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Marriages and divorces

2006

Metadata

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Marriages and divorces, 2006

The data for marriages and divorces are in two separate files. The files are flat, ASCII, fixed format, with one line of given length per record. This format was chosen so as to make the data usable with as many statistical programs as possible, and thus accessible to as wide a range of people as possible.

Other important information can be found in the:

Divorce Form (Form 07-04) for divorces only
Relevant statistical release
Record layouts
Stats SA's website: www.statssa.gov.za

The data files

Each file contains the following information for each variable:

Description of variables.

Descriptive name: This is a short description of the variable with the variable name in brackets.

Position of the variable: The position of a variable within a record is recorded in the format (@xxx y.). "@xxx" indicates that the variable starts at position (i.e. column) xxx, and "y" indicates the length of the field. All variables are numeric and right justified.

Final code list: The range of valid values for variables. For continuous variables it only reflects the upper and lower limits.

Missing value: The code for "missing"/"unspecified" values is given for each variable.

Note to users: Additional information for further clarity on questions.

Data file: Marriage2006

Methodology

1. System design

The registration of civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions in South Africa falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs.

As the department's functions are centralised at Head Office in Pretoria, this mean that all information regarding registered marriages is first sent to Pretoria before being sent to any other government agency.

2. Coverage

The target population is all civil marriages recorded in the National Population Register in 2006 by the Department of Home Affairs.

3. Data Capturing

Data capturing is done by the Department of Home Affairs. Stats SA accesses the electronic data through the State Information Technology Agency (SITA).

4. Confidentiality

The information remains confidential to Stats SA and will only be published in aggregated form. The Statistics Act (Act No.6 of 1999) prohibits the disclosure of information regarding individuals to any person concerned or his lawful representative.

Name of Province (ProvinceCode)

(@1 2.)

1.	Province 01 = Western Cape 02 = Eastern Cape 03 = Northern Cape 04 = Free State 05 = KwaZulu-Natal 06 = North West 07 = Gauteng 08 = Mpumalanga 09 = Limpopo
-----------	--

Note to users

This is derived from the name of province where the marriage was solemnised.

Final code list

- 01 = Western Cape
- 02 = Eastern Cape
- 03 = Northern Cape
- 04 = Free State
- 05 = KwaZulu-Natal
- 06 = North West
- 07 = Gauteng
- 08 = Mpumalanga
- 09 = Limpopo
- 98 = Foreign country
- 99 = Unspecified

Year of Marriage (MarriageYear)

(@3 4.)

2.	Marriage Year
-----------	----------------------

Note to users

This question provides information about the year in which a couple registered their marriage.

Final code list

Valid code = 2006

Month of Marriage (MarriageMonth)

(@7 2.)

3.	Marriage Month
-----------	-----------------------

Note to users

This question provide information about the month in which the couple registered their marriage.

Final code list

- 01 = January
- 02 = February
- 03 = March

- 04 = April
- 05 = May
- 06 = June
- 07 = July
- 08 = August
- 09 = September
- 10 = October
- 11 = November
- 12 = December
- 99 = Unspecified

Way of Solemnization (SolemnisationCode)

(@9 1.)

4.	Solemnization Code 1 = Religious 2 = Civil
-----------	---

Note to users

This question provides information about the way the marriage was solemnised.

Final code list

- 1 = Religious
- 2 = Civil
- 9 = Unspecified

Marital status of Man (ManStatusCode)

(@10 1.)

5.	Man Status 0 = Widower 1 = Bachelor 2 = Divorcee
-----------	--

Note to users

This question provides information about the marital status of the husband before marriage.

Final code list

- 0 = Widower
- 1 = Bachelor
- 2 = Divorcee
- 9 = Unspecified

Marital status of Woman (WomanStatusCode)

(@11 1.)

6.	Woman Status 0 = Widow 1 = Spinster 2 = Divorcee
-----------	--

Note to users

This question provides information about the marital status of the wife before marriage.

Final code list

0 = Widow
1 = Spinster
2 = Divorcee
9 = Unspecified

Age of Man (ManAge)

(@12 2.)

7.	Man Age
----	---------

Note to users

This question provides information about the age of the husband at the time of marriage.

Final code list

Valid range: 14–97

Age of Woman (WomanAge)

(@14 2.)

8.	Woman Age
----	-----------

Note to users

This provides information about the age of the wife at the time of marriage.

Final code list

Valid range: 12–95

Age difference between the man and the woman (AgeDiff)

(@16 1.)

9. Derived variable**Note to users**

This provides information about the age difference between the husband and the wife.

Final code list

0 = Same age
1 = Man older than the woman
2 = Woman older than the man

Methodology

1. Form design

The divorce form (Form 07-04) is administered by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). The form was designed in collaboration with stakeholders and other role players, such as the Department of Home Affairs, Office of the Family Advocate, Department of Social Development, Religious Leaders, and other interested organisations and institutions.

The electronic version of Form 07-04 is deposited with each of the following courts: Grahamstown, Kimberly, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Ferreirsdorp Central, North Eastern Durban and Southern Court King Williams Town.

2. Coverage

The divorce data cover civil marriages that were granted divorce in 2006 by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

3. Data capturing

Upon receipt of the forms at Stats SA, they are counted and sorted (into bundles) according to the different courts and months of the year. All fields on the form are captured.

4. Confidentiality

Stats SA has not included certain fields in the data set on the CD, in order to preserve the confidentiality of individual records.

Name of Province (ProvinceCode)

(@1 2.)

1.	Province number
-----------	------------------------

Note to users

This is derived from the name of the province where the court is situated.

Final code list

- 01 = Western Cape
- 02 = Eastern Cape
- 03 = Northern Cape
- 04 = Free State
- 05 = KwaZulu-Natal
- 06 = North West
- 07 = Gauteng
- 08 = Mpumalanga
- 09 = Limpopo
- 99 = Unspecified

Population group of husband (HusbandRaceCode)

(@3 1.)

2.	The population group of the husband <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 = African/Black2 = Coloured3 = Indian/Asian4 = White9 = Unspecified
-----------	--

Note to users

This question is asked to determine the population group of the husband.

Final code list

- 1 = African/Black
- 2 = Coloured
- 3 = Indian/Asian
- 4 = White
- 9 = Unspecified

Population group of wife (WifeRaceCode)

(@4 1.)

3.	The population group of the wife <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 = African/Black2 = Coloured3 = Indian/Asian4 = White9 = Unspecified
-----------	---

Note to users

This question is asked to determine the population group of the wife.

Final code list

- 1 = African/Black
- 2 = Coloured
- 3 = Indian/Asian
- 4 = White
- 9 = Unspecified

Population group of couple (CoupleRaceCode)

(@5 1.)

4. Derived variable**Note to users**

This is to determine whether the divorcing couple is in a mixed race marriage. The population groups of both the husband and the wife are compared to determine the category. If the population group of the husband and the population group of the wife differ, then the couple is classified as being in a mixed race marriage.

Final code list

- 1 = African/Black
- 2 = Coloured
- 3 = Indian/Asian
- 4 = White
- 5 = Mixed
- 9 = Unspecified

Occupation code of husband (HusbandOccCode)

(@6 2.)

5.	Husband's occupation at the time of divorce?
-----------	---

Note to users

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the occupation of the husband at the time of divorce.

Final code list

- 01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations
- 02 = Managers and administrators
- 03 = Clerical and sale occupations
- 04 = Transport, delivery and communications
- 05 = Service occupations
- 06 = Farming and related occupations
- 07 = Artisans, apprentice and related occupations
- 08 = Production foreman, mine and quarry worker
- 09 = Unspecified
- 10 = Not economically active

Occupation code of wife (WifeOccCode)

(@8 2.)

6.	Wife's occupation at the time of divorce?
-----------	--

Note to users

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the occupation of the wife at the time of divorce.

Final code list

- 01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations
- 02 = Managers and administrators
- 03 = Clerical and sale occupations
- 04 = Transport, delivery and communications
- 05 = Service occupations
- 06 = Farming and related occupations
- 07 = Artisans, apprentice and related occupations
- 08 = Production foreman, mine and quarry worker
- 09 = Unspecified
- 10 = Not economically active

The plaintiff (PlaintiffCode)

(@10 1.)

7.	Who is the plaintiff? 1 = Male 2 = Female
-----------	--

Note to users

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out who filed for the divorce (the husband or the wife).

Final code list

- 1 = Male
- 2 = Female
- 3 = Unspecified

Husband marital status at the time of marriage (HusbandMarStatusCode)

(@11 1.)

8.	Husband's marital status at the time of marriage? 1 = Never married 2 = Widower 3 = Divorcee 4 = Married 9 = Unspecified
-----------	--

Note to users

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the husband's marital status before the marriage; of particular interest is whether the previous marriage ended in divorce.

Final code list

- 1 = Never married
- 2 = Widower
- 3 = Divorcee
- 4 = Married
- 9 = Unspecified

Wife marital status at the time of marriage (WifeMarStatusCode)

(@12 1.)

9.	Wife's marital status at the time of marriage? 1 = Never married 2 = Widow 3 = Divorcee 9 = Unspecified
-----------	--

Note to users

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the wife's marital status before the marriage; of particular interest is whether the previous marriage ended in divorce.

Final code list

- 1 = Never married
- 2 = Widower
- 3 = Divorcee
- 9 = Unspecified

Number of times married (HusbandNoTimesMarried)

(@13 2.)

10.	Number of times husband has married?
------------	---

Note to users

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the number of times (including the current marriage) the husband has married.

Final code list

- Valid range: 1–3
- 4+ = Four to eight
 - 9 = Unspecified

Number of times married (WifeNoTimesMarried)

(@15 2.)

11.	Number of times wife has married?
------------	--

Note to users

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the number of times (including the current marriage) the wife has married.

Final code list

- Valid range: 1–3
- 4+ = Four to eight
 - 9 = Unspecified

Age of husband at time of divorce (HusbandAge)

(@17 2.)

12.	Age of husband?
------------	------------------------

Note to users

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the age of the husband at the time of divorce.

Final code list

- Valid range: 19–91
- Unspecified: 99

Age of wife at time of divorce (WifeAge)

(@19 2.)

13.	Age of wife?
------------	---------------------

Note to users

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the age of the wife at the time of the divorce.

Final code list

Valid range: 16–85

Unspecified: 99

Present marriage solemnised (SolemnisationCode)

(@21 1.)

14.	Type of solemnisation of the present marriage?
------------	---

Note to users

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out how the current marriage was solemnised.

Final code list

1 = Religious

2 = Civil

9 = Unspecified

Matrimonial property system (MarriageTypeCode)

(@22 1.)

15.	Matrimonial property system 1 = With antenuptual contract 2 = Without antenuptual contract 3 = In community of property 4 = Out of community of property 5 = Out of community of property (excluding accrual system) 6 = Out of community of property (including accrual system) 7 = Other 9 = Unspecified
------------	---

Note to users

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out the type of matrimonial property contract the couple entered into at the time of marriage.

Final code list

1 = With antenuptual contract

2 = Without antenuptual contract

3 = In community of property

4 = Out of community of property

5 = Out of community of property (excluding accrual system)

6 = Out of community of property (including accrual system)

7 = Other

9 = Unspecified

Number of minor children involved (NoOfChildren)

(@23 2.)

16.	Number of minor children involved?
------------	---

Note to users

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to determine the number of minor children (under 18 years) out of this marriage (currently the dissolved).

Final code list

Valid range: 00–10

Unspecified: 99

Date of separation (SeparationDate)

(@25 8.)

17.	Separation date?
------------	-------------------------

Note to users

This question is asked for each couple to find out the date of separation. The date is in this format: dd/mm/yyyy. E.g. 01011970 = 01/Jan/1970.

Final code list

Valid range: 01011971–31122006

Unspecified: 99999999

Month of marriage (MarriageMonth)

(@33 2.)

18.	Month of the marriage?
------------	-------------------------------

Note to users

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out the month in which the marriage took place.

Final code list

- 01 = January
- 02 = February
- 03 = March
- 04 = April
- 05 = May
- 06 = June
- 07 = July
- 08 = August
- 09 = September
- 10 = October
- 11 = November
- 12 = December
- 99 = Unspecified

Year of marriage (MarriageYear)

(@35 4.)

19.	Year of the marriage?
------------	------------------------------

Note to users

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out the year in which the marriage took place.

Final code list

Valid range: 1921–2006

Unspecified: 9999

Month of divorce (DivorceMonth)

(@39 2.)

20.	Month of the divorce?
------------	------------------------------

Note to users

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out the the month in which the divorce took place.

Final code list

01 = January
02 = February
03 = March
04 = April
05 = May
06 = June
07 = July
08 = August
09 = September
10 = October
11 = November
12 = December

Year of divorce (DivorceYear)

(@41 4.)

21.	Year of the divorce?
------------	-----------------------------

Note to users

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out the year in which the divorce took place.

Final code list

Valid code: 2006

Length of marriage of the couple (LengthOfMar)

(@45 2.)

22. Derived variable

Note to users

This is to determine the number of years the couple have been married.

Final code list

Valid range: 0–46
Unspecified: 99