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

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.

References:


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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