Above, you might notice that I chose variables that had to do with one’s marital status. For an overview, I decided to do all of them, or to follow this specific theme, because I wanted to analyze how the marriages generally changed over time. We’ll learn about how many people spouses lived with, if there’s a difference in amount of people whose spouses die early, and if partners are used to both getting degrees, or if it was almost limited to just one degree per household. I also chose all 5 based on them having consistent/full distributions across most years since the beginning surveys.

I chose “divorced” as one variable because I wanted to see if divorced citizens were more common or not. This could lead into a discussion on why the results are the way they are. From modern life, we can tell that most people get divorced due to social pressures, external circumstances, are a realization that the partner isn’t the best fit. It’d be an interesting start to a bigger conversation to see how divorce rates compare with modern expectations, but first we need to see how the statistics have changed.

Like why I chose “divorced”, I chose “marital” to see how statistics have changed since the first surveys. I want to see how the early people begin to get married, or maybe if people were married back then compared to modern times. We can relate this to birth rates, and it can add to similar discussions to that of divorced.

“Widowed” is an interesting statistic in marital status, because it’s one of the ways marriages ends. So, in the end, if we ask someone if they’re widowed, it might mean they have a spouse. However, I want to see if being widowed was more common when the surveys began compared to now. I want to see if this could be related to how health and safety concerns might’ve contributed to these early widowhoods, or if it was some unexplainable phenomenon. Who know, maybe we have higher widow rates now compared to back then!

“Spdeg” represents if the person’s spouse carried a degree. We know that women weren’t often allowed in earlier years to obtain a degree like men. I don’t know what I’ll find in this variable, but we might be able to reason” spousal degree status to some other experimental item, such as household incomes. Then, we could also relate it to today’s household incomes and if having high (normalized) incomes is related to having a degree, or even to having a spouse.

“Hompop” represents the amount of people living in the respondent’s household. This could be some sort of analytical variable for the other variables. For example, we can see if number of people per household correlates to if a partner has a degree, or if more people have spouses. This is because number of people per household could mean children, roommates, or other dependents. There might be some random correlations, like if number of widowed people is correlated with number of people living in a household.

Overall, we can combine what we learn from the above 5 variables to see if marriage status impacted/was impacted by societal conditions and if it’s different from that of today. We might see some cool things, but as long we’re focused on the marriage side of the data.