

Divorce Rate in the U.S.

Geographic Variation, 2015



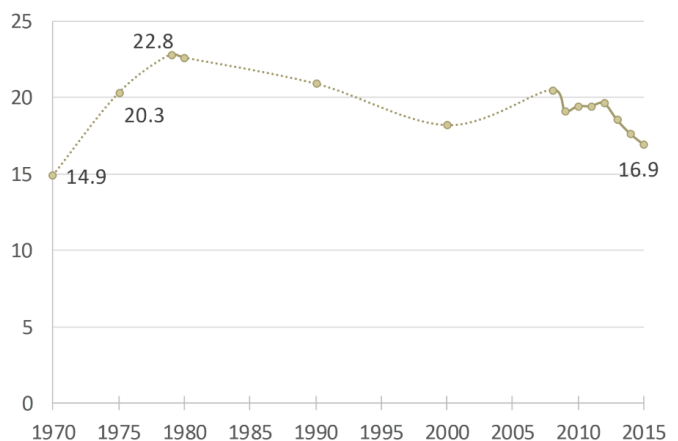
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The Divorce Rate, 2015*

- The divorce rate (represented as the number of divorces per 1,000 married women aged 15 and older) continued to decline in 2015, reaching a 40-year low.
- The divorce rate was 16.9 divorces per 1,000 married women in 2015, down from a divorce rate of 17.6 in 2014.
- The divorce rate decreased by 25% from 1980 (22.6) to 2015.
- Just over one million women (1,110,579) divorced in 2015.

* The divorce rate = [(number of women divorced in the past 12 months) / (number of women divorced in the past 12 months + number of currently married women)] * 1,000

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



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

Five Highest and Lowest Divorce Rates, 2015

- Washington, D.C., continued to have the highest divorce rate, with nearly 30 marriages per 1,000 ending in divorce.
 - Washington, D.C. has had the highest divorce rate for the past two years (FP-15-18; FP-14-17).
- Hawaii continued to have one of the lowest divorce rates, with only 11 marriages per 1,000 ending in divorce.
 - Hawaii was the only state with a divorce rate under 12 in 2015.

Women's Highest and Lowest Divorce Rates

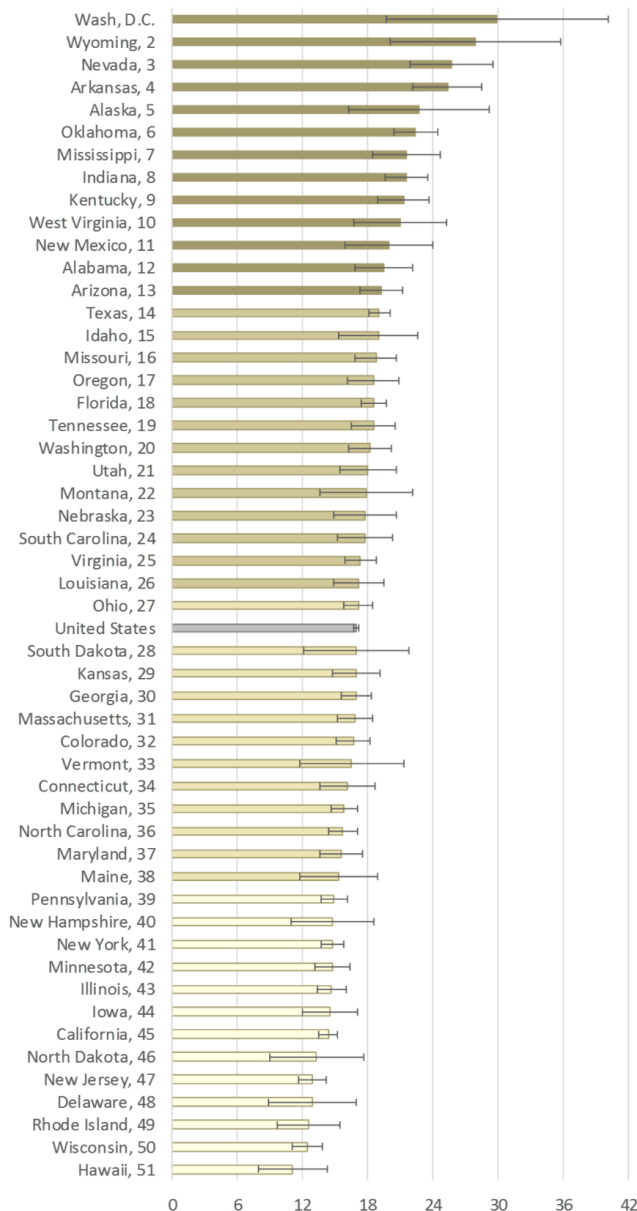
1. Wash, D.C.	29.9
2. Wyoming	27.9
3. Nevada	25.7
4. Arkansas	25.3
5. Alaska	22.7
U.S.	16.9
47. New Jersey	12.9
48. Delaware	12.9
49. Rhode Island	12.6
50. Wisconsin	12.4
51. Hawaii	11.1

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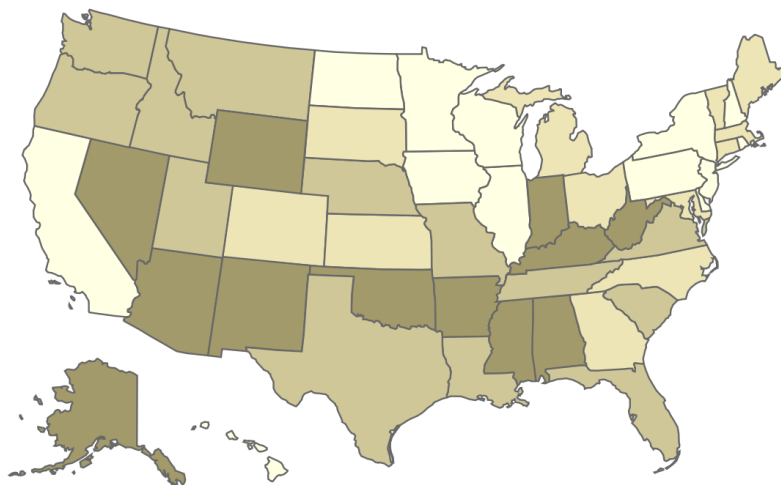
State Rankings and Changes in Rankings, 2014-2015

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



- Only Washington, D.C. had one of the five highest divorce rates in both 2014 and 2015.
- New Jersey and Hawaii both had one of the five lowest divorce rates in 2014 and 2015.
- Nineteen states had a higher divorce rate in 2015 than 2014.
 - Wyoming, which was ranked 41st in 2014, experienced the greatest increase (+88.1%), having the second highest divorce rate in 2015.
- Two states had stable divorce rates, barely changing from 2014 to 2015: Kentucky (21.1) and Minnesota (14.7).
- Thirty states had a lower divorce rate in 2015 than 2014.
 - Among these states, Rhode Island (-34.0), Delaware (-30.3), and Maine (-29.7) had the greatest percentage decreases.

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



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

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