

VITAL and HEALTH STATISTICS
DATA FROM THE NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

Children of Divorced Couples:

United States, Selected Years

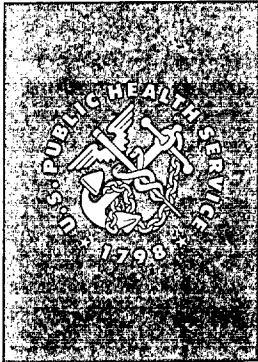
Numbers of children under 18 years of age involved in divorce cases in the United States and individual States, ratios of children per divorce decree, divorce rates by number of children, and characteristics of divorced persons by number of children reported.

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IN RECENT YEARS, over one-half million children have been involved in divorce cases each year, and this number is increasing. The mean number of children per decree increased from 0.78 in 1950 to 1.36 in 1964, but declined to 1.32 in 1965, the first such decline since 1950. The national rate per 1,000 children under 18 years increased from 6.3 in 1950 to 8.9 in 1965. Similar changes were found in the 29 States which reported the statistical information.

The likelihood of divorce was higher for small than for large families. In the United States, in 1960, the divorce rate was 18.7 per 1,000 couples with no children and 8.9 per 1,000 couples with children under 18 years of age. Among the latter, the rate varied between 11.4 for couples with one child and 6.0 for those with four or more children.

Special tabulations were prepared for divorces classified by number of children and other characteristics reported on divorce records. These tabulations were limited to five States: Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. The mean number of children per decree declined with the increasing age of parents at marriage and was smaller for remarried than for first-married persons even when the age at marriage was kept constant. Pronounced differences were found among racial groups—the mean numbers of children were highest for nonwhite couples other than Negroes, and lowest for Negroes, with values for white couples falling in between.

As expected, the means increased with increasing age at decree and with increasing duration of marriage, but declined for older people, because most children were over 18 years and not reported in divorce proceedings.

The mean was higher when the wife, rather than the husband, was the plaintiff, it was also higher when both plaintiff and defendant lived in the State where the decree was granted.

SYMBOLS

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

CHILDREN OF DIVORCED COUPLES

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TREND DATA ON CHILDREN

Trend in the Number of Children

In recent years, about nine children out of each 1,000 representing over one-half million children have been involved each year in divorces. The number of children involved is now six times larger than it was in 1922 and has doubled since 1950.

The total number of children involved in divorce in the United States can be estimated for two separate periods of time: 1922-32 and 1950-65. The national estimates are shown in table 1; the estimating methods are discussed in the appendix. The lack of information for the 1933-49 period precludes the investigation of these statistics during the rapid increase and decline of the divorce rates following World War II.

Data in table 1 indicate that during both periods for which information is available, the number of children of divorced parents increased, and this increase was more pronounced than the comparable increase in the total number of divorces (fig. 1). The ratio between the divorce totals for 1965 and 1922, the first year for which information about children is available, was 3.2, but the comparable ratio for the children involved was 6.8.

Trend in the Rate and the Mean

The child involvement rate per 1,000 children under 18 years of age in the population grew from 2.3 in 1922 to 3.2 in 1929, while during the depression it fell to 2.7 in 1932. In the years 1950-58 the rate varied between 6.1 and 6.5, but after-

ward it began a steep increase, reaching 8.9 in 1965. The trend of the child involvement rate was closely associated with the trend of the divorce rate, which declined during the depression as well as in the early fifties and varied very little in the midfifties. However, since 1958, the child involvement rate has increased more rapidly than the divorce rate. The child involvement rate is also affected by the declining numbers of births. The population of children under 5 years of age

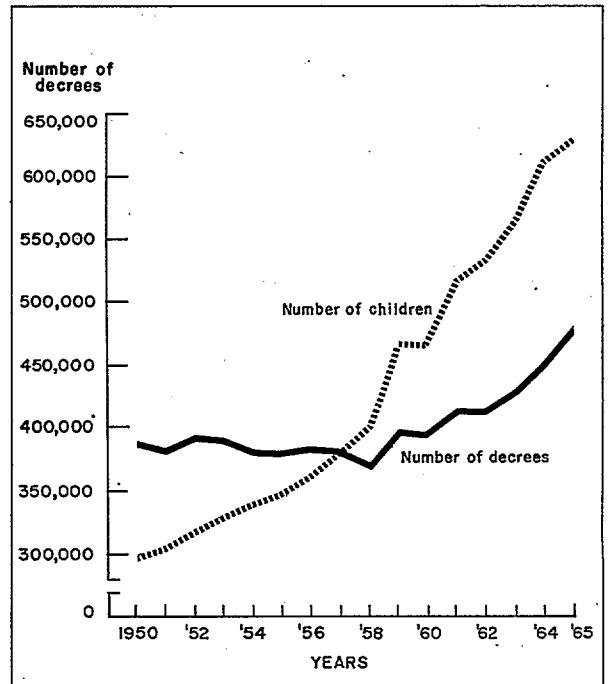


Figure 1. Number of divorce and annulment decrees granted and number of children involved: United States, 1950-65.

declined by 1.3 percent from 1964 to 1965. Though the total population of children under 18 was still increasing in 1965, this increase was very small—0.3 percent from 1964 to 1965, when compared with 2.0 percent from 1963 to 1964.¹

The mean number of children per decree had a trend independent from that of the divorce rate; it increased consistently throughout the years, although its values for two consecutive years were equal in a few cases, and there was only one decline, that for 1965.

The proportion of divorces with children involved represented only 34.0 percent of decrees granted in 1922; this percentage increased to 40.8 in 1932, 44.0 in 1950, and 62.6 in 1964, but declined to 59.8 in 1965 (table 2). The ratio of children to divorce decrees with children reported declined during the 1920's and the early 1930's, increased in the 1950's and the early 1960's, and declined again from 1964 to 1965. The percentage changes of these two measures were as follows:

Selected item	Percentage change		
	1922-65	1922-32	1950-65
Proportion reporting children----	+75.9	+20.0	+35.9
Ratio of children to divorces reporting children----	+17.4	-5.4	+22.7

The increase of the proportion reporting children was pronounced, but the ratio of children per decree with children reported increased to a much smaller degree. The 1922-32 data also indicate that the mean number of children per divorce with children is an unsatisfactory indicator of the general trend, since it declined during the years 1922-32, when the number of children and all other measures were increasing.

Data for 1867-1906

Despite its weaknesses, the mean number of children per divorce with children is the only measure available for the early period of divorce

statistics, for the years 1867 through 1906, since the high proportion of decrees with no information on children does not permit the calculation of reliable averages for all divorces.

Data for the years 1867 through 1906 were collected at two different times, each representing a 20-year period—1867 through 1886, and 1887 through 1906. Differences between the means for the two periods may be due, in part, to differences in the methods used and to the higher completeness and reliability of data for the second 20-year period. The means and the completeness of reporting in selected years are shown below:

Year	Children per decree with children	Percent not stated
1867---	2.10	44.2
1872---	2.02	43.5
1877---	2.06	43.7
1882---	2.10	42.4
1886---	2.10	40.7
1887---	1.91	22.2
1892---	1.88	19.3
1897---	1.88	20.6
1902---	1.87	19.2
1906---	1.84	18.8

Trend in the Distribution

The trends in the total number of children and in various summary measures reflect changes in the distribution of divorces by number of children reported. Since comparatively large differences in this distribution are found among the individual States, a trend can be observed only if statistics of a uniform group of States are used for all years under consideration. Unfortunately, due to changes in the reporting States, the trend of the distribution could be studied only for a comparatively small number of years, from 1961 through 1965 (table 3).

Data from the 16 registration States where children were reported with a high degree of completeness show comparatively little variation in the annual distributions of divorces by number of children, but the proportion of couples reporting no children declined in all years shown in the table with a single exception, and proportions of cases with two or more children showed slight increases.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DATA

The Number of Children

In recent years, national and regional divorce data on the number of children were compiled only for 1960. Two tabulations of children of divorced couples were undertaken—divorces and annulments by number of children reported, from which the actual numbers of children were estimated; and divorces and annulments by duration of marriage and number of children.

Data in table 4 show that in 1960 there were pronounced differences among the four regions—the child involvement rate in the West was almost three times as high, and that in the North Central and the South about twice as high, as that in the Northeast (fig. 2). Though the number of children involved was comparatively small in the Northeast, the number of divorces granted was proportionally still smaller (11.8 and 9.9 percent of the respective national totals), thus yielding a mean

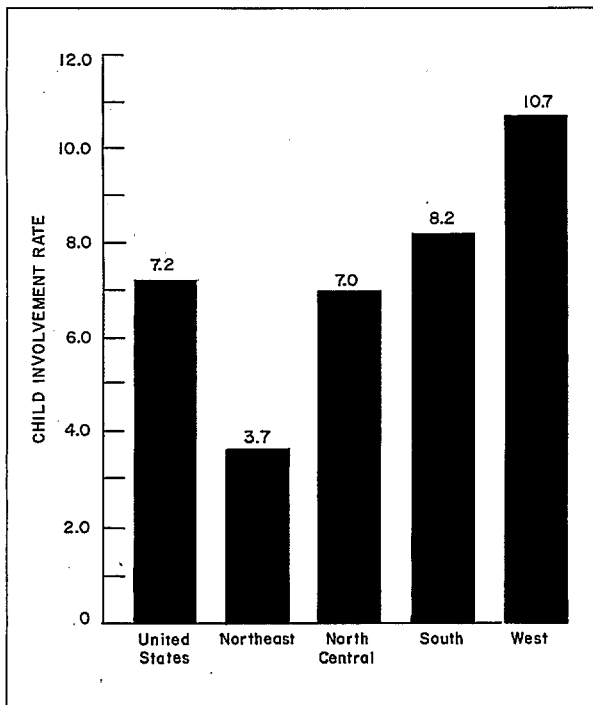


Figure 2. Child involvement rate—number of children involved in divorce per 1,000 children under 18 years of age: United States and each region, 1960.

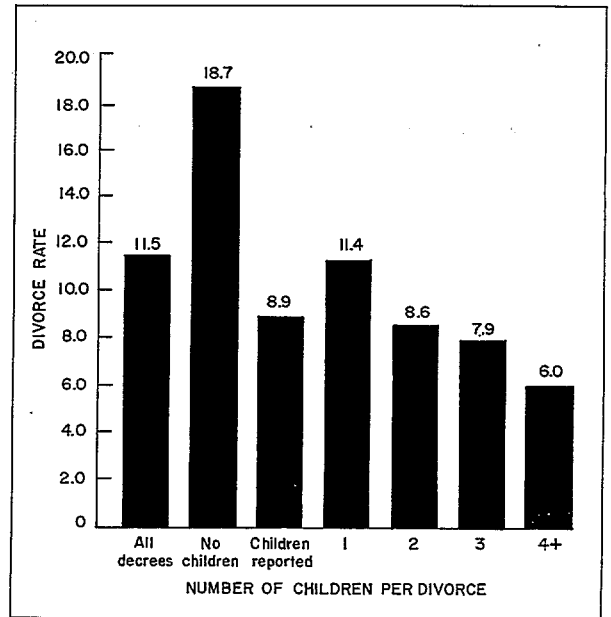


Figure 3. Divorce rate by number of children reported—per 1,000 couples with a given number of children: United States, 1960.

number of children per divorce of 1.40 which was much higher than that of the other three regions. The mean numbers were similar for the North Central, the South, and the West being 1.22, 1.11, and 1.14, respectively.

Likelihood of Divorce by Number of Children

The question is often raised whether the presence of children contributes to the stability of the parental couple. The question can also be asked whether the stability tends to increase when the number of children increases. The available data indicate that affirmative answers can be given to both questions.

Divorce rates by number of children reported were computed from 1960 data for the United States and each region (table 5 and for the United States, fig. 3). Due to limitations of the available population bases, the regional rates are less detailed than the national rates. Methods used for computing these rates are discussed in the appendix. In the United States and in each region, the divorce rate for couples without children is higher than for couples with children. In the North

Central, South, and West Regions it is more than twice as high, but the difference is considerably smaller in the Northeast. For families with children, divorce rates decline with increasing numbers of children.

The likelihood of divorce declines with the increasing number of children, but it also declines with the increasing age of husband and wife² and increasing duration of marriage.³ These four variables (number of children, age of husband, age of wife, and duration of marriage) are directly associated, but from the available data it is impossible to ascertain how the likelihood of divorce is affected by each of these variables taken separately. Probably, the likelihood of divorce is inversely associated with each of these variables when the other three are held constant.

Distribution of Divorces by Number of Children

Two out of every five couples divorced in the United States in 1960 reported no children, another two couples reported small families with one or two children, and about one couple had three or more children (table 6). The proportion of divorces declined with each additional child—from 43.3 percent for cases where no children were reported, to 4.0 percent for couples with four children and 2.6 percent for still larger families. Divorces reporting five or more children were not tabulated separately because of the relatively small numbers involved and thus the number of children in the largest divorced families remains unknown. However, 1963 data indicate that occasionally very large families are broken by divorce. In this year, 37 divorced couples in the divorce-registration area reported more than 10 children, or about one couple out of every 3,800. The largest family divorced in the DRA in 1963 and included in the sample of divorce records was reported to have 18 children.

In the North Central, South, and West Regions the percentage distribution of divorces by number of children reported was similar to the national average. However, in the Northeast the percent of divorced couples with no children was about 12 points below the national average, while the percent of families with one child was 7 points above the average. Hence, the combined categories

with no children and with one child in the Northeast differed comparatively little from the national figure of 66 percent. Divorced couples with four or more children were most frequently found in the two northern regions (7.6 and 7.7 percent) and least frequently in the West (5.4).

RACE OF THE CHILD

Characteristics of children involved in divorce cases are not recorded on the divorce certificate; all that is known about them is that they are less than 18 years of age, though the upper age limit varies slightly among the reporting States (see appendix). The only characteristic of the children that can be deduced from the information about the parents, given on the certificate, is race. If both parents belong to the same race, their children are automatically considered to belong to the racial group of their parents. When one parent is white and the other nonwhite, children are considered to belong to the racial group of the nonwhite parent. Hence, it is possible to speak not only about the race of the parents, but also about the race of the children. However, such data are available only for six States: Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin (information about children of parents belonging to two different nonwhite races was not tabulated separately).

The distribution of children by race depends on the distribution of the State population weighted by race-specific divorce rates and by the number of children per divorce, both of which tend to vary among racial groups within a State. In the five continental States the overwhelming majority of all children involved in divorce were white and a minority Negro, while very few belonged to other races or were born to couples where one parent was white, the other nonwhite; in some States, no children belonging to the latter categories were reported. In Hawaii, the situation was reversed; about one-half of all children were nonwhite, other than Negro, an additional one-fourth were born to white-nonwhite couples, and only one-fourth were white, while the number of Negro children was negligible.

The mean numbers per decree are lower for Negro children than for white children, while the means for children of other races are the highest.

Figures for children of racially mixed couples have means similar to those of the combined nonwhite groups in their State (table 7 and fig 4). However, this pattern has to be qualified, because of the small numbers of some racial groups. Frequencies for white children are large enough to yield reliable means in all six States, but reliable data for Negroes are available only from the five continental States and reliable data for the other nonwhite and for interracial children are available only from Hawaii. There were some Negro children involved in divorces in Hawaii, and other nonwhite children and children of racially mixed couples in some continental States. Their means fall into the pattern described above, but the numbers of children were very small, (51 children, or less). Hence, the comparison between white and other nonwhite children is based on data from one State only and in no single State can the comparison be made between Negro and other nonwhite children. It is not known whether

the high mean found in Hawaii for the other nonwhite children is duplicated on the continent, though the figure for Wisconsin strongly suggests it. On the other hand, the racial composition of the other nonwhite group varies between States, and this may be reflected in their mean number of children.

The pattern of the mean numbers of children per divorce with children differs from that described above, since means for white children are lower than those for Negroes. In the six States combined these means are as follows:

All children-----	2.19
White-----	2.16
Negro-----	2.29
Other-----	2.75
Interracial-----	2.44

The differences among the racial groups are much less pronounced here than those for the mean numbers per all decrees. This is due to the varying proportions of divorces with no children reported (table 8). For divorces of Negroes this proportion is more than twice that for the other nonwhite couples, 52.7 and 24.5 percent, respectively, with the percentage for white couples falling in between (39.5). The proportion of couples with large families divorced during the year varied also among the races—couples with three children or more involved comprised 35.8 percent of all divorces of the other nonwhite, 19.0 percent of the white, and 15.5 percent of the Negro divorces.

The cause of the variations between races is not clear from the available data because they do not seem to reflect race-specific birth rates or differences in the duration of marriage of parents at time of divorce.

STATE DATA

The Available Information

Divorce data, including information about children involved in divorce cases, were collected for the United States and for each individual State for the years 1867-1906 and 1922-32. In more recent years, this information has been obtained only from limited numbers of States. Even in 1960, when national and regional data

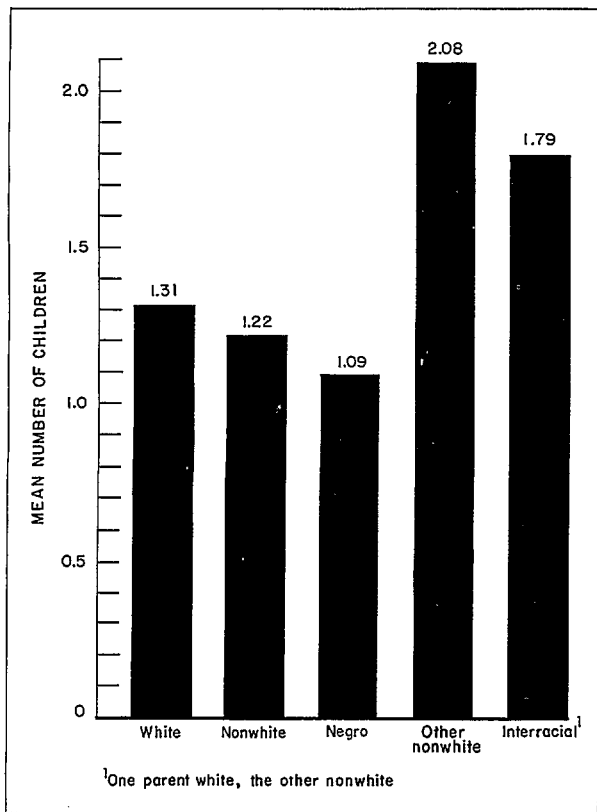


Figure 4. Mean number of children per decree by race: total of six selected States, 1963.

were collected, the sample design was such that statistics by State could be tabulated only for areas participating in the divorce-registration area (DRA).

During the 16-year period 1950-65, information about children was reported by 29 States, but never by all these States in the same year. The number of reporting States declined from 23 in 1957 to 12 in 1958. This decline was due to the establishment of the DRA in 1958, which led to the exclusion of many States that had satisfactorily reported the number of children, but lacked information on personal characteristics of husbands and wives.

For 1958 and subsequent years, information concerning children of divorced couples was obtained from the vital statistics publications of several States that do not participate in the DRA (Florida, Maine, Mississippi, New Hampshire, and North Dakota) or which were admitted after the DRA was initially organized (Connecticut, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Vermont). Using data for recent years from all available sources, annual totals of children involved could be estimated and mean numbers computed for all 29 States (tables 9 and 10). For 24 of these States, information is available for each year from 1952 through 1965.

Variation Among States

Data in tables 9 and 10 show the variation among States in the number of children involved and in the mean number of children per decree. These statistics also show changes that occurred in each State during the years for which data are available.

In 1965, the number of children involved was 34,500 in Ohio and 1,000 in Vermont, a ratio of approximately 35 to 1. Similar differences are found for earlier years, reflecting differences between States in population and in divorce rates. When these two variables are held constant, the variation is still pronounced—the range of the mean number of children per divorce in 1965 was between 1.13 in Florida and Mississippi and 1.73 in Vermont. This means that two divorced couples in Vermont had approximately as many

children as three in Mississippi or Florida (table 10).

Of the 29 States for which 1965 data are available 15 had 1.35 or fewer children per decree, and 14 had more than 1.35 children (fig. 5). A variation can be observed in the regional distribution of the means—almost all reporting Northeastern States had high means, while all reporting Southern States had low means. In the other two regions the means were widely distributed throughout the range.

The numbers of children involved in divorce increased from 1952 to 1965 in all States for which this information was obtained, except for Hawaii, where the 1965 total declined drastically due to amendments of the divorce laws. The numbers more than doubled in Alaska, Florida, Georgia, and Michigan (table 9).

The mean number of children per divorce also increased in all States for which information is available, except for Hawaii, from 1952 to 1965. In 18 of the 24 States this increase was between 30 and 60 percent. The largest increase was 77 percent in Alaska and the smallest, 30 percent in Connecticut. Some of the States that experienced the largest increases in the mean number of children still had comparatively low means in 1965 (Florida, Georgia, and Missouri) (table 10).

Increases can also be observed by comparing State data for two consecutive years. Tables 9 and 10 each yield 339 such comparisons for the years 1952-65. Increases of total numbers were found in 215 cases and of mean numbers in 225 cases. The number of declines was 68 and 96, respectively. When 3-year moving averages of the means were computed, eliminating the minor annual fluctuations, increases were found in 249 out of a total of 281 such comparisons, or almost 90 percent of the cases.

Thus it can be seen that the increase of the number of children per decree was not only a national occurrence, but was also reflected in all States for which information is available. It is very likely that similar increases occurred in all, or almost all, other States. The decline of many State means in 1965 parallels a similar decline on the national level.

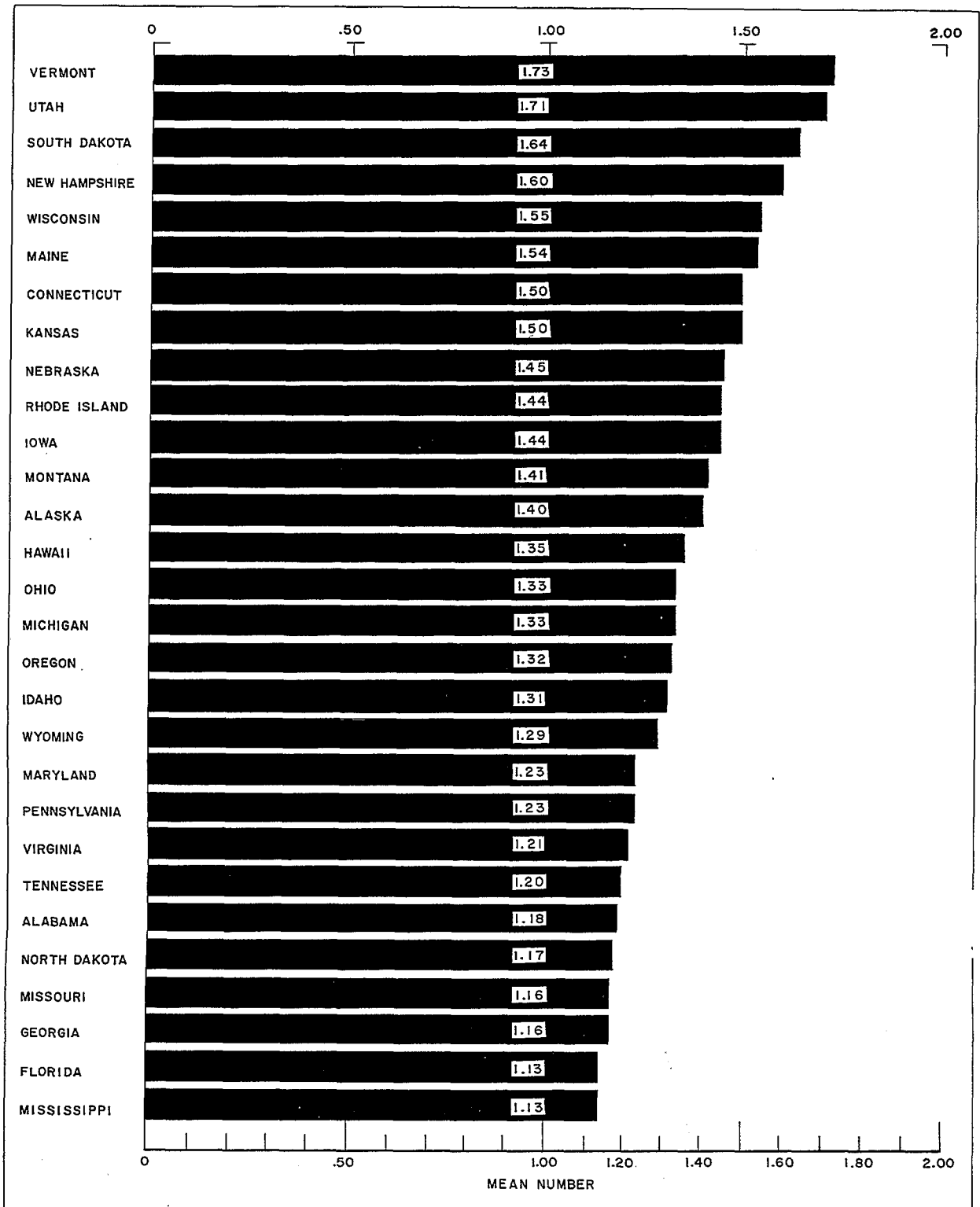


Figure 5. Mean number of children per decree: 29 reporting States, 1965.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION ABOUT PARENTS OF THE CHILDREN INVOLVED

Information about children of divorced couples refers only to their total numbers. Their characteristics are unknown, except that they are within the age group provided by State laws, as a rule under 18 years of age, and, in a few States, their race can be ascertained.

On the other hand, demographic characteristics of the parents are reported in States participating in the divorce-registration area. However, in 1963, reporting of personal characteristics was sufficiently complete in only six States, and, in one of these, the number of children was not well reported. Therefore, in only five States—Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin—was satisfactory information available about children classified by characteristics of parents and this information was tabulated for 1963. In these five States 33,615 divorces and annulments were granted that year involving a total of 44,500 children. It must be noted that the ratio of children per divorce was 1.32 in the five States combined, practically the same as the ratio of 1.31 for the DRA.

The following sections present data on children by personal characteristics and the duration of marriages of their parents. The personal characteristics include age at marriage and at decree, number of times married, and resident status.

CHILDREN BY AGE OF PARENTS AT DECREE

Distribution of Children by Age of Parents

The proportion of divorced couples with children under 18 years of age is highest when wives and husbands are in their late twenties or early thirties, respectively, and then declines with age (table 11). Husbands and wives 50 years of age and older at time of decree report no children under 18 about twice as often as those under 25 years of age, because many children of older persons are grown-up and are not reported in divorce cases. Furthermore, it is possible that the likelihood of divorce of childless couples

declines with age less rapidly than that of couples with children, particularly after the childless couples realize that the chances of having children have become remote. Statistical data concerning this problem, however, are not available.

In practically all age groups, percentages of divorced husbands and wives reporting no children were higher than those reporting any given number of children. Among husbands and wives with children, those who reported one child were most numerous, except for husbands and wives in their thirties, where the percentage with two children was slightly higher.

The distribution of parents by number of children changes with age (table 11). Percentages for persons reporting one child were highest in the age groups under 25, while parents reporting five or more children were most numerous at ages 30-39 years. After the peak ages, percentages of all groups reporting children declined consistently. Couples that report no children are on the average older than those reporting children (table 12). Median ages of husbands and wives were highest where no children were reported, and lowest when one child was reported.

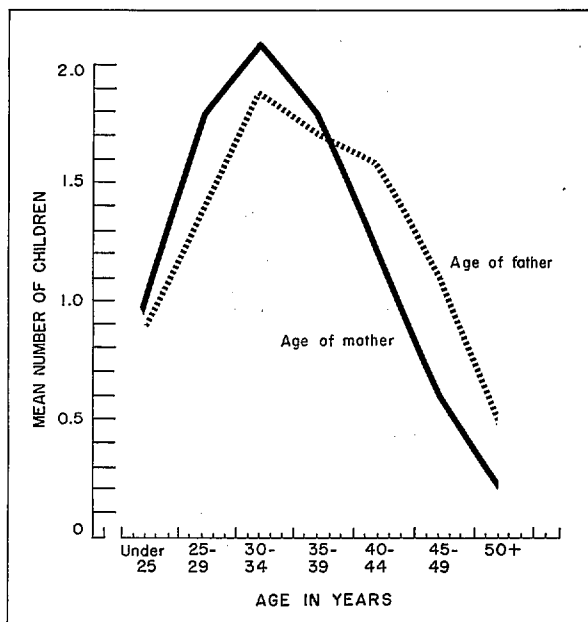


Figure 6. Mean number of children per decree, by age of parents: total of five selected States, 1963.

Number of Children by Age of Parents

Both the total number of children and the mean numbers per decree vary with the age of the parents at decree. The largest percentages of children were reported when the father and mother were 25-34 years of age, the number of children of this age group comprising over 40 percent of all children involved (table 13). The mean number of children per decree increased while the parents were in their twenties, reached a maximum while they were in their thirties, and declined afterward (table 14 and fig. 6).

The mean number of children per decree with children was 2.2 in the five States combined, compared with a mean of 1.3 when all decrees were used. The difference between the two comparable means increased with the age of both parents, due to the growing proportions of divorces with no children reported included in the denominators of means per all decrees. The age pattern of the mean per decree with children was similar to that of means based on all decrees. When the parents were under age 25 at the time of decree, the means per decree with children were 1.5 for fathers and 1.6 for mothers. They increased to 2.7 when parents were 35-39 years old, and declined with the increasing age of the divorced parents to 2.2 and 1.6, respectively, when they were 50 years or older. The decline was due to those families with several children where the older ones may have reached the age when they are no longer included in the data, while the younger children were included. Thus, the numbers of children reported were smaller than those which would have been reported by the same couples if they had divorced at a younger age.

CHILDREN BY AGE OF PARENTS AT MARRIAGE

Persons who married at early ages were likely to have more children at the time of their divorce than persons married at an older age, and the age of the mother was more closely associated with the number of children than was the father's age. In the five States combined, 40.6

percent of all women divorced in 1963 reported no children, but this percentage was only 25.6 percent for women married in their teens (table 15). Among all divorced women, 19.6 percent had three or more children, but this percentage was reduced to 14.2 for women married when 25-29 years old, and 5.7 percent for women married in their thirties. In all cases the percentages without children increased consistently with increasing age at marriage. This association could be expected because of the high fertility of younger women.⁴ In the five States combined, the mean number of children per decree declined from 1.7 when the mother was less than 20 years old at the time of marriage to 0.1 when she was 40 years or over. For the fathers, comparable means were 1.6 and 0.3. The pattern was similar in all five States included in the study (table 16).

CHILDREN BY MARRIAGE ORDER OF PARENTS

The relationship between marriage order and the number of children reported can be described as follows. The more times the father and mother have been married, the smaller the average number of children per decree and the larger the proportion of couples reporting no children. The number of this marriage of the mother shows a stronger association with the number of children than that of the father (table 17). The mean numbers of children for couples with both spouses married once were almost three times as large as those where both parents were remarried. The means for couples where the woman was married once and the man more than once were considerably larger than those for first married husbands and remarried wives (fig. 7).

The differences among the marriage order categories are due almost exclusively to the proportions of couples reporting no children under 18 years. The mean number of children per decree with children shows little variation by marriage order: from 2.2 for first marriages of both parents to 1.9 for remarriages of both. In all five States the proportion of couples reporting no children was lowest when both spouses were married once and highest when both were remarried.

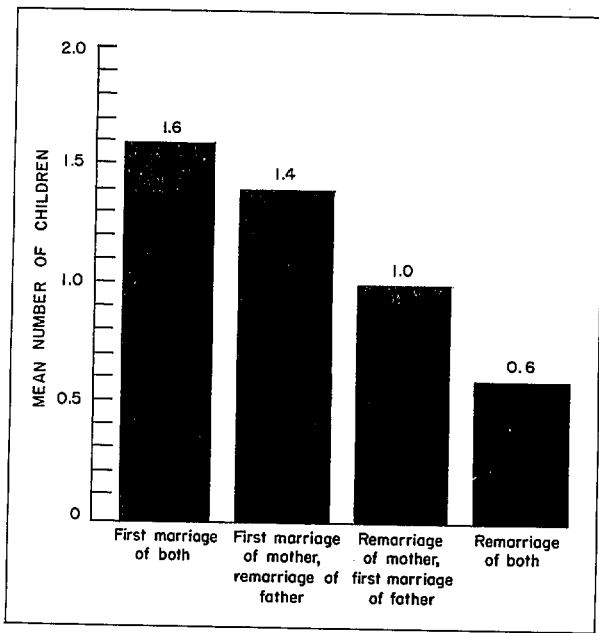


Figure 7. Mean number of children by marriage order of husband and wife: total of five selected States, 1963.

CHILDREN BY AGE, COLOR, AND MARRIAGE ORDER OF PARENTS

Age at Decree

The number of children is associated with the combined personal characteristics of parents. Table 18 gives the mean number of children per decree by marriage order, color, and age at decree of father and mother. The pattern of the mean numbers of children by age of parents at decree is different for the two marriage-order categories, but rather similar for racial groups within each marriage-order category.

When fathers, or mothers, were married once, the means were highest for the 25-34-year age groups, and this was true within each racial group. The lowest means for all white children and for nonwhite children in Hawaii were obtained when the parents were under 25 years at the time of decree, but for nonwhite children in the continental States the means were lowest for the oldest age group of parents, those 35 years and older.

When fathers and mothers were married more than once, two different age patterns could be observed within each racial group--for all white mothers and nonwhite mothers living in the four continental States, the mean numbers of children declined with age, but for white and nonwhite fathers, the highest means were found for the 35-44-year age group.

Within each age group, the mean numbers of children were usually highest for nonwhite couples in Hawaii, the second highest means usually occurred for white couples and the lowest for nonwhite couples living in the four continental States. Differences between the races cannot be attributed to duration of marriage, because a similar pattern is also found when data are classified by duration of marriage, instead of age, as discussed later in this report.

When the two nonwhite groups, the Negroes in the four continental States and the other nonwhite couples in Hawaii, are combined their age-specific mean numbers of children are very similar to those for white couples.

Age at Marriage

The number of children of mothers married once is larger than that of remarried mothers even if they were of the same age at the time of the current marriage (table 19). Within each marriage-order category, the average number of children usually declined with the increasing age of parents at marriage. The mean numbers of children by age at marriage and marriage order were highest for the nonwhite couples in Hawaii, and lowest for nonwhite couples in the continental States, with means for the white couples falling in between. Thus the pattern of race-specific means was the same as when age at decree was used.

CHILDREN BY RESIDENT STATUS OF THE DEFENDANT PARENT

The plaintiffs in divorce cases are always considered to be residents in the State where the case is tried and therefore the tabulation of the number of children by the resident status of parents is limited to the defendant parent.

In three out of four divorces the wife was the plaintiff and the husband was the defendant, and in such cases the number of children per decree was higher than when the wife was the defendant. This was true almost without exception for comparable pairs of means in each of the five reporting States (table 20).

As a rule, the average number of children per divorce was larger in cases where the defendant lived in the State where the decree was granted than when he lived out of State. When the defendant lived in the State where the divorce was obtained, both parties to divorce were living in the same State, and, very probably, the couple lived in the same State before the separation. Migration to a different State may have been easier if no children, or only a few, were involved. There was also more opportunity to migrate when many years had elapsed between separation and decree, and during this interval some of the children may have grown up and were excluded from the statistics. The proportion of couples reporting no children follows the same pattern. No children are reported more often in divorce cases where the wife is the defendant, irrespective of her resident status.

CHILDREN BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE

National, Regional, and State Data

Divorce data classified by the duration of marriage and the number of children reported are available for the years 1960 through 1965.⁵ State data were published for each year, and national and regional data for 1960. From these data median numbers of children by duration of marriage were computed (tables 21 and 22). Medians, rather than means, are used because of the open-ended category "three children or more."

For the United States, the overall median number of children per decree was 1.3 in 1960. This median was only 0.6 when the marriage had lasted less than 1 year, and it increased with added years of duration, reaching the highest value, 2.3, for the duration interval of 10-14 years. Couples with a still longer duration reported

fewer children (1.7), because their children were growing up and leaving the group included in the statistics.

The pattern of medians in individual regions and States was similar to that found for the country as a whole. In all cases, the median was lowest when the marriage had lasted less than 1 year and increased with growing duration. In most areas the highest median was found for marriages that lasted 10-14 years and declined when the duration was 15 years or more. The decline of the median for the highest open-ended interval of duration of marriage has a parallel in the decline of the mean for the highest age interval, since both were due to divorces of couples whose children were grown.

Distribution of Divorces by Number of Children and Duration

In the United States no children were reported by almost 90 percent of couples married for less than 1 year. This declined with increasing duration to 26 percent when the marriage had lasted 10-14 years, and went up again in the category

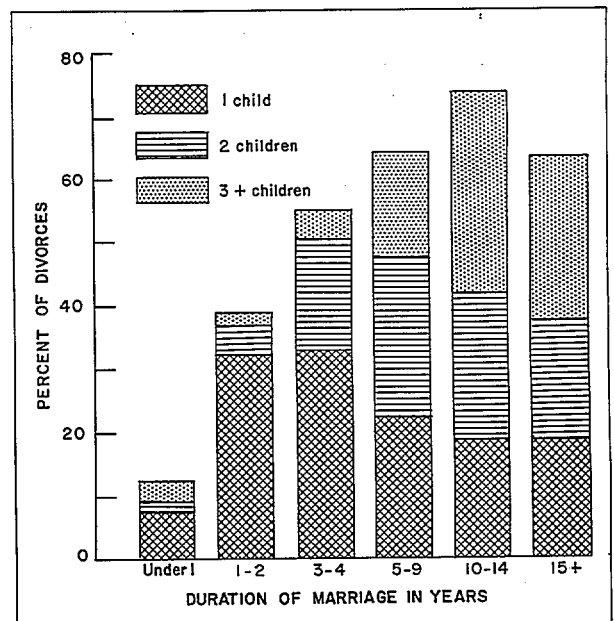


Figure 8. Percent of divorces reporting children, by duration of marriage: United States, 1960

with the longest tabulated duration (table 23). In all duration categories couples with no children represented a higher proportion of the total than couples with any given number of children. The second highest proportion varied depending on duration.

Even in cases where the duration of marriage was less than 1 year, 12.1 percent of couples reported children and 3.3 percent had three or more children (fig. 8 and table 23). Many of these children were, no doubt, children of one of the spouses born from previous marriages. On the other hand, even in the duration category with the lowest proportion of childless couples, one out of four couples reported no children. The median duration of marriage was 4.8 years for couples reporting no children. When the couple reported one, two, or three or more children, the median duration increased to 5.9, 9.3, and 12.7 years, respectively (table 24).

Children by Duration, Marriage Order, and Color

The 1963 statistics on children by duration of marriage were further classified by marriage order and color. Data for nonwhite couples are shown separately for the four continental States, where almost all divorced nonwhite couples were Negro, and separately for Hawaii, where almost all divorced nonwhite couples belonged to various races other than Negro.

When divorces were classified by marriage order and color, the average number of children

increased in each category with increasing duration of marriage. It reached a maximum when this duration was 10-14 years in all groups except remarried nonwhite couples, and declined in the open-ended category with the longest duration (table 25). Similarly the percentage of divorces with no children reported declined with the increasing duration, to a minimum in the 10-14 years category, and increased afterwards (table 26).

Mean numbers of children per decree for couples where both spouses were married once, are, as a rule, higher than those for the same duration of marriage of couples where one or both spouses had been married more than once. Some exceptions occurred only in marriages with a duration of less than 1 year. This may seem surprising, since many persons married more than once, particularly women, have children from previous marriages living with them, and it could be expected that the proportion of remarried wives without children would be smaller than that of wives married once.

As a rule, the mean number of children for each marriage duration category is lowest for the nonwhite group in the four continental States, higher for white couples, and highest for nonwhite couples in Hawaii.

In general, data on children by marriage order, color, and duration of marriage are similar to data by marriage order, color, and age of parents at decree (table 18). The pattern of race-specific means within duration categories is identical with that within age categories.

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Table 1. Estimated number of children involved in divorces and annulments: United States, 1922-32 and 1950-65

[Refers to events occurring within the United States. For method of estimating, see appendix]

Year	All decrees	Estimated number of children	Mean per decree	Rate per 1,000 children
1965-----	479,000	630,000	1.32	8.9
1964 ¹ -----	450,000	613,000	1.36	8.7
1963 ¹ -----	428,000	562,000	1.31	8.2
1962 ¹ -----	413,000	532,000	1.29	7.9
1961 ¹ -----	414,000	516,000	1.25	7.8
1960-----	393,000	463,000	1.18	7.2
1959-----	395,000	468,000	1.18	7.5
1958-----	368,000	398,000	1.08	6.5
1957-----	381,000	379,000	0.99	6.4
1956-----	382,000	361,000	0.95	6.3
1955-----	377,000	347,000	0.92	6.3
1954-----	379,000	341,000	0.90	6.4
1953-----	390,000	330,000	0.85	6.4
1952-----	392,000	318,000	0.81	6.2
1951-----	381,000	304,000	0.80	6.1
1950-----	385,144	299,000	0.78	6.3
1932-----	164,241	116,000	0.71	2.7
1931-----	188,003	122,000	0.67	2.8
1930-----	195,961	131,000	0.67	3.0
1929-----	205,876	137,000	0.67	3.2
1928-----	200,176	132,000	0.66	3.1
1927-----	196,292	127,000	0.65	2.9
1926-----	184,678	120,000	0.65	2.8
1925-----	175,449	114,000	0.65	2.7
1924-----	170,952	111,000	0.65	2.7
1923-----	165,096	106,000	0.64	2.6
1922-----	148,815	93,000	0.63	2.3

¹Revised.

Table 2. Percent of divorces and annulments, with children reported: total reporting States, 1922-32 and 1950-65

[Refers to events occurring within the reporting States]

Year	Number of reporting States	Percent of decrees with children	Mean number of children per decree with children	Year	Number of reporting States	Percent of decrees with children	Mean number of children per decree with children
1965-----	22	59.8	2.16	1951-----	17	43.9	1.81
1964-----	22	62.6	2.18	1950-----	16	44.0	1.76
1963-----	22	61.6	2.16				
1962-----	21	60.2	2.14	1932-----	U.S.	40.8	1.74
1961-----	20	60.3	2.06	1931-----	U.S.	38.0	1.76
1960-----	U.S.	56.7	2.08	1930-----	U.S.	37.8	1.78
1959-----	16	59.1	2.00	1929-----	U.S.	37.2	1.79
1958-----	12	55.1	1.96	1928-----	U.S.	36.9	1.78
1957-----	23	50.9	1.95	1927-----	U.S.	36.5	1.77
1956-----	22	48.9	1.93	1926-----	U.S.	36.1	1.80
1955-----	22	48.1	1.92	1925-----	U.S.	36.0	1.80
1954-----	22	47.8	1.88	1924-----	U.S.	35.7	1.82
1953-----	22	45.5	1.86	1923-----	U.S.	35.0	1.84
1952-----	22	44.6	1.82	1922-----	U.S.	34.0	1.84

Table 3. Number and percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by number of children reported: total of 16 selected States,¹ 1961-65

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Year	All decrees	Number of children							
		None	1	2	3	4	5	6+	Not stated
Number of divorces									
1965-----	114,192	45,275	25,394	20,192	11,432	5,968	2,384	1,741	1,806
1964-----	111,586	41,804	24,559	19,576	11,796	5,749	2,520	1,786	3,796
1963-----	104,867	41,142	23,169	18,832	10,830	5,213	2,138	1,505	2,038
1962-----	102,156	41,223	21,987	18,133	10,277	4,924	3,525		2,087
1961-----	99,037	39,803	23,373	16,825	9,251	4,665	3,064		2,056
Percent distribution									
1965-----	100.0	40.3	22.6	18.0	10.2	5.3	2.1	1.5	...
1964-----	100.0	38.8	22.8	18.2	10.9	5.3	2.3	1.7	...
1963-----	100.0	40.0	22.5	18.3	10.5	5.1	2.1	1.5	...
1962-----	100.0	41.2	22.0	18.1	10.3	4.9	3.5		...
1961-----	100.0	41.0	24.1	17.3	9.5	4.8	3.2		...

¹Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Table 4. Number of children involved in divorces and annulments: United States and each geographic region, 1960

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Area	Estimated number of children	Rate per 1,000 children	Percent of decrees reporting no children	Mean number of children	
				Per decree	Per decree with children
United States-----	463,000	7.2	43.3	1.18	2.08
Northeast-----	54,600	3.7	31.2	1.40	2.03
North Central-----	129,600	7.0	43.3	1.22	2.16
South-----	170,000	8.2	45.6	1.11	2.04
West-----	108,700	10.7	44.2	1.14	2.04

Table 5. Divorce rates, by number of children reported: United States and each geographic region, 1960

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample. Cases with the number of children not stated are distributed. For the regions, rates for 2, 3, and 4 children or more could not be computed because population bases are not available. For computation methods, see appendix]

Number of children	United States	Region			
		North-east	North Central	South	West
		Divorce rate			
All divorces-----	11.5	4.6	10.9	14.5	17.6
Decrees with no children-----	18.7	5.3	18.3	24.0	29.0
Decrees with children-----	8.9	4.3	8.3	10.9	13.4
1 child-----	11.4	5.6	10.5	13.9	17.3
2 children-----	8.6	} 3.7	7.3	9.4	11.7
3 children-----	7.9				
4 children or more-----	6.0				

Table 6. Number and percent distribution of divorces and annulments, by number of children reported: United States and each geographic region, 1960

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Area	All decrees	Number of children						
		None	1	2	3	4	5+	Not stated
		Number of divorces						
United States-----	393,388	159,165	84,711	63,927	35,586	14,674	9,523	25,802
Northeast-----	38,998	10,309	9,988	6,560	3,681	1,422	1,090	5,948
North Central-----	105,999	44,840	22,690	17,174	10,741	5,100	2,908	2,546
South-----	152,826	63,310	31,658	23,224	12,008	5,152	3,548	13,926
West-----	95,565	40,706	20,375	16,969	9,156	3,000	1,977	3,382
		Percent distribution						
United States-----	100.0	43.3	23.0	17.4	9.7	4.0	2.6	...
Northeast-----	100.0	31.2	30.2	19.8	11.1	4.3	3.3	...
North Central-----	100.0	43.3	21.9	16.6	10.4	4.9	2.8	...
South-----	100.0	45.6	22.8	16.7	8.6	3.7	2.6	...
West-----	100.0	44.2	22.1	18.4	9.9	3.3	2.1	...

Table 7. Number of children involved in divorces and annulments and mean number of children per decree, by race: six selected States, 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on total count in Virginia and probability sample in remaining 5 States]

Race	Selected States						
	Total	Hawaii	Iowa	Mo.	Tenn.	Va.	Wis.
	Number of children						
All races-----	54,209	2,764	7,748	14,392	11,847	9,806	7,652
White-----	46,483	693	7,414	12,745	10,297	8,118	7,216
Nonwhite-----	7,022	1,997	243	1,357	1,366	1,688	371
Negro-----	4,930	7	214	1,357	1,366	1,688	298
Other-----	1,360	1,322	-	-	-	-	38
Interracial ² -----	748	668	29	-	-	-	51
Not stated-----	704	74	91	290	184	-	65
	Mean number of children per decree						
All races-----	1.30	1.83	1.55	1.19	1.16	1.21	1.58
White-----	1.31	1.41	1.55	1.21	1.18	1.24	1.61
Nonwhite-----	1.22	2.04	1.41	1.09	1.00	1.08	1.26
Negro-----	1.09	1.17	1.49	1.09	1.00	1.08	1.24
Other-----	2.08	2.08	-	-	-	-	2.71
Interracial ² -----	1.79	1.98	1.21	-	-	-	1.28

¹Children of five other nonwhite couples counted as Negro.

²One parent white, the other nonwhite.

Table 8. Number of divorces and annulments, by race and percent distribution by number of children reported: total of six selected States,¹ 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on total count in Virginia and probability sample in remaining 5 States].

Race	All decrees	Number of children							
		Total	None	1	2	3	4	5	6+
		Percent distribution							
All races-----	Number ² 41,716	100.0	40.6	23.2	17.2	10.3	5.0	2.1	1.7
White-----	35,512	100.0	39.5	23.8	17.7	10.5	5.0	2.0	1.5
Nonwhite-----	5,621	100.0	47.5	19.7	14.0	8.7	4.6	2.6	3.0
Negro-----	³ 4,549	100.0	52.7	19.3	12.5	7.3	3.6	2.0	2.6
Other-----	865	100.0	24.5	19.3	20.3	15.8	9.9	4.8	5.3
Interracial ⁴ -----	447	100.0	26.7	24.5	19.6	13.2	7.4	5.6	2.9

¹Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

²Includes 583 cases with race not stated.

³Five divorces of other nonwhite parents included with Negroes.

⁴One parent white, the other nonwhite.

Source: Data for Virginia from the Statistical Annual Report of the State Department of Health, 1963, table 35; data for other States tabulated by NCHS.

Table 9. Estimated number of children involved in divorces and annulments: 29 reporting States, 1950-65

[By place of occurrence. Estimating methods and sources of data are given in the appendix]

State	Year decree granted				
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Estimated number of children				
Alabama-----	---	---	6,600	6,900	6,900
Alaska-----	---	---	400	400	400
Connecticut-----	⁶ 3,100	⁶ 3,100	3,300	3,600	⁶ 3,600
Florida-----	⁶ 10,500	12,000	13,600	13,900	¹⁴ 14,300
Georgia-----	---	---	6,800	^a 5,600	^a 6,300
Hawaii-----	---	---	1,900	2,200	2,200
Idaho-----	³ 2,600	---	2,400	2,400	2,500
Iowa-----	¹² 4,900	⁶ 2,400	5,400	5,500	5,700
Kansas-----	---	---	⁴ 5,000	⁴ 5,400	5,200
Maine-----	---	---	2,500	2,500	2,300
Maryland-----	---	---	---	---	---
Michigan-----	13,700	^{10a} 12,100	^{10a} 11,300	^{10a} 12,600	^{10a} 15,000
Mississippi-----	14,300	² 4,100	² 4,400	² 4,200	² 4,300
Missouri-----	²⁸ 2,200	^{a, c} 8,400	9,100	9,000	^a 8,800
Montana-----	² 1,800	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,000
Nebraska-----	² 2,400	² 2,300	⁴ 2,400	2,200	2,400
New Hampshire-----	1,200	⁶ 1,200	⁶ 1,300	⁸ 1,300	⁶ 1,300
North Dakota-----	³ 700	⁸ 700	⁸ 700	⁸ 700	⁸ 800
Ohio-----	---	---	18,600	20,800	20,200
Oregon-----	³ 4,800	5,000	5,300	5,400	⁴ 5,600
Pennsylvania-----	---	---	---	---	---
Rhode Island-----	---	---	---	---	---
South Dakota-----	⁴ 1,100	1,100	⁴ 1,100	1,100	1,300
Tennessee-----	⁶ 6,400	6,600	6,900	7,100	7,600
Utah-----	---	---	---	---	---
Vermont-----	---	⁴ 700	⁴ 700	⁴ 600	³ 700
Virginia-----	¹ 4,600	4,700	6,200	¹ 6,800	¹⁶ 6,100
Wisconsin-----	---	---	---	---	---
Wyoming-----	⁴ 1,000	^{4a} 1,100	^{4a} 1,200	^a 1,200	^a 1,200

Definition of children by year and State. Includes children under 18 years of age, with the following exceptions:

- ¹ Minor children affected by decree.
- ² Minor children.
- ³ Children affected by decree.
- ⁴ Number of children.
- ⁵ Children under 18 of this marriage.
- ⁶ Children under 21.
- ⁷ Children under 21 affected by decree.
- ⁸ All dependent children under 21.
- ⁹ Dependent children under 19.
- ¹⁰ Children under 17.

Table 9. Estimated number of children involved in divorces and annulments: 29 reporting States, 1950-65—Con.

[By place of occurrence. Estimating methods and sources of data are given in the appendix]

Year decree granted										
1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Estimated number of children										
8,100	² 9,100	^a 10,200	12,900	17,600	¹ 21,300	¹ 22,800	¹ 15,300	16,400	15,100	13,000
⁶ 400	⁸ 500	⁶ 500	⁸ 700	⁸ 900	⁶ 7900	⁷ 1,100	⁷ 1,100	⁷ 1,200	⁷ 1,200	⁷ 1,600
⁶ 3,400	3,000	3,100	^{6b} 3,000	^{6b} 3,700	⁶ 3,400	^{6b} 3,800	^{6b} 4,200	^{6b} 4,700	^{6b} 5,500	^{6b} 5,600
14,600	15,900	15,500	^{1b} 15,600	^{1b} 18,300	^{1b} 78,800	^{1b} 22,500	^{1b} 23,400	^{1b} 24,900	^{1b} 25,700	^{1b} 28,600
^a 6,900	^a 7,500	^a 8,600	8,200	9,100	9,100	11,000	11,700	13,000	13,500	13,900
2,300	2,400	2,300	¹² 2,300	2,500	² 2,400	² 2,900	² 2,500	² 2,800	¹² 3,100	¹² 1,500
2,400	2,300	2,700	2,700	3,100	³ 3,200	³ 3,200	³ 3,400	³ 3,500	³ 3,600	³ 3,700
5,600	5,500	4,800	5,200	5,900	6,100	6,900	6,800	7,800	7,800	7,600
5,400	⁴ 5,400	⁴ 5,900	³ 5,400	^b 6,300	⁴ 6,500	⁴ 7,000	⁴ 7,500	⁴ 7,900	⁴ 8,500	⁴ 8,200
2,300	2,300	2,400	^b 2,400	^b 2,700	^b 2,800	^b 2,900	^b 3,100	^b 3,500	^b 3,700	^b 3,900
---	---	---	---	---	5,900	5,700	6,800	7,700	8,600	8,800
¹⁰ 15,900	¹⁰ 14,500	14,700	^{4b} 14,900	^{4b} 17,400	^{4b} 19,200	19,700	22,800	22,600	26,900	26,900
² 4,300	² 4,700	² 4,600	^{2b} 4,700	^{2b} 4,900	^{2b} 5,600	^{2b} 5,800	^{2b} 6,200	^{2b} 6,200	^{2b} 6,400	^{2b} 6,500
^a 9,200	^{6a} 9,200	^a 9,800	^{3b} 9,900	^{3b} 11,200	^{3b} 11,800	⁴ 12,400	⁴ 14,600	14,400	14,900	15,400
1,900	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,600	2,500	2,800	2,700	2,600	2,900	2,800
³ 2,500	^{3d} 2,500	³ 2,500	³ 2,500	¹¹ 2,600	³ 2,400	³ 3,200	³ 3,200	³ 3,200	³ 3,600	³ 3,700
⁶ 1,300	⁶ 1,300	1,300	^{1b} 1,300	^{1b} 1,400	^{1b} 1,600	^{1b} 1,600	^{1b} 2,100	^{1b} 2,000	^{1b} 2,200	^{1b} 2,500
⁶ 700	⁶ 600	⁸ 700	^{3b} 800	^{3b} 900	^{3b} 900	^{3b} 900	^{3b} 1,100	^{3b} 1,100	^{3b} 1,300	^{3b} 1,200
22,000	21,400	⁶ 23,500	^b 23,500	^b 25,600	^b 28,400	^b 28,500	29,600	31,600	34,300	34,500
⁴ 5,700	5,700	⁶ 5,500	6,100	¹¹ 7,000	6,700	7,000	8,000	7,700	9,400	8,200
---	---	---	---	17,300	18,900	17,400	19,900	22,200	23,500	20,500
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,600	1,800	1,700
1,100	1,000	900	800	1,000	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,600	1,700
7,900	8,200	8,500	9,000	9,900	⁵ 9,400	⁵ 10,800	⁵ 11,000	⁵ 11,800	⁵ 13,800	⁵ 13,400
---	---	2,000	2,600	³ 3,100	2,900	3,600	4,000	4,400	4,800	4,900
⁴ 600	⁶ 700	² 600	^{3b} 600	^{3b} 600	^{3b} 700	^{3b} 800	^{3b} 700	^{3b} 700	^{3b} 900	^{3b} 1,000
² 6,200	² 6,300	² 6,600	⁶ 6,600	⁶ 7,600	17,600	¹ 8,900	19,100	19,600	¹⁴ 10,400	10,800
---	---	---	---	6,500	4,800	6,000	6,000	7,700	8,100	8,200
1,100	^a 1,100	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,500	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,900	1,900

¹¹ Dependent children.

¹² Children under 20 years of age.

¹³ Definition not available.

¹⁴ Item changed from "number of minor children affected" to "number of children under 18 affected by decree" on July 1, 1964.

^a Incomplete.

^b Based on data from State publications.

^c Includes 7 decrees of separate maintenance.

^d Includes 16 decrees of separate maintenance.

Source: Based on data published in the Vital Statistics of the United States, 1950-65, and in vital statistics publications of the States.

Table 10. Mean number of children per decree: 29 reporting States, 1950-65

[By place of occurrence. Estimating methods and sources of data are given in the appendix]

State	Year decree granted				
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Mean number of children				
Alabama-----	---	---	0.74	0.74	0.77
Alaska-----	---	---	0.79	0.74	0.82
Connecticut-----	⁶ 1.16	⁶ 1.20	1.15	1.26	⁶ 1.26
Florida-----	⁶ 0.58	0.64	0.67	0.69	0.73
Georgia-----	---	---	0.76	^a 0.82	^a 0.80
Hawaii-----	---	---	1.44	1.69	1.75
Idaho-----	³ 0.96	0.92	0.94	0.92	0.99
Iowa-----	¹⁰ 0.90	⁶ 0.94	0.96	1.04	1.09
Kansas-----	---	---	⁴ 0.94	⁴ 0.95	0.98
Maine-----	---	---	1.11	1.13	1.12
Maryland-----	---	---	---	---	---
Michigan-----	0.86	^{10a} 0.79	^{10a} 0.76	^{10a} 0.76	^{10a} 0.92
Mississippi-----	¹⁰ 0.71	² 0.75	² 0.82	² 0.81	² 0.85
Missouri-----	²⁰ 0.68	^{ac} 0.70	0.71	0.73	^a 0.76
Montana-----	²⁰ 0.92	1.01	0.95	0.99	1.03
Nebraska-----	0.93	0.97	⁴⁰ 0.99	0.93	0.99
New Hampshire-----	²¹ 1.13	⁶ 1.12	⁶ 1.13	⁸ 1.21	⁶ 1.21
North Dakota-----	⁸ 1.17	⁸ 1.16	⁸ 1.15	⁸ 1.15	⁸ 1.37
Ohio-----	---	---	0.85	0.89	0.93
Oregon-----	³ 0.81	0.82	0.84	0.85	⁴ 0.92
Pennsylvania-----	---	---	---	---	---
Rhode Island-----	---	---	---	---	---
South Dakota-----	⁴¹ 1.16	1.24	⁴¹ 1.19	1.23	1.37
Tennessee-----	⁶⁰ 0.81	0.86	0.89	0.92	0.96
Utah-----	---	---	---	---	---
Vermont-----	---	⁴¹ 1.17	⁴¹ 1.07	⁴¹ 1.20	³ 1.33
Virginia-----	¹⁰ 0.77	0.78	0.79	¹⁰ 0.85	¹⁰ 0.84
Wisconsin-----	---	---	---	---	---
Wyoming-----	⁴ 0.83	^{4a} 0.92	^{4a} 0.96	^a 0.98	^a 1.02

Definition of children by year and State. Includes children under 18 years of age, with the following exceptions:

- ¹Minor children affected by decree.
- ²Minor children.
- ³Children affected by decree.
- ⁴Number of children.
- ⁵Children under 18 of this marriage.
- ⁶Children under 21.
- ⁷Children under 21 affected by decree.
- ⁸All dependent children under 21.
- ⁹Dependent children under 19.
- ¹⁰Children under 17.

Table 10. Mean number of children per decree: 29 reporting States, 1950-65—Con.

[By place of occurrence. Estimating methods and sources of data are given in the appendix]

Year decree granted										
1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Mean number of children										
0.83	² 0.87	^a 0.93	1.05	1.17	¹ 1.23	¹ 1.29	¹ 1.24	¹ 1.32	¹ 1.36	¹ 1.18
⁶ 0.76	⁶ 0.93	⁶ 0.96	⁶ 1.19	⁶ 1.28	⁷ 1.14	⁷ 1.20	⁷ 1.22	⁷ 1.29	⁷ 1.24	⁷ 1.40
⁶ 1.24	1.14	⁶ 1.16	^{6b} 1.21	^{6b} 1.28	^{6b} 1.31	^{6b} 1.35	^{6b} 1.38	^{6b} 1.44	^{6b} 1.47	^{6b} 1.50
0.73	0.79	0.83	^{1b} 0.90	^{1b} 0.95	^{1b} 0.97	^{1b} 1.05	^{1b} 1.06	^{1b} 1.10	^{1b} 1.09	^{1b} 1.13
^a 0.91	^a 0.96	^a 0.98	1.03	1.05	1.02	1.15	1.19	1.23	1.19	1.16
1.68	1.82	2.00	¹² 1.94	1.80	² 1.89	² 1.87	² 1.71	² 1.85	¹² 1.84	¹² 1.35
0.98	1.03	1.13	1.12	1.16	³ 1.23	³ 1.19	³ 1.33	³ 1.30	³ 1.25	³ 1.31
1.11	1.13	1.17	³ 1.21	³ 1.29	⁴ 1.34	⁴ 1.44	⁴ 1.42	⁴ 1.56	⁴ 1.52	⁴ 1.44
1.06	⁴ 1.10	⁴ 1.18	³ 1.15	^b 1.13	⁴ 1.35	⁴ 1.35	⁴ 1.41	⁴ 1.46	⁴ 1.46	⁴ 1.50
1.19	1.18	1.25	^b 1.28	^b 1.35	^b 1.38	^b 1.42	^b 1.49	^b 1.59	^b 1.53	^b 1.54
---	---	---	---	---	1.15	1.08	1.14	1.24	1.26	1.23
¹⁰ 0.90	¹⁰ 0.90	0.95	^{4b} 1.08	^{4b} 1.09	^{4b} 1.16	1.22	1.31	1.30	1.39	^{2b} 1.33
² 0.88	² 0.94	² 0.92	^{2b} 0.94	^{2b} 0.96	^{2b} 1.07	^{2b} 1.11	^{2b} 1.13	^{2b} 1.13	^{2b} 1.12	^{2b} 1.13
^a 0.81	^{6a} 0.83	^a 0.90	^{3b} 0.92	^{3b} 0.96	^{3b} 1.05	⁴ 1.07	⁴ 1.21	1.20	1.17	1.16
0.97	1.09	1.14	1.19	1.24	1.25	1.38	1.40	1.36	³ 1.46	³ 1.41
³ 1.05	^{3d} 1.08	⁸ 1.12	⁸ 1.19	¹¹ 1.20	³ 1.12	³ 1.35	³ 1.36	³ 1.31	³ 1.42	³ 1.45
⁶ 1.22	⁶ 1.24	1.21	^{1b} 1.34	^{1b} 1.30	^{1b} 1.47	^{1b} 1.45	^{1b} 1.49	^{1b} 1.44	^{1b} 1.46	^{1b} 1.60
⁶ 1.36	⁶ 1.18	⁸ 1.36	^{3b} 1.55	^{3b} 1.52	^{3b} 1.51	^{3b} 1.42	^{3b} 1.74	^{3b} 1.57	^{3b} 1.72	^{3b} 1.69
0.99	1.00	⁶ 1.04	^b 1.09	^b 1.13	^b 1.23	^b 1.27	1.27	1.33	1.37	1.33
⁴ 0.93	0.99	⁶ 1.05	1.11	¹¹ 1.16	1.17	1.17	1.32	1.24	1.45	1.32
---	---	---	---	---	1.25	1.31	1.28	1.39	1.50	1.46
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1.52	1.64	1.44
1.27	1.21	1.39	1.23	1.36	1.51	1.52	1.47	1.46	1.66	1.64
0.94	0.98	0.99	1.03	1.08	⁵ 1.04	⁵ 1.15	⁵ 1.15	⁵ 1.15	⁵ 1.27	⁵ 1.20
---	---	1.22	1.28	⁹ 1.43	1.34	1.53	1.63	1.66	1.66	1.71
⁴ 1.17	⁶ 1.29	² 1.23	^{3b} 1.23	^{3b} 1.31	^{3b} 1.58	^{3b} 1.59	^{3b} 1.55	^{3b} 1.52	^{3b} 1.50	^{3b} 1.73
² 0.90	² 0.88	² 0.99	⁶ 0.99	⁶ 1.06	1.03	1.17	1.19	1.18	¹⁴ 1.21	1.21
---	---	---	---	1.39	1.31	1.40	1.32	1.59	1.62	1.55
1.01	^a 1.00	1.07	1.12	1.11	1.15	1.30	1.34	1.32	1.34	1.29

¹¹Dependent children.

¹²Children under-20 years of age.

¹³Definition not available.

¹⁴Item changed from "number of minor children affected" to "number of children under 18 affected by decree," on July 1, 1964.

- a. Incomplete.
- b. Based on data from State publications.
- c. Includes 7 decrees of separate maintenance.
- d. Includes 16 decrees of separate maintenance.

Source: Based on data published in the Vital Statistics of the United States, 1950-65, and in vital statistics publications of the States.

Table 11. Number of divorces and annulments, by age of husband and wife at decree and percent distribution, by number of children reported: total of five selected States,¹ 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Age at decree	All divorces	Number of children reported						
		Total	None	1	2	3	4	5+
<u>Husband</u>		Percent distribution						
All ages-----	33,615	100.0	40.6	22.8	17.0	10.4	5.2	4.0
Under 25 years-----	5,688	100.0	41.3	36.5	16.9	4.7	0.6	0.1
25-29 years-----	6,270	100.0	29.7	28.7	22.6	12.1	5.4	1.4
30-34 years-----	4,884	100.0	23.3	21.2	22.2	17.3	9.1	6.9
35-39 years-----	4,433	100.0	29.5	18.4	19.1	15.8	8.8	8.4
40-44 years-----	4,040	100.0	37.4	17.9	17.2	13.1	8.1	6.4
45-49 years-----	2,707	100.0	54.5	17.5	12.7	6.3	3.7	5.3
50+ years-----	4,730	100.0	75.2	11.9	6.4	2.4	1.5	2.5
<u>Wife</u>		Percent distribution						
All ages-----	33,615	100.0	40.6	22.8	17.0	10.4	5.2	4.0
Under 25 years-----	9,849	100.0	38.0	34.3	18.5	6.3	2.5	0.4
25-29 years-----	5,719	100.0	22.6	23.7	22.1	18.3	8.1	5.3
30-34 years-----	4,584	100.0	25.7	18.3	20.6	15.9	9.4	10.1
35-39 years-----	4,024	100.0	31.7	17.4	18.6	15.4	8.9	8.0
40-44 years-----	3,382	100.0	48.2	18.5	15.1	9.5	4.6	4.2
45-49 years-----	2,293	100.0	67.3	15.0	12.0	2.4	1.5	1.8
50+ years-----	2,845	100.0	87.1	9.2	1.8	0.6	0.7	0.6

¹Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

Table 12. Median age of husband and wife at decree, by number of children reported: five selected States, 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample. Medians computed from grouped data. Asterisks denote medians computed from less than 100 cases]

Number of children	Selected States											
	Husband						Wife					
	Total	Hawaii	Iowa	Mo.	Tenn.	Wis.	Total	Hawaii	Iowa	Mo.	Tenn.	Wis.
Median age at decree												
All divorces-----	34.5	35.8	33.0	34.9	34.2	35.4	30.9	32.6	29.8	31.1	30.1	32.2
None-----	39.6	39.0	38.9	40.3	38.2	41.4	36.2	34.7	36.3	36.4	34.9	39.6
One-----	29.6	33.8	28.3	31.1	28.6	30.8	26.4	30.5	25.0	27.4	25.0	27.5
Two-----	32.1	33.1	29.9	31.4	33.0	33.2	28.9	30.2	27.7	28.4	29.5	29.4
Three-----	34.0	35.5	33.0	34.0	34.1	34.2	30.1	31.2	29.8	30.3	29.9	30.8
Four-----	34.2	36.9	35.0	34.8	36.1	35.4	31.7	33.3	31.7	30.5	32.2	32.4
Five-----	36.9	*36.4	36.2	36.0	38.8	36.9	33.0	*33.8	32.6	30.8	33.0	33.9
Six or more----	39.1	*39.1	37.9	38.8	40.2	39.0	34.3	*34.8	34.6	33.9	34.3	34.5

Table 13. Percent distribution of children involved in divorces and annulments, by age of parents at decree: five selected States, 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Age of parents at decree	Selected States					
	Total	Hawaii	Iowa	Mo.	Tenn.	Wis.
<u>Father</u>						
Percent distribution						
All ages-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years-----	11.3	7.5	14.0	11.2	12.4	8.6
25-29 years-----	20.1	15.7	22.1	20.8	20.2	18.4
30-34 years-----	21.7	23.1	20.8	22.5	19.6	23.9
35-39 years-----	19.5	20.7	19.3	19.1	19.6	19.2
40-44 years-----	14.9	16.8	12.7	15.4	14.7	15.7
45-49 years-----	6.6	9.7	7.0	5.3	7.0	7.2
50 years and over-----	5.8	6.5	4.0	5.7	6.1	7.0
<u>Mother</u>						
All ages-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years-----	23.1	16.7	24.5	24.7	23.8	19.8
25-29 years-----	24.2	20.5	23.7	25.2	24.9	23.3
30-34 years-----	21.7	23.2	23.3	21.7	21.0	20.7
35-39 years-----	17.0	20.7	16.6	15.6	16.2	19.9
40-44 years-----	9.4	12.7	7.9	8.8	9.2	11.0
45-49 years-----	3.3	4.6	3.2	2.4	3.9	3.5
50 years and over-----	1.3	1.7	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.9

Table 14. Mean number of children by age of parents at decree: five selected States, 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Age of parents at decree	Selected States											
	Father						Mother					
	Total	Hawaii	Iowa	Mo.	Tenn.	Wis.	Total	Hawaii	Iowa	Mo.	Tenn.	Wis.
	Mean number of children per decree											
All ages---	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.6
Under 25 years---	0.9	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.2
25-29 years-----	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.7	2.0
30-34 years-----	1.9	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.6	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.6	1.9	1.8	2.3
35-39 years-----	1.9	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.7	2.1	1.8	2.4	2.2	1.7	1.5	2.3
40-44 years-----	1.6	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.4	2.1	1.2	2.0	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.6
45-49 years-----	1.1	1.7	1.4	0.9	1.0	1.2	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7
50+ years-----	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3

Table 15. Number of divorces and annulments, by age at marriage of husband and wife and percent distribution, by number of children reported: total of five selected States,¹ 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Age at marriage	All decrees	Total	Number of children					
			None	1	2	3	4	5+
<u>Husband</u>			Percent distribution					
All ages ² -----	33,615	100.0	40.6	22.8	17.0	10.4	5.2	4.0
Under 20 years-----	6,338	100.0	25.2	27.7	24.3	12.6	6.2	4.1
20-24 years-----	12,782	100.0	30.0	25.0	20.3	13.3	6.5	5.0
25-29 years-----	5,331	100.0	39.2	23.0	17.2	10.1	5.5	4.2
30-39 years-----	4,515	100.0	58.4	18.8	10.1	6.1	3.2	3.4
40+ years-----	3,502	100.0	83.6	9.7	3.2	1.6	0.9	0.9
<u>Wife</u>			Percent distribution					
All ages ² -----	33,615	100.0	40.6	22.8	17.0	10.4	5.2	4.0
Under 20 years-----	15,615	100.0	25.6	26.0	22.7	12.9	7.0	5.8
20-24 years-----	7,900	100.0	36.8	26.0	16.9	11.9	5.2	3.3
25-29 years-----	3,261	100.0	49.0	21.8	15.0	8.3	3.6	2.3
30-39 years-----	3,110	100.0	71.9	17.0	5.5	3.4	1.3	1.0
40+ years-----	2,360	100.0	94.7	3.2	1.2	0.7	0.1	0.1

¹Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

²Includes decrees with age not stated.

Table 16. Mean number of children per decree, by age of parents at marriage: five selected States, 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Age at marriage	Selected States											
	Father						Mother					
	Total	Hawaii	Iowa	Mo.	Tenn.	Wis.	Total	Hawaii	Iowa	Mo.	Tenn.	Wis.
	Mean number of children per decree											
All ages---	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.6
Under 20 years---	1.6	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.9	1.7	2.3	1.9	1.7	1.5	2.1
20-24 years-----	1.6	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.9	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.6
25-29 years-----	1.3	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.0	1.7	1.3	0.8	0.9	1.4
30-39 years-----	0.9	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.5	1.5	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.6
40+ years-----	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Table 17. Mean number of children per decree and percent of decrees with no children reported, by marriage order of husband and wife: five selected States, 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Marriage order	Selected States					
	Total	Hawaii	Iowa	Mo.	Tenn.	Wis.
	Mean number of children per decree					
All couples-----	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.6
First marriage of both-----	1.6	2.0	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.8
First marriage of mother, remarriage of father-----	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.6
First marriage of father, remarriage of mother-----	1.0	1.8	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.3
Remarriage of both-----	0.6	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.6
	Percent without children					
All couples-----	40.6	28.6	33.2	45.2	43.8	33.2
First marriage of both-----	30.9	22.7	23.2	36.6	32.4	23.6
First marriage of wife, remarriage of husband-----	38.4	32.4	29.8	39.8	44.2	31.6
First marriage of husband, remarriage of wife-----	55.5	31.8	44.6	67.0	56.4	48.5
Remarriage of both-----	68.1	47.3	59.3	69.8	71.9	71.2

Table 18. Mean number of children per decree, by marriage order, age at decree, and color of parents: total of five selected States,¹ 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Marriage order and age at decree	Total		White		Nonwhite			
	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Continental States		Hawaii	
					Father	Mother	Father	Mother
<u>All decrees</u>	Mean number of children per decree							
All ages-----	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	2.0	2.1
Under 25 years-----	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.6
25-34 years-----	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.4
35 years or more-----	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.6	2.1	2.1
<u>First marriage</u>								
All ages-----	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.3	2.1	2.2
Under 25 years-----	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.7
25-34 years-----	1.8	2.2	1.8	2.2	1.6	2.0	2.2	2.5
35 years or more-----	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.6	0.9	0.7	2.2	2.2
<u>Remarriage</u>								
All ages-----	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.4	1.6	1.8
Under 35 years-----	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.6	0.8	2.1	1.9
35-44 years-----	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.3	2.0	2.4
45 years or more-----	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.9

¹Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

Table 19. Mean number of children per decree, by marriage order, age at marriage, and color of parents: total of five selected States,¹ 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Marriage order and age at marriage	Total		White		Nonwhite			
					Continental States		Hawaii	
	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother
<u>All decrees</u>	Mean number of children per decree							
All ages-----	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	2.0	2.1
Under 20 years-----	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.6	2.7	2.6
20-24 years-----	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.4	2.1	2.0
25 years or more-----	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.3	1.8	1.7
<u>First marriage</u>								
All ages-----	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2
Under 20 years-----	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.6	2.7	2.6
20-24 years-----	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.4	2.1	1.9
25 years or more-----	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.4	1.9	1.5
<u>Remarriage</u>								
All ages-----	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.4	1.6	1.8
Under 25 years-----	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	2.2	0.9	1.6	2.3
25-34 years-----	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.4	2.0	2.0
35 years or more-----	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.0	1.2	1.4

¹Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

Table 20. Mean number of children per decree and percent of decrees with no children reported, by resident status of the defendant: five selected States, 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Residence of defendant	Divorce State and defendant											
	Total		Hawaii		Iowa		Missouri		Tennessee		Wisconsin	
	Hus-band	Wife	Hus-band	Wife	Hus-band	Wife	Hus-band	Wife	Hus-band	Wife	Hus-band	Wife
	Mean number of children per decree											
Total-----	1.4	1.1	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.7	1.3
Divorce State-----	1.5	1.1	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.8	1.3
Other State, same region-----	1.2	0.8	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.4	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.7	1.5	1.1
Outside of region-----	1.2	1.0	1.8	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1
	Percent without children											
Total-----	37.0	51.6	24.1	38.3	30.1	44.2	41.8	56.5	40.0	54.4	29.9	44.7
Divorce State-----	36.2	49.1	23.2	32.6	29.5	41.7	42.1	53.1	38.0	52.6	28.3	44.2
Other State, same region-----	44.1	58.2	36.6	49.2	40.7	40.0	52.9	71.4	43.7	58.3	34.6	50.0
Outside of region-----	40.6	53.6	20.2	50.0	30.0	49.3	37.1	62.2	54.1	49.2	44.2	46.8

Table 21. Median number of children per decree, by duration of marriage: United States and each geographic region, 1960

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Duration of marriage	United States	North-east	North Central	South	West
	Median number of children per decree				
Total-----	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.3
Under 1 year-----	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
1-2 years-----	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7
3-4 years-----	1.1	1.3	1.2	2.0	1.2
5-9 years-----	1.6	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.5
10-14 years-----	2.3	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.2
15 years and over-----	1.7	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.7

Table 22. Median number of children per decree, by duration of marriage: divorce-registration area and each registration State, 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

State	All decrees	Duration of marriage						
		Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15+ years	
Divorce-registration area-----		1.5	0.6	0.9	1.3	2.0	2.4	1.8
Alabama-----	1.5	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.9	2.5	1.9	
Alaska-----	1.4	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.9	2.2	2.3	
Georgia-----	1.4	0.6	0.9	1.4	2.0	2.3	1.7	
Hawaii-----	2.0	0.9	1.2	1.9	2.4	2.9	2.2	
Indiana-----	1.5	0.6	0.9	1.6	2.2	2.7	2.3	
Iowa-----	1.7	0.6	1.0	1.7	2.4	3.3	2.1	
Kansas-----	1.6	0.6	0.9	1.5	2.1	2.8	2.5	
Maryland-----	1.5	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.6	1.9	1.7	
Michigan-----	1.5	0.6	0.9	1.2	2.1	2.6	1.5	
Missouri-----	1.2	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.9	2.2	1.5	
Montana-----	1.5	0.6	1.0	1.5	2.1	2.7	2.0	
Nebraska-----	1.4	0.7	0.9	1.1	2.0	2.6	2.0	
Ohio-----	1.5	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.8	2.4	1.9	
Oregon-----	1.4	0.6	0.8	1.4	2.1	2.5	1.9	
Pennsylvania-----	1.7	0.6	1.6	1.5	2.0	2.4	1.8	
Rhode Island-----	1.8	(1)	0.9	1.5	2.2	2.4	1.8	
South Dakota-----	1.6	0.7	0.9	1.6	2.2	2.6	2.2	
Tennessee-----	1.2	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.9	2.2	1.5	
Utah-----	1.8	0.7	1.2	1.6	2.5	3.9	2.5	
Virginia-----	1.3	(2)	0.7	1.0	1.7	1.9	1.6	
Wisconsin-----	1.4	0.6	0.9	1.4	2.4	2.8	2.0	
Wyoming-----	1.6	0.6	0.9	1.3	2.4	2.7	2.0	

¹5 cases.

²35 cases, including 10 with number of children not stated.

Table 23. Number of decrees by duration of marriage and percent distribution, by number of children reported: United States, 1960

[Refers to data occurring within the United States. Based on probability sample]

Duration of marriage	Number of decrees	Total	Number of children			
			None	1	2	3+
		Percent distribution				
Total-----	393,388	100.0	43.3	23.0	17.4	16.3
Under 1 year-----	23,367	100.0	87.9	7.3	1.5	3.3
1-2 years-----	61,100	100.0	62.0	32.1	4.4	1.4
3-4 years-----	57,541	100.0	46.2	32.4	17.3	4.1
5-9 years-----	92,790	100.0	36.3	22.5	25.1	16.2
10-14 years-----	64,412	100.0	25.5	18.4	22.5	33.5
15+ years-----	79,409	100.0	36.6	18.4	18.8	26.2

Table 24. Number of decrees by number of children reported and percent distribution, by duration of marriage: United States, 1960

[Refers to data occurring within the United States. Based on probability sample]

Duration of marriage	Total	Number of children				
		None	1	2	3+	
		Number of decrees				
All decrees-----	393,388	159,165	84,711	63,927	59,783	
		Percent distribution				
All decrees-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Under 1 year-----	6.2	12.2	1.9	0.5	1.2	
1-2 years-----	16.1	22.9	22.2	4.0	1.4	
3-4 years-----	15.2	16.3	21.4	15.2	3.8	
5-9 years-----	24.5	20.7	24.0	35.4	24.5	
10-14 years-----	17.0	10.2	13.8	22.3	35.5	
15+ years-----	21.0	17.7	16.6	22.6	33.5	
Median duration-----	7.5	4.8	5.9	9.3	12.7	

Table 25. Mean number of children per decree, by marriage order, duration of marriage, and color of parents: total of five selected States,¹ 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Marriage order and duration of marriage	All couples	White	Nonwhite		
			Continental States	Hawaii	
<u>All couples</u>		Mean number of children per decree			
Total-----	1.3	1.3	1.1	2.0	
Under 1 year-----	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.1	
1-2 years-----	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.1	
3-4 years-----	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.6	
5-9 years-----	1.6	1.7	1.3	2.3	
10-14 years-----	2.1	2.1	1.9	3.0	
15 years and over-----	1.7	1.8	0.9	2.2	
<u>Both spouses married once</u>					
Total-----	1.6	1.6	1.2	2.2	
Under 1 year-----	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	
1-2 years-----	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	
3-4 years-----	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.6	
5-9 years-----	1.9	1.9	1.5	2.3	
10-14 years-----	2.5	2.5	2.0	3.4	
15 years and over-----	1.8	1.8	1.0	2.3	
<u>Both or either spouse married more than once</u>					
Total-----	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.8	
Under 1 year-----	0.3	0.3	-	1.7	
1-2 years-----	0.5	0.5	0.2	1.3	
3-4 years-----	0.7	0.7	0.2	1.6	
5-9 years-----	1.1	1.1	0.7	2.1	
10-14 years-----	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	
15 years and over-----	1.4	1.5	0.6	2.0	

¹Hawaii, Iowa Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

Table 26. Percent of divorces and annulments with no children reported, by marriage order, duration of marriage, and color of couple: total of five selected States,¹ 1963

[By place of occurrence. Based on probability sample]

Marriage order and duration of marriage	All couples	White	Nonwhite	
			Continental States	Hawaii
<u>All couples</u>		Percent of divorces		
Total-----	40.6	39.7	53.7	23.9
Under 1 year-----	83.5	84.1	89.4	49.0
1-2 years-----	56.9	57.0	64.1	36.7
3-4 years-----	39.8	39.9	44.4	24.7
5-9 years-----	28.8	27.4	41.5	17.4
10-14 years-----	23.3	20.8	40.6	13.2
15 years and over-----	37.7	33.8	69.8	25.1
<u>Both spouses married once</u>				
Total-----	30.9	29.9	44.1	19.0
Under 1 year-----	84.1	84.8	82.1	60.0
1-2 years-----	47.8	49.2	33.8	31.2
3-4 years-----	28.7	29.3	27.6	20.0
5-9 years-----	17.0	15.7	28.0	13.3
10-14 years-----	13.1	10.2	31.8	7.0
15 years and over-----	34.9	31.0	69.3	21.7
<u>Both or either spouse married more than once</u>				
Total-----	57.5	56.5	72.8	34.4
Under 1 year-----	82.8	83.3	100.0	37.5
1-2 years-----	67.7	66.6	89.7	43.5
3-4 years-----	59.2	58.1	80.5	36.0
5-9 years-----	49.5	48.0	56.7	25.6
10-14 years-----	42.6	41.1	52.9	33.3
15 years and over-----	46.5	43.1	72.3	35.7

¹Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

APPENDIX

SOURCES AND QUALITY OF DATA

Sources of Data

National and State totals shown in this report are based on figures published in the *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1950-65*, and the vital statistics publications of the following 11 States: Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, and Vermont. In addition, 1963 divorce data were tabulated by the number of children reported, classified by various demographic variables. These tabulations were limited to the five States that reported all the pertinent variables with at least 90-percent completeness: Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Data from the five States are based on probability samples, and the statistics are subject to sampling variability. The sampling rates in 1963 were intended to secure samples of at least 1,000 records from each State (table I).

The Available Data

Information about children of divorced couples is found on the divorce and annulment records of 38 States, including all States that participate in the divorce-registration area (DRA). This report includes the available information from 29 States for the period 1950-65. In this report two terms are used—"children reported" and "children involved." "Children reported" refers to the number of children in the family of a divorced couple, as reported on the divorce record: none, one, two, three, and so forth. "Children involved"

refers to the total number of children, as computed, or estimated from data on children reported. Thus, if there are 20 divorced couples reporting three children each, the number of children reported is three, but the number of children involved is 60 (20 x 3=60).

The Standard Record of Divorce or Annulment, recommended by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) for use by the States, calls for information on the "number of children under 18" and this number is understood to include not only children born to the couple, but also adopted children, and children of former marriages living with the couple. Most States adhere to the recommended definition, but some variation is found in some States included in this report as shown in the footnotes to tables 9 and 10. These variations are not as important as they may seem, because comparatively few divorced couples are likely to have children over 18 years old still affected by the decrees.

No information about children, except for their number, was required on the Standard Record of Divorce or Annulment, though their race could be deduced from data for their parents. On the other hand, detailed statistical information is available for the divorced couple and was used in the tabulations prepared for the five States.

The earliest data on children of divorced persons are available for the year 1867 for each State and territory. Statistics have been published for the years 1867-1906,⁶ 1922-32,⁷ and 1950-63.⁸

Table I. Sampling rates and sample size: five selected States, 1963

Sampling rate and sample size	Selected States					
	Total	Hawaii	Iowa	Missouri	Tennessee	Wisconsin
Sampling rate-----	...	All records	1/2	1/10	1/5	1/2
Number of sample records-----	9,682	1,514	2,496	1,203	2,047	2,422
Estimated divorce total-----	33,615	1,514	4,992	12,030	10,235	4,844

Table II. Percent completeness of reporting of the number of children: divorce-registration area and each State, 1965

State	Percent completeness
<u>DRA</u>	
Total-----	94.3
Alabama-----	84.7
Alaska-----	99.3
Georgia-----	82.6
Hawaii-----	97.8
Idaho-----	98.5
Iowa-----	99.5
Kansas-----	99.7
Maryland-----	72.4
Michigan-----	96.3
Missouri-----	99.0
Montana-----	99.2
Nebraska-----	99.7
Ohio-----	99.7
Oregon-----	92.2
Pennsylvania-----	95.5
Rhode Island-----	97.6
South Dakota-----	99.4
Tennessee-----	99.0
Utah-----	63.3
Virginia-----	99.7
Wisconsin-----	99.3
Wyoming-----	98.7
<u>Other reporting States</u>	
Connecticut-----	99.5
Florida-----	99.1
Maine-----	100.0
Mississippi-----	98.7
New Hampshire-----	99.9
North Dakota-----	100.0
Vermont-----	100.0

Completeness of Data

The quality of reporting the number of children varies among the registration States. In 1965 the information concerning children was given in 94.3 percent of decrees reported from the DRA, but in four out of the 22 States this percentage was under 85.0, while at the other extreme 11 registration States (Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin) and six other reporting States (Connecticut, Florida, Maine, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Vermont) had a level of completeness of 99.0 percent or higher.

Table II shows the percentage of 1965 cases with the number of children reported for all States included in the report. Table III gives the same information about the reporting of other relevant variables in the five selected States in 1963.

Summary Measures

Several measures are used in this report to summarize the information on children involved in divorce cases.

1. *The child involvement rate* gives the number of children involved in divorce cases per 1,000 children under 18 in the population of a given area. Children included in the denominator comprise not only children of married couples, who are subject to the risk of being involved in divorce, but also orphans and children of widowed, divorced, and single parents.
2. *Mean number of children per divorce (or ratio of children per decree)* relates the number of

Table III. Percent completeness of reporting of selected statistical variables: five selected States, 1963

Statistical variable	Selected States					
	Total	Hawaii	Iowa	Missouri	Tennessee	Wisconsin
Average-----	97.1	98.2	98.8	96.8	96.1	97.7
Age at decree:						
Husband-----	97.4	97.1	99.7	96.3	96.7	99.4
Wife-----	97.3	96.7	99.8	96.3	96.2	99.5
Age at marriage:						
Husband-----	96.6	97.1	99.3	95.3	95.6	99.1
Wife-----	95.9	96.4	99.2	94.7	94.3	99.0
Race:						
Husband-----	98.9	98.8	99.6	98.5	99.0	99.0
Wife-----	98.6	98.2	99.3	98.2	98.8	98.9
Marriage order:						
Husband-----	97.9	99.7	99.4	98.3	97.4	95.9
Wife-----	98.2	99.5	99.5	98.8	97.3	96.7
Residence of defendant:						
Husband-----	94.5	98.3	96.1	94.8	93.2	93.6
Wife-----	94.1	98.1	94.9	95.8	91.2	94.3
Duration of marriage-----	98.5	99.8	99.5	98.1	97.8	99.5

children involved to the number of divorces and annulments granted.

3. *Median number of children per decree* is useful in cases where the distribution has a large upper open-ended interval (such as three or more children), and for this reason a mean cannot be computed.
4. *Mean number of children per divorce with children* relates the number of children to the number of decrees explicitly reporting children, and therefore it is useful in cases where a high proportion of divorce records has no information as to children. This is the only measure available for the years 1867-1906.
5. *Percentage of divorce reporting no children* (or, conversely, *percentage reporting children*) can be used as a rough measure of the relationship between the presence of children and marriage stability of the parental couple. The category reporting no children is a composite of: (1) recently married couples, (2) couples to whom no children were born, irrespective of the duration of marriage, and (3) couples with all children over 18 years of age.

Estimation of the Number of Children Involved for States

The total numbers of children involved in divorce cases are estimated from data on divorces and annulments classified by number of children reported. The number of divorces reporting one child is multiplied by 1, that reporting two children, by 2, and so forth. The sum of the products is the total number of children involved in divorce cases in a given State. For States outside the DRA, factors to be used for the upper open-ended interval were calculated from the available data. These factors were: for three or more children, 3.57; for four or more, 4.76; for five or more, 5.71; for six or more, 6.70; for seven or more, 7.72; for eight or more, 8.75; for nine or more, 9.78; and for 10 or more children, 10.82.

Divorces with the number of children not stated were distributed proportionally, on the assumption that the "not stated" cases are random with respect to the number of children reported. However, it has been shown,⁹ that this assumption does not hold for areas with a high proportion of divorces with children "not stated" and that the "not stated" cases contain a disproportionately large fraction of couples with no reportable children.

Therefore, the coding rules were changed for 1965. Prior to 1965, if a State divorce record had two or more items relating to children, only the item "number of children under 18," or a similarly worded

item, was coded, and the other items ignored. In 1965, in cases where this item was left blank, another available item relating to children was coded, e.g., the number of children of this marriage. Due to this change in coding, the completeness of reporting increased, particularly in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. In these States, the proportion of cases reporting no children increased, and therefore the estimated numbers of children declined.

Estimates of the National Number of Children Involved

The number of children involved for groups of States, including the DRA, are the sums of the totals for the respective States, but the estimation of the national figures is more involved, and estimating methods have been changed several times.

For the years before 1960, the national annual divorce total was multiplied by the average number of children per decree for the total of all States reporting for a given year.

For 1960, the number of children was estimated from a nationwide probability sample of divorce transcripts. Regional figures were also estimated in this manner.

For the years 1961-64, the national estimates were originally obtained by multiplying by 5.40039 the combined estimates for 14 States—Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The factor 5.40039 is the ratio of the 1960 national estimate of children, prepared from the nationwide sample, to the comparable figure for the 14 States combined.

This method had to be abandoned for 1965, since Pennsylvania was one of the States included in the estimating procedures and the estimate of the number of children declined by 3,054 in that State, due to the new coding rules. As the factor was 5.40039, the national estimate declined by 16,493 simply because coding rules were changed in one of the 14 States used for estimation. The following new method was used to estimate the number of children for 1965: the national divorce total was multiplied by the mean number of children per decree in a group of 16 States with satisfactory reporting in all or most years in the recent past. These States are: Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The national totals for the years 1961-64 were reestimated using this new method, hence national figures for the years after 1960, as published in this report, are comparable, but differ slightly from totals shown in earlier publications. For the 5 years combined (1961-65) this difference is only about -0.5 percent (table IV)

Table IV. Comparison of estimates of the number of children involved in divorce, prepared using two methods: United States, 1961-65

[The previous method consisted in multiplying by a factor of 5.40089 the combined total for a group of 14 States; the present method consists in applying to the national divorce total the ratio of children per decree observed for 16 States with satisfactory reporting]

Year	Previous method	Present method	Percent difference
Total---	2,866,000	2,853,000	-0.5
1965-----	612,000	630,000	2.9
1964-----	634,000	613,000	-3.3
1963-----	583,000	562,000	-3.6
1962-----	537,000	532,000	-0.9
1961-----	501,000	516,000	+3.0

Rates

Two types of rates are used in the present study--the child involvement rate and the divorce rate by number of children.

1. The child involvement rate is shown in tables 1 and 4. This rate relates the estimated number of children involved in divorce to the total number of children under 18 years of age enumerated or estimated for a particular year and area by the Bureau of the Census, as published in decennial Census publications and in *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25.
2. The divorce rate by number of children reported relates the 1960 national and regional figures on divorces by number of children to estimates of the number of married couples with a given number of children (table 5). Denominators for divorce rates of couples with one or more children were computed from the two publications of the 1960 Census: *Population Characteristics, U.S. Summary*¹⁰, tables 185 and 246, and *Subject Reports, Families*,⁴ tables 6 and 21. Denominators for rates of couples with no children under 18 were computed by subtracting the number of married couples with children, obtained from the sources listed above, from the number of married females under 55 years of age enumerated in 1960. As very few married females 55 years old or older either divorce or have children under 18, the population of women without children was also limited to those under 55. In this manner the rates for couples with no children became comparable to those for couples with a given number of children.

Estimation of Statistics Based on Probability Sample

Sample cases were multiplied by the reciprocal of the probability with which they were selected. Thus, if a divorce record was selected from a State with a probability of 1/5, each item on that record carried a weight of 5, whereas if 100 percent of the records were processed from a State, each item on each record carried a weight of 1. The sampling rates, indicating the probability with which divorce records of every State were selected, are shown in table I. Frequencies were estimated by summing the inflated number of cases. Thus each frequency distribution is a sum of the weighted sample cases included.

It should be noted that the weights of all sample records are identical within each registration area State. However, weights for divorce sample records for the five States combined vary from 1 to 10, and variation between two or more equal frequencies in the relative proportions of cases with various weights results in each such subtotal having its distinctive sampling error.

Percentages, means, and medians were computed using data which excluded the estimated numbers of "not stated" cases.

Sampling Errors of Estimates

Estimates computed from the samples (except statistics of States where the sample includes all records) are subject to sampling error. Since all cases in these samples were selected with known probabilities, the sampling error can be computed for each estimate. The sampling errors for estimated percentages shown in table V were computed by dividing the sampling errors for the estimated frequencies by the estimate of all divorces granted in the area. These sampling errors are the amounts which, when added to and subtracted from the estimate give the intervals where the quantity being estimated would fall in approximately 68 out of 100 similarly selected samples. As an example, suppose the percentage of couples reporting three children in Wisconsin was 12 percent of the State total. The error shown in table V for this percentage is about 0.4. By adding and subtracting 0.4 from 12 one secures the interval 11.6 to 12.4; the chances are about 68 out of 100 that this interval contains the actual percentage of couples with three children.

To determine if the difference between two proportions is attributable to sampling variability or is a true difference, divide this difference by the square root of the sum of the squares of their standard errors. If the quotient of this division is greater than 2, then the probability that the difference is due to sampling

Table V. Standard error of estimated percentages: five selected States, 1963

Estimated percentage	Selected States					
	Total	Hawaii ¹	Iowa	Missouri	Tennessee	Wisconsin
All decrees-----	33,615	1,514	4,992	12,030	10,235	4,844
1 or 99-----	0.1	---	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1
2 or 98-----	0.2	---	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2
3 or 97-----	0.2	---	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2
4 or 96-----	0.2	---	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3
5 or 95-----	0.3	---	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.3
7 or 93-----	0.3	---	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.4
10 or 90-----	0.4	---	0.4	1.0	0.6	0.4
15 or 85-----	0.4	---	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.5
20 or 80-----	0.5	---	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.6
25 or 75-----	0.5	---	0.6	1.2	0.9	0.6
50-----	0.6	---	0.7	1.4	1.0	0.7

¹All records tabulated.

Table VI. Standard error of the estimated mean number of children, by age of father: five selected States, 1963

State	Total	Age of father at decree						
		Under 25 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45-49 years	50+
Total								
Mean-----	1.3	0.9	1.4	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.1	0.5
Error-----	.018	.026	.034	.048	.058	.057	.066	.040
Relvariance (percent)-----	1.4	2.9	2.4	2.5	3.1	3.6	6.0	8.0
Hawaii								
Mean-----	1.8	1.2	1.6	2.3	2.3	2.2	1.7	1.0
Error-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Relvariance (percent)-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iowa								
Mean-----	1.6	1.1	1.7	2.1	2.3	1.8	1.4	0.5
Error-----	.023	.031	.043	.065	.074	.080	.090	.049
Relvariance (percent)-----	1.4	2.8	2.5	3.1	3.2	4.4	6.4	9.8
Missouri								
Mean-----	1.2	0.8	1.3	1.9	1.8	1.4	0.9	0.4
Error-----	.041	.061	.089	.118	.139	.121	.165	.084
Relvariance (percent)-----	3.4	7.6	6.3	6.2	7.7	8.6	18.3	21.0
Tennessee								
Mean-----	1.2	0.7	1.2	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.0	0.5
Error-----	.028	.037	.053	.078	.095	.101	.114	.069
Relvariance (percent)-----	2.3	5.3	4.4	4.9	5.6	7.2	11.4	13.8
Wisconsin								
Mean-----	1.6	1.1	1.5	2.3	2.1	2.1	1.2	0.8
Error-----	.024	.039	.044	.062	.070	.084	.074	.058
Relvariance (percent)-----	1.5	3.5	2.9	2.7	3.3	4.0	6.2	7.3

error is less than 1 in 20. For example, the proportions of divorces with three children reported were 12.6 percent in Iowa and 8.9 percent in Tennessee, and the standard errors of these proportions were 0.4 percent and 0.6, respectively. Division of the difference by the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard errors results in the following equation:

$$\frac{(.126 - .089)}{\sqrt{(.004)^2 + (.006)^2}} = 5.1$$

This value is more than 2, and therefore it is very unlikely that such a difference could be attributed to sampling error alone. Hence the observed difference is to a high probability a true difference.

The mean number of children per decree has also a standard error for States where data are compiled from probability samples. This standard error can be expressed by the following formula:

$$S_{\bar{x}_{sa}} = \sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{n_s}{N_s}\right) \frac{1}{\frac{n_s}{N_s} f_{sa}} \left[\frac{\sum_{j=0}^{10} f_{saj} x_{saj}^2 - \left(\frac{\sum f_{saj} x_{saj}}{f_{sa}}\right)^2}{f_{sa} - 1} \right]^2}$$

where $\frac{n_s}{N}$ is the sampling fraction for State s (for example, 1/2 for Iowa.) f_{sa} = estimated total divorces

for State s , age class a . (Note that the "not stated" divorces are excluded from f_{sa} .)

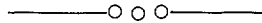
f_{saj} = estimated number of divorces in State s , age class a who had x_{saj} children ($j = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, 10$).

To obtain the sampling error of \bar{x}_a for the several States, use the following procedure:

$$s_{\bar{x}_a} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\sum_{s=1}^L} \left(\frac{f_{sa}}{f_a}\right)^2 S_{\bar{x}_{sa}}^2}$$

where $f_a = \sum_{s=1}^L f_{sa}$, or the total number of divorces for all States in age group a .

The standard error of a mean includes variances of all groups reporting a given number of children weighted by the square of the number of children reported. Therefore families with large numbers of children contribute to the standard error of the mean out of proportion to their numerical size, and two identical means may have quite different standard errors depending on the distribution of divorces upon which the means are based by number of children reported. In order to illustrate the size of the sampling errors of means for the five participating States, errors by age of father at decree were computed (table VI). The relationships between the sampling errors and the correspondent means (relvariance) are also shown.



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