

Oklahoma Marriage Initiative Statewide Baseline Survey
Bureau for Social Research, Oklahoma State University
Fall 2001

- Reference/Citation:** Johnson, C. A., & Stanley, S. M. (Eds.). (2001, Fall). The Oklahoma Marriage Initiative Statewide Baseline Survey (Available from the Bureau for Social Research, Oklahoma State University, 306 HES, Stillwater, OK 74078-6117)
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- Methodology:** Purpose: This research project was conducted as part of the evaluation for the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative. In 1999 Governor Frank Keating announced the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative, with the objective of reducing the divorce rate in Oklahoma by 1/3 by the year 2010. One aim of the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative is to change the culture of support for marriage in Oklahoma. Consequently, a component in evaluating the effectiveness of the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative is to assess the “culture of marriage” and “culture of divorce” in Oklahoma. One objective of the survey was to assess the long-term impact of the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative on a broad range of indicators related to marital, cohabitation, and family relationships in Oklahoma. A second objective was to gather demographic data on patterns of cohabitation, intent to marry, marriage, divorce, and remarriage among Oklahomans. To ensure that the data were representative of low-income families in Oklahoma, additional interviews were completed with Oklahoma Medicaid clients. To form a comparison group, residents of neighboring states (Texas, Kansas, and Arkansas) were also surveyed.
- Subjects and Sampling Procedures: Subjects consisted of adult residents of randomly selected households within Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, and Arkansas. Telephone numbers of households in these states were acquired through random digit generation methods from a reputable research sampling company. Interviews were completed with residents of 2,000 Oklahoma households and 1,000 residents of households in neighboring states (Texas, Kansas, and Arkansas).
- To ensure that the data were representative of low-income families, 300 additional interviews were completed with Oklahoma Medicaid clients. For this sample, names of current Medicaid clients were randomly selected from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services’ database of Medicaid clients. A pre-notification letter was mailed to the selected clients which described the study, gave a toll-free telephone number for clients to call in to complete the survey, and indicated that persons would be paid \$15 for completing the interview.
- Survey Instrument: The survey was administered as a telephone interview and included questions on the following topics: 1) attitudes about intimate relationships, marriage, family, and divorce, 2) demographic data on marriage, divorce, remarriage, patterns of cohabitation, and intent to marry/remarry, 3) qualitative information on couples’ relationship quality, and 4) knowledge and acceptance of preventative education. Interviews typically lasted between 15 and 20 minutes.
- Response Rate: To be calculated/determined

Funding:

This project was funded by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Family Support Services. The Oklahoma Marriage Initiative is partially funded by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, which is charged with developing marriage and family formation strategies by federal TANF guidelines.

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LEGEND FOR ITEM HISTORY IN THIS LIST

- (1) Item from S. Nock and A. Hawkins surveys used in Minnesota and Arizona
- (2) Item developed for the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative – Statewide Baseline Survey
- (3) Item from S. Stanley and H. Markman’s telephone survey (1996)
- (4) Item from the General Social Survey
- (5) Item from A. Booth - Marital Instability Index
- (6) Item from Alliance for Marriage national survey on marriage and family (2000)
- (7) Item from Oklahoma Department of Human Services survey of TANF clients
- (8) Item from the STNAP survey questionnaire, from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Hello, this is _____ & I'm calling from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. We are conducting a research study on the topic of marriage & family relationships in Oklahoma. Am I speaking with an adult over the age of 18? We are conducting a 15-minute interview of citizens in Oklahoma. The purpose of this study is to provide an accurate report on marriage & family relationships in Oklahoma. The survey asks your opinion of marriages and families in Oklahoma and gathers some information about your own marital or relationship history. Would this be a good time to do the interview? Before we begin, I want to assure you that all your answers will be kept confidential.

ATTITUDES ABOUT MARRIAGE/DIVORCE

QAT1

- (1) To start, some people think that divorce is a serious national problem. Other people think that divorce is not a serious problem at all. How about you? Would you say that divorce is...
1. a very serious problem
 2. somewhat serious
 3. not too serious a problem
 4. not a problem at all
 8. don't know
 9. refused

QAT2

(1 modified) Now, I am going to read some statements about marriage and divorce. Please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree with each one. Here is the first statement: When married people realize that they no longer love each other, they should get a divorce even if they have children. Do you:

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

QAT3

(1 modified) When there are children in the family, parents should stay married even if they do not get along. Do you:

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

QAT4

(1) Sure, divorce is bad, but a lousy marriage is even worse.

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

QAT5

(1) Society would be better off if divorces were harder to get.

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

QAT6

(1) Long waiting periods to get a divorce give people time to get over their anger, work out their problems, and reconcile.

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

QAT7

(2) People who have children together ought to be married.

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

QAT8

(1) Too many couples rush into marriage.

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

QAT9

(1) It is wrong when married people have sex with someone other than their spouse.

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

QAT10

(1 modified) Young couples focus too much on the happiness they expect from marriage and not enough on the hard work a successful marriage requires.

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

QAT11

(2) In marriage you can count on your partner being there for you more than you can when you are living with someone outside of marriage. Do you...

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

QAT12

(1 modified) It is okay for a man and woman who are not married to live together.

(when man and woman are romantically involved)

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

QAT13

(2) People who live together before they are married are likely to improve their chances for a good marriage. Do you...

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

QAT14

(2) These days, couples who live together outside of marriage get all the benefits of marriage without the legal details. Do you...

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree with this statement
8. undecided/don't know
9. refused

REASONS FOR DIVORCE

QRD1

(1) The next few questions are about reasons people give for the high rate of divorce. I'll read some statements about this, and for each one tell me if you think it is not a reason at all, a reason, but not a very important one, an important reason, or one of the most important reasons for the high rate of divorce. Here is the first statement: People have little respect for the spiritual importance of marriage. Is that...

1. not a reason at all
2. a reason, but not a very important one
3. an important reason
4. one of the most important reasons for the high divorce rate
8. don't know
9. refused

QRD2

(1 modified) These days WOMEN put too much emphasis on their own self-interest and not enough emphasis on the needs of their partners and children.

1. not a reason at all
2. a reason, but not a very important one
3. an important reason
4. one of the most important reasons for the high divorce rate
8. don't know
9. refused

QRD3

(1 modified) These days MEN put too much emphasis on their own self-interest and not enough emphasis on the needs of their partners and children.

1. not a reason at all
2. a reason, but not a very important one
3. an important reason
4. one of the most important reasons for the high divorce rate
8. don't know
9. refused

QRD4

(2) Changes in the law have made it easier for unhappy couples to get divorced. Is this...

1. not a reason at all
2. a reason, but not a very important one
3. an important reason
4. one of the most important reasons for the high divorce rate
8. don't know
9. refused

QRD5

(2) Wives' employment makes it easier for them to leave unhappy marriages now than in the past. Is this...

1. not a reason at all
2. a reason, but not a very important one
3. an important reason
4. one of the most important reasons for the high divorce rate
8. don't know
9. refused

QRD6

(2) With most wives employed, the pressure of having to meet work and family demands places a lot of stress on couples.

1. not a reason at all
2. a reason, but not a very important one
3. an important reason
4. one of the most important reasons for the high divorce rate
8. don't know
9. refused

QRD7

(2) Many husbands are unwilling to treat their wives as equals.

1. not a reason at all
2. a reason, but not a very important one
3. an important reason
4. one of the most important reasons for the high divorce rate
8. don't know
9. refused

MARRIAGE/DIVORCE HISTORY

QMD1

(1) Now I am going to ask you some questions about your own marital or relationship status. First, are you currently married, widowed, divorced, separated or have you never been married?

1. married
2. widowed
3. divorced
4. separated
5. never been married
8. don't know
9. refused

QMD2

(1) Do you have a main romantic involvement, a man or a woman you think of as a steady, a lover, a partner, or the like?

1. yes
2. no
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 = 1) SKP

COUPLE = COUPLE STATUS

1 = COUPLE

0 = not COUPLE

IF (QMD1 = 1) COUPLE = 1

IF (QMD2 = 1) COUPLE = 1

MARSEP = MARRIED OR SEPARATED

1 = MARRIED OR SEPARATED

0 = not MARRIED OR SEPARATED

IF (QMD1 = 1) MARSEP = 1

IF (QMD1 = 4) MARSEP = 1

QMD3

(1) Are you engaged to be married?

1. yes

2. no

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (QMD1 = 1) SKP

IF (QMD2 <> 1) SKP

QMD4

(1) Do you live with your spouse/partner?

1. yes

2. no

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QMD5

(2) At the time you STARTED living together, were you engaged?

1. yes

2. no

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (QMD1 = 1) SKP

IF (QMD2 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD4 <> 1) SKP

QMD6

(2) Do your parents approve or disapprove of your living together without being married?
(approve or disapprove of the current living situation)

1. approve

2. (neutral/mixed)

3. disapprove

4. (parents unaware of situation)

7. not applicable - parents not living/no parents

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (QMD1 = 1) SKP

IF (QMD2 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD4 <> 1) SKP

QMD7

(3) How long have you been with your spouse/partner? (in years) This includes time dating your spouse/partner before marriage.

0 = LESS THAN 1 YEAR

RANGE: 1-85 YEARS (Round DOWN)

88. don't know

99. refused

QMD8

(3) Do you and your current spouse/partner have children together by birth or adoption?

1. yes
2. no
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QMD9

(2) How many?

RANGE: 1-30 CHILDREN (with CURRENT spouse/partner)

88. don't know
99. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD8 <> 1) SKP

QMD10

(2) How many of these children are under the age of 18?

RANGE: 0-30 CHILDREN (with CURRENT spouse/partner)

88. don't know
99. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD8 <> 1) SKP

QMD11

(2) Of these children from your current marriage/relationship who are under the age of 18, how many DO NOT live with you? RANGE: 0-30 CHILDREN

ENTER NUMBER OF CHILDREN HERE:

88. don't know
99. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD8 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD10 = 0) SKP

QMD12

(2) Regarding these children from your current marriage/relationship who are under the age of 18 AND who are NOT living with you, overall, how close do you feel to these children? Would you say that you are not close at all, somewhat close, or very close?

1. not close at all
2. somewhat close
3. very close
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD8 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD10 = 0) SKP

IF (QMD11 = 0) SKP

QMD13

(2) How satisfied are you with your relationship with these children, overall? Would you say that you are not very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or very satisfied?

1. not very satisfied
2. somewhat satisfied
3. very satisfied
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD8 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD10 = 0) SKP

IF (QMD11 = 0) SKP

QMD14

(2) How long have you and your current spouse been married, in years?

0 = LESS THAN 1 YEAR

RANGE: 1-85 YEARS (Round DOWN)

88. don't know
99. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

QMD15

(2) Were you and your current spouse married in a religious setting?

(religious setting = a setting where a religious leader officiated)

1. yes
2. no
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

QMD16

(2) Did you and your current spouse have pre-marital preparation, such as educational classes, a workshop, or counseling designed to help you get a good start in marriage?

1. yes
2. no
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

QMD17

(2) Was your pre-marital preparation inside or outside a religious setting?

(religious setting = led by a religious leader: minister, priest, rabbi)

1. inside
2. outside
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD16 <> 1) SKP

QMD18

(2) About how many hours did you spend in pre-marital preparation?

0 = LESS THAN 1 HOUR

RANGE: 1-80 HOURS (Round DOWN)

(pre-marital preparation = educational classes, workshops, or counseling designed to help you get a good start in marriage?)

88. don't know

99. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD16 <> 1) SKP

QMD19

(1) Did you and your current spouse live together before you got married?

1. yes

2. no

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

QMD20

(2) At the time you STARTED living together, were you engaged?

1. yes

2. no

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD19 <> 1) SKP

QMD21

(2) Did your parents approve or disapprove of your living together prior to marriage?

1. approve

2. (neutral/mixed)

3. disapprove

4. (parents unaware of situation)

7. not applicable - parents not living/no parents

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD19 <> 1) SKP

QMD22

(1) Altogether how many times have you been married?

RANGE: 1-30 MARRIAGES

88. don't know

99. refused

IF (QMD1 = 5) SKP

NUMMAR = NUMBER OF MARRIAGES

Value = NUMBER OF MARRIAGES

IF (QMD1 = 5) NUMMAR = 0

IF (QMD1 <> 5) NUMMAR = QMD22

QMD23

(2) Have you ever married the same person more than once?
(Does NOT include renewing vows)

1. yes
 2. no
 8. don't know
 9. refused
- IF (NUMMAR < 2) SKP
IF (NUMMAR > 30) SKP

QMD24

(2) How old were you when you married your current spouse?

RANGE: 1-110 YEARS OLD

888. don't know
999. refused
IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

QMD25

(1) How old were you when you first got married?

RANGE: 1-110 YEARS OLD

888. don't know
999. refused
IF (NUMMAR < 2) SKP
IF (NUMMAR > 30) SKP

QMD26

(1) Have you ever been divorced?

1. yes
 2. no
 8. don't know
 9. refused
- IF (QMD1 = 3) SKP

EVRDIV = EVER DIVORCED

1= YES, EVER DIVORCED

0 = NO, never divorced

IF (QMD1 = 3) EVRDIV = 1

IF (QMD26 = 1) EVRDIV = 1

QMD27

(2) How many times have you been divorced?

RANGE: 1-50 DIVORCES

88. don't know
99. refused
IF (EVRDIV <> 1) SKP

NUMDIV = NUMBER OF DIVORCES

Value = NUMBER OF DIVORCES

NUMDIV = 0

IF (EVRDIV = 1) NUMDIV = QMD27

PRVSPO = PREVIOUS SPOUSE
1 = YES, HAVE PREVIOUS SPOUSE
0 = NO PREVIOUS SPOUSE
IF (EVRDIV = 1) PRVSPO = 1
IF (QMD1 = 2) PRVSPO = 1
IF (NUMMAR > 1) PRVSPO = 1

QMD28

(2) Do you have children with a spouse from a PREVIOUS marriage? (include ALL previous marriages)
1. yes
2. no
8. don't know
9. refused
IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP

QMD29

(2) How many?
RANGE: 1-30 CHILDREN (with a spouse from a PREVIOUS marriage) (include children from ALL previous marriages)
88. don't know
99. refused
IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP
IF (QMD28 <> 1) SKP

QMD30

(2) How many of these children are under the age of 18?
RANGE: 0-30 CHILDREN (with a spouse from a PREVIOUS marriage) (include children from ALL previous marriages)
88. don't know
99. refused
IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP
IF (QMD28 <> 1) SKP

QMD31

(2) Of these children from a previous marriage who are under the age of 18, how many DO NOT live with you?
RANGE: 0-30 CHILDREN (include children from ALL previous marriages)
88. don't know
99. refused
IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP
IF (QMD28 <> 1) SKP
IF (QMD30 = 0) SKP

QMD32

(2) Regarding these children from a previous marriage who are under the age of 18 AND who are NOT living with you, overall, how close do you feel to these children? Would you say that you are not close at all, somewhat close, or very close? (include children from ALL previous marriages)
1. not close at all
2. somewhat close
3. very close
8. don't know
9. refused
IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP
IF (QMD28 <> 1) SKP
IF (QMD30 = 0) SKP
IF (QMD31 = 0) SKP

QMD33

(2) How satisfied are you with your relationship with these children, overall? Would you say that you are not very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or very satisfied? (include children from ALL previous marriages)

1. not very satisfied
2. somewhat satisfied
3. very satisfied
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD28 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD30 = 0) SKP

IF (QMD31 = 0) SKP

QMD34

(2) How long were you and your previous spouse married, in years?

(previous spouse = most recent spouse)

0 = LESS THAN 1 YEAR

RANGE: 1-85 YEARS (Round DOWN)

88. don't know
99. refused

IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP

QMD35

(2) Were you and your previous spouse married in a religious setting?

(previous spouse = most recent spouse)

(religious setting = a setting where a religious leader officiated)

1. yes
2. no
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP

QMD36

(2) Did you and your previous spouse have pre-marital preparation, such as educational classes, a workshop, or counseling designed to help you get a good start in marriage?

(previous spouse = most recent spouse)

1. yes
2. no
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP

QMD37

(2) Was your pre-marital preparation inside or outside a religious setting?

(previous spouse = most recent spouse)

(religious setting = led by a religious leader: minister, priest, rabbi)

1. inside
2. outside
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD36 <> 1) SKP

QMD38

(2) About how many hours did you spend in pre-marital preparation?

0 = LESS THAN 1 HOUR

RANGE: 1-80 HOURS (Round DOWN)

(previous spouse = most recent spouse; pre-marital preparation = educational classes, workshops, or counseling designed to help you get a good start in marriage?)

88. don't know

99. refused

IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD36 <> 1) SKP

QMD39

(1) Did you and your previous spouse live together before you got married?

(previous spouse = most recent spouse)

1. yes

2. no

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP

QMD40

(2) At the time you and your previous spouse STARTED living together, were you engaged?

(previous spouse = most recent spouse)

1. yes

2. no

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD39 <> 1) SKP

QMD41

(2) Did your parents approve or disapprove of your living together prior to marriage?

(previous spouse = most recent spouse)

1. approve

2. (neutral/mixed)

3. disapprove

4. (parents unaware of situation)

7. not applicable - parents not living/no parents

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (PRVSPO <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD39 <> 1) SKP

QMD42

(2) There are many reasons why marriages fail. I'm going to read a list of possible reasons. Looking back at your most recent divorce, tell me whether or not each factor was a MAJOR contributor to your divorce. You can say "yes" or "no" to each factor.

1. Getting married too young
2. Little or no helpful pre-marital preparation
3. Financial problems or economic hardship
4. Religious differences between partners
5. Domestic violence
6. Infidelity or extra-marital affairs
7. Too much conflict and arguing
8. Lack of commitment by one or both persons to make it work
9. Lack of support from family members
10. OTHER: _____

IF (EVRDIV <> 1) SKP

QMD43

(2) Looking back at your last divorce, do you wish that it would have been more difficult - from a legal standpoint - to get a divorce?

1. Yes, I wish it would have been more difficult.
2. No, it was difficult enough.
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (EVRDIV <> 1) SKP

QMD44

(1) Again looking back at your last divorce, do you ever wish that you, yourself, had worked harder to save your marriage?

1. Yes, I wish I had worked harder.
2. No, I worked hard enough.
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (EVRDIV <> 1) SKP

QMD45

(1) Do you ever wish that your spouse had worked harder to save your marriage?

1. Yes, I wish my spouse had worked harder.
2. No, my spouse worked hard enough.
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (EVRDIV <> 1) SKP

QMD46

(2) Do you have any children from a prior relationship OUTSIDE of marriage?

1. yes
2. no
7. yes - but gave ALL children up for ADOPTION
8. don't know
9. refused

QMD47

(2) How many children do you have from a prior relationship OUTSIDE of marriage?

RANGE: 1-30 CHILDREN

88. don't know

99. refused

IF (QMD46 <> 1) SKP

QMD48

(2) How many of these children from a prior relationship OUTSIDE of marriage are under the age of 18?

RANGE: 0-30 CHILDREN

88. don't know

99. refused

QMD49

(2) Of these children from a prior relationship OUTSIDE of marriage who are under the age of 18, how many DO NOT live with you?

RANGE: 0-30 CHILDREN

88. don't know

99. refused

IF (QMD46 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD48 = 0) SKP

QMD50

(2) Regarding these children from a prior relationship OUTSIDE of marriage who are under the age of 18 AND who are NOT living with you, overall, how close do you feel to these children? Would you say that you are not close at all, somewhat close, or very close?

1. not close at all

2. somewhat close

3. very close

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (QMD46 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD48 = 0) SKP

IF (QMD49 = 0) SKP

QMD51

(2) How satisfied are you with your relationship with these children, overall? Would you say that you are not very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or very satisfied?

1. not very satisfied

2. somewhat satisfied

3. very satisfied

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (QMD46 <> 1) SKP

IF (QMD48 = 0) SKP

IF (QMD49 = 0) SKP

QMD52

(2) Would you like to be married some day?

1. yes

2. no

8. don't know

9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 5) SKP

QMD53

(2) Would you like to re-marry some day?

1. yes
2. no
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 = 1) SKP

IF (QMD1 > 3) SKP

RELATIONSHIP QUALITY

QRQ1

(4) Taking things altogether, how would you describe your marriage? Would you say your marriage is very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?

1. very happy
2. pretty happy
3. not too happy
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

QRQ2A

(5) Sometimes couples experience serious problems in their marriage and have thoughts of ending their marriage. Even people who get along quite well with their spouse sometimes wonder whether their marriage is working out. Have you ever thought your marriage might be in trouble?

1. never
2. yes, but not within the last 3 years
3. yes, within the last 3 years
4. yes, within the last year
5. yes, within the last 6 months
6. yes, within the last 3 months
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

QRQ2B

(5) Has the thought of getting a divorce or separation crossed your mind?

1. never
2. yes, but not within the last 3 years
3. yes, within the last 3 years
4. yes, within the last year
5. yes, within the last 6 months
6. yes, within the last 3 months
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

QRQ2C

(5) Have you discussed divorce or separation from your spouse with a close friend? (close friend could be another relative)

1. never
2. yes, but not within the last 3 years
3. yes, within the last 3 years
4. yes, within the last year
5. yes, within the last 6 months
6. yes, within the last 3 months
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

QRQ2D

(5) Have you or your spouse ever seriously suggested the idea of divorce?

1. never
2. yes, but not within the last 3 years
3. yes, within the last 3 years
4. yes, within the last year
5. yes, within the last 6 months
6. yes, within the last 3 months
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

QRQ2E

(5) Have you and your spouse talked about consulting an attorney regarding a possible divorce or separation?

1. never
2. yes, but not within the last 3 years
3. yes, within the last 3 years
4. yes, within the last year
5. yes, within the last 6 months
6. yes, within the last 3 months
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

QRQ2F

(2) Are you glad you are still together?

1. yes, glad
2. unsure/mixed feelings
3. no, not glad
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

IF (QRQ2B = 1) SKP

IF (QRQ2B > 7) SKP

QRQ3A

(3) Please answer each of the following questions by indicating how strongly you agree or disagree with the idea expressed. My relationship with my spouse/partner is more important to me than almost anything else in my life.

Do you...

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QRQ3B

(3) I may not want to be with my spouse/partner a few years from now. Do you...

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QRQ3C

(3) I like to think of my spouse/partner and me more in terms of "us" and "we" than "me" and "him/her."

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QRQ3D

(3) I feel trapped in this marriage/relationship but I stay because I have too much to lose if I leave.

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QRQ3E

(3) We regularly have great conversations where we just talk as good friends.

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QRQ4A

(3) Now I'd like you to tell me how often you and your spouse/partner experience each of the following situations. Little arguments escalate into ugly fights with accusations, criticisms, name calling, or bringing up past hurts. Is that...

1. never or almost never
2. once in a while
3. frequently
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QRQ4B

(3) My spouse/partner criticizes or belittles my opinions, feelings, or desires. Is that...

1. never or almost never
2. once in a while
3. frequently
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QRQ4C

(3) My spouse/partner seems to view my words or actions more negatively than I mean them to be. Does that happen...

1. never or almost never
2. once in a while
3. frequently
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QRQ4D

(3) When we argue, one of us withdraws...that is, does not want to talk about it anymore, or leaves the scene. Does that happen...

1. never or almost never
2. once in a while
3. frequently
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QRQ5

(3) How long - in weeks - has it been since just the two of you went out on a date (had an evening out together)?

0 = LESS THAN 1 WEEK

RANGE: 1-85 WEEKS (Round DOWN)

88. don't know
99. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QRQ6

(4) All in all, how satisfied are you with your marriage? Are you...

1. completely satisfied
2. very satisfied
3. somewhat satisfied
4. not very satisfied
5. not at all satisfied
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 <> 1) SKP

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

QFI1

(1 modified) Some couples feel pretty much on their own to handle the challenges of marriage, and other people feel a good deal of support from others for their relationship. Thinking about your own marriage (current or last one), how much support do/did you feel from YOUR OWN relatives for keeping your marriage healthy in good times and hard times?

(YOUR OWN relatives = parents, brothers, sisters, etc.)

1. no or little support
2. some support
3. a lot of support
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (NUMMAR < 1) SKP

QFI2

(1 modified) How much support do/did you feel from your SPOUSE'S relatives for keeping your marriage healthy in good times and hard times?

(SPOUSE'S relatives = your in-laws)

1. no or little support
2. some support
3. a lot of support
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (NUMMAR < 1) SKP

QFI3

(1 modified) How much support do/did you feel from your FRIENDS for keeping your marriage healthy in good times and hard times?

1. no or little support (if no friends -> no support)
2. some support
3. a lot of support
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (NUMMAR < 1) SKP

QFI4

(1 modified) How much support do/did you feel from your FAITH COMMUNITY for keeping your marriage healthy in good times and hard times?

1. no or little support (if no faith comm. -> no support)
2. some support
3. a lot of support
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (NUMMAR < 1) SKP

PREVENTIVE EDUCATION (Pre-marital education, divorce prevention education and services)

QPE1

(1 modified) Now I'd like to ask your opinion of pre-marital preparation and divorce prevention services. In your opinion, how important is it for couples to prepare for marriage through educational classes, workshops, or counseling designed to help them get off to a good start? Is it...

1. very important
2. somewhat important
3. not very important
4. not at all important
8. don't know
9. refused

QPE2

(6 modified) When a married couple with children in the home is considering a divorce, how good an idea do you think it would be to require marriage counseling or therapy before the divorce is granted? Would that be a... (marriage counseling or therapy in effort to save the marriage)

1. very good idea
2. good idea
3. bad idea
4. very bad idea
8. don't know
9. refused

QPE3

(1 modified) Did you seek counseling from a therapist or religious leader before getting divorced, yes or no? (If more than one divorce, use MOST RECENT divorce)

1. yes
2. no
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (NUMDIV < 1) SKP

QPE4

(1 modified) Was this counseling from a marital or mental health therapist OR from a religious leader? (Marital or mental health professional = marriage therapist, counselor, or psychologist; Religious leader = priest, minister, rabbi, etc.)

1. marital or mental health therapist
2. religious leader
3. both
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (NUMDIV < 1) SKP

IF (QPE3 <> 1) SKP

QPE5

(1 modified) Have you ever sought counseling from a therapist or religious leader for your marriage, yes or no? (refers to CURRENT marriage)

1. yes
2. no
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (MARSEP <> 1) SKP

QPE6

(1 modified) Was this counseling from a marital or mental health therapist OR from a religious leader?
(Marital or mental health professional = marriage therapist, counselor, or psychologist; Religious leader = priest, minister, rabbi, etc.)

1. marital or mental health therapist
2. religious leader
3. both
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (MARSEP <> 1) SKP

IF (QPE5 <> 1) SKP

QPE7

(1 modified) Thinking about the counseling or therapy you received, do you feel like your counselor:
(refers to CURRENT marriage)

1. wanted to help save your marriage
2. was neutral about whether or not to stay together or to get a divorce
3. encouraged you to divorce
4. other
8. don't know
9. refused

IF (MARSEP <> 1) SKP

IF (QPE5 <> 1) SKP

QPE8

(2) Would you consider using relationship education, such as workshops or classes, to strengthen your relationship?

1. yes
2. no
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

RELIGIOUS INVOLVEMENT

QRI1

(1) What is your religious preference? Is it...

1. Protestant
2. Catholic
3. Jewish
4. some other religion
5. no religion
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

QRI2

(1) What specific denomination or religion is that? _____

IF (QRI1 = 2) SKP

IF (QRI1 = 3) SKP

IF (QRI1 = 5) SKP

IF (QRI1 = 8) SKP

IF (QRI1 = 9) SKP

QRI3

(1 modified) How often do you attend religious services? Would you say...

1. never, or almost never
2. occasionally, but less than once per month
3. one to three times per month
4. one or more times per week
8. DONT' KNOW
9. REFUSED

QRI4

(3) All things considered, how religious would you say that you are?

1. not at all religious
2. slightly religious
3. moderately religious
4. very religious
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

UTILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

QGS1

(7) Since you turned 18, have you ever received TANF or AFDC assistance for yourself or on behalf of a related child, yes or no?

(TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; AFDC = Aid to Families with Dependent Children)

1. yes
2. no
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

QGS2

(7) Are you currently receiving TANF assistance, yes or no?

1. yes
2. no
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

IF (QGS1 <> 1) SKP

QGS3

(7) Since you turned 18, have you ever received Food Stamps for yourself or on behalf of a related child, yes or no?

1. yes
2. no
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

QGS4

(7) Are you currently receiving Food Stamps, yes or no?

1. yes
2. no
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

IF (QGS3 <> 1) SKP

QGS5

(7) Since you turned 18, have you ever received Medicaid for yourself or on behalf of a related child, yes or no?
(includes Sooner Care, Title 19, or "Welfare/DHS card for kids")

1. yes
2. no
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

QGS6

(7) Are you currently receiving Medicaid, yes or no?
(includes Sooner Care, Title 19, or "Welfare/DHS card for kids")

1. yes
2. no
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

IF (QGS5 <> 1) SKP

QGS7

(2) Do you think you would lose any of your current benefits if you became married?
(current benefits = TANF, Food Stamps, or Medicaid)

1. yes
2. no
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

IF (QMD1 = 1) SKP

IF (QGS2 <> 1) SKP

IF (QGS4 <> 1) SKP

IF (QGS6 <> 1) SKP

QGS8

(2) We are almost finished. How do you feel about the idea of a state-wide initiative to promote marriages and reduce divorces? Do you think this would be a...

1. very good idea
2. good idea
3. bad idea
4. very bad idea
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

QGS9

(2) Are you aware of any efforts by churches and synagogues to strengthen marriages and reduce divorces in Oklahoma?

1. yes
2. no
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

QGS10

(2) Are you aware of any efforts by state agencies to strengthen marriages and reduce divorces in Oklahoma?
(State agencies = Dept. of Health, Dept. of Human Services, or Cooperative Extension Service)

1. yes
2. no
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

QDD1

(2) As we conclude the interview, I need to gather some information about you. What is your age?

RANGE: 18-110 YEARS

888. don't know

999. refused

QZIP

(2) I need to know which county you live in. What is your zip code?

99999. Don't know/Refused

QDD2

(1) What is the highest grade in school that you finished, and got credit for, or the highest degree you have earned?

1. less than high school graduate (0-11)

2. high school graduate (12)

3. some college

4. trade/technical/vocational training

5. college graduate

6. postgraduate work/degree

8. unsure/don't know

9. refused

QDD3

(1) What is the highest grade in school that your spouse/partner finished, and got credit for, or the highest degree they have earned?

1. less than high school graduate (0-11)

2. high school graduate (12)

3. some college

4. trade/technical/vocational training

5. college graduate

6. postgraduate work/degree

8. unsure/don't know

9. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QDD4

(8 modified) Last week, what was your work status? Were you...

1. working full-time; that is, 35 or more hours per week in one or more jobs; including self-employment

2. working part-time

3. have a job, but OUT due to illness, leave, furlough, or strike (Furlough = granted leave of absence from armed forces)

4. have seasonal work, but currently not working

5. unemployed/ laid off/ looking for work

6. full-time homemaker

7. in school only

8. retired

9. disabled for work (such as SSI)

10. other

88. DONT' KNOW

99. REFUSED

QDD5

(8 modified) Last week what was your spouse's/partner's work status?

1. working full-time; that is, 35 or more hours per week in one or more jobs; including self-employment
 2. working part-time
 3. have a job, but OUT due to illness, leave, furlough, or strike (Furlough = granted leave of absence from armed forces)
 4. have seasonal work, but currently not working
 5. unemployed/ laid off/ looking for work
 6. full-time homemaker
 7. in school only
 8. retired
 9. disabled for work (such as SSI)
 10. other
 88. DONT' KNOW
 99. REFUSED
- IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QDD6A

(8) Are you of Hispanic, Latino(a), or Spanish origin or descent?

1. YES
2. NO
7. DON'T KNOW
8. REFUSED

QDD6B

(8) Which of these ethnic groups best describes you?

1. Mexican / Mexican American / Chicano(a)
 2. Puerto Rican
 3. Central or South American
 4. Cuban / Cuban American
 5. [Other -DO NOT REQUEST, ONLY USE IF VOLUNTEERED]
 7. DON'T KNOW
 8. REFUSED
- IF (QDD6A <> 1) SKP

QDD6C

(8) Which of these racial groups describes you? You can choose one group or more than one.

1. White
2. Black or African American
3. American Indian or Alaska Native
4. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
5. Asian
6. [Other -DO NOT REQUEST, ONLY USE IF VOLUNTEERED]: _____
7. DON'T KNOW
8. REFUSED

QDD6D

(8) Which SINGLE ONE of these groups best describes you? Is it...

1. White
 2. Black or African American
 3. American Indian or Alaska Native
 4. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 5. Asian
 6. [Other -DO NOT REQUEST, ONLY USE IF VOLUNTEERED]
 7. DON'T KNOW
 8. REFUSED
- IF (QDD6C = 1 group) SKP

QDD7A

(8) Is your spouse/partner of Hispanic, Latino(a), or Spanish origin or descent?

1. YES
 2. NO
 7. DON'T KNOW
 8. REFUSED
- IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QDD7B

(8) Which of these ethnic groups best describes him/her?

1. Mexican / Mexican American / Chicano
 2. Puerto Rican
 3. Central or South American
 4. Cuban / Cuban American
 5. [Other -DO NOT REQUEST, ONLY USE IF VOLUNTEERED]
 7. DON'T KNOW
 8. REFUSED
- IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP
IF (QDD7A <> 1) SKP

QDD7C

(8) Which of these racial groups describes your spouse/partner? You can choose one group or more than one.

1. White
 2. Black or African American
 3. American Indian or Alaska Native
 4. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 5. Asian
 6. [Other -DO NOT REQUEST, ONLY USE IF VOLUNTEERED]: _____
 7. DON'T KNOW
 8. REFUSED
- IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

QDD7D

(8) Which SINGLE ONE of these groups best describes him/her? Is it...

1. White
 2. Black or African American
 3. American Indian or Alaska Native
 4. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 5. Asian
 6. [Other -DO NOT REQUEST, ONLY USE IF VOLUNTEERED]
 7. DON'T KNOW
 8. REFUSED
- IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP
IF (QDD7C = 1 group) SKP

QDD8

(1 modified) Altogether, how many children have you had, including adopted?
(include children who have died)

RANGE: 0-30 CHILDREN

88. don't know
99. refused

QDD9

(1) How many children under the age of 18 are living with you right now? This includes not only your own children through birth or marriage, but also those who may be living in your home for other reasons such as foster care or other relatives.

RANGE: 0-30 CHILDREN

88. don't know
99. refused

QDD10

(2) How many of these children are your GRANDchildren?

RANGE: 0-30 GRANDCHILDREN LIVING WITH RESPONDENT

88. don't know
99. refused

IF (QDD9 = 0) SKP

QDD11

(2) How many of these children are your spouse's/partner's children from a previous relationship?

RANGE: 0-30 SPOUSE'S/PARTNER'S CHILDREN LIVING WITH RESPONDENT

88. don't know
99. refused

IF (COUPLE <> 1) SKP

IF (QDD9 = 0) SKP

QDD12

(2) How old were you when your first child was born (or adopted)?

RANGE: 5-65 YEARS

88. don't know
99. refused

IF (QDD8 = 0) SKP

QDD13

(1 modified) For purposes of statistical calculations only, we would like to know about how much was your total family income from all sources last year before taxes and other deductions. Was it...

1. less than \$20,000 per year
2. more than \$20,000, less than \$40,000
3. more than \$40,000, less than \$60,000
4. more than \$60,000, less than \$80,000
5. more than \$80,000, less than \$100,000
6. more than \$100,000
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

QDD14

(1) Well, would you say your total family income last year was over \$20,000 or under \$20,000?

1. over \$20,000
2. under \$20,000
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

IF (QDD13 < 7) SKP

QDD15

(1) Well. Would you say your total family income last year was over or under \$40,000?

1. under \$40,000
2. over \$40,000
8. unsure/don't know
9. refused

IF (QDD13 < 7) SKP

IF (QDD14 < 3) SKP

QDD16

(1) INTERVIEWER: DON'T ASK. Record respondent's gender:

1. male
2. female
8. unsure/don't know

QDD17

(2) INTERVIEWER ONLY: From your viewpoint, did the respondent have to modify his/her answers because the spouse/partner was present?

1. yes
2. no (answer "no" if person doesn't have a spouse/partner)
8. unsure/don't know

Appendix A. Description of Survey Question Route

Who	Question(s)	Question Description
All	QAT1-QAT14	attitudes about marriage, divorce & cohabitation
All	QRD1-QRD7	opinions regarding reasons for divorce
All	QMD1	current marital status
All except currently married	QMD2	romantic partner
Coupled, but not married	QMD3	engaged
Coupled	QMD4	living arrangements
Coupled, but not married	QMD5	living arrangements
Coupled, but not married	QMD6	living arrangements
Coupled	QMD7	length of relationship
Coupled	QMD8	children with current spouse/partner
Coupled	QMD9	children with current spouse/partner
Coupled	QMD10	children with current spouse/partner
Coupled	QMD11	children with current spouse/partner
Coupled	QMD12	children with current spouse/partner
Coupled	QMD13	children with current spouse/partner
Currently married	QMD14	length of marriage
Currently married	QMD15	marriage setting
Currently married	QMD16	marriage setting
Currently married	QMD17	marriage setting
Currently married	QMD18	marriage setting
Currently married	QMD19	living arrangement before marriage
Currently married	QMD20	living arrangement before marriage
Currently married	QMD21	living arrangement before marriage
Currently & previously married	QMD22	number of marriages
Married more than once	QMD23	remarriage
Currently married	QMD24	age at marriage
Married more than once	QMD25	age at first marriage
All except currently divorced	QMD26	ever divorced
Ever divorced	QMD27	number of divorces
Have previous spouse	QMD28	children with previous spouse
Have previous spouse	QMD29	children with previous spouse
Have previous spouse	QMD30	children with previous spouse
Have previous spouse	QMD31	children with previous spouse
Have previous spouse	QMD32	children with previous spouse
Have previous spouse	QMD33	children with previous spouse
Have previous spouse	QMD34	length of marriage
Have previous spouse	QMD35	marriage setting
Have previous spouse	QMD36	marriage setting
Have previous spouse	QMD37	marriage setting
Have previous spouse	QMD38	marriage setting
Have previous spouse	QMD39	living arrangement before marriage
Have previous spouse	QMD40	living arrangement before marriage
Have previous spouse	QMD41	living arrangement before marriage
Ever divorced	QMD42	reason for divorce
Ever divorced	QMD43	about divorce
Ever divorced	QMD44	about divorce
Ever divorced	QMD45	about divorce
All	QMD46	children outside of marriage
All	QMD47	children outside of marriage
All	QMD48	children outside of marriage
All	QMD49	children outside of marriage
All	QMD50	children outside of marriage

Appendix A. Description of Survey Question Route (continued)

Who	Question(s)	Question Description
All	QMD51	children outside of marriage
Never been married	QMD52	intent to marry
Widowed, divorced	QMD53	intent to remarry
Currently married	RQ1-RQ2F	relationship quality
Coupled	RQ3A-5	relationship quality
Currently married	RQ6	relationship quality
Number of marriages greater than 1	QFI1-4	family support
All	QPE1-2	prevention services
Number of divorces=0	QPE3-4	pre-divorce counseling
Currently married or separated	QPE5-7	counseling
Coupled	QPE8	relationship education
All	RI1-4	religious involvement
All	GS1-7	government services
All	GS8-10	Oklahoma Marriage Initiative
All	DD1-DD17	demographic