

# Marriage Rate in the U.S., 2011

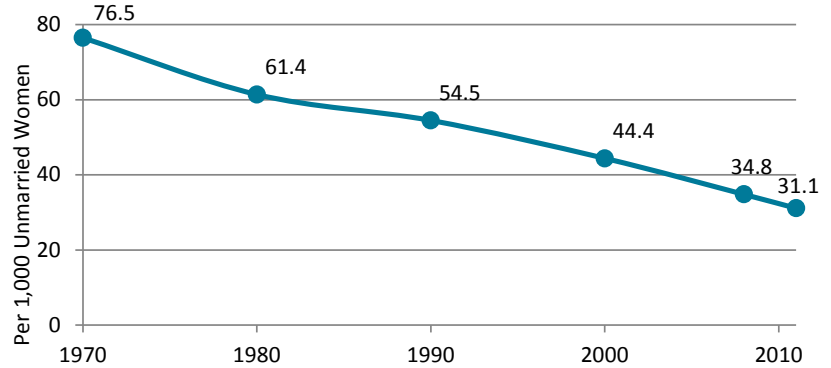
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## Change in the Marriage Rate

- As of 2011, the U.S. marriage rate (the estimated proportion of marriages per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years and older) is the lowest it has been in over 40 years.
- In 2011, about 3.1% of unmarried women aged 15 and older got married. That is roughly 31 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women. In 2008, about 3.5% of unmarried women got married – roughly 35 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women. In the previous three years, the marriage rate has declined by approximately 11% from 34.8 to 31.1.
- In 2011, 2,096,359 women aged 15 and older got married out of 67,373,383 unmarried women. In 2008, 2,227,084 women aged 15 and older got married out of 64,029,223 unmarried women. These numbers suggest that although there were more single women in 2011 than in 2008, fewer were tying the knot in 2011.

Figure 1. Marriage Rate in the U.S., 1970-2011



Sources: The 1970, 1980, and 1990 data come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics. The 2000 data come from the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC and the Census Bureau, Census 2000. The 2008 and 2011 data come from the Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008 and 2011.

*Family Profiles examine topics related to NCFMR's core research themes. Data are presented at both the national and state levels using new data sources. Written for both researchers and broad communities, these profiles summarize the latest statistics on U.S. families.*

## Five States with the Highest and Lowest Marriage Rate, 2011

- In Utah, about 61 women per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15 were married. That is, roughly 6.1% of unmarried women were married in 2011.
- In Washington, D.C., about 19 women per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15 were married. About 1.9% of unmarried women were married in 2011.
- For a ranking table with all states organized by quartiles, [click here](#).

Figure 2. Five States with the Highest and Lowest Marriage Rates

Ranking	State	TMR
1	Utah	61.05
2	Alaska	56.31
3	North Dakota	46.59
4	Wyoming	45.93
5	Oklahoma	45.58
<b>US</b>		<b>31.30</b>
47	New York	24.71
48	Connecticut	24.24
49	New Jersey	23.57
50	Rhode Island	20.28
51	Wash, DC	19.24

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

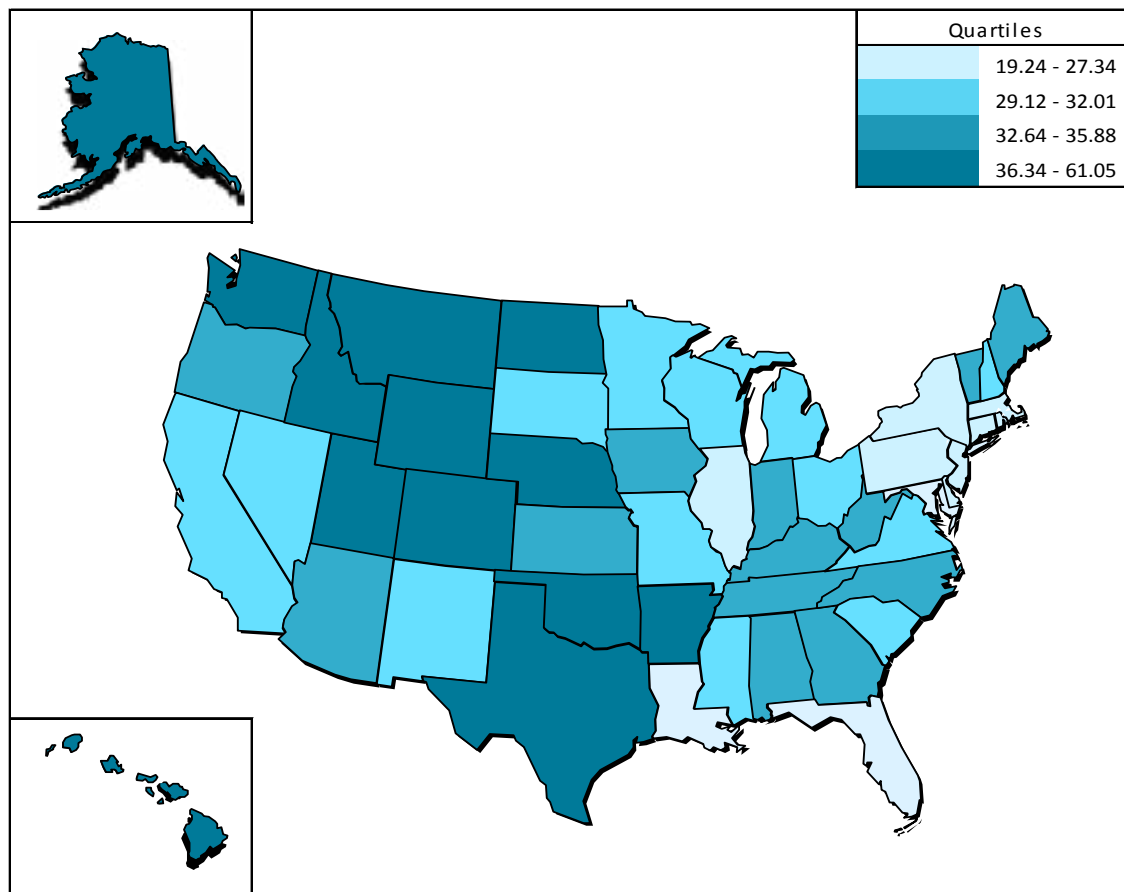
## State Changes in Ranking from 2008 to 2011

- Three out of the five states with the highest marriage rates in 2011 (Utah, Wyoming, and North Dakota) also had the highest marriage rates in 2008.
- Rhode Island, Washington, D.C., and New York were each one of the five states with the lowest marriage rates in 2008 and 2011.
- The vast majority of states experienced decreases in their marriage rates from 2008 to 2011, with rates for Idaho and Wyoming decreasing the most. Nine states experienced increased rates, with Alaska and Hawaii experiencing the greatest increases.
  - Idaho moved from 3rd to 6th highest ranking (56.57 to 45.24)
  - Wyoming moved from 2nd to 4th highest ranking (59.43 to 45.93)
  - Alaska moved from 7th to 2nd highest ranking (47.81 to 56.31)
  - Hawaii moved from 31st to 7th highest ranking (35.36 to 43.17)

### Geographic Variation of the U.S. Marriage Rate, 2011

- Among states with the highest marriage rates, the largest share is located in the western region of the U.S. (Utah, Alaska, Wyoming, Idaho, Hawaii, Colorado, Montana, and Washington).
- Among states with the lowest marriage rate, the largest share is located in the northeastern region of the U.S. (Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island).

Figure 3. Geographic Variation of U.S. Marriage Rate Among States



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

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Figure 4. Marriage Rate per 1,000 Unmarried Women by State, Organized by Quartiles, 2011

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Rank	State	Rate	MOE
1	Utah	61.05	+/- 5.85
2	Alaska	56.31	+/- 9.72
3	North Dakota	46.59	+/- 9.71
4	Wyoming	45.93	+/- 11.38
5	Oklahoma	45.58	+/- 3.37
6	Idaho	45.24	+/- 7.17
7	Hawaii	43.17	+/- 6.29
8	Colorado	40.30	+/- 3.10
9	Arkansas	40.24	+/- 4.68
10	Nebraska	39.81	+/- 5.00
11	Texas	39.20	+/- 1.69
12	Montana	39.11	+/- 7.23
13	Washington	36.34	+/- 2.88
14	Tennessee	35.88	+/- 3.72
15	Alabama	35.51	+/- 3.36
16	Kansas	35.28	+/- 3.49
17	North Carolina	35.09	+/- 2.83
18	West Virginia	35.08	+/- 4.52
19	Maine	34.56	+/- 5.31
20	Iowa	34.54	+/- 3.70
21	Vermont	33.95	+/- 6.98
22	Arizona	33.82	+/- 3.31
23	Georgia	33.37	+/- 2.62
24	Kentucky	32.83	+/- 3.07
25	Oregon	32.66	+/- 3.40
26	Indiana	32.64	+/- 2.55
27	Missouri	32.01	+/- 2.34
28	New Mexico	31.81	+/- 4.60
29	Nevada	31.68	+/- 4.58
30	Minnesota	31.62	+/- 2.36
31	South Dakota	31.44	+/- 7.49
32	Virginia	31.31	+/- 2.41
33	Wisconsin	31.31	+/- 2.33
	<b>US</b>	<b>31.12</b>	<b>+/- 0.37</b>
34	New Hampshire	31.04	+/- 5.60
35	South Carolina	30.49	+/- 2.87
36	Mississippi	30.18	+/- 3.23
37	Michigan	29.54	+/- 1.49
38	California	29.31	+/- 1.09
39	Ohio	29.12	+/- 1.38
40	Louisiana	27.34	+/- 2.63
41	Maryland	27.31	+/- 2.38
42	Delaware	27.28	+/- 5.11
43	Illinois	26.95	+/- 1.63
44	Florida	26.03	+/- 1.77
45	Massachusetts	25.36	+/- 2.28
46	Pennsylvania	24.76	+/- 1.50
47	New York	24.71	+/- 1.28
48	Connecticut	24.24	+/- 2.91
49	New Jersey	23.57	+/- 1.85
50	Rhode Island	20.28	+/- 4.23
51	Wash, DC	19.24	+/- 4.25

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

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