

Marital Events of Americans: 2009

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Marriage, divorce, and widowhood are important events in the lives of many adults in the United States. Marital events often signify important transitions into adulthood and family life. Researchers, policy makers, and the general public are interested in up-to-date information about the demographic characteristics of those with recent marital events because they reveal a great deal about family formation patterns nationwide.

This report describes marriage, divorce, and widowhood events in the United States using data collected in the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). Beginning in 2008, questions about marital events were added to the ACS to collect national- and state-level marriage and divorce data. The main reason for the addition of these questions was the diminished quality of vital statistics data on marriage and divorce. With these questions, the ACS now provides a more complete picture of the state of marriage, divorce, and widowhood in the United States.

Recently, the U.S. Census Bureau released a working paper that compared the new marital events data from the 2008 ACS with vital statistics data. The working paper demonstrated that the survey-based marital events data collected on the ACS are comparable to administrative records-based data collected by vital statistics.¹ This report moves the analysis of the ACS data beyond methodological

comparisons by profiling the marital events of Americans and describing the demographics of the ever-married population in 2009. This report features:

- Marriage, divorce, and widowhood rates for men and women for the nation and states.
- Demographic characteristics of adults who experienced a marital event.
- Age distributions of men's and women's first marriages compared with historical data from vital statistics.
- A profile of children who live with a parent who divorced in the last year.
- Characteristics of married couples by their durations of marriage.²
- Age-adjusted durations of first and second marriages for women by state.

ACS MARITAL EVENTS ITEMS

The American Community Survey (ACS) was started in the late 1990s to replace the collection of data from the long-form questionnaire in the decennial censuses. The U.S. Census Bureau mails a quarter-million ACS questionnaires every month to a nationwide sample. Follow-ups are conducted with nonrespondents to the mail questionnaire by phone and in-person interviews, collecting data from a sample of about 2 million households annually. The sample is then weighted to

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¹ Elliott, Diana B., Simmons, Tavia, and Jamie M. Lewis. 2010. "Evaluation of the Marital Events Items on the ACS." <www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/marriage/data/acs/index.html>.

² In this report, only married couples of the opposite sex are shown in the tables.

be representative of the nation's population as a whole.³

Among national surveys, the ACS is notable for its ability to reach a large, representative sample nationwide and to provide reliable estimates of trends in the United States and for smaller geographies (such as state, county, and place levels) every year. Additionally, the ACS collects extensive data on a number of other topics of interest, including demographic, economic, and housing characteristics. These attributes make the ACS the ideal survey to collect annual national- and state-level data that mirror vital statistics records on marriage and divorce and to provide a portrait of the marital events of Americans across many important characteristics.⁴

The marital status question, asking if the person is currently married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married, has been on the ACS since the beginning of the survey. This question identifies the marital status of each respondent at the time of the survey. Marital events questions were added to the survey in 2008 and were asked of respondents 15 years old and older who had ever been married at the time of the survey. The new questions help to construct a history of marriage, divorce, and widowhood among respondents by asking: (1) "In the past 12 months did this person get a) married?" b) widowed?" c) divorced?" (2) "How many times

has this person been married?" and (3) "In what year did this person last get married?" Overall, the new marital events questions allow better measurement and understanding of changes in family growth and their outcomes.

These new marital events items fill a void in the marriage and divorce data collected in the United States. Historically, data on marriages and divorces in the United States were collected from marriage and divorce certificates filed and collected at the state-level through the vital statistics system by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). In 1996, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the NCHS decided to discontinue the collection of detailed state-level vital records data from marriage and divorce certificates.

In the absence of up-to-date vital records information on marriages and divorces, the quality of U.S. marital events estimates has diminished. Consequently, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) approached the Census Bureau about adding marital history items to the ACS in order to have reliable and valid data for researchers and policymakers alike as part of its Healthy Marriage Initiative.⁵ With the resumed collection of marital events data on the ACS in 2008, reliable estimates of marriage and divorce rates, among other statistics, are available for the nation and states annually.

This report uses data from the 2009 ACS to describe the population in the United States who recently experienced a marital event (marriage, divorce,

widowhood). Included within this report are geographic, demographic, and historical profiles that describe the current state of marriage, divorce, and widowhood in the United States.

GEOGRAPHIC VARIATIONS IN MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, AND WIDOWHOOD RATES

One of the assets of the large, representative sample of the ACS is the ability to examine geographic variations in demographic characteristics. This section looks at geographic variations in marriage, divorce, and widowhood in the United States.⁶

Table 1 shows the national, regional, and state marriage, divorce, and widowhood rates for men and women in 2009. Rates throughout this report count the marital events reported in the past 12 months per 1,000 men or women in the population 15 and older. The overall national rates of marital events for men in 2009 were 19.1 marriages, 9.2 divorces, and 3.5 instances of widowhood. The overall national rates of marital events for women in 2009 were 17.6 marriages, 9.7 divorces, and 7.8 instances of widowhood. Variations in rates between men and women can be attributed to gender differences in marriage. Women tend to live longer than men.⁷ Women also tend to marry older men.⁸ Consequently, widowhood

³ The Puerto Rico Community Survey is similarly administered to the residents of Puerto Rico, but the data are not included in the U.S. totals discussed in this report.

⁴ A September 2008 Urban Institute Report prepared for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services entitled, "Assessment of Survey Data for the Analysis of Marriage and Divorce at the National, State, and Local Levels," by Ratcliffe, C., Acs, G., Dore, T., and D. Moskowitz provided a detailed comparison of national surveys considered as possible candidates for collecting marital history data in lieu of vital statistics and identified the ACS as best suited for the task.

⁵ See the Department of Health and Human Services "Healthy Marriage Initiative" Web site for more information at <www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/>.

⁶ It should be noted that these rates refer to the areas where the respondents resided at the time of the survey, which may differ either from where they lived when the marriage or divorce occurred or the area where the vital event was recorded. For example, many people may marry or divorce in Nevada, but do not necessarily live in Nevada.

⁷ Arias, E. "United States life tables, 2004." National vital statistics reports; Vol. 56, No. 9. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2007.

⁸ Kreider, Rose M. and Jason M. Fields. 2001. "Number, Timing, and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: Fall 1996." *Current Population Reports*, P70-80. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

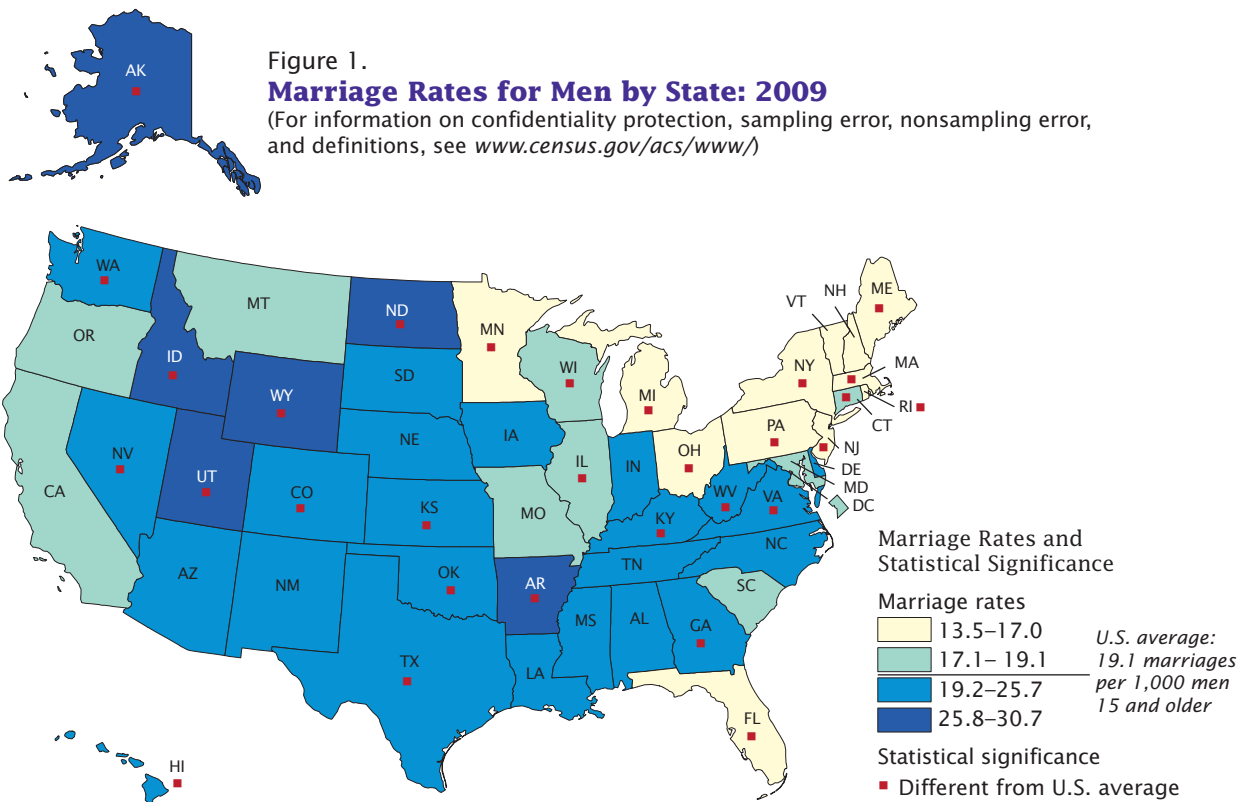
Table 1.

Marriage, Divorce, and Widowhood Rates Per 1,000 Men and Women Aged 15 and Over for the Nation, Regions, and States: 2009

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)

Area	Men						Women					
	Marriage		Divorce		Widowhood		Marriage		Divorce		Widowhood	
	Rate	SE	Rate	SE	Rate	SE	Rate	SE	Rate	SE	Rate	SE
United States	19.1	0.14	9.2	0.08	3.5	0.05	17.6	0.12	9.7	0.09	7.8	0.08
REGION												
Northeast	16.0	0.25	7.2	0.19	3.5	0.12	14.4	0.26	7.5	0.18	7.8	0.18
Midwest	18.0	0.22	9.1	0.18	3.6	0.11	17.1	0.20	9.2	0.14	7.8	0.14
South	20.3	0.27	10.2	0.14	3.7	0.08	18.6	0.23	11.1	0.16	8.2	0.16
West	20.7	0.26	9.2	0.16	2.9	0.10	19.2	0.25	9.8	0.18	7.0	0.15
STATE												
Alabama	20.2	1.27	12.7	0.79	5.0	0.58	18.8	1.01	13.9	0.89	9.4	0.74
Alaska	26.0	2.93	12.5	2.05	3.3	1.01	24.7	3.13	16.2	3.60	7.0	1.72
Arizona	20.3	0.98	10.8	0.74	3.1	0.32	19.0	0.94	11.9	0.86	8.0	0.72
Arkansas	26.4	1.70	13.5	1.22	4.9	0.76	23.0	1.40	12.8	1.02	9.9	0.81
California	19.1	0.39	8.0	0.24	2.9	0.13	17.5	0.39	8.9	0.23	6.8	0.20
Colorado	23.5	1.24	11.6	0.94	2.6	0.34	22.0	1.17	9.4	0.69	6.4	0.52
Connecticut	17.1	1.06	6.7	0.77	2.6	0.42	15.9	0.99	10.7	0.78	6.3	0.59
Delaware	23.1	2.89	8.9	1.39	5.4	0.97	20.9	2.54	8.7	1.62	8.0	1.10
District of Columbia	17.7	2.53	6.3	1.89	1.4	0.65	16.9	2.14	8.3	1.93	7.0	1.42
Florida	17.0	0.58	8.5	0.32	4.1	0.26	15.2	0.49	9.9	0.40	8.7	0.33
Georgia	22.1	0.81	11.5	0.58	3.5	0.27	20.4	0.76	11.7	0.55	7.3	0.46
Hawaii	24.9	2.54	8.3	1.27	2.7	0.58	21.9	2.05	7.8	1.16	10.3	1.28
Idaho	25.8	1.84	7.7	1.05	2.9	0.55	25.1	1.71	9.7	1.19	6.5	0.84
Illinois	17.9	0.58	8.0	0.45	3.4	0.22	16.3	0.48	8.0	0.41	7.4	0.28
Indiana	19.8	0.81	11.0	0.63	3.4	0.33	18.9	0.67	10.7	0.55	9.1	0.52
Iowa	21.5	1.46	10.2	0.91	3.4	0.39	21.5	1.33	10.8	0.92	8.4	0.71
Kansas	22.1	1.48	10.6	1.09	3.1	0.39	20.8	1.34	10.2	0.98	8.6	0.61
Kentucky	22.2	1.11	12.6	0.75	4.2	0.52	20.5	1.13	13.5	0.88	9.5	0.60
Louisiana	20.6	1.19	11.0	0.89	4.4	0.44	17.6	1.07	10.0	0.67	8.3	0.64
Maine	13.5	1.40	13.0	1.48	3.7	0.60	12.2	1.25	9.1	1.27	9.3	0.94
Maryland	18.3	1.02	8.8	0.69	3.4	0.32	16.1	0.91	8.2	0.54	7.7	0.46
Massachusetts	15.8	0.70	7.8	0.52	3.2	0.29	14.1	0.68	7.0	0.54	7.8	0.52
Michigan	16.5	0.69	9.2	0.53	4.1	0.28	15.6	0.62	9.3	0.42	7.2	0.31
Minnesota	15.3	0.77	7.4	0.60	3.0	0.27	15.4	0.72	7.8	0.54	6.1	0.39
Mississippi	19.3	1.54	11.1	1.01	4.1	0.47	17.3	1.41	12.5	1.03	9.1	0.79
Missouri	18.6	0.81	9.5	0.67	3.6	0.33	18.7	0.85	10.4	0.68	8.1	0.47
Montana	18.5	2.31	9.1	1.71	4.0	0.85	18.8	2.40	11.1	1.64	8.2	1.36
Nebraska	19.6	1.44	8.8	0.94	3.5	0.57	18.9	1.70	9.8	1.11	8.5	0.78
Nevada	23.2	1.65	12.3	1.20	3.3	0.50	22.4	1.49	12.3	1.06	7.6	0.75
New Hampshire	16.7	1.76	10.1	1.61	4.2	0.81	15.5	1.56	9.6	1.43	7.0	0.86
New Jersey	14.8	0.59	6.1	0.46	3.5	0.25	13.3	0.51	6.0	0.30	7.6	0.41
New Mexico	20.4	1.90	10.2	1.11	3.4	0.48	19.9	1.91	10.1	1.35	5.4	0.66
New York	16.8	0.47	6.6	0.31	3.2	0.20	14.8	0.44	7.3	0.29	7.5	0.27
North Carolina	20.4	0.98	9.9	0.48	3.4	0.26	19.0	0.64	10.3	0.51	8.0	0.46
North Dakota	26.7	2.93	8.0	1.44	3.2	0.81	27.3	2.97	8.3	1.62	8.6	1.17
Ohio	16.9	0.61	9.5	0.45	4.2	0.25	15.4	0.55	10.0	0.46	8.6	0.33
Oklahoma	23.8	1.29	12.8	1.01	4.4	0.61	22.4	1.11	14.1	1.19	8.5	0.59
Oregon	18.9	1.10	10.4	0.80	3.7	0.38	18.1	1.09	11.4	0.83	8.2	0.65
Pennsylvania	15.5	0.48	7.7	0.43	4.2	0.25	14.3	0.49	7.4	0.35	8.8	0.32
Rhode Island	15.0	2.11	9.4	1.79	3.5	0.69	15.1	2.32	9.5	1.44	7.1	0.91
South Carolina	18.1	1.18	8.1	0.70	4.6	0.57	15.8	1.00	7.8	0.57	9.0	0.54
South Dakota	20.1	2.64	10.9	2.50	3.5	0.92	20.3	2.60	8.9	1.59	6.2	0.99
Tennessee	19.4	0.85	11.4	0.75	3.4	0.36	17.1	0.78	11.6	0.61	9.3	0.63
Texas	21.5	0.61	10.0	0.35	2.9	0.16	20.4	0.54	11.9	0.37	7.5	0.26
Utah	29.6	1.77	10.2	0.93	2.7	0.39	26.7	1.49	10.8	1.02	4.7	0.58
Vermont	16.4	2.40	9.6	1.87	3.6	0.89	15.4	2.05	11.5	2.16	5.6	1.12
Virginia	20.5	0.83	8.9	0.52	3.0	0.26	18.8	0.87	10.2	0.78	7.2	0.44
Washington	21.4	1.00	10.0	0.65	2.6	0.29	20.3	0.81	10.6	0.59	7.1	0.46
West Virginia	22.2	1.69	10.9	1.34	4.4	0.76	20.8	1.74	11.8	1.13	9.7	0.86
Wisconsin	17.2	0.79	8.3	0.57	3.4	0.31	16.2	0.72	7.5	0.43	7.1	0.42
Wyoming	30.7	3.92	10.3	1.90	5.4	1.48	28.7	3.78	10.7	2.20	7.8	1.77

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

rates were higher for women. Men also remarry more than women do, so men's marriage rates were higher than women's rates.⁹

There were interesting state variations in the rates of marital events. Looking at variations in marriage rates, the states with the lowest marriage rates for men in 2009 tended to be in the Northeast. Maine and New Jersey were among the states with low marriage rates with 13.5 and 14.8 marriages per 1,000 men.¹⁰ Maine and New Jersey also had low marriage rates per 1,000 women, with 12.2 and 13.3

marriages, respectively.¹¹ Utah, Wyoming, and North Dakota were among the states with high marriage rates in 2009, with 29.6, 30.7, and 26.7 marriages per 1,000 men.¹² Utah, Wyoming, and North Dakota also had high marriage rates among women with 26.7, 28.7, and 27.3 marriages per 1,000 women.¹³

Looking at 2009 divorce rates, both men and women had low divorce rates in the state of New Jersey, (6.1 divorces per 1,000 men; 6.0 divorces per 1,000 women).¹⁴

Among those states with high divorce rates for men were Arkansas (13.5) and Maine (13.0).¹⁵ States with high divorce rates for women included Alaska (16.2) and Oklahoma (14.1).¹⁶ Delaware and Wyoming were among the states with more widowers (5.4 per 1,000 men).¹⁷ Hawaii was among the states reporting more widows (10.3 per 1,000 women).

Figures 1 through 4 are national maps showing states significantly different from the national 2009 marriage and divorce rates. Figure 1 shows state variations

⁹ Elliott, Diana B. and Jamie M. Lewis. 2010. "Embracing the Institution of Marriage: The Characteristics of Remarried Americans." <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/marr-div/Remarriage.pdf>.

¹⁰ The marriage rates for men in Maine and New Jersey were not significantly different.

¹¹ The marriage rates for women in Maine and New Jersey were not significantly different.

¹² The marriage rates for men in Utah, Wyoming, and North Dakota were not significantly different.

¹³ The marriage rates for women in Utah, Wyoming, and North Dakota were not significantly different.

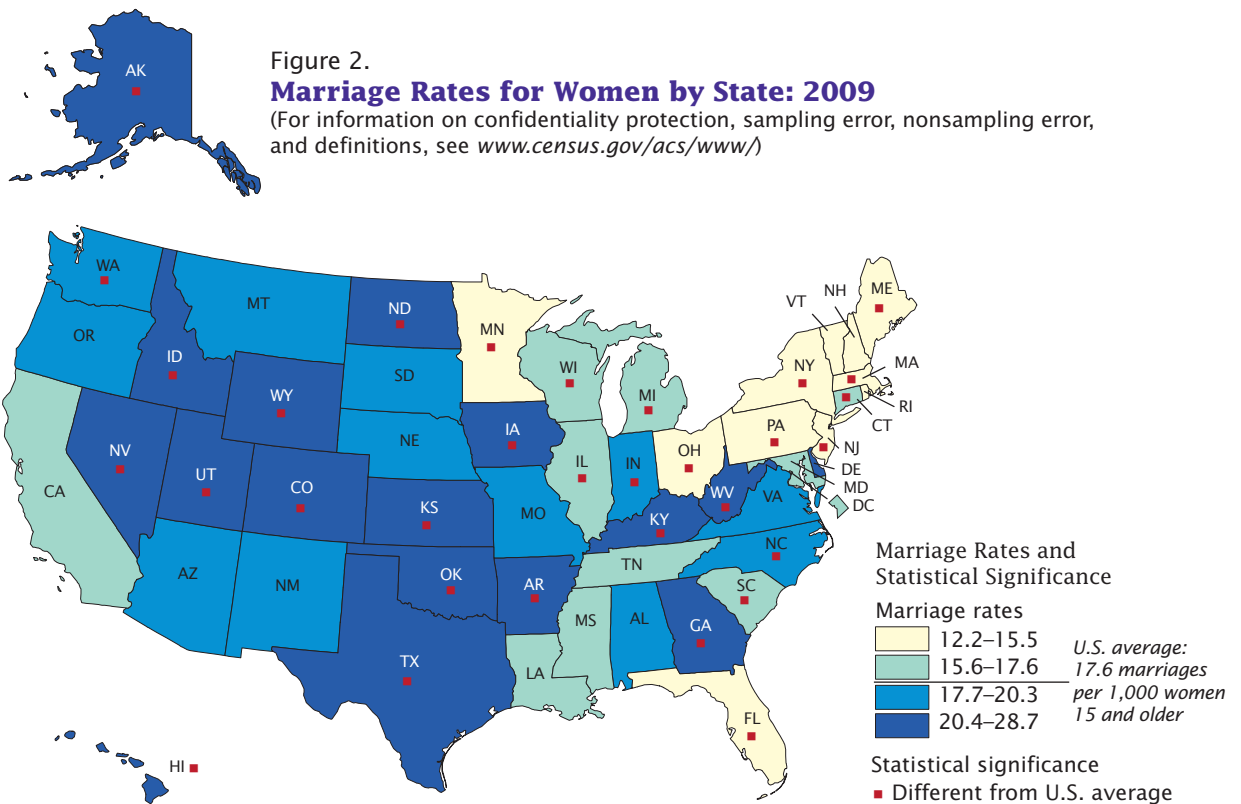
¹⁴ The divorce rates for men in New Jersey and women in New Jersey were not significantly different.

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¹⁵ The divorce rates for men in Arkansas and Maine were not significantly different.

¹⁶ The divorce rates for women in Alaska and Oklahoma were not significantly different.

¹⁷ The widowhood rates for men in Delaware and Wyoming were not significantly different.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

in marriage rates for men and whether or not they were significantly different from the U.S. average (19.1 marriages per 1,000 men). Seventeen states had marriage rates for men significantly above the U.S. average, ranging from 20.5 to 30.7. Thirteen states had marriage rates for men significantly below the U.S. average, ranging from 13.5 to 17.9. Twelve of the thirteen states where men had marriage rates below the U.S. average were located east of the Mississippi River.

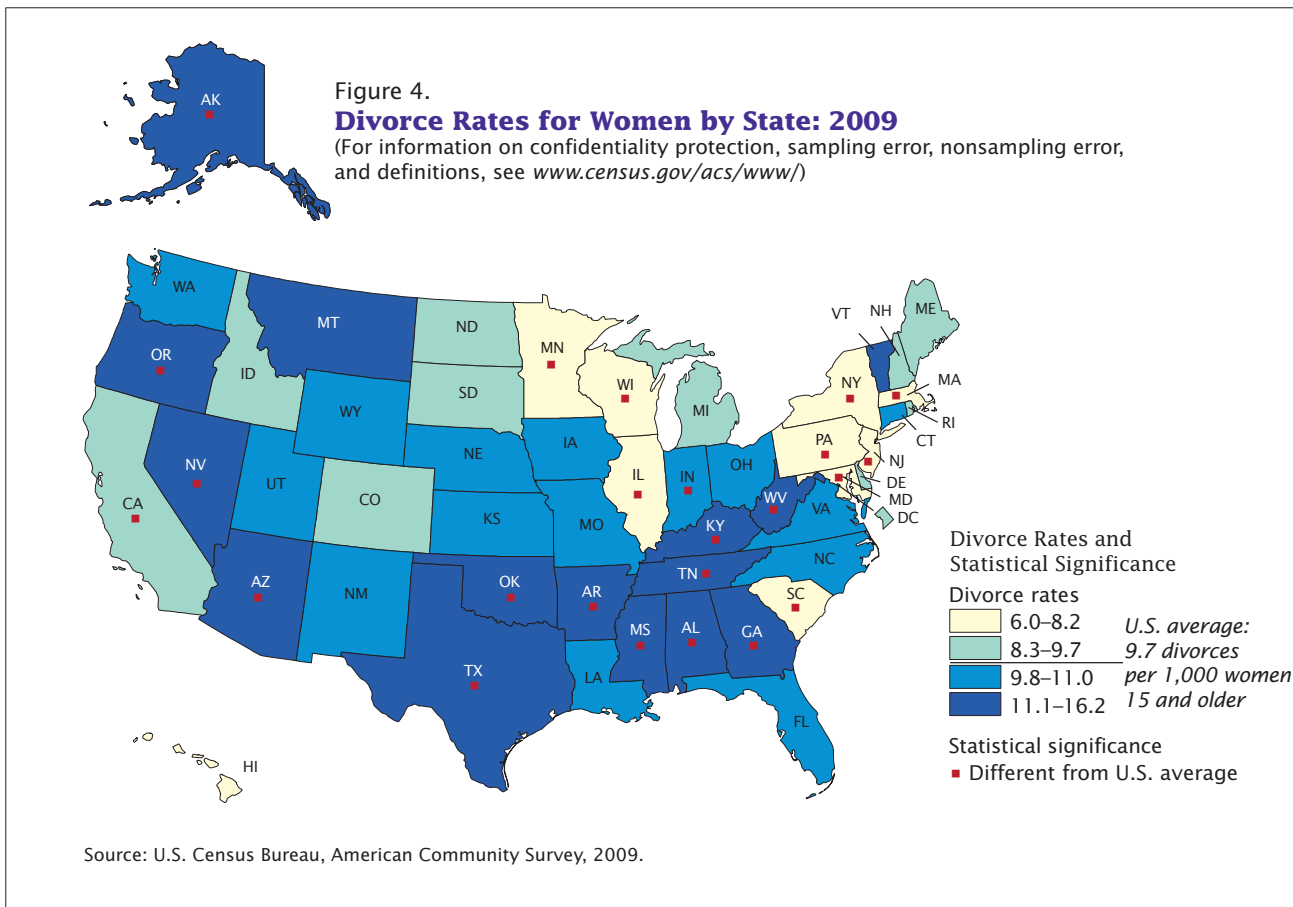
Figure 2 shows marriage rates for women and whether state rates varied significantly from the 2009 U.S. average (17.6 marriages per 1,000 women). Overall, 19 states had marriage rates for women that were significantly above the U.S. average, ranging from 18.9 to

28.7. Thirteen states had marriage rates for women significantly below the U.S. average, ranging from 12.2 to 16.3. As with the men, all but one state where women had marriage rates below the U.S. average were located east of the Mississippi River (Minnesota was the exception).

In Figure 3, divorce rates for men are shown by state. In 2009, 14 states had divorce rates for men that were significantly above the U.S. average (9.2 per 1,000 men), ranging from 10.0 to 13.5. In contrast, nine states had divorce rates for men significantly below the U.S. average, ranging from 6.1 to 8.5. Of the nine states with below average divorce rates for men, five states were located in the Northeast (New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and

Massachusetts). Higher than average divorce rates for men occurred mostly in Southern states, including Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Finally, Figure 4 shows state divorce rates for women and whether they varied significantly from the 2009 U.S. average (9.7 divorces per 1,000 women). Fourteen states had divorce rates for women above the U.S. average, ranging from 10.7 to 16.2. Nine of the fourteen states were in the South, including Tennessee, Georgia, West Virginia, Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky, Alabama, and Oklahoma. In contrast, 10 states had divorce rates for women below the U.S. average, ranging from 6.0 to 8.9. Four states with below average divorce rates



surprising that men and women who divorced in the last year were older, with the highest percentages among those 35 to 44 years old (29 percent of men and 30 percent of women).¹⁸ As expected, the majority of widowed males and females were 65 years and over (70 percent and 66 percent, respectively).

There were also variations in marital events by race and Hispanic origin.¹⁹ For instance, 16 percent

¹⁸Widowhood events in the last 12 months among men 35–44 years old and women 35–44 years old were not significantly different.

¹⁹Federal surveys now give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text, figures, and tables) shows data

of men and women married in the last 12 months were of Hispanic or Latino origin, while 14 percent of the total population was in this

using the first approach (race alone). Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. All comparative statements regarding race in the text are based on the race-alone concept and, unless noted to the contrary, are also true in terms of statistical significance for the race alone-or-in-combination concept. In this report, the term “non-Hispanic White” refers to people who are not Hispanic and who reported White and no other race. The Census Bureau uses non-Hispanic Whites as the comparison group for other race groups and Hispanics. Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on the population 15 and older in the 2009 ACS, 11.5 percent of the White population, 2.2 percent of the Black population, 18.4 percent of the American Indian and Alaska Native population, 1.0 percent of the Asian population, 5.3 percent of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population, 95.5 percent of those with some other race, and 26.2 percent of all remaining race combinations were of Hispanic origin.

group.²⁰ Among those widowed in the last year, 77 percent of men and 73 percent of women widowed were White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, higher than the nationwide proportion for this group (68 percent). Such marriage and widowhood differences were consistent with age differences between the Hispanic and non-Hispanic White population. In 2004, the median age of the Hispanic population was 13 years younger than the non-Hispanic White population.²¹

Those who married in the past 12 months generally had higher

²⁰Marriages in the last 12 months among Hispanic or Latino men and Hispanic or Latino women were significantly different from each other.

²¹Pew Hispanic Center. 2007. “The American Community—Hispanics: 2004,” *American Community Survey Reports*. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC. <www.census.gov/prod/2007pubs/acs-03.pdf>.

Table 2.
**Characteristics of Those Married, Divorced, and Widowed in the Last 12 Months,
 by Sex: 2009—Con.**

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)

Characteristic	Total	Total		Married		Divorced		Widowed	
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Population 15 years and over	245,155,843	119,715,944	125,439,899	2,286,750	2,208,971	1,098,959	1,219,656	414,887	975,517
PERCENT	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age									
15 to 24 years	17.6	18.6	16.7	19.5	27.9	3.8	5.8	0.5	0.5
25 to 34 years	16.9	17.6	16.2	43.9	41.8	23.7	27.3	1.3	1.6
35 to 44 years	17.0	17.4	16.6	18.3	15.8	29.4	30.1	3.5	3.6
45 to 54 years	18.2	18.4	18.0	10.9	9.4	26.0	22.9	9.0	10.2
55 to 64 years	14.2	14.0	14.4	5.0	3.7	12.0	9.8	15.5	17.7
65 years and over	16.1	14.0	18.1	2.4	1.4	5.2	4.2	70.1	66.4
Race and Hispanic Origin									
One race	98.2	98.2	98.2	97.9	97.8	97.8	97.8	98.9	98.8
White	76.4	76.6	76.1	74.9	75.9	77.4	76.1	81.5	79.0
Black or African American	12.0	11.5	12.5	11.3	9.9	12.5	13.1	10.7	11.9
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8
Asian	4.6	4.4	4.7	5.0	5.7	2.6	3.8	3.1	5.1
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Some other race	4.4	4.8	4.0	5.7	5.2	4.3	3.9	2.6	1.9
Two or more races	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.1	1.2
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	13.9	14.8	13.1	16.4	15.7	12.7	12.8	7.9	8.3
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	67.6	67.4	67.8	65.1	66.3	69.9	68.2	76.6	73.3
Nativity									
Native born	85.1	84.7	85.4	82.6	83.7	87.7	87.1	89.7	85.5
Foreign born	14.9	15.3	14.6	17.4	16.3	12.3	12.9	10.3	14.5
Educational Attainment									
Population 25 years and over	201,952,383	97,482,149	104,470,234	1,840,980	1,592,007	1,057,342	1,149,522	412,642	970,717
Less than high school	14.7	15.5	14.1	10.8	8.4	12.6	10.1	26.6	25.8
High school graduate	28.5	28.6	28.4	26.6	21.0	30.7	26.1	32.7	37.0
Some college	28.9	27.5	30.1	31.1	32.4	33.3	39.1	22.2	24.3
Bachelor's degree	17.6	17.6	17.5	21.1	24.8	15.3	16.4	11.1	8.5
Graduate or professional degree	10.3	10.8	9.9	10.4	13.3	8.1	8.3	7.4	4.4
Number of Times Married									
Ever married population 15 years and over	167,145,025	77,557,947	89,587,078	2,286,750	2,208,971	1,098,959	1,219,656	414,887	975,517
Once	75.4	75.3	75.5	70.3	69.7	65.3	65.8	72.2	72.4
Twice	19.3	19.4	19.3	22.1	22.4	25.6	25.5	21.9	21.2
Three or more times	5.2	5.3	5.2	7.7	7.8	9.1	8.7	5.8	6.4
Population 15 years and over living in households	236,945,166	114,875,609	122,069,557	2,232,756	2,194,229	1,059,930	1,208,742	401,015	951,307
Family Status									
Living with own children under 18 ¹	26.3	24.0	28.4	33.6	35.7	18.4	43.5	6.1	6.4
Has an unmarried partner ²	5.5	5.8	5.3	0.4	0.6	16.0	14.5	2.0	1.3
Living in a multigenerational household	7.2	6.1	8.3	6.0	7.1	5.4	10.7	7.6	9.6
Public Assistance in the Past 12 Months									
Living in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp benefits	14.1	12.6	15.5	14.1	15.2	14.7	23.3	13.3	17.0
Household Income in the Past 12 Months									
Less than \$25,000	18.2	15.6	20.7	13.4	14.7	17.2	27.2	35.3	49.7
\$25,000 to \$49,999	23.4	23.2	23.6	24.3	23.9	27.2	29.9	29.4	25.1
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19.6	20.3	19.0	22.7	22.4	23.0	19.4	15.6	11.5
\$75,000 and over	38.7	40.8	36.7	39.6	39.0	32.6	23.4	19.8	13.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2.
**Characteristics of Those Married, Divorced, and Widowed in the Last 12 Months,
 by Sex: 2009—Con.**

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)

Characteristic	Total	Total		Married		Divorced		Widowed	
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Labor Force Status									
Civilian population 16 years and over	239,711,652	116,492,863	123,218,789	2,195,499	2,184,691	1,074,651	1,209,034	413,623	974,598
In Labor Force	65.1	70.7	59.8	88.6	77.0	82.8	80.9	28.0	25.2
Employed	58.7	63.2	54.4	80.3	68.9	73.3	72.7	25.2	22.9
Unemployed	6.4	7.6	5.4	8.3	8.1	9.5	8.3	2.8	2.3
Not in Labor Force	34.9	29.3	40.2	11.4	23.0	17.2	19.1	72.0	74.8
Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months									
Population 15 years and over for whom poverty status is determined	238,184,455	115,604,283	122,580,172	2,237,219	2,196,039	1,064,915	1,211,483	402,966	953,582
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level	12.7	11.1	14.3	8.9	10.4	10.5	21.5	11.8	20.9
Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level	87.3	88.9	85.7	91.1	89.6	89.5	78.5	88.2	79.1
Veteran Status									
Civilian population 18 years and over	231,222,799	112,139,727	119,083,072	2,187,850	2,170,845	1,073,388	1,207,770	413,623	974,365
Veterans	9.5	18.2	1.2	11.0	1.4	18.9	2.5	50.2	1.4
Disability Status									
Civilian noninstitutionalized population 15 years and over	239,658,829	115,910,227	123,748,602	2,173,329	2,187,968	1,043,960	1,202,488	402,454	953,719
With any disability	14.2	13.6	14.7	7.0	6.0	13.6	12.4	39.3	36.4
Population 15 years and over living in occupied housing units	236,945,166	114,875,609	122,069,557	2,232,756	2,194,229	1,059,930	1,208,742	401,015	951,307
Housing Tenure									
In owner-occupied housing units	69.3	69.6	69.1	52.1	52.4	57.1	53.1	80.2	76.1
In renter-occupied housing units	30.7	30.4	30.9	47.9	47.6	42.9	46.9	19.8	23.9
Units in Structure									
In 1-unit structures	73.8	74.2	73.3	62.0	62.6	66.0	64.1	76.0	73.5
In 2-or-more-unit structures	20.4	19.8	20.9	31.3	30.7	26.7	27.9	15.4	19.2
In mobile homes and all other types of units	5.8	6.0	5.7	6.7	6.7	7.3	7.9	8.6	7.4

¹ Includes children in subfamilies.

² Includes people who are either the householder or the unmarried partner of the householder.

Note: See Appendix Table 1 for the standard errors that accompany the estimates on this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

levels of education than the overall population. While 18 percent of all people 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree, 21 percent of men and 25 percent of women who married in the past 12 months had a bachelor's degree. While 10 percent of the population 25 years and over had a graduate or professional degree, 13 percent of women who married in the past 12 months had such credentials. This could be due to younger generations having achieved higher levels of education

than previous generations, and the association of recent nuptials with younger adults.²²

The family living situations of those with recent marital events also varied. While 26 percent of the overall population in households lived with their own children under age 18, those married in the last 12 months were more likely to do so (34

percent of men and 36 percent of women). For those divorced in the past 12 months, 18 percent of men were living with their own children, while 44 percent of such women were living with their own children. Not surprisingly, those who divorced in the past 12 months were more likely to be living with an unmarried partner (16 percent of men and 15 percent of women compared with 6 percent of the

²² Crissey, S. "Educational Attainment in the United States: 2007." *Current Population Reports*, P20-560, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC, 2009.

general population).²³ Women who divorced in the past 12 months were also more likely to be living in a multigenerational household (11 percent of such women, compared with 7 percent of the general population), while only 5 percent of recently divorced men lived in a multigenerational household. Given that women following divorce were more often caring for their children, too, multigenerational households may be a support strategy.²⁴

The economic well-being of those with recent marital events also differed. Women who divorced in the past 12 months were more likely to receive public assistance than recently divorced men (23 percent and 15 percent, respectively). Looking at household income, women who divorced in the past 12 months reported less income than recently divorced men. For example, 27 percent of women who divorced in the past 12 months had less than \$25,000 in household income compared with 17 percent of recently divorced men. Similarly, women who divorced in the past 12 months were more likely than recently divorced men to be in poverty (22 percent compared with 11 percent, respectively).

Those married in the last 12 months were most likely to be living in households making \$75,000 or more a year (40 percent of men and 39 percent of women, compared with 33 percent and 23 percent of recently divorced men and women, respectively, and 20 percent and 14 percent of recently widowed men and women,

²³ The small percentage of people married in the last year and currently living with an unmarried partner reflects marital breakup shortly after marriage and changes in subsequent living arrangements.

²⁴ Bengston, Vern L., 2001. "Beyond the Nuclear Family: The Increasing Importance of Multigenerational Bonds," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 63 (February): 1–16.

respectively).²⁵ Higher household incomes of the recently married may reflect the newly combined incomes of two working adults in one household. Similarly, 89 percent of recently married men and 77 percent of recently married women were in the labor force, while 71 percent of men and 60 percent of women in the overall population were in the labor force. High labor force participation rates were also reported by the recently divorced (83 percent of men and 81 percent of women). As previously discussed, the recently married and divorced were younger overall than the recently widowed, so were also more likely to be in the labor force.

Homeownership rates were lower among those married (52 percent of men and women) and divorced in the past 12 months (57 percent of men and 53 percent of women), compared with the overall population (69 percent). Living in single-unit housing structures was less common for those married (62 percent of men and 63 percent of women) and divorced in the past 12 months (66 percent of men and 64 percent of women), compared with the overall population (74 percent). Such housing characteristics of the recently married and divorced may reflect their youth and nascent stages in adult life.

Overall, these characteristics reflect two overarching findings. First, differences among the recently married, divorced, and widowed may be attributable to age differences (such as differences in race and Hispanic origin, educational attainment, housing tenure, and units in structure). Second, the data show that recently divorced women were financially strained compared with

²⁵ Marriages in the last 12 months among men making \$75,000 or more and women making \$75,000 or more were not significantly different.

others, having higher poverty rates, lower incomes, and greater use of public assistance, despite high labor force participation rates. Such financial differences were likely interrelated, considering the data also show that recently divorced women were more often living with their children than similar men, and research showing that women routinely earn less than men.²⁶

Characteristics of the Children Living With a Parent Who Divorced in the Last Year

Policymakers in the United States have long been interested in the effects of divorce upon children. Table 3 compares the characteristics of children living with parents who divorced in the last year, with children living with parents who did not divorce in the last year.²⁷ Overall, 1,100,401 children, or 1.5 percent of children in the United States in 2009 lived in the home of a parent who divorced in the last year. Looking at the median ages of the children, those whose parents divorced last year were older than children whose parents did not divorce last year (9.8 years compared with 9.1 years). Neither boys nor girls were significantly more likely to have a parent who divorced in the last year. Sixty-four percent of children living with a parent who divorced last year identified as White, non-Hispanic, compared with 57 percent of White, non-Hispanic children whose parents did not divorce. While the largest percentage of children in the United States lived in the South

²⁶ Goldin, Claudia. 1992. *Understanding the Gender Gap: An Economic History of American Women*, Oxford University Press.

²⁷ Table 3 shows the characteristics of children who were under 18 and were reported as children of the householder. The parent (householder) was the individual who experienced a divorce in the last year. We have no information about parents who were not living in the household. The term "parent" in this section will be used to refer to parents (householders) with whom children were living.

Table 3.

Characteristics of Children Who Live With a Parent Who Divorced Last Year:¹ 2009—Con.(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)

Characteristic	Total children of householders				Lives with a parent who did not divorce last year				Lives with a parent who divorced last year			
	Number	Standard error	Percent	Standard error	Number	Standard error	Percent	Standard error	Number	Standard error	Percent	Standard error
Total	65,927,475	48,253	100.0	(X)	64,827,074	48,557	100.0	(X)	1,100,401	16,035	100.0	(X)
Median age (years)	9.2	0.01	(X)	(X)	9.1	0.01	(X)	(X)	9.8	0.08	(X)	(X)
Sex												
Boy	33,741,081	29,914	51.2	0.02	33,176,103	30,963	51.2	0.03	564,978	9,771	51.3	0.45
Girl	32,186,394	27,900	48.8	0.02	31,650,971	28,171	48.8	0.03	535,423	9,037	48.7	0.45
Race and Hispanic Origin												
One race	62,839,510	58,482	95.3	0.04	61,799,004	57,348	95.3	0.04	1,040,506	16,093	94.6	0.34
White	46,605,756	39,920	70.7	0.06	45,791,192	40,151	70.6	0.06	814,564	14,259	74.0	0.65
Black or African American	8,583,553	30,239	13.0	0.04	8,443,762	30,836	13.0	0.04	139,791	5,379	12.7	0.43
American Indian and Alaska Native	539,056	9,517	0.8	0.01	527,678	9,327	0.8	0.01	11,378	1,646	1.0	0.15
Asian	2,837,925	11,502	4.3	0.02	2,814,235	11,826	4.3	0.02	23,690	1,762	2.2	0.16
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	92,535	3,364	0.1	0.01	91,422	3,313	0.1	0.01	1,113	438	0.1	0.04
Some other race	4,180,685	32,592	6.3	0.05	4,130,715	32,320	6.4	0.05	49,970	3,633	4.5	0.32
Two or more races	3,087,965	23,364	4.7	0.04	3,028,070	22,502	4.7	0.04	59,895	3,765	5.4	0.34
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	14,201,612	23,928	21.5	0.03	14,015,640	23,821	21.6	0.03	185,972	7,574	16.9	0.61
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	37,722,098	22,493	57.2	0.04	37,021,674	21,722	57.1	0.04	700,424	12,210	63.7	0.67
No Health Insurance	5,284,361	38,974	8.0	0.06	5,210,585	38,793	8.0	0.06	73,776	3,957	6.7	0.34
Region												
Northeast	11,168,920	12,871	16.9	0.02	11,020,137	13,325	17.0	0.02	148,783	5,444	13.5	0.48
Midwest	14,518,885	15,644	22.0	0.02	14,259,749	16,373	22.0	0.02	259,136	6,266	23.5	0.59
South	24,338,475	30,844	36.9	0.03	23,893,264	29,838	36.9	0.03	445,211	11,035	40.5	0.70
West	15,901,195	21,466	24.1	0.03	15,653,924	24,117	24.1	0.03	247,271	8,353	22.5	0.63
Household Economic Characteristics												
Household below poverty level	12,771,581	78,939	19.4	0.11	12,458,790	78,661	19.2	0.11	312,791	10,639	28.4	0.81
Household receives public assistance ²	13,531,290	76,008	20.5	0.11	13,211,622	75,473	20.4	0.11	319,668	10,177	29.1	0.78
Householder Sex												
Male	33,821,818	77,050	51.3	0.13	33,549,483	77,275	51.8	0.13	272,335	9,246	24.7	0.69
Female	32,105,657	96,596	48.7	0.13	31,277,591	94,401	48.2	0.13	828,066	13,018	75.3	0.69
Educational Attainment of Householder												
Less than high school	9,154,387	59,555	13.9	0.09	9,053,802	59,429	14.0	0.09	100,585	5,835	9.1	0.49
High school graduate	15,253,822	57,203	23.1	0.08	14,990,624	55,770	23.1	0.08	263,198	8,653	23.9	0.72
Some college	21,264,268	54,206	32.3	0.08	20,801,602	55,378	32.1	0.08	462,666	9,635	42.0	0.59
Bachelor's degree or more	20,254,998	65,884	30.7	0.11	19,981,046	65,267	30.8	0.11	273,952	6,606	24.9	0.54
Householder Labor Force Status												
In labor force	56,462,554	61,058	85.6	0.09	55,479,520	60,527	85.6	0.09	983,034	14,126	89.3	0.48
Employed	52,104,638	63,490	79.0	0.10	51,209,996	61,946	79.0	0.10	894,642	13,648	81.3	0.60
Unemployed	4,357,916	32,873	6.6	0.05	4,269,524	33,509	6.6	0.05	88,392	4,477	8.0	0.39
Not in Labor Force	9,461,745	61,391	14.4	0.09	9,344,378	61,952	14.4	0.09	117,367	5,866	10.7	0.48

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3.

Characteristics of Children Who Live With a Parent Who Divorced Last Year:¹ 2009—Con.(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)

Characteristic	Total children of householders				Lives with a parent who did not divorce last year				Lives with a parent who divorced last year			
	Number	Standard error	Percent	Standard error	Number	Standard error	Percent	Standard error	Number	Standard error	Percent	Standard error
Family Status												
Presence of nonrelated adults . . .	1,582,010	21,436	2.4	0.03	1,538,477	20,634	2.4	0.03	43,533	3,716	4.0	0.33
Unmarried partner present	4,404,496	34,957	6.7	0.05	4,261,518	34,024	6.6	0.05	142,978	5,776	13.0	0.49
Living in a multigenerational household	3,064,690	25,727	4.6	0.04	3,021,467	25,524	4.7	0.04	43,223	2,914	3.9	0.26
Tenure												
Owned home	41,854,262	87,524	63.5	0.15	41,337,771	87,737	63.8	0.15	516,491	10,792	46.9	0.74
Rented home	24,073,213	108,790	36.5	0.15	23,489,303	108,355	36.2	0.15	583,910	12,054	53.1	0.74
Household Type												
Married-couple headed household	46,218,990	64,816	70.1	0.11	46,161,252	64,810	71.2	0.11	57,738	4,042	5.2	0.35
Single-father headed household	4,249,699	36,685	6.4	0.05	4,009,426	35,777	6.2	0.05	240,273	7,984	21.8	0.62
Single-mother headed household	15,458,786	68,851	23.4	0.10	14,656,396	65,701	22.6	0.09	802,390	12,786	72.9	0.68

(X) Not applicable.

¹ The children described in this table are under the age of 18 and are the own children of householders.² Includes households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp benefits.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

(37 percent), this was particularly so when looking at children who lived with a parent who divorced last year (41 percent lived in the South).

The household and householders' characteristics, in other words, the characteristics of the children's parents, were also interesting to compare. Children living with a parent who divorced last year were more likely to be in a household below the poverty level (28 percent) compared with other children (19 percent). Children living with a parent who divorced last year were also more likely to be living in a rented home (53 percent) compared with other children (36 percent), and were more likely to be living in households headed by their mothers (73 percent) compared with other children (23 percent). The greater likelihood of children to live with mothers following divorce could explain why a greater proportion of such households were in poverty. Women, particularly

mothers, have lower earning potential in the labor force.²⁸ Children who lived with a recently divorced parent were also more likely to be living with their parents' unmarried partners (13 percent) than other children (7 percent).²⁹ This finding may be related to an important difference in the samples. Seventy-one percent of children who lived with parents who did not divorce last year were living in married-couple headed households, thus precluding the possibility of living in an unmarried partner household. Only 5 percent of children who lived with a parent who divorced in the last year were again living in a married-couple headed household.

²⁸ Budig, Michelle J. and Paula England. 2001. "The Wage Penalty for Motherhood," *American Sociological Review*, 66: 204–225.

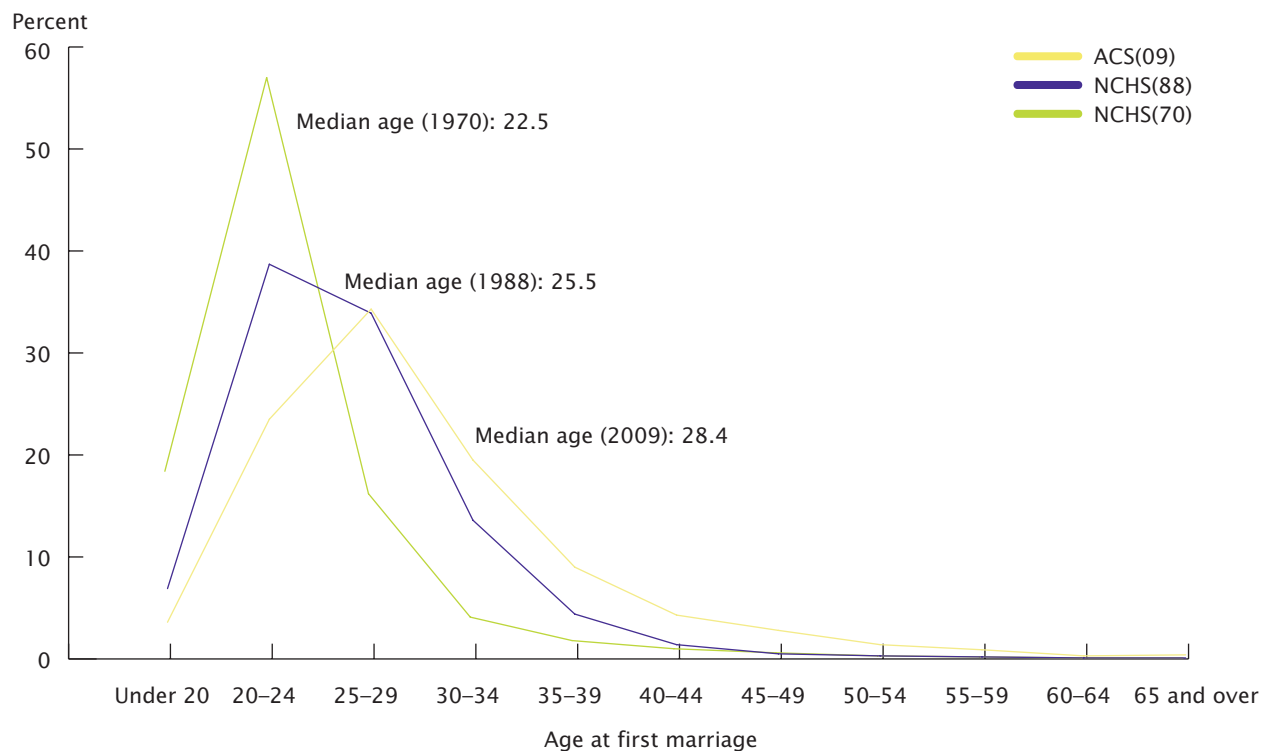
²⁹ Among the 7 percent of children who were living with parents who did not divorce in the last year and their parents' unmarried partners included those in families formed outside of marriage.

Historical Comparisons of the Ages at Which Men and Women First Marry

Historical comparisons of the ages at first marriage reveal a great deal about the changing role of marriage in the United States. Figures 5 and 6 are line graphs showing the percent distributions of men and women with first marriages by 5-year age groups for the 1970 NCHS data, the 1988 NCHS data, and the 2009 ACS data.³⁰ Overall, these figures illustrate how the age distributions for both men and women entering into their first marriages have changed over time. These figures show that greater proportions of men and women in 2009 were marrying later and across a greater range of ages

³⁰ The 1970 and 1988 vital statistics data for first marriages by age group was published in the following report: "National Center for Health Statistics. Advance report of final marriage statistics, 1988." Monthly vital statistics report; vol. 40 no. 4, suppl. Hyattsville, Maryland: Public Health Service, 1991. The report is also available online at <www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsvr/supp/mv40_04s.pdf>..

Figure 5.
Percent Distribution of Men With First Marriages by Age: 1970, 1988, and 2009
 (For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009; National Center for Health Statistics, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 40, No. 4(S), August 26, 1991.

than was the case in either 1970 or 1988. This is also evident in the shifting median ages at first marriage for men and women. In 1970, the median age of first marriages for men was 22.5 years and for women was 20.6 years. By 1988, the median age of first marriages for men was 25.5 years and for women was 23.7 years. In 2009, the median age of first marriages was about 6 years older than in 1970 (28.4 and 26.5 years for men and women, respectively).

Looking at Figure 5, 57 percent of men entered into their first marriages between the ages of 20 and 24 in 1970. By 1988, the highest proportion of men who entered into first marriages continued to be

between the ages of 20 and 24, but this percentage dropped to 39 percent. Over two decades later, the highest proportion of men entering into first marriages was those aged 25 to 29 (34 percent). In 2009, first marriages for men were also distributed across a range of age groups, including 24 percent marrying between the ages of 20 and 24, 20 percent marrying between the ages of 30 and 34, and 9 percent marrying between the ages of 35 and 39. In 1970, first marriages for men may have been associated with a more narrow range of acceptable ages, or perhaps with particular transitions to adulthood, such as college graduation. In contrast, in 2009, there is more variability in the timing of men's

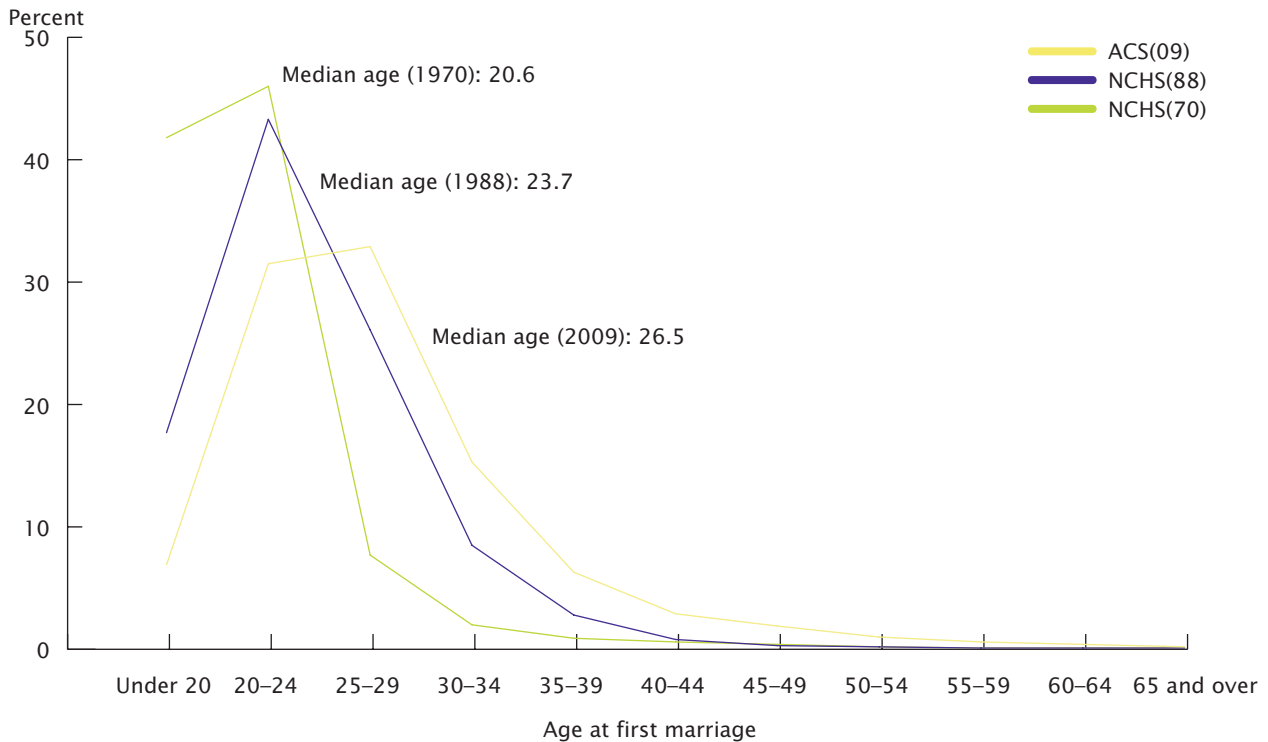
first marriages, with more men marrying at later ages than nearly 40 years earlier.

Figure 6 presents a point of comparison to Figure 5 in that it shows the proportions of women who entered into first marriages in different age groups in 1970, 1988, and 2009. One notable finding is that the proportion of women who first married when they were teenagers has gone down considerably in the last 39 years. In 1970, 42 percent of women marrying for the first time were teenagers, but in 1988 only 18 percent were teenagers, and by 2009 only 7 percent were teenagers. Overall many more women married at younger ages in 1970 compared with 2009. In

Figure 6.

Percent Distribution of Women With First Marriages by Age: 1970, 1988, and 2009

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009; National Center for Health Statistics, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 40, No. 4(S), August 26, 1991.

1970, 88 percent of women had a first marriage by the age of 24, compared with only 38 percent of similar women in 2009. Comparing Figure 6 with Figure 5, greater proportions of women married at younger ages than men, consistent with demographic evidence that women often marry at younger ages and often marry men who are older than them. However, both figures illustrate consistent historical changes: both men and women were marrying significantly later in 2009 than was the case in 1970.

DURATIONS OF CURRENT MARRIAGES

Understanding durations of current marriages reveals a great deal about those who are currently married and the differences between those married for decades compared with newlyweds. This section presents not only the characteristics of those married for different lengths of time, but their geographic distributions in the United States. Predictably, the oldest Americans tended to have marriages of longer durations. However, as this section will show, when age is controlled, the geographic story reveals a great deal about regional variations in marriage.

The Characteristics of Couples Married for Varying Durations of Time

Table 4 presents the characteristics of married couples according to the durations of their current marriages. Looking at the characteristics of husbands and wives in such couples, it is not surprising that the median ages of husbands and wives are strongly associated with the durations of their current marriages. For those married less than 5 years, the median age of husbands was 33 years and the median age for wives was 31 years. For those married 20 or more years, the median age of husbands was 61 years and the median age for wives was 58 years. Those who

Table 4.

Characteristics of Opposite-Sex Married People by the Duration of Their Current Marriage: 2009

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)

Characteristic	Duration of marriage									
	Number					Percent				
	Total	Under 5 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 19 years	20 or more years	Total	Under 5 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 19 years	20 or more years
Total	56,909,121	7,926,305	8,090,843	13,430,001	27,461,972	100.0	13.9	14.2	23.6	48.3
Husband's median age (years) . . .	50.7	33.2	37.9	44.0	60.7	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Wife's median age (years)	48.5	30.8	35.5	41.8	58.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Number of Times Husband Was Married										
Once	43,085,181	5,425,373	5,501,388	9,427,956	22,730,464	100.0	12.6	12.8	21.9	52.8
Twice	10,963,604	1,863,703	1,960,187	3,118,417	4,021,297	100.0	17.0	17.9	28.4	36.7
Three or more times	2,860,336	637,229	629,268	883,628	710,211	100.0	22.3	22.0	30.9	24.8
Number of Times Wife Was Married										
Once	43,630,075	5,510,621	5,581,183	9,556,973	22,981,298	100.0	12.6	12.8	21.9	52.7
Twice	10,670,931	1,810,247	1,914,688	3,081,254	3,864,742	100.0	17.0	17.9	28.9	36.2
Three or more times	2,608,115	605,437	594,972	791,774	615,932	100.0	23.2	22.8	30.4	23.6
Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder										
White	47,159,924	6,247,404	6,368,197	10,816,217	23,728,106	100.0	13.2	13.5	22.9	50.3
Black or African American	3,838,981	704,083	658,988	957,445	1,518,465	100.0	18.3	17.2	24.9	39.6
American Indian and Alaska Native	322,960	54,526	53,495	82,461	132,478	100.0	16.9	16.6	25.5	41.0
Asian	2,806,248	393,802	480,335	770,770	1,161,341	100.0	14.0	17.1	27.5	41.4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	71,014	12,979	12,752	18,627	26,656	100.0	18.3	18.0	26.2	37.5
Some other race	1,980,588	369,235	384,467	596,944	629,942	100.0	18.6	19.4	30.1	31.8
Two or more races	729,406	144,276	132,609	187,537	264,984	100.0	19.8	18.2	25.7	36.3
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	6,596,165	1,157,320	1,214,195	1,899,151	2,325,499	100.0	17.5	18.4	28.8	35.3
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	42,796,003	5,509,258	5,587,818	9,582,203	22,116,724	100.0	12.9	13.1	22.4	51.7
Household Economic Characteristics										
Household below poverty level . . .	2,940,823	569,581	546,846	808,826	1,015,570	100.0	19.4	18.6	27.5	34.5
Household receives public assistance ¹	4,613,984	898,550	776,378	1,062,458	1,876,598	100.0	19.5	16.8	23.0	40.7
Educational Attainment of Householder										
Less than high school	6,226,623	734,743	791,997	1,365,763	3,334,120	100.0	11.8	12.7	21.9	53.5
High school graduate	14,050,648	1,767,206	1,742,835	3,033,277	7,507,330	100.0	12.6	12.4	21.6	53.4
Some college	16,981,070	2,619,511	2,557,240	4,057,386	7,746,933	100.0	15.4	15.1	23.9	45.6
Bachelor's degree or more	19,650,780	2,804,845	2,998,771	4,973,575	8,873,589	100.0	14.3	15.3	25.3	45.2
Householder Labor Force Status										
In labor force	41,431,981	6,887,049	6,848,846	11,205,929	16,490,157	100.0	16.6	16.5	27.0	39.8
Employed	39,044,204	6,440,719	6,442,881	10,594,874	15,565,730	100.0	16.5	16.5	27.1	39.9
Unemployed	2,387,777	446,330	405,965	611,055	924,427	100.0	18.7	17.0	25.6	38.7
Not in Labor Force	15,476,525	1,038,783	1,241,953	2,223,974	10,971,815	100.0	6.7	8.0	14.4	70.9
Tenure										
Owned home	46,564,191	4,726,368	5,937,624	11,108,326	24,791,873	100.0	10.2	12.8	23.9	53.2
Rented home	10,344,930	3,199,937	2,153,219	2,321,675	2,670,099	100.0	30.9	20.8	22.4	25.8

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp benefits.

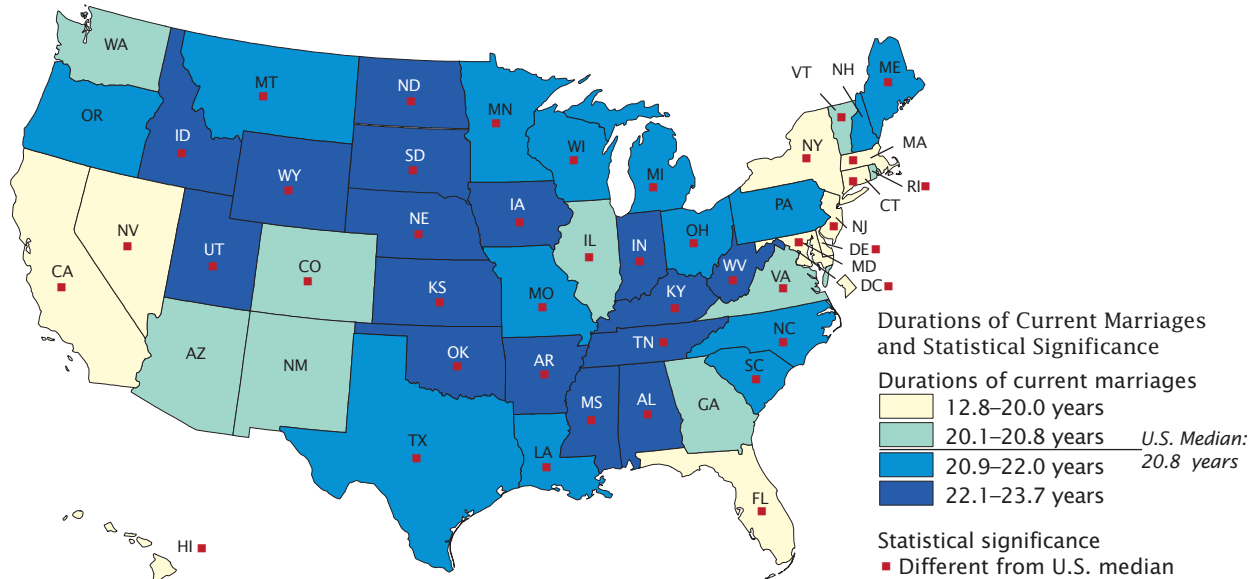
Note: See Appendix Table 2 for the standard errors that accompany the estimates on this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.



Figure 7.
Age-Adjusted Durations of Current Marriages for Women in Their First Marriages: 2009

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

made it past their twentieth anniversary were also likeliest to have been married only once (53 percent of men and women). It may be more difficult to reach a twentieth anniversary if husbands and wives were previously married for any duration of time.

The characteristics of the householders in currently married couples also distinguish those married longest from the newlyweds.³¹

³¹ In Table 4 the race, ethnicity, educational attainment, and labor force status are those of the householder. For about 98 percent of married couples in this table, either the husband or the wife is also the householder. About 2 percent of married couples described in this table were subfamilies. Subfamilies include individuals who are living in another family members' household. For married-couple subfamilies, the householders' characteristics on race, ethnicity, educational attainment, and labor force status are displayed in this table, rather than the characteristics of either the husband or the wife in such couples.

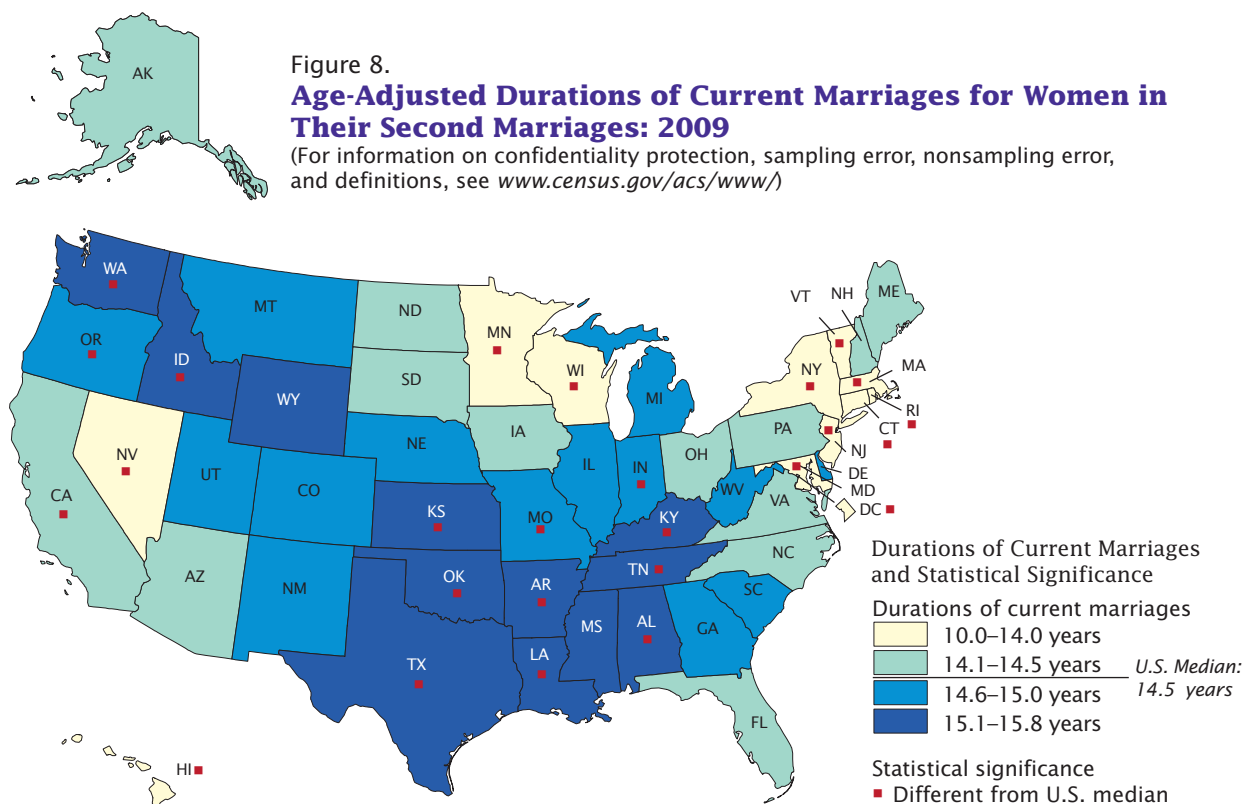
Looking at race and ethnicity, over half of White, non-Hispanic householders in couples were married 20 or more years. In contrast, 32 percent of householders identifying as some other race were married 20 or more years. Characteristics like educational attainment, labor force status, and homeownership differed by the duration of marriage among couples because of the strong association of longer marriages with older ages. Overall, 54 percent of those with less than a high school degree were married 20 or more years. Among those not in the labor force (the category in which retirees are included), 71 percent had been married 20 or more years. Over half of all homeowners had been married for 20 or more years, while a little over one in ten homeowners had been married for less than 5 years.

Age-Controlled Durations of Current Marriages Across the United States

One way to distinguish the effects of age upon how long couples have been married is to control for age in analyses. By controlling for age, it is possible to clarify how the median duration of marriage is distinct from the age of the population of women in each state. So, states with a greater proportion of older women residing in them will not necessarily have estimates of the longest marriages among women. For example, Florida has a high proportion of older women residing there relative to other states. The median duration of first marriages among women in Florida was significantly above the U.S. median before age adjustments were performed. After performing age adjustments on

Figure 8.
Age-Adjusted Durations of Current Marriages for Women in Their Second Marriages: 2009

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

the data, the median duration of first marriages among women in Florida was significantly below the national median duration of first marriages.³²

Figure 7 shows state-level variations in the age-adjusted median durations of first marriages for women. It presents whether women in each state had first marriages significantly longer, shorter, or not different from the national age-adjusted median duration of women's first marriages (20.8 years). In 2009, the middle of the country had durations of first marriages for women that were significantly longer than the U.S. median. Areas with marriages of significantly

³² The age adjustments performed on the data account for different age distributions among women in each state in the United States. See the Appendix tables for the adjusted and nonadjusted durations of marriage in each state.

longer durations stretched from Idaho and Utah in the west to the Carolinas in the East, and from the Northern Plains states to the Gulf Coast. Exceptions to this were the states of Illinois and Colorado, which were below the U.S. median. Maine also stood alone in the Northeast for being significantly above the U.S. median. Much of the West and East Coasts of the country were characterized by median durations of first marriages among women that were not significantly different or were significantly below the U.S. median. Such regional differences may be associated with later ages at first marriage among women in these areas. For example, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, and New

Jersey all had median ages at first marriage in 2009 that were among the highest in the country.³³ The median durations of first marriages in these states were significantly shorter than the U.S. median (Figure 7). If women in particular states enter into first marriages at older ages, they will not be married as long as women in states where first marriages tend to occur at younger ages.

Figure 8 shows state-level variations in the median durations of second marriages among women, and whether the durations of

³³ Per ACS table R1205, in 2009, the highest median ages at first marriage for women included the District of Columbia (29.6; +/- 0.7), Rhode Island (29.0; +/- 0.6), Massachusetts (28.9; +/- 0.3), New York (28.6; +/- 0.3), and New Jersey (28.0; +/- 0.4) <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GRTTable?_bm=y&_box_head_nbr=R1205&-ds_name=ACS_2009_1YR_G00_-&-lang=en&-format=US-30-&-CONTEXT=grt>.

TECHNICAL NOTE ABOUT AGE ADJUSTMENTS IN FIGURES 7 AND 8

The age-adjusted durations of current marriages for women in first marriages were calculated through a series of steps:

1. The analysis was restricted to women aged 15 and older who reported being in first marriages, with their ages recoded into a variable consisting of 5-year age groups. Their durations of marriage were measured in single-year durations, but were topcoded so those married 50 or more years were grouped into one upper limit category.
2. Then, the proportion of women in each 5-year age group was calculated by dividing the number of women in each age group by the total number of women 15 and older nationwide in first marriages. This step created first marriage “age weights” to later apply to the medians.
3. Next, the number of women within each state, age group, and number of years married were tabulated for each of the 80 replicate weights in the data. This step created total weighted counts of the duration of women’s first marriages, in single years, for each age group in each state.
4. Then, percentages were calculated by dividing the weighted counts of durations of first marriages for each age group in each state by the total. These percentages were then multiplied by the previously calculated “age weights” to create age-adjusted percentages.
5. The age-adjusted percentages were then used to calculate medians, or the 50th percentile cut-point, for the overall durations of first marriages for women in each state, along with associated standard errors. Statistical tests were performed to determine if the age-adjusted medians for each state were significantly above or below the calculated national median duration of women’s first marriages.
6. This entire procedure was repeated for women in second marriages by restricting the initial analysis to women aged 15 and older who reported being in second marriages.

second marriages are significantly different from the overall U.S. median. The findings from Figure 8 should be interpreted given two demographic phenomena: the later age at first marriage in some geographic regions and the propensity toward remarriage in other geographic regions. As was discussed for Figure 7, the Northeast tended to have women entering into first marriages at later ages, which was then associated with first marriages of shorter duration. As seen in Figure 8, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Jersey also had median durations for second marriages for women below the U.S. median. Delays in first marriages in these states likely resulted in later second

marriages, too. Individuals in the Northeast are also characterized by lower likelihoods of remarriage relative to other areas of the country, particularly the South.³⁴ This could also contribute to a delay in second marriages and subsequent second marriages of shorter duration.

Figure 8 also reveals that states with longer durations of second marriages for women were also the same states where women marry at younger ages and are more likely to remarry. For example, 5 of the 13 states where women had median durations of second marriages significantly above the U.S. median were among states with younger ages at first marriage for women in 2009 (Idaho, Oklahoma, Arkansas,

Kentucky, and Texas).³⁵ So, states where women entered into first marriages at younger ages tended to be states where women remarried at younger ages, resulting in second marriages of longer length.

SUMMARY

The addition of marital history questions on the ACS in 2008 provides a new source for nationally representative, annual, and geographically specific data about marriages and recent marital events. Given the wide array of other questions asked on the ACS, the detailed characteristics of those who experienced recent marital events can be examined, as well as

³⁴ Elliott, Diana B. and Jamie M. Lewis. 2010. “Embracing the Institution of Marriage: The Characteristics of Remarried Americans.” <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/marr-div/Remarriage.pdf>.

³⁵ See table R1205 <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GRTTable?_bm=y&_box_head_nbr=R1205&-ds_name=ACS_2009_1YR_G00_&-_lang=en&-format=US-30&-CONTEXT=grt>.

the characteristics of those married for varying lengths of time.

Age is closely associated with recent marital events. Those recently married are more likely to be younger and to have been married for the shortest durations of time. Those who are older are more likely to have been widowed recently and, if married, to have been wed for the longest durations of time. People living in Northeastern states have lower marriage and divorce rates, and women of the Northeast have first and second marriages of shorter durations. Those in Southern states are more likely to have higher marriage and divorce rates for men and women. Compared with 1970, men and women entered into their first marriages at later ages in 2009, and with more variation in the timing of first marriages in 2009, than was the case historically.

Recently divorced women are more likely to be living with their own children, to be receiving public assistance, to be living in poverty, and to have less household income compared with recently divorced men. Children living with a parent who divorced in the last year constitute 1.5 percent of children nationwide and are more likely to be White alone, not Hispanic, living in the South, and living in a household in poverty.

Overall, the addition of the marital events questions on the ACS will be a great resource for policymakers, the media, academics, and the general public to better understand the annual state of marriage, divorce, and widowhood in the United States.

SOURCE OF THE DATA AND ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

The American Community Survey

Many of the findings presented in this report were based on the American Community Survey (ACS) data collected in 2009. These data were based on the population living in either households or group quarters (which include correctional facilities, nursing homes, college dormitories, group homes, and overnight shelters) that were included in the ACS sample. The U.S. Census Bureau is both the sponsor and the collector of the American Community Survey.

The 2009 ACS is based on a sample of just under 3 million housing unit addresses and a separate sample of just under 200 thousand people living in group quarters. ACS figures are estimates based on this sample and approximate the actual figures that would have been obtained by interviewing the entire household and group quarters populations using the same methodology. The estimates from the 2009 ACS sample may also differ from estimates based on other survey samples of housing units and group quarters and the people living within those housing units and group quarters.

Historical figures comparing the ages at first marriage for men and women also use data collected in the Vital Statistics Registration system, published by the National Center for Health Statistics. For more information about the source and accuracy details about the Vital Statistics marriage-registration area, refer to the “Technical notes” section in the report, “National Center for Health Statistics.

Advance report of final marriage statistics, 1988.” Monthly vital statistics report; vol. 40 no. 4, suppl.

Hyattsville, Maryland: Public Health Service. 1991, also available online at <www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsvr/supp/mv40_04s.pdf>.

SAMPLING AND NONSAMPLING ERROR

Sampling error occurs when the characteristics of a sample are measured instead of those of the entire population (as from a census). Note that sample-based estimates will vary depending on the particular sample selected from the population, but all attempt to approximate the actual figures. Measures of the magnitude of sampling error reflect the variation in the estimates over all possible samples that could have been selected from the population using the same sampling, data collection, and processing methods.

Estimates of the magnitude of sampling errors are provided in the form of margins of error for all key ACS estimates included in this report. The Census Bureau recommends that data users incorporate this information into their analyses, as sampling error in survey estimates could impact the conclusions drawn from the results. All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and comparisons are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless noted otherwise. This means the 90 percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero.

In addition to sampling error, non-sampling errors may be introduced during any phase of data collection or processing. For example, operations such as editing, reviewing, or keying data from questionnaires may introduce error into the estimates. The primary source of non-sampling error and the processes instituted to control error in the

2009 ACS are described in further detail in the 2009 ACS Accuracy of the Data document (see Web link below).

Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9, prohibits the Census Bureau from publishing results from which the identity of an individual survey respondent could be determined. For more information on how the Census Bureau protects the confidentiality of data, see the 2009 ACS Accuracy of the Data document, available at www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information from the 2009 ACS is available on the Census Bureau's Web site, at www.census.gov/acs/www/.

Measures of ACS quality—including sample size and number of interviews, response and nonresponse rates, coverage rates, and item allocation rates—are available at www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/.

Additional working papers and information about marriage and divorce are available on the Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/marriage/index.html.

CONTACT

Contact U.S. Census Bureau Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282 (toll free) or visit ask.census.gov for further information.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Elliott, Diana B. and Tavia Simmons. 2011. Marital Events of Americans: 2009, *American Community Survey Reports*, ACS-13. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

Appendix Table 1.

Standard Errors for Table 2: Characteristics of Those Married, Divorced, and Widowed in the Last 12 Months by Sex: 2009—Con.(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)

Characteristic	Total	Total		Married		Divorced		Widowed	
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Population 15 years and over	21,222	15,826	16,576	16,397	14,843	10,062	10,997	5,507	10,353
Age									
15 to 24 years	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.30	0.36	0.20	0.25	0.13	0.06
25 to 34 years	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.35	0.35	0.44	0.44	0.19	0.14
35 to 44 years	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.30	0.28	0.47	0.40	0.31	0.17
45 to 54 years	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.22	0.20	0.42	0.37	0.35	0.26
55 to 64 years	—	0.01	0.01	0.14	0.14	0.26	0.24	0.48	0.34
65 years and over	—	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.19	0.15	0.67	0.44
Race and Hispanic Origin									
One race	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.11	0.11	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.10
White	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.31	0.28	0.42	0.37	0.50	0.40
Black or African American	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.23	0.20	0.35	0.27	0.41	0.32
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.11	0.09
Asian	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.15	0.13	0.15	0.17	0.29	0.22
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	—	—	—	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.07	0.04
Some other race	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.19	0.16	0.23	0.16	0.25	0.14
Two or more races	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.11	0.11	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.10
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	—	0.01	—	0.27	0.28	0.35	0.40	0.46	0.27
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.37	0.35	0.50	0.45	0.57	0.40
Nativity									
Native born	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.25	0.23	0.34	0.29	0.48	0.33
Foreign born	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.25	0.23	0.34	0.29	0.48	0.33
Educational Attainment									
Population 25 years and over	44,400	25,796	23,058	13,838	11,563	9,583	10,777	5,409	10,311
Less than high school	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.23	0.27	0.30	0.27	0.56	0.40
High school graduate	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.33	0.36	0.44	0.43	0.68	0.41
Some college	0.03	0.05	0.05	0.32	0.41	0.52	0.45	0.54	0.42
Bachelor's degree	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.24	0.33	0.37	0.32	0.49	0.27
Graduate or professional degree	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.20	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.34	0.20
Number of Times Married									
Ever married population 15 years and over	112,431	67,212	56,815	16,397	14,843	10,062	10,997	5,507	10,353
Once	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.36	0.34	0.52	0.42	0.67	0.43
Twice	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.32	0.29	0.47	0.36	0.58	0.41
Three or more times	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.18	0.18	0.28	0.28	0.35	0.20
Population 15 years and over living in households									
	21,290	27,144	26,399	16,570	14,793	10,053	10,847	5,339	10,257
Family Status									
Living with own children under 18 ¹	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.35	0.33	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.24
Has an unmarried partner ²	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.37	0.32	0.21	0.11
Living in a multigenerational household	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.20	0.19	0.21	0.32	0.36	0.27
Public Assistance in the Past 12 Months									
Living in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp benefits	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.41	0.50	0.36
Household Income in the Past 12 Months									
Less than \$25,000	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.25	0.27	0.42	0.37	0.73	0.45
\$25,000 to \$49,999	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.33	0.33	0.47	0.46	0.58	0.40
\$50,000 to \$74,999	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.26	0.26	0.46	0.34	0.52	0.27
\$75,000 and over	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.31	0.34	0.52	0.43	0.63	0.34

See footnotes at end of table.

Appendix Table 1.

Standard Errors for Table 2: Characteristics of Those Married, Divorced, and Widowed in the Last 12 Months by Sex: 2009—Con.

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)

Characteristic	Total	Total		Married		Divorced		Widowed	
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Labor Force Status									
Civilian population 16 years and over. . . .	27,146	21,265	18,927	15,997	14,709	9,670	10,672	5,411	10,325
In labor force	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.22	0.25	0.34	0.37	0.61	0.37
Employed	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.25	0.29	0.49	0.41	0.61	0.35
Unemployed	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.20	0.19	0.33	0.24	0.27	0.16
Not in labor force	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.22	0.25	0.34	0.37	0.61	0.37
Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months									
Population 15 years and over for whom poverty status is determined	21,777	22,291	21,953	16,674	14,818	10,084	10,880	5,341	10,198
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.25	0.24	0.32	0.42	0.45	0.34
Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.25	0.24	0.32	0.42	0.45	0.34
Veteran Status									
Civilian population 18 years and over. . . .	22,471	17,873	14,890	16,120	14,880	9,669	10,677	5,411	10,309
Veterans	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.22	0.09	0.39	0.13	0.85	0.12
Disability Status									
Civilian noninstitutionalized population 15 years and over	24,459	20,361	19,621	16,268	14,840	9,631	10,658	5,343	10,208
With any disability	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.17	0.15	0.36	0.31	0.71	0.45
Population 15 years and over living in occupied housing units	21,290	27,144	26,399	16,570	14,793	10,053	10,847	5,339	10,257
Housing Tenure									
In owner-occupied housing units	0.09	0.10	0.08	0.33	0.34	0.50	0.45	0.57	0.47
In renter-occupied housing units	0.09	0.10	0.08	0.33	0.34	0.50	0.45	0.57	0.47
Units in Structure									
In 1-unit structures	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.36	0.37	0.50	0.50	0.67	0.48
In 2-or-more-unit structures	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.34	0.33	0.48	0.44	0.60	0.41
In mobile homes and all other types of units	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.20	0.20	0.27	0.29	0.42	0.20

– Represents or rounds to zero.

¹ Includes children in subfamilies.

² Includes people who are either the householder or the unmarried partner of the householder.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Appendix Table 2.

Standard Errors for Table 4: Characteristics of Opposite-Sex Married People by the Duration of Their Current Marriage: 2009

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)

Characteristic	Duration of marriage					Duration of marriage				
	Total	Under 5 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 19 years	20 or more years	Total	Under 5 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 19 years	20 or more years
Total	93,113	33,417	31,012	36,131	45,673	(X)	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06
Husband's median age	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.02	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Wife's median age	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.02	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Number of Times Husband Was Married										
Once	83,043	29,478	25,288	28,488	43,264	(X)	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07
Twice	31,520	14,674	12,666	17,857	16,673	(X)	0.12	0.10	0.14	0.13
Three or more times	13,953	8,631	7,235	8,519	7,024	(X)	0.26	0.22	0.24	0.27
Number of Times Wife Was Married										
Once	84,401	30,112	26,515	27,291	42,788	(X)	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.06
Twice	31,580	13,019	13,045	16,858	16,626	(X)	0.11	0.11	0.13	0.11
Three or more times	14,258	6,777	6,574	8,584	6,663	(X)	0.23	0.22	0.27	0.24
Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder										
White	70,675	28,342	26,460	28,817	39,167	(X)	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07
Black or African American	19,021	8,719	9,023	10,356	11,421	(X)	0.21	0.22	0.23	0.24
American Indian and Alaska Native	5,318	2,512	2,478	2,594	3,139	(X)	0.68	0.71	0.71	0.79
Asian	11,416	5,905	6,776	8,192	7,048	(X)	0.19	0.23	0.26	0.24
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	2,319	1,329	1,337	1,341	1,337	(X)	1.68	1.76	1.74	1.60
Some other race	16,435	7,704	5,868	8,231	7,617	(X)	0.33	0.28	0.29	0.32
Two or more races	10,412	3,622	3,576	4,855	4,931	(X)	0.40	0.41	0.50	0.54
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	24,529	11,117	10,457	13,571	13,581	(X)	0.15	0.14	0.17	0.17
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	59,237	24,893	22,431	25,131	36,578	(X)	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07
Household Economic Characteristics										
Household below poverty level	16,561	8,533	8,157	8,235	8,385	(X)	0.27	0.24	0.24	0.24
Household receives public assistance ¹	22,114	10,120	8,106	9,936	12,051	(X)	0.20	0.16	0.18	0.19
Educational Attainment of Householder										
Less than high school	21,720	9,331	8,205	11,275	15,284	(X)	0.14	0.13	0.15	0.18
High school graduate	36,684	14,289	14,480	16,294	24,294	(X)	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.12
Some college	42,601	15,705	15,550	20,092	26,197	(X)	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.10
Bachelor's degree or more	53,113	19,118	17,854	21,234	27,384	(X)	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.10
Householder Labor Force Status										
In labor force	84,362	31,914	27,964	32,232	37,281	(X)	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.07
Employed	83,656	30,118	27,768	32,629	37,414	(X)	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.07
Unemployed	14,095	7,172	5,882	7,743	8,010	(X)	0.28	0.23	0.27	0.27
Not in labor force	32,288	10,535	11,346	16,400	24,673	(X)	0.06	0.07	0.10	0.11
Tenure										
Owned home	91,840	24,647	27,033	32,989	46,036	(X)	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.06
Rented home	33,718	17,583	15,457	18,038	16,137	(X)	0.15	0.13	0.15	0.13

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp benefits.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Appendix Table 3.

Data for Figures 7 and 8: Adjusted and Nonadjusted Median Ages and Standard Errors (SE) for Women in Their First and Second Marriages, by State: 2009

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)

State	First marriages				Second marriages			
	Age adjusted		Not age adjusted		Age adjusted		Not age adjusted	
	Median	SE	Median	SE	Median	SE	Median	SE
United States	20.8	0.02	20.7	0.03	14.5	0.04	14.5	0.04
Alabama	22.4	0.15	22.4	0.28	15.2	0.29	14.0	0.31
Alaska	20.9	0.30	18.6	0.48	14.1	0.84	12.4	0.71
Arizona	20.6	0.16	19.3	0.21	14.1	0.29	15.3	0.34
Arkansas	23.0	0.26	22.4	0.49	15.4	0.35	13.9	0.44
California	19.8	0.06	18.6	0.09	14.1	0.13	14.6	0.17
Colorado	20.3	0.14	18.4	0.21	15.0	0.33	14.8	0.36
Connecticut	19.8	0.15	21.7	0.20	13.6	0.24	14.4	0.40
Delaware	19.9	0.30	21.7	0.51	14.9	0.63	16.0	0.55
District of Columbia	12.8	0.70	12.3	0.77	10.0	0.62	10.3	0.88
Florida	19.9	0.09	22.0	0.13	14.3	0.14	15.2	0.16
Georgia	20.7	0.11	18.5	0.19	14.7	0.16	13.6	0.21
Hawaii	19.2	0.22	20.0	0.40	13.5	0.56	13.8	0.69
Idaho	23.0	0.32	19.3	0.35	15.8	0.68	14.7	0.66
Illinois	20.5	0.09	20.9	0.13	14.6	0.15	14.7	0.16
Indiana	22.4	0.14	22.2	0.25	15.0	0.29	14.6	0.32
Iowa	22.6	0.18	25.1	0.27	14.4	0.36	14.3	0.43
Kansas	22.2	0.16	22.2	0.34	15.4	0.27	14.9	0.36
Kentucky	22.8	0.15	22.4	0.24	15.2	0.24	13.8	0.32
Louisiana	22.0	0.18	22.0	0.27	15.1	0.30	13.9	0.36
Maine	21.7	0.24	25.4	0.35	14.4	0.44	15.7	0.55
Maryland	19.5	0.12	19.7	0.20	13.6	0.30	14.6	0.42
Massachusetts	19.5	0.10	21.2	0.17	13.1	0.32	14.3	0.32
Michigan	21.2	0.10	22.6	0.17	14.6	0.16	15.4	0.20
Minnesota	21.2	0.11	22.6	0.17	13.8	0.19	14.1	0.31
Mississippi	22.5	0.23	22.4	0.36	15.1	0.47	13.5	0.53
Missouri	22.0	0.18	22.2	0.27	15.0	0.25	14.9	0.29
Montana	21.7	0.27	24.2	0.60	14.6	0.54	15.4	0.57
Nebraska	22.9	0.22	23.5	0.33	14.8	0.37	14.6	0.44
Nevada	19.9	0.22	17.5	0.35	13.5	0.44	12.9	0.54
New Hampshire	21.0	0.22	22.7	0.36	14.2	0.52	14.7	0.51
New Jersey	19.6	0.08	20.9	0.13	13.5	0.23	14.0	0.28
New Mexico	20.7	0.20	20.1	0.32	14.7	0.39	15.5	0.72
New York	19.4	0.07	21.0	0.12	13.5	0.17	13.9	0.21
North Carolina	21.2	0.12	20.2	0.20	14.5	0.23	14.5	0.26
North Dakota	22.6	0.23	25.0	0.46	14.5	0.50	14.2	0.54
Ohio	21.6	0.10	23.0	0.16	14.5	0.18	14.7	0.21
Oklahoma	23.3	0.19	21.8	0.34	15.8	0.27	14.5	0.33
Oregon	20.9	0.16	20.6	0.24	15.0	0.29	16.3	0.40
Pennsylvania	20.9	0.08	23.9	0.12	14.2	0.22	15.1	0.26
Rhode Island	20.1	0.29	22.6	0.56	13.1	0.54	13.6	0.43
South Carolina	21.4	0.21	22.5	0.29	14.6	0.31	14.7	0.37
South Dakota	22.5	0.38	24.4	0.52	14.5	0.83	14.8	0.96
Tennessee	22.1	0.14	21.6	0.21	15.4	0.23	14.5	0.29
Texas	21.4	0.08	18.2	0.11	15.2	0.13	13.9	0.19
Utah	23.6	0.20	17.5	0.28	14.8	0.40	12.2	0.65
Vermont	20.3	0.24	23.2	0.44	13.2	0.68	15.0	0.84
Virginia	20.5	0.11	20.2	0.16	14.5	0.24	14.1	0.25
Washington	20.7	0.12	19.3	0.18	15.5	0.25	16.0	0.31
West Virginia	23.0	0.30	25.3	0.41	15.0	0.39	14.4	0.42
Wisconsin	21.6	0.11	23.7	0.15	13.7	0.25	14.1	0.30
Wyoming	23.7	0.31	22.4	0.71	15.2	1.14	14.0	1.32

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

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