

# Marriage Rate in the U.S.

## Geographic Variation, 2016



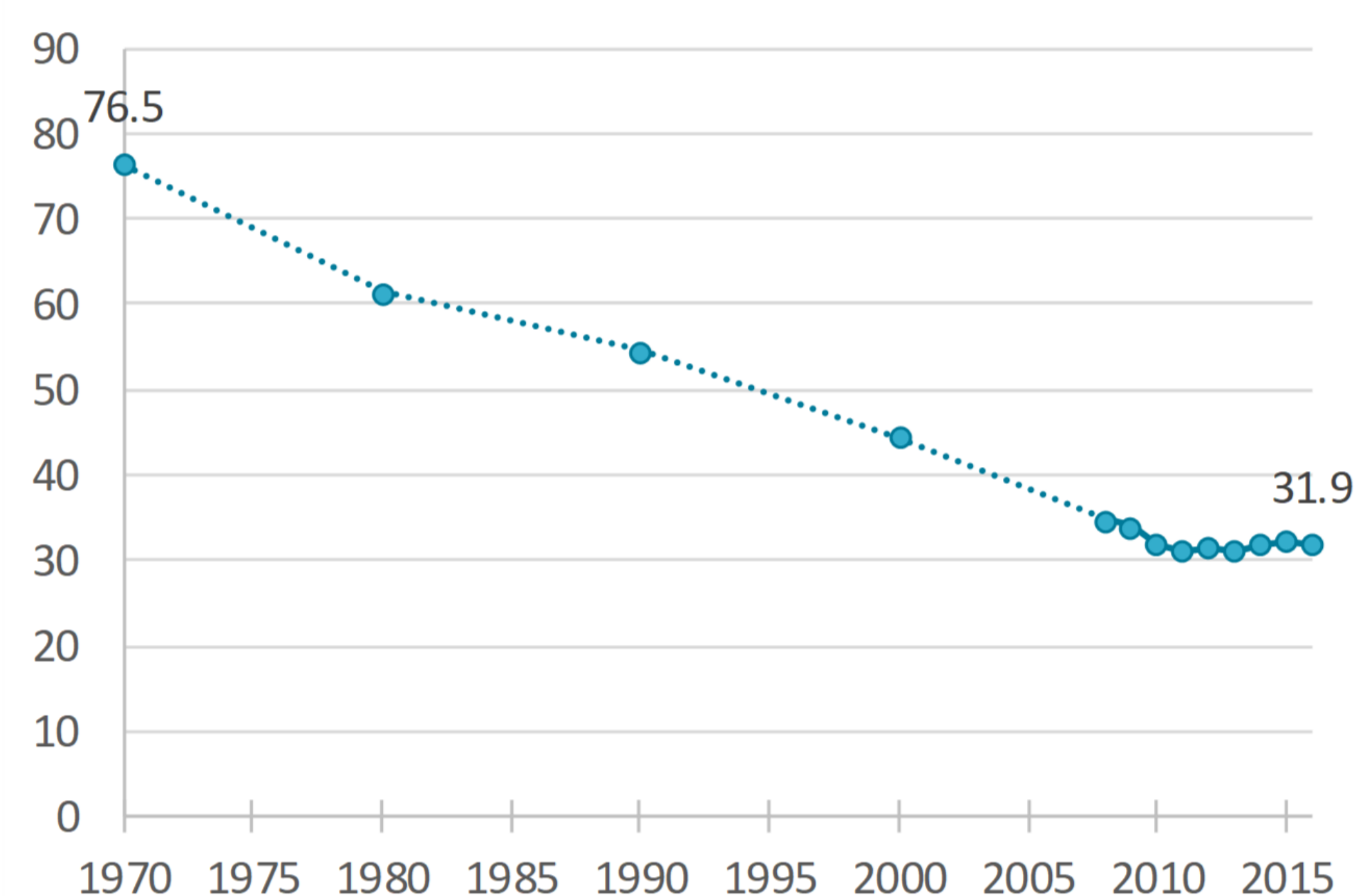
Paul Hemez

### The Marriage Rate, 2016 \*

- The marriage rate (represented as the number of marriages per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 and older) has been stable since 2010, remaining at a 45-year low.
- In 2016, there were 31.9 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women, a number identical to 2010 when rates began to stabilize.
- Nearly 2.3 million women (2,286,230) married in 2016, an increase of about 170,000 since 2010 when 2.1 million women married.
- The marriage rate in 1970 (76.5) was more than twice as large as the rate in 2016.

\* Rates are represented as the number of women aged 15 or older who married in the past year per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 or older.

Figure 1. Women's Marriage Rate, 1970 - 2016



Sources: 1970-2000, National Center for Health Statistics; 2008-2016, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr est.

### Five Highest and Lowest Marriage Rates, 2016

- Utah had the highest marriage rate with 58 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15.
- Rhode Island had 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 2016.
  - The marriage rate was more than twice as large in Utah than in Rhode Island.

### Women's Highest and Lowest Marriage Rates

1. Utah	58.1
2. Alaska	49.6
3. Wyoming	46.9
4. Colorado	46.7
5. Idaho	43.7
U.S.	31.9
47. New York	25.1
48. New Jersey	24.9
49. New Mexico	24.3
50. Delaware	24.1
51. Rhode Island	23.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr est. 2016

### References:

Clarke, S. C. (1995). Advance report of final marriage statistics, 1989 and 1990. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 42(12)*, Supp. National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsr/supp/mv43\\_12s.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsr/supp/mv43_12s.pdf)

National Center for Health Statistics (1974). Summary report final marriage statistics, 1970. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report, 23(2)*, Supp.1. U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsr/supp/mv23\\_02s1acc.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsr/supp/mv23_02s1acc.pdf)

National Center for Health Statistics (1983). Advance report of final marriage statistics, 1980. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report, 32(5)*, Supp. U.S. Department of Health and Services. Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsr/supp/mv32\\_05s.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvsr/supp/mv32_05s.pdf)

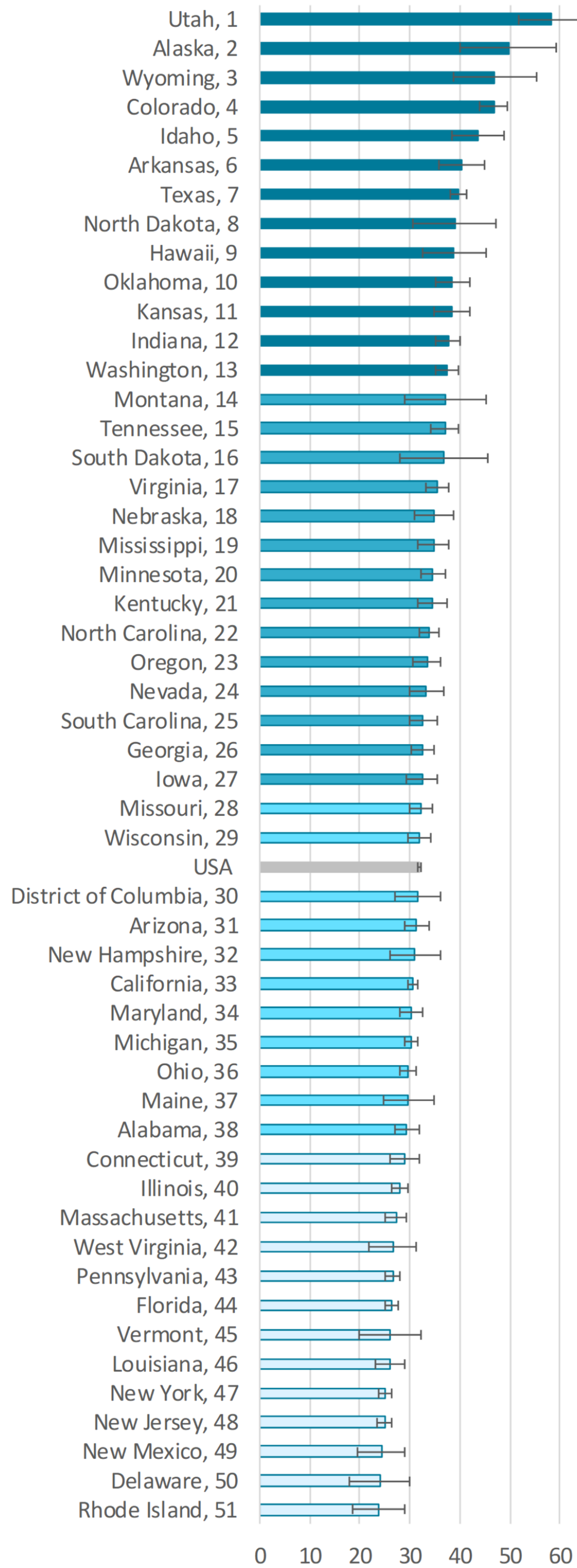
National Center for Health Statistics (2001). Births, marriages, divorces, and deaths: Provisional data for January-December, 2000. *National Vital Statistics Report, 49(6)*, Associated Table 3. Department of Health & Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49\\_06.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_06.pdf)

U.S. Census Bureau (2017). American Community Survey, 2016 1-Year Estimates [Table B12001]. Retrieved from [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_16\\_1YR\\_B12001&prodType=table](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_B12001&prodType=table)

U.S. Census Bureau (2017). American Community Survey, 2016 1-Year Estimates [Table B12501]. Retrieved from [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_16\\_1YR\\_B12501&prodType=table](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_B12501&prodType=table)

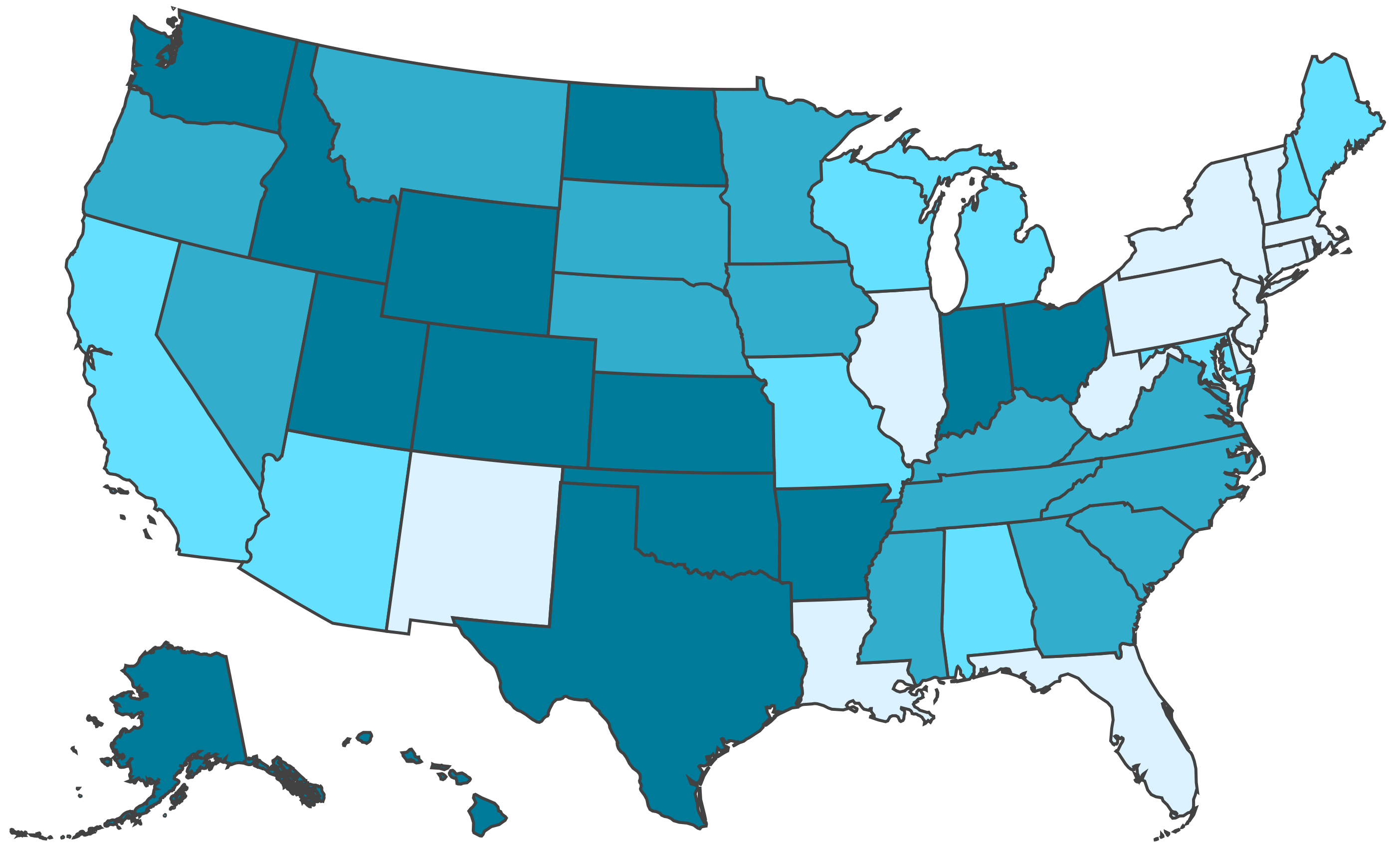
# State Rankings and Geographic Variation in Marriage Rates, 2016

Figure 2. State Variation in the Adjusted Marriage Rate per 1,000 Unmarried Women Aged 15+ by Quartile, 2016



- The thirteen states with the highest marriage rates (making up the 1st quartile) had rates of at least 37.5 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 and older.
- The thirteen states that experienced the lowest marriage rates (making up the 4th quartile) in 2016 had fewer than 29.0 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women.

Figure 3. Geographic Variation of Women's Marriage Rate Among States, 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr est. 2016

- Most states in the Southern and Western region of the country had high marriage rates (in the 1st or 2nd quartile).
  - Exceptions include Arizona, California, Maryland, Alabama, West Virginia, Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Delaware.
- Midwestern states largely exhibited marriage rates in the 2nd or 3rd quartiles.
  - Exceptions to this include North Dakota, Kansas, and Indiana, which had marriage rates in the 1st quartile, and Illinois where the rate was in the 4th quartile.
- All states in the Northeast exhibited low marriage rates (in the 3rd or 4th quartile).

### Suggested Citation:

Hemez, P. (2017). Marriage rate in the U.S.: Geographic variation, 2016. Family Profiles, FP-17-25. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-17-25>.



### 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](mailto:ncfmr@bgsu.edu)