

bachelors and spinsters. Of the spinsters married in 1961, 92 p.c. were under 30 years of age, 35 p.c. were under 20 years and 46 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 over 51 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, 5 months to less than 23 years.

22.—Brides and Bridegrooms, by Age and Marital Status, 1961

Age Group	BRIDES							
	Numbers				Percentages			
	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced	Total	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced	Total
Under 20 years.....	40,614	15	26	40,655	34.7	0.2	0.5	31.6
20 — 24 “	53,827	177	595	54,599	46.0	2.7	12.1	42.5
25 — 29 “	13,278	309	1,119	14,706	11.3	4.8	22.7	11.4
30 — 34 “	4,680	496	1,092	6,268	4.0	7.6	22.1	4.9
35 — 39 “	2,147	634	826	3,607	1.8	9.8	16.7	2.8
40 — 44 “	1,058	766	548	2,372	0.9	11.8	11.1	1.8
45 — 49 “	683	918	396	1,997	0.6	14.1	8.0	1.6
50 — 54 “	341	800	192	1,333	0.3	12.3	3.9	1.0
55 — 59 “	216	786	88	1,090	0.2	12.1	1.8	0.8
60 — 64 “	114	652	38	804	0.1	10.0	0.8	0.6
65 years or over.....	82	942	15	1,039	0.1	14.5	0.3	0.8
Totals, Stated Ages...	117,040	6,495	4,935	128,470	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age not stated.....	5	—	—	5	...	...	...	...
Totals, All Ages.....	117,045	6,495	4,935	128,475	91.1	5.1	3.8	100.0
Average ages.....	22.9	49.7	34.8	24.7	...	...	...	...
	BRIDEGROOMS							
	Numbers				Percentages			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced	Total	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced	Total
Under 20 years.....	8,747	2	1	8,750	7.4	--	--	6.8
20 — 24 “	60,263	34	182	60,479	51.2	0.6	3.6	47.1
25 — 29 “	30,402	133	853	31,388	25.9	2.3	16.9	24.4
30 — 34 “	10,301	239	1,118	11,658	8.8	4.1	22.1	9.1
35 — 39 “	3,988	355	1,004	5,347	3.4	6.1	19.8	4.2
40 — 44 “	1,662	416	699	2,777	1.4	7.2	13.8	2.2
45 — 49 “	991	596	512	2,099	0.8	10.2	10.1	1.6
50 — 54 “	535	688	346	1,569	0.5	11.8	6.8	1.2
55 — 59 “	335	715	211	1,261	0.3	12.3	4.2	1.0
60 — 64 “	182	834	86	1,102	0.2	14.3	1.7	0.9
65 years or over.....	189	1,804	50	2,043	0.2	31.0	1.0	1.6
Totals, Stated Ages...	117,595	5,816	5,062	128,473	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age not stated.....	2	—	—	2	...	...	...	...
Totals, All Ages.....	117,597	5,816	5,062	128,475	91.5	4.5	3.9	100.0
Average ages.....	25.8	56.3	38.5	27.7	...	...	...	...

Religious Denominations of Brides and Bridegrooms.—The distribution of brides and bridegrooms by religious denominations is roughly the same as that for the population as a whole. Table 23 shows the very strong influence that religion has on