

100 Years of Marriage and Divorce Statistics United States, 1867-1967

Analysis of marriage and divorce statistics for the period 1867-1967, including information on data collection procedures throughout the 100 years, time trends in national and area totals and rates, and characteristics of marriages and divorces.

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100 YEARS OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE STATISTICS: 1867-1967

Alexander A. Plateris, Ph.D., *Division of Vital Statistics*

A CENTURY OF DATA

Data Collection

The history of marriage and divorce statistics in the United States is long and varied. The first year for which national marriage and divorce data are available is 1867; thus we possess statistics on family formation and disruption for a period covering over 100 years. Methods of collecting data changed considerably during that period.

The first collection was ordered by Congress in response to petitions from leaders in the fields of religion, law, and education who were concerned with the confusion and lack of uniformity in the divorce records in the United States. Legislation adopted on March 3, 1887, directed the Commissioner of Labor to collect statistics on marriages and divorces occurring in all States and territories during a period of 20 years, 1867-86. The results of the investigation were published in 1889 in the form of a 1,074-page book entitled *A Report on Marriage and Divorce in the United States, 1867 to 1886*.¹ This report was signed by Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of Labor, and is occasionally referred to as the "Wright Report."

Information was collected by special agents of the Department of Labor, who visited the courts empowered to grant divorces and gathered data from their records. An exception was made for courts in small or distant areas, from which returns by mail were obtained. It was found that 2,624 courts granted divorces, and information was obtained from practically all of them except in cases where records had been destroyed by fire or flood.

Marriage statistics were much less complete. For the whole period 1867-86 no marriage data were received from Maine and South Carolina. The reporting from most other States was so poor that annual totals were prepared for only 14 States (Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin), as well as the District of Columbia. The incompleteness of marriage data was due to the inadequacy of State laws governing marriage licenses. The Wright Report stated "Licenses are granted on various bases and under various conditions, and there is little compulsory law relative to the returns of marriages celebrated....Marriage may take place either under license or publication of bans..."² Commissioner Wright said further, "Only a very few States make marriage registration compulsory. In some of the older States, where the law has for years provided for State registration, I am informed authoritatively that the number of marriages returned will fall short at least 10 per cent of the number of marriages celebrated."³

In the years 1902-05 the President and Congress again received many petitions requesting the legislation authorizing a second collection of marriage and divorce data, and on January 30, 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt sent a special message to Congress indicating the need for such legislation and stating that the Director of the Census should be authorized to collect and publish statistics for the years 1887-1906. A congressional resolution to that effect was approved on February 9, 1905. The results of the second data collection were published by the Bureau of the Census in a two-volume report entitled *Marriage and Divorce, 1867-1906*.⁴

The method of collecting data in 1907 was very similar to that used in 1887. Special agents of the Bureau of the Census gathered this information, except for data returns from 765 small and remote counties, which were sent in by mail. In 1906 there were 2,844 counties or equivalent areas in the United States. Information on marriages was obtained from all but the 41 counties in South Carolina and 28 local areas in other States; information on divorces was obtained from all but six local areas.

The second data collection was considered highly satisfactory, and it was decided to repeat the collection each decade; the entire 10-year period was to be covered. The next collection was scheduled to take place in 1917 and to cover the years 1907-16. However, by 1917 the United States had entered World War I, and though the 1917 collection took place as scheduled, it was limited to data for 1916. The statistics were published by the Bureau of the Census in *Marriage and Divorce, 1916*.⁵

Shortly after World War I the collection and publication of marriage and divorce statistics was resumed on an annual basis. For each year 1922-32 the Bureau of the Census published an annual pamphlet, *Marriage and Divorce*. In the 1926 and later issues annulment statistics were included, tabulated separately from divorce data. The publication of these annual reports was discontinued during the Depression as an austerity measure. For years when data were not collected, 1907-15 and 1917-21, national marriage and divorce totals were estimated by the Bureau of the Census from the available State totals.

During the years 1916 and 1922-32 nearly all areas reported divorces; data from a growing number of States were obtained from statewide central files. Divorces were reported from central files by three States (Nebraska, New Jersey, and Wisconsin) in 1916 and by 16 (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin) in 1931. The number of States centrally reporting marriages increased by three during the 1916-31 period and included 30 States in 1931—the 16 States with central files of divorces and 14 others (California, Connecticut,

Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Wyoming). Marriage data for South Carolina were obtained for the first time in 1922; divorce data for South Carolina were not published until 1950 as all laws pertaining to divorce were repealed in 1878 and no divorces were granted in that State during the years 1879-1948.

No marriage or divorce information whatsoever was collected for the years 1933-36. National totals for these years were estimated by S. F. Stouffer and L. M. Spencer from data available from selected States. These estimates were published in the *American Journal of Sociology* January 1939 issue.⁶

When the publication of the *Marriage and Divorce* yearbooks was discontinued, the first period in the collection of statistics came to an end. It was characterized by nationwide data limited to variables available on the records of local and State offices. When data collection was resumed, demographically important items were emphasized, and they were obtained from limited numbers of States. During the first period most collected information referred to divorces; afterward most attention was given to marriages. A marriage-collection area was established analogous to the present marriage-registration area, and the first publication gave 1939 data from 25 States and the District of Columbia: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. New York and Rhode Island were added in 1940.

There were seven publications on marriages occurring in the marriage-collection area in 1939 and 1940. In addition, there was one publication on 1939 divorces in the divorce-collection area. Twelve States were included in that area: Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Virginia, and Wisconsin. All these reports appeared in the series *Vital Statistics—Special Reports*. In addition to detailed statistics for collection areas, totals for the United States and each State were published in this series,

including marriages performed during 1937-40, divorces granted during the same period, and totals for both marriages and divorces for 8 years, 1937-45. Historical statistics for the .50-year period 1887-1937 were published in 1940.

World War II interrupted for a few years the data collection, except for totals, and the marriage- and divorce-collection areas disappeared. The collection of marriage and divorce data was transferred from the Bureau of the Census to the newly formed National Office of Vital Statistics in the Public Health Service. Publication of marriage and divorce data in the series *Vital Statistics—Special Reports* was resumed with the 1946 data, and one or more reports were published annually through 1957 data. Since 1946 marriage and divorce statistics have also been published in the annual volumes *Vital Statistics of the United States* published by the National Office of Vital Statistics and later by the National Center for Health Statistics. (Annulments were included with divorces.) Data in both these sources were from varying numbers of reporting States, except for national, State, and county totals, which were almost complete. In addition, two reports dealt with detailed marriage data from a single area—one with Georgia, where information about the education of bride and groom was collected, the other with the District of Columbia.

During the same period a new source of information was utilized: the Current Population Surveys of the Bureau of the Census. Data on characteristics of newly married persons were gathered and published in several reports. It must be noted, however, that marriage totals obtained from Current Population Surveys were drastically smaller than those obtained from vital registration. Thus according to vital registration data 5,324,700 couples were married in the United States from January 1955 through June 1958, but the survey found only 3,692,000 such couples.⁷

For the collection of detailed statistics the marriage-registration area (MRA) was established in 1957 and the divorce-registration area (DRA) in 1958. The former originally included 28 States, all of New York State except New York City, and four outlying areas; the latter included 14 States and three outlying areas. By 1967 the number of States had increased to 38 and the

District of Columbia for the MRA and 22 for the DRA.

When the MRA was organized the following States were included: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana (including the independent registration area of New Orleans), Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York (excluding New York City), Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Also in the MRA were the outlying areas Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. In 1957 Nebraska was added; in 1959 Kentucky was added and Alaska became a State; in 1960 data for Hawaii were included with the United States; in 1961 the District of Columbia, Indiana, and Massachusetts were added; in 1964, Illinois and North Carolina; and in 1965, West Virginia and New York City.

The DRA, when organized in 1958, included Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming as well as Alaska, Hawaii, and the Virgin Islands. Between 1958 and 1967 the number of States in the DRA increased to 22; Alaska and Hawaii were included among the States in 1959 and 1960, respectively, and the following States were admitted: Kansas (1959), Maryland (1959), Michigan (1961), Missouri (1961), Ohio (1962), and Rhode Island (1963).

Since 1960 detailed data have been compiled from samples of marriage and divorce records from the respective registration areas. The first sample collection, that of 1960, included selected counties outside the two registration areas, making it possible to obtain estimates for the United States and the four regions. Thus 1960 is the only data year since 1932 for which national data other than totals are available. In addition to the sample, State totals by county (and, for marriages, also by month) were obtained from every State; from these data national totals were compiled. Marriage and divorce statistics for 1960 and subsequent years were published in *Vital Statistics of the United States*, Volume III, and analytical reports, in *Vital and Health Statistics*, Series 21. Marriage and divorce statistics for the outlying areas of Alaska before 1959, Hawaii before 1960, and the

Virgin Islands and marriage statistics for Puerto Rico were published in *Vital Statistics of the United States*. The publication of data for outlying areas was temporarily discontinued in 1966.

Provisional figures on marriages or marriage licenses have been published since 1944; since 1949 they have been published on a monthly basis. Provisional monthly divorce totals have been published since 1950 for a growing number of reporting States; 40 States and the District of Columbia reported in 1967.

Type of Information Collected

Nationwide data for 1932 and earlier years are based on information gathered routinely by local clerks and courts for the purpose of issuing marriage licenses and in court proceedings of divorce cases; no special information was collected. Divorce data were limited to variables important from the legal viewpoint. In many States procedures for the issuance of marriage licenses and the return of marriage certificates were unsatisfactory, detailed statistical information could not be collected, and marriage statistics were limited to State and county totals. Marriage totals were intended to represent the number of marriages performed in the area rather than the number of marriage licenses issued, but for the years 1867-86 it is not always clear what they do represent.

The situation improved for the 1887-1906 period. The intention was to find both the number of marriages and, whenever possible, also that of marriage licenses and to use the latter to check the former. The authors of the report for that period felt that: "The effort to secure the number of marriages celebrated has met with success in almost all the states and territories..."⁸ The same was true for 1916 and the 1922-32 period. Comparatively complete marriage totals made it possible to compute marriage rates for individual States and territories. For States with many counties not reporting, population totals were computed for the reporting counties combined, and thus a rate could be obtained which served as an estimate for the whole State. This method was used to analyze the 1867-86 data in the report of 1887-1906 statistics.

Another type of rate was the marriage rate per 1,000 unmarried population. This was based on population data by marital status, first gathered in the 1890 census. Unfortunately, this rate was computed for the unmarried population without distinguishing sex, making it virtually valueless, especially for the newly settled States of the far and middle West, where the number of unmarried men often was more than double that of unmarried women. For the purpose of the present report rates for the unmarried were recomputed by sex.

Detailed marriage data were first published for the marriage-collection area, 25 States and the District of Columbia for 1939 and 27 States and the District of Columbia for 1940. These data concerned the characteristics of newly married persons. Special issues were devoted to a given characteristic of brides and grooms married in the collection area: age, marital status, or age and race. (The latter study is limited to brides.) Data in the three publications were given by State of residence rather than by State where marriage was performed, and in this they differ from all other nationally published marriage statistics. A special publication indicated the relationship between place of marriage and place of residence of bride.

By 1954, the Standard Record of Marriage was developed and recommended for adoption by the States. A State marriage record conforming closely to the Standard Record became one of the criteria for admission to the marriage-registration area in 1957. The following characteristics of bride and groom were included in the Standard Record: age, race or color, marital status at time of marriage, number of this marriage, residence, and birthplace. Two further characteristics, occupation and type of business or industry, were on the Standard Record but this information was not required from MRA States and not used to compile statistics. Three characteristics of the marriage ceremony could also be obtained from the Standard Record: month, day of the week, and whether the ceremony was civil or religious. Not all variables listed above were tabulated every year, but all of them were tabulated for one year or more between 1957, when the MRA was established, and 1967. Various types of rates, percentage distributions, median

ages, and seasonally adjusted marriage data have been prepared for each year.

State and county totals of divorces were reported much more completely than the comparable marriage figures during the data collections prior to 1933. In addition, many tables of detailed statistical information on divorces have been published, while there were none for marriages. Consequently, publications of marriage and divorce statistics 1867-86 through 1932 included almost exclusively divorce data. It is difficult to say if data on limited decrees, which do not give the parties the right to remarry, were included in the published figures. As early as 1887 "In collecting the statistics of divorce it was sought to separate, so far as designation is concerned, the absolute from the limited divorces."⁹ Statistics on annulments were published separately for the years 1926-32.

In recent times divorce data have referred to absolute divorces and annulments combined, excluding various types of limited divorces. In most States where interlocutory decrees are granted, they have been included in the data for the year when the decree was rendered; these decrees take effect not at the time they are granted but at a given time in the future, unless the parties to divorce become reconciled during the intervening period. The completeness of reporting for divorces in recent years has been below that for marriages, and often there has been at least one State with such poor reporting that a rate could not be computed. Estimates for such States were prepared to obtain national and regional rates and totals.

In the detailed divorce statistics prior to 1933 great attention was paid to legal aspects of the divorce case, with particular emphasis on the party to whom the decree was granted, occasionally also referred to as the libellant. (It seems that the terms "libellant" and "party to whom granted" were used interchangeably.) Most statistical information was given separately for divorces granted to husband and those granted to wife, often even without corresponding totals; e.g., State divorce data by duration of marriage were given separately for husbands and for wives, so when median duration for the State is computed two figures have to be taken into consideration for each year of duration.

Eight questions were asked about every divorce during the 1887 data collection:

1. State and county where divorce was rendered.
2. State or county where parties were married.
3. Year when parties were married.
4. Year when parties were divorced.
5. Number of years married.
6. The cause for which divorced.
7. The number of children by the marriage.
8. The party who was libellant.

Supplementary questions were asked in 45 counties considered to be representative: (1) date of marriage, (2) date of separation, (3) date of filing petition, (4) date of decree, (5) whether notice was served by publication, (6) whether intemperance was a direct or indirect cause, and (7) whether alimony was granted.

The information sought on the schedule used in 1907 was much more extensive. In addition to State and county of occurrence, 18 questions were asked:

1. State and country in which married.
2. Date of marriage.
3. Date of separation.
4. Date of filing petition.
5. Who was libellant?
6. How was notice served?
7. Was case contested?
8. Was decree granted?
9. Date of decree or judgment.
10. Number of years married.
11. Cause for which divorced.
12. If not direct, was intemperance an indirect cause?
13. Kind of divorce.
14. Number of children.
15. Was alimony asked?
16. Was alimony granted?
17. Occupation of parties.
18. Residence of libellee.

The 1916 report was limited to legal questions; even data on duration of marriage and children were not given. The 1922-32 publications also showed mostly legal data, though data on duration and children were given. No information

on personal characteristics was included in any publication. The incomplete information by occupation included in the 1887-1906 statistics was an exception, but the plan to obtain data by race for the same period proved to be impracticable.

The first publication that included personal characteristics of parties to divorce was the report "Statistics on Divorces and Annulments: Reporting Areas, 1951" (*Vital Statistics—Special Reports*, Volume 38, No. 3, March 19, 1954). This report included a table on age of the divorced husband and wife and marriage order (whether married once or more than once), but data from only four States—Connecticut, Idaho, Missouri, and Tennessee—were presented. Since that date the importance of personal characteristics has increased considerably. In 1958, when the present divorce-registration area was organized, the reporting of age became a prerequisite for participation in the DRA. (Race and the number of this marriage, though considered highly desirable, have been waived in individual cases.) As a result of this requirement, many States that reported duration of marriage, number of children, or legal variables were not included in the DRA. The statistical items on the Standard Record of Divorce or Annulment, which was recommended to States, were:

1. State and county of occurrence.
2. Date of birth or age of husband and wife.
3. Usual residence of husband and wife.
4. Place of birth of husband and wife.
5. Number of this marriage for husband and wife.
6. Race or color of husband and wife.
7. Usual occupation of husband and wife.
8. Kind of business or industry of husband and wife.
9. Place of this marriage.
10. Date of marriage.
11. Number of children under 18.
12. Plaintiff.
13. To whom decree was granted.
14. Legal grounds.
15. Date of decree.

Of these items, the reporting of place of birth, usual occupation, and kind of business or industry was never required. For reasons of

economy, the coding and punching of all legal items were temporarily suspended in 1966.

Detailed data on divorce characteristics are available for varying numbers of reporting States for the years 1948-59 and for the DRA for 1960 and subsequent years. In addition, national and regional data are available for 1960 for duration of marriage, children of divorced couples, and State of marriage. Annual estimates of the number of children involved in divorce have been prepared for all years since 1953. National and regional statistics for 1960 and DRA statistics for 1960 and subsequent years were prepared from probability samples of divorce records.

TIME TRENDS IN TOTALS AND RATES

National Totals of Marriages and Divorces

The total number of marriages and divorces increased considerably during the 100 years under study (table 1) due to both increases in population and changes in rates. Increases in regional and divisional totals were also influenced by the distribution of the unmarried or married population in various parts of the country as well as the location of marriage and divorce "mills" (places where many out-of-State people are married or divorced). The increase was more pronounced for divorces than for marriages: In 1967 there were more than 50 times as many divorces in the United States as in 1867 (10,000 to 523,000) but only 5.4 times as many marriages (357,000 to 1,927,000) (figures 1 and 2). During the 100 years annual marriage totals increased in 70 of the years, declined in 29, and once remained the same for two consecutive years. For divorces, the comparable figures were 70, 20, and 10. The lowest observed marriage total was 345,000 in 1868, the highest 2,291,000 in 1946—a ratio of 1 to 6.6. Divorce totals ranged from 10,000 to 610,000.

Data on annulments of marriage, whenever available, are included in the divorce totals. In recent years all States have reported annulments combined with divorces, though usually one State or more has failed to give the annual totals

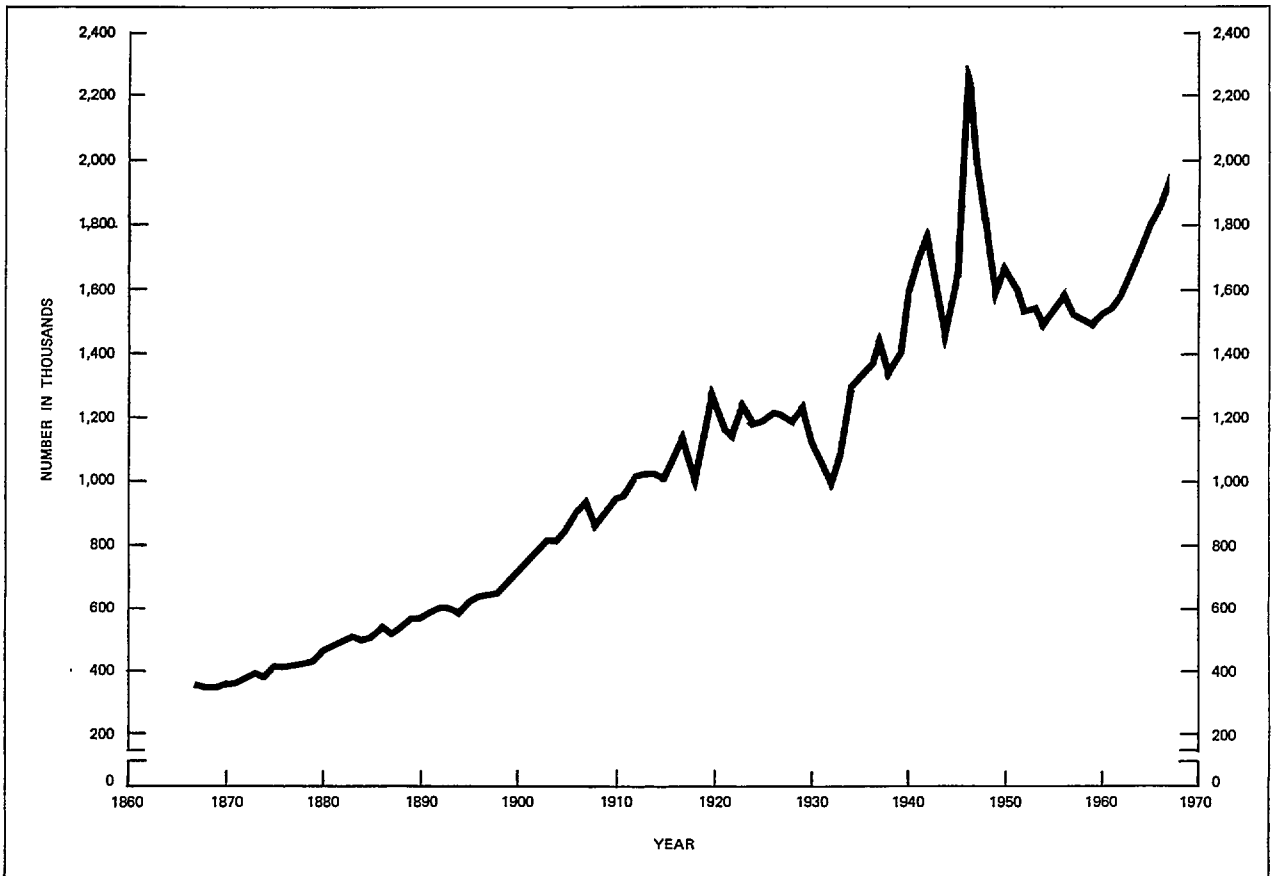


Figure 1. Number of marriages: United States, 1867-1967.

for the two types of decrees separately. Theoretically, annulments and divorces differ in that marriages are annulled for legal grounds that arose before marriage and made the marriage void from the beginning, while divorces are granted on legal grounds that arose after a legally valid marriage was performed. In many States, however, statutes do not follow this distinction, and often divorces are granted on grounds that arose before marriage or annulments on grounds which arose after marriage. The number of annulments is insignificant except in California and New York (table 2). In 1964, the only recent year when all States reported annulment totals, annulments comprised only 3.1 percent of divorces and annulments combined. This percentage varied from 2.1 to 2.4 in 1927-32, another period when all States reported.

National Marriage Rates

The net change in the national marriage rate during the 100-year period was almost nil: 9.6 per 1,000 population in 1867 and 9.7 in 1967. During the intervening years the rate dipped as low as 7.9 in 1932 and rose to 16.4 in 1946, but 90 annual rates fell within the interval 8.5 through 11.4 per 1,000 (table 1).

Marriage rates were comparatively stable during the late decades of the 19th century, with 30 of the 34 annual rates varying from 8.7 to 9.2 per 1,000 without showing a noticeable trend.

The rate started to increase after the turn of the century, and this trend was strengthened by the effects of World War I. The high point of this increase was a rate of 12.0 per 1,000 in 1920. After 1920 the trend reversed itself as the effects of war wore off, and soon afterward

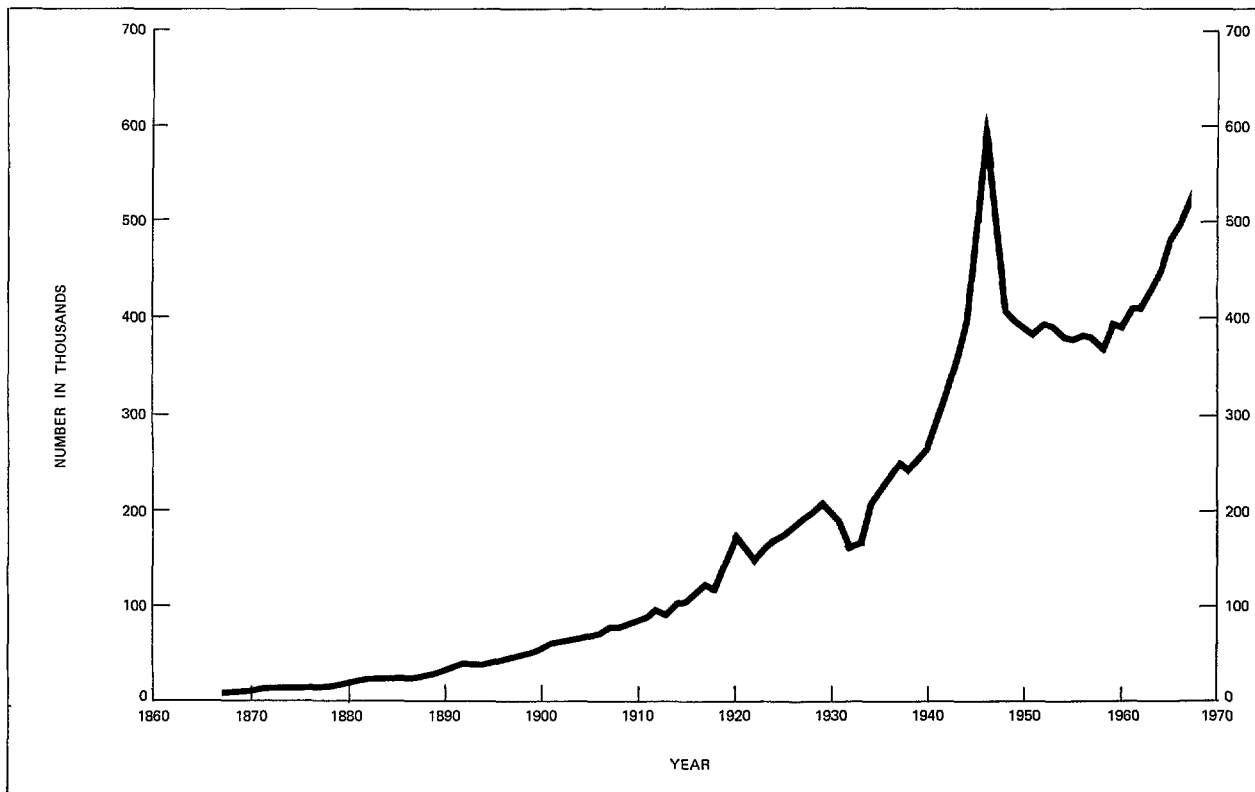


Figure 2. Number of divorces: United States, 1867-1967.

the Great Depression intensified this decline. The rate reached the lowest point of 7.9 in 1932.

A second cycle of increase and decline followed 1932. The rate increased to 12.1 by 1940 and, sustained by the effects of World War II, reached 16.4 in 1946. This was followed by a decline that brought the rate down to the second lowest figure ever observed—8.4 in 1958. After a short period of stable rates at the 8.5 level in 1959-62, the rate began to increase and rose slowly to 9.7 in 1967. It is still impossible to tell whether this increase is the beginning of a third cycle of increase and decline comparable to those of 1900-32 and 1932-58.

The number of marriages depends, among other things, on the maximum number of couples who could possibly be married. When the numbers of unmarried men and women, including the single, widowed, and divorced, are approximately equal, either figure can be considered a good approximation of potential couples or of the maximum number of possible marriages. In

areas where the number of unmarried women significantly differs from the number of unmarried men, the figure for the less numerous of the two sexes represents the maximum number of possible marriages; even if all unmarried persons of one sex were to get married, there would remain a group of unmarried persons of the more numerous sex who could not possibly marry.

During the 100-year period under consideration the sex ratio of the unmarried population changed drastically. In 1890, the first year when marital status information was collected, there were 112.5 unmarried men aged 15 years and over per 100.0 unmarried women of that age. As many unmarried male immigrants entered the United States in years after 1890, that ratio increased to 115.3 in 1910. With immigration interrupted by World War I, subsequent legislation limiting immigration, and a number of young men killed during the wars, the sex ratio of the unmarried declined to 99.3 in 1940 and 83.4 in 1960.

National marriage rates per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 and over are shown in table 3 for

1940-67 and Census years since 1890. Rates per 1,000 unmarried men and women aged 15 and over for census years are shown in table A. The higher of these two rates for a given year is the rate per 1,000 possible marriages; for years 1890-1930 it was the rate for women, while for 1940-60 it was that for men. This rate increased from 67.4 in 1890 to 88.1 in 1960, with a maximum of 100.1 in 1950.

Table A. Marriage rates for unmarried men and women aged 15 and over: United States, census years 1890-1960

[Rate per 1,000 population]

Year	Men	Women
1960-----	88.1	73.5
1950-----	100.1	90.2
1940-----	83.4	82.8
1930-----	64.5	67.8
1920-----	85.2	92.3
1910-----	66.9	77.1
1900-----	61.3	68.2
1890-----	59.9	67.4

National Divorce Rates

The trend of the divorce rate differs from that of the marriage rate by showing a consistent increase for a period of 80 years, 1867-1946 (table 1 and figure 3). Although this increase was accelerated by two World Wars and temporarily reversed by the Depression, the trend was resumed as soon as the situation returned to normal. During the 80-year period an annual rate was smaller than that for the preceding year in only seven cases (1913, 1918, 1921, 1922, 1930, 1931, and 1932).

The time trend became completely different after 1946. It could be expected that the extremely inflated post-World War II rates would revert to a more normal size and that the increase would then be resumed. This, however, did not happen. The inflated rate declined from 4.3 in 1946 to 2.3 in 1955 and fluctuated from 2.1 to 2.3 between 1955 and 1963. A new wave of increases began

in 1963, and the rate reached 2.6 in 1967—a growth of 13 percent in 4 years. The rate was 2.9 per 1,000 for 1968, and it increased to the provisional rate of 4.0 for 1972, so this increase continued after 1967 and lasted much longer than that which occurred during and after World War II.

During the first 60 years under consideration the divorce rate increased on the average about 75 percent every 20 years, and if this increase had continued, rates of 2.8 in 1947 and 4.9 in 1967 could have been expected. The year 1947 fell into the period of post-World War II increase, so the observed rate was much higher than expected, but the following year, 1948, it was 2.8. In spite of rapid growth in the divorce rate since 1963, the observed rate for 1967 was still much lower than that which could be expected on the basis of the 1867-1927 experience.

The population exposed to the risk of divorce are all married couples, including those who live together and those who live apart. As the number of married couples, particularly those living apart, is not known, that of all women, or all men, reporting themselves as married can be used as an approximation. There are differences between the two numbers, but these differences are comparatively small and their effects on the rate are not pronounced. Therefore rates were computed only for women (table 4).

These rates indicate that in 1890, the first year with data by marital status, 3.0 couples per 1,000 were divorced; this rate increased to 8.0 in 1920, 8.8 in 1940, and 17.9 in 1946. It declined to 8.9 in 1958 and then resumed the increase, reaching 11.2 in 1967. This increase is less pronounced than that of the rate per 1,000 total population: The 1967 rate per 1,000 married women was 3.7 times as large as the 1890 rate, while a comparable ratio was 5.2 for the crude rate and 15.8 for the number of divorces granted.

Because of a rapid and consistent increase in population, the number of divorces grew much more rapidly than the rate. The 1967 crude rate was 8.7 times as large as that for 1867, but the number was over 50 times as large; from 1963 to 1967 the rate increased 13 percent, but the number, 22 percent. Rates higher than in 1967 were found during the six years 1944-49, but a total higher than that for 1967 was found only once—610,000 in 1946.

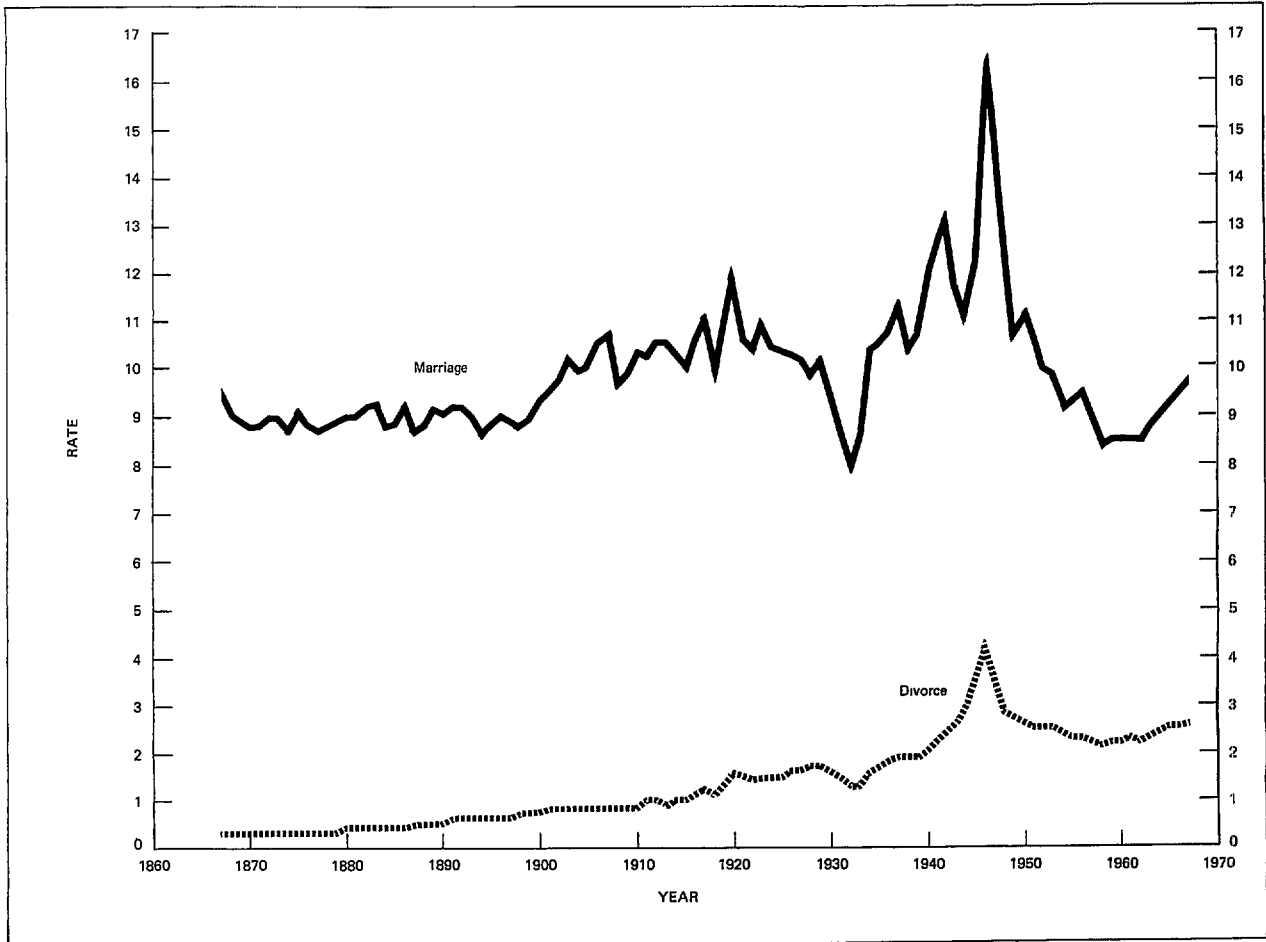


Figure 3. Marriage and divorce rates per 1,000 population: United States, 1867-1967.

Area Totals of Marriages and Divorces

Though both marriages and divorces increased throughout the United States during the 100-year period, the increase varied considerably among regions and geographic divisions (tables 5 and 6). For divorces the highest rate of increase between 1870 and 1967 was found in the West, followed by the South, North Central, and Northeast Regions in that order. The increase in the New England Division was the lowest; that in the Pacific Division was the highest. Marriage totals for 1870 could be estimated only for two regions, the North Central and the West, and the ratio between the 1967 and 1870 totals was 4.1 and 46.4, respectively. From 1870 to 1967 the rate of increase in marriages in the Pacific Division

was 14 times the rate of increase in New England; for divorces this figure for the Pacific was 23 times that for New England. Ratios between the 1870 and 1967 totals for geographic divisions are shown in table B, though 1870 marriage totals are not available for five of the nine divisions. If 1870 figures are equal to 1.0, the 1967 ratios are as shown in table B.

Due to differences in the rate of increase, the distribution of marriages and divorces among regions and divisions changed considerably during the period under study (tables 5 and 6). In 1870, 77 percent of all divorces were granted in the two northern regions. This percentage declined to 63 in 1890, 51 in 1930, and 37 in 1967. Simultaneously, the percentage granted in the South increased from 17 to 27, 32, and 37, and the

Table B. Ratio of 1967 to 1870 marriage and divorce totals: United States and each division

[1870 totals equal 1.0]

Division	Marriage	Divorce
United States--	5.5	47.5
New England-----	2.7	10.7
Middle Atlantic-----	---	22.9
East North Central---	4.7	24.7
West North Central---	---	28.8
South Atlantic-----	---	136.7
East South Central---	2.7	39.6
West South Central---	---	193.5
Mountain-----	---	160.0
Pacific-----	37.0	246.4

percentage granted in the West, from 6 to 11, 18, and 26. For marriages the distribution changed much less, but the direction of the changes was the same, as can be seen in table 5. One of the principal causes of these changes is the shift in population from East to West. Hence changes in the rates are less pronounced than those of the totals.

Area Marriage Rates

In the early years of marriage and divorce statistics marriage data were much less complete than those on divorce. This applies particularly to the 1887 collection, when no satisfactory marriage figures were received from a large number of States and territories (table 7). Crude marriage rates for 1870 could be computed for only 10 States and the District of Columbia, rates were limited to reporting counties in 15 States, and they could not be obtained for 25 States and territories. For 1880 the comparable numbers were 17 and the District of Columbia, 12, and 21. More complete totals began with the 1907 collection. In 1890, when rates were available for all States and territories except Maine and South Carolina, the magnitude of State rates varied much less than at present, and due to less developed means of transportation, few if any marriage mills existed. Marriage rates in

newly and sparsely settled areas were low due to the scarcity of unmarried women.

Before 1940 there was little difference in marriage rates among geographic divisions compared to more recent years, when the Mountain Division often had rates almost twice those of the division with the next highest rate (table 7). The growth of the marriage rate in the Mountain Division was due to development of marriage mills, particularly in Nevada, established since the late 1920's and early 1930's. Variation in rates for the remaining divisions depended in part on the general level of the national marriage rate; the higher this rate, the wider the range of divisional rates, which widened from 1890 to 1940 and narrowed afterward. In recent decades, the lowest marriage rates were found in the two divisions of the Northeast Region (New England and Middle Atlantic) and the Pacific Division. The proximity of the Mountain Division marriage mills may explain the comparatively low rates in the Pacific Division. The two divisions in the North Central Region had rates higher than those in the Northeast but, as a rule, lower than the national average. The highest rates outside of the Mountain Division were found in the South from 1890 to 1916, in 1950 in the West South Central, in 1930 and 1940 in the East South Central, and in 1960 and 1967 in the South Atlantic Division.

The number of marriages depends in part on the size and the sex ratio of the unmarried population of an area. The sex ratio for the unmarried population has varied considerably among the States and has often differed from that for the Nation. Therefore State rates per 1,000 unmarried males and per 1,000 unmarried females aged 15 and over were computed for years in which population figures by marital status were available (table 8).

Since 1890 the number of unmarried women has been larger than the number of unmarried men in the Northeast and parts of the South. Occasionally the two figures were practically identical, as in New Jersey in 1930, where the marriage rate was 49.0 for men and 48.8 for women. In most areas west of the Mississippi River numbers of unmarried women were comparatively very small in the late 19th century and beginning of the 20th, often resulting in marriage rates for women that were three times or more the rates for men. One

of the largest differences was found in Montana in 1890: 27.4 per 1,000 men but 141.5 for women, a ratio of 1 to 5. Wherever unmarried women were scarce, the likelihood for men to get married was much lower than elsewhere, but the likelihood for women was extremely high. Often well over 10 percent of all unmarried women over 15 were married during a single year. As the settlement of the Western States progressed and transportation improved, gaps between the two rates narrowed and in some cases the direction was reversed. The only area where the old pattern still prevailed in 1960 was Alaska, where the marriage rate was 54.3 per 1,000 unmarried men but 152.5 per 1,000 unmarried women.

Area Divorce Rates

In recent decades the geographic distribution of divorce rates by magnitude has been invariably the same (table 9). The Northeast Region, particularly the Middle Atlantic Division of that region, had the lowest rates, followed by the North Central, South, and West Regions, in that order; the highest rates were found in the Mountain Division of the West. This pattern represents a considerable change from the early years of the period under study. Originally the South Atlantic Division had rates lower than or equal to the Middle Atlantic. In 1870, 1880, and 1890 the rate for the South Region was similar to that for the Northeast, and as late as 1930 the rate for the North Central Region was higher than that for the South. This was due mostly to high rates in two North Central States, Indiana and Missouri (which still have higher rates than other States in that region). Divorce rates of the three divisions of the South Region have increased more rapidly than those of other areas. The only feature that remained unchanged throughout the whole period was that the rate for the West Region was always 2 to 4 times the lowest regional rate for the same year. On the other hand, the great difference between the rates for the Mountain and the Pacific Divisions of the West is of comparatively recent origin; as late as 1930 the two rates were approximately equal.

The changes in divorce rates can be summarized by using ratios of the 1967 rate to that

of 1870. Nationally the rates were 2.6 and 0.3 (table 9), and their ratio was 8.7; this ratio was lowest for the Northeast (only 3.7), approximately equal for the North Central and the West (6.5 and 6.8, respectively), and very high (15.5) for the South.

Divorce rates per 1,000 married women present a geographic distribution very similar to that of the rate per 1,000 total population (table 10). It should be noted that in all regions the increase of the rate per 1,000 married couples was less pronounced than that of the rate per 1,000 total population. As information about marital status was first collected during the 1890 census and rates have been computed only for census years, 1890 and 1960 rates are compared. If the 1890 rates are equal to 1, the 1960 rates have the values shown in table C.

Table C. Ratio of 1960 to 1890 divorce rates per 1,000 population and per 1,000 married couples: United States and each region

[1890 rates equal 1.0]

Region	Rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 couples
United States-----	4.4	3.1
Northeast-----	3.0	2.3
North Central-----	3.0	2.2
South-----	7.0	4.2
West-----	2.8	1.9

In *Marriage and Divorce, 1867-1906*, divorce rates for the census years 1870, 1880, 1890, and 1900 were shown for counties that include 42 major cities. These rates were brought up to date by adding values for 1930, 1950, 1960, and 1965 (county divorce totals were not published for 1940) without including any new areas (table 11). About three-fourths of the city rates were higher than the corresponding State rate, for almost 20 percent of the cities both rates were equal, and in a few instances the State rates were higher. In the 19th century, when the level of divorce

rates was generally low, only about 60 percent of the city rates were higher than the State rates; in the first half of the 20th century this proportion increased to 80 percent, while in the 1960's it declined to 70.

The rates for all city areas increased considerably from 1870 to 1965. The largest increase was found in Richmond, Virginia, where the 1965 rate was 32 times the 1870 rate; the smallest was in New Haven and Waterbury, Connecticut, where it grew by about one-fourth.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MARRIAGES

Detailed marriage and divorce statistics refer either to the events themselves or to the persons involved. Data are collected on characteristics of marriages or of divorces as well as on characteristics of brides and grooms and divorcing husbands and wives. Each marriage or divorce is represented by one statistic for each characteristic of the event (e.g., the month when it occurred) but by two statistics when characteristics of spouses are given (e.g., one for the age of the wife, another for that of the husband).

During this period less data on characteristics of the event were collected for marriages than for divorces. For many decades information about marriages was limited to area totals. It was not until 1941 that data by month became available and not until 1960 that they covered the entire United States. The first monthly statistics were published by the Bureau of the Census in *Population, Series PM-1, No. 4, under the title "Marriage Licenses Issued in Cities of 100,000 Inhabitants or More, 1939 to 1944, With Statistics by Month, 1941 to 1944."* The title points to two limitations of the data: they represent marriage licenses instead of actual marriages, and they cover only 34 major cities and the 57 counties that included the remaining major cities—a total of 91 local areas where about one-third of all marriage licenses were issued. These early marriage license data are of use for comparative purposes. They show the still-familiar seasonal distribution, with a peak in June and lowest figures for the first 3 months of the year.

Beginning with 1960 statistics on two other characteristics of marriages have been published:

Table D. Percent distribution of marriages by day of week on which marriage took place: United States, 1960

Day of week	Percent distribution
Total-----	100.0
Sunday-----	11.3
Monday-----	6.8
Tuesday-----	5.6
Wednesday-----	5.9
Thursday-----	7.1
Friday-----	14.0
Saturday-----	46.7

day of the week when they were performed and type of marriage ceremony, whether civil or religious.

The variation in numbers of marriages by day of the week is even more pronounced than that by month, with almost one-half of all marriages taking place on Saturdays. National data by day of the week are available for 1960, and their distribution is shown in table D. MRA figures for 1960 and subsequent years show a very similar pattern. Due to this distribution, marriage totals for any month are affected by the number of Saturdays in the month, and this source of variability has to be taken into consideration when monthly figures are mathematically adjusted for seasonal variation.

Marriages by type of ceremony show the numbers of religious and civil marriages, and for some years the former are classified by whether the clergyman was Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, or of another religion. (The publication of statistics by type of ceremony was temporarily discontinued in 1966 during program cutbacks resulting from budgetary restrictions.) For all years for which data are available the overwhelming majority of marriages were religious, and the proportion of religious marriages was higher for brides and grooms who were marrying for the first time than for those who had been previously married. The respective percentages are shown in table E.

Table E. Percent distribution of marriages by whether ceremony was religious or civil, according to marriage order: United States, 1965 and 1960

Marriage order	1965		1960	
	Religious	Civil	Religious	Civil
<u>Bride</u>				
First marriages-----	80.6	19.4	83.6	16.4
Remarriages-----	57.5	42.5	61.6	38.4
<u>Groom</u>				
First marriages-----	80.0	20.0	82.7	17.3
Remarriages-----	59.9	40.1	63.9	36.1

CHARACTERISTICS OF DIVORCES

Duration of Marriage Prior to Decree

Data on characteristics of divorces are available for some of the very early years; interesting comparisons and contrasts can be made between then and recent times. While the different sets of data may not be strictly comparable, they are reasonably acceptable as general indicators for a few basic comparisons.

The duration of marriage at time of divorce decree is one of the few variables collected since 1867. During the 1867-1906 period the duration of marriage was computed by subtracting the year of marriage from the year of decree; since then it has been computed using the year and month of each event. The difference in method may affect the percentage of events with a very short duration such as less than 1 year or 1 year, but both methods should yield similar data for longer durations.

The median duration of marriage was 7.4 years in 1867 for the United States and 7.1 years in 1967 for the DRA. The difference between the two figures seems small. During the intervening years the median varied from a minimum of 5.8 years for the 16 reporting States in 1950 to 8.3 in the four years 1889, 1891, 1900, and 1901. The ratio between these two figures is only 1.4, much lower than the comparable ratio for the crude divorce rate. In fact, even disregarding years

for which the median duration is not available and thus omitting the high post-World War II rates, the ratio between the highest and lowest crude rate is 9.3.

The time trend of the median duration (table 12 and figure 4) shows a decline during the first few years of the period under study, from 7.4 years in 1867 to 6.7 in 1871, followed by more than 10 years of increasing duration, reaching 8.0 years in 1887. In the subsequent years 1887-1905 the medians were high and varied little (8.0 to 8.3 years), with what appears to be an incipient decline in 1905 and 1906. When data again became available, the medians were much lower (from 7.9 years in 1906 to 6.6 in 1922); however, they increased to 7.1 in 1931 and 1932. During the subsequent break in divorce statistics the medians declined again to 6.4 years in 1948 and 5.8 in 1950. From 1950 to 1963 there was another period of increase, followed by a slight decline (7.5 in 1963 to 7.1 in 1967).

These changes seem rather erratic and it is difficult to explain their relation to the national divorce rate. The median duration has increased while the rate was increasing (1871-90 and 1922-29) and while it was declining (1929-32 and 1950-57); the median has also declined while the rate was increasing (1963-67). The duration of marriage declined during the two periods for which data are not available (1907-21 and 1933-47), as medians for the years preceding the break in data were considerably higher than those when data collection was resumed. The medians declined

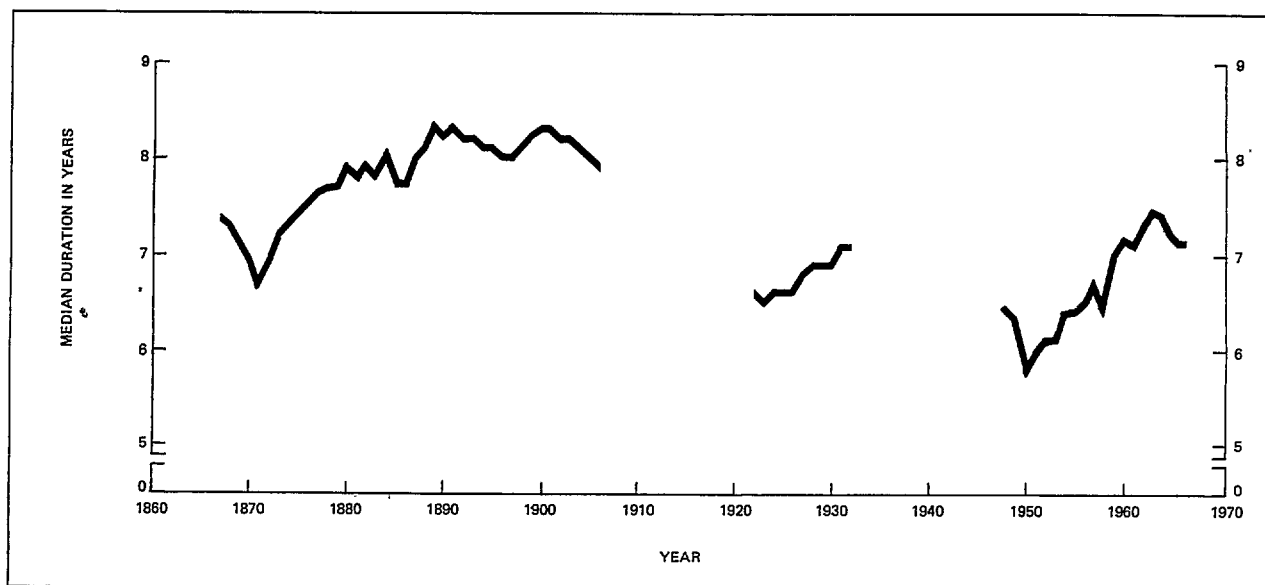


Figure 4. Median duration of marriage prior to divorce: United States, 1867-1906, 1922-32, and 1935; reporting States, 1948-59; and divorce-registration area, 1961-67.

from 7.9 years in 1906 to 6.6 in 1922 and from 7.1 in 1932 to 6.4 in 1948. As each period for which data are not available included a World War, it seems likely that the disorganization caused by major upheavals is conducive to shorter durations of marriage.

Duration medians for individual States in selected years (table 13) indicate that the range of State medians has varied between about 4 and 12 years. In general medians were high in the Northeast Region, particularly in Massachusetts and New Jersey. They were low in the West South Central Division and showed pronounced declines in the West Region.

The percent distribution of divorces by duration of marriage has changed during the period under study (table 14). The most important change, the increase in the number of couples with a very short duration of marriage, less than 2 years, may be partly due to changed methods of computing duration. Still, the change in methods cannot explain the fact that the proportion of those divorces tripled—from 5 percent in the 19th century to 15 percent in the 1960's. Percentages of divorces with duration of 5-9 years and, to a lesser degree, those with 10-14 years declined during the same period.

Duration of Separation

Marriages cease to function normally when the spouses separate, and separation often, though not always, is a preliminary to divorce. The duration of marriage prior to divorce divides into two main periods: (1) duration of marriage prior to separation and (2) duration of separation prior to decree. Before 1967, statistics on separation were collected only once, in 1907, and published for the entire 20-year period 1887-1906 for the United States and every State. These data refer only to couples who divorced during that period, and no data exist on the incidence of separation that did not end in divorce.

The modal duration of marriage to separation was 1 year or less, and 27 percent of couples divorced during the 1887-1906 period had lived together less than 2 years (table 15 and figure 5). Couples for whom the duration of marriage to divorce was less than 2 years comprised only 5 percent. As a couple who divorced after a given duration of marriage had to be separated within the same period, it can be seen that 5 percent were both separated and divorced less than 2 years after marriage, while 22 percent were separated less than 2 years after marriage but

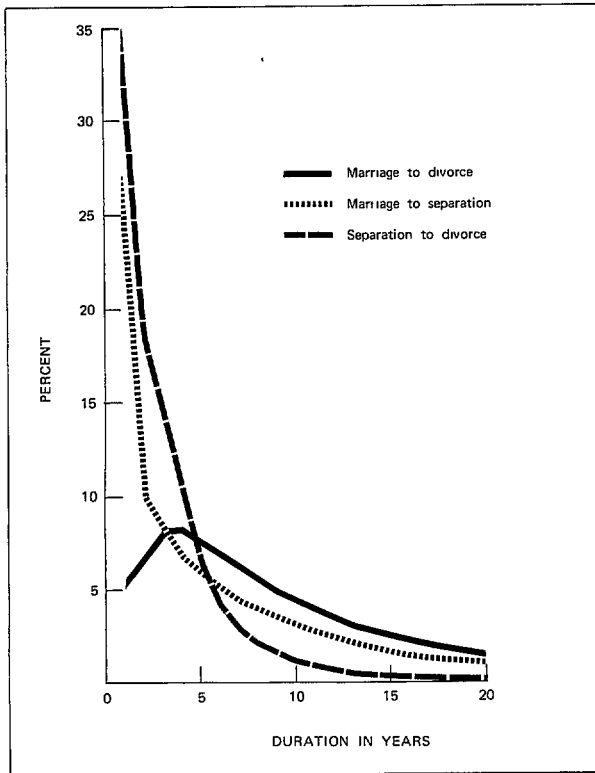


Figure 5. Percent distribution of divorces by duration of marriage and of separation: United States, 1867-1906.

divorced at a later date. The same generalization applies to any cumulative percentage of duration. Cumulative percentages of couples who separated, separated and divorced, and separated but divorced later are shown in table F. (The last column was obtained by subtraction.)

The time elapsing between separation and divorce depends not only on the decision of the

spouses but also on statutory rules of the States. It takes a certain period of time for some legal grounds to arise, and there are varying residence requirements and procedural rules. The duration of separation was usually short: for 35 percent of the couples it lasted less than 2 years; for 44 percent, 2-4 years; and for 17 percent, 5-9 years. Only a small proportion of divorces, less than 5 percent, was granted after 10 years or more of separation.

In the years 1887-1906 the median duration of marriage to divorce in the United States was 8.1 years, and State medians ranged from 6.3 years in Arkansas to 11.4 in Massachusetts. The median duration of marriage to separation was 4.7 years, ranging from 3.4 in Arkansas to 6.7 in New York. The median duration of separation to divorce was 2.8 years in the United States; it varied from 1.8 years in Indiana to 5.7 in Massachusetts (table 16).

Median duration of marriage ending in divorce during the 20-year period depended also on the party to whom the decree was granted. There was practically no difference in the median duration of marriages at decree (for the United States it was 8.1 years when granted to the husband and 8.2 when granted to the wife). However, the similarity disappears when the whole duration is divided by the separation. The median duration of marriage to separation was 4.5 years when the decree was granted to the husband and 4.9, when to the wife, while the median duration of the separation was 3.1 and 2.7 years, respectively. Thus when decrees were granted to the wife, as usually happened, the marriage had lasted longer before separation but not as long after separation.

Table F. Cumulative percentages of couples who were separated, separated and divorced, and separated but divorced later, by duration of marriage prior to divorce: United States, 1887-1906

Duration of marriage	Separated	Separated and divorced	Separated but divorced later
Less than 2 years-----	27.0	5.2	21.8
Less than 5 years-----	51.9	28.3	23.6
Less than 10 years-----	74.6	59.7	14.9
Less than 15 years-----	86.5	77.7	8.8
Less than 20 years-----	93.1	87.9	5.2

Place of Marriage

Information about the place where divorcing couples were married was obtained for the United States and each State or territory for every year of the 1867-1906 period and for 1916. National, regional, and DRA figures were obtained for 1960, and there are data for limited numbers of States for the years 1952-65. This information was not tabulated for 1966 and 1967. Classification of the place of marriage has varied considerably, but in all cases it is possible to compute the proportion of divorced couples who were married in the same State in which they were divorced. For the United States a pronounced decline in this proportion took place during the period under study—from 79.2 percent in 1880 to 57.5 in 1960 (table 17). The percentage has declined since 1870 in the Northeast Region, since 1880 in the North Central and South, and since 1900 in the West. These changes are due to two factors influencing the trend in opposite directions: improved means of transportation and settlement of new areas.

Better transportation permitted more spatial mobility, which lead to (1) a higher likelihood of marriages performed outside of the State where the couple intended to settle, e.g., in a marriage mill or in the parental home of the bride, (2) easier migration of married couples, (3) easier migration of separated persons before divorce, and (4) more migratory divorces in divorce-mill States. All these factors contributed to an increased percentage of couples who were married outside the State where divorced. On the other hand, a high proportion of the married persons in areas that were still sparsely settled in the 19th century had been married before moving into the area. This percentage declined with time and became more similar to that for the rest of the country, as in the case of the Dakotas, Oklahoma, and some States in the West Region (table 17).

Children of the Divorced

Information about children of divorced couples goes back to 1867 but is rather sketchy and incomplete. For the years 1867-1906 only three categories were given: couples with children, couples without children, and couples who

gave no information as to children, the latter category often being the most numerous. The total number of children for couples reporting children was published without information on how it was computed. Thus the only measure that could be used was the mean number of children per divorce with children. This measure for the whole period under study is shown in table 18 and figure 6.

The means for the first collection period, 1867-86, are quite different from those for the second collection period, 1887-1906. During the first 20 years the number of children per divorce with children varied from 2.02 to 2.10; during the second period, from 1.84 to 1.92. The mean number fell from 2.10 in 1886 to 1.91 in 1887. It would seem that this difference is due to the method used for compiling the data. As information from the second collection is, in general, more accurate than that from the first, reliable time trend data begin with 1887.

During the years 1887-1906 the mean declined from 1.91 to 1.84. Exactly the same mean, 1.84, was found when publication of data on children was resumed in 1922. At that point a decline set in again, and the low point of 1.74 was reached in 1932. This decline was not due to the Depression because it had already begun when the Depression started, but the Depression may have accelerated the process. In the 1950's and 1960's the mean number of children per divorce with children increased in the reporting areas from 1.76 in 1950 to 2.18 in 1967.

The available figures for regions, divisions, and States in selected years (table 19) indicate that the mean number of children per decree with children was lowest in the Northeast Region in all years for which regional ratios were computed. However, in 1967 this pattern seems to have changed, as all available ratios for the reporting southern States are lower than those for any reporting State outside of the South Region. Highest ratios were found in the South in 1890, 1900, and 1922, and in the North Central Region in 1930 and 1960.

Legal Grounds

When divorce statistics were collected directly from court files, the only available infor-

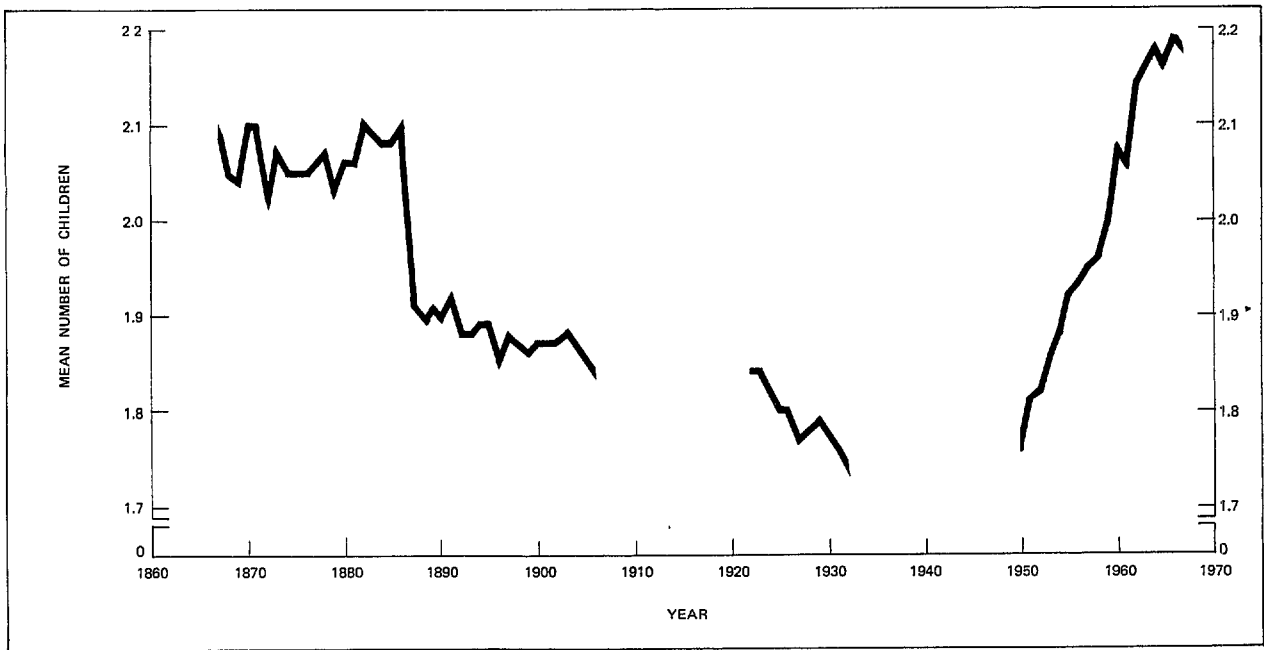


Figure 6. Mean number of children per divorce with children reported: United States, 1867-1906, 1922-32, and 1960; reporting States, 1948-59; and divorce-registration area, 1961-67.

mation was that routinely obtained during litigation. The majority of data collected in 1887, 1907, 1917, and 1922-32 were legal. When the collection of divorce statistics was resumed after the Depression, emphasis had shifted from legal to demographic variables. States that reported complete legal data but had no information on personal characteristics of husband and wife were not admitted to the DRA. In the years 1940-59 only two legal variables were tabulated: legal grounds for the decree and the party to whom the decree was granted. In 1960 data identifying the plaintiff were added. The time series on legal divorce statistics was broken in 1966, when it was decided not to tabulate the three legal items.

Legal grounds for divorce are listed in State statutes, and the true cause of estrangement between the spouses can be used as a legal ground in court proceedings only if it coincides with one of the listed grounds. These grounds vary from State to State and can be changed by acts of State legislature. Still, there are types of behavior that constitute legal grounds for divorce in all or most States.

Over 95 percent of all divorces granted during the period under study for which information is

available, were granted on the 10 grounds listed in table 20. In many cases similar grounds called by different names in various States are combined in the table. Throughout the period under study the importance of individual grounds has changed. This may have been due to several reasons: (1) new grounds were added or old ones reformulated, (2) the time period necessary for a ground to arise has changed, and (3) the attitude of the parties has changed. The wish to have the legal grounds reflect, as far as possible, the actual situation may have been replaced by the wish to use the most anodyne ground. The percentage of decrees granted for adultery declined throughout the whole period, from 25 percent in 1867-86 to 1.4 in 1965, or at a ratio of 18 to 1. The percents of decrees granted for desertion declined in a ratio of 3 to 1; drunkenness declined also. It must be remembered that these declines do not necessarily mean that there is now less adultery, desertion, or drunkenness than there was 100 years ago. On the other hand, cruelty as a legal ground increased 160 percent, and this is no doubt connected with the broad interpretation given to this term, especially to mental cruelty, in recent decades; neglect and nonsupport increased also.

Such causes as incompatibility, separation, and indignities are used now more often than in the past. In the years 1867-86 over two-thirds of all divorces were granted for adultery and desertion. In 1965 roughly the same proportion were granted for cruelty, neglect or nonsupport, and indignities.

Party to Whom Decree Was Granted

Information about the party to whom the divorce was granted was considered particularly important for divorce statistics in the years 1867-1932. Most published data were given separately for divorces granted to the husband and those granted to the wife, with even the total figures occasionally omitted. Information about two aspects of this variable can be obtained: (1) the distribution of divorces by party to whom granted and (2) the relationship between the party to whom the decree was granted and various other variables. The first aspect is shown in table 21.

During the whole period under study the overwhelming majority of divorces were granted to the wife, and this majority increased slightly throughout the period. There is a definite territorial pattern: The proportion of decrees granted to women in the South, particularly the South Atlantic Division, was always lower than in other areas. During the early years of divorce statistics the overwhelming majority of decrees in several southern States were granted to husbands, but this majority disappeared about the turn of the century. On the other extreme, wives have obtained about three-fourths of all decrees in the West and, since 1916, in the North Central Region.

The classification of most items by party to whom decree was granted, particularly in years preceding 1933, permits some insights into the importance of this variable. In the section on separation there was a short discussion of the differences in the duration of marriage to separation and in that of separation to decree between cases granted to the husband and those granted to the wife during the 20-year period 1887-1906. In 1870 and 1880 the median duration of marriage to decree was higher when the decree was granted to the wife (table 22). Both medians became identical

in 1890 and 1900, and later the relationship was reversed. In 1930, 1960, and 1965 higher medians were observed for divorces granted to the husband than for those granted to the wife.

In all years when information was available, the mean number of children per decree with children was higher when the decree was granted to the husband than when it was granted to the wife; these means were 1.95 and 1.89 in 1890, 1.96 and 1.84 in 1900, and 1.81 and 1.77 in 1930. The defendant husband was more likely than the defendant wife to reside in the State where the decree was granted; 82.9 percent of defendant husbands and 73.7 of defendant wives resided in the divorce State in 1960, while for 1965 the comparable percentages were 86.1 and 75.4.

Other Legal Variables

Information about several other legal variables was collected at various times before 1933. In most cases the period of data collection was too short to yield any information of interest, and time trend data are available for only two of these variables—whether the case was contested and whether alimony was granted.

The proportion of contested divorce cases has always been comparatively low: 15.4 percent for the 1887-1906 period, 14.8 in 1922, declining to 11.9 in 1929, and increasing to 14.1 after the Depression began. This increase seems to contradict the theory that divorces declined during the Depression because of costs, as a higher percentage of defendants spent money in contesting the case. In absolute numbers, contested divorces declined 10.1 percent from 1929 to 1932, but they declined much less than uncontested divorces (20.9 percent).

Information about alimony is found for the 1887-1906 period, for 1916, and for six States in 1939. The percentage of cases with alimony asked increased from 13.2 in 1887-1906 to 20.3 in 1916 (for 1939 this figure is not available), and those of alimony granted from 9.2 to 15.3, and to 29.0 in 1939. This left the proportion of cases with alimony refused almost unchanged: 4.0 percent in 1887-1906 and 4.8 percent in 1916. In 1916 alimony was awarded to the wife in 4.7 percent of divorces granted to the husband and in 20.1 percent of those granted to the wife.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Collection of information on demographic characteristics of bride and groom and of divorcing spouses did not begin until the publication of marriage and divorce statistics was resumed after the Depression. For divorces these data are still very incomplete. For marriages the best-covered items are age at marriage and marriage order, i.e., whether a person was married for the first time or remarried. From these data median age of bride and groom was prepared for most States in selected years since 1940 (table 23) and median age by marriage order for a group of 22 States for the years 1954-67 (table 24).

The overwhelming majority of reporting States showed declines in median age for brides from 1940 to 1950, from 1950 to 1955, and from 1955 to 1960 but increases from 1960 to 1967. For grooms the declines observed in earlier years continued through the 1960-67 period. Recent increases in the median age of brides ac-

companied by declines of that for grooms indicate a narrowing of the difference in age between newly married spouses. Median age for grooms declined from 1960 to 1967 in all four regions; for brides the median increased slightly in the South and the North Central (these two regions combined accounting for 61 percent of all marriages in 1967) and did not change in the Northeast. The median for the West depends in part on assumptions made about age distribution in five Western States where information on age is not available (Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Washington), as about 45 percent of marriages performed in the West Region were performed in these five States.

Declines in the 1950's and subsequent increases in the 1960's can be observed in median ages for all brides and first-married brides in a group of 22 States, while the comparable medians for grooms show declines that have been leveling out in recent years. No clear-cut pattern can be detected of median ages for remarried brides and grooms (table 24).



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⁷National Center for Health Statistics: Demographic characteristics of persons married between January 1955 and June 1958. *Vital and Health Statistics*. PHS Pub. No. 1000-Series 21-No. 2. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office. Apr. 1965.

⁸U.S. Bureau of the Census: *Marriage and Divorce, 1867-1906*, Part 1, *Summary, Laws, Foreign Statistics*. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1909. p. 5.

⁹Wright, *op. cit.*, p. 132.

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Table 1. Marriages, divorces, and rates: United States, 1867-1967

[All totals rounded and include estimates. Marriage figures include marriage licenses from some States; divorce figures include reported annulments. For population bases, see appendix II. Rates per 1,000 population]

Year	Marriage		Divorce		Year	Marriage		Divorce	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate		Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1967-----	1,927,000	9.7	523,000	2.6	1916-----	1,076,000	10.6	114,000	1.1
1966-----	1,857,000	9.5	499,000	2.5	1915-----	1,008,000	10.0	104,000	1.0
1965-----	1,800,000	9.3	479,000	2.5	1914-----	1,025,000	10.3	101,000	1.0
1964-----	1,725,000	9.0	450,000	2.4	1913-----	1,021,000	10.5	91,000	0.9
1963-----	1,654,000	8.8	428,000	2.3	1912-----	1,005,000	10.5	94,000	1.0
1962-----	1,577,000	8.5	413,000	2.2	1911-----	955,000	10.2	89,000	1.0
1961-----	1,548,000	8.5	414,000	2.3	1910-----	948,000	10.3	83,000	0.9
1960-----	1,523,000	8.5	393,000	2.2	1909-----	897,000	9.9	80,000	0.9
1959-----	1,494,000	8.5	395,000	2.2	1908-----	857,000	9.7	77,000	0.9
1958-----	1,451,000	8.4	368,000	2.1	1907-----	937,000	10.8	77,000	0.9
1957-----	1,518,000	8.9	381,000	2.2	1906-----	895,000	10.5	72,000	0.8
1956-----	1,585,000	9.5	382,000	2.3	1905-----	842,000	10.0	68,000	0.8
1955-----	1,531,000	9.3	377,000	2.3	1904-----	815,000	9.9	66,000	0.8
1954-----	1,490,000	9.2	379,000	2.4	1903-----	818,000	10.1	65,000	0.8
1953-----	1,546,000	9.8	390,000	2.5	1902-----	776,000	9.8	61,000	0.8
1952-----	1,539,000	9.9	392,000	2.5	1901-----	742,000	9.6	61,000	0.8
1951-----	1,595,000	10.4	381,000	2.5	1900-----	709,000	9.3	56,000	0.7
1950-----	1,667,000	11.1	385,000	2.6	1899-----	673,000	9.0	51,000	0.7
1949-----	1,580,000	10.6	397,000	2.7	1898-----	647,000	8.8	48,000	0.7
1948-----	1,811,000	12.4	408,000	2.8	1897-----	643,000	8.9	45,000	0.6
1947-----	1,992,000	13.9	483,000	3.4	1896-----	635,000	9.0	43,000	0.6
1946-----	2,291,000	16.4	610,000	4.3	1895-----	620,000	8.9	40,000	0.6
1945-----	1,613,000	12.2	485,000	3.5	1894-----	588,000	8.6	38,000	0.6
1944-----	1,452,000	10.9	400,000	2.9	1893-----	601,000	9.0	37,000	0.6
1943-----	1,577,000	11.7	359,000	2.6	1892-----	601,000	9.2	37,000	0.6
1942-----	1,772,000	13.2	321,000	2.4	1891-----	592,000	9.2	36,000	0.6
1941-----	1,696,000	12.7	293,000	2.2	1890-----	570,000	9.0	33,000	0.5
1940-----	1,596,000	12.1	264,000	2.0	1889-----	563,000	9.1	32,000	0.5
1939-----	1,404,000	10.7	251,000	1.9	1888-----	535,000	8.8	29,000	0.5
1938-----	1,331,000	10.3	244,000	1.9	1887-----	513,000	8.7	28,000	0.5
1937-----	1,451,000	11.3	249,000	1.9	1886-----	534,000	9.2	26,000	0.4
1936-----	1,369,000	10.7	236,000	1.8	1885-----	507,000	8.9	23,000	0.4
1935-----	1,327,000	10.4	218,000	1.7	1884-----	485,000	8.8	23,000	0.4
1934-----	1,302,000	10.3	204,000	1.6	1883-----	501,000	9.3	23,000	0.4
1933-----	1,098,000	8.7	165,000	1.3	1882-----	484,000	9.2	22,000	0.4
1932-----	982,000	7.9	164,000	1.3	1881-----	464,000	9.0	21,000	0.4
1931-----	1,061,000	8.6	188,000	1.5	1880-----	453,000	9.0	20,000	0.4
1930-----	1,127,000	9.2	196,000	1.6	1879-----	438,000	8.9	17,000	0.3
1929-----	1,233,000	10.1	206,000	1.7	1878-----	423,000	8.8	16,000	0.3
1928-----	1,182,000	9.8	200,000	1.7	1877-----	411,000	8.7	16,000	0.3
1927-----	1,201,000	10.1	196,000	1.6	1876-----	405,000	8.8	15,000	0.3
1926-----	1,203,000	10.2	185,000	1.6	1875-----	409,000	9.1	14,000	0.3
1925-----	1,188,000	10.3	175,000	1.5	1874-----	385,000	8.7	14,000	0.3
1924-----	1,185,000	10.4	171,000	1.5	1873-----	386,000	9.0	13,000	0.3
1923-----	1,230,000	11.0	165,000	1.5	1872-----	378,000	9.0	12,000	0.3
1922-----	1,134,000	10.3	149,000	1.4	1871-----	359,000	8.8	12,000	0.3
1921-----	1,164,000	10.7	160,000	1.5	1870-----	352,000	8.8	11,000	0.3
1920-----	1,274,000	12.0	171,000	1.6	1869-----	348,000	8.9	11,000	0.3
1919-----	1,150,000	11.0	142,000	1.3	1868-----	345,000	9.0	10,000	0.3
1918-----	1,000,000	9.7	116,000	1.1	1867-----	357,000	9.6	10,000	0.3
1917-----	1,144,000	11.1	122,000	1.2					

NOTE: Alaska included beginning in 1959; Hawaii included beginning in 1960.

Table 2. Reported annulments: all reporting States, California, New York, and all others, 1926-67

Year	Total	California	New York	All other reporting States	Number of States reporting ¹
1967-----	15,132	6,861	2,523	5,748	50
1966-----	14,669	6,480	2,832	5,357	48
1965-----	15,418	6,935	3,035	5,448	50
1964-----	13,940	6,587	2,597	4,756	51
1963-----	12,701	6,134	² 2,284	4,283	48
1962-----	12,692	5,984	³ 2,331	4,377	50
1961-----	11,520	5,643	³ 2,310	3,567	49
1960-----	5,466	5,466	³ 2,569	3,146	46
1959-----	12,603	³ 5,460	2,905	4,238	50
1958-----	12,541	5,107	3,417	4,017	47
1957-----	8,231	5,063	---	3,168	39
1956-----	7,770	5,010	---	2,760	36
1955-----	7,687	4,705	---	2,982	37
1954-----	7,865	4,820	---	3,045	37
1953-----	7,898	4,807	---	3,091	38
1952-----	7,744	4,716	---	3,028	38
1951-----	7,843	4,805	---	3,038	36
1950-----	10,848	4,471	³ 3,609	2,769	39
1949-----	6,895	4,795	---	2,100	28
1948-----	7,208	4,937	---	2,271	27
1947-----	7,324	5,244	---	2,100	19
1946-----	9,898	² 7,300	---	2,598	21
1945-----	1,972	---	---	1,972	20
1944-----	963	---	---	963	14
1943-----	891	---	---	891	14
1942-----	725	---	---	725	12
1941-----	627	---	---	627	12
1933-40-----	---	---	---	---	---
1932-----	3,903	1,267	1,025	1,611	49
1931-----	4,339	1,499	1,049	1,791	49
1930-----	4,370	1,476	1,030	1,864	48
1929-----	4,408	1,476	1,029	1,903	49
1928-----	4,237	1,441	990	1,806	48
1927-----	4,255	1,629	872	1,754	49
1926-----	3,825	1,282	964	1,579	48

¹Counting the District of Columbia as a State.

²Estimated.

³Incomplete.

NOTE: Alaska included beginning in 1959; Hawaii included beginning in 1960.

Table 3. Marriage rates for unmarried women aged 15 and over: United States, 1940-67 and selected census years

[The unmarried include single, widowed, and divorced persons. For population bases, see appendix II. Rates per 1,000 unmarried women]

Year	Rate	Year	Rate
1967-----	76.4	1948-----	98.5
1966-----	75.6	1947-----	106.2
1965-----	75.0	1946-----	118.1
1964-----	74.6	1945-----	83.6
1963-----	73.4	1944-----	76.5
1962-----	71.2	1943-----	83.0
1961-----	72.2	1942-----	93.0
1960-----	73.5	1941-----	88.5
1959-----	73.6	1940-----	82.8
1958-----	72.0		
1957-----	78.0	1930-----	67.8
1956-----	82.4		
1955-----	80.9	1920-----	92.3
1954-----	79.8		
1953-----	83.7	1910-----	77.1
1952-----	83.2		
1951-----	86.6	1900-----	68.2
1950-----	90.2		
1949-----	86.7	1890-----	67.4

NOTE: Alaska included beginning in 1959; Hawaii included beginning in 1960.

Table 4. Divorce rates for married women aged 15 and over: United States, 1920-67 and selected census years

[For population bases, see appendix II. Rates per 1,000 married women]

Year	Rate	Year	Rate
1967-----	11.2	1940-----	8.8
1966-----	10.9	1939-----	8.5
1965-----	10.6	1938-----	8.4
1964-----	10.0	1937-----	8.7
1963-----	9.6	1936-----	8.3
1962-----	9.4	1935-----	7.8
1961-----	9.6	1934-----	7.5
1960-----	9.2	1933-----	6.1
1959-----	9.3	1932-----	6.1
1958-----	8.9	1931-----	7.1
1957-----	9.2	1930-----	7.5
1956-----	9.4	1929-----	8.0
1955-----	9.3	1928-----	7.8
1954-----	9.5	1927-----	7.8
1953-----	9.9	1926-----	7.5
1952-----	10.1	1925-----	7.2
1951-----	9.9	1924-----	7.2
1950-----	10.3	1923-----	7.1
1949-----	10.6	1922-----	6.6
1948-----	11.2	1921-----	7.2
1947-----	13.6	1920-----	8.0
1946-----	17.9		
1945-----	14.4	1910-----	4.7
1944-----	12.0		
1943-----	11.0	1900-----	4.1
1942-----	10.1		
1941-----	9.4	1890-----	3.0

NOTE: Alaska included beginning in 1959; Hawaii included beginning in 1960.

Table 5. Marriages and percent distribution by area of occurrence: United States, each region and division, selected years 1870-1967

[National totals for years prior to 1950 were reestimated in 1950. Hence the regional totals do not necessarily add up to the national totals. Percentages are based on sums of regional figures]

Area	1967	1960	1950	1940	1930
	Number				
United States ¹ -----	1,927,000	1,523,000	1,667,000	1,596,000	1,127,000
<u>Region</u>					
Northeast-----	370,768	311,481	365,538	348,440	268,961
North Central-----	497,714	403,595	454,629	¹ 450,119	² 336,375
South-----	679,416	¹ 534,201	589,372	¹ 608,931	393,794
West-----	¹ 379,125	¹ 274,104	¹ 257,692	¹ 188,389	127,726
<u>Division</u>					
New England-----	92,855	76,206	88,503	89,526	57,520
Middle Atlantic-----	277,913	235,275	277,035	258,914	211,441
East North Central-----	355,871	283,285	317,344	¹ 256,847	217,863
West North Central-----	141,843	120,310	137,285	¹ 193,272	118,512
South Atlantic-----	333,827	¹ 261,885	265,061	¹ 242,927	160,752
East South Central-----	135,824	¹ 110,300	134,272	¹ 175,098	105,237
West South Central-----	209,765	162,016	¹ 190,039	¹ 190,906	127,805
Mountain-----	¹ 166,283	¹ 122,818	132,594	¹ 111,022	51,622
Pacific-----	212,842	151,286	125,098	77,367	76,104
	Percent distribution				
United States-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<u>Region</u>					
Northeast-----	19.2	20.4	21.9	21.8	23.9
North Central-----	25.8	26.5	27.3	28.2	29.9
South-----	35.3	35.1	35.4	38.2	34.9
West-----	19.7	18.0	15.5	11.8	11.3
<u>Division</u>					
New England-----	4.8	5.0	5.3	5.6	5.1
Middle Atlantic-----	14.4	15.4	16.6	16.2	18.8
East North Central-----	18.5	18.6	19.0	16.1	19.3
West North Central-----	7.4	7.9	8.2	12.1	10.5
South Atlantic-----	17.3	17.2	15.9	15.2	14.3
East South Central-----	7.0	7.2	8.1	11.0	9.3
West South Central-----	10.9	10.6	11.4	12.0	11.3
Mountain-----	8.6	8.1	8.0	7.0	4.6
Pacific-----	11.0	9.9	7.5	4.8	6.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Marriages and percent distribution by area of occurrence: United States, each region and division, selected years 1870-1967—Con.

[National totals for years prior to 1950 were reestimated in 1950. Hence the regional totals do not necessarily add up to the national totals. Percentages are based on sums of regional figures]

Area	1916	1900	1890	1880	1870
	Number				
United States -----	1,076,000	709,000	570,000	453,000	352,000
<u>Region</u>					
Northeast-----	272,275	174,394	147,022	*	*
North Central-----	336,992	240,709	205,290	² 158,851	² 120,768
South-----	² 373,822	252,165	183,714	¹ 168,848	*
West-----	85,761	35,957	27,126	¹ 13,952	² 8,166
<u>Division</u>					
New England-----	71,599	47,639	² 42,789	² 33,918	² 34,410
Middle Atlantic-----	200,676	126,755	104,233	*	---
East North Central-----	213,097	148,172	127,574	² 98,499	³ 75,617
West North Central-----	123,895	92,537	77,716	*	*
South Atlantic-----	² 157,515	² 101,296	² 75,562	*	*
East South Central-----	³ 99,529	78,333	60,758	² 59,394	² 50,635
West South Central-----	³ 116,778	72,536	47,394	¹ 39,180	*
Mountain-----	³ 35,634	15,478	11,210	*	*
Pacific-----	50,127	² 20,479	² 15,916	² 8,856	² 5,760
	Percent distribution				
United States -----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<u>Region</u>					
Northeast-----	25.5	24.8	26.1	*	*
North Central-----	31.5	34.2	36.5	*	*
South-----	35.0	35.9	32.6	*	*
West-----	8.0	5.1	4.8	*	*
<u>Division</u>					
New England-----	6.7	6.8	7.6	*	*
Middle Atlantic-----	18.8	18.0	18.5	*	*
East North Central-----	19.9	21.1	22.7	*	*
West North Central-----	11.6	13.2	13.8	*	*
South Atlantic-----	14.7	14.4	13.4	*	*
East South Central-----	9.3	11.1	10.8	*	*
West South Central-----	10.9	10.3	8.4	*	*
Mountain-----	3.3	2.2	2.0	*	*
Pacific-----	4.7	2.9	2.8	*	*

¹ Estimated.

² Incomplete.

³ Including estimates for nonreporting areas.

Table 6. Divorces and percent distribution by area of occurrence: United States, each region and division, selected years 1870-1967

[National totals for years prior to 1950 were reestimated in 1950. Hence the regional totals do not necessarily add up to the national totals. Percentages are based on sums of regional figures]

Area	1967	1960	1950	1940	1930	1916	1900	1890	1880	1870
	Number									
United States ¹ -	523,000	393,000	385,000	264,000	196,000	114,000	56,000	33,000	20,000	11,000
<u>Region</u>										
Northeast-----	¹ 51,000	² 39,000	¹ 43,301	¹ 34,015	23,961	15,157	8,244	5,133	4,225	3,145
North Central-----	¹ 144,000	¹ 106,000	¹ 107,981	¹ 80,765	73,402	45,249	25,056	16,100	² 9,670	² 5,622
South-----	¹ 194,000	¹ 152,000	¹ 149,958	¹ 97,768	60,659	34,562	17,101	³ 8,970	³ 4,598	³ 1,944
West-----	¹ 134,000	¹ 96,000	¹ 83,904	¹ 50,985	33,569	² 17,068	³ 5,884	³ 3,640	² 1,464	³ 625
<u>Division</u>										
New England-----	² 18,167	² 12,842	14,027	9,715	8,248	5,739	3,669	2,513	2,305	1,702
Middle Atlantic----	33,053	26,255	¹ 29,274	¹ 24,300	15,713	9,418	4,575	2,620	1,920	1,443
East North Central-	¹ 105,888	¹ 77,639	¹ 77,279	¹ 53,853	50,091	28,837	15,754	9,849	² 6,799	² 4,290
West North Central-	38,419	² 28,533	¹ 30,702	¹ 26,912	23,311	16,412	9,302	6,251	² 2,871	² 1,332
South Atlantic-----	82,412	55,526	¹ 53,722	¹ 32,630	14,981	² 7,336	3,487	³ 1,885	² 969	³ 603
East South Central-	38,887	² 39,138	¹ 30,736	¹ 19,307	15,283	² 9,939	6,119	³ 3,733	² 1,976	³ 982
West South Central-	² 69,458	² 55,000	¹ 65,500	¹ 45,831	30,395	² 17,287	7,495	3,352	³ 1,653	³ 359
Mountain-----	² 39,691	² 28,846	¹ 27,931	¹ 16,966	10,762	5,947	2,123	1,502	² 542	² 248
Pacific-----	92,895	66,395	55,973	¹ 34,019	22,807	11,121	³ 3,761	³ 2,138	² 922	² 377
	Percent distribution									
United States--	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<u>Region</u>										
Northeast-----	9.8	9.9	11.2	12.9	12.5	13.5	14.6	15.2	21.2	27.7
North Central-----	27.5	27.0	28.0	30.6	38.3	40.4	44.5	47.6	48.5	49.6
South-----	37.1	38.7	38.9	37.1	31.7	30.8	30.4	26.5	23.0	17.1
West-----	25.6	24.4	21.8	19.3	17.5	15.2	10.5	10.8	7.3	5.5
<u>Division</u>										
New England-----	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.7	4.3	5.1	6.5	7.4	11.5	15.0
Middle Atlantic----	6.3	6.7	7.6	9.2	8.2	8.4	8.1	7.7	9.6	12.7
East North Central-	20.2	19.8	20.1	20.4	26.1	25.7	28.0	29.1	34.1	37.8
West North Central-	7.3	7.3	8.0	10.2	12.2	14.6	16.5	18.5	14.4	11.8
South Atlantic-----	15.8	14.1	13.9	12.4	7.8	6.5	6.2	5.6	4.9	5.3
East South Central-	7.4	10.0	8.0	7.3	8.0	8.9	10.9	11.0	9.9	8.7
West South Central-	13.3	14.0	17.0	17.4	15.9	15.4	13.3	9.9	8.3	3.2
Mountain-----	7.6	7.3	7.3	6.4	5.6	5.3	3.8	4.4	2.7	2.2
Pacific-----	17.8	16.9	14.5	12.9	11.9	9.9	6.7	6.3	4.6	3.3

¹Estimated.

²Incomplete.

³Including estimates for nonreporting areas.

Table 7. Marriage rates: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected years 1870-1967

[The population for 1870, 1880, 1890, and 1900 was enumerated as of June 1; for 1930, 1940, 1950, and 1960, it was enumerated as of April 1; for 1967 it was estimated as of July 1; and for 1916 the rates were revised subsequent to the census for 1920. Rates per 1,000 population]

Area	1967	1960	1950	1940	1930	1916	1900	1890	1880	1870
	Rate									
United States ¹ --	9.7	8.5	11.1	12.1	9.2	10.6	9.3	9.0	9.0	8.8
<u>Region</u>										
Northeast-----	7.7	7.0	9.3	9.7	7.8	9.6	8.3	¹ 8.4	*	*
North Central-----	9.0	7.8	10.2	¹ 11.2	8.7	² 10.3	9.1	9.2	² 9.1	² 9.3
South-----	11.1	¹ 9.7	¹ 12.5	¹ 14.6	10.4	² 12.1	¹ 10.3	³ 9.2	² 10.2	*
West-----	¹ 11.5	¹ 9.8	13.2	¹ 13.5	10.7	² 10.7	¹ 8.8	¹ 8.7	² 7.9	² 8.2
<u>Division</u>										
New England-----	8.2	7.3	9.5	10.6	7.0	10.1	8.5	² 9.1	² 8.5	² 9.9
Middle Atlantic-----	7.5	6.9	9.2	9.4	8.0	9.5	8.2	8.2	*	---
East North Central-----	9.1	7.8	10.4	19.6	8.6	10.5	9.3	9.5	³ 8.8	³ 8.3
West North Central-----	8.9	7.8	9.8	¹ 14.3	8.9	² 10.2	8.9	8.7	*	*
South Atlantic-----	11.3	¹ 10.1	12.5	¹ 13.6	10.1	² 11.8	² 9.7	² 8.5	*	*
East South Central-----	10.5	¹ 9.2	11.7	¹ 16.2	10.6	³ 12.1	³ 10.4	³ 9.5	² 10.6	² 11.5
West South Central-----	11.0	9.6	¹ 13.1	¹ 14.6	10.5	² 12.3	³ 11.1	³ 10.0	² 11.8	*
Mountain-----	¹ 12.3	¹ 17.9	26.1	¹ 26.7	13.9	² 11.9	9.2	9.2	*	*
Pacific-----	8.4	7.1	8.6	7.9	9.2	² 9.9	² 8.5	² 8.4	² 7.9	² 8.5
<u>New England</u>										
Maine-----	9.4	8.1	9.4	12.0	8.1	8.7	7.9	---	---	---
New Hampshire-----	13.4	12.1	14.3	12.3	11.0	10.2	9.7	9.6	7.7	---
Vermont-----	9.3	8.4	9.4	13.7	7.3	14.9	8.5	8.5	8.1	8.9
Massachusetts-----	7.6	6.6	8.9	10.4	6.4	9.4	8.7	9.3	8.7	10.1
Rhode Island-----	7.3	6.8	9.5	8.7	7.0	9.8	9.2	9.2	10.0	10.9
Connecticut-----	7.7	7.1	9.7	10.2	6.9	11.8	7.7	8.4	7.6	9.8
<u>Middle Atlantic</u>										
New York-----	7.9	7.4	9.5	9.8	9.3	9.8	8.8	8.2	---	---
New Jersey-----	7.0	6.6	9.6	9.9	7.0	10.6	7.8	10.8	7.3	---
Pennsylvania-----	7.3	6.3	8.5	⁴ 8.6	6.7	8.6	7.7	7.5	*	*
<u>East North Central</u>										
Ohio-----	7.9	7.0	9.5	12.1	9.0	³ 9.7	9.1	9.0	8.7	9.6
Indiana-----	10.5	9.0	⁴ 15.7	¹ 11.6	⁴ 11.9	³ 11.8	10.8	10.1	² 10.5	² 10.2
Illinois-----	9.7	8.7	⁴ 10.7	⁴ 8.0	9.9	² 11.1	9.2	9.9	³ 9.2	² 9.6
Michigan-----	9.8	7.8	9.1	8.8	6.1	11.9	9.6	8.9	8.6	7.8
Wisconsin-----	7.3	6.2	8.5	7.5	5.2	7.3	7.5	9.3	8.7	³ 7.1
<u>West North Central</u>										
Minnesota-----	7.8	6.9	⁴ 10.4	¹ 9.8	8.8	² 10.1	7.7	7.7	² 8.8	³ 7.9
Iowa-----	8.1	9.0	10.5	19.0	8.3	9.8	8.7	8.7	*	*
Missouri-----	9.6	³ 8.3	8.7	¹ 19.0	9.6	² 11.0	9.8	³ 9.9	*	*
North Dakota-----	7.9	6.4	8.2	6.5	5.6	7.9	³ 7.4	³ 6.7	---	---
South Dakota-----	13.5	8.5	10.7	6.4	9.4	9.0	7.6	5.7	---	---
Nebraska-----	9.1	7.5	10.4	12.1	7.4	10.2	8.5	7.9	³ 7.3	² 9.3
Kansas-----	8.8	7.3	9.7	11.8	10.6	10.4	9.9	9.0	² 9.0	² 10.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7. Marriage rates: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected years 1870-1967—Con.

[The population for 1870, 1880, 1890, and 1900 was enumerated as of June 1; for 1930, 1940, 1950, and 1960, it was enumerated as of April 1; for 1967 it was estimated as of July 1; and for 1916 the rates were revised subsequent to the census for 1920. Rates per 1,000 population]

Area	1967	1960	1950	1940	1930	1916	1900	1890	1880	1870
South Atlantic										
	Rate									
Delaware-----	6.5	5.4	⁴ 8.3	18.1	4.7	9.5	6.7	5.5	---	---
Maryland-----	13.3	13.0	⁴ 21.6	21.6	15.0	14.6	9.0	³ 7.4	⁵ 7.4	⁵ 8.1
District of Columbia-----	9.4	⁴ 11.3	⁴ 12.7	⁴ 11.7	11.0	10.8	11.3	6.1	9.1	12.1
Virginia-----	10.7	9.5	11.1	19.7	9.8	² 9.8	8.9	7.8	---	---
West Virginia-----	7.9	7.3	⁴ 8.6	4.3	10.2	² 11.9	10.0	8.4	---	---
North Carolina-----	8.9	^{1,4} 6.9	⁴ 7.3	14.2	4.6	³ 11.4	9.0	³ 8.0	² 9.0	*
South Carolina-----	19.8	16.4	⁴ 21.8	122.7	15.0	---	---	---	---	---
Georgia-----	12.7	12.5	⁴ 12.8	¹ 12.5	10.4	² 12.9	³ 9.9	³ 9.3	² 9.5	² 9.9
Florida-----	9.4	7.9	10.0	17.2	11.6	² 17.2	³ 11.7	³ 11.1	³ 9.8	² 11.7
East South Central										
Kentucky-----	⁴ 9.2	¹ 8.7	^{1,4} 11.2	¹ 26.8	11.9	² 10.8	³ 8.7	7.9	² 8.6	² 9.5
Tennessee-----	10.3	8.6	6.6	¹ 10.5	7.9	² 12.6	³ 10.4	³ 9.7	³ 10.5	² 11.2
Alabama-----	12.0	9.8	7.5	12.0	10.4	11.2	11.2	³ 10.6	*	---
Mississippi-----	10.0	9.7	26.0	15.6	12.8	² 14.4	11.7	³ 10.0	² 11.6	² 14.6
West South Central										
Arkansas-----	10.6	³ 10.3	⁴ 27.0	¹ 22.4	13.5	² 14.7	³ 13.1	³ 11.6	13.0	*
Louisiana-----	8.6	7.2	¹ 10.0	11.6	9.9	² 11.1	³ 9.2	³ 8.6	*	*
Oklahoma-----	13.9	12.2	¹ 10.0	14.3	15.2	² 10.8	^{3,6} 10.1	^{3,6} 2.6	---	---
Texas-----	11.3	³ 9.6	⁴ 11.6	¹ 13.5	7.7	² 12.5	³ 11.4	³ 10.8	² 11.5	² 14.3
Mountain										
Montana-----	8.0	8.7	12.2	¹ 15.6	10.1	16.7	8.7	9.2	² 8.5	² 3.8
Idaho-----	20.1	15.1	14.2	16.9	10.1	² 10.2	8.5	³ 7.5	² 7.0	² 4.4
Wyoming-----	11.6	9.9	12.2	11.7	7.8	² 11.1	9.1	6.9	² 8.5	² 10.1
Colorado-----	⁴ 10.9	^{1,4} 9.1	⁴ 10.4	6.6	11.3	² 10.3	10.1	11.3	² 8.4	² 8.3
New Mexico-----	19.7	11.6	33.3	22.9	20.5	² 10.4	6.7	7.0	---	---
Arizona-----	9.0	7.8	26.7	47.4	17.6	12.6	9.0	5.7	---	---
Utah-----	10.0	8.0	⁴ 10.3	15.0	11.1	² 12.1	³ 9.8	³ 11.0	---	---
Nevada-----	⁴ 198.2	⁴ 208.1	⁴ 311.5	354.0	67.0	12.7	² 15.4	² 5.5	³ 5.3	² 5.8
Pacific										
Washington-----	⁴ 12.0	⁴ 9.9	⁴ 14.5	⁴ 15.1	11.7	10.8	9.1	9.6	*	*
Oregon-----	7.3	6.0	7.4	5.5	8.0	² 7.3	8.6	9.1	*	*
California-----	7.9	6.7	7.5	6.5	8.7	10.2	² 8.1	² 7.7	³ 7.3	³ 8.1
Alaska-----	9.7	8.2	⁷ 13.4	⁷ 13.0	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hawaii-----	9.7	8.3	⁷ 11.2	⁷ 12.6	---	---	---	---	---	---

¹Estimated.

²Excluding nonreporting counties.

³Incomplete.

⁴Marriage licenses.

⁵Excluding marriages celebrated by publication of bonds.

⁶Including Indian Territory, where the rate was 12.3 in 1900 and 2.1 in 1890; in Oklahoma it was 9.5 in 1900 and 3.6 in 1890.

⁷Not included in totals.

Table 8. Marriage rates for unmarried men and women aged 15 and over: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected census years 1890-1960

[The unmarried include single, widowed, and divorced persons. For population bases, see appendix II. Rates per 1,000 population]

Area	1960		1950		1940	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
United States ¹ ----	88.1	73.5	100.1	90.2	83.4	82.8
<u>Region</u>	Rate					
Northeast-----	69.4	53.3	77.9	64.9	61.9	57.9
North Central-----	83.4	69.6	¹ 92.4	¹ 85.2	¹ 75.8	¹ 77.9
South-----	¹ 103.9	¹ 87.3	¹ 122.6	¹ 110.5	¹ 113.2	¹ 109.4
West-----	¹ 97.1	¹ 92.7	¹ 115.5	¹ 117.9	¹ 85.5	¹ 98.6
<u>Division</u>	Rate					
New England-----	70.0	54.1	77.0	63.2	67.1	59.7
Middle Atlantic-----	69.1	53.0	78.1	65.5	60.3	57.3
East North Central-----	84.1	69.8	¹ 95.3	87.0	¹ 65.4	¹ 67.0
West North Central-----	81.9	69.1	86.4	¹ 81.5	¹ 96.2	¹ 99.6
South Atlantic-----	¹ 105.1	¹ 89.2	¹ 118.7	¹ 106.2	¹ 101.8	¹ 97.0
East South Central-----	¹ 98.3	¹ 80.4	¹ 119.1	¹ 104.9	¹ 132.4	¹ 125.1
West South Central-----	106.2	89.3	¹ 131.4	¹ 122.0	¹ 114.4	¹ 114.9
Mountain-----	¹ 192.5	¹ 189.1	235.3	264.3	¹ 179.8	¹ 224.0
Pacific-----	69.3	65.5	¹ 75.0	¹ 74.3	48.8	54.7
<u>New England</u>	Rate					
Maine-----	79.3	68.2	82.4	73.5	81.6	82.0
New Hampshire-----	120.2	98.3	120.7	103.8	79.9	75.8
Vermont-----	80.6	65.6	79.0	70.4	87.5	92.1
Massachusetts-----	62.2	45.7	70.9	55.2	65.0	54.8
Rhode Island-----	61.5	50.5	73.0	64.3	54.2	47.3
Connecticut-----	72.9	58.1	79.6	68.1	63.4	59.4
<u>Middle Atlantic</u>	Rate					
New York-----	72.3	54.4	80.5	65.6	62.5	58.2
New Jersey-----	69.0	55.0	83.7	71.6	63.9	60.3
Pennsylvania-----	64.4	49.8	72.3	62.4	³ 55.8	³ 54.5
<u>East North Central</u>	Rate					
Ohio-----	78.6	62.2	90.6	77.5	84.1	82.0
Indiana-----	102.4	83.5	³ 153.0	³ 137.3	¹ 84.9	¹ 85.6
Illinois-----	88.4	72.4	³ 93.4	³ 82.8	³ 53.0	³ 52.2
Michigan-----	86.0	75.5	83.9	84.2	60.1	68.3
Wisconsin-----	62.7	55.4	71.7	70.4	47.4	51.7
<u>West North Central</u>	Rate					
Minnesota-----	69.3	60.6	³ 85.3	³ 84.3	¹ 59.2	¹ 65.3
Iowa-----	98.2	79.4	96.8	90.2	131.9	135.0
Missouri-----	² 88.0	² 67.5	82.5	67.5	¹ 137.9	¹ 129.0
North Dakota-----	57.2	65.0	60.5	80.4	38.0	49.6
South Dakota-----	82.6	85.3	83.5	101.8	40.0	48.9
Nebraska-----	80.2	68.8	90.1	89.3	83.2	86.9
Kansas-----	80.0	69.2	91.2	85.4	84.6	84.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Marriage rates for unmarried men and women aged 15 and over: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected census years 1890-1960—Con.

[The unmarried include single, widowed, and divorced persons. For population bases, see appendix II. Rates per 1,000 population]

Area	1930		1900		1890	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
United States ¹ ----	64.5	67.8	61.3	68.2	59.9	67.4
<u>Region</u>						
Northeast-----	52.9	51.2	53.1	51.4	53.9	51.4
North Central-----	59.8	66.3	58.9	70.8	59.5	74.2
South-----	82.1	82.8	76.6	80.3	71.4	72.8
West-----	64.8	83.6	40.3	77.2	35.2	87.9
<u>Division</u>						
New England-----	48.1	42.8	53.1	48.6	¹ 56.5	¹ 50.4
Middle Atlantic-----	54.4	54.1	53.0	52.6	52.9	51.8
East North Central-----	59.5	65.8	60.8	68.8	62.3	72.1
West North Central-----	60.5	67.2	56.1	74.2	55.4	77.8
South Atlantic-----	79.3	76.7	¹ 72.3	¹ 70.4	¹ 66.1	¹ 62.4
East South Central-----	88.2	85.7	² 78.4	² 80.2	74.0	74.1
West South Central-----	81.2	89.1	² 81.3	² 100.0	78.0	96.4
Mountain-----	89.6	125.7	45.4	94.6	39.0	107.9
Pacific-----	54.5	68.1	² 37.1	¹ 67.7	¹ 32.9	¹ 77.8
<u>New England</u>						
Maine-----	57.4	58.1	49.9	51.8	---	---
New Hampshire-----	76.0	71.6	59.9	58.5	59.7	55.7
Vermont-----	48.5	52.8	54.4	59.4	55.0	58.6
Massachusetts-----	43.6	36.6	54.3	46.2	56.9	47.9
Rhode Island-----	49.1	41.5	56.7	50.7	58.0	49.1
Connecticut-----	47.2	44.9	46.8	45.6	51.3	47.2
<u>Middle Atlantic</u>						
New York-----	61.0	59.9	55.9	52.9	52.0	48.7
New Jersey-----	49.0	48.8	52.1	50.7	71.8	68.6
Pennsylvania-----	47.4	47.9	49.9	52.8	48.9	50.9
<u>East North Central</u>						
Ohio-----	63.7	66.1	59.9	62.3	60.2	62.2
Indiana-----	89.2	94.2	74.0	82.9	69.5	77.5
Illinois-----	66.1	70.6	58.7	68.0	62.8	75.0
Michigan-----	41.6	53.3	64.1	77.1	58.8	77.0
Wisconsin-----	33.6	39.3	48.5	58.7	61.1	77.2
<u>West North Central</u>						
Minnesota-----	54.3	62.5	43.8	64.9	44.7	68.8
Iowa-----	58.3	62.9	56.5	69.9	56.7	72.8
Missouri-----	69.1	69.1	64.6	75.2	² 64.6	² 79.1
North Dakota-----	32.9	46.9	² 39.4	² 83.1	² 38.5	² 83.1
South Dakota-----	59.0	80.6	46.0	76.6	36.0	71.5
Nebraska-----	51.3	58.8	52.2	77.6	47.9	83.7
Kansas-----	76.4	85.0	64.8	86.1	60.7	88.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Marriage rates for unmarried men and women aged 15 and over: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected census years 1890-1960—Con.

[The unmarried include single, widowed, and divorced persons. For population bases, see appendix II. Rates per 1,000 population]

Area	1960		1950		1940	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<u>South Atlantic</u>						
	Rate					
Delaware-----	59.7	50.6	76.8	66.4	117.6	120.2
Maryland-----	137.2	119.7	³ 195.4	³ 177.3	142.2	143.6
District of Columbia-----	³ 89.7	³ 61.9	³ 99.5	³ 69.4	³ 74.2	³ 59.1
Virginia-----	93.0	86.3	94.2	94.9	136.1	139.5
West Virginia-----	76.1	63.2	³ 82.4	³ 79.2	31.8	35.0
North Carolina-----	^{1,3} 72.8	^{1,3} 63.2	³ 71.0	³ 64.7	¹ 33.2	¹ 31.1
South Carolina-----	163.8	144.4	³ 222.6	³ 188.3	¹ 184.8	¹ 164.7
Georgia-----	137.6	109.4	³ 132.2	³ 112.4	¹ 103.0	¹ 90.0
Florida-----	87.9	73.1	99.2	85.6	130.4	123.2
<u>East South Central</u>						
Kentucky-----	¹ 87.9	¹ 78.3	³ 105.1	³ 100.7	¹ 205.9	¹ 209.9
Tennessee-----	93.0	73.3	66.8	56.7	¹ 84.4	¹ 77.2
Alabama-----	110.8	85.8	79.9	66.6	101.6	91.9
Mississippi-----	104.5	87.1	279.4	250.3	134.4	126.6
<u>West South Central</u>						
Arkansas-----	² 112.2	² 93.5	³ 289.0	³ 264.8	¹ 181.9	¹ 189.6
Louisiana-----	81.2	65.1	¹ 103.8	¹ 89.0	91.6	86.5
Oklahoma-----	131.4	109.9	¹ 99.3	¹ 93.1	111.8	117.0
Texas-----	² 107.1	² 91.8	³ 113.9	³ 108.8	¹ 104.0	¹ 104.4
<u>Mountain</u>						
Montana-----	84.3	92.8	93.2	128.7	¹ 86.3	¹ 129.8
Idaho-----	166.1	175.7	134.7	168.1	111.9	160.6
Wyoming-----	106.4	119.4	92.5	151.9	68.6	112.9
Colorado-----	^{1,3} 97.0	^{1,3} 85.3	^{1,3} 93.2	^{1,3} 90.1	45.9	48.7
New Mexico-----	129.8	134.6	314.1	360.2	176.6	206.3
Arizona-----	83.2	81.7	252.7	258.5	330.4	410.0
Utah-----	95.8	85.3	³ 108.4	³ 108.9	116.5	122.6
Nevada-----	³ 1,883.6	³ 2,366.7	³ 2,359.1	³ 3,482.7	1,793.8	3,503.3
<u>Pacific</u>						
Washington-----	³ 98.2	³ 97.0	³ 117.7	³ 141.9	^{1,3} 89.3	^{1,3} 113.7
Oregon-----	65.0	57.6	69.3	73.7	34.8	41.6
California-----	65.6	59.8	65.5	61.6	40.3	43.3
Alaska-----	54.3	152.5	⁶ 54.5	⁶ 212.5	⁶ 52.8	⁶ 159.7
Hawaii-----	57.2	87.9	⁶ 61.5	⁶ 101.2	⁶ 50.1	⁶ 113.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Marriage rates for unmarried men and women aged 15 and over: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected census years 1890-1960—Con.

[The unmarried include single, widowed, and divorced persons. For population bases, see appendix II. Rates per 1,000 population]

Area	1930		1900		1890	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<u>South Atlantic</u>						
	Rate					
Delaware-----	31.3	34.3	42.7	46.5	35.0	38.0
Maryland-----	102.9	105.0	59.4	56.0	² 49.6	² 45.8
District of Columbia----	72.6	56.6	66.4	51.8	37.5	29.0
Virginia-----	73.1	73.6	62.3	60.5	56.5	52.4
West Virginia-----	79.5	95.4	68.5	84.7	62.3	69.7
North Carolina-----	38.6	36.1	72.9	66.0	² 66.7	² 58.4
South Carolina-----	127.7	111.1	---	---	---	---
Georgia-----	85.2	76.2	² 81.6	² 77.4	² 78.4	² 75.3
Florida-----	89.7	92.2	² 78.3	² 102.5	² 81.0	² 98.0
<u>East South Central</u>						
Kentucky-----	96.3	100.2	² 62.8	² 67.1	57.2	60.5
Tennessee-----	64.9	61.6	² 76.8	² 78.6	² 75.0	² 74.6
Alabama-----	88.1	81.8	88.6	86.5	² 88.9	² 84.2
Mississippi-----	109.1	105.8	92.1	93.4	² 83.1	² 82.4
<u>West South Central</u>						
Arkansas-----	112.2	122.0	² 98.6	² 119.5	² 90.8	² 116.5
Louisiana-----	77.9	75.4	² 68.5	² 69.2	² 67.7	² 64.6
Oklahoma-----	120.0	146.2	^{2,4} 70.8	^{2,4} 122.7	^{1,5} 27.7	^{1,5} 65.8
Texas-----	58.1	64.5	² 82.6	² 104.0	² 77.6	² 106.8
<u>Mountain</u>						
Montana-----	54.4	95.0	30.5	109.6	27.4	141.5
Idaho-----	64.8	101.6	40.4	110.0	² 30.8	² 122.2
Wyoming-----	43.2	87.1	30.9	128.7	21.7	103.8
Colorado-----	77.8	89.7	52.5	90.6	42.9	116.2
New Mexico-----	151.7	196.6	46.4	76.0	45.6	78.2
Arizona-----	113.5	169.1	39.3	101.6	29.2	103.8
Utah-----	83.9	95.7	² 71.9	² 84.7	² 70.0	² 107.8
Nevada-----	279.4	687.8	¹ 54.9	¹ 141.3	¹ 17.2	¹ 58.7
<u>Pacific</u>						
Washington-----	68.0	95.0	38.1	100.9	34.2	137.6
Oregon-----	48.2	63.9	39.5	78.0	39.6	97.7
California-----	51.8	62.3	¹ 35.8	¹ 57.6	¹ 30.2	¹ 62.3
Alaska-----	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hawaii-----	---	---	---	---	---	---

¹Estimated.

²Incomplete.

³Marriage licenses.

⁴Including Indian Territory, where the rate was 88.3 for men and 146.8 for women; in Oklahoma it was 54.3 for men and 98.1 for women.

⁵Rates for Indian Territory not computed as population by marital status not available.

⁶Not included in totals.

Table 9. Divorce rates: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected years 1870-1967

[For population bases, see appendix II. Rates per 1,000 population]

Area	1967	1960	1950	1940	1930	1916	1900	1890	1880	1870
	Rate									
United States ² -----	2.6	2.2	2.6	2.0	1.6	¹ 1.1	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3
<u>Region</u>										
Northeast-----	² 1.1	² 0.9	² 1.1	² 0.9	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
North Central-----	² 2.6	² 2.1	² 2.4	² 2.0	1.9	1.4	1.0	0.7	³ 0.6	³ 0.4
South-----	² 3.1	² 2.8	² 3.2	² 2.3	1.6	¹ 1.1	0.7	³ 0.4	³ 0.3	¹ 0.2
West-----	² 4.1	² 3.4	² 4.2	² 3.7	2.8	2.1	³ 1.4	³ 1.2	³ 0.8	0.6
<u>Division</u>										
New England-----	1.6	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5
Middle Atlantic-----	0.9	0.8	² 1.0	² 0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
East North Central-----	² 2.7	² 2.1	² 2.5	² 2.0	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.7	³ 0.6	³ 0.5
West North Central-----	2.4	1.9	2.2	² 2.0	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.7	³ 0.5	³ 0.3
South Atlantic-----	2.8	2.1	² 2.5	² 1.8	0.9	¹ 0.6	0.3	0.2	³ 0.1	¹ 0.1
East South Central-----	3.0	³ 3.2	² 2.7	² 1.8	1.5	¹ 1.2	0.8	0.6	³ 0.4	¹ 0.2
West South Central-----	³ 3.7	³ 3.2	² 4.5	² 3.5	2.5	¹ 1.8	1.1	0.7	¹ 0.5	¹ 0.2
Mountain-----	³ 5.1	4.2	² 5.5	² 4.1	2.9	2.0	1.3	1.2	0.8	¹ 0.8
Pacific-----	3.7	3.1	3.9	² 3.5	2.8	2.2	¹ 1.6	¹ 1.1	0.8	³ 0.6
<u>New England</u>										
Maine-----	3.1	2.2	2.4	1.8	1.8	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.6
New Hampshire-----	2.5	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.5
Vermont-----	1.6	1.2	1.8	1.2	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.5
Massachusetts-----	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Rhode Island-----	³ 1.0	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.7	1.0	0.9
Connecticut-----	1.6	1.0	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8
<u>Middle Atlantic</u>										
New York-----	0.4	0.4	² 0.8	² 0.8	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
New Jersey-----	1.0	0.8	1.1	² 0.8	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Pennsylvania-----	1.6	1.3	1.2	² 1.0	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
<u>East North Central</u>										
Ohio-----	2.8	2.4	2.7	² 2.5	2.1	1.4	0.9	0.7	³ 0.5	³ 0.4
Indiana-----	² 3.6	² 2.7	² 2.9	² 2.5	2.3	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.7
Illinois-----	2.6	2.2	2.6	² 1.6	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.7	¹ 0.5
Michigan-----	2.7	2.1	2.5	2.3	2.2	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.5
Wisconsin-----	1.4	0.9	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	³ 0.4
<u>West North Central</u>										
Minnesota-----	1.7	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.4	³ 0.3	¹ 0.2
Iowa-----	2.2	1.7	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.6	³ 0.5
Missouri-----	3.2	2.7	3.1	² 3.2	2.5	1.7	1.0	0.8	³ 0.4	³ 0.3
North Dakota-----	1.4	0.9	1.0	² 0.8	³ 0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	} 0.5	*
South Dakota-----	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.2	³ 1.1	0.9	1.0	0.6		
Nebraska-----	2.0	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.2	1.3	0.8	0.8	³ 0.4	¹ 0.3
Kansas-----	3.0	2.2	² 2.6	2.1	2.2	1.5	1.1	0.8	³ 0.4	¹ 0.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9. Divorce rates: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected years 1870-1967—Con.

[For population bases, see appendix II. Rates per 1,000 population]

Area	1967	1960	1950	1940	1930	1916	1900	1890	1880	1870
<u>South Atlantic</u>										
	Rate									
Delaware-----	1.7	1.6	2.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.1	0.1	¹ 0.1	*
Maryland-----	2.0	1.7	2.2	1.8	1.3	0.7	0.4	0.2	³ 0.1	³ 0.1
District of Columbia-----	2.3	1.5	2.1	2.0	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.3
Virginia-----	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.3	¹ 0.9	0.4	0.2	³ 0.1	¹ 0.1
West Virginia-----	2.2	1.9	² 2.1	1.6	1.1	¹ 0.7	0.6	0.4	0.2	³ 0.2
North Carolina-----	2.4	1.3	1.6	² 1.1	0.5	¹ 0.3	0.3	³ 0.1	¹ 0.1	¹ 0.1
South Carolina-----	1.4	1.3	² 1.1	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	*
Georgia-----	3.2	2.3	2.8	² 1.4	³ 0.8	¹ 0.6	0.2	0.2	¹ 0.2	¹ 0.1
Florida-----	4.7	3.9	6.5	5.9	2.5	1.5	³ 0.7	0.7	³ 0.6	¹ 0.4
<u>East South Central</u>										
Kentucky-----	2.4	¹ 2.8	² 2.8	² 2.1	¹ 1.7	¹ 1.3	0.8	0.5	³ 0.3	³ 0.3
Tennessee-----	3.2	2.5	2.4	² 1.9	1.9	¹ 1.3	0.9	³ 0.6	³ 0.4	³ 0.2
Alabama-----	3.4	5.3	2.9	1.6	1.2	¹ 1.0	0.7	³ 0.6	³ 0.2	³ 0.1
Mississippi-----	2.8	2.4	2.8	1.5	1.4	¹ 1.1	0.7	³ 0.5	³ 0.4	¹ 0.1
<u>West South Central</u>										
Arkansas-----	4.1	¹ 3.4	² 4.6	2.7	¹ 2.2	2.2	1.4	1.0	¹ 0.7	¹ 0.3
Louisiana-----	*	¹ 1.5	² 2.0	² 1.4	0.9	¹ 0.8	0.4	0.3	¹ 0.2	¹ 0.1
Oklahoma-----	5.1	4.6	² 6.2	² 4.2	3.2	1.9	⁵ 1.2	⁵ 0.1	---	---
Texas-----	4.2	3.6	² 4.9	² 4.3	2.8	¹ 2.0	1.4	0.9	³ 0.5	¹ 0.2
<u>Mountain</u>										
Montana-----	3.4	³ 3.0	3.3	² 3.0	2.5	3.0	1.5	1.6	³ 1.0	¹ 0.8
Idaho-----	4.5	3.9	4.6	3.2	2.2	2.3	1.3	0.5	¹ 1.0	¹ 0.9
Wyoming-----	4.9	4.0	³ 4.0	² 4.0	2.9	¹ 1.8	1.3	0.8	1.0	³ 1.4
Colorado-----	4.0	2.7	² 3.3	² 2.5	2.2	¹ 1.2	1.5	2.1	² 1.3	¹ 1.2
New Mexico-----	¹ 2.9	3.0	3.9	² 2.3	1.8	¹ 1.2	0.7	0.4	0.1	*
Arizona-----	6.2	3.7	5.4	3.8	2.6	2.1	1.3	0.6	0.6	*
Utah-----	3.2	2.4	3.1	² 2.7	2.0	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.8	³ 0.9
Nevada-----	22.3	29.6	55.7	47.1	28.7	8.2	³ 1.0	³ 1.2	³ 1.0	¹ 0.8
<u>Pacific</u>										
Washington-----	4.0	3.3	4.7	3.7	2.8	2.7	1.8	¹ 1.2	¹ 1.0	³ 0.6
Oregon-----	3.8	3.2	3.9	3.1	3.0	2.9	1.5	0.9	¹ 1.1	¹ 0.8
California-----	3.7	3.1	3.7	3.3	2.7	1.8	¹ 1.4	1.2	0.8	0.5
Alaska-----	4.3	3.5	⁶ 3.5	⁶ 2.9	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hawaii-----	1.9	2.0	⁶ 2.3	⁶ 2.2	---	---	---	---	---	---

¹Excluding nonreporting areas. In 1916 all rates computed excluding nonreporting areas, but footnote used only when the nonreporting areas comprised more than 2 percent of population.

²Estimated.

³Incomplete.

⁴No divorces granted in South Carolina.

⁵Including Indian Territory, where the rate was 0.1 in 1890 and 1.1 in 1900; in Oklahoma it was 0.0 in 1890 and 1.3 in 1900.

⁶Not included in totals.

Table 10. Divorce rates for married women: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected census years 1890-1960

[The population was enumerated as of July 1 in 1890, 1900, and 1930 and as of April 1 in 1940, 1950, and 1960. Rates per 1,000 married women]

Area	1960	1950	1940	1930	1900	1890
	Rate					
United States ¹ -----	9.2	10.3	8.8	7.5	4.1	3.0
<u>Region</u>						
Northeast-----	¹ 3.6	14.4	14.2	3.3	2.1	1.6
North Central-----	18.5	19.6	¹ 8.6	8.6	5.1	3.9
South-----	¹ 11.7	¹ 13.1	¹ 10.6	7.9	4.1	12.8
West-----	¹ 14.4	¹ 17.0	¹ 15.5	12.8	¹ 8.2	17.4
<u>Division</u>						
New England-----	5.2	6.2	5.2	4.9	3.4	2.7
Middle Atlantic-----	3.1	12.9	¹ 3.8	2.8	1.6	1.1
East North Central-----	¹ 8.9	¹ 10.0	¹ 8.5	8.9	5.1	3.9
West North Central-----	7.7	¹ 8.7	¹ 8.7	8.1	4.9	4.0
South Atlantic-----	9.1	¹ 10.6	¹ 8.4	4.8	2.0	¹ 11.3
East South Central-----	² 14.0	¹ 11.2	¹ 8.2	7.6	4.8	3.5
West South Central-----	² 13.7	¹ 18.2	¹ 15.4	11.9	6.8	4.5
Mountain-----	18.1	22.9	¹ 18.4	14.1	7.3	8.0
Pacific-----	13.1	15.0	¹ 14.4	12.3	¹ 8.9	¹ 5.9
<u>New England</u>						
Maine-----	9.6	9.9	8.2	8.6	5.6	4.2
New Hampshire-----	7.7	8.0	6.6	6.4	5.1	4.9
Vermont-----	5.2	7.7	5.5	4.9	3.3	2.3
Massachusetts-----	4.7	5.8	4.9	4.2	2.4	1.6
Rhode Island-----	4.7	4.7	4.2	5.3	6.1	3.8
Connecticut-----	4.1	5.4	4.5	3.9	2.6	3.4
<u>Middle Atlantic</u>						
New York-----	1.8	¹ 3.1	3.6	1.8	1.3	0.8
New Jersey-----	3.0	4.3	¹ 3.3	3.3	1.3	0.9
Pennsylvania-----	5.2	4.7	¹ 4.5	4.0	2.0	1.5
<u>East North Central</u>						
Ohio-----	9.8	10.7	¹ 10.4	9.5	4.4	3.5
Indiana-----	¹ 11.3	¹ 11.5	¹ 10.1	10.0	7.2	5.4
Illinois-----	8.9	10.2	¹ 6.7	9.1	5.2	4.2
Michigan-----	8.8	9.9	9.7	9.8	5.2	3.6
Wisconsin-----	4.0	5.7	5.1	4.0	3.6	2.8
<u>West North Central</u>						
Minnesota-----	5.3	5.7	4.9	5.5	3.3	2.3
Iowa-----	6.8	8.2	8.1	7.9	5.0	3.6
Missouri-----	10.8	11.9	¹ 13.2	11.2	5.6	4.6
North Dakota-----	4.2	4.2	¹ 3.9	² 3.7	3.9	2.9
South Dakota-----	5.1	6.0	5.8	² 5.3	5.5	3.6
Nebraska-----	6.3	7.6	6.9	5.5	4.2	4.5
Kansas-----	8.9	¹ 10.1	8.8	9.8	5.8	4.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 10. Divorce rates for married women: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected census years 1890-1960--Con.

[The population was enumerated as of July 1 in 1890, 1900, and 1930 and as of April 1 in 1940, 1950, and 1960. Rates per 1,000 married women]

Area	1960	1950	1940	1930	1900	1890
<u>South Atlantic</u>						
	Rate					
Delaware-----	6.4	7.8	3.3	4.0	0.7	0.4
Maryland-----	6.9	8.6	7.7	5.9	2.5	1.4
District of Columbia-----	6.7	8.6	8.6	0.8	4.0	2.0
Virginia-----	8.0	7.6	9.3	6.9	2.5	1.5
West Virginia-----	8.2	¹ 8.9	7.3	5.4	3.6	2.2
North Carolina-----	5.7	6.7	¹ 15.3	2.6	1.5	² 0.6
South Carolina-----	5.9	14.9	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾
Georgia-----	9.8	11.5	¹ 6.6	² 4.1	1.6	1.4
Florida-----	15.6	24.9	24.7	11.1	² 4.3	¹ 4.2
<u>East South Central</u>						
Kentucky-----	² 10.6	¹ 11.6	19.7	8.0	4.7	3.1
Tennessee-----	10.6	9.7	¹ 8.6	9.2	5.3	² 3.9
Alabama-----	22.9	12.0	7.3	6.2	4.3	² 3.9
Mississippi-----	10.9	11.8	6.8	6.7	4.7	² 3.2
<u>West South Central</u>						
Arkansas-----	² 12.5	¹ 19.0	12.2	10.7	8.1	5.7
Louisiana-----	² 5.6	¹ 8.4	16.1	4.3	2.4	1.8
Oklahoma-----	18.6	¹ 24.7	¹ 18.4	15.1	⁴ 6.5	⁵ 0.1
Texas-----	15.2	¹ 19.5	¹ 18.6	13.5	8.2	5.3
<u>Mountain</u>						
Montana-----	12.8	13.7	¹ 13.7	12.2	9.7	12.2
Idaho-----	16.4	18.7	14.0	10.9	7.6	3.3
Wyoming-----	16.5	16.3	¹ 17.6	13.9	8.7	5.4
Colorado-----	11.3	¹ 13.3	¹ 10.8	9.9	7.8	12.3
New Mexico-----	² 13.3	17.5	¹ 10.9	9.3	4.8	2.5
Arizona-----	15.9	23.3	¹ 17.8	12.9	7.7	6.3
Utah-----	10.9	12.9	¹ 12.5	10.2	5.8	4.5
Nevada-----	121.0	220.5	203.4	143.1	² 7.4	² 8.8
<u>Pacific</u>						
Washington-----	13.5	18.6	¹ 15.3	12.4	10.7	7.6
Oregon-----	13.1	14.9	12.7	12.9	8.5	5.6
California-----	13.0	14.3	13.6	12.1	18.2	17.3
Alaska-----	17.0	⁶ 18.4	⁶ 15.3	---	---	---
Hawaii-----	9.8	⁶ 12.4	⁶ 14.2	---	---	---

¹Estimated.

²Incomplete.

³No divorces granted in South Carolina.

⁴Including Indian Territory, where the rate was 6.2; in Oklahoma it was 6.8.

⁵Rates for Indian Territory not computed as population by marital status not available.

⁶Not included in totals.

Table 11. Divorce rates: counties containing selected major cities, selected years 1870-1965

[Rates per 1,000 population]

City	County and State	1965	1960	1950	1930	1900	1890	1880	1870
		Rate							
Atlanta-----	Fulton, Ga-----	3.1	3.1	4.8	1.9	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
Baltimore-----	Baltimore, ¹ Md-----	2.3	2.1	2.6	1.6	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
Boston-----	Suffolk, Mass-----	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4
Buffalo-----	Erie, N.Y-----	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Chicago-----	Cook, Ill-----	2.6	2.2	2.7	2.3	1.1	0.8	0.9	---
Cincinnati-----	Hamilton, Ohio-----	2.0	2.3	2.4	1.7	0.8	0.6	---	---
Cleveland-----	Cuyahoga, Ohio-----	2.6	2.2	3.1	2.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.8
Columbus-----	Franklin, Ohio-----	3.4	3.6	4.7	3.4	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.5
Denver-----	Arapahoe, Colo-----	4.8	3.5	4.5	3.4	1.9	2.6	2.0	2.1
Des Moines-----	Polk, Iowa-----	3.5	3.3	4.3	4.8	2.5	1.5	1.0	0.9
Detroit-----	Wayne, Mich-----	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.9	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.5
Indianapolis-----	Marion, Ind-----	3.7	3.2	4.3	3.3	2.3	1.8	1.5	1.2
Jersey City-----	Hudson, N.J-----	1.0	0.8	---	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Kansas City-----	Jackson, Mo-----	4.2	4.1	5.7	5.3	2.5	1.4	0.8	0.4
Los Angeles-----	Los Angeles, Calif-----	4.3	3.5	4.2	3.6	2.2	1.7	0.9	0.5
Louisville-----	Jefferson, Ky-----	3.2	2.9	3.9	2.6	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.5
Memphis-----	Shelby, Tenn-----	2.5	2.4	2.7	3.1	1.7	1.0	0.5	0.4
Milwaukee-----	Milwaukee, Wis-----	1.6	1.4	1.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6
Minneapolis-----	Hennepin, Minn-----	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.2	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.5
Nashville-----	Davidson, Tenn-----	2.6	3.0	3.6	3.4	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.4
Newark-----	Essex, N.J-----	0.9	1.0	---	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
New Haven and Waterbury-----	New Haven, Conn-----	1.4	0.9	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.1
New Orleans-----	Orleans, La-----	2.4	1.6	2.9	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1
New York-----	{New York, Kings, Queens, Richmond, and Bronx, N.Y ² --	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Omaha-----	Douglas, Nebr-----	2.6	2.5	3.4	2.5	1.7	0.7	0.5	0.5
Paterson-----	Passaic, N.J-----	0.8	0.7	---	1.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Philadelphia-----	Philadelphia, Pa-----	1.4	1.5	1.5	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Pittsburgh-----	Allegheny, Pa-----	1.6	1.4	---	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
Portland-----	Multnomah, Oreg-----	3.7	4.2	4.7	3.3	1.1	1.6	1.9	1.3
Providence-----	Providence, R.I-----	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.0	1.0
Richmond-----	Henrico, Va ³ -----	3.2	3.3	2.9	2.2	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1
Rochester-----	Monroe, N.Y-----	0.8	0.7	1.5	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Salt Lake City-----	Salt Lake, Utah-----	3.5	3.0	4.0	3.1	1.6	1.2	2.1	1.8
Seattle-----	King, Wash-----	3.7	3.5	6.8	3.8	2.7	1.4	---	---
St. Joseph-----	Buchanan, Mo-----	4.0	3.6	4.0	3.8	1.2	1.1	0.5	0.7
St. Louis-----	St. Louis, Mo ⁴ -----	2.9	2.7	3.5	2.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5
St. Paul-----	Ramsey, Minn-----	2.1	1.6	2.0	1.9	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3
San Francisco-----	San Francisco, Calif-----	3.7	3.6	4.3	4.3	---	---	1.2	0.6
Syracuse-----	Onondaga, N.Y-----	0.7	0.7	1.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Toledo-----	Lucas, Ohio-----	3.3	2.7	3.0	3.1	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.4
Washington-----	District of Columbia-----	1.7	1.5	2.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3
Wilmington-----	New Castle, Del-----	1.5	1.7	2.2	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1

¹Includes independent Baltimore city.²Bronx County not included in 1870, 1880, 1890, and 1900.³Includes Richmond city, made independent since 1890.⁴Includes St. Louis city, made independent since 1870.

Table 12. Median duration of marriage prior to divorce: United States, 1867-1967

[Medians computed from data by single years of duration, except for 1948]

Year	Median duration in years	Year	Median duration in years
1967	17.1	1903	8.2
1966	17.1	1902	8.2
1965	17.2	1901	8.3
1964	17.4	1900	8.3
1963	17.5	1899	8.2
1962	17.3	1898	8.1
1961	17.1	1897	8.0
1960	7.2	1896	8.0
1959	² 7.0	1895	8.1
1958	² 6.4	1894	8.1
1957	² 6.7	1893	8.2
1956	² 6.5	1892	8.2
1955	² 6.4	1891	8.3
1954	² 6.4	1890	8.2
1953	6.1	1889	8.3
1952	² 6.1	1888	8.1
1951	² 6.0	1887	8.0
1950	² 5.8	1886	7.7
1949	² 6.3	1885	7.7
1948	² 6.4	1884	8.0
1933-47	---	1883	7.8
1932	7.1	1882	7.9
1931	7.1	1881	7.8
1930	6.9	1880	7.9
1929	6.9	1879	7.7
1928	6.9	1878	7.7
1927	6.8	1877	7.6
1926	6.6	1876	7.5
1925	6.6	1875	7.4
1924	6.6	1874	7.3
1923	6.5	1873	7.2
1922	6.6	1872	6.9
1907-21	---	1871	6.7
1906	7.9	1870	6.9
1905	8.0	1869	7.1
1904	8.1	1868	7.3
		1867	7.4

¹Divorce-registration area.
²All reporting States.

Table 13. Median duration of marriage prior to divorce: United States and each State or territory, selected years 1870-1967

[Medians computed from data by single years of duration except as noted]

Area	1967	1960	1950	1930	1922	1906	1900	1890	1880	1870
United States-----	17.1	7.2	15.8	6.9	6.6	7.9	8.3	8.2	7.9	6.9
Alabama-----	6.2	7.3	---	² 6.3	5.7	7.4	7.9	8.3	9.0	5.5
Alaska-----	5.8	6.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Arizona-----	---	---	---	² 6.1	6.3	6.4	7.5	³ 6.8	(4)	(4)
Arkansas-----	---	---	---	4.9	4.8	5.7	6.9	6.4	5.8	³ 4.9
California-----	---	---	---	² 8.4	8.4	10.1	8.9	8.3	8.1	8.6
Colorado-----	---	---	---	² 7.5	7.0	8.4	9.6	8.7	7.0	(4)
Connecticut-----	⁵ 69.6	⁶ 9.8	⁶ 9.5	² 9.5	9.6	10.5	10.1	10.4	9.1	6.9
Delaware-----	---	---	---	² 9.4	8.8	³ 10.8	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
District of Columbia-----	---	---	---	² 9.8	9.7	³ 11.3	9.9	³ 9.0	³ 10.3	(4)
Florida-----	---	⁵ 7.0	6.0	² 6.8	5.9	7.7	7.8	7.5	8.1	(4)
Georgia-----	6.1	6.3	---	² 7.8	6.4	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.6	³ 6.8
Hawaii-----	7.0	6.3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Idaho-----	5.3	4.8	4.2	² 6.3	6.6	8.2	8.4	(4)	(4)	(4)
Illinois-----	^{2,5} 7.1	---	---	² 7.1	6.9	7.6	8.0	7.9	7.2	6.3
Indiana-----	---	---	---	² 6.2	5.3	6.6	6.8	6.5	6.6	5.6
Iowa-----	6.3	5.7	4.5	² 6.3	5.5	7.5	8.4	7.6	7.5	7.3
Kansas-----	5.9	5.8	---	² 6.3	5.5	7.6	8.2	7.6	7.2	5.1
Kentucky-----	---	---	---	² 6.6	5.4	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.1	5.8
Louisiana-----	---	---	---	² 7.2	6.3	7.7	8.6	7.8	³ 6.4	(4)
Maine-----	---	⁵ 6.9	6.0	² 8.4	8.7	9.5	9.7	9.5	8.3	7.6
Maryland-----	9.9	9.0	---	² 9.2	8.6	9.9	10.6	8.6	8.7	³ 8.7
Massachusetts-----	⁵ 8.2	---	---	² 10.0	10.8	11.5	11.1	11.4	10.8	11.4
Michigan-----	7.8	---	⁶ 6.6	² 7.5	6.9	8.5	9.4	9.2	8.5	7.7
Minnesota-----	---	---	---	² 8.3	7.1	8.8	9.2	8.8	9.2	³ 9.3
Mississippi-----	^{2,5} 7.2	^{2,5} 7.9	5.0	² 6.0	5.4	7.3	7.6	8.2	7.5	³ 4.8
Missouri-----	6.0	---	⁶ 5.2	² 6.0	5.4	6.8	7.3	7.2	6.7	5.6
Montana-----	5.5	5.1	---	² 6.2	6.0	6.8	8.4	7.3	(4)	(4)
Nebraska-----	6.9	6.3	⁶ 5.7	² 7.6	5.9	7.7	8.5	8.5	7.6	(4)
Nevada-----	---	---	---	² 9.1	8.1	9.8	(4)	³ 9.0	³ 7.7	(4)
New Hampshire-----	⁵ 7.2	---	7.2	² 9.2	9.2	9.7	9.3	9.7	8.9	8.2
New Jersey-----	---	---	---	² 9.9	10.9	11.2	10.5	9.7	11.6	³ 10.1
New Mexico-----	---	---	---	² 5.8	5.5	6.7	8.6	³ 10.3	(4)	(4)
New York-----	---	---	---	² 9.3	9.2	10.2	9.7	9.8	9.5	8.5
North Carolina-----	---	---	---	² 8.2	8.5	8.9	9.6	10.1	³ 9.9	(4)
North Dakota-----	---	⁵ 7.3	5.7	² 8.0	7.7	8.8	8.9	³ 11.5	³ 79.3	---
Ohio-----	7.1	---	---	² 7.3	6.5	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.1	6.9
Oklahoma-----	---	---	---	² 5.1	4.5	⁸ 6.4	⁸ 6.5	(4)	---	---
Oregon-----	5.9	5.9	4.7	² 6.5	6.1	8.3	9.0	7.6	8.3	³ 9.0
Pennsylvania-----	9.0	9.2	---	² 8.5	8.4	9.6	9.5	9.1	8.7	6.9
Rhode Island-----	8.9	---	---	² 9.4	7.9	9.1	9.8	8.9	8.6	8.2
South Carolina-----	---	---	---	(⁹)	(⁹)	(⁹)	(⁹)	(⁹)	(⁹)	(4)
South Dakota-----	7.0	6.3	4.8	² 7.9	7.0	8.6	8.9	9.6	³ 79.3	---
Tennessee-----	5.8	6.3	4.6	² 5.9	4.8	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.1	5.2
Texas-----	---	---	---	² 5.4	4.6	6.8	7.4	7.8	7.0	³ 5.8
Utah-----	5.6	4.7	---	² 5.9	5.9	6.8	8.1	9.4	7.0	(4)
Vermont-----	⁵ 9.9	---	---	² 10.0	9.0	10.6	9.5	11.2	9.3	8.7
Virginia-----	8.8	8.3	8.2	² 8.4	7.5	8.6	9.1	8.9	8.1	³ 6.5
Washington-----	---	---	---	² 7.8	6.8	8.2	9.5	7.9	³ 9.3	(4)
West Virginia-----	---	---	---	² 8.0	6.7	7.5	7.9	7.7	³ 8.6	³ 7.4
Wisconsin-----	8.1	8.2	---	² 7.7	7.3	8.7	8.1	8.2	8.2	5.9
Wyoming-----	5.5	5.4	4.2	² 5.9	6.0	7.4	7.5	(4)	(4)	(4)

¹Divorce-registration area in 1967; all reporting States in 1950.

²Computed from grouped data.

³Computed from 50-100 cases.

⁴Less than 50 cases.

⁵Not in divorce-registration area. Computed from data in State publications.

⁶Computed by subtracting year of marriage from year of decree.

⁷For Dakota Territory, which included the area of North Dakota and South Dakota.

⁸Including Indian Territory, where the median was 6.1 in 1900 and 5.9 in 1906; in Oklahoma it was 7.1 in 1900 and 7.6 in 1906.

⁹No divorces granted in South Carolina.

Table 14. Percent distribution of divorces by duration of marriage prior to divorce: United States, selected years 1870-1967

Duration of marriage	1967 ¹	1960	1950 ²	1930	1922	1906'	1900	1890	1880	1870
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1 year-----	5.8	6.2	6.1	4.4	4.6	} 5.4	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.8
1 year-----	9.1	8.1	9.7	7.8	8.6		5.0	5.0	4.9	5.8
2 years-----	8.4	8.1	10.2	8.3	10.1	7.3	6.6	6.3	6.7	7.5
3 years-----	8.1	7.9	10.0	8.5	8.7	8.4	8.0	8.1	7.8	10.7
4 years-----	6.9	7.3	9.4	7.9	7.9	8.6	7.9	8.3	9.3	11.0
5 years-----	6.0	6.4	6.0	7.2	6.8	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.4	9.2
6 years-----	5.3	5.0	4.6	6.4	5.7	7.5	6.8	7.2	7.5	6.5
7 years-----	4.7	4.9	4.4	5.6	4.9	5.6	6.3	6.5	7.2	5.6
8 years-----	3.9	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.7	5.4	6.1	5.8	6.4	4.6
9 years-----	3.4	3.9	3.8	4.7	4.3	4.7	5.2	5.1	5.1	3.9
10-14 years-----	14.4	17.0	12.5	15.8	14.9	17.0	18.3	18.5	20.3	16.4
15-19 years-----	10.0	8.9	7.5	8.3	8.6	10.1	10.2	10.0	8.3	9.5
20-24 years-----	7.1	} 12.0	5.3	5.2	} 10.1	6.0	5.8	6.2	} 9.1	9.2
25-29 years-----	3.9		3.2	2.8		3.4	3.3	2.9		
30 years or more-----	2.8		3.0	2.2		2.9	2.9	2.5		

¹Divorce-registration area (22 States).

²Total of 16 reporting States.

Table 15. Divorces and percent distribution by duration of marriage and of separation: United States, 1887-1906

[Entire 20-year period]

Duration	Marriage to divorce	Marriage to separation	Separation to divorce	Marriage to divorce	Marriage to separation	Separation to divorce
Total-----	945,625	945,625	945,625	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 year or less-----	46,639	208,149	273,221	5.2	27.0	35.0
2 years-----	61,481	76,102	144,131	6.8	9.9	18.5
3 years-----	73,052	62,609	115,521	8.1	8.1	14.8
4 years-----	73,913	53,078	79,556	8.2	6.9	10.2
5 years-----	68,770	45,549	49,556	7.6	5.9	6.4
6 years-----	62,666	39,319	32,842	7.0	5.1	4.2
7 years-----	56,417	33,916	22,024	6.3	4.4	2.8
8 years-----	50,654	30,023	15,681	5.6	3.9	2.0
9 years-----	44,397	25,904	10,764	4.9	3.4	1.4
10 years-----	40,730	24,428	8,295	4.5	3.2	1.1
11 years-----	36,369	20,002	6,399	4.0	2.6	0.8
12 years-----	31,971	17,620	4,777	3.6	2.3	0.6
13 years-----	28,260	15,521	3,607	3.1	2.0	0.5
14 years-----	25,077	13,950	2,804	2.8	1.8	0.4
15 years-----	22,979	12,597	2,234	2.6	1.6	0.3
16 years-----	20,025	11,027	1,713	2.2	1.4	0.2
17 years-----	17,901	10,190	1,350	2.0	1.3	0.2
18 years-----	16,018	9,053	1,085	1.8	1.2	0.1
19 years-----	14,253	8,245	846	1.6	1.1	0.1
20 years-----	13,864	7,851	681	1.5	1.0	0.1
21 years or more-----	95,148	45,796	2,935	10.6	5.9	0.4
Not stated-----	45,041	174,696	165,603	...	...	...

Table 16. Median and quartile duration of marriage and of separation: United States and each State and territory, 1887-1906

Area and party to whom granted	Marriage to divorce			Marriage to separation			Separation to divorce		
	First quartile	Median	Third quartile	First quartile	Median	Third quartile	First quartile	Median	Third quartile
	Duration in years								
United States-----	4.6	8.1	14.0	1.9	4.7	10.1	1.5	2.8	4.7
Total granted to husband-----	4.6	8.1	13.9	1.7	4.5	9.8	1.7	3.1	5.0
Total granted to wife-----	4.6	8.2	14.1	1.9	4.9	10.3	1.3	2.7	4.5
Alabama-----	4.8	7.8	12.1	1.6	3.8	7.7	2.4	3.6	5.4
Arizona-----	4.2	7.4	12.5	2.0	4.8	9.5	1.4	2.3	3.8
Arkansas-----	3.7	6.3	10.5	1.5	3.4	7.2	1.6	2.6	4.1
California-----	4.9	8.9	14.9	2.4	5.9	11.6	1.8	2.7	4.2
Colorado-----	5.1	8.8	14.6	2.2	5.4	10.8	2.0	3.0	4.6
Connecticut-----	6.4	10.3	16.2	2.1	5.3	10.7	4.2	5.0	7.0
Delaware-----	6.3	10.4	16.1	2.6	5.9	10.2	2.5	4.5	6.4
District of Columbia-----	6.5	10.3	15.8	2.5	5.7	10.5	2.9	4.2	6.6
Florida-----	4.5	7.8	13.2	1.7	4.2	8.9	1.8	3.0	5.0
Georgia-----	5.5	8.6	13.7	1.5	3.7	8.4	2.8	4.6	6.5
Idaho-----	4.7	8.5	14.8	2.1	5.6	11.4	1.6	2.5	3.8
Illinois-----	4.5	7.9	13.7	1.9	4.9	10.4	1.4	2.7	4.2
Indiana-----	3.6	6.6	12.6	1.7	4.4	10.1	0.9	1.8	3.3
Indian Territory-----	3.7	6.0	10.8	1.4	3.3	7.9	1.7	2.6	3.9
Iowa-----	4.2	7.8	14.8	2.0	5.3	11.8	1.1	2.3	3.7
Kansas-----	4.4	8.0	14.7	1.9	5.0	11.3	1.7	2.6	3.9
Kentucky-----	3.9	6.9	11.9	1.5	3.6	8.1	1.6	2.6	4.4
Louisiana-----	4.7	8.0	12.9	2.2	4.6	8.7	1.4	2.6	4.9
Maine-----	5.4	9.3	15.6	2.5	5.7	11.4	1.9	3.8	5.5
Maryland-----	5.8	9.6	15.1	1.9	4.9	9.9	2.3	4.2	6.4
Massachusetts-----	7.4	11.4	17.1	2.5	5.8	11.0	4.5	5.7	8.1
Michigan-----	5.0	9.1	15.8	2.4	6.0	12.3	1.5	2.6	4.4
Minnesota-----	5.1	9.1	15.6	2.2	5.8	11.8	1.5	2.7	4.6
Mississippi-----	4.6	7.5	12.0	1.7	3.8	7.8	2.0	3.4	5.2
Missouri-----	3.9	7.1	12.9	1.8	4.5	9.9	1.3	2.2	3.7
Montana-----	4.2	7.7	12.9	2.1	5.2	10.2	1.3	2.2	3.7
Nebraska-----	4.3	8.0	14.6	1.9	5.1	11.5	1.5	2.6	4.0
Nevada-----	4.5	8.4	14.2	2.3	5.7	10.8	1.4	2.2	3.6
New Hampshire-----	5.7	9.8	16.0	2.6	6.1	12.0	1.8	3.7	5.3
New Jersey-----	6.7	10.7	16.3	2.1	5.4	10.7	3.2	4.6	6.9
New Mexico-----	4.5	8.5	14.7	2.1	5.0	10.2	1.4	2.5	4.6
New York-----	5.8	9.8	15.3	3.1	6.7	12.1	1.4	2.5	4.7
North Carolina-----	5.7	9.5	15.1	1.8	4.5	9.1	2.8	4.3	6.7
North Dakota-----	5.1	9.5	15.6	2.3	6.1	11.9	1.6	2.6	4.4
Ohio-----	4.7	8.4	14.7	2.0	5.2	11.1	1.4	2.7	4.2
Oklahoma-----	4.1	7.4	14.3	1.7	4.6	10.9	1.7	2.6	3.9
Oregon-----	4.8	8.7	15.2	2.4	5.7	11.6	1.5	2.4	3.9
Pennsylvania-----	5.6	9.5	15.4	1.9	5.0	10.5	2.4	3.7	5.8
Rhode Island-----	5.6	9.6	15.5	2.4	5.7	10.9	2.1	3.5	6.0
South Carolina-----	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
South Dakota-----	4.8	9.0	15.0	2.3	6.2	12.6	1.5	2.5	3.9
Tennessee-----	3.9	6.7	11.4	1.5	3.6	7.8	1.5	2.7	4.4
Texas-----	4.4	7.2	11.9	1.5	3.6	7.8	1.6	3.2	5.0
Utah-----	4.2	8.1	15.0	2.1	5.7	12.2	1.2	2.0	3.5
Vermont-----	6.1	10.0	16.5	2.7	6.3	12.3	1.8	3.5	5.2
Virginia-----	5.4	9.0	14.5	1.7	4.3	8.9	2.3	4.3	6.6
Washington-----	4.5	8.6	14.9	2.1	5.4	11.0	1.5	2.5	4.1
West Virginia-----	4.7	7.9	13.3	1.6	4.1	9.2	1.7	3.4	5.1
Wisconsin-----	4.3	8.3	15.2	1.9	5.4	11.8	1.3	2.2	3.8
Wyoming-----	3.9	7.6	13.5	2.0	5.3	10.8	1.3	2.0	3.1

¹No divorces granted in South Carolina.

Table 17. Percent of divorced couples married in the State where divorce was granted: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected years 1870-1965

[An asterisk indicates that percentage was not computed when basis was 50 or less]

Area	1965	1960	1955	1916	1900	1890	1880	1870
	Percent							
United States-----	¹ 60.9	57.5	² 55.5	71.0	77.0	75.9	79.2	78.6
<u>Region</u>								
Northeast-----	---	67.6	---	71.0	75.1	80.6	82.9	84.5
North Central-----	---	61.2	---	69.7	75.5	73.5	76.6	75.4
South-----	---	61.1	---	81.9	86.3	88.8	90.5	88.6
West-----	---	45.5	---	55.2	58.8	48.4	55.9	50.7
<u>Division</u>								
New England-----	---	---	---	70.5	73.6	77.7	79.9	82.7
Middle Atlantic-----	---	---	---	71.2	76.1	82.8	86.0	86.1
East North Central-----	---	---	---	71.4	79.8	80.5	80.6	79.0
West North Central-----	---	---	---	66.9	68.7	63.2	66.9	63.8
South Atlantic-----	---	---	---	76.7	84.6	86.5	86.2	84.0
East South Central-----	---	---	---	84.6	89.3	91.9	94.3	93.2
West South Central-----	---	---	---	82.4	84.7	86.9	87.5	81.9
Mountain-----	---	---	---	46.3	55.7	40.3	41.8	39.5
Pacific-----	---	---	---	59.8	60.8	55.3	64.3	54.8
<u>New England</u>								
Maine-----	---	---	---	73.3	79.8	84.5	85.5	89.2
New Hampshire-----	---	---	66.2	66.4	76.0	76.2	74.4	72.5
Vermont-----	---	---	---	72.1	69.9	73.5	79.8	86.5
Massachusetts-----	---	---	---	70.4	74.4	75.7	78.8	80.2
Rhode Island-----	73.8	---	---	62.5	52.4	69.6	75.8	80.9
Connecticut-----	---	---	61.1	79.4	64.4	*	*	*
<u>Middle Atlantic</u>								
New York-----	---	---	---	79.5	84.4	84.8	85.8	86.0
New Jersey-----	---	---	---	66.3	67.4	72.9	68.1	70.8
Pennsylvania-----	65.4	62.4	---	66.9	71.2	83.3	88.9	88.8
<u>East North Central</u>								
Ohio-----	59.4	---	---	72.8	83.7	83.3	85.2	82.9
Indiana-----	---	---	---	82.6	90.3	89.2	84.3	77.7
Illinois-----	---	---	---	68.8	71.0	73.1	76.6	80.2
Michigan-----	69.5	---	57.2	68.6	81.5	81.1	79.4	76.4
Wisconsin-----	62.1	59.3	---	66.7	80.8	80.0	76.2	72.4
<u>West North Central</u>								
Minnesota-----	---	---	---	62.3	59.3	57.0	62.4	55.0
Iowa-----	59.8	61.0	57.0	70.2	76.6	73.9	66.6	57.7
Missouri-----	63.2	---	---	69.5	75.6	74.2	82.9	76.4
North Dakota-----	---	---	50.0	45.7	39.0	14.8	} 12.3	-
South Dakota-----	57.4	58.1	59.1	57.7	38.0	34.5		
Nebraska-----	63.0	60.2	---	65.0	57.2	41.1	41.5	*
Kansas-----	57.7	57.2	---	67.8	68.4	59.2	55.2	51.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 17. Percent of divorced couples married in the State where divorce was granted: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected years 1870-1965—Con.

[An asterisk indicates that percentage was not computed when basis was 50 or less]

Area	1965	1960	1955	1916	1900	1890	1880	1870
<u>South Atlantic</u>								
	Percent							
Delaware-----	---	---	---	82.0	*	*	*	*
Maryland-----	70.6	72.0	---	81.5	83.4	86.1	85.7	89.0
District of Columbia-----	---	---	---	*	57.1	69.2	51.7	*
Virginia-----	55.5	57.0	55.9	67.8	86.3	87.4	92.7	93.5
West Virginia-----	---	---	---	67.9	77.8	77.9	71.7	54.4
North Carolina-----	---	---	---	88.5	94.8	97.2	97.3	*
South Carolina-----	---	---	---	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	*
Georgia-----	69.4	74.6	77.1	88.3	94.3	96.0	94.2	96.0
Florida-----	---	---	---	71.6	85.3	81.6	84.7	80.8
<u>East South Central</u>								
Kentucky-----	---	---	---	76.2	85.0	87.2	90.2	91.3
Tennessee-----	50.6	42.4	37.2	87.1	87.8	89.1	94.8	95.9
Alabama-----	64.0	57.2	49.7	85.7	92.6	96.1	96.1	93.3
Mississippi-----	---	---	---	93.1	93.8	96.6	97.4	91.1
<u>West South Central</u>								
Arkansas-----	---	---	---	85.7	86.9	82.0	86.9	82.2
Louisiana-----	---	---	---	90.2	94.3	97.0	95.7	*
Oklahoma-----	---	---	---	60.6	⁴ 46.2	*	...	...
Texas-----	---	---	---	89.4	90.5	88.3	86.5	78.6
<u>Mountain</u>								
Montana-----	58.9	68.0	68.7	45.7	52.6	44.1	*	*
Idaho-----	49.4	51.1	45.3	41.2	50.0	*	*	*
Wyoming-----	48.8	42.3	---	38.2	41.7	*	*	*
Colorado-----	---	---	---	52.6	54.5	32.3	32.4	*
New Mexico-----	---	---	---	46.2	62.5	59.4	*	*
Arizona-----	---	---	---	50.5	46.8	35.2	*	*
Utah-----	46.7	47.6	---	71.9	74.2	67.6	72.1	*
Nevada-----	---	---	---	14.4	*	69.8	41.0	*
<u>Pacific</u>								
Washington-----	---	---	---	53.4	40.7	29.7	42.9	*
Oregon-----	39.8	35.8	---	53.9	60.9	57.3	64.2	66.1
California-----	---	---	---	66.2	72.1	64.8	66.4	53.3
Alaska-----	47.9	44.7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hawaii-----	63.2	70.1	...	...	...	...	...	...

¹Divorce-registration area (22 States).

²Total of 12 reporting States.

³No divorces granted in South Carolina.

⁴Including Indian Territory, where the percentage was 55.8; in Oklahoma it was 37.0.

Table 18. Mean number of children per divorce with children reported: United States, selected years 1867-1967

Year	Mean number of children per divorce with children	Year	Mean number of children per divorce with children
1967	1 ² 2.18	1901	1.87
1966	1 ² 2.19	1900	1.87
1965	1 ² 2.16	1899	1.86
1964	1 ² 2.18	1898	1.87
1963	1 ² 2.16	1897	1.88
1962	1 ² 2.14	1896	1.85
1961	1 ² 2.06	1895	1.89
1960	1 ² 2.08	1894	1.89
1959	1 ² 2.00	1893	1.88
1958	1 ² 1.96	1892	1.88
1957	1 ² 1.95	1891	1.92
1956	1 ² 1.93	1890	1.90
1955	1 ² 1.92	1889	1.91
1954	1 ² 1.88	1888	1.90
1953	1 ² 1.86	1887	1.91
1952	1 ² 1.82	1886	2.10
1951	1 ² 1.81	1885	2.08
1950	1 ² 1.76	1884	2.08
1933-49	---	1883	2.09
1932	1.74	1882	2.10
1931	1.76	1881	2.06
1930	1.78	1880	2.06
1929	1.79	1879	2.03
1928	1.78	1878	2.07
1927	1.77	1877	2.06
1926	1.80	1876	2.05
1925	1.80	1875	2.05
1924	1.82	1874	2.05
1923	1.84	1873	2.07
1922	1.84	1872	2.02
1907-21	---	1871	2.10
1906	1.84	1870	2.10
1905	1.85	1869	2.04
1904	1.87	1868	2.05
1903	1.88	1867	2.10
1902	1.87		

¹Divorce-registration area.

²All reporting States.

Table 19. Mean number of children per divorce with children reported: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected years 1870-1967

Area	1967	1960	1952	1930	1922	1900	1890	1880	1870
	Mean number of children								
United States-----	¹ 2.18	2.08	² 1.82	1.78	1.84	1.87	1.90	2.06	2.10
<u>Region</u>									
Northeast-----	---	2.03	---	1.70	1.76	1.65	1.70	---	---
North Central-----	---	2.16	---	1.81	1.87	1.86	1.92	---	---
South-----	---	2.04	---	1.79	1.89	2.00	2.01	---	---
West-----	---	2.04	---	1.73	1.78	1.96	1.95	---	---
<u>Division</u>									
New England-----	---	---	---	1.79	1.75	1.61	1.67	---	---
Middle Atlantic-----	---	---	---	1.65	1.76	1.67	1.72	---	---
East North Central-----	---	---	---	1.79	1.87	1.81	1.89	---	---
West North Central-----	---	---	---	1.86	1.89	1.95	1.98	---	---
South Atlantic-----	---	---	---	1.84	1.90	2.01	1.97	---	---
East South Central-----	---	---	---	1.81	1.85	1.99	2.03	---	---
West South Central-----	---	---	---	1.75	1.89	2.01	2.00	---	---
Mountain-----	---	---	---	1.84	1.85	2.00	1.91	---	---
Pacific-----	---	---	---	1.68	1.75	1.93	1.99	---	---
<u>New England</u>									
Maine-----	---	³ 2.16	1.98	1.84	1.85	1.68	1.70	2.00	2.17
New Hampshire-----	---	³ 2.17	1.99	1.98	1.85	1.67	1.63	1.64	1.73
Vermont-----	---	³ 2.30	2.17	1.94	1.80	1.77	1.77	⁴ 1.38	⁴ 1.80
Massachusetts-----	---	---	---	1.75	1.69	1.52	1.65	1.53	1.66
Rhode Island-----	2.10	---	---	1.79	1.72	1.51	1.82	1.49	1.45
Connecticut-----	---	³ 2.01	1.80	1.76	1.75	1.60	1.61	1.60	1.83
<u>Middle Atlantic</u>									
New York-----	---	---	---	1.60	1.72	1.67	1.81	1.91	2.03
New Jersey-----	---	---	---	1.60	1.61	1.48	1.56	2.06	⁴ 2.02
Pennsylvania-----	2.11	1.83	---	1.70	1.84	1.72	1.70	1.85	2.10
<u>East North Central</u>									
Ohio-----	2.24	³ 2.11	1.87	1.79	1.80	1.78	1.96	2.26	2.36
Indiana-----	---	---	---	1.78	1.76	1.82	1.84	1.94	1.99
Illinois-----	---	---	---	1.67	1.77	1.81	1.91	1.98	2.02
Michigan-----	2.31	³ 2.10	1.86	1.91	2.06	1.69	1.69	2.18	2.36
Wisconsin-----	2.42	2.10	---	1.93	2.12	2.06	2.14	2.45	2.37
<u>West North Central</u>									
Minnesota-----	---	---	---	1.96	1.97	2.03	2.01	2.13	⁴ 2.25
Iowa-----	2.27	2.20	1.93	1.90	⁴ 1.62	2.01	1.99	2.20	2.26
Missouri-----	2.10	³ 2.00	1.77	1.69	1.72	1.84	1.83	1.85	1.63
North Dakota-----	---	³ 2.31	2.02	2.05	2.16	1.86	1.95	} ⁴ 2.24	---
South Dakota-----	2.33	2.38	2.06	2.28	2.44	2.08	2.00		---
Nebraska-----	2.33	2.04	1.91	1.91	2.02	1.79	2.14	2.17	⁴ 2.13
Kansas-----	2.28	2.21	2.00	1.85	1.88	2.03	2.08	2.05	1.71

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19. Mean number of children per divorce with children reported: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected years 1870-1967—Con.

Area	1967	1960	1952	1930	1922	1900	1890	1880	1870
<u>South Atlantic</u>									
Mean number of children									
Delaware-----	---	---	---	1.65	1.56	⁴ 2.22	⁴ 2.75	⁴ 2.75	⁴ 3.00
Maryland-----	2.03	1.98	---	1.91	1.90	1.92	1.82	1.94	2.03
District of Columbia---	---	---	---	⁴ 1.67	1.81	1.64	⁴ 1.66	⁴ 2.23	⁴ 2.29
Virginia-----	2.02	1.85	1.75	1.96	1.93	2.01	1.86	1.91	⁴ 1.67
West Virginia-----	---	---	---	1.88	2.02	2.25	1.96	⁴ 2.35	⁴ 2.39
North Carolina-----	---	---	---	1.84	1.90	2.26	2.16	⁴ 2.58	1.60
South Carolina-----	---	---	---	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	---
Georgia-----	2.05	³ 1.95	1.74	1.72	1.81	2.12	2.27	2.20	⁴ 2.07
Florida-----	---	³ 1.94	1.67	1.70	1.90	1.84	2.00	⁴ 2.05	⁴ 2.50
<u>East South Central</u>									
Kentucky-----	---	---	---	1.81	1.76	1.99	2.05	2.28	2.22
Tennessee-----	2.06	2.04	1.90	1.81	1.84	1.99	1.99	2.12	2.18
Alabama-----	2.09	1.91	1.74	1.70	1.99	1.84	2.07	2.62	⁴ 2.09
Mississippi-----	---	³ 2.03	1.92	1.89	2.00	2.18	2.18	2.12	⁴ 1.86
<u>West South Central</u>									
Arkansas-----	---	---	---	1.75	1.97	1.93	1.86	1.90	⁴ 1.78
Louisiana-----	---	---	---	1.68	2.06	2.28	⁴ 2.54	⁴ 2.22	⁴ 1.67
Oklahoma-----	---	---	---	1.85	1.97	⁶ 1.93	^{4,6} 1.70	---	---
Texas-----	---	---	---	1.68	1.78	2.03	1.99	1.95	⁴ 2.33
<u>Mountain</u>									
Montana-----	2.27	2.24	1.88	1.92	1.93	2.00	1.82	⁴ 2.79	⁴ 2.11
Idaho-----	2.12	2.11	1.86	1.95	2.02	2.23	2.19	⁴ 2.73	⁴ 1.67
Wyoming-----	2.15	2.04	1.95	1.98	1.93	1.95	⁴ 2.09	⁴ 2.20	⁴ 3.00
Colorado-----	---	---	---	1.85	1.79	1.89	1.86	2.00	⁴ 2.00
New Mexico-----	---	---	---	1.84	1.88	1.98	⁴ 2.03	⁴ 2.33	---
Arizona-----	---	---	---	1.84	1.76	2.00	⁴ 1.68	⁴ 2.14	---
Utah-----	2.40	2.12	---	1.99	1.87	2.17	2.13	1.13	⁴ 3.00
Nevada-----	---	---	---	1.63	1.70	⁴ 1.68	⁴ 1.71	⁴ 1.86	⁴ 2.63
<u>Pacific</u>									
Washington-----	---	---	---	1.76	1.80	1.91	1.97	⁴ 2.76	⁴ 3.40
Oregon-----	2.21	2.00	1.81	1.73	1.79	2.00	1.90	2.51	⁴ 2.79
California-----	---	---	---	1.65	1.72	1.92	2.02	2.53	2.39
Alaska-----	2.17	2.17	⁷ 2.21	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hawaii-----	2.39	2.58	⁷ 2.35	---	---	---	---	---	---

¹Divorce-registration area.

²All reporting States.

³Not in divorce-registration area. Computed from data in State publications.

⁴Less than 50 divorced couples with children.

⁵No divorces granted in South Carolina.

⁶Including Indian Territory, where the mean was 1.70 in both 1890 and 1900; in Oklahoma it was 2.08 in 1900 and no divorces were granted in 1890.

⁷Not included in total.

Table 20. Divorces and percent distribution by legal grounds: United States, selected years 1867-1965

[For coding rules, see appendix II]

Legal grounds	1965 ¹	1960 ²	1950 ³	1930	1916	1887-1906	1867-1886
	Number						
All grounds-----	164,942	94,074	100,997	191,591	112,036	945,625	328,716
Adultery-----	2,244	1,561	1,717	15,992	12,486	173,709	78,260
Bigamy and fraud-----	822	(⁴)	466	337	(⁴)	1,560	1,579
Conviction of crime-----	803	(⁴)	522	1,422	(⁴)	8,699	2,882
Cruelty-----	66,666	54,130	57,258	81,921	30,752	196,054	51,890
Desertion or abandonment-----	22,028	24,943	23,748	59,068	39,990	400,581	140,230
Drunkenness-----	509	(⁴)	2,520	4,633	3,652	53,087	24,915
Incompatibility-----	1,166	711	10	293	(⁴)	383	1,655
Indignities-----	24,812	(⁵)	9,852	(⁴)	(⁵)	10,946	(⁵)
Neglect or nonsupport---	28,782	4,986	2,140	23,489	5,146	76,589	14,770
Separation or absence---	5,655	540	213	851	(⁶)	577	37
Other grounds-----	6,541	2,270	1,082	677	⁷ 16,676	3,465	2,005
Not stated-----	4,914	4,933	1,469	2,908	3,334	19,975	10,493

¹Total of 22 reporting States.

²Total of 18 reporting States.

³Total of 20 reporting States.

⁴Included with "other grounds."

⁵Decrees granted for indignities included with decrees granted for cruelty.

⁶Decrees granted for separation or absence included with decrees granted for desertion or abandonment.

⁷Including 9,332 decrees granted for combinations of listed grounds—8.3 percent of the total.

Table 20. Divorces and percent distribution by legal grounds: United States, selected years 1867-1965—Con.

[For coding rules, see appendix II]

Legal grounds	1965 ¹	1960 ²	1950 ³	1930	1916	1887-1906	1867-1886
	Percent distribution						
All grounds-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Adultery-----	1.4	1.8	1.7	8.5	11.5	18.8	24.6
Bigamy and fraud-----	0.5	(⁴)	0.5	0.2	(⁴)	0.2	0.5
Conviction of crime-----	0.5	(⁴)	0.5	0.8	(⁴)	0.9	0.9
Cruelty-----	41.7	60.7	57.5	43.4	28.3	21.2	16.3
Desertion or abandonment-----	13.8	28.0	23.9	31.3	36.8	43.3	44.1
Drunkenness-----	0.3	(⁴)	2.5	2.5	3.4	5.7	7.8
Incompatibility-----	0.7	0.8	0.0	1.6	(⁴)	0.0	0.5
Indignities-----	15.5	(⁵)	9.9	(⁴)	(⁵)	1.2	(⁵)
Neglect or nonsupport---	18.0	5.6	2.2	12.4	4.7	8.3	4.6
Separation or absence---	3.5	0.6	0.2	0.5	(⁶)	0.1	0.0
Other grounds-----	4.1	2.5	1.1	0.4	⁷ 15.3	0.4	0.6
Not stated-----	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Table 21. Percent of divorces granted to wife: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected years 1870-1965

Area	1965	1960	1950	1939	1930	1916	1900	1890	1880	1870
United States---	^{1,2} 73.0	^{1,3} 71.3	^{2,3} 72.2	^{2,3} 72.7	72.3	68.9	66.6	65.3	65.0	65.4
	Percent									
<u>Region</u>										
Northeast-----	---	---	---	---	71.3	69.0	69.0	68.0	68.3	65.9
North Central-----	---	---	---	---	74.9	72.5	71.8	70.5	68.5	67.6
South-----	---	---	---	---	68.3	62.0	55.7	53.0	50.7	54.1
West-----	---	---	---	---	74.6	72.8	73.4	69.1	75.1	74.8
<u>Division</u>										
New England-----	---	---	---	---	74.2	72.3	71.8	69.1	72.1	68.9
Middle Atlantic-----	---	---	---	---	69.8	67.0	66.8	67.2	63.6	62.3
East North Central-----	---	---	---	---	74.6	72.6	73.3	72.2	69.5	69.0
West North Central-----	---	---	---	---	75.4	72.4	69.3	67.7	66.0	62.8
South Atlantic-----	---	---	---	---	66.4	61.9	53.8	50.1	47.6	53.6
East South Central-----	---	---	---	---	68.4	61.8	54.0	51.9	51.0	55.6
West South Central-----	---	---	---	---	69.1	62.1	57.9	54.6	52.4	50.7
Mountain-----	---	---	---	---	70.9	70.5	72.1	69.5	71.4	73.0
Pacific-----	---	---	---	---	76.4	74.0	74.2	70.0	77.3	75.6
<u>New England</u>										
Maine-----	---	---	74.9	---	73.8	73.5	74.0	70.8	72.5	68.3
New Hampshire-----	---	---	75.6	---	72.1	65.9	70.2	62.0	65.6	66.3
Vermont-----	---	---	71.2	---	73.6	75.7	69.0	72.2	63.0	70.1
Massachusetts-----	---	---	77.9	---	74.4	71.5	70.3	66.4	70.8	67.8
Rhode Island-----	80.3	---	---	---	79.7	82.3	77.3	77.1	78.1	79.7
Connecticut-----	---	---	76.1	---	72.2	70.2	69.1	71.3	79.5	65.5
<u>Middle Atlantic</u>										
New York-----	---	---	---	---	74.6	66.3	66.2	66.1	60.8	60.1
New Jersey-----	---	---	---	---	67.0	65.8	62.9	68.9	65.9	61.8
Pennsylvania-----	³ 68.2	65.1	---	---	67.9	67.7	68.0	67.6	65.8	65.0
<u>East North Central</u>										
Ohio-----	³ 74.3	---	---	---	74.7	71.6	73.2	73.0	69.9	72.7
Indiana-----	---	---	---	---	73.7	70.3	73.8	71.9	72.9	67.4
Illinois-----	---	---	---	---	76.8	75.6	73.2	72.0	67.9	68.4
Michigan-----	³ 75.1	---	75.1	72.2	70.8	69.9	73.4	72.2	68.0	67.9
Wisconsin-----	79.7	78.6	---	79.8	80.0	77.3	72.7	72.0	69.5	68.4
<u>West North Central</u>										
Minnesota-----	---	---	---	---	76.1	73.8	69.9	71.4	66.7	63.9
Iowa-----	³ 78.5	77.0	70.3	78.1	77.7	76.7	76.5	73.2	68.7	62.3
Missouri-----	³ 77.3	---	74.9	---	73.7	68.5	64.4	63.5	62.5	60.1
North Dakota-----	---	---	73.9	---	74.0	67.5	60.4	61.5	---	---
South Dakota-----	80.5	77.7	73.6	75.0	74.3	65.0	58.9	62.5	55.6	---
Nebraska-----	⁴ 78.4	⁴ 78.3	76.8	³ 78.9	77.1	79.8	72.2	68.9	69.2	(⁵)
Kansas-----	³ 77.8	³ 78.5	---	---	75.8	72.2	71.4	68.2	67.2	70.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 21. Percent of divorces granted to wife: United States, each region, division, and State or territory, selected years 1870-1965--Con.

Area	1965	1960	1950	1939	1930	1916	1900	1890	1880	1870
<u>South Atlantic</u>										
	Percent									
Delaware-----	---	---	67.5	66.4	63.5	61.0	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Maryland-----	60.0	67.0	---	71.1	68.8	64.3	65.5	59.1	50.0	64.3
District of Columbia--	---	---	---	---	66.7	(5)	70.0	75.0	78.8	(5)
Virginia-----	64.5	66.2	65.2	66.4	65.3	58.9	46.8	43.8	47.0	37.1
West Virginia-----	---	---	---	---	66.0	65.8	52.5	48.2	48.3	53.8
North Carolina-----	---	---	---	---	62.2	50.4	42.8	40.5	29.8	(5)
South Carolina-----	---	---	---	(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(5)
Georgia-----	³ 69.0	³ 65.9	---	---	68.4	68.1	59.2	51.5	48.6	60.2
Florida-----	---	---	67.0	³ 69.3	67.0	61.7	49.0	48.3	38.9	33.3
<u>East South Central</u>										
Kentucky-----	---	---	---	---	70.7	68.0	57.8	58.7	54.5	59.2
Tennessee-----	77.1	76.6	³ 76.2	---	73.3	69.3	67.8	62.1	61.0	61.6
Alabama-----	³ 73.1	³ 70.3	---	---	66.3	53.7	42.5	39.0	35.0	50.9
Mississippi-----	---	---	⁴ 61.3	64.2	59.2	50.7	39.6	43.1	41.7	25.9
<u>West South Central</u>										
Arkansas-----	---	---	---	---	61.9	55.7	51.7	52.1	51.3	42.5
Louisiana-----	---	---	---	---	67.3	59.2	51.8	44.0	56.9	(5)
Oklahoma-----	---	---	---	³ 75.8	74.1	67.8	⁷ 62.8	(5,7)	---	---
Texas-----	---	---	---	---	68.9	62.9	60.3	58.1	52.4	54.0
<u>Mountain</u>										
Montana-----	³ 74.2	³ 74.0	73.7	---	73.3	71.0	75.3	69.4	(5)	(5)
Idaho-----	³ 72.9	74.2	73.5	---	74.1	68.3	66.7	(5)	(5)	(5)
Wyoming-----	75.1	70.3	71.0	---	71.8	67.6	63.9	(5)	(5)	(5)
Colorado-----	---	---	---	---	74.5	74.6	72.7	67.6	65.2	(5)
New Mexico-----	---	---	---	---	66.6	63.5	63.4	59.7	(5)	(5)
Arizona-----	---	---	---	---	68.4	67.5	62.0	70.9	(5)	(5)
Utah-----	³ 82.5	82.3	---	---	79.8	81.0	85.0	79.6	73.9	80.5
Nevada-----	---	---	---	---	64.1	61.0	(5)	72.7	82.8	(5)
<u>Pacific</u>										
Washington-----	---	---	---	---	75.8	75.2	71.8	62.2	67.7	(5)
Oregon-----	70.1	76.7	76.3	---	72.0	71.6	67.9	71.5	77.6	71.9
California-----	---	---	---	---	77.4	74.2	78.0	72.7	78.2	76.8
Alaska-----	³ 62.6	64.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hawaii-----	³ 66.6	³ 69.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

¹Divorce-registration area.

²All reporting States.

³Decrees granted to both husband and wife and to other persons excluded from denominator.

⁴Percent of cases with wives as plaintiffs.

⁵Less than 50 decrees.

⁶No divorces granted in South Carolina.

⁷Including Indian Territory, where the 1900 percentage was 64.4; it was 61.5 in Oklahoma.

Table 22. Median and quartile duration of marriage prior to divorce, by party to whom decree granted: United States, selected years 1870-1965

Year and party to whom decree granted	First quartile	Median	Third quartile
<u>1965</u> ¹			
Duration of marriage in years			
Husband-----	3.2	7.8	15.4
Wife-----	3.2	7.4	14.5
<u>1960</u> ¹			
Husband-----	3.1	7.7	14.1
Wife-----	3.3	7.3	13.7
<u>1930</u>			
Husband-----	3.6	7.0	13.1
Wife-----	3.5	6.9	12.9
<u>1900</u>			
Husband-----	4.8	8.3	14.1
Wife-----	4.7	8.3	13.9
<u>1890</u>			
Husband-----	4.7	8.2	13.8
Wife-----	4.7	8.2	13.8
<u>1880</u>			
Husband-----	4.5	7.7	12.4
Wife-----	4.6	8.0	12.9
<u>1870</u>			
Husband-----	3.9	6.5	12.2
Wife-----	4.2	7.1	12.7

¹Divorce-registration area.

Table 23. Median age of brides and grooms: United States, each region, division, and State, selected years 1940-67

Area	1967		1960		1955		1950		1940	
	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom	Bride ¹	Groom ¹
United States--	² 22.1	² 24.0	22.0	24.4	³ 21.3	³ 24.4	² 22.7	² 25.0	² 23.2	² 26.1
Age in years										
<u>REGION</u>										
Northeast-----	22.6	24.2	22.6	24.6	---	---	---	---	} ² 23.5	² 26.4
North Central-----	22.0	23.9	21.8	24.1	---	---	---	---		
South-----	² 21.6	² 23.8	21.5	24.2	---	---	---	---	² 22.3	² 25.3
West-----	² 22.1	² 24.1	22.5	24.9	---	---	---	---	² 23.0	² 26.1
<u>DIVISION</u>										
<u>New England</u>										
Maine-----	21.3	23.5	20.9	23.8	21.3	24.0	21.9	24.4	22.6	25.3
New Hampshire-----	22.6	24.5	22.0	24.4	23.1	25.8	23.5	26.1	23.3	25.9
Vermont-----	21.5	23.6	21.0	24.0	21.9	24.3	22.1	24.6	22.9	25.7
Massachusetts-----	22.5	24.1	---	---	---	---	23.5	25.7	24.1	26.9
Rhode Island-----	22.6	23.9	22.4	24.7	---	---	---	---	23.9	26.5
Connecticut-----	23.0	24.6	23.1	25.9	23.7	26.5	24.0	26.8	23.9	26.7
<u>Middle Atlantic</u>										
New York-----	22.7	24.5	⁴ 22.1	⁴ 24.5	⁴ 22.4	⁴ 24.7	⁴ 22.9	⁴ 25.0	23.9	27.2
New Jersey-----	22.7	24.4	22.8	25.0	---	---	23.8	⁵ 26.4	23.8	26.9
Pennsylvania-----	22.3	23.8	22.4	24.3	---	---	---	---	23.4	25.8
<u>East North Central</u>										
Ohio-----	22.3	24.0	22.5	24.3	22.6	24.8	---	---	---	---
Indiana-----	21.6	23.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Illinois-----	22.6	24.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Michigan-----	21.6	23.6	21.6	24.1	22.0	24.4	22.4	24.5	22.8	25.5
Wisconsin-----	21.9	23.5	21.3	23.8	---	---	---	---	23.1	26.1
<u>West North Central</u>										
Minnesota-----	22.0	23.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Iowa-----	21.3	23.1	21.0	23.5	21.4	24.0	21.7	24.2	22.7	25.1
Missouri-----	22.0	24.0	---	---	⁵ 22.6	⁵ 25.1	23.0	25.5	---	---
North Dakota-----	21.4	23.4	---	---	---	---	20.9	24.2	---	---
South Dakota-----	22.1	24.2	20.8	23.9	21.3	24.3	21.7	24.5	22.7	25.8
Nebraska-----	22.1	23.9	20.9	23.6	---	---	21.6	24.3	22.9	25.3
Kansas-----	21.2	23.3	20.3	23.5	21.1	23.9	21.6	24.2	---	---

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 23. Median age of brides and grooms: United States, each region, division, and State, selected years 1940-67—Con.

Area	1967		1960		1955		1950		1940	
	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom	Bride ¹	Groom ¹
<u>South Atlantic</u>										
Age in years										
Delaware-----	22.0	23.7	21.9	24.2	22.5	24.7	23.3	25.8	23.1	25.7
Maryland-----	22.2	24.4	21.7	24.5	22.5	25.1	---	---	22.9	25.7
District of Columbia-----	23.2	25.3	---	---	---	---	---	---	24.3	27.3
Virginia-----	22.1	24.1	22.2	24.3	22.4	24.6	22.7	24.7	22.6	25.0
West Virginia-----	21.0	23.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	22.5	24.7
North Carolina-----	20.7	22.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
South Carolina-----	20.7	23.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Georgia-----	22.3	24.2	21.4	24.0	21.0	24.2	---	---	---	---
Florida-----	23.0	24.9	22.9	25.6	23.8	27.0	23.8	26.9	23.7	27.3
<u>East South Central</u>										
Kentucky-----	21.1	23.4	21.2	23.9	---	---	---	---	---	---
Tennessee-----	21.4	23.6	20.9	23.7	21.7	24.1	22.0	24.4	---	---
Alabama-----	20.4	23.3	20.6	23.9	20.9	24.0	21.0	24.3	21.4	24.7
Mississippi-----	21.4	23.8	20.9	24.0	20.5	24.1	21.2	24.6	21.6	25.0
<u>West South Central</u>										
Arkansas-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	21.4	25.0
Louisiana-----	21.3	23.5	20.9	23.8	⁶ 21.3	⁶ 24.2	^{5,6} 21.9	^{5,6} 24.7	---	---
Oklahoma-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	20.9	24.5
Texas-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<u>Mountain</u>										
Montana-----	21.5	23.7	21.5	24.8	21.8	25.0	21.7	25.5	---	---
Idaho-----	22.1	24.3	19.8	23.6	20.6	24.0	21.5	24.6	21.2	24.7
Wyoming-----	22.9	24.8	22.3	24.8	22.4	25.3	22.8	25.2	---	---
Colorado-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
New Mexico-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Arizona-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Utah-----	21.0	22.9	19.8	23.0	20.0	23.3	---	---	21.9	24.4
Nevada-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<u>Pacific</u>										
Washington-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Oregon-----	21.6	23.6	20.7	23.8	21.4	24.3	21.9	24.6	22.8	26.2
California-----	22.2	24.2	21.8	24.3	---	---	23.3	25.7	23.4	26.5
Alaska-----	23.0	25.8	23.1	26.6	⁷ 23.4	⁷ 26.0	⁷ 25.2	⁷ 27.9	---	---
Hawaii-----	22.8	24.5	22.9	29.6	⁷ 23.5	⁷ 25.9	---	---	---	---

¹Only brides and grooms resident in State where married.

²All reporting States.

³Total of 28 States—24 States for which medians are shown and four other States for which separate information is not available: Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, and West Virginia.

⁴Excluding New York City.

⁵Incomplete

⁶Excluding New Orleans.

⁷Not included in total.

Table 24. Median age of brides and grooms for all marriages, first marriages, and re-marriages: 22 States, 1954-67

Year	Bride			Groom		
	All marriages	First marriages	Re-marriages	All marriages	First marriages	Re-marriages
	Age in years					
1967-----	22.0	20.7	34.7	24.0	22.9	39.0
1966-----	21.9	20.4	35.1	24.0	22.8	39.3
1965-----	21.8	20.5	35.2	24.0	22.9	39.5
1964-----	21.7	20.2	35.1	23.9	22.8	39.3
1963-----	21.7	20.2	34.8	23.9	22.9	39.3
1962-----	21.6	19.9	34.9	24.0	22.9	39.2
1961-----	21.3	19.8	35.4	23.9	22.9	39.5
1960-----	21.5	19.9	35.9	24.1	23.0	40.1
1959-----	21.6	19.9	35.1	24.2	23.1	39.4
1958-----	21.6	20.0	35.2	24.2	23.1	39.7
1957-----	21.8	20.2	35.2	24.3	23.3	39.6
1956-----	21.9	20.3	34.8	24.4	23.3	39.3
1955-----	22.0	20.5	34.4	24.5	23.4	39.0
1954-----	22.1	20.6	34.5	24.6	23.5	39.4

NOTE: The following 22 States are included: Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming. Before 1965, New York did not include New York City.

APPENDIX I

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APPENDIX II

SOURCES AND METHODS

Sources

All data shown in the present report are based on frequencies previously published in marriage and divorce reports of the Federal Government, more specifically, in the series *Marriage and Divorce* for 1867-86, 1887-1906, 1916, and 1922 through 1932, in the series *Vital Statistics—Special Reports*, Volume 17, Number 23, and Volume 23, Number 9, and in the annual report *Vital Statistics of the United States*, Volumes I and II for 1950, Volume I for 1952 and 1955, and Volume III for 1960, 1965, and 1967. Some additional information for 1960 and 1967 on duration of marriage prior to divorce and number of children involved was taken from publications of the following States: Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, and Vermont. This information is shown only in tables 13 and 19, where it is footnoted.

National Totals and Rates

All annual marriage and divorce totals for the United States are rounded to the nearest 1,000 in order to avoid a spurious impression of absolute accuracy. In the sources totals for some years are rounded, for other years not. National totals and rates for 1950 and subsequent years were taken from *Vital Statistics of the United States*. Many totals and rates for the years preceding 1950 were revised in 1950; these are published in *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1950*, Volume I, tables 5.01 and 5.08. The revised figures have been used in all publications for later years. As the method used for the 1950 revision is unknown, the national totals may differ slightly from the sum of regional totals prepared for the present report.

Area Totals

Reporting of marriages and divorces was incomplete in many States, particularly for marriages during the 1867-86 period. Completeness of reporting was estimated on the assumption that the rate in nonreporting counties of a region, division, State, or territory was identical with that for the reporting counties combined. Hence the completeness of reporting was assumed to be equal to the proportion of the State population living in the reporting counties. This proportion could be computed only for years for which populations of counties

were available, namely for census years; 1920 figures were used for the computation of the completeness for 1916, and 1960 data for 1967. County totals of marriages and divorces were not published for 1940; for that year and for 1950 estimates for nonreporting areas had been prepared when data were originally published. Percentages of completeness were computed for the years 1967, 1960, 1930, 1916, 1900, 1890, 1880, and 1870. A summary of this information is given in tables I and II.

Divisional and State totals were estimated when the nonreporting counties combined comprised less than 90 but more than 50 percent of the population, and regional totals represent the sum of the appropriate divisional totals. State totals, though not published, were used to compute marriage rates per 1,000 unmarried population and divorce rates per 1,000 married population, as described below. Regional and divisional totals for marriage and divorce are shown in tables 5 and 6, respectively. Estimates were prepared on the assumption that the crude rate for the nonreporting counties was identical with that for the reporting counties. Hence in order to estimate a divisional or State total the crude rate for the reporting counties combined was applied to the total population of an area.

Area Rates

Two types of rates are shown: crude marriage and divorce rates (computed per 1,000 total population) and rates per 1,000 persons subject to the "risk" of marriage or divorce, the unmarried and the married, respectively. The unmarried represent the total of single, widowed, and divorced men or women 15 years old and older. Population bases for computing the rates were enumerated or estimated by the Bureau of the Census as of April 1 for 1940, 1950, and 1960 and as of July 1 for other years. The Armed Forces stationed outside the United States during the two World Wars (1917-19 and 1941-46) were excluded from the population used to compute marriage rates but included with that for divorce rates. Armed Forces abroad were excluded for all other years. Population by marital status was tabulated for census years beginning with 1890. Originally, the term "conjugal conditions" was used to denote marital status. As information on marital status was collected for the first time in the 1890 census, rates based on the unmarried or married population could not be computed for 1870 and 1880.

Table I. Percent completeness of reporting marriage and divorce totals: United States and each region, selected years 1870-1967

[Percentages represent the proportion of the population living in reporting counties. As data by county are not available for 1940, completeness for that year could not be computed]

Area	1967	1960	1950	1930	1916	1900	1890	1880	1870
	Marriage								
United States-----	99.9	99.9	98.7	100.0	96.7	96.9	95.3	64.7	49.9
<u>Region</u>									
Northeast-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	96.2	31.0	26.2
North Central-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.8	99.6	89.0	75.2
South-----	100.0	99.7	95.7	100.0	90.7	92.0	91.7	79.7	45.6
West-----	99.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.7	91.7	88.9	72.9	66.0
	Divorce								
United States-----	98.8	99.3	96.9	99.7	98.3	99.3	98.8	98.4	96.5
<u>Region</u>									
Northeast-----	100.0	100.0	99.1	99.9	99.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
North Central-----	99.9	100.0	96.9	99.7	99.9	99.8	99.7	97.7	94.4
South-----	97.0	97.8	93.7	99.4	95.3	99.5	98.0	97.7	95.2
West-----	98.4	99.7	99.9	99.7	99.1	91.5	90.2	99.8	98.2

Table II. Percent completeness of reporting marriage and divorce totals, by number of States reporting: selected years 1870-1967

[Percentages represent the proportion of the State population living in reporting counties. Areas without county organization, the District of Columbia, and, for 1890 and 1900, Indian Territory, are excluded. As data by county are not available for 1940, completeness for that year could not be computed]

Percent completeness	1967	1960	1950	1930	1916	1900	1890	1880	1870
	Number of States reporting marriages								
All areas-----	50	50	48	48	48	48	48	46	46
100.0-----	49	46	39	48	28	30	25	10	6
90.0-99.9-----	-	4	7	-	17	15	19	6	4
80.0-89.9-----	1	-	1	-	3	1	1	3	4
70.0-79.9-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	4
60.0-69.9-----	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3
50.0-59.9-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
40.0-49.9-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
30.0-39.9-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
20.0-29.9-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
10.0-19.9-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
0.1-9.9-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
No reports-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	11
	Number of States reporting divorces								
All areas-----	50	50	48	48	48	48	48	46	46
100.0-----	43	43	37	27	25	32	27	23	20
90.0-99.9-----	5	4	7	20	21	14	18	22	21
80.0-89.9-----	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	4
70.0-79.9-----	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1
60.0-69.9-----	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
50.0-59.9-----	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
40.0-49.9-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30.0-39.9-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.0-29.9-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.0-19.9-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0.1-9.9-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No reports-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No divorces granted-----	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-

In view of the incompleteness in reporting of marriage and divorce totals, certain rules were adopted in dealing with rates for totals that were less than 100 percent complete:

When the nonreporting counties combined comprised 2 percent or less of the population of the area for which a rate was being computed (State or territory, division, or region), no adjustments were made and the rate was not footnoted.

When the nonreporting counties comprised from 2.1 to 10.0 percent of the area population, no adjustments were made but the computed rate was footnoted "incomplete."

When the nonreporting counties comprised from 10.1 to 50.0 percent of the area's total population, the population of the reporting areas was used to compute the rate, which was footnoted "excluding nonreporting areas." As county data by marital status were not available, nonreporting areas could not be excluded from the married and the unmarried population and estimated State totals were used. Rates computed by using estimated totals of events were footnoted "estimated."

Many State totals for 1940 and 1950 and some totals for other years include estimates for nonreporting areas. Rates based on such totals were footnoted "estimated."

When the nonreporting areas combined comprised from 50.1 to 89.9 of the area population, rates were not computed and an asterisk was used to denote that data do not meet the standards of accuracy and precision.

When the nonreporting areas comprised 90 percent or more of the population or a State did not report at all, three dashes indicate data were not available. No divorces were granted in South Carolina in the years 1879-1948; hence there could be no divorce rates for that State and three dots were used to denote this. It must be pointed out that the same rules were used for both States and divisions. While a given group of nonreporting counties may represent a high proportion of the population of their State, it may represent only a small proportion of the division, and the footnotes vary accordingly. In cases where an estimated divisional total was included in a regional total, the latter was also footnoted "estimated."

Rates for 1916 used in this report were taken from the 1922 publication. They differ from those in the 1916 publication, as population estimates based on the 1920

census were used. These estimates are not shown, and estimates for computing regional rates (not included in the 1916 or 1922 reports) were obtained by dividing the number of events in divisions by their rates and adding the appropriate quotients.

Changing Areas

Several changes occurred in the political organization of the United States during the 1867-1967 period, and these changes are reflected in the statistics.

Prior to 1889 the present States of North Dakota and South Dakota constituted the Dakota Territory.

Oklahoma was organized from a part of Indian Territory, and later the remainder of that Indian Territory was annexed to Oklahoma. For the years 1890-1906 the sources give separate statistics for the two areas. In this publication tables showing time trends give data for the two areas combined, with separate figures for each of these two areas given in footnotes.

Data for Alaska and Hawaii have been included with the United States statistics since 1959 and 1960, respectively. Data for earlier years, when available, were not included in the national, regional, or divisional totals.

Selected Years

State data are shown in the tables for only a few selected years. These include census years for which marriage and divorce data are available (1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1930, 1940, 1950, and 1960), 1916, when a special data collection was conducted, and 1967, the last year of the period. Not all data are available for each of the selected years (e.g., information on duration of marriage and number of children was lacking for 1916 and legal variables were not tabulated for 1967). In such cases, data for another year were used whenever possible. In some cases 1906 or 1922 data were used instead of those for 1916, 1952 for 1950, and 1965 instead of 1967.

Legal Grounds

Divorce decrees that were granted on two or more legal grounds were assigned to the ground considered the most specific. Some of the grounds were combined as in table 20. Legal grounds or combinations of grounds listed by order of preference in assigning them are (1) adultery, (2) bigamy or fraud, (3) conviction of crime, (4) drunkenness, (5) desertion or abandonment, (6) neglect to provide or nonsupport, (7) cruelty, (8) indignities, (9) incompatibility, (10) separation or absence, and (11) all other grounds.

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