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A STUDY OF SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS ASSOCIATED  
WITH THE NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF MARRIAGES  
SOLEMNIZED IN SOUTH DAKOTA, 1960-1972

BY

JON GREGORY LUNDEEN

A thesis submitted  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the  
degree Master of Science, Major in  
Rural Sociology, South Dakota  
State University

1974



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JGL

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## CHAPTER I

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

#### Introduction

South Dakota in the last decade, has experienced many changes in its vital statistics and the composition of its population. These changes have not only been many, but they have also been rapid. For example, in just ten years, the number of births in South Dakota has fallen from 17,594 in 1960 to 11,717 in 1970. South Dakota's total population declined from 680,514 in 1960 to 666,257 in 1970. Marriages, however, have increased from 5,789 in 1960 to 11,034 in 1970 with the trend continuing in the ensuing years.

Not only has the number of marriages in South Dakota increased since 1960, but the marriage rate (number of marriages per thousand population) has also increased. Between 1960 and 1969, the marriage rate nearly doubled going from 8.5 marriages per thousand population in 1960 to 16.6 marriages per thousand population in 1969, placing South Dakota with the third highest marriage rate in the nation.

The fact that South Dakota had the highest marriage rate of any state in the North Central Region for every year since 1960 is substantiated by Table 1. It was also higher than the national average for the years 1960 to 1969.

These population changes, i.e. the decline in the number of births, decline in population, but at the same time an increase in the number of

Table 1. Marriage Rates\* for South Dakota  
North Central Region and U. S.

State	Year									
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
United States	10.6	10.4	9.7	9.5	9.3	9.0	8.8	8.5	8.5	8.5
North Central	9.8	9.6	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.3	8.1	7.7	7.7	7.8
South Dakota	16.6	15.8	13.5	12.5	12.1	11.5	10.6	9.9	9.0	8.5
Minnesota	8.6	8.4	7.8	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.9
Iowa	8.9	8.9	8.1	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.1	6.9	8.0	9.0
Missouri	10.8	10.4	9.6	9.4	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.1	8.0	8.3
North Dakota	8.8	8.4	7.9	7.3	7.6	7.2	7.0	6.6	6.8	6.4
Nebraska	10.5	9.9	9.1	8.5	8.3	8.1	8.0	7.7	7.6	7.5
Kansas	9.6	9.5	8.8	8.6	8.4	8.2	7.9	7.5	7.4	7.3

\*Based on sample data per 1,000 population.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1972.  
(93rd edition) Vol. 3, Washington, D. C., 1972.

marriages, creates a worthwhile problem for investigation by the social scientist.

### Statement of the Problem

The number of South Dakota's marriages, like its population has changed in the last decade. But knowing that the number and rate of marriages have changed is not enough. It is also necessary to know what the changes were, what contributed to the change, and what factors influenced the change. Consequently, this study investigated the following problem: What changes have transpired in the number and characteristics of marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960? More specifically, what similarities and differences exist between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota; and, what factors influence nonresidents to marry where they do in South Dakota?

### Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this research project was to study the trend of marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960. However, by refining this objective, three sub-objectives result. They are:

1. To determine the trend in the number of total marriages, resident marriages, nonresident marriages, and mixed marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960.
2. To determine the similarities and differences that exist between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota for 1962 and 1972 and any changes that have occurred between these two years.
3. To determine the factors that influence nonresidents to select a particular location in South Dakota for their marriage.

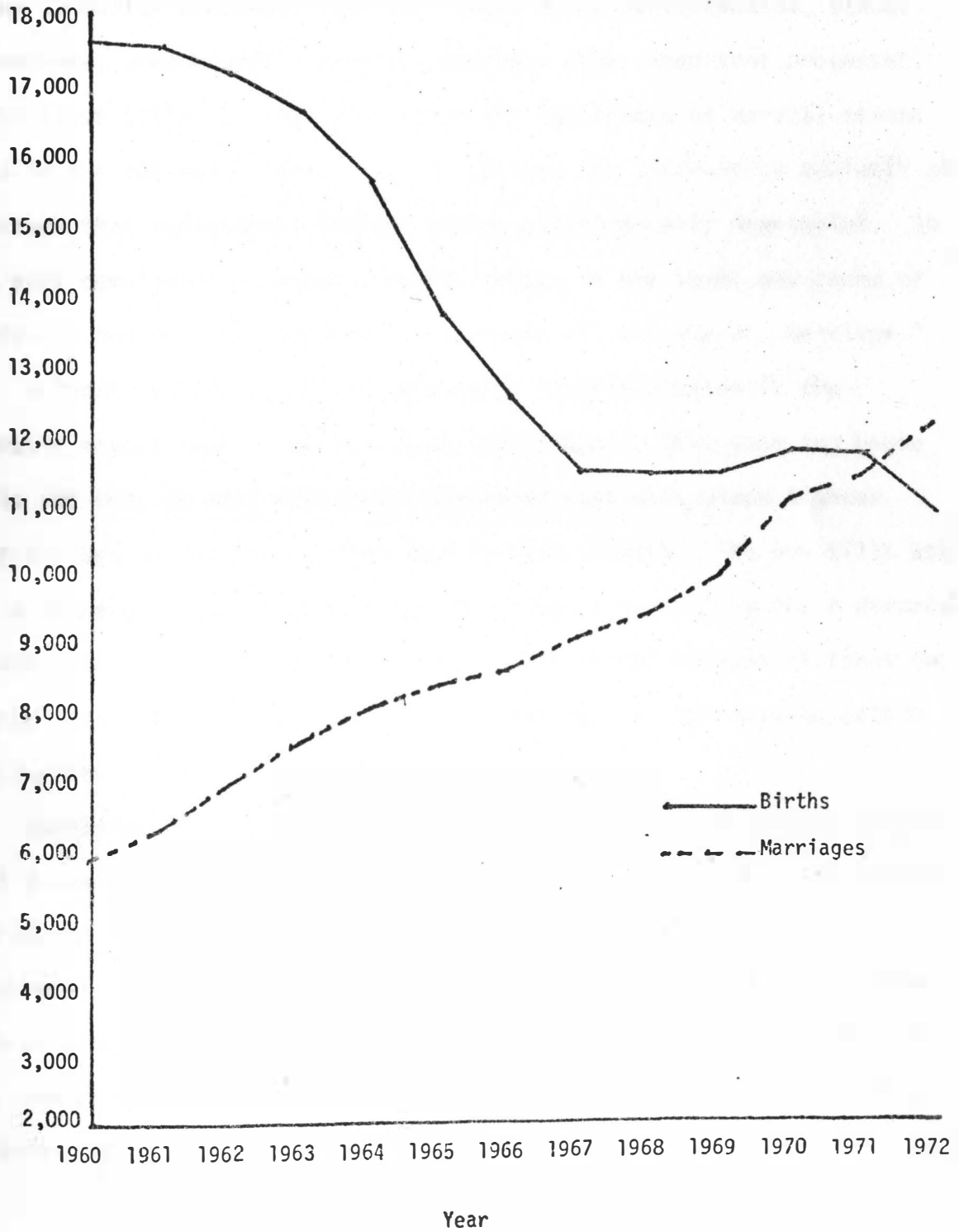
### Importance of the Problem

The marriage statistics for South Dakota from 1960 to 1970 reveal that the number of marriages has steadily increased since 1960. The number of births however, has steadily decreased in number in South Dakota since 1960 (Chart 1).

Normally, it would be expected that these two statistics move together in the same direction, but this is not the case in South Dakota. Studies have been made on the decline in the number of births in South Dakota (Wagner, 1972), but no studies have been completed on the changing number of marriages solemnized in South Dakota. Perhaps this is understandable inasmuch as Paul H. Jacobson (1959, p. 9) points out that the analysis and interpretation of marriage statistics is the least developed branch of American vital statistics. This is an important area for study, however, because any community is highly influenced by the proportion of its population that is single, married, widowed, or divorced. The marital condition of a population influences its birth rate, thus producing changes in the composition of the population.

Marital status composition of the population is a demographic factor that helps produce population change and influence local community life. Marital status has great importance for group survival through childbearing, for it is generally accepted that it is through the legal cohabiting of males and females that childbearing is generally approved and accepted. Because of this, the rate of marriages together with their dissolution are vital processes, and statistics of

Chart 1. Total Births and Marriages in  
South Dakota from 1960 to 1972



marriage and divorce are vital statistics (Bogue, 1969).

Besides affecting the birthrate, marital status also affects other community processes such as: labor force participation, school attendance, urban-rural residence, and many other important processes. David Glass (1955, p. 141) summarizes the importance of marital status data in the following terms: "It is through the intervening variable of marriage that replacement indices become sociologically meaningful. In the more developed societies, recent changes in the level and trend of fertility owe much to changes in the amount of, and age at, marriage."

A final indication of the importance of this problem is the emphasis placed upon it by the state legislature. This year two House bills (HB 868, HB 869) have been introduced that will place tighter restrictions on marriages solemnized in South Dakota. The new bills ask for a three-day waiting period for remarriage after filing for a divorce. In actuality, the six months amounts to four months because it takes two months before a divorce becomes final, leaving four more months before the parties involved could remarry.

Knowledge generated by the study of this problem may assist in the area planning of various governmental, educational, economic, religious, and recreational agencies in South Dakota for the coming year. It is also hoped that it may bring about some standardization of the marriage laws of the various states, because some states are indicating they will not recognize those marriages where couples cross state lines to marry to avoid their home state laws on marriage.



## Organization of the Thesis

- Chapter 1. Statement of the Problem, Objectives of the Study, Importance of the Problem, Organization of the Thesis.
- Chapter 2. Review of Literature.
- Chapter 3. Theoretical Framework and Research Hypothesis.
- Chapter 4. Methodology, Unit of Analysis, General Procedures, Dependent Variable, Independent Variable, Definitions, Mode of Analysis.
- Chapter 5. Change in the Number of and Characteristics of Marriages Solemnized in South Dakota for Selected Years.
- Chapter 6. Selected Factors that Influence Nonresidents to Marry Where They Do in South Dakota.
- Chapter 7. Summary, Conclusions, Implications, Limitations, and Recommendations.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter which deals with a review of available literature that is pertinent to the problem under study will be divided into sections dealing with the different variables under study. It should be pointed out at the outset, however, that there is a paucity of information available that has a direct bearing on the central problem of this study. The variables will be discussed under the following headings: age at marriage, age at first marriage, remarriage, residence, distance and law.

#### Age at Marriage

Many authors (Paul Glick and Emanuel Landau, 1950; Hugh Carter, 1955; Ralph Thomlinson, 1965; and Donald Bogue, 1969) have conducted research which shows that the United States tends to have a pattern of early marriage. In 1960 Ralph Thomlinson (1965, p. 460), revealed that two fifths of all brides and one eighth of all grooms were in their teens.

J. Joel Moss (1965, p. 232) also studied age in regard to marriage. He found that in 1960 the median age-at-marriage for males was 22.8 years and for females 20.3 years. In 1954 the median age-at-marriage for urban males was 24.5 years, for rural farm males, 23.2 years old and for rural nonfarm males, 23.8 years old. For urban females the median age was 21.2 years, for rural farm females, 19.4 years old, and for rural nonfarm females, 19.9 years old. In the United States then,

there is some evidence that early marriages consist of younger females married to males that are older by about three or four years.

The typical pattern for marriage (Bogue, 1969, p. 314) is for the proportion married to rise very swiftly between the ages of 18 to 22 for females and ages 20 to 25 for males and then slacken. A larger fraction of the females marry between the ages of 18 to 22 and the remainder marry before age 30. Few women marry for the first time after age 45 or 50. Because males tend to marry at an age that is from one to five years older than females, the proportion of the never-married young males is universally longer than that for females.

Since the average person's marital status depends largely upon his age, the proportions of single and married in a population are determined primarily by the age composition of the population. During the early years of adulthood, women are more likely to be married and less likely to be single than men. After ages 35 to 40 however, men are more likely to be married than women. Before women have completed their twentieth birthday, wives outnumber their unmarried sisters and after their twenty-third birthday, married men outnumber single men (T. Lynn Smith and Paul E. Zopf, Jr., 1970, p. 227).

While in 1960, the United States was the only industrialized nation in the world where the white population falls into the "early marriage" pattern of 18 to 19 years old, this does not mean that it started then. Paul C. Glick and Hugh Carter (1958) conducted a study where they show that as far back as the 1940's, marriages were taking place in the United States at a younger age than before.

### Age at First Marriage

As in age at marriage, females tend to be younger than males at the time of their first marriage. In general, the median age of first marriage for females is about two to three years younger than for males. The median age at first marriage for females is 20 years and for males it is 23 years.

Paul Glick and Emanuel Landau (1950, p. 518), found that one half of the men in their study entered their first-marriage between the ages of 22 to 28 with a median age of 24.2 years. The women in their study entered their first marriage between the ages of 19 to 24, with a median age of 20.9 years. Also, urban females were about one year older than rural females at the time of their first marriage.

Females then tend to marry an older male at first marriage, and first marriages for rural farm females occur at an earlier age than for urban females.

### Remarriage

Remarriage rates are generally higher, age for age, than are first marriage rates and at most ages the remarriage rates for men are higher than those for women (Jacobson, 1959, p. 82). Marriage rates are highest for divorced persons, intermediate for widowed persons, and lowest for single persons. Therefore, divorced persons are more prone to marry than widowed persons and single persons. This however, depends upon the age of the person. The majority of marriages involving persons under 35 years of age are first marriages, while between the ages of 35 to 55, there are more marriages of divorced persons than of single or widowed

persons. Above the age of 55, the majority of marriages are of widowed persons.

In his study, Hugh Carter (1955, p. 168), found that the median age at remarriage for females is five to six years younger than for males. At remarriage, the median age for brides is about 35 years and grooms about 40 years. There is also a difference in age at remarriage between divorced and widowed persons. Widowed women who remarry average about 47 years, while widowed men who remarry average about 57 years old. In both cases, women are younger than men at the time of remarriage, which is the case at age of marriage and age at first marriage.

At ages beyond 35, both divorced and widowed women are more prone to remarry than single women are to marry, and the rates for divorced women is higher than for widowed women. In the United States today, nearly 30 percent of all marriages performed are remarriages for one partner or the other (Bogue, 1969, p. 650). This figure is quite different from the one that Paul C. Glick (1949, p. 727) found in his study. In his study, 13 percent of the men who were married in 1948, had been married before. He also found that persons who remarry tend to select a person who had also been previously married.

### Residence

Paul C. Glick and Hugh Carter (1958, p. 298), found that 80 percent of the first marriages in their study involved a resident bride and groom. Also, close to 70 percent of the remarriages involved a resident bride and groom. Among first marriages involving nonresident couples, the husband tended to be younger and have less education than the average.

Also, a high proportion of the nonresident husbands had not completed high school. The authors felt that this was because nonresident marriages tend to be more hasty and informal than resident marriages.

### Distance

While there has been no literature published on distance as a factor in influencing people to cross state lines to marry, there is, however, some published literature on distance as a factor in influencing people to move to a certain location.

Samuel A. Stouffer (1940, p. 845) makes this comment in his article on mobility and distance. "Most people go a short distance, few people go a long distance. Whether one is seeking to explain 'why' persons go to trade at a particular store, 'why' they go to a particular place to get jobs, or 'why' they marry the particular spouse they choose, the factor of spatial distance is of obvious significance."

George K. Zipf (1946) and Samuel A. Stouffer (1940) both have placed some function of distance in the denominator of their formulas. Both treat distance differently, however. Stouffer measures distance in his formula by the number of nearer or intervening opportunities, while Zipf measures distance by the shortest transportation route. Both however, look upon distance as an influential force in attracting people to other cities or areas.

### Law

Marriage regulation in the United States is the exclusive province of each state. Local variations exist regarding age of first marriage,

waiting period, premarital examinations, nonresident marriages, and parental permission for minors (Jacobson, 1959, p. 44).

Because the individual state and not the federal government is responsible for the regulation of marriage, marriage laws differ in each state. Paul Jacobson (1959, p. 46) states that one effect of premarital legislation is that marriages fall off in the state which enacts new, more restrictive legislation. At the same time, there is usually a countertrend in neighboring states. Apparently new laws induce some residents to travel to nearby states to avoid the inconveniences of the new regulations. Equally important, such legislation reduces sharply the number of nonresidents who come to the state to avoid the laws of their state. Eventually, however, the new legislation loses some of its deterring effect on residents, whereas the number of nonresident marriages remains at a lower level. The decline in marriages which accompanies new premarital legislation results primarily from the loss of nonresident couples going to that state to get married. Variations in premarital laws of contiguous states explain the popularity of marriage centers in several of the states.

The marriage and divorce laws concerning remarriage for the states surrounding South Dakota as of October 1, 1971 are summarized in Table 2. Of the states surrounding it, South Dakota has the most lenient marriage and remarriage laws after a divorce.

While the age at which marriage can be contracted with parental consent and the age below which parental consent is required for the couples to be married is about the same for each state, differences do

Table 2. Marriage Laws for Selected States

State	Age at which marriage can be contracted with parental consent.		Age below which parental consent is required.		Maximum period between examination and issuance of marriage license.	Waiting period before issuance of license.	Waiting period before parties may remarry after divorce.
	male	female	male	female			
Indiana	18 <sup>c</sup>	16 <sup>c</sup>	21	18	30 days	3 days	none
Iowa	18 <sup>c</sup>	16 <sup>c</sup>	21	18	20 days	3 days	1 year b,m
Michigan	j	16 <sup>c</sup>	18	18	30 days	3 days	aj
Minnesota	18 <sup>a</sup>	16 <sup>k</sup>	18	18	none	5 days	6 months
Montana	18 <sup>e</sup>	16 <sup>e</sup>	21	18	20 days	5 days	none
Nebraska	18 <sup>c</sup>	16 <sup>c</sup>	21	20	30 days	5 days	none
North Dakota	18	15	21	18	30 days	none	m
South Dakota	18 <sup>c</sup>	16 <sup>c</sup>	21	18	20 days	none	none
Wisconsin	18	16	21	18	20 days	5 days	1 year
Wyoming	18	16	21	21	30 days	none	none

Code: (c) statute establishes procedure whereby younger parties may obtain license in case of pregnancy or birth of child  
(e) statute establishes procedure whereby younger parties may obtain license in special cases  
(m) in discretion of court  
(j) no provision in law for parental consent for males  
(b) except to each other  
(aj) not more than 2 years in court's discretion

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau Marriage Laws: As of October 1, 1971. Doc. no. 124, Washington, D. C.



appear in the number of days a couple must wait before they may obtain a marriage license and the length of time they must wait after a divorce before they may remarry.

South Dakota does not require any waiting period before issuance of a marriage license or after a divorce to remarry. Indiana, Iowa, and Michigan require a three day waiting period before issuance of a marriage license. Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin, and Nebraska require a five day waiting period before issuance of a marriage license. Iowa and Wisconsin also require a one year waiting period before divorced couples may remarry. Minnesota follows with a six month waiting period after a divorce to remarry, and both North Dakota and Michigan leave it to the discretion of the court as to how long the couples must wait after a divorce before they may remarry.

### Summary of Major Findings

#### Age at Marriage

Many authors have shown that there tends to be a pattern of early marriage in the United States; young females tend to marry males that are three to five years older than themselves. This pattern of early marriage was observed as early as 1940.

Age also affects the marital condition of a population. Before age 35, women are more likely to be married than men, while after the age of 35 to 40, men are more likely to be married than women.

### Age at First Marriage

Paul C. Glick and Emanuel Landau (1950, p. 518) found that one half of the men in their study enter their first marriage between the ages of 22 to 28 with a median age of 24.2 years. Women, on the other hand, enter their first marriage between the ages of 19 to 24 with a median age of 20.2 years. Women again tend to be younger than males at the time of their first marriage.

### Remarriage

As in age at first marriage, women are five to six years younger than males when they remarry (Hugh Carter, 1955, p. 168), with the average age of women about 35 years and men about 40 years.

Remarriage rates are generally higher than marriage rates, at most ages men remarry more often than women, and divorced persons are more prone to remarry than are widowed persons.

Age also affects remarriage. While the majority of marriages of persons under 35 are first marriages, after that age, remarriages predominate with more divorced people marrying than widowed or single persons.

### Residence

Residence tends to affect both first marriages and remarriages in a population. Paul C. Glick and Hugh Carter (1958, p. 298) found in their study that 80 percent of the first marriages and 70 percent of the remarriages involved a resident couple. Nonresident first marriages involved a husband who was younger and less educated than the average.

The authors felt that this was because nonresident marriages tend to be more hasty and informal than resident marriages.

### Distance

In two studies, Samuel A. Stouffer (1940) and George K. Zipf (1946), have shown distance to be an influential force in attracting people to a particular area or city.

While the two men measured distance differently, they both showed that distance does influence intermetropolitan movement. Most people go a short distance; few people go a long distance (Stouffer, 1940, p. 845). Spatial distance in all types of movement is a significant factor.

### Law

Marriage regulation is the responsibility of the state and not the federal government, therefore you have about 50 different marriage laws. Variation in laws affect the number of nonresident marriages solemnized in a particular state. New stricter marriage laws in one state cause nonresident marriages to fall off in that state and to increase in neighboring states (Paul Jacobson, 1959, p. 48). Apparently, then, these residents travel to nearby states to avoid the inconvenience placed on them by the new law.

South Dakota, it was shown, right now has the most lenient marriage laws of its neighboring states with no waiting period before issuance of a marriage license, compared to five days in the other states, and no waiting period for remarriage after a divorce compared to six months to a year or discretion of the court in other states.

### Other Variables

Literature on the other variables considered to be important was not available. Through consultation with members of the staff in Sociology, some of the hypotheses used in this study were formulated.

The following variables were presumed to be factors that would influence nonresidents in choosing a particular location to solemnize their marriage. These factors were: the number of officials available to solemnize weddings, the time these officials are available, the time the County Clerk of Courts is available to issue marriage licenses, the availability of a clinic or doctor to administer blood tests, the number of hotels or motels available, and proximity of the county seat town to the nearest state line.

## CHAPTER III

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

#### Introduction

Much has been written in ancient, medieval, and modern times speculating on ways in which populations grow, but very few writers have held intellectual positions that constitute rigorous systematic population theories (Ralph Thomlinson, 1965). There is then too little demographic theory.

Lack of demographic theory seems to be especially true in the area of marriage theory. The major theories in demography--Malthusian Theory, Optimum Population "Theory", Transition Theory, and Demographic Regulation all have little significance or relevance for marriage and the explanation of resident and nonresident marriages.

#### Theoretical Framework

No theoretical framework was utilized for objective one of the study because it deals with simple description. Two theoretical frameworks are used for the other two objectives in this thesis however. They are as follows:

Objective two. Bernard Berelson and Gary A. Steiner (1964, p. 305) provide a general proposition that serves as a basis for generating a number of research hypotheses that can be tested in objective two of this study. The general proposition they formulated is: People tend to marry people who are in various social ways like themselves, rather than to

marry people with different characteristics. These social characteristics are: race, religion, socioeconomic and educational status, age, previous marital status, and residential propinquity.

Objective three. In the days of Queen Victoria, young couples would travel to a small Scottish town just across the border from England called "Gretna Green" to marry in order to avoid stricter English marriage laws. Here, because of lax Scottish laws, marriages could be accomplished in a matter of hours with no questions asked (Kephart, 1972, p. 400). A similar situation has developed in many parts of the United States today because of the many different marriage laws of each state. For the purposes of this study, this "Gretna Green" type town will be termed a "Marriage Convenience Center."

There are many reasons why couples might choose to go to a "Marriage Convenience Center" to be married. The motivating factors however, have to do with circumventing the law of the state where the couple reside (Kephart, 1972, p. 400).

One of the reasons for going to a "Marriage Convenience Center" is to evade the age requirements of the home state. Another reason is the absence of a waiting period before the issuance of a marriage license. Other reasons are: the shorter length of time required to complete a blood test in some states; desire to keep the marriage a secret; and the convenience of "night and day service open for business at all hours."

According to Kephart (1972, p. 401) most couples, however, who resort to "Marriage Convenience Centers" for their marriage are marrying in a spirit of defiance. They are defying the laws of their home state

with regard to age and waiting period requirements.

### Definitions

Resident marriages: both the bride and groom are residents of South Dakota.

Nonresident marriages: both the bride and groom are not residents of South Dakota.

Mixed marriages: either the bride or the groom is a resident of South Dakota and the other is not.

Other terms requiring definition are defined at the place of use in the thesis.

### Research Hypotheses

Objective two. Despite the lack of specific studies or propositions available on this topic, the following research hypotheses are generated using what literature is available and Bernard Berelson and Gary A. Steiner's proposition as stated on page 20.

Hypothesis 1. There is a significant difference in age-of-marriage between resident and nonresident couples whose marriages were solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and in 1972.

Hypothesis 2. There is a significant difference in age-of-first-marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and in 1972.

Hypothesis 3. There is a significant difference in who solemnizes the marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and in 1972.

Hypothesis 4. There is a significant difference in the number of first marriages and remarriages of divorced persons between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and in 1972.

Hypothesis 5. There is a significant difference in the number of inter-racial marriages between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and in 1972.

Objective three. Few, if any studies have been done, so with the help of what literature is available and using the "Marriage Convenience Center" approach, the following research hypotheses are formulated:

Hypothesis 1. The greater the number of officials available to solemnize marriages in a county seat town, the greater the likelihood of nonresidents choosing that town for their marriage.

Hypothesis 2. The greater the time officials are available to solemnize marriages in a county seat town, the greater the likelihood of nonresidents choosing that town for their marriage.

Hypothesis 3. The more hours the County Clerk of Courts office is open in a county seat town, the greater the likelihood of nonresidents choosing that town for their marriage.

Hypothesis 4. The greater the availability of a clinic or a physician in a county seat town, the greater the likelihood of nonresidents choosing that town for their marriage.

Hypothesis 5. The greater the number of hotels and motels in a county seat town, the greater the likelihood of nonresidents choosing that town for their marriage.

Hypothesis 6. The nearer a county seat town is to a state line, the greater the likelihood of nonresidents choosing that town for their marriage.



## CHAPTER IV

### METHODOLOGY

#### Unit of Analysis

Two different units of analysis were used in this study. For objective two, the state as a whole was the unit of analysis, while the county was the unit of analysis for objective three. In objective one, both the county and state were used in descriptive analysis.

The county and state were used as units of analysis because that is the way population data is presented in census material.

Part of the data used in this study was taken from reports published by the South Dakota Department of Health, Vital Statistics Department, and is assumed to contain negligible error. A mailed questionnaire was used to secure data for objective three (see appendix, p. 84).

#### General Procedure

Objective one. This study focused on the number of marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960. Changes in the number of marriages solemnized in South Dakota were examined on the basis of number and percent. To better understand the changes in the trend, total marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960 were broken down into three sub-categories. These are: marriages where both the bride and groom were residents of South Dakota, marriages where both the bride and groom were nonresidents of South Dakota, and marriages where either the bride or groom was a resident of South Dakota and the other was not

(mixed marriages). By doing this we were able to fully understand what has caused the number of South Dakota's marriages to continually increase since 1960.

Objective two. This study examined the similarities and differences that exists between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota.

Two years, 1962 and 1972, were used for this part of the study for two reasons. First, it was felt that by using two years, a better picture of the similarities and differences that existed would emerge than if just one year were used; also, it could be observed if these similarities and differences had changed in that ten year period. Secondly, detailed marriage data needed for this part were available only for those two years.

The selected similarities and differences to be tested were: age of marriage, age of first marriage, person solemnizing the marriage, first marriage and remarriage, and inter-racial marriage. To empirically test association between these variables, conjectural relationships in null form were hypothesized.

Changes in the selected factors were examined on the basis of number and percentage. All percentage changes were calculated using the total number of marriages in that column as the denominator.

Objective three. This part was divided into two parts for better analysis.

The first part of this objective is a descriptive analysis of the site of nonresident marriages in South Dakota. Data was collected and

tabulated for the years 1962 and 1972 so that the change in the trend could be shown. Changes in location of nonresident marriages in South Dakota were examined by county on the basis of number and percentage. This showed which counties in South Dakota tend to attract nonresidents to go there to marry. No testing for association will be done in this part.

The second part of this objective determined what factors attract nonresidents to a particular county in South Dakota for their marriage. Variables tested as being the attracting forces were: number of officials available to solemnize the marriage, times these officials are available to solemnize the marriage, total hours the County Clerk of Courts is available to issue marriage licenses, availability of a doctor or clinic to give blood tests approved by the South Dakota Health Department, number of motels and hotels available for the couples to stay, and the distance of the county seat town from the nearest state line. To empirically test for association, these variables were selected and in null form conjectural relationships were hypothesized.

#### Dependent Variable

Objective two. The dependent variable was the difference in resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972.

Objective three. The dependent variable was the total number of nonresidents married in each county in South Dakota for 1972.

### Independent Variables for Objective Two and Objective Three

The independent variables for objective two were:

1. The absolute plus or minus difference in age-of-marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972. ( $X_1$ )
2. The absolute plus or minus difference in age-of-first-marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972. ( $X_2$ )
3. The absolute plus or minus difference in who solemnizes the marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972. ( $X_3$ )
4. The absolute plus or minus difference in the number of first marriages and remarriages between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972. ( $X_4$ )
5. The absolute plus or minus difference in the number of interracial marriages between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972. ( $X_5$ )

The independent variables for objective three were:

1. The absolute plus or minus difference in the number of officials available to solemnize marriages in a county seat town in 1972 for each county in the state. ( $X_1$ )
2. The absolute plus or minus difference in the availability of officials to solemnize marriages in a county seat town in 1972 for each county in the state. ( $X_2$ )
3. The absolute plus or minus difference in the hours the County Clerk of Courts is available to issue marriage licenses in a county seat town in 1972 for each county in the state. ( $X_3$ )
4. Dummy variable. ( $X_4$ )
5. The absolute plus or minus difference in the availability of a clinic or doctor in a county seat town in 1972 for each county in the state. ( $X_5$ )
6. The absolute plus or minus difference in the number of hotels and motels in a county seat town in 1972 for each county in the state. ( $X_6$ )

7. The absolute plus or minus difference in the distance of each county seat town from the nearest state line in 1972 for each county in the state. ( $X_7$ )

### Mode of Analysis

Ecological correlation was used to analyze the association between the dependent and the independent variables in objective two and three. Ecological correlation is a statistical test to determine whether or not a relationship exists and the nature of the relationship (Bogue, 1969).

It is the basic research procedure in the explanation of population distribution and redistribution. In ecological correlation, aggregates, populations, or areas are used as units of observation instead of individual persons.

Objective one. The mode of analysis for this objective was description. The trend in marriage and changes in the trend were analyzed in South Dakota since 1960.

Objective two. The mode of analysis used in this part was Chi Square, at the .05 level of significance. This test indicated whether the observations differ from what is expected by chance. The Chi Square test uses the following formula (Champion, 1970):

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$$

where O = the frequency of observations in any category

E = the frequency of observations expected under the probability model in any category

$\chi^2$  = is the numerical value which tells us whether or not our observations could have occurred by chance

The specified significance level was .05.

There was one degree of freedom.

Objective three. The mode of analysis used in this objective was step-wise least squares multivariate linear regression, more commonly called multiple regression.

This type of analysis tests for the variability of the dependent variable through its association of the independent variables with the dependent variable. Plus, the test shows the variance accounted for by each independent variable, the single most important variable, and the cumulative variance accounted for by all of the independent variables. Finally, the method makes possible the correlation of each independent variable with the dependent variable by the use of a correlation matrix inherent in the method.

The formula for the multiple regression test is:

$$Y = a + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + \dots + b_kx_k$$

where Y = the dependent variable

a = y intercept

b = least squares coefficient

The specified level of significance was .05.

## CHAPTER V

### CHANGE IN THE NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF MARRIAGES SOLEMNIZED IN SOUTH DAKOTA FOR SELECTED YEARS

#### Introduction

In the first chapters of this thesis the problem and methodology were presented; this chapter will discuss the findings of objective one and two. Part I of this chapter deals with the trend in marriages solemnized in South Dakota from 1960 to 1972 and will use numbers and percentages as a basis for demonstrating the changes that occurred. Part II of this chapter will discuss the findings of objective two using numbers and percentages for the description of the five independent variables for 1962 and 1972. Chi-square analysis will be used to test for association between the independent and dependent variables.

#### PART I

##### Change in the Number of Marriages Solemnized in South Dakota from 1960 to 1972

#### Number Change

As pointed out earlier in Chapter One, the number of South Dakota's marriages has steadily increased, while the number of births has steadily decreased (Chart 1). We note that the number of births declined from 17,594 in 1960 down to 10,855 in 1972, or a decrease of about 6,700 births. However, during that same 12 year period marriages increased

from 5,790 in 1960 to 12,151 in 1972, or an increase of 6,361 marriages. Thus we note that by 1972, the total number of marriages solemnized in South Dakota far exceeded the number of births in South Dakota.

The above discussion deals only with total number of marriages, however. For more detail, total marriages are broken down into four separate categories by the State Department of Public Health in their annual publication of Vital Statistics. These categories are:

1. Resident Marriages: Marriages where both the bride and groom are residents of South Dakota.
2. Mixed Resident Marriages: Marriages where the bride is a resident of South Dakota and the groom is not.
3. Mixed Resident Marriages: Marriages where the groom is a resident of South Dakota and the bride is not.
4. Nonresident Marriages: Marriages where both the bride and groom are nonresidents of South Dakota.

The findings in terms of these categories are as follows:

1. Resident marriages increased from 3,795 in 1960 to 5,731 in 1972 or a total increase of 1,936 marriages (Table 3).
2. Marriages in which the bride was a resident of South Dakota increased from 595 in 1960 to 802 in 1972 or a total increase of 207 marriages.
3. Marriages in which the groom was a resident of South Dakota increased from 141 in 1960 to 228 in 1972 or a total increase of 87 marriages.
4. Nonresident marriages increased from 1,259 in 1960 to 5,390 in 1972 or a total increase of 4,131 marriages.



Table 3. Marriages Solemnized in South Dakota  
from 1960 to 1972 by Resident Status

Year	Total Marriages	Resident Status			
		Both S.D. Residents	Groom S.D. Resident	Bride S.D. Resident	Both Nonresidents
1960	5,790	3,795	141	595	1,259
1961	6,214	3,922	139	587	1,566
1962	6,954	3,956	151	627	2,220
1963	7,470	4,091	152	649	2,578
1964	8,055	4,057	156	682	3,160
1965	8,317	4,010	156	762	3,389
1966	8,517	4,129	164	759	3,465
1967	9,051	4,261	167	818	3,805
1968	10,347	4,736	208	813	4,590
1969	10,909	4,977	211	905	4,816
1970	11,034	5,128	177	861	4,868
1971	11,363	5,389	223	790	4,961
1972	12,151	5,731	228	802	5,390

Source: Department of Health, Public Health Statistics, South Dakota Public Health Statistics, Pierre, S. D., 1960-1972.

### Changes in Percent

South Dakota since 1960 has experienced a 110 percent increase in total marriages, which is more than twice the national increase of 44 percent.

Broken down into the four sub-categories, the rate of change over the 12 year period reveals the following differences:

1. Resident marriages increased by 51 percent since 1960.
2. Marriages, the bride a South Dakota resident, increased 35 percent since 1960.
3. Marriages, the groom a resident of South Dakota, increased 62 percent since 1960.
4. Nonresident marriages increased 328 percent since 1960.

As in the case of number change, nonresident marriages had by far the largest percentage change since 1960.

Comparing the proportion of marriages in each of the three major categories (Table 4) for the year 1960 with 1972 we observe the following changes in this distribution of marriages over this period:

1. Resident marriages in 1960 accounted for 66 percent of the marriages solemnized in South Dakota. In 1972 this decreased to only 47 percent of the total marriages solemnized in South Dakota, a drop of 19 percent.
2. Nonresident marriages in 1960 accounted for 22 percent of the total marriages solemnized in South Dakota. The proportion in this category doubled since 1960, increasing to 44 percent by 1972.
3. Mixed marriages (where either the bride or groom is a resident of South Dakota and the other is not) decreased from 13 percent

Table 4. Total Number of Marriages Solemnized in South Dakota  
from 1960 to 1972 by Resident Status and Percent of Total

Year	Both S. D. Res.	Both Nonresident	Mixed Residence	Total				
1972	5,731	47.2	5,390	44.4	1,030	8.4	12,151	100.0
1971	5,389	47.4	4,961	43.6	1,013	9.0	11,363	100.0
1970	5,128	45.4	4,868	43.2	1,038	9.4	11,304	100.0
1969	4,977	45.6	4,816	44.2	1,116	10.2	10,909	100.0
1968	4,736	45.8	4,590	44.4	1,021	9.8	10,347	100.0
1967	4,261	47.1	3,805	42.0	985	10.9	9,051	100.0
1966	4,129	48.5	3,465	40.7	923	10.8	8,517	100.0
1965	4,010	48.2	3,389	40.7	918	11.1	8,317	100.0
1964	4,057	50.4	3,160	39.2	838	10.4	8,055	100.0
1963	4,091	54.8	2,578	34.5	801	10.7	7,470	100.0
1962	3,956	56.9	2,220	31.9	778	11.2	6,954	100.0
1961	3,922	63.2	1,566	25.2	726	11.6	6,214	100.0
1960	3,795	65.5	1,259	21.7	736	12.8	5,790	100.0

in 1960 to 8 percent in 1972, a drop of 5 percent.

Nonresident marriages increased by a larger percentage since 1960 than resident marriages decreased. Nonresident marriages again seem to account mostly for the increase in marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960.

To check this, Table 5 was set up utilizing only the two categories, comparing resident marriages to nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960. In 1960, resident marriages accounted for 75 percent of the total resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in that year. In 1972, resident marriages accounted for only 52 percent of the total and nonresident marriages accounted for the other 48 percent. Resident marriages decreased by 23 percent of the total resident and nonresident marriages in the 12 year period with nonresident marriages increasing by the same percentage.

While nonresident marriages do not quite reach the level of resident marriages in percentage of the total, they have increased in proportion of the total number of marriages solemnized in South Dakota; resident marriages have decreased in proportion. The increase in nonresident marriages since 1960 is the major reason for the increase in marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960.

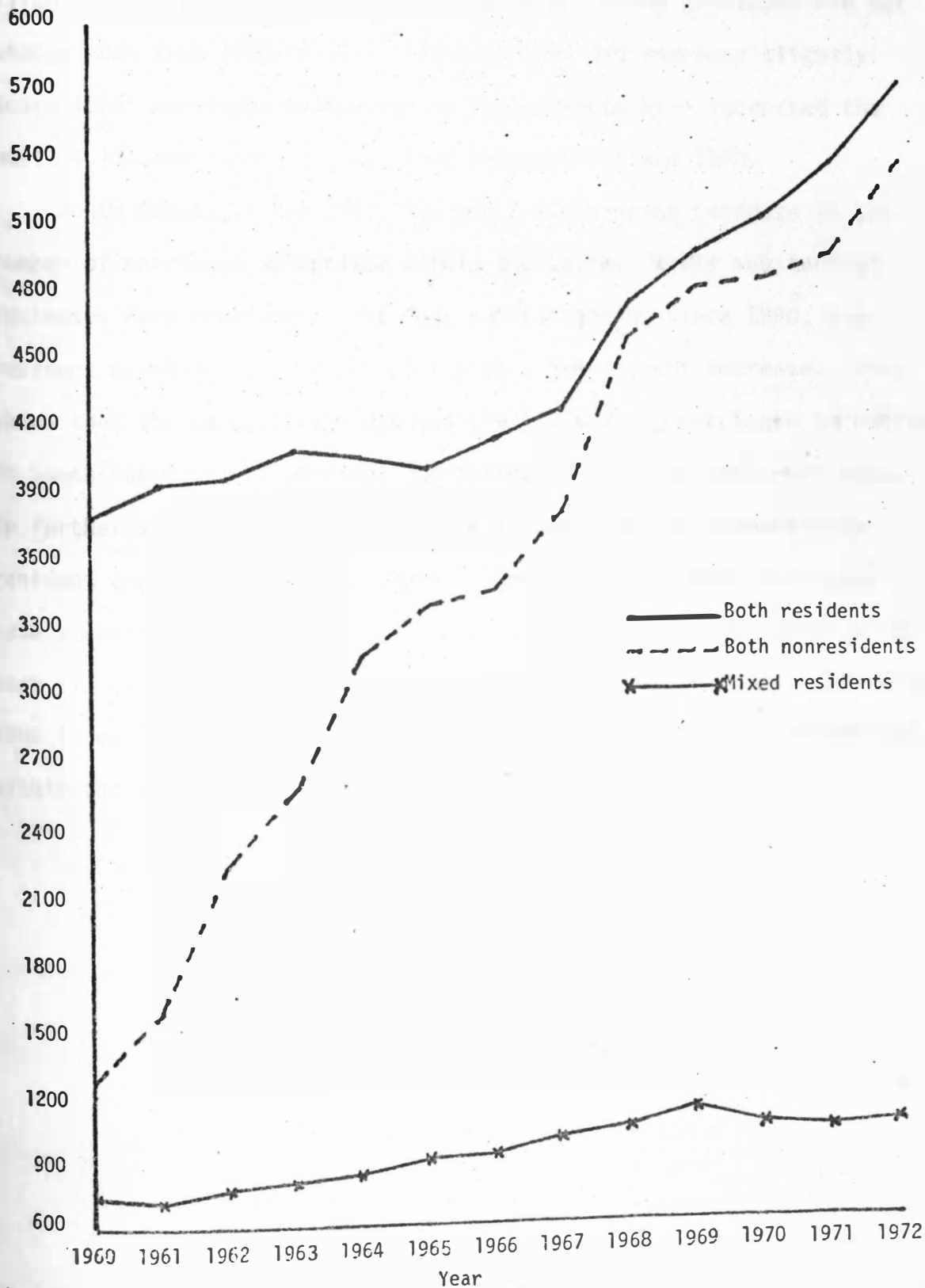
#### Summary of Findings on Changes in Number and Percent of Marriages

Marriages increased in all categories since 1960, but the major increase was in nonresident marriages (Chart 2). As illustrated by Chart 2, nonresident marriages (dotted line) showed a sharp increase from 1960 to 1968 with a gradual increase from 1968 to 1972. Resident

Table 5. Percent of Marriages Solemnized in South Dakota  
from 1960 to 1972 by Resident Status

Year	Both S. D. Res.	Both Nonresident	Total			
1972	5,731	51.5	5,390	48.5	11,121	100.0
1971	5,389	52.1	4,961	47.9	10,350	100.0
1970	5,128	51.3	4,868	48.7	9,996	100.0
1969	4,977	50.8	4,816	49.2	9,793	100.0
1968	4,736	50.8	4,590	49.2	9,326	100.0
1967	4,261	52.8	3,805	47.2	8,066	100.0
1966	4,129	54.4	3,465	45.6	7,594	100.0
1965	4,010	54.2	3,389	45.8	7,399	100.0
1964	4,057	56.2	3,160	43.8	7,217	100.0
1963	4,091	61.3	2,578	38.7	6,669	100.0
1962	3,956	64.1	2,220	35.9	6,176	100.0
1961	3,922	71.5	1,566	28.5	5,488	100.0
1960	3,795	75.1	1,259	24.9	5,054	100.0

Chart 2. Total Number of Marriages Solemnized  
in South Dakota by Residence Status



marriages (solid line) increased gradually from 1960 to 1968 with a slightly sharper increase from 1968 to 1972. Mixed marriages did not change much from 1960 to 1972, although they did increase slightly. Nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota have increased the most (4,131 marriages) of the other categories since 1960.

South Dakota, since 1960, has had a 110 percent increase in the number of marriages solemnized within the state. While substantial increases were recorded in the four sub-categories since 1960, nonresident marriages topped them all with a 328 percent increase. This shows that the major factor causing the increase in marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960 was the increase in nonresident marriages. To further substantiate this, Table 5 was prepared to compare only resident and nonresident marriages. Since 1960, resident marriages have accounted for 23 percent less of the total. The conclusion of this part of the study is that the increase in South Dakota's marriages since 1960 is mainly due to the increase in nonresident marriages solemnized within the state.

## PART II

Change in the Characteristics of Resident and Nonresident  
Marriages Solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972Introduction

Marriages for the years 1962 and 1972 were analyzed and compared to determine whether or not the characteristics of resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota have changed in the intervening ten years. First, the characteristics of resident and nonresident marriages for the year 1962 are examined, and secondly, the same analysis is continued for the year 1972. Finally, a comparison of the two years is made to see if any changes have taken place.

Age-at-marriage and age-at-first-marriage were operationally defined as marriages where both the bride and groom are under 20 or over 20 years old. These two variables then do not involve all of the resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 or in 1972 because in some cases grooms over 20 married brides under 20 and vice versa. The variable, previous marital status, is the same. It involves only those resident and nonresident couples in 1962 and 1972 where it is the first marriage for both the bride and groom or a remarriage for both of them.

Variables and Operational Definitions

One dependent variable and five independent variables were used for statistical tests and analyzing objective two.

Dependent variable. The dependent variable used in objective two,



residence, was operationally defined as the number of resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota for 1962 and 1972.

Independent variables. The operational definitions for the independent variables used in objective two were:

1. Age-at-Marriage: Those marriages where both the bride and groom were under the age of twenty (20) years and those marriages where both the bride and groom were over twenty (20) years old.
2. Age-at-First-Marriage: Those marriages where both the bride and groom were under the age of twenty (20) years at first marriage, and those marriages where both the bride and groom were over the age of twenty (20) years at first marriage.
3. Previous Marital Status: Those marriages which were either the first marriage (never married) for both the bride and groom, or a remarriage (divorced or annulled) for both the bride and groom.
4. Person Solemnizing: Those marriages that were solemnized by either a clergyman, or a nonclergyman.
5. Inter-racial Marriage: Those marriages in which the bride and groom were of a different race. These were categorized as: Indian-White marriages, Indian-Negro marriages, and Negro-White marriages.

#### Age-at-Marriage in 1962

The first independent variable tested for association in 1962 with the dependent variable was age-at-marriage. The hypothesis stated in null form was:

There is no difference in age-at-marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota.

Since the Chi-square value was less than .05 the null hypothesis of no relationship between the two variables is rejected (Table 6).

Table 6. Age at Marriage by Resident Status in 1962

Age	Resident		Nonresident		Total	
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Under 20	1402	(47)	327	(20)	1729	(37)
Over 20	1570	(53)	1324	(80)	2894	(63)
Total	2972	(100)	1651	(100)	4623	(100)

$\chi^2 = 339.5353$                        $P < .001$                        $C = .260$                        $\bar{C} = .367$

#### Age-at-First-Marriage in 1962.

The next variable tested for association in 1962 with resident and nonresident marriages was age-at-first-marriage. The hypothesis stated in null form was:

There is no difference in age-at-first-marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota.

The test of the data for statistical association between the two variables showed the Chi-square value to be less than required for significance at the .05 level. Consequently, the null hypothesis of no difference between the variable could not be rejected for 1962 (Table 7).

Table 7. Age at First Marriage by Resident Status in 1962

Age	Resident		Nonresident		Total	
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Under 20	924	(53)	312	(53)	1236	(53)
Over 20	819	(47)	281	(47)	1100	(47)
Total	1743	(100)	593	(100)	2336	(100)

$\chi^2 = .0278$ 
 $P > .05$ 
 $C = .003$ 
 $\bar{C} = .004$

#### Previous Marital Status in 1962

The third independent variable tested for its association in 1962 with the dependent variable was previous marital status. The hypothesis stated in null form was:

There is no difference in previous marital status (first marriages and remarriages) between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota.

The test of the data for statistical association between the two variables showed the Chi-square value to be greater than was required at the .05 level to be significant (Table 8). Consequently, the null hypothesis of no difference between the variables was rejected.

Table 8. Marital Status by Resident Status in 1962

Marital Status	Resident		Nonresident		Total	
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Never Married	3069	(94)	1000	(68)	4069	(85)
Divorced or Annulled	211	(6)	480	(32)	691	(15)
Total	3280	(100)	1480	(100)	4760	(100)

$\chi^2 = 555.5223$ 
 $P < .001$ 
 $C = .323$ 
 $\bar{C} = .456$

#### Person Solemnizing in 1962

The fourth independent variable tested for association in 1962 with the dependent variable was person solemnizing the marriage. The hypothesis stated in null form was:

There will be no difference in person solemnizing the marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota.

The test of the data for statistical association between the two variables in Table 9 showed the Chi-square value to be greater than was required at the .05 level to be significant. Consequently, the null hypothesis of no difference between the variables was rejected.

Table 9. Person Solemnizing by Resident Status in 1962

Person Solemnizing	Resident		Nonresident		Total	
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Clergyman	3384	(86)	754	(34)	4138	(67)
Nonclergyman	572	(14)	1466	(66)	2038	(33)
Total	3956	(100)	2220	(100)	6176	(100)
$\chi^2 = 1710.9425$						
$P < .001$						
$C = .465$						
$\bar{C} = .657$						

#### Inter-racial Marriage in 1962

The fifth independent variable tested for association in 1962 with the dependent variable was inter-racial marriage. The hypothesis stated in null form was:

There is no difference in inter-racial marriages between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota.

While data were available for this analysis, they were not sufficient to subject to a Chi-square statistical test, since concern was with inter-racial marriages only. Therefore, marriages between two Indians or two Negroes did not apply, leaving insufficient data for testing. Inter-racial marriages were presumed to be associated because it was felt that these inter-racial couples would travel elsewhere to get married due to social pressures in their home communities.

Table 10 reports the data. An interesting fact not shown in the table was that in 1962 more nonresident Negro couples (9) came to South Dakota to be married than resident Negro couples (4).

Table 10. Inter-racial Marriages by Resident Status in 1962

Race	Resident	Nonresident
White-Indian	53	11
White-Negro	4	3
Indian-Negro	0	0

Age-at-Marriage in 1972

The first independent variable tested for its association with the dependent variable in 1972 was age-at-marriage. The hypothesis stated in null form was:

There is no difference in age-at-marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota.

The test of the data for statistical association between the two variables showed the Chi-square to be greater than was required at the .05 level to be significant. Consequently, the null hypothesis of no difference between the two variables was rejected (Table 11).

Table 11. Age-at-Marriage by Resident Status in 1972

Age	Resident		Nonresident		Total	
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Under 20	1682	(41)	887	(20)	2569	(30)
Over 20	2375	(59)	3630	(80)	6005	(70)
Total	4057	(100)	4517	(100)	8574	(100)

$$\chi^2 = 485.0133$$

$$P < .001$$

$$C = .230$$

$$\bar{C} = .325$$

### Age-at-First-Marriage in 1972

Age-at-first-marriage was the next independent variable tested for its relation to the dependent variable in 1972. The hypothesis stated in null form was:

There is no difference in age-at-first-marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota.

The test of the data for statistical association between the two variables showed the Chi-square value to be greater than was required at the .05 level to be significant. Consequently, the null hypothesis of no difference between the variables was rejected (Table 12).

Table 12. Age-at-First-Marriage by Resident Status in 1972

Age	Resident		Nonresident		Total	
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Under 20	1666	(58)	867	(63)	2533	(59)
Over 20	1223	(42)	515	(37)	1738	(41)
Total	2889	(100)	1382	(100)	4271	(100)

$$\chi^2 = 9.9502$$

$$p < .01$$

$$C = .044$$

$$\bar{C} = .062$$

### Previous Marital Status in 1972

The third independent variable tested for association in 1972 with the dependent variable was previous marital status. The hypothesis stated in null form was:

There is no difference in previous marital status (first marriages and remarriages) between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota.

The test of the data for statistical association between the two variables showed the Chi-square value to be greater than was required at the .05 level to be significant. Consequently, the null hypothesis of no difference between the variables was rejected (Table 13).

Table 13. Previous Marital Status by Resident Status in 1972

Marital Status	Resident		Nonresident		Total	
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Never Married	4398	(91)	1877	(53)	6275	(67)
Divorced or Annulled	419	(9)	1678	(47)	2097	(33)
Total	4817	(100)	3555	(100)	9372	(100)

$\chi^2 = 4464.0436$                        $P < .001$                        $C = .567$                        $\bar{C} = .801$

#### Person Solemnizing in 1972

The fourth independent variable tested for association in 1972 with the dependent variable was the person solemnizing the marriage. The hypothesis stated in null form was:

There is no difference in the person solemnizing the marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota.

The test of the data for statistical association between the two variables showed the Chi-square to be greater than was required at the .05 level to be significant. Consequently, the null hypothesis of no difference between the variables was rejected (Table 14).



Table 14. Person Solemnizing by Resident Status in 1972

Person Solemnizing	Resident		Nonresident		Total	
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Clergyman	4861	(85)	1522	(28)	6383	(57)
Nonclergyman	870	(15)	3868	(72)	4738	(43)
Total	5731	(100)	5390	(100)	11,121	(100)

$$\chi^2 = 3636.6254$$

$$P < .001$$

$$C = .496$$

$$\bar{C} = .701$$

#### Inter-racial Marriage in 1972

The fifth independent variable tested for its association in 1972 with the dependent variable was inter-racial marriages. The hypothesis stated in null form was:

There is no difference in inter-racial marriages between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota.

As was the case in 1962, there was insufficient data in 1972 to test this hypothesis. However, Table 15 does show that 34 nonresident White-Negro couples did come to South Dakota in 1972 to be married. This compares to only 8 resident White-Negro couples who were married in South Dakota in 1972.

Table 15. Inter-racial Marriages by Resident Status in 1972

Race	Resident	Nonresident
White-Indian	86	29
White-Negro	8	34
Indian-Negro	3	0

#### Comparison of the Findings for 1962 and 1972

The major findings relative to the association of selected characteristics with resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota for 1962 and 1972 compared are as follows:

1. Age-at-Marriage. In 1962, nonresident couples over the age of 20 accounted for a greater percentage of the nonresident marriages (80 percent) than did resident couples over the age of 20 (53 percent) for resident marriages.

This trend prevailed in 1972, with slight changes. Nonresident couples over the age of 20 accounted for 80 percent of the nonresident marriages, while resident couples over 20 accounted for 59 percent of the resident marriages which was a slight increase for resident couples.

The difference in age-at-marriage between resident and nonresident couples was found to be significant at the .05 level for both 1962 and 1972.

2. Age-at-First-Marriage. In 1962, resident couples under the age of 20 accounted for 53 percent of first marriages of resident couples. Nonresident couples under the age of 20 accounted for 53 percent of first marriages among nonresidents.

This proportion changed moderately in 1972. Nonresident first marriages for couples under 20 increased to 63 percent. In 1972, marriages for resident couples under the age of 20 increased slightly to 58 percent of the resident first marriages.

The difference in age-at-first-marriage between resident and nonresident marriages was significant only for the year 1972.

3. Previous Marital Status. Resident first marriages in 1962 accounted for 94 percent of the resident marriages, while nonresident first marriages accounted for 68 percent of the nonresident marriages.

In 1972, resident first marriages remained proportionately larger than nonresident first marriages. Resident and nonresident first marriages both decreased from 1962. Nonresident remarriages still outnumbered resident remarriages both proportionally and numerically in 1972.

The difference between resident and nonresident first marriages and remarriages for both 1962 and 1972 were found to be significant at the .05 level.

4. Person Solemnizing. In 1962, 86 percent of the resident couples had their marriage solemnized by a clergyman, compared to 34 percent for nonresident couples. More nonresidents chose a magistrate to solemnize

their marriage; whereas more resident couples chose a clergyman to solemnize their marriage.

This trend increased slightly in 1972 for both categories. Non-resident couples choosing a magistrate to solemnize their marriage increased to 72 percent in 1972. Resident couples choosing a clergyman to solemnize their marriage decreased slightly in 1972 to 85 percent.

The differences in person solemnizing the marriage between resident and nonresident marriages was found to be significant for both 1962 and 1972 at the .05 level.

5. Inter-racial Marriage. Although there were insufficient data available to statistically test differences for this variable, changes did take place between 1962 and 1972.

In 1962, three nonresident White-Negro couples were married in South Dakota. This figure increased to 34 in 1972. Nonresident White-Indian marriages also increased from 11 in 1962 to 29 in 1972. Resident Indian-Negro marriages increased from none in 1962 to three in 1972; White-Negro marriages increased from four in 1962 to eight in 1972; and White-Indian marriages increased from 53 in 1962 to 86 in 1972.

#### Summary of Findings

Ten independent variables (five for 1962 and five for 1972) were derived from the five research hypotheses of objective two. These independent variables were operationally defined, stated in the form of null hypotheses, and tested for association with the dependent variable. The Chi-square test was used to determine whether or not a statistically

significant associations existed between each independent variable and the dependent variable. Of the eight null hypotheses tested, seven were found to show statistically significant associations sufficient to reject the statement of null-association. These were:

1. Age-at-marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972 (Table 6 and 11).
2. Age-at-first-marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1972 (Table 12).
3. Marital status between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972 (Table 8 and 13).
4. Person solemnizing the marriage between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972 (Table 9 and 14).

## CHAPTER VI

### SELECTED FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE NONRESIDENTS TO MARRY WHERE THEY DO IN SOUTH DAKOTA

#### Introduction

Chapter Six was divided into two sections. The first section examined the location in South Dakota that nonresident couples have chosen for their marriage, focusing on a ten year period between 1962 and 1972. This section analyzed the trends on a county basis and closely examined those counties where 20 percent or more of the marriages solemnized in that county involved nonresident couples. Twenty percent was used as the cutoff point because it was felt that two or more nonresident marriages out of every ten marriages was more than could be expected to occur by chance.

The second section of this chapter looked at selected factors that might influence nonresident couples to choose a particular county for their marriage. Because these selected factors lend themselves to a town, rather than to a whole county, the county seat town in each county was used to represent the whole county. The county seat town was also used because it was there that the nonresident couples must secure their marriage license. Also, the county seat town is usually the largest town in the county, thus providing services to the couples that other towns in the county cannot.

## PART I

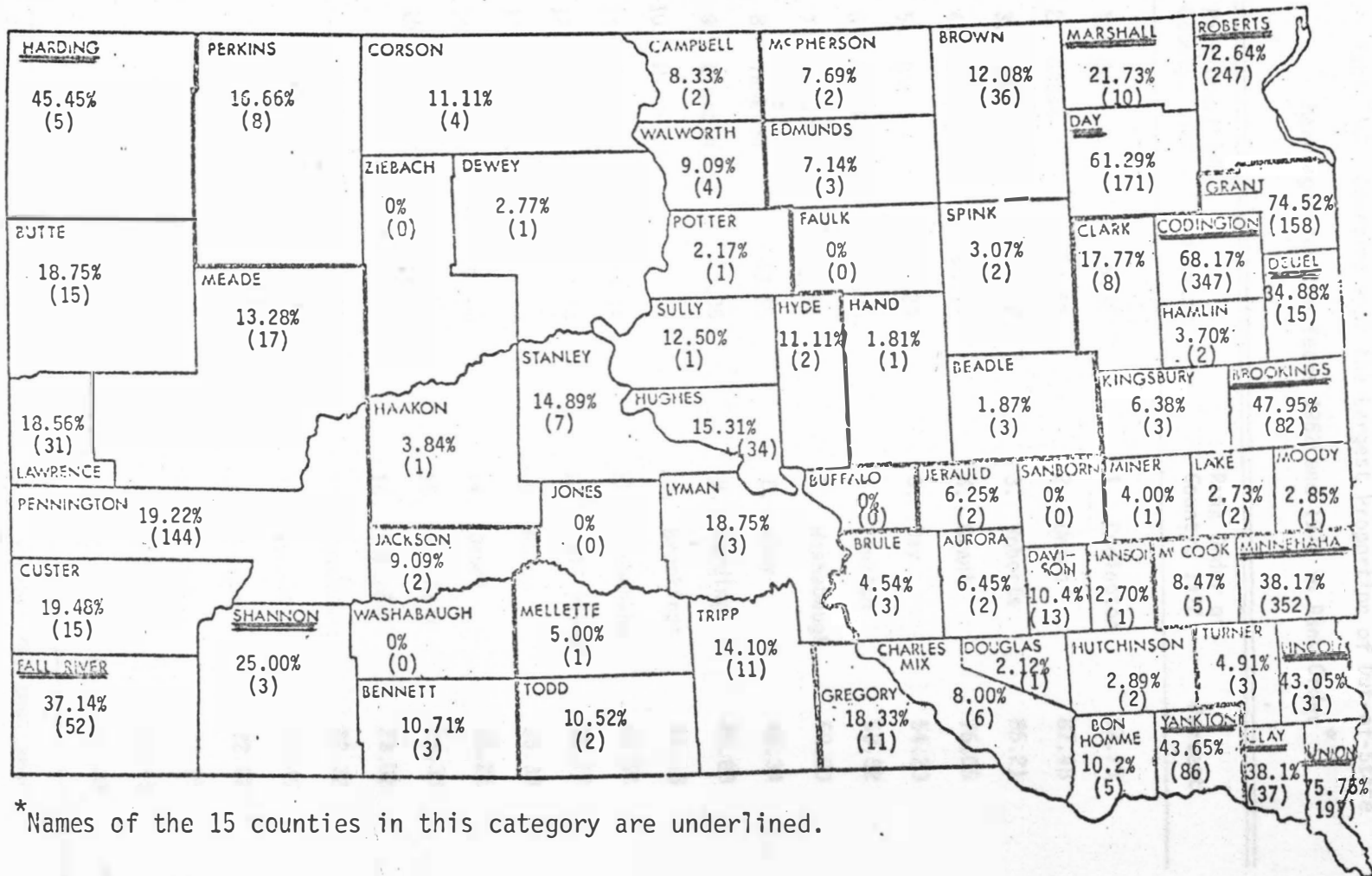
In 1962, as shown in Map 1 and Table 16, in 15 counties over 20 percent of the marriages involved a nonresident couple. Of the 15 counties, 12 are in eastern South Dakota and three in western South Dakota. The 12 counties in eastern South Dakota rank-ordered by percent of nonresident marriages are: Union, 75.76 percent; Grant, 74.52 percent; Roberts, 72.64 percent; Codington, 68.17 percent; Day, 61.29 percent; Brookings, 47.95 percent; Yankton, 43.65 percent; Lincoln, 43.05 percent; Minnehaha, 38.17 percent; Clay, 38.14 percent; Deuel, 34.88 percent; and Marshall, 21.73 percent. The three counties in western South Dakota are: Harding, 45.45 percent; Fall River 37.14 percent; and Shannon, 25.00 percent.

It will be noted, in spite of the fact that rank order has changes for three counties, the top five counties in 1962 were still ranked in the top five in 1972. Also, all five of these counties had over one-half of their total marriages consisting of nonresident couples.

The interesting point is that 13 of the 15 counties in 1962 were border counties. Only two counties, Day and Codington, were not. They were, however, separated from the border by only one county. These border counties touch every state that surrounds South Dakota: North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana. These states contribute most to the number of nonresident couples that come to South Dakota to be married.

In 1972, as Map 2 and Table 16 show, the trend remained the same, with minor changes in the counties. In 1972 there were 22 counties

Map 1. Fifteen Counties in S.D. with the Largest Proportion of Out-of-State Marriages in 1962.\* (Number of marriages in parenthesis)



\*Names of the 15 counties in this category are underlined.

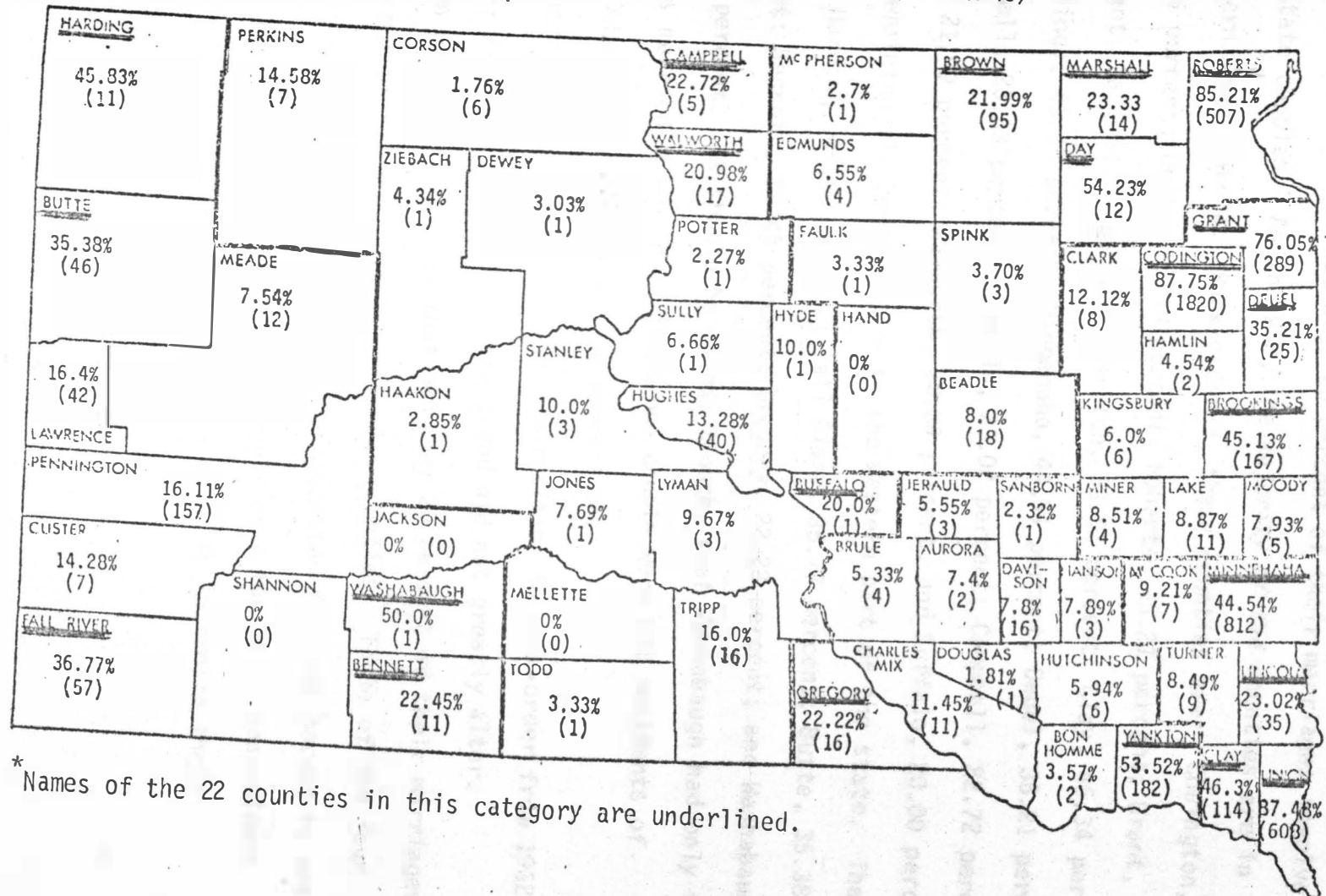


Table 16. Counties with the Largest Proportion of Out-of-State  
Marriages for the Years 1962 and 1972 in Rank Order\*

Rank Order of County, 1962	Percent	Rank Order of County, 1972	Percent
1. Union	75.76	1. Codington	87.75
2. Grant	74.52	2. Union	87.48
3. Roberts	72.64	3. Roberts	85.21
4. Codington	68.17	4. Grant	76.05
5. Day	61.29	5. Day	54.23
6. Brookings	47.95	6. Yankton	53.52
7. Harding	45.45	7. Washabaugh	50.00
8. Yankton	43.65	8. Clay	46.34
9. Lincoln	43.05	9. Harding	45.83
10. Minnehaha	38.17	10. Brookings	45.13
11. Clay	38.14	11. Minnehaha	44.54
12. Fall River	37.14	12. Fall River	36.77
13. Deuel	34.88	13. Butte	35.38
14. Shannon	25.00	14. Deuel	35.21
15. Marshall	21.73	15. Marshall	23.33
		16. Lincoln	23.02
		17. Campbell	22.72
		18. Bennett	22.45
		19. Gregory	22.22
		20. Brown	21.99
		21. Walworth	20.98
		22. Buffalo	20.00

\*Counties with 20 percent or more of the marriages for that year consisting of both partners being nonresident.

Map 2. Twenty-two Counties in S.D. with the Largest Proportion of Out-of-State Marriages in 1972.\* (Number of marriages in parenthesis)



\* Names of the 22 counties in this category are underlined.

in South Dakota that had over 20 percent of their marriages involve out-of-state couples. As in 1962, the majority of the counties are in eastern South Dakota. Rank-ordered, these counties are: Codington, 87.75 percent; Union, 87.48 percent; Roberts, 85.21 percent; Grant, 76.05 percent; Day, 54.23 percent; Yankton, 53.52 percent; Clay, 46.34 percent; Brookings, 45.13 percent; Minnehaha, 44.54 percent; Deuel, 35.21 percent; Marshall, 23.33 percent; Lincoln, 23.02 percent; Campbell, 22.72 percent; Brown 21.99 percent; Walworth, 20.89 percent; and Buffalo, 20.00 percent. The remaining six counties are in the western part of the state. They are: Harding, 45.83 percent; Fall River, 36.77 percent; Butte, 35.38 percent; Bennett, 22.45 percent; Gregory, 22.22 percent; and Washabaugh, 50.00 percent. It should be noted, though, that Washabaugh had only two couples married there in 1972 and one couple were not residents of South Dakota. This inflates the proportion.

Whereas some counties did change position in rank-order from 1962 to 1972, as shown in Table 16, the trend did not greatly alter. Eighteen of the 22 counties that had over 20 percent of their marriages involve out-of-state couples were border counties. Three of the four remaining were counties that were only separated from the border by one county. This suggests that distance might be a factor in nonresident couples choosing a particular county in which to solemnize their marriage.

## PART II

Section 2 analyzes the statistical testing that was performed on the selected independent variables which were felt to have influenced nonresident couples to choose a particular county in South Dakota in which to solemnize their marriage.

### Variables and Statistical Tests for Association

The method of analysis used was a stepwise, least squares multivariate linear regression, more commonly called multiple regression. The analysis utilized one dependent variable (Y): the total number of nonresident marriages solemnized in each county in 1972. In addition, the analysis incorporated six independent variables: the number of available officials ( $X_1$ ), times these officials were available ( $X_2$ ), County Clerk of Courts ( $X_3$ ), availability of a clinic or physician ( $X_5$ ), number of motels or hotels ( $X_6$ ), and nearness of county seat town to state line ( $X_7$ ).

Multiple regression was used because the independent variables (X's) could be examined simultaneously as to their association with the dependent variable (Y). The multiple regression approach used also specified the independent variables that most accounted for the variation in the dependent variable and additionally specified the relative strength of the other independent variables as to their cumulative explained variability.

With the significance level at .05, the final multiple regression prediction equation with intercept and regression coefficients for the

significant variables was:

$$\hat{Y} = 80.548 + 162.841 x_5 + (-) 5.626 x_1 + (-) 2.216 x_7$$

### Operational Definitions

The dependent variable was operationally defined as:

$Y$  = The total number of nonresident marriages solemnized in each county in South Dakota in 1972.

The independent variables were operationally defined as:

$X_1$  = The total number of officials available in each county seat town to solemnize marriages.

$X_2$  = The total number of officials in each county seat town available to solemnize marriages times the time periods they are available. These time periods were Saturdays, evenings, and holidays.

$X_3$  = The total number of hours the County Clerk of Courts is available Monday through Friday to issue marriage licenses.

$X_4$  = A dummy variable on times other than regular hours County Clerk of Courts was available to issue marriage licenses.

$X_5$  = The availability of a clinic or physician to give blood tests.

$X_6$  = The total number of motels and hotels available in the county seat town for every county in South Dakota.

$X_7$  = The total number of miles from the nearest state line to the county seat town for every county in South Dakota.

The relationship between the set of independent variables as they are associated with the dependent variable is diagrammed as follows:

where  $Y$  = number of nonresident marriages solemnized in each county

- and  $X_1$  = total number of officials available in each county seat town to solemnize marriages
- $X_2$  = service availability index (number of officials x periods available)
- $X_3$  = number of hours County Clerk of Courts is available Monday through Friday
- $X_4$  = dummy variables were:
- 0 = clerk not available evenings, Saturdays, holidays
  - 1 = clerk available Saturday by appointment
  - 2 = clerk available evenings by appointment
  - 3 = clerk available Saturday and holidays by appointment
  - 4 = clerk available Saturday and evenings by appointment
  - 5 = clerk available evenings and holidays by appointment
  - 6 = clerk available Saturday regular hours 9 - 12
- $X_5$  = availability of clinic or physician were:
- 0 = not available
  - 1 = available, but not approved by State Health Department
  - 2 = available and approved by State Health Department
  - 3 = available and approved on weekdays plus Saturday mornings
  - 4 = available and approved on weekdays plus Saturday all day
  - 5 = available and approved on weekdays plus evenings
- $X_6$  = total number of motels and hotels available in county seat town
- $X_7$  = total number of miles from the nearest state line to the county seat town

and  $a = y$  intercept

$b$  = least squares coefficient

### Null Hypothesis

A null hypothesis was formulated to test the significance of the association between the dependent variable and the six independent variables. The null hypothesis is:

The set of independent variables ( $X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_6$ ) will not contribute significantly to the explanation of the observed variation in the dependent variable ( $Y$ ).

### The Statistical Findings

The statistical findings are given in Table 17.

Table 17. Sum of Squares and Proportion of Variance Accounted for by the Independent Variables ( $X$ ) in Order of Importance as Entered into the Equation

Independent variable	Sum of squares accounted for	Proportion of variation explained	Cumulative proportion of variation explained	Regression coefficient for significant variables	Y-intercept
$X_5$	1581609.000	36.5	36.5	162.841	80.548
$X_1$	185533.938	4.3	40.7	-5.626	
$X_7$	204424.250	4.7	45.4	-2.216	
$X_6$	107373.000	2.5	47.9		
$X_4$	36722.281	0.8	48.8		
$X_2$	35396.719	0.8	49.6		

Variables  $X_5$ ,  $X_1$ , and  $X_7$  were found to contribute to the explanation of the variation observed in dependent variable  $Y$  at the .05 level of significance. The statement of null-association between these independent variables and the dependent variable is rejected.

Stated descriptively, counties with greater incidents of non-resident marriages were characterized by:

1. Greater availability of certified clinics or physicians to give blood tests.
2. Fewer number of officials available in each county seat town to solemnize marriages.
3. Shorter distance in miles from nearest state line to the county seat town.



## CHAPTER VII

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, LIMITATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Summary of the Research Problem, Objectives, and Design

Since 1960, the number of marriages performed in South Dakota has steadily increased in a state experiencing general population decline. This fact suggested the value of examining the problem selected for this thesis: "What changes have transpired in the number and characteristics of marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960; what similarities and differences exist between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota; and what factors influence nonresidents to marry where they do in South Dakota?"

Consequently, this study had three objectives:

1. To determine the trend in the number of total marriages, resident marriages, nonresident marriages, and mixed marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960.
2. To determine what similarities and differences exist between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972 and any changes that have occurred during this period.
3. To determine what factors influence nonresidents to select a particular location in South Dakota for their marriage.

A review of available literature pertinent to the problem under study in this thesis was reported in Chapter Two.

Chapter Three presented the theoretical framework used in this thesis. A general proposition formulated by Bernard Berelson and Gary A. Steiner (1964) served as a basis for generating a number of research hypotheses regarding the characteristics of resident and nonresident marriages; namely race, religion, socioeconomic and educational status, age, previous marital status, and residential propinquity.

For objective three the research hypotheses was based on the "Gretna Green" or "Marriage Convenience Center" type marriages. From this type marriage, such factors as state marriage laws, age requirements, absence of waiting period, desire to keep the marriage a secret, absence of blood test requirements, and convenience of "night and day service open for business at all hours" were noted as being relevant to the study of why nonresidents choose a particular location to be married.

Five hypotheses in objective two and six hypotheses in objective three were operationally defined and presented. The independent variables for objective two were: age-at-marriage ( $X_1$ ), age-at-first-marriage ( $X_2$ ), previous marital status ( $X_3$ ), person solemnizing ( $X_4$ ), and inter-racial marriage ( $X_5$ ).

The independent variables for objective three were: the number of available officials ( $X_1$ ), the times these officials are available ( $X_2$ ), hours the County Clerk of Courts is available ( $X_4$ ), availability of a clinic or physician in a county seat town ( $X_5$ ), the number of motels and hotels in a county seat town ( $X_6$ ), and distance of the county seat town to the nearest state line ( $X_7$ ). The number of hours a County Clerk of Courts office is open Monday through Friday ( $X_3$ ) was not tested because it had insufficient variance.

In Chapter Four, a methodology for the research was established which designated the state as the unit of analysis for objectives one and two, and the county for objective three. Data was collected from the United States Census, the South Dakota Office of Vital Statistics, and from a questionnaire sent to all the County Clerk of Courts in South Dakota.

The trend in the number of marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960 was analyzed in Chapter Five, Part I. Changes in the number of marriages were analyzed for total marriages, resident marriages, non-resident marriages, and mixed marriages. Changes in number and percent were examined.

Part II of Chapter Five detailed the characteristics of resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972. Resident and nonresident marriages were examined for percent and number change with regard to the characteristics. These characteristics were tested for significance using a Chi-square analysis at the .05 level of significance.

In Chapter Six of this thesis, the variation in the number of non-resident marriages solemnized in a county was tested for association and statistical significance with selected variables. The statistical test was a stepwise, least squares multivariate linear regression at the .05 level of significance.

The next part of this chapter will report the major findings of the three objectives, present a number of conclusions and implications, and suggest limitations of the data.

## PART I

## Major Findings

Objective One

Objective one of this thesis was to determine the trend in the number of marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960. The major findings of this objective are summarized as follows:

1. The number of marriages solemnized in South Dakota has increased by 6,361 annually since 1960. This was a 110 percent increase, more than twice the increase experienced by the nation as a whole.

2. The number of resident marriages solemnized in South Dakota has increased by 1,936 marriages annually from 1960 to 1972. This was a 51 percent increase since 1960.

3. The number of nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota has increased by 4,131 marriages annually since 1960 which was a 328 percent increase since 1960.

Objective Two

The second objective of this thesis was to determine what similarities and differences exist between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota in 1962 and 1972 and any changes that have occurred during this period. The major findings of this objective are summarized as follows:

1. In 1962 and 1972, in the majority (53 percent and 59 percent, respectively) of the resident marriages solemnized in South Dakota the bride and groom were both over the age of 20. This was true for the

nonresident marriages also. In 1962 (80 percent) and in 1972 (80 percent) of the nonresident couples were both over the age of 20.

2. For 1962 and 1972 the trend was the opposite for age-at-first-marriage. In 1962, 53 percent of the resident couples were both under the age of 20, while 53 percent of the nonresident couples were both under the age of 20. Increases were observed for 1972, with nonresident couples increasing the most. In 1972, 58 percent of the resident couples were both under the age of 20 at the time of their first marriage, while 63 percent of the nonresident couples were under the age of 20 at the time of their first marriage.

3. From 1962 to 1972, changes took place in marital status between resident and nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota, with nonresident first marriages for both the bride and groom decreasing the most. In 1962, 94 percent of the resident marriages involved a first marriage for the bride and groom, while for nonresident marriages, 68 percent involved a first marriage for both the bride and groom. In 1972, first marriages for both a resident bride and groom fell to 91 percent of the total resident marriages, and nonresident first marriages fell to 53 percent of the total. Nonresident remarriages for both the bride and groom increased from 32 percent in 1962 to 47 percent of the total nonresident marriages in 1972.

4. In 1962, a majority (86 percent) of all the resident marriages in South Dakota were solemnized by a clergyman. The opposite was true for nonresident marriages. In 1962, 66 percent of the nonresident couples went to a nonclergyman for their wedding ceremony. The trend

was similar in 1972, but a greater proportion of the nonresident couples went to a nonclergyman. The proportion jumped to 72 percent of the nonresident couples who chose a nonclergyman to solemnize their wedding.

Resident couples in 1972 still preferred, by a wide majority, to be married by a clergyman.

5. In 1962, there were 53 resident White-Indian marriages in South Dakota. This figure increased to 86 resident White-Indian marriages in 1972. Nonresident White-Indian marriages increased from 11 in 1962 to 29 in 1972. Resident White-Negro marriages increased from 4 in 1962 to 8 in 1972. Nonresident White-Negro marriages increased from 3 in 1962 to 34 in 1972.

### Objective Three

The last objective was to determine the location in South Dakota that couples choose for their marriage, if this trend has changed, and to what extent selected factors were associated with the variance in the number of nonresident marriages solemnized in each county in South Dakota in 1972.

Three of the seven independent variables within the multiple regression set were found to contribute significantly to the explanation in the variation in the dependent variable. For those counties, the factors that explain higher incidences of nonresident marriages were:

1. The number of certified doctors or clinics that are available in each county ( $X_5$ ) accounted for 36.5 percent of the observed variation in the dependent variable.

2. The total number of officials available in a county seat town to solemnize marriages ( $X_1$ ) accounted for an additional 4.3 percent of the observed variation in the dependent variable.

3. The nearness of the county seat town to the state line ( $X_7$ ) accounted for an additional 4.7 percent of the observed variation in the dependent variable.

Independent variables in the set that did not contribute significantly to the observed variation in the dependent variable are: the total number of motels and hotels in the county seat town ( $X_6$ ), the availability of the County Clerk of Courts on Saturdays, evenings, or holidays ( $X_4$ ), the availability of officials who can solemnize marriages on Saturdays, evenings, or holidays ( $X_2$ ), and the number of hours the County Clerk of Courts is open Monday through Friday ( $X_3$ ).

As is shown by Maps 1 and 2, those counties that tend to attract a large number of nonresident couples there to be married are border counties. Of the counties that attract most nonresidents, the greater number are eastern South Dakota counties. These counties are: Union, Yankton, Clay, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Brookings, Deuel, Codington, Grant, Roberts, Day, Marshall, and Brown. The proportion of their total number of marriages involving nonresident couples ranged from a low of 22 percent in Brown County to a high of 88 percent in Codington County. The top five counties in 1962 and 1972 stayed the same although they did change in rank. These counties also had a high number of nonresident marriages and nonresident marriages accounted for over 50 percent of the total marriages solemnized in the top five counties for both 1962 and 1972.

## PART II

## Conclusions and Implications

Conclusions

The findings for this study suggest that:

1. The major cause of the increase in the number of marriages solemnized in South Dakota since 1960 has been the increase in the number of nonresident couples coming to South Dakota to get married. It is felt that a contributing factor in this increase is the more liberal marriage laws in South Dakota as compared to the laws of the surrounding states since 1961.
2. The movement of nonresident couples into South Dakota to be married is a selective process as evidenced by a comparison with resident couples in terms of the characteristics of the couples and counties selected for place of marriage. Nonresident couples when compared to resident couples tend to be:
  - a. older in age
  - b. either divorced or annulled
  - c. select civil authority other than clergy to solemnize their marriage
  - d. tend to select South Dakota border counties in which to be married
  - e. tend to select communities for their marriage which have certified clinics or physicians for their blood tests
3. In a state with more liberal marriage laws than its surrounding states, "Gretna Green" type communities will emerge adjacent to state lines where certified doctors are available to give blood tests.



4. The impact resulting from more liberal marriage laws on the number of marriages, increase in the number of marriages, and the marriage rate will be significant for a rural state with a relatively small population base.

### Implications

These conclusions suggest certain implications for the state:

1. The study provides description and analysis of nonresident marriages, characteristics of nonresident couples compared to resident couples, and the location selected by nonresident couples for their marriage. The findings from this study have practical value inasmuch as they deal carefully and specifically with information which will be most useful to the legislature of South Dakota as it attempts to evaluate the need for a change in the marriage laws of South Dakota.

2. The findings from this study make a definite contribution to our body of sociological knowledge of Marriage, the Family, and the Sociology of Law. The study brings out the fact that very little knowledge and/or research has been done in connection with the problem of this study and therefore this study may be considered exploratory in nature and offer new knowledge and insights to the subfields mentioned above. For example, Zipf's theory of least effort and "Gretna Green" theory of marriage centers tend to be supported by this study.

### Limitations

1. The major limitation in this study was the lack of completeness and specificity of available literature on this topic together with no

available models predicting why nonresident couples go to a particular place to be married. This resulted in the use of propositions which were not as precise as would have been desired.

2. A second limitation involved the available data. Certain factors could not be tested as desired because of data limitations and had to be combined to be tested. If we would have been able to secure data from the actual marriage licenses or interview a random sample of nonresident couples, data for objective three might have been more complete and accurate.

3. A third factor was that after examining the findings, it was realized that size of the county seat town could have been used as an independent variable in the analysis of why nonresident couples selected a particular place in South Dakota to get married. However, an examination of the counties (Table 16) reveals that counties expected to attract nonresidents, such as Minnehaha with Sioux Falls, did not attract the proportion of such marriages that other counties with smaller places did.

### Recommendations

1. Although this study had some shortcomings and limitations, it is felt that this was a worthwhile study that could be carried further. Through actual interviews with nonresident couples in another study, a more complete and detailed analysis of the reasons they came to South Dakota to be married, where they came from, and why they chose that particular place in South Dakota to be married could be done.

2. If South Dakota were to change its marriage laws, a further study similar to this could be carried out to determine what effects the change in the law had on nonresident marriages solemnized in South Dakota and the effect on the communities themselves where they went to be married.

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APPENDIX I

Correlation Matrix  
Mean and Standard Deviations

### Correlation Matrix

Row 1	1.00000 -0.02370	0.34794	0.0	0.14169	0.28866	0.31634	-0.09926
Row 2	0.34794 0.01606	1.00000	0.0	0.28793	0.02949	-0.06639	0.02808
Row 3	0.0 0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Row 4	0.14169 -0.15780	0.28793	0.0	1.00000	-0.03718	0.07185	0.01035
Row 5	0.28866 0.60381	0.02949	0.0	-0.03718	1.00000	0.21186	-0.02127
Row 6	0.31634 -0.07214	-0.06639	0.0	0.07185	0.21186	1.00000	-0.04404
Row 7	-0.09926 -0.20873	0.02808	0.0	0.01035	-0.02127	-0.04404	1.00000
Row 8	-0.02370 1.00000	0.01606	0.0	-0.15780	0.60381	-0.07214	-0.20873

## Mean and Standard Deviation for Variables

Variable No.	Mean	Standard Deviation
1	13.55932	11.57772
2	5.25424	3.51641
3	40.00000	0.0
4	2.62712	2.32599
5	1.01695	1.12175
6	4.89830	6.68166
7	38.25423	26.92104
8	85.08473	273.48657



APPENDIX II

Supplementary Data

Total and Nonresident Marriages  
by County in South Dakota in 1962

State	Total Marriages	Nonresident Marriages	Percent Nonresident Marriages
1. Aurora	31	2	6.45
2. Beadle	160	3	1.87
3. Bennett	28	3	10.71
4. Bon Homme	49	5	10.20
5. Brookings	171	82	47.95
6. Brown	298	36	12.08
7. Brule	66	3	4.54
8. Buffalo	4	0	0.00
9. Butte	80	15	18.75
10. Campbell	24	2	8.33
11. Charles Mix	75	6	8.00
12. Clark	45	8	17.77
13. Clay	97	37	38.14
14. Codington	509	347	68.17
15. Corson	36	4	11.11
16. Custer	77	15	19.48
17. Davison	125	13	10.40
18. Day	279	171	61.29
19. Deuel	43	15	34.88
20. Dewey-Arms.	36	1	2.77
21. Douglas	47	1	2.12
22. Edmunds	42	3	7.14
23. Fall River	140	52	37.14
24. Faulk	22	0	0.00
25. Grant	212	158	74.52
26. Gregory	60	11	18.33
27. Haakon	26	1	3.84
28. Hamlin	54	2	3.70
29. Hand	55	1	1.81
30. Hanson	37	1	2.70
31. Harding	11	5	45.45
32. Hughes	222	34	15.31
33. Hutchinson	69	2	2.89
34. Hyde	18	2	11.11
35. Jackson	22	2	9.09
36. Jerauld	32	2	6.25
37. Jones	7	0	0.00
38. Kingsbury	47	3	6.38
39. Lake	73	2	2.73
40. Lawrence	167	31	18.56

## 1962 - continued

State	Total Marriages	Nonresident Marriages	Percent Nonresident Marriages
41. Lincoln	72	31	43.05
42. Lyman	16	3	18.75
43. McCook	59	5	8.47
44. McPherson	26	2	7.69
45. Marshall	46	10	21.73
46. Meade	128	17	13.28
47. Mellette	20	1	5.00
48. Miner	25	1	4.00
49. Minnehaha	922	352	38.17
50. Moody	35	1	2.85
51. Pennington	749	144	19.22
52. Perkins	48	8	16.66
53. Potter	46	1	2.17
54. Roberts	340	247	72.64
55. Sanborn	23	0	0.00
56. Shannon	12	3	25.00
57. Spink	65	2	3.07
58. Stanley	47	7	14.89
59. Sully	8	1	12.50
60. Todd	19	2	10.52
61. Tripp	78	11	14.10
62. Turner	61	3	4.91
63. Union	260	197	75.76
64. Walworth	44	4	9.09
65. Washabaugh	3	0	0.00
66. Yankton	197	86	43.65
67. Ziebach	9	0	0.00

Total and Nonresident Marriages  
by County in South Dakota in 1972

State	Total Marriages	Nonresident Marriages	Percent Nonresident Marriages
1. Aurora	27	2	7.40
2. Beadle	226	18	8.00
3. Bennett	49	11	22.45
4. Bon Homme	56	2	3.57
5. Brookings	370	167	45.13
6. Brown	432	95	21.99
7. Brule	75	4	5.33
8. Buffalo	5	1	20.00
9. Butte	130	46	35.38
10. Campbell	22	5	22.72
11. Charles Mix	96	11	11.45
12. Clark	66	8	12.12
13. Clay	246	114	46.34
14. Codington	2074	1820	87.75
15. Corson	39	6	1.76
16. Custer	49	7	14.28
17. Davison	205	16	7.80
18. Day	236	128	54.23
19. Deuel	71	25	35.21
20. Dewey-Arms.	33	1	3.03
21. Douglas	55	1	1.81
22. Edmunds	61	4	6.55
23. Fall River	155	57	36.77
24. Faulk	30	1	3.33
25. Grant	380	289	76.05
26. Gregory	72	16	22.22
27. Haakon	35	1	2.85
28. Hamlin	44	2	4.54
29. Hand	50	0	0.00
30. Hanson	38	3	7.89
31. Harding	24	11	45.83
32. Hughes	301	40	13.28
33. Hutchinson	101	6	5.94
34. Hyde	10	1	10.00
35. Jackson	28	0	0.00
36. Jerauld	54	3	5.55
37. Jones	13	1	7.69
38. Kingsbury	100	6	6.00
39. Lake	124	11	8.87
40. Lawrence	256	42	16.40

## 1972 - continued

State	Total Marriages	Nonresident Marriages	Percent Nonresident Marriages
41. Lincoln	152	35	23.02
42. Lyman	31	3	9.67
43. McCook	76	7	9.21
44. McPherson	37	1	2.70
45. Marshall	60	14	23.33
46. Meade	159	12	7.54
47. Mellette	37	0	0.00
48. Miner	47	4	8.51
49. Minnehaha	1823	812	44.54
50. Moody	63	5	7.93
51. Pennington	974	157	16.11
52. Perkins	48	7	14.58
53. Potter	44	1	2.27
54. Roberts	595	507	85.21
55. Sanborn	43	1	2.32
56. Shannon	11	0	0.00
57. Spink	81	3	3.70
58. Stanley	30	3	10.00
59. Sully	15	1	6.66
60. Todd	30	1	3.33
61. Tripp	100	16	16.00
62. Turner	106	9	8.49
63. Union	695	608	87.48
64. Walworth	81	17	20.98
65. Washabaugh	2	1	50.00
66. Yankton	340	182	53.52
67. Ziebach	23	1	4.34

Survey on Out-of-State Resident Couples  
Married in South Dakota

Name of County \_\_\_\_\_ Would like a copy of the results? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

1. How many of each of the following officials, empowered to solemnize marriages, do you have in your community?

Number:

Number:

\_\_\_\_\_ (a) Clergymen

\_\_\_\_\_ (d) Police Magistrate

\_\_\_\_\_ (b) Judge

\_\_\_\_\_ (e) Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_ (c) Justice of the Peace

2. Circle which of the officials are available in your community to perform marriages at the times indicated:

(a) Evenings: Clergymen; Judge; Justice of the Peace; Police Magistrate; Mayor

(b) Saturdays: Clergymen; Judge; Justice of the Peace; Police Magistrate; Mayor

(c) Holidays: Clergymen; Judge; Justice of the Peace; Police Magistrate; Mayor

3. In your estimation, what percent of the couples that are both from out-of-state that you license are:

(a) Married in your county seat town \_\_\_\_\_%

(b) Married elsewhere in your county \_\_\_\_\_%

(c) Married outside your town and county \_\_\_\_\_%.

4. At what times is your office open to issue marriage licenses?

(a) Monday through Friday -- what hours? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Evenings -- which evenings? \_\_\_\_\_ what hours? \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Saturday -- what hours? \_\_\_\_\_

(d) Holidays -- which holidays? \_\_\_\_\_ what hours? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Is there a clinic or physician in your town that provides blood tests for marriage licenses? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

If yes, is this service available:

(a) Evenings? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ hrs. \_\_\_\_\_ (b) Saturdays? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ hrs. \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Holidays? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ hrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

6. How many motels and hotels do you have in your community? \_\_\_\_\_

Do any of the motels, hotels, or any businesses provide any special services or facilities that would attract non-resident couples to your community? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

If your answer is yes, what are they? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_