

Indicator 4. Divorce

Number and rate of divorces and number and percent of children under 18 involved annually in divorces: 1950 to 1993

Year	Number of divorces, in thousands	Number of divorces per 1,000 married women, 15 years old and over ¹	Median years of marriage before divorce	Children under 18 involved in a divorce each year	
				In thousands	Percent
1950	385	10.3	5.8	299	0.6
1955	377	9.3	6.4	347	0.6
1960	393	9.2	7.1	463	0.7
1965	479	10.6	7.2	630	0.9
1970	708	14.9	6.7	870	1.2
1975	1,036	20.3	6.5	1,123	1.7
1976	1,083	21.1	6.5	1,117	1.7
1977	1,091	21.1	6.6	1,095	1.7
1978	1,130	21.9	6.6	1,147	1.8
1979	1,181	22.8	6.8	1,181	1.8
1980	1,189	22.6	6.8	1,174	1.8
1981	1,213	22.6	7.0	1,180	1.9
1982	1,170	21.7	7.0	1,108	1.8
1983	1,158	21.3	7.0	1,091	1.7
1984	1,169	21.5	6.9	1,081	1.7
1985	1,190	21.7	6.8	1,091	1.7
1986	1,178	21.2	6.9	1,064	1.7
1987	1,166	20.8	7.0	1,038	1.6
1988	1,167	20.7	7.1	1,044	1.6
1989	1,163	20.7	—	—	—
1990	1,175	20.7	—	—	—
1991	1,187	20.9	—	—	—
1992	1,215	21.2	—	—	—
1993	1,187	20.5	—	—	—

—Data not available.

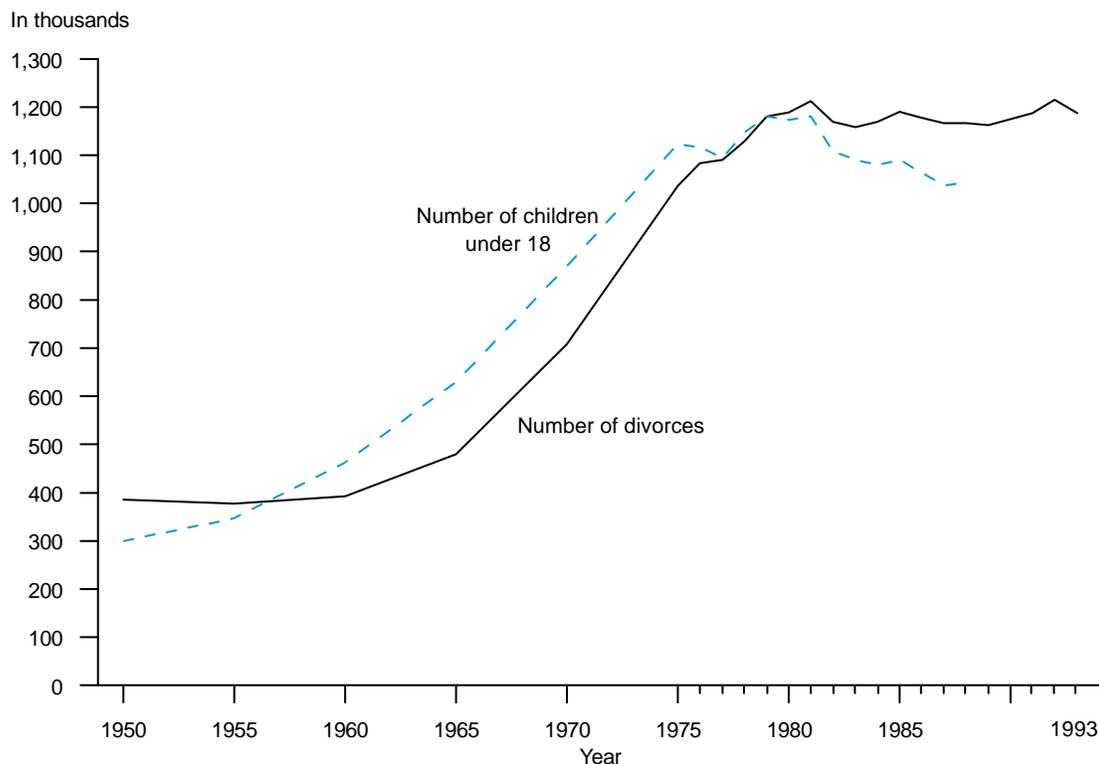
¹ Rates for 1975 to 1979 are based on population estimates that were not revised in accordance with the 1980 Census results.

NOTE: Cumulative numbers of children involved in/affected by divorce are not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, various years; *Historical Statistics of the United States to 1975*; and Current Population Reports, Series P-25, *Population Estimates and Projections*, nos. 311, 519, 917, and 1000. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, various years; and *Vital Statistics of the United States*, various years.

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Number of divorces and children under 18 involved in divorces per year: 1950 to 1993



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Both the number of divorces and divorce rates rose rapidly between 1965 and 1975. The divorce rate (number of divorces per 1,000 married women) peaked in 1979 at 23. Since then, the divorce rate has dipped to about 21 per 1,000 in 1993. About 1 million children were involved in divorces in 1988.