

VITAL & HEALTH STATISTICS

Remarriages and Subsequent Divorces United States

The trend in remarriages and subsequent divorces during the 1970–83 period is presented. Data drawn from records of remarriage provide information on geographic variation and month of marriage. Demographic characteristics of the spouses such as age, race, previous marital status, interval since last marriage ended, and educational attainment are described. Information drawn from records of divorce provide information on ages of spouses, number of children involved, and duration of the remarriage.

**Data From the National Vital
Statistics System**
Series 21, No. 45

DDHS Publication No. (PHS) 89–1923

U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services
Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control
National Center for Health Statistics
Hyattsville, Md.
January 1989

Copyright information

All material appearing in this report is in the public domain and may be reproduced or copied without permission; citation as to source, however, is appreciated.

Suggested citation

National Center for Health Statistics, B. F. Wilson. 1989. Remarriages and subsequent divorces: United States. *Vital and Health Statistics. Series 21, No. 45.* DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 89-1923. Public Health Service. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Wilson, Barbara Foley.

Remarriages and subsequent divorces

(Vital & health statistics. Series 21, Data from the national vital statistics system ; no. 45) (DHHS publication ; no. (PHS) 89-1923.)

Supt. of Docs. no.: HE 20.6209:21/45

Bibliography: p.

1. Remarriage—United States—Statistics.
2. Divorce—United States—Statistics.
3. Marriage—United States—Statistics.
4. United States—Statistics, Vital.

I. National Center for Health Statistics (U.S.)

II. Title. III. Series: Vital and health statistics. Series 21, Data from the national vital statistics system ; no. 45. IV. Series:

DHHS publication ; no. (PHS) 89-1923. [DNLM:

1. Divorce—United States—statistics.

2. Marriage—United States—statistics.

[W2 A N148vu no.45]

HA211.A3 no. 45 304.6'3'0973021 s 88-600249

[HQ1019.U6] [306.8'4'0973021]

ISBN 0-8406-0399-1

National Center for Health Statistics

Manning Feinleib, M.D., Dr.P.H., *Director*

Robert A. Israel, *Deputy Director*

Jacob J. Feldman, Ph.D., *Associate Director for Analysis and Epidemiology*

Gail F. Fisher, Ph.D., *Associate Director for Planning and Extramural Programs*

Peter L. Hurley, *Associate Director for Vital and Health Statistics Systems*

Stephen E. Nieberding, *Associate Director for Management*

George A. Schnack, *Associate Director for Data Processing and Services*

Monroe G. Sirken, Ph.D., *Associate Director for Research and Methodology*

Sandra S. Smith, *Information Officer*

Division of Vital Statistics

John E. Patterson, *Director*

James A. Weed, Ph.D., *Deputy Director*

Robert L. Heuser, M.A., *Acting Chief, Marriage and Divorce Statistics Branch*

Joseph D. Farrell, *Chief, Systems and Programming Branch*

Mabel G. Smith, *Chief, Statistical Resources Branch*

Contents

Introduction	1
Highlights	2
Source of data	4
Remarriages	5
Marriages by previous marital status	5
The ceremony	5
Month of marriage	6
Residence of bride and groom	6
Remarriage rates	7
Characteristics of men and women who remarry	9
Age	9
Race	10
Interval to remarriage	12
Educational attainment	14
Divorces of remarried persons	16
Age of husband and wife	16
Duration of remarriages	16
Children of divorce	16
References	18
List of detailed tables	19
Appendix—Technical notes	27
List of text figures	
1. Remarriage rates of previously divorced men and women by age: Marriage-registration area, 1983	8
2. Percent distribution of marriages by age of bride, according to previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1983	10
3. Cumulative percent of previously divorced and widowed brides and grooms who had remarried by specified interval: Reporting States, 1983	13
List of text tables	
A. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom: 38 reporting States, 1970 and 1983	5
B. Percent distribution of marriages by type of ceremony, according to previous marital status of bride and groom: 37 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1983	5
C. Percent distribution of marriages by month of marriage, according to previous marital status of bride and groom: Marriage-registration area, 1983	6
D. Percent of brides and grooms who were residents of the State where they married, by previous marital status: 38 reporting States, 1970 and 1983	6
E. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1983	9
F. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom, according to race of bride and groom: 33 reporting States, 1983	11

G.	Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom, according to race of couple: 33 reporting States, 1983	11
H.	Percent of marriages by type of ceremony, previous marital status, and race of bride and groom: 32 reporting States, 1983	12
J.	Mean age at marriage by previous marital status and race of bride and groom: 33 reporting States, 1983	12
K.	Mean interval to remarriage by previous marital status of bride and groom: Reporting States, 1970-83	12
L.	Mean interval to remarriage by previous marital status and age of bride and groom at remarriage: Reporting States, 1970 and 1983	13
M.	Mean interval to remarriage by previous marital status and race of bride and groom: 23 reporting States, 1983	13
N.	Percent distribution of marriages by educational attainment of bride and groom, according to previous marital status: 20 reporting States, 1983	14
O.	Mean years of school completed by bride and groom by previous marital status and age at marriage: 20 reporting States, 1983	14
P.	Mean years of school completed by bride and groom by race and previous marital status: 19 reporting States, 1983	15
Q.	Mean ages at marriage and divorce by number of marriage of divorcing wives and husbands: 30 reporting States, 1983	16
R.	Mean duration of dissolving marriages by number of marriage and age at marriage of wife and husband: 30 reporting States, 1983	16
S.	Percent distribution of dissolving marriages by number of children involved in divorce, according to number of marriage of wife and husband: 30 reporting States, 1983	17

List of appendix figures

I.	U.S. Standard License and Certificate of Marriage	28
II.	U.S. Standard Certificate of Divorce, Dissolution of Marriage, or Annulment	29

List of appendix tables

I.	Years central files of marriage and divorce records were established and years areas were admitted to the marriage- and divorce-registration areas: 1983	30
II.	Sampling error of estimated number of marriages expressed as percent of area total: Marriage-registration area, and each registration State, 1983	31
III.	Sampling error of estimated number of divorces and annulments expressed as percent of area total: Divorce-registration area, and each registration State, 1983	32
IV.	Areas that report specified items on marriage and divorce records	33
V.	Areas that report date last marriage ended on marriage records: 1970-83	34

SYMBOLS

- Data not available
 - ... Category not applicable
 - Quantity zero
 - 0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
 - Z Quantity more than zero but less than 500 where numbers are rounded to thousands
 - * Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (25 percent or more relative standard error)
-

Remarriages and Subsequent Divorces

by Barbara Foley Wilson,
Division of Vital Statistics

Introduction

Most Americans marry, and if the marriage ends in divorce, more than three-fourths marry again (Schoen et al., 1985). For each year from 1963 to 1981 the annual total of divorces climbed in the United States, passing the 1 million mark in 1975; then the number declined in 1982–83, increased in 1984–85, and declined in 1986, according to provisional statistics. The historic high set in 1981 has not been exceeded. This report describes the trends and characteristics in remarriages of previously divorced men and women during the period from 1970 to 1983. During that 14-year period, 14.5 million couples divorced, leaving the spouses eligible to remarry. Data on first marriages and remarriages of widowed persons are presented for comparison. This report presents information that is collected on certificates of marriage and divorce by

the individual States. Although these certificates must serve legal as well statistical purposes, there are several sociological and demographic items on the certificates that are analyzed here. First, the descriptive statistics document how many remarriages there were, where and when they occurred, and whether the ceremonies were civil or religious. Next, marriage rates specific for age and previous marital status are presented. Then, the characteristics of the bride and groom are described—their residence, birthplace, age, race, and educational attainment. Also, interval to remarriage is analyzed as it varies by sex, age, and race. Finally, data from the divorce file are used to study dissolutions of remarriages—numbers, ages of spouses, duration of the unions, and numbers of children involved.

Highlights

During the 1970–83 period the annual totals of remarriages of previously divorced men and women increased by 82 percent. The estimated national number of previously divorced brides increased from 404,000 in 1970 to 736,000 in 1983. The estimated number of previously divorced grooms increased from 423,000 in 1970 to 773,000 in 1983. In the 14-year period, 8.2 million previously divorced women and 8.7 million previously divorced men remarried. In contrast, marriages of single and widowed persons declined. Currently about 1 out of 3 American brides and grooms have been married before, up from 1 out of 4 in 1970.

Analysis of marriage rates shows differences among age, sex, and marital status groups. First, divorced men and women marry at higher rates than do single or widowed men and women. Second, divorced men remarry at higher rates than divorced women at all ages 25 years and over. Finally, remarriage rates for both men and women decline with increased age. For example, 1 out of every 4 divorced men and women who were 20–24 years of age remarried during 1983. The rates for each older age group declined, faster for women than for men. By age 65 years and over, less than 3 percent of divorced men and less than half of 1 percent of divorced women remarried.

Remarriage rates for both divorced men and women declined during the 1970–83 period. Remarriage rates dropped even though the number of remarriages was increasing because the pool of divorced persons available for remarriage was increasing faster than the number of remarriages. In 1983 the remarriage rate for previously divorced women was 91.6 per 1,000, 26 percent lower than in 1970 (123.3). The remarriage rate for previously divorced men was 142.1 per 1,000 in 1983, 31 percent lower than in 1970 (204.5). Thus, only 9 percent of divorced women and 14 percent of divorced men remarried in 1983 compared with 12 percent of divorced women and 20 percent of divorced men in 1970.

Age at marriage differed distinctly for different marital status groups. In 1983 the average age of previously single brides was 23.5 years; that of previously divorced brides, 33.7 years; and of previously widowed brides, 52.6 years. Average ages of previously single, divorced, and widowed grooms were 25.5, 37.3, and 60.2 years, respectively. Thus, previously divorced brides were a decade older than single brides, and previously widowed brides were a score of years older than previously divorced brides. Ages of grooms tend

to be more dispersed. Previously divorced grooms are a dozen years older than single grooms, and previously widowed grooms are nearly a quarter century older than previously divorced grooms.

Men are usually older than their brides and the age differences vary with previous marital histories. For marriages in 1983, if both bride and groom had been single, the age difference was 2.0 years. If the bride was single and the groom divorced, the difference was 6.8 years. If both bride and groom were divorced, the difference was 3.9 years. The only combinations in which the brides were typically older than their grooms were in marriages of previously divorced and widowed women to single grooms. Widowed brides were 2.1 years older and divorced brides were 0.9 year older than their single grooms.

Black brides and grooms are more likely than white brides and grooms to be marrying for the first time. In 1983 only 24 percent of black brides were previously divorced compared with 33 percent of white brides.

Whether single or divorced, black brides and grooms marry later than white brides and grooms.

The interval between marriages in 1983 was 3.6 years for brides and 3.0 years for grooms for all categories of remarriages. However, divorced persons remarry sooner than widowed persons; younger persons, whether widowed or divorced, marry sooner than older counterparts; and white men and women remarry sooner than black men and women. These relationships were the same in 1970 and 1983, but the intervals to remarriage have increased.

Educational attainment of previously divorced brides and grooms was lower than that of previously single brides and grooms, and this difference was especially pronounced for women.

The average ages of divorcing men and women are between 30 and 45 years, regardless of the number of marriages they have had. The average age of women who divorced in 1983 was 31.8 years if it was a first marriage, 37.2 years if it was a second marriage, and 41.0 years if it was a third or higher order marriage. These women had married at 21.2, 30.4, and 36.2 years of age, respectively. The average age of men who divorced in 1983 was 34.1 years if it was a first marriage, 40.5 years if it was a second marriage, and 44.6 years if it was a third or higher order marriage. Comparison of data from both the marriage and divorce files shows that divorcing men and women were younger than average when they first married.

Generally, the more times a divorcing person has been married, the shorter the duration of the marriage. Average duration for all divorcing couples in 1983 was 9.6 years, but for once-married men and women the duration was 10.8 years. In contrast, the duration for twice-married men and women was 7.0 years and for people married three times the average duration was 4.9 years for women and 5.1 years for men. Furthermore, whether the marriage was a first, second, or third marriage, duration to divorce shortened with older age at marriage.

Fewer children are involved in dissolutions of remarriages than of first marriages. On average, women ending first marriages had 1.06 children under 18 years, those ending second marriages had 0.64 children, and those ending third marriages had 0.36 children. These differences are due at least in part to the fact that most children are born into first marriages and may not be mentioned on divorce records of subsequent marriages unless custody becomes an issue. In addition, children are no longer reported once they are over 18 years of age.

Source of data

The data are based on samples of records from States that participate in the marriage-registration area (MRA) and the divorce-registration area (DRA). These are States that have central files of marriage and divorce records and sufficiently complete reporting of statistical items on their records to warrant the collection, processing, and publication of the data. The MRA included 39 States in 1970 and 42 States in 1983. All these States with the exception of Iowa provided information on marriage order, that is, whether the marriage was the first or a remarriage of the bride and the groom. Much of the analysis in this report is done on the 38 States that also reported whether the remarriage followed widowhood or divorce because this is an important distinction in terms of ages, likelihood of divorce, and other sociological variables. The DRA, which is less complete than the MRA, included 28 States in 1970 and 31 States in 1983. In 1983, 80 percent of all marriages were performed in the MRA, and 49 percent of all divorces

were granted in the DRA. A more detailed description of the MRA and the DRA appears in the Technical notes. In addition to data from the registration areas, total counts of marriages and divorces are obtained annually from all States, and these national totals are used to make estimates of remarriage for the United States as a whole. Copies of the U.S. Standard Certificates of Marriage and Divorce are shown in the Technical notes for reference. Because not all States use certificates exactly like the U.S. Standard Certificate, tables are included which show the States that have the items analyzed in this report.

Having less than all States report a particular item may mean that the statistics are not the same as they would be for the entire Nation, and this potential bias should be kept in mind. For each item, the number of reporting States is indicated in the text, and for trends over time, uniform groups of States are used.

Remarriages

The estimated annual national total of remarriages for previously divorced men and women increased almost every year from 1970 to 1983 (table 1). The number of previously divorced brides was 404,000 in 1970 and rose to 736,000 in 1983. During that period more men than women remarried single persons, but the percent increase in the number of remarriages was the same for both sexes. The number of previously divorced grooms increased 83 percent from 423,000 to 773,000. In the 14-year period, 8.2 million previously divorced women and 8.7 million previously divorced men remarried. In contrast, the number of marriages to single people changed little, and remarriages of widowed men and women declined. These estimates of the number of marriages to previously single, divorced, and widowed brides and grooms are based on the assumption that the distribution of marriages by previous marital status was the same in the United States as it was for a uniform group of 36 States that reported previous marital status on their marriage records during the 1970-83 period. In 1983, 67 percent of U.S. marriages occurred in this group of 36 States.

Marriages by previous marital status

Currently in the United States, 1 out of 3 of the brides and grooms that marry each year have been married before. Of these women, previously divorced brides were nine times more numerous than previously widowed brides. For example, in 1983, 66 percent of brides were previously single, 30 percent were previously divorced, and 3 percent were previously widowed (table A). For men, the proportions were almost the same: 65, 32, and 3 percent, respectively. In 1970 the proportion of marriages that were remarriages was considerably lower than in 1983. Previously divorced brides and grooms constituted only about 20 percent of all brides and grooms in 1970. Both proportions increased by approximately half between 1970 and 1983. In contrast, the proportion of brides and grooms who were previously widowed shrank from 5 to 4 percent for brides and from 5 to 3 percent for grooms.

There is considerable variation among States. In 1983, the proportion of brides who were previously divorced ranged among registration States from 22.1 percent in New York to 41.4 percent in Wyoming (table 2). For grooms it ranged from 23.9 in Wisconsin to 42.3 in Georgia. The

Table A. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom: 38 reporting States, 1970 and 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

<i>Sex and previous marital status</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>	
	<i>1983</i>	<i>1970</i>
All brides	100.0	100.0
Single	66.4	76.3
Divorced	30.1	18.5
Widowed	3.5	5.1
All grooms	100.0	100.0
Single	65.2	76.1
Divorced	31.6	19.4
Widowed	3.2	4.5

proportion of brides who were previously widowed was low in all States and ranged from 2.3 percent in Utah to 5.0 in Mississippi, while the proportion for grooms ranged from 1.4 percent in Alaska to 4.5 in Florida.

The ceremony

More than two-thirds of weddings take place in religious settings, but the proportion is much lower for previously divorced brides and grooms. In 1983, only 58 percent of previously divorced brides married in religious ceremonies compared with 76 percent of previously single brides and 71 percent of previously widowed brides. The proportions are similar for previously divorced grooms (table B). This may be due in part to the opposition of some religious

Table B. Percent distribution of marriages by type of ceremony, according to previous marital status of bride and groom: 37 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

<i>Sex and previous marital status</i>	<i>Type of ceremony</i>		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Civil</i>	<i>Religious</i>
	<i>Percent distribution</i>		
All brides	100.0	29.2	70.8
Single	100.0	23.7	76.3
Divorced	100.0	41.6	58.4
Widowed	100.0	28.6	71.4
All grooms	100.0	29.2	70.8
Single	100.0	24.5	75.5
Divorced	100.0	39.4	60.6
Widowed	100.0	24.8	75.2

groups to divorce. In particular, the Roman Catholic Church does not sanctify remarriages of previously divorced persons. Other studies have shown that fewer Catholics than Protestants marry (Mosher, Johnson, and Horn, 1986); that having married, fewer Catholics than Protestants divorce (McCarthy, 1979; Pratt, Mosher, Bachrach, and Horn, 1984); and that having divorced, Catholics are slower and less likely to remarry (NCHS, 1980).

Month of marriage

Marriages have a typical seasonal pattern in the United States—lowest in winter and highest in summer (table C). The weddings of remarrying brides and grooms are less seasonal than first marriages. Many first marriages are planned for early summer and follow the conclusion of an academic year, which is a frequently used time to change residence and occupation as well as marital status. For previously widowed and divorced persons, other factors apparently have much more relevance to planning a wedding. Moreover, previously divorced persons may prefer to remarry shortly after the dissolution of their previous marriage, and divorces have relatively little seasonal variation.

Residence of bride and groom

Among the many romantic myths surrounding nuptials is that of “running away to get married” or just slipping off to come back as “Mr. and Mrs.” presenting friends and family with an accomplished fact. Persistent as the myth is, the data show that the majority of couples marry where they live, and if both do not live in the same State, then the wedding is more likely to take place in the bride’s home

State. There is little difference between remarriages and first marriages in this regard, but there used to be more difference. In 1983 a smaller proportion of previously divorced (90 percent) than single brides (92 percent) were residents of the State where they married. For grooms, 88 percent of previously divorced and 89 percent of previously single grooms married in their home State. In 1970, only 82 percent of previously divorced brides and 80 percent of previously divorced grooms were married in their States of residence (table D). The convergence may have been due in part to a move toward uniformity among States with regard to legislation about marriage, divorce, and remarriage that occurred during the 1970’s (Council of State Governments, 1974). In the past, some States had statutes forbidding remarriage after divorce until a certain amount of time had elapsed; residents of these States would remarry elsewhere if they did not want to wait.

Table D. Percent of brides and grooms who were residents of the State where they married, by previous marital status: 38 reporting States, 1970 and 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Sex and previous marital status	1983	1970	Percent	
			1983	1970
All brides	91.5	88.4		
Single	92.4	90.0		
Divorced	90.0	81.9		
Widowed	88.5	84.9		
All grooms	88.4	83.6		
Single	88.7	84.4		
Divorced	88.0	79.6		
Widowed	86.7	84.5		

Table C. Percent distribution of marriages by month of marriage, according to previous marital status of bride and groom: Marriage-registration area, 1983

[Based on sample data. Michigan, Ohio, and South Carolina do not report whether spouses were previously widowed or divorced. Iowa does not report any category of previous marital status]

Month of marriage	Previous marital status of—					
	Bride			Groom		
	Single	Divorced	Widowed	Single	Divorced	Widowed
	Percent distribution					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
January	4.7	6.1	7.0	4.8	5.9	7.1
February	5.1	6.6	6.6	5.2	6.4	6.4
March	5.8	6.7	6.8	5.8	6.6	6.7
April	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.4
May	9.7	8.9	8.0	9.7	9.0	8.3
June	12.3	10.0	10.3	12.2	10.2	10.8
July	10.6	10.1	9.8	10.7	10.1	9.5
August	10.9	9.1	8.8	10.9	9.2	8.3
September	10.0	8.5	8.4	9.9	8.9	8.4
October	9.4	8.3	9.1	9.3	8.7	8.7
November	6.6	7.8	8.0	6.7	7.7	8.4
December	6.7	9.4	9.0	6.7	9.3	9.1

Remarriage rates

Age-specific rates of marriage for brides and grooms of all marital statuses are published annually by the National Center for Health Statistics. These rates establish certain typical patterns of marriage in contemporary United States.

- Divorced men and women marry at higher rates than do single or widowed men and women.
- Remarriage rates for both men and women decline with increased age.
- Divorced men remarry at higher rates than divorced women for all age groups 25–29 years and over.

These relationships can be illustrated with 1983 data. First, the remarriage rate for divorced women was 91.6 per 1,000 in 1983, 44 percent higher than the first marriage rate (63.8), and nearly 14 times higher than the marriage rate for widows (6.2) (table 3). The remarriage rate for divorced men, 142.1 per 1,000, was nearly three times the first marriage rate (51.8) and nearly five times the rate for widowers (30.7). Second, the decline in remarriage rates with age for divorced men and women can be seen in figure 1. At 20–24 years of age approximately one-quarter

of divorced women and men remarry. By age 65 years and over, less than 3 percent of divorced men and less than a half of 1 percent of divorced women remarry. Finally, the higher rates of remarriage for men can also be seen in figure 1. At 20–24 years of age the rates for previously divorced men and women were virtually the same. After age 25 years the rates for women dropped faster than the rates for men, creating ever-greater differences between the sexes in the likelihood of remarriage. The difference in remarriage prospects resulted in 7,205,000 divorced women eligible for remarriage in the population in 1983 compared with only 4,903,000 men.

The remarriage rates for both divorced men and women dropped during the 1970–83 period. In 1970 the remarriage rate for previously divorced women was 123.3 per 1,000. It fell 26 percent by 1983 to 91.6 per 1,000. For divorced men the remarriage rate in 1983 was 142.1 per 1,000, 31 percent lower than it had been in 1970. Remarriage rates dropped, even though the number of remarriages was increasing, because the pool of divorced persons available for remarriage was increasing faster than the number of remarriages.

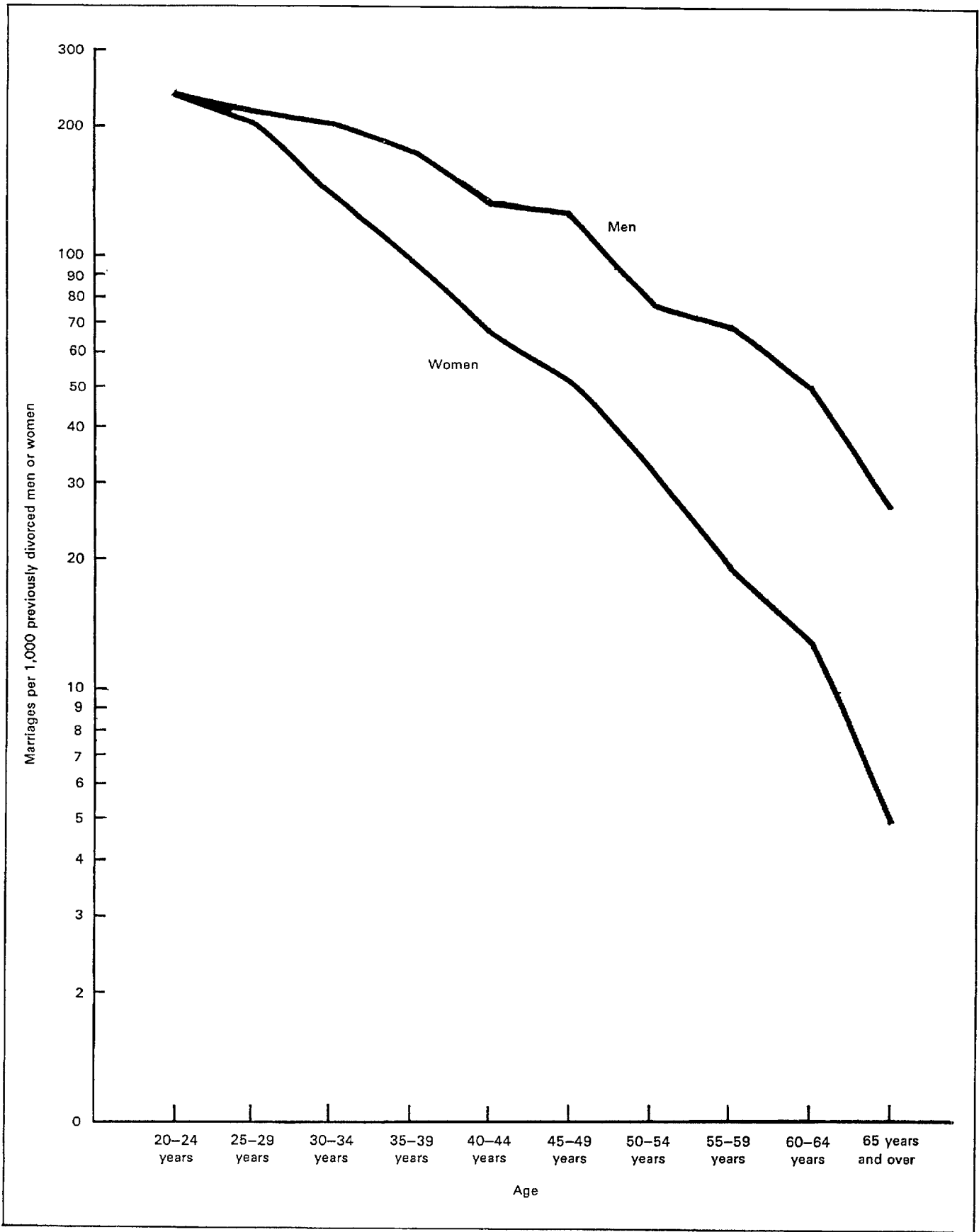


Figure 1. Remarriage rates of previously divorced men and women by age: Marriage-registration area, 1983

Characteristics of men and women who remarry

Age

Ages of bride and groom are analyzed for the group of 38 States that reported previous marital status in 1983. Brides and grooms in each previous marital status tend to be of certain typical ages. A large majority (71 percent) of single brides marry before 25 years of age. Previously divorced brides are concentrated in age groups 25–44 years (74 percent), and most previously widowed brides (69 percent) are 45 years of age and over (figure 2). In 1983 mean ages of brides were 23.5, 33.7, and 52.6 years for single, divorced, and widowed women, respectively.

Men are 2–8 years older at marriage than women are, depending on previous marital status. Mean ages of men at marriage were 25.5, 37.3, and 60.2 years for single, divorced, and widowed grooms, respectively. Thus, previously divorced brides and grooms tend to be a decade or more older at marriage than single brides and grooms, and previously widowed brides and grooms are at least 20 years older than that.

In recent years, ages at remarriage have been increasing (table 4). For example, mean age at remarriage of previously divorced brides varied between 32.5 and 32.9 years throughout the 1970's, and then started upward, reaching 33.7 years by 1983, higher than it has been since it was first published in 1963. For grooms, ages at remarriage have shown similar increases. The mean age of previously divorced grooms rose from 36.1 years in 1977 to 37.3 years in 1983. Ages of previously widowed brides and grooms, however, have not shown such a clear trend.

Among States, mean ages of previously divorced brides ranged over a 3-year spread between 32.1 years in Louisiana and Wyoming to 35.2 years in New Jersey (table 5). For grooms, mean ages ranged 3.3 years from 35.8 years in North Carolina, Utah, and Wyoming to 39.1 years in Hawaii. The variation among States of mean ages at remarriage is greater for widowed than for divorced persons, ranging 10.8 years (from 46.0 years in Alaska to 56.8 years in Florida) for widowed brides and 8.4 years (from 55.8 years in Alaska to 64.2 years in Florida) for previously widowed grooms.

The majority of brides marry grooms with the same marital status. In 1983, 55 percent of all brides and grooms were both single, 19 percent were both divorced, and 2 percent were both widowed. Less than one-fourth of marriages united brides and grooms with a different previous marital status (table E).

Table E. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Previous marital status of bride	Previous marital status of groom			
	All grooms	Single	Divorced	Widowed
	Percent distribution			
All brides	100.0	65.2	31.6	3.2
Single	66.4	54.8	11.2	0.4
Divorced	30.1	10.0	18.9	1.3
Widowed	3.5	0.5	1.5	1.5

The frequency with which men and women marry spouses of the same marital status is due in part to their choosing spouses of a similar age. Conversely, those with an age that is atypical for their status may choose a spouse of similar age but different marital status. For example, the mean age of previously divorced brides was 33.7 years in 1983, but those who married single men were considerably younger than average, 29.6 years, while those who married previously divorced men were 34.9 years, and those who married widowed men were quite a bit older, 47.0 years. Similarly, divorced men were 37.3 years of age overall, but those who married single women were younger, 33.2 years; those who married divorced women were 38.8 years; and those who married widows were 49.4 years of age, on average. Remarrying widows showed the same patterns: Widows who married single men were 39.9 years, those who married divorced men were 47.7 years, and those who married widowed men were 61.8 years (table 6).

Traditionally a groom is older than his bride, a fact that tends to be typical of remarriages as well as of first marriages (table 6). The only combinations of previous marital status for which grooms are younger than their brides are the categories of divorced and widowed brides with previously single grooms. In 1983 widowed brides who married single grooms were 39.9 years of age, 2.1 years older than their own grooms who were 37.8 years. Previously divorced brides were 29.6 years of age, 0.9 year older than their previously single grooms who were 28.7 years of age. For all other combinations of previous marital status, grooms were older than their brides, and in most cases the age differences were greater than those for marriages of two single people.

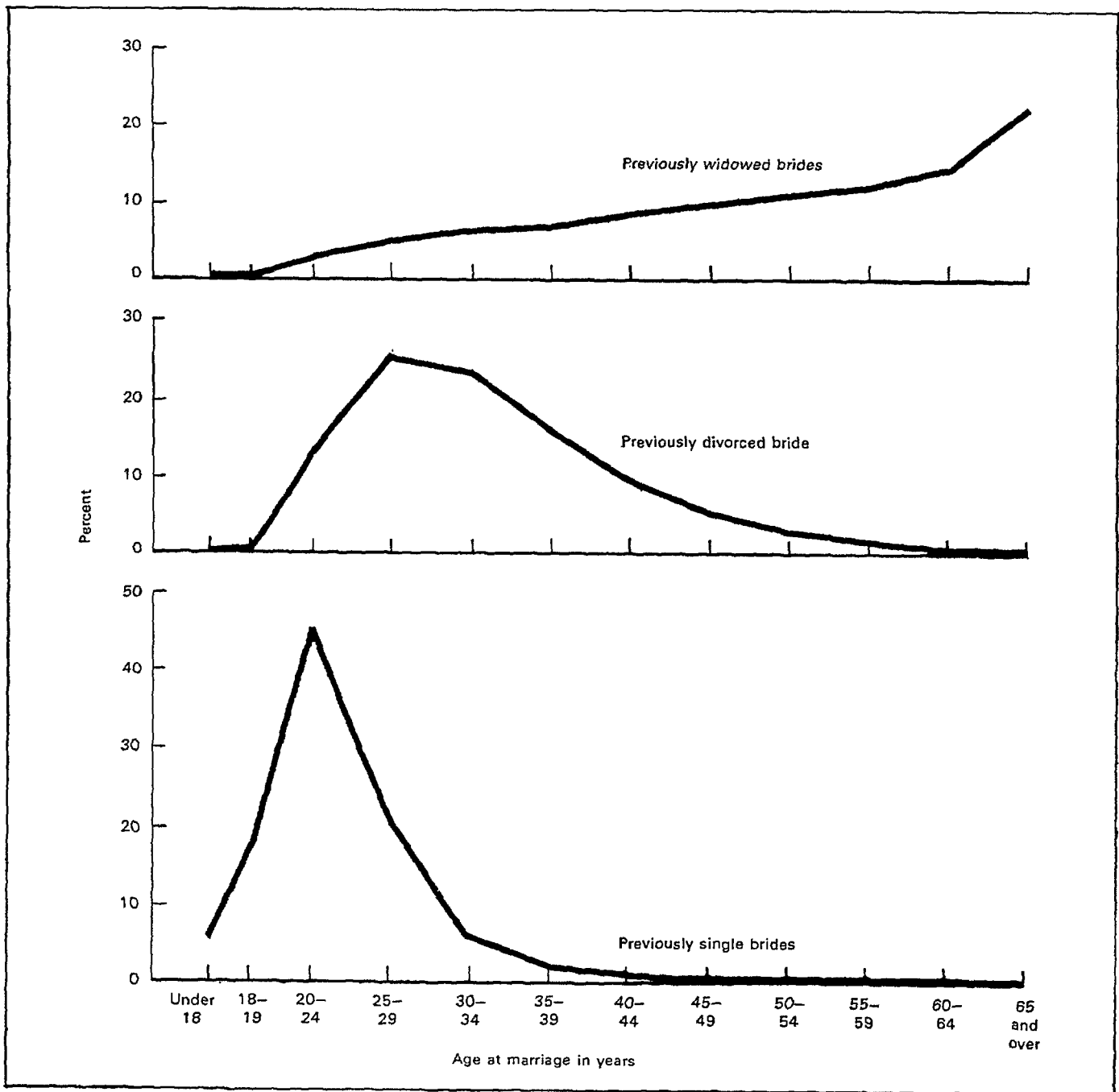


Figure 2. Percent distribution of marriages by age of bride, according to previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1983

Race

Race, as well as previous marital status, is reported on marriage records of 33 States. Racial differences in the proportion of remarriages for these States are shown in table F. Black brides are more likely than white brides to be marrying for the first time, while black brides are less likely to be previously divorced. For both races, the proportion of brides that were previously widowed was low: 4 percent of white and 3 percent of black brides had been widowed. The distributions for grooms were similar to those for brides.

Table G shows the combined marital status of couples according to their racial combination. White couples are more likely to both be remarrying after divorce (22 percent) than all other racial pairings. Couples in which both partners are of races other than black or white are much more likely (69 percent) to be both single than black couples (60 percent) or white couples (52 percent), and less likely to both be divorced. Couples in racially mixed marriages are more likely to be of different previous marital status (30-33 percent) than couples that are not racially mixed (20-27 percent).

Table F. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom, according to race of bride and groom: 33 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Previous marital status	Bride			Groom		
	White	Black	Other races	White	Black	Other races
	Percent distribution					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	63.1	73.1	72.3	62.5	70.1	75.4
Divorced	33.1	23.5	25.4	34.2	26.5	22.7
Widowed	3.8	3.4	2.3	3.3	3.4	1.9

Table G. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom, according to race of couple: 33 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Race of couple and previous marital status of bride	Previous marital status of groom			
	Total	Single	Divorced	Widowed
	Percent distribution			
White couple	100.0	62.5	34.1	3.3
Single	63.1	52.0	10.8	0.3
Divorced	33.1	10.1	21.6	1.3
Widowed	3.8	0.4	1.7	1.7
Black couple	100.0	70.4	26.2	3.4
Single	73.2	59.9	12.4	0.9
Divorced	23.4	9.6	12.3	1.5
Widowed	3.4	0.9	1.4	1.0
Both bride and groom of other races	100.0	78.2	19.9	1.9
Single	78.0	69.1	8.5	0.4
Divorced	19.5	8.3	10.3	0.9
Widowed	2.5	0.8	1.1	0.6
White bride and black groom	100.0	65.3	31.9	2.8
Single	66.1	50.8	14.3	0.9
Divorced	32.4	13.5	17.1	1.8
Widowed	1.6	0.9	0.5	0.1
White bride and groom of other races	100.0	70.4	27.5	2.1
Single	68.2	53.4	13.9	0.8
Divorced	30.6	16.5	13.0	1.0
Widowed	1.3	0.4	0.6	0.2
Black bride and white groom	100.0	68.7	28.7	2.6
Single	72.6	56.4	14.7	1.4
Divorced	26.0	11.8	13.5	0.7
Widowed	1.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Bride of other races and white groom	100.0	64.9	33.3	1.7
Single	64.1	48.9	14.4	0.8
Divorced	33.6	14.9	17.9	0.8
Widowed	2.3	1.1	1.0	0.1

Differences in family structure of black and white Americans have been documented by many researchers (McCarthy, 1978; Espenshade, 1985; and Thornton, 1978). Black Americans are more likely than others to have their marriages disrupted and less likely to remarry following a marital breakup. Furthermore, first marriages of black women are more likely than marriages of white women to end in separation. Bachrach and Horn found that 36 percent of dissolved first marriages of black women ended in separation only, compared with 11 percent of dissolved first

marriages of white women (NCHS, 1985). Using 1976 survey data, one analyst calculated that the probability of remarriage within 5 years of divorce was 0.731 for white women and 0.485 for black women (NCHS, 1980). The lower percent of black brides who were previously divorced is consistent with a higher proportion of black women who are separated and are not legally free to remarry.

Although religious ceremonies for previously divorced women are less frequent than for widowed or single women (table H), the differences are much smaller for black than

Table H. Percent of marriages by type of ceremony, previous marital status, and race of bride and groom: 32 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Type of ceremony and previous marital status	Race of bride			Race of groom		
	White	Black	Other races	White	Black	Other races
	Percent					
Civil						
Single	21.3	34.0	45.8	22.1	35.4	47.2
Divorced	42.8	38.0	58.8	40.8	36.4	55.6
Widowed	28.8	30.5	55.1	25.1	30.7	41.0
Religious						
Single	78.7	66.0	54.2	77.9	64.6	52.8
Divorced	57.2	62.0	41.2	59.2	63.6	44.4
Widowed	71.2	69.5	44.9	74.9	69.3	59.0

for white women. Unlike white women, almost as many (62 percent) previously divorced black brides marry in religious settings as do previously single black brides (66 percent).

In general, black persons marry later than do white persons. In 1983 black brides and grooms were 2.0 and 1.8 years older, respectively, than white brides and grooms at first marriage, and 2.2 and 1.6 years older at remarriage after divorce. On the other hand, remarrying black widows and widowers were younger, 3.6 and 3.1 years younger, than their white counterparts (table J).

Table J. Mean age at marriage by previous marital status and race of bride and groom: 33 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes. For mean age of brides and grooms of all races Marriage-registration area, see Table 4]

Sex and race	Previous marital status			
	Total	Single	Divorced	Widowed
Bride				
		Years		
White	27.4	22.9	33.2	53.1
Black	28.2	24.9	35.4	49.5
Other races	27.6	24.9	33.7	43.3
Groom				
White	30.2	24.9	36.9	60.7
Black	30.9	26.7	38.5	57.6
Other races	29.9	27.0	37.4	56.3

Interval to remarriage

The remarriage rates discussed in an earlier section established that divorced men and women, regardless of age, remarry at higher rates than widowed men and women. The result is that more divorced than widowed persons ultimately remarry. Using period rates for 1980, Robert Schoen has calculated that 78 percent of divorced women compared with 8 percent of widowed women ever remarry. The differences for men are smaller but still substantial. Schoen calculated that 83 percent of divorced men and 21 percent of widowed men remarry (Schoen et al., 1985).

Data for 1983 from vital statistics show that widowed and divorced persons who do remarry differ in the length of time before remarriage. Divorced men and women remarry sooner than do widowers and widows, and men in either

category marry sooner than women. For previously divorced men, the mean interval to remarriage was 3.0 years compared with 3.3 years for women. The difference was greater for previously widowed persons: The mean interval for men was 3.5 years compared with 6.1 years for women.

Although the mean interval to remarriage for divorced men is less than for widowed men, the same proportion, 65 percent, were being remarried within 3 years after their previous marriage had ended (figure 3). For previously divorced grooms remarrying in 1983, nearly 25 percent married within 6 months, 35 percent within a year, and 65 percent within 3 years of the date when their last marriage ended. For men who had been widowed, 7 percent remarried within 6 months, 24 percent within a year, and 65 percent were remarrying within 3 years of the date their previous wife died. Unlike remarriages of men, widowed women do not "catch up" to divorced women in the interval to remarriage; 61 percent of divorced women were remarried within 3 years of the date their last marriage ended compared with only 37 percent of widowed brides.

Between 1970 and 1983, interval to remarriage lengthened for previously divorced and widowed women and men, but the change was greater for the previously divorced (table K).

Table K. Mean interval to remarriage by previous marital status of bride and groom: Reporting States, 1970-1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes.]

Year	Previous marital status of—			
	Bride		Groom	
	Divorced	Widowed	Divorced	Widowed
	Years			
1983	3.3	6.1	3.0	3.5
1982	3.1	6.1	2.8	3.4
1981	3.0	6.0	2.7	3.5
1980	2.9	6.0	2.6	3.5
1979	2.9	6.0	2.5	3.5
1978	2.8	5.7	2.5	3.3
1977	2.7	5.8	2.3	3.4
1976	2.6	5.6	2.3	3.3
1975	2.5	5.6	2.3	3.2
1974	2.5	5.5	2.2	3.3
1973	2.6	5.5	2.2	3.2
1972	2.5	5.7	2.2	3.4
1971	2.6	5.5	2.3	3.3
1970	2.5	5.5	2.2	3.2

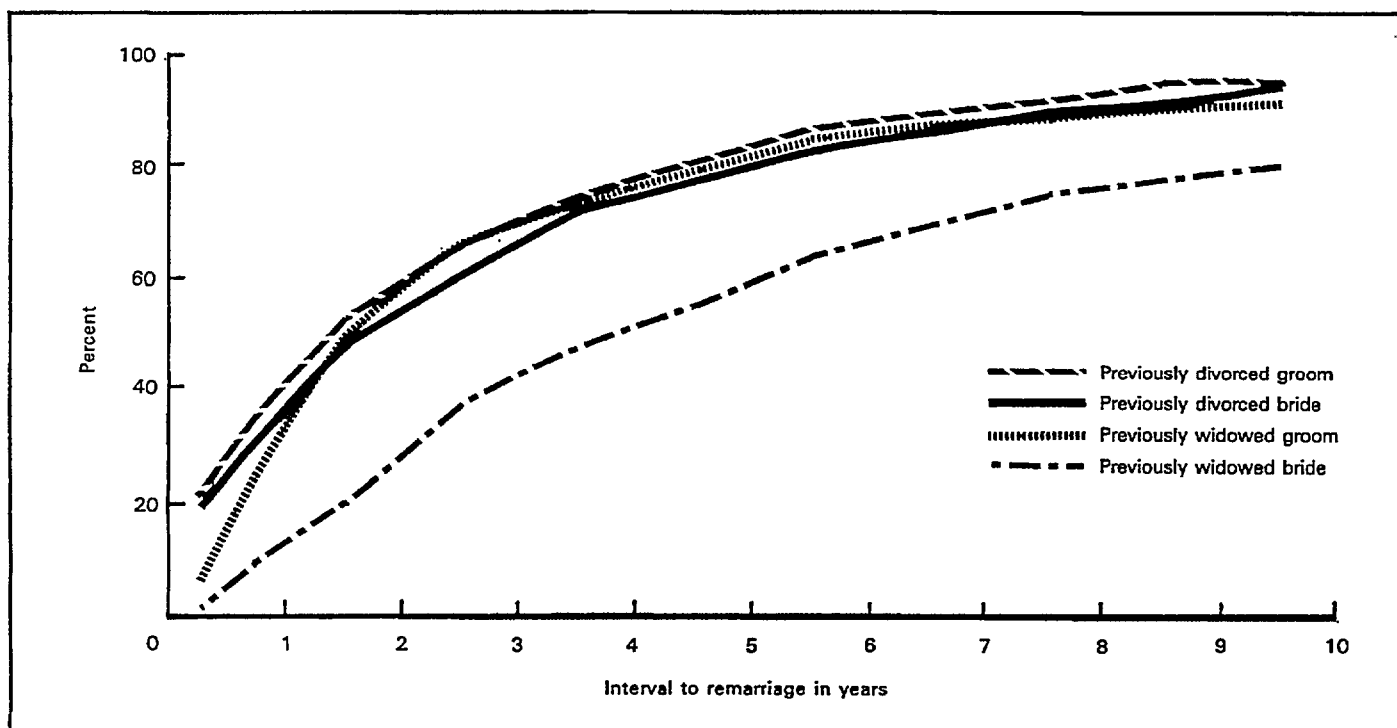


Figure 3. Cumulative percent of previously divorced and widowed brides and grooms who had remarried by specified interval: Reporting States, 1983

As men and women age, interval between marriages lengthens, almost without exception. In 1983 the interval between marriages of previously divorced women was 0.8 year for brides 18–19 years of age and increased for successive age groups until, for previously divorced brides

65 years of age and over, the interval was 10.4 years (table L).

For grooms, interval also lengthened for each successive age group after 20 years, but, as stated before, intervals were shorter for men than for women. Previously divorced grooms 20–24 years of age in 1983 were married 1.3 years after their last marriage ended. Average interval for each successive age group increased until 65 years and over when it was 6.3 years. Between 1970 and 1983 interval to remarriage lengthened for both brides and grooms, both previously divorced and widowed, and for most age groups.

In 1983, 23 States reported both race and interval to remarriage. Intervals between marriages were longer for black than for white men and women (table M), regardless of whether they had been widowed or divorced. The racial differentials were greater for widowed than for divorced persons.

Table L. Mean interval to remarriage by previous marital status and age of bride and groom at remarriage: Reporting States, 1970 and 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Previous marital status and age at marriage	Bride		Groom	
	1983	1970	1983	1970
Divorced				
Years				
All ages	3.3	2.5	3.0	2.2
12–17 years	1.0	0.5	1.9	0.5
18–19 years	0.8	0.6	1.2	1.0
20–24 years	1.5	1.1	1.3	0.9
25–29 years	2.5	1.6	2.1	1.4
30–34 years	3.2	2.4	2.9	1.9
35–44 years	4.0	3.2	3.2	2.4
45–54 years	5.5	5.1	3.7	3.3
55–64 years	7.6	8.6	4.9	4.1
65 years and over	10.4	11.7	6.3	7.1
Widowed				
All ages	6.1	5.5	3.5	3.2
12–17 years	0.9	1.0	*	*
18–19 years	1.6	1.0	1.4	*
20–24 years	2.1	1.5	1.8	1.5
25–29 years	3.2	2.5	2.0	2.0
30–34 years	4.0	3.3	3.6	2.3
35–44 years	5.3	4.7	3.1	2.7
45–54 years	6.2	5.3	3.8	3.2
55–64 years	6.8	6.6	3.5	3.0
65 years and over	7.9	9.0	3.6	3.9

Table M. Mean interval to remarriage by previous marital status and race of bride and groom: 23 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Previous marital status and race	Bride		Groom	
	Years			
Divorced				
White	3.2		2.9	
Black	4.1		3.4	
Other races	3.3		3.5	
Widowed				
White	6.0		3.3	
Black	8.7		5.4	
Other races	7.2		9.1	

Educational attainment

In 1983, 20 States had both educational attainment and previous marital status on marriage records. The data (tables 7 and N) reflect the historical trend toward increased education that has occurred in 20th century America. Older brides and grooms, who were more likely to be widowed, went to school when the general level of education was lower than it is currently. For example, 23 percent of previously widowed grooms completed their formal educations with elementary school compared with only 5 percent of divorced and 3 percent of single grooms. For women, 15 percent of widowed brides had only elementary educations compared with 4 percent of previously divorced and 2 percent of previously single brides.

There is another educational difference that cannot be explained by that historical change in levels of education. Although the percent distributions of previously divorced and previously single grooms by educational attainment are very similar, the distribution for previously divorced brides differs from that for previously single brides. Previously divorced brides are concentrated in categories of less education. Whereas similar proportions of previously single and previously divorced grooms and previously single brides had finished 4 years or more of college (23, 21, and 21 percent, respectively), only 13 percent of previously divorced brides had done so.

The distributions are summarized by figures for mean education, which are shown in Table O. In 1983, previously single brides and grooms had 13.5 years and previously divorced grooms had 13.4 years of education compared with only 13.0 years for previously divorced brides. Thus, there was a greater difference between previously single and divorced brides than previously single and divorced grooms.

For all age groups under 45 years, previously divorced brides and grooms have less education than previously single spouses (table O). The lower education of previously divorced persons may well reflect the relatively higher instability of the first marriages of women and men with lower education. Such a conclusion can be supported by a comparison of vital statistics from marriage and divorce

Table O. Mean years of school completed by bride and groom by previous marital status and age at marriage: 20 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Sex and age at marriage	Previous marital status			
	Total	Single	Divorced	Widowed
Bride				
		Years		
All ages	13.3	13.5	13.0	12.1
12-17 years	10.7	10.7	10.5	11.0
18-19 years	12.3	12.3	11.4	11.1
20-24 years	13.5	13.7	12.2	12.1
25-29 years	14.0	14.6	13.0	12.9
30-34 years	13.9	14.8	13.5	13.3
35-44 years	13.3	14.1	13.3	12.5
45-54 years	12.5	11.9	12.7	12.2
55-64 years	11.8	10.6	12.1	11.7
65 years and over	11.5	11.9	11.1	11.6
Groom				
All ages	13.4	13.5	13.4	12.1
12-17 years	10.7	10.7	9.8	*
18-19 years	11.9	12.0	11.2	*
20-24 years	13.1	13.2	12.2	12.5
25-29 years	13.9	14.3	13.0	13.2
30-34 years	14.2	14.8	13.7	13.5
35-44 years	13.8	14.3	13.8	13.8
45-54 years	13.1	12.4	13.3	12.6
55-64 years	12.5	10.8	12.8	12.4
65 years and over	11.0	9.7	10.9	11.1

registration areas. Men and women dissolving first marriages had less education on the average than all brides and grooms at first marriage.

Lower educational attainment of women and men at remarriage than at first marriage for the age groups under 45 years of age reflects two separate processes. First, because the likelihood of divorce is associated with younger ages at marriage and fewer economic resources, divorce is more likely for married people with less education. Second, having divorced, fewer people with higher education remarry, especially women (Spanier and Glick, 1980).

For previously divorced brides there were virtually no differences among races in educational attainment. This is in contrast to first marriages in which white brides have more education (13.5 years) than black brides (13.1 years) (table P). For both racial groups women in remarriages had

Table N. Percent distribution of marriages by educational attainment of bride and groom, according to previous marital status: 20 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Sex and previous marital status	Total	Years of school completed					
		0-8 years	9-11 years	12 years	13-15 years	16 years	17 years and over
Percent distribution							
All brides	100.0	3.1	13.5	42.2	23.2	12.3	5.6
Single	100.0	2.2	12.6	40.2	24.3	14.8	5.8
Divorced	100.0	3.6	15.0	46.8	21.6	7.6	5.3
Widowed	100.0	15.3	18.1	40.6	15.9	6.3	3.8
All grooms	100.0	4.2	12.0	40.9	21.1	13.3	8.5
Single	100.0	2.7	11.8	41.7	21.3	14.5	8.0
Divorced	100.0	5.2	12.2	40.3	21.3	11.3	9.7
Widowed	100.0	22.8	13.5	31.2	13.9	9.8	8.8

Table P. Mean years of school completed by bride and groom by race and previous marital status: 19 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

<i>Sex and race</i>	<i>Previous marital status</i>			
	<i>Total¹</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Widowed</i>
<i>Bride</i>				
	<i>Years</i>			
White	13.2	13.5	12.8	12.1
Black	13.0	13.1	12.8	10.8
Other races	13.4	13.6	12.9	11.9
<i>Groom</i>				
White	13.4	13.5	13.2	12.0
Black	12.7	12.9	12.4	9.2
Other races	13.6	13.7	13.5	11.0

¹Includes not stated.

lower educational attainment than women in first marriages. Other data have shown that for white women higher educational attainment is a consistently powerful predictor of below-average remarriage probabilities (Mott and Moore, 1983).

Among men, black grooms had the lowest education in all previous marital statuses. They also had lower education than black brides for all previous marital statuses. This was the opposite of the relative educational level of divorced white brides and grooms or single and divorced brides and grooms of other races where men had more education than women.

Table 8 provides a different approach to analysis of educational differences for categories of brides or grooms. It shows the difference for each couple according to the previous marital status of bride or groom. Because most men and women marry spouses with the same marital status, most of the information is consistent with data discussed earlier. That is, grooms who were previously single or divorced have more education than their brides and previously widowed grooms have less. However, because not all brides and grooms had the same marital history as their spouses, there are some differences by marital history category. Previously divorced brides, as was detailed above, have less education than single brides, but the educational differences between them and their husbands is slightly greater than between single brides and their husbands. By remarrying, they are apparently benefiting from whatever economic and social advantages may be associated with higher education for men. Results of a study that compared the occupational status of first and second husbands indicate that about one-half of the women were upwardly mobile through their second marriages, while only one-fifth were downwardly mobile; the remainder were unchanged (Mueller and Pope, 1978).

Table 8 also shows that the difference in educational level of brides and their spouses is greatest for young brides and diminishes with increased age of bride until, at oldest ages, brides have more education than their grooms.

Divorces of remarried persons

There have been more than a million divorces in the United States every year since 1975. Information on whether these were dissolving first marriages or remarriages is available from 30 States in the divorce-registration area, and this shows that approximately one-quarter of divorces are dissolutions of remarriage. While the vast majority of these are redivorces, that is dissolutions of marriages that followed divorces, a small proportion (6 percent for men and 9 percent for women) of the dissolving remarriages are dissolutions of marriages that followed widowhood.

Age of husband and wife

Table Q shows the average ages at marriage and divorce according to the number of times the divorcing husbands and wives have married. The age and number of the marriage were reported in approximately 83 percent of the records in this group of 30 States.

Twice-married women who divorced in 1983 averaged 37.2 years of age. Clearly they were selected from the youngest of remarrying women because their average age at second marriage (30.4) is younger than the average age of women at first divorce (31.8). This pattern is repeated for women married three times who were 36.2 years of age at marriage, younger than the average age of women ending second marriages (37.2 years). This same pattern is seen for divorcing husbands.

Duration of remarriages

Among couples divorced in 1983 were some who had been married less than a year and others married more than 60 years. Generally, the more times a divorcing person has been married, the briefer the duration of the marriage.

For once-married men and women, the mean duration was 10.8 years, for twice-married men and women it was 7.0 years, and for those married three times it was 4.9 years for women and 5.1 years for men (table R). This relationship holds true regardless of age at marriage even though duration also decreases with increased age at marriage. It may be that some selection factor is at work and that people who divorce repeatedly are likely to regard divorce as an acceptable solution to an unpleasant marriage and resort to it with increasing promptness.

Children of divorce

Much of the public's interest in divorce relates to its effect on children. Analysis of divorce records shows that the more times the divorcing husband or wife has been married, the smaller the average number of children per decree. This is consistent with findings from the National

Table R. Mean duration of dissolving marriages by number of marriage and age at marriage of wife and husband: 30 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Age at marriage	Number of dissolving marriage of—					
	Wife			Husband		
	1st	2d	3d	1st	2d	3d
	Years					
All ages	10.8	7.0	4.9	10.8	7.0	5.1
Under 20 years	11.3	9.1	8.7	10.8	9.0	*
20–24 years	10.7	7.5	5.7	11.3	8.0	7.2
25–29 years	9.0	7.1	5.5	10.2	7.7	5.8
30–34 years	8.1	6.6	4.7	9.1	6.7	5.4
35–39 years	8.5	6.0	4.6	8.7	6.5	4.8
40–44 years	6.7	5.9	4.5	8.2	6.6	4.9
45 years and over	6.3	5.4	4.1	6.2	5.4	4.5
Not stated	11.9	7.7	5.7	11.4	7.8	5.7

Table Q. Mean ages at marriage and divorce by number of marriage of divorcing wives and husbands: 30 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Sex	Number of dissolving marriage					
	1st		2d		3d or higher	
	Marriage	Divorce	Marriage	Divorce	Marriage	Divorce
	Age in years					
Divorcing wives	21.2	31.8	30.4	37.2	36.2	41.0
Divorcing husbands	23.4	34.1	33.5	40.5	39.5	44.6

Survey of Family Growth that most children are born during first marriages (Bachrach, 1986). These children usually are not listed in records of a divorce unless some change is made in their custody or care. Moreover, some of the children of a first marriage will no longer be under 18 years of age when their parents are dissolving a second marriage, and therefore will not be reported. Table S shows the percent distribution of dissolving marriages by the number of children reported. In dissolution of remarriages of women, 61 percent of second and 77 percent of third marriages involved no children under 18 years of age. This compares with only 39 percent of women in first marriages. In dissolutions of remarriages of men, 59 percent of second and 73 percent of third marriages involved no children compared with only 40 percent of divorces of once-married men.

Table S also shows the average number of children involved in 1983 divorces according to number of the marriage of husband and wife. Two averages are shown; one for all wives and husbands, including the 46 percent

Table S. Percent distribution of dissolving marriages by number of children involved in divorce, according to number of marriage of wife and husband: 30 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Number of children	Total	Number of marriage		
		1st	2d	3d or higher
Wife				
Percent distribution				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0	46.0	39.3	61.0	77.3
1	25.6	27.9	21.2	13.5
2	20.0	23.2	12.5	6.2
3	6.2	7.2	3.9	2.0
4	1.6	1.8	1.1	0.7
5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1
6 or more	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Mean				
All wives	0.94	1.06	0.64	0.36
Wives with children	1.73	1.75	1.65	1.60
Husband				
Percent distribution				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0	46.0	39.9	59.4	72.8
1	25.6	27.4	22.3	16.2
2	20.0	23.1	13.1	7.6
3	6.2	7.3	3.8	2.4
4	1.6	1.8	1.1	0.8
5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2
6 or more	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Mean				
All husbands	0.94	1.06	0.66	0.43
Husbands with children	1.73	1.76	1.63	1.59

that are childless, and the other for mothers and fathers only. The average number of children per decree was 1.06 for both women and men in first marriages. The average for women and men dissolving second marriages was 0.64 and 0.66 children, respectively. Most of the difference was due to many more divorces that involved no children under 18 years for the remarried couples, as shown by the average number of children for parents. Mothers ending second marriages had only a tenth of a child less (1.65) than mothers ending first marriages (1.75). The variability in number of children according to father's marriage order was slightly greater than for mother's marriage order. Fathers dissolving second marriages had an average of 1.63 children compared with 1.76 children for fathers dissolving first marriages.

The relationships between parenthood, divorce, remarriage, and subsequent childbearing have been analyzed in many studies supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. These studies have shown that childless couples divorced more than parents (Koo, Suchindran, and Griffith, 1984), that couples with many children divorce more than those with small families (Thornton, 1977), and that couples with children under 6 years of age were less likely to divorce than others (Cherlin, 1977). It has also been shown that the fewer children a woman has, the more likely she is to remarry. However, a majority of women begin remarriage with children from previous marriages and a substantial number begin marriage with children from both spouses' previous marriages. Research on fertility in remarriages shows that the age of the youngest child, but not the number of children, from previous marriages has an effect on whether another child is born to the remarried couple. Mothers of two children or more are as likely to have another child as are those who have only one child or are still childless, supporting the view that a new child is important to confirm the new marriage. However, if the woman is in her later twenties, especially if she is married to an older man, or if her youngest children are already in school, she is less likely to have children in the new marriage. Together, these studies establish that having children may impede but does not preclude divorce, remarriage, or childbearing in the newly reconstituted family.

More information on children in remarried couple households can be found in Bumpass (1984), Cherlin and McCarthy (1985), and Hofferth (1985), and an analysis of children involved in divorce is more completely treated in a forthcoming publication, "Children of divorcing couples" (NCHS, in preparation).

References

- Bachrach, C. A. 1986. Unpublished data from the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle III.
- Bumpass, L. 1984. Children and marital disruption: A replication and update. *Demography* 21:71–82.
- Cherlin, A. 1977. The effect of children on marital dissolution. *Demography* 14:265–72.
- Cherlin, A. and J. McCarthy. 1985. Remarried couple households: Data from the June 1980 Current Population Survey. *J. Mar. Fam.* 47:23–30.
- Council of State Governments. 1974. *The Book of the States, 1974–75*. Lexington, Ky.
- Espenshade, T. J. 1985. Marriage trends in America: Estimates, implications, and underlying causes. *Pop. Develop. Rev.* 11(2):193–245.
- Hofferth, S. L. 1985. Updating children's life course. *J. Mar. Fam.* 47:93–115.
- Koo, H. P., C. M. Suchindran, and J. D. Griffith. 1984. The effects of children on divorce and remarriage: A multivariate analysis of life table probabilities. *Pop. Stud.* 38:451–71.
- McCarthy, J. 1978. A comparison of the probability of the dissolution of first and second marriages. *Demography* 15(3):345–60.
- McCarthy, J. 1979. Religious commitment, affiliation, and marriage dissolution. In *The Religious Dimension: New Directions in Quantitative Research*, edited by R. Wuthnow, pp. 179–97. New York: Academic Press, Inc.
- Mosher, W. D., D.P. Johnson, and M. C. Horn. 1986. Religion and fertility in the United States: The importance of marriage patterns and Hispanic origin. *Demography* 23(3):367–79.
- Mott, F. L., and S. F. Moore. 1983. The tempo of remarriage among young American women. *J. Mar. Fam.* 45:427–36.
- Mueller, C. W., and H. Pope. 1978. Divorce and female remarriage mobility: Data on marriage matches after divorce for white women. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. San Francisco.
- National Center for Health Statistics, W. R. Grady. 1980. Remarriages of women 15–44 years of age whose first marriage ended in divorce: United States, 1976. *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics*. No. 58. DHEW Pub. No. (PHS) 80–1250. Public Health Service. Hyattsville, Md.
- National Center for Health Statistics, C. A. Bachrach and M. C. Horn. 1985. Marriage and first intercourse, marital dissolution, and remarriage: United States, 1982. *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics*. No. 107. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 85–1250. Public Health Service. Hyattsville, Md.
- National Center for Health Statistics, K. A. London. In preparation. Children of divorce.
- Pratt, W. F., W. D. Mosher, C. A. Bachrach, and M. C. Horn. 1984. Understanding U.S. fertility: Findings from the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle III. *Population Bulletin* 39(5):16. Washington: Population Reference Bureau, Inc.
- Schoen, R., W. Urton, K. Woodrow, and J. Baj. 1985. Marriage and divorce in twentieth century American cohorts. *Demography* 22(1):101–14.
- Spanier, G. B., and P. C. Glick. 1980. Paths to remarriage. *J. Divorce* 3(3):283–98.
- Thornton, A. 1977. Children and marital stability. *J. Mar. Fam.* 39:531–40.
- Thornton, A. 1978. Marital dissolution, remarriage, and child-bearing. *Demography* 15(3):361–80.

List of detailed tables

1. Estimated number of marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom: United States, 1970–83	20	6. Mean age at marriage of bride and groom and age difference between spouses, by previous marital status: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1983	25
2. Number of marriages and percent distribution by previous marital status of bride and groom: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1983.....	20	7. Number of marriages by previous marital status and educational attainment of bride and groom: 20 reporting States, 1983	25
3. Marriage rates by previous marital status and age of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1970–83.....	21	8. Mean years of school completed by bride and groom and difference in education by previous marital status and age at marriage: 20 reporting States, 1983	26
4. Mean age of bride and groom by previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1970–83	24		
5. Mean age at marriage by previous marital status of bride and groom: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1983	24		

Table 1. Estimated number of marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom: United States, 1970-83

[Based on sample data. Previous marital status estimated using percent distribution from uniform group of 36 reporting States. Due to rounding, estimates by previous marital status may not add to annual total]

Year	Total	Previous marital status of--					
		Bride			Groom		
		Single	Divorced	Widowed	Single	Divorced	Widowed
Number in thousands							
1970-83	31,958	22,404	8,191	1,366	21,974	8,749	1,234
1983	2,446	1,624	736	86	1,595	773	78
1982	2,456	1,638	734	84	1,601	774	79
1981	2,422	1,616	719	87	1,572	770	80
1980	2,390	1,621	681	88	1,585	724	81
1979	2,331	1,583	650	98	1,539	702	91
1978	2,282	1,557	634	91	1,513	687	82
1977	2,178	1,488	597	94	1,449	645	85
1976	2,155	1,491	569	97	1,450	618	86
1975	2,153	1,507	547	101	1,477	583	93
1974	2,230	1,601	520	109	1,576	560	94
1973	2,284	1,670	507	107	1,649	541	96
1972	2,282	1,707	468	107	1,689	500	94
1971	2,190	1,658	425	107	1,643	449	96
1970	2,159	1,643	404	110	1,636	423	99

Table 2. Number of marriages and percent distribution by previous marital status of bride and groom: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1983

[Based on sample data]

Area	Marriages	Previous marital status of bride				Previous marital status of groom			
		Total	Single	Divorced	Widowed	Total	Single	Divorced	Widowed
		Number		Percent distribution					
Total	1,631,495	100.0	66.4	30.1	3.5	100.0	65.1	31.6	3.2
Alabama	47,440	100.0	58.3	37.5	4.2	100.0	58.0	38.3	3.7
Alaska	6,553	100.0	56.9	40.8	2.4	100.0	59.0	39.6	1.4
California	152,420	100.0	71.5	25.4	3.0	100.0	69.1	27.7	3.1
Colorado	36,150	100.0	60.9	36.1	3.0	100.0	62.3	35.3	2.4
Connecticut	26,915	100.0	71.7	25.4	2.9	100.0	68.8	28.3	2.9
Delaware	5,579	100.0	68.3	28.6	3.2	100.0	66.3	30.7	2.9
District of Columbia	5,338	100.0	76.0	21.5	2.5	100.0	70.3	26.9	2.8
Florida	118,964	100.0	56.6	38.6	4.8	100.0	56.1	39.4	4.5
Georgia	72,820	100.0	54.9	40.9	4.1	100.0	54.6	42.3	3.1
Hawaii	14,050	100.0	63.3	33.7	2.9	100.0	63.3	33.8	3.0
Idaho	13,430	100.0	54.6	41.2	4.2	100.0	56.0	40.4	3.6
Illinois	103,734	100.0	69.0	27.8	3.2	100.0	67.8	29.2	3.0
Indiana	54,040	100.0	62.5	33.7	3.8	100.0	61.8	34.9	3.3
Kansas	25,895	100.0	61.5	35.0	3.4	100.0	62.4	34.5	3.1
Kentucky	37,520	100.0	61.5	33.8	4.7	100.0	60.2	36.0	3.7
Louisiana	43,180	100.0	66.3	30.4	3.3	100.0	65.0	31.7	3.4
Maine	12,479	100.0	64.7	32.0	3.3	100.0	63.6	33.3	3.1
Maryland	47,120	100.0	67.4	29.1	3.5	100.0	64.7	32.2	3.1
Massachusetts	48,860	100.0	75.2	22.4	2.4	100.0	72.9	24.3	2.8
Minnesota	36,320	100.0	68.1	27.9	4.0	100.0	65.8	30.7	3.5
Mississippi	26,890	100.0	57.7	37.3	5.0	100.0	59.0	37.1	3.9
Missouri	53,258	100.0	61.8	34.2	4.0	100.0	60.9	35.7	3.4
Montana	8,092	100.0	64.6	32.0	3.4	100.0	64.8	32.2	3.0
Nebraska	13,703	100.0	71.3	24.9	3.8	100.0	71.6	25.3	3.1
New Hampshire	10,972	100.0	63.6	33.1	3.3	100.0	62.6	34.3	3.1
New Jersey	61,840	100.0	74.2	23.2	2.6	100.0	72.3	24.6	3.1
New York	159,321	100.0	75.0	22.1	2.9	100.0	72.7	24.5	2.8
North Carolina	52,130	100.0	64.5	31.7	3.8	100.0	65.2	31.7	3.1
Oregon	23,285	100.0	60.8	35.3	3.9	100.0	60.9	36.0	3.1
Pennsylvania	92,140	100.0	73.5	23.4	3.1	100.0	71.9	25.2	2.9
Rhode Island	8,053	100.0	73.8	23.5	2.7	100.0	71.3	26.2	2.5
South Dakota	8,002	100.0	68.8	27.0	4.2	100.0	67.8	29.0	3.2
Tennessee	56,300	100.0	56.8	38.8	4.4	100.0	54.9	41.6	3.5
Utah	18,425	100.0	69.4	28.3	2.3	100.0	69.1	28.2	2.7
Vermont	5,595	100.0	67.3	29.4	3.3	100.0	65.6	32.0	2.4
Virginia	61,790	100.0	64.1	32.5	3.5	100.0	63.4	33.6	3.0
West Virginia	15,930	100.0	65.6	30.9	3.6	100.0	64.9	32.6	2.6
Wisconsin	40,760	100.0	74.5	22.2	3.3	100.0	72.8	23.9	3.3
Wyoming	6,202	100.0	54.9	41.4	3.8	100.0	56.9	40.3	2.8

Table 3. Marriage rates by previous marital status and age of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1970-83

[Based on sample data. Rates per 1,000 population in specified group enumerated as of April 1 for 1970 and 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years. Marriages of persons under 15 years of age are included in the youngest age groups; rates are based on populations that exclude persons under 15 years of age. Rates for all marriages are based on the unmarried population; for first marriages, on the never-married population; and for remarriages, on the widowed and divorced populations. Rates exclude Iowa for 1977 and subsequent years]

Previous marital status, sex, and age	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970
ALL MARITAL STATUSES														
	Rate per 1,000 population													
Women	52.5	54.1	54.3	54.2	56.4	56.2	56.8	58.4	60.5	65.0	69.3	71.2	69.8	69.4
15-19 years	40.1	43.0	44.3	47.2	49.7	51.6	53.9	57.1	61.9	70.9	76.4	79.8	77.4	---
15-17 years	16.3	17.9	19.1	20.2	22.1	23.6	25.2	27.2	30.1	34.8	37.7	39.3	36.7	35.8
18-19 years	75.2	81.0	83.8	90.9	94.8	99.2	103.6	110.1	119.6	138.9	150.4	157.1	156.6	156.7
20-24 years	115.9	121.7	121.7	130.8	134.6	136.0	140.1	148.2	157.5	174.6	194.1	209.4	216.6	234.2
25-29 years	126.8	130.5	129.2	126.3	135.5	137.0	139.3	143.3	152.7	158.9	176.2	175.5	172.4	170.1
30-34 years	98.1	99.7	98.2	95.0	102.5	103.0	105.4	114.1	114.1	117.8	125.6	130.2	126.2	111.3
35-39 years	74.1	74.7	74.9	---	75.6	74.6	79.3	79.0	83.4	89.0	93.3	98.6	95.8	---
40-44 years	52.8	52.4	55.0	---	52.6	52.5	54.0	58.9	62.4	61.9	67.5	62.1	61.3	---
45-64 years	18.9	18.7	17.8	17.3	19.0	19.1	19.4	20.8	20.6	21.4	22.8	22.4	21.4	20.9
45-49 years	38.9	38.3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
50-54 years	22.7	22.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
55-59 years	12.8	13.5	---	11.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
60-64 years	8.8	8.5	---	8.3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
65 years and over	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.7	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Men	64.1	65.8	66.8	66.8	69.4	69.4	69.9	71.8	74.4	80.0	85.5	87.9	85.9	88.4
15-19 years	14.4	15.7	16.5	17.4	18.8	19.6	20.7	22.7	25.0	28.7	30.8	32.0	30.3	---
15-17 years	2.2	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.6	3.8	4.3	4.7	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.6	5.4
18-19 years	31.4	33.7	36.9	39.2	42.7	45.0	47.6	52.4	58.5	67.9	73.7	77.1	73.0	74.4
20-24 years	83.9	88.0	96.0	100.4	109.0	112.2	115.4	121.5	129.6	150.9	165.0	176.1	177.5	205.7
25-29 years	117.1	120.8	129.4	131.2	142.6	146.2	150.8	156.0	168.1	176.1	190.6	206.2	201.2	217.6
30-34 years	109.4	117.9	119.8	122.8	129.0	136.9	143.4	143.0	145.6	154.0	169.6	158.2	143.9	160.8
35-39 years	106.0	104.2	110.6	---	122.8	132.2	133.4	129.0	128.5	108.3	111.7	113.8	124.8	---
40-44 years	92.7	91.5	84.0	---	90.2	91.3	91.4	99.6	97.6	101.9	115.8	100.2	95.8	---
45-64 years	54.2	54.4	51.4	49.1	51.4	50.6	50.8	53.7	52.7	54.3	60.8	62.8	58.4	54.9
45-49 years	78.8	73.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
50-54 years	51.3	56.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
55-59 years	45.9	47.1	---	38.4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
60-64 years	34.8	36.8	---	31.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
65 years and over	15.1	15.9	14.8	15.2	16.2	13.2	14.2	15.6	16.8	17.2	16.6	16.4	16.7	15.6
SINGLE														
Women	63.8	66.0	64.9	66.0	67.8	68.2	69.2	72.0	75.9	83.5	90.9	95.1	93.3	93.4
15-19 years	38.8	41.7	42.8	45.4	48.1	49.8	52.0	54.8	59.7	68.2	73.7	77.2	74.4	---
15-17 years	15.9	17.6	18.7	19.8	21.6	23.0	24.6	26.5	29.3	33.9	36.8	38.4	35.6	35.0
18-19 years	72.6	78.5	80.7	87.3	91.7	95.6	99.6	105.1	115.0	133.5	144.8	151.9	150.3	151.4
20-24 years	106.9	111.9	110.0	119.8	121.9	123.0	125.6	133.4	143.8	159.5	177.1	192.9	197.7	220.1
25-29 years	105.2	106.5	102.6	101.6	104.3	106.7	105.7	109.1	114.6	122.3	135.7	134.8	131.2	132.8
30-34 years	61.2	62.1	62.7	56.3	60.1	60.0	64.3	67.2	62.4	66.2	74.5	76.5	75.0	66.5
35-39 years	38.3	38.1	37.5	---	32.8	30.6	36.1	36.9	36.4	44.2	51.0	52.2	47.9	---
40-44 years	21.8	21.7	22.6	---	22.1	21.5	21.2	27.8	26.1	24.9	31.5	28.5	27.2	---
45-64 years	8.4	8.6	7.9	7.0	7.8	7.9	8.6	9.3	9.2	9.6	11.3	10.8	9.5	8.8
45-49 years	13.9	14.4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
50-54 years	9.0	9.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
55-59 years	7.5	6.9	---	4.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
60-64 years	3.3	3.6	---	3.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
65 years and over	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.1

Table 3. Marriage rates by previous marital status and age of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1970-83—Con.

[Based on sample data. Rates per 1,000 population in specified group enumerated as of April 1 for 1970 and 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years. Marriages of persons under 15 years of age are included in the youngest age groups; rates are based on populations that exclude persons under 15 years of age. Rates for all marriages are based on the unmarried population; for first marriages, on the never-married population; and for remarriages, on the widowed and divorced populations. Rates exclude Iowa for 1977 and subsequent years]

Previous marital status, sex, and age	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970
SINGLE—Con.														
Rate per 1,000 population														
Men	51.8	53.1	53.8	54.7	56.3	56.4	56.7	58.2	61.5	68.0	73.9	77.2	75.2	80.4
15-19 years	14.1	15.1	16.2	17.0	18.4	19.3	20.3	22.1	24.5	28.2	30.1	31.4	29.5	---
15-17 years	2.2	2.5	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.7	4.2	4.6	5.6	5.9	5.9	5.5	5.2
18-19 years	30.9	33.1	36.2	38.4	41.9	44.3	46.7	51.0	57.4	66.6	72.2	75.6	71.2	73.0
20-24 years	79.5	83.1	89.6	94.5	102.4	105.2	107.7	113.0	121.7	141.8	155.6	166.2	165.6	195.7
25-29 years	100.6	102.4	106.5	109.9	115.5	118.5	119.3	119.8	132.3	141.0	153.1	167.1	158.5	181.5
30-34 years	69.0	74.0	70.8	75.5	74.2	76.8	76.0	72.8	78.2	83.3	98.0	87.3	80.6	98.8
35-39 years	45.4	43.7	45.4	---	48.0	50.4	49.8	47.1	44.1	41.6	44.8	47.6	54.2	---
40-44 years	27.0	24.8	22.3	---	23.3	22.9	23.9	29.8	29.3	31.6	36.1	34.7	33.5	---
45-64 years	12.3	12.6	12.5	11.6	10.8	10.3	11.8	12.4	13.0	12.6	15.6	16.5	14.6	14.1
45-49 years	18.5	18.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
50-54 years	10.7	12.9	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
55-59 years	10.4	10.9	---	8.0	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
60-64 years	8.0	6.8	---	6.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
65 years and over	2.9	3.3	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.5	2.5	3.1	3.0	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.4
REARRIED														
Women	38.4	39.2	39.9	38.3	40.8	40.0	40.0	39.7	40.1	40.0	40.6	39.3	37.3	36.6
15-19 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
20-24 years	244.4	260.6	274.1	230.4	307.8	311.0	318.3	309.2	301.5	317.8	373.2	383.8	390.7	---
25-29 years	186.8	192.8	193.5	178.6	210.1	202.5	209.6	208.0	229.4	230.4	258.1	265.5	261.7	251.3
30-34 years	140.0	137.5	128.3	129.0	139.3	139.3	136.2	150.2	163.7	169.7	175.6	190.7	185.5	164.1
35-39 years	92.3	92.1	92.1	---	99.8	100.6	102.7	101.6	110.1	116.0	117.6	126.6	131.7	---
40-44 years	63.3	62.6	66.0	---	64.6	64.5	67.1	70.8	78.0	80.0	85.5	78.8	78.5	---
45-64 years	20.9	20.8	19.9	19.7	21.7	21.9	22.1	23.5	23.5	24.4	25.7	25.4	24.6	24.8
45-49 years	46.9	45.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
50-54 years	26.1	24.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
55-59 years	13.7	14.6	---	13.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
60-64 years	9.7	9.4	---	9.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
65 years and over	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	3.0	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5
Men	109.1	113.2	112.5	108.3	120.2	121.8	122.4	127.6	129.8	129.1	133.3	133.9	130.6	116.5
15-19 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
20-24 years	241.8	292.8	323.9	226.7	339.8	341.6	359.8	379.8	371.7	370.7	399.0	463.3	548.5	---
25-29 years	223.1	229.8	257.5	225.2	290.1	284.9	306.6	358.0	356.5	355.7	398.9	439.2	507.1	420.3
30-34 years	206.0	212.4	216.3	203.9	239.5	257.9	285.6	305.2	300.1	324.1	349.0	407.0	373.4	345.2
35-39 years	175.8	168.5	176.9	---	207.0	229.3	240.4	249.3	274.7	229.6	254.3	258.1	269.5	---
40-44 years	143.4	148.3	139.8	---	161.4	180.5	167.0	177.2	191.4	204.2	233.9	200.4	208.1	---
45-64 years	78.8	79.1	74.2	74.4	84.6	85.2	82.0	86.8	88.0	93.3	104.4	109.7	105.8	95.6
45-49 years	120.8	108.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
50-54 years	77.0	82.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
55-59 years	66.3	67.6	---	58.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
60-64 years	49.1	53.5	---	46.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
65 years and over	18.9	19.8	18.5	19.0	20.6	16.8	18.5	19.6	21.5	21.4	20.6	20.7	21.6	19.9

Table 3. Marriage rates by previous marital status and age of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1970-83—Con.

[Based on sample data. Rates per 1,000 population in specified group enumerated as of April 1 for 1970 and 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years. Marriages of persons under 15 years of age are included in the youngest age groups; rates are based on populations that exclude persons under 15 years of age. Rates for all marriages are based on the unmarried population; for first marriages, on the never-married population; and for remarriages, on the widowed and divorced populations. Rates exclude Iowa for 1977 and subsequent years]

<i>Previous marital status, sex, and age</i>	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970
Rate per 1,000 population														
Previously divorced														
Women	91.6	94.4	96.3	91.3	104.0	105.0	107.3	111.3	117.2	121.7	131.0	130.6	132.8	123.3
15-24 years	250.1	266.9	282.2	236.4	309.1	313.7	347.3	339.4	319.6	336.3	394.0	406.3	443.9	413.4
20-24 years	240.4	263.6	280.4	234.2	301.0	301.0	340.0	321.3	301.4	321.1	370.3	389.3	419.5	---
25-44 years	126.0	129.1	122.8	135.2	134.4	137.3	144.0	158.6	166.0	177.7	177.1	176.1	179.6	---
25-29 years	204.4	205.0	202.6	180.8	209.1	206.5	216.3	213.3	235.3	238.9	278.3	274.7	276.8	---
30-34 years	145.3	144.4	133.6	131.8	145.6	140.7	136.4	157.6	173.1	183.7	189.5	208.0	196.2	---
35-39 years	99.3	98.0	97.0	---	108.2	110.1	115.0	110.4	117.3	125.9	132.8	134.9	146.6	---
40-44 years	67.0	71.0	76.7	---	68.6	68.5	70.5	77.3	90.6	97.6	104.4	96.4	97.8	---
45-64 years	31.2	31.3	30.2	30.3	35.1	35.6	35.6	37.5	40.1	41.0	46.1	47.2	46.5	42.6
45-49 years	50.8	51.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
50-54 years	32.4	31.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
55-59 years	18.9	20.6	---	18.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
60-64 years	12.9	12.3	---	12.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
65 years and over	4.9	5.3	5.7	5.3	7.4	6.4	6.4	6.9	9.1	6.7	8.3	9.5	9.3	6.1
Men	142.1	146.9	150.8	142.1	165.6	168.6	173.4	185.0	189.8	198.7	221.3	229.0	230.7	204.5
15-24 years	233.4	268.8	319.7	217.6	318.1	307.4	347.9	391.8	368.2	365.8	431.3	475.3	527.8	402.2
20-24 years	239.5	275.8	323.0	224.1	326.1	311.9	345.3	389.6	367.7	363.1	427.7	469.8	537.5	---
25-44 years	182.2	187.5	197.9	188.8	224.1	236.6	252.9	270.2	278.2	286.9	321.4	324.6	338.4	325.4
25-29 years	214.4	220.2	256.6	220.1	293.4	276.9	303.7	349.2	348.5	355.7	411.7	456.4	517.9	---
30-34 years	202.0	208.9	217.2	201.8	232.2	244.9	272.2	292.7	289.0	333.2	361.5	422.3	391.4	---
35-39 years	172.6	166.7	176.7	---	201.9	230.8	252.8	247.5	262.7	222.5	249.8	256.4	275.0	---
40-44 years	137.7	148.3	137.6	---	160.1	175.8	166.4	176.0	191.0	217.3	249.0	196.0	208.8	---
45-64 years	84.7	85.9	82.6	79.1	92.8	82.9	85.1	91.5	94.0	101.6	117.3	123.2	119.5	108.7
45-49 years	126.6	113.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
50-54 years	77.2	85.3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
55-59 years	67.1	70.5	---	57.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
60-64 years	49.3	53.3	---	45.3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
65 years and over	26.2	26.0	23.0	22.8	23.3	20.8	21.9	26.1	31.4	34.6	32.0	38.3	38.6	23.6
Previously widowed														
Women	6.2	6.1	6.5	6.7	7.7	7.1	7.6	7.9	8.3	9.1	9.3	9.4	9.6	10.2
15-44 years	51.3	49.0	48.4	51.0	52.6	55.3	57.3	56.0	61.7	61.8	60.7	65.1	70.4	54.1
45-64 years	12.2	12.0	12.0	12.2	13.6	13.6	14.0	15.2	14.9	16.3	16.5	16.3	16.5	17.7
65 years and over	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.6	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3
Men	30.7	32.1	30.8	32.2	35.3	32.7	35.3	37.6	40.4	38.9	39.3	40.6	42.5	40.6
15-44 years	149.3	138.6	116.7	106.7	157.8	146.1	159.3	204.6	173.3	136.1	148.9	175.3	201.3	107.8
45-64 years	59.5	58.9	53.9	59.2	60.6	64.9	66.3	68.9	71.4	69.6	77.3	86.8	85.8	79.2
65 years and over	16.8	17.6	16.9	17.8	19.9	15.6	17.7	18.6	19.5	19.2	18.8	18.4	19.6	19.4

Table 4. Mean age of bride and groom by previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1970-83

[Based on sample data. Beginning in 1977 figures for Iowa are included only in All marriages]

Year	Previous marital status of—							
	Bride				Groom			
	All marriages	Single	Divorced	Widowed	All marriages	Single	Divorced	Widowed
	Years							
1983	27.6	23.5	33.7	52.6	30.3	25.5	37.3	60.2
1982	27.3	23.3	33.4	52.6	30.0	25.3	37.0	59.9
1981	27.0	23.0	33.0	52.2	29.8	25.0	36.6	59.5
1980	26.7	22.7	32.8	52.2	29.4	24.8	36.5	59.6
1979	26.7	22.5	32.8	53.4	29.5	24.6	36.4	60.0
1978	26.3	22.3	32.6	51.4	29.1	24.4	36.2	58.4
1977	26.2	22.2	32.5	51.8	29.0	24.3	36.1	58.9
1976	26.1	22.1	32.5	51.8	28.9	24.1	36.2	58.6
1975	25.9	21.9	32.7	51.2	28.7	24.0	36.3	58.2
1974	25.6	21.7	32.5	51.0	28.3	23.8	36.3	58.2
1973	25.5	21.7	32.8	51.0	28.1	23.8	36.4	58.1
1972	25.2	21.6	32.9	50.7	27.9	23.7	36.5	58.0
1971	25.1	21.6	32.8	50.6	27.8	23.7	36.6	57.7
1970	25.1	21.6	32.8	50.3	27.8	23.8	36.7	57.7

Table 5. Mean age at marriage by previous marital status of bride and groom: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1983

[Based on sample data]

State of marriage	Previous marital status of—					
	Bride			Groom		
	Single	Divorced	Widowed	Single	Divorced	Widowed
	Years					
Total	23.5	33.7	52.6	25.5	37.3	60.2
Alabama	21.9	32.3	52.4	24.2	36.1	59.6
Alaska	23.4	32.5	46.0	25.9	36.3	55.8
California	24.2	34.6	54.4	26.1	38.1	60.4
Colorado	23.6	33.1	49.7	25.7	36.9	56.4
Connecticut	24.7	35.0	53.1	26.6	38.0	59.0
Delaware	23.7	33.8	51.3	25.5	37.1	58.9
District of Columbia	27.1	36.0	51.2	28.5	39.8	59.2
Florida	23.5	34.4	56.8	25.8	38.4	64.2
Georgia	22.6	33.0	50.9	24.6	37.0	60.4
Hawaii	24.9	34.8	50.1	26.9	39.1	60.8
Idaho	21.6	34.2	51.5	24.3	37.9	59.6
Illinois	23.9	33.6	52.1	25.8	37.1	59.2
Indiana	22.2	32.5	55.0	24.1	36.1	58.5
Kansas	22.4	32.4	55.7	24.5	36.0	60.2
Kentucky	21.8	32.4	50.4	23.8	36.3	60.9
Louisiana	22.5	32.1	50.4	24.3	36.2	57.4
Maine	22.9	33.6	52.4	25.1	37.0	60.8
Maryland	24.3	34.6	51.5	26.2	38.0	58.5
Massachusetts	24.8	34.7	51.3	26.6	38.3	60.1
Minnesota	23.1	33.6	52.1	25.1	37.0	60.6
Mississippi	22.0	32.6	53.2	24.4	37.0	61.8
Missouri	22.6	33.3	54.1	24.3	36.5	60.9
Montana	22.7	33.1	50.3	24.9	36.6	58.5
Nebraska	22.7	32.6	55.0	24.7	36.1	62.1
New Hampshire	23.9	34.5	53.9	26.0	38.0	60.3
New Jersey	24.9	35.2	52.2	26.9	38.0	58.0
New York	25.3	35.0	52.4	27.2	38.6	59.8
North Carolina	22.7	32.6	49.6	24.5	35.8	60.3
Oregon	23.3	34.1	55.0	25.6	37.8	63.3
Pennsylvania	23.9	33.8	53.5	25.8	37.3	59.5
Rhode Island	24.2	34.1	51.4	26.1	37.8	59.2
South Dakota	22.3	33.3	53.0	24.7	37.1	61.3
Tennessee	22.2	33.0	49.3	24.1	36.5	59.7
Utah	21.9	32.6	51.4	23.8	35.8	59.0
Vermont	23.9	34.2	50.6	25.9	38.2	59.3
Virginia	23.3	33.3	50.0	25.3	37.0	58.5
West Virginia	21.7	32.4	51.6	24.2	36.2	60.5
Wisconsin	23.4	33.5	52.8	25.3	36.8	60.2
Wyoming	22.2	32.1	47.3	25.0	35.8	55.9

Table 6. Mean age at marriage of bride and groom and age difference between spouses, by previous marital status: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Previous marital status of bride	All grooms	Previous marital status of groom		
		Single	Divorced	Widowed
Age of bride in years				
All brides	27.6	24.0	32.5	52.7
Single	23.5	22.8	26.4	37.5
Divorced	33.7	29.6	34.9	47.0
Widowed	52.6	39.9	47.7	61.8
Age of groom in years				
All brides	30.3	25.5	37.3	60.2
Single	26.4	24.8	33.2	48.8
Divorced	36.1	28.7	38.8	55.8
Widowed	55.2	37.8	49.4	66.9
Age difference in years ¹				
All brides	2.7	1.5	4.8	7.5
Single	2.9	2.0	6.8	11.3
Divorced	2.5	-0.9	3.9	8.9
Widowed	2.6	-2.1	1.6	5.2

¹Age of groom minus age of bride.

Table 7. Number of marriages by previous marital status and educational attainment of bride and groom: 20 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

Sex and previous marital status	Total	Years of school completed						Not stated
		0-8 years	9-11 years	12 years	13-15 years	16 years	17 years and over	
Number								
Brides	740,843	20,712	89,536	278,836	153,458	81,278	36,928	80,095
Single	488,382	9,760	55,136	175,266	106,182	64,463	25,347	52,228
Divorced	219,523	7,260	29,876	93,415	43,160	15,224	10,648	19,940
Widowed	25,205	3,470	4,090	9,194	3,597	1,427	851	2,576
Not stated	7,733	222	434	961	519	164	82	5,351
Grooms	740,843	27,621	79,133	270,469	139,121	88,027	56,310	80,162
Single	480,346	11,764	50,653	178,993	91,365	62,246	34,150	51,175
Divorced	230,177	10,935	25,498	84,273	44,509	23,671	20,230	21,061
Widowed	23,155	4,718	2,793	6,469	2,876	2,021	1,829	2,449
Not stated	7,165	204	189	734	371	89	101	5,477

Table 8. Mean years of school completed by bride and groom and difference in education by previous marital status and age at marriage: 20 reporting States, 1983

[Based on sample data. Differences were calculated and rounded separately. For list of reporting States, see Technical notes]

<i>Previous marital status and age at marriage</i>	<i>Bride</i>			<i>Groom</i>		
	<i>Education of bride</i>	<i>Education of spouse</i>	<i>Difference in education</i>	<i>Education of groom</i>	<i>Education of spouse</i>	<i>Difference in education</i>
All marital statuses				Years		
All ages	13.3	13.4	0.1	13.4	13.3	0.1
12-17 years	10.7	11.7	1.0	10.7	11.0	-0.2
18-19 years	12.3	12.5	0.2	11.9	11.9	0.0
20-24 years	13.5	13.6	0.0	13.1	13.1	0.0
25-29 years	14.0	14.1	0.1	13.9	13.8	0.2
30-34 years	13.9	14.0	0.1	14.2	13.8	0.4
35-44 years	13.3	13.5	0.2	13.8	13.5	0.3
45-54 years	12.5	12.7	0.1	13.1	13.0	0.1
55-64 years	11.8	11.6	-0.2	12.5	12.6	0.0
65 years and over	11.5	11.0	-0.6	11.0	11.6	-0.7
Single						
All ages	13.5	13.5	0.1	13.5	13.4	0.1
12-17 years	10.7	11.7	1.0	10.7	11.0	-0.2
18-19 years	12.3	12.5	0.2	12.0	11.9	0.0
20-24 years	13.7	13.7	0.0	13.2	13.2	0.0
25-29 years	14.6	14.5	-0.1	14.3	14.0	0.2
30-34 years	14.8	14.6	-0.2	14.8	14.3	0.5
35-44 years	14.1	14.0	-0.2	14.3	13.9	0.4
45-54 years	11.9	11.9	0.0	12.4	12.3	0.1
55-64 years	10.6	10.7	0.1	10.8	11.2	-0.4
65 years and over	11.9	11.2	-0.7	9.7	10.6	-0.9
Previously divorced						
All ages	13.0	13.3	0.3	13.4	13.2	0.2
12-17 years	10.5	12.0	1.4	9.8	12.3	-2.3
18-19 years	11.4	12.1	0.8	11.2	11.8	-0.5
20-24 years	12.2	12.7	0.5	12.2	12.4	-0.2
25-29 years	13.0	13.4	0.4	13.0	13.0	0.0
30-34 years	13.5	13.8	0.3	13.7	13.4	0.3
35-44 years	13.3	13.5	0.3	13.8	13.4	0.3
45-54 years	12.7	12.9	0.2	13.3	13.1	0.2
55-64 years	12.1	12.0	-0.1	12.8	12.7	0.2
65 years and over	11.1	10.5	-0.6	10.9	11.2	-0.4
Previously widowed						
All ages	12.1	12.0	-0.1	12.1	12.4	-0.4
12-17 years	11.0	12.2	1.2	*	13.5	*
18-19 years	11.1	12.0	0.9	13.3	14.1	-1.3
20-24 years	12.1	12.3	0.3	12.5	12.5	0.1
25-29 years	12.9	13.2	0.3	13.2	13.1	0.1
30-34 years	13.3	13.3	0.0	13.5	13.1	0.3
35-44 years	12.5	12.7	0.1	13.8	13.6	0.2
45-54 years	12.2	12.1	0.0	12.6	12.8	-0.2
55-64 years	11.7	11.4	-0.2	12.4	12.6	-0.2
65 years and over	11.6	11.1	-0.5	11.1	11.8	-0.7

Appendix

Technical notes

Registration areas

Registration areas for the collection of marriage and divorce statistics were established in 1957 and in 1958, respectively. The registration areas include States with adequate programs for collecting marriage and divorce statistics. Criteria for participation in the registration areas are as follows:

- A central file of marriage or divorce records.
- A statistical report conforming closely in content to the U.S. Standard License and Certificate of Marriage (figure I) or the U.S. Standard Certificate of Divorce, Dissolution of Marriage, or Annulment (figure II).
- Regular reporting to the State office by all local areas in which marriages or divorces are recorded.
- Tests for completeness and accuracy of marriage or divorce registration carried out in cooperation with the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

In 1970 the marriage-registration area (MRA) included 39 States and the District of Columbia while the divorce-registration area (DRA) included 28 States. By 1983 the MRA had grown to 42 States and the District of Columbia and the DRA to 31 States. Table I shows the States and the years they were admitted to the registration areas. In 1983 the MRA accounted for 77 percent of all marriages in the United States, and the DRA accounted for about 50 percent of the divorces.

In 1970 and 1980 efforts were made to obtain national marriage data to use with the detailed population bases available from the decennial censuses. In 1970 marriage records were sampled for eight States not in the MRA: Arkansas, Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, South Carolina, Texas, and Washington. With the addition of these States, marriage data by age and State of residence for the bride and groom are available for the entire United States with the exception of three States without central files of marriage records (Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma). In 1980 marriage records were sampled for Arkansas, Nevada, North Dakota, Texas, and Washington; Colorado, Minnesota, and South Carolina had joined the MRA between 1970 and 1980.

Sources of data

The marriage and divorce statistics presented in this report were derived primarily from data collected annually

by NCHS and published in *Vital Statistics of the United States*, Volume III, Marriage and Divorce. They are based on information from two sources: (1) Complete counts of events obtained from all States and (2) samples of marriage and divorce certificates from the MRA and the DRA. Statistical information obtained by NCHS from the certificates of States that constitute the MRA and the DRA includes data on the characteristics of marriages and divorces and of the persons involved in them, such as date and place of marriage, age, race, and number of previous marriages.

Marriage and divorce statistics for the United States, for the registration areas, and for individual States are tabulated by place of occurrence and include marriages of nonresidents. Marriages or divorces of members of the Armed Forces or of other U.S. nationals that occur outside of the United States are excluded. "United States" refers to the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The term "divorce" as used in this report includes absolute divorces, annulments, and decrees of marriage dissolution, which recently replaced divorces in several States. Various types of limited divorce are excluded. The words "divorce" and "dissolution of marriage" are used interchangeably.

Nonlicensed marriages in California

In California nonlicensed marriages are performed under section 4213 of the California Civil code, which allows unmarried couples who have been living together to be married confidentially without obtaining a marriage license or health certificate. In March 1972 this section was amended to require county clerks (who keep sealed records for these marriages) to report periodically the total number to the California State Department of Health Services. These records may not be opened for inspection without a court order. Since reporting began, nonlicensed marriages have increased rapidly from 2,857 in 1973 to 68,260 in 1983. Beginning in 1978 these marriages are included in the national and geographic totals.

Sampling

Marriage and divorce records were sampled at different rates to give a minimal sample of approximately 2,500 records for each State, producing a 4-percent relative variance on a 1 percent estimate. All records were sampled

U.S. STANDARD
LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

TYPE OR PRINT IN PERMANENT INK FOR INSTRUCTIONS SEE HANDBOOK

LICENSE NUMBER

STATE FILE NUMBER

GROOM

GROOM-NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST				AGE
1. USUAL RESIDENCE STREET AND NUMBER			2. CITY, TOWN OR LOCATION	
3a. COUNTY	STATE	3b. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)		DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)
3c. FATHER-NAME	4. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)	5. MOTHER-MAIDEN NAME		BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)

BRIDE

BRIDE-NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST				MAIDEN NAME (if different)	AGE
8a. USUAL RESIDENCE-STREET AND NUMBER			9. CITY, TOWN OR LOCATION		
10a. COUNTY	STATE	10b. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)		DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
10c. FATHER-NAME	11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)	12. MOTHER-MAIDEN NAME		BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)	

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF AND THAT WE ARE FREE TO MARRY UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE.

LICENSE TO MARRY

15. GROOM'S SIGNATURE			16. BRIDE'S SIGNATURE		
THIS LICENSE AUTHORIZES THE MARRIAGE IN THIS STATE OF THE PARTIES NAMED ABOVE BY ANY PERSON DULY AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM A MARRIAGE CEREMONY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF _____					
17a. SUBSCRIBED TO AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME ON Month Day Year		17b. SIGNATURE OF ISSUING OFFICER		17c. TITLE OF ISSUING OFFICER	
18a. I certify that the above named persons were married on Month Day Year		18b. WHERE MARRIED-CITY		18c. COUNTY	

CEREMONY

18d. PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY (Signature)		18e. TITLE		18f. TYPE OF CEREMONY (Religious or civil, specify)	
19a. WITNESS TO CEREMONY (Signature)		19b. WITNESS TO CEREMONY (Signature)			

LOCAL OFFICIAL

20a. LOCAL OFFICIAL MAKING RETURN TO STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT (Signature)			20b. DATE RECEIVED BY LOCAL OFFICIAL (Mo., Day, Yr.)		
---	--	--	--	--	--

INFORMATION FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY

GROOM

21. RACE-GROOM <i>Specify (e.g., White, Black American Indian, etc.)</i>	22. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE <i>Specify (First, second, etc.)</i>	23. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED BY DEATH, DIVORCE, DISSOLUTION OR ANNULMENT (<i>Specify</i>)		24. EDUCATION (<i>Specify only highest grade completed</i>) Elementary or Secondary (0-12) | College (1-4 or 5+)	
			23a. DATE (Mo., Day, Yr.)		

BRIDE

25. RACE-BRIDE <i>Specify (e.g., White, Black American Indian, etc.)</i>	26. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE <i>Specify (First, second, etc.)</i>	27. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED BY DEATH, DIVORCE, DISSOLUTION OR ANNULMENT (<i>Specify</i>)		28. EDUCATION (<i>Specify only highest grade completed</i>) Elementary or Secondary (0-12) | College (1-4 or 5+)	
			27a. DATE (Mo., Day, Yr.)		

HRA-164
Rev. 1/78

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE-PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE-NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS
1978 REVISION

U. S. STANDARD
CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE,
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE OR ANNULMENT

TYPE
ON PRINT
IN
PERMANENT
INK
FOR
INSTRUCTIONS
SEE
HANDBOOK

COURT IDENTIFICATION
(Court file number)

STATE FILE NUMBER

HUSBAND

HUSBAND-NAME		FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST
1.				
USUAL RESIDENCE-STREET ADDRESS			CITY, TOWN OR LOCATION	
2a.			2b.	
COUNTY	STATE	BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)		DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)
2c.	2d.	3.	4.	

WIFE

WIFE-NAME		FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST	MAIDEN NAME
5a.					
USUAL RESIDENCE-STREET ADDRESS			CITY, TOWN OR LOCATION		
6a.			6b.		
COUNTY	STATE	BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)		DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
6c.	6d.	7.	8.		

PLACE OF THIS MARRIAGE-CITY	COUNTY	STATE (If not in U.S.A., name country)	DATE OF THIS MARRIAGE (Mo., Day, Yr.)	DATE COUPLE SEPARATED (Mo., Day, Yr.)
9a.	9b.	9c.	9d.	10.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN ALIVE OF THIS MARRIAGE (Specify)	CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN THIS FAMILY (Specify)	PETITIONER-HUSBAND, WIFE, BOTH, OTHER (Specify)
11a.	11b.	12.

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER-NAME (Type or print)	ADDRESS	STREET OR R.F.D. NO.	CITY OR TOWN	STATE	ZIP
13a.	13b.		13c.	13d.	13e.

DECREE

I certify that the marriage of the above named persons was dissolved on:	Month	Day	Year	TYPE OF DECREE-DIVORCE, DISSOLUTION OR ANNULMENT (Specify)	DATE OF ENTRY (Mo., Day, Yr.)
14a.	14b.	14c.	14d.	14e.	14f.
COUNTY OF DECREE			TITLE OF COURT		
14g.			14h.		
SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL			TITLE OF OFFICIAL		
14i.			14j.		

INFORMATION FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY

HUSBAND

RACE-HUSBAND	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE	IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED HOW MANY ENDED BY		EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed)	
Specify (e.g., White, Black, American Indian, etc.)	Specify (First, second, etc.)	DEATH?	DIVORCE, DISSOLUTION OR ANNULMENT?	Elementary or Secondary (0-12)	College (1-4 or 5+)
15.	16.	17a.	17b.	18.	

WIFE

RACE-WIFE	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE	IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED HOW MANY ENDED BY		EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed)	
Specify (e.g., White, Black, American Indian, etc.)	Specify (First, second, etc.)	DEATH?	DIVORCE, DISSOLUTION OR ANNULMENT?	Elementary or Secondary (0-12)	College (1-4 or 5+)
19.	20.	21a.	21b.	22.	

HRA-165
Rev. 1/78

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE-PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE-NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS
1978 REVISION

Figure II. U.S. Standard Certificate of Divorce, Dissolution of Marriage or Annulment

Table I. Years central files of marriage and divorce records were established and years areas were admitted to the marriage- and divorce-registration areas: 1983

[The marriage-registration area was established January 1, 1957, and the divorce-registration area, January 1, 1958]

Area	Marriages		Divorces	
	Central files established	Admitted to the marriage-registration area	Central files established	Admitted to the divorce-registration area
Alabama	1908	1957	1908	1958
Alaska	1913	1957	1949	1958
Arizona	(¹)	(²)	(¹)	(²)
Arkansas	1917	(²)	1923	(²)
California	1905	1957	1962	(³)
Colorado	1968	1979	1968	(²)
Connecticut	1897	1957	1947	1968
Delaware	1913	1957	1935	1981
District of Columbia	1811	1961	1802	(²)
Florida	1927	1957	1927	(²)
Georgia	1952	1957	1952	1958
Hawaii	1896	1957	1951	1958
Idaho	1947	1957	1947	1958
Illinois	1962	1964	1962	1968
Indiana	1959	1961	(¹)	(²)
Iowa	1880	1957	1914	1958
Kansas	1913	1957	1951	1959
Kentucky	1958	1959	1958	1969
Louisiana	1937	1957	1942	(²)
Maine	1892	1957	1892	(²)
Maryland	1914	1957	1914	1959
Massachusetts	1841	1961	1882	1979
Michigan	1867	1957	1897	1961
Minnesota	1958	1971	1970	(²)
Mississippi	1926	1957	1926	(²)
Missouri	1948	1968	1948	1961
Montana	1943	1957	1943	1958
Nebraska	1909	1957	1909	1958
Nevada	1968	(²)	1968	(²)
New Hampshire	1858	1957	1881	1979
New Jersey	1848	1957	1795	(²)
New Mexico	(¹)	(²)	(¹)	(²)
New York (excluding New York City)	1880	1957	1963	1969
New York City	1847	1965	1963	
North Carolina	1962	1964	1958	(²)
North Dakota	1925	(²)	1949	(²)
Ohio	1949	1957	1949	1962
Oklahoma	(¹)	(²)	(¹)	(²)
Oregon	1907	1957	1925	1958
Pennsylvania	1906	1957	1943	1958
Rhode Island	1852	1957	1962	1963
South Carolina	1950	1971	1962	1971
South Dakota	1905	1957	1905	1958
Tennessee	1945	1957	1945	1958
Texas	1966	(²)	1968	(²)
Utah	1919	1957	1953	1958
Vermont	1857	1957	1896	1968
Virginia	1853	1957	1918	1958
Washington	1968	(²)	1968	(²)
West Virginia	1921	1965	1967	(²)
Wisconsin	1907	1957	1907	1958
Wyoming	1941	1957	1941	1958
Puerto Rico	1931	1957	1931	(²)
Virgin Islands	1953	1957	1953	1958

¹Not yet established.

²Not yet admitted.

³California was admitted to the divorce-registration area in 1968 but ceased to participate in 1978.

for States with fewer than 2,500 records and for New York City marriages. All records were also used for States in the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program (VSCP). States participating in the VSCP supplied State-coded data on computer tape. Beginning in 1972 with Florida, the number of States that supplied marriage records through the VSCP grew to nine in 1975 with the addition of Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Vermont. Virginia was added in 1976, and Illinois and Montana brought the total to 12 States for the 1977-1983 period. State-coded data tapes of divorce records were used starting in 1975 for six states—Missouri,

Nebraska, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Vermont. Virginia was added in 1976 and Illinois in 1977, bringing the total to eight States for the 1977-83 period.

Estimates computed from the samples (except where the sample included all records) are subject to sampling error. Because all cases in the samples were selected with known probabilities, the sampling error can be calculated for each estimate. Tables II and III show sampling errors for the MRA and the DRA in 1983. These are the amounts that, when added to and subtracted from the estimates, give the ranges for the quantity being estimated, in approximately 68 in 100 similarly selected samples.

Table II. Sampling error of estimated number of marriages expressed as percent of area total: Marriage-registration area, and each registration State, 1983

[Figures for Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, and Virginia have no sampling errors because all records were tabulated]

Area	All marriages	Sampling error of estimated frequency, expressed as percent of area total										
		1 or 99	2 or 98	3 or 97	4 or 96	5 or 95	7 or 93	10 or 90	15 or 85	20 or 80	25 or 75	50
		Number of marriages										
Marriage-registration area	1,890,791	413	581	709	814	905	1,060	1,246	1,483	1,661	1,798	2,077
Alabama	47,440	65	92	112	128	143	167	196	233	262	283	327
Alaska	6,553	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
California ¹	152,420	169	238	290	334	371	434	511	608	681	737	851
Colorado	36,150	57	80	97	112	124	145	171	203	228	247	285
Connecticut	26,915	33	46	56	64	71	83	98	117	131	142	164
Delaware	5,579	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
District of Columbia	5,338	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Florida	118,964	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Georgia	72,820	118	166	202	233	259	303	356	424	475	514	593
Hawaii	14,050	12	17	20	23	26	30	36	42	47	51	59
Idaho	13,430	23	32	40	45	50	59	69	83	93	100	116
Illinois	103,734	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Indiana	54,040	101	142	173	198	221	258	304	361	405	438	506
Iowa	26,770	49	69	84	96	107	125	147	175	196	213	245
Kansas	25,895	32	45	55	63	70	82	96	115	129	139	161
Kentucky	37,520	58	81	99	114	126	148	174	207	232	251	290
Louisiana	43,180	62	87	106	122	136	159	187	223	249	270	312
Maine	12,479	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maryland	47,120	66	92	112	129	144	168	198	235	263	285	329
Massachusetts	48,860	66	93	113	130	144	169	199	236	265	287	331
Michigan	78,940	122	171	209	240	267	312	367	437	490	530	612
Minnesota	36,320	57	80	97	112	124	146	171	204	228	247	285
Mississippi	26,890	49	69	84	97	107	126	148	176	197	213	246
Missouri	53,258	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Montana	8,092	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nebraska	13,703	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Hampshire	10,972	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Jersey	61,840	108	152	185	212	236	276	325	387	433	469	542
New York	159,321	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
North Carolina	52,130	68	96	117	134	149	175	205	245	274	297	342
Ohio	99,900	137	193	235	270	300	352	414	492	551	597	689
Oregon	23,285	30	43	52	60	67	78	92	109	122	133	153
Pennsylvania	92,140	132	185	226	259	288	337	397	472	529	573	661
Rhode Island	8,053	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Carolina	53,686	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Dakota	8,002	9	13	15	18	20	23	27	32	36	39	45
Tennessee	56,300	103	145	177	203	226	265	311	370	415	449	519
Utah	18,425	27	38	46	53	59	69	82	97	109	118	136
Vermont	5,595	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Virginia	61,790	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Virginia	15,930	25	35	43	49	55	64	76	90	101	109	126
Wisconsin	40,760	60	85	103	119	132	155	182	216	242	262	303
Wyoming	6,202	8	11	13	15	17	20	24	28	31	34	39

¹Sampling errors computed excluding nonlicensed marriages; see Technical notes.

Table III. Sampling error of estimated number of divorces and annulments expressed as percent of area total: Divorce-registration area, and each registration State, 1983

[Figures for Alaska, Delaware, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming have no sampling errors because all records were tabulated]

Area	All divorces and annulments	Sampling error of estimated frequency, expressed as percent of area total										
		1 or 99	2 or 98	3 or 97	4 or 96	5 or 95	7 or 93	10 or 90	15 or 85	20 or 80	25 or 75	50
		Number of divorces										
Divorce-registration area	572,949	171	241	294	337	375	439	516	614	688	745	860
Alabama	25,300	47	67	81	93	104	121	143	170	190	206	238
Alaska	3,925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Connecticut	12,098	11	15	19	21	24	28	33	39	44	47	55
Delaware	3,060	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Georgia	32,870	55	77	94	108	120	141	165	197	220	239	275
Hawaii	4,584	7	9	12	13	15	17	20	24	27	29	34
Idaho	6,232	8	11	13	15	17	20	23	28	31	34	39
Illinois	50,350	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Iowa	10,586	10	14	18	20	22	26	31	37	41	45	51
Kansas	12,280	22	31	38	43	48	56	66	79	88	95	110
Kentucky	17,095	26	36	44	51	57	66	78	93	104	112	130
Maryland	16,095	26	36	44	50	56	66	77	92	103	111	128
Massachusetts	18,530	27	38	46	53	59	69	81	97	109	118	136
Michigan	38,060	58	82	100	114	127	149	175	209	234	253	292
Missouri	25,904	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Montana	4,672	7	9	11	13	14	17	20	24	26	29	33
Nebraska	6,234	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Hampshire	4,806	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New York	64,154	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ohio	54,120	101	142	173	199	221	259	304	362	406	439	507
Oregon	16,185	25	36	43	50	55	65	76	91	102	110	127
Pennsylvania	40,220	60	84	102	118	131	153	180	214	240	260	300
Rhode Island	3,525	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Carolina	13,601	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Dakota	2,554	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tennessee	28,930	52	73	88	102	113	132	155	185	207	224	259
Utah	8,474	9	13	16	18	20	24	28	33	37	40	46
Vermont	2,575	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Virginia	25,437	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin	16,510	26	36	44	50	56	66	77	92	103	111	128
Wyoming	3,983	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Demographic characteristics

Certificates vary among the States in the information that is collected. For marriages, items on age at marriage or date of birth were included by every MRA State and the District of Columbia. However, information on previous marital status, type of ceremony, race, education, and interval to remarriage was not reported by some States. Tables IV and V show which States reported previous marital status and the other items shown in the tables of this report. Although 38 States and the District of Columbia reported previous marital status of bride and groom in 1983, only 36 States did so for the entire 1970-83 period. It is this group of 36 States that is used to make national estimates by applying the percent distributions by previous marital status and sex from these States to the total count of marriages for the United States.

For divorces, date of marriage and number of children were included on the certificates of every DRA State. Table IV shows which States reported the number of the marriage being dissolved and the duration of the marriage.

Because of the differences in the reporting areas from table to table, there may be slight differences between some of the totals shown.

Rates, percents, means, and medians

Marriage rates for 1970 and 1980 are based on the complete count of persons enumerated as of April 1 of those years. All other rates are based on estimates of the resident population as of July 1 that were prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Percents, means, and medians were computed excluding cases with information not stated.

Table IV. Areas that report specified items on marriage and divorce records

Area	Marriages records									Divorce records	
	Marriage registration area participants, 1983 ¹	Previous marital status, 1983	Previous marital status, both 1970 and 1983	Previous marital status and type of ceremony, 1983	Uniform group of States for national estimates, 1970-83	Previous marital status, and race, 1983	Previous marital status, race, and type of ceremony, 1983	Previous marital status, interval to remarriage, and race, 1983	Previous marital status, and education, 1983	Number of this marriage	
	(Tables C, 3, and 4)	(Tables E, 2, 5, and 6)	(Tables A and D)	(Table B)	(Table 1)	(Tables F, G, and J)	(Table H) ¹	(Table M)	(Tables N, O, 7, and 8)	(Table P)	(Tables Q, R, and S)
Total number of reporting areas	43	39	38	38	36	33	32	23	20	19	30
Alabama	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Alaska	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
California	x	x	x	x	x	x			x		
Colorado	x	x	x	x							
Connecticut	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Delaware	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
District of Columbia	x	x	² x	x							
Florida	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Georgia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
Hawaii	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Idaho	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Illinois	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Indiana	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Iowa	x										x
Kansas	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Kentucky	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			x
Louisiana	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Maine	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Maryland	x	x	x	x	x						x
Massachusetts	x	x	x	x	x						x
Michigan	x										x
Minnesota	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x
Mississippi	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Missouri	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Montana	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nebraska	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
New Hampshire	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
New Jersey	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
New York	x	x	x	x	x						x
North Carolina	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Ohio	x										x
Oregon	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
Pennsylvania	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
Rhode Island	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
South Carolina	x										x
South Dakota	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Tennessee	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Utah	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Vermont	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Virginia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
West Virginia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Wisconsin	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wyoming	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

¹Tables 3 and 4 are trends for 1970-83.
²Table A excludes the District of Columbia.

Table V. Areas that report date last marriage ended on marriage records: 1970-83

Area	1980-83	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970
Total number of reporting areas . . .	26	27	25	22	23	21	21	21	21	20	18
Alabama		X	X	X	X						
California	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colorado	X	X									
Florida	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Georgia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hawaii	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Illinois	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iowa					X	X	X	X	X		
Kansas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Louisiana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maine	X	X	X								
Minnesota	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Mississippi	X	X									
Missouri	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Montana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nebraska	X	X	X								
New Hampshire	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New York	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
North Carolina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oregon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pennsylvania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rhode Island	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
South Carolina									X	X	
Tennessee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Utah	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vermont	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Virginia	X	X	X								
Wisconsin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wyoming	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Vital and Health Statistics series descriptions

- SERIES 1. Programs and Collection Procedures**—Reports describing the general programs of the National Center for Health Statistics and its offices and divisions and the data collection methods used. They also include definitions and other material necessary for understanding the data.
- SERIES 2. Data Evaluation and Methods Research**—Studies of new statistical methodology including experimental tests of new survey methods, studies of vital statistics collection methods, new analytical techniques, objective evaluations of reliability of collected data, and contributions to statistical theory. Studies also include comparison of U.S. methodology with those of other countries.
- SERIES 3. Analytical and Epidemiological Studies**—Reports presenting analytical or interpretive studies based on vital and health statistics, carrying the analysis further than the expository types of reports in the other series.
- SERIES 4. Documents and Committee Reports**—Final reports of major committees concerned with vital and health statistics and documents such as recommended model vital registration laws and revised birth and death certificates.
- SERIES 5. Comparative International Vital and Health Statistics Reports**—Analytical and descriptive reports comparing U.S. vital and health statistics with those of other countries.
- SERIES 10. Data From the National Health Interview Survey**—Statistics on illness, accidental injuries, disability, use of hospital, medical, dental, and other services, and other health-related topics, all based on data collected in the continuing national household interview survey.
- SERIES 11. Data From the National Health Examination Survey and the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey**—Data from direct examination, testing, and measurement of national samples of the civilian noninstitutionalized population provide the basis for (1) estimates of the medically defined prevalence of specific diseases in the United States and the distributions of the population with respect to physical, physiological, and psychological characteristics and (2) analysis of relationships among the various measurements without reference to an explicit finite universe of persons.
- SERIES 12. Data From the Institutionalized Population Surveys**—Discontinued in 1975. Reports from these surveys are included in Series 13.
- SERIES 13. Data on Health Resources Utilization**—Statistics on the utilization of health manpower and facilities providing long-term care, ambulatory care, hospital care, and family planning services.
- SERIES 14. Data on Health Resources: Manpower and Facilities**—Statistics on the numbers, geographic distribution, and characteristics of health resources including physicians, dentists, nurses, other health occupations, hospitals, nursing homes, and outpatient facilities.
- SERIES 15. Data From Special Surveys**—Statistics on health and health-related topics collected in special surveys that are not a part of the continuing data systems of the National Center for Health Statistics.
- SERIES 20. Data on Mortality**—Various statistics on mortality other than as included in regular annual or monthly reports. Special analyses by cause of death, age, and other demographic variables; geographic and time series analyses; and statistics on characteristics of deaths not available from the vital records based on sample surveys of those records.
- SERIES 21. Data on Natality, Marriage, and Divorce**—Various statistics on natality, marriage, and divorce other than as included in regular annual or monthly reports. Special analyses by demographic variables; geographic and time series analyses; studies of fertility; and statistics on characteristics of births not available from the vital records based on sample surveys of those records.
- SERIES 22. Data From the National Mortality and Natality Surveys**—Discontinued in 1975. Reports from these sample surveys based on vital records are included in Series 20 and 21, respectively.
- SERIES 23. Data From the National Survey of Family Growth**—Statistics on fertility, family formation and dissolution, family planning, and related maternal and infant health topics derived from a periodic survey of a nationwide probability sample of women 15–44 years of age.

For answers to questions about this report or for a list of titles of reports published in these series, contact:

Scientific and Technical Information Branch
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control
Public Health Service
Hyattsville, Md. 20782
301-436-8500

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control
National Center for Health Statistics
3700 East-West Highway
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

BULK RATE
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
PHS/NCHS
PERMIT No. G-281

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300