NATIONAL CENTER For HEALTH STATISTICS | Series 21 Number 16

VITAL and HEALTH STATISTICS

DATA FROM THE NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

Marriage Statistics Analysis

United States, 1963

This is a study of changes in age-specific marriage rates, age distributions of unmarried women, and trends in marriages and marriage rates for 1940-63. An analysis is made of the differences in trends of marriage rates by sex, age, and marital status between 1960 and 1963. Also, a description and classification are presented of the types of nonsampling errors found in the marriage statistics for 1963, with estimates of the proportions of cases affected by nonresponse and items not appearing on some record forms.

Washington, D.C. September 1968

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Wilbur J. Cohen
Secretary

Public Health Service
William H. Stewart
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SELECTED MARRIAGE STATISTICS, 1963

UNITED STATES

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF MARRIAGES...1,654,003

MARRIAGE RATE per 1,000 resident population.....8.8

ESTIMATED MARRIAGE RATES

Per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years of age and over.....73.4

Per 1,000 women 15 years of age and over.....24.7

Per 1,000 unmarried women 15-44 years of age.....143.3

Per 1,000 men 15 years of age and over.....26.4

MARRIAGE-REGISTRATION AREA

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF MARRIAGES...1,033,950

MARRIAGE RATE per 1,000 resident population.....8.0

ESTIMATED MARRIAGE RATES

Per 1,000 unmarried women 14 years of age and over.....61.7

Per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years of age and over.....66.3

Per 1,000 unmarried men 14 years of age and over.....72.5

Per 1,000 unmarried men 15 years of age and over.....79.0

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF MARRIAGES BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS

	Bride	Groom
Total	100.0	100.0
Single	76.8	77.4
Previously married	23.2	22.6
Widowed	6.0	5.3
Divorced	17.2	17.3

MEDIAN AGE IN YEARS AT MARRIAGE BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS

	Bride	Groom
Total	21.3	23.7
Single	20.3	22.5
Previously married	35.6	40.3
Widowed	49.7	58.0
Divorced	31.8	36.3

IN THIS REPORT a comparison of the 1963 marriage rates by sex, age, and marital status is made with corresponding rates for 1960. The coverage of the rates for 1963 varies somewhat from that for 1960 because of changes in the States included in the marriage-registration area, (MRA). However, the particular States added to the MRA had no significant impact on the age and marital status distribution of the MRA in 1963.

In explaining differences between the 1960 and the 1963 marriage totals and the rates computed from them, changes that occurred in the age-specific marriage rates were more significant than changes in the age and the marital status composition of the populations eligible to marry. Declines in rates at which young single men and women married were offset only in part by increases in the rates at which young divorced persons remarried.

There were fewer single men at the peak marriage ages (about 21-22) than single women (about 18-19) since more young women from the increasing birth cohorts of the years 1940-43 were reaching their peak marriage ages than young men in the same cohorts. To allow for unbalanced sex ratios such as these, rates per 1,000 maximum possible marriages were computed. Each such rate has as the numerator the number of marriages of eligible women of a specified age and marital status to eligible men of a specified age and marital status and as the denominator the lesser of the two eligible populations specified for the numerator. Thus each rate estimates the proportion of the maximum possible number of marriages that could occur during a year. These rates also indicate preferences by persons in each age and marital status group for marriage partners of various ages and marital statuses.

Rates for both 1963 and 1960 indicate that, relative to the maximum possible numbers of marriages, divorced and widowed men and women of the younger ages preferred single persons to previously married persons, and those of the older ages preferred previously married to single persons. If one assumes that these rates are empirical estimates of the likelihood of various types of marriages, the most likely marriage would be that of two divorced persons and the next, that of two single persons. Marriages least likely to occur are those of widowed to single persons.

A comparison of trends in marriages and rates for the United States is given for the 24-year period 1940-63. It is noted that long-term changes in the marriage rate (1920-63) included three changes in trend—generally downward from 1920 to 1932, then upward until shortly after World War II, then generally downward until about 1962. The trends since 1940 are compared with hypothetical trends constructed by holding constant the age-specific rates for unmarried women (using the rates computed for 1960 as constants). These comparisons show that age-specific marriage rates were generally lower during World War II than in 1960, that they rose after the war, and that they remained relatively high during the 1950's

Estimates of the completeness of the statistics are presented for the marriage-registration area in 1960 and 1963. All data tabulated for the statistics were recorded with at least 95-percent completeness. Information about uniformity of the data is also summarized.

MARRIAGE STATISTICS ANALYSIS

Carl E. Ortmeyer, Ph.D., and Russell P. Kuhn, *Division of Vital Statistics*

INTRODUCTION

The increase in marriages and marriage rates for 1963 over 1962 marked the largest relative increase since that of 1950 over 1949. The number of marriages increased by 4.9 percent—from 1,577,000 in 1962 to 1,654,000 in 1963. The annual total had not exceeded 1,600,000 since 1950.

Geographic variations in marriage rates and their trends are quite marked in a population as large, varied, and mobile as that of the United States. The largest regional rate of increase between 1962 and 1963—5.2 percent for the North Central Region—was over 2½ times as large as the smallest rate of increase—2.0 percent for the South. Differences among the States in rates of increase were even greater, varying from a decline of 4 percent in Montana to an increase of over 10 percent in South Dakota.

As in previous years, detailed statistics on marriages have been tabulated from a sample of marriages occurring in the States participating in the marriage-registration area (MRA). These statistics are found in detailed tables 1-8. While the list of States and other areas participating in the MRA did not change between 1962 and 1963, the total number of marriages increased by 5.2 percent to 1,035,596. This is the first year that marriages in the MRA exceeded one million. Reflecting this increase, the crude marriage rate, which has been lower for the MRA than for the Nation as a whole, rose from 7.7 to 8.0 per 1,000 population. The MRA accounted for 62.5 percent of the national total of marriages, about the same proportion as in 1962.

Both the crude rate and the rate per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years of age and over were about 10 percent larger for the United States than for the MRA. Since the estimated distributions of men and women 14 years of age and older by age and marital status did not differ greatly in the MRA from corresponding distributions for the entire United States, marriage rates are probably higher at most ages for the United States than for the MRA. Nationwide rates estimated by age for 1960 were higher at each age than those for the MRA.[1]

As in 1962, total counts of marriages for the year and for each month were obtained from State and local officials for the States outside the MRA. Such figures were also reported by State directors of vital statistics in each State in the MRA, and each of these annual totals was compared with the corresponding total estimated from the sample of marriage records. Inquiries were made to account for differences greater than 1 percent between the two counts.

A few innovations were made in 1963 in processing the records and in analyzing the data. All but one of the areas participating in the MRA submitted copies of all marriage records rather than a sample. This made it possible to institute uniform procedures for inspecting records and selecting samples for processing.

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[1]National Center for Health Statistics: *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1960,* Vol. III. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1964. Tables 1-L and 1-M.

The proportion of records included in the sample rose from 4.4 percent in 1962 to 11.7 percent in 1963. This change was accomplished by increasing the minimum sample size for each State from 400 to 2,500 records.

More details on sources of data and sampling procedures are given in the Technical Appendix.

Marriage rates by age, sex, and marital status were instituted on an annual basis in 1963. The population bases for such rates, estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, relate to the resident population of the MRA as of July 1, 1963. The rates are approximately comparable to rates for the MRA in 1960, with the exception that rates for 1963 include Indiana, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia, which were added to the MRA in 1961.

In the years immediately following 1963, the annual total number of marriages would rise even if there were no increases in the rates by sex, age, and marital status. This prospective rise would be due to increases in the proportions of the population at ages when marriage rates are highest. For example, it has been estimated that marriages may total about 2.1 million by 1970, assuming that age-specific marriage rates for women will continue to equal those estimated from a nationwide probability sample of data on age at marriage in 1960.

An analysis of long-range trends in marriage rates constitutes the first part of this report. The second part analyzes marriage rates for 1960 and 1963 by sex, age, and marital status. Although these rates are presented as estimates of rates at which partners of specified marital statuses and ages married in the MRA, they can be used to compute trends standardized for age, sex, and marital status. Based as they are on estimates of populations eligible to marry, the specific rates should also indicate in considerable detail the interactions, if any, between trends in sizes of age cohorts and in sex ratios of persons at the peak marriage ages. These rates could also be used to construct marriage tables, analogous to life tables, and in cohort analyses of lifetime marriage experience of a population.

Data showing variations in age at marriage, marital status, and color of brides, classified by corresponding characteristics of their grooms, and vice versa, are also included in the second part of the report.

The last portion of the report includes a description of types of nonsampling errors found in the 1963 data. Derivation of rates and sampling errors are discussed in the Technical Appendix.

TRENDS IN MARRIAGES

Throughout the period 1959-62, the marriage rate remained unchanged at 8.5 marriages per 1,000 population. Such stability during a 4-year period has not occurred since this rate was first computed for 1867. The 1963 marriage rate rose to 8.8 as the large numbers of young men and women born during and after World War II began to reach marriageable age. Since 1963, the marriage rate has continued to rise at a rate of over 2 percent per year.

The disrupting effects of World War II and a severe depression greatly influenced marriage rates during the midpart of this century and were largely responsible for the extreme fluctuations observed in the early 1930's and 1940's. The long-term marriage trend up to 1962 appears to be composed of three short-term movements: downward from 1920 to 1932, upward until after World War II, and downward until 1962.

In this section of the report, the marriage trend since 1920 will be analyzed in terms of the following demographic factors: the available number of unmarried persons, age distribution of those eligible to marry, and age at time of marriage.

During the 1920's and early 1930's marriage rates drifted downward to a low of 7.9 marriages per 1,000 population. With the exception of 1928, the rates between 1920 and 1930 were above 10.0 and averaged 10.5. For the 1930's, the average of the annual marriage rates was only 9.8. However, if the low rates in 1931-33 were excluded from the data, the marriage rates for the 1930's would have been like those of the 1920's, averaging about 10.6 marriages per 1,000 population. At no time since 1932 has the marriage rate dropped below 8.4.

The 1940's witnessed sharp increases in marriage rates as the Nation experienced a swift

succession of economic recovery, war, and postwar demobilization. Marriage rates moved upward for about 14 years, culminating in the all-time high marriage rate of 16.4 in 1946. The average marriage rate from 1940 to 1950 was 12.6. Marriage rates then drifted downward from the high wartime level to a postwar trough in the late 1950's and early 1960's.

Marriage rates did not rise after the Korean conflict as they did very sharply after World Wars I and II. They decreased to 9.2 in 1954 and to 8.4 in 1958 and ultimately reached the 8.5 level during the period 1959-62, as pointed out earlier.

Table A. Estimated and expected number of marriages and ratio of estimated to expected marriages: United States, 1940-63

Year	Estimated	Expected[1]	Ratio of estimated to expected
	Number of marriages		Percent
1963--	1,654,000	1,686,943	97.8
1962--	1,577,000	1,631,452	96.7
1961--	1,548,000	1,554,192	99.5
1960--	1,525,080	1,525,080	100.0
1959--	1,494,000	1,451,697	102.9
1958--	1,451,000	1,465,337	99.0
1957--	1,518,000	1,429,704	106.4
1956--	1,585,000	1,407,574	112.6
1955--	1,531,000	1,414,721	108.2
1954--	1,490,000	1,446,267	103.0
1953--	1,546,000	1,423,151	108.6
1952--	1,539,318	1,456,656	105.7
1951--	1,594,694	1,474,226	107.9
1950--	1,667,231	1,522,153	109.5
1949--	1,579,798	1,527,303	103.4
1948--	1,811,155	1,590,747	113.9
1947--	1,991,878	1,686,372	118.1
1946--	2,291,045	1,783,004	128.5
1945--	1,612,992	1,816,539	88.8
1944--	1,452,394	1,817,122	79.9
1943--	1,577,050	1,845,482	85.5
1942--	1,772,132	1,880,521	94.2
1941--	1,695,999	1,927,658	88.0
1940--	1,595,879	1,970,891	81.0

[1]Expected numbers are based on 1960 age-specific rates for unmarried women 15 years of age and over shown in table 5.

Insufficient data make it impossible to compute age-specific marriage rates for every year from 1920 to 1963. However, such rates can be computed for 1960 on the basis of data gathered from a nationwide sample of marriage records for that year. These numbers of marriages by age of the bride have been divided by the numbers of unmarried women by age as enumerated in the 1960 census. Applying these age-specific marriage rates to the estimated number of unmarried females in the other years yields "expected" numbers of marriages, which may be compared with actual numbers. This approach to trend analysis has been done for the years 1940-63.

Table A shows the estimated and expected numbers of marriages, and table B shows the estimated and expected marriage rates. Figure 1 contrasts the actual and the expected 24-year trend in the marriage rate per 1,000 population. Figure 2 shows the comparison between actual and expected marriages per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years of age and over. By indirect standardization, based on standard rates rather than a standard population, it can be determined whether the age and sex composition of the population or the marriage rates have exerted a greater influence on shifts in the marriage trend.

Although the marriage rates observed during 1940-45 seemed high in comparison with post-1960 rates, they were low relative to the larger number of women who were unmarried at that time. This follows from the fact that the expected marriage rates were consistently higher than the actual rates for the period 1940-45. In other words, age-specific marriage rates were lower during 1940-45 than in 1960.

During the period 1946-59, age-specific marriage rates were above the levels prevailing in 1960. They were especially high during the early postwar period 1946-48. After 1960, the trend again reversed. The total number of marriages increased in the early sixties, but age-specific rates appeared to be slightly lower than in 1960.

The interacting effects of marriage rates, proportions of unmarried women, and the age composition of the population brought about the divergence of the trend lines in figure 1.

Table B. Estimated and expected marriage rates per 1,000 resident population and unmarried women 15 years of age and over: United States, 1940-63

Year	Estimated		Expected[1]	
	Resident population	Unmarried women, 15+ years	Resident population	Unmarried women, 15+ years
	Rate per 1,000 in specified group			
1963	8.8	73.4	9.0	74.9
1962	8.5	71.2	8.8	73.5
1961	8.5	72.2	8.5	72.2
1960	8.5	73.5	8.5	73.5
1959	8.5	73.6	8.2	71.6
1958	8.4	72.0	8.3	72.7
1957	8.9	78.0	8.4	73.5
1956	9.5	82.4	8.4	73.2
1955	9.3	80.9	8.6	74.8
1954	9.2	79.8	9.0	77.5
1953	9.8	83.7	9.0	77.1
1952	9.9	83.2	9.4	78.8
1951	10.4	86.6	9.6	80.0
1950	11.1	90.2	10.1	82.7
1949	10.6	86.7	10.3	83.3
1948	12.4	98.5	10.9	86.5
1947	13.9	106.2	11.8	89.9
1946	16.4	118.1	12.7	91.9
1945	12.2	83.6	13.7	94.2
1944	10.9	76.5	13.7	95.7
1943	11.7	83.0	13.7	97.1
1942	13.2	93.0	14.4	98.7
1941	12.7	88.5	14.5	100.6
1940	12.1	82.8	15.0	102.4

[1] Expected rates are based on 1960 age-specific rates for unmarried women 15 years of age and over shown in table 5.

Between 1940 and 1942, the annual number of marriages increased rapidly; afterward the number declined during the full-mobilization years, and then increased sharply, reaching a peak in 1946. As a result, the number of unmarried women declined over the same period. Following the war, for about 10 years, the number of women eligible to marry continued to fall. The decline was particularly great for the age group 20-24, which characteristically has the highest marriage rates. For single years of age, the decline would have been greatest at ages 18 and 19. The period 1957-63 witnessed the beginning of a reversal of the downward trend in the number of unmarried women.

Growth in the number of unmarried women of marriageable age has been gradual since 1958. Recent annual marriage rates for the total population have also increased gradually, but not as sharply as they did after the war, when young unmarried women comprised a much higher proportion of the total population. Thus, the tendency among unmarried women to marry after 1958 was not as great as it had been after the war.

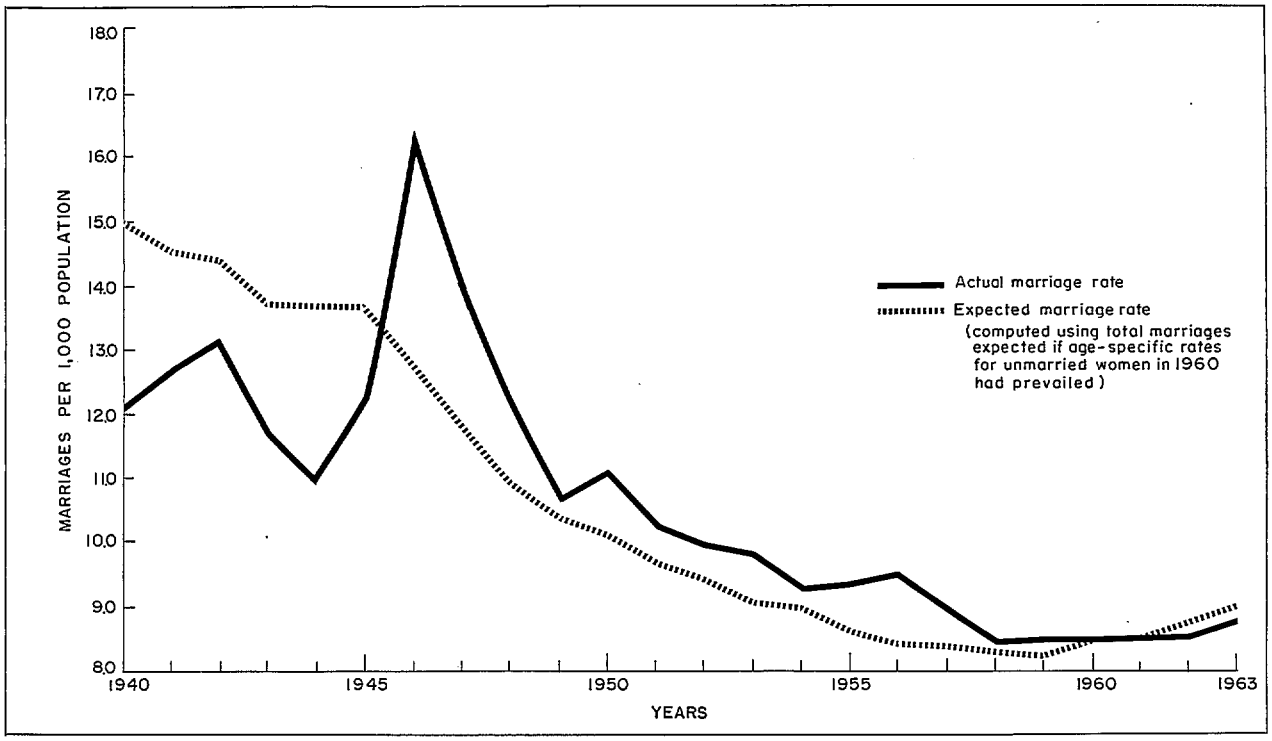


Figure 1. Actual and expected marriages per 1,000 population: United States, 1940-63.

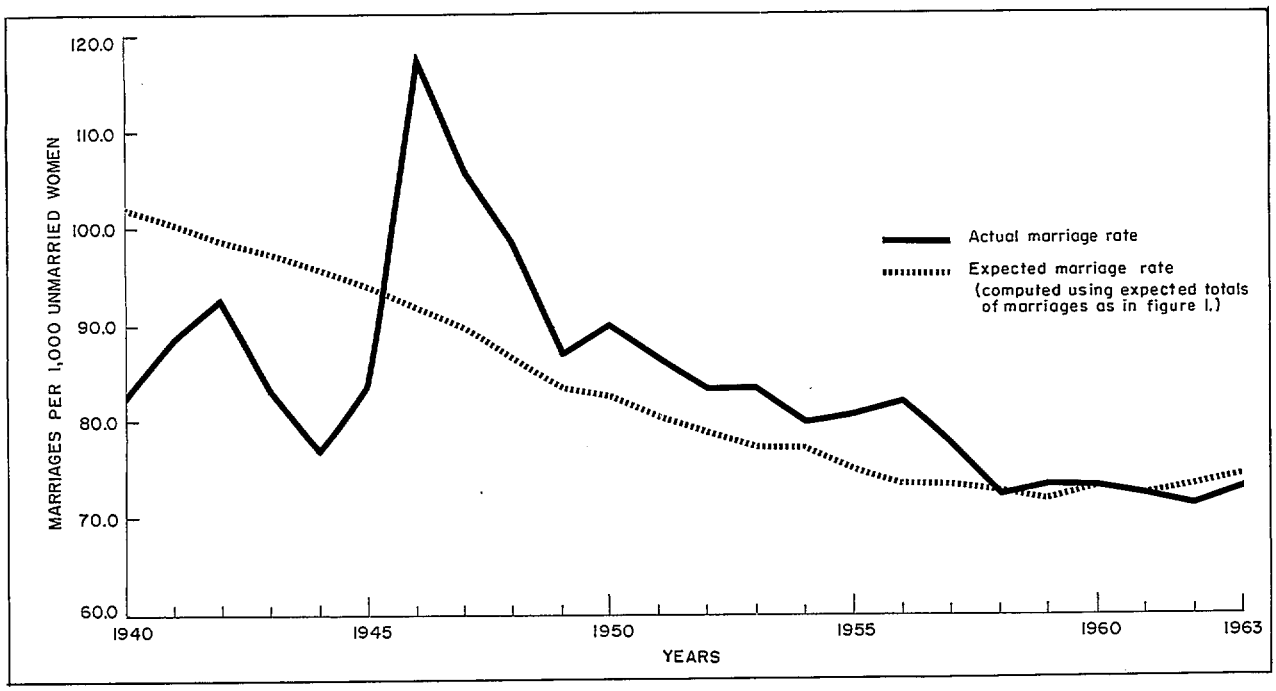


Figure 2. Actual and expected marriages per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years of age and over: United States, 1940-63.

DEMOGRAPHY OF MARITAL SELECTION

Introduction

Marriage is a highly selective social phenomenon. Statistics based on thousands of marriage choices show remarkably stable distributions. The groom is usually 2 or 3 years older than the bride, but grooms about 40 years of age or older usually marry brides from 5 to 10 years younger. Divorced persons tend to choose partners who have also been divorced; however, about 4 out of every 10 choose partners who have never been married. How can these tendencies to choose partners with particular characteristics be measured? It would be interesting to know the extent to which people in various socioeconomic categories marry those in the same or different categories. Similarly, it would be interesting to see how strongly educational attainment and religious preference affect marital choices. However, the present analysis is limited to three major characteristics of bride and groom which are collected routinely on the marriage certificates of most States in the MRA—age, previous marital status, and color.

The number of marriages of men and women with particular characteristics is limited by the number of eligible men or women having these characteristics, whichever is smaller. For example, the number of marriages between single women and divorced men is limited by the smaller of these two populations: if there are 10 million single women and only 2 million divorced men, the maximum possible number of marriages between single women and divorced men is 2 million. Therefore, the marriage rates shown in this section use as bases the maximum possible numbers of marriages that could occur between men and women with the specified characteristics.

As in the above example, if there are 100,000 marriages between single women and divorced men in a particular year, the rate would be computed as follows:

$$\frac{100{,}000}{2{,}000{,}000} \cdot 1{,}000 = \begin{array}{l}50 \text{ marriages per } 1{,}000 \\ \text{maximum possible} \\ \text{marriages.}\end{array}$$

If there are 11 million single men and 250,000 marriages of single men to single women, this rate would be computed as

$$\frac{2{,}500{,}000}{10{,}000{,}000} \cdot 1{,}000 = \begin{array}{l}25 \text{ marriages per } 1{,}000 \\ \text{maximum possible} \\ \text{marriages.}\end{array}$$

The results of the examples above show that marriages between single women and divorced men took place at a rate twice as high as that between single women and single men. Of course, more information than the rates is needed to explain these differences.

When the rates per 1,000 maximum possible marriages are computed for various age and marital status groups, determining trends for each group over a period of years can become very complex. A method of simplifying such comparisons has been developed for 1960 and for 1963. These kinds of questions should be answered. First, would couples have married at the same rate in 1963 if the ages of persons eligible to marry had been the same in 1963 as they were in 1960? Second, what would these same rates have been in 1963 if the rates for each marital status combination in 1960 had continued in 1963? Third, which of the above comparisons would have the greater effect on the trends in the overall marriage rates? Through this analysis of marital selection, increases or decreases of the overall rates during this period due to changes in age composition and changes in detailed age-specific rates could be estimated. The procedures followed in this analysis are described in the Technical Appendix.

Limitations of Data

The rates presented here are based on data which have certain limitations, as mentioned below and described more fully in the Technical Appendix. The data are limited to the States participating in the MRA—33 States in 1960 and 35 States and the District of Columbia in 1963 (see table IV in Technical Appendix). About 57 percent of all marriages in 1960 and about 63 percent in 1963 were in States participating in the MRA.

Rates for previous marital status exclude data for Louisiana in 1963 and for Michigan and

Ohio in both 1963 and 1960, because record forms for these States did not include this item. Excluding these States, reporting of previous marital status was over 98 percent complete in areas of the MRA requesting this item on their record forms. Reporting of age for both years was also 98 percent complete for the MRA.

Both the numerators and the denominators of the rates are estimates based on probability samples. Their sampling errors, measured as standard errors (1σ), are estimates of variation which would occur in these rates if they were computed repeatedly from a large number of samples selected by identical procedures. A sampling error also indicates the extent to which a rate based on a sample may differ from a rate computed from a complete count. The chances are about 95 in 100 that a sample estimate will be within 2 standard errors above or below the rate computed from a complete count. For example, if a rate of 50, based on a sample, has a standard error of 3, the chances are about 95 in 100 that the rate based on a complete count will be between 44 and 56, i.e., 50 ± 6.

Instructions are given in the Technical Appendix for computing the standard errors of the large number of rates used in this analysis. A few of the detailed rates shown in the tables are based on such small numbers that the standard errors are large enough to render the rates unreliable. The standard in this report for judging a sample estimate to be unreliable is that its standard error exceeds 30 percent of the estimate. This is the standard applied to all marriage statistics based on samples in the tables in Volume III of *Vital Statistics of the United States*. As a general guide, the detailed rates which have the largest relative standard errors are of the following two types:

1. Scattered small rates for which the number of marriages was small, that is, about 650 or less in 1960 and about 500 or less in 1963;

2. Those 1963 rates having the smallest base populations, specifically those for marriages of widowed men aged 14-44 years and divorced women or men aged 14-24 years.

Selection by Age

The number of marriages per 1,000 maximum possible marriages decreased slightly in the MRA, from 74.6 in 1960 to 72.5 in 1963. The decline was large enough to be significant. The probability that these two rates could be equal is less than 5 percent. The specific rates at which marriages occurred between partners of various age groups are shown in table C.

What do these rates show about marriage selection? Whereas it is known that husbands are usually older than their wives, these rates indicate that in 1963 women in their teens married men aged 20-24 at a rate that was more than four times the rate at which they married teenaged men and at a rate that was more than eight times the rate at which men in their teens married women aged 20-24. In fact, women in their teens were more likely to marry men aged 25-44 than were women in any older age group to marry men in a younger age group.

What becomes evident from the rates based on couples is that teenaged couples constitute only a minority of all of the marriages which include one teenaged partner. Most of the teenagers who marry are brides marrying older grooms. The rate at which young women (14-19 years of age) married was over three times the rate at which young men in the same age group married (table C). Interestingly enough, this rate for young women dropped much more sharply between 1960 and 1963 than did the rate for young men.

Only a few of the age-specific rates for all brides and grooms shown in table C changed appreciably between 1960 and 1963. However, the changes had very significant effects on overall rates of marriage, because they occurred in age groups with the highest marriage rates. Women in their teens married men in the same age group, as well as men aged 20-24 years, at markedly lower rates in 1963 than in 1960. While the peak marriage rate changed very little for couples with both partners aged 20-24 years, women in this age group married men aged 25-44 years at a much lower rate in 1963 than in 1960. At the same time their rate of marriage to younger men (14-19 years of age), although low, increased slightly. While women aged 20-24 mar-

Table C. Marriage rates per 1,000 maximum possible marriages by previous marital status and age of bride, by previous marital status and age of groom: marriage-registration area, 1960 and 1963

Previous marital status of bride and groom and age of bride	1963						1960					
	Age of groom						Age of groom					
	All ages, 14+ years	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years	All ages, 14+ years	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years
	Rate per 1,000 maximum possible marriages											
Brides and grooms of all marital statuses												
All ages, 14+ years	72.5	20.4	195.1	149.7	45.2	15.1	74.6	23.5	212.6	137.6	46.2	13.4
14-19 years	63.5	19.8	91.4	15.0	0.2	0.0	76.6	24.3	107.6	16.5	0.2	0.0
20-24 years	264.5	10.7	163.3	89.4	1.0	0.1	277.1	9.6	166.1	100.3	1.1	0.0
25-44 years	111.6	0.5	8.9	84.7	18.8	0.8	102.5	0.2	8.6	77.2	19.8	0.9
45-64 years	19.3	-	0.0	3.8	24.7	8.8	18.5	-	0.0	3.4	24.4	7.7
65+ years	2.2	-	-	0.0	0.8	5.4	2.3	-	-	0.0	1.0	4.7
Bride single, groom single												
All ages, 14+ years	74.6	19.7	179.0	88.8	4.1		79.7	22.8	195.8	87.5	3.9	
14-19 years	58.8	19.3	87.3	12.9	0.1		72.0	23.9	103.5	15.9	0.1	
20-24 years	229.6	10.4	154.8	64.2	0.2		243.1	9.4	159.0	74.4	0.3	
25-44 years	61.3	0.5	8.5	49.8	2.6		57.1	0.2	7.9	47.0	1.9	
45+ years	2.0	-	0.0	0.3	1.9		2.1	-	-	0.5	1.7	
Bride single, groom divorced												
All ages, 14+ years	60.2	233.3		112.0	12.1	5.0	58.4	240.9		98.9	15.7	3.8
14-24 years	38.8	226.0		70.1	1.7	0.2	33.7	219.5		56.7	1.3	0.2
25-44 years	19.4	7.3		41.5	7.6	0.5	22.1	21.5		41.6	9.7	0.5
45-64 years	2.0	-		0.4	2.8	3.1	2.6	-		0.6	4.7	2.8
65+ years	0.2	-		-	-	1.1	0.1	-		-	-	0.4
Bride divorced, groom single												
All ages, 14+ years	49.2	17.9		28.3	4.0	0.5	47.1	15.0		28.8	4.1	1.1
14-24 years	448.5	227.4		124.0	0.3	-	267.4	169.0		97.9	0.5	-
25-44 years	58.1	10.6		44.0	3.4	0.0	62.2	9.0		50.0	3.0	0.1
45-64 years	6.1	0.0		2.5	3.2	0.4	5.7	0.1		1.5	3.8	0.3
65+ years	0.6	-		-	0.6	0.1	3.0	-		-	1.1	1.9
Bride divorced, groom divorced												
All ages, 14+ years	94.4	112.6		170.7	52.3	9.8	88.1	113.6		140.5	57.0	13.6
14-24 years	208.2	84.2		145.1	4.6	0.1	158.7	79.2		118.0	1.7	-
25-44 years	106.5	28.1		134.6	27.3	1.0	96.1	34.4		108.6	31.6	0.9
45-64 years	26.5	0.2		7.1	24.1	6.4	24.5	-		5.2	24.9	10.2
65+ years	3.4	-		-	0.6	2.8	2.7	-		-	0.4	2.5

Table C. Marriage rates per 1,000 maximum possible marriages by previous marital status and age of bride, by previous marital status and age of groom: marriage-registration area, 1960 and 1963—Con.

Previous marital status of bride and groom and age of bride	1963				1960			
	Age of groom				Age of groom			
	All ages, 14+ years	14-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years	All ages, 14+ years	14-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years
	Rate per 1,000 maximum possible marriages							
Bride single, groom widowed								
All ages, 14+ years	6.9	61.9	10.7	1.7	7.3	64.3	10.3	1.8
14-44 years	4.6	60.6	5.4	0.4	5.5	63.6	6.8	0.5
45-64 years	3.1	1.3	5.2	0.9	2.4	0.7	3.5	0.9
65+ years	0.7	-	0.1	0.7	0.7	-	-	0.7
Bride widowed, groom single								
All ages, 14+ years	2.1	1.5	3.3	1.7	2.4	1.7	2.9	2.2
14-44 years	26.4	24.0	2.3	0.1	25.1	23.0	2.1	0.1
45-64 years	1.9	0.5	2.3	0.9	2.0	0.8	1.9	1.5
65+ years	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.7
Bride divorced, groom widowed								
All ages, 14+ years	12.3	73.3	23.0	3.0	11.7	44.3	23.6	2.5
14-44 years	13.6	69.3	11.7	0.3	11.8	38.6	11.3	0.4
45-64 years	12.1	4.0	11.0	4.1	13.8	5.7	12.2	3.7
65+ years	5.5	-	0.7	4.7	3.0	-	0.4	2.6
Bride widowed, groom divorced								
All ages, 14+ years	20.5	20.6	23.4	10.5	19.1	19.4	21.1	11.3
14-44 years	29.0	20.7	8.1	0.3	24.1	17.5	6.5	0.2
45-64 years	10.3	4.9	17.0	5.6	8.9	4.4	14.6	6.8
65+ years	0.8	0.0	0.5	4.6	0.7	-	0.4	4.2
Bride widowed, groom widowed								
All ages, 14+ years	19.5	27.2	36.2	12.6	17.9	25.8	33.7	11.0
14-44 years	12.3	22.4	6.8	0.8	12.1	19.9	7.1	0.7
45-64 years	12.3	4.8	28.7	6.7	11.1	5.9	25.1	5.9
65+ years	4.3	-	1.5	5.7	3.9	-	2.1	4.8

ried men aged 25-44 at a lower rate, men aged 25-44 married women 25-44 at a markedly higher rate in 1963 than in 1960.

Perhaps the rates changed because of changes in the ratio of eligible men to eligible women. Because of the increases in sizes of birth cohorts during the years 1940-43 and 1945-47, one would expect that by 1963 ratios of eligible older men to younger women would drop at the ages where the women were about 20-23 and 15-17 and the men 2 or 3 years older. However, there is little consistency between changes in the marriage rates and changes in the ratios of unmarried men to unmarried women between 1960 and 1963 (table D).

The changes in rates and sex ratios may mean that teenaged couples married at lower rates in 1963 than in 1960, but the drop in the ratio of eligible men to women was minor compared with the drop in the rate. There was no decline in the ratio of eligible men aged 20-24 to women in their teens, but the marriage rate for such couples declined almost as much as that for the teenaged couples. Furthermore, the sharp decline in the ratio of eligible men 25-44 to teenaged women was accompanied by a drop of only 9 percent in the marriage rate for these couples. What happened, according to these comparisons, is that young women in their teens not only married at a lower rate in 1963 than in 1960 but they also tended to choose older men less frequently.

What of the women aged 20-24 years whose numbers increased by about the same proportions as did those of teenaged women? It seems that they married men aged 25-44 years less frequently. However, their numbers increased so rapidly between 1960 and 1963, relative to the number of eligible men 25-44 years, that the decrease in the rate may have been occasioned by the lack of available marriage partners in that age group. As noted before, their low rate of marriage to teenaged husbands increased somewhat, despite a small decline in the number of available women 20-24 years.

Women who married at ages 25-44 years shifted their choices in age of husband toward men in the same age group as themselves. Their rate of marriage to men 20-24 years increased slightly, but this may have been due to the increase of over 30 percent in the relative number of available men in that age group.

Table D. Percent change from 1960 to 1963 in marriage rate per 1,000 maximum possible marriages and in ratio of eligible men per 100 eligible women, by age: marriage-registration area

Age	Change in:	
	Rate	Ratio
Women, 14-19 years	Percent	
Men:		
14-19 years	-18	-3
20-24 years	-15	+1
25-44 years	-9	-21
Women, 20-24 years		
Men:		
14-19 years	+11	-5
20-24 years	-2	-2
25-44 years	-10	-23
Women, 25-44 years		
Men:		
20-24 years	+3	+31
25-44 years	+10	+2
45-64 years	-5	+10

There are many other factors which influence choices of marriage partners. One is the marital status of eligible men and women discussed below. Another is that stability of residence and of employment for young people at the peak marriage ages may cause the marriage rates to shift. Many men aged 25-44 years have completed their military service. Perhaps many of them chose their mates before they entered service. It may also be that many of the eligible women in the age group 20-24 years were waiting for their husbands-to-be to complete military service, but a few more of them chose younger husbands in 1963 than in 1960, perhaps before the men began their military service. Another factor related to military service for men is their job opportunities. They may find better and more stable jobs after completing military service and can then plan with more assurance to marry.

At any rate, the age-specific rates for men and women in the age intervals 25-44 years showed the most substantial increases from 1960 to 1963. These increases partly offset the declines at younger ages, so that the rate for couples of all ages declined by only 2.1 points from 74.6 to 72.5. It may be that many of the marriages which did not take place at the younger ages were merely delayed.

Selection by Marital Status

Marriages between single men and women, which constitute the greatest number of all marriages, took place at a rate of almost 75 per 1,000 of their maximum possible number in 1963. This rate represents a decline since 1960, when the rate was almost 80 per 1,000 (table E).

In 1963 divorced men and women married each other at a rate of 94 per 1,000 maximum possible marriages, an increase from the 1960 rate of 88. However, divorced women married single men at a rate of only 49 per 1,000 maximum possible marriages, while divorced men married single women at the somewhat higher rate of 60 per 1,000 maximum possible marriages. About 24 percent of all marriages in 1963 involved at least one divorced partner; both partners were divorced in only 37 percent of the marriages involving divorced persons. Divorced men married widowed women at a rate somewhat above the rate for marriages of couples in which both partners were widowed.

Both widowed and divorced men selected single partners at higher rates than women of these marital statuses chose single men. Divorced men also married widowed women at a higher rate than divorced women married widowed men. These relationships hold true for both the 1960 and 1963 rates. In other words, single women were more likely than single men to marry previously married spouses, and widowed women were more likely than widowed men to marry divorced partners.

Table E. Marriage rates per 1,000 maximum possible marriages, by previous marital status of bride and groom: marriage-registration area, 1960 and 1963

Year and previous marital status of bride	Previous marital status of groom			
	Total	Single	Widowed	Divorced
	Rate per 1,000 maximum possible marriages			
1963				
Total---	72.5	66.6	38.5	176.8
Single------	82.0	74.6	6.9	60.2
Widowed-----	10.3	2.1	19.5	20.5
Divorced----	134.1	49.2	12.3	94.4
1960				
Total---	74.6	70.7	36.1	167.7
Single------	87.5	79.7	7.3	58.4
Widowed-----	10.4	2.4	17.9	19.1
Divorced----	122.1	47.1	11.7	88.1

Selection by Age and Marital Status

The age-specific rates by marital status of brides and grooms are shown in table C.

Although marriage rates for young single couples were lower in 1963 than in 1960, the rates at which divorced men married young single women increased during this period. These increases were contrasted with marked decreases in the marriage rates for young divorced women and single men. That young single women were marrying divorced men at a higher rate in 1963 may be an adjustment to a continuing shortage of young men who were 2 or 3 years older. This deficit arises chiefly from two sources. The first is service in the Armed Forces, but this is temporary. The second arises from the interaction of two factors—the tradition for the groom to be older than the bride by about 2 years at the peak marriage ages, and the annual increases in most of the birth cohorts from 1940 through 1957. Since the number of persons born in each age group during a period of rising birth rates is smaller than the number born in its successor, the number of young men at their peak marriage ages will be less than the number of young women who are 2 or 3 years younger. Since the numbers

of young men and young women of the same age are about equal, the approximate trend discussed above can be depicted by computing ratios of live births in any one year to live births 2 years later or by computing live births in any interval of years to live births in an equal interval of years occurring 2 years later. The latter has been done for each pair of 7-year-age intervals of men aged 20-26 and of women aged 18-24 from 1956 through 1982, with the results shown in table F. (About two-thirds of all men and three-fourths of all women who marry, marry for the first time at ages 20-26 and 18-24, respectively.)

For almost 25 years, from about 1957 to 1980, there will be a continuous deficit of young men relative to young women 2 years younger, ranging from 1 percent to about 10 percent. The effects, if any, of this deficit in altering the age

Table F. Ratios of men aged 20-26 years to women aged 18-24 years: United States, 1956-82

Year	Ratios per 100 women
1956	101.3
1957	99.9
1958	98.4
1959	96.8
1960	94.9
1961	92.7
1962	93.4
1963	95.5
1964	93.6
1965	89.9
1966	90.4
1967	93.2
1968	95.0
1969	94.3
1970	92.5
1971	93.9
1972	96.9
1973	97.3
1974	96.3
1975	95.6
1976	96.2
1977	97.2
1978	97.7
1979	98.4
1980	99.2
1981	100.2
1982	101.4

Table G. Ratios of men to women, by age: marriage-registration area, 1964

Age	Ratios per 100 women
14 years	103.6
15 years	103.2
16 years	103.4
17 years	102.6
18 years	99.6
19 years	97.9
20 years	96.9
21 years	96.2
22 years	95.9
23 years	95.8
24 years	95.2
25 years	95.7
26 years	96.8
27 years	97.4
28 years	97.7
29 years	97.2

combinations of brides and grooms over the next generation will be interesting to observe, as well as any changes in age at marriage for brides.

An approximate estimate of the deficit of men due to service in the Armed Forces outside the United States may be obtained through age ratios of men per 100 women of the same age for a period of years covering the ages when young men serve in the Armed Forces. These ratios are shown in table G.

The number of men per 100 women is expected to decline with advancing age because of a higher death rate for men. But the decline to 95.2 at age 24 followed by an increase to 97.7 at age 28 indicates a factor in addition to the differential death rate contributing to this imbalance at ages 19-27 years. It seems very likely that the movement of men in the Armed Forces to overseas posts and their return a few years later account for most of this deficit.

Among divorced couples who remarried at a higher rate in 1963 than in 1960, the increases were restricted to those who married at ages under 45 years. Why did the remarriage rates for these couples increase when young single couples were marrying at declining rates? The number of divorces was almost 9 percent larger

in 1963 than in 1960. It seems likely that the increase in the rate at which persons were added to the divorced population caused remarriage rates for divorced persons to increase. It may be that higher proportions of persons whose marriage ended in divorce had plans to remarry. It would be helpful to know when the last previous marriage of divorced persons ended in order to estimate trends in length of time between divorce and remarriage. If the average length of time between divorce and remarriage decreased, rates of remarriage would increase even though the proportion of divorced persons who eventually remarry remained the same. Whether or not this is what is happening, the attraction of marriage is clearly not declining for persons whose previous marriages ended in divorce.

Changes in Rates of Marital Selection

The question discussed in this part of the analysis is "Were changes in the overall rates from 1960 to 1963 due to changes in the rates at which specific age groups married or were they due to changes in the relative sizes of various age groups in the population eligible to marry?"

For purposes of this analysis, a specific rate is the rate per 1,000 maximum possible marriages of brides in a specified age interval to grooms in a specified age interval. Overall rates are the rates per 1,000 maximum possible marriages for all couples and for couples of each of the marital status combinations listed in table H. Each of the 10 overall rates has component specific rates as shown in table C.

In order to answer the question, the data were manipulated in two ways. First, the 1963 rates were applied to the 1960 population by age and marital status, thus holding changes in the composition of the population constant. Second, the 1960 rates were applied to the 1963 population by age and marital status to obtain the expected number of marriages if there had been no change in the rates. The expected numbers of marriages were then used to compute overall rates (table H and fig. 3).

The marriage rate for all couples in 1963 was 72.5 per 1,000 maximum possible marriages. If the age distributions had been the same in 1963 as they were in 1960, the rate would have been 70.5; therefore, changes in the composition of the population between 1960 and 1963 increased the 1963 total rate by 2.0 points. If the age-specific rates in 1963 had been the same as they were in 1960, the rate would have been 77.4; hence changes in age-specific rates between 1960 and 1963 lowered the rate by 4.9 points. Actually, as shown in table C, the rate for 1963 (72.5) was 2.1 points less than the rate computed for 1960 (74.6). From these data it is evident that declines in specific marriage rates (chiefly for young, single persons) had at least twice as great an effect on the trend of the overall rate as had the increases in the proportions of eligible populations at the ages when marriage rates are usually highest.

Estimates of the effects on the overall rates due to changes in the age distribution of the eligible populations and to changes in the specific rates are shown in table J.

The two greatest changes in the overall rates by marital status—the decrease in the rate at which single couples married each other and the increase in the rate at which divorced persons married each other—were both primarily due to changes in age-specific rates rather than to changes in the age composition of the eligible populations. Changes in the age distributions of the single populations increased the overall rate by 3.0 points, but the sharp drops in the age-specific rates at the younger ages lowered the overall rate by 8.7 points. Because the divorced populations were older in 1963 than in 1960, changes in age lowered the overall rate by 5.3 points, but increases in the age-specific rates at which younger divorced persons married each other increased the rate by 10.0 points. The computed rate for 1963 was 6.3 points higher than that for 1960.

Table J indicates that the rate at which divorced men married single women increased the overall rate for these marriages by 3.1 points. However, an increase in the rates at which divorced women married single men had a negligible effect on the overall rate for these couples, which declined at older ages.

Most of the specific rates increased during the period 1960-63, but these increases were offset by the large decline in the number of single couples, so that the overall rate declined 4.9

Table H. Estimated and expected number of marriages and marriage rates per 1,000 maximum possible marriages, by previous marital status of bride and groom: marriage-registration area, 1963

Previous marital status	Estimated	Expected	
		Based on 1963 rates and 1960 population	Based on 1960 rates and 1963 population
	Number of marriages		
All marriages	1,033,950	[1]1,005,612	1,103,425
	Rate per 1,000 maximum possible marriages		
All marriages	72.5	70.5	77.4
Bride single			
Groom:			
Single	74.6	71.6	83.3
Widowed	6.9	7.2	7.0
Divorced	60.2	62.0	57.1
Bride widowed			
Groom:			
Single	2.1	2.4	2.1
Widowed	19.5	19.8	17.5
Divorced	20.5	22.3	17.7
Bride divorced			
Groom:			
Single	49.2	50.9	46.2
Widowed	12.3	13.6	10.7
Divorced	94.4	99.7	84.4

[1]Adjusted for population increase from 1960 to 1963.

points. Changes in age composition, although not as great, followed the opposite pattern—increasing for the single couples and declining for the others. Generally speaking, changes in age-specific rates had greater effects on overall rates than did changes in the age distributions of the eligible populations.

Marriages by Previous Marital Status, Age, and Color

An analysis of rates comparable to the foregoing was not carried out for separate color groups because of the unavailability of data; however, information was obtained in 1963 on previous marital status and age of white and nonwhite brides and grooms (table K). These data exclude California, New Jersey, and Ohio; they are based on marriages occurring in 32 States and the District of Columbia.

Nonwhite brides and grooms married for the first time in somewhat higher proportions than did the white at ages under 18 years and at ages 25 years and over. Thus nonwhite persons (brides more than grooms) showed greater dispersions in age at first marriage than did the white. What-

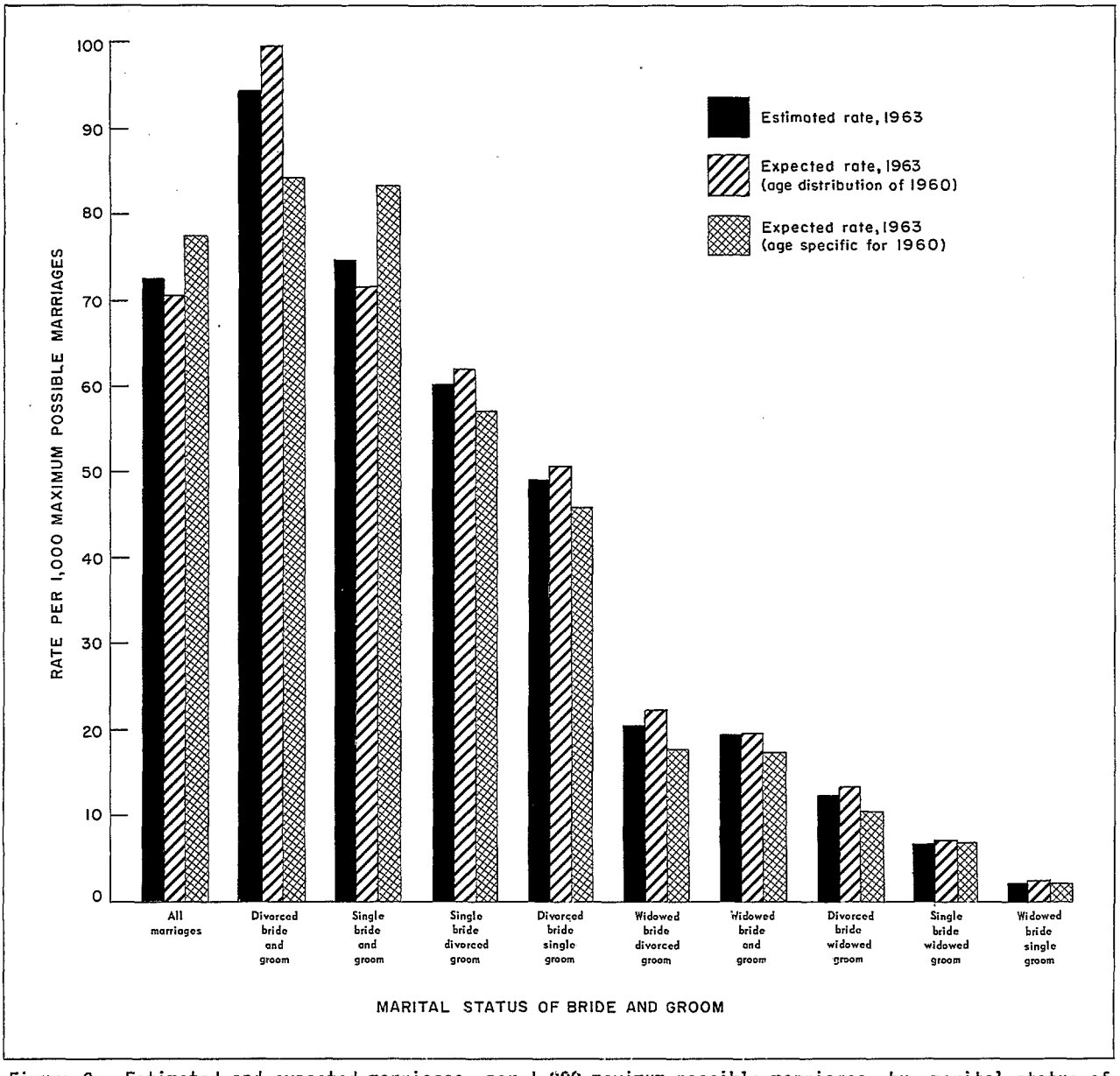


Figure 3. Estimated and expected marriages per 1,000 maximum possible marriages, by marital status of eligible populations: marriage-registration area, 1963.

ever the reasons, many more nonwhite brides and grooms delay marriage until older ages. White brides and grooms remarried in larger proportions at young ages (under 25 years) than did nonwhite. Most of this difference is attributable to higher proportions of remarriages at young ages for the divorced. With the shorter life expectancy for nonwhite persons than for white, widowhood occurred more often at younger ages and remarriage of the widowed also happened relatively more often at ages under 45 for nonwhite persons than for white.

Median and quartile ages at marriage (table L and fig. 4) offer one way of comparing age distributions of the small numbers of brides and grooms in white-nonwhite marriages with marriages between brides and grooms of the same color. For the States and couples reporting color,

Table J. Change in overall marriage rate from 1960 to 1963 and effect of changes in age distribution and age-specific rates, by previous marital status of bride and groom: marriage-registration area

Previous marital status	Change in overall rate	Effect on overall rate of changes in:	
		Age distribution	Age-specific rates
All marriages--	-2.1	+2.0	-4.9
Bride single			
Groom:			
Single----------	-5.1	+3.0	-8.7
Widowed----------	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1
Divorced---------	+1.8	-1.8	+3.1
Bride widowed			
Groom:			
Single----------	-0.3	-0.3	-
Widowed----------	+1.6	-0.3	+2.0
Divorced---------	+1.4	-1.8	+2.8
Bride divorced			
Groom:			
Single----------	-2.1	-1.7	+3.0
Widowed----------	+0.6	-1.3	+1.6
Divorced---------	+6.3	-5.3	+10.0

there were 1,748 marriages of white brides to nonwhite grooms, and 1,606 of nonwhite brides to white grooms. The age distribution for white brides of nonwhite grooms resembles most nearly that for nonwhite brides of white grooms. Thus, it would appear that the age distribution of spouses of a given sex does not depend upon color. White brides married to nonwhite grooms tend to be slightly older and have a greater dispersion of ages. Nonwhite brides of white grooms and nonwhite grooms of white brides are somewhat older in median and quartile ages than any of the other color groups. Thus white marriage partners of nonwhite brides and grooms have age distributions similar to those of nonwhite marriage partners.

Previous marital status of nonwhite couples in the reporting States differed little from that of white couples (table M), except that the proportion of couples of whom both had been previously divorced was higher among white than among nonwhite couples and the proportion previously widowed was higher for the nonwhite.

Couples who reported differences in color (about 3,000 in 1963) included more previously married persons than did couples of the same color. These differences were most marked for white and nonwhite brides and for nonwhite grooms.

Information was also obtained on the race of the bride and groom in 1963. It was found that of the 796,827 couples in the three major racial groups (white, Negro, and "other") who reported race, only 3,444 reported racial differences (table N). Of these, 210 were married in Alaska, 1,208 in Hawaii, and 2,026 in the other 31 reporting States in the MRA.

In nine reporting States and the District of Columbia the number of interracial marriages as tabulated for 1963 equaled at least 100, or 1 percent of the State's marriages, or both.

In five States (Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) the interracial marriages were predominantly those of white persons to nonwhite who were not Negro. The most frequent combination, in turn, in these marriages was that of white grooms and other nonwhite brides. In four States (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Pennsylvania) the majority of interracial marriages consisted of white persons and Negroes, with the brides more often being white. In the District of Columbia, most of the marriages were those of white brides to nonwhite grooms, both Negro and other races. Thus the racial composition of these couples varies within racial groups. The numbers of these marriages are so small that any results other than large differences in proportions of distributions by race would be statistically insignificant.

COMPLETENESS AND UNIFORMITY OF DATA

Introduction

There are several reasons for variation in the levels of accuracy in statistics, only one of which is sampling. Data may not be available because some States may not require the reporting of certain items; some items may be so phrased

Table K. Percent distribution of brides and grooms, by age according to previous marital status and color: marriage-registration area, 1963

Previous marital status and age	Bride			Groom		
	Total	White	Non-white	Total	White	Non-white
	Percent distribution					
Single						
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 18 years	14.8	15.0	17.6	1.6	1.6	1.9
18-19 years	30.7	32.0	25.6	14.7	15.1	14.3
20-24 years	42.6	42.9	36.0	56.3	57.6	49.7
25-29 years	6.7	5.8	10.6	16.7	16.2	17.6
30-34 years	2.3	1.9	4.2	5.4	4.9	7.1
35-44 years	1.9	1.5	4.2	3.6	3.2	5.9
45 years and over	1.0	0.9	1.8	1.7	1.4	3.5
Previously married						
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years	18.9	20.4	9.6	8.3	9.3	3.3
25-34 years	29.5	30.1	29.8	28.2	29.0	24.6
35-44 years	24.1	22.7	28.9	25.9	25.2	25.2
45-54 years	16.0	15.5	18.6	17.7	17.1	21.3
55-64 years	7.8	7.6	10.0	11.0	10.6	14.4
65 years and over	3.6	3.7	3.2	8.9	8.8	11.2
Widowed						
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 45 years	36.1	35.5	42.4	20.7	19.4	23.1
45-54 years	29.9	29.8	30.6	21.4	21.3	25.8
55-64 years	21.8	22.2	19.0	26.5	26.7	25.9
65 years and over	12.2	12.5	8.0	31.4	32.5	25.2
Divorced						
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years	24.3	26.1	12.2	10.4	11.5	4.1
25-34 years	36.4	37.0	37.7	35.1	35.9	33.6
35-44 years	25.1	23.6	30.7	30.2	29.5	30.5
45 years and over	14.3	13.3	19.5	24.3	23.1	31.8

that some of the distinctions needed for coding, such as that between widowed and divorced, are not reported; some records may be delayed or misplaced; the response recorded for an item such as the number of the current marriage may not be consistent with the response to another item such as previous marital status. In this section data are presented on preliminary results of efforts to identify and estimate deviations from complete reporting, on efforts to classify varia-

Table L. Median age at marriage and first and third quartiles of age at marriage for brides and grooms, by color: marriage-registration area, 1963

Color	First quartile	Median	Third quartile
	Age in years		
White bride			
White groom	19.05	21.76	25.68
Nonwhite groom	19.62	22.78	28.00
Nonwhite bride			
Nonwhite groom	19.02	22.45	29.23
White groom	19.68	23.60	29.44
White groom			
White bride	21.26	23.93	29.69
Nonwhite bride	21.76	24.40	32.02
Nonwhite groom			
Nonwhite bride	21.54	24.69	33.90
White bride	22.68	26.79	33.02

tions in the items appearing on record forms, and on the extent of nonsampling errors.

Completeness of Reporting

In 1963, as in 1960-62, all of the variables tabulated for the marriage statistics were coded with more than 95-percent completeness for the States having the necessary items on their record forms. Table O presents some summary estimates of completeness.

Data on date of the marriage, age (or date of birth), and State of residence of the bride and groom, as well as on whether the bride or groom had been married previously, were reported with the highest level of completeness. These are also the data which were available from the record forms of all of the areas in the MRA. In fact, forms submitted to the National Center for Health Statistics indicate that information about date of the marriage, age or date of birth, and residence of the bride and groom is requested on marriage records used in every State in the Nation. (Evidence for this statement comes from returns on a nationwide sample of marriage records for the year 1960 and from legal requirements for issuance of marriage licenses. Completeness of national reporting was estimated to be over 98 percent for date of marriage and age.)

If an item requesting race or color were on all record forms of all areas in the MRA, the result would probably be at least an increase of 15 percentage points in reporting completeness (1963 estimates). The absence of this item from a few forms decreased the completeness for the MRA from almost 96 percent to less than 80 percent. Gains of 12 or 13 percentage points would also be realized in the completeness of reporting of marital status before the current marriage for

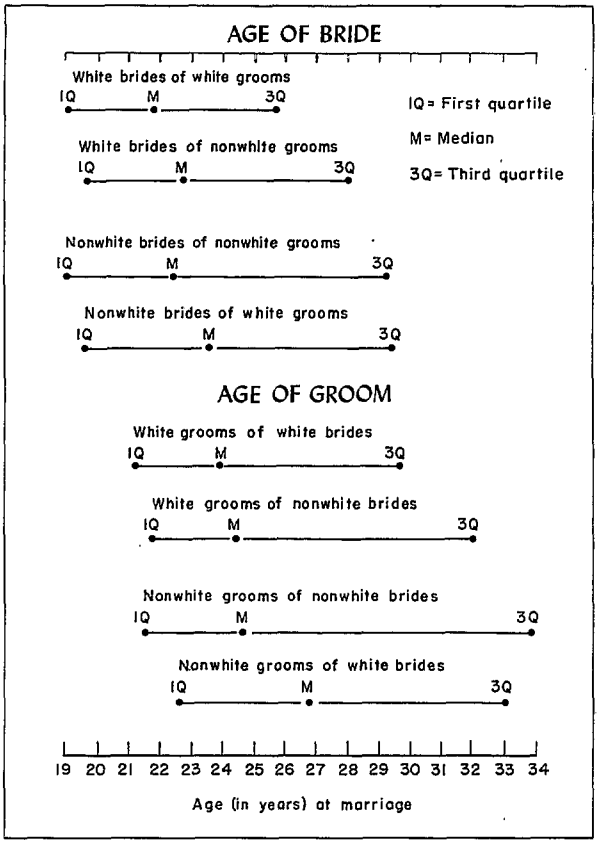


Figure 4. Interquartile range (IQ to 3Q) and median age (M) at marriage of bride and groom, by color of couple: marriage-registration area, 1963.

Table M. Percent distribution of marriages, by previous marital status of groom according to previous marital status of bride and color: marriage-registration area, 1963

Previous marital status of bride and color	Previous marital status of groom				
	Total	Single	Previously married		
			Total	Widowed	Divorced
All marriages	Percent distribution				
Total	100.0	78.0	22.0	5.1	16.9
Single	77.3	70.6	6.7	0.9	5.8
All previously married	22.7	7.4	15.3	4.2	11.1
Widowed	5.8	1.2	4.6	2.6	2.0
Divorced	16.9	6.2	10.7	1.6	9.1
White bride, white groom					
Total	100.0	78.2	21.8	4.9	16.9
Single	77.1	70.8	6.4	0.8	5.5
All previously married	22.9	7.4	15.5	4.1	11.4
Widowed	5.8	1.2	4.6	2.6	2.0
Divorced	17.0	6.2	10.8	1.4	9.4
Nonwhite bride, nonwhite groom					
Total	100.0	79.6	20.4	6.7	13.7
Single	81.2	72.9	8.3	1.9	6.4
All previously married	18.8	6.8	12.0	4.8	7.3
Widowed	6.5	1.8	4.7	2.9	1.8
Divorced	12.2	4.9	7.3	1.9	5.5
White bride, nonwhite groom					
Total	100.0	71.4	28.6	*	*
Single	70.3	54.2	16.1	*	*
All previously married	29.7	17.2	12.5	*	*
Nonwhite bride, white groom					
Total	100.0	76.9	23.1	*	*
Single	68.7	59.8	8.9	*	*
All previously married	31.3	17.1	14.3	*	*

previously married brides and grooms if this item were on record forms of every area. For all brides and grooms the gain would be 3 or 4 percentage points. Similarly, if data about the title of the officiant at the wedding ceremony were requested on every form, the gain in completeness in classifying ceremonies as religious or civil would be 9 or 10 percentage points.

It was found that the level of completeness of marriage data in the MRA was unusually high

Table N. Number of total marriages, number and percent of interracial marriages, and percent distribution of interracial marriages, by race of bride and groom: marriage-registration area and selected States, 1963

Area[1]	Total number of marriages[2]	Couples of differing racial categories		Total	White bride		White groom		Negro bride, other groom; other bride, Negro groom
					Negro groom	Other groom	Negro bride	Other bride	
		Number	Percent of total	Percent distribution					
MRA, excluding: California, New Jersey, and Ohio	796,827	3,444	0.4	100.0	22.5	28.2	7.5	39.2	2.6
Alaska and Hawaii	789,020	2,026	0.3	100.0	37.6	23.6	12.6	23.1	3.1
State:									
Alaska	2,055	210	10.2	100.0	2.9	18.1	1.0	78.1	-
Hawaii	5,728	1,208	21.1	100.0	0.7	37.7	-	59.3	2.3
Connecticut	19,320	175	0.9	100.0	34.3	22.9	28.6	8.6	5.7
District of Columbia	9,210	144	1.6	100.0	38.9	40.3	8.3	9.7	2.8
Massachusetts	34,240	170	0.5	100.0	64.7	5.9	29.4	-	-
Michigan	68,075	275	0.4	100.0	54.5	9.1	18.2	18.2	-
Montana	4,860	70	1.4	100.0	8.6	28.6	-	62.9	-
Pennsylvania	71,875	150	0.2	100.0	66.7	16.7	16.7	-	-
South Dakota	7,452	76	1.0	100.0	2.6	26.3	-	63.2	7.9
Wisconsin	25,620	100	0.4	100.0	20.0	10.0	-	60.0	10.0

[1] Selected States are those which reported 100 or more interracial marriages or where interracial marriages were 1 percent or more of 1963 marriages.

[2] Excludes marriages for which race was not stated.

when the record form included all the items necessary to obtain personal and demographic information. It is this completeness of reporting which accentuates the losses in completeness due to the absence of a few items from record forms of some of the States in the MRA, particularly some of the larger ones.

Uniformity of Data

The use of *uniform coding procedures,* with complete verification of the variables coded for marriage statistics since 1960, had reduced variations between States in the statistics published annually and in those used in this study. A tabulation of variations in the phrasing of items on the record forms indicated that the greatest variations occurred in items requesting data on previous marriages and place of marriage and residence. Effects of these variations on the data are summarized below.

Previous marriages.—Wording of this item varied from one record form to another, more so than for any of the other items tabulated. Despite these variations, codable responses were usually obtained if the item specified marital status terms such as single, widowed, or divorced or if data were requested indicating whether a previous marriage had ended in divorce or with the death of the former partner. The item was most often deficient in indicating which marriage was the most recent for the relatively small number of persons previously married two times or more.

Geographic place names.—Items requesting place where marriage occurred and place of residence and birthplace of the bride and groom did not always specify the kinds of geographic areas to be recorded. The residence item on the forms of nine States and the birthplace item on those of 11 States did not specifically request the State. The residence item on the forms of 20 States and

the place-of-marriage item on those of nine States did not specify county as an area to be recorded. The States of residence and birth were usually reported or could be determined from the names of major cities, but data on the county were almost never recorded unless explicitly requested. Data on the county of residence are essential to computing marriage rates for areas below the State level not only counties but also standard metropolitan statistical areas. County or its local equivalent is also needed to specify a local residence area for the population living outside incorporated cities and towns.

Occupation.—The item which has been found to have the least uniformity in reporting is occupation, and therefore data on occupation have not been published. A beginning was made in 1960 to code the occupation of the groom. Trials on the data from three or four States indicated that about 15 percent of the responses could not be classified with enough precision to assign them to one of the major occupational categories used by the Bureau of the Census. Most of the loss was due to the use of general occupational terms such as engineer and clerk and to the lack of specificity about self-employment.

The investigations affecting the codability of data represent a preliminary investigation of the accuracy of the statistics. Responses which fitted the code categories on any variable were accepted, except for checks on the consistency of marriage order (first, second, and so forth) with reported marital status before marriage and on the reporting of extreme age differences between bride and groom. Probability sample estimates of the accuracy with which the key statistics are reported, particularly age or date of birth and marital status, are the next steps which would be most helpful in evaluating the quality of marriage statistics.

Table 0. Completeness of reporting of selected marriage certificate items: marriage-registration area, 1960 and 1963

Item	Entire MRA		Areas with item on marriage certificate	
	1963	1960	1963	1960
	Percent complete			
Characteristic of marriage:				
Month	99.9	99.6	99.9	99.6
Date within month	99.8	99.5	99.8	99.5
Type of ceremony	87.7	88.8	97.2	96.6
Characteristic of bride and groom:[1]				
Age	99.7	99.5	99.7	99.5
Color	77.1	90.9	95.7	98.7
Whether previously married	98.8	99.6	98.8	99.6
Previous marital status	94.9	94.6	98.6	98.3
Number of current marriage	96.3	95.8	98.2	97.9
State of residence	99.1	99.4	99.1	99.4
State where born	95.3	---	96.2	---

[1]Average of percent completeness for brides and grooms separately.

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Table 1. Number of marriages and marriage rates: United States, region, division, and State, 1959-63

[By place of occurrence. Data are counts of marriages performed supplied by States except as noted. Figures differ from those shown in tables which are based on sample data. Rates based on population, enumerated as of April 1 for 1960 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Region, division, and State	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
	Number of marriages					Rate per 1,000 population in specified area				
United States[1,2]	1,654,003	1,577,360	1,547,945	1,523,381	1,494,000	8.8	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
Regions:										
Northeast	[2]323,808	309,423	308,529	311,481	[2]308,245	[2]6.9	6.7	6.8	7.0	[2]6.9
North Central	428,323	404,830	403,329	403,595	400,194	8.1	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8
South	588,102	565,225	[2]550,107	[2]534,201	520,735	[2]10.1	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.6
West[1]	[2]313,770	297,882	[2]285,980	[2]274,104	[2]264,428	[2]10.2	9.9	[2]9.8	[2]9.8	[2]9.8
Northeast:										
New England	[2]79,148	76,174	75,463	76,206	[2]77,350	[2]7.2	7.1	7.2	7.3	[2]7.4
Middle Atlantic	244,660	233,249	233,066	235,275	230,895	6.9	6.6	6.7	6.9	6.8
North Central:										
East North Central	304,925	287,188	284,581	283,285	279,603	8.2	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
West North Central	123,398	117,642	118,748	120,310	120,591	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.8	7.9
South:										
South Atlantic	287,500	275,939	[2]268,554	[2]261,885	[2]257,755	10.4	10.1	[2]10.1	[2]10.1	[2]10.1
East South Central	120,055	115,221	112,184	[2]110,300	99,705	9.6	9.4	9.2	[2]9.2	8.4
West South Central	180,547	[2]174,065	[2]169,369	162,016	[2]163,275	10.0	[2]9.8	[2]9.7	9.6	[2]9.8
West:										
Mountain	[2]143,499	136,131	[2]130,492	[2]122,818	[2]122,629	[2]19.1	18.4	[2]18.0	[2]17.9	[2]18.3
Pacific[1]	170,271	161,751	155,488	151,286	141,799	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0
New England:										
Maine	8,121	7,980	7,908	7,860	7,599	8.2	8.2	8.0	8.1	7.9
New Hampshire	8,151	7,852	7,347	7,337	7,287	12.7	12.6	12.1	12.1	12.2
Vermont	3,253	3,131	3,161	3,268	3,235	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.4	8.4
Massachusetts	[2]34,320	33,557	33,614	34,050	[2]35,950	[2]6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	[2]7.0
Rhode Island	5,967	5,575	5,640	5,814	5,770	6.7	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.7
Connecticut	19,336	18,079	17,793	17,877	17,509	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.1	6.9
Middle Atlantic:										
New York	129,283	122,871	122,750	123,620	120,517	7.3	7.0	7.1	7.4	7.2
New Jersey	43,353	41,462	40,699	39,820	38,659	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.4
Pennsylvania	72,024	68,916	69,617	71,835	71,719	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.4
East North Central:										
Ohio	71,675	66,963	66,076	68,043	66,877	7.2	6.7	6.7	7.0	6.9
Indiana	45,992	43,464	42,261	42,050	40,982	9.6	9.3	9.0	9.0	8.9
Illinois	93,420	87,645	88,692	87,529	87,281	9.0	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.7
Michigan	68,160	65,002	63,320	61,090	58,826	8.5	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.6
Wisconsin	25,678	24,114	24,232	24,573	25,637	6.3	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.6
West North Central:										
Minnesota	25,064	24,635	24,123	23,596	23,188	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9
Iowa	19,487	18,981	21,962	24,774	25,116	7.1	6.8	7.9	9.0	9.2
Missouri	37,667	35,192	34,890	[3]35,699	[3]35,380	8.6	8.2	8.1	[3]8.3	[3]8.3
North Dakota	4,531	4,212	4,335	4,039	4,282	7.0	6.7	6.8	6.4	6.9
South Dakota	7,470	6,954	6,213	5,787	5,861	10.6	9.6	8.9	8.5	8.8
Nebraska	11,711	11,185	10,976	10,591	10,724	8.0	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.7
Kansas	17,468	16,483	16,249	15,824	16,040	7.9	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4
South Atlantic:										
Delaware	2,890	2,585	2,560	2,394	2,383	6.0	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.4
Maryland	41,346	40,518	39,977	40,320	39,770	12.3	12.5	12.7	13.0	13.0
District of Columbia[4]	9,577	9,381	9,101	8,600	8,377	12.0	11.9	11.7	11.3	11.0
Virginia	42,085	39,703	38,300	37,542	37,768	9.8	9.3	9.3	9.5	9.6
West Virginia	13,760	13,487	13,465	13,639	13,294	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2
North Carolina	35,450	33,968	[2,4]32,158	[2,4]31,663	[2,4]29,986	7.4	7.2	[2,4]6.9	[2,4]6.9	[2,4]6.7
South Carolina	42,469	41,240	39,997	38,964	38,661	17.0	16.8	16.6	16.4	16.5
Georgia	56,803	53,553	52,062	49,448	48,928	13.5	13.1	13.0	12.5	12.6
Florida	43,120	41,504	40,934	39,315	38,588	7.8	7.6	7.8	7.9	8.0
East South Central:										
Kentucky	[4]27,121	[4]26,207	[4]26,185	[2]26,489	18,323	[4]8.7	[4]8.5	[4]8.6	[2]8.7	6.1
Tennessee	35,243	33,396	31,666	30,668	30,213	9.4	9.1	8.8	8.6	8.6
Alabama	35,551	33,611	32,723	31,910	30,722	10.5	10.1	9.8	9.8	9.6
Mississippi	22,140	22,007	21,610	21,233	20,447	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.6
West South Central:										
Arkansas	20,553	[4]18,951	[3]18,768	[3]18,318	18,394	10.8	[4]10.3	[3]10.4	[3]10.3	10.5
Louisiana	26,013	24,630	24,057	23,523	21,453	7.6	7.3	7.3	7.2	6.7
Oklahoma	31,082	[2]32,113	[2]30,300	28,496	[2]30,170	12.7	[2]13.1	[2]12.7	12.2	[2]13.2
Texas	102,899	98,371	96,244	[3]91,679	93,258	10.1	9.7	9.7	[3]9.6	9.9
Mountain:										
Montana	4,854	5,051	5,635	5,892	6,228	6.9	7.2	8.1	8.7	9.3
Idaho	12,680	11,934	11,151	10,068	9,343	18.5	17.0	16.3	15.1	14.2
Wyoming	3,396	3,196	3,246	3,267	3,077	10.0	9.6	9.6	9.9	9.6
Colorado[4]	[2]17,677	17,037	[2]16,842	[2]15,895	[2]15,518	[2]9.2	9.0	[2]9.1	[2]9.1	[2]9.1
New Mexico	11,976	12,132	[3]11,825	11,051	11,113	12.1	12.2	[3]12.0	11.6	12.1
Arizona	11,420	10,724	10,426	10,153	10,251	7.5	7.2	7.3	7.8	8.1
Utah	8,263	7,653	7,400	7,119	6,734	8.5	8.0	7.9	8.0	7.7
Nevada[4]	73,233	68,404	63,967	59,373	60,365	188.3	195.4	201.8	208.1	216.4
Pacific:										
Washington	[4]29,320	28,950	27,659	[4]28,230	[4]28,556	[4]9.9	9.6	9.4	[4]9.9	[4]10.1
Oregon	11,786	11,122	10,798	10,606	10,166	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.8
California	121,359	114,128	109,642	105,352	101,314	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6
Alaska	2,056	2,067	2,091	1,861	1,763	8.4	8.5	8.9	8.2	7.9
Hawaii	5,750	5,484	5,298	5,237	4,958	8.4	7.9	8.0	8.3	8.0

[1]Hawaii included beginning 1960. [2]Data are estimated. [3]Data are incomplete. [4]Marriage licenses issued.

Table 2. Number of marriages and marriage rates per 1,000 total resident population, men and women 15 years of age and over, and unmarried women 15 years of age and over: United States, 1940-63

[Refers only to marriages occurring in the United States. Rates for 1940, 1950, and 1960 based on population enumerated as of April 1 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Year	Number of marriages	Resident population	Men, 15+ years	Women, 15+ years	Unmarried women, 15+ years
		Rate per 1,000 in specified group			
1963	1,654,003	8.8	26.4	24.7	73.4
1962	1,577,000	8.5	25.5	23.9	71.2
1961	1,548,000	8.5	25.5	24.0	72.2
1960	1,523,000	8.5	25.4	24.0	73.5
1959	1,494,000	8.5	25.2	23.8	73.6
1958	1,451,000	8.4	24.8	23.5	72.0
1957	1,518,000	8.9	26.4	24.9	78.0
1956	1,585,000	9.5	27.8	26.4	82.4
1955	1,531,000	9.3	27.2	25.8	80.9
1954	1,490,000	9.2	26.9	25.4	79.8
1953	1,546,000	9.8	28.2	26.7	83.7
1952	1,539,318	9.9	28.3	26.8	83.2
1951	1,594,694	10.4	29.4	28.1	86.6
1950	1,667,231	11.1	30.7	29.8	90.2
1949	1,579,798	10.6	29.4	28.5	86.7
1948	1,811,155	12.4	34.0	33.0	98.5
1947	1,991,878	13.9	37.9	36.8	106.2
1946	2,291,045	16.4	44.5	42.8	118.1
1945	1,612,992	12.2	35.8	30.5	83.6
1944	1,452,394	10.9	31.2	27.8	76.5
1943	1,577,050	11.7	32.2	30.6	83.0
1942	1,772,132	13.2	35.6	34.8	93.0
1941	1,695,999	12.7	34.0	33.7	88.5
1940	1,595,879	12.1	32.3	32.3	82.8

Table 3. Number of marriages and marriage rates per 1,000 total population, men and women 15 years of age and over, and unmarried women 15 years of age and over expressed as percents of 1959-61 averages: United States, 1940-63

Year	Number of marriages	Marriages per 1,000 total population	Marriages per 1,000 persons, 15+ years		Marriages per 1,000 unmarried women, 15+ years
			Men	Women	
	Percent of 1959-61 average				
1959-61	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1963	108.7	103.7	104.1	103.2	100.0
1962	103.7	100.1	100.5	99.8	97.0
1961	101.7	100.1	100.5	100.2	98.3
1960	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.2	100.1
1959	98.2	100.1	99.3	99.4	100.2
1958	95.3	99.2	97.8	98.2	98.1
1957	99.8	105.1	104.1	104.0	106.2
1956	104.2	112.2	109.6	110.3	112.2
1955	100.6	109.8	107.2	107.8	110.2
1954	97.9	108.7	106.0	106.1	108.7
1953	101.6	115.7	111.2	111.5	114.0
1952	101.2	116.9	111.6	111.9	113.3
1951	104.8	122.8	115.9	117.4	117.9
1950	109.6	131.1	121.0	124.5	122.9
1949	103.8	125.1	115.9	119.0	118.1
1948	119.0	146.4	134.0	137.8	134.2
1947	130.9	164.2	149.4	153.7	144.6
1946	150.6	193.7	175.4	178.8	160.9
1945	106.0	144.1	141.1	127.4	113.9
1944	95.4	128.7	123.0	116.1	104.2
1943	103.6	138.2	126.9	127.8	113.0
1942	116.5	155.9	140.3	145.4	126.7
1941	111.4	149.9	134.0	140.8	120.5
1940	104.9	142.9	127.3	134.9	112.8

Table 4. Number of resident population, by sex and age: United States, 1940-63

[Alaska included beginning 1959 and Hawaii, 1960. Figures include Armed Forces stationed in the United States but exclude those stationed outside the United States. All figures are rounded to the nearest thousand. Population enumerated as of April 1 for 1940, 1950, and 1960, and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Sex and age	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
Men	Number in thousands											
All ages	92,626	91,353	90,082	88,331	86,969	85,419	83,994	82,525	81,068	79,427	77,980	76,801
Under 15 years	29,878	29,566	29,318	28,358	27,727	27,008	26,408	25,611	24,800	23,957	23,132	22,350
15-19 years	7,748	7,437	6,888	6,634	6,450	6,167	5,772	5,526	5,377	5,337	5,237	5,148
20-24 years	6,023	5,665	5,445	5,272	5,168	4,997	4,880	4,868	4,870	4,662	4,735	4,883
25-29 years	5,336	5,270	5,281	5,333	5,346	5,442	5,564	5,647	5,685	5,732	5,782	5,801
30-34 years	5,537	5,635	5,735	5,846	5,869	5,933	5,944	5,988	5,999	5,941	5,834	5,814
35-39 years	5,997	6,047	6,081	6,080	6,025	5,958	5,926	5,840	5,746	5,690	5,643	5,620
40-44 years	5,945	5,854	5,767	5,676	5,617	5,573	5,527	5,472	5,410	5,349	5,282	5,223
45-54 years	10,495	10,380	10,257	10,093	9,945	9,784	9,629	9,459	9,312	9,164	9,009	8,882
55-64 years	7,891	7,775	7,663	7,537	7,445	7,352	7,292	7,237	7,151	7,060	6,981	6,908
65+ years	7,777	7,723	7,647	7,503	7,376	7,207	7,053	6,877	6,718	6,534	6,344	6,173
Women												
All ages	95,905	94,469	92,961	90,992	89,544	87,901	86,377	84,781	83,240	81,737	80,262	78,886
Under 15 years	28,857	28,564	28,336	27,428	26,796	26,081	25,486	24,707	23,915	23,097	22,295	21,534
15-19 years	7,663	7,388	6,836	6,586	6,413	6,157	5,817	5,603	5,458	5,387	5,284	5,212
20-24 years	6,284	5,928	5,699	5,528	5,464	5,356	5,284	5,289	5,335	5,397	5,517	5,663
25-29 years	5,522	5,462	5,469	5,536	5,541	5,648	5,781	5,877	5,947	6,034	6,117	6,157
30-34 years	5,760	5,874	5,980	6,103	6,131	6,198	6,224	6,277	6,306	6,263	6,191	6,139
35-39 years	6,289	6,359	6,400	6,402	6,341	6,266	6,214	6,104	5,997	5,937	5,896	5,851
40-44 years	6,271	6,164	6,050	5,924	5,853	5,788	5,723	5,652	5,578	5,505	5,427	5,338
45-54 years	10,970	10,801	10,625	10,393	10,246	10,057	9,868	9,670	9,497	9,323	9,145	8,985
55-64 years	8,501	8,344	8,199	8,036	7,918	7,786	7,680	7,576	7,435	7,288	7,150	7,009
65+ years	9,790	9,585	9,365	9,056	8,842	8,564	8,300	8,024	7,772	7,506	7,239	6,996

Sex and age	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
Men	Number in thousands											
All ages	75,821	74,833	73,814	72,594	71,271	69,303	62,639	63,898	66,061	66,662	66,639	66,062
Under 15 years	21,542	20,611	20,044	19,346	18,663	17,860	17,583	17,317	17,139	16,823	16,716	16,726
15-19 years	5,166	5,311	5,345	5,445	5,425	5,160	4,987	5,262	5,694	5,994	6,123	6,180
20-24 years	5,234	5,606	5,601	5,651	5,632	5,477	3,313	3,964	5,004	5,556	5,734	5,692
25-29 years	5,860	5,972	5,938	5,898	5,855	5,714	3,861	4,437	5,109	5,355	5,488	5,451
30-34 years	5,715	5,625	5,578	5,514	5,461	5,372	4,286	4,583	4,967	5,084	5,113	5,070
35-39 years	5,571	5,518	5,430	5,316	5,217	5,120	4,513	4,633	4,790	4,834	4,814	4,746
40-44 years	5,148	5,070	5,004	4,919	4,843	4,770	4,628	4,595	4,556	4,526	4,485	4,419
45-54 years	8,769	8,655	8,624	8,565	8,519	8,459	8,365	8,280	8,205	8,129	8,054	7,962
55-64 years	6,809	6,697	6,592	6,439	6,303	6,171	6,051	5,930	5,822	5,710	5,592	5,434
65+ years	6,007	5,767	5,660	5,500	5,353	5,198	5,052	4,899	4,775	4,650	4,521	4,381
Women												
All ages	77,490	75,864	74,850	73,499	72,175	70,751	69,841	68,987	68,183	67,258	66,482	65,608
Under 15 years	20,765	19,871	19,334	18,661	17,999	17,227	16,994	16,780	16,575	16,302	16,223	16,246
15-19 years	5,217	5,305	5,381	5,496	5,615	5,734	5,844	5,929	6,000	6,059	6,107	6,153
20-24 years	5,771	5,876	5,916	5,956	5,983	5,997	5,974	5,986	5,986	5,970	5,943	5,895
25-29 years	6,218	6,270	6,226	6,156	6,079	6,003	5,923	5,878	5,836	5,787	5,731	5,646
30-34 years	6,026	5,892	5,838	5,760	5,682	5,608	5,532	5,467	5,406	5,339	5,270	5,172
35-39 years	5,799	5,729	5,641	5,524	5,409	5,306	5,213	5,133	5,060	4,986	4,908	4,800
40-44 years	5,246	5,134	5,072	4,989	4,907	4,830	4,754	4,679	4,608	4,536	4,463	4,369
45-54 years	8,843	8,688	8,627	8,533	8,443	8,347	8,234	8,102	7,972	7,838	7,704	7,550
55-64 years	6,843	6,672	6,552	6,383	6,223	6,071	5,930	5,782	5,646	5,509	5,367	5,189
65+ years	6,763	6,427	6,262	6,040	5,833	5,629	5,442	5,248	5,092	4,933	4,767	4,587

Table 5. Number of unmarried resident women 15 years of age and over, by age: United States, 1940-63

Year	Total, 15+ years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years
	Number in thousands								
1963	22,529	6,675	2,072	717	588	679	815	4,860	6,123
1962	22,156	6,324	1,850	732	734	820	931	4,854	5,911
1961	21,440	5,835	1,797	752	686	735	845	4,950	5,840
1960	20,725	5,555	1,686	765	688	761	834	4,869	5,567
1959	20,286	5,381	1,680	676	665	739	829	4,700	5,300
1958	20,147	5,154	1,682	815	677	749	842	4,976	5,252
1957	19,458	4,904	1,659	792	698	742	847	4,897	5,070
1956	19,235	4,633	1,622	817	673	860	965	4,715	4,950
1955	18,925	4,593	1,655	872	724	777	884	4,569	4,851
1954	18,664	4,606	1,774	832	808	768	871	4,391	4,614
1953	18,468	4,449	1,715	888	749	787	877	4,603	4,400
1952	18,494	4,396	1,778	970	780	816	885	4,524	4,345
1951	18,417	4,396	1,890	901	850	792	843	4,482	4,263
1950	18,404	4,360	1,980	1,007	777	878	913	4,336	4,145
1949	18,230	4,456	1,921	1,086	849	826	863	4,261	3,968
1948	18,391	4,619	2,063	1,110	882	840	854	4,162	3,861
1947	18,760	4,827	2,276	1,151	945	861	845	4,060	3,795
1946	19,402	5,156	2,504	1,090	1,062	998	703	4,125	3,764
1945	19,283	5,200	2,562	1,167	1,007	977	761	4,026	3,583
1944	18,982	5,178	2,569	1,226	915	934	842	3,916	3,402
1943	19,009	5,217	2,617	1,286	905	913	879	3,879	3,313
1942	19,056	5,296	2,683	1,328	930	903	867	3,829	3,220
1941	19,161	5,360	2,771	1,393	970	898	862	3,787	3,120
1940	19,253	5,422	2,854	1,451	1,007	892	851	3,741	3,035

Table 6. Marriage rates, by previous marital status and age of bride and groom: marriage-registration area, 1960 and 1963

Previous marital status and age	1963		1960	
	Bride	Groom	Bride	Groom
All unmarried	Rate per 1,000 in specified group			
All ages, 14+ years	61.7	72.5	64.1	75.0
14-19 years	63.5	20.4	76.6	23.5
20-24 years	264.5	195.1	277.1	212.7
25-44 years	111.6	149.7	102.5	137.7
45-64 years	19.3	45.2	18.5	46.2
65+ years	2.2	15.1	2.3	13.4
Single, never married				
All ages, 14+ years	82.0	66.6	87.5	70.7
14-19 years	61.4	20.0	74.7	23.1
20-24 years	249.7	189.1	263.9	206.0
25-44 years	84.8	112.9	78.6	111.3
45-64 years	8.4	12.7	8.6	13.2
65+ years	1.1	3.7	1.0	3.5
Widowed and divorced				
All ages, 14+ years	33.0	97.1	32.7	89.1
14-24 years	467.0	337.5	407.7	392.9
25-44 years	139.6	302.6	131.8	244.3
45-64 years	22.9	81.4	22.0	85.1
65+ years	2.3	18.7	2.5	16.6
Widowed				
All ages, 14+ years	10.2	38.4	10.4	36.1
14-44 years	66.6	163.8	61.7	134.0
45-64 years	16.2	70.1	14.9	68.4
65+ years	2.0	17.4	2.1	15.5
Divorced				
All ages, 14+ years	133.5	177.0	122.1	167.7
14-24 years	565.9	353.1	433.4	360.4
25-44 years	179.0	306.6	171.7	262.4
45-64 years	45.2	89.5	44.7	96.5
65+ years	9.7	26.5	8.8	30.0

Table 7. Number of marriages, by previous marital status and age of bride and groom: marriage-registration area, 1960

[Figures exclude age not stated for 1960; age not stated was distributed for 1963. Figures for marriages in which one or both partners were widowed or divorced exclude all such marriages from Michigan and Ohio in both years and from Louisiana in 1963]

Previous marital status of bride and groom and age of bride	1963						1960					
	Age of groom						Age of groom					
	All ages	Under 20 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years	All ages	Under 20 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years
All marriages	Number of marriages											
All ages---	1,033,950	131,260	470,006	332,034	78,685	21,965	868,796	115,324	377,295	288,112	70,132	17,933
Under 20 years---	368,981	115,128	220,183	33,271	364	35	330,963	105,076	190,970	34,555	352	10
20-24 years------	376,921	15,232	232,689	127,461	1,444	95	285,283	9,912	171,004	103,235	1,092	40
25-44 years------	214,619	900	17,057	162,933	32,610	1,119	190,030	336	15,271	143,124	30,150	1,149
45-64 years------	64,163	---	77	8,344	42,889	12,853	54,666	---	50	7,178	37,066	10,372
65+ years--------	9,266	---	---	25	1,378	7,863	7,854	---	---	20	1,472	6,362
Bride single, groom single												
All ages---	713,488	126,598	421,471	160,122	5,297		605,202	111,966	340,425	148,245	4,566	
Under 20 years---	341,100	112,128	205,646	23,222	104		309,929	102,779	179,968	27,022	160	
20-24 years------	307,382	13,954	207,211	86,010	207		232,618	8,973	152,152	71,183	310	
25-44 years------	62,125	516	8,592	50,415	2,602		59,942	214	8,305	49,384	2,039	
45+ years--------	2,881	---	22	475	2,384		2,713	---	---	656	2,057	
Bride single, groom divorced												
All ages---	49,727	10,033		34,723	4,445	526	39,863	7,468		27,597	4,461	337
Under 25 years---	32,074	9,720		21,717	613	24	23,006	6,803		15,826	357	20
25-44 years------	16,047	313		12,880	2,797	57	15,078	665		11,606	2,766	41
45-64 years------	1,494	---		126	1,035	333	1,748	---		165	1,338	245
65+ years--------	112	---		---	---	112	31	---		---	---	31
Bride divorced, groom single												
All ages---	53,476	19,405		30,738	3,187	146	45,497	14,485		27,802	2,887	323
Under 25 years---	27,804	14,098		7,689	17	---	16,845	10,648		6,167	30	---
25-44 years------	28,921	5,292		21,932	1,695	2	26,182	3,807		21,064	1,271	40
45-64 years------	2,696	15		1,117	1,425	139	2,179	30		571	1,476	102
65+ years--------	55	---		---	50	5	291	---		---	110	181
Bride divorced, groom divorced												
All ages---	77,953	4,840		52,918	19,158	1,037	60,168	3,521		39,197	16,252	1,198
Under 25 years---	12,910	3,620		8,999	286	5	9,995	2,456		7,435	104	---
25-44 years------	53,035	1,210		41,717	9,997	111	40,462	1,065		30,299	9,017	81
45-64 years------	11,716	10		2,202	8,822	682	9,448	---		1,463	7,091	894
65+ years--------	292	---		---	53	239	263	---		---	40	223

Table 7. Number of marriages, by previous marital status and age of bride and groom: marriage-registration area, 1960—Con.

[Figures exclude age not stated for 1960; age not stated was distributed for 1963. Figures for marriages in which one or both partners were widowed or divorced exclude all such marriages from Michigan and Ohio in both years and from Louisiana in 1963]

Previous marital status of bride and groom and age of bride	1963				1960			
	Age of groom				Age of groom			
	All ages	Under 45 years	45-64 years	65+ years	All ages	Under 45 years	45-64 years	65+ years
	Number of marriages							
Bride single, groom widowed								
All ages	8,015	3,469	3,212	1,334	8,025	3,667	3,042	1,316
Under 45 years	5,307	3,394	1,632	281	6,025	3,626	2,005	394
45-64 years	2,349	75	1,555	719	1,726	41	1,037	648
65+ years	359	-	25	334	274	-	-	274
Bride widowed, groom single								
All ages	10,361	7,200	2,637	524	9,992	7,237	2,087	668
Under 45 years	7,019	6,390	599	30	6,708	6,135	553	20
45-64 years	2,954	800	1,863	291	2,910	1,082	1,383	445
65+ years	388	10	175	203	374	20	151	203
Bride widowed, groom widowed								
All ages	22,518	1,522	10,903	10,093	19,578	1,472	9,945	8,161
Under 45 years	3,283	1,255	1,814	214	3,221	1,136	1,905	180
45-64 years	14,255	267	8,650	5,338	12,116	336	7,406	4,374
65+ years	4,980	-	439	4,541	4,241	-	634	3,607
Bride widowed, groom divorced								
All ages	16,949	7,257	8,577	1,115	13,020	6,023	6,007	990
Under 45 years	7,714	5,517	2,167	30	6,431	4,672	1,738	21
45-64 years	8,544	1,730	6,219	595	6,102	1,351	4,155	596
65+ years	691	10	191	490	487	-	114	373
Bride divorced, groom widowed								
All ages	13,412	4,103	6,914	2,395	11,304	2,523	6,950	1,831
Under 45 years	7,590	3,881	3,531	178	5,692	2,200	3,320	172
45-64 years	5,358	222	3,320	1,816	5,323	323	3,588	1,412
65+ years	464	-	63	401	289	-	42	247

Table 8. Number of unmarried resident population 14 years of age and over, by previous marital status, sex, and age: marriage-registration area, 1960 and 1963

Sex and age	1963			1960		
	Total, 14+ years	Single	Previously married	Total, 14+ years	Single	Previously married
	Number in thousands					
Men						
All ages, 14+ years	14,264	11,880	2,384	11,646	9,524	2,122
14-19 years	6,438	6,435	3	4,916	4,912	4
20-24 years	2,409	2,355	54	1,775	1,739	36
25-44 years	2,218	1,804	414	2,094	1,695	399
45-64 years	1,739	924	815	1,519	827	692
65+ years	1,458	361	1,097	1,342	351	991
Women						
All ages, 14+ years	16,745	9,569	7,176	13,628	7,594	6,034
14-19 years	5,814	5,804	10	4,318	4,303	16
20-24 years	1,425	1,339	86	1,030	957	73
25-44 years	1,923	1,013	910	1,854	1,050	804
45-64 years	3,325	868	2,457	2,959	819	2,140
65+ years	4,258	544	3,714	3,467	465	3,002

Sex and age	MRA, excluding Louisiana, Michigan, and Ohio				MRA, excluding Michigan and Ohio			
	Total, 14+ years	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total, 14+ years	Single	Widowed	Divorced
	Number in thousands							
Men								
All ages, 14+ years	12,129	10,148	1,156	826	9,940	8,161	1,096	683
14-24 years	7,504	7,450	11	43	5,731	5,697	3	31
25-44 years	1,936	1,581	45	310	1,790	1,457	54	279
45-64 years	1,469	801	301	366	1,291	711	295	285
65+ years	1,220	316	799	106	1,129	297	744	88
Women								
All ages, 14+ years	14,072	8,083	4,903	1,087	11,601	6,457	4,179	965
14-24 years	6,056	5,989	5	62	4,519	4,445	11	63
25-44 years	1,600	840	261	498	1,577	900	256	421
45-64 years	2,792	764	1,587	442	2,535	709	1,441	385
65+ years	3,622	488	3,049	85	2,970	403	2,471	96

TECHNICAL APPENDIX

Introduction

This section includes data and explanations of the information available about the coverage of the statistics presented in this report. Data are presented showing the completeness of the statistics, the specifications of the samples of marriage records, and approximations of the sampling errors of the statistics used in the analyses.

Terms and Procedures

Marriage rates.—The marriage rates presented in this report are measures of the incidence of marriages during a year, or, stated differently, probabilities that marriages will occur in eligible populations based on their incidence in the period covered. The rates shown vary conceptually in the kinds of probability of which they are estimates.

1. *Marriages per 1,000 resident population.*—This is an overall estimate of the probability of marriages in an entire population. As such, it is comparable to crude rates of other vital events (births, deaths, divorces) in the same resident population. Such rates are useful in providing information about a population when they are related to other similarly defined rates in describing the overall characteristics of the population.

2. *Marriages per 1,000 women or men 15 years of age and over.*—These rates measure the probabilities of marriages occurring in populations of adults. As is the case for all of the rates, the populations are composed of residents.

The first two types of rates are crude measures of incidence in populations. As such, they cannot be used as estimates of average probabilities of marriage to individuals in these populations since many of the individuals included are not legally eligible to marry, being already married or too young. Other rates are based on unmarried populations which also exclude most persons too young to marry. Some of the persons in these populations, even though unmarried, would encounter legal obstacles to marrying; however, their number is small relative to the number of persons in the total or adult populations not eligible to marry.

3. *Marriages per 1,000 unmarried women 15-44 years of age and 15 years of age and over, United States.*—The numerators of these rates are marriages occurring in the specified year in the United States. The base populations are unpublished figures prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. They are enumerated as of April 1 for 1940, 1950, and 1960 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years. The rate for unmarried women 15 years of age and over is an estimate of the probability of marriage over this age span. The rate based on unmarried women 15-44 years of age is an approximation of a rate from which the probability of marriage could be inferred since the numerator is marriages to women of all ages. The appropriate numerator of the number of marriages of women in this age interval was not available for the United States except for 1960. When the estimate of the number of brides aged 15-44 was used for 1960, the estimate of the rate for that year was 134.4 instead of 148.0, which was estimated using brides of all ages as the numerator. It appears from figures on age at marriage that the magnitude of the rates for the MRA for brides 15-44 years is about 10 percent smaller than that of rates for all brides.

4. *Marriages per 1,000 unmarried women or men of specified age and marital status, marriage-registration area.*—These rates by age and marital status are shown in table 6. (Marriage rates per 1,000 unmarried women or men 15 years of age and over are included on the key statistical information page at the front of this publication.) The numerators are numbers of marriages in which the bride or groom was of the specified marital status before marriage and included in the specified age at marriage. The denominators are estimates of the population resident in the marriage-registration area as of

April 1, 1960, or July 1, 1963, with the same sex, age, and marital status characteristics as the brides or grooms included in the numerator. (As explained subsequently under "Adjustments and limitations of rates," rates for widowed and for divorced persons exclude estimates for Michigan and Ohio in 1960 and 1963 and for Louisiana in 1963 from both numerator and denominator.) The base population estimates for 1963 are consistent with population estimates published in *Current Population Reports*.[2]

5. *Marriages per 1,000 maximum-possible marriages of unmarried men and women of specified marital statuses and/or ages.*—These rates are shown in table C. Each rate is computed using the number of marriages of brides of specified age at marriage and marital status before marriage to grooms of specified age and marital status as the numerator and the lesser of the two eligible populations as the denominator. The two eligible populations are unmarried men of the same marital status and age as the grooms and unmarried women of the same marital status and age as the brides. For example, for 1960 the rate of marriages per 1,000 maximum possible marriages of previously single women under 25 years to previously divorced men under 25 years is computed using 6,803 marriages as the numerator and 31,000 divorced men under 25 years as the denominator. Of the two eligible populations, the number of divorced men under 25 years is smaller than the number of single women under 25 years. This rate, R, may be expressed as the ratio of two other rates. In a population, P, composed only of the two eligible groups of men, P_m, and women, P_w, if $P_m < P_w$, the maximum possible rate of marriage is $R_{max} = [P_m/P].1000$. If M_{est} is the estimated number of marriages which occurred between persons in P_m and P_w in the year 1963, then the actual rate of marriage in population, P, is $R_{est} = [M_{est}/P]1000$. The ratio of the estimated rate to the maximum possible rate can be expressed as follows:

$$R_{est}/R_{max} = \frac{[M_{est}/P].1000}{[P_m/P].1000} = M_{est}/P_m.$$

If $P_w < P_m$ the result would of course be M_{est}/P_w, and if $P_m = P_w$ this figure would be the denominator. Thus the rate per 1,000 maximum possible number of marriages is a ratio of an observed rate at which an event occurs to the maximum possible rate at which the event could occur.

[2]Bureau of the Census: Estimates of the population of States, by age, July 1, 1963. *Current Population Reports*. Series P-25, No. 294. U.S. Department of Commerce. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Nov. 5, 1964.

Adjustments and limitations of rates.—Marriages occurring in the MRA include some brides and grooms who were not living in the MRA. In 1963, 2.5 percent of the brides and 3.7 percent of the grooms reported residences in non-MRA States, and another 0.3 percent of each reported their residence as outside the United States. It seems likely that more residents of States in the MRA were married in States outside the MRA than vice versa, probably by a ratio of about 2 to 1.

In 1961 the District of Columbia, Indiana, and Massachusetts were added to the MRA. All tabulations and rate computations were made using the areas participating in the MRA as of each year. Comparisons of the percent distributions of age and marriage order of brides and grooms in 1963 for the MRA including and excluding marriages reported in 1963 by these three reporting areas indicate only small differences in these distributions, even though the three areas accounted for over half of the increase in total marriages for the MRA in 1963 compared with the total for the MRA in 1960. Also the 1963 rate of 8.0 per 1,000 resident population for the MRA is only reduced to 7.9 when these three areas are excluded. The similarity of the percent distributions of marriage order and age at marriage in 1963 for the entire MRA and for the MRA excluding the three reporting areas is shown in table I.

Marital status of previously widowed and divorced brides and grooms could not be classified for Michigan and Ohio in both 1960 and 1963 because these data were not requested on the marriage record forms of these two States. In 1963 previous marital status was not classified for Louisiana due to incomplete reporting and the use by some local offices of outdated forms which did not include an item on marital status before the current marriage.

Hence data on remarriages of widowed and divorced women and men exclude Michigan and Ohio for both 1960 and 1963 and Louisiana for 1963. Base populations for 1960 of widowed and divorced persons, excluding Michigan and Ohio, were prepared from 1960 census figures, and for 1963 they were estimated by the Bureau of the Census. Later the 1963 base populations were adjusted to exclude Louisiana also by distributing, proportional to the reported age by marital status distributions for Louisiana from the 1960 census, the appropriate age group totals (14 years of age and over) estimated for Louisiana as of July 1, 1963. The results of these proportional distributions by sex, previous marital status, and age for Louisiana were deducted from corresponding base populations which already excluded Michigan and Ohio (table I). Marriage rates by previous marital status of the bride and groom, in which either or both were widowed or divorced, exclude these States. The only rates (table C) which include these States are those for which age of all brides is classified by age of all grooms and those for which age of single brides is classified by age of single grooms.

Table I. Percent distribution of marriages, by marriage order and age of bride and groom: marriage-registration area, 1963

Marriage order and age at marriage	Bride		Groom	
	Entire MRA	MRA, excluding 3 areas[1]	Entire MRA	MRA, excluding 3 areas[1]
	Percent distribution			
Marriage order				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
First marriage	76.8	76.7	77.4	77.2
Remarriage	23.2	23.3	22.6	22.8
First marriage				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 18 years	14.8	15.0	1.6	1.6
18-19 years	30.7	30.7	14.7	14.8
20-24 years	42.6	42.4	56.3	56.3
25-29 years	6.7	6.6	16.7	16.6
30-34 years	2.3	2.3	5.4	5.4
35-44 years	1.9	2.0	3.6	3.6
45-54 years	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0
55-64 years	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5
65 years and over	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Remarriage				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years	3.0	3.0	0.2	0.3
20-24 years	15.9	15.9	8.1	8.0
25-29 years	15.5	15.5	14.5	14.4
30-34 years	14.0	14.0	13.7	13.8
35-44 years	24.1	24.3	25.9	26.0
45-54 years	16.0	15.9	17.7	17.8
55-64 years	7.8	7.8	11.0	11.0
65 years and over	3.6	3.6	8.9	8.9

[1] Excludes Indiana, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia.

Procedures for analysis of variation between 1960 and 1963 marriage rates per 1,000 maximum possible marriages.—Rates of marriage per 1,000 maximum possible marriages in 1960 and 1963 were computed as measures of rates at which persons of a specified marital status and age selected marriage partners of specified marital statuses and ages. The analysis of differences in these rates compared expected overall rates with corresponding rates computed for 1963.

In the first procedure each specific rate for 1963 was multiplied by the corresponding population of 1960 and the products summed across age groups to obtain an expected number of marriages.

The comparative overall rates were computed by the same procedures, except that the specific rates were those of 1960 and the specific populations were those of 1963.

Procedures for computation of expected trends in marriages and marriage rates, 1940-63.—Age-specific marriage rates for unmarried women 15 years of age and over (table 5) were computed for 1960 for the United States. The expected number $E(M)$ of marriages, based on these 1960 specific rates, was computed for each year 1940-59 and 1961-63, using the formula, $E(M) = \sum_{i=1}^{7} R_{i-60}\, P_{i-y}$, where R_{i-60} is the marriage rate in 1960 for unmarried women in the ith age interval, and P_{i-y} is the population of unmarried women in the ith age interval in the yth year of the series 1940-59 and 1961-63. The populations of unmarried females 15 years of age and over for the period 1940-63 were estimated by the Bureau of the Census for use in computing birth and marriage rates during this period.

Place and Time of Occurrence

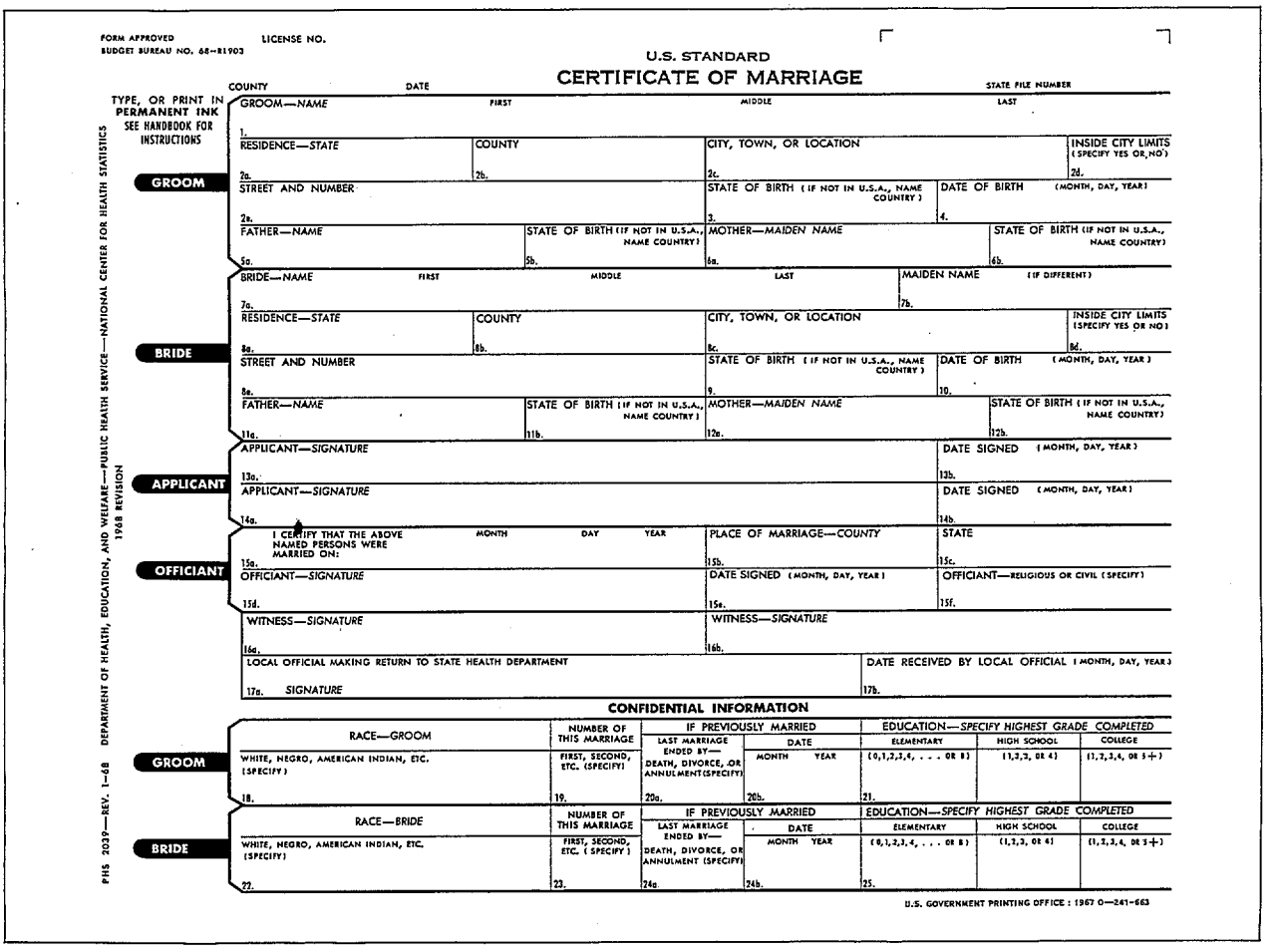
Marriage statistics for the United States are based on counts of marriages performed during the data year by place of occurrence, except that a few States report number of marriage licenses issued during the year. Statistics for the marriage-registration areas are tabulated by place and time of occurrence.

Coverage of Statistics

United States.—All data exclude Alaska for years preceding 1959 and Hawaii for years preceding 1960. Total marriages for the United States in 1963 is the sum of annual totals reported for each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Within the States estimates were made for only seven nonreporting counties of a total of 3,113 counties or equivalent local areas in

Table II. Number of counties not reporting marriages: United States, 1948-63

Year	Number
1963	7
1962	5
1961	16
1960	8
1959	15
1958	33
1957	47
1956	30
1955	35
1954	35
1953	37
1952	17
1951	42
1950	79
1949	73
1948	81



FORM APPROVED BUDGET BUREAU NO. 68-R1903 LICENSE NO.

U.S. STANDARD

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

COUNTY DATE STATE FILE NUMBER

TYPE, OR PRINT IN PERMANENT INK SEE HANDBOOK FOR INSTRUCTIONS

GROOM—NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST) 1.

GROOM: RESIDENCE—STATE 2a. | COUNTY 2b. | CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION 2c. | INSIDE CITY LIMITS (SPECIFY YES OR NO) 2d.

GROOM: STREET AND NUMBER 2e. | STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A., NAME COUNTRY) 3. | DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) 4.

GROOM: FATHER—NAME 5a. | STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A., NAME COUNTRY) 5b. | MOTHER—MAIDEN NAME 6a. | STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A., NAME COUNTRY) 6b.

BRIDE—NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST) 7a. | MAIDEN NAME (IF DIFFERENT) 7b.

BRIDE: RESIDENCE—STATE 8a. | COUNTY 8b. | CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION 8c. | INSIDE CITY LIMITS (SPECIFY YES OR NO) 8d.

BRIDE: STREET AND NUMBER 8e. | STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A., NAME COUNTRY) 9. | DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) 10.

BRIDE: FATHER—NAME 11a. | STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A., NAME COUNTRY) 11b. | MOTHER—MAIDEN NAME 12a. | STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A., NAME COUNTRY) 12b.

APPLICANT—SIGNATURE 13a. | DATE SIGNED (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) 13b.

APPLICANT—SIGNATURE 14a. | DATE SIGNED (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) 14b.

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NAMED PERSONS WERE MARRIED ON: MONTH DAY YEAR 15a. | PLACE OF MARRIAGE—COUNTY 15b. | STATE 15c.

OFFICIANT—SIGNATURE 15d. | DATE SIGNED (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) 15e. | OFFICIANT—RELIGIOUS OR CIVIL (SPECIFY) 15f.

WITNESS—SIGNATURE 16a. | WITNESS—SIGNATURE 16b.

LOCAL OFFICIAL MAKING RETURN TO STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT 17a. SIGNATURE | DATE RECEIVED BY LOCAL OFFICIAL (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) 17b.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

GROOM	RACE—GROOM (WHITE, NEGRO, AMERICAN INDIAN, ETC. (SPECIFY)) 18.	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (FIRST, SECOND, ETC. (SPECIFY)) 19.	IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED: LAST MARRIAGE ENDED BY—DEATH, DIVORCE, OR ANNULMENT (SPECIFY) 20a.	DATE: MONTH 20b.	YEAR	EDUCATION—SPECIFY HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED: ELEMENTARY (0,1,2,3,4, . . . OR 8) 21.	HIGH SCHOOL (1,2,3, OR 4)	COLLEGE (1,2,3,4, OR 5+)
BRIDE	RACE—BRIDE (WHITE, NEGRO, AMERICAN INDIAN, ETC. (SPECIFY)) 22.	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (FIRST, SECOND, ETC. (SPECIFY)) 23.	IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED: LAST MARRIAGE ENDED BY—DEATH, DIVORCE, OR ANNULMENT (SPECIFY) 24a.	DATE: MONTH 24b.	YEAR	EDUCATION—SPECIFY HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED: ELEMENTARY (0,1,2,3,4, . . . OR 8) 25.	HIGH SCHOOL (1,2,3, OR 4)	COLLEGE (1,2,3,4, OR 5+)

PHS 2039—REV. 1-68 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE—PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE—NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS 1968 REVISION

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Figure 1. Standard Certificate of Marriage

the Nation. The totals reported by 43 States and the District of Columbia are based on counts of individual marriage reports in centralized files. In six States and New York City, without central files, surveys were conducted by State officials (in New York City, the city clerk) to obtain annual counts of marriages from local offices. In one State without a central file, local officials reported to the National Center for Health Statistics on

Table III. Percent of marriages for which selected characteristics were not stated, by source of nonresponse: marriage-registration area, 1960 and 1963

Characteristic	1963			1960		
	Total, not stated	Not reportable[1]	Not completed	Total, not stated	Not reportable[1]	Not completed
	Percent					
Month of marriage	[2]0.1	-	[2]0.1	0.4	-	0.4
Date of marriage	[2]0.2	-	[2]0.2	0.5	-	0.5
Age						
Bride	[2]0.3	-	[2]0.3	0.5	-	0.5
Groom	[2]0.3	-	[2]0.3	0.5	-	0.5
Color						
Bride	22.9	18.6	4.3	9.2	7.8	1.4
Groom	22.9	18.6	4.3	8.9	7.8	1.1
First or remarriage						
Bride	1.2	-	1.2	1.4	-	1.4
Groom	1.1	-	1.1	1.3	-	1.3
Previous marital status						
Bride	5.1	3.7	1.5	5.5	3.8	1.7
Groom	5.0	3.7	1.3	5.3	3.7	1.6
Number of this marriage						
Bride	3.8	1.9	1.8	4.3	2.1	2.2
Groom	3.6	1.9	1.8	4.1	2.0	2.0
State of residence						
Bride	0.8	-	0.8	0.6	-	0.6
Groom	1.0	-	1.0	0.6	-	0.6
State of birth						
Bride	4.8	0.9	3.9	---	---	---
Groom	4.5	0.9	3.6	---	---	---
Type of ceremony	12.3	9.5	2.8	11.2	7.8	3.4

[1]Reporting areas not requesting certain items on their record forms were as follows:
Color (or race): Ohio in both 1963 and 1960, and California and New Jersey in 1963.
Previous marital status (for previously married persons): Michigan and Ohio in both 1963 and 1960, and Louisiana in 1963.
Number of this marriage (for previously married persons): Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, and Oregon in both 1963 and 1960.
State of birth: District of Columbia in 1963.
Type of ceremony (civil or religious depending on title of officiant): Ohio in both 1963 and 1960, and Kentucky in 1963.

[2]Estimates based on preliminary counts; these cases were allocated for 1963.

Table IV. Marriage sample—sampling rates and sample size: marriage-registration area, 1960 and 1963

Year and area	Sampling rate	Number of sample records	Estimated number of marriages
1963			
Total, MRA	...	121,404	1,033,950
Stratum 1: Alaska, Delaware, Vermont, Wyoming	All records	11,595	11,595
Stratum 2: District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah	1/2	28,920	57,840
Stratum 3: Connecticut, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oregon	1/5	24,243	121,215
Stratum 4: Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin	1/10	39,233	392,330
Stratum 5: Georgia, New York (excluding New York City)	1/20	5,922	118,440
Stratum 6: Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania	1/25	8,474	211,850
Stratum 7: California	1/40	3,017	120,680
1960			
Total, MRA	...	39,674	873,360
Stratum 1: Alaska, Delaware, Vermont, Wyoming	All records	10,790	10,790
Stratum 2: Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Montana, Utah, Hawaii	1/10	4,503	45,030
Stratum 3: Connecticut, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Maryland, Virginia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Idaho, Oregon, New Jersey	1/20	20,257	405,140
Stratum 4: New York (excluding New York City), Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Georgia, California	1/100	4,124	412,400

a monthly basis. In general, the annual totals for the years 1960-62 have a degree of completeness of coverage comparable with that for 1963. The amount of estimating for incomplete reporting has steadily decreased during the period 1940-63. No comprehensive test of completeness of reporting has been conducted to date. However, the trend toward more complete coverage is shown in an approximate way by the downward trend in the number of counties for which no reports were received (table II). These counts can be made for the years shown but are not available for earlier years.

Marriage-registration area.—Coverage for 1963 consisted of marriages occurring in 35 States and the District of Columbia. Of these areas the District of Columbia, Indiana, and Massachusetts were the only areas not in the MRA in 1960.

The marriage-registration area consists of the States and independent areas that meet the following criteria:

1. Central files of marriage records
2. A statistical report form that includes items conforming closely to those on the Standard Certificate of Marriage (see fig. I)
3. Regular and timely reporting by all local areas
4. Agreement on tests of marriage registration completeness and accuracy, carried out in cooperation with the National Center for Health Statistics.

Coverage for specific statistical variables used in the analyses of data from the MRA was complete with the following two exceptions: race or color was not

Table V. Approximate sampling errors of specified numbers of marriages: marriage-registration area, 1960 and 1963

Percent of marriage-registration area total	1963		1960	
	Corresponding number	Sampling error[1]	Corresponding number	Sampling error[1]
0.01 or 99.99	103 or 1,033,847	40	87 or 873,273	70
0.05 or 99.95	517 or 1,033,433	90	436 or 872,923	156
0.1 or 99.90	1,034 or 1,032,916	127	873 or 872,487	221
0.5 or 99.50	5,170 or 1,028,780	283	4,367 or 868,993	495
1.0 or 99.0	10,339 or 1,023,610	399	8,734 or 864,626	696
2.0 or 98.0	20,679 or 1,013,271	562	17,468 or 855,893	979
3.0 or 97.0	31,018 or 1,002,931	685	26,201 or 847,159	1,193
4.0 or 96.0	41,358 or 992,592	787	34,934 or 838,426	1,370
5.0 or 95.0	51,697 or 982,252	875	43,668 or 829,692	1,524
7.0 or 93.0	72,376 or 961,573	1,024	61,135 or 812,225	1,784
10.0 or 90.0	103,395 or 930,555	1,204	87,336 or 786,024	2,098
15.0 or 85.0	155,092 or 878,857	1,433	131,004 or 742,356	2,497
20.0 or 80.0	206,790 or 827,160	1,606	174,672 or 698,688	2,797
25.0 or 75.0	258,487 or 775,463	1,738	218,340 or 655,020	3,028
50.0	516,975	2,007	436,680	3,497

[1]At the 1σ level.

available for Ohio in 1960 and 1963 and for California and New Jersey in 1963; previous marital status was not available for Michigan and Ohio in both 1960 and 1963 and for Louisiana in 1963. The following figures are the percentages of estimated national totals of marriages and of resident population included in the MRA.

Percent in MRA:

	Of resident population of United States	*Of total marriages in United States*
1963	69	63
1960	67	57

Completeness of Data

Table III shows, for each characteristic tabulated and for 1960 and 1963, estimates of the number of responses not completed, the number of cases not reportable (i.e., the number of cases for which data from a reporting area could not be tabulated), and the total of cases not stated (i.e., the sum of responses not completed and cases not reportable) for the MRA.

Characteristics of Samples

In table IV the sampling rates, sample sizes, and estimated numbers of marriages are shown for each reporting area in the marriage-registration area for 1960 and 1963. The States listed in each stratum were sampled at the same rate. The minimum sample size

expected from each State for 1960 was 400 records; for 1963 it was 2,500 records.

Sampling Error

In table V approximate sampling errors are shown as standard errors (1σ) for estimates of frequencies corresponding to the specified proportions of the MRA totals. In table VI approximate sampling errors are shown for an array of frequencies which approximate the estimates of populations used as bases for marriage rates for the MRA in 1963. The estimates shown for age-sex groups are not based on sample data, but numbers in marital status subgroups (single, widowed, divorced) are based on sample data; the sampling error of each depends on the age-sex groups of which it is a part. Actual estimated sizes of age groups by sex and by marital status are shown in table 8. The populations used as bases for the marriage rates for the MRA in 1960 have relatively small sampling errors compared with the numbers of marriages, since they are based on a 25-percent sample of the population enumerated on April 1, 1960. The sampling error of each such estimate for 1960 is negligible, approximately 0.7 percent as large as the estimated population.

A few of the specific rates for the MRA in 1963 have sampling errors so large relative to their sizes that they should be interpreted only as small and not as numerical estimates. These rates may be identified by the following rule:

> Rates having as *numerators* less than about 500 marriages have relative sampling errors exceeding 30 percent, given the range of base populations used.

The specific rates shown in table 6 *for 1960* include some rates for which relative sampling errors are large. A corresponding rule for identifying these rates is as follows:

> Rates having as numerators less than about 650 marriages have relative sampling errors exceeding 30 percent.

For any rate shown for 1963, an approximate sampling error may be computed by selecting that numerator, M, and that denominator, P, from tables V and VI which most nearly equal those of the rate, along with the corresponding sampling errors S_M and S_P and computing the relationship

$$S_R \doteq \frac{M}{P}\sqrt{\frac{S_M^2}{M^2} + \frac{S_P^2}{P^2}}, \quad \textit{where} \quad R = \frac{M}{P}$$

Since the sampling errors of the base populations are negligible, for 1960 the sampling errors of the rates may be computed by the simpler relationship

$$S_R \doteq R \cdot \frac{S_M}{M}$$

To determine whether the difference between any two rates is significant, divide the difference by the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard errors of the two rates being compared. If the rates are designated by R_i and R_j, with sampling errors S_{R_i} and S_{R_j}, the formula is

$$\frac{R_i - R_j}{\sqrt{S_{R_i}^2 + S_{R_j}^2}}$$

If the value of this expression equals about 2 or is larger, the probability that the difference between the two rates is due to chance is less than 1 in 20.

Table VI. Approximate sampling errors of specified estimates of populations: marriage-registration area, 1963

Size of estimate	Sampling error[1]
20,000	7,000
50,000	11,000
100,000	15,000
200,000	21,000
300,000	26,000
400,000	30,000
500,000	34,000
750,000	41,000
1,000,000	48,000
1,500,000	57,000
2,000,000	66,000
3,000,000	80,000
4,000,000	90,000
5,000,000	100,000
7,500,000	115,000
10,000,000	130,000
15,000,000	136,000
25,000,000	150,000

[1] At the 1σ level.

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