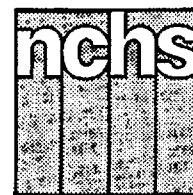


Monthly Vital Statistics Report



Final Data From the National Center for Health Statistics

Advance Report of Final Divorce Statistics, 1987

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Divorces and divorce rates

The number of divorces in the United States fell 1 percent for the second consecutive year, from 1,178,000 in 1986 to 1,166,000 in 1987 (table 1). The 1987 total was 4 percent below the record high of 1,213,000 reached in 1981. The number of divorces fluctuated during the 1980's, but the 1987 total was lower than that for any year since 1983.

The divorce rate per 1,000 population dropped 2 percent between 1986 and 1987, from 4.9 to 4.8. This rate has not been as low since 1975. During the

1980's, the divorce rate declined 9 percent from a high of 5.3 in 1981. The divorce rate per 1,000 married women 15 years of age and over dropped 2 percent in 1987, from 21.2 per 1,000 to 20.8. This was lower than it has been since 1975.

Divorce rates dropped in two of the four geographic regions in 1987, the South and the West, to 5.4 and 5.5, respectively (table 2). Rates in these two regions were considerably higher than rates for the Northeast (3.6 per 1,000) or the Midwest (4.4), which were unchanged from 1986.

States with the highest divorce rates in 1987 were Nevada (13.8), Oklahoma (7.3), Arizona (7.0), Arkansas (6.7), Florida (6.6), Wyoming (6.5), Alaska (6.5), Indiana (6.4), Tennessee (6.2), and Alabama (6.0). These States all had rates that were at least 25 percent higher than the national rate (4.8). The lowest divorce rates in 1987 were reported for Massachusetts (2.9), Pennsylvania (3.3), North Dakota and Maryland (3.4 each), and Minnesota, Wisconsin, and New Jersey (3.5 each). The number and rate of divorce dropped sharply, 14 and 15 percent, respectively, in Massachusetts between 1986 and 1987

in the wake of 1985 legislative changes that speeded the process of divorce and thus inflated divorce totals for 1985 and early 1986. The 1987 rate of 2.9 for Massachusetts may represent a return to what will be a more typical annual level for that State. Other States that reported a more than 5-percent decline in the 1987 divorce rate were Wyoming, Alaska, Hawaii, Delaware, Mississippi, West Virginia, and Arkansas.

Data for the preceding discussion are from counts of the number of divorces that are provided annually by officials in 50 States. The count of divorces for the District of Columbia was taken from the 100-percent sample of divorce records. For the following discussions of children involved in divorce, ages at divorce and marriage, duration of marriage, and petitioner of divorce, detailed information comes from the 31 States and the District of Columbia that constitute the divorce-registration area (DRA). About 49 percent of the divorces in the United States in 1987 took place in the DRA, and 55 percent of the population aged 15 years and over live in DRA States. The divorce rate for the DRA was 4.3 per 1,000 population, 10 percent below the rate for the entire United States.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control
National Center for Health Statistics
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Children involved in divorce

Divorces affect at least two people, the husband and the wife. In addition, there may be children affected by divorce. In 1979 the number of children under 18 involved in divorce reached a record high of 1,181,000; and it has fluctuated, generally downward, since then (table 3 and figure 1). In 1987 there were 1,038,000 children involved in divorce, 2 percent fewer than in 1986 and fewer than in any year since 1973. The average number of children per decree was 0.89, down 1 percent from 1986 and lower than it has been since 1954. The rate per 1,000 children under 18 years of age was 16.3, down 3 percent from 1986 and lower than it has been since 1975. Taken together, these numbers reflect both the declining number of divorces and the shrinking size of American families. In the 51.5 million married-couple families in the United States in 1987, the average

number of children was 0.88 compared with 1.30 in 1970 (1, 2).

Almost one-half (48 percent) of the couples divorcing in 1987 had no children under 18 years of age. Twenty-five percent had one child, 20 percent had two children, and only 7 percent had three children or more (table 4). These proportions have been similar in recent years, but compared with 1970, more of the couples who are currently divorcing had no children and fewer had large families of three children or more.

The proportion of divorces that involved children depended on the

duration of marriage. In general, as duration lengthened to 14 years, the proportion of couples with children increased. Twelve percent of those married less than a year had children, as did 26 percent of those married 1–2 years, 42 percent of those married 3–4 years, 60 percent of those married 5–9 years, and 75 percent of those married 10–14 years. The proportion with children decreased for couples married more than 14 years because some of their children were no longer minors.

Race and education made some difference in the proportion of divorcing couples with children. For white couples, 52 percent had one or more children; for black couples and for couples of other races, 49 and 47 percent, respectively, had children. Information on education of divorcing men and women shows that college graduates were less likely than those with less education to have minor children. These data are from the 27 States and

¹U.S. Bureau of the Census. Household and family characteristics, March 1987. Current population reports; series P-20, no 424. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1988.

²U.S. Bureau of the Census. Revised estimates for 1970 obtained from the Marriage and Family Statistics Branch.

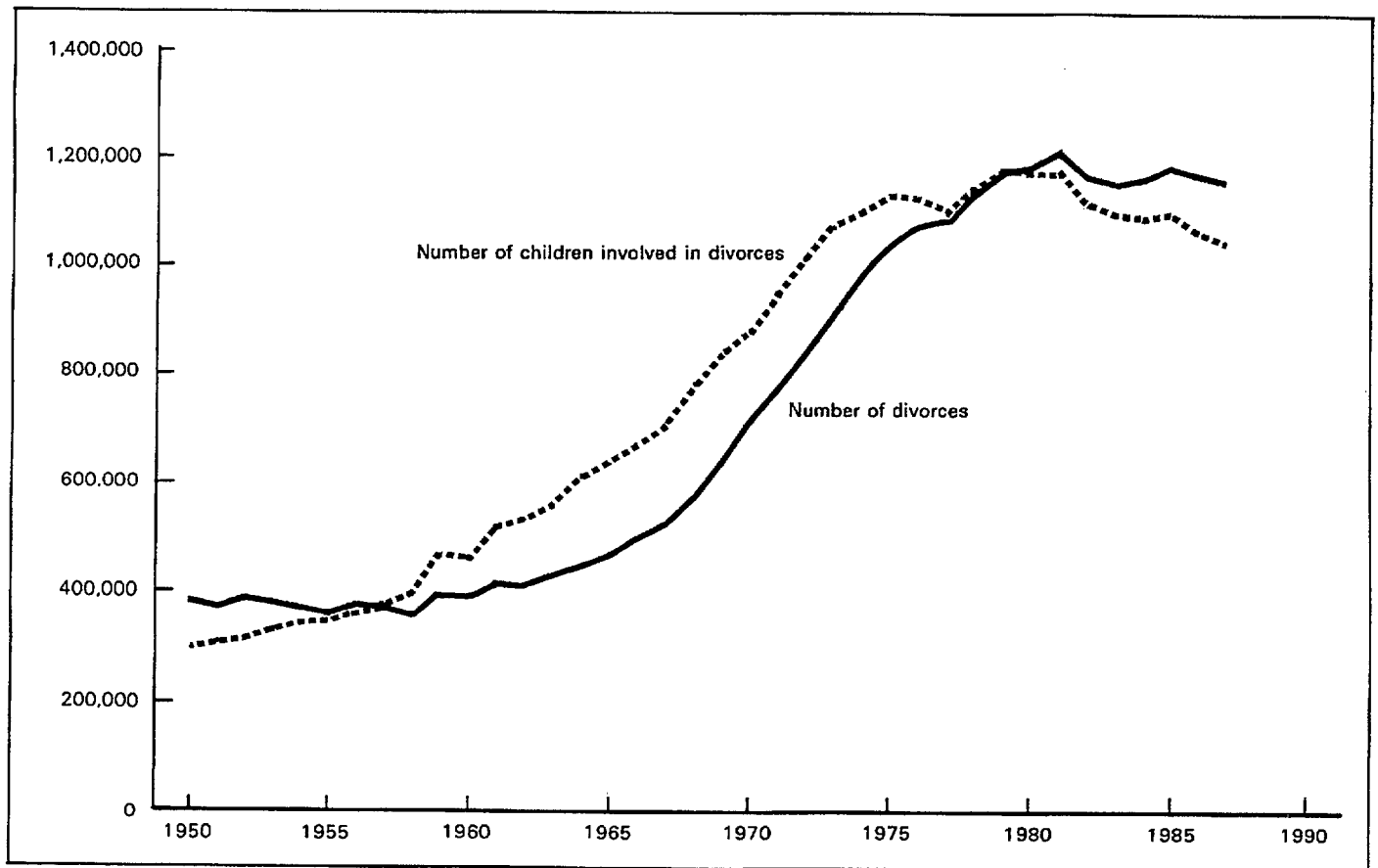


Figure 1. Estimated number of divorces and children involved in divorce: United States, 1950–87

the District of Columbia that report race and the 21 States that report education on divorce records.

Age

Age-specific divorce rates have been calculated using data from 28 States and the District of Columbia, where age at divorce was reported with sufficient completeness to provide reliable rates (table 5). The rates are based on population estimates prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and, as in the past, fewer men than women are reported as married. This causes the rate of divorce for married men to be slightly higher than the rate for married women because the base population is smaller. The 1987 divorce rate per

1,000 married men was 18.8, slightly higher than the rate of 18.6 per 1,000 women.

The age-specific divorce rate for women was highest for married teen-aged women 15-19 years of age (49.5). The rate then dropped for successive 5-year age groups. For men, the highest rate was for those 20-24 years of age (52.2 per 1,000 married men). Then, as with the married women, the divorce rate dropped for each successive age group (figure 2).

Most men are married to women younger than themselves. Consequently, except for teenagers, rates for men are higher than those for women in each age group. For example, the divorce rate for married men aged 40-44 years was 21.4 per 1,000, and that for women was 18.7.

Between 1986 and 1987, the divorce rate declined for married women of all ages combined, from 18.8 to 18.6 per 1,000. When the data are broken down into 5-year age groups, however, different patterns emerge. Rates declined for married women under 35 years of age and for those aged 40-44, 50-54, and 60-64 years. In contrast, rates increased for married women aged 35-39, 45-49, and 55-59 years. The divorce rate for married men of all ages combined decreased from 19.0 in 1986 to 18.8 in 1987. Rates increased, however, for some ages: 20-24 years, 35-39 years, and the three 5-year groups from 50-64 years.

From 1970 to 1980, the divorce rate for married men or women of all ages increased 39 percent, and divorce rates rose for every age group except

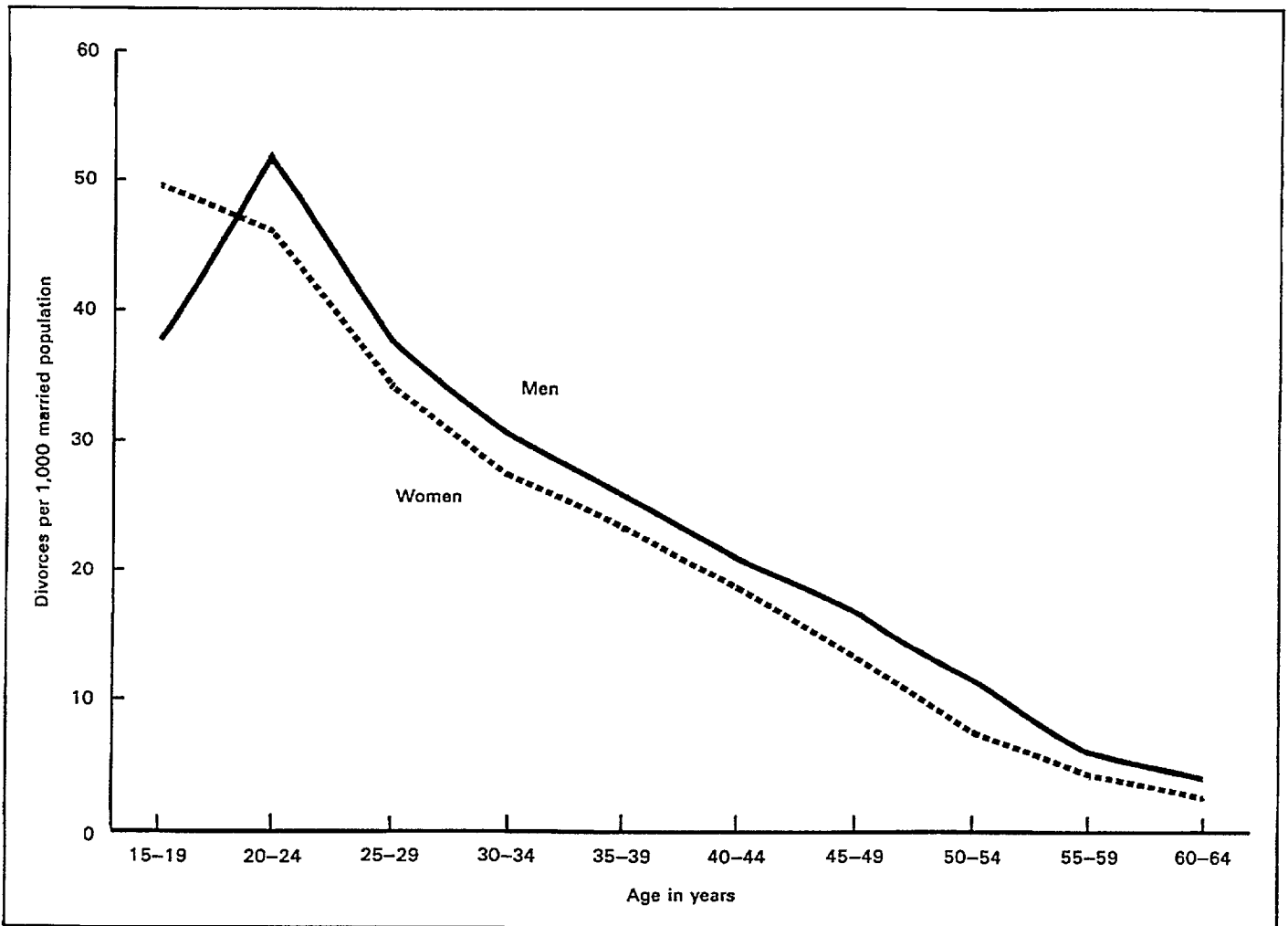


Figure 2. Age-specific divorce rates for men and women: Divorce-registration area, 1987

for men 65 years of age and over. The percent of increase was much greater for younger than for older men and women. Subsequently, from 1980 to 1987, the rates for married men and women of all ages dropped 5 percent although rates fluctuated from year to year for most age groups. For a few age groups, there were rather persistent and substantial increases. The divorce rate for men 45–49 increased 19 percent between 1980 and 1986 before dropping slightly in 1987. Although the divorce rate for married men 60–64 years of age is low, it rose 16 percent, from 3.7 in 1980 to 4.3 in 1987. The divorce rate for women ages 50–54 years increased 15 percent, from 6.6 in 1980 to 7.6 in 1986, before dropping to 7.5 in 1987.

For both sexes divorce is concentrated between 20 and 45 years of age. Only 19 percent of husbands and 13 percent of wives were 45 years of age or over when they divorced in 1987, and 3 percent of husbands and 2 percent of wives were 60 years and over (table 6).

There are two summary measures of age, the median and the mean, that facilitate comparisons over time, between sexes, and among different marital histories (table 7). In 1987 the median age of men at divorce was 34.9 years, meaning that half of the divorcing men were under 35 years of age when they divorced and half were 35 or older. The mean, or average, age was 36.8 in 1987, up for the ninth consecutive year and 2.0 years older than it was in 1978 (34.8).

The age at divorce varies with the number of times divorcing men and women have been married. In 1987, 72 percent of divorcing men and women were ending first marriages, 21 percent were ending second marriages, and 7 percent were ending third or higher order marriages. The mean age of men ending first marriages was 34.6 years of age; while for men ending second and third or higher order marriages it was 41.3 and 45.5 years, respectively.

There was also an increase in the age at which divorcing men and women had been married, but the majority were still under 25 years of age at

marriage (table 8). The trends in average ages at first marriage showed that the age at which divorcing men had married was relatively stable during the 1970–80 decade and ended the decade just as it began, at 23.0 years of age. In every year after 1980, there was an increase in the age at which divorcing husbands had first married, and by 1987 the age reached 23.9 (table 9).

In part, the increase in age at divorce between 1978 and 1987 was due to increasing age at marriage for both first marriages and remarriages. For example, average age of divorcing husbands at first marriage increased a year between 1978, when it was 22.9 years, and 1987, when it was 23.9 years (table 9). Age at second marriage of men divorcing in 1987 was 34.0, 1.2 years older than in 1978. Age at third or higher order marriage of men who divorced in 1987 was 40.2, 1.2 years older than in 1978. Also contributing to the increase in age at divorce were a slightly longer duration of marriage (table 10) and an increase in the proportion of husbands and wives ending remarriages (28 percent in 1987 compared with 24 percent in 1978).

The trends in age of divorcing women at marriage and divorce were similar to those of men from 1970 through 1987; for first marriages, however, women were younger than men by more than 2 years; and for second marriages, women were younger than men by more than 3 years.

Duration of marriage

The percent distribution of 1987 divorces according to the length of time that couples had been married shows that the greatest numbers of marital dissolutions occur early in marriage and that, after the second year, there are fewer dissolutions at each subsequent duration (figure 3). In 1987 the median duration was 7.0 years and the mean, or average, duration was 9.6 years. However, average duration to decree varied according to the number of times the spouses had been married (table 10). The mean duration was 10.8 years for first divorces of husbands and wives, 7.4 years for husbands and 7.3 years for wives dissolving second marriages, and 5.4 years for husbands and 5.0 years for wives ending third or

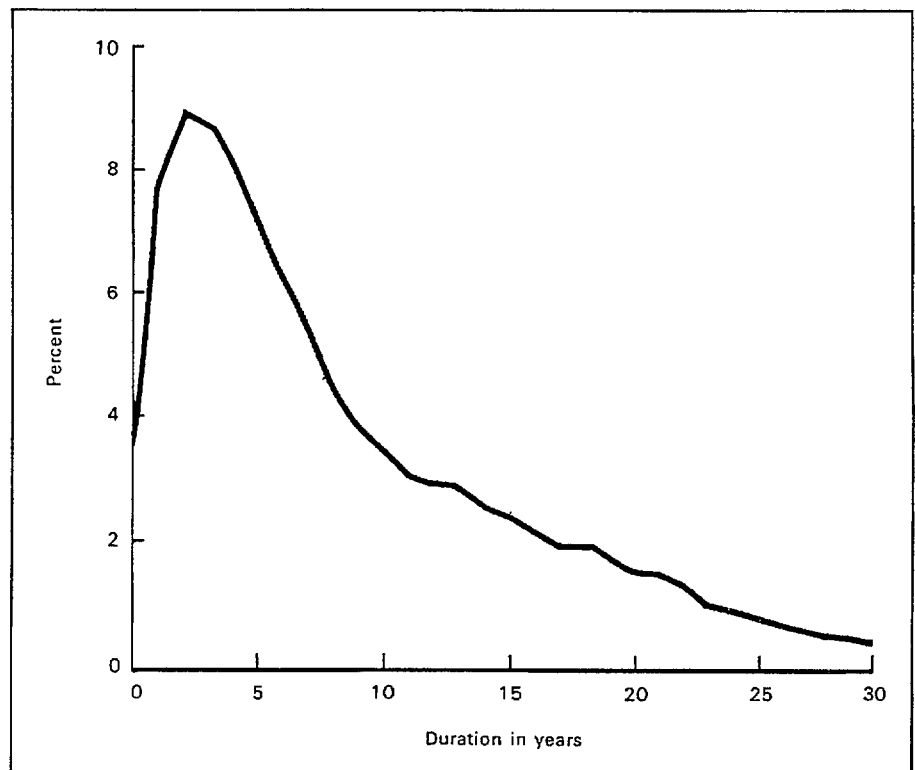


Figure 3. Percent distribution of divorces by duration of marriage: Divorce-registration area, 1987

higher order marriages. Thus, men and women ending third marriages had been married only half as long as those ending first marriages.

Taken together, data from tables 7, 9, and 10 show that husbands and wives who divorced in 1987 were older at divorce, both because they were older at marriage and because they remained married for longer durations, and that this was true for first marriages as well as for remarriages.

One of the most striking characteristics of these data is the consistency of the statistical measures from year to year. The levels of the measures are remarkably stable and, when there is a change, it is gradual. For example, despite the fact that divorce laws changed radically early in the 1970's—moving toward consistency among States, no-fault legislation, and shorter waiting periods—the average duration of dissolving first marriages during the 18-year period from 1970 to 1987 varied only from 10.0 years to 10.8 years. This consistency from year to year in duration to divorce suggests that there is some underlying time-dependent process in marital stability.

In addition to the underlying process of marriage dissolution and the differences between first and remarriages, there are legislative differences that allow residents in some States to divorce much more quickly than those in other States once they have decided

to divorce. In Maryland and Virginia, for example, only 0.4 percent of couples had been married less than a year when their divorce decree was granted, while in Alabama the comparable figure was 8.4 percent (table 11). Other factors that account for some of the variation among States are variations in average age at marriage, ethnic and religious differences in divorce rates, and the proportion of couples that are in remarriages. The mean duration ranged from 7.4 in Alaska to 11.4 in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Petitioner

Wives are twice as likely as husbands to be the spouse who petitions for the divorce (table 12). In 1987 wives petitioned 60.7 percent of all divorces, husbands petitioned 32.7 percent, and both petitioned 6.5 percent. When children were present, the disparity between the sexes was even greater, with 65.1 percent of all divorces petitioned by wives. When children were not present, the proportion of divorces initiated by wives dropped to 56.2 percent and the proportion petitioned jointly increased to 7.0 percent. The proportion of jointly petitioned divorces more than doubled since 1975, when it was 2.8 percent of decrees, to 6.5 percent in 1987.

There were small racial differences in petitioner. White wives were more

likely than black wives and wives of other races to be the petitioners. In 1987, 64 percent of white wives, 60 percent of black wives, and 56 percent of wives of other races initiated the divorces.

The number of times a husband or wife had been married had almost no effect on which spouse initiated divorce proceedings. In general, there were also only very small differences by age for husbands and for wives. However, for men around retirement age, 60–64 years, the proportion of husband petitioners increased. For men in all age groups under 60 years, the proportion of husband petitioners was between 32 and 36 percent. Among husbands 60–64 years of age the proportion increased to more than 40 percent, and this was true for dissolutions of both first marriages and remarriages.

Race

In the 27 States and the District of Columbia that report race on divorce records, 85 percent of the divorcing husbands and wives were both white, 11 percent were both black, 1 percent were both of other races, and 2 percent were interracial couples (table 13). The racial composition of divorcing couples is very similar to that of couples married in recent years.

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Table 1. Divorces and annulments and rates: United States, 1940-87

[Data refer only to events occurring within the United States. Alaska included beginning 1959 and Hawaii beginning 1960. Rates per 1,000 population enumerated as of April 1 for census years and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Year	Divorces and annulments	Rate per 1,000—	
		Total population	Married women 15 years and over
1987	1,166,000	4.8	20.8
1986	1,178,000	4.9	21.2
1985	1,190,000	5.0	21.7
1984	1,169,000	5.0	21.5
1983	1,158,000	4.9	21.3
1982	1,170,000	5.0	21.7
1981	1,213,000	5.3	22.6
1980	1,189,000	5.2	22.6
1979	1,181,000	5.3	22.8
1978	1,130,000	5.1	21.9
1977	1,091,000	5.0	21.1
1976	1,083,000	5.0	21.1
1975	1,036,000	4.8	20.3
1974	977,000	4.6	19.3
1973	915,000	4.3	18.2
1972	845,000	4.0	17.0
1971	773,000	3.7	15.8
1970	708,000	3.5	14.9
1969	639,000	3.2	13.4
1968	584,000	2.9	12.5
1967	523,000	2.6	11.2
1966	499,000	2.5	10.9
1965	479,000	2.5	10.6
1964	450,000	2.4	10.0
1963	428,000	2.3	9.6
1962	413,000	2.2	9.4
1961	414,000	2.3	9.6
1960	393,000	2.2	9.2
1959	395,000	2.2	9.3
1958	368,000	2.1	8.9
1957	381,000	2.2	9.2
1956	382,000	2.3	9.4
1955	377,000	2.3	9.3
1954	379,000	2.4	9.5
1953	390,000	2.5	9.9
1952	392,000	2.5	10.1
1951	381,000	2.5	9.9
1950	385,000	2.6	10.3
1949	397,000	2.7	10.6
1948	408,000	2.8	11.2
1947	483,000	3.4	13.6
1946	610,000	4.3	17.9
1945	485,000	3.5	14.4
1944	400,000	2.9	12.0
1943	359,000	2.6	11.0
1942	321,000	2.4	10.1
1941	293,000	2.2	9.4
1940	264,000	2.0	8.8

Table 2. Divorces and annulments and rates: United States, each region, division, and State, 1977, 1986, and 1987

[Data are counts of decrees granted supplied by States except as noted. Figures for the divorce-registration States differ from those based on sample data shown in table 4. Rates per 1,000 population in each area estimated as of July 1]

Region, division, and State	Number			Rate		
	1987	1986	1977	1987	1986	1977
United States ¹	1,166,000	1,178,000	1,091,000	4.8	4.9	5.0
Regions:						
Northeast	180,000	182,000	159,000	3.6	3.6	3.2
Midwest	262,000	263,000	271,000	4.4	4.4	4.6
South ¹	451,000	458,000	400,000	5.4	5.5	5.6
West	1273,000	1275,000	261,000	15.5	15.6	6.5
Northeast:						
New England	46,008	47,962	44,353	3.6	3.8	3.6
Middle Atlantic	134,052	134,188	114,164	3.6	3.6	3.1
Midwest:						
East North Central	188,349	188,942	² 197,254	4.5	4.5	² 4.8
West North Central	73,846	73,597	73,274	4.2	4.2	4.3
South:						
South Atlantic	214,743	212,804	182,957	5.2	5.2	5.2
East South Central	86,793	87,257	79,467	5.7	5.7	5.6
West South Central ²	144,696	155,153	136,203	*	*	*
West:						
Mountain	² 85,619	² 86,111	77,278	*	*	7.4
Pacific	185,204	187,441	183,426	5.1	5.2	6.1
New England:						
Maine	5,886	5,627	5,671	5.0	4.8	5.1
New Hampshire	4,947	4,883	4,417	4.7	4.8	5.1
Vermont	2,426	2,410	2,131	4.4	4.5	4.3
Massachusetts	16,993	19,813	16,492	2.9	3.4	2.9
Rhode Island	3,684	3,684	3,420	3.7	3.8	3.6
Connecticut	12,072	11,545	12,222	3.8	3.6	4.0
Middle Atlantic:						
New York	67,993	66,644	55,803	3.8	3.7	3.1
New Jersey	27,222	27,669	20,493	3.5	3.6	2.8
Pennsylvania	38,837	39,875	37,868	3.3	3.4	3.2
East North Central:						
Ohio	49,294	52,068	57,266	4.6	4.8	5.3
Indiana	35,289	³ 35,076	^{2,3} 33,338	6.4	³ 6.4	^{2,3} 6.2
Illinois	46,986	45,852	48,980	4.1	4.0	4.3
Michigan	39,857	39,551	43,036	4.3	4.3	4.7
Wisconsin	16,923	16,395	14,634	3.5	3.4	3.2
West North Central:						
Minnesota	14,931	14,426	14,020	3.5	3.4	3.5
Iowa	10,527	10,324	10,890	3.7	3.6	3.7
Missouri	24,984	25,466	25,235	4.9	5.0	5.2
North Dakota	2,256	2,261	1,952	3.4	3.3	3.0
South Dakota	2,696	2,584	2,436	3.8	3.6	3.5
Nebraska	6,234	6,172	6,112	3.9	3.9	3.9
Kansas	12,218	12,364	12,629	4.9	5.0	5.4
South Atlantic:						
Delaware	2,938	3,093	3,030	4.6	4.9	5.1
Maryland	15,522	15,608	16,617	3.4	3.5	4.0
District of Columbia	² 2,525	2,326	3,158	⁴ 4.1	3.7	4.6
Virginia	25,608	24,875	21,459	4.3	4.3	4.1
West Virginia	9,141	9,803	9,605	4.8	5.1	5.0
North Carolina	31,577	31,599	25,013	4.9	5.0	4.4
South Carolina	13,835	13,429	10,717	4.0	4.0	3.6
Georgia	34,132	33,957	30,988	5.5	5.6	5.9
Florida	79,465	78,114	62,370	6.6	6.7	7.0
East South Central:						
Kentucky	19,795	18,999	15,530	5.3	5.1	4.3
Tennessee	30,324	30,031	27,421	6.2	6.3	6.2
Alabama	24,532	25,356	23,757	6.0	6.3	6.3
Mississippi	12,142	12,871	12,759	4.6	4.9	5.2
West South Central:						
Arkansas	16,088	16,828	² 19,222	6.7	7.1	² 8.7
Louisiana ²	9,591	15,173	12,910	*	*	*
Oklahoma	23,919	24,747	21,806	7.3	7.5	7.6
Texas	95,098	98,405	82,265	5.7	5.9	6.2
Mountain:						
Montana	4,116	4,307	4,692	5.1	5.3	6.1
Idaho	5,892	6,067	6,013	5.9	6.1	6.8
Wyoming	3,202	3,536	3,068	6.5	7.0	7.4
Colorado	18,590	18,951	20,557	5.6	5.8	7.6
New Mexico	² 7,138	² 8,129	9,143	*	*	7.5
Arizona	23,760	23,062	16,578	7.0	7.0	6.8
Utah	8,985	8,589	6,947	5.3	5.2	5.3
Nevada	13,936	13,470	10,280	13.8	13.9	15.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Divorces and annulments and rates: United States, each region, division, and State, 1977, 1986, and 1987—Con.

[Data are counts of decrees granted supplied by States except as noted. Figures for the divorce-registration States differ from those based on sample data shown in table 4. Rates per 1,000 population in each area estimated as of July 1]

Region, division, and State	Number			Rate		
	1987	1986	1977	1987	1986	1977
Pacific:						
Washington	26,967	26,155	26,679	5.9	5.9	7.1
Oregon	15,602	15,774	16,372	5.7	5.8	6.7
California	134,822	⁵ 137,133	132,193	4.9	⁵ 5.1	5.9
Alaska	3,394	3,705	3,581	6.5	7.0	9.0
Hawaii	4,419	4,674	4,601	4.1	4.4	5.0

¹ Figures include estimates; see Technical notes.
² Data are incomplete; see Technical notes.
³ Some counties reported divorce petitions filed rather than decrees granted.
⁴ Figure used for the District of Columbia is the total number of valid divorce certificates provided to NCHS.
⁵ Data include legal separations.

Table 3. Estimated number of children involved in divorces and annulments, average number of children per decree, and rate per 1,000 children under 18 years of age: United States, 1950–87

[Data refer to children under 18 years of age and only to events occurring within the United States. Beginning in 1960, estimated from frequencies based on sample data; for 1950–59, estimated from total counts. For estimating method, see Technical notes. Population enumerated as of April 1 for census years and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Year	Estimated number of children involved	Average number of children per decree	Rate per 1,000 children under 18 years of age
1987	1,038,000	0.89	16.3
1986	1,064,000	0.90	16.8
1985	1,091,000	0.92	17.3
1984	1,081,000	0.92	17.2
1983	1,091,000	0.94	17.4
1982	1,108,000	0.94	17.6
1981	1,180,000	0.97	18.7
1980	1,174,000	0.98	17.3
1979	1,181,000	1.00	18.4
1978	1,147,000	1.01	17.7
1977	1,095,000	1.00	16.7
1976	1,117,000	1.03	16.9
1975	1,123,000	1.08	16.7
1974	1,099,000	1.12	16.2
1973	1,079,000	1.17	15.7
1972	1,021,000	1.20	14.7
1971	946,000	1.22	13.6
1970	870,000	1.22	12.5
1969	840,000	1.31	11.9
1968	784,000	1.34	11.1
1967	701,000	1.34	9.9
1966	669,000	1.34	9.5
1965	630,000	1.32	8.9
1964	613,000	1.36	8.7
1963	562,000	1.31	8.2
1962	532,000	1.29	7.9
1961	516,000	1.25	7.8
1960	463,000	1.18	7.2
1959	468,000	1.18	7.5
1958	398,000	1.08	6.5
1957	379,000	0.99	6.4
1956	361,000	0.95	6.3
1955	347,000	0.92	6.3
1954	341,000	0.90	6.4
1953	330,000	0.85	6.4
1952	318,000	0.81	6.2
1951	304,000	0.80	6.1
1950	299,000	0.78	6.3

Table 4. Number of divorces and annulments and percent distribution by number of children under 18 years of age involved: Divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1987

[Based on sample data]

Area	All divorces and annulments Number	Number of children under 18 years of age involved						
		Total	None	1	2	3	4	5 or more
		Percent distribution						
Divorce-registration area	571,185	100.0	47.8	25.2	19.5	5.8	1.3	0.4
Alabama	24,600	100.0	45.9	28.5	18.9	4.9	1.3	0.6
Alaska	3,396	100.0	50.0	23.0	18.8	5.7	1.8	0.7
Connecticut	12,006	100.0	49.6	24.7	19.0	5.4	1.0	0.3
Delaware	2,938	100.0	45.9	26.2	20.2	6.2	1.1	0.4
District of Columbia	2,525	100.0	62.9	20.5	11.5	3.7	1.0	0.4
Georgia	34,040	100.0	51.1	25.6	17.9	4.7	0.7	0.2
Hawaii	4,415	100.0	48.4	24.7	18.4	6.3	1.6	0.6
Idaho ¹	5,898	100.0	46.9	23.0	20.8	6.4	2.1	0.8
Illinois	46,986	100.0	48.0	24.4	19.6	6.1	1.4	0.5
Iowa	10,518	100.0	38.9	25.4	25.3	8.3	1.8	0.3
Kansas	12,340	100.0	44.7	24.8	21.6	6.9	1.5	0.5
Kentucky	19,395	100.0	49.4	26.7	18.3	4.5	0.8	0.3
Maryland	15,520	100.0	53.3	26.2	16.8	3.0	0.6	0.3
Massachusetts	16,835	100.0	46.2	25.0	20.4	6.7	1.2	0.4
Michigan	39,960	100.0	44.4	25.0	21.4	7.2	1.7	0.4
Missouri	24,984	100.0	46.7	26.1	19.8	5.8	1.2	0.3
Montana	4,125	100.0	45.0	23.1	22.6	6.8	2.0	0.5
Nebraska	6,236	100.0	38.1	24.6	25.3	8.7	2.4	1.0
New Hampshire	4,947	100.0	41.6	25.9	24.1	6.5	1.5	0.4
New York	67,993	100.0	55.6	21.7	16.2	4.9	1.2	0.3
Ohio	49,300	100.0	45.5	25.9	20.5	6.5	1.2	0.5
Oregon	15,620	100.0	42.6	27.2	22.4	6.1	1.6	0.1
Pennsylvania	38,830	100.0	45.6	26.5	20.8	5.5	1.3	0.3
Rhode Island	3,684	100.0	43.3	26.9	21.6	6.7	1.1	0.4
South Carolina	13,835	100.0	47.5	28.0	18.5	4.8	1.0	0.2
South Dakota	2,699	100.0	40.8	24.2	23.1	8.9	2.2	0.6
Tennessee	30,420	100.0	51.4	26.8	16.6	4.4	0.6	0.2
Utah	8,978	100.0	38.9	23.2	20.8	9.6	4.6	3.0
Vermont	2,426	100.0	40.5	25.3	23.9	8.0	1.7	0.6
Virginia	25,608	100.0	51.0	26.9	17.4	3.9	0.7	0.2
Wisconsin	16,920	100.0	40.3	23.9	25.0	8.6	1.8	0.4
Wyoming	3,208	100.0	40.8	24.8	24.1	7.8	2.1	0.5

¹ This State reports number of children affected by decree.

Table 5. Divorces and annulments by age of men and women at time of decree, 1987, and rates by age of men and women at time of decree, 1970, 1980, and 1982-87: Divorce-registration area

[Based on sample data. Prior to calculation of rates, figures for age not stated were distributed. Rates exclude data for Michigan, Ohio, and South Dakota. Rates per 1,000 married population in specified group enumerated as of April 1 for census years and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Age at time of decree	Number		Rate							
	1987	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1980	1970	
Men										
All ages	571,185	18.8	19.0	19.4	19.2	19.3	19.4	19.8	14.2	
15-19 years ¹	2,061	37.6	41.2	40.0	42.9	43.3	34.9	29.3	15.1	
20-24 years	46,978	52.2	49.5	49.9	48.2	45.2	47.0	46.9	33.6	
25-29 years	104,936	37.6	38.2	38.4	37.6	40.0	40.3	41.4	30.0	
30-34 years	108,120	30.4	30.6	30.4	31.7	32.4	32.4	33.8	22.3	
35-39 years	90,160	26.0	25.4	26.3	27.1	27.3	27.0	26.8	17.9	
40-44 years	67,671	21.4	22.2	23.2	22.0	21.5	21.8	21.0	13.8	
45-49 years	42,433	17.1	17.2	16.7	16.1	15.9	15.3	14.5	10.7	
50-54 years	24,951	11.0	10.8	11.1	10.7	10.7	10.1	9.5	7.6	
55-59 years	15,246	6.5	6.4	6.8	6.4	6.2	6.1	5.8	5.1	
60-64 years	9,180	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.4	
65 years and over	9,007	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	
Not stated	50,442	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Women										
All ages	571,185	18.6	18.8	19.2	18.8	18.9	19.0	19.5	14.0	
15-19 years ¹	8,837	49.5	51.4	48.4	45.5	48.1	45.6	42.4	26.9	
20-24 years	77,782	46.0	46.2	46.8	44.4	43.3	44.5	47.2	33.3	
25-29 years	117,012	33.9	34.8	35.6	35.0	35.7	35.9	37.8	25.7	
30-34 years	104,844	27.2	27.7	28.6	28.1	27.7	28.5	29.2	18.9	
35-39 years	83,404	23.1	23.0	23.4	23.5	23.9	22.9	23.3	14.8	
40-44 years	57,159	18.7	18.8	19.6	18.5	18.2	17.7	16.7	11.9	
45-49 years	32,266	13.1	12.8	12.6	11.8	12.1	11.8	10.8	8.5	
50-54 years	16,309	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.3	6.8	6.6	5.6	
55-59 years	9,591	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.5	
60-64 years	5,544	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.3	
65 years and over	4,875	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	
Not stated	53,562	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

¹Includes divorces of persons under 15 years of age.

Table 6. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments by age of husband and wife at time of decree: Divorce-registration area, 1977-87

[Based on sample data]

Age of husband and wife at time of decree	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977
Husband											
	Percent distribution										
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.9
20-24 years	9.0	9.7	10.3	10.6	11.0	11.7	12.5	13.5	13.9	14.8	14.7
25-29 years	20.2	20.6	21.0	20.9	21.3	22.0	22.8	23.4	23.8	24.3	24.0
30-34 years	20.8	20.6	20.6	20.7	21.0	21.3	22.1	21.4	20.8	20.2	19.8
35-39 years	17.3	17.6	17.2	17.1	16.6	16.3	15.1	14.6	14.2	13.8	13.4
40-44 years	13.0	12.1	12.0	11.8	11.5	10.7	10.0	9.8	9.7	9.3	9.4
45-49 years	8.1	7.8	7.4	7.4	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.9
50-54 years	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.8
55-59 years	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.9
60-64 years	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5
65 years and over	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6
Wife											
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.4	3.6	4.0	3.8
20-24 years	15.0	16.3	16.8	17.3	17.4	18.6	19.5	20.8	21.2	22.7	22.3
25-29 years	22.6	22.8	23.1	23.1	23.6	24.1	24.8	24.6	24.8	24.6	24.5
30-34 years	20.3	19.8	19.9	19.7	19.5	19.9	20.2	19.4	18.7	17.9	17.9
35-39 years	16.1	16.2	15.5	15.4	15.0	14.2	13.1	12.8	12.3	11.8	11.3
40-44 years	11.0	10.1	10.2	9.8	9.5	8.8	8.2	7.7	7.9	7.5	7.7
45-49 years	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.1	4.9	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.3
50-54 years	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.4
55-59 years	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.7	2.0
60-64 years	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
65 years and over	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8

Table 7. Median and mean age of husband and wife at time of decree by number of this marriage: Divorce-registration area, 1970-87

[Based on sample data]

Year	Number of marriage of husband					Number of marriage of wife						
	Total	First marriage	Remarriage			Number of marriage not stated	Total	First marriage	Remarriage			Number of marriage not stated
			Total ¹	Second marriage	Third marriage or more				Total ¹	Second marriage	Third marriage or more	
Median age in years												
1987	34.9	32.6	40.4	39.5	43.7	35.1	32.5	30.5	37.3	36.4	39.8	32.6
1986	34.6	32.4	40.0	39.2	43.5	34.9	32.1	30.2	37.0	36.1	39.4	32.2
1985	34.4	32.2	39.8	38.8	43.0	34.5	31.9	30.0	36.8	36.0	39.1	31.8
1984	34.3	32.2	39.6	38.5	42.7	34.4	31.7	30.0	36.4	35.7	38.5	31.5
1983	34.0	32.1	39.3	38.3	42.6	34.1	31.5	29.8	36.3	35.5	38.9	31.3
1982	33.6	31.7	39.1	38.0	42.4	33.7	31.1	29.5	35.8	35.0	38.8	30.9
1981	33.1	31.4	38.5	37.4	42.4	33.4	30.6	29.1	35.3	34.5	38.5	30.6
1980	32.7	31.0	38.3	37.3	41.9	32.8	30.3	28.8	35.2	34.3	38.3	30.1
1979	32.5	30.8	38.4	37.3	42.4	32.5	30.1	28.6	35.3	34.4	38.5	29.9
1978	32.0	30.5	38.2	36.9	41.1	32.5	29.7	28.3	35.1	33.9	38.7	29.7
1977	32.4	30.5	39.3	38.0	43.8	32.5	29.9	28.2	35.7	34.6	40.1	29.9
1976	32.3	30.2	39.6	38.2	44.3	31.9	29.7	28.1	36.2	34.9	40.8	29.2
1975	32.2	30.1	39.9	38.3	44.9	32.8	29.5	27.9	36.4	35.1	40.8	29.7
1974	32.2	30.2	40.3	38.7	45.0	32.0	29.5	27.7	36.7	35.4	41.3	29.2
1973	32.4	30.4	40.8	39.3	45.8	31.7	29.7	27.8	37.3	36.0	42.0	28.7
1972	32.6	30.4	40.9	39.4	45.6	32.4	29.8	27.9	37.7	36.2	42.6	29.6
1971	32.9	30.5	41.5	40.0	46.3	32.6	29.8	27.7	37.9	36.5	42.2	29.6
1970	32.9	30.5	41.5	39.9	46.5	33.1	29.8	27.7	38.2	36.5	42.8	29.3
Mean age in years												
1987	36.8	34.6	42.3	41.3	45.5	37.2	34.2	32.4	38.8	38.0	41.4	34.4
1986	36.5	34.4	42.1	41.0	45.2	36.6	33.9	32.2	38.6	37.8	41.1	33.8
1985	36.4	34.3	41.9	41.0	44.9	36.4	33.7	32.0	38.5	37.7	41.2	33.6
1984	36.2	34.2	41.6	40.7	44.6	36.4	33.6	31.9	38.2	37.5	40.5	33.6
1983	36.1	34.1	41.4	40.5	44.6	36.1	33.5	31.8	38.1	37.2	41.0	33.1
1982	35.7	33.7	41.3	40.3	44.6	35.8	33.1	31.4	37.9	37.0	40.7	32.9
1981	35.4	33.4	40.9	39.8	44.5	35.8	32.7	31.1	37.6	36.7	40.5	32.7
1980	35.1	33.2	40.6	39.6	43.7	35.3	32.4	30.8	37.4	36.5	40.4	32.3
1979	35.0	33.1	40.7	39.7	44.2	35.4	32.3	30.7	37.4	36.6	40.5	32.5
1978	34.8	32.9	40.5	39.5	43.8	35.0	32.1	30.5	37.2	36.2	40.5	32.1
1977	35.1	33.0	41.4	40.4	45.3	35.1	32.4	30.5	38.1	37.2	41.6	32.2
1976	35.1	32.9	41.7	40.4	45.6	34.6	32.3	30.4	38.3	37.1	42.2	31.8
1975	35.0	32.8	41.7	40.4	45.8	35.6	32.3	30.3	38.5	37.4	42.1	32.5
1974	35.1	32.9	42.1	40.9	46.1	35.1	32.3	30.3	38.8	37.6	42.6	32.1
1973	35.3	33.1	42.4	41.1	46.4	34.9	32.5	30.4	39.1	38.0	42.7	31.6
1972	35.4	33.2	42.4	41.1	46.4	35.3	32.6	30.5	39.3	38.0	43.4	32.4
1971	35.6	33.2	42.7	41.4	46.8	35.2	32.7	30.4	39.4	38.2	43.0	32.3
1970	35.6	33.2	42.8	41.4	47.1	35.4	32.7	30.4	39.3	38.1	43.4	32.2

¹ Includes remarried, number not stated.

Table 8. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments by age of husband and wife at time of this marriage: Divorce-registration area, 1977-87

[Based on sample data]

Age of husband and wife at time of this marriage	Percent distribution											
	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	
Husband												
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Under 20 years	12.8	13.7	14.2	14.9	15.4	16.1	17.0	18.0	18.4	19.3	18.6	
20-24 years	40.5	40.8	41.4	41.9	42.5	43.0	44.0	44.0	44.3	44.7	44.5	
25-29 years	21.3	21.0	20.5	20.1	19.7	19.3	18.7	18.4	18.0	17.5	17.4	
30-34 years	10.6	10.4	10.3	9.7	9.3	9.0	8.6	8.1	7.9	7.4	7.6	
35-39 years	6.3	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.1	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.2	
40-44 years	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.9	
45 years and over	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.7	
Wife												
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Under 20 years	30.4	31.7	32.6	34.0	35.1	36.6	38.3	39.9	41.0	42.8	42.2	
20-24 years	36.5	36.4	36.7	36.4	36.3	36.2	35.9	35.5	35.1	34.2	34.0	
25-29 years	15.4	14.8	14.4	13.8	13.3	12.7	12.1	11.4	11.0	10.5	10.7	
30-34 years	7.9	7.6	7.2	6.8	6.7	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.0	5.2	
35-39 years	4.5	4.4	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.0	
40-44 years	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	
45 years and over	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.0	

Table 9. Median and mean age of husband and wife at time of this marriage by number of marriage: Divorce-registration area, 1970-87

[Based on sample data]

Year	Number of marriage of husband						Number of marriage of wife					
	Total	First marriage	Remarriage			Number of marriage not stated	Total	First marriage	Remarriage			Number of marriage not stated
			Total ¹	Second marriage	Third marriage or more				Total ¹	Second marriage	Third marriage or more	
Median age in years												
1987	24.5	22.8	33.4	31.8	38.2	24.6	22.2	20.7	30.2	28.7	34.9	22.2
1986	24.3	22.7	33.2	31.6	38.0	24.6	22.0	20.6	30.0	28.6	34.7	22.1
1985	24.1	22.6	32.9	31.4	37.9	24.2	21.8	20.5	29.8	28.4	34.6	21.8
1984	24.0	22.5	32.7	31.3	37.5	24.2	21.7	20.4	29.6	28.3	34.0	21.6
1983	23.8	22.4	32.5	31.1	37.7	24.3	21.5	20.3	29.5	28.1	34.1	21.5
1982	23.7	22.3	32.4	31.0	37.6	23.9	21.3	20.2	29.2	28.0	34.3	21.4
1981	23.4	22.1	32.0	30.6	37.6	23.7	21.1	20.0	28.9	27.7	33.9	21.2
1980	23.3	22.0	31.8	30.4	37.1	23.7	20.9	19.9	28.8	27.4	33.9	21.0
1979	23.2	22.0	31.7	30.4	37.2	23.5	20.9	19.8	28.8	27.4	34.0	20.9
1978	23.0	21.9	31.5	30.1	37.1	23.2	20.7	19.7	28.5	27.1	34.1	20.6
1977	23.1	21.9	32.1	30.6	38.1	23.1	20.7	19.7	28.9	27.5	34.7	20.6
1976	23.1	21.9	32.5	30.7	38.6	22.8	20.7	19.7	29.3	27.6	35.2	20.4
1975	23.0	21.9	32.1	30.5	38.8	23.1	20.6	19.7	29.1	27.4	35.3	20.4
1974	23.0	21.8	32.6	30.8	39.1	23.1	20.6	19.6	29.3	27.7	35.5	20.4
1973	22.9	21.8	32.8	31.0	39.3	23.0	20.5	19.6	29.4	27.7	36.3	20.4
1972	23.0	21.8	32.7	30.8	39.0	22.9	20.5	19.5	29.5	27.7	36.8	20.4
1971	23.0	21.8	33.0	31.1	39.8	22.8	20.5	19.5	29.6	27.9	36.1	20.1
1970	23.0	21.8	33.0	31.1	39.8	22.7	20.4	19.4	29.6	27.7	36.8	19.9
Mean age in years												
1987	27.2	23.9	35.5	34.0	40.2	27.6	24.7	21.7	32.1	30.7	36.5	24.8
1986	27.0	23.8	35.4	33.9	40.0	27.4	24.4	21.6	32.0	30.6	36.2	24.6
1985	26.9	23.7	35.3	33.8	39.8	27.3	24.3	21.5	31.9	30.6	36.4	24.3
1984	26.7	23.5	35.1	33.7	39.6	27.4	24.1	21.3	31.8	30.5	35.7	24.6
1983	26.6	23.4	34.9	33.5	39.5	27.2	24.0	21.2	31.7	30.4	36.2	24.2
1982	26.4	23.3	35.0	33.5	39.8	27.0	23.8	21.0	31.6	30.3	36.1	24.1
1981	26.1	23.1	34.6	33.2	39.6	26.9	23.5	20.9	31.4	30.1	35.9	23.9
1980	25.9	23.0	34.4	33.0	39.0	26.7	23.3	20.7	31.2	29.8	35.9	23.8
1979	25.8	22.9	34.5	33.1	39.2	26.6	23.2	20.6	31.2	29.9	35.9	23.6
1978	25.7	22.9	34.2	32.8	39.0	26.1	23.1	20.5	31.0	29.6	36.0	23.1
1977	25.9	22.9	34.9	33.5	40.0	26.0	23.3	20.5	31.6	30.2	36.6	22.9
1976	25.9	22.9	35.2	33.5	40.4	25.6	23.3	20.5	31.9	30.2	37.1	22.6
1975	25.8	22.9	35.0	33.4	40.5	26.2	23.2	20.4	31.8	30.3	37.0	23.0
1974	25.9	22.8	35.4	33.7	40.9	25.9	23.2	20.4	32.1	30.4	37.5	22.8
1973	25.9	22.8	35.5	33.8	40.9	25.9	23.2	20.3	32.1	30.5	37.6	22.7
1972	25.9	22.9	35.3	33.7	40.7	25.8	23.2	20.3	32.2	30.5	37.9	22.8
1971	26.0	22.9	35.6	33.8	41.3	25.3	23.2	20.2	32.3	30.6	37.7	22.3
1970	26.1	23.0	35.7	34.0	41.2	25.5	23.2	20.2	32.3	30.5	38.0	22.2

¹Includes remarried, number not stated.

Table 10. Median and mean duration of marriage at time of decree by number of this marriage of husband and wife: Divorce-registration area, 1970-87

[Based on sample data]

Year	Number of marriage of husband						Number of marriage of wife					
	Total	First marriage	Remarriage			Number of marriage not stated	First marriage	Total ¹	Remarriage			Number of marriage not stated
			Total ¹	Second marriage	Third marriage or more				Second marriage	Third marriage or more		
Median duration in years												
1987	7.0	7.9	5.3	5.7	4.0	7.0	8.0	5.1	5.6	3.7	7.0	
1986	6.9	7.9	5.1	5.5	3.9	6.9	7.9	5.0	5.5	3.6	6.9	
1985	6.8	8.0	4.9	5.4	3.7	6.5	8.0	4.8	5.4	3.5	6.5	
1984	6.9	8.3	4.8	5.2	3.6	6.5	8.2	4.7	5.2	3.4	6.5	
1983	7.0	8.4	4.8	5.2	3.6	6.6	8.4	4.7	5.2	3.3	6.6	
1982	7.0	8.2	4.6	5.0	3.4	6.8	8.2	4.5	5.0	3.2	6.9	
1981	7.0	8.1	4.5	4.9	3.3	6.8	8.0	4.4	4.9	3.1	6.8	
1980	6.8	7.8	4.4	4.8	3.2	6.6	7.7	4.4	4.8	3.2	6.6	
1979	6.8	7.8	4.4	4.8	3.3	6.6	7.7	4.4	4.8	3.0	6.7	
1978	6.6	7.5	4.3	4.6	3.2	6.3	7.5	4.3	4.7	3.0	6.4	
1977	6.6	7.5	4.6	4.8	3.5	6.4	7.4	4.6	4.9	3.4	6.4	
1976	6.5	7.3	4.5	4.8	3.5	6.1	7.3	4.5	4.9	3.4	6.2	
1975	6.5	7.3	4.5	4.8	3.6	6.4	7.2	4.5	5.0	3.2	6.4	
1974	6.5	7.3	4.6	5.0	3.6	6.4	7.2	4.6	5.0	3.5	6.5	
1973	6.6	7.5	4.6	4.9	3.7	6.3	7.5	4.8	5.2	3.6	6.3	
1972	6.7	7.5	4.7	5.0	3.8	6.2	7.4	4.8	5.2	3.7	6.3	
1971	6.7	7.6	4.9	5.2	3.8	6.5	7.5	4.9	5.4	3.7	6.5	
1970	6.7	7.6	4.8	5.1	3.9	6.5	7.6	4.9	5.3	3.8	6.5	
Mean duration in years												
1987	9.6	10.8	6.9	7.4	5.4	9.5	10.8	6.8	7.3	5.0	9.6	
1986	9.6	10.7	6.7	7.2	5.3	9.4	10.7	6.7	7.2	5.0	9.5	
1985	9.5	10.7	6.7	7.2	5.1	9.2	10.7	6.6	7.1	4.9	9.2	
1984	9.5	10.8	6.5	7.0	5.1	9.1	10.8	6.5	7.0	4.8	9.2	
1983	9.6	10.8	6.6	7.0	5.1	9.1	10.8	6.5	7.0	4.9	9.2	
1982	9.4	10.5	6.4	6.9	4.8	9.3	10.5	6.3	6.8	4.7	9.3	
1981	9.3	10.4	6.3	6.7	4.9	9.1	10.4	6.3	6.7	4.7	9.2	
1980	9.2	10.2	6.2	6.6	4.8	9.2	10.2	6.3	6.8	4.7	9.2	
1979	9.3	10.3	6.3	6.7	5.0	9.1	10.2	6.3	6.8	4.7	9.2	
1978	9.1	10.1	6.3	6.7	4.9	8.9	10.1	6.3	6.7	4.6	9.0	
1977	9.2	10.2	6.5	6.9	5.3	9.0	10.1	6.6	7.0	5.1	9.1	
1976	9.2	10.1	6.5	7.0	5.2	8.9	10.1	6.6	7.0	5.2	9.0	
1975	9.2	10.0	6.7	7.1	5.4	9.1	10.0	6.8	7.3	5.1	9.1	
1974	9.3	10.1	6.8	7.2	5.2	9.3	10.1	6.8	7.2	5.2	9.4	
1973	9.4	10.3	6.9	7.3	5.6	9.2	10.3	7.0	7.6	5.2	9.3	
1972	9.5	10.3	7.1	7.5	5.8	9.2	10.3	7.1	7.6	5.6	9.3	
1971	9.5	10.4	7.1	7.6	5.6	9.4	10.4	7.2	7.7	5.4	9.4	
1970	9.5	10.4	7.1	7.4	5.9	9.4	10.4	7.1	7.7	5.5	9.5	

¹Includes remarried, number not stated.

Table 11. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments by duration of marriage to decree, and median and mean duration of marriage to decree: Divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1987

[Based on sample data]

Area	Total	Less than 1 year	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25 years and over	Median	Mean
Divorce-registration area	100.0	3.6	33.2	27.3	14.4	9.7	5.7	6.2	7.0	9.6
Alabama	100.0	8.4	36.3	24.5	12.4	7.9	5.5	5.1	5.8	8.6
Alaska	100.0	5.5	41.9	27.8	11.8	7.0	2.8	3.0	5.3	7.4
Connecticut	100.0	1.6	30.0	28.0	14.5	11.0	7.4	7.5	7.8	10.6
Delaware	100.0	2.4	32.8	27.4	13.7	11.3	5.9	6.5	7.2	10.0
District of Columbia	100.0	0.8	31.0	28.6	14.4	10.2	5.7	9.3	7.7	10.8
Georgia	100.0	6.4	38.8	26.6	11.6	8.2	4.1	4.3	5.7	8.1
Hawaii	100.0	3.3	37.4	27.9	14.8	8.0	4.3	4.4	6.3	8.7
Idaho	100.0	7.2	38.2	25.4	12.5	8.2	4.6	4.0	5.7	8.2
Illinois	100.0	3.9	34.0	26.7	14.0	9.5	5.6	6.2	6.8	9.5
Iowa	100.0	2.8	31.5	28.9	15.4	10.0	5.5	5.8	7.4	9.8
Kansas	100.0	6.4	37.8	27.2	12.4	7.1	4.6	4.4	5.8	8.2
Kentucky	100.0	6.8	37.6	25.0	12.9	7.5	5.1	5.0	5.8	8.6
Maryland	100.0	0.4	23.6	31.3	16.9	12.2	7.4	8.1	8.9	11.4
Massachusetts	100.0	1.0	27.0	28.1	16.4	12.2	7.3	7.9	8.6	11.2
Michigan	100.0	2.3	29.5	28.2	15.9	11.2	6.8	6.0	7.8	10.3
Missouri	100.0	4.5	36.8	27.3	13.0	8.1	5.0	5.2	6.2	8.8
Montana	100.0	5.1	36.4	25.4	13.8	8.8	5.1	5.5	6.3	9.0
Nebraska	100.0	2.9	33.1	28.7	14.0	9.8	5.5	6.0	6.9	9.6
New Hampshire	100.0	1.7	30.6	29.2	15.3	11.2	5.9	6.1	7.5	10.1
New York	100.0	2.0	34.1	25.8	14.3	10.2	6.3	7.3	7.2	10.1
Ohio	100.0	4.2	33.1	27.0	14.5	9.7	5.0	6.4	6.9	9.5
Oregon	100.0	3.5	33.8	29.1	14.1	8.8	5.1	5.6	6.8	9.3
Pennsylvania	100.0	1.4	25.4	28.0	17.2	12.7	7.0	8.4	8.9	11.4
Rhode Island	100.0	0.9	29.8	28.3	15.4	11.5	7.1	7.1	8.0	10.7
South Carolina	100.0	1.9	32.1	28.2	15.5	10.1	5.8	6.5	7.4	10.0
South Dakota	100.0	4.5	34.3	26.2	14.1	10.0	4.8	6.1	6.7	9.4
Tennessee	100.0	7.5	40.7	24.7	12.5	6.7	4.1	3.9	5.3	7.8
Utah	100.0	6.1	38.5	26.9	12.8	7.6	4.5	3.7	5.7	8.1
Vermont	100.0	0.5	28.7	30.3	15.7	11.1	6.9	6.9	8.1	10.6
Virginia	100.0	0.4	30.0	29.9	15.9	10.3	7.0	6.5	7.8	10.4
Wisconsin	100.0	1.5	27.8	29.7	15.7	11.9	6.6	6.8	8.1	10.6
Wyoming	100.0	5.9	36.9	29.1	12.6	7.9	3.9	3.7	5.9	8.1

¹Medians and means computed on data by single years of duration.

Table 12. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments by petitioner, according to presence of children at time of decree: Divorce-registration area, 1975-87

[Based on sample data]

Year	All divorces and annulments ¹				Children present				Children not present			
	Total ²	Husband	Wife	Husband and wife	Total ²	Husband	Wife	Husband and wife	Total ²	Husband	Wife	Husband and wife
1987	100.0	32.7	60.7	6.5	100.0	28.8	65.1	6.1	100.0	36.9	56.2	7.0
1986	100.0	32.6	61.5	5.9	100.0	28.4	65.7	5.9	100.0	37.3	56.9	5.8
1985	100.0	32.4	61.8	5.7	100.0	28.6	65.9	5.5	100.0	36.8	57.3	5.9
1984	100.0	32.3	61.7	6.0	100.0	28.5	65.7	5.7	100.0	36.6	57.2	6.3
1983	100.0	31.8	62.1	6.1	100.0	28.0	65.9	6.0	100.0	36.0	57.8	6.2
1982	100.0	31.3	62.5	6.2	100.0	27.2	66.8	6.0	100.0	35.7	57.6	6.7
1981	100.0	30.5	63.1	6.3	100.0	27.0	67.2	5.8	100.0	34.5	58.3	7.1
1980	100.0	30.2	63.4	6.3	100.0	26.9	67.0	6.1	100.0	34.2	59.0	6.7
1979	100.0	29.8	63.7	6.5	100.0	26.2	67.6	6.1	100.0	34.2	58.7	7.1
1978	100.0	29.6	63.5	6.8	100.0	26.4	67.4	6.2	100.0	33.6	58.7	7.7
1977	100.0	30.2	64.8	5.0	100.0	26.4	68.8	4.8	100.0	34.6	60.1	5.3
1976	100.0	29.4	65.4	4.6	100.0	25.7	69.6	4.4	100.0	33.9	60.5	5.1
1975	100.0	29.4	67.2	2.8	100.0	25.6	71.4	2.6	100.0	34.2	62.0	3.2

¹Includes cases where presence of children is not stated.

²Includes cases in the category "other person" as petitioner.

Table 13. Divorces and annulments by race of wife and husband: 27 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1987

[Based on sample data]

<i>Race of husband</i>	<i>Race of wife</i>				
	<i>Total</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Other races</i>	<i>Not stated</i>
All races	460,143	375,582	51,469	8,154	24,938
White	374,986	369,754	1,204	2,903	1,125
Black	52,808	2,493	49,708	372	235
Other races	7,850	2,461	437	4,855	97
Not stated	24,499	874	120	24	23,481

Technical notes

Definitions

Divorces include absolute divorces, annulments, and dissolutions of marriage. Data are tabulated by State where the decree was granted, not by State of residence. Date of divorce is defined as the date the decree was granted.

Sources of data

Nationwide counts

Data in tables 1 and 2 come from the number of divorce decrees reported annually by States and counties, except for the District of Columbia, where the count of divorces was taken from the 100-percent sample of divorce records. When divorces are not reported for counties, the following criteria are applied for the data shown in table 2:

1. The State totals are published as reported even when there are nonreporting counties.
2. If the population of nonreporting areas in the latest available census is less than 1 percent of the State population, the State total does not have a footnote to indicate that the data are incomplete.
3. If the population of nonreporting areas is 1.0–9.9 percent of the State population, data for the State and division have the footnote "Data are incomplete." Rates are computed and no estimates are made for the missing data.
4. If the population of nonreporting areas is 10 percent or more of the State population, the State and division totals have the footnote "Data are incomplete," and the divorce rate is not computed. Estimates are made for inclusion in the totals for the region and for the United States, and rates are computed. Figures for the region and United States have the footnote "Figures include estimates."

Sample data

Information about the characteristics of divorcing couples is available only from States that participate in the divorce-registration area (DRA). Data in tables 3–13 come from a probability sample of divorce records from the States participating in the DRA. The DRA has expanded from 28 States in 1970 to 31 States and the District of Columbia in 1987. About 49 percent of the divorces in the United States in 1987 took place in the DRA.

Divorce sample

The probability sample of divorce records for 1987 was selected by using five different sampling rates. For the District of Columbia and for each State

in the DRA, either 5, 10, 20, 50, or 100 percent of the divorce records were included. Sampling rates were selected so that the expected sample would contain at least 2,500 records for each State. This criterion required 100 percent sampling for Alaska, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire, South Dakota, and Wyoming. One hundred percent of the divorce records also were included for eight additional States—Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, and Virginia. These eight States supplied State-coded data tapes of 100 percent of their divorce records through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program.

The table on this page shows sampling errors for estimates that

Sampling error of estimated percent: Divorce-registration area, 1977, 1986, and 1987, and each registration State, 1987

[Figures for Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming have no sampling errors in 1986 or 1987 because all records were tabulated]

Area and year	Sampling error of estimated percent			
	1 or 99	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
Divorce-registration area				
1987	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
1986	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
1977	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Registration States, 1987				
Alabama	0.2	0.6	0.8	1.0
Alaska	...	...	...	...
Connecticut	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5
Delaware	...	...	...	...
District of Columbia	...	...	...	...
Georgia	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Hawaii	...	...	...	...
Idaho	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7
Illinois	...	...	...	...
Iowa	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5
Kansas	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4
Kentucky	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7
Maryland	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Massachusetts	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Michigan	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7
Missouri	...	...	...	...
Montana	...	...	...	...
Nebraska	...	...	...	...
New Hampshire	...	...	...	...
New York	...	...	...	...
Ohio	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.0
Oregon	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Pennsylvania	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Rhode Island	...	...	...	...
South Carolina	...	...	...	...
South Dakota	...	...	...	...
Tennessee	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.9
Utah	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5
Vermont	...	...	...	...
Virginia	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Wyoming	...	...	...	...

constitute 1, 10, 25, 50, 75, 90, and 99 percent of the annual divorce totals. These sampling errors are shown for the DRA for 1977, 1986, and 1987 and for the District of Columbia and each DRA State for 1987.

Estimates of children involved in divorce

To make the national estimates of children involved in divorce, shown in table 3, it was assumed that the average number of children per decree for the United States was the same as the average in the DRA. This average was multiplied by the national divorce total to estimate the national number of children involved in divorce. For 1950-59, the average number of children per decree was calculated using data from all reporting States; for 1960, from a

nationwide sample; for 1961-69, from 16 States; and, thereafter, from all DRA States.

Computation of rates, percent distributions, medians, and means

Divorce rates for 1987 are based on populations estimated as of July 1, 1987 (3, 4). Percent distributions, means,

and medians exclude cases for which the pertinent information (number of children, duration of marriage, or age) is not stated. Mean and median age at marriage and at decree, and mean and median duration of marriage were computed using ungrouped data.

The mean and the median are both measures of central tendency. The mean is computed by summing the values of the item under consideration and dividing this sum by the number of observations included. The median is the middle value of a set of observations that have been arranged in order of magnitude. There are an equal number of observations above and below the median.

³U.S. Bureau of the Census. State population and household estimates, with age, sex, and components of change, 1981-87. Current population reports; series P-25, no 1024. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1988.

⁴U.S. Bureau of the Census. Unpublished estimates by marital status consistent with United States population estimates, by age, sex, and race, 1980 to 1987. Current population reports; series P-25, no 1022. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1988.

Symbols

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

This report represents summary tabulations from the final divorce statistics for 1987. More detailed tabulations for 1987 will be published in *Vital Statistics of the United States, Volume III—Marriage and Divorce*. Prior to the publication of that volume, the National Center for Health Statistics will respond to requests for unpublished data whenever possible.

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