Length of marriage and its effect on spousal concordance in Kuwait

YAGOUB AL-KANDARI,1 DOUGLAS E. CREWS,2,3* AND FRANK E. POIRIER2

1Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology, Kuwait University, Kuwait
2Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
3School of Public Health, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

ABSTRACT It was hypothesized that marriage duration affects physical and cultural homogamy and spousal concordance in Kuwaiti marriages. Westernization increased spousal correlations due to fewer arranged marriages and increased individual spousal choice. Spousal similarities for selected physical and cultural traits were also examined for couples married 15 years or less, 16 to 30 years, and 31 years and more. Consanguineous couples belong to the al-Kandari, one of the largest and most