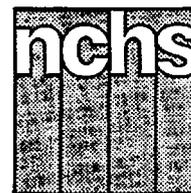


# Monthly Vital Statistics Report



Final Data From the National Center for Health Statistics

## Advance Report of Final Marriage Statistics, 1987

### Contents

Seasonal and daily variation .....	1
Geographic variation .....	2
Total marriage rate .....	2
Previous marital status ...	2
Age at marriage .....	3
Interval to remarriage .....	5
Race .....	5
Educational attainment ...	5
Couples .....	5
References .....	6
List of detailed tables .....	7
Technical notes .....	21

According to final data from the vital registration system, the number of U.S. couples that married declined in 1987 for the third consecutive year. In 1987 the number of marriages was 2,403,378, down less than 1 percent from 1986 and 3 percent from the record high of 2,477,192 in 1984 (table 1 and figure 1). The 1987 total was lower than any year since 1980. According to provisional data, marriages dropped further in 1988 and 1989.

The marriage rate in 1987 was 9.9 per 1,000 population, down to the level

it had been a decade earlier, but lower than in any year in the interim. While the marriage rate for the total population rose and fell twice during the 1970's and 1980's, the marriage rate for the most eligible group of unmarried women, 15-44 years of age, fell every year except 1972 and 1981.

Tables 1-3 are based on total counts of marriages that are obtained annually from all States and the District of Columbia. Tables 4-13 contain detailed demographic information about brides and grooms. This information is drawn from a sample of certificates of marriages performed in the marriage-registration area (MRA), which is composed of 42 States and the District of Columbia. Eighty percent of all marriages took place in the MRA in 1987. The marriage rate for the MRA was 9.2 per 1,000 population, 7 percent below the U.S. rate of 9.9. (See Technical notes.)

Marital status in the MRA was quite similar to that in the entire United States: 58 percent of the population was married, 27 percent was single, 8 percent was widowed, and 7 percent was divorced. Thus while a lower marriage rate shows that residents of States in the MRA are less

likely than residents of other States to marry, the proportions of the population that are currently single, married, divorced, and widowed are quite similar.

### Seasonal and daily variation

In the United States, marriages typically follow a seasonal pattern. Most marriages occur in the summer, particularly in June, and fewest occur in January. In 1987 the marriage rate for June was 13.5 per 1,000 population, more than twice the January rate of 5.7 (table 2).

Saturday is the most preferred day of the week to marry. More than half of the marriages in the MRA in 1987 were performed on Saturdays (data not shown). In most years since 1970 the last Saturday in June has been the single day most frequently chosen for weddings in the MRA. In 1987, however, St. Valentine's Day (February 14) fell on a Saturday and 46,000 couples in the MRA got married, more than on any other day of the year. The next most popular days were Saturday, June 20 (38,000 marriages) and Saturday, June 27 (37,000 marriages). St. Valentine's Day also fell on a Saturday in



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
Centers for Disease Control  
National Center for Health Statistics  
Manning Feinleib, M.D., Dr. P.H., Director

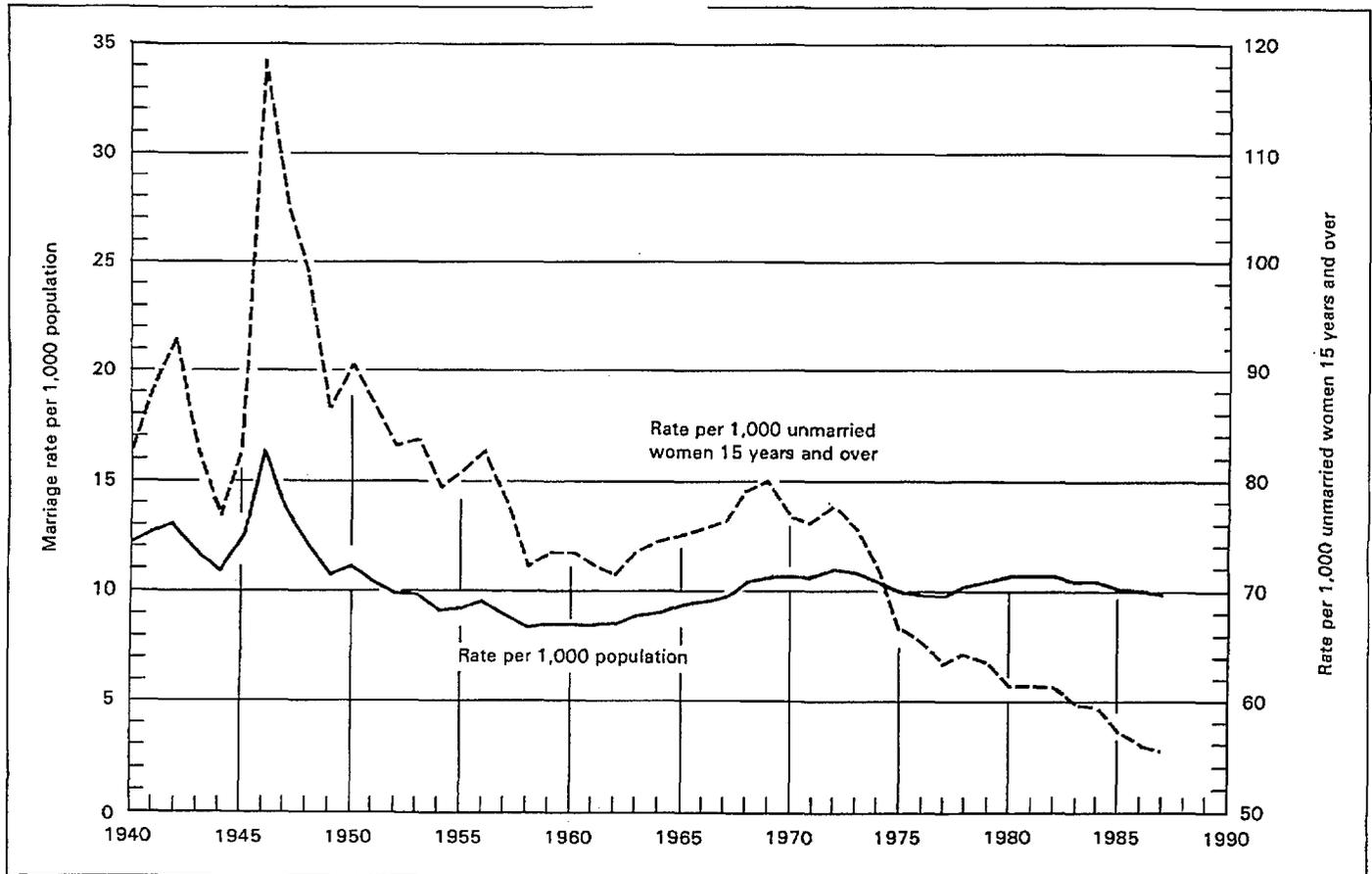


Figure 1. Marriage rates: United States, 1940-87

1976 and 1981. In those years, too, more couples married on St. Valentine's Day than on any other day of the year. The next time February 14 falls on a Saturday will be 1998. In the intervening years a Saturday in June will probably be the most popular day for American weddings.

### Geographic variation

In 1987 marriage rates declined in most States, dropping as much as 5 percent in New Hampshire, Michigan, South Dakota, and Oklahoma, and 7 percent in Wyoming (table 3). Rates of marriage were unchanged in three States and increased in only nine States and the District of Columbia. In Hawaii, Kentucky, New Mexico, Oregon, and the District of Columbia, the rates increased only 1 percent while in Nevada the rate surged 9 percent.

### Total marriage rate

Like the rates discussed previously, the total marriage rate is a period rate

based on marriages that occurred during 1 year. However, there is an important difference between this rate and the others. The total marriage rate is intended to show the number of marriages that a group of 1,000 men and women would have if they experienced during their entire adult lives the age-specific marriage rates observed in a given calendar year. It is a hypothetical measure that shows the implication of current levels of marriage by age for lifetime experience. The rate has been calculated separately for first marriages and for remarriages to show the implications of the current level of marriage rates on patterns of family formation in the United States.

In 1987 the total first marriage rate was 699.4 for women and 689.6 for men (table 4). This means that if current rates were to continue, 70 percent of women and 69 percent of men would marry at least once. Both rates were up slightly from 1986. While the total first marriage rates rose in 1987, the total remarriage rates declined. The total remarriage rate was 406.8 for women

and 449.0 for men. That is, for every 100 women there would be 41 remarriages, and for every 100 men there would be 45 remarriages.

### Previous marital status

States in the MRA record the previous marital status of brides and grooms, making it possible to follow the trends in first marriage and remarriage separately. These are not hypothetical rates like the total marriage rates discussed above that show what would happen over a lifetime; rather, these are annual rates that show only what happened in a specific year.

In 1987 the marriage rate for divorced women (80.7 per 1,000) was 37 percent higher than the rate for single women (58.9) and almost 14 times higher than the rate for widows (5.4), see table 5. The 1987 marriage rate for divorced men (115.7 per 1,000) was 137 percent higher than the rate for single men (48.8) and more than four times the rate for widowers (26.1). Thus divorced persons are more

likely to marry than single or widowed persons, single women are more likely to marry than single men, but divorced or widowed men are much more likely to marry than divorced or widowed women.

In 1987 most rates for single, divorced, and widowed men and women continued the downward trend that predominated during the 1970's and 1980's, when the marriage rates dropped for both sexes and for all marital statuses (figure 2). The one exception in 1987 was the rate for previously divorced women that increased 2 percent, but was still below the rates for any year from 1970 through 1985. The rates for single, divorced, and widowed persons dropped by 35 to 47 percent between 1970 and 1987, but have generally maintained their levels relative to each other.

Age-specific marriage rates for women showed complex trends in which rates declined for some age groups but increased for others between 1986 and 1987. Marriage rates for single women dropped for age groups under 25 years but increased for ages 25-39 years (table 6). Before 1984 single women 20-24 years had the highest first marriage rate, but the rate dropped fairly steadily during the 1980's, and in 1984 it fell below the rate for women 25-29 years. The first marriage rate for women 30-34 years has risen consistently since 1983. These changes indicate that at least some of the young women who did not marry in the 1970's and 1980's were postponing, but not rejecting, the institution of marriage. Age-specific rates for divorced women show that marriage rates increased in 1987 for all age groups

25-49, 55-59, and 60-64 years. The marriage rate for widowed women 25-44 years of age increased, while the rate for widowed women 45-64 years of age declined.

Although the rates for single, divorced, and widowed men of all ages combined declined in 1987, the age-specific rates showed no clear trend. Some age groups were more likely and some were less likely to marry in 1987 than in 1986.

### Age at marriage

In 1987 nearly 9 out of 10 brides were under 40 years of age and 9 out of 10 grooms were under 45 years of age. Of the brides embarking on a first marriage, 18 percent were teenagers, 44 percent were 20-24 years of age, 25 percent were 25-29 years, and only

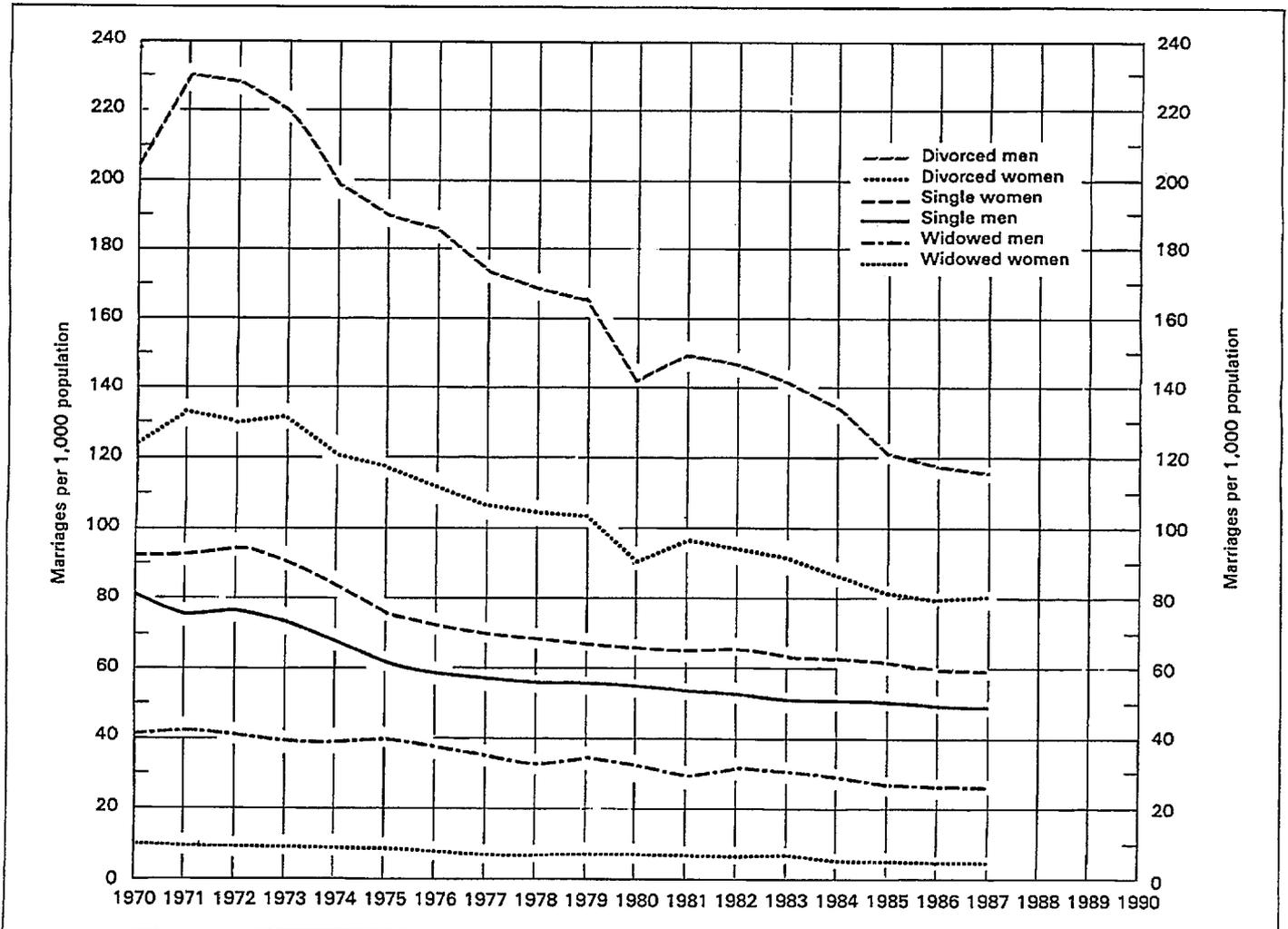


Figure 2. Marriage rates of single, divorced, and widowed men and women: Marriage-registration area; 1970-87

13 percent were 30 years of age and over (table 7 and figure 3).

Although the largest proportion of first marriages was for brides 20-24 years of age, as indicated above, the rate was highest for single women 25-29 years of age. This is because the number of single women aged 25-29 years was much smaller than the number aged 20-24 years, but a larger proportion of these women was getting married at ages 25-29 years. Of the

brides who were remarrying after a divorce, less than 1 percent were teenagers, 33 percent were in their twenties, 42 percent were in their thirties, and 24 percent were 40 years of age and over. As might be expected, the brides who were previously widowed were older. Only 22 percent were under 40 years of age, 20 percent were in their forties, 21 percent were in their fifties, and 38 percent were 60 years of age and over. The ages of grooms in each

category were less concentrated in the twenties and thirties and more of them were older.

Americans are marrying later than they used to. In 1970, 42 percent of brides and 18 percent of grooms were teenagers at first marriage. By 1987 the proportions dropped to 18 percent of brides and 7 percent of grooms. Complementary shifts were occurring at the older ages. For example, in 1970 only 12 percent of brides were over 25 years

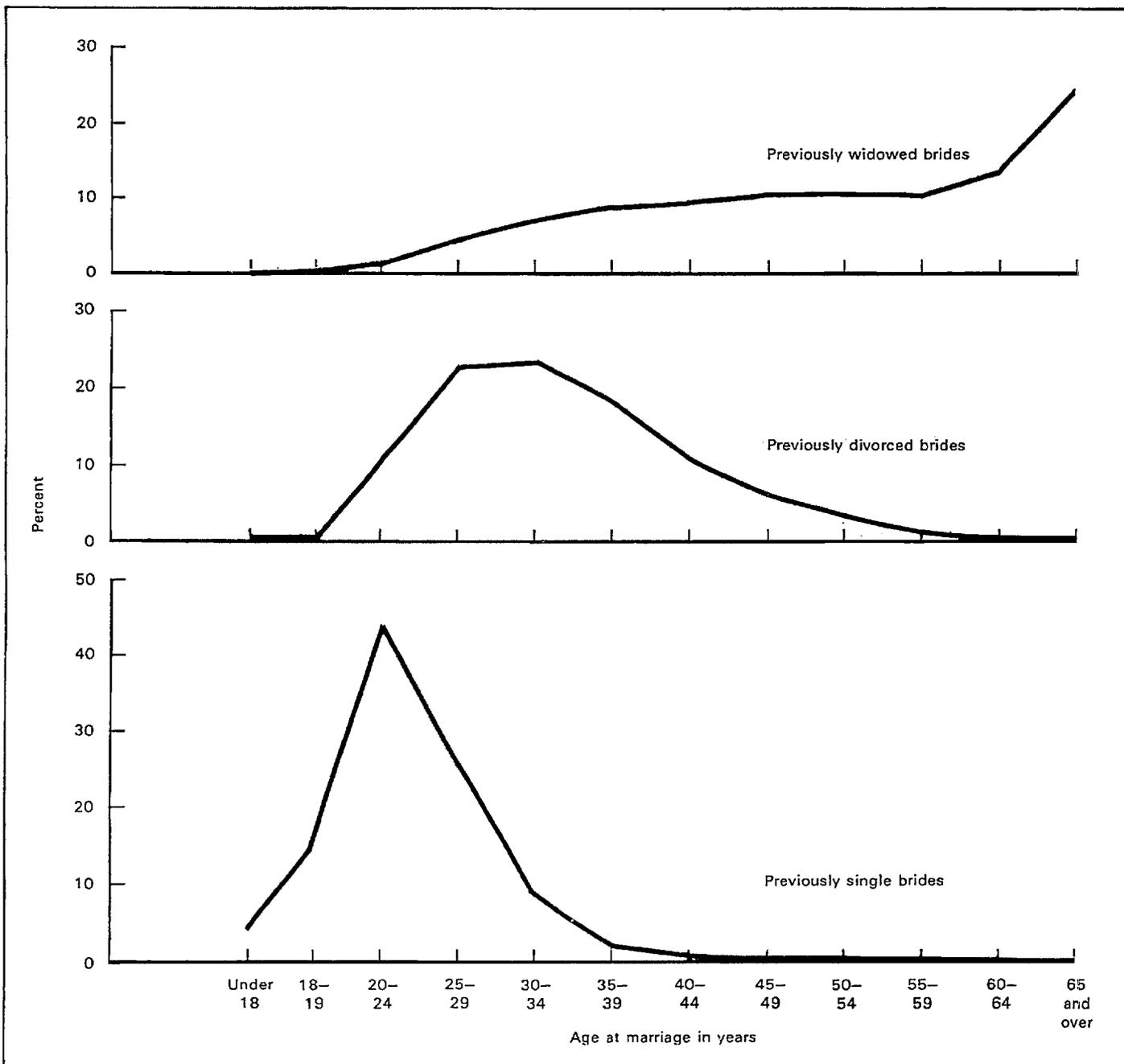


Figure 3. Percent distribution of marriages by age of bride, according to previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1987

of age at first marriage. By 1987 the comparable figure was 38 percent. For men the proportion of grooms who were over 25 years of age at first marriage rose from 25 percent in 1970 to 53 percent in 1987.

The shift to older ages at marriage is also shown by the median age. The median age at first marriage was 23.6 years for brides and 25.3 years for grooms, up for the 13th consecutive year (table 8). The median age for brides who had been previously divorced was 33.3 years and for grooms, 36.7 years. This represents the 11th consecutive annual increase in age for previously divorced brides and the 10th consecutive annual increase in age for previously divorced grooms. In contrast, previously widowed brides and grooms were younger in 1987 than in 1986.

### Interval to remarriage

The date when a previous marriage of the bride or groom ended is reported by 27 States. From this information, interval between marriages can be calculated. In 1987 some of the people who remarried had been divorced or widowed as long as 50 years. Most, however, were remarrying just a few years after their divorce. In fact, just under one-third of the divorced men and women were remarrying within a year of the date their last marriage ended.

Half of previously divorced and widowed grooms were marrying within 2.2 years of the date their last marriage ended (table 9). The median interval to remarriage was slightly longer for previously divorced brides, 2.5 years. The interval for previously widowed brides (4.6 years in 1987) was considerably longer than the interval for divorced brides or for divorced or widowed grooms.

### Race

Thirty-four States report race of bride and groom on marriage records. In these States 87 percent of brides were white, 11 percent were black, and less than 2 percent were of other races (table 10). Although the distribution by race for grooms was very similar, there were slightly more white brides than

white grooms, fewer black brides than black grooms, and more brides than grooms of other races. White brides and grooms were younger than black brides and grooms at both first marriage and remarriage (data not shown).

### Educational attainment

Twenty-one States report years of school completed by bride and groom on the marriage records. The distribution of educational attainment is shown for previously single, divorced, and widowed brides and grooms in table 11 along with summary measures, the mean and median. On average, single brides have slightly more education (13.7 years) than single grooms (13.6 years), while divorced brides have less (13.1 years) than previously divorced grooms (13.4 years).

### Couples

Most tables in this report show characteristics of brides and grooms separately since each has his or her own age, race, education, and previous marital history. However, the characteristics of brides and grooms can also be viewed in combination.

*Previous marital status*—In 1987, 54.3 percent of marriages in the MRA were primary marriages, that is, first marriages for both bride and groom (table 12). The remaining 45.7 percent of marriages were remarriages for the bride, the groom, or both. In 19.1 percent of the marriages both the bride and the groom were previously divorced; in 11.0 percent the bride was previously single and the groom was previously divorced; and in 10.7 percent the bride was previously divorced and the groom was previously single. In 4.9 percent of marriages one or both spouses had been widowed.

*Age*—In 1987 the ages of the bride and groom differed with different combinations of previous marital status (table 13). Couples in primary marriages were youngest: The average (mean) age of the bride was 23.9 years and of the groom, 25.8 years; the age difference was 1.9 years. For couples who were both previously divorced, the average age of the bride was 36.1 years, more than 12 years older than the

brides in primary marriages; the average age of the groom was 39.8 years. The age difference of 3.7 years between the bride and groom was almost twice that of primary marriages. For couples who were both previously widowed, the average age of the bride was 63.2 years and of the groom, 68.0 years; the age difference was 4.8 years.

For couples where one spouse was single and the other previously divorced, brides and grooms were older than in primary marriages, but not as old as couples where both spouses were divorced. Single brides who married previously divorced grooms were 27.7 years of age, almost 4 years older than brides in primary marriages. The average age of their previously divorced grooms was 34.4 years; the age difference between the bride and groom was 6.7 years.

For all except two combinations of previous marital status shown in table 13, husbands were older than their wives. However, previously divorced and widowed brides who married single men were older, on the average, than their grooms. Divorced brides marrying single grooms were 30.7 years of age, 1.3 years older than their grooms who were 29.4 years. Previously widowed brides marrying single grooms were 39.4 years of age, 2.3 years older than their grooms who were 37.1 years. These are the only combinations of previous marital status in which brides were older, on the average, than their grooms.

*Type of ceremony*—Although the majority of U.S. couples had religious ceremonies, the proportion was smaller when both the bride and groom were previously divorced (54.8 percent) than when they were both single (76.7). For marriages in which the previous marital status of the spouses was mixed, the proportion that had religious ceremonies was intermediate.

*Race*—In the States that report race on the marriage records, 86 percent of the couples were white, 11 percent were black, 1 percent were of other races, and 2 percent were interracial.

*Education*—Education was broadly grouped into six categories—elementary, 1–3 years of high school, high school graduate, 1–3 years of college,

college graduate, and graduate level. If both the bride and groom could be grouped into the same category, they were considered to have the same educational level. Half (50.1 percent) of the brides in primary marriages had the same education as their grooms, while a quarter had less (25.2 percent) and another quarter (24.7) had more. However, education was less equal in remarriages than in primary marriages.

When both spouses were previously divorced, fewer of the couples had the same education (42.0 percent), and a larger proportion of the previously divorced grooms (32.8 percent) had more education than their brides.

Previously divorced brides not only had less education than single brides (table 11), they also had a greater gap relative to their grooms. This difference is due both to greater rates of divorce

for women with less education and to less remarriage for divorced women with more education (1).

---

<sup>1</sup>Bachrach C, Horn MC. Married and unmarried couples, United States, 1982. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(15). 1987.

List of detailed tables

1. Marriages and marriage rates: United States, 1940-87			
2. Marriages and marriage rates, by month: United States, 1977, 1986, and 1987			
3. Marriages and marriage rates: United States, each region, division, and State, 1977, 1986, and 1987			
4. Total marriage rate by marriage order of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1972-87			
5. Marriage rates by previous marital status of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1970-87			
6. Marriage rates by age and previous marital status of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1982-87			
	8	7. Marriages, 1987, and percent distribution of marriages, 1970, 1980, 1986, and 1987 by age according to previous marital status of women and men: Marriage-registration area	13
	9		
	10	8. Median and mean age of bride and groom by previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1963-87	15
	11	9. Median and mean interval to remarriage in years by previous marital status of bride and groom: Reporting States, 1970-87	16
	11		
	11	10. Marriages and mean age at marriage by race and previous marital status of bride and groom: 34 reporting States, 1987	17
	12	11. Marriages and percent distribution by educational attainment of bride and groom, according to previous marital status, and mean and median years of school completed: 21 reporting States, 1987	18
		12. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of both bride and groom: Reporting States, 1970-87	19
		13. Mean age at marriage of bride and groom and age difference between spouses by previous marital status: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1987	20

Table 1. Marriages and marriage rates: United States, 1940-87

[Data refer only to events occurring within the United States. Alaska included beginning 1959 and Hawaii beginning 1960. Beginning with 1978, data include nonlicensed marriages registered in California; see Technical notes. Rates per 1,000 population enumerated as of April 1 for census years and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000—				
		Total population	Men 15 years of age and over	Women 15 years of age and over	Unmarried women 15 years and over	Unmarried women 15-44 years
1987	2,403,378	9.9	26.2	24.2	55.7	92.4
1986	2,407,099	10.0	26.5	24.5	56.2	93.9
1985	2,412,625	10.1	26.9	24.8	57.0	94.9
1984	2,477,192	10.5	28.1	25.8	59.5	99.0
1983	2,445,604	10.5	28.0	25.7	59.9	99.3
1982	2,456,278	10.6	28.4	26.1	61.4	101.9
1981	2,422,145	10.6	28.4	26.1	61.7	103.1
1980	2,390,252	10.6	28.5	26.1	61.4	102.6
1979	2,331,337	10.4	28.1	25.8	63.6	107.9
1978	2,282,272	10.3	28.0	25.7	64.1	109.1
1977	2,178,367	9.9	27.2	25.0	63.6	109.8
1976	2,154,807	9.9	27.4	25.2	65.2	113.4
1975	2,152,662	10.0	27.9	25.6	66.9	118.5
1974	2,229,667	10.5	29.4	27.1	72.0	128.4
1973	2,284,108	10.8	30.7	28.2	76.0	137.3
1972	2,282,154	10.9	31.3	28.8	77.9	141.3
1971	2,190,481	10.6	30.7	28.2	76.2	138.9
1970	2,158,802	10.6	31.1	28.4	76.5	140.2
1969	2,145,000	10.6	31.4	28.9	80.0	149.1
1968	2,069,000	10.4	30.8	28.3	79.1	147.2
1967	1,927,000	9.7	29.1	26.9	76.4	145.2
1966	1,857,000	9.5	28.4	26.4	75.6	145.1
1965	1,800,000	9.3	27.9	26.0	75.0	144.3
1964	1,725,000	9.0	27.1	25.3	74.6	146.2
1963	1,654,000	8.8	26.4	24.7	73.4	143.3
1962	1,577,000	8.5	25.5	23.9	71.2	138.4
1961	1,548,000	8.5	25.5	24.0	72.2	145.4
1960	1,523,000	8.5	25.4	24.0	73.5	148.0
1959	1,494,000	8.5	25.2	23.8	73.6	149.8
1958	1,451,000	8.4	24.8	23.5	72.0	146.3
1957	1,518,000	8.9	26.4	24.9	78.0	157.4
1956	1,585,000	9.5	27.8	26.4	82.4	165.6
1955	1,531,000	9.3	27.2	25.8	80.9	161.1
1954	1,490,000	9.2	26.9	25.4	79.8	154.3
1953	1,546,000	9.8	28.2	26.7	83.7	163.3
1952	1,539,318	9.9	28.3	26.8	83.2	159.9
1951	1,594,694	10.4	29.4	28.1	86.6	164.9
1950	1,667,231	11.1	30.7	29.8	90.2	166.4
1949	1,579,798	10.6	29.4	28.5	86.7	158.0
1948	1,811,155	12.4	34.0	33.0	98.5	174.7
1947	1,991,878	13.9	37.9	36.8	106.2	182.7
1946	2,291,045	16.4	44.5	42.8	118.1	199.0
1945	1,612,992	12.2	35.8	30.5	83.6	138.2
1944	1,452,394	10.9	31.2	27.8	76.5	124.5
1943	1,577,050	11.7	32.2	30.6	83.0	133.5
1942	1,772,132	13.2	35.6	34.8	93.0	147.6
1941	1,695,999	12.7	34.0	33.7	88.5	138.4
1940	1,595,879	12.1	32.3	32.3	82.8	122.4

**Table 2. Marriages and marriage rates, by month: United States, 1977, 1986, and 1987**

[Rates on an annual basis per 1,000 population]

<i>Month</i>	<i>Number</i>			<i>Rate</i>		
	<i>1987</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1977<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1977<sup>1</sup></i>
Total . . . . .	2,403,378	2,407,099	2,178,367	9.9	10.0	9.9
January . . . . .	116,748	115,719	120,555	5.7	5.7	6.5
February . . . . .	160,247	146,118	130,509	8.6	7.9	7.8
March . . . . .	148,592	154,203	139,599	7.2	7.6	7.5
April . . . . .	175,614	182,380	176,308	8.8	9.2	9.8
May . . . . .	247,075	245,457	186,788	12.0	12.0	10.0
June . . . . .	269,334	273,235	245,327	13.5	13.8	13.6
July . . . . .	214,462	215,705	227,898	10.4	10.5	12.2
August . . . . .	255,460	269,414	225,579	12.3	13.1	12.1
September . . . . .	228,777	219,901	195,388	11.4	11.1	10.8
October . . . . .	223,258	208,605	183,021	10.8	10.2	9.8
November . . . . .	175,305	186,078	165,203	8.7	9.4	9.1
December . . . . .	188,506	190,284	182,192	9.1	9.3	9.7

<sup>1</sup>Data exclude 32,008 nonlicensed marriages registered in California; see Technical notes.

Table 3. Marriages and marriage rates: United States, each region, division, and State, 1977, 1986, and 1987

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

Region, division, and State	Number			Rate		
	1987	1986	1977	1987	1986	1977
United States . . . . .	2,403,378	2,407,099	<sup>1</sup> 2,178,367	9.9	10.0	<sup>1</sup> 9.9
Regions:						
Northeast . . . . .	421,399	430,179	372,666	8.4	8.6	7.6
Midwest . . . . .	504,301	515,207	552,000	8.5	8.7	9.5
South . . . . .	910,672	916,665	805,281	10.9	11.0	11.2
West . . . . .	567,006	545,048	<sup>1</sup> 448,420	11.4	11.2	<sup>1</sup> 11.1
Northeast:						
New England . . . . .	113,083	114,273	97,317	8.8	9.0	7.9
Middle Atlantic . . . . .	308,316	315,906	275,349	8.2	8.5	7.4
Midwest:						
East North Central . . . . .	353,110	360,810	387,356	8.4	8.6	9.4
West North Central . . . . .	151,191	154,397	164,644	8.6	8.8	9.7
South:						
South Atlantic . . . . .	445,342	441,933	380,790	10.7	10.8	10.8
East South Central . . . . .	176,825	176,251	<sup>2</sup> 160,109	11.6	11.6	<sup>2</sup> 11.3
West South Central . . . . .	288,505	298,481	264,382	10.7	11.1	11.9
West:						
Mountain . . . . .	245,130	232,807	<sup>1</sup> 219,457	18.6	17.9	21.1
Pacific . . . . .	321,876	312,241	<sup>1</sup> 228,963	8.8	8.7	<sup>1</sup> 7.7
New England:						
Maine . . . . .	12,124	11,983	11,446	10.2	10.2	10.4
New Hampshire . . . . .	10,854	11,123	8,902	10.3	10.8	10.2
Vermont . . . . .	5,914	5,698	4,774	10.8	10.5	9.7
Massachusetts . . . . .	49,029	49,988	41,947	8.4	8.6	7.3
Rhode Island . . . . .	8,056	8,103	7,114	8.2	8.3	7.5
Connecticut . . . . .	27,106	27,378	23,134	8.4	8.6	7.5
Middle Atlantic:						
New York . . . . .	<sup>3</sup> 160,548	<sup>3</sup> 166,986	133,830	<sup>3</sup> 9.0	<sup>3</sup> 9.4	7.5
New Jersey . . . . .	60,550	61,362	50,677	7.9	8.0	6.9
Pennsylvania . . . . .	87,218	87,558	90,842	7.3	7.4	7.6
East North Central:						
Ohio . . . . .	95,882	98,533	99,352	8.9	9.2	9.2
Indiana . . . . .	49,550	49,900	56,424	9.0	9.1	10.4
Illinois . . . . .	95,613	96,189	108,100	8.3	8.3	9.5
Michigan . . . . .	74,418	77,815	86,088	8.1	8.5	9.4
Wisconsin . . . . .	37,647	38,373	37,392	7.8	8.0	8.1
West North Central:						
Minnesota . . . . .	33,683	34,199	33,038	7.9	8.1	8.3
Iowa . . . . .	23,062	23,311	26,419	8.1	8.2	9.1
Missouri . . . . .	48,397	49,579	52,100	9.5	9.8	10.8
North Dakota . . . . .	5,028	5,148	5,668	7.5	7.6	8.7
South Dakota . . . . .	6,993	7,386	10,359	9.9	10.4	15.0
Nebraska . . . . .	11,808	12,107	13,387	7.4	7.6	8.6
Kansas . . . . .	22,220	22,667	23,673	9.0	9.2	10.2
South Atlantic:						
Delaware . . . . .	5,410	5,484	3,993	8.4	8.7	6.7
Maryland . . . . .	45,161	46,361	45,109	10.0	10.4	10.8
District of Columbia . . . . .	5,142	5,125	4,640	8.3	8.2	6.8
Virginia . . . . .	67,004	66,666	57,778	11.3	11.5	11.1
West Virginia . . . . .	13,455	14,032	17,484	7.1	7.3	9.2
North Carolina . . . . .	50,414	50,062	43,490	7.9	7.9	7.7
South Carolina . . . . .	53,396	53,974	51,314	15.6	16.0	17.2
Georgia . . . . .	68,868	70,866	67,388	11.1	11.6	12.9
Florida . . . . .	136,492	129,363	89,594	11.4	11.1	10.1
East South Central:						
Kentucky . . . . .	46,918	46,460	<sup>2</sup> 32,245	12.6	12.5	<sup>2</sup> 9.0
Tennessee . . . . .	61,358	59,730	55,327	12.6	12.4	12.6
Alabama . . . . .	44,820	45,778	45,694	11.0	11.3	12.1
Mississippi . . . . .	23,729	24,283	26,843	9.0	9.3	10.9
West South Central:						
Arkansas . . . . .	32,190	32,442	24,028	13.5	13.7	10.9
Louisiana . . . . .	36,177	37,457	38,645	8.1	8.3	9.6
Oklahoma . . . . .	31,823	33,805	42,133	9.7	10.2	14.7
Texas . . . . .	188,315	194,777	159,576	11.2	11.7	12.1
Mountain:						
Montana . . . . .	6,540	6,739	7,547	8.1	8.2	9.8
Idaho . . . . .	11,428	11,958	13,691	11.5	11.9	15.5
Wyoming . . . . .	4,699	5,210	6,012	9.6	10.3	14.6
Colorado . . . . .	31,931	32,811	30,063	9.7	10.0	11.2
New Mexico . . . . .	<sup>4</sup> 13,990	<sup>4</sup> 13,631	<sup>5</sup> 16,385	<sup>4</sup> 9.3	<sup>4</sup> 9.2	<sup>5</sup> 13.4
Arizona . . . . .	<sup>5</sup> 36,207	<sup>5</sup> 36,025	26,955	<sup>5</sup> 10.7	<sup>5</sup> 11.0	11.1
Utah . . . . .	16,745	17,119	15,098	10.0	10.3	11.5
Nevada . . . . .	123,590	109,314	103,706	122.7	113.0	153.0

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Marriages and marriage rates: United States, each region, division, and State, 1977, 1986, and 1987—Con.**

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

Region, division, and State	Number			Rate		
	1987	1986	1977	1987	1986	1977
Pacific:						
Washington . . . . .	43,503	43,255	43,835	9.6	9.7	11.6
Oregon . . . . .	22,301	22,015	20,303	8.2	8.1	8.3
California . . . . .	234,035	225,018	1149,416	8.5	8.3	16.7
Alaska . . . . .	5,470	5,734	5,143	10.4	10.8	13.0
Hawaii . . . . .	16,567	16,219	10,266	15.3	15.2	11.2

<sup>1</sup>Data exclude 32,008 nonlicensed marriages registered in California; see Technical notes.  
<sup>2</sup>Data are incomplete.  
<sup>3</sup>Figure used for New York City is the total number of valid marriage certificates provided to NCHS.  
<sup>4</sup>Data are premarital health examination forms issued.  
<sup>5</sup>Data include marriage licenses issued for some counties.

**Table 4. Total marriage rate by marriage order of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1972-87**

[Based on sample data. Marriages per 1,000 women or men if age-sex specific rates for a given year were constant throughout their lives. Figures for marriage order not stated have been distributed. Beginning in 1977, figures exclude data for Iowa. For a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes]

Year	Total marriage rate		Total first-marriage rate		Total remarriage rate	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
1987 . . . . .	1,106.2	1,138.6	699.4	689.6	406.8	449.0
1986 . . . . .	1,113.5	1,150.1	698.6	689.4	414.9	460.7
1985 . . . . .	1,113.0	1,155.5	699.3	688.9	413.7	466.6
1984 . . . . .	1,139.2	1,192.4	704.6	698.1	434.6	494.3
1983 . . . . .	1,131.9	1,189.4	703.0	697.4	428.9	492.0
1982 . . . . .	1,143.6	1,206.4	710.9	703.4	432.7	503.0
1981 . . . . .	1,113.9	1,218.0	687.2	711.4	426.7	506.6
1980 . . . . .	1,128.4	1,207.5	706.2	714.4	422.2	493.1
1979 . . . . .	1,130.0	1,243.2	704.4	739.4	425.6	503.8
1978 . . . . .	1,112.4	1,227.3	696.5	733.7	415.9	493.6
1977 . . . . .	1,098.4	1,213.9	687.6	727.7	410.8	486.2
1976 . . . . .	1,100.7	1,218.0	695.5	737.5	405.2	480.5
1975 . . . . .	1,125.7	1,246.2	720.8	774.4	404.9	471.8
1974 . . . . .	1,191.5	1,317.1	789.8	852.7	401.7	464.4
1973 . . . . .	1,249.1	1,382.3	843.4	920.0	405.7	462.3
1972 . . . . .	1,254.8	1,401.9	866.9	960.8	387.9	441.1

**Table 5. Marriage rates by previous marital status of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1970-87**

[Based on sample data. Figures exclude data for Iowa beginning with 1977. Figures for previously divorced and previously widowed exclude data for Michigan and Ohio for all years, for South Carolina beginning with 1972, and for the District of Columbia for 1970. For a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes. Rates per 1,000 population 15 years and over in specified group enumerated as of April 1 for census years and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Year	Previous marital status of women			Previous marital status of men		
	Single	Divorced	Widowed	Single	Divorced	Widowed
1987 . . . . .	58.9	80.7	5.4	48.8	115.7	26.1
1986 . . . . .	59.7	79.5	5.5	49.1	117.8	26.8
1985 . . . . .	61.5	81.8	5.7	50.1	121.6	27.7
1984 . . . . .	63.5	87.3	5.8	51.6	132.7	28.7
1983 . . . . .	63.8	91.6	6.2	51.8	142.1	30.7
1982 . . . . .	66.0	94.4	6.1	53.1	146.9	32.1
1981 . . . . .	64.9	96.3	6.5	53.8	150.8	30.8
1980 . . . . .	66.0	91.3	6.7	54.7	142.1	32.2
1979 . . . . .	67.8	104.0	7.7	56.3	165.6	35.3
1978 . . . . .	68.2	105.0	7.1	56.4	168.6	32.7
1977 . . . . .	69.2	107.3	7.6	56.7	173.4	35.3
1976 . . . . .	72.0	111.3	7.9	58.2	185.0	37.6
1975 . . . . .	75.9	117.2	8.3	61.5	189.8	40.4
1974 . . . . .	83.5	121.7	9.1	68.0	198.7	38.9
1973 . . . . .	90.9	131.0	9.3	73.9	221.3	39.3
1972 . . . . .	95.1	130.6	9.4	77.2	229.0	40.6
1971 . . . . .	93.3	132.8	9.6	75.2	230.7	42.5
1970 . . . . .	93.4	123.3	10.2	80.4	204.5	40.6

Table 6. Marriage rates by age and previous marital status of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1982-87

[Based on sample data. Figures exclude data for Iowa. For a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes. Marriages of persons under 15 years of age are included in the youngest age groups; rates are based on populations that exclude persons under 15 years of age. Rates for all marriages are based on the unmarried population; for first marriages, on the never-married population; and for remarriages, on the widowed and divorced populations. Rates per 1,000 population in specified age group estimated as of July 1]

Age and previous marital status	Women						Men					
	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
<b>All marriages</b>												
Total . . . . .	48.3	49.2	49.9	51.9	52.5	54.1	58.3	59.4	60.5	63.1	64.1	65.8
15-19 years . . . . .	29.8	32.5	34.8	38.5	40.1	43.0	10.5	11.5	12.2	13.7	14.4	15.7
15-17 years . . . . .	11.6	12.2	13.5	15.3	16.3	17.9	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.6
18-19 years . . . . .	59.2	65.8	68.8	74.1	75.2	81.0	24.6	27.2	27.9	30.5	31.4	33.7
20-24 years . . . . .	104.9	108.6	110.6	113.3	115.9	121.7	73.6	76.2	78.4	81.2	83.9	88.0
25-29 years . . . . .	121.8	121.2	122.2	128.1	126.8	130.5	107.1	108.5	111.7	118.0	117.1	120.8
30-34 years . . . . .	96.9	97.2	93.8	94.7	98.1	99.7	95.0	98.7	99.3	104.9	109.4	117.9
35-39 years . . . . .	70.9	70.1	72.5	75.1	74.1	74.7	85.9	93.1	103.9	104.6	106.0	104.2
40-44 years . . . . .	51.6	51.6	51.3	53.1	52.8	52.4	84.8	81.2	78.4	87.9	92.7	91.5
45-49 years . . . . .	37.0	36.3	34.7	38.7	38.9	38.3	67.3	69.0	69.3	73.7	78.8	73.7
50-54 years . . . . .	20.3	22.5	21.3	22.3	22.7	22.1	57.9	57.7	53.4	54.8	51.3	56.1
55-59 years . . . . .	11.2	11.5	12.4	12.4	12.8	13.5	38.4	40.3	38.7	40.7	45.9	47.1
60-64 years . . . . .	8.2	7.9	7.7	8.0	8.8	8.5	29.5	26.3	27.6	30.3	34.8	36.8
65 years and over . . . . .	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	13.1	13.5	14.1	14.2	15.1	15.9
<b>First marriages<sup>1</sup></b>												
Total . . . . .	58.9	59.7	61.5	63.5	63.8	66.0	48.8	49.1	50.1	51.6	51.8	53.1
15-19 years . . . . .	29.2	31.5	34.0	37.5	38.8	41.7	10.4	11.3	12.1	13.5	14.1	15.1
15-17 years . . . . .	11.5	12.0	13.4	15.0	15.9	17.6	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.5
18-19 years . . . . .	57.8	63.7	67.2	72.1	72.6	78.5	24.4	26.7	27.6	30.0	30.9	33.1
20-24 years . . . . .	97.8	99.6	102.1	104.4	106.9	111.9	70.7	72.5	74.5	77.3	79.5	83.1
25-29 years . . . . .	105.4	102.8	103.5	106.6	105.2	106.5	96.4	95.9	99.2	102.9	100.6	102.4
30-34 years . . . . .	68.6	68.4	66.3	64.3	61.2	62.1	69.3	70.6	70.7	72.0	69.0	74.0
35-39 years . . . . .	41.9	38.6	37.2	38.4	38.3	38.1	45.1	47.1	51.6	46.9	45.4	43.7
40-44 years . . . . .	21.7	22.7	24.1	23.7	21.8	21.7	31.2	28.2	25.4	27.1	27.0	24.8
45-49 years . . . . .	14.4	14.2	13.9	15.4	13.9	14.4	16.3	16.7	16.9	16.4	18.5	18.2
50-54 years . . . . .	8.1	8.5	7.7	7.9	9.0	9.6	14.1	13.9	11.2	11.6	10.7	12.9
55-59 years . . . . .	4.5	5.4	5.3	6.1	7.5	6.9	7.3	7.7	6.8	8.4	10.4	10.9
60-64 years . . . . .	3.8	3.7	4.4	3.7	3.3	3.6	5.5	4.8	5.7	5.4	8.0	6.8
65 years and over . . . . .	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.9	3.3
<b>Remarriages<sup>1</sup></b>												
Total . . . . .	35.8	36.3	36.1	37.6	38.4	39.2	90.8	93.1	95.7	103.1	109.1	113.2
15-19 years . . . . .	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
20-24 years . . . . .	239.6	267.3	254.5	248.3	244.4	260.6	198.2	215.8	247.9	229.1	241.8	292.8
25-29 years . . . . .	182.6	182.2	183.2	193.8	186.8	192.8	187.3	193.3	191.6	215.9	223.1	229.8
30-34 years . . . . .	135.7	131.8	123.8	127.3	140.0	137.5	169.6	169.9	163.1	178.1	206.0	212.4
35-39 years . . . . .	88.3	88.1	93.8	95.3	92.3	92.1	137.9	144.9	161.7	172.1	175.8	168.5
40-44 years . . . . .	63.6	61.3	59.8	62.9	63.3	62.6	121.9	119.6	119.0	133.3	143.4	148.3
45-49 years . . . . .	43.7	42.6	40.3	45.1	46.9	45.2	100.7	105.2	105.9	118.2	120.8	108.7
50-54 years . . . . .	23.0	26.1	25.0	26.5	26.1	24.8	82.6	80.9	79.9	83.4	77.0	82.1
55-59 years . . . . .	12.6	12.6	13.7	13.4	13.7	14.6	58.0	60.2	60.5	61.7	66.3	67.6
60-64 years . . . . .	8.9	8.5	8.2	8.7	9.7	9.4	43.6	40.6	40.6	44.8	49.1	53.5
65 years and over . . . . .	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	16.3	16.9	18.0	18.1	18.9	19.8
Previously widowed <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.8	6.2	6.1	26.1	26.8	27.7	28.7	30.7	32.1
15-44 years . . . . .	46.9	44.4	42.9	45.2	51.3	49.0	91.2	95.3	102.8	124.6	149.3	138.6
45-64 years . . . . .	10.9	11.3	11.2	11.3	12.2	12.0	55.9	53.9	52.8	55.7	59.5	58.9
65 years and over . . . . .	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	14.9	15.4	16.1	16.4	16.8	17.6
Previously divorced <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	80.7	79.5	81.8	87.3	91.6	94.4	115.7	117.8	121.6	132.7	142.1	146.9
15-19 years . . . . .	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
20-24 years . . . . .	247.7	256.7	263.6	241.5	240.4	263.6	207.2	233.9	276.2	234.8	239.5	275.8
25-29 years . . . . .	183.0	176.5	183.6	204.1	204.4	205.0	182.7	186.3	187.8	211.7	214.4	220.2
30-34 years . . . . .	137.4	133.1	127.8	132.0	145.3	144.4	172.1	165.2	157.9	173.1	202.0	208.9
35-39 years . . . . .	91.5	89.7	96.7	100.3	99.3	98.0	135.7	142.6	160.0	173.9	172.6	166.7
40-44 years . . . . .	68.7	64.0	62.9	66.9	67.0	71.0	123.1	125.4	119.1	130.1	137.7	148.3
45-49 years . . . . .	47.9	47.5	46.1	49.5	50.8	51.8	99.5	102.5	105.8	117.8	126.6	113.6
50-54 years . . . . .	29.8	30.2	31.0	33.0	32.4	31.1	84.5	82.2	77.8	78.2	77.2	85.3
55-59 years . . . . .	16.9	16.2	17.4	17.6	18.9	20.6	54.3	54.2	57.0	58.8	67.1	70.5
60-64 years . . . . .	11.8	10.4	10.2	12.3	12.9	12.3	43.1	38.9	39.4	45.8	49.3	53.3
65 years and over . . . . .	4.3	5.4	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.3	20.4	21.1	23.8	23.9	26.2	26.0

<sup>1</sup>Figures for first marriages and remarriages exclude data for Iowa.

<sup>2</sup>Data exclude remarriages in Michigan, Ohio, and South Carolina.

**Table 7. Marriages, 1987, and percent distribution of marriages, 1970, 1980, 1986, and 1987 by age according to previous marital status of women and men: Marriage-registration area**

[Based on sample data. For sampling errors of estimates and a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes]

Age and previous marital status	Women					Men				
	Number	Percent				Number	Percent			
		1987	1987	1986	1980		1970	1987	1987	1986
<b>All marriages</b>										
Total . . . . .	1,839,052	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1,839,052	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years. . . . .	221,730	12.1	13.1	21.1	32.5	83,622	4.5	5.0	8.5	14.0
Under 18 years . . . . .	53,046	2.9	3.1	5.6	10.0	7,559	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.6
18-19 years . . . . .	168,684	9.2	10.0	15.6	22.5	76,063	4.1	4.5	7.6	12.4
20-24 years. . . . .	594,906	32.3	33.0	37.1	39.7	511,039	27.8	28.8	35.7	45.9
25-29 years. . . . .	435,846	23.7	23.1	18.7	10.4	495,489	26.9	26.5	23.8	16.7
30-34 years. . . . .	241,172	13.1	12.6	9.3	4.7	283,443	15.4	15.0	12.3	6.6
35-39 years. . . . .	140,071	7.6	7.4	4.8	3.2	168,841	9.2	9.2	6.5	4.2
40-44 years. . . . .	82,948	4.5	4.2	2.9	2.7	106,320	5.8	5.4	4.0	3.3
45-49 years. . . . .	48,826	2.7	2.5	2.0	2.3	64,350	3.5	3.4	2.8	2.7
50-54 years. . . . .	25,268	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	40,893	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.9
55-59 years. . . . .	15,928	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.2	28,678	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5
60-64 years. . . . .	13,994	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	22,023	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1
65 years and over. . . . .	18,363	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	34,354	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9
<b>First marriages<sup>1</sup></b>										
Total . . . . .	1,179,232	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1,179,536	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years. . . . .	213,455	18.1	19.6	30.4	41.8	81,697	6.9	7.6	12.7	18.4
Under 18 years . . . . .	51,981	4.4	4.7	8.2	13.0	7,438	0.6	0.7	1.3	2.1
18-19 years . . . . .	161,474	13.7	15.0	22.2	28.8	74,259	6.3	6.9	11.4	16.3
20-24 years. . . . .	520,784	44.2	44.8	47.3	46.0	473,911	40.2	41.6	50.0	57.0
25-29 years. . . . .	296,780	25.2	24.0	16.0	7.7	391,458	33.2	32.4	25.7	16.2
30-34 years. . . . .	98,494	8.4	7.7	4.0	2.0	152,887	13.0	12.1	7.5	4.1
35-39 years. . . . .	31,000	2.6	2.4	1.1	0.9	49,213	4.2	3.9	2.0	1.8
40-44 years. . . . .	9,890	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.6	15,889	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.0
45-49 years. . . . .	4,357	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	6,109	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
50-54 years. . . . .	1,840	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	3,544	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
55-59 years. . . . .	1,084	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2,116	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
60-64 years. . . . .	851	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,493	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
65 years and over. . . . .	697	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,219	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>Remarriages<sup>1</sup></b>										
Total . . . . .	628,606	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	629,452	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years. . . . .	4,389	0.7	0.9	1.7	2.9	616	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
20-24 years. . . . .	61,568	9.8	10.4	15.3	18.8	26,361	4.2	4.6	7.2	10.1
25-29 years. . . . .	131,816	21.0	21.3	24.4	19.2	95,703	15.2	15.4	20.1	18.5
30-34 years. . . . .	139,499	22.2	22.0	20.6	13.1	126,693	20.1	20.4	21.9	14.6
35-39 years. . . . .	107,353	17.1	17.1	12.7	10.7	117,506	18.7	19.2	15.4	12.0
40-44 years. . . . .	72,095	11.5	10.7	8.1	9.6	89,004	14.1	13.2	10.2	10.7
45-49 years. . . . .	43,800	7.0	6.6	5.6	8.4	57,512	9.1	8.7	7.3	9.5
50-54 years. . . . .	23,118	3.7	3.9	4.0	5.7	36,909	5.9	5.8	5.6	7.0
55-59 years. . . . .	14,613	2.3	2.4	2.6	4.6	26,285	4.2	4.2	4.0	5.7
60-64 years. . . . .	12,992	2.1	2.0	2.1	3.3	20,167	3.2	3.2	3.0	4.2
65 years and over. . . . .	17,363	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.6	32,696	5.2	5.2	5.1	7.3
Previously widowed <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	51,196	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	47,135	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years. . . . .	926	1.8	2.1	3.0	4.6	231	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.1
25-29 years. . . . .	2,426	4.7	4.6	5.6	5.0	763	1.6	1.3	1.8	2.5
30-34 years. . . . .	3,805	7.4	6.4	6.3	5.2	1,359	2.9	3.0	3.5	3.0
35-39 years. . . . .	4,151	8.1	8.7	7.2	7.4	2,025	4.3	4.2	3.8	4.0
40-44 years. . . . .	4,629	9.0	8.1	8.6	10.2	2,459	5.2	4.1	5.0	6.6
45-49 years. . . . .	5,432	10.6	10.4	10.5	13.7	2,929	6.2	6.5	7.3	9.8
50-54 years. . . . .	5,322	10.4	11.4	12.6	14.2	3,890	8.3	8.4	10.9	11.9
55-59 years. . . . .	5,210	10.2	10.8	11.4	13.8	5,613	11.9	12.7	13.6	14.9
60-64 years. . . . .	6,655	13.0	13.4	13.2	11.5	7,401	15.7	16.3	14.5	13.7
65 years and over. . . . .	12,640	24.7	24.3	21.6	14.2	20,465	43.4	43.0	38.9	32.4
Previously divorced <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	492,108	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	498,847	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years. . . . .	3,795	0.8	0.8	1.7	3.6	539	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4
20-24 years. . . . .	51,767	10.5	11.1	16.7	22.8	22,374	4.5	4.8	7.7	11.9
25-29 years. . . . .	111,441	22.6	22.8	26.7	23.2	81,125	16.3	16.4	21.7	22.0
30-34 years. . . . .	116,244	23.6	23.7	22.5	15.2	108,452	21.7	21.9	24.1	17.4
35-39 years. . . . .	89,553	18.2	18.1	13.6	11.7	100,023	20.1	20.8	16.9	13.9
40-44 years. . . . .	57,818	11.7	11.0	8.0	9.6	75,566	15.1	14.2	10.8	11.6
45-49 years. . . . .	32,386	6.6	6.3	5.0	6.8	47,146	9.5	9.0	7.4	9.6
50-54 years. . . . .	14,817	3.0	3.2	2.8	3.4	28,235	5.7	5.6	5.2	5.9
55-59 years. . . . .	7,263	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.1	17,148	3.4	3.5	3.0	3.6
60-64 years. . . . .	4,433	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.0	9,953	2.0	2.0	1.7	2.0
65 years and over. . . . .	2,591	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	8,286	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.5

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 7. Marriages, 1987, and percent distribution of marriages, 1970, 1980, 1986, and 1987 by age according to previous marital status of women and men: Marriage-registration area—Con.**

[Based on sample data. For sampling errors of estimates and a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes]

<i>Age and previous marital status</i>	<i>Women</i>					<i>Men</i>				
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>				<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>			
	<i>1987</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>1970</i>
Not stated if widowed or divorced . . . . .	85,302	...	...	...	...	83,470	...	...	...	...
Not stated if previously married										
Total . . . . .	31,214	...	...	...	...	30,064	...	...	...	...

<sup>1</sup>Figures for first marriages and remarriages exclude data for Iowa beginning in 1977; these data are included in "Not stated if previously married."

<sup>2</sup>Data exclude remarriages in Michigan and Ohio for all years, for South Carolina beginning in 1972, and for the District of Columbia for 1970. These data are included in "Not stated if widowed or divorced."

**Table 8. Median and mean age of bride and groom by previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1963-87**

[Based on sample data. Figures by previous marital status exclude data for Iowa beginning with 1977. Figures for previously divorced and previously widowed exclude data for Michigan and Ohio for all years, for South Carolina beginning with 1972, and for the District of Columbia for 1970. For a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes]

Year	Previous marital status of bride					Previous marital status of groom				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	First marriage	Remarriage			Total <sup>1</sup>	First marriage	Remarriage		
			Total <sup>2</sup>	Previously divorced	Previously widowed			Total <sup>2</sup>	Previously divorced	Previously widowed
Median age										
1987	25.9	23.6	34.1	33.3	53.9	28.0	25.3	37.7	36.7	62.8
1986	25.7	23.3	33.9	33.1	54.3	27.8	25.1	37.5	36.6	62.9
1985	25.3	23.0	33.6	32.8	54.6	27.5	24.8	37.1	36.1	62.7
1984	25.0	22.8	33.3	32.5	54.2	27.2	24.6	36.8	35.9	62.4
1983	24.8	22.5	32.9	32.0	54.0	27.0	24.4	36.2	35.3	62.0
1982	24.4	22.3	32.5	31.6	54.1	26.7	24.1	35.7	34.9	61.7
1981	24.1	22.0	32.1	31.2	53.6	26.3	23.9	35.3	34.4	61.0
1980	23.7	21.8	32.0	31.0	53.6	25.9	23.6	35.2	34.0	61.2
1979	23.4	21.6	31.9	30.8	55.2	25.8	23.4	35.3	33.9	61.7
1978	23.2	21.4	31.5	30.5	52.6	25.5	23.2	35.1	33.8	59.7
1977	22.9	21.1	31.4	30.2	53.1	25.2	23.0	34.9	33.6	60.1
1976	22.7	21.0	31.7	30.1	53.0	25.0	22.9	35.1	33.7	60.0
1975	22.4	20.8	32.0	30.2	52.4	24.7	22.7	35.5	33.6	59.4
1974	22.0	20.6	32.1	30.0	51.9	24.2	22.5	35.7	33.6	59.2
1973	21.9	20.6	32.3	30.2	52.1	24.1	22.5	36.3	33.9	59.3
1972	21.7	20.5	32.8	30.3	51.4	23.8	22.4	36.5	34.0	59.1
1971	21.7	20.5	32.9	30.2	51.8	23.7	22.5	36.9	34.1	59.1
1970	21.7	20.6	33.3	30.1	51.2	23.6	22.5	37.5	34.5	58.7
1969	21.6	20.6	33.8	30.4	51.3	23.5	22.4	38.2	34.7	59.0
1968	21.5	20.6	33.8	30.7	50.6	23.6	22.4	38.3	35.1	57.9
1967	21.4	20.5	35.0	31.3	50.0	23.8	22.6	39.1	35.5	57.7
1966	21.5	20.3	35.2	31.4	50.2	23.8	22.6	39.2	35.8	57.9
1965	21.4	20.4	35.5	31.7	50.1	23.6	22.5	39.6	36.0	57.8
1964	21.4	20.4	35.6	31.7	50.3	23.6	22.4	39.7	36.4	58.0
1963	21.3	20.3	35.6	31.8	49.7	23.7	22.5	39.8	36.3	58.0
Mean age										
1987	28.6	24.5	36.4	34.7	53.1	31.2	26.4	40.3	38.4	60.9
1986	28.4	24.3	36.2	34.6	53.3	31.0	26.2	40.1	38.2	61.2
1985	28.1	24.0	36.1	34.3	53.3	30.8	25.9	39.9	37.9	61.1
1984	27.8	23.8	35.9	34.0	52.8	30.5	25.7	39.7	37.7	60.8
1983	27.6	23.5	35.6	33.7	52.6	30.3	25.5	39.3	37.3	60.2
1982	27.3	23.3	35.3	33.4	52.6	30.0	25.3	39.0	37.0	59.9
1981	27.0	23.0	35.0	33.0	52.2	29.8	25.0	38.7	36.6	59.5
1980	26.7	22.7	35.0	32.8	52.2	29.4	24.8	38.7	36.5	59.6
1979	26.7	22.5	35.4	32.8	53.4	29.5	24.6	38.9	36.4	60.0
1978	26.3	22.3	34.9	32.6	51.4	29.1	24.4	38.5	36.2	58.4
1977	26.2	22.2	35.0	32.5	51.8	29.0	24.3	38.6	36.1	58.9
1976	26.1	22.1	35.3	32.5	51.8	28.9	24.1	38.8	36.2	58.6
1975	25.9	21.9	35.5	32.7	51.2	28.7	24.0	39.1	36.3	58.2
1974	25.6	21.7	35.7	32.5	51.0	28.3	23.8	39.4	36.3	58.2
1973	25.5	21.7	36.0	32.8	51.0	28.1	23.8	39.6	36.4	58.1
1972	25.2	21.6	36.2	32.9	50.7	27.9	23.7	39.8	36.5	58.0
1971	25.1	21.6	36.4	32.8	50.6	27.8	23.7	40.3	36.6	57.7
1970	25.1	21.6	36.6	32.8	50.3	27.8	23.8	40.6	36.7	57.7
1969	25.1	21.6	36.9	33.0	50.4	27.7	23.8	40.9	36.9	57.7
1968	25.0	21.6	36.9	33.2	49.9	27.7	23.8	41.0	37.1	57.0
1967	25.1	21.6	37.4	33.3	49.7	28.0	24.0	41.4	37.4	56.7
1966	25.2	21.5	37.6	33.6	49.7	28.0	24.0	41.6	37.6	57.0
1965	25.2	21.6	37.7	33.6	49.7	28.1	24.0	42.0	37.8	56.7
1964	25.3	21.4	37.8	33.1	50.0	28.3	24.0	42.1	37.8	57.0
1963	25.2	21.5	37.7	33.5	49.3	28.2	24.1	42.3	37.8	56.8

<sup>1</sup>Figures include previous marital status not stated.  
<sup>2</sup>Figures include divorced or widowed not stated.

Table 9. Median and mean interval to remarriage in years by previous marital status of bride and groom: Reporting States, 1970-87

[Based on sample data]

Year	Previous marital status of bride			Previous marital status of groom		
	All remarriages <sup>1</sup>	Previously divorced	Previously widowed	All remarriages <sup>1</sup>	Previously divorced	Previously widowed
Median interval in years						
1987	2.6	2.5	4.6	2.2	2.2	2.2
1986	2.6	2.4	4.5	2.1	2.1	2.2
1985	2.5	2.3	4.6	2.0	2.0	2.1
1984	2.4	2.2	4.5	1.9	2.0	2.1
1983	2.3	2.1	4.3	1.8	1.8	2.0
1982	2.1	1.9	4.2	1.7	1.7	2.0
1981	2.0	1.9	4.1	1.6	1.6	2.0
1980	2.0	1.8	4.1	1.6	1.6	2.0
1979	1.9	1.7	4.3	1.5	1.4	2.0
1978	1.8	1.7	3.9	1.4	1.4	1.9
1977	1.7	1.5	4.1	1.3	1.3	1.9
1976	1.6	1.4	3.7	1.2	1.1	1.8
1975	1.6	1.3	3.7	1.2	1.1	1.7
1974	1.5	1.2	3.6	1.2	1.1	1.7
1973	1.5	1.2	3.7	1.1	1.0	1.8
1972	1.4	1.1	3.6	1.1	1.0	1.9
1971	1.4	1.1	3.6	1.1	1.0	1.8
1970	1.3	1.0	3.6	1.0	0.9	1.8
Mean interval in years						
1987	4.0	3.8	6.4	3.6	3.5	3.8
1986	3.9	3.7	6.3	3.4	3.4	3.7
1985	3.8	3.6	6.5	3.3	3.2	3.7
1984	3.6	3.4	6.2	3.2	3.1	3.7
1983	3.5	3.3	6.1	3.0	3.0	3.5
1982	3.4	3.1	6.1	2.9	2.8	3.4
1981	3.3	3.0	6.0	2.8	2.7	3.5
1980	3.2	2.9	6.0	2.7	2.6	3.5
1979	3.2	2.9	6.0	2.6	2.5	3.5
1978	3.1	2.8	5.7	2.5	2.5	3.3
1977	3.0	2.7	5.8	2.5	2.3	3.4
1976	3.0	2.6	5.6	2.4	2.3	3.3
1975	2.9	2.5	5.6	2.4	2.3	3.2
1974	2.9	2.5	5.5	2.4	2.2	3.3
1973	2.9	2.6	5.5	2.3	2.2	3.2
1972	3.0	2.5	5.7	2.3	2.2	3.4
1971	3.0	2.6	5.5	2.4	2.3	3.3
1970	2.9	2.5	5.5	2.3	2.2	3.2

<sup>1</sup>Figures include divorced or widowed not stated.

NOTE: In 1970 data on interval between marriages were reported by 18 registration States (California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Wyoming). By 1987, 9 additional States were reporting interval between marriages (Colorado, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, and Virginia).

Table 10. Marriages and mean age at marriage by race and previous marital status of bride and groom: 34 reporting States, 1987

[Based on sample data]

Race	Total	First marriage	Remarriage			Widowed or divorced not stated	Previous marital status not stated
			Total	Previously divorced <sup>1</sup>	Previously widowed <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Bride</b>							
Number							
All races . . . . .	1,209,595	753,556	448,841	382,999	39,593	26,249	7,198
White . . . . .	1,032,406	627,593	399,959	342,351	35,068	22,540	4,854
Black . . . . .	134,720	98,288	35,899	28,946	3,672	3,281	533
Other races . . . . .	20,166	14,935	5,161	4,501	308	352	70
Race not stated. . . . .	22,303	12,740	7,822	7,201	545	76	1,741
<b>Groom</b>							
All races . . . . .	1,209,595	758,816	444,449	384,251	35,801	24,397	6,330
White . . . . .	1,030,126	634,105	391,747	339,489	31,750	20,508	4,274
Black . . . . .	140,178	98,784	40,972	34,022	3,367	3,583	422
Other races . . . . .	17,786	13,513	4,197	3,712	273	212	76
Race not stated. . . . .	21,505	12,414	7,533	7,028	411	94	1,558
<b>Bride</b>							
Mean age							
All races . . . . .	28.6	24.1	36.1	34.4	53.0	35.7	25.8
White . . . . .	28.5	23.8	36.0	34.2	53.6	35.3	25.0
Black . . . . .	29.0	25.8	37.7	36.3	48.5	37.9	29.0
Other races . . . . .	28.0	25.4	35.4	34.8	45.6	34.4	24.7
Race not stated. . . . .	28.6	24.6	35.5	34.6	48.3	34.4	26.9
<b>Groom</b>							
All races . . . . .	31.2	26.0	40.0	38.1	60.8	39.5	27.9
White . . . . .	31.1	25.7	39.9	37.9	61.3	39.2	26.9
Black . . . . .	31.4	27.4	41.2	39.6	57.3	41.1	30.5
Other races . . . . .	30.2	27.5	38.9	37.7	56.7	37.9	30.9
Race not stated. . . . .	31.1	26.4	39.2	38.0	59.9	39.1	29.8

<sup>1</sup>Data exclude remarriages in South Carolina. These data are included in "Widowed or divorced not stated."

NOTE: Of the 42 States in the marriage-registration area in 1987, 34 reported race of bride and groom—Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Those registration areas that did not report race are California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, and Ohio.

Table 11. Marriages and percent distribution by educational attainment of bride and groom, according to previous marital status, and mean and median years of school completed: 21 reporting States, 1987

[Based on sample data]

Previous marital status	Years of school completed								Mean and median
	Total	0-8 years	9-11 years	12 years	13-15 years	16 years	17 years or more	Not stated	
<b>Bride</b>									
	Number								Mean
Total . . . . .	753,366	19,159	81,767	273,723	163,114	92,310	42,352	80,941	13.4
Single . . . . .	489,801	9,077	48,951	166,433	108,527	72,476	30,430	53,907	13.7
Previously married . . . . .	261,057	10,064	32,655	106,820	54,425	19,747	11,876	25,470	13.0
Divorced . . . . .	234,334	6,856	28,979	96,734	50,118	18,204	11,069	22,374	13.1
Widowed . . . . .	24,202	3,085	3,315	9,326	3,894	1,370	701	2,511	12.2
Widowed or divorced not stated . . . . .	2,521	123	361	760	413	173	106	585	...
Not stated . . . . .	2,508	18	161	470	162	87	46	1,564	...
<b>Groom</b>									
Total . . . . .	753,366	26,642	76,514	274,752	140,630	95,526	58,257	81,045	13.5
Single . . . . .	489,993	11,707	48,035	179,722	91,398	68,770	36,616	53,745	13.6
Previously married . . . . .	261,190	14,913	28,343	94,701	49,099	26,666	21,615	25,853	13.3
Divorced . . . . .	236,779	10,559	25,670	87,734	45,547	24,436	19,917	22,916	13.4
Widowed . . . . .	22,182	4,234	2,438	6,422	3,201	2,019	1,563	2,305	12.2
Widowed or divorced not stated . . . . .	2,229	120	235	545	351	211	135	632	...
Not stated . . . . .	2,183	22	136	329	133	90	26	1,447	...
<b>Bride</b>									
	Percent distribution								Median
Total . . . . .	100.0	2.8	12.2	40.7	24.3	13.7	6.3	...	12.9
Single . . . . .	100.0	2.1	11.2	38.2	24.9	16.6	7.0	...	13.0
Previously married . . . . .	100.0	4.3	13.9	45.3	23.1	8.4	5.0	...	12.7
Divorced . . . . .	100.0	3.2	13.7	45.6	23.6	8.6	5.2	...	12.7
Widowed . . . . .	100.0	14.2	15.3	43.0	18.0	6.3	3.2	...	12.5
<b>Groom</b>									
Total . . . . .	100.0	4.0	11.4	40.9	20.9	14.2	8.7	...	12.8
Single . . . . .	100.0	2.7	11.0	41.2	21.0	15.8	8.4	...	12.9
Previously married . . . . .	100.0	6.3	12.0	40.2	20.9	11.3	9.2	...	12.8
Divorced . . . . .	100.0	4.9	12.0	41.0	21.3	11.4	9.3	...	12.8
Widowed . . . . .	100.0	21.3	12.3	32.3	16.1	10.2	7.9	...	12.5

NOTE: Of the 42 States in the marriage-registration area in 1987, 21 reported education of bride and groom—California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Table 12. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of both bride and groom: Reporting States, 1970-87

[Based on sample data]

Year	Total	Wife previously single and husband previously—			Wife previously divorced and husband previously—			Wife previously widowed and husband previously—		
		Single	Divorced	Widowed	Single	Divorced	Widowed	Single	Divorced	Widowed
1987	100.0	54.3	11.0	0.4	10.7	19.1	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.4
1986	100.0	54.4	11.0	0.3	10.7	18.9	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.4
1985	100.0	54.7	11.1	0.3	10.4	18.8	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.5
1984	100.0	55.0	11.1	0.4	10.2	18.8	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.5
1983	100.0	54.8	11.2	0.4	10.0	18.9	1.3	0.5	1.5	1.5
1982	100.0	55.1	11.3	0.4	9.8	18.8	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.5
1981	100.0	54.9	11.4	0.4	9.6	18.8	1.3	0.5	1.5	1.5
1980	100.0	56.5	10.8	0.4	9.3	17.8	1.4	0.5	1.5	1.6
1979	100.0	56.7	10.8	0.5	8.9	17.6	1.4	0.6	1.7	1.9
1978	100.0	57.3	10.7	0.5	8.7	17.4	1.4	0.6	1.7	1.7
1977	100.0	57.8	10.3	0.5	8.5	17.2	1.4	0.6	1.7	1.9
1976	100.0	58.9	10.1	0.6	8.2	16.4	1.5	0.6	1.8	2.0
1975	100.0	60.5	9.3	0.6	7.8	15.5	1.6	0.7	1.8	2.1
1974	100.0	63.1	8.6	0.6	7.3	14.0	1.4	0.8	2.0	2.1
1973	100.0	64.8	8.1	0.6	7.1	13.2	1.4	0.7	1.8	2.1
1972	100.0	67.1	7.6	0.6	6.6	12.0	1.4	0.8	1.8	2.1
1971	100.0	68.2	7.2	0.7	6.4	11.1	1.5	0.9	1.8	2.2
1970	100.0	68.8	6.9	0.7	6.4	10.7	1.4	0.9	1.8	2.4

NOTE: In 1970 previous marital status was reported by 38 States: Alabama, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Starting in 1971, the District of Columbia also reported this item. After 1976, Iowa no longer reported it. In 1979 Colorado joined the MRA, bringing the total of reporting areas back to 38 States plus the District of Columbia for the 1979-87 period.

Table 13. Mean age at marriage of bride and groom and age difference between spouses by previous marital status: 38 reporting States and the District of Columbia, 1987

[Based on sample data]

<i>Previous marital status of bride</i>	<i>All grooms</i>	<i>Previous marital status of groom</i>		
		<i>Single</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Widowed</i>
<i>Age of bride in years</i>				
All brides . . . . .	28.7	25.1	33.7	53.6
Single . . . . .	24.6	23.9	27.7	38.0
Divorced . . . . .	34.7	30.7	36.1	47.6
Widowed . . . . .	53.1	39.4	48.1	63.2
<i>Age of groom in years</i>				
All brides . . . . .	31.3	26.5	38.4	60.9
Single . . . . .	27.4	25.8	34.4	49.0
Divorced . . . . .	36.9	29.4	39.8	56.7
Widowed . . . . .	55.6	37.1	50.1	68.0
<i>Age difference in years<sup>1</sup></i>				
All brides . . . . .	2.6	1.4	4.7	7.3
Single . . . . .	2.8	1.9	6.8	11.0
Divorced . . . . .	2.2	-1.3	3.7	9.1
Widowed . . . . .	2.5	-2.3	2.0	4.8

<sup>1</sup>Age of groom minus age of bride.

## Technical notes

### Place and time of occurrence

Marriages and marriage rates for States and other areas are by place of occurrence. Marriages are those performed during the calendar year.

### Sources of data

Figures in tables 1–3 are based on totals reported by States and counties, except for New York City, where the count of marriages is the total number of valid marriage certificates provided to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Figures in tables 4–13 are based on data tabulated from State-coded data tapes and from probability samples of records selected and coded in NCHS from copies of the records sent by States participating in the marriage-registration area (MRA). In 1987 the MRA consisted of the District of Columbia and all except eight States—Arizona, Arkansas, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington. Marriages performed in the MRA included 80 percent of the marriages registered in the United States in 1987 and 79 percent in 1977.

### Nonlicensed (confidential) marriages for California

Section 4213 of the California Civil Code allows unmarried couples who have been living together to be married confidentially without obtaining a marriage license or health certificate. In March 1972 this section was amended to require county clerks to keep sealed records of these marriages and to report periodically the total number to the California State Department of Health Services. Since reporting began, nonlicensed marriages have increased rapidly, from 2,857 in 1973 to 90,494 in 1987. NCHS has not included the nonlicensed California marriages in totals or rates for years prior to 1978. However, beginning with final statistics for 1978, nonlicensed marriages, which totaled 37,462 in that year, are included in the national and regional totals and rates.

### Marriage sample

Total counts of marriages are available from all States and are shown in tables 1–3. Data on characteristics of bride and groom shown in tables 4–12 are available only from States in the MRA and exclude nonlicensed marriages in California.

Twelve States—Florida, Illinois, Maine, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York (except New York City), Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, and Virginia—supplied State-coded data tapes of all their marriage records through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, and 100 percent of these records were used by NCHS. For all other States in the MRA, records were sampled at rates designed to give a sample of at least 2,500 for each State. All records were included in the samples for Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Wyoming, where totals of less than 5,000 marriages had been expected, and for New York City and Wisconsin. All other States were sampled at 5, 10, 20, or 50 percent, depending on the number of marriages in the State. The total sample size, including records supplied through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program was 783,087 marriages. Sampling errors shown in table I are for frequencies that equal a specified percent of the total MRA marriages.

Nonlicensed marriages, as previously mentioned, are included in the total count for California. However, they are not available for inclusion in the MRA marriage sample. The 5-percent sample of California marriages for 1987 was drawn only from licensed marriages. The corresponding weights for sample records were based on these totals. Because no information is available on the characteristics of persons obtaining nonlicensed marriages, no accurate estimate is available for the bias introduced in sample estimates by the omission of these marriages.

Marriage rates were lower for the MRA than for the entire United States. The crude marriage rate for the MRA

**Table I. Approximate sampling errors of estimated number of marriages shown in tables 7, 10, and 11: Marriage-registration area, 1987**

Percent of total MRA marriages in subclass	Sampling error
1 or 99	446
2 or 98	628
3 or 97	765
4 or 96	878
5 or 95	977
7 or 93	1,144
10 or 90	1,345
15 or 85	1,601
20 or 80	1,793
25 or 75	1,941
50	2,241

HOW TO USE THE SAMPLING ERROR TABLE: The total number of MRA marriages in 1987 (excluding nonlicensed California marriages) was 1,839,052. For any estimate of marriages shown in tables 7, 10, and 11, determine its percent of the total MRA marriages. Then look in the table of sampling errors for the row containing the computed percent to determine the sampling error for the estimated number of marriages for the year. For example, in 1987 there were an estimated 628,606 remarriages of women, or 34.8 percent of all 1987 marriages (table 7). Because 34.8 is between 25 and 50 percent, the sampling error is between 1,941 and 2,241, or, by interpolation, 2,059 remarriages. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that the actual number of 1987 remarriages is between 628,547 and 630,665 (628,606 ± 2,059).

(9.2 per 1,000) was 7 percent below the U.S. rate (9.9) and the rate for married women 15 years of age and over (48.3 per 1,000) was 13 percent below the U.S. rate (55.7). This is because residents of the MRA constituted 86 percent of the U.S. population, while only 80 percent of U.S. marriages occurred in the MRA and 77 percent were included in the MRA sample. At least two reasons for these differences can be identified.

First, many residents of States in the MRA married in States not in the MRA and were not counted in the MRA marriage total. However, because they lived within the MRA, they were counted in the population on which the rates were based. Although the number of such marriages was not known for 1987, in 1980, when a special marriage sample was drawn from five States not in the MRA, 93,433 brides who were residents of States in the MRA married in States not in the MRA. In contrast, only 13,634 brides who lived in a State not in the MRA married within it, so there was a substantial net loss from the MRA marriage total.

Nevada accounted for a large proportion of this net loss from the MRA

total. Of the 108,220 (1980) Nevada brides whose residence was reported, 83,080 (76.8 percent) lived in the MRA, but their marriages were not included in the MRA total. Only 15,580 of the Nevada brides were residents of that State. Assuming that this was also true in 1987, a substantial portion of the 474,646 marriages that took place in States not in the MRA were marriages of MRA residents.

A second reason was that the 90,494 nonlicensed California marriages were not in the MRA sample to count as marriages, but the entire population of California was in the population on which MRA rates were based. If these 90,494 marriages had been included in the MRA sample, the rate would have been 50.8 rather than 48.3 per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years of age and over.

There may also be a difference in the rate at which residents of States in the MRA marry, divorce, and remarry compared with residents of States not in the MRA.

### Sampling errors

All statistics for the MRA are estimates based on the systematic sample of marriages described above; therefore, these statistics are subject to

sampling errors. The sampling error is a measure of variation that occurs by chance between sample estimates and the actual quantity being estimated. Chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate would differ from the true value by less than the sampling error and about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the sampling error.

### Population denominators

Marriage rates for the MRA by age, sex, and previous marital status for 1982-87 are based on unpublished population estimates as of July 1, prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (2). National and State rates for 1987 are based on population estimates as of July 1, published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (3).

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census. Unpublished estimates by marital status consistent with United States population estimates, by age, sex, and race; 1980 to 1987. Current population reports; series P-25, no 1022. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1988.

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census. State population and household estimates, with age, sex, and components of change; 1981-87. Current population reports; series P-25, no 1024. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1988.

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

Figures for marriage order and previous marital status not stated were subtracted from figures for marriages used as denominators before medians were computed. Computations of median and mean age at marriage were based on tabulations of ungrouped data.

### Nonreporting bias

Age was more than 99 percent complete on marriage records, but in 1987 marriage order for brides was not stated on 2 percent of the MRA records. No allocation of missing data was done before rates were calculated. The percent not stated for grooms was similar.

---

**Symbols**

- - - Data not available
  - . . . Category not applicable
  - Quantity zero
  - 0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
  - Z Quantity more than zero but less than 500 where numbers are rounded to thousands
  - \* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision
-

This report represents summary tabulations from the final marriage statistics for 1987. More detailed tabulations for 1987 will be published in *Vital Statistics of the United States, Volume III—Marriage and Divorce*. Prior to the publication of that volume, the National Center for Health Statistics will respond to requests for unpublished data whenever possible.

---

**Suggested citation**

National Center for Health Statistics. Advance report of final marriage statistics, 1987. Monthly vital statistics report; vol 38 no 12, suppl. Hyattsville, Maryland: Public Health Service. 1990.

---

**Copyright information**

This report may be reprinted without further permission.

---

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
Centers for Disease Control  
National Center for Health Statistics  
3700 East-West Highway  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

FIRST CLASS  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
PHS/NCHS  
PERMIT No. G-281

---

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

---

To receive this publication regularly, contact  
the National Center for Health Statistics by  
calling 301-436-8500

---

DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 90-1120