



Collection of Marriage and Divorce Statistics by States

Final Report

Prepared for:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Evaluation
and Planning

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August 2008

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Millions of marriages and divorces occur in the United States annually; each event is associated with a unique vital record. Individuals, governmental agencies, and other entities use these records, or certified copies of them, for a variety of purposes: individuals use them to define legal status and associated benefits (e.g., access to private health insurance of a spouse); governmental agencies use them to determine eligibility for programs and benefit amounts; researchers and others use them to calculate marriage and divorce rates by state – information that can also be aggregated for national estimates.

Behind the original records, certified copies, and the national statistics is a system comprised of state and local entities. State laws govern the collection and storage of vital records. As such, there is considerable variation in what they collect. Some collect simple counts of marriages and divorces, while other collect detailed demographic and other information about couples involved in the event. Some states collect information from marriage and divorce documents electronically from courts and local offices where events are recorded, while others collect copies or originals of key forms. Relative to birth and death records, marriage and divorce statistics are somewhat incomplete and the systems in place for collecting them not as developed. Although states have recently emphasized re-engineering of birth and death systems, marriage and divorce systems generally remain paper-based.

A. Purpose of the Study

There currently is limited information on what state vital registration systems collect with respect to marriage and divorce. Each state governs the collection of information on marriages and divorces that occur within its jurisdiction. Although the federal government issues guidelines and recommendations, states determine what information they will collect from local areas (e.g., city and county clerks, courts) on marrying and divorcing couples, how it is collected, and how it is stored. How states operationalize these tasks has implications for data use.

As part of a project for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation on options for collecting marriage and divorce information at the national, state, and local levels, The Lewin Group developed and administered a survey of state-level vital registrars, and companion surveys for local-level staff who collect and report marriage and divorce information, to learn about data contained in state vital registration systems.

Information gathered through this project provides the first national-level picture of how the vital statistics system collects marriage and divorce information. The surveys captured the richness of and variation in marriage and divorce information that is collected by states and their local jurisdictions. The surveys also gathered information about how data are collected, stored, and used, and whether there have been any changes in recent years. Finally, the surveys explored challenges states and localities face in collecting and storing marriage and divorce information and strategies they have used to overcome them.

B. Summary of Findings

The surveys indicate that states are collecting a wide variety of information about marriage and divorce. Indeed, all states indicated that some type of data is gathered centrally regarding these events. States also indicated that data collection is not static; within the past 10 years, about half of states have changed the amount of information they collect from local areas on marrying and divorcing couples. The majority of these states increased the amount of information collected. The surveys also indicate that a number of states collect fairly detailed information about marriage and divorce, although often not in a format that is easy to analyze. In most states the public has access to state level data, although person-level information is generally de-identified. Specific key findings include:

- Almost all states have requirements pertaining to the collection of marriage and divorce information at the local level. Most states also provide local areas with reporting forms. States report that they receive required information from local areas and that information is generally complete and accurate. However, to the extent that state-level offices do not collect data from local entities, it is more likely divorce information that is not obtained from the courts. Seven states do not collect any divorce information and five collect aggregate counts of divorce only. Only one state does not collect any marriage information and three states collect aggregate marriage counts only.
- There is more uniformity in what states collect regarding marrying couples than divorcing ones. Some of the more common marriage data elements are the names of the bride and groom, the ages or dates of birth of the bride and groom, the date of marriage, the maiden name of the bride, and the addresses of the bride and groom. For divorce the most common elements are names of wife and husband, date of divorce, type of divorce decree and date of marriage.
- Half of states reported making or contemplating one or more changes within the past 10 years to marriage information they require local areas to report to the state. Adding Social Security Numbers was the most common reported change. Fewer than half of the states made or contemplated changes in divorce-related information reported.
- Although most states still have paper-based systems for receiving marriage and divorce information, a sizable portion store information in electronic databases. The vast majority of states receive paper copies of marriage- and divorce-related information via the mail (45 and 39, respectively, of 47 reporting). However, in terms of storing information, about half of states store marriage and divorce information in electronic data sets (26 states and 27 states, respectively). A similar proportion of local areas input marriage information and divorce information into data sets.
- States use marriage and divorce information for a variety of purposes. The most common purpose is monitoring trends. Another common use is research. Fewer reported using data for benefit determinations or policy analysis.
- A wide variety of requestors seek marriage and divorce information from states. This includes the couples associated with the event, federal government staff, and other state-level staff. Most states provide requestors with individual-level data. However, in half of

these states, the level of detail depends on the requestor (i.e., couple involved in the event or another interested party). Among states that report maintaining individual-level data, more than half redact some information (e.g., Social Security Numbers).

- Several states reported challenges to collecting marriage and divorce information. These include not having the proper systems in place to collect and store information, the costs associated with collection and maintenance of information, and lack of interest at the state or local level in collecting and storing the information.
- Two-thirds of reporting states have or are contemplating upgrading their data collection systems. In many states, this upgrade involves moving to an electronic system. Local areas were less likely to identify challenges to collecting marriage or divorce information. At the time of the survey, 30 reporting states stored all or a subset of collected marriage information in a data set of some type, while 29 states stored divorce information in a similar way.

I. INTRODUCTION

Millions of marriages and divorces occur in the United States annually; each event is associated with a unique vital record. Individuals, governmental agencies, and other entities use these records, or certified copies of them, for a variety of purposes: individuals use them to define legal status and associated benefits (e.g., access to private health insurance of a spouse) and governmental agencies use them to determine eligibility for programs and benefit amounts.

Records also are used to calculate marriage and divorce rates by state—information that can also be aggregated for national estimates. These statistics are used for policy development, planning, and evaluation. For example, state or county administrators who plan or execute health, welfare, and educational programs may use marriage and divorce data to determine if specific programs are effective; or to develop programs relating to newly married couples, families, divorced parents, and children of divorced parents; and to determine eligibility for programs. Although policy makers and researchers may expect that statistics will be available as needed to support projects or assessments, the systematic collection and storage of marriage and divorce records is relatively recent. Moreover, data are generally not available in an easy-to-use format: paper-based systems are the rule rather than the exception.

State laws govern the collection and storage of vital records. Because states are responsible for the development and financing of their vital statistics systems, they have wide latitude in terms of what they collect. Some may collect simple counts of marriages and divorces, while others may collect detailed demographic and other information about couples involved in the event (e.g., educational status, previous marital status, employment) that can be used to describe the characteristics of couples getting married and divorced. Even states that collect only counts generally have laws or regulations that require local entities, such as courts, to collect more detailed information about the participants in marriage and divorce events. Some states collect information from marriage and divorce documents electronically from courts and local offices where events are recorded, while others collect copies or originals of key forms. Relative to birth and death records, marriage and divorce statistics are somewhat incomplete and the systems in place for collecting them are not as developed. Although states have recently emphasized re-engineering of birth and death systems, marriage and divorce systems generally remain paper-based.

A. Purpose of Study

Little is known about the significant variations in how the vital statistics system is structured across states and localities. As part of a project for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation on options for collecting marriage and divorce information at the national, state, and local levels, The Lewin Group developed and administered a survey of state-level vital registrars, and companion surveys for local-level staff who collect and report marriage and divorce information, to learn about data contained in state vital registration systems.

Information gathered through these surveys provides the first national-level picture of how the vital statistics system collects marriage and divorce information. The surveys captured the richness of and variation in marriage and divorce information that is collected by states and

their local jurisdictions. The surveys also gathered information about how data are collected, stored, and used, and whether there have been any changes in recent years. Finally, the surveys explored challenges states and localities face in collecting and storing marriage and divorce information and strategies they have used to overcome them.

B. Study Methodology

The research team developed three survey instruments targeting the following groups:

- State-level vital registrars
- Local-level staff who collect and report marriage information
- Local-level staff who collect and report divorce information

Prior to developing the instruments, the team had conversations with staff from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and state- and local-level officials in four states to better understand state vital statistics systems. These conversations helped inform the development of the initial state registrar survey instrument. The team then gathered feedback on the draft survey instrument from an expert panel convened for the project. The instrument was pilot-tested in two states.¹ The state survey covered the following topics:

- State requirements for collecting and reporting marriage and divorce information;
- Methods used by states to collect marriage and divorce information;
- State-level storage and maintenance of marriage and divorce information;
- Uses and availability of state-level marriage and divorce information;
- Challenges and costs associated with collecting, maintaining and reporting marriage and divorce information.

Local-level surveys included similar categories, but from the perspective of the local office or court.

The surveys were fielded between November 2005 and July 2006. The project team aimed to administer the survey to one state-level official (usually the State Registrar or a similar position) and two local-level marriage and divorce officials (e.g., a city or county clerk and a clerk of the court), for a total of five surveys per state.² Respondents were given the option of completing the survey over the telephone or filling out an electronic or hard copy and returning it. When necessary, follow-up calls were made to respondents to clarify information or gather more complete responses.

¹ Alabama and New York.

² New York City and Washington, D.C., were the exceptions. The project team attempted to talk to the centrally local official (e.g., the vital registrar) as well as an official in a local court or clerk's office. New York City is separate from the New York State vital statistics entity, therefore the city does not have a linked state-level survey. However, the two local-level surveys completed by New York are included in the local-level analysis.

Forty nine jurisdictions completed the state survey out of a possible 53 respondent jurisdictions (50 states/District of Columbia/New York City), providing a response rate of 94 percent. The majority of respondents completed the survey in its entirety. However, in some instances, respondents were unable to answer specific questions. Additionally, not all questions were applicable to all states.

Administering and obtaining completed local-level surveys was challenging. The first point of contact was generally the state-level official who participated in the state-level survey. In some instances, this individual recommended local county/city clerks or courts to contact and, in rarer circumstances, helped make the contact. State-level officials indicated that they often had little influence over local-level data collectors who may be locally elected (e.g., county clerks) or part of a bureaucracy that is not related to the vital statistics department (e.g., the courts). More generally project staff had to cold-call local officials. At the local-level 85 marriage surveys were completed and 72 divorce surveys. A total of 21 states completed their state-level and local-level surveys. An additional 26 states had at least one local-level office that completed a survey. Just one state, Louisiana, was not able to participate in any of the surveys due to hurricane-related priorities. Three states provided state level information, but no local-level surveys were completed.

C. Organization of Report

This report focuses primarily on the findings from the state-level survey. Information from the local level survey is not statistically representative of all local jurisdictions, so it is provided primarily to illustrate the various ways in which the marriage and divorce information obtained at the local level flows into the state system. In addition to this introduction, the report includes the following sections:

Section II provides an overview of the vital statistics system, including the federal, state and local roles in the collection of vital statistics. It assesses past and current marriage and divorce vital statistics data collection and includes a description of the data collected.

Section III presents findings from an analysis of state registrar responses to the state surveys. The analysis includes summaries of state requirements for collecting and reporting marriage and divorce information, methods used to collect and maintain this data, the uses and availability of the data, and challenges and costs of state data systems.

Section IV discusses and summarizes the findings, provides policy recommendations and offers examples of important questions that can be answered using marriage and divorce information.

The Appendix provides state by state profiles, detailing the response of each state to the state-level survey.

II. THE VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

The federal system for collecting and disseminating national-level vital statistics relies on information gathered from 50 states and two cities (Washington D.C. and New York City). These jurisdictions are legally responsible for registering vital events – births, deaths, marriages, and divorces. This section describes the unique nature of the vital statistics system, and the federal, state, and local roles in the national vital statistics system, including past and current marriage and divorce vital statistics data collection efforts.

A. Overview and History

1. Deaths and Births

The federal government obtains vital record information from states and territories, as well as independent registration areas (New York City, Washington, D.C.) through cooperative arrangements with state agencies responsible for collecting the records.³ These records are a unique source of information because they capture all events that occur within a state in a year. Vital records cannot be replaced by other data sources, such as a Census, which is a periodic count of the population and its characteristics, or national surveys, which capture rich information for a subset of the population. The vital records system, unlike the Census, is developed from the ground up at the local level. The federal role is relatively recent. **Box 1** describes the unique nature of the vital records system, vis a vis the Census.

Box 1: Vital Records Versus the Census

"To apportion the Congressional representation of each State according to its population, the States provided in the Constitution itself for the decennial census. Hence, throughout the course of its development in this country, the census has been a national function. The need for vital statistics, on the other hand, was unrecognized when the Constitution was framed, and the vital records and statistics system developed originally not as a national undertaking, but first as a local, then as a State function. This historic accident, which makes the course of American vital statistics so different from that of countries where the function is national like the census, posed enormous difficulties, and undoubtedly slowed its development by many decades. At the same time, because American vital registration grew in response to local and State needs, it has support and sources of strength that might be lacking if the system were primarily national."

From U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1997). U.S. Vital Statistics System: Major Activities and Developments, 1950-95. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Appendix II, page 44.

The first use of records dates back to the settlers. Most were English and accustomed to registering births, marriages and burials; the practice of requiring clergy in all parishes to keep a weekly record of these events dates to 1538.⁴ These records were considered legal statements and not used for statistical purposes. According to the National Center for Health Statistics:

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1997). *U.S. Vital Statistics System: Major Activities and Developments, 1950-95*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Available on-line: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/misc/usvss.pdf>

⁴ U.S. DHHS (1997), p. 44.

. . . At the basis of the vital registration system was the principle that records are legal statements of fact that help assume the rights of individuals as conferred by organic laws. Machinery was set up to collect and preserve the records, not at first for statistical reasons, but because authentic evidence was essential to the just administration of law and the protection of individual rights.⁵

Gradually the use of records expanded. Death records were used to identify and combat epidemics, such as cholera, in Europe. In the U.S., individual states and cities began to set up central filing systems as early as 1842 (Massachusetts was the prototype). Starting in 1850, new Census items – “born within the year,” “married within the year,” and “disease, if died within the year” – were used to try to capture vital statistics across the country. Officials determined this data was of little value and “nothing short of a registration system in the States can give the required data satisfactorily. . . . Experience has shown that people will not, or cannot, remember and report to the census taker the number of the facts, and the particulars of them which occur in the period of a whole year to eighteen months prior to the time of his calling.”⁶

First with death and later with birth, the Census Bureau rolled out an annual system of collecting vital statistics from states and local areas. The Census Bureau first established a national registration area for a vital event – deaths – in 1880. Registration areas are those areas – generally a few states and large cities in the late 1800s and early 1900s – that could provide adequate statistics. To be in a registration area, a state or city was requested to adopt the recommended death certificate and model law, and obtain 90 percent completeness. The national birth registration area was established in 1915. By 1933, 100 percent of states and Washington, D.C. were included in the death and birth registration areas.⁷

During this time, the need for vital records and statistics changed. Responsibility for collecting and preserving vital records increasingly fell under the auspices of health departments. Greater attention was paid to tracking communicable diseases. Additionally, federal and state legislation in the 1930s increased the need for vital records. Social welfare legislation (e.g., Social Security) and public and private pension plans created a demand for birth records that provided evidence of age. During World War II, federal laws that barred employment of aliens in some defense projects further increased the demand for birth certificates.⁸

Around the same time, “vital statistics” was explicitly defined for the first time. A new Model State Vital Statistics Act was adopted in 1942 in response to state and federal agency needs. In this Act, vital statistics were:

the registration, preparation, transcription, collection, compilation, and preservation of data pertaining to the dynamics of the population, in particular, data pertaining to births, deaths, marital status, and the data and facts incidental thereto.⁹

⁵ DHHS (1997), p. 45.

⁶ DHHS (1997), p. 48.

⁷ Alaska and Hawaii became part of the registration areas the years they were granted statehood (1959 and 1960, respectively).

⁸ DHHS (1997), p. 55.

⁹ DHHS (1997), p. 5.

Additionally, the federal Budget Bureau recommended that a national vital records office be established in the Public Health Service. The national office would work through existing state and local vital records networks to gather information. In 1946, the Census Bureau's vital statistics functions were transferred to the Public Health Service. Today, this function is in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

2. Marriages and Divorces

Through 1940, information on marriages and divorces was gathered through periodic surveys administered by the Commission on Labor and the Census Bureau. In 1940, the Census Bureau began to collect marriage and divorce information in the same method as birth and death information. The Bureau collected information through state vital statistics offices. In addition to counts of events, the Bureau sought detailed statistics from transcripts of records. Initially detailed information was available for less than 30 states for marriage and 6 to 12 states for divorce. The 1942 model legislation included marriage and divorce for the first time.

The Marriage Registration Area (MRA) and the Divorce Registration Area (DRA) were established in 1957 and 1958, respectively, to promote complete and accurate recording of data and were based on the information states already collected and maintained at the state level (i.e., information contained on the marriage licenses and divorce decrees). As with birth and death registration areas, participating states were required to report specific data elements to NCHS and to meet certain standards (e.g., the establishment of a centralized state reporting mechanism). Reports of required data elements were expected to be at least 90 percent complete. *Exhibit 1* lists the required data elements for marriage and divorce under the MRA and DRA, as well as recommended data elements.

Exhibit 1: Required and Recommended Information for Marriage and Divorce Registration Areas

Marriage Data Items	
Required Data Elements	Recommended/Optional Data Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date and place of marriage (State and County) • Place of residence (State and County) • Age at marriage or date of birth • Previous marital status • Number of this marriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race • Education • State of birth • Type of ceremony
Divorce Data Items	
Required Data Elements	Recommended/Optional Data Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age at divorce or date of birth • Place of usual residence (State) • Number and date of marriage being dissolved • Number of children involved • Date and county where decree was granted • Legal grounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race • Education

Participation in MRAs reached its peak of 42 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in 1979. Participation in DRAs peaked in 1986 and included 31 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands.

B. Federal Role Today

The Model Vital Statistics Act has been updated over time. The 1992 revisions recommended that states protect records through control of their use, restricting disclosure of identifying information, and entering into confidentiality agreements with federal agencies and researchers who request copies of information.

NCHS also issues standard certificates and reports that states can use as models when developing their own marriage and divorce forms (see *Exhibit 2*). The certificate revisions are developed by a panel of State vital statistics executives in collaboration with NCHS. The first Standard Certificate of Marriage and Standard Certificate of Divorce, Dissolution or Annulment were recommended for implementation in 1955. They have been updated three times.

Exhibit 2: Information Collected on U.S. Standard License and Certificate of Marriage and U.S. Standard Certificate of Divorce, Dissolution of Marriage, or Annulment

		Divorce, Dissolution or Annulment	
Groom	Name (first, middle, last) Age at last birthday Residence (city, town or location) County State Birthplace Date of birth (month, day, year) Father's name (first, middle, last) Father's birthplace (state or foreign country) Mother's name (first, middle, maiden surname) Mother's birthplace (state or foreign country)	Husband	Name (first, middle, last) Residence (city, town or location) County State Birthplace (state or foreign country) Date of birth (month, day, year)
Bride	Name (first, middle, last) Maiden surname (if different) Age at last birthday Residence (city, town or location) County State Birthplace Date of birth (month, day, year) Father's name (first, middle, last) Father's birthplace (state or foreign country) Mother's name (first, middle, maiden surname) Mother's birthplace (state or foreign country)	Wife	Name (first, middle, last) Maiden surname (if different) Residence (city, town or location) County State Birthplace (state or foreign country) Date of birth (month, day, year)
License to Marry	Date issued Expiration date Title of issuing official	Marriage	Place of this marriage (city, town or location) County State or foreign country Date of this marriage (month, day, year)

		Divorce, Dissolution or Annulment	
			Date couple last resided in same household (month, day, year) Number of children under 18 in this household Petitioner (husband, wife, both)
Ceremony	Date of marriage (month, day, year) Where married (city, town or location) County Name, title of person performing ceremony		Date of marriage (month, day, year) Where married (city, town or location) County Name, title of person performing ceremony
Local Official	Date filed by local official (month, day, year)		Date filed by local official (month, day, year)
Confidential Information: Groom	Number of this marriage If previously married, last marriage ended Death, divorce, dissolution, annulment Date Race Education Elementary/Secondary (0-12) College (1-4 or 5+)	Attorney	Name Address
Confidential Information: Bride	Number of this marriage If previously married, last marriage ended Death, divorce, dissolution, annulment Date Race Education Elementary/Secondary (0-12) College (1-4 or 5+)	Decree	Date marriage dissolved (month, day, year) Type of decree Date recorded (month, day, year) Number of children under 18 whose physical custody was awarded to (husband, wife, both, other) County of decree Title of court Title of certifying official Date signed (month, day, year)
		Confidential Information: husband	Number of this marriage If previously married, last marriage ended Death, divorce, dissolution, annulment Date Race Education Elementary/Secondary (0-12) College (1-4 or 5+)
		Confidential Information: wife	Number of this marriage If previously married, last marriage ended Death, divorce, dissolution, annulment Date Race Education Elementary/Secondary (0-12) College (1-4 or 5+)

In addition, NCHS collects simple counts of marriages and divorces from states. The states use a NCHS form to submit counts on a monthly basis. For their participation, responsible agencies in each state receive \$1,000 for marriage data and \$1,000 for divorce data annually. The federal government periodically reports these data in the form of counts and population rates and in

NCHS' publication of provisional statistics data.¹⁰ More states report marriage counts, so marriage data are more complete than divorce data. For example, 2006 divorce rates exclude data for six non-reporting states (California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, and Minnesota) while only one state (Louisiana) is excluded from 2006 marriage figures.

Prior to 1996, the federal government provided more financial support to states participating in the MRA and DRA.¹¹ In 1996, NCHS discontinued funding to states for the collection of detailed marriage and divorce data for a number of reasons.¹² First, there were resource constraints on NCHS.¹³ By ending funding to states for marriage and divorce data collection, the agency was able to redirect \$1.25 million per year to maintaining birth and death data systems. Second, there were coverage and quality concerns. NCHS was not consistently receiving data from all states. Detailed marriage information was available from 42 states and the District of Columbia; 31 states and the District provided divorce information. Similarly, the quality of the data never rose to the level expected by NCHS or researchers. Data reporting was often incomplete or of uncertain reliability.¹⁴ States were facing staffing shortages and internal funding issues, resulting in many relegating the reporting and collection of marriage and divorce data to a lower priority than birth and death data. Finally, the collection of marriage and divorce information was an uneasy fit for an agency that focuses on health statistics. Few NCHS staff worked with marriage and divorce data; thus, when the budget needed to be cut, there were few advocates for the continuation of its collection. In addition, staff argued that the data could be captured in surveys, such as the National Survey of Family Growth, and in Census data. Today states receive a form from NCHS to complete and submit counts on a monthly basis. For their participation, responsible agencies in each state receive \$1,000 for marriage data and \$1,000 for divorce data annually.

C. Central Role of States and Local Areas

Although the federal government has had a significant role in the development of a vital statistics collection system, the responsibility for collecting, storing and maintaining vital records rests with the states.

Marriage and divorce records are legal documents that are subject to state statutes.¹⁵ Each state generally crafts its own forms and requirements for collecting and reporting information. Systems for collecting marriage data are different from and often separate from systems for collecting divorce data. For both marriages and divorces, the event is recorded not at the state level but in a local-level entity – either a county or city clerk, for marriages, or a clerk of the court, for divorces.

¹⁰ National Center for Health Statistics. Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths: Provisional data for July 2006. *National Vital Statistics Reports* 55(9): 1-6. National Center for Health Statistics.

¹¹ NCHS payments to states depended on how their data were submitted. Options were: (1) states coded data themselves and forwarded them to NCHS; (2) states forwarded microfilm of records and NCHS coded the data; or (3) states sent raw data tapes to NCHS.

¹² See Federal Register: December 15, 1995 (Volume 60, Number 241) available on line at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh/datasite/frnotice.htm>

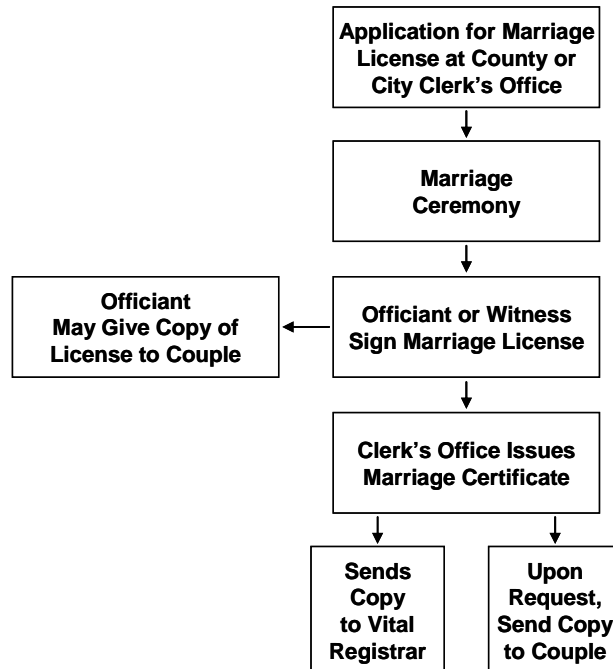
¹³ Ventura SJ. Vital Statistics from the National Center for Health Statistics. In: Besharov DJ, ed. *Data Needs for Measuring Family and Fertility Change After Welfare Reform*. Maryland School of Public Affairs Welfare Reform Academy. Accessed at <http://www.welfareacademy.org/pubs/dataneeds/dataneeds-ventura.pdf> on November 19, 2003.

¹⁴ Federal Register: December 15, 1995 (Volume 60, Number 241).

¹⁵ Hetzel AM. Marriage and divorce statistics and the health department. U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Health Services and Mental Health Administration Health Reports July 1971; 616-620.

Marriage. The basic marriage-related forms are marriage license applications, marriage licenses, and marriage certificates. One form may serve multiple purposes. The content of these forms – that is, the information captured--is determined by each state, usually by the legislature or delegated to an agency. The process for collecting local-level information varies by state. A generic version of data flow, however, is depicted in *Exhibit 3*. The description of key steps incorporates responses from the local-level marriage survey (85 local areas responded to some or all survey questions).

Exhibit 3: Marriage Data Collection Process



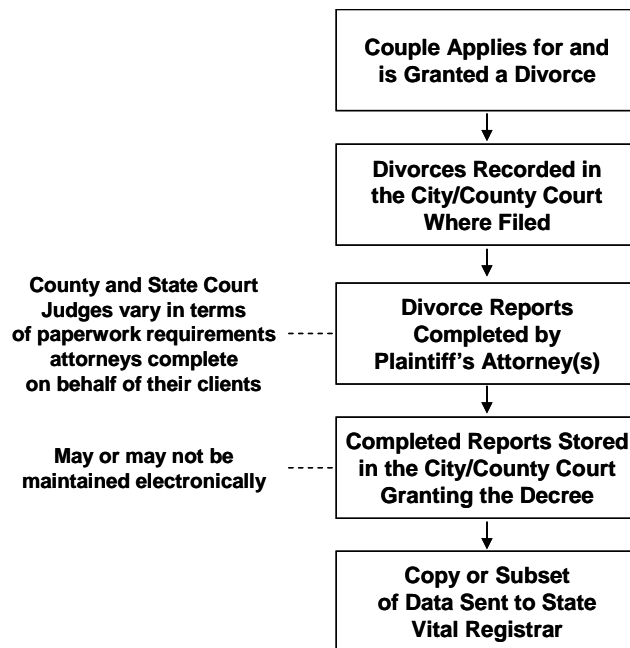
- The couple applies for a marriage license at a county or city clerk office, or another designated office (e.g., registrar, recorder, probate or district court). The clerk asks the couple for identification. This includes a driver's license or other picture ID, a Social Security Card or green card, a birth certificate, or some combination. The couple then fills out paperwork. In most local areas surveyed, this is a marriage license application. In most areas, this form is paper, although local areas are increasingly using electronic tools to capture key information about the bride and groom. The cost of the license varies by states; in the local areas surveyed, it ranged from less than \$25 to more than \$50.
- A court clerk or municipal or county clerk issues a marriage license. Most local areas report that state-level offices require them to collect certain information on the license. Licenses are generally valid for a specific number of days. According to the local survey, the median period of validation is 60 days. Less than half of the local areas reported there is a waiting period before the couple can marry. Roughly equal proportions of local areas report that they follow up on expired licenses.
- Following the marriage ceremony, the officiant and, in many places, witnesses, sign the marriage license. In most local areas surveyed, the officiant returns the signed license to the clerk, who then records the marriage and issues a marriage certificate. The officiant

may give a copy of the license to the couple as well. Once a marriage certificate is issued, couples can also request copies of the certificate for their records.

- Some form of the record usually is maintained at the local level. Sixty-six of 85 local areas report that the copy or original certificate or license is kept at the local level. Forty-six areas report that a summary total of marriages, licenses issued or certificates issued is maintained. About four in ten local areas reported maintaining a data set with all or a subset of information from the license and/or certificate (respondents could select more than one category). More than half of the local areas reported that information is available in some form for 100 or more years.
- Most local areas also transmit data to the state vital registrar or health department. According to the survey, 36 areas report a summary total of marriage licenses, 45 report copies or originals of key forms (licenses or certificates), 26 areas report a data set with some or all information from the license or certificate, and 9 indicated they do not report information to the state.

Divorce. The general process for divorce data collection is depicted in *Exhibit 4*. The description of key steps incorporates information from the 72 local areas that responded to some or all local divorce survey questions.

Exhibit 4: Divorce Data Collection Process



- Divorces generally are filed, granted, and recorded in local courts. According to the local area survey, this is a district court, a circuit court, a family court, or a superior court. The court documents needed to initiate the case vary by state and local area. Couples, or their attorney, are typically responsible for filing a complaint and/or a petition for divorce or dissolution. In 16 local areas surveyed, the couple or attorney must fill out some type of

statistical information form. Often additional paperwork is required if the couple has children.

- In most local areas surveyed, attorneys are required to fill out a divorce certificate. It may be called other names, such as a divorce form or report. Almost all local areas that responded to the question indicated that the state requires local areas to collect specific information on the certificate. In most local areas responding to the survey, the certificate is a paper-based information collection tool. Only two areas reported using an electronic form.
- A second key source of information is a divorce decree – the file that contains the details of divorce (e.g., division of assets, custody of children). The decree is kept in the court that grants the divorce. In all local areas that responded to the survey question, the decree is paper-based and not electronic.

In most states some data are transmitted to a state-level office. Fifty local areas reported that they report information to a state-level vital statistics office or similar agency. Twenty indicated that data are reported to an office of judicial administration in a full court system. The amount of information reported varies by local area. Thirty-seven local areas reported sending summary totals of divorces, divorce certificates and/or decrees, or another tally of divorce outcomes to a state-level entity. Thirty-three send copies or originals of certificates or decrees. And, 15 send a data set containing all or a subset of information from the certificate or decree.

III. COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF STATE MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE INFORMATION

The subsections below describe states' requirements for collecting and reporting marriage and divorce data, the methods used by states to collect and manage the information, the uses and availability of state-level information, and the challenges and costs associated with collecting, maintaining, and reporting the information. Information comes from the survey of state-level registrars unless otherwise noted. When applicable, information from the local-level surveys is included.

According to the state-level survey responses, almost all states collect information on marriage and divorce events from local entities, although states differ markedly in the level of detail collected and published, the management of the data, and how the data are transmitted from local areas to a state-level office. The methods used to store and maintain information at the state level also vary considerably.

A. State Requirements for Collecting and Reporting Marriage and Divorce Information

State surveys explored state-level systems for collecting and reporting marriage and divorce information. The surveys also explored the information that states require local jurisdictions to obtain from marrying and divorcing couples. Local-level surveys also probed changes to the information collected in recent years, how localities obtain the required information from marrying and divorcing couples, and what staff must report to the state.

1. Marriage Information

States require local areas to collect an array of marriage-related information. While the exact information varies by state, the majority of states capture personal information about the couple, as well as some demographic data. Local areas typically collect this information using marriage licenses, marriage certificates, or some combination of the two forms. The majority of states require local areas to submit the collected information to the state. Most often, this is in the form of copies or originals of the forms, but a number of states receive data sets with this information.

Information Collected. According to the survey, 45 states that responded to the question indicate they gather marriage information. Of these, almost all (41 states) provide standard forms to local entities. Use is generally mandated. As *Exhibit 5* shows, the most common information obtained about the marrying couple – gathered by all 45 states – is the full name of the bride and groom. Almost all states (over 40) require local areas to obtain the maiden name of the bride, the addresses of the bride and groom, the date of the marriage, and the dates of birth of the bride and groom. Other information commonly required of the bride and the groom includes birthplaces, the number of previous marriages and the resolution of those marriages. Demographic information is somewhat less common.

For the most part, states gather fewer data elements than are suggested by NCHS on the U.S. Standard License and Certificate of Marriage form (see *Exhibit 2*), but some states add unique requirements. The most common state addition to NCHS information is the requirement of applicants to provide Social Security Numbers. Thirty-three states collect this information. A few states ask for the occupations of the bride and groom and some states collect information on ethnicity in addition to, or instead of, race. Other variations tend to respond to state needs. For example, Hawaii’s marriage license application asks applicants if they want their names published in the newspaper, the District of Columbia’s application includes questions on pending criminal matters, and New Jersey’s application asks about communicable diseases.

Exhibit 5: Marriage-Related Information Localities Are Required by the State to Obtain (n = 45)

	States that Require Information
Full names of bride and groom	45
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	44
Dates of birth of bride and groom	39
Ages of bride and groom	35
Date of marriage*	42
Maiden name of bride	41
Addresses of bride and groom**	41
Birthplaces of bride and groom	37
Number of previous marriages	36
Social Security Numbers of bride and groom	33
Resolution of previous marriages	32
Information about parents of bride and groom	29

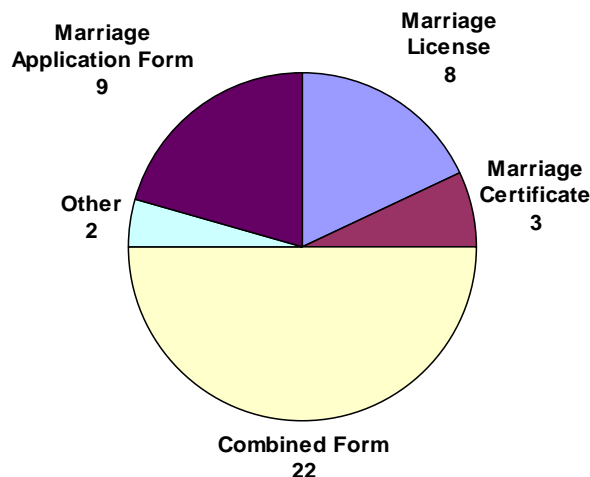
	States that Require Information
Races of bride and groom	23
Education levels of bride and groom	23
Occupations of bride and groom	8
Other demographic info for bride and groom	8
Ethnicities of bride and groom	7
Race/ethnicity combined of bride and groom	2

* Some states record the date of marriage; others only record the date the marriage license was issued

** Some states require full address while others only require city/county and/or state of residence

As noted in the previous section of the report, information on licenses and certificates is collected in the local office where the license is issued and the marriage recorded. *Exhibit 6* shows the variation in methods used to collect marriage information. About half of all states that require local areas to obtain marriage information reported that the local areas use a “combined form” – one that serves as both a marriage license and marriage certificate. Nine states report that local areas collect information from a marriage license application form. Interestingly, a marriage license application was not a field on the survey, but one in five states that responded indicated that they use this method. Local areas in eight states collect information on a marriage license, and three gather the data from a marriage certificate.

Exhibit 6: Form Used by Localities to Obtain Marriage-related Information From the Couple (n = 44)



Submission Methods. As seen in *Exhibit 7*, states, through information reported by local areas, obtain an array of information about marrying couples. Often they obtain information in more than one format. Approximately eight in ten states require local areas to provide either a copy or original of the license, certificate, or combined form. In addition, eight states (about one in five responding to this question) ask for the information in the form of a data set that contains all, or a subset of, the information on the license, certificate or combined form.¹⁶ Approximately

¹⁶ The survey did not ask respondents to identify the type of data set used.

one in three states requires local jurisdictions to report simple counts of the number of marriage licenses or certificates issued. Only three states require local areas to submit *only* counts of marriages that occurred in the reporting period (not shown). One state does not collect any marriage information at the state level.

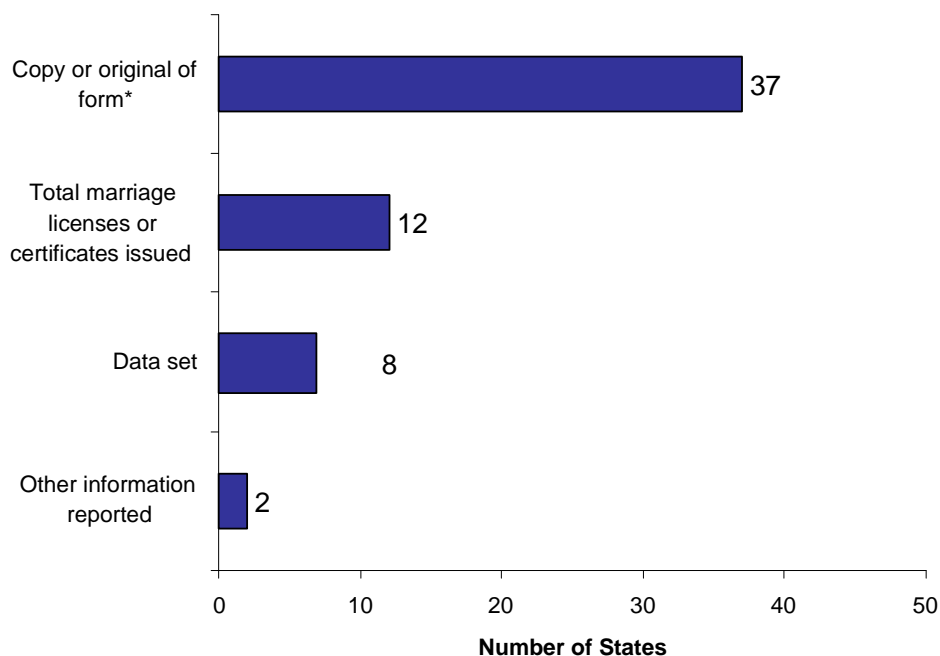
Within the last 10 years, about half of the states changed or contemplated changing, what local areas are required to report to states (as opposed to collect). Among the changes made, nine states report adding the Social Security Number to required forms. Two states chose to require less information be reported (e.g., only counts of events), and two states describe adding information on the type of union (e.g., civil, covenant marriage). Seven states reported contemplating changes to their reporting requirements, including adding or subtracting Social Security Numbers, no longer requiring information on bride and groom occupations, or changing the required form(s) to be consistent with the U.S. standard certificate.

The local-level survey explored changes to what local areas obtain from marrying couples. About one in four local areas that responded reported a change. Examples include:

- Adding fields related to domestic partnerships, maiden name of bride, phone numbers of bride and groom, previous civil unions, Social Security Numbers, race, participation in premarital counseling, or whether it was a same-sex union.
- Stopping the collection of information on race, Social Security Numbers, or blood tests.

Given that few local areas collect information aside from what is required by the state these changes were typically at the behest of the state agency. In only one case did a local area note that it had added an additional field that it did not report to the state.

Exhibit 7: Marriage-Related Information Localities Are Required to Report to States (n = 44)



*Includes marriage license, marriage certificate, or combined form
Note: Categories are not mutually exclusive

2. Divorce Information

As with marriage-related information, states differ in terms of the divorce-related information they require local areas – courts – to collect. Typically, local areas capture less information about divorcing couples compared to the depth of information collected for marriages. States generally require local areas to use a divorce certificate or a similar form to collect data about divorcing couples.

Information Collected. As with marriage, each of the states that responded to the question (41 in total) require local areas to obtain divorce information. Of these, 40 states provide local areas with standard forms for divorce, and 33 states require their use. Relative to marriage, however, there is less consistency in the types of information states require local areas to collect regarding divorcing couples. For example, over nine in ten states require local areas to collect information on the names of the bride and groom, addresses, dates of birth, and the date of marriage. With respect to divorce, the only information that more than nine in ten states require local areas to collect is full names of the husband and the wife and the date of divorce.

For divorces, dissolutions, or annulments, most states require local areas to gather standard information on the husband's and wife's names, ages or dates of birth, and addresses (*Exhibit 8*).

**Exhibit 8: Divorce-Related Information Localities Are Required
by the State to Obtain (n = 41)**

	States that Require Information
Full names of wife and husband	41
Date of divorce	38
Type of divorce decree	36
Number of years married or date married	34
Date of marriage	33
Number of years married	5
Petitioner	33
Maiden name of wife	31
Age or Date of Birth of wife and husband	30
Dates of birth of wife and husband	28
Ages of wife and husband	9
Addresses of wife and husband	28
Place of marriage	28
Petitioner attorney's name	26
Petitioner attorney's address	24
Physical custody award	22
Other demographic information for wife and husband	22
Number of previous marriages for wife and husband	21
Date couple last resided in same household	20
Birthplaces of wife and husband	19
Social Security numbers of wife and husband	16
Education levels of wife and husband	16
Races of wife and husband	15
Number of children under age 18 – this marriage only	14
Date(s) of previous divorce(s) for wife and husband	13
Number of children under age 18 – all marriages	11
Race/ethnicity combined of wife and husband	4
Ethnicity of wife and husband	3
Occupations of wife and husband	3

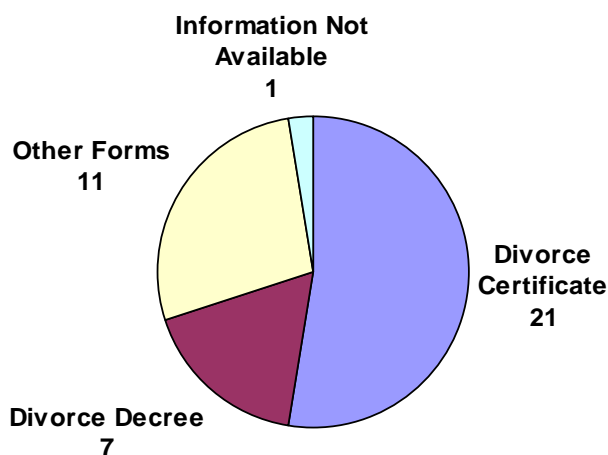
Other common data elements include the date and type of decree, the number of years married or date of marriage, the maiden name of the wife, and the place of marriage. The majority of states also require local areas to gather information related to the legal proceedings, including the name of the petitioner, name and address of the petitioner's attorney, award of physical custody of children, number of previous marriages and the date the couple last resided in the same household. Fewer than half of states require the collection of the husband's or wife's

birthplaces, Social Security Numbers, education, occupations, race or ethnicity, or the number of children (either total or resulting from the marriage).

Generally, the divorce-related data elements states require local areas to gather are not more detailed than those suggested on the U.S. Standard Certificate of Divorce, Dissolution of Marriage, or Annulment form. As with the marriage data, few states appear to require local areas to record all of the information suggested by the Standard Certificate. However, a number of states require local areas to supplement the NCHS data with questions on Social Security numbers and a few add information on occupations. New York, for example, mandates information on Social Security numbers for child support enforcement purposes. In general, state divorce information is leaner than what is suggested on the Standard Certificate.

Local areas generally collect information from a divorce certificate or divorce decree (see *Exhibit 9*). In 28 states the local areas rely on the certificate or decree to gather data. Localities in 11 states use other forms to gather this information—generally those provided for reporting purposes, such as an abstract, a report of the number of divorces, or a record of dissolution and annulment.

Exhibit 9: Form Used by Localities to Obtain Divorce-related Information From the Couple (n = 40 states)

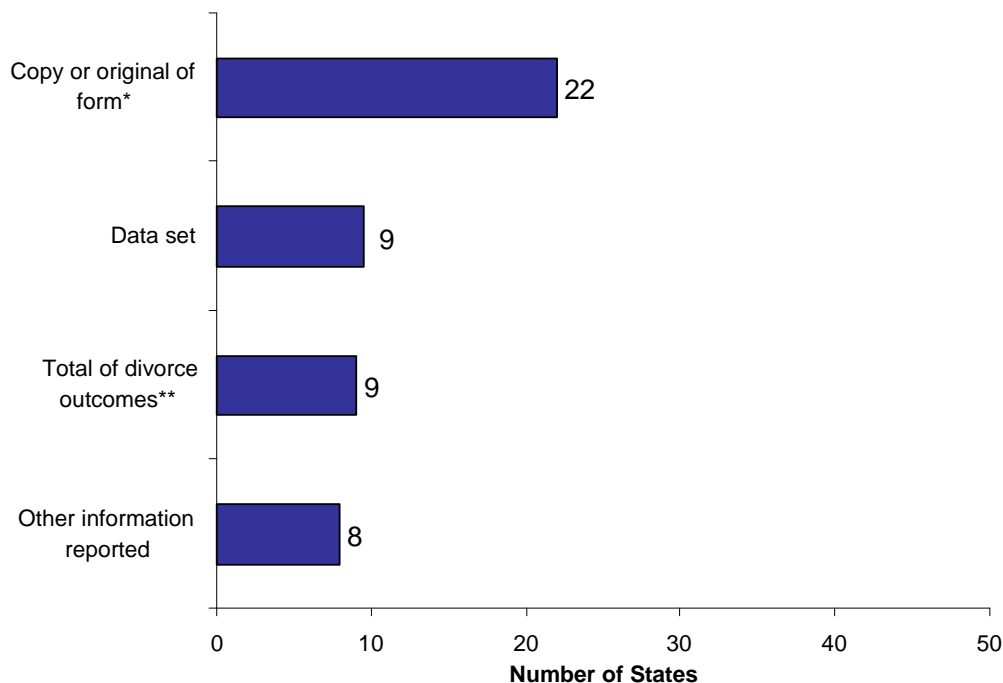


Submission Methods. Most states require local areas to report information on divorce to a state-level entity. Often they obtain information in more than one format. The most common information reported is a copy or original divorce-related form (22 of 40 states responding) (*Exhibit 10*). This compares to about eight in ten that require copies or originals of marriage-related forms. Nine states require the submission of a data set (a similar proportion to the reporting of marriage-related information), which could include all, or a subset, of information on the divorce certificate or in the decree. Nine states require a report of the total number of divorces, decrees, or certificates issued.

Compared with marriage, fewer states collect divorce information at the state level. Five states require *only* the submission of counts of divorces, dissolutions or annulments (compared to

three states for marriage). Seven states collect no information at the state level (compared to one for marriage).

Exhibit 10: Divorce-Related Information Localities Are Required to Report to States (n=40 states)



*Copies or originals of forms—certificates or decrees

** Summary of number of divorces, number of certificates issued, number of decrees

Note: Categories not mutually exclusive

Fewer than half of states made changes in the last 10 years to the information local areas must report on divorces in their jurisdictions. Changes adopted include no longer collecting information on race, Social Security numbers, or the date the couple last resided in the same household; and adding a requirement to report information on children and residence, divorces among same-sex couples, or Social Security numbers. Seven states reported contemplating changes in what local areas report (such as removing the fields pertaining to race, occupation or Social Security numbers) or implementing electronic or web-based systems.

Fewer local areas reported changes to divorce data collected (relative to marriage data). Of 25 local areas responding to the question, seven indicated changes in what they obtain. All changes were related to Social Security numbers or race—either adding or subtracting the information from required forms. As with marriage, these changes were typically made as a result of changes at the state level. No local area respondents indicated that changes in the type of divorce information being collected were done independent of a state requirement.

B. Methods Used to Collect and Maintain Marriage and Divorce Information

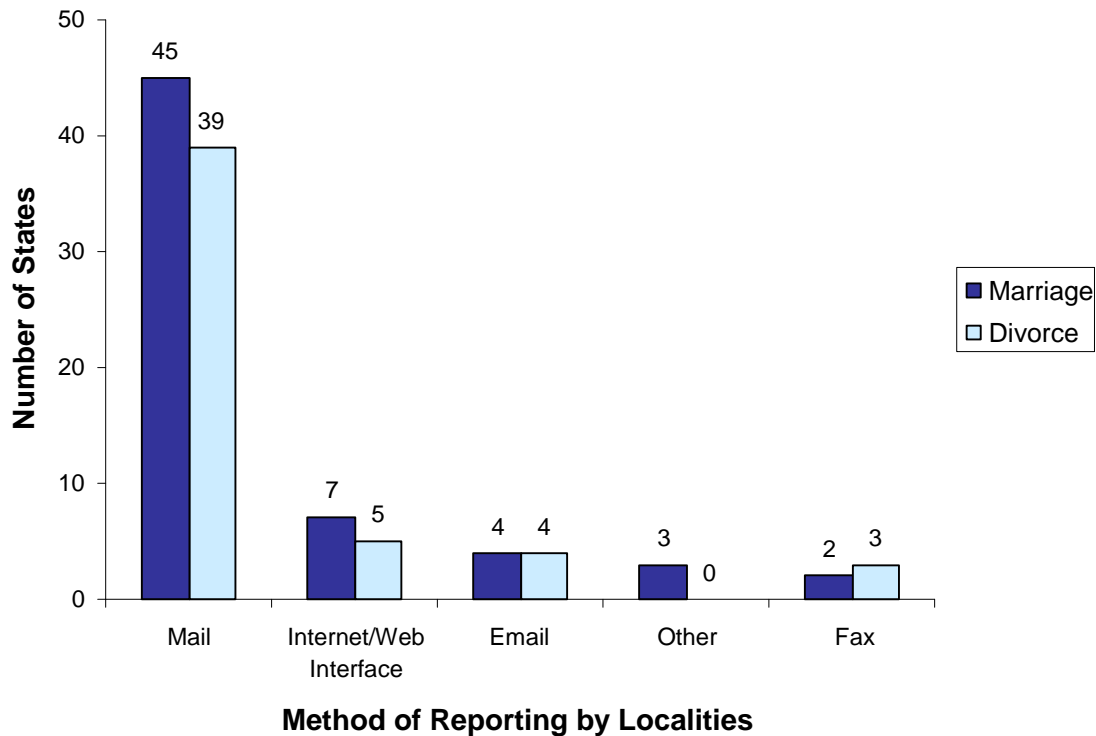
Survey questions asked states to describe how they receive information from localities and how information is stored at the state level. The survey also inquired how local areas obtain marriage and divorce data, maintain the data, and transfer the data to the appropriate state entities. This subsection describes the processes for collecting and maintaining marriage and divorce information at the state and local levels.

1. State Collection of Data

Unlike birth and death registration systems, marriage and divorce processes are still largely paper based. Generally, marriage and divorce documents are transmitted from local areas to the state in paper form.

As *Exhibit 11* shows, the vast majority of state-level offices receive marriage and divorce information from local areas through the mail. States that upgraded their systems to facilitate reporting often turned to electronic solutions, such as creating web-based systems. Seven states receive marriage information via the Internet or web-based reporting and five do so for divorce. Four states receive marriage information via email and four do so for divorce. Three states receive marriage information via other methods and no states receive divorce information via other methods. Two states receive marriage information via fax and three states receive divorce information via fax.

Exhibit 11: Method by Which States Receive Marriage- And Divorce-Related Information Reported By Localities (n = 47 states)

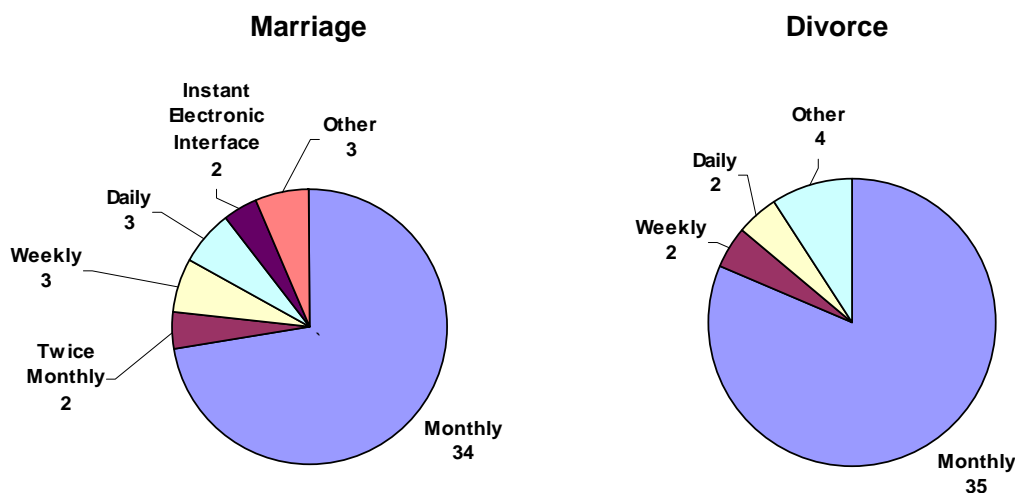


Note: Categories are not mutually exclusive

As seen in *Exhibit 12*, the majority of states receive marriage and divorce information monthly (34 and 35, respectively). Few ask the local offices to provide it more frequently.

Of the 13 states that receive marriage information more frequently than once a month, four reported that the data are transmitted from local areas via the Internet or some other electronic interface. Of the eight states that receive divorce information more frequently than once a month, four indicated that they receive divorce data electronically.

Exhibit 12: Frequency with which States Receive Marriage- and Divorce-Related Information Reported by Localities
(Marriage n = 47 states, Divorce n = 43 states)



Almost all states indicated that all localities report marriage information (45 of 46 states) and divorce information (41 of 43 states). Most states also report that the information they receive is generally complete and accurate. However, to the extent that there are errors in the information, states noted that for both the marriage and divorce, the Social Security numbers, education levels, previous marital status, and demographic information tend to be less reliable than other data elements. States take a number of steps to increase the reporting of data and the accuracy and completeness of the information. Most commonly, states follow-up with local areas through telephone calls or letters. A few states conduct site visits. States also report providing instruction manuals, presentations, training, and regular quality controls in their efforts to improve consistency and accuracy in reporting.

2. Maintaining Data

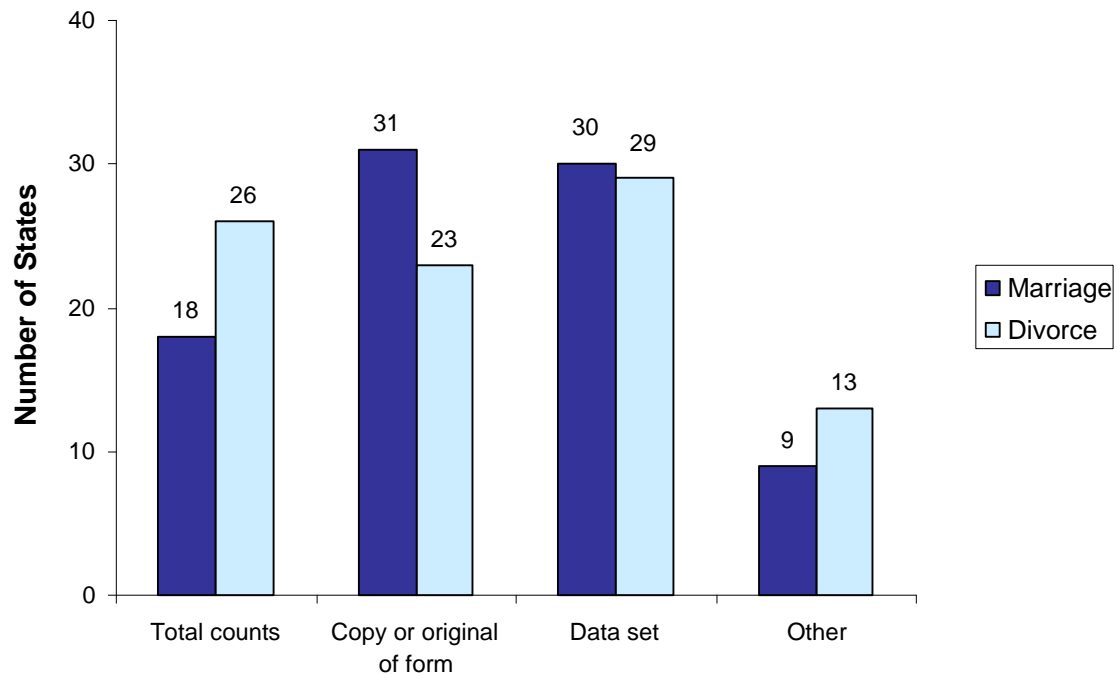
The state survey inquired about what data are *stored* at the state level and how they are stored (see *Exhibit 13*). In this way, the question differed slightly from the ones that are summarized in Exhibits 6 and 9, which asked what information is *reported*. A key issue with regard to marriage and divorce data contained in vital statistics systems is the extent to which it is maintained in a “usable” format – that is, one that can be easily analyzed. As noted in *Exhibit 10*, the most common method for transmitting marriage and divorce information from local

areas to the state is the mail. Regardless of the level of detail contained in these submissions (i.e., all information on a form, a subset of information, a count of events) hard copies of information do not lend themselves to easy analysis unless data elements are keyed into a data system.

Once received, most states store either a copy or original of the marriage license, certificate or combined form; half also maintain a data set. In contrast, for divorce information, most states store either summary totals of divorce outcomes or a data set with the information, rather than original copies of forms.

Thirty-one states store a copy or original of the marriage form (of 47 responding to this question); the corresponding number for divorce is 23 (of 43 responding). Eighteen of 47 states store counts of marriages, while 26 of 44 store total divorce outcomes. More than half of states store marriage and divorce information in data sets containing all or a subset of information from the reporting forms (30 and 29 states, respectively). This suggests some information is transformed into electronic format (a higher proportion of states use electronic storage than receive data in this format).

Exhibit 13: Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Marriage- and Divorce-Related Information (Marriage n = 47 states, Divorce n = 44 states)



Information Stored at the State Level

Note: Categories are not mutually exclusive

Among states that maintain a dataset with marriage- and divorce-related information, data are typically available at the level of the individual. Some states only supply aggregate level data (three states and seven states, respectively, for marriage and divorce data).

Typically, states store marriage and divorce information for an extended period of time. In fact, most reported storing information collected since the state began documenting marriages and divorces. Eighteen states have maintained marriage data for more than 75 years and 7 have divorce data covering 75 years. Some state records extend back even further: nine states store marriage data from before 1900 and four states store comparable divorce data.

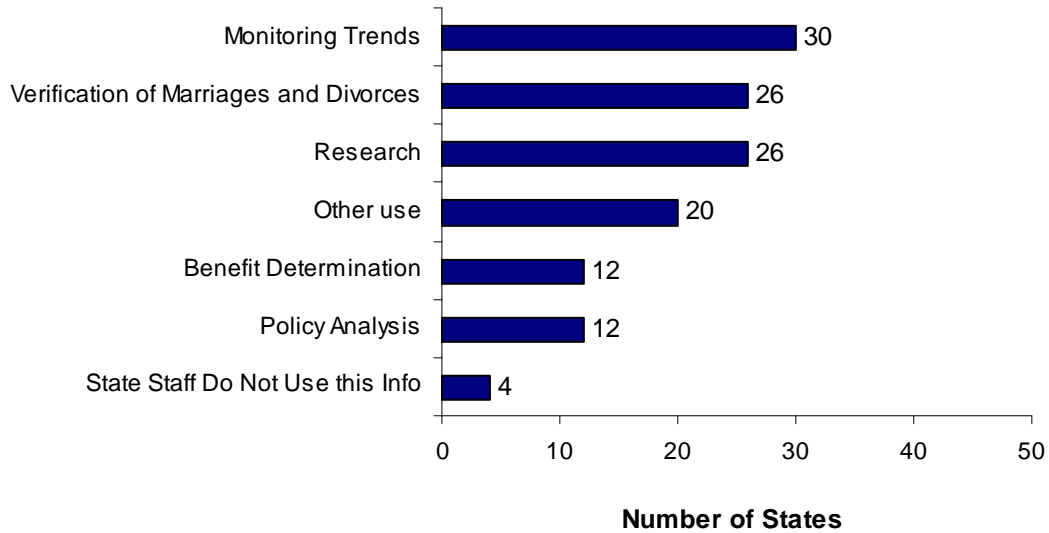
The local-level surveys also explored the information stored in the local offices and courts. In addition to keeping originals or copies of key forms, a large share store information in databases. For marriage, 39 of 73 areas that responded to the question indicated that marriage information is inputted into a database that can be analyzed. The corresponding figure for divorce is 25 of 56 areas.

C. Uses and Availability of Marriage and Divorce Information

The state level surveys explored how marriage and divorce information is used and the extent to which it is available to other users. This section describes the ways in which these data are used both by states and outside requestors. In addition, it explores the types of request states receive for marriage and divorce data.

1. Data Use

Most states report that they use the information for a variety of purposes (see *Exhibit 14*). The most common use is monitoring trends (almost two-thirds of states), followed by verifying marriage or divorce events and research (about half of states each), and determining benefits and analyzing policies (one quarter of states each). Four in ten use information for other purposes, including fraud detection, statistical reporting, and benefit determination. Only four states reported that their staffs did not use the information.

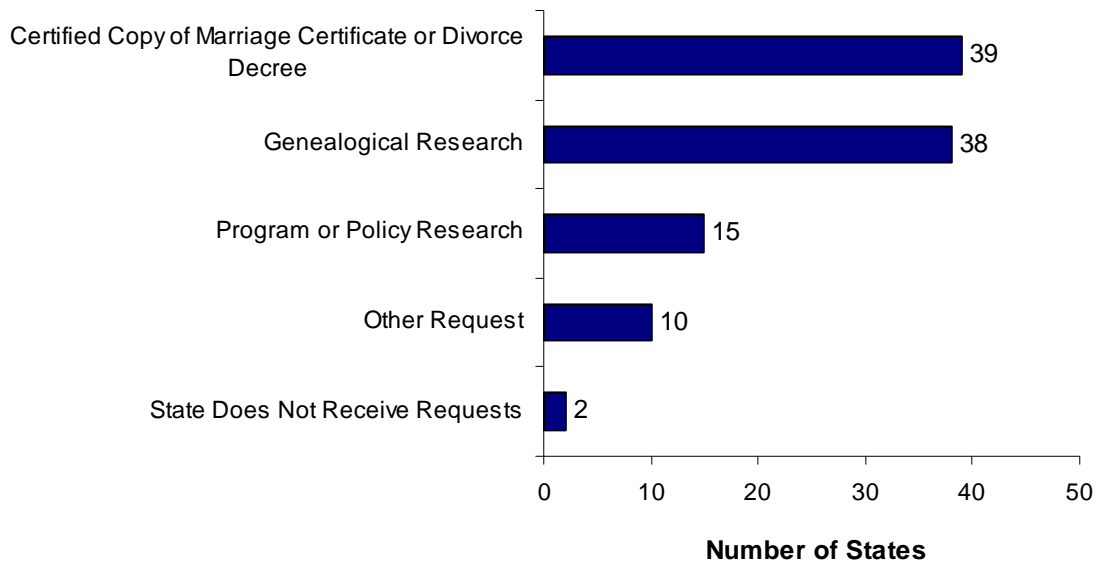
Exhibit 14: State Use of Marriage- and Divorce-Related Information (n = 48 states)

Note: Categories not mutually exclusive

2. Outside Requests for Data

As described above, states typically store individual records of divorce and marriage events and also maintain data sets or summaries that provide more general views of these events. Almost all states report receiving requests for marriage and divorce information. States report that the most common requests are for certified copies of marriage and divorce certificates and for genealogical research (*Exhibit 15*). Half of the states receive requests for data to use in program or policy research. One in five states receives requests for other types of information, including: information on civil unions; requests from the Department of Revenue for proof of name changes; and requests from private firms conducting market research.

Exhibit 15: Types of Information Requests Received by States (n = 49 states)

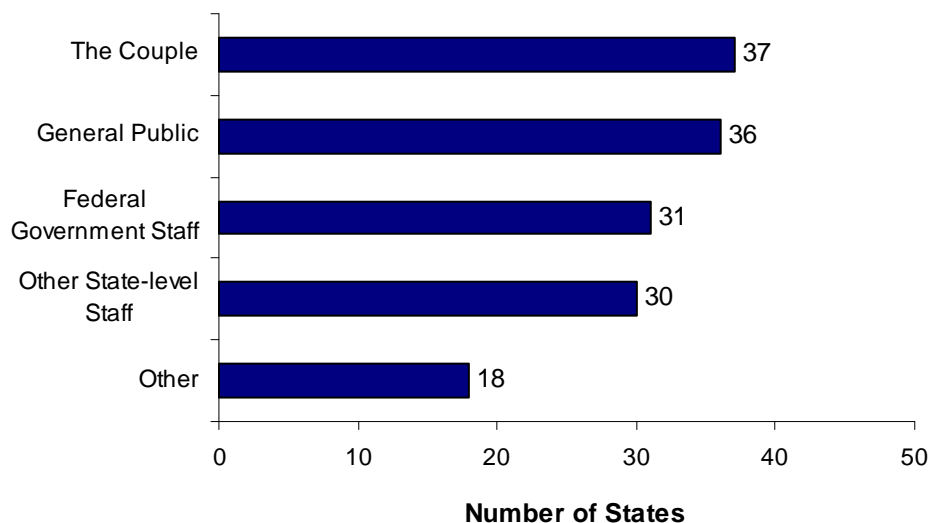


Note: Categories not mutually exclusive; Data do not reflect volume of requests

These requests for information come from a number of different sources (*Exhibit 16*). Almost eight in ten states report that couples request marriage and/or divorce information. A similar proportion indicates the general public seeks this information. Six in ten states report that the federal government (e.g., Social Security Administration) and state-level staff request marriage and divorce information. Other requestors include the media, universities and researchers, marketers and advertisers, law enforcement, other family members, and legislators.

Local level entities also report receiving requests for information. For both marriage and divorce information, the most common requests involve certified copies of marriage certificates and divorce decrees, followed by genealogical research.

Exhibit 16: Number of States that Report They Receive Requests, by Type of Requestor (n = 49 states)



Note: Categories not mutually exclusive

As noted above, many states maintain individual-level data on marriages and/or divorces, although some states only supply aggregate level data. Over half of the states vary the level of detail available depending on the type of requestor (i.e., whether it is a participant in the event or an outside party). Among the states that reported providing individual-level data, over half reported that some information is redacted. Commonly, Social Security numbers, personal identifiers, and race are not included in the information provided to outside requestors. Twenty-nine states report having privacy rules that govern the disclosure and use of this information; 14 states reported they do not have these rules. Nearly all states indicated that in order to access marriage and divorce information requestors can obtain the data directly from the state registrar's office; two-thirds indicated that individuals can also contact county or local offices in order to obtain the data.

D. Challenges and Costs Associated with Collecting, Maintaining, and Reporting Marriage and Divorce Information

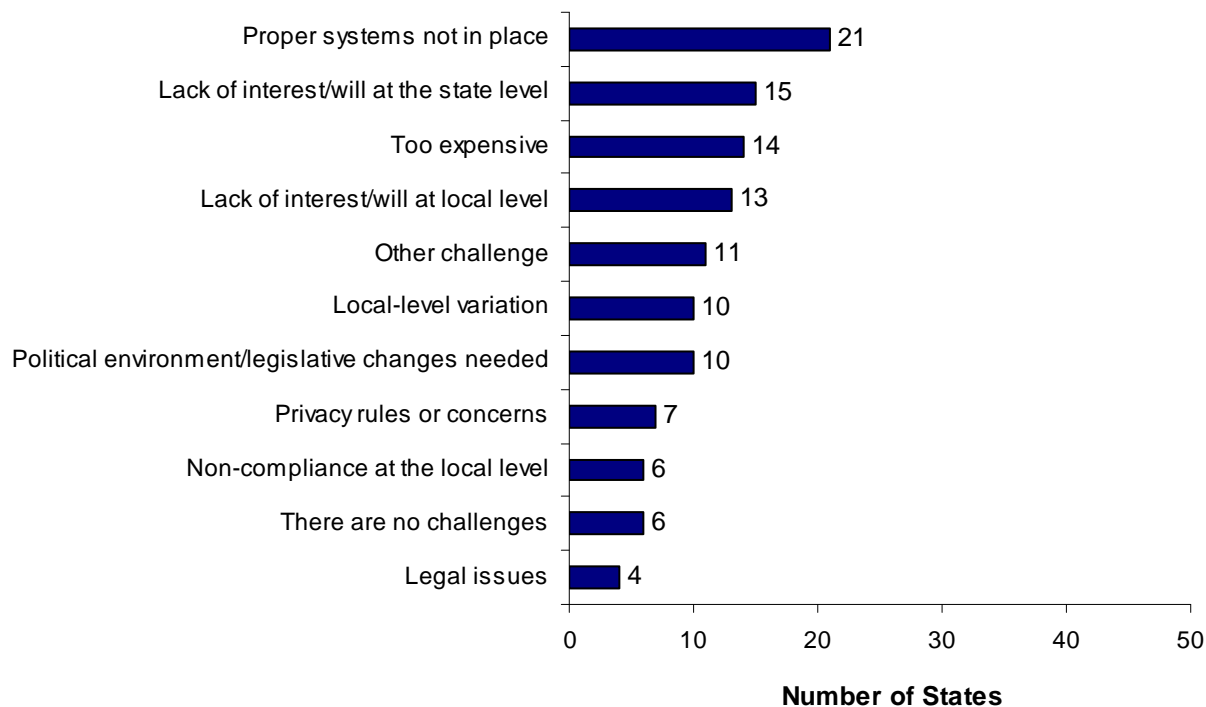
Finally, the state-level survey addressed some of the issues influencing states' ability to collect, store and analyze marriage and divorce information. This subsection describes challenges states face in collecting and storing this information, any plans states have to upgrade their reporting systems, and estimates of the costs associated with storing and maintaining this information.

1. Challenges

All but six states responding to this question indicated some challenges associated with the collection and maintenance of marriage and divorce information (see *Exhibit 17*). The most common challenge reported was that proper systems are not in place. Generally, this reflects issues with data collection and storage. States also face difficulties with the lack of interest or will at the state level, high costs, local-level variation, and legislative restraints or demands.

Other challenges associated with data collection and storage include privacy rules or concerns, non-compliance at the local level, and legal issues.

Exhibit 17: Key Challenges to Collecting, Storing, and Reporting Marriage- and Divorce-Related Information (n = 47 states)



Note: Categories not mutually exclusive

Most states have upgraded or are contemplating upgrading their data collection and reporting systems, including moving to an electronic system. Two-thirds of states reported that they have recently completed or considered a system upgrade. The most common upgrade implemented or discussed was creating some type of electronic system. This includes efforts to gather marriage and divorce information electronically at the local level (e.g., electronic marriage licenses); web-based interfaces to report information; imaging paper records; and upgrading the system to improve data analysis.

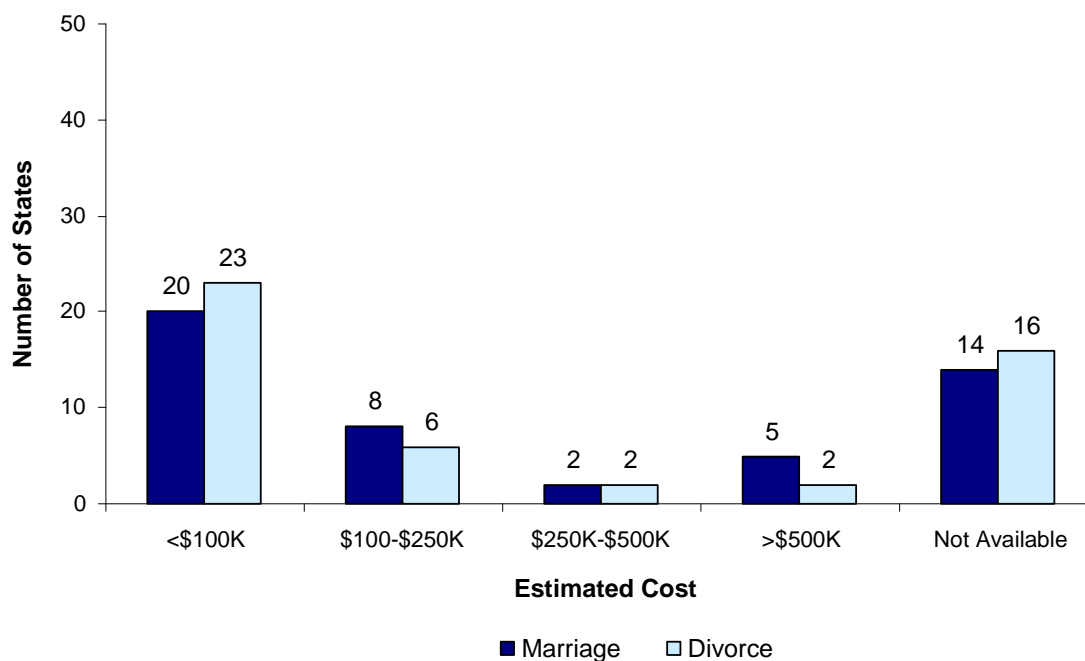
Local areas were less likely to identify challenges, particularly regarding marriage information. Thirty-seven areas responding indicated no challenges to collecting marriage information (of 78 reporting). Challenges identified included privacy rules or concerns (16 areas), too expensive (15 areas), and proper systems not in place (8 areas). For divorce, 17 of 65 areas reported no challenges. Among areas that reported challenges, privacy rules or concerns were cited most frequently (18 areas), followed by expense (14 areas), and proper systems not in place (13 areas).

2. System Costs

States generally had difficulty estimating the costs associated with collecting, analyzing, and storing information at the state level. As seen in *Exhibit 18*, many respondents opted not to

guess, indicating that it was impossible to disaggregate marriage and divorce expenses from those associated with the collection of vital statistics generally. Others stressed that their estimates were very rough. Of states that provided estimates, most indicated that they spend less than \$100,000 annually on marriage and divorce data collection and storage. A handful of states spent between \$100,000 and \$500,000 a year. Only one in 10 states spend more than \$500,000 on marriage information collection and storage; fewer than 5 percent spend a similar amount on divorce information.

Exhibit 18: Annual Cost for Collecting, Aggregating, and Storing Marriage- and Divorce-related Information (n=49 states)



IV. CONCLUSION

The state-level survey data indicate that there is a rich set of information collected on marriage and divorce events that is stored at the state level. Almost all states receive and store information at a central location. Thus, collectively, states capture the universe of marriages and divorces occurring in the U.S. each year. While paper copies of key forms, such as marriage licenses and divorce certificates, appear to be the predominant method for storing information, a large number of states store information in an electronic format (often in addition to paper copies of records) and most states indicated they are considering or implementing upgrades (generally electronic) to their systems in the future. Moreover, most states make individual-level data available to researchers and other interested parties, although identifying information is generally redacted. This final section summarizes the key findings from this survey and suggests ways in which these data could be used by policy makers or other interested parties.

A. Key Findings

The surveys indicate that states are collecting a wide variety of information about marriage and divorce. Indeed, all states indicated that some type of data are gathered centrally regarding these events. States also indicated that data collection is not static; within the past 10 years, about half of states have changed the amount of information they collect from local areas on marrying and divorcing couples. The majority of these states increased the amount of information collected. The surveys also indicate that a number of states collect fairly detailed information about marriage and divorce, although often not in a format that is easy to analyze. In most states the public has access to state level data, although person-level information is generally de-identified. Specific key findings include:

- Almost all states have requirements pertaining to the collection of marriage and divorce information at the local level. Most states also provide local areas with reporting forms. States report that they receive required information from local areas and that information is generally complete and accurate. However, to the extent that state-level offices do not collect data from local entities, it is more likely divorce information is not obtained from the courts. Seven states do not collect divorce information, whereas one does not collect marriage information. States are also more likely to collect minimal information about divorce (counts only) than marriage (five and three states, respectively).
- There is more uniformity in what states collect regarding marrying couples than divorcing ones. Some of the more common marriage data elements are the names of the bride and groom, the ages or dates of birth of the bride and groom, the date of marriage, the maiden name of the bride, and the addresses of the bride and groom.
- States are gathering more marriage-related information in recent years. Half of states reported changing within the past 10 years marriage information they require local areas to report to the state. An additional seven have contemplated changes. Fewer than half of the states made or contemplated changes in divorce-related information reported.
- Although most states still have paper-based systems for receiving marriage and divorce information, a sizable portion store information in databases. The vast majority of states receive marriage- and divorce-related information via the mail (45 and 39, respectively, of 47 reporting). However, in terms of storing information, about half of states store marriage and divorce information in data sets (26 states and 27 states, respectively). A similar proportion of local areas input marriage information and divorce information into data sets.
- States use marriage and divorce information for a variety of purposes. The most common purpose is monitoring trends. Another common use is research. Fewer reported using data for benefit determinations or policy analysis.
- A wide variety of requestors seek marriage and divorce information from states. This includes the couples associated with the event, federal government staff, and other state-level staff. Most states provide requestors with individual-level data. However, in half of these states, the level of detail depends on the requestor (i.e., couple involved in the event or another interested party). Among states that report maintaining individual-level data, more than half redact some information (e.g., Social Security numbers).

- Several states reported challenges to collecting marriage and divorce information. These include not having the proper systems in place to collect and store information, the costs associated with collection and maintenance of information, and lack of interest at the state or local level in collecting and storing the information. Despite these challenges, or because of them, most states have or are contemplating upgrading their data collection systems. In many states, this involves moving to an electronic system. Local areas were less likely to identify challenges to collecting marriage or divorce information.

B. Future Data Uses

Given the data potentially available, a number of interesting policy questions could be explored with this event data. Examples include:

State and local trends in marriage and divorce by couple characteristics. Using marriage information, researchers or policy makers could explore changes in the proportion of marrying couples who were previously married and how these marriages were resolved, whether there is a trend towards delaying marriage until later ages, and, in some states, education level of marrying couples. Because states generally collect information on addresses, states can explore key trends of interest by local area. For divorce, states could explore trends in the number of years couples were married and age of divorcing couples, among other topics. As with marriage, states generally collect information on addresses of the divorcing couple, facilitating local-level trends and comparisons.

States could assess marriage and divorce rates at the sub-state level to target interventions. For example, are divorce rates higher in metropolitan areas? Counties with high rates of unemployment? Counties that are growing quickly?

States could also study trends in marriages and divorces in areas that are implementing interventions designed to strengthen marriage and prevent divorce (either at local levels or state level). While this type of analysis will not indicate causation (i.e., there are many reasons a divorce rate might decrease that are unrelated to a particular intervention), it will provide contextual information for understanding and planning policies.

Linking marriage and divorce information to other data sets. Many states collect Social Security numbers for marrying and divorcing couples. Thus, marriage and divorce event data could be linked to other data sources. For example, states may be interested in whether compliance with child support orders is associated with the number of years married, the age of the divorcing couple, or the number of previous marriages. For example, one state is matching marriage and divorce records to insurance databases to detect fraud (i.e., dependents who are no longer eligible for insurance coverage because they are married and ex-spouses who are no longer eligible because they are divorced from the policy holder). States could also link marriage or divorce and health data to explore health outcomes by marital status. The Social Security Administration would also likely find this information extremely useful.

Matching marriage and divorce records. To the extent that couples marry and divorce in the same state, state policy makers and researchers could match records to explore whether certain characteristics are more evident among divorcing couples, such as young age at marriage or a previous marriage. This could inform future policies. Moreover, states could add elements to

marriage and divorce information collection tools to answer specific policy questions. For example, the marriage license or divorce certificate could inquire whether couples participated in marriage education, as well as the duration and source of such education.

APPENDIX: STATE DATA TABLES

Alabama

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Divorce Certificate & Divorce Decree
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Alaska

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	No
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	No
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	No

Arizona

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Missing ¹
Maiden name of bride	
Occupations of bride and groom	
SSN for bride and groom	
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	
Addresses of bride and groom	
Number of previous marriages	
How previous marriages resolved	
Race and/or Ethnicity	
Education level	
Birth place	
Date of marriage	
Information about parents of bride and groom	
Information about parents of bride and groom	
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Missing ¹
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	Yes
Email	Yes
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Missing ²
Maiden name of wife	
Occupations of husband and wife	
SSN of husband and wife	
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	
Race and/or Ethnicity	
Addresses of husband and wife	
Education level	
Birth place	
Date of marriage	
Number of years married	
Place of marriage	
Number of children under 18	
Physical custody awarded	
Date couple last resided in same household	
Number of previous marriages	
Date(s) of previous divorce	
Petitioner	
Petitioner attorney name	
Petitioner attorney address	
Date of divorce	
Type of decree	
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Missing ²
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	Yes
Email	Yes
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	No
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Missing/NA
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	No
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

¹ The state does not require local areas to collect any marriage information. The state registrar only collects counts.

² The state does not require local areas to collect any divorce information. The state registrar only collects counts.

Arkansas

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Marriage License
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	No
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

California

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	Yes
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Daily
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Missing ¹
Maiden name of wife	
Occupations of husband and wife	
SSN of husband and wife	
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	
Race and/or Ethnicity	
Addresses of husband and wife	
Education level	
Birth place	
Date of marriage	
Number of years married	
Place of marriage	
Number of children under 18	
Physical custody awarded	
Date couple last resided in same household	
Number of previous marriages	
Date(s) of previous divorce	
Petitioner	
Petitioner attorney name	
Petitioner attorney address	
Date of divorce	
Type of decree	
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Missing ¹
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Missing ¹
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Missing ¹
Fax	
Email	
Internet/Web Interface	
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Missing ¹
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Missing ¹
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Missing
Aggregate	
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	No
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

¹ Local areas are not required to report any information about dissolutions to the state.

Colorado

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	Yes
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	No
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	No
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	No
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Decree
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	No
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	Yes
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Connecticut

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Missing ¹
Maiden name of wife	
Occupations of husband and wife	
SSN of husband and wife	
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	
Race and/or Ethnicity	
Addresses of husband and wife	
Education level	
Birth place	
Date of marriage	
Number of years married	
Place of marriage	
Number of children under 18	
Physical custody awarded	
Date couple last resided in same household	
Number of previous marriages	
Date(s) of previous divorce	
Petitioner	
Petitioner attorney name	
Petitioner attorney address	
Date of divorce	
Type of decree	
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Missing ¹
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	Yes
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

¹ The state does not require local areas to collect any divorce information. The state registrar only collects counts.

Delaware

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	No
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	No
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Application Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	Yes
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	No
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Florida

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	No
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Georgia

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	No
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Missing
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	Yes*
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Weekly and Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	No
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	No
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Decree
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	Supplemental forms
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Weekly and Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Missing
Aggregate	
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

*Number of supplemental forms sent to the state office

Hawaii

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	Yes
SSN for bride and groom	No
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	Yes
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	As forms are completed
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related²

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Missing/NA
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	Yes

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Missing ¹
Maiden name of wife	
Occupations of husband and wife	
SSN of husband and wife	
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	
Race and/or Ethnicity	
Addresses of husband and wife	
Education level	
Birth place	
Date of marriage	
Number of years married	
Place of marriage	
Number of children under 18	
Physical custody awarded	
Date couple last resided in same household	
Number of previous marriages	
Date(s) of previous divorce	
Petitioner	
Petitioner attorney name	
Petitioner attorney address	
Date of divorce	
Type of decree	
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Missing ¹
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Missing ¹
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Missing ¹
Fax	
Email	
Internet/Web Interface	
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Missing ¹
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Missing ¹
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	

¹ Local areas are not required to report any information about dissolutions to the state.

² Only marriage information is available at the state level.

Idaho

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	No
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Application Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Illinois

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	Yes
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Application Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Missing
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	No
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Missing/NA
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	Yes
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Divorce-Related Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Missing
Fax	
Email	
Internet/Web Interface	
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Indiana

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	Yes
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Missing ¹
Maiden name of wife	
Occupations of husband and wife	
SSN of husband and wife	
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	
Race and/or Ethnicity	
Addresses of husband and wife	
Education level	
Birth place	
Date of marriage	
Number of years married	
Place of marriage	
Number of children under 18	
Physical custody awarded	
Date couple last resided in same household	
Number of previous marriages	
Date(s) of previous divorce	
Petitioner	
Petitioner attorney name	
Petitioner attorney address	
Date of divorce	
Type of decree	
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Missing ¹
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Missing ¹
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Missing ¹
Fax	
Email	
Internet/Web Interface	
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Missing ¹
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Missing ¹
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	

¹ Local areas are not required to report any information about dissolutions to the state.

Iowa

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Weekly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required by the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Weekly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Kansas

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	Yes
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	*
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	Yes
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	*
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

*Paper forms submitted monthly; electronic submissions, as completed

Kentucky

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	Yes
SSN for bride and groom	No
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	Yes
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	No
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Other state issued form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Louisiana

Marriage & Divorce Information

State level staff were unable to participate in the survey due to hurricane-related priorities.

Maine

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	Yes
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	No
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Decree
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Maryland

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	No
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Decree
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	Report of absolute divorce or annulment
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Missing/ NA
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	Yes
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Massachusetts

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	No
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Notice of Intention
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	Index of events

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	No
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	No
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	No
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	No
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Missing
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	List of names and dates of divorce
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	Names, dates of divorce, court granting divorce

Michigan

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	No
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Report of Divorce
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	No

Minnesota

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	No
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	No
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Marriage License
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	No
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	Yes
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Missing ²
Aggregate	
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Missing ²
Contact another state agency	
Contact local court or office	
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	
Contact another entity	

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	No
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	No
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	No
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Missing ¹
Fax	
Email	
Internet/Web Interface	
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Missing ¹
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Missing ¹
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	

¹ Local areas are not required to report any information about dissolutions to the state.

² The only information maintained at the state level is a count of the number of marriages that have occurred. This is published in a yearly statistical report. No divorce information is available.

Mississippi

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	No
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	No
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Abstract form with counts of outcomes
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	Yes; All information on the state issued statistical abstract form

Missouri

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Application Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	Yes*
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	No
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Missing/NA
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Dissolution of Marriage Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

*Yes; Data can be submitted electronically via floppy disk or CD

Montana

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Application Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	Yes
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	Yes
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	State Case Registry & Vital Stats Reporting Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	No
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	Yes
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Electronic weekly; aggregate reports sent monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Nebraska

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	Yes
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	Yes
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	Yes
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	Yes
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	No
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Missing/ NA
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	No

Nevada

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	No
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	No
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	No
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	No
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Marriage License
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	Yes
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	Yes; On disks
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	No
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	No
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	No
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	No
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Report of Divorce
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	Yes
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

New Hampshire

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Marriage License
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	Yes
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Instant Electronic Interface
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	No
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Missing/NA
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	Yes
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	No
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	Yes
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

New Jersey

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Weekly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	No
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Order of the court
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	No
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	Yes
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Instantly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

New Mexico

Marriage & Divorce Information

There is no central registrar in New Mexico responsible for collecting information on marriages or dissolutions and annulments.. All records are maintained at the local level.

New York

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	Yes
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Mar. Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Twice Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Missing
Aggregate	
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

North Carolina

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	No
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Decree
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

North Dakota

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Application Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	No
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Electronic form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	No
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	Yes
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Weekly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Ohio

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	No
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	No
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Marriage License
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	No
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	No
Number of years married	Yes
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Decree
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Oklahoma

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Missing ¹
Maiden name of bride	
Occupations of bride and groom	
SSN for bride and groom	
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	
Addresses of bride and groom	
Number of previous marriages	
How previous marriages resolved	
Race and/or Ethnicity	
Education level	
Birth place	
Date of marriage	
Information about parents of bride and groom	
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Missing ¹
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Missing ¹
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Missing ¹
Fax	
Email	
Internet/Web Interface	
Other	
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Missing ¹
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Missing ¹
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	No
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Missing/ NA
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Missing ²
Maiden name of wife	
Occupations of husband and wife	
SSN of husband and wife	
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	
Race and/or Ethnicity	
Addresses of husband and wife	
Education level	
Birth place	
Date of marriage	
Number of years married	
Place of marriage	
Number of children under 18	
Physical custody awarded	
Date couple last resided in same household	
Number of previous marriages	
Date(s) of previous divorce	
Petitioner	
Petitioner attorney name	
Petitioner attorney address	
Date of divorce	
Type of decree	
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Missing ²
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Missing ²
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Missing ²
Fax	
Email	
Internet/Web Interface	
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Missing ²
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Missing ²
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	

¹ The state only requires local areas to report counts of the number of marriages that have occurred.

² The state only requires local areas to report counts of the number of dissolutions that have occurred.

Oregon

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	Yes
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Record of dissolution and annulment
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Pennsylvania

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Missing ¹
Maiden name of bride	
Occupations of bride and groom	
SSN for bride and groom	
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	
Addresses of bride and groom	
Number of previous marriages	
How previous marriages resolved	
Race and/or Ethnicity	
Education level	
Birth place	
Date of marriage	
Information about parents of bride and groom	
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Missing
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	Yes
Email	Yes
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	No
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Missing/ NA
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	Yes

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Missing ²
Maiden name of wife	
Occupations of husband and wife	
SSN of husband and wife	
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	
Race and/or Ethnicity	
Addresses of husband and wife	
Education level	
Birth place	
Date of marriage	
Number of years married	
Place of marriage	
Number of children under 18	
Physical custody awarded	
Date couple last resided in same household	
Number of previous marriages	
Date(s) of previous divorce	
Petitioner	
Petitioner attorney name	
Petitioner attorney address	
Date of divorce	
Type of decree	
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Missing
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	Yes
Email	Yes
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

¹ The state only requires local areas to report the ages of the bride and groom.

² The state only requires local areas to report the duration of the marriage.

Rhode Island

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Twice Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes; only from 1982-1990
Copy or original of form	
Data set	
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	Yes

South Carolina

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	No
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Weekly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

South Dakota

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	No
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Application Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	No
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	Yes
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Instant Electronic Interface
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	No
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Tennessee

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Mar. Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	Yes

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	No
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	No
Type of decree	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Texas

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Mar. Application Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	State-provided reporting form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Utah

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Mar. Application Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	Yes
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	Yes
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Vermont

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	No
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Daily
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	No
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	State issued
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Daily
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	No
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	Yes

Virginia

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	No
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Marriage License
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	No
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Missing/NA
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	No
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Washington

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
How previous marriages resolved	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Marriage License
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	No
Contact another entity	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

West Virginia

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	No
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Marriage License
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	No
Education level	No
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	No
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Decree
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	Yes; Log form with a subset of information about the parties
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	No
Data set	No
Other information reported	Yes; Log forms

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	No
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Wisconsin

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Daily
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	No
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	No
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	No
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
Date(s) of previous divorce	Yes
Petitioner	No
Petitioner attorney name	No
Petitioner attorney address	No
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Daily
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	Yes
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No

Wyoming

Marriage & Divorce Information

Marriage-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full name of bride and groom	Yes
Maiden name of bride	Yes
Occupations of bride and groom	No
SSN for bride and groom	Yes
Age or Date of Birth of bride and groom	Yes
Addresses of bride and groom	Yes
Number of previous marriages	Yes
How previous marriages resolved	Yes
Race and/or Ethnicity	Yes
Education level	Yes
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Information about parents of bride and groom	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Type of Form Used	Combined Form
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total marriage licenses or certificates issued	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Other	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Divorce-Related

Information Localities Are Required By the State to Obtain	
Full names of husband and wife	Yes
Maiden name of wife	Yes
Occupations of husband and wife	No
SSN of husband and wife	No
Age or Date of Birth of husband and wife	No
Race and/or Ethnicity	No
Addresses of husband and wife	Yes
Education level	No
Birth place	Yes
Date of marriage	Yes
Number of years married	No
Place of marriage	Yes
Number of children under 18	Yes
Physical custody awarded	Yes
Date couple last resided in same household	Yes
Number of previous marriages	No
Date(s) of previous divorce	No
Petitioner	Yes
Petitioner attorney name	Yes
Petitioner attorney address	Yes
Date of divorce	Yes
Type of decree	Yes
Form Used by Localities to Obtain Information From the Couple	
Form Used	Divorce Certificate
Information Localities Are Required to Report to States	
Total of divorce outcomes	No
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	No
Other information reported	No
Method by Which States Receive Information Reported By Localities	
Mail	Yes
Fax	No
Email	No
Internet/Web Interface	No
Frequency States Receive Information Reported by Localities	
Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Method Used by States to Store/Maintain Information	
Total counts	Yes
Copy or original of form	Yes
Data set	Yes
Other information reported	No

Marriage- and Divorce-related

What Level of Detail is Available to the Requestors?	
Individual	Yes
Aggregate	Yes
Do all requestors have access to same level of data?	No
If individual-level records are available, is any information redacted?	Yes
What is the Method for Requesting Information	
Contact state agency that receives marriage and divorce information	Yes
Contact another state agency	No
Contact local court or office	No
Contact an intermediary (e.g., university)	Yes
Contact another entity	No