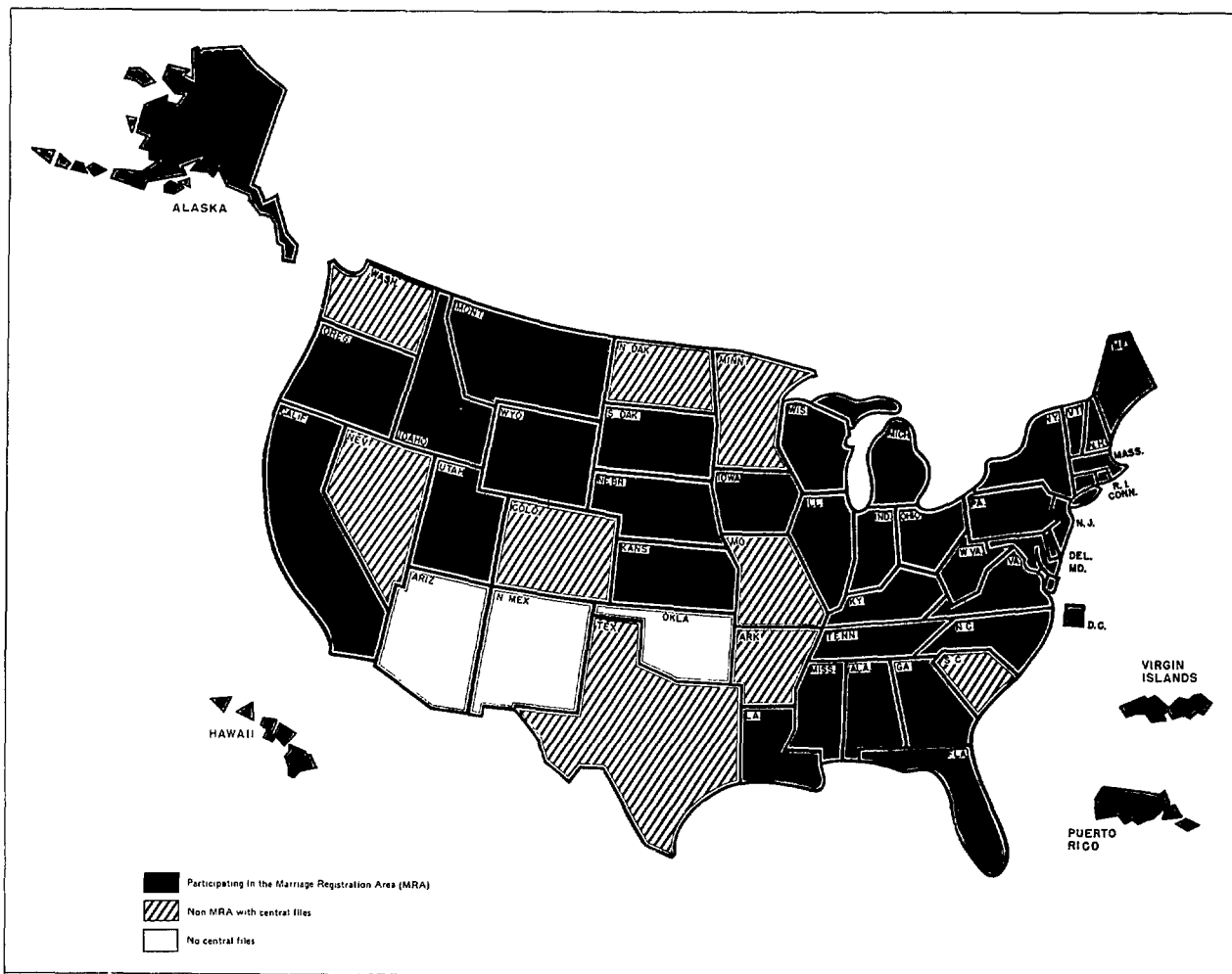

Figure 5. Marriage-registration area, 1965-67

publication in the official U.S. annual reports. We are dependent upon these States for our knowledge about marriages in various age, race, sex, and marital status groups in this country. Their data, combined with data from several States that have since or are expected soon to be admitted to the MRA, were used as a basis for making the national estimates by age and sex for 1966 and 1967 presented in this report. Other data on characteristics of marriages, relating only to the MRA, are shown throughout the report.

For the years 1957-1967 the marriage frequencies for the United States and for the marriage-registration area were as follows:

Year	United States	MRA
1967	1,927,000	1,448,384
1966	1,857,000	1,398,754
1965	1,800,000	1,362,466
1964	1,725,000	1,221,513
1963	1,654,000	1,035,596
1962	1,577,000	948,787
1961	1,548,000	967,996
1960	1,523,000	873,224
1959	1,494,000	841,709
1958	1,451,000	802,165
1957	1,518,000	829,454

As the MRA data are used as national indicators the relationship between marriage rates in the MRA and in the non-MRA States is of interest. Since it was first established (1957) the MRA has consistently had a lower marriage rate than the entire United States but the two rates have moved in the same direction. The rates compare as follows:

Marriage rate per 1,000 population

Year	United States	MRA
1967 -----------	9.7	8.9
1966 -----------	9.5	8.7
1965 -----------	9.3	8.5
1964 -----------	9.0	8.3
1963 -----------	8.8	8.0
1962 -----------	8.5	7.7
1961 -----------	8.5	7.7
1960 -----------	8.5	7.7
1959 -----------	8.5	7.6
1958 -----------	8.4	7.6
1957 -----------	8.9	8.0

A similar relationship was observed for the age-sex-specific rates. The estimated rates for the United States are higher than the rates for the MRA for both brides and grooms in each broad age group. This was true for both 1966 and 1967, and, although population data are not available for computing rates for direct comparison, it results from the fact that marriage rates were considerably higher in the non-MRA States than they were in the MRA. Nevertheless, about 75 percent of the marriages in the United States were performed in the MRA and their characteristics are of national significance.

National Estimates of Marriages by Age and Sex

The number of marriages in the United States by age and sex for 1966 and 1967 (table C) were estimated from sample data for the 38 MRA States and the District of Columbia combined with data obtained from tabulations of 6 non-MRA States (Arkansas, Minnesota, Missouri, South Carolina, North Dakota, and Texas). The estimates were computed by assuming that the age distribution of the brides and grooms marrying in the six States where age was unknown (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Washington) was the same as for brides and grooms marrying in the 44 States and the District of Columbia where age at marriage was known. In 1967 the six States for which age at marriage was unknown accounted for 206,000 marriages or approximately 11 percent of the total 1.9 million marriages in the United States.

The national estimates for 1967 show more marriages occurring in ages 20-24 than in any other age group. This was true for both men and women. In 1966 it was true only for men, as age group 15-19 led all others in number of marriages for women.

Men marry later in life than women. The age distribution for brides and grooms marrying during a year shows more brides than grooms at the younger ages and the reverse at the older ages. The marriage estimates for the United States show about two and one-half times as many women as men marrying at ages under 20. More detailed data available for the MRA for 1967 indicate that among the very youngest, 14-17, brides outnumbered grooms by about 8 to 1. Grooms outnumbered brides in each

Table C. Estimated number of marriages, by age and sex and age-sex-specific marriage rates for the unmarried population: United States, 1966 and 1967

(See text for method of computation)

Age group (years)	Marriages				Marriage rates			
	1967		1966		1967		1966	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	Number of marriages				(per 1,000 unmarried population)			
15 and over---	1,927,000	1,927,000	1,857,000	1,857,000	76.4	94.2	75.6	91.1
15-19[1]--------	663,000	285,000	689,000	299,000	85.7	33.0	89.0	34.5
20-24---------	734,000	856,000	656,000	795,000	279.2	210.7	289.1	214.6
25-34---------	274,000	449,000	258,000	431,000	193.8	249.2	187.8	226.0
25-29-------	185,000	320,000	171,000	307,000	222.1	---	213.7	---
30-34-------	89,000	129,000	87,000	124,000	153.2	---	151.6	---
35-44---------	125,000	158,000	124,000	154,000	83.9	122.8	87.4	108.5
45-54---------	77,000	92,000	76,000	91,000	36.9	76.5	35.2	78.7
55-64---------	37,000	52,000	37,000	52,000	12.3	42.0	12.4	39.9
65 and over---	17,000	35,000	17,000	35,000	2.5	15.7	2.6	15.7

[1]Includes all marriages under age 20.

successive age group shown in table C with the highest ratio in age groups 25-34 and 65 and over. The marriage rates show similar relationships except for age group 20-24. Although more men than women married in this age group, the marriage rate was higher for women than for men.

Marriage rates were highest at ages 20-24 years for women and 25-29 for men. (Population data for 1966 and 1967 consistent with estimates used for other age-groups were not available for computing estimated national marriage rates for unmarried men 25-29 but this statement is supported by marriage rates available for the MRA.) Marriage rates for men and women in broad age groups are charted in figure 6. They show a rapid rise at the younger ages and a decline in the middle and older age groups.

CHANGES DURING 1963-67

Modal Age

Data by single years of age for the five years 1963-67, available only for the MRA, show a change during that period in the modal age for women. In three of the five years (1963-65) there were more brides at age 18 than any other age; in both 1966 and 1967 there were more at age 19, with age 20 ranking a very close second in 1967. The most marriages occurred at age 21 for men in each of the five years.

Marriages by single years of age 14 through 34 are shown in table 3 for 1965-67, the three years during which the MRA remained unchanged.
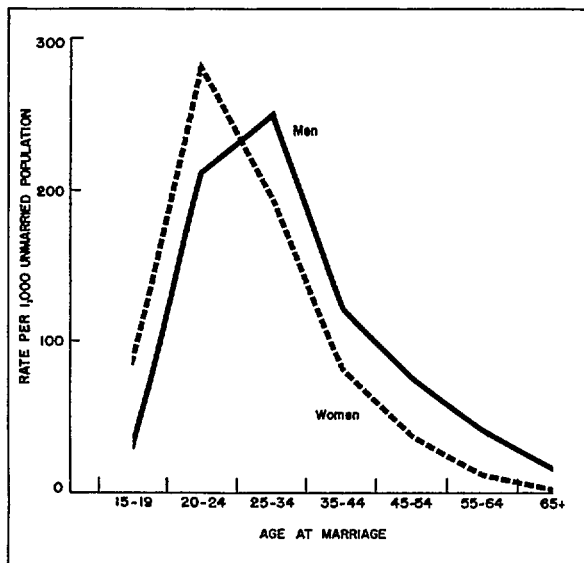
Figure 6. Estimated age-sex-specific marriage rates: United States, 1967

Age of Bride by Age of Groom

Median ages at first marriage of both brides and grooms by specified age of partner are shown in table 4 for the MRA, 1963-67. The gap between the age of the groom and the age of the bride in first marriages narrowed during this period. In 1967, women at specified ages generally were marrying men with lower median ages than in 1963, while the reverse was true for men.

For example, this difference was apparent for women in their teens who married men with a wider disparity in age than women in their twenties. In 1963, 18-year-old women married men who were, on the average, 3 years older than themselves; in 1967, the median age of the groom declined to 20.5, or an average difference of 2.5 years. This relationship probably reflected the availability of young men 2 and 3 years older than the 18-year-old women in the respective years. In 1967 there was a greater

deficit of men 21 years of age relative to women 18 than in 1963. The relative number of men and women at specific ages is undoubtedly a factor in other age combinations as well.[5]

There was no substantial change for women at ages 20, 21, and 22 who married men about 2 years their senior throughout the 5-year period. In general, after age 22 and up to age 30 the gap between the age of the husband and the age of the wife was slightly less in 1967 than in 1963. In reverse, the median age of women marrying men of specified ages generally increased slightly from 1963 to 1967, showing the same lessening of the age gap between partners.

The age range between bride and groom was, on the whole, relatively narrow when both partners were marrying for the first time. In cases where one or both partners were remarrying there was wider separation of ages.

Age-Sex-Specific Rates

Marriage rates relating marriages performed in the MRA to the unmarried resident population of the MRA for 1963 through 1967 are shown in table 5. Although the MRA changed composition during the five years (Illinois and North Carolina were added in 1964, and West Virginia and New York City in 1965), it remained stable enough to give some indication of the movement of age-sex-specific marriage rates for those years.

The rates for the MRA showed several changes during the 5 years 1963-67 (figure 7). In 1967 the marriage rate was noticeably down for single women under 20 years of age but up slightly for single men at the same ages. Of particular interest are the rates for the 18- and 19-year-old population.

Although the number of brides 18-19 increased due to the growth in the number of

[5]National Center for Health Statistics: Marriage Statistics Analysis, United States, 1963. Vital and Health Statistics. PHS, Pub. No. 1000-Series 21-No. 16. Public Health Service. Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, September 1968, pp. 11-12.

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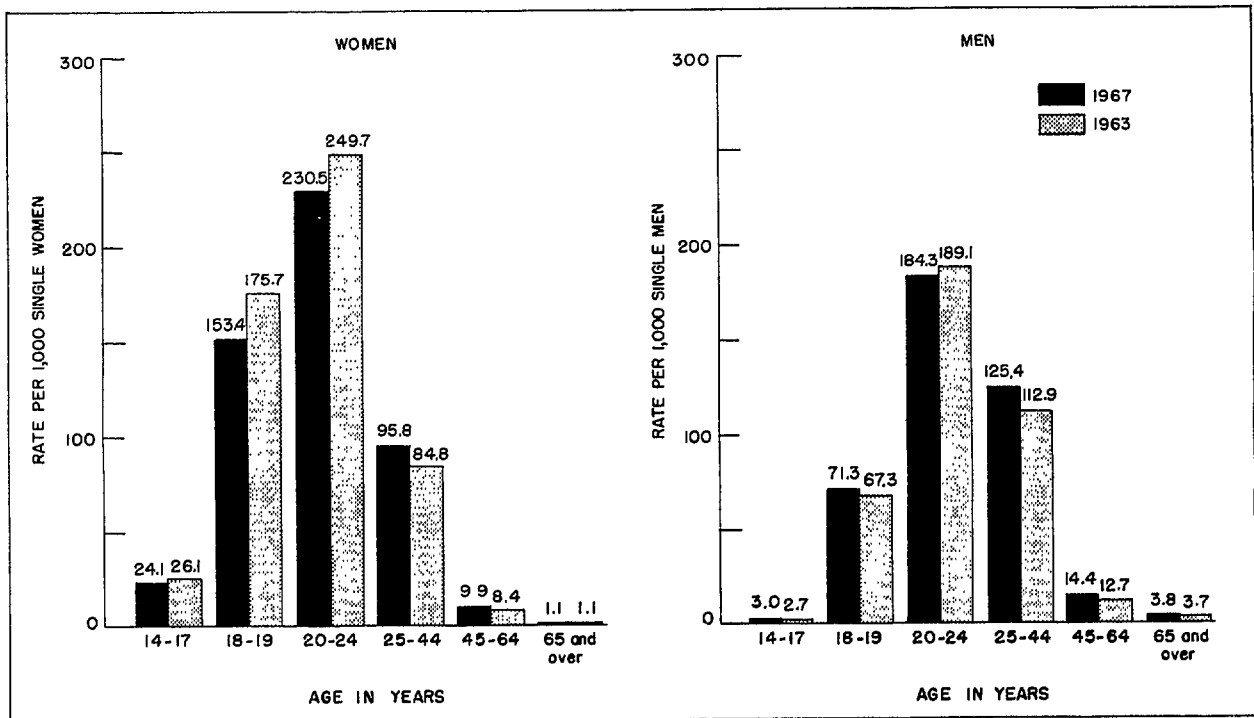
Figure 7. Age-sex-specific first marriage rates: Marriage-registration area, 1963 and 1967

young women at these ages, the increase in the number of marriages did not keep up with the population gains for this group. The marriage rate for single women 18-19 declined from 176 per 1,000 in 1963 to 153 in 1967. The marriage rate for women under 18 also decreased but to a lesser degree.

For single men 18-19, however, the marriage rate increased from 67 per 1,000 in 1963 to 73 in 1966, and then dropped slightly to 71 in 1967. For this group the population increase for men was similar to that for women but the increase in marriages was greater than for women. The marriage rate for males under 18 increased but few men marry at these young ages.

For age group 20-24 an upward fluctuation occurred in the marriage rate for single men in 1965 while a dip was recorded for single women.

A reduction in the rate occurred for both sexes in 1967 but was more decided for women than for men.

At ages 25 and over, first-marriage rates increased generally from 1963 to 1967, slightly more for women than for men (table D). For age group 25-44 the increase was 13 percent for women and 11 percent for men. For age group 45-64 the increase was 18 percent for women and 13 percent for men. The first-marriage rate for the age group 65-and-over showed little change for either sex.

The remarriage rate was greater in 1967 than in 1963 for both men and women in all age groups except the 65 and over. The increase was much greater for men than for women, especially for the groups 14-24 and 45-64 years of age.

Table D. Percent differences in age-sex-specific marriage rates between 1963 and 1967: Marriage-registration area

(Based on sample data)

Marriage order and age	Percent difference between 1963 and 1967 marriage rate	
	Women	Men
All marriages		
14 and over--	+3.7	+6.8
14-17 years--------	-8.9	+7.1
18-19 years--------	-13.1	+5.4
20-24 years--------	-7.8	-2.1
25-44 years--------	+9.1	+11.2
45-64 years--------	+4.7	+15.5
65 years and over--	-	-6.0
First marriages		
14 and over--	+3.9	+6.6
14-17 years--------	-7.7	+11.1
18-19 years--------	-12.7	+5.9
20-24 years--------	-7.7	-2.5
25-44 years--------	+13.0	+11.1
45-64 years--------	+17.9	+13.4
65 years and over--	-	+2.7
Remarriages		
14 and over--	+3.6	+11.1
14-24 years--------	+5.1	+51.7
25-44 years--------	+7.0	+9.3
45-64 years--------	+1.3	+13.5
65 years and over--	-	-8.0

FIRST MARRIAGES AND REMARRIAGES

Participants in the MRA provide marriage data for computing rates for first marriages and remarriages separately for both men and women. These rates relate marriages of the never-married to the never-married population and marriages of the previously married to the widowed and divorced population. For the MRA excluding Michigan and Ohio marriage rates can be computed for the widowed and divorced separately.

About 80 percent of the men and women marrying in the MRA in 1967 were marrying for the first time, the remainder for a second time or more. Marriage rates were higher for single women than for single men at the younger ages but lower at the older ages. Of the age groups shown in table 5 the excess of the rate for females over the rate for males was greatest for ages 14-17 years and declined with each successive age group through ages 20-24. The first-marriage rate was higher for men than for women in age group 25-44 and the difference became progressively greater for the 45-64 and 65-and-over groups.

Remarriage rates both for the widowed and the divorced and for men and women decline with increasing age. In 1967 about one-half of the divorced population at ages 14-24 married again. At ages 25-44 and later remarriage rates declined and about twice as fast for women as for men.

Remarriage rates are much higher for men than for women. This is true of both the divorced and the widowed in all age groups. Marriage rates of the widowed in 1967 indicated that men were nearly 4 times more likely to remarry than women. Marriage rates for the divorced show men remarrying at a rate a little over one and one-half times the rate for women. The greater likelihood of remarriage for men than for women increased with increasing age. The ratio of the remarriage rates for men to those for women in the MRA in 1967 was as follows:

Age group (years)	Widowed	Divorced
14 and over--	3.7	1.6
14-24} ------	3.0	1.1
25-44}		1.8
45-64 -------	4.3	2.5
65 and over--	7.6	3.4

Remarriages accounted for a larger proportion of the marriages of white persons than of those for the all other group. About 24 percent of the white brides and 18 percent of all other brides had been married before. Similarly, it was a remarriage for 24 percent of

the white grooms and 20 percent for all other grooms.

Persons marrying in the MRA in 1967 who stated their previous marital status to be "divorced" were relatively more frequent among white brides and grooms than they were among those of other races. The "widowed" were more frequent among white brides and less frequent among white grooms than they were among all other brides and grooms but the differences were very slight (table E).

White brides and grooms, on the average, are younger than all other brides and· grooms. This was true in 1967 both for persons marrying for the first time and for those who were remarrying (figure 8). For the remarriages, however, this was true only for divorced persons remarrying; the previously widowed were an ex-

ception. For the widowed remarrying, white brides and grooms tended to be older than those of other races.

Previous marital status and age of bride and groom by color are shown in table 6 for the MRA in 1967. The proportion of first marriages occurring at the peak ages 18-24 was higher for white persons than for all others, with relatively more of the marriages of all others in the age interval under 18 and over 25 years. White single persons married at ages averaging less than one-half year younger than all other single persons.

There is less similarity in age by color for remarriages than for first marriages. Among the previously divorced persons who remarried in 1967, white persons averaged 4 years younger than all other persons. In addition, for this

Table E. Marriages by color of bride and groom, by previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1967

(Based on sample data)

Sex and previous marital status	Number of marriages			Percent distribution		
	Total[1]	White	All other	Total[1]	White	All other
Brides						
All marriages[2]	1,265,418	811,719	110,386	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	982,749	616,480	90,328	77.7	75.9	81.8
Widowed	68,836	47,356	5,806	5.4	5.8	5.3
Divorced	213,833	147,883	14,252	16.9	18.2	12.9
Grooms						
All marriages[2]	1,266,852	811,596	111,441	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	983,004	619,012	89,126	77.6	76.3	80.0
Widowed	60,125	38,539	6,284	4.7	4.7	5.6
Divorced	223,723	154,045	16,031	17.7	19.0	14.4

[1]Includes marriages in States not reporting color (California, New York, and parts of Illinois).
[2]Excludes marriages in Michigan and Ohio and marriages for which previous marital status was not stated.
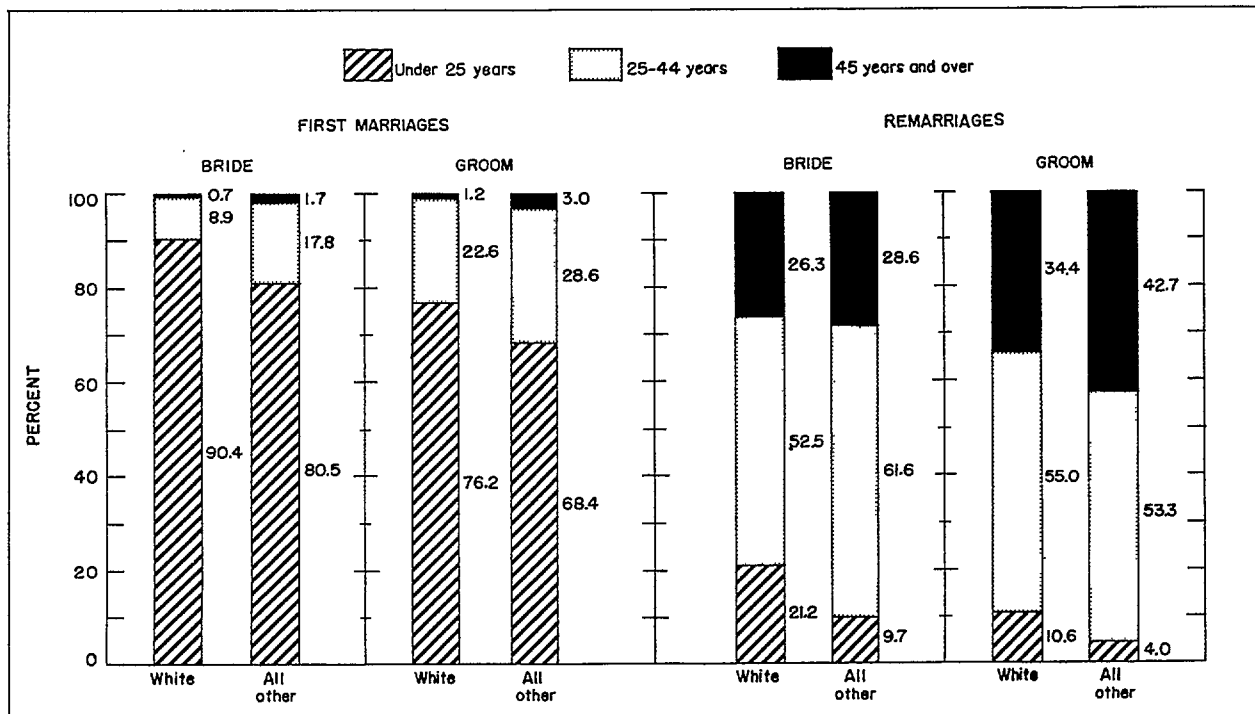
Figure 8. Percent distribution of first marriages and remarriages by age of bride and groom, by color: Marriage-registration area, 1967

group, the proportion of white brides and grooms under 25 years was twice that for all others. Among the previously widowed who remarried, however, white persons averaged about 3 years older than those of other races. In 1967, 35 percent of the remarriages of previously widowed white women occurred at ages under 45 as compared with 45 percent of those for all other women. Contributing to this difference were the higher mortality rates for other races, resulting in earlier widowhood and consequent earlier remarriage. Median ages by color and previous marital status of brides and grooms marrying in the MRA in 1967 were:

Marital status prior to this marriage	Brides		Grooms	
	White	All Other	White	All Other
Single-------	20.3	20.6	22.4	22.8
Widowed------	50.2	47.1	58.1	55.8
Divorced-----	30.5	34.5	34.9	38.1

INTERRACIAL MARRIAGES

An area of growing interest in marriage statistics is interracial marriage, especially Negro-white marriages. Some data on interracial marriages are available from MRA States with race on their marriage certificates. In 1967, however, marriages in the 35 reporting States for which race was stated represented only about 50 percent of all marriages occurring in the United States. This lack of complete national statistics on interracial marriages is due mainly to three circumstances: (1) three States do not collect in a central location marriage records from counties and other local areas and, consequently, are unable to provide statistics; (2) some States do not have the race item on their marriage certificate; and (3) some States with the race item on their certificate do not enforce reporting.

We are not certain how representative the reporting States are of the non-reporting States where interracial marriages are concerned, nor how representative the "stated" cases are of

the "not-stated" cases except to know that Negro-white marriages are undoubtedly underrepres-sented. They are known to occur more frequently in some non-reporting States than in reporting States. Since race of bride and groom is tab-ulated according to the way it was stated on the marriage record, the number of interracial marriages would also be affected by the number of persons who misstated their race.

The data available for the period 1963-67 show less than 1 percent of the marriages to be between Negro-white, white-other, or Negro-other races. In this report, the category "other races" includes all races and national origins except white and Negro, e.g., Japanese, Chinese, Filipinos, American Indians, Hawaiians, and Es-kimos. Interracial marriages between races in the "other" category have not been separately iden-tified from marriages between partners of the same "other" race and are not included in the interracial marriages (table 7).

In marriages between white and "other races," the groom was more often the white partner while in white-Negro marriages it was more often a white woman who married a Negro man. In 1967, in marriages for which race was stated, race of bride cross-tabulated by race of groom was as follows:

Race of bride	Race of groom			
	Total	White	Negro	Other races
Total-----	932,091	819,025	106,782	6,284
White----------	820,020	816,869	1,772	1,379
Negro----------	105,399	447	104,890	62
Other races-----	6,672	1,709	120	4,843

Of the 5,489 interracial marriages in the MRA (interracial marriages in which at least one partner was Negro or white), about 25 per-cent occurred in Hawaii. In Hawaii, where these marriages accounted for about 20 percent of the marriages occurring there, they were pre-dominantly between persons of white and "other

races." The same was true in Alaska, where they accounted for 10 percent of total marriages, and in South Dakota, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon, where they comprised 2 percent or less of all marriages. In Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, Mas-sachusetts, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, a majority of the interracial marriages were be-tween the Negro and white races. Even so, Negro-white marriages accounted for more than one percent of total marriages only in the District of Columbia, where they comprised two percent of the total.

There is some evidence that persons who marry across racial lines differ in such char-acteristics as age and previous marital status from persons who marry within their own race. In the reporting MRA States in 1967, brides and grooms marrying interracially were older than brides and grooms marrying within their race (table F). This was true for both the white and the Negro-and-other groups. The bride was under 20 years of age in over one-third of the marriages involving white and Negro-and-other brides marrying partners of their own race but in less than one-fourth of the instances in which the bride married interracially. Sim-ilarly, relatively fewer grooms, both white and Negro-and-other, were under 25 in the inter-racial marriages. A larger proportion of both brides and grooms in mixed marriages than in unmixed were in ages 25-44.

Relatively more of the Negro-and-other brides and grooms marrying interracially than of those marrying within their race were from the divorced population. The difference was more pronounced for brides than for grooms (21 versus 13 percent for brides and 16 versus 14 percent for grooms). Relatively fewer were from the widowed population.

White brides and grooms marrying inter-racially also were a little less apt to have been previously widowed than those marrying intra-racially, but little or no difference was noted between interracial and intraracial marriages in the proportions of white brides and grooms from the divorced population (table G).

Table F. Percent distribution of intraracial and interracial marriages, by age of bride and groom: Marriage-registration area, 1967

(Based on sample data)

| Age | Intraracial marriages | | | | Interracial marriages | | | |
| | Bride | | Groom | | Bride | | Groom | |
	White	All other	White	All other	White	All other	White	All other
All marriages[1]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years	35.0	35.9	14.9	15.5	23.0	22.4	8.8	9.2
20-24 years	38.6	31.6	45.6	40.1	44.1	41.9	40.9	35.2
25-44 years	19.4	25.8	30.3	33.2	29.4	31.4	43.3	49.4
45 years and over	6.9	6.8	9.1	11.2	3.5	4.3	7.0	6.2

[1]Excludes marriages for which race of bride and groom was not stated.

Table G. Percent distribution of intraracial and interracial marriages, by previous marital status of bride and groom: Marriage-registration area, 1967

(Based on sample data)

| Previous marital status | Intraracial couples | | | | Interracial couples | | | |
| | Bride | | Groom | | Bride | | Groom | |
	White	All other	White	All other	White	All other	White	All other
All marriages[1]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	75.9	82.0	76.3	80.0	79.7	75.4	77.1	80.3
Previously married	24.1	18.0	23.7	20.0	20.3	24.6	23.0	19.7
Widowed	5.8	5.3	4.8	5.7	2.1	4.0	3.3	3.6
Divorced	18.2	12.8	19.0	14.3	18.2	20.6	19.7	16.1

[1]Excludes marriages for which race and/or previous marital status of bride and groom were not stated.

LIST OF DETAILED TABLES

Table 1. Estimated number of marriages and marriage rates with percent changes from preceding year: United States, 1940-1970

Year	Total Marriages		Marriage rate for the total population		Marriage rate for unmarried women			
					15 years and over		15-44 years	
	Number	Percent change	Rate	Percent change	Rate	Percent change	Rate	Percent change
1970[1]-------------------	2,179,000	+1.6	10.7	+0.9	---	---	---	---
1969---------------------	2,145,000	+3.7	10.6	+1.9	80.0	+1.1	149.1	+1.3
1968---------------------	2,069,000	+7.4	10.4	+7.2	79.1	+3.5	147.2	+1.4
1967---------------------	1,927,000	+3.8	9.7	+2.1	76.4	+1.1	145.2	+0.1
1966---------------------	1,857,000	+3.2	9.5	+2.2	75.6	+0.8	145.1	+0.6
1965---------------------	1,800,000	+4.3	9.3	+3.3	75.0	+0.5	144.3	-1.3
1964---------------------	1,725,000	+4.3	9.0	+2.3	74.6	+1.6	146.2	+2.0
1963---------------------	1,654,000	+4.9	8.8	+3.5	73.4	+3.1	143.3	+3.5
1962---------------------	1,577,000	+1.9	8.5	-	71.2	-1.4	138.4	-4.8
1961---------------------	1,548,000	+1.6	8.5	-	72.2	-1.8	145.4	-1.8
1960---------------------	1,523,000	+1.9	8.5	-	73.5	-0.1	148.0	-1.2
1959---------------------	1,494,000	+3.0	8.5	+1.2	73.6	+2.2	149.8	+2.4
1958---------------------	1,451,000	-4.4	8.4	-5.6	72.0	-7.7	146.3	-7.1
1957---------------------	1,518,000	-4.2	8.9	-6.3	78.0	-5.3	157.4	-5.0
1956---------------------	1,585,000	+3.5	9.5	+2.2	82.4	+1.9	165.6	+2.8
1955---------------------	1,531,000	+2.8	9.3	+1.1	80.9	+1.4	161.1	+4.4
1954---------------------	1,490,000	-3.6	9.2	-6.1	79.8	-4.7	154.3	-5.5
1953---------------------	1,546,000	+0.4	9.8	-1.0	83.7	+0.6	163.3	+2.1
1952---------------------	1,539,000	-3.5	9.9	-4.8	83.2	-3.9	159.9	-3.0
1951---------------------	1,595,000	-4.4	10.4	-6.3	86.6	-4.0	164.9	-0.9
1950---------------------	1,667,000	+5.5	11.1	+4.7	90.2	+4.0	166.4	+5.3
1949---------------------	1,580,000	-12.8	10.6	-14.5	86.7	-12.0	158.0	-9.6
1948---------------------	1,811,000	-9.1	12.4	-10.8	98.5	-7.3	174.7	-4.4
1947---------------------	1,992,000	-13.1	13.9	-15.2	106.2	-10.1	182.7	-8.2
1946---------------------	2,291,000	+42.0	16.4	+34.4	118.1	+41.3	199.0	+44.0
1945---------------------	1,613,000	+11.1	12.2	+11.9	83.6	+9.3	138.2	+11.0
1944---------------------	1,452,000	-7.9	10.9	-6.8	76.5	-7.8	124.5	-6.7
1943---------------------	1,577,000	-11.0	11.7	-11.4	83.0	-10.8	133.5	-9.6
1942---------------------	1,772,000	+4.5	13.2	+3.9	93.0	+5.1	147.6	+6.6
1941---------------------	1,696,000	+6.3	12.7	+5.0	88.5	+6.9	138.4	+8.6
1940---------------------	1,596,000	...	12.1	...	82.8	...	127.4	...

[1]Provisional data

Table 2. Marriages and marriage rates: United States, each region, division, and State, 1963-67

(By place of occurrence. Data are counts of marriages performed supplied by States except as noted. Rates per 1,000 population in each area)

Region, division and State	Number					Rate				
	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
United States[1] -	1,927,023	1,857,294	1,800,207	1,724,697	1,654,003	9.7	9.5	9.3	9.0	8.8
Region										
Northeast------------	370,768	354,032	346,537	339,105	323,808	7.7	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.0
North Central--------	497,714	482,319	470,368	447,378	428,323	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.3	8.1
South---------------	679,416	652,881	636,049	[1]609,779	588,102	11.1	[1]10.7	10.6	[1]10.3	10.1
West[1]-------------	379,125	368,062	347,253	328,435	313,770	11.5	11.3	10.9	10.4	10.2
Northeast										
New England----------	92,855	89,266	86,520	82,031	79,148	8.2	8.0	7.8	7.4	7.2
Middle Atlantic------	277,913	264,766	260,017	257,074	244,660	7.5	7.2	7.1	7.1	6.9
North Central										
East North Central---	355,871	347,019	339,349	319,959	304,925	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.5	8.2
West North Central---	141,843	135,300	131,019	127,419	123,398	8.9	8.5	8.3	8.1	7.9
South										
South Atlantic-------	333,827	320,487	311,711	300,344	287,500	11.3	11.0	10.8	10.6	10.4
East South Central---	135,824	133,289	132,092	124,250	120,055	10.5	10.3	10.3	9.8	9.6
West South Central---	209,765	199,105	192,246	[1]185,185	180,547	11.0	10.6	10.4	[1]10.1	10.0
West										
Mountain[1]----------	166,283	167,210	157,938	149,289	143,499	21.3	21.4	20.5	19.6	19.1
Pacific-------------	212,842	200,852	189,315	179,146	170,271	8.4	8.1	7.8	7.5	7.3
New England										
Maine----------------	9,210	8,983	8,726	8,269	8,121	9.4	9.1	8.8	8.4	8.2
New Hampshire--------	9,221	8,909	8,988	8,461	8,151	13.4	13.1	13.4	12.8	12.6
Vermont-------------	3,886	3,860	3,646	3,303	3,253	9.3	9.5	9.0	8.3	8.2
Massachusetts--------	41,431	40,044	37,886	35,840	34,320	7.6	7.4	7.1	6.8	6.5
Rhode Island---------	6,536	6,122	6,321	6,103	5,967	7.3	6.8	7.1	6.9	6.8
Connecticut---------	22,571	21,348	20,953	20,055	19,336	7.7	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.1
Middle Atlantic										
New York------------	143,273	136,463	133,549	134,782	129,283	7.9	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.3
New Jersey----------	49,132	46,966	46,281	45,632	43,353	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.6
Pennsylvania---------	85,508	81,337	80,187	76,660	72,024	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.3
East North Central										
Ohio----------------	82,991	80,794	78,982	74,979	71,675	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.4	7.2
Indiana-------------	52,798	51,227	49,732	47,066	45,992	10.5	10.4	10.2	9.7	9.6
Illinois------------	105,295	102,622	100,978	97,171	93,420	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.2	9.0
Michigan------------	84,363	83,903	81,247	73,911	68,160	9.8	10.0	9.8	9.1	8.5
Wisconsin-----------	30,424	28,473	28,410	26,832	25,678	7.3	6.8	6.9	6.5	6.3
West North Central										
Minnesota-----------	28,156	26,566	26,472	25,453	25,064	7.8	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.1
Iowa----------------	22,396	21,130	20,247	20,232	19,487	8.1	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.1
Missouri------------	44,055	42,597	40,169	[2]38,803	37,667	9.6	9.4	8.9	[2]8.7	8.5
North Dakota--------	4,990	4,740	4,939	4,675	4,531	7.9	7.3	7.6	7.2	7.0
South Dakota--------	9,051	8,517	8,317	8,055	7,470	13.5	12.5	12.1	11.5	10.6
Nebraska------------	13,161	12,390	12,069	11,920	11,711	9.1	8.5	8.3	8.1	8.0
Kansas--------------	20,034	19,360	18,806	18,281	17,468	8.8	8.6	8.4	8.2	7.9

[1]Data are estimated.
[2]Marriage licenses issued.

Table 2. Marriages and marriage rates: United States, each region, division, and States, 1963-67—Con.

(By place of occurrence. Data are counts of marriages performed supplied by States except as noted. Rates per 1,000 population in each area)

Region, division and State	Number					Rate				
	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
South Atlantic										
Delaware	3,386	3,160	3,105	2,918	2,890	6.5	6.2	6.2	5.9	6.0
Maryland	48,894	46,925	47,345	45,331	41,346	13.3	13.0	13.4	13.2	12.3
District of Columbia	7,593	9,355	9,182	8,814	[2]9,577	9.4	11.6	11.4	11.1	[2]12.1
Virginia	48,653	46,819	45,976	43,504	42,085	10.7	10.4	10.4	10.0	9.8
West Virginia	14,327	14,008	14,164	13,879	13,760	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.6
North Carolina	45,145	43,482	40,667	36,790	35,450	8.9	8.7	8.2	7.6	7.4
South Carolina	52,153	49,811	46,336	44,204	42,469	19.8	19.3	18.2	17.5	17.0
Georgia	57,218	54,502	55,537	60,228	56,803	12.7	12.2	12.6	14.0	13.5
Florida	56,458	52,425	49,399	44,676	43,120	9.4	8.8	8.5	7.9	7.8
East South Central										
Kentucky[2]	29,408	28,402	28,340	27,353	27,121	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.7
Tennessee	40,438	39,679	40,054	36,874	35,243	10.3	10.2	10.4	9.7	9.4
Alabama	42,443	41,732	40,355	37,239	35,551	12.0	11.9	11.6	10.9	10.5
Mississippi	23,535	23,476	23,343	22,784	22,140	10.0	10.1	10.1	9.9	9.7
West South Central										
Arkansas	20,475	20,485	19,158	[1]20,359	20,553	10.6	10.5	9.9	[1]10.5	10.8
Louisiana	31,661	30,694	28,972	27,086	26,013	8.6	8.5	8.1	7.8	7.6
Oklahoma	35,057	33,786	32,574	31,112	31,082	13.9	13.7	13.3	12.6	12.7
Texas	122,572	114,140	111,542	106,628	102,899	11.3	10.6	10.5	10.3	10.0
Mountain										
Montana	5,563	4,914	4,688	4,556	4,854	8.0	7.0	6.7	6.5	6.9
Idaho	14,108	17,129	15,864	14,360	12,680	20.1	24.7	22.9	20.9	18.4
Wyoming	3,688	3,696	3,608	3,607	3,396	11.6	11.2	10.9	10.7	10.1
Colorado[2]	21,836	19,849	18,690	18,393	[1]17,677	10.9	10.0	9.6	9.5	[1]9.2
New Mexico	[1]9,739	[1]12,165	[1,2]13,215	[1,2]12,238	11,976	[1]9.7	[1]11.9	[1,2]13.0	[1,2]12.1	12.1
Arizona	14,703	13,499	12,113	[1]11,716	11,420	9.0	8.3	7.7	[1]7.6	7.5
Utah	10,220	9,623	8,736	8,525	8,263	10.0	9.5	8.8	8.8	8.5
Nevada	[2]86,426	[2]86,335	[2]81,024	75,894	73,233	[2]198.2	[2]190.2	[2]186.7	181.1	187.3
Pacific										
Washington	38,477	[2]34,567	[2]31,509	[2]29,777	[2]29,320	12.0	[2]11.6	[2]10.6	[2]10.0	[2]9.9
Oregon	14,401	13,981	13,252	12,297	11,786	7.3	7.2	6.8	6.5	6.4
California	150,000	144,086	136,090	129,104	121,359	7.9	7.6	7.4	7.1	6.9
Alaska	2,619	2,426	2,393	2,178	2,056	9.7	8.9	9.0	8.7	8.4
Hawaii	7,345	5,792	6,071	5,790	5,750	9.7	8.1	8.6	8.2	8.4

[1] Data are estimated.
[2] Marriage licenses issued.

Table 3. Number of marriages by single years of age, 14-34, for women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1965-67

(Based on sample data)

Age	Women			Men		
	1967	1966	1965	1967	1966	1965
	Number of marriages					
14 years--------------------	1,754	1,871	1,944	10	20	30
15 years--------------------	9,227	9,499	9,760	124	73	85
16 years--------------------	47,571	49,476	50,506	2,501	2,558	2,412
17 years--------------------	80,448	81,158	86,240	15,596	15,742	15,050
18 years--------------------	165,291	176,301	192,052	72,888	76,893	71,725
19 years--------------------	180,987	187,988	149,735	113,904	122,326	97,839
20 years--------------------	180,658	134,788	132,239	139,947	109,709	126,882
21 years--------------------	138,452	128,568	132,911	145,271	142,171	153,924
22 years--------------------	105,739	104,336	109,155	137,099	133,414	144,787
23 years--------------------	75,483	81,829	71,955	118,963	123,307	107,604
24 years--------------------	61,046	54,831	47,763	104,140	93,380	80,612
25 years--------------------	42,745	38,508	35,484	77,114	70,406	64,023
26 years--------------------	31,590	29,216	27,912	56,839	53,861	52,416
27 years--------------------	25,829	24,650	23,211	44,675	44,376	42,023
28 years--------------------	21,787	20,028	19,534	35,274	36,564	33,415
29 years--------------------	18,238	18,844	17,364	31,403	29,042	28,104
30 years--------------------	16,019	16,223	14,422	24,694	23,603	24,008
31 years--------------------	14,372	13,863	13,144	21,364	21,429	20,317
32 years--------------------	13,136	12,095	12,722	19,057	18,620	17,801
33 years--------------------	11,601	12,206	11,977	15,949	16,179	16,515
34 years--------------------	11,242	11,234	11,608	16,118	15,632	15,270

Table 4. Median age of groom by specified age of bride and median age of bride by specified age of groom at first marriage of both: Marriage-registration area, 1963-67

(Based on sample data)

Specified age	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
Brides	Median age of groom				
All ages--------------------------------	22.3	22.3	22.2	22.1	22.2
Under 18 years-------------------------------	19.8	19.7	20.0	20.1	20.0
18 years--------------------------------------	20.5	20.5	20.7	21.0	21.0
19 years--------------------------------------	21.3	21.4	21.4	21.5	21.5
20 years--------------------------------------	22.1	22.3	22.2	22.0	22.2
21 years--------------------------------------	22.9	23.1	22.9	22.8	22.9
22 years--------------------------------------	23.8	23.8	23.7	23.7	23.7
23 years--------------------------------------	24.7	24.6	24.7	24.7	24.8
24 years--------------------------------------	25.6	25.6	25.6	25.7	25.9
25 years--------------------------------------	26.5	26.6	26.8	26.7	26.8
26 years--------------------------------------	27.4	27.5	27.8	27.7	28.2
27 years--------------------------------------	28.5	28.1	28.3	28.7	28.7
28 years--------------------------------------	29.4	28.9	29.6	29.3	29.4
29 years--------------------------------------	29.7	30.5	30.2	30.2	30.9
30-34 years-----------------------------------	32.9	32.6	32.9	33.2	32.5
35-44 years-----------------------------------	39.3	39.0	39.5	39.7	39.6
45-54 years-----------------------------------	48.0	49.3	49.1	49.9	51.4
55-64 years-----------------------------------	60.0	60.4	60.6	61.8	60.0
65 years and over-----------------------------	65+	65+	65+	65+	65+
Grooms	Median age of bride				
All ages--------------------------------	20.3	20.1	20.1	20.2	20.1
Under 18 years-------------------------------	17.5	17.3	17.7	17.2	17.2
18 years--------------------------------------	18.2	18.2	18.1	17.8	17.9
19 years--------------------------------------	18.7	18.7	18.6	18.5	18.5
20 years--------------------------------------	19.4	19.2	19.0	19.1	19.2
21 years--------------------------------------	20.0	19.8	19.7	19.8	19.7
22 years--------------------------------------	20.6	20.6	20.6	20.6	20.4
23 years--------------------------------------	21.1	21.2	21.2	21.1	21.0
24 years--------------------------------------	21.6	21.6	21.6	21.5	21.3
25 years--------------------------------------	22.1	22.1	22.1	21.9	21.7
26 years--------------------------------------	22.6	22.6	22.4	22.2	22.1
27 years--------------------------------------	23.2	23.0	22.8	22.6	22.5
28 years--------------------------------------	23.5	23.4	23.4	23.2	23.3
29 years--------------------------------------	24.1	24.0	23.7	23.6	23.8
30-34 years-----------------------------------	25.3	25.1	25.2	25.0	25.0
35-44 years-----------------------------------	29.8	29.7	29.9	30.0	30.4
45-54 years-----------------------------------	39.2	39.7	40.0	40.2	40.0
55-64 years-----------------------------------	49.5	49.4	46.9	48.2	49.5
65 years and over-----------------------------	57.4	57.4	59.4	59.3	55.1

Table 5. Age-sex-specific marriage rates, by previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1963-67

(Based on sample data. Rates per 1,000 population in specified group. Rates for all marriages are based on unmarried population, those for first marriages on single population, and those for remarriages on widowed and divorced population)

Previous marital status and age	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
Women					
All marriages[1]	64.0	63.9	63.6	63.4	61.7
14-17 years	24.5	25.5	27.1	28.2	26.9
18-19 years	157.3	163.0	171.5	181.9	181.0
20-24 years	243.9	261.6	256.9	263.6	264.5
25-44 years	121.8	122.7	118.6	118.3	111.6
25-29 years	197.2	189.4	190.6	191.3	---
30-34 years	133.8	135.0	139.8	153.2	---
35-44 years	74.7	78.7	73.6	71.9	---
45-64 years	20.2	20.0	20.2	20.5	19.3
65 years and over	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2
First marriages	85.2	85.0	84.6	83.4	82.0
14-17 years	24.1	25.1	26.5	27.7	26.1
18-19 years	153.4	158.9	166.5	176.6	175.7
20-24 years	230.5	247.9	242.8	250.9	249.7
25-44 years	95.8	92.8	94.4	94.0	84.8
45-64 years	9.9	9.7	9.1	8.6	8.4
65 years and over	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.1
All remarriages[2]	34.2	34.2	33.6	34.3	33.0
14-24 years	490.9	473.3	463.4	414.8	467.0
25-44 years	149.4	156.7	143.7	141.5	139.6
45-64 years	23.2	23.4	24.2	24.8	22.9
65 years and over	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3
Widowed[3]	10.1	10.0	10.2	10.6	10.2
14-44 years	72.1	77.8	69.6	62.6	66.6
45-64 years	16.2	15.7	16.5	17.7	16.2
65 years and over	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.0
Divorced[3]	129.8	130.0	127.8	125.8	133.5
14-24 years	515.4	492.7	512.3	463.8	565.9
25-44 years	187.4	190.7	176.3	176.1	179.0
45-64 years	42.4	43.2	45.8	43.2	45.2
65 years and over	7.6	10.2	9.6	7.8	9.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Age-sex-specific marriage rates, by previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1963-67—Con.

(Based on sample data. Rates per 1,000 population in specified group. Rates for all marriages are based on unmarried population, those for first marriages on single population, and those for remarriages on widowed and divorced population)

Previous marital status and age	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
Men					
All marriages[1] ----------------------	77.4	76.3	75.3	73.2	72.5
14-17 years--------------------------------	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8
18-19 years--------------------------------	72.1	73.8	70.0	69.4	68.4
20-24 years--------------------------------	191.0	195.1	203.2	195.7	195.1
25-44 years--------------------------------	166.4	162.6	151.5	149.3	149.7
25-29 years--------------------------------	245.8	255.7	237.6	208.7	---
30-34 years--------------------------------	148.4	140.6	139.5	140.1	---
35-44 years--------------------------------	106.3	101.5	93.3	100.9	---
45-64 years--------------------------------	52.2	51.7	49.5	47.2	45.2
65 years and over--------------------------	· 14.2	14.1	14.5	14.5	15.1
First marriages---------------------------	71.0	69.4	68.7	67.2	66.6
14-17 years--------------------------------	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7
18-19 years--------------------------------	71.3	73.0	68.9	68.2	67.3
20-24 years--------------------------------	184.3	187.9	195.8	188.8	189.1
25-44 years--------------------------------	125.4	122.4	112.0	112.2	112.9
45-64 years--------------------------------	14.4	13.8	13.2	12.9	12.7
65 years and over--------------------------	3.8	3.5	3.8	4.4	3.7
All remarriages[2] -----------------------	107.9	110.1	105.5	98.5	97.1
14-24 years--------------------------------	512.0	534.7	501.3	446.9	337.5
25-44 years--------------------------------	330.6	322.2	318.0	290.9	302.6
45-64 years--------------------------------	92.4	98.1	96.7	88.7	81.4
65 years and over--------------------------	17.2	17.7	17.9	17.2	18.7
Widowed[3] --------------------------------	37.4	38.8	38.3	35.7	38.4
14-44 years--------------------------------	215.6	193.8	195.2	160.4	163.8
45-64 years--------------------------------	70.3	75.6	78.6	69.8	70.1
65 years and over--------------------------	15.9	16.9	16.0	15.6	17.4
Divorced[3] -------------------------------	206.8	210.8	211.6	197.2	177.0
14-24 years--------------------------------	547.0	518.0	525.7	449.9	353.1
25-44 years--------------------------------	343.4	344.3	342.7	314.3	306.6
45-64 years--------------------------------	107.2	110.9	109.2	101.3	89.5
65 years and over--------------------------	26.0	26.7	35.0	34.6	26.5

[1]Includes previous marital status not stated.
[2]Includes widowed or divorced not stated.
[3]Excludes data for Michigan and Ohio.

Source: Vital Statistics of the United States, Marriage and Divorce Statistics, Volume III for 1963-64 and 1966-67. Rates for 1965 based on revised populations, U.S. Bureau of Census, Current Populations Reports, Series P-25, No. 384.

Table 6. Percent distribution of marriages, by age of bride and groom, color, and previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1967

(Based on sample data)

Age and previous marital status	Bride			Groom		
	Total[1]	White	All other	Total[1]	White	All other
All marriages [2]						
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 18 years	9.6	10.1	13.2	1.3	1.5	1.6
18-19 years	23.9	24.9	22.4	12.9	13.4	13.6
20-24 years	38.8	38.6	31.8	44.6	45.6	40.0
25-44 years	20.8	19.5	25.9	31.9	30.3	33.6
45-64 years	6.0	6.0	6.1	7.5	7.3	9.0
65 years and over	0.9	0.9	0.6	1.8	1.9	2.1
Median age	21.4	21.2	21.7	23.8	23.6	24.1
First marriages						
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 18 years	12.4	13.3	16.2	1.6	1.9	2.1
18-19 years	30.3	31.9	27.3	16.6	17.5	17.1
20-24 years	45.3	45.2	37.0	55.1	56.8	49.2
25-44 years	11.2	8.9	17.8	25.2	22.6	28.6
45-64 years	0.9	0.7	1.6	1.4	1.1	2.6
65 years and over	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4
Median age	20.5	20.3	20.6	22.6	22.4	22.8
Remarriages [3]						
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years	2.6	3.1	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.1
20-24 years	16.8	18.1	8.8	9.1	10.2	3.9
25-44 years	53.7	52.5	61.6	54.9	55.0	53.3
45-64 years	23.3	22.7	25.9	28.1	26.9	33.8
65 years and over	3.6	3.6	2.7	7.6	7.5	8.9
Median age	35.0	34.4	37.7	39.1	38.4	42.5
Widowed [4]						
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years	3.9	4.2	3.1	1.2	1.1	0.4
25-44 years	31.2	30.8	41.8	18.9	17.8	24.0
45-64 years	51.7	51.9	46.9	50.3	50.5	53.2
65 years and over	13.1	13.2	8.2	29.6	30.6	22.5
Median age	50.1	50.2	47.1	57.6	58.1	55.8
Divorced [4]						
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years	3.2	3.9	1.1	0.4	0.5	0.2
20-24 years	21.4	22.9	11.2	11.1	12.4	5.1
25-44 years	61.0	59.6	70.2	64.8	64.5	65.4
45-64 years	13.9	13.2	17.1	21.9	21.0	25.8
65 years and over	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.8	1.6	3.5
Median age	31.2	30.5	34.5	35.5	34.9	38.1

[1]Includes marriages for which color was not stated.
[2]Includes marriages for which previous marital status was not stated.
[3]Includes remarriages for which widowed or divorced was not stated.
[4]Excludes data for Michigan and Ohio.

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Table 7. Number and percent distribution of marriages, by race of partner: reporting States, 1963-67

(Based on sample data)

Race of partner	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
Number of States reporting race[1]	35	35	37	36	33	35	35	37	36	33
	Number of marriages					Percent distribution				
Total marriages[2]	932,091	898,193	1,057,054	952,018	796,827	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White - white	816,869	786,823	927,032	840,682	701,261	87.6	87.6	87.7	88.3	88.0
Negro - Negro	104,890	102,146	118,556	102,309	88,068	11.3	11.4	11.2	10.7	11.1
Negro - white	2,219	1,804	2,649	1,484	1,033	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
White bride-Negro groom	1,772	1,274	1,730	1,130	776	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Negro bride-white groom	447	530	919	354	257	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
White - Other[3]	3,088	2,913	3,535	3,069	2,321	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Negro - Other[3]	182	163	186	78	90	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other - Other[4]	4,843	4,344	5,096	4,396	4,054	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5

[1]Includes some States in which major areas did not report race (Cook County, Illinois in 1964-67 and New York City in 1965).
[2]Excludes marriages of couples for which race was not stated on the marriage certificate.
[3]"Other" includes all races except white and Negro, e.g., Japanese, Chinese, Filipinos, American Indians, Hawaiians, Eskimos, etc. The category "white" includes Mexican, Puerto Rican, and all other caucasians.
[4]Includes marriages between members of the same "Other" race as well as interracial marriages in which neither partner was Negro or white.

APPENDIX

GENERAL NOTES

A complete discussion of technical aspects of marriage data appears annually in Volume III, *Vital Statistics of the United States*. The following notes pertain to the data included in this report.

Sources of Data

Marriage statistics for the United States and for the marriage-registration area (MRA) are limited to events occurring during the year and registered within the specified area. Tabulations for States and other areas are by place of occurrence. Events occurring to nonresidents are included; marriages of members of the Armed Forces or other U.S. nationals that occur outside the United States are excluded. United States refers to the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Alaska has been included in the U.S. tabulations since 1959 and Hawaii since 1960.

Figures not designated as based on sample data are compiled from complete counts reported by States and local areas. Such data are available for the entire Nation. Figures for characteristics of marriages are based on data tabulated from probability samples of records selected in the National Center for Health Statistics from copies of marriage forms sent in by States participating in the MRA. Marriages in the MRA represented about 63 percent of the national total in 1963, 71 percent in 1964, and 76 percent in 1965-67.

Marriage Sample

Records from the MRA were sampled at five different rates which depended on the annual totals for each State as indicated in the following table:

Marriage sample -- sampling rates and sample size: Marriage-registration area, 1967

Stratum and area	Sampling rate	Number of sample records
Stratum 1: Alaska, Delaware, Vermont, and Wyoming	All records	13,585
Stratum 2: District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Utah	1/2	32,317
Stratum 3: Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oregon, and West Virginia	1/5	35,122
Stratum 4: Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin	1/10	48,409
Stratum 5: California, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania	1/20	35,419

Estimating Procedures

Frequencies based on the marriage samples were estimated in two steps.

1. Each sample case was assigned a weight which was the reciprocal of the probability (or sampling rate) used to select the case. Thus, if a marriage record was selected from a State with a probability of 1/10, the record had a weight of 10.

2. Frequencies were estimated by summing the weights of the records instead of tabulating the number of sample cases. Thus, each frequency distribution such as age at marriage of first-married brides is a tabulation of the total of weighted sample cases included in each age category.

Rates for census years are based on the population enumerated as of April 1. All other rates are based on estimates of the population present in the area as of July 1 including Armed Forces stationed in

the area but excluding Armed Forces abroad. The estimates were prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

"Not Stated" Cases

"Not stated" cases arise chiefly from lack of responses to items on reporting forms and from variations in items requested on forms used in the MRA. The "not stated" cases of age of bride and of groom at marriage and of month and day of marriage were assigned responses by the distribution of stated cases. The numbers of not stated cases for each MRA State and characteristic may be found in *Vital Statistics of the United States,* Volume III, of the appropriate year.

Sampling Errors

Estimates computed from samples vary somewhat about the value that would be obtained from a complete census of the same population. The standard error is a measure of this sampling variability. On the average, estimates will differ from the corresponding census value by less than a standard error about 68 percent of the time. Approximate standard errors of estimates shown in this report may be obtained from tables I and II in this appendix.

Since the magnitude of a sampling error of an estimated rate depends on both the frequency and the population on which the rate is computed, two or more identical rates may have different sampling errors. Marriage frequencies and estimates for the unmarried resident population by age, marital status, and sex for the MRA used in computing rates included in this report appear in *Vital Statistics of the United States,* Volume III, of the specified years.

It is useful to note that the population data often may be extracted from rates and frequencies. If f is an estimated frequency for a population and r is the corresponding rate, then the size of the population involved is f/r.

Rates which appear in this report may be one of three types, each of which involves a different method for computing the corresponding standard error.

1. The standard error of an estimated proportion of a known total can be computed by dividing the standard error for the estimated frequency by the known total.

As an illustration, table 6 shows that an estimated 20.8 percent of all brides married in 1967 in the MRA (or 300,800 brides) were 25-44 years old. Table I indicates that the sampling error of a frequency equal to 20 percent of the MRA total is 1,724, which divided by the total number of MRA marriages,

Table I. Standard errors of estimated marriage frequencies: Marriage-registration area, 1967
(Rounded to nearest 500)

Number	1,446,500	14,500 or 1,432,000	29,000 or 1,417,500	43,500 or 1,403,000	58,000 or 1,388,500	72,500 or 1,374,000	101,500 or 1,345,000
Percent of total MRA marriages	100.0	1.0 or 99.0	2.0 or 98.0	3.0 or 97.0	4.0 or 96.0	5.0 or 95.0	7.0 or 93.0
Standard error	...	429	604	735	845	940	1,100
Number	144,500 or 1,302,000	217,000 or 1,229,500	289,500 or 1,157,000	361,500 or 1,085,000	434,000 or 1,012,500	578,500 or 868,000	723,500
Percent of total MRA marriages	10.0 or 90.0	15.0 or 85.0	20.0 or 80.0	25.0 or 75.0	30.0 or 70.0	40.0 or 60.0	50.0
Standard error	1,293	1,539	1,724	11,867	1,976	2,112	2,155

Table II. Standard errors of estimated marriage rate (per 1,000 population) by number of marriages **and** size of base population: Marriage-registration area, 1967

Marriages		Population in 1,000's										
Number	Corresponding % of total marriages in MRA	25	50	100	200	300	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	15,000
14,500	1.0	117.0	41.5	13.7	5.2	2.9	1.4	0.58	0.19	0.09	0.04	0.03
29,000	2.0	...	82.1	26.8	9.9	5.5	2.6	1.0	0.34	0.13	0.06	0.04
43,500	3.0	...	...	39.8	14.6	8.1	3.8	1.4	0.39	0.16	0.07	0.05
58,000	4.0	...	...	52.9	19.3	10.7	4.9	1.8	0.48	0.19	0.09	0.06
72,500	5.0	...	...	65.9	24.0	13.3	6.1	2.2	0.56	0.22	0.10	0.06
101,500	7.0	...	...	...	33.4	18.4	8.4	3.0	0.71	0.28	0.12	0.07
144,500	10.0	...	...	...	47.6	26.1	11.9	4.1	0.98	0.35	0.14	0.09
217,000	15.0	...	...	...	...	39.0	17.7	6.1	1.4	0.47	0.17	0.10
289,500	20.0	...	...	...	...	51.9	23.5	8.0	1.8	0.59	0.20	0.12
361,500	25.0	...	...	...	...	...	29.2	10.0	2.2	0.70	0.22	0.13
723,500	50.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.7	4.3	1.3	0.33	0.16
1,085,000	75.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.3	1.8	0.41	0.16
1,157,000	80.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	·6.7	1.9	0.43	0.16
1,229,500	85.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.1	2.0	0.45	0.15
1,302,000	90.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.5	2.2	0.46	0.15
1,432,000	99.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.3	2.4	0.49	0.16

1,446,299, yields .0012, or 0.1 percent. By adding and subtracting 0.1 from 20.8 we obtain the interval 20.7 to 20.9. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that the actual percentage falls within this interval.

2. Proportions with an estimated base, and with counts in the numerator also included in the denominator, have standard error:

$$\sigma_p = \frac{\sqrt{y^2 S_x^2 - x^2 S_y^2}}{y^2}$$

Where $P = x/y$ is the proportion of interest

S_x = standard error of x

S_y = standard error of y

For example, if we desire the standard error of the proportion of white marriages in which the bride was single, then from table E:

$x = 616,480, y = 811,719$

From table I, we can interpolate to get

$S_x \doteq 2123 \quad S_y \doteq 2129$

$\sigma_p \doteq .0017.$ The standard error of the corresponding percent is then .17%.

3. The sampling error of a ratio, when the numerator and the denominator are estimates of different parameters based on probability samples can be approximated using the following formula:

$$S_{(x/y)} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{y^2} S_x^2 + \frac{x^2}{y^4} S_y^2}$$

In this formula, x represents the estimated frequency of a particular characteristic of the population, and S_x is the sampling error of x; y is the estimated size of the population at risk, and S_y is the sampling error of y. It should be noted that the formula shown above gives the sampling error of a proportion. In order to obtain a sampling error of a rate per 1,000, $S_{(x/y)}$ should be multiplied by 1,000.

The sampling errors of many such rates are given in table II. For example, suppose the standard error for the 1967 remarriage rate for all women 14 and over is to be calculated (table 5). From the *Vital Statistics*

volume, the base population is seen to be 9,544,000. So the total number of remarriages for this population is $(9,544)(34.2) = 326,405$. This enables one to decide which row and column to use in table II, and the standard error is seen to be 0.2.

If the ratio is the relative change in rates, as in table D, then a further approximation can be made:

$$S_{\left(\frac{R_2 - R_1}{R_1}\right)} = \frac{1}{R_1} \sqrt{\left(\frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)^2 S_{R_1}^2 + S_{R_2}^2}$$

If the relative difference is measured in percent, of course the above would be multiplied by 100 to obtain the approximate standard error of the percent relative change.

To determine if two proportions $\underline{P}_1$ and $\underline{P}_2$ (or two percentages of rates converted into proportions) are significantly different statistically, the following expression can be used:

$$\frac{P_1 - P_2}{\sqrt{S_{P_1}^2 + S_{P_2}^2}}$$

If this quotient is greater than 2, the probability is roughly .05 that the difference between the two proportions is due to chance.

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