

MARRIAGE & DIVORCE STATISTICS

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VITAL EVENTS

VOLUME III

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Marriage Statistics	3
1996 Marriage Highlights	4
Figure 1 Marriage Rates, Alabama and United States, 1940-1996	5
Table 1 Marriages and Marriage Rates by Race of Groom, Alabama and United States, 1940-1996	6
Figure 2 Marriage Rates by Race of Groom, Alabama, 1940-1996	7
Table 2 Marriages and Marriage Rates by Race of Groom and County, Alabama, 1996	8
Figure 3 Marriage Rates by County of Occurrence, Alabama, 1996	9
Table 3 Marriages and Marriage Rates by Month of Occurrence, Alabama, 1996	10
Table 4 Marriages by Official Performing Ceremony, Alabama, 1996	10
Table 5 Marriages by Race of Bride and Groom, Alabama, 1996	10
Table 6 Marriages by Previous Marital Status, Alabama, 1996	11
Table 7 Marriages by Age and Race of Bride and Groom, Alabama, 1996	11
Table 8 Marriages by Education of Bride and Groom, Alabama, 1996	11
Table 9 Previous Marriages by Age of Bride, Alabama, 1996	12
Table 10 Previous Marriages by Age of Groom, Alabama, 1996	12
Table 11 Marriages by Age and Previous Marital Status, Alabama, 1996	13
Table 12 Marriages by Age of Bride by Age of Groom, Alabama, 1996	14
Table 13 Marriages Occurring in Alabama by State, Territory or Country of Residence of Bride and Groom, 1996	15
Figure 4 Marriages by Residence of Bride and Groom, Alabama, 1996	16
Divorce Statistics	17
1996 Divorce Highlights	18
Figure 5 Divorce Rates, Alabama and United States, 1940-1996	19
Table 14 Divorces and Divorce Rates, Alabama and United States, 1940-1996	20
Table 15 Divorces, Annulments and Divorce Rates by County of Decree, Alabama, 1996	21
Figure 6 Divorce Rates by County of Occurrence, Alabama, 1996	22
Table 16 Divorces and Annulments by Duration of Marriage and Number of Minor Children, Alabama, 1996	23
Table 17 Divorces and Annulments by Duration of Marriage, Alabama, 1996	24
Figure 7 Distribution of Divorces and Annulments by Duration of Marriage, Alabama, 1996	24
Table 18 Divorces and Annulments by Number of Minor Children, Alabama, 1996	25
Figure 8 Distribution of Divorces and Annulments by Number of Minor Children, Alabama, 1996	25
Table 19 Divorces and Divorce Rates by Month of Decree, Alabama, 1996	26
Figure 9 Divorces by Month, Alabama, 1996	26
Table 20 Divorces and Annulments by Party to Whom Granted, Alabama, 1996	27
Table 21 Divorces and Annulments by Number of This Marriage, Alabama, 1996	27
Table 22 Divorces by Race of Husband and Wife, Alabama, 1996	27
Table 23 Divorces and Annulments by Legal Grounds for Decree, Alabama, 1996	28
Table 24 Divorces by Age of Husband and Wife, Alabama, 1996	29

Appendix A - Denominator Population	31
Estimated Population by County and Race, Alabama, 1996	32
Estimated Population by Race, Sex, and Age Group, Alabama, 1996	33
Appendix B	35
Technical Notes	36
Completeness of Data	36
Quality of Data	36
Classification of Data by Place	36
Race	36
Handling of Unknowns	36
Statistical Rate Limitations	36
Definitions	37
Formulas	37
Tips On Using Vital Statistics	38
Information is Available by Residence or Occurrence	38
Using Totals or Rates/Ratios	38
Vital Event Reporting Limitations	38
Variations in Definitions	38
Small Number Limitations	38
Contributing Sources	39
Alabama's Certificate of Marriage	41
Alabama's Certificate of Divorce	43
Publications Available From the Center for Health Statistics	45

INTRODUCTION

This Marriage and Divorce Statistics publication is Volume III of four volumes of Alabama Vital Events. An annual publication, this volume contains the same information as was presented in the "Marriage" and "Divorce" sections of the Alabama Vital Events publication for the years 1986 through 1993.

For years 1972 through 1993, the Alabama Vital Events publication consisted of approximately 275 pages of tables, graphs, and charts. Beginning in 1994, this publication was divided into four volumes: Volume I, Pregnancy Statistics (the former "Nativity" section); Volume II, Mortality Statistics (the former "Mortality" section); Volume III, Marriage and Divorce Statistics (the former "Marriage" and "Divorce" sections); and Volume IV, County Profiles (the former "Area Profiles" section).

Information contained in this publication depicts various aspects of the marriages and divorces that occurred in Alabama in 1996. Marriage and divorce data are obtained from certificates filed in the Center for Health Statistics.

The judge of probate of each county is required to forward to the Center for Health Statistics all marriage certificates for marriages performed. Marriage certificates were first recorded in the Center for Health Statistics on August 1, 1936.

The clerk and/or registrar of each court having equity jurisdiction in the state of Alabama is required to forward to the Center for Health Statistics reports of all divorces granted in the county. Although separations are reported to the Center for Health Statistics, separations do not affect the status of the marriage and are not included in the published divorce data. Divorces were first recorded on a state basis in the Center for Health Statistics in 1950.



MARRIAGE STATISTICS

1996 MARRIAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- There were 47,729 marriages in 1996 for the highest total since 1981. This was a 13.0 percent increase from 1995's total of 42,234.
- The 1996 rate of 11.6 marriages per 1,000 population was the highest rate since 1983 and was above the national rate for the 38th consecutive year.
- The number of white marriages increased 11.8 percent from 32,707 in 1995 to 36,580 in 1996. The 1996 rate of 12.0, the highest rate in a decade, increased from 10.8 in 1995.
- Black and other marriages, totaling 11,149, were the highest since 1947 and represented a 17.0 percent increase from the 9,527 in 1995.
- The 1996 black and other marriage rate of 10.2 was an increase over the 1995 rate of 8.8 and was the highest since 1973.
- The white rate, which was 12.0 in 1996, exceeded the black and other rate for the 39th consecutive year.
- In 1996, the median age for all brides was 27 years. For white brides, the median age was 26 years and for black and other brides, 28.
- The median age, in 1996, for all grooms was 29 years. For white grooms, the median age was 28 years and for black and other grooms, 30.
- In 1996, there were 77 brides and 3 grooms under the age of 15. There were 120 brides and 325 grooms age 75 and older.
- June was the most popular month with 5,407 marriages while January was the least popular with 2,490 marriages.
- Of all 1996 brides and grooms with known previous marital status, 42.2 percent of the brides and 41.2 percent of the grooms had been previously divorced.
- In 1996 the percent of brides (92.1 to 90.1) and grooms (90.3 to 88.4) who were residents of Alabama decreased.
- Russell County's 1996 marriage rate of 27.9 was the highest among Alabama counties. Lamar County had the second highest rate of 23.5.
- The lowest marriage rate for 1996 was 7.2 for Macon County; Perry and Shelby counties had the second lowest rate, 7.6.

FIGURE 1
MARRIAGE RATES
ALABAMA AND UNITED STATES, 1940-1996

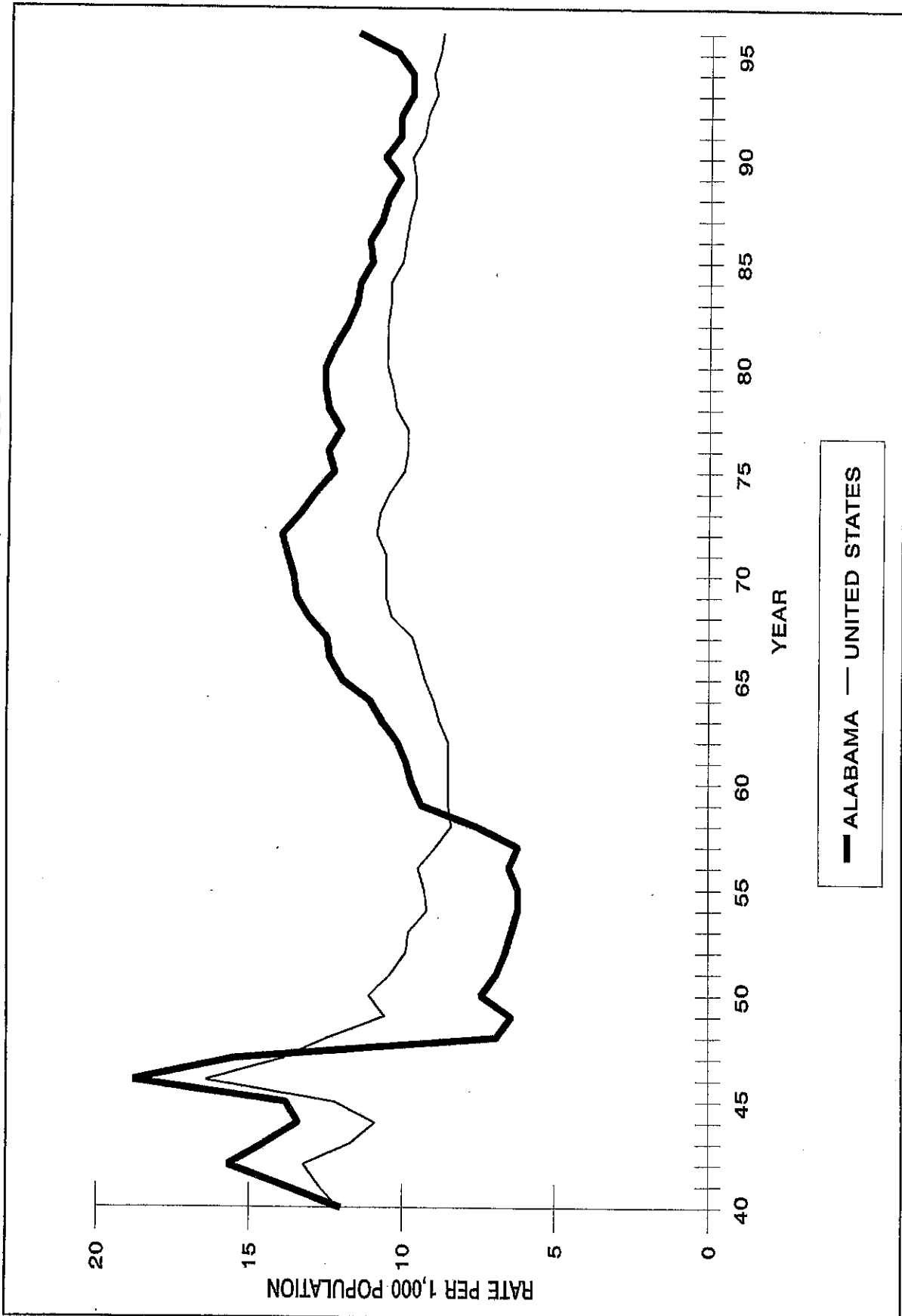


TABLE 1
MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES¹
BY RACE OF GROOM
ALABAMA AND UNITED STATES, 1940-1996

YEAR	TOTAL			WHITE		BLACK AND OTHER	
	ALABAMA		U.S. RATE	ALABAMA		ALABAMA	
	NUMBER	RATE		NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
1940	34,008	12.0	12.1	21,688	11.7	12,320	12.5
1941	39,454	13.8	12.7	25,822	13.8	13,632	13.8
1942	45,550	15.7	13.2	29,901	15.8	15,649	15.7
1943	41,951	14.5	11.7	25,489	13.4	16,462	16.5
1944	38,665	13.4	10.9	23,658	12.5	15,007	15.0
1945	40,903	13.8	12.2	26,526	13.6	14,377	14.2
1946	56,333	18.8	16.4	38,071	19.2	18,262	17.9
1947	46,425	15.5	13.9	30,745	15.2	15,680	15.9
1948	20,926	6.9	12.4	13,574	6.7	7,352	7.5
1949	19,411	6.4	10.6	12,513	6.1	6,898	7.0
1950	22,823	7.4	11.1	15,226	7.3	7,597	7.7
1951	21,427	6.9	10.4	13,907	6.6	7,520	7.6
1952	20,391	6.6	9.9	13,365	6.3	7,026	7.2
1953	19,969	6.4	9.8	12,981	6.0	6,988	7.1
1954	19,554	6.2	9.2	12,957	6.0	6,597	6.7
1955	19,791	6.2	9.3	12,829	5.9	6,962	7.1
1956	20,779	6.5	9.5	13,677	6.2	7,102	7.2
1957	19,868	6.2	8.9	13,247	5.9	6,621	6.7
1958	24,506	7.6	8.4	17,506	7.8	7,000	7.1
1959	30,722	9.4	8.5	22,708	10.0	8,014	8.2
1960	31,910	9.7	8.5	24,093	10.5	7,817	8.0
1961	32,723	9.9	8.5	24,825	10.7	7,898	8.1
1962	33,611	10.2	8.5	25,743	11.0	7,868	8.1
1963	35,551	10.7	8.8	27,679	11.7	7,872	8.2
1964	37,239	11.1	9.0	29,220	12.2	8,019	8.4
1965	40,355	12.0	9.3	31,922	13.2	8,433	8.9
1966	41,732	12.4	9.5	33,114	13.6	8,618	9.2
1967	42,442	12.5	9.7	33,989	13.8	8,453	9.1
1968	44,598	13.1	10.4	35,564	14.3	9,034	9.9
1969	46,422	13.5	10.6	37,182	14.8	9,240	10.0
1970	46,959	13.6	10.6	37,650	14.8	9,309	10.2
1971	48,276	13.8	10.6	38,617	15.0	9,659	10.7
1972	49,764	14.0	10.9	39,582	15.2	10,182	10.9
1973	47,997	13.4	10.8	38,144	14.4	9,853	10.4
1974	46,811	12.9	10.5	37,417	14.0	9,394	9.8
1975	45,349	12.3	10.0	36,802	13.6	8,547	8.8
1976	46,515	12.5	9.9	37,790	13.8	8,725	8.9
1977	45,689	12.1	9.9	36,917	13.3	8,772	8.9
1978	47,720	12.5	10.3	38,589	13.7	9,131	9.1
1979	48,743	12.6	10.4	39,240	13.8	9,503	9.4
1980	49,018	12.6	10.6	39,763	13.8	9,255	9.0
1981	48,710	12.3	10.6	39,868	13.7	8,842	8.6
1982	47,431	11.9	10.6	38,969	13.2	8,462	8.0
1983	47,469	11.6	10.5	38,800	12.8	8,669	8.2
1984	47,541	11.5	10.5	38,482	12.6	9,059	8.5
1985	46,082	11.1	10.1	37,211	12.0	8,871	8.3
1986	45,778	11.2	10.0	36,437	12.1	9,341	8.7
1987	44,820	10.8	9.9	35,690	11.7	9,130	8.4
1988	44,552	10.6	9.7	35,515	11.5	9,037	8.2
1989	43,158	10.2	9.7	34,631	11.1	8,527	7.6
1990	43,050	10.7	9.8	34,861	11.7	8,189	7.7
1991	41,772	10.2	9.4 ²	33,480	11.2	8,292	7.7
1992	41,326	10.2	9.3 ²	32,842	10.9	8,484	7.9
1993	40,156	9.8	9.0 ²	31,746	10.5	8,410	7.8
1994	40,201	9.8	9.1 ²	31,607	10.5	8,594	8.0
1995	42,234	10.3	8.9 ²	32,707	10.8	9,527	8.8
1996	47,729	11.6	8.8 ²	36,580	12.0	11,149	10.2

¹ Rate is per 1,000 population for specified group. See formula in Technical Notes of Appendix B.

² Provisional data.

FIGURE 2
MARRIAGE RATES BY RACE OF GROOM
ALABAMA, 1940-1996

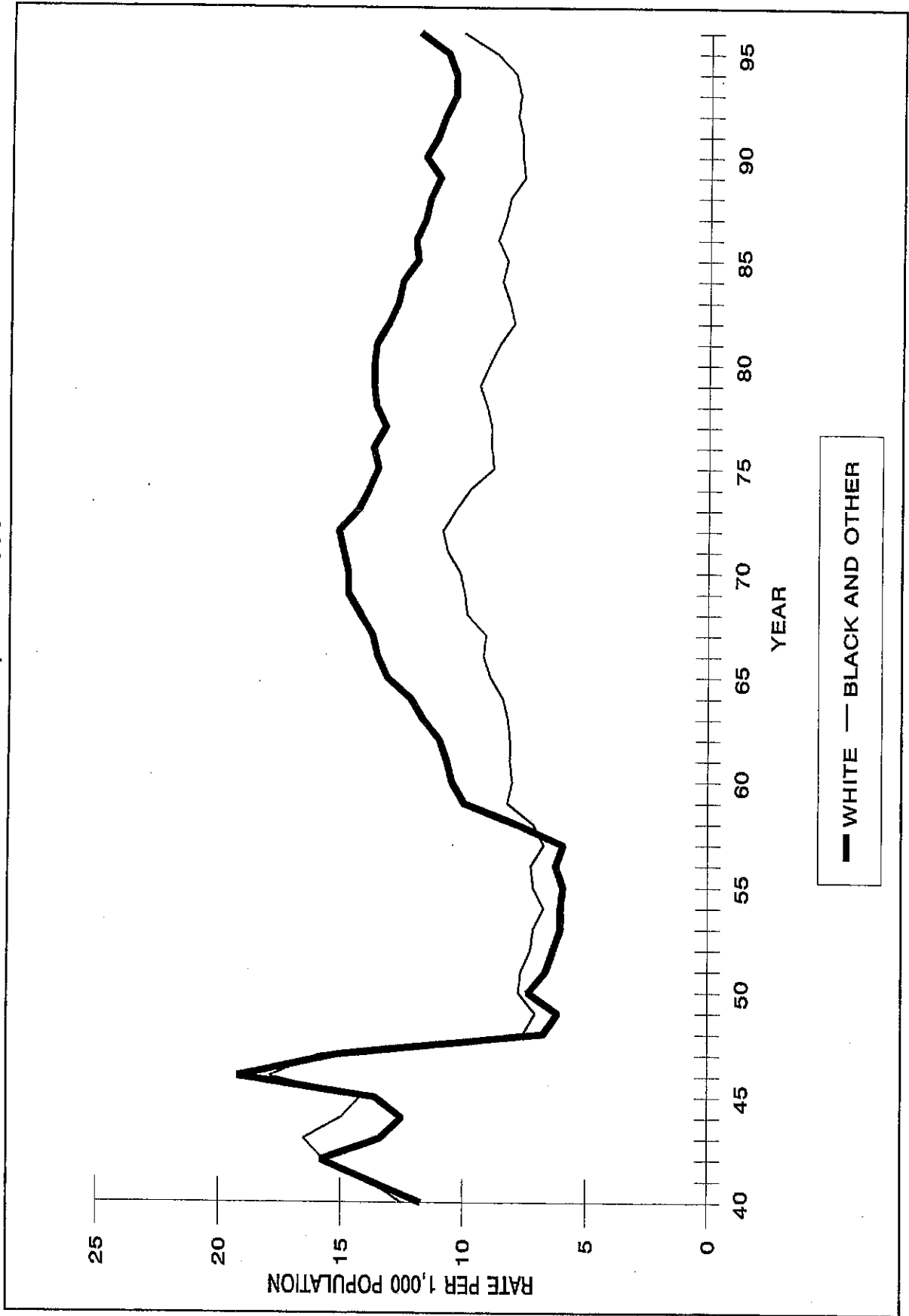
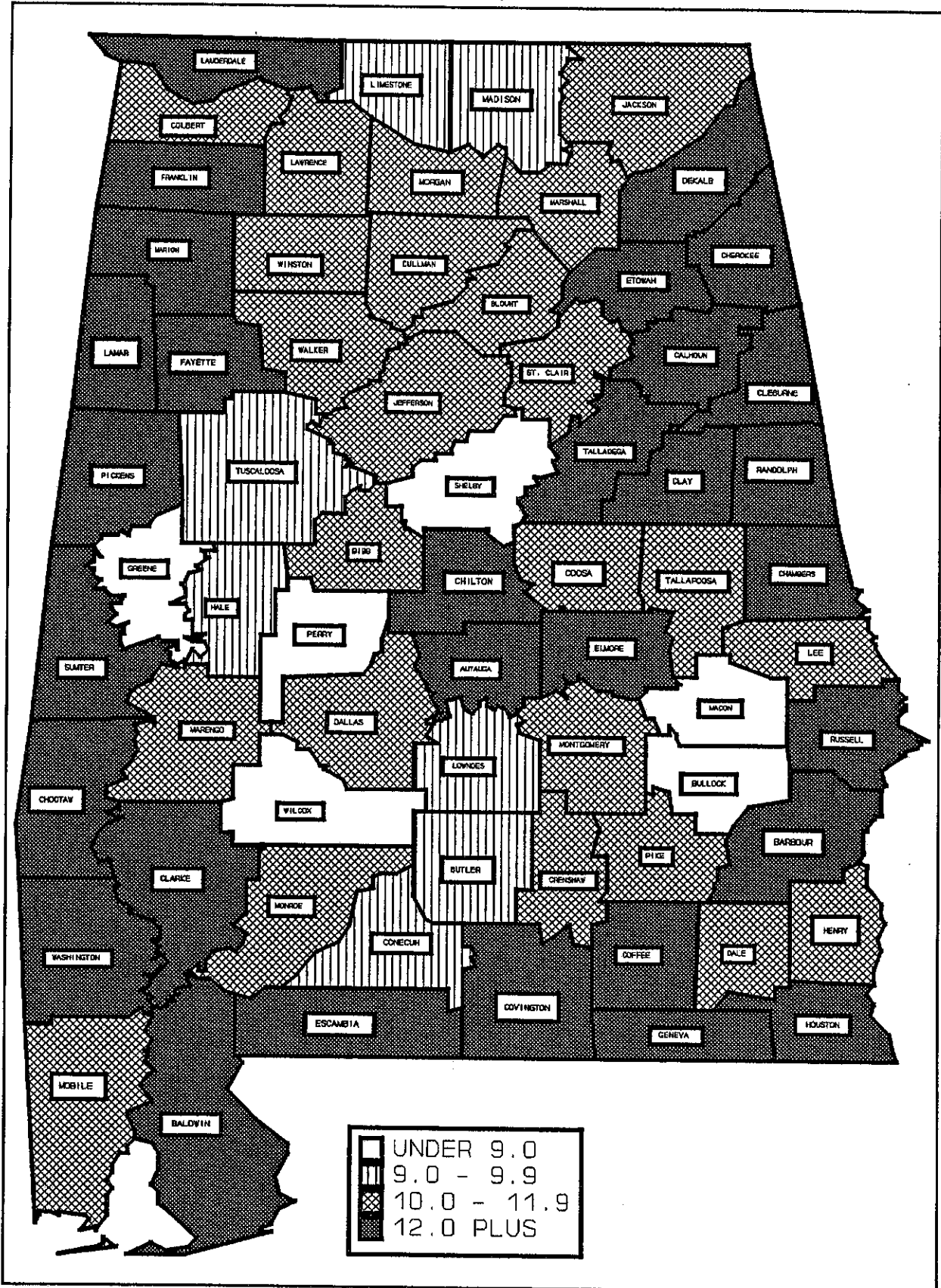


TABLE 2
MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES¹
BY RACE OF GROOM AND COUNTY
ALABAMA, 1996

COUNTY	TOTAL		WHITE		BLACK AND OTHER	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
TOTAL	47,729	11.6	36,580	12.0	11,149	10.2
Autauga	460	13.0	381	13.3	79	11.5
Baldwin	1,868	17.0	1,643	17.1	225	16.0
Barbour	320	12.5	194	13.6	126	11.0
Bibb	189	11.0	163	11.9	26	7.5
Blount	415	10.2	408	10.2	7	9.8
Bullock	86	7.7	30	10.9	56	6.7
Butler	206	9.5	117	9.2	89	10.0
Calhoun	1,374	12.0	1,137	12.4	237	10.1
Chambers	448	12.5	319	14.0	129	9.9
Cherokee	319	16.0	309	16.6	10	7.8
Chilton	433	12.9	397	13.3	36	9.4
Choctaw	190	12.2	141	16.4	49	7.0
Clarke	369	13.6	207	13.4	162	13.9
Clay	202	15.5	172	15.9	30	13.9
Cleburne	187	14.6	183	15.0	4	6.5
Coffee	568	13.8	432	12.9	136	17.3
Colbert	588	11.8	508	12.3	80	9.3
Conecuh	132	9.9	84	11.3	48	8.3
Coosa	111	10.2	75	10.6	36	9.4
Covington	526	14.6	462	14.8	64	13.1
Crenshaw	137	10.3	113	11.5	24	6.9
Cullman	791	11.2	780	11.2	11	12.6
Dale	521	10.4	410	10.3	111	10.6
Dallas	468	10.4	197	10.9	271	10.0
DeKalb	689	12.4	680	12.7	9	4.7
Elmore	671	12.8	538	13.2	133	11.3
Escambia	550	16.2	409	17.5	141	13.4
Etowah	1,278	13.1	1,134	13.7	144	9.7
Fayette	211	12.1	182	11.9	29	13.4
Franklin	352	12.8	342	13.1	10	7.3
Geneva	283	12.2	264	13.0	19	6.6
Greene	85	8.7	17	9.6	68	8.5
Hale	142	9.2	65	10.1	77	8.6
Henry	154	10.0	111	10.9	43	8.2
Houston	1,229	14.4	952	14.9	277	13.0
Jackson	498	10.8	481	11.3	17	4.8
Jefferson	6,663	10.4	4,343	10.8	2,320	9.8
Lamar	359	23.5	327	24.5	32	17.0
Lauderdale	976	12.4	873	12.4	103	12.8
Lawrence	335	10.3	298	12.1	37	4.6
Lee	991	10.8	707	10.3	284	12.0
Limestone	566	9.6	491	9.6	75	10.1
Lowndes	121	9.8	41	13.1	80	8.7
Macon	172	7.2	30	9.4	142	6.9
Madison	2,543	9.6	1,919	9.4	624	10.1
Marengo	237	10.7	119	10.7	118	10.7
Marion	473	16.0	458	16.2	15	12.6
Marshall	874	11.9	856	11.9	18	11.4
Mobile	4,504	11.7	3,283	12.7	1,221	9.6
Monroe	261	10.6	165	10.9	96	10.0
Montgomery	2,191	10.1	1,228	10.2	963	10.0
Morgan	1,137	10.7	965	10.3	172	14.2
Perry	88	7.6	34	9.1	54	7.0
Pickens	253	12.5	157	13.3	96	11.3
Pike	287	10.6	196	11.2	91	9.5
Randolph	263	13.3	216	14.3	47	10.1
Russell	1,289	27.9	870	30.7	419	23.5
St. Clair	650	11.8	611	12.2	39	7.8
Shelby	921	7.6	830	7.5	91	9.6
Sumter	236	15.1	148	33.8	88	7.8
Talladega	937	12.7	700	13.8	237	10.2
Tallapoosa	460	11.7	352	12.2	108	10.5
Tuscaloosa	1,459	9.3	1,057	9.2	402	9.4
Walker	722	10.8	693	11.1	29	6.5
Washington	340	20.4	269	24.8	71	12.1
Wilcox	108	8.4	44	11.1	64	7.2
Winston	263	11.9	263	12.0	—	—

¹Rate is per 1,000 population. See formula in Technical Notes of Appendix B. Caution should be exercised in using rates derived from small figures. Caution should also be exercised in using rates which are based on small populations. Rates which apply to populations of less than 1,000 are denoted by an "**".

FIGURE 3
MARRIAGE RATES BY COUNTY OF OCCURRENCE
ALABAMA, 1996



**TABLE 3
MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES¹
BY MONTH OF OCCURRENCE
ALABAMA, 1996**

MONTH	NUMBER	MONTHLY MARRIAGE RATE
TOTAL	47,729	11.6
January	2,490	7.1
February	3,261	10.0
March	4,093	11.7
April	3,793	11.2
May	4,437	12.7
June	5,407	16.0
July	4,162	11.9
August	4,867	13.9
September	3,891	11.5
October	3,840	11.0
November	3,621	10.7
December	3,867	11.1

¹Rate is per 1,000 population. See formula in Technical notes of Appendix B.

**TABLE 4
MARRIAGES BY OFFICIAL PERFORMING CEREMONY
ALABAMA, 1996**

OFFICIAL	NUMBER	PERCENT
TOTAL	47,729	100.0
Minister	28,228	59.1
Judge of Probate	15,432	32.3
Probate Clerk	2,141	4.5
Judge, Other than Probate	1,262	2.6
Other Official	662	1.4
Not Stated	4	0.0

**TABLE 5
MARRIAGES BY RACE OF BRIDE AND GROOM
ALABAMA, 1996**

RACE OF GROOM	RACE OF BRIDE				
	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK	OTHER	NOT STATED
TOTAL	47,729	36,902	10,349	440	38
White	36,536	36,001	254	256	25
Black	10,737	631	10,066	33	7
Other	412	238	24	149	1
Not Stated	44	32	5	2	5

**TABLE 6
MARRIAGES BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS
ALABAMA, 1996**

GROOM	BRIDE				
	TOTAL	NEVER MARRIED	WIDOWED	DIVORCED	NOT STATED
TOTAL	47,729	25,138	1,827	19,712	1,052
Never Married	25,837	20,183	270	5,198	186
Widowed	1,648	179	621	837	11
Divorced	19,283	4,673	926	13,485	199
Not Stated	961	103	10	192	656

**TABLE 7
MARRIAGES BY AGE AND RACE OF BRIDE AND GROOM
ALABAMA, 1996**

AGE GROUP	BRIDE			GROOM		
	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK & OTHER	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK & OTHER
TOTAL	47,729	36,940	10,789	47,729	36,580	11,149
Under 15	77	74	3	3	2	1
15-19	6,385	5,721	664	2,659	2,389	270
20-24	12,869	10,149	2,720	11,766	9,391	2,375
25-29	9,140	6,636	2,504	10,585	7,845	2,740
30-34	6,166	4,387	1,779	6,977	4,988	1,989
35-39	4,641	3,390	1,251	5,150	3,780	1,370
40-44	3,414	2,518	896	3,698	2,742	956
45-49	2,204	1,694	510	2,662	2,012	650
50-54	1,141	935	206	1,549	1,255	294
55-59	599	498	101	922	734	188
60-64	443	371	72	647	509	138
65-69	314	268	46	454	373	81
70-74	200	180	20	327	281	46
75+	120	108	12	325	274	51
Not Stated	16	11	5	5	5	—

**TABLE 8
MARRIAGES BY EDUCATION OF BRIDE AND GROOM
ALABAMA, 1996**

EDUCATION OF GROOM BY GRADE	EDUCATION OF BRIDE BY GRADE							
	TOTAL	0-5	6-8	9-11	12	13-15	16+	NOT STATED
TOTAL	47,729	63	1,251	7,543	16,600	12,744	7,924	1,604
0-5	214	15	43	53	72	24	6	1
6-8	1,591	15	280	555	525	163	43	10
9-11	7,439	12	454	2,944	2,662	1,136	191	40
12	18,600	13	371	3,023	9,167	4,601	1,334	91
13-15	10,543	6	84	801	2,991	4,660	1,951	50
16+	7,893	2	16	151	1,153	2,139	4,393	39
Not Stated	1,449	—	3	16	30	21	6	1,373

**TABLE 9
PREVIOUS MARRIAGES BY AGE OF BRIDE
ALABAMA, 1996**

AGE OF BRIDE	NUMBER OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES						
	TOTAL	NONE	1	2	3	4+	NOT STATED
TOTAL	47,729	25,138	13,937	5,485	1,726	716	727
UNDER 15	77	72	—	—	—	—	5
15-19	6,385	5,914	208	5	1	—	257
20-24	12,869	10,425	1,962	189	20	5	268
25-29	9,140	5,204	3,031	682	106	16	101
30-34	6,166	1,934	2,756	1,074	279	77	46
35-39	4,641	889	2,091	1,112	380	147	22
40-44	3,414	403	1,496	928	376	198	13
45-49	2,204	149	960	680	278	129	8
50-54	1,141	69	537	321	139	73	2
55-59	599	29	304	169	65	30	2
60-64	443	25	224	134	38	19	3
65-69	314	13	182	85	23	11	—
70-74	200	1	112	65	17	5	—
75+	120	1	69	40	4	6	—
Not Stated	16	10	5	1	—	—	—

**TABLE 10
PREVIOUS MARRIAGES BY AGE OF GROOM
ALABAMA, 1996**

AGE OF GROOM	NUMBER OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES						
	TOTAL	NONE	1	2	3	4+	NOT STATED
TOTAL	47,729	25,837	13,944	5,123	1,553	582	690
Under 15	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
15-19	2,659	2,531	24	—	—	—	104
20-24	11,766	10,420	989	42	1	1	313
25-29	10,585	7,448	2,572	376	36	7	146
30-34	6,977	3,057	2,925	768	145	17	65
35-39	5,150	1,323	2,475	989	265	72	26
40-44	3,698	616	1,710	941	291	123	17
45-49	2,662	237	1,170	812	308	128	7
50-54	1,549	90	667	461	221	105	5
55-59	922	50	435	259	126	49	3
60-64	647	37	327	168	70	43	2
65-69	454	12	267	123	32	19	1
70-74	327	6	190	87	30	13	1
75+	325	4	192	96	28	5	—
Not Stated	5	3	1	1	—	—	—

**TABLE 11
MARRIAGES BY AGE AND PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS
ALABAMA, 1996**

AGE GROUP	BRIDE'S PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS					GROOM'S PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS				
	TOTAL	SINGLE	WIDOWED	DIVORCED	NOT STATED	TOTAL	SINGLE	WIDOWED	DIVORCED	NOT STATED
TOTAL	47,729	25,138	1,827	19,712	1,052	47,729	25,837	1,648	19,283	961
Under 15	77	72	—	—	5	3	3	—	—	—
15-19	6,385	5,914	1	208	262	2,659	2,531	—	23	105
20-24	12,869	10,425	40	2,086	318	11,766	10,420	20	994	332
25-29	9,140	5,204	82	3,708	146	10,585	7,448	59	2,900	178
30-34	6,166	1,934	131	3,995	106	6,977	3,057	92	3,713	115
35-39	4,641	889	152	3,524	76	5,150	1,323	106	3,644	77
40-44	3,414	403	201	2,763	47	3,698	616	102	2,930	50
45-49	2,204	149	215	1,800	40	2,662	237	131	2,251	43
50-54	1,141	69	192	855	25	1,549	90	131	1,305	23
55-59	599	29	195	368	7	922	50	158	702	12
60-64	443	25	198	212	8	647	37	218	380	12
65-69	314	13	194	102	5	454	12	206	229	7
70-74	200	1	140	56	3	327	6	203	117	1
75+	120	1	86	29	4	325	4	222	94	5
Not Stated	16	10	—	6	—	5	3	—	1	1

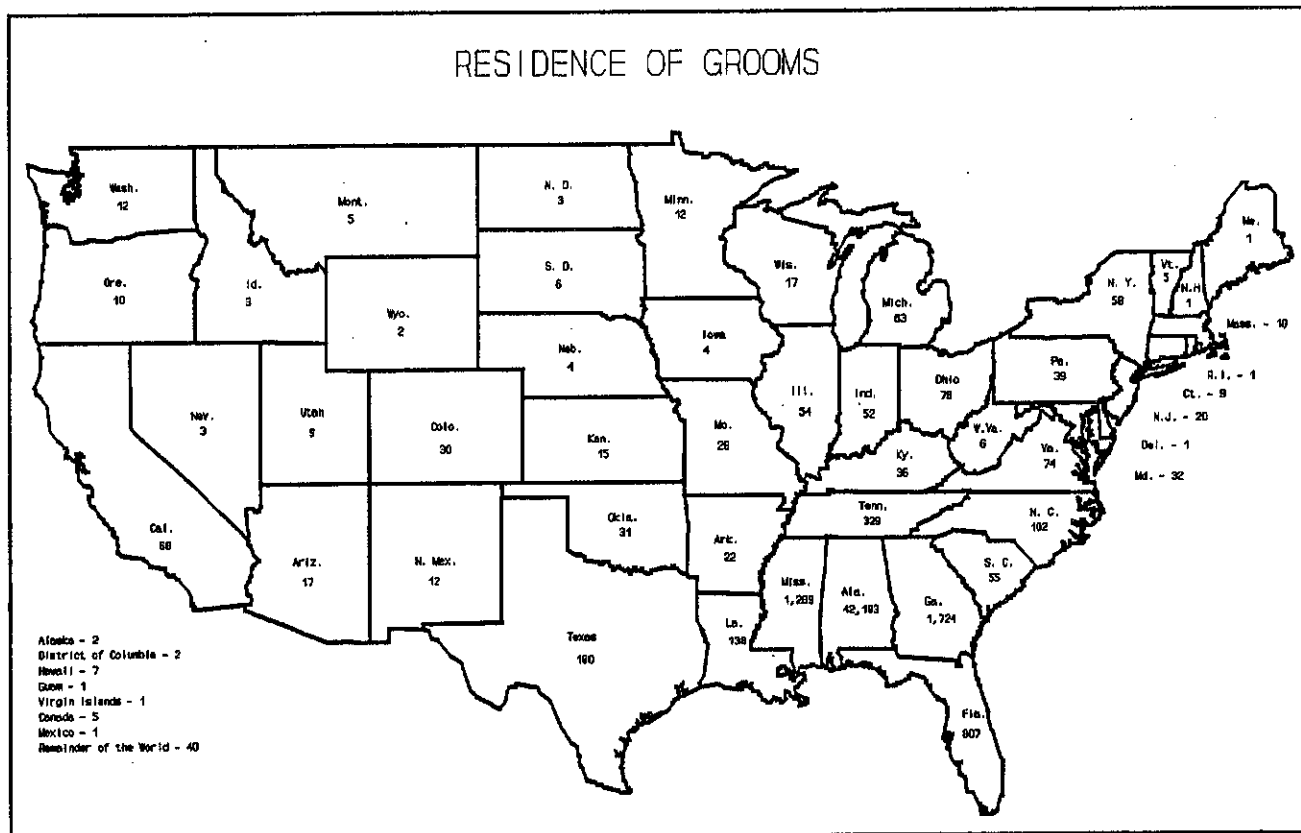
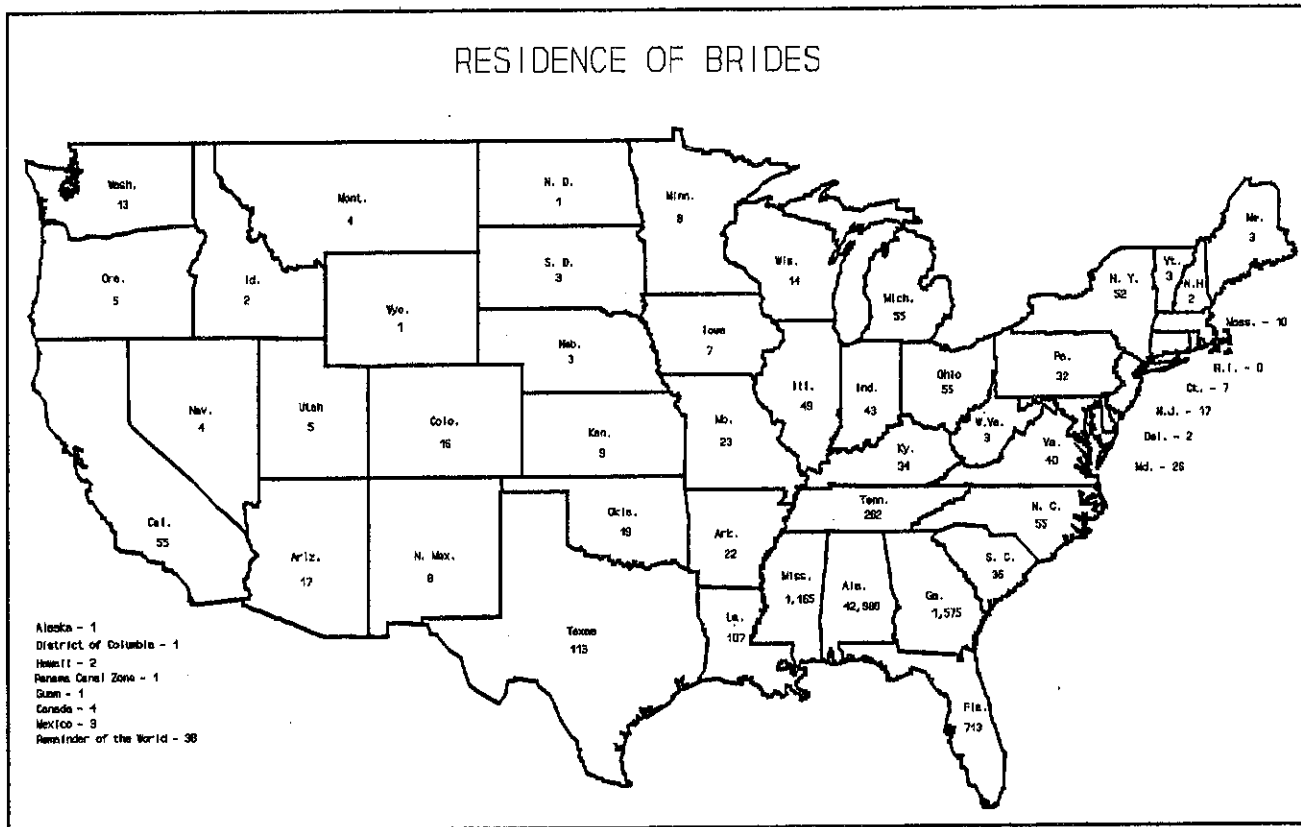
TABLE 12
MARRIAGES BY AGE OF BRIDE BY AGE OF GROOM
ALABAMA, 1996

AGE OF GROOM	AGE OF BRIDE														NOT STATED	
	TOTAL	UNDER 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74		75+
TOTAL	47,729	77	6,385	12,869	9,140	6,166	4,641	3,414	2,204	1,141	599	443	314	200	120	16
Under 15	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19	2,659	47	1,976	553	61	13	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
20-24	11,766	24	3,432	6,365	1,439	348	104	40	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	4
25-29	10,585	2	730	4,260	3,889	1,172	347	130	31	12	5	2	2	—	—	3
30-34	6,977	3	178	1,166	2,304	1,940	919	321	101	32	2	6	1	—	—	4
35-39	5,150	—	36	359	874	1,487	1,392	696	233	54	11	2	3	—	—	3
40-44	3,698	—	18	104	359	739	994	960	393	91	26	8	2	2	2	—
45-49	2,662	—	10	46	134	291	555	720	610	213	51	23	7	1	—	1
50-54	1,549	—	2	11	53	101	210	311	437	298	92	24	4	4	2	—
55-59	922	—	—	3	14	41	66	125	217	224	151	50	20	11	—	—
60-64	647	—	—	—	9	14	29	67	109	115	136	112	46	8	2	—
65-69	454	—	—	—	1	9	9	27	48	60	74	113	90	20	3	—
70-74	327	—	—	—	1	8	5	9	11	20	36	56	86	72	23	—
75+	325	—	—	1	—	3	4	7	6	20	14	47	53	82	88	—
Not Stated	5	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 13
MARRIAGES OCCURRING IN ALABAMA
BY STATE, TERRITORY, OR COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE
OF BRIDE AND GROOM
1996

STATE, TERRITORY OR COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE	BRIDE		GROOM	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
TOTAL	47,729	100.00	47,729	100.00
Alabama	42,980	90.05	42,193	88.40
Alaska	1	0.00	2	0.00
Arizona	17	0.04	17	0.04
Arkansas	22	0.05	22	0.05
California	55	0.12	68	0.14
Colorado	16	0.03	30	0.06
Connecticut	7	0.01	9	0.02
Delaware	2	0.00	1	0.00
District of Columbia	1	0.00	2	0.00
Florida	713	1.49	807	1.69
Georgia	1,575	3.30	1,724	3.61
Hawaii	2	0.00	7	0.01
Idaho	2	0.00	3	0.01
Illinois	49	0.10	54	0.11
Indiana	43	0.09	52	0.11
Iowa	7	0.01	4	0.01
Kansas	9	0.02	15	0.03
Kentucky	34	0.07	36	0.08
Louisiana	107	0.22	138	0.29
Maine	3	0.01	1	0.00
Maryland	26	0.05	32	0.07
Massachusetts	10	0.02	10	0.02
Michigan	55	0.12	63	0.13
Minnesota	8	0.02	12	0.03
Mississippi	1,165	2.44	1,289	2.70
Missouri	23	0.05	28	0.06
Montana	4	0.01	5	0.01
Nebraska	3	0.01	4	0.01
Nevada	4	0.01	3	0.01
New Hampshire	2	0.00	1	0.00
New Jersey	17	0.04	20	0.04
New Mexico	8	0.02	12	0.03
New York	52	0.11	58	0.12
North Carolina	55	0.12	102	0.21
North Dakota	1	0.00	3	0.01
Ohio	55	0.12	78	0.16
Oklahoma	19	0.04	31	0.06
Oregon	5	0.01	10	0.02
Pennsylvania	32	0.07	39	0.08
Rhode Island	—	—	1	0.00
South Carolina	36	0.08	55	0.12
South Dakota	3	0.01	6	0.01
Tennessee	262	0.55	329	0.69
Texas	113	0.24	180	0.38
Utah	5	0.01	9	0.02
Vermont	3	0.01	5	0.01
Virginia	40	0.08	74	0.16
Washington	13	0.03	12	0.03
West Virginia	3	0.01	6	0.01
Wisconsin	14	0.03	17	0.04
Wyoming	1	0.00	2	0.00
Panama	1	0.00	—	—
Guam	1	0.00	1	0.00
Virgin Islands	—	—	1	0.00
Canada	4	0.01	5	0.01
Mexico	3	0.01	1	0.00
Rest of World	38	0.08	40	0.08

**FIGURE 4
MARRIAGES BY RESIDENCE
OF BRIDE AND GROOM
ALABAMA, 1996**



DIVORCE STATISTICS

1996 Divorce Highlights

- The 25,704 divorces during 1996 decreased by 109 from 1995's total of 25,813.
- Alabama's 1996 divorce rate of 6.2, the lowest rate of the '90s, remained above the national rate for the 54th consecutive year.
- The median duration of marriages dissolved in 1996 was 6.2 years. Median duration of marriage has increased by nearly one year over the past 10 years from a median of 5.4 years in 1986.
- Nearly a third (30.8 percent) of all 1996 divorces with known duration of marriage were for marriages of 10 or more years duration; 8.2 percent were granted for marriages that lasted less than one year.
- For 1996 divorces stating the party to whom the divorce was granted, more than half (55.7) percent were granted jointly to both husband and wife, a decrease of 6.2 percent from 1995. Divorces granted to the husband increased 11.1 percent and those to the wife increased 12.6 percent.
- For divorces granted in 1996, the median age of all husbands, as well as white husbands, was 35 years; whereas, the median age for black and other husbands was 36 years.
- In 1996, for all wives, as well as white wives, the median age was 33 years; whereas, for black and other wives, the median age was 34 years.
- In 1996, 95.6 percent of all divorces were granted on the grounds of incompatibility. Incompatibility as a legal grounds for dissolution was first allowed by Alabama law during 1971 and has replaced nearly all other legal grounds as the cause of divorce.
- In 1996, minor children were involved in nearly half (12,479) of all divorces where the number of children involved was reported.
- More than 20,366 minor children were affected by 1996 divorces.
- In 1996, the most divorces (2,493) were finalized during the month of April while the least (1,849) were finalized during November.
- Russell County's 1996 divorce rate of 9.8 was the highest among Alabama's counties. For 1996, Marion County's rate of 9.0 was second and Houston County had the third highest rate of 8.5.
- Wilcox County (0.8) had the lowest divorce rate among counties during 1996. Blount (2.0), Sumter (2.7), and Perry (2.8) counties also recorded low divorce rates during 1996.

FIGURE 5
DIVORCE RATES
ALABAMA AND UNITED STATES, 1940-1996

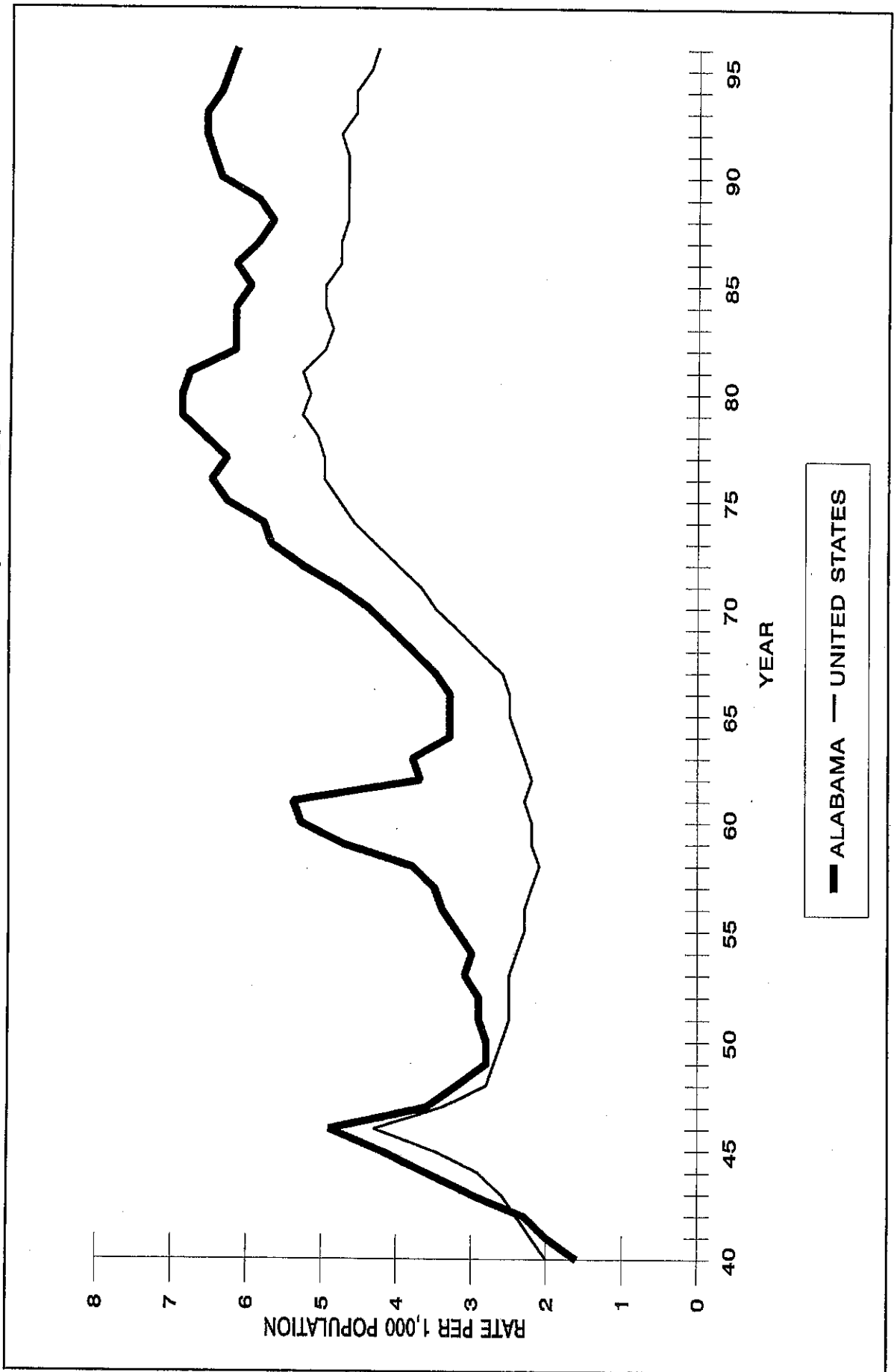


TABLE 14
DIVORCES AND DIVORCE RATES¹
ALABAMA AND UNITED STATES, 1940-1996

YEAR	NUMBER	ALABAMA RATE	U.S. RATE
1940	4,417	1.6	2.0
1941	5,656	2.0	2.2
1942	6,748	2.3	2.4
1943	8,622	3.0	2.6
1944	10,317	3.6	2.9
1945	12,435	4.2	3.5
1946	14,770	4.9	4.3
1947	10,765	3.6	3.4
1948	9,699	3.2	2.8
1949	8,575	2.8	2.7
1950	8,454	2.8	2.6
1951	8,908	2.9	2.5
1952	9,163	2.9	2.5
1953	9,673	3.1	2.5
1954	9,357	3.0	2.4
1955	10,058	3.2	2.3
1956	10,783	3.4	2.3
1957	11,375	3.5	2.2
1958	12,431	3.8	2.1
1959	15,222	4.7	2.2
1960	17,349	5.3	2.2
1961	17,754	5.4	2.3
1962	12,343	3.7	2.2
1963	12,601	3.8	2.3
1964	11,119	3.3	2.4
1965	11,036	3.3	2.5
1966	11,256	3.3	2.5
1967	11,964	3.5	2.6
1968	12,918	3.8	2.9
1969	14,146	4.1	3.2
1970	15,109	4.4	3.5
1971	16,905	4.8	3.7
1972	18,958	5.3	4.0
1973	20,399	5.7	4.3
1974	21,123	5.8	4.6
1975	23,001	6.3	4.8
1976	24,056	6.5	5.0
1977	23,757	6.3	5.0
1978	25,059	6.6	5.1
1979	26,549	6.9	5.3
1980	26,745	6.9	5.2
1981	26,791	6.8	5.3
1982	24,910	6.2	5.0
1983	25,190	6.2	4.9
1984	25,413	6.2	5.0
1985	25,012	6.0	5.0
1986	25,356	6.2	4.8
1987	24,532	5.9	4.8
1988	23,827	5.7	4.7
1989	24,985	5.9	4.7
1990	25,678	6.4	4.7
1991	26,545	6.5	4.7 ²
1992	26,944	6.6	4.8 ²
1993	27,126	6.6	4.6 ²
1994	26,259	6.4	4.6 ²
1995	25,813	6.3	4.4 ²
1996	25,704	6.2	4.3 ²

¹ Rate is per 1,000 population. See formula in Technical Notes of Appendix B.

² Provisional data.

TABLE 15
DIVORCES, ANNULMENTS AND DIVORCE RATES¹
BY COUNTY OF DECREE
ALABAMA, 1996

COUNTY	TOTAL	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS	RATE
TOTAL	25,704	25,655	49	6.2
Autauga	237	237	—	6.7
Baldwin	701	699	2	6.4
Barbour	122	122	—	4.8
Bibb	95	95	—	5.6
Blount	81	81	—	2.0
Bullock	40	40	—	3.6
Butler	101	101	—	4.7
Calhoun	895	894	1	7.8
Chambers	225	225	—	6.3
Cherokee	132	132	—	6.6
Chilton	261	261	—	7.8
Choctaw	73	73	—	4.7
Clarke	140	140	—	5.2
Clay	86	86	—	6.6
Clayburne	96	96	—	7.5
Coffee	245	243	2	5.9
Colbert	353	353	—	7.1
Conecuh	67	66	1	5.0
Coosa	32	32	—	2.9
Covington	170	170	—	4.7
Crenshaw	48	48	—	3.6
Cullman	549	549	—	7.8
Dale	420	417	3	8.4
Dallas	258	258	—	5.7
DeKalb	306	305	1	5.5
Elmore	357	356	1	6.8
Escambia	139	139	—	4.1
Etowah	798	796	2	8.2
Fayette	115	115	—	6.6
Franklin	107	107	—	3.9
Geneva	132	132	—	5.7
Greene	28	28	—	2.9
Hale	55	55	—	3.6
Henry	62	62	—	4.0
Houston	727	726	1	8.5
Jackson	328	327	1	7.1
Jefferson	4,076	4,071	5	6.4
Lamar	62	61	1	4.1
Lauderdale	407	405	2	5.2
Lawrence	217	216	1	6.6
Lee	492	492	—	5.3
Limestone	222	221	1	3.8
Lowndes	44	44	—	3.6
Macon	75	75	—	3.2
Madison	1,587	1,583	4	6.0
Marengo	101	101	—	4.6
Marion	265	265	—	9.0
Marshall	615	615	—	8.3
Mobile	2,545	2,537	8	6.6
Monroe	103	103	—	4.2
Montgomery	1,513	1,512	1	7.0
Morgan	771	769	2	7.3
Perry	32	32	—	2.8
Pickens	85	84	1	4.2
Pike	157	157	—	5.8
Randolph	147	147	—	7.4
Russell	451	451	—	9.8
St. Clair	345	345	—	6.3
Shelby	604	601	3	5.0
Sumter	42	42	—	2.7
Talladega	545	544	1	7.4
Tallepoosa	288	288	—	7.4
Tuscaloosa	627	627	—	4.0
Walker	438	434	4	6.5
Washington	82	82	—	4.9
Wilcox	10	10	—	0.8
Winston	175	175	—	7.9

¹Rate is per 1,000 population. See formula in Technical Notes of Appendix B. Caution should be exercised in using rates derived from small numbers.

TABLE 16
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE
AND NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN
ALABAMA, 1996

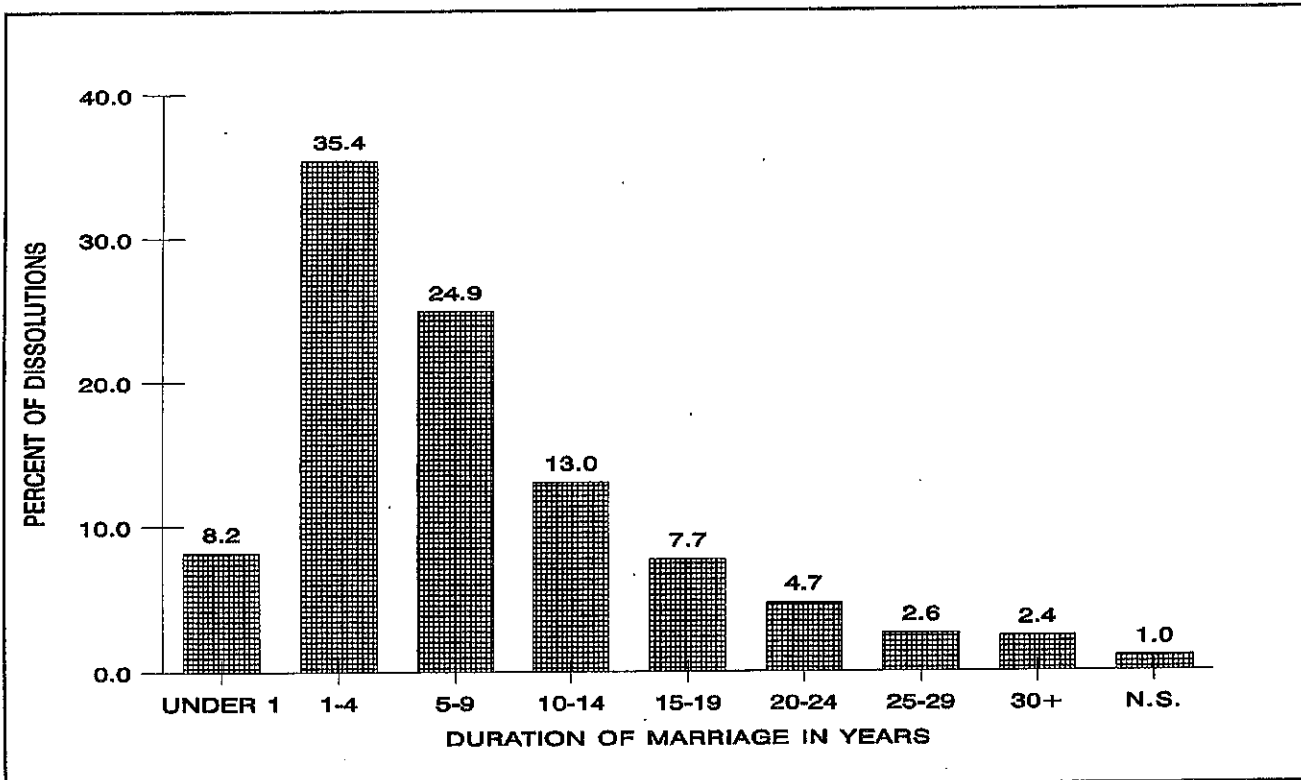
DURATION OF MARRIAGE (IN YEARS)	TOTAL	NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN ¹										NOT STATED
		NONE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	
TOTAL	25,704	12,662	6,567	4,371	1,213	265	39	15	3	2	4	563
UNDER 1	2,098	1,728	200	88	20	3	1	—	—	—	2	56
1-4	9,111	5,438	2,522	753	151	28	1	3	1	—	—	214
5-9	6,401	2,536	1,883	1,437	342	62	8	2	—	—	1	130
10-14	3,343	1,001	828	1,014	351	78	15	3	—	—	—	53
15-19	1,992	442	487	722	242	62	9	3	2	1	—	22
20-24	1,207	433	375	266	79	22	3	3	—	1	—	25
25-29	672	427	172	36	11	6	—	1	—	—	1	18
30-34	329	277	34	8	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	7
35-39	136	121	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
40+	148	140	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
NOT STATED	267	119	58	43	14	2	2	—	—	—	—	29

¹ Children 18 years of age and under are considered minors in Alabama.

**TABLE 17
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS
BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE
ALABAMA, 1996**

DURATION OF MARRIAGE (IN YEARS)	TOTAL	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS
TOTAL	25,704	25,655	49
UNDER 1	2,098	2,070	28
1 - 4	9,111	9,095	16
5 - 9	6,401	6,397	4
10 - 14	3,343	3,343	—
15 - 19	1,992	1,991	1
20 - 24	1,207	1,207	—
25 - 29	672	672	—
30 - 34	329	329	—
35 - 39	136	136	—
40+	148	148	—
NOT STATED	267	267	—

**FIGURE 7
DISTRIBUTION OF DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS
BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE
ALABAMA, 1996**

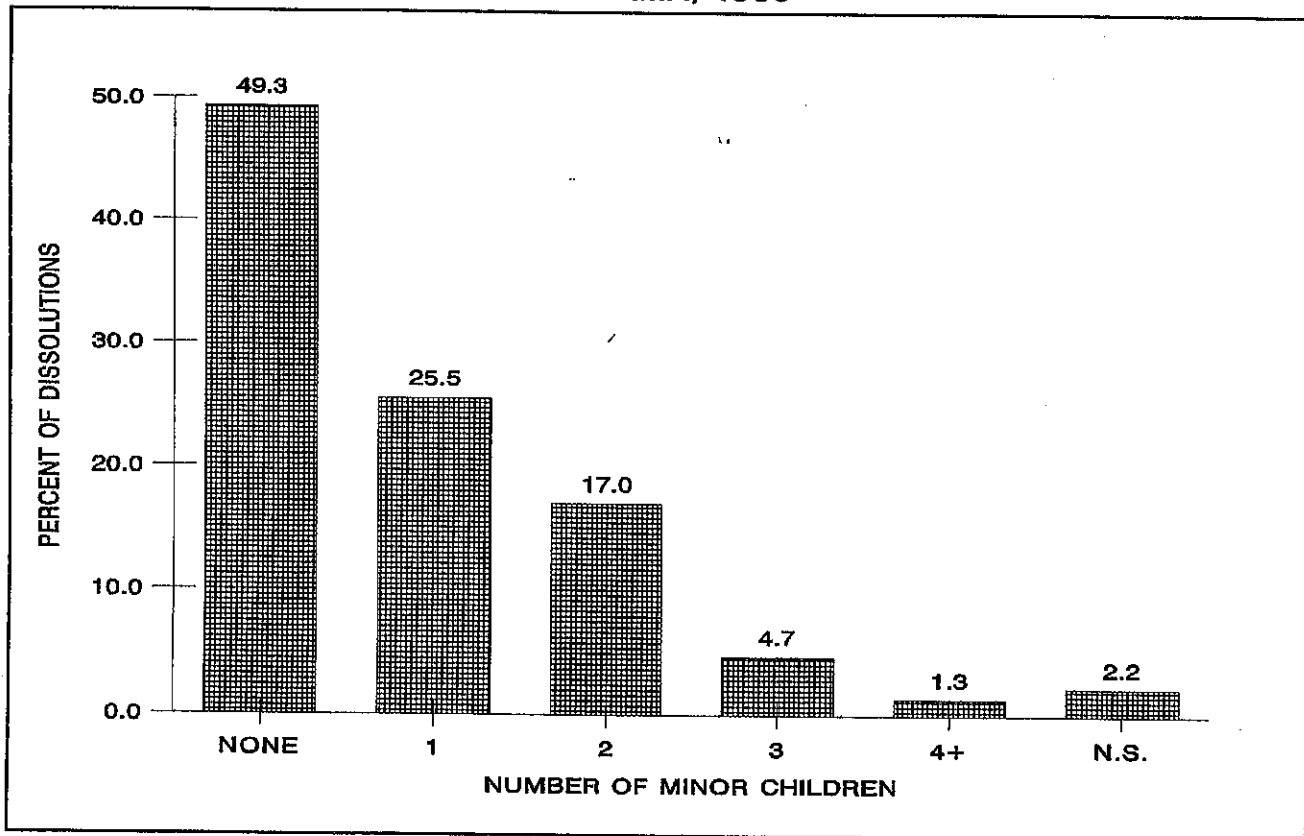


**TABLE 18
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS
BY NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN
ALABAMA, 1996**

NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN ¹	TOTAL	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS
TOTAL	25,704	25,655	49
NONE	12,662	12,619	43
1	6,567	6,563	4
2	4,371	4,370	1
3	1,213	1,213	—
4	265	265	—
5	39	39	—
6	15	15	—
7	3	3	—
8	2	2	—
9+	4	4	—
NOT STATED	563	562	1

¹Children 18 years of age and under are considered minors in Alabama.

**FIGURE 8
DISTRIBUTION OF DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS
BY NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN
ALABAMA, 1996**

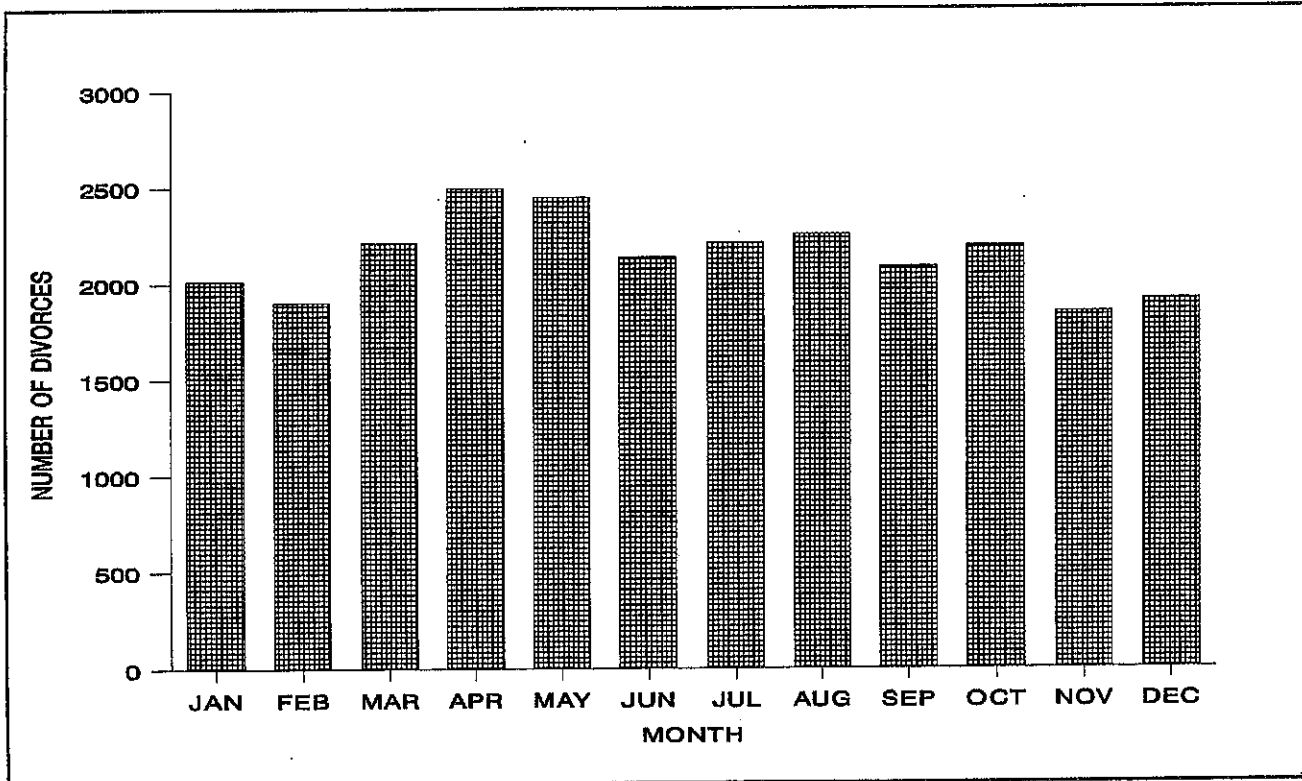


**TABLE 19
DIVORCES AND DIVORCE RATES¹
BY MONTH OF DECREE
ALABAMA, 1996**

MONTH	TOTAL	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS	MONTHLY DIVORCE RATE
TOTAL	25,704	25,655	49	6.2
JANUARY	2,011	2,002	9	5.8
FEBRUARY	1,901	1,900	1	5.8
MARCH	2,210	2,207	3	6.3
APRIL	2,493	2,491	2	7.4
MAY	2,447	2,442	5	7.0
JUNE	2,138	2,131	7	6.3
JULY	2,209	2,207	2	6.3
AUGUST	2,253	2,246	7	6.4
SEPTEMBER	2,085	2,080	5	6.2
OCTOBER	2,193	2,190	3	6.3
NOVEMBER	1,849	1,849	—	5.5
DECEMBER	1,915	1,910	5	5.5

¹Rate is per 1,000 population. See formula in Technical Notes of Appendix B.

**FIGURE 9
DIVORCES BY MONTH
ALABAMA, 1996**



**TABLE 20
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS
BY PARTY TO WHOM GRANTED
ALABAMA, 1996**

PARTY TO WHOM DIVORCE GRANTED	TOTAL	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS
TOTAL	25,704	25,655	49
HUSBAND	4,051	4,043	8
WIFE	7,223	7,208	15
HUSBAND AND WIFE	14,179	14,153	26
NOT STATED	251	251	—

**TABLE 21
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS
BY NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE
ALABAMA, 1996**

NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE	HUSBAND		WIFE	
	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS
TOTAL	25,655	49	25,655	49
1	14,807	20	14,527	17
2	6,770	13	6,592	13
3	2,407	11	2,675	8
4	764	1	860	6
5	215	2	255	2
6	69	—	74	1
7+	38	1	46	0
NOT STATED	585	1	626	2

**TABLE 22
DIVORCES BY RACE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE
ALABAMA, 1996**

RACE OF HUSBAND	TOTAL	RACE OF WIFE	
		WHITE	BLACK & OTHER
TOTAL	25,704	21,025	4,679
WHITE	20,933	20,766	167
BLACK & OTHER	4,771	259	4,512

**TABLE 23
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS
BY LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DECREE
ALABAMA, 1996**

LEGAL GROUNDS	TOTAL	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS
TOTAL	25,704	25,655	49
ABANDONMENT	26	26	—
ABANDONMENT AND ADULTERY	4	4	—
ABANDONMENT AND CRUELTY	—	—	—
ABANDONMENT AND DRUNKENNESS	—	—	—
ADULTERY	148	147	1
ADULTERY AND CRUELTY	—	—	—
BIGAMY	4	2	2
CRUELTY AND DRUNKENNESS	—	—	—
CRUELTY AND NON-SUPPORT	—	—	—
CRUELTY OR VIOLENCE	74	74	—
DRUG ADDICTION	1	1	—
DRUNKENNESS	3	3	—
DRUNKENNESS AND ADULTERY	—	—	—
FRAUD	34	21	13
IMPOTENCY	—	—	—
IMPRISONMENT	2	2	—
INCOMPATIBILITY	24,559	24,540	19
IRRETRIEVABLE BREAKDOWN	640	640	—
INSANITY	—	—	—
NON-SUPPORT	—	—	—
NON-SUPPORT AND ABANDONMENT	—	—	—
NON-SUPPORT AND DRUNKENNESS	—	—	—
UNDER AGE	2	—	2
ALL OTHER CAUSES	187	179	8
NOT STATED	20	16	4

TABLE 24
DIVORCES BY AGE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE
ALABAMA, 1996

AGE OF HUSBAND	AGE OF WIFE													NOT STATED
	UNDER 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+	
TOTAL	609	3,638	4,802	4,750	4,092	2,957	1,865	1,018	470	275	142	84	69	933
Under 20	108	49	6	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
20-24	379	1,559	339	59	19	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	44
25-29	86	1,485	2,167	475	127	37	14	3	7	2	1	—	—	61
30-34	16	363	1,527	1,952	526	154	53	12	5	1	—	—	—	109
35-39	6	85	472	1,412	1,616	428	131	43	8	—	3	1	—	96
40-44	—	29	147	486	1,128	1,098	260	66	11	5	1	—	—	94
45-49	—	8	59	175	398	794	709	168	32	14	4	1	1	77
50-54	1	5	10	72	115	239	421	342	75	19	5	—	1	48
55-59	—	4	4	21	54	80	140	227	144	35	8	6	—	32
60-64	—	3	2	9	13	44	54	83	107	85	22	4	2	26
65-69	—	—	—	3	9	13	24	26	45	68	42	12	4	19
70-74	—	—	—	—	3	5	4	15	16	21	29	28	10	7
75+	—	—	—	1	1	4	5	6	10	19	21	31	47	9
Not Stated	13	48	69	84	82	55	48	27	10	6	6	1	4	308



APPENDIX A

DENOMINATOR POPULATION

The estimated populations used in this volume were produced using data from Population Projections for Alabama counties published by the Alabama State Data Center, Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Alabama. They were derived by using the cohort-survival method.

**ESTIMATED POPULATION BY COUNTY AND RACE
ALABAMA, 1996**

COUNTY/AREA	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK AND OTHER
STATE	4,127,562	3,036,938	1,090,624
Autauga	35,516	28,666	6,850
Baldwin	110,093	96,006	14,087
Barbour	25,652	14,230	11,422
Bibb	17,109	13,653	3,456
Blount	40,860	40,149	711
Bullock	11,143	2,760	8,383
Butler	21,635	12,700	8,935
Calhoun	114,814	91,379	23,435
Chambers	35,744	22,710	13,034
Cherokee	19,884	18,597	1,287
Chilton	33,641	29,794	3,847
Choctaw	15,561	8,600	6,961
Clarke	27,082	15,425	11,657
Clay	13,002	10,851	2,151
Cleburne	12,820	12,207	613
Coffee	41,297	33,430	7,867
Colbert	50,018	41,437	8,581
Conecuh	13,270	7,456	5,814
Coosa	10,917	7,105	3,812
Covington	36,071	31,183	4,888
Crenshaw	13,324	9,833	3,491
Cullman	70,814	69,943	871
Dale	50,148	39,657	10,491
Dallas	45,034	17,993	27,041
DeKalb	55,418	53,506	1,912
Elmore	52,417	40,630	11,787
Escambia	33,980	23,423	10,557
Etowah	97,477	82,655	14,822
Fayette	17,488	15,321	2,167
Franklin	27,441	26,072	1,369
Geneva	23,260	20,362	2,898
Greene	9,749	1,774	7,975
Hale	15,392	6,439	8,953
Henry	15,433	10,185	5,248
Houston	85,146	63,859	21,286
Jackson	45,978	42,464	3,514
Jefferson	639,616	401,727	237,889
Lamar	15,254	13,373	1,881
Lauderdale	78,893	70,628	8,065
Lawrence	32,671	24,544	8,127
Lee	92,165	68,441	23,724
Limestone	58,707	51,269	7,438
Lowndes	12,375	3,138	9,237
Macon	23,764	3,192	20,572
Madison	265,904	204,319	61,585
Marengo	22,113	11,114	10,999
Marion	29,519	28,324	1,195
Marshall	73,670	72,090	1,580
Mobile	385,350	258,695	126,655
Monroe	24,717	15,162	9,555
Montgomery	216,969	120,194	96,775
Morgan	106,141	94,001	12,140
Perry	11,511	3,745	7,766
Pickens	20,305	11,774	8,531
Pike	27,113	17,545	9,568
Randolph	19,787	15,135	4,652
Russell	46,168	28,314	17,854
St. Clair	54,908	49,938	4,970
Shelby	120,683	111,170	9,513
Sumter	15,589	4,377	11,212
Talladega	74,001	50,765	23,236
Tallapoosa	39,154	28,822	10,332
Tuscaloosa	157,504	114,681	42,823
Walker	66,987	62,545	4,442
Washington	16,679	10,828	5,851
Wilcox	12,805	3,961	8,844
Winston	22,063	21,918	145

NOTE: The midyear population estimates were prepared by the Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Alabama. They were derived using the cohort-survival method.

**ESTIMATED POPULATION
BY RACE, SEX AND AGE GROUP
ALABAMA, 1996**

AGE GROUP	TOTAL POPULATION (ESTIMATED)	WHITE			BLACK AND OTHER		
		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
		3,036,938	1,477,261	1,559,677	1,090,624	500,534	590,090
0-4	306,248	197,723	101,877	95,846	108,525	54,877	53,648
5-9	288,873	194,687	100,524	94,163	94,186	47,657	46,529
10-14	293,214	195,019	100,748	94,271	98,195	49,649	48,546
15-19	299,262	196,607	100,806	95,801	102,655	51,220	51,435
20-24	308,389	212,313	107,789	104,524	96,076	45,746	50,330
25-29	278,598	208,534	104,943	103,591	70,064	30,564	39,500
30-34	298,104	224,108	112,845	111,263	73,996	32,712	41,284
35-39	321,609	238,088	118,864	119,224	83,521	36,492	47,029
40-44	305,177	226,059	112,516	113,543	79,118	35,057	44,061
45-49	280,119	217,263	107,704	109,559	62,856	28,482	34,374
50-54	226,636	182,232	89,320	92,912	44,404	19,882	24,522
55-59	191,502	155,000	74,381	80,619	36,502	15,584	20,918
60-64	173,475	140,964	66,469	74,495	32,511	13,408	19,103
65-69	166,474	134,686	61,065	73,621	31,788	12,391	19,397
70-74	146,641	118,698	50,492	68,206	27,943	10,699	17,244
75-79	107,519	87,253	33,928	53,325	20,266	7,309	12,957
80-84	75,507	60,367	20,317	40,050	15,140	5,073	10,067
85+	60,215	47,337	12,673	34,664	12,878	3,732	9,146

NOTE: The midyear population estimates were prepared by the Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Alabama. They were derived using the cohort-survival method.



APPENDIX B

TECHNICAL NOTES

DEFINITIONS

FORMULAS

TIPS ON USING VITAL STATISTICS

CONTRIBUTING SOURCES

ALABAMA'S CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

ALABAMA'S CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE

TECHNICAL NOTES

COMPLETENESS OF DATA

At the present time, the registration of marriages within Alabama is believed to be nearly 100 percent complete since Alabama law requires that a marriage license be obtained before the wedding ceremony is performed. The license is signed by the person performing the ceremony and returned to the probate judge who forwards it to the state registrar of vital statistics.

Registration of divorce is believed to be good in Alabama although no tests of completeness have been done.

Although some certificates were filed too late to be included in the final tabulations, the number is too small to be of significant statistical value.

QUALITY OF DATA

Every precaution is taken to minimize errors in the raw data during its preparation and receipt. Prior to coding, each document is edited for consistency and completeness. Following computer entry, data items are subjected to numerous validity and consistency edits.

CLASSIFICATION OF DATA BY PLACE

Vital events may be classified by "place of occurrence" or by "place of residence." Data classified by "place of occurrence" are statistically counted according to the geographic location where the event occurred regardless of residence. Marriage and divorce data are available only for events that occurred in Alabama. Marriages which were conducted outside of Alabama, but which were filed using an Alabama Certificate of Marriage are not included in marriage tabulations.

RACE

Certificates which include race classifications are generally coded using nine racial categories. However, for tabulation purposes, two categories are utilized. White includes Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cajun, Creole and other Caucasian. The "black and other"

racial group includes Black, American Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiian, Filipino, other Asian or Pacific Islander or mixtures of white and other races.

According to the 1990 Census of Population for Alabama, the "black and other" racial group as presented in this publication can be assumed to consist of 95.9 percent Black, 1.5 percent American Indian, 0.4 percent Asian Indian, 0.3 percent Korean, 0.4 percent Chinese, 0.2 percent Japanese, 0.2 percent Vietnamese, 0.2 percent Filipino, and 0.9 percent all other non-white races.

HANDLING OF UNKNOWNNS

Items which are reported as "unknown" or for which no response was provided are not statistically distributed into the frequency distribution. Rather, these items are shown as "not stated" in the tables and graphs throughout this publication.

The only exception to this rule is for race. There are very few instances in which a race cannot be determined. However, when this does occur the race is considered "white" for reporting purposes.

STATISTICAL RATE LIMITATIONS

All statistics are subject to chance variation. Such random variation in a large universe of data has little effect on the quality or usefulness of the data. However, such variation occurring when the number of events is limited or when the population base on which the rate is calculated is small may produce rates which are correct but of limited value for analysis purposes.

In this report rates are given even when there were few occurrences of a particular vital event. Warnings are issued in table footnotes when the rates may be unstable.

A second limitation involves rates calculated using small population bases. In this report such rates are published, but are denoted by an "*" and population base limitations are noted in the table footnotes.

Rates which are subject to these limitations are accurate, but would not be stable for use in certain statistical procedures, especially time analysis.

DEFINITIONS

ANNULMENT – To nullify, to abolish, to make void by competent authority. An "annulment" differs from a divorce in that a divorce terminates a legal status, whereas an annulment establishes that a marital status never existed. Annulments are included with divorces for rate calculation purposes and are available only by place of occurrence.

DIVORCE – The legal separation of man and wife, effected by the judgment or decree of a court, and either totally dissolving the marriage relation, or suspending its effects so far as concerns the cohabitation of the parties. Divorces include annulments for rate calculation purposes and are available only by place of occurrence.

ESTIMATED POPULATION – Estimated

populations are stated as of April 1 of the year for which the estimate is made. The estimated populations used in this volume were produced using data from Population Projections for Alabama counties published by the Alabama State Data Center, Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Alabama. They were derived by using the cohort-survival method.

MARRIAGE – The legal union of one man and one woman as husband and wife. Marriage data are reported by place of occurrence.

OCCURRENCE DATA – Data compiled as to the geographical place the event occurred without regard to residence of the person(s) involved.

RESIDENT DATA – Data compiled as to the usual place of residence without regard to the geographical place where the event occurred.

FORMULAS

$$\text{MARRIAGE RATE} = \frac{\text{Number of Marriages}}{\text{Estimated Midyear Population}} \times 1,000$$

MONTHLY

$$\text{MARRIAGE RATE} = \frac{\text{Number of Marriages During Month}}{\frac{\text{Number of Days in Month}}{\text{Number of Days in Year}}} \times \text{Estimated Midyear Population} \times 1,000$$

$$\text{DIVORCE RATE} = \frac{\text{Number of Divorces and Annulments}}{\text{Estimated Midyear Population}} \times 1,000$$

MONTHLY

$$\text{DIVORCE RATE} = \frac{\text{Number of Divorces and Annulments During Month}}{\frac{\text{Number of Days in Month}}{\text{Number of Days in Year}}} \times \text{Estimated Midyear Population} \times 1,000$$

TIPS ON USING VITAL STATISTICS

This publication serves as a historical recording of the most requested statistics relating to marriages and divorces occurring in Alabama and is a source of information which can be used in further analysis. While many users of vital statistics have a good working knowledge of this subject, others may not fully understand this application and the data limitations. This section discusses special concerns when working with vital statistics.

INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE BY RESIDENCE OR OCCURRENCE

Information on vital events can be produced by the place where the event occurred or by the residence of individuals involved in these events. Information on marriages and divorces is available only for events that occurred in Alabama.

USING TOTALS OR RATES/RATIOS

Vital events can be reported as totals, rates or ratios. Totals will suffice for users who need to know how many times a certain event occurred and do not want to examine a relationship or make a comparison to other areas or different time periods.

When different areas or time periods are being studied, it may be best to use rates or ratios. Populations vary between areas or over time in the same area. Variations in the occurrence of vital events may result from changes in the population and may not indicate a new trend in vital statistics.

Rates or ratios express the occurrence of selected vital events in relation to a set standard. For example, the marriage rate and the divorce rate are expressed per 1,000 total population. These comparisons remove differences among areas of varying sizes or changes in population over time and allow for analysis of changes in vital event patterns.

VITAL EVENT REPORTING LIMITATIONS

Studies on marriage or divorce are restricted by the reporting of these events. Not all variables needed for some studies are required

to be reported by Alabama statute. Studies must be restricted to include only those variables which are reported.

VARIATIONS IN DEFINITIONS

Differences in definitions may pose concern when a comparison is being made between Alabama and other states or the nation. While most definitions are consistent nationwide, there are some vital events which vary in definition. To assure consistency, a user should compare definitions when studying different states or the nation.

Another variation in definitions may occur through revisions over time. When analyzing vital events over time, the user should check for changes in definitions when sudden and unexplained data changes are encountered.

SMALL NUMBER LIMITATIONS

There are two limitations involving small numbers. One involves a small number of occurrences for a particular vital event and the other limitation is when rates or ratios are calculated for a small population even though the number of occurrences of that event may not be considered small. Since this publication serves as a historical recording of the occurrences of vital events in Alabama, small numbers and rates or ratios derived by using small numbers or small populations are published. However, caution should be exercised concerning the use of such data in a study. Statistical stability cannot be assured when small numbers are used in some formulas.

If a simple quote is needed with no analysis over time or comparison to other areas being made, then small numbers should pose no threat to a study. However, if small numbers are being used for more than a simple quote, it may be necessary to utilize alternative methods of calculation. One method, which tends to decrease annual variations, would be to calculate a rate or ratio for a period of years. Another technique would be to perform a more detailed statistical analysis to determine whether differences between rates are statistically significant.

Determination of what constitutes a small number must be made by the individual user in

consideration of the study being conducted. However, numbers smaller than 16 are generally

considered unstable for use in most statistical computations.

CONTRIBUTING SOURCES

SOURCE OF DATA

Certificates and reports of 1996 marriages and divorces which were filed with the state registrar of vital statistics were the primary source of data for this report. United States data, historical data and data from other states were taken from publications of the National Center for Health Statistics.

Population data for census years were obtained from United States Bureau of Census publications each census year. Population estimates for years other than census years were made available by the Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Alabama. Sources of any other special data are footnoted wherever they appear in this report.

SOURCE PUBLICATIONS LIST

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United States 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 1, United States Bureau of Census, Washington, D.C.

Alabama

Certificate of Marriage

State File Number **101**

TYPE IN PERMANENT
BLACK INK. DO NOT USE
GREEN, RED OR BLUE INK.

<p>LICENSE TO MARRY</p> <p>To any person lawfully authorized to solemnize marriages within Alabama: You are hereby authorized to celebrate the rite of matrimony for the persons named below, after which you are required by law to return this license, duly certified under your hand, to the Probate Judge of the issuing county within one month.</p>		<p>1. ISSUING COUNTY</p>	
<p>GROOM</p>		<p>4. RACE—(Specify American Indian, Black, White, etc.)</p>	
<p>2. GROOM'S NAME First Middle Last (Print last name all capitals)</p>		<p>3. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)</p>	
<p>5. RESIDENCE—City, Town, or Location and Zip Code</p>		<p>8. STATE</p>	
<p>6. INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify Yes or No)</p>		<p>7. COUNTY</p>	
<p>9. NO. OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES</p>		<p>11. EDUCATION (Specify ONLY highest grade completed) Elementary or High School (0-12) College (1-4 or 5+)</p>	
<p>10. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED—(Specify, Death, Divorce, Dissolution, Annulment)</p>		<p>12. FATHER'S NAME First Middle Last Maiden Last Name</p>	
<p>13. MOTHER'S NAME First Middle Last</p>		<p>16. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)</p>	
<p>BRIDE</p>		<p>19. INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify Yes or No)</p>	
<p>14. BRIDE'S NAME First Middle Last (Print last name all capitals)</p>		<p>15. BRIDE'S MAIDEN LAST NAME (If different)</p>	
<p>17. RACE—(Specify American Indian, Black, White, etc.)</p>		<p>22. NO. OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES</p>	
<p>18. RESIDENCE—City, Town, or Location and Zip Code</p>		<p>24. EDUCATION (Specify ONLY highest grade completed) Elementary or High School (0-12) College (1-4 or 5+)</p>	
<p>20. COUNTY</p>		<p>26. MOTHER'S NAME First Middle Last</p>	
<p>21. STATE</p>		<p>28. BRIDE—SIGNATURE</p>	
<p>23. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED—(Specify, Death, Divorce, Dissolution, Annulment)</p>		<p>30. ISSUING DATE (Month, Day, Year)</p>	
<p>25. FATHER'S NAME First Middle Last</p>		<p>31. EXPIRATION DATE (Month, Day, Year)</p>	
<p>27. GROOM—SIGNATURE</p>		<p>34. COUNTY</p>	
<p>SIGNATURES</p>		<p>35. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY</p>	
<p>29. JUDGE OF PROBATE—SIGNATURE</p>		<p>36. ADDRESS OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY—Street and Number or RFD Number, City or Town, State, Zip Code</p>	
<p>LOCAL OFFICIAL</p>		<p>37. TITLE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY</p>	
<p>CEREMONY</p>		<p>40. MARRIAGE LICENSE RECORD Book Number Page Number</p>	
<p>32. CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NAMED PERSONS WERE MARRIED ON: (Month, Day, Year)</p>		<p>41. JUDGE OF PROBATE—SIGNATURE</p>	
<p>33. WHERE MARRIED—City, Town, or Location and Zip Code</p>		<p>42. DATE CERTIFICATE RETURNED TO JUDGE OF PROBATE— (Month, Day, Year)</p>	
<p>34. COUNTY</p>		<p>43. DATE CERTIFICATE RETURNED TO JUDGE OF PROBATE— (Month, Day, Year)</p>	
<p>35. SIGNATURE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY</p>		<p>44. MARRIAGE LICENSE RECORD Book Number Page Number</p>	
<p>36. ADDRESS OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY—Street and Number or RFD Number, City or Town, State, Zip Code</p>		<p>45. DATE CERTIFICATE RETURNED TO JUDGE OF PROBATE— (Month, Day, Year)</p>	
<p>37. TITLE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY</p>		<p>46. DATE CERTIFICATE RETURNED TO JUDGE OF PROBATE— (Month, Day, Year)</p>	
<p>LOCAL OFFICIAL</p>		<p>47. DATE CERTIFICATE RETURNED TO JUDGE OF PROBATE— (Month, Day, Year)</p>	

THIS LICENSE IS VOID UNLESS SOLEMNIZED WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM ISSUING DATE.

ALABAMA

CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE

1. TYPE IN PERMANENT BLACK INK. DO NOT USE GREEN, RED, OR BLUE INK.

Petitioner's Representative must file this form with the Circuit Court at the time the petition is filed.		State File Number 101
2. HUSBAND'S NAME Last (Print last name all capitals) Middle First		3. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)
4. RACE—(Specify American Indian, Black, White, Etc.) 5. EDUCATION—(Specify ONLY highest grade completed) Elementary or High School (8-12) College (1-4 or 5+)		6. USUAL RESIDENCE—STATE
7. COUNTY		8. CITY—TOWN OR LOCATION Zip Code
9. INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify Yes or No)		10. ADDRESS—Street and Number or RFD Number
11. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (First, Second, Etc.)		12. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED BY—(Specify Death, Divorce, Dissolution, Annulment)
13. WIFE'S NAME First Middle Last (Print last name all capitals)		14. WIFE'S MAIDEN LAST NAME
15. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)		17. EDUCATION—(Specify ONLY highest grade completed) Elementary or High School (8-12) College (1-4 or 5+)
18. USUAL RESIDENCE—STATE		20. CITY—TOWN OR LOCATION Zip Code
21. INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify Yes or No)		22. ADDRESS—Street and Number or RFD Number
23. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (First, Second, Etc.)		24. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED—(Specify Death, Divorce, Dissolution, Annulment)
25. Give the total number of children for whom custody was determined and indicate the number awarded to each party. Enter a "0" for the total if the custody of no children under 18 was subject to this action. ___ Husband, ___ Joint-Husband/Wife, ___ Wife, ___ Other ___ Total Children/Custody was Determined		26. NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN THIS HOUSEHOLD AS OF THE DATE IN ITEM 27 (Enter "0" if no children)
28. PLACE OF THIS MARRIAGE—(City, County, State)		27. DATE COUPLE SEPARATED (Month, Day, Year)
31. PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY OR REPRESENTATIVE—(Type)		30. PETITIONER— <input type="checkbox"/> Husband <input type="checkbox"/> Wife <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify
33. TYPE OF DECREE—(Specify Divorce, Annulment, etc.)		32. ADDRESS—Street and Number or RFD Number—City—State—Zip
34. DATE OF FINAL DECREE (Month, Day, Year)		35. DECREE AWARDED TO <input type="checkbox"/> Husband <input type="checkbox"/> Wife <input type="checkbox"/> Both
36. DATE OF FINAL DECREE (Month, Day, Year)		37. LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DECREE
38. SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL		39. TITLE OF OFFICIAL
39. TITLE OF OFFICIAL		40. TRIAL DOCKET NUMBER

CIRCUIT CLERK MUST MAIL THIS REPORT BY THE FIFTH (5TH) OF EACH MONTH TO: CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS, P.O. BOX 5625, MONTGOMERY, AL 36103-5625
ADPH-MS 16/Rev. 8-83



PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

CODE	TITLE/DESCRIPTION OF PUBLICATION	
AVE	Alabama Vital Events (1972-1993) This annual publication is available for each year--1972 through 1993--and consists of approximately 275 pages of tables, graphs and charts. Major sections on population, natality, mortality, marriage and divorce present much of the most requested vital events information by race, age, sex, and other demographic variables. Editions since 1986 also contain a section presenting county vital events profiles and sub-sections on low weight births; births to unmarried women; fertility; mortality from major cardiovascular diseases, malignant neoplasms, accidents, suicide, and homicide; infant mortality; fetal mortality; and maternal mortality. Editions prior to 1986 do not contain all of these features. Data presented in this publication are predominantly statewide; however, basic county tabulations are presented in each section and the county profiles should meet most county data needs. Data on larger cities are limited to counts of births and deaths along with populations. NOTE: Hard copies are available for 1976, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993. This publication is available only on microfiche for the years 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1985, and 1989.	Cost \$15.00
AV1	Alabama Vital Events (1994-1996) - Volume I, Pregnancy Statistics This annual publication contains the same information as was presented in the "Natality" section of the <u>Alabama Vital Events</u> publication for the years 1986 through 1993. Additional information on Fetal Deaths and Pregnancies have been included with natality data.	Cost \$10.00
AV2	Alabama Vital Events (1994-1996) - Volume II, Mortality Statistics This annual publication contains the same information as was presented in the "Mortality" section of the <u>Alabama Vital Events</u> publication for the years 1986 through 1993. The sub-section on Fetal Deaths has been moved from this publication into Volume I on Pregnancy Statistics.	Cost \$10.00
AV3	Alabama Vital Events (1994-1996) - Volume III, Marriage and Divorce Statistics This annual publication contains the same information as was presented in the "Marriage" and "Divorce" sections of the <u>Alabama Vital Events</u> publication for the years 1986 through 1993.	Cost \$10.00
AV4	Alabama Vital Events (1994-1996) - Volume IV, County Profiles This annual publication is an enhancement of the "Area Profile" section of the <u>Alabama Vital Events</u> publication for the years 1986 through 1993. Additional information has been included to make profile contents more valuable to the user.	Cost \$10.00
AV5	Alabama Vital Events - Volume V, Life Expectancy (1995) This publication contains tables on life expectancy by race, sex, and age group for residents of Alabama. The first edition of this volume of the <u>Alabama Vital Events</u> publication is published for 1995 and quinquennially thereafter.	Cost \$10.00
AVX	Alabama Vital Events (1996) - Volumes I-IV This code should be given when ordering a complete set of Volumes 1 through IV of the <u>Alabama Vital Events</u> publication. Part V on life expectancy will be included at no additional costs during years for which this part is published.	Cost \$40.00
DMS	Detailed Mortality Statistics This annual publication is available for each year--1978 through 1996--and consists of a listing of causes of death at the four-digit International Classification of Disease Code level with the numbers of Alabama residents dying during the year from each cause by race, sex, and age grouping. This publication contains approximately 150 pages. NOTE: Hard copies are available for all years except 1982, which is available only on microfiche.	Cost \$10.00
ABR	Alabama Births by Residence and Occurrence This annual publication is available for each year--1979 through 1994--and consists of tables referencing births by the mother's county of residence and the county where the birth occurred and vice versa. The format of this publication was changed in 1989, but all years contain the same information. This publication contains approximately 26 pages. NOTE: Hard copies are available for all years.	Cost \$10.00
TBS	Teenage Birth Statistics This annual publication is available for each year--1977 through 1994--and consists of approximately 29 pages of tables, graphs, and charts. Major sections include live births, births to unmarried women, low weight births, fetal deaths, and births by the month prenatal care began. There are detailed tables indicating totals and ratios or rates by county, race, and selected age groupings for live births, births to unmarried women, low weight births, births for which congenital malformations were reported, fetal deaths, and infant deaths. The contents of this publication were increased in 1986 to include information on infant deaths and a comparison of selected information between Alabama and the United States. NOTE: Hard copies are available for all years except 1981, which is available only on microfiche.	Cost \$10.00

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS - continued

MCH Selected Maternal and Child Health Statistics

Cost \$10.00

This annual publication contains selected information on pregnancy and events related to pregnancy including live births, fetal deaths, perinatal deaths and infant deaths. Information on deaths to Alabama residents under 20 years of age is also included. Publication contents are intended to provide information to policy makers and planners on topics of interest in maternal and child health. This publication, a supplement to Alabama Vital Events, contains approximately 97 pages and is available for 1993 through 1996.

(Additional publications on selected subjects are available upon request. The lower part of the page may be copied or detached and used as an order form. Please send check or money order made payable to the Center for Health Statistics along with your request since payment must be received prior to filling the order.)

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