

Divorces and Divorce Rates United States

Analysis of divorce statistics for the early 1970's, including specific divorce rates by various characteristics, based on population data from the 1970 census, and trend data through 1976.

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DIVORCES AND DIVORCE RATES: UNITED STATES

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SUMMARY

During the decade 1964-73 the number of divorces and the divorce rate increased rapidly. This increase continued through 1976 but less rapidly than in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Rising from 2.2 per 1,000 population in 1962, the divorce rate had doubled by 1973 and reached 4.9 per 1,000 population by 1975. In 1975 the number of divorces exceeded 1 million for the first time ever in the United States. Provisional data indicated a further increase for 1976; the rate per 1,000 population reached 5.0 and the number approximated 1,077,000. Increases have occurred in almost all States. Similar increases were found in many foreign countries.

The 1970 Decennial Census provided population bases for various rates that could not be computed for earlier or subsequent years. These data were coupled with divorce data from the divorce-registration area (DRA) to produce specific rates by characteristics of the divorcing husband and wife and of the marriage that ended in divorce. The DRA comprised 28 States in 1970. Presented in this report are specific rates by age at decree, marriage order, race, and number of children under 18 years of age for the DRA and each reporting State. Rates by duration of marriage at decree were prepared by assuming the same distribution by duration of marriage for all divorces in the United States as for divorces in the divorce-registration area.

Divorce rates by age at decree indicate that young married persons have the highest likelihood of divorce and that this likelihood declines with increasing age. In the DRA as a whole the

highest divorce rates for both husbands and wives were found in the age group 20-24 years.

The divorce rate for husbands and wives married more than once was much higher than that for persons married only once. For the DRA as a whole and for many of the States, the former rate was at least twice as high as the latter.

Divorce rates were computed for three racial groups—white, Negro, and other races. In most cases the rate for the Negro group was highest, and that for other races was the lowest; the rate for the white group fell in between. This pattern is not uniform, however, and pronounced variation can be found among States.

Rates by number of children under 18 years of age indicate that couples with minor children are less likely to divorce than couples with no minor children, and that the likelihood of divorce declines as the number of such children increases.

Rates by duration of marriage were highest for the duration intervals of 2 years and 3 years, and thereafter declined consistently with increasing duration.

The number of children involved in divorce was affected by the age of the divorcing parents both at time of decree and at marriage, but the age at marriage was more important, particularly the age of the mother.

INCREASES IN DIVORCE

National Figures

During the decade 1964-73, the number of divorces and the divorce rate increased rapidly.

The present increase began in 1963 and was continuing in 1977. From 1962 to 1973 the annual divorce total more than doubled (from 413,000 to 915,000), and the divorce rate doubled (from 2.2 per 1,000 population in 1962 to 4.4 in 1973). From 1973 to 1976 divorces continued to increase but less rapidly than in the late 1960's and early 1970's. In 1975 the divorce rate was 4.9 per 1,000 population, 11 percent above the rate for 1973. Also in 1975, the number of divorces exceeded 1 million for the first time ever in the United States. Provisional data indicate that approximately 1,077,000 divorces were granted in 1976, bringing the divorce rate to 5.0 per 1,000 population, a further increase of about 4 percent for the divorce total and 2 percent for the divorce rate. The divorce rate per 1,000 married women increased 94 percent between 1962 and 1973 (from 9.4 to 18.2). From 1973 to 1975, the latest year for which this rate presently can be computed, the rate for married women increased 11.5 percent, to 20.3 divorces per 1,000 married women. Detailed annual figures are shown in table 1 and figure 1.

During the years 1961-70, 5,137,000 divorces were granted, as compared with 3,838,000 in 1951-60 and 4,141,000 in 1941-50. The large numbers in the 1940's were primarily due to the high divorce rate following World War II; the increase during the 1960's and 1970's had no such obvious cause. In the early 1960's the rates were similar to those of the 1950's, and for 9 years (1955-63) they varied only from 2.1 to 2.3. During that period less than 1 percent of all married women divorced annually, but this percent reached 1.0 in 1964, 1.5 in 1970, 1.8 in 1973, and 2.0 in 1975.

The rapid increase in the number of divorces was due in part to the growth of the married population and to changes in the age distribution of married persons. The population component of the change may be isolated by applying one set of age-specific divorce rates to the married female population for each year beginning with 1955. The increases in the number of divorces obtained in this manner may be considered as due exclusively to the change in the size and composition of the population exposed to the risk of divorce. This change

accounted for only a small part of the total increase: the difference between the national divorce total for 1975 (1,036,000) and that for 1955 (377,000) was 659,000, and only 97,000 of this number could be attributed to changes in the population (table 2). This represents only 15 percent of the total increase. In other words, 85 percent of the 1955-75 increase appears to be due to other causes, especially to higher rates at which married persons divorce.

The portion of the increase which can be assumed to be due to changes in population declined markedly when the recent increase in divorces began: for the 1955-63 period this portion represented 47 percent, for the 1963-75 period it was 12 percent; the portion of the increase which can be assumed to be due to other causes grew accordingly from 53 to 88 percent (table 2).

The increase in divorces took place during a period in which there was a trend toward liberalization of divorce laws. In 1967 New York State added three grounds for divorce—cruelty, desertion, and two years of separation—to its sole legal ground for divorce—adultery. As a result of this change, the number of divorces granted in New York State grew almost eight times, from 7,136 in 1967 to 55,612 in 1975. The rate increased correspondingly from 0.4 per 1,000 population to 3.1.

Several other States introduced new legal grounds for decree and made other changes to facilitate divorce. Some States abandoned the concept of divorce granted to the innocent party because of the objectionable behavior of the guilty party, and adopted the concept of marriage dissolution, where neither party is recognized as guilty and a list of legal grounds for decree is not given in the statutes. Such no-fault decrees are granted for what the laws describe as "irreconcilable differences" or "marriage irretrievably broken." California introduced no-fault divorces as of January 1970, and Iowa made a similar change during 1970. Later many States followed, and by January 1974, 23 States had no-fault divorces.^a

Though in New York, New Jersey, Hawaii, Delaware, and Florida the changes in the laws

^aReference 1, p. 404.

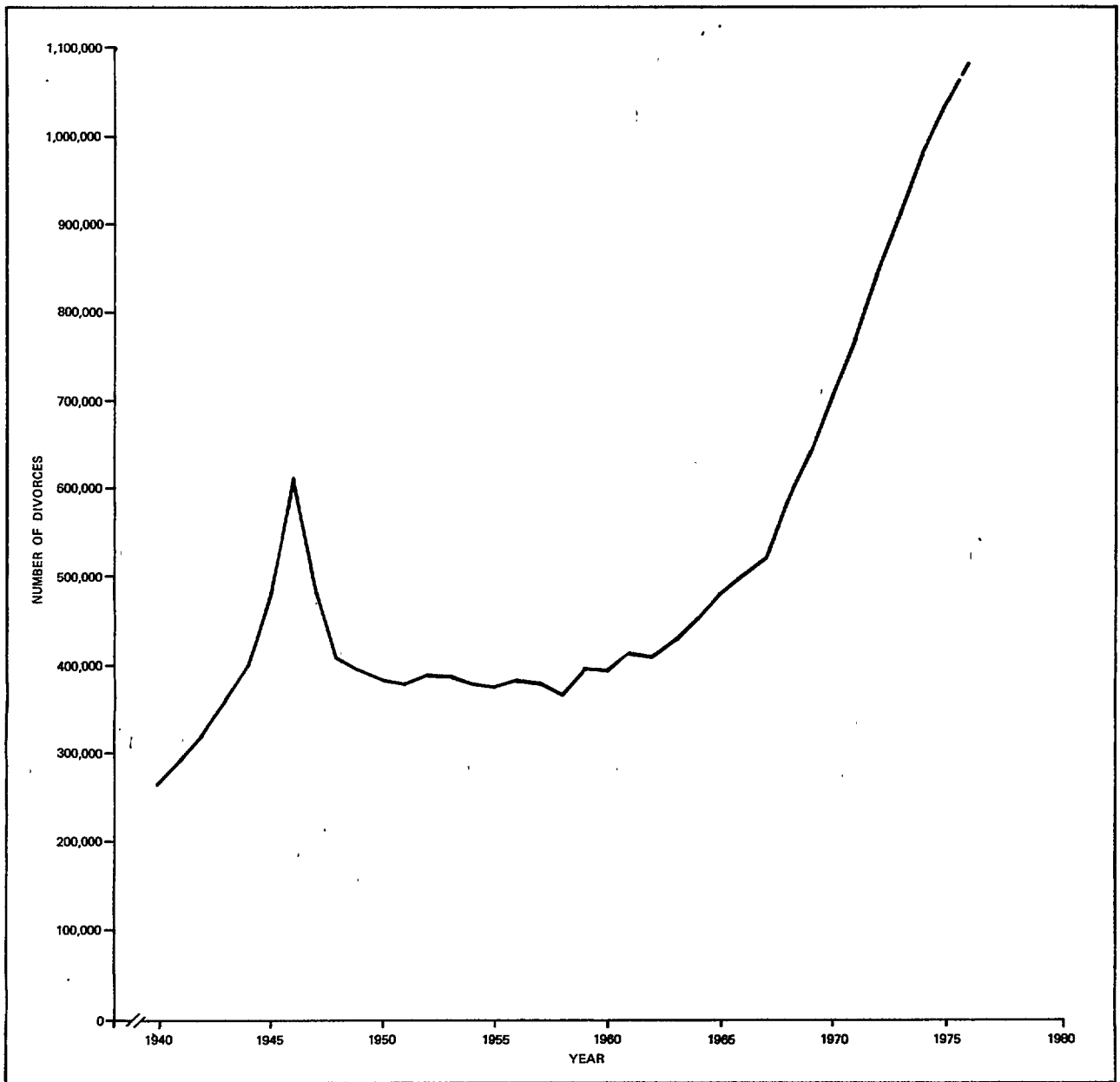


Figure 1. Number of divorces: United States, 1940-76

and the increases in divorces seem to be associated, it cannot be said that increases in all States were due to the liberalization of laws. For example, during the 1967-73 period the divorce rates in California and Iowa increased less than the national average, 54 and 45 percent, respectively, as compared with 69 percent for the United States, even though these two States

introduced no-fault divorces. Conversely, the rate increased 114 percent in South Carolina where there had been no significant changes in the law.

The increase in divorce in the United States is part of a worldwide trend. The 1970 divorce rates for 38 countries, including the United States, were compared with those for 1960 in

order to ascertain the changes that had occurred during the decade. These rates are shown in table 3, where they are listed according to the size of the increase. The countries were selected as far as possible from all major areas of the world, but the choice was limited by the lack of divorce data in many countries. No country was included that had an annual national divorce total less than 500. In eight of the countries included, the increase was more pronounced than in the United States, though the rate for the United States was higher than that for other countries shown in the table for 1970 and second highest for 1960. The largest increase, 249 percent, was found in Canada; this increase was four times that for the United States. The largest decline, 81 percent, occurred in Romania. Of the 37 reporting foreign countries included in the table, 27 showed increases and 10 showed declines. Almost all countries where the divorce rate declined are found in Asia and in southeast Europe. Most of Europe, North America, and other countries with populations of European origin experienced increases. Several countries reporting to the Statistical Office of the United Nations had no legal provisions for granting absolute divorces, though some annulments and limited divorces may have been granted. In 1970 these countries were Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ireland, Italy (until December 1970), Malta, Paraguay, the Philippines, Santa Lucia, and Spain.

Particularly interesting developments occurred in the Soviet Union and in Romania. In the Soviet Union, where divorce laws were liberalized, the divorce rate doubled from 1963 to 1966, increasing from 1.30 per 1,000 population to 2.77 and declining slightly afterwards.^b In Romania the change was in the opposite direction: in 1962 the Romanian rate was one of the highest in the world, 2.04 per 1,000; then it declined to 1.35 by 1966 and disappeared completely in 1967, due to drastic changes in the law.^c Since then, the rate has been one of the lowest, 0.38 per 1,000 in 1970, and only three countries listed in table 3 had rates lower than that of Romania: Guatemala, Turkey, and Portugal.

^bReference 2, p. 685, table 34, footnote 89.

^c*Ibid.*, p. 683, footnote 77a.

Geographic Distribution

Increases in divorces from 1960 to 1970 varied considerably among regions, divisions, and States. This is evident from the divorce rates for married women shown by State in table 4. These rates, shown for 1960 and 1970, can be computed only once in a decade, when population bases become available from the decennial census.

The national divorce rate per 1,000 married women increased 62 percent, from 9.2 per 1,000 in 1960 to 14.9 in 1970. For the regions, the increase ranged from 38 percent in the South to 108 percent in the Northeast, while for both the North Central Region and the West it was about 66 percent. For geographic divisions, the increase of the rate per 1,000 married women ranged from 19 percent in the East South Central to 119 percent in the Middle Atlantic. The rate more than tripled in New York and more than doubled in New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Wisconsin, and Delaware. The rate grew 50-99 percent in 33 States and less than 50 percent in 11 States. It declined in Alabama and Nevada. In Alabama early in the decade, divorces declined drastically; they increased later without reaching the 1960 level. The rate in Nevada declined even though there was a small increase in the number of divorces granted (8.1 percent). The decline was probably connected with the liberalization of divorce laws in California, New York, and other States, which may have caused a decline in migratory divorces, while during the same period the population of Nevada increased 71.3 percent.^d

In spite of the changes, the Nevada divorce rate per 1,000 married women, 78.1 in 1970, was 2½ times as high as the next highest State rate, 30.6 in Arizona.

Increases of divorce totals from which the rates were computed were more pronounced than those of the rates, because the latter take into consideration the simultaneous growth of the population. The totals more than tripled in New York, more than doubled in 14 States, increased from between 50 and 99 percent in 28 States and the District of Columbia, and in-

^dReference 3, table 1.

creased less than 50 percent in five States. Total divorces declined in only one State, Alabama. Information is not available for one State.

Divorce rates per 1,000 population in each area are shown for the years 1960 through 1975 in table 5. During this period the national crude divorce rate increased 123 percent, from 2.2 per 1,000 in 1960 to 4.9 in 1975. The rate more than tripled in the Northeast (from 0.9 to 3.1), more than doubled in the North Central (from 2.1 to 4.5), almost doubled in the South (from 2.8 to 5.5), and grew about 90 percent in the West (from 3.4 to 6.5). For individual States, the change ranged from an increase of 675 percent in New York, 300 percent in Connecticut, and 253 percent in the District of Columbia to an increase of 61.5 percent in Idaho and 21 percent in Alabama and a decline of 40 percent in Nevada. In general, in States where the 1960 rates were low the increase was large and where the 1960 rates were high the increase was small or nonexistent. The number of States, including the District of Columbia, where the rate increased by 150 percent or more is shown in table A classified by the size of the 1960 rates.

As the size of State divorce rates is related to the geographic location of the State, the size of 1960-75 increases exhibits a geographic pattern. The large-increase area comprises the Northeast and North Central Regions and the South Atlantic Division of the South, while the small-

increase area includes the remainder of the South and the West. In the large-increase area, State divorce rates grew 150 percent or more in 18 of 29 States for which rates are available for both 1960 and 1975. In the small-increase area, not one single rate out of 17 showed increases of this magnitude. Due to these changes, the range of State divorce rates became narrower. In 1960 the two highest State divorce rates were 29.6 per 1,000 population in Nevada and 5.3 in Alabama, while the lowest rate was 0.4 in New York; ratios between the two high rates and the low rate were 74 and 13, respectively. In 1975 the highest rates were 17.8 in Nevada and 8.1 in Alaska, and the lowest rate was 2.7 in North Dakota and New Jersey; the ratios declined to 6.6 and 3.0.

Changes of the crude divorce rate year by year can be seen in table B. In 1960, 21 States had rates of less than 2.0 per 1,000 population, only 4 States had rates of 4.0 or more, and the highest rate outside Nevada was 5.3 in Alabama. In 1970, only 7 States had rates of less than 2.0, while 18 States had rates of 4.0 or more, including 2 States with rates between 6.0 and 7.9. In 1975, no State had a rate of less than 2.0, and 35 States had rates of 4.0 or more, including 16 with rates in the range of 6.0 through 8.1. While the number of States with low divorce rates (less than 2.0 per 1,000 population) had decreased and the number of

Table A. Number of States where the divorce rate increased 150 percent or more over the 1960 rate: United States, 1975

[The District of Columbia included as a State]

Divorce rate per 1,000 population, 1960	All States	Increase 1960-75		
		150 percent or more	Less than 150 percent or decline	Not available
Total.....	51	18	29	4
Under 1.5	13	12	1	-
1.5-2.4.....	17	6	11	-
2.5 and over.....	18	-	17	1
Not available.....	3	-	-	3

Table B. Number of States by size of divorce rate: United States, 1960-75

[The District of Columbia included as a State]

Divorce rate	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
	Number of States															
Total	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
Under 1.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	4
1.0-1.9.....	-	-	-	-	4	7	9	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	18	17
2.0-2.9.....	5	6	9	16	13	10	12	10	13	15	17	15	15	14	14	12
3.0-3.9.....	9	11	11	6	10	14	12	13	11	11	9	10	10	11	11	11
4.0-4.9.....	10	11	10	11	10	9	10	8	8	6	5	3	4	3	2	2
5.0-5.9.....	9	9	10	8	7	6	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
6.0-6.9.....	7	5	4	5	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.0-7.9.....	7	6	3	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.0-8.9.....	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.0 and over	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Not available	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	3

those with high rates (4.0 or more) had increased, the number of those with middle-sized rates (2.0 through 3.9) changed little. However, the States in the middle category in 1975 were mostly not the same States that were in this category in 1960; former low-rate States moved into the middle-rate category, while many former middle-rate States had high rates in the 1970's.

Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas

The great majority of the American population lives in standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's): in 1970, their combined area was 387,616 square miles, only 11 percent of the entire land area of the United States; however, their combined population was 139,418,811, representing 69 percent of the total. In the United States, excluding New England, an SMSA comprises a county or a group of counties; hence the number of divorces granted and divorce rates can be easily computed both for individual SMSA's and for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan portions of a State. In New England the SMSA's do not necessarily comprise entire counties, and divorce figures are not available for minor civil divisions. Consequently, State economic metropolitan areas are used as equivalents of SMSA's in New England.

Altogether, in 1970, 72.4 percent of divorces were granted in the SMSA's and 27.6 percent outside of SMSA's (table C). The divorce rate for all the SMSA's combined was 3.7 per 1,000

population (table 6), as compared with 3.1 for the rest of the country. The rate per 1,000 married women was, respectively, 15.7 and 13.0. In the great majority of regions, divisions, and States, the metropolitan rate was higher than the nonmetropolitan rate, though the differences were not pronounced. There were, however, a few important exceptions: in both divisions of the Northeast Region and in nine States, most of them in the Northeast, the nonmetropolitan divorce rate per 1,000 population was higher than the metropolitan rate. In two additional States both rates were equal.

The 1970 divorce rates for the metropolitan portions of all regions, geographic divisions, and all States, except Nevada, were higher than the comparable rates for 1960 and 1965. The same was true for nonmetropolitan portions of all regions and divisions as well as all States, except three (Alabama, Nevada, and Rhode Island).

For 1970, rates per 1,000 population and per 1,000 married women were computed for each SMSA. They are shown in table 7 together with rates per 1,000 population for 1960 and 1965. The 1970 definitions of SMSA's were used for computing 1970 divorce rates, but the 1960 definitions were used for both 1960 and 1965. The number of SMSA's not only increased from 201 in 1960 to 229 by 1970, but many of the 201 had had new counties added to them. Two SMSA's, Greensboro-High Point and Winston-Salem, were combined.

Divorce rates for individual SMSA's follow the pattern set by State rates: low rates in the Northeast and parts of the North Central, high

Table C. Number and percent distribution of divorces by metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas: United States and each region, 1970

[Percents based on reported totals]

Area	United States	Region			
		North-east	North Central	South	West
	Number				
Total ¹	708,000	86,000	186,000	242,000	194,000
Metropolitan.....	2504,239	65,294	2129,166	2150,324	159,455
Nonmetropolitan.....	2192,573	20,373	248,831	289,133	34,236
	Percent distribution				
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metropolitan.....	72.4	76.2	72.6	62.8	82.3
Nonmetropolitan.....	27.6	23.8	27.4	37.2	17.7

¹Figures include estimates.²Incomplete.

rates in the West and parts of the South. In spite of a considerable growth in divorces, the New York SMSA had the second lowest rate in 1970 followed by Jersey City—1.1 and 1.2, respectively, per 1,000 population. The lowest rate, 0.6, was found in the McAllen-Pharr-Edinburg SMSA that includes Hidalgo County, Texas. In 1960 and 1965 the lowest rate was found in the New York SMSA, 0.3 in both years (the McAllen-Pharr-Edinburg SMSA had not yet been established). The highest divorce rates were found in two SMSA's of Nevada—Reno and Las Vegas; from 1960 to 1970 they declined in both areas—in Reno from 43.3 per 1,000 total population to 25.0, in Las Vegas from 30.2 to 18.4. These declines were due not to a decline in the number of decrees granted, but to the increase of the population. Outside of Nevada, highest rates in 1970 were found in the Lawton SMSA (9.7) and the Tulsa SMSA (9.4), both in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma divorce rates may be overstated as the result of erroneous reporting of divorce petitions *filed* rather than divorces *granted*.

DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA

Numbers of divorces granted are obtained annually from all States and almost all counties, but detailed information about characteristics of

husbands and wives as well as about the characteristics of the divorce decree is reported only from a limited group of States known as the divorce-registration area (DRA). In 1970, 28 States participated in the DRA reporting. Their combined divorce total was 429,498, representing 61 percent of the national total. In 1971 South Carolina was added to the DRA, and in 1975 the DRA included 29 States with 625,676 divorces, 60 percent of all divorces granted in the country. In 1960, only 18 States were in the DRA; they reported 94,074 divorces, only 24 percent of the national total for that year (393,000). The States participating in the DRA are shown in figure 2. The Virgin Islands also participate in the DRA, but their data are not included in national statistics.

Each year many items are left blank on the divorce certificate forms, and several DRA States had to be omitted from the analysis because of unsatisfactory reporting. Still, in 1970, the proportion of records with items not reported was much smaller than in 1960, particularly for personal characteristics of the spouses. A further slight improvement occurred during the 1970-73 period. The percent completeness of the five major items of information is shown in table D.

In 1970, the reporting of divorces was complete enough to support the analysis of such

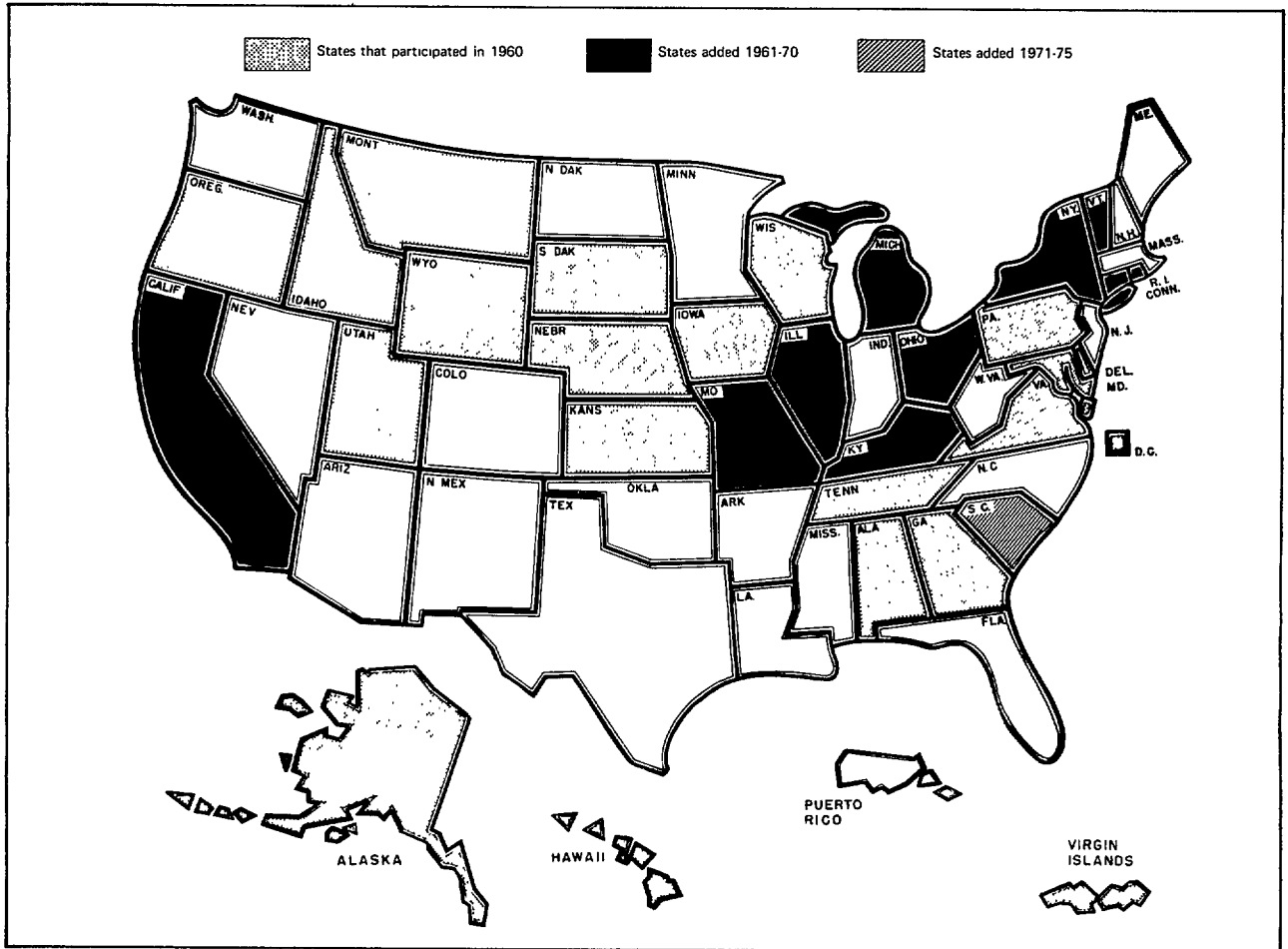


Figure 2. Divorce-registration area: 1960, 1970, and 1975

Table D. Percent of divorce certificates on which specified characteristics were stated: divorce-registration area, 1960, 1970, and 1973

[Based on sample data]

Characteristic	1973	1970	1960
	Percent		
Age at decree:			
Husband	81.6	79.0	58.8
Wife	81.1	78.7	59.2
Race:			
Husband	79.7	75.6	68.9
Wife	79.6	75.4	69.0
Number of this marriage:			
Husband	80.2	76.1	51.1
Wife	80.4	76.0	51.3
Duration of marriage.....	99.0	98.2	95.6
Children under 18.....	95.4	95.5	86.5

combined items as age by race, age by marriage order, and number of children reported by race. As 1970 was a census year, detailed population data made possible the computation of various specific divorce rates for the DRA and for each participating State that had a satisfactory level of completeness in reporting on a given item or items.

LIKELIHOOD OF DIVORCE

Age at Decree

Population data from the 1970 census coupled with divorce data from the divorce-registration area made it possible to find partial

answers as to the relative likelihood of divorce among various subcategories of the population. Divorce rates specific for age at time of decree, race, marriage order, and number of children reported were prepared for the divorce-registration area and each State where the reporting of the variable was at least 75 percent complete. Lack of population data precluded the computation of rates by age at time of marriage and of State rates by duration of marriage to decree, but national estimates of the latter were prepared.

Divorce rates by age of husband and wife at time of decree were computed per 1,000 married population in each age-sex category (table 8 and figure 3). In the DRA and in most States they presented the following pattern: the highest age-specific rate for both men and women was found in the 20-24-year age group. The rate declined with increasing age to a minimum for the oldest age group, 65 years and over. The differences between age-specific rates were very pronounced: in the DRA the highest rate for men (33.6) was almost 18 times as high as the lowest rate (1.9). For women this ratio

was still greater: the highest rate (33.3) was almost 26 times as high as the lowest (1.3).

The divorce rate for women under 20 years of age was in all States except Idaho higher than the comparable rate for men, while rates for the age groups 25-29 years and over were higher in all States for men. The rate for the 20-24-year-old group was higher for men in 10 States and for women in 12 States.

How did age-specific rates change during the 1960-70 decade? For 1960, age-specific rates are available only for four States: Hawaii, Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. The comparison of these rates with 1970 figures for the same States indicates that there were marked differences between age groups in the changes that took place over the decade (table 9). The largest increases were observed for husbands and wives 25-44 years old; for both extremes of the age spectrum—the groups under 20 years and 50 years old and older—the increases were small, and in a few instances declines occurred.

Duration of Marriage

Age at decree is related to duration of marriage. These two characteristics necessarily change over time, while others, such as race, marriage order, or age at marriage, remain constant throughout the life of the individual or through the duration of a given marriage; still others (education, number of children) may change in time or may not. It is obvious that persons who divorce young can be married only a short period of time and that for each age group there is an approximate upper level of marriage duration. Because of this similarity, duration-specific divorce rates could be expected to behave in a manner similar to that of age-specific rates, and estimated national duration-specific rates support this view. (These rates could not be computed for individual States and for the DRA because population bases were not available. However, national estimates of divorces by duration, based on DRA data, were prepared for use in computing national rates. The methods used to compute the national estimates are described in the appendix.) The duration-specific rates increased slightly in the very early years of marriage, reached a maximum between the second and the fourth marriage anniversary, then declined consistently and

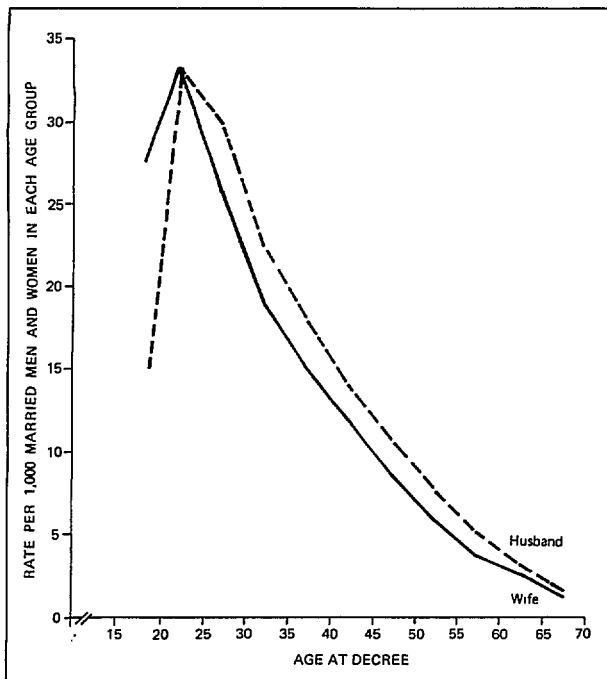


Figure 3. Divorce rates by age of husband and wife at time of decree: divorce-registration area, 1970

Table E. Estimated number of divorces and divorce rates, by duration of marriage at time of decree: United States, 1970

[Based on sample data. For estimating procedures and sources of population data, see appendix]

Duration of marriage	Number of divorces	Divorce rate
All divorces	708,000	14.9
Less than 1 year	34,000	28.2
1 year	60,000	33.7
2 years	66,000	39.2
3 years	60,000	39.4
4 years	54,000	37.3
5 years	49,000	34.7
6 years	40,000	29.9
7 years	35,000	28.4
8 years	29,000	24.7
9 years	26,000	21.9
10-14 years	98,000	16.9
15-19 years	64,000	11.4
20-24 years	50,000	7.8
25-29 years	24,000	5.0
30 years or more	18,000	1.6

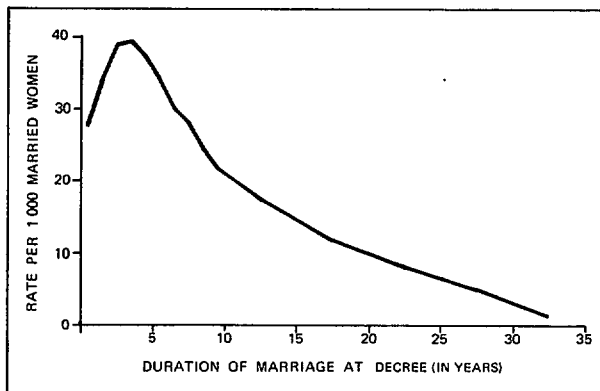


Figure 4. Estimated divorce rates by duration of marriage at time of decree: United States, 1970

almost disappeared after 30 years of marriage, when only 1 couple out of 625 divorced (table E and figure 4). The question remains open: Which of the two variables, age or duration, has a stronger influence on the likelihood of divorce; that is, what would happen to the duration rate if age were held constant, and vice versa?

Race

The likelihood of divorce varies between racial groups of the same State and within the

same racial group in different States (table 10). Race-specific rates were computed per 1,000 married men and women in a racial group. In the vast majority of reporting States in the DRA the divorce rates for Negroes were the highest; those for combined races other than white or Negro were the lowest, and the rates for the white group fell in between. In many reporting States of the North and the West differences were marked between the rates for white men and women and those for the Negroes, and in several States the rates for Negroes were more than twice as high as rates for the white group. This difference was much less noticeable in the South, and in two reporting States of that region, Georgia and Tennessee, rates for white persons were higher; this was the case also for men in Alaska, but not for women.

Rates for other races are difficult to analyze as racial composition varies from area to area. Also, in many States the rates were computed from small numbers of divorces subject to a very high sampling variability and should be used only as rough approximations. The range of variation between the rates for persons of other races was very wide: the lowest rates for this group were zero for women in Tennessee and Vermont and 0.9 per 1,000 for women in Rhode Island; the highest was 44.1 for men in Montana. The racial composition of the "other" group may be quite different in these States. The divorce rate for white persons ranged from 5.8 for women in New York to 26.7 for women in Alaska. For Negroes, the lowest rate was 9.3 for women in New York; the highest reliable rate was 33.1 for men in Wisconsin. Still higher rates for Negro men (73.5, Idaho; 34.7, Utah; 34.2, Montana) were based on Negro male populations of less than 1,000.

From 1960 to 1970 divorces of white persons increased more than those of Negroes or of persons of other races as shown in table 11 for the total of four States for which 1960 rates are available. In Iowa, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, where reliable rates exist for the white population and for Negroes, the increase for the white group was much larger than for the Negro, and in Iowa the Negro divorce rates actually declined. In Hawaii, where there are many persons of other races but few Negroes, the increase for

the white population was greater than for the "other" group. The 1970 rates in table 11 differ from those in table 10, as they were computed per 1,000 total population aged 15 years and over, rather than per 1,000 married population, in order to be comparable to the 1960 rates.

Marriage Order

The term "marriage order" refers to the classification of married persons into two categories: those married once and those married more than once. One of the most clear-cut findings from the 1970 divorce data is the high likelihood of divorce for persons who have been married more than once, when compared to those who have been married only once (figure 5). In the divorce-registration area the divorce rate for the remarried men and women was more than twice that for the first married, and the same was true for over one-half of the reporting States (table 12). No such rates have been computed previously, and the high likelihood of divorce among the remarried could be only

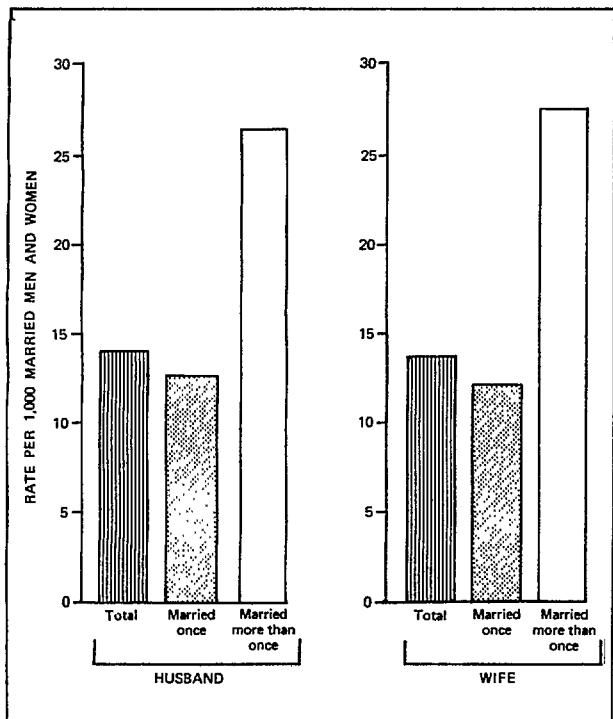


Figure 5. Divorce rates by marriage order of husband and wife: divorce-registration area, 1970

deduced from indirect data.⁴ Rates in table 12 prove that this inference was correct.

Reported Number of Children

The presence of minor children and their number affects the likelihood of divorce (table 13). In the DRA and all reporting States the divorce rate for couples with no children under 18 years was higher than for couples who reported minor children. For the DRA the two rates for 1970 were 26.1 and 15.0 per 1,000 couples. However, it must be recognized that couples who reported no children under 18 years of age are a composite group that includes young couples that have had no time to start a family, childless couples of any age and duration of marriage, and couples with all children aged 18 years or more. Pronounced differences might be expected among divorce rates for the three subgroups but there are no data for computing such rates.

Differences between rates for couples with children and without children were smallest in the Northeast, particularly in Connecticut and Vermont. On the other hand, in several Southern and Western States the rate for childless couples was twice as high as that for couples with children.

Within the group that reported children, the rate declined with each added child: the DRA rate was 19.1 per 1,000 couples with 1 child, 15.1 for those with 2 children, and 11.3 for those with 3 or more children. Divorce rates by number of children were generally lowest in the Northeast and highest in the West. For all categories shown in table 13, except that with three or more children, the lowest available State rate in the West was higher than the highest State rate in the Northeast. Rates for States in the North Central and Southern Regions were similar and fell in between the rates found in the other two regions.

State divorce rates by number of children were computed for the first time for 1970, but national rates were estimated for 1960 and 1969. In table F these rates are compared with the DRA rates for 1970. There was a considerable increase for all rates from 1960 to 1970 and a slight increase from 1969 to 1970, but in both cases the rate for divorces of couples with

Table F. Divorce rates by reported number of children under 18 years of age, with percent changes: United States, 1960 and 1969 and divorce-registration area, 1970

[Based on sample data. For estimating procedures and sources of population data, see appendix]

Number of children	DRA	United States		Percent increase			
	1970	1969	1960	1960-70	1969-70		
	Rate						
All divorces	18.1	17.4	11.5	57.4	4.0		
No children reported	26.1	25.6	18.7	39.6	2.0		
Children reported	15.0	14.4	8.9	68.5	4.2		
1 child.....	19.1	17.2	11.4	67.5	11.0		
2 children.....	15.1	14.4	8.6	75.6	4.9		
3 children.....	} 11.3	12.7	7.9	} ---	} ---		
4 children.....		} 11.4	} 10.7			} 6.0	
5 children.....							} 10.4
6 children or more.....							

¹The 1969 rate for couples with 4 children or more was 11.0.

children reported increased more than that of couples with no children under 18 years. The percent increase for the former was 68.5 for the years 1960-70 and 4.2 for 1969-70, and for the latter, 39.6 and 2.0, respectively.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HUSBAND AND WIFE

Age and Marriage Order

The divorcing persons were unevenly distributed by age, and, as would be expected, this distribution varied markedly according to the marriage order (table 14). In 1970 the great majority of those who had been married only once were under age 35, while the majority of those who had been married more than once were more evenly distributed in the age groups 25-29 years through 45-49.

Almost all men and women who divorced young had been married only once (table 15). Among men 20-24 years old, the remarried represented only 5.0 percent; this percent was 8.8 for women of the same age. The proportion of the remarried increased with age and reached over 50 percent in the 55-59-year age group for men and in the 50-54-year age group for women. Among divorcing persons 65 years old and older the remarried group comprised about three-quarters of both husbands and wives.

The median age at decree for the entire DRA was 30.5 years for husbands married once and 27.9 years for wives married once. The median age at decree for the remarried was more than 10 years higher than that for the first married of the same sex, 41.6 and 38.2 years, respectively (table 16). Similar differences were found in individual States. For men, this difference was 9 years or more in all reporting States and for women it was less in 2 of the 22 States for which the medians were computed.

As expected, median ages for the wives in all States were lower than median ages for husbands of the same marriage order. In most States the difference between the two medians was more pronounced when husbands and wives had been married more than once than when they had been married only once. For persons married once the largest difference between age medians was 3.5 years (New York); for persons married more than once the greatest difference was 5 years or more in two States: 5.2 years in Alaska and 5.6 years in Idaho.

Race and Interracial Couples

In almost 99 percent of all divorces granted during 1970 in the reporting States combined, husband and wife were of the same racial group—both white, both Negro, or both belonged to other races (table 17); here are also

Table G. Percent distribution of divorces by race of husband and wife: divorce-registration area, 1970

[Based on sample data. Michigan and Ohio do not report race]

Race of husband and wife	Total	Race of spouse		
		White	Negro	Other
<u>Husband</u>				
Percent distribution				
Total	100.0	89.3	9.6	1.1
White.....	100.0	99.4	0.1	0.5
Negro.....	100.0	2.8	96.9	0.3
Other.....	100.0	33.4	2.0	64.6
<u>Wife</u>				
Total	100.0	89.2	9.8	1.1
White.....	100.0	99.3	0.3	0.4
Negro.....	100.0	1.0	98.8	0.2
Other.....	100.0	36.6	2.6	60.8

included couples where spouses were of two different races classified in the "other" category, but this could have little effect on the percentages, as numbers of divorcing persons of other races were very small, and three-fourths of all "other" husbands and wives divorced in two States, California and Hawaii.

In all States, except Hawaii, white couples represented over 80 percent of all divorcing couples. This percentage varied from 81.3 percent in Georgia to 99.5 percent in Vermont; it was high in rural States of the North and the West and comparatively low in the South and in the industrialized Northern States, where a high proportion of the population is Negro. Negro couples represented more than 10 percent of the divorced in Georgia (18.5 percent), Maryland (16.7), Virginia (16.3), New York (15.8), Illinois (14.6), Tennessee (11.1), Missouri (10.9), and Connecticut (10.3). On the other hand, less than 1 percent of divorcing couples were Negro in Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Vermont. The "other" group was very small: it comprised more than 1 percent of all divorcing couples in only three States: Hawaii (38.1 percent), Alaska (7.4), and Montana (4.8). In seven reporting States no couples of other races were divorced, or, at least, no divorce certificate of a couple in the "other" category was included in the random sample; this was true of Illinois, Kentucky,

Missouri, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Vermont.

Only 1.2 percent of all couples who divorced in 1970 in the reporting States were racially mixed (excluding racially mixed couples within the "other" group); in only three States was this percent 2.0 or more: 22.4 percent in Hawaii, 6.5 in Alaska, and 2.0 in Montana. Over 33 percent of divorcing men and women in the "other" category had white or Negro spouses (table G). When the two outlying States, Hawaii and Alaska, are excluded, this percentage increases to over 40.

The numbers of interracial divorces were small: in the entire DRA only 3,772 such divorces were reported and only 3,088 when Hawaii and Alaska were omitted. Of the latter total, 1,786 couples (57.8 percent) were white-"other," the husband being white and the wife "other," more often than vice versa. The number of white-Negro couples was 1,155, or 37.4 percent of all interracial divorces. Couples where the husband was Negro and the wife white were about three times as numerous than those with a white husband and a Negro wife. Similar relationships were observed among interracial marriages performed in 1967.^c The number of Negro-"other" couples was very small; only 162

^c Reference 5, p. 20.

such cases were reported in the entire DRA, less than 5 percent of all interracial divorces.

Age at Divorce by Race

The three racial groups had slightly different age distributions at time of decree. White men and women tended to divorce slightly younger than did the Negro or "other" men and women. The differences were most noticeable at young ages and grew less pronounced as age advanced. In 1970 persons who were under 25 years of age at time of divorce represented 17.8 percent of divorcing white men, 10.7 percent of Negro men, and 13.0 percent of the "other" men. For women, comparable percentages were 29.9, 20.9, and 22.0 (table 18). In the DRA, median and quartile ages were lowest for the white husbands and wives (table H). The median ages for Negro husbands and wives were higher than for white persons, but lower than for the "other" persons.

The differences between medians for white persons and Negroes were much more pronounced than were comparable differences between the Negroes and persons of "other" races.

Table H. Median and quartile ages of husband and wife at time of decree, by race: divorce-registration area, 1970

[Based on sample data. Michigan and Ohio do not report race]

Race	Age in years		
	First quartile	Median	Third quartile
Husband			
All races.....	26.7	33.1	42.8
White.....	26.6	32.9	42.8
Negro.....	28.2	34.7	43.5
Other.....	28.1	35.3	44.4
Wife			
All races.....	24.2	29.8	39.5
White.....	24.0	29.7	39.4
Negro.....	25.9	31.5	40.3
Other.....	25.7	31.9	39.8

Median ages at time of divorce were computed for racial groups in 23 States in the DRA (table 19). These medians followed the same pattern as medians for the entire DRA. In the overwhelming majority of States (13 out of 17

Table J. Percent distribution of husbands and wives by relative number of this marriage of spouse, according to number of this marriage of husband and wife: divorce-registration area, 1970

[Based on sample data. Nebraska does not report the number of this marriage]

Number of this marriage of husband and wife	All divorces	Relative number of this marriage of spouse		
		Lower	Same	Higher
Husband				
Total	100.0	11.3	76.8	11.9
First marriage.....	100.0	...	88.3	11.7
Second marriage.....	100.0	37.4	48.3	14.3
Third marriage.....	100.0	67.6	24.9	7.4
Fourth marriage.....	100.0	84.8	13.2	2.0
Fifth marriage.....	100.0	90.7	5.0	4.3
Sixth marriage.....	100.0	98.8	1.2	...
Wife				
Total	100.0	11.9	76.8	11.3
First marriage.....	100.0	...	89.0	11.0
Second marriage.....	100.0	38.9	47.1	14.0
Third marriage.....	100.0	67.6	23.9	8.4
Fourth marriage.....	100.0	82.4	13.3	4.3
Fifth marriage.....	100.0	91.3	5.6	3.1
Sixth marriage.....	100.0	98.6	1.4	...

for men and 12 out of 17 for women), the median age at time of decree was lower for the white men and women than that for Negroes of the same sex. The largest difference was 4.8 years (for women in Maryland). The median age of Negroes was lower than that of "other" persons in the three States where reliable information on both groups was available.

Median age by race for 1959 was recomputed for 12 States. (The original medians were computed from single-year data, and hence not quite comparable to 1970 medians.) As 1959 data show only the two color groups "white" and "all other," 1970 medians were prepared for Negro and "other" persons combined (table 20). From 1959 to 1970 there was a pronounced decline in the median ages at divorce for both sexes and both racial groups. Medians for white husbands and wives were prepared for all 12 reporting States, but data for all other races were unsatisfactory in a few States. Altogether, 40 comparisons could be made; 37 were declines, 2 were increases, and 1 showed no change. The largest decline was almost 13 percent for Negro and "other" women in Tennessee.

Number of This Marriage

About 75 percent of the men and women who divorced during 1970 in the DRA had been married only once, and about 20 percent twice; the remainder were married more times, some had as many as six or more marriages (table 21). Irrespective of how many times divorcing persons had been married, the modal number of marriages of their spouses was one or two. Almost 90 percent of persons who have been married once had a spouse who also has been married once; over 80 percent of those who had been married twice had a spouse married once or twice. Spouses of persons married two, three, four, five, and six or more times had a modal number of two marriages. In 77 percent of all cases the number of this marriage of husband and of wife was the same, and the remainder was divided approximately equally between husbands who were married more times than their wives and vice versa (table J). The more times a person was married, the lower the likelihood that the spouse was married the same number of times; the proportion declined from almost 90 percent for those married once to 1 percent for

those married six or more times. In the reporting States there was a pronounced positive association between the percent of divorcing persons married more than once and the divorce rate of a State: the correlation coefficient based on observations for 22 States was .93 (figure 6).

As a summary measure of the distribution of divorces by number of this marriage, average numbers of marriages were computed by multiplying the number of marriages reported by the number of persons reporting it, summing the products, and dividing them by the total number of persons (table K). In the DRA, divorcing persons had on the average 1.3 marriages, and this average varied depending on the number of marriages of the spouses: husbands and wives of persons married once had on the average 1.1 marriages; wives of husbands married 5 times

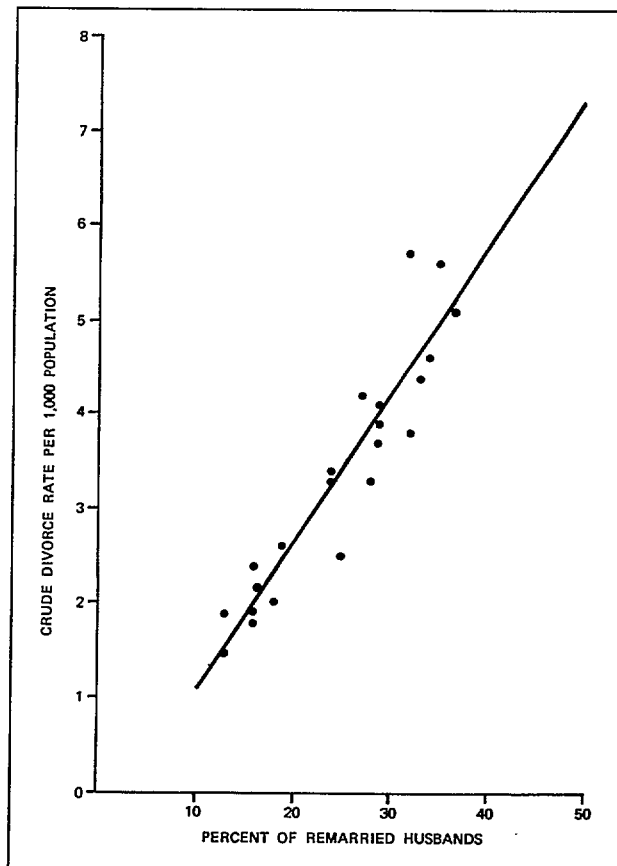


Figure 6. Regression of the divorce rate per 1,000 population on the percentage of divorcing husbands married more than once: 22 States, 1970

had on the average 2.5 marriages; and husbands of wives married 5 times had 2.7 marriages. For individual States the average number of marriages ranged from 1.14 marriages for husbands

and wives divorced in New York to 1.51 marriages for husbands and 1.48 for wives divorced in Idaho (table L).

Table K. Average number of marriages of husband and wife, by number of this marriage of spouse: divorce-registration area, 1970

[Based on sample data. Nebraska does not report number of this marriage]

Number of this marriage of spouse	Average number of marriages	
	Husband	Wife
All marriages.....	1.3	1.3
First marriage	1.1	1.2
Second marriage	1.8	1.8
Third marriage.....	2.2	2.2
Fourth marriage.....	2.4	2.4
Fifth marriage.....	2.7	2.5
Sixth marriage or more.....	2.6	2.5

Table L. Average number of marriages per divorcing husband and wife: divorce-registration area and 21 selected States, 1970

[Based on sample data. Nebraska does not report number of this marriage]

Area	Average number of marriages	
	Husband	Wife
Divorce-registration area.....	1.33	1.33
Alaska.....	1.49	1.44
California.....	1.44	1.42
Connecticut.....	1.18	1.18
Hawaii.....	1.33	1.28
Idaho.....	1.51	1.48
Illinois.....	1.30	1.32
Iowa.....	1.34	1.34
Kansas.....	1.37	1.37
Kentucky.....	1.36	1.33
Maryland.....	1.20	1.18
Missouri.....	1.44	1.44
Montana.....	1.45	1.44
New York.....	1.14	1.14
Oregon.....	1.49	1.45
Pennsylvania.....	1.15	1.16
Rhode Island.....	1.17	1.17
Tennessee.....	1.34	1.35
Utah.....	1.38	1.39
Vermont.....	1.20	1.18
Virginia.....	1.23	1.22
Wisconsin.....	1.21	1.20

CHILDREN OF THE DIVORCED

The Race of the Children

The race of children of divorced couples was assigned according to the race of their parents. When both parents belonged to the same racial group, their children were automatically assigned to the same group. In the cases where the race of the two parents differed, and one parent was white, children were assigned to the racial group of the other parent. Children of Negro-“other” couples were assigned the Negro group. When race was reported for only one parent, children were assigned to that racial group.

The number of children under 18 years in a family broken by divorce depends little upon their race, though some small differences between racial groups could be observed (table M). The proportion of divorcing couples that reported no children was almost exactly the same for the three racial groups. Data do not indicate what proportion of the group reporting no children under 18 years of age was childless and what proportion had only grown children 18 years old and older. Small families with one or two children were slightly more prevalent among divorcing white couples than among Negroes or couples of “other” races. Large families, having four or more children were proportionally most numerous among the couples of “other” races and least numerous among white couples; the percents were 11.1 for the “other” group, 8.9 for Negroes, and 6.4 for the white group. A similar pattern can be observed in most reporting States.

From the distribution of couples by race and number of children, the number of all children involved in divorces granted during 1970 was computed for racial groups (table 22). In the DRA, excluding Michigan and Ohio, 88 percent of all children involved in divorce were white, 10 percent were Negro, and about 2 percent belonged to other racial groups. Not all racial groups were represented among the children involved in divorce in each State: in Missouri, Tennessee, and Virginia there were no “other”

Table M. Number and percent distribution of divorces by number of children under 18 years of age, according to race: divorce-registration area, 1970

[Based on sample data. Michigan and Ohio do not report race and are excluded from the total]

Race	Total	Number of children under 18 years of age							
		None	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more	Not stated
		Number							
Total.....	360,188	138,607	84,398	63,478	31,878	14,094	5,361	3,374	18,998
White.....	288,346	112,915	69,092	52,224	26,050	11,296	4,052	2,318	10,399
Negro.....	32,007	12,545	7,337	5,189	2,831	1,385	766	582	1,372
Other.....	4,726	1,859	1,034	786	397	253	131	122	144
Not stated.....	35,109	11,288	6,935	5,279	2,600	1,160	412	352	7,083
		Percent distribution							
Total.....	100.0	40.6	24.7	18.6	9.3	4.1	1.6	1.0	...
White.....	100.0	40.6	24.9	18.8	9.4	4.1	1.5	0.8	...
Negro.....	100.0	40.9	23.9	16.9	9.2	4.5	2.5	1.9	...
Other.....	100.0	40.6	22.6	17.2	8.7	5.5	2.9	2.7	...

children involved, and in Vermont there were only white children. The lowest proportion of white children in the continental United States was found in Georgia (79.1 percent) and in Virginia (81.9 percent); in Alaska and Hawaii this percent was still lower (77.3 and 30.8 percent). Georgia and Virginia had highest percents of Negro children involved in divorce, 20.4 and 18.1 percent, respectively. Outside of the South, highest percents of Negro children were found in Illinois (16.0) and New York (14.8); while in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon, they represented 1 percent or less of the total. The percent of children of "other" races was very small in the great majority of reporting States; the exceptions were Hawaii, where 69.2 percent of children involved in divorce belonged to the "other" races, Alaska, with 18.2 percent, and Montana with 10.0 percent. The number of "other" children was large in California (2,100) but the percent was low (1.7).

As shown in table 22, in the DRA, the average number of children per decree was lowest for the white population (1.19), slightly higher for Negroes (1.28), and highest for the "other" group (1.36). For white children the State averages varied between 1.02 and 1.76, for

Negroes, between 0.88 and 1.91, and for "other" children between 0.58 and 2.23. In 11 reporting States the average number per decree was highest for Negro children, in 5 States, for "other" children, and in 7 States for white children. The number of children per decree does not indicate the actual size of divorcing families, as in a large proportion of divorces there are no children under 18 years of age. The actual average number of children per family that had children is also shown in table 22. In the DRA there were on the average 2.01 white children per divorcing couple with children, 2.18 Negro children, and 2.30 "other" children.

The rates of children under 18 years of age of a given race involved in divorce per 1,000 children of the same race in the population (including those of widowed, divorced, and single parents) are given for 1970 in table 23. The pattern shown by the rates differs from that shown by the averages, and often the group that had the lowest average in a State had the highest rate. For the DRA, the average was lowest for white children, but the rate for white children was the highest. State rates were compared if at least 50 children of a racial group were involved in divorce and at least 1,000 children of that

race were found in the State population. Rates for white and Negro children were compared in 19 States, and in 11 of these States the rate for white children was higher; in 8 States the rate for Negro children was higher. In all five reporting Southern States the rate for white children was higher than that for Negro children. Rates for "other" children were in the majority of cases (7 out of 11) lower than those for white children. Particularly clear cut is the difference between Negro and "other" rates, as in all eight States for which comparisons could be made the Negro rate was higher.

Children and Age of Parents

The number of children of divorcing couples is associated with the age of husband and of wife, both with the age at time of divorce and the age at time of marriage. In general, the more children under 18 years that were reported the higher was the median age of both spouses at decree (table 24). The median age of the divorcing mother was 26.2 years when only one child was reported, and this median increased consistently to 35.8 years when the number of children was six or more (table 24). Comparable medians for divorcing fathers were 28.9 and 39.2 years, respectively. Similar increases were observed for the first and third quartiles. Such a pattern could be expected: on the average, the younger the age of the divorcing parents, the less time they have had to bear children. There was, however, an important exception to this pattern; median ages of persons reporting no children under 18 were higher than medians of parents of one child and of two children. This was due to the composite character of the group reporting no children, as this group included not only childless couples, but also middle-aged couples with all children grown. The comparatively high medians for husbands and wives reporting no children were primarily due to the latter group.

The proportion with no children declined from over 50 percent of men and women divorced while still under 20 years of age to a minimum of about 25 percent for persons in their thirties, and then increased to a maximum of 75 percent of men and 87 percent of women in the oldest age group that was tabulated, 50 years and over (table 25). The percent of persons reporting no children was about twice as high among those who divorced at age 50 and over as among all those who divorced in 1970.

Persons who divorce young tend to have no children or few children. Divorcing persons who were married young tended to have more children than those who were married when they were older. The median age at marriage for divorcing wives declined from 23.5 years for the group reporting no children to 19.5 for those reporting one child, then the decline became more gradual and reached 18.5 years for women reporting six or more children (table 24). The median age at marriage of the husband does not present such a clear-cut pattern. In the combined 23 States satisfactorily reporting age at decree and at marriage, 413,300 children were involved in divorce in 1970. Their distribution by age of parents and their average per decree are shown in table 26.

These data indicate that the number of children involved in divorce is affected by the age of the divorcing parents at time of decree and at marriage, but the age at marriage is more important, particularly the mother's age at marriage. Data in table 26 show that 59 percent of all children involved in divorce had a mother who married when she was under 20 years of age, 89 percent had a mother who married when she was under 25 years, and 96 percent had a mother who married when she was under 30. The comparable percents for the father were 25, 74, and 90, respectively. No such concentration was found when the children were distributed by age of father and mother at decree.



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Table 1. Number of divorces and divorce rates with percent changes from preceding years: United States, 1940-76

Year	Number of divorces	Percent change in number	Rate per 1,000 total population	Percent change in rate	Rate per 1,000 married women 15 years and over	Percent change in rate
1976 ¹	1,077,000	+4.0	5.0	+2.0	---	---
1975	1,036,000	+6.0	4.9	+6.5	20.3	+5.2
1974	977,000	+6.8	4.6	+4.5	19.3	+6.0
1973	915,000	+8.3	4.4	+7.3	18.2	+7.1
1972	845,000	+9.3	4.1	+10.8	17.0	+7.6
1971	773,000	+9.2	3.7	+5.7	15.8	+6.0
1970	708,000	+10.8	3.5	+9.4	14.9	+11.2
1969	639,000	+9.4	3.2	+10.3	13.4	+7.2
1968	584,000	+11.7	2.9	+11.5	12.5	+11.6
1967	523,000	+4.8	2.6	+4.0	11.2	+2.8
1966	499,000	+4.2	2.5	-	10.9	+2.8
1965	479,000	+6.4	2.5	+4.2	10.6	+6.0
1964	450,000	+5.1	2.4	+4.3	10.0	+4.2
1963	428,000	+3.6	2.3	+4.5	9.6	+2.1
1962	413,000	-0.2	2.2	-4.3	9.4	-2.1
1961	414,000	+5.3	2.3	+4.5	9.6	+4.3
1960	393,000	-0.5	2.2	-	9.2	-1.1
1959	395,000	+7.3	2.2	+4.8	9.3	+4.5
1958	368,000	-3.4	2.1	-4.5	8.9	-3.3
1957	381,000	-0.3	2.2	-4.3	9.2	-2.1
1956	382,000	+1.3	2.3	-	9.4	+1.1
1955	377,000	-0.5	2.3	-4.2	9.3	-2.1
1954	379,000	-2.8	2.4	-4.0	9.5	-4.0
1953	390,000	-0.5	2.5	-	9.9	-2.0
1952	392,000	+2.9	2.5	-	10.1	+2.0
1951	381,000	-1.1	2.5	-3.8	9.9	-3.9
1950	385,144	-3.0	2.6	-3.7	10.3	-2.8
1949	397,000	-2.7	2.7	-3.6	10.6	-5.4
1948	408,000	-15.5	2.8	-17.6	11.2	-17.6
1947	483,000	-20.8	3.4	-20.9	13.6	-24.0
1946	610,000	+25.8	4.3	+22.9	17.9	+24.3
1945	485,000	+21.3	3.5	+20.7	14.4	+20.0
1944	400,000	+11.4	2.9	+11.5	12.0	+9.1
1943	359,000	+11.8	2.6	+8.3	11.0	+8.9
1942	321,000	+9.6	2.4	+9.1	10.1	+7.4
1941	293,000	+11.0	2.2	+10.0	9.4	+6.8
1940	264,000	...	2.0	...	8.8	...

¹Provisional data.

Table 2. Annual changes in divorce totals and cumulative changes since 1955 due to changes in population and to other causes: United States, 1955-75

Year	Number of divorces and annulments	Change from preceding year			Cumulative change since 1955		
		Total	Due to changes in population	Due to other causes	Total	Due to changes in population	Due to other causes
1975.....	1,036,000	+59,000		+59,000	+659,000	+97,000	+562,000
1974.....	977,000	+62,000	+1,000	+61,000	+600,000	+97,000	+503,000
1973.....	915,000	+70,000	+10,000	+60,000	+538,000	+96,000	+442,000
1972.....	845,000	+72,000	+12,000	+60,000	+468,000	+86,000	+382,000
1971.....	773,000	+65,000	+4,000	+61,000	+396,000	+74,000	+322,000
1970.....	708,000	+69,000	+9,000	+60,000	+331,000	+70,000	+261,000
1969.....	639,000	+55,000	+11,000	+44,000	+262,000	+61,000	+201,000
1968.....	584,000	+61,000	+1,000	+60,000	+207,000	+50,000	+157,000
1967.....	523,000	+24,000	+6,000	+18,000	+146,000	+49,000	+97,000
1966.....	499,000	+20,000	+7,000	+13,000	+122,000	+43,000	+79,000
1965.....	479,000	+29,000	+7,000	+22,000	+102,000	+36,000	+66,000
1964.....	450,000	+22,000	+5,000	+17,000	+73,000	+29,000	+44,000
1963.....	428,000	+15,000	+4,000	+11,000	+51,000	+24,000	+27,000
1962.....	413,000	-1,000	+8,000	-9,000	+36,000	+20,000	+16,000
1961.....	414,000	+21,000	-1,000	+22,000	+37,000	+12,000	+25,000
1960.....	393,000	-2,000	+3,000	-5,000	+16,000	+13,000	+3,000
1959.....	395,000	+27,000	+5,000	+22,000	+18,000	+10,000	+8,000
1958.....	368,000	-13,000	+3,000	-16,000	-9,000	+5,000	-14,000
1957.....	381,000	-1,000	-1,000	-	+4,000	+2,000	+2,000
1956.....	382,000	+5,000	+3,000	+2,000	+5,000	+3,000	+2,000
1955.....	377,000	...	...	...	...	...	...

Table 3. Divorce rates per 1,000 population, with percent changes: United States and selected foreign countries, 1960 and 1970

[Countries are listed by magnitude of change. Source of data: United Nations, *Demographic Yearbook*, 1968 and 1974; 1970 for China]

Country	Divorce rate		
	1970	1960	Percent change
Canada	1.36	0.39	+248.7
Dominican Republic	0.92	0.29	+217.2
Scotland	0.88	0.35	+151.4
England and Wales	1.18	0.51	+131.4
Poland	1.06	0.50	+112.0
Soviet Union	2.62	1.3	+101.5
New Zealand	1.12	0.69	+62.3
Netherlands	0.79	0.49	+61.2
United States	3.47	2.18	+59.2
Finland	1.29	0.82	+57.3
Czechoslovakia	1.74	1.12	+55.4
Australia	0.98	0.65	+50.8
Germany, Federal Republic of ¹	1.24	0.83	+49.4
Uruguay	1.01	0.68	+48.5
Mexico	0.57	0.42	+35.7
Sweden	1.61	1.20	+34.2
Hungary	2.22	1.66	+33.7
Norway	0.88	0.66	+33.3
Greece	0.40	0.30	+33.3
Denmark	1.93	1.46	+32.2
Belgium	0.66	0.50	+32.0
Bulgaria	1.16	0.90	+28.9
Japan	0.94	0.74	+27.0
Austria	1.40	1.13	+23.9
Democratic Republic of Germany ¹	1.61	1.34	+20.1
France ²	0.79	0.66	+19.7
Switzerland	1.02	0.87	+17.2
Lebanon	0.45	0.43	+4.7
China (Taiwan) ²	0.39	0.44	-11.4
Guatemala	0.13	0.15	-13.3
Yugoslavia	1.01	1.20	-15.8
Egypt ³	2.07	⁴ 2.51	-17.5
Israel	0.81	1.05	-22.9
Portugal	0.06	0.08	-25.0
Syria	0.57	0.78	-26.9
Turkey	0.28	0.40	-30.0
Iran	0.58	1.17	-50.4
Romania	0.38	2.01	-81.1

¹Includes the relevant parts of Berlin.

²Provisional data.

³Data include "revocable divorces" among the Moslem population which approximate legal separations.

⁴Rate listed under United Arab Republic.

Table 4. Number of divorces and divorce rates per 1,000 married women, with percent changes: United States, each region, division, and State, 1960 and 1970

Region, division, and State	Number of divorces			Rate per 1,000 married women		
	1970	1960	Percent change	1970	1960	Percent change
United States ¹	708,000	393,000	80.2	14.9	9.2	62.0
Region:						
Northeast	86,000	² 39,000	120.5	7.5	23.6	108.3
North Central	186,000	² 106,000	75.5	14.1	28.5	65.9
South ¹	242,000	152,000	59.2	16.2	11.7	38.5
West	194,000	¹ 96,000	102.1	23.9	¹ 14.4	66.0
Division:						
New England	25,807	² 12,842	101.0	9.6	25.2	84.6
Middle Atlantic	59,860	26,255	128.0	6.8	3.1	119.4
East North Central	² 129,828	¹ 77,639	67.2	² 13.8	18.9	55.1
West North Central	48,169	² 28,533	68.8	12.6	² 7.7	63.6
South Atlantic	106,103	55,526	91.1	14.5	9.1	59.3
East South Central	50,607	² 39,139	29.3	16.7	² 14.0	19.3
West South Central ²	82,747	55,000	50.4	18.1	13.7	32.1
Mountain	48,995	² 28,846	69.9	25.5	² 18.1	40.9
Pacific	144,696	66,395	117.9	23.3	13.1	77.9
New England:						
Maine	3,853	2,168	77.7	16.8	9.6	75.0
New Hampshire	2,433	1,119	117.4	14.1	7.7	83.1
Vermont	1,028	463	122.0	10.3	5.2	98.1
Massachusetts	10,994	² 5,592	96.6	8.7	² 4.7	85.1
Rhode Island	1,687	954	76.8	7.8	4.7	66.0
Connecticut	5,812	2,546	128.3	8.1	4.1	97.6
Middle Atlantic:						
New York	26,404	7,235	264.9	6.2	1.8	244.4
New Jersey	10,834	4,591	136.0	6.3	3.0	110.0
Pennsylvania	22,622	14,429	56.8	8.1	5.2	55.8
East North Central:						
Ohio	39,302	22,960	71.2	15.7	9.8	60.2
Indiana	² 15,153	¹ 12,794	³ 77.4	² 18.4	¹ 11.3	62.8
Illinois	36,450	21,809	67.1	14.1	8.9	58.4
Michigan	29,993	16,416	82.7	14.6	8.8	65.9
Wisconsin	8,930	3,660	144.0	8.9	4.0	122.5
West North Central:						
Minnesota	8,290	4,139	100.3	9.7	5.3	83.0
Iowa	7,188	4,559	57.7	10.7	6.8	57.4
Missouri	17,852	² 11,484	55.5	15.9	² 10.8	47.2
North Dakota	985	596	65.3	7.1	4.2	69.0
South Dakota	1,357	794	70.9	9.0	5.1	76.5
Nebraska	3,712	2,151	72.6	10.6	6.3	68.3
Kansas	8,785	4,810	82.6	16.1	8.9	80.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Number of divorces and divorce rates per 1,000 married women, with percent changes: United States, each region, division, and State, 1960 and 1970—Con.

Region, division, and State	Number of divorces			Rate per 1,000 married women		
	1970	1960	Percent change	1970	1960	Percent change
South Atlantic:						
Delaware	1,732	693	149.9	13.5	6.4	110.9
Maryland	9,252	5,140	80.0	10.0	6.9	44.9
District of Columbia	2,268	1,142	98.6	15.3	6.7	128.4
Virginia	11,879	7,368	61.2	10.8	8.0	35.0
West Virginia	5,584	3,574	56.2	13.3	8.2	62.2
North Carolina	13,702	6,047	126.6	11.2	5.7	96.5
South Carolina	5,829	3,068	90.0	9.9	5.9	67.8
Georgia	18,649	8,940	108.6	17.3	9.8	76.5
Florida	37,208	19,554	90.3	21.7	15.6	39.1
East South Central:						
Kentucky	10,664	27,528	41.7	14.0	210.6	32.1
Tennessee	16,623	9,053	83.6	17.4	10.6	64.2
Alabama	15,109	17,320	-12.8	18.6	22.9	-18.8
Mississippi	8,211	5,237	56.8	16.6	10.9	52.3
West South Central:						
Arkansas ²	9,310	5,377	73.1	19.7	12.5	57.6
Louisiana ²	5,065	4,142	*	9.6	5.6	71.4
Oklahoma	16,842	10,749	56.7	26.6	18.6	43.0
Texas	51,530	34,732	48.4	19.4	15.2	27.6
Mountain:						
Montana	3,047	2,006	51.9	19.1	12.8	49.2
Idaho	3,612	2,592	39.4	21.1	16.4	28.7
Wyoming	1,797	1,308	37.4	22.5	16.5	36.4
Colorado	10,400	4,728	120.0	20.2	11.3	78.8
New Mexico	4,375	22,811	55.6	21.3	213.3	60.2
Arizona	12,714	4,780	166.0	30.6	15.9	92.5
Utah	3,912	2,166	80.6	16.6	10.9	52.3
Nevada	9,138	8,455	8.1	78.1	121.0	-35.5
Pacific:						
Washington	17,887	9,341	91.5	22.0	13.5	63.0
Oregon	9,583	5,720	67.5	18.7	13.1	42.7
California	112,942	49,276	129.2	24.3	13.0	86.9
Alaska	1,695	788	115.1	26.4	17.0	55.3
Hawaii	2,589	1,270	103.9	15.5	9.8	58.2

¹Data include estimates.

²Data are incomplete.

³Estimates for nonreporting areas of the State included in the computation of the change.

Table 5. Divorce rates per 1,000 population: United States, each region, division, and State, 1960-75

[Rates per 1,000 population in each area]

Region, division, and State	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
United States ¹	4.9	4.6	4.4	4.1	3.7	3.5	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2
Region																
Northeast.....	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	20.9
North Central ¹	4.5	4.3	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.1
South ¹	5.5	5.2	4.9	4.6	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8
West.....	6.5	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.6	14.7	14.3	14.1	14.0	14.0	13.8	13.6	13.6	13.5	23.4
Northeast:																
New England.....	3.5	23.3	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.1	1.9	21.6	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	21.2
Middle Atlantic.....	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
North Central:																
East North Central.....	*	4.5	*	*	*	*	13.3	13.0	12.7	12.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.1
West North Central.....	4.2	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	21.9	21.9
South:																
South Atlantic.....	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.6	22.6	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1
East South Central.....	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.2	4.0	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	23.2	*
West South Central ²	*	*	*	5.2	4.8	*	3.9	3.9	3.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
West:																
Mountain ²	7.3	7.1	*	*	*	5.9	*	*	*	*	15.0	*	14.9	14.9	14.5	4.2
Pacific.....	6.3	6.0	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.5	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.3	13.2	13.2	23.2	3.1
Division																
New England:																
Maine.....	5.2	4.7	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.2
New Hampshire.....	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.1	3.9	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.8
Vermont.....	4.1	23.5	3.4	2.7	2.6	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Massachusetts.....	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.2	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.3	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.1	21.1
Rhode Island.....	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.1	21.0	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1
Connecticut.....	4.0	3.5	2.6	2.7	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0
Middle Atlantic:																
New York.....	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
New Jersey.....	2.7	2.7	3.0	2.4	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Pennsylvania.....	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3
East North Central:																
Ohio.....	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.4
Indiana.....	*	26.4	*	*	*	*	34.6	34.7	33.6	33.6	33.8	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	2.7
Illinois.....	4.6	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.3	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.6	2.2
Michigan.....	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.0	3.5	3.4	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1
Wisconsin.....	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Divorce rates per 1,000 population: United States, each region, division, and State, 1960-75—Con.

[Rates per 1,000 population in each area]

Region, division, and State	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
West North Central:																
Minnesota.....	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
Iowa.....	3.6	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
Missouri.....	5.1	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	22.7	22.7
North Dakota.....	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9
South Dakota.....	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Nebraska.....	3.6	3.4	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5
Kansas.....	5.5	5.1	4.6	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2
South Atlantic:																
Delaware.....	4.8	4.1	3.8	3.2	3.3	3.2	2.9	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.6
Maryland.....	3.8	3.7	3.5	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.7
District of Columbia.....	5.3	4.4	4.0	4.4	3.5	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Virginia.....	3.9	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9
West Virginia.....	4.8	4.0	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.2	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.9
North Carolina.....	4.1	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3
South Carolina.....	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3
Georgia.....	6.0	5.5	5.2	4.7	4.3	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.2	2.9	22.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3
Florida.....	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.0	6.2	5.5	5.5	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	3.9
East South Central:																
Kentucky.....	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.0	3.1	2.4	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.3	22.4	*
Tennessee.....	5.9	5.7	5.3	5.1	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.5
Alabama.....	6.4	5.9	5.8	5.4	4.9	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.7	5.3	5.3
Mississippi.....	5.2	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.0	3.7	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
West South Central:																
Arkansas.....	7.9	27.7	27.5	7.2	6.7	24.8	4.6	4.3	4.1	23.8	3.4	23.1	23.4	3.4	23.2	*
Louisiana ²	*	*	*	2.8	2.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Oklahoma.....	7.6	8.3	7.5	6.9	6.3	6.6	6.1	5.7	5.1	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.8	14.6	14.7	4.6
Texas.....	6.3	5.8	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.6	23.6	3.6
Mountain:																
Montana.....	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.4	4.0	3.7	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0
Idaho.....	6.3	6.0	5.6	5.1	5.0	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.9
Wyoming.....	7.6	7.0	6.4	6.4	5.8	5.4	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.0
Colorado.....	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.3	5.2	4.7	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.4	2.7
New Mexico ²	7.3	7.0	*	*	*	4.3	*	*	*	*	3.6	*	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.0
Arizona ⁴	7.9	7.9	6.8	6.7	7.9	7.2	7.0	6.4	6.2	35.7	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.3	5.0	3.7
Utah.....	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4
Nevada.....	17.8	17.5	18.2	21.9	18.5	18.7	24.0	22.5	22.3	21.4	23.0	28.3	24.8	27.1	26.4	29.6
Pacific:																
Washington.....	7.3	6.9	6.3	6.0	5.6	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.3	23.2	3.3
Oregon.....	6.8	6.0	5.6	5.4	5.0	4.6	4.3	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.2
California.....	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.7	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1
Alaska.....	8.1	7.3	6.2	6.6	5.6	5.6	5.4	4.8	4.3	4.1	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.5
Hawaii.....	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.7	3.4	2.9	2.4	1.9	1.2	1.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.0

¹Data include estimates.²Data are incomplete.³Data are estimated.⁴Divorce petitions filed.

Table 6. Divorce rates for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas: United States, each region, division, and State, 1960, 1965, and 1970

Region, division, and State	Metropolitan area				Nonmetropolitan area			
	Rate per 1,000 population			Rate per 1,000 married women	Rate per 1,000 population			Rate per 1,000 married women
	1970	1965	1960	1970	1970	1965	1960	1970
United States.....	3.7	2.6	2.3	15.7	3.1	2.2	2.1	13.0
Region:								
Northeast.....	1.6	1.0	0.9	7.0	2.2	1.2	1.0	9.3
North Central.....	3.6	2.7	2.4	15.4	2.6	1.9	1.6	11.1
South.....	4.4	3.4	3.1	18.5	3.3	2.5	2.5	13.7
West.....	5.8	4.2	3.6	25.0	4.6	3.4	2.9	19.4
Division:								
New England ¹	2.0	1.4	1.1	8.7	2.9	2.0	1.6	12.4
Middle Atlantic.....	1.5	0.8	0.8	6.5	1.9	0.9	0.8	8.0
East North Central ²	3.6	2.6	2.3	15.6	2.9	2.2	1.8	12.1
West North Central.....	3.7	² 2.8	² 2.5	16.2	² 2.2	² 1.5	² 1.3	² 9.2
South Atlantic.....	3.8	² 3.0	² 2.5	15.8	3.0	² 2.1	² 1.8	12.7
East South Central.....	4.4	3.2	3.0	18.9	3.6	2.6	3.5	15.2
West South Central ²	5.1	4.3	4.0	21.6	3.3	2.9	2.7	13.9
Mountain.....	7.1	² 6.2	² 5.4	30.4	² 4.4	² 3.6	² 3.1	² 19.1
Pacific.....	5.6	3.8	3.2	23.9	4.8	3.3	2.8	19.8
New England:								
Maine ¹	4.7	2.9	2.6	20.4	3.7	2.5	2.1	16.0
New Hampshire ¹	3.0	2.1	1.8	13.2	3.4	2.4	1.9	14.5
Vermont ¹.....	...	...	...	...	2.3	1.5	1.2	10.3
Massachusetts ¹	1.9	1.4	1.1	8.5	3.1	2.3	1.3	12.6
Rhode Island ¹	1.9	1.3	1.1	8.0	1.4	1.4	1.0	6.6
Connecticut ¹	1.8	1.3	0.9	7.8	2.2	1.6	1.3	9.3
Middle Atlantic:								
New York.....	1.4	0.4	0.4	5.8	1.9	0.6	0.6	8.3
New Jersey.....	1.5	0.8	0.8	6.3	1.5	0.8	0.7	6.3
Pennsylvania.....	1.9	1.4	1.3	7.9	2.1	1.4	1.1	8.9
East North Central:								
Ohio.....	3.8	2.6	2.5	16.4	3.2	2.3	1.9	13.3
Indiana.....	² 4.5	4.2	2.9	² 19.5	² 4.3	3.4	2.6	² 17.4
Illinois.....	3.3	2.4	2.3	14.3	3.3	1.9	1.9	13.4
Michigan.....	3.5	² 2.6	² 2.3	15.3	2.9	² 2.0	² 1.7	12.5
Wisconsin.....	2.4	1.5	1.2	10.8	1.5	1.1	0.7	6.5
West North Central:								
Minnesota.....	2.9	2.1	1.6	12.9	1.3	0.5	0.8	5.5
Iowa.....	3.6	2.8	2.6	15.6	2.0	1.4	1.2	8.1
Missouri.....	4.1	² 3.3	² 3.1	17.6	² 3.3	² 2.4	² 2.1	² 13.1
North Dakota.....	2.3	1.5	1.9	10.6	1.5	1.1	0.8	6.7
South Dakota.....	2.8	2.3	2.0	12.1	1.9	1.3	1.0	8.5
Nebraska.....	3.5	2.5	2.4	15.6	1.7	1.2	1.0	7.2
Kansas.....	5.0	3.4	2.9	20.7	3.1	2.1	1.8	12.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6. Divorce rates for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas: United States, each region, division, and State, 1960, 1965, and 1970—Con.

Region, division, and State	Metropolitan area				Nonmetropolitan area			
	Rate per 1,000 population			Rate per 1,000 married women	Rate per 1,000 population			Rate per 1,000 married women
	1970	1965	1960	1970	1970	1965	1960	1970
South Atlantic:								
Delaware.....	3.1	1.5	1.7	13.5	3.2	1.5	1.3	13.5
Maryland.....	2.3	2.0	1.7	9.9	2.5	1.9	1.4	10.5
District of Columbia.....	3.0	1.7	1.5	15.3	...	...	...	...
Virginia.....	2.9	2.8	2.2	12.3	2.0	1.1	1.4	8.4
West Virginia.....	3.6	2.6	2.2	14.6	3.0	1.9	1.8	12.7
North Carolina.....	3.1	2.9	1.7	13.1	2.4	2.0	1.2	10.1
South Carolina.....	2.8	1.9	1.8	12.3	1.9	0.8	1.1	8.3
Georgia.....	5.1	² 3.6	² 3.1	21.8	3.0	² 1.9	² 1.5	12.9
Florida.....	5.3	4.2	3.8	21.2	5.9	4.8	4.3	22.8
East South Central:								
Kentucky.....	3.7	² 3.0	² 3.0	16.0	3.0	² 2.4	² 2.8	12.7
Tennessee.....	4.3	3.0	2.8	18.2	4.2	2.8	2.3	16.7
Alabama.....	5.0	3.5	3.4	21.3	3.7	2.9	6.9	15.7
Mississippi.....	4.8	3.0	2.5	21.6	3.5	2.4	2.4	15.5
West South Central:								
Arkansas.....	5.9	² 4.7	² 4.8	24.8	² 4.4	² 3.1	² 3.0	² 17.5
Louisiana ²	2.6	2.2	1.7	11.6	1.6	1.4	1.4	7.3
Oklahoma.....	8.0	5.6	5.7	32.6	5.2	4.2	3.8	20.7
Texas.....	5.2	² 4.5	² 4.2	22.2	2.9	² 2.8	² 2.6	12.0
Mountain:								
Montana.....	5.0	3.2	3.4	21.8	4.2	2.7	2.8	18.2
Idaho.....	4.1	3.3	3.8	16.9	5.2	4.3	3.9	21.9
Wyoming.....	...	...	...	...	5.4	4.3	4.0	22.5
Colorado.....	5.3	3.8	3.1	22.9	3.2	2.5	1.9	13.6
New Mexico.....	6.4	² 5.2	² 4.6	28.4	² 3.4	² 3.2	² 2.7	² 15.3
Arizona.....	7.7	6.0	4.0	32.2	5.7	4.2	2.9	25.7
Utah.....	4.1	3.4	2.8	18.5	2.3	1.9	1.6	10.2
Nevada.....	20.4	25.4	35.5	85.4	11.4	13.9	12.8	47.5
Pacific:								
Washington.....	5.5	3.8	3.4	23.3	4.7	4.1	3.0	19.4
Oregon.....	4.6	3.2	3.6	19.3	4.5	3.2	2.9	17.8
California.....	5.7	3.9	3.2	24.6	5.0	3.0	2.7	20.8
Alaska.....	...	...	...	...	5.6	4.2	3.5	26.4
Hawaii.....	3.6	1.7	2.3	16.6	2.5	0.8	1.1	11.1

¹Rates for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan State economic areas.

²Total reporting counties.

NOTE: 1960 and 1965 rates taken from reference 4, table 6.

Table 7. Divorce rates: each standard metropolitan statistical area, 1960, 1965, and 1970

[All 1960 and 1965 rates are for SMSA's as defined in 1960; the 1970 rates are for SMSA's as defined in 1970; for New England, metropolitan State economic areas are used]

Standard metropolitan statistical area	Divorce rate per 1,000			
	Total population			Married women
	1970	1965	1960	1970
All SMSA's	3.7	2.6	2.3	15.7
Abilene, Tex.	3.8	3.7	3.8	15.4
Akron, Ohio	3.4	2.0	2.8	14.3
Albany, Ga.	4.5	4.3	2.0	20.3
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N.Y.	2.2	1.1	0.7	9.5
Albuquerque, N.M.	6.4	5.2	4.6	28.4
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Pa.-N.J.	2.0	1.4	1.4	7.8
Altoona, Pa.	1.9	1.3	1.2	7.9
Amarillo, Tex.	6.2	4.6	4.3	24.7
Anaheim-Santa Ana-Garden Grove, Calif.	6.1	(1)	(1)	25.6
Anderson, Ind.	---	(1)	(1)	---
Ann Arbor, Mich.	3.7	3.0	2.1	17.7
Appleton-Oshkosh, Wis.	1.7	(1)	(1)	7.8
Asheville, N.C.	3.1	3.4	2.4	12.2
Atlanta, Ga.	4.8	3.0	2.6	20.2
Atlantic City, N.J.	1.7	1.1	1.3	7.3
Augusta, Ga.-S.C.	5.2	4.4	3.7	23.2
Austin, Tex.	6.0	4.9	3.8	27.2
Bakersfield, Calif.	5.4	3.6	3.2	22.5
Baltimore, Md.	2.6	2.2	1.9	11.1
Baton Rouge, La.	---	2.1	2.2	---
Bay City, Mich.	2.9	2.0	1.8	12.9
Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange, Tex. ²	4.3	4.4	3.8	17.9
Billings, Mont.	5.4	3.4	4.0	23.2
Biloxi-Gulfport, Miss.	6.2	(1)	(1)	28.4
Binghamton, N.Y.-Pa.	2.5	0.7	0.8	10.3
Birmingham, Ala.	5.3	3.8	3.5	22.2
Bloomington-Normal, Ill.	3.2	(1)	(1)	14.5
Boise City, Idaho	4.1	(1)	(1)	16.9
Boston-Lowell-Lawrence, Mass. ³	1.6	1.3	1.0	7.2
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, Conn.	1.7	1.0	0.9	7.3
Brockton, Mass.	2.5	1.6	1.2	10.8
Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito, Tex.	2.4	1.9	1.8	11.8
Bryan-College Station, Tex.	3.5	(1)	(1)	15.6
Buffalo, N.Y.	2.5	0.8	0.7	10.7
Canton, Ohio	3.8	2.4	2.5	15.6
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	3.3	2.7	2.4	13.8
Champaign-Urbana, Ill.	4.0	2.2	1.8	18.7
Charleston, S.C.	2.7	2.1	1.7	12.5
Charleston, W. Va.	3.6	2.4	2.1	14.6
Charlotte, N.C.	2.8	2.8	1.3	11.6
Chattanooga, Tenn.-Ga.	5.6	4.3	3.3	22.7
Chicago, Ill.	3.0	2.3	2.1	13.2
Cincinnati, Ohio-Ky.-Ind. ⁴	3.4	1.9	2.5	15.0
Cleveland, Ohio	3.6	2.6	2.2	15.7
Colorado Springs, Colo.	5.4	4.1	3.5	23.5
Columbia, Mo.	3.3	(1)	(1)	15.6
Columbia, S.C.	2.7	1.6	1.8	12.5
Columbus, Ga.-Ala.	6.5	5.1	5.0	28.6
Columbus, Ohio	4.6	3.4	3.6	20.0
Corpus Christi, Tex.	4.7	4.0	3.6	20.7
Dallas, Tex.	6.6	5.4	4.9	27.4
Davenport-Rock Island-Moline, Iowa-Ill.	4.2	3.6	3.0	17.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7. Divorce rates: each standard metropolitan statistical area, 1960, 1965, and 1970—Con.

[All 1960 and 1965 rates are for SMSA's as defined in 1960; the 1970 rates are for SMSA's as defined in 1970; for New England, metropolitan State economic areas are used]

Standard metropolitan statistical area	Divorce rate per 1,000			
	Total population			Married women
	1970	1965	1960	1970
Dayton, Ohio	4.6	3.1	3.1	19.0
Decatur, Ill.	3.8	2.6	2.2	15.5
Denver, Colo.	5.3	3.9	3.1	22.9
Des Moines, Iowa	4.9	3.5	3.3	20.9
Detroit, Mich.	3.4	2.5	2.3	14.7
Dubuque, Iowa	1.8	1.1	0.9	9.1
Duluth-Superior, Minn.-Wis.	2.7	1.5	1.1	11.7
Durham, N.C.	3.3	3.3	2.0	14.8
El Paso, Tex.	4.8	3.1	4.1	22.4
Erie, Pa.	2.5	1.8	1.6	10.8
Eugene, Oreg.	5.5	3.4	3.3	22.6
Evansville, Ind.-Ky.	---	3.2	2.6	---
Fall River-New Bedford, Mass.	2.3	1.6	1.2	9.7
Fargo-Moorhead, N.D.-Minn.	2.2	1.5	1.5	10.3
Fayetteville, N.C.	3.2	(1)	(1)	15.1
Flint, Mich.	4.0	3.1	2.7	17.3
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood, Fla.	4.7	4.0	3.1	17.2
Fort Smith, Ark.-Okla.	5.8	3.9	3.0	23.3
Fort Wayne, Ind.	---	2.9	2.6	---
Fort Worth, Tex.	6.4	5.6	4.9	25.7
Fresno, Calif.	4.4	2.9	2.5	19.0
Gadsden, Ala.	5.7	4.4	3.9	22.3
Gainesville, Fla.	4.1	(1)	(1)	19.4
Galveston-Texas City, Tex.	2.6	4.4	5.0	11.0
Gary-Hammond-East Chicago, Ind.	3.6	5.9	2.8	15.8
Grand Rapids, Mich.	3.3	2.5	1.5	14.4
Great Falls, Mont.	4.6	3.0	2.9	20.1
Green Bay, Wis.	1.5	1.0	0.6	6.9
Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, N.C. ⁵	3.3	3.3	2.1	13.4
Greenville, S.C.	3.4	2.6	1.9	14.0
Hamilton-Middletown, Ohio	4.3	3.2	3.1	18.0
Harrisburg, Pa.	2.3	1.9	1.7	9.3
Hartford-New Britain-Bristol, Conn.	1.9	0.4	0.9	7.9
Honolulu, Hawaii.....	3.6	1.7	2.3	16.6
Houston, Tex.	5.6	4.7	4.1	23.4
Huntington-Ashland, W. Va.-Ky.-Ohio ⁶	4.4	3.2	2.8	17.8
Huntsville, Ala.	4.6	2.9	3.2	19.2
Indianapolis, Ind. ⁷	5.2	3.7	3.2	22.4
Jackson, Mich.	4.4	3.4	2.8	19.2
Jackson, Miss.	4.1	3.0	2.5	18.2
Jacksonville, Fla.	6.4	4.2	3.7	27.5
Jersey City, N.J.	1.2	1.0	0.8	5.2
Johnstown, Pa.	1.3	0.8	0.8	5.6
Kalamazoo, Mich.	4.3	3.2	2.7	19.0
Kansas City, Mo.-Kans.	4.9	3.6	3.4	20.3
Kenosha, Wis.	2.3	1.6	1.1	9.8
Knoxville, Tenn.	4.5	3.3	2.9	18.4
La Crosse, Wis.	1.5	(1)	(1)	7.0
Lafayette, La.	---	(1)	(1)	---
Lafayette-West Lafayette, Ind.	3.6	(1)	(1)	16.1
Lake Charles, La.	3.0	2.2	1.9	13.0
Lancaster, Pa.	1.7	1.6	1.3	7.3
Lansing, Mich.	4.0	3.0	2.5	17.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7. Divorce rates: each standard metropolitan statistical area, 1960, 1965, and 1970—Con.

[All 1960 and 1965 rates are for SMSA's as defined in 1960; the 1970 rates are for SMSA's as defined in 1970; for New England, metropolitan State economic areas are used]

Standard metropolitan statistical area	Divorce rate per 1,000			
	Total population			Married women
	1970	1965	1960	1970
Laredo, Tex.	1.0	1.5	1.5	5.1
Las Vegas, Nev.	18.4	20.6	30.2	77.1
Lawton, Okla.	9.7	4.6	4.7	43.3
Lexington, Ky.	5.3	3.9	3.2	23.1
Lima, Ohio	3.2	2.8	2.4	13.5
Lincoln, Neb.	3.7	2.7	2.5	16.0
Little Rock-North Little Rock, Ark.	6.5	5.0	5.3	26.9
Lorain-Elyria, Ohio.....	3.0	1.9	1.9	13.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif.	5.8	4.2	3.4	25.2
Louisville, Ky-Ind. ⁸	4.0	3.3	2.8	15.8
Lubbock, Tex.	3.8	3.9	4.6	16.2
Lynchburg, Va.	2.8	1.9	1.4	11.9
Macon, Ga.	5.1	3.1	3.5	21.9
Madison, Wis.	2.0	1.9	1.3	9.4
Manchester, N.H.	3.0	2.1	1.8	14.1
Mansfield, Ohio	4.7	(1)	(1)	19.7
McAllen-Pharr-Edinburg, Tex.	0.6	(1)	(1)	2.9
Memphis, Tenn.-Ark.	3.5	2.5	2.4	15.3
Miami, Fla.	5.6	4.9	4.6	22.5
Midland, Tex.	5.6	4.9	3.8	22.7
Milwaukee, Wis.	2.8	1.5	1.3	12.5
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.	3.0	2.0	1.7	13.3
Mobile, Ala.	4.4	2.3	2.4	19.3
Modesto, Calif.	5.5	(1)	(1)	22.6
Monroe, La.	2.4	2.2	2.2	10.4
Montgomery, Ala.	5.0	4.0	3.7	22.2
Muncie, Ind.	---	9.0	4.1	---
Muskegon-Muskegon Heights, Mich.	3.6	2.7	2.5	15.4
Nashville-Davidson, Tenn.	4.4	2.6	3.0	18.5
New Haven-Waterbury, Conn.	1.9	1.4	0.9	8.1
New Orleans, La. ⁹	2.6	2.3	1.4	11.5
New York, N.Y.	1.1	0.3	0.3	4.6
Newark, N.J.	1.4	0.8	0.8	6.0
Newport News-Hampton, Va.	2.7	2.4	2.1	11.5
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	3.3	2.7	2.6	14.8
Odessa, Tex.	7.4	6.1	6.1	29.3
Ogden, Utah	5.6	3.7	3.2	24.1
Oklahoma City, Okla.	6.6	4.9	5.0	27.2
Omaha, Neb.-Iowa.....	3.6	2.5	2.4	15.8
Oriando, Fla.	4.8	2.1	1.7	19.9
Owensboro, Ky.	4.4	(1)	(1)	18.8
Oxnard-Ventura, Calif.	5.5	(1)	(1)	23.6
Paterson-Clifton-Passaic, N.J.	1.5	0.8	0.5	6.1
Pensacola, Fla.	5.8	5.0	4.4	24.6
Peoria, Ill.	4.2	3.0	2.6	17.5
Petersburg-Colonial Heights, Va.	2.4	(1)	(1)	10.8
Philadelphia, Pa.-N. J.	1.8	1.3	1.2	7.7
Phoenix, Ariz.	7.7	6.7	4.1	32.0
Pine Bluff, Ark.	5.1	(1)	(1)	22.7
Pittsburgh, Pa.	1.9	1.5	1.3	7.8
Pittsfield, Mass.	2.5	2.4	1.2	10.8
Portland, Maine	4.7	2.9	2.6	20.4
Portland, Oreg.-Wash.	4.6	3.3	3.6	19.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7. Divorce rates: each standard metropolitan statistical area, 1960, 1965, and 1970—Con.

[All 1960 and 1965 rates are for SMSA's as defined in 1960; the 1970 rates are for SMSA's as defined in 1970; for New England, metropolitan State economic areas are used]

Standard metropolitan statistical area	Divorce rate per 1,000			
	Total population			Married women
	1970	1965	1960	1970
Providence, R.I.	1.9	1.3	1.1	8.0
Provo-Orem, Utah	2.8	2.4	1.9	13.5
Pueblo, Colo.	5.0	2.8	2.6	21.7
Racine, Wis.	2.0	0.9	1.3	9.1
Raleigh, N.C.	2.9	2.6	1.4	12.6
Reading, Pa.	2.5	2.0	1.8	10.0
Reno, Nev.	25.0	35.2	43.3	104.2
Richmond, Va.	3.4	3.0	3.1	14.4
Roanoke, Va.	3.1	2.5	2.1	12.6
Rochester, Minn.	2.3	(1)	(1)	10.4
Rochester, N.Y.	1.9	0.8	0.7	8.1
Rockford, Ill.	4.8	3.3	2.7	19.8
Sacramento, Calif.	6.3	4.0	3.4	26.4
Saginaw, Mich.	3.3	2.3	1.8	14.7
St. Joseph, Mo.	5.6	4.0	3.6	23.2
St. Louis, Mo.-Ill.	3.5	2.9	2.7	15.2
Salem, Oreg.	4.1	(1)	(1)	16.9
Salinas-Monterey, Calif.	4.7	(1)	(1)	22.0
Salt Lake City, Utah	4.1	3.5	3.0	18.3
San Angelo, Tex.	4.7	4.3	3.4	19.2
San Antonio, Tex.	3.9	3.8	3.7	17.8
San Bernardino-Riverside-Ontario, Calif.	5.1	3.4	2.5	21.0
San Diego, Calif.	5.9	4.2	3.4	25.9
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	5.6	3.7	3.1	24.4
San Jose, Calif.	5.8	3.6	2.6	25.2
Santa Barbara, Calif.	5.4	3.3	2.4	23.7
Santa Rosa, Calif.	5.5	(1)	(1)	22.4
Savannah, Ga.	6.1	4.2	3.8	26.3
Scranton, Pa.	1.9	1.1	1.0	8.2
Seattle-Everett, Wash.	5.6	3.7	3.5	23.6
Sherman-Denison, Tex.	5.1	(1)	(1)	19.8
Shreveport, La.	---	---	---	---
Sioux City, Iowa-Nebr.	2.7	2.7	2.3	12.2
Sioux Falls, S. Dak.	2.8	2.3	2.0	12.1
South Bend, Ind.	---	2.5	2.5	---
Spokane, Wash.	5.5	3.9	3.5	23.6
Springfield, Ill.	4.5	3.3	2.5	18.7
Springfield, Mo.	6.4	4.0	3.7	26.1
Springfield, Ohio	4.3	3.6	3.3	17.9
Springfield-Holyoke, Mass.	2.7	1.7	1.3	11.9
Steubenville-Weirton, Ohio-W. Va.	2.5	2.8	1.9	10.4
Stockton, Calif.	5.9	3.4	2.5	25.0
Syracuse, N. Y.	1.9	0.7	0.8	8.3
Tacoma, Wash.	5.3	3.7	3.2	23.1
Tallahassee, Fla.	5.6	(1)	(1)	26.1
Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.	5.2	4.1	3.8	19.7
Terre Haute, Ind.	---	3.4	3.7	---
Texarkana, Tex.-Ark.	4.4	3.6	4.8	18.1
Toledo, Ohio-Mich.	3.9	3.3	2.7	16.8
Topeka, Kans.	5.9	4.2	4.0	24.7
Trenton, N. J.	1.9	1.2	0.9	8.1
Tucson, Ariz.	7.7	4.1	3.7	32.6
Tulsa, Okla. ¹⁰	9.4	6.9	6.8	37.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7. Divorce rates: each standard metropolitan statistical area, 1960, 1965, and 1970—Con.

[All 1960 and 1965 rates are for SMSA's as defined in 1960; the 1970 rates are for SMSA's as defined in 1970; for New England, metropolitan State economic areas are used]

Standard metropolitan statistical area	Divorce rate per 1,000			
	Total population			Married women
	1970	1965	1960	1970
Tuscaloosa, Ala.	3.0	2.5	2.8	13.7
Tyler, Tex.	4.4	3.6	3.6	17.7
Utica-Rome, N.Y.	2.0	0.4	0.6	8.7
Vallejo-Napa, Calif.	5.7	(1)	(1)	23.9
Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton, N.J.	2.5	(1)	(1)	10.4
Waco, Tex.	5.3	3.8	3.1	22.4
Washington, D.C.-Md.-Va.	2.3	1.8	1.4	10.2
Waterloo, Iowa	3.0	2.3	2.2	13.3
West Palm Beach, Fla.	4.7	3.6	3.3	18.1
Wheeling, W. Va.-Ohio	2.7	1.9	1.5	11.1
Wichita, Kans.	5.6	3.8	3.0	23.3
Wichita Falls, Tex.	5.5	4.4	4.8	22.8
Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton, Pa.	1.0	0.9	0.7	4.1
Wilmington, Del.-N.J.-Md.	2.9	1.4	1.6	12.5
Wilmington, N.C.	3.3	(1)	(1)	13.5
Worcester, Mass.	2.3	1.7	1.1	9.9
York, Pa.	2.5	2.2	1.9	10.0
Youngstown-Warren, Ohio	3.3	2.3	2.1	13.8

¹This SMSA was defined after 1960; 1960 and 1965 rates are not available.

²Rates for 1960 and 1965 are for the Beaumont-Port Arthur SMSA.

³For 1965, rate excludes Essex County.

⁴For 1970, no data for the Indiana portion (Dearborn County, Ind.)

⁵In 1960 and 1965, there were two separate SMSA's: Greensboro-High Point, with a rate of 2.1 in 1960 and 3.3 in 1965; and Winston-Salem, with a rate of 1.5 in 1960 and 2.5 in 1965.

⁶For 1960, rate excludes Boyd County, Ky.

⁷For 1970, rate excludes Boone, Hancock, Hendricks, and Morgan Counties.

⁸For 1970, rate excludes Floyd County, Ind.

⁹For 1960, rate excludes St. Bernard Parish; for 1965, it excludes Jefferson Parish; for 1970, it excludes St. Tammany Parish.

¹⁰For 1970, rate includes divorce petitions filed.

Table 8. Divorce rates by age of husband and wife at time of decree: divorce-registration area and 22 selected States, 1970

[Divorces with age not stated were distributed proportionally. Rates computed per 1,000 married men and women in each age group. States where reporting of age was less than 75 percent complete are not shown separately. Based on sample data. For sample specifications and for population bases, see appendix.]

Area	Age of husband at decree											
	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45-49 years	50-54 years	55-59 years	60-64 years	65 years and over
Divorce-registration area.....	14.2	15.1	33.6	30.0	22.3	17.9	13.8	10.7	7.6	5.1	3.4	1.9
Northeastern States.....	7.3	6.9	17.8	17.1	12.0	9.6	8.1	5.9	3.7	2.6	1.9	0.8
Connecticut.....	8.3	5.3	18.8	18.4	13.9	9.9	8.5	7.0	4.5	3.0	2.0	0.8
New York.....	6.4	6.8	13.1	14.6	9.8	8.7	7.9	5.4	3.5	2.7	1.7	0.8
Pennsylvania.....	8.3	7.9	24.2	20.3	14.6	10.7	8.1	6.2	3.7	2.3	2.0	0.6
Rhode Island.....	7.8	2.1	13.5	18.2	14.4	10.3	9.2	6.1	3.8	2.8	2.1	0.8
Vermont.....	10.5	1.3	23.6	21.7	16.0	14.7	11.3	7.9	6.0	3.5	1.9	1.0
North Central States.....	13.2	22.3	37.1	28.6	20.8	16.2	12.4	9.6	6.9	4.5	3.2	1.6
Illinois.....	14.3	21.3	37.1	30.5	22.9	17.8	13.8	10.2	7.4	4.7	3.9	1.7
Iowa.....	10.6	25.5	37.8	24.0	16.4	12.0	9.6	6.8	5.2	3.1	2.0	1.0
Kansas.....	15.9	29.6	45.9	36.4	23.5	17.0	14.1	10.9	8.2	3.9	3.0	1.9
Missouri.....	16.1	27.0	46.2	33.9	23.9	20.2	14.0	12.0	8.6	6.7	3.9	2.3
Nebraska.....	10.6	21.5	32.5	24.6	16.9	12.4	10.8	7.5	5.1	2.9	1.5	1.0
Wisconsin.....	8.4	5.0	20.0	18.3	14.4	11.0	8.5	7.2	4.5	3.2	2.1	0.8
Southern States.....	13.1	15.6	29.8	25.3	19.8	16.2	11.4	9.5	6.8	4.7	2.9	2.1
Kentucky.....	14.1	18.2	35.4	26.5	21.6	18.1	11.9	11.8	7.4	5.9	3.0	2.1
Maryland.....	10.2	13.8	18.8	19.5	15.7	13.9	9.6	7.3	5.0	3.7	2.7	1.7
Tennessee.....	17.7	32.6	49.5	35.0	27.4	20.7	15.2	11.6	8.4	5.2	3.2	2.5
Virginia.....	10.9	4.7	18.9	21.4	16.1	13.6	9.6	8.3	6.6	4.2	2.6	2.0
Western States.....	22.8	11.3	44.7	46.1	34.5	28.8	22.9	17.6	13.6	9.3	6.2	3.8
Alaska.....	24.4	26.7	30.2	36.4	26.2	23.4	25.4	17.9	16.9	15.1	6.3	6.9
California.....	24.1	8.0	44.5	48.9	36.7	30.5	24.5	18.5	14.7	9.8	6.7	4.3
Hawaii.....	15.2	4.9	24.1	28.1	22.9	17.9	14.9	11.9	9.7	6.0	5.9	3.0
Idaho.....	21.0	61.5	65.2	41.2	30.6	22.9	18.4	16.3	10.7	7.7	3.3	2.7
Montana.....	19.2	234.5	55.3	39.8	28.2	25.1	18.0	14.5	8.8	7.1	4.3	2.2
Oregon.....	18.9	111.5	52.0	39.0	28.6	27.5	16.6	16.5	9.9	8.0	4.4	1.7
Utah.....	15.5	21.0	38.6	29.6	22.4	15.0	13.1	9.3	8.8	4.8	3.7	1.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Divorce rates by age of husband and wife at time of decree: divorce-registration area and 22 selected States, 1970—Con.

[Divorces with age not stated were distributed proportionally. Rates computed per 1,000 married men and women in each age group. States where reporting of age was less than 75 percent complete are not shown separately. Based on sample data. For sample specifications and for population bases, see appendix.]

Area	Age of wife at decree											
	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45-49 years	50-54 years	55-59 years	60-64 years	65 years and over
Divorce-registration area.....	14.0	26.9	33.3	25.7	18.9	14.8	11.9	8.5	5.6	3.5	2.3	1.3
Northeastern States.....	7.1	11.3	18.1	14.4	10.4	7.8	6.7	4.5	2.8	1.8	1.1	0.5
Connecticut.....	8.2	11.9	19.6	16.0	11.0	8.9	8.0	5.3	3.6	2.4	1.3	0.5
New York.....	6.2	8.8	13.7	12.2	9.1	6.9	6.4	4.1	2.5	1.9	1.3	0.5
Pennsylvania.....	8.1	14.6	24.3	17.3	12.0	8.4	6.8	4.7	3.1	1.4	0.7	0.5
Rhode Island.....	7.9	7.5	19.0	16.8	11.7	10.1	7.3	5.0	2.7	2.1	1.5	0.6
Vermont.....	10.3	10.7	24.3	19.4	15.4	11.9	7.7	8.1	3.4	2.9	1.2	0.6
North Central States.....	13.1	34.4	34.3	24.1	17.3	13.5	11.0	7.5	5.1	2.8	2.1	1.2
Illinois.....	14.1	36.2	34.3	25.6	19.1	14.9	12.5	7.9	5.5	2.7	2.1	1.3
Iowa.....	10.5	40.9	31.0	20.1	13.1	9.8	8.6	5.1	3.5	2.1	1.7	0.8
Kansas.....	16.0	46.6	45.0	28.9	20.1	15.9	11.8	8.2	6.4	3.1	2.5	1.2
Missouri.....	15.9	36.0	44.1	28.1	20.1	16.3	11.5	9.9	6.3	4.3	3.3	1.7
Nebraska.....	10.6	29.6	29.4	20.7	13.5	10.6	9.7	5.7	3.8	2.0	1.3	0.5
Wisconsin.....	8.4	10.3	20.2	16.5	12.1	9.0	7.7	5.8	3.3	2.2	1.3	0.7
Southern States.....	12.9	27.2	29.1	22.1	16.7	12.8	9.9	7.6	5.0	3.3	2.3	1.2
Kentucky.....	14.0	32.0	31.8	22.6	18.2	14.6	11.4	8.0	5.5	3.9	2.7	1.4
Maryland.....	0.0	10.0	20.7	17.6	13.8	11.2	7.4	5.9	4.7	2.7	1.7	0.9
Tennessee.....	17.3	48.1	42.3	31.7	21.4	15.7	12.3	9.6	5.4	3.1	2.6	1.0
Virginia.....	10.9	12.5	23.1	18.0	14.4	10.7	9.3	7.1	4.4	3.5	2.2	1.4
Western States.....	22.7	29.7	48.5	39.2	30.4	25.4	19.8	15.2	10.2	7.0	4.2	2.7
Alaska.....	26.4	40.6	44.0	32.1	28.3	20.8	21.6	19.1	12.2	8.8	7.3	4.0
California.....	24.0	27.9	49.9	41.8	32.5	27.1	20.8	16.6	10.9	7.5	4.6	3.1
Hawaii.....	15.5	20.3	28.5	24.7	19.5	16.7	13.0	10.0	7.6	3.7	2.9	1.9
Idaho.....	20.8	54.4	59.4	32.7	25.0	18.7	14.1	12.2	9.7	3.8	3.9	1.6
Montana.....	19.1	43.9	52.5	32.4	22.2	20.0	16.2	9.9	5.9	5.1	4.6	1.5
Oregon.....	18.7	32.8	46.1	32.8	25.5	22.3	19.0	9.3	7.7	6.7	2.4	1.1
Utah.....	15.4	27.8	34.7	26.4	17.5	16.3	10.6	7.3	6.6	3.4	2.0	1.4

¹Number of divorces small, with high sampling variability. For explanation, see appendix.

²Population less than 1,000.

Table 9. Divorce rates and percent changes by age of husband and wife at time of decree: 4 selected States, 1960 and 1970

[Based on sample data. Rates computed per 1,000 men and women in each age group. Numerators for 1960 rates are averages of 1960 and 1961 figures]

State, year, and percent change	Total	Age at decree							
		Under 20 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45-49 years	50 years and over
<u>Total, 4 States</u>		<u>Husband</u>							
1970	12.5	23.4	35.7	26.1	19.9	15.0	11.4	8.9	3.4
1960	7.5	24.8	22.0	15.5	10.2	7.5	6.9	5.6	2.5
Percent change	+66.7	-5.6	+62.3	+68.4	+95.1	+100.0	+65.2	+58.9	+36.0
<u>Hawaii</u>									
1970	15.2	4.9	24.1	28.1	22.9	17.9	14.9	11.9	6.2
1960	10.5	3.0	20.6	16.4	14.7	10.4	9.3	8.3	3.8
Percent change	+44.8	+63.3	+17.0	+71.3	+55.8	+72.1	+60.2	+43.4	+63.2
<u>Iowa</u>									
1970	10.6	25.5	37.8	24.0	16.4	12.0	9.6	6.8	2.6
1960	7.0	28.5	22.3	16.6	9.6	7.6	6.2	5.2	2.2
Percent change	+51.4	-10.5	+69.5	+44.6	+70.8	+57.9	+54.8	+30.8	+18.2
<u>Tennessee</u>									
1970	17.7	32.6	49.5	35.0	27.4	20.7	15.2	11.6	4.7
1960	11.0	31.4	30.8	22.4	14.3	9.9	9.8	7.2	3.5
Percent change	+60.9	+3.8	+60.7	+56.3	+91.6	+109.1	+55.1	+61.1	+34.3
<u>Wisconsin</u>									
1970	8.4	5.0	20.0	18.3	14.4	11.0	8.5	7.2	2.5
1960	4.3	12.4	11.5	7.9	5.9	4.6	4.4	4.1	1.8
Percent change	+95.3	-59.7	+73.9	+131.6	+144.1	+139.1	+93.2	+75.6	+38.9
<u>Total, 4 States</u>		<u>Wife</u>							
1970	12.4	36.5	31.4	23.2	16.1	12.0	9.8	7.1	2.4
1960	7.5	29.0	18.9	11.1	9.0	7.1	5.9	4.2	1.8
Percent change	+65.3	+25.9	+66.1	+109.0	+78.9	+69.0	+66.1	+69.0	+33.3
<u>Hawaii</u>									
1970	15.5	20.3	28.5	24.7	19.5	16.7	13.0	10.0	4.6
1960	10.9	16.1	21.6	15.0	13.4	10.1	7.1	5.3	3.2
Percent change	+42.2	+26.1	+31.9	+64.7	+45.5	+65.3	+83.1	+88.7	+43.8
<u>Iowa</u>									
1970	10.5	40.9	31.0	20.1	13.1	9.8	8.6	5.1	2.0
1960	7.0	28.7	21.8	10.6	8.2	6.3	6.5	4.3	1.4
Percent change	+50.0	+42.5	+42.2	+89.6	+59.8	+55.6	+32.3	+18.6	+42.9
<u>Tennessee</u>									
1970	17.3	48.1	42.3	31.7	21.4	15.7	12.3	9.6	3.1
1960	10.8	37.5	24.5	16.0	12.2	9.8	7.1	5.3	2.4
Percent change	+60.2	+28.3	+72.7	+98.1	+75.4	+60.2	+73.2	+81.1	+29.2
<u>Wisconsin</u>									
1970	8.4	10.3	20.2	16.5	12.1	9.0	7.7	5.8	1.9
1960	4.3	14.7	10.4	6.0	5.5	4.5	4.3	3.0	1.4
Percent change	+95.3	-29.9	+94.2	+175.0	+120.0	+100.0	+79.1	+93.3	+35.7

Table 10. Divorce rates by race of husband and wife: divorce-registration area and 23 selected States, 1970

[Divorces with race not stated were distributed proportionally. Rates computed per 1,000 married men and women in each racial group. States where reporting of race was less than 75 percent complete are not shown separately. Michigan and Ohio do not report race and are excluded from DRA rates by race. Based on sample data. For sample specifications and for population bases, see appendix.]

Area	Race of husband				Race of wife			
	Total	White	Negro	Other	Total	White	Negro	Other
Divorce-registration area	14.2	13.7	17.4	9.6	14.0	13.7	15.6	9.5
Northeastern States.....	7.3	6.9	11.7	3.5	7.1	6.9	10.0	1.9
Connecticut	8.3	7.8	18.9	9.0	8.2	7.7	16.9	11.5
New York	6.4	5.9	11.1	3.4	6.2	5.8	9.3	11.5
Pennsylvania.....	8.3	8.0	11.6	11.7	8.1	8.0	10.1	14.2
Rhode Island.....	7.8	7.6	18.6	4.1	7.9	7.8	17.7	0.9
Vermont	10.5	10.4	² 25.2	27.1	10.3	10.3	² 27.6	-
North Central States	13.2	12.6	23.3	4.9	13.1	12.6	21.2	6.0
Illinois.....	14.3	13.6	21.7	12.3	14.1	13.5	19.3	14.5
Iowa.....	10.6	10.5	29.1	15.3	10.5	10.4	24.4	14.2
Kansas.....	15.9	15.3	30.9	15.0	16.0	15.4	32.1	17.3
Missouri.....	16.1	15.5	23.6	13.3	15.9	15.5	22.1	11.3
Nebraska.....	10.6	10.4	23.8	18.0	10.6	10.3	22.5	17.3
Wisconsin.....	8.4	7.9	33.1	6.9	8.4	7.9	30.6	5.0
Southern States.....	14.1	14.0	15.0	4.0	13.9	14.0	13.9	4.3
Georgia	17.8	18.0	17.0	¹ 15.2	17.3	17.8	15.6	¹ 11.9
Kentucky	14.1	14.0	17.1	^{1,2} 27.7	14.0	13.9	15.8	¹ 15.6
Maryland.....	10.2	9.8	12.4	15.9	10.0	9.8	11.3	11.9
Tennessee.....	17.7	17.8	17.5	14.7	17.3	17.6	16.0	-
Virginia.....	10.9	10.7	12.3	11.0	10.9	10.8	11.9	12.4
Western States.....	22.8	23.1	29.2	11.2	22.7	23.1	27.3	11.4
Alaska.....	24.4	25.0	19.9	20.7	26.4	26.7	31.4	23.9
California.....	24.1	24.3	29.3	9.0	24.0	24.3	27.4	8.8
Hawaii.....	15.2	19.8	24.9	12.0	15.5	19.3	21.8	13.0
Idaho.....	21.0	20.9	² 73.5	19.7	20.8	20.8	² 47.2	14.5
Montana.....	19.2	18.5	² 34.2	44.1	19.1	18.5	² 29.0	40.2
Oregon.....	18.9	18.8	27.7	18.3	18.7	18.7	20.6	12.3
Utah.....	15.5	15.5	² 34.7	11.2	15.4	15.5	24.6	9.1

¹Number of divorces small, with high sampling variability. For explanation, see appendix.

²Population less than 1,000.

Table 11. Divorce rates and percent changes by race of husband and wife: 4 selected States, 1960 and 1970

[Rates per 1,000 population aged 15 years and over. Based on sample data]

State, year, and percent change	Race of husband				Race of wife			
	Total	White	Negro	Other	Total	White	Negro	Other
<u>Total, 4 States</u>								
1970.....	8.5	8.4	11.8	7.1	7.9	7.7	9.8	7.9
1960.....	5.1	4.9	7.4	4.7	4.9	4.7	6.5	5.8
Percent change.....	+66.7	+71.4	+59.5	+51.1	+61.2	+63.8	+50.8	+36.2
<u>Hawaii</u>								
1970.....	9.2	11.7	¹ 11.4	7.4	10.0	13.0	¹ 16.0	8.2
1960.....	5.6	7.2	¹ 5.3	4.8	6.7	8.8	¹ 5.3	5.8
Percent change.....	+64.3	+62.5	+115.1	+54.2	+49.3	+47.7	+201.9	+41.4
<u>Iowa</u>								
1970.....	7.4	7.3	16.7	¹ 2.9	6.7	6.6	13.0	¹ 8.9
1960.....	4.9	4.8	19.8	-	4.7	4.5	17.0	-
Percent change.....	+51.0	+52.1	-15.7	...	+42.6	+46.7	-23.5	...
<u>Tennessee</u>								
1970.....	12.4	12.8	10.2	¹ 2.2	11.1	11.6	8.4	-
1960.....	7.7	7.8	6.4	-	7.1	7.3	5.6	-
Percent change.....	+61.0	+64.1	+59.4	...	+56.3	+58.9	+50.0	...
<u>Wisconsin</u>								
1970.....	5.6	5.3	18.9	3.5	5.2	4.9	16.6	3.1
1960.....	2.8	2.6	11.9	¹ 5.2	2.7	2.5	11.0	¹ 7.8
Percent change.....	+100.0	+103.8	+58.8	-32.7	+92.6	+96.0	+50.9	-60.3

¹Number of divorces small, with high sampling variability. For explanation, see appendix.

Table 12. Marriage-order specific divorce rates for husbands and wives: divorce-registration area and 21 selected States, 1970

[Based on sample data. Nebraska does not report marriage order. Population bases from U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population, 1970. Detailed Characteristics*. Final Report PC(1)-D: State Volumes, table 152]

Area	Husband			Wife		
	Total	Married once	Married more than once	Total	Married once	Married more than once
	Marriage-order specific divorce rate					
Divorce-registration area.....	14.2	12.3	26.4	14.0	12.0	27.2
Alaska	24.4	20.4	40.4	26.4	21.5	46.8
California	24.1	20.7	38.0	24.0	20.3	38.8
Connecticut.....	8.3	7.7	13.9	8.2	7.6	14.2
Hawaii.....	15.2	13.4	30.8	15.5	13.2	35.8
Idaho.....	21.0	17.0	40.1	20.8	16.4	40.1
Illinois.....	14.3	12.4	27.6	14.1	12.2	26.9
Iowa.....	10.6	8.8	24.7	10.5	8.8	24.7
Kansas.....	15.9	13.4	30.2	16.0	13.4	30.9
Kentucky	14.1	12.3	25.2	14.0	11.5	29.6
Maryland.....	10.2	9.8	12.7	10.0	9.6	12.4
Missouri.....	16.1	12.8	33.4	15.9	12.8	33.5
Montana.....	19.2	15.3	41.0	19.1	15.3	38.8
New York.....	6.4	6.1	9.2	6.2	5.9	9.2
Oregon	18.9	16.0	30.1	18.7	15.6	29.8
Pennsylvania.....	8.3	7.9	11.6	8.1	7.8	11.2
Rhode Island.....	7.8	7.3	13.0	7.9	7.3	14.4
Tennessee.....	17.7	15.2	33.3	17.3	14.5	36.3
Utah.....	15.5	12.8	31.5	15.4	12.7	31.9
Vermont.....	10.5	10.0	14.1	10.3	9.5	17.3
Virginia.....	10.9	10.2	15.7	10.9	10.0	16.9
Wisconsin.....	8.4	7.7	16.6	8.4	7.5	17.5

Table 13. Divorce rates by reported number of children under 18 years of age: divorce-registration area and each State, 1970

[Based on sample data. Rates computed per 1,000 married women under 55 years of age with a specified number of children under 18 years of age; as obtained from U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population, 1970. Detailed Characteristics*. Final Report PC(2). State Volumes, tables 152 and 155. For computation methods, see appendix]

Area	All divorces	No children re-reported	Children reported			
			Total	1	2	3 or more
Divorce-registration area	18.1	26.1	15.0	19.1	15.1	11.3
Northeastern States	9.4	12.3	8.3	10.0	8.6	6.4
Connecticut	10.6	12.2	10.0	12.0	9.9	8.4
New York	8.2	11.0	7.1	8.5	7.3	5.6
Pennsylvania	10.8	14.3	9.4	11.6	10.1	6.7
Rhode Island	10.6	12.6	9.9	10.2	10.5	9.1
Vermont	13.7	15.6	13.1	15.2	12.2	12.3
North Central States	18.2	26.1	15.3	19.3	15.4	12.0
Illinois	18.3	25.5	15.5	19.1	15.8	12.1
Iowa	14.4	20.7	12.3	16.5	11.8	9.6
Kansas	21.7	31.3	18.1	22.7	17.3	14.7
Michigan	18.5	27.2	15.5	19.2	16.0	12.3
Missouri	21.5	32.6	17.0	22.1	16.7	12.5
Nebraska	14.5	20.2	12.7	16.5	12.5	10.1
Ohio	20.2	27.7	17.3	21.6	17.2	13.9
South Dakota	12.3	20.3	10.1	13.7	9.5	8.0
Wisconsin	11.2	15.4	9.8	11.8	10.3	8.2
Southern States	18.3	27.4	14.6	18.6	14.3	10.9
Alabama	23.8	33.2	20.1	25.2	21.1	14.1
Georgia	21.4	33.6	16.4	21.8	15.6	11.7
Kentucky	18.2	29.5	13.9	18.0	12.7	11.0
Maryland	12.2	19.3	9.3	11.2	9.9	7.0
Tennessee	22.4	32.5	18.1	22.8	16.4	14.4
Virginia	13.4	18.9	11.1	13.7	11.0	8.3
Western States	28.9	41.5	23.7	31.4	23.7	16.8
Alaska	28.7	43.4	23.4	31.1	24.7	17.1
California	30.5	43.4	24.9	33.2	24.5	17.5
Hawaii	18.2	25.2	15.8	16.7	16.7	14.4
Idaho	27.2	44.9	21.2	28.9	22.8	14.4
Montana	24.6	36.8	20.5	28.1	21.5	14.4
Oregon	24.9	31.8	22.0	26.3	23.2	17.2
Utah	19.3	31.8	15.9	21.9	17.0	11.7
Wyoming	29.0	44.5	23.2	32.3	22.8	16.6

Table 14. Percent distribution of divorcing husbands and wives by age at time of decree, according to marriage order: divorce-registration area, 1970

[Based on sample data]

Marriage order	Total	Age at decree										
		Under 20 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45-49 years	50-54 years	55-59 years	60-64 years	65 years and over
Husband												
Percent distribution												
Total	100.0	0.8	16.3	22.8	16.2	12.8	10.7	8.3	5.4	3.2	1.8	1.7
Married once	100.0	1.1	20.8	26.3	16.7	11.9	9.1	6.5	3.9	2.1	1.0	0.6
Married more than once .	100.0	0.0	3.3	12.2	14.5	15.3	15.1	13.8	10.3	6.4	4.1	5.0
Wife												
Total	100.0	4.1	24.9	21.8	14.4	11.0	9.4	6.8	3.8	2.0	1.0	0.8
Married once	100.0	5.4	30.6	23.8	13.9	9.5	7.5	5.0	2.6	1.1	0.4	0.2
Married more than once .	100.0	0.5	8.5	15.5	15.9	14.8	14.9	12.4	7.7	4.6	2.6	2.6

Table 15. Percent distribution of divorces by marriage order of husband and wife, according to age at time of decree: divorce-registration area, 1970

[Based on sample data]

Age at decree	Husband			Wife		
	Total	Married once	Married more than once	Total	Married once	Married more than once
Percent distribution						
Total	100.0	74.9	25.1	100.0	74.2	25.8
Under 20 years.....	100.0	98.5	1.5	100.0	96.6	3.4
20-24 years	100.0	95.0	5.0	100.0	91.2	8.8
25-29 years	100.0	86.5	13.5	100.0	81.6	18.4
30-34 years	100.0	77.4	22.6	100.0	71.5	28.5
35-39 years	100.0	69.9	30.1	100.0	65.1	34.9
40-44 years	100.0	64.1	35.9	100.0	59.1	40.9
45-49 years	100.0	58.5	41.5	100.0	53.7	46.3
50-54 years	100.0	52.7	47.3	100.0	49.0	51.0
55-59 years	100.0	49.2	50.8	100.0	41.9	58.1
60-64 years	100.0	41.1	58.9	100.0	31.9	68.1
65 years and over	100.0	26.5	73.5	100.0	21.2	78.8

Table 16. Median age of husband and wife at time of decree, by marriage order: divorce-registration area and 22 selected States, 1970

[Nebraska does not report marriage order. Based on sample data]

Area	Husband			Wife		
	Total	Married once	Married more than once	Total	Married once	Married more than once
	Median age at decree					
Divorce-registration area.....	32.9	30.5	41.6	29.8	27.9	38.2
Alaska	32.8	29.5	41.4	29.3	26.5	36.2
California	33.9	30.9	42.7	30.9	28.2	39.5
Connecticut.....	33.9	32.4	43.6	31.2	29.6	40.3
Georgia.....	30.8	28.7	38.0	27.9	26.0	33.8
Hawaii	34.4	32.1	44.2	31.0	29.0	40.0
Idaho.....	30.8	27.8	39.4	27.5	24.8	33.8
Illinois.....	32.8	30.6	41.3	29.6	27.9	37.8
Iowa.....	30.6	28.8	39.1	27.9	26.1	36.0
Kansas.....	30.4	28.3	39.3	27.8	25.8	35.7
Kentucky	31.9	29.2	40.0	28.7	26.2	36.2
Maryland.....	33.7	32.2	42.6	30.5	29.1	40.8
Missouri.....	31.6	28.8	40.0	28.5	26.2	36.3
Montana.....	32.2	29.3	39.0	28.5	25.9	36.1
New York.....	35.3	34.1	43.3	31.5	30.6	41.7
Oregon	33.0	29.5	41.2	29.7	26.8	39.0
Pennsylvania.....	32.9	31.4	42.1	29.7	28.8	39.6
Rhode Island.....	33.7	32.1	43.1	30.5	29.4	39.6
Tennessee.....	30.7	29.0	38.5	27.7	26.3	33.6
Utah.....	30.7	28.4	38.7	28.0	26.0	35.3
Vermont.....	32.8	31.8	41.0	29.7	28.5	39.9
Virginia.....	32.8	31.2	43.0	30.1	28.5	40.5
Wisconsin	33.3	31.8	43.7	30.4	28.9	40.5

Table 17. Percent distribution of divorces by race of husband and wife: divorce-registration area and 23 selected States, 1970

[Based on sample data. Michigan and Ohio do not report race]

Area	All divorces	Husband and wife, same race				Husband and wife, different races			
		Total	White	Negro	Other	Total	White-Negro	White-other	Negro-other
Percent distribution									
Divorce-registration area	100.0	98.8	88.7	9.5	0.7	1.2	0.4	0.8	0.1
Alaska.....	100.0	93.5	83.4	2.7	7.4	6.5	-	6.3	0.1
California.....	100.0	98.3	91.3	6.4	0.6	1.7	0.5	1.1	0.1
Connecticut.....	100.0	99.3	89.0	10.3	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.4	-
Georgia.....	100.0	99.8	81.3	18.5	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	-
Hawaii.....	100.0	77.6	38.6	0.9	38.1	22.4	0.6	21.3	0.5
Idaho.....	100.0	99.3	98.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.6	-
Illinois.....	100.0	99.3	84.7	14.6	-	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.0
Iowa.....	100.0	99.3	97.3	1.9	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.0
Kansas.....	100.0	99.0	91.9	6.9	0.2	1.0	0.2	0.8	0.0
Kentucky.....	100.0	99.6	93.4	6.3	-	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2
Maryland.....	100.0	99.4	82.6	16.7	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.2	-
Missouri.....	100.0	99.8	88.8	10.9	-	0.2	0.1	0.1	-
Montana.....	100.0	98.0	92.9	0.3	4.8	2.0	0.0	1.9	0.1
Nebraska.....	100.0	99.6	95.2	4.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	-
New York.....	100.0	98.9	82.9	15.8	0.2	1.1	0.7	0.3	0.1
Oregon.....	100.0	98.9	97.3	1.0	0.5	1.1	0.3	0.8	-
Pennsylvania.....	100.0	99.2	90.3	9.0	-	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.1
Rhode Island.....	100.0	99.3	95.3	4.1	-	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.1
Tennessee.....	100.0	99.9	88.8	11.1	-	0.1	0.0	-	0.0
Utah.....	100.0	98.5	97.5	0.7	0.3	1.5	0.1	1.3	0.1
Vermont.....	100.0	99.9	99.5	0.4	-	0.1	-	0.1	-
Virginia.....	100.0	99.8	83.5	16.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Wisconsin.....	100.0	99.4	91.3	7.9	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.0

Table 18. Percent distribution of divorces by age at time of decree, according to race of husband and wife: divorce-registration area, 1970

[Based on sample data. Michigan and Ohio do not report race]

Age at decree	Race of husband				Race of wife			
	All races	White	Negro	Other	All races	White	Negro	Other
Percent distribution								
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years.....	0.8	0.9	0.3	0.2	4.1	4.4	1.7	2.3
20-24 years.....	16.3	16.9	10.4	12.8	24.9	25.5	19.2	19.7
25-29 years.....	22.8	22.8	22.2	19.5	21.8	21.3	23.7	22.0
30-34 years.....	16.2	15.9	18.1	16.7	14.4	14.0	17.4	15.6
35-39 years.....	12.8	12.5	15.5	14.9	11.0	10.9	12.4	16.2
40-44 years.....	10.7	10.5	12.0	12.3	9.4	9.1	10.7	12.0
45-49 years.....	8.3	8.3	8.6	8.7	6.8	6.8	7.4	6.2
50-54 years.....	5.4	5.4	6.0	5.2	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7
55-59 years.....	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.8	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.4
60-64 years.....	1.8	1.7	2.0	3.1	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.6
65 years and over.....	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.3

Table 19. Median age of husband and wife at time of decree, by race: divorce-registration area and 23 selected States, 1970

[Based on sample data. Medians for the "All races" columns computed from data by single years; medians for other columns, from grouped data. Michigan and Ohio do not report race]

Area	Race of husband				Race of wife			
	All races	White	Negro	Other	All races	White	Negro	Other
	Median age							
Divorce-registration area.....	32.9	32.9	34.7	35.3	29.8	29.7	31.5	31.9
Alaska	32.8	32.9	*	32.5	29.3	29.3	*	28.8
California	33.9	34.0	34.1	36.4	30.9	30.9	30.5	34.6
Connecticut.....	33.9	33.9	34.5	*	31.2	31.1	32.1	*
Georgia.....	30.8	30.4	33.1	*	27.9	27.6	29.8	*
Hawaii.....	34.4	33.7	*	35.7	31.0	30.8	*	31.7
Idaho.....	30.8	31.2	*	*	27.5	27.9	*	*
Illinois.....	32.8	32.4	35.5	*	29.6	29.3	32.0	*
Iowa.....	30.6	30.8	31.3	*	27.9	28.1	27.8	*
Kansas.....	30.4	30.3	30.6	*	27.8	28.0	28.7	129.0
Kentucky.....	31.9	32.0	35.8	*	28.7	28.7	32.1	*
Maryland.....	33.7	33.1	37.1	*	30.5	29.7	34.5	*
Missouri.....	31.6	31.6	35.6	*	28.5	28.5	31.7	*
Montana.....	32.2	32.7	*	30.0	28.5	28.8	*	27.9
Nebraska.....	31.1	31.5	29.9	*	28.6	28.7	28.2	*
New York.....	35.3	35.4	35.4	40.0	31.5	31.5	33.0	*
Oregon.....	33.0	33.2	32.5	137.5	29.7	29.8	128.3	134.2
Pennsylvania.....	32.9	32.5	36.5	*	29.7	29.4	33.3	*
Rhode Island.....	33.7	33.6	133.1	*	30.5	30.8	130.0	*
Tennessee.....	30.7	30.7	32.5	*	27.7	27.9	28.5	(2)
Utah.....	30.7	30.9	*	*	28.0	28.2	*	*
Vermont.....	32.8	33.1	*	*	29.7	29.8	*	(2)
Virginia.....	32.8	32.8	34.9	*	30.1	29.7	32.5	*
Wisconsin.....	33.3	33.4	35.4	*	30.4	30.3	31.8	*

¹Computed from 50 to 100 divorces.

²No women of other races divorced in this State.

Table 20. Median age of husband and wife at time of decree, by race, with percent changes: 12 selected States, 1959 and 1970

[Based on sample data. Computed from grouped frequencies]

State	White			All other		
	1970	1959	Percent change	1970	1959	Percent change
<u>Husband</u>						
	Median age			Median age		
Alaska.....	32.9	35.9	-8.4	32.9	¹ 33.6	-2.1
Georgia.....	30.4	32.4	-6.2	33.1	36.2	-8.6
Idaho.....	31.2	33.9	-8.0	¹ 29.2	*	*
Iowa.....	30.8	32.7	-5.8	31.8	34.7	-8.4
Kansas.....	30.3	33.5	-9.6	30.9	34.6	-10.7
Montana.....	32.7	34.3	-4.7	27.4	*	*
Nebraska.....	31.5	34.2	-7.9	30.6	*	*
Oregon.....	33.2	35.9	-7.5	35.4	37.9	-6.6
Pennsylvania.....	32.5	35.2	-7.7	36.6	38.5	-4.9
Tennessee.....	30.7	32.6	-5.8	32.5	35.7	-9.0
Utah.....	30.9	32.5	-4.9	¹ 28.9	*	*
Wisconsin.....	33.4	35.4	-5.6	35.3	34.8	+1.4
<u>Wife</u>						
Alaska.....	29.3	31.6	-7.3	29.5	¹ 29.5	-
Georgia.....	27.6	28.8	-4.2	29.8	32.4	-8.0
Idaho.....	27.9	29.6	-5.7	*	*	*
Iowa.....	28.1	29.5	-4.7	28.4	30.8	-7.8
Kansas.....	28.0	30.3	-7.6	28.7	31.0	-7.4
Montana.....	28.8	30.0	-4.0	27.2	*	*
Nebraska.....	28.7	31.0	-7.4	30.6	*	*
Oregon.....	29.8	32.6	-8.6	30.6	32.3	-5.3
Pennsylvania.....	29.4	32.3	-9.0	33.2	35.2	-5.7
Tennessee.....	27.9	29.1	-4.1	28.5	32.7	-12.8
Utah.....	28.2	29.1	-3.1	¹ 27.9	*	*
Wisconsin.....	30.3	32.7	-7.3	31.8	31.1	+2.3

¹Computed from 50 to 100 divorces.

Table 21. Percent distribution of divorces by number of this marriage of husband and wife, by number of this marriage of spouse: divorce-registration area, 1970

[Nebraska does not report number of this marriage. Based on sample data]

Number of this marriage of husband and wife	Total	Number of this marriage of spouse					
		First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth or more
<u>Husband</u>		Percent distribution					
Total	100.0	74.2	19.6	4.7	1.1	0.3	0.1
First marriage.....	100.0	88.2	9.9	1.4	0.3	0.1	0.0
Second marriage.....	100.0	37.4	48.3	11.1	2.4	0.7	0.2
Third marriage	100.0	22.1	45.5	24.9	5.3	1.4	0.7
Fourth marriage.....	100.0	14.7	45.7	24.4	13.2	1.2	0.8
Fifth marriage	100.0	13.1	41.3	25.3	11.0	5.0	4.3
Sixth marriage.....	100.0	11.2	41.6	31.8	8.8	5.4	1.2
<u>Wife</u>							
Total	100.0	74.9	19.0	4.5	1.1	0.3	0.2
First marriage.....	100.0	89.0	9.4	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.0
Second marriage.....	100.0	38.9	47.1	10.5	2.6	0.6	0.3
Third marriage	100.0	22.6	45.0	23.9	5.8	1.6	1.1
Fourth marriage.....	100.0	19.6	41.1	21.7	13.3	3.0	1.3
Fifth marriage	100.0	15.7	47.1	23.6	4.9	5.6	3.1
Sixth marriage.....	100.0	26.3	31.7	24.2	6.8	9.6	1.4

Table 22. Estimated number of children under 18 years of age involved in divorce, average number of children per decree, and average number of children per decree for couples with children, by race: divorce-registration area and 23 selected States, 1970

[Based on sample data. Michigan and Ohio do not report race]

Area	Number of children				Average number of children per decree			Average number of children per decree for couples with children		
	Total	White	Negro	Other	White	Negro	Other	White	Negro	Other
Divorce-registration area.....	435,100	382,500	45,400	7,200	1.19	1.28	1.36	2.01	2.18	2.30
Alaska.....	2,200	1,700	100	400	1.21	1.15	1.80	2.11	2.12	2.59
California.....	123,000	111,300	9,600	2,100	1.09	1.25	1.03	1.93	2.08	2.02
Connecticut.....	8,700	7,800	900	(1)	1.49	1.47	*	2.14	2.32	*
Georgia.....	19,600	15,500	4,000	(1)	1.02	1.15	*	1.92	2.05	*
Hawaii.....	3,900	1,200	100	2,700	1.15	1.14	1.73	2.04	2.11	2.49
Idaho.....	4,300	4,200	(1)	100	1.20	*	2.23	2.08	*	3.62
Illinois.....	47,600	39,900	7,600	100	1.28	1.40	1.00	2.10	2.31	1.60
Iowa.....	9,800	9,500	200	(1)	1.38	1.40	*	2.15	2.09	*
Kansas.....	11,100	10,000	1,000	100	1.24	1.60	1.30	2.07	2.45	2.20
Kentucky.....	12,000	11,100	900	(1)	1.11	1.27	*	2.04	2.10	*
Maryland.....	10,100	8,600	1,400	(1)	1.13	0.88	*	2.01	2.06	*
Missouri.....	20,200	17,600	2,600	-	1.10	1.31	-	1.98	2.24	-
Montana.....	4,000	3,600	(1)	400	1.26	*	1.82	2.20	*	2.57
Nebraska.....	5,300	5,000	300	(1)	1.42	1.67	*	2.15	2.30	*
New York.....	34,400	29,100	5,100	100	1.32	1.18	0.58	2.08	2.12	1.48
Oregon.....	12,300	12,000	100	100	1.28	1.05	1.17	2.07	1.69	2.35
Pennsylvania.....	29,300	26,500	2,800	(1)	1.30	1.27	*	2.00	2.10	*
Rhode Island.....	2,600	2,500	100	(1)	1.54	1.44	*	2.24	2.51	*
Tennessee.....	18,600	16,100	2,500	-	1.09	1.33	-	1.94	2.19	-
Utah.....	5,200	5,100	100	100	1.43	1.81	1.94	2.21	2.31	2.49
Vermont.....	1,800	1,800	-	-	1.76	-	-	2.38	-	-
Virginia.....	13,800	11,300	2,500	-	1.12	1.25	-	1.93	2.22	-
Wisconsin.....	13,100	11,700	1,300	100	1.53	1.91	1.89	2.29	2.76	3.00

¹Less than 50 children.

Table 23. Rate of children involved in divorce per 1,000 children under 18 years of age, by race: divorce-registration area and 23 selected States, 1970

[Michigan and Ohio do not report race and are excluded from DRA rates by race. Based on sample data]

Area	All children	Race		
		White	Negro	Other
Divorce-registration area	11.6	11.9	9.5	10.1
Northeastern States:				
Connecticut.....	8.5	8.3	11.1	16.2
New York.....	5.9	5.9	6.1	1.2
Pennsylvania.....	7.6	7.7	6.9	12.0
Rhode Island.....	8.7	8.6	10.6	11.9
Vermont.....	11.5	11.6	-	-
North Central States:				
Illinois.....	12.5	12.6	12.5	3.3
Iowa.....	10.0	9.9	17.2	¹ 13.3
Kansas.....	14.8	14.3	22.3	18.4
Missouri.....	13.0	13.1	13.0	-
Nebraska.....	10.5	10.3	15.0	19.7
Wisconsin.....	8.3	7.7	21.4	5.6
Southern States:				
Georgia.....	11.9	13.8	7.8	19.5
Kentucky.....	10.8	10.9	9.7	13.6
Maryland.....	7.3	8.0	4.8	14.5
Tennessee.....	14.0	15.2	9.4	-
Virginia.....	8.7	9.2	7.0	-
Western States:				
Alaska.....	18.3	19.4	16.4	15.1
California.....	18.5	19.2	16.7	7.7
Hawaii.....	14.1	11.1	22.6	15.8
Idaho.....	16.3	16.2	^{1,2} 38.5	18.0
Montana.....	15.7	15.1	^{1,2} 23.3	24.4
Oregon.....	17.6	17.8	10.3	10.2
Utah.....	12.3	12.3	² 21.4	11.3

¹Less than 50 children.

²Population less than 1,000.

Table 24. Median and quartile ages of husband and wife at time of decree and at marriage, by number of children under 18 years of age: divorce-registration area, 1970

[Based on sample data]

Number of children under 18 years of age	Husband			Wife		
	First quartile	Median	Third quartile	First quartile	Median	Third quartile
	Age at decree					
Total	26.7	33.1	42.8	24.2	29.8	39.5
No children	26.3	34.8	48.7	23.7	31.3	45.9
1 child	24.4	28.9	38.2	22.4	26.2	34.3
2 children	27.5	32.4	39.6	25.4	29.3	36.3
3 children	30.5	35.0	40.6	27.6	32.2	37.5
4 children	32.2	36.4	41.0	29.7	33.4	37.8
5 children	33.5	37.6	42.2	30.7	34.1	38.2
6 children or more.....	35.6	39.2	43.4	32.3	35.8	39.3
	Age at marriage					
Total	20.7	23.5	28.6	17.3	20.6	24.6
No children	22.0	25.8	35.2	19.2	23.5	32.2
1 child	20.0	22.7	26.0	16.8	19.5	23.3
2 children	19.9	22.5	25.0	16.6	19.1	22.7
3 children	19.9	22.4	24.9	16.5	18.9	22.4
4 children	19.7	22.4	24.9	16.4	18.8	22.2
5 children	20.0	22.5	25.2	16.4	18.7	22.1
6 children or more.....	20.1	22.6	25.4	16.3	18.5	21.9

Table 25. Percent distribution of divorces by number of children under 18 years of age, according to age of husband and wife at time of decree and at marriage: total 23 selected States, 1970

[The following States are included: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Based on sample data]

Age at decree and age at marriage	Total	Number of children under 18 years of age						
		None	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
AGE AT DECREE								
<u>Husband</u>								
Total.....	100.0	40.7	24.7	18.6	9.3	4.2	1.6	1.0
Under 20 years.....	100.0	53.0	42.9	3.8	0.7	0.2	10.7	-
20-24 years.....	100.0	46.3	40.3	11.2	1.9	0.2	0.0	0.0
25-29 years.....	100.0	35.8	30.0	23.8	7.8	2.1	0.5	0.1
30-34 years.....	100.0	27.0	20.7	25.4	15.9	7.5	2.4	1.2
35-39 years.....	100.0	26.8	16.9	22.0	17.5	10.0	4.1	2.8
40-44 years.....	100.0	34.1	19.6	20.9	13.4	6.7	2.7	2.6
45-49 years.....	100.0	48.3	21.2	15.7	8.1	3.8	1.8	1.2
50 years and over.....	100.0	74.7	12.9	7.1	3.1	1.2	0.6	0.5
<u>Wife</u>								
Total.....	100.0	40.7	24.7	18.6	9.3	4.2	1.6	1.0
Under 20 years.....	100.0	54.2	40.5	5.0	0.3	0.0	-	0.0
20-24 years.....	100.0	42.4	37.5	15.8	3.6	0.6	0.1	0.0
25-29 years.....	100.0	30.3	24.3	27.0	12.3	4.3	1.3	0.4
30-34 years.....	100.0	24.6	17.8	23.0	17.8	10.4	4.0	2.5
35-39 years.....	100.0	27.3	17.3	21.9	17.1	9.2	4.0	3.3
40-44 years.....	100.0	40.8	20.7	19.4	10.4	5.1	2.1	1.5
45-49 years.....	100.0	61.3	19.1	12.4	4.7	1.3	0.6	0.6
50 years and over.....	100.0	86.8	9.1	3.0	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.0
AGE AT MARRIAGE								
<u>Husband</u>								
Total.....	100.0	40.7	24.7	18.6	9.3	4.2	1.6	1.0
Under 20 years.....	100.0	22.5	31.6	24.6	12.2	5.8	2.1	1.2
20-24 years.....	100.0	33.9	26.5	21.1	11.0	4.7	1.8	1.1
25-29 years.....	100.0	43.7	24.2	17.5	8.2	4.0	1.5	1.0
30-34 years.....	100.0	53.8	20.7	13.5	6.6	3.1	1.3	0.9
35-39 years.....	100.0	66.8	16.6	9.1	4.9	1.5	0.6	0.6
40-44 years.....	100.0	75.8	13.7	5.6	3.2	1.1	0.3	0.3
45-49 years.....	100.0	85.7	8.2	3.9	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.0
50 years and over.....	100.0	94.7	3.2	1.1	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.0
<u>Wife</u>								
Total.....	100.0	40.7	24.7	18.6	9.3	4.2	1.6	1.0
Under 20 years.....	100.0	25.5	29.2	23.7	12.3	5.7	2.2	1.4
20-24 years.....	100.0	41.1	25.0	18.8	9.2	3.8	1.4	0.8
25-29 years.....	100.0	51.7	22.8	13.5	7.0	3.2	1.0	0.8
30-34 years.....	100.0	65.0	19.1	9.8	3.7	1.2	0.7	0.5
35-39 years.....	100.0	81.0	11.7	4.9	1.6	0.5	0.1	0.1
40-44 years.....	100.0	90.7	6.2	2.1	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.0
45-49 years.....	100.0	97.2	2.4	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	-
50 years and over.....	100.0	99.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	-	0.0	-

Table 26. Number of children under 18 years of age involved in divorce, average number of children per decree, and average number of children per decree for couples with children, by age of husband and wife at time of decree and at marriage: total 23 selected States, 1970

[The following States are included: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Based on sample data]

Age of husband and wife	At decree		At marriage	
	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
Number of children				
Total	413,300	413,300	413,300	413,300
Under 20 years.....	1,500	7,300	103,200	244,200
20-24 years	38,800	70,500	204,100	122,200
25-29 years	87,000	104,300	64,000	30,800
30-34 years	93,100	95,500	24,100	10,300
35-39 years	84,100	72,100	9,900	3,600
40-44 years	58,300	42,100	4,700	1,100
45-49 years	30,800	16,400	1,700	200
50 years and over	19,700	5,100	1,000	100
Average number per decree				
Total	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
Under 20 years.....	0.51	0.51	1.58	1.56
20-24 years	0.69	0.82	1.36	1.17
25-29 years	1.12	1.41	1.13	0.93
30-34 years	1.68	1.94	0.92	0.61
35-39 years	1.92	1.90	0.62	0.29
40-44 years	1.59	1.31	0.42	0.13
45-49 years	1.08	0.70	0.23	0.03
50 years and over	0.47	0.19	0.08	0.01
Average number per decree with children				
Total	2.03	2.03	2.03	2.03
Under 20 years.....	1.10	1.12	2.04	2.10
20-24 years	1.29	1.43	2.06	1.99
25-29 years	1.74	2.03	2.01	1.94
30-34 years	2.31	2.58	2.00	1.75
35-39 years	2.62	2.62	1.87	1.56
40-44 years	2.41	2.22	1.74	1.46
45-49 years	2.10	1.81	1.64	1.30
50 years and over	1.86	1.45	1.68	1.71

APPENDIX

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APPENDIX

TECHNICAL NOTES

The term "divorce," as used in this report, includes absolute divorces, annulments, and decrees of marriage dissolution, that recently replaced divorces in several States. Various types of limited divorce (divorces from bed and board or a mensa et thoro, legal separations, separate maintenance, etc.) are excluded.

Data are based on national divorce statistics published annually in the *Vital Statistics of the United States*, provisional estimates published in the *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, foreign divorce rates published in the *Demographic Yearbook* of the United Nations, as well as on unpublished materials tabulated in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

State and county totals (the latter used mostly to prepare data by standard metropolitan statistical areas) were received from the vital statistics offices of all States and the District of Columbia. Information other than totals was tabulated in the NCHS from samples of divorce certificates selected from microfilms of all certificates provided annually by States participating in the divorce-registration area (DRA). In 1970, 28 States were included in the DRA and South Carolina was added in 1971. The 1970 list of participating States, the sampling rates, numbers of sample records, and estimated numbers of events are shown in table I. The sampling rate for individual States was designed originally to obtain samples containing at least 1,000 certificates. Four sampling rates were used: all records, one-half, one-fifth, and one-tenth. As numbers of divorces have increased considerably in recent years, the size of the sample was often much larger than 1,000.

All detailed tables, except tables 1 through 7, and all text tables, except tables A, B, and C, present divorce data based on a sample. The sampling error of estimated percents is given in

table II. Data from States with all records tabulated are not subject to sampling variability and have no sampling error. In estimates prepared from the samples, small frequencies have a very high sampling error and a "smallest useful number" for each State is shown in table I. Still smaller values should be interpreted simply as "small" numbers rather than as any precise value. Percentages and rates based on "small" numbers are footnoted.

Percentages and medians were computed excluding cases with information not stated. In order to compute numbers of children involved in divorce, total numbers of marriages of divorced persons, and numerators for specific divorce rates, cases with information not stated were distributed proportionally. Denominators for the specific State rates were taken or prepared from data of the 1970 Census of Population, while denominators for the DRA, for the total of reporting States, and for groups of States were obtained by addition.

Divorce rates for 1970 by age at decree and divorce rates by race are based on population data from table 152 of the State volumes, *United States Census of Population, 1970, "Detailed Characteristics."*⁶ Population bases for divorce rates by marriage order were estimated from the same table, on the assumption that the distribution of the total married population by marriage order was identical with that of the married population, spouse present; for the DRA the latter represented 94.6 percent of all married men and 92.0 percent of all married women.

For national rates by duration of marriage, both numerators and denominators were esti-

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

Table I. Divorce sample—sampling rate, sample size, estimated number of events, and smallest significant number: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1970

Area and stratum	Sampling rate	Number of sample records	Estimated number of events	Smallest significant number
Divorce-registration area .....	...	80,630	429,498	80
Stratum I	All records	13,224	13,224	...
Alaska	All records	1,694	1,694	0
Hawaii	All records	2,585	2,585	0
Montana	All records	3,060	3,060	0
Rhode Island	All records	1,693	1,693	0
South Dakota	All records	1,358	1,358	0
Vermont	All records	1,027	1,027	0
Wyoming	All records	1,807	1,807	0
Stratum II	1/2	20,407	40,814	...
Connecticut	1/2	2,910	5,820	15
Idaho	1/2	1,776	3,552	15
Iowa	1/2	3,539	7,078	15
Kansas	1/2	4,340	8,680	15
Nebraska	1/2	1,848	3,696	16
Utah	1/2	1,814	3,628	15
Wisconsin	1/2	4,180	8,360	15
Stratum III	1/5	18,906	94,530	...
Georgia	1/5	3,728	18,640	50
Kentucky	1/5	2,138	10,690	50
Maryland	1/5	1,845	9,225	50
Missouri	1/5	3,569	17,845	50
Oregon	1/5	1,914	9,570	50
Tennessee	1/5	3,310	16,550	50
Virginia	1/5	2,402	12,010	50
Stratum IV	1/10	28,093	280,930	...
Alabama	1/10	1,507	15,070	100
California	1/10	11,112	111,120	100
Illinois	1/10	3,644	36,440	100
Michigan	1/10	2,994	29,940	100
New York	1/10	2,640	26,400	100
Ohio	1/10	3,937	39,370	100
Pennsylvania	1/10	2,259	22,590	100

mated. The DRA percent distribution by duration of marriage was applied to the national total to estimate the numerators. Denominators were obtained from the 1970 census subject report, "Marital Status," PC(2)-4C, table 2, where various marital status groups are shown classified by years since first marriage. Data by years since current marriage for women married once and women married more than once, spouse present and married once, were obtained from selected columns of this table. Data for the remainder of married women married more than

once (1.1 percent of the total) were estimated by applying to the total of the subgroup percentages obtained for married women, married more than once, spouse present.⁷

Denominators of divorce rates by number of children reported were obtained from tables 152 and 155 of *United States Census of Population, 1970*, "Detailed Characteristics."⁶ Denominators for all divorces were all married women, aged under 55, as few women, aged 55 years or more,

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

Table II. Sampling errors of estimated percentages: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1970

[States with all records included in the sample have no sampling error]

Area	Estimated percent			
	1 or 99	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
Divorce-registration area.....	0.03	0.12	0.17	0.20
Alabama.....	0.24	0.73	1.06	1.22
Alaska.....	...	...	...	...
California.....	0.08	0.27	0.39	0.45
Connecticut.....	0.13	0.39	0.56	0.65
Georgia.....	0.14	0.43	0.63	0.73
Hawaii.....	...	...	...	...
Idaho.....	0.16	0.50	0.73	0.84
Illinois.....	0.15	0.47	0.68	0.78
Iowa.....	0.11	0.36	0.52	0.60
Kansas.....	0.10	0.32	0.47	0.54
Kentucky.....	0.19	0.57	0.83	0.96
Maryland.....	0.20	0.62	0.89	1.04
Michigan.....	0.17	0.52	0.75	0.86
Missouri.....	0.15	0.44	0.65	0.75
Montana.....	...	...	...	...
Nebraska.....	0.16	0.48	0.70	0.83
New York.....	0.18	0.55	0.79	0.92
Ohio.....	0.14	0.45	0.65	0.75
Oregon.....	0.19	0.61	0.88	1.02
Pennsylvania.....	0.19	0.59	0.86	1.00
Rhode Island.....	...	...	...	...
South Dakota.....	...	...	...	...
Tennessee.....	0.15	0.46	0.67	0.77
Utah.....	0.16	0.52	0.77	0.88
Vermont.....	...	...	...	...
Virginia.....	0.18	0.54	0.78	0.90
Wisconsin.....	0.11	0.34	0.50	0.58
Wyoming.....	...	...	...	...

could be expected to have children under 18 years of age. Denominators for divorces with 1 child, 2 children, and 3 or more children were obtained by adding up all families and subfamilies with married head and a given number of own children; the small group of subfamilies with 2 or more children was divided equally between the categories of "2 children" and "3 or more children." The denominators for divorces with no children reported were prepared by subtracting the sum of denominators for categories reporting children from the denominator for all divorces.

The proportion of divorce certificates with information not stated varied considerably among the participating states. Michigan and

Ohio did not report race and Nebraska did not report the number of this marriage. The percent completeness of reporting five routinely collected items of information in the DRA and each State is shown in table III. The completeness of several States, particularly Maryland and Utah, improved considerably in 1970. Data for States with a particularly low level of reporting a given variable were not used in the analysis of such a variable.

Further detailed information on the technical aspects of the 1970 divorce statistics can be found in *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1970, Volume III, "Marriage and Divorce,"* Section 4, "Technical Appendix."

Table III. Percent completeness of reporting demographic characteristics: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1970

Area	Average 5 items	Age at decree ¹	Race ¹	Number of this mar- riage ¹	Duration of mar- riage at decree	Chil- dren under 18 years of age
	Percent					
Divorce-registration area.....	84.9	79.0	75.7	76.1	98.2	95.5
Alabama.....	43.9	3.3	28.4	3.6	99.1	85.1
Alaska.....	96.5	93.1	97.2	95.2	99.1	97.7
California.....	94.7	95.0	97.0	90.3	97.5	93.5
Connecticut.....	97.3	95.3	98.4	98.1	99.0	95.9
Georgia.....	78.4	70.6	76.3	70.3	87.7	87.3
Hawaii.....	99.1	97.9	99.7	99.3	99.8	99.0
Idaho.....	87.0	79.6	82.5	79.0	96.4	97.6
Illinois.....	93.0	95.9	87.6	87.0	98.8	95.6
Iowa.....	99.2	99.7	99.6	99.0	99.5	98.2
Kansas.....	95.5	91.6	94.3	93.7	99.1	98.9
Kentucky.....	91.7	86.5	90.5	86.6	97.1	97.6
Maryland.....	92.5	93.7	95.1	92.0	99.4	82.4
Michigan.....	246.9	27.5	(²)	8.2	99.6	99.4
Missouri.....	98.5	96.6	98.0	99.4	99.3	99.2
Montana.....	98.8	98.9	99.7	98.4	99.2	97.8
Nebraska.....	378.6	96.6	96.9	(³)	99.8	99.5
New York.....	94.2	81.2	97.6	95.1	98.9	98.0
Ohio.....	457.5	41.5	(⁴)	47.5	99.5	99.2
Oregon.....	89.6	94.5	82.8	79.9	99.5	91.1
Pennsylvania.....	88.4	81.5	82.7	81.4	99.4	96.8
Rhode Island.....	90.1	97.9	80.7	77.8	99.1	94.9
South Dakota.....	57.2	22.9	42.4	21.3	99.6	100.0
Tennessee.....	98.2	96.8	99.3	98.4	98.4	97.9
Utah.....	92.3	91.9	87.1	88.2	98.2	96.3
Vermont.....	97.9	97.3	98.3	98.4	99.1	96.2
Virginia.....	99.2	98.0	100.0	99.5	98.9	99.4
Wisconsin.....	99.6	99.2	99.9	99.7	99.4	99.7
Wyoming.....	45.5	6.6	15.9	7.1	99.4	98.4

¹For husbands; percentages for wives are very similar.

²Race not reported in Michigan; for the 4 reported items the average is 58.7.

³Number of this marriage not reported in Nebraska; for the 4 reported items the average is 98.2.

⁴Race not reported in Ohio; for the 4 reported items the average is 77.4.



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