

# Monthly VITAL STATISTICS REPORT



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## Advance Report Final Marriage Statistics, 1974

FROM THE  
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In 1974 the number of marriages performed in the United States declined for the first time in 16 years. There were 2,229,667 marriages, a decrease of over 54,000 from the number performed in 1973.

The marriage rate declined 3.7 percent in 1974; from 10.9 in 1973 to 10.5 per 1,000 population in 1974. This was the lowest marriage rate for any year since 1968. In fact, the slight decline (0.9 percent) that occurred in the marriage rate in 1973 was the first reversal of the steep upward trend in the marriage rate that began in 1963.

Provisional data for 1975 indicate a continuing decline. An estimated 2,126,000 marriages were performed and the provisional marriage rate was 10.0 per 1,000 population, a 4.8-percent decline from the rate for 1974. Even so, the marriage rate remains well above those of the midfifties through the mid-sixties.

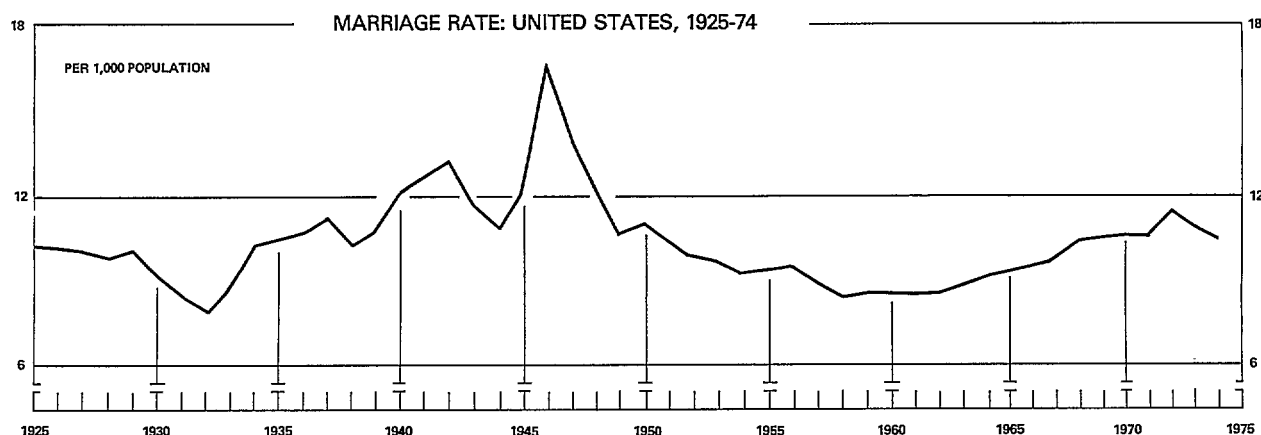
The median age of brides and grooms at first marriage remained at 20.6 years and 22.5 years, respectively. The median age at remarriage has declined steadily for more than a decade. For women the median age at remarriage was 32.1 years, 3.5 years lower than it was in 1963. For men, the median was 35.7 years, about 4 years lower than it was in 1963.

Based on information from the marriage registration area, the proportion of marriages that are first marriages has decreased slightly every year since 1968 when 77 percent of the brides and grooms were previously single. By 1974 the proportion had declined to 72 percent for brides and 71 percent for grooms.

For first marriages the marriage rates were higher for women than those for men at ages under 25 years and higher for men than for women at ages 25 years and over. At every age remarriage rates for men were higher than those for women.

Table 1. MEDIAN AGES OF BRIDE AND GROOM BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS, 1963-74

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



## MONTHLY VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

First marriage rates for both men and women 20-24 years of age have been dropping sharply in recent years. They declined 28 percent from 1970 to 1974. A substantial decline (22 percent) was also observed for men at ages 25-29 years. Smaller reductions in first marriage rates occurred for all other age groups shown in table 4 except for men at ages under 18 years and at 65 years and over and for women at ages 35-64, where the rates increased over those for 1970.

Remarriage rates were higher in 1974 than in 1970 for men and women under 25 years of age, for women 30-44 years, and for men 65 years and over. They were lower for women 25-29 and 45-64 years, with no change for women 65 years and over. They were also lower for men at ages 25-64.

Table 2. MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES: UNITED STATES, 1958-74

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

| Year      | Marriages | Rate per 1,000 <sup>1</sup> - |                                   |                             |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|           |           | Total population              | Unmarried women 15 years and over | Unmarried women 15-44 years |
| 1974----- | 2,229,667 | 10.5                          | 72.0                              | 128.4                       |
| 1973----- | 2,284,108 | 10.9                          | 76.0                              | 137.3                       |
| 1972----- | 2,282,154 | 11.0                          | 77.9                              | 141.3                       |
| 1971----- | 2,190,481 | 10.6                          | 76.2                              | 138.9                       |
| 1970----- | 2,158,802 | 10.6                          | 76.5                              | 140.2                       |
| 1969----- | 2,145,000 | 10.6                          | 80.0                              | 149.1                       |
| 1968----- | 2,068,000 | 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                           | 75.4                              | 143.3                       |
| 1962----- | 1,577,000 | 8.5                           | 71.2                              | 138.4                       |
| 1961----- | 1,548,000 | 8.5                           | 72.2                              | 145.4                       |
| 1960----- | 1,523,000 | 8.5                           | 75.5                              | 148.0                       |
| 1959----- | 1,494,000 | 8.5                           | 75.6                              | 149.8                       |
| 1958----- | 1,451,000 | 8.4                           | 72.0                              | 146.5                       |

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

## SYMBOLS

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

This report presents summary tabulations from the final marriage statistics for 1974. More detailed tabulations for 1974 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.

Table 3. MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES: UNITED STATES, EACH REGION, DIVISION, AND STATE, 1972-74

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

| Region, division, and State | Number    |           |           | Rate  |       |       |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
|                             | 1974      | 1973      | 1972      | 1974  | 1973  | 1972  |
| United States-----          | 2,229,667 | 2,284,108 | 2,282,154 | 10.5  | 10.9  | 11.0  |
| Northeast-----              | 402,521   | 422,865   | 425,955   | 8.1   | 8.5   | 8.6   |
| North Central-----          | 574,059   | 581,544   | 577,429   | 10.0  | 10.1  | 10.1  |
| South-----                  | 803,369   | 823,947   | 818,405   | 12.0  | 12.5  | 12.6  |
| West-----                   | 449,718   | 455,732   | 460,365   | 12.1  | 12.5  | 12.8  |
| Northeast:                  |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| New England-----            | 101,397   | 106,426   | 107,111   | 8.3   | 8.8   | 8.8   |
| Middle Atlantic-----        | 301,124   | 316,459   | 318,844   | 8.1   | 8.4   | 8.5   |
| North Central:              |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| East North Central-----     | 405,872   | 412,324   | 409,206   | 9.9   | 10.1  | 10.0  |
| West North Central-----     | 168,387   | 169,220   | 168,223   | 10.1  | 10.1  | 10.1  |
| South:                      |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| South Atlantic-----         | 385,457   | 398,544   | 394,392   | 11.6  | 12.3  | 12.4  |
| East South Central-----     | 161,830   | 167,174   | 170,054   | 12.1  | 12.6  | 12.9  |
| West South Central-----     | 1256,082  | 258,229   | 253,959   | 12.4  | 12.7  | 12.7  |
| West:                       |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| Mountain-----               | 213,654   | 211,738   | 209,980   | 22.7  | 23.1  | 23.6  |
| Pacific-----                | 236,064   | 243,994   | 250,385   | 8.5   | 8.9   | 9.2   |
| New England:                |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| Maine-----                  | 11,546    | 11,925    | 11,739    | 11.0  | 11.6  | 11.4  |
| New Hampshire-----          | 9,239     | 9,557     | 9,752     | 11.4  | 12.1  | 12.6  |
| Vermont-----                | 4,652     | 5,072     | 5,088     | 9.9   | 10.9  | 11.1  |
| Massachusetts-----          | 44,243    | 46,640    | 48,189    | 7.6   | 8.0   | 8.3   |
| Rhode Island-----           | 7,255     | 7,715     | 7,858     | 7.7   | 7.9   | 8.1   |
| Connecticut-----            | 24,462    | 25,517    | 24,485    | 7.9   | 8.3   | 7.9   |
| Middle Atlantic:            |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| New York-----               | 148,012   | 155,660   | 161,872   | 8.2   | 8.5   | 8.8   |
| New Jersey-----             | 56,449    | 59,723    | 58,476    | 7.7   | 8.1   | 8.0   |
| Pennsylvania-----           | 96,663    | 101,076   | 98,496    | 8.2   | 8.5   | 8.3   |
| East North Central:         |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| Ohio-----                   | 102,458   | 99,524    | 96,297    | 9.5   | 9.3   | 9.0   |
| Indiana-----                | 60,524    | 58,428    | 61,282    | 11.4  | 11.0  | 11.6  |
| Illinois-----               | 116,419   | 119,843   | 118,592   | 10.5  | 10.7  | 10.5  |
| Michigan-----               | 88,023    | 94,486    | 94,447    | 9.7   | 10.4  | 10.5  |
| Wisconsin-----              | 38,248    | 40,043    | 38,608    | 8.4   | 8.8   | 8.5   |
| West North Central:         |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| Minnesota-----              | 33,547    | 32,971    | 32,227    | 8.6   | 8.5   | 8.3   |
| Iowa-----                   | 27,209    | 27,544    | 26,603    | 9.5   | 9.5   | 9.2   |
| Missouri-----               | 51,434    | 51,990    | 53,372    | 10.8  | 10.9  | 11.2  |
| North Dakota-----           | 5,905     | 5,875     | 5,886     | 9.3   | 9.2   | 9.3   |
| South Dakota-----           | 11,928    | 12,291    | 12,151    | 17.5  | 17.9  | 17.9  |
| Nebraska-----               | 13,873    | 13,957    | 14,106    | 9.0   | 9.1   | 9.2   |
| Kansas-----                 | 24,491    | 24,592    | 23,878    | 10.8  | 10.8  | 10.5  |
| South Atlantic:             |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| Delaware-----               | 4,143     | 4,298     | 4,362     | 7.2   | 7.5   | 7.6   |
| Maryland-----               | 47,013    | 48,168    | 49,924    | 11.5  | 11.8  | 12.3  |
| District of Columbia-----   | 5,271     | 5,661     | 6,292     | 7.3   | 7.6   | 8.4   |
| Virginia-----               | 56,617    | 58,431    | 55,863    | 11.5  | 12.1  | 11.7  |
| West Virginia-----          | 17,409    | 18,199    | 18,270    | 9.7   | 10.1  | 10.2  |
| North Carolina-----         | 45,015    | 46,951    | 48,766    | 8.4   | 8.9   | 9.3   |
| South Carolina-----         | 52,996    | 56,876    | 59,983    | 19.0  | 20.9  | 22.3  |
| Georgia-----                | 68,656    | 70,373    | 68,756    | 13.7  | 14.7  | 14.5  |
| Florida-----                | 90,337    | 89,587    | 82,176    | 11.2  | 11.7  | 11.2  |
| East South Central:         |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| Kentucky-----               | 32,800    | 34,379    | 35,423    | 9.8   | 10.3  | 10.7  |
| Tennessee-----              | 54,606    | 56,285    | 56,184    | 13.2  | 13.6  | 13.6  |
| Alabama-----                | 46,811    | 47,997    | 49,784    | 13.1  | 13.6  | 14.1  |
| Mississippi-----            | 27,613    | 28,513    | 28,703    | 11.9  | 12.5  | 12.7  |
| West South Central:         |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| Arkansas-----               | 124,735   | 25,202    | 25,202    | 12.0  | 12.4  | 12.6  |
| Louisiana-----              | 38,185    | 39,498    | 38,981    | 10.1  | 10.5  | 10.4  |
| Oklahoma-----               | 40,160    | 41,567    | 40,787    | 14.8  | 15.5  | 15.5  |
| Texas-----                  | 153,002   | 152,162   | 149,009   | 12.7  | 12.9  | 12.8  |
| Mountain:                   |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| Montana-----                | 7,741     | 7,751     | 7,674     | 10.5  | 10.8  | 10.7  |
| Idaho-----                  | 12,489    | 12,256    | 12,086    | 15.6  | 15.9  | 16.0  |
| Wyoming-----                | 6,048     | 5,506     | 5,357     | 16.8  | 15.6  | 15.5  |
| Colorado-----               | 25,999    | 27,991    | 27,095    | 11.5  | 11.5  | 11.5  |
| New Mexico-----             | 15,988    | 15,178    | 14,157    | 14.2  | 13.7  | 13.2  |
| Arizona-----                | 27,038    | 26,180    | 23,518    | 12.6  | 12.7  | 11.6  |
| Utah-----                   | 15,166    | 14,618    | 13,935    | 12.9  | 12.8  | 12.4  |
| Nevada-----                 | 103,287   | 102,078   | 106,348   | 180.3 | 186.3 | 199.5 |
| Pacific:                    |           |           |           |       |       |       |
| Washington-----             | 41,577    | 41,365    | 41,618    | 12.0  | 12.1  | 12.2  |
| Oregon-----                 | 20,002    | 19,661    | 19,265    | 8.8   | 8.8   | 8.8   |
| California-----             | 160,887   | 169,320   | 175,924   | 7.7   | 8.2   | 8.6   |
| Alaska-----                 | 3,949     | 3,872     | 3,828     | 11.7  | 11.7  | 11.8  |
| Hawaii-----                 | 9,649     | 9,776     | 9,750     | 11.4  | 11.8  | 11.9  |

<sup>1</sup>Data are incomplete.

<sup>2</sup>Includes marriage licenses issued for some counties.

# MONTHLY VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

3

Table 4. MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES BY AGE, PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS, AND COLOR OF BRIDE AND GROOM: MARRIAGE-REGISTRATION AREA,<sup>1</sup> 1974

[By place of occurrence. Based on sample data. Rates per 1,000 population in specified group, estimated as of July 1, 1974. Figures for age not stated are distributed]

| Age and previous marital status                      | Bride     |                    |           |           |                               | Groom     |                    |           |           |                               |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|
|                                                      | Total     |                    | White     | All other | Color not stated <sup>3</sup> | Total     |                    | White     | All other | Color not stated <sup>3</sup> |
|                                                      | Number    | Rate <sup>2</sup>  |           |           |                               | Number    | Rate <sup>2</sup>  |           |           |                               |
| <b>ALL MARRIAGES</b>                                 |           |                    |           |           |                               |           |                    |           |           |                               |
| Total-----                                           | 1,791,452 | 61.0               | 1,043,030 | 144,014   | 604,408                       | 1,791,452 | 73.8               | 1,040,372 | 146,672   | 604,408                       |
| 14-17 years-----                                     | 160,872   | 25.9               | 122,820   | 14,865    | 43,187                        | 31,468    | 4.2                | 23,517    | 1,524     | 6,627                         |
| 18-19 years-----                                     | 382,891   | 129.9              | 233,755   | 27,960    | 121,176                       | 222,097   | 67.9               | 142,753   | 16,799    | 62,545                        |
| 20-24 years-----                                     | 645,709   | 174.6              | 365,058   | 48,769    | 231,902                       | 727,704   | 150.9              | 421,549   | 57,414    | 248,741                       |
| 25-44 years-----                                     | 480,300   | 116.7              | 249,366   | 42,283    | 168,651                       | 639,182   | 148.4              | 353,150   | 55,116    | 229,916                       |
| 25-29 years-----                                     | 236,619   | 158.9              | 125,658   | 21,113    | 89,848                        | 342,599   | 176.1              | 183,859   | 27,691    | 124,949                       |
| 30-34 years-----                                     | 107,918   | 117.8              | 58,727    | 9,594     | 39,597                        | 148,775   | 154.0              | 81,512    | 13,356    | 53,907                        |
| 35-44 years-----                                     | 115,763   | 75.2               | 65,001    | 11,576    | 39,186                        | 146,803   | 105.5              | 81,679    | 14,069    | 51,060                        |
| 45-64 years-----                                     | 105,565   | 21.4               | 62,034    | 8,346     | 34,565                        | 139,713   | 54.3               | 80,178    | 12,972    | 46,563                        |
| 65 years and over-----                               | 16,115    | 2.3                | 9,997     | 1,191     | 4,927                         | 32,288    | 17.2               | 19,425    | 2,847     | 10,016                        |
| Median age-----                                      | 22.0      | ...                | 21.7      | 22.6      | 22.5                          | 24.2      | ...                | 23.9      | 24.8      | 24.6                          |
| <b>FIRST MARRIAGES</b>                               |           |                    |           |           |                               |           |                    |           |           |                               |
| Total-----                                           | 1,271,284 | 74.8               | 712,046   | 109,825   | 449,413                       | 1,252,770 | 61.8               | 703,607   | 103,763   | 440,400                       |
| 14-17 years-----                                     | 176,169   | 25.2               | 119,185   | 14,300    | 42,684                        | 30,852    | 4.2                | 22,837    | 1,469     | 6,576                         |
| 18-19 years-----                                     | 364,704   | 133.5              | 219,328   | 26,971    | 118,405                       | 217,675   | 66.6               | 139,168   | 16,352    | 62,155                        |
| 20-24 years-----                                     | 546,290   | 159.5              | 294,991   | 44,017    | 207,282                       | 665,245   | 141.8              | 376,725   | 53,809    | 234,711                       |
| 25-44 years-----                                     | 173,465   | 85.7               | 74,468    | 22,733    | 76,262                        | 321,605   | 100.4              | 157,439   | 34,307    | 129,859                       |
| 25-29 years-----                                     | 123,286   | 122.3              | 55,253    | 14,391    | 53,642                        | 231,731   | 141.0              | 118,550   | 21,223    | 91,958                        |
| 30-34 years-----                                     | 30,854    | 66.2               | 12,548    | 4,355     | 13,931                        | 57,317    | 83.3               | 25,134    | 7,520     | 24,663                        |
| 35-44 years-----                                     | 19,343    | 35.0               | 6,667     | 3,987     | 6,889                         | 32,557    | 37.4               | 13,755    | 5,564     | 13,238                        |
| 45-64 years-----                                     | 10,020    | 9.6                | 3,748     | 1,742     | 4,530                         | 15,783    | 12.6               | 6,814     | 2,572     | 6,397                         |
| 65 years and over-----                               | 638       | 0.8                | 326       | 62        | 250                           | 1,580     | 3.5                | 624       | 254       | 702                           |
| Median age-----                                      | 20.6      | ...                | 20.2      | 21.1      | 21.1                          | 22.5      | ...                | 22.1      | 23.1      | 23.0                          |
| <b>RE-MARRIAGES</b>                                  |           |                    |           |           |                               |           |                    |           |           |                               |
| Total-----                                           | 493,841   | 40.0               | 310,747   | 31,302    | 151,792                       | 514,163   | 129.1              | 317,440   | 35,317    | 161,406                       |
| 14-19 years-----                                     | 13,564    | *                  | 11,034    | 374       | 2,156                         | 1,722     | *                  | 1,511     | 71        | 140                           |
| 20-24 years-----                                     | 87,088    | <sup>4</sup> 332.1 | 59,760    | 3,809     | 23,499                        | 48,937    | <sup>4</sup> 367.1 | 33,757    | 2,312     | 12,868                        |
| 25-44 years-----                                     | 282,780   | 147.3              | 172,309   | 18,852    | 91,619                        | 309,765   | 231.9              | 180,431   | 20,107    | 99,227                        |
| 25-29 years-----                                     | 110,601   | 230.4              | 68,448    | 6,290     | 35,863                        | 106,359   | 355.7              | 67,734    | 6,043     | 32,582                        |
| 30-34 years-----                                     | 76,363    | 189.7              | 45,787    | 5,149     | 25,427                        | 90,024    | 324.1              | 55,367    | 5,684     | 29,043                        |
| 35-44 years-----                                     | 55,816    | 97.0               | 58,074    | 7,413     | 30,329                        | 113,312   | 217.5              | 67,330    | 8,380     | 37,602                        |
| 45-64 years-----                                     | 55,023    | 24.4               | 58,043    | 7,138     | 29,842                        | 123,096   | 93.3               | 72,887    | 10,244    | 39,865                        |
| 65 years and over-----                               | 15,406    | 2.5                | 9,601     | 1,129     | 4,676                         | 30,643    | 21.4               | 18,754    | 2,583     | 9,306                         |
| Median age-----                                      | 32.1      | ...                | 31.5      | 35.0      | 32.6                          | 35.7      | ...                | 35.0      | 39.0      | 36.3                          |
| Previously widowed <sup>5</sup> -----                | 73,530    | 9.1                | 49,687    | 6,048     | 17,795                        | 62,890    | 38.9               | 40,621    | 6,070     | 16,199                        |
| 14-24 years-----                                     | 2,661     | *                  | 1,936     | 208       | 517                           | 684       | *                  | 449       | 130       | 115                           |
| 25-44 years-----                                     | 20,087    | <sup>6</sup> 61.8  | 13,015    | 2,057     | 5,015                         | 9,240     | <sup>6</sup> 136.1 | 5,776     | 1,035     | 2,431                         |
| 45-64 years-----                                     | 39,245    | 16.3               | 26,840    | 2,986     | 9,419                         | 32,150    | 69.6               | 20,434    | 3,262     | 8,454                         |
| 65 years and over-----                               | 11,537    | 2.2                | 7,896     | 797       | 2,844                         | 20,806    | 19.2               | 13,962    | 1,645     | 5,199                         |
| Median age-----                                      | 51.9      | ...                | 52.1      | 49.8      | 52.2                          | 59.2      | ...                | 59.8      | 57.5      | 59.0                          |
| Previously divorced <sup>5</sup> -----               | 348,007   | 121.7              | 243,076   | 22,737    | 82,194                        | 376,026   | 193.7              | 259,945   | 26,212    | 89,669                        |
| 14-19 years-----                                     | 11,134    | *                  | 9,821     | 337       | 976                           | 1,397     | *                  | 1,333     | 24        | 40                            |
| 20-24 years-----                                     | 71,601    | <sup>4</sup> 336.3 | 54,837    | 3,323     | 13,391                        | 40,306    | <sup>4</sup> 365.8 | 31,348    | 2,005     | 6,953                         |
| 25-44 years-----                                     | 221,853   | 166.0              | 149,383   | 15,266    | 57,304                        | 255,301   | 286.9              | 174,895   | 17,292    | 63,124                        |
| 45-64 years-----                                     | 41,566    | 41.0               | 27,772    | 3,583     | 10,211                        | 73,233    | 101.6              | 48,438    | 6,181     | 18,619                        |
| 65 years and over-----                               | 1,753     | 6.7                | 1,213     | 228       | 312                           | 5,784     | 34.6               | 3,941     | 710       | 1,133                         |
| Median age-----                                      | 30.0      | ...                | 29.5      | 32.7      | 30.9                          | 33.6      | ...                | 33.1      | 35.9      | 34.7                          |
| Not stated if widowed or divorced <sup>7</sup> ----- | 72,304    | ...                | 17,984    | 2,517     | 51,803                        | 75,247    | ...                | 16,874    | 3,035     | 55,339                        |
| NOT STATED IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED <sup>8</sup> -----  | 26,327    | ...                | 20,237    | 2,887     | 3,203                         | 24,519    | ...                | 19,325    | 2,592     | 2,602                         |

<sup>1</sup>In 1974 the MRA consisted of the District of Columbia and all the States in the Union except 9: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington. It covered 80 percent of the marriages registered in the United States. Sampling errors of estimates for the MRA appear in table 5.

<sup>2</sup>Base 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.

<sup>3</sup>Figures include data for California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, and Ohio; these areas did not require reporting of race or color.

<sup>4</sup>Rates are shown for ages 14-24 years.

<sup>5</sup>Data exclude remarriages in Michigan, Ohio, and South Carolina.

<sup>6</sup>Rates are shown for ages 14-44 years.

<sup>7</sup>Data include all remarriages in Michigan, Ohio, and South Carolina.

<sup>8</sup>Figures are included in all marriages.

GPO 525-559

### Place and Time of Occurrence

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

### Sources of Data

Figures in tables 2 and 3 are based on totals reported by States and counties. All other figures in the tables are based on data tabulated from 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 1972, 1973, and 1974, 41 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. Florida supplied a State-coded tape of its marriage records and 100 percent were used by NCHS. One-half of all records were included from 7 States and the District of Columbia, one-fifth from 9 States, one-tenth from 13 States, and one-twentieth from 7 States. The total sample size was 290,011 marriages. Sampling errors shown in the following table are for frequencies which equal a specified percent of the MRA in 1974.

### Sampling Errors

All statistics for the MRA are estimates based on the systematic sample of marriages described above; there-

fore, these statistics are subject to sampling errors. A sampling error is a measure of variations that occur by chance between sample estimates and the actual quantity being estimated. Chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate would differ from the true value by less than the sampling error, and about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the sampling error.

APPROXIMATE SAMPLING ERRORS OF ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF MARRIAGES SHOWN IN TABLE 4

| Total MRA marriages in 1974 | Percent of total MRA marriages in subclass | Sampling error |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1,791,500                   | 1 or 99                                    | 458            |
|                             | 2 or 98                                    | 645            |
|                             | 3 or 97                                    | 786            |
|                             | 4 or 96                                    | 903            |
|                             | 5 or 95                                    | 1,004          |
|                             | 7 or 93                                    | 1,175          |
|                             | 10 or 90                                   | 1,382          |
|                             | 15 or 85                                   | 1,645          |
|                             | 20 or 80                                   | 1,843          |
|                             | 25 or 75                                   | 1,995          |
|                             | 50                                         | 2,303          |

#### How to use the Sampling Error Table

For any estimate of marriage shown in table 4, determine its ratio to total MRA marriages. Then look in the appropriate row on the table for the percentage figures closest to the estimate to determine the sampling error. For example, there were 348,007 marriages to women who had been previously divorced or 19.4 percent of all MRA marriages. Since 19.4 percent is between 15 and 20 percent, the sampling error is between 1,645 and 1,843, or by interpolation, about 1,819 marriages. Chances are about 68 out of 100 that the actual number of marriages to divorces is between 346,188 and 349,826 ( $348,007 \pm 1,819$ ).

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