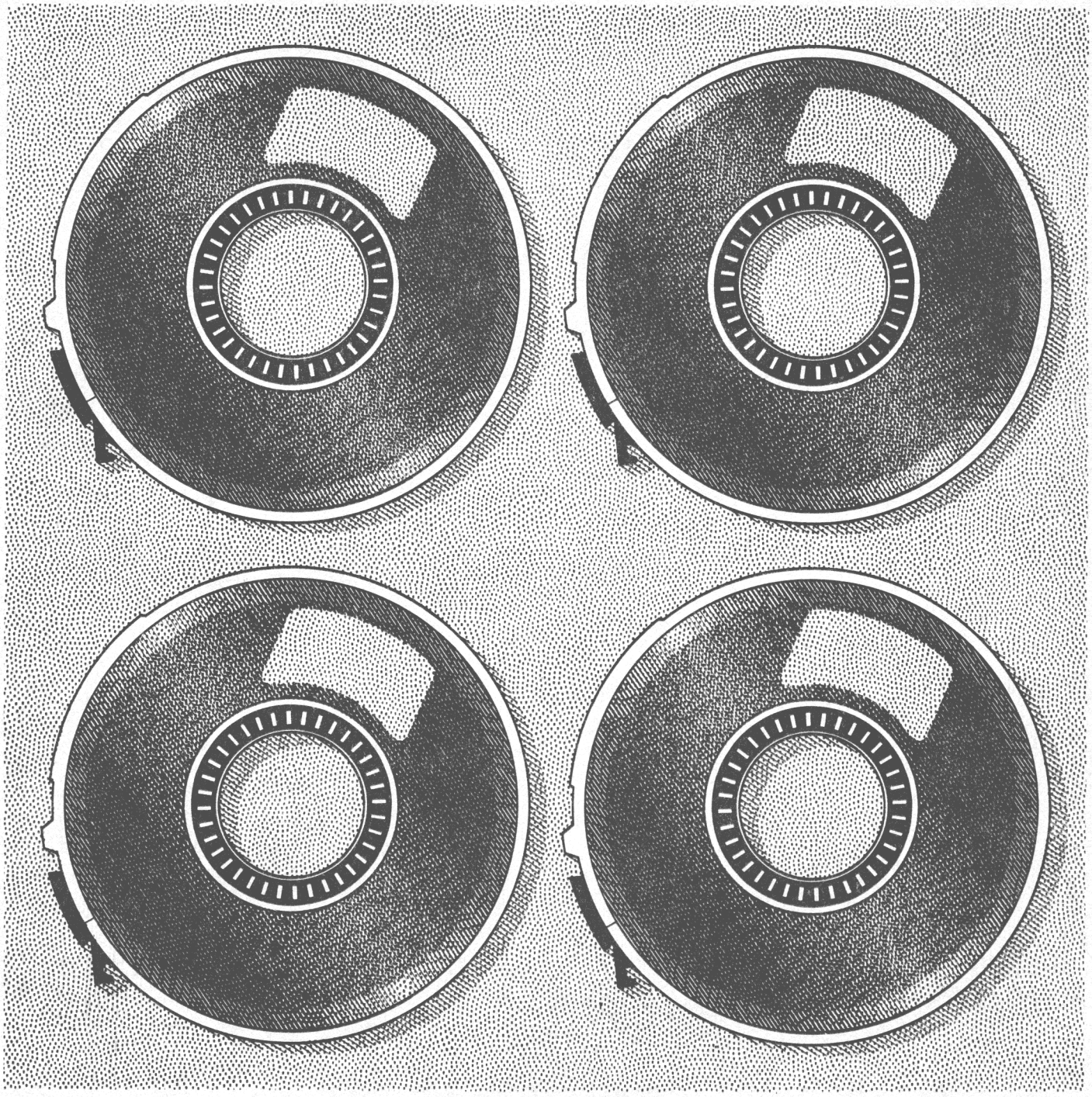
Public Use Data Tape Documentation

Divorce Data, Detail, 1985

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • Public Health Service • National Center for Health Statistics



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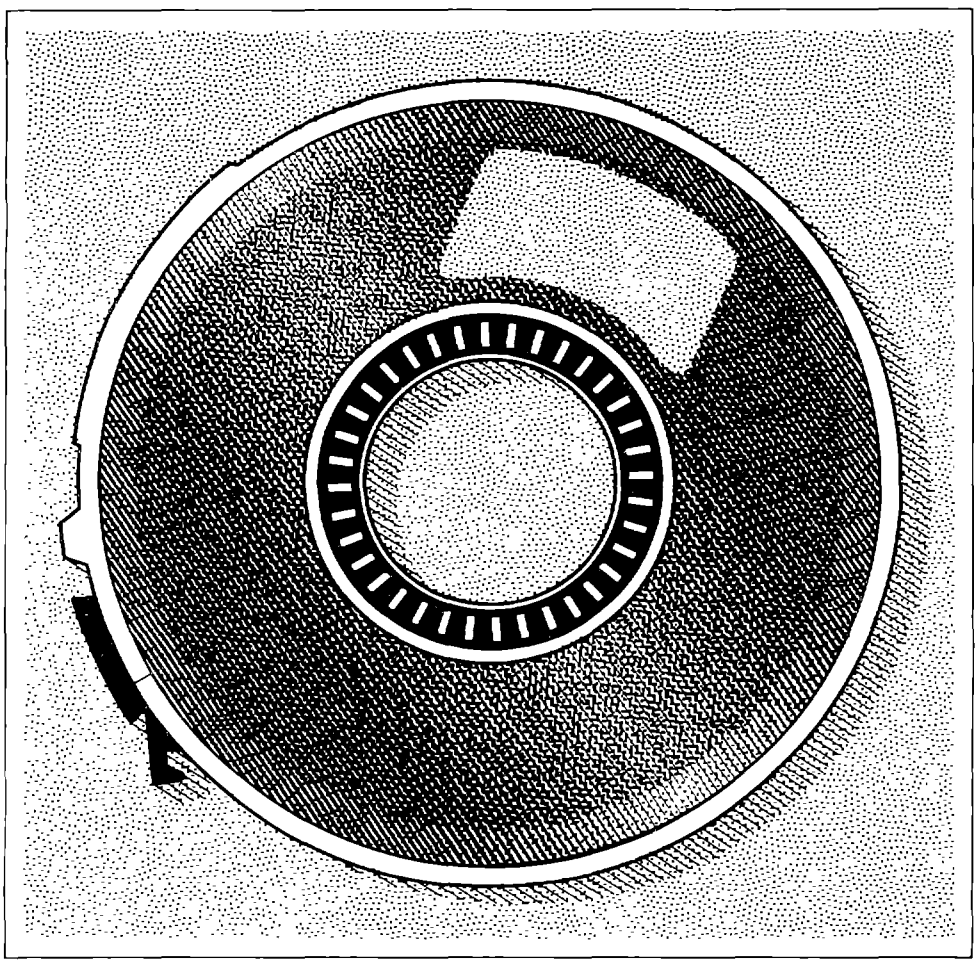


U S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
National Center for Health Statistics

Hyattsville, Maryland
August 1987

Documentation of the Detail Divorce Public-Use Tape File for 1985 Data

The divorce data file is maintained by calendar year. The file includes : (1) records for all divorces received in machine-readable form and (2) sample records, or all divorces for those States with small numbers of events, received on microfilm (coded and keyed by NCHS personnel).

The tape file includes data from selected States, and the Virgin Islands, which meet certain reporting criteria for inclusion in the Divorce Registration Area (DRA). The criteria are explained in the Technical Appendix which is part of this documentation package.

Each record contains a weight field (tape locations 40-41) which is designed to inflate tabular totals to the States' figures and to the DRA figures. Note, however, in NCHS publications, U.S. data and Possessions data are tabulated separately. Totals for the DRA do not include data for the Virgin Islands.

Included in this document are:

1. List of data elements and tape locations.
2. Machine/File/Data Characteristics.
3. Detail record layout.
4. Control total tables 1 and 2.
5. Technical Appendix for 1983 along with the 1985 addendum.

SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

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

List of Data Elements and Tape Locations

Data Items	Tape Locations
1. Place of divorce	
a. State	8-9
b. Region	10
c. Division	11
2. General	
a. Data year	1
b. Month of divorce	12-13
c. Petitioner	14
d. Number of children under 18	23-26
e. Date of marriage	27-30
f. Duration of marriage	31-35
g. Place of marriage	36-39
h. Record weight	40-41
3. Husband data	
a. State and resident status	42-45
b. Date of birth	46-49
c. Age at divorce and at marriage	50-57
d. Race	58-60
e. Number of this marriage	61-62
f. Number of previous marriages	92-93
g. Education	96-97
h. Age at separation	110-113
4. Wife data	
a. State and resident status	63-66
b. Date of birth	67-70
c. Age at divorce and at marriage	71-78
d. Race	79-81
e. Number of this marriage	82-83
f. Number of previous marriages	94-95
g. Education	98-99
h. Age at separation	114-117
5. Additional information	
a. Place of marriage recodes	84-85
b. Date of separation	86-89
c. Number of living children	90-91
d. Marriage and separation intervals	100-109

Machine/File/Data Characteristics:

1.	Machine used:	IBM/3083/E	
2.	Language used:	PL/I	
3.	File organization:	One file, one reel	
4.	Record format:	Blocked, fixed format	
5.	Record count:	a. Total	277,400
		b. DRA	277,049
		c. Possessions	351
6.	Record length:	140	
7.	Blocksize:	14000	
8.	Recording mode:	IBM/EBCDIC 8-bit code	
9.	Code scheme:	Numeric/Blanks/Special	
10.	Last block:	May be a short block	
11.	Special characters:	a. "&" is the EBCDIC ampersand	
		b. "-" is the EBCDIC dash	
12.	Data counts (weighted totals):	a. DRA	577,713
		b. Possessions	351

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
1	1	Last Digit of Current Data Year

5 1985

2-7 6 Certificate Number

These positions are blank.

8-11 4 PLACE OF DIVORCE

8-9 2 State (DRA)

This field contains codes for the States that have been admitted to the Divorce Registration Area (DRA). State names, codes and year of admission to the DRA are:

01	... Alabama	1958
02	... Alaska	1958
07	... Connecticut	1968
08	... Delaware	1981
11	... Georgia	1958
12	... Hawaii	1958
13	... Idaho	1958
14	... Illinois	1968
16	... Iowa	1958
17	... Kansas	1959
18	... Kentucky	1969
21	... Maryland	1959
22	... Massachusetts	1979
23	... Michigan	1961
26	... Missouri	1961
27	... Montana	1958
28	... Nebraska	1958
30	... New Hampshire	1979
33	... New York	1969
36	... Ohio	1962
38	... Oregon	1958
39	... Pennsylvania	1958
40	... Rhode Island	1963
41	... South Carolina	1971
42	... South Dakota	1958
43	... Tennessee	1958
45	... Utah	1958
46	... Vermont	1968
47	... Virginia	1958
50	... Wisconsin	1958
51	... Wyoming	1958
53	... Virgin Islands	1958

10 1 Region

11 1 Division

Region is in 10 and Division is in 11

00	... Possessions
1	... Northeast
1	... New England
2	... Middle Atlantic
2	... Midwest
3	... East North Central
4	... West North Central
3	... South
5	... South Atlantic
6	... East South Central
7	... West South Central
4	... West
8	... Mountain
9	... Pacific

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
12-13	2	Month of Divorce

(Note: Last digit of Year of Divorce is given in tape location 1.)

01	... January
02	... February
03	... March
04	... April
05	... May
06	... June
07	... July
08	... August.
09	... September
10	... October
11	... November
12	... December
99	... Not stated month

14	1	Petitioner

1	... Husband
2	... Wife
3	... Other person
4	... Husband and wife
9	... Not stated petitioner

15-22	8	Reserved Positions
23-26	4	NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18
23-24	2	Detail Number

00	... None
01	... One child
02	... Two children
03	... Three children
04-25	... Four through twenty-five children
99	... Not stated number of children

25	1	Number of Children Under 18 Recode 8

1	... None
2	... One child
3	... Two children
4	... Three children
5	... Four children
6	... Five children
7	... Six or more children
8	... Not stated number of children

26	1	Number of Children Under 18 Recode 5

1	... None
2	... One Child
3	... Two children
4	... Three or more children
5	... Not stated number of children

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
27-30	4	DATE OF MARRIAGE
27-28	2	Month
		01 ... January
		02 ... February
		03 ... March
		04 ... April
		05 ... May
		06 ... June
		07 ... July
		08 ... August
		09 ... September
		10 ... October
		11 ... November
		12 ... December
		99 ... Not stated month
29-30	2	Year
		00-85 ... 1900 to 1985
		99 ... Not stated year
31-35	5	DURATION OF MARRIAGE
31-32	2	Detail Years
		00 ... Under one year
		01 ... One year
		02 ... Two years
		03-76 ... Three through seventy-six years
		99 ... Not stated duration
33-34	2	Duration Recode 16
		01 ... Under 1 year
		02 ... 1 year
		03 ... 2 years
		04 ... 3 years
		05 ... 4 years
		06 ... 5 years
		07 ... 6 years
		08 ... 7 years
		09 ... 8 years
		10 ... 9 years
		11 ... 10 - 14 years
		12 ... 15 - 19 years
		13 ... 20 - 24 years
		14 ... 25 - 29 years
		15 ... 30 or more years
		16 ... Not stated duration
35	1	Duration Recode 7
		1 ... Under 1 year
		2 ... 1 - 2 years
		3 ... 3 - 4 years
		4 ... 5 - 9 years
		5 ... 10 - 14 years
		6 ... 15 or more years
		7 ... Not stated duration

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
36-39	4	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
36-37	2	State
		01 ... Alabama
		02 ... Alaska
		03 ... Arizona
		04 ... Arkansas
		05 ... California
		06 ... Colorado
		07 ... Connecticut
		08 ... Delaware
		09 ... District of Columbia
		10 ... Florida
		11 ... Georgia
		12 ... Hawaii
		13 ... Idaho
		14 ... Illinois
		15 ... Indiana
		16 ... Iowa
		17 ... Kansas
		18 ... Kentucky
		19 ... Louisiana
		20 ... Maine
		21 ... Maryland
		22 ... Massachusetts
		23 ... Michigan
		24 ... Minnesota
		25 ... Mississippi
		26 ... Missouri
		27 ... Montana
		28 ... Nebraska
		29 ... Nevada
		30 ... New Hampshire
		31 ... New Jersey
		32 ... New Mexico
		33 ... New York
		34 ... North Carolina
		35 ... North Dakota
		36 ... Ohio
		37 ... Oklahoma
		38 ... Oregon
		39 ... Pennsylvania
		40 ... Rhode Island
		41 ... South Carolina
		42 ... South Dakota
		43 ... Tennessee
		44 ... Texas
		45 ... Utah
		46 ... Vermont
		47 ... Virginia
		48 ... Washington
		49 ... West Virginia
		50 ... Wisconsin
		51 ... Wyoming
		52 ... Puerto Rico
		53 ... Virgin Islands
		54 ... Guam
		55 ... Canada
		56 ... Cuba
		57 ... Mexico
		59 ... Remainder of the world
		99 ... Not stated State

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
38	1	Region of Marriage

0 ... U.S. Possessions
1 ... Northeast
2 ... Midwest
3 ... South
4 ... West
9 ... Foreign countries and not stated

39 1 State Where Marriage Performed/State Where Divorce Granted Recode

1 ... State of marriage and State of divorce are the same
2 ... State of marriage and State of divorce are different but both are in the same region
3 ... State of marriage and State of divorce are different and are not in the same region (includes foreign marriages)
4 ... Not stated place of marriage

40-41 2 Record Weight

Each record is assigned a weight based on the sampling rate of the place of divorce. This field is used to inflate tabular totals to DRA figures.

01 ... 100 percent
02 ... 50 percent
05 ... 20 percent
10 ... 10 percent
20 ... 5 percent

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
42-62	21	HUSBAND DATA
42-45	4	PLACE OF RESIDENCE
42-43	2	State

01 ... Alabama
02 ... Alaska
03 ... Arizona
04 ... Arkansas
05 ... California
06 ... Colorado
07 ... Connecticut
08 ... Delaware
09 ... District of Columbia
10 ... Florida
11 ... Georgia
12 ... Hawaii
13 ... Idaho
14 ... Illinois
15 ... Indiana
16 ... Iowa
17 ... Kansas
18 ... Kentucky
19 ... Louisiana
20 ... Maine
21 ... Maryland
22 ... Massachusetts
23 ... Michigan
24 ... Minnesota
25 ... Mississippi
26 ... Missouri
27 ... Montana
28 ... Nebraska
29 ... Nevada
30 ... New Hampshire
31 ... New Jersey
32 ... New Mexico
33 ... New York
34 ... North Carolina
35 ... North Dakota
36 ... Ohio
37 ... Oklahoma
38 ... Oregon
39 ... Pennsylvania
40 ... Rhode Island
41 ... South Carolina
42 ... South Dakota
43 ... Tennessee
44 ... Texas
45 ... Utah
46 ... Vermont
47 ... Virginia
48 ... Washington
49 ... West Virginia
50 ... Wisconsin
51 ... Wyoming
52 ... Puerto Rico
53 ... Virgin Islands
54 ... Guam
55 ... Canada
56 ... Cuba
57 ... Mexico
59 ... Remainder of the world
99 ... Not stated State

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
44	1	Resident Status of Husband Recode 3
		1 ... Resident of State of divorce
		2 ... Nonresident of State of divorce (includes foreign residents)
		3 ... Not stated place of residence
45	1	Resident Status of Husband Recode 5
		1 ... Resident of State of divorce
		2 ... Resident of State adjoining State of divorce
		3 ... Resident of State that does not adjoin the State of divorce
		4 ... Foreign resident
		5 ... Not stated place of residence
46-49	4	DATE OF BIRTH OF HUSBAND
46-47	2	Month
		01 ... January
		02 ... February
		03 ... March
		04 ... April
		05 ... May
		06 ... June
		07 ... July
		08 ... August
		09 ... September
		10 ... October
		11 ... November
		12 ... December
		99 ... Not stated month
48-49	2	Year
		95-99 ... 1895 - 1899
		00-71 ... 1900 - 1971
		-- ... Not stated year

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
50-54	5	AGE OF HUSBAND AT TIME OF DECREE
50-51	2	Detail Age at Decree
		14-90 ... Single years of age 99 ... Not stated age
52-53	2	Age at Decree Recode 12
		01 ... Under 20 years 02 ... 20 - 24 years 03 ... 25 - 29 years 04 ... 30 - 34 years 05 ... 35 - 39 years 06 ... 40 - 44 years 07 ... 45 - 49 years 08 ... 50 - 54 years 09 ... 55 - 59 years 10 ... 60 - 64 years 11 ... 65 years and over 12 ... Not stated age
54	1	Age at Decree Recode 9
		1 ... Under 20 years 2 ... 20 - 24 years 3 ... 25 - 29 years 4 ... 30 - 34 years 5 ... 35 - 39 years 6 ... 40 - 44 years 7 ... 45 - 49 years 8 ... 50 years and over 9 ... Not stated age
55-57	3	AGE OF HUSBAND AT TIME OF MARRIAGE
55-56	2	Detail Age
		14-90 ... Single years of age 99 ... Not stated age
57	1	Age at Marriage Recode 8
		1 ... Under 20 years 2 ... 20 - 24 years 3 ... 25 - 29 years 4 ... 30 - 34 years 5 ... 35 - 39 years 6 ... 40 - 44 years 7 ... 45 years and over 8 ... Not stated age

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
58-60	3	RACE OF HUSBAND
58	1	Detail Race
		1 ... White 2 ... Black 3 ... Other races 8 ... Not on certificate 9 ... Not stated race
59	1	Race Recode 4
		1 ... White 2 ... Black 3 ... Other races 4 ... Not stated race
60	1	Race Recode 3
		1 ... White 2 ... All other races 3 ... Not stated race
61-62	2	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE OF HUSBAND
61	1	Detail Number
		1-8 ... First through eighth marriage(s) 9 ... Ninth or higher marriage O ... Number unknown but has been previously married - ... Unknown or not stated number & ... Not on certificate
62	1	Number of This Marriage Recode 5
		1 ... First marriage 2 ... Second marriage 3 ... Third or higher marriage 4 ... Number unknown but has been previously married 5 ... Not stated number

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
63-83	21	WIFE DATA
63-66	4	PLACE OF RESIDENCE
63-64	2	State
		01 ... Alabama
		02 ... Alaska
		03 ... Arizona
		04 ... Arkansas
		05 ... California
		06 ... Colorado
		07 ... Connecticut
		08 ... Delaware
		09 ... District of Columbia
		10 ... Florida
		11 ... Georgia
		12 ... Hawaii
		13 ... Idaho
		14 ... Illinois
		15 ... Indiana
		16 ... Iowa
		17 ... Kansas
		18 ... Kentucky
		19 ... Louisiana
		20 ... Maine
		21 ... Maryland
		22 ... Massachusetts
		23 ... Michigan
		24 ... Minnesota
		25 ... Mississippi
		26 ... Missouri
		27 ... Montana
		28 ... Nebraska
		29 ... Nevada
		30 ... New Hampshire
		31 ... New Jersey
		32 ... New Mexico
		33 ... New York
		34 ... North Carolina
		35 ... North Dakota
		36 ... Ohio
		37 ... Oklahoma
		38 ... Oregon
		39 ... Pennsylvania
		40 ... Rhode Island
		41 ... South Carolina
		42 ... South Dakota
		43 ... Tennessee
		44 ... Texas
		45 ... Utah
		46 ... Vermont
		47 ... Virginia
		48 ... Washington
		49 ... West Virginia
		50 ... Wisconsin
		51 ... Wyoming
		52 ... Puerto Rico
		53 ... Virgin Islands
		54 ... Guam
		55 ... Canada
		56 ... Cuba
		57 ... Mexico
		59 ... Remainder of the world
		99 ... Not stated State

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
65	1	Resident Status of Wife Recode 3
		1 ... Resident of State of divorce
		2 ... Nonresident of State of divorce (includes foreign residents)
		3 ... Not stated place of residence
66	1	Resident Status of Wife Recode 5
		1 ... Resident of State of divorce
		2 ... Resident of State adjoining State of divorce
		3 ... Resident of State that does not adjoin the State of divorce
		4 ... Foreign resident
		5 ... Not stated place of residence
67-70	4	DATE OF BIRTH OF WIFE
67-68	2	Month
		01 ... January
		02 ... February
		03 ... March
		04 ... April
		05 ... May
		06 ... June
		07 ... July
		08 ... August
		09 ... September
		10 ... October
		11 ... November
		12 ... December
		99 ... Not stated month
69-70	2	Year
		95-99 ... 1895 - 1899
		00-71 ... 1900 - 1971
		-- ... Not stated year

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
71-75	5	AGE OF WIFE AT TIME OF DECREE
71-72	2	Detail Age at Decree
		14-90 ... Single years of age 99 ... Not stated age
73-74	2	Age at Decree Recode 12
		01 ... Under 20 years 02 ... 20 - 24 years 03 ... 25 - 29 years 04 ... 30 - 34 years 05 ... 35 - 39 years 06 ... 40 - 44 years 07 ... 45 - 49 years 08 ... 50 - 54 years 09 ... 55 - 59 years 10 ... 60 - 64 years 11 ... 65 years and over 12 ... Not stated age
75	1	Age at Decree Recode 9
		1 ... Under 20 years 2 ... 20 - 24 years 3 ... 25 - 29 years 4 ... 30 - 34 years 5 ... 35 - 39 years 6 ... 40 - 44 years 7 ... 45 - 49 years 8 ... 50 years and over 9 ... Not stated age
76-78	3	AGE OF WIFE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE
76-77	2	Detail age
		14-90 ... Single years of age 99 ... Not stated age
78	1	Age at Marriage Recode 8
		1 ... Under 20 years 2 ... 20 - 24 years 3 ... 25 - 29 years 4 ... 30 - 34 years 5 ... 35 - 39 years 6 ... 40 - 44 years 7 ... 45 years and over 8 ... Not stated age

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
79-81	3	RACE OF WIFE
79	1	Detail Race
		1 ... White 2 ... Black 3 ... Other races 8 ... Not on certificate 9 ... Not stated race
80	1	Race Recode 4
		1 ... White 2 ... Black 3 ... Other races 4 ... Not stated race
81	1	Race Recode 3
		1 ... White 2 ... All other races 3 ... Not stated race
82-83	2	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE OF WIFE
82	1	Detail Number
		1-8 ... First through eighth marriage(s) 9 ... Ninth or higher marriage O ... Number unknown but has been previously married - ... Unknown or not stated number & ... Not on certificate
83	1	Number of This Marriage Recode 5
		1 ... First marriage 2 ... Second marriage 3 ... Third or higher marriage 4 ... Number unknown but has been previously married 5 ... Not stated number

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
84-85	2	PLACE OF MARRIAGE RECODES
84	1	Place of Marriage Recode 3
		1 ... Married in State of divorce
		2 ... Not married in State of divorce (includes foreign marriages)
		3 ... Not stated place of marriage
85	1	Place of Marriage Recode 4
		1 ... Married in State of divorce
		2 ... Married in State adjoining State of divorce
		3 ... State of marriage does not adjoin State of divorce (includes foreign marriages)
		4 ... Not stated place of marriage
86-89	4	DATE OF SEPARATION
86-87	2	Month
		01 ... January
		02 ... February
		03 ... March
		04 ... April
		05 ... May
		06 ... June
		07 ... July
		08 ... August
		09 ... September
		10 ... October
		11 ... November
		12 ... December
		99 ... Not stated month
88-89	2	Year
		00-85 ... 1900 to 1985
		99 ... Not stated year
90-91	2	Total Number of Living Children
		00 ... None
		01 ... One child
		02 ... Two children
		03-25 ... Three through twenty-five children
		99 ... Not stated number of children

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
92	1	Number of Husband's Previous Marriages Ended by Death
		0 ... None 1 ... One marriage 2-8 ... Two through eight marriages 9 ... Nine or more marriages - ... Not stated number
93	1	Number of Husband's Previous Marriages Ended by Divorce
		0 ... None 1 ... One marriage 2-8 ... Two through eight marriages 9 ... Nine or more marriages - ... Not stated number
94	1	Number of Wife's Previous Marriages Ended by Death
		0 ... None 1 ... One marriage 2-8 ... Two through eight marriages 9 ... Nine or more marriages - ... Not stated number
95	1	Number of Wife's Previous Marriages Ended by Divorce
		0 ... None 1 ... One marriage 2-8 ... Two through eight marriages 9 ... Nine or more marriages - ... Not stated number
96-99	4	EDUCATION
96-97	2	Husband's
		00 ... No formal schooling 01-08 ... Elementary school 09-12 ... High school 13-16 ... College 17 ... Five or more years of college 99 ... Education not stated or not on certificate
98-99	2	Wife's
		00 ... No formal schooling 01-08 ... Elementary school 09-12 ... High school 13-16 ... College 17 ... Five or more years of college 99 ... Education not stated or not on certificate

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
100-104	5	INTERVAL FROM MARRIAGE TO SEPARATION
100-102	3	Interval in Months
		000 ... Less than one month
		001-998 ... Number of months
		999 ... Not stated months
103-104	2	Interval in Months Recode 17
		01 ... Less than 6 months
		02 ... 6 - 11 months
		03 ... 1 year
		04 ... 2 years
		05 ... 3 years
		06 ... 4 years
		07 ... 5 years
		08 ... 6 years
		09 ... 7 years
		10 ... 8 years
		11 ... 9 years
		12 ... 10 - 14 years
		13 ... 15 - 19 years
		14 ... 20 - 24 years
		15 ... 25 - 29 years
		16 ... 30 or more years
		17 ... Not stated interval
105-109	5	INTERVAL FROM SEPARATION TO DECREE
105-107	3	Interval in Months
		000 ... Less than one month
		001-998 ... Number of months
		999 ... Not stated months
108-109	2	Interval in Months Recode 17
		01 ... Less than 6 months
		02 ... 6 - 11 months
		03 ... 1 year
		04 ... 2 years
		05 ... 3 years
		06 ... 4 years
		07 ... 5 years
		08 ... 6 years
		09 ... 7 years
		10 ... 8 years
		11 ... 9 years
		12 ... 10 - 14 years
		13 ... 15 - 19 years
		14 ... 20 - 24 years
		15 ... 25 - 29 years
		16 ... 30 or more years
		17 ... Not stated interval

Tape Location	Field Size	Item and Code Outline
110-113	4	HUSBAND'S AGE AT SEPARATION
110-111	2	Detail Age at Separation
		14-90 ... Single years of age
		99 ... Not stated age
112-113	2	Age at Separation Recode 12
		01 ... Under 20 years
		02 ... 20 - 24 years
		03 ... 25 - 29 years
		04 ... 30 - 34 years
		05 ... 35 - 39 years
		06 ... 40 - 44 years
		07 ... 45 - 49 years
		08 ... 50 - 54 years
		09 ... 55 - 59 years
		10 ... 60 - 64 years
		11 ... 65 years and over
		12 ... Not stated age
114-117	4	WIFE'S AGE AT SEPARATION
114-115	2	Detail Age at Separation
		14-90 ... Single years of age
		99 ... Not stated age
116-117	2	Age at Separation Recode 12
		01 ... Under 20 years
		02 ... 20 - 24 years
		03 ... 25 - 29 years
		04 ... 30 - 34 years
		05 ... 35 - 39 years
		06 ... 40 - 44 years
		07 ... 45 - 49 years
		08 ... 50 - 54 years
		09 ... 55 - 59 years
		10 ... 60 - 64 years
		11 ... 65 years and over
		12 ... Not stated age
118-140	23	Reserved Positions

DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS BY MONTH AND STATE OF DIVORCE:
DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA AND EACH REGISTRATION STATE, 1985

(TOTALS FOR THE DRA DO NOT INCLUDE DATA FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS)

AREA	TOTAL	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	NOT ST
DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA--	577,713	33,081	36,588	37,815	42,539	49,934	66,850	52,629	60,195	52,016	47,110	44,119	47,259	7,578
ALABAMA----------	25,120	1,350	1,620	1,430	1,530	1,780	2,630	1,920	1,940	1,810	1,690	1,730	1,780	3,910
ALASKA----------	4,009	254	278	289	308	318	396	350	432	353	324	298	382	27
CONNECTICUT-------	11,408	576	678	612	832	1,158	1,320	1,056	1,140	1,188	1,010	934	820	84
DELAWARE----------	2,991	172	188	204	239	258	351	254	342	271	236	223	238	15
GEORGIA----------	33,430	2,210	2,360	2,690	2,470	2,480	4,050	2,980	2,850	2,600	2,670	2,420	3,230	420
HAWAII----------	4,879	349	335	362	380	411	514	442	494	378	357	391	455	11
IDAHO----------	6,214	374	428	436	430	544	698	580	668	546	480	454	546	30
ILLINOIS----------	48,879	2,780	3,104	3,331	3,705	4,234	5,550	4,393	5,070	4,545	4,199	3,840	3,931	197
IOWA----------	10,524	554	628	630	778	844	1,328	1,006	1,200	994	900	750	866	46
KANSAS----------	12,830	745	885	825	900	1,135	1,495	1,120	1,395	1,095	1,035	1,045	1,110	45
KENTUCKY----------	18,325	1,195	1,175	1,170	1,420	1,375	2,300	1,600	1,970	1,635	1,405	1,350	1,615	115
MARYLAND----------	16,150	955	980	1,040	1,215	1,445	1,930	1,435	1,835	1,490	1,295	1,200	1,235	95
MASSACHUSETTS------	21,700	1,025	1,145	1,140	1,615	2,125	2,745	1,970	2,375	2,175	2,310	1,535	1,440	100
MICHIGAN----------	38,870	2,200	2,190	2,410	2,660	3,510	4,300	3,680	4,390	3,750	3,490	2,780	3,100	410
MISSOURI----------	24,990	1,463	1,569	1,656	1,916	2,355	2,886	2,270	2,491	2,138	2,061	1,896	2,137	152
MONTANA----------	4,276	208	283	294	272	337	564	420	436	406	325	323	382	26
NEBRASKA----------	6,364	361	403	407	491	631	778	508	749	539	475	497	519	6
NEW HAMPSHIRE------	4,911	237	293	301	325	464	624	486	592	466	426	378	318	1
NEW YORK----------	67,616	4,026	4,246	4,484	5,057	5,939	7,496	6,332	7,052	6,348	5,662	5,212	5,530	232
OHIO----------	53,000	2,840	2,960	3,680	4,000	5,040	6,100	5,040	5,520	4,660	4,040	4,340	4,460	320
OREGON----------	15,720	860	1,025	1,160	1,095	1,270	1,840	1,470	1,600	1,330	1,175	1,275	1,520	100
PENNSYLVANIA-------	40,180	2,190	2,520	2,350	3,070	3,530	5,010	3,560	4,340	3,760	3,400	3,150	2,930	370
RHODE ISLAND-------	3,698	200	226	194	312	384	420	348	377	380	319	311	216	11
SOUTH CAROLINA-----	13,456	857	907	945	1,113	1,153	1,484	1,192	1,321	1,083	1,030	1,057	1,216	98
SOUTH DAKOTA-------	2,565	147	160	156	172	229	312	236	301	238	202	214	193	5
TENNESSEE----------	29,960	1,850	2,380	2,230	2,130	2,290	3,190	2,820	3,190	2,480	2,050	2,300	2,600	450
UTAH----------	8,754	522	622	612	636	720	1,010	788	866	794	614	644	744	182
VERMONT----------	2,355	112	151	106	144	216	303	236	295	236	205	171	179	1
VIRGINIA----------	24,131	1,426	1,615	1,658	1,820	2,023	2,929	2,177	2,479	2,116	1,890	1,828	2,135	35
WISCONSIN----------	16,600	840	985	780	1,225	1,425	1,875	1,600	2,050	1,870	1,550	1,250	1,080	70
WYOMING----------	3,808	203	249	233	279	311	422	360	435	342	285	323	352	14
VIRGIN ISLANDS-----	351	22	33	27	30	25	30	28	40	28	28	19	38	3

CONTROL TOTAL TABLE 2

DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS BY AGE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE AT TIME OF DECREE AND BY RACE, DIVORCE REGISTRATION AREA, 1985

(TOTALS FOR THE DRA DO NOT INCLUDE DATA FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS)

AGE AT DECREE		RACE			
HUSBAND	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK	OTHER RACES	NOT STATED
TOTAL	577,713	376,647	50,284	7,543	143,239
UNDER 20 YEARS	2,453	2,091	56	7	299
20-24 YEARS	53,277	40,963	2,998	580	8,736
25-29 YEARS	109,083	78,480	9,587	1,492	19,524
30-34 YEARS	106,740	73,765	11,093	1,738	20,144
35-39 YEARS	89,132	62,362	8,847	1,490	16,433
40-44 YEARS	62,141	44,030	5,795	821	11,495
45-49 YEARS	38,550	27,267	3,930	527	6,826
50-54 YEARS	24,684	17,560	2,609	327	4,188
55-59 YEARS	15,498	10,704	1,727	197	2,870
60-64 YEARS	8,375	5,805	1,138	93	1,339
65 YEARS AND OVER	8,633	6,201	1,028	100	1,304
NOT STATED	59,147	7,419	1,476	171	50,081
WIFE					
TOTAL	577,713	377,357	48,798	7,885	143,673
UNDER 20 YEARS	10,725	9,075	325	67	1,258
20-24 YEARS	86,629	65,896	5,143	949	14,641
25-29 YEARS	118,824	83,411	10,839	1,806	22,768
30-34 YEARS	102,285	71,025	10,692	1,876	18,692
35-39 YEARS	79,988	55,703	7,695	1,372	15,218
40-44 YEARS	52,418	37,397	4,851	790	9,380
45-49 YEARS	28,806	20,076	3,070	396	5,264
50-54 YEARS	15,865	11,159	1,665	200	2,841
55-59 YEARS	9,306	6,587	1,043	103	1,573
60-64 YEARS	5,412	3,700	625	44	1,043
65 YEARS AND OVER	4,833	3,605	527	37	664
NOT STATED	62,622	9,723	2,323	245	50,331

1985 Divorce Addendum to the "Technical Appendix" of Vital Statistics of the United States, 1983, Volume III--Marriage and Divorce

REGISTRATION AREAS (pages 4-4 and 4-5)

Divorces granted in the divorce-registration area (DRA) accounted for 48 percent of all divorces in the United States in 1985.

AREA TOTALS (page 4-7)

The sample estimate of divorces in the DRA differed from the complete count by 0.1 percent. It differed by less than 2 percent in all States except Connecticut. Connecticut differed by 11 percent.

SAMPLING PROCEDURES (page 4-9)

About 48 percent of all divorces in the DRA were in the divorce sample for 1985.

SAMPLING ERRORS (page 4-9)

The sampling rate, sample size, and sample estimate for each State in the DRA are shown in the attached table A (table 4-6 in 1983). Sampling errors for the DRA and each State are shown in the attached table B (table 4-8 in 1983).

INCOMPLETE REPORTING (page 4-11)

The percent not stated for selected characteristics on the divorce record, by State, is shown in the attached table C (table 4-10 in 1983).

Table A. Sampling Rates and Sample Size: Divorce-Registration Area, Each Registration State, and Virgin Islands, 1985

Area and stratum	Sampling rate	Number of sample records	Estimated number of events 1/
Divorce-registration area 2/	...	277,049	577,713
Stratum 1	All records	218,928	218,928
Alaska	All records	4,009	4,009
Delaware	All records	2,991	2,991
Hawaii	All records	4,879	4,879
Illinois	All records	48,879	48,879
Missouri	All records	24,990	24,990
Montana	All records	4,276	4,276
Nebraska	All records	6,364	6,364
New Hampshire	All records	4,911	4,911
New York	All records	67,616	67,616
Rhode Island	All records	3,698	3,698
South Carolina	All records	13,456	13,456
South Dakota	All records	2,565	2,565
Vermont	All records	2,355	2,355
Virginia	All records	24,131	24,131
Wyoming	All records	3,808	3,808
Stratum 2	1/2	18,450	36,900
Connecticut	1/2	5,704	11,408
Idaho	1/2	3,107	6,214
Iowa	1/2	5,262	10,524
Utah	1/2	4,377	8,754
Stratum 3	1/5	20,265	101,325
Kansas	1/5	2,566	12,830
Kentucky	1/5	3,665	18,325
Maryland	1/5	3,230	16,150
Massachusetts	1/5	4,340	21,700
Oregon	1/5	3,144	15,720
Wisconsin	1/5	3,320	16,600
Stratum 4	1/10	16,756	167,560
Alabama	1/10	2,512	25,120
Georgia	1/10	3,343	33,430
Michigan	1/10	3,887	38,870
Pennsylvania	1/10	4,018	40,180
Tennessee	1/10	2,996	29,960
Stratum 5	1/20	2,650	53,000
Ohio	1/20	2,650	53,000
Virgin Islands	All records	351	351

1/ Number of sample records weighted by reciprocal of sampling rate.

2/ Excludes divorces in Virgin Islands.

Table B. Sampling Error of Estimated Number of Divorces and Annulments, Expressed as Percent of Area Total: Divorce-Registration Area, Each Registration State, and Virgin Islands, 1985

(Figures for Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming, and Virgin Islands have no sampling errors since all records were tabulated)

Area	All divorces and annulments	Sampling error of estimated frequency, expressed as percent of area total			
		1 or 99	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
Divorce-registration area 1/	577,713	171	515	744	859
Alabama	25,120	47	142	205	237
Alaska	4,009	...	...	...	...
Connecticut	11,408	10	31	45	52
Delaware	2,991	...	...	...	...
Georgia	33,430	55	165	237	274
Hawaii	4,879	...	...	...	...
Idaho	6,214	8	24	34	39
Illinois	48,879	...	...	...	...
Iowa	10,524	10	31	44	51
Kansas	12,830	22	68	98	113
Kentucky	18,325	27	81	117	135
Maryland	16,150	25	76	110	127
Massachusetts	21,700	29	88	127	146
Michigan	38,870	59	177	255	295
Missouri	24,990	...	...	...	...
Montana	4,276	...	...	...	...
Nebraska	6,364	...	...	...	...
New Hampshire	4,911	...	...	...	...
New York	67,616	...	...	...	...
Ohio	53,000	100	301	435	502
Oregon	15,720	25	75	109	126
Pennsylvania	40,180	60	180	260	300
Rhode Island	3,698	...	...	...	...
South Carolina	13,456	...	...	...	...
South Dakota	2,565	...	...	...	...
Tennessee	29,960	51	155	224	259
Utah	8,754	9	28	41	47
Vermont	2,355	...	...	...	...
Virginia	24,131	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin	16,600	26	77	112	129
Wyoming	3,808	...	...	...	...
Virgin Islands	351	...	...	...	...

1/ Excludes divorces in Virgin Islands.

TABLE C. PERCENT OF DIVORCE RECORDS ON WHICH SPECIFIED CHARACTERISTICS WERE NOT STATED: DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA, EACH REGISTRATION STATE, AND VIRGIN ISLANDS, 1985

AREA	ALL DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS	CHARACTERISTICS							
		AGE				RACE		EDUCATION	
		AT DECREE		AT MARRIAGE					
		HUSBAND	WIFE	HUSBAND	WIFE	HUSBAND	WIFE	HUSBAND	WIFE
DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA	577,713	10.2	10.8	10.9	11.6	24.8	24.9	44.8	44.5
ALABAMA	25,120	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.7	15.4	15.6	30.6	30.0
ALASKA	4,009	1.5	2.2	2.5	3.3	11.1	11.1	16.0	15.3
CONNECTICUT	11,408	3.1	4.5	4.0	5.4	7.6	7.6	10 5	10.6
DELAWARE	2,991	2 6	3.1	3.3	3.8	3.5	3.6	100.0	100.0
GEORGIA	33,430	4.7	7.0	5.6	7.9	6.7	6.9	18.5	17.8
HAWAII	4,879	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.2	0.2	3 1	2.3
IDAHO	6,214	1.8	1.7	2.5	2.5	3.9	3.8	100.0	100.0
ILLINOIS	48,879	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.6	7.6	7.7	12.5	12.0
IOWA	10,524	1 1	1.2	1.5	1.6	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.8
KANSAS	12,830	1.4	2.2	1.8	2.6	0.2	0.2	2.8	1.9
KENTUCKY	18,325	0.8	1 1	1.4	2.1	4.9	5.2	100.0	100.0
MARYLAND	16,150	1.2	1.4	2.2	2.8	1.5	2.0	100.0	100.0
MASSACHUSETTS	21,700	13.3	13.5	14.3	14.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
MICHIGAN	38,870	17.0	17.6	17.7	18.5	100.0	100.0	54.2	54.1
MISSOURI	24,990	2.7	3.6	3.3	4.2	2.3	2 4	5.6	5.2
MONTANA	4,276	1.4	1 4	1.8	1.9	0.6	0.5	1.7	1.1
NEBRASKA	6,364	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.1	0.1	2.3	1.3
NEW HAMPSHIRE	4,911	0.1	0 1	0.1	0.2	100.0	100.0	1.2	0.9
NEW YORK	67,616	2.2	2 9	2.7	3.5	2.1	2.1	4.8.	4.8
OHIO	53,000	61.5	61.1	61.6	61.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
OREGON	15,720	0.7	1.5	1.1	2.0	12.3	12.3	100.0	100.0
PENNSYLVANIA	40,180	5 0	6.3	6.3	7.5	4.4	4.6	100.0	100.0
RHODE ISLAND	3,698	0.5	1.1	1.0	1.8	2.4	2.6	8.2	7.8
SOUTH CAROLINA	13,456	2.1	2 4	2.7	3.1	0.5	0.6	100.0	100.0
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,565	77.1	77 3	77.2	77.3	69.4	68.6	100.0	100.0
TENNESSEE	29,960	1.9	2.9	3.0	4.4	1.2	1.2	45 6	44.7
UTAH	8,754	6.9	8.1	8.8	9.8	32.4	32.4	40.2	39.6
VERMONT	2,355	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.9	2.1	2.1	4.2	4.1
VIRGINIA	24,131	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.1	0.1	1.9	1.6
WISCONSIN	16,600	0.2	0.7	0.9	1.3	0.9	0.8	3.9	3.7
WYOMING	3,808	10.7	11.4	11.1	12.0	25.8	25.8	29.4	29.1
VIRGIN ISLANDS	351	9.4	12.3	10.3	13.1	41.3	41.0	53.3	50.7

NOT STATED DATA INCLUDE NOT REPORTABLE (ITEM WAS NOT ON RECORD OF ENTIRE REPORTING AREA) AND NOT COMPLETED (ITEM WAS ON THE RECORD BUT NOT FILLED IN).

FIGURES FOR THE DRA DO NOT INCLUDE DATA FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

TABLE C. PERCENT OF DIVORCE RECORDS ON WHICH SPECIFIED CHARACTERISTICS WERE NOT STATED: DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA, EACH REGISTRATION STATE, AND VIRGIN ISLANDS, 1985

AREA	CHARACTERISTICS								
	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE		PETITIONER	STATE WHERE MARRIAGE WAS PERFORMED	MONTH OF MARRIAGE	CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN THIS FAMILY	DURATION OF--		
	HUSBAND	WIFE					MARRIAGE	MARRIAGE TO SEPARATION	SEP. TO DECREE
DIVORCE-REGISTRATION AREA	14.1	14.0	2.8	5.4	1.3	2.3	1.5	45.0	44.8
ALABAMA	22.6	22.4	8.2	14.8	15.6	14.1	15.0	26.4	25.4
ALASKA	13.4	13.7	5.8	0.4	0.7	4.9	1.1	11.7	11.1
CONNECTICUT	7.3	7.5	2.0	0.5	0.7	2.4	1.0	16.0	15.8
DELAWARE	5.9	6.1	1.1	0.4	0.5	2.5	0.8	100.0	100.0
GEORGIA	10.5	10.5	0.7	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.2	100.0	100.0
HAWAII	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	5.0	5.0
IDAHO	1.8	1.7	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.2	0.9	10.7	16.1
ILLINOIS	8.1	8.0	0.2	0.1	0.4	1.0	0.5	17.9	17.7
IOWA	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	12.0	11.8
KANSAS	0.7	0.7	-	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.5	10.2	9.9
KENTUCKY	8.3	8.6	34.7	0.3	0.6	3.0	1.0	100.0	100.0
MARYLAND	1.2	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.6	6.7	1.4	100.0	100.0
MASSACHUSETTS	2.9	3.1	0.1	100.0	0.5	0.3	1.2	100.0	100.0
MICHIGAN	47.8	47.8	2.4	1.0	1.1	0.6	1.2	8.1	7.5
MISSOURI	2.4	2.5	1.2	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.8	4.1	3.8
MONTANA	0.5	0.4	1.5	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.6	6.5	6.0
NEBRASKA	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	-	0.2	9.9	9.8
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0.1	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.1	5.3	5.3
NEW YORK	1.7	1.8	1.9	0.8	0.3	2.0	0.7	6.4	6.2
OHIO	62.1	61.5	1.3	4.3	0.6	1.0	0.6	100.0	100.0
OREGON	8.5	4.5	1.0	0.3	0.6	11.9	0.5	100.0	100.0
PENNSYLVANIA	5.6	6.0	3.7	1.3	0.9	3.7	1.4	100.0	100.0
RHODE ISLAND	1.6	1.7	0.1	0.5	0.3	1.4	0.7	32.1	31.9
SOUTH CAROLINA	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.8	100.0	100.0
SOUTH DAKOTA	100.0	100.0	0.3	0.7	0.2	1.6	0.2	100.0	100.0
TENNESSEE	2.4	2.5	1.8	0.9	1.5	0.6	1.5	16.2	15.2
UTAH	29.5	29.3	6.0	2.2	2.1	3.0	2.4	32.5	31.8
VERMONT	2.3	2.2	0.6	-	0.0	0.3	0.2	2.0	2.0
VIRGINIA	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.5	1.4
WISCONSIN	1.1	1.1	3.6	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.7	7.9	7.7
WYOMING	26.7	26.6	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.7	22.2	22.1
VIRGIN ISLANDS	42.7	41.0	5.7	2.6	0.9	10.0	1.4	27.9	27.9

NOT STATED DATA INCLUDE NOT REPORTABLE (ITEM WAS NOT ON RECORD OF ENTIRE REPORTING AREA) AND NOT COMPLETED (ITEM WAS ON THE RECORD BUT NOT FILLED IN).

FIGURES FOR THE DRA DO NOT INCLUDE DATA FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

SECTION 4 — TECHNICAL APPENDIX

SOURCES OF DATA

Marriage and divorce statistics in this volume are based on information from two sources: (1) Complete counts of events obtained from all States and (2) data on characteristics from marriage and divorce certificates from States meeting certain reporting criteria.

State and local officials annually provide complete counts of marriages and divorces by county of occurrence and marriages by month of occurrence. From these counts, marriage and divorce totals are derived. Rates are computed for each State, geographic division, region, registration area, and the United States.

Samples of records are drawn by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) from microfilm copies of the original certificates received from the registration offices of States that constitute the marriage-registration area (MRA) and the divorce-registration area (DRA). The statistical information on these records, including data on the characteristics of marriages and divorces and of the persons involved in them, is edited, classified, transferred to tape for computer processing, and tabulated by NCHS. For those States in the MRA or DRA that submit machine-readable data to NCHS through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, the complete file is used. Statistical data for 1983 for both marriages and divorces were provided through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program by eight States—Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, New York (except New York City marriages), Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, and Virginia. Precoded data were also provided by Florida, Maine, Montana, and New Hampshire for marriages only.

Marriage and divorce statistics for the United States, for the registration areas, and for individual States are limited to events occurring during the year and registered within the specified area. Interlocutory divorce decrees or decrees "nisi" (which grant that the divorce takes permanent effect at a specific time in the future if the couple does not reconcile in the meantime) are included among the records of the States that grant them, usually for the year in which they were granted. Tabulations are by place of occurrence and include events occurring to nonresidents.

Marriages or divorces of members of the Armed Forces or other U.S. nationals that occur outside the United States are excluded from the tabulations. *United States* refers to the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Alaska has been included in the U.S. tabulations since 1959 and Hawaii, since 1960. Data for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were compiled for 1983 and preceding years except 1966–69 and 1972. Data for these areas were processed separately from the rest of the MRA and DRA and appear in section 3 of this volume.

Sources of marriage and divorce data since 1867 are shown in table 4–1; a description of these sources can be found in section 7, Volume III, *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1960.*

COUNTS OF EVENTS

Nationwide counts

In 1983 the total counts of marriages by State and county were obtained from central files of marriage records for 47 States and the District of Columbia. Registration officials of New York City supplied the counts for the five boroughs. In the States without central files—Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma—counts were obtained from counties by State officials and reported to NCHS. New Mexico reported the number of premarital health examination forms issued rather than the number of marriages performed. Counts of marriages performed in 1983 were not received from 5 counties in Kentucky and one county in Ohio.

Beginning with final marriage statistics for 1978, nonlicensed (confidential) marriages registered in California were included in national and geographic totals and rates. 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 1972 this section was amended to require county clerks to keep sealed records of these marriages and periodically to report 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 68,260 in 1983.

Total counts of divorces by State and county include decrees of absolute divorce and of annulment as well as decrees of marriage dissolution introduced in many States during the 1970's. These counts were obtained from central files of 46 States and the District of Columbia. Either local or State officials provided the county totals for the four States without central files of divorce records. Local officials in Indiana supplied the county totals. For Indiana counties where no data were provided by local officials, the

number of divorces was obtained from the 1983 Indiana Judicial Report. State officials in Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma obtained the county totals and forwarded them to NCHS.

Divorces and annulments in 1983 were not reported for one county or more in the following States: Arkansas (1), Georgia (4), Kentucky (11), Louisiana (7), Ohio (1), South Dakota (1), Texas (3), and Wisconsin (1). The number of divorces for some counties in Indiana is based on the number of petitions filed, rather than on the divorce decrees granted.

When marriages or divorces are not reported for counties, the following criteria are applied for the data shown in tables 1–5, 1–6, 1–49, 2–3, 2–36, and 3–2:

1. The State totals are published as reported even when there are nonreporting counties.
2. If the population of nonreporting areas in the latest available census is less than 1 percent of the State population, the State total does not have a footnote to indicate that the data are incomplete.
3. If the population of nonreporting areas is 1.0–9.9 percent of the State population, data for the State and division have the footnote "Data are incomplete." Rates are computed and no estimates are made for the missing data.
4. If the population of nonreporting areas is 10 percent or more of the State population, the State and division totals have the footnote "Data are incomplete," and the marriage or divorce rate is not computed. Estimates are made for inclusion in the totals for the region and the United States and rates are computed. Figures for the region and United States have the footnote "Figure includes estimates."

These criteria and footnotes apply also to data for standard metropolitan statistical areas shown in tables 1–48 and 2–35.

Divorce counts shown for each State in tables 2–3 and 2–36 are those that were provided to NCHS on a yearly basis. In July 1981 the Division of Health Statistics in Arkansas provided revised statistics for 1975–79. Statistics previously submitted and published for 1971–79 erroneously included dismissals and legal separations in the totals. Revised counts for 1975–79 provided by Arkansas officials are shown in table A along with rates based on the revised counts as calculated by NCHS.

Standard metropolitan statistical areas

The standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) used in this report (tables 1–48 and 2–35) are those established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, using final 1980 census population counts, and used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census except in the New England States.

Except in the New England States, an SMSA is a county or a group of contiguous counties containing a city of 50,000 inhabitants with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000. In addition to the county or counties containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to specified criteria, they are essentially metropolitan in character and are socially and economically integrated with the central city or cities.

In the New England States the Office of Management and Budget uses towns and cities rather than counties as geographic components of SMSA's. The National Center for Health Statistics cannot, however, use the SMSA classification for these States because its data are not coded to identify all towns. Instead, the New England County Metropolitan Areas (NECMA's) are used. These areas are established by the Office of Management and Budget and are made up of county units.

DATA FROM MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE CERTIFICATES

Registration areas

Registration areas for collecting marriage statistics were established in 1957 and for divorce statistics, in 1958. These areas include States with adequate programs for collecting marriage and divorce statistics. Criteria for participation in the registration areas are

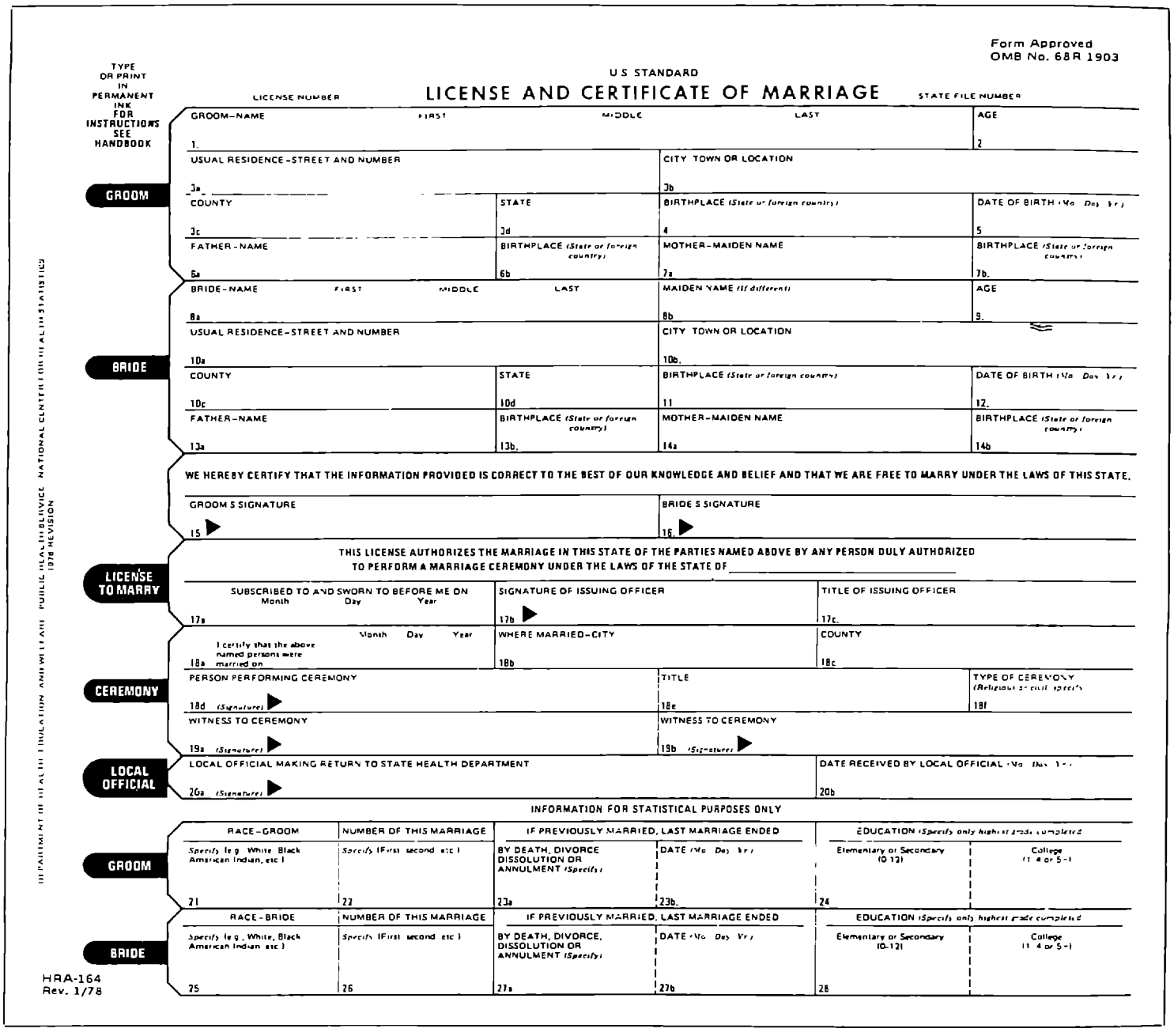
1. A central file of marriage or divorce records
2. A statistical report conforming closely in content to the U.S. Standard License and Certificate of Marriage (figure 4–1) or U.S. Standard Certificate of Divorce, Dissolution of Marriage or Annulment (figure 4–2)

Table A. Revised Number of Divorces and Annulments and Rates: Arkansas, 1975–79

Year	Number	Rate[1]
1979	15,501	6.8
1978	14,951	6.7
1977	14,792	6.7
1976	14,219	6.6
1975	13,434	6.2

[1] Rates are based on revised population figures.

FIGURE 4-1.



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OMB No. 68R 1903

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U S STANDARD

LICENSE NUMBER — LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE — STATE FILE NUMBER

GROOM

GROOM-NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST 1.			AGE 2
USUAL RESIDENCE-STREET AND NUMBER 3a		CITY TOWN OR LOCATION 3b	
COUNTY 3c	STATE 3d	BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) 4	DATE OF BIRTH (Mo Day Yr) 5
FATHER-NAME 6a	BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) 6b	MOTHER-MAIDEN NAME 7a	BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) 7b.

BRIDE

BRIDE-NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST 8a		MAIDEN NAME (If different) 8b	AGE 9.
USUAL RESIDENCE-STREET AND NUMBER 10a		CITY TOWN OR LOCATION 10b.	
COUNTY 10c	STATE 10d	BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) 11	DATE OF BIRTH (Mo Day Yr) 12.
FATHER-NAME 13a	BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) 13b.	MOTHER-MAIDEN NAME 14a	BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) 14b

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF AND THAT WE ARE FREE TO MARRY UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE.

GROOM S SIGNATURE 15 ▶	BRIDE S SIGNATURE 16. ▶

LICENSE TO MARRY

THIS LICENSE AUTHORIZES THE MARRIAGE IN THIS STATE OF THE PARTIES NAMED ABOVE BY ANY PERSON DULY AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM A MARRIAGE CEREMONY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF _____

SUBSCRIBED TO AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME ON Month Day Year 17a	SIGNATURE OF ISSUING OFFICER 17b ▶	TITLE OF ISSUING OFFICER 17c.

CEREMONY

18a I certify that the above named persons were married on Month Day Year	WHERE MARRIED-CITY 18b	COUNTY 18c
PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY 18d (Signature) ▶	TITLE 18e	TYPE OF CEREMONY (Religious or civil specify) 18f
WITNESS TO CEREMONY 19a (Signature) ▶	WITNESS TO CEREMONY 19b (Signature) ▶	

LOCAL OFFICIAL

LOCAL OFFICIAL MAKING RETURN TO STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT 20a (Signature) ▶	DATE RECEIVED BY LOCAL OFFICIAL (Mo Day Yr) 20b

INFORMATION FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY

GROOM

RACE-GROOM	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE	IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED		EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed)	
Specify (e g White Black American Indian, etc) 21	Specify (First second etc) 22	BY DEATH, DIVORCE DISSOLUTION OR ANNULMENT (Specify) 23a	DATE (Mo Day Yr) 23b.	Elementary or Secondary (0 12) 24	College (1 4 or 5-)

BRIDE

RACE-BRIDE	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE	IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED		EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed)	
Specify (e g , White, Black American Indian etc) 25	Specify (First second etc) 26	BY DEATH, DIVORCE, DISSOLUTION OR ANNULMENT (Specify) 27a	DATE (Mo Day Yr) 27b	Elementary or Secondary (0-12) 28	College (1 4 or 5-)

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3. Regular reporting to the State office by all local areas in which marriages or divorces are recorded
4. Tests for completeness and accuracy of marriage or divorce registration carried out in cooperation with NCHS.

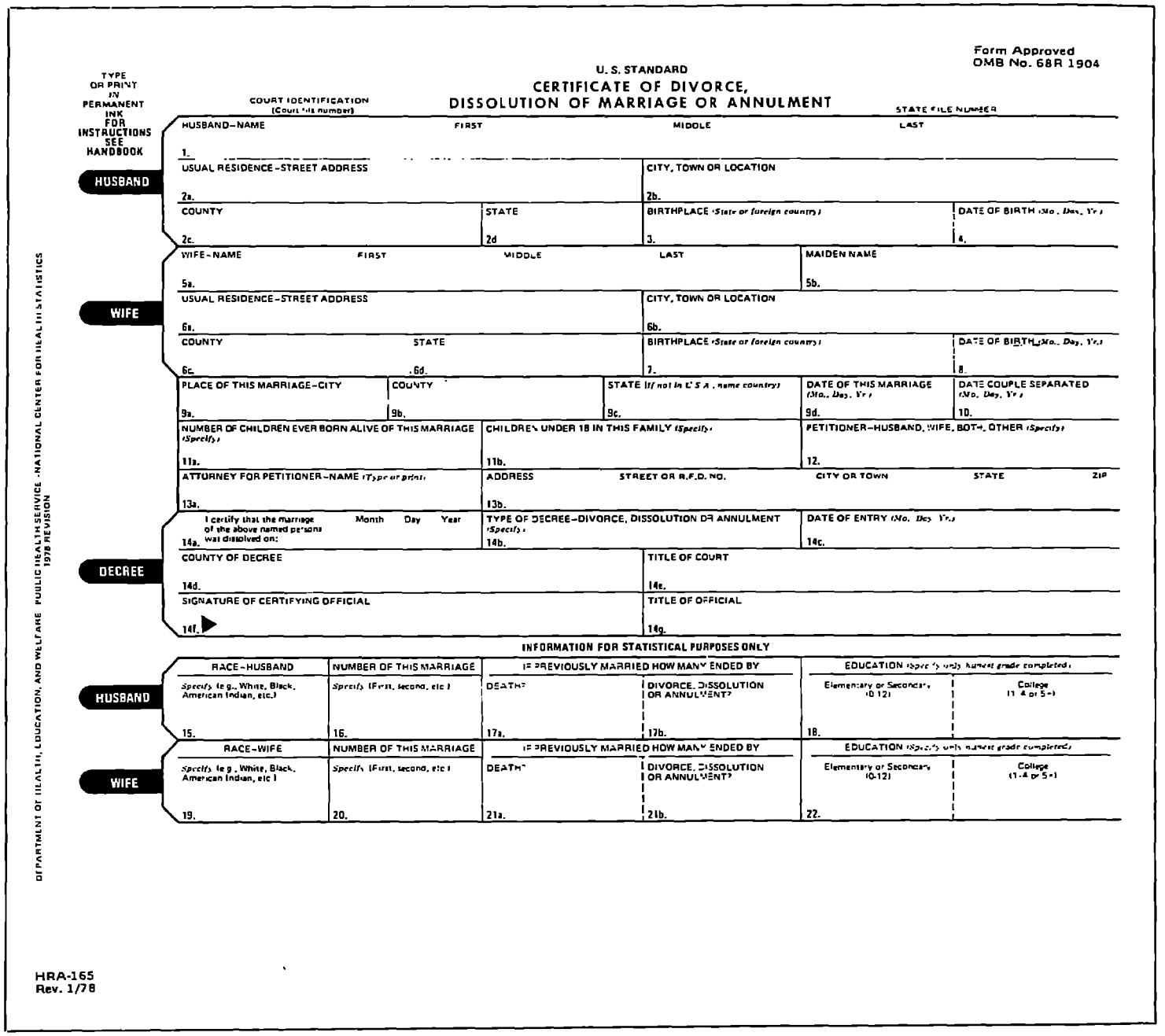
In 1983 the MRA (figure 4–3) comprised 42 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The DRA (figure 4–4) included 31 States and the Virgin Islands. Table 4–2 shows when States and independent registration areas established central files and when they were admitted to the MRA and DRA.

In the statistical tabulations in this volume, *marriage-registration area* refers only to the 42 States and the District of Columbia. *Divorce-registration area* refers to the 31 States. Marriages in the MRA accounted for 80 percent of all marriages in the United States in 1983, and divorces in the DRA accounted for 50 percent of all divorces.

Standard certificates

The U.S. Standard License and Certificate of Marriage (figure 4–1) and the U.S. Standard Certificate of Divorce, Dissolution of Marriage or Annulment (figure 4–2), issued by the Public Health Service, serve as the principal means of obtaining comparable data from documents used to collect information on marriages and divorces in the United

FIGURE 4-2.



Form Approved
OMB No. 68R 1904

TYPE OR PRINT IN PERMANENT INK FOR INSTRUCTIONS SEE HANDBOOK

U. S. STANDARD
CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE, DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE OR ANNULMENT

COURT IDENTIFICATION (Court file number)

STATE FILE NUMBER

HUSBAND

1. HUSBAND—NAME (First, Middle, Last)
2a. USUAL RESIDENCE—STREET ADDRESS
2b. CITY, TOWN OR LOCATION
2c. COUNTY
2d. STATE
3. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)
4. DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)

WIFE

5a. WIFE—NAME (First, Middle, Last)
5b. MAIDEN NAME
6a. USUAL RESIDENCE—STREET ADDRESS
6b. CITY, TOWN OR LOCATION
6c. COUNTY
6d. STATE
7. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)
8. DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)

9a. PLACE OF THIS MARRIAGE—CITY
9b. COUNTY
9c. STATE (If not in U.S.A., name country)
9d. DATE OF THIS MARRIAGE (Mo., Day, Yr.)
10. DATE COUPLE SEPARATED (Mo., Day, Yr.)
11a. NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN ALIVE OF THIS MARRIAGE (Specify)
11b. CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN THIS FAMILY (Specify)
12. PETITIONER—HUSBAND, WIFE, BOTH, OTHER (Specify)
13a. ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER—NAME (Type or print)
13b. ADDRESS (Street or R.F.D. No., City or Town, State, Zip)

DECREE

14a. I certify that the marriage of the above named persons was dissolved on: (Month, Day, Year)
14b. TYPE OF DECREE—DIVORCE, DISSOLUTION OR ANNULMENT (Specify)
14c. DATE OF ENTRY (Mo., Day, Yr.)
14d. COUNTY OF DECREE
14e. TITLE OF COURT
14f. SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL
14g. TITLE OF OFFICIAL

INFORMATION FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY

HUSBAND

15. RACE—HUSBAND (Specify (e.g., White, Black, American Indian, etc.))
16. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (Specify (First, second, etc.))
17a. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED HOW MANY ENDED BY DEATH?
17b. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED HOW MANY ENDED BY DIVORCE, DISSOLUTION OR ANNULMENT?
18. EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed) Elementary or Secondary (0-12) / College (1-4 or 5+)

WIFE

19. RACE—WIFE (Specify (e.g., White, Black, American Indian, etc.))
20. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (Specify (First, second, etc.))
21a. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED HOW MANY ENDED BY DEATH?
21b. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED HOW MANY ENDED BY DIVORCE, DISSOLUTION OR ANNULMENT?
22. EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed) Elementary or Secondary (0-12) / College (1-4 or 5+)

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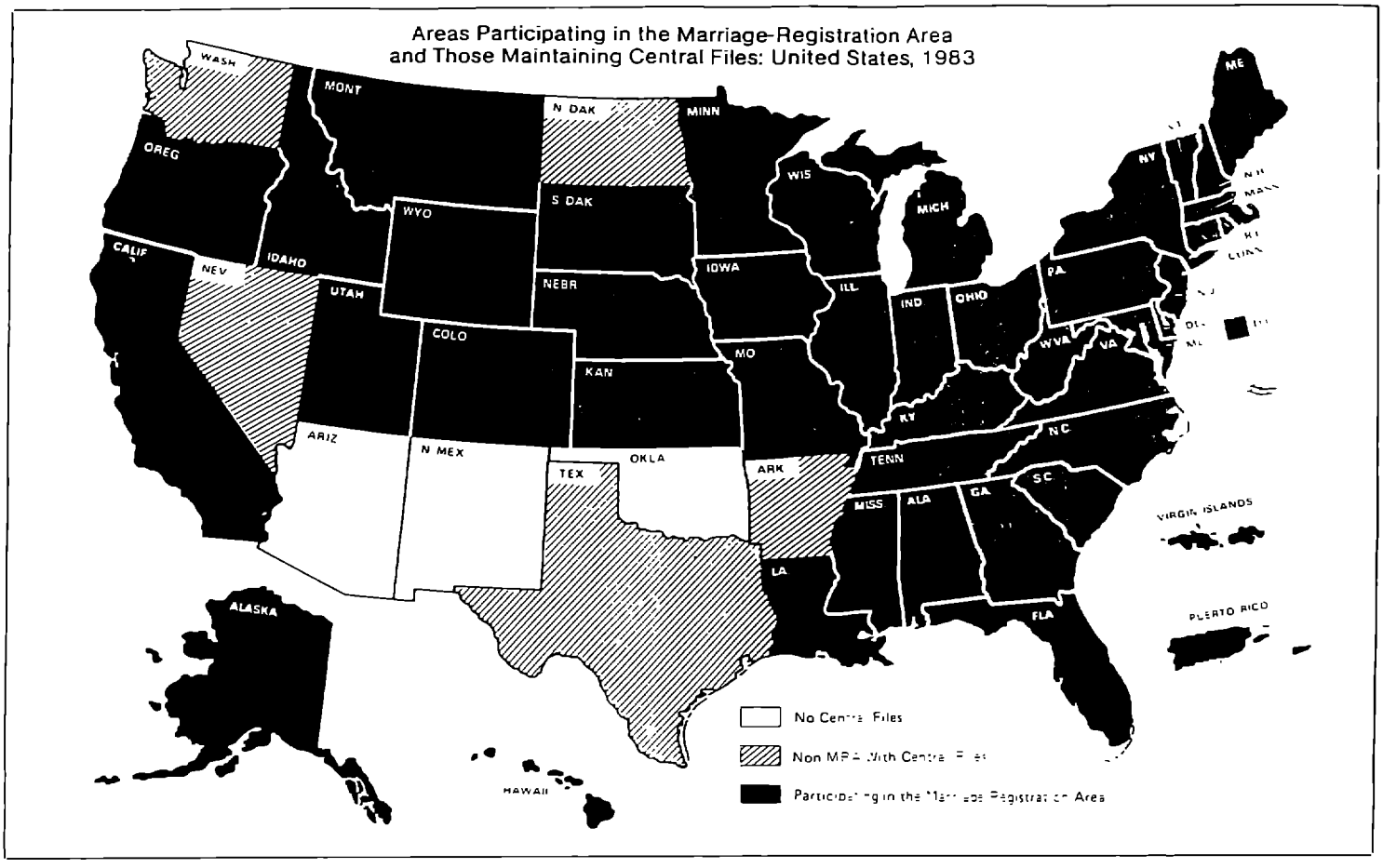
States. Model reporting forms, prepared in close collaboration with the Public Health Conference on Records and Statistics, were first recommended to the States in 1954 for adoption January 1, 1955, and stood without revision through 1967.

Revised standard certificates were recommended to the States for use beginning January 1, 1968. A description of the original standard certificate can be found in the Technical Appendix, *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1960,* Volume III; a description of the first revision can be found in the Technical Appendix of the same volume for 1968.

A second revision of each of the standard certificates was recommended to the States for use beginning January 1, 1978. The marriage certificate was revised to include a section providing the license to marry, to request age in addition to date of birth, and to request both the title of the person performing the ceremony and the type of ceremony (civil or religious) in place of the item for officiant (civil or religious). On the divorce certificate, items requesting person to whom decree was granted and legal grounds for divorce were deleted; the item requesting specification of plaintiff was changed to petitioner; and the items referring to children involved in divorce were changed to request number of children ever born alive of this marriage and children under 18 in this family.

Each State and independent registration area determines the form and content of its vital records. Conse-

FIGURE 4–3.



quently, the records vary in certain details. Although modified in each State as required by particular needs or by special provisions of the State vital statistics law, the marriage and divorce certificates of most States in the MRA and DRA conform closely to the standard certificates.

Table 4–3 lists items on the U.S. Standard License and Certificate of Marriage and shows which States had the items on their forms in 1983. Table 4–4 shows the same information for the U.S. Standard Certificate of Divorce, Dissolution of Marriage or Annulment.

Area totals

The estimated totals based on sample data differ slightly from the figures obtained from complete counts of events furnished by the State and local offices. When possible, major differences are reconciled before the sample data are weighted and tabulated. However, even in States where all records are included in the sample, the sample estimate may differ from the State count because of differences between NCHS and State cutoff dates in accepting records.

The sample estimate of marriages in the MRA differed from the complete count in 1983 by 4 percent. It differed by less than 2 percent in all States except California, which differed by 31 percent. In California, nonlicensed marriages were not available for inclusion in the MRA marriage sample (see earlier discussion in "Nationwide counts"). The 5-percent sample of California marriages for 1983 was drawn from 152,500 licensed marriages. The corresponding weight for California sample records was based on this total. Because no information is available on the characteristics of persons obtaining nonlicensed marriages, no estimate is available for the bias introduced in sample estimates by the omission of these marriages.

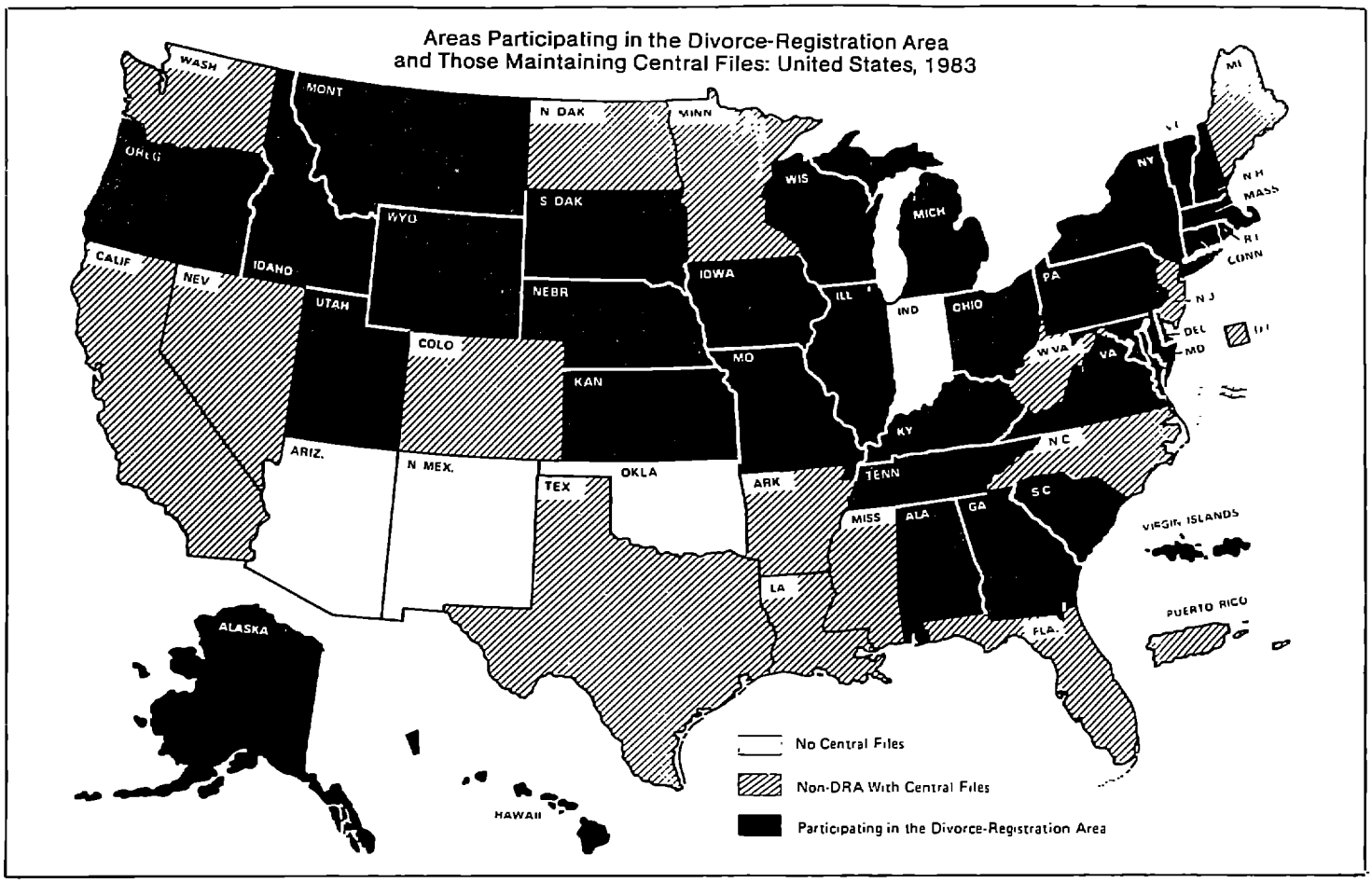
The sample estimate of divorces in the DRA differed from the complete count by less than 0.1 percent. It differed by less than 3 percent in all States.

Characteristics of marriages and divorces

The general rules used to classify and code items for marriages and divorces are set forth in *NCHS Instruction Manual*, Parts 6 and 7, respectively, for 1983. The classification of certain important items is discussed below.

The dates of birth, marriage, separation, and divorce are used to calculate the age at marriage, age at divorce, duration of marriage, duration of marriage to separation, and duration of separation to decree. The State of marriage, State of residence, and State of birth are used to derive residency and nativity status. Information about previous

FIGURE 4-4.



marriages of the spouses is obtained from two items—number of this marriage and previous marital status. For the District of Columbia and the 34 States that requested both items on their marriage certificates, first marriages and remarriages (referred to as marriage order) could be identified if either item was stated. Colorado, Idaho, Maryland, and Oregon requested only previous marital status. For these States the number of not-stated cases for the number of this marriage was reduced by the number of cases assumed to be first marriages because previous marital status was stated as single. Michigan and Ohio requested only the number of times previously married. Not-stated cases for previous marital status were reduced by the number of persons assumed to be single because they had been previously married "0" times. South Carolina requested number of this marriage. Not-stated cases were reduced by those assumed single because the number was "1." Both items—previous marital status and number of this marriage—were removed from the Iowa marriage certificate July 1, 1976.

During computer processing of the marriage data, values were allocated for missing ages of bride and groom. Reporting of these items has been almost 100 percent complete since 1960. No allocation was done during computer processing of divorce data. However, before age-specific divorce rates were calculated, figures for age not stated were distributed.

Children involved in divorces

To obtain national estimates for 1970–83, the average number of children under 18 years of age per decree for the DRA was multiplied by the national divorce total. From 1965–69 the average number of children per decree was computed for the 16 States that had reported children with a satisfactory degree of completeness in 1965 (Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming); the national divorce total was multiplied by this average. This method was also used to revise figures for 1961–64, originally estimated by using a different method. Consequently, data for 1961–64 shown in table 2–11 differ from figures appearing in Volume III, *Vital Statistics of the United States* prior to 1965. In 1960 the estimate was based on sample data for the United States. For earlier years total counts from States reporting the number of children were used to estimate the children involved in divorce for the United States.

The race of a child involved in a divorce is inferred from the race of the husband and wife. When both spouses are in the same racial category, the child is assigned to that category. When the husband is white and the wife is not, the child is assigned to the wife's race. When the husband is not white, the child is assigned to the husband's race. When the race of only one spouse is stated, the child is assigned to the stated race.

Sampling procedures

The registration area samples were designed to yield estimates of State totals as well as frequency distributions by characteristics of the spouses. A sampling rate was designated for each of the States so that the selected sample would consist of at least 2,500 records. Five different sampling rates were used—all records, 1/2, 1/5, 1/10, and 1/20. All records were automatically included in the samples for States submitting data through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Overall, about 39 percent of all marriages in the MRA and about 47 percent of all divorces in the DRA were included in the samples for 1983.

The sampling procedures assure for each State a relative variance of 4 percent or less on a 1-percent estimate, that is, on an estimate of a characteristic that comprises 1 percent of the total events in the State. The sampling rates, number of events, and sample cases by State for 1983 are shown in tables 4–5 (marriages) and 4–6 (divorces).

Sampling errors

Statistics for States where all records were used have no sampling error. For other States each statistic has a sampling error (or standard error) denoted by $\tilde{\sigma}(x)$. The sampling error is primarily a measure of variation that occurs by chance because a sample of records is surveyed rather than the entire population. The sampling error can be computed because within each State or registration area the probability that a record will be chosen for the sample is known (either all records, 1/2, 1/5, 1/10, or 1/20, as shown in tables 4–5 and 4–6). For about 68 percent of all possible samples of equal size, the estimate from the sample would differ from the value obtained from a complete count by less than the standard error. For about 95 percent of all samples, the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

Sampling errors are shown in table 4–7 for marriages and table 4–8 for divorces. To facilitate comparisons among registration States with widely varying totals of marriages and divorces, the sampling errors for the registration areas and participating States are shown for frequencies expressed as percents of State or registration area totals. For example, table 1–37 shows 18,445 marriages to brides 65 years of age and over in the MRA for 1983. This estimated frequency is about 1 percent of all brides in the MRA (1,890,791). In table 4–7 under the column "1 or 99" in the row for the total MRA the sampling error is 413. Thus chances are about 68 out of 100 that the actual number of marriages to brides 65 years of age and over is within one standard error of the estimate from this particular sample (18,445 ± 413), or between 18,032 and 18,858. The interval from 18,032 to 18,858 is called a 68-percent confidence interval for the actual number of marriages of brides 65 years of age and over. The sampling error of a given frequency of marriages or divorces in a particular State can be calculated from the formula

$$\tilde{\sigma}(x_{ij}) = \sqrt{\frac{N_i(N_i - n_i)p_{ij}q_{ij}}{n_i - 1}} \approx$$

where

i = a State or registration area
j = a subclass, such as an age group of brides
N_i = the final count of events reported by State i (table 1–5 or 2–3)
n_i = the number of sample records in State i (table 4–5 or 4–6)
p_{ij} = estimated proportion of all cases with the characteristic j to be studied for State i (shown in table 4–7 or 4–8 as a percent under "1 or 99," "2 or 98," "3 or 97," etc.)
$q_{ij} = 1 - p_{ij}$
$x_{ij} = N_i p_{ij}$, the estimated frequency of the characteristic under study.

In this formula, when the number of sample records, n_i, is the same as the total marriages, N_i, the numerator becomes zero, and there is no sampling error for States that have all their records processed. Because the values of p_{ij} and q_{ij} are complementary, their product $(p_{ij}q_{ij})$ remains the same if their values are reversed. For instance, the estimated sampling error for an estimate of 5 percent is the same as the sampling error for 95 percent. Therefore, the sampling error for both values is listed in one column in tables 4–7 and 4–8 under the heading "5 or 95."

For example, to calculate the sampling error for previously divorced South Dakota brides

N_i = 8,013, the final count of South Dakota marriages (table 1–5)
n_i = 4,001, the number of sample records for South Dakota (table 4–5)
x_{ij} = 2,160, the estimated frequency of previously divorced South Dakota brides (table 1–29)
p_{ij} = the number of previously divorced South Dakota brides expressed as a percent of all marriages: 2,160/8,013 = .27 or 27 percent
$q_{ij} = 1 - p_{ij} = .73$ or 73 percent

and,

$$\tilde{\sigma}(2{,}160) = \sqrt{\frac{8{,}013(4{,}012)(.27)(.73)}{4{,}000}} = 40$$

So chances are 68 out of 100 that the actual number of previously divorced South Dakota brides is between 2,120 and 2,200 (2,160 ± 40).

The estimated sampling error for the MRA can be computed from the formula

$$\tilde{\sigma}(x_i) = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{43} \frac{N_k(N_k - n_k)}{n_k - 1} p_{kj}q_{kj}}$$

where

43 refers to the 42 States and the District of Columbia in the MRA
N_k = the final count of events reported by the kth MRA State
n_k = the number of sample records in the same State
p_{kj} = the estimated percent of all cases in State k with the characteristic j
$q_{kj} = 1 - p_{kj}$.

Using the same formula, sampling errors for the DRA shown in table 4–8 were computed by summing over the 31 States in the DRA.

Many of the tables in this volume show percent distributions rather than frequencies. The sampling error for such a percent can be computed by dividing the sampling error found in table 4–7 or 4–8 by the estimated total number of events for the area. For example, table 1–11 shows that 4.0 percent of Minnesota brides were previously widowed. In table 4–7 under the column "4 or 96" the Minnesota sampling error is 112. Divide 112 by 36,320, the estimated number of marriages in Minnesota as shown in the stub of the same table. The result is 0.3 percent, the sampling error for an estimated 4 percent of 1983 Minnesota marriages. Thus chances are about 68 out of 100 that the actual percent of previously widowed Minnesota brides is 4.0 ± 0.3, or between 3.7 and 4.3 percent.

The following formula is used to compute a sampling error for the proportion of events in a subclass of a subgroup, where the number of events in the subgroup is also subject to sampling error:

$$\tilde{\sigma}\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{y}\right)\sqrt{\tilde{\sigma}^2(x) - \left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^2\tilde{\sigma}^2(y)}$$

where

y = the estimated frequency of the subgroup
x = the estimated frequency of the subclass of the subgroup
$\tilde{\sigma}(y)$ = the sampling error of y from table 4–7 or 4–8
$\tilde{\sigma}(x)$ = the sampling error of x from table 4–7 or 4–8.

To illustrate, for the sampling error for the proportion of all previously married Massachusetts brides who were 20–24 years of age, let

x = 980 previously married Massachusetts brides who were 20–24 years of age (table 1–33)
y = 12,220 previously married Massachusetts brides
$\frac{x}{y}$ = .080
$\tilde{\sigma}(x) = \tilde{\sigma}(980) = 93$ from "2 or 98" in table 4–7, as x is .02 of all Massachusetts brides ($x/N = 980/48{,}860 = .02$)
$\tilde{\sigma}(y) = \tilde{\sigma}(12{,}220) = 287$ from "25 or 75" in table 4–7, as y is .25 of all Massachusetts brides ($y/N = 12{,}220/48{,}860 = .25$)

and,

$$\tilde{\sigma}\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{12{,}220}\right)\sqrt{93^2 - (.080)^2(287)^2}$$

$$= .007 \text{ or } 0.7 \text{ percentage points.}$$

So chances are 68 out of 100 that the actual proportion of previously married Massachusetts brides who were 20–24 years of age is .080 ± .007, or between 7.3 percent and 8.7 percent.

The statistical significance of the difference between two proportions may be tested by the following formula:

$$\frac{(x_1/y_1) - (x_2/y_2)}{\sqrt{\tilde{\sigma}^2(x_1/y_1) + \tilde{\sigma}^2(x_2/y_2)}}$$

where the x's and y's represent the same subgroups as above, but of two populations, and where the denominator, under the square root sign, represents the sampling error of the difference between the proportions x_1/y_1 and x_2/y_2 shown in the numerator of the formula. If this ratio is 2 or larger, the difference between proportions is considered significant at the .05 level.

For example, 8.0 percent of previously married brides in Massachusetts were 20–24 years of age, with a sampling error of 0.7 percentage points. Using the same procedure for previously married brides in Minnesota, .109 or 10.9 percent were 20–24 years of age, with a sampling error of .010 or 1.0 percentage point. Substituting these values in the formula above gives the following results:

$$\frac{.109 - .080}{\sqrt{(.010)^2 + (.007)^2}} = \frac{.029}{.012} = 2.4$$

Because the difference between the proportions divided by the sampling error is greater than 2, this difference of 2.9 percentage points between remarried brides in Massachusetts and those in Minnesota is expected to occur by chance less than once in 20 times; the difference is statistically significant at the .05 level.

Information not reported

Nonresponse errors in marriage and divorce data may arise from any of the following three sources.

1. The item is not on the certificate of a particular reporting area. For example, the item "color" was removed from the 1971 revision of the Massachusetts marriage record.
2. Sometimes when a State revises its form to include additional items, copies of the old form are used by registration offices until their supply is exhausted.
3. Although the item may be on the form, there may be no response, or the response may be illegible or unusable.

Items not answered for any of these three reasons are tabulated as "not stated." Tables 4–9 and 4–10 show the proportions of not-stated cases for specified characteristics of marriages and divorces for 1983. A major proportion of the not-stated cases for the MRA and DRA was due to the absence of items on some of the reporting forms (not reportable). On the divorce records, personal information (age, race, etc.) typically has been less completely reported than information about the dissolved marriage or about the type of decree.

Other sources of error

Inconsistent responses.—Occasionally, for both marriages and divorces, the responses to related items are inconsistent. For example, the previous marital status of the bride or groom, as shown on the marriage certificate, may not be consistent with the stated number of times married or number of this marriage. Such differences are reconciled before tabulation.

Ambiguous wording of items.—Some of the items are worded so that they do not yield information easily classified in standardized categories. This often leads to errors in classification, most frequently of geographic place names (residence, place of marriage, and place of birth) and of previous marriages.

Microfilm errors.—Errors in the arrangement of the records received on microfilm in NCHS sometimes occur when numbers on the records are out of sequence, missing, or duplicated, or when records that are not part of the universe being sampled are erroneously included in the file.

Processing errors.—Errors may arise in coding, keying, or tabulating the data. However, 100 percent of sample coding was verified; data already on computer tape were edited for impossible codes and for inconsistencies.

In general, for most of the data from 1960 onward, the completeness and year-to-year consistency are evidence of the basic reliability and coverage of the marriage- and divorce-registration systems.

COMPUTATION OF RATES

Population bases

The rates shown in this report were computed on the basis of population statistics prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Rates for the census years 1940–1980 are based on the population enumerated as of April 1 in the censuses of those years. Rates for all other years are based on the estimated midyear (July 1) population for the respective years. Rates are based on population estimates including Armed Forces stationed in the United States but excluding Armed Forces abroad, except divorce rates for 1941–46 which are based on populations including Armed Forces abroad.

Beginning in 1980, rates by previous marital status for the MRA were based on the unmarried population 15 years and over rather than 14 years and over, which had been the standard until 1980. Marriages of brides and grooms under 15 years of age were included in data for the MRA totals and the youngest age group.

The resident population for the United States for 1920–83 and for the MRA and DRA for 1957–83 is shown in tables 4–11 and 4–12. The sources for these populations are shown in table B.

The resident population estimate for 1983 for each State is shown in table 4–13. The unmarried population by age, marital status, and sex for the MRA is shown in table 4–14, and the married population by age and sex for the DRA is shown in table 4–15.

Rates for 1971–79, except those by marital status, have been revised based on revised population estimates which are consistent with the 1980 census levels and therefore may differ from rates published in the volumes for those years. The 1980 census counted about 5.5 million more persons than had been estimated for April 1, 1980. The revised estimates for the United States are published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in the *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, Number 917. Population estimates by month are based on data published in the *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, Number 899. Unpublished revised estimates for States were obtained from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table B. Sources for Resident Population: United States, 1920–83, and States in Marriage- and Divorce-Registration Area, 1957–83

Area and year	Source
United States	
1983	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 965, Mar. 1985.
1982	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 949, May 1984.
1981	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 929, May 1983.
1980	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *U.S. Census of Population: 1980, General Population Characteristics*, PC(80)–1, A1–A52, 1983.
1971–79	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 917, July 1982.
1970	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *U.S. Census of Population: 1970, Number of Inhabitants*, Final Report, PC(1)–A1, United States Summary, 1971.
1969	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 441, Mar. 19, 1970.
1968	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 416, Feb. 17, 1969.
1967	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 385, Feb. 14, 1968.
1966	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 352, Nov. 18, 1966.
1960–65	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 321, Nov. 30, 1965.
1951–59	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 310, June 30, 1965.
1940–50	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 499, May 1973.
1920–39	National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics Rates in the United States, 1900–1940*, 1947.
States in marriage- and divorce-registration areas	
1983	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series, P–25, No. 970, June 1985.
1982	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 951, May 1984.
1981	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 930, April 1983.
1980	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *U.S. Census of Population: 1980, General Population Characteristics*, PC(80)–1, A1–A52, 1983.
1970	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *U.S. Census of Population: 1970, Number of Inhabitants*, Final Report, PC(1)–A1, United States Summary, 1971.
1971–79	U.S. Bureau of the Census, unpublished data.
1969	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 436, Jan. 7, 1970.
1968	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 414, Jan. 28, 1969.
1967	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 380, Nov. 24, 1967.
1965–66	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 354, Dec. 8, 1966.
1964	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 324, Jan. 20, 1966.
1963	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 289, Aug. 31, 1964.
1962	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 273, Oct. 4, 1963.
1961	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 239, Dec. 13, 1961.
1960	National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics Rates in the United States, 1900–1940*, 1947.
1959	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 212, Jan. 26, 1960.
1958	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 208, Dec. 7, 1959.
1957	U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 186, Oct. 27, 1958.

Table 4–1. Sources of Marriage and Divorce Data: United States, 1867–1983

Time period	Marriage	Divorce[1]
1867–86	Estimates prepared by National Office of Vital Statistics based on results of field survey covering 20-year period conducted in 1887–88 by the U S Department of Labor	Numbers and detailed statistics (legal grounds, duration of marriage, number of children reported, etc.) obtained in field survey covering 20-year period conducted in 1887–88 by the U S Department of Labor
1887–1906	Estimates based on data from field survey covering 20-year period conducted in 1906–07 by the U.S Bureau of the Census	Numbers and detailed statistics (legal grounds, duration of marriage, number of children reported, etc.) obtained in field survey covering 20-year period conducted in 1906–07 by the U.S. Bureau of the Census
1907–15	Estimates prepared by Bureau of the Census based on records from selected States	Same as for marriage
1916	Numbers collected through mail survey conducted in 1917–18 by Bureau of the Census.	Numbers and detailed statistics collected through mail survey conducted in 1917–18 by Bureau of the Census
1917–21	Estimates prepared by Bureau of the Census based on records from selected States.	Same as for marriage
1922–32	Annual collection by Bureau of the Census through mail query to States with central files and to counties in the remaining States.	Numbers and detailed statistics collected annually by Bureau of the Census through mail query to States with central files and to counties in the remaining States.
1933–36	Estimates by S A. Stouffer and L M Spencer on basis of data available from selected States (*American Journal of Sociology*, January 1939)	Same as for marriage
1937–40	Estimates based on transcript returns and mail surveys of State and county offices conducted by Bureau of the Census. Some detailed statistics for 1940 based on transcript program.	Same as for marriage.
1941–43	Estimates based on data from published State reports and from files of Bureau of the Census and Federal Home Loan Bank Board.	Same as for marriage
1944–47	Estimates based on figures for marriages and marriage licenses obtained by National Office of Vital Statistics from State and local registration offices	Estimates based on figures for divorces and annulments obtained by National Office of Vital Statistics from State and local registration offices
1948–56	Estimates based on figures for marriages and marriage licenses obtained by National Office of Vital Statistics from State and local registration offices; detailed statistics based on prelabulated data provided by State offices of vital statistics	Estimates based on figures for divorces and annulments obtained by National Office of Vital Statistics from State and local registration offices; detailed statistics based on prelabulated data provided by State offices of vital statistics
1957	Estimates based on figures for marriages and marriage licenses obtained by National Office of Vital Statistics from State and local registration offices; detailed statistics based on prelabulated data provided by States participating in the marriage-registration area (MRA)	Same as for 1948–56
1958–59	Same as for 1957	Estimates based on figures for divorces and annulments obtained by National Office of Vital Statistics from State and local registration offices; detailed statistics based on prelabulated data provided by States participating in the divorce-registration area (DRA)
1960	Statistics prepared in the National Center for Health Statistics from nationwide probability samples of marriage records designed to provide estimates for the United States, the four regions, the marriage-registration area, and each registration State. Totals of either marriages or marriage licenses by county and by month also tabulated in each State. These and totals estimated from samples were checked for consistency	Statistics prepared in the National Center for Health Statistics from nationwide probability samples of divorce records Records in the sample provided statistics on absolute decrees of divorce and annulment for the United States the four regions, the divorce-registration area and each registration State Totals for each State by county also tabulated in each State. These and totals estimated from samples were checked for consistency
1961–69	Statistics prepared in the National Center for Health Statistics for the MRA and each MRA State from probability samples of the marriage records collected by each MRA State Prelabulated totals of marriages or marriage licenses by county and by month, reported for all States, used to compute totals for the United States, four regions, and nine geographic divisions; also, for MRA States, checked for consistency with totals estimated from sample records	Statistics prepared in the National Center for Health Statistics for the DRA and each DRA State from probability samples of the records of absolute divorces and annulments collected by each DRA State Prelabulated totals by county reported for all States used to compute totals for the United States, four regions, and nine geographic divisions, also for DRA States, checked for consistency with totals estimated from sample records
1970	Statistics prepared in the National Center for Health Statistics for the United States (excluding Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma), the MRA each MRA State, and eight nonregistration States from probability samples of the marriage records collected by each MRA State and each of the eight nonregistration States Prelabulated totals of marriages or marriage licenses by county and by month, reported for all States used to compute totals for the United States, four regions, and nine geographic divisions For MRA States and the eight nonregistration States these totals were checked for consistency with totals estimated from sample records	Same as for 1961–69
1971	Same as for 1961–69	Same as for 1961–69
1972–74	Same as for 1961–69 except for Florida In 1972, 1973, and 1974 Florida sent a computer tape of items precoded for all marriages in that State	Same as for 1961–69
1975	Same as for 1961–69 except for Florida, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York (excluding New York City), Rhode Island South Carolina, and Vermont. These States sent tapes of items precoded for all marriages	Same as for 1961–69 except for Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Vermont These States sent tapes of items precoded for all divorces
1976–79	Same as for 1975, except Virginia in 1976 and Illinois and Montana in 1977 were added to the group of States submitting precoded data-tapes	Same as for 1975 except Virginia in 1976 and Illinois in 1977 were added to the group of States submitting precoded data-tapes
1980	Statistics prepared in the National Center for Health Statistics for the United States (excluding Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma), the MRA each MRA State, and five nonregistration States from probability samples of the marriage records collected by each MRA State and each of the five nonregistration States Prelabulated totals of marriages or marriage licenses by county and by month, reported for all States, used to compute totals for the United States, four regions and nine geographic divisions For MRA States and the five nonregistration States, these totals were checked for consistency with totals estimated from sample records.	Same as for 1976–79
1981–83	Same as for 1976–79.	Same as for 1976–79.

[1] Includes reported annulments.

Table 4–2. Years Central Files of Marriage and Divorce Records Were Established and Years Areas Were Admitted to the Marriage- and Divorce-Registration Areas: 1983

[The marriage-registration area was established January 1, 1957, and the divorce-registration area, January 1, 1958]

Area	Marriages		Divorces	
	Central files established	Admitted to the MRA	Central files established	Admitted to the DRA
Alabama	1908	1957	1908	1958
Alaska	1913	1957	1949	1958
Arizona	[1]	[2]	[1]	[2]
Arkansas	1917	[2]	1923	[2]
California	1905	1957	1962	[3]
Colorado	1968	1979	1968	[2]
Connecticut	1897	1957	1947	1968
Delaware	1913	1957	1935	1981
District of Columbia	1811	1961	1802	[2]
Florida	1927	1957	1927	[2]
Georgia	1952	1957	1952	1958
Hawaii	1896	1957	1951	1958
Idaho	1947	1957	1947	1958
Illinois	1962	1964	1962	1968
Indiana	1959	1961	[1]	[2]
Iowa	1880	1957	1914	1958
Kansas	1913	1957	1951	1969
Kentucky	1958	1959	1958	1969
Louisiana	1937	1957	1942	[2]
Maine	1892	1957	1892	[2]
Maryland	1914	1957	1914	1969
Massachusetts	1841	1961	1882	1979
Michigan	1867	1957	1897	1961
Minnesota	1958	1971	1970	[2]
Mississippi	1926	1957	1926	[2]
Missouri	1948	1968	1948	1961
Montana	1943	1957	1943	1958
Nebraska	1909	1957	1909	1958
Nevada	1968	[2]	1968	[2]
New Hampshire	1858	1957	1881	1979
New Jersey	1848	1957	1795	[2]
New Mexico	[1]	[2]	[1]	[2]
New York (excl. N.Y.C.)	1880	1957	1963	1969
New York City	1847	1965	1963	
North Carolina	1962	1964	1958	[2]
North Dakota	1925	[2]	1949	[2]
Ohio	1949	1957	1949	1962
Oklahoma	[1]	[2]	[1]	[2]
Oregon	1907	1957	1925	1958
Pennsylvania	1906	1957	1943	1958
Rhode Island	1852	1957	1962	1963
South Carolina	1950	1971	1962	1971
South Dakota	1905	1957	1905	1958
Tennessee	1945	1957	1945	1958
Texas	1966	[2]	1968	[2]
Utah	1919	1957	1953	1958
Vermont	1857	1957	1896	1968
Virginia	1853	1957	1918	1958
Washington	1968	[2]	1968	[2]
West Virginia	1921	1965	1957	[2]
Wisconsin	1907	1957	1907	1958
Wyoming	1941	1957	1941	1958
Puerto Rico	1931	1957	1931	[2]
Virgin Islands	1953	1957	1953	1958

[1] Not yet established.
[2] Not yet admitted.
[3] California was admitted to the DRA in 1968 but ceased to participate in 1978.

Table 4–4. Items of Statistical Information Coded From Divorce or Annulment Records of Divorce-Registration States and Virgin Islands: 1983

["X" or footnote indicates the item is coded]

Area	Items concerning marriage			Items concerning divorce				Items concerning husband and wife						
	State of this marriage	Date of this marriage	Number of children ever born alive of this marriage	Children under 18 in this family	Date couple separated	Petitioner	Date of divorce	Date of birth or age	Race	Number of this marriage	Education	State of residence	If previously married, how many ended by	
													Death	Divorce
Alabama	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alaska	X	X	[1]	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Connecticut	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Delaware	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X		X		
Georgia	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Hawaii	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Idaho	X	X	[3]	[4]	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Illinois	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iowa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kansas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kentucky	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X		X		
Maryland	X	X	[1]	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		
Massachusetts		X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X		
Michigan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Missouri	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Montana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nebraska	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Hampshire	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
New York	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ohio	[2]	X		X		X	X	X		X		X		
Oregon	X	X	[3]	[5]		X	X	X	X	X		X		
Pennsylvania	X	X	[3]	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		
Rhode Island	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
South Carolina	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X		X		
South Dakota	X	X		X		X	X	X	X			X		
Tennessee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Utah	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vermont	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Virginia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wisconsin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wyoming	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Virgin Islands	X	X	[1]	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

[1] Total number of living children
[2] Item does not specifically request State, but State or city was reported on most records; major cities were allocated to appropriate States
[3] Number of children by this marriage
[4] Number of children affected by decree
[5] Date of birth of children of this marriage