

STATISTICS FROM THE NATIONAL SAMPLE OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE TRANSCRIPTS

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For the calendar year 1960 a national sample of marriage and divorce transcripts was collected for the United States. Prior to 1960, and for many years, national statistics were prepared from tables compiled in State vital statistics offices. After checking for internal consistency and adding estimates for missing areas, reports were issued giving information on the number and characteristics of persons at marriage or divorce.

The limited value of such data need not be argued here. While many States had excellent vital statistics organizations, others were seriously understaffed, and frequently there were no resources for essential field work with local officials. From the standpoint of national statistics the most serious deficiency--surprising to many--is the fact that 7 States still lack central files of marriage records and 11 do not maintain State files of divorce records.

The United States is an "underdeveloped area," in comparison to many Western nations, so far as statistics of marriages and divorces are concerned. While reports of these events in the United States go back over 80 years, only widely spaced special surveys are available for early decades, and the data are subject to the usual deficiencies of such procedures. Beginning with 1922 there are excellent annual reports of marriages and divorces, based on mail questionnaires, but these end with 1932; data for the following decade are fragmentary. The pretabulated figures, begun in 1948, have improved steadily, but at their best leave much to be desired.

As part of the programs to improve national statistics of family formation and dissolution, reporting areas were established to which States were admitted upon meeting specified standards. The Marriage Registration Area now includes 35 States, and the Divorce Registration Area includes 21 States.

For the year 1960, with a view to obtaining comprehensive national data, a sample of records was collected from all 50 States. There is here reviewed the sample design, the collection process, the data obtained, and a brief evaluation.

The Sample Design

Relatively small probability samples of marriage and divorce transcripts were selected for 1960. As a result, some detailed statistics for local areas previously reported on a pretabulated basis will not be published. The over-all sizes of samples to be secured, based on 1958 returns, were expected to be about 41,000 marriage records and 16,000 divorce and annulment records from annual totals of approximately 1.5 million marriages and 370,000 divorces. The

objective of the sample was to secure an array of statistical estimates using information from relatively small numbers of sample records. Annual and monthly totals were to be estimated from the samples and compared for consistency with corresponding annual totals based upon pretabulated reports from the States. The samples themselves were intended to provide estimates of the distributions of several characteristics, such as age, number of previous marriages, color, and residence. Marriages and divorces by county of occurrence were reported on a pretabulated basis. Estimates were made for each of four area units: (a) each State in a Registration Area; (b) the entire Registration Area; (c) each region; and (d) the United States. Each of these estimates was to fall within specified maximum sampling error tolerances of the characteristics that would have resulted from a complete census of all the records. Several of these maximums are shown in Table 1.

Apart from the small over-all sizes of the samples, two other factors loomed as important in relation to the design of the sample, especially for States not in the Registration Areas: local, county, and court officials with little or no experience in sample selection would be expected to select the samples and prepare the transcripts; State and Federal officials would have to move quickly in establishing contacts and securing cooperation from local officials who, if they had been participating in State-Federal vital statistics programs in any way, had been doing so to a much more limited extent. Several problems appeared later in securing the requested sample records from local officials without previous experience in providing records for vital statistics uses.

The samples of marriage and divorce records are similar in design. In each sample, the reporting areas, i.e., States with suitable central files of records and local areas in other States, were divided into six strata, the characteristics of which are shown in Table 2. Strata 1-4 consist of States in the Registration Area, divided according to expected totals of records. With respect to estimates for each of these States, it was determined that a sample with a minimum size of 400 records would satisfy maximum sampling error specifications. To simplify sampling procedures, 4 sampling rates were used for these State samples--1, 5, 10, and 100 percent in the marriage sample, and 5, 10, 50, and 100 percent in the divorce sample. Thus, the design for the Registration Areas represented a reconciling of the objectives of holding samples close to minimum sizes but designating only a few readily comprehended sampling rates. Specifying a minimum for the number of records required in each State, along with use of only 4 sampling rates, plus the fact that 1960 totals were, in most cases, larger than 1958 totals, resulted in sample returns

large enough to provide estimates with errors falling well within the initially specified maximums.

The portion of each sample from States not participating in the Registration Area was selected independently in each of the 4 U. S. regions. Selection was carried out in two stages. In the case of marriages, the first stage sampling units consisted of 8 States and the District of Columbia, which were sampled from central files of records, and all counties in 9 States and New York City without central files complete enough to be used for sampling. For divorces, the first stage sampling units consisted of 3 States and the District of Columbia sampled from central files and all counties in 29 States sampled from local files.

First stage sampling units were selected systematically with probabilities proportionate to size. The measure of size for each such unit (or reporting area) was the total of records reported for 1958. In each region, these sample units were then sorted into strata 5 and 6.

Stratum 5 included all States sampled from central files, along with those counties with expected total records equal to or exceeding the first stage skip interval. All these areas were selected with certainty. In stratum 5, individual records were subsampled systematically with a skip interval one-fifth as large as the first stage skip interval. Since all areas in this stratum were selected for the sample with certainty, the over-all sampling rate for each record equals the rate for the second stage, i.e., $5/X$ where X is the skip interval applied in the first stage.

The remaining counties sampled in the first stage constituted stratum 6. In stratum 6, an expected subsample of 10 records was to be selected from each sample county. Hence, the expected total (1958) for each area was divided by 10, and the nearest whole number to this quotient was the skip interval for subsampling of records in 1960. In this stratum, the over-all probability of any record being selected in the sample was expected to be $(N_h/X)(10/N_h)=10/X$, where N_h is the expected total of records for the sample county and X is the skip interval used in selecting the county. This over-all probability is uniform throughout the stratum regardless of variations in expected totals among the sample counties, or of variations for any county between its expected (1958) total and its reported 1960 total. If, for example, the expected total of the h 'th county was N_h , but the total reported for 1960 was $2N_h$, the over-all probability of selecting any record then becomes $(N_h/X)(20/2N_h)=20/2X=10/X$.

It should also be noted that the over-all sampling rate in stratum 6, $10/X$, is double the over-all for stratum 5, $5/X$. The higher rate in

stratum 6 was necessitated by the fact that the sampling error arose both from the sampling of areas and the subsampling of records, whereas in stratum 5 the areas were selected with certainty and contributed nothing to the sampling error. Thus, the higher sampling rate in stratum 6 offsets the greater sampling error.

Data Collection

In order to obtain the information necessary for planning the marriage and divorce transcript program, questionnaires went to State offices of vital statistics maintaining central files of marriage or divorce records for information about registration procedures, preferences concerning reporting schedules, type of images to be provided, and payment rates. Purchase agreements were concluded with 41 States in the marriage program and 21 in the divorce program. In the remaining States, agreements were concluded with officials of the counties falling in the sample. In many counties more than one court is empowered to grant divorce decrees, and the cooperation of the clerks of all such courts was necessary.

Almost all local areas agreed to participate in the programs, though some officials were unwilling to select the actual samples. In such cases, the sample was drawn by State or Federal officials, or by social scientists¹ or persons recommended by them.² Thus, all selected counties, except seven, participated in the sample: one county in the marriage program and six counties in the divorce program did not participate.

Eventually, the sample transcripts totaled about 42,000 marriages and 17,000 divorces; the Registration Areas provided about 39,500 and 13,500 transcripts, respectively. The transcripts sent by the States were copies of the original records. Sample cases from counties were reported on specially designed short forms, which included only a few basic items of information.

Late reporting, incomplete or incorrect sample selection, and illegible microfilm images were the main reporting problems; an extensive query program conducted by the NVSD made it possible to adjust most of these. The number of sample transcripts received from the State offices were complete except for one State in the marriage program and two in the divorce program, where unsatisfactory registration procedures made it impractical to select sample transcripts covering all the events that occurred in 1960. For the county samples, in addition to the seven refusal counties, a few other local areas sent in incomplete samples. Altogether, about 0.6 percent of all marriages and 1.8 percent of divorces were not covered by the sample. Data on these cases will be published as unknown.

Most of the transcripts were coded and

punched in the NVSD; some of this work was done under contract by another agency. The marriage sample is being processed on electronic computer units and the divorce sample on conventional punched card equipment.

Data Obtained from the Sample

Data to be published from the 1960 sample of marriages are more limited for the 4 regions and for the United States as a whole than for the Marriage Registration Area, but a few basic items will be available. Where appropriate, separate data will be published for brides and for grooms. In addition to counts of marriages, these are:

- County and State of occurrence of the marriage
- Date of marriage, from which distributions by month and by day of week are available
- Age
- Race or color
- Whether the marriage is a first or remarriage, along with marital status prior to the marriage

The securing of this information represents an advance for the program since, for a number of nonregistration States, the only recent data have been marriages by State and month of occurrence. Information on age at marriage is 99 percent complete for the United States.

Four other variables will appear in the annual tables published for the Marriage Registration Area:

- Auspices of the ceremony, that is, civil vs. religious
- Marriage order, i.e., 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.
- State of residence (or foreign country)
- County of residence

Among these items, State and county of residence are the most completely reported. It will be possible to present more detailed data on residential propinquity of couples at marriage, as well as on proportions of marriages which occur in counties of residence of brides and grooms. With the completeness of reporting in the MRA States of county of residence and data on age and on marriage order, the way is opened for analyses of the interdependence of variation in age-adjusted marriage rates at first marriage and at remarriage with variables believed to affect these rates, such as income levels, degree of urbanization, rate of population growth, educational levels, proportion of the labor force in manufacturing, and rates of unemployment. While marriage rates can not be computed for individual counties, all counties in the MRA can be sorted into a few categories on any one or two of the socioeconomic variables, and comparisons can be made of marriage rate variations among any set of such categories.

Finally, in addition to items available for the entire nation and others available for the MRA, several are available from small numbers of States within the MRA. Six States report the church denomination of clergymen officiating at religious ceremonies, and two report this item for brides and grooms; two report grades of school completed; fifteen report occupation and industry (brevity of the information recorded in many cases made this item difficult to process); one State reports occupation of the fathers of the marital partners; and two report race or color of the parents. In general, items available only from limited numbers of States will be tabulated and published, if completely enough reported, in special studies.

Divorce totals for 1960--national, State, and county--are more reliable than those for past years. This was made possible by the additional information on registration procedures obtained during the data collection, and by the comparison of figures reported by State officials with estimates based on sample transcripts.

The sample program produced detailed national and regional divorce statistics for duration of marriage, children of the divorced couple, month of marriage, and the area where the decree was granted and where the marriage was performed.

For the DRA and each DRA State some additional data were obtained, and where appropriate, will be published separately for husbands and wives. Those reported completely enough for analysis are: legal grounds for decree, plaintiff, person to whom the decree was granted. Data for the total DRA and for each registration State will be published for the first time for 1960.

Unsatisfactory reporting and sampling variability made it impossible to tabulate national, regional, and DRA statistics with the amount of detail which was used in the past for a limited number of States. However, for a few States various detailed crosstabulations of personal characteristics, such as age, marriage order, race or color, and area of residence, can be prepared. Individual States reported some previously unavailable data, such as information on duration of marriage to separation and duration of separation to decree, decisions on custody of children, and number of children of the marriage being dissolved.

Evaluation

There are three aspects to our evaluation of this first national sample of marriage and divorce transcripts: (1) sampling error estimates and information about nonsampling errors; (2) needed steps to reduce these errors; (3) important gains registered by the 1960 project and future implications for improved annual data.

1. Sampling and nonsampling errors.

Turning to sampling errors, several preliminary estimates have been made, but not yet published. These include the sampling errors for specified percents of the totals for the MRA and DRA and for each Registration Area State.

In general, these sampling errors are markedly less than the maximum sampling errors shown in Table 1. Sample returns for individual Registration Area States were considerably larger than the specified minimums of 400 transcripts. Among 33 MRA State samples only one had fewer than 500 records and six consisted of more than 1,000 records each. These larger returns reduced the sampling errors of estimates for most of the Registration Area States and for the entire areas well below the original maximums. They will also permit the tabulation of somewhat more detailed age and other distributions, particularly for each Registration Area as a whole.

Sampling errors for median and mean age estimates, as well as all sampling error estimates for the four regions and the United States, will be computed and published in detail.

Through administrative procedures followed in selecting, inspecting, and processing data for both 1960 programs, four sources of nonsampling deviations or "errors" were identified. The first of these arose because of difficulties in segregating the population of events to be sampled. This was especially marked in sampling divorce records. In one State the divorce records for the first three months of the year 1960 could not be sampled, given the resources available for this part of the work; hence, the sample was drawn from decrees granted from March 1, 1960, up to March 1, 1961. More common than this unique type of difficulty were cases in which some records of divorce decrees granted or of marriages performed during 1960 were filed among records of a year prior to 1960. In a few States the marriage license is good indefinitely. Divorce decrees were sometimes filed by date of the original complaint, hence, any decree granted in 1960 in a case continued from a preceding year would appear in the files for that year. Complexities in the divorce laws of some States led to difficulties in determining exactly when a decree became final and one or both parties were free to remarry. It was not possible in the case of marriages to separate so-called second ceremonies (usually a religious ceremony following a civil ceremony for the same couple) from other records if separate licenses were issued for both.

The second source of nonsampling errors was in selecting the samples of records. Controls on such mistakes were fairly complete for Registration Area States. In all areas, if these mistakes were not caught earlier, they were usually identified when inquiries were made about

discrepancies between reported annual totals and number of sample records submitted. This activity, as well as queries about missing numbers on the records, consumed a large amount of staff time, but it yielded much of our information about nonsampling errors other than incompleteness of item reporting.

The third source of error was mistakes made in coding and punching the data. Detailed reports from the unit which coded and punched the 1960 marriage records indicate the low error ratios in coding of between 0.1 and 0.3 percent. These ratios are the proportions of all items which were coded erroneously. Errors made in coding the divorce records were of approximately the same magnitude. Errors made in punching were negligible. Since this was a new program, both coding and punching were verified 100 percent.

The fourth, and the major source of non-sampling error arose from the incompleteness with which various items of information were reported.

In Tables 3 and 4 are set forth preliminary data on completeness of reporting of marriages and divorces showing percents of items incomplete. ^{3/}

The following conclusions emerge from the marriage data:

(1) Ages of brides and grooms are reported with great completeness in records from all areas--thus, data become available for age-specific and age-adjusted marriage rates.

(2) County and State of residence of both brides and grooms are reported with exceptional completeness in the MRA States--thus, studies of residential propinquity and computation of marriage rates by areas of residence at marriage become feasible.

Other conclusions based on more detailed, unpublished data are:

(1) The distinction of civil vs. religious marriages in the MRA was reported with 90 percent completeness.

(2) Place of occurrence and date of marriage are reported with uniform completeness, except for a 2 to 3 percent loss in the Southern Region.

(3) Records from the Northeast Region are most complete; the greatest degree of incompleteness appears in the Southern Region.

(4) Over 80 percent of the loss of information about race or color of brides and grooms resulted from the absence of an item requesting this information on the record forms of a few States and counties.

(5) Roughly two-thirds of the loss of data

about previous marital status and marriage order resulted from the absence of the item on the forms of several reporting areas; marriage order is much more complete for the MRA than for the non-MRA.

To summarize the data on incompleteness of marriage reporting, the largest source was the absence, on the marriage record forms of several reporting areas, of the items of information desired, especially race or color, previous marital status, and number of the marriage. The next largest source was the failure to complete items of data on forms on which such items were requested. Finally, least in importance was a very small number of sample records which were not received.

Under-reporting of items on divorce records is the major deficiency of the program. In 1960, the completeness of reporting for the Divorce Registration Area of the age of husband and of wife was only 41 percent, varying among the States from 100 percent to 4 percent. Percentages of completeness of other characteristics of the spouses were similarly low. In order to improve reporting of these variables, a major effort by Federal and State agencies and others will be necessary.

The 1960 data collection process was not designed to make comprehensive tests of the reliability of items reported on the records. Special studies of this source of nonsampling error are now being planned.

2. Steps to reduce errors.

The steps that can be taken to reduce the sampling errors, and thereby to make possible the presentation of more detailed statistical series, are fairly simple to specify, when compared to recommending steps for reducing the nonsampling errors, particularly the incompleteness of reporting.

An approximate doubling of the marriage sample is in prospect for the 1963 calendar year. Another step which will reduce the sampling errors for marriage estimates is to establish sampling rates for each MRA reporting area such that the sample returns from all areas are more nearly equal than was the case in 1960. This same device should also reduce the DRA State sampling errors. Plans are also being formulated for again securing samples of marriage records in the near future from the few States still not in the MRA. This should stimulate interest in these States in improving the completeness of their reporting. First priority in the divorce statistics program will be given to reducing the incompleteness of reporting and other sources of nonsampling errors.

There are several specific technical steps and, more important, broader programs for

building improved marriage and divorce reporting which can be taken as rapidly as available staff and resources will permit. Among the technical points are:

(1) Fullest use of techniques for checking totals of records reported to States and to the NVSD. (It is helpful to secure independent counts of fees paid for marriage licenses or of premarital blood tests, or court reports to judicial agencies of totals of divorces and annulments.)

(2) Payment arrangements at State and Federal levels which reward those areas promptly reporting complete data.

(3) Clear assignment of responsibility at the local level for securing and reporting all information on the records.

(4) Filing or indexing of the records at local levels by date of marriage ceremony or of divorce decree.

(5) Provisions for prompt return of marriage records to issuing clerks, and for prompt reporting of both marriage and divorce records from local to State officials.

(6) Regular programs of querying suitable sources of information about items missing on the records when the records are inspected by local clerks and State registration personnel.

Broad programs for encouraging interest in marriage and divorce registration of high quality are under way and will probably have great impact on the quality of the data. Arrangements are now being carried out to hold conferences with local registration officials in States where this approach shows promise of success. Certain studies of interviewer effectiveness in survey research have found that high interest in the results is a key characteristic of the best interviewers. Thus, it seems desirable to demonstrate to the local officials the uses of marriage and divorce statistics. Emphasis will also be placed on encouraging questions about programs and procedures.

Efforts are being made to interest more university and State research units in the use of these records. Adequate budgeting to compensate registration officials for their services in making the records available is being recommended. The major professional associations concerned with registration and use of these data have endorsed the registration area approach to improving their quality.

3. Gains from the 1960 programs.

Much remains to be done in providing the United States with adequate systems of marriage and divorce registration which can produce

complete and accurate statistics at least on the most essential items. However, certain important gains have been made. Counts of the records have been improved in many areas. Requests for the sample records, along with queries concerning missing information, inconsistencies in counts of records, and other problems have supported efforts of registration leaders in several States to secure improvements. It is reported that visits by State and regional representatives to local officials in arranging for selection of the samples have heightened interest in other vital records.

Specific gains in amounts and types of data available have also resulted. Data on age at marriage of comparable completeness have never before been available for the entire nation. Counts of divorces and annulments, although leaving much to be desired, probably are more accurate than at any time in the past. Data on counties of residence of brides and grooms for

the entire MRA represent a marked gain. While demographic items, such as age at divorce and race or color, are completely reported in only four States, a number of legal items of interest to students of legal procedures involved in the dissolution of marriage are available even for non-DRA areas. Examples are the distribution of divorces by legal grounds, the extent to which husbands or wives are plaintiffs and defendants, or are granted decrees, and duration of the marriages being terminated.

The 1960 sampling operation has not only produced better data; it has also increased interest in the program. Social scientists who helped us frequently expressed surprise at the registration conditions existing in their own States. Public officials also learned more about the program and indicated a desire to improve registration. As a logical consequence, we expect an accelerated growth of the Registration Areas until truly national statistics are made possible.

FOOTNOTES

1/ We are grateful for the assistance of the following social scientists in collecting sample transcripts in counties where these were not otherwise available, and in recommending other individuals qualified to do so:

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Douglass B. Radabaugh
Calvin F. Schmid
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2/ The following persons with specialized knowledge of local conditions were of invaluable assistance to us in collecting sample records from local files:

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3/ Only data for the United States and each Registration Area are shown. Estimates for each region and each Registration Area State are also available.

Table 1.--MAXIMUM SAMPLING ERROR TOLERANCES (2σ) FOR SPECIFIED ESTIMATES FROM SAMPLES OF 1960 MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE TRANSCRIPTS

Type of Record and Area	Percent of Cases with Characteristic				
	2	5	10	25	50
Registration Area State (Marriage or Divorce).....	1.4	2.2	3.0	4.3	5.0
Marriages:					
Registration Area (MRA)	0.3	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.1
Each region	1.5	2.4	3.3	4.8	5.7
United States	0.8	1.2	1.5	2.2	2.7
Divorces:					
Registration Area (DRA)	0.4	0.4	0.8	1.1	1.3
Each region	2.0	3.0	5.7	6.0	6.9
United States	0.9	1.2	1.6	2.4	2.8

Table 2.--CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DESIGN OF THE 1960 STRATIFIED MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE SAMPLE

(Expected figures based on 1958 data)

Type of Area and Stratum	Marriages		Divorces	
	Sampling rate	Expected totals	Sampling rate	Expected totals
United States	--	1,459,000 ^{1/}	--	370,000 ^{1/}
Registration Area	--	835,000 ^{1/}	--	83,000 ^{1/}
1	All records	14,000	All records	1,000
2	1/10	43,000	1/2	10,000
3	1/20	393,000	1/10	39,000
4	1/100	385,000	1/20	33,000
Central File States and				
Certainty Counties	--	434,000	--	192,000
Northeast	1/500	102,000	1/40	19,000
North Central	1/500	146,000	1/80	71,000
South	1/800	103,000	1/160	39,000
West	1/300	83,000	1/80	63,000
Noncertainty Counties	--	190,000	--	95,000
Northeast	--	--	1/20	6,000
North Central.....	1/221	36,000	1/45	15,000
South	1/374	123,000	1/78	61,000
West	1/173	31,000	1/45	13,000

^{1/} Includes data for Alaska and Hawaii.

Table 3. INCOMPLETENESS OF REPORTING OF MARRIAGE DATA: UNITED STATES AND MARRIAGE REGISTRATION AREA, 1960

(Numbers not available are weighted totals; each percent is a ratio of number incomplete to corresponding total marriages)

NOTE: Figures are provisional and subject to slight changes.

Variables Not Reported on Sample Records	Area and Estimate					
	United States			Marriage Registration Area ^{1/}		
	Number	Percent	Total Percent Not Available ^{2/}	Number	Percent	Total Percent Not Available
Total Marriages	1,523,381	100.0	100.0	873,224	100.0	100.0
Records Outstanding	9,130	0.6	--	3,480	0.4	--
County of Marriage	3,953	0.3	0.9	203	0.0	0.4
Date of Marriage						
Day	16,363	1.1	1.7	1,033	0.1	0.5
Month	6,780	0.5	1.1	0	0.0	0.4
Age						
Groom	7,242	0.5	1.1	642	0.1	0.5
Bride	7,186	0.5	1.1	986	0.1	0.5
Color ^{3/}						
Groom	227,798	15.0	15.6	74,248	8.5	8.9
Bride	229,432	15.1	15.7	77,182	8.8	9.2
Marriage Order ^{4/}						
Groom	166,090	10.9	11.5	388	0.0	0.4
Bride	163,377	10.7	11.3	398	0.1	0.5
Previous Marital Status ^{5/}						
Groom	200,191	13.1	13.7	42,391	4.9	5.3
Bride	199,122	13.1	13.7	44,042	5.1	5.5

^{1/} Data on civil vs. religious ceremonies (11.2 percent incomplete), number of the marriage being solemnized (4 percent incomplete), and State and county of residence (less than 1 percent incomplete) are also being tabulated for the MRA.

^{2/} Outstanding records and variables not reported on sample records, combined.

^{3/} Approximately 85 percent of the loss of data on color for both the United States and the MRA resulted from the absence of this item on several record forms.

^{4/} Classification of first vs. remarriage. Approximately 66 percent of the loss of this item for the United States resulted from the absence of necessary items on record forms.

^{5/} Approximately 70 percent of the data loss on this item for both the United States and the MRA resulted from the absence of the item from several State forms.

Table 4.--INCOMPLETENESS OF REPORTING OF DIVORCE DATA: UNITED STATES AND THE DIVORCE
REGISTRATION AREA: 1960

(Figures are provisional and subject to slight changes)

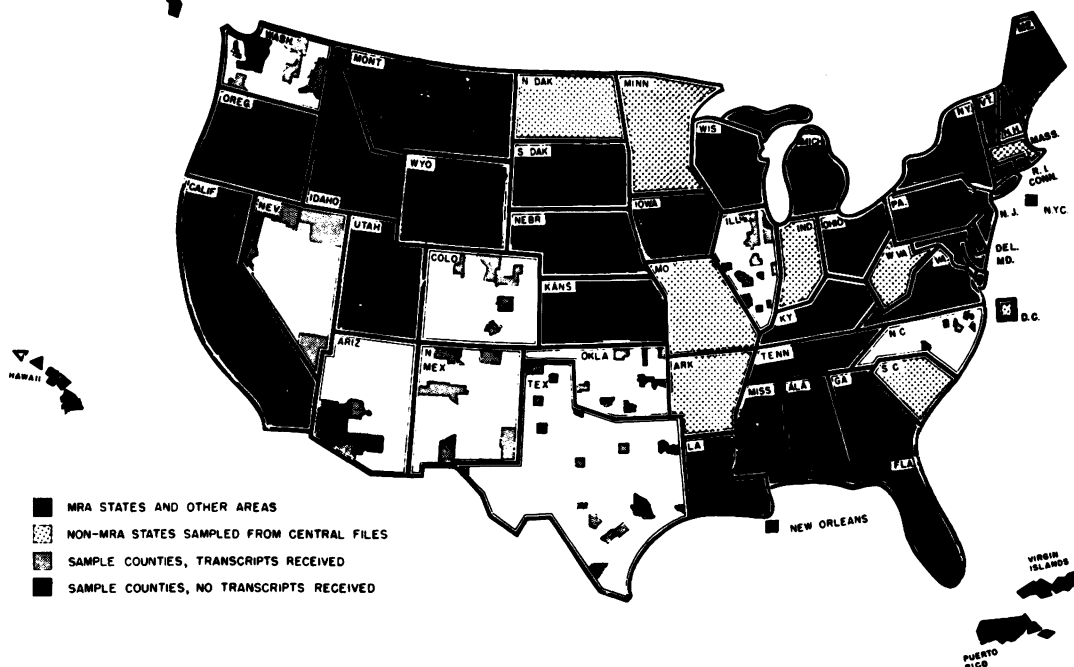
Variables Not Reported on Sample Records	Area and Estimate					
	United States			Divorce Registration Area ^{1/}		
	Number	Per- cent	Total Per- cent Not Available ^{2/}	Number	Per- cent	Total Per- cent Not Available ^{2/}
Total Divorces	393,814	100.0	100.0	94,074	100.0	100.0
Records Outstanding	6,946	1.8	--	706	0.8	--
Month of Decree	1,510	0.4	2.1	20	0.0	0.8
Year of Marriage	7,050	1.8	3.6	3,430	3.6	4.4
Place of Marriage	53,108	13.5	15.2	17,688	18.8	19.5
Number of Children	18,202	4.6	6.4	11,922	12.7	13.4
Age						
Husband	210,914	53.6	55.3	37,914	40.3	41.0
Wife	208,854	53.0	54.8	37,554	39.9	40.6
Color						
Husband	155,537	39.5	41.3	28,577	30.4	31.1
Wife	152,428	38.7	40.5	27,568	29.3	30.1
Number of Marriage						
Husband	209,285	53.1	54.9	45,345	48.2	48.9
Wife	203,702	51.7	53.5	44,182	47.0	47.7

^{1/} The following other variables are available for the Divorce Registration Area: type of decree (1.8 percent incomplete), plaintiff (2.0 percent incomplete), person to whom decree was granted (4.9 percent incomplete), legal ground for decree (5.2 percent incomplete), county of residence of husband (27.9 percent incomplete), of wife (25.2 percent incomplete).

^{2/} Outstanding records and variables not reported on sample records, combined.



AREAS PARTICIPATING IN THE MARRIAGE TRANSCRIPT SAMPLE, 1960



AREAS PARTICIPATING IN THE DIVORCE TRANSCRIPT SAMPLE, 1960

