

# Number, Timing, and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: 2001

Issued February 2005

*Household Economic Studies*

P70-97

## What's in This Report

### INTRODUCTION

#### HISTORICAL MARITAL PATTERNS

Men and women born in the early 1970s married at older ages on average than those born in the late 1930s.

#### MARITAL INDICATORS: 2001

Roughly 1 in 5 adults has ever divorced.

Men who had ever divorced are more likely to be currently married than ever-divorced women.

Asian and Pacific Islander men and women had a higher age at first marriage than other groups.

First marriages that end in divorce last about 8 years, on average.

Sixty-two percent of couples married in the previous year involved brides and grooms who were both entering their first marriage.

#### MARITAL EVENTS WITHIN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

#### REMARRIAGE AND FERTILITY

Men who divorced from their first marriage and have not remarried have fewer children than men who remained married and those who divorced and subsequently remarried.

### INTRODUCTION

Marital patterns are affected by social and economic events, as well as by changes in cultural attitudes and behaviors. Changes in the patterns of marriage and divorce can then affect family life and other interactions. The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is one of very few data sources that can provide a comprehensive look at both current and historical marriage and divorce behaviors of men and women in the United States. SIPP data contain a detailed marital history for men and women of all ages, as well as extensive information about the characteristics of adults, their households, and those with whom they live. In addition, information about both husbands and wives is available for people who are currently married.

SIPP has become one of the principal data sources for marriage and divorce statistics, and the leading source of detailed marital history information, since the National Center for Health Statistics no longer publishes detailed information about marriages and divorces. Estimates of indicators such as the characteristics of people who had a recent marital event, the percentage of currently married couples who have reached their fiftieth anniversary, the percentage of men and women who have ever divorced, or the percentage of recent marriages in which both the bride and groom were marrying for the first time are at this point available only from SIPP data. In addition, characteristics

## Current Population Reports

By  
Rose M. Kreider

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

## Key Terms

**Marital status.** The marital status classification refers to the status at the time of interview. "Married, spouse present" applies to husband and wife if both were living in the same household, even though one may be temporarily absent; for example, on business, vacation, a visit, or in a hospital. "Married, spouse absent" relates to people who are living apart for reasons other than marital problems—for example, spouses living apart because one or the other was employed elsewhere or on duty with the Armed Forces. "Separated" refers to couples who are living apart due to marital problems. "Divorced" indicates people who report that they have received a legal divorce decree and have not remarried. "Widowed" indicates that a person's last marriage ended in the death of their spouse. The term "never married" applies to those who have never been legally married, as well as to those whose marriages were annulled.

**Marital history.** A marital history was collected from each person in the household aged 15 and older. There were 56,574 people in the sample, from approximately 30,000 households.

Respondents answered questions about when they had been married, separated, divorced, and widowed, if they had experienced these events. Dates for the beginning and end of up to three marriages were collected: first marriage, second marriage, and most recent marriage, regardless of whether this was the third or later marriage. Since very few people marry more than three times, few events are missed by using this approach to data collection. Although questions were asked only of people aged 15 and older, some people reported marital events as occurring before age 15.

**Birth or marriage cohort.** A cohort signifies a group of people born or married in a specified time period; for example, people born from 1935 through 1939.

**Current age.** Age at reference month, which is the month preceding the interview.

**Median.** The median is the value that divides a distribution into two equal parts; half of the cases fall below this value and half exceed it.

such as labor force participation, poverty status, and the presence of children for people with recent marital events are available only from the SIPP and represent socioeconomic characteristics that were never collected in the Vital Statistics system.

The SIPP marital history topical module is a nationally representative survey that is fielded approximately every 5 years, with the most recent data collection prior to this survey occurring in 1996.<sup>1</sup> This report updates some of the tables shown in the previous report with data collected in the second interview of the SIPP 2001

Panel, and adds several tables that cover other topics.<sup>2</sup>

In 2001, marital history data were collected from men and women 15 years and older in approximately 30,000 households. In the sample, 56,574 people were asked questions about the number of times they had been married, and the month and year of marital events (including marriage, divorce, widowhood, and the date of last separation, if divorced) for the first, second, and most recent marriage. Since less than 1 percent of adults have been married four or more times, few events are missed by using this approach.

The first section of this report describes changes in the age at which different cohorts of men and women born since 1935 to 1939 have married, divorced, and remarried. The second section provides current indicators of the percentage of the population who have married more than once, who have ever divorced, or who experienced other marital events. This section also answers questions about how long first marriages last, the median age at which people marry or divorce, and what percentage of currently married couples involve spouses who are both in their first marriage. The third section profiles the characteristics of people who experienced a marital event in the year prior to the survey. The last section of the report considers the relationship between whether people remarry after a divorce and the number of children born to them.

<sup>1</sup> The previous report is: Rose M. Kreider and Jason M. Fields, *Number, Timing, and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: Fall 1996*, Current Population Reports, P70-80, U.S. Census Bureau: Washington, DC, 2001. See the previous report on the Census Bureau Web site at <[www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/marr-div.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/marr-div.html)>.

<sup>2</sup> The data in this report were collected from June through September of 2001 in the second wave (interview) of the 2001 Survey of Income and Program Participation. The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized adult (15 years and older) population living in the United States.

Table 1.  
**Marital History by Sex for Selected Birth Cohorts, 1935-39 to 1975-79: 2001**

Characteristic	1935 to 1939	1940 to 1944	1945 to 1949	1950 to 1954	1955 to 1959	1960 to 1964	1965 to 1969	1970 to 1974	1975 to 1979
<b>Men (in thousands) . . . . .</b>	<b>4,907</b>	<b>6,442</b>	<b>8,146</b>	<b>9,752</b>	<b>10,770</b>	<b>11,262</b>	<b>10,087</b>	<b>9,504</b>	<b>9,070</b>
Percent ever married by age:									
20 years . . . . .	20.9	24.1	20.4	23.0	17.6	15.8	13.0	11.0	8.1
25 years . . . . .	66.6	70.0	66.6	59.2	49.9	45.0	40.6	39.4	(X)
30 years . . . . .	85.3	85.3	79.7	74.0	68.8	65.6	65.2	(X)	(X)
35 years . . . . .	89.4	89.6	86.2	81.7	78.5	76.6	(X)	(X)	(X)
40 years . . . . .	91.0	91.4	89.6	85.9	83.6	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
45 years . . . . .	92.8	92.7	91.5	88.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
50 years . . . . .	94.1	94.0	93.1	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Percent ever divorced by age:									
20 years . . . . .	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.3	1.0	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.5
25 years . . . . .	4.0	5.9	5.8	7.2	5.4	6.1	7.0	5.8	(X)
30 years . . . . .	8.5	13.3	15.6	17.8	14.7	13.8	13.1	(X)	(X)
35 years . . . . .	15.2	21.9	25.3	26.2	20.8	19.9	(X)	(X)	(X)
40 years . . . . .	22.7	27.4	31.0	31.4	26.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
45 years . . . . .	27.4	31.5	36.3	34.7	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
50 years . . . . .	30.2	34.7	39.7	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
55 years . . . . .	32.0	37.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Percent married two times or more by age:									
25 years . . . . .	1.7	2.3	1.8	2.5	2.0	1.8	3.0	1.9	(X)
30 years . . . . .	5.5	6.9	8.1	8.4	6.0	6.7	7.5	(X)	(X)
35 years . . . . .	10.7	13.0	15.1	16.5	12.0	11.0	(X)	(X)	(X)
40 years . . . . .	15.5	19.7	22.4	21.7	16.8	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
45 years . . . . .	21.7	24.2	26.4	25.4	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
50 years . . . . .	26.0	27.2	29.5	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
55 years . . . . .	28.8	30.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Women (in thousands) . . . . .</b>	<b>5,718</b>	<b>6,914</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>10,289</b>	<b>11,181</b>	<b>11,468</b>	<b>10,153</b>	<b>9,837</b>	<b>9,091</b>
Percent ever married by age:									
20 years . . . . .	51.3	46.2	44.8	40.5	36.6	30.2	24.6	21.9	17.5
25 years . . . . .	82.5	79.0	78.7	70.1	66.0	59.5	54.8	53.4	(X)
30 years . . . . .	88.7	87.6	85.4	80.7	78.1	74.4	74.3	(X)	(X)
35 years . . . . .	91.1	90.5	88.3	86.2	84.5	83.0	(X)	(X)	(X)
40 years . . . . .	92.2	92.2	90.9	89.1	87.7	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
45 years . . . . .	93.8	93.9	92.1	90.6	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
50 years . . . . .	94.5	94.6	93.0	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Percent ever divorced by age:									
20 years . . . . .	2.5	1.9	1.7	2.1	3.0	2.7	1.8	2.1	1.1
25 years . . . . .	5.8	7.0	9.4	10.8	11.8	11.5	9.9	9.7	(X)
30 years . . . . .	11.6	14.1	18.9	21.6	21.3	19.4	16.9	(X)	(X)
35 years . . . . .	16.9	21.6	27.9	28.9	27.3	26.0	(X)	(X)	(X)
40 years . . . . .	22.7	26.9	33.2	35.2	31.7	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
45 years . . . . .	25.4	29.9	36.7	38.8	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
50 years . . . . .	27.2	32.6	39.0	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
55 years . . . . .	28.9	34.1	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Percent married two times or more by age:									
25 years . . . . .	3.4	3.9	3.8	3.8	5.0	4.2	4.4	3.7	(X)
30 years . . . . .	6.4	7.8	10.3	11.1	11.7	10.8	9.8	(X)	(X)
35 years . . . . .	11.5	12.9	16.6	17.4	17.7	16.1	(X)	(X)	(X)
40 years . . . . .	15.2	16.9	22.3	23.1	21.7	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
45 years . . . . .	18.7	20.7	25.4	26.6	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
50 years . . . . .	21.1	23.2	28.5	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
55 years . . . . .	22.8	24.9	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

X Not applicable. Cohort had not lived to stated age at the time of the survey.

Note: Age in years is exact age. For example, for the percent ever married by 20 years, the person must have been married by age 240 months. The margin of error for the estimates in Table 1 may be found at the end of this report in Table A.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

---

## HISTORICAL MARITAL PATTERNS

### Age at First Marriage

Since the 1950s, the median age at first marriage has increased for both men and women, reaching 27 years for men and 25 years for women in 2003.<sup>3</sup> Table 1 shows the percentages of men and women who were ever married, ever divorced, or married two or more times by selected ages. Data are shown for 5-year birth cohorts of people born from 1935 to 1939 through 1975 to 1979.

Reflecting the rise in the median age at first marriage, the percentages of men and women born in 1975 to 1979 who were married by age 20 (8 percent and 18 percent, respectively) were less than one-half the percentages of those born in 1935 to 1939 (21 percent and 51 percent, respectively). While the corresponding percentages of people ever married by age 25 were also lower for those born in 1970 to 1974 than for those born in 1935 to 1939, that decline seems to have stabilized for cohorts of men and women born since the mid-1960s. Among those born in 1965 to 1969, 41 percent of men and 55 percent of women had married by age 25, not statistically different from the percentage recorded for people born in 1970 to 1974.

---

<sup>3</sup> Estimates of the median age at first marriage can be found on the U.S. Census Web site at <[www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/tabMS-2.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/tabMS-2.pdf)>.

The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from the actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

## Changes in the Percentage Ever Divorced

An examination of the trends in the proportions of people ever divorced is more complicated, as that indicator is a function of the proportions of both people getting married and those getting divorced. Data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) indicate that the divorce rate for married women increased sharply between 1970 and 1975, a period when divorce laws were changing. However, subsequent estimates indicate that the divorce rate per 1,000 married women leveled off at about 20 per 1,000 women in the late-1970s and has stayed at about that level through the mid-1990s.<sup>4</sup> Table 1 shows the combined effect of both delays in marriage at younger ages—as previously discussed—along with the general stability in the divorce rate since the late-1970s.

In general, the proportion of men ever divorced by age 40 increased among cohorts born from 1935 to 1939 through 1950 to 1954. For cohorts born later, the proportion ever divorced had actually declined, although it was still higher than pre-war levels.<sup>5</sup> A similar pattern exists for women.

Figures 1a and 1b further illustrate the changing patterns of divorce for men and women for selected birth cohorts by showing the percentage ever divorced among those ever married. The lower proportions of divorced people aged 30 and older for the pre-war 1935 to 1939 cohort relative to the post-war 1945 to 1949 birth

---

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2001* (121st edition), Table 117, Washington, DC, 2001.

<sup>5</sup> Except for the percentage of men born in 1955 to 1959 who were divorced by age 40, which is not statistically different from the percentage of men born in 1935 to 1939 who were divorced by age 40.

cohort are noticeable in both figures. This increase corresponds roughly to the different historical periods when these cohorts turned age 30; by 1975 (for the later birth cohort), legal changes had made it easier to obtain a divorce than it had been before 1970 (for the earlier cohort).

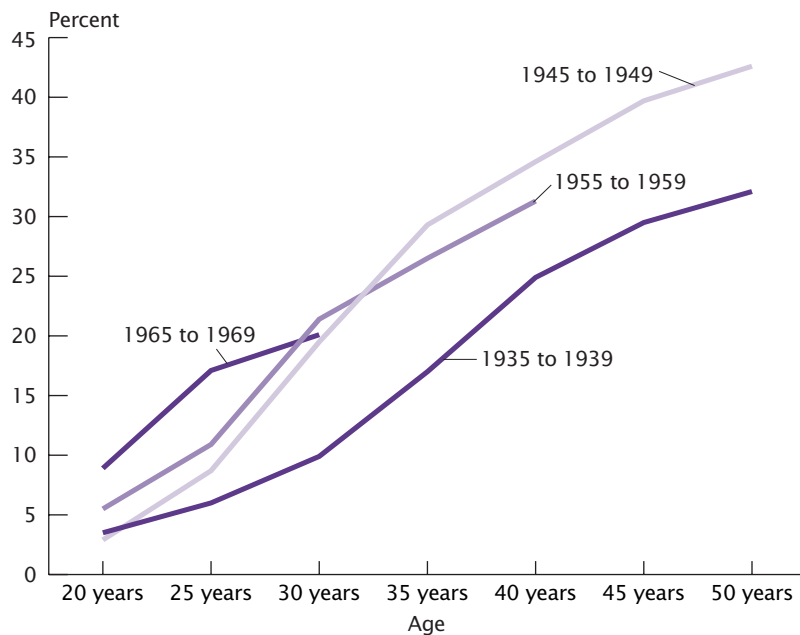
### Frequency of Remarriage

For people born since the 1930s, what has been the trend in the proportion of people who have married two or more times? By age 40, about 15 percent of men and women who were born from 1935 to 1939 had been married two or more times. This proportion increased to 22 percent among people born in the first baby-boom cohort of 1945 to 1949. In the ensuing 10 years of birth cohorts, the proportion did not change significantly for women but fell to 17 percent for men who were born in 1955 to 1959. This pattern corresponds to the previously mentioned declines in the proportion ever married for post-war birth cohorts and the stability of divorce rates, hence leaving fewer people available to remarry.

### Duration of Marriages

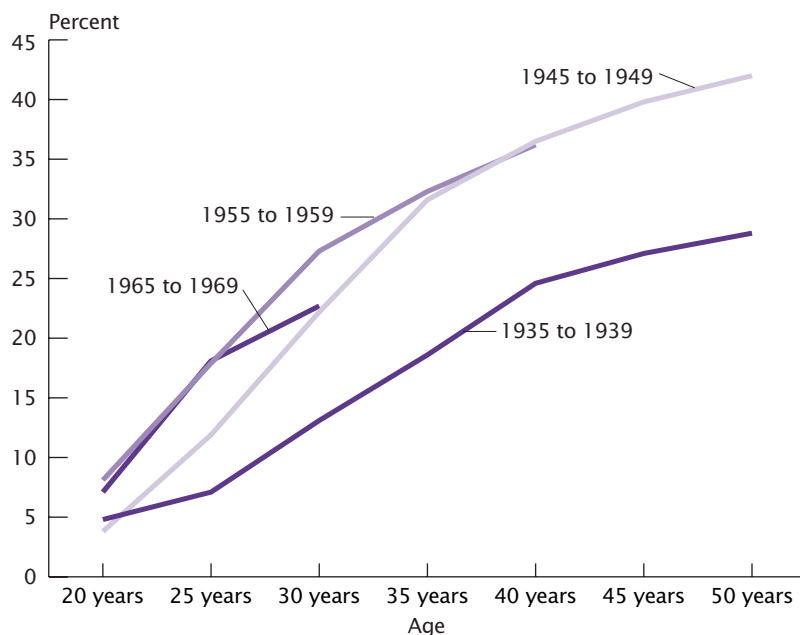
How long do marriages last? Table 2 shows that first marriages occurring during the peak of the baby-boom years (1955 to 1959) lasted longer than those occurring 20 years later (1975 to 1979) after enactment of new divorce laws. That is to say, a lower percentage of those in this later marriage cohort than baby-boom brides and grooms reached subsequent anniversaries. While 76 percent of men who married in 1955 to 1959 stayed married for at least 20 years, only 58 percent of men who married in 1975 to 1979 stayed married as long. Declines in marital longevity occurred also for men

Figure 1a.  
**Percent of Men Ever Divorced,  
 Among Those Ever Married by Selected Ages,  
 for Selected Birth Cohorts: 2001**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

Figure 1b.  
**Percent of Women Ever Divorced,  
 Among Those Ever Married by Selected Ages,  
 for Selected Birth Cohorts: 2001**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

at even shorter anniversaries of 5, 10, or 15 years. Similarly, marital longevity also fell for women in the 1975 to 1979 marriage cohort compared with women married in 1955 to 1959.

However, for both men and women, marital longevity appears to have stabilized for marriages entered into since 1975 to 1979. For example, while the proportion of men and women who were married for at least 10 years fell for marriage cohorts from 1955 to 1959 through 1975 to 1979, for marriages contracted in 1985 to 1989, no further drop for men was noted while the proportion for women actually increased. For the 1985 to 1989 marriage cohort, 75 percent of people were still married after 10 years. The proportion reaching their fifteenth wedding anniversary increased for women married from 1975 to 1979 through the subsequent 5-year marriage cohorts. So while the data do not show large increases in marital longevity, they suggest that the trend toward shorter marriages may have ended for more recent marriage cohorts.

**MARITAL INDICATORS:  
 2001**

This section provides basic information about the marital situation of adults in 2001, including the number of times married and the occurrence of a divorce or widowhood. Other indicators include the median age at which marital events happen, how long marriages last, when marriages are most likely to end in divorce, and how the length of marriages has varied by the time period when the divorce occurred.

Table 2.  
**Percent Reaching Stated Anniversary, by Marriage Cohort and Sex, for First and Second Marriages: 2001**

(Limited to spouses surviving to the interview date)

Sex and year of marriage	Number of marriages (In thousands)	Anniversary <sup>1</sup>							
		5th	10th	15th	20th	25th	30th	35th	40th
<b>FIRST MARRIAGES</b>									
<b>Men</b>									
1955 to 1959 .....	4,100	96.1	89.5	82.2	76.2	72.3	68.7	66.1	63.5
1960 to 1964 .....	5,033	94.0	81.6	71.1	66.1	62.3	60.3	57.7	(X)
1965 to 1969 .....	6,357	93.0	78.3	67.8	62.1	58.0	54.8	(X)	(X)
1970 to 1974 .....	7,436	90.4	72.5	61.3	55.8	52.9	(X)	(X)	(X)
1975 to 1979 .....	7,109	89.3	72.2	63.4	58.4	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
1980 to 1984 .....	7,606	89.8	74.5	66.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
1985 to 1989 .....	8,048	87.6	74.7	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
1990 to 1994 .....	7,718	90.1	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Women</b>									
1955 to 1959 .....	5,162	94.0	86.8	78.6	73.1	67.0	64.1	58.9	54.4
1960 to 1964 .....	5,714	93.8	84.0	72.9	66.9	60.9	57.0	53.1	(X)
1965 to 1969 .....	7,138	91.3	77.9	65.7	59.2	55.5	51.9	(X)	(X)
1970 to 1974 .....	8,176	87.8	70.2	60.3	54.1	49.1	(X)	(X)	(X)
1975 to 1979 .....	7,852	84.7	67.7	58.5	52.6	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
1980 to 1984 .....	8,448	87.3	71.5	64.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
1985 to 1989 .....	8,299	86.6	74.7	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
1990 to 1994 .....	7,967	86.9	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>SECOND MARRIAGES</b>									
<b>Men</b>									
1975 to 1979 .....	1,985	90.8	81.0	57.6	49.0	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
1980 to 1984 .....	2,544	90.9	71.8	54.9	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
1985 to 1989 .....	2,881	90.0	72.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
1990 to 1994 .....	2,834	88.8	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Women</b>									
1975 to 1979 .....	2,187	86.3	75.9	55.9	47.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
1980 to 1984 .....	2,703	89.2	71.0	54.6	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
1985 to 1989 .....	3,008	86.9	67.8	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
1990 to 1994 .....	3,126	86.8	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

X Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>People reaching stated anniversary for specified marital order.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

### Proportion of Adults Who Had Ever Married

In 2001, 31 percent of men and 25 percent of women 15 and older (hereafter referred to as adults) had never been married (Table 3). For all age groups of women 25 to 29 and older, the majority had married, as had the majority of men 30 to 34 and older. Most adults had married only once: 53 percent of men and 59 percent of women.

### Proportion of Adults Who Had Ever Divorced

Thirteen percent of men and 14 percent of women had married twice, while 3 percent had married three or more times (Table 3). The proportion of men and women married twice was 1 in 5 or higher for men 50 to 69 and women 40 to 59. These ages correspond with the ages when people are likely to be divorced, and therefore available for remarriage. While overall, roughly 1 in 5 adults had ever been divorced, the percentage ever divorced was highest for men

and women 50 to 59 (41 percent and 39 percent, respectively).<sup>6</sup>

### Proportion of Adults Who Had Ever Been Widowed

Overall, 4 percent of men had been widowed, compared with 12 percent of women. Among people 70 years and over, 23 percent of men and 56 percent of women had ever been widowed, and most were still widowed at the time of the survey. The large difference in the percentages of men and

<sup>6</sup> Estimates for men and women are not statistically different.

Table 3.  
**Marital History for People 15 Years and Over, by Age and Sex: 2001**

Characteristic	Total, 15 years and over		15 to 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 to 29 years	30 to 34 years	35 to 39 years	40 to 49 years	50 to 59 years	60 to 69 years	70 years and over
	Estimate	90-percent confidence interval									
<b>MEN</b>											
Total (in thousands) . . . . .	105,850	104,698 - 107,002	10,186	9,465	9,177	10,069	10,704	21,202	15,694	9,558	9,795
<b>Percent</b> . . . . .	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Never married . . . . .	30.9	30.2 - 31.6	99.1	83.9	50.8	29.5	21.5	14.2	6.3	4.3	3.3
Ever married . . . . .	69.1	68.4 - 69.8	0.9	16.1	49.2	70.5	78.5	85.8	93.7	95.7	96.7
Married once . . . . .	53.4	52.6 - 54.2	0.9	16.0	46.3	60.8	66.2	65.1	62.6	67.5	75.5
Still married <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	43.7	42.9 - 44.5	0.6	14.3	39.6	52.3	53.0	53.1	49.5	58.0	58.1
Married twice . . . . .	12.5	12.0 - 13.0	-	0.1	2.8	8.7	10.9	17.1	23.2	21.3	16.5
Still married <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	9.9	9.4 - 10.4	-	0.1	2.6	7.4	9.1	13.8	17.6	17.0	12.2
Married 3 or more times . . . . .	3.2	2.9 - 3.5	-	-	0.1	1.1	1.4	3.6	8.0	6.8	4.7
Still married <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	2.4	2.2 - 2.6	-	-	0.1	0.8	1.2	2.9	5.7	5.1	3.5
Ever divorced . . . . .	21.0	20.4 - 21.6	0.1	1.0	7.5	15.4	22.9	29.5	40.8	30.9	18.6
Currently divorced . . . . .	8.8	8.4 - 9.2	-	0.8	4.7	7.0	12.5	12.5	16.9	9.7	5.5
Ever widowed . . . . .	3.6	3.3 - 3.9	-	-	0.1	0.3	0.5	1.3	2.9	7.6	23.1
Currently widowed . . . . .	2.4	2.2 - 2.6	-	-	0.1	-	0.2	0.8	1.8	4.5	16.8
<b>WOMEN</b>											
Total (in thousands) . . . . .	113,777	112,625 - 114,929	9,764	9,518	9,239	10,211	11,110	22,036	16,626	10,956	14,318
<b>Percent</b> . . . . .	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Never married . . . . .	24.6	24.0 - 25.2	96.3	72.4	37.3	21.7	15.6	10.5	6.4	4.1	3.3
Ever married . . . . .	75.4	74.8 - 76.0	3.7	27.6	62.7	78.3	84.4	89.5	93.6	95.9	96.7
Married once . . . . .	58.7	58.0 - 59.4	3.6	26.5	57.3	67.3	66.8	65.1	65.2	72.9	77.8
Still married <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	40.7	40.0 - 41.4	3.1	22.6	47.1	56.2	53.0	48.8	46.4	47.5	29.8
Married twice . . . . .	13.6	13.1 - 14.1	0.1	1.1	5.1	10.0	15.7	19.8	22.1	17.4	15.5
Still married <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	9.1	8.7 - 9.5	0.1	0.8	4.1	7.9	12.0	14.5	15.3	10.6	6.1
Married 3 or more times . . . . .	3.1	2.8 - 3.4	-	-	0.3	1.0	1.8	4.6	6.3	5.6	3.5
Still married <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	1.9	1.7 - 2.1	-	-	0.2	0.8	1.5	3.3	4.1	3.1	1.1
Ever divorced . . . . .	23.1	22.5 - 23.7	0.2	2.6	11.9	18.6	28.1	35.4	38.9	28.4	17.7
Currently divorced . . . . .	10.8	10.3 - 11.3	-	1.6	7.4	9.3	13.7	16.8	17.9	12.6	6.5
Ever widowed . . . . .	11.6	11.1 - 12.1	-	0.3	0.5	0.6	1.1	3.5	9.5	23.3	56.3
Currently widowed . . . . .	10.2	9.8 - 10.6	-	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	2.4	7.1	19.7	52.6

- Represents or rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup>Includes those currently separated.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

women age 70 and over who had been widowed is due to the fact that women have a longer life expectancy than men and usually are younger than their husbands, and so are more likely to experience the death of their spouse.

### Current Marital Status of Ever-Divorced Adults

Table 4 shows the current marital status of men and women who have ever divorced, by their age in 2001. For men 25 and older who

had ever divorced, 42 percent were currently divorced in 2001, while 55 percent were married. A slightly higher percentage of women than men 25 and older who had ever divorced were currently divorced (47 percent), while a lower percentage were currently married (44 percent). Among men 40 and older who had ever divorced, more than half were currently married, but this was not the case for any of the age groups of women, among whom 41 percent to 48 percent of those 40 and older were currently married.

### Median Age at Marriage and Divorce

Table 5 shows the median age for marital events associated with first and second marriages. These medians reflect the cumulative marital experience of the population as of 2001 and do not represent the ages of people who married or divorced in 2001. Those estimates will be discussed in the section on marital events occurring within the last year. As these medians represent only a portrait

Table 4.  
**Current Marital Status by Age and Sex for Those Ever Divorced: 2001**

Age	Men						Women					
	Total number (In thousands)	Percent distribution					Total number (In thousands)	Percent distribution				
		Total	Now divorced	Now married	Now separated	Now widowed		Total	Now divorced	Now married	Now separated	Now widowed
Total, 25 years and over ..	22,130	100.0	41.7	54.8	1.8	1.7	26,035	100.0	46.6	44.0	2.7	6.8
25 to 29 years .....	689	100.0	62.4	35.9	1.8	-	1,095	100.0	62.1	35.5	2.4	-
30 to 34 years .....	1,552	100.0	45.5	52.0	2.5	-	1,896	100.0	49.9	45.8	4.0	0.3
35 to 39 years .....	2,454	100.0	54.5	44.1	1.4	-	3,119	100.0	48.7	47.1	3.3	0.9
40 to 44 years .....	2,824	100.0	42.6	55.3	1.9	0.2	3,703	100.0	48.2	47.1	3.5	1.2
45 to 49 years .....	3,439	100.0	42.0	55.4	2.6	-	4,108	100.0	46.7	49.0	2.8	1.5
50 years and over .....	11,172	100.0	36.8	58.4	1.6	3.3	12,114	100.0	43.5	41.0	2.1	13.3

- Represents or rounds to zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

Table 5.  
**Median Age at Marital Event for People 15 Years and Over by Sex, Race, and Ethnicity: 2001**

(Median age in years for those who experienced the specified event)

Characteristic	Total	White		Black	Asian and Pacific Islander	Hispanic <sup>2</sup> (of any race)
		Total	Non-Hispanic			
<b>MEN</b>						
Total .....	41.3	42.0	43.5	38.4	37.7	33.1
<b>First Marriage</b>						
Age when married .....	24.0	23.8	23.8	25.0	27.1	24.1
Age when separated <sup>1</sup> .....	30.3	30.2	30.3	30.9	30.3	29.3
Age when divorced .....	31.5	31.3	31.4	32.5	31.5	30.7
Age when widowed .....	59.4	60.3	60.8	(B)	(B)	57.4
<b>Second Marriage</b>						
Age when married .....	35.1	35.0	35.0	(B)	35.3	34.6
Age when separated <sup>1</sup> .....	38.8	38.7	38.8	(B)	(B)	38.5
Age when divorced .....	42.2	42.0	42.2	(B)	(B)	39.8
Age when widowed .....	63.4	63.5	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
<b>WOMEN</b>						
Total .....	43.0	44.0	45.2	39.4	39.1	35.5
<b>First Marriage</b>						
Age when married .....	21.8	21.6	21.5	22.3	24.8	21.8
Age when separated <sup>1</sup> .....	28.0	27.8	27.8	28.8	31.2	28.6
Age when divorced .....	29.4	29.2	29.1	31.1	32.5	29.9
Age when widowed .....	58.6	59.3	59.8	(B)	52.0	50.7
<b>Second Marriage</b>						
Age when married .....	32.7	32.4	32.3	34.3	35.8	33.3
Age when separated <sup>1</sup> .....	35.6	35.3	35.2	(B)	(B)	35.9
Age when divorced .....	38.4	38.1	38.0	(B)	(B)	39.8
Age when widowed .....	57.3	58.1	58.0	(B)	(B)	(B)

B Base less than 200,000. Median not calculated.

<sup>1</sup>For those who divorced.

<sup>2</sup>Because Hispanics may be of any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for the White, Black, American Indian, and Asian populations. Based on the population 15 years and over in the 2001 SIPP, 13 percent of the White population, 6 percent of the Black population, 17 percent of the American Indian population, and 5 percent of the Asian population were also of Hispanic origin.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.



Table 6.  
**Median Duration of Marriages for People 15 Years and Over by Sex, Race, and Ethnicity: 2001**

(Duration in years)

Subject	Total	White		Black	Asian and Pacific Islander	Hispanic (of any race)
		Total	Non-Hispanic			
Duration of first marriage for those whose first marriage ended in divorce						
Men .....	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.9	8.3	7.8
Women .....	7.9	7.8	7.8	8.4	9.0	8.1
Duration between first marriage and first separation for those who separated						
Men .....	6.9	6.8	6.8	7.3	6.8	6.3
Women .....	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	7.7	6.8
Duration between first separation and first divorce for those who divorced						
Men .....	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.8
Women .....	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.8
Duration between first divorce and remarriage for those whose first marriages ended in divorce and who had remarried						
Men .....	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.8	3.1	3.2
Women .....	3.5	3.3	3.3	4.3	3.7	3.6
Duration of second marriage for those whose second marriage ended in divorce						
Men .....	9.2	9.2	9.3	8.7	(B)	6.4
Women .....	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.4	(B)	9.1

B Base less than 200,000. Median duration not shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

of the population at a given point in time, they are influenced not only by the current age structure of the population but also by past marital patterns, which may not reflect current behavior.

The median age at first marriage was about 21 to 22 for non-Hispanic White, Black, and Hispanic women.<sup>7</sup> Their median age at separation from first marriage was about 28 to 29 years, and their median age at divorce from first marriage was around 29 to 31 years. For men, median age at

first marriage was about 2 years older. On average, men were also about 2 years older than women when they separated and divorced from their first marriage. Asian and Pacific Islander men and women had a higher age at first marriage than the other population groups—27 years for men and 25 years for women.

The median age at widowhood from first marriage was lower for Black men (56 years) and women (54 years) than for non-Hispanic White men (61 years) and women (60 years).<sup>8</sup> This difference reflects higher mortality rates for Black men and women compared with non-Hispanic White men and women.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Estimates for men and women are not statistically different.

<sup>9</sup> Elizabeth Arias, "United States Life Tables, 2000," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Volume 51, Number 3, National Center for Health Statistics: Hyattsville, MD, 2002.

Half of those who remarried following a divorce from a first marriage had done so by their mid-thirties. Among those who had remarried by 2001, the median age at second marriage was 35 years for men and 33 years for women.

### Duration of Terminated Marriages

How long do marriages last and how quickly do people remarry? Table 6, profiling the marital experience of the population as of 2001, shows that first marriages that ended in divorce lasted a median of 8 years for men and women overall. The median time from marriage to separation was shorter: about 7 years.

### Median Time to Remarriage Following Divorce

Table 6 also shows the median duration of time between the

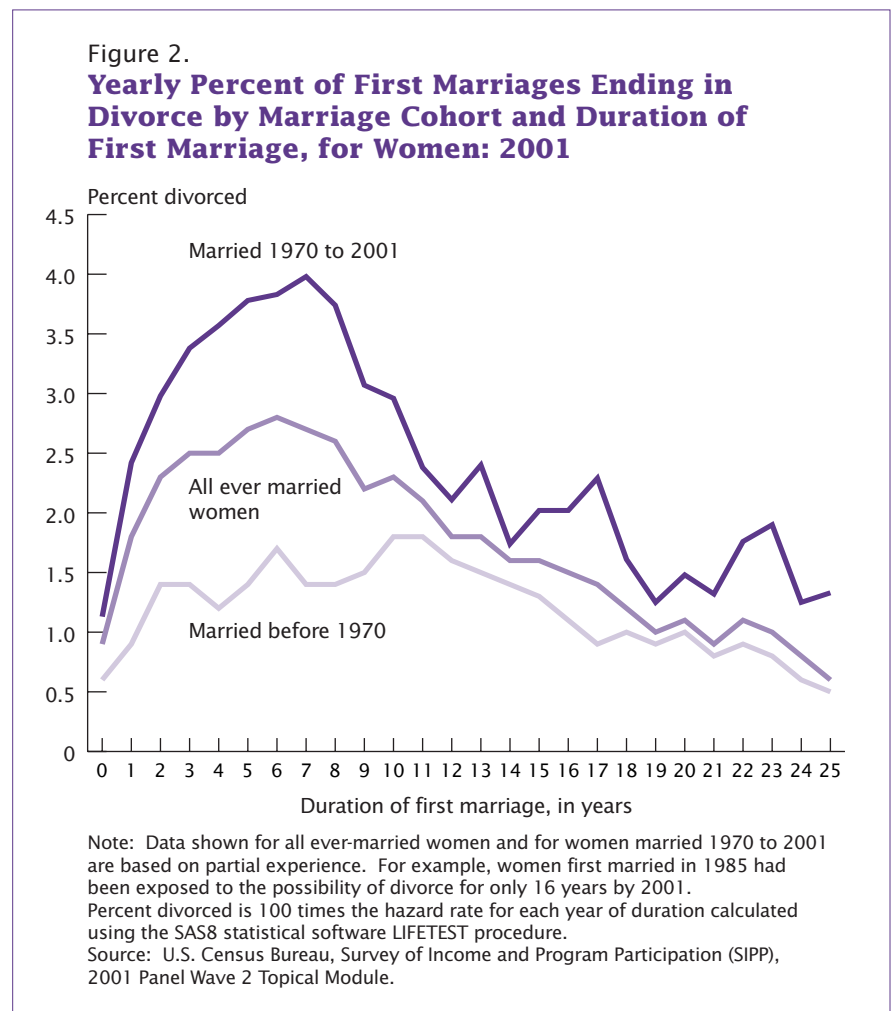
divorce from a first marriage and a second marriage. Half of the men and women in all of the race and Hispanic-origin groups who remarried after divorcing from their first marriage did so within about 3 to 4 years. The median duration of second marriages that ended in divorce was about the same as for first marriages for women, at 8 years, but longer for men at 9 years.

### First Marriage for Women

Another way to look at the stability of first marriages is to consider at what time during the marriage the risk of divorce is likely to be high. Figure 2 shows the percentage of women who divorced from their first marriage each year by the duration of the first marriage.

Separate lines are graphed for all ever-married women, women married before 1970, and women married from 1970 through 2001. The line for all ever-married women falls between the lines that graph the two broad marriage cohorts, since it is essentially composed of these two groups of women combined, but it masks the contrast in marital patterns experienced by people who married before or after 1970. It should be noted that the data shown for all ever-married women and for women married 1970 to 2001 are based on partial experience. For example, a woman first married in 1985 had been exposed to the possibility of divorce for only 16 years by 2001.

The line indicating the annual percentage divorced from the first marriage at each year of marriage for women who married before 1970 is relatively flat compared with the line indicating the percentage divorced for women who married from 1970 to 2001. For the latter group, the percentage divorcing each year was about



4 percent for years 5 through 8, and was lower than 4 percent for subsequent years.

Figure 3 provides another way of looking at the duration of women's first marriages. The graph shows the percentage distribution of the duration of the first marriage by when women divorced (the divorce cohort). For women's first marriages that ended in 1945 to 1949, about half (47 percent) lasted less than 5 years, about one-third (34 percent) lasted 5 to 10 years, while 8 percent lasted 15 years or more.<sup>10</sup> In contrast, for women's

<sup>10</sup> For women whose first marriages ended in 1945 to 1949, the percentage that lasted less than 5 years was not statistically different from the percentage that lasted 5 to 10 years.

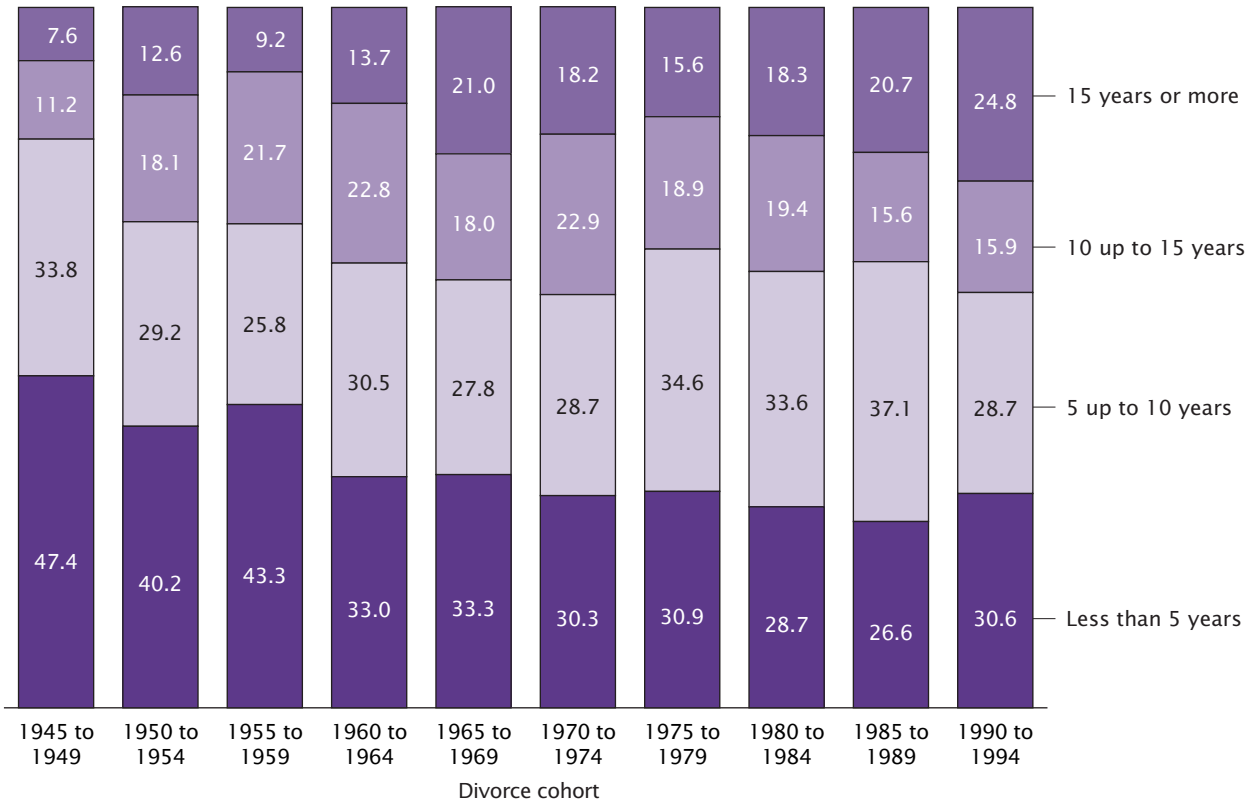
first marriages that ended in 1990 to 1994, 3 out of 10 lasted less than 5 years, another 29 percent lasted 5 to 10 years, while 25 percent lasted 15 years or more.<sup>11</sup> The high proportion of marriages that lasted less than 5 years in the 1945 to 1949 divorce cohort may be due in part to war-time marriages involving men serving in World War II.

### Duration of Current Marriages: 2001

While previous sections examined the intervals between different marital events among people who had

<sup>11</sup> Of the three percentages mentioned in this sentence, only the first (lasted less than 5 years) and the third (lasted 15 or more years) differ statistically from each other.

Figure 3.  
**Percent Distribution of Duration of Women's First Marriages  
 by Divorce Cohort: 2001**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

Table 7.  
**Currently Married Women Who Had Reached Stated Anniversaries, by Race and Ethnicity:  
 2001**

Anniversary of current marriage	Total	White		Black	Asian and Pacific Islander	Hispanic (of any race)
		Total	Non-Hispanic			
<b>Number (in thousands)</b>						
Total currently married	58,909	51,065	45,210	4,410	2,857	6,370
5th	47,776	41,911	37,538	3,172	2,222	4,743
10th	38,809	34,234	31,022	2,524	1,679	3,469
15th	31,214	27,786	25,477	1,905	1,235	2,488
25th	19,545	17,619	16,407	1,078	687	1,281
35th	11,666	10,668	10,071	564	361	623
50th	3,419	3,160	3,043	150	98	129
<b>Percent</b>						
Total currently married	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
5th	81.1	82.1	83.0	71.9	77.8	74.5
10th	65.9	67.0	68.6	57.2	58.8	54.5
15th	53.0	54.4	56.4	43.2	43.2	39.1
25th	33.2	34.5	36.3	24.4	24.1	20.1
35th	19.8	20.9	22.3	12.8	12.6	9.8
50th	5.8	6.2	6.7	3.4	3.4	2.0

Note: Currently married includes married spouse present and married spouse absent, excluding separated.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

Table 8.  
**Number of Times Married for Currently Married Wives and Their Husbands: 2001**

(Numbers in thousands)

Number of times wife has been married	Number of times husband has been married							
	All current marriages				Married within the last year			
	Total	Married once	Married twice	Married 3 or more times	Total	Married once	Married twice	Married 3 or more times
<b>Number (in thousands)</b>								
<b>Total</b> .....	57,728	44,965	10,274	2,489	2,282	1,671	439	172
Married once .....	45,389	40,288	4,421	681	1,686	1,418	212	55
Married twice .....	10,232	4,107	4,866	1,259	469	214	192	64
Married 3 or more times .....	2,106	571	987	549	127	39	35	54
<b>Percent of marriages</b>								
<b>Total</b> .....	100.0	77.9	17.8	4.3	100.0	73.2	19.2	7.5
Married once .....	78.6	69.8	7.7	1.2	73.9	62.2	9.3	2.4
Married twice .....	17.7	7.1	8.4	2.2	20.6	9.4	8.4	2.8
Married 3 or more times .....	3.6	1.0	1.7	1.0	5.6	1.7	1.5	2.3

Note: This table includes only people who are married spouse present.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

experienced a marital disruption by 2001, this section looks at the duration of the most recent marriage for couples who were currently married at the time of the survey in 2001.

Table 7 shows the number and percentage of married couples in 2001 who had reached various anniversaries. In 2001, 81 percent of all currently married couples had achieved at least their fifth anniversary, 53 percent had been married at least 15 years, and 33 percent had reached their twenty-fifth anniversary. A small percentage of currently married couples had passed their golden (fiftieth) wedding anniversary—6 percent.

The percentage reaching particular anniversaries was generally lower for Black, Asian, and Hispanic women than for non-Hispanic White women. Higher rates of divorce for Blacks and the more youthful age

distribution for Hispanics and Asians contribute to this difference.

#### **Number of Times Married, for Those Currently Married**

Table 8 takes a more detailed look at the number of times wives and husbands had been married when surveyed in 2001. While both spouses were in their first marriage in 70 percent of all currently married couples in 2001, this situation occurred for just 62 percent of the couples who had married within the previous year. Seven percent of all currently married couples involved a wife who was in her second marriage and a husband who was in his first marriage, while another 8 percent of all currently married couples involved a husband who was in his second marriage and a wife who was in her first marriage. Eight percent of both currently married couples and

couples married within the previous year involved spouses who were both in their second marriage.<sup>12</sup> A very small percentage of all currently married couples (1 percent) comprised a husband and wife who had both been married 3 or more times.

Based on the SIPP data in Table 8, the percentage of couples married in the previous year in which both were entering their first marriage was 62 percent—higher than the 54 percent for couples who married in 1990, based on the last data published by the National

<sup>12</sup> The percentage of couples involving a wife who was in her second marriage and a husband who was in his first marriage did not differ statistically from either the percentage of couples involving a husband who was in his second marriage and a wife who was in her first marriage or the percentage of couples involving spouses who were both in their second marriage.

Table 9.  
**Characteristics of People 15 Years and Over with a Marital Event Within the Last Year: 2001**

(Data include first and higher order events)

Characteristic at time of interview	Men				Women			
	Marriage	Separation	Divorce	Widowhood	Marriage	Separation	Divorce	Widowhood
<b>Total (in thousands)</b> .....	<b>2,476</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>1,222</b>
PERCENT .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>								
White .....	82.7	79.7	84.6	79.5	81.2	83.2	85.2	80.2
Non-Hispanic .....	63.8	70.3	75.9	76.5	63.9	68.4	75.5	73.3
Black .....	9.6	16.6	10.7	13.8	9.8	11.1	11.1	16.0
Asian and Pacific Islander .....	6.1	1.4	4.0	6.7	7.7	3.9	2.2	3.4
Hispanic (of any race) .....	20.7	10.7	9.2	4.7	19.2	16.4	11.1	7.3
<b>Age</b>								
15 to 24 years .....	23.2	8.6	4.0	0.7	32.8	19.4	8.9	1.5
25 to 34 years .....	45.3	31.7	27.6	0.8	41.6	29.4	35.4	1.5
35 to 44 years .....	17.7	35.9	40.2	2.8	13.8	32.0	36.3	3.7
45 to 54 years .....	7.2	16.8	20.3	8.0	9.0	12.7	13.5	11.8
55 to 64 years .....	4.2	4.6	5.9	14.0	1.6	5.8	5.2	19.7
65 years and over .....	2.4	2.5	1.9	73.7	1.0	0.7	0.8	61.8
Median age (in years) .....	30.0	37.4	39.2	73.7	28.3	35.6	36.7	70.5
<b>Educational Attainment</b>								
Less than high school .....	16.2	16.6	13.2	39.9	17.0	18.3	12.3	32.3
High school graduate .....	30.9	35.5	30.0	28.0	25.2	34.3	29.4	31.8
Some college .....	28.4	30.1	36.6	13.6	30.0	32.0	35.3	22.8
Bachelor's degree or more .....	24.5	17.8	20.2	18.5	27.8	15.3	23.1	13.1
<b>Employment Status<sup>1</sup></b>								
Worked full-time last month .....	82.4	72.9	82.8	11.6	55.3	56.7	65.9	20.4
Worked part-time last month .....	8.0	7.8	3.7	8.8	11.8	14.8	13.3	7.6
Did not work last month .....	9.6	19.2	13.6	79.5	32.9	28.5	20.7	72.0
<b>Poverty Level</b>								
Below poverty level .....	11.9	12.7	7.6	13.9	10.7	23.1	23.0	17.3
100-199 percent of poverty level .....	17.2	20.7	16.6	27.6	17.4	22.0	21.0	30.8
200+ percent of poverty level .....	70.6	64.0	73.0	57.9	71.0	50.9	52.2	50.9
Income not reported .....	0.2	2.6	2.8	0.6	1.0	4.0	3.8	1.0
<b>Household Receives Public Assistance</b>								
Cash assistance .....	4.0	5.2	3.2	10.5	4.8	9.4	8.0	9.4
Noncash assistance <sup>2</sup> .....	26.7	19.1	15.3	21.6	26.9	39.7	33.5	26.0
<b>Tenure</b>								
Owns home .....	51.6	52.0	57.1	83.4	52.2	45.2	50.1	73.0
Rents home .....	47.0	44.2	39.9	14.4	46.3	52.0	46.6	24.7
Occupies without cash payment .....	1.4	3.8	3.0	2.1	1.6	2.8	3.3	2.4
<b>Family Status<sup>3</sup></b>								
Not living with own children under 18 ..	73.3	86.1	83.2	95.2	61.4	41.2	43.1	95.3
Currently living with own children under 18 ..	26.7	13.9	16.8	4.8	38.6	58.8	56.9	4.7
Currently living with own children 1-17 ..	20.8	13.3	15.1	4.8	33.0	57.1	55.8	4.7
Currently living with own children under 1 ..	9.1	0.6	2.2	-	9.6	3.9	3.1	0.2

- Represents or rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup>Full-time includes those who usually work 35 or more hours per week; part-time includes those who usually work 1-34 hours per week; those who did not work last month include individuals who were unemployed or were not in the labor force.

<sup>2</sup>Noncash benefits include food stamps, WIC, Medicaid, rent for public housing, lower rent due to government subsidy, energy assistance, and free or reduced price lunches or breakfasts.

<sup>3</sup>For the purposes of this table only, own children refers to biological or adopted children. The table excludes stepchildren.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

Center for Health Statistics. These percentages represented declines from about 69 percent in 1970. The SIPP figure of 62 percent for 2001, however, is close to the percentage of first-time marriages in 1974 (63 percent) and in 1975 (61 percent).<sup>13</sup> The SIPP data also show that 15 percent of couples married in the previous year involved both spouses marrying for at least the second time, compared with the NCHS statistic of 24 percent in 1990. The SIPP data are again more similar to those for 1970, in which 16 percent of marriages involved both spouses entering their second or higher marriage.<sup>14</sup>

### MARITAL EVENTS WITHIN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

This section of the report provides basic information about people who have had marital events in the year before the interview, updating data published in the previous report (P70-80) that analyzed the 1996 SIPP marital history data. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) previously published similar national estimates for selected states based on information recorded on marriage and divorce certificates. Since NCHS has not provided these detailed estimates since 1990, this section attempts to fill this gap by showing the characteristics of men and women who had a marriage, separation, divorce, or were widowed in the 12-month period prior to the 2001 SIPP survey.

<sup>13</sup> The SIPP estimate for 2001 does not differ statistically from the NCHS statistics for 1974 and 1975.

<sup>14</sup> Sally C. Clarke, "Advance Report of Final Marriage Statistics, 1989 and 1990," *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 43, No. 12(S), Table 7, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD: July 14, 1995.

National estimates of the total number of marriages in the previous year from the SIPP are reasonably close to estimates shown in the Vital Statistics reports published by NCHS. For the year ending August 2001, NCHS estimated the total number of marriages at 2,349,000. SIPP data yield 2,476,000 marriages for men and 2,442,000 marriages for women. Thus, the SIPP estimates are about 4 percent to 5 percent higher than the NCHS estimates. NCHS no longer publishes an estimate of the number of divorces since it no longer receives data from enough states.<sup>15</sup>

The strength of SIPP data rests in its provision of age-specific marital transition rates (see the For More Information section at the end of this report) and socioeconomic characteristics of the people experiencing these events. In addition, no other source provides information about the characteristics of people who were recently widowed or separated.

Data on the characteristics of people with recent marital events can provide a profile of people after their transition from one marital status to another. For example, what is the economic situation of recently divorced men and women, or what age groups are more likely to experience various marital events?

The majority of men and women recently widowed are older than most of the men and women who had other marital events. Age is also especially important when looking at employment status, housing tenure, and family status. While the median age of men and

<sup>15</sup> For additional explanation, see the NCHS Web site at <[www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs)>, or "Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths: Provisional Data for 1999," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, Number 19, February 22, 2001.

women who recently married, divorced, or separated was under 50 years, the median age of the men and women who were widowed in the last year was 74 years for men and 71 years for women (Table 9).<sup>16</sup>

The majority of recently married men and women were 15 to 34 (69 percent of men and 74 percent of women), with a median age of 30 years for men and 28 years for women.<sup>17</sup> Half or more had at least some college and owned their homes. While about 1 out of 5 recently married men lived with children aged 1 to 17, about one-third of recently married women did.

The majority of recently separated and divorced men and women were 25 to 44. While half or more of these women lived with their own children under 18 (59 percent of separated and 57 percent of divorced women), less than one-quarter of recently separated or divorced men (14 percent of those separated and 17 percent of those divorced) lived with their own children under 18.<sup>18</sup> Thirteen percent of recently separated men were below the poverty level compared with 23 percent of recently separated women. While 15 percent of recently divorced men lived in households in which someone received noncash public assistance, 34 percent of recently divorced women or someone in their household received noncash public assistance. The data show that marital disruption results in much poorer economic circumstances for women than for men.

<sup>16</sup> The median age of men and women widowed in the last year does not differ statistically.

<sup>17</sup> The estimates for men and women are not statistically different.

<sup>18</sup> Estimates for men and women who were recently separated are not statistically different from estimates for men and women who were recently divorced.

Figure 4a.  
**Percent Distribution of Number of Biological Children by Current Marital Status, for Ever Married Men 45 Years and Over: 2001**

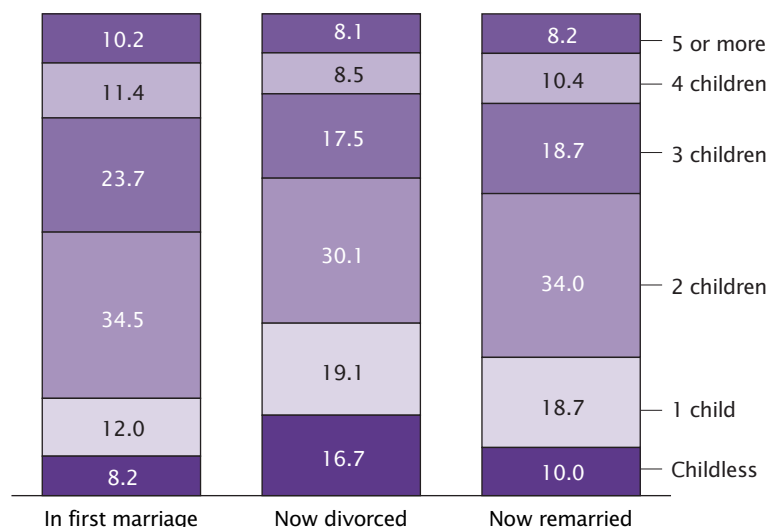


Note: "Now divorced" includes those who had a first marriage that ended in divorce, and who have not remarried. "Now remarried" includes those who had a first marriage that ended in divorce, and who remarried and are still in their second marriage.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

## REMARRIAGE AND FERTILITY

Figures 4a and 4b show, separately for men and women, the percent distribution of the number of children born to those who are still in their first marriage compared with those who were divorced or those who had divorced and remarried. Data are shown only for men and women 45 and over because the majority of childbearing is completed before age 45.<sup>19</sup> Men who divorced from their first marriage and have not remarried are more likely to be childless (22 percent) than either those who remained in their first marriage or those who remarried (about 10 percent each). Similarly, the percentage of women who are childless is highest for those who remained divorced from their first marriage (17 percent), compared with those who are still in their first marriage (8 percent) and those who remarried (10 percent).<sup>20</sup>

Figure 4b.  
**Percent Distribution of Number of Biological Children by Current Marital Status, for Ever Married Women 45 Years and Over: 2001**



Note: "Now divorced" includes those who had a first marriage that ended in divorce, and who have not remarried. "Now remarried" includes those who had a first marriage that ended in divorce, and who remarried and are still in their second marriage.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

## SOURCE OF THE DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the 2001 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. The SIPP is a longitudinal survey conducted at 4-month intervals. The data in this report were collected from June through September of 2001 in the second wave (interview) of the 2001 SIPP. The data highlighted in this report come primarily from the core and the marital history topical

<sup>19</sup> See Tables 2 and 20 in Joyce A. Martin, Brady E. Hamilton, Paul D. Sutton, Stephanie J. Ventura, Fay Menacker, and Martha L. Munson, "Births: Final Data for 2002," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 52, No. 10, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD: 2003. Less than 1 percent of women and 3 percent of men in 2002 were age 45 and over at the birth of their child.

<sup>20</sup> The percentage of women still in their first marriage who are childless does not differ statistically from the percentage of remarried women who are childless.

---

module. Although the main focus of the SIPP is information on labor force participation, jobs, income, and participation in federal assistance programs, information on other topics is also collected in topical modules on a rotating basis. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the people in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized people in Census 2000).

### ACCURACY OF THE DATA

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. This means the 90-percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports to minimize these errors.

The Survey of Income and Program Participation weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

The appendix that follows contains confidence intervals for the estimates displayed in the first table of this report.

For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates including standard errors and confidence intervals, go to <[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A01\\_w1tow6\\_cross\\_puf.pdf](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A01_w1tow6_cross_puf.pdf)> or contact Reid A. Rottach of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division by e-mail at <[reid.a.rottach@census.gov](mailto:reid.a.rottach@census.gov)>.

Additional information on the SIPP can be found at the following Web sites: [www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/) (main SIPP Web site), [www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf), (SIPP Quality Profile), and

[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/sipp2001.pdf](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/sipp2001.pdf) (SIPP User's Guide).

### MORE INFORMATION

Detailed tables for this report are also available on the Web at the same location as the report on the Internet ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)); search by clicking on the letter M in the "Subjects A-Z" section of the Web page and selecting "Marriage and Divorce Data."

### CONTACTS

Additional marriage or divorce information may be obtained from the author of this report, who can be contacted in the Census Bureau Fertility and Family Statistics Branch at 301-763-2416 or by e-mail at <[Rose.Kreider@census.gov](mailto:Rose.Kreider@census.gov)>.

### USER COMMENTS

The Census Bureau welcomes the comments and advice of data and report users. If you have any suggestions or comments, please write to:

Chief, Population Division  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Washington, DC 20233

or send e-mail to: [pop@census.gov](mailto:pop@census.gov)

### SUGGESTED CITATION

Kreider, Rose M., 2005. *Number, Timing, and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: 2001*. Current Population Reports, P70-97. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.



**APPENDIX A.**

Table A.

**Margin of Error for Table 1: Marital History by Sex for Selected Birth Cohorts, 1935-39 to 1975-79: 2001**

Characteristic	1935 to 1939	1940 to 1944	1945 to 1949	1950 to 1954	1955 to 1959	1960 to 1964	1965 to 1969	1970 to 1974	1975 to 1979
<b>Men (in thousands) .....</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>459</b>
Percent ever married by age:									
20 years .....	2.9	2.6	2.2	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4
25 years .....	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5	(X)
30 years .....	2.5	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	(X)	(X)
35 years .....	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	(X)	(X)	(X)
40 years .....	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
45 years .....	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.6	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
50 years .....	1.7	1.5	1.4	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Percent ever divorced by age:									
20 years .....	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4
25 years .....	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.2	(X)
30 years .....	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.7	(X)	(X)
35 years .....	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.9	(X)	(X)	(X)
40 years .....	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.1	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
45 years .....	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.4	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
50 years .....	3.2	2.9	2.7	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
55 years .....	3.3	3.0	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Percent married two times or more by age:									
25 years .....	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.7	(X)
30 years .....	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.3	(X)	(X)
35 years .....	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.5	1.5	(X)	(X)	(X)
40 years .....	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.8	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
45 years .....	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
50 years .....	3.1	2.7	2.5	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
55 years .....	3.2	2.8	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Women (in thousands) .....</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>460</b>
Percent ever married by age:									
20 years .....	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0
25 years .....	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	(X)
30 years .....	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	(X)	(X)
35 years .....	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	(X)	(X)	(X)
40 years .....	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
45 years .....	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.4	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
50 years .....	1.5	1.3	1.4	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Percent ever divorced by age:									
20 years .....	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5
25 years .....	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	(X)
30 years .....	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	(X)	(X)
35 years .....	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	(X)	(X)	(X)
40 years .....	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
45 years .....	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.4	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
50 years .....	2.9	2.8	2.6	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
55 years .....	3.0	2.8	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Percent married two times or more by age:									
25 years .....	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	(X)
30 years .....	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	(X)	(X)
35 years .....	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.7	(X)	(X)	(X)
40 years .....	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0	1.9	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
45 years .....	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.1	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
50 years .....	2.7	2.5	2.4	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
55 years .....	2.7	2.6	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

X Not applicable. Cohort had not lived to stated age at the time of the survey.

Note: Age in years is exact age. For example, for the percent ever married by 20 years, the person must have been married by age 240 months.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2001 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
Washington, DC 20233

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

Penalty for Private Use \$300

