

# **Remarriages**

## **United States**

Analysis of national trends in remarriage including data by previous marital status and color, variation by State, remarriage rates by age and sex, selection by previous marital status, and selected characteristics of remarrying persons in 1969.

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### SYMBOLS

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# REMARRIAGES

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## INTRODUCTION

Persons who remarry differ in age and socio-economic characteristics from those who marry for the first time. These differences are lost in data presented for all marriages. To illustrate some of the major differences, data on remarriages have been assembled for this report. First marriage statistics are included occasionally for the purposes of comparison.

In 1969 nearly one-fourth of all persons marrying had been married at least once before. The widowed and the divorced, who comprise the remarrying group, often differed statistically in specific characteristics. When available, data for these two groups are presented separately.

As divorce rates rose during the sixties, the tendency for divorced men and women to remarry also increased. Far more divorced than widowed persons are involved in remarriages and the upward trend reflects the trend for the divorced, not the widowed.

The data on remarriages in this report were tabulated from probability samples of records from the States participating in the marriage-registration area (MRA) for a given year. Estimates of remarriage totals and rates for the United States were based on data from the MRA and actual counts of all marriages performed in the United States.

## TRENDS IN REMARRIAGE

### **Estimated National Totals and Rates, 1965-1969**

National totals of remarriages are not available for the years 1965 through 1969. However, for this report estimates for the United States

were prepared by applying the percent of all marriages that were remarriages in the marriage-registration area to the national total of marriages for each year. The MRA consisted of 38 States and the District of Columbia from 1965 through 1967. In 1968 Missouri was added, bringing the number of States in the MRA to 39.

The estimated totals of remarriages for men and women showed an increase every year from 1965 to 1969 (table A). The increase over the 5 years was 22 percent for both men and women, with larger increases in 1968 and 1969 than in 1966 or 1967. The totals for men and women were close in number, with the total for men exceeding that for women by one to three thousand each year.

In order to compare the increase in remarriages to changes in the population, remarriage rates were computed per 1,000 widowed and divorced men or women in the population. The percent increase in the remarriage rate for the 5 years was less than the 22 percent increase in the number of remarriages, since the population of persons eligible to remarry also increased during this period. For men the percent increase in the rate was 14 and for women it was 11. The remarriage rate for men increased each year from 1965 to 1969, with the smallest increase occurring in 1967. In that same year the remarriage rate for women declined 1 percent from the rate for 1966, although for every other year there was an increase.

Although national estimates of remarriages for men and women are close in number, remarriage rates for men are more than 3 times those for women. This is due to differences in the population bases for men and women. Widowed women far outnumber widowed men in the population and there are also more divorced women than divorced men.

Table A. Estimated remarriages and remarriage rates of men and women: United States, 1965 to 1969

[For estimating procedure see appendix. Remarriage rates computed per 1,000 widowed and divorced men or women 14 years of age and over]

Year	Men		Women	
	Estimated remarriages	Remarriage rate	Estimated remarriages	Remarriage rate
1969-----	499,000	130.9	496,000	41.3
1968-----	467,000	125.8	466,000	39.8
1967-----	439,000	123.1	437,000	37.8
1966-----	426,000	123.0	423,000	38.1
1965-----	410,000	115.2	407,000	37.3

### Changing Distribution of the Population, 1940-1969

An awareness of the changing distribution of the population by marital status and age is important to an understanding of the increasing remarriage rate. Table 1 shows the marital status distribution of the population from 1940 to 1969. The distribution is shown both unstandardized and standardized according to the age distribution of the 1960 population. The standardized figures allow the marital status distribution of the population to be examined with the age distribution held constant.

From 1940 to 1969 there was a decline in the proportion of the male population accounted for by the widowed and divorced combined, for women the decline was proportionally smaller. However, when viewed separately the trend was different for the widowed than for the divorced. For both sexes the percent of divorced in the standardized distribution rose from 1940 to 1969, while the percent of the widowed declined.

### Rates by Previous Marital Status, 1960, 1963-1969

The population eligible to remarry is composed of two marital status groups—widowed and divorced. Because the distribution of the population for the United States indicates differing trends in the population bases for these two groups, it is

important to examine rates by previous marital status. Remarriage rates by previous marital status are not available for the United States but are available for the MRA for 1960 and 1963 to 1969. The rates shown in table 2 are based on data from the States participating in the MRA for each year. Although composition of the MRA changed during the 10 years, these rates give some indication of the increases in remarriages during this period. The addition of New York City in 1965 with its very low rate of remarriage is the only addition which seems to affect the trend data from the MRA on remarriage.

Remarriage rates in the MRA for both men and women rose from 1960 to 1969. For women the increase was from 32.7 per 1,000 widowed and divorced women in 1960 to 36.7 in 1969. Men had a much larger increase, from 89.1 in 1960 to 117.9 in 1969. These increases were mainly due to increases in the remarriage rate for the divorced.

The remarriage rate for the divorced showed a distinct upward trend from 1960 to 1969. For divorced men the rate increased from 167.7 in 1960 to 220.8 in 1969. The rate increased from 1963 to 1965, declined for 2 years, and finally increased again in 1968 and 1969 (figure 1). A noticeable increase in the remarriage rate also occurred for divorced women, from 122.1 in 1960 to 135.4 in 1969. As with men, this increase was not steady but was interrupted in 1964 and 1967.

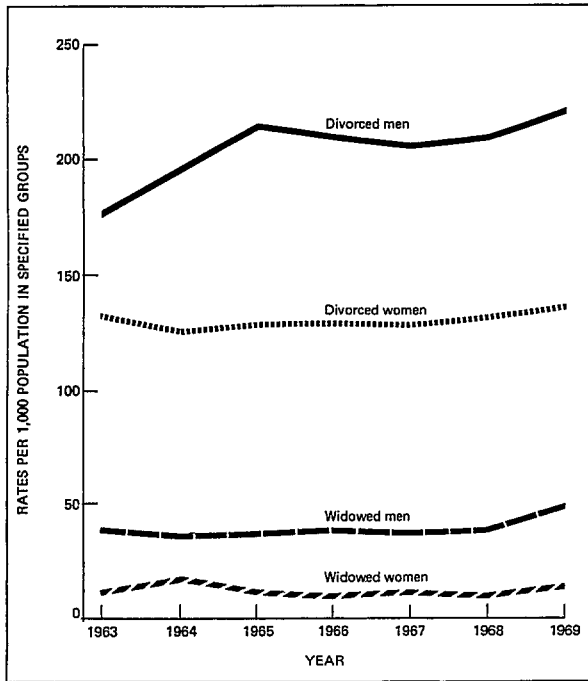


Figure 1. Remarriage rates of widowed and divorced men and women: Marriage-registration area, 1963-69

Unlike the trend for the divorced, the remarriage rate for the widowed remained fairly constant. Although widowers remarried at a rate of 39.3 in 1969 compared to 36.1 in 1960, the rate fluctuated from year to year. As with widowers, the remarriage rate for widows did not show an increasing or decreasing trend from 1960 to 1969.

For each year shown in table 2, the remarriage rate for divorced men or women far exceeded the rate for the widowed of either sex. In 1969 the remarriage rate for divorced women was 135 per 1,000 compared with 10 per 1,000 for the widowed. For men the comparison was 221 marriages per 1,000 for the divorced and 39 per 1,000 for the widowed.

Men had higher remarriage rates than women in the MRA for each year. This relationship was the same for both the widowed and the divorced. For each year the remarriage rate for men was almost 3 times the rate for women. Among the divorced the rate for men was  $1 \frac{1}{3}$  to  $1 \frac{2}{3}$  as high as the rate for women; for the widowed the rate was almost 4 times as high. The differences in magnitude between remarriage rates for wid-

owed men and widowed women were due primarily to the very large number of widowed women who were part of the population base from which rates for widowed women were computed. For the divorced the differences in rates by sex were due both to the difference in magnitude of the population bases for men and women and to the greater number of divorced men remarrying compared to women.

Remarriage rates by marital status indicate that while the rate of remarriage increased for men and women in the sixties, the increase was mainly due to the larger number of the divorced remarrying. This increase was more pronounced for men than for women.

### Variation by Color, 1960, 1965, and 1969

Although remarriage rates are not available by color, the percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status can be computed for white and all other brides and grooms. These percents indicate whether remarriages are increasing or decreasing as a proportion of total marriages in each color-sex group. The white brides and grooms showed differing trends than all others, according to data from the MRA in 1960, 1965, and 1969 (table B).

For white brides and grooms the percent of marriages that were remarriages rose from 1960 to 1965 and again from 1965 to 1969. Remarriages constituted about one-fifth of all marriages in 1960 and almost one-fourth in 1969.

Persons of all other races did not follow this pattern. The proportion of marriages of all other brides and grooms accounted for by remarriages declined from 1960 to 1965, then increased from 1965 to 1969. Remarriages constituted about the same proportion of marriages for men in this group in 1969 as in 1960, and they accounted for fewer of the marriages for women. This was in contrast to the definite increases observed for white men and women.

As a proportion of all marriages, remarriages of the divorced and the widowed showed differing trends by color and sex. For white brides and grooms divorced persons accounted for increasing percentages of all marriages from 1960 to 1965 and again from 1965 to 1969. This was not true for all other brides and grooms,



Table B. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of bride and of groom, by color: Marriage-registration area, 1960, 1965, and 1969

Color and previous marital status	1969		1965		1960	
	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom
<u>White</u>						
All marriages <sup>1</sup> -----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single-----	75.7	75.9	79.0	78.8	79.2	80.3
Previously married-----	24.3	24.1	21.0	21.2	20.8	19.7
Widowed-----	5.5	4.5	5.4	4.7	5.5	4.9
Divorced-----	18.8	19.6	15.6	16.5	15.3	14.8
<u>All other</u>						
All marriages <sup>1</sup> -----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single-----	81.0	78.9	82.7	81.2	79.4	79.1
Previously married-----	19.0	21.1	17.3	18.8	20.6	20.9
Widowed-----	5.0	5.2	5.6	6.2	6.4	6.8
Divorced-----	14.0	16.0	11.7	12.6	14.2	14.0

<sup>1</sup>Includes only marriages for which color and previous marital status were stated.

although in spite of a dip in 1965, divorced grooms accounted for relatively more of all other marriages in 1969 than in 1960. During these years the percent of all marriages accounted for by the widowed remained about the same for white brides but declined slightly for white grooms and more decidedly for all other brides and grooms.

For each year, 1960, 1965, and 1969, the percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status showed some consistent differences between white and all other brides and grooms. The percent of brides and grooms who had been married before was greater for white than for all other brides and grooms. One exception was 1960 when this percent was greater for all other grooms than for white grooms. Another consistent difference was that for every year remarriages of the divorced accounted for relatively more of the marriages of white persons

than of all others. In contrast the widowed accounted for relatively fewer of the marriages of white than of all other brides and grooms. An exception was 1969 when the widowed accounted for more of the white brides than for all other brides.

## VARIATION BY STATE

Although approximately 1 out of 4 marriages in the MRA in 1969 was a remarriage, this ratio varied widely from State to State. Data on marriages by marriage order were available for 40 States in 1969. These States were ranked according to the percent remarriages of brides were of total marriages (table 3).

Idaho and Wyoming ranked first and second with 42 percent and 38 percent of the marriages in the State reported as remarriages of the bride,

## AGE AND REMARRIAGE

### Age-Sex-Specific Rates

Remarriage rates for both men and women were highest at the younger ages. The rates for men and women in the midage groups were lower than the rates for the age groups 14 to 24 and 25 to 29, and higher than the rates for ages 65 and over (table 4). The peak rate of remarriage for women, 433 per 1,000, occurred in the youngest age group, 14 to 24 years. Rates for women remarrying declined steadily with age. The same decline existed for men, except that the peak rate for men occurred in the age group 25 to 29 years with the age group 14 to 24 years a close second. The remarriage rate for men 14 to 24 years was 521 and the rate for men 24 to 29 years was 524. A remarriage rate for men of 500 per 1,000 indicates that for every two widowed and divorced men in the MRA in 1969 one remarried during the year.

The high remarriage rates for young previously married men and women were attributable mainly to the large number of young divorced persons remarrying. The peak remarriage rate for divorced men and women occurred for the age group 14 to 24 years. For women this rate was 478, and for men it was 495. The remarriage rates for the divorced also declined with age, similar to the pattern for all remarriages.

Although the rates for the widowed were also higher at younger ages, they were much lower than the rates for the divorced for the following broad age groups:

Age at remarriage	Bride		Groom	
	Wid- owed	Di- vorced	Wid- owed	Di- vorced
14-44 years-----	74.7	232.0	146.2	367.9
45-64 years-----	17.5	45.6	83.1	113.2
65 years and over----	2.3	7.0	17.7	29.3

The low rates for widows at the later ages were due to the very large number of older widows. Although not as many widowers as widows remarried in 1969, the rates were higher for men since the number of available widowers was

respectively. These percents were considerably above the national figure of approximately 25 percent. Alaska was third followed by two Southern States, Florida and Georgia. At the opposite extreme were the 39th and 40th States, Utah and Wisconsin, with 14 and 12 percent, respectively.

Many States in the Northeast Region had a low percent of remarriages. The exception, New Hampshire, ranked sixth with 30 percent of its marriages reported as remarriages. The following seven Northeastern States had remarriage percents of 20 or less and were among the last 13 of the 40 States—Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.

Bearing on the variation in the number of remarriages between States are the differences between the marriage and divorce laws. Remarriages tend to occur shortly after the dissolution of the last marriage, especially in the case of the divorced who constitute the larger proportion of those remarrying. Persons wishing to remarry may migrate to a State where a divorce may be obtained quickly and where there is no waiting period before a divorced person can remarry.

An examination of the residency requirements in various States before a divorce can be granted yields interesting results. The laws are referred to as they existed in 1969 since the data by State are for that year (table 3). The residency requirement in Idaho was only 6 weeks and in Wyoming it was only 2 months. Both Florida and Georgia, two other States in the first five, had residency requirements of only 6 months. After the first five States, the required residency was most frequently 1 year. A few States with a percent of remarriages close to the average for all States have residency requirements of 3 to 6 months, but most have periods of 1 to 2 years.

Another State law which would affect remarriage concerns the interval of time after a final divorce decree before a person can remarry. In the 10 States with the highest percent of remarriages there were no waiting periods. In 7 of the 10 States with the lowest percent of remarriages there was a waiting period of 3 months to 1 year. In many States this law only applies when the ground for divorce is adultery, which would not have an effect on most divorces because adultery is used infrequently as a ground.

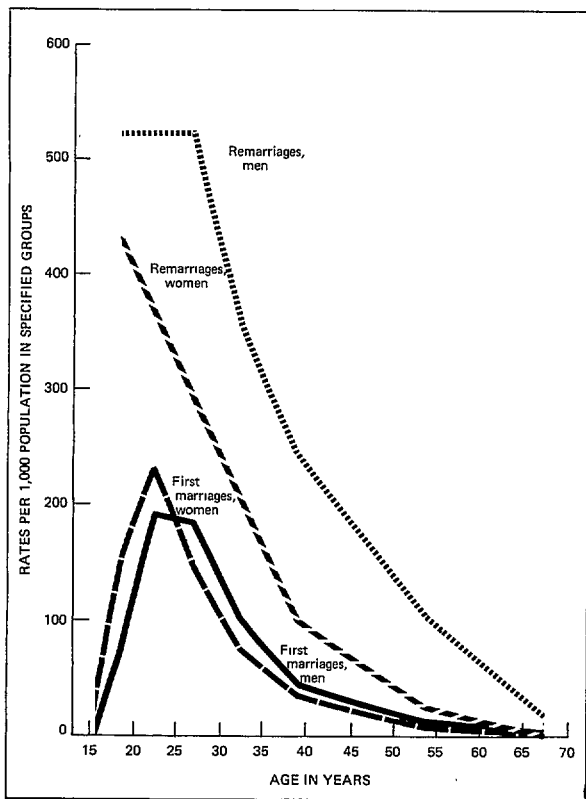


Figure 2. Marriage rates of men and women by age and marriage order: Marriage-registration area, 1969

smaller than the number of widows. Three factors, the shorter life expectancy of males, the higher remarriage rates for men than for women, and the tradition of men marrying women younger than themselves contribute to the imbalance of women over men in this category.

At all ages remarriage rates for men and women were higher than the comparable first marriage rates (figure 2). For women of all ages remarrying in the MRA the marriage rate in 1969 was 36.7, less than half the rate for first-marrying women. However, for women at ages 14 through 24 the remarriage rate was more than 4 times the first marriage rate. In this same age group the rate of remarriage for men was more than 7 times the rate for first marriages. The differences in rates by marriage order continued for the older age groups as shown in the following table:

Age at marriage	Bride		Groom	
	First marriages	Remarriages	First marriages	Remarriages
14-24 years-----	100.8	432.9	73.0	521.1
25-29 years-----	146.9	291.6	188.5	523.8
30-34 years-----	76.3	206.3	102.6	359.6
35-44 years-----	35.8	100.6	47.1	245.9
45-64 years-----	9.9	24.9	13.8	102.0
65 years and over-	0.9	2.5	2.7	19.0

Remarriage rates were higher for men than women in both the widowed and the divorced categories and for every age group. For all remarriages the gap between the rates for men and women increased with age. This was true for the divorced and the widowed. Only in the age group 14 to 24 years was the difference in remarriage rates for divorced men and divorced women small.

### Median Age

The median age at remarriage is considerably higher than the median age at first marriage. In 1969 the difference was about 13 years for women and nearly 16 years for men. For women the remarriage median falls in the middle thirties; for men it falls in the late thirties. Within the remarrying group, differences are substantial between medians for the widowed and the divorced. For both sexes in the MRA the median age for the widowed who remarried in 1969 was over 20 years higher than that for the divorced (table C).

Median age also varied according to the previous marital status of both partners (figure 3 and table 5). Within each group of brides (single, divorced, and widowed) median ages were highest in the subgroup when the groom was widowed, second highest when the groom was divorced, and lowest when the groom was single. This was also true for each marital status category of grooms. Thus for any marital status category, such as single grooms or widowed brides, the median age was lowest when the partner was a single person, highest when the partner was a widowed person, and somewhere between these when the partner was divorced.

The median age for grooms was higher than the median age for brides for each pairing of mar-

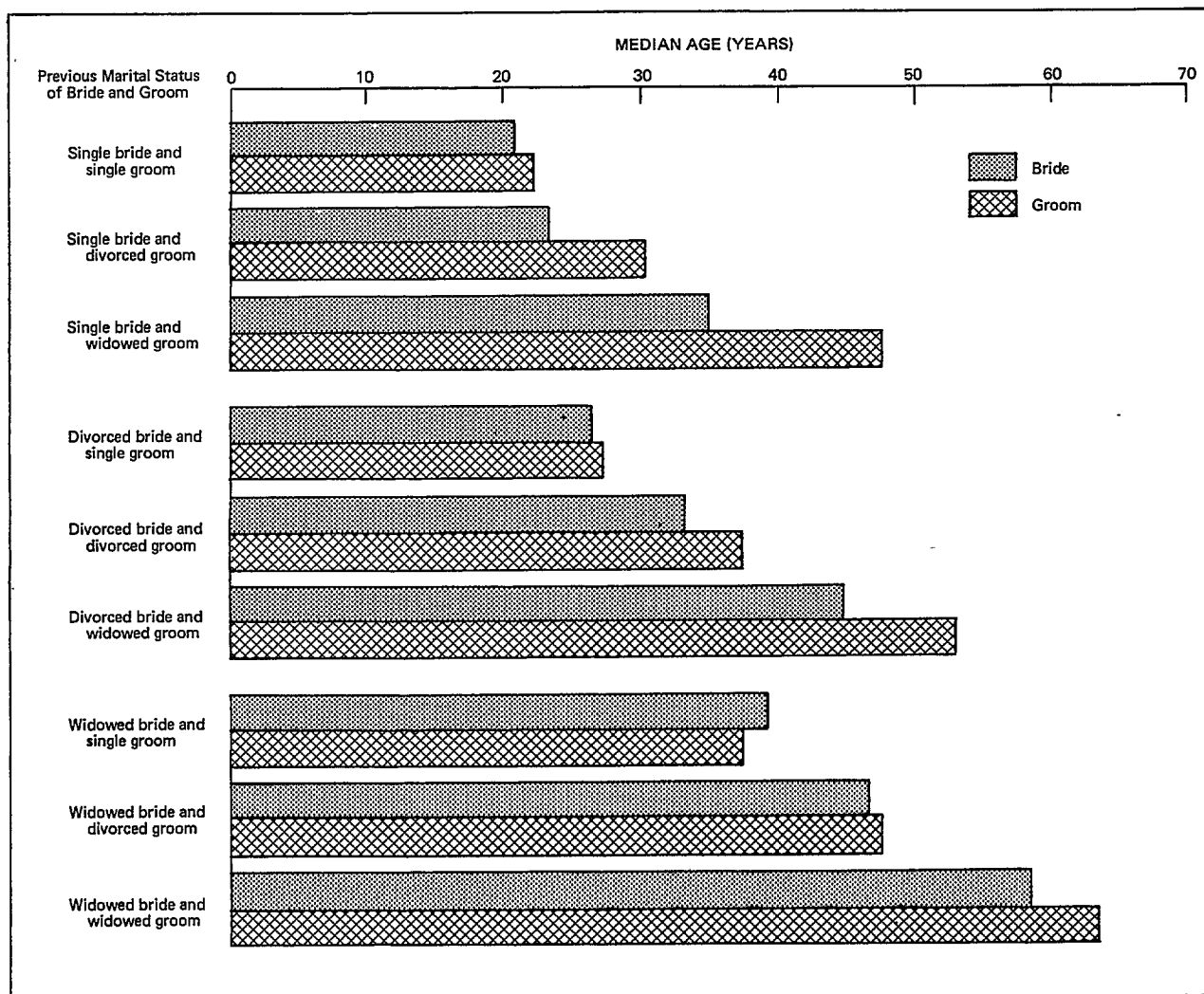


Figure 3. Median age at marriage of bride and groom by previous marital status of each partner: Marriage-registration area, 1969

ital status categories, with one exception—when single men married widowed women. For this group in 1969 the median age for grooms was 2 years below the median age for brides. Of the other pairings of marital status categories in which the median age of the grooms exceeded that of the brides, the difference between median ages of brides and grooms was greatest in marriages of widowed men to single women, 12.8 years, and least in marriages of single men to divorced women, 0.3 years.

In the MRA median age at remarriage declined considerably in the period from 1963 to

1969 (table C). Median ages for both remarriage brides and grooms dropped about 2 years over this period. However, within those figures the median age of the divorced decreased while the median age of the widowed increased for both brides and grooms.

#### Percent Distribution of Remarriages by Age at Marriage

The percent of all brides in an age group that are marrying for the first time falls off rapidly after age group 20 to 24 years, while the

Table C. Median age of bride and groom by previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1963 to 1969

[Figures for widowed and divorced exclude data from Michigan and Ohio]

Year	Median age of bride					Median age of groom				
	All marriages	First marriages	Remarriages			All marriages	First marriages	Remarriages		
			All	Widowed	Divorced			All	Widowed	Divorced
1969-----	21.6	20.6	33.8	51.3	30.4	23.5	22.4	38.2	59.0	34.7
1968-----	21.5	20.6	33.8	50.6	30.7	23.6	22.4	38.3	57.9	35.1
1967-----	21.4	20.5	35.0	50.1	31.2	23.8	22.6	39.1	57.6	35.5
1966-----	21.5	20.3	35.2	50.2	31.4	23.8	22.6	39.2	57.9	35.8
1965-----	21.4	20.4	35.5	50.1	31.7	23.6	22.5	39.6	57.8	36.0
1964-----	21.4	20.4	35.6	50.3	31.7	23.6	22.4	39.7	58.0	36.4
1963-----	21.3	20.3	35.6	49.7	31.8	23.7	22.5	39.8	58.0	36.3

percent of first marriages declines more gradually for grooms (table D). As the age of the brides passes from the late twenties to the early thirties, remarriages as a percent of all marriages rise

from 43 to 67 percent. In the 30 to 34 year old group, two-thirds of the brides had been married before, whereas only about one-half of the grooms in this age group had been married before. For

Table D. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom, by age at marriage: Marriage-registration area, 1969

Age at marriage	Bride					Groom				
	All marriages	Single	Previously married			All marriages	Single	Previously married		
			Total	Widowed	Divorced			Total	Widowed	Divorced
All ages----	100.0	76.9	23.1	5.2	17.9	100.0	76.7	23.3	4.5	18.7
14-19 years-----	100.0	98.0	2.0	0.1	1.9	100.0	99.3	0.7	0.0	0.6
20-24 years-----	100.0	89.5	10.5	0.5	9.9	100.0	95.2	4.8	0.1	4.7
25-29 years-----	100.0	57.3	42.7	2.5	40.2	100.0	74.7	25.3	0.6	24.7
30-34 years-----	100.0	33.4	66.6	6.2	60.4	100.0	49.3	50.7	2.3	48.4
35-44 years-----	100.0	19.4	80.6	15.3	65.2	100.0	29.1	70.9	6.4	64.5
45-54 years-----	100.0	11.9	88.1	38.3	49.8	100.0	15.6	84.4	21.3	63.1
55-64 years-----	100.0	9.3	90.7	65.7	25.0	100.0	11.4	88.6	49.2	39.4
65 years and over-----	100.0	4.7	95.3	85.1	10.1	100.0	4.5	95.5	78.9	16.6

men the percent previously married was 71 percent for the 35 to 44 year age group, and it continued to increase for later age groups.

The larger number of women than men remarrying at the younger ages reflects the younger ages at which women have their initial marriages. Another consideration is that women who marry at extremely young ages are more likely than those who marry at a more mature age to have their marriage dissolved by divorce. These early divorces increase the number of remarriage eligibles and serve to lower the age at which remarriage could occur for women.

The proportion of marriages accounted for by remarriages of the widowed gradually overtakes the proportion accounted for by the divorced. For both men and women married during 1969 in the MRA, the widowed were a greater proportion of those married than the divorced beginning with

the age group 55 to 64. However, the widowed as a percent of all marriages was very small for men until the age group 45 to 54.

### Age Differences Between Partners

The age difference between the bride and groom varies according to the marriage order of each partner. Table E shows a percent distribution of age differences for four groups of couples: those for whom it was a first marriage for both bride and groom, a first marriage for the bride and a remarriage for the groom, a remarriage for the bride and a first marriage for the groom, and those for whom it was a remarriage for both bride and groom. These data are from the MRA in 1969. The comparison between the group comprised of first marriages of both partners and the group comprised of remarriages

Table E. Percent distribution of marriages by the age difference between the bride and groom, by marriage order of bride and groom: Marriage-registration area, 1969

Age difference between bride and groom	First marriage of bride		Remarriage of bride	
	First marriage of groom	Remarriage of groom	First marriage of groom	Remarriage of groom
Number of couples-----	1,137,460	119,668	117,659	259,596
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Bride younger than groom-----	71.6	89.5	50.1	70.7
20 years or more younger-----	0.2	5.2	0.4	3.2
15-19 years younger-----	0.4	6.5	1.3	5.3
10-14 years younger-----	1.7	15.4	3.8	12.5
5-9 years younger-----	12.3	33.2	13.1	23.5
4 years younger-----	8.2	9.1	5.6	6.2
3 years younger-----	12.6	8.3	7.3	6.7
2 years younger-----	17.0	6.6	8.5	6.5
1 year younger-----	19.3	5.1	10.2	6.8
Bride same age as groom-----	16.1	4.2	10.0	6.6
Bride older than groom-----	12.3	6.2	39.9	22.7
1 year older-----	7.0	2.2	8.1	4.4
2 years older-----	2.5	1.1	6.1	3.7
3 years older-----	1.2	0.9	5.2	3.2
4 years older-----	0.6	0.6	4.2	2.3
5-9 years older-----	0.8	1.1	11.0	6.6
10 years or more older-----	0.2	0.3	5.4	2.5

of both partners showed marked differences, and each of the two groups in which one partner was marrying for the first time and the other was remarrying had a distinct pattern from the other three groups.

The group of couples with both partners remarrying did not have proportionally as many couples who were close in age as the group of couples with both partners marrying for the first time. The percents of couples with partners who were both marrying for the first time where the bride was 1, 2, 3, or 4 years younger, the same age, or 1 year older than the groom were greater than the comparable percents for couples with partners who were both remarrying. The total of these six age-difference categories comprised 80 percent of all the marriages between two persons who had never been married before, while for marriages between persons who were both remarrying only 37 percent were in these age-difference categories.

In addition to having proportionally more couples with large age differences, the group of couples with both partners remarrying contained a larger proportion of couples where the bride was older than the groom compared with the group of couples with both partners marrying for the first time. The comparable percents were 23 and 12, respectively. For all the age-difference categories where the bride was older than the groom, with the exception of 1 year older, there were proportionally more couples in the remarriages of both partners group than the first marriages of both partners group.

In marriages where the groom had been married before and the bride was marrying for the first time, the bride was younger than the groom for 90 percent of the couples. This percent was larger than the corresponding percent for any of the other three groups of marriage-order pairings. Furthermore, the bride tended to be considerably younger than the groom, with 60 percent of all marriages in this group having a bride 5 or more years younger than the groom, and 27 percent having a bride 10 or more years younger than the groom. In comparison, within the group of marriages between two persons marrying for the first time, the bride was 5 or more years younger than the groom in only 15 percent of the marriages and she was 10 or more

years younger than the groom in only 2 percent of the marriages.

In contrast, the group in which the bride had been married previously and the groom was marrying for the first time included a large percent of couples where the bride was older than the groom. The bride was older than the groom in 40 percent of all marriages in this group. The percent in each subgroup from bride 1 year older to bride 10 years or more older than the groom was larger than the percent for any of the other three groups of marriage-order pairings.

## SELECTION BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS

Most persons marry those of like marital status. In 1969 in the MRA over 90 percent of the single men married single women and vice versa (table F). About 54 percent of the divorced men and 57 percent of the divorced women married divorced partners, and 54 percent of the widowers selected widows, although only 46 percent of the widows selected widowers. The largest percent of the marriages of persons in any marital status category were to those in the same category. The second largest percent for the divorced was to single persons and the second largest percent for the widowed was to divorced persons.

In 1969 marriages between two single persons comprised 72 percent of all marriages, remarriages in which both partners were divorced comprised 9 percent, and remarriages between widowed partners comprised only 2 percent (figure 4).

In discussing selection by previous marital status, numbers of eligible persons in each marital status group according to age must be considered. Much of the selection by previous marital status can be accounted for by numbers of eligibles. For example, young single persons would be most likely to marry single rather than divorced or widowed persons, because most unmarried persons within a few years of their age have never been married and very few have been widowed or divorced. However, for the remarried, some of the selection does not seem to be solely due to the distribution of the population.

Divorced men and women who remarried tended to choose divorced partners. This fact

Table F. Percent distribution of marriages of single, widowed, and divorced men and women by marital status of partner and sex: Marriage-registration area excluding Michigan and Ohio, 1969

Marital status and sex	Total	Marital status of partner		
		Single	Widowed	Divorced
Single:				
Men-----	100.0	91.6	1.1	7.3
Women-----	100.0	91.5	0.8	7.6
Widowed:				
Men-----	100.0	16.3	53.9	29.8
Women-----	100.0	18.2	46.3	35.5
Divorced:				
Men-----	100.0	35.9	9.9	54.2
Women-----	100.0	35.7	7.5	56.8

takes on greater significance when it is realized that single persons comprised the largest proportion of eligibles in the age group 20-64, the group containing most of the divorced persons who remarried. For both men and women, over 50 percent of the remarriages of the divorced were to divorced partners (table F) while less than 20 percent of the unmarried population ages 20-64 was divorced (table G). Thus for divorced men and women there did appear to be selection in favor of a divorced person rather than a single or widowed person.

For both men and women, the widowed who remarried chose partners in the order of widowed, divorced, and single. The distribution of the eligible population at ages 25 years and over, a relevant population for the widowed, was, however, in the order of single, widowed, and divorced for men, and widowed, single, and divorced for women.

Among the eligible partners for widowed women there were many more single than widowed or divorced men. The proportions of the marriages of widowed women to widowed and divorced men were far greater than the proportions of eligible men in those groups.

For widowed men, widowed women were by far the largest eligible group. The proportion of

the marriages of widowed men to widowed women was less than, but close to, the proportion of the female population in that category. As was the case for widowed women, more widowed men married divorced partners than would be indicated by the population distribution.

In other words when comparing the percent distribution of marriages to that of the eligible population, widowed women selected in the order of widowed and divorced rather than single men, and widowed men selected in the order of divorced and widowed rather than single women.

In summary, the distribution by marital status of partners selected by persons remarrying departs from the distribution of the eligible population by marital status, largely in favor of the divorced.

### THE PERIOD BETWEEN DIVORCE OR WIDOWHOOD AND REMARRIAGE

Most persons who remarry do so in a relatively short period of time after their previous marriage is dissolved. The interval following the death or divorce that ended their prior marriage for brides and grooms remarrying in 1969 is



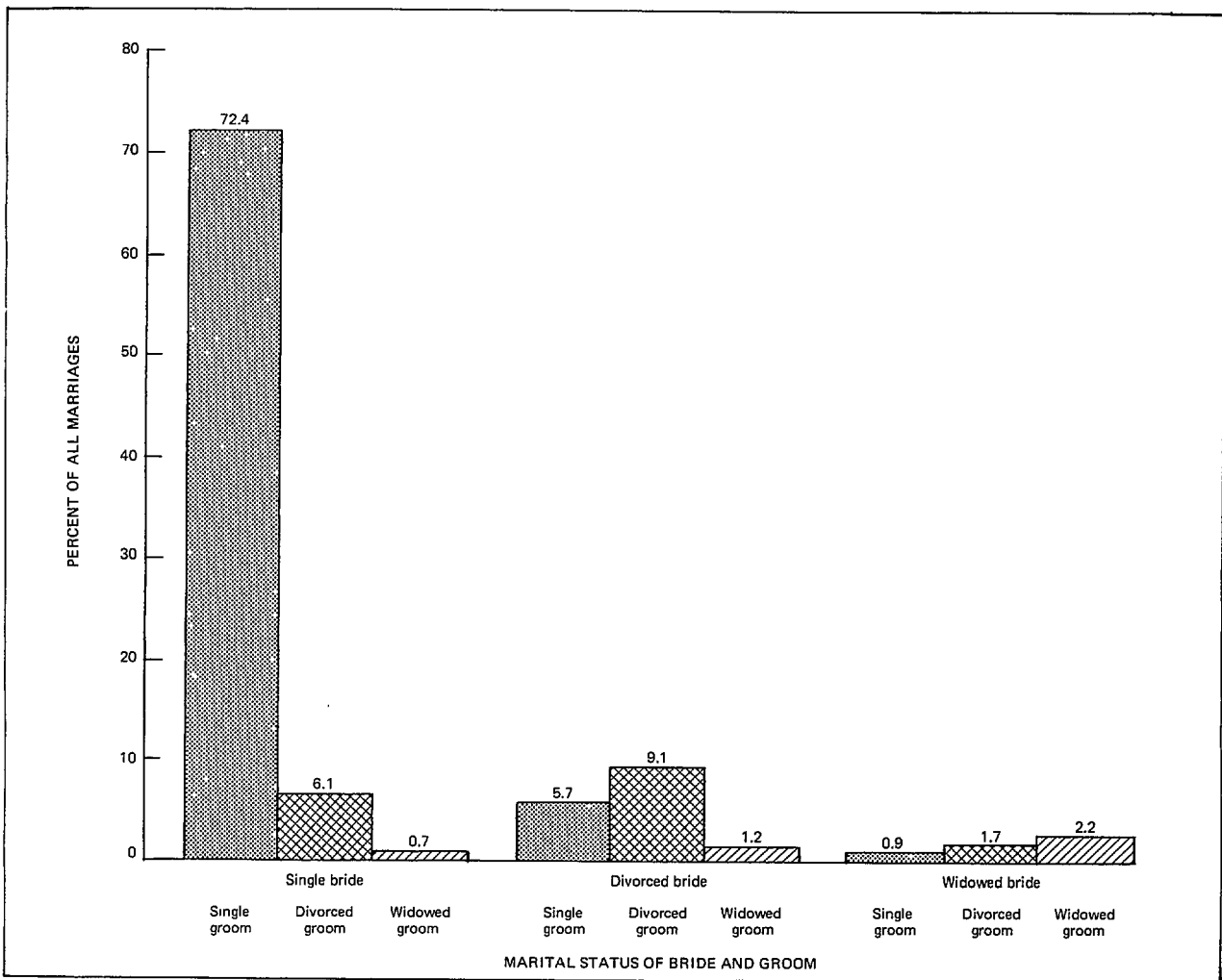


Figure 4. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of bride and of groom: Marriage-registration area, 1969

Table G. Percent distribution of the unmarried population of men and women at ages 20-64 years and 25 years and over by marital status: Marriage-registration area excluding Michigan and Ohio, 1969

Age group and sex	Total	Marital status		
		Single	Widowed	Divorced
20-64 years:				
Men-----	100.0	81.2	5.8	13.1
Women-----	100.0	51.8	29.2	19.0
25 years and over:				
Men-----	100.0	56.8	25.4	17.8
Women-----	100.0	25.2	60.3	14.5

Table H. Medians and quartiles of the interval since last marriage ended for remarriages by previous marital status of bride and of groom: total of 15 States for the divorced; total of 9 States for the widowed, 1969

Previous marital status	Interval in years		
	First quartile	Median	Third quartile
Divorced: <sup>1</sup>			
Bride-----	0.4	1.2	3.2
Groom-----	0.3	1.0	2.9
Widowed: <sup>2</sup>			
Bride-----	1.8	3.6	7.0
Groom-----	0.9	1.9	4.0

<sup>1</sup>California, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

<sup>2</sup>California, Hawaii, Kansas, Montana, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

available from a limited number of States (table H).

Widowed men remarried much sooner than widowed women. For the nine States for which information was available, median duration of widowhood was 3.6 years for widows, but only 1.9 years for widowers. The first and third quartiles, between which 50 percent of all the widowed remarried, were 1.8 years and 7.0 years for widows, a period of about 5 years. For widowers they were 0.9 and 4.0, a period of about 3 years.

For those who remarried, median duration of divorce was even shorter than that of widowhood, but differences between these figures by sex were slight. In the 15 States, 25 percent of the previously divorced brides and grooms remarried within 4 to 5 months after divorce, 50 percent remarried within slightly more than one year, and 75 percent remarried within approximately 3 years.

It appears from the limited data available that the chances for remarriage are at a maximum shortly after the dissolution of the previous marriage.

## THE REMARRIAGE CEREMONY

### Location and Resident Status

The location of a marriage ceremony and the resident status of the participants varied with marriage order, according to data from the MRA in 1969. Among both brides and grooms, residents of the State where the marriage was performed were more numerous at first marriage than at remarriage. Remarrying couples were more likely to have their ceremony away from their home State.

The percent of resident brides was higher than the percent of resident grooms for both first marriages and remarriages, but the difference was more pronounced for first marriages (table J). This reflects a social norm for the United States that the bride marry near her home. In the case of remarriage this norm does not appear to be followed as closely.

The group in which resident grooms married resident brides, which was the largest group for both first marriages and remarriages, was a slightly smaller proportion of all remarriages than of all first marriages. In contrast, the group in which nonresident brides married nonresident grooms was almost twice as great a proportion of remarriages as it was of first marriages. Much of this migration of persons remarrying is undoubtedly due to the divorced who travel to another State to obtain a divorce and then remarry there.

The differences in resident status between first marriages and remarriages appears to be due more to the greater proportion of nonresident brides than nonresident grooms. The total proportion of first marriages involving a nonresident bride was 9.9, while the total proportion of remarriages involving a nonresident bride was 16.8. The comparable percents for nonresident grooms were 15.6 for first marriages and 18.4 for remarriages.

Table J. Percent distribution of marriages by resident status of bride and groom in State where married, by marriage order: Marriage-registration area, 1969

Marriage order	Total	Resident bride		Nonresident bride	
		Resident groom	Nonresident groom	Resident groom	Nonresident groom
All marriages-----	100.0	81.6	7.0	2.2	9.2
First marriages:					
Bride-----	100.0	82.3	7.8	2.1	7.8
Groom-----	100.0	82.3	7.7	2.1	8.0
Remarriages:					
Bride-----	100.0	78.8	4.4	2.6	14.2
Groom-----	100.0	78.9	4.7	2.7	13.7

### Type of Ceremony

Couples who are remarrying are more likely to have a civil ceremony than couples who are marrying for the first time. Data on marriages by type of ceremony are not available from the MRA in 1969, but they are available for 1965. In 1965 the proportion of brides and grooms who married in a civil ceremony in the MRA was lowest among those who were entering their first marriage and highest among those who had been previously divorced. About 2 out of every 5 remarriages were solemnized with a civil ceremony as compared to only 1 out of every 5 first marriages (table K).

The proportion of remarriages by civil officiant varied according to sex, previous marital status, and age. Women who remarried in 1965 were more likely to have a civil ceremony than men who remarried that year. This was true for both the widowed and the divorced.

The proportion of remarriages by civil ceremony was larger among persons who had been divorced than among those who had been widowed. One explanation of this difference is that while remarriages, whether as a result of divorce or of the death of a spouse, are permitted by the civil laws of every State, feelings against divorce and remarriage still exist. In some religions it is difficult for a divorced person to be married by a church official.

Table K. Percent distribution of marriages by type of ceremony performed, by previous marital status of bride and groom: Marriage-registration area, 1965

[Data for Kentucky and Ohio excluded; figures for widowed and divorced also exclude data from Michigan]

Previous marital status	All marriages	Type of ceremony	
		Civil	Religious
All marriages:			
Bride-----	100.0	24.5	75.5
Groom-----	100.0	24.5	75.5
First marriages:			
Bride-----	100.0	19.4	80.6
Groom-----	100.0	20.0	80.0
All remarriages:			
Bride-----	100.0	42.5	57.5
Groom-----	100.0	40.1	59.9
Widowed:			
Bride-----	100.0	30.7	69.3
Groom-----	100.0	26.5	73.5
Divorced:			
Bride-----	100.0	46.3	53.7
Groom-----	100.0	43.8	56.2

After the age group 25 to 29 years for women and the age group 35 to 44 years for men the likelihood of a civil ceremony for a couple who was re-marrying declined for each older age group (table 6). The percent of civil ceremonies in the re-marrying group decreased with age to 26 percent for brides and 30 percent for grooms 65 years of age and over.

This decline was primarily true of the widowed, not the divorced. A decrease in the percent of civil ceremonies for widowed brides and grooms occurred for each successive age group, except for the 35 to 44 year age group when there was an increase above the percent for ages 25 to 34 for both brides and grooms, and for grooms 65 years and over there was an increase over the 55-64 year age group. In contrast, for divorced men the percent of civil marriages fluctuated between 41 percent and 47 percent for all age groups with the exception of those aged 65 and older when it rose to 52 percent. The fluctuation for divorced women was between 45 and 48 percent, except for ages 65 and over when the percent of civil ceremonies was only 30 percent.

### Month of Marriage

The seasonality of remarriages with relatively small month-to-month fluctuations differs from that of first marriages with its sharper monthly swings (figure 5). This more pronounced peaking of first marriages in certain months is reflected in the marriage statistics as a whole. For example, June has usually been the most popular month for marriages in the MRA. However,

the larger number of marriages in June tends to reflect the popularity of that month among first-marrying couples who constitute a large majority of the brides and grooms. In contrast, the peak month of remarriages in 1969 was August for both brides and grooms. Compared to first marriages, remarriages tended to be proportionally more frequent in the first and last quarter of the year (table 7). Remarriages were more evenly distributed over the twelve months than first marriages.

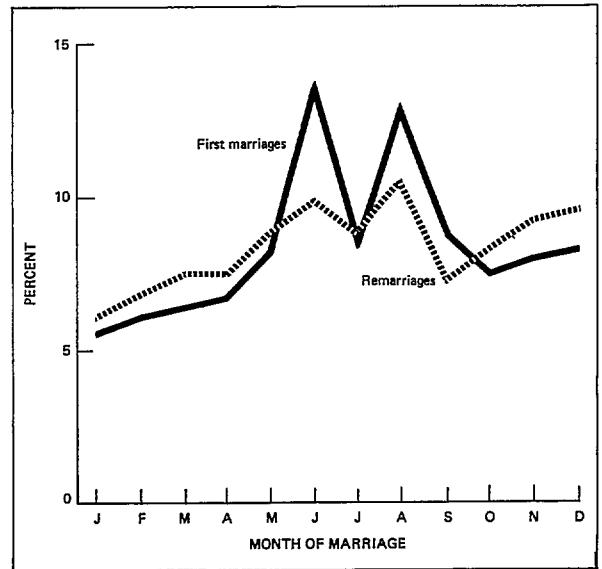


Figure 5. Percent distribution of first marriages and remarriages of brides by month of marriage: Marriage-registration area, 1969



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Table 1. Percent distribution of the population 14 years and over by marital status, standardized for age, and unstandardized: United States, 1940 to 1969

Year	Male					Female				
	Total	Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced
<u>Standardized for age<sup>1</sup></u>										
1969-----	100.0	23.7	70.6	3.2	2.4	100.0	19.2	65.3	12.0	3.5
1965-----	100.0	24.1	70.4	3.2	2.3	100.0	18.8	66.0	12.2	3.0
1960-----	100.0	25.3	69.1	3.7	1.9	100.0	19.0	65.6	12.8	2.6
1955-----	100.0	25.4	68.4	4.4	1.8	100.0	19.1	65.2	13.5	2.2
1950-----	100.0	26.2	67.4	4.7	1.7	100.0	20.0	63.9	14.0	2.1
1947-----	100.0	27.2	66.5	4.8	1.5	100.0	21.4	62.5	14.1	2.0
1940-----	100.0	30.7	62.6	5.4	1.3	100.0	24.2	59.3	14.8	1.6
<u>Unstandardized</u>										
1969-----	100.0	27.4	67.0	3.3	2.3	100.0	21.8	62.3	12.5	3.3
1965-----	100.0	26.6	67.9	3.3	2.2	100.0	20.7	63.9	12.5	2.9
1960-----	100.0	25.3	69.1	3.7	1.9	100.0	19.0	65.6	12.8	2.6
1955-----	100.0	24.0	69.9	4.3	1.8	100.0	18.2	66.8	12.8	2.3
1950-----	100.0	26.2	68.0	4.2	1.7	100.0	19.6	66.1	12.2	2.2
1947-----	100.0	28.2	66.2	4.1	1.6	100.0	22.0	64.2	11.6	2.1
1940-----	100.0	34.8	59.7	4.2	1.2	100.0	27.6	59.5	11.3	1.6

<sup>1</sup>Standardized on the basis of the age distribution in 1960.

Sources: 1940-1965, "Marital Status and Family Status: March 1966," Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 159, January 25, 1967. 1969, "Marital Status and Family Status: March 1969," Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 198, March 25, 1970.

Table 2. Marriage rates by previous marital status of bride and groom: Marriage-registration area, 1960, 1963 to 1969

[Rates per 1,000 population 14 years and over in specified age groups]

Year	All marriages	First marriages	Remarriages		
			Total	Wid-owed <sup>1</sup>	Di-vorced <sup>1</sup>
<u>Bride</u>					
1969-----	67.4	87.9	36.7	10.3	135.4
1968-----	66.9	88.0	35.5	9.9	132.8
1967-----	64.0	85.2	34.2	10.1	129.8
1966-----	63.9	85.0	34.2	10.0	130.0
1965-----	63.6	84.4	33.7	10.2	129.7
1964-----	63.4	83.4	34.3	10.6	125.8
1963-----	61.7	82.0	33.0	10.2	133.5
1960-----	64.1	87.5	32.7	10.4	122.1
<u>Groom</u>					
1969-----	81.9	73.8	117.9	39.3	220.8
1968-----	81.0	73.8	111.6	38.1	209.5
1967-----	77.4	71.0	107.9	37.4	206.8
1966-----	76.3	69.4	110.1	38.8	210.8
1965-----	74.7	68.2	103.8	37.2	215.3
1964-----	73.2	67.2	98.5	35.7	197.2
1963-----	72.5	66.6	97.1	38.4	177.0
1960-----	75.0	70.7	89.1	36.1	167.7

<sup>1</sup>Excludes data in Michigan and Ohio.

Table 3. Percent distribution of marriages by marriage order of bride: Each marriage registration State, ranked in order of percent of remarriages, 1969

State	Rank	All marriages	Remarriage of bride	First marriage of bride
Idaho-----	1	100.0	41.9	58.1
Wyoming-----	2	100.0	38.4	61.6
Alaska-----	3	100.0	37.1	62.9
Florida-----	4	100.0	35.7	64.3
Georgia-----	5	100.0	34.5	65.5
New Hampshire-----	6	100.0	29.9	70.1
Tennessee-----	7	100.0	29.6	70.4
Indiana-----	8	100.0	28.8	71.2
South Dakota-----	9	100.0	28.3	71.7
Missouri-----	10	100.0	27.1	72.9
Illinois-----	11	100.0	27.0	73.0
Mississippi-----	12	100.0	26.6	73.4
Virginia-----	13	100.0	24.8	75.2
Alabama-----	14	100.0	24.7	75.3
Kansas-----	15	100.0	24.6	75.4
Michigan-----	16	100.0	23.9	76.1
Maine-----	17	100.0	23.8	76.2
Ohio-----	18	100.0	23.6	76.4
California-----	19	100.0	23.5	76.5
Maryland-----	19	100.0	23.5	76.5
Nebraska-----	21	100.0	22.3	77.7
Oregon-----	22	100.0	22.2	77.8
Montana-----	23	100.0	22.0	78.0
Kentucky-----	24	100.0	21.8	78.2
Hawaii-----	25	100.0	20.9	79.1
West Virginia-----	26	100.0	20.5	79.5
Louisiana-----	27	100.0	20.1	79.9
Connecticut-----	28	100.0	19.8	80.2
Pennsylvania-----	29	100.0	18.3	81.7
Delaware-----	30	100.0	18.0	82.0
Vermont-----	31	100.0	17.7	82.3
North Carolina-----	32	100.0	17.6	82.4
Iowa-----	33	100.0	16.8	83.2
New Jersey-----	34	100.0	16.1	83.9
New York-----	35	100.0	16.0	84.0
Rhode Island-----	36	100.0	15.8	84.2
District of Columbia-----	37	100.0	15.3	84.7
Massachusetts-----	38	100.0	14.7	85.3
Utah-----	39	100.0	14.1	85.9
Wisconsin-----	40	100.0	12.3	87.7



Table 4. Marriage rates by previous marital status and age of bride and groom: Marriage-registration area, 1969

[Rates per 1,000 population in specified groups]

Age	All marriages		First marriages		Remarriages		Widowed <sup>1</sup>		Divorced <sup>1</sup>	
	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom
Total-----	67.4	81.9	87.9	73.8	36.7	117.9	10.3	39.3	135.4	220.8
14-17 years----	26.1	3.7	25.4	3.6	432.9	521.1	74.7	146.2	477.6	494.9
18-19 years----	165.4	76.9	159.4	75.3						
20-24 years----	249.5	201.7	234.6	192.5						
25-29 years----	189.0	227.7	146.9	188.5	291.6	523.8	190.6	351.9		
30-34 years----	132.9	163.1	76.3	102.6	206.3	359.6				
35-44 years----	74.9	111.1	35.8	47.1	100.6	245.9				
45-64 years----	21.5	53.9	9.9	13.8	24.9	102.0	17.5	83.1	45.6	113.2
65 years and over-----	2.4	14.9	0.9	2.7	2.5	19.0	2.3	17.7	7.0	29.3

<sup>1</sup>Excludes data in Michigan and Ohio.

Table 5. Median age at marriage of bride and groom, by previous marital status of each partner: Marriage-registration area, 1969

[Figures for widowed and divorced exclude data for Michigan and Ohio]

Previous marital status	Median age	
	Bride	Groom
All brides:		
All grooms-----	21.6	23.5
Single grooms-----	21.1	22.4
Widowed grooms-----	51.9	59.0
Divorced grooms-----	29.3	34.7
Single brides:		
All grooms-----	20.6	22.9
Single grooms-----	20.4	22.2
Widowed grooms-----	35.0	47.8
Divorced grooms-----	23.3	29.2
Widowed brides:		
All grooms-----	51.3	54.2
Single grooms-----	38.7	36.7
Widowed grooms-----	58.3	63.8
Divorced grooms-----	46.4	47.7
Divorced brides:		
All grooms-----	30.4	33.6
Single grooms-----	26.3	26.6
Widowed grooms-----	45.0	53.0
Divorced grooms-----	33.1	37.3

Table 6. Percent distribution of remarriages by type of ceremony performed, by previous marital status and age of bride and groom: Marriage-registration area, 1965

[Data for Kentucky and Ohio excluded; figures for widowed and divorced also exclude data from Michigan]

Previous marital status and age	Total	Type of ceremony	
		Civil	Religious
<u>All remarriages</u>			
Bride-----	100.0	42.5	57.5
Under 20 years-----	100.0	46.5	53.5
20-24 years-----	100.0	45.0	55.0
25-29 years-----	100.0	45.9	54.1
30-34 years-----	100.0	45.5	54.5
35-44 years-----	100.0	44.8	55.2
45-54 years-----	100.0	38.7	61.3
55-64 years-----	100.0	32.6	67.4
65 years and over-----	100.0	25.6	74.4
Groom-----	100.0	40.1	59.9
Under 20 years-----	100.0	38.1	61.9
20-24 years-----	100.0	40.2	59.8
25-29 years-----	100.0	40.7	59.3
30-34 years-----	100.0	42.8	57.2
35-44 years-----	100.0	43.6	56.4
45-54 years-----	100.0	41.4	58.6
55-64 years-----	100.0	33.3	66.7
65 years and over-----	100.0	29.9	70.1
<u>Widowed</u>			
Bride-----	100.0	30.7	69.3
Under 25 years-----	100.0	39.7	60.3
25-34 years-----	100.0	33.6	66.4
35-44 years-----	100.0	34.1	65.9
45-54 years-----	100.0	30.7	69.3
55-64 years-----	100.0	27.5	72.5
65 years and over-----	100.0	25.8	74.2
Groom-----	100.0	26.5	73.5
Under 25 years-----	100.0	32.6	67.4
25-34 years-----	100.0	27.7	72.3
35-44 years-----	100.0	30.3	69.7
45-54 years-----	100.0	28.0	72.0
55-64 years-----	100.0	23.8	76.2
65 years and over-----	100.0	25.8	74.2
<u>Divorced</u>			
Bride-----	100.0	46.3	53.7
Under 20 years-----	100.0	47.4	52.6
20-24 years-----	100.0	45.7	54.3
25-29 years-----	100.0	46.2	53.8
30-34 years-----	100.0	46.9	53.1
35-44 years-----	100.0	47.6	52.4
45-54 years-----	100.0	44.6	55.4
55-64 years-----	100.0	46.1	53.9
65 years and over-----	100.0	30.0	70.0
Groom-----	100.0	43.8	56.2
Under 20 years-----	100.0	44.9	55.1
20-24 years-----	100.0	40.5	59.5
25-29 years-----	100.0	40.6	59.4
30-34 years-----	100.0	43.4	56.6
35-44 years-----	100.0	44.7	55.3
45-54 years-----	100.0	46.6	53.4
55-64 years-----	100.0	44.8	55.2
65 years and over-----	100.0	52.0	48.0

Table 7. Percent distribution of marriages by month of marriage, by marriage order of bride and groom: Marriage-registration area, 1969

Month of marriage	Bride			Groom		
	All marriages	First marriages	Remarriages	All marriages	First marriages	Remarriages
Total marriages-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
January-----	5.6	5.5	6.0	5.6	5.5	5.9
February-----	6.3	6.1	6.8	6.3	6.2	6.5
March-----	6.6	6.3	7.5	6.6	6.3	7.4
April-----	6.9	6.7	7.5	6.9	6.7	7.5
May-----	8.5	8.3	8.9	8.5	8.4	8.8
June-----	12.8	13.7	9.9	12.8	13.6	10.0
July-----	8.4	8.3	8.7	8.4	8.3	8.8
August-----	12.3	12.9	10.5	12.3	12.9	10.5
September-----	8.3	8.7	7.1	8.3	8.6	7.5
October-----	7.6	7.4	8.3	7.6	7.3	8.5
November-----	8.3	8.0	9.2	8.3	8.0	9.1
December-----	8.5	8.2	9.5	8.5	8.2	9.6

## APPENDIX I

### GENERAL NOTES

The analysis of remarriage statistics in this report is based primarily on frequencies published in *Vital Statistics of the United States*, Volume III, 1969. Data for earlier years used for comparison were taken from appropriate annual volumes of this publication. Each annual volume includes a complete discussion of the technical aspects of the marriage data it contains.

#### Sources of Data

Marriage statistics for the United States and for the marriage-registration area are limited to events occurring during the year and registered within the specified area. Tabulations for States and other areas are by place of occurrence. Events occurring to non-residents are included; marriages of members of the Armed Forces or other U.S. nationals that occur outside of the United States are excluded. United States refers to the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Alaska has been included in the U.S. tabulations since 1959 and Hawaii since 1960. Figures for characteristics of marriages are based on data tabulated from probability samples of records selected in the National Center for Health Statistics from copies of marriage forms sent in by States participating in the MRA.

In 1969 the MRA included 39 States and the District of Columbia. The Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are

a part of the MRA but are excluded from this report. The MRA includes States with central files of marriage certificates and sufficiently complete and accurate reporting of demographic items on their record to warrant collection, processing, and publication in the official U.S. annual reports. Marriages in the MRA represent about 77 percent of the national total in 1969.

#### Marriage Sample

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

#### Estimating Procedures

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

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

Marriage sample - sampling rates and sample size: Marriage-registration area, 1969

Stratum and area	Sampling rate	Number of sample records
Stratum 1: Alaska, Delaware, Vermont, and Wyoming	All records	15,891
Stratum 2: District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Utah	1/2	37,258
Stratum 3: Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oregon and West Virginia	1/5	38,154
Stratum 4: Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin	1/10	59,295
Stratum 5: California, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania	1/20	39,321

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

Rates for census years are based on the population enumerated as of April 1. All other rates are based on estimates of the population present in the area as of July 1, including Armed Forces stationed in the area but excluding Armed Forces abroad. The estimates were prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

#### "Not Stated" Cases

"Not stated" cases arise chiefly from lack of responses to items on reporting forms and from variations in items requested on forms used in the MRA. The numbers of not stated cases for each MRA State and characteristic may be found in *Vital Statistics of the United States*, Volume III, of the appropriate year. In table D of this report the "not stated" cases for previous marital status were distributed before computing the percent distribution.

#### Remarriage Estimates for United States

Estimates of the number of remarriages in the United States for each year, 1965 to 1969, were prepared using the percent of all marriages that were remarriages in the MRA. The MRA consisted of 39 States and the District of Columbia in 1968 and 1969, and 38 States and the District of Columbia in 1965, 1966, and 1967. The addition of Missouri in 1968 affected the percent of remarriages very slightly. The percent of remarriages obtained for each year was multiplied times the unrounded marriage total for the United States in that year. Rates were computed from these estimated numbers per 1,000 divorced and widowed persons in the United States. The estimated total remarriages shown in table A are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

#### Sampling Errors

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

Table I. Standard errors of estimated marriage frequencies: Marriage-registration area, 1969

[Marriages rounded to the nearest 500]

Percent of total marriages in the MRA	Number of marriages	Standard error
100.0	1,660,500	
1.0 or 99.0	16,500 or 1,644,000	457
2.0 or 98.0	33,000 or 1,627,500	643
3.0 or 97.0	50,000 or 1,610,500	783
4.0 or 96.0	66,500 or 1,594,000	900
5.0 or 95.0	83,000 or 1,577,500	1,001
7.0 or 93.0	116,000 or 1,544,500	1,172
10.0 or 90.0	166,000 or 1,494,500	1,378
15.0 or 85.0	249,000 or 1,411,500	1,640
20.0 or 80.0	332,000 or 1,328,500	1,837
25.0 or 75.0	415,000 or 1,245,500	1,989
30.0 or 70.0	498,000 or 1,162,500	2,104
40.0 or 60.0	664,000 or 996,500	2,250
50.0	830,250	2,296

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

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

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

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

As an illustration, table D shows that an estimated 23.1 percent of all brides married in 1969 in the MRA had been previously married. The corresponding number of marriages of the previously married is 383,576. Table I indicates that the sampling error of the number 383,576 must lie somewhere between the sampling error for 20 percent and 25 percent, or between 1,837

Table II. Standard errors of estimated marriage rates (per 1,000 population) by number of marriages and size of base population, and standard errors of the population: Marriage-registration area, 1969

Number of marriages	Percent of total marriages in the MRA	Population in 1,000s										
		25	50	100	200	300	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	15,000
16,500-----	1.0	133.3	47.1	15.5	5.8	3.3	1.6	0.64	0.21	0.10	0.05	0.03
33,000-----	2.0	...	93.3	30.4	11.2	6.2	2.9	1.1	0.32	0.14	0.07	0.04
50,000-----	3.0	...	...	45.7	16.7	9.3	4.3	1.6	0.43	0.18	0.08	0.05
66,500-----	4.0	...	...	60.5	22.1	12.2	5.6	2.0	0.53	0.21	0.09	0.06
83,000-----	5.0	...	...	...	27.4	15.1	6.9	2.5	0.62	0.24	0.10	0.07
116,000-----	7.0	...	...	...	38.2	21.0	9.6	3.3	0.82	0.30	0.12	0.08
166,000-----	10.0	...	...	...	54.4	29.9	13.6	4.7	1.1	0.39	0.15	0.09
249,000-----	15.0	...	...	...	...	44.6	20.2	6.9	1.6	0.52	0.19	0.11
332,000-----	20.0	...	...	...	...	...	26.8	9.2	2.0	0.66	0.22	0.13
415,000-----	25.0	...	...	...	...	...	33.4	11.4	2.5	0.79	0.24	0.14
498,000-----	30.0	...	...	...	...	...	40.1	13.6	3.0	0.92	0.27	0.15
664,000-----	40.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.1	3.9	1.2	0.32	0.16
830,250-----	50.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.5	4.9	1.4	0.36	0.17
996,500-----	60.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	27.0	5.8	1.7	0.41	0.18
1,162,500-----	70.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	31.5	6.7	2.0	0.45	0.18
1,245,500-----	75.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	33.7	7.2	2.1	0.47	0.18
1,328,500-----	80.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	35.9	7.7	2.2	0.49	0.17
1,411,500-----	85.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	38.1	8.2	2.3	0.51	0.17
1,494,500-----	90.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.6	2.5	0.53	0.17
1,577,500-----	95.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.1	2.6	0.55	0.16
1,644,000-----	99.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.5	2.7	0.56	0.16
Standard errors of the population-----		5,000	7,000	9,000	13,000	16,000	20,000	27,000	36,000	41,000	34,000	21,000

and 1,989. By interpolating, a sampling error of 1,931 is obtained, which divided by the total number of MRA marriages (1,660,500) yields .0012 or 0.1 percent. By adding and subtracting 0.1 from 23.1 we obtain the interval 23.0 to 23.2. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that the actual percentage falls within this interval.

To obtain a more exact sampling error for a given marriage frequency the formula used for computing table I can be applied:

$$S_x \doteq 4,592 \sqrt{p \cdot q} \quad (a)$$

Where  $p$  is the percentage of interest and  $q = 1 - p$

Applying this formula to the above example, the sampling error of 383,576 marriages is found to be 1,935, a slightly more accurate figure than 1,931. However, the sampling error of the percent would still be 0.1.

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

$$S_p \doteq \frac{1}{y} \sqrt{S_x^2 - \left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^2 S_y^2} \quad (b)$$

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

$S_x$  = standard error of  $x$   
 $S_y$  = standard error of  $y$

For example, if we desire the standard error of the proportion of remarriages in which the bride was divorced (77.5 percent) then from table D:

$$x = 297,230 \quad y = 383,576$$

From table I, we can interpolate to get

$$S_x \doteq 1,754 \quad S_y \doteq 1,931$$

Applying formula (b),  $S_p \doteq .0024$ . The standard error of the percent is .24.

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

$$S_{x/y} \doteq \frac{1}{y} \sqrt{S_x^2 + \left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^2 S_y^2} \quad (c)$$

Where  $x$  = the estimated frequency of a particular characteristic of the population  
 $y$  = the estimated size of the population at risk  
 $S_x$  = the standard error of  $x$   
 $S_y$  = the standard error of  $y$

It should be noted that formula (c) gives the sampling error of a proportion. To obtain a sampling error of a rate per 1,000,  $s_{x/y}$  must be multiplied by 1,000.

The sampling errors of many such rates are given in table II. For example, the sampling error of the remarriage rate for previously divorced men in the MRA can be approximated. This rate in 1969 was 220.8 (table 2) and the base population was 1,213,000. The total number of remarriages for this population is (1,213,000) (220.8/1,000) = 267,830. From table II an approximate sampling error for the rate can be obtained by using the numbers closest to the numbers in the example. The number of marriages used in the table would be 249,000, and the population would be 1,000,000. For these two numbers an approximate sampling error of 6.9 is obtained from the table.

A more exact sampling error can be computed using formula (c) given above.

$$x = 267,830 \quad y = 1,213,000$$

Calculated from formula (a) for marriage frequencies

$$S_x \doteq 1,688$$

Interpolating from the row of standard errors of the population given in table II

$$S_y \doteq 28,278$$

The resulting  $s_{x/y}$  is .0053. The standard error of the rate per 1,000 is 5.3.

### Statistical Significance

To determine if two proportions  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  (or two percentages of rates converted into proportions) are

significantly different statistically, the following expression can be used:

$$\frac{P_1 - P_2}{\sqrt{S_{p_1}^2 + S_{p_2}^2}} \quad (d)$$

If this quotient is greater than 2, the probability is less than .05 that the difference between the two proportions is due to chance. For example, the remarriage rate for brides 25 to 29 years is 291.6 and the remarriage rate for brides 30 to 34 is 206.3 (table 4). Formula (d) can be used to test whether these two rates are significantly different statistically.

Converting the rates to proportions

$$P_1 = .2916 \quad P_2 = .2063$$

Obtaining the frequencies for these age groups from the annual volume for 1969

$$x_1 = 71,148 \quad x_2 = 49,296$$

Dividing the frequencies by the proportions to obtain the population bases

$$y_1 = 243,992 \quad y_2 = 238,953$$

Interpolating from tables I and II to obtain standard errors of frequencies

$$S_{x_1} \doteq 928 \quad S_{x_2} \doteq 777$$

$$S_{y_1} \doteq 14,320 \quad S_{y_2} \doteq 14,169$$

Applying formula (c)

$$S_{p_1} \doteq .0175 \quad S_{p_2} \doteq .0127$$

The quotient obtained by applying formula (d) is 3.947. Therefore, the two rates can be assumed to be significantly different statistically.





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