

Monthly

VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

Summary Report

Final Marriage Statistics, 1970



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FROM THE

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Marriages performed in the United States during 1970 totaled 2,158,802, an increase of less than 1 percent over 1969. This increase in number was accompanied by an increase in the total population of the United States that caused the marriage rate to remain at 10.6 per 1,000 population, the same as the rate recorded for 1969. This was the first time the rate had stabilized since the period 1959-62, when the rate was 8.5 each year. Through 1969 there had been a steady increase in the marriage rate each year since 1963.

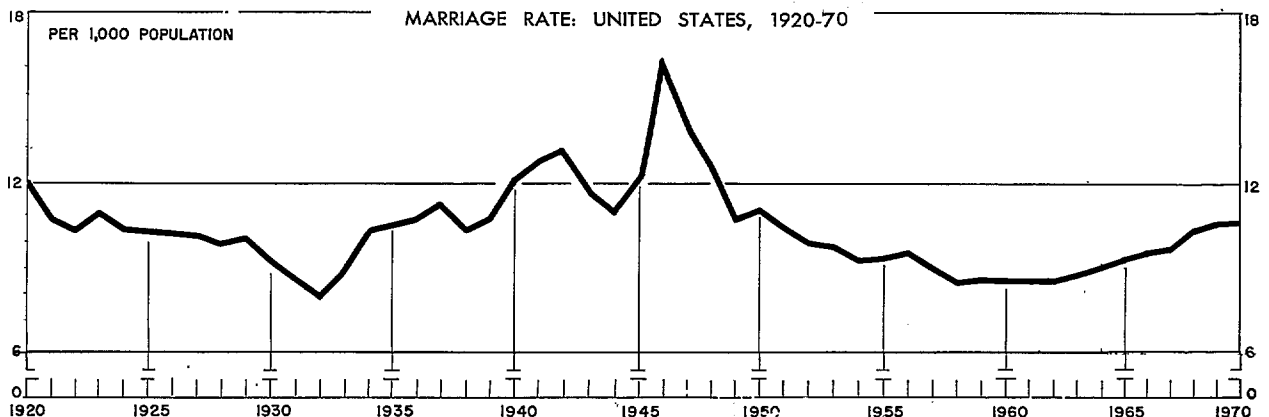
In 1970 the rate per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years and over and the rate per 1,000 unmarried women 15 to 44 years declined 4 and 6 percent, respectively. This was the first decline since 1962 for unmarried women 15 years of age and over and since 1965 for unmarried women 15-44 years of age.

Data on characteristics of marriages are available for the marriage-registration area (MRA) and is believed to be a close approximation of national data. Figures for the MRA show that although the number of marriages for the MRA in 1970 increased by slightly less than 1 percent compared with 1969, there was an increase in the number of remarriages of 5 percent for men and 4 percent for women, and a decline in first marriages of less than 1 percent for

both men and women. First marriage rates in 1970 declined from 1969 rates for both men and women. For women, this followed a decline from 1968 to 1969 that broke an upward trend from 1963 to 1968. The decline in 1970 occurred in every age group except two that account for only a small proportion of all first marriages—14 to 17 years and 65 years and over. First marriage rates declined for men also in 1970 but the rates for four age groups increased—14-17, 20-24, 45-64, and 65 years and over.

In spite of the increase in the number of remarriages, remarriage rates declined in 1970 for the first time since 1967 for men and since 1965 for women. The remarriage rates for both sexes declined

Year	Median age of bride			Median age of groom		
	Total	First marriage	Remarriage	Total	First marriage	Remarriage
1970-----	21.7	20.6	35.3	23.6	22.5	37.5
1969-----	21.6	20.6	35.8	23.5	22.4	38.2
1968-----	21.5	20.6	35.8	23.6	22.4	38.3
1967-----	21.4	20.5	35.0	23.8	22.6	39.1
1966-----	21.5	20.3	35.2	23.8	22.6	39.2
1965-----	21.4	20.4	35.5	23.6	22.5	39.6
1964-----	21.4	20.4	35.6	23.6	22.4	39.7
1963-----	21.3	20.3	35.6	23.7	22.5	39.8



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in 1970 for all age groups except for those 65 years and over. The remarriage rate for women aged 14-24 was lower for 1970 than for any other year during the 1963-69 period and 27 percent lower than for 1969. The remarriage rate for women aged 25-44 was the lowest since 1964. For men, the decline from 1969 in the remarriage rate was 33 percent at ages 14-24 years and 10 percent for those 25-44 years of age.

The median age of brides at first marriage was 20.6 years. This was unchanged from 1968 and 1969, but higher than the median age for the years 1963-67. In contrast to the trend in first marriages, median age at remarriage for brides has declined from 35.6 in 1963 to 33.3 in 1970.

The trend in median age for men marrying for the first time was not as consistent as the trend for men who were remarrying. The median age at first marriage for grooms was slightly higher in 1970 than in 1968 or 1969 but the same as in 1963. The median age at remarriage for men has declined each year, from 39.8 in 1963 to 37.5 in 1970.

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Data not available-----	---
Category not applicable-----	...
Quantity zero-----	-
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Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision-----	*

Table 1. MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES: UNITED STATES, 1958-70

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

Year	Marriages	Rate per 1,000 ¹ —		
		Total population	Unmarried women 15 years and over	Unmarried women 15-44 years
1970-----	2,158,802	10.6	76.5	140.2
1969-----	2,145,000	10.6	80.0	149.1
1968-----	2,069,000	10.4	79.1	147.2
1967-----	1,927,000	9.7	76.4	145.2
1966-----	1,857,000	9.5	75.6	145.1
1965-----	1,800,000	9.3	75.0	144.3
1964-----	1,725,000	9.0	74.6	146.2
1963-----	1,654,000	8.8	73.4	145.3
1962-----	1,577,000	8.5	71.2	138.4
1961-----	1,548,000	8.5	72.2	145.4
1960-----	1,523,000	8.5	73.5	149.0
1959-----	1,494,000	8.5	73.6	149.8
1958-----	1,451,000	8.4	72.0	146.3

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

Table 2. MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES: UNITED STATES, EACH REGION, DIVISION, AND STATE, 1968-70

[By place of occurrence. Data are counts of marriages performed except as noted. Rates per 1,000 population in each area, estimated as of July 1 for 1968 and 1969; and enumerated as of April 1 for 1970]

Region, division, and State	Number			Rate		
	1970	1969	1968	1970	1969	1968
United States-----	2,158,802	2,145,438	2,069,258	10.6	10.6	10.4
Northeast-----	417,755	417,312	402,740	8.5	8.6	8.3
North Central-----	545,383	550,295	535,633	9.6	9.8	9.6
South-----	763,128	758,084	728,102	12.2	12.0	11.7
West-----	432,536	419,737	401,783	12.4	12.4	12.0
Northeast:						
New England-----	105,368	105,020	101,304	6.9	6.1	6.8
Middle Atlantic-----	312,387	312,292	301,436	6.4	6.4	6.2
North Central:						
East North Central-----	384,845	389,470	380,474	9.6	9.8	9.6
West North Central-----	160,538	160,825	155,159	9.8	9.9	9.7
South:						
South Atlantic-----	370,993	356,137	356,875	12.1	12.1	11.9
East South Central-----	154,917	154,101	147,492	12.1	11.8	11.3
West South Central-----	237,218	235,856	224,735	12.3	12.1	11.7
West:						
Mountain-----	187,544	181,261	171,084	22.6	22.6	21.6
Pacific-----	244,992	238,476	230,699	9.2	9.2	9.0
New England:						
Maine-----	10,975	10,428	10,179	11.0	10.7	10.4
New Hampshire-----	10,005	10,358	9,733	15.6	14.4	13.9
Vermont-----	4,524	4,477	4,291	10.2	10.2	10.1
Massachusetts-----	47,403	47,328	45,528	8.3	8.7	8.3
Rhode Island-----	7,531	7,548	7,311	7.9	8.3	8.0
Connecticut-----	24,829	24,683	24,262	6.2	6.3	6.2
Middle Atlantic:						
New York-----	161,246	161,739	155,632	8.9	8.8	8.6
New Jersey-----	56,625	55,692	53,857	7.9	7.8	7.6
Pennsylvania-----	94,516	94,861	91,947	6.0	6.0	7.8
East North Central:						
Ohio-----	90,056	89,577	90,399	8.5	8.3	8.5
Indiana-----	55,202	57,960	55,716	10.6	11.3	11.0
Illinois-----	115,478	116,532	112,449	10.4	10.5	10.2
Michigan-----	89,694	90,999	88,916	10.1	10.4	10.2
Wisconsin-----	34,435	34,402	32,994	7.8	8.1	7.8
West North Central:						
Minnesota-----	31,280	31,971	30,671	6.2	6.6	6.4
Iowa-----	24,648	24,686	24,697	6.7	6.9	6.9
Missouri-----	50,149	50,411	48,157	10.7	10.8	10.4
North Dakota-----	5,340	5,399	5,251	6.6	6.8	6.4
South Dakota-----	11,034	10,909	10,348	16.6	16.6	15.8
Nebraska-----	15,668	15,145	14,287	10.6	10.5	9.9
Kansas-----	22,421	22,304	22,748	10.0	9.6	9.5
South Atlantic:						
Delaware-----	4,254	3,992	3,791	7.8	7.4	7.1
Maryland-----	52,237	51,165	51,165	13.3	14.0	13.6
District of Columbia-----	7,267	7,839	7,989	9.6	9.8	9.9
Virginia-----	51,964	52,575	52,175	11.2	11.3	11.4
West Virginia-----	15,848	15,699	15,221	9.1	8.6	8.4
North Carolina-----	48,291	49,177	47,989	9.5	9.4	9.4
South Carolina-----	57,887	56,235	54,944	22.3	20.9	20.6
Georgia-----	63,696	64,003	61,252	13.9	13.8	13.4
Florida-----	69,246	65,636	62,351	10.2	10.4	10.1
East South Central:						
Kentucky-----	36,269	37,416	34,628	11.3	11.6	10.8
Tennessee-----	45,361	44,307	42,911	11.6	11.1	10.8
Alabama-----	46,956	46,422	44,599	13.6	13.1	12.5
Mississippi-----	26,328	25,956	25,355	11.9	11.0	10.8
West South Central:						
Arkansas-----	23,307	22,616	22,004	12.1	11.4	11.1
Louisiana-----	35,416	34,540	33,699	9.7	9.2	9.1
Oklahoma-----	39,004	36,107	37,359	15.2	14.1	14.6
Texas-----	139,491	142,391	131,473	12.5	12.7	12.0
Mountain:						
Montana-----	6,919	6,444	6,260	10.0	9.3	9.0
Idaho-----	10,935	10,993	11,130	15.3	15.3	15.8
Wyoming-----	4,465	4,269	4,224	13.5	13.3	13.4
Colorado-----	24,988	24,169	22,849	11.3	11.5	11.2
New Mexico ¹ -----	12,422	11,109	9,613	12.2	11.2	7.6
Arizona ¹ -----	18,508	18,012	16,704	10.4	10.6	10.0
Utah-----	11,692	11,633	11,559	11.0	11.1	11.2
Nevada-----	97,605	94,642	90,756	199.7	207.1	202.1
Pacific:						
Washington-----	41,333	41,711	40,585	12.1	12.3	12.4
Oregon-----	17,302	16,874	16,125	8.3	8.3	8.0
California-----	172,398	166,632	161,945	8.6	8.6	8.4
Alaska-----	3,390	3,168	2,985	11.2	11.2	10.9
Hawaii-----	10,589	9,691	9,021	13.8	12.5	11.6

¹Data are for marriage licenses issued.
²Data are estimated.

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Table 3. MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES BY AGE, PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS, AND COLOR OF BRIDE AND OF GROOM: MARRIAGE-REGISTRATION AREA, 1970

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data. Rates per 1,000 population in specified group, enumerated as of April 1, 1970. Figures for age not stated are distributed]

Age and previous marital status	Bride					Groom				
	Total		White	All other	Color not stated ²	Total		White	All other	Color not stated ²
	Number	Rate ¹				Number	Rate ¹			
ALL MARRIAGES										
Total-----	1,674,104	64.8	949,308	122,157	602,639	1,674,104	80.8	948,092	123,373	602,639
14-17 years-----	167,486	28.3	106,257	14,920	46,309	26,973	4.0	18,506	1,939	6,478
18-19 years-----	376,944	156.7	224,482	25,595	126,867	207,944	74.4	125,902	16,201	65,841
20-24 years-----	664,614	234.2	372,680	43,004	248,930	767,759	205.7	444,124	51,225	272,410
25-44 years-----	352,205	111.3	181,040	29,790	141,375	517,843	184.0	273,408	40,663	203,772
25-29 years-----	174,897	170.1	88,443	13,894	72,560	280,272	217.6	149,636	21,096	109,490
30-34 years-----	77,859	111.3	39,617	6,815	31,427	111,255	160.8	56,325	9,141	45,789
35-44 years-----	99,449	69.2	52,980	9,081	37,388	126,316	107.2	67,397	10,426	48,493
45-64 years-----	97,844	20.9	55,774	7,938	34,132	122,553	54.9	68,098	10,594	43,861
65 years and over-----	15,011	2.4	9,075	910	5,026	31,032	15.6	18,054	2,701	10,277
Median age-----	21.7	...	21.4	21.8	22.0	23.6	...	23.4	23.9	23.9
FIRST MARRIAGES										
Total-----	1,251,802	82.9	691,211	96,146	464,445	1,247,366	72.1	690,990	95,953	460,423
14-17 years-----	162,855	25.6	102,713	14,480	45,662	26,311	3.9	18,089	1,947	6,295
18-19 years-----	360,218	151.4	212,320	24,677	123,221	205,519	73.0	122,721	15,831	64,967
20-24 years-----	576,409	220.1	312,786	39,170	224,453	711,473	195.7	404,664	48,459	258,350
25-44 years-----	140,832	82.5	58,325	16,057	66,450	288,354	119.6	137,804	27,142	123,408
25-29 years-----	96,564	132.8	42,280	9,712	44,572	202,011	181.5	101,366	17,068	83,577
30-34 years-----	25,595	66.5	9,306	3,335	12,954	51,700	98.8	21,911	5,788	24,001
35-44 years-----	18,673	31.4	6,739	3,010	8,924	34,643	44.7	14,527	4,286	15,830
45-64 years-----	10,538	8.8	4,562	1,652	4,324	15,855	14.1	6,972	2,300	6,583
65 years and over-----	950	1.1	505	110	335	1,854	3.4	760	274	820
Median age-----	20.6	...	20.3	20.8	21.0	22.5	...	22.3	22.7	22.9
REMARRIAGES										
Total-----	392,727	36.6	236,112	22,989	133,626	399,162	116.5	236,565	24,599	137,988
14-19 years-----	11,231	*	8,550	215	2,466	1,367	*	954	32	361
20-24 years-----	73,805	³ 317.6	48,437	2,701	22,667	40,386	³ 350.9	27,115	1,441	11,830
25-44 years-----	207,184	142.3	119,630	13,097	74,257	222,617	298.0	130,704	12,565	79,348
25-29 years-----	75,581	251.3	44,176	3,771	27,634	73,743	420.3	44,850	3,498	25,395
30-34 years-----	51,636	164.1	29,649	3,390	18,397	58,237	345.2	33,546	3,142	21,549
35-44 years-----	79,967	95.1	45,805	5,936	28,226	90,637	225.0	52,308	5,925	32,404
45-64 years-----	86,556	24.8	50,790	6,191	29,575	105,824	95.6	60,600	8,184	37,004
65 years and over-----	13,951	2.5	8,505	785	4,661	28,988	19.9	17,192	2,377	9,399
Median age-----	33.3	...	32.7	37.2	33.7	37.5	...	37.0	41.8	37.7
Previously widowed ⁴ -----	74,719	10.2	50,312	5,862	18,545	66,122	40.6	42,725	6,023	17,374
14-24 years-----	3,472	*	2,534	231	707	725	*	492	63	170
25-44 years-----	20,818	⁵ 54.1	13,565	2,160	5,093	10,653	⁵ 107.8	6,629	1,182	2,852
45-64 years-----	39,841	17.7	26,968	2,869	10,004	33,298	79.2	21,327	3,115	8,856
65 years and over-----	10,589	2.3	7,245	602	2,741	21,436	19.4	14,277	1,663	5,496
Median age-----	51.2	...	51.5	48.3	51.6	58.7	...	59.1	57.5	58.2
Previously divorced ⁴ -----	269,855	123.3	182,220	15,985	71,650	283,596	204.5	190,927	17,300	75,369
14-19 years-----	9,609	*	8,037	177	1,394	1,092	*	932	20	140
20-24 years-----	61,418	³ 413.4	45,632	2,355	13,431	33,798	³ 402.2	26,415	1,313	6,070
25-44 years-----	161,070	179.6	104,717	10,319	46,034	184,489	325.4	122,795	10,820	50,674
45-64 years-----	36,101	42.6	22,830	3,020	10,251	59,925	103.7	38,194	4,627	17,104
65 years and over-----	1,659	6.1	1,004	114	540	4,292	23.6	2,591	520	1,181
Median age-----	30.1	...	29.4	33.8	31.1	34.5	...	33.8	37.4	35.3
Not stated if widowed or divorced ⁶ -----	48,153	...	3,580	1,142	43,431	49,444	...	2,913	1,276	45,255
NOT STATED IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED ⁷ -----	29,575	...	21,985	3,022	4,568	27,576	...	20,537	2,621	4,218

¹Base populations exclude persons under 14 years of age. Rates for all marriages are based on the unmarried population; for first marriages, on the never-married population; and for remarriages, on the widowed and divorced populations.

²Figures include data for California, Michigan, New York, Ohio, parts of Illinois, and for all marriages performed after July 1, 1970, for Maryland; these areas did not require reporting of race or color.

³Rates are shown for ages 14-24 years.

⁴Rates are shown for ages 14-44 years.

⁵Data exclude remarriages in the District of Columbia, Michigan, and Ohio.

⁶Data include all remarriages in Michigan and Ohio.

⁷Figures are included in all marriages.

TECHNICAL NOTES

SAMPLING ERROR OF ESTIMATED FREQUENCY EXPRESSED AS PERCENTAGE OF AREA TOTAL: MARRIAGE-REGISTRATION AREA AND EACH REGISTRATION STATE, 1970

[Figures for Alaska, Delaware, Vermont, and Wyoming have no sampling errors because all records were tabulated]

Area	Sampling error of estimated frequency expressed as percentage of area total				Area	Sampling error of estimated frequency expressed as percentage of area total			
	1 or 99	10 or 90	25 or 75	50		1 or 99	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
Marriage-registration area-----	457	1,377	1,987	2,295	Registration States--Con.				
Registration States:					Michigan-----	127	381	551	636
Alabama-----	65	195	282	325	Mississippi-----	32	97	141	162
Alaska-----	...	...	...	...	Missouri-----	67	202	291	336
California-----	180	543	784	905	Montana-----	8	25	36	42
Connecticut-----	31	95	137	158	Nebraska-----	25	75	108	125
Delaware-----	...	...	...	...	New Hampshire-----	10	30	43	50
District of Columbia-----	9	26	38	43	New Jersey-----	71	214	309	357
Florida-----	78	237	342	394	New York-----	174	525	758	875
Georgia-----	110	331	477	551	North Carolina-----	66	198	285	330
Hawaii-----	10	31	45	51	Ohio-----	130	392	566	654
Idaho-----	21	63	90	104	Oregon-----	26	79	114	132
Illinois-----	147	444	641	741	Pennsylvania-----	133	402	580	670
Indiana-----	70	211	304	352	Rhode Island-----	9	26	38	43
Iowa-----	31	94	136	157	South Dakota-----	10	32	45	53
Kansas-----	30	90	130	150	Tennessee-----	64	192	277	320
Kentucky-----	57	171	247	286	Utah-----	11	32	46	54
Louisiana-----	37	113	163	188	Vermont-----	...	...	...	...
Maine-----	10	31	45	52	Virginia-----	68	205	296	342
Maryland-----	68	206	297	343	West Virginia-----	25	76	109	126
Massachusetts-----	65	196	283	327	Wisconsin-----	55	167	241	278
					Wyoming-----	...	...	...	...

Place and Time of Occurrence

Marriages are those performed during the year. Marriages and marriage rates for States and other areas are by place of occurrence. In table 2, however, figures for marriages shown for some States are by place and date the marriage license was issued.

Sources of Data

Figures in tables 1 and 2 are based on totals reported by States and counties. All other figures in the tables are based on data tabulated from probability samples of records selected in the National Center for Health Statistics from copies of the records sent in by States participating in the marriage-registration area. For the 3 years 1968-70, 39 States and the District of Columbia participated.

Marriage Sample

Records were sampled at different rates designed to give a sample of at least 2,500 records for each State except four, where less than 5,000 marriages were performed. For these States all records were included in the sample. One-half of all records were included from seven States and the District of Columbia, one-fifth from nine States, one-tenth from 12 States, and one-twentieth from seven States. Sampling errors shown in the table above are for frequencies which equal a specified percent of 1970 totals for each State and the MRA.

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