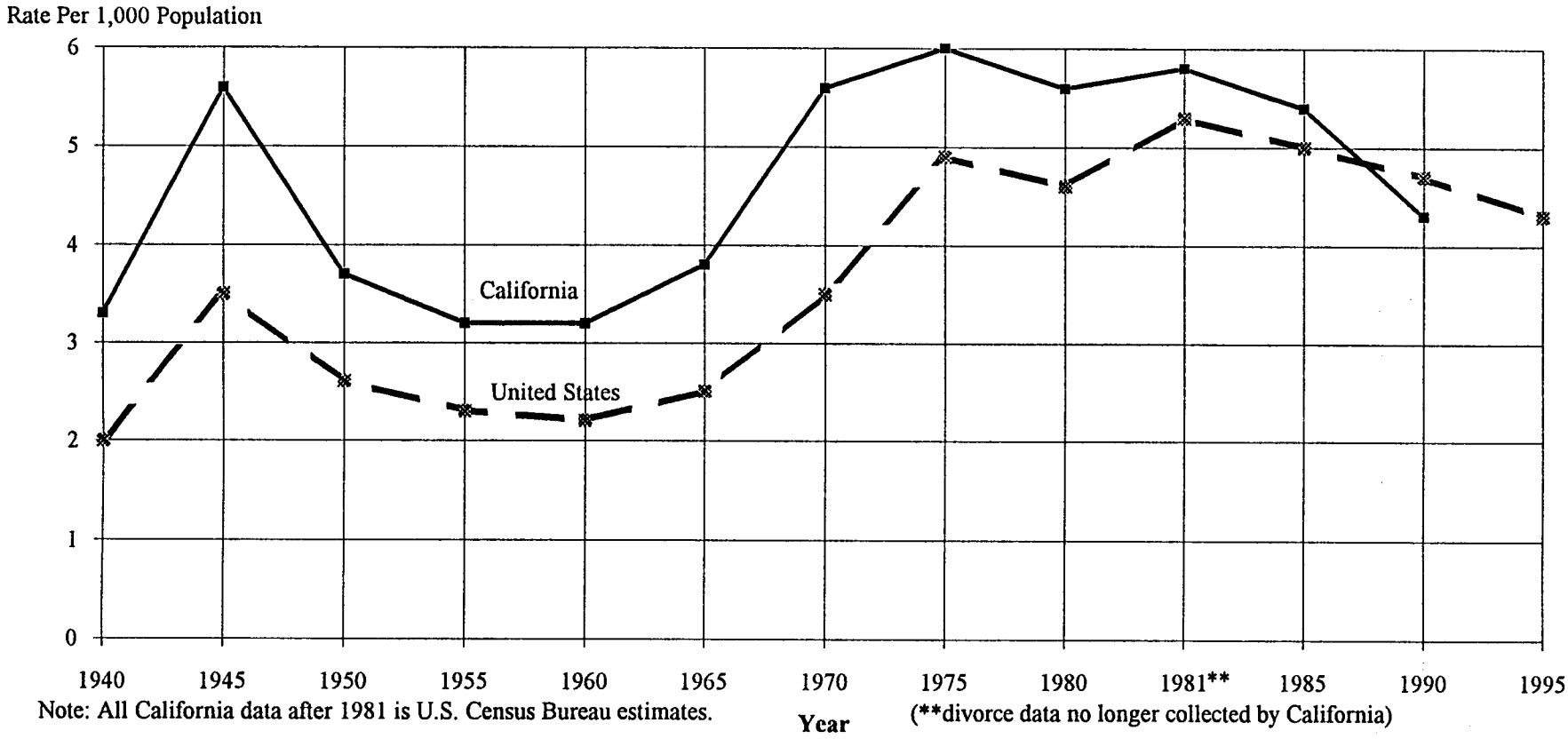
Divorce Rates in California and the United States

Annual Divorce Rates In The United States and California



Note: All California data after 1981 is U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

(**divorce data no longer collected by California)

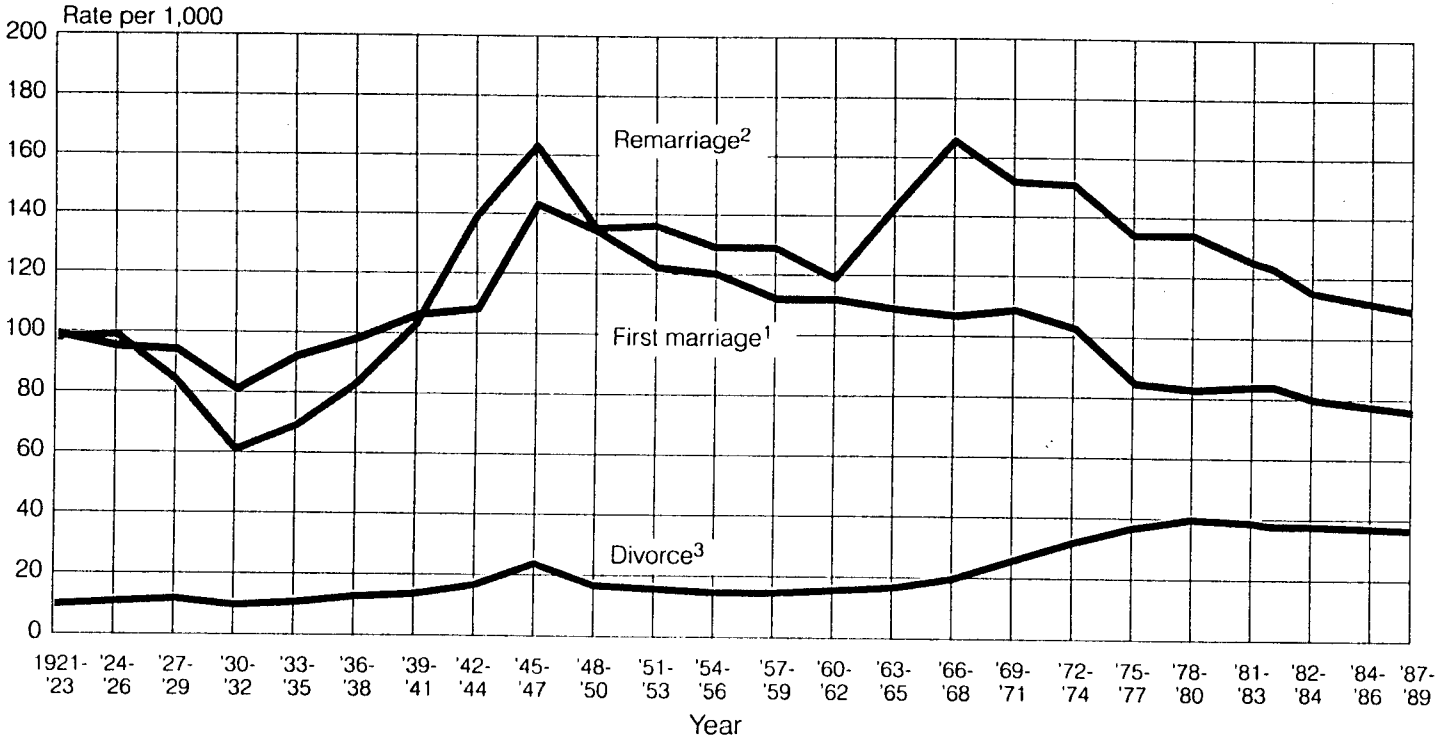
Source: U.S. Census Bureau and California Department of Health Services, 1940-1995

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage Rates Stabilize

Rates of first marriage, divorce, and remarriage have been fairly stable in recent years following large fluctuations in earlier decades. Rates of first marriage and remarriage declined after the mid 1960's but have remained fairly constant over the last few years. Divorce rates have increased since 1921 with the sharpest increases occurring from the mid 1960's to the late 1970's. These rates have not changed during the last 10 years.

The Census Bureau estimates that half of all marriages occurring since 1970 could end in divorce, with the majority of these divorced persons remarrying.

Figure 4.
Rates of First Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage for U.S. Women: 1921 to 1989 (3-year averages)



Source: National Center for Health Statistics

[1]First marriages per 1,000 single women 14 to 44 years old.
[2]Remarriages per 1,000 widowed and divorced women 14 to 54 years old.
[3]Divorces per 1,000 married women 14 to 44 years old.