Marriage Rate in the U.S.

As of 2014, the U.S. marriage rate (the number of marriages per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years and older) has been stable since 2010—remaining at a 40-year low.

In 2014, about 3.2% of unmarried women aged 15 and older got married. That is, roughly 32 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women. From 2013 to 2014, the marriage rate only increased from 31.2 to 31.9 (FP-14-15).

Figure 1. Women's Marriage Rate, 1970 - 2014


Marriages Then & Now

1970 2014

Five Highest and Lowest Divorce Rates, 2014

Utah continues to have the highest marriage rate with 59 per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15 marrying in 2014. That is, roughly 5.9% of unmarried women were married in 2014.

Rhode Island continues to have the lowest marriage rate in the United States. In Rhode Island, about 24 per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15 got married in 2014. In other words, 2.4% of unmarried women wed in that year.

Women's Highest and Lowest Marriage Rates

1. Utah 59.2
2. Alaska 54.6
3. Wyoming 54.3
4. Idaho 48.1
5. Oklahoma 44.4

U.S. 31.9

47. Massachusetts 25.9
48. New York 25.4
49. Florida 24.9
50. Connecticut 24.6
51. Rhode Island 24.3

References:
State Changes in Rankings, 2013-2014

- Two out of the five states with the highest marriage rates in 2014 (Utah and Oklahoma) were also in the top five in 2013.
- New York and Rhode Island are the only two states in the bottom five in both 2013 and 2014.
- Slightly more than half (57%) of states experienced an increase in their marriage rates between 2013 and 2014. The three states with the greatest increases are Alaska (+40.7%), Wyoming (+30.3%), and Washington D.C. (+28.7%).
- The large 2014 increase in Alaska comes after it experienced one of the largest marriage rate decreases from 2011 to 2013.
- Three states had virtually unchanged marriage rates since 2013. These stable states are North Carolina (32.9%), Illinois (28.1%), and Massachusetts (25.9%).
- Nearly two-fifths (37%) of states had declining marriage rates. The largest decreases occurred in North Dakota (-21.8%), South Dakota (-11.57%), and Hawaii (-10.19%).
- North Dakota had the second largest marriage rate in 2013 (49.2), but experienced the largest decrease in 2014 (-21.8%) dropping it to 11th overall.

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

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

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Family Profiles: Original reports summarizing and analyzing nationally representative data with the goal to provide the latest analysis of U.S. families. These profiles examine topics related to the NCFMR’s core research themes.

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