Chapter 7. Marital Status

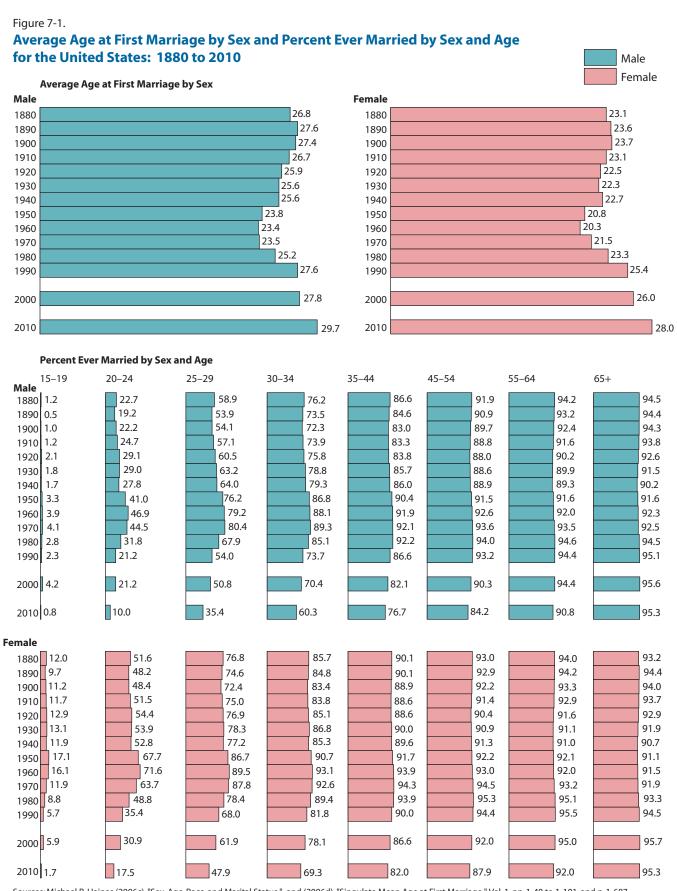
The data presented on marital status in this chapter cover the 1880 to 2010 period. Data for the 1880 to 1990 period are from Michael R. Haines (2006c and 2006d), "Sex, Age, Race, and Marital Status," and "Singulate Mean Age at First Marriage," *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition*, Vol. 1, pp. 1-40 to 1-101, and p. 1-687, respectively. Census data on marital status were published in Census Bureau publications starting with the 1890 census. The estimates for 1880, the first year that a question on marital status was included in the census, are based the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS). (See Minnesota Population Center, no date, "IPUMS-USA, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)," http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/faq.do.)

Four categories of marital status are shown: never married, married, divorced, and widowed. Persons who were separated (for reasons of marital discord), which was introduced as a separate response category in 1950, are included here in the married category. Like all information collected in the census, information on marital status is subject to misreporting. In particular, it seems possible that the percentage of persons whose marital status is divorced is underreported, especially prior to World War II when divorce was less prevalent and less socially acceptable.

Data on the average age at first marriage are for the singulate mean age at first marriage, and are based on a procedure developed by John Hajnal (1953), "Age at Marriage and Proportions Marrying," *Population Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 2, pp. 111-136, and described in Henry J. Shryock, Jacob S. Siegel, and Associates (1971), *Methods and Materials of Demography*, Vol. 1, pp. 294-295. The procedure yields an estimate of the average number of years lived as never married among persons who ever marry by age 50.

Figures

- 7-1. Average Age at First Marriage by Sex and Percent Ever Married by Sex and Age for the United States: 1880 to 2010
- 7-2. Percent Distribution of the Male and Female Populations 15 Years and Over by Age and Marital Status for the United States: 1880 to 2010



Sources: Michael R. Haines (2006c), "Sex, Age, Race, and Marital Status," and (2006d), "Singulate Mean Age at First Marriage," Vol. 1, pp. 1-40 to 1-101, and p. 1-687, respectively, in Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications, and for 2010, the American Community Survey (ACS). See www.demographicchartbpook.com, References.

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Figure 7-2.

Percent Distribution of the Male and Female Populations 15 Years and Over by Age and Marital Status for the United States: 1880 to 2010

Married



20 to 24 years

I	٧	١	а	ı	e

1880	77.3		22.2					
1890	80.8		18.9					
1900	77.8		21.7					
1910	75.3			24.1				
1920	70.9			28.4				
1930	71.0			28.2				
1940	72.2			27.4				
1950	59.0		39.9					
1960	53.1		45.8					
1970	55.5		42.9	Î				
1980	68.2			29.5				
1990	78.8			19.6				
				-				
2000	78.8		19.8					
2010	90.0			9.4				

Never married

Female

Divorced

Terriale											
48.4				49.9							
51.8				46.8							
51.6	;			46.6	49.8 52.4						
48.5		Г		49.8							
45.6				52.4	2.1						
46.1				51.7	2.1						
47.2				51.3							
32.3			65	5.6							
28.4			69.5								
36.3			(50.5							
51.2				44.4	2.1						
(54.6			32.	1						
	69.1			2	8.4						
	82.5				16.2						

Widowed

11.2

12.3

Percentages not shown on figure:

	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
15+														
Male, divorced	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	1.1	1.3	2.0	2.2	2.8				
Male, widowed	3.8	3.9	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.3	4.2	3.5	3.1	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Female, divorced	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.7	2.4	2.9	4.0				
20-24														
Male, divorced	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.9	1.0	1.4	2.2	1.5	1.2	0.6
Male, widowed	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
Female, divorced	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.9	1.7	1.8	2.5	4.2	3.1	2.2	1.2
Female, widowed	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1

Sources: Michael R. Haines (2006), "Sex, Age, Race, and Marital Status," in Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition, Vol. 1, pp. 1-40 to 1-101. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications, and for 2010, the American Community Survey (ACS). See www.demographicchartbpook.com, References. Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

October 10, 2012

Figure 7-2. Percent Distribution of the Male and Female Populations 15 Years and Over by Age and Marital Status for the United States: 1880 to 2010—Con. Married Divorced Widowed Never married 25 to 29 years Female Male 41.1 73.2 1880 57.6 23.2 1890 46.1 52.8 25.4 71.4 69.0 1900 45.9 52.7 27.6 42.9 25.0 71.9 1910 55.6 39.5 58.8 23.1 73.4 1920 21.7 61.4 74.4 1930 36.8 1940 36.0 62.7 22.8 74.1 13.3 23.8 74.2 83.3 1950 20.8 77.2 10.5 86.2 1960 19.6 77.1 12.2 82.5 1970 1980 32.1 61.1 6.7 21.6 68.8 9.1 5.6 1990 46.0 48.3 32.0 59.5 8.0 2000 49.2 46.0 38.1 55.0 6.6 64.6 32.0 52.1 42.7 4.9 2010 30 to 34 years Female Male 23.8 73.9 14.3 79.9 1880 26.5 71.4 15.2 79.8 1890 27.7 70.0 78.1 16.6 1900 79.1 26.1 71.6 16.2 1910 24.2 73.4 14.9 80.2 1920 21.2 76.1 13.2 81.6 1930 1940 20.7 77.2 14.7 80.4 1950 13.2 84.3 9.3 86.2 6.9 88.7 11.9 85.6 1960 7.4 1970 10.7 85.7 86.1 5.0 76.3 14.9 8.7 10.6 77.3 11.2 1980 9.0 26.3 64.5 18.2 69.6 11.4 1990 29.6 62.1 8.0 21.9 67.3 10.3 2000 6.9 53.2 39.7 30.7 59.8 9.0 2010 Percentages not shown on figure: 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 1880 2000 2010 Male, divorced. 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.4 0.5 1.0 0.9 1.7 1.8 3.0 4.6 3.3 Male, widowed..... 1.2 1.0 1.2 1.1 8.0 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.3 0.1 0.1 0.2 0.1 1.1 Female, divorced 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.9 1.8 2.5 4.3 0.4 1.8 2.6 0.9 Female widowed..... 3.1 2.8 2.9 2.4 2.6 2.1 1.3 0.7 1.1 0.5 0.4 0.3 0.2 30-34 Male, divorced...... 0.2 0.2 0.4 0.5 0.7 1.4 1.4 2.1 2.2 3.3 Male, widowed..... 2.1 2.0 1.8 1.3 0.7 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.3 0.2 1.8 1.8 0.3 0.2

Sources: Michael R. Haines (2006), "Sex, Age, Race, and Marital Status," in Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition, Vol. 1, pp. 1-40 to 1-101. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications, and for 2010, the American Community Survey (ACS). See www.demographicchartbpook.com, References. Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

1.9

3.3

2.4

2.5

3.0

1.6

3.1

1.2

1.5

0.9

0.7

0.6

1.0

3.9

Female, divorced

Female, widowed

0.5

4.5

0.7

4.6

0.8

3.9

0.5

Figure 7-2. Percent Distribution of the Male and Female Populations 15 Years and Over by Age and Marital Status for the United States: 1880 to 2010—Con. Divorced Widowed Never married Married 35 to 44 years Female Male 9.9 79.4 1880 13.4 82.9 9.9 80.7 8.9 15.4 81.0 1890 17.0 79.0 79.6 11.1 1900 16.7 79.4 1910 11.4 80.2 16.2 1920 80.0 11.4 80.3 1930 14.3 81.6 10.0 81.6 1940 14.0 82.4 10.4 81.0 1950 9.6 87.0 8.3 84.3 6.1 8.1 88.7 1960 87.1 5.7 85.9 7.9 5.5 1970 87.9 1980 7.8 8.3 6.1 80.4 11.4 1990 10.0 15.4 13.4 74.1 12.1 73.0 2000 17.9 69.7 12.0 70.8 14.5 13.4 23.3 11.7 18.0 66.8 14.2 2010 64.6 45 to 54 years Female Male 1880 8.1 85.8 7.0 72.7 7.1 9.1 84.4 74.0 1890 10.3 82.3 7.8 73.9 17.6 1900 11.2 8.6 74.9 1910 81.6 12.0 81.2 9.6 74.1 1920 81.7 9.1 75.3 11.4 1930 8.7 1940 11.1 82.8 76.0 1950 8.5 85.7 7.8 77.6 7.4 87.7 7.0 79.9 8.8 1960 5.5 5.5 6.4 88.1 81.1 1970 85.5 78.9 9.5 6.0 1980 7.1 1990 6.8 80.0 12.1 5.6 73.6 15.7 74.6 70.2 2000 9.7 14.7 8.0 18.0 2010 15.8 67.2 16.0 12.1 66.0 18.9 Percentages not shown on figure:

	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
35-44														
Male, divorced	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.6	1.9	2.5	2.6	3.6				
Male, widowed	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.0	2.5	1.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
Female, divorced	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.9	2.7	3.6	3.8					
Female, widowed								3.8	3.0	3.0	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.0
45-54														
Male, divorced	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.6	2.0	3.0	3.1	3.8				
Male, widowed							4.1	2.8	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.0
Female, never married											4.7			
Female, divorced	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.6	2.2	3.5	4.3					
Female, widowed													3.7	3.1

Sources: Michael R. Haines (2006), "Sex, Age, Race, and Marital Status," in Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition, Vol. 1, pp. 1-40 to 1-101. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications, and for 2010, the American Community Survey (ACS). See www.demographicchartbpook.com, References. Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

Figure 7-2. Percent Distribution of the Male and Female Populations 15 Years and Over by Age and Marital Status for the United States: 1880 to 2010—Con. Divorced Widowed Never married Married 55 to 64 years Female Male 1880 5.8 84.5 60.9 1890 6.8 82.5 5.8 60.4 32.3 6.7 7.6 79.9 60.5 1900 8.4 7.1 1910 79.1 62.2 1920 9.8 78.1 8.4 61.3 10.1 78.1 8.9 62.1 1930 10.7 78.5 9.0 63.0 1940 8.4 81.4 7.9 65.0 1950 8.0 83.9 8.0 66.0 1960 6.5 85.6 6.8 68.0 5.0 1970 7.2 85.5 5.4 69.8 1980 5.6 82.2 8.7 68.5 11.0 1990 66.8 2000 5.6 79.0 12.6 5.0 16.3 2010 9.2 72.1 16.2 8.0 19.8 63.8 65 years and over Female 1880 5.5 72.1 6.8 34.5 70.6 5.6 35.4 1890 5.6 1900 5.7 67.3 6.0 34.3 6.3 1910 6.2 65.9 35.1 7.1 1920 7.4 64.9 34.0 8.1 8.5 63.8 34.7 1930 1940 9.8 63.8 9.3 34.3 8.9 8.4 65.7 35.7 1950 7.7 70.8 8.5 37.4 1960 7.5 8.1 72.4 36.5 1970 14.6 76.3 6.7 37.4 1980 1990 76.1 5.5 39.6 5.5 75.0 6.7 42.8 7.5 45.3 2000 2010 72.3 9.9 42.6 12.3 Percentages not shown on figure: 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 55-64 Male, divorced..... 0.3 0.5 0.6 0.8 1.0 1.5 1.8 2.6 3.1 3.8 Male, widowed... 4.1 3.6 3.5 2.8 2.5 Female, never married.. 4.9 4.5 Female, divorced 0.4 0.4 0.5 0.6 8.0 1.1 1.6 2.4 3.6 Male, never married...... 4.9 4.4 4.7

Sources: Michael R. Haines (2006), "Sex, Age, Race, and Marital Status," in Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition, Vol. 1, pp. 1-40 to 1-101. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications, and for 2010, the American Community Survey (ACS). See www.demographicchartbpook.com, References. Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

1.1

0.5

1.3

0.7

1.9

1.1

2.3

2.0

3.0

3.2

4.8

4.3

3.6

4.2

0.7

0.4

Male, divorced.....

Female, never married..

Female, divorced

0.4

0.3

0.3

0.5

0.3

0.7

0.4

4.7