

**Age and Marital Status of Brides and Bridegrooms.**—Table 20 shows that almost 92 p.c. of the marriages in 1958 were between persons who had not been married previously; 4.5 p.c. of both brides and bridegrooms had been widowed, and almost 4 p.c. of the marriages were of divorced persons. The average age at marriage of bachelors was 26 years and that of spinsters 23 years, two and a half months. The average age of widowers and widows at time of remarriage was slightly more than double that of bachelors and spinsters. Over 91 p.c. of the spinsters married in 1958 were under 30 years of age, 33 p.c. were under 20 years and nearly 45 p.c. were between 20 and 25. Over 83 p.c. of the bachelors were under 30 years of age, 7 p.c. of them under 20 and over 48 p.c. from 20 to 24 years of age.

In recent years, couples have been marrying younger than they did a generation ago. Since 1940 the average age of men at the time of their first marriage has dropped from 28 years to 26; that of girls from 24 years and eight months to 23 years and two months.

**20.—Brides and Bridegrooms, by Age and Marital Status, 1958**

Age Group	BRIDES							
	Numbers				Percentages			
	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced	Total	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced	Total
Under 20 years.....	40,034	19	31	40,084	33.3	0.3	0.6	30.5
20 — 24 ".....	53,567	177	507	54,251	44.5	2.8	10.2	41.2
25 — 29 ".....	16,353	391	1,160	17,904	13.6	6.3	23.3	13.6
30 — 34 ".....	5,381	524	1,069	6,974	4.5	8.4	21.4	5.3
35 — 39 ".....	2,407	652	922	3,981	2.0	10.5	18.5	3.0
40 — 44 ".....	1,131	728	586	2,445	0.9	11.7	11.8	1.9
45 — 49 ".....	699	847	388	1,934	0.6	13.6	7.8	1.5
50 — 54 ".....	370	771	204	1,345	0.3	12.4	4.1	1.0
55 — 59 ".....	193	700	78	971	0.2	11.2	1.6	0.7
60 — 64 ".....	97	622	25	744	0.1	10.0	0.5	0.6
65 years or over.....	78	797	15	890	0.1	12.8	0.3	0.7
Age not stated.....	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals, All Ages.....</b>	<b>120,312</b>	<b>6,228</b>	<b>4,985</b>	<b>131,525</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Average ages.....	23.2	48.7	35.0	24.8	...	...	...	...
	BRIDEGROOMS							
	Numbers				Percentages			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced	Total	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced	Total
Under 20 years.....	8,408	—	1	8,409	7.0	—	—	6.4
20 — 24 ".....	58,820	44	177	59,041	48.6	0.8	3.6	44.9
25 — 29 ".....	34,039	137	867	35,043	28.1	2.4	17.8	26.6
30 — 34 ".....	11,265	264	1,045	12,574	9.3	4.6	21.4	9.6
35 — 39 ".....	4,233	356	910	5,499	3.5	6.3	18.7	4.2
40 — 44 ".....	1,819	484	703	3,006	1.5	8.5	14.4	2.3
45 — 49 ".....	1,030	546	528	2,104	0.9	9.6	10.8	1.6
50 — 54 ".....	588	682	319	1,589	0.5	12.0	6.5	1.2
55 — 59 ".....	366	794	192	1,352	0.3	13.9	3.9	1.0
60 — 64 ".....	208	744	79	1,031	0.2	13.1	1.6	0.8
65 years or over.....	177	1,645	51	1,873	0.1	28.9	1.0	1.4
Age not stated.....	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals, All Ages.....</b>	<b>120,957</b>	<b>5,696</b>	<b>4,872</b>	<b>131,525</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Average ages.....	26.0	55.5	38.4	27.8	...	...	...	...