

First Marriage Rate in the U.S., 2014



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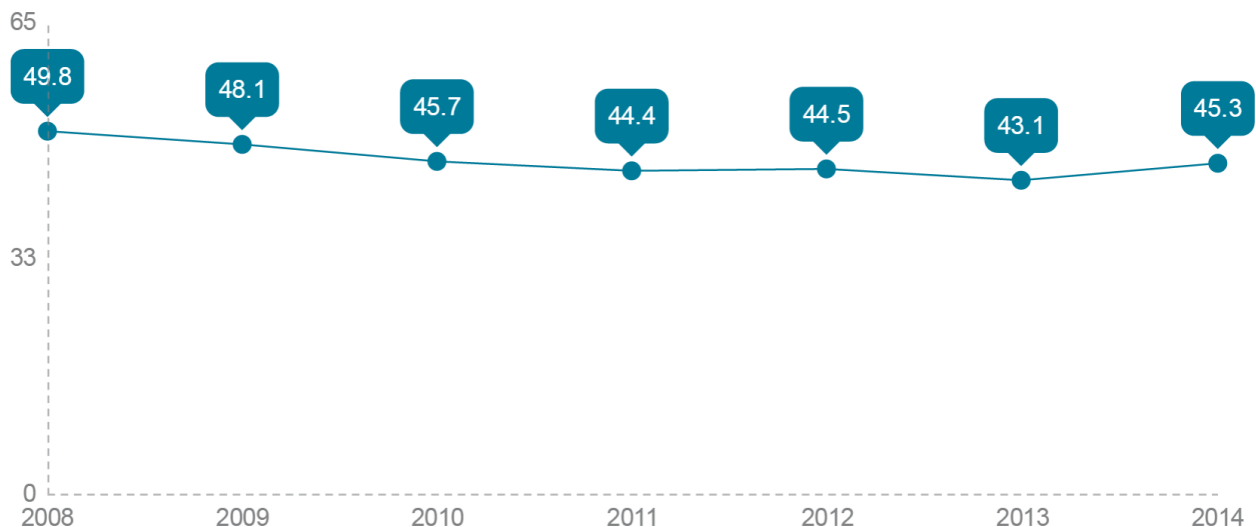
Since 1970, the marriage rate (defined as the number of marriages per 1,000 unmarried women 15 and older) in the United States has declined. In recent years, however, it has remained fairly stable, reaching 31.9 in 2014 (FP-15-20). The thirty-five year decline in the marriage rate can be attributed to a rising age at first marriage (FP-16-07) and a greater share of Americans never marrying (Goodwin, P., McGill, B., & Chandra, A., 2009). The marriage rate includes those entering both first and higher order marriages. Since 70% of marriages are first marriages (FP-12-21), it is important to consider them separately. This Family Profile is an update to FP-14-08, FP-11-12, and FP-10-05.

Trends in the First Marriage Rate

- Between 2008 and 2014, the first marriage rate declined from 49.8 first marriages (per 1,000 never-married women) in 2008 to 45.3 in 2014.
- The 2014 first marriage rate was the highest since 2010.
- In 2014, 1,608,125 women entered a first marriage.

In 2014... **45** Women
per 1,000 never married women
married for the 1st time

Figure 1. First Marriage Rate for Women 18 and Older, 2008-2014



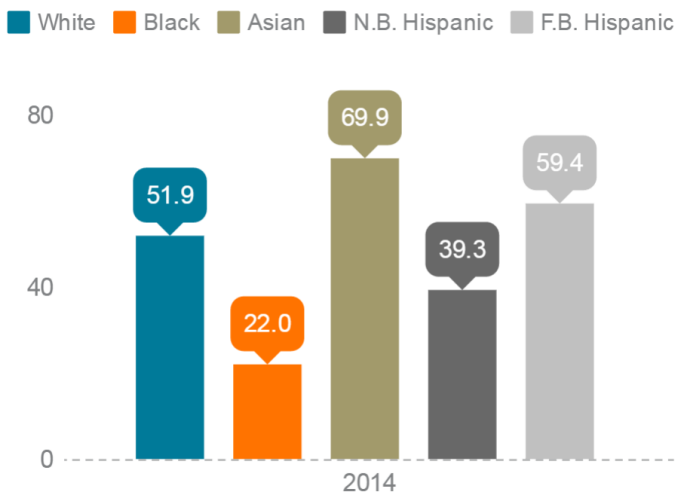
Source: American Community Survey, 1-yr estimates, 2008-2014

The 2014 first marriage rate was the highest since 2010...

First Marriage Rate by Race and Ethnicity

- In 2014, the first marriage rate was highest for Asian women at 69.9.
- The first marriage rate was lowest for Black women at 22.0.
- There is a nativity gap among Hispanics with foreign-born Hispanics having a higher first marriage rate (59.4) than native-born Hispanics (39.3).

Figure 2. First Marriage Rate for Women 18 and Older by Race and Ethnicity, 2014



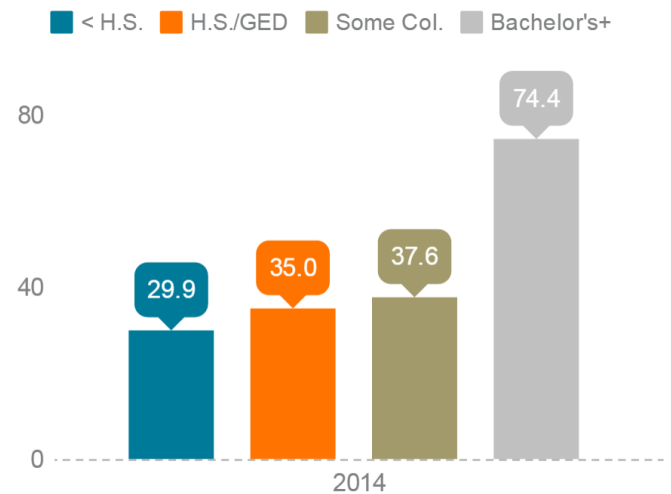
Source: American Community Survey, 1-yr estimates, 2008-2014

Note: N.B. = Native Born and F.B. = Foreign Born

First Marriage Rate by Educational Attainment

- Those with a Bachelor's degree or higher had a considerably higher first marriage rate than other educational groups at 74.4.
- The first marriage rate was fairly similar among those with a high school degree (35.0) or some college (37.6) with the lowest rate among those with less than a high school education (29.9).

Figure 3. First Marriage Rate for Women 18 and Older by Educational Attainment, 2014



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