

Family Profile No. 20, 2018

Marriage Rate in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2017

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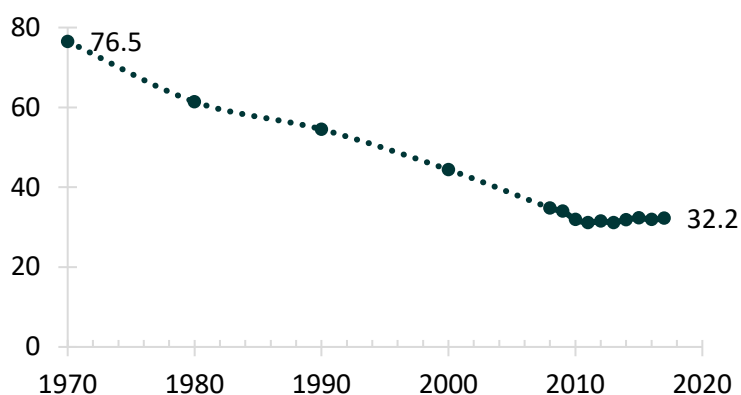
In this Family Profile, an update to a previous profile on the marriage rate (FP-17-25), we estimate adjusted marriage rates for the nation and each state for 2017. Using American Community Survey data, we enumerate estimates of the number of marriages occurring in the last year among unmarried women, calculate their margins of error, and provide information on their geographic variation. For detailed information on the adjusted marriage rate from 2008-2017, see Charting Marriage & Divorce in the U.S.: The Adjusted Marriage Rate.

U.S. Marriage Rate, 2017*

- The marriage rate continues to be stable for 2017, remaining at a 45-year low since 2010.
- In 2017, there were 32.2 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women.
- 2.3 million women married in 2017, an increase of about 203,000 marriages from 2010.

*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 Adjusted Marriage Rate, 1970 – 2017



Source: NCFMR analyses of 1970-2000, National Center of Health Statistics; 2008-2017, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr est.

Five Highest and Lowest Marriage Rates, 2017

- Utah continues to hold the top spot in terms of the marriage rate with 59 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women in 2017.
- Rhode Island continues to hold the lowest marriage rate in 2017. The rate decreased from 23 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women in 2016 to 19 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women in 2017.

Women's Highest & Lowest Marriage Rates		
Rank & State	Marriage Rate	MOE*
1. Utah	59.4	+/- 5.8
2. Wyoming	50.1	+/- 12.6
3. Alaska	49.8	+/- 9.3
4. Idaho	48.1	+/- 6.4
5. North Dakota	47.4	+/- 9.0
U.S.	32.2	+/- 0.4
47. New Mexico	6.5	+/- 4.6
48. Maine	26.0	+/- 4.7
49. Louisiana	24.6	+/- 2.6
50. Connecticut	24.0	+/- 3.3
51. Rhode Island	19.0	+/- 4.5

Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 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 population. The MOE is calculated for the derived estimates at the 90% confidence level.

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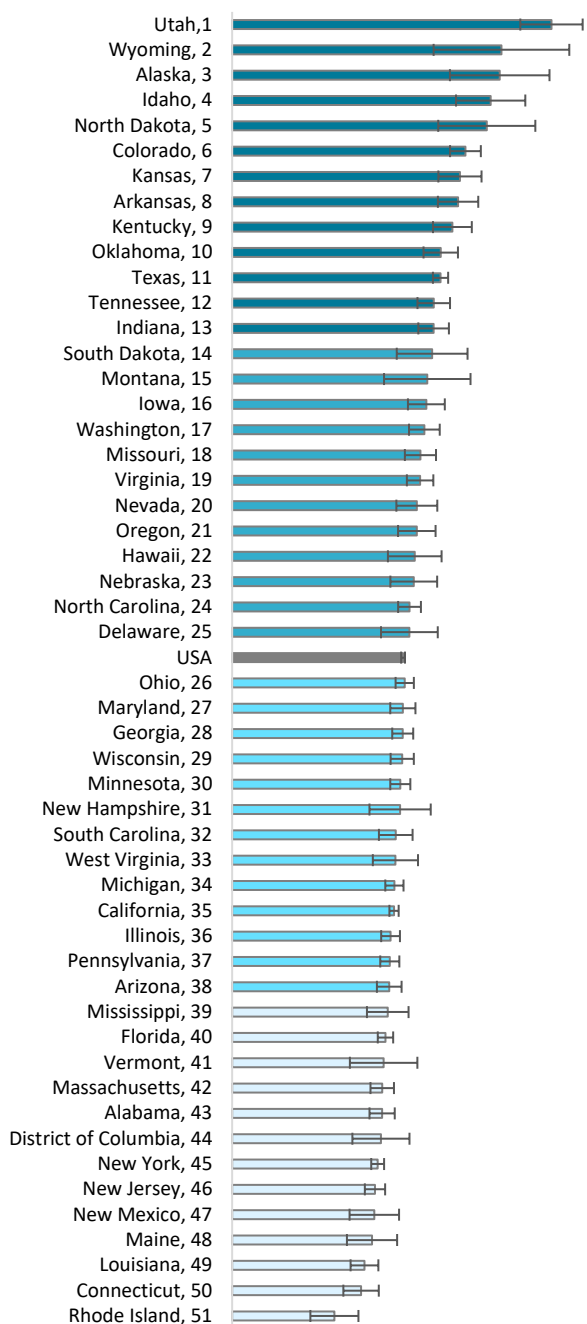
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State Rankings and Geographic Variation in Marriage Rates, 2017

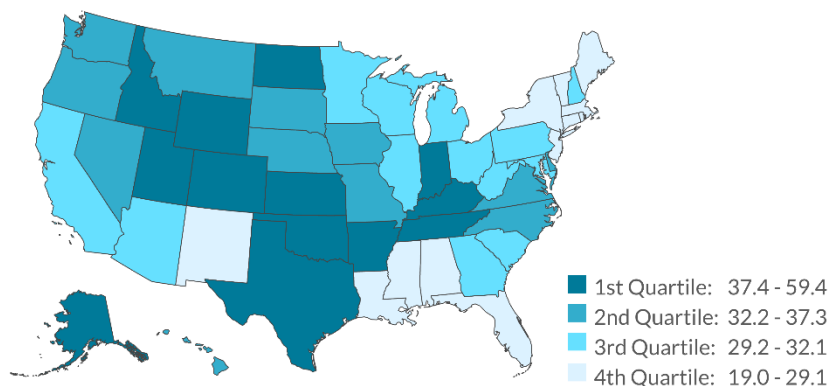
Figure 2. State Variation in the Adjusted Marriage Rate per 1,000 Unmarried Women Aged 15+ by Quartile, 2017



Source: NCFMR analyses of Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 1-yr est.

- The states with the highest marriage rates (making up the 1st quartile) in 2017 had rates of at least 37.5 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 and older. Among the states in the top quartile, all are significantly above the national average.
- The states with the lowest marriage rates (making up the 4th quartile) in 2017 had fewer than 29.0 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women. Among the states in the bottom quartile, those with marriage rates significantly below the national average are Rhode Island, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maine, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, Alabama, Massachusetts, and Florida.

Figure 3. Geographic Variation of Women’s Adjusted Marriage Rate Among States, 2017



Source: NCFMR analyses of Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 1-yr est.

- Most states in the Western region of the country had high marriage rates (1st or 2nd quartile).
 - Exceptions include California, Arizona, and New Mexico.
- Midwestern states exhibited marriage rates in the top three quartiles with the largest share found in the third.
 - Exceptions include North Dakota, Indiana, and Kansas, which are in the top quartile.
- Southern states can be found spread across each quartile. The largest shares are found in the top and bottom quartiles.
- All states in the Northeast exhibited low marriage rates (3rd or 4th quartile).

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