

# MARRIAGE & DIVORCE STATISTICS

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VITAL EVENTS

VOLUME III

1997



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CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS  
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## 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 "Natality" 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 1997. 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.

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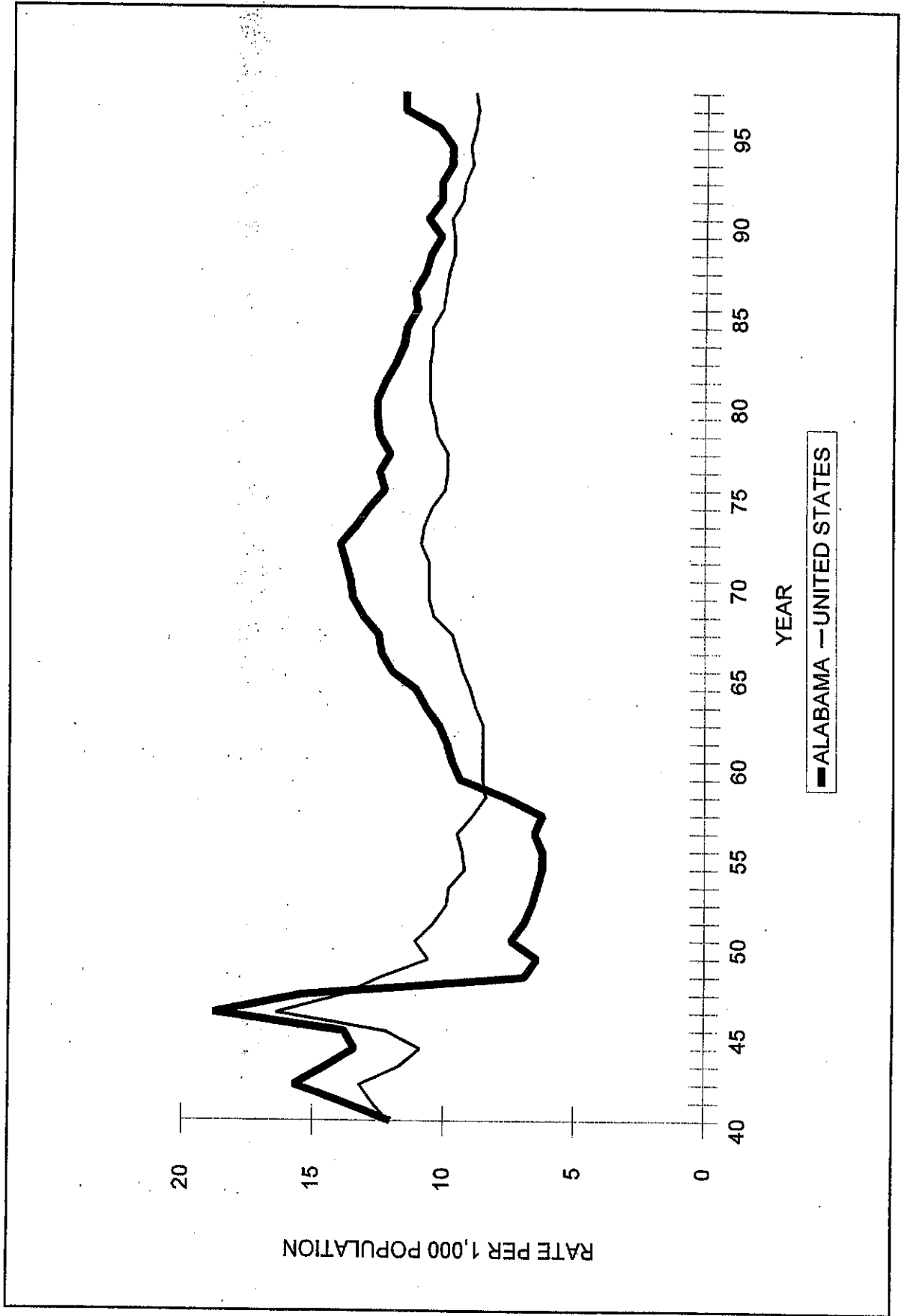


# **MARRIAGE STATISTICS**

## 1997 MARRIAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- There were 47,926 marriages in 1997 for the highest total since 1981.
- The 1997 Alabama marriage rate remained the same as 1996, 11.6 marriages per 1,000 population.
- Alabama's marriage rate has been higher than the US rate since 1959.
- There were 36,207 marriages to white Alabamians in 1997, 373 fewer than in 1996.
- There were 11,719 marriages to black and other race Alabamians in 1997, the highest total since 1947.
- The 1997 marriage rate was 11.9 for whites and 10.7 for black and others. The white marriage rate has exceeded the black and other rate since 1957 but in 1997, the difference between the rates was the smallest since 1958.
- The percent of marriages in which the bride and groom were of different races has steadily increased from 1.3 percent in 1988 to 3 percent in 1997. There were 1,453 such marriages in 1997.
- The median age was 27 years for brides and 29 years for grooms in 1997. For first marriages, the median age was lower, 23 years for brides and 25 years for grooms.
- Russell County's marriage rate of 34.0 was the highest in the state. Over the last 10 years Russell has had the highest marriage rate eight times and its rate has increased 92.1 percent.
- Washington County's marriage rate has been the second or third highest rate in the state since 1989.
- Wilcox had the lowest marriage rate in 1997, 6.2 per 1,000 population. Wilcox has had the lowest marriage rate in Alabama four times in the past 10 years.
- Shelby, Macon and Bullock have been among the counties with the lowest rates in the state for the past three years.
- Of all 1997 brides and grooms with known previous marital status, 41.9 percent of the brides and 40.9 percent of the grooms previously had been divorced. In contrast, 34.0 percent of the brides and 36.6 percent of the grooms had previously been divorced in 1978.
- June was the most popular marriage month with 5,004 marriages, while January was the least popular with 2,649 marriages.

**FIGURE 1**  
**MARRIAGE RATES**  
**ALABAMA AND UNITED STATES, 1940-1997**



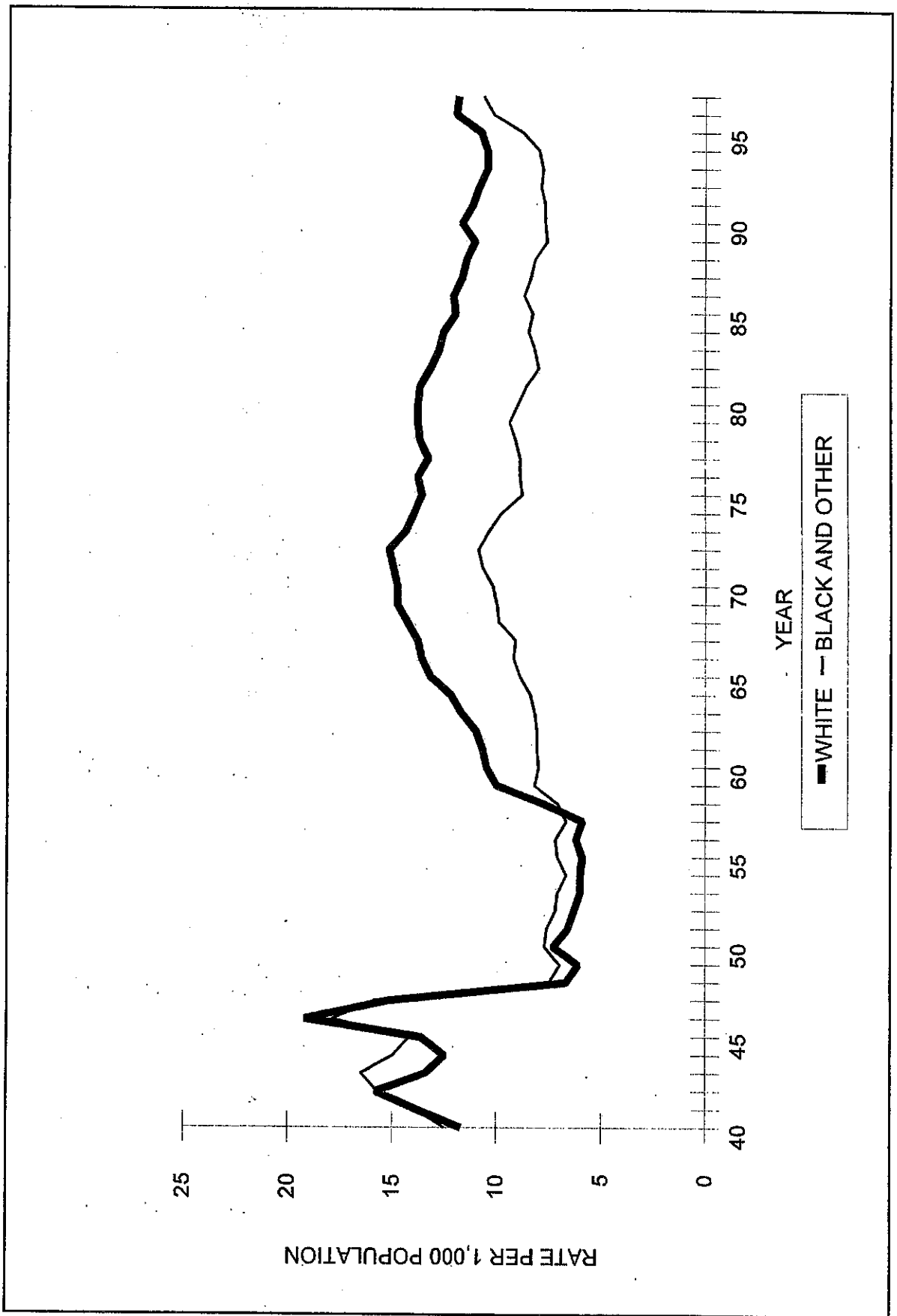
**TABLE 1**  
**MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES<sup>1</sup>**  
**BY RACE OF GROOM**  
**ALABAMA AND UNITED STATES, 1940-1997**

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	46,550	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
1966	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 <sup>2</sup>	33,480	11.2	8,292	7.7
1992	41,326	10.2	9.3 <sup>2</sup>	32,842	10.9	8,484	7.9
1993	40,156	9.8	9.0 <sup>2</sup>	31,746	10.5	8,410	7.8
1994	40,201	9.8	9.1 <sup>2</sup>	31,607	10.5	8,594	8.0
1995	42,234	10.3	8.9 <sup>2</sup>	32,707	10.8	9,527	8.8
1996	47,729	11.6	8.8 <sup>2</sup>	36,580	12.0	11,149	10.2
1997	47,926	11.6	8.9 <sup>2</sup>	36,207	11.9	11,719	10.7

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

<sup>2</sup> Provisional data.

**FIGURE 2**  
**MARRIAGE RATES BY RACE OF GROOM**  
**ALABAMA, 1940-1997**



**TABLE 2**  
**MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES<sup>1</sup>**  
**BY RACE OF GROOM AND COUNTY**  
**ALABAMA, 1997**

COUNTY	TOTAL		WHITE		BLACK AND OTHER	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>36,207</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>11,719</b>	<b>10.7</b>
Autauga	380	10.6	318	11.0	62	9.1
Baldwin	1,799	16.1	1,597	16.3	202	14.2
Barbour	312	12.1	186	13.1	126	11.0
Bibb	202	11.7	174	12.7	28	8.1
Blount	455	11.1	445	11.0	10	14.0*
Bullock	85	7.6	25	9.2	60	7.1
Butler	206	9.5	135	10.7	71	7.9
Calhoun	1,400	12.2	1,165	12.8	235	10.0
Chambers	524	14.7	349	15.5	175	13.5
Cherokee	367	18.4	353	18.9	14	11.0
Chilton	427	12.6	388	12.9	39	10.1
Choctaw	191	12.3	124	14.5	67	9.6
Clarke	323	11.9	194	12.6	129	11.1
Clay	195	15.0	169	15.6	26	12.1
Cleburne	197	15.3	190	15.5	7	11.5*
Coffee	524	12.6	396	11.8	128	16.1
Colbert	559	11.2	466	11.3	93	10.9
Conecuh	137	10.4	84	11.4	53	9.1
Coosa	119	10.9	96	13.5	23	6.0
Covington	538	14.9	468	15.0	70	14.3
Crenshaw	117	8.8	95	9.7	22	6.3
Cullman	825	11.6	811	11.5	14	15.9*
Dale	486	9.7	380	9.6	106	10.0
Dallas	471	10.6	218	12.3	253	9.4
DeKalb	661	11.9	650	12.1	11	5.6
Elmore	717	13.5	602	14.7	115	9.7
Escambia	614	18.2	435	18.7	179	17.1
Etowah	1,228	12.7	1,083	13.2	145	9.7
Fayette	210	12.1	189	12.4	21	9.7
Franklin	383	14.0	362	13.9	21	15.3
Geneva	288	12.4	257	12.7	31	10.7
Greene	94	9.7	31	17.7	63	7.9
Hale	145	9.4	70	10.8	75	8.4
Henry	135	8.7	95	9.3	40	7.7
Houston	1,216	14.2	898	14.0	318	14.8
Jackson	664	14.5	643	15.3	21	5.9
Jefferson	6,823	10.4	4,158	10.4	2,665	10.3
Lamar	360	23.7	294	22.1	66	35.1
Lauderdale	902	11.5	818	11.6	84	10.4
Lawrence	335	10.2	291	11.9	44	5.3
Lee	972	10.5	689	10.0	283	11.8
Limestone	547	9.2	475	9.1	72	9.7
Lowndes	104	8.4	23	7.4	81	8.8
Macon	159	6.7	33	10.4	126	6.2
Madison	2,703	10.0	2,028	9.8	675	10.7
Marengo	254	11.6	138	12.4	116	10.6
Marion	495	16.8	471	16.7	24	19.6
Marshall	875	11.8	858	11.8	17	10.6
Mobile	4,398	11.4	3,112	12.0	1,286	10.1
Monroe	261	10.5	157	10.3	104	10.9
Montgomery	2,204	10.1	1,181	9.8	1,023	10.4
Morgan	1,096	10.2	943	10.0	153	12.4
Perry	102	9.0	51	14.0	51	6.6
Pickens	278	13.7	195	16.6	83	9.8
Pike	337	12.5	217	12.4	120	12.6
Randolph	295	14.9	241	15.9	54	11.6
Russell	1,565	34.0	972	34.4	593	33.3
St. Clair	586	10.5	538	10.6	48	9.6
Shelby	876	7.1	792	6.9	84	8.7
Sumter	224	14.5	137	31.7	87	7.8
Talladega	899	12.2	661	13.0	238	10.2
Tallapoosa	444	11.3	334	11.6	110	10.6
Tuscaloosa	1,387	8.7	979	8.5	408	9.5
Walker	756	11.3	709	11.4	47	10.6
Washington	328	19.7	252	23.3	76	12.9
Wilcox	79	6.2	33	8.4	46	5.2
Winston	288	13.1	286	13.1	2	13.4*

<sup>1</sup>Rate 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 "\*".



**TABLE 3  
MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATES<sup>1</sup>  
BY MONTH OF OCCURRENCE  
ALABAMA, 1997**

MONTH	NUMBER	MONTHLY MARRIAGE RATE
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>11.6</b>
January	2,649	7.5
February	3,878	12.2
March	4,069	11.6
April	3,792	11.1
May	4,608	13.1
June	5,004	14.7
July	4,220	12.0
August	4,951	14.1
September	3,784	11.1
October	3,740	10.6
November	3,442	10.1
December	3,789	10.8

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

**TABLE 4  
MARRIAGES BY OFFICIAL PERFORMING CEREMONY  
ALABAMA, 1997**

OFFICIAL	NUMBER	PERCENT
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Minister	27,819	58.0
Judge of Probate	16,212	33.8
Probate Clerk	2,106	4.4
Judge, Other than Probate	982	2.0
Other Official	804	1.7
Not Stated	3	0.0

**TABLE 5  
MARRIAGES BY RACE OF BRIDE AND GROOM  
ALABAMA, 1997**

RACE OF GROOM	RACE OF BRIDE				
	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK	OTHER	NOT STATED
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>36,567</b>	<b>10,895</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>51</b>
White	36,151	35,646	258	220	27
Black	11,265	620	10,590	48	7
Other	454	263	44	145	2
Not Stated	56	38	3	0	15



**TABLE 6  
MARRIAGES BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS  
ALABAMA, 1997**

GROOM	BRIDE				
	TOTAL	NEVER MARRIED	WIDOWED	DIVORCED	NOT STATED
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>25,517</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>19,656</b>	<b>1,047</b>
Never Married	26,243	20,518	216	5,319	190
Widowed	1,515	164	596	747	8
Divorced	19,197	4,703	880	13,408	206
Not Stated	971	132	14	182	643

**TABLE 7  
MARRIAGES BY AGE AND RACE OF BRIDE AND GROOM  
ALABAMA, 1997**

AGE GROUP	BRIDE			GROOM		
	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK & OTHER	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK & OTHER
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>36,618</b>	<b>11,308</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>36,207</b>	<b>11,719</b>
Under 15	75	67	8	2	2	0
15-19	6,301	5,599	702	2,678	2,352	326
20-24	12,672	9,871	2,801	11,670	9,248	2,422
25-29	9,452	6,792	2,660	10,652	7,805	2,847
30-34	6,129	4,230	1,899	6,988	4,892	2,096
35-39	4,704	3,402	1,302	5,166	3,729	1,437
40-44	3,403	2,511	892	3,708	2,696	1,012
45-49	2,281	1,727	554	2,696	2,039	657
50-54	1,198	985	213	1,671	1,328	343
55-59	626	508	118	949	741	208
60-64	417	344	73	628	465	163
65-69	319	274	45	472	376	96
70-74	195	177	18	299	246	53
75+	139	120	19	342	284	58
Not Stated	15	11	4	5	4	1

**TABLE 8  
MARRIAGES BY EDUCATION OF BRIDE AND GROOM  
ALABAMA, 1997**

EDUCATION OF GROOM BY GRADE	EDUCATION OF BRIDE BY GRADE							
	TOTAL	0-5	6-8	9-11	12	13-15	16+	NOT STATED
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>7,527</b>	<b>16,228</b>	<b>13,268</b>	<b>8,031</b>	<b>1,517</b>
0-5	206	17	39	64	56	21	7	2
6-8	1,557	20	283	580	447	178	43	6
9-11	7,503	21	453	2,898	2,678	1,224	194	35
12	18,635	16	377	2,966	8,962	4,797	1,427	90
13-15	10,834	6	93	849	2,970	4,866	2,007	53
16+	7,794	4	18	153	1,073	2,176	4,340	30
Not Stated	1,397	3	5	17	42	16	13	1,301

**TABLE 9  
PREVIOUS MARRIAGES BY AGE OF BRIDE  
ALABAMA, 1997**

AGE OF BRIDE	NUMBER OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES						
	TOTAL	NONE	1	2	3	4+	NOT STATED
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>25,517</b>	<b>13,705</b>	<b>5,554</b>	<b>1,811</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>615</b>
UNDER 15	75	73	0	0	0	0	2
15-19	6,301	5,879	210	4	0	0	208
20-24	12,672	10,477	1,770	187	14	2	222
25-29	9,452	5,382	3,108	710	127	16	109
30-34	6,129	2,032	2,683	1,030	269	75	40
35-39	4,704	939	2,087	1,143	369	149	17
40-44	3,403	411	1,482	936	377	189	8
45-49	2,281	174	975	690	293	148	1
50-54	1,198	67	515	363	169	81	3
55-59	626	40	299	179	74	33	1
60-64	417	17	213	127	49	10	1
65-69	319	8	181	88	34	8	0
70-74	195	5	109	49	26	5	1
75+	139	3	72	45	10	8	1
Not Stated	15	10	1	3	0	0	1

**TABLE 10  
PREVIOUS MARRIAGES BY AGE OF GROOM  
ALABAMA, 1997**

AGE OF GROOM	NUMBER OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES						
	TOTAL	NONE	1	2	3	4+	NOT STATED
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>26,243</b>	<b>13,794</b>	<b>5,164</b>	<b>1,521</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>602</b>
Under 15	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
15-19	2,678	2,564	23	0	0	2	89
20-24	11,670	10,420	935	45	4	2	264
25-29	10,652	7,477	2,622	359	43	6	145
30-34	6,988	3,260	2,763	757	131	25	52
35-39	5,166	1,429	2,421	985	237	71	23
40-44	3,708	625	1,726	939	296	112	10
45-49	2,696	244	1,207	774	306	151	14
50-54	1,671	107	698	535	230	100	1
55-59	949	55	439	269	120	64	2
60-64	628	31	301	185	71	38	2
65-69	472	19	258	135	43	17	0
70-74	299	4	173	95	19	8	0
75+	342	4	226	85	21	6	0
Not Stated	5	2	2	1	0	0	0

**TABLE 11  
MARRIAGES BY AGE AND PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS  
ALABAMA, 1997**

AGE GROUP	BRIDE'S PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS					GROOM'S PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS				
	TOTAL	SINGLE	WIDOWED	DIVORCED	NOT STATED	TOTAL	SINGLE	WIDOWED	DIVORCED	NOT STATED
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>25,517</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>19,656</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>26,243</b>	<b>1,515</b>	<b>19,197</b>	<b>971</b>
Under 15	75	73	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0
15-19	6,301	5,879	3	203	216	2,678	2,564	1	22	91
20-24	12,672	10,477	28	1,900	267	11,670	10,420	13	950	287
25-29	9,452	5,382	62	3,816	192	10,652	7,477	29	2,936	210
30-34	6,129	2,032	105	3,880	112	6,988	3,260	52	3,563	113
35-39	4,704	939	151	3,530	84	5,166	1,429	84	3,571	82
40-44	3,403	411	176	2,734	82	3,708	625	99	2,928	56
45-49	2,281	174	205	1,861	41	2,696	244	111	2,279	62
50-54*	1,198	67	189	916	26	1,671	107	146	1,390	28
55-59	626	40	174	401	11	949	55	148	731	15
60-64	417	17	184	213	3	628	31	170	412	15
65-69	319	8	191	116	4	472	19	213	234	6
70-74	195	5	131	54	5	299	4	187	105	3
75+ .	139	3	106	29	1	342	4	262	73	3
Not Stated	15	10	1	3	1	5	2	0	3	0

**TABLE 12  
MARRIAGES BY AGE OF BRIDE BY AGE OF GROOM  
ALABAMA, 1997**

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+
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>6,301</b>	<b>12,672</b>	<b>9,452</b>	<b>6,129</b>	<b>4,704</b>	<b>3,403</b>	<b>2,281</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>15</b>
Under 15	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-19	2,678	40	1,950	581	73	19	7	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
20-24	11,670	23	3,372	6,378	1,405	328	106	37	10	6	0	1	0	0	0	4
25-29	10,652	3	735	4,092	4,042	1,199	398	121	33	17	4	2	1	0	1	4
30-34	6,988	7	165	1,079	2,401	1,919	926	346	105	29	8	1	0	0	0	2
35-39	5,166	1	48	359	936	1,505	1,382	626	230	58	5	9	4	2	1	0
40-44	3,708	1	16	115	375	694	1,005	929	408	116	30	10	4	1	3	1
45-49	2,696	0	8	47	135	277	554	728	649	206	65	18	4	2	1	2
50-54	1,671	0	4	9	50	126	186	372	451	307	110	38	12	4	2	0
55-59	949	0	1	5	20	36	85	143	214	224	150	52	12	4	3	0
60-64	628	0	0	2	8	18	25	64	103	130	126	94	44	10	4	0
65-69	472	0	0	2	4	3	21	23	46	67	83	98	78	37	9	1
70-74	299	0	0	2	1	3	6	5	20	17	27	57	82	57	22	0
75+	342	0	0	0	1	1	3	5	9	19	18	37	78	78	93	0
Not Stated	5	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

**TABLE 13**  
**MARRIAGES OCCURRING IN ALABAMA**  
**BY STATE, TERRITORY, OR COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE**  
**OF BRIDE AND GROOM**  
**1997**

STATE, TERRITORY OR COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE	BRIDE		GROOM	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>47,926</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Alabama	42,441	88.56	41,655	86.92
Alaska	5	0.01	7	0.01
Arizona	13	0.03	21	0.04
Arkansas	30	0.06	33	0.07
California	52	0.11	66	0.14
Colorado	15	0.03	25	0.05
Connecticut	4	0.01	6	0.01
Delaware	4	0.01	4	0.01
District of Columbia	2	0.00	2	0.00
Florida	765	1.60	887	1.85
Georgia	1,861	3.88	2,012	4.20
Hawaii	2	0.00	6	0.01
Idaho	0	0.00	3	0.01
Illinois	58	0.12	75	0.16
Indiana	35	0.07	43	0.09
Iowa	9	0.02	8	0.02
Kansas	10	0.02	15	0.03
Kentucky	28	0.06	46	0.10
Louisiana	109	0.23	139	0.29
Maine	2	0.00	3	0.01
Maryland	20	0.04	29	0.06
Massachusetts	4	0.01	6	0.01
Michigan	51	0.11	62	0.13
Minnesota	5	0.01	11	0.02
Mississippi	1,509	3.15	1,602	3.34
Missouri	32	0.07	40	0.08
Montana	2	0.00	5	0.01
Nebraska	10	0.02	9	0.02
Nevada	5	0.01	6	0.01
New Hampshire	1	0.00	3	0.01
New Jersey	18	0.04	22	0.05
New Mexico	7	0.01	11	0.02
New York	40	0.08	53	0.11
North Carolina	64	0.13	112	0.23
North Dakota	0	0.00	1	0.00
Ohio	46	0.10	51	0.11
Oklahoma	25	0.05	33	0.07
Oregon	9	0.02	4	0.01
Pennsylvania	35	0.07	32	0.07
Rhode Island	1	0.00	2	0.00
South Carolina	32	0.07	51	0.11
South Dakota	2	0.00	2	0.00
Tennessee	273	0.57	370	0.77
Texas	128	0.27	168	0.35
Utah	6	0.01	2	0.00
Vermont	0	0.00	2	0.00
Virginia	36	0.08	63	0.13
Washington	16	0.03	21	0.04
West Virginia	7	0.01	6	0.01
Wisconsin	25	0.05	24	0.05
Wyoming	2	0.00	3	0.01
Panama Canal Zone	0	0.00	0	0.00
Puerto Rico	2	0.00	3	0.00
Guam	1	0.00	1	0.00
Virgin Islands	0	0.00	0	0.00
American Samoa	0	0.00	0	0.00
Marshall Islands	0	0.00	0	0.00
Canada	6	0.00	8	0.00
Mexico	0	0.00	1	0.00
Cuba	0	0.00	0	0.00
Remainder of the World	61	0.13	50	0.10



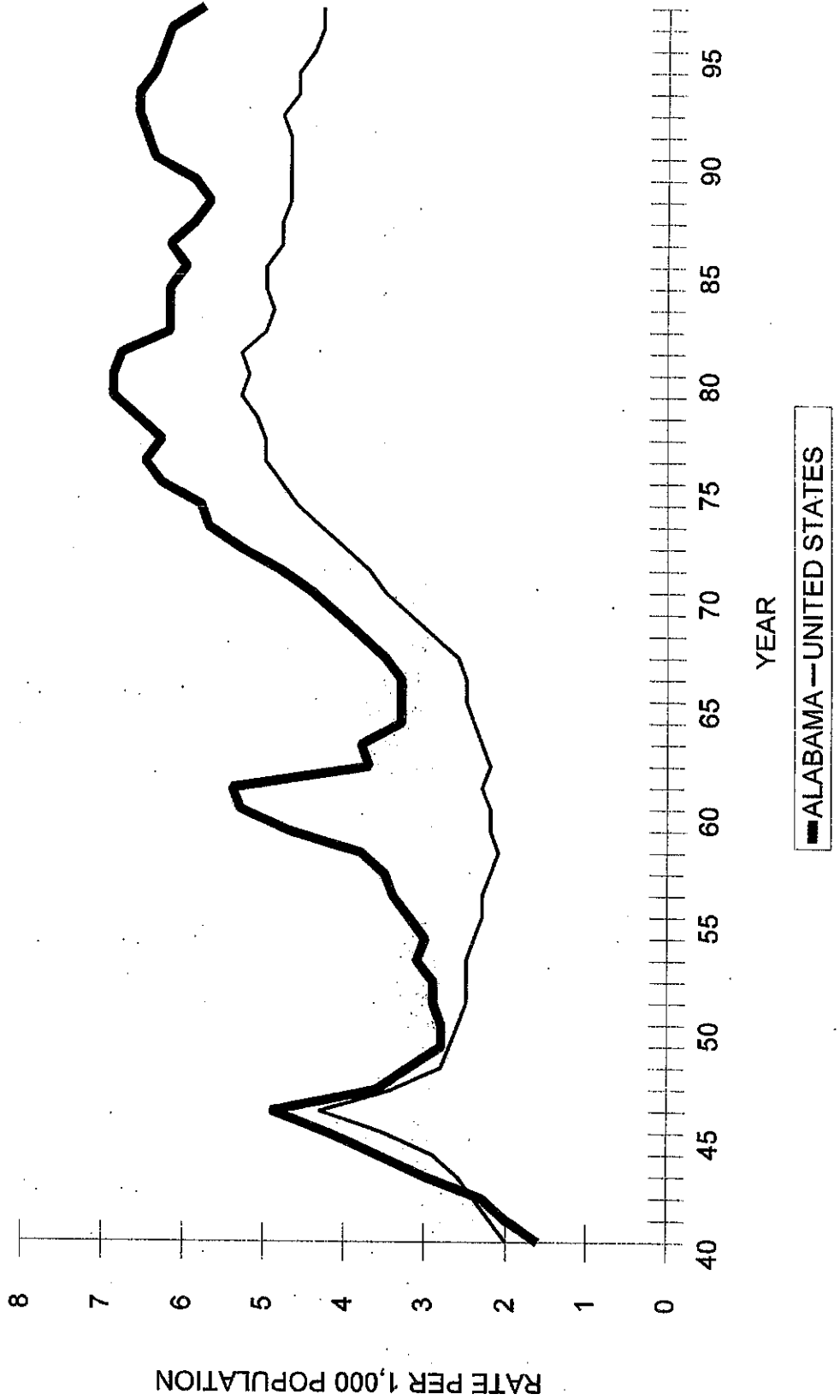
# **DIVORCE STATISTICS**

## 1997 Divorce Highlights

- Divorces decreased from 25,704 in 1996 to 23,851 in 1997.
- Alabama's divorce rate has exceeded the U.S. rate since 1943.
- Alabama's 1997 rate of 5.8 divorces per 1,000 population decreased slightly for the fourth straight year and was the lowest rate since 1988.
- In 1997, 95.5 percent of all divorces were granted on the grounds of incompatibility. First allowed as a legal grounds for divorce in 1971, incompatibility has replaced nearly all other legal grounds as the cause of divorce in Alabama.
- More than half (61.9 percent) of the 1997 divorces were granted jointly to both husband and wife. In 1977 only 10.5 percent of the divorces were granted jointly.
- The median length of marriage ending in divorce in 1997 was 6.4 years. Alabamians who were divorced in 1997 were married one year longer, on average, than those divorced in 1987.
- The shortest duration of marriage ending in divorce was 7 days, and the longest duration of marriage ending in divorce was 61 years.
- Nearly one third (32.0 percent) of all 1997 divorces were for marriages of 10 or more years duration; 7.3 percent of divorces were granted for marriages that lasted less than one year.
- While the median age of the divorced man was 37 years, men's ages ranged from 17 to 91 years.
- For women divorced in 1997, the median age was 34 years, and the ages ranged from 15 to 90 years.
- More than 18,761 minor children were affected by 1997 divorces.
- Nearly half (11,460) of all divorces involved minor children.
- Marshall County's 1997 rate of 8.9 divorces per 1,000 population was the highest among Alabama counties. The next highest rate was 8.3 for Cleburne, Houston, and Russell Counties. Russell County also had the highest marriage rate, 34.0.
- Blount County had the lowest rate, 1.4 divorces per 1,000 population.



**FIGURE 5**  
**DIVORCE RATES**  
**ALABAMA AND UNITED STATES, 1940-1997**



**TABLE 14**  
**DIVORCES AND DIVORCE RATES<sup>1</sup>**  
**ALABAMA AND UNITED STATES, 1940-1997**

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 <sup>2</sup>
1992	26,944	6.6	4.8 <sup>2</sup>
1993	27,126	6.6	4.6 <sup>2</sup>
1994	26,259	6.4	4.6 <sup>2</sup>
1995	25,813	6.3	4.4 <sup>2</sup>
1996	25,704	6.2	4.3 <sup>2</sup>
1997	23,851	5.8	4.3 <sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> Provisional data.

**TABLE 15**  
**DIVORCES, ANNULMENTS AND DIVORCE RATES<sup>1</sup>**  
**BY COUNTY OF DECREE**  
**ALABAMA, 1997**

COUNTY	TOTAL	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS	RATE
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,851</b>	<b>23,812</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Autauga	241	241	0	6.7
Baldwin	526	525	1	4.7
Barbour	126	126	0	4.9
Bibb	107	106	1	6.2
Blount	56	56	0	1.4
Bullock	31	31	0	2.8
Butler	115	115	0	5.3
Calhoun	894	894	0	7.8
Chambers	193	193	0	5.4
Cherokee	118	118	0	5.9
Chilton	239	239	0	7.1
Choctaw	68	68	0	4.4
Clarke	105	105	0	3.9
Clay	77	77	0	5.9
Cleburne	107	107	0	8.3
Coffee	226	225	1	5.5
Colbert	311	311	0	6.3
Conecuh	48	48	0	3.6
Coosa	39	39	0	3.6
Covington	179	179	0	5.0
Crenshaw	40	40	0	3.0
Cullman	457	455	2	6.4
Dale	403	402	1	8.0
Dallas	235	234	1	5.3
DeKalb	266	266	0	4.8
Elmore	371	370	1	7.0
Escambia	181	181	0	5.4
Etowah	635	630	5	6.5
Fayette	102	102	0	5.9
Franklin	83	83	0	3.0
Geneva	145	144	1	6.3
Greene	31	31	0	3.2
Hale	56	56	0	3.6
Henry	51	51	0	3.3
Houston	712	710	2	8.3
Jackson	251	251	0	5.5
Jefferson	3,866	3,864	2	6.1
Lamar	82	82	0	5.4
Lauderdale	425	424	1	5.4
Lawrence	215	215	0	6.5
Lee	448	448	0	4.8
Limestone	194	194	0	3.3
Lowndes	41	41	0	3.3
Macon	74	74	0	3.1
Madison	1,620	1,617	3	6.0
Marengo	124	124	0	5.6
Marion	203	203	0	6.9
Marshall	662	659	3	8.9
Mobile	2,315	2,311	4	6.0
Monroe	93	93	0	3.7
Montgomery	1,252	1,252	0	5.7
Morgan	788	788	0	7.4
Perry	33	33	0	2.9
Pickens	43	42	1	2.1
Pike	152	152	0	5.6
Randolph	135	135	0	6.8
Russell	381	381	0	8.3
St. Clair	309	309	0	5.5
Shelby	582	581	1	4.7
Sumter	46	46	0	3.0
Talladega	532	524	8	7.2
Tallapoosa	264	264	0	6.7
Tuscaloosa	496	496	0	3.1
Walker	413	413	0	6.2
Washington	97	97	0	5.8
Wilcox	24	24	0	1.9
Winston	117	117	0	5.3

<sup>1</sup>Rate 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, 1997**

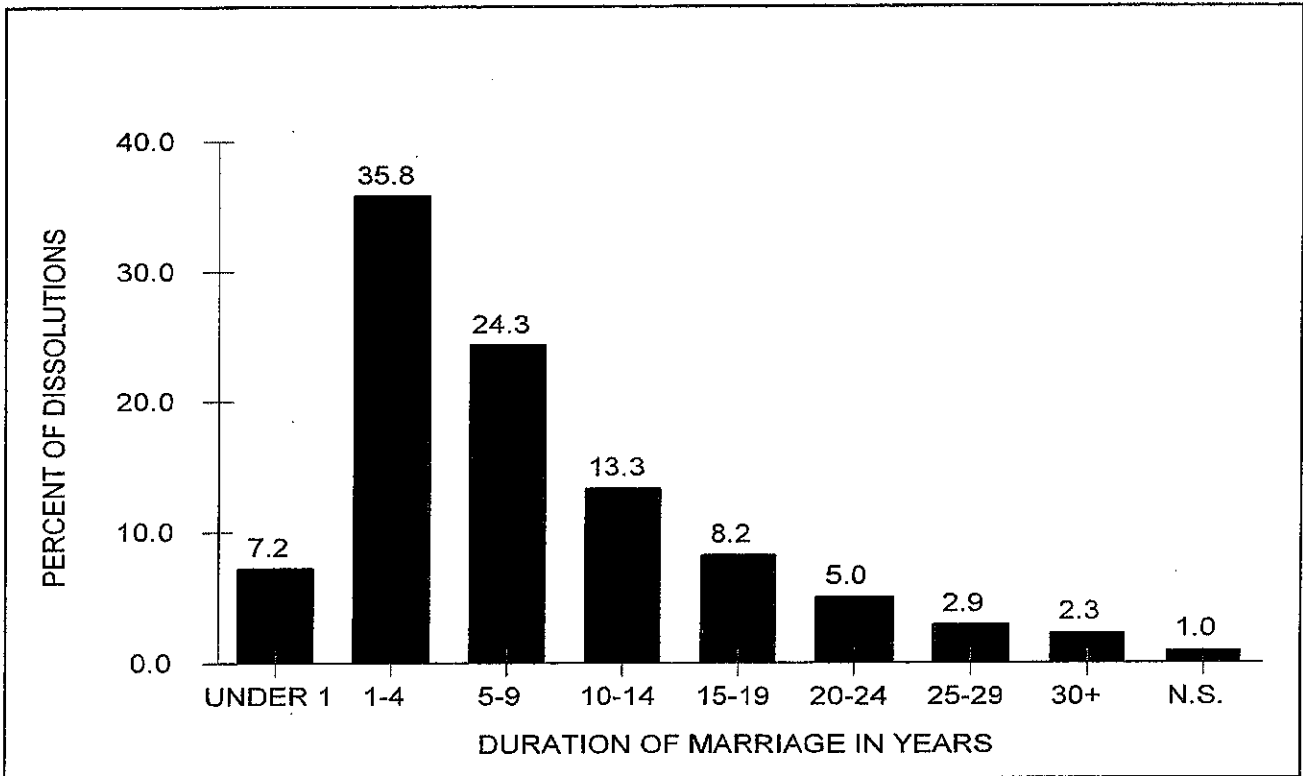
DURATION OF MARRIAGE (IN YEARS)	TOTAL	NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN <sup>1</sup>											NOT STATED
		NONE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,851</b>	<b>12,021</b>	<b>5,905</b>	<b>4,186</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>370</b>	
UNDER 1	1,726	1,443	161	62	14	2	2	1	0	1	0	40	
1-4	8,537	5,245	2,274	726	115	30	6	2	0	0	0	139	
5-9	5,800	2,417	1,673	1,288	292	42	6	3	1	0	0	78	
10-14	3,184	986	752	1,012	332	55	13	1	0	1	0	32	
15-19	1,944	468	447	692	237	62	7	4	2	1	1	23	
20-24	1,193	426	356	296	79	16	2	2	2	0	0	14	
25-29	690	447	156	51	10	5	0	1	0	0	0	20	
30-34	292	252	23	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	
35-39	131	118	7	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	
40+	132	124	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
NOT STATED	222	95	55	51	10	2	1	1	0	0	0	7	

<sup>1</sup> Children 18 years of age and under are considered minors in Alabama.

**TABLE 17  
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS  
BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE  
ALABAMA, 1997**

DURATION OF MARRIAGE (IN YEARS)	TOTAL	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,851</b>	<b>23,812</b>	<b>39</b>
UNDER 1	1,726	1,694	32
1 - 4	8,537	8,533	4
5 - 9	5,800	5,798	2
10 - 14	3,184	3,184	0
15 - 19	1,944	1,943	1
20 - 24	1,193	1,193	0
25 - 29	690	690	0
30 - 34	292	292	0
35 - 39	131	131	0
40+	132	132	0
NOT STATED	222	222	0

**FIGURE 7  
DISTRIBUTION OF DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS  
BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE  
ALABAMA, 1997**

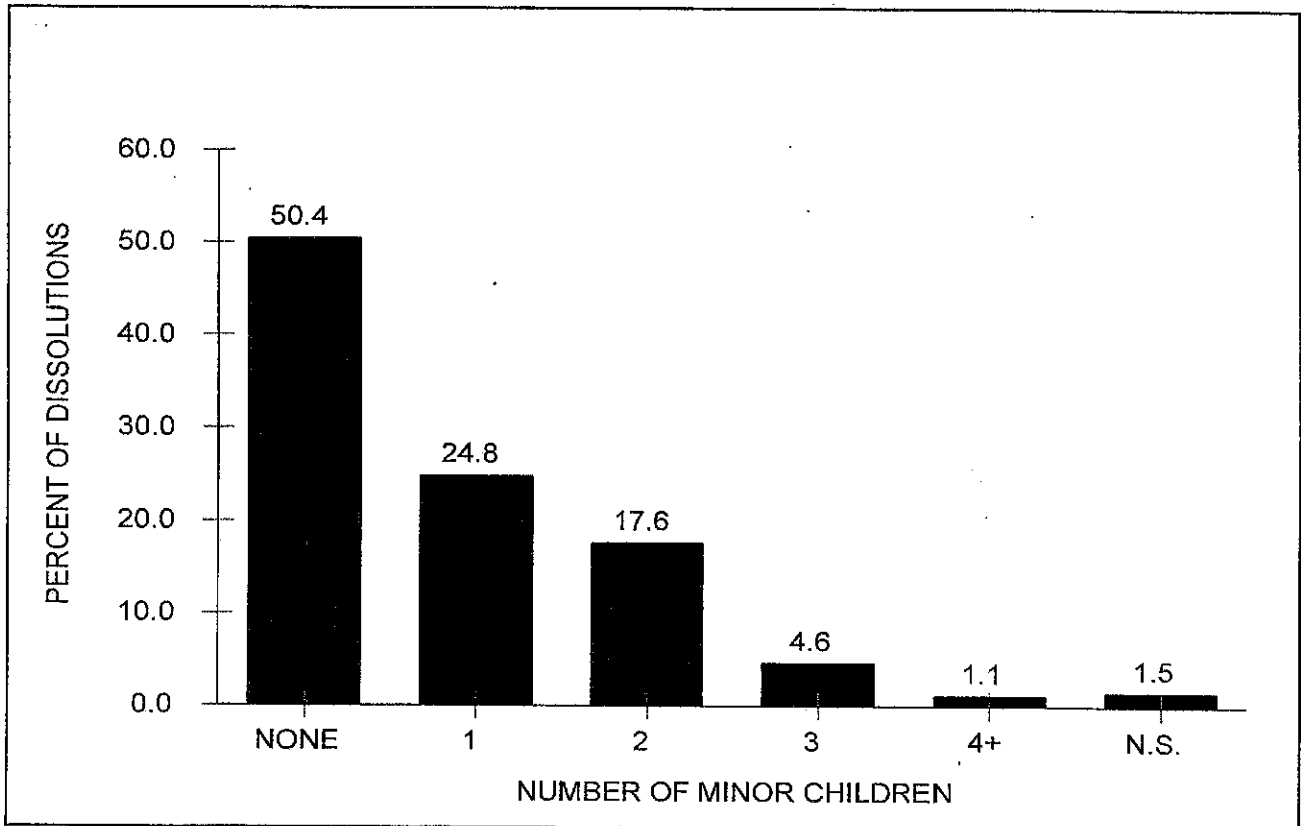


**TABLE 18  
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS  
BY NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN  
ALABAMA, 1997**

NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,851</b>	<b>23,812</b>	<b>39</b>
NONE	12,021	11,991	30
1	5,905	5,902	3
2	4,186	4,183	3
3	1,092	1,091	1
4	215	215	0
5	38	37	1
6	15	15	0
7	5	5	0
8	3	3	0
9+	1	1	0
NOT STATED	370	369	1

<sup>1</sup>Children 18 years of age and under are considered minors in Alabama.

**FIGURE 8  
DISTRIBUTION OF DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS  
BY NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN  
ALABAMA, 1997**

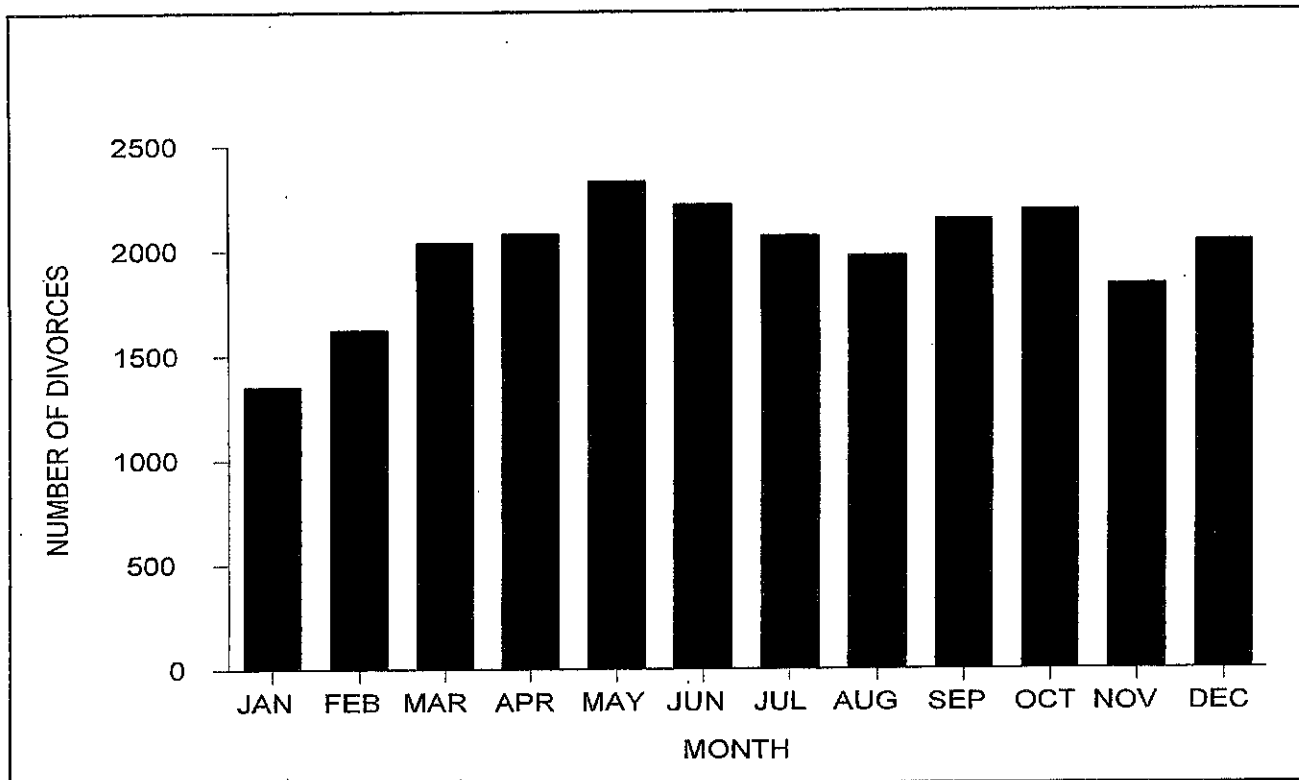


**TABLE 19  
DIVORCES AND DIVORCE RATES<sup>1</sup>  
BY MONTH OF DECREE  
ALABAMA, 1997**

MONTH	TOTAL	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS	MONTHLY DIVORCE RATE
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,851</b>	<b>23,812</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5.8</b>
JANUARY	1,351	1,348	3	3.8
FEBRUARY	1,621	1,618	3	5.1
MARCH	2,035	2,031	4	5.8
APRIL	2,077	2,074	3	6.1
MAY	2,326	2,323	3	6.6
JUNE	2,214	2,211	3	6.5
JULY	2,064	2,062	2	5.9
AUGUST	1,968	1,964	4	5.6
SEPTEMBER	2,141	2,137	4	6.3
OCTOBER	2,185	2,182	3	6.2
NOVEMBER	1,831	1,828	3	5.4
DECEMBER	2,038	2,034	4	5.8

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

**FIGURE 9  
DIVORCES BY MONTH  
ALABAMA, 1997**





**TABLE 20  
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS  
BY PARTY TO WHOM GRANTED  
ALABAMA, 1997**

<b>PARTY TO WHOM DIVORCE GRANTED</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DIVORCES</b>	<b>ANNULMENTS</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,851</b>	<b>23,812</b>	<b>39</b>
HUSBAND	3,183	3,178	5
WIFE	5,797	5,787	10
HUSBAND AND WIFE	14,587	14,565	22
NOT STATED	284	282	2

**TABLE 21  
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS  
BY NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE  
ALABAMA, 1997**

<b>NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE</b>	<b>HUSBAND</b>		<b>WIFE</b>	
	<b>DIVORCES</b>	<b>ANNULMENTS</b>	<b>DIVORCES</b>	<b>ANNULMENTS</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,812</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>23,812</b>	<b>39</b>
1	13,824	13	13,450	13
2	6,286	6	6,202	14
3	2,171	12	2,431	7
4	700	4	813	2
5	198	0	237	2
6	81	1	79	0
7+	46	0	43	0
NOT STATED	506	3	557	1

**TABLE 22  
DIVORCES BY RACE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE  
ALABAMA, 1997**

<b>RACE OF HUSBAND</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>RACE OF WIFE</b>	
		<b>WHITE</b>	<b>BLACK &amp; OTHER</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,851</b>	<b>19,500</b>	<b>4,351</b>
WHITE	19,444	19,271	173
BLACK & OTHER	4,407	229	4,17

**TABLE 23**  
**DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS**  
**BY LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DECREE**  
**ALABAMA, 1997**

LEGAL GROUNDS	TOTAL	DIVORCES	ANNULMENTS
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,851</b>	<b>23,812</b>	<b>39</b>
ABANDONMENT	45	45	0
ABANDONMENT AND ADULTERY	1	1	0
ABANDONMENT AND CRUELTY	0	0	0
ABANDONMENT AND DRUNKENNESS	0	0	0
ADULTERY	117	117	0
ADULTERY AND CRUELTY	0	0	0
BIGAMY	9	7	2
CRUELTY AND DRUNKENNESS	0	0	0
CRUELTY AND NON-SUPPORT	1	1	0
CRUELTY OR VIOLENCE	66	66	0
DRUG ADDICTION	2	2	0
DRUNKENNESS	3	3	0
DRUNKENNESS AND ADULTERY	0	0	0
FRAUD	13	10	3
IMPOTENCY	1	1	0
IMPRISONMENT	3	3	0
INCOMPATIBILITY	22,772	22,754	18
IRRETRIEVABLE BREAKDOWN	559	559	0
INSANITY	0	0	0
NON-SUPPORT	1	1	0
NON-SUPPORT AND ABANDONMENT	0	0	0
NON-SUPPORT AND DRUNKENNESS	0	0	0
UNDER AGE	1	1	0
ALL OTHER CAUSES	244	232	12
NOT STATED	13	9	4

**TABLE 24  
DIVORCES BY AGE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE  
ALABAMA, 1997**

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	3,225	4,368	4,234	3,766	3,033	1,860	1,012	486	252	113	71	58	864	
TOTAL	23,851	509	3,225	4,368	4,234	3,766	3,033	1,860	1,012	486	252	113	71	58	864
Under 20	126	85	34	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
20-24	2,085	331	1,364	265	59	18	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
25-29	4,194	62	1,383	2,042	454	120	36	15	3	1	0	0	0	0	78
30-34	4,157	19	275	1,373	1,682	505	147	44	8	6	1	0	1	0	96
35-39	3,948	5	87	400	1,273	1,481	445	125	41	7	2	0	0	0	82
40-44	3,245	1	24	133	435	1,013	1,175	271	84	12	5	2	0	0	90
45-49	2,308	0	13	38	161	375	772	694	149	37	5	3	0	0	61
50-54	1,379	0	4	20	50	116	269	426	349	72	23	5	3	1	41
55-59	800	0	1	9	35	46	85	152	249	152	32	4	1	1	33
60-64	431	0	0	5	14	13	40	51	70	118	75	18	4	2	21
65-69	262	0	0	1	3	9	8	24	35	44	70	33	9	3	23
70-74	132	0	0	1	1	2	5	9	5	18	20	37	20	7	7
75+	123	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	4	14	10	9	30	39	7
Not Stated	661	6	40	78	64	66	45	44	15	5	9	2	3	5	279

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# 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, 1997**

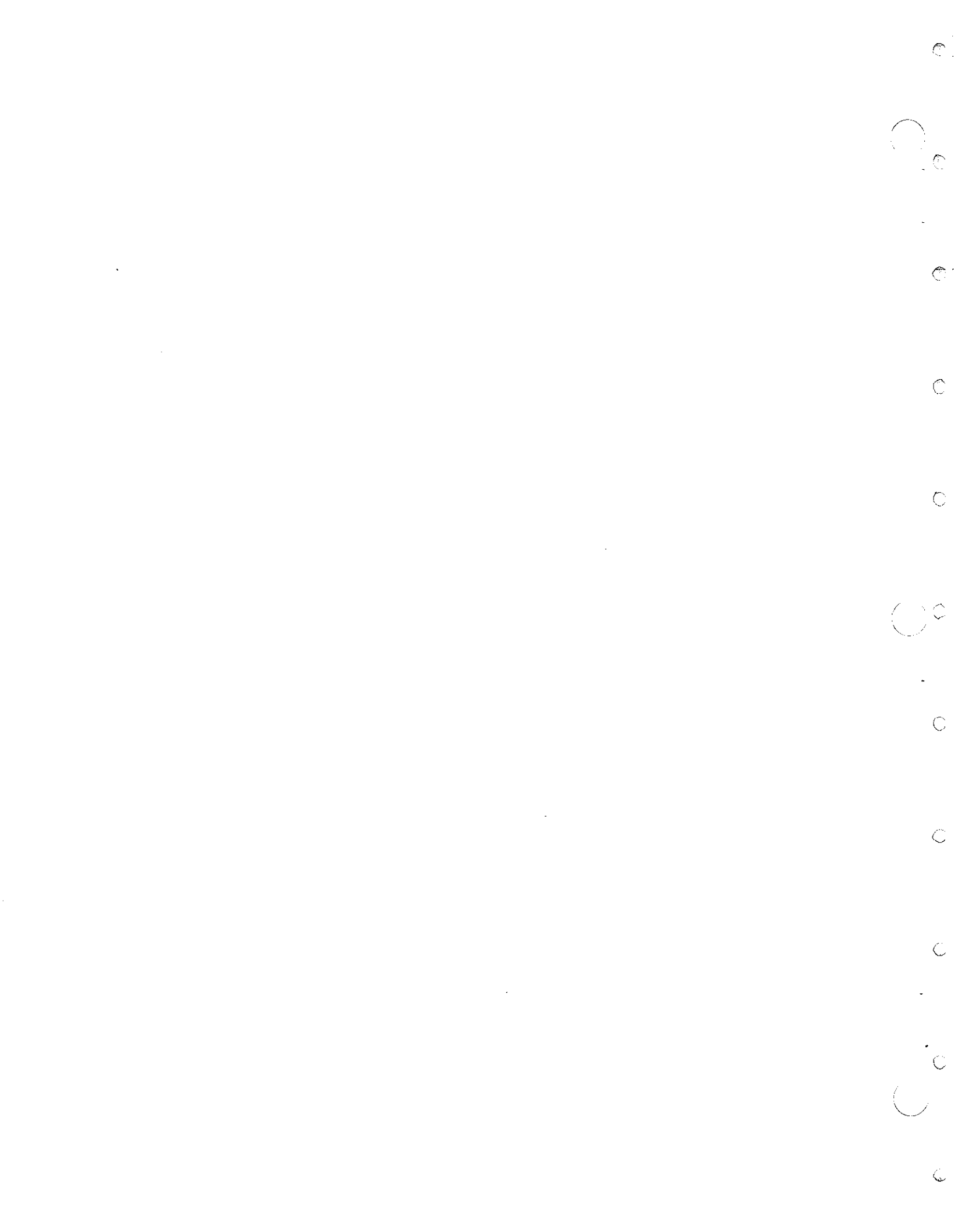
COUNTY/AREA	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK AND OTHER
<b>STATE</b>	<b>4,141,410</b>	<b>3,045,059</b>	<b>1,096,351</b>
Autauga	35,727	28,898	6,829
Baldwin	111,971	97,785	14,186
Barbour	25,685	14,238	11,447
Bibb	17,201	13,751	3,450
Blount	41,115	40,403	712
Bullock	11,159	2,711	8,448
Butler	21,598	12,641	8,957
Calhoun	114,607	91,061	23,546
Chambers	35,565	22,566	12,999
Cherokee	19,926	18,656	1,270
Chilton	33,824	29,967	3,857
Choctaw	15,490	8,542	6,948
Clarke	27,062	15,402	11,660
Clay	12,957	10,816	2,141
Cleburne	12,836	12,225	611
Coffee	41,447	33,509	7,938
Colbert	49,740	41,196	8,544
Conecuh	13,155	7,362	5,793
Coosa	10,901	7,088	3,813
Covington	36,018	31,128	4,890
Crenshaw	13,270	9,793	3,477
Cullman	71,309	70,428	881
Dale	50,233	39,634	10,599
Dallas	44,588	17,669	26,919
DeKalb	55,533	53,567	1,966
Elmore	52,942	41,067	11,875
Escambia	33,744	23,269	10,475
Etowah	97,071	82,186	14,885
Fayette	17,410	15,255	2,155
Franklin	27,380	26,004	1,376
Geneva	23,194	20,300	2,894
Greene	9,695	1,748	7,947
Hale	15,381	6,461	8,920
Henry	15,433	10,211	5,222
Houston	85,721	64,167	21,554
Jackson	45,691	42,107	3,584
Jefferson	637,733	398,892	238,841
Lamar	15,185	13,304	1,881
Lauderdale	78,505	70,437	8,068
Lawrence	32,848	24,526	8,322
Lee	92,955	68,965	23,990
Limestone	59,452	52,010	7,442
Lowndes	12,340	3,126	9,214
Macon	23,606	3,159	20,447
Madison	270,221	207,379	62,842
Marengo	21,983	11,085	10,898
Marion	29,472	28,250	1,222
Marshall	74,098	72,492	1,606
Mobile	386,399	259,142	127,257
Monroe	24,844	15,288	9,556
Montgomery	218,221	120,172	98,049
Morgan	107,088	94,713	12,375
Perry	11,337	3,635	7,702
Pickens	20,232	11,727	8,505
Pike	27,051	17,499	9,552
Randolph	19,766	15,127	4,639
Russell	46,047	28,260	17,787
St. Clair	55,697	50,699	4,998
Shelby	124,154	114,476	9,678
Sumter	15,501	4,316	11,185
Talladega	73,966	50,709	23,257
Tallapoosa	39,202	28,853	10,349
Tuscaloosa	158,570	115,433	43,137
Walker	66,871	62,449	4,422
Washington	16,683	10,801	5,882
Wilcox	12,684	3,918	8,766
Winston	22,051	21,902	149

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, 1997**

AGE GROUP	TOTAL POPULATION (ESTIMATED)	WHITE			BLACK AND OTHER		
		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,141,410</b>	<b>3,045,059</b>	<b>1,481,643</b>	<b>1,563,416</b>	<b>1,096,351</b>	<b>502,954</b>	<b>593,397</b>
0-4	305,840	196,798	101,394	95,404	109,042	55,138	53,904
5-9	291,223	195,369	100,860	94,509	95,854	48,497	47,357
10-14	292,153	194,901	100,745	94,156	97,252	49,202	48,050
15-19	297,716	195,633	100,407	95,226	102,083	50,982	51,101
20-24	305,589	209,205	106,254	102,951	96,384	45,981	50,403
25-29	277,873	206,805	104,104	102,701	71,068	31,104	39,964
30-34	291,559	219,909	110,706	109,203	71,650	31,498	40,152
35-39	318,558	236,462	118,190	118,272	82,096	35,806	46,290
40-44	309,069	228,423	113,706	114,717	80,646	35,551	45,095
45-49	285,886	219,869	109,019	110,850	66,017	29,793	36,224
50-54	235,508	188,490	92,525	95,965	47,018	21,114	25,904
55-59	195,625	158,450	76,162	82,288	37,175	15,980	21,195
60-64	174,102	141,623	66,811	74,812	32,479	13,434	19,045
65-69	165,445	134,127	60,993	73,134	31,318	12,227	19,091
70-74	147,323	119,456	51,021	68,435	27,867	10,598	17,269
75-79	109,425	89,095	34,806	54,289	20,330	7,309	13,021
80-84	76,077	61,156	20,724	40,432	14,921	4,963	9,958
85 +	62,439	49,288	13,216	36,072	13,151	3,777	9,374

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 their 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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*Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths for 1997, Provisional Data*, Vol. 46, No. 12, U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, Maryland, July 28, 1998.

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



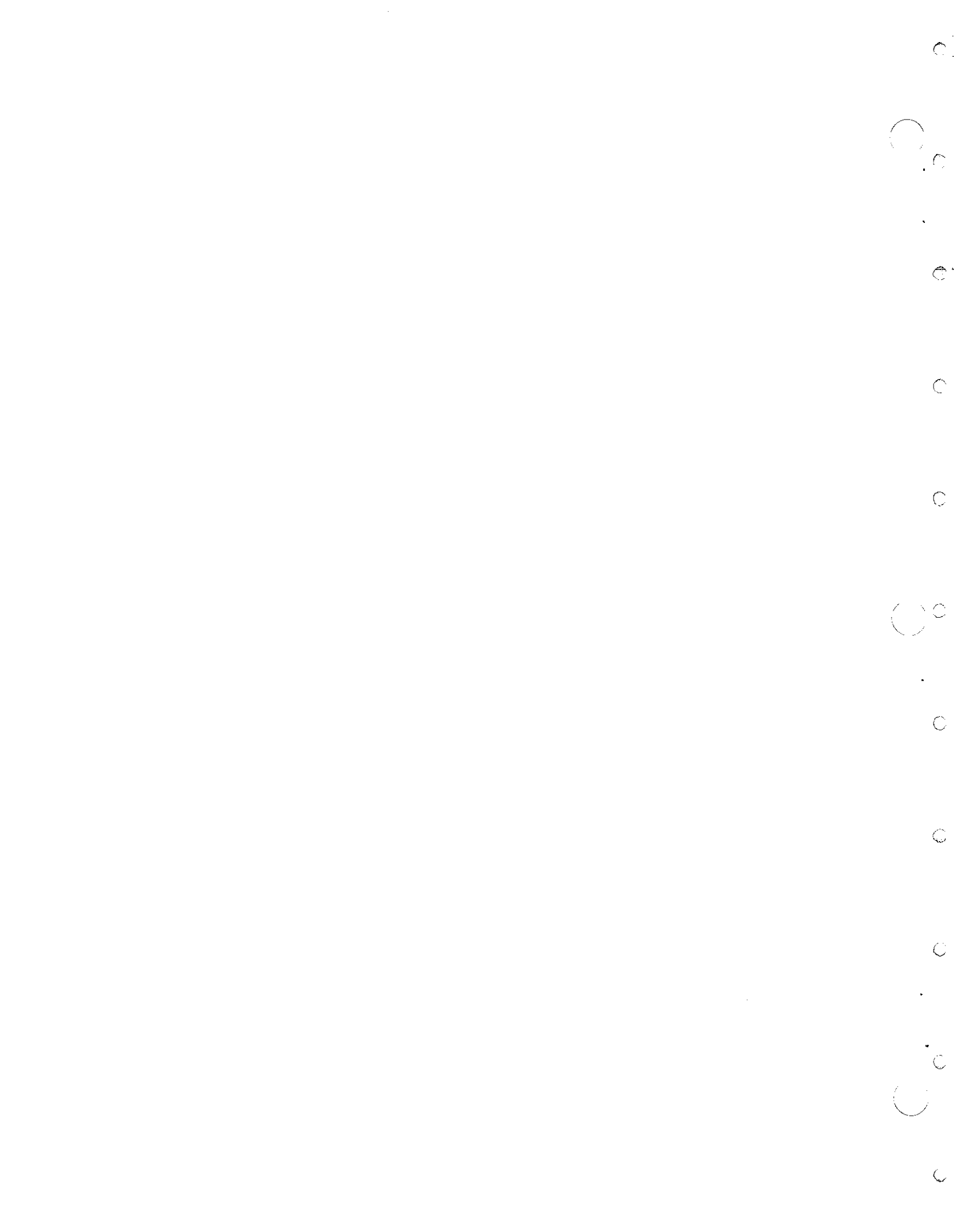
# Alabama Certificate of Marriage

State File Number **101**

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

<b>LICENSE TO MARRY</b>	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.	
<b>GROOM</b>	1. ISSUING COUNTY	4. RACE—(Specify American Indian, Black, White, etc.)
1.	2. GROOM'S NAME First Middle Last (Print last name all capitals)	3. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)
4.	5. RESIDENCE—City, Town, or Location and Zip Code	6. INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify Yes or No)
7.	7. COUNTY	8. STATE
9.	9. NO. OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES	10. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED—(Specify, Death, Divorce, Dissolution, Annulment)
10.	11. EDUCATION (Specify ONLY highest grade completed) Elementary or High School (8-12) College (1-4 or 5+)	12. FATHER'S NAME First Middle Last Maiden Last Name
11.	13. MOTHER'S NAME First Middle Last Maiden Last Name	14. BRIDE'S NAME First Middle Last (Print last name all capitals)
<b>BRIDE</b>	15. RESIDENCE—City, Town, or Location and Zip Code	16. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)
17.	17. RACE—(Specify American Indian, Black, White, etc.)	18. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED—(Specify, Death, Divorce, Dissolution, Annulment)
20.	19. INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify Yes or No)	20. COUNTY
22.	21. STATE	22. NO. OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES
23.	23. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED—(Specify, Death, Divorce, Dissolution, Annulment)	24. EDUCATION (Specify ONLY highest grade completed) Elementary or High School (8-12) College (1-4 or 5+)
24.	25. FATHER'S NAME First Middle Last Maiden Last Name	26. MOTHER'S NAME First Middle Last Maiden Last Name
<b>SIGNATURES</b>	27. GROOM—SIGNATURE We hereby certify that the information provided is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief and we are free to marry under the laws of this state.	
<b>LOCAL OFFICIAL</b>	28. BRIDE—SIGNATURE	29. ISSUING DATE (Month, Day, Year)
<b>CEREMONY</b>	30. JUDGE OF PROBATE—SIGNATURE	31. EXPIRATION DATE (Month, Day, Year)
34.	32. I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NAMED PERSONS WERE MARRIED ON: (Month, Day, Year)	33. WHERE MARRIED—City, Town, or Location and Zip Code
37.	35. SIGNATURE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY	36. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY
	37. TITLE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY	38. ADDRESS OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY—Street and Number or P.O. Number, City or Town, State, Zip Code
<b>LOCAL OFFICIAL</b>	39. DATE CERTIFICATE RETURNED TO JUDGE OF PROBATE— (Month, Day, Year)	40. MARRIAGE LICENSE RECORD Book Number Page Number
		41. JUDGE OF PROBATE—SIGNATURE

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





# ALABAMA

## CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE

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

State File Number **101**

<b>Petitioner's Representative must file this form with the Circuit Court at the time the petition is filed.</b>		1. COUNTY OF DECREE	
2. HUSBAND'S NAME First _____ Middle _____ Last (Print last name all capitals)		3. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)	
4. RACE—(Specify American Indian, Black, White, Etc.)		8. USUAL RESIDENCE—STATE	
5. EDUCATION—(Specify ONLY highest grade completed) Elementary or High School (K-12) _____ College (1-4 or 5+) _____		9. USUAL RESIDENCE—CITY	
7. COUNTY		10. ADDRESS—Street and Number or RFD Number	
8. CITY—TOWN OR LOCATION		11. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (First, Second, Etc.)	
9. INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify Yes or No)		12. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED BY—(Specify Death, Divorce, Dissolution, Annulment)	
10. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (First, Second, Etc.)		13. WIFE'S MAIDEN LAST NAME	
11. WIFE'S NAME First _____ Middle _____ Last (Print last name all capitals)		14. WIFE'S MAIDEN LAST NAME	
12. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)		15. RACE—(Specify American Indian, Black, White, Etc.)	
13. USUAL RESIDENCE—STATE		16. EDUCATION—(Specify ONLY highest grade completed) Elementary or High School (K-12) _____ College (1-4 or 5+) _____	
14. INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify Yes or No)		17. CITY—TOWN OR LOCATION	
15. ADDRESS—Street and Number or RFD Number		18. COUNTY	
16. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (First, Second, Etc.)		19. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED—(Specify Death, Divorce, Dissolution, Annulment)	
20. 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.		21. NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN THIS HOUSEHOLD AS OF THE DATE IN ITEM 27 (Enter "0" if no children)	
21. Husband, _____ Joint-Husband/Wife, _____ Wife, _____ Other _____ Total Children/Custody was Determined		22. DATE COUPLE SEPARATED (Month, Day, Year)	
22. PLACE OF THIS MARRIAGE—(City, County, State)		23. PETITIONER— <input type="checkbox"/> Husband <input type="checkbox"/> Wife <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify _____	
23. PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY OR REPRESENTATIVE—(Type)		24. LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DECREE	
24. TYPE OF DECREE—(Specify Divorce, Annulment, etc.)		25. TITLE OF COURT <b>CIRCUIT</b>	
25. SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL		26. TRIAL DOCKET NUMBER	

CIRCUIT CLERK MUST MAIL THIS REPORT BY THE FIFTH (5TH) OF EACH MONTH TO: CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS, P.O. BOX 6625, MONTGOMERY, AL 36103-6625  
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## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

CODE	TITLE/DESCRIPTION OF PUBLICATION	
<b>AVE</b>	<b>Alabama Vital Events (1972-1993)</b>	<b>Cost \$ 15.00</b>
	<p>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.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> 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.</p>	
<b>AV1</b>	<b>Alabama Vital Events (1994-1997) - Volume I, Pregnancy Statistics</b>	<b>Cost \$ 10.00</b>
	<p>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.</p>	
<b>AV2</b>	<b>Alabama Vital Events (1994-1997) - Volume II, Mortality Statistics</b>	<b>Cost \$ 10.00</b>
	<p>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.</p>	
<b>AV3</b>	<b>Alabama Vital Events (1994-1997) - Volume III, Marriage and Divorce Statistics</b>	<b>Cost \$ 10.00</b>
	<p>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.</p>	
<b>AV4</b>	<b>Alabama Vital Events (1994-1997) - Volume IV, County Profiles</b>	<b>Cost \$ 10.00</b>
	<p>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.</p>	
<b>AV5</b>	<b>Alabama Vital Events - Volume V, Life Expectancy (1995)</b>	<b>Cost \$ 20.00</b>
	<p>This publication contains tables on life expectancy by race, sex, and age group for residents of Alabama. This volume of the <u>Alabama Vital Events</u> publication is published starting with the data year 1995 and quinquennially thereafter.</p>	
<b>AVX</b>	<b>Alabama Vital Events (1997) - Volumes I-IV</b>	<b>Cost \$ 40.00</b>
	<p>This code should be given when ordering a complete set of Volumes 1 through V 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.</p>	
<b>DMS</b>	<b>Detailed Mortality Statistics</b>	<b>Cost \$ 10.00</b>
	<p>This annual publication is available for each year--1978 through 1997--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.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Hard copies are available for all years except 1982, which is available only on microfiche.</p>	
<b>ABR</b>	<b>Alabama Births by Residence and Occurrence</b>	<b>Cost \$ 10.00</b>
	<p>The last year for which this publication is available is 1994. 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.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Hard copies are available for all years.</p>	
<b>TBS</b>	<b>Teenage Birth Statistics</b>	<b>Cost \$ 10.00</b>
	<p>This annual publication is available for each year--1977 through 1995--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.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Hard copies are available for all years except 1981, which is available only on microfiche.</p>	

**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 is a supplement to Alabama Vital Events, containing approximately 97 pages, and is available for 1993 through 1997.

*(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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