

34 p.c. were under 20 years and 45 p.c. were between 20 and 25. Over 84 p.c. of the bachelors were under 30 years of age, 7 p.c. of them under 20 and nearly 50 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 less than 26; that of girls from 24 years and eight months to 23 years and one month.

### 20.—Brides and Bridegrooms, by Age and Marital Status, 1959

Age Group	BRIDES							
	Numbers				Percentages			
	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced	Total	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced	Total
Under 20 years.....	40,836	13	34	40,883	33.8	0.2	0.7	30.9
20 — 24 ".....	54,438	152	632	55,222	45.0	2.4	12.2	41.7
25 — 29 ".....	15,528	380	1,174	17,082	12.8	6.0	22.6	12.9
30 — 34 ".....	5,191	523	1,144	6,858	4.3	8.3	22.1	5.2
35 — 39 ".....	2,467	676	904	4,047	2.0	10.7	17.4	3.1
40 — 44 ".....	1,055	704	596	2,355	0.9	11.1	11.5	1.8
45 — 49 ".....	677	869	385	1,931	0.6	13.7	7.4	1.5
50 — 54 ".....	360	821	195	1,376	0.3	13.0	3.8	1.0
55 — 59 ".....	224	738	81	1,043	0.2	11.7	1.6	0.8
60 — 64 ".....	105	567	29	701	0.1	9.0	0.6	0.5
65 years or over.....	73	887	11	971	0.1	14.0	0.2	0.7
<b>Totals, Stated Ages...</b>	<b>120,954</b>	<b>6,330</b>	<b>5,185</b>	<b>132,469</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age not stated.....	5	—	—	5	--	—	—	--
<b>Totals, All Ages.....</b>	<b>120,959</b>	<b>6,330</b>	<b>5,185</b>	<b>132,474</b>	<b>91.3</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Average ages.....	23.1	49.1	34.6	24.8	...	...	...	...

  

Age Group	BRIDEGROOMS							
	Numbers				Percentages			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced	Total	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced	Total
Under 20 years.....	8,573	—	3	8,576	7.1	—	0.1	6.5
20 — 24 ".....	60,544	36	219	60,799	49.9	0.6	4.2	45.9
25 — 29 ".....	33,325	165	866	34,356	27.5	2.8	16.6	25.9
30 — 34 ".....	11,008	253	1,149	12,410	9.1	4.3	22.0	9.4
35 — 39 ".....	4,050	358	1,018	5,426	3.3	6.1	19.5	4.1
40 — 44 ".....	1,669	443	726	2,838	1.4	7.5	13.9	2.1
45 — 49 ".....	1,019	645	548	2,212	0.8	10.9	10.5	1.7
50 — 54 ".....	495	669	357	1,521	0.4	11.4	6.8	1.1
55 — 59 ".....	367	762	186	1,315	0.3	12.9	3.6	1.0
60 — 64 ".....	156	851	90	1,097	0.1	14.4	1.7	0.8
65 years or over.....	156	1,710	53	1,919	0.1	29.0	1.0	1.4
<b>Totals, Stated Ages...</b>	<b>121,362</b>	<b>5,892</b>	<b>5,215</b>	<b>132,469</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age not stated.....	5	—	—	5	--	—	—	--
<b>Totals, All Ages.....</b>	<b>121,367</b>	<b>5,892</b>	<b>5,215</b>	<b>132,474</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Average ages.....	25.9	55.7	38.3	27.7	...	...	...	...