

Marriage-to-Divorce Ratio in the U.S.

Geographic Variation, 2014



Kasey J. Eickmeyer

2,241,036 : **1,145,110**
 NUMBER of MARRIAGES : NUMBER of DIVORCES

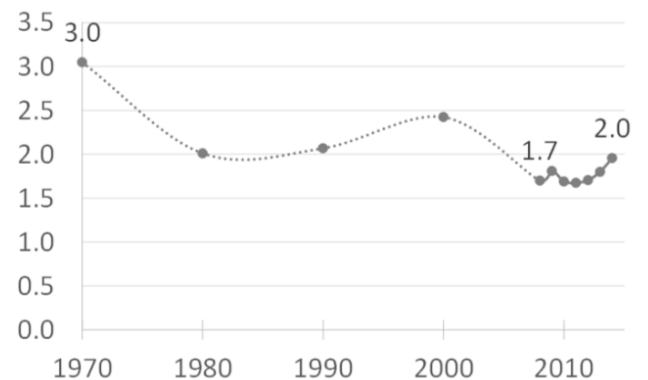
*2 Marriages per
every 1 Divorce*



Marriage-to-Divorce Ratio in the U.S., 2014

- Consistent with estimates of the marriage-to-divorce ratio for 2013, there were almost two marriages for every one divorce in the U.S. in 2014 (FP-14-17).
- Between 1970 and 2011, the marriage-to-divorce ratio has seen an overall decrease. However, since 2012, the overall trend is moving toward nearly two marriages per one divorce.
- Since 1970, 2011 had the lowest marriage to divorce ratio at 1.7 marriages for every one divorce (FP-13-14).

Figure 1. Women's Marriage to Divorce Ratio, 1970 - 2014



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

Five Highest and Lowest Marriage to Divorce Ratios, 2014

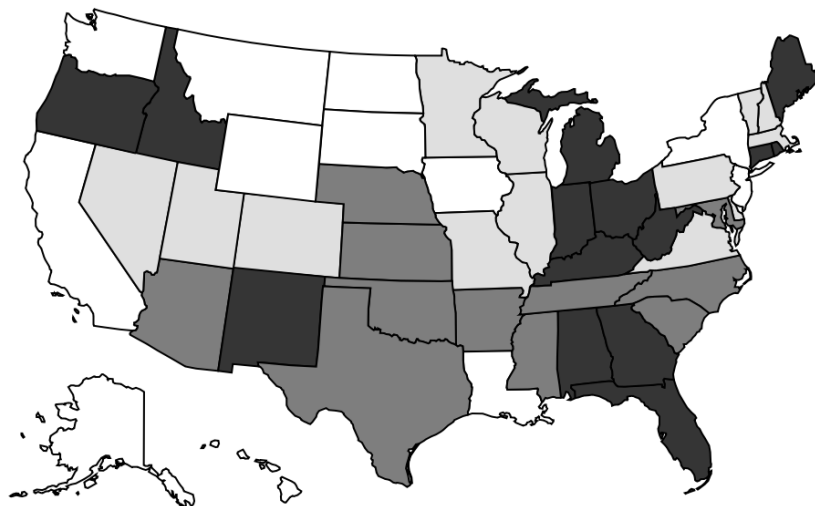
- Most states (94%) have greater numbers of marriages than divorces. The top three are Wyoming (3.25), Hawaii (3.09), and Alaska (2.78).
- Wyoming has the highest ratio of marriage to divorce in 2014. For every one divorce, there are roughly three marriages.
- Three states have almost equal numbers of marriages and divorces in 2014 (marriage to divorce ratios less than 1.5) – West Virginia, Florida, and Maine.
- West Virginia has the lowest ratio with 1.37 marriages per one divorce in 2014.

Women's Highest and Lowest Marriage to Divorce Ratios

1. Wyoming	3.25
2. Hawaii	3.09
3. Alaska	2.78
4. South Dakota	2.76
5. Wash, D.C.	2.75
U.S.	1.96
47. Idaho	1.55
48. Michigan	1.54
49. Maine	1.49
50. Florida	1.44
51. West Virginia	1.37

State Changes in Rankings, 2013-2014

- Almost 3/4 (71%) of states saw an increase in the marriage-to-divorce ratio.
 - Wyoming experienced the largest increase in the ratio of marriage to divorce with the addition of almost 1.5 marriages (a ratio of 3.25).
- Nine states had virtually the same marriage-to-divorce ratio in 2014 as they did in 2013: these states were West Virginia, Ohio, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Kansas, and Nebraska. The Midwest is predominantly represented among these states.
- Consistent with the increase in the divorce rate, 30% of states saw a decrease in their marriage-to-divorce ratio. The three states with the largest decreases were Rhode Island, North Dakota, and Utah.



References:

- Clarke, S. C. (1995). Advance Report of Final Marriage Statistics, 1989 and 1990. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 43, No. 12, Supp. National Center for Health Statistics. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsvr/supp/mv43_12s.pdf
- Clarke, S. C. (1995). Advance Report of Final Divorce Statistics, 1989 and 1990. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 43, No. 8, Supp. National Center for Health Statistics. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsvr/supp/mv43_09s.pdf
- Cruz, J. (2013). Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2011 (FP-13-14). National Center for Family & Marriage Research. Retrieved from <http://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/college-of-arts-and-sciences/NCFMR/documents/FP/FP-13-14.pdf>
- National Center for Health Statistics (1974). Summary Report Final Marriage Statistics, 1970. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 23, No. 2, Supp.1. U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsvr/supp/mv23_02s1acc.pdf
- National Center for Health Statistics (1974). Summary Report Final Divorce Statistics, 1970. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 23, No. 2, Supp. 2. U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsvr/supp/mv23_02s2acc.pdf
- National Center for Health Statistics (1983). Advance Report of Final Marriage Statistics, 1980. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 32, No. 5, Supp. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsvr/supp/mv32_05s.pdf
- National Center for Health Statistics (1983). Advance Report of Final Divorce Statistics, 1980. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 32, No. 3, Supp. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsvr/supp/mv32_03s.pdf
- National Center for Health Statistics (2001). Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths: Provisional Data for January-December, 2000. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 49, No. 6, Associated Table 3. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/49_06_12_03.pdf
- Payne, K. K. (2014). Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2013 (FP-14-17). National Center for Family & Marriage Research. Retrieved from <http://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/college-of-arts-and-sciences/NCFMR/documents/FP/FP-14-17-divorce-rate-2013.pdf>

Suggested Citation:

Eickmeyer, K. J. (2015). Marriage to Divorce Ratio in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2014 (FP-15-19). National Center for Family & Marriage Research. Retrieved from: <http://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/family-profiles/eickmeyer-marriage-divorce-ratio-geo-2014-fp-15-19.html>

Rank	State	Marriage Divorce Ratio
1	Wyoming	3.25
2	Hawaii	3.09
3	Alaska	2.78
4	South Dakota	2.76
5	Wash, D.C.	2.75
6	Iowa	2.65
7	Louisiana	2.64
8	New Jersey	2.50
9	North Dakota	2.42
10	Montana	2.40
11	California	2.37
12	Washington	2.28
13	New York	2.27
14	Vermont	2.23
15	Utah	2.21
16	Delaware	2.20
17	Minnesota	2.18
18	Virginia	2.17
19	New Hampshire	2.11
20	Wisconsin	2.09
21	Pennsylvania	2.08
21	Illinois	2.08
23	Nevada	2.04
23	Massachusetts	2.04
25	Colorado	2.00
26	Missouri	1.99
U.S.		1.96
27	Arizona	1.96
28	Tennessee	1.95
29	Mississippi	1.92
30	Texas	1.91
30	North Carolina	1.91
32	South Carolina	1.88
33	Nebraska	1.87
34	Oklahoma	1.81
35	Maryland	1.80
25	Kansas	1.80
37	Arkansas	1.77
38	Ohio	1.75
38	Oregon	1.75
40	New Mexico	1.74
41	Indiana	1.70
42	Connecticut	1.68
43	Georgia	1.65
44	Alabama	1.64
45	Rhode Island	1.63
46	Kentucky	1.58
47	Idaho	1.55
48	Michigan	1.54
49	Maine	1.49
50	Florida	1.44
51	West Virginia	1.37



This project is supported with assistance from Bowling Green State University. From 2007 to 2013, support was also provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of any agency of the state or federal government.

National Center for Family & Marriage Research

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.

<http://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr.html>



005 Williams Hall
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403

419.372.3119

ncfmr@bgsu.edu