

**VITAL and HEALTH STATISTICS**  
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# Divorce Statistics Analysis

**United States - 1962**

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An analysis of the national divorce statistics for 1962 and of the personal characteristics of husbands and wives divorced in Hawaii, Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin during the years 1960 and 1961.

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Washington, D.C.

December 1965

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

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Secretary

Public Health Service  
William H. Stewart  
Surgeon General



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# CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction -----	1
Data Analyzed-----	1
Representativeness of Available Data-----	2
Totals and Rates-----	2
National Totals and Rates-----	2
Divorce Trend-----	3
Divorces by Region, Division, and State-----	4
Annulments-----	5
Age at Time of Decree-----	5
Data for 1962-----	5
Age-Race-Specific Divorce Rates-----	6
Age at Time of Decree by Color-----	7
Age at Time of Decree by Number of This Marriage-----	7
Age of Husband by Age of Wife-----	8
Age of Divorced Persons at Time of Marriage-----	8
Data for 1962-----	8
Age at Time of Marriage and Likelihood of Divorce-----	8
Age of Husband at Time of Marriage by Age of Wife at Time of Marriage--	10
Age at Time of Marriage by Color and Marriage Order-----	10
Color or Race-----	11
Data for 1962-----	11
Color-Specific Divorce Rates-----	12
Interracial Divorces-----	12
Marriage Order-----	13
Data for 1962-----	14
Marriage Order and Likelihood of Divorce-----	14
Marriage Order by Age and Color-----	16
Number of This Marriage-----	16
Number of This Marriage of Husband by Number of This Marriage of Wife--	17
Residence-----	18
Residence of Defendants in 1962-----	18
Detailed Statistics on Residence-----	18

CONTENTS—Con.

	Page
Birthplace-----	19
State of Birth and State of Decree-----	19
Birthplace-Specific Divorce Rates-----	21
Birthplace and Place of Residence-----	21
Birthplace and Place of Marriage-----	22
Marriages of Divorced Couples-----	23
Place of Marriage-----	23
Divorces by Duration of Marriage-----	23
Median Duration of Marriage-----	24
Children of Divorced Couples-----	25
Divorces by Number of Children Reported-----	25
Number of Children Involved in Divorce Cases-----	26
Legal Variables-----	28
Legal Grounds for Decree-----	28
Plaintiff-----	29
Party to Whom Decree Granted-----	29
References-----	30
Detailed Tables-----	31
Appendix. Sources and Quality of Data-----	47
Sources of Data-----	47
Sample Design-----	49
Estimating Procedures-----	50
Sampling Errors of Estimates-----	51
Completeness of Data-----	53

*THIS REPORT COVERS the annual divorce and annulment statistics for the divorce-registration area for 1962 and data on personal characteristics of persons divorced in Hawaii, Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin in 1960 and 1961.*

*In 1962, 413,000 divorces were granted in the United States, and 1,363,000 husbands, wives, and children were involved in divorce cases. The divorce rate was 2.2 per 1,000 population; this was the 8th year in which the rate was in the range between 2.1 and 2.3. The rate was 0.9 in the Northeast Region, 2.1 in the North Central, 2.7 in the South, and 3.6 in the West. Among the States, the rate was lowest in New York (0.4) and highest in Nevada (26.9).*

*In the four selected States the divorce rate declined with the age of husband and wife. For white persons the rate was highest among teenagers, and it was highest for nonwhite persons in their 20's. Husbands and wives who had been married more than once divorced more often than those who had been married only once. The divorce rate was lower for persons born in the State where they were divorced than for persons born outside that State; in more than half of the cases both husband and wife were born in the State of divorce, and in over 80 percent either husband or wife or both were born in that State.*

*During recent years the duration of marriage at time of divorce has been comparatively stable; the median duration for the divorce-registration area was 7.3 years in 1962 and 7.1 in 1960 and 1961.*

*The number of children involved in divorce cases is increasing rapidly. The annual estimate for the United States was 537,000 in 1962, 463,000 in 1960, and 330,000 in 1953. The average number of children per divorce for these years was, respectively, 1.30, 1.18, and 0.85. The rate per 1,000 persons under 18 years of age was 8.0 in 1962, 7.2 in 1960, and 6.4 in 1953.*

#### SYMBOLS

Data not available-----	---
Category not applicable-----	...
Quantity zero-----	-
Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05----	0,0
Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision-----	*

# DIVORCE STATISTICS ANALYSIS

Alexander A. Broel-Plateris, Ph.D., *Division of Vital Statistics*

## INTRODUCTION

### Data Analyzed

This report includes a discussion of two related topics—the regular annual divorce and annulment statistics for the United States for 1962 and the personal characteristics of husbands and wives divorced in 1960 and 1961 in four selected States—Hawaii, Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Originally it was planned to prepare two separate reports, but when the data were tabulated, it was decided to merge them into one report because the detailed data on personal characteristics for the four States are an extension of the less detailed information for all States that participate in the divorce-registration area (DRA). Though the two topics covered in this report do not refer to the same period of time, it is believed that only minor changes occurred in the four selected States between 1960-61 and 1962 and hence that the two sets of data are comparable.

The 1962 annual statistics include national totals and rates for divorce and annulment decrees granted, State totals and rates based on total counts of events, national estimates of the number of children involved in divorce cases, and percentage distributions and measures of central tendency for other selected variables based on probability samples received from the States participating in the DRA during the data year—Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. (Sample specifications are discussed in the Appendix. Frequencies are shown

in Section 2, Volume III, *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1962*.) A new State, Ohio, was added to the DRA in 1962. The Virgin Islands also participates in the DRA, but its data are not covered by this report.

Divorces and annulments that occurred in the DRA in 1962 constituted 35.6 percent of the national total, compared with 30.2 percent in 1961, 23.9 percent in 1960, 22.8 percent in 1959, and 19.5 percent in 1958, the year the DRA was organized. This growth is primarily due to increase in the number of States included in the DRA from 14 to 21. (Criteria required for a State to participate in the DRA are listed in the Appendix.) The statistical information for the DRA and each participating State is limited to major demographic and legal variables with very few cross-classifications. This is due to the incompleteness of data obtained from many States and particularly to the incompleteness of reporting of personal characteristics of the divorced spouses.

The inclusion in this report of the analysis of personal characteristics obtained from the 1960 and 1961 probability samples in the four selected States is intended to fill the gap left by the incomplete information received from most other States. (Since 1960 additional States have achieved the level of completeness observed in that year for the four selected States.) Some personal characteristics analyzed in this report, such as data on birthplace and residence of husband and wife, became available for the first time from sample transcripts of the four States, and most cross-tabulations prepared for the four States were not available for earlier years. Data for 1961 were combined in each cell with data for 1960 in order to minimize sampling variability.

## Representativeness of Available Data

There is some question about the representativeness of the selected four States. In order to find a tentative answer to this question, data by age, color, and marriage order for these States were compared with figures for the DRA (table 1). Values for the four States combined were similar to the corresponding values for the registration area. Seven out of 12 medians and quartiles of age of husband and of wife at time of decree and at time of marriage fell between the corresponding DRA values for 1960 and 1961 or were identical with one of these values, while the remaining five differed by 0.8 or less from the corresponding DRA figures for 1960 or 1961.

In the four States combined the proportion of divorces of white husbands and wives was slightly lower than in the entire DRA and that of nonwhite persons correspondingly higher, but these differences were small: 1.4 percentage points for husbands and 1.8 for wives when compared with the DRA data for 1960 and 1.2 and 1.5 percentage points, respectively, when compared with the 1961 data. However, in the four States the distribution of the nonwhite group by race was quite different from that for the whole DRA: About 6 out of 7 nonwhite persons divorced in the DRA were Negroes, but only about 2 out of 3 were Negroes in the four States. This difference was due to an overwhelming majority of divorces granted in Hawaii to nonwhite non-Negro persons.

The proportion of divorced persons married only once was a little lower in the four States than in the DRA, but the largest difference was only about three percentage points. It also was due to an atypical situation in Hawaii, where more than a third of the divorced persons had been married more than once.

The similarities found in table 1 between the DRA and the four States indicate that findings based on data for the four States combined are not very different from those that would be obtained for the total DRA if data were available. However, exceptions such as the comparatively high percentage of non-Negro nonwhite persons should be kept in mind.

Are data for the DRA or for the four States representative of the United States? This question is impossible to answer because personal charac-

teristics of the divorced husband and wife are not available on a nationwide basis. For 1960, the only year for which national figures were tabulated, the tabulations were limited to three variables: duration of marriage to divorce, number of children reported in divorce cases, and the State where marriage was performed; corresponding figures for these variables were available for both the United States and the DRA.<sup>1</sup>

In 1960 the median duration of marriage for the DRA, 7.1 years, was similar to the national value, 7.2 years. The ratio of the estimated number of children reported in divorce cases to the total number of decrees granted was also similar: 1.20 for the DRA and 1.18 for the United States. The proportion of the childless among all divorced couples was slightly higher for the United States than for the DRA—43.3 percent as compared with 39.9. The proportion of divorces granted in the same State where marriage was performed was 57.5 for the United States and 56.9 for the DRA. Hence it seems that in 1960 for all variables for which national data were available the values for the DRA States combined were not very different from the national data.

Only 18 States were included in the DRA in 1960, and data for the 21 States participating in 1962 may bear quite a different relationship to the national figures, especially since 52,837 divorce decrees, or 12.8 percent of the national total, were granted in 1962 in the three States added to the DRA since 1960—Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio.

## TOTALS AND RATES

### National Totals and Rates

The estimated total of divorces and annulments granted in the United States in 1962 was 413,000, the second highest annual total since 1947. This was a decline of 0.2 percent from the previous year but an increase of 5.1 percent over the total for 1960, 4.6 percent over that for 1959, and 12.2 percent over that for 1958. The national divorce rate per 1,000 total population was 2.2, slightly smaller than the 2.3 rate for 1961, equal to the rates for 1960 and 1959, and slightly larger than the 1958 rate of 2.1. The divorce rate per 1,000 married females 15 years of age and over



was 9.4 in 1962 as compared with a rate of 9.6 for 1961, 9.2 for 1960, 9.3 for 1959, and 8.9 for 1958. The increase of this rate indicates that the growth of the divorce total during the last few years is partly due to factors other than increase in the number of married persons. Since two persons are involved in each divorce case, 826,000 persons were divorced in 1962—4.4 persons per 1,000 total population—and one decree was granted per 455 individuals, or per 106 married women. As couples divorced in 1962 had 537,000 children under 18 years of age, a total of 1,363,000 persons were intimately involved in divorce cases, or 7.3 per 1,000 total population.

During 1962, 814,500 families were broken by death: 570,090 by death of husband and 244,410

by death of wife (*Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 11, No. 13, table G). Adding these figures to the 413,000 families broken by divorce gives a total of 1,227,500 families broken during the year by death and judicial decree combined. During the same period of time 1,577,360 marriages took place, increasing the total number of married couples in the United States by approximately 350,000.

### Divorce Trend

The present divorce trend differs considerably from that prevailing before the end of World War II (fig. 1). Before the alltime peak of 1946 the trend showed a general tendency to in-

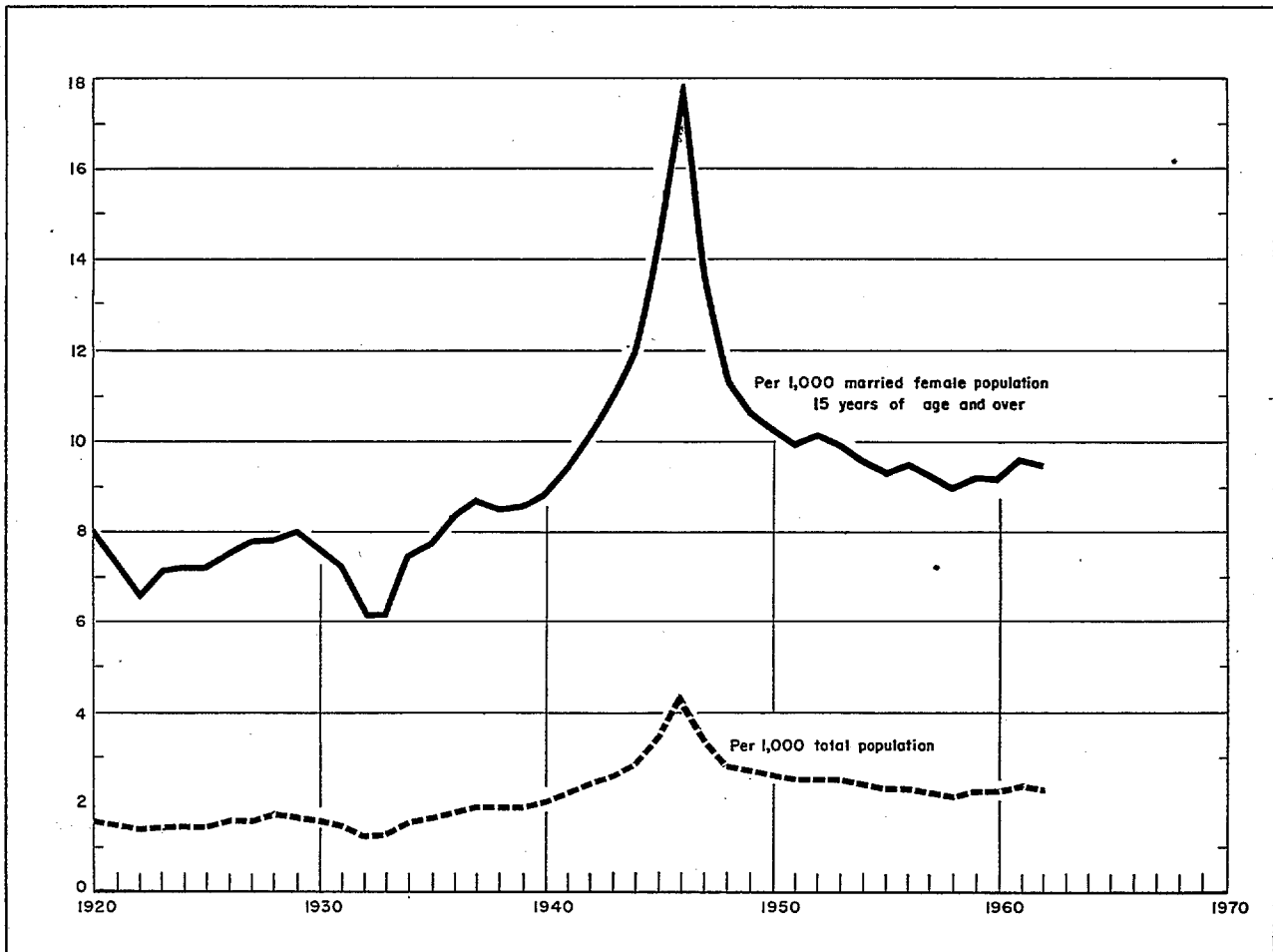


Figure 1. Divorce rates: United States, 1920-62

crease; this tendency was accelerated by war and reversed by economic depression. After 1946 the rate declined and gradually leveled off at about 2.2 persons per 1,000 total population. From the 1920 level of 1.6, which was the post-World War I high, the crude rate declined to 1.4 in 1922 and then rose to 1.7 in 1928 and 1929. With the onset of the great depression the rate declined to 1.3 in 1932 and 1933 and thereafter resumed its upward trend, which was accelerated by World War II, and reached the alltime high of 4.3 per 1,000 population in 1946. Subsequently the rate declined to 2.8 in 1948 and to 2.3 in 1955. Since then it has varied between 2.1 and 2.3.

### Divorces by Region, Division, and State

The divorce rate in 1962 varied widely among regions and States (table 2 and fig. 2). The lowest rate was 0.9 per 1,000 population in the Northeast Region, followed by 2.1 in the North Central, 2.7 in the South, and 3.6 in the West. Thus the divorce rate in the West was 4 times as high as that in the Northeast. These rates were affected by migration and the age distribution of the population.

The divorce rate by divisions and States showed a tendency to increase from the Northeast to the Southwest. A line drawn from South Carolina

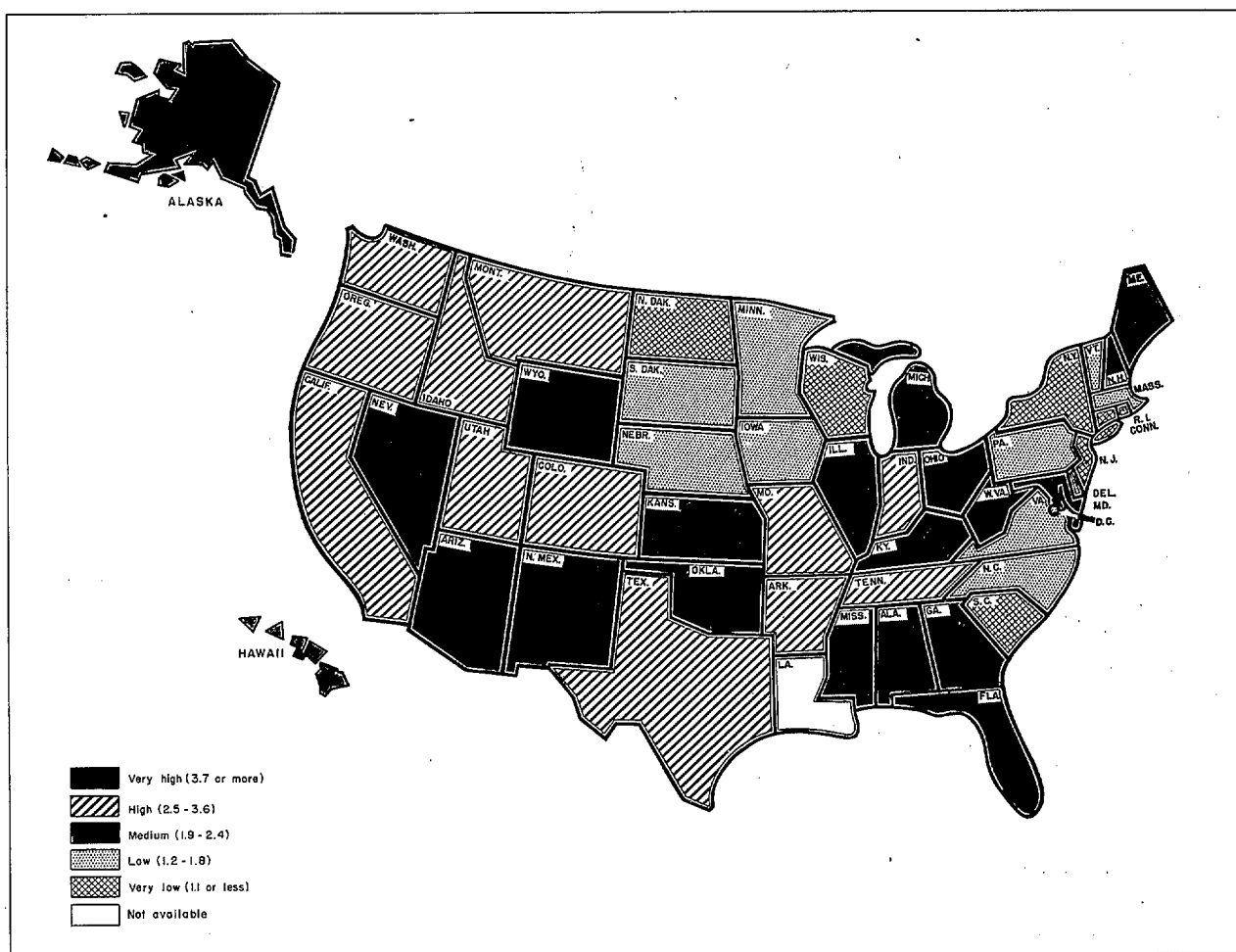


Figure 2. Divorce rates per 1,000 population: each State, 1962.

to Nebraska divided the predominantly low- and medium-divorce areas from the predominantly high-divorce areas (fig. 2). The Middle Atlantic Division had the lowest divorce rate (0.7 per 1,000 population), followed by New England (1.3). In the divisions of North Central and South Regions (except the West South Central) rates were similar to or identical with the national rate—between 2.0 and 2.8 per 1,000 population. The highest rates were found in the Mountain Division (4.8 per 1,000 population), in the Pacific Division (3.2), and in the reporting States of the West South Central Division (4.6, 3.6, and 3.4).

Annual divorce and annulment totals for 1962 were available for all 50 States and the District of Columbia. The totals were larger than comparable figures for 1961 in 34 cases and smaller in 17; however, in 6 States (Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, and West Virginia) these changes were very small—1.0 percent or less in either direction. The largest increases, over 1,000 decrees in each State, were found in California (2,367 decrees), Texas (1,578), Michigan (1,281), Nevada (1,192), and Colorado (1,100), while the largest declines took place in Illinois (7,153 decrees) and Alabama (5,415). The percentage change ranged from an increase of 21.0 percent in New Hampshire and 19.6 in Colorado to a decline of 30.6 percent in Alabama and 27.5 percent in Illinois.

The divorce rate per 1,000 total population increased in 19 States between 1961 and 1962, declined in 13 States, and remained unchanged in 17 States and the District of Columbia. The rate was not available for Louisiana. The change in the divorce rate was more than 0.5 points in 3 States only: It increased from 25.9 to 26.9 in Nevada and declined from 5.3 to 3.7 in Alabama and from 2.6 to 1.9 in Illinois.

As usual, the highest divorce rate was found in Nevada: 26.9 per 1,000 population; this is more than 12 times greater than the national rate. Other States that had a rate of 4.0 or more per 1,000 were Arizona (5.2), Oklahoma (4.6), Florida (4.1), and Wyoming (4.0). The rate for Alabama was the second highest in the Nation both in 1960 and 1961, but in 1962 this State had a rate of 3.7 and shared the sixth place with Alaska and New Mexico. This decline was due to changes in judicial interpretation of State laws which regulate the residence

requirements for persons applying for divorce. The lowest divorce rates were found in New York (0.4), New Jersey (0.8), and Rhode Island and North Dakota (1.0).

### Annulments

Of the 413,000 decrees of divorce or annulment granted in the United States in 1962, 12,692 were reported to be annulments. This figure is incomplete, as three States did not report annulments granted in some local areas and one State did not report annulments separately from divorces; in all these cases annulments were included in the number of divorces and annulments combined. The reported annulments constitute 3.1 percent of the national divorce and annulment total. About two-thirds of all annulment decrees (8,315) were granted in two States, California and New York, and reported annulments constituted, respectively, 11.1 and 35.6 percent of the State totals. On the other hand, these percents were lowest in Vermont (0.2), Ohio (0.3), Mississippi (0.3), and Nevada (0.4). These variations were due in part to differences between the legal regulations in individual States.

## AGE AT TIME OF DECREE

### Data for 1962

The age of husband and of wife at the time when the decree was granted was reported for about 57 percent of all divorces that occurred in the DRA in 1962. (Information about the completeness of reporting of age by individual States is shown in table III in the Appendix.)

For the DRA the median age at decree was 34.5 years for husbands and 31.0 years for wives (table 3); the first quartiles were 27.2 and 24.1 years and the third quartiles 44.1 and 40.2 years, respectively. For individual reporting States the median age of husbands varied between 31.8 years in Utah and 40.0 years in Wyoming, and for wives the extreme values were 28.3 years in Alaska and 34.7 years in Wisconsin. In all States the median age of husband at time of divorce was slightly higher than the median age of wife. For the DRA the difference between the two medians was 3.5 years. In this respect divorced persons do not

seem to differ to any appreciable degree from the total married population.

Data for the DRA indicate that 16 percent of divorced husbands and 29 percent of divorced wives were under 25 years of age and 7 percent of wives were still in their teens; on the other extreme 8 percent of husbands and 4 percent of wives were 55 years of age and older. The modal age at divorce was 25-29 years for husbands and 20-24 years for wives; these two age groups included about 20 percent of the divorced spouses. The percentage for husbands was higher than that for wives in all age groups above 24 years.

Because of the incompleteness of reporting, age data for the DRA were not cross-classified with other variables, and all detailed tabulations were limited to the four selected States.

### Age-Race-Specific Divorce Rates

Age-specific divorce rates were computed for the four selected States using as numerators means of data for 1960 and 1961 and as denominators the 1960 census figures for all married persons and for nonwhite married persons classified by age.<sup>2</sup> Because population data for white persons were not published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, they were computed by subtracting frequencies for nonwhite persons from frequencies for the total married population.

The rates indicate that in the four States combined young husbands and wives had a higher incidence of divorce than those who were older and that divorces declined consistently with age (table 4 and fig. 3). For teenage husbands the incidence of divorce was more than 3 times as high and for teenage wives almost 4 times as high as that for the total population. Age-specific rates for both sexes showed the same pattern for each of the three continental States—Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin—despite differences in the magnitude of these rates. For Hawaii this pattern was slightly different: The age-specific rates were highest, not for teenage married persons but for married persons 20 through 24 years of age, and they declined, as in the other States, for each successively higher age group. Thus, despite its peculiarities, the rate pattern for Hawaii supported the generalization that young married

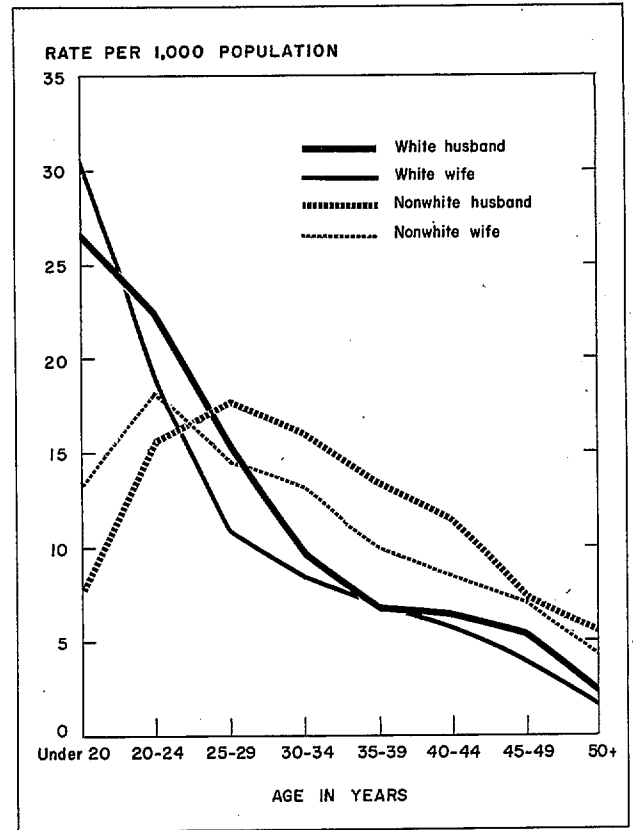


Figure 3. Age-specific divorce rates by color and sex: total of four selected States, 1960-61.

persons are more subject to divorce than older ones.

In all four States the variation of the divorce rate was more strongly associated with the age of the wife than with the age of the husband; for young wives the rate was higher, and for wives in older age groups it was lower than the comparable rates for husbands. The influence of age on divorce was least pronounced in Wisconsin, followed by Hawaii, Iowa, and Tennessee in that order.

The age-specific divorce rate for the white population had a pattern similar to that for the total population except that in the continental States the extremes were more pronounced: The rates for younger people were higher and for older people lower than those for the total population (table 4); thus the range for white Tennessee wives varied between 41.3 and 2.0 per 1,000. In Hawaii the range for white persons was less wide than it was for the total population.

For the four States combined, the divorce rate was higher for white than nonwhite persons in the young age groups—those under 25 years—but lower thereafter. The rates for teenage husbands, both white and nonwhite, were lower than those for teenage wives but higher for most of the remaining age groups. The same general pattern, with some variations, was observed for each reporting State.

The pattern of age-specific divorce rates for the nonwhite population differed considerably from that for the white (table 4). The age when highest rates for nonwhite persons were observed varied among States and sex groups, but in all cases it was found in an age group under 35 years of age. In later years of life the nonwhite rates declined consistently in the same manner as those for white persons. The age-specific rates for the total population of Hawaii were similar to those of the nonwhite population of that State because the majority of divorces were granted to nonwhite and racially mixed couples. However, even the rates for white persons in that State conformed to the pattern set by nonwhite persons, with the modal rate for both husbands and wives falling in the age group 20-24 years of age; this may be partially due to a high proportion of racially mixed couples.

The association between age and incidence of divorce was considerably stronger among white husbands and wives than nonwhite in the four States combined and in the three continental States, but the contrary was true for Hawaii; this is shown by the extent of the difference between the highest and lowest age-specific rates. For the four States combined, the highest and lowest rates were 26.6 and 2.3 per 1,000 white husbands and 17.6 and 5.4 per 1,000 nonwhite husbands; the comparable figures were 30.7 and 1.6 for white wives and 18.1 and 4.2 for nonwhite wives.

#### **Age at Time of Decree by Color**

The percentage distribution of divorces by age at decree differed markedly between the white and nonwhite husbands and wives in the four selected States, with most white persons divorcing at earlier ages than nonwhite (table 5). The median age of husbands at divorce was 32.8 years for white males and 36.8 for nonwhite males, while for

wives these medians were 29.6 and 32.8 years, respectively (table 6). A similar pattern can be observed for divorced persons of the two color groups who were married once and for those who were married more than once.

The difference between the two color groups was very pronounced in Tennessee, where the median ages were 31.4 and 39.1 years for husbands and 28.1 and 35.0 years for wives. This difference was less pronounced in Iowa and Hawaii, and the relationship between the color groups was reversed in Wisconsin, where median ages were higher for white persons than nonwhite; in this State medians for white persons were much higher than in the remaining three States, but this was not true as far as the medians for nonwhite persons were concerned.

Nonwhite persons who were divorced in the four selected States differed in racial and cultural background. All nonwhite persons divorced in Tennessee and Iowa were Negroes, and so were 90 percent of nonwhite persons divorced in Wisconsin; in Hawaii the nonwhite persons were almost exclusively non-Negro and a comparatively large proportion of marriages were interracial. However, differences in age medians were most pronounced between the southern Negroes in Tennessee and the northern Negroes in Iowa. Medians listed in table 6 indicate that the age of nonwhite persons in Iowa was more similar to that in Hawaii and Wisconsin than to that in Tennessee. This indicates that age of nonwhite persons at decree depends primarily on factors other than race.

#### **Age at Time of Decree by Number of This Marriage**

The influence of the number of marriages on age at time of decree seems very strong when median ages of persons married once are compared with those of persons married twice (30.4 and 40.7 years for husbands and 27.2 and 36.1 years for wives); but this influence is much less pronounced when median ages of persons married twice are compared with those of persons married three or more times (40.7 and 43.9 for husbands and 36.1 and 40.0 for wives) (table 6). Differences in the latter set of medians would be still smaller

if data for husbands and wives married four, five, or more times were tabulated. (This could not be done because of small frequencies and high sampling errors.) Thus, as far as age at decree is concerned, the classification of divorced persons into two categories, those married once and those married more than once, is satisfactory in most cases.

Spouses who were married only once divorced to a large extent when they were in their 20's. In the four States combined, 45.8 percent of husbands and 47.4 percent of wives married once divorced during that decade of their lives (table 7). For husbands and wives married twice and for those married three times or more, the 10-year modal age group were in their 30's at time of divorce.

The proportion of persons married twice or three times or more increased with the age of the divorced spouses. In the four States combined, persons married once comprised about 95 percent of husbands and wives who were under 20 years of age at time of the decree; persons married twice comprised about 5 percent; and those married three times or more, less than 0.05 percent. In every succeeding age group the proportion of persons married once declined and of those married twice or three times or more it increased until at the age of 50 or more years husbands and wives married once were in the minority (43.3 and 41.1 percent), those married twice constituted 40 percent for both sexes, and those married three times or more comprised 16.8 percent of husbands and 18.8 percent of wives.

#### **Age of Husband by Age of Wife**

Age of the husband at decree was cross-classified by the age of the wife at decree (table 8), and median ages as well as percentage distributions of husbands and wives were computed for each age group of their spouses. The data substantiated the generalizations that divorced husbands are slightly older than their wives irrespective of the age at decree. In the four States combined, as well as in each selected State, each median age of the husbands was above the midpoint of the age group of their wives, and in most cases it was above the upper limit of this age group. Conversely the median age of the wives

was usually below the lower limit of the husbands' age interval, and in all cases it was below its midpoint.

For all age groups of husbands and wives the majority of their spouses were concentrated within comparatively narrow age intervals (table 8). As both husbands and wives were classified into six age groups, the cross-tabulation comprised 36 cells; 12 of these cells included 84.3 percent of husbands and wives divorced in the four States combined, 85.6 percent in Iowa, 83.8 in Tennessee, and 86.5 in Wisconsin. Only in Hawaii was this proportion lower, i.e., 77.2 percent.

## **AGE OF DIVORCED PERSONS AT TIME OF MARRIAGE**

### **Data for 1962**

Information about the age at marriage was available for 56 percent of husbands and of wives divorced in the registration States in the year 1962. Most divorced persons were married before they reached their middle 20's, and many were married while still in their teens: 18 percent of divorced husbands and 46 percent of divorced wives were married before their 20th birthdays, and 58 percent of husbands and 74 percent of wives were married under the age of 25 years. At the time of marriage the median age of husbands divorced in the DRA was 24.0 years and that of wives 20.7 years (table 3). For husbands the lowest median age was 23.3 years, found in Maryland; the highest was 26.7 years, found in Alabama and Alaska. For wives the range of the medians lay between 19.8 years in Alabama and 22.9 years in Hawaii.

### **Age at Time of Marriage and Likelihood of Divorce**

The widely asked question of whether or not young age at marriage is associated with high prevalence of divorce cannot be answered definitely from the available data because divorce rates by age at marriage comparable to the rates by age at decree could not be computed since statistics were not available about the total married population by age at marriage.

Some indication of the relationship between age at marriage and the probability of divorce is given in the comparison of percentages of divorced husbands and wives who were married in their teens with the percentages of persons of the same age group married during the data years and earlier. Such a comparison could be made for a uniform group of 15 States for which marriage data by age were available for the years 1957-62 and data on the age of divorced persons at marriage for the years 1960-62. The following States were included in the group: Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming. In 1962, 87,408 divorce decrees were granted in these 15 States combined, or 21.2 percent of the national divorce total and 59.4 percent of all divorces granted in the DRA.

Percentages of teenage marriages for husbands and wives who were married and for those who were divorced are shown below.

These figures indicate that persons married at very young ages are somehow overrepresented among the divorced. However, this statement must be qualified in two respects. Less than half of the persons divorced in 1962 were married during the years 1957-62, and the distribution by age of those married during the latter period may not be representative for the population subject to divorce in 1962. To this objection it may be answered that percentages of teenagers married during the years 1957-62 increased consistently each year and therefore these percentages were probably even smaller in years before 1957. Data from a different group of 16 States indicate that the percentage of teenage marriages was increasing at

least since 1951.<sup>3 4</sup> Hence the persons married in their teens would probably seem even more overrepresented among the divorced if data for earlier years were available.

A second objection is more serious. Information on age at marriage was not stated on a very large proportion of divorce records received from most of the 15 States included in the comparison. For the 15 States combined, age at marriage was not stated in 39 percent of cases, and the percentages of teenage marriages among the divorced are correct only if it is assumed that in the 15 States the proportion of persons married in their teens among those divorced during 1962 was the same as or similar to the distribution of the cases for which age was given. There is no way to ascertain whether such an assumption is correct.

Some additional information may be obtained by analyzing the data for the only two States included in the group where the reporting of age was satisfactory, namely, Iowa and Tennessee. For these two States marriage statistics are available for all years beginning with 1952. In Tennessee the proportion of grooms under 20 years of age increased from 12.2 percent in 1952 to 17.3 percent in 1960 and that of teenage brides from 35.7 to 44.3 percent. The proportion of persons married in their teens and divorced in 1960-61 was 22.1 percent for husbands and 50.3 percent for wives. In Iowa the proportion of teenage grooms increased from 14.8 percent to 17.4 and that of teenage brides from 39.2 percent to 43.3, with a peak of 43.9 percent in 1958 and 44.6 percent in 1959. The proportion of divorced persons that were married in their teens was 18.0 percent for husbands and 43.4 for wives. These data indicate that persons married in their teens

Year	Husbands		Wives	
	Married	Divorced	Married	Divorced
1962-----	15.3	18.9	40.5	47.4
1961-----	14.3	20.0	40.4	47.8
1960-----	14.0	16.4	40.3	46.0
1959-----	13.2	...	39.1	...
1958-----	12.9	...	39.0	...
1957-----	12.0	...	37.8	...

were considerably overrepresented among those divorced in Tennessee and slightly overrepresented among the divorced Iowa husbands, but the percentage of Iowa brides married in their teens in 1958 and 1959 was higher than the percentage of divorced wives who were married before their 20th birthday; however, only one wife in five divorced in 1960 and 1961 in Iowa was married in the years 1958 and 1959.

It can be seen that the available data strongly indicate the possibility of an association between early age at marriage and high incidence of divorce, but this association does not seem to be as clear-cut as that between the probability of divorce and age at decree. The discrepancy between the probability of divorce of persons who are young at time of marriage and of those who were young at time of decree may disappear when more detailed information becomes available, e.g., when population bases are obtained for the computation of age-at-marriage-specific rates. If the pattern as it seems to emerge from the scanty data available today is not changed by future research, the situation may be subject to various explanations. One possible way to explain the discrepancies is to assume that in some States many individuals who were married young divorce while still young but that those who do not divorce at an early age have a very low divorce rate; this counterbalances the extremely high rate of the group that has divorced and yields a moderate rate for all the young married group.

#### Age of Husband at Time of Marriage by

#### Age of Wife at Time of Marriage

Tabulations of data collected from the four selected States include some previously unavailable information about the age of divorced persons at marriage.

As a rule, the age of divorced husbands was slightly higher than that of their wives. For the four States combined, information about age at marriage is available for 36,754 divorced couples, and age of husband is cross-classified by age of wife at marriage (table 9). In 48.7 percent of the cases husbands belonged to an older age group than that of their wives, in 7.1 percent of the cases wives belonged to an older age group, and in 44.2 percent both spouses were in the same age group.

The distribution of persons divorced in the four States by age at marriage is very similar to comparable distributions of persons who were married during the same years shown in the table below (identical age groups were used in all three cases). Hence there is no reason to assume from the available data that the relationship between the ages is associated with the incidence of divorce; the minor differences in distributions may be due to differences between the four selected States and the more than 30 States comprising the marriage-registration area.

The median age at marriage was 24.0 years for husbands and 20.8 years for wives divorced in

Relative ages of spouses	Percentage of spouses		
	Divorces in the four selected States	Married in the MRA	
		1960	1961
Husband in older age group-----	48.7	45.2	46.3
Wife in older age group-----	7.1	5.3	5.5
Both in the same age group-----	44.2	49.5	48.2



the four States combined. Medians for each selected State are found in table 10, and percentage distributions of divorces by age of husband cross-classified by age of wife and median ages of husbands and wives by age group of their spouses are shown in table 9.

### Age at Time of Marriage by Color and Marriage Order

Age at marriage of the divorced couples where both husband and wife were white may be compared with the corresponding medians for all other couples, including those where the color of either or both spouses was nonwhite or not stated. The median ages at marriage for the two groups are shown in table 10.

The number of divorce records with color not stated for one or both spouses was very small in the selected four States, and the number of mixed white-nonwhite couples was also very small except in Hawaii. Hence the "other" couples in Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin were nonwhite couples almost without exception. In Iowa and in Tennessee all nonwhite persons divorced in 1960 and 1961 were Negroes, and in these two States median ages at marriage for divorced white couples were lower than for nonwhite couples.

In Wisconsin, where about 90 percent of nonwhite husbands and wives divorced in 1960 and 1961 were Negroes and the remainder belonged to other races, the median age at marriage for divorced white couples was also lower than that for the others, but the difference was small—less than 0.5 years. In Hawaii, where nonwhite persons were almost exclusively non-Negroes and where a large proportion of divorced couples were racially mixed, couples in which both spouses were white had higher median ages at marriage than the remaining couples. Thus from the available data the ages at marriage can be compared for divorced husbands and wives belonging to the three major racial groups—white, Negro, and other nonwhite; this age was lowest for non-Negro nonwhite persons, slightly higher for white persons, and highest for Negroes.

Age of the divorced spouses at marriage depends also on their marriage order (table 10). As expected, the median age at marriage is lowest when both husband and wife were married only once (22.1 and 19.1 for the four States combined)

and highest when both have been married more than once (36.8 and 31.9 years). In the four States the differences between the comparable medians of the two marriage order groups varied between 12 and 16 years. When one spouse was married once and the other more than once, the values of the medians were intermediate. The median age at marriage was associated not only with the marriage order of a given group of persons but also with the marriage order of their spouses, e.g., for wives who were married once, median age was higher when their husbands were remarried and lower when their husbands were also married once. The influence of the marriage order of the spouse was especially pronounced in the case of husbands divorced in Iowa, where first-married husbands with remarried wives had a slightly higher median age at marriage than remarried husbands who had first-married wives (26.6 and 26.3 years, respectively). When the husbands were married once and the wives more than once, median ages of wives at marriage were lower than those of husbands in Iowa and Wisconsin, but in Hawaii and Tennessee median ages of remarried wives were higher than the ages of their first-married husbands.

## COLOR OR RACE

### Data for 1962

Color or race of persons divorced in 1962 was reported by 20 States participating in the DRA; in one State, Ohio, the reporting of this variable was not required. This information was available for 62 percent of all husbands and wives divorced in the divorce-registration States combined, but this percentage increased to 73.5 when data were limited to the 20 States where color was reportable. In 1961 in the same 20 States the reporting was 70.3 percent complete.

Eighty-nine percent of all divorces granted in the DRA for which information on race was available were granted to white husbands and wives; the remaining 11 percent were granted to nonwhite persons, predominantly Negroes but also Indians, Orientals, Hawaiians, and members of other nonwhite races. The highest proportions of nonwhite persons were found among persons divorced in Hawaii (over 50 percent), Virginia (23 percent), Alabama (18 percent), and Alaska (18

percent for wives but only 11 percent for husbands). This percentage was over 10 in three other States—Georgia, Tennessee, and Michigan. The smallest percentages of nonwhite persons among persons divorced in 1962—2 percent or less—were found in Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska, Utah, and Wyoming.

### **Color-Specific Divorce Rates**

In the four selected States the incidence of divorce shows considerable variation as to the race or color of husband and wife. Differences in family patterns between various racial groups have been observed by the scholars, and the number of divorces as well as the characteristics of husband and wife at divorce reflects these patterns. Differences between white and nonwhite persons in age at divorce and at marriage have been discussed in the sections "Age at Time of Decree" and "Age of Divorced Persons at Time of Marriage."

The divorce rate was higher for white persons than for Negroes in Tennessee but about 4 times higher for Negroes than for white persons in both Iowa and Wisconsin (table 11). The high divorce rate for Negroes in the two midwestern States may be related to the urbanization of the Negroes in those States: 99 percent of Negroes were urban dwellers in Wisconsin, 96 percent in Iowa, but only 72 percent in Tennessee.<sup>5</sup> Moreover a high proportion of Negroes migrated comparatively recently into the Northern States; for example, in Wisconsin the number of Negroes increased from 28,000 in 1950 to 75,000 in 1960. Urbanization and mobility led to a pattern of divorce which was greatly different from that in Tennessee, where the percentage increase of the Negro population during the 1950-60 decade was similar to that of the white population—11 and 8 percent.

The divorce rate for non-Negro nonwhite persons in Hawaii was lower than that for white persons. Hawaii is the only State where this nonwhite group constituted the majority of the total population and of the persons involved in divorces. However, due to the high proportion of mixed white-nonwhite divorces (21 percent of the total for this State in 1960 and 22 percent in 1961) divorce rates by color had different implications in Hawaii than in other States, where the number of interracial divorces was very small.

Divorce rates per 1,000 males and 1,000 females 15 years of age and older were computed from 1960 data of the three basic racial groups—white, Negro, and non-Negro nonwhite. These rates for each racial group varied considerably among the four selected States (table 11). In the three continental States the rates for white husbands were higher than those for white wives, while in Hawaii the contrary was true; the highest rate, 8.8 per 1,000 white females in Hawaii, was more than 3 times as high as the lowest rate, 2.5 per 1,000 white females in Wisconsin. For Negroes rates were computed from data for the three continental States—Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin—where they ranged between 5.6 per 1,000 females in Tennessee and 19.8 per 1,000 males in Iowa; in all three States the rates for men were higher than those for women. The rates for Hawaii are of little value because of the small number of decrees granted to Negroes: During 1960-61 only 34 Negro men and 8 Negro women were divorced in that State. The rate for other nonwhite persons was available only for Hawaii and for Wisconsin, though rates for the latter State were computed from a very small number of decrees (30 for males and 40 for females). No record of a decree granted to a nonwhite person other than a Negro was included in the samples from Iowa and Tennessee. Thus it can be seen that for the same racial group the rates varied considerably by State and rates for the same State varied by race. The available data indicate that divorce rates for Negroes varied particularly between northern and southern States.

### **Interracial Divorces**

Information about the color of both husband and wife was given for 37,948 couples divorced in the four States. In 32,832 cases both husband and wife were white, in 4,446 cases both were nonwhite, and in the remaining 670 cases one spouse was white and the other nonwhite, as shown in table 12. Figures referring to nonwhite persons include couples with both spouses belonging to the same nonwhite race as well as those with the husband a member of one nonwhite race and the wife of a different one. Tabulations of divorces by race prepared by the Hawaii

Department of Health for the years 1960 and 1961 give data on husbands and wives for nine racial groups, seven of which are nonwhite (Hawaiian, part-Hawaiian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Negro).<sup>6 7</sup> These data indicate that for 1960 and 1961 in Hawaii 71.1 percent of all nonwhite divorced couples belonged to the same race and 28.9 percent of nonwhite couples were racially mixed. All nonwhite couples divorced in Tennessee and Iowa were Negroes; those divorced in Wisconsin were predominantly Negroes but included a small number of other nonwhite persons.

One of the spouses was white and the other nonwhite in 670 divorces granted in the four States combined, or in 1.8 percent of the total. Most of the interracial divorces were granted to white husbands and nonwhite wives (63.0 percent). The overwhelming majority of the interracial divorces, 91.0 percent, occurred in Hawaii, and hence most of the nonwhite spouses belonged to races other than Negro. In Hawaii 21.6 percent of all decrees were granted to white-nonwhite couples, but this percentage was only 0.6 percent in Wisconsin, 0.1 percent in Iowa, and none in Tennessee. The absence of interracial divorces in Tennessee may be due to laws prohibiting marriages between whites and Negroes; no such legal limitations exist in Iowa and Wisconsin, but still the number of white-nonwhite divorces is minimal.

When interracial divorces are compared with interracial marriages, an interesting difference can be observed: The majority of interracial divorces are granted to couples where the husband

is white and the wife nonwhite, but the majority of interracial marriages include couples where the husband is nonwhite and the wife white.

The available data are not sufficient to support a statement that interracial couples with the husband white and the wife nonwhite are subject to a higher incidence of divorce than those with the husband nonwhite and the wife white. Further research on this subject is desirable. The areas reporting marriages differ from those reporting divorces, and the number of States in both the MRA and the DRA increased between 1960 and 1961. Hence the available statistics are not quite comparable. On the other hand, Hawaii, the State with the largest proportion of interracial marriages and divorces, was included in both registration areas during both years.

## MARRIAGE ORDER

The term "marriage order" denotes the classification of married persons into two categories: those married once and those married more than once. The same term refers to the classification of all marriages into first marriages and remarriages. On the other hand, the term "number of this marriage" refers to the actual number of times a person has been married, and the group married more than once is divided into those married twice, three times, and so forth. In the present study the latter classification was limited because of sampling variability to three categories: married once, married twice, and married three times or

Color	Divorces			Marriages in the MRA	
	In four selected States	In the DRA		1960	1961
		1960	1961		
Total-----	670	492	651	3,916	4,806
White male, nonwhite female-----	422	275	394	1,893	2,141
Nonwhite male, white female-----	248	217	257	2,023	2,615

more. The same terminology is being used elsewhere in this report as well as in other statistical reports dealing with marriage and divorce data.

#### Data for 1962

Marriage order of divorced husbands and wives was reported by 19 of the 21 States that participated in the DRA in 1962; in Virginia and Nebraska this variable was not included on the divorce record. Marriage order was reported with less completeness than most other items of statistical information: On 44 percent of the divorce records received from all registration States combined, marriage order was not stated; for the 19 States that require the reporting of this item, this percentage was 40.

The available information indicates that about 72 percent of divorced husbands and wives were married once, while 28 and 29 percent, respectively, were married more than once. The proportion of persons married once was comparatively high—70 percent or more—in most northern and border States but under 70 percent in the remainder of the South Region and in the West. Highest proportions of persons married once—over 80 percent—were found in Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Maryland; lowest percentages—60 or less—in Alaska, Oregon, and Alabama. The proportion of first-married persons was higher for divorced husbands than for divorced wives in 15 reporting States; this proportion was higher for wives in 3 States (Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Wyoming), and both percentages were equal in Georgia.

#### Marriage Order and Likelihood of Divorce

The likelihood of divorce is higher for remarried husbands and wives than for those married only once. As the great majority of remarried persons in the general population have been previously divorced, this indicates that people who have been divorced in the past are more prone to divorce than those who have not previously experienced divorce.

Marriage-order-specific divorce rates could not be computed because population bases were

not available. Two other methods were used to investigate the differential likelihood of divorce for husbands and wives married once and those married more than once: (1) Proportions of persons married more than once among those who were divorced in 1961 and 1962 were compared with similar proportions among brides and grooms married during the years 1956-62, and (2) ratios were computed between the number of husbands and wives classified by marriage order and certain categories of the population married once and married more than once.

If marriage order were not associated with the incidence of divorce, the proportions of persons married once and of those married more than once among the population divorced in 1962 should be the same as in the population married in the years preceding 1962. These two distributions were compared for a uniform group of nine States—Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Utah—where 68,458 divorce decrees were granted in 1962, 17 percent of the national total and 47 percent of the total for the DRA. The pattern obtained is shown on the next page.

These figures indicate that persons married once were underrepresented among those divorced in both 1961 and 1962 and persons married more than once were overrepresented. Hence the likelihood of divorce was slightly higher for husbands and wives married more than once, and it must be noted that the great majority of persons who were married more than once have been divorced prior to their last marriage. The value of the comparison was limited by two factors: Marriage order was not stated in 24 percent of the divorces from the nine States included in the computation, and over half of the divorces occurring in 1962 were granted to couples married before 1956.

Data for the group of nine States could be considered inadequate to prove that remarried persons divorce more frequently than those married once if they were not strongly supported by a set of ratios computed for the four States.

Though divorce rates by marriage order could not be computed for the four selected States because of the unavailability of population bases (namely, of the total currently married population classified by marriage order), somewhat similar

Year of event	Total	Males		Females	
		Married once	Married more than once	Married once	Married more than once
<u>Divorces</u>					
1962-----	100.0	72.5	27.5	71.4	28.6
1961-----	100.0	73.2	26.8	72.4	27.6
<u>Marriages</u>					
1962-----	100.0	78.7	21.3	79.1	20.9
1961-----	100.0	78.4	21.6	79.1	20.9
1960-----	100.0	79.3	20.7	78.7	21.3
1959-----	100.0	79.3	20.7	78.6	21.4
1958-----	100.0	79.8	20.2	79.2	20.8
1957-----	100.0	80.4	19.6	79.7	20.3
1956-----	100.0	80.2	19.8	79.4	20.6

ratios were computed on the basis of data given in tables 105 of the State volumes of *U.S. Census of Population: 1960*. This table includes statistics for the currently married population with spouse present married once and for the total ever-married population married more than once.

Rates for the population married once would be computed on the basis of figures for the total currently married population married once, including married persons with spouse absent and separated persons. Population bases for the ratios included only the currently married population with spouse present (excluding those with spouse absent and those who were separated). Hence the population bases used for the ratios were smaller than the bases necessary for computing the rates, and therefore the ratios are larger than the rates would be. On the other hand, the population bases used for computing ratios for remarried persons included not only those who were currently married but also the widowed and the divorced, while for computing rates, only the figures for the currently married would be used. Hence, divorce ratios for the remarried are smaller than the rates would be.

If, in spite of the fact that ratios for the first-married were larger than rates and that ratios for the remarried were smaller, the

latter ratios were larger than the former, the likelihood of divorce would then be higher for husbands and wives who are remarried. On the other hand, if ratios for the remarried were smaller than those for the first-married, no inference could be made. Actually in almost all cases ratios for the remarried are larger than the comparable ratios for the first-married, as shown on the next page.

These ratios indicate that in all four States the likelihood of divorce is considerably greater for remarried persons than for first-married persons. In the four States combined as well as in Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin (not in Hawaii) the difference between the remarried and the first-married is more pronounced for husbands than for wives. This is particularly significant in view of the fact that in the total population the proportions of the married with spouse absent, the divorced, and the widowed are higher among wives than among husbands; therefore for wives larger differences between the ratios could be expected.

The likelihood of divorce among the remarried persons of both sexes is higher for white persons than for nonwhite in Hawaii and Tennessee but for nonwhite persons in Iowa and Wisconsin (where their number is very small).

Area and marriage order	Husbands			Wives		
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite
<u>Total, four selected States</u>						
Married once-----	6.2	5.4	11.4	6.2	5.8	10.3
Married more than once-	17.3	18.2	11.5	15.5	16.0	13.0
<u>Hawaii</u>						
Married once-----	9.8	12.1	8.6	9.4	9.3	8.7
Married more than once-	21.6	25.5	12.0	21.2	23.7	19.2
<u>Iowa</u>						
Married once-----	5.2	5.1	19.3	5.2	5.1	18.6
Married more than once-	20.9	20.6	34.0	18.0	17.9	23.7
<u>Tennessee</u>						
Married once-----	9.5	7.4	13.1	9.4	9.2	11.0
Married more than once-	19.6	23.0	9.6	17.8	20.5	10.4
<u>Wisconsin</u>						
Married once-----	3.7	3.6	15.3	3.7	3.6	13.4
Married more than once-	10.1	9.8	16.8	8.9	8.6	15.5

### Marriage Order by Age and Color

The marriage order of divorced husbands and wives was closely associated with their age at decree (table 13). The proportion of first marriages was highest among the youngest age groups and declined consistently with age. (One exception was found among the nonwhite wives; it may be due to sampling variability.) Within each age group pronounced variations existed among sexes and races: The proportion of first marriages was higher among husbands than wives and among nonwhite persons than white; thus percentages of persons married once were lower among all age groups of white husbands when compared with nonwhite husbands and higher when compared with white wives. There were several exceptions to this generalization when the distribution of nonwhite wives was compared with both nonwhite husbands and white wives. The highest percentage of first-married persons was 95.5 for nonwhite husbands under 30 years of age

and the lowest 27.4 percent for white wives 55 years and older.

When percentages of the first-married and of the remarried husbands and wives were computed for sex and color groups but not cross-classified by age, no pattern could be observed. In Iowa and Wisconsin the percentages of persons married once were higher among white persons and in Hawaii among nonwhite persons, but in Tennessee the proportion of first-married was higher for nonwhite husbands and higher for white wives.

### Number of This Marriage

About 7 out of 10 persons divorced in the four States were married once, 2 were married twice, and less than 1 was married three times or more; the remaining small fraction was married more than once, but the number of the marriage was not given (table 14). Despite geographic proximity, differences in the distribution of di-

divorced persons by number of the marriage were most pronounced between Iowa and Wisconsin. In the former State only about 65 percent of husbands and wives divorced in 1960-61 were married once, and in the latter 76 percent; percentages for Tennessee and Hawaii fell between these two figures. The proportion of persons married twice varied between 18.6 percent for husbands in Wisconsin and 23.6 percent for those in Iowa, while persons who were married three times or more comprised 7 percent of wives in Hawaii and 4 percent of husbands in Wisconsin. In the three continental States the comparable percentages for husbands and for wives were very similar, but in Hawaii wives who were married once were more numerous (74.0 percent) than husbands (70.4 percent).

#### Number of This Marriage of Husband by

#### Number of This Marriage of Wife

Information about divorces classified by the number of this marriage of husband cross-tabulated by the number of this marriage of wife became available for the first time from data for the four States (table 14 and fig. 4).

Both husband and wife were married once in 60.8 percent of all divorces in the four States combined; this percentage was 54.0 in Iowa, 61.1 in both Tennessee and Hawaii, and 68.9 in Wisconsin. In about 10 percent of all divorces the husband was married once and the wife more than once. The same proportion of decrees was granted to first-married wives and remarried husbands. Both parties were remarried in 19.7 percent of all divorces; this percentage ranged between 15.5 in Wisconsin and 25.1 in Iowa. The 19.7 percent consisted of three groups: both husband and wife married twice (10.8 percent); both married three times or more (1.8 percent); and one spouse married twice and the other three times or more (7.1 percent). In almost three-fourths of all decrees the number of this marriage of the husband was the same as the number of this marriage of the wife, in 12 percent the number of marriage of the husband was higher than that of the wife, and in 15 percent the wife's number was higher.

The similarity between husbands and wives was even more pronounced when the distribution

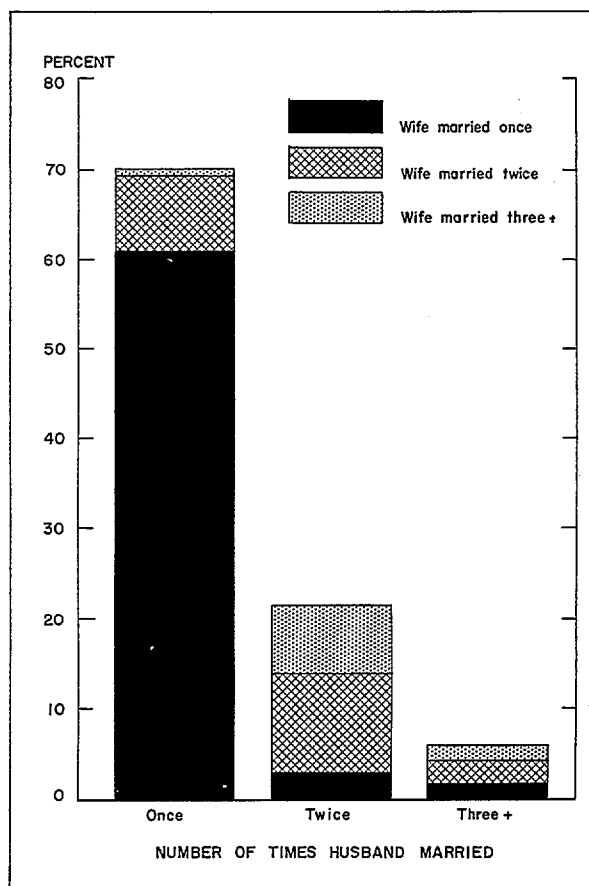


Figure 4. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments by number of times husband married according to number of times wife married: total of four selected States, 1960-61.

by marriage order instead of that by number of this marriage was used; the marriage order was the same for the husband and the wife in 81 percent of all the cases. Eighty-six percent of husbands who had married once had wives who had also married once, and 67 percent of husbands who were remarried had remarried wives (table 14). The modal number of both husbands and wives who had married once and of those who had married twice had spouses with the same number of marriages. This did not hold for persons who had married three times or more, as their modal number (43 percent of husbands and 50 percent of wives) had spouses who had married twice and less than 30 percent of the spouses had also married three times or more.

## RESIDENCE

### Residence of Defendants in 1962

The plaintiff in a divorce case must be a resident of the State where the decree was granted because legal residence in the State, and in some States also in the county, is a prerequisite for filing an application for a divorce decree in all States. In a limited number of States it is very easy to acquire legal residence, and many out-of-State persons establish residence solely for the purpose of taking advantage of permissive divorce laws; such plaintiffs usually return to their former States of residence as soon as a decree is granted.

For 1962 the information about the residence of the defendant was available for 77 percent of all divorces granted in the DRA. Reporting of this item was not required in one State, Kansas. In the remaining 20 registration States combined, 86 percent of defendant husbands and 76 percent of defendant wives were residents of the States where the decrees were granted, 7 percent of husbands and 9 percent of wives lived in other States of the same region, and 7 and 14 percent, respectively, lived outside the region. The proportions of defendants who were residents of the State were concentrated within a comparatively narrow range in the great majority of the reporting areas. For husbands this range was found between 85 and 90 percent in 13 reporting States, and the percentage was less than 85 in 6 States and more than 90 in 1. For wives the percentage of resident defendants varied between 67 and 79 in 14 States, 3 States had percentages below 68, and 3 had percentages above 78. The lowest percentages of defendants living in the State where the decree was granted were found in Idaho (73 percent for husbands and 53 percent for wives) and the highest in Michigan (92 and 96 percent, respectively). The proportion of defendant husbands living in the State was higher than that of defendant wives: For the DRA the percentages were 86 and 76, and a similar pattern was found in all reporting States except Michigan.

As plaintiffs always live in the State of divorce, both spouses live in the same State more often when the wife is the plaintiff and the

husband the defendant than when the roles are reversed. Traditionally the wife is permitted to file the complaint even in cases where she is at fault; when the couple follows this norm, there is probably less hostility between the spouses than when the husband sues for divorce, and after separation it is less likely that one or both spouses leave the State where they formerly lived together. This observation is supported by detailed data on the residence of husband and of wife tabulated for the four selected States. It would appear that the distance covered by postseparation migration is associated with whether or not the usual practice of letting the wife be the plaintiff is adhered to by the husband.

### Detailed Statistics on Residence

Much of the detailed information about the residence of husband and wife tabulated for the four States is available for the first time.

Over 80 percent of husbands and wives divorced in 1960-61 in the selected States combined were residents of the county where the decree was granted, and over 90 percent were residents of the State (table 15). In 97.5 percent of divorces, either the husband or the wife or both lived in the county where the decree was granted, and in only 2.5 percent of divorces did both parties live outside of that county. For individual reporting States this latter percentage varied between 0.4 in Hawaii and 2.8 in Tennessee. For all States combined, the percentage of husbands and wives who lived in the same region where the decree was granted but in a different State was smaller than the percentage of persons living in a different region. These figures seem to indicate that the majority of the small number of spouses who after separation leave their former State of common residence tend to migrate to distant areas rather than to settle in neighboring States and that in cases when both separated spouses leave their State of residence they usually do not migrate in the same general direction.

Since in three out of four divorces the wife was the plaintiff, the number of wives living in the State of occurrence was larger than that of husbands. However, about 90 percent of defendant



husbands and over 80 percent of defendant wives lived in the State where divorce was granted (fig. 5). Hence the difference was small between the total numbers of husbands and of wives who lived in the State of divorce. For the four States combined, these figures were 32,924 for husbands and 35,702 for wives, or 92.2 and 95.7 percent, respectively.

The percentage of defendant wives living in the county where the decree was rendered was smaller than that of defendant husbands (69.2 compared with 79.8 percent), but the proportion of defendant wives living in other counties of the same State was slightly larger than the proportion of husbands (12.0 and 10.0 percent). The numbers of defendants living outside the State of occurrence

were small, but the proportions of defendant wives living in other States of the same region and in States outside the region (7.2 and 11.5 percent, respectively) were almost twice as large as the comparable percentages of the defendant husbands (3.5 and 6.8 percent). These percentages indicate that the distance between the place of residence of the defendant and the place where the decree was granted tended to be larger for defendant wives than for defendant husbands and that the distance between the place of residence of the husband and the place of residence of the wife was greater when the husband was the plaintiff. These data support the observation made earlier in this section that when the generally accepted pattern of letting the wife be the plaintiff was abandoned the postseparation mobility tended to be more pronounced. The marriage order of husbands and wives had little influence on the residence of the defendant. Slightly larger proportions of first-married rather than remarried husbands and of remarried rather than first-married wives lived in the county of divorce and in other counties of the same State; however, the differences were small, and the pattern varied from State to State.

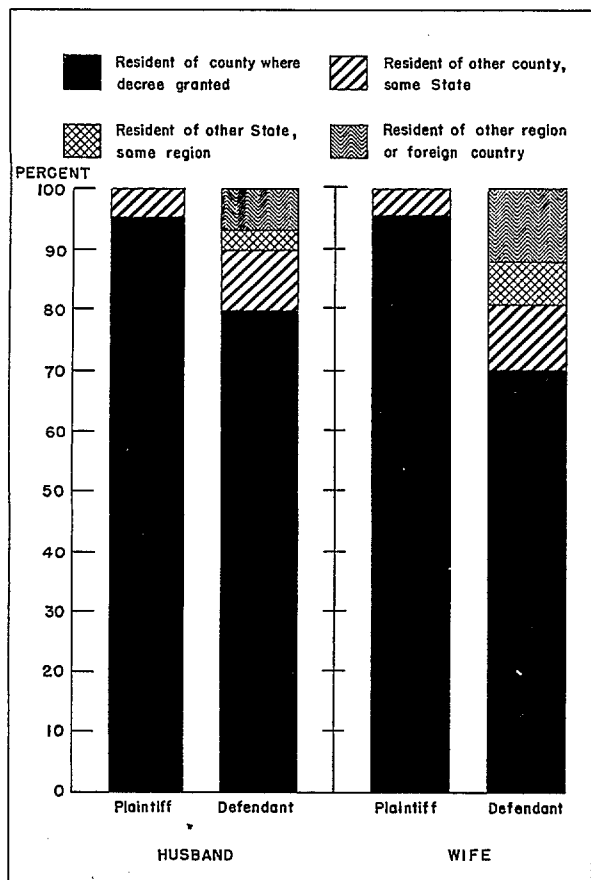


Figure 5. Percent distribution of husbands and wives as plaintiffs and defendants, by place of residence: total of four selected States, 1960-61.

## BIRTHPLACE

Divorce statistics by place of birth of husband and of wife were compiled for the first time for the study of personal characteristics in the four selected States. (Comparable data are not available for other years and areas.) Because of sampling variability the actual State or county of birth could not be tabulated; the place of birth was defined in relation to the State when the decree was granted or where the parties resided, whether in the same State, in another State of the same region, or outside the region. The final category included persons born outside the United States.

### State of Birth and State of Decree

The great majority of husbands and wives are divorced in or near their States of birth. This may be due to continuous residence in the area or to the return of some separated persons to their area of origin. Most divorced persons belong to the former category, as in more than half of the

cases both husband and wife were born in the divorce State and it does not seem probable that in many cases both spouses would move after separation to the same State from the area where they lived before separation. Since none of the four selected States attract many in-migrants and in all cases the proportion of the population native to the State was 75 percent or more in 1960, the selected States may not be representative of the country as a whole.

About 70 percent of husbands and wives divorced in the four States combined were born in the State where the decree was granted, while over 19 percent were born in a different State of the same region, and over 10 percent were born outside the region (table 16). Information about the place of birth of both husband and wife was given on 36,026 divorce records. In 19,426 cases, or 53.9 percent, both spouses were born in the divorce State, while in over 80 percent of all couples either one or both were native to the State (fig. 6).

In almost the same proportion of cases (81.6 percent) both husband and wife were born in the region where the decree was granted; this percentage included 7.8 percent who were born in the region but outside the divorce State. Only 4.9 percent of the divorced couples were born outside the region where divorce occurred, and conversely in 95.1 percent of the cases either one spouse or both were born in the region.

In Hawaii the distribution of divorces by place of birth of husband and wife differed considerably from that found in the three continental States (table 17). This distribution was very similar in Iowa and Tennessee; values for Wisconsin fell between those for Hawaii and those for the two other States. In the four States a larger proportion of wives than husbands were born in the State where the decree was granted, and a larger proportion of husbands were born outside the region; the comparative size of the proportions of husbands and wives born in the same region but in a different State varied among the four reporting States. The proportions of divorced persons born in all States of the region were lower for persons divorced in Hawaii than for those divorced in the other States, while in Hawaii a much higher proportion of the divorced spouses were born in a different region or abroad. Percentages of hus-

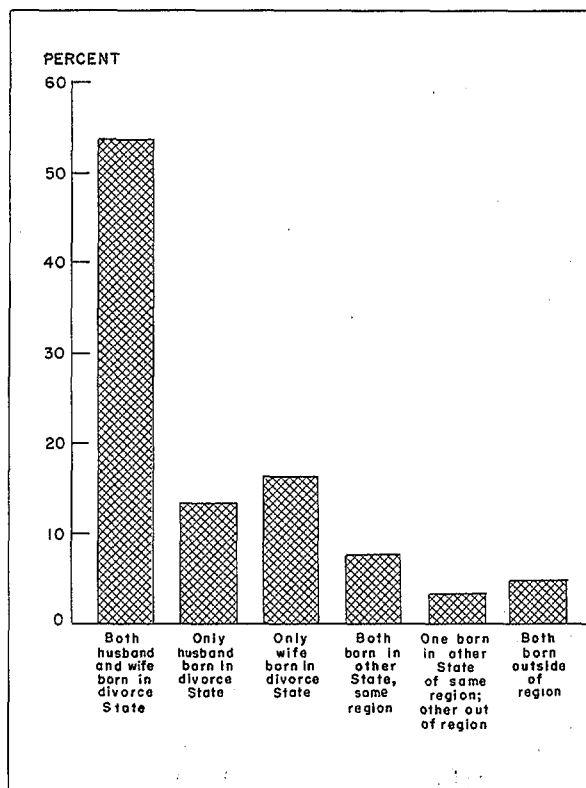


Figure 6. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments by place of birth of husband and of wife: total of four selected States, 1960-61.

bands and wives born in the divorce State were very similar for Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin; however, percentages of persons born in other States of the same region were higher in Tennessee than in Wisconsin, and the percentages of those born outside the region were considerably higher in Wisconsin than in Tennessee. In all cases the percentages for Iowa were found between those for Tennessee and those for Wisconsin.

In 43 percent of divorces granted in Hawaii, both husband and wife were born in the State, while for the other three States these percentages fell between 54 and 56. The percentage of couples with both spouses born in any State of the region was 50 for Hawaii, 75 for Wisconsin, and over 80 for both Iowa and Tennessee. On the other hand, the percentages of couples born outside the region (including those born abroad) were 21 for Hawaii, 8 for Wisconsin, 3 for Iowa, and 2 for Tennessee.

Because of its geographic location the regional factor was much less important in Hawaii than in the other States; this is reflected in the distribution of both the divorced persons and the total population. In the total population the percentage of persons born in other States of the same region was only 5 in Hawaii but from 11 to 16 in the three other States, while the proportion of those born outside the region was 20 percent in Hawaii but less than 10 in the three other States. There was comparatively little difference in the proportion of residents who were native to the State: 75 percent of the total population in Hawaii, 78 in Tennessee, 81 in Iowa, and 82 in Wisconsin.<sup>8</sup>

#### Birthplace-Specific Divorce Rates

The population born in the State where the decree was granted had a lower incidence of divorce than the population born outside the State. This is shown below for all four States by birthplace-specific divorce rates, which are computed per 1,000 males and females 15 years of age and older.<sup>9</sup>

As population data on birthplace cross-classified by marital status were not available, the birthplace-specific rates were not based on the population at risk, and thus they are comparable to the crude rates. Differences between the divorce rates for the population native to the State and those for the nonnative population indicate a positive association between the probability of divorce and interstate mobility.

#### Birthplace and Place of Residence

Slightly more plaintiffs than defendants were born in the State where they had their residence at the time of divorce, but the difference between the two groups was small—about 2 percentage points in the four States combined (table 17). As plaintiffs must by law be residents of the divorce State, 71.4 percent of plaintiff husbands and 74.3 of plaintiff wives were born, resided, and were divorced in the same State. None of the four selected States possesses particularly permissive divorce laws, which would make migratory divorces attractive, and hence there is no reason to think that the State of residence claimed by a plaintiff in a divorce suit was not the State where he or she was actually living.

When plaintiffs and defendants were classified by marriage order, in all subcategories the proportion of wives born in their States of residence was higher than that of husbands. It was also higher among persons married once than among those married two or more times. Hence the proportion of residents of their States of birth was largest among plaintiff wives married once and smallest among defendant husbands married more than once—76.1 and 63.3 percent, respectively. Persons born outside their States of residence were more numerous among those married more than once than among those married once; this applied both to persons born in a different State but in the same region and to those born outside their regions of residence.

Area	Husband born		Wife born	
	In State	Out of State	In State	Out of State
Total, four selected States-----	4.8	6.7	4.8	5.5
Hawaii-----	5.9	6.7	7.0	8.4
Iowa-----	4.5	6.9	4.5	5.6
Tennessee-----	7.3	9.5	7.0	8.1
Wisconsin-----	2.7	4.0	2.7	3.7

The proportion of plaintiffs born in the State of residence was higher than the proportion of defendants in all cases shown in table 17 except husbands divorced in Hawaii and wives divorced in Tennessee. The proportion of plaintiff husbands and wives residing in the State of birth was similar in all four States; it fell between 71.3 and 75.5 percent in all cases except one. Comparable percentages for defendants had a much broader variation.

In the four States combined, the proportion of persons born in a different State of the region where they were living was about 18 percent and that of persons living outside the region where they were born was about 10 percent. The percentages for each selected State classified by sex of plaintiffs and defendants are shown in table 17.

When the percentages in table 16 are compared with those in table 17, it may seem that slightly more persons were born in the State of residence than in the State of decree. Actually such an inference would be misleading; the two sets of percentages are not comparable because table 16 shows only one variable and table 17 three and each variable has a small number of not stated cases. Naturally, the number of cases with information available was slightly smaller for tabulations from which percentages shown in table 17 were prepared, and this tended to inflate the percentages slightly.

#### Birthplace and Place of Marriage

The comparison between the place of birth of persons divorced in the four States and the place of marriage yields interesting results.

During the years 1960-61 in the four States combined, 20,496 divorced couples out of a total of 38,544 were divorced in the same State where they were married,<sup>10 11</sup> while 24,810 divorced husbands and 26,178 divorced wives were born in the divorce States. Thus the numbers of divorced persons born in the State were larger than the number of persons married in the State where divorce was granted. This is true for the four States combined as well as for Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin; but in Hawaii divorced persons married in the State were more numerous than those native to the State.

Percentages obtained for the reporting States are shown below. These figures could be explained by comparatively larger numbers of residents of their States of birth being married in other States, particularly in those where marriage laws were permissive. Crossing the State line for the purpose of marriage was easy for couples from Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin but difficult for those from Hawaii; this is reflected in the percentages. An alternative explanation based on a higher proportion of persons born outside the State living in Hawaii than in the other three States cannot be accepted because in Tennessee the proportion of the population not native to the State was similar to that observed in Hawaii, 22 percent as compared with 25,<sup>5</sup> while the proportions of divorced persons who were married in the State were quite different—44.7 percent in Tennessee, 70.7 in Hawaii. Another possible explanation, that wives after separation tend to return to their place of origin and start the divorce proceedings there, cannot be accepted because of the high percent of both plaintiffs and defendants, husbands and wives, residing in their States of birth.

State where decree granted	Married in State	Born in State	
		Husbands	Wives
Total, four selected States-----	53.7	67.5	70.6
Hawaii-----	70.7	51.9	62.6
Iowa-----	60.1	68.1	71.6
Tennessee-----	44.7	69.6	72.0
Wisconsin-----	61.2	67.5	69.1

Data on place of birth cross-classified by place of marriage are not available, and it is not known how many persons were born, married, and divorced in the same State. However, the data indicate that in Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin more divorced husbands and wives were born in the State and married outside it than were born outside the State and married in it; in Hawaii the contrary was true. Though the size of these two categories was not available, the difference between the two figures was computed (see Appendix). For the four States combined, the number of divorced persons born in the State but married out of State was larger than that of persons born out of State but married in the State by 4,294 husbands and 5,662 wives, 11.1 and 14.7 percent, respectively, of the total divorce figure. These differences were largest in Tennessee—21.6 percent for divorced husbands and 24.9 for divorced wives—and smallest in Wisconsin—2.3 and 4.0 percent—while in Iowa these percentages were 7.3 and 10.8 percent, respectively. In Hawaii the category of divorced husbands born out of State but married in the State was larger by 19.3 percent of the total State figure than that of husbands born in the State but married outside the State; for divorced wives this percentage was 8.8.

## MARRIAGES OF DIVORCED COUPLES

### Place of Marriage

The place where marriage was performed was reported for 89.5 percent of divorces granted in the DRA. Marriages of 78,949 divorced couples, or 60.0 percent of those for which the place of marriage was reported, were performed in the State where the decree was granted, and 52,665 divorced couples (40.0 percent) were married in a different State. These percentages varied considerably among the registration States. In Oregon only 35.9 percent of divorces were granted in 1962 to couples married in the State; in five additional States (Alaska, Idaho, Tennessee, Utah, and Wyoming) this proportion was less than half. The highest percentage of couples married in the divorce State, 76.2, was found in Georgia, while in Maryland and Michigan this percentage

was also above 70.0. The proportion of divorced couples married outside the State where the decree was granted tends to increase slightly from east to west. The proportion of divorced couples married in the State where the decree was granted was 60 percent or more in 5 out of 9 registration States situated east of the Mississippi River but only in 3 States out of 12 situated west of the river.

### Divorces by Duration of Marriage

Duration of marriage at time of decree was computed by subtracting the date of marriage from the date of decree. The date of decree is available on all divorce records, and the date of marriage is reported with a high degree of completeness: For 1962 it was available for 97.5 percent of all divorces granted in the 21 registration States combined.

In all registration States combined, 36.2 percent of divorces were granted after less than 5 years of marriage, and 61.5 percent of marriages of divorced couples lasted less than 10 years; on the other hand, 13.2 percent of divorces were

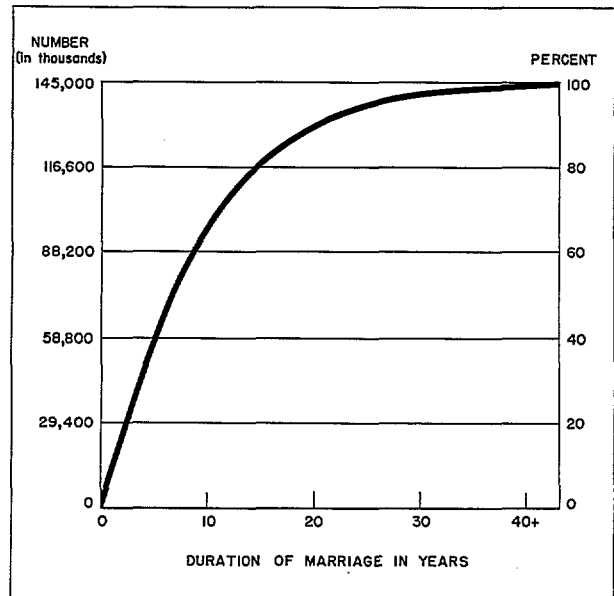


Figure 7. Cumulative distribution of divorces and annulments by duration of marriage in years: divorce-registration area, 1962.

granted after 20 years or more of marriage (table 18 and fig. 7). The modal duration at divorce was 1 year, when 8.6 percent of all decrees were granted, followed by the duration of 2 years with 8.3 percent of decrees and of 3 years with 7.6 percent. Except for one single variation the percentage declined with each added year of duration as shown in table 18.

One divorce out of 20 was granted after less than 1 year of duration; since a part of the period between marriage and decree was taken by legal proceedings, the duration of marriage was very short at the time when the divorce petition was filed with the court. Data for earlier years indicate that about half of all annulments were granted within 1 year after marriage.<sup>12 13</sup> The numbers of decrees granted less than 1 year after marriage was performed depend to a large extent on legal regulations of individual States, and they vary between less than 1 percent of the annual totals in Maryland and Virginia to more than 10 percent in Idaho and Wyoming. These percentages tend to be high in the West and low in the North and the East.

Variations in the duration of marriage between the reporting States for periods over 1 year of duration are less pronounced than those found for marriages which lasted less than 1 year. The proportion of divorces granted after 20 years of marriage or more tended to be higher in the East than the West; the proportion was lowest in Wyoming (8.4 percent) and Utah (8.8 percent) and highest in Maryland (15.9 percent) and Pennsylvania (17.4 percent).

### **Median Duration of Marriage**

The median duration of marriage at decree in the 21 registration States in 1962 was 7.3 years. This median depends to a considerable extent on the States included in the registration area because variations between individual States were pronounced and the medians ranged from 5.3 years in Wyoming to 9.6 years in Pennsylvania (fig. 8); medians in 16 States were lower than the median for the DRA, and in 5 States they were higher. The first and third quartiles of duration of marriage for the DRA were 3.4 and 14.5 years, respectively.

The duration of marriage at time of decree was closely associated with the number of children under 18 years of age reported by the divorced couple. As expected, the median duration increased as the number of children increased, but some exceptions to this rule were found. In all States the median duration of marriages when three children or more were reported was longer than the duration of marriages with two children, and the duration of marriages of couples with two children was longer than that of those with either one child or no children. In 15 States the duration for couples with one child was longer than for childless couples, but in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin the contrary was true. In Hawaii and Michigan both medians were identical. These irregularities were due to the composite character of the category "divorced couples reporting no children," which included three subcategories: (1) couples married a short time and no children born as yet, (2) childless couples of various durations of marriage, and (3) couples of which all children were over 18 years of age and hence not reportable in divorce suits.

For the DRA the median duration of marriage was 5.0 years when no children were reported, 6.0 years when there was one child, 8.9 years when there were two children, and 12.3 years when the number of children was three or more. The larger the number of children reported, the less variation among the States in the duration of marriage to decree. This variation was most pronounced when no children were reported; it ranged from 2.7 in Wyoming to 9.8 in Pennsylvania. However, the width of this range declined with each additional child. For couples reporting three children or more, median duration varied between 10.2 years in Utah and 14.0 in Alabama.

For the DRA the median duration of marriages was 7.1 years in 1961 and 7.3 years in 1962. Thus the duration increased slightly due to the inclusion in the DRA of a new State, Ohio, with an above-average median duration (7.7 years), and to the increase of median duration in 11 registration States with a total of 62,796 decrees granted. However, this median declined in 7 States, where 47,440 divorces took place, and did not change in 2 States with 13,610 divorces.

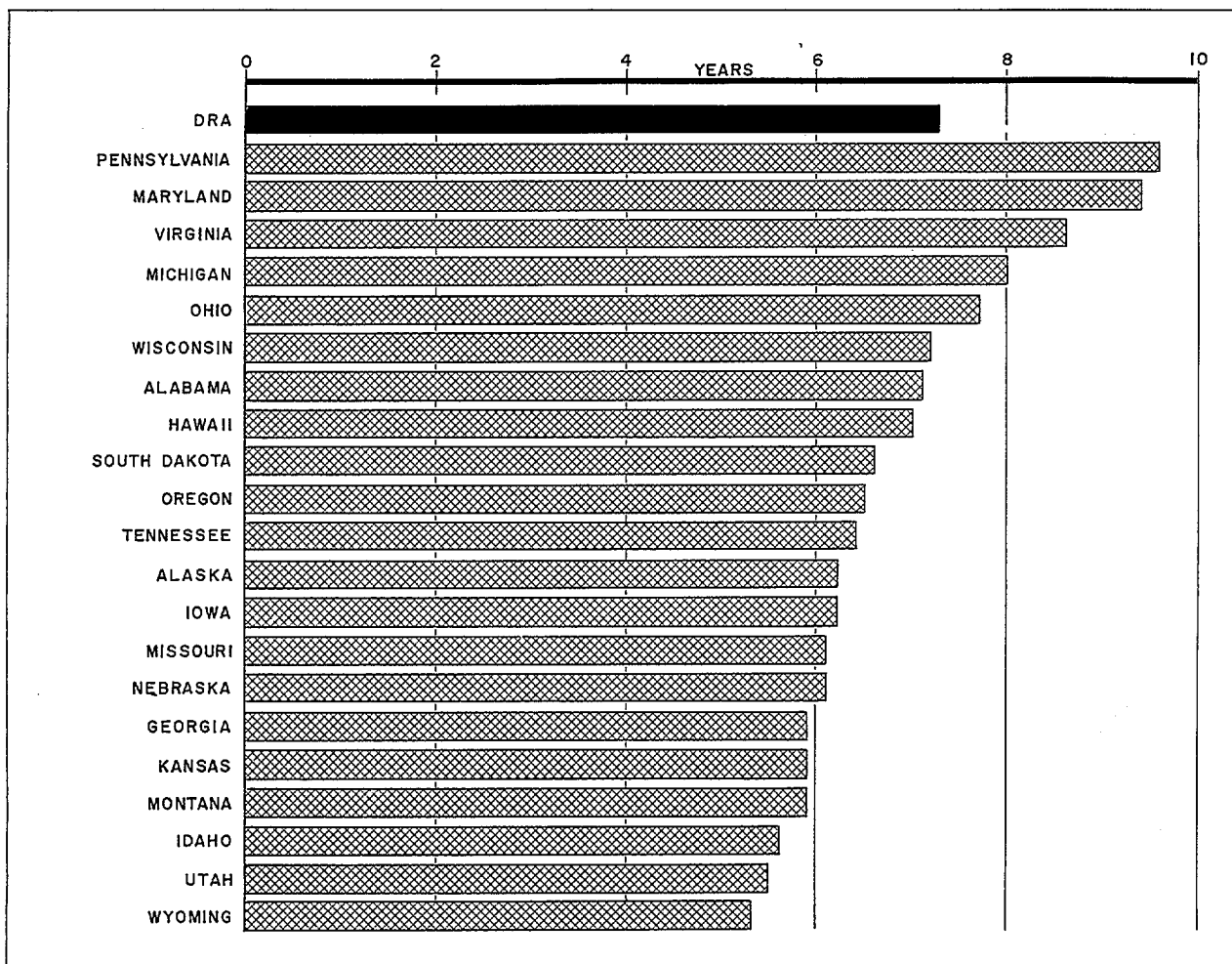


Figure 8. Median duration of marriage prior to divorce: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962.

## CHILDREN OF DIVORCED COUPLES

### Divorces by Number of Children Reported

Information about the number of children reported in divorce suits in 1962 was available on 136,163 divorce records, or 93 percent of all decrees granted in the DRA. The standard definition of children includes all own and adopted children and stepchildren under the age of 18 years. However, in nine States the definition differed slightly from the standard, as shown in table-19.

About 60 percent of divorced couples reported one child or more, and about 40 percent reported

that they had no children under 18 years of age (table 19 and fig. 9). In all registration States over half of the divorced couples had children; the proportion of childless couples was largest in Alaska and Tennessee (about 44 percent) and smallest in Utah (28 percent). Slightly over 50 percent of all divorced couples reported one, two, or three children, and about 8 percent reported four children or more. In two-thirds of all registration States the percentage of comparatively small families, those with one to three children, ranged between 48.0 and 55.0; the percentage of comparatively large families, those with four children or more, was between 6.0 and 10.0 in 17 registration States (table 19).

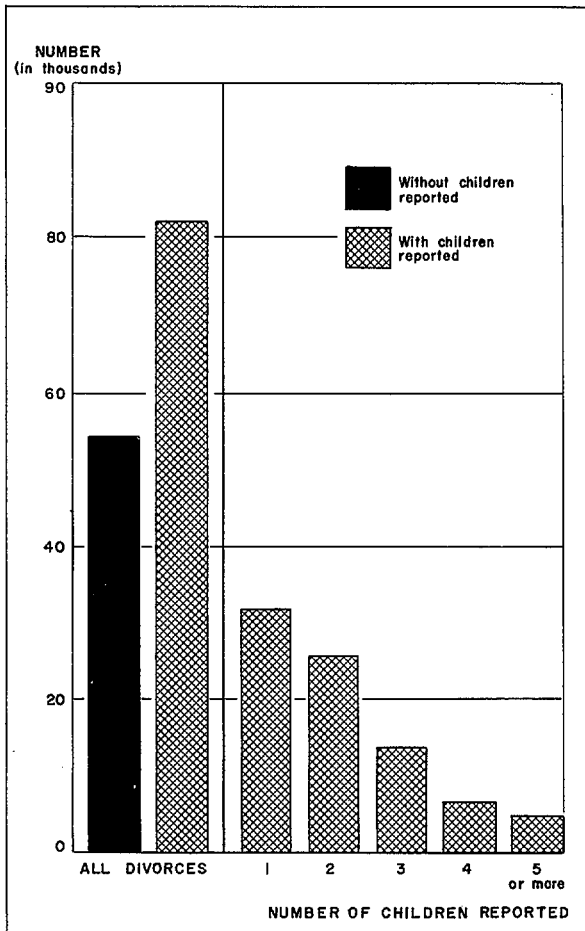


Figure 9. Divorces and annulments by number of children reported: divorce-registration area, 1962.

The number of children reported is associated with the duration of marriage at decree. For the DRA States combined, the median number of children for all decrees granted in 1962 was 1.44. This median was 0.58 when the duration of marriage was less than 1 year, 0.85 when the duration was 1-2 years, 1.28 when the duration was 3-4 years, 1.87 for 5-9 years, 2.41 for 10-14 years, and 1.69 for 15 years or more. The decline in the median for the group with the longest duration of marriage can be explained by the fact that divorced couples with children 18 years of age or older and hence not reportable

in divorce proceedings were included in this group. The decline in the median number of children for the group with the longest duration of marriage corresponds to the comparatively long duration of marriage found for childless couples in some States.

### Number of Children Involved in Divorce Cases

From divorce data classified by the number of children reported, numbers of children involved in divorce cases in 1962 were estimated for each registration State, the DRA, and the United States. The method used for estimating the number of children is discussed in the Appendix. The total number of children involved in 1962 in divorces granted in the United States was 537,000, the second annual figure to go above half a million (the total was 501,000 in 1961). For the DRA States combined, the total was 189,300. The ratio between the number of children involved and the number of decrees was 1.30 for the United States and 1.29 for the DRA; it varied for individual States between 1.14 in Maryland and 1.71 in Hawaii (fig. 10). When compared with 1961 data, this ratio increased for the United States (1.21 in 1961), for the DRA (1.24 in 1961) and for 14 reporting States; it declined in 5 States (Alabama, Hawaii, Iowa, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) and did not change in 1 State, Tennessee; the 1961 figure was not available for Ohio.

The 1960 Census of Population indicates that 58,996,894 children under 18 years of age were living with parents who were subject to the risk of divorce, that is, either with both parents or with one married parent, including children living with a separated parent.<sup>14</sup> The number of married persons was enumerated as 42,630,422 males and 42,905,285 females,<sup>15</sup> and there were 1.38 children per each married man or women. This figure is only slightly larger than the ratio of children per divorce in both 1961 and 1962. It indicates that children cannot be considered deterrents to divorce to any appreciable degree.

The number of children involved in divorce cases increased considerably in the United States



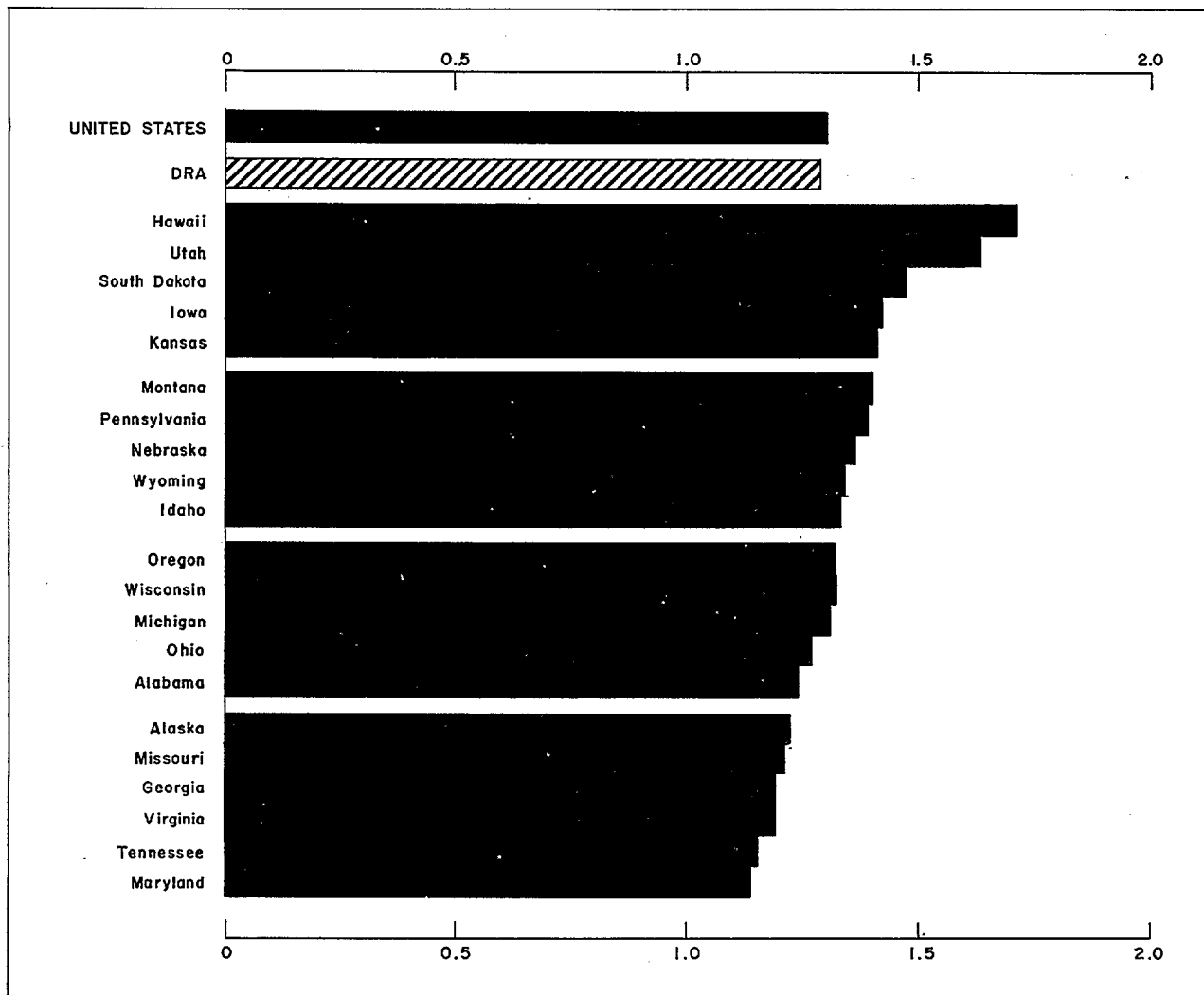


Figure 10. Ratio of number of children reported per total number of decrees: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962.

during the 10-year period 1953-62 for which this information was estimated (table 20)—from 330,000 in 1953 to 537,000 in 1962, an increase of 63 percent. During the same time fluctuations of the national divorce totals were comparatively small: The total increased 6 percent from 390,000 in 1953 to 413,000 in 1962 (fig. 11). The national ratio of children per divorce increased during this decade from 0.85 to 1.30, and the rate of children involved in divorce cases per 1,000 total children under 18 years of age grew from

6.4 in 1953 to 8.0 in 1962.<sup>16</sup> The increase in involvement of children in divorce cases, both in absolute numbers and in their relationship to the number of decrees granted, was due primarily to the growth in the reporting States of the proportion of divorces with children from 45.5 percent in 1953 to 60.2 in 1962 and, to a lesser degree, to the increase in these States of the ratio of children per divorce with children involved from 1.86 in 1953 to 2.14 in 1962. Both these trends are shown on the next page.

Year	Number of reporting States	Percent of decrees with children involved	Ratio of children per divorce with children involved
1962-----	21	60.2	2.14
1961-----	20	60.3	2.06
1960-----	50	56.7	2.08
1959-----	16	59.1	2.00
1958-----	12	55.1	1.96
1957-----	23	50.9	1.95
1956-----	22	48.9	1.93
1955-----	22	48.1	1.92
1954-----	22	47.8	1.88
1953-----	22	45.5	1.86

## LEGAL VARIABLES

### Legal Grounds for Decree

Legal grounds for divorce and annulment are specified in State statutes. There are marked differences among States in the grounds available and in the definitions of individual grounds.

A distinction must be made between legal grounds for a decree and the underlying causes of the divorce or annulment. In some cases decrees are obtained on the ground that is least unpleasant to claim and easiest to establish in legal proceedings.

Almost three out of five divorces (81,422) granted in the 21 registration States were granted on the grounds of cruelty, including indignities and mental suffering. These related grounds were alleged in the majority of divorces granted in 16 of the registration States. There were only five exceptions—Alaska, Kansas, Maryland, Ohio, and Virginia. The percentage of decrees granted for cruelty and related grounds ranges from none in Virginia and less than 0.5 percent in Maryland to more than 90 in Idaho and Iowa.

Desertion, including abandonment, absence, and combinations of desertion with other grounds, was alleged in about one out of five cases in the registration States (26,202) and represented the majority of decrees granted in

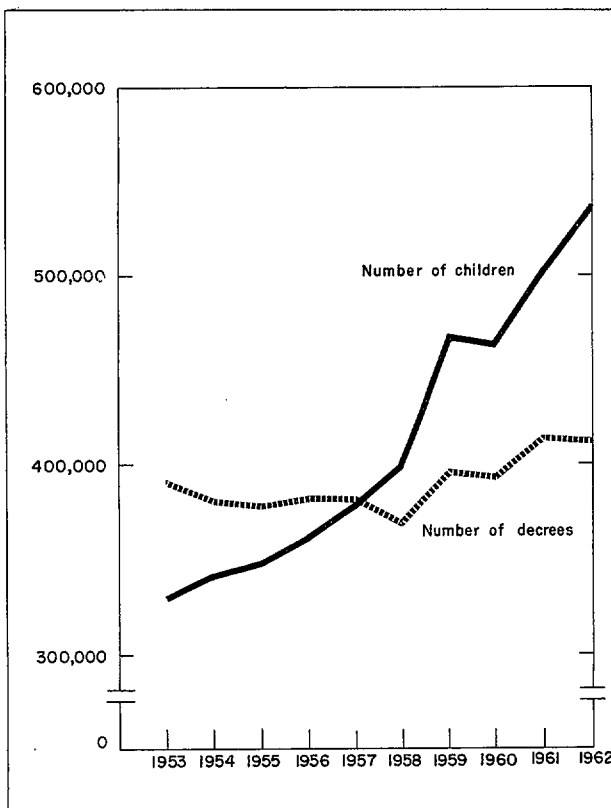


Figure 11. Number of divorce decrees granted and number of children reported: United States, 1953-62.

one State, Virginia (88.6 percent), as well as more than a third of the decrees granted in three States—Alabama (37.0 percent), Maryland (42.6), and Tennessee (23.9 percent).

One out of five decrees (25,868) were granted for nonsupport or nonsupport combined with cruelty, but divorces granted on this ground represented about 75 percent of those that occurred in Kansas and over 80 percent of those granted in Ohio.

Less than 2 percent of all divorces were granted for adultery (including infidelity) and adultery combined with other grounds, and in only one State, Maryland, did these divorces represent more than 10 percent of the State total.

All the remaining legal grounds were alleged in only 5 percent of the cases (6,629). The situation was unusual in Alaska, where incompatibility was given as grounds in more than 90 percent of the divorces, and in Maryland, where 35 percent of decrees were granted because of voluntary separation.

The distribution of divorces and annulments by legal ground for decree depends in part on coding rules; these rules are particularly important for cases where the decree was granted on two or more grounds but only one ground could be tabulated. The coding rules used for the 1962 data were the same as those used for 1960

and 1961 figures. As each State uses its own coding system, the figures given in this report may differ from the same distribution published by a State agency.

### **Plaintiff**

Divorce data for 1962 include information about plaintiffs in suits of divorce or annulment. In the divorce-registration area in 71.2 percent of all divorces the plaintiff was the wife, and in 28.8 percent it was the husband.

### **Party to Whom Decree Granted**

The divorce decree was granted to the wife in 70.9 percent of cases and to the husband in 26.5 percent. A comparatively small number of decrees—9,321, or 6.6 percent of the total—were granted by the court to a person or persons other than the plaintiff. The decree was granted to the wife in 10.0 percent of divorces where the husband was plaintiff, and in 1.8 percent of cases where the plaintiff was the wife, the decree was granted to the husband. Moreover, 3,741 decrees, or 2.7 percent of the total, were granted to a person other than the husband or wife or to husband and wife jointly; all except 81 such decrees were granted in two States, Alabama and Georgia.

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<sup>15</sup>Ibid., table 176.

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## DETAILED TABLES

		Page
	<u>REPRESENTATIVENESS OF AVAILABLE DATA</u>	
Table 1.	Selected characteristics of husband and wife; divorce-registration area and four selected States, 1960-61-----	33
	<u>ANNUAL TOTALS</u>	
2.	Number and rate of divorces and annulments: United States and each region, division, and State, 1958-62-----	34
	<u>AGE AT TIME OF DECREE AND AT TIME OF MARRIAGE</u>	
3.	Median ages of divorced husband and wife at time of decree and at time of marriage: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962-----	36
4.	Divorce rates by age of husband and of wife at time of decree and color: four selected States, 1960-61-----	36
5.	Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by age of husband and wife at time of decree according to color: total of four selected States, 1960-61-----	37
6.	Median age of husband and of wife at time of decree, by color and number of this marriage: four selected States, 1960-61-----	37
7.	Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by number of marriages of husband and of wife according to age at time of decree: total of four selected States, 1960-61-----	38
8.	Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by age of husband according to age of wife at time of decree and median age: total of four States, 1960-61-----	38
9.	Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by age of husband at time of marriage according to age of wife at time of marriage: total of four selected States, 1960-61-----	39
10.	Median age at time of marriage of divorced husbands and of wives, by color and marriage order: total of four selected States, 1960-61-----	39
	<u>COLOR OR RACE AND MARRIAGE ORDER</u>	
11.	Divorce rates per 1,000 males and females, 15 years of age and over, by race: four selected States, 1960-----	40
12.	Number and percent distribution of divorces, by color of husband and wife: four selected States, 1960-61-----	40
13.	Percent distribution of white and nonwhite husbands and wives, by age at decree and marriage order: total of four selected States, 1960-61-----	41
14.	Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by number of this marriage of husband by number of this marriage of wife: total of four selected States, 1960-61-----	41

DETAILED TABLES--Con.

	Page
<u>RESIDENCE AND BIRTHPLACE</u>	
Table 15. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by residence of husband at decree, by residence of wife at decree: total of four selected States, 1960-61----	42
16. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments by birthplace of husband and of wife: total of four selected States, 1960-61-----	42
17. Percent distribution of plaintiffs and defendants, by birthplace and State of residence: four selected States, 1960-61-----	43
<u>DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN INVOLVED IN DIVORCES</u>	
18. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by duration of marriage: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962-----	44
19. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by number of children reported: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962-----	46
20. Estimated number of children involved in divorces and annulments: United States, 1953-62-----	46

Table 1. Selected characteristics of husband and wife: divorce-registration area and four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data. For lower limits of open-ended intervals, see Appendix]

Characteristic	Divorce-regis- tration area		Selected States				
	1960	1961	Total	Hawaii	Iowa	Tennessee	Wisconsin
<u>AGE AT TIME OF DECREE</u>							
<u>Husband</u>			Age in years				
First quartile-----	26.9	27.0	26.5	28.0	26.2	25.8	28.1
Median-----	34.1	34.0	33.4	34.3	32.8	32.4	35.9
Third quartile-----	43.7	43.2	43.9	42.9	43.3	42.9	46.4
<u>Wife</u>							
First quartile-----	23.8	23.9	23.3	25.3	23.0	22.7	24.7
Median-----	30.9	30.8	30.0	31.3	29.4	29.0	32.7
Third quartile-----	39.7	39.6	39.6	38.8	39.5	38.4	42.2
<u>AGE OF TIME OF MARRIAGE</u>							
<u>Husband</u>							
First quartile-----	21.1	20.7	20.8	21.8	20.9	20.4	21.4
Median-----	24.2	23.8	24.0	25.0	24.1	23.6	24.4
Third quartile-----	30.4	29.7	30.0	32.0	30.6	29.6	30.6
<u>Wife</u>							
First quartile-----	18.7	18.6	18.7	19.3	18.7	18.5	18.9
Median-----	20.9	20.6	20.8	22.6	21.1	20.0	21.5
Third quartile-----	26.1	25.5	25.5	27.7	25.6	25.0	25.8
<u>COLOR</u>							
<u>Husband</u>			Percent distribution				
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-----	89.1	88.9	87.7	46.0	97.3	86.6	93.6
Nonwhite-----	10.9	11.1	12.3	54.0	2.7	13.4	6.4
<u>Wife</u>							
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-----	89.0	88.7	87.2	39.8	97.4	86.5	93.5
Nonwhite-----	11.0	11.3	12.8	60.2	2.6	13.5	6.5
<u>MARRIAGE ORDER</u>							
<u>Husband</u>							
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married once-----	73.2	73.6	70.6	74.0	64.5	70.7	76.7
Married more than once-----	26.8	26.4	29.4	26.0	35.5	29.3	23.3
<u>Wife</u>							
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married once-----	72.2	73.0	70.3	70.4	64.5	70.9	76.3
Married more than once-----	27.8	27.0	29.7	29.6	35.5	29.1	23.7

Table 2. Number and rate of divorces and annulments: United States and each region, division, and State, 1958-62

[By place of occurrence. Data are counts of decrees granted supplied by States except as noted. Totals for United States, West Region, and Pacific Division include Alaska beginning 1959, and Hawaii, 1960. Rates per 1,000 population in each area, enumerated as of April 1 for 1960 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Region, division, and State	Number					Rate				
	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
United States <sup>1</sup> --	413,000	414,000	393,000	395,000	368,000	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1
Regions:										
Northeast-----	40,000	38,000	<sup>2</sup> 39,000	39,000	38,000	0.9	0.8	<sup>2</sup> 0.9	0.9	0.9
North Central--	<sup>1</sup> 110,000	<sup>1</sup> 114,000	<sup>1</sup> 106,000	<sup>1</sup> 108,000	<sup>1</sup> 102,000	12.1	12.2	12.1	12.1	12.0
South-----	<sup>1</sup> 155,000	<sup>1</sup> 160,000	<sup>1</sup> 152,000	<sup>1</sup> 153,000	---	12.7	12.8	12.8	12.8	---
West-----	<sup>1</sup> 108,000	<sup>1</sup> 102,000	<sup>2</sup> 96,000	<sup>1</sup> 95,000	189,000	13.6	13.5	<sup>2</sup> 3.4	13.4	13.3
Northeast:										
New England---	14,156	13,349	<sup>2</sup> 12,842	12,917	12,371	1.3	1.3	<sup>2</sup> 1.2	1.2	1.2
Middle Atlantic----	26,190	25,124	26,255	26,028	25,229	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
North Central:										
East North Central-----	<sup>1</sup> 79,566	<sup>1</sup> 84,162	<sup>1</sup> 77,639	<sup>2</sup> 74,408	<sup>2</sup> 73,662	12.2	12.3	12.1	*	*
West North Central-----	30,533	<sup>2</sup> 29,647	<sup>2</sup> 28,533	28,755	<sup>2</sup> 27,001	2.0	<sup>2</sup> 1.9	<sup>2</sup> 1.9	1.9	<sup>2</sup> 1.8
South:										
South Atlantic-----	60,802	59,264	55,526	<sup>2</sup> 55,237	<sup>2</sup> 50,758	2.2	2.2	2.1	<sup>2</sup> 2.2	<sup>2</sup> 2.0
East South Central-----	34,532	<sup>2</sup> 39,718	<sup>2</sup> 39,138	<sup>2</sup> 36,176	---	2.8	<sup>2</sup> 3.3	*	*	---
West South Central-----	<sup>1</sup> 58,411	<sup>2</sup> 57,659	<sup>2</sup> 55,000	<sup>1</sup> 58,039	---	*	*	*	*	---
West:										
Mountain-----	<sup>1</sup> 35,851	<sup>1</sup> 32,402	<sup>2</sup> 28,846	<sup>1</sup> 31,275	<sup>1</sup> 30,631	<sup>1</sup> 4.8	<sup>1</sup> 4.5	<sup>2</sup> 4.2	*	<sup>1</sup> 4.7
Pacific-----	<sup>1</sup> 72,289	<sup>2</sup> 69,494	66,395	63,601	158,155	<sup>1</sup> 3.2	<sup>2</sup> 3.2	3.1	3.1	<sup>1</sup> 3.0
New England:										
Maine-----	2,092	2,027	<sup>2</sup> 2,168	1,977	1,884	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0
New Hampshire--	1,363	1,126	1,119	1,049	991	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7
Vermont-----	452	487	463	487	502	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3
Massachusetts--	6,312	5,836	<sup>2</sup> 5,592	5,458	5,587	1.2	1.1	<sup>2</sup> 1.1	1.1	1.1
Rhode Island--	921	1,040	954	1,049	946	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1
Connecticut---	3,016	2,833	2,546	2,897	2,461	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
Middle Atlantic:										
New York-----	6,555	6,394	7,235	7,691	8,670	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
New Jersey----	5,319	5,124	4,591	4,446	4,316	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
Pennsylvania--	14,316	13,606	14,429	13,891	12,243	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1
East North Central:										
Ohio-----	23,268	22,429	22,960	22,655	21,555	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.2
Indiana-----	<sup>1</sup> 15,431	<sup>1</sup> 15,241	<sup>1</sup> 12,794	<sup>2</sup> 8,228	<sup>2</sup> 12,849	<sup>1</sup> 3.3	<sup>1</sup> 3.2	12.7	*	*
Illinois-----	18,820	25,973	21,809	<sup>2</sup> 22,700	20,719	1.9	2.6	2.2	<sup>2</sup> 2.3	2.1
Michigan-----	17,500	16,219	16,416	16,168	14,040	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.8
Wisconsin-----	4,547	4,300	3,660	4,657	4,499	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.2

See footnotes at end of table.



Table 2. Number and rate of divorces and annulments: United States and each region, division, and State, 1958-62—Con.

[By place of occurrence. Data are counts of decrees granted supplied by States except as noted. Totals for United States, West Region, and Pacific Division include Alaska beginning 1959, and Hawaii, 1960. Rates per 1,000 population in each area, enumerated as of April 1 for 1960 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Region, division, and State	Number					Rate				
	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
<b>West North Central:</b>										
Minnesota-----	4,536	4,227	4,139	3,820	3,881	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2
Iowa-----	4,739	4,777	4,559	4,594	4,299	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6
Missouri-----	12,069	<sup>2</sup> 11,633	<sup>2</sup> 11,484	11,824	<sup>2</sup> 10,747	2.8	<sup>2</sup> 2.7	<sup>2</sup> 2.7	2.8	<sup>2</sup> 2.6
North Dakota--	631	633	596	590	515	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.8
South Dakota--	871	854	794	763	641	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0
Nebraska-----	2,357	2,373	2,151	2,201	2,129	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5
Kansas-----	5,330	5,150	4,810	4,963	4,789	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2
<b>South Atlantic:</b>										
Delaware-----	555	593	693	617	573	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.3
Maryland-----	6,022	5,296	5,140	5,319	5,040	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
District of Columbia-----										
Virginia-----	7,674	7,559	7,368	7,111	6,690	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.7
West Virginia--	3,814	3,837	3,574	<sup>2</sup> 3,398	<sup>2</sup> 3,577	2.1	2.1	1.9	<sup>2</sup> 1.8	<sup>2</sup> 1.9
North Carolina	6,863	6,440	6,047	6,369	5,392	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.2
South Carolina	2,681	3,178	3,068	3,034	2,759	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Georgia-----	9,841	9,539	8,940	8,609	7,975	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1
Florida-----	22,178	21,682	19,554	19,550	17,604	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.1	3.8
<b>East South Central:</b>										
Kentucky-----	7,243	<sup>2</sup> 7,467	<sup>2</sup> 7,528	<sup>2</sup> 6,888	---	2.3	<sup>2</sup> 2.4	*	*	---
Tennessee-----	9,522	9,323	9,053	9,205	8,808	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5
Alabama-----	12,300	17,715	17,320	14,975	12,311	3.7	5.3	5.3	4.7	3.9
Mississippi---	5,467	5,213	5,237	5,108	5,016	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
<b>West South Central:</b>										
Arkansas-----	6,283	<sup>2</sup> 5,872	<sup>2</sup> 5,377	<sup>2</sup> 5,617	<sup>2</sup> 4,948	3.4	<sup>2</sup> 3.3	*	<sup>2</sup> 3.2	<sup>2</sup> 2.9
Louisiana-----	<sup>2</sup> 4,016	<sup>2</sup> 5,142	<sup>2</sup> 4,142	<sup>2</sup> 3,666	---	*	*	*	*	---
Oklahoma-----	<sup>1</sup> 11,194	<sup>1</sup> 11,305	10,749	<sup>1</sup> 13,133	<sup>1</sup> 12,466	14.6	14.7	4.6	<sup>1</sup> 5.7	15.5
Texas-----	36,918	<sup>2</sup> 35,340	34,732	35,623	33,678	3.6	<sup>2</sup> 3.6	3.6	3.8	3.6
<b>Mountain:</b>										
Montana-----	1,932	2,034	2,006	2,062	2,023	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.0
Idaho-----	2,547	2,685	2,592	2,652	2,372	3.6	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.7
Wyoming-----	1,344	1,307	1,308	1,220	1,187	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.8
Colorado-----	16,700	15,600	4,728	15,900	15,700	13.5	13.0	2.7	13.5	13.4
New Mexico----	3,645	<sup>2</sup> 3,220	<sup>2</sup> 2,811	<sup>2</sup> 2,093	<sup>2</sup> 2,771	3.7	<sup>2</sup> 3.3	<sup>2</sup> 3.0	*	<sup>2</sup> 3.1
Arizona-----	7,788	6,973	4,780	16,503	15,910	5.2	4.9	3.7	15.2	15.0
Utah-----	2,480	2,360	2,166	1,336	1,259	2.6	2.5	2.4	1.5	1.5
Nevada-----	9,415	8,223	8,455	9,509	9,409	26.9	25.9	29.6	34.1	35.0
<b>Pacific:</b>										
Washington----	<sup>1</sup> 9,829	<sup>2</sup> 9,355	9,341	9,341	<sup>1</sup> 9,003	13.3	<sup>2</sup> 3.2	3.3	3.3	<sup>1</sup> 3.2
Oregon-----	6,074	6,023	5,720	6,009	5,452	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.2
California----	54,011	51,644	49,276	47,572	43,700	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.9
Alaska-----	904	916	788	679	560	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.0	2.5
Hawaii-----	1,471	1,556	1,270	1,378	1,228	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.2	2.0

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

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

Table 3. Median ages of divorced husband and wife at time of decree and at time of marriage: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data.]

Area	Median age of husband		Median age of wife		Percent of cases of age of husband not stated at time of decree
	At time of decree	At time of marriage	At time of decree	At time of marriage	
Divorce-registration area-----	34.5	24.0	31.0	20.7	43.4
Alabama-----	35.0	26.7	31.3	19.8	96.4
Alaska-----	34.6	26.7	28.3	22.1	83.0
Georgia-----	32.1	23.9	29.0	20.3	64.3
Hawaii-----	36.3	25.1	32.8	22.9	3.0
Idaho-----	34.0	24.5	30.4	21.6	26.6
Iowa-----	33.9	24.0	30.5	20.3	0.2
Kansas-----	34.0	24.2	30.6	21.4	24.3
Maryland-----	34.6	23.3	31.6	20.1	35.7
Michigan-----	33.3	23.4	29.8	20.5	63.5
Missouri-----	34.1	23.8	30.4	20.4	3.3
Montana-----	33.4	24.6	29.9	21.4	47.4
Nebraska-----	35.0	24.4	31.2	21.1	57.5
Ohio-----	34.6	24.2	31.7	21.0	76.1
Oregon-----	35.4	24.5	32.6	22.0	27.3
Pennsylvania-----	36.1	23.8	32.2	20.4	16.4
South Dakota-----	36.1	24.2	31.4	20.1	90.2
Tennessee-----	34.5	24.2	29.7	19.9	3.3
Utah-----	31.8	23.7	28.7	20.6	17.4
Virginia-----	34.2	23.8	30.8	20.4	30.0
Wisconsin-----	37.5	24.9	34.7	22.0	2.6
Wyoming-----	40.0	25.0	32.5	22.0	92.5

Table 4. Divorce rates by age of husband and of wife at time of decree and color: four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data.]

Age of husband and of wife at time of decree	Selected States														
	Total			Hawaii			Iowa			Tennessee			Wisconsin		
	Total	White	Non-white	Total	White	Non-white	Total	White	Non-white	Total	White	Non-white	Total	White	Non-white
<b>Husband</b>	Rates per 1,000 married population enumerated in 1960														
Total-	7.5	7.1	10.7	10.5	13.3	8.9	7.0	6.9	23.2	<sup>1</sup> 11.0	10.8	10.9	4.3	4.1	14.7
Under															
20 years---	24.8	26.6	7.7	3.0	3.2	2.7	28.5	28.8	0.0	31.4	34.2	11.1	12.4	12.9	0.0
20-24 years---	22.0	22.3	15.5	20.6	18.3	24.5	22.3	22.5	11.2	30.8	32.6	12.1	11.5	11.5	10.9
25-29 years---	15.5	15.2	17.6	16.4	15.5	17.3	16.6	16.2	53.7	22.4	23.0	17.4	7.9	7.6	10.9
30-34 years---	10.2	9.5	16.0	14.7	16.8	13.3	9.6	9.3	45.2	14.3	14.1	13.6	5.9	5.2	29.7
35-39 years---	7.5	6.8	13.3	10.4	12.6	9.2	7.6	7.4	28.7	9.9	8.9	16.1	4.6	4.2	17.2
40-44 years---	6.9	6.5	11.4	9.3	12.1	7.6	6.2	6.1	25.4	9.8	9.2	14.0	4.4	4.2	12.6
45-49 years---	5.6	5.4	7.2	8.3	13.1	6.3	5.2	5.2	0.0	7.2	6.9	7.8	4.1	4.0	10.1
50+ years---	2.5	2.3	5.4	3.8	5.6	3.2	2.2	2.2	11.3	3.5	3.0	6.5	1.8	1.7	5.5
<b>Wife</b>															
Total-	7.5	7.1	10.7	10.9	13.1	9.8	7.0	6.9	20.3	<sup>1</sup> 10.8	10.7	10.2	4.3	4.1	14.3
Under															
20 years---	29.0	30.7	13.4	16.1	11.6	20.7	28.7	29.2	0.0	37.5	41.3	10.8	14.7	14.5	17.2
20-24 years---	18.9	18.8	18.1	21.6	16.9	26.2	21.8	21.1	60.2	24.5	26.4	11.3	10.4	10.1	16.4
25-29 years---	11.1	10.7	14.6	15.0	16.3	14.3	10.6	10.4	29.3	16.0	16.3	13.6	6.0	5.6	15.9
30-34 years---	9.0	8.3	13.1	13.4	15.5	12.4	8.2	8.2	12.3	12.2	11.7	13.4	5.5	5.2	15.7
35-39 years---	7.1	6.8	9.9	10.1	13.3	8.6	6.3	6.2	12.9	9.8	9.6	10.9	4.5	4.3	10.5
40-44 years---	5.9	5.6	8.5	7.1	9.2	6.2	6.5	6.4	17.3	7.1	6.7	8.8	4.3	4.0	18.3
45-49 years---	4.2	3.9	7.0	5.3	10.3	3.2	4.3	4.2	18.2	5.3	4.9	8.1	3.0	2.8	13.9
50+ years---	1.8	1.6	4.2	3.2	6.0	2.2	1.4	1.4	3.5	2.4	2.0	5.1	1.4	1.3	7.4

<sup>1</sup>The rate for the total population is slightly higher than that for each color group because total figures include husbands and wives for whom color was not stated.

Table 5. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by age of husband and wife at time of decree according to color: total of four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Age at time of decree	Husband			Wife		
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite
	Percent distribution					
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years-----	2.0	2.2	0.5	9.4	10.3	3.5
20-24 years-----	17.1	18.3	7.9	23.5	24.4	16.6
25-29 years-----	20.3	20.9	16.5	17.0	16.8	19.1
30-34 years-----	15.8	15.4	19.0	15.0	14.4	19.4
35-39 years-----	12.3	11.7	16.9	12.3	12.1	13.9
40-44 years-----	10.8	10.5	13.1	9.3	9.2	10.0
45-49 years-----	8.5	8.5	7.9	6.1	5.9	7.2
50+ years-----	13.3	12.5	18.2	7.4	7.0	10.1

Table 6. Median age of husband and of wife at time of decree, by color and number of this marriage: four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Color and number of this marriage	Selected States									
	Total		Hawaii		Iowa		Tennessee		Wisconsin	
	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
	Median age at time of decree									
Total-----	33.4	30.0	34.3	31.3	32.8	29.4	32.4	29.0	35.9	32.7
<u>Color</u>										
White-----	32.8	29.6	33.7	32.0	32.7	29.5	31.4	28.1	36.1	32.7
First marriage-----	29.8	27.3	30.7	28.7	29.4	26.8	28.6	26.6	34.0	29.9
Remarriage-----	40.6	36.5	40.5	36.0	39.2	36.9	39.7	34.6	45.6	41.7
Nonwhite-----	36.8	32.8	34.9	31.0	33.8	28.0	39.1	35.0	34.2	32.0
First marriage-----	34.7	29.9	34.0	28.9	29.0	25.8	36.0	32.5	34.0	27.9
Remarriage-----	44.7	38.6	41.2	36.0	43.8	43.8	47.5	39.6	38.1	40.0
<u>Number of this marriage</u>										
First marriage-----	30.4	27.2	32.4	29.1	29.5	25.8	29.4	26.4	33.4	29.8
All remarriages-----	41.0	36.7	40.6	36.0	39.3	36.4	40.9	35.4	44.7	41.3
Second marriage-----	40.7	36.1	39.9	35.2	39.8	35.5	40.4	34.9	43.8	40.7
Third marriage or more--	43.9	40.0	43.6	39.6	43.3	41.7	42.5	37.5	49.4	44.0

Table 7. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by number of marriages of husband and of wife according to age at time of decree: total of four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Age at time of decree	Number of marriages					
	Husband			Wife		
	1	2	3+	1	2	3+
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years-----	2.8	0.3	-	12.7	2.1	-
20-24 years-----	22.2	5.9	1.9	29.2	9.5	3.7
25-29 years-----	23.6	11.9	7.1	18.2	15.7	9.8
30-34 years-----	16.3	15.1	13.8	13.3	19.0	18.9
35-39 years-----	11.2	14.9	17.7	10.6	16.6	17.8
40-44 years-----	9.6	14.1	12.4	7.5	13.7	14.9
45-49 years-----	6.5	14.3	11.9	4.3	9.7	11.9
50+ years-----	7.9	23.5	35.3	4.3	13.5	23.0

Table 8. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by age of husband according to age of wife at time of decree and median age: total of four States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Age of husband at time of decree	Total	Age of wife at time of decree						
		Under 20 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-44 years	45+ years	Median
Total-----	100.0	9.4	23.5	17.0	15.0	21.6	13.5	30.0
Under 25 years-----	100.0	41.3	53.5	3.4	1.5	0.2	0.0	20.8
25-29 years-----	100.0	5.1	48.4	38.4	7.2	0.8	0.0	24.6
30-34 years-----	100.0	0.8	16.5	36.9	34.9	10.3	0.4	29.4
35-39 years-----	100.0	-	5.7	13.2	36.0	41.9	3.1	34.3
40-49 years-----	100.0	0.4	1.0	4.8	13.3	60.8	19.6	40.0
50+ years-----	100.0	0.6	0.4	1.4	5.9	21.8	70.0	47.9

Age of wife at time of decree	Total	Age of husband at time of decree						
		Under 25 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-49 years	50+ years	Median
Total-----	100.0	19.1	20.3	15.8	12.3	19.3	13.3	33.4
Under 20 years-----	100.0	85.8	11.1	1.4	-	0.9	0.8	22.9
20-24 years-----	100.0	43.5	41.4	11.1	3.0	0.8	0.2	25.8
25-29 years-----	100.0	3.8	45.7	34.4	9.6	5.4	1.0	30.1
30-34 years-----	100.0	2.0	9.7	36.8	29.5	16.9	5.1	35.3
35-44 years-----	100.0	0.2	0.8	7.6	24.1	54.0	13.3	43.2
45+ years-----	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	2.9	27.9	68.6	55.4

Table 9. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by age of husband at time of marriage according to age of wife at time of marriage: total of four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Age of husband and of wife at time of marriage	Percent distribution	Age of wife and husband at time of marriage				
		Under 20 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-39 years	40+ years
<b>Husband</b>		<b>Wife</b>				
Total-----	100.0	45.2	28.7	10.8	9.3	6.1
Under 20 years-----	100.0	86.8	12.1	1.0	0.1	-
20-24 years-----	100.0	55.4	38.2	5.1	1.1	0.1
25-29 years-----	100.0	29.5	40.5	21.8	7.3	0.8
30-39 years-----	100.0	10.9	27.7	27.1	28.8	5.5
40+ years-----	100.0	3.4	5.8	9.9	32.3	48.6
<b>Wife</b>		<b>Husband</b>				
Total-----	100.0	18.4	39.6	16.8	14.5	10.6
Under 20 years-----	100.0	35.6	49.0	11.1	3.5	0.8
20-24 years-----	100.0	7.8	52.7	23.7	13.8	2.1
25-29 years-----	100.0	1.7	18.8	33.9	36.0	9.6
30-39 years-----	100.0	0.1	4.9	13.4	44.9	36.6
40+ years-----	100.0	-	0.6	2.3	13.0	84.0

Table 10. Median age at time of marriage of divorced husbands and of wives, by color and marriage order: total of four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Color and marriage order of husband and of wife	Total	Selected States			
		Hawaii	Iowa	Tennessee	Wisconsin
<b>Total</b>		<b>Median age at time of marriage</b>			
Husband-----	24.0	25.0	24.1	23.6	24.4
Wife-----	20.8	22.6	21.1	20.0	21.5
<b>Color</b>					
<b>Both white</b>					
Husband-----	23.8	25.2	24.1	23.3	24.4
Wife-----	20.6	23.4	21.1	19.8	21.4
<b>Other<sup>1</sup></b>					
Husband-----	24.9	24.9	25.0	25.0	24.8
Wife-----	22.3	22.2	21.5	22.5	21.8
<b>First marriage of both</b>					
Husband-----	22.1	23.2	22.0	21.7	22.8
Wife-----	19.1	20.3	19.0	18.9	19.7
<b>Remarriage of either or both</b>					
Husband-----	30.2	31.6	30.2	29.6	31.3
Wife-----	25.7	28.3	25.2	25.0	26.8
<b>First marriage of wife, remarriage of husband</b>					
Husband-----	28.3	31.3	26.3	28.5	29.3
Wife-----	21.7	23.1	21.0	21.8	22.0
<b>First marriage of husband, remarriage of wife</b>					
Husband-----	24.9	26.6	26.6	23.2	28.9
Wife-----	24.4	28.0	24.4	23.5	26.5
<b>Remarriage of both</b>					
Husband-----	36.8	35.4	35.2	37.2	39.0
Wife-----	31.9	32.3	31.1	31.2	35.4

<sup>1</sup>Includes couples with both or either spouse nonwhite or not stated.

Table 11. Divorce rates per 1,000 males and females, 15 years of age and over, by race: four selected States, 1960

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data. Population bases given in *U.S. Census of Population, 1960*, Volume I, tables 96 in parts 13, 17, 44, and 51]

Sex and color	Total	Selected States			
		Hawaii	Iowa	Tennessee	Wisconsin
<u>Male</u>					
Rates per 1,000 males and females, 15+ years					
Total-----	5.1	5.6	4.9	7.7	2.8
White-----	4.9	7.2	4.8	7.8	2.6
Negro-----	7.4	<sup>1</sup> 5.3	19.8	6.4	11.9
Other nonwhite-----	4.7	4.8	-	-	<sup>1</sup> 5.2
<u>Female</u>					
Total-----	4.9	6.7	4.7	7.1	2.7
White-----	4.7	8.8	4.5	7.3	2.5
Negro-----	6.5	<sup>1</sup> 5.3	17.0	5.6	11.0
Other nonwhite-----	5.8	5.8	-	-	<sup>1</sup> 7.8

<sup>1</sup>Computed from less than 100 divorces.

Table 12. Number and percent distribution of divorces, by color of husband and wife: four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Color of husband and wife	Total	Selected States			
		Hawaii	Iowa	Tennessee	Wisconsin
Number					
Total-----	38,544	2,824	9,360	18,420	7,940
Both white-----	32,832	902	9,060	15,560	7,310
Both nonwhite-----	4,446	1,306	240	2,420	480
Husband white, wife nonwhite-----	422	392	---	---	30
Husband nonwhite, wife white-----	248	218	10	---	20
Not stated for either or both-----	596	6	50	440	100
Percent distribution <sup>1</sup>					
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Both white-----	86.5	32.0	97.3	86.5	93.2
Both nonwhite-----	11.7	46.3	2.6	13.5	6.1
Husband white, wife nonwhite-----	1.1	13.9	---	---	0.4
Husband nonwhite, wife white-----	0.7	7.7	0.1	---	0.3

<sup>1</sup>Excludes color not stated for either or both.

Table 13. Percent distribution of white and nonwhite husbands and wives, by age at decree and marriage order: total of four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Age	Total	White		Nonwhite	
		First	Remarriage	First	Remarriage
<u>Husband</u>		Percent distribution			
Total-----	100.0	70.2	29.8	74.0	26.0
Under 30 years-----	100.0	86.7	13.3	95.5	4.5
30-39 years-----	100.0	66.8	33.2	76.6	23.4
40-54 years-----	100.0	56.3	43.7	60.2	39.8
55+ years-----	100.0	30.6	69.4	48.0	52.0
<u>Wife</u>					
Total-----	100.0	70.5	29.5	69.2	30.8
Under 30 years-----	100.0	84.4	15.6	89.8	10.2
30-39 years-----	100.0	61.6	38.4	61.3	38.7
40-54 years-----	100.0	53.0	47.0	48.8	51.2
55+ years-----	100.0	27.4	72.6	61.2	38.8

Table 14. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by number of this marriage of husband by number of this marriage of wife: total of four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Number of times married	Percent distribution	Number of times married			
		One	Total <sup>1</sup>	More than once	
				Two	Three+
<u>Husband</u>		Wife			
Total-----	100.0	70.3	29.7	22.2	6.1
One-----	100.0	86.1	13.9	12.2	1.5
One+ <sup>1</sup> -----	100.0	32.7	67.3	46.2	16.7
Two-----	100.0	35.9	64.1	49.8	13.8
Three+-----	100.0	26.3	73.7	42.7	28.8
<u>Wife</u>		Husband			
Total-----	100.0	70.6	29.4	21.8	6.1
One-----	100.0	86.4	13.6	11.1	2.3
One+ <sup>1</sup> -----	100.0	33.3	66.7	47.0	15.2
Two-----	100.0	39.0	61.0	48.6	11.8
Three+-----	100.0	17.6	82.4	50.4	29.6

<sup>1</sup>Includes persons married more than once but number of this marriage not stated.

Table 15. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by residence of husband at decree, by residence of wife at decree: total of four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Residence of husband	Total	Residence of wife			
		County where decree granted	Different county, same State	Different State, same region	Different region or outside U.S.
Percent distribution					
Total-----	100.0	89.1	6.6	1.7	2.6
County where decree granted-----	100.0	88.7	5.8	2.1	3.4
Different county, same State-----	100.0	79.6	19.8	0.6	-
Different State, same region-----	100.0	99.0	-	1.0	-
Different region or outside U.S-----	100.0	98.9	1.1	-	-
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
County where decree granted-----	83.1	82.8	72.3	95.3	100.0
Different county, same State-----	9.1	8.2	26.9	3.1	-
Different State, same region-----	2.7	3.1	-	1.6	-
Different region or outside U.S-----	5.1	5.9	0.9	-	-

Table 16. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by birthplace of husband and of wife: total of four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

State of birth of husband and wife	Total	State where decree granted			
		Hawaii	Iowa	Tennessee	Wisconsin
Percent distribution					
<u>Birthplace of husband</u>					
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
State where decree granted-----	67.5	51.9	68.1	69.6	67.5
Other State, same region-----	19.5	7.4	21.8	22.3	14.8
Outside of region where decree granted-----	13.0	40.7	10.1	8.2	17.7
<u>Birthplace of wife</u>					
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
State where decree granted-----	70.6	62.6	71.6	72.0	69.1
Other State, same region-----	19.2	7.0	19.1	22.4	16.4
Outside of region where decree granted-----	10.1	30.4	9.3	5.5	14.4



Table 17. Percent distribution of plaintiffs and defendants, by birthplace and State of residence:  
four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

State where decree granted, birthplace, and State of residence	Husband		Wife	
	Plaintiff	Defendant	Plaintiff	Defendant
<u>Four selected States</u>	Percent distribution			
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Born in State of residence-----	71.4	69.0	74.3	72.5
Born in another State, same region-----	18.8	17.9	18.7	16.7
Born outside of region of residence-----	9.7	13.2	7.0	10.8
<u>Hawaii</u>				
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Born in State of residence-----	59.4	66.2	75.5	62.2
Born in another State, same region-----	9.7	8.1	7.1	8.1
Born outside of region of residence-----	30.9	25.7	17.4	29.7
<u>Iowa</u>				
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Born in State of residence-----	73.0	69.8	75.1	69.1
Born in another State, same region-----	17.0	21.9	17.8	18.2
Born outside of region of residence-----	10.0	8.3	7.0	12.7
<u>Tennessee</u>				
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Born in State of residence-----	71.3	68.1	74.2	76.7
Born in another State, same region-----	22.7	18.2	21.6	17.6
Born outside of region of residence-----	6.0	13.7	4.2	5.7
<u>Wisconsin</u>				
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Born in State of residence-----	74.8	70.8	73.2	70.9
Born in another State, same region-----	14.5	15.1	16.5	16.9
Born outside of region of residence-----	10.7	14.1	10.2	12.2

Table 18. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by duration of marriage: divorce-regis-  
tration area and each registration State, 1962

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Area	Total	Duration of marriage					
		Under 1 year	1-4 years				
			Total	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years
		Percent distribution					
Divorce-registration area--	100.0	5.1	31.1	8.6	8.3	7.6	6.6
Alabama-----	100.0	7.8	30.5	9.3	7.5	7.1	6.6
Alaska-----	100.0	6.5	35.8	8.6	10.5	8.9	7.8
Georgia-----	100.0	7.2	37.2	11.8	9.8	8.8	6.8
Hawaii-----	100.0	7.0	32.8	7.9	9.3	7.8	7.8
Idaho-----	100.0	10.6	35.3	11.3	9.2	8.4	6.4
Iowa-----	100.0	4.2	37.4	13.0	9.4	8.2	6.9
Kansas-----	100.0	7.6	36.3	12.9	8.9	8.3	6.2
Maryland-----	100.0	0.7	25.0	3.5	6.6	7.9	7.1
Michigan-----	100.0	4.1	27.4	7.2	8.9	5.8	5.5
Missouri-----	100.0	7.5	33.8	11.8	8.0	6.3	7.7
Montana-----	100.0	6.7	38.4	13.4	10.1	8.8	6.1
Nebraska-----	100.0	6.2	37.6	8.7	11.4	9.9	7.6
Ohio-----	100.0	4.1	30.3	7.6	7.9	7.6	7.2
Oregon-----	100.0	7.8	33.2	9.3	10.7	7.1	6.1
Pennsylvania-----	100.0	1.4	24.5	4.8	5.3	8.6	5.8
South Dakota-----	100.0	6.2	35.2	10.9	10.4	7.7	6.2
Tennessee-----	100.0	6.8	35.5	11.0	9.7	7.6	7.2
Utah-----	100.0	8.2	38.3	11.5	11.2	9.7	5.9
Virginia-----	100.0	0.8	24.9	4.5	6.5	7.6	6.3
Wisconsin-----	100.0	4.3	31.3	7.3	7.9	10.0	6.1
Wyoming-----	100.0	10.6	37.6	12.1	10.3	8.7	6.4

Table 18. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by duration of marriage: divorce-regis-  
tration area and each registration State, 1962—Con.

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Duration of marriage									
5-9 years						10-14 years	15-19 years	20+ years	Median
Total	5 years	6 years	7 years	8 years	9 years				
Percent distribution									
25.3	7.0	5.1	4.9	4.4	3.7	15.1	10.3	13.2	7.3
24.8	6.5	4.8	4.3	5.0	4.3	11.4	11.3	14.2	7.1
24.9	6.8	5.3	5.9	3.3	3.7	14.4	9.2	9.2	6.2
23.0	6.4	4.5	4.5	4.3	3.3	11.5	8.2	12.9	5.9
22.4	5.3	5.1	4.5	3.8	3.7	16.3	10.4	11.2	7.0
22.7	6.7	4.2	4.7	4.1	2.9	12.6	8.1	10.6	5.6
23.4	7.7	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.8	12.8	9.6	12.6	6.2
22.1	7.0	4.2	3.8	4.3	2.8	13.8	9.8	10.4	5.9
27.3	7.4	5.2	5.4	4.7	4.7	18.8	12.3	15.9	9.4
27.8	7.7	4.9	6.0	5.2	4.0	15.0	10.9	14.7	8.0
26.5	8.0	6.3	3.7	3.3	4.7	12.5	10.1	9.7	6.1
22.8	5.7	6.3	3.8	4.0	2.9	13.9	8.9	9.2	5.9
20.1	5.8	4.7	3.8	3.5	2.3	14.7	8.9	12.6	6.1
25.8	6.6	5.5	5.2	4.7	3.7	17.6	9.3	12.9	7.7
23.1	6.8	4.8	4.3	4.6	2.6	15.4	10.9	9.6	6.5
25.9	7.7	4.2	4.8	4.2	4.9	17.9	12.9	17.4	9.6
23.2	6.0	4.6	4.8	4.2	3.6	14.0	8.9	12.5	6.6
22.8	5.9	4.0	5.5	4.0	3.4	14.0	9.3	11.6	6.4
24.4	6.5	6.1	4.6	2.9	4.3	12.1	8.2	8.8	5.5
30.4	8.2	7.2	6.5	4.1	4.3	18.3	9.8	15.8	8.6
22.9	7.0	6.6	4.5	2.5	2.3	16.8	10.4	14.3	7.2
22.0	6.3	4.0	4.2	4.0	3.4	11.7	9.7	8.4	5.3

Table 19. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by number of children reported: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data. Data relate to children under 18 years of age except as noted]

Area	Total	Number of children reported					
		None	1	2	3	4	5+
Divorce-registration area-----	100.0	39.8	23.3	18.9	10.2	4.5	3.3
Alabama <sup>1</sup> -----	100.0	40.9	22.5	19.6	10.7	3.8	2.4
Alaska <sup>2</sup> -----	100.0	44.9	19.9	16.5	10.1	4.6	4.0
Georgia-----	100.0	40.2	26.2	18.3	9.0	3.1	3.1
Hawaii <sup>3</sup> -----	100.0	29.7	22.5	21.1	13.1	7.8	5.8
Idaho <sup>4</sup> -----	100.0	39.5	20.9	19.3	11.7	5.3	3.2
Iowa-----	100.0	38.7	19.5	18.8	13.9	5.1	4.0
Kansas <sup>5</sup> -----	100.0	36.5	26.0	16.9	10.7	5.5	4.3
Maryland-----	100.0	36.6	29.1	22.7	7.0	3.7	0.9
Michigan-----	100.0	41.5	19.9	18.0	12.6	4.6	3.4
Missouri <sup>5</sup> -----	100.0	43.4	20.4	18.9	9.8	5.2	2.3
Montana-----	100.0	38.9	22.1	16.4	13.0	6.0	3.5
Nebraska <sup>4</sup> -----	100.0	36.6	26.4	17.7	11.2	4.8	3.3
Ohio-----	100.0	42.5	21.4	18.3	9.2	4.8	4.0
Oregon-----	100.0	40.1	20.7	20.0	9.6	6.8	2.8
Pennsylvania-----	100.0	29.6	30.5	22.8	10.9	3.0	3.2
South Dakota-----	100.0	37.8	20.4	17.2	13.9	5.8	5.0
Tennessee <sup>6</sup> -----	100.0	44.3	23.2	17.4	7.7	4.0	3.4
Utah-----	100.0	28.2	25.7	22.4	12.7	5.4	5.6
Virginia <sup>1</sup> -----	100.0	40.0	27.2	17.6	8.5	4.2	2.4
Wisconsin-----	100.0	41.4	24.0	16.4	8.3	4.0	5.7
Wyoming-----	100.0	38.1	23.0	17.7	12.2	5.4	3.6

<sup>1</sup>Number of minor children affected.

<sup>2</sup>Number of children under 21 affected.

<sup>3</sup>Number of minor children.

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

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

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

Table 20. Estimated number of children involved in divorces and annulments: United States, 1953-62

[Data refer only to events occurring within the United States. For 1960-62 estimated from frequencies based on sample, for other years estimated from total count. For method of estimation, see Appendix]

Year	All divorces and annulments	Estimated number of children involved	Ratio of children per total decrees	Rate per 1,000 children under 18 years of age
1962-----	413,000	537,000	1.30	8.0
1961-----	414,000	501,000	1.21	7.6
1960-----	393,000	463,000	1.18	7.2
1959-----	395,000	468,000	1.18	7.5
1958-----	368,000	398,000	1.08	6.5
1957-----	381,000	379,000	0.99	6.4
1956-----	382,000	361,000	0.95	6.3
1955-----	377,000	347,000	0.92	6.3
1954-----	379,000	341,000	0.90	6.4
1953-----	390,000	330,000	0.85	6.4

## APPENDIX

### SOURCES AND QUALITY OF DATA

#### Sources of Data

This is the first analysis of annual divorce statistics to be published in *Vital and Health Statistics*, Series 21. Frequencies on which the analysis of 1962 annual divorce data are based were published in Section 2, Volume III, *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1962*. Comparable analyses for earlier years are to be found in the appropriate annual issues of *Vital Statistics of the United States*, and for years prior to 1958 they are also in the *Vital Statistics—Special Reports* series.

In this report particular attention is paid to personal characteristics of divorced husbands and wives. The detailed statistics are for the combined years 1960-61 and are limited to four States—Hawaii, Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin—where the reporting of personal characteristics for these 2 years was considerably more complete than in the other States. The proportion of divorces with a variable not stated was in no case higher than 10 percent and in most cases considerably lower. Since 1960 other States have reached a level of reporting completeness comparable to that of the four selected States.

Detailed tabulations of personal characteristics of the divorced spouses for the year 1960 were thought to be highly desirable for both the United States and the divorce-registration area (DRA). However, the unsatisfactory reporting of these variables from many areas made it necessary to limit the tabulations to the four States. In order to reduce sampling variability, 1960 data were combined with the corresponding 1961 figures. Tabulations of these data were prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census from punchcards provided by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Later it was decided to merge the report on personal characteristics with the regular annual analysis of 1962 divorce statistics.

Two methods were used for collecting final divorce statistics for 1960, 1961, and 1962. Most of these statistics were estimated by NCHS from samples of transcripts of divorce and annulment records. The annual divorce totals for States shown in table 2 were provided by State and local officials.

In order to promote regular, timely, and complete reporting, a divorce-registration area comparable to the registration areas developed for the collection of natality, marriage, and mortality statistics was established in 1958. The DRA is made up of those States and independent areas which meet the following criteria:

1. They have established central files of divorce records.
2. They have adopted a statistical report form that includes the required items of information on the Standard Record of Divorce or Annulment (fig. 12).
3. They maintain a system based on regular and timely reporting by all local areas.
4. They have agreed to carry out tests of divorce registration completeness and accuracy in cooperation with NCHS.

By 1962 21 States and the Virgin Islands were participating in the DRA (fig. 13). As Ohio was included in the DRA on January 1, 1962, DRA data for 1962 cover a larger area than those for 1961 and earlier years.

In 1960 a nationwide probability sample program was initiated for collecting divorce statistics; they had been compiled for earlier years from predesigned tables submitted by the States. The 1960 program was continued for 1961 and 1962, but these programs were limited to States in the DRA. Hence national and regional statistics based on data from samples of records are not available for 1962 except for the national total number of children involved in divorce cases, which has been estimated by methods explained below. All other data are limited to the registration area and the individual registration States. Virgin Islands is excluded from the analysis; data for this area are published in Section 3, Volume III, *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1962*.

Variables shown in the 1962 tabulations appear on the divorce or annulment record forms of all registration States with the following exceptions: Kansas secured no data on residence of husband and wife; Ohio, on race or color; Nebraska, on the party to whom decree was granted; and Nebraska and Virginia, on the number of times parties to the divorce had been mar-

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION, AND WELFARE Public Health Service		(State) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (Division) OF VITAL STATISTICS		STATE FILE NO.
COUNTY		STANDARD RECORD OF DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT		LOCAL FILE NO.
<b>HUSBAND</b>				
1. NAME a. (First) b. (Middle) c. (Last)			2. DATE OF BIRTH (Month) (Day) (Year)	
3. USUAL RESIDENCE a. (City) b. (County) c. (State)			4. PLACE (State or foreign country) OF BIRTH	
5. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE	6. RACE OR COLOR WHITE NEGRO OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> (specify) _____	7a. USUAL OCCUPATION		7b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY
<b>WIFE</b>				
8. MAIDEN NAME a. (First) b. (Middle) c. (Last)			9. DATE OF BIRTH (Month) (Day) (Year)	
10. USUAL RESIDENCE a. (City) b. (County) c. (State)			11. PLACE (State or foreign country) OF BIRTH	
12. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE	13. COLOR OR RACE WHITE NEGRO OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> (specify) _____	14a. USUAL OCCUPATION		14b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY
15. PLACE OF MARRIAGE a. (County) b. (State or foreign country)			16. DATE OF MARRIAGE (Month) (Day) (Year)	
17. NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18	18. PLAINTIFF HUSBAND WIFE <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	19. DECREE GRANTED TO HUSBAND WIFE <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	20. LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DECREE	
I hereby certify that the above persons were divorced on:			DATE OF RECORDING (Month) (Day) (Year)	
SIGNATURE OF COURT OFFICIAL			TITLE OF COURT OFFICIAL	

Figure 12. Standard Record of Divorce or Annulment.

ried. The remaining variables available on all records were date and place where the decree was granted, age or date of birth of husband and of wife, date and place of marriage (date of marriage was used for computing duration of marriage to time of decree), number of children involved, legal grounds for the decree, and which party was the plaintiff. Several additional items of information are found on the divorce forms of a number of States, and information about birthplace and residence of husband and of wife was tabulated for the four selected States. For these States various cross-tabulations not available for all registration States were also prepared.

In 1962, total counts of divorces and annulments were received from State officials of 49 States and the District of Columbia (table 2); data for Colorado, as well as for some counties of Kentucky, Missouri, and New Mexico and for some parishes of Louisiana, were

obtained from surveys of local officials conducted by NCHS. In 10 States which did not maintain central files of divorce records (Arizona, Indiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, and West Virginia), State officials conducted special surveys to obtain county totals. The annual divorce and annulment totals thus obtained cover 3,090 counties or equivalent local areas of the United States; no totals were obtained for 25 counties.

The total number of divorces and annulments granted in the United States in 1962 was prepared from the State totals; estimates for the nonreporting counties of Kentucky and New Mexico and parishes of Louisiana were based on the assumption that the divorce rate in the nonreporting areas of the State was identical with that for the reporting areas of the State.

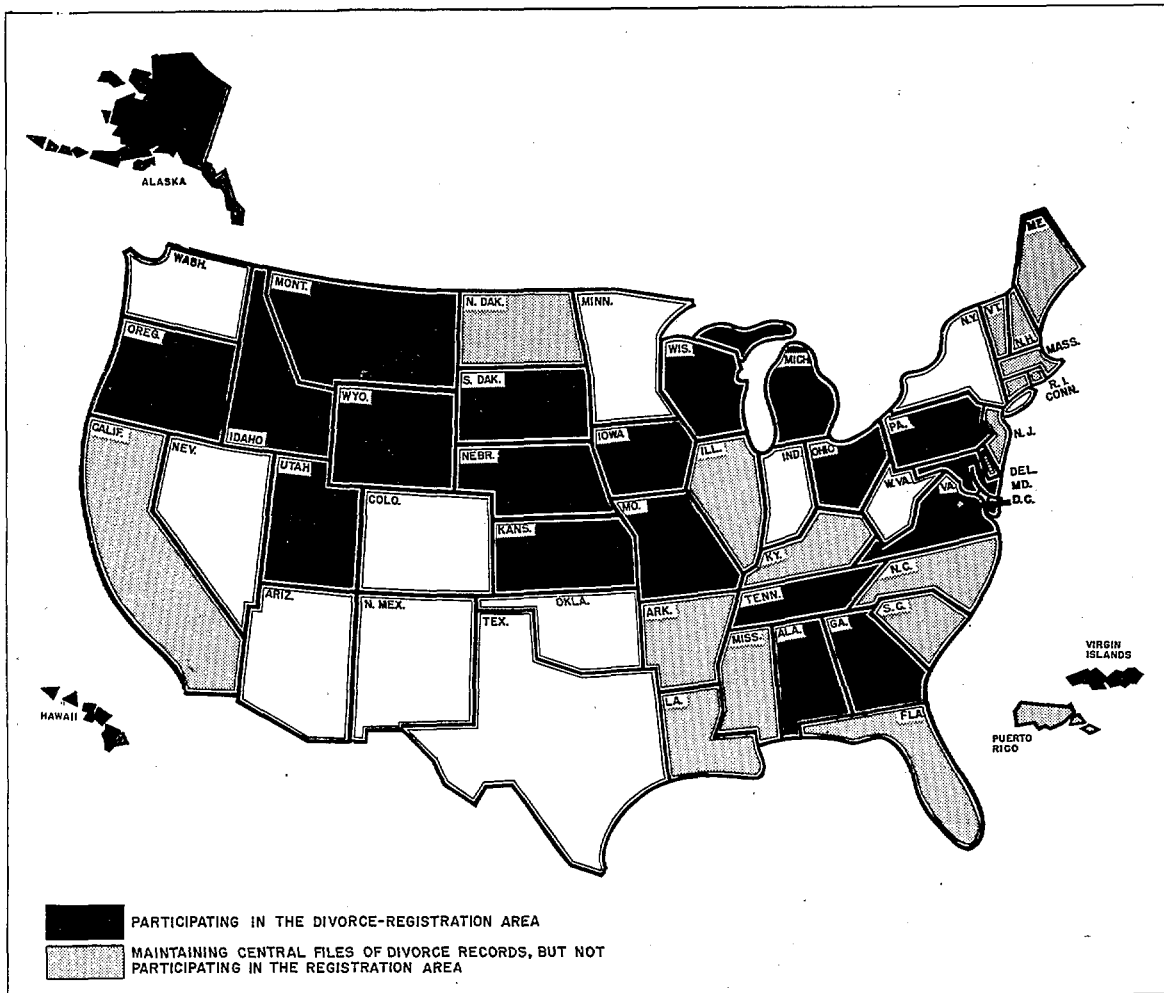


Figure 13. Areas participating in the divorce-registration area and those maintaining central files: United States, 1962.

### Sample Design

Records to be sampled referred to all decrees of annulment and absolute divorce which were granted during a data year. The only exception to this was Utah, where the records referred to decrees which became final during the year. In States where interlocutory divorce decrees are granted, decrees granted during the latter part of 1961 became final in 1962, and decrees which had been granted late in 1962 became final in 1963. It is possible that some interlocutory decrees never become final because of death or reconciliation, but it is believed that the number of such cases is very small. In all these States except Utah divorce records are filed in the State office of vital statistics when decrees are granted and not when they become final. In most cases such decrees become final automatically after the lapse of a certain period of time.

Information about the structure of the samples is shown in table I. The divorce sample was designed to yield estimates of area totals as well as frequency distributions and estimates of their parameters. These estimates were to be made for the DRA and for each State in the registration area.

A sampling rate was selected for each State so that the resulting sample would be at least 400 records, the number required to secure estimates having less than predesignated maximum sampling errors. Only four different sampling rates were designated for the States in the divorce-registration area—all records, 1/2, 1/10, and 1/20. While each State's records were sampled independently, that is, with a randomly selected number designating the first record to be selected in each State in computing sampling errors each of the four groups of States with a uniform sampling rate was treated as a stratum. Sampling errors computed using these four groups as strata are likely to be somewhat

Table I. Divorce sampling rates and sample size: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962, and four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence]

Area, year, and stratum	Number of primary sampling units	Sampling rate	Number of sample records	Estimated number of events
Divorce-registration area, 1962-----	21	...	16,706	147,106
Stratum 1-----	2	All records	1,786	1,786
Alaska-----	...	All records	904	904
South Dakota-----	...	All records	882	882
Stratum 2-----	6	1/2	6,050	12,100
Hawaii-----	...	1/2	732	1,464
Idaho-----	...	1/2	1,274	2,548
Montana-----	...	1/2	966	1,932
Nebraska-----	...	1/2	1,178	2,356
Utah-----	...	1/2	1,230	2,460
Wyoming-----	...	1/2	670	1,340
Stratum 3-----	7	1/10	4,418	44,180
Georgia-----	...	1/10	984	9,840
Iowa-----	...	1/10	479	4,790
Kansas-----	...	1/10	531	5,310
Maryland-----	...	1/10	597	5,970
Oregon-----	...	1/10	608	6,080
Virginia-----	...	1/10	764	7,640
Wisconsin-----	...	1/10	455	4,550
Stratum 4-----	6	1/20	4,452	89,040
Alabama-----	...	1/20	619	12,380
Michigan-----	...	1/20	871	17,420
Missouri-----	...	1/20	605	12,100
Ohio-----	...	1/20	1,163	23,260
Pennsylvania-----	...	1/20	715	14,300
Tennessee-----	...	1/20	479	9,580
Four selected States, 1960-61-----	4	...	4,063	38,544
Hawaii-----	...	1/2	1,412	2,824
Iowa-----	...	1/10	936	9,360
Tennessee-----	...	1/20	921	18,420
Wisconsin-----	...	1/10	794	7,940

larger than those that might have been computed using each State as a stratum; hence the former very probably have an extra safety margin as estimates of variation in any statistic based on sample data.

#### Estimating Procedures

Before data were tabulated and statistics estimated, adjustments were made in order to reconcile totals estimated from samples received with pretabulated counts for each reporting area. For 1960 any difference between the two totals was adjusted if it was larger than one skip interval (the reciprocal of the sampling ratio for the area), but for 1961 and 1962 adjustments

were made only if the difference was 1.50 percent or more of the annual area total.

Frequency distributions were estimated in two steps:

1. Each sample case and all items tabulated for that case were assigned a weight that was the reciprocal of the probability with which the case was selected. Thus if a divorce record was selected from a State with a probability of 1/10, each item on that record carried a weight of 10, whereas if 100 percent of the records were processed from a State, each item on each record carried a weight of 1. The sampling rates, indicating the probability with which divorce



records of every State were selected, are shown in table I.

2. Frequencies were estimated by summing the inflated number of cases instead of by tabulating the number of sample cases. Thus each frequency distribution is a sum of the weighted sample cases included.

It should be noted that the weights of all sample records are identical within each registration area State. However, weights for divorce sample records for the DRA vary from 1 to 20. Variation between two or more equal subtotals in the relative proportions of cases with various weights results in each such subtotal having its distinctive sampling error, as discussed below.

Percents in the analytical tables were computed using data which excluded estimated numbers of not stated cases. All rates appearing in the analytical tables were based on populations from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. These are populations present in the area; those for 1960 were enumerated as of April 1, and those for 1961 and 1962 were estimated as of July 1. The populations include Armed Forces stationed in the area but exclude Armed Forces abroad.

Procedures for estimating the number of children reported in divorce suits presented a special problem. The number of children was estimated for each registration State, for the DRA, and for the United States. The distribution of divorces and annulments by the number of children reported was prepared for each reporting State. In order to obtain a State total, the category "children not stated" was first distributed proportionally over the distribution of divorces by number of children reported. Then the number of divorces in each category with a given number of children was multiplied by the number of children per divorce (that is, the number of divorces involving one child was multiplied by 1, the number involving two children was multiplied by 2, etc.). The sum of the products is the estimate of the number of children reported in a given registration State, and the sum of State estimates for participating States is the estimate for the DRA. The national estimate was obtained by multiplying by 5.40039 the combined estimates for 14 States (Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming). The factor 5.40039 is the ratio of the 1960 national estimate of children prepared from the nationwide sample to the comparable figure for the 14 States combined. Data for the 14 States were used because the remaining four States that participated in the DRA in 1960 were either non-representative of the United States or had a very high proportion of divorces with the number of children not stated.

Among the median ages computed for the four selected States, some fell into the lower or the upper open-ended intervals of the tabulations, and age limits

had to be estimated for these intervals. This was done using the age distributions by single years of age available for years prior to 1960, when data were based on complete counts of events. The following limits were used:

Age	Husband		Wife	
	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit
Age at marriage--	18	54	16	54
Age at first marriage-----	18	54	16	49
Age at remarriage-----	21	-	18	-
Age at divorce---	20	69	17	54

In the section "Birthplace and Place of Marriage" the difference between the number of persons born in the State and married out of State and that of persons born out of State but married in the State is discussed. This difference is equal to the difference between the number of persons born in the State and the number of persons married in the State; the number of persons born in the State but married out of State is the remainder of the subtraction of the number of persons both born and married in the State from the number of persons born in the State; the number of persons born out of State but married in the State is the remainder of the subtraction of the same number of persons both born and married in the State from the total number of persons married in the State. The remainder does not change when the same amount is added to the minuend and the subtrahend.

#### Sampling Errors of Estimates

Estimates computed from the samples (except statistics of States where the sample includes all records) are subject to sampling error since they are based on a sample of divorces occurring during a given year rather than on a complete count. Since all cases in these samples were selected with known probabilities, the sampling error can be computed for each estimate. The sampling errors shown in table II are the amounts which, when added to and subtracted from the estimated percents, give the intervals which contain the actual quantities being estimated in approximately 68 out of 100 similarly selected samples.

The sampling errors for estimated percentages shown in table II were computed by dividing the sampling error for the frequency by the total number of 1962 events reported for the area. As an example of the procedures described above, suppose the percentage of couples reporting three children in Kansas was 10 percent of the total for the State. The error shown in table II for this percentage is 1.2. By adding and sub-

Table II. Sampling error of estimated percentages: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962, and four selected States, 1960-61

[Estimates for the entire DRA have distributions of sampling errors generated by changes in contribution of cases from each stratum; for sampling errors in this table for the entire DRA it is assumed that these contributions are proportionate to stratum totals. Alaska and South Dakota have no sampling variability because all records were tabulated]

Area and year	All decrees	Estimated percentages										
		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
Divorce-regis- tration area, 1962-----	147,106	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Alabama-----	12,380	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.0
Alaska-----	904	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Georgia-----	9,840	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5
Hawaii-----	1,464	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.3
Idaho-----	2,548	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0
Iowa-----	4,790	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.2
Kansas-----	5,310	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.1
Maryland-----	5,970	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.9
Michigan-----	17,420	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.7
Missouri-----	12,100	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.0
Montana-----	1,932	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1
Nebraska-----	2,356	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0
Ohio-----	23,260	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4
Oregon-----	6,080	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.9
Pennsylvania-----	14,300	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.8
South Dakota-----	882	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tennessee-----	9,580	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.2
Utah-----	2,460	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0
Virginia-----	7,640	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.7
Wisconsin-----	4,550	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.2
Wyoming-----	1,340	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3
Four selected States, 1960-61-	38,544	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1
Hawaii-----	2,824	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9
Iowa-----	9,360	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.6
Tennessee-----	18,420	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.6
Wisconsin-----	7,940	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.7

tracting 1.2 from 10, one secures the interval 8.8 to 11.2; the chances are about 68 out of 100 that the actual number of couples with three children is in this interval.

To determine if the difference between two proportions is attributable to sampling variability or is a true difference, divide the difference by the square root of the sum of the squares of their standard errors. If the quotient of this division is greater than 2, then the probability that the difference is due to sampling error is less than 1 in 20.<sup>17</sup> For example, the proportions of divorces granted less than 1 year after marriage were 10.6 percent in Idaho and 4.1 percent in Michigan, and the standard errors of these proportions were 0.6 percent in both cases. Division of the difference by the square root of the sum of the squares

of the standard errors results in the following equation:

$$\frac{(.1 - .04)}{\sqrt{(.006)^2 + (.006)^2}} = 7.1$$

This value is more than 2, and therefore it is very unlikely that such a difference could be attributed to sampling error alone. Hence the observed difference is to a high probability a true difference.

Sampling errors of estimated percentages of 1960 and 1961 data combined for the four selected States are also shown in table II. As the 1960 and 1961 values were combined, the number of sample cases increased approximately twice in comparison with the number for a single year, and the sampling errors declined cor-

respondingly. Hence the sampling errors for each selected State shown in the upper part of table II are larger than the comparable errors in the lower part.

Estimation of the standard error of a proportion of a subtotal for the four States combined is accomplished by using the formula  $S_p = \sqrt{C P_x P_y (1 - P_x P_y)}$  in which  $C = .000498$ ,  $P_x$  is the proportion that the numerator is of the area total, and  $P_y$  is the proportion that the denominator is of the same total.

#### Completeness of Data

Completeness of reporting is one of the most important among the various factors in divorce statistics which produce nonsampling errors. It is the one factor for which detailed and complete estimates are available. Tables III and IV show for the DRA and for the four selected States the numbers of cases with various characteristics given. The lack of 100-percent completeness is due either to incompletely filled out sample records or to items not appearing on State record forms.

For the DRA the sample records not received represent 0.3 percent of all divorces. The samples from three States were short; the outstanding records represented 2.0 percent of the decrees granted in Nebraska, 11.1 percent of those granted in Utah, and 2.2 percent of those granted in Wisconsin. In all detailed divorce tables the number of not stated cases was increased for these three States in order to bring their totals up to figures representing complete samples.

The principal source of incompleteness in the 1962 divorce statistics arises from failure to secure items of personal and demographic data in several States when these items are on the record forms (tables III and IV). The proportion of records not stating age at decree varies from less than 1 to 96 percent; for race or color the corresponding range is from 0 to 70 percent; for marriage order the analogous range is from 0.4 to 96 percent; for duration of marriage the range is from 0 to 20 percent; and for number of children the range is from 0 to 25 percent.

Table III. Percent completeness of reporting of statistical variables: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Area	All divorces and annulments	Age at decree		Age at marriage		Color or race	
		Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
Divorce-registration area-----		Percent of cases with information available					
	147,106	56.6	56.4	56.3	56.1	61.9	61.9
Alabama-----	12,380	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.4	30.5	30.5
Alaska-----	904	17.0	18.8	17.0	18.8	48.9	48.9
Georgia-----	9,840	35.7	34.7	35.3	34.3	51.3	50.8
Hawaii-----	1,464	97.0	95.8	97.0	95.8	99.9	100.0
Idaho-----	2,548	73.4	73.1	72.8	72.4	81.7	86.2
Iowa-----	4,790	99.8	99.2	99.6	99.0	99.6	99.8
Kansas-----	5,310	75.7	75.7	75.1	75.1	77.0	77.0
Maryland-----	5,970	64.3	63.8	64.0	63.5	63.7	63.0
Michigan-----	17,420	36.5	36.7	36.5	36.7	61.4	62.0
Missouri-----	12,100	96.7	96.5	96.4	96.2	98.7	98.7
Montana-----	1,932	52.6	52.2	52.6	52.2	78.2	77.3
Nebraska-----	2,356	42.5	41.5	42.4	41.3	42.0	42.0
Ohio-----	23,260	23.9	23.6	23.9	23.6	a	a
Oregon-----	6,080	72.7	71.9	72.2	71.4	75.7	75.2
Pennsylvania-----	14,300	83.6	82.8	82.9	82.2	81.5	81.1
South Dakota-----	882	9.8	10.3	9.8	10.3	32.8	32.0
Tennessee-----	9,580	96.7	96.9	95.6	95.8	98.3	97.9
Utah-----	2,460	82.6	83.4	80.8	81.5	87.6	86.0
Virginia-----	7,640	70.0	70.9	70.0	70.9	99.9	99.9
Wisconsin-----	4,550	97.4	96.7	96.5	95.8	97.8	97.1
Wyoming-----	1,340	7.5	8.1	7.5	8.1	19.9	20.4

<sup>a</sup>Item not reportable.

Table III. Percent completeness of reporting of statistical variables: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1962--Con.

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

Marriage order		Residence of defendant		Place of marriage	Duration of marriage	Number of children	Legal grounds	Plaintiff	To whom divorce granted
Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife						
Percent of cases with information available									
56.2	56.4	78.2	78.1	89.5	97.6	92.6	96.9	97.9	95.6
4.0	4.2	82.1	74.7	48.9	97.6	79.8	99.2	99.4	99.7
45.9	46.9	38.5	33.7	99.4	99.9	97.8	100.0	100.0	99.7
36.4	37.1	56.2	57.9	47.8	79.5	74.8	77.3	95.8	92.6
99.6	99.6	97.6	96.9	100.0	100.0	98.4	100.0	98.0	99.0
72.8	73.6	84.8	89.7	96.5	96.6	97.1	95.6	98.8	99.0
98.1	98.1	97.5	94.8	96.9	99.8	93.3	100.0	99.0	98.5
76.3	76.1	a	a	97.9	99.6	100.0	99.8	99.6	100.0
60.8	61.1	92.8	95.9	96.1	97.0	96.0	94.5	99.3	96.6
62.7	62.7	42.8	37.8	98.9	99.8	99.1	99.3	94.1	99.1
98.7	98.7	93.6	91.9	95.7	99.3	99.0	98.7	97.0	99.2
56.6	56.2	83.0	80.9	99.0	99.8	99.5	100.0	99.9	99.4
a	a	91.4	90.6	94.9	97.8	97.0	97.9	97.9	a
30.5	31.4	93.3	94.5	94.0	99.9	99.4	99.8	99.9	99.8
73.0	73.2	80.0	72.9	97.5	99.5	94.4	97.5	98.2	88.0
77.6	78.0	97.4	99.6	99.4	99.4	78.0	97.3	98.0	95.7
14.4	13.8	67.9	76.5	97.4	99.5	99.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
97.3	97.1	92.3	91.9	97.1	98.7	98.1	99.4	99.2	98.5
84.8	84.8	89.9	92.5	84.7	86.7	79.8	77.3	85.4	62.0
a	a	80.2	80.2	99.7	100.0	96.6	99.9	100.0	99.0
92.3	92.5	90.0	94.1	95.2	96.9	92.3	95.4	97.1	96.7
10.1	10.3	29.6	28.3	97.2	99.7	98.8	100.0	100.0	99.9

Table IV. Percent completeness of reporting of personal characteristics of husband and wife:  
four selected States, 1960-61

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data]

State	Total	Age at decree	Age at marriage	Race	Number of marriage	Resi- dence	Birth- place
<u>Total</u>	Percent of cases with information available						
Husband-----	38,544	97.5	97.1	98.8	96.6	92.7	95.4
Wives-----	38,544	97.5	97.3	99.0	96.9	96.8	96.2
<u>Hawaii</u>							
Husbands-----	2,824	96.8	96.8	99.9	99.6	97.5	98.9
Wives-----	2,824	96.8	96.8	99.9	99.6	98.4	98.9
<u>Iowa</u>							
Husbands-----	9,360	99.6	99.6	99.9	99.6	94.4	97.4
Wives-----	9,360	98.9	98.9	99.6	99.6	97.4	97.5
<u>Tennessee</u>							
Husbands-----	18,420	96.2	95.4	98.0	96.4	90.9	94.6
Wives-----	18,420	96.2	95.9	98.5	96.7	95.9	95.9
<u>Wisconsin</u>							
Husbands-----	7,940	98.5	98.2	99.0	92.6	93.1	93.8
Wives-----	7,940	98.9	98.7	99.4	92.9	97.5	94.2

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