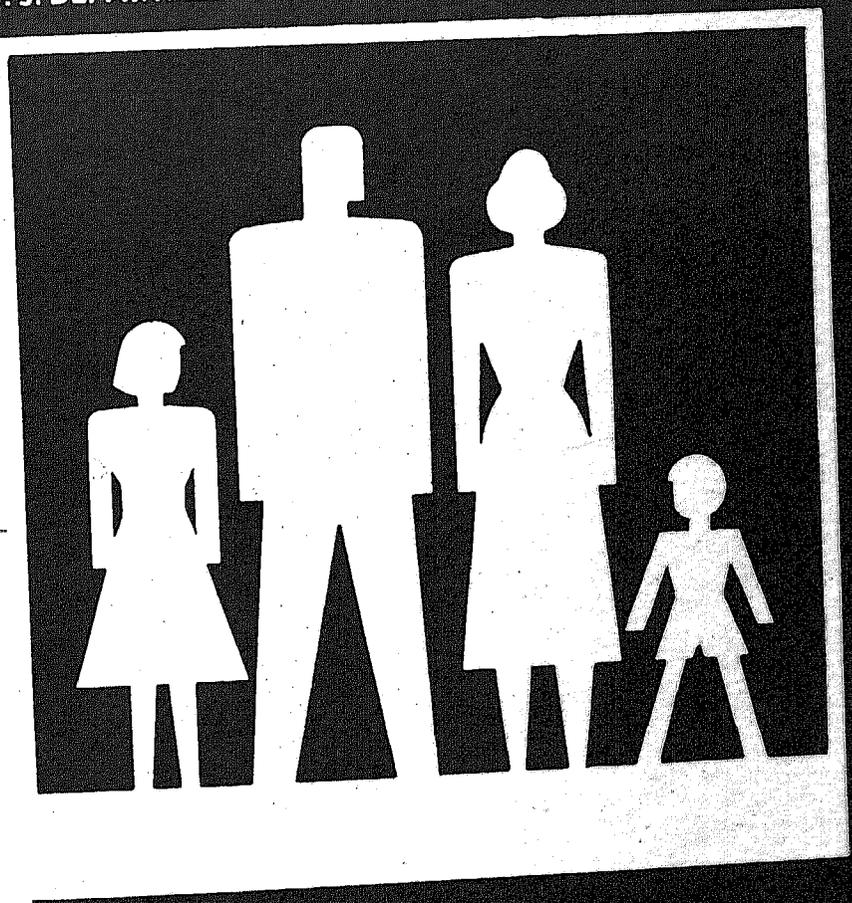


# 1950 UNITED STATES CENSUS OF POPULATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE • BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



**DURATION OF CURRENT MARITAL STATUS**

# UNITED STATES CENSUS of POPULATION: 1950

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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(From Feb. 5, 1953)

ROY V. PEEL, Director  
(To Feb. 4, 1953)



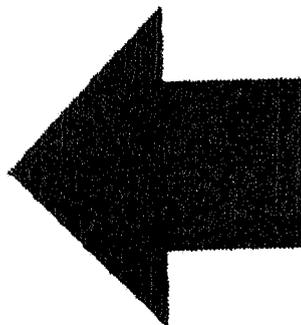
## SPECIAL REPORTS

### DURATION OF CURRENT MARITAL STATUS

*Prepared under the supervision of  
Howard G. Brunzman, Chief  
Population and Housing Division*

1950 POPULATION CENSUS REPORT P-E NO. 2E  
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Duration of, and age at  
FIRST MARRIAGE • REMARRIAGE •  
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## PREFACE

This report presents statistics on characteristics of women in the United States in 1950 who had ever been married, classified by duration of their current marital status and age at which they entered their current marital status. These statistics provide information on the number of children ever born, the number of years of school completed, and the labor force status of women who had been married, separated, divorced, or widowed for specified periods of time.

The data are based on tabulations of samples of the returns obtained in the Seventeenth Decennial Census of the population of the United States, its territories and possessions, conducted as of April 1, 1950. Provision for the Seventeenth Decennial Census was made in the act providing for the Fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses, approved June 16, 1929. The major portion of the information compiled from the Census of Population of 1950 appears in Volume I, Number of Inhabitants, and in Volume II, Characteristics of the Population. These two volumes contain statistics for regions, divisions, States, and parts of States, as well as for the country as a whole.

This is one of a series of reports (Series P-E bulletins) which comprise Volume IV, Special Reports, and which supplement the information contained in Volumes I and II. This bulletin constitutes Chapter E of Part 2 of Volume IV.

The materials presented here were prepared under the supervision of Howard G. Brunsman, Chief, Population and Housing Division, and Dr. Henry S. Shryock, Jr., Assistant Chief for Population Statistics, with the assistance of Edwin D. Goldfield, then Program Coordinator. They were prepared by Dr. Paul C. Glick, Chief, Social Statistics Branch. The compilation of the statistics was under the direction of Robert B. Voight, Assistant Chief for Operations, assisted by Morton A. Meyer, Lawrence A. Marzetti, William S. Gibson, and Leah S. Anderson. Sampling procedures were under the direction of Joseph Steinberg, Chief, Statistical Sampling Branch, assisted by Joseph Waksberg and Albert Mindlin. The technical editorial work and planning were under the supervision of Mildred M. Russell, assisted by Louise L. Douglas. The collection of the information on which these statistics were based was under the supervision of Lowell T. Galt, then Chief, Field Division, and the tabulations were under the supervision of C. F. Van Aken, Chief, Machine Tabulation Division.

May 1955.

## U. S. CENSUS OF POPULATION: 1950

### Volume

- I Number of Inhabitants (comprising Series P-A bulletins)
- II Characteristics of the Population (comprising Series P-A, P-B, and P-C bulletins)
- III Census Tract Statistics (comprising Series P-D bulletins)
- IV Special Reports (comprising Series P-E bulletins):
  - 1A Employment and Personal Characteristics
  - \*1B Occupational Characteristics
  - 1C Occupation by Industry
  - 1D Industrial Characteristics
  - \*2A General Characteristics of Families
  - \*2B Detailed Characteristics of Families
  - 2C Institutional Population
  - 2D Marital Status
  - 2E Duration of Current Marital Status
  - 3A Nativity and Parentage
  - 3B Nonwhite Population by Race
  - 3C Persons of Spanish Surname
  - 3D Puerto Ricans in Continental United States
  - 4A State of Birth
  - \*4B Population Mobility--States and State Economic Areas
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## U. S. CENSUS OF HOUSING: 1950

### Volume

- I General Characteristics (comprising Series H-A bulletins)
  - II Nonfarm Housing Characteristics (comprising Series H-B bulletins)
  - III Farm Housing Characteristics
  - IV Residential Financing
  - V Block Statistics (comprising Series H-E bulletins)
- Housing statistics for census tracts are included in the Population Series P-D bulletins.

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\* Not yet published.

# Duration of Current Marital Status

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The prefix for this chapter is 2E)

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# Duration of Current Marital Status

## GENERAL

This report presents statistics on the social and economic characteristics of women who had been married, separated, divorced, or widowed for specified periods of time before the date of enumeration in the 1950 Census. These characteristics include color, farm residence, number of times married, age at marriage (separation, widowhood, or divorce), age of husband at marriage, number of children ever born, education, and labor force status.

The figures in this report provide a basis for analyzing the characteristics of women who had remained in their current marital status for successive periods of time. The statistics should be useful in the study of the life cycle of the family, the number of dependents of women with broken marriages, and various factors associated with stability of marriage. The data presented on women who had entered their current marital status during the two years preceding the 1950 Census can be used as numerators in the calculation of approximate first marriage rates, remarriage rates, separation rates, divorce rates, and widowhood rates within age groups, education groups, groups according to number of children ever born, and labor force participation groups. Denominators for such rates can be obtained from other reports of the 1950 Census.

In all of the tables, the data on duration of current marital status are classified by the age at which the woman entered her current marital status. This classification makes possible the study of age at marriage, remarriage, etc., by social characteristics and by duration of current marital status. Furthermore, the tables present data for all women and, separately, for non-white women; figures for white women can be obtained by subtraction. Similar detail is shown in all tables for the United States as a whole, for urban and rural-nonfarm areas combined, and for rural-farm areas.

Although the original plans called for the presentation of similar data for both men and women, the statistics in this report are limited to information on women. It has not been feasible to tabulate data for men because of budget considerations and processing problems, despite the fact that such tabulations would be equally useful. Statistics could be tabulated for men on occupation, income, and number of children under 18 years of age, as well as education and employment status.

The statistics were limited to women 15 to 59 years old because the tabulations were produced from the edited 1950 fertility punch cards which covered this age range only. Insofar as the data are used for the study of marriage and remarriage, this restriction is relatively unimportant, because very few women marry after the age of 60 years.

The tables in this report are organized according to the marital status of the woman at the time of the 1950 Census. Thus a series of tables is presented for women married once and husband present and other series are presented for remarried women with husband present, for married women with husband absent, for separated women, for divorced women, and for widows.

The statistics are based on tabulations of sample returns of the Seventeenth Decennial Census of Population, taken as of April 1, 1950. The sample from which the data were tabulated is designated as Sample G. Those for women married once and husband present are based on a subsample of about 1.0 percent and statistics for women in all of the other marital status categories are based on the entire sample of about 2.4 percent. (A subsample of

the punch cards was used for women married once with husband present because it was more economical to obtain the data from such a subsample and because the number of cards in the subsample for this marital status group was large in comparison with the number of cards in the full sample for each of the other marital status groups.) A fuller discussion of the sampling aspects of the data is given in the section below on "Reliability of data."

## RELATED REPORTS

**1950 Census reports.**--This report supplements the information on marital status contained in Chapters B and C of Volume II of the 1950 Census of Population. Chapter B contains data on marital status based on a complete count for States, standard metropolitan areas, urbanized areas, cities, and counties. In Chapter C, cross-classifications of marital status by age are shown for States, standard metropolitan areas, and large cities; these statistics are based on the 20-percent sample.

Additional statistics on marital status are presented in many of the special reports of the 1950 Census of Population. (See list of publications on page IV.) The reports on "Marital Status" and "Fertility," and the forthcoming report on "General Characteristics of Families," contain materials most closely related to those in the present report. The report on fertility contains figures on duration of first marriage, but the present report is the only 1950 Census report which contains data on duration of remarriage, separation, divorce, and widowhood; none of these subjects has ever been treated before in a decennial census report.

**1940 Census reports.**--Statistics on duration of first marriage and age at first marriage for 1940, and on duration of first marriage for 1910 were published in the 1940 reports which appear under the general title Differential Fertility--1940 and 1910.

**Current Population Reports.**--The Bureau of the Census conducts every month the Current Population Survey. In April 1948, special questions were included on number of times married and duration of current marital status; the statistics derived from these questions were published in the Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Nos. 21, 23, and 26. In April 1953 and 1954 and June 1954, additional data on marital status were collected by the Bureau of the Census, in cooperation with the National Office of Vital Statistics. In one or more of these surveys, data were obtained on year of marriage, number of times married, age at first marriage, previous marital status, duration of previous marital status, and related subjects. The results of these surveys are being published by the National Office of Vital Statistics in its Vital Statistics--Special Reports.

The statistics provided by the Current Population Surveys are, in general, designed to be comparable with the data for the United States obtained in the decennial population censuses. The actual comparability of the statistics on marital status is discussed in the section on "Definitions and explanations" of the special report of the 1950 Census of Population entitled "Marital Status."

## INTERNAL CONSISTENCY OF DATA

In the 1950 Census of Population, many of the data were obtained from the enumeration of the total population; however, data on some of the items shown in the present report were based

on information from a sample of the population. Thus, number of times married and duration of current marital status were collected on a 3 1/3-percent sample basis and years of school completed was collected on a 20-percent sample basis; moreover, presence of spouse, for married persons, was initially processed on a 20-percent sample basis. As indicated earlier, the statistics in the present report were tabulated from Sample C. Accordingly, because of sampling variability and certain small biases, described in the section on "Reliability of data," differences may be expected among figures obtained from the complete count, the 20-percent sample, the 3 1/3-percent sample, and Sample C. In the present report, most of the major totals have been adjusted to agree with corresponding figures in the special report of the 1950 Census of Population entitled "Fertility," which were also based on Sample C.

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The definitions of the major concepts used in the 1950 Census are given below. Several of these definitions differ from those used in 1940. These changes were made after consultation with users of census data in order to improve the statistics, even though it was recognized that comparability would be adversely affected. In many cases, the new definitions were tested in connection with the Current Population Survey; and, where feasible, measures of the impact of the change on the statistics were developed.

For a complete discussion of the definitions of concepts used in the 1950 Census, the quality of the data, and the problems of comparability with earlier census data, see Volume II, Characteristics of the Population, Part I, United States Summary, or the Series P-B and P-C United States Summary bulletins. The 1950 Population Census schedule and the major part of the instructions to enumerators are also reproduced in Volume II, Part I.

### MARITAL STATUS

In the 1950 Census, data on marital status are based on replies to the question, "Is he now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or [has he] never [been] married?" The classification refers to the status at the time of enumeration. Persons classified as "married" comprise, therefore, both those who have been married only once and those who remarried after having been widowed or divorced. Persons reported as separated or in common-law marriages are classified as married. Those reported as never married or with annulled marriages are classified as single. Since it is probable that some divorced persons are reported as single, married, or widowed, the census returns doubtless understate somewhat the actual number of divorced persons who have not remarried.

The category "Married" is further divided into "married, spouse present" and "married, spouse absent." A person is classified as "married, spouse present" if the person's husband or wife was reported as a member of the household or quasi household in which the person was enumerated, even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or vacation, visiting, in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration.

Persons reported as separated are shown as one subdivision of the group designated as "married, spouse absent." Separated persons include those with legal separations, those living apart with intentions of obtaining a divorce, and other married persons permanently or temporarily estranged from their spouse because of marital discord. The group "other married, spouse absent" includes married persons employed and living for several months at a considerable distance from their homes, those whose spouse was absent in the Armed Forces, in-migrants whose spouse remained in another area, husbands or wives of inmates of institutions, and all other married persons (except those reported as separated) whose place of residence was not the same as that of their spouse. All married inmates of institutions are classified as married, spouse absent, even though this disposition may be contrary to the facts in a few cases.

### AVAILABILITY OF UNPUBLISHED DATA

Some of the data obtained from the tabulations on which the tables in this report are based have not been published. The tables show the full detail tabulated for the United States as a whole; the same detail was also tabulated for each of the two farm-residence groups but, because of the small frequencies in certain tables, abridged data are being published in this report.

The tabulated, but unpublished, statistics can be made available, upon request, for the cost of transcription or consolidation. Requests for such unpublished material should be addressed to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C.

For comment on the quality of the data on marital status in the 1950 Census, see the section on "Definitions and explanations" in the special report entitled "Marital Status."

### NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED

The classification by number of times married is based on replies to the question, "Has this person been married more than once?" For the approximately 7 percent of the persons with no report on this question, an appropriate entry was assigned by means of a prorating process based on a special national sample of 1950 Census data for approximately 60,000 women for whom information on this subject was reported.

### DURATION OF CURRENT MARITAL STATUS

Persons who had ever been married were asked to report the number of years they had been in their current marital status. For married persons the question was, "How many years since this person was (last) married?" For widowed persons the question was, "How many years since this person was widowed?" Parallel questions were asked of divorced and separated persons. A space was provided for entering the number of years, but in addition a check box was provided for answers of "Less than 1 year" in order to reduce the number of nonreports on the question. (The results on some of the items in earlier censuses suggest that enumerators frequently fail to make a written entry of "0" when that is the appropriate entry.)

An inspection of the 1950 Census results indicates an apparent underreporting of women in their first marriages for "less than 1 year" and "1 year." This type of bias could have arisen from a variety of possible reasons, ranging from the tendency to round upward a major fraction of a year to the tendency to exaggerate the duration of marriage in order to prevent suspicion that any of the children may have been conceived before marriage. In cases of the latter type, the errors of reporting may have exceeded one year. The peak observed for marriages of three years' duration, however, is in accord with the peak years of postwar marriages, 1946 and 1947. For the approximately 9 percent of the persons with no report on duration of marriage, separation, divorce, or widowhood, an estimate was made on the basis of data from the 1950 Census for a national sample of about 60,000 women for whom information on this subject was reported.

Median duration of current marital status.--Medians are presented in connection with data on duration of first marriage, remarriage, separation, divorce, and widowhood. The median is the value which divides the distribution into two equal parts--one-half of the cases falling below this value and one-half of the cases exceeding this value. In computing these medians, conventional class intervals were used; for example, women reporting that they had been married three years were assumed to have been married between 3.0 and 3.9 years. (See section below on "Age at occurrence of current marital status" for a discussion of limit of the interval which contains the median age at marriage.)

## AGE AT OCCURRENCE OF CURRENT MARITAL STATUS

This report presents figures on the approximate age at last marriage for women who were married at the time of the census; similarly, figures are shown on age at separation for women who were separated at the time of the census, on age at divorce for divorced women, and on age at widowhood for widows. The manner of deriving the figures from the detailed tables in this report and the types of problems involved are the same for all marital status classes. To simplify the discussion in the following paragraphs, it is restricted to age at marriage.

The approximate age of a married woman at the time of her current marriage was derived by subtracting the number of (completed) years in her current marriage from her age (in completed years) as of the census date. Thus, if a woman reported that she had been married for three years and that she was 23 years old at the time of the enumeration, her reply was interpreted, in the tabulation process, as indicating that she had been 20 years old when she married. This inference is only approximate, however. As shown below, there is a possible range of almost two years in the exact ages of such women at marriage. Furthermore, the single years of age at marriage shown in the tables represent midpoints, rather than the lower limits of one-year intervals as in conventional tables showing age distributions. One way to have avoided this irregular procedure would have been to have adopted the equally irregular procedure of designating the intervals by half years, such as 19.5 to 20.4 in place of 20, and 22.5 to 24.4 in place of 23 and 24. The following figures, using the ages cited above, illustrate this point:

1. If age in full years at census is "23" years, the range of exact ages is..... 23.00 - 23.99 years
2. If duration of marriage is "3" years, the range of exact durations is..... 3.99 - 3.00 years
3. The limits of the range of exact ages at marriage are, therefore..... 19.01 - 20.99 years
4. The midpoint of age at marriage is..... 20.00 years
5. The limits of the single year of age at marriage containing this midpoint are.. 19.50 - 20.49 years
6. These limits are one-half year below the conventional limits used for "age 20."

Median age at marriage.--The median ages at marriage shown in this report are affected by the average difference (noted above) of one-half year between the intervals shown for age at marriage and the intervals conventionally shown in age distributions. In order to give the median ages at marriage published in this report a conventional interpretation, they were computed as if the limits of the intervals of age at marriage had been one-half year lower than those shown in the detailed tables. Moreover, the median ages at marriage derived from data on duration of marriage and age at census should be regarded as approximations, just as the distributions of age at marriage from this source are approximations.

For many reasons, it is probably possible to know the median age at marriage in 1950 only on an approximate basis. Vital statistics on age at marriage would probably be a better source than census statistics for this measure if it were not for the fact that the vital statistics are available for selected States only. Besides the median ages at marriage shown in the present report, others may be estimated indirectly from different samples of the 1950 Census returns on the basis of distributions by age and marital status and the medians based on one method or source will differ from those based on another method or source. All of the sources have inherent weaknesses. If census data had been obtained in 1950 on the basis of one or more questions on age at marriage, the medians computed from such data would have also been subject to biases due to attrition by death and divorce, errors of reporting, etc. If the principal interest is the study of differential ages at marriage among social and economic groups, however, almost any of the various sources and methods of measurement provide sufficiently precise results for analytical purposes. In such a study, however, figures obtained by different methods or from different sources should not ordinarily be compared. If the main interest is the study of time trends in age

at first marriage, perhaps the best source in theory is one that does not exist, namely, vital statistics showing age at first marriage for all native women in the United States who were born in successive years and who married in successive later years, up to the time when virtually no additional first marriages are expected for the cohort.

Even though the median age at marriage is a very useful concept for comparing one group with another or for making trend analyses, a thorough understanding of age at marriage includes a study of the entire range of ages at marriage and not only the central tendency. One measure of dispersion, the quartile, is shown in table 3 for ages of husband and wife at first marriage. The first quartile of an age distribution is the age below which one-fourth of the cases fall; the third quartile of an age distribution is the age above which one-fourth of the cases fall.

## FARM RESIDENCE

In this report, the population is divided by "farm residence" into two groups: (1) Urban and rural-nonfarm population and (2) rural-farm population. According to the new definition that was adopted for use in the 1950 Census, the urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages, (b) incorporated towns of 2,500 inhabitants or more except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are simply minor civil divisions of counties, (c) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more, and (d) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe. The remaining population is classified as rural.

The rural-farm population includes all persons living on farms in rural areas without regard to occupation. In determining farm and nonfarm residence, however, certain special groups were classified otherwise than in earlier censuses. Persons living on what might have been considered farm land were classified as nonfarm if they paid cash rent for their homes and yards only. Persons in institutions, summer camps, "motels," and tourist camps were classified as nonfarm. In this report separate data are presented for the rural-farm population rather than for the total farm population since virtually all of the farm population is located in rural areas and since other census data are nearly always presented in this manner.

The rural-nonfarm population includes all persons living outside urban areas who do not live on farms. The rural-nonfarm population comprises persons living in a variety of types of residences, such as isolated nonfarm homes in the open country, villages and hamlets of fewer than 2,500 inhabitants, and some of the fringe areas surrounding the smaller incorporated areas.

## COLOR

The term "color" refers to the division of the population into two groups, white and nonwhite. The group designated as "nonwhite" consists of Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

## CHILDREN EVER BORN

The data on women by number of children ever born were derived from answers to the question, "How many children has she ever borne, not counting stillbirths?" A check box was provided for replies of "None." This question was asked only of women reported as married, widowed, or divorced; but data from other studies made by the Bureau of the Census show a much smaller number of single (never-married) women with young children than would be expected from a comparison of the results with statistics of illegitimate births. It is reasonable to infer, therefore, that probably most of the single mothers whose children are living with them report themselves in a census as married (including separated), widowed, or divorced. When single mothers

eventually marry, some of them may report that they had been married more than once. Despite these and other limitations, it is thought that most of the reports on the number of children ever born were accurate. For the approximately 9 percent of the women who did not report on the number of children ever born, an estimate was made on the basis of data from the 1950 Census for a national sample of about 60,000 for whom information on this subject was reported. (An explanation of the estimation procedure is given in the appendix of the special report of the 1950 Census of Population entitled "Fertility.")

#### YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

The data on years of school completed were derived from the combination of answers to two questions: (a) "What is the highest grade of school that he has attended?" and (b) "Did he finish this grade?"

The question on educational attainment applied only to progress in regular schools. Such schools are public, private, or parochial schools, either day or night, full time or part time--that is, those schools where enrollment may lead to an elementary or high school diploma, or to a college, university, or professional school degree. Schooling obtained through a correspondence course was counted only if the course was given by a regular school, such as a university, and the person received credit thereby in the regular school system.

The question on highest grade of school attended called for the highest grade attended, regardless of "skipped" or "repeated" grades, rather than the number of full school years which the person had spent in school.

The question on completion of highest grade was to be answered "Yes" if the person had completed the full grade. If a person was still attending school in that grade, had completed only a half grade, or had dropped out of or failed to pass the last grade attended, the required answer was "No." In this report, persons who failed to report on completion of the grade were assumed to have finished.

#### RELIABILITY OF DATA

##### SAMPLE DESIGN

The data presented in this report are based on a sample of ever-married women who were enumerated in the 1950 Census of Population. This sample, designated as Sample C, consisted of about 2.4 percent of all ever-married women and was used initially for tabulating data which have been published in the special report of the 1950 Census of Population entitled "Fertility." In the present report, the statistics for women in marital status classes other than married once and husband present were obtained from the entire number of such women in Sample C; for women married once and husband present, a subsample of Sample C (which resulted in a sample of about 1.0 percent of all women married once and husband present) was used.

In selecting Sample C a sample of all ever-married women was established from a subsample of the basic 20-percent sample which had been designated for the 1950 Census. This 20-percent sample was selected as follows: In the 1950 Census, a separate line was provided on the population schedule for each person enumerated, with every fifth line designated as a sample line. Five versions of the schedule were designed, and within each enumeration district the schedules were divided approximately equally among the five versions. On each version, the sample constituted a different set of lines; as a result, each line on the schedule was in the sample in one of the five versions. (In 19 counties of Michigan and Ohio, a different sampling procedure was used and the sample consisted of all women in every fifth household.)

A 3 1/3-percent sample was designated consisting of approximately every sixth person in the 20-percent sample. In six of

#### LABOR FORCE STATUS

The labor force includes all persons 14 years old and over classified as employed or unemployed, as described below, and also members of the Armed Forces (persons on active duty with the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard). The present report, however, shows data on labor force status for women 15 to 59 years old only. The 1950 data on employment status pertain to the calendar week preceding the enumerator's visit, which is described as the census week.

Employed persons comprise civilians who, during the census week, were either (a) "at work"--those who did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or in a family business; or (b) "with a job but not at work"--those who did not work and were not looking for work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or layoff with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days of layoff. Also included as "with a job" are persons who had new jobs to which they were scheduled to report within 30 days. In this report, these two categories are combined and shown as "Employed."

Unemployed persons comprise civilians who were not at work during the census week but were either looking for work or would have been looking for work except that (a) they were temporarily ill, (b) they expected to return to a job from which they had been laid off for an indefinite period, or (c) they believed no work was available in their community, or in their line of work.

Persons not in the labor force comprise civilians 14 years of age and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed, including persons doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours during the census week). Included in this group are persons primarily engaged in their own home work, students, seasonal workers in an "off" season, the retired, persons unable to work, the voluntarily idle, inmates of institutions, and persons not reporting on their employment status.

the more populous States, however, a 1 1/9-percent sample was used in all territory outside selected large cities; in another six States a 1 1/9-percent sample was used in urban territory outside selected large cities, and a 3 1/3-percent sample in the rural territory. The 1 1/9-percent sample consisted of approximately every 18th person in the 20-percent sample. In New York City, the sample consisted of approximately every 30th person in the 20-percent sample.

In the tabulation of the data, however, information was used from a somewhat smaller number of ever-married women than these sampling fractions would indicate. Lack of some types of information in the initial enumeration and certain processing problems reduced the number of women in the sample with complete information to about 80 percent of the complete sample. The remaining 20 percent were replaced by replications of acceptable cards. The over-all proportions of ever-married women in the sample for the United States, by regions and States, are summarized in table A. (More detailed information on the design of Sample C is given in the special report on "Fertility" referred to above.)

Estimates for women married once and husband present were obtained by inflating the sample results by the reciprocals of the sampling fractions. This was done separately for each type of area in which a different sampling fraction was used. The estimation procedure used to inflate the sample results for women other than those married once and husband present had as the ultimate effect a result about the same as if the reciprocals of the sampling fractions had been used.

Table A.--PERCENTAGE OF EVER-MARRIED WOMEN IN SAMPLE

(In those areas in which a constant sampling rate was used, the percentages for women married once and husband present are either 1.0 or 0.9, and for other women ever married either 3.3 or 1.1 percent; in other territory, the percentages are the weighted averages of the rates in the parts covered by different sampling fractions)

Area	Women married once and husband present			Other women ever married		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
United States.....	1.0	0.9	1.0	2.4	2.3	2.8
<b>REGIONS</b>						
Northeast.....	0.9	0.9	1.0	2.1	2.0	2.7
North Central.....	1.0	0.9	1.0	2.1	2.0	2.5
South.....	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
West.....	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.5	2.1	3.3
<b>STATES</b>						
California.....	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.8	1.5	3.3
Illinois.....	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.1
Iowa.....	1.0	0.9	1.0	2.4	1.4	3.3
Kentucky.....	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.4	1.9	1.1
Massachusetts.....	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.8	1.6	3.3
Michigan.....	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.1
Minnesota.....	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.8	2.4	3.3
New Jersey.....	0.9	0.9	1.0	2.0	1.8	3.3
New York.....	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1
Ohio.....	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.7	1.8	1.1
Texas.....	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.9	2.1	1.1
Wisconsin.....	1.0	0.9	1.0	2.4	1.8	3.3
All other States.....	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.3	3.3	3.3

SAMPLING VARIABILITY

Since the data are based on samples, they are subject to sampling variability. The standard error is a measure of sampling variability. The chances are about 2 out of 3 that the difference due to sampling variability between an estimate and the figure that would have been obtained from a complete count is less than the standard error. The amount by which the standard error must be multiplied to obtain other odds deemed more appropriate can be found in most statistical textbooks. For example, the chances are about 19 out of 20 that the difference is less than twice the standard error, and 99 out of 100 that it is less than 2 1/2 times the standard error.

Approximations to the standard errors of estimates of the number of ever-married women are shown in table B. The approximate standard errors of percentages computed by using data on the number of ever-married women for both numerator and denominator can be determined from the standard errors shown in table C. These tables show standard errors for estimates of certain selected sizes, but linear interpolations provide reasonably accurate results for values not shown. These tables do not reflect the effects of any enumeration or processing errors. In addition, they are based on the assumption that the number in the class being considered is distributed among areas with different sampling fractions in approximately the same proportion as the total number of ever-married women. However, the standard errors computed by the use of these tables are useful in indicating the order of magnitude of sampling variability to be expected on the basis of the sampling techniques used.

**Illustration:** Table 2 shows that of the 2,053,100 women married once and husband present who married at ages 14 to 16 years, 44,900 were married for less than one year in 1950 (2.2 percent of the 2,053,100). From linear interpolation between values in the first column of table B, it is found that the standard error of the estimate of 44,900 is about 2,360. Consequently, the chances are about 2 out of 3 that the figure that would have been obtained from a complete count of the women in this marital class differs by less than 2,360 from the sample estimate. It also follows that there is only about 1 chance in 100 that a complete census would differ by as much as 5,900, that is, by 2 1/2 times the standard error. It may be estimated from table C that the standard error of the 2.2 percent on a base of 2,053,100 is about 0.2 percent.

The standard errors obtained by the use of tables B and C are not directly applicable to differences between two sample estimates. The standard error of the difference is approximately the square root of the sum of the squares of each standard error considered separately. This formula will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics although it is only a rough approximation in most other cases.

Table B.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATES OF NUMBER OF EVER-MARRIED WOMEN

(Range of 2 chances out of 3)

Estimated number	Standard error of estimates of women married once and husband present		Standard error of estimates of other women ever married	
	Total or urban and rural nonfarm	Rural farm	Total or urban and rural nonfarm	Rural farm
1,000.....	350	350	250	250
5,000.....	850	750	600	500
10,000.....	1,100	1,000	800	700
25,000.....	1,800	1,700	1,300	1,150
50,000.....	2,500	2,300	1,800	1,600
100,000.....	3,550	3,250	2,550	2,250
250,000.....	5,650	5,150	4,050	3,550
500,000.....	8,000	7,200	5,750	4,950
1,000,000.....	11,200	10,000	8,050	6,900
5,000,000.....	23,900	19,000	17,200	13,100
10,000,000.....	31,700	19,000	22,800	13,100
15,000,000.....	36,000	5,650	25,900	3,900
20,000,000.....	38,000	...	27,300	...
30,000,000.....	36,400	...	26,200	...
45,000,000.....	12,300	...	8,800	...

Table C.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE FOR WOMEN MARRIED ONCE AND HUSBAND PRESENT

(Range of 2 chances out of 3; multiplication of the standard errors by 0.7 will yield the standard errors for other women ever married)

Percentage	Standard error if base of percentage is--							
	5,000	25,000	100,000	500,000	1,000,000	5,000,000	10,000,000	25,000,000
2 or 98...	2.2	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	...
5 or 95...	3.5	1.6	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
10 or 90...	4.8	2.1	1.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
25 or 75...	6.9	3.1	1.6	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
50.....	8.0	3.6	1.8	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1