Divorce Rate in the U.S.
Geographic Variation, 2014

17.6 women DIVORCED per every 1,000 married women in 2014
that’s 1,145,110 divorces in 2014

Divorce Rate in the U.S.
Figure 1. Women’s Divorce Rate, 1970 - 2014


Five Highest and Lowest Divorce Rates, 2014

Washington, D.C. continued to have the highest divorce rate with almost 30 per 1,000 marriages ending in divorce (29.5).

Washington, D.C. was ranked number 1 in 2013, with the highest divorce rate at 30 marriages per 1,000 ending in a divorce.

New Jersey continues to have one of the lowest divorce rates: roughly 11 in 1,000 marriages ended in divorce in 2014.

New Jersey was ranked number 46 in 2013 with 14 marriages per 1,000 ending in divorce. In 2013, Rhode Island had the lowest divorce rate at 11.5.

Women’s Highest and Lowest Divorce Rates

1. Wash, D.C. 29.5
2. Idaho 25.1
3. West Virginia 24.4
4. Oklahoma 23.7
5. Georgia 23.4

U.S. 17.6

47. Vermont 13.2
48. Montana 13.0
49. Iowa 12.3
50. Hawaii 11.8
51. New Jersey 11.2

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
State Changes in Rankings, 2013-2014

The majority, 69%, of states experienced a decrease in their divorce rates between 2013 and 2014. The three states with the greatest declines are Louisiana, Montana, and Washington.

In 2013, Louisiana experienced one of the largest increases in the divorce rate, but this was reversed in 2014, making it the state with the greatest decrease in the divorce rate.

Nine states had virtually the same divorce rate in 2013 and 2014. These stable states are Michigan, Colorado, Massachusetts, Kansas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Hawaii, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Three out of ten states had an increase in their divorce rate. The top three were Rhode Island, Delaware, and Utah.

Rhode Island experienced one of the largest decreases in the divorce rate in 2013, but experienced the largest increase in 2014.

Figure 2. Geographic Variation of Women’s Divorce Rate Among States, 2014

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014 1-yr est.

References:


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