

Hi Maxine,

Yes, the data was in Marcie Hambrick's testimony, from Prevent Child Abuse VT, which is also my client. Here are those numbers for your review:

Based on marriage-certificate data the nonprofit organization Unchained At Last collected from the Vermont Department of Health, between 2000 and 2022:

- Some 289 minors were married in Vermont
- About 80% were girls wed to adult men an average 4.96 years older
- Two of the children were age 15, even though marriage is not allowed before age 16
- Further, like the case that I was involved in in Georgia, the spouse of one of the 15-yearolds could otherwise have been charged with a sex crime, but the marriage license hindered enforcement of laws designed to protect children from sexual abuse. Within a marriage, that sexual abuse can happen repeatedly, and the authorities are unable or unwilling to act. In this regard, the child is a virtual sex slave.

Here is Marcie's testimony

again: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/House%20Judiciary/Bills/H.631/Witness%20Documents/H.631~Marcie%20Hambrick~Written%20Testimony%20~1-28-2022.pdf>

Hope this helps,
Jill