

THE STATE OF DIVORCE

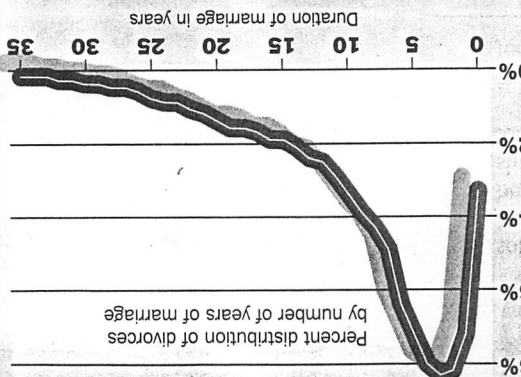
BY THE NUMBERS



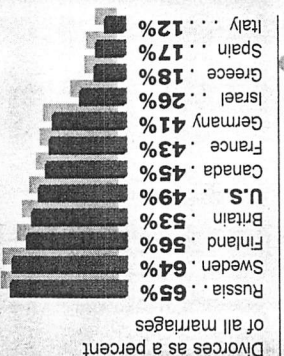
■ Breakups more than doubled between the 1960s and the late 1970s but have been declining for the past 20 years

WHEN IT HAPPENS

■ The chance of divorce is highest during the third year of marriage

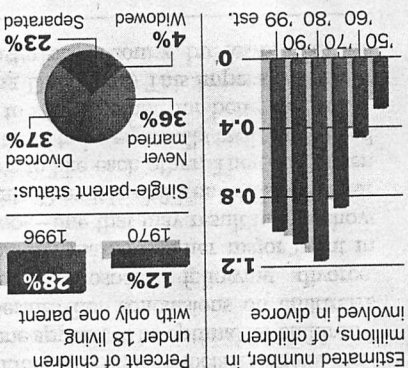


■ The U.S. is certainly not the divorce capital of the world



CHILDREN AT RISK

■ Over 1 million children are involved in new divorces each year



Percent of children under 18 living with only one parent

1970 12%
1996 28%

DIVORCE DATA

■ More than 40% of first marriages end in divorce

■ Total number of divorced adults grew from 4.3 million in 1970 to 20 million today

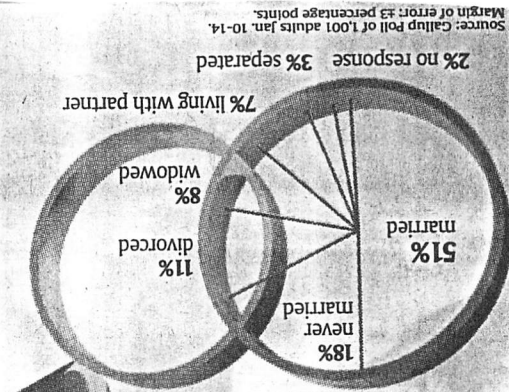
■ Married population dropped from 72% in 1970 to 60% today

■ Average duration of first marriages ending in divorce is eight years; duration of second marriages is six years

■ Average total household wealth of those ages 51 to 61

Married couples \$132,200
Divorced \$33,700
Widowed \$42,300

Half of adults in USA are married



TIME/CNN POLL

From a telephone poll of 1,278 adult Americans taken for TIME/CNN on Sept. 6-7 by Yankelevich Partners Inc. Sampling error is $\pm 2.7\%$

■ Are children better off in:

A divorce in which the parents stay together 23%
A divorce in which the parents stay together mainly for the kids? 23%
A divorce in which the parents are more happy? 66%
Not sure 11%

■ When parents get divorced, are children harmed?

Almost always harmed 42%
Frequently harmed 22%
Sometimes harmed 27%
Seldom harmed 8%

■ Do you agree or disagree that for the children's sake, parents should stay together and not get a divorce, even if the marriage isn't working?

Agree parents should stay together 21%
Disagree 71%

1981 2000

Source: Gallup Poll of 1,001 adults Jan. 10-14. Margin of error: ± 3 percentage points.