

# Monthly



(HRA) 77-1120  
VOL. 26, No. 2  
SUPPLEMENT 2  
MAY 19, 1977

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
Public Health Service  
Health Resources Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

## VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

*Advance Report*

### Final Divorce Statistics, 1975

FROM THE

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

During 1975, for the first time, more than 1 million divorces were granted in the United States. The total was 1,036,000, which represented an increase of 6 percent over the total of 977,000 divorces granted in 1974.

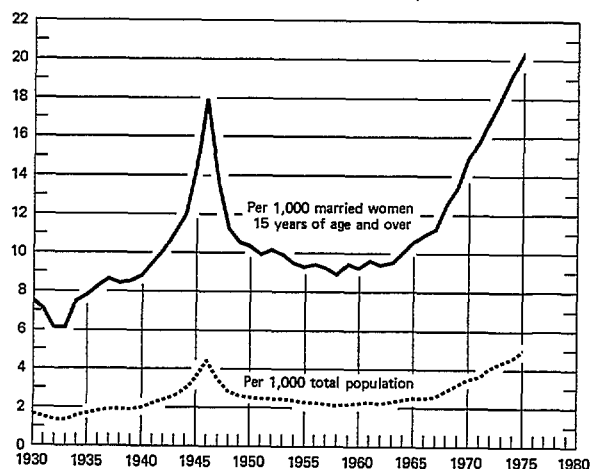
The national divorce rate for 1975 was 4.9 per 1,000 population, the highest annual divorce rate ever observed for this country, and almost 7 percent higher than the rate of 4.6 observed in 1974. Provisional data indicate a further increase to a rate of 5.0 for 1976.

The more specific rate, divorces per 1,000 married women, reached a record high for the third consecutive year. This rate was 20.3 for 1975, indicating that more than 2 percent of all married women in the United States divorced

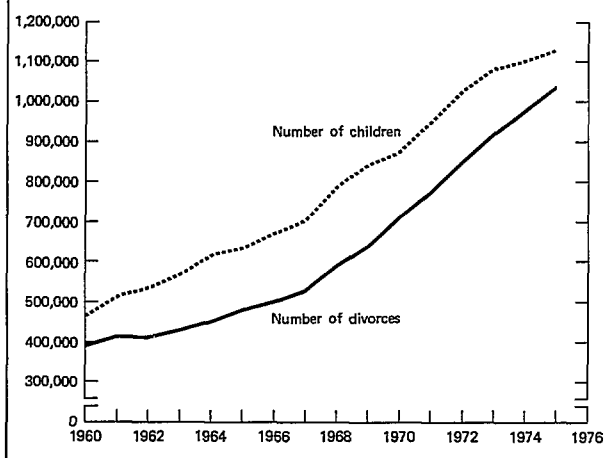
during this year. Prior to 1973, the highest level for this rate was 17.9, recorded in 1946. The divorce rate per 1,000 married women has increased each year since 1963; it more than doubled between 1963 and 1974, from 9.6 to 19.3 per 1,000 married women. The largest increases in this rate took place in 1968 through 1970, averaging 11 percent annually for these 3 years. Between 1963 and 1967 the average annual increase was 4.2 percent, and since 1970 the increase has averaged 7.2 percent.

The divorce rate shows pronounced variation between regions of the United States. In 1975 the rate was 3.1 per 1,000 population in the Northeast Region, 4.5 in the North Central, 5.5 in the South, and 6.5 in the West Region.

DIVORCE RATES: UNITED STATES, 1930-75



DIVORCES AND CHILDREN INVOLVED:  
UNITED STATES, 1960-76



According to sample data from the divorce-registration area (DRA), which includes 29 States, the median duration of marriages ending in divorce during 1975 remained unchanged from 1974. It was 6.5 years in both 1975 and 1974, having declined slightly from 6.6 years in 1973 (table 3). The median duration of marriage to divorce began to decline in 1964, a year later than the start of the current increase in the divorce rate. In 1963 the median duration was 7.5 years.

The national estimated number of children under 18 years of age involved in divorce was 1,123,000 in 1975; this is the fourth year with more than 1 million children affected by divorce (table 4). The total number of persons involved in divorce—husbands, wives, and children—was

3,195,000, more than double the number involved in divorce in 1965.

The average number of children per decree has declined from a maximum of 1.36 in 1964 to 1.08 in 1975, even though the number of children involved in divorce has consistently increased each year since 1964. In the DRA, 43 percent of couples divorced in 1975 had no children under 18 years of age, 44 percent had small families of one or two children, and the remaining 13 percent had families of three children or more.

The statistics for the divorce-registration area presented in this report are based on sample data and consequently are subject to sampling variability. Further discussion of sampling variability appears in the Technical Notes.

#### 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<br>reliability or precision----- | *   |

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Table 1. DIVORCES AND RATES: UNITED STATES, EACH REGION, DIVISION, AND STATE, 1973-75

[Data are counts of decrees granted (including reported annulments and dissolutions of marriage) supplied by States except as noted. Figures for the divorce-registration States differ slightly from those based on sample data shown in table 5. Rates per 1,000 population in each area estimated as of July 1, 1973, 1974, and 1975]

| Region, division,<br>and State        | Number    |         |          | Rate |      |      | Region, division,<br>and State | Number  |         |         | Rate |      |      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------|----------|------|------|------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|------|------|------|
|                                       | 1975      | 1974    | 1973     | 1975 | 1974 | 1973 |                                | 1975    | 1974    | 1973    | 1975 | 1974 | 1973 |
| United States <sup>1</sup> .....      | 1,036,000 | 977,000 | 915,000  | 4.9  | 4.6  | 4.4  | West North Central:            |         |         |         |      |      |      |
| Regions:                              |           |         |          |      |      |      | Minnesota.....                 | 13,188  | 12,237  | 11,156  | 3.4  | 3.1  | 2.9  |
| Northeast.....                        | 153,000   | 146,000 | 136,000  | 3.1  | 3.0  | 2.7  | Iowa.....                      | 10,304  | 9,480   | 9,151   | 3.6  | 3.3  | 3.2  |
| North Central.....                    | 1261,000  | 250,000 | 1234,000 | 4.5  | 4.3  | 4.1  | Missouri.....                  | 24,527  | 22,088  | 21,777  | 5.1  | 4.6  | 4.6  |
| South <sup>1</sup> .....              | 374,000   | 348,000 | 326,000  | 5.5  | 5.2  | 4.9  | North Dakota.....              | 1,713   | 1,588   | 1,422   | 2.7  | 2.5  | 2.2  |
| West.....                             | 248,000   | 233,000 | 219,000  | 6.5  | 6.3  | 6.0  | South Dakota.....              | 2,228   | 2,016   | 1,802   | 3.3  | 3.0  | 2.6  |
|                                       |           |         |          |      |      |      | Nebraska.....                  | 5,570   | 5,193   | 4,924   | 3.6  | 3.4  | 3.2  |
|                                       |           |         |          |      |      |      | Kansas.....                    | 12,559  | 11,484  | 10,472  | 5.5  | 5.1  | 4.6  |
| Northeast:                            |           |         |          |      |      |      | South Atlantic:                |         |         |         |      |      |      |
| New England.....                      | 43,182    | 240,034 | 35,029   | 3.5  | 23.3 | 2.9  | Delaware.....                  | 2,761   | 2,354   | 2,188   | 4.8  | 4.1  | 3.8  |
| Middle Atlantic.....                  | 110,013   | 106,457 | 100,645  | 3.0  | 2.9  | 2.7  | Maryland.....                  | 15,398  | 15,070  | 14,145  | 3.8  | 3.7  | 3.5  |
| North Central:                        |           |         |          |      |      |      | District of Columbia...        | 3,789   | 3,176   | 2,975   | 5.3  | 4.4  | 4.0  |
| East North Central <sup>2</sup> ..... | 186,205   | 185,708 | 166,485  | *    | 4.5  | *    | Virginia.....                  | 19,491  | 16,704  | 16,078  | 3.9  | 3.4  | 3.3  |
| West North Central.....               | 70,089    | 64,086  | 60,704   | 4.2  | 3.8  | 3.6  | West Virginia.....             | 8,632   | 7,176   | 7,056   | 4.8  | 4.0  | 3.9  |
| South:                                |           |         |          |      |      |      | North Carolina.....            | 22,107  | 20,049  | 18,532  | 4.1  | 3.7  | 3.5  |
| South Atlantic.....                   | 174,778   | 159,874 | 150,304  | 5.2  | 4.8  | 4.6  | South Carolina.....            | 9,671   | 8,816   | 8,266   | 3.4  | 3.2  | 3.0  |
| East South Central.....               | 74,423    | 70,505  | 66,290   | 5.5  | 5.3  | 5.0  | Georgia.....                   | 29,483  | 26,918  | 25,058  | 6.0  | 5.5  | 5.2  |
| West South Central <sup>2</sup> ..    | 122,783   | 115,935 | 106,597  | *    | *    | *    | Florida.....                   | 63,446  | 59,611  | 56,006  | 7.6  | 7.4  | 7.3  |
| West:                                 |           |         |          |      |      |      | East South Central:            |         |         |         |      |      |      |
| Mountain.....                         | 70,721    | 66,867  | 259,422  | 7.3  | 7.1  | *    | Kentucky.....                  | 14,508  | 13,791  | 13,030  | 4.3  | 4.1  | 3.9  |
| Pacific.....                          | 177,032   | 165,722 | 157,704  | 6.3  | 6.0  | 5.8  | Tennessee.....                 | 24,611  | 23,725  | 22,074  | 5.9  | 5.7  | 5.3  |
|                                       |           |         |          |      |      |      | Alabama.....                   | 23,001  | 21,123  | 20,399  | 6.4  | 5.9  | 5.8  |
| New England:                          |           |         |          |      |      |      | Mississippi.....               | 12,303  | 11,866  | 10,787  | 5.2  | 5.1  | 4.7  |
| Maine.....                            | 5,543     | 4,876   | 4,550    | 5.2  | 4.7  | 4.4  | West South Central:            |         |         |         |      |      |      |
| New Hampshire.....                    | 4,241     | 4,051   | 3,856    | 5.2  | 5.0  | 4.9  | Arkansas <sup>2</sup> .....    | 16,737  | 15,840  | 15,219  | 7.9  | 7.7  | 7.5  |
| Vermont.....                          | 1,921     | 21,623  | 1,582    | 4.1  | 23.5 | 3.4  | Louisiana <sup>2</sup> .....   | 8,720   | 7,812   | 7,294   | *    | *    | *    |
| Massachusetts.....                    | 16,581    | 16,116  | 14,539   | 2.8  | 2.8  | 2.5  | Oklahoma.....                  | 20,641  | 22,521  | 19,932  | 7.6  | 8.3  | 7.5  |
| Rhode Island.....                     | 2,658     | 2,522   | 2,423    | 2.9  | 2.7  | 2.5  | Texas.....                     | 76,685  | 69,762  | 64,152  | 6.3  | 5.8  | 5.4  |
| Connecticut.....                      | 12,238    | 10,846  | 8,079    | 4.0  | 3.5  | 2.6  | Mountain:                      |         |         |         |      |      |      |
| Middle Atlantic:                      |           |         |          |      |      |      | Montana.....                   | 4,286   | 3,940   | 3,772   | 5.7  | 5.4  | 5.2  |
| New York.....                         | 55,612    | 54,015  | 47,886   | 3.1  | 3.0  | 2.6  | Idaho.....                     | 5,203   | 4,808   | 4,341   | 6.3  | 6.0  | 5.6  |
| New Jersey.....                       | 19,446    | 19,870  | 21,754   | 2.7  | 2.7  | 3.0  | Wyoming.....                   | 2,835   | 2,523   | 2,275   | 7.6  | 7.0  | 6.4  |
| Pennsylvania.....                     | 34,955    | 32,572  | 31,005   | 3.0  | 2.8  | 2.6  | Colorado.....                  | 15,733  | 15,082  | 14,370  | 6.2  | 6.0  | 5.9  |
| East North Central:                   |           |         |          |      |      |      | New Mexico.....                | 8,413   | 7,863   | 25,383  | 7.3  | 7.0  | *    |
| Ohio.....                             | 52,626    | 49,239  | 48,001   | 4.9  | 4.6  | 4.5  | Arizona.....                   | 17,577  | 16,936  | 14,036  | 7.9  | 7.9  | 6.8  |
| Indiana <sup>2</sup> .....            | 28,755    | 33,908  | 22,322   | *    | 36.4 | *    | Utah.....                      | 6,132   | 5,670   | 5,270   | 5.1  | 4.8  | 4.6  |
| Illinois.....                         | 50,954    | 48,361  | 45,152   | 4.6  | 4.3  | 4.0  | Nevada.....                    | 10,542  | 10,045  | 9,975   | 17.8 | 17.5 | 18.2 |
| Michigan.....                         | 40,782    | 41,850  | 39,415   | 4.5  | 4.6  | 4.4  | Pacific:                       |         |         |         |      |      |      |
| Wisconsin.....                        | 13,088    | 12,350  | 11,595   | 2.8  | 2.7  | 2.5  | Washington.....                | 25,848  | 23,909  | 21,581  | 7.3  | 6.9  | 6.3  |
|                                       |           |         |          |      |      |      | Oregon.....                    | 15,562  | 13,538  | 12,382  | 6.8  | 6.0  | 5.6  |
|                                       |           |         |          |      |      |      | California.....                | 128,492 | 121,714 | 117,509 | 6.1  | 5.8  | 5.7  |
|                                       |           |         |          |      |      |      | Alaska.....                    | 2,865   | 2,450   | 2,062   | 8.1  | 7.3  | 6.2  |
|                                       |           |         |          |      |      |      | Hawaii.....                    | 4,265   | 4,111   | 4,170   | 4.9  | 4.9  | 5.0  |

<sup>1</sup>Figures include estimates.

<sup>2</sup>Data are incomplete.

<sup>3</sup>Data include divorce petitions filed for some counties.

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Table 2. DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS AND RATES: UNITED STATES, 1950-75

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

| Year      | Divorces and annulments | Rate per 1,000 <sup>1</sup> — |                                 |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|           |                         | Total population              | Married women 15 years and over |
| 1975..... | 1,036,000               | 4.9                           | 20.3                            |
| 1974..... | 977,000                 | 4.6                           | 19.3                            |
| 1973..... | 915,000                 | 4.4                           | 18.2                            |
| 1972..... | 845,000                 | 4.1                           | 17.0                            |
| 1971..... | 773,000                 | 3.7                           | 15.8                            |
| 1970..... | 708,000                 | 3.5                           | 14.9                            |
| 1969..... | 639,000                 | 3.2                           | 13.4                            |
| 1968..... | 584,000                 | 2.9                           | 12.5                            |
| 1967..... | 523,000                 | 2.6                           | 11.2                            |
| 1966..... | 499,000                 | 2.5                           | 10.9                            |
| 1965..... | 479,000                 | 2.5                           | 10.6                            |
| 1964..... | 450,000                 | 2.4                           | 10.0                            |
| 1963..... | 428,000                 | 2.3                           | 9.6                             |
| 1962..... | 413,000                 | 2.2                           | 9.4                             |
| 1961..... | 414,000                 | 2.3                           | 9.6                             |
| 1960..... | 393,000                 | 2.2                           | 9.2                             |
| 1959..... | 395,000                 | 2.2                           | 9.3                             |
| 1958..... | 368,000                 | 2.1                           | 8.9                             |
| 1957..... | 381,000                 | 2.2                           | 9.2                             |
| 1956..... | 382,000                 | 2.3                           | 9.4                             |
| 1955..... | 377,000                 | 2.3                           | 9.3                             |
| 1954..... | 379,000                 | 2.4                           | 9.5                             |
| 1953..... | 390,000                 | 2.5                           | 9.9                             |
| 1952..... | 392,000                 | 2.5                           | 10.1                            |
| 1951..... | 381,000                 | 2.5                           | 9.9                             |
| 1950..... | 385,000                 | 2.6                           | 10.3                            |

<sup>1</sup>Data are based on population enumerated as of April 1 for 1950, 1960, and 1970, and estimated as of July 1 for all other years.

Table 3. MEDIAN DURATION OF MARRIAGE PRIOR TO DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT: DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA AND EACH REGISTRATION STATE, 1973-75

[Based on sample data. Medians computed on data by single years, excluding duration of marriage not stated. The divorce-registration area included 29 States in 1973, 1974, and 1975]

| Area                           | Median duration of marriage |                  |                  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                | 1975                        | 1974             | 1973             |
| Divorce-registration area..... | 6.5                         | 6.5              | 6.6              |
| Alabama.....                   | 4.7                         | 5.0              | 5.3              |
| Alaska.....                    | 5.1                         | 5.1              | 5.3              |
| California.....                | 6.8                         | 6.7              | 6.9              |
| Connecticut.....               | 8.2                         | 8.1              | 8.4              |
| Georgia.....                   | 5.2                         | 5.2              | 5.2              |
| Hawaii.....                    | 5.4                         | 5.3              | 5.6              |
| Idaho.....                     | 4.8                         | 4.7              | 4.5              |
| Illinois.....                  | 6.1                         | 6.1              | 6.5              |
| Iowa.....                      | 5.5                         | 5.6              | 5.6              |
| Kansas.....                    | 5.2                         | 5.2              | 5.2              |
| Kentucky.....                  | 5.9                         | 5.5              | 5.5              |
| Maryland.....                  | 8.3                         | 8.5              | 9.0              |
| Michigan.....                  | 6.8                         | <sup>1</sup> 6.7 | <sup>1</sup> 6.6 |
| Missouri.....                  | 5.6                         | 5.5              | 5.4              |
| Montana.....                   | 4.7                         | 4.8              | 4.8              |
| Nebraska.....                  | 5.9                         | 5.9              | 5.7              |
| New York.....                  | 8.0                         | 8.0              | 8.7              |
| Ohio.....                      | 6.0                         | 6.3              | 6.2              |
| Oregon.....                    | 5.8                         | 5.8              | 5.8              |
| Pennsylvania.....              | 7.7                         | 7.7              | 7.6              |
| Rhode Island.....              | 7.8                         | 8.0              | 8.4              |
| South Carolina.....            | 6.6                         | 6.8              | 6.9              |
| South Dakota.....              | 5.6                         | 5.6              | 5.9              |
| Tennessee.....                 | 5.3                         | 5.2              | 5.2              |
| Utah.....                      | 4.9                         | 4.9              | 4.8              |
| Vermont.....                   | 7.5                         | 7.9              | 7.9              |
| Virginia.....                  | 7.7                         | 7.8              | 7.9              |
| Wisconsin.....                 | 7.0                         | 7.2              | 7.4              |
| Wyoming.....                   | 4.7                         | 4.8              | 4.5              |

<sup>1</sup>Excludes data for Wayne County.

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**Table 4. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS:  
UNITED STATES, 1954-75**

[Refers only to events occurring within the United States. For 1960-75 estimated from frequencies based on sample; for all other years estimated from total counts. For estimating method see Technical Notes]

| Year                    | Estimated number of<br>children involved | Average number of<br>children per decree |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1975 .....              | 1,123,000                                | 1.08                                     |
| 1974 .....              | 1,099,000                                | 1.12                                     |
| 1973 .....              | 1,079,000                                | 1.17                                     |
| 1972 .....              | 1,021,000                                | 1.20                                     |
| 1971 .....              | 946,000                                  | 1.22                                     |
| 1970 .....              | 870,000                                  | 1.22                                     |
| 1969 .....              | 840,000                                  | 1.31                                     |
| 1968 .....              | 784,000                                  | 1.34                                     |
| 1967 .....              | 701,000                                  | 1.34                                     |
| 1966 .....              | 669,000                                  | 1.34                                     |
| 1965 .....              | 630,000                                  | 1.32                                     |
| 1964 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 613,000                                  | 1.36                                     |
| 1963 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 562,000                                  | 1.31                                     |
| 1962 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 532,000                                  | 1.29                                     |
| 1961 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 516,000                                  | 1.25                                     |
| 1960 .....              | 463,000                                  | 1.18                                     |
| 1959 .....              | 468,000                                  | 1.18                                     |
| 1958 .....              | 398,000                                  | 1.08                                     |
| 1957 .....              | 379,000                                  | 0.99                                     |
| 1956 .....              | 361,000                                  | 0.95                                     |
| 1955 .....              | 347,000                                  | 0.92                                     |
| 1954 .....              | 341,000                                  | 0.90                                     |

<sup>1</sup>Revised.

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Table 5. DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN REPORTED: DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA AND EACH REGISTRATION STATE, 1975

[Based on sample data. Data related to children under 18 years of age]

| Area                           | All divorces and annulments | Number of children reported |         |         |        |        |           |            |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|-----------|------------|
|                                |                             | None                        | 1       | 2       | 3      | 4      | 5 or more | Not stated |
| Divorce-registration area..... | 625,676                     | 257,444                     | 153,225 | 113,400 | 48,129 | 18,118 | 9,768     | 25,592     |
| Alabama .....                  | 23,120                      | 10,110                      | 6,110   | 3,680   | 1,540  | 520    | 270       | 890        |
| Alaska .....                   | 2,856                       | 1,304                       | 692     | 478     | 222    | 84     | 38        | 38         |
| California.....                | 128,300                     | 50,830                      | 30,180  | 23,280  | 7,960  | 2,610  | 1,180     | 12,260     |
| Connecticut.....               | 12,155                      | 4,550                       | 2,630   | 2,565   | 1,275  | 395    | 230       | 510        |
| Georgia .....                  | 29,450                      | 13,180                      | 7,650   | 4,700   | 2,140  | 720    | 450       | 610        |
| Hawaii .....                   | 4,262                       | 1,796                       | 970     | 846     | 366    | 172    | 96        | 16         |
| Idaho <sup>1</sup> .....       | 5,198                       | 2,348                       | 1,186   | 952     | 418    | 152    | 80        | 62         |
| Illinois .....                 | 50,920                      | 21,650                      | 11,410  | 8,930   | 4,260  | 1,520  | 1,100     | 2,050      |
| Iowa .....                     | 10,245                      | 3,605                       | 2,725   | 2,025   | 835    | 395    | 190       | 470        |
| Kansas .....                   | 12,565                      | 5,500                       | 3,220   | 2,155   | 1,035  | 395    | 200       | 60         |
| Kentucky .....                 | 14,600                      | 6,180                       | 3,700   | 2,590   | 900    | 400    | 360       | 470        |
| Maryland .....                 | 15,420                      | 6,330                       | 3,990   | 2,810   | 1,240  | 520    | 190       | 340        |
| Michigan .....                 | 40,870                      | 16,080                      | 8,810   | 7,160   | 2,980  | 1,310  | 600       | 3,930      |
| Missouri .....                 | 24,581                      | 10,981                      | 6,347   | 4,434   | 1,709  | 636    | 368       | 106        |
| Montana .....                  | 4,304                       | 1,904                       | 1,018   | 766     | 346    | 126    | 62        | 82         |
| Nebraska <sup>1</sup> .....    | 5,617                       | 2,160                       | 1,436   | 1,146   | 533    | 221    | 118       | 3          |
| New York.....                  | 55,612                      | 23,009                      | 12,792  | 10,648  | 4,817  | 1,798  | 950       | 1,598      |
| Ohio .....                     | 52,700                      | 21,070                      | 13,600  | 9,940   | 4,890  | 1,920  | 1,030     | 250        |
| Oregon .....                   | 15,520                      | 7,230                       | 3,570   | 2,980   | 1,220  | 340    | 140       | 40         |
| Pennsylvania.....              | 34,960                      | 12,990                      | 8,880   | 6,770   | 3,300  | 1,450  | 660       | 910        |
| Rhode Island .....             | 2,658                       | 910                         | 651     | 559     | 263    | 130    | 79        | 66         |
| South Carolina.....            | 9,668                       | 4,182                       | 2,657   | 1,775   | 713    | 216    | 109       | 16         |
| South Dakota .....             | 2,226                       | 833                         | 594     | 449     | 190    | 99     | 55        | 6          |
| Tennessee .....                | 24,690                      | 11,120                      | 7,020   | 3,790   | 1,520  | 510    | 370       | 360        |
| Utah .....                     | 5,892                       | 2,240                       | 1,362   | 1,126   | 486    | 258    | 132       | 288        |
| Vermont.....                   | 1,921                       | 700                         | 423     | 429     | 198    | 90     | 71        | 10         |
| Virginia.....                  | 19,440                      | 8,350                       | 5,670   | 3,260   | 1,310  | 580    | 250       | 20         |
| Wisconsin.....                 | 13,090                      | 5,070                       | 3,220   | 2,635   | 1,265  | 475    | 350       | 75         |
| Wyoming .....                  | 2,836                       | 1,232                       | 712     | 522     | 198    | 76     | 40        | 56         |

<sup>1</sup> Data are for number of children affected by decree.

This report represents summary tabulations from the final divorce statistics for 1975. More detailed tabulations for 1975 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.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

## Place and Time of Occurrence

Divorces and annulments are shown in all tables by State where decree was granted, which is also the State of legal residence of the plaintiff. The time of divorce or annulment is based on the date the decree was granted.

## Sources of Data

Figures in tables 1 and 2 are based on totals of divorce or annulment decrees tabulated and reported by States and counties. Figures in tables 3 and 5 are based on data tabulated from State-coded data tapes and from probability samples of divorce and annulment records selected and coded in the National Center for Health Statistics from copies of the records sent in by States participating in the divorce-registration area. For 1973-75, 29 States participated.

Figures in table 4 were estimated by using several methods. Estimates for 1954-59 were prepared on the assumption that the average number of children per decree for the Nation was identical with that for the reporting States. The figure for 1960 was based on a nationwide sample. Figures for 1961-75 were prepared by multiplying the national divorce rate total by the average number of children per decree found in the combined States with satisfactory reporting of the number of children. There were 16 such States in 1961-69, all 28 registration States in 1970, and 29 registration States in 1971-75.

## Divorce Samples

Sample data used to estimate the 1975 frequencies in table 5 and the frequencies used to compute median duration of marriage for 1973-75 in table 3 were selected by using four different sampling rates, including 10, 20, 50, or 100 percent of the divorces granted in a State. Samples were selected only from the States that participated in the divorce-registration area. Six States—Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Vermont—supplied State-coded data tapes of all their divorce records through the Cooperative Health Statistics System, and 100 percent of these records were used by NCHS. In all other States, sampling

rates depended on the size of the annual divorce total for each State.

Sampling errors are given in the table for the estimates which constitute 1, 10, 25, 50, 75, 90, and 99 percent of the annual divorce totals. These sampling errors are given for the divorce-registration area and each registration State for 1975 data and only for the divorce-registration area for 1973 and 1974 data.

SAMPLING ERROR OF ESTIMATED FREQUENCY  
EXPRESSED AS PERCENTAGE OF AREA TOTAL:  
DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA, 1973-75 AND  
EACH REGISTRATION STATE, 1975

[Figures for Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Vermont have no sampling errors in 1975 because all records were tabulated]

| Area and year                     | Sampling error of estimated frequency<br>expressed as percentage of area total |          |          |       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|-------|
|                                   | 1 or 99                                                                        | 10 or 90 | 25 or 75 | 50    |
| Divorce-registration<br>area:     |                                                                                |          |          |       |
| 1975 (29 States).....             | 206                                                                            | 620      | 894      | 1,033 |
| 1974 (29 States) <sup>1</sup> ... | 194                                                                            | 585      | 845      | 975   |
| 1973 (29 States).....             | 197                                                                            | 593      | 856      | 988   |
| Registration States,<br>1975:     |                                                                                |          |          |       |
| Alabama.....                      | 45                                                                             | 136      | 197      | 227   |
| Alaska.....                       | 5                                                                              | 16       | 23       | 27    |
| California.....                   | 107                                                                            | 323      | 466      | 538   |
| Connecticut.....                  | 22                                                                             | 66       | 96       | 111   |
| Georgia.....                      | 51                                                                             | 155      | 223      | 258   |
| Hawaii.....                       | 6                                                                              | 20       | 28       | 33    |
| Idaho.....                        | 7                                                                              | 22       | 31       | 36    |
| Illinois.....                     | 67                                                                             | 203      | 293      | 339   |
| Iowa.....                         | 20                                                                             | 61       | 88       | 102   |
| Kansas.....                       | 22                                                                             | 67       | 97       | 112   |
| Kentucky.....                     | 36                                                                             | 108      | 156      | 181   |
| Maryland.....                     | 37                                                                             | 112      | 161      | 186   |
| Michigan.....                     | 60                                                                             | 182      | 262      | 303   |
| Missouri.....                     | ...                                                                            | ...      | ...      | ...   |
| Montana.....                      | 6                                                                              | 20       | 28       | 33    |
| Nebraska.....                     | ...                                                                            | ...      | ...      | ...   |
| New York.....                     | ...                                                                            | ...      | ...      | ...   |
| Ohio.....                         | 68                                                                             | 206      | 298      | 344   |
| Oregon.....                       | 37                                                                             | 112      | 162      | 187   |
| Pennsylvania.....                 | 56                                                                             | 168      | 243      | 280   |
| Rhode Island.....                 | ...                                                                            | ...      | ...      | ...   |
| South Carolina.....               | ...                                                                            | ...      | ...      | ...   |
| South Dakota.....                 | ...                                                                            | ...      | ...      | ...   |
| Tennessee.....                    | 47                                                                             | 141      | 204      | 235   |
| Utah.....                         | 8                                                                              | 24       | 35       | 40    |
| Vermont.....                      | ...                                                                            | ...      | ...      | ...   |
| Virginia.....                     | 42                                                                             | 126      | 181      | 209   |
| Wisconsin.....                    | 23                                                                             | 69       | 99       | 114   |
| Wyoming.....                      | 5                                                                              | 16       | 23       | 27    |

<sup>1</sup>Excludes Wayne County, Michigan.