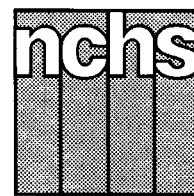


# Monthly Vital Statistics Report



Final Data From the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION/National Center for Health Statistics

## Advance Report of Final Divorce Statistics, 1989 and 1990

by Sally C. Clarke, Division of Vital Statistics

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### Divorces and divorce rates

The number of divorcing couples in the United States was 1,182,000 in 1990, the highest number since 1985 (1,190,000) but 3 percent lower than the peak number in 1981 (1,213,000) (table 1). The divorce rate per 1,000 population in 1990 was 4.7, the same as in 1989, but 11 percent lower than the peak rate of 5.3 in 1979 and 1981. Provisional data indicate that the rate remained steady at 4.7 in 1991 but

increased slightly to 4.8 in 1992 before dropping to 4.6 in 1993 (1,2). For women at risk of divorce (married women 15 years of age and over), the divorce rate increased slightly in 1990 to 20.9 per 1,000 population after declining steadily for 4 years. This rate can be used as an estimate of the divorce rate per 1,000 married couples. Thus, approximately 2 percent of married couples in the United States divorced in 1990.

Table 2 shows the number and rate of divorces by region, division, and State for 1990, 1989, and 1980. Compared with 1989, the number of divorces in 1990 was higher in every region except the Northeast, where it declined slightly. Within the Northeast, all New England States (with the exception of Rhode Island) had lower numbers of divorces in 1990 than in 1989. When divorce rates by region between 1989 and 1990 were compared, the rate declined in the Northeast, increased in the Midwest and South, and was unchanged in the West. The 1990 rate was highest in the South (5.5)

and lowest in the Northeast (3.3), a disparity that has been persistent but narrowing over time.

Compared with 1980, the number of divorces in 1990 was lower in every region except the South. The number declined 3 percent in the Northeast, 6 percent in the Midwest, and 2 percent in the West. Divorces in the South in 1990 (470,000) numbered 5 percent higher than in 1980 (449,000). Despite the increase in the number for the South, divorce rates were lower for all regions in 1990 than in 1980 with the greatest decline occurring in the West—from 6.3 to 5.1, a 19-percent decline.

Divorce rates for 1990 by State ranged from 2.7 in Massachusetts to 10.8 in Nevada. Compared with 1989, divorce rates for 1990 declined for 14 States and the District of Columbia, increased for 26 States, and stayed the same for 9 States. When divorce rates for 1990 were compared with rates for 1980, only eight States had higher rates in 1990 than in 1980. Of these States, six were in the

### Acknowledgments

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South (Arkansas, Delaware, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia). The remaining two States with higher rates in 1990 than in 1980 (Pennsylvania and North Dakota) had very low rates in both years. A comparison between rates for 1980 and 1990 showed declines of more than 20 percent for Alaska, California, the District of Columbia, Maine, Nevada, New Hampshire, and New Mexico. The rates for Nebraska, Hawaii, Tennessee, and Virginia were the same for both years. Rates were not computed for Louisiana in 1989 and 1990 because the reported numbers were incomplete.

The numbers and rates of divorce discussed above are from counts of divorces from every State and the District of Columbia. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) collects these counts as well as the statistical information from the divorce certificates of the 31 States and the District of Columbia that comprise the divorce-registration area (DRA). The divorces in the DRA accounted for 49 percent of all divorces in 1989 and 1990. Data on the children

involved in divorce, ages of the husbands and wives at divorce and at marriage, and the duration of marriage were reported by all DRA States. Data used in this report on the race of the husband and wife and on the physical custody of the children were from the certificates of DRA States that had these items on their certificates and met certain NCHS criteria for reporting. See Technical notes for more information on the data used in this report.

### Children involved in divorce

Statistics on children involved in divorce are important because of the impact divorce can have on their physical, emotional, and economic well-being (3). Vital statistics data contain information on the number and rate of children involved in divorce each year. The number of children involved in divorce increased for the third consecutive year, to 1,075,000 in 1990, while the average number of children per decree was 0.90 (table 3). The number of children involved in divorce varied between 1 and 1.2 million during 1972–90 while

the number of divorces increased to levels that equaled and then exceeded the number of children involved in divorce (figure 1). As a result of these trends, the average number of children per decree fell from 1.20 in 1972 to a relative low of 0.89 in 1987 and 1988 before increasing slightly to its current level. The average number of children for divorcing couples was very similar to the average number of children in all married-couple households in 1990 (0.88) (4).

The rate of children involved in divorce per 1,000 children under 18 years of age was 16.8 in 1990, the same as for 1989, but 10 percent lower than the peak rate in 1981 (18.7). In 1989 and 1990, just over half of divorcing couples had children under 18 years of age at the time of their divorce, while 47 percent were childless or had children who were older than 18 years of age (table 4). A quarter of divorcing couples had one child, 20 percent had two children, and 8 percent had three children or more. There was wide variation by State in the percent of divorcing couples with children, ranging from 38 percent in the District of

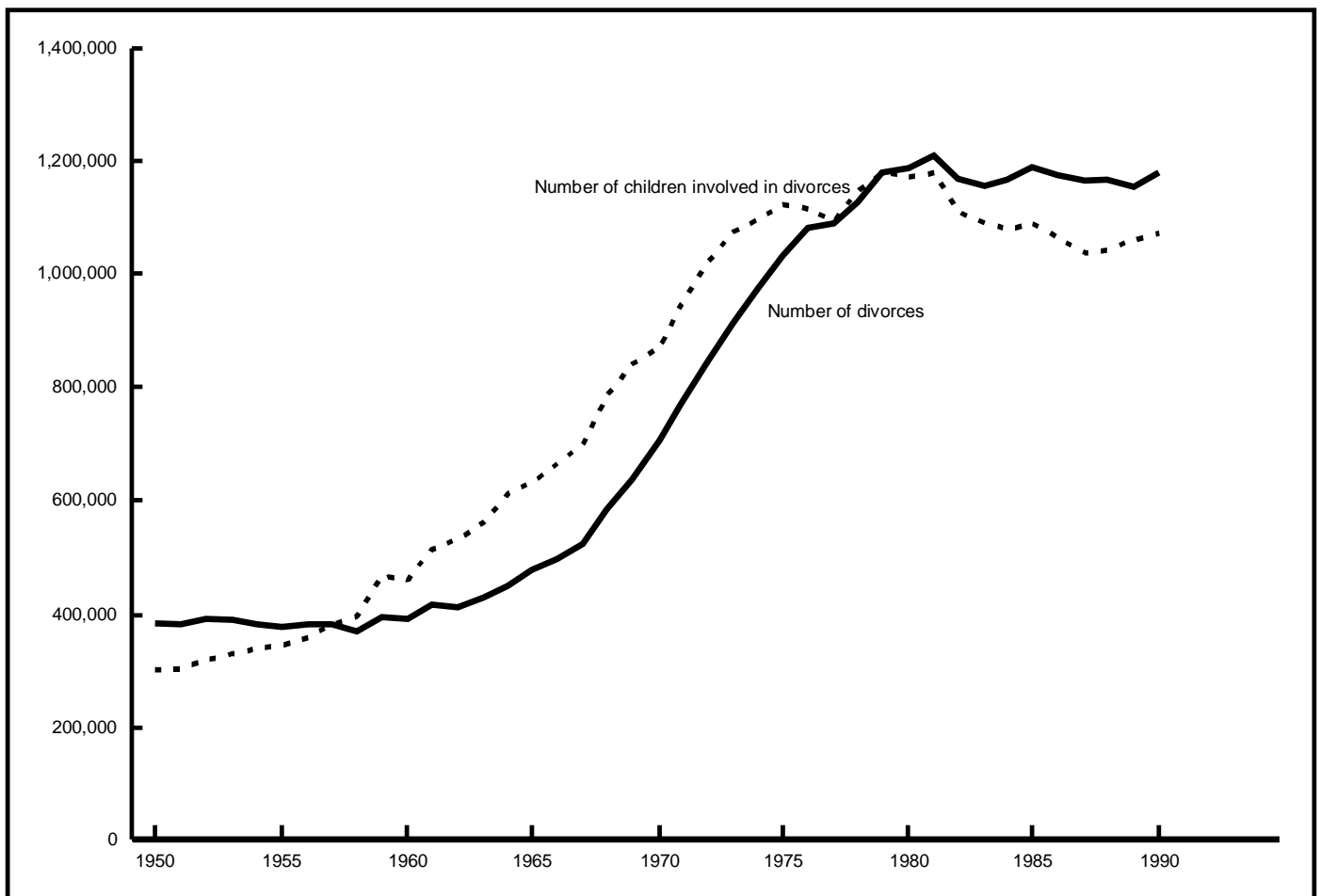


Figure 1. Estimated number of divorces and children involved in divorces: United States, 1950–90

Columbia to 64 percent in Nebraska in 1990. One reason for this variation is differences among States in the number of children in married-couple families. Data from the 1990 Census show that only 36 percent of married couples in the District of Columbia had children under age 18 compared with 48 percent of married couples in Nebraska (5.6).

The presence of children at divorce varied by the marital history of the divorcing couple—fewer remarriages than first marriages had children upon divorce. For couples in which both the husband and wife were divorcing from a first marriage, 61 percent of the couples had children under 18 years of age. For couples in which one spouse was divorcing from a first marriage and the other from a remarriage, 54 percent of those in which the husband was the remarrying partner had children upon divorce, while 47 percent of those in which the wife was the remarrying partner had children. For couples in

which both spouses were divorcing from a remarriage, only 29 percent had children upon divorce (data not shown). Part of the reason for fewer children in divorces of remarriages is that these men and women were older than their counterparts in first marriages (discussed in the Age section) and, therefore, their children would be more likely to be over 18 years of age. The children of couples in remarriages of one or both spouses could be offspring of the present couple or children brought into the marriage by one of the spouses. Vital statistics data do not make this distinction.

### Age

Tables 5–7 show that divorce is more frequent for married men and women under the age of 40 than for older married couples. Divorce rates varied considerably with age and were much higher for younger than older married men and women (table 5 and figure 2). For men, 1990 divorce rates increased from 32.8

per 1,000 married men 15–19 years of age to 50.2 for men 20–24 years and then declined precipitously with increasing age to 2.1 for married men 65 years of age and older. For women divorce rates were at their peak for teenagers aged 15–19 years (48.6) and declined with increasing age to 1.4 for women 65 years of age and over. Between 1989 and 1990 divorce rates declined only for teenaged men and women and for men 20–24 years of age. All the rates for the remaining age groups increased slightly except the rate for married women 65 years of age and over, which remained steady.

Almost two-thirds of divorcing men and three-fourths of divorcing women were under 40 years of age (table 6). The modal group for men was 30–34 years of age (20.7 percent) while the modal group for women was 25–29 years of age (21.8 percent). Since the mid-1970's the age at divorce for men and women has shifted upward as shown by the median and mean ages at decree in table 7. The

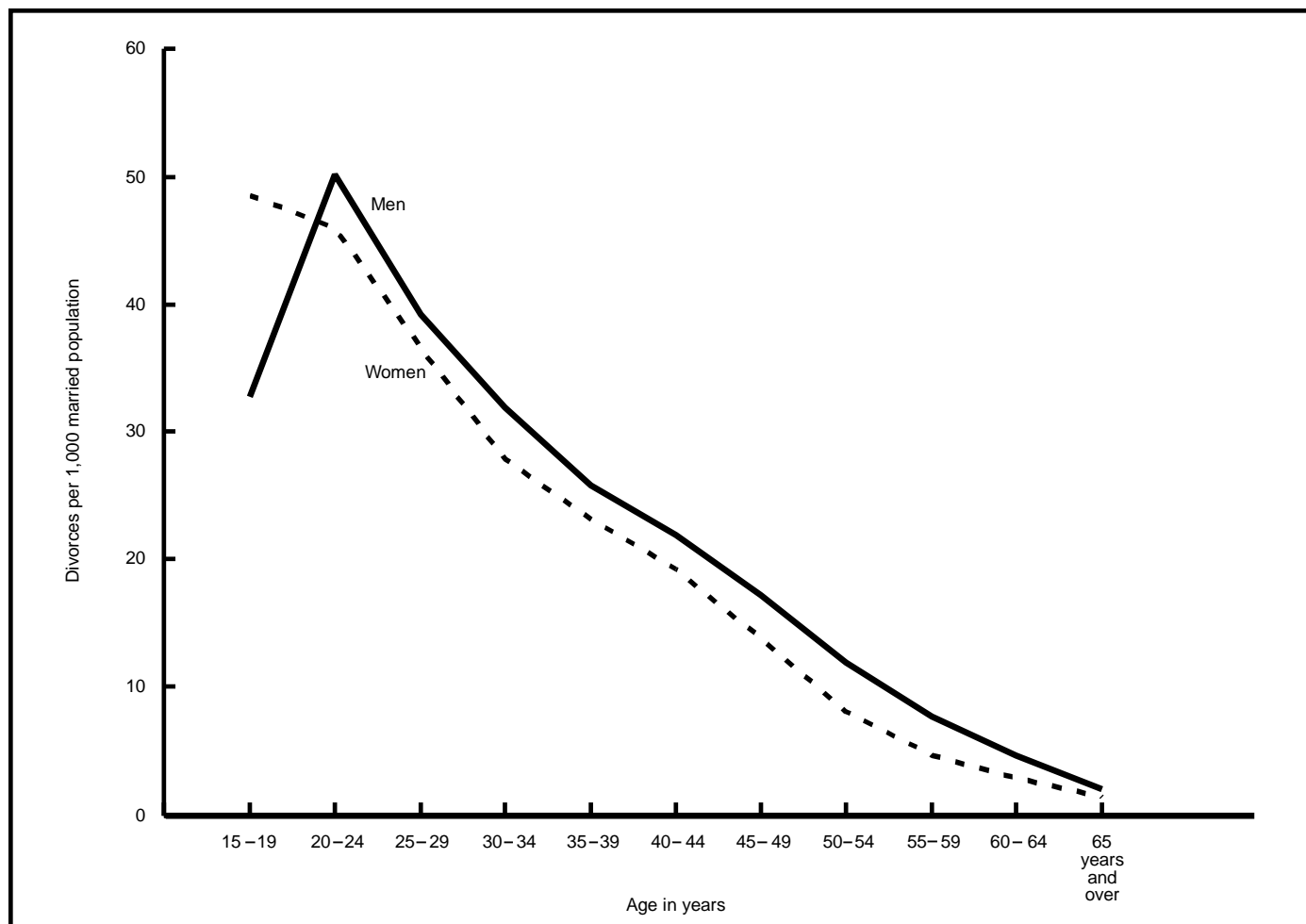


Figure 2. Age-specific divorce rates for men and women: Divorce-registration area, 1990

median age at decree for men and women was more than 3 years older in 1990 than in 1975. The median age of men divorcing from first marriages increased from 30.1 years in 1975 to 33.2 years in 1990, while the median age for women increased from 27.9 to 31.1 years. Over the same period the median age at divorce for remarriages also increased but by a smaller amount than for first marriages.

One factor that affects the age at decree is the age at marriage for divorcing men and women. Tables 8 and 9 show that in the last decade the age at marriage shifted upward for men and women. In 1990, 73 percent of divorcing husbands and 81 percent of divorcing wives were under 30 years of age at the time of their marriages, compared with 80 and 87 percent, respectively, in 1980. Table 9 shows that the median age at marriage for divorcing husbands and wives was approximately 2 years older in 1990 (24.9 and 22.6 years, respectively) than in the 1970's and rose steadily throughout the 1980's. In 1990 the median age at marriage was approximately 10 years younger for first marriages (23.1 years for men; 21.0 years for women) than for remarriages (33.7 years for men; 30.6 years for women) ending in divorce. The median age at marriage increased for first marriages and for remarriages in the 1980's while maintaining the 10-year differential. The findings regarding the median age at marriage for divorcing couples are consistent with recent marriage data, which show increases in the age at marriage during the same period (7).

### Duration

Most divorces are concentrated within the first 10 years of marriage as shown by the data in tables 10 and 11 and in figure 3. The median duration of marriage for divorcing couples in 1989 and in 1990 was 7.2 years, which is the longest duration in the 1970-90 period (table 10). In 1990 the median duration for first marriages was approximately 8 years for men and women, while the median duration for remarriages was more than 2 years shorter (between 5 and 6 years for men and women). Among remarriages, third marriages ended about 2 years

sooner than second marriages. First marriages and remarriages lasted longer in 1990 than in 1980, but the increase was greater for remarriages.

The percent of divorces by duration of marriage increased rapidly to a peak at 3 years after which it declined sharply through 10 years and more moderately thereafter (figure 3). Few divorces (3.3 percent in 1990) occurred within the first year of marriage partly due to requirements by many States that couples be separated for at least 1 year before obtaining a divorce (table 11). Approximately 32 percent of divorces in 1990 occurred for couples that had been married 1 to 4 years, while 28 percent occurred for couples married 5 to 9 years. Altogether, 63 percent of divorcing couples had been married less than 10 years. Only 12 percent of divorces were for couples married 20 years or longer.

There were differences among States in the timing of divorce as shown by the percent distribution and the median duration of marriages before divorce. In 1990 the percent of divorces with durations of less than 1 year ranged from 8.6 in Alabama to 0.6 percent in Virginia. The median duration of marriage before divorce was shortest in Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee (5.8 years) and longest in Maryland (9.1 years). To some

extent, the variation reflects State differences in divorce laws. In addition to divorce laws, other possible reasons for variations among States in the duration of marriage are differences in the proportions of first and remarriages. As discussed earlier in this report, first marriages last longer before divorce than remarriages.

### Race

For the 27 States and the District of Columbia that reported information on the race of the husband and wife in 1990, 85 percent of divorcing couples were white, 11 percent were black, and 1 percent were of races other than white or black (table 12). The remaining 3 percent of divorces were for interracial couples, with divorces between a white husband and "other" wife the most frequent combination.

Studies have found higher rates of marital dissolution for black than white couples (8,9). Racial differences in economic circumstances and social networks have been cited as some of the reasons for the disparity. In 1990 divorce rates for black men and women were nearly 30 and 20 percent higher, respectively, than for white men and women and almost twice those of men and women of "other" races (table 13). The divorce rate

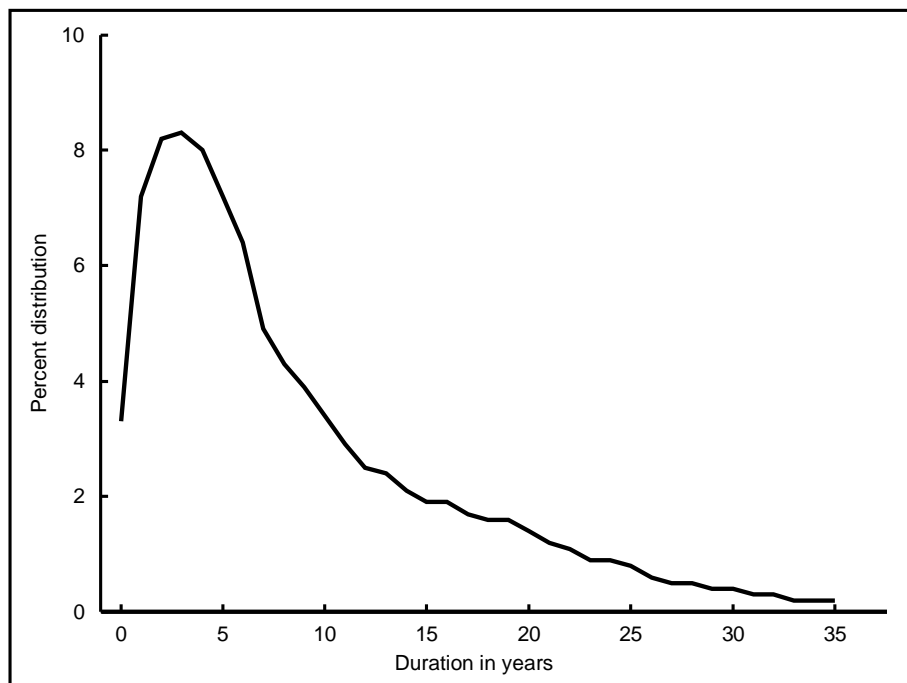


Figure 3. Percent distribution of divorces by duration of marriage: Divorce-registration area, 1990

for black men was 24.6 per 1,000 compared with 19.1 for white men and 12.7 for men of "other" races. The divorce rates for women by race were either identical or very similar to those of the men—22.8 for black women, 19.1 for white women, and 13.1 for women of "other" races.

The pattern in divorce rates by age differed between races. For white men and women and those of "other" races, divorce rates in 1990 were at their peak for the youngest age group, 15–24 years of age, and then they declined steadily with increasing age. For black men and women, the divorce rate peaked later, at 25–29 years of age, and declined thereafter. This delayed peak reflects the fact that black men and women are older at the time of marriage (tabular data not shown) and take longer to divorce than white men and women (as discussed later in this report). Divorce rates for all age groups except 15–24 years were higher for black men and women than for their white and "other" counterparts.

Tables 14–16 present data by race of the husband and wife on the mean age at time of decree, mean duration of marriage, and average number of children per decree. In 1990 black men and women were approximately a year older at the time of their divorce than white men and women and those of "other" races (table 14). Within racial groups the pattern in the relative ages differed depending on the race of the spouse. In general black men and women were younger at divorce when they were married to a white or "other" spouse than when they were married to a black spouse. Likewise, husbands of races other than white and black who were in interracial marriages were also younger at divorce than their counterparts in same-race marriages. This was also true for women of "other" races. White husbands and wives were younger at divorce when they were married to black spouses, but a consistent pattern was not evident when their spouses were of "other" races.

The differences in the relative ages of husbands and wives according to the race of their spouses can be partly attributed to differences in the duration of marriage for these couples. Table 15 shows that in 1990, marriages for black couples lasted approximately 1 year

longer before divorce (10.3 years) than marriages for white couples (9.2 years) and couples of "other" races (9.1 years). Data from previous years have shown that black husbands and wives separate sooner than white husbands and wives, but take more than twice as long to end their separations in divorce (10). All combinations of interracial marriages ended sooner than same-race marriages with marriages between an "other" husband and a black wife lasting the shortest length of time before divorce—5.3 years on average.

Table 16 shows the average number of children per decree by race of the husband and wife. When comparing same-race couples in 1990, there was very little difference in the average number of children ranging from 0.90 to 0.91 for white and black couples to 0.96 for couples of "other" races. Except for interracial marriages between a white wife and a black husband, the average number of children per decree for interracial couples was substantially lower than for same-race couples—ranging between 0.74 and 0.79.

### Physical custody of children

Starting with 1989 data NCHS began collecting information on who was awarded the physical custody of the children at divorce. Data were collected on the number of children awarded to the husband, wife, the husband and wife jointly, or to some person other than the husband or wife. Fifteen States reported custody information in 1989; the number of reporting States increased to 19 in 1990.

Tables 17 and 18 contain similar information except that the data in table 17 show the number of divorces tabulated by person(s) to whom custody was awarded, while the data in table 18 show the total number of children for whom custody was determined. According to the data in table 17, 46 percent of divorces in 1990 had custody awarded while 54 percent did not. Most of the divorces in which custody was not awarded were those in which no children were involved in the divorce. There were some cases in which children were involved in the divorce but custody was not awarded. An example is a remarriage

for one of the spouses in which the children are brought in from the first marriage. For the 19 States that reported custody information in 1990, Virginia had the highest percent of divorces in which custody was not awarded (72 percent), while Nebraska had the lowest (39 percent). The variation by State in the percent of divorces in which custody was not awarded corresponded somewhat to the variation in the percent of divorces with no children present (table 4).

In 1990 the wife was awarded custody of the children almost three-fourths (72 percent) of the time in those divorces in which custody was awarded. Joint custody was the second most common arrangement (16 percent) while husbands were awarded custody in 9 percent of these divorces. Divorces in which custody was awarded to someone other than the husband and/or wife were rare, accounting for only 1 percent of the divorces in which custody was awarded. Divorces in which children of the same family were given different custody arrangements (for example, the husband is awarded custody of some of the children while the wife is awarded custody of other children) comprised 2 percent of the total number of divorces in which custody was awarded. Most States have divorce laws that state that custody should be awarded to either or both parents based on the "best interests of the child." Some reasons why wives are awarded custody more often are because they more often request custody of the children and also because of strong legal presumptions and traditions that favor the mother as the custodial parent, especially when the children are young (11,12). In recent years more fathers are taking a more active role in child care after divorce mostly through the adoption of laws that provide for joint custody. Most States have adopted provisions for joint custody although the advantages and disadvantages of this arrangement have been extensively debated (13). Variations by State in the distribution of custody arrangements reflect differences in State laws regarding joint custody. Custody awarded to the mother was the most common arrangement in every State—ranging from 45 percent of the divorces in which custody was awarded in Montana to 81 percent in Alabama.

The second most common arrangement varied among States and was either the father awarded custody or joint custody. The percent of divorces in which the father was awarded custody varied between 5 and 12 percent by State, while the percent of divorces in which joint custody was awarded had a much wider disparity among States, ranging between 4 and 44 percent. Divorces in which a person other than the husband or wife was awarded custody and divorces in which there was a combination of custody arrangements accounted for a small percent of divorces in all States.

The data in table 18 for children for whom custody was reported are very similar to the data in table 17 for divorces in which custody was awarded. In 1990 the wife was awarded custody of 73 percent of the children for whom custody was reported; husband and wife jointly, 16 percent; husband, 10 percent; and someone other than the wife and/or husband, 1 percent. The percent distribution by type of custody arrangement showed the greatest variation among States in cases where custody was awarded to the wife and where custody was awarded to the wife and husband jointly.

Table 19 shows that in 1990 the percent of children awarded to the husband increased from 9 percent for those husbands 20–24 years of age to 13 percent for husbands 45–49 years of age and then declined slightly for husbands 50 years of age or older (11 percent). This probably reflects the fact that the children of older husbands are more likely to be older than the children of younger husbands; and husbands more often request custody of older children (14). The percent of children that were awarded jointly peaked for husbands and wives in age groups from 35 to 44 years.

White and “other” husbands were more likely to be awarded custody of children than black husbands (table 20). There were also more joint custody awards for white and “other” husbands and wives. Thus, more than a quarter of white and “other” husbands (28–31 percent) were awarded the custody of their children through either sole or joint custody compared with 12 percent of black husbands.

In 1990 husbands were more likely awarded custody of their children when

they were in first marriages rather than in second, third, or higher-order marriages (table 21). Joint custody was also more likely for husbands in first marriages (16 percent).

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**Symbols**

- - - Data not available
  - . . . Category not applicable
  - Quantity zero
  - 0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
  - \* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision
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**Table 1. Divorces and annulments and rates: United States, 1940–90**

[Data refer only to events occurring within the United States. Alaska included beginning with 1959, and Hawaii, beginning with 1960. Rates per 1,000 population enumerated as of April 1 for 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, and 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Year	Divorces and annulments	Rate per 1,000 —	
		Total population <sup>1</sup>	Married women 15 years and over
1990	1,182,000	4.7	20.9
1989	1,157,000	4.7	20.4
1988	1,167,000	4.8	20.7
1987	1,166,000	4.8	20.8
1986	1,178,000	4.9	21.2
1985	1,190,000	5.0	21.7
1984	1,169,000	5.0	21.5
1983	1,158,000	5.0	21.3
1982	1,170,000	5.1	21.7
1981	1,213,000	5.3	22.6
1980	1,189,000	5.2	22.6
1979	1,181,000	5.3	22.8
1978	1,130,000	5.1	21.9
1977	1,091,000	5.0	21.1
1976	1,083,000	5.0	21.1
1975	1,036,000	4.8	20.3
1974	977,000	4.6	19.3
1973	915,000	4.3	18.2
1972	845,000	4.0	17.0
1971	773,000	3.7	15.8
1970	708,000	3.5	14.9
1969	639,000	3.2	13.4
1968	584,000	2.9	12.5
1967	523,000	2.6	11.2
1966	499,000	2.5	10.9
1965	479,000	2.5	10.6
1964	450,000	2.4	10.0
1963	428,000	2.3	9.6
1962	413,000	2.2	9.4
1961	414,000	2.3	9.6
1960	393,000	2.2	9.2
1959	395,000	2.2	9.3
1958	368,000	2.1	8.9
1957	381,000	2.2	9.2
1956	382,000	2.3	9.4
1955	377,000	2.3	9.3
1954	379,000	2.4	9.5
1953	390,000	2.5	9.9
1952	392,000	2.5	10.1
1951	381,000	2.5	9.9
1950	385,000	2.6	10.3
1949	397,000	2.7	10.6
1948	408,000	2.8	11.2
1947	483,000	3.4	13.6
1946	610,000	4.3	17.9
1945	485,000	3.5	14.4
1944	400,000	2.9	12.0
1943	359,000	2.6	11.0
1942	321,000	2.4	10.1
1941	293,000	2.2	9.4
1940	264,000	2.0	8.8

<sup>1</sup>Rates for 1981–88 are revised and may differ from rates published previously. See Technical notes.

Table 2. Number and rate of divorces and annulments: United States, each region, division, and State, 1980, 1989, and 1990

[Data are counts of decrees granted supplied by States. Figures for the divorce-registration States differ from those based on sample data shown in table 4. Rates per 1,000 population in each area enumerated as of April 1 for 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Region, division, and State	Number			Rate		
	1990	1989	1980	1990	1989	1980
United States . . . . .	<sup>1</sup> 1,182,000	<sup>1</sup> 1,157,000	1,189,000	4.7	4.7	5.2
Regions:						
Northeast . . . . .	169,000	171,000	174,000	3.3	3.4	3.5
Midwest . . . . .	274,000	262,000	292,000	4.6	4.4	5.0
South . . . . .	<sup>1</sup> 470,000	<sup>1</sup> 457,000	449,000	<sup>1</sup> 5.5	<sup>1</sup> 5.4	6.0
West . . . . .	269,000	267,000	274,000	5.1	5.1	6.3
Northeast:						
New England . . . . .	44,039	45,715	49,049	3.3	3.5	4.0
Middle Atlantic . . . . .	125,367	125,002	124,690	3.3	3.3	3.4
Midwest:						
East North Central . . . . .	<sup>2</sup> 197,347	<sup>2</sup> 187,709	212,405	<sup>2</sup> 4.7	<sup>2</sup> 4.5	5.1
West North Central . . . . .	76,256	74,778	79,625	4.3	4.2	4.6
South:						
South Atlantic . . . . .	227,039	218,540	206,344	5.2	5.1	5.6
East South Central . . . . .	91,508	90,265	<sup>2</sup> 87,528	6.0	6.0	<sup>2</sup> 6.0
West South Central . . . . .	<sup>2</sup> 148,007	<sup>2</sup> 143,093	<sup>2</sup> 155,025	*	*	<sup>2</sup> 6.5
West:						
Mountain . . . . .	<sup>2</sup> 79,425	<sup>2</sup> 76,582	86,088	<sup>2</sup> 6.5	<sup>2</sup> 6.3	7.6
Pacific . . . . .	179,884	<sup>2</sup> 182,036	187,900	4.6	<sup>2</sup> 4.7	5.9
New England:						
Maine . . . . .	5,176	5,702	6,205	4.2	4.7	5.5
New Hampshire . . . . .	4,933	5,011	5,254	4.5	4.5	5.7
Vermont . . . . .	2,491	2,523	2,623	4.4	4.5	5.1
Massachusetts . . . . .	16,258	16,819	17,873	2.7	2.8	3.1
Rhode Island . . . . .	3,754	3,626	3,606	3.7	3.6	3.8
Connecticut . . . . .	11,427	12,034	13,488	3.5	3.7	4.3
Middle Atlantic:						
New York . . . . .	58,283	60,570	61,972	3.2	3.4	3.5
New Jersey . . . . .	27,113	26,059	27,796	3.5	3.4	3.8
Pennsylvania . . . . .	39,971	38,373	34,922	3.4	3.2	2.9
East North Central:						
Ohio . . . . .	53,504	48,627	58,809	4.9	4.5	5.4
Indiana . . . . .	<sup>2</sup> 39,571	<sup>2</sup> 35,010	<sup>3</sup> 40,006	<sup>2</sup> 7.1	<sup>2</sup> 6.3	<sup>3</sup> 7.3
Illinois . . . . .	45,977	46,066	50,997	4.0	4.0	4.5
Michigan . . . . .	40,568	40,276	45,047	4.4	4.4	4.9
Wisconsin . . . . .	17,727	17,730	17,546	3.6	3.7	3.7
West North Central:						
Minnesota . . . . .	15,595	15,675	<sup>4</sup> 15,371	3.6	3.6	<sup>4</sup> 3.8
Iowa . . . . .	10,913	10,507	11,854	3.9	3.8	4.1
Missouri . . . . .	25,701	25,139	27,595	5.0	4.9	5.6
North Dakota . . . . .	2,320	2,229	2,142	3.6	3.5	3.3
South Dakota . . . . .	2,651	2,624	2,811	3.8	3.8	4.1
Nebraska . . . . .	6,496	6,308	6,442	4.1	4.0	4.1
Kansas . . . . .	12,580	12,296	13,410	5.1	5.0	5.7
South Atlantic:						
Delaware . . . . .	2,986	2,896	2,313	4.5	4.4	3.9
Maryland . . . . .	16,607	16,321	17,494	3.5	3.5	4.1
District of Columbia . . . . .	2,291	2,751	4,682	3.8	4.4	7.3
Virginia . . . . .	27,307	25,808	23,615	4.4	4.2	4.4
West Virginia . . . . .	9,775	9,154	10,273	5.4	5.1	5.3
North Carolina . . . . .	34,039	32,272	28,050	5.1	4.9	4.8
South Carolina . . . . .	16,182	15,115	13,595	4.6	4.4	4.4
Georgia . . . . .	36,857	34,558	34,743	5.7	5.4	6.4
Florida . . . . .	80,995	79,665	71,579	6.2	6.3	7.3
East South Central:						
Kentucky . . . . .	20,897	20,396	<sup>2</sup> 16,731	5.7	5.5	<sup>2</sup> 4.6
Tennessee . . . . .	32,198	31,939	30,206	6.6	6.6	6.6
Alabama . . . . .	25,678	24,985	26,745	6.3	6.2	6.9
Mississippi . . . . .	12,735	12,945	13,846	4.9	5.0	5.5
West South Central:						
Arkansas . . . . .	16,655	16,687	<sup>2</sup> 15,882	7.1	7.1	<sup>2</sup> 6.9
Louisiana . . . . .	<sup>2</sup> 12,525	<sup>2</sup> 9,922	<sup>2</sup> 18,108	*	*	<sup>2</sup> 4.3
Oklahoma . . . . .	24,977	23,050	24,226	7.9	7.3	8.0
Texas . . . . .	93,850	93,434	96,809	5.5	5.6	6.8

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Number and rate of divorces and annulments: United States, each region, division, and State, 1980, 1989, and 1990—Con.**

[Data are counts of decrees granted supplied by States. Figures for the divorce-registration States differ from those based on sample data shown in table 4. Rates per 1,000 population in each area enumerated as of April 1 for 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Region, division, and State	Number			Rate		
	1990	1989	1980	1990	1989	1980
<b>Mountain:</b>						
Montana . . . . .	4,049	4,112	4,940	5.1	5.1	6.3
Idaho . . . . .	6,446	6,275	6,596	6.4	6.3	7.0
Wyoming . . . . .	3,132	3,034	4,003	6.9	6.6	8.5
Colorado . . . . .	18,665	18,686	18,571	5.6	5.7	6.4
New Mexico . . . . .	<sup>2</sup> 9,327	<sup>2</sup> 8,817	10,426	<sup>2</sup> 6.1	<sup>2</sup> 5.9	8.0
Arizona . . . . .	25,088	23,153	19,908	6.8	6.4	7.3
Utah . . . . .	8,950	8,119	7,802	5.2	4.8	5.3
Nevada . . . . .	13,095	13,203	13,842	10.8	11.6	17.3
<b>Pacific:</b>						
Washington . . . . .	28,757	26,890	28,642	5.9	5.7	6.9
Oregon . . . . .	15,734	15,079	17,762	5.5	5.4	6.7
California . . . . .	127,044	<sup>2,5</sup> 131,025	133,541	4.3	<sup>2,5</sup> 4.5	5.6
Alaska . . . . .	3,170	3,429	3,517	5.7	6.3	8.8
Hawaii . . . . .	5,179	5,613	4,438	4.6	5.1	4.6

<sup>1</sup>Figure includes estimates; see Technical notes.

<sup>2</sup>Data are incomplete; see Technical notes.

<sup>3</sup>Some counties reported divorce petitions filed rather than decrees granted.

<sup>4</sup>Data are estimated.

<sup>5</sup>Includes approximately 1,000 legal separations.

**Table 3. Estimated number of children involved in divorces and annulments, average number of children per decree, and rate per 1,000 children under 18 years of age: United States, 1950–90**

[Data refer to children under 18 years of age and only to events occurring within the United States. Beginning in 1960, estimated from frequencies based on sample data; for 1950–59, estimated from total counts. For estimating method, see Technical notes. Population enumerated as of April 1 for 1950, 1960, 1970, and 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

<i>Year</i>	<i>Estimated number of children involved</i>	<i>Average number of children per decree</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 children under 18 years of age</i>
1990	1,075,000	0.90	16.8
1989	1,063,000	0.91	16.8
1988	1,044,000	0.89	16.4
1987	1,038,000	0.89	16.3
1986	1,064,000	0.90	16.8
1985	1,091,000	0.92	17.3
1984	1,081,000	0.92	17.2
1983	1,091,000	0.94	17.4
1982	1,108,000	0.94	17.6
1981	1,180,000	0.97	18.7
1980	1,174,000	0.98	17.3
1979	1,181,000	1.00	18.4
1978	1,147,000	1.01	17.7
1977	1,095,000	1.00	16.7
1976	1,117,000	1.03	16.9
1975	1,123,000	1.08	16.7
1974	1,099,000	1.12	16.2
1973	1,079,000	1.17	15.7
1972	1,021,000	1.20	14.7
1971	946,000	1.22	13.6
1970	870,000	1.22	12.5
1969	840,000	1.31	11.9
1968	784,000	1.34	11.1
1967	701,000	1.34	9.9
1966	669,000	1.34	9.5
1965	630,000	1.32	8.9
1964	613,000	1.36	8.7
1963	562,000	1.31	8.2
1962	532,000	1.29	7.9
1961	516,000	1.25	7.8
1960	463,000	1.18	7.2
1959	468,000	1.18	7.5
1958	398,000	1.08	6.5
1957	379,000	0.99	6.4
1956	361,000	0.95	6.3
1955	347,000	0.92	6.3
1954	341,000	0.90	6.4
1953	330,000	0.85	6.4
1952	318,000	0.81	6.2
1951	304,000	0.80	6.1
1950	299,000	0.78	6.3

**Table 4. Number of divorces and annulments and percent distribution, by number of children involved under 18 years of age: Divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1989 and 1990**

[Based on sample data]

Area and year	All divorces and annulments	Number of children involved under 18 years of age					
		Total	None	1	2	3	4 or more
1990	Number	Percent distribution					
Divorce-registration area . . . . .	580,111	100.0	47.0	25.1	20.0	6.1	1.8
Alabama . . . . .	25,770	100.0	48.9	26.3	17.8	5.2	1.7
Alaska . . . . .	3,161	100.0	50.9	22.0	19.1	5.5	2.5
Connecticut . . . . .	10,330	100.0	50.5	23.9	19.2	5.2	1.2
Delaware . . . . .	3,034	100.0	47.5	25.2	19.9	5.7	1.7
District of Columbia . . . . .	2,490	100.0	62.0	22.3	11.8	2.7	1.2
Georgia . . . . .	36,940	100.0	47.8	26.6	19.5	4.8	1.3
Hawaii . . . . .	5,179	100.0	47.7	23.3	20.2	6.4	2.4
Idaho . . . . .	6,458	100.0	45.2	22.7	20.4	7.9	3.8
Illinois . . . . .	45,990	100.0	45.5	24.7	20.9	7.1	1.8
Iowa . . . . .	10,914	100.0	41.1	24.3	23.7	8.6	2.2
Kansas . . . . .	12,570	100.0	44.8	23.6	21.9	7.5	2.3
Kentucky . . . . .	20,750	100.0	49.0	25.9	19.0	5.0	1.1
Maryland . . . . .	16,565	100.0	53.9	25.3	15.8	4.1	0.9
Massachusetts . . . . .	16,280	100.0	45.3	25.2	21.4	6.6	1.5
Michigan . . . . .	40,640	100.0	46.3	22.7	21.8	6.7	2.4
Missouri . . . . .	25,685	100.0	45.8	25.9	20.3	6.2	1.8
Montana . . . . .	4,049	100.0	44.7	23.6	21.5	7.7	2.5
Nebraska . . . . .	6,500	100.0	36.4	24.7	25.1	10.9	2.9
New Hampshire . . . . .	4,955	100.0	40.6	25.9	24.4	7.2	1.9
New York . . . . .	58,160	100.0	52.5	24.3	17.1	4.9	1.2
Ohio . . . . .	53,500	100.0	46.4	25.1	20.6	6.4	1.5
Oregon . . . . .	15,755	100.0	48.2	22.5	20.4	6.2	2.7
Pennsylvania . . . . .	40,120	100.0	43.2	27.6	21.3	6.4	1.6
Rhode Island . . . . .	3,754	100.0	42.7	27.7	22.0	6.2	1.5
South Carolina . . . . .	16,190	100.0	46.7	27.6	19.1	5.2	1.4
South Dakota . . . . .	2,654	100.0	40.3	24.8	23.6	8.3	3.0
Tennessee . . . . .	32,110	100.0	50.1	27.1	17.5	4.6	0.8
Utah . . . . .	8,950	100.0	36.8	21.6	21.4	11.6	8.6
Vermont . . . . .	2,491	100.0	42.6	23.8	25.0	6.4	2.2
Virginia . . . . .	27,275	100.0	51.3	26.1	17.6	4.2	0.9
Wisconsin . . . . .	17,760	100.0	39.4	24.6	25.0	8.7	2.3
Wyoming . . . . .	3,132	100.0	43.2	23.1	22.8	8.2	2.7
1989							
Divorce-registration area . . . . .	568,441	100.0	46.8	25.2	19.9	6.2	1.9
Alabama . . . . .	25,085	100.0	48.2	26.7	18.4	5.2	1.5
Alaska . . . . .	3,419	100.0	47.6	24.5	19.2	6.2	2.5
Connecticut . . . . .	11,852	100.0	50.9	23.9	18.7	5.3	1.2
Delaware . . . . .	2,896	100.0	47.0	26.9	19.0	5.7	1.3
District of Columbia . . . . .	1,842	100.0	63.0	22.0	11.1	2.7	*
Georgia . . . . .	35,180	100.0	49.6	26.1	17.7	5.2	1.4
Hawaii . . . . .	5,613	100.0	44.6	25.1	20.9	6.4	2.9
Idaho . . . . .	6,286	100.0	44.6	22.6	21.5	7.5	3.8
Illinois . . . . .	45,870	100.0	45.4	25.0	20.4	7.0	2.1
Iowa . . . . .	10,510	100.0	39.1	24.4	25.3	9.0	2.3
Kansas . . . . .	12,294	100.0	44.5	23.1	22.4	7.5	2.4
Kentucky . . . . .	20,395	100.0	50.3	26.6	16.6	4.9	1.6
Maryland . . . . .	16,315	100.0	53.2	25.9	16.2	4.0	0.8
Massachusetts . . . . .	16,845	100.0	45.5	25.5	21.1	5.8	2.2
Michigan . . . . .	40,270	100.0	44.1	24.4	21.4	7.3	3.0
Missouri . . . . .	25,135	100.0	48.0	24.3	19.7	6.3	1.7
Montana . . . . .	4,103	100.0	44.9	22.4	22.5	7.7	2.5
Nebraska . . . . .	6,344	100.0	37.1	25.3	24.7	9.9	3.1
New Hampshire . . . . .	5,023	100.0	42.3	26.4	23.0	6.6	1.8
New York . . . . .	60,600	100.0	52.9	22.7	16.9	5.8	1.7
Ohio . . . . .	48,630	100.0	45.4	25.4	21.0	6.3	1.9
Oregon . . . . .	15,095	100.0	47.6	21.7	21.5	6.7	2.5
Pennsylvania . . . . .	38,390	100.0	42.7	26.9	22.5	6.3	1.6
Rhode Island . . . . .	3,626	100.0	40.5	26.1	24.6	6.6	2.2
South Carolina . . . . .	15,120	100.0	46.6	28.4	19.0	4.9	1.1
South Dakota . . . . .	2,627	100.0	41.5	24.4	23.1	8.2	2.8
Tennessee . . . . .	31,880	100.0	50.1	26.9	17.6	4.2	1.1
Utah . . . . .	8,114	100.0	37.8	22.4	21.0	10.6	8.3
Vermont . . . . .	2,523	100.0	39.8	25.3	26.2	6.6	2.1
Virginia . . . . .	25,790	100.0	50.7	26.7	17.0	4.6	1.0
Wisconsin . . . . .	17,735	100.0	37.6	25.6	25.6	8.7	2.5
Wyoming . . . . .	3,034	100.0	42.0	23.2	24.3	7.6	2.9

**Table 5. Number of divorces and annulments by age of men and women at time of decree, 1990; and rates by age of men and women at time of decree, 1970, 1980, and 1984–90: Divorce-registration area**

[Based on sample data. Before calculation of rates, figures for age not stated were distributed. Before 1989, rates exclude data for Michigan, Ohio, and South Dakota; beginning in 1989 rates exclude data for Ohio and South Dakota. Rates per 1,000 married population in specified group enumerated as of April 1 for 1970 and 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Age of men and women at time of decree	Number		Rate								
	1990	1990	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1980	1970
<b>Men</b>											
All ages . . . . .	580,111	19.2	18.7	18.9	18.8	19.0	19.4	19.2	19.8	14.2	
15–19 years <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	2,183	32.8	34.7	37.5	37.6	41.2	40.0	42.9	29.3	15.1	
20–24 years . . . . .	41,952	50.2	51.1	55.9	52.2	49.5	49.9	48.2	46.9	33.6	
25–29 years . . . . .	100,807	39.3	37.9	38.9	37.6	38.2	38.4	37.6	41.4	30.0	
30–34 years . . . . .	111,292	31.9	30.5	30.2	30.4	30.6	30.4	31.7	33.8	22.3	
35–39 years . . . . .	94,481	25.9	25.8	26.1	26.0	25.4	26.3	27.1	26.8	17.9	
40–44 years . . . . .	75,535	21.9	21.7	21.3	21.4	22.2	23.2	22.0	21.0	13.8	
45–49 years . . . . .	47,805	17.3	16.9	17.0	17.1	17.2	16.7	16.1	14.5	10.7	
50–54 years . . . . .	27,388	12.0	11.5	11.4	11.0	10.8	11.1	10.7	9.5	7.6	
55–59 years . . . . .	16,062	7.8	7.2	7.0	6.5	6.4	6.8	6.4	5.8	5.1	
60–64 years . . . . .	9,623	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.4	
65 years and over . . . . .	9,599	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	
Not stated . . . . .	43,384	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
<b>Women</b>											
All ages . . . . .	580,111	18.7	18.4	18.5	18.6	18.8	19.2	18.8	19.5	14.0	
15–19 years <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	8,316	48.6	52.0	56.3	49.5	51.4	48.4	45.5	42.4	26.9	
20–24 years . . . . .	69,340	46.0	44.8	46.3	46.0	46.2	46.8	44.4	47.2	33.3	
25–29 years . . . . .	116,486	36.6	35.6	35.6	33.9	34.8	35.6	35.0	37.8	25.7	
30–34 years . . . . .	111,421	27.9	27.7	26.7	27.2	27.7	28.6	28.1	29.2	18.9	
35–39 years . . . . .	86,858	23.1	22.6	22.3	23.1	23.0	23.4	23.5	23.3	14.8	
40–44 years . . . . .	66,310	19.3	19.1	19.0	18.7	18.8	19.6	18.5	16.7	11.9	
45–49 years . . . . .	36,852	13.8	12.9	13.0	13.1	12.8	12.6	11.8	10.8	8.5	
50–54 years . . . . .	18,330	8.2	7.8	7.8	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.4	6.6	5.6	
55–59 years . . . . .	9,285	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.3	3.9	3.5	
60–64 years . . . . .	5,670	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.3	
65 years and over . . . . .	5,151	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	
Not stated . . . . .	46,092	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

<sup>1</sup>Includes divorces of persons under 15 years of age.

**Table 6. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments by age of husband and wife at time of decree: Divorce-registration area, 1970 and 1980–90**

[Based on sample data]

<i>Age of husband and wife at time of decree</i>	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1970
Percent distribution												
Husband												
All ages . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years . . . . .	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8
20–24 years . . . . .	7.8	8.2	8.7	9.0	9.7	10.3	10.6	11.0	11.7	12.5	13.5	16.3
25–29 years . . . . .	18.8	18.9	19.8	20.2	20.6	21.0	20.9	21.3	22.0	22.8	23.4	22.8
30–34 years . . . . .	20.7	21.2	20.8	20.8	20.6	20.6	20.7	21.0	21.3	22.1	21.4	16.2
35–39 years . . . . .	17.6	17.5	17.2	17.3	17.6	17.2	17.1	16.6	16.3	15.1	14.6	12.8
40–44 years . . . . .	14.1	13.7	13.3	13.0	12.1	12.0	11.8	11.5	10.7	10.0	9.8	10.7
45–49 years . . . . .	8.9	8.6	8.4	8.1	7.8	7.4	7.4	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.5	8.3
50–54 years . . . . .	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.4	5.4
55–59 years . . . . .	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	3.2
60–64 years . . . . .	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.8
65 years and over . . . . .	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.7
Wife												
All ages . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years . . . . .	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.4	4.1
20–24 years . . . . .	13.0	13.3	14.4	15.0	16.3	16.8	17.3	17.4	18.6	19.5	20.8	24.9
25–29 years . . . . .	21.8	22.4	22.6	22.6	22.8	23.1	23.1	23.6	24.1	24.8	24.6	21.8
30–34 years . . . . .	20.9	21.1	20.4	20.3	19.8	19.9	19.7	19.5	19.9	20.2	19.4	14.4
35–39 years . . . . .	16.3	16.2	15.8	16.1	16.2	15.5	15.4	15.0	14.2	13.1	12.8	11.0
40–44 years . . . . .	12.4	11.8	11.4	11.0	10.1	10.2	9.8	9.5	8.8	8.2	7.7	9.4
45–49 years . . . . .	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.1	4.9	4.8	6.8
50–54 years . . . . .	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.8
55–59 years . . . . .	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	2.0
60–64 years . . . . .	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0
65 years and over . . . . .	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8

Table 7. Median and mean age of husband and wife at time of decree by number of this marriage: Divorce-registration area, 1970-90

[Based on sample data. Means and medians computed on data by single years of age]

Year	Number of marriage of husband					Number of marriage of wife						
	Total	First marriage	Remarriage			Number of marriage not stated	Total	First marriage	Remarriage			Number of marriage not stated
			Total <sup>1</sup>	Second marriage	Third marriage or more				Total <sup>1</sup>	Second marriage	Third marriage or more	
Median age in years												
1990	35.6	33.2	41.5	40.4	44.9	35.1	33.2	31.1	38.2	37.3	40.6	32.8
1989	35.4	32.9	41.2	40.2	44.3	35.6	32.9	30.9	37.7	36.8	40.2	33.1
1988	35.1	32.7	40.8	39.7	44.1	35.3	32.6	30.6	37.5	36.6	40.1	32.7
1987	34.9	32.6	40.4	39.5	43.7	35.1	32.5	30.5	37.3	36.4	39.8	32.6
1986	34.6	32.4	40.0	39.2	43.5	34.9	32.1	30.2	37.0	36.1	39.4	32.2
1985	34.4	32.2	39.8	38.8	43.0	34.5	31.9	30.0	36.8	36.0	39.1	31.8
1984	34.3	32.2	39.6	38.5	42.7	34.4	31.7	30.0	36.4	35.7	38.5	31.5
1983	34.0	32.1	39.3	38.3	42.6	34.1	31.5	29.8	36.3	35.5	38.9	31.3
1982	33.6	31.7	39.1	38.0	42.4	33.7	31.1	29.5	35.8	35.0	38.8	30.9
1981	33.1	31.4	38.5	37.4	42.4	33.4	30.6	29.1	35.3	34.5	38.5	30.6
1980	32.7	31.0	38.3	37.3	41.9	32.8	30.3	28.8	35.2	34.3	38.3	30.1
1979	32.5	30.8	38.4	37.3	42.4	32.5	30.1	28.6	35.3	34.4	38.5	29.9
1978	32.0	30.5	38.2	36.9	41.1	32.5	29.7	28.3	35.1	33.9	38.7	29.7
1977	32.4	30.5	39.3	38.0	43.8	32.5	29.9	28.2	35.7	34.6	40.1	29.9
1976	32.3	30.2	39.6	38.2	44.3	31.9	29.7	28.1	36.2	34.9	40.8	29.2
1975	32.2	30.1	39.9	38.3	44.9	32.8	29.5	27.9	36.4	35.1	40.8	29.7
1974	32.2	30.2	40.3	38.7	45.0	32.0	29.5	27.7	36.7	35.4	41.3	29.2
1973	32.4	30.4	40.8	39.3	45.8	31.7	29.7	27.8	37.3	36.0	42.0	28.7
1972	32.6	30.4	40.9	39.4	45.6	32.4	29.8	27.9	37.7	36.2	42.6	29.6
1971	32.9	30.5	41.5	40.0	46.3	32.6	29.8	27.7	37.9	36.5	42.2	29.6
1970	32.9	30.5	41.5	39.9	46.5	33.1	29.8	27.7	38.2	36.5	42.8	29.3
Mean age in years												
1990	37.3	35.0	43.1	41.9	46.5	37.2	34.8	32.9	39.5	38.6	41.9	34.7
1989	37.2	34.8	42.9	41.8	46.1	37.4	34.6	32.7	39.2	38.3	41.6	34.7
1988	36.9	34.7	42.5	41.5	45.8	37.0	34.4	32.5	39.0	38.2	41.5	34.3
1987	36.8	34.6	42.3	41.3	45.5	37.2	34.2	32.4	38.8	38.0	41.4	34.4
1986	36.5	34.4	42.1	41.0	45.2	36.6	33.9	32.2	38.6	37.8	41.1	33.8
1985	36.4	34.3	41.9	41.0	44.9	36.4	33.7	32.0	38.5	37.7	41.2	33.6
1984	36.2	34.2	41.6	40.7	44.6	36.4	33.6	31.9	38.2	37.5	40.5	33.6
1983	36.1	34.1	41.4	40.5	44.6	36.1	33.5	31.8	38.1	37.2	41.0	33.1
1982	35.7	33.7	41.3	40.3	44.6	35.8	33.1	31.4	37.9	37.0	40.7	32.9
1981	35.4	33.4	40.9	39.8	44.5	35.8	32.7	31.1	37.6	36.7	40.5	32.7
1980	35.1	33.2	40.6	39.6	43.7	35.3	32.4	30.8	37.4	36.5	40.4	32.3
1979	35.0	33.1	40.7	39.7	44.2	35.4	32.3	30.7	37.4	36.6	40.5	32.5
1978	34.8	32.9	40.5	39.5	43.8	35.0	32.1	30.5	37.2	36.2	40.5	32.1
1977	35.1	33.0	41.4	40.4	45.3	35.1	32.4	30.5	38.1	37.2	41.6	32.2
1976	35.1	32.9	41.7	40.4	45.6	34.6	32.3	30.4	38.3	37.1	42.2	31.8
1975	35.0	32.8	41.7	40.4	45.8	35.6	32.3	30.3	38.5	37.4	42.1	32.5
1974	35.1	32.9	42.1	40.9	46.1	35.1	32.3	30.3	38.8	37.6	42.6	32.1
1973	35.3	33.1	42.4	41.1	46.4	34.9	32.5	30.4	39.1	38.0	42.7	31.6
1972	35.4	33.2	42.4	41.1	46.4	35.3	32.6	30.5	39.3	38.0	43.4	32.4
1971	35.6	33.2	42.7	41.4	46.8	35.2	32.7	30.4	39.4	38.2	43.0	32.3
1970	35.6	33.2	42.8	41.4	47.1	35.4	32.7	30.4	39.3	38.1	43.4	32.2

<sup>1</sup>Includes remarried, number not stated.



**Table 8. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments by age of husband and wife at time of this marriage: Divorce-registration area, 1970 and 1980–90**

[Based on sample data]

<i>Age of husband and wife at time of this marriage</i>	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1970
Percent distribution												
Husband												
All ages . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years . . . . .	11.7	12.1	12.4	12.8	13.7	14.2	14.9	15.4	16.1	17.0	18.0	19.3
20–24 years . . . . .	38.8	39.3	40.2	40.5	40.8	41.4	41.9	42.5	43.0	44.0	44.0	43.8
25–29 years . . . . .	22.3	22.0	21.8	21.3	21.0	20.5	20.1	19.7	19.3	18.7	18.4	16.4
30–34 years . . . . .	11.6	11.1	10.8	10.6	10.4	10.3	9.7	9.3	9.0	8.6	8.1	7.6
35–39 years . . . . .	6.5	6.5	6.2	6.3	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.1	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.6
40–44 years . . . . .	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.8	3.2
45 years and over . . . . .	5.2	5.3	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.2	5.2
Wife												
All ages . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years . . . . .	27.6	28.5	29.6	30.4	31.7	32.6	34.0	35.1	36.6	38.3	39.9	46.1
20–24 years . . . . .	36.6	36.3	36.5	36.5	36.4	36.7	36.4	36.3	36.2	35.9	35.5	30.3
25–29 years . . . . .	16.4	16.6	15.9	15.4	14.8	14.4	13.8	13.3	12.7	12.1	11.4	9.5
30–34 years . . . . .	8.5	8.3	8.1	7.9	7.6	7.2	6.8	6.7	6.2	5.8	5.6	4.8
35–39 years . . . . .	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.1	3.4
40–44 years . . . . .	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.3
45 years and over . . . . .	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	3.5

**Table 9. Median and mean age of husband and wife at time of this marriage by number of marriage: Divorce-registration area, 1970–90**

[Based on sample data. Medians and means computed on data by single years of age]

Year	Number of marriage of husband						Number of marriage of wife					
	Total	First marriage	Remarriage			Number of marriage not stated	Total	First marriage	Remarriage			Number of marriage not stated
			Total <sup>1</sup>	Second marriage	Third marriage or more				Total <sup>1</sup>	Second marriage	Third marriage or more	
	Median age in years											
1990	24.9	23.1	33.7	32.0	39.0	25.0	22.6	21.0	30.6	29.1	35.3	22.6
1989	24.8	23.0	33.6	31.9	38.7	24.8	22.5	20.9	30.3	28.8	35.0	22.4
1988	24.6	22.8	33.4	31.8	38.5	24.7	22.3	20.8	30.1	28.7	34.9	22.3
1987	24.5	22.8	33.4	31.8	38.2	24.6	22.2	20.7	30.2	28.7	34.9	22.2
1986	24.3	22.7	33.2	31.6	38.0	24.6	22.0	20.6	30.0	28.6	34.7	22.1
1985	24.1	22.6	32.9	31.4	37.9	24.2	21.8	20.5	29.8	28.4	34.6	21.8
1984	24.0	22.5	32.7	31.3	37.5	24.2	21.7	20.4	29.6	28.3	34.0	21.6
1983	23.8	22.4	32.5	31.1	37.7	24.3	21.5	20.3	29.5	28.1	34.1	21.5
1982	23.7	22.3	32.4	31.0	37.6	23.9	21.3	20.2	29.2	28.0	34.3	21.4
1981	23.4	22.1	32.0	30.6	37.6	23.7	21.1	20.0	28.9	27.7	33.9	21.2
1980	23.3	22.0	31.8	30.4	37.1	23.7	20.9	19.9	28.8	27.4	33.9	21.0
1979	23.2	22.0	31.7	30.4	37.2	23.5	20.9	19.8	28.8	27.4	34.0	20.9
1978	23.0	21.9	31.5	30.1	37.1	23.2	20.7	19.7	28.5	27.1	34.1	20.6
1977	23.1	21.9	32.1	30.6	38.1	23.1	20.7	19.7	28.9	27.5	34.7	20.6
1976	23.1	21.9	32.5	30.7	38.6	22.8	20.7	19.7	29.3	27.6	35.2	20.4
1975	23.0	21.9	32.1	30.5	38.8	23.1	20.6	19.7	29.1	27.4	35.3	20.4
1974	23.0	21.8	32.6	30.8	39.1	23.1	20.6	19.6	29.3	27.7	35.5	20.4
1973	22.9	21.8	32.8	31.0	39.3	23.0	20.5	19.6	29.4	27.7	36.3	20.4
1972	23.0	21.8	32.7	30.8	39.0	22.9	20.5	19.5	29.5	27.7	36.8	20.4
1971	23.0	21.8	33.0	31.1	39.8	22.8	20.5	19.5	29.6	27.9	36.1	20.1
1970	23.0	21.8	33.0	31.1	39.8	22.7	20.4	19.4	29.6	27.7	36.8	19.9
	Mean age in years											
1990	27.6	24.2	35.8	34.1	40.6	27.8	25.0	22.0	32.4	31.0	36.5	25.2
1989	27.5	24.1	35.7	34.1	40.5	27.6	24.9	21.9	32.2	30.8	36.5	24.9
1988	27.3	23.9	35.5	34.0	40.2	27.5	24.7	21.8	32.1	30.7	36.4	24.7
1987	27.2	23.9	35.5	34.0	40.2	27.6	24.7	21.7	32.1	30.7	36.5	24.8
1986	27.0	23.8	35.4	33.9	40.0	27.4	24.4	21.6	32.0	30.6	36.2	24.6
1985	26.9	23.7	35.3	33.8	39.8	27.3	24.3	21.5	31.9	30.6	36.4	24.3
1984	26.7	23.5	35.1	33.7	39.6	27.4	24.1	21.3	31.8	30.5	35.7	24.6
1983	26.6	23.4	34.9	33.5	39.5	27.2	24.0	21.2	31.7	30.4	36.2	24.2
1982	26.4	23.3	35.0	33.5	39.8	27.0	23.8	21.0	31.6	30.3	36.1	24.1
1981	26.1	23.1	34.6	33.2	39.6	26.9	23.5	20.9	31.4	30.1	35.9	23.9
1980	25.9	23.0	34.4	33.0	39.0	26.7	23.3	20.7	31.2	29.8	35.9	23.8
1979	25.8	22.9	34.5	33.1	39.2	26.6	23.2	20.6	31.2	29.9	35.9	23.6
1978	25.7	22.9	34.2	32.8	39.0	26.1	23.1	20.5	31.0	29.6	36.0	23.1
1977	25.9	22.9	34.9	33.5	40.0	26.0	23.3	20.5	31.6	30.2	36.6	22.9
1976	25.9	22.9	35.2	33.5	40.4	25.6	23.3	20.5	31.9	30.2	37.1	22.6
1975	25.8	22.9	35.0	33.4	40.5	26.2	23.2	20.4	31.8	30.3	37.0	23.0
1974	25.9	22.8	35.4	33.7	40.9	25.9	23.2	20.4	32.1	30.4	37.5	22.8
1973	25.9	22.8	35.5	33.8	40.9	25.9	23.2	20.3	32.1	30.5	37.6	22.7
1972	25.9	22.9	35.3	33.7	40.7	25.8	23.2	20.3	32.2	30.5	37.9	22.8
1971	26.0	22.9	35.6	33.8	41.3	25.3	23.2	20.2	32.3	30.6	37.7	22.3
1970	26.1	23.0	35.7	34.0	41.2	25.5	23.2	20.2	32.3	30.5	38.0	22.2

<sup>1</sup>Includes remarried, number not stated.

**Table 10. Median and mean duration of marriage at time of decree by number of this marriage of husband and wife: Divorce-registration area, 1970–90**

[Based on sample data]

Year	Number of marriage of husband						Number of marriage of wife				
	Total	Remarriage			Number of marriage not stated	First marriage	Remarriage				
		First marriage	Total <sup>1</sup>	Second marriage			Third marriage or more	Total <sup>1</sup>	Second marriage	Third marriage or more	Number of marriage not stated
Median duration in years											
1990	7.2	8.1	5.8	6.3	4.6	6.8	8.3	5.5	6.1	4.0	6.8
1989	7.2	8.1	5.7	6.2	4.3	7.2	8.2	5.4	6.0	3.9	7.1
1988	7.1	8.0	5.5	5.9	4.3	7.0	8.1	5.3	5.9	3.9	7.1
1987	7.0	7.9	5.3	5.7	4.0	7.0	8.0	5.1	5.6	3.7	7.0
1986	6.9	7.9	5.1	5.5	3.9	6.9	7.9	5.0	5.5	3.6	6.9
1985	6.8	8.0	4.9	5.4	3.7	6.5	8.0	4.8	5.4	3.5	6.5
1984	6.9	8.3	4.8	5.2	3.6	6.5	8.2	4.7	5.2	3.4	6.5
1983	7.0	8.4	4.8	5.2	3.6	6.6	8.4	4.7	5.2	3.3	6.6
1982	7.0	8.2	4.6	5.0	3.4	6.8	8.2	4.5	5.0	3.2	6.9
1981	7.0	8.1	4.5	4.9	3.3	6.8	8.0	4.4	4.9	3.1	6.8
1980	6.8	7.8	4.4	4.8	3.2	6.6	7.7	4.4	4.8	3.2	6.6
1979	6.8	7.8	4.4	4.8	3.3	6.6	7.7	4.4	4.8	3.0	6.7
1978	6.6	7.5	4.3	4.6	3.2	6.3	7.5	4.3	4.7	3.0	6.4
1977	6.6	7.5	4.6	4.8	3.5	6.4	7.4	4.6	4.9	3.4	6.4
1976	6.5	7.3	4.5	4.8	3.5	6.1	7.3	4.5	4.9	3.4	6.2
1975	6.5	7.3	4.5	4.8	3.6	6.4	7.2	4.5	5.0	3.2	6.4
1974	6.5	7.3	4.6	5.0	3.6	6.4	7.2	4.6	5.0	3.5	6.5
1973	6.6	7.5	4.6	4.9	3.7	6.3	7.5	4.8	5.2	3.6	6.3
1972	6.7	7.5	4.7	5.0	3.8	6.2	7.4	4.8	5.2	3.7	6.3
1971	6.7	7.6	4.9	5.2	3.8	6.5	7.5	4.9	5.4	3.7	6.5
1970	6.7	7.6	4.8	5.1	3.9	6.5	7.6	4.9	5.3	3.8	6.5
Mean duration in years											
1990	9.8	10.9	7.4	7.8	6.0	9.3	11.0	7.1	7.7	5.4	9.3
1989	9.8	10.8	7.2	7.8	5.7	9.7	10.9	7.0	7.6	5.2	9.7
1988	9.7	10.8	7.0	7.5	5.6	9.6	10.9	6.9	7.5	5.2	9.7
1987	9.6	10.8	6.9	7.4	5.4	9.5	10.8	6.8	7.3	5.0	9.6
1986	9.6	10.7	6.7	7.2	5.3	9.4	10.7	6.7	7.2	5.0	9.5
1985	9.5	10.7	6.7	7.2	5.1	9.2	10.7	6.6	7.1	4.9	9.2
1984	9.5	10.8	6.5	7.0	5.1	9.1	10.8	6.5	7.0	4.8	9.2
1983	9.6	10.8	6.6	7.0	5.1	9.1	10.8	6.5	7.0	4.9	9.2
1982	9.4	10.5	6.4	6.9	4.8	9.3	10.5	6.3	6.8	4.7	9.3
1981	9.3	10.4	6.3	6.7	4.9	9.1	10.4	6.3	6.7	4.7	9.2
1980	9.2	10.2	6.2	6.6	4.8	9.2	10.2	6.3	6.8	4.7	9.2
1979	9.3	10.3	6.3	6.7	5.0	9.1	10.2	6.3	6.8	4.7	9.2
1978	9.1	10.1	6.3	6.7	4.9	8.9	10.1	6.3	6.7	4.6	9.0
1977	9.2	10.2	6.5	6.9	5.3	9.0	10.1	6.6	7.0	5.1	9.1
1976	9.2	10.1	6.5	7.0	5.2	8.9	10.1	6.6	7.0	5.2	9.0
1975	9.2	10.0	6.7	7.1	5.4	9.1	10.0	6.8	7.3	5.1	9.1
1974	9.3	10.1	6.8	7.2	5.2	9.3	10.1	6.8	7.2	5.2	9.4
1973	9.4	10.3	6.9	7.3	5.6	9.2	10.3	7.0	7.6	5.2	9.3
1972	9.5	10.3	7.1	7.5	5.8	9.2	10.3	7.1	7.6	5.6	9.3
1971	9.5	10.4	7.1	7.6	5.6	9.4	10.4	7.2	7.7	5.4	9.4
1970	9.5	10.4	7.1	7.4	5.9	9.4	10.4	7.1	7.7	5.5	9.5

<sup>1</sup>Includes remarried, number not stated.

**Table 11. Percent distribution of divorces and annulments by duration of marriage to decree and median and mean duration of marriage to decree: Divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1989 and 1990**

[Based on sample data]

Area and year	Total	Less than 1 year	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25 years and over	Median	Mean
1990	Percent distribution								Years <sup>1</sup>	
Divorce-registration area	100.0	3.3	31.7	28.3	15.0	9.2	6.2	6.2	7.2	9.8
Alabama	100.0	8.6	35.9	25.2	12.9	7.2	5.1	5.3	5.8	8.5
Alaska	100.0	5.4	36.4	28.7	14.3	7.1	4.9	3.3	6.2	8.2
Connecticut	100.0	1.4	30.5	27.4	15.0	10.0	7.6	8.0	7.9	10.7
Delaware	100.0	1.7	32.2	28.9	15.4	9.1	6.3	6.4	7.4	9.9
District of Columbia	100.0	0.8	28.5	32.6	14.6	9.4	6.0	8.1	7.8	10.6
Georgia	100.0	5.8	37.5	27.3	12.3	8.6	4.2	4.3	5.9	8.3
Hawaii	100.0	3.1	35.0	30.1	14.3	8.3	4.7	4.5	6.6	8.9
Idaho	100.0	7.1	36.1	25.8	13.7	8.3	4.7	4.3	6.0	8.5
Illinois	100.0	3.3	31.3	28.0	15.2	9.4	6.5	6.2	7.4	9.9
Iowa	100.0	3.0	30.6	26.7	15.9	10.3	6.8	6.7	7.8	10.2
Kansas	100.0	6.3	36.5	26.9	13.5	7.3	4.9	4.6	6.0	8.4
Kentucky	100.0	6.7	37.6	24.9	13.1	7.6	4.9	5.2	5.8	8.5
Maryland	100.0	*	21.3	33.2	18.5	10.3	7.8	8.4	9.1	11.6
Massachusetts	100.0	*	26.4	29.0	17.0	11.1	8.0	8.2	8.8	11.3
Michigan	100.0	2.7	30.9	28.2	16.1	8.9	6.7	6.5	7.6	10.0
Missouri	100.0	3.8	35.4	27.5	14.1	7.7	5.7	5.8	6.7	9.2
Montana	100.0	4.5	32.5	27.4	14.5	9.9	6.1	5.1	7.0	9.4
Nebraska	100.0	2.9	30.0	28.5	15.7	9.4	6.9	6.6	7.6	10.1
New Hampshire	100.0	1.1	30.9	30.2	15.9	9.5	6.7	5.6	7.7	10.0
New York	100.0	1.4	27.9	31.8	14.4	9.5	7.2	7.7	7.7	10.6
Ohio	100.0	3.4	34.5	28.1	14.6	8.7	6.0	4.7	6.8	9.2
Oregon	100.0	3.0	32.1	27.5	16.8	8.4	6.8	5.4	7.4	9.7
Pennsylvania	100.0	1.1	25.1	29.6	16.6	11.6	7.7	8.3	8.8	11.3
Rhode Island	100.0	0.8	27.8	29.6	17.1	10.0	6.9	7.7	8.3	10.8
South Carolina	100.0	1.6	30.1	29.4	15.6	10.8	6.8	5.8	7.8	10.2
South Dakota	100.0	4.2	33.7	27.1	14.2	10.5	5.0	5.4	6.8	9.3
Tennessee	100.0	6.5	38.1	24.7	13.2	8.1	4.4	4.6	5.8	8.5
Utah	100.0	6.2	36.0	26.1	13.9	8.5	4.9	6.2	6.2	8.6
Vermont	100.0	0.8	29.8	29.5	16.1	10.3	6.6	6.9	7.9	10.4
Virginia	100.0	0.6	28.0	29.9	17.0	10.1	6.9	7.5	8.3	10.8
Wisconsin	100.0	1.2	28.5	28.7	16.5	11.7	7.0	6.3	8.4	10.6
Wyoming	100.0	6.2	34.8	26.1	15.1	8.5	4.9	4.4	6.4	8.7
1989										
Divorce-registration area	100.0	3.5	31.8	28.4	14.7	9.5	6.1	6.1	7.2	9.8
Alabama	100.0	8.6	37.5	24.7	12.3	7.7	4.5	4.7	5.6	8.3
Alaska	100.0	5.0	37.3	30.0	12.6	7.9	4.0	3.2	5.9	8.1
Connecticut	100.0	1.6	30.6	27.1	14.7	10.4	8.2	7.5	7.9	10.7
Delaware	100.0	2.0	30.0	30.2	16.0	9.6	5.8	6.4	7.7	10.0
District of Columbia	100.0	*	28.7	33.2	13.6	9.4	6.2	8.2	7.6	10.6
Georgia	100.0	6.6	37.6	26.8	12.9	7.2	4.8	4.2	5.8	8.3
Hawaii	100.0	2.8	34.4	30.8	13.7	8.7	4.8	4.9	6.7	9.0
Idaho	100.0	6.9	35.7	25.8	12.9	9.2	4.4	5.2	6.2	8.8
Illinois	100.0	3.6	31.6	27.2	14.6	10.6	5.8	6.6	7.3	10.0
Iowa	100.0	2.4	31.9	27.6	16.0	9.8	6.6	5.7	7.5	9.9
Kansas	100.0	6.0	35.7	27.7	13.7	7.7	4.3	4.8	6.2	8.5
Kentucky	100.0	6.2	37.6	26.5	13.1	7.3	4.6	4.8	5.9	8.4
Maryland	100.0	0.6	22.0	33.2	18.1	11.3	7.1	7.7	8.9	11.3
Massachusetts	100.0	0.7	25.9	28.9	16.7	10.7	8.0	9.1	8.8	11.5
Michigan	100.0	2.9	30.3	27.8	15.4	10.6	6.7	6.3	7.7	10.2
Missouri	100.0	5.1	34.8	28.0	13.0	8.3	5.3	5.4	6.5	9.1
Montana	100.0	5.0	33.0	27.5	15.3	9.1	5.2	4.9	6.9	9.2
Nebraska	100.0	2.2	31.7	27.7	14.3	10.5	7.4	6.3	7.6	10.2
New Hampshire	100.0	1.4	31.0	31.2	14.0	10.5	6.0	5.8	7.4	9.9
New York	100.0	1.1	30.3	30.4	14.2	9.8	7.2	7.0	7.5	10.4
Ohio	100.0	3.8	33.7	28.1	13.9	9.2	6.1	5.2	6.9	9.4
Oregon	100.0	3.6	31.8	28.1	16.4	9.5	5.6	4.9	7.4	9.5
Pennsylvania	100.0	1.1	24.3	29.6	17.1	12.0	7.0	9.0	9.0	11.5
Rhode Island	100.0	0.7	29.3	30.5	15.5	9.8	6.9	7.2	7.9	10.6
South Carolina	100.0	1.7	31.0	28.9	17.0	9.6	5.9	5.9	7.6	10.0
South Dakota	100.0	4.5	33.4	28.2	13.3	9.7	5.3	5.5	6.9	9.4
Tennessee	100.0	6.7	38.1	25.9	12.8	7.4	4.6	4.3	5.7	8.2
Utah	100.0	6.9	35.1	27.3	14.2	8.0	4.5	4.2	6.2	8.5
Vermont	100.0	*	27.1	30.7	16.0	10.0	8.2	7.3	8.3	11.0
Virginia	100.0	0.7	28.0	30.9	16.6	9.9	7.0	6.9	8.1	10.6
Wisconsin	100.0	1.2	27.4	30.2	17.1	10.4	6.8	6.8	8.3	10.6
Wyoming	100.0	5.7	34.1	28.6	13.8	8.0	5.0	4.9	6.5	8.8

<sup>1</sup>Medians and means computed on data by single years of duration.

**Table 12. Divorces and annulments by race of wife and husband: Total of 27 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1989 and 1990**

[Based on sample data]

<i>Race of husband and year</i>	<i>Race of wife</i>				
	<i>All races</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Not stated</i>
1990					
All races . . . . .	464,736	383,240	51,080	9,311	21,105
White . . . . .	383,021	376,346	1,689	3,499	1,487
Black . . . . .	52,566	2,990	48,962	342	272
Other races . . . . .	8,374	2,625	262	5,414	73
Not stated . . . . .	20,775	1,279	167	56	19,273
1989					
All races . . . . .	457,673	375,931	51,279	9,156	21,307
White . . . . .	375,528	369,572	1,164	3,370	1,422
Black . . . . .	52,846	2,680	49,638	373	155
Other races . . . . .	8,464	2,630	365	5,369	100
Not stated . . . . .	20,835	1,049	112	44	19,630

NOTE: The 27 reporting States were Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

**Table 13. Divorces and annulments and rates, by age and race of husband and wife: Total of 27 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1990**

[Based on sample data. Before calculation of rates, figures for race and age not stated were distributed. Rates per 1,000 married population in specified group enumerated as of April 1, 1990]

Age at time of decree	Men					Women				
	All races	White	Black	Other races	Not stated	All races	White	Black	Other races	Not stated
	Number									
All ages . . . . .	464,736	383,021	52,566	8,374	20,775	464,736	383,240	51,080	9,311	21,105
15-19 years <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	1,929	1,855	26	7	41	7,556	6,916	266	97	277
20-24 years . . . . .	36,270	32,101	2,187	525	1,457	59,286	51,887	4,140	940	2,319
25-29 years . . . . .	85,094	71,597	8,921	1,487	3,089	98,038	81,974	10,299	2,119	3,646
30-34 years . . . . .	93,504	76,619	11,684	1,925	3,276	93,241	76,327	11,523	2,135	3,256
35-39 years . . . . .	79,144	64,505	10,222	1,527	2,890	73,189	59,602	9,466	1,600	2,521
40-44 years . . . . .	63,467	52,586	7,255	1,140	2,486	55,454	46,134	6,000	1,085	2,235
45-54 years . . . . .	63,724	53,238	7,311	987	2,188	46,825	38,615	5,498	863	1,849
55-64 years . . . . .	21,747	17,799	2,737	405	806	12,661	10,234	1,691	219	517
65 years and over . . . . .	8,210	6,606	1,066	177	361	4,542	3,708	600	49	185
Not stated . . . . .	11,647	6,115	1,157	194	4,181	13,944	7,843	1,597	204	4,300
	Rate									
All ages . . . . .	19.4	19.1	24.6	12.7	...	19.3	19.1	22.8	13.1	...
15-24 years <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	44.2	47.6	23.1	26.2	...	47.0	49.6	31.9	25.0	...
25-29 years . . . . .	40.0	40.2	42.4	24.6	...	37.6	37.8	40.2	23.3	...
30-34 years . . . . .	32.1	31.6	41.2	19.8	...	29.5	29.1	35.7	18.6	...
35-39 years . . . . .	26.6	26.1	34.7	15.4	...	24.0	23.7	29.9	14.5	...
40-44 years . . . . .	22.4	22.2	27.6	12.6	...	19.9	20.0	22.3	11.2	...
45-54 years . . . . .	15.2	15.1	19.1	7.7	...	11.6	11.4	14.2	7.2	...
55-64 years . . . . .	6.2	5.9	9.6	5.2	...	3.9	3.7	6.2	2.9	...
65 years and over . . . . .	2.1	1.9	3.9	2.6	...	1.5	1.4	2.9	*	...

<sup>1</sup>Includes divorces of persons under 15 years of age.

NOTE: The 27 reporting States were Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

**Table 14. Mean age of husband and wife at time of decree by race of husband and wife: Total of 27 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1989 and 1990**

[Based on sample data. Mean age in years]

Race of husband	Race of wife									
	1990					1989				
	All races	White	Black	Other races	Not stated	All races	White	Black	Other races	Not stated
	Mean age of husband									
All races . . . . .	36.8	36.7	37.8	37.5	37.0	36.7	36.5	37.4	37.3	36.7
White . . . . .	36.7	36.7	35.6	37.4	38.4	36.6	36.6	35.1	36.3	37.3
Black . . . . .	37.7	35.0	37.9	35.7	41.2	37.4	35.0	37.5	35.4	*
Other races . . . . .	36.9	35.6	33.1	37.8	*	37.0	35.1	35.2	38.2	*
Not stated . . . . .	36.9	37.6	*	*	36.8	36.6	36.0	*	*	36.7
	Mean age of wife									
All races . . . . .	34.3	34.1	35.4	34.1	34.4	34.0	33.9	35.0	34.4	34.0
White . . . . .	34.1	34.1	34.3	34.0	35.6	33.9	33.9	32.0	34.1	34.0
Black . . . . .	35.3	32.0	35.5	33.4	35.3	34.9	32.5	35.1	32.5	*
Other races . . . . .	33.9	33.2	32.4	34.3	*	33.9	32.5	32.0	34.8	*
Not stated . . . . .	34.4	35.0	*	*	34.4	34.0	33.3	*	*	34.1

NOTE: The 27 reporting States were Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

**Table 15. Mean duration of marriage at time of decree by race of husband and wife: Total of 27 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1989 and 1990**

[Based on sample data. Mean duration in years]

Race of husband	Race of wife									
	1990					1989				
	All races	White	Black	Other races	Not stated	All races	White	Black	Other races	Not stated
All races . . . . .	9.3	9.2	10.2	8.4	9.0	9.2	9.1	9.9	8.6	8.8
White . . . . .	9.2	9.2	6.4	7.6	8.8	9.2	9.2	7.0	7.9	8.1
Black . . . . .	10.1	7.1	10.3	5.8	13.4	9.8	6.1	10.0	6.8	*
Other races . . . . .	8.2	6.6	5.3	9.1	*	8.0	6.4	5.2	9.1	*
Not stated . . . . .	8.9	7.6	*	*	8.9	8.7	6.9	*	*	8.8

NOTE: The 27 reporting States were Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

**Table 16. Average number of children per decree by race of husband and wife: Total of 27 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1989 and 1990**

[Based on sample data]

Race of husband	Race of wife									
	1990					1989				
	All races	White	Black	Other races	Not stated	All races	White	Black	Other races	Not stated
All races . . . . .	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.89	0.94	0.91	0.91	0.88	0.97	0.91
White . . . . .	0.90	0.90	0.74	0.79	0.82	0.91	0.91	0.59	0.88	0.96
Black . . . . .	0.91	0.94	0.91	0.75	0.74	0.89	0.90	0.89	0.96	*
Other races . . . . .	0.88	0.79	*	0.96	*	0.92	0.82	*	1.03	*
Not stated . . . . .	0.95	0.90	*	*	0.96	0.91	0.91	*	*	0.91

NOTE: The 27 reporting States were Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Table 17. Divorces by whether and to whom custody was awarded: Each of 15 reporting States in 1989 and each of 19 reporting States in 1990

[Based on sample data]

Area and year	All divorces	No custody awarded <sup>1</sup>	Custody awarded to: <sup>2</sup>						Not stated <sup>3</sup>
			Total	Husband	Wife	Joint	Other person	Combination	
1990									
Total, 19 reporting States . . . . .	319,695	149,674	128,507	11,186	92,330	20,183	1,704	3,104	41,514
Alabama . . . . .	25,770	12,810	8,760	790	7,075	750	40	105	4,200
Alaska . . . . .	3,161	1,665	971	114	605	188	28	36	525
Connecticut . . . . .	10,330	5,200	4,584	242	2,648	1,678	10	6	546
Idaho . . . . .	6,458	3,198	3,232	280	1,752	1,062	28	110	28
Illinois . . . . .	45,990	21,500	10,750	800	8,070	1,540	20	320	13,740
Kansas . . . . .	12,570	6,002	6,434	344	3,044	2,810	126	110	134
Michigan . . . . .	40,640	19,330	18,640	1,760	13,560	2,590	120	610	2,670
Missouri . . . . .	25,685	12,065	13,565	1,265	9,765	2,105	135	295	55
Montana . . . . .	4,049	1,907	2,138	148	968	944	18	60	4
Nebraska . . . . .	6,500	2,440	3,854	382	3,068	168	62	174	206
New Hampshire . . . . .	4,955	2,265	2,690	253	2,143	188	32	74	—
Oregon . . . . .	15,755	8,170	7,425	780	5,175	1,075	140	255	160
Pennsylvania . . . . .	40,120	16,080	19,060	1,570	14,440	2,060	550	440	4,980
Rhode Island . . . . .	3,754	1,602	1,134	57	692	372	5	8	1,018
Tennessee . . . . .	32,110	15,680	14,080	1,430	11,060	1,230	180	180	2,350
Utah . . . . .	8,950	3,536	3,530	264	2,834	300	10	122	1,884
Vermont . . . . .	2,491	1,095	543	51	383	93	5	11	853
Virginia . . . . .	27,275	13,695	5,420	525	3,790	775	185	145	8,160
Wyoming . . . . .	3,132	1,434	1,697	131	1,258	255	10	43	1
1989									
Total, 15 reporting States . . . . .	290,166	131,561	110,787	9,046	79,001	18,980	1,181	2,579	47,818
Alabama . . . . .	25,085	11,760	8,995	745	7,230	770	90	160	4,330
Connecticut . . . . .	11,852	6,110	5,258	272	3,114	1,860	4	8	484
Idaho . . . . .	6,286	3,078	3,182	224	1,794	1,016	10	138	26
Illinois . . . . .	45,870	20,840	7,060	500	5,410	950	10	190	17,970
Kansas . . . . .	12,294	5,470	6,310	408	3,162	2,486	160	94	514
Michigan . . . . .	40,270	17,830	9,990	870	7,450	1,240	120	310	12,450
Missouri . . . . .	25,135	12,245	12,550	1,145	9,235	1,775	125	270	340
Montana . . . . .	4,103	1,919	2,182	135	1,015	950	15	67	2
New Hampshire . . . . .	5,023	2,355	2,667	265	2,096	178	34	94	1
Oregon . . . . .	15,095	7,560	6,540	565	4,775	940	25	235	995
Pennsylvania . . . . .	38,390	15,420	18,750	1,530	14,460	1,970	320	470	4,220
Tennessee . . . . .	31,880	15,620	14,860	1,550	11,640	1,260	230	180	1,400
Utah . . . . .	8,114	3,084	1,504	132	1,176	142	4	50	3,526
Wisconsin . . . . .	17,735	6,945	9,235	560	5,205	3,215	10	245	1,555
Wyoming . . . . .	3,034	1,325	1,704	145	1,239	228	24	68	5

<sup>1</sup>Includes divorces in which the number of children under 18 years of age was reported as "none," and therefore the custody item was not applicable; also includes divorces in which children were reported, but no custody was awarded.

<sup>2</sup>The categories "Husband," "Wife," "Joint," or "Other" mean that all children in a family were awarded to that category. "Combination" means that some children were awarded to one custodian and some were awarded to another.

<sup>3</sup>Includes divorces where custody was not reported except those in which the number of children was reported as none. Such divorces were assigned to "No custody awarded."



**Table 18. Number and percent distribution of children under 18 years of age for whom custody was reported, by person(s) awarded custody: Each of 15 reporting States in 1989 and each of 19 reporting States in 1990**

[Based on sample data]

Area and year	Custody awarded to:				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Husband	Wife	Joint	Other person
1990					
Number					
Total, 19 reporting States . . . . .	221,883	22,906	160,946	34,820	3,211
Alabama . . . . .	14,400	1,540	11,550	1,245	65
Alaska . . . . .	1,677	238	1,058	327	54
Connecticut . . . . .	7,708	406	4,476	2,808	18
Idaho . . . . .	5,964	622	3,300	1,980	62
Illinois . . . . .	18,680	1,720	14,090	2,820	50
Kansas . . . . .	11,544	780	5,444	5,034	286
Michigan . . . . .	33,280	3,720	24,580	4,740	240
Missouri . . . . .	23,135	2,540	16,910	3,430	255
Montana . . . . .	3,854	325	1,788	1,694	47
Nebraska . . . . .	7,220	882	5,872	298	168
New Hampshire . . . . .	4,567	502	3,674	326	65
Oregon . . . . .	13,290	1,675	9,525	1,855	235
Pennsylvania . . . . .	32,560	3,260	24,980	3,300	1,020
Rhode Island . . . . .	1,840	100	1,145	584	11
Tennessee . . . . .	22,210	2,500	17,530	1,910	270
Utah . . . . .	7,414	718	6,016	664	16
Vermont . . . . .	961	102	686	164	9
Virginia . . . . .	8,500	985	6,030	1,175	310
Wyoming . . . . .	3,079	291	2,292	466	30
Percent distribution					
Total, 19 reporting States . . . . .	100.0	10.3	72.5	15.7	1.4
Alabama . . . . .	100.0	10.7	80.2	8.6	*
Alaska . . . . .	100.0	14.2	63.1	19.5	3.2
Connecticut . . . . .	100.0	5.3	58.1	36.4	*
Idaho . . . . .	100.0	10.4	55.3	33.2	1.0
Illinois . . . . .	100.0	9.2	75.4	15.1	*
Kansas . . . . .	100.0	6.8	47.2	43.6	2.5
Michigan . . . . .	100.0	11.2	73.9	14.2	0.7
Missouri . . . . .	100.0	11.0	73.1	14.8	1.1
Montana . . . . .	100.0	8.4	46.4	44.0	1.2
Nebraska . . . . .	100.0	12.2	81.3	4.1	2.3
New Hampshire . . . . .	100.0	11.0	80.4	7.1	1.4
Oregon . . . . .	100.0	12.6	71.7	14.0	1.8
Pennsylvania . . . . .	100.0	10.0	76.7	10.1	3.1
Rhode Island . . . . .	100.0	5.4	62.2	31.7	*
Tennessee . . . . .	100.0	11.3	78.9	8.6	1.2
Utah . . . . .	100.0	9.7	81.1	9.0	*
Vermont . . . . .	100.0	10.6	71.4	17.1	*
Virginia . . . . .	100.0	11.6	70.9	13.8	3.6
Wyoming . . . . .	100.0	9.5	74.4	15.1	1.0
1989					
Number					
Total, 15 reporting States . . . . .	191,471	18,426	137,840	32,910	2,295
Alabama . . . . .	14,730	1,430	11,710	1,365	225
Connecticut . . . . .	8,882	472	5,212	3,184	14
Idaho . . . . .	5,864	572	3,398	1,870	24
Illinois . . . . .	12,270	1,070	9,500	1,680	20
Kansas . . . . .	11,350	886	5,690	4,484	290
Michigan . . . . .	18,040	1,710	13,780	2,260	290
Missouri . . . . .	21,455	2,235	15,955	3,005	260
Montana . . . . .	3,965	320	1,897	1,717	31
New Hampshire . . . . .	4,508	549	3,602	296	61
Oregon . . . . .	11,575	1,235	8,575	1,725	40
Pennsylvania . . . . .	32,410	3,390	25,470	3,060	490
Tennessee . . . . .	23,550	2,610	18,590	1,900	450
Utah . . . . .	3,114	326	2,470	314	4
Wisconsin . . . . .	16,645	1,280	9,720	5,610	35
Wyoming . . . . .	3,113	341	2,271	440	61

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 18. Number and percent distribution of children under 18 years of age for whom custody was reported, by person(s) awarded custody: Each of 15 reporting States in 1989 and each of 19 reporting States in 1990—Con.**

[Based on sample data]

<i>Area and year</i>	<i>Custody awarded to:</i>				
	<i>Total</i> <sup>1</sup>	<i>Husband</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Joint</i>	<i>Other person</i>
1989—Con.			Percent distribution		
Total, 15 reporting States . . . . .	100.0	9.6	72.0	17.2	1.2
Alabama . . . . .	100.0	9.7	79.5	9.3	1.5
Connecticut . . . . .	100.0	5.3	58.7	35.8	*
Idaho . . . . .	100.0	9.8	57.9	31.9	*
Illinois . . . . .	100.0	8.7	77.4	13.7	*
Kansas . . . . .	100.0	7.8	50.1	39.5	2.6
Michigan . . . . .	100.0	9.5	76.4	12.5	1.6
Missouri . . . . .	100.0	10.4	74.4	14.0	1.2
Montana . . . . .	100.0	8.1	47.8	43.3	0.8
New Hampshire . . . . .	100.0	12.2	79.9	6.6	1.4
Oregon . . . . .	100.0	10.7	74.1	14.9	*
Pennsylvania . . . . .	100.0	10.5	78.6	9.4	1.5
Tennessee . . . . .	100.0	11.1	78.9	8.1	1.9
Utah . . . . .	100.0	10.5	79.3	10.1	*
Wisconsin . . . . .	100.0	7.7	58.4	33.7	*
Wyoming . . . . .	100.0	11.0	73.0	14.1	2.0

<sup>1</sup>Total of children for whom custody was reported does not necessarily equal the reported number of children under 18 years of age.

**Table 19. Number and percent distribution of children under 18 years of age for whom custody was reported, by person(s) awarded custody, according to age of husband and wife at time of decree: Total of 15 reporting States in 1989 and total of 19 reporting States in 1990**

[Based on sample data]

Age of husband and wife at time of decree	Custody awarded to:									
	1990					1989				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Husband	Wife	Joint	Other person	Total <sup>1</sup>	Husband	Wife	Joint	Other person
Husband						Number				
All ages . . . . .	221,883	22,906	160,946	34,820	3,211	191,471	18,426	137,840	32,910	2,295
Under 20 years . . . . .	544	48	433	61	2	445	38	336	44	27
20–24 years . . . . .	13,229	1,215	10,385	1,418	211	12,544	1,068	9,819	1,370	287
25–29 years . . . . .	41,146	4,071	30,954	5,430	691	34,797	2,822	26,407	5,171	397
30–34 years . . . . .	54,877	5,401	39,654	9,183	639	49,077	4,820	35,396	8,342	519
35–39 years . . . . .	52,598	5,567	37,181	9,193	657	44,551	4,277	31,239	8,695	340
40–44 years . . . . .	33,700	3,624	23,847	5,819	410	28,335	3,103	19,330	5,628	274
45–49 years . . . . .	14,204	1,822	9,689	2,314	379	11,731	1,229	8,111	2,256	135
50 years or older . . . . .	6,967	751	5,157	904	155	6,121	600	4,363	922	236
Age not stated . . . . .	4,618	407	3,646	498	67	3,870	469	2,839	482	80
Wife										
All ages . . . . .	221,883	22,906	160,946	34,820	3,211	191,471	18,426	137,840	32,910	2,295
Under 20 years . . . . .	2,090	211	1,634	224	21	1,992	249	1,436	254	53
20–24 years . . . . .	25,193	2,786	18,841	3,123	443	22,492	2,255	16,923	2,860	454
25–29 years . . . . .	53,257	5,356	39,443	7,738	720	46,447	4,102	34,457	7,327	561
30–34 years . . . . .	58,858	5,454	42,694	9,965	745	51,456	4,590	37,587	8,795	484
35–39 years . . . . .	45,366	4,908	31,936	7,867	655	38,940	4,151	26,778	7,624	387
40–44 years . . . . .	23,598	2,601	16,472	4,233	292	18,933	1,815	12,913	4,061	144
45–49 years . . . . .	6,688	858	4,649	1,050	131	5,224	445	3,523	1,151	105
50 years or older . . . . .	1,651	85	1,292	175	99	1,482	121	1,089	241	31
Age not stated . . . . .	5,182	647	3,985	445	105	4,505	698	3,134	597	76
Husband						Percent distribution				
All ages . . . . .	100.0	10.3	72.5	15.7	1.4	100.0	9.6	72.0	17.2	1.2
Under 20 years . . . . .	100.0	*	79.6	*	*	100.0	*	75.5	*	*
20–24 years . . . . .	100.0	9.2	78.5	10.7	1.6	100.0	8.5	78.3	10.9	2.3
25–29 years . . . . .	100.0	9.9	75.2	13.2	1.7	100.0	8.1	75.9	14.9	1.1
30–34 years . . . . .	100.0	9.8	72.3	16.7	1.2	100.0	9.8	72.1	17.0	1.1
35–39 years . . . . .	100.0	10.6	70.7	17.5	1.2	100.0	9.6	70.1	19.5	0.8
40–44 years . . . . .	100.0	10.8	70.8	17.3	1.2	100.0	11.0	68.2	19.9	1.0
45–49 years . . . . .	100.0	12.8	68.2	16.3	2.7	100.0	10.5	69.1	19.2	*
50 years or older . . . . .	100.0	10.8	74.0	13.0	2.2	100.0	9.8	71.3	15.1	3.9
Age not stated . . . . .	100.0	8.8	79.0	10.8	*	100.0	12.1	73.4	12.5	*
Wife										
All ages . . . . .	100.0	10.3	72.5	15.7	1.4	100.0	9.6	72.0	17.2	1.2
Under 20 years . . . . .	100.0	10.1	78.2	10.7	*	100.0	12.5	72.1	12.8	*
20–24 years . . . . .	100.0	11.1	74.8	12.4	1.8	100.0	10.0	75.2	12.7	2.0
25–29 years . . . . .	100.0	10.1	74.1	14.5	1.4	100.0	8.8	74.2	15.8	1.2
30–34 years . . . . .	100.0	9.3	72.5	16.9	1.3	100.0	8.9	73.0	17.1	0.9
35–39 years . . . . .	100.0	10.8	70.4	17.3	1.4	100.0	10.7	68.8	19.6	1.0
40–44 years . . . . .	100.0	11.0	69.8	17.9	1.2	100.0	9.6	68.2	21.4	*
45–49 years . . . . .	100.0	12.8	69.5	15.7	*	100.0	8.5	67.4	22.0	*
50 years or older . . . . .	100.0	*	78.3	10.6	*	100.0	*	73.5	16.3	*
Age not stated . . . . .	100.0	12.5	76.9	8.6	*	100.0	15.5	69.6	13.3	*

<sup>1</sup>Total of children for whom custody was reported does not necessarily equal the reported number of children under 18 years of age.

NOTES: Of the 31 States in the divorce-registration area, 15 reported custody in 1989—Alabama, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. In 1990 an additional five States reported—Alaska, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia. Wisconsin ceased to report.

**Table 20. Number and percent distribution of children under 18 years of age for whom custody was reported, by person(s) awarded custody, according to race of husband and wife: Total of 13 reporting States in 1989 and total of 17 reporting States in 1990**

[Based on sample data]

Race of husband and wife	Custody awarded to:									
	1990					1989				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Husband	Wife	Joint	Other person	Total <sup>1</sup>	Husband	Wife	Joint	Other person
Husband					Number					
All races . . . . .	184,036	18,684	132,692	29,754	2,906	168,923	16,167	120,458	30,354	1,944
White . . . . .	157,449	16,466	111,155	27,247	2,581	145,990	14,434	101,892	28,078	1,586
Black . . . . .	15,895	970	13,791	879	255	13,997	939	11,974	817	267
Other . . . . .	1,758	318	1,181	231	28	1,665	166	1,247	219	33
Race not stated. . . . .	8,934	930	6,565	1,397	42	7,271	628	5,345	1,240	58
Wife										
All races . . . . .	184,036	18,684	132,692	29,754	2,906	168,923	16,167	120,458	30,354	1,944
White . . . . .	157,392	16,185	111,445	27,190	2,572	146,254	14,245	102,396	28,070	1,543
Black . . . . .	15,102	894	13,209	767	232	13,359	810	11,513	772	264
Other . . . . .	2,193	556	1,306	298	33	1,905	375	1,257	234	39
Race not stated. . . . .	9,349	1,049	6,732	1,499	69	7,405	737	5,292	1,278	98
Husband					Percent distribution					
All races . . . . .	100.0	10.2	72.1	16.2	1.6	100.0	9.6	71.3	18.0	1.2
White . . . . .	100.0	10.5	70.6	17.3	1.6	100.0	9.9	69.8	19.2	1.1
Black . . . . .	100.0	6.1	86.8	5.5	1.6	100.0	6.7	85.5	5.8	1.9
Other . . . . .	100.0	18.1	67.2	13.1	*	100.0	10.0	74.9	13.2	*
Race not stated. . . . .	100.0	10.4	73.5	15.6	*	100.0	8.6	73.5	17.1	*
Wife										
All races . . . . .	100.0	10.2	72.1	16.2	1.6	100.0	9.6	71.3	18.0	1.2
White . . . . .	100.0	10.3	70.8	17.3	1.6	100.0	9.7	70.0	19.2	1.1
Black . . . . .	100.0	5.9	87.5	5.1	1.5	100.0	6.1	86.2	5.8	2.0
Other . . . . .	100.0	25.4	59.6	13.6	*	100.0	19.7	66.0	12.3	*
Race not stated. . . . .	100.0	11.2	72.0	16.0	*	100.0	10.0	71.5	17.3	*

<sup>1</sup>Total of children for whom custody was reported does not necessarily equal the reported number of children under 18 years of age.

NOTES: Of the 31 States in the divorce-registration area, 13 reported custody and race of husband and wife in 1989—Alabama, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. In 1990 an additional five States reported—Alaska, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia. Wisconsin ceased to report.

**Table 21. Number and percent distribution of children under 18 years of age for whom custody was reported, by person(s) awarded custody, according to number of this marriage of husband and wife: Total of 15 reporting States in 1989 and total of 19 reporting States in 1990**

[Based on sample data]

Number of this marriage of husband and wife	Custody awarded to:									
	1990					1989				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Husband	Wife	Joint	Other person	Total <sup>1</sup>	Husband	Wife	Joint	Other person
Husband					Number					
All marriages <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	221,883	22,906	160,946	34,820	3,211	191,471	18,426	137,840	32,910	2,295
First marriage . . . . .	168,609	17,955	121,056	27,143	2,455	146,044	14,138	103,507	26,680	1,719
Second marriage . . . . .	35,532	3,209	26,527	5,278	518	29,676	2,912	22,194	4,221	349
Third marriage or more . . . . .	7,511	655	5,745	970	141	6,934	433	5,559	834	108
Not stated . . . . .	9,918	1,076	7,381	1,369	92	8,610	937	6,413	1,141	119
Wife										
All marriages <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	221,883	22,906	160,946	34,820	3,211	191,471	18,426	137,840	32,910	2,295
First marriage . . . . .	172,503	17,374	125,516	27,229	2,384	149,178	14,016	106,955	26,454	1,753
Second marriage . . . . .	33,079	3,720	23,623	5,209	527	28,697	2,955	20,951	4,472	319
Third marriage or more . . . . .	6,016	626	4,326	925	139	5,026	517	3,621	812	76
Not stated . . . . .	9,917	1,159	7,240	1,378	140	8,385	927	6,173	1,138	147
Husband					Percent distribution					
All marriages <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	100.0	10.3	72.5	15.7	1.4	100.0	9.6	72.0	17.2	1.2
First marriage . . . . .	100.0	10.6	71.8	16.1	1.5	100.0	9.7	70.9	18.3	1.2
Second marriage . . . . .	100.0	9.0	74.7	14.9	1.5	100.0	9.8	74.8	14.2	1.2
Third marriage or more . . . . .	100.0	8.7	76.5	12.9	*	100.0	6.2	80.2	12.0	*
Not stated . . . . .	100.0	10.8	74.4	13.8	*	100.0	10.9	74.5	13.3	*
Wife										
All marriages <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	100.0	10.3	72.5	15.7	1.4	100.0	9.6	72.0	17.2	1.2
First marriage . . . . .	100.0	10.1	72.8	15.8	1.4	100.0	9.4	71.7	17.7	1.2
Second marriage . . . . .	100.0	11.2	71.4	15.7	1.6	100.0	10.3	73.0	15.6	1.1
Third marriage or more . . . . .	100.0	10.4	71.9	15.4	*	100.0	10.3	72.0	16.2	*
Not stated . . . . .	100.0	11.7	73.0	13.9	*	100.0	11.1	73.6	13.6	*

<sup>1</sup>Total of children for whom custody was reported does not necessarily equal the number of children under 18 years of age.

<sup>2</sup>Includes remarried, number not stated.

NOTES: Of the 31 States in the divorce-registration area, 15 reported custody and number of this marriage in 1989 and 1990—Alabama, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. In 1990 an additional five States reported—Alaska, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia. Wisconsin ceased to report.

## Technical notes

### Definitions

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

### Sources of data

#### Nationwide counts

Data in tables 1 and 2 are derived from counts of the number of divorce decrees reported annually by States and counties to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). When divorces are not reported for some counties, the following criteria are applied for the data shown in table 2:

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

### Sample data

Information about the characteristics of divorcing couples is available only from States that participate in the divorce-registration area (DRA). Data in tables 3–11 are derived from a probability sample of divorce records from States

**Table 1. Sampling error of estimated percent: Divorce-registration area, 1980, 1989, and 1990, and each registration State, 1989 and 1990**

[Figures for Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming had no sampling errors in 1989 or 1990 because all records were tabulated]

Area and year	Sampling error of estimated percent			
	1 or 99	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
<b>Divorce-registration area</b>				
1990	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
1989	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
1980	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
<b>Registration States, 1990</b>				
Alabama	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
Alaska	...	...	...	...
Connecticut	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5
Delaware	...	...	...	...
District of Columbia	...	...	...	...
Georgia	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Hawaii	...	...	...	...
Idaho	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
Illinois	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7
Iowa	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5
Kansas	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4
Kentucky	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7
Maryland	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Massachusetts	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Michigan	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7
Missouri	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
Montana	...	...	...	...
Nebraska	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
New Hampshire	...	...	...	...
New York	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.9
Ohio	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6
Oregon	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Pennsylvania	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7
Rhode Island	...	...	...	...
South Carolina	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
South Dakota	...	...	...	...
Tennessee	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Utah	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5
Vermont	...	...	...	...
Virginia	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
Wisconsin	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.8
Wyoming	...	...	...	...
<b>Registration States, 1989</b>				
Alabama	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
Alaska	...	...	...	...
Connecticut	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5
Delaware	...	...	...	...
District of Columbia	...	...	...	...
Georgia	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Hawaii	...	...	...	...
Idaho	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
Illinois	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7
Iowa	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5
Kansas	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5
Kentucky	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7
Maryland	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Massachusetts	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Michigan	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7
Missouri	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
Montana	...	...	...	...
Nebraska	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
New Hampshire	...	...	...	...
New York	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.9
Ohio	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7
Oregon	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Pennsylvania	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Rhode Island	...	...	...	...
South Carolina	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
South Dakota	...	...	...	...
Tennessee	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Utah	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.6
Vermont	...	...	...	...
Virginia	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
Wisconsin	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.8
Wyoming	...	...	...	...

participating in the DRA. The DRA has expanded from 28 States in 1970 to 31 States and the District of Columbia in 1989 and 1990. About 49 percent of the divorces in the United States in 1989 and 1990 were granted in the DRA. Data on the race of the husband and wife in tables 12–16 were from 27 States and the District of Columbia that were in the DRA and reported this item on their divorce certificates. The divorces in these States accounted for 40 percent of all divorces in 1989 and 39 percent in 1990. The data on the physical custody of the children in tables 17–19 and 21 were from the 15 and 19 States that reported this item in 1989 and 1990, respectively. These States accounted for 25 and 27 percent of all divorces in 1989 and 1990, respectively. The data in table 20 were from the 13 and 17 States that reported custody and race in 1989 and 1990, respectively. Data in these States accounted for 21 and 23 percent of all divorces in the respective years.

### **Divorce sample**

The probability sample of divorces for 1989 and 1990 were selected by using five different sampling rates. For the District of Columbia and for each State in the DRA, either 5, 10, 20, 50, or 100 percent of the divorce records were included. Sampling rates were selected so that the expected sample would contain at least

2,500 records for each State. This criterion required 100-percent sampling for Alaska, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming. All States in the DRA provided their divorce certificate data through either State-coded data tapes, microfilm, or photocopies.

Table I shows sampling errors for estimates that constitute 1, 10, 25, 50, 75, 90, and 99 percent of the annual divorce totals. These sampling errors are shown for the DRA for 1980, 1989, and 1990 and for the District of Columbia and each DRA State for 1989 and 1990.

### **Estimates of children involved in divorce**

To make national estimates of children involved in divorce, shown in table 3, it was assumed that the average number of children per decree for the United States was the same as the average in the DRA. This average was multiplied by the national divorce total to estimate the national number of children involved in divorce. For 1950–59 the average number of children per decree was calculated using data from all reporting States; for 1960, from a nationwide sample; for 1961–69, from 16 States; and thereafter, from all DRA States.

### **Computation of rates, percent distributions, medians, and means**

Divorce rates for 1989 and 1990 in tables 1–3 and 5 are based on the populations estimated as of July 1, 1989, and July 1, 1990 (15–18). The divorce rates by race in table 13 are based on the population enumerated as of April 1, 1990, in the decennial census (19). Percent distributions, means, and medians exclude cases for which the pertinent information (number of children, duration of marriage, person to whom custody was awarded, or age) is not stated. Mean and median ages at marriage and at decree, and mean and median duration of marriage were computed using ungrouped data.

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

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