

Marriage Rate in the U.S.

Geographic Variation, 2015



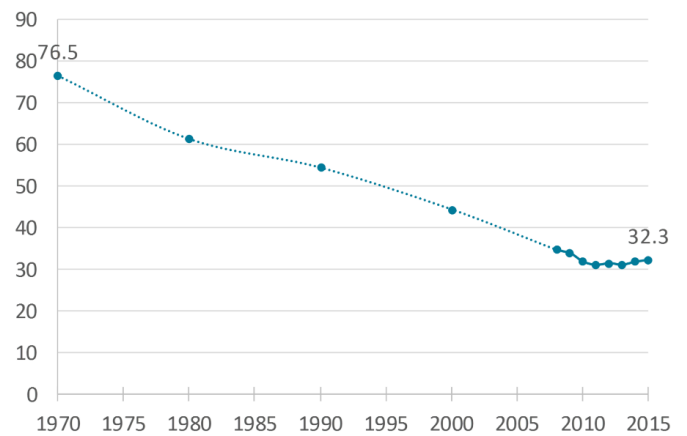
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The Marriage Rate, 2015*

- The marriage rate (represented as the number of marriages per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 and older) has been stable since 2010, remaining at a 45-year low.
- In 2015, there were 32.3 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women, a number virtually identical to 2014's rate of 31.9 (FP-15-20).
- The marriage rate decreased by 47% from 1980 (61.4) to 2015.
- Over two million women (2,298,977) married in 2015.

* Rates are represented as the number of women aged 15 or older who married in the past year per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 or older

Figure 1. Women's Marriage Rate, 1970 - 2015



Source: 1970 – 2000, National Center for Health Statistics; 2008 – 2015, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr est.

Five Highest and Lowest Marriage Rates, 2015

- Utah continued to have the highest marriage rate, with 61 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15.
- Rhode Island continued to have the lowest marriage rate in the United States. In Rhode Island, about 21 per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15 got married in 2015.

Women's Highest and Lowest Marriage Rates

1. Utah	61.3
2. Alaska	58.4
3. North Dakota	45.4
4. Wyoming	45.1
5. South Dakota	43.3
U.S.	32.3
47. New York	25.4
48. Massachusetts	25.1
49. New Jersey	24.4
50. Connecticut	24.1
51. Rhode Island	21.4

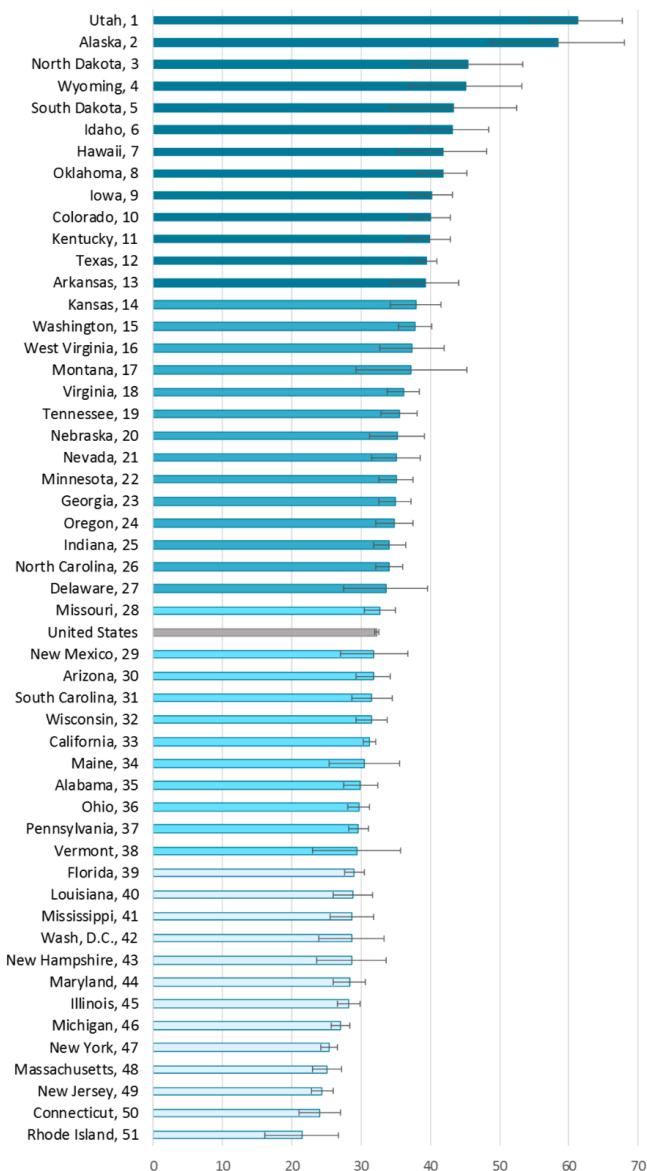
The marriage rate...has been stable since 2010, remaining at a 45-year low.

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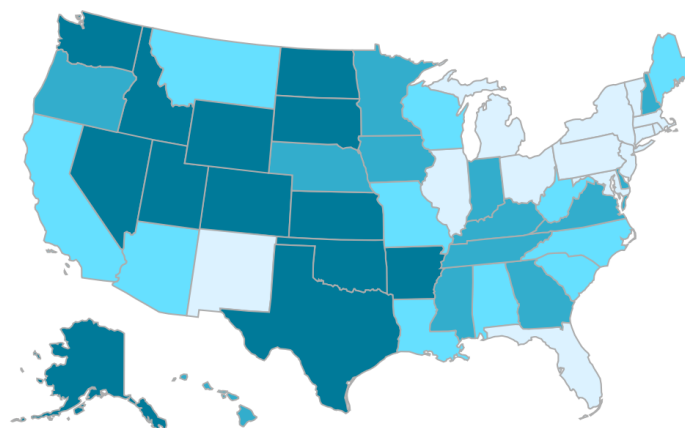
State Rankings and Changes in Rankings, 2014-2015

Figure 2. State Variation in the Adjusted Marriage Rate per 1,000 Unmarried Women Aged 15+ by Quartile, 2015



- Three out of the five states with the highest marriage rates in 2015 (Utah, Alaska, and Wyoming) also had the highest marriage rates in 2014.
- New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island were each one of the five states with the lowest marriage rates in both 2014 and 2015.
- Just under half (45%) of states experienced an increase in their marriage rate between 2014 and 2015. The three states with the greatest percentage increases were Hawaii (+18.9%), North Dakota (+18.2%), and Kentucky (+17.6%).
 - The large increases in North Dakota and Hawaii come after they experienced some of the largest marriage rate decreases between 2013 and 2014.
- Five states experienced virtually no change in marriage rates since 2014. These stable states are California (31.2), Oregon (34.8), New York (25.4), Tennessee (35.5), and Illinois (28.2).
- Twenty-three states (45%) had a decline in their marriage rate between 2014 and 2015. The states with the greatest percentage declines were New Hampshire (-22.9%), Wyoming (-17.0%), and Mississippi (-15.7%).
 - In 2014, New Hampshire had the 14th highest marriage rate (37.1), but experienced the largest decrease in 2015 (-22.9%) dropping it to 43rd overall.

Figure 3. Geographic Variation of Women's Marriage Rate Among States, 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015 1-yr est.

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