

Divorce Rate in the U.S.

Geographic Variation, 2014



National Center for
Family & Marriage Research
Bowling Green State University

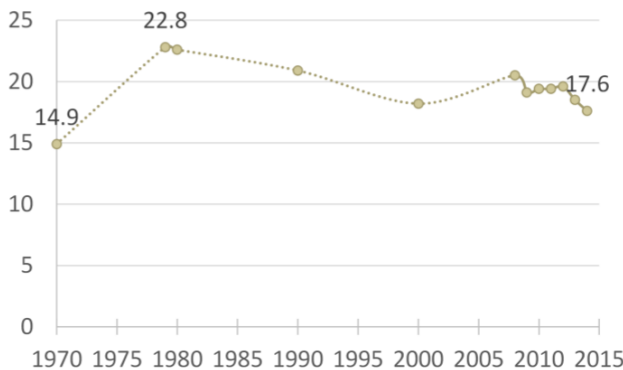
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17.6 women **DIVORCED**
per every 1,000 married women in 2014
that's **1,145,110**
divorces in 2014



Divorce Rate in the U.S.¹

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



Sources: 1970-2000, National Center for Health Statistics; 2008-2014, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr est.

➤ In 2014, nearly 18 marriages per 1,000 ended in divorce. This is a 5% decrease from 2013 (rate of 18.5) (FP-14-17) and a 14% decrease since 2008 (rate of 20.5) (FP-09-02). The divorce rate has dropped by almost a quarter (23%) in the past 35 years—the lowest it has been since 1970.

➤ After a peak in divorce in 1979, the divorce rate began a gradual decline until 2000. It fluctuated between 2005 and 2010, but has since begun a steep downward trajectory.

Divorce Rate
nearly
23%
in
35
YEARS
1979 - 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

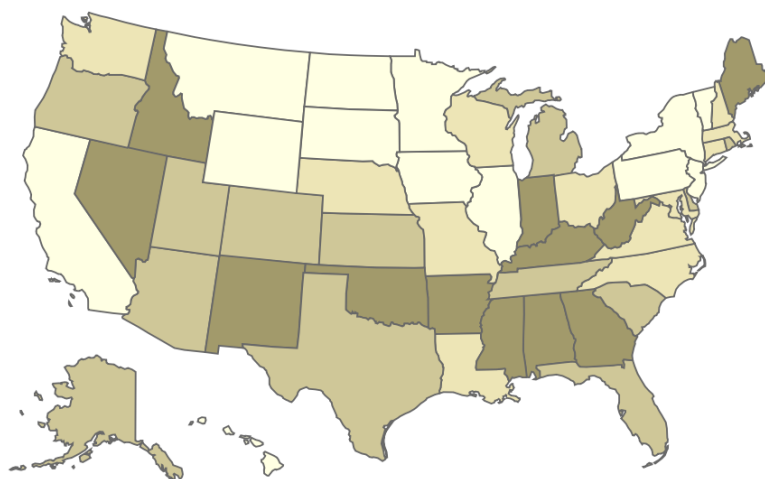
1. Wash, D.C.	29.5
2. Idaho	25.1
3. West Virginia	24.4
4. Oklahoma	23.7
5. Georgia	23.4
U.S.	17.6
47. Vermont	13.2
48. Montana	13.0
49. Iowa	12.3
50. Hawaii	11.8
51. New Jersey	11.2

¹The 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.

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Rank	State	Divorce Rate	MOE
1	Wash, DC	29.5	+/- 9.9
2	Idaho	25.1	+/- 4.2
3	West Virginia	24.4	+/- 3.7
4	Oklahoma	23.7	+/- 2.3
5	Georgia	23.4	+/- 2.1
6	Indiana	22.4	+/- 2.3
7	Arkansas	22.3	+/- 3.4
8	Maine	21.8	+/- 4.0
9	Nevada	21.7	+/- 3.0
10	Mississippi	21.6	+/- 3.3
11	Alabama	21.2	+/- 2.1
12	Kentucky	21.1	+/- 2.4
13	New Mexico	20.6	+/- 4.3
14	Oregon	20.6	+/- 2.6
15	Florida	20.2	+/- 1.6
16	Utah	20.1	+/- 3.4
17	Kansas	20.0	+/- 3.4
18	Alaska	20.0	+/- 4.7
19	Colorado	19.8	+/- 2.1
20	Texas	19.8	+/- 1.1
21	Rhode Island	19.0	+/- 4.7
22	Tennessee	18.9	+/- 2.0
23	Michigan	18.8	+/- 1.5
24	Delaware	18.5	+/- 5.5
25	South Carolina	18.3	+/- 2.3
26	Arizona	18.1	+/- 1.8
27	Ohio	17.8	+/- 1.2
28	North Carolina	17.7	+/- 1.3
	U.S.	17.6	+/- 0.3
29	Maryland	17.1	+/- 2.0
30	Virginia	16.9	+/- 1.4
31	Connecticut	16.9	+/- 2.7
32	New Hampshire	16.8	+/- 4.7
33	Missouri	16.7	+/- 1.7
34	Washington	16.6	+/- 1.6
35	Nebraska	16.6	+/- 2.8
36	Louisiana	15.2	+/- 2.1
37	Wisconsin	15.1	+/- 1.3
38	Massachusetts	15.1	+/- 1.7
39	Illinois	15.1	+/- 1.2
40	California	14.9	+/- 0.7
41	Wyoming	14.8	+/- 5.0
42	Minnesota	14.7	+/- 1.6
43	Pennsylvania	14.7	+/- 1.0
44	South Dakota	14.5	+/- 4.0
45	North Dakota	14.0	+/- 5.1
46	New York	14.0	+/- 0.9
47	Vermont	13.2	+/- 3.6
48	Montana	13.0	+/- 3.8
49	Iowa	12.3	+/- 1.8
50	Hawaii	11.8	+/- 2.8
51	New Jersey	11.2	+/- 1.0



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