

Table 3 Age of person divorcing, 1981, 1991 and 2001-2004 ¹
England and Wales

	1981		1991		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
Numbers divorcing												
All ages	145,713	145,713	158,745	158,745	143,818	143,818	147,735	147,735	153,490	153,490	153,399	153,399
Under 20	39	283	50	321	11	97	13	87	13	94	13	93
20-24	8,615	19,812	6,477	14,639	1,607	4,546	1,695	4,721	1,764	4,773	1,782	4,565
25-29	29,114	33,299	27,753	35,582	11,713	18,231	10,916	17,227	10,312	16,539	9,671	15,867
30-34	33,064	31,104	33,532	33,195	27,480	31,489	26,792	30,982	25,890	30,345	24,274	28,368
35-39	24,688	22,459	27,957	25,661	31,322	31,164	31,937	32,282	32,755	33,519	32,059	33,013
40-44	18,187	15,276	25,199	21,979	25,470	23,190	26,989	25,017	29,437	27,610	29,832	28,558
45-49	12,767	9,902	16,896	13,607	18,048	15,501	19,601	16,591	21,062	18,225	22,039	19,195
50-59	13,774	9,805	15,408	10,543	21,585	15,905	22,852	16,915	24,724	18,127	25,549	19,160
60 and over	5,440	3,748	5,454	3,199	6,580	3,693	6,940	3,913	7,531	4,256	8,180	4,580
Not known	25	25	19	19	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0
Mean age at divorce (years)	37.7	35.2	38.6	36.0	41.5	39.1	41.9	39.4	42.3	39.8	42.7	40.2
Rate (divorces per thousand married men/women)												
All ages	11.9		13.5		12.9		13.4		14.0		14.0	
Under 20	2.0	3.0	6.3	9.9	2.0	6.0	3.0	6.7	3.4	8.0	3.4	7.9
20-24	18.5	24.4	26.7	29.9	21.6	25.5	24.4	28.4	25.7	29.7	26.0	28.4
25-29	27.6	26.7	32.4	30.7	27.9	29.2	29.4	30.4	30.6	31.6	28.7	30.3
30-34	22.8	20.2	28.6	25.0	28.3	27.6	29.1	28.3	29.8	29.1	28.0	27.2
35-39	18.6	16.6	23.1	19.9	25.0	23.0	25.9	24.0	27.1	25.5	26.5	25.1
40-44	15.2	12.9	17.7	15.0	20.5	17.9	21.5	19.1	23.3	20.9	23.6	21.6
45-49	11.0	8.7	13.6	10.9	15.3	12.8	16.7	13.8	17.9	15.0	18.7	15.8
50-59	5.8	4.3	7.1	5.1	8.7	6.5	9.2	6.8	10.0	7.3	10.3	7.7
60 and over	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.2	1.9	1.3	2.0	1.4	2.1	1.4	2.3	1.6
Median duration of marriage at divorce (years)	10.1		9.8		10.9		11.1		11.3		11.5	

¹ 2004 rates are provisional as they were produced using the 2003 marital status estimates; the 2004 estimates were not available at the time of compilation of these data.

