Population Characteristics

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VARIATIONS IN MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, AND REMARRIAGE: 1967

Figure 1.--Percent Known to Have Been Divorced: United States, 1967

Source: Table A.
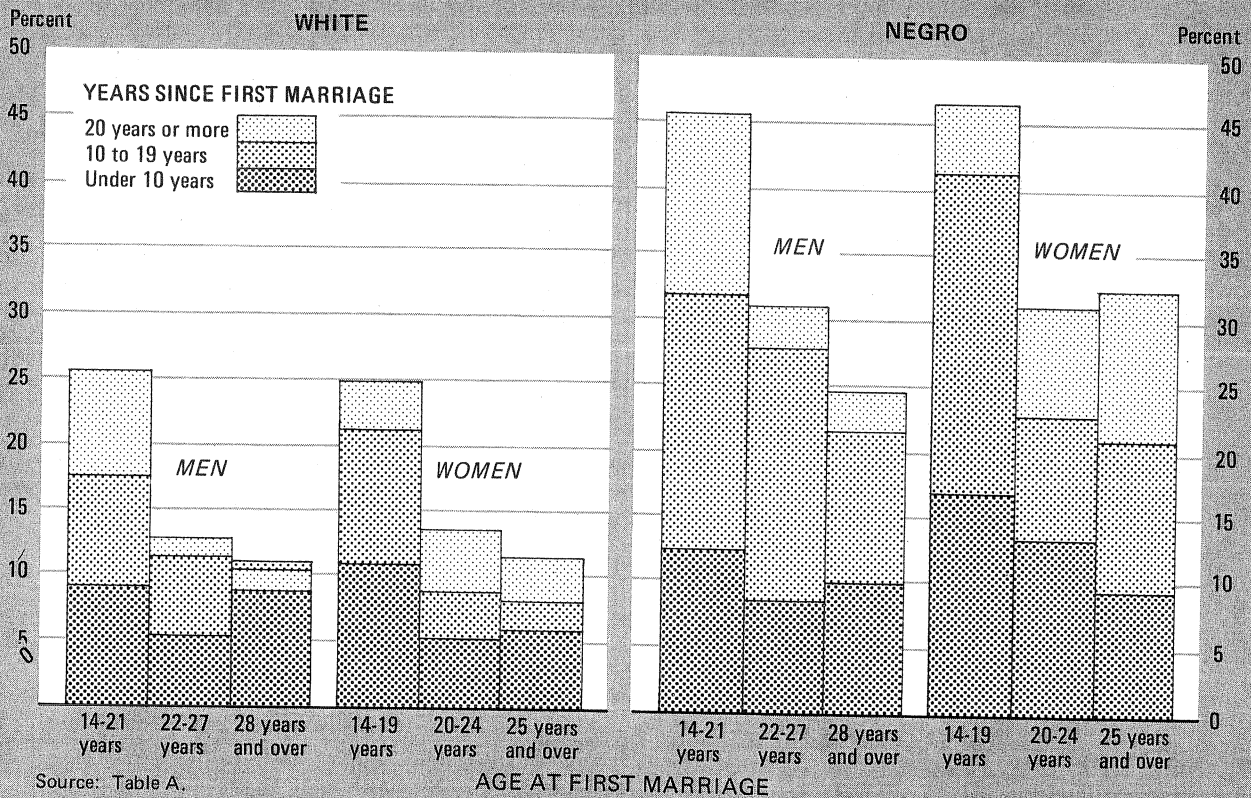
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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VARIATIONS IN MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, AND REMARRIAGE: 1967

PERSONS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN DIVORCED

Persons who marry when they are relatively young are about twice as likely to obtain a divorce as persons who marry when they are older. Among men who had entered marriage at least 20 years before a survey conducted in 1967, 28 percent of those who married before the age of 22 years were known to have been divorced, as compared with 13 percent of those who married for the first time after they had reached 22 years of age. Likewise, 27 percent of the women with teenage marriages were known to have been divorced within 20 or more years, as compared with 14 percent of those who entered first marriage after they had reached their twenties (tables A and 12, and figure 1).

These and other facts about the marriage history of persons 14 to 69 years old are based on the nation-wide Survey of Economic Opportunity that the Bureau of the Census conducted for the Office of Economic Opportunity in the early months of 1967. Data for persons who had married for the first time 20 or more years before the survey are featured because these persons had been subject to divorce throughout the period of life when most divorces occur. The data tabulated for this report are limited to persons under 70 years old because most marriages and divorces occur in that period of life and because the survey results were more complete for those under 70 than for those 70 and over. "Known to have been divorced" means here that the person's first or most recent marriage (or both) had ended in divorce.

For all men under 70 who had ever married--including those who had been married for only a short time before the survey date--15 percent were known to have been divorced. The corresponding figure for white men was 14 percent and that for Negro men, 28 percent. For women, the three comparable figures were 17, 15 and 31 percent, respectively.

Of persons first married at least 20 years prior to the survey date the proportion of persons known to have been divorced was highest for Negroes who first

Table A. Persons 14 to 69 Years Old Known To Have Been Divorced, by Age at First Marriage, Years Since First Marriage, Race, and Sex: 1967

(Numbers in thousands)

| Age at first marriage and sex | Years since first marriage | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | All races | | | | White | | | | Negro | | | |
	All years	Under 10	10 to 19	20 and over	All years	Under 10	10 to 19	20 and over	All years	Under 10	10 to 19	20 and over
Total men ever married	43,657	10,631	11,566	21,461	39,507	9,514	10,456	19,537	3,727	1,007	971	1,748
Percent Known To Have Been Divorced, by Age at First Marriage												
14 to 69 years old	14.9	7.8	14.9	18.5	13.7	7.5	13.5	16.8	27.5	10.2	28.0	37.1
14 to 21 years	20.2	9.4	19.0	27.6	18.6	9.0	17.5	25.5	33.9	12.2	31.8	45.7
22 to 27 years	11.7	5.5	12.6	13.8	10.7	5.2	11.2	12.6	23.7	8.3	27.7	30.8
28 to 69 years	10.9	8.5	11.7	11.3	10.0	8.5	10.8	10.2	19.5	9.9	21.5	24.5
Total women ever married	51,101	11,427	12,240	27,435	45,533	9,959	10,877	24,697	5,060	1,309	1,228	2,522
Percent Known To Have Been Divorced, by Age at First Marriage												
14 to 69 years	16.7	8.9	16.3	20.1	15.1	8.1	14.6	18.1	31.4	14.4	32.2	40.2
14 to 19 years	22.4	11.4	23.4	27.3	20.4	10.6	21.2	24.9	38.0	16.8	41.2	46.5
20 to 24 years	11.5	6.0	9.8	14.5	10.5	5.1	8.5	13.4	23.8	13.2	22.8	31.0
25 to 69 years	11.1	6.4	9.3	13.1	9.8	5.8	8.0	11.4	23.3	9.2	21.1	32.3

married when they were quite young. Thus, 46 percent of the Negro men, as compared with 26 percent of the white men, who had married when they were between 14 and 21 years of age had been divorced by the time 20 or more years had elapsed since their first marriage. Among women who married in their teens the corresponding figures are similar--47 percent for Negro women and 25 percent for white women.

White men who married at intermediate ages--22 to 27 years of age--had a lower proportion (5 percent) known to have been divorced within the first 10 years after marriage than those who married at either a younger age (9 percent) or an older age (also 9 percent).

PROBABILITIES OF FIRST MARRIAGE

Probabilities of first marriage for white women reached a peak in the age group 22 to 24 years old with an annual average of 260 marriages per 1,000 women beginning each year of age as single persons in the period 1960 to 1966. After age 24 the probabilities decreased as shown in the accompanying graph, figure 2, and tables B and 1. For Negro women the probabilities increased to 224 first marriages per 1,000 single in the age group 20 to 21 years old, but there were no detectable differences through the 20's.

Table B. Average Annual Probabilities of First Marriage Per 1,000 Single Persons 14 to 69 Years Old, by Age, Race, and Sex: 1960 to 1966

| Age | First marriages per 1,000 single persons | | | | | |
| | All races | | White | | Negro | |
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
14 to 69 years.	77	95	79	95	69	100
14 to 17 years.....	6	37	6	36	5	45
18 to 19 years.....	75	164	77	165	62	165
20 to 21 years.....	158	226	164	227	122	224
22 to 24 years.....	210	248	217	260	174	194
25 to 29 years.....	224	168	238	163	179	188
30 to 34 years.....	102	100	107	96	85	103
35 to 69 years.....	29	15	26	13	54	31

White men reached peak probabilities of first marriage at 22 to 29 years old with an annual average of 225 marriages per 1,000 men beginning each year of age as single persons. They maintained higher probabilities of marriage than Negro men throughout their 20's. The probabilities of marriage for white men, as for white women, reached a peak and then dropped off sharply, but for Negro men, as for Negro

Figure 2.--Average Annual Probabilities of First Marriage: 1960 to 1966

Marriages Per 1,000 Single Persons

Legend:
— White men
– – – Negro men
·········· White women
–·–·– Negro women

MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE:

White
Men 22.6
Women 20.1
Negro
Men 23.1
Women 20.2

AGE: 14-17 years, 18-19 years, 20-21 years, 22-24 years, 25-29 years, 30-34 years, 35 years and over

Source: Table B.
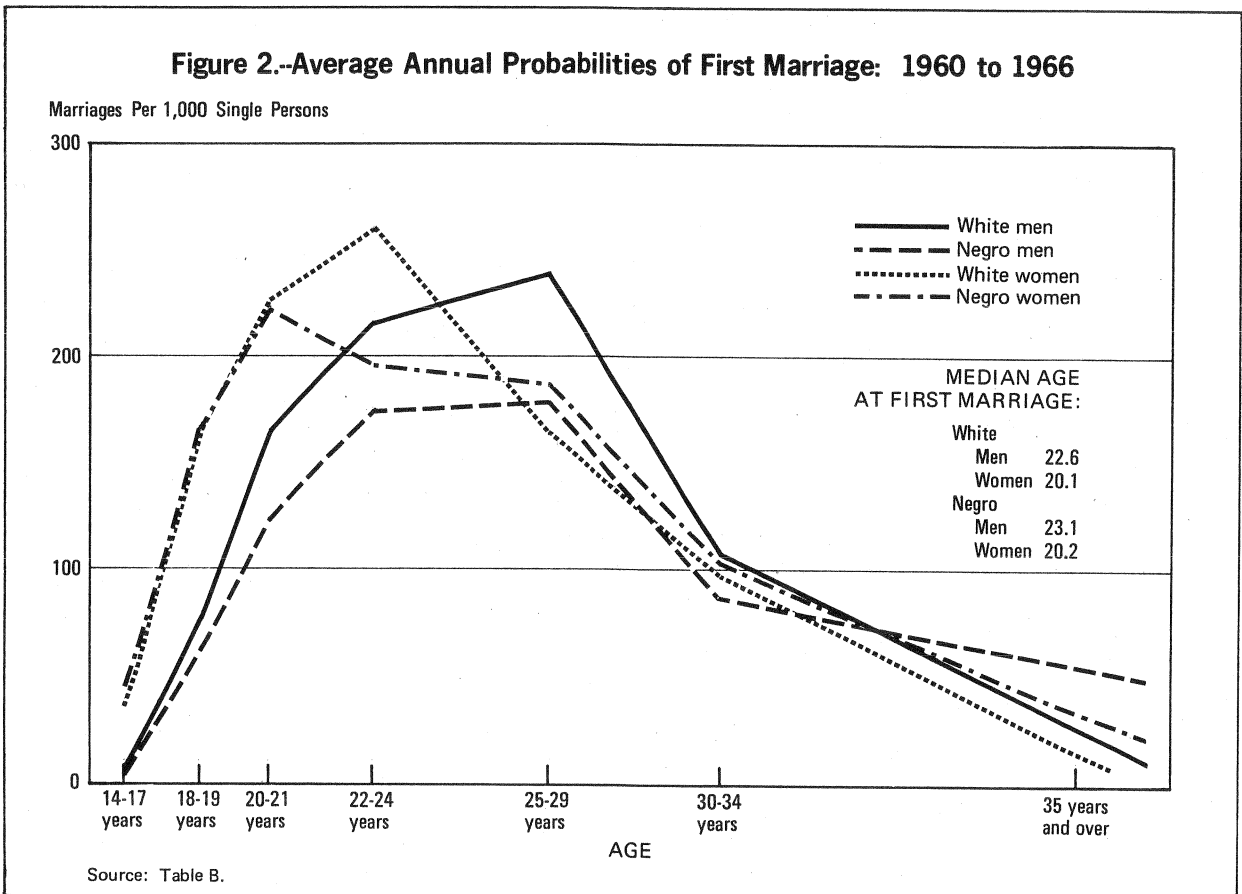
women, no differences in probabilities could be detected through the 20's.

The probability of first marriage depends on the number of single persons eligible to marry as well as the number who actually marry. The number eligible to marry generally declines from the early teens until middle age, after which few first marriages occur. However, the number who marry for the first time reaches a peak in the early 20's for men and in the late teens for women, and thereafter the number who marry for the first time declines although the probabilites of first marriage may increase.

PROBABILITIES OF DIVORCE BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND NUMBER OF YOUNG CHILDREN

The average annual probability of divorce during the early 1960's was about 6 per 1,000 for men in their first marriages and a similar figure for the corresponding group of women (tables C and 4). The probability of divorce was much larger during the first 10 years of first marriage (13 per 1,000) than it was during the later years (4 per 1,000).

The presence of children was related to the probability of divorce in the very early years of first marriage, as shown by the fact that women with children had a higher average annual probability of divorce in the first two years of first marriage (24 per 1,000) than those without children in the first two years of marriage (12 per 1,000). The presence of children was tabulated as of the beginning of each year of first marriage, therefore, a child had to be present by the beginning of the second year of first marriage for the mother to be recorded as being the mother of a child during that year. Very few of the women who had any children in the first two years of marriage had more than one child.

Table C. Average Annual Probabilities of Divorce in First Marriage Per 1,000 Married Persons 14 to 69 Years Old, by Sex, With Women by Number of Children Under 18: 1960 to 1966

Number of children under 18	Divorces per 1,000 persons in first marriage by number of years of first marriage					
	Total	1st and 2nd	3rd to 5th	6th to 10th	11th to 15th	16th and over
Married men....	6	13	14	11	6	4
Married women..	7	15	15	10	9	3
No children under 18...............	6	12	17	14	10	2
1 child under 18...	11	24	18	12	14	3
2 to 4 under 18....	7	11	7	8	9	5

Although the data presented here do not show the exact birth dates of the children, the high probability of divorce in the first two years of marriage for women with one child is very likely associated with the birth of children before the ninth month of the marriage and the weakness of the marriage ties among many of those who marry because a child was already expected or actually born. Data on first births by interval since first marriage may be found in Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 211, "Previous and Prospective Fertility: 1967."

In the 3rd to 10th years of first marriage, women with no children or with only one child had greater probabilities of divorce than those with 2 to 4 children. After the 10th year of first marriage the presence of or number of children under 18 had little measurable relationship to the divorce probabilities. Women with 5 or more children ever born as of the survey date were eliminated from the tabulation by number and age of children since the birth dates of children were incomplete (see section on children ever born).

PROBABILITIES OF DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE BY INCOME

This study provides evidence that married men with relatively high incomes have less probability of divorce than those with lower incomes. Thus, among married men whose incomes in 1966 (the year before the survey) were $8,000 and over, the average annual number who obtained divorces between 1960 and 1966 was 4 per 1,000 married men; the corresponding figure for married men with incomes below $8,000 was 8 per 1,000 (tables D and 4). Note that the income levels cited here refer to the year before the survey and, therefore, not necessarily to the year of divorce. However, the reasonable assumption is made that current income is a good index of income in the past.

The chances of remarriage after divorce were greatest during the first few years of divorce, and they increased as the amount of income increased for most income groups. Of all men who were divorced after their first marriage, the average annual probability of remarriage was about 170 per 1,000 while they remained divorced. But the chances of remarriage within a year were about twice as great during the first five years of divorce as they were during later years, on the average (243 versus 101 per 1,000). The odds of remarriage were particularly low (30 per 1,000) for men in the lowest income interval who had been divorced for five years or more.

PROBABILITIES OF REMARRIAGE BY PREVIOUS MARITAL EXPERIENCE

Age at divorce and duration of first marriage before divorce are shown in tables E and 8 to be closely

Table D. Average Annual Probabilities of Divorce in First Marriage Per 1,000 Married Men, and Average Annual Probabilities of Remarriage Per 1,000 Divorced Men Married Once, by Income in 1966: 1960 to 1966

Years of first marriage and years of divorce	Income in 1966				
	Total	Less than $3,000	$3,000 to $4,999	$5,000 to $7,999	$8,000 and over
Divorces Per 1,000 Men in First Marriage by Years of First Marriage					
Total......................	6	9	8	8	4
1st to 10th years................	12	25	15	13	7
1st and 2nd years..............	13	22	12	13	7
3rd to 5th years..............	14	27	20	14	9
6th to 10th years.............	11	26	13	12	7
11th year and over.............	4	4	4	5	3
Remarriages Per 1,000 Divorced Men Married Once by Years of Divorced					
Total......................	170	71	162	207	256
1st to 5th years................	243	177	198	258	297
6th year and over...............	101	30	(B)	141	(B)

B Base is too small to show derived figures.

Table E. Average Annual Probabilities of Remarriage Per 1,000 Divorced Persons 14 to 69 Years Old Married Once, by Age at Divorce, Duration of First Marriage, Number of Years of Divorce, and Sex: 1960 to 1966

Age at divorce and duration of first marriage	Remarriages per 1,000 divorced persons married once by number of years of divorce							
	Men				Women			
	All years	1st to 5th	6th to 10th	11th and over	All years	1st to 5th	6th to 10th	11th and over
Total....................	170	243	124	85	129	192	101	69
Age at Divorce								
Under 25 years.................	249	304	(B)	(B)	239	300	214	(B)
25 to 34 years.................	179	262	130	95	124	184	117	63
35 years and over.............	125	196	71	53	57	89	35	37
Duration of First Marriage								
Less than 5 years..............	202	260	174	125	210	301	193	97
5 to 9 years...................	166	251	128	(B)	138	184	130	90
10 years or more..............	143	224	74	61	82	129	53	44

B Base is too small to show derived figures.

related to the probability of remarriage for women in the early years of divorce.

Among women whose first marriage had ended in divorce, the average annual probability of remarriage during the ensuing five years was 300 per 1,000 for those whose age had been less than 25 years at the time of their divorce. For those who had been 25 to 34 at divorce, the probability of remarriage was 184, and for those 35 and over at divorce it was only 89.

Likewise, among women whose first marriage had ended in divorce, the average annual probability of remarriage during the ensuing five years was 301 per 1,000 for those whose first marriage had lasted less than five years. For those whose marriage had lasted five to nine years, the probability of remarriage was 184, and for those whose marriage had lasted ten years or longer it was 129.

The probability of remarriage was generally higher for divorced men (170 per 1,000) than for divorced women (129 per 1,000). However, among women whose first marriage had ended in divorce there were measurable differences in the remarriage probabilities by age at divorce and duration of first marriage during the first five years of divorce, whereas for men there were no detectable differences.

Among women who were divorced before they were 25 years old, if exactly 300 out of every 1,000 divorced women remarried during the first year of divorce, 300 out of every 1,000 of the remainder remarried during the second year of divorce, etc., for each of the first five years (average annual probability of remarriage is 300 in the first five years), then of all divorced women in this group about one-half would have remarried by the end of the second year and about three-fourths would have remarried by the end of the fourth year.

RELATED REPORTS

The first report on marriage history based on the 1967 Survey of Economic Opportunity presented advance data from selected tables in this report and was published as Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 32, "Probabilities of Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage" on July 29, 1970. A more detailed analysis of some of the data in this report was published in an article by Paul C. Glick and Arthur J. Norton, "Frequency, Duration, and Probability of Marriage and Divorce," Journal of Marriage and the Family, Vol. 33, No. 2, pp. 307-317, May 1971. Certain distributions shown in the advance report and in the article were revised for presentation in the present report. Another report based on the 1967 SEO was published as Series P-20, No. 211, "Previous and Prospective Fertility: 1967" on January 26, 1971.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage. The data from the 1967 Survey of Economic Opportunity are for the population of the United States, excluding the relatively small number of inmates of institutions. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post in the United States are included, but all others are excluded.

Age. The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday. Age of the person in each year of tabulation (tables 1 and 2) and at each marriage event was determined by subtracting the date of birth

(in months and years) of the person from the date being tabulated or the date of the marriage event.

Race. The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: white, Negro, and "other races." In this report, "other races" are included in the "All races" catagory only, as data are reported for all races, white, and Negro.

Years of school completed. Data on years of school completed were derived from the combination of answers to questions concerning the highest grade of school attended by the person and whether or not that grade was completed. The questions on educational attainment apply only to progress in "regular" schools. Such schools include graded public, private, and parochial elementary and high schools (both junior and senior high), colleges, universities, and professional schools, whether day school or night school. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary school certificate or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Education in schools other than regular schools was counted only if the credits obtained were regarded as transferable to a school in the regular school system. Years of school completed is as of the survey date in each tabulation, not necessarily as of the time of the marital event measured.

Income in 1966. For the noninstitutional population 14 years old and over, questions were asked on the amount of money income received in 1966. The amount received represents income before deductions for personal taxes, Social Security, bonds, etc. Although the income statistics refer to receipts during 1966, the characteristics of men, such as age and marital status changes, refer to any portion of the period being tabulated. This is important to note in considering the data for 1950 to 1959 and 1940 to 1949.

Marriage dates. Dates of marriage and termination of marriage are given in terms of specific month and year. Items concerning marriage history are: Date of latest marriage ("When did . . .get married?"); if now widowed, divorced or separated, date of event ("When did . . . become (widowed) divorced (separated)?"); times married ("Has . . . been married once, twice or more than twice?"); if married more than once, date of first marriage ("When did . . . get married for the first time?"); cause of end of first marriage ("How did that marriage end - death of spouse, divorce, other?"); date of end of first marriage ("When did that happen?").

Marital status. In this report data are tabulated for all persons 14 to 69 years old at the date of the survey. Categories of marital status recorded at the time of the survey are married, spouse present; married, spouse absent (in Armed Forces and other); widowed; divorced; separated; and never married. In showing data for years other than the survey year, marital status is given as that in the year being tabulated, not necessarily the same as at the survey date.

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Age at first marriage. Age at first marriage is derived by subtracting the birth date (month and year) from the date of first marriage (month and year).

Age at divorce or widowhood. Age at divorce and age at widowhood are determined by subtracting the date of birth (month and year) from the date of divorce or widowhood (month and year).

Duration of first marriage. This is determined by subtracting the date of first marriage from the date of termination of that marriage.

Children ever born. In the survey, items on number of children ever born ("How many babies has . . . ever had not counting still births?") were included for women ever married or with own children in the household. The enumerator was instructed to include children born to the woman before her present marriage, children no longer living, and children away from home, as well as children born to the woman who were still living in the home.

Birth dates of children. A maximum of four dates was recorded for birth dates of children ever born to a woman. The specific month and year of birth was obtained for the first child of a woman, for her second child (if she had one), for her "last child," and for her "next to last" child. Thus a complete set of birth dates was recorded for women who had from one to four children ever born and a partial set, limited to the first two and last two, was recorded for women who had 5 or more children ever born. The data shown in this report for women by number of children ever born (who were under 18 years old at the specified date) exclude women with 5 or more children ever born at the survey date.

Own children under 18. The number of own children under 18 years old shown in certain tables is the number ever born to the woman who would have been under 18 in the period if they had all survived. In other reports published by the Bureau of the Census the number of own children is limited to those survivors who still live in the household.

Where the number of women with 5 or more own children under 18 is shown, the data refer to the entire number who had had 5 or more by the time of the survey date. The detail shown on women with no children or with 1 to 4 children was permitted to vary according to the duration of their specified marital status and according to the calendar period.

Rounding of estimates. Individual numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded.

Probabilities. The base or denominator of the probability calculation is the number of "persons-years begun" during the specified years in a marital status. The numerator contains the number of persons who changed marital status as measured in each tabulation. Therefore a person may contribute several "person-years begun" to a grouped number of years in the

period (e.g., "6th to 10th year of marriage" in which a person may contribute from one to five years begun), up to as many times as there are years in the interval or years in the period, whichever is smaller. However, he may be in the numerator, at most, only once as experiencing a particular marriage event. The data shown include only persons who were 14 to 69 years old at the survey date. Persons who were 70 years old and over were eliminated for several reasons: few marriages or divorces occur after 70; persons who survive for a relatively long time after 70 may not be representative because of selective mortality; and persons over 70 contributed twice as large a proportion of nonresponse on marital items as younger persons.

Average annual probabilities of first marriage per 1,000 single persons. Probabilities of first marriage are calculated for persons beginning each year of age in four periods, 1930 to 1939, 1940 to 1949, 1950 to 1959, and 1960 to 1966. Data are shown for all persons 14 to 69 years old at the survey date, regardless of marital status or marriage history. A person is counted as single in each year of age from 14 years old until the year he is married, at which time he is shown as marrying and leaving the coverage. If a person marries within the month of his birthday, he is counted as having begun that year as single and as having married in that year. Allowing the individual to begin the year of age as single was done to facilitate programing and verification of the tabulation procedure. In displaying the probabilities of first marriage by years of school completed, the educational level is that of the person at the survey date; for those who had not completed their schooling as of the age being tabulated but who did so by the survey date, the educational level shown is the one they eventually attained.

Average annual probabilities of divorce per 1,000 married persons married once. Probabilities of divorce in first marriage are calculated for persons beginning each year of first marriage in three periods, 1940 to 1949, 1950 to 1959, and 1960 to 1966. A person is recorded as beginning a year of first marriage in a period at each anniversary he experiences. For example, if a person was married in 1954 and remained married through the period, he would have begun his first, second, third, etc., through his sixth year of first marriage in the period 1950 to 1959. If he remained married until the survey date, then in the period 1960 to 1966, he would have begun seven years of marriage, the 7th to 13th year, and would be counted in each of those years as subject to divorce (or annulment, which is included here with divorce). However, if he was divorced in the 12th year, after his anniversary in 1965, he would be counted as having begun the 12th year as a married person and as having been divorced in the same year. He would no longer be in the universe of persons in first marriage. In showing these probabilities by social and economic characteristics, the years of marriage are grouped because of both the complexity of the data and the size of the sample.

The probabilities are calculated in each period by dividing the number of divorces in the interval by the number of years of first marriage begun in the same interval. A person is counted from his first year of first marriage until the marriage is terminated or until the survey date. If a person is widowed in the first marriage, he is counted as being exposed to divorce through the year he becomes widowed. If he is widowed in the month of his anniversary he is not counted as exposed to divorce in the next year. In tabulating divorce probabilities, if an individual is divorced in the month of his anniversary, he is counted as having begun that year of marriage and as having divorced in that year. A random selection of termination of marriage in the anniversary month as being before or after the anniversary would have been possible but would have caused more difficulties in verification of the data than the refinement warranted. This method of calculating probabilities was used in all the tabulations of probabilities in this report.

Average annual probabilities of widowhood per 1,000 married persons married once. Probabilities of widowhood in first marriage are calculated in a manner parallel to that for the probabilities of divorce. The same (first married) persons are in the base of both tabulations because they are exposed to both divorce and widowhood at the same time. Years of marriage are grouped in this section simply because the probabilities of widowhood in the early years of first marriage are low and vary little. In this, as well as in the divorce section, all ever married persons from 14 to 69 years old are included, since the dates of beginning and end of first marriage are available for those who became widowed by 1966. In showing persons beginning each year of first marriage exposed to widowhood, if a person becomes divorced, he is no longer counted as exposed to widowhood.

Average annual probabilities of remarriage per 1,000 divorced persons married once. Probabilities of remarriage (second marriage) after first divorce are calculated for persons beginning each year of divorce in three periods, 1940 to 1949, 1950 to 1959, and 1960 to 1966. Persons are treated in divorce as they are in first marriage when calculating probabilities of divorce and widowhood. The person is recorded as beginning a year of divorce at each anniversary of divorce through the year he enters his second marriage or until the survey date, if he does not remarry. If the individual remarries he is counted as doing so in the appropriate year and leaves the coverage. If the person is remarried in the month of his divorce anniversary, he is recorded as having begun that year of divorce and as having remarried in that year.

The universe is limited to persons 14 to 69 years old, divorced in first marriage and married once or twice. Since only first and latest marriage dates are given, for persons married three or more times, the middle marriage dates and the exact number of times married would have to be allocated, if these persons were to be included in the tabulation. Therefore, the small number of persons married three or more times were eliminated from the data on remarriage and end of second marriage (tables 7 to 11). This amounted to the elimination of 1.3 percent of the ever-married men and 1.4 percent of the ever-married women. Of persons whose first marriage ended in divorce, the proportions of men and women married three or more times are 7.4 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively. The effect on recent data is negligible; however, the possible effect on data for the period 1940 to 1949 should not be overlooked.

Average annual probabilities of remarriage per 1,000 widowed persons married once. Probabilities of remarriage (second marriage) for persons widowed in first marriage are determined in a manner parallel to that for the probabilities of remarriage of divorced persons, in the same three periods. The person is counted as beginning a year of widowhood at each anniversary of widowhood through the year of second marriage, at which time he is counted as remarrying and he leaves the coverage.

The universe contains persons 14 to 69 years old, widowed in first marriage and married once or twice as of the survey date. As in the data for remarriage of divorced persons, persons who were married three or more times are not included in the coverage. Of persons whose first marriage ended in widowhood, the proportions of men and women married three or more times are 5.3 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively.

Average annual probabilities of divorce or widowhood per 1,000 persons married twice. Probabilities of divorce or widowhood (shown together) in second marriage are given for persons beginning each year of second marriage in three periods, 1940 to 1949, 1950 to 1959, and 1960 to 1966. In showing data on second marriage, a person is counted as beginning a year of second marriage at each anniversary of that marriage, through the year he is divorced or widowed or until the survey date if his second marriage remains intact. If the person's marriage ends he is counted as terminating his marriage and he is no longer in the coverage. If the marriage ends in the same month as the anniversary, the year of marriage is counted as having begun and the end of the marriage is tabulated in that year.

The universe contains persons 14 to 69 years old, married twice at the survey date. Persons married three or more times at the survey date were not included in the tabulations of persons in second marriage since middle marriages would have to be allocated, as explained in the section describing probabilities of remarriage in years of divorce. Of persons married at least twice at the survey date, 9.7 percent of the men and 9.3 percent of the women were married three or more times; yet, those married three or more times constituted less than 2 percent of all persons 14 to 69 years old who had ever married.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data. The estimates presented in this report are based on data obtained in the February-March 1967 Survey of Economic Opportunity conducted by the Bureau of the Census. The sample was spread over 357 areas comprising 701 counties and independent cities with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 29,000 occupied households were eligible for interview. Of this number, about 2,500 of the occupied units were visited but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were not found at home after repeated calls or were unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 29,000, there are also about 6,000 sample units which were visited but were found to be vacant or otherwise not to be interviewed.

The sample was selected so that there was a disproportionately large sample from Negro and other races. The weights applied to each sample case were adjusted to reflect this. This sampling procedure results in more reliable estimates for Negro and other races but at the expense of reduced reliability for estimates not tabulated by race.

The estimating procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

Reliability of the estimates. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and of reporting as well as being subject to sampling variability.

All statements of comparison made in the text of this report, however, are statistically significant. This means that the chances are at least 19 in 20 that a difference identified in the text indicates a true difference in the population rather than the chance variations arising from the use of samples.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability; that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the whole of the population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

The figures in table F below show the standard errors of estimated percentages of total persons by race.

Illustration. Table A of this report shows that in 1967, 3,727,000 Negro men between 14 and 69 years old had ever married. Of these 3,727,000, 27.5 percent had been divorced. Table F shows the standard error of 27.5 percent on a base of 3,727,000 to be approximately 1.0 percentage point. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated 27.5 percent would be within 1.0 percentage point of a complete census figure, and chances are 95 out of 100 that the

Table F. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of estimated percentage (thousands)									
	50	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000
Total or White										
2 or 98..................	4.2	2.9	1.9	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
5 or 95..................	6.5	4.6	2.9	2.1	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.2
10 or 90..................	8.9	6.3	4.0	2.8	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3
20 or 80..................	11.9	8.4	5.3	3.8	2.7	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.4
35 or 65..................	14.2	10.0	6.3	4.5	3.2	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4
50......................	14.9	10.5	6.7	4.7	3.3	2.1	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.5
Negro and Other Races										
2 or 98..................	2.6	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	(X)	(X)
5 or 95..................	4.1	2.9	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	(X)	(X)
10 or 90..................	5.6	3.9	2.5	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.4	(X)	(X)
20 or 80..................	7.4	5.3	3.3	2.4	1.7	1.1	0.7	0.5	(X)	(X)
35 or 65..................	8.9	6.3	4.0	2.8	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.6	(X)	(X)
50......................	9.3	6.6	4.2	2.9	2.1	1.3	0.9	0.6	(X)	(X)

X Not applicable.

Table G. Approximate Standard Errors for Selected Average Annual Number of Events Per 1,000 at Risk:
1960 to 1966

(68 chances out of 100)

Characteristic	Men			Women		
	Base (thousands)	Average annual events per 1,000	Standard error per 1,000	Base (thousands)	Average annual events per 1,000	Standard error per 1,000
First Marriage of Single Persons						
Total, age 14 to 69..............	109,065	77	2	94,494	95	2
White, age 22 to 24....................	9,830	217	8	5,250	260	12
White, age 25 to 49....................	5,705	238	13	2,918	163	9
Negro, age 14 to 69....................	12,183	69	3	10,569	100	4
Negro, age 22 to 24....................	1,261	174	18	797	194	17
Divorce in First Marriage						
Total, age 14 to 69..............	235,857	6	0.4	254,517	7	0.3
1st and 2nd year of first marriage--						
No children under 18.................	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	13,074	12	2
1 child under 18.....................	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	4,121	24	4
Remarriage of Divorced Persons, Married Once						
Total, age 14 to 69..............	8,959	170	8	12,488	129	6
1st to 5th year of divorce--						
Age at divorce 25 to 34.............	1,527	262	24	2,011	184	18
Duration of first marriage 5 to 9....	1,004	251	27	1,229	184	19

NA Not available.

estimate would be within 2.0 percentage points of a census figure, i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 25.5 to 29.5 percent.

The figures in table G show approximate standard errors for selected numbers of marriages per 1,000 single persons, divorces per 1,000 first marriages, and remarriages per 1,000 divorced persons married once. This table is included to illustrate the sampling errors for selected average annual number of events per 1,000 at risk.

Illustration. Table E of this report shows that for the period 1960-1966 the average annual numbers of remarriages per 1,000 divorced men 14 to 69 years old and married once was 170. Table G shows the standard error for this to be approximately 8 per 1,000. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that the estimate would differ from a complete census figure by less than 8 per 1,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would differ from a complete census figure by less than 16 per 1,000 (twice the standard error).