Divorce Rate in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2018

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## U.S. Divorce Rate, 2018*

- The divorce rate continued to decline in 2018, reaching a 40-year low.
- The divorce rate was 15.7 divorces per 1,000 married women in 2018, down from a divorce rate of 16.1 in 2017 (FP-18-21).
- Just over one million women (1,050,599) divorced in 2018.

*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)]*1000

## Five Highest and Lowest Divorce Rates, 2018

- Arkansas continued to hold the top ranking for the highest divorce rate, with about 26 divorces per 1,000 married women in 2018.
  - Arkansas also held the highest divorce rate in 2017, with a rate of 25.5 (FP-18-21).
- North Dakota had the lowest divorce rate, with less than 9 marriages per 1,000 ending in divorce.

Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 1-yr est.

*MOE = Margin of Error. The MOE is a measure of sampling error and expresses the maximum range in which the rate is expected to differ from the actual proportion. The MOE is calculated for the derived estimates at the 90% confidence level.

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Data Sources:
State Rankings and Geographic Variation in Divorce Rates, 2018

The 12 states with the highest divorce rates (making up the first quartile) had rates of at least 18.0 divorces per 1,000 married women in 2018.

The 13 states that experienced the lowest divorce rates (making up the fourth quartile) had fewer than 13.8 divorces per 1,000 married women in 2018.

Most states in the South had high divorce rates (in the first or second quartiles).

Exceptions included Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina, all of which were in the third quartile.

States with the lowest divorce rates (in the third or fourth quartiles) were located in the Midwest and Northeast regions of the U.S.

Exceptions included South Dakota, Missouri, Indiana, and Maine, which were in the first two quartiles of divorce rates.

States in the Western region of the country exhibited divorce rates in all four quartiles, with the largest share found in the second quartile. California was the only Western state in the fourth quartile.

References:

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