Data Appendix to:
Did Unilateral Divorce Laws Raise Divorce Rates? A Reconciliation and New Results
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All of the files referenced in this data appendix are available online at www.nber.org/~jwolfers, and are written for Stata 9. Excel versions of the data will also be made available, although with fewer variable labels.

Divorce Rates

Files

The main dataset analyzed in this paper contains annual data on divorce rates by state, *Divorce rate data.dta*. The file *Divorce rate analysis.do* generates the results reported in Tables 1, 2, 4(a), and 5. The file *Figures.do* generates the results in Figures 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Variables and Sources

Variable	**Description**
st	Two letter state code (Official US Postal Codes) Note that data are coded to the state in which the divorce was granted.
year	Year of observation
div_rate	Annual divorces per 1000 people, 1956-1998 Source: Friedberg 1998 for 1968-88, and hand-entered data from annual editions of *Vital Statistics* for 1956-67 and 1989-98. These data reflect a count of administrative data, that is, new divorces granted, and reported to the NCHS.
stpop	State population Source: www.census.gov.
lfdivlaw	Friedberg's divorce law reform date; 1900=pre-sample; 2000=yet to reform; Source: Columns 1 and 4 of Table 1 in Friedberg 1998.
unilateral	Friedberg's Unilateral Dummy
years_unilateral	Years since lfdivlaw, partitioned into two-year intervals; -99=No change in sample. Top-coded to 15 years+.
years_unileral_long	Years since lfdivlaw, partitioned into two-year intervals; -99=No change in sample Top-coded to 25 years+.
reform	Was this state a reform state? Friedberg's coding.
evdiv50	Ever-divorced rate, 1950 census (25-50 native born)
married	%Married among adults, Census; 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000
married_annual	%Married among adults, linear interpolation from Census; extrap for AK, HI in 1950
neighper	Percent of neighboring states with unilateral divorce laws.
time	Year-1968 (matches Friedberg's trends)
timesq	(Years since 1968)^2
divx1-divx17	Friedberg's dummies for coding breaks; see appendix of her AER paper
gruber	Year of divorce law reform according to Gruber, 2004
friedberg	Year of divorce law reform according to Friedberg, 1998

johnson	Year of divorce law reform according to Johnson & Mazingo, 2000
mechoulan	Year of divorce law reform according to Mechoulan, 2001
ellmanlohr1	Year of divorce law reform according to Ellman & Lohr, 1998 (definition a)
ellmanlohr2	Year of divorce law reform according to Ellman & Lohr, 1998 (definition b)
brinigbuckley	Year of divorce law reform according to Brinig and Buckley, 1998
Nakonezny	Year of divorce law reform according to Nakonezny, Shull and Rodgers, 1995
gruber_yrs	Years since reform: gruber; -99=No change in sample
friedberg_yrs	Years since reform: friedberg; -99=No change in sample
johnson_yrs	Years since reform: johnson; -99=No change in sample
mechoulan_yrs	Years since reform: mechoulan; -99=No change in sample
ellmanlohr1_yrs	Years since reform: ellmanlohr1; -99=No change in sample
ellmanlohr2_yrs	Years since reform: ellmanlohr2; -99=No change in sample
brinigbuckley_yrs	Years since reform: brinigbuckley; -99=No change in sample
nakonezny_yrs	Years since reform: nakonezny; -99=No change in sample

The variable *div_rate* was constructed using data provided by Leora Friedberg (1968-1988), supplemented by hand entry from the *Vital Statistics* series for 1956-1967 and 1989-1999. The *divx* variables reflect Friedberg's coding breaks and come directly from her, and are described at greater length in the appendix to her paper.

The variable *lfdivlaw* is coded as per columns 1 and 4 of Table 1 in Friedberg, 1998, supplemented with Gruber's coding of AK and OK (see my appendix). This legal coding is then used to construct the variables *unilateral*, *years_unilateral*, and *years_unilateral_long*, as well as *reform*, and *neighper*.

The variables *evdiv50* and *married* are calculated from IPUMS files, while *married_annual* is an annual interpolated of these decadal data.

The variables *gruber*, *friedberg*, *johnson*, *mechoulan*, *ellmanlohr1*, *ellmanlohr2*, *brinigbuckley*, and *nakonezny* are the coding of divorce laws used in the papers cited.

Stock of Divorcees

The paper also reports on an analysis of census data on the stock of divorcees in Tables 3 and 4b. These data are decadal census data, with each cell representing an age group (from 25-50) by gender by year observation. My analysis of these data follows the analysis in Gruber (2004) as closely as possible, using data downloaded from www.ipums.org.

The file *Census analysis.do* provides the results referred to in Tables 3 and 4b. Those results are generated from data aggregated to the state*census year*sex*age level, available in *Census stock data.dta.*

Variable	**Description**
st	Two letter state code (Official US Postal Codes) (Note that data are coded to the current state of residence)
age	Age group (25-50)
year	Year of observation (1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000)
sex	0 = female; 1=male
nobs	(Raw, unweighted) Number of observations in the IPUMS file. Used by Gruber as a weighting variable
nwhite	Number of whites in this census*age*sex cell
nblack	Number of blacks in this census*age*sex cell
nother	Number of non-blacks, non-whites, in this census*age*sex cell
nmarsp	Number who are currently married, spouse present
nmarab	Number who are currently married, spouse absent
nseparat	Number who are currently separated
ndivorce	Number who are currently divorced
nwidow	Number who are currently widowed
nneverma	Number who are currenly widowed
nmarsp2	Number who are married with spouse present, but on 2nd (or higher) marriage. 1960-80.
nmarab2	Number who are married and separated, but on 2nd (or higher) marriage. 1960-80.
nsepart2	Number who are separated, and on 2nd (or higher) marriage. 1960-80.
ndivorc2	Number who are divorced, and on 2nd (or higher) marriage
nwidow2	Number who are widowed, from 2nd (or higher) marriage
unilat1	Gruber's unilateral divorce variable
divorce	% of the population currently divorced ndivorce/(nmarsp+nmarab+nseparat+ndivorce+nwidow+nneverma)
pop	Estimated population in that age*sex*year cell nwhite+nblack+nother
black	%black nblack/(nwhite+nblack+nother)
white	%white nwhite/(nwhite+nblack+nother)
other	%neither white nor black nother/(nwhite+nblack+nother)
evdiv	% of the population “Ever divorced” (ndivorce+nmarsp2+nmarab2+nsepart2+nwidow2)/ (nmarsp+nmarab+nseparat+ndivorce+nwidow+nneverma)

Note: Only available 1960-1980
This calculation assumes that all higher-order marriage reflect an initial divorce.
(Read text for interpretation.)

unil1to10 Unilateral divorce laws passed in last 1 to 10 years; Gruber's coding
unil11to20 Unilateral divorce laws passed in last 11 to 20 years; Gruber's coding
unil20pl Unilateral divorce laws passed 20 or more years ago; Gruber's coding
unil11pl Unilateral divorce laws passed 11 or more years ago; Gruber's coding

The specific census files that were used were the 1960 1% sample, the 1970 Form 1 state sample, the 1980, 1990 and 2000 5% state samples sample. The construction of the *Census stock data.dta* file is detailed in *MicroCensus.do.*

Note that while the relevant populations of each state (the *n** variables) are estimated using person weights, I simply follow Gruber in using the number of IPUMS observations (*nobs*) as the regression weights. The variables *nmarsp2-nwidow2* reflect estimates among those who were previously married, which is only available from 1960-1980.

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