

DIVORCE RATES ASSIGNMENT

This purpose of this assignment is to acquaint you with a variety of ways to calculate the likelihood of divorce. Often the mass media and other reports tend to report divorce statistics in less useful and occasionally useless ways. There are at least four ways to calculate divorce rates and you will be asked to calculate three using data for the United States between 1900 and 2004.

You have a spreadsheet that contains the following data for 1900-2004:

1. The total US population,
2. The total number of divorces
3. The number of marriages taking place in each of those years, and
4. The total number of married couples in the population in each of those years.

The first part of your assignment is to

1. use the data to calculate three different ways to measure divorce
2. graph the one measure that you think is the most accurate way to measure divorce. (Use years as the X axis.)

The spreadsheet is on Blackboard and you can use Excel to calculate the divorce rates if you wish.

You also have access to three articles from the mass media and from professional organizations on divorce rates.

The second part of your assignment is to read over the articles and write a 2-3 page critique of the measures of divorce used in the articles. Which makes the most and which makes the least sense to you?

Therefore, on **March 27** you will hand in

- The completed spreadsheet
- The graph of the measure you feel is most accurate
- The 2-3 page paper.

This assignment is worth 10% of your final grade.