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VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

Advance Report

Final Marriage Statistics, 1975

FROM THE

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

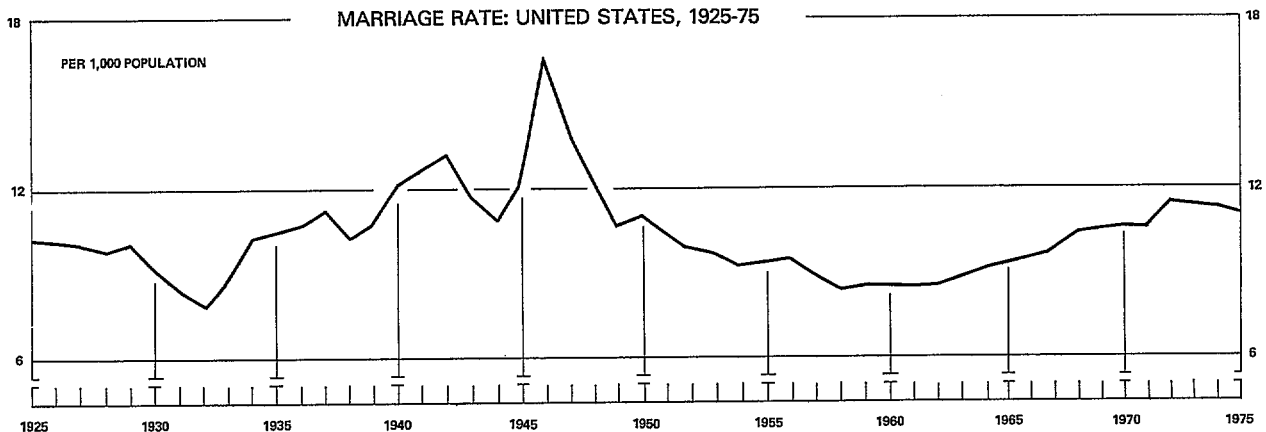
The number of marriages performed in the United States in 1975 declined for the second consecutive year, after increasing every year from 1958 to 1973. There were 2,152,662 marriages, representing a decrease of 77,000, or 3.5 percent, from the total for 1974. This decline in marriages between 1974 and 1975 was accompanied by an increase of about 1.2 million in the number of unmarried women 14 years of age and over in the U.S. population. According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, more than half of this increase in the unmarried population occurred in the age group 18-34 years, the group that accounts for almost 80 percent of all marriages for women.

The marriage rate in 1975 was 10.1 per 1,000 population, having declined nearly 4 percent from the rate of 10.5 in 1974. In 1975 the rate declined for the third consecutive year, from a peak of 11.0 per 1,000 in 1972, the highest marriage rate since 1950. Provisional data for 1976 indicate a further decline, to 9.9 per 1,000

population. The decline in the number of marriages and in the marriage rate occurred in every region and geographic division and in most States.

Because the number of unmarried women 15 years of age and over in the population grew faster than the total population between 1974 and 1975, the marriage rate per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 years and over decreased even more than the crude marriage rate. This more specific rate declined 7 percent, from 72.0 per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 years and over in 1974 to 66.9 in 1975. This rate indicates that less than 7 percent of all eligible American women married in 1975 compared with a little over 7 percent that married in 1974.

Based on sample data from the marriage-registration area, comprised of 41 States and the District of Columbia, the median age at first marriage increased in 1975 to 20.8 years for brides and 22.7 for grooms, after remaining relatively constant from the midsixties to 1974. In



contrast, the median age at remarriage both of bride and of groom continued the downward trend of the past decade. For brides, the median age at remarriage was 32.0 years, 3.5 years younger than a decade ago. For grooms, the median age at remarriage was 35.5 years, 4.1 years younger than 10 years ago.

The proportion of marriages that are first marriages has continued to decline slightly every year since 1968 when 77 percent of the brides and grooms were previously single. By 1975 the proportion had declined to 70 percent for brides and to 69 percent for grooms.

The younger age groups of men and women experienced sizable decreases in marriage rates

between 1974 and 1975. In particular, for the age groups 14-17, 18-19, and 20-24, the average decline in the rate of first marriage was 13 percent for women and 16 percent for men. In almost every age and marital status group, the rates for women peaked in either 1972 or 1973 and declined after that. First marriage rates for men showed the same pattern.

The statistics for the marriage-registration area presented in this report are based on sample data and consequently are subject to sampling variability as well as other sources of error. Further discussion of sampling variability appears in the Technical Notes.

SYMBOLS

Data not available-----	---
Category not applicable-----	...
Quantity zero-----	
Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05----	0.0
Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision-----	*

Table 1. MEDIAN AGES OF BRIDE AND GROOM BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS, 1963-75

Year	Median age of bride			Median age of groom		
	Total	First marriage	Remarriage	Total	First marriage	Remarriage
1975	22.4	20.8	32.0	24.7	22.7	35.5
1974	22.0	20.6	32.1	24.2	22.5	35.7
1973	21.9	20.6	32.3	24.1	22.5	36.3
1972	21.7	20.5	32.8	23.8	22.4	36.5
1971	21.7	20.5	32.9	23.7	22.5	36.9
1970	21.7	20.6	33.3	23.6	22.5	37.5
1969	21.6	20.6	33.8	23.5	22.4	38.2
1968	21.5	20.6	33.8	23.6	22.4	38.3
1967	21.4	20.5	35.0	23.8	22.6	39.1
1966	21.5	20.3	35.2	23.8	22.6	39.2
1965	21.4	20.4	35.5	23.6	22.5	39.6
1964	21.4	20.4	35.6	23.6	22.4	39.7
1963	21.3	20.3	35.6	23.7	22.5	39.8

Table 2. MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES: UNITED STATES, 1958-75

[Data refer only to events occurring within the United States. Alaska included beginning 1959 and Hawaii beginning 1960]

Year	Marriages	Rate per 1,000 ¹ —		
		Total population	Unmarried women 15 years and over	Unmarried women 15-44 years
1975	2,152,662	10.1	66.9	118.5
1974	2,229,667	10.5	72.0	128.4
1973	2,284,108	10.9	76.0	137.3
1972	2,282,154	11.0	77.9	141.3
1971	2,190,481	10.6	76.2	138.9
1970	2,158,802	10.6	76.5	140.2
1969	2,145,000	10.6	80.0	149.1
1968	2,069,000	10.4	79.1	147.2
1967	1,927,000	9.7	76.4	145.2
1966	1,857,000	9.5	75.6	145.1
1965	1,800,000	9.3	75.0	144.3
1964	1,725,000	9.0	74.6	146.2
1963	1,654,000	8.8	73.4	143.3
1962	1,577,000	8.5	71.2	138.4
1961	1,548,000	8.5	72.2	145.4
1960	1,523,000	8.5	73.5	148.0
1959	1,494,000	8.5	73.6	149.8
1958	1,451,000	8.4	72.0	146.3

¹Data are based on population enumerated as of April 1 for 1960 and 1970 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years.

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Table 3. MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES: UNITED STATES, EACH REGION, DIVISION, AND STATE, 1973-75

[By place of occurrence. Data are counts of marriages performed except as noted. Rates per 1,000 population in each area, estimated as of July 1]

Region, division, and State	Number			Rate			Region, division, and State	Number			Rate		
	1975	1974	1973	1975	1974	1973		1975	1974	1973	1975	1974	1973
United States.....	2,152,662	2,229,667	2,284,108	10.1	10.5	10.9	West North Central:						
Northeast.....	384,186	402,521	422,885	7.8	8.1	8.5	Minnesota.....	32,261	33,547	32,971	8.2	8.6	8.5
North Central.....	549,356	574,059	581,544	9.5	10.0	10.1	Iowa.....	25,616	27,209	27,544	8.9	9.5	9.5
South.....	776,727	803,369	823,947	11.4	12.0	12.5	Missouri.....	50,147	51,434	51,990	10.5	10.8	10.9
West.....	442,393	449,718	455,732	11.7	12.1	12.5	North Dakota.....	5,993	5,905	5,875	9.4	9.3	9.2
							South Dakota.....	11,074	11,928	12,291	16.2	17.5	17.9
							Nebraska.....	13,087	13,873	13,957	8.5	9.0	9.1
							Kansas.....	23,767	24,491	24,592	10.5	10.8	10.8
							South Atlantic:						
Northeast:							Delaware.....	3,944	4,143	4,298	6.8	7.2	7.5
New England.....	96,761	101,397	106,426	7.9	8.3	8.8	Maryland.....	44,776	47,013	48,168	10.9	11.5	11.8
Middle Atlantic.....	287,425	301,124	316,459	7.7	8.1	8.4	District of Columbia...	4,911	5,271	5,661	6.9	7.3	7.6
North Central:							Virginia.....	54,688	56,617	58,431	11.0	11.5	12.1
East North Central.....	387,411	405,672	412,324	9.5	9.9	10.1	West Virginia.....	17,041	17,409	18,199	9.5	9.7	10.1
West North Central....	161,945	168,387	169,220	9.7	10.1	10.1	North Carolina.....	42,310	45,015	46,951	7.8	8.4	8.9
South:							South Carolina.....	50,249	52,996	56,876	17.8	19.0	20.9
South Atlantic.....	366,591	385,457	398,544	10.9	11.6	12.3	Georgia.....	63,245	66,656	70,373	12.8	13.7	14.7
East South Central....	155,226	161,830	167,174	11.5	12.1	12.6	Florida.....	85,427	90,337	89,587	10.2	11.2	11.7
West South Central....	254,910	256,082	258,229	12.2	12.4	12.7	East South Central:						
West:							Kentucky.....	32,068	32,800	34,379	9.4	9.8	10.3
Mountain.....	212,045	213,654	211,738	22.0	22.7	23.1	Tennessee.....	51,530	54,606	56,285	12.3	13.2	13.6
Pacific.....	230,348	236,064	243,994	8.2	8.5	8.9	Alabama.....	45,349	46,811	47,997	12.5	13.1	13.6
							Mississippi.....	26,279	27,613	28,513	11.2	11.9	12.5
							West South Central:						
New England:							Arkansas.....	24,337	24,735	25,202	11.5	12.0	12.4
Maine.....	11,190	11,546	11,925	10.6	11.0	11.6	Louisiana.....	37,309	38,185	39,498	9.8	10.1	10.5
New Hampshire.....	8,831	9,239	9,557	10.8	11.4	12.1	Oklahoma.....	40,110	40,160	41,367	14.8	14.8	15.5
Vermont.....	4,553	4,652	5,072	9.7	9.9	10.9	Texas.....	153,154	153,002	152,162	12.5	12.7	12.9
Massachusetts.....	42,103	44,243	46,640	7.2	7.6	8.0	Mountain:						
Rhode Island.....	6,695	7,255	7,715	7.2	7.7	7.9	Montana.....	7,331	7,741	7,751	9.8	10.5	10.8
Connecticut.....	23,389	24,462	25,517	7.6	7.9	8.3	Idaho.....	12,688	12,489	12,236	15.5	15.6	15.9
Middle Atlantic:							Wyoming.....	5,649	6,048	5,506	15.1	16.8	15.6
New York.....	142,752	148,012	155,660	7.9	8.2	8.5	Colorado.....	27,565	25,999	27,991	10.9	10.4	11.5
New Jersey.....	53,008	56,449	59,723	7.2	7.7	8.1	New Mexico.....	15,790	15,886	15,178	13.8	14.2	13.7
Pennsylvania.....	91,665	96,663	101,076	7.8	8.2	8.5	Arizona.....	26,558	27,038	26,180	11.9	12.6	12.7
East North Central:							Utah.....	14,905	15,166	14,818	12.4	12.9	12.8
Ohio.....	101,135	102,458	99,524	9.4	9.5	9.3	Nevada.....	101,559	103,287	102,078	171.6	180.3	186.3
Indiana.....	56,075	60,524	58,428	10.6	11.4	11.0	Pacific:						
Illinois.....	111,459	116,419	119,843	10.0	10.5	10.7	Washington.....	41,807	41,577	41,365	11.8	12.0	12.1
Michigan.....	82,856	88,023	94,486	9.0	9.7	10.4	Oregon.....	19,322	20,002	19,661	8.4	8.8	8.8
Wisconsin.....	35,886	38,248	40,043	7.8	8.4	8.8	California.....	154,812	160,887	169,320	7.3	7.7	8.2
							Alaska.....	4,734	3,949	3,872	13.4	11.7	11.7
							Hawaii.....	9,673	9,649	9,776	11.2	11.4	11.8

¹Data are incomplete.²Includes marriage licenses issued for some counties.

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**Table 4. MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES BY AGE AND PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF WOMEN AND MEN:
MARRIAGE-REGISTRATION AREA,¹ 1974-75**

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data. Rates per 1,000 population in specified group, estimated as of July 1 of each year. Figures for age not stated are distributed]

Age and previous marital status	Women				Men			
	Number		Rate ²		Number		Rate ²	
	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974
ALL MARRIAGES								
Total.....	1,718,641	1,791,452	56.9	61.0	1,718,641	1,791,452	68.8	73.8
14-17 years.....	156,999	180,872	22.3	25.9	26,073	31,468	3.5	4.2
18-19 years.....	344,006	382,891	119.6	138.9	196,941	222,097	58.5	67.9
20-24 years.....	620,230	645,709	157.5	174.6	667,434	727,704	129.6	150.9
25-44 years.....	478,013	460,300	113.5	116.7	657,129	638,182	146.3	148.4
25-29 years.....	247,719	236,619	152.7	158.9	348,971	342,599	168.1	176.1
30-34 years.....	114,370	107,918	114.1	117.8	155,645	148,775	145.6	154.0
35-44 years.....	115,924	115,763	73.0	75.2	152,513	146,808	113.4	105.5
45-64 years.....	102,389	105,665	20.6	21.4	139,014	139,713	52.7	54.3
65 years and over.....	17,004	16,115	2.4	2.3	32,050	32,288	16.8	17.2
FIRST MARRIAGES								
Total.....	1,190,562	1,271,284	68.1	74.8	1,169,029	1,252,770	56.0	61.8
14-17 years.....	152,757	176,169	21.7	25.2	25,601	30,882	3.4	4.2
18-19 years.....	328,460	364,704	115.0	133.5	193,042	217,675	57.4	66.6
20-24 years.....	524,501	546,290	143.8	159.5	610,682	665,245	121.7	141.8
25-44 years.....	174,219	173,463	81.7	85.7	321,926	321,605	96.7	100.4
25-29 years.....	126,243	123,286	114.6	122.3	232,833	231,731	132.3	141.0
30-34 years.....	30,950	30,834	62.4	66.2	58,561	57,317	78.2	83.3
35-44 years.....	17,026	19,343	31.8	35.0	30,532	32,557	37.2	37.4
45-64 years.....	9,667	10,020	9.2	9.6	16,305	15,783	13.0	12.6
65 years and over.....	958	638	1.2	0.8	1,473	1,580	3.0	3.5
REMARRIAGES								
Total.....	509,643	493,841	40.1	40.0	532,998	514,163	128.8	129.1
14-19 years.....	13,356	13,564	*	*	1,830	1,722	*	*
20-24 years.....	87,727	87,068	³ 319.9	³ 332.1	48,687	48,937	³ 371.4	³ 367.1
25-44 years.....	300,393	282,780	144.5	147.3	329,808	309,765	284.1	281.9
25-29 years.....	119,266	110,601	229.9	230.4	112,639	106,359	356.5	355.7
30-34 years.....	82,842	76,363	163.7	169.7	96,045	90,094	300.1	324.1
35-44 years.....	98,285	95,816	93.5	97.0	121,124	113,312	231.2	217.5
45-64 years.....	92,186	95,023	23.5	24.4	122,206	123,096	88.0	93.3
65 years and over.....	15,981	15,406	2.5	2.5	30,467	30,643	21.5	21.4
Previously widowed ⁴	67,906	73,530	8.3	9.1	62,343	62,890	40.4	38.9
14-24 years.....	2,554	2,661	*	*	494	694	*	*
25-44 years.....	18,687	20,087	⁵ 61.7	⁵ 61.8	9,730	9,240	⁵ 173.3	⁵ 136.1
45-64 years.....	35,200	39,245	14.9	16.3	31,779	32,150	71.4	69.6
65 years and over.....	11,465	11,537	2.1	2.2	20,340	20,806	19.5	19.2
Previously divorced ⁴	365,237	348,007	117.2	121.7	391,453	376,026	189.8	198.7
14-19 years.....	10,711	11,134	*	*	1,530	1,397	*	*
20-24 years.....	71,425	71,601	³ 319.6	³ 336.3	39,341	40,306	³ 368.2	³ 365.8
25-44 years.....	236,641	221,953	158.6	166.0	270,692	255,301	278.2	286.9
45-64 years.....	43,998	41,566	40.1	41.0	73,855	73,238	94.0	101.6
65 years and over.....	2,462	1,753	9.1	6.7	6,035	5,784	31.4	34.6
Not stated if widowed or divorced ⁶	76,500	72,304	...	...	79,202	75,247	...	...
NOT STATED IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED ⁷	18,436	26,327	...	...	16,614	24,519	...	...

¹In 1974 and 1975 the MRA consisted of the District of Columbia and all the States in the Union except 9; Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington. It covered around 80 percent of the marriages registered in the United States. Sampling errors of estimates for the MRA appear in the Technical Notes.

²Base populations exclude persons under 14 years of age. Rates for all marriages are based on the unmarried population; for first marriages, on the never-married population; and for remarriages, on the widowed and divorced populations.

³Rates are shown for ages 14-24 years.

⁴Data exclude remarriages in Michigan, Ohio, and South Carolina.

⁵Rates are shown for ages 14-44 years.

⁶Data include all remarriages in Michigan, Ohio, and South Carolina.

⁷Figures are included in all marriages.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Place and Time of Occurrence

Marriages are those performed during the year. Marriages and marriage rates for States and other areas are by place of occurrence. In table 3, however, figures for marriages shown for some States are by place and date the marriage license was issued.

Sources of Data

Figures in tables 2 and 3 are based on totals reported by States and counties. All other figures in the tables are based on data tabulated from State-coded data tapes and from probability samples of records selected and coded in the National Center for Health Statistics from copies of the records sent in by States participating in the marriage-registration area (MRA). For 1973, 1974, and 1975, 41 States and the District of Columbia participated.

Marriage Sample

Nine States—Florida, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Vermont—supplied State-coded data tapes of all their marriage records through the Cooperative Health Statistics System, and 100 percent of these records were used by NCHS. For all other States in the MRA, records were sampled at different rates designed to give a sample of at least 2,500 for each State. For two States—Alaska and Delaware—where totals of less than 5,000 marriages had been anticipated, all records were included in the sample. One-half of all records were included from 3 States and the District of Columbia, one-fifth from 6 States, one-tenth from 9 States, and one-twentieth from 12 States. The total sample size, including records supplied through the Cooperative Health Statistics System, was 489,980 marriages. Sampling errors shown in the following table are for frequencies which equal a spec-

ified percent of the total MRA marriages for either 1974 or 1975.

Sampling Errors

All statistics for the MRA are estimates based on the systematic sample of marriages described above; therefore, these statistics are subject to sampling errors. A sampling error is a measure of variations that occur by chance between sample estimates and the actual quantity being estimated. Chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate would differ from the true value by less than the sampling error, and about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the sampling error.

APPROXIMATE SAMPLING ERRORS OF ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF MARRIAGES SHOWN IN TABLE 4: MARRIAGE-REGISTRATION AREA, 1974-75

Percent of total MRA marriages in subclass	1975 sampling error	1974 sampling error
1 or 99	448	458
2 or 98	631	645
3 or 97	768	786
4 or 96	883	903
5 or 95	982	1,004
7 or 93	1,149	1,175
10 or 90	1,351	1,382
15 or 85	1,608	1,645
20 or 80	1,802	1,843
25 or 75	1,950	1,995
50	2,252	2,303

How to use the Sampling Error table

Total numbers of MRA marriages in 1974 and 1975 were 1,791,452 and 1,718,641, respectively. For any estimate of marriage shown in table 4, determine its ratio to total MRA marriages for the corresponding year. Then look in the appropriate row on the table for the percentage figures closest to the estimate to determine the sampling error for that year. For example, in 1975 there were an estimated 365,237 marriages to women who had been previously divorced, or 21.3 percent of all 1975 MRA marriages. Since 21.3 percent is between 20 and 25 percent, the 1975 sampling error is between 1,802 and 1,950, or by interpolation, about 1,840 marriages. Chances are about 68 out of 100 that the actual number of 1975 marriages to divorcees is between 363,397 and 367,077 (365,237 \pm 1,840).

This report represents summary tabulations from the final marriage statistics for 1975. More detailed tabulations for 1975 will be published in *Vital Statistics of the United States, Volume III—Marriage and Divorce*. Prior to the publication of that volume, the National Center for Health Statistics will respond to requests for unpublished data whenever possible.