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BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

http://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr
ncfmr@bgsu.edu
(419) 372-3119

Family Profile No. 31, 2025

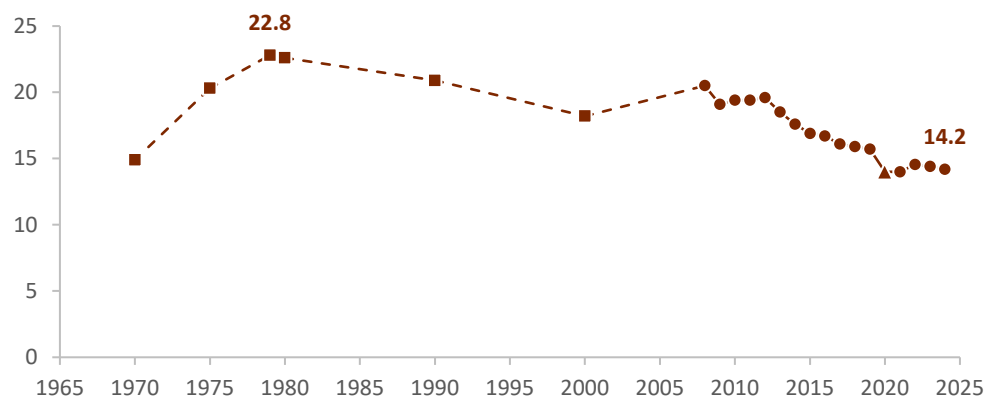# Refined Divorce Rate in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2024

Author: Krista K. Westrick-Payne

The latest release of the American Community Survey provides the data for this profile on the geographic variation in the refined divorce rate in the United States for 2024. We present the refined rate for the U.S., each state, and Washington, DC, defined here as the number of women who divorced in the past 12 months per 1,000 married women aged 15 and older (Siegel & Swanson, 2004). These estimates represent the population "at risk" of divorce and differ from crude divorce rates (number of divorces per 1,000 total population) published by NCHS and general divorce rates (number of divorces per 1,000 population aged 15 and older) published by the U.S. Census Bureau. Given significant state-level variation in age composition and sex ratios in the U.S. the refined rate is considered a superior demographic measure of marital behavior (Ruggles, 2012). The margins of error (at a 90% confidence interval) were also calculated and presented alongside the refined rates. For detailed information on the refined divorce rate from 2008-2024, see "Charting Marriage & Divorce in the U.S.: The Refined Divorce Rate" (Westrick-Payne, 2025).

U.S. Refined Divorce Rate, 2024

- With 14.2 women divorcing per 1,000 married women, the U.S refined divorce rate decreased just slightly in 2024 from 14.4 in 2023.
- Nearly 1 million women (986,810) divorced in 2024, a nominal decrease of 5,867 women from 2023 when 992,677 women divorced.

Figure 1. Women's Refined Divorce Rate, 1970-2024

Source: NCFMR analyses of 1970-2000, National Center for Health Statistics; Tables B12001 & B12503, 2008-2019 and 2021-2024, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr est. and 2020 American Community Survey, 1-year Experimental PUMS

Five Highest and Lowest Divorce Rates, 2024

Figure 2. Women's Highest and Lowest Refined Divorce Rates, 2024

Rank	State	Rate	MOE	
1.	Oklahoma	20.7	+/-	2.6
2.	Nevada	19.9	+/-	3.9
3.	Mississippi	19.2	+/-	4.3
4.	Wyoming	18.7	+/-	5.6
5.	Alabama	18.0	+/-	2.3
	USA	**14.2**	**+/-**	**0.3**
46.	Montana	11.7	+/-	3.9
46.	South Carolina	11.7	+/-	1.9
48.	Idaho	11.2	+/-	2.5
49.	New Jersey	11.0	+/-	1.3
50.	Wisconsin	10.8	+/-	1.8
51.	Maine	10.0	+/-	2.5

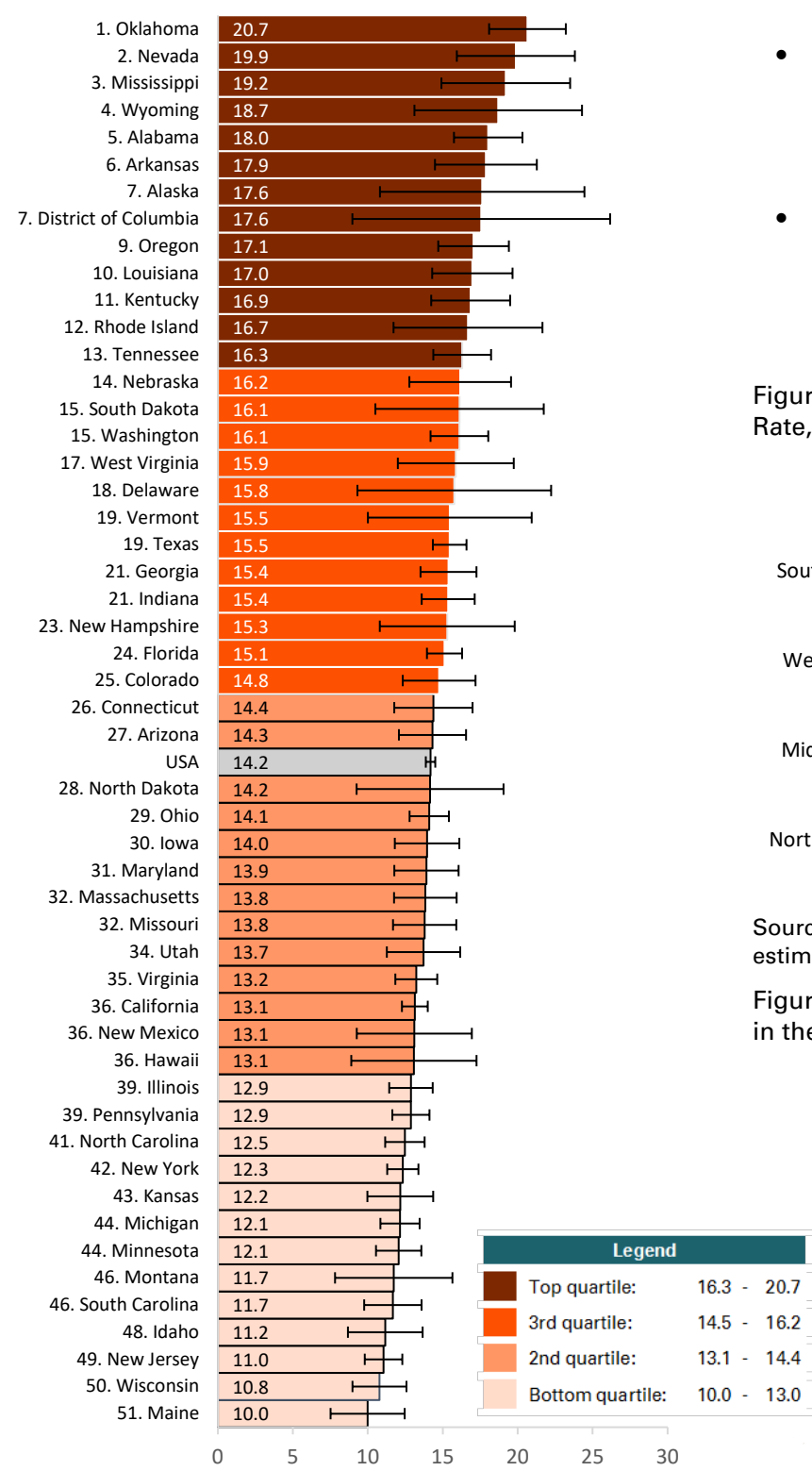Source: NCFMR analyses of American Community Survey 1-year estimates, Tables B12001 & B12503, 2024

- In 2024 Oklahoma had the highest refined divorce rate with 20.7 women per 1,000 married women divorcing in the past year.
  - Rounding out the five highest divorce rates in 2024 were Nevada (19.9), Mississippi (19.2), Wyoming (18.7), and Alabama (18.0).
- Maine had the lowest refined divorce rate with 10.0 women divorcing per 1,000 married women.
  - Wisconsin (10.8), New Jersey (11.0), Idaho (11.2), as well as Montana and South Carolina (11.7) had the remaining four lowest divorce rates in 2024.

State Rankings in Refined Divorce Rates, 2024

- The states with the highest divorce rates and representing the top quartile in 2024 had rates of at least 16.3 divorces per 1,000 married women aged 15 and older.
- The states with the lowest levels of divorce and representing the bottom quartile in 2024 had 13.0 or fewer divorces per 1,000 married women.

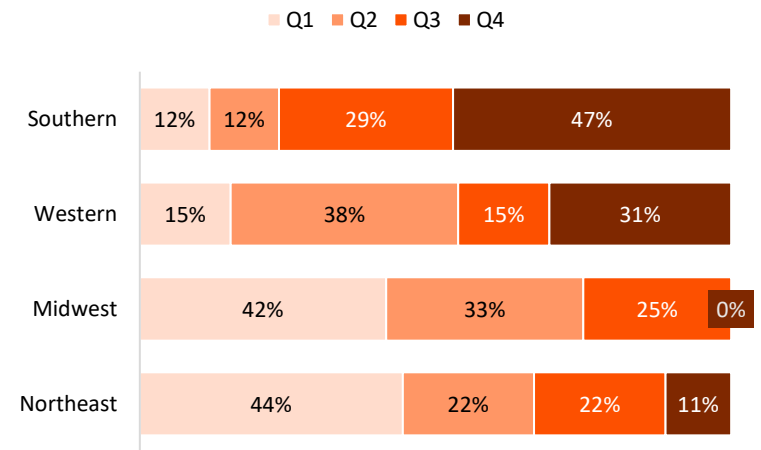Figure 3. State-Level Women's Refined Divorce Rate by Quartile, 2024

Rank. State	Rate
1. Oklahoma	20.7
2. Nevada	19.9
3. Mississippi	19.2
4. Wyoming	18.7
5. Alabama	18.0
6. Arkansas	17.9
7. Alaska	17.6
7. District of Columbia	17.6
9. Oregon	17.1
10. Louisiana	17.0
11. Kentucky	16.9
12. Rhode Island	16.7
13. Tennessee	16.3
14. Nebraska	16.2
15. South Dakota	16.1
15. Washington	16.1
17. West Virginia	15.9
18. Delaware	15.8
19. Vermont	15.5
19. Texas	15.5
21. Georgia	15.4
21. Indiana	15.4
23. New Hampshire	15.3
24. Florida	15.1
25. Colorado	14.8
26. Connecticut	14.4
27. Arizona	14.3
USA	14.2
28. North Dakota	14.2
29. Ohio	14.1
30. Iowa	14.0
31. Maryland	13.9
32. Massachusetts	13.8
32. Missouri	13.8
34. Utah	13.7
35. Virginia	13.2
36. California	13.1
36. New Mexico	13.1
36. Hawaii	13.1
39. Illinois	12.9
39. Pennsylvania	12.9
41. North Carolina	12.5
42. New York	12.3
43. Kansas	12.2
44. Michigan	12.1
44. Minnesota	12.1
46. Montana	11.7
46. South Carolina	11.7
48. Idaho	11.2
49. New Jersey	11.0
50. Wisconsin	10.8
51. Maine	10.0

Legend

Top quartile:	16.3 -	20.7
3rd quartile:	14.5 -	16.2
2nd quartile:	13.1 -	14.4
Bottom quartile:	10.0 -	13.0

Source: NCFMR analyses of American Community Survey 1-year estimates, Tables B12001 & B12503, 2024
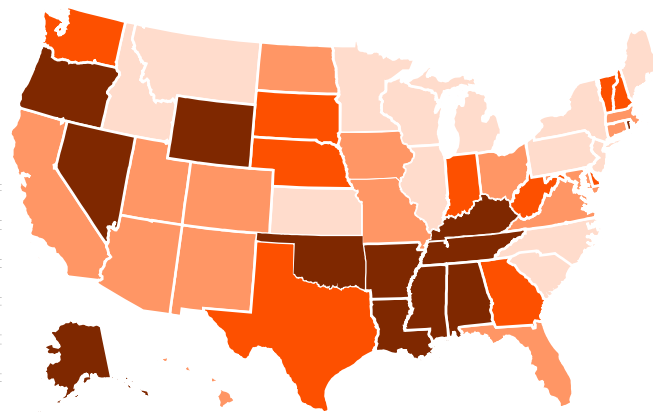
Regional Variation in Refined Divorce Rates, 2024

- Three-fourths (76%) of the states in the Southern region of the country had high divorce rates (third or fourth quartile), with 8 of the 16 Southern states (and DC) in the fourth/top quartile (47%) and 5 in the third quartile (29%).
- Although Western states were most often in the second quartile (38%) they had the second largest share in the fourth (31%) quartile.
  o Only two Western states were in the bottom quartile—representing low divorce rates—Idaho and Montana.
- Generally, Midwestern states had low divorce rates. Of the four quartiles, the largest share was in the first quartile (42%).
  o No Midwestern states were in the top/fourth quartile.
- Most states in the Northeast exhibited low divorce rates with over two-fifths (44%) in the bottom/first quartile.
  o One Northeastern state (Rhode Island) was in the top/fourth quartile.

Figure 4. Regional Variation of Women's Refined Divorce Rate, 2024

Legend: Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4

Region	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Southern	12%	12%	29%	47%
Western	15%	38%	15%	31%
Midwest	42%	33%	25%	0%
Northeast	44%	22%	22%	11%

Source: NCFMR analyses of American Community Survey 1-year estimates, Tables B12001 & B12503, 2024

Figure 5. State-level Map of Women's Refined Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2024

Source: NCFMR analyses of American Community Survey 1-year estimates, Tables B12001 & B12503, 2024

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